

FLIGHT

P. 5. - P. G. Wednesday, March 2, 1949.

This <sup>is a</sup> day for history -- that phase of history which began with Magellen's voyage, more than four-hundred <sup>-♦-</sup> fifty years ago, the first circumnavigation of the earth. Today the news -- that, for the first time, an airplane has flown around the world non-stop.

At Fort Worth, Texas, a giant Air Force bomber landed today, after circling this planet without coming to earth ~~at~~ at any point. ~~This is the thing the Air Force~~ <sup>a</sup> <sup>that aviation</sup> has dreamed of for years, now it has happened -- around the world <sup>-</sup> non-stop.

The plane -- a B-Fifty, latest type <sup>giant</sup> ~~of bombers~~ bomber. The time -- ninety-four hours and one minute. -- Average speed -- two-hundred <sup>and</sup> thirty-nine miles an hour, ~~that long to fly a~~ Distance, of twenty-three thousand Four-hundred <sup>and</sup> fifty-two miles, only slightly less than the circumference of the earth at the Equator. <sup>P</sup> It was a refuel <sup>ing</sup> job -- four refuelings. -- In each case a load of gasoline <sup>was</sup> taken up and pumped into the B-Fifty. The refueling planes were B-twenty-nines -- those legended sky-giants of the second world war, playing

FLIGHT -2

the part of tankers. The four refuelings, spaced around the globe were -- in the Azores, the Persian Gulf region; the Phillipines, and Hawaii.

The great adventure began at Fort Worth last Saturday, February twenty-six, shortly before noon -- eleven twenty-one AM. The name of the B-Fifty -- Lucky Lady the Second. And was that lady lucky! Together with her crew of fourteen, chosen to make such history! The pilot -- Captain James Gallagher of Melrose, Minnesota.

Well, Lucky Lady swept off from the Texas flying field and went speeding East -- across the American continent, over the Atlantic, all the way to the Azores. There she was met by the first B-twenty-nine turned into a tanker. The B-twenty-nine was in the air to meet the Lucky Lady; and contact was made -- with a gasoline hose.

After which the globe-girdling plane flew on to the West, across Africa, across Arabia -- on to the Persian Gulf. There the next refueling point was Dahran, a fabulous Arabian-American town--heart of the

FLIGHT 3

Arabian  
oil fields -- and a most appropriate place to gas up,  
while still flying.

I happen to know a good deal about Bahrein although I have never been there. A friend of mine, Max Thornburg, is a sort of unofficial ambassador out there, just a private citizen, whose knowledge of the middle East and whose influence in those parts make him a sort of Representative of America. He owns an island there, presented to him by the Sultan of Bahrein, makes it his home a large part of the time. My own son, Lowell, Jr., was out there only several months ago, working on a job of economic survey conducted by Max Thornburg. He tells me a lot about Bahrein, ancient center of pearl fishing that has become a rich center of oil -- and today the second refueling point in the non-stop flight around the world. From the legended pearl fishers of the Orient -- to this twentieth century exploit of ~~STEAMSHIP~~ circumnavigation.

*Dahrain - Arabia*  
At ~~Bahrain~~ a B-twenty-nine delivered its cargo  
of gasoline, and then the same thing happened at the

## FLIGHT 4

Phillipines and at Hawaii. So ~~that~~ today, Lady Luck made the last lap across the Pacific and across Western States <sup>back</sup> to Texas, coming in for a perfect landing at Fort Worth, two hours less than four days after the takeoff.

The pilot, Captain Gallagher says there were no difficulties anywhere, excellent weather -- and ~~there~~ four refuelings at ~~such~~ far distant places went off as smoothly as if at the home flying field -- perfect timing, like clock works.

My own interest in this is redoubled, because <sup>happened to be</sup> ~~was~~ connected with the first flight around the world -- no end of stops that time. It was in nineteen twenty-four, when four army planes took off to attempt the first aerial circumnavigation. A young newsman at the time, I was assigned to <sup>act as</sup> ~~report the story,~~ historian of the first world flight. The planes, ~~old~~ <sup>special</sup> ~~type~~ Douglas cruisers, fashioned at the time, proceeded in short hops -- <sup>up the Pacific Coast, on to Alaska, and</sup> ~~across the country, around the north of the Pacific,~~

FLIGHT 5

*Alentians, then down Kamchatka, on*  
~~the across, then hop, skip and jump through~~  
*South to Japan, along the coast of China, across southern Asia,*  
*across Arabia, across Europe, and finally*  
~~across Africa, then the Atlantic, hopping by way of the~~  
*North Atlantic via Iceland*  
~~across~~ and Greenland. ¶ Two of the planes made it, ~~with~~

*plane*  
Two were lost -- nobody hurt particularly, though one had a dramatic crash, running into a mountain in *Alaska* ~~Greenland~~. ¶ As for the number of stops made on that first world flight, I have long since lost count of them -- that many. ¶ To us at the time a non-stop world flight was a wild fantasy for a remote future. ¶ The next large step in the historic background of today's exploit was - - the question mark. Today, when the news broke about the Lucky Lady, I put in a telephone call to the nearest Air Force bomber base. I am in Spokane tonight, and a few miles out of the City is the big Air Force flying field at Galena. I talked to the Commanding Officer, *a B-29 man* — General Briggs, and he promptly made mention of -- the question mark. ¶ That signified a great experiment in refueling, some twenty years ago. An Air Force transport plane, named the *in Southern Calif* ~~Question Mark~~, was refueled in the air ~~at San Diego~~.

FLIGHT 6

California. -- ~~the beginning of developments that lead~~  
~~hours, for many~~ ~~to the round the world refueling~~ ~~record for the time.~~  
~~today~~ <sup>It stayed in the air 150</sup> <sup>hours, for many</sup> <sup>to the round the world refueling</sup> <sup>record for the time.</sup> <sup>today</sup> <sup>5. A startling</sup> <sup>triumph in the news-</sup>

General Briggs ~~was~~ told me that the airmen  
in that exploit were <sup>a</sup> Major and a Lieutenant -- Major  
Tooley Spatz, later to become our Air Force Commander,  
a five-star general; and, -- Lieutenant <sup>Pete</sup> Casada, now a  
Lieutenant General. <sup>It</sup> General Briggs explained that the  
Air Forces <sup>has</sup> ~~have~~ been doing intensive <sup>work on</sup> ~~experiment in~~  
the problem of getting heavily-loaded bombers into  
the air and then providing them with new cargos of  
gasoline. He said the great trick in refueling was --  
timing. And he added -- that this latest exploit  
was ~~indeed~~ a triumph of <sup>that</sup> ~~timing~~ -- the precision opera-  
tion over such vast distances, the Azores, <sup>Arabia</sup> ~~the Azores~~  
~~and~~ the Phillipines, and Hawaii.

General Briggs informed me moreover of some-  
thing on the lighter side -- a reprimand <sup>sent today</sup> ~~being sent~~  
to Captain Gallagher and his crew. They are getting  
a bawling out -- for a violation. This ~~is~~ based on  
the fact that in the Air force the regulations require

## FLIGHT 7

that a plane be given an inspection after every twenty-five hours of flying, and a more thorough inspection-- after fifty hours. But what did those non-stop circum-navigators do? They flew for ninety-four hours, without ever coming down for an inspection! So the airmen at Spokane field are sending them a reprimand, the technical charge being, over-flying their inspection time. So, fellows, consider yourself reprimanded -- while the whole country is cheering you.

## FOLLOW FLIGHT

The late news on the flight emphasizes the element of -- secrecy. The reason for the concealment was explained this afternoon by General Curtiss LeMay. He said: "If we had to do this in war, it would have to be secret -- so we did it that way in practice."

Hundreds of air force officers and men must have known that the Lucky Lady was on her way around the world. But, so little leaked out that the news men taken to Fort Worth for the end of the flight had no notion of the story they were covering -- until they were told about it.

One other secret is lifted likewise -- that a previous attempt at a non-stop round the world flight broke down and ended in failure -- because ~~xxxxx~~ of engine trouble at the Azores. This happened last Friday to another B-Fifty. Then the next day ~~gh~~ the Lucky Lady made its own try -- and won out.

All that secrecy, however, fails to conceal one fact -- the condition of the crew. The Air



**FOLLOW FLIGHT - 2**

Forces are holding back precise information concerning the physical effects on the airmen. But tonight a newsman heard a remark made by one of the crew as a flight surgeon was making a ~~physi~~ physical check. "Holy cow" ~~Ex~~ exclaimed that airman; "I gained four pounds up there!"

## ROCKET 1

We hear that the "Wac Corporal" is buried so deep in the ground we will never find <sup>her!</sup> ~~it~~. This has a sinister sound; but, "Wac Corporal" is the name of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ rocket ~~that~~ recently ~~was~~ shot into the air for two-hundred <sup>+</sup> fifty miles. The ~~missile~~ <sup>missile</sup> fell back to earth at a point somewhere in the northern part of the White Sands proving ground -- the desert of New Mexico. An extensive search has been made, but no sign of the falling rocket has been found. Hence, the belief that the "Wac Corporal" hit so hard that the fragments buried themselves deep in the earth.

This explanation is given out, together with a denial of speculation that the rocket may have burned itself out like a meteorite, ~~after~~ streaking through space at five thousand miles an hour. The supposition has been expressed -- that the friction at that great speed would generate so much heat as to dissolve the rocket into flaming gas. However, we are told that the Army experts with electronic equip-

ment followed the "Wac Corporal" all the way down to the ground -- and know ~~that~~ the rocket must have hit the earth.

## COMMUNISTS

The American Communist party follows the lead of the Reds in France and Italy. The chorus began when Thorez, ~~xxxxxx~~ leader of the French Communists declared that "if France were invaded by a Soviet Army, the French Communists would welcome the invaders."

In Italy The Red Chieftain, Togliatti, followed that up by making the same statement, <sup>that</sup> In case of war the Soviets, the Italian Communists would support the enemy. <sup>from</sup> So now our own American Reds, <sup>A</sup> declaration issued tonight by Communist National Chairman William L. Foster and General Secretary Eugene Dennis. They state that, if war should come ~~th~~ with Soviet Russia, the Communist party in this country would in the words of Foster and Dennis - "try to defeat the predatory war aims of American imperialists."

In Congress the ~~xxxx~~ reverberations <sup>are</sup> ~~have~~ immediate, statements that, in wartime, this Red manifesto would be -- treason. Which would seem to be the accurate word.

## BLOCKADE 1

Here is news about the blockade in Frankfurt -- and our sympathies are extended to that Russian mission which refused<sup>S</sup> to leave, although ordered out of the American zone of occupation. ~~It~~<sup>We</sup> heard about them last night -- these eight members of a repatriation committee~~s~~, who have not been able to repatriate a lot of Russian refugees who refused to go home. The Red Mission was given a second deadline and still refused to leave -- still grimly staying in the building previously assigned to them as headquarters. Today they gave an explanation -- why they won't go. They said they would be charged with ~~Treason~~, if they left their post without order~~d~~ from Moscow. They<sup>have</sup> received no such orders -- and you can imagine what a charge of treason means in the Red ~~U~~topia.

Today the American Military authorities threw a guard around the headquarters of the Mission, while German workmen cut off all water, gas, electrical and telephone communication. American MP's on guard were ordered to let nobody into the place or out -- until

BLOCKADE 2

the Russians decide to submit to the order expelling them.

They are standing seige, determined to hold out until Moscow instructs them to leave -- no matter what ordeal they have to go through, blockaded as they are. They <sup>say they</sup> simply won't go back to the Soviets, and face a charge of treason.

The latest -- they <sup>have</sup> ~~sent a commission~~ has asked for water. Request refused -- American Provost Marshall

Sterling Wood saying: "I am still following my original orders." <sup>and he added: -</sup> "Neither side has made any offer or concession".

"Of course they can get all the water they want by agreeing to go home.

From China -- the announcement that a Naval transport has been handed over to the Communists. Both the officers and the crew participated in deserting from the Nationalist Navy, taking their boat over to the side of the Reds.

But the Nationalist Government does not admit that a five-thousand ton cruiser has deserted. ~~to the Communists~~ However, the report is insistent. The warship was formerly the British cruiser Aurora -- given to China. <sup>It</sup> The vessel is reported to have steamed out of Shanghai, ~~and~~ proceeded <sup>ing</sup> to the harbor of Chefoo, ~~now~~ held by the Reds. Today at Shanghai, Chinese Naval officers refused either to confirm or deny the report.

# FILIBUSTER 1

In Washington today Senator Russell Long made his first speech. The son of the late Kingfish Huey Long, ~~son~~ sent to the Senate in the last election, ~~he~~ has remained silent -- awaiting appropriate occasion for an address to the Senate. The occasion was today, --

In the southern filibuster Russell Long made his maiden speech in the attempt to talk to death the move to abolish filibuster<sup>s.</sup> Which was appropriate enough -- his father, the Kingfish, having been a long-distance ~~center in more than one~~ filibustering orator.

In his speech today Russell Long went into ~~speech~~<sup>verbal</sup> fireworks describing the anti-filibuster proposal in these words: "A gnawing termite at our very vitals".



## MURDER

Over in England they have a way of making crimes in the news sound like detective stories --- those fiction mysteries which British authors <sup>trick</sup> ~~pick~~ out in such picturesque style. So today the London papers tell of the case of the Widow With The Plastic Fingernails. Actually, it looks like a gruesome affair of mass murder --- six victims killed, and bodies destroyed in acid. That's what Scotland Yard believes -- after the discovery of signs pointing to the murder of the Widow With The Plastic Fingernails.

The Scotland Yard inspector-in-charge has a name that sounds like something quaint for an English detective story -- Inspector Shelley Symes. He reports on the disappearance of Mrs. Oliver Durand<sup>de</sup>Deacon, sixty-nine years old and wealthy. A man, who has been ~~questioned~~ questioned, states that he had an appointment with Mrs. Durand<sup>de</sup>Deacon to discuss a business project. He explains that the wealthy widow had stubby fingernails, and this she remedied by artificial means -- using plastic <sup>ones,</sup> ~~fingernails~~. The business proposition was to go

into the manufacture of similar items<sup>3</sup> for women whose fingernails are not quite right.

This was followed by the disappearance of Mrs. Durand-Deacon and the discovery of grim evidence of previous murders, the latest victim being the widow with the plastic fingernails.

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This has a counterpart over in this country, Grand Rapids, Michigan, where today the police were investigating cases of missing women, seeking possible victims of a grotesque pair who are being called "The Lonely Hearts Killers". They are a bald-headed, toupe-wearing dandy named Fernandez and his two-hundred pound paramour. Together they worked a game of swindling women, to whom Fernandez wrote -- "lonely heart" letters. They have confessed three murders, <sup>and</sup> the police believe there may have been more. Hence, the widespread investigation today.

LT from  
?, Washington.

Mar. 27  
1949.

## TATTOO

Here in the state of Washington they have had a mighty legislative battle to prohibit -- tattooing. That is, forbid experts of the needle to tattoo the skin of any child, without the consent of the parents. The sponsor -- Representative Charles Carroll, who gives a soulful explanation. He says that when he was a youngster he was in the Navy; and you know the way sailors like to have their anatomy decorated with all sorts of pictures, an anchor, a battleship, and even some semblance of the girl a sailor has in every port. Representative Carroll says plaintively: "I wish now that my parents had beat a tattoo on me." Rather than those ornaments he had needled to his skin when he was in the Navy. He must have a rare assortment -- to launch so ardent a crusade against tattooing. And now Ken Niles what's your crusade tonite?

Anyway, Representative Carroll fought to have a bill passed which would keep Johnny from romping into a needle shop and having all sorts of pictures inked into his own epidermis not without the formal