

# Mortar Shell Failures Halted Shipments, Committee Hears

## ARMY STOPPED SHELL SUPPLY, PROBERS TOLD

Officer Reveals Stock on Hand Impounded as Defective.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (U. P.)—The Mead committee today disclosed a report that the army several times halted all war-time shipments of mortar shells to battlefronts.

This was done rather than risk sending defective ammunition which might kill American soldiers.

Chairman James M. Mead (D. N. Y.) also announced that "first-hand knowledge" of shell failures is being sought from some 50 officers and enlisted men who have written to the committee.

Each has been sent a detailed questionnaire.

Information regarding the mortar shells was sent to the senate's war investigating committee by the former commander of a chemical warfare service depot in Europe.

Defective Shells Impounded

He wrote that "on numerous occasions" no shipments could be made to front-line troops because the entire stock on hand was "impaired" as defective.

The first disclosure that faulty 4.2-inch mortar shells had exploded prematurely in combat, killing and maiming American troops, was made during the committee's inquiry into the Garson munitions combine.

Senator Mead stressed, however, that the shell investigation is being pressed as a matter entirely apart from any excessive war profits made by the 16-firm Garson syndicate.

Summer Deaths Reported

One army officer wrote the committee to dispute statements that shell failures occurred only in winter and that "only a couple of thousand shells" were defective.

"I commanded a depot and I know that in the summer (July) of 1944, in Normandy, deaths were caused by defective shells and that shipments of these defective shells were still being received from the United States up to May and June of 1945, at the port of Ghent, Belgium," he wrote.

"During this time, at least 50 defective lot numbers were impounded . . . and until V-J day, over 500,000 shells were being reworked to correct the defects in them, so that they could be reshipped to the Pacific theater.

"On numerous occasions, we were unable to make any shipments to the front, because of all stock, upward of 100,000 shells, were all impounded."

Another soldier wrote the committee that it should be able to learn the names of manufacturers of the defective shells that killed American troops in the Battle of the Bulge by securing battalion orders issued at the time.

Tighter Laws Forecast On Campaign Donations

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (U. P.)—The \$2500 check which Rep. John Coffey (D. Wash.) received from a war contractor may lead to tightening of laws governing campaign contributions.

Some senators wanted a new law to require every congressman to list every campaign contribution—regardless of whether it was received in a campaign or non-campaign year.

The senate war investigating committee's two-day hearing on the check produced a flood of conflicting testimony.

But it emphasized that present laws permit representatives sometimes to go for nearly two years without reporting sums they receive for campaign expenses.

A congressman now is required to report between 10 and 15 days before a general election all contributions received between the primary and the final election.

A second report must be filed within 30 days after the final election. But then they don't have to report again until the next election.

Senator William F. Knowland (R. Cal.) said this left "a loophole in the law as wide as a barn door."

Committee Chairman James M. Mead (D. N. Y.) said the committee might recommend to the privileges and elections committee of both houses that they prepare legislation requiring a virtually continuous report on all political contributions.

Rep. Coffey contended during the hearings that when his secretary, Paul A. Olson, received a \$2500 "campaign contribution" from Elvind Anderson, Tacoma war contractor, in May, 1941, it was unnecessary to report it because it was in a non-campaign year.

## Attorneys Meet Heirens; May Reconsider Refusal to Talk

CHICAGO, Aug. 1 (U. P.)—Three attorneys for William Heirens, 17-year-old admitted slayer of Suzanne Degnan and two women, conferred with him at county jail today. There was speculation that Heirens might soon agree to talk freely to state's attorney's officials.

John Coghlan and Alvin Hansen, two of the attorneys, first entered the conference with Heirens. A third attorney, Malachy Coghlan, joined them after he was summoned from court where he was appearing on behalf of another client.

State's Attorney William J. Tuchy and Capt. Tim O'Connor, who has played a prominent part in investigation of the Degnan case, were in conference. They were joined by Richard Austin, assistant state's at-



## HER ABDUCTION TALE HOAX, WOMAN SAYS

By ROBERT RICHARDS  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (U. P.)—Mrs. Barbara Walker styled herself a "poor fibber" today and admitted her story about being abducted by a "clean-cut young man" was a hoax.

The young matron turned up waiting tables at a high Sierra roadside cafe. She had been the object of a nation-wide search since last Thursday, when she disappeared from a family picnic at Echo Lake, N. H.

Under the questioning of Sheriff Lowell O. West, Mrs. Walker broke down and admitted her disappearance was the aftermath of a spat with her husband at the picnic. She flew to Reno, Nev.

## Puffing Cigaretts Is an Art, School Offers Free Course

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (U. P.)—You must use a cigarette holder, if you puff from behind a beard. And it's all right to wiggle your ears to let stale smoke out.

You can even inhale in a crowded elevator, so long as you don't burn the buttons off any fat man's vest. I'm not trying to tell you what to do. I don't even smoke.

But there's a smoking school starting Aug. 10 on Fifth avenue—the first of its kind in the nation—and you may as well know all the answers before you go to class.

The school, backed by a large tobacco corporation, is strictly for free. The professors hope that their pupils will become graduate customers.

Head Prof. Saul C. Korn said to-

day that his agenda was all lined up. "People will smoke, no matter what you tell them," he explained. "So they may as well do it right."

Mr. Korn plans to use six-inch cigarettes, so that the pupils may puff away for an evening lesson without a refill.

"We're chiefly after the 'puffer,'" he said. "We want to correct the nervous type. He exhales in short bursts, like a steam engine on a steep grade, and usually hangs his neighbor right in the mouth."

Mr. Korn also scorns the "curler," who permits smoke to seep gradually from the corners of his mouth and to curl up around his nose and eyes into his hair.

"In the hair," Mr. Korn said, "you can smell it for a week."

The school hopes all its graduates will become "blowers"—who

## THREE LOCAL CLUBS TO SPONSOR DANCE

Members of the Sultan, D. M. O. and Chi Delta clubs will serve as hosts at a *Severna* dance in the Colonial Terrace tonight from 8:30 to 11 p. m.

Ed Hall and his band will play for the dance, which will be a weekly feature at Christian Park under the direction of the city parks and recreation department.

John Yoder, Don Henkle, Tim Roberts, Carol Schneider, Jean Shaffer and Pat Kennedy will be in charge of the activities.

Corp. Joe Doodin will direct a palaver of games which will begin at 7 p. m. on the tennis courts. Mrs. Frances Lomax and Miss Lola Pfeiffer are the sponsors.

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