

PERESS

LT-Chas Collingwood - RM Jan 7, '55

LJ Bernier

The Army, tonight, gave a full report in the Peress case.

Showing - that the final decision to give the Army dentist an honorable discharge was made by Lieutenant General Walter Weible, Deputy Chief of the staff of the Army. And John G. Adams, the Army Counselor, who figured so prominently in the big television show, the Army-McCarthy hearing.

The report was submitted by Army Secretary Stevens. ~~Stevens~~ to Senator Saltonstall of Massachusetts, the outgoing Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee who asked Stevens for a chronological record of the Peress case. Secretary Stevens declares there were "Administrative errors" in the way the Army handled the affair. But - "no evidence of culpability or subversion." Some sixty Army officers are named as having had something to do with the mixup that caused so much trouble.

The account shows that Peress, after being taken into the Army, refused to answer questions about Communism. Citing the Fifth Amendment. This was noted, after a while, and it was recommended that he be separated from the Service. That recommendation was made by the Army Vice Chief of Staff, General Bolte.

While this was going through the routine, the case of

Peress came to the attention of Senator McCarthy, who questioned him at a Sub-Committee hearing. Peress again refused to answer about Communism - pleading the Fifth Amendment. Whereupon Senator McCarthy wrote to Army Secretary Stevens, requesting that Major Peress be courtmartialed. McCarthy suggested that Peress may have engaged in subversive activities at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

That brought the whole thing up to the top level of Deputy Chief of Staff, General Weible, and Army Counselor John Adams. They considered possible evidence of subversive activity of Peress at Camp Kilmer and decided there was no such evidence. So, therefore, in their opinion, there was no basis for a reconsideration of the recommendation that Peress be separated from the service. Accordingly, he was given an honorable discharge.

The report makes clear the role of General Zwicker, who got into trouble with McCarthy, and was allegedly abused by McCarthy when he appeared as a witness. The report shows that General Zwicker recommended the discharge of Peress, because of the Communist issue. Two days after Zwicker's action, Peress was promoted from Captain to Major. Zwicker opposed this, but the report ~~says~~ the promotion was required, in accordance ~~with~~ with a law passed by Congress.

~~Those~~, at last, are the facts about the Army's handling of
the case - which lead to such an uproar.

RECORDING

In tonight's recorded report, Lowell Thomas is still on the way to a remote spot on the desert of southern Arabia. So let's see how he's been getting along.

(RECORDING)

note :- no way we can obtain recording -

Lowell, it sure sounds like a hot time in the old town, deep in the desert.

~~NOTE: Recording is 5:14~~

WEATHER - RESCUE

Stormy weather off the coast of the Carolinas caused a mishap for the Navy, last night - a pile-up of landing craft. Accounts coming through, today, indicate - an exploit of rescue.

At Beaufort, North Carolina nine landing craft, called "ducks" were to be taken aboard a ship, for service overseas. They had to navigate across a rough stretch of water, and the ~~xxxxx~~ steering gear of two of the "ducks" failed. The raging gale drove them on to a sand bar. Three other landing craft went to the rescue, but they were caught in the turmoil of wind and waves - and were /driven on to the reef.

One of the "ducks" was swamped, and several marines were thrown into the water. Luckily, they were wearing life jackets, and remained afloat. But there they were - in the boiling sea, and the night was pitch black.

WEATHER - RESCUE - 2

The rescue was spectacular. A Coast Guard plane taking off - and dropping flares. In the light of which other landing craft were able to pick up the marines. Tricky job - in the violent winter storm.

HEIRESS

The news in Chicago is that the "Merchant Princess of State Street" left a fortune of some twelve million dollars. It was thought, at first, that the estate of Mrs. Mollie Netcher Newbury would come to about a million. But they've been finding safe deposit boxes crammed with stocks and bonds and ~~just~~ jewels.

The story is told how Mollie was a poor Chicago girl, who went to work in eighteen eighty-three - as a clerk in Charles ~~Netcher~~ Netcher's dry goods store. Then, one day, the boss told her abruptly: "Go to the cashier and get your time."

~~Mixt~~ Mollie, thinking she was being fired, began to cry. She wanted to know - what she had done that was wrong.

"Nothing" replied the boss, "but get your

hat and coat, and we'll get married."

So that's how the "merchant princess" got her start. When her husband died, she took over the business. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Her fortune goes to a grand-daughter, Mrs. Mollie Netcher Bragno. She ~~It~~ tells ~~how~~ - how the stern matriarch used to scold her for spending too much money on dresses. Well, ^{Hugh.} the grand-daughter can now buy quite a few dresses with twelve million bucks.

S L - Monday -

SHEPPARD

The mother of Dr. Samuel Sheppard committed suicide, today. Mrs. Ethel Sheppard, sixty-four years old left a brief note stating: "I can't carry on without father." Then - shot herself.

Her husband, Dr. Richard Sheppard, has been in a hospital since early December - with pleurisy. Mrs. Sheppard, herself, suffered a stroke last fall, and never saw her convicted son, after his arrest for the murder of his wife.

She was a firm believer that he was innocent - but she was too ill to attend the trial.