

Downing of 23 Planes, Some by Own Allies, Is Confirmed Here

Twenty-three Army transport planes were shot down in the invasion of Sicily last summer by a combination of Allied and enemy antiaircraft fire when they attempted to land troops in the wake of the German night air raid, the War Department has disclosed.

Four hundred and ten airborne infantrymen were lost in the action. Revealing officially the loss for the first time yesterday, the War Department gave assurance that "this action was made the basis of a careful study designed to improve identification and timing and prevent similar losses in the future."

The incident, which had been cloaked in secrecy for more than eight months, was first mentioned publicly Wednesday by Sgt. Jack Folsie, a correspondent of the Army newspaper Stars and Stripes, in a speech before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

Stimson Questioned

When questioned at his press conference yesterday, Secretary Stimson said that incidents of this nature had occurred during the war, but that he did not recognize the figures cited by Sgt. Folsie. Later the department's official statement was issued.

"The air-borne operation referred to in a morning newspaper dispatch was one of 2,500 in which additional troops were flown in the Gela area on the night of 10-11 July," the statement said, adding:

"The mission was one of reinforcement designed to drop parachute troops within our own lines. This force, consisting of 170 aircraft, received antiaircraft fire from enemy ground forces and from friendly naval and ground forces, with losses of 23 aircraft and 410 personnel.

"Incident Followed Attack. The flight arrived in the battle area immediately following an enemy bombing attack and while their flares were still in the air. The combination of circumstances involving the approach immediately in the rear of a hostile bombing attack at night at a relatively low altitude were the responsible factors in the loss of the planes. . . . The Navy concurs in this statement."

No explanation was made in the statement as to why public announcement of the incident was withheld until Sgt. Folsie disclosed it.

Kronheim Liquor Hearing Continued Until Monday

The Federal Trade Commission hearing on its complaint that Milton S. Kronheim & Sons, Inc., liquor wholesalers, engaged in coercive practices in alleged tie-in sales of wines and whiskey, will resume Monday with the defense planning to call additional retailers in an attempt to disprove the charges.

Sixty-six dealers, all of whom have denied Kronheim ever forced them to buy wine in order to procure whiskey, have testified since Monday. Twenty-one retailers were heard yesterday, and four of these announced they had appeared voluntarily in behalf of the wholesaler. A number of witnesses have testified that they actually encountered difficulties in procuring enough wine. Mr. Kronheim, testimony showed, supplied many dealers with most of their whiskey supplies.

Alvin L. Newmyer, Kronheim counsel, said he would continue to call dealers until all of the city's retailers have been heard.

LOST.

APPOINTMENT BOOKS. One black, one tan, also stock report number. Robert O. Johnson, "engraved on black book; also other important papers, names, addresses, vicinity of 14th and You sts. or North Capitol and M. St. Reward \$25.00. Robert O. Johnson, Co. 7606. 18".

BILLFOLD. Brown leather, containing sum of money, A-C-R, other important papers. Reward \$25.00. Billfold, brown, containing draft card, registration certificate, driver's license, ration book, issued to George H. Rackey, 4280 Branch ave., Wash., D. C. 20, D. C. 8 ration book, issued to G. C. O. Defense Council. Reward: Please return to George H. Rackey, 4280 Branch ave., Wash., D. C. 20, D. C. 8 Locust 746.

BILLFOLD. Black leather, containing draft card, registration certificate, driver's license for North Carolina, 17".

BILLFOLD. Black, containing licenses, ration books and "A" and "C" gas ration cards. Oxford 1336.

BOOK. 1st edition, "The Dreadful Dragon of Hay Hill," by Max Beerbohm; lost in Stater Hotel Saturday night. Reward \$25.00.

BRACELET made from Australian coins by husband overseas; sentimental value. Reward \$25.00. Ext. 385 or 175.

CAT. Black female, red collar with 2 bells, vic. of Hillcrest. Reward \$25.00. Ext. 385 or 175.

CHARIOT CASE. Silver, with ducks in enamel on front, script initials. Reward \$25.00. Ext. 385 or 175.

COCKER SPANIEL. Black female; strayed from home Sunday March 12th. Reward if returned to Mrs. Joseph W. Corridon, 14th and M. Sts. Hyattsville 501.

COLLIE. Female, tan, white, strayed from vicinity Norfolk. Reward. Phone 3418 Church 1400.

DOG. English Collie female, brown coat, white forehead. Reward. Kensington 101-M.

FOLDING POCKETBOOK. Square, red leather, lost in Savoy Theater, Thursday night. Reward if found by owner with contents. Telephone AD. 0446.

FOUNTAIN PEN. Lady's, orchid, vic. Dupont Circle. Reward \$25.00.

FOUNTAIN PEN. Sheafers Lifetime, vicinity 14th and M. Sts. Reward \$25.00.

NAME OF D. L. Lee. GE 9389.

KEYS in black leather zipper case, initials G. H. B. J., license No. D. C. 3762. Reward. HO 2083.

KEYS in bunch, and gas locking cap; ring also contained miniature auto license number. Please return. Reward \$25.00. Spring 0344.

LAFEL BUTTON. Gold, honorable discharge. Reward. Phone RE 8500. Ext. 698. 17".

LEATHER FOLDER. On 14th and M. Sts. between Irving and Euclid, containing valuable receipts, special license, etc. Reward \$25.00.

NAVY ORNAMENT BAG with the name of James Edward Byrne, 1225 Morse st. n.e. Reward.

OVERCOAT. With black buttons, between Thompson School and bus stop, 14th and You sts. n.w. Reward. 643 Munster Bldg.

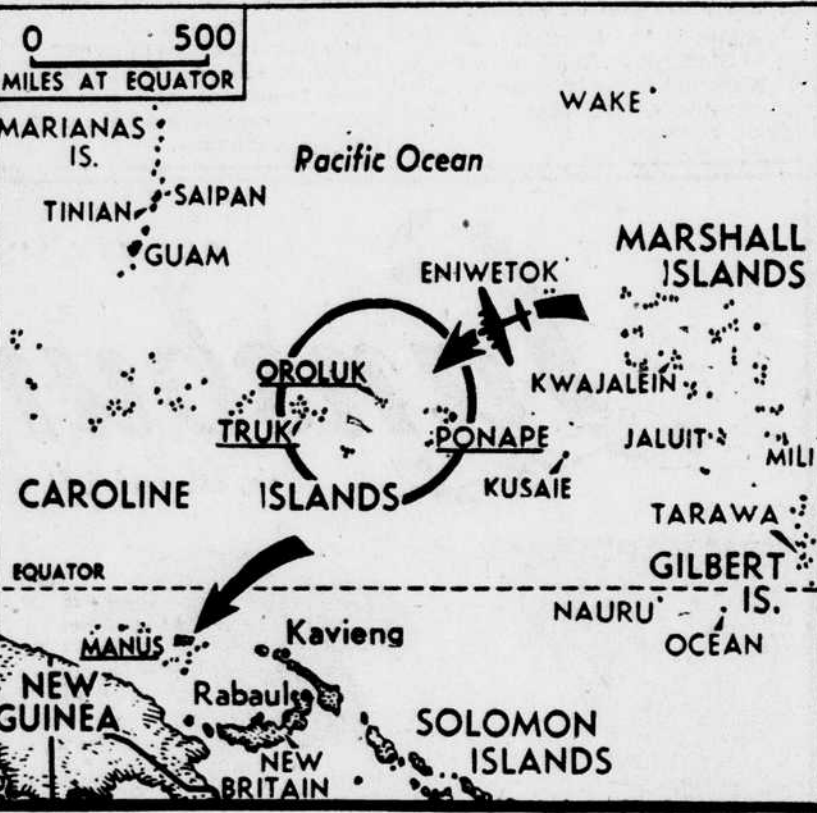
PIN. Large oval, lost between 5th and P. sts. and 13th and P. n.w. or on D. C. bus, Thurs noon. Reward. TR 4344.

PIN. Lost-shaped of rhinestones with 3 green stones in center. Reward. TR 4344.

POCKETBOOK. containing billfold with identification card, 3 No. 3 ration books. Issued to Mrs. Elizabeth V. Hanes, Mrs. Mary T. Wilson and Mrs. J. H. Hanes. Reward \$25.00.



THE GENERAL GOES ALONG WITH HIS MEN—When it comes to moving up to the front in the New Britain campaign the Marines can always count on Brig. Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., being right up there with them. Here he is (stick on shoulder, hand in pocket) sloggling through the mud of Cape Gloucester. —A. P. Photo from Marine Corps.



AMERICANS INVADE MANUS, BOMB TRUK—Arrow indicates Manus Island, largest of the Admiralty group, site of a new Allied landing. Arrow with plane symbol indicates first land-based heavy bomber attack on Truk by 7th Army Air Force, which also raided Ponape and Ororuk. —A. P. Wirephoto.

Nazi Trick Blamed in Downing Of U. S. Planes by Allied Guns

(John A. Moroso, 3d, Associated Press Navy correspondent, who was aboard an assault transport ship during the invasion of Sicily, witnessed the shooting down of American planes by British and American warships during the confusion heightened by German bombing attacks and described the tragic mix-up—long sealed by censorship—in the following dispatch.)

By JOHN A. MOROSO, Associated Press War Correspondent. LONDON, Mar. 17.—Numerous American C-47s—transport and glider planes loaded with paratroopers—were shot down during the opening stages of the Sicilian invasion last July by antiaircraft fire from their own British and American warships. The barges were apparently touched off by a Nazi ruse.

Censors now permit telling how the Germans raced in and bombed our ships just as our planes were flying over in the intense darkness of night.

The whole tragic incident is believed in retrospect to have been a Nazi trick. The German planes joined the flight formation in darkness and bombed the ships as they passed over.

Some Americans Bail Out. There was a report, too, that some ships in the convoy—mainly small landing craft—did not get a warning that friendly planes were approaching and that they opened fire before the bombing began.

Some antiaircraft batteries also fired from shore.

The Americans were able to bail out and were rescued from the sea.

Aboard the ships we had been informed that our transport planes were to fly over at a fixed time, flying at a specified height from a

LOST RATION COUPONS. BOOKS 1, 2, 3 AND 4. For Armin Adah, George and Marion Heitz, 1802 Carey lane, N. W. 1000. Reward \$25.00.

GAS RATION BOOKS "A" AND "B." Issued to Daniel C. Walker, 10 East Bradley street, Chevy Chase, Md. 20815. Reward \$25.00.

GAS RATION BOOK "B." Issued to Melvin Plander, 404 71st st. SE, Wash., D. C. 20015. Reward \$25.00.

GAS RATION BOOK "A." Issued to Harold A. Cramer, 5809 15th st. North. Reward \$25.00.

GAS RATION BOOK "A." Issued to L. B. Somers, 1000 10th st. NW, Wash., D. C. 20004. Reward \$25.00.

GAS RATION BOOK "A." Issued to Leonard Grubert. If found, please return to 1427 14th st. NW, Wash., D. C. 20004. Reward \$25.00.

GAS RATION COUPONS. 150 To, 50 As. C. and coupons pasted on OPA summed sheet, headed by "Alfred Dinnick." Reward of \$55.00. Phone Lincoln 8889.

RATION BOOK "A." Please return to Mr. John Ashley, 1000 Eye st. n.e. Washington 20002. Reward \$25.00.

RATION BOOK NO. 3. Issued to Vernon Johnson, 5010 Silver Hill rd. Wash. 19. Call at 5085.

RATION BOOK NO. 3. Issued to Norma Landfall, 1707 Taylor st. n.w. Call at 5085.

RATION BOOK NO. 3. Issued to Altha M. Stewart, "Alfred Dinnick." Reward of \$55.00. Phone Lincoln 8889.

RATION BOOKS. In green leather folder, issued to Charlotte H. Clark, Louise P. Latimer, 9200 28th st. n.e. Reward \$25.00.

RATION BOOKS, two. No. 3 and two ration books No. 1, issued to Mildred Ann Sweeney, 28th st. n.e. Reward \$25.00.

RATION BOOK NO. 3. Issued to Dorothy P. Hays, 1400 Stables rd. n.e. Contains four full pages of stamps.

RATION BOOKS 3 AND 4. Issued to Charles W. Klein, Dorothy J. Klein and Mary E. Klein, Potomac, Md. Reward \$25.00.

RATION BOOKS Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. Issued to "Alfred Dinnick." Reward of \$55.00. Phone Lincoln 8889.

RATION BOOK NO. 3. Issued to W. J. Stanton, Redding, Conn. Reward \$25.00.

RATION BOOK NO. 3. Issued to Charles M. Taylor, 412 Tennessee ave. n.e. 184. Reward \$25.00.

RATION BOOK NO. 3. Issued to Helen D. James, E. Joseph L. Mildred D. Stewart, 412 Tennessee ave. n.e. 184. Reward \$25.00.

"C" GAS RATION BOOK. Issued to Frank Hendrix, Cabin John, Md. DE 6095.

NO. 1 RATION BOOK. Rhea A. Woods, 1420 Ames place n.e. LI 3388. 18".

SPECIAL NOTICES. OFFICE OF LANSBURGH & BROS., Washington, D. C. March 17, 1944.—The annual meeting of the shareholders of Lansburgh & Bros. for the election of directors to serve the ensuing year, and as may properly be before said meeting, will be held at the office of the corporation, 420 7th st. n.w., on Monday, April 17, 1944, at 2 p.m.

I WILL NOT BE responsible for any debts made by any other than myself. James D. Jefferson, 1520 V st. n.w. 18".

Air Forces Spokesman Says Ford Production Is Behind Schedule

By the Associated Press. DETROIT, Mar. 17.—As affected from recent work stoppages at the Ford Motor Co. continued to mount, a spokesman for the Army Air Forces declared today that production of vital aircraft engines at the River Rouge plant's aircraft building had fallen behind schedule.

No specific reasons were given by the AAF for the decline, but a demonstration and unauthorized walkout a week ago and an automobile barricade at the plant gates earlier this week resulted in a total of 92 suspensions and discharges from the employ of the company.

Twenty-two More Suspended. Ford spokesmen announced the indefinite suspension of 22 additional employees last night, some of whom were accused of participating in the demonstration in which a company official was chased through the plant and equipment in the labor relations office destroyed. Ten discharges and 60 suspensions previously had been revealed.

R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, with which the employees are affiliated, labeled "completely untrue" a company claim that the disciplinary action had been taken with union approval.

"Neither I nor any other international or local union officer has approved any of the discharges, suspensions or other disciplinary actions meted out by the company either this week or last week," he asserted.

Assaults Ford Stories. Charging that the Ford company, through its news bureau, "constantly has misrepresented the position of the union," Mr. Thomas explained that UAW-CIO officials review all disciplinary action.

"Persons whom we find justly disciplined will not be defended," he said, reiterating that the union "will not retreat" from its no-strike pledge. Then he added: "Persons innocent of the acts charged will be afforded every possible defense and protection by the union."

Richard T. Leonard, national Ford directors of the union, promised an early statement setting forth the union's position on the 10 discharges and 10 suspensions handed out by the company last week.

Bulgaria Recalls Troops. STOCKHOLM, Mar. 17 (P).—The Bulgarian Army command has recalled Bulgarian occupation troops from Northeastern Serbia, a Swedish press dispatch from Sofia said yesterday. No reason was given.

FOR KITCHENS BATHROOMS CHILDREN'S ROOMS

VITA-VAR INTERIOR GLOSS INTERIOR VELVET GLOSS

Who slept through his entire term as U. S. President? David Rice Atchison, when inauguration of Taylor was postponed one day. . . . Don't postpone for another day the enjoyment of

Tonight's Special COMPLETE DINNER FILET OF BOSTON SOLE, SAUCE NORMANDE—Here is sole as many love it, enhanced by a sauce of varied seafood, palate-capturing vegetables, and a J. J. beverage and wide selection of desserts \$1.55

Lafayette Room HOTEL LAFAYETTE 16th and Eye Sts., N.W.

Is Mealtime Uneventful? Dining or lunching here will soon become an anticipated event!

DINNERS LUNCHEONS BAR BEVERAGES

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The Smart Suit for Spring SHARKSKIN TAILORED AT FASHION PARK

This Spring know the luxury of a Sharkskin suit tailored at Fashion Park. The superior fabric, the distinctive tailoring that goes into each of these Fashion Park garments assures you of a suit that will serve you for many seasons to come.

Available in a wide choice of patterns in single and double breasted models \$65

MacArthur's Nephew To Make Report Today

Douglas MacArthur, 2d, nephew of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, planned to report to the State Department today on his 15 months' internment in Vichy France and Germany.

The diplomat arrived yesterday at his home, 2706 Connecticut avenue N.W., after returning to this country on the exchange liner Gripsholm.

Mr. MacArthur, who is 34, served as third secretary of the American Embassy in Paris and Vichy before his internment.

38 in War Department Given Civilian Awards

The civilian award for meritorious service has been presented to 38 employees of the War Department Office of Dependency Benefits at Trenton, N. J., who worked in Washington before the office was moved north.

They are: Miss Ruth Armstrong, Thomas E. Fades, Miss Florence M. Christman, Miss Addie Constantine, Miss Edith M. Cooper, Miss Pearl Cooper, Miss Gertrude Coyle, Miss Clara L. Dangel, William E. Devault, Miss Sarah C. Donoghue, Miss Dora Dworkin, Miss Jessie C. Eldredge, Miss Elizabeth J. Foley, Miss Pearl Herrin, Miss Katherine Hodnett, Miss Anne Ives, Mrs. Helen S. Johnson, Miss Helena T. Koonitz, Mrs. Jennie M. Landis, Miss Adele Marsaglia, Miss C. Virginia Mayfield, Miss Charlotte A. McCulloch, Miss Daisy W. Mc-

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Complete Stock of MEN'S Broadcloth PAJAMAS

In plain shades and fancy shell patterns on wine... blue and green grounds...

\$2.50 & \$2.95 Other Pajamas From \$3.44 to \$8.50

LAST 7 DAYS —to enjoy the Clothing Reductions in Grosner's Semi-Annual Clearance Sale!

Men Wait Six Months for these exciting Reductions! They wait because they believe in them and know they really get what we promise. We get our valuations from actual selling prices in the store—not out of the air.

Here's the way reductions go: For our fine Suits and Overcoats—Group 1—The \$37.75 and \$44.75 Suits are now \$32.75. Group 2—\$55.00 Suits now \$44.75. Group 3—\$50.00 Alpha Rajah Overcoats now \$39.75. Group 4—\$62.00 Kuppenheimer, \$65.00 Worumbo, \$62.00 Imported Kil-

daire Tweed O'coating from Athlone, Ireland, now \$49.75. Group 5—\$94.00 O'coating by Crombie of Aberdeen, Scotland, now \$69.75. Use our "Third-in-Three" Charge Plan. Pay 1/3 Now—1/3 April 15th—1/3 May 15th.

Special Group—\$11.95 to \$13.95 Stetson Shoes, now \$8.95 & \$9.95 (All leather soles)

Grosner of 1325 F St. Give More In '44 + Red Cross War Fund

Mechen, Miss Frances V. Menefee, Mrs. Carmen Patterson, Miss Mildred R. Price, Mrs. Mildred A. Purdy, Miss Grace E. Reardon, Carl C. Redinger, Miss Eugene A. Renouf, Mrs. Sufie M. Roberts, Miss Mary B. Sheahan, Miss Velma W. Smith, Miss Josephine Soukup, Glen A. Spears, Miss Nellie Van Arsdall, Miss Helen F. Waring and Miss Mary J. Wilson.

Thieves Get \$3, Miss \$3,000

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Mar. 17 (P).—Two young purse snatchers grabbed Mrs. Rachael Whitehead's handbag last night, containing \$3,000 in cash, \$164 in checks and a \$75 diamond ring. A detective later found the bag atop a parked automobile. In it were \$3,000 in bills, the checks and the ring. Miss-

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SARATOGA SPRINGS Natural MINERAL WATERS Brings the springs to your home exactly as the water comes from the ground. Maintains the fluid balance between tissue and blood stream. This natural water brings relief in cases of rheumatism, diabetes and arthritis.

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\$2.50 & \$2.95 Other Pajamas From \$3.44 to \$8.50

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