

Forest Service Will 'Torpedo' Summer Forest Conflagrations

San Francisco—(U.P.)—The U.S. Forest Service is cooking up a "secret weapon" for use in its eternal hot war with forest fires. It's going to "torpedo" them.

M. M. Nelson, chief of fire control for the California region, revealed today his outfit had taken delivery of seven surplus Navy TBM torpedo bombers to carry out the new and remarkably successful technique of water-chemical bombing from the air.

The Martin-built carrier bombers were ferried to California in recent weeks from the Naval Air Station at Norfolk, Va. They are now being refitted for their new job in the peacetime war against the conflagrations that do millions of dollars damage to the nation's timber and rangelands each year.

The aerial tanker technique, pioneered by the Forest Service as far back as 1936, is now coming into its own as an effective weapon in forest fire fighting, according to Nelson who is one of the nation's top authorities on the subject.

No Cure-All for Problem

"This is not a cure-all for the forest fire problem," he cautioned in an interview with United Press. "Just as the military, with its atomic bombs and guided missiles, still needs its infantry, we, also, will always need our ground troops."

"We are going to have big fires, even after this new technique is developed to its ultimate. But we won't have so many big fires, because the planes can hold down many which otherwise would run wild."

The seven torpedo planes will supplement region five's present fleet of seven Stearman bi-planes which saw action against California fires last year with "glorifying results."

Thus, California foresters will face the 1957 fire season with an air arm of 14 planes, outfitted

for their unique duty and ready to take to the air with a bomb-load of fire-smuffing chemical within 15 minutes' notice.

Nelson and his pilots are awaiting the challenge eagerly. Nelson said the results of the 1956 season convinced him "the turning point" had come in modern fire control.

Nelson said the first experiments in aerial fire control in 1936, when the Forest Service, in cooperation with the Air Corps, tried dropping metal containers of water on fires, were not encouraging.

Shortly after World War II, similar experiments were tried near Missoula, Mont., using B29 and B25 bombers and P47 rigged with proximity fuses to explode at treetop level.

Nelson said the first concentrated series of experiments were held in 1954 at Camp Pendleton Marine Base near San Diego. Dubbed "operation fire-stop," it included experiments with all sorts of fixed-wing aircraft and even helicopters.

The technique really began to take shape, Nelson said, when the experimenters hit upon a solution of sodium calcium borate and water, mixed to a consistency of pancake batter. This was found far superior to water, he said, because it remains effective as a fire killer even after the water has evaporated; its heavier weight gives better penetration on foliage enabling pilots to see plainly where previous drops had been made.

During 1956, the forest service used borate bombing in 25 fires and a later evaluation declared the system was a "deciding factor in 15 of them—a definite help" in four others.

New Jail at Miami Proving Attractive

Miami — (U.P.) — City Judge Henry Balaban has freed 50 sobered-up drunks from the new city jail to make room for others swelling the jailhouse population.

A policeman said drunks are purposely getting arrested so they can get in the new jail, which he said is being run like "a country club," with "television, a nurse to take the prisoners' temperatures and other attractive facilities."

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K. F. Bank Robber Gets 5-Year Term

Portland—(U.P.)—A 28-year-old Klamath Falls electrician who held up the First National bank at Klamath Falls last November to pay off his debts has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Paul James Lambertson thrust a note to a teller in the bank and fled with \$2700 in the un-armed holdup.

U. S. Judge William East said he was imposing the relatively light sentence because of Lambertson's favorable record. Defense attorneys pointed out that friends of the convicted man have undertaken the task of paying off his debts.

A tip to police by Lambertson's former wife, to whom he was paying \$325 a month from his monthly check of \$350, led to his arrest for the robbery two days after the holdup.

Pressure Said Mounting To Up Cigarette Prices

New York—(U.P.)—Pressure is mounting for higher cigarette prices to offset squeezed profit margins in the industry, Standard & Poor's Corp. said today.

The statistical agency said production economies and the rapid rise in popularity of the more profitable filter tip brands helped manufacturers keep prices stable since April, 1955, when king size brands were raised.

Heart Association Expands Attack on Rheumatic Fever

Portland—Oregon Heart association plans to expand its attack on rheumatic fever during 1957 to include preventive as well as educational and research activities, according to Dr. Herbert Griswold, Oregon Heart association president and head of the cardiology division, University of Oregon medical school.

Dr. Griswold has advised H. G. (Bud) Horn, state chairman for the association's February Heart Fund campaign, that the 1957 budget calls for a large expenditure to carry on the fight against rheumatic fever, often the forerunner of rheumatic heart.

Research projects already under way at the University of Oregon medical school, Reed college and Bend will continue, he said. In addition, there will be a pilot study of rheumatic incidence in an area stretching from the Oregon coast to the mountains and a preventive program which is still in the planning stage and not yet ready to be announced.

Preventable Disease

Despite the fact that rheumatic fever is a leading cause of disability and death among children and young adults, it can now be listed as a preventable disease, Horn said.

An Oregon Heart association bulletin pointed out that rheumatic fever is almost invariably preceded by a streptococcal infection, most commonly a "strep" sore throat, and urged prompt medical attention of suspected "strep" infections. Contributions to the Heart Fund in Jackson county may be made to Dwight Houghton, in the care of the Medford branch, U. S. National bank.

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Dutch Do About Everything Wrong But Still Are Leading in Longevity Parade

Amsterdam, The Netherlands —(U.P.)—Although they stubbornly do all the things considered wrong by American experts, the Dutch live longer than any people on earth.

They rarely diet. A plate of thick, fatty pea soup with a chunk of pork in it is a cold weather favorite. They are mostly overweight. They work hard. They don't slow down at 40. But Dutchmen average 70.6 years of life, and Dutch women average 73 years.

This compares with 66.6 years for an American man and 72 years for an American woman. The United States and Britain are virtually tied for third place in the longevity sweepstakes. Sweden is second with 68 years for its menfolk and 73 for its women.

Holland has topped this longest-lived list for at least half a century. Dr. Cornelius Banning, chief of the public health inspection service, was asked how the Dutch do it.

Exercise Helps

"Our ante-natal, and post-natal care," he replied. "We have a very low death rate for infants in their first, and most critical, year."

When the dutch infant grows to an adult, Banning said, he usually takes part in a healthy sport such as swimming and gymnastics. And he walks a great deal.

Banning said in his opinion

the lower life-expectancy of American men is due partly to the fact that they ride in cars too much and exercise too little. "They even go to drive-in movies so they can see the film without leaving their cars," Banning said.

Public Health

Banning paid tribute to the curious public health setup in Holland. All practical work in the medical field is in the hands of private organizations such as the Green Cross Society, the Roman Catholic Yellow-White Cross Society and the Calvinist Orange-Green Cross Society.

The government health inspection service merely advises the private cross organizations, which have their own doctors and nurses. It coordinates their activities and disburses a government subsidy to them.

Banning listed these other reasons why Dutchmen live longer: They live quietly, are not easily excited and rarely change their habits. A majority of young girls attend home economic courses where there

is strong emphasis on hygiene in the home, especially the kitchen. They drink less alcohol than many other nations.

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