

Hot Spot For Army Engineers Runs From Pole To Africa

Face Charges Of Laxity At AF Bases

By RICHARD STARNES
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31—The Army's Corps of Engineers is in trouble from Greenland to Tripoli.

Charges of multi-million dollar waste and graft at air bases under construction in North Africa and Greenland are being investigated by the Senate Preparedness Committee. The Army Engineers are in charge of both projects.

The Greenland base is classified as secret and goes by the code name "Bluejay."

How well the secret has been kept can be judged from the fact that, shortly after construction began, radio programs were beamed at the workers from a Russian transmitter.

The broadcasts, conducted by a female disc jockey who was promptly dubbed "Moscow Mollie," aimed to wreck morale.

One of Moscow Mollie's favorite gambits was to tell the workers that their wives back home were being forced into prostitution because their allotment checks were not being delivered.

But it is doubtful that anything could damage the morale of a laborer being paid at the rate of \$13,000 a year, or a carpenter earning at the rate of \$18,000.

3 Million in Wages

Committee hearings disclosed that more than \$3 million was paid in wages before construction crews ever got to the job site. Moreover, the workers were paid some \$300,000 in standby pay before they ever left this country.

"Bluejay" is close to the North Pole and the construction season is limited to only a few months. Army engineers testified that part of the huge pre-job payroll was caused when a ship load of workers was held fast in the ice pack for 42 days on a voyage which normally takes only 15 days.

The total cost of "Bluejay" is secret, although it has been conceded it will be nearly as much as the estimated cost of all five North African bases—roughly \$300 million.

Chairman Lyndon Johnson (D. Tex.) of the Preparedness Committee hopes to hold additional hearing on the Greenland project before the construction season opens in a few weeks.

The North African bases, in French Morocco, have been under fire from Sen. Johnson's committee and from a House expenditures subcommittee.

An Army auditor told the House committee that waste, kickbacks and "conspiracy" to boost prices have cost \$50 million on the Moroccan bases. William J. Cassidy, the Army Audit Agency's resident auditor in North Africa, testified that:

Lack of competitive bidding on



United Press Telephoto.

KISS FROM THE BRIDE—Werner W. Reininger, 22, Marine quadruple amputee, receives a kiss from his bride, the former Jeanette Stretton, 21, after their marriage in Oakland, Cal., Naval Hospital. The San Antonio sergeant and his bride will make their home in Texas.

material purchases resulted in vastly increased cost to the government.

"Kickbacks" on purchases occurred. Collusion between sellers and contractors caused overcharges ranging from 25 to 110 per cent. Excessive drinking, loafing and sleeping by employees.

Gifts for Idle Hours

Gifts went to contractors' agents from employees who received pay for time not worked.

Some purchasing personnel earned commissions on their purchases.

The government was being "cheated out of discounts" it should have had.

Senate investigators also heard reports that the work being done on the bases was sub-standard and "mediocre."

The Army reacted swiftly to the disclosures of waste and inefficiency in North Africa. Army Secretary Frank Pace removed the two top Army engineers in charge of the projects and promised Sen. Johnson he would shut the work down if the shake-up did not prove adequate.

Bess Urged Harry to Step Down

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House Reporter

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31—Politicians from Congress to the Kremlin found it hard to believe, but the key to President Truman's decision not to run again was his wife.

His "beautiful little girl with golden curls," with whom he was first "smitten" at the age of six, had more to do with his bowing out of the White House than all the machine politicians put together. She was not the sole factor, but a highly important one.

Mrs. Truman knows better than any other person outside of the President, himself, the physical and emotional toll 17 years of official life in Washington have taken from her husband.

Seven of those years have been in the White House. She shares with him a deep yearning for life without pressure, and in comparative privacy.

Consequently, she has for some time encouraged the idea of his not running again. Mrs. Truman has too much respect for her husband's own judgment to use tactics more forceful. But she has made no secret of her desire to leave the fishbowl life of the White House.

Her desire to leave the White House reached an all-time high on Nov. 1, 1950, when two Puerto Ricans tried to shoot their way into Blair House and kill the President. Mrs. Truman was alarmed and frightened.

Since the President made his announcement, Mrs. Truman has been jubilant. At the big Democratic Party reception yesterday afternoon she was noticeably relaxed and glowing. She even smiled while the flashbulbs were snapping. More often she squints.

Aside from Mrs. Truman's feelings, one political school of thought here believes that Mr. Truman was deeply impressed by the strong showing Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower made in the Minnesota and New Hampshire primaries. This school thinks that Mr. Truman believes Gen. Eisenhower will get the GOP nomination.

Another factor is best described as occupational fatigue. In recent months he has spoken repeatedly of the "imprisonment" of the presidency. He feels as Thomas Jefferson did that a President lives in "splendid misery."

Mr. Truman has chafed increasingly at being trailed day and night by a growing pack of reporters and photographers. He wants to be able to go to church without cops. He'd like to read a newspaper and hear a broadcast without finding himself as a target for criticism. He'd like to play a little sinless poker.

Reds Suggest Kefauver-Kerr Battle Watched in Nebraska

By United Press

OMAHA, Neb., Mar. 31—The Democratic race in tomorrow's Nebraska presidential primary took on new significance today after President Truman stepped out of the 1952 race.

Sens. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma were set to tangle in the first full-fledged contest since Mr. Truman's status at last was cleared up.

And the battle promised to draw a near record vote.

The Republican contest will be a write-in battle with supporters of Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio and Gen. Dwight Eisenhower seeking to edge Harold E. Stassen, the only prominent GOP hopeful whose name will appear on the ballot.

The polls open at 8 a. m., and the turnout was predicted as high as 300,000—the most since 1940 and the fifth largest in history.

The Republicans will elect 18 delegates, and the Democrats will elect 12. They are not bound by the outcome of the race, but many are informally pledged.

Kefauver Seen as Wisconsin 'Shoo-In'

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Mar. 31 (UP)—Sen. Kefauver today was considered by his backers as a hands-down winner in tomorrow's Wisconsin primary after President Truman bowed out.

But the Republican contest was a four-way slugfest between Mr. Stassen, Sen. Taft, Earl Warren of California and a "favorite son" running as a stand-in for Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Most observers felt the GOP battle was a do-or-die testing ground for all four—particularly Mr. Stassen and Mr. Taft.

But Mr. Truman's announce-

ment that he wanted to vacate the White House left Sen. Kefauver opposed only by two pro-Truman candidates, although organization Democrats speculated that Mr. Truman would accept a convention "draft."

Generally, the polls will open at 5:30 a. m., Indianapolis time and remain open until 7 p. m., depending on the size of the community.

The primary was expected to turn out a record vote of about 1 million. In 1948, only 700,000 persons voted in the primary.

Ten delegates-at-large are elected and are pledged to the candidate polling the largest statewide vote.

Twenty other delegates, two each from the state's 10 congressional districts, are elected and go to the candidate drawing the largest vote in each district.

Election officials have put their foot down on write-in votes, which automatically ruled out any showing for Gen. Eisenhower who will not appear on the ballot.

However, through a peculiar arrangement Mr. Stassen pulled out of the hat last week, Gen. Eisenhower will have half of whatever delegates Mr. Stassen gets pledged to vote for him on the first ballot at the July GOP convention.



United Press Telephoto.

AMPLE—"Plenty of room!" says 230-pound Jack Weick as he sits in the Henry-J police car figuring in the New Baltimore, Mich., controversy. Policeman Charles Ackley, who complained he had trouble fitting his 260 pounds into the auto, was fired on grounds of "inadequacy." Mr. Weick says he is buying a Henry-J to carry him and his musical instruments to cabaret jobs.

Kokomo Rites Set For Howard W. Ellers

Times State Service

KOKOMO, Mar. 31—Services for Howard W. Ellers, local funeral director and businessman, will be at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church here.

Born in Miami County, Mr. Ellers worked several years in Indianapolis after his graduation from the College of Mortuary Science.

Survivors are his wife, Blanche; two sons, Joseph and Gale, and two daughters, Mrs. Charles Fisher and Mrs. Edward Rayl, all of Kokomo; three brothers, Russell, Kokomo; Edward, Dayton, O.; and George Jr., Chicago.

Official Weather

UNITED STATES WEATHER BUREAU
—Mar. 31, 1952—

Sunrise 5:52 Sunset 6:00
Precipitation 24 hrs. ending 7:30 a. m. .00
Total precipitation since Jan. 1 .10
Excess since Jan. 1 .49

The following table shows the temperature in other cities:

Station	High	Low
Atlanta	73	38
Boston	49	38
Chicago	64	49
Cincinnati	72	34
Cleveland	61	33
Denver	65	33
Evansville	72	33
Indianapolis	71	34
Kansas City	72	39
Los Angeles	72	59
Miami	77	71
Minneapolis-St. Paul	59	39
New Orleans	75	44
New York	54	49
Oakland	72	46
Pittsburgh	74	39
San Antonio	78	48
San Francisco	71	49
St. Louis	71	51
Washington, D. C.	58	41

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Social Democrats Lead In Bavarian Elections

MUNICH, Germany, Mar. 31 (UP)—The Social Democrats, bitter opponents of German rearmament, held a slight edge over West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's Christian Democratic party today in early returns from yesterday's local elections.

The results so far also indicated that the Communists were being badly beaten.

Popular vote figures were not yet available in the balloting for mayors, town councilors and other local government officials.

With about half the ballots counted, returns showed the anti-rearmament Socialists with 28.7 per cent, compared with 23.4 per cent in the last elections for the same district in 1948.

Opera Stars Wed

NEW YORK, Mar. 31 (UP)—Opera stars Roberta Peters and Robert Merrill were married here yesterday. Mr. Merrill, 34, met his 21-year-old bride while both were appearing in "The Barber of Seville" at the Metropolitan last year.

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