

DYING MOMENTS OF NAVAL FLIER TOLD IN DIARY

Warship Picks Up Body
From Liferaft—Mother,
Girl, Home, Main Interest

Elkhart, Ind., Sept. 20.—(U.P.) "To Helen I loved her until the end. I love Mom . . . wish I could eat some of her cooking." Thinking of his girl, his mother and the food he ate at home, Naval Aviation Radioman Jack Cooper 23 died on a liferaft in the Pacific. When a warship picked up his body a few days later they found him clutching a diary of his dying days he had written to his "Mom."

The navy sent the diary, written on the fly leaves of his wallet, to his mother, Mrs. Henry Clevenz. Cooper was reported killed in action June 15.

Wounded in Knees

While adrift on the raft, he was strafed by a Japanese plane and wounded in both knees, but he scribbled into the diary a record of what a fighting man

MacArthur Greets Morotai Invasion Troops



Gen. Douglas MacArthur waves to his men on beach at Morotai from his landing barge after making tour around island, northernmost of the Halmahera group, to survey situation in person. With this Jap island in his grasp, MacArthur is now rushing plans for his long-anticipated return to the Philippines, only 275 miles to the north. Photo by Frank Prist, NEA-Acme photographer for War Picture Pool.

"MUSTARD WITH A DASH OF HORSE RADISH



thinks of at the end. Mostly it was about his mother and about his sweetheart, Helen E. Chechichio, whom he called "Big Eyes."

The diary follows:

"Piece of shrapnel in compass case hit our plane Mom . . . wings are in sewing kit, am entitled to all stars and more. Be sure to check insurance, etc. Back pay 10,000 ins. (Roses) to remind me of Helen."

"I've always loved her. Love kisses same for you Mom, Dad and all."

"Now July 8—weak (navy deletion). Can't catch fish—no rain—love Big Eyes"

"July 9—Little rain (navy deletion) headed west."

Land Close

"July 10—Rain last night, very weak, land close somewhere."

"July 11—Mavis flew over—no see—left eye bad shape—still have water. Drifting N. E."

"July 12—Little cloudy, no planes, no land headed north p. m. Jap Nell saw me—strafed hit me in both legs—bandaged them—drifting E."

"July 13—Very weak from loss of blood—land in sight—no food since the 4th—6 ounces of water left—going fast."

"July 14—Catch one small fish last p. m.—very very—won't last over today. Plenty fish but can't sit up—very slight breeze. If this is my last day, tell my Big Eyes to be happy with someone else."

"I'm back to salt water—God bless you all surprise July 15 tell Helen I found God be happy love . . . no rain for 2 week."

"To Helen I loved her until the end—Jack."

"I love Mom Dad and all wish I could eat some of her cooking."

FAMED SEABEES EN ROUTE HOME

San Francisco, Sept. 20.—(U.P.)—Twenty-three hundred Seabees, including the famous Sixth battalion which built and maintained Guadalcanal's Henderson field virtually under fire, were en route to their home today after an absence of from 21 to 27 months.

In addition to the Sixth, the 36th and 40th battalions, veterans of Bougainville, Los Negros and the Admiralties, arrived at San Francisco yesterday.

The Sixth battalion was thrown together 10 days before shoving off for the bitter Solomons battle. Their commander, Joseph P. Blundon, Keyser, W. Vo. said they arrived as "partially armed civilians."

Splendor-of-Sun water falls in Japan are 350 feet high.

BURMA'S STRANGE MISSIONARY NOW ON RIVER BOTTOM

Brayton C. Case, 27 Years
In Burma, Drowns In
Muddy Mogaung River.

By Jack Guinn

United Press Correspondent

Stillwell's Headquarters, North Burma (U.P.)—Underneath the waters of the muddy Mogaung River lies the body of one of Burma's strangest men, a Johnny Appleseed of a missionary who spent 27 years in Burma teaching the natives how to plant and grow American vegetables and died trying to resettle the natives who had been driven out of their homes by the Japanese.

This man, who drowned on July 14 when he was swept away in the raging currents of the monsoon-flooded Mogaung River, was Brayton C. Case, who always listed his next of kin as the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, 152 Madison Avenue, New York.

Case was drowned in the Indawgi Lake area of North Burma while on a trip down the Mogaung River to see about resettling natives in territory which had been won back from the Japanese by the Allies.

Wore Heavy Boots

The motor stopped on the boat on which Case was riding, according to reports and he attempted to swim ashore. He was wearing heavy rubber boots for walking in the deep Burma mud, and failed to remove them when he jumped into the swift current. The boots filled with water and made it impossible for Case to swim. The current swept him 100 yards down the river before two British soldiers, who jumped into the water in an attempt to save him, could not reach him. They almost drowned before they made it to shore.

Probably the last American to see Case alive, the officer who put him on the boat, 1st Lt. Robert T. Lindsay of Dallas, Tex., and Tucson, Ariz., said, "Mr. Case wasn't afraid of the devil himself, and he wasn't afraid of that river, and that's probably what killed him."

Case was well known to American troops in Burma and was a frequent visitor to Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's combat headquarters. He conducted the funeral service for the first American dead in the first official American cemetery in Burma.

Walked Everywhere

Lindsay said Case was "about six-foot-two, a great big, long-legged rawboned man." He walked everywhere he went, "all over the Himalaya mountain range," according to 1st Lt. Richard W. White of Macon, Ga., carrying a 30-pound sack of seeds for his native friends in addition to his other equipment. One story around Stilwell's headquarters is that a group of officers made a hike over certain sections of the mountains in Burma and sent back a report containing the recommendation that no officer over the age of thirty should be permitted to make that walk. Then they discovered that Case, whose age is between 55 and 60, had been making this same walk, carrying all his equipment and his seeds.

Lindsay said that Case "knew every dialect in Burma." For a time, he conducted a school for American officers and taught them the rudiments of Burmese and lectured them on how to get along with the natives and how to survive in the jungle. He showed them what wild plants were edible and which were poisonous.

But his main work was with the natives. He showed them how to clear sections of the jungle, how to plant seeds, such as tomatoes, potatoes, corn, and then showed them the advantages of digging with an American hoe and raking with an American rake, a violent departure from established custom to which the natives did not always immediately take.

Herded Natives

As Stilwell's forces moved right along with them, herding across North Burma, Case sent

his natives along and getting them resettled in villages and talking them into beginning gardens which would make them self-sufficient. Officers at Stilwell's headquarters said that "Mr. Case used to worry us to death for permission to go somewhere—but you couldn't get mad at him, you had to admire him for his persistence."

His persistence and his desire to be always pushing forward caused his death. Lindsay said that when he put Case into the boat on the morning of July 14, he told him the river had not been cleared for travel, that he did not think it safe for the missionary to travel.

"Well, Mr. Case just grunted and said: 'I got to go' and climbed in the boat. That's the way he was, abrupt like that."

Nobody knew much about Case's private life. Nobody knows, not even officials at headquarters, how old he was. They don't know whether he had any family or any relatives. But they know he had friends. There are hundreds of natives throughout North Burma who will mourn the death of Missionary Case.

Gold Hill

Gold Hill, Sept. 20.—(U.P.)—Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hogue of Tule Lake, Cal., were mid-week visitors at the home of Mrs. S. M. Thayer, Sams Valley.

Recent visitors at the Gold Hill Auto Park were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Julian, and baby son of Alameda, Cal. Mrs. Julian is a niece of Mrs. John Cogswell.

Mrs. Effie Countz has as her guest her granddaughter and family—of California. Mrs. Countz plans to spend a week vacationing in California accompanied by Miss Mae Wilson, leaving the OK Pastime in the able hands of Oscar.

Miss Katherine Hays has returned from Chico, Cal., where she has spent the greater part of the summer. She will enter her senior year at the high school there.

Miss Eileen Frost has given up her job at the Pinnacle Packing Co., in Medford to return to high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Arty Laws, infant daughter Elizabeth Ann, and son Ronnie spent the weekend in their Gold Hill home. Mr. Laws is working in the woods on Williams Creek near Provo.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Force have returned to Williams Creek to Bill's job in the timber.

The Alva Walker store was burglarized last week, though nothing of great value was taken. Things were scattered on the floor from the shelves, and pastries damaged. Youthful vandals are suspected.

Mrs. Phyllis Seldon has moved to Medford so that her son, Allan, can attend Medford high school. Mrs. Seldon will commute from Medford to Gold Hill to her position on the staff of Gold Hill high school.

The windows of the Jehovah Witness church were broken the past weekend. Services were being held at the time but no one was injured.

Capt. and Mrs. Paul and two daughters are moving to Medford. They have been living in the Rourke home, and have made many friends here, and will be greatly missed.

The fire department was called to put out a grass fire back of the Alva Cook home near the schools Tuesday. The John Boggis family occupies the Cook house.

Miss Betty Jean Taylor, who has been helping on the farm of her grandparents in Louisiana, has arrived to make her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Densmore, and sisters, Dorothy Taylor and Sandra Jean Densmore.

The Clarence Butterfields have moved into the home of Mrs. Betts, near the high school.

Mrs. Jack Cannon has gone to San Francisco to be with her daughter, who is ill there.

The Cecil Johnsons have returned from Prospect to their home here in Gold Hill which has been occupied by the Clarence Butterfields.

AIR LINKS ASKED

New York, Sept. 20.—(U.P.)—Pan-American World Airways announced today that it had filed applications with the civil aeronautics board for new air routes and extensions of its pre-war routes that would link every continent by air and provide an American-flag airway around the world.

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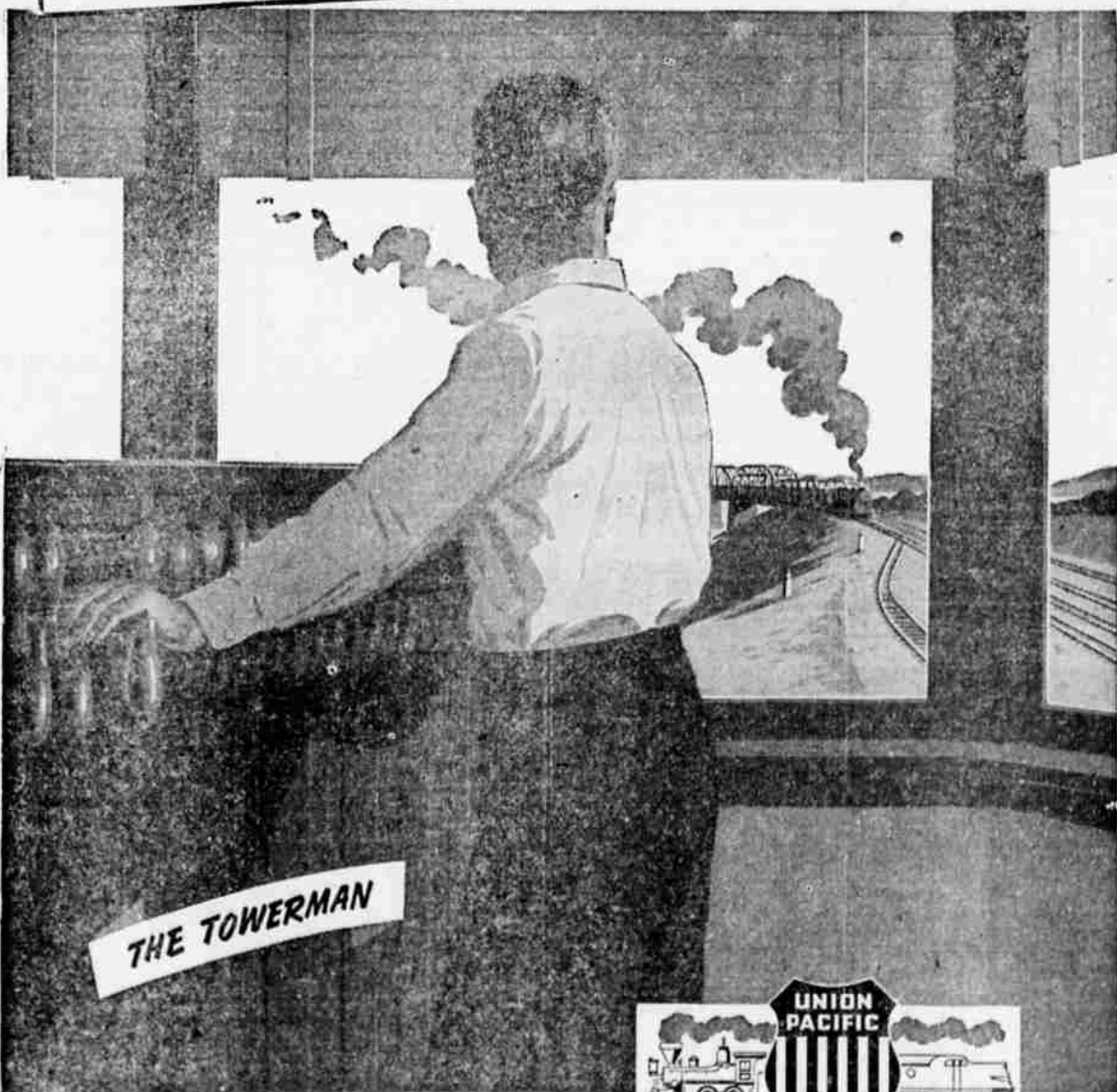
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NOTICE To the Public

It has come to my attention that parties representing themselves to be connected with the Refrigeration Company, 223 West Jackson, have been operating in the city. I have no representative and advise patrons to get in direct touch with me when in need of Refrigeration Service

DAVE GOULD • Ph. 4584