

# "MOE'S MOB" SETS ENVIABLE RECORD IN TUNISIA SKIES

P-40 Fighter Squadron Has Downed 79 of Luftwaffe in Guarding Bombers.

By Donald Coe  
United Press Correspondent  
An Advance American Air-drome Somewhere in Tunisia, April 5 — (UP) — Col. William Wallace Momyer, 26-year-old commander of the American P-40 fighter squadron stationed here, is the kind of man who thinks 79 confirmed victories over the Luftwaffe is more or less incidental.

He points out that his men only happened to accomplish that while carrying out their real job—escorting bombers and protecting ground forces.

**No Bombers Lost**  
Not one of the hundreds of bombers escorted by Momyer's fighters ever has been lost. During the first fortnight after the allied offensive started March 20, they knocked down 40 enemy craft while doing that type of work.

"God, how those kids like to fly—and fight," Momyer remarked.

"They're just a bunch of hard-hitting kids looking for trouble and getting it; looking for it on the theory that the sooner they spot trouble and give it the works, the sooner we will get the hell out of here and go home."

Although much of his job is taken up with ground strategy these days, Momyer has found time to hang up an ace's record for himself. He is credited officially with eight Nazi planes shot down, but he undoubtedly has destroyed or damaged many others.

As often as possible he climbs into a P-40 and roars off with his men—popularly known as "Moe's mob"—on escort flights, or to provide an air umbrella for land troops, simultaneously strafing enemy positions and gun posts and hammering at Axis supply and communication lines.

**In U. of W. Grad**

Momyer's flying career started five years ago when he decided after graduating from the University of Washington, Seattle, to become "the best fighter pilot in the business. His home has been at Seattle since his family moved there from Muskogee, Okla., when he was eight years old.

His wife, "Pat," and five-year-old daughter, Jean, were visiting friends at Hempstead, L. I., when last he heard from them.

Decorations on his chest include the silver star for gallantry, with the cluster; the air medal with three clusters; the distinguished Flying Cross and the Croix de Guerre Avec Palmes.

While the writer was talking to him, word came from the field control tower that three planes were returning to the base in distress. Jumping into a jeep, he raced across the field to the tower to supervise crash landing preparations himself.

Two of the damaged planes, which had been shot up badly in a low-altitude attack on retreating enemy columns, landed safely, but the third still circled over the field unable to get its wheels down.

After one low pass over the runway to pick a spot, the pilot juggled his ship in, almost dragging its tail on the ground as he

stalled to lose flying speed. There was a great cloud of dust, harsh noises of metal scraping across the hard earth, then silence.

But the next instant the pilot climbed out unscathed and calmly asked for a cigarette. Inspection showed that his plane was a total loss, perforated with hundreds of bullet holes. Momyer commented merely: "Well the plane's gone, but the kid's okay."

Momyer's biggest day in the air came when he shot down four Stukas into the laps of allied ground troops and damaged eight others.

"That was fun and then again, it wasn't," he said.

"I went down after a cluster of Stukas—there must have been at least 18 of them—and got some good shooting, but it wasn't as easy as all that. While I was cutting myself a piece of Stuka cake, there were two Messerschmitts trying to cut me up.

**Stukas Gang Up**  
"But the Stukas ganging up to try to cover each other provided me with some very good cover, too. I kept banging away and then when the Messerschmitts moved in to take a crack at me, I would slide in among the Stukas and—sometimes below them to dodge the heat.

"I finally got four and damaged eight others, some of which probably went all the way down. I also managed to cripple one Messerschmidt and then just outran the other all the way home."

## JACK ROOT NOW QUARTERMASTER

John M. (Jack) Root, who formerly operated the Southern Oregon Travel Bureau in Medford, is now a quartermaster in the United States army transport service. Mr. and Mrs. Root arrived in Medford a couple of weeks ago from Seattle and after a week's stay here Mr. Root returned north to report for duty. Mrs. Root, the former Nila Green, is remaining here at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Green, 1014 West Tenth street, for the duration.

Mr. Root has had previous sea experience, having been a cadet officer with the American Mail line operating between Seattle and the Orient before coming to Medford. He resigned a position as passenger traffic manager of the Dowell Construction company, which is building the Alaskan highway, to enter the transport service. His father, Lee F. Root, also a former Medford resident, is now employed at the navy's Smith Cove base in a civilian capacity.

## Dr. Orval Nease Opens Revival at Nazarene Church

Dr. Orval J. Nease, of Pasadena, Cal., opened the pre-Easter revival convention under auspices of the Medford Church of the Nazarene, Holly at First, last night. A fine attendance greeted his initial service. Special music was a feature under direction of

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John Eby and his chorus choir. Dr. Nease drew his text from Mark 10:46 and John 9:4. The first text pertaining to the healing of blind Bartimeus; the latter text referring to Christ the Worker.

Dr. Nease is a veteran of World War I, having served in the air corps. His topics up to and including Sunday are: Tonight, "Does Prayer Bring Returns?"

Friday, "What Is Religion?" Saturday, "Is Faith Practical?" Sunday a. m., "Christian Consecration." Sunday night, "A Cure for Fear."

Each service is held at 7:30 p. m. Men in service and the public at large are cordially invited.

Hollywood, Cal.—(UP)—When Danish actor Preben Storm went to the hospital for an appendectomy, Hollywood cowboys under the leadership of Johnny Mack Brown, another actor, saved 6,000 animals on Storm's ranch. Storm's 200-acre farm is located on the top of a mountain and

the Hollywood cowboys had to carry up on horses 4,000 pounds of feed for the farm's 3,000 chickens, 1,000 turkeys, 450 pigs, 20 cows and assorted stock. Western studios supplied the horses.



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