

46 ARMY PILOTS HOLD RECORD OF PLANES DOWNED

Washington, Feb. 20—(AP)—Forty-six U. S. army fighter pilots have shot down 15 or more enemy planes each, the war department disclosed today.

The report was based on records from all theaters up to Feb. 15.

Maj. Richard I. Bong, Poplar, Wis., now in this country, leads with a score of 40 Japanese planes downed in the southwest Pacific. Maj. Thomas B. McGuire, Jr., San Antonio, Tex., who was killed in action in the Philippines on Jan. 7, was next with 38.

Leading ace of the European theater and third in the overall list is Lt. Col. John C. Meyer, Forest Hills, N. Y., eighth air force pilot credited with 37½. Meyer took the lead in the European theater Dec. 30 when he shot down his 35th plane. He was hurt in an automobile accident in Belgium Jan. 29.

Prisoner Fourth
Lt. Col. Francis S. Gabreski, Oil City, Pa., a prisoner of war, is in fourth place with 28, and Maj. George E. Preddy, Greensboro, N. C., who was killed Christmas Day was fifth with 27½. Gabreski and Preddy were both members of the eighth air force.

Holders of sixth to 10th place and their scores:
Maj. Robert S. Johnson, Lawton, Okla., Eighth air force, 27; Col. Charles H. MacDonald, Arlington, Va., Fifth air force, 26; Lt. Col. David C. Schilling, Traverse City, Mich., Eighth air force, 24; Capt. Don S. Gentile, Piqua, O., Eighth air force, 23, and Lt. Col. Gerald R. Johnson, Eugene, Ore., Fifth air force, 23.

SOLAR TO EXPAND
San Diego, Calif., Feb. 20—(AP)—Solar Aircraft Co. today announced a \$1,000,000 building and equipment program for manufacturing Superfortress exhaust systems and stainless steel parts for jet-propelled planes.

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KLAMATH WATER NOT NEEDED IN CENTRAL VALLEY

River Diversion Seen Not Necessary for Many Years; Irrigation Factor.

Sacramento, Feb. 20—(AP)—Irrigation water and power needs of interior California do not require the diversion of the Klamath river to the Sacramento, John C. Beebe of San Francisco, regional administrator for the federal power commission, declared today.

Beebe told an interim legislative committee that irrigation needs would be the "controlling factor" in any eventual decision to divert the Klamath. He added that in his opinion such a need will not occur for many years.

Investigation Routine
The U. S. army engineers corps, which is making a study of the possible diversion, was not requested to do so by the power commission, Beebe said. The investigation by the engineers is "routine," he said.

R. S. Calland, assistant regional director of the U. S. bureau of reclamation, told the committee that the bureau's overall plans call for doubling the supply of irrigation water in the central valley.

Calland said, however, that the bureau has no plan and is not investigating any plan for diversion of Klamath river water into the Sacramento river. It is

making surveys for diversion of the Trinity river into the Sacramento, he said.

Reservoirs Planned
The bureau's overall plan for the central valley contemplates construction of some 26 new water storage reservoirs on the east side of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. These reservoirs, Calland said, would make available about 9,000,000 acre feet of new water each year.

During 1944, he said, about 8,500,000 acre-feet of irrigation water was used in the central valley. The water irrigated about half of the 9,200,000 acres of land suitable for irrigation farming, he added.

SGT. CHAPMAN GIVEN CITATION

T. Sgt. Everett E. Chapman of Gold Hill is a member of a light bomber group which has been awarded a war department citation, a release from Italy states, giving the sergeant the right to wear the distinguished unit badge.

The citation was granted "in recognition of outstanding services rendered the 47th Bombardment Group on Feb. 22, 1943, at Kasserine Pass, where with allied positions overrun by the enemy, A-20 Havocs of the group repeatedly drove home bombing and strafing attacks through rain, fog and complete overcast skies and finally brought about an enemy retreat through the Pass, thus saving the allied holdings in Algeria and Tunisia," the release states.

T. Sgt. Chapman has been with the bombardment group since April of 1941 and overseas since September of 1942, the release states.

COL. GUNN STORY OF INTEREST TO MEDFORD COUPLE

Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Bower, 729 West 13th street, were deeply interested in an article which appeared recently concerning Col. Paul I. (Pappy) Gunn, who has become an almost legendary figure with Lt. Gen. George Kenney's air forces.

Mr. and Mrs. Bower became acquainted with Col. Gunn while visiting their daughter at Alameda, Calif., in May 1942. He was a friend of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Boyle, also friends of the Bowers' daughter, and Col. Gunn had taught Boyle how to fly long before the war. At that time Col. Gunn told them he was going back to the Philippines to get his family interned there.

He made three desperate attempts to rescue his family, according to the article. The third time the Japs shot him down in the sea, but he was rescued by a patrol boat.

Col. Gunn worked out several inventions to aid the war effort, among them heavier fire power from A-20's and B-25's, tail camera for Mitchell bombers and a new aerial torpedo. He continued his flying missions but the Japs finally got him. He is now recovering from a bullet wound in his left shoulder. That's why he wasn't there to greet his family when they were released from Santo Tomas.

NEW GRAND JURY SLATED MONDAY

At the opening of the February term of the circuit court next Monday a new grand jury, composed of the first seven names drawn from the jury list will be drawn and sworn in. A short session is anticipated by the district attorney's office.

One of the cases coming before the new grand jury will be that of Fred A. Wolf, 62, held in the county jail charged with the alleged knife slaying of Percy Harold James, 42, in a sidewalk altercation early this month in Gold Hill. Most of the leading witnesses in the case are residents of Gold Hill. According to the sheriff's office, Wolf has retained Attorney Don R. Newbury as counsel. A number of other criminal matters are also scheduled to be brought to the attention of the inquisitorial body.

A light criminal and civil trial calendar in circuit court is expected.

PERSONAL TAX FILING IS DELAYED BY SOME

The county assessor's office reported today there were still a number of taxpayers in this county who have not filed their personal assessments blanks as required by law. Final day for so doing is Thursday, March 1. New residents are informed that under Oregon law, the taxpayer makes out his own personal assessment and is not called on by deputy assessors as in most states.



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PAROLED GIRL IN LAW HANDS AGAIN

A 15-year-old paroled minor girl was arrested by the police Saturday night at the basketball game at Medford High school and is held in county jail after being accused of stealing a lady's handbag from a drawer behind a checking counter in the Westside Safeway store. The purse was the property of a checker at the store who gave police a description of the girl which led to her subsequent arrest.

The purse contained about \$22 in cash and a cigarette lighter. Money and lighter were both missing from the bag when it was found later at another grocery store, according to police reports. The girl and a younger brother took the bulk of the cash home to their mother with the story that they had earned it raking leaves in Medford, the police stated.

POLICE DESTROY DYNAMITE CACHE

Police officers called to investigate a barrel containing 36 sticks of dynamite and four caps in a field back of Medford High school, yesterday put the minds of several parents at rest when they destroyed the explosives in Bear Creek.

Several children playing in the vicinity of the dynamite led to a call to the police station by some of their parents, officers said. The dynamite left in the field seven or eight months ago was removed by Officer Dick Baize who pulverized it and threw it in Bear Creek, he said. The four caps were exploded with a fuse. Apparently the owner of the dynamite, who had used it to blow out tree stumps, was also afraid to remove it, police stated.

NEW RECRUITING MARK FOR NAVY IN OREGON

Enlistment records for the last nine months were shattered in the Oregon Navy recruiting district in January with the enrolling of 353 17-year-old volunteers, Lt. Comdr. John F. Biehler, officer in charge of the main station in Portland, has reported to Chief W. R. Cumley in charge of the Medford sub-station.

Previous high point was last April, when 369 enlistees were signed.

Enlistments in the Navy's radar training program showed a substantial increase over the previous several months, it was reported.



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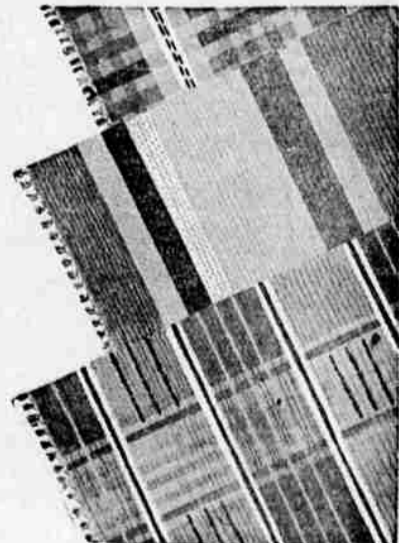
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