

## "SOME WILL NOT COME BACK"

While aboard the U.S.S. Delta Queen steaming up San Francisco Bay last Saturday afternoon, we were attacked by a Navy carrier air group. Over 100 Hellcat fighters, Helldiver dive-bombers and Avenger torpedo planes swooped down upon the crowded deck of the former ferry boat now operated by the U. S. Navy.

It was a thrilling experience and would have been horrifying had we not been told in advance that the attacking planes would not use live ammunition and the "torpedoes" would be water-filled.

The realistic demonstration of a Navy-style carrier-delivered air attack was arranged by the Navy for a group of delegates and press representatives attending the United Nations Conference. The same techniques that have proved so successful against the Japs were used in the mock attack.

A Navy officer, over a loud speaker, explained it thus: "Here come the dive bombers—look straight up!" Directly overhead we saw tiny specks in the sky, but almost instantly—so fast were they diving—the dive-bombers swooped upon us in a devastating roar and swerved aside when a short distance over our ship's deck. Some of them wobbled uncertainly as they swept away.

Before we could catch our breath, the Navy officer shouted, "Now the torpedo planes are coming in from the starboard!" Low over the water, we could see the Avengers heading toward our ship. It seemed certain they would hit her broadside. Then suddenly they leaped over the bow and dropped their "torpedoes," which fortunately fell in the bay alongside.

In another second several groups of planes were "strafing" our decks and bedlam let loose all around. The roar of the motors was deafening, and there seemed no place to duck or hide. The attacking planes came from every direction.

After the attack and quiet was restored, the Navy officer told us the men who led the attack had recently returned from Okinawa, Two Jima, and other Pacific war targets. He sobered us with these words:

"Some of their fellow squadron members did not return. But these men are going back soon to help finish the Japs with the men you saw in action today. And some of them will not return. We are now operating so close to the enemy shore that even if our men are able to bail out, they will be taken prisoner by the Japs before our forces can rescue them. The men of the Navy are willing and anxious to finish off the Japs as thoroughly as the Germans are now beaten, providing you folks on the home front stick to your job of furnishing the planes, ships, ammunition, and supplies."

His remarks sunk in, and I thought that if anyone who felt the urge to let-down after V-E Day, could have been aboard our ship, he certainly would change his mind and buckle down to the job ahead. We have fine American boys now in Jap prison camps, who are depending upon us for their liberation. We should remember that Japan is a powerful nation of 80,000,000 people (as large as Germany in population), with strong industrial reserves, and an army of about 8,000,000 which is still nearly untouched by the might of Allied arms. We have a big job ahead. Let's not waste a single day or hour until the Nips are licked.

## "THIS IS AMERICA"

Nearly one million American boys are casualties in this greatest war history ever has known and thousands more will be killed, injured and maimed in pursuance of their right and our right to live as a free, liberty-loving, self-governing people. The cost of this war in human life is appalling. It taxes the imagination when one considers that the number of men who have fallen in this battle against the tyranny of fascism, nazism and other evil dictatorships equals almost half the population of Los Angeles, and that their families, loved ones left behind, equal almost the whole population of California.

Yet, while the nation is bleeding in its battle for the rights of free citizens, the people of Torrance are being denied the democratic opportunity of saying "yes" or "no" the question "Shall the people of Torrance maintain and operate a free and independent school system and withdraw from the Los Angeles city school district?"

Before the Committee on Education of the State Assembly is a bill, No. 1029, which would amend the Education Code of California to permit the people to vote on this question. Overwhelming Torrance support has been prepared. The question is clear and clean. Torrance wants the right of free citizens, the right for which her sons and the sons of millions of other people are dying in this war, to say "We want our own independent schools," or "we don't want them."

The Los Angeles city school district and its representatives in Torrance do not want us to have this freedom of expression. They are afraid to allow the residents of Torrance the democratic right to a voice in how the schools for which they are paying shall be operated.

Comes word from Sacramento that this Los Angeles sponsored opposition is likely to kill the bill in committee; that the pressure of the great Los Angeles district is so heavy in its effort to keep the "plum" of Torrance's tax wealth that we, the people of Torrance, will not be privileged with the fair right of voicing our opinions on this all-important question; that we are shut out, without a voice, without the freedom of expression guaranteed in this great land of liberty. This IS America. This calls for action of believers in rights of Americans.

Are we to endure the pressure of Los Angeles politics and be denied our right to vote on our own local problems? Are we to be subjected to dictatorship at home while our sons, fathers and brothers are shedding blood against it on foreign soil?

Los Angeles boldly says we will not have the right to vote on the question of operation of our own local schools. Torrance, your voice is to be muffled; your right to the liberty of self-expression denied; you shall have no voice whatever in the question of deciding whether you or Los Angeles shall spend the \$600,000 a year, you raise to operate your schools!

The time has come. Lend the strength of your influence to secure the passage of this bill, A. B. 1029, by the California Legislature. Write to your Assemblyman Vincent Thomas who introduced this measure and has been putting up a valiant fight to secure its adoption. Give him your support, tell him you want this bill to permit you to express preference on the school question made law. Write to other members of the Assembly and the Committee on Education. This bill is "hot" in Sacramento, we are told. Make it "hotter," for it is merely a bill to give you the American right of self-expression.

Write to the Committee on Education. Tell the members that you want your liberty protected. Let the will of Torrance and the influence of her people prevail.

Do this today. Write or telegraph.

Should the selfish opposition of Los Angeles and her influence in Sacramento be too great to surmount, be prepared to rally to the cause of a City Charter for Torrance, into which will be written the question of control by the people of Torrance of the schools of Torrance, control of \$600,000 a year now being paid out against \$300,000 spent in Torrance; control which will result in Torrance having the finest schools in California instead of the present inadequate and neglected system operated by Los Angeles.



**LT. COLONEL . . .** Recently assigned as commander of Group 3, Southern California Area, California State Guard, A. Milton Fish has been promoted to grade of lieutenant colonel, according to dispatches from Sacramento. Col. Fish, formerly commander of the 2nd battalion, 39th regiment, which includes Torrance, South Bay, Harbor and Long Beach communities, now has command of all State Guard units in the southern half of Los Angeles County and Orange County.

## NEW WATER DISTRICT PLANS START

Torrance City Council Tuesday night accepted the report and survey of the water situation in Waleria and south-west Torrance, ordering petitions prepared to give the people of the area the opportunity of deciding whether or not they want to form Municipal Water District No. 2.

Taylor and Taylor, water engineers who made the survey, proposed that the district take in all area west of Cedar ave. now known as Crenshaw blvd. and south of Sepulveda blvd., except Clifton Rivera.

They have recommended three proposals for choice of the district and gave estimates of cost, as follows:

1. Acquiring Quandt System and utilizing only the parts of it which are up to standard or will do \$187,000.
2. Extending a pipeline from Metropolitan main and using that water exclusively, \$143,000.
3. Developing an independent, separate water supply and system, \$144,200.

In a supplemental report Taylor and Taylor said estimated income of the proposed water district based on approximately 300 consumers is \$13,300 per year.

At a 25% reduction in rates the annual revenue for 400 consumers would be \$10,000.

The actual operating expenses, against the assumed revenue of \$10,000 per year, are estimated at \$7,500, leaving a \$2,500 surplus from revenue to redeem bonds.

Ellinwood ranch interests served notice on the City Council that they did not want to be included in the proposed water district and their holdings are extensive in the area. No action was taken on this request.

It is expected that the people of the proposed district will be given opportunity to vote on the matter in the next few months. Meanwhile, the City Council set the machinery in motion for starting the proposed assessment district to provide sewers for the Pueblo area. Resolutions adopting plans and specifications and declaring the intention of the city to order construction of the sewer lines were adopted.

The County Sanitation District will aid in the cost of the sewers, the people of the area paying about half the cost by floating bonds for the improvement. It will cost about \$30,000, it is said.

## Torrance Pilot Killed in Air Crash May 8

1st Lt. Archie B. Caraway, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Caraway, who recently purchased a home at 1348 W. Carson st., Torrance, was killed May 8 when two B-24 Liberator bombers collided in air near Liberal, Kansas, according to press dispatches.

One other officer and one enlisted man died in the crash, it was said.

## IS CONVALESCENT

Verne G. Barlow of 1720 Andree ave., is convalescing from an operation which he underwent recently at Seaside Hospital, Long Beach.

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## UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE WILL SUCCEED, TORRANCE PUBLISHER SAYS ON RETURN

By GROVER C. WHYTE

Last week I threw off the manifold worries of publishing a couple of weekly newspapers during these troublesome war times, and delved into the whirl of international affairs at the United Nations Conference on International Organization now meeting in San Francisco.

I fully realize that to attempt to give a comprehensive report on this world encircling convulsion in one story is as futile as trying to condense the Encyclopedia Britannica into a pocket notebook. So I'll confine this report to my own impressions and a few sidelights.

Upon arriving at San Francisco, I found the Civic Center, where the conference is being held, barricaded for about three blocks distant on all sides. By pre-arrangement I picked up my press credentials at the downtown office of the California Newspaper Publishers Association and was told to go to the press headquarters at the Palace Hotel and board a Navy bus, which took me directly to the Veterans Memorial Building at the Civic Center. Fortunately, as I stepped off the bus, I met my good friend Judge Harlan Palmer, publisher of the Hollywood Citizen-News, who has been at the conference since the opening day.

"Just arrived?" asked Judge Palmer. "Well, I'll take you around and show you the ropes, otherwise it will take you a day or more to get oriented."

Sees Press Rooms We walked down one long corridor from which opened the offices of Tass, the Russian news agency, Reuters, the French press, the United China News Agency, and other foreign news gathering organizations as well as commodious offices of our own United Press, Associated Press, and I.N.S. In an opposite corridor were located the foreign and domestic radio broadcasting companies. You now begin to get an idea of the wide scope of this conference.

Downstairs, is a huge room filled with hundreds of brand new typewriters on small desks, and smaller ones adjoining also well stocked with typewriters. Here the reporters from all over the world come to write their dispatches. It was an interesting crowd, some dark complexioned writers in their native garb. (Continued on Page 4)

## Sidelights of United Nations Conference

As I stood in the crowded Hotel St. Francis lobby waiting to get into the dining room, a group of Arabs in native costume stood near. A gossip gal in the crowd, not thinking the Arabians understood English, remarked, "I thought they were supposed to be such good looking sheiks. They don't look so hot to me." It was too much for the Arab, who turned to the abashed wisecracker and in perfect English said, "You should see us on horseback lady." The woman flushed, disappeared. (For your information girls, the Arabians wear regular business suits under their robes.)

San Francisco, famous for its fine eating places, is losing its reputation fast. At the St. Francis, they handed us a menu as big as the morning newspaper, but the only thing you could get was fish. It came, stone cold, burned black on one side, and so rancid I tasted it all the next day. For which we paid \$3.50 per plate. Best place I found was Omar Khayyam's, but they rushed you through like a cafeteria. There is no butter anywhere. Guess the red points must be all reserved for the "Big Five's" room service.

Spokesman for the "small people" of the world is eloquent Brigadier General Carlos P. Romulo, Resident Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States and chairman of the Philippine delegation at the San Francisco Conference. Leader of the guerrilla forces during the Japanese occupation, Romulo is both a realist and an idealist. He is one of the outstanding personalities at the conference. He staged a full dress press conference Saturday morning at the St. Francis, attended by some dozen top-notch Philippine officials, nearly all of whom had suffered the bitter lash of the Jap before their liberation. Romulo and his aides held the three hundred press representatives in rapt attention for two hours. His creed for the 18,000,000 Filipinos and one billion unvoiced Asiatics is "Liberty, Justice and Equality."

The editor of the N. Y. Times inquired about the Japanese problem in the Philippines after the war. "We'll have no Japanese problem in the Philippines," said Romulo. "We'll have no Japs."

Another newsmen asked Romulo for his opinion on whether Japan's Emperor Hirohito should be protected and safeguarded by the United Nations. He smiled, replied that the Japanese regard Hirohito as a god. —"The Japanese soldier fights (Continued on Page 4)

## Woman Held in First Murder In 12 Years

Torrance's perfect record of 12 years without a murder was broken Monday when Mrs. Doris Lovell Reid, 32, of 1355 W. 220th st., allegedly stabbed to death William Kenneth Strang, 40, of 911B Amala ave.

Mrs. Reid was arraigned Tuesday on a first degree murder charge, and her preliminary hearing will take place Monday. She is being held in the county jail without bail.

She is accused of stabbing Strang on a parking lot at Cravens ave. and El Prado, after a cafe drinking party attended by Mrs. Reid, Strang's former wife, Lola, 33, of 317 W. 109th st. and his wife's friend, Pearl Vaughn, 1513 W. 146th st., Gardena.

Mrs. Reid reportedly told officers that Strang and she had agreed that one would have the right to stab the other in the event of unfaithfulness. Police said Strang had danced with his former wife during the evening, apparently arousing Mrs. Reid's jealousy.

Mrs. Strang and her friend told police that as they were getting into their car after leaving the cafe Strang stumbled up to the car, saying, "She cut me," then collapsed.

They said Mrs. Reid followed him, saying, "I cut him. . . I cut him."

Strang was dead when police arrived at the scene. Chief of Police John Stroth said that Mrs. Reid showed no effort to make a get-away and readily handed over the knife used in the stabbing to Capt. E. M. Ashton, of Torrance police department, who responded to a call by Mrs. Strang and Miss Vaughn.

H. W. Reid, husband of the accused woman, is a chemist at Bohn Aluminum, and has come to his wife's side to aid her in her defense, Chief Stroth said.

The last murder in Torrance was the Tedesco case of 12 years ago, in Waleria. Chief Stroth said, Tedesco, a Redondo Beach shoe cobbler, was killed with a cobbler's hammer. Two other nearby cases of murder are on the records, but one is a county case and the other a Los Angeles city shoeshing case.

The fatal stabbing of Strang was termed homicide Tuesday by a coroner's jury, which recommended that Mrs. Reid, 1355 W. 220th st., Torrance, be held to answer.

Funeral services for Strang will be held at Stone & Myers chapel at 2 p.m. today with interment in Inglewood cemetery. Other survivors include LaRue Strang, daughter, Torrance; William Strang, son, Los Angeles; John J. Strang, father, Torrance; J. C. Strang, brother, Bell; Mrs. Lorena Rice, sister, Culver City.

Instructions For Housing Filing Here Instructions as to how to proceed to secure allocations for new privately financing housing under the FHA "H-2" program have been received here and are available to those who desire to build, according to Harry B. Lewis, executive secretary, Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

They are on file at the Chamber office, and may be seen by interested parties. Assigned to the Los Angeles County area are 3,000 dwelling units with maximum sales price of \$7,000 based upon a three-bedroom unit; 3,000 dwelling units with maximum shelter rent of \$60. Six hundred units are reserved for owner-occupant use, and the number of dwelling units started in successive, 30-day intervals will be limited to 1,000.

The office of the FHA at 112 W. 9th st., Los Angeles, will be open Monday, May 21, at 8 a.m. to receive applications for not to exceed 1100 units, Lewis said. Several local contractors are said to be interested in the filing of applications for mass building here.

TO PASO ROBLES Mrs. D. H. Storm, of Klamath Falls, Ore., who has been visiting at the G. W. Dolton home for several months, left last week to visit her daughter in Paso Robles. Mrs. Dolton accompanied her for a few days' visit.

## HEAVY STEEL BUILDINGS WILL BE BUILT ON NAVY MATERIAL CENTER HERE

Indicative of the permanent nature of the U. S. Navy Material Redistribution Center in Torrance, the Navy department's contract to P. J. Walker Co. awarded Friday was for "heavy steel buildings." The Walker Co. was preparing to start work this week, with grading and foundation laying the first step in the tremendous job.

Walker's bid of \$1,800,000 for the first stages of the \$5,000,000 Torrance project was among many submitted. About 700 men will be employed in this phase of construction, and the job will be completed in less than six months, it was said.

The Walker company built the \$3,500,000 Alcoa plant and the \$2,800,000 Bohn Aluminum plants in Torrance, and are engaged in a \$450,000 contract under the name of Western Walker Co. at the California Shipbuilding Corp. yards. The address of the contractor is 3900 Whiteside ave., Los Angeles.

Superintendent on the job will be Carl Larson, who supervised the Alcoa and Bohn jobs.

Four huge steel and concrete warehouses, each 202 x 602 feet in size, to store salvaged and excess material, big repair shops to put the material back into service, an administration building, cafeteria, several miles of paving and of railroad spur tracks, garages, parking space, storage facilities, installation of sewers and storm drains, all are involved in the contract.

More than 300 workers will be employed at the center when it is finished. It is located on a 91-acre site purchased from a Santa Fe subsidiary company and extends from Crenshaw blvd. east to the tracks and thence south to Jefferson st. Lieut. Comdr. Frederick R. Drake Jr., U. S. Navy, who will be in charge of the depot, has set up offices on the site with his staff. The work is being done under the supervision of the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks.

The Walker company won the contract in competition with 14 other bidders. The bids were sent to the Navy Bureau in Washington, which has just announced the contract award.

Comdr. Drake's office on the location is at the corner of Jefferson and Oak sts. Assisting him in the administration are C. H. Burkhardt and L. W. Pucher, superintendents, and Mrs. Emma Tracy, secretary.

Rezonings, Street Closing Asked by Local Industry Requests for rezoning of the tract of land on the south side of Carson st. between Oak st. and Crenshaw blvd., and for the temporary closing of Oak st. are before the Torrance City Council and the City Planning Commission.

The requests are based on the proposed expansion of the Torrance factory of the International Derrick and Equipment Co., which is negotiating for purchase of the tract of land west of their present site. Most of the property now is zoned for heavy manufacturing, but the actual frontage on Carson st. is zoned for C-1 and R-2, residential and commercial.

The section of Oak st. in question serves no public need, it is pointed out in petitions of the interested parties, and the U. S. Navy, which is building a 91-acre material redistribution center south of IDECO, has stated that it has no objections to closing of Oak st. IDECO is asking only an easement over the street that its present and future plants may be merged into one big unit.

Oak st., at present, comes to a dead end at Jefferson st., just south of Carson st.

Harry B. Lewis, executive secretary, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, who is handling details of the petitions, declared that it is apparent that interests of future growth of Torrance will be served by the granting of the two requests, and that public convenience and necessity will be in no way obstructed, but on the whole will be aided.

WEDDING DATE NOTED Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Murray, of 1912 Andree ave., celebrated their wedding anniversary Sunday at a theatre and dinner party in Los Angeles. Later they joined friends at the home of Mrs. Claire Conway of Hollywood.

V-E Day Reminds Torrance of Task Yet Uncompleted V-E day for Torrance was mainly a reminder that V-J day will be wonderful when it comes.

War plants, city and other government offices, business houses and schools went about their work as usual.

Stores remained open, and downtown streets had no more than the usual number of persons.

Liquor selling at bars and retail stores stopped for the day. Church services were conducted at various hours, as ministers joined in the plea for prayer for a speedy return of the boys overseas, speedy victory over the remaining enemy of freedom and mankind.

In keeping with the proclamation of President Truman, churches Sunday will combine their Mother's Day programs with Memorial and Thanksgiving services to honor our sons, fathers and brothers still on the fighting fronts or who have made the supreme sacrifice for liberty.

FROM FISHING TRIP Bill Husbands and his brother, Jack Husbands, returned Wednesday of last week from a two-day fishing trip near Little Rock, Creek.