

LEAD

C.J. - P. & G. Friday, April 14, 1950.

Tonight I'm broadcasting in the open air --
far out on the desert. All around are the rugged,
sun scorched mountains rising from a desolation
of sand and scrub. ~~seen~~ Except ^{right here, This} ~~that I am in the~~

~~is~~ ^{is} ~~middle of~~ an oasis. ~~From nearby trees come the~~
~~songs of bird birds -- which you may hear also~~

~~gusts of the desert wind. ~~They send some odd~~~~
~~sounds through this microphone, taken in the desert.~~

~~is~~ ^{is} ~~near~~ Indio, California, on the Jacqueline
Cochran ranch, ^{along with} a crowd of Air Force

Fliers -- ~~unquestionably~~ the most interesting group
of airmen in all the world. But, before I tell about
them let's take ^{quick} a look at the news.

*I remember them as the
striking example of the
liberal feeling in England.*

BRITAIN

Political sensation in London tonight -- with the announcement that two members of the House of Lords have deserted the Liberal party and gone over to the Conservatives. They are the Marquess of Redding and Lord Rennell -- long prominent in the liberal party. But they now announce that ~~their~~ they find their views on labor ^{socialism} party ~~opinions~~ to be about the same as the ^{opinions the Conservatives hold.} ~~opinions~~ hold. So they go over to the side of Winston Churchill.

The great Earl of Redding was viceroy of India during 2 yrs. I spent in that land of wonder and fable.

I remember him as the striking example of the Liberal Peerage in England.

RED YOUTH

In Berlin it is announced that the much talked-of rally of Red youth has been called off. The plan ^{was} to have a mass demonstration ^{in May} which would invade the western sectors of the city. ^{This caused} ~~cause~~ no end of apprehension-- ~~xxx~~ with rumors that the march of Communist youth was really designed to seize the parts of Berlin controlled by the western powers. ^R There ~~were~~ previous reports that the Communists had abandoned the project -- a case of off again, ~~and~~ on again, ^{one} declaration contradicting the other. But now it seems to be definitely off. Today the official newspaper of Communist Youth in the Red zone of Germany issued a denial of any march into western Berlin -- stating definitely that the rally would be confined to the Soviet ~~xxxxxx~~ sector.

PLANE SEARCH

Over the Baltic Sea the search planes have virtually given up hope of finding the Navy Privateer, undoubtedly shot down by Soviet fighters. Today, this pessimistic word was given out with the statement that the search activities were being curtailed ^{(there} ~~and~~ ^{seemed} to be no further use of chris-crossing the Baltic with so large a number of aerial hunters. Some areas of the sea were crossed ~~by~~ and scouted as many as twenty times.

But then there ^{came} ~~was~~ a quick reversal of the announcement -- about the curtailing of the search. Air force headquarters in Germany issued another statement -- declaring that the hunt for the missing Navy patrol bomber would go on without any reduction.

^{as we hear it now}
The understanding ^{is} that the previous decision was quickly ~~reversed~~ countermanded in Washington, the Air Force in Germany told - continue the search, full scale!

FOLLOW ROME

The latest -- a Communist attempt to stop the first train load of armament on its way from the port of Cherbourg to a French army arsenal. At a town along the line, Communist women staged a demonstration, and had a battle with the ~~pi~~ police -- while their men companions tried to persuade the engineer to ~~xxx~~ abandon the train. ~~Nothing doing~~ ^{But} and the carloads of American weapons and munitions rolled right on through.

DOOLITTLE FLIERS

This program is being given at a remarkable place, where a remarkable event is being held. The place -- a garden in the western desert. The event -- a reunion of the Doolittle fliers. There were eighty originally - sixteen planes, each with a crew of five having flown in that first bombing of Tokyo. *Sixty one* came back ^{*- after the war.*} Today there are *sixty* left, and of these about two-thirds are gathered here in southern California at a desert garden.

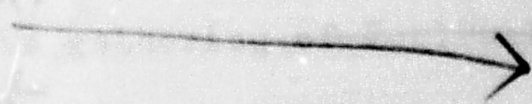
It all goes back to a promise that Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle never kept. Just before the Army bomber took off from the Navy Carrier Hornet, to raid Tokyo and fly on to China, Jimmy Doolittle promised his fliers a big party at ~~Kunming~~ ^{*Chungking, the Chinese*} ~~the~~ ^{*National Capitol.*} ~~American air base in China.~~ But, after they all had to ~~land~~ ^{*bail*} out or crash land in a storm over China, they were too widely scattered, and they were ordered home ~~im~~ immediately - and the party at ~~Kunming~~ ^{*Chungking*} never happened. So, ever since, General Doolittle has been making good on that broken promise - with a series of reunions.

This one is ⁱⁿ a region called the Palm Desert. Firecliff Lodge is the spot - the story of which was told me by Cliff Henderson long connected with our national air races. A few years ago all this was sun-parched wilderness. Also it was here that the legendary General Patton trained his troops for the North African campaign - the war on the desert, in ~~which~~ ^{which} Patton, genius of armed battle, won his first fame. *You can still see Patton's tank tracks here in the desert.* ~~PR~~ Recently Cliff Henderson came out and took it over - this then desolate basin surrounded by rugged mountains. Water is always the cry in the desert. Cliff went down deep, and found it in abundance. And that water tells the story of the blossoming desert.

So, this year, Cliff Henderson, so long a figure in American aviation, invited the Doolittle fliers to have their reunion here. For this broadcast we are all gathered at the nearby ranch of aviation industrialist Floyd Odum and his wife, Flier Jacqueline Cochran, who are also hosts to the Tokyo fliers.

You can imagine the celebration, mirth and gaiety, in the way of the men of the air. But there is something more serious involved in this reunion.

Colonel Ross Greening



[The following text is extremely faint and mostly illegible. It appears to be a continuation of the narrative, possibly describing the capture of the Doolittle raiders and their subsequent treatment. Some words like 'engineer', 'captured', and 'death' are faintly visible.]

~~was~~ was the pilot of the ^{eleventh} bomber in that famous
 take-off from ^{the decks of the} carrier ^{Hornet.} "The main thing
 in everything you do is ~~it is~~ ~~said,~~ ~~the main thing is~~ the objective," says
 the Tokyo bombing colonel.

Then he explained that this gathering of ~~Doolittle~~
~~fliers~~ includes ^{some important} ~~bits of~~ historical work. From the
 General on down they are assembling and classifying
 facts about that renowned bombing of Tokyo. The
 story has been told copiously, and told well, but
 there still remains a lot of documentation to be done
 to set it down with finality for history. So that's
 a purpose. But, there is still further objective,
 which has to do with Jake DeShazer, and introduces
 a theme of the strange and lofty.

Sergeant DeShazer, an ^{engineer gunner,}
 was one of the Doolittle Fliers unfortunate enough
 to be captured by the Japanese. Three of them,
 pilots, were condemned and executed by an enraged and
 merciless enemy. ^{Another starved to death.} The others, 4 of them,
~~and the others~~ went through a bitter
 ordeal. Then they came home, after the war, and one
 thing that happened was a gay, glittering swanky party.

They were at New York's fashionable night spot, the Stork Club, Colonel Greening sitting beside Sergeant DeShazer. It is to be noted that among the Doolittle Fliers, rank does not exist. Colonel and Sergeant on exactly the same footing. They were having champagne - and Ross Greening noticed that Jake DeShazer was merely toying with his glass. Which was curious - because while he was the quiet sort, he'd always take a drink with the next man.

"You're not drinking" said the Colonel to the Sergeant. "How come?"

Jake thought a minute, and replied: "I knew you'd ask me that, Ross, and I'll tell you about it."

Whereupon Ross Greening heard as strange a story as a Colonel ever listened to. "He told me," relates Ross Greening, "how the Japs kept him in a dark cell, ^{36 months of} ~~almost~~ solitary confinement, and there, day after day, week after week, he could only sit and ~~break~~ brood. "Then, one day," Colonel Greening went on " the black hole was filled suddenly with light -

- brilliant light. And Jake heard a voice telling him that - it should be his mission to teach the Japanese how to treat human beings decently. The light and the voice were a command, bidding him to do his bit in bringing Christianity to the Japanese."

Such was the conversation between the two Doolittle Fliers at the Stork Club, and Greening told ~~me~~ me that his own impression ~~was~~ was deepened and confirmed by Bob Hite, who was a fellow prisoner of DeShazer in that ~~the~~ Japanese jail. The two had long discussions of DeShazer's mystical experience, and Hite did much to convince the other Doolittle fliers of the depth and meaning of it.

Jake DeShazer resolved to become a missionary to Japan. He studied in a Presbyterian theological seminary, became an ordained minister, and went to spread the Gospel in the country which had treated him so badly in Japan. Greening told me of huge crowds ~~to~~ to whom DeShazer preached in Japan. In all this he had the support ~~of~~ of his fellow Doolittle fliers, who chipped in with money to enable him to

prepare for his missionary career. So now, *one big*
idea in
~~proceeds that come from~~ the documenting job, ~~being done~~
~~on~~, recording the Tokyo Air Raid, will be *to support*
● Jake DeShazer's mission in Japan. That's the main
"objective" at this reunion in the desert.

NEW YORK WEATHER

Out here in the West, it sounds strange to hear that New York had a blizzard today - cold wind and blinding snow. The temperature in New York an all-time low for April Fourteenth - while in New England the blizzard banked up huge drifts of snow.

Among other things the unseasonable weather played havoc with major league baseball schedules - those final pre-season exhibition games which teams play in their own home ball parks.

But the worst casualty again was - the rain maker! Finally and at length, after ~~xxxx~~ several failures, the wizards of artificial rain were able to seed the clouds - weather okay for it. And their experiment was followed by copious results - the blizzard! But, that big snowstorm was coming anyhow -- and nobody can tell whether the rain maker had anything to do with the big storm or not. Did the artificial weather sorcery work? Maybe. But nobody knows. I'll bet the rainmaker will take the credit for it!

ENDING

To get back to where we started, ~~from~~ this oasis in the desert -- here at the Jacqueline Cochran ranch, Floyd Odlum has rounded up a hundred or so of his neighbors, a chuck wagon, Mexican dancers, cowboy singers, Hawaiians. Among those ~~enjoying~~ sitting around me are ^{many} well known to most of you. ^{One} ~~is~~ is a man who dug a ditch once -- quite a ditch, The Panama Canal. ~~Former~~ Former New York City Commissioner Bill Carey.

Over there sits Benny Howard, who ~~has~~ lost a leg in a plane crash ^{at the} ~~in~~ [^] Nineteen-Thirty-six Bendix Race. But that ~~didn't~~ ^{Later he} stop him. ~~He~~ became first test pilot for Douglas during the war; and now ~~he's~~ ^{he's} head of Fairchild Aircraft.

Here on the other side of me, just in from Muroc Lake, is the man who was first to fly faster than sound, Captain Chuck Yeager. And Jimmy McHugh, the airman who wrote the ^{popular wartime} song: "Coming In On A Wing And a Prayer."

It's time for you to come in, Nelson -- on a wing and a prayer, or ^{on a horse if you prefer.} ~~any way you want to do it~~

ROME

In Rome today, Communists tried to do something after the fiasco of all their ~~talks~~ about stopping American armament shipments under the North Atlantic Security Pact. (Both in Italy and France the noisy threats of the Reds have come to naught - cargoes of American weapons and munitions being unloaded peaceably and without a hitch. The Italian Communists feel that this is altogether too humiliating ~~experience~~ so they decided to stage a spectacular demonstration today. This in the form of a hostile show against ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~United States~~ Embassy in Rome.)

The agitators had a systematic plan, and converged on the Embassy from four sides. But the Italian police had a plan even more systematic. Riot squads were waiting -- and as the bands of Communists arrived, they were arrested, before they even got near the ~~the~~ Embassy. Result, two hundred in jail today.