

LOUIS ZAMPERINI COMING HOME

WAR DEPARTMENT GIVES FAMILY FIRST OFFICIAL WORD FAMED FLIER SAFE

First official word that First Lieut. Louis Zamperini, Torrance hero of world-wide fame, is safe and en route to his home was received by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zamperini, his parents, yesterday from the War Department.

Acting Adjutant General Edward F. Witzell telegraphed Mrs. Zamperini the following message:

"The Secretary of War has asked me to inform you that your son, Lt. Louis Zamperini, has returned to military control 5 Sept., 1945, and is being returned to the United States in the near future. Physical condition good. He will be given an opportunity to communicate with you on arrival."

BULLETIN
Lt. Louis Zamperini, reported to be resting on Okinawa yesterday, is expected to arrive in the United States within a few days, possibly Friday, it was announced last night. On Okinawa, Zamperini is said to have remarked that he would like to have a gold watch and see a good American movie. He said that soon after his capture, the Japanese recognized him and tried to prevail upon him to broadcast Nip propaganda. This he refused to do and suffered additional punishment for his refusal to allow himself to be used for propaganda purposes. He is said to have gained 20 pounds since his release from a Japanese prison hospital, now weighing 149 pounds.

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Thus long years of anxiety on the part of the Zamperini family has ended in the complete knowledge that the Olympic miler who grew up in Torrance is alive, safe and on the way home.

They never gave up hope despite heart-breaking messages that he had died in action, that he was the mistreated and mauled Japanese prisoner of war which he proved to be, but they never could be sure, even up to the time his friend, Robert Trumbull, of the New York Times, scooped the world and published an exclusive interview with Lt. Zamperini Sunday, obtained in Yokohama Sept. 6, the day after he was released.

The family gave credit to Trumbull's story, because they knew that the writer was closely associated with Louis, would know him and would, probably ahead of all other correspondents, get the story of his life since his plane crashed 200 miles northwest of Palmyra on May 27, 1943.

But they never were sure, because continued denials of knowledge of Louis' release came from the War Department. Even when the ill-famed Japanese Postman months ago assertedly put Lt. Zamperini on the air from Tokyo, and even though they recognized his voice from recordings, and he gave them information known intimately only among members of the family, they could not be sure of his safety at the hands of the Japanese.

Yesterday, however, the official word came and the Zamperinis breathed their first breath of complete freedom from anxiety since they had received word that he was missing.

During the past week, the family home has been thronged with visitors, from metropolitan newspaper men down to close friends and relatives, wishing them well and waiting for more news. The telephone has been busy constantly, and a record

kept of all calls that Lt. Louis might know who have been inquiring for him.

Mayor W. H. Tolson, Commander C. Earl Conner, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Miss Lute W. Fraser and Capt. R. L. Lewellen waited upon the family Tuesday evening and offered the services of the city, veterans groups and the community as a whole in preparing a welcome for the hero, and in arranging to take Mr. and Mrs. Zamperini to whatever point he lands in the United States to be with him.

Captain Lewellen was delegated by the Zamperinis to take complete charge of all such arrangements, just as he did when the famous athlete returned from the Olympic games in 1936.

The captain said that plans are being prepared for his welcome, but asked the people of Torrance to please allow the Zamperinis the freedom of their home by remaining away from the residence when Louis returns until they have had a few days to enjoy their reunion.

Ample opportunity will be arranged in the program of welcome for the public to have a chance to see and greet Lt. Zamperini, it was said.

The story, as reported by the New York Times syndicate and printed in the Los Angeles Times of last Sunday, reads in full as follows:

Lt. Louis Zamperini, miler runner in the 1936 Olympics who was given up for dead when he failed to return from a search mission in an Army plane almost 28 months ago, is on the way home today after an incredible survival of 47 days on a raft, followed by equally incredible cruelties in Japanese prison camps from the Marshall Islands to Honshu.

Lt. Russell A. Phillips of Princeton, Ind., pilot of the Army B-24 in which Zamperini was bombardier, also survives the unprecedented ordeal on the raft and shared his prison hardships until he was sent to another camp recently. A third man in the raft, whom Zamperini could identify only as MacIntyre, the tall gunner, died on the 33rd day at sea. The other seven of the B-24's crew were lost with the plane.

Family Kept Hope
Zamperini's survival was held so unlikely by the Army that the day after he made a prisoner broadcast on the Japanese radio, American networks carried an Army announcement which was relayed to Zamperini via the Japanese — saying he definitely had been killed. That was a year ago.

But his family in Torrance, nevertheless kept up hope and wrote to him as if he still were alive. He received their letters three weeks ago.

(His family said at that time — Nov. 21, 1944 — that he had broadcast information known only to them. Later, they said they received a letter from him.)

At this moment he is in a plane bound for Okinawa, the worse for his starvation, (Continued on Page 2-B)



LOUIS ZAMPERINI
When running for University of Southern California

Alleys of City Will Be Paved

Alleys of Torrance will be resurfaced during the year as rapidly as equipment is available, Councilman J. E. Hitchcock told the City Council Tuesday night.

He said that \$14,000 had been set up in the budget for the rock and oil surfacing of alleys, but with the small number of men and equipment available to do the work the progress would be slow.

"City Hotel" Full As Wave Of Offenses Sweeps Over Torrance

Police Chief John Stroh hung out the "no vacancy" sign on the Torrance city jail Tuesday. Stroh said that it was not his idea to relieve the housing shortage by filling his jail, but more the idea of those breaking the law in one way or another.

Even the woman's ward held a guest, according to Police Matron Lucille Stroh.

Harold Doherty, 624 Cota ave., was booked and held after several complaints of disturbing the peace were charged against him. According to neighbors, Doherty, who some time ago received a serious

City Buying Much Of OCD Equipment Offered for Sale

The City of Torrance will buy all the OCD equipment possible, it was indicated Tuesday night. When the OCD informed the city it must give up the supplies furnished for emergencies during the war, or buy them, the city proceeded to appropriate several hundred dollars for ladders, hose, pumps, tools and other equipment, for various departments.

Sgt. Yoshinobu Among Victims Of Rail Wreck

Staff Sgt. James Yoshinobu, local Japanese-American soldier, was among those injured in the Santa Fe railroad accident at Santa Anita last week, it was revealed.

Sergeant Yoshinobu had visited Torrance during the week and was enroute to reassignment when injured in the wreck which took five lives. He was taken to the Pasadena Army hospital.

Conditions in Bus Department Criticized As City Council Is Served With Papers to Halt Sale

SURVEY FOR ENLARGEMENT OF POSTOFFICE BUILDING PROMISED BY GOVERNMENT

The Postoffice department will make a survey of conditions in Torrance postoffice, and recommendations for much needed alterations and additions will be submitted to the department and the Federal Works agency for inclusion in future building programs, Postmaster C. Earl Conner announced this week following receipt of a reply to his letter asking for the survey.

Business as Usual at Rolling Hills

It was "business as usual" at Rolling Hills yesterday as insurance adjusters were buzzing through the area burned out in the disastrous fire of Monday afternoon and night.

Home owners were surveying damage, and actual loss was out to about \$36,000 in a recheck of the area.

Several persons well known in Torrance and Lomita were involved in the blaze, including Dr. Alden Smith whose home was saved by the constant stream of water played upon the structure. The damage there was confined to gardens and fruit trees.

Marion Welch, lumber man, lost his stable, and W. T. Young, of Dow Chemical Company's Torrance works, suffered a \$20,000 loss in his residence.

A loss of \$500 was done to the home which Mr. and Mrs. Al Sonnenhies, owners of a Lomita butcher shop, just sold to Joseph Bodonovich.

The fire, believed to have started from a broken high power wire at the bottom of Blackwater canyon, quickly spread to the top and was well upon property before fire fighters could get at it.

The county maintains one pumper and a man 24 hours a day in Rolling Hills, who undertook to fight the blaze, and he soon called for help. Before evening was over and the fire under control, 1000 men, including soldiers were fighting the flames.

Rolling Hills' company said that there was little discouragement, and that things are "rolling along" as usual.

It was remarked that plans for more adequate fire protection for the area have been under way for some months, and probably will be brought to a quick conclusion.

A total of 3000 acres was burned, and some 80 families forced to flee or fight to protect their homes.

Other damage included: Dr. Harold L. Snow, guest house destroyed; Ed Jones, John Burton and George Serpel, garages, plants and trees burned; Paul Williams, trees, fence and shrubs, \$500; Jewel V. Sparks, trees, fence, pigeons and barn, \$3000; L. W. Holsteins, barn, trees, \$3000; W. M. Kennedy, greenhouse, fence, shrubs, \$2000; J. T. Pacarovich, barn, chickens, fence, \$2500; Joe Denni, fence, shrubs, \$500; N. Trutanich, trees, shrubs, fence, \$1000; Dr. Walter Wolbank, garage, chicken coops, fence, \$3000.

Conditions within the municipal bus department were soundly rapped by the Torrance Civil Service Board Tuesday night as the City Council was being served with copies of an alternative writ of mandamus ordering them to appear Monday at 9:30 a.m. in Superior court department 34 to show cause

why they should not proceed according to Act 5203 in selling the lines.

"That's exactly why, I wanted to sell the lines," Mayor W. H. Tolson remarked after discussion of the letter from the Civil Service Board which declared that a recent hearing "established without question the existence of very deplorable conditions in the management and operation of this department."

Both Councilmen J. E. Hitchcock and C. M. Gilbert have remarked at the time the council voted to sell the municipal bus lines to Charles F. Koors for \$65,000 that it is impossible for the city to operate the lines efficiently and at a true profit because conditions, political and otherwise, within the department.

The Civil Service Board said the "deplorable conditions" existed "as between the City Council, the management, the drivers and their union." Councilman N. H. Cucel said that "as administrative head of the bus department I am not responsible for the conditions."

W. J. B. Hughes, local taxpayer, or, seeking to stop sale of the bus lines, or to force the city to proceed according to Act 5203, had secured on Sept. 7 the signature of Superior Judge Joseph W. Vickers to the alternative writ of mandamus ordering the council in selling the bus lines to proceed only according to Act 5203.

Several sections of Torrance are being served by post offices of Gardena, Redondo Beach and Lomita. It was felt that the whole of Torrance should be served by the Torrance post office to give the residents and businessmen more speedy service.

To Appear Monday
City Attorney J. E. McCall and members of the council will appear in court Monday at 9:30 a.m. to show cause why they have not proceeded according to the act.

McCall declares that it is not necessary to follow the act in this case, because a vote of the (Continued on Page 7-A)

County Aid in Western Ave. Job Is Sought

County aid in the widening and extension of Western avenue through Torrance will be asked, it was decided by the City Council Tuesday night.

Since the county is tremendously interested in the development of Western, planning to widen the thoroughfare north of 190th st., and inquiries have been made by Supervisor Raymond Darby regarding progress between Torrance and Los Angeles in the opening and widening plans, the council decided that it would be well to seek county participation. City Engineer G. M. Jain was instructed to ask for the aid.

Civic Improvement Committee New Name of Postwar Planning Group

"Civic Improvement Committee" is the new name of the Torrance Postwar Planning Committee, as a result of action of the group Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce offices.

Reed Parkin, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and secretary-treasurer of Doak Aircraft Co. was named as permanent chairman and Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the chamber, was named as ex-officio secretary.

"Opportunity is again knocking at the door of Torrance and every civic-minded citizen should do something on behalf of the community," Postmaster C. Earl Conner, a member of the committee, declared in keynoting the meeting. Reviewing the past activities of the committee, he pointed out the importance of having a man such as Parkin at the head of the group and the unanimous election followed his suggestion.

Mayor W. H. Tolson, also a member, said that an overall development program for Torrance was under consideration of the City Council at this time, covering buildings, recreation, much needed street work, water development in Southwest Torrance and North Torrance, and sewers in North Torrance.

It was agreed that proposals which would qualify for government financial participation should be given first consideration.

Harold F. Perry, principal of Torrance High school and also a member of the body, said that under proper local leadership the schools would be happy to take over the arts and crafts project for which a new building is proposed by the city.

* It was proposed and unanimously agreed that union labor be invited to membership on the committee.

Other members are Robert Plomert Jr., Glen M. Jain, Charles V. Jones, Grover C. Whyte, Kenneth Bradley and the Rev. Paul M. Wheeler.

Veterans' Memorial Building Drive Progressing as Need Increases

The Veterans Memorial Building campaign will enter the industrial and chain store divisions this week, according to Commander C. Earl Conner, Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Additional workers also are being enlisted for the residential division, which will enter its final phase next week.

The Torrance Post is raising \$20,000 toward the erection of the Veterans Memorial Building, which will serve all veterans of the Torrance area.

Mail contributions may be sent direct to Commander Conner, P. O. Box 335, Torrance, and all citizens are urged to send in their donations at an early date, to insure that the building will be completed on or before Jan. 1, he said.

Commander Conner visited veterans from the Torrance area in hospitals last week, during which tour he chatted with a soldier with one arm missing.

"I see you have lost your