

Japs Jail And Beat Bennett's Widow

(This is the last of a series of columns on Chester Bennett, American hero of Hong Kong.)

By HAL BOYLE
HONG KONG — (AP) — Stanley Prison stands on a promontory commanding one of the finest views in the world.

But Mrs. Chester Bennett, wife of the American hero of Hong Kong, has no eye for its beauty when she toiled night and day in the iron gates on the afternoon of Oct. 17, 1941, to bring her husband home.

MR. BOYLE's husband found her in the morning. She had no way of knowing he had been executed a few hours before with 32 other men accused of activity against the Japanese Imperial Government.

Refusing to accept the food, Japanese guards grinned through the gates and told her: "Suit-up-beheaded."

"I didn't believe them," she said, "because they told me that several times before to frighten me."

Areth and again in the days that follow he returned only to meet at the gate with the same words.

"Husband dead. Suit-up-beheaded."

Finally, three weeks later, Japanese officials sent Bennett's clothing to her father. Only then did she believe her husband was dead.

HEAVY BLOW
The blow fell heavily. There had been no farewell meeting. She hadn't seen her husband for five months—only since the day four Japanese gendarmes seized him in their home at breakfast.

On Jan. 11 she bore Chester Bennett the child he had longed to live to see.

"She's a girl—but the apting image of Chester," said Mrs. Bennett. "The baby has her father's colored hair."

Two months later, fearing for her safety, Marcus Da Silva, the Portuguese attorney who had assisted her husband in obtaining Japanese shipping information for British secret agents, sent a messenger to help her escape to the nearby British colony of Macao, his own place of refuge.

"I sent word back that I couldn't leave with a baby of that age," she said. "I didn't know the Japs would bother me after killing my husband."

Her confidence was misplaced. In the early days of the Japanese attack into her home while she was feeding her baby. They searched every room, but they found nothing.

"They took me away just the same," she said bitterly. Her ailing mother, who has since died, took over care of the baby.

MR. BOYLE's article accused her of carrying on her husband's work of smuggling in funds to British and American interests in the camp to help them buy extra rations. Her denial was in effect: "They made me kneel and then they hit me in the face with their fists," she said. "Once they starved me for five days."

"The jail was filthy. There was no light, no heat, no water to wash. I had to wash in cold tea."

"Another time they stripped me again and whipped me. They did this to me several times. Even when they weren't whipping me I could hear them laughing and shouting at the Chinese women. I could hear a scold and then the scream."

CHESTER BREAK SPIRIT
But they couldn't break Mrs. Bennett's Irish-Fortitude spirit.

"I think the Japanese interpreter from Tokyo misunderstood my story," she said. "After Chinese soldiers killed my husband, I convinced the Japanese I was telling the truth and next morning they let me go."

"I lived quietly with my parents and taught my children until the Japanese capitulation. When the internees were released, I went to the Chinese Consulate to visit her who was the British colonial secretary at whose request, associates said, Bennett had given up a chance to return to America on a repatriation ship and stayed in Hong Kong."

Her husband was a brave man, the British official told her. He was one of scores of internees who expressed their gratitude.

That gratitude is Chester Bennett's only posthumous memorial. Friendly as he received nothing for his work and his wife, who has left to look after her for the loss of her generous, grinning husband—the man who died in Hong Kong in peacetime.

She works during the day now in the Consulate in the Consulate, while a young Chinese man takes care of Carol Ann, all that she has left to look after. Chester Bennett. She wants to look forward now and forget the past. "It is all over now," she said. "All over."

TRUMAN BARRELS AWAY Pearl Harbor Witness Charges 'Gag' Attempt



12-YEAR-OLD VETERAN—They had to start fighting at an early age in China. This twelve-year-old Chinese soldier was one of the members of the 22nd Division of the Chinese Sixth Army who were carried by the U. S. Navy from Shanghai, China, to Chungking, China, recently. The lift was made with LST's Landing Ship Tanks, which were used in amphibious landings in nearly every campaign. (Official U. S. Navy photo from Acmex.)

New Diplomatic Era

LONDON — (AP) — United Nations delegates envisioned a new era of frankness in international diplomacy today after Soviet Russia and Great Britain clashed openly on the Greek dispute before the World Security Council.

British-Red Clash Clears UNO Skies

By JACK SMITH
Most of the statements said an amicable solution of the dispute indicated as to what course the debate would take when the Council meets Monday, some delegates expressed the belief that the case could be settled satisfactorily, without either party losing face, by sending a UNO commission to Greece to investigate.

UNO Site Report Made

LONDON — (AP) — The United Nations Sub-Committee recommended today that the permanent UNO headquarters be located in the Connecticut-New York State border area, centering in Stamford and Greenwich, Conn. About one-third of the 40 million square-mile district would be in New York State.

New York City would be interim headquarters of the UNO while the permanent site was being prepared.

If facilities are not available in New York City, the committee said, Boston or Atlantic City might be the interim site.

While recommending the Connecticut-New York site specifically for permanent headquarters, the committee also announced it is recommending the 40 million square-mile district would be in New York State and two areas near Boston—Blue Hills and the North Shore—as possible sites.

Final selection rests with the General Assembly. The committee, which spent several weeks inspecting sites in the Boston and New York areas, is to arrive back in London tomorrow night by plane.

An official statement said in describing the recommended permanent headquarters site in the North Greenwich-Stamford area.

"The total district recommended runs to between 40 and 50 square miles, with possibilities of expansion on either side of the area."

New York State and the site is roughly 30 miles from New York City, Stamford is on the coast, facing Long Island.

Called On To Deny 'Winds' Tip Received

Naval Captain Makes Claim

By JACK BELL
WASHINGTON — (AP) — Naval Capt. L. F. Safford testified today that a representative of the Secretary of Navy had made a "determined effort" in 1945 to get him to tell a Pearl Harbor inquiry court that "no Japanese winds" message had been intercepted.

Testifying before the Senate House Pearl Harbor committee, Safford named the representative as Lt. Comdr. John Sonnett.

He said Sonnett was a special representative of the Secretary of the Navy and legal adviser to Adm. R. Kent Hewitt, who conducted a special inquiry into the Pearl Harbor disaster in mid-1945 at the direction of Secretary Forrestal.

"In 1945 there was a determined effort made to have me reverse my testimony and say that I had never seen the winds executive message," Safford told the committee.

Safford testified yesterday that such a message containing the words "east wind, rain," which he said "meant war" with the Japanese, had been received and decoded in the Navy Department Dec. 4, 1941, 72 hours before the Pearl Harbor strike.

Safford, assistant Director of Naval Communications, said Sonnett called him into a conference May 11, 1945, to discuss testimony that Safford was expected to give before Admiral Hewitt.

"It was apparent to me on the very first meeting that Sonnett was acting as a witness counselor for the late Frank Knox and for Admiral Stark and not as a prosecutor for a court of inquiry," Safford said.

At the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, Knox was Secretary of the Navy and Adm. Harold R. Stark was Chief of Naval Operations.

Safford said that Sonnett attempted to get him to reverse the testimony that he had given at previous inquiries about the receipt of the so-called winds message.

"He (Sonnett) attempted to make me believe that I was suffering from hallucinations," Safford said. "I refused to do so."

Safford said he was interviewed by the committee on July 14, 1945, after the Hewitt investigation had completed its hearing testimony.

"I was asked to change my testimony so all of the statements about this matter would coincide and the whole thing could be cleaned up."

Safford said that at the original conference with Sonnett, he asked to see Sonnett's credentials. He said he had never seen anything like it in all his experience as a commissioned officer in the Navy.

Safford read from the memorandum after the Hewitt investigation because of the circumstances, adding:

"I had never seen anything like it in all my experience as a commissioned officer in the Navy."

Safford read from the memorandum after the Hewitt investigation because of the circumstances, adding:

Ex-Soldier's Wife Files Father Of Quads Is Sued For Divorce

PITTSBURGH — (AP) — Eleanor Pittsburgh Thompson filed today for divorce from her ex-soldier husband, William H. Thompson, who became the father of quadruplets born to Nora Carpenter in Boston, Oct. 1943, in England during the war.

Attorney Charles Dean, who filed the proceedings, said Mrs. Thompson charged immorality.

The four babies were born in February, 1944. One a boy, died 24 hours after birth. Two girls and a boy survived.

Ex-Sgt. Thompson, who has not seen the children since a brief furlough last October before he sailed for America and an Army discharge, was not available immediately for comment on the divorce proceedings.

Mrs. Thompson, a beauty parlor operator, could not be reached for comment but her attorney said:

"This appears the only way out. He can't be free to do what he wants but Mrs. Thompson is the innocent, tragic victim of sensational circumstances over which she had no control."

Thompson in the past testified his "sincere love" for Miss Carpenter and his desire to marry her and bringing the children to America if his divorce could be arranged.

Some months ago, Miss Carpenter in Haver, Thompson wrote he was planning to return to England early in 1946 to see the children.

United On Foreign Policy Flat Denial Given Rumors About Truman-Byrnes Rift

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman and Secretary of State Byrnes presented a united front today against talk that they had fallen out over foreign policy matters.

In the record was Byrnes' statement at a press conference:

"As Secretary of State I could ever have more complete support than I have from the President."

Byrnes' declaration came only a few minutes after he attended an afternoon cabinet meeting yesterday at the White House.

A reporter asked him to comment on reports of a rift with the Chief Executive, some of which stemmed from Mr. Truman's remarks at his and Byrnes' conference that the President, not the State Department, determines foreign policy.

Byrnes' reply came with a rush: "He knew of no such rift."

See DENIAL GIVEN on page 8-A

Conferences Held White House May Move In Strife

By STERLING F. GREEN
WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman today conferred with Secretaries Byrnes and Vinson, former Government reconversion chiefs, and with the head of the strike-bound General Electric Corp.

Climb Peak For Bodies

ELK MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — (AP) — A grim party began its struggle up the rugged, snow-capped slopes of Elk Mountain today to reach the bodies of 21 persons who died in a United Air Lines plane crash at a 10,000-foot elevation early Thursday.

The bodies, scattered over a wide area, and the shattered Seattle-Toronto plane were discovered by climbers late yesterday after a lashing snowstorm subsided.

Eleven Army-trained Alaskan huskies from Fort Robinson, Neb., waited at the foot of the mountain that has been a treacherous landmark to pilots to pull bodies being built from the mountain's timber to carry the victims from the crash scene.

The first party, led by Lewis T. Long, UAL engineering superintendent, began its ascent in sunny weather. A second party will follow.

Adm. Cooke, 7th Fleet Commander, in Chungking

CHUNGKING — (AP) — Vice-Adm. Charles L. Cooke Jr., commander of the U. S. Seventh Fleet, arrived today for conference with Chiang Kai-shek and General Marshall.

Cooke came from Shanghai and will be a guest of the Generalissimo.

Official quarters declined to disclose subjects to be discussed, but it was believed they would include the labor movement of Chinese government troops to Manchuria and a training program for the Chinese Navy.

There also was some speculation that the possibility of China granting the American Naval bases in Formosa might be discussed.

Full Support Is Given To General In Controversy

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman today gave his "complete and unqualified" support to Gen. Omar N. Bradley in the current controversy over Bradley's operation of the Veteran's Administration.



PRESIDENT TRUMAN SECRETARY BYRNES

Bradley yesterday denied charges by John Stella, American Legion commander, that there has been a "tragic breakdown" in VA under his administration.

STELLA'S ISSUED
Charles J. Ross, White House press secretary, volunteered this oral statement to reporters today:

"I should like to say for the President that General Bradley has the complete and unqualified support of President Truman."

"The President does not feel that Mr. Stella in his attack on Bradley is speaking for the American Legion."

"The President considers that Bradley is speaking for the Legion under extremely difficult conditions. In other words, he is lacking General Bradley up the hill."

Stella's demand for Bradley's ouster ran into sharp opposition from other veterans organizations and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower pledged his support "anywhere, anytime."

Eisenhower told reporters he was not familiar with the Legion's demand for an investigation of Bradley, but he considered the General one of the greatest living Americans.

If General Bradley needs any support, I believe he has it. "There is one who will fly anywhere, anytime to support him."

Bradley said he would welcome the Congressional investigation which the Legion asked, and claimed definite progress had been made in his "short six months of stewardship."

Members of Congress appeared chary about intervening in the controversy at this time. A few said they thought something was wrong with VA's functions, but others countered that Bradley should be given a chance to show what he could do.

The American Legion meanwhile modified its demand for Bradley's removal in favor of a "seasoned" individual.

Stella said in New York last night that he did not necessarily seek Bradley's ouster and that the General would be glad to accept the job. He added the problem was a "question of action, not individuality."

It was Stella who signed the Legion's letter to all Congressmen yesterday demanding an investigation of alleged VA failures, but asserting the agency should be headed by a business man, "not a soldier, however good a soldier he may be."

RALLY TO DEFENSE

The Legion's blast against Bradley failed to hit defense the hard way. Representative Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans Committee, American Veterans of World War II, and the CIO intervened.

These organizations endorsed Bradley for the work he had done.

See TRUMAN BACKS on page 8-A

Herblock Re-joins The Charlotte News

Don't miss his daily editorial cartoons from Washington — another big feature, exclusive in this newspaper, starting . . .

Monday, February 14th

GM Faces New Demand

DETROIT — (AP) — Walter P. Reuther, UAW secretary, today demanded a 19 1/2 cent hourly wage increase proposed by the Presidential Fact-Finding Board to settle the two and a half months old General Motors strike could be accepted only as a down payment.

The CIO United Auto Workers Vice-President made his assertion at a union meeting in Lansing last night as the union and corporation officials seeking settlement of the walkout.

Bowling originally had intended to discuss steel prices with Mr. Truman during the morning, but the meeting was postponed until the afternoon after he was delayed in returning from a South Carolina vacation.

Secretary of State Byrnes and Treasury Secretary Vinson had a joint forenoon talk with the President. Both were predecessors to Reconversion Director John W. Snyder.

Vinson and Snyder remained with the President for two hours before they then received Charles E. Wilson, president of General Electric, at Wilson's request. Later Wilson told reporters that he submitted suggestions for settling the steel strike and that Mr. Truman "is going to consider" them. He said one of the main issues is the "price barrier."

General Electric, as well as Westinghouse and General Motors electric division plants, have been closed by a strike of CIO electrical workers for a wage increase.

The strike, which has largely paralyzed the country's steel workers, however, still appeared to be the primary concern in Government circles.

SAYS CASE PROVED

The Fact Finding Board recommendation, he asserted, "was not what we were entitled to on the arithmetic of the situation, but really proved our case."

George P. Addes, UAW-CIO secretary-treasurer, told the meeting that, on the basis of wage increases given by the Chrysler Corp. and Ford Motor Co., "General Motors could afford to pay 35 cents an hour more."

Reuther last week settled with the UAW for an 18 cents hourly increase and Chrysler for an 18 1/2 cent hourly boost.

Wage discussions in the GM discussions was called to permit James P. Dewey, special mediator, to return to Washington for a conference with Secretary of Labor Schwelb's each.

Wage discussions might start next week, Dewey said. The company has offered a 13 1/2 cent an hour increase with the union says it will not accept less than the 19 1/2 cents proposed by the Fact-Finding Board.

BETTER FEELING

Dewey reported a "better feeling" between the two parties at Friday's conference, which only lasted an hour. He said the meeting dealt with the subject of promotions.

An R. Hood Touch

These Bandits Very Fair To Workingman

NEW YORK — (AP) — Three men thrust their way into a downtown restaurant today, waved pistols meaningfully and said it was a stickup.

The trio emptied a cash register of \$80, the men ordered six patrons — all workmen — into the kitchen. One of the workers' pulled out his wallet and handed \$25. The trio refused to say: "We don't want your money. You're just workmen like ourselves."

The three men then fled.

WEATHER

Fair today and tonight and Sunday. Rather cold tonight. Mild temperature Sunday.

Temperature at 3:30 today: 44 High and low last 24 hours: 44, 32 Sun. tomorrow 45, 31 Sun. tomorrow 45, 31