

PINKLEY TO GIVE 'INSIDE' PICTURE OF WORLD STRIFE

United Press Executive
Speaks Here 9 P. M. Sat-
urday—Mayfield Presides

Just back from a 68,000-mile, round-the-world tour of fighting and diplomatic fronts, Virgil Pinkley, United Press European manager, will speak at the Medford senior high school auditorium at 9 p. m. Saturday, under sponsorship of the Medford Mail Tribune, Rotary club and League of Women Voters. The public is cordially invited to hear the noted newsman report on his many thrilling experiences and give an "inside" picture of the world at war.

Pinkley, who knows well the barren desert areas of Libya, one of the vital battlefields of current operations will be introduced by Leonard B. Mayfield, Medford high principal. A special section has been reserved for officers and their wives of the 91st infantry division and the Service Command Unit of Camp White.

Hedge-Hopping Flight
"Just imagine flying at 300 miles an hour, barely 15 or 20 feet off the ground, with winds whipping your plane about and swirls of desert sand clouding your vision," Pinkley said. "Well, that's the sort of thing the RAF

filers are doing out there in North Africa every day. Those hedge-hopping flying tactics are one of the new developments of desert fighting."

Pinkley made one such flight over German and Italian positions in Libya while directing United Press coverage on that front.

"I was at one of the advance air fields, which the British have titled 'perching grounds,' when an opportunity was offered me to fly in a Beau Fighter in actual combat," Pinkley said. "I accepted the assignment, with only a vague notion of the kind of action I was letting myself in for."

Enemy Hates 'Em'
"These Beau Fighters are one of Britain's finest planes and are hated by the Germans and Italians in North Africa because they've learned to fear them as much or more than any other single item of British equipment."

Pinkley said the plane roared into the air but lifted only about 20 feet above the ground.

"I asked the pilot why we were flying so low. He explained that planes flying just above the ground are almost impossible to spot until they're directly over their target and come over at such close range and at such speed that the enemy hasn't time to bring anti-aircraft or machine guns into action."

Loose Deadly Mail
"Soon I had an opportunity to see the British fighting tactics in actual application. Our pilot spotted a concentration of about 75 Italian trucks. We caught them unaware and the gunner opened up. Beu Fighters mount four air cannon and six machine guns. That concentration of fire power enables them to pour out a deadly hail of 8,000 rounds of

ammunition a minute." Flying low and at high speed, Pinkley said, it was almost impossible to check the effects of that destructive fire.

"But as we zoomed away," he added, "we could see men scrambling for cover in panic and counted about 20 of the 75 trucks afire. Other Beu Fighters following us on each wing completed the job."

That was but one of many interesting and exciting experiences of this youthful, globe-trotting, newsgatherer. An accomplished lecturer as well as a reporter, he will bring his audience colorful first-hand accounts from 22 countries which he has visited during the past ten months.

BIRTHS

ROY—To Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Merrick's Auto camp, Medford, December 18, a girl, seven pounds, at Sacred Heart hospital.

PINKHAM—To Mr. and Mrs. Arden, Central Point, December 17, a girl, seven pounds, at Sacred Heart hospital.

TOMPKINS—To Mr. and Mrs. O. L., 537 Mae street, Medford, December 18, a girl, eight pounds, at Sacred Heart hospital.

S. F. DAIRY PRICES
San Francisco, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Dairy market.
Butter: 92 score, 49; 91 score, 47½; 89 score, 45.
Cheese: Wholesale flats, 26½; triplets, 26.
Eggs: Large extras, 50½; large standards, 45½; small, 31½; medium, 45½.

American Secret Weapon Rips Panzer Divisions in El Alamein Front Battle

By Richard D. McMillan
United Press Staff Correspondent
(Copyright, 1942 by United Press)

New York, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The biggest surprise of the war came to the Germans one day along the El Alamein front, when there was a series of terrific flashes and big armor-piercing shells ripped and withered the Nazi panzer divisions.

An American secret weapon, destined to turn the tide of battle in the desert, had gone into action for the first time.

Marshal Erwin Rommel was on the approaches to Alexandria, and the British Eighth army held a narrow front between the Mediterranean and a large marsh when the new weapon was thrown into the battle. It is a powerful-hitting, self-propelled anti-tank gun mounted on the chassis of a General Grant tank. It was hastily manufactured in the United States and was shipped to the middle east with such secrecy that few officers or men in the Eighth army knew of its existence until the night before Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery opened his El Alamein offensive.

Guns Trained
That night they were moved quickly up to the front lines. British and New Zealand gunners had been especially trained to operate the guns at stations miles in the rear of the front lines. That night, as they rode up to the front through the dust of the desert tracks, one of the gunners said to me:

"It's the best gun we have ever handled." I watched the guns wheel into position and open fire. The shells ripped through the armor of all types of Axis tanks—German III's, Mark IV's and the new Italian Semoventes. The panzer divisions crumpled under the fire, their lines dissolved and they retreated. But they reformed in the rear and came back for more, hardly believing that any weapon could be so destructive.

They got another dose of the same medicine. It was mystifying to the Germans, probably as great a surprise as they received when the first tanks lumbered toward their lines in the World War.

Enemy Outraged
The more the British Eighth army used the American gun, the more devastating became the effect on the enemy. The Germans brought up heavy cannon of their own in an attempt to silence the new weapon, but they found to their own shells were falling short of British positions.

One great asset the American gunners have is that they can move rapidly. Throughout the duels they deployed continually, blazing away all the time.

Even the appearance of the new gun is terrifying, particularly during night fighting. It gives off a vivid and impressive flash as it fires and it has an unusual shape that in night shadows makes it look like a monster waddling over the desert sands.

I am not permitted to describe details of the gun, but I can tell something about how it was conceived. An American army officer was sent on a mission to the middle east to report to Washington on the type of modern weapons which the British forces needed to stem Rommel's drive for Suez and then counterattack.

Remedy Prescribed
During the retreat from the Gazala line last July I traveled over hundreds of miles of desert with this officer.

"The weapon which we need out here," he told me, "is a self-propelled anti-tank gun. It must have speed so that it can dash in and fight the enemy panzers and then dash away again. It is the obvious successor to the tank itself. The gun is more important in modern war than the tank. If you can use a tractorized vehicle to propel under its own power a hard-hitting, all-purpose artillery piece, you have the enemy at your mercy."



(Continued from Page One)
that Mr. Roosevelt is finding his hardest opposition among members of his own party. They have discovered that powers granted the president have been

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blocked every attempt to locate an industrial development in the Washington-Oregon territory that will survive after the war.

THIS year National Youth Administration is spending more than \$61,000,000 in training young people. Latest figures show there is an average of 53,000 of these trainees. NYA is conducted by Aubrey Williams, who, when attached to WPA, urged the relievers to work and vote for the administration in order to secure continuation of the flow of relief. NYA was under fire when the war came along and it then became an instrument to train youth to take jobs in aircraft factories, shipyards, etc., training which was already being done by the industrial plants at their own expense.

Before this transformation, students in high schools, colleges and universities in the north-west were receiving pay from NYA to the number of several thousand. If the economists can abolish NYA or transfer it to the bureau of education, which also has training courses in schools, the present set-up will be wiped out completely and save taxpayers a substantial sum. It is expected, however, that the schools will assist NYA in the struggle to continue.

LOOKS as though the housewife will have to prepare berries, vegetables and fish herself next season if she expects to have any

of these articles on the table. And about the time she starts with the berries the sugar rationing will interfere. The principal critical material in canning is tin, and that is now precious. To obtain tin for caps on beer bottles the brewers are now buying 10-gallon tin buckets from restaurants and stamping the caps out of this material. "Victory" gardens, which were frowned upon this year because it was argued, few people with such gardens knew how to work them and therefore wasted seed and fertilizer, will be advocated by the department of agriculture next spring and it is expected more effective effort will be made to encourage home canning.

today, despite enemy light armored thrusts at interception. The Italian communiqué said fighting continued in that region between armored forces, with capture of five light trucks and a few prisoners.

In Tunisia, it was reported, German and Italian air action battered enemy motorized columns and, in air duels, seven enemy aircraft were destroyed. The harbor of Philippeville was bombed.

British planes raided the island of Lampedusa, between Tunisia and Malta, killing two and wounding six civilians, it was said. Two British planes were shot down and one pilot was captured.

ITALY MINIMIZES ENEMY EFFORTS

Rome, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—(Italian Broadcast Recorded by United Press in New York)—Italian movements west in the region of the Gulf of Sirte are continuing, the high command said

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