

Stars and Stripes Article About Medford Sergeant

A Medford man, Sr. Master Sgt. George D. Landes, is the subject of a two-page story in the May 28 issue of the European edition of The Stars and Stripes. The story, written by Odice McDaniel, was accompanied by six photographs showing Landes, a line chief for an aircraft squadron at Hahn Air Base, Germany, at work.

The article, entitled "No Mistakes Permitted Here," follows:

A job where one mistake could spell death for someone, mean the loss of \$700,000, or even seal the doom of a free-world city — that's the job of an aircraft mechanic.

Supersonic fighters, regardless how well designed, can only be as good as the men who work on them.

To Senior M Sgt. George D. Landes, 46, of Medford, Ore., aircraft maintenance requires his supervision of more than 100 men and care of at least 56 F100D Super Sabre jet fighters.

With 26 years of service behind him, Landes is line chief for the 50th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Sq. at Hahn Air Base, Germany. No Room for Errors

"There are no room for errors in our trade," says Landes. "When a cook or clerk makes a mistake, he can usually correct the error easily, but when an aircraft mechanic 'goofs,' a pilot's life — and perhaps countless other lives — are at stake.

"Sense of accomplishment in this job is very rewarding," says Landes. "I can see a reason for work and an end product. Our crews are in charge of the aircraft and they don't fly until we say so."

A "simple" thing, like installing the wrong type of bolt and nut on a stabilator, can kill a pilot, destroy his \$700,

000 airplane, or even let an enemy bomber invade the free world and destroy an entire city. These are some of the things a line chief needs to think about as he makes his rounds on the flight line.

An F100 is divided into separate sections — called systems — each having its separate group of mechanics and shops to keep it going.

On arriving at his office, Landes checks the status of the aircraft. (His master schedule shows when each jet will be flown, the aircraft number, time the pilot will report to his aircraft, his take-off time, duration of flight, and type of mission.) Following this, he briefs section chiefs on changes in the daily routine.

Periodic Maintenance

The jets are scheduled for periodic maintenance and the men perform their work accordingly. It's estimated that one of every three men and 40 cents of every Air Force dollar is spent on some type of maintenance, the line chief says.

Landes must depend on his section chiefs to assist him in his great responsibility. Senior M Sgt. John D. Oliver in Section I and Senior M Sgt. Truman L. Gathright in Section II.

Oliver has two flight chiefs, Senior M Sgt. Durrel B. Groover and T Sgt. Harold D. Johnson responsible to him, while Gathright's flight-chief assistants are M Sgt. Raymond Carlson and T Sgt. Elmer T. Stillwell. These supervise the crew chiefs individually responsible for assigned aircraft.

As Landes put it, "the supervisors are responsible for their men on and off duty." A sick child at home, unpaid bills or one of a dozen other family problems could cause a technician to make an error.

And the crash of a F100D is expensive in lives and property, Landes says he stresses to his section chiefs the importance of encouraging their men to consult them and seek help with their problems.

Entering the Army Air Corps in 1935 from his native Illinois, Landes has been an

aircraft mechanic during all but 3½ years of his career. His most complicated plane in so far as maintenance, he says, was the B47 Stratojet bomber. "The most difficult thing about this plane is its huge amount of equipment packed into a small space," he explained.

Even though Landes is a supervisor and has an office, he doesn't just sit there and run the show. When a section chief is absent, he fills in, and when they have an alert, Landes goes out with the men.

"Sometimes we finish at 5 p.m. and at other times we work to 8 p.m. or after," he said.

As Landes explains it, "The flight line is where all maintenance comes together." His department is only part of the support involved in keeping the pilots of the 10th and 81st Tactical Fighter squadrons flying.

Major Emphasis

He places major emphasis on the squadron work — load control section. This is a maintenance coordinating office.

GRADUATED

Specialist Five Charles E. Lodge, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lodge, 725 Narregan ave., Medford, recently graduated from the Seventh U. S. Army Non-Commissioned Officer academy in Bad Tolz, Germany.

A driver in the First Transportation company in Orleans, France, Lodge attended Talent High school.

HONORED—Sylvia E. Ponder, 2329 Fowler lane, White City, redeemed the millionth Silver Dollar Stamp book recently at the Big Y Shopping center. In honor of the occasion she was awarded 100 silver dollars by Howard Smith, manager of the center. During the time the stamps have been available in Oregon more than one million dollars have been paid in cash to customers. (Knackstedt photo)



Rain Dampens Damascus Fair

Damascus, Ore. —(UPI)—The Little World's Fair shrank in the rain at this Oregon community of 200 Saturday.

The spoof of Seattle's fair held its grand opening with dreams of 85,000 people watching a 5½-mile parade and other activities throughout the day. Drenched fair officials later estimated about 7,500 persons watched the parade, which was watered down to about one-fourth of its original length. Most of the beauty queens traveled the route crouched in sedans.

The fair did score one success in the afternoon. A 21-foot peace candle continued to sputter defiantly in the downpour after it was lit by Sweden's Lucia Bride, Ingrid Engstrom.

Wild West gunfighters paced the streets with their blanks carefully protected in waterproof pouches. Despondent-looking Indians crouched inside their damp tepees.

More visitors who showed up to watch performances of "The Drunkard" by a Portland theatrical company had to slog through mud.

The only optimism on the grounds was fair president Garland Wiley, who said: "Anything that starts off as badly as this is bound to be a terrific success."

GETS TRADITIONAL KISS — The traditional kiss by the Color Girl is bestowed on the winning company commander during June Week rehearsal ceremonies at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Against a backdrop of flags, Midshipman First Class James M. Barnes, 23, of Tulare, Calif., is getting a kiss from Miss Hope Littleton, Cheverly, Md. (UPI)



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Commodity Groups Schedule Hearings

Salem —(UPI)—Budget hearings of five state commodity commissions during June have been announced by the Oregon Agriculture Department. They are industry self-help groups which promote and develop markets.

All of the hearings are open to the public.

The hearings: Oregon Beef Council-June 12, 10 a.m. (PDT), Portland; Highland Benigrass Commission June 8, 8 p.m. (PST), Salem; Potato Commission-June

13, 1:30 p.m. (MST), Ontario; Fryer Commission-June 20, 7 p.m. (PST), Salem; Rescue Commission-June 29, 10 a.m. (PST), Salem

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