

# Merry-Go-Round Vickery Saves Navy's Face

By DREW PEARSON

(The Brass Ring, grew for a free ride on the Washington Merry-Go-Round, is awarded today to Rear Admiral Vickery, the man the Navy was about to kick out, but who is now saving the Navy's face.)

WASHINGTON — This column recently revealed how the Navy had publicly taken credit for using helicopters as a new weapon against submarines, when as a matter of fact the Navy did not have even one helicopter in its possession and had opposed the Maritime Commission and the Coast Guard in using helicopters.

Last month, Secretary Knox issued another piece of Navy ballyhoo which made interesting reading, but which had absolutely nothing to do with the Navy. He announced that good news that a number of airplane carriers converted from merchant vessels were being launched, and that many more would be launched soon.

However, the amazing truth is that the Navy did not even have three merchant airplane carriers being converted.

Shortly before the Knox ballyhoo, forthright Rear Admiral "Jerry" Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission, together with far-sighted Rear Admiral Howard Vickery, his construction commissioner, were conferring with Vice-Admiral Fred Horne, right hand man to Secretary Knox and in charge of Naval Operations. Vice-Admiral Horne was asking the Maritime Commission to turn over some of the shipyards for the construction of escort vessels.

They were already building (numbered) aircraft carriers for you now," replied Chairman Land.

"What airplane carriers?" replied Horne. "I thought you were building some Liberty ships."

"No," replied Land, "we're building fast-tops. They carry planes."

"When will they be finished?" asked Vice-Admiral Horne.

"This year," replied Land.

The Navy was so delighted that two days before Secretary Knox made his announcement of the new airplane carriers, his admiral sent over to the Henry Ford, which was building the carriers, and offered to take over the whole program. This the Maritime Commission refused. They had started the program, and proposed finishing it.

**Secret Ships**  
Here is the inside story of how the thing happened. It is a story which indicates that the Navy is really looking in far-sighted execution of the plan.

The plan was put across when converted airplane carriers in Howard Vickery, once previously known as the Navy's Vickery, was a lowly commander, had been passed over for three years.

When the President went over to the Maritime Commission, Vickery was a Rear Admiral. This was an appointment which the President recognized when he named him an admiral, despite the Navy.

Back in 1939 Vickery saw the importance of airplane carriers, got a secret order in writing from the President to build passenger vessels for the Pacific which could be converted into airplane carriers. They were to have smokestacks which could be pushed to the side of the deck, plus high-collared funnels which could become hangars.

Vickery even went before Congress secretly and got the money voted for these ships. After all this work, however, the Navy vetoed the plan. It was a letter saying it would not need those converted carriers.

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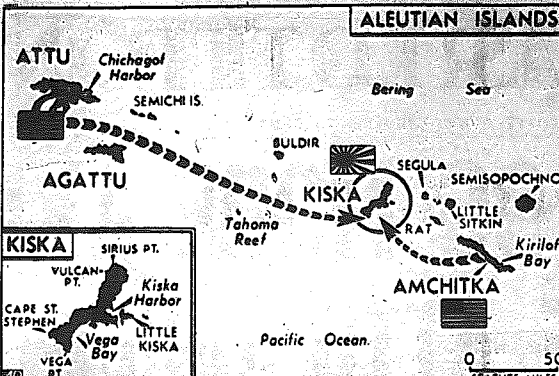
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**COMPLETE BLOCKADE THREATENS JAPS ON KISKA**—The fall of Jap-held Attu, expected by Washington authorities to occur very shortly, threatens to result in complete blockade of the Nipponese base at Kiska (circled). Americans have the S. hands. Kiska will be caught between American forces on Attu and on Amchitka (broken arrows).

## Whoa There, Bud! Ward's Gotta Stop Bragging Of His War Feats--Being Checked On

By WARD THEATRE

Well, all I know for sure is that I read on post cards and that I have been bragging a lot about what I did with the 2nd Division in World War. But from now on I will have to stick to the facts and keep my imagination in control because a member of my old outfit has hit town and he is checking on me.

This is such a little world after the war that it is a wonder that a citizen of Wisconsin should drop around and get a job, not to mention to check me, perhaps, but to just earn a living. Sergeant Preston, I don't get his initials, is from the old 121st Infantry of that division in a local radio station and while we couldn't place each other in that great conflict, maybe it is just as well because we may have a story to tell that wouldn't bear too much censorship.

When I was with this outfit I awoke in the mornings to the strains of "On Wisconsin" and I regretted the outfit with a little "Caroline" which they thought might be a little too much to mean anything. When I opened up with "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," even the colored stopped to listen. And my voice wasn't what a metropolitan singer would call "hot," even the colored stopped to listen with vin blanc or maybe a little cognac, if it was near pay day.

**DRAW SOMETHING**  
Those northerners used to gather around and listen to my southern drawl and think it was something and I really put on a show for them, don't think I used the letter "r" all the time I was with the outfit.

Joah McClelland, who does a lot of picture show business and claims he came from Coney Island, is by the way the organized authorities just an outsider. Josh

lived on the fringe of Coney Island, near to "chicken row" at the Olinth Mills than Coney, but we are a broad minded people so I am letting it go to the great day comes.

I probably mentioned it in this column once before but I will say it again. It was a great day for Charlotte when A. D. Willard Jr. came to town. He demonstrated his worth as a good citizen when he put the YMCA drive over and besides that he is contributing a lot of his energy to making this a good town to live in. If you just didn't know it, you wouldn't think he was a dandyman.

**READS COLUMN**  
W. E. Camp, dropped into town and took over an insurance agency and to prove that he was a man of intelligence and, should I say, soundness, he picked up my column to read, showing why the home office picked him out for promotion. Anyway, it is nice to have folks like him give you a word and I hope he follows his predecessors in promotions until he is on the top. Harry Parker, the square of South College Street, is still keeping his books in a mystifying manner. It seems to me that, every time I walk in the store, Harry is reaching for his check book. If he has money enough to pay all the checks, he is a real money man. He is a feller, but a Croesus. Maybe he is just exercising his fingers. Wouldn't you?

**Tragic End For Nazi Blockade Runner**

By ALFRED E. WALL

UNITED STATES NAVAL CORRESPONDENT W. I. T. H. THE BRITISH WAR FLEET. A NORTHERN BRITISH NAVAL BASE, MAY 18—(Delayed)—(P)—The panic-stricken crew of the German blockade runner Regensburg set off scuttling charges and caused the death of almost the entire ship's company when intercepted by British cruisers off Glasgow.

"The Regensburg was one of two Axis ships attempting to break the Allied blockade of the continent which were scuttled after interception by British warships, according to a British Admiralty communique last Monday. The other was the 4,700-ton Silvan, which was sunk by bottom 200 miles off Cape Finisterre, Spain. The entire crew

of the Silvan was rescued. Aboard the Glasgow today Captain E. M. Evans-Lombe and other officers told the story of how they were able to rescue only six members of the Regensburg's 118 crewmen.

"I am convinced that the captain, officers and crew of the Regensburg must have been taken off by a German submarine," Evans-Lombe explained.

"Survivors told how confusion reigned aboard the Regensburg when we intercepted the ship and they were fired a warning shot at the beginning of the action they said they thought they were being attacked by an airplane. They were sheer madmen to scuttle the ship in such a terrific gale in a temperature which was below zero."

"I shot," the Regensburg signaled after the Glasgow fired the warning shot. The Glasgow then signaled the Regensburg to follow her, but instead of obeying, scuttling charges were set to burst out and the crew started leaping overboard into the icy sea in the face of a biting blizzard.

No further signal came from the Regensburg and after a while the Glasgow opened fire with her four-inch armaments. The Regensburg, loaded with rubber, did not go down immediately and the Glasgow polished her off with two torpedoes.

In the mountainous sea it was impossible for the Glasgow to launch boats for rescue operations. Only one officer and five ratings were rescued from the sea with great difficulty.

Some other members of the Regensburg's crew drifted alongside the Glasgow on floats, but they were already frozen stiff in the intense cold. Those rescued were turned over to military authorities in Iceland.

The Regensburg sailed from Rangoon three months ago.

## ALEUTIAN ISLANDS



## To Delay Soldiers' War Books

Given At Time  
Of Validity

Members of the armed forces will not be allowed to buy copies of war ration book No. 2, for which applications now are being distributed through the mails, until shortly before the new ration book is put into consumer use, according to an announcement today by the Office of Price Administration.

Members of families of men in the armed forces, who will be issued their No. 2 books, however, just as will all other civilians, the announcement said.

The OPA explained that soldiers, sailors and Coast Guardsmen may be stationed elsewhere when the book is needed to buy rationed commodities and it seems simpler to postpone issuance of the book to these groups of men until the date of its use has been determined.

**WILL APPLY**  
Nevertheless, these men, like civilians, will make out their applications and mail them to their designated mailing centers before June 10.

Book No. 2 will contain a different design of stamps, which will replace the stamps now used for the rationing of sugar, coffee, shoes and canned goods, old and new.

These stamps are contained in books Nos. 1 and 2. All North Carolina applications will be mailed to Charlotte, where a mailing center is being established by the district OPA agency. Around 2,000 volunteer workers are being enlisted to handle the many details of this great mailing task, which will involve around 4,000,000 books for North Carolinians.

**19 From Here To  
Get Duke Degrees**

Despite a number of withdrawals due to selective service and reserve calls to military service, Duke University has approximately 600 candidates for degrees to participate in its 81st commencement. Among this group to finish are fifteen Charlotteans.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts include Marjorie Barber, Julian B. Black, Richard Edwin Beger, Morris W. Crigler, Edward S. Duck, Jr., Betty J. Hutchinson, Wallace Wilford Kale, John M. Moore, Marjorie C. Pitts, Lucy Lee Sanderson and Harry W. Weeks Jr.

Candidate for the Bachelor of Science is Robert B. Evans, Bachelor of Divinity degree will be received by William Tracy Medlin, Jr. The Doctor of Medicine degree will be presented to William H. Williams Jr. and Cabell Young Jr.

Dr. Marjorie MacDonald, psychiatrist with the U. S. Children's Bureau in Washington, highlighted the annual meeting with an address on "War-time Adjustments," with particular regard to war-affected children's problems.

Years end reports of the society were made by Dr. James Watson, clinical director, J. M. Goddard of the Queens College faculty and psychologist for the clinic, and Miss Dorothy Dolan, executive secretary of the Society.

Some applications now being received by the OPA agency lack the necessary signature. At least several weeks of delay will result in the mailing of ration books to these applicants, whose form must be completed later.

**DESIGNED SHOTGUN**  
Guillermo Bossi, a Roman, is said to have designed the first successful double-barrel shotgun in 1616. The barrel on his gun was placed one over the other, instead of side by side.

## Need 1,000 Volunteers For Mailing

Tremendous Task  
Still Ahead Here

An appeal for at least 1,000 more volunteers for work at the Office of Price Administration mailing centers here during the distribution of war ration book No. 2 was issued today by the Charlotte district OPA agency.

Only 999 men and women so far have volunteered for this work, which will be started June 1, and must be completed around July 31.

Business people who have free time in the evenings, particularly very early in the morning, are urged by the OPA to volunteer. The telephone is 4-9711, extension 30.

Each work day at the mailing center, to be located in Central High School, will be divided into three periods: 8 A. M. to 12 noon; 1 P. M. to 5 P. M., and 7 P. M. to 10 P. M. Each volunteer will be expected to work through whatever shift may be selected. The OPA explained that each volunteer will be expected to report each day.

The staff at any one time will include up to 800 persons. They will require the service daily of probably around 1,200 individuals. With a staff of around 2,000 volunteers, the OPA agency thinks a full staff can be obtained for each shift of work, thus assuring steady progress.

Each of the approximately 1,000,000 households in North Carolina will receive through the mail a blank form for application before June 1. These forms, properly filled out, must be returned to the mail before June 18; otherwise late applicants will not receive their books until sometime in August.

The OPA agency reiterated its word of caution to North Carolinians about signing the application in handwriting on the proper space at the bottom of the form. This is a warning that of the head of the household or the person making the application for all members of the household. Except for this handwritten signature, the OPA said, all writing elsewhere on the application form should be typed or "printed" with pen and ink.

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**GRADUATING**—Charles Edward Outlin, nineteen, son of Mrs. R. A. Honeycutt, Jr., of Petersburg, Va., has graduated from the Navy Trade School for Diesel operators at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., and has been promoted to second class petty officer. Outlin formerly resided in Charlotte. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Griffith of Nations Ford Rd.

**Board Names Psychologist**  
Mental Hygiene Group Has Annual Meeting

Appointment of Miss Marion D. Standand, at present instructor in psychology at Woman's College, Montgomery, Ala., as full-time psychologist attached to the Charlotte Mental Hygiene Clinic was announced at the tenth annual meeting of the local Mental Hygiene Society last night at the Hotel Charlotte.

The new psychologist is expected to take up her new duties here June 15 and will have an office at the Mental Hygiene Clinic suite at 121 E. Third St.

Mrs. Frank H. Kennedy last night was elected new president of the Hygiene Society, succeeding W. Irving Bullard. Other officers and trustees named were: Maurice Townsend, vice-president; Mrs. Luther Kelly, secretary; Carl G. McCraw, treasurer; and J. A. Scoggins, John Paul Lucas Jr., Miss Elsie Rankin, M. I. McDougle and Carl I. Flath.

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