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Saved By Dead Man's Grip

Thrilling Story of Flight Over Europa

Lt. Vance R. Boswell and wife are now visiting his mother Mrs. Stella Boswell of Beaverton, having arrived home last week.

Lt. Boswell who attended Beaverton school, enlisted in the Oregon National Guard in 1940, and was commissioned in the air corps 1942, in this country. He entered active duty in May, 1943 in Europe, it was while flying over Germany in September, 1943, that the plane crashed in a lake. Following is an account of the trip and how they were interested in Switzerland. The bombardier on the plane was Lt. Vance R. Boswell.

"War is hell," So said Gen. Sherman when his Northern legions pounded through the lines of Confederacy about 80 years ago.

"War is hell," So says Lt. Sam Turner upon his return to Orlandi, after delivery from a Swiss internment camp where he was confined after a crash following a bombing attack on Hitler's roofless Fortress Europa.

Although military censorship forbids any mention of his return, Lt. Turner told a spine-chilling story to a gathering of his family and friends recently.

On the morning of September 6, 1943, Lt. Turner bomber pilot was called into the briefing room and shown the target for the day—Stuttgart, Germany. It was just an ordinary day for this young pilot as he headed across France to perform his duty. He and his men thought they were fortunate in not meeting any enemy planes before reaching the target area. "It's not going to be a bad raid after all," they agreed. After leaving their target, they headed for their next mission over France. About 15 miles out, Lt. Turner spotted eight enemy fighters high up to the right. Having the utmost faith in his top gunner, he called his attention to it and immediately forgot about them. Suddenly, a second later, there came a blinding flash of light.

"The front of the plane had blown up. The first thing entering my mind was the possibility of its being the oxygen supply," the officer said.

"My co-pilot began making frantic gestures at me. I looked down and saw I no longer had a steering wheel. Then I realized that the instrument panel had been totally demolished. It was hanging like confetti from the dashboard. My first thought was to bail out and he quickly reached for the button. As he did so, his eyes met a horrible sight. The bombardier and navigator were lying in a pool of blood on the floor. The front end of the ship had been blown away—all the way back to the bomb-sight, Turner said.

Both his and the co-pilot's parachutes were blown to shreds. Choking for breath, he lifted his hands to adjust his oxygen mask, only to find he no longer had one. He found a strip of rubber, the front of his battered mask. Feeling a sharp pain in his chest, he glanced down and saw blood oozing through his shirt. He motioned to his co-pilot to dive below and catch up with the planes lying under them, but it was no use. They were already too far ahead. In desperation, Lt. Turner gave orders to head for the ground.

Immediately, they were met by a flock of German ME 109's which proceeded to make quick work of them. Only a quirk of fate saved the lives of those men in the skeleton ship. The turret gunner, badly wounded, died—his hands closing on the grips of his gun, causing the ball to rotate. This dead man's grip, according to Turner, kept the ball moving, so the Germans thought gunner still alive and shot. They never tried to attack from the bottom. In the midst of bursting shells, the wounded navigator crawled up to the cockpit to give instruction for reaching Switzerland. His left eyeball was bulging out of its socket, Turner said. Jetisoning their bombs over the Black Forest, the men headed for Switzerland, after flying for forty-five minutes. Having no instruments to tell how high we were flying, or how fast, we decided to land on a lake instead of the fields surrounding it. At an estimated 180 miles an hour he made his approach and proceeded to land. The plane hit the water with terrific force, knocking the men's safety belts loose and throwing Turner and his copilot against the windshield. The seven men in the radio room were flung in the bay. They lost no time in getting out of the plane and with much difficulty released the life raft and managed to get on it, assisting the unconscious bombardier. The body of the turret gunner remained in the plane until it was brought to the surface by the Swiss harbor police. The seven wounded received prompt medical care, including Lt. Turner, who said, the bombardier lost his left eye and practically lost his left arm. They were taken into custody by Swiss military authorities and placed in a camp of internment for two months.

Ludendorff bridge at Remagen, Germany, which was set to be blown up by Germans at 4 p. m. Ten minutes earlier Americans cut the wires and saved the vital link for invasion across the Rhine. It is estimated this shortened the duration of the war by a month.

Junior Red Cross Member To Visit Schools

On March 19 and 20, Miss Ruby Dahlin, a Junior Red Cross representative from the Pacific area office, will visit Washington county chapters to observe Junior Red Cross programs and operations in the schools. Mrs. Zola Morgan, Washington county Junior Red Cross chairman, is making plans for Miss Dahlin to visit a number of schools in the county.

Generous Support Given Red Cross

Red Cross workers are greatly elated over the generous support to their drive for funds to carry on the good work.

For the week ending March 10th Beaverton area had contributed \$1631.50, Barnes, \$175; Cedar Mill \$89; Garden Home, \$34; Hiteon, \$80.25; McKay \$382.76; Raleigh, South of the Highway, \$130; Tualatin View \$303; Union (West Cedar Mill) \$231. The quota was \$3700, of which \$3062.50 or 82.77% has been reported.

Cipole reports \$105 collected; Durham, \$113.75; Metzger, \$318; Sherwood \$200; Tigard \$1027; Tualatin \$141.50, total of \$1805.25 which is 47.63% of quota of \$4000.

Aloha-Huber turned in \$604.26; Bethany \$100; Cooper Mt. \$150.75; St. Marys, Boys School \$57.50, a total of \$912.50 or 73% of quota of \$1250.

Bits of News About Our Boys

Sgt. Alvin L. Becker, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Becker, Beaverton, is an air craft mechanic in the maintenance division at a Eighth AAF service command station in England.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Frederick Schutze, Beaverton, have received word that their son, Motor Mach. Mate 3d C, U. S. naval, reserve has been wounded.

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Janssen of Reedville, that their son Edward M. Janssen, has been promoted from captain to major. He was recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with a bronze Oak Leaf cluster for gallantry in action as pilot of a B-26 Marauder with the 9th army air force in France.

His wife and infant son are making their home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Wolf of Raleigh Hills.

An Eighth Air Force Liberator Station in England—2nd Lt. Steiling G. Fligge, route 3, Beaverton, co-pilot, is a member of the 392nd Bombardment Group, a Liberator unit recently cited for "distinguished and exceptionally outstanding performance of duty" on 200 missions. The 392nd attacked 120 targets in Germany and 80 targets in enemy occupied territory despite adverse conditions and inclement weather, overcoming fierce enemy fighter opposition on many occasions in order to reach assigned objectives.

Targets attacked by 392nd Liberators include Berlin, Gotha, Pottitz, Bremen, Hamburg and other objectives in Germany, France, Norway, Holland, Belgium and Poland.

Desmond O. Mead, son of Mrs. Victoria Mead, 7320 SW Benz Park drive, has been promoted to sergeant at his station with a mechanized cavalry reconnaissance squadron in Europe.

An Eighth Air Force Bomber Station, England—Sergeant Charles R. Loomer, Beaverton, Or., it 2, 28 years old waist gunner, on the crew of a B-17 flying fortress, has recently been awarded a second Oak Leaf Cluster to the air medal. He won the decoration for "courage, coolness and skill" and his outstanding performance of duty during a number of Eighth Air force attacks on German war targets.

He is now a member of the 486th Bomb. group, a unit of the Third Air Division, a division cited by the president for its England-Africa shuttle bombing of the Messerschmitt plant at Regensburg, Germany.

An Eighth Air Force Bomber Station, England, The Air Medal was recently awarded to Sergeant David N. Ackerman for "meritorious achievement" while participating in bombing attacks against German targets.

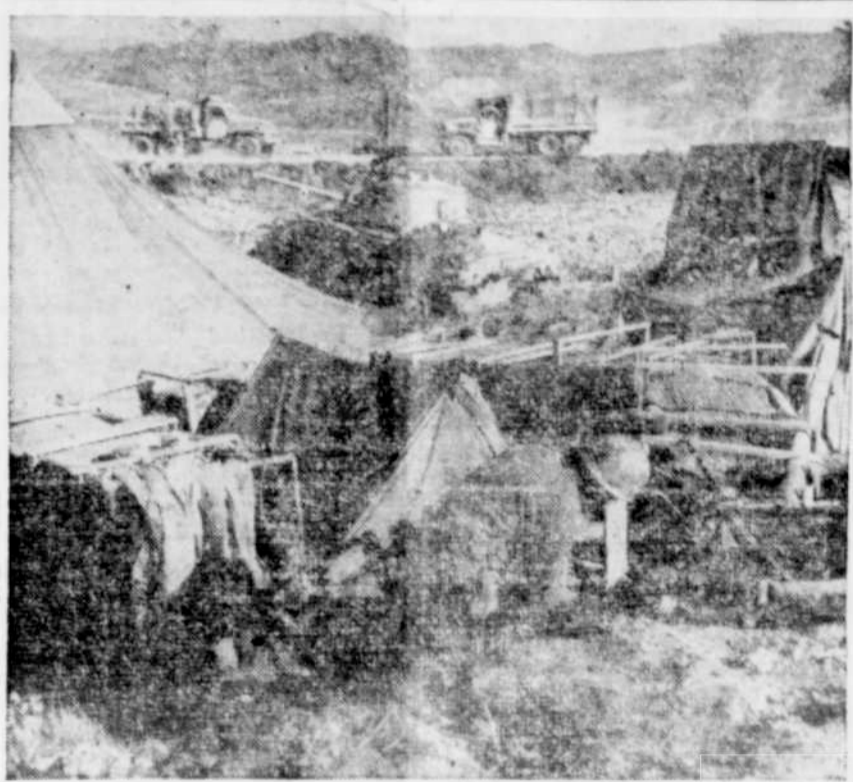
Sgt. Ackerman, 22, is a ball turret gunner on an Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress in the 385th Bombardment Group. His wife is the former Miss Lorraine Savage, Beaverton, Oregon.

Billy E. Duhaime, 17, graduate and former student body president of the Beaverton high school, enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard February 28 at Portland and left the same night for Alameda, Calif. to start his basic training.

While in high school, Duhaime was editor of the school paper, president of his sophomore class and participated in football, basketball and track. His parents now live in Portland.

Mrs. Kathryn Wyckoff has received word that her husband, Robert A. Wyckoff has recently completed basic training and is ready for combat duty with an armored unit.

House by the Side of the Road



Official U. S. Signal Corps Photo
An American soldier in Italy works on his tent, using shell containers and packed dirt as protection against shrapnel. In the background is a tank mired in the mud while beyond is a transport straggly road. Help this soldier return to a real home by backing him with War Bonds.

From U. S. Treasury

4-H Club Leaders on KALE Program March 21

Washington county 4-H club leaders will be speakers on the "Pay Dirt" 4-H program Wednesday morning March 21, at 6:30 on station KALE, Portland, it is announced by Burton Hutton, KALE farm service director.

Appearing on the program will be John Schmeltzer, Mountain Home, a leader for 12 years; Mrs. Harriet Ford, Hillsboro leader for 20 years; Mrs. Louisa McGeorge, Reedville, and Don. E. Anderson, assistant county agent of Washington county.

"Pay Dirt" KALE's farm service program, is heard at 6:30 a. m. and at 12:15 p. m., Mondays thru Saturdays.

Rev. George O'Keefe Gets New Post at Salem

After 9 1/2 years in the St. Cecelia Church at Beaverton, Oregon, Rev. George O'Keefe left March 15 to assume his new duties at St. Vincent de Paul's Catholic Church in Salem.

A potluck dinner was given Sunday in his honor, over 300 guests, both from his parish and friends in this area were present to wish him success in his new church. A substantial purse was presented to him.

Rev. O'Keefe has always been greatly interested in civic affairs. He was a member of local clubs, was on the county board of the Red Cross, and will be greatly missed.

New Studio Open

Dick Kokich has opened a studio in his home on Center Street, Beaverton and will give lessons on the accordion. He will give lessons to both children and adults in modern or classical instruction.

Mr. Kokich has had a studio in Portland over a year but feels that a great many people in this area would like to take lessons in his home thereby saving gasoline and tires.

A marriage license has been issued to Ernest Elmer Wentz, Portland, and Thelma Althea Keabangh, Beaverton. A daughter, Ninetto Y., was born Feb. 28, at Beaverton to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O. Mundell.



LT. STERLING G. FLIGGE, son of Mrs. E. Fligge, route 3, Beaverton

Here and There Tire Dealers Co-operate

Special gifts this week to the Red Cross war fund drive, from local organizations were: \$15 from Boy Scout Troop No. 208 and \$25 from Beaver chapter, order of Eastern Stars.

There were many expressions of regret as people have learned Rev. George O'Keefe has left Beaverton this week for a larger parish in Salem. His parishioners and friends gave him a farewell dinner last Sunday and presented him with a monetary gift.

Rebekah Lodge No. 248, Beaverton, will have initiation at their next regular meeting March 20th. All Rebekahs are urgently requested to be present.

The Red Cross of Beaverton are having a benefit dance at the Masonic Temple this Saturday night.

Emerson Walker and bride are here from Alaska visiting his parents Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Walker.

At the special school meeting Tuesday night Melvin Beeler was elected a school director to finish the unexpired term of W. D. Cameron, who has resigned to serve as a member of the Union High School Board.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Thompson have returned to their home in Alaska after visiting their daughter Mrs. Roger Nace.

Mrs. Gordon Heughen of Sorrento is in a Portland hospital for a major operation.

Mrs. Wayne Smith and children of Camas, Wash., are at present with Mrs. W. F. Dessinger and daughter, Mr. Smith having enlisted.

Mrs. Ruby Boyd and Mrs. George Blasser attended the funeral Wednesday in Portland of Mrs. Boyd's aunt Mrs. Jessie S. Frazier, who as a girl lived at Progress.

The Anderson Byrd children are quite sick at the home of their grandparents on Seventh and Watson St.

Mrs. Elmer Stipe entertained eight ladies at luncheon and contract on Monday.

Mrs. C. D. Walker of route 3, has had official notice from the Government of the death of her son in the service.

Mrs. Elmer Walters is visiting her husband who is in a California Army hospital.

Vance Boswell is spending a furlough with his wife and mother after many months in service overseas. He spent some time in hospital and enemy camp.

Many from Beaverton O. E. S. chapter visited Minerva Chapter, Portland, Tuesday night it being their 33rd anniversary and charter members were special guests.

Mr. and Mrs. William O. Mundell are the parents of a daughter, Ninetta Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Gray of Aloha are the proud parents of a boy, Thomas B.

Marble Cook has tendered his resignation to and been accepted by the school board of Klamath Falls as football coach and physical education instructor. His resignation becomes effective at the end of the school year. Mr. Cook coached the Beaverton High School football team several years.

Mrs. John Ericson has just returned from several months vacation trip visiting her son and brother in the middle west. She is now making her home with her daughter Mrs. Howard Weed.

Miss Pearl Sherlock, director of Religious Education for the Oregon Conference, will speak at the Methodist church Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock Her theme will be "Youth Adult Co-operation". She will illustrate her talk with a fine set of cordo-chrome slides.

Funeral services will be held Friday March 16 for Roxanne Kolkenbeck in the Rose Chapel of J. P. Finley & Son but will be under arrangement of W. E. Pegg. Committal at Elversview cemetery. Surviving are sisters in Portland and Port Orford, and Seattle, Wash.

Mrs. Paul Knepp is staying in Portland at the home of her sister-in-law this week caring for Mr. Knepp's mother who has been ill.

The Leadership Training Course conducted by the Portland Council of Churches closed this Tuesday evening. Among the Beaverton people attending were Mrs. Graydon Pace of the Methodist Church, Miss Bernice Conolly, Miss Amarette Barnes, Mrs. Norton Peck, Rev. Francis Sturtevant and Mrs. L. P. Putnam of Bethel Congregational Church. The Rev. L. P. Putnam, who is on the staff of the Portland Council, taught a course of particular interest to Church officers.

Janet Rae Shofner, Phyllis Oldman, Janet Felsner, David Cady, David Buffam, Wilbur Miller, Harold Steele, Bonnie Grisham, Emily Sayre, Verle Handy and James Taggart of Bethel Church attended the week-end Conference of the Oregon State Pilgrim Fellowship at Forest Grove. The Rev. Francis Sturtevant acted as Adult Adviser to a Section discussing Worship.

L. C. Kramien of Hillsboro and veteran of World War I has been named a member of the Washington County Veterans' Farm Loan Certifying Committee, announces V. S. Madsen, county farm security supervisor and secretary of the committee.

All applications for government-guaranteed farm and farm equipment loans as provided under the GI Bill, will be reviewed by this committee.

National "Check Your Tire Week" Starts March 19

National "check your tire week" will start Monday, March 19th, with nearly 20,000 tire dealers throughout the country cooperating in attempt to prevent thousands of automobiles from being forced off the road for lack of tires. This is an announcement that has just been released by Ray Grimshaw, Portland, Oregon, president National Association of Independent Tire Dealers.

The situation is alarming. Due partly to the impression that the war in Europe would soon be over and that new tires, would be released for civilian use, the public generally has been lax in tire conservation. This was proven by surveys made in several cities by OPA which revealed that almost two tires per car were in need of recapping.

The tire situation is more serious now than ever before. The demands of the armed forces have not as yet been met. Thousands of tires are ruined every day on the fighting fronts. More thousands are demolished by shell fire or bombs; and are cut to pieces over the shell pocked roads. Even Armistice in Europe would not relieve the situation, as our main efforts will then be directed against Japan, which would mean traveling over Burma and China where even so-called good roads are deadly to motor transportation.

Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, commanding, urges support to "check your tire week" with this comment: "Our soldiers on the German Frontier know that the road to Berlin must be traveled on rubber tires. Each soldier is doing his individual part in the greatest tire conservation campaign in history. Army trucks and jeeps in Europe are not turning over their wheels an unnecessary mile. If we at home are half as realistic as our fighting men, if we work half as hard to save the tires we do have, we will go a long way toward solving this most vexing problem. I urge all workers in war plants to watch their tire pressures, to repair and recap before it's too late."

James F. Byrnes, director, Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion support "check your tire week" with this statement:

"Battle experience has resulted in a substantial increase in requirements of the Army for truck and combat tires. It is obvious that we must exercise every possible precaution to extend the life of the tires we now have. Your publicity campaign should hold materially to this end."

John D. Mann, chief tire rationing branch of OPA says: "A careful review of this plan by anyone cognizant of the seriousness of the tire shortage can produce nothing but the most enthusiastic reaction and support. You have my best wishes for its full success."

Tire dealers throughout the country have agreed to assist in a tire checking program. Mr. Grimshaw points out that while the public is urged to have their tires inspected this week, that it is a continual process and tires should be carefully checked by experienced servicemen at regular periods.

Funeral services were held Saturday for Ardillo Adams of 3107 SW Illinois St., father of Herman C. Adams, St. Paul, Minn.; brother Herman E., Priest River, Idaho; grandfather of Leonard A. Adams, Beaverton, and Mrs. Vivienne Arnold, Alhambra, Cal. Also father of Lew Adams, who passed away a few weeks ago. W. E. Pegg was in charge. Interment was in Bellingham, Wash.

The Rev. Francis Sturtevant will be the speaker at the Annual Thanksgiving Service of the Women's Society of the First Congregational Church of Forest Grove this Thursday.



ROBERT A. WYCKOFF