

# Heroic Army Doc Rescues Patients Despite Crash Landing in Sea, Icy Wind

By EUGENE BURNS  
AN ADVANCED ALEUTIAN BASE, April 21 (Delayed AP)—The army doctor, heavy boots still waterlogged from the rough landing, gives his patients a shot of morphine. The doctor, who has been treated for shock, clenches his teeth and waits for the patients to be rescued.

Two other patients who have been treated for shock, clenched their teeth and waited for the doctor to be rescued.

For seven hours—it is past midnight—Capt. Albert Ehrlich, 37, of Van Nuys, Calif., who practiced at Tacoma, has been practicing and applying sulfadiazine ointment to Sgt. William P. O'Gara of Shamokin, Pa., who was burned horribly that afternoon.

The messhall still was smoking when, despite a storm, Dr. Ehrlich arrived by navy Catalina bomber.

Pilot Lieut. (JG) Russell C. Gish of Waterville, Minn., before landing, judged the heavy seas apprehensively: "Doctor, is your case absolutely necessary?"

"Three men may die," "Hang on, then," Gish replied.

The doctor had no safety belt. He removes his steel-rimmed glasses. He wraps his medical supplies in two navy blankets to absorb shock. He curves his six feet two and stands wedged in the passageway, and hangs to a rod for dear life. He is frightened because he knows what eggshells men are.

And then the heavy patrol plane crashes into the waves.

"I thought we hit a rock," said Lieut. Kenneth Wilson, 39, of Steelton, Pa., as company commander he went along to investigate the property damage. "Rivets popped as the PBV bounced from wavecrest to wavecrest in the open sea. Finally the plane yielded only to the pitching and rolling of the waves which buried the patrol bomber's wingtips."

(Pilot Gish received an Army Air Medal for this skillful landing.)

Three attempts were made to taxi the PBV near shore so the doctor and Wilson could reach shore with the pneumatic boat.

Finally Lieut. Wilson managed to get into the boat and the doctor handed him his supplies, got in and the holding rope was chopped.

The two paddled their rubber boat through mankilling waves. Water dashed over. They were soaked in 34 degree water. When near the rocks between breakers they jumped out and splashed ashore.

From the cruel shore to the camp was a hard climb over tundra hillocks. The doctor hurried. He found the three in an unboarded tent, wet and dirty. Their clothing fins had been extinguished with wet mud. To the most severely burned, the first aid men had administered a sedative.

Pvt. William H. Gibson, Jr., Salt Lake City, Utah, had third degree burns on face, neck and one hand; Corp. Franklin Q. Irwin, Van Lear, Ky., was burned on the back; but the most severe, Sergeant O'Gara's hands, arms, face, neck, shoulders and legs from hip to ankle were burned into the flesh. Eyes and lips were swollen shut, ears puffed.

"Never have I treated a man worse burned," the doctor said. As the doctor applied the most modern medicines, he must have thought of his Tacoma office. Here the wind screams against the canvas, the floor is earthen, the cots sheetless, the wash basin a steel helmet.

First the doctor bathes and swabes the burned hands and then uses splints, so the hands will not contract. The face then is cleansed gently with warm boric acid and the burned flesh removed. As the doctor progresses, hour after hour, he cuts through the man's heavy underwear, wool shirt and blanket-lined pants.

Finally at 12:30 a. m. O'Gara is placed between dry, warm blankets and allowed to rest. There remain the other two. By 7 a. m., the doctor is re-dressing O'Gara.

Three days later the patients are placed on a tug. During the return trip they become violently seasick, especially O'Gara, and

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## Young Hermit Holes-in in Hills to Avoid Induction

TACOMA, May 12 (AP)—An amazing story of a 14-months self imposed hermitage in the heavily timbered country east of Chehalis to evade military induction was told by Rodney Allen Wooster, 28, of Dryad, in federal court here today when he was arraigned on a charge of violating the selective service act. Wooster said he was ordered to report for induction in the United States army, January 21, 1942. On the day appointed, he packed his bag and left home, but instead of reporting at his draft board in Chehalis, he walked into the heavy timber on Crogo hill.

When the going got so tough that he, an experienced woodsman, could hardly get through, he decided no one else could find him.

He got busy with an axe and maul and cleared out a space in the wildwood. Then he built himself a cabin.

He put a few supplies and

seeds in a dry place.

Wooster said to himself, as he looked over his spot, that the army would never get him.

Days, weeks and months passed.

He dug up a garden in the spring and raised enough vegetables to stock up his larder for the winter. His rifle brought him venison, pheasants and other game.

He led this life for 14 months. Then, one day, he had a visitor. Sheriff J. A. Blankenship and one of his deputies called on him, and took him to civilization.

He pleaded guilty to the charge today in federal court and Judge Charles H. Leavy deferred sentence pending a probation report.

Asked by the judge how he was able to whittle out a living in the dense forest, Wooster replied:

"That was easy. I had a lot of experience digging for a living during the depression."

## Oregon Doctors Organize Aid for Army Emergencies

WASHINGTON, May 12 (AP)—Groups of physicians are being organized by the office of civilian defense to assist the army temporarily if needed for a sudden influx of war casualties or some other extraordinary military necessity.

James M. Landis, civilian defense director, announced today that the plan is designed to relieve the army of the necessity for organizing its own special groups of physicians for local emergencies and to conserve the dwindling supply of physicians for the civilian population.

The groups, known as OCD-affiliated hospital units, will be used for military emergency purposes only in sections in which the physicians reside. Their duties will be temporary and they will be replaced by regular army officers as soon as the surgeon general of the army can make assignments.

Each unit consists of 15 doctors normally associated with a single hospital. The physicians receive reserve commissions in the U. S. public health service. If called to duty they will receive pay and allowances of medical officers of equivalent rank in the army.

Landis said hospitals and medical schools in areas considered in most immediate danger of enemy attacks were invited first to form units. Other units will now be formed throughout the country.

First hospital to complete formation of its unit was Albany hospital at Albany, N. Y.

Oregon institutions invited to form units include: University of Oregon medical school, Portland; Good Samaritan hospital, Portland; St. Vincent's hospital, Portland; Emanuel hospital, Portland; Sacred Heart General hospital, Eugene; Salem General hospital, Salem.

## Tiny Victim Forces Tough Burglar to Commit Suicide

NEW YORK, May 12 (AP)—Michael Casselle is only five feet three, but he can concentrate and he has a bull-dog grip.

This is how police said he forced a burglarly suspect to commit suicide today.

Mrs. Casselle was preparing her husband's meal in their Brooklyn apartment when she heard footsteps in the apartment upstairs. Knowing the couple who occupied it was away, she went into the hallway and met two strangers on the landing.

When Mrs. Casselle inquired their business they made a break, but she grabbed one man with each hand and screamed "Mike!" Casselle ran into the hall and grappled with the taller and huskier man. The other broke away from Mrs. Casselle and ran upstairs.

Meanwhile, Casselle and his

tug has to anchor that night. After two months O'Gara was evacuated to the states. That was last week and the other two are up and about.

And the army doctor? He's on another rescue mission today. Before leaving he said "perhaps my next patient may live, too. That keeps me going."

antagonist fell to the floor and tumbled down stairs to the first floor. Casselle's grip on the man was unbroken, but the stranger managed to pull a gun from his pocket and threatened to shoot.

Casselle grabbed the man's right wrist, and, by exerting all his strength, twisted it until the gun was pointing directly at the holder.

"If you don't let me go, I'll shoot," the man threatened. Michael did not answer.

The man pulled the trigger, and Casselle felt himself being dragged to the ground by the slumping figure to which he still clung.

Police said the man died from a throat wound from a .38 caliber automatic.

Mrs. Casselle's screams had summoned Patrolman Philip Farber who found a man hiding behind a chimney two roof-tops away. He identified himself as Anthony Magone, 20, said the other man was known to him only as Charles.

Tea is on the shortage list, so this summer we may have ice tea with lemon added and the tea omitted.

## TAME HAY 81 PER CENT OF NORMAL, HELD

WASHINGTON, May 12 (AP)—The agriculture department reported today that this year's winter wheat crop, indicated by May 1 conditions, is 515,159,000 bushels.

Production was 703,253,000 bushels last year. Average production was 550,181,000 bushels in the ten years, 1932-41.

The condition of tame hay on May 1 was 81 per cent of a normal, compared with 83 a year ago, and 78, the ten-year May 1 average condition.

The condition of pasture was 78 per cent of a normal, compared with 83 a year ago and 74, the ten-year average.

Stocks of hay on farms May 1 was 13,398,000, or 12.7 per cent of last year's crops, compared with 11,260,000 tons, or 11.9 per cent, a year ago, and 10,531,000 tons, or 12.7 per cent, the ten-year average.

Production of rye is indicated as 36,854,000 bushels, compared with 57,341,000 bushels, produced last year, and 38,589,000 bushels the ten year average production.

The area sown to rye last fall for all purposes was 5,933,000 acres, compared with 6,465,000 acres the previous fall, and 6,101,000 acres, the 1943-41 average. The area remaining for harvest is 3,137,000 acres, compared with 3,837,000 acres har-

## Cow Is Still in Kelly's Pasture---Come and Get It

THE DALLES, May 12 (AP)—The cow is still in Lester Kelly's pasture and, Kelly wishes the owner would come and get her. She is, emphasizes Kelly, not dead.

The unknown farmer, moving from Burns to west of the mountains, found his truck motor heating on the Wapanitla grade which runs by Kelly's farm. So he lightened the load of household goods and livestock by putting his cow—which was riding in a trailer—in Kelly's pasture. He said he'd be back in a few days for her.

Unfortunately Kelly's neighbor also pastured a cow in the same field. The cows looked alike.

A couple days later the neighbor's cow grew sick and died. The carcass was dragged to the edge of the field for later interment.

About that time the farmer came back for his cow, saw the carcass and remarked to a passerby—"guess she was in worse shape than I thought." The passerby told Kelly who is now trying to locate the farmer to inform him that his cow is still alive.

## Oregon News Notes

By The Associated Press

A city park deer jumped the zoo fence in Portland, meandered through a residential district and ate up several victory gardens before capture. . . . Corvallis public schools arranged a special program for Friday to honor B. A. Johnston, grade school principal who has been teaching in Oregon schools for 50 years. . . . The population reached 13,000 at Vanport City, the housing project still under construction north of Portland for shipyard workers. . . . Mack McGee, 59, negro accused of wounding two men on a bus May 3, waived

preliminary hearing in Portland on a charge of assault with intent to kill. . . .

John Neathammer, 50, logger, died at Siletz in the explosion of a gasoline stove in his home. . . . The body of Volney W. Kirkpatrick, 67, Kernville, was found on the beach near Kernville below a bluff from which he had fallen. . . .

The Portland WAAC recruiting office announced enlistment of Madeline Schmidt, Salem; Alice E. Hammersly, Lakeview; Gladys I. Maupin, Yoncalla; Nellie B. Barclay, Bonanza.

### GOOD HUNTING

Forest, field and stream produced nearly half a billion pounds of game and game fish in 1942, or enough to take the place of 10 days' rationed meat supplies.

## HEAT CONVERSION TO BE ABANDONED

WASHINGTON, May 12 (AP)—Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown has announced that home owners will not be asked to convert oil burners to coal or wood for the coming winter.

versal of last winter's oil policy in the 30 states where oil was rationed.

Brown said "While the fuel oil shortage remains serious—even critical in places—the supply of coal and wood that can be made available in certain areas has been reduced to the point where it is now inadvisable to force further conversion of certain types of burners to these fuels."

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