

## Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

Ernie Pyle is with the navy in the Far Pacific. This is an article written on his way.

IN THE MARIANAS ISLANDS (Delayed).—Our chief pilot on the last long leg of our flight from Honolulu to the Marianas was Lt. Cmdr. Don Skirvin. He's from the family that owns big hotels in Oklahoma City and even if you didn't know, you could tell from his creased hands and neck that he's a Texan or an Oklahoman.

Cmdr. Skirvin has never worked at the hotel business, though he has to have freedom, and god about the world. He has been flying 13 years—flew for oil companies in South America, went to Spain during the revolution and flew combat there.

Then came our war and he went into the navy and flew combat in the South Pacific. But he likes big planes best, and now is trans-Pacific skipper on these huge airships.

Just before daylight Cmdr. Skirvin sent the order back to wake me up, and asked me to come forward to the pilot's compartment. Then he had me sit in the co-pilot's seat, and from that exalted vantage point on this monster of the air I saw the dawn gradually touch and lighten the cottony acres of clouds out there over the wide Pacific.

*Beautiful... and Far From Home*

FLYING IS mostly monotonous and dull. But there are always little peaks of grandeur in every flight. Seeing this dawn come was one of them. It was an exaltation, and you couldn't help but be thrilled by it.

Cmdr. Skirvin takes movies as a hobby, and has taken 1500 feet of color film of just such dawns and sunsets as this one. He said the folks at home wrote that if he saw such things as this often, no wonder he liked to fly.

We came out of the boundless sky and over our island destination just a little after dawn. The island was green and beautiful—and terribly far from home—down there in the fresh dawn.

It seemed unbelievable that we could have drawn ourselves to it so unerringly out of the vast Pacific spaces. It was like a blind man walking alone across a field, and putting his finger directly on some previously designated barb of a wire fence on the other side. But as I say, they do it all the time. (Thank the Lord!)

Then Cmdr. Skirvin asked if I would like to stay up front while we landed. Indeed I would, for that

## Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

MORRIS MARER, the florist at 114 E. Ohio, thinks a certain motorcycle policeman deserves commendation. The cycle cop—Mr. Marer didn't get his name or number—was riding in the 100 block E. Ohio, last Thursday or Friday, when the lens fell off his headlamp and broke on the pavement. The officer stopped, detoured—traffic around him, picked up every particle of glass from the pavement and took it along with him. If more motorists would follow his example, precious tires would last longer.

We just learned that Pvt. Bob Carey has recovered the war souvenirs he lost in a taxicab here. He had managed to get them across the ocean and all the way here, before losing them. They were found and returned by the cab driver. ... We didn't know we had so many readers until we pulled a little boner Saturday. During an addled moment, we referred to a "general's gold star." We knew better. Generals wear silver stars, of course. ... The Junior C. of C. is throwing a party tomorrow night. It's a stag party, but, following the current trend of spelling names backwards, they call it a "Gats" party.

## Persistence Rewarded

THE TIMES' telegraph editor on leave, Cpl. Sexton E. (Red) Humphreys, is a persistent devil. He just never gives up. Back in 1935, he was a scholarship student in the University of Rome, candidate for a "Doctor in Letters" degree. He passed all the exams and wrote a 120-page thesis (in Italian) on the diplomatic relations between Italy and the United States during the period of Italian unification—1870. It was a fine thesis, but the Fascist government wasn't so sure about it. And before Red could get the red tape cut so he could submit the thesis, he had to come on home. Came the war, and Humphreys donned a uniform and went right back to Italy—as an army secretary-interpreter-translator. With dogged

determination, he hunted up his old professor, and went to work again getting the red tape cut. This time, helped perhaps by the fact we had just conquered Italy, he had more luck, and was permitted to submit his thesis. He emerged with flying colors, and his degree. Now it's Cpl. S. E. Humphreys, Litt. D. It's a hard way to get a degree, if you ask us. ... While we're on the subject of The Times' alumni, Pvt. Frank Widner, the sports writer, drops us a note to say he's back on dry land—in Iran. A couple of years ago, Frank would have given you odds of 10 to 1 that he'd never set foot in Iran, formerly known as Persia. P. S. Frank says: "If you get a chance, put in a good word for me." Spencer County (Ind.) chapter of the Red Cross. Imagine the thoughts of a homesick Hoosier at sea who receives a nice duffle bag containing cards, soap, candy, cigarette (1), books, etc., on shipboard, and in it, a greeting card from the Red Cross back in good old Indiana!"

## Belated Christmas Gift

THE CHRISTIAN Men "Builders" class sent a Christmas package last fall to Cpl. Fred Clark—formerly with Barbasol. Before it arrived, Cpl. Clark had left the Netherlands West Indies. The package was forwarded from place to place, never catching up. Just the other day, the postal service returned it to the C. M. B.'s "undeliverable." The C. M. B. proved it wasn't undeliverable. In a formal ceremony, the class presented the package to ex-Cpl. Clark, in person, Sunday morning. He's back in town now, after getting his honorable discharge a week or so ago. ... J. L. McCormick, 535 N. Central court, wonders how many others got a chuckle out of the double billing at the Ritz theater last week: "The Very Thought of You" and "Maisie Goes to Reno."

... A member of the School 91 P.T. A. has a suggestion for parents of school children who have pet dogs. "Keep the dogs penned up until the children get to school," she suggests. "Don't let the dogs follow the children to school. The dogs get in fights, and the children risk being bitten in separating them. Besides, the dogs hang around the schoolhouse door, darting in when the door is opened, and creating all sorts of commotion."

## America Flies

By Maj. Al Williams

IT WILL BE a long time before we get the low-down on the shortages of munitions on the combat fronts. Some day we will learn who decided that we had to march into Germany instead of brazening together the iron rings we laid about her in the shape of ground forces and then pounding her to surrender with airpower and airpower.

Remember that wasn't until long after the battle of Britain that the British themselves conceded that if the Nazis had maintained their airpower pressure another 72 hours they (the British) would have been helpless. I have a strong hunch that we'll hear much the same story from the Nazis after the war. Then, too, time will tell the reasons, if any, to be offered in support of the apparent decision that it was possible to have "too many and too much" airpower.

We agree that most of the Nazi talk about new and mysterious weapons is propaganda for home consumption and for the bolstering of home morale in the face of repeated reverses. Nevertheless, there still remains the possibility that a new freak weapon may yet be launched.

## Demonstration in First War

THE MOST formidable weapons of this war are the tank, the sub, the airplane and radio—all demonstrated on test-tube scale in world war I.

## My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Monday.—Saturday evening we came back to Washington and Sunday was a quiet day, with only a few friends coming in, until I went at 5 o'clock to a meeting at the John Wesley A. M. E. Zion church sponsored by the adult education group

of the Parent-Teacher associations. They have been holding discussions on the problems of children, particularly such problems as the war has high-lighted. It was a very full meeting and I thought it showed a commendable interest on the part of both parents and teachers.

After supper, with our son-in-law and our grandson, I went out again to a mass youth meeting at the National City Christian church. This church seems to be doing a very active work among young people. They have apparently a very varied program and the young people really participate—which is, after all, the secret of all good work. The meeting was crowded and I was happy to meet with some of them personally at the close of the meeting.

I held a press conference this morning. There is already great interest in hearing from my daughter of her experiences when she returns. All I could do was to promise that I would transmit the invitations.

"But, Joe, this AIN'T no snowball fight, ya know!"

## The Indianapolis Times

SECOND SECTION

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FROM THE SKIES, THEY PAVED THE WAY FOR THE ALLIES—

## Girl Paratroopers Helped Liberate France

By ROSETTE HARGROVE  
NEA Staff Writer

PARIS, Feb. 20—On a certain night six months before D-day a plane took off from its base "somewhere in England." Its mission? Parachuting arms, money, and instructions to the men of the resistance in France.

But the bomber also carried two men and a pint-sized French girl, 22 years old.

The three were going back to their native country to carry on an even more dangerous mission, knowing full well that if anything went wrong and they were caught by the Germans it meant being shot on the spot.

"THE JUMPING wasn't half as bad as the waiting," she commented when I met her a few days ago, just before she left for Brittany to marry a fellow parachutist, "I was over so quickly that I didn't have time to be scared."

Besides I had jumped three times during my training and was beginning to feel like an old hand at it."

That there were a number of young Frenchwomen in Great Britain training as parachutists was another of these "top secrets," the story of which can now be told.

"NONE of us knew how many we were," she said, "because we were trained separately."

"After a bit, though, when I met the same girls in the building at odd times, I concluded they must be doing the same sort of work that I was doing. But we never talked about it."

The normal training for women accepted for this highly specialized and dangerous work was three months. She trained only six weeks because she already knew a great deal about the type of work she would have to do.

"THEY HAD to learn to recognize every German uniform, know all about French rationing, food tickets, identity cards and a host of other details which were matters of everyday knowledge in France."

Actual jumping was just one phase of it, although their first jump in France conferred on them the right to be rated as parachutists.

"The most astonished man in the world was certainly the Ma-



Mademoiselles in lower photo may have been among those secretly trained in England as paratrooper girls. (Note sidearms.)

quis chief in charge of parachutists, the night he saw me fall from the skies," she chuckled.

"HE WAS LONGER and more complex was training as a "terrorist." Several weeks were devoted to the study of sabotage and radio transmission.

Not only was it essential to know how to use the instruments but the girls also had to learn to construct makeshift ones if the need arose.

They had to be instructed in secret codes as well as Morse.

"THEY HAD to learn to recognize every German uniform, know all about French rationing, food tickets, identity cards and a host of other details which were matters of everyday knowledge in France."

They learned to shoot (every woman parachutist carried a revolver), to wrestle, and also how to read staff maps.

"The most astonished man in the world was certainly the Ma-

quis chief in charge of parachutists, the night he saw me fall from the skies," she chuckled.

"WE WERE lucky that day. We were able to hide the trucks in a forest some 50 miles away, then walked another 15 miles through plowed fields to a village where we knew we would be given shelter.

"But that was only one of the many times when we were almost caught by the Boches."

"Only a few of the girls who trained in England were actually parachuted into France during the occupation. She was the second one to go."

"SHE IS a little proud of the fact that she "jumped" in France before her fiance, who also trained in England.

"They were unable to get in touch with each other during the six months her mission lasted but she always had the conviction they would meet again in their own country.

When I asked her what their plans for the future were, she smiled and said: "Personally I still hope to be sent on another mission when I return from my honeymoon, as I don't suppose the war will be over yet."

"AS FOR AFTER the war—well, I intend to go back to chemistry and pass my final examinations.

"I could never be content to stay at home and be a housewife. Besides, I believe France will need young women like me to carry on with the work of reconstruction.

"Then I shall produce a family, I hope."

Labor  
Soldiers Fire  
Job Questions  
At CIO Leader  
(Continued From Page One)

to the interests of the great mass of Americans. The biggest American political question, he said, is what will be done to advance Henry A. Wallace. Mr. Carey gave a sweeping pledge of unity between the C. I. O. and the returning war veterans.

About the world labor conference, Mr. Carey said, "I got a different impression of the Soviets than I had. I don't like American Communists because they don't have the courage to put their cards on the table, but the Russians we met here are different. There was no trickery, no intrigue. They talked straight from the shoulder."

"Our delegation's belief in political democracy did not suffer from this association," he said.

SGT. ED SAYER, of Elizabeth, N. J., and Cpl. Henry Murphy, of Detroit, asked why should a working man have to pay unions for the privilege of working at his trade in a closed shop, a problem which the unions will have to fight out after the war with the return of millions of men who never carried a union card.

Mr. Carey conceded that there was much controversy about this, but he argued that obligatory membership in a union works out to benefit individual as well as the whole group in general.

He declared that the union way is the way to prevent development of either communism or fascism in the United States.

HE PRESCRIBED full employment as the answer to all America's economic problems and said the formula should be written "by the common people and not by some investment banker in New York."

Chairman Meyer interjected, "there's a clause in the selective service act which guarantees your old job back."

Sgt. Meyer did not continue to outline the statement of officials that this clause must operate despite any unique agreement negotiated since the war started, that being one of the big union after-war problems when servicemen may claim legal priority on jobs now held by civilians.

There were questions about the annual intake of the C. I. O. from dues which Mr. Carey estimated on a national basis at 60 cents a year from 6,000,000 members.

CHAPLAIN MORTON FIERMAN, formerly a rabbi in Washington, D. C., asked about the progress of the plan for a Missouri souri authority.

The visitors went back to London convinced that if this was a true sample of the men in uniform overseas veterans will go home well-informed on domestic questions and determined to play a big part in our political and economic affairs.

We the Women  
So the Girls  
Wear Mink to  
Keep Warm?

By RUTH MILLETT

A GROUP of young Hollywood beauties, who recently visited Washington to raise money from citizens for a worthy social cause explained that the reason they all happened to be wearing mink coats was simply because they wanted to keep warm.

Uh-huh. And the reason women buy silly hats is because they are practical.

And they pile junk jewelry on themselves because it is absolutely essential.

And they do over their living rooms every so often because the furniture is really falling apart.

And they give parties because they are devoted friends of all the guests and thoroughly enjoy their company.

And they miss nylons because they were so nice and warm.

And they read best sellers because they are really the best books.

And they buy things they don't need because they are such bargains.

And they just happen to discover the very day they see a suit or dress that takes their fancy that they haven't a thing to wear.

Sure, sure. Women understand all about the warmth of mink.

## Up Front With Mauldin

Citizenship Flaw  
Covers 40 Years

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 20 (U. P.)

—After 40 years, Karl Frederick Elers, 73, has discovered that he was a man without a country.

In 1904, Elers, a native of Sweden, was given citizenship papers and began exercising the privileges of a citizen. Elers has voted, and taken pride in being an American.

Recently, however, he requested a copy of his citizenship papers and learned that they had not been signed by the presiding judge at the time of his application.

Yesterday Federal Judge F. P. Schoonmaker rectified the error by signing a court order declaring Elers a citizen since 1904.

RADIO PRODUCTION  
TO BE DEMONSTRATED

The Indiana Association for Education by Radio will sponsor a demonstration of radio production at a meeting Thursday. Rehearsal will be held at 1 p. m. and the program will be broadcast from