

Gaps Appear in American Air Defense

By ELTON C. FAY
AP Military Affairs Reporter

Associated Press Military affairs reporter, writes the following article from the background of first-hand experience. Fay has visited the North Pole, the remote Alaskan and Greenland air bases, and other defense projects in the icy wastelands of the Far North.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Broad gaps appear in the outer arc of the

defense system along the North American continent over which bombers from Russia could fly toward targets in the United States.

Although the joint and intensive efforts of this country and Canada have succeeded in getting a radar system into operation which may detect an approaching enemy, bases are lacking from which interceptors could challenge raiders at some points along the vast perimeter.

On the basis of recent official disclosures and visits by newsmen, the Far North defense picture looks like this:

At the northwest end: A system of major and secondary airfields, together with facilities for ground troops to defend them, now exists in Alaska, where the United States is a next door neighbor of Russia. Neither complete complements of planes nor of ground forces are there, but present strength can be augmented swiftly by flying men and planes from the United States.

At the northeast end: A system of major and secondary airfields, together with facilities for ground troops to defend them, now exists in Alaska, where the United States is a next door neighbor of Russia. Neither complete complements of planes nor of ground forces are there, but present strength can be augmented swiftly by flying men and planes from the United States.

Along a 1,500-mile stretch of wasteland and frozen sea between Greenland and a point in Canada near Alaska there exist a few if any fields capable of sending up a substantial force of interceptors. The radar eyes might see an enemy along the rim, but it would remain up to fighter bases farther down in Canada and in the United States to provide the interception.

A somewhat similar situation exists in Greenland. The three presently operating USAP bases are located at Narsarsuaq, at the southwestern corner; at Sondstrom Fjord just north of the Arctic Circle; and at Thule, near Cape York, on the northwestern corner, about 900 miles from the North Pole.

Tactically, this present system

has disadvantages. The distances between bases, one of which must be used as an alternate field for another in event of bad weather or damage to a plane in flight, is great—800 miles in some instances. There are no fields now in regular operating use along the entire east coast of Greenland.

Greenland is a territory of Denmark and the American bases are there by agreement with the Danish government. The building of any new bases or rehabilitation of old World War II bases would require the approval of Denmark, which, like Canada and the United States, is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

There have been indications that the U. S. might be interested in improving the air base system in Greenland and elsewhere in the Arctic area. Routine surveys are being made to determine the feasibility of locations, if and when definite planning for base construction is needed in the future.

Air Secretary Thomas Finletter, in testifying before a congressional committee earlier this year, said it was essential that "we have additional bases abroad for use of fighter planes" to protect strategic bombers and their bases.

He was speaking in general terms and mentioned no particular base or country, but one of the newest and most important strategic bases now is Thule, within reach of Russian territory.

Earlier this month reports were current in Copenhagen that the U. S. planned to establish several more bases in Greenland, with work to be done by a syndicate of Danish contractors.

Diplomatic sources in Copenhagen and in Washington, where the State Department always is sensitive to publication of reports which might disturb Denmark, insisted the rumored project concerned only improvements at Narsarsuaq.

However, this reaction raised the question of whether improvements also might be contemplated for one or more of the presently inactive wartime bases on the southeast and west coasts of Greenland.

PTA Sponsors Scholarships

Any student planning to prepare to teach in the elementary schools in Oregon may file an application to receive a PTA scholarship. PTA units throughout Klamath County contribute annually toward scholarships and several students have already received them. It is hoped that more Klamath County students will take advantage of these scholarships in the future.

Applications should be completed and filed with the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers in Portland, Oregon not later than April 1 of each year. A Tuition Scholarship Committee selects winners from the applications, based upon participation in extra-curricular activities, personality, and good citizenship. Financial need is not considered.

Each scholarship is an award of \$120 per year, covering full tuition and fees, for a period of four years. Scholarships are renewed each

year, based on satisfactory work. One hundred and four PTA scholarships were awarded in Oregon for 1952-53 amounting to \$12,480. Forty-one were new recipients and 63 were renewals.

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Service Honors Sister Kenny

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Sister Elizabeth Kenny was buried Monday near her mother's grave in the tiny cemetery of the small farming settlement of Nobby, about 12 miles from her Toowoomba home.

The famed polio specialist died Sunday after a 10-day siege of cerebral thrombosis and pneumonia which kept her partially paralyzed and in a coma during her last days. She was 65.

Filing applications for a PTA scholarship, or want additional information regarding the scholarship, contact Mrs. O. E. Powell, Klamath County PTA School Superintendents and Principals.

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Lake County Sets SCD Vote

LAKEVIEW—Two soil conservation district elections are to be held in Lake County Saturday.

Farmers in the Warner Valley area will vote on the question of adding their territory to the present Lakeview SCD. Those in the Port Rock-Silver Lake area will be voting on a soil conservation district of their own.

Both elections were called as a result of public hearings held in September. Both hearings were favorable toward the ideas.

Persons owning more than 10 acres of land in the areas involved are eligible to vote in the soil conservation district elections, according to laws of the state. Ballots have been mailed out by Lake County Agent Elgin Cornett to all known resident land owners.

Warner Valley ballots may be returned to J. G. Dyke, Adel polling superintendent, and voting will be held Saturday afternoon at the Adel Store.

Leonard Pitcher is polling superintendent for the Port Rock-Silver Lake election, and ballots may either be returned to him or cast in person at the Port Rock Grange Hall, Dec. 6 in the afternoon.

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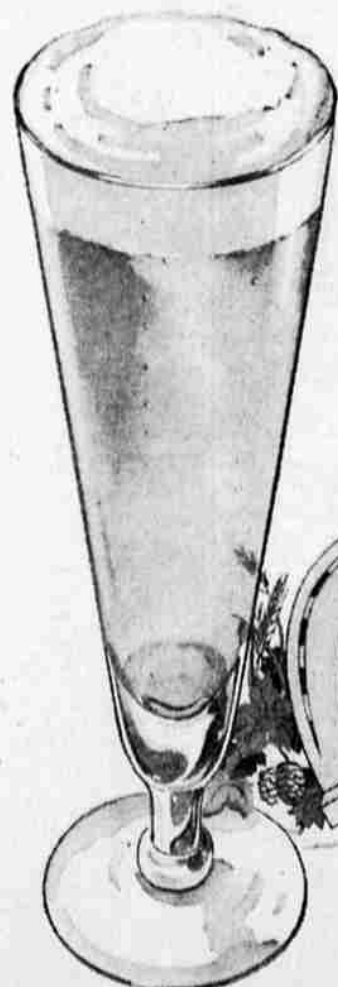
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