

WILLIAMS BALKS ON NAVY MUZZLE

Correspondence Reveals Aviation Writer Quit Marine Corps Reserve After Being Warned to Cease 'Further Criticism.'

By GUY V. MILLER
Times Special Writer

PITTSBURGH, July 15.—Maj. Al Williams, Scripps-Howard aviation writer, resigned from the U. S. Marine Corps reserve because the Navy Department, of which the Marines are a branch, threatened to revoke his commission for criticizing the Navy in print.

This was revealed today in correspondence between the Department and Maj. Williams, made public for the first time. Maj. Williams released the correspondence—which the Navy had refused to do—because, he said, "the Navy violated my proposal for gentlemanly silence."

Last week the Navy Department announced Maj. Williams' resignation, but gave no explanation beyond quoting Maj. Williams as saying he could serve his country best as a private citizen without military affiliation.

The correspondence, however, discloses that Maj. Williams was served a virtual ultimatum to cease "further destructive criticism" by one of the administration of the naval service" under penalty of having his commission revoked.

Warned April 18

It was this edict, unusual in that it was applied to a reserve officer subject only when on active service to navy regulations and customs, that brought about Maj. Williams' resignation.

The correspondence reveals that Maj. Williams was warned in a letter on April 18 from Maj. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, Marine Corps commandant, that "certain articles, published under your name in the Pittsburgh Press (a Scripps-Howard newspaper) in the early part of February, 1940, contain statements derogatory in tenor to the administration of the U. S. Navy."

"Such destructive criticism of the administration of the naval service in the public press," the letter continued, "by an officer of your rank in the Marine Corps reserve, is exceedingly inappropriate and cannot be condoned by the Major General Commandant."

Then followed a warning that "further destructive criticism" would be considered sufficient cause for a recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy that Maj. Williams' commission be revoked.

Termed It America's Business

Gen. Holcomb's letter evidently referred to a column published on Feb. 2, in which Maj. Williams declared that "I think our Navy needs a major overhauling. It is fairly crawling with internal politics, hidebound and obsolete practices, and reactionary inhibitions which choke off and discourage its more efficient and worthy personnel."

In the same column Maj. Williams criticized the selection board method of promotion, charged that there was discrimination against non-Annapolis officers in the service, and asked:

"Is this the Navy's line that must be washed in public? I'll say it's not. It's America's business. It's our national defense."

In that column Maj. Williams cited the case of eight wartime Navy aviators who, although declared fit for promotion, were not to be retained in active service.

On April 22 Maj. Williams replied to Gen. Holcomb's letter, asking a clarification.

"Specifically," he wrote, "I would like to know where my privileges as a private citizen are overlapped by my duties and obligations of service in the event of need."

On that same day the Navy in Washington formally announced the resignation. When asked what lay behind the resignation, the Department said the correspondence would not be made public.

Got No Reply to Letter

Being on the reserve list, however, I have been of the opinion that the spoken or written words of mine in no wise is to be interpreted as official or under censorship."

To this letter Maj. Williams received no reply.

Six weeks later, on June 7, he tendered his resignation "quietly and without publication." He said that he "desired to speak freely and vigorously in expressing my

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INDIANAPOLIS RAILWAYS

Giant Dies at 22



TALLEST MAN IN WORLD IS DEAD

Foot Infection Is Fatal to Robert Wadlow, Giant From Alton, Ill.

MANISTEE, Mich., July 15 (U. P.)—Robert Wadlow, whose height of eight feet 10 and three-tenths inches made him the tallest man in the world, died today of an infection.

Mr. Wadlow became ill on July 4th while appearing at the National Forest Festival here. A foot brace he wore to help support his weight broke the skin along the ankle and an infection set in. He had been seriously ill with a high fever for several days but last week had shown considerable improvement.

He Was 22

Late yesterday his fever began mounting rapidly and death came early this morning. He had been given a transfusion yesterday.

His home was in Alton, Ill., and he was 22 years old. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wadlow, and a younger brother were here. Funeral arrangements were not completed pending word from an uncle in Nebraska. It was expected, however, that the body would be removed to Alton later today.

Mr. Wadlow's extreme height was attributed by physicians to an over-active pituitary gland. He weighed 401 pounds.

Mr. Wadlow, who weighed 8½ pounds at birth, began attracting first local, and then national, attention shortly after his fourth birthday, when his unusual growth began.

Wore Size 27 Shoes

By the time he was 5, he was wearing clothes designed for a youth in his teens. In five more years he was wearing garments made for large men, and his family was discovering that ordinary furniture would not support his weight. Special shoes, size 27 and larger, were required to cover his feet.

Far From War



U. S. CONTRACTS FOR 627 TANKS

Army to Spend \$11,000,000 To Speed Mechanization Of Land Forces.

WASHINGTON, July 15 (U. P.)—The Army, speeding mechanization of its land forces, today contracted with the American Car & Foundry Co., Berwick, Pa., for 627 heavily armored light tanks, said to cost about \$11,000,000.

The order was the largest of its kind in American peacetime history. The award was made from bids opened at Rock Island, Ill., arsenal last week.

Informed officials said the tanks would be about 12 tons each, equipped with 30 and 50-caliber machine guns and one 37 mm. cannon.

The new tanks, described as "the latest thing," will be used to augment the equipment of the new mechanized divisions being established this summer at Ft. Knox, Ky., and Ft. Benning, Ga. The two divisions are patterned along the lines of the famous Nazi Panzers, and ultimately will use 1400 tanks, 13,000 semi-automatic rifles, 600 pieces of artillery, and 18,000 men.

The Army has on hand or on order approximately 3000 tanks, the largest being the so-called "medium" type of about 18 tons. It is understood, however, that President Roosevelt's latest request for an additional \$5,000,000,000 for the Army and Navy envisages the purchase of about 3000 more tanks.

Among these, it was said, will be several hundred huge "land battleships" ranging from 60 to 70 tons. The Germans had 80-ton tanks during their swift conquest of the lowlands and France.

CLIPPER AT CANTON ISLAND

HONOLULU, July 15 (U. P.)—The American Clipper, blazing an air trail from San Francisco to New Zealand, was ready today to take off from Canton Island for Noumea, New Caledonia, on the fourth leg of its journey.

Here's Vacation Sun Tan Hints

STATE COLLEGE, Pa., July 15 (U. P.)—Science now can tell the summer vacationist where to get the best sun tan in the quickest way.

Dr. Helmut Landsberg, assistant professor of geophysics at Pennsylvania State College, has developed a new method for using ultra violet in solar and sky radiations by use of the photo-sensitive glass rods.

Using the photo-sensitive glass in nation-wide tests, Dr. Landsberg found the southern regions showed 30 to 50 per cent more ultra violet—hence quicker sun tan—than the northern.

Ray Piedras, Puerto Rico, had the highest recorded value while Tucson, Ariz., was a close second.

SCHOOL AID DEAD

MARTINSVILLE, Ind., July 15.—Raymond E. Blunk, recently elected vice-president of the County Superintendents Association of Indiana, and Morgan County superintendent of schools, died yesterday. He was 43.

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