

Mystery Man Freed by Soviets Identified; Nationality Unknown

Ex-Prisoner Says Russians Insisted He Was American

Berlin (U.P.)—A mystery man released by the Soviets as an American said today that his real name was Klobitz and that he only posed as an American because the Soviets insisted he was one.

The mystery man, with piercing blue eyes and a small mustache, was turned over to U. S. authorities yesterday under the name of Frederick M. Hopkins of New York City. Two American soldiers were released at the same time.

Hopkins told army authorities today he was not American but an Army spokesman said he "tells conflicting stories and we cannot determine what his nationality is."

Told He Was American

He told Army interrogators: "The Soviets called me in, addressed me as Hopkins, said I was an American and that I would be released to the Americans."

"I told them I was not an American but they insisted I was."

American officers questioned him for five hours yesterday.

"He fooled the Soviets but he could not fool us," an American spokesman said. "We do not know who he is. All we know is that he is not an American. Perhaps he is a German. He is an enigma."

American authorities said Hopkins, who speaks fluent English, German and "several other languages," insisted he was an American citizen and refused to give them any help in determining his true identity.

The two U. S. soldiers released were Pvt. Michael Feingersch, 36, also known as Murray Fields, of New York City, and Wilfred Cumish, 39, of Newburyport, Mass.

Both Soldiers Tanned

Both complained they needed medical attention although they were tanned and appeared in good health. An Army spokesman said their cases would be investigated to determine whether they would be tried by court martial.

Cumish disappeared from his intelligence unit in Vienna March 24, 1948. Feingersch disappeared from his constabulary unit in Nurnberg, West Germany, June 2, 1948. They had been in Soviet prisons more than seven years.

The Soviets also released 24 other prisoners Monday. They included two Frenchmen, six Dutchmen, two Danes, two Swiss, eight Belgians and four Germans, three of whom posed as citizens of other nations.

Ashland Firm Low Bidder on Project

E. C. Dodson, Ashland, was the apparent low bidder on construction of a water intake control structure at Big Butte dam, according to Robert L. Lee, assistant city water superintendent.

Dodson's bid of \$2,263 was \$376.20 less than another bid received from Myron Corcoran, Medford. The award will be made tomorrow, Lee said.

The work, to be done on the north intake of Big Butte reservoir, is designed to fill to capacity both lines going to Medford "even in the driest years," Lee said. The intake's construction was begun in 1951 but was delayed as Medford had no real need for the extra water, Lee added. Oct. 7 has been set as the completion date for the job.

City workmen tomorrow will replace an 8-inch steel pipe on the Table Rock rd. creek crossing, Lee said. The pipe will be hung under the Table Rock bridge.

Matter of Fact By Stewart Alsop

THE WAR FOR NORTH AFRICA

Casablanca, Morocco — At the Geneva conference, French Prime Minister Edgar Faure sought out President Eisenhower to talk to him about the night-march problem faced by France here in North Africa. The President listened courteously for awhile, and according to a French account, horrified the French Premier by asking a question: "But why don't you just free all your colonies?"

Certainly this would be the simplest solution, and also the solution which springs most readily to the American mind. But unfortunately the problem of North Africa is not quite so simple as all that.

It is complicated in two ways: For one thing, some 400,000 Frenchmen live here in Morocco, and there are some 2,000,000 in all French North Africa. France cannot simply abandon these people entirely, leaving them to the mercies of the North Africans — masses which are by no means always tender, as the terrible massacre of Oued Zem has demonstrated.

For another thing, a total withdrawal of French influence from North Africa would be an unmitigated disaster for France. The loss of the enormous French investments in North Africa would equally enfeeble French military power.

It is fashionable here in Morocco to say that the loss of North Africa would make France another Spain. This is nonsense, if only because the loss of North Africa would not destroy the fertility of the French soil. But it is certainly true that France would cease to have the shadow of a claim to the status of a great power, if the essential French influence in North Africa were destroyed.

This is an aspect of the North African tragedy which Americans would do well to ponder. It is all very well to bait the French for their colonial policy, which, God knows, is far from brilliant, but it is also well to remember that the United States has a stake in what is happening here.

THERE are, of course, the American air bases here. As of this writing, the bases are a vital element in American air-atomic striking power. When the bases in Spain become fully operational and even when the intercontinental B-52 bomber replaces the medium range B-47 the bases here will remain most useful. But they will no longer be essential.

The really essential American stake in the struggle here is not in North Africa at all, but in France and in Europe. One of the highest French officials here remarked the other day: "The war for North Africa has already begun." If he was right—and he may be—North Africa will siphon French power from the Continent until there is nothing left but a great mushy vacuum. The recent transfer of two French NATO divisions from Europe to North Africa was a portent of things to come. The real danger, in short, is a final crumbling away of French power in Europe. Americans like to think that French power is a myth anyway. But the strategy of the NATO alliance is squarely based on the existence of a reasonably strong France. If France is to become a mushy vacuum, Western strategy will be knocked into a cocked hat. Theoretically, it should be entirely possible to avoid "The War for North Africa" while safeguarding the really essential French interests here. The

most striking thing about the Moroccan Nationalist movement is the moderate and even conservative nature of its leadership.

Men like Bouabid, ben Barka and Belafrej have no lust for French blood. They are themselves products of French culture, and what they really want is recognition and authority for the Moroccan middle class, which is itself largely a creation of the French.

The fact that the Nationalist leaders were prepared enthusiastically to accept the proposals of the deposed French Resident General, Gilbert Grandval, is proof enough of their moderation. For, as a practical matter, the Grandval plan fell very far short of real Moroccan independence, and in no way genuinely threatened French interests here.

THE moderation of the Nationalist movement here actually presents France with a great but fleeting opportunity. It is not difficult to imagine how the British would exploit such an opportunity. Every moderate Nationalist leader would be loaded with medals and probably a title to boot. The Nationalists would also be given real power, not sham power. If the French exploited their opportunity in such a way, the Nationalists would certainly rely heavily on French capital, and French skill, as all the Nationalist leaders say freely and repeatedly they must.

Of course it is silly to imagine that the infinitely complex problems here could be solved by simply bestowing medals on the moderate Moroccan Nationalist leaders. Yet the problem is by no means insoluble — far less than in Indochina, for example. Meanwhile, time is rapidly running out. Premier Faure may, to be sure, find a compromise that will fit, at least for a while. But here in Morocco, the authority of the moderate Nationalists is being more and more seriously threatened by the extremists and the terrorists. If Morocco plunges again into another and greater bloodletting — as it may, as soon as Sept. 12 — the extremists on both sides are sure to take over. Then, "The War for North Africa" could fatally weaken the Western Alliance, and in the long run, it could be the prelude to a Communist Africa. Such are the stakes in the struggle here.

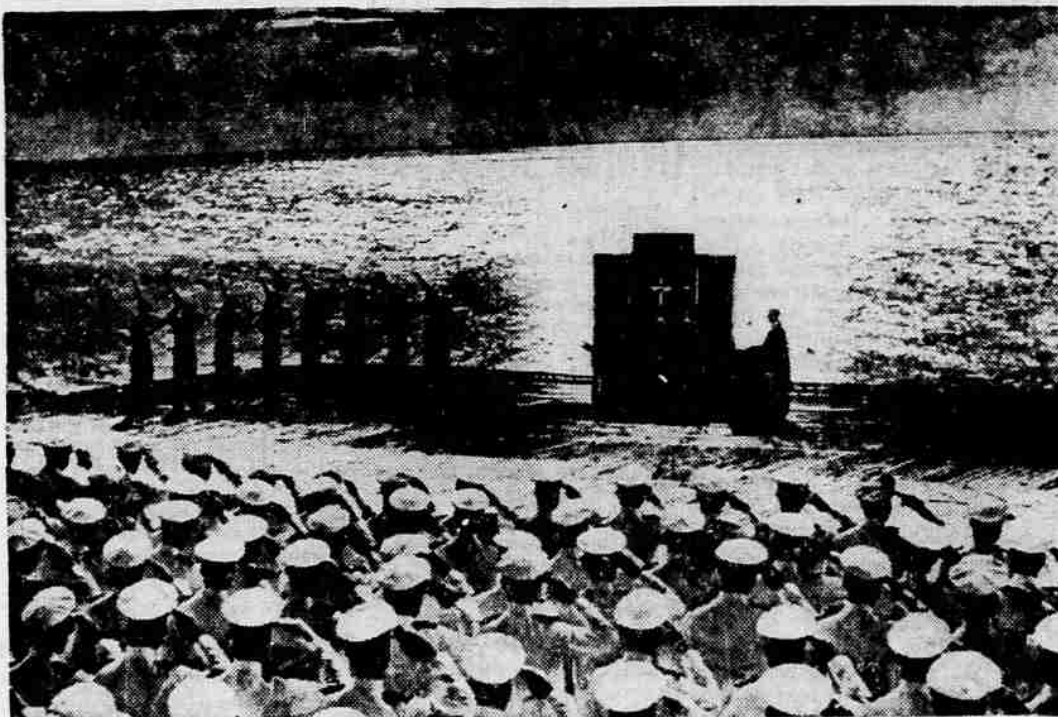
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Christian Churches Hold Meeting Here

Christian churches of southern Oregon and northern California held a fellowship conference at the Medford Central Church of Christ yesterday.

Ellmore J. Gilstrap, minister of the local church, spoke at the morning session, chairmanned by O. Wendell Herhison, pastor of the Ashland church. Franklin Gage, evangelist for the northern California association of Christian churches, spoke last night.

Don Whitney, Central Point; Leo Horner, Klamath Falls, and Dewey Arnold, Tulelake, Calif., were ministers conducting a series of afternoon forums on church life.



TRIBUTE TO DOWNED FLYER—This striking photo, just released by the Department of Defense, shows a Marine guard of honor firing a salute as officers and men of the USS

Hornet pay tribute to a flyer lost at sea during a landing accident. At the time the photo was taken (July, 1954) the Hornet was operating with the 1st Fleet in Far East waters. —(U.S. Navy photo)

Just Trying To Get Even With Women Drivers

McPherson, Kan.—(U.P.)—Here's one woman driver who didn't panic in a pinch.

Idled at a railroad crossing, Mrs. Marvey Jantz' car was suddenly pushed onto the tracks while the red signal light flashed and guard arms were lowered.

Another car driven by—you guessed it—a man, had bumped Mrs. Jantz' machine into danger as the train approached.

She gunned the motor.

She gunned the motor, swerved adroitly and angled past the signal arms to safety. The maneuver blew out two of her tires.

The man driver? The sheriff got him for not decreasing speed.

Michigan has 11,037 lakes which are 10 acres or larger in size.

ACTRESS SEEKS JOB

London — (U.P.) — American actress Joan Diener, fired last week from her sexy harem role in the musical "Kismet," was to fly to Rome today to look for a new job. Before she left here, Miss Diener said she would discuss a film job with John Mather, head of Musical Corporation of America, who "has offered me the star role in a new musical film."

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Ellsworth Speaker At Roseburg Meet

Congressman Harris Ellsworth will speak at a combined meeting of three sections of Professional Engineers of Oregon to be held at the Umpqua hotel in Roseburg, Friday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Attending will be members of the Mid-Willamette, Rogue Valley and Southwestern sections of the group.

Congressman Ellsworth will speak mainly on national highway legislation but is also expected to discuss any federal legislation affecting engineers and to answer questions on power legislation.

He will be introduced by George Neuner, Roseburg attorney. Lester Stinson, Medford member of PEO, today reminded local members to make their reservations for the dinner with Tom Edwards, highway division office, Roseburg. It is expected 25 or 30 engineers from the Medford area will attend.

Today the Navajo Indians numbers more than 70,000 compared to 7,000 in 1867.

OLD HOME WEEK

Willimantic, Conn.—(U.P.)—When Marcel St. Denis of Fall River, Mass., stopped to ask directions of Policeman Edmund Haddad they realized they were Army buddies who hadn't seen each other since 1945.

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