

# 'Slugs Were Cutting The Breeze All Around, But Perez Didn't Care'

By HUGH CRUMPLER  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
Luzon, July 20.—The talk around the fire halted for a minute. La Doughboy said, "tell us about it again, Max. How did he do it?"

Sgt. Max Polick, rugged squad leader from Medina, N. Y., rubbed his chin with a weary hand and started talking about Pfc. Manuel Perez, tiny paratrooper of the 11th airborne infantry division, who knocked out 12 pillboxes and killed at least 75 Japs to win the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The story was on everyone's

lips because yesterday, in a review at Lipa airstrip, Gen. Walter Krueger made the award posthumously.

Perez was killed a month after winning the nation's highest honor while covering his platoon's withdrawal from the edge of Santa Tomas in southern Luzon.

Polick, talking about the fight last Feb. 12, said, "Our company was attacking the line of Jap emplacements which defended the high ground ahead of us in depth."

"I was leading the squad on the right flank and Perez was on my

left and a little ahead. The Nip pillboxes were thickly covered by heavy sodding and logs. Smaller positions contained one to four riflemen, who covered the larger bunkers containing the automatic weapons."

Polick paused, and some other soldiers said, "Hell, those Japs are good with their automatics."

Polick, looking direct fire from 20 millimeter machine guns and there wasn't a helluva lot of cover."

"Immediately behind the main line of fortifications was a big concrete bunker which housed

twin 50 caliber machine guns. Perez ran out, ducking this way and that, with a armful of grenades.

"We covered him with fire as he ran from one pillbox to the next tossing his grenades into the ports and knocking out the guns. The only time he went was to go back for more grenades. After he had dusted off the pillboxes, the riflemen moved in and mopped up."

Perez said it was the "damnedest thing" he ever saw—the way little Perez crawled up to the biggest bunker right in the middle

of the heaviest automatic weapons fire.

Polick said, "Then he ran around to the front of the bunker and tossed in a couple of grenades. There was a helluva blast. Then Perez climbed to the top and dropped two white phosphorous grenades through a vent."

"I saw him flattened out and then the grenades exploded. There was lots of white smoke. Perez sat right in the middle of it, looking over at us and grinning. He held up his hand and made a circle with his thumb and first

finger. The slugs were cutting the breeze all around, but he didn't seem to care."

"Perez got the smaller pillbox next door by raising up his rifle and firing four times into it. Then he jumped down to the rear. Japanese were pouring out and he shot and killed eight with his rifle."

"One Nip crawled out and charged Perez from the rear. I yelled, 'Look out.' Perez turned just as the Nip hurled his bayonet like a spear. Perez used his rifle to knock down the flying bayonet. The shock knocked his

gun spinning. Perez grabbed up the Nip's rifle and bayonetted the howling Jap with it."

"Four more Japs then started out of the pillbox tunnel. Perez clubbed two to death, and bayonetted the other two. Then he entered the pillbox and found one live Jap. He bayonetted him."

Perez was the son of Manuel Perez Sr., Oklahoma City, Okla., but he had lived with his grandmother, Mrs. Emilie Perez, Chicago. Other soldiers remembered how the little guy had died.

One said, "He was the first I into Santa Tomas. We'd run into heavy machine gun fire

from Japanese positions in the ditches. Then they started throwing mortars at us."

The foremost men of Company A were pinned down on the edge of town, so Perez took a handful of grenades and started heaving them from behind a log.

He was backing away to get a new supply, firing his rifle, when a sniper's bullet caught him through the chest.

Perez was awarded the silver star posthumously for his work at Santa Tomas.

Everybody said it was hard to believe that one bullet could kill such a tough little man.

## ABDICTION OF LEOPOLD ASKED

Premier Says King Dealt With Hitler.

BRUSSELS, July 20 (U. P.)—Premier Achille Van Acker charged in the chamber of deputies today that King Leopold had dickered with Adolf Hitler over Belgium's future and demanded that the king "efface himself" and abdicate.

Van Acker rejected bluntly the suggestion of national plebiscite on the question of the king returning to Belgium. He called for support of Leopold's 14-year-old heir, Prince Baudouin.

He said that Leopold had believed the Germans would win the war and made "so many mistakes" that he should remove himself.

Van Acker said he did not believe that Leopold had actually betrayed Belgium.

Many Grave Mistakes

His remarks were made when Carton De Wiart, leader of the Catholic party which is supporting Leopold, introduced a bill calling for the return of the king.

"I consider he (Leopold) has not betrayed Belgium but, having believed in German victory, he committed so many grave mistakes, alas, that it only remains for him to efface himself," Van Acker declared.

Van Acker said that he had first tried to get the king to return to Belgium "after purging his entourage" but that this suggestion met only with indecision on Leopold's part.

### Talked With Hitler

He said the king did nothing to encourage the formation of the Belgian army in Britain and that "on the contrary, he and his entourage marked their disapproval for Belgians who tried to leave the country for England to join the Belgians."

Leopold, he said, had not only discussed political questions with Hitler but had initiated such conversations in which his sister, Marie Jose, participated.

Marie Jose, he said, "also had conversations with Hitler over whom she had a certain influence. Hitler told her Belgium would enter the German sphere in the new Europe with relative independence, a monetary union with Germany, military collaboration and Leopold would remain on the throne."

### INSTRUCTORS NEEDED FOR TRAINING SCHOOL

Several hundred civilian instructors will be needed by the army air forces to prepare returning airmen from the European theater for the Pacific war, military authorities at Chanute field, Ill., announced.

Appointments will be made through the U. S. civil service commission. Application forms may be obtained in room 524, Federal building.

The special need is for persons qualified to teach craftsmanship in aircraft sheetmetal work, aircraft welding, installations of propellers, instrument electrical hydraulics, structural repair, parachute rigging, engine repair, link trainer mechanics, electronics, celestial navigation and meteorology.

### BOYS FIND SHELLS, WISH THEY HADN'T

Two East side youths didn't have a shotgun yesterday but they found their own way of shooting off some shells.

Kenneth Goen, 9-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Goen, 3604 Prospect st., and Billy South, 11, of 1038 S. Ewing st., found some shotgun shells in a lot near the Goen home.

After trying to see what they were made of, Kenneth laid one of shells on a boulder in his home. He then smacked it with another boulder. The resulting explosion hit him and City hospital doctors took about 10 buckshot out of his left side.

Billy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy South, escaped injury.

### 14 MORE LOCAL MEN GET ARMY RELEASES

Fourteen more Indianapolis soldiers have been discharged at the Camp Atterbury separation center. First Lt. John R. Pfarr, 634 Eastern ave., will be placed on inactive status by the air corps, August 19.

Soldiers discharged under the service system are:

T. S. 1st Gr. S. Gr. S. Nicksen, 2742 Wintrop ave.; S. Sgt. Adrien O. Wedde, 241 S. Central ave.; S. Sgt. S. D. Drury, 242 S. Central ave.; S. Sgt. Roger O. Quinn, 426 Norwold ave.; T. Sgt. Irvin R. Hanesman, 761 St. Louis st.; 1st Sgt. Irvin R. Hanesman, 761 St. Louis st.; S. Sgt. H. Sowers, 961 N. Jefferson st.; and Pfc. James Ward, 1694 College ave.

More over 40 who were released include:

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PLAN SEWING MEETING

Korean Temple 80, Daughters of the Nile, will have an all-day sewing meeting for the Shriners' crippled children's hospital Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Wilma Vehling, 3851 Carrollton ave.

### WAVES to Have Birthday



Seaman 1-c Trudie Otto, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Otto, 1128 Carrollton ave., stationed at the navy radio school, Chicago.

### Special Unit to Be Formed As 3d Anniversary Feature

A special anniversary unit of Hoosier WAVES will be formed as the highlight of Indiana's observance, July 30, of the WAVES' three years of service.

More than 85,000 WAVES, about 400 of whom are stationed in Indiana, will observe the anniversary.

Lt. Cmdr. W. A. Chapman Jr., in charge of navy recruiting and induction in the state, said all Hoosier women who enlist in the WAVES during July and August will be members of the Third Anniversary unit.

### GROUP TO PASS ON PARKING METERS

A committee of public officials and civic leaders will be asked to recommend the make of parking meter to be installed in the mile square downtown area.

This was the decision of the committee board yesterday, after bids on 2000 meters were opened.

All bidders, offered to make delivery within 90 days and to install the meters on a six-month trial basis. The board went on record against awarding a contract to any firm until assured the meters were of suitable quality. This assurance it expects to get from the joint committee.

Robert Hoywood, a fireman from Station 7, rescued the baby from the burning room. The child died on the way to City hospital.

### 'HOT-FOOT' MURDER TRIAL NEARS CLOSE

The "hot-foot" murder trial of William J. Elife was drawing to a close today.

Final arguments were being presented to a criminal court jury of 10 women and two men by Defense Attorney Edward D. Lewis and Deputy Prosecutors Frank X. Haupt and Forman McCurdy.

The case will be given to the jury, possibly late this afternoon.

The 52-year-old defendant, William J. Elife, is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Clifford L. Gose, Dun Beverage truck driver, last Nov. 18. The tragedy occurred in a tavern at 25 S. West st., following a "hot-foot" incident in which Elife was the victim.

Two alienists appointed by Judge Bain declared yesterday that the defendant was sane at the time he allegedly fired two shots into Gose from a .32 caliber revolver. A plea of insanity was filed in behalf of Elife.

A delay of three days in the trial was caused by the death of the man appointed to teach the law of insanity to the jury.

The case will be given to the jury, possibly late this afternoon.

Other bidders were: M. H. Rhodes Co., Hartford, Conn., \$56; Dual Parking Device Co., Canton, O., \$68; Magee-Hale-Park-O-Meter Co., Oklahoma City, Okla., \$59.50, less 2½ per cent cash discount, and Karpark Corp., Cincinnati, O., \$67.35, less 5 per cent cash discount.

Those appointed to the committee are: Frank Y. Hardy, city traffic engineer; Police Capt. Andrew E. Jacobs, of the traffic division; H. P. Hollister, city plan commission director; Dr. R. N. Harger, of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; and Frank M. McCurdy.

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### RANKIN RENEWS ARMY RED FIGHT

#### Says Stimson, Patterson Should Be Dismissed.

WASHINGTON, July 20 (U. P.)—Rep. John E. Rankin (D. Miss.) today renewed his demand for the resignation of Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson because of his stand on granting of army commissions to former Communists.

Rankin's demand followed a press conference where Patterson declared that a man's past membership in a radical organization "is no test of his essential loyalty to the nation" and should not bar him from a commission.

The white-haired Rankin immediately replied that Patterson's own words "just verify my statement that he ought to resign."

The Mississippian told the house yesterday that Patterson, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, and Assistant Secretary John J. McCloy all should be dismissed for allowing ex-Communists to don the uniforms of American army officers.

#### What Record Shows

His criticism was the outgrowth of a house military affairs subcommittee report listing 16 army officers and enlisted men as persons "whose backgrounds reflect communism in some form."

Rep. R. Ewing Thomason (D. Tex.), chairman of the subcommittee, told the house the "record shows" that the 16 men had affiliated with organizations of Communists before the war.

Asked by Rep. Adolph Sabath (D. Ill.), about their war records, Thomason said it was a "fair statement" to say that the men had served to the best of their ability in the armed forces.

In a strong defense of the army's policy, Patterson told reporters that present rather than past beliefs should be the test of a man's loyalty to his country.

#### Defend Patterson

He said some members of the armed forces were accused of being Communists only because they "loathed" in the anti-Franco Abraham Lincoln brigade in the Spanish civil war.

All bidders, offered to make delivery within 90 days and to install the meters on a six-month trial basis.

Asked specifically if he thought any army commission should be denied a man because he at one time had been a Communist, Patterson replied:

"I don't think it should. Do you?"

Rankin's speech demanding removal or resignation of the three top war department officials brought a flood of protests from other house members.

#### State Deaths

ANDERSON—Bruce K. Skeoch, 39. Survivors: Wife; daughter, Roseann; son, James; and wife, Mrs. Ruth Blanchard; John Dyle, 89.