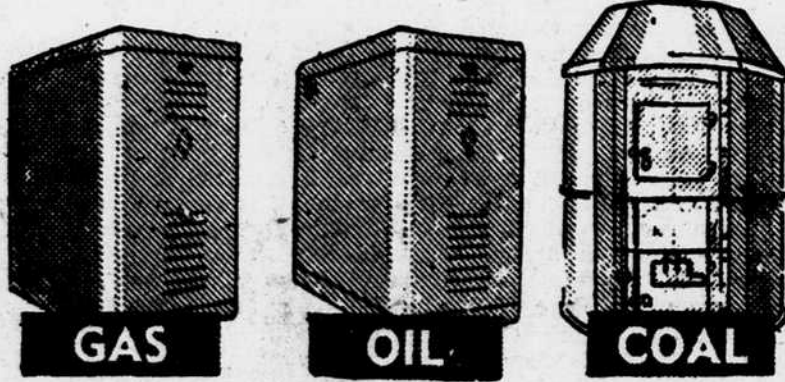


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40 Helldivers Supply Greek Army's Punch In Battling Reds

LARISSA, Greece, Sept. 30 (CDN).—The airborne punch that is keeping Greece's Communists on the run is supplied by 40 iron-blue Helldivers working out of this well-worn bomber strip.

The Greeks like this American carrier plane because, as one Greek pilot says, "It's like your washing machines and your electrical egg beaters; it saves labor."

The Helldiver can carry two tons of bombs, rockets and a greasy flame spreader. The Spitfire, Greece's only fighter-bomber till now, can carry only a half ton. "We do four trips to the front in one," said one pilot.

Though the Grammos Mountain complex of the guerrillas is broken, the Helldivers are called on for special jobs on the various holdout positions scattered all over Greece.

U. S. Veteran Is Adviser.

"Our intention," says Lt. Col. Dan Riva of Hartford, Conn., an 8th Air Force B-17 veteran now advising Greek operations, "is to clobber them hard wherever they show their heads."

The Helldiver brought special problems here, being a rugged carrier plane. The whip of its 2,000-horsepower engines tore the tar hide from the Greek runways when they revved up in carrier formation. Black sheets of tar rose in the air and fell on the planes.

With the heavy Helldiver, a vertical dive comes out at 70 degrees. The ideal for bombing is 65 degrees, for strafing and rockets 45 degrees, and for spreading flaming grease over trenches 20 degrees.

The Greeks have departed from American practice in that they fly the Helldivers with the rear seat empty, to gain more load for the 120-pound rockets. However, 25 observers are being trained.

Bought for \$2,000,000.

The 50 Helldivers—40 for battle and 10 for spare parts—were bought for Greece for \$2,000,000 at the instance of Brig. Gen. William A. Matheny of Carrington, N. D. Gen. Matheny was a strong advocate of winning the Balkan war through air power rather than ground force, and now has been transferred home.

Three Navy officers and 16 enlisted men are working with the 28 Greek pilots. The two instructors in dive-bombing are Lt. Robert L. Schenayder of Houston, Tex., and Lt. Van Buren Blackwelder of Charlotte, N. C. They have taught the Greeks to plunge from 15,000 feet, release their bombs at 3,000, and pull out at 1,500.

"We do everything first ourselves," said Lt. Schenayder. "At first they didn't believe that you could load a Helldiver cramfull, leave the bomb bay doors wide open and take off alive and land safely. We showed them; then they did it."

Albanian anti-aircraft batteries, including German 88-mm. guns,

fired on them from the 13,000 foot level. But there bombs were so terrible in effect that many Communists were captured thereafter in a deranged and dazed condition, even when unwounded.

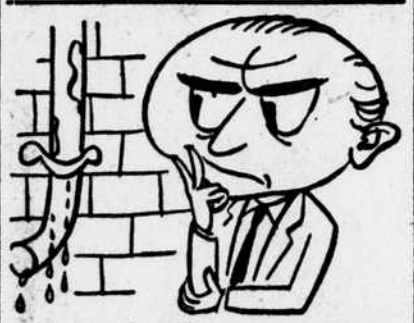
Planes Well Cared For.

"The Greeks take good care of the planes," said Navy Lt. Harry Ramsay, of Whittier, Calif. "The first day we had to load and arm the bombs ourselves. But the second day they were rapping on our doors at 5 a. m. They had loaded them up themselves."

The new American bombs have about 40 per cent more blast than the British discards the Greek Air Force formerly used.

The Greeks are learning formation-flying and tactics from Lt. Col. Harold Whiteman of San Antonio, and Lt. Col. Russell Getchell, of East Detroit.

The average power which a man can exert in one working day equals 35 watts.



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C. U. to Open Sunday With Mass at Shrine

Catholic University will be opened officially with a solemn

high mass at 11 a. m. Sunday in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at the university.

The faculty and students will form a procession to the shrine

before the mass, after which the Jordan, vice rector of the university, will address the group during the services. The mass will be celebrated by the Very Rev. Louis A. Arand, president of the Divinity College of the university.

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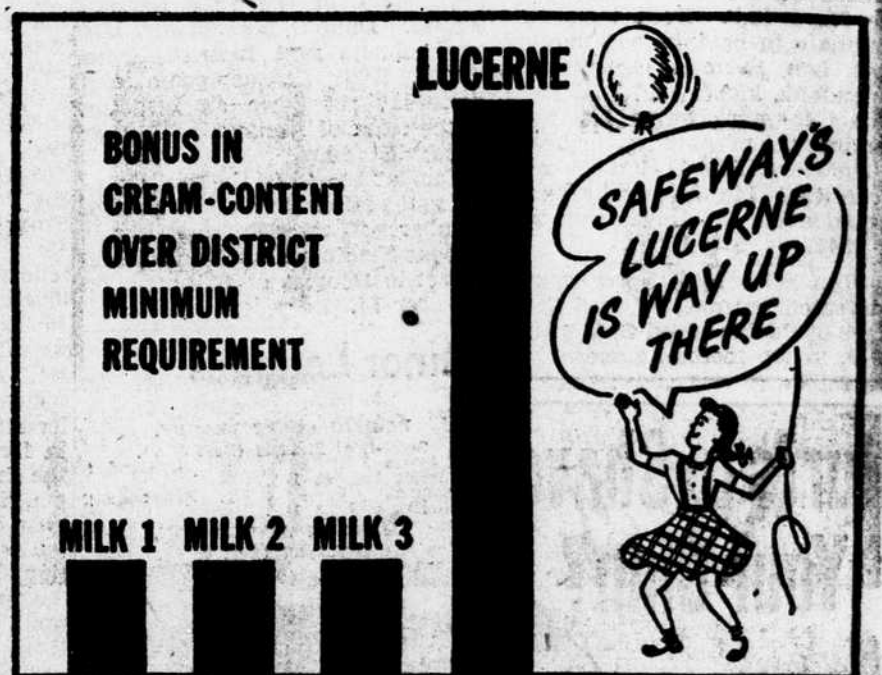
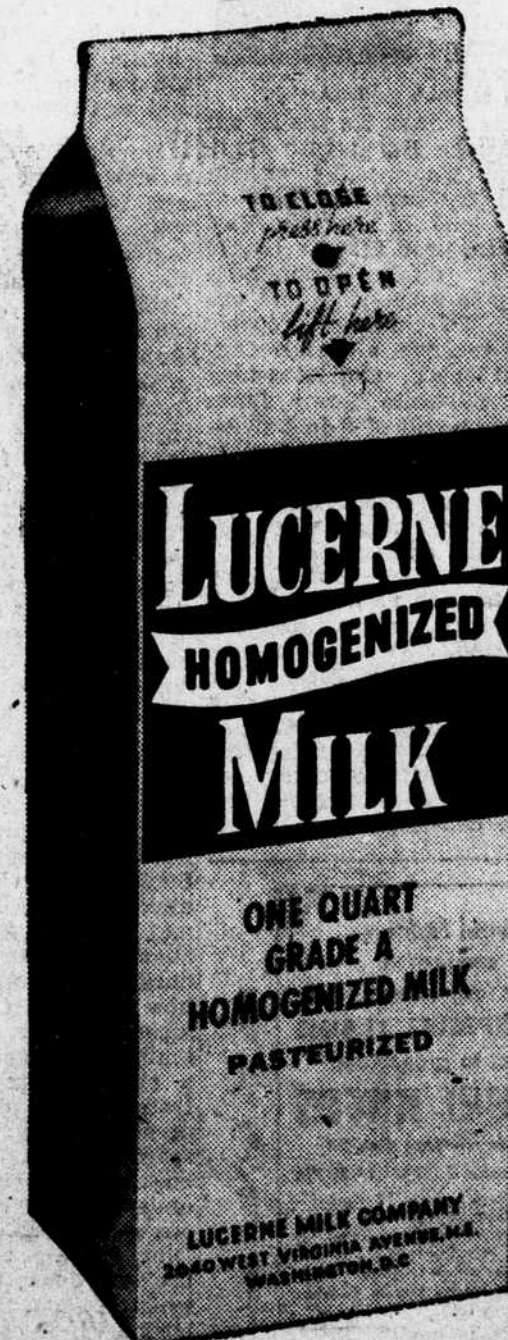
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