

The Hermiston Herald

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TRAGEDY ON THE HOME FRONT

The tragedy that has just happened in our midst is one of the many casualties of war. It is sad indeed that a crew of workers lost their lives in this necessary service to their country. They died on the battle field of supplying our fighting forces at the front. Without such service we would soon be victims of our enemies, and thousands of other lives would be lost and our nation reduced to slavery under tyrants. They are entitled to honor and respect for the duties they performed, and their families to our kindest sympathy.

For nearly two and a half years men and women have been handling powder and bombs in 1000 igloos, and this is the first accident. Their security under all the exigencies of war with its haste has been remarkable. Thousands of car loads of high explosives have been shipped to the igloos and re-loaded out to our foreign fronts without great danger and with hardly warning incidents to the handlers of these munitions.

Much praise must be given to the designers of the Umatilla Ordnance Depot. Their wisdom, thoroughness, and engineering ability, have been proven by a severe test. The explosion of one loaded igloo did not affect 999 other igloos nearby, though the repercussion carried 150 miles. Unfortunate as this war tragedy may be, it is a great demonstration of the care of the government in construction of such plants and we, in nearby localities, may feel more secure than ever before. The inspection as to causes will lead to investigation from the Depot back to factory, and to greater care in handling these sinews of war, and a similar accident is not likely to occur again within the next two and a half years, when we hope that the cruel war will be ended.

We must add, God bless the soldiers who suffer and die on the home front as well as those on the far flung battle lines.

STYLES CHANGE AT LOCAL U. O. D.

"Army Ordnance bombs go out of style as quickly as women's hats," according to Col. Buyers, commanding Umatilla Ordnance Depot.

One of the most hazardous and least publicized missions of Ordnance ammunition depots is to bring live bombs up to date by inserting parts of more recent design than those originally used by the manufacturer.

"When bombs go out of style," Col. Buyers said, "They are not discarded. Ordnance experts insert new fuzes, add tin fins of the latest design, and generally revamp them to bring them up to last-minute specifications.

"Incorporated in the blockbusters now raining down on German aircraft and industrial centers, and on Jap-held islands in the South Pacific, are the very latest inventions, improvements and discoveries of American science.

"Blockbuster construction and design are not changed for frivolous reasons but solely to increase their devastating power. This month-by-month Ordnance responsibility will continue until the unconditional surrender of the Axis enemy."

Bombs kept in storage must be inspected at frequent intervals so that any signs of deterioration may be detected. Unlike the avocados, which they faintly resemble in appearance, bombs will usually keep for an indefinite period of time, but it is not an unknown occurrence for them to "spoil" if stored under improper or severe climatic conditions. When this happens, it is the somewhat delicate task for an Ordnance field service officer to see that the bombs are condemned and salvaged.

Another touchy little operation which the depot surveillance section performs is the inspection of all newly arrived freight cars containing live ammunition. Any evidence of damage, and the car, loaded with thousands of pounds of potential death, is hastily shunted behind an immense 50-ft. thick gravel barricade. There it is gone over inch by inch.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the undersigned, has been appointed Administrator of the Estate of Emma Fritts, deceased, in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Umatilla County. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present such claims duly verified and with proper vouchers attached, to the undersigned, at the office of Alfred F. Cunha, Johns Building, in Pendleton, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice, the same being dated and published the first time this 24th day of February, 1944.

ELVIN FRITTS, As Administrator of the estate of Emma Fritts, deceased, Alfred F. Cunha, attorney for Administrator, Johns Building, Pendleton, Oregon.
(Feb. 24-March 23)

Statement

of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, etc., Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, of The Hermiston Herald, published weekly at Hermiston, Oregon, for October 1, 1943.

State of Oregon
County of Umatilla, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Alfred Quiring and Leander Quiring, who, having been duly sworn according to law, depose and say that they are the publishers of the Hermiston Herald, and that the following is, to the best of their knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publishers, editors, managing editors and business managers are: Alfred and Leander Quiring, Hermiston, Oregon.
2. That the owners are: Alfred and Leander Quiring, Hermiston, Oregon.
3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.
4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

Alfred Quiring and Leander Quiring, Publishers.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23 day of March, 1944.

E. P. DODD, Notary Public in and for the State of Oregon. My Commission Expires March 28, 1947.

CAPTAIN VICK, ORDNANCE DEPT., MEETS THE QUEEN

Captain Maurice R. Vick, young Ordnance Department small arms expert, who recently returned to this country after 18 months' overseas duty, revealed to Col. Buyers, commanding Umatilla Ordnance Depot, that his organization was honored in a way that once cost debutantes thousands of dollars.

Instead of being presented to the King and Queen of England in formal ceremony in historic Buckingham Palace, however, King George and Queen Elizabeth journeyed to an Army Ordnance bivouac in Northern Ireland.

The friendly, democratic King and Queen bestowed high praise on Ordnance battle weapons, ammunition and automotive equipment and wished Ordnance combat mechanics "good luck and God's speed" on their mission to the Mediterranean theatre of war.

"What most amazed me," Captain Vick said, "was the range and extent of the Queen's technical knowledge.

"She walked up to me. We were introduced. I saluted. She extended her hand and smiled a heart-warming greeting. Then came the surprise of my life. Queen Elizabeth asked a number of questions that would have done credit to a sergeant-major. But the one that completely bowled me over was this: 'Would you please compare the relative firepower of the MI with that of the M1903?'"

MI is the technical Ordnance designation of the Garand rifle; M1903 of the Springfield rifle.

"The Queen had apparently heard a lot about our Army Ordnance jeeps and some of the other weapons and automotive equipment we were going to use on the Nazis," Captain Vick said. "But the hard-hitting Garand, which first won its combat spurs on Bataan, seemed to interest her most of all. She referred to it several times as 'a superb weapon.'"

In a few weeks Captain Vick's company was in the thick of the North African campaign, advancing from "slit-trench to fox-hole."

"That visit of the King and Queen

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must have done something to the boys," Captain Vick recalls. "In 60 days in the combat zone our company did not have a single casualty, even though our Ordnance battlefield mechanics would stay at their work after Nazi planes started bombing our positions. Only if it looked as though the bombs were dropping in their direction would they throw themselves into a slit trench.

"During one operation I saw a man leave a repair job he was particularly interested in. He jumped into a slit trench only to pop out again to take a few turns at a nut. Between bombs he kept popping in and out of the

trench to tighten the nut. He told me afterwards that, after all the nice things the King and Queen had said about Army Ordnance, he couldn't let them down."

Captain Vick is at present assigned to the faculty of the Ordnance School, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, where he is passing on the lessons he learned in combat to student officers. The son of a retired Chicago and Northwestern railroad man, L. E. Vick of Sturgis, South Dakota, his hobby is photography. He was formerly employed as a power engineer by the Commonwealth Edison Company in Chicago.

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