ON THE INSIDE

Classified	8-11B	Serials	5A
Comics	4B	Sports	7-9B
Crossword	3B	Theaters	8B
Editorials	6A	Trade Winds	6A
Features	2B	Wisdom Was What	10A
Radio & TV	3B	Women	5-7A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

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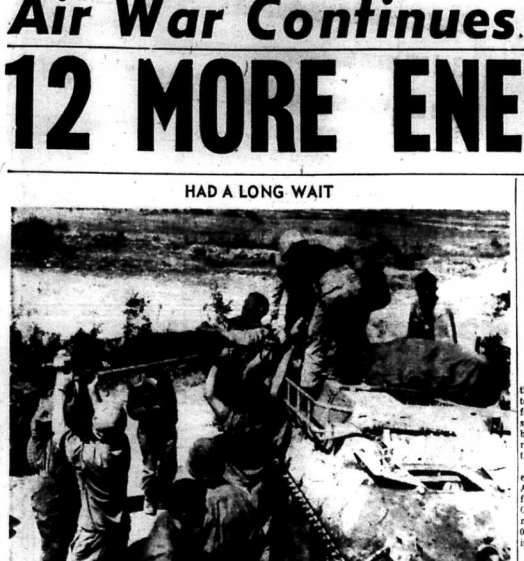
Air War Continues Hot

12 MORE ENEMY JETS SHOT DOWN

HAD A LONG WAIT



American medics at Panmunjom, Korea, lower a wounded Allied soldier from a personnel carrier. He, along with other men of the 25th Division, got caught in a mine field while on patrol. Rescue party had to probe the area for two hours before reaching the dead and wounded. (UP Telephoto)

Ridgway Says Free Europe Still Weak

Would Suffer Serious Reverses If Attacked

By RUSSELL BRINES

WASHINGTON (AP) —Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway told Congress today that even if free Europe's forces are built up to planned strength this year they still will be too weak "to prevent serious reverses in event of attack" by the Communists.

The European Defense commander, who is soon to become U. S. Army chief of staff, testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in support of the administration's request for $5,800,000,000 of continued foreign aid in the 12 months beginning July 1.

Ridgway gave the committee a sober review of the European military situation, and said continuation of American aid "is essential to the security of the United States as well as to all the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Oranization) nations."

The European buildup has progressed steadily from the "exposed and almost defenseless condition" of 1950, he said, but added:

"Our available land, air and naval forces are still very inadequate. There are not in existence or in sight mobile land forces in general reserve for inter-regional use"—that is, for example, to back up a thrust against the Middle East.

Ridgway said that "today, as a year ago, air power is still the weakest link in our defense. . . . There are still many deficiencies for example, in support units, logistical establishments and stocks of ammunitions."

Ridgway, who arrived here yesterday from his Paris headquarters, was making his first attempt as Europe's North Atlantic Treaty commander to talk Congress out of funds.

He faced detailed questioning on the progress and prospects of the NATO military buildup, which has drawn strong criticism recently in Congress.

Rep. Vorys (R-Ohio), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said the general's testimony may have an important bearing on consideration of administration requests for more than three billion dollars in military and limited economic aid to Europe next year.

MOTHER AWAITS ACE'S RETURN

Mrs. Effie Fernandez of Miami, Fla., receives a congratulatory call on one of the victories of her son, Capt. Manuel J. Fernandez, who has been ordered home after shooting down 14 Communist MIGs in Korea. Capt. Fernandez was the world's leading jet ace until today, when his record was eclipsed by Capt. Joseph McConnell of Apple Valley, Calif., who shot down his 16th, 15th and 16th enemy planes. Miami is planning a big civic celebration to welcome Capt. Fernandez. (United Press Telephoto)

Californian Gets 3 For Total Of 16

SEOUL —(AP)— American Sabre jet pilots blasted twelve Red MIG jets to earth today, three of the kills going to a slender Californian to make him the world's leading jet ace with 16 MIGs destroyed.

The Air Force reported the figures and said another MIG probably was destroyed.

Capt. Joe McConnell, a soft-spoken 140-pounder, slid easily by the triple ace requirement of fifteen victories in the sixth straight day of furious air battles that has counted 36 MIGs destroyed, two probably downed and 17 damaged.

And the Fifth Air Force removed McConnell's hottest competitor from combat by turning down Capt. Manuel Fernandez' request to fly 25 more missions.

Fernandez, of Miami, Fla., had 14 MIG kills, just one short of triple accedom. He will leave for home in a few days with 125 missions behind him—25 more than the 100 required for rotation.

Monday's dogfights also produced the 31st jet ace of the war as Lt. Col. George Ruddell of Eugene, Ore., shot down his fifth jet.

The day's mark was the biggest since September, 1951, when 13 MIGs were destroyed and four damaged. The record was set July 4, 1952, with 13 destroyed, one probably downed and seven damaged.

The Air Force said Allied planes have destroyed 39 MIGs this month — only five short of the record of 44 downed in April, 1952.

Sabre pilots have sighted more than 800 MIGs in the past six days, said Col. Edward Szaniawski, Scarsdale, N. Y., deputy commander of the 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing.

"How they (MIGs) can stand the punishment I don't know," he said. "I know we couldn't stand it."

Lt. Col. Louis A. Green of Lexington, N. C., was credited with downing two of Monday's string.

McConnell, of Apple Valley, Calif., reported he saw the third MIG crash after blasting it with .50-caliber machine gun slugs.

"I saw him above me and I sneaked up behind him," he said. "I fired into him and a puff of white smoke came from his plane.

"I fired again and got some hits and the pilot bailed out.

"It's a good thing he did, because there was another one coming up behind me and I had to turn away."

McConnell, a father of three, was described by fellow pilots as "a little wild" until he recently parachuted into the Yellow Sea and was plucked out by a helicopter.

Now they say he's settled down.

While the air war raged, ground fighting dwindled along the winding 155-mile front.

Sunday, South Korean infantrymen fought in day-long clashes for a string of outposts on a horse-shoe-shaped bend of the Pukhan River in East-Central Korea.

But at nightfall, the ROKs pulled out under orders because of intense Red artillery shelling.

The Eighth Army reported 122 Chinese killed or wounded north of Chorwon on the Central Front in the sharpest predawn action Monday. The Reds withdrew after a 1½-hour skirmish at the ROK-held outpost.

After that, only minor patrol clashes were reported, the Eighth Army said.

'Vicious' But Necessary

Taft Would Keep Profit Tax

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Taft (R-Ohio) said today that the excess profits tax is "vicious" in some of its aspects but probably should be continued temporarily to provide revenue needed toward budget balancing.

Taft, the Senate majority leader, said in an interview he feels the tax generally reaches big business firms most able to pay, although he added there is really no equitable way of defining "excess profits."

"While it is a vicious tax in some ways, it provides revenue that we need badly and it probably ought to be continued temporarily," he observed.

The tax, reaching a maximum of 68 per cent, is scheduled to die July 1 unless congress acts to continue it. The levy now raises about two billion dollars in revenue yearly.

Taft said he does not know whether President Eisenhower will call for continuation of the levy in his radio report to the nation on security, economy, budget and deficits tomorrow night. Eisenhower has said federal revenue should not be reduced until a balanced budget is in sight.

The President plans to discuss the same matters tomorrow morning at a White House conference with legislative leaders.

Taft said it is his judgment that unless Eisenhower recommends

See TAFT on page 11-A

U. S. Defense To Center On Cities And Industries

By ELTON C. FAY

WASHINGTON (AP)—The new look at strategy which Secretary of Defense Wilson says the incoming Joint Chiefs of Staff will make probably will focus sharply on protection of American cities and industries from an aerial Pearl Harbor blow.

Heavier accent may be placed on such weapons as interceptor planes, anti-aircraft guided missiles and conventional anti-aircraft artillery.

Exponents of the plan to hit hard with long-range bombers at Soviet bases, from which strikes at the U. S. would be launched in sudden war, privately express concern over the future of the Strategic Air Force. This is despite the recent insistence of Wilson that the Defense Department has not lost confidence in that force and has not changed its mind regarding the importance of air power.

In this connection, significance is attached to another Wilson comment. The defense chief, after announcing that the new Joint Chiefs of Staff would make an intensive and detailed restudy of all aspects of defense, said:

"The size and composition of the Air Force in the future will depend on the results of this new strategic study and the National Security Council determinations based upon it."

He fixed an 'interim goal' for the Air Force at 120 wings, to be attained some time in 1955. There are now 103 wings, but not all of them at full readiness. A wing contains from 30 to 75 planes, depending upon types.

Air Force officials estimate that the number of planes now on order, including those to be delivered this year, will just about supply the difference to make up the 120 wings—no more.

Nor is there certainty that more are contemplated. Wilson says: "The numbers are not so important as how good some of them are, the Air Force will concentrate not on numbers but on the quality and effectiveness of new planes and their missions."

Plane Returned To Czech Reds

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — A Czech airliner in which a group of anti-Communists fled from their Red homeland last March will be returned to Czechoslovakia today, a U. S. High Commission spokesman announced.

The action quickly followed the release last Saturday of Associated Press Correspondent William N. Oatis from the Czech jail in which he had served 25 months of a 10-year sentence for "espionage."

The spokesman said the plane was scheduled to be turned over to Czech representatives at Berlin's Tempelhof Airfield this afternoon.

Release of the American-designed C47 airliner was the first public reciprocal move by the U.S. since the pardoning and release of Oatis.

The airliner was seized by its chief pilot and three passengers March 23 while on a flight inside Czechoslovakia, from Prague to Brno. They overpowered three other crew members, headed across the German border and landed at the U. S. air base in Frankfurt.

After the landing, the four who had plotted the escape and two other passengers were granted political asylum in West Germany. The other 20 passengers and three crewmen were returned home at their request.

The Czech government demanded the return of the plane but the U. S. until today took no action.

OUR WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening today and Tuesday. Continued warm through Tuesday.

High temperature expected today, 85 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight, 65 degrees.

High temperature yesterday, 84 degrees.

Low temperature this morning, 65 degrees.

Sunrise 5:17 A. M.; sunset 7:33 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 11-A

Priest Protests Baptist Baccalaureate Services

AHOSKIE (AP) — Ahoskie High School's baccalaureate exercises will be held in a Baptist Church May 24 over the protests of a Catholic priest, Principal F. M. Tucker said today.

Tucker said it has been a community custom to hold the services in either the Baptist or Methodist Church.

Father Raphael Landser of St. Charles Catholic Church protested March 28 on the selection of Ahoskie Baptist Church as the site of the program. He held that holding the program in any church of any denomination is "a violation of the spirit, if not the letter" of the bill of rights.

He said "Freedom of conscience of American citizens is violated. A tax-supported school is identified with a particular denomination. The program is a typical denominational worship service and conforms to the pattern followed by that sect."

The priest continued: "What do you think the reaction of the people of Ahoskie would be to an announcement which stated: "Baccalaureate services for the Ahoskie High School will be held in St. Charles Catholic Church at 8:00 A. M. The mass will be offered by the pastor, Father Raphael Landser, T.O.R. The sermon will be preached by the bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Raleigh."

The priest protest was made in the form of a letter to the Daily Roanoke-Chowan News of Ahoskie. It was answered in an interview with a reporter on the paper by the Rev. Oscar Creech, until two years ago pastor of the Ahoskie Baptist Church for 28 years. He now is associate to the president of Chowan College at Murfreesboro.

The Rev. Mr. Creech said "I see no violation in the principle of separation of church and state . . . this has been a practice which has gone on since I came to Ahoskie 28 years ago." Mr. Creech said "I imagine the senior class should be left to decide where the baccalaureate services should be held."

CHRISTINE IN LONDON

LONDON— (AP)—Christine Jorgensen, a former U. S. soldier who underwent medical treatment in Denmark last year to make him a woman, arrived here today en route to visit relatives in Copenhagen. Christine expects to return here for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II two weeks hence.

'BIG SHOT' AMONG MIGS SHOT DOWN

U. S. SABRE BASE, Korea—(AP) —American airmen speculated that a Communist MIG shot down today by a Delaware pilot was flown by a "big shot" because the Red figher had a dragon painted across its fuselage.

Every time a Sabre pounced on the dragon MIG other Red Jets came to its assistance, Lt. James L. Thompson of Wilmington, Del., was quoted by ground crewmen.

Thompson got in his fatal burst when the other MIGs were busy fighting for their own survival.

Sabre pilots speculated a top Red airman may have gone aloft to find out why his fellow pilots have taken such a heavy beating the past six days.

Britain Won't Ban All China Trade

LONDON —(AP)— Foreign Undersecretary Anthony Nutting told the House of Commons today Britain has no intention of slapping an embargo on non-strategic trade with Communist China.

Nutting said Britain is complying in the letter and spirit with a United Nations resolution banning shipment of strategic goods to Communist countries, and added "no consultations with the United States or other governments have taken place on the question of trade in non-strategic goods."

Nutting made this statement in response to a Laborite question.

SOMERS APPROVED

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee today approved President Eisenhower's nomination of:

William B. Somers as U. S. marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina.

After 2 Years In Red Prison

Oatis Back On American Soil

NEW YORK (AP) — William N. Oatis returned to the United States and his wife's arms today from more than two years in prison behind the Communist Iron Curtain.

The Associated Press foreign correspondent arrived at Idlewild Airport at 12:05 p. m. (EST) aboard a Pan American Airways plane from Frankfurt, Germany.

Oatis spent 25 months in a Prague prison. Czech authorities held that he was a spy. Then, suddenly, this week they released him.

Before leaving Frankfurt last night, Oatis said the Czechs gave him "psychological" treatment before his trial, in which he confessed guilt.

He was not terrorized or mishandled, and the Czechs did not try to indoctrinate him with communism, he said.

However, he said:

"They were very efficient in their methods and preparation for my trial. It would be very difficult for me to describe what happened so that I could be understood by any one not familiar with such proceedings or with what is done individually.

"I think you could call it more psychological than anything else."

RECITAL?

"If what I was heard to say or reported to have said during the trial sounded like I was reciting something, why that's the way it was."

The newsman from Marion, Ind., was thin, pale, a bit bewildered by his sudden freedom, but in seeming good health. He said his treatment by the Czechs was "generally good."

He explained his accusation by the Czechs this way:

"As a newspaperman, I have always acted or tried to act as best I could on the proposition that a news story, to be fair, should present all essential sides. During the time I was in Prague, I found there were quite different ideas about what constituted objectivity in news reporting.

"Many people, especially people in charge of the (Czech) government, do not see things as we do in the United States or other counties where freedom of the press exists.

"I found that an American reporter, trying his best to do a job as fairly as he could, was not understood."

SURPRISES

His first two days of freedom were full of surprises—as well as delight—for Oatis. He got no news of any kind in prison and didn't even know that Joseph Stalin was dead or that Dwight D. Eisenhower was U. S. President.

"Who is Rocky Marciano?" he asked when somebody mentioned the fighter who has been world heavyweight boxing champion since last September.

He was unable to comment about the recent Soviet "peace offensive" or the general amnesty for Czech prisoners because he hadn't heard about them.

After a press conference before nearly 100 reporters and photographers in Nuernberg upon his release Saturday, he spent yesterday sightseeing in Frankfurt, eating real "frankfurter-style" hot dogs, and stocking up on razors, soap and clean shirts for his homeward journey.

In London last night, where his plane stopped briefly, he sang a few of the tunes for several hundred songs during his imprisonment. He wrote most of them on cake cartons and toilet paper.

He said his jailers wouldn't let him bring out the songs on cartons "but I've kept quite a lot of the others."

RED JUMPED BEFORE N. C. PILOT FIRED

SEOUL — (AP) — Two of today's dozen MIG kills were credited to Lt. Col. Louis A. Green of Lexington, N. C.

Green got one of his two MIG's without firing a shot.

"I got on this MIG's tail and was ready to fire when the pilot bailed out. I can't understand why," he said, "because I couldn't see anything wrong with the MIG."

Green bagged his first in the same area—near the Chingchon River—with a short burst from his 50 caliber machine guns.

"The ammo out across his plane he went into a spin and pilot bailed out," he said.

Comic Dictionary

KISS

Nothing divided by two.

Plane Tumbles 'Over And Over'

19 Persons Die In Texas Air Crash

MARSHALL, Tex. (AP)—A DC3 twin-engine transport plane tumbled "over and over" into a storm-lashed East Texas piney woods yesterday, killing 19 persons.

One woman survived.

The crash of the Delta-Chicago Southern airliner 13 miles east of here happened moments after the pilot, Douglas Volk, 33, Atlanta, had asked the Shreveport, La., airport control tower for routine landing instructions. He indicated no difficulty.

Mrs. J. W. Cox of Panama City, Fla., was the only one to live. She did not know how.

"We ran into a terrific rainstorm, and I dozed off," she said in the Marshall Hospital last night. "When I woke up, the plane was turning over and over and everyone was screaming. The next thing I remember was coming to in a puddle of water with a dying man beside me."

Mrs. Cox was in a semiconscious condition with a serious head injury, a broken leg and shock. Doctors said she had a good chance to live. She was reported resting well late last night. Her husband arrived here.

Searchers found two other women alive. The stewardess, Jo Anne Carlson, 25, Chicago, died on her way to the hospital. A young mother died a short time later.

"I don't see how anyone survived," said Millard Cope, publisher of the Marshall News Messenger.

Only a short section of fuselage near the tail was intact. The plane went down near the Texas-Louisiana border one mile south of U. S. Highway 80.

Mrs. Cox was on her way from Albuquerque, N. M., to Jackson, Miss., to join her husband. She said the two planned to take a vacation in Florida before he was sent overseas for Air Force duty.

Among the dead were Mrs. R. H. Fincher, 19, of near Atlanta, Ga., and her son, Jesse David, about 2 months old. Mother and son were flying eastward from Abilene, Tex. Mrs. Fincher's husband is in military service in India. She died in the hospital here.

Another passenger was Harvey T. Newell Jr. of Meridian, Miss., about 39, national president of the Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity.

The DC3 was eastbound from Dallas to Atlanta.

Klansmen Plead No Defense

WILMINGTON (AP) — Nineteen men accused of taking part in a Ku Klux Klan flogging in October, 1951, today pleaded no defense to their trial opened in Federal Court.

They were indicted on charges of kidnaping and conspiracy.

Federal Judge Don Gilliam said he would hear all testimony before passing sentence. Charles P. Greene, U. S. Eastern District attorney, said he would not ask the death penalty.

The first witness called in the small, crowded court room was George Kemper Smith, alleged victim of the flogging. He took the stand to tell his story shortly before the luncheon recess.

The 19 defendants were charged with seizing Smith at his home near Nichols, S. C. in October 1951 and taking him to a point near Fair Bluff, N. C., where he was flogged with thick belts attached to pick handles.

Seven of the defendants were convicted in a similar case last year.

Five of the defendants who are now serving time are Early L. Brooks, former Fair Bluff police chief; Horace S. Strickland, former Columbus County deputy sheriff; Pittman Strickland, Cerro Gordo farmer; Eddie Carl Richardson, Fair Bluff farmer, and Herikiah Ross Enzor, Fair Bluff farmer.

Two others, L. C. Worley, and Bobby Brooks, a son of Early Brooks, are on probation in another Klan case.

Five of the accused are South Carolina farmers. They are Gilbert Enzor, of Nichols; John Gordon Neeley, of Green Sea, and George English Cook, Loe Walter Harrelson and Troy Leon Gerald, all of near Mullins.

The other seven, all North Carolinians, are Carroll D. Grainger, Fair Bluff farmer; Robert L. Hammons, Cerro Gordo; James Edwin Brooks, Raleigh, another son of Early; Simon T. Enzor; Ed Floyd Rogers Jr., John A. Shaw and his son, John Porter Shaw, all Fair Bluff farmers.

EVENING PRAYER

Our Father, there is so much need in the world today. We ask Thee to help us to keep true to Thy teachings. Help us not to ignore even the least of our brethren but to help them in the spirit of Christlikeness. In His name. Amen