

FLIGHT

LD - Am + P+S - Fri. Oct 4, 1946

Here's the latest on the Army super-fortress, the "Pacusan Dreamboat", now winging its way from Honolulu to Egypt, over the North Polar regions:

Running into a storm five hundred miles from Sitka, Alaska, on the first leg of the ten thousand mile journey, the B-29 has climbed to five thousand feet and is making good time.

The ~~new~~ schedule is exciting. At about five-thirty tomorrow morning they'll fly over the Magnetic Pole. Not over the North Pole. But, the Magnetic Pole is not so far away - in King William Land. Then from the Magnetic Pole on to Greenland. then to Iceland, and on to Britain. Right over London; then down across France and Italy and on over the Mediterranean to Egypt.

The flight was originally billed as a trans-polar sky voyage from Honolulu to Cairo, but that has been lengthened, and the latest word is that the crew of the Pacusan Dreamboat intend to fly as far south of Cairo as they can -- ~~down towards~~ ^{deep into} Central Africa. The indications are, if all goes well, they ~~will~~ ^{may even reach The Sudan.} ~~get to a point some hundreds of miles south of Cairo.~~ ~~and~~ The main purpose? ~~will be served~~ To pioneer the skyway from continent to continent, across the Pole.

^{IT} There is a crew of ten aboard. The Commander -- Colonel C.S. Irvine of St. Paul, Co-Pilot Lieutenant Colonel Beverly Warren of Omaha. They waited for thirty-four days, watching reports on the Arctic Weather -- until the predictions for the condition of the sky over the Polar Regions was just right. At first they intended to break the distance flying record -- which the Pacusan Dreamboat itself had made. Weeks ago there was a headline, how the B-29 had flown non-stop from Guam to the United States. That was the longest aerial voyage that had ever been ~~made up to that time --~~ ^{made up to that time --} ~~made up to that time --~~ ^{made up to that time --} nearly

eight thousand miles. ~~That time,~~ But only last Tuesday, the record was shattered ~~to smithereens~~ by the Navy's Truculent ^{Turtle} ~~luxite~~, which flew non-stop from Perth, Australia -- to Columbus, Ohio, ~~nearly over~~ ^{some} eleven thousand miles.

The span across the Polar top of the earth, from Hawaii to Egypt, is about ten thousand miles, and the Pacusan Dreamboat can't do much more than that -- no hope of breaking the record.

The the flight is a history-maker of the most prodigious kind, [^] across the top of the globe, from the tropics on one side almost to the tropics on the other. Circumpolar sky voyages have been made in the past -- by Soviet flyers who flew from Artic Russia to Arctic Alaska. But this Dreamboat epic is only a few thousand miles short of the ultimate wonder of flying from the equator on one side of the world, via the North Pole, to the equator on the other side.

There's every hope that the monumental voyage of the sky will be a success. Hawaii reports that the

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weather conditions are still generally ideal. despite the local storms the aircraft is now riding. Still, there's always a chance of a mishap -- and the crew of ten aboard are provided with all sorts of equipment that may be necessary if they should be forced down in the polar regions and have to make their way across the Arctic ice pack, shooting game for food, and keeping alive in the intense cold.

Hope is high that they'll make it. The schedule calls for a thirty-eight hour flight, taking the Dreamboat down in Egypt, south of Cairo. "As far as I can go", says the Skipper of the Dreamboat."

MEAT

President Truman held a cabinet meeting today and the subject was -- the meat famine. It doesn't appear that any plans were devised to ease the shortage.

All we have are lugubrious predictions.

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, emerging from the cabinet meeting, stated that the housewives of the nation may as well resign themselves to meat shortages lasting until next summer. He blamed the famine on the overconsumption of meat during the period when the OPA ceilings were off, ^{and} said he wasn't too much worried about political effects -- election day drawing nearer and nearer.

LEGION

~~American legionnaires wound up a relatively
staid convention in San Francisco tonight. Most of
the day was devoted to business.~~

Before ending their twenty-eighth national
meeting, the legionnaires ^{in San Francisco} elected ~~a new~~ national
commander, ~~for Nineteen forty six - forty seven,~~
Paul Griffith, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania,
~~Griffith,~~ a forty-nine year old veteran of World
Wars one and two, ^{to} succeeded John Stelle of Illinois,
whose policies ~~Griffith~~ ^{he} pledges to carry on.

~~Now Stelle's policies have consisted in the
pain of criticising the Veterans Administration
headed by General Omar Bradley. In their last meeting
today, the legionnaires made it plain that such
criticism of the General suits them fine, and again
they took exception to General Bradley's "on-the-
job-training-for veterans" plan before the meeting
adjourned.~~

~~Then, having gotten out of the way the electi
of next year's leader,~~ The legion ^{also} adopted a program

with these main points:

Full preparedness, and a compulsory military training period of four months - ~~which incidentally,~~ two months less than the period ^{asked} ~~demanded~~ by war Secretary ~~Robert~~ Patterson.

~~The Legion also is calling for~~ ^{also} unified command of the armed forces; retention of atomic bomb ~~and~~ secrets; and, full investigation of excessive war profits.

CABINET

Prime Minister ~~Clement~~ Attlee of Great Britain shook up his cabinet tonight -- Britain's first big cabinet shuffle since the labor government moved into office a year ago last July.

British sources say the move is intended to strengthen England's ^{national} defense. ~~set up~~. At any rate, Attlee has created a new ministry of defense. ~~the Ministry~~ ^{To fill} ~~the Ministry~~ will be ^{A.} Albert V. Alexander, until now first Lord of the Admiralty, ~~and a familiar name to thousands of Americans who served in Great Britain during the war.~~

A.V. Alexander now ~~has~~ ^{has} the task of formulating a common policy for all three branches of ^{John Bull's} ~~the~~ armed services. ~~states~~ Only one step short of actual merger, the kind of merger ^{we have talked of} ~~many of our military men~~ ^{and done little about.} ~~are calling for over here.~~

^{but,} Three important posts were dropped from Cabinet rank today - ~~those of~~ war, navy and air. Under the new set-up, they won't be necessary.

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But the British Chiefs of Staff Committee has not been stripped of any power. It remains responsible for strategy and actual military plans.

PALESTINE

The British Government today made ~~a~~^a ~~retort~~^{re} so sharp as to be without a precedent -- a retort to President Truman's declaration on Palestine.

The Presidential statement was issued to coincide with Yon Kippur, the day of atonement. He repeated the demand for the immediate resumption of Jewish ~~immigra~~ immigration into Palestine. The tone of immediacy is to be noted in the phraseology, the President stating: "I believe and urge that substantial immigration into Palestine cannot await a solution to the Palestine problem, and that it should begin at once. Preparations for this movement," the President goes on, "Have already been made by this government, and it is ready to lend its immediate assistance."

And with this promise of American assistance in behalf of Jewish immigration into Palestine, President Truman repeated previous declarations -- that he was prepared to ask Congress to liberalize our American immigration laws so as to admit refugees into this country.

The White House tone of urgency was emphasized by the statement that the conference on Palestine in London has been adjourned, and will not be resumed until December Sixteenth -- mid-winter. The President says that the adjournment has caused him, what he calls -- "Deep regret."

The London retort is the more emphatic because it was made so promptly. ~~It was most unusual for the British Government to reply to a statement on the same day the statement was made public. The phraseology with which London gives answer to the American President is sharp.~~ Tonight's dispatch states: "It is the strongest official criticism of a President of a United States permitted by the British Government in many years."

Here's the way the British statement reads:

"The Prime Minister, ~~in reply,~~ received President Truman's message only at midnight, ^{it says, and he} and ^{immediately} requested the President to delay issue of the statement until the Prime Minister had an opportunity to get in

touch with the foreign secretary who is in Paris. That request," says the London retort, "was not complied with. We are told that Prime Minister Atlee has sent a telegram of protest to President Truman -- protest because of the way the President ignored the British request that the publication of the statement be delayed.

The Truman statement, moreover, is attacked as being incorrect. -- ~~that part of it which declares that the Palestine conferences in London have been adjourned until December Sixteenth, to the President's deep regret.~~ London states: "The British Government has been conducting negotiations with both the Jews and the Arabs, and these discussions have not been broken off. Consultation with the Jews", it goes on, "is actually in progress at this moment."

The British reply concludes with a grave indictment -- in the following words: "It is most unfortunate that a statement of this kind has been made -- which may well jeopardize a settlement of this most important matter." In other words, London claims angrily

that the Truman call for immediate Jewish immigration may endanger the success of the Palestine negotiations.

Meanwhile, in the Holyland, Jewish Extremists today set fire to the largest government building in Jerusalem -- a building occupied by British public relations. The fire was extinguished -- after doing damage to the tune of twenty thousand dollars.

And there's another ominous factor -- a pronouncement by the secret radio of the official Zionist Army, Hagana. ~~This organization represents the moderate faction of Jewish resistance.~~ Hagana has been opposing the violence of the Terrorists of Zionism. But today the Hagana radio, Voice of Israel, gave public warning that the truce is at an end. ~~The implication is that Hagana has been observing some sort of armistice in the underground war -- and this is at an end.~~ All of which suggests the ominous possibility that the hitherto moderate army of the Jewish Underground may go into open war against the British occupation.

MOSCOW

George Moorad, a newspaper and radio correspondent recently returned from Moscow, writing about life 'Behind "The Iron Curtain," tells a story about "Fascist Beasts and Kremlin Stooges."

The American news correspondents in Moscow are divided into two groups. On one side are those who follow a straight American line -- the old American news tradition of reporting the news honestly and without bias. And they call themselves the "Fascist Beasts." On the other side are the pro-Soviet Americans, the Communist sympathizers who follow the party line. The Fascist beasts call them "the Kremlin Stooges."

~~The two factions live together in that curious closed-in world of foreign newsmen in Moscow. And they get along all right, -- no hard feelings. One may say quite amiably to another, "Now let me tell you, as a~~

(Fascist Beast to a Kremlin Stooge, that this and such is the case."

There's one tie that binds them together, one thing they have in common -- mutual hatred for the Soviet censorship. The Red Censor plays no favorites -- he's against all foreign news men. So the Kremlin stooges join the Fascist beasts on that one point -- cursing the censor.

George Moorad says that the Fascist Beast whom the Soviets hate most of all is W.L. White, son of the famous William Allen White of Emporia -- Bill White having written some exceedingly frank things about the Soviets. He was over there as newsman with Erick Johnston, when the eminent tycoon of big business made a tour of the Communist utopia. Bill White came back and wrote a best selling book called "Report on Russia", ^{in which he} ~~and~~ gave a rather sour picture of Utopia.

George Moorad himself would seem to qualify for a high place on the list of Fascist Beasts. The kind of thing that he relates in his book is illustrated by

one little episode behind the iron curtain.

He relates that during the war, an American newsman was going to a party ~~at~~ the Metropole Hotel, in Moscow, and found himself in the same elevator with a Marshal of the Red Army. The Red Marshal had had a couple of Vodkas -- he felt pretty good and got to talking with the American newsman. The American responded by inviting the Marshal to the party.

The Red Army Chieftain accepted in jovial fashion, and the two got off the elevator and started down the aisle -- headed for the festivities. They were walking along, chatting, when a ~~man~~ mousy figure appeared, as if out of nowhere -- a little scraggly shrimp, wearing a black suit of civilian clothes. That's the uniform of the NKVD, successor to the notorious OGPU -- Stalin's dread secret police.

The agent of the secret police stepped in front of the American and the Soviet Marshal. He didn't say a word. He just looked up at the tall warrior with all the medals, and slowly shook his

head. Whereupon the Marshal of the Red Army turned, without a word -- and walked back to the elevator. It wasn't wise for any Russian to associate with foreigners -- not even a top ranking Red Army Commander *with the rank of Marshal.*

Yes, George, that should put ^{you} ~~me~~ up at the head of the Class of Fascist beasts. *The name of Geo. Moorad's book is Behind The Iron Curtain.*

ARCHBISHOP

There are
~~Surprising~~ developments tonight in that
~~current~~ trial, for treason, of Archbishop ~~Aloysius~~
Stepinac, head of the Roman Catholic Church in
Yugoslavia. ~~Very~~ Surprising developments
for the prosecution.

All along, Marshall Tito's Communist
government has been trying to prove that the leader
of Yugoslavia's Roman Catholics had collaborated
with the Germans, had been a confidant of ~~Ante~~
Pavelitch, who headed the Puppet Government of
Croatia during the Nazi occupation.

~~This would be~~ A serious charge, if true. ~~But~~

~~From now on, it's going to be hard to prove.~~ Today,

But today an important
~~major~~ prosecution witness took the witness stand
and testified that Pavelitch "hated the Archbishop".

The witness, ~~whose name is an unpronounceable~~
~~as it is unimportant,~~ said that all during the German
occupation, the church planned to replace the
Pavelitch regime. By the ~~xxx~~ church, ~~of course,~~ the
witness mean^t Archbishop Stepinac.

This was definitely not according to ~~Khrushchev~~ ^{Koyla.}

In communist countries, trials are smoothly run

^{government} and witnesses seldom get out of hand. But ^{this} ~~tonight~~

one ^{evidently} ~~witness~~ ^{an important one} got his signals

crossed, ^{and} Unwittingly, ~~he~~ testified for the defense.

^{We can't help wondering} ~~It would not be pleasant to be that witness~~ ~~not~~

^{what will happen to the witness?} ~~in Yugoslavia tonight.~~

APARTMENT

In Los Angeles, Mrs. Elizabeth Pearse, an agent for an apartment house, was pestered to death all day long today -- pestered by telephone calls. She had a vacant apartment, and hundreds of people phoned, wanting to rent it. The apartment had been left vacant suddenly, very suddenly -- so how did all those people know about it? How did they find out?

Here's the answer. The apartment was occupied by Benny "the meat ball" Gamson, a gangster-racketeer of the underworld. "The meat ball" was at home with a mobster pal, when rival gunmen walked in and killed them both. The underworld murder of Benny the Meat Ball made headlines in the Los Angeles papers today, and to a lot of people bedeviled by the housing shortage it meant one important thing -- because of the blaze of gangster guns, an apartment was left vacant. Whereupon hundreds, wanting a place to live, descended ~~to~~ on the Land Lady -- trying to rent the apartment of Benny the Meat Ball.

And what thoughts, if any does that bring to your mind, Nelson.

MARCUS HOOK FIRE

The spectacular fire at the thirteen million dollar Marcus Hook Plant of the Sun Oil Company was one of those mishaps in which the elements of tragedy and terror were greater than the material damage. At first reports it seemed as if the world's largest refinery for aviation gasoline must have been completely crippled. Seven lives lost, 150 injured. ^{Later} Word from Philadelphia is ~~not~~ that the disaster was such as to hold up the operation of the refinery ~~to~~ only a minor degree -- ~~the~~ production of gas for flying.

Says the Sun Oil Company: "The fire had its origin in the failure of a packing gland -- a kind of valve -- in a pump of the alkylation unit of our plant fifteen. The result," continues the statement, "was a leakage of gas, which ignited. This started a fire, which weakened a large tower. The tower fell, and released its highly volatile contents, which flashed into flame. It was that single instantaneous flash that caused the casualties.

The disaster was confined to the alkylation

unit -- one of thirty plants at the Marcus Hook Refinery.

*Reparis can be made fairly quickly, say the Sun Oil people. Operations of the refinery as a whole are not seriously affected. No impairment of ~~the~~ Sun's ability to supply its customers.

The officials say that everything has been done to provide the best medical care for the injured.

And The statement adds that "No evidence has been found indicating any carelessness. A thorough investigation of all installations is constantly made. Every precaution taken for the safety of workers.