

Herbert Hoover Recalls Work Of Belgium Commission

Brussels —(UPI)—Former President Herbert Hoover recalled Saturday the work of the commission for relief in Belgium which he headed during the early stages of World War I.

In a "Hoover Day" speech at the Brussels World fair, he paid tribute to the Belgian people and the governments which cooperated to sustain the morale, the unity and the spiritual strength of the innocent victims of the war.

"Lasting benefits have come to the world from the experience we gained in those years of the First World war and its armistice," Hoover said.

Hoover, 83, who underwent a gall bladder operation April 19, returned to the scene of one of his greatest triumphs as special United States envoy to the affair.

"This is an occasion and a setting which reaches into the depths of our memories and our emotions," Hoover said.

Cared for Millions

In a review of the work of the commission he headed, Hoover pointed out that the agency managed the supply of food for 10 million people, care for the ill, the aged and the destitute.

It was the second speech Hoover made here in two days. In an Independence Day address Friday, he said the United States currently is the victim of "false legends, misrepresentations and vicious propaganda" even in the free world.

Noting this propaganda has incited "physical attacks upon American citizens, upon our officials, and abuse of our country," Hoover said:

"Forty years ago such attitudes contributed to the retreat of the American people behind a barbed-wire entanglement around the Western Hemisphere. I have little fear of such a retreat today. But the danger signal is up."

His second address was devoted to reminiscences of what he witnessed "on this spot" and elsewhere during and after World War I.

Scenes Recalled

He recalled scenes of cruelty that he said have troubled his dreams ever since. A monument at Dinant, Belgium, where "hundreds of men, women and children were taken as hostages and mowed down with machine guns," Belgian city streets with a hobbled soldier of the Kaiser at every crossroad. The "long lines of weary women and listless children" before the soup kitchens.

He recalled, too, times when "Belgian gaiety and wit would break through their suffering like a star shell in the night over a man's land." Like the time a "thundering enemy general unbuckled his belt of ponderous weapons" and laid them in a browbeating gesture on a Belgian burgomaster's table—and the Belgian "solemnly uncorked his fountain pen and laid it beside the revolvers."

Hoover spoke of the "thousands of devoted women" who worked to save 2,500,000 children in Belgium and northern France from hunger, disease and degeneration. After the armistice the Americans brought rehabilitation to 13 million children in other parts of Europe. And after World War II, he said, the same group of Americans from that original staff in Belgium set the United Nations to use the system developed then to care for war-debilitated children throughout the world.

Full Story Untold

The Belgian relief organization, Hoover said, was unprecedented in history and pioneered the methods of relief of great famines.

"Some day," he said, "I hope to publish the whole story, because only I know it in full."

The story does not end with the program of relief, Hoover said. When relief operations ended in 1919, the organization had 39 million dollars in unspent funds. The money was endowed to charities and educational foundations, which, through the years have enabled Belgians to study in the United States and Americans to study in Belgium.

Hoover read a special message from President Eisenhower paying tribute to the "courage, the fortitude and the ideals for which the Belgians have stood" in two world wars and in times of peace.



TOUR JACKSONVILLE—Consideration is being given to the possible restoration of Jacksonville as a tourist attraction for the 1959 Oregon Centennial period. The Jackson County Centennial commission, has several projects in mind it hopes will bring outsiders to this area. Touring Jacksonville recently in connection with this project were, left to right, Ernest Hood and Russ Jamison, both on the board of trustees of the Jackson County Centennial association, and Drs. Arthur Taylor and Frank Haines, both members of the Southern Oregon college faculty.

Drug Executive Poisons Family, Takes Own Life

Glen Ridge, N. J.—(UPI)—A former drug executive killed four members of his family with a poisonous pineapple drink Friday and then swallowed a lethal dose himself to complete a murder-suicide plan that his wife may have approved.

"I'm sorry for what I'm doing," muscular, good-looking Thomas H. MacDowell, 49, said in a note found by police.

"I love my wife and children dearly but I think in the long run they'll be better off," the note said. "This is the best way out."

Neighbor Finds Bodies

A neighbor sent to investigate the absence of the family from a July 4 picnic found the bodies of MacDowell, his Brazilian wife, Marta, 37, two sons, Donald, 7, and Robert 6, and MacDowell's mother, Florence, 79, in second floor bedrooms.

"What a shock," Warren Higgins, 33, of Alexandria, Va., said later. "They were a lovely family... wonderful neighbors."

All five had drunk pineapple juice spiked with poison, according to Police Chief Henry G. Liebernecht.

Injected Himself

MacDowell swallowed some second tablets and then injected himself with deadly poison, Liebernecht said.

Apparently, MacDowell arranged a midnight "snack" for his family in order to carry out the gruesome plan.

"There is some indication he had discussed the murder-suicide with his wife," Lt. Leon Neidorf of the Essex County prosecutor's office said.

Liebernecht agreed Mrs. MacDowell "apparently knew of his plans."

However, the motive remained uncertain.



THIS LOOKS LIKE AVA?—Dawn Manning, 26, of Atlantic City, sheds a tear in New York police station, where she was booked for trying to get out of paying bills by taking advantage of her resemblance to actress Ava Gardner.

Rescue Operations Of Three Survivors Reviewed by Pilot

Honolulu —(UPI)—Capt. Robert McCulley, Arlington, Tex., who commanded the rescue plane which spotted three survivors of the downed C-124 in the Pacific, told Saturday about the "textbook" search and rescue operation.

McCulley's plane, an SC54 search craft, left the 76th Air Rescue Squadron flight line at Hickman Air Force base at 5:55 a.m. Friday and began "highest probability" search hours and 30 minutes later, McCulley spotted what he thought was an oil slick and altered his course pattern to investigate.

"Then Casto (T. Sgt. Earl W. Casto, Replete, Va.) holed over he had got something," McCulley said.

"We all saw stuff then. There was debris all over the place," McCulley made a low pass over the survivors, two in the water and one lying across a crate.

Happy Bunch

"You talk about a happy bunch. They were waving their arms and jumping. We figure they were in the water about 12 hours," Capt. Robert Donstad, San Jose, Calif., the navigator said.

The plane then made another pass upwind of the survivors and dropped a survival kit—two 20-man liferafts connected by an 800-foot nylon line.

McCulley said it was a search and rescue "almost from the textbook."

The entire crew of the rescue plane said it was "the prettiest drop we ever saw." The center of the line dropped right across the survivors. T. Sgt. Julius Raetz of St. Louis, Mo., and T. Sgt. Alton Schneider, Marysville, Calif., made the precision drop.

Schneider had a magnificent black eye to show for his part, acquired when a piece of the gear slapped him while it was going out. "I'm proud of it," Schneider said.

The three survivors had almost reached one of the rafts when the helicopter arrived from the carrier Boxer to lift them from the water. The rescue plane escorted the helicopters back to the carrier and returned to continue the search for others.

Iowa Counts Cost As Floods Abate

Audubon, Iowa —(UPI)—Searchers plodded through mudcovered debris today looking for the lone remaining body of the 19 known dead in southwest Iowa's worst floods in history.

The floods appeared to be spent.

Red Cross officials said a first survey of the damage showed 19 dead, 59 injured, one seriously, and 31 dwellings destroyed.

In addition, 120 dwellings suffered major damage, 355 others were less severely damaged and 71 farm buildings were destroyed.

In all, the floods inflicted losses on at least 971 Iowa families.

At least two possible flood threats appeared to be past the danger stage.

The Nishnabotna River, loaded with carcasses of dead livestock, flowed swiftly past the barricaded town of Hamburg into the Missouri River. Sandbags and flash boards lined up to protect the town proved to be eight feet higher than the river's crest.

A second flood threat diminished when the Raccoon River crested at 18 feet at Des Moines, then began falling.

Navy to Return Nuclear Test Sailor

Honolulu —(UPI)—Dr. Earle Reynolds who attempted to sail into the forbidden Pacific nuclear test area will be returned under guard from Kwajalein early this week, the Navy said.

Reynolds deliberately sailed his boat, the Phoenix, into the test zone with his wife, their two teenaged children and a Japanese crewman also aboard. The yacht was intercepted and towed to Kwajalein.

Reynolds, his wife and daughter will return aboard a government plane. Reynolds' son and the crewman will remain with the yacht, the Navy said.

Florida has 58,560 square miles.

Farmhand Admits Letter to Malik

London —(UPI)—William Stanley Whales, 34, an out-of-work farmhand confessed yesterday he had written the letter which touched off fears a "crazy" American pilot might drop a hydrogen bomb off the coast of England.

The letter was addressed to Soviet Ambassador Jacob Malik, who immediately made it public. It was denounced as a "hoax" by the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Air Force, and even the Soviet Embassy expressed doubts as to its validity.

Whales said he had identified himself as an American airman stationed in Britain because he figured that would draw more attention to the wrongs he claimed had been heaped on him by the British Royal Air Force.

He accused the Soviets of deleting all references to himself, or recopying the letter and then signing it only with the initial "W." He said he had signed it originally "W. Whales."

Radio Moscow lost no time in getting aboard the propaganda wagon. In a broadcast beamed to North America it said the letter "bears the imprint of men driven desperate by the hourly threat of nuclear warfare and have decided that some terrible demonstration is needed to make people see the powder keg situation."

Whales was questioned by police and then released. Both police and the United States Air Force had no comment on the matter.

12-Ton Raft Towed To Sea for Long Trip

Redondo Beach, Calif. —(UPI)—The 12-ton raft Lehi IV will be towed out to sea Saturday to begin a drifting voyage to Hawaii in an attempt to prove that the earth's ocean currents carried people to the Western hemisphere.

Capt. Devere Baker, 42, hopes to glide to the islands in three months time on a "shakedown cruise" as a preliminary to a dream of riding his raft from the Persian Gulf to Central America.

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Passenger Train Stops Because of Engine Fire

Speigner, Ala.—(UPI)—The Hummingbird, Louisville and Nashville railroad's crack passenger train between New Orleans and Cincinnati, was halted temporarily here Friday night when an engine unit caught fire and burned. No one was injured.

The engine unit, one of three on the Hummingbird, was a complete loss. Firemen from nearby Wetumpka fought the blaze for 45 minutes before getting it under control.

Lancaster, Mass.—(UPI)—For the first time in this town's 304-year history, a town meeting has been held outdoors. Eighteen citizens conducted their business just outside the town hall because of humid weather.

Johnston Stores Named Lindsay Dealer Here

Johnston Stores, 112 South Riverside ave., Medford, has been appointed exclusive authorized dealer for Lindsay automatic water softeners, the company has announced.

The local store will service all of southern Oregon, it reported.

Among persons over 65 years old, Britain has one million more women than men.

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