



ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME—Marine Corps combat correspondents and photographers take time out from covering the battle of Iwo Jima to perform the morning ritual of polishing their ivory. They are (left to right): T/Sgt. Byrd F. Ferneyhough, Washington, D. C.; Sgt. James S. Dugan, Los Angeles, Calif., and S/Sgt. Albert F. W. Schulerburg, St. Louis, Mo. (Official Marine Corps Photo).



IWO PHONE BOOTH—Burrowed in his shallow foxhole at the edge of Motoyama airstrip on Iwo Jima, a Marine communicator calls for artillery support to silence the enemy mortars that are pinning down the Leatherneck advance. (Official Marine Corps Photo).

Merely Death Case

Officer Who Fired To End Agony Of Trapped Flier Is Acquitted

By CLYDE A. FARNSWORTH
A general court martial of seven colonels drawn from the U. S. 14th Air Force and associated service organizations returned the verdict after hearing ten witnesses piece together one of the most suspenseful episodes of the war. The defendant was a 31-year-old lieutenant colonel, commander of a fighter group, veteran of six campaigns, and ranking officer at the base. The accident victim was a twenty-year-old sergeant-gunner in a B-25 bomber.
No names were given in this dispatch. Presumably censorship withheld them.
The incident happened Jan. 17. Two other crew members of the five-man bomber were killed in the crash, which occurred when the craft overshoot the runway on returning to base from a mission against the enemy. The plane buffeted down a 60-foot embankment.
Witnesses said rescuers reached the wreckage almost immediately. Three men were in the flight compartment at the time—the pilot, co-pilot and the sergeant-gunner, whose duty on missions was to man the twin 50-caliber machine-guns in the top turret.
The co-pilot was killed in his chair. The pilot was seriously injured. Both were removed as flames spread through the plane.
As many as six men, bearing gasoline flames from a broken wing tank, took hold of the sergeant's arms and shoulders at one time, witnesses said, and tried to pull him free, but he was pinned tightly about his cranked legs behind the armor plate backing of the co-pilot's seat. The wreckage had folded in upon his legs when the right wing dug into the ground.
Witnesses said that a long effort would have been necessary to cut away the metal that had snapped in on the sergeant's lower legs like the jaws of a bear trap, and that physicians could not get into position to amputate the legs.
The rescuers, it was testified, actually tried to pull the trapped man's body loose from his emmeshed legs, but did not have the strength.
All hope of rescue had been given up, witnesses said, when the lieutenant colonel standing off above fifteen feet, fired twice at the sergeant's head where it showed in the wreckage of the flight compartment.
The dispatch did not say what fire-fighting facilities were available.
At the court martial, which set throughout the afternoon in the recreation hall of an Air Force hostel here, the defendant elected not to testify in his own behalf.
The defense counsel, Lt. Col. John H. Hendrick of Kansas City, Mo., father than base his case on a contention that the shooting was indeed an act of mercy, brought out testimony intended to show that the defendant had acted irrationally under great emotional strain.
The main pillar of the defense, however, was medical testimony that the condition of the victim's body, when finally recovered, left a reasonable doubt that the sergeant had indeed died from the bullets rather than from burning.
Acquittal came when the prosecution failed to gain at least a few-ounce nod for conviction among the seven members of the court, which the court martial manual requires for a change of this sort.
It was not officially announced when the principal fact-finder-half-hour deliberation that followed the hearing but it was understood that the decision hinged on a reasonable doubt as to the cause of death.
The degree of participation in this case the sergeant may have figured in the considerations.

Advertisement for KAY'S Modern Optical Department. Text includes: 'If You Need Glasses Visit KAY'S Modern Optical Department', 'GLASSES ON CREDIT', 'Convenient Terms', 'To See Better - Better See Kay', and 'THE STORE WITH A NATIONAL REPUTATION'. Includes an image of a pair of glasses.

Took Germans Seriously

Local Man Lightens Many Heavy Hearts

By MARTHA AZER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
The suggestion of a German broadcaster, taken seriously one night by J. C. McLarn, has resulted in quite an unusual after-hours job for Mr. McLarn—who spends much of his spare time bringing relief to heavy hearts throughout the nation.
The job that was adopted one night by Mr. McLarn of Southern Railway, was that of listening to German broadcasts of prisoner of war messages, taking these messages down in shorthand. That first night he transcribed the messages. Mr. McLarn mailed them off, intending he said, to call it the end of the whole thing.
'But right after I had mailed those messages,' said Mr. McLarn, 'I got such deep and appreciative acknowledgements from mothers and fathers, that I didn't have the heart to quit. And so, since that night about eight months ago, I've been at it—listening to the program when the reception is good.
OMITS PROPAGANDA
'Of course,' Mr. McLarn laughed, 'I don't pay any attention to the German propaganda they put out. Their versions of the war news is quite different from ours!'
Mr. McLarn, who is chief clerk to H. C. Freder, superintendent of motive power, is on the Red Cross team as a major for the Southern Railway participation in the \$22,400 War Fund Drive. Voluntarily, Mr. McLarn called attention to the fact that 'over 80 per cent of the messages I have heard mention the work of the Red Cross.'
This morning when The News talked with Mr. McLarn, he had with him a pocketful of letters and postal cards, ready for mailing to all parts of the country to mothers, fathers and sweet-hearts who were anxious for word of their sons and loved ones.
Some of them read:
'Dear Mom: My permanent address is Stalag Luft No. 1. I am safe and well thanks to the American Red Cross. Please don't worry and take care of yourself. Hope to see you all in the near future. I am being treated O.K. Have plenty of clothes, thanks again to the American Red Cross. Use above address for writing. Love to all.
Hugh (Florida).
I am now at Stalag Luft No. 1, which is to be my permanent camp, so write to this address. I sure owe a lot to the Red Cross. If you keep in touch with them you can write as much as possible. Please take care of yourself and don't worry. Give my love, and tell — to keep on planning after the war. Your loving son, Gene (Maryland).
'Darling: I arrived at Stalag Luft No. 1. The German say that it is to be my permanent camp for the rest of my stay in Germany. Get in touch with the Red Cross if you want to send me any mail or packages. Take care of yourself so we can celebrate when I get there. (Kansas).
'Dear Mom: I am a prisoner of war in Germany, health good, and not wounded at all. Tell

Advertisement for Girl Reserve Group and Discussion of Plans. Text includes: 'The YWCA Girl Reserve Group will meet in the YWCA building at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 1945. The discussion will be on the subject of the Summer Work Camps. The Summer program is being planned and it was pointed out that the Summer work camps are now being reorganized. Mrs. Mages, Girl Reserve secretary, met with the girls.' Includes a photo of a woman.

Advertisement for Relief At Last For Your Cough. Text includes: 'Cremulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of trouble to help loosen and expel from larynx, pharynx, and bronchi to soothe and heal raw, inflamed, irritated mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to get you a bottle of Cremulsion with the understanding you must use the way it is now being recombined. This remedy quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back. CREAMULSION For Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis.' Includes a photo of a woman.

Advertisement for SHOP EFIRD'S DOWNSTAIRS BASEMENT STORE. Text includes: 'For Quality—Long Wearing WORK SHIRTS', 'Famous—LEE and FRUIT-OF-THE-LOOM WORK SHIRTS', '1.97 to 3.74'. Includes an image of a work shirt.

Advertisement for Enna Jetticks shoes. Text includes: 'TAKE THESE STEPS TO PERFECT COMFORT', 'Enna Jetticks', '\$6 and \$6.50', 'THEY FIT WELL because they are WELL FITTED by ENNA JETTICK FITMASTERS', 'ENNA JETTICKS ARE EXCLUSIVE WITH EFIRD'S IN CHARLOTTE', 'FACTORY REPRESENTATIVE AND SHOE AUTHORITY'. Includes an image of a woman's foot.

Advertisement for Efird's DEPARTMENT STORE. Text includes: 'WORK TROUSERS—1.94 to 3.03', 'KHAKI WORK SHIRTS 1.39', 'KHAKI WORK TROUSERS sizes 29 to 481.94', 'BUY U. S. WAR SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS.', 'Efird's DEPARTMENT STORE CHARLOTTE, N.C.', 'The Friendly Store in a Friendly City'. Includes an image of a man's face.

Advertisement for Efird's DEPARTMENT STORE. Text includes: 'Will be In Our Street Floor Shoe Department Thursday... Friday... and Saturday... Mar. 8 thru 10.', 'Come in and consult with Mr. Theodore Lloyd. He will be glad to advise you on your Shoe problems whether you're wearing Enna Jetticks or not. Be sure to take advantage of this special service.', 'EFIRD'S... WOMEN'S SHOES... STREET FLOOR', 'BUY U. S. WAR SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS', 'Efird's DEPARTMENT STORE CHARLOTTE, N.C.', 'The Friendly Store in a Friendly City'.