

SUBSTITUTE RUSSIANS

C. J. - P. H. Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1949.

(Given by Roy C. Andrews.)

Late news from Washington gives a solution of the disappearance of the Russian aviator, Barsov, who deserted from the Red Air Force, came to the United States and ~~is~~ is said to have -- "repented". He has been taken into custody by United States authorities.

Barsov was one of the two Russian Army flyers whose dramatic story a few months ago was a headline.

They took off from an air field in the Ukraine and flew to American-held territory -- saying they were escaping from tyranny. They were brought over here, and given a warm welcome.

The Soviet Embassy story is that on August Seventeenth Barsov made a sudden surprise appearance, said he ~~was~~ wanted to be forgiven, and asked for permission to return to Russia.

He left saying he would ~~return~~ ^{come back} shortly - but failed to reappear. The Soviet people inquired at his hotel, and found he had not returned there.

And, today they put in an inquiry at the State Department.

So now we have the answer, an announcement that Barsov was picked up by the Department of Justice on August Seventeenth - right after he left the Soviet Embassy, apparently. Probably the F.B.I. was watching him.

Later he was flown to Austria. A State Department spokesman says: "Barsov is now being given an opportunity freely to determine whether or not he wishes to return to the Soviet Union." There is talk that Red pressure was put on Barsov and that seems likely since he has a wife and two children in Russia.

SOVIETS

One of the most remarkable of diplomatic notes was made public today, a communication that reads more like one long string of insults, epithets, abuse and villification - Soviet Russia answering ~~to~~ the rebel satellite, Yugoslavia. It's in ~~answer~~ ^{reply} to a complaint about the way Moscow turned against Yugoslav claims to a slice of Austria. This Moscow rejects with a wild outburst of name-calling - the first move by Moscow since the week-end conference of Soviets and satellites to devise measures against Yugoslavia.

The note hurls accusations against the Western Powers, likewise, but reserves its loudest frenzies of rage for the regime of Red Marshal Tito, the puppet who proved faithless. In the calling of names, the document bristles with such insulting terms as - "Slanderous distortions, treachery, lies, cowardice, traitor's document, base duplicity, filthy policy."

I suppose Tito may say "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." However, they are powerful words.

ADD SOVIETS

The latest tonight -- a report that Soviet
Russia has concentrated five full tank divisions on
the Yugoslav frontier.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Reds of Czechoslovakia reveal, at a late date, the news of a revolutionary attempt last May. The disclosure comes with the announcement of the close of a trial, in which six anti-Communist leaders have been sentenced to death; others to various terms of imprisonment. They are accused of trying to start a nationwide revolt, and actually fought a battle at a prison thirty five miles north of Prague, fighting with revolvers and explosives in an attempt to set free political prisoners - in the spring of this year.

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The Red government claims that "a western foreign power" was in the plot, but it does not say which Western foreign power.

BRITAIN

Paris flashes word that Britain is likely to receive more than her scheduled share of Marshall Plan money - a hundred and twelve million dollars more. According to the schedule set by the experts presiding over European recovery money, the London government was to be given eight hundred and fifty million dollars for the year. But the word is that a two-man committee, in charge, is proposing that the figure be hiked to nine hundred and sixty two million.

VAUGHAN

In the investigation of the Five Percenters, General Vaughn, the President's military aide, stated today that he received campaign contributions from several of those for whom he did favors - using White House influence.

He said he got two thousand dollars from John Maragon, the Greek-American who made trips to Europe in American military planes on perfume business. He denied that Maragon had ever told him that part of the cash was provided by Frank Costello - alleged boss of the nationwide slot-machine racket.

Vaughn indicated that the campaign contributions were used in the Missouri primary battle, when President Truman purged Congressman Slaughter, who had been opposing Truman policies. He said President Truman knew nothing about these activities.

CHANNEL SWIMMER

This program, hitherto, has given little attention to the channel swimmers - the various people who have been swimming, or trying to swim, and who plan to swim, across the English Channel. Well, the hero of this latest story is an English doctor who went over to France for the mighty attempt. Today, all ready to go, he went down to the shore, took one look at the channel, turned around, and went back to England - without getting his feet wet.

He is Dr. George Basole Brewster, a fifty-eight year old physician of London, famous for his exploits with cold water. Every winter, he breaks the ice of the pool in Hyde Park, and plunges in. His yearly way of celebrating Christmas is to take a swim in the ocean. He is known as - "The man who never feels too cold."

So all seemed to be set for an heroic headline of channel swimming. The English channel was in one of its rougher moods today, and the doctor took just one look - reminding us of the darling daughter who was told to hang her clothes on the hickory limb, and don't go near the

water. That's the kind of channel swimmer I like.

But now let's go along to another kind of adventure; mountains, the Himalayas. We have a broadcast report from the expedition of Lowell Thomas into Tibet, on the way to the Holy City of Lhasa, and Lowell Thomas Junior gives us a recorded account of the latest.

END

That's the recorded radio report from the expedition to Tibet, and the next time we hear of the adventure in the Himalayas, Lowell Thomas will give us some political news that he has encountered on the trail to the "roof of the world." Substituting for him on this program tomorrow night will be Clifton Fadiman, the author and critic, so well known on the radio, and meanwhile here's the equally well known Nelson Case.

As Lowell Thomas would say -- so long until tomorrow.

RUSSIAN

A strange story has just come in from the Russian Embassy in Washington - alleging the disappearance of a Russian flier, Varsov by name, who deserted from the Red flying force and came to the United States • The Embassy declares that Varsov "repented" his desertion, and asked to be taken back - he wanted to return to Russia. Then, after making this plea to the Red Embassy, he vanished.

So now an inquiry has been addressed to our State Department - asking for an investigation of the Russian military aviator who fled from behind the Iron Curtain to this country, and then is said to have "Repented."

BOLIVIA

In Bolivia they're having a revolution with a paradoxical sound - a Fascist-Communist rebellion, the government calls it. The claim is that extremists of both right and left have joined forces. A manifesto, issued by rebel headquarters, features a demand for nationalization of Bolivian industries, meaning mostly which are foreign owned. - tin mines, These are the principal source of wealth of the republic in the Andes, and lately there has been revolutionary labor-trouble in the tin mines.

Today rebel planes attacked the capital city of La Paz - firing machine guns and dropping hand-grenades on the airfield. Not much damage was done.