

Boyle
Hero's Last
Thoughts
Of Wife
& Child

(This is the sixth of seven columns on Chester Bennett, American hero of Hong Kong.)

By HAL BOYLE
HONG KONG (AP) — Autumn benediction in the long, hot, dry Summer.

From his cell in Stanley Prison, Chester Bennett saw the morning of Oct. 1943, dawn clear and beautiful. It was his last day on earth.

In a few hours he was to be an American hero of Hong Kong and 35 other prisoners were to be put to death on charges of espionage and "conspiring against the Imperial Japanese Government."

Word of their fate had filtered through to some 3,000 internees in Stanley Camp. They felt particularly sorry for the cheerful, big-shouldered American who had smuggled money into them so that they could buy food. It was for this crime—Japanese "Thought Police" hadn't been able to prove he was sending out information to British secret agents—that he was to die.

Bennett was a large-bodied man who had lived adventurously and with zest. Yet his thoughts turned less on himself in those last hours than on his wife of a year. He had just learned she was to become a mother and bear him a child that he would never see.

Before the guards came to take him away he sat down and wrote his pretty, red-haired wife a short farewell note.

"I love you with all my heart and soul. Goodbye, Chester Bennett."

Then he turned the small sheet over and wrote on its back:

"I am told you are to have a baby. If so please tell me the sex of your father and mother as I now believe in your faith. My darling, I am sorry things turned out this way, but believe me, I love you and my last thoughts will be of you. With all my love, Chester."

He gave the note to a friendly guard and soon it was time to go.

The crowded black van pulled out from the steel gates of Stanley Prison and moved slowly down the rough, narrow road leading to the small bay where British Redcoats had planted the Empire's flag more than a century before.

As the van passed a number of internees toiling up the slope someone put his face up to the rear window and called out:

"Goodbye, boys. We 'shain't be seeing you again."

At the bottom of the hill the prisoners were forced to dismount and follow a trail winding around the edge of the bay. It must have been tortuous at every step, for Chester Bennett, Roys burns on his left leg had become badly infected. The leg had become so swollen and needed amputation. But he walked upright and limped only slightly.

All outward appearance he was utterly calm.

The prisoners marched in single file on a small path that led to the hill around them were scores of Chinese graveyards. Before them in the center of the hill the prisoners saw the trenches dug by Indian warriors and knew how they were to die.

The leader of the Japanese detail was Captain Yamamoto, the prison commandant, who also had been true trader and now was to execute his prisoners.

There were eleven white men, including "Ginger" Hyde, leader of the group of volunteers, and seven Japanese. Bennett had joined and seven Indian among the prisoners.

LIXTY-SEVEN TRENCHES

They were lined up before two trenches, seventeen in front of the sixteen in front of the other. Their faces and bodies were then.

The prisoners looked up past the brush-covered slopes and the narrow path leading to the hill. The sun shined. Gulls flapped lazily over the serene green water washing shore. All nature was at peace except in this small vale.

The Indian warders who had due the prisoners, watched them slowly from the hillside.

Black execution masks were dropped over the prisoners' faces and they were ordered to kneel. Then Japanese non-coms wielding heavy swords marched methodically down the double line, lopping off heads with powerful strokes and arms, toppling bodies into the trenches. There were no outcries.

In a few seconds it was over. The trenches and stumps in a rough trackwork marker, lying in Japanese characters, the names of those buried beneath. So far it is the only memorial to Chester Bennett and his British comrades and Chinese comrades in achievement and disaster.

Bomb Test Will Be Right Hard On Fish

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy's atomic bomb experiment on the Bikini Atoll area, a Government expert said today, will consider the size of the Pacific effect is hardly worth worrying about.

Dr. R. N. Gurnison, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said the Marshall Islands site is off the normal whale migration route and that it is not believed to be an important procreation area of tuna and other food fish.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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400-ROOM HOTEL WILL BE BUILT Bevin Charges Rec Propaganda Threat To Peace



Bevin Charges Rec Propaganda Threat To Peace

Gives Reply To Attacks By Russian

Greek Situation Cause Of Uproar

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
LONDON — (AP) — Foreign Secretary Bevin told the United Nations Security Council today that "Moscow and Communist Party propaganda" endangered world peace.

This, he said, was "the real danger" to peace.

Bevin made this statement in blasting back at Russian charges that Britain imperiled World Security by maintaining troops which the Soviet said supported Fascist and pro-Monarchist elements in Greece.

DEMANDS VERDICT

Bevin demanded a straight yes or no verdict from the Council on the Russian charge.

Countering the charges of Soviet Communism, Andrei Vishinsky that a "white terror" exists in Greece. Bevin said British troops had supported the rights of all factions to a voice in Greek affairs and had refrained from imposing on the country a minority Government.

"We could have done what we wished," he said. "We could have put a minority Government in — we had the power. But we did not."

We let the Greeks have their own Government. We believe from the bottom up, not from the top."

Thanasios Agnathides, Greek Ambassador to London, spoke immediately after Bevin.

He said that the British had not intervened in the internal affairs of Greece at any time," he said. "The Government regards the continued presence of British troops in Greece as indispensable to keep order and get political stability."

He said there was no threat to border countries such as Yugoslavia, Albania and Bulgaria, from Greek policies.

Agathides outlined four main contentions in Russia's case:

1. "A very tense situation in Greece" is endangering international peace and security.

2. The presence of British troops is unnecessary.

3. The presence of British troops has become a means of political pressure on the country.

4. The troops serve as a means of support for reactionary elements.

He said he had received a telegram from Athens last week reporting a new outbreak of Fascist terror in Athens and on the plains outside the city during the last few days.

The telegram reported he said, that the British had broken up workers' meetings and were helping police to hunt down the "Nazi" or monarchist groups with the use of machine guns.

Persons were said to have been wounded and hundreds injured.

Another telegram, Agathides said, reported that Royalists had attempted a "putch" in the Peloponnese Jan. 20.

German Bandits Arrested

BERLIN — (AP) — The American-sponsored German bandits were reported from Munich today that police had arrested 51 members of the "Werewolf" band.

The dispatch said the Bavarian police had arrested a series of bandits, including thieves, blackmarketers and forgers.



Miss America 1945, Ernesta Sardo, triple amputee from Elmira, N. Y., and Al Schmidt (extreme right), blinded Marine from Philadelphia. Acme Photo.

QUADRUPLE AMPUTEE DRIVES THROUGH NEW YORK TRAFFIC

Quadruple amputee Pfc. Jimmy Wilson of Jacksonville, Fla., drove an auto from England General Hospital in Atlantic City, N. J., to New York City, navigating the busy big city's traffic with ease.

Jimmy and other wounded veterans came to New York to attend the Roosevelt Memorial Concert at the invitation of Bess Myerson (seated beside Jimmy), who is Miss America of 1945.

In the back seat of the car are Pfc. Ernest Sardo, triple amputee from Elmira, N. Y., and Al Schmidt (extreme right), blinded Marine from Philadelphia. Acme Photo.

Peak Perilous

Blizzard Balks Plane Searchers

By RICHARD K. O'MALLEY
ELK MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — (AP) — A blinding blizzard balked attempts to scale the perilous sides of 11,125-foot Elk Mountain today in search of the wreckage of a United Air Lines Transport plane believed to have crashed near the mountain's summit yesterday with 21 persons aboard.

Visibility on the bald, formidable peak was reported less than 50 feet, and old-timers said the storm might last a week or more.

The rescue party was told it would be foolhardy to try to scale the mountain unless the top was visible.

Below

An eight-man search party fought to within 300 feet of the summit last night, but were forced back by a 25-mile-an-hour wind and 40-below-zero cold.

"I was on my hands and knees at the last," said P. R. Gallagher of Cheyenne, member of the searching party.

They saw no signs of wreckage as they approached the spot where a deep, quarter-mile furrow in the snow convinced aerial searchers yesterday that the plane had smashed into the mountain top about 3 A. M. Mountain Standard Time.

An Army convoy of 30 men from Fort Warren, Wyo., arrived last night at a 10,000-foot camp where officers viewed the storm-battered mountain they sent 40 of the men back to Warren to wait for a break in the weather.

Believed the Japanese would have attacked the fleet in 1941 if it had been based on the Pacific Coast, the Japanese would have felt it was too risky to attempt to send a task force through waters where they might have been discovered by American merchant shipping.

Classing himself as "an amateur strategist," Smith said he thought the Japanese might have attempted to take Oahu, a number of the Hawaiian Islands if the fleet had not been there.

"It is my opinion that they would have succeeded," he said.

"But if they had tried to move to the West Coast without reducing Pearl Harbor, he added, their fleet would have been subjected to aerial bombing on its flight home."

Earlier Smith said he did not

Fayetteville Capitalist Gives Plans For Project

\$1,500,000 Will Be Spent On Job

By J. A. DALY
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Purchaser of the former Mecklenburg County Courthouse site upon in Charlotte for \$425,000 as the site of an ultra-modern hotel to contain at least 400 guest rooms, a great convention hall and a basement garage for guests' cars, was announced today by Dr. R. L. Pittman, capitalist, of Fayetteville.

Dr. Pittman estimated that the proposed hotel will cost in excess of \$1,500,000 and will be designed to meet all the needs of Charlotte for additional hotel and convention hall facilities.

"Construction will be started 'as soon as the market becomes available and conditions in the construction industry make this work advisable," said Dr. Pittman.

The Fayetteville surgeon, hotel operator, and capitalist made this announcement when he was called by long distance telephone at Miami, where he is taking a vacation.

Associates

Associated with Dr. Pittman in this purchase by the Pittman interests are Mrs. Grace S. Pittman, Dr. Pittman's wife, and Dr. R. L. Pittman, Jr., Dr. Pittman's son.

Dr. Pittman said that the director of the Pittman hotel operations, will be the administration of our hotel in Charlotte when the construction is started.

"We consider Charlotte one of the fastest growing cities of the South, and one which has a exceptionally promising economic future," said Dr. Pittman. "Be sure to put that in your news story."

"We have made a thorough investigation of Charlotte's future, especially with respect to its potentialities for the hotel and restaurant industry, and we are confident that the hotel we intend to build will provide not only a great benefit to your community but also a profitable investment for us," continued Dr. Pittman.

"This hotel will have at least 400 guest rooms, a great convention hall and a basement garage in the basement. The convention hall will be a place for Carolina businessmen to hold their meetings."

"This convention hall is one of our primary objectives for the development of the hotel. And, the building will be air conditioned throughout."

Dr. Pittman said "an outstanding architect who specializes in hotel architecture will be engaged to prepare the engineers' plans and specifications for this hotel."

"The site of the hotel the Pittman interests are planning, 400 rooms, is the site of Hotel Charlotte, which contains approximately that number of guest rooms."

CARBON HANDLED DEAL

Negotiations for purchase of the Mecklenburg County Courthouse site, located at the southeast corner of S. Tryon and E. 3rd Sts., were handled by J. A. Daly, Charlotte News staff writer. The announced purchase price was \$425,000.

Dr. Pittman said that Dr. R. L. Pittman, Jr., was expected to come to Charlotte today to discuss with Mr. Carson the Mecklenburg County Courthouse site.

Dr. Pittman pointed out that "we have been in the hotel business since 1930, when we bought the La Fayette Hotel on Fayetteville."

See NEW HOTEL on page 11-A

Sugar Price Will Go Up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stabilization Director John C. Collet announced today the retail price of sugar soon will increase "slightly more than half cent a pound."

He said the effective date would be announced by OPA. An official of that agency said an increase of approximately six-tenths of a cent a pound would be put into effect in the next few days.

Plans for the increase were disclosed recently by Undersecretary of Agriculture Hudson in a letter to the House Banking and Currency committee.

The retail price hike will result from an increase of a half cent a pound in the refinery price of sugar.

The higher prices will apply to all types of sugar.

Collet said windfall profits to beet sugar refiners will be prevented, since their contracts with the CCC provide for final subsidy payments at the end of the year.

This means there will be reduced whatever sugar supplies they have on hand when the increase becomes effective.

CUBAN COST UP

Collet attributed the increase to a boost in the cost of Cuban sugar.

Wholesalers and retailers will be required to sell at current prices covered and sugar supplies they have on hand when the increase becomes effective.

Both Alanvany Johnston, grand chief engineer, and A. P. Whitney, president of the trainmen, have predicted that a strike, if called, would paralyze the nation's railroad system. The two brotherhoods, since last July, have been demanding wage increases and changes in the rules from the country's railroads.

The reports said "unknowns" on Jan. 28 threw four hand grenades into the car as it passed on a highway, 25 miles north of Bucharest. A Bucharest broadcast stated that the grenades had been fired by a "Russian" lieutenant colonel attached to the Soviet mission in the Allied Control Commission.

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Anti-Communist paper, the "Daily Bessarabian," said the authors of this crime are enemies of this country who should be discovered and punished with the utmost severity.

British and American Government personalities, as well as the Russians, attended the funeral. The Soviet Ambassador made the funeral oration. He placed the blame on "Fascist remnants in the country."

Chicago Police Shakeup Made

CHICAGO (AP) — Police Commissioner John C. Fendegard, who took office Jan. 1 and a week later was handed the Dugan Edgemoor killing case to solve, today shook up part of his department, with more changes to come.

VA Argument Rages

Bradley's Regime Rapped, Defended

WASHINGTON (AP) — Handling of veterans affairs by Gen. Omar N. Bradley, veterans administrator, was attacked and defended today by veterans' organizations and members of Congress.

The American Legion touched off the controversy with a letter to all members of Congress calling for an immediate investigation of what it called a "tragic breakdown" in the Veterans Administration.

"What we need in charge of the VA is a seasoned business man, not a soldier, however good a soldier he may be," wrote Commander John Steller of the Legion.

VA officials announced that Bradley would have a news conference in the late afternoon to report on his handling of the office for six months.

DAY STATEMENT

Shortly after the letter was made public, Millard Rice, public relations director of the Disabled American Veterans gave this statement to reporters:

"Give the man a chance. He has only been in office six months but has been striving hard to overcome the unsatisfactory conditions he inherited. An investigation now would only further delay his work."

Steller's letter making the "demand" for a probe into VA affairs said Congressmen should see to it that their "mandates are no longer ignored by the Veterans Administration."

Chairman Rankin Democrat, Mississippi, of the House Veterans Committee in a speech to the Representatives, said:

"This is the gravest unjust attack on the new formula, for Government aides are frankly concerned about the straining effect of the VA on the nation's economy."

At the same time, a high labor department official indicated the Government's latest move in the General Motors strike appeared to have missed fire—temporarily, at least.

Chambers for an early end in that 72-day old lockout once more were rated slim.

Federal seizure of steel plants was ruled out for the present by Mr. Truman yesterday when he told his news conference that such a step was not now contemplated.

The Chief Executive declined to predict a "break" in the steel strike, although he did say in response to a request for comment that he believes the general labor situation is improving all the time.

'Disappeared' Next Day

Secret Navy Map Put U. S. Ship In Area From Which Japs Struck

By JACK BELL
WASHINGTON (AP) — Pearl Harbor investigators today learned that a secret Navy map showed that a Japanese plane had crashed in the area from which the Japanese attacked Hawaii two days later.

Vice Adm. William W. Smith, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, said the vessel, said it apparently was not shown at all on a ship location chart for the next day, Dec. 6, but did not break radio silence before it was sighted.

Representative Murphy, Democrat, Pennsylvania, demanded that the Navy supply the name of the patrol vessel and a report of its movements between Dec. 5 and the attack on Dec. 7.

Smith was Chief of Staff in 1941 to Admiral Husband E. Kimmel.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and continued rain on Friday and Saturday. Saturday partly cloudy and warmer. Temperature on Friday: High and low 44 to 48. High and low 44 to 48. High and low 44 to 48.