

## UNSGNED HEROES FIGHT IN MALAYA

Most Dangerous Tasks Go  
To Little-Publicized  
Air Volunteers.

By GEORGE WELLER  
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SINGAPORE, Jan. 22.—They needed high explosives up north to delay the Japanese flooding down the western side of the Malayan peninsula, to send bridges leaping skyward and to make the way more suicidal along

Malaya's smooth rock ballasted roads for Japanese suicide squads. They had to have gelignite—fast.

Half a ton of the tricky stuff was loaded into what used to be a transport plane, a De Havilland-89, from a little Malayan airline. The pilot started northward. A few miles from the handkerchief-sized field in the jungle, he saw 30 Jap fighters darkening the sky and, hugging the tree tops, he managed to make the field at Ipoh.

"Here they come," he told officials at the field. "And say, where'd you want me to put this half-ton of business?"

"Get it down to the far end of the field, away from our other planes," said the officer in charge.

### Feels Like a Lepre

Feeling like a lepre, the gelignite porter taxied to the other end and concealed the plane. Although customarily he flies unarmed, he also obtained a machine gun.

The Japs came over, peeled off, and dove with guns spitting as bombs rained toward the other planes at the far end of the field.

The gelignite porter turned his gun loose and met one rush with fire from a point least expected. His bullets flopped off the Japs' armored sides, but managed to damage one plane badly enough to cause it to fall.

### They're Secret Heroes

That's just one of the wartime jobs of Malaya's least known body of heroes, about whom little has appeared in the local press—the Malayan volunteer air force.

Their activities are communications and what the censorship terms "other operations." Many are rubber planters, tin engineers and civil servants who learned to fly at the governmentally subsidized rate of \$3 an hour.

Most of these volunteers were members of Malaya's four principal flying clubs—at Penang, Kdala, Lumpur, Ipoh and Singapore. Now in uniform they are subordinated to the Royal Air Force.

### In Action Often

In Puss-Moths they trained Singapore's original searchlight crew and account for the latter's superiority to the ack-ack. They have also towed targets for ground fire. Liaison jobs are among their mentioned specialties.

When three members of the engine room staff of a freighter, ashore at Port Swettenham, were killed, the volunteer force flew three substitutes there in time to get the freighter from the harbor before the Japs arrived. At Kuantan they saved a Bleinheim by transporting an extra engine thither after the plane had been shot up on the field.

**DIES TO BROADEN PROBE**  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (U. P.)—Chairman Martin Dies (D. Tex.) of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, proposed today "to take up one nationalist organization after another" in his committee's investigation of Axis propaganda, most of which he said was anti-Semitic.

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