

"THAT'S ALL RIGHT--PAPA'S GOING TO TAKE YOU HOME"

From the U. S. Bomber station in Britain comes this tale of a daring pilot who got his damaged plane to base from the historic aerial battle over the Reich:

Behind an empty hangar, abandoned, a bloody parachute on the floor and seemingly "held together by holes" stood the Frenesi—a Flying Fortress which came home.

The parachute wasn't nice to look at. Neither was the plane—yet both were sober testimony of all that aerial warfare can mean in the way of tragedy, fear and heroism.

The story of the Frenesi was a story of all three.

All day soldiers had peddled by on bicycles to look at the plane. They had seen a lot of shot-up airplanes, but nothing like her.

Nearly the whole tail was gone. You could crawl through the holes in the wings. A wing tip was knocked open. An engine was dangling.

The ship even had started to break in two in the middle.

Col. Frederick W. Castle, of Washington and New York, commanding officer of the station, just said "it's inconceivable" and let it go at that.

Pilot of the Frenesi when she flew over Germany in Tuesday's big raid was Second Lieut. William F. Cely, of Houston, Texas, who landed a little punch drunk from the ordeal and who still was a little shaky.

One of three sergeant gunners wounded in the raid told the story from a hospital bed.

"Everything was all right until we hit the target at Brunswick," he said. "Then we saw 15 or 20 twin-engine ships circling our rear. They got abreast of us and let go with rockets. They exploded all around like light bulbs blowing up.

"I saw our right wing man go down in smoke and when I looked out the other window, the left wing man was gone too.

"We went into a terrific dive with five fighters swarming all over us. I was being thrown all over. Half the time, I was on my head or hitting the top or banging into the turrets.

"It was like a cyclone. I tried three times to make the door to bale out, but each time I got thrown somewhere else. Finally I got to the last window and I was going to jump when I noticed that my chute had been ripped open.

"I was bruised all over and I thought my shoulder had been blown off.

"Then the plane leveled off and I told Lieutenant Cely that I didn't have a chute.

"At that time," he said, "that's all right—papa's going to take you home," and he did too. He's the best damned pilot in the world."

Report of Troop 66 of Pleasant Gap

The troop organized last December with nine former Scouts. During the year we gained eighteen new Scouts and lost three who moved to other towns. These boys were transferred and are still in scouting where they are now located.

Our enrollment now consists of twenty-four active Scouts. We have six transfer Scout, twelve second class scouts, four first class scouts, one star scout and one life scout.

Every boy has a full uniform and is urged to wear it to all meetings and scout occasions. During the year we took six day hikes. On these hikes boys passed many tests such as scout pace, tracking, fourteen-mile hike, judging, and always cooked meals along the way.

The troop took twelve over-night hikes during the year and used our pup tents as shelters. On these camping trips boys passed such tests as nature study, cooking, care of knife and axe, and played many instructive games.

The troop spent seven days and nights at the Seven Mountains Boy Scout camp this summer.

Through the cooperation of the fire company and the Methodist and Lutheran churches of the town we

purchased ten pup tents and have used them for all our camping trips.

This past summer five boys worked on farms and the rest worked victory gardens at home.

In 1943 the troop subscribed 100 per cent to Boys Life magazine and will do the same in '44.

During the year the troop attended thirteen church services, alternating between the two churches of the town, Methodist and Lutheran.

The troop held two bake sales during the year and conducted two scout drives and the following was collected: two tons of tin, five tons of scrap iron, three tons of waste paper. The troop has a permanent setup for collecting waste paper.

Four boys of the troop are acting as den chiefs for the Cub pack which was organized during the year.

The troop meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock in the basement of the Methodist church. Average attendance at meetings during the year was 15 boys. The troop committee consisting of William Tucker, Dewey Sorenson and Ralph Fornwall attended as a whole or in part 39 of the 52 troop meetings during the year.

For Boy Scout Week the troop had a display in Noll's store window and sold \$35 worth of war stamps that week.

During the year the troop purchased all necessary troop equipment and at the end of the year have a balance of \$70 in the troop treasury.

This report made and submitted by James Biddle, Scoutmaster.



In Medical Corps



Pvt. Albert R. Burns. Private Burns, son of Mrs. Clair F. Burns of Warriors Mark, is serving with the Medical Corps, and at present is stationed at Camp Grant, Illinois. He entered the service August 28, 1943.

Yank One-Man Army Before Death

Marine Gunnery Sergeant Domenico D. Amadio, 34, of Greensburg, had been fighting only 15 minutes when a Japanese machine gun killed him on Tarawa, but he was a miniature army in himself before he fell.

Gunnery Sergeant Amadio, whose wife and son survive him, started on the Japs long before his landing boat reached shore.

Climbing up on the forward ramp, he started banging away with his rifle and kept it blazing until time came to abandon the boat and dash over the coral to Bettio Beach. He knocked down several Japs who were running around on the shore ahead.

When he got to the beach, Gunnery Sergeant Amadio went after one machine gun nest with hand grenades and wiped it out. He attacked another, likewise succeeding in knocking it out. While he was preparing to hurl a grenade into a third, a machine gun bullet cut him down.

U. S. Casualties Now More Than 139,700

American casualties since the start of the war now total more than 139,700. The army losses total 105,229 and those of the navy, marine and coast guard, 34,471.

Secretary of War Stimson, in reporting the army casualties from the start of the war to December 23, said the figure represented 16,831 killed, 38,916 injured, 24, 067 missing, and 25,415 prisoners of war.

Casualties to American elements of the 5th Army in Italy since the start of that campaign on September 9 are 18,119. Of this total 2,798 were killed, 11,726 were wounded, and 3,595 missing.

The navy-marine-coast guard casualties reported up to today are made up as follows: 15,186 killed, 6,616 injured, 8,249 missing, 4,292 prisoners of war.

Promoted Fireman First Class

William E. Stanton, husband of Sarah Stanton, of Port Matilda, has won an early promotion in the Navy as a result of his past civilian training. Because he has had sufficient experience in a trade essential in the Navy, he was advanced to the rating of fireman first class upon completing his recruit training at the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill. Now home on leave, he will report back to the station for re-assignment to active duty aboard a naval warship or to some naval shore station.

Soldiers Travel "Express"

The December issue of the Penn State "Extension News" published the following item: "It took a war to put passengers back on the old Bellefonte Central Railroad, for years used solely as an express line to State College. Air Force Cadets, sent to Penn State for training, arrived by express.

Killed in India

Bombardier David Ellis died in India, Jan. 4, 1944, according to word received by his wife, Mrs. David Ellis, Mansfield. Mrs. Ellis left for Philadelphia upon receipt of the message and will await further details there.

Soldier Suffers Wounds

Pvt. Charles W. Kern, son of Mrs. Anna Kern, of Route 1, Muncy Valley, has been wounded in action in the Mediterranean War area, the War Department has notified his mother.

RECAPING AND VULCANIZING

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GREETINGS '44

(From the Marine News Weekly, attributed to Sgt. Norris Baker, Rumford, Me.)

So you are sick of the way the country is run And you are sick of the way the rationing is done And you are sick of the standing around in line You're sick, you say—well, that's just fine.

So I'm sick of the sun and the heat— And I'm sick of the feel of my aching feet, And I'm sick of the mud and the jungle flies And I'm sick of the stench when the night mists rise.

And I'm sick of the siren's wailing shriek And I'm sick of the groans of the wounded and weak. And I'm sick of the sound of the bomber's dive And I'm sick of seeing the dead alive.

And I'm sick of the roar and noise and din And I'm sick of the taste of food from a tin. And I'm sick of the slaughter—I'm sick to my soul, I'm sick of playing a killer's role.

And I'm sick of blood and death and smell And I'm even sick of myself as well. But I'm sicker still of a tyrant's rule And I'm cured damn quick when I think of the day When all this Hell will be out of the way.

And the lights of the world will blaze again; And things will be as they were before, And kids will laugh in the streets once more, And the Axis flag will be dipped and furled And God looks down on a peaceful world.

Training as Cadet

Pfc. Harold R. Knepp, son of Irvin E. Knepp, of Lemont, has arrived at Basic Training Center No. 10 of the AAF Training Command, at Greensboro, N. C. While attached to this station Pfc. Knepp will take basic training in the AAF and undergo a course in physical conditioning. He is a pre-aviation cadet. He was formerly employed by Murray Body Corp., Detroit, Mich. He attended State College High School, where he was a member of the commercial class, leaving in 1942. Pfc. Knepp entered the army March 22, 1943, at New Cumberland.

Wounded in Action

Pfc. Gilbert N. Mountain, Jr. son of Mrs. Alice H. Mountain, Hallsdayburg, R. D. 1, was among 55 Pennsylvania soldiers wounded in action in the Mediterranean area, according to a War Department announcement. No details were given as to where, when or how he was injured.

Receives Appointment

William Henderson Eastman, of Phillipsburg, has been appointed a first lieutenant, medical, in the Army of the United States, according to information released by the War Department.

Missing in Asia

The War Department has notified John D. Baker, of Osceola Mills, that his son, Second Lieut. Burdette H. Baker, is missing in action in the Asiatic area of war.

Missing in Action

Tech. Sgt. John B. Tilburg, of Emporium, is missing in action in the Mediterranean war area, the War Department has notified his wife, Mrs. Kathyleen L. Tilburg.

FAST-TALKING DOUGHBOY CAPTURED NAZI OFFICER AND 18 MEN ALL ALONE

How Pvt. Billy Miller, 21, a fast-talking doughboy from Peoria, Ill., hoodwinked a German lieutenant and 18 enlisted men into believing they were surrounded and then marched them single-handed to captivity across 600 yards of no man's land, is told by Kenneth L. Dixon, a war correspondent on the Italian front.

Private Miller pulled off the exploit when he went into action for the first time Thursday night as his company attacked a hill in the San Vittore area. Surrounded by 50 Germans while he and a few comrades were bringing some wounded and a prisoner to the rear, Billy and his mates had to surrender.

A platoon of 19 Germans took charge of Billy. In a tunnelled-out cave where they put up for the night, the juries started talking about taking him back to a prison camp. The lieutenant, who spoke English, told him what they were saying.

"You'll never make it," said Billy. He knew he was at least a quarter of a mile in front of his own line, but he added, "we've got you surrounded. Listen!"

Gunfire crackled outside, echoing in the cave. They spent the night there.

Next day the fighting was still terrific, so the German platoon moved only a short distance farther back, this time to a farmhouse in

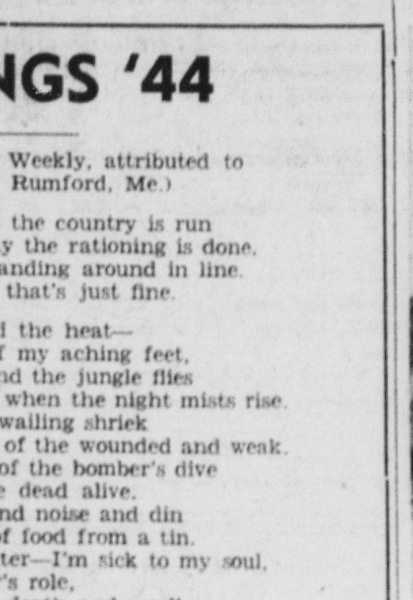
Completes 50 Missions

Tech. Sgt. Ernest Bestina is at home in Ridgway to spend a 20-day furlough. His record shows completion of 50 bombing missions escaping without a scratch, and receiving three decorations. He served in the Middle East around Palestine and Cairo, and later participated in raids over Italy and Sofia.

Soldier Home From Puerto Rico

Sgt. John Bonady, with the U. S. Army in Puerto Rico, is spending his first furlough in two years with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patsy Bonady, at Mill Hill.

With the Sea-Bees



Seaman John B. Spicer. John B. Spicer, seaman second class, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Spicer, former residents of Bellefonte, but for the past two years living at Jersey Shore.

Seaman Spicer was inducted into the Navy as a Sea-Beep February 23, 1942, and was sent to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., where he remained until July when he was transferred to Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. He trained there until September and was then sent to the Gulf of Mississippi. He was there until a short time ago and now is located at Port Huenemea, Calif.

Seaman Spicer was employed at the Spencer Hettlers at Williamsport as a crane operator. His father also was employed at Williamsport. Mrs. Spicer was the former Phyllis Hoy, of Phillipsburg.

In Ordnance Dept.



Pvt. Milford Fetzer. Private Fetzer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Fetzer of Yarnell, was inducted into the service April 17, 1943. He is stationed at Ballina, Kansas, where he is attached to the Ordnance Department of the Army Air Corps. Pvt. Fetzer spent a furlough at home during the Christmas holiday.

Missing in Europe

Second Lieut. William J. Baumgardner, of Phillipsburg, is reported by the War Department as missing in action in the European war area. His mother, Mrs. Effie Alice Baumgardner, has been notified.

Playing Mid-Wife to Bear Unnerves Express Manager

A brown bear cub, whose birth in the baggage car of the Rock Island Golden State Limited, Sunday, in Kansas City, gave express messenger J. E. Pinney an anxious trip, died later, but Pinney's anxiety did not decrease until he left the train.

A twin was born as the limited rolled across the Texas panhandle and the presence of the mother and three other bears in the car made Pinney's job complicated, as he termed it later.

There had been a real bear fight in Kansas City just before the train left.

Pinney, an express messenger for 35 years, left the train at Tucuman, N. M. A. T. Dotson, his successor on the run, said as the train arrived there, "I never saw a man more anxious to be relieved."

"He told me: 'Did you ever try being a mid-wife to a 300-pound Russian bear in a little thin wire cage and her tearing at the throat of her 400-pound mate and two other big brown bears staging a fight of their own just out of sympathy? This job is getting too complicated for me.'"

The bear cub that died had been deserted by its mother after a fight with Bill, the papa bear. Trainer Stanley Beebe, who was taking the bears to Hollywood, said the cub developed pneumonia.

Tyrone Sailor Dies In Ship Explosion

Seaman First Class John Blowers Cowher, son of William S. Cowher, Tyrone, R. D. 3, has been listed as killed aboard his ship, the USS Turner, which sank off Sandy Hook, New York, following an explosion last week.

In the message to Mr. Cowher, Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, chief of naval personnel, advised that "The navy department deeply regrets to inform you that your son, John Blowers Cowher, seaman first class, United States Naval reserve, who was previously reported missing is now known to have been killed in an explosion aboard his ship. His remains were not recovered, if further details are received you will be informed promptly. The navy department extends its sincerest sympathy to you in your great loss."

Graduate Aircraft Mechanic

Completing a five-months' course in aircraft maintenance and repair, at Seymour Johnson Field, N. C., Pfc. Paul F. Hild was graduated last week as an aircraft mechanic from this technical school of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command. The son of Mrs. Mary Hild, 1108 17th avenue, Altoona, he was sworn into the army on April 13, 1942. He attended Altoona High School and was then employed as proprietor of the Red Horse Tavern at Pleasant Gap. His wife, the former Margaret Davis, resides at Pleasant Gap.

Training as Bombardier

Second Lieut. Benjamin J. Grytka, Jr., of Bellefonte, is now taking bombardier training at the Army Air Forces Training Command station, Roswell Field, N. M., having recently completed a course in navigation at Selman Field, La. Thus he will be able to serve the Army Air Corps in a dual capacity, and will be eligible to wear the wings of either navigator or bombardier.

Renovo Man Missing

Technician fifth grade William H. Witchey, of Renovo, has been reported by the War Department as missing in action in the Mediterranean area of the war. His mother, Mrs. Martha Witchey, has been notified.

Sgt. Clarence Dawson Aids in Entertaining

One of the American soldiers at this USA AF Station in Northern Ireland prominent in entertaining 300 U. S. youngsters during the past Christmas season was Sergeant Clarence Dawson, of Phillipsburg.

The affair was but one of hundreds of a similar nature sponsored by U. S. troops in Northern Ireland and Britain during the Yuletide season. In all, it was estimated that some 50,000 kiddies between the ages of five and ten were entertained at the parties.

Echoing the views of many was the following letter which appeared recently in Northern Ireland's largest newspaper, "The Belfast Daily Telegraph," and signed "A grateful Underwoman":

"May I try to express the thanks of many U. S. people to the U. S. Army stationed here for the pleasure they have bestowed on the children of our province this Christmas-tide? We thank them not alone for the intrinsic value of their gifts but for something which transcends wealth. It is the thoughtfulness and kindness which has prompted their actions. When peace comes and they return to their loved ones and home they will leave with us a lasting memory."

Becomes Culinary Student

Private Louise Kozar, daughter of Mrs. John Kozar, Box 214, Bellefonte, and a member of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, has been attached to Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C., as a student in the Cooks and Bakers School. The Cooks and Bakers course runs six weeks and reads graduates for mess and mess sergeant duty. The course is equally divided between practical instructions in the galley and classroom study of the theory and principles of cooking.

Reports For Pilot Training

Aviation Cadet William F. Hipple, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Hipple, West Lamb street, Bellefonte, has reported at the Army Air Forces Training Command station, Perrin Field, Texas, for basic pilot training. Changing from a primary to basic trainer, Cadet Hipple will learn to fly a heavier, faster ship that has the handling characteristics of military combat planes.

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