

Way Hedy Lamarr Helped to Win War Called 'Wonderful'

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN
Special Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—It is a pleasure today to report how Hedy Lamarr helped win the war.

You may have read about her inventing between clutches on the second stage an apparatus to exterminate Japs wholesale, but that's not the story. Not exactly.

I guess we'd better begin at the beginning, when I lived in Hollywood and labored faithfully six days a week calling upon beautiful movie stars, sitting down with them on soft, satin divans, and obtaining for publication their views on life, love, the international situation, and the best way for a girl to keep her stockings up.

Tight White Dress
This was nice work. In the spring of 1941 one of Miss Lamarr's numerous press agents phoned to say he'd just learned she had invented an astounding device for use in naval warfare. Bang. I slammed the receiver down and rushed to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayor.

Miss Lamarr was wearing the tightest white dress that ever interfered with a lady's breathing; she also had around her the arms of a guy named Gable, working in his last movie before he went off to the wars.

This Gable was, and for all I know, still is an expert smoocher. It was an education to watch him, but I had other business. When he'd finished his work, I go with Miss Lamarr into her dressing room, where she unhooked a couple of hooks so she could sit down. She also took off her shoes.

Strictly Confidential
She said, yes, she'd found time to invent an invention. She had sent the plans to the national inventors' council in Washington and had received a cordial note of thanks from her government.

Her apparatus was for fighting Japs and by the nature of things, hush-hush, top-secret and also strictly confidential.

I seem to recall that she talked then about the art of the cinema, but my mind never seemed to work properly when I was sitting on a couch with Hedy Lamarr. She was what you might call distracting, but Bulldog Othman never gave up. I called upon her again and again, and again. No luck. I'd look at her, she'd smile, and somehow I'd forget about science.

Magnetic Device
The years passed. My employers, worrying about how tired I looked from this grind, transferred me to Washington. The war ended. It was announced later that Miss Lamarr's invention consisted of a magnetic device, controlled by radio, to guide torpedoes into the sides of Jap warships. The government made no other comment.

The council now is in the process of folding up. The plans of the 300,000 inventions submitted by patriotic Americans are stored in the files, while the hundreds of genuinely practical ones still are being used by the army and the navy.

The council has only 17 employees left. They're looking for other jobs and feeling proud of the lives and the millions of dollars saved by the inventions they sifted.

Best Advertising
I got to talking to one of the engineers about Miss Lamarr. He said her invention did the government a tremendous service. He was gallant, but he also was honest and he said, no, her torpedo control never was used.

Fact was, he said, it was not nearly so practical as dozens of other similar devices. I asked him what he meant then by her tremendous service?

"Just that," he said. "When word got out that Hedy Lamarr had invented a new kind of weapon, it was the best possible advertising. The other inventors simply showered down with their ideas."

Hedy, your government thinks you're wonderful. I always did think so.

NATURAL GAS USERS TO GET \$4,500,000
A special committee has been named by the public service commission to draw up plans for the distribution of about \$4,500,000 to customers of natural gas utilities in the state outside of Indianapolis.

The money involved is part of \$25,000,000 collected by the U. S. court of appeals in Kansas City and held in escrow as a result of a federal power commission order in 1943 reducing rates of the Panhandle-Eastern Pipe Line Co.

Appointment of the committee to distribute the refund followed a meeting of the commission with representatives of several utilities yesterday.

The plan for distribution to customers served indirectly by Panhandle must be approved by the FCC and by the federal court on or before March 2.

RADIO EDUCATION TO BE OUTLINED
"What Radio Is Doing to Us" will be the subject of an address by Dr. Franklin Dunham at the Indiana Association for Education by Radio meeting at 3:30 p. m. Monday in World War Memorial.

Dunham, newly appointed director for U. S. office of education for many years education for National Broadcasting Co. is credited with much in educational radio.

Dr. Dunham was sent to the secretary of education. He is of G. E. broadcast from a migration to the new BW, will be heard in Washington after the



Hedy Lamarr

FATAL DISEASE MARS ADOPTION

Baby Purchased From Swami May Not Live.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 24.—The wife of a discharged sailor was told by an "astrologer" that she was born to be a "wonderful mother."

And she said she thought he was kind when he "sold" her an "opera stars" baby for \$125.

Today Mrs. Robert Blucker, the "mother," discovered that the month-old girl had an inherited, probably fatal disease.

Police went looking for the unnamed astrologer. They said he had packed his crystal ball and vanished.

The baby, Bobbie Jean, lay near death in General hospital. It was taken there after Mr. and Mrs. Blucker discovered that it turned black when they fed it.

Has One Chance in 40
Doctors said that the infant had only one chance in 40 of surviving and, if it recovered, it would be blind.

Its condition must have been known to whoever gave the baby for adoption, attendants said.

"We consented to the unusual adoption because we wanted a baby more than anything else in the world and couldn't have one of our own," Mrs. Blucker said.

Her chief machinist mate husband recently was discharged after eight years in the navy.

"We had known a neighbor of ours for about two weeks," the wife said. "He said he was an astrologer and could see that we wanted children."

"He asked me my birth date and after he looked it up in a book of astrology told me that I would make a wonderful mother."

"A few days later he asked me if I would like to get a baby. He said he knew an opera star who had given birth to a baby, but that it was up for adoption because its father wasn't her husband."

She said they were to pay for it with Mr. Blucker's \$100 mustering-out check, plus \$25.

Mrs. Blucker said they had the baby less than 24 hours before they discovered it was ill.

Mrs. Blucker said she had learned that the baby was born in a private hospital but had been sent to a welfare agency for care when its real parents discovered its condition.

She said the parents later notified the hospital that private adoption proceedings were under way—apparently through the neighborhood soothsayer.

CAFE PATRON SHOT AFTER ARGUMENT
A blast from a shotgun put an end to an argument between two men in a restaurant at 502 Blake st. early this morning and landed one in City hospital with chest wounds.

Police said Albert Sloan, 25, of 418 Blake st., was struck by a charge from the shotgun allegedly fired through a window by Hosie Chappell, 23-year-old operator of the restaurant. When Chappell ordered Sloan out of the restaurant, the latter allegedly made threatening remarks, police said.

Chappell, police said, fired through the window. He was slated for vagrancy. Sloan's condition was reported as "fair."

14 CARS RANSACKED HERE IN ONE NIGHT
Police were harassed by another car looting episode last night when 14 autos were ransacked.

Six were parked in the vicinity of the 200 block N. West st. Five were in the Antlers hotel parking lot at Meridian and St. Clair sts. Others were at 21 N. Harding st., Michigan and Meridian sts. and the 500 block N. New Jersey st.

Most expensive item taken was a pair of binoculars, stolen from a car owned by Arthur C. Holt, 21 N. Harding st. Many windows and windshields were broken.

MAN AND TWO WOMEN VICTIMS OF FOOTPADS
Footpads robbed a man and two women in the city last night, but their net gain was hardly worth their trouble.

The biggest haul went to the two men who grabbed William Melvin, 49, of 5125 Matthews st., at Vermont and West sts. They took his billfold with \$18, police reported.

SHORT BLAMES TIEUP OF RADAR

Says Shipment Was Not Made to Hawaii.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (U. P.).—The Pearl Harbor committee received a report today that radar equipment ordered by the army's Hawaiian defense command was lying idle on Oakland, Cal., docks at the time of the Pearl Harbor disaster.

Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, commander of army defenses in Hawaii, had told the committee of his fight for priorities to get radar equipment for anti-aircraft protection.

Telegram Unsolicited
Today he read to the committee a telegram from a former signal corps major reporting that radar towers he could have used were delayed in transit.

The telegram was sent yesterday from Waterloo, Ia., by George D. Leask, former major in the army signal corps. Short said he didn't

know Leask and that the telegram had come to him unsolicited. In the telegram, Leask told Short that he was transferred to Oakland, Cal., on Dec. 10, as assistant signal officer for the San Francisco port of embarkation.

"Lying on the Oakland pier for a long time were three 100-foot radar towers No. SCR 271," he wired. "In my opinion if these radar towers had not been delayed on the Oakland docks you could have used them to good advantage Dec. 7, 1941," the wire concluded.

Installed in U. S. First Short said he understood that army defense commands at New York, Seattle and San Francisco had radar "completely installed" before the Hawaiian command received any equipment.

Short told the committee when Japan struck his command was alerted only against sabotage because there was nothing in advice from Washington to threaten any other form of attack.

"There was nothing before me to show an attack on Hawaii," he testified. "There was the likelihood of sabotage."

Short argued that his estimate of the situation, based on the information he had, was logical. He said that officers in military

intelligence at Washington who also didn't have intercepted Japanese messages available to the high command arrived at the same conclusion in an "estimate of the situation" they drafted Nov. 29.

Committee members considered recalling Maj. Gen. Sherman Miles, former chief of army intelligence, as result of Short's earlier testimony.

FIRST GRADUATION FOR G. I.'S PLANNED
Hammond high school will hold the first regular G. I. commencement in America Feb. 15 when more than 50 high school diplomas will be presented to war veterans.

Dr. Clement T. Malan, state superintendent of public instruction, will speak. A special purple heart G. I. commencement was held at Billings hospital last September, giving the Indiana public school system another first in its service to veterans.

The graduating class at Hammond will be composed entirely of veterans who have completed requirements prescribed by the general education development test for graduation from the high school department of Hammond schools.

TOWN RETURNS TO THE UNION

Last Rebel Votes to Annul Secession in 1861.

TOWN LINE, N. Y., Jan. 24 (U. P.).—This crossroads village was wrapped in gay hunting today.

At sunrise, stars and bars of the confederacy were raised above a weather-beaten blacksmith shop. There in Civil war days, angry citizens signed the articles of secession which separated the town politically from the rest of its western New York neighbors.

"Truman square," buzzed with excitement as residents predicted that before nightfall the once-proud Confederate banner would have given way to the stars and stripes.

Activity was at its height in front of the blacksmith shop. A hay rack-decked with red, white and

blue—served as a speakers' stand for orators, determined to lure the hamlet back into the Union.

When the voting date was announced several weeks ago, surrounding communities enthusiastically joined to remove what some upstate New Yorkers termed "the blot on our escutcheon."

Political leaders eagerly promised to aid in the verbal battle to win over the Town Line's die-hard Confederates.

Police escorts were provided for a motorcade of visiting Hollywood celebrities. The 85-piece Lancaster high school band promised the services of its 44 members who have uniforms.

Truman Recommends Veal
When President Truman was informed that the town was "in turmoil over factional differences," he recommended "roast veal as a vehicle of peace." So, barbecue sandwiches were on the menu for luncheon before today's balloting.

It was at the President's suggestion that Town Line's leaders called a public meeting last October. At that time, the ordinance of 1861, which sent the town into the confederacy when it remained as the last citadel, was repealed.

Somebody suggested that voting

on such a vital question as rejoining the union should be postponed until such time as the town's world war II veterans were around to have a say in the matter.

The citizenry then appealed to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey for special protection during their "period of suspended animation."

By early this month most of the veterans were home and considerably irked to find their community had become a town without a country. At their request, the voting was set for today.

HEARINGS ARE SET FOR 2 POLICEMEN
Dates for trial before the safety board of two Indianapolis policemen on misconduct charges were set by the board today.

Patrolman John Madden will be tried at 9:30 a. m. Thursday on a charge of failing to report for duty on Dec. 26.

Patrolman Robert Rowe, alleged to have driven the police car in which Patrolman Michel Burns is charged with attacking Mrs. Margaret Leitzman, will be tried at 2 p. m. Feb. 7.

No date has been set for the trial of Patrolman Burns.

ERICA MORINI VIOLINIST

AYRES AUDITORIUM FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Trilby FASHIONS Pacific Mills

Suits that are brimming over with young springtime loveliness for you in gay flower-pastels of the very softest wools. 16.99

Sizes 10 to 20

Budget Shop, Third Floor

1. Advertised in February Charm.
2. Advertised in February Ladies Home Journal. (Tip-Toe Sissies).
3. Advertised in February Glamour.

THURSDAY NEWS TRAFFIC

Four Killed 8 Inj.

(Continued)

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