

Lightnings to London

By Capt. Bernard W. Crandell
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Trouble over Davis Strait navigation could not fly this northern route with more success, what could be expected of the fighters, traveling with comparatively simple instruments?

General Arnold phoned Monk Hunter to ask if the entire plan should not be abandoned.

"Hell," exclaimed Hunter, "we haven't even started yet."

Then came a 371-word radio gram from Brig-Gen. Carl (Toocy) Spaatz, who had been over the route in a B-17, inspecting the facilities. It said, in substance:

"None of the airdromes are finished. Some of the special communications as required are in. . . . Gas and oil stocks low. . . . BUT GET MOVING!"

The order was O.K. by Hunter. An Air Transport group rushed hundreds of tons of all types of vital equipment, including the bulky but delicate radio sets, to the bases without the loss of a single airplane. Then the first fighter squadrons, consisting of P-38's, and accompanied by 20 cargo ships and eight Flying Fortresses, made the first and comparatively easy leg of the flight from Maine to Labrador.

The Labrador base had been a wilderness eight months before the first flight of fighter aircraft buzzed over its icy waters. It was little more than that now. Pine forest began a short distance

away from the airdrome and stretched far back thru a country so rugged that it was inhabited only by Indians. But enough of that timber had been cleared away to provide landing and parking areas for the landing of planes that had descended out of the sky. Now the pilots were stewing and waiting impatiently for the word to take off on the next leg to Greenland, a trip they all were to remember.

NEXT: "When she starts to look good . . ."

After milling around for a while, waiting for the weather to break, four of the bombers informed the base that they lacked the gas to return to Labrador. Three of them changed course and thundered northward thru the murk, each one for itself. The fourth kept circling over the southern tip of Greenland, searching in vain for a landing spot.

Of the first three, one found its way thru the midnight skies to the northern field. Another turned inland and crash-landed on the ice cap, 110 miles south of its destination. None of the crew was injured. The third crash-landed on a stretch of gravel beach near Edgesmunde, north of the field, without any casualties altho the B-17 was wrecked. The crew was picked up later by a Coast Guard cutter.

The fourth Fortress sighted an area of water between an island and the mainland which looked fairly smooth. Further search for a safe spot of land was out of the question, and the map indicated that the water was shallow. So the plane made one run over the island, and the crew threw out food, clothes, tins of gasoline, and other cargo. Then it headed for the water. Down it skidded, wing flaps down, wheels up. It skidded when it hit, throwing up a tremendous spray.

It began to sink immediately, but there was time enough for the crew to get out with a dinghy. They were rescued later by one of the busy Coast Guard cutters.

The crew of the B-17 which had crashed on the ice cap was picked up by a Navy PBV Catalina flying boat, which landed on a nearby glacial lake.

But the project began to look like a bad gamble, even tho no lives had been lost. If four-engined bombers equipped with highly specialized equipment for

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ALLEN-CO HIGH IN ALLOCATION OF WAR WORK

With Ohio producing every conceivable kind of war equipment—aircraft, ships, ordnance and the like—Allen-co is listed as one of the leading manufacturing areas of the state with allocation of \$241,435,000 in war contracts.

(Ohio is fourth among states in war contracts with the total amount of allocations approaching the \$17,000,000,000 mark according to a rough estimate by the War Production Board.)

Most counties of Ohio are benefited by the war contracts with Cuyahoga-co leading with \$4,300,000,000 as of Jan. 1.

Van Wert-co, also in the Lima area, has contracts valued at \$1,694,000 while Logan-co has \$3,797,000.

GIRL SCOUTS PUT ON PROGRAM FOR SERVICE CLUB

In recognition that this week marks the 22nd anniversary of the founding of Girl Scouts of America and that this is Girl Scout Week, the Lima Girl Scout organization presented a program at the regular weekly meeting of the Cooperative club held Tuesday in the East room of the Barr hotel.

Six members of Troop 26 of McKinley school, using puppets and a stage of their own make, presented the show "Schnitzle, Schnitzle, and Schnootzle," a dramatized old folk tale, to demonstrate one of the activities of scouting. Girls taking part were Joyce Whitney, Patty Accountant, Barbara Accountant, Joan Frankhouser, Charlene Gebhart, and Betty McBride.

Miss Ruth Ward, executive secretary of the Lima Girl Scout, was the guest speaker and told of Girl Scout activities in Lima stressing the value of service given by young people to their community and their need to feel that they are contributing to the welfare of the community and the war effort.

She said "Girl Scouting is one answer to the growing delinquency problem. Thru it girls can learn the meaning of democracy, cooperation, service and can develop skills and resourcefulness which will stand them in good stead all their lives."

"Our great need is for more leadership. Girls are anxious to become Scouts and we need adults interested in them to help make

FOR ECONOMY—BLACK PRICE COAL

MAY & SON

PHONE 4-7111

By CHIC YOUNG



RED CROSS GETS \$3,000

ADA, March 15—Approximately \$3,000 has been turned in to date in the Ada-Alger-McGuffey district drive for the Red Cross toward the \$5,300 quota to be reached by March 15. The Hardin-co quota is \$20,000, exclusive of Ada's goal. To date the county amount raised is \$3,877.28.

LIMA MAN TO GIVE ADDRESS AT COLDWATER

(Special To The Lima News)

COLDWATER, March 15—Dr. H. H. Brueckner, superintendent of the Lima District Tuberculosis hospital, will be the principal speaker Thursday at 8 p. m. when the Coldwater Tuberculosis board holds a public meeting at the Municipal building here.

Dr. Brueckner will talk on the cure for tuberculosis and will show motion pictures of the disease.

Dr. A. J. Rawers, Mercer-co health commissioner, will talk on the new x-ray machine which will be used for making examinations of local residents. Henry Herman, treasurer of the Mercer-co Tuberculosis and Health-assn, will tell how Christmas seal money is used.

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MERCER-CO MEN SENT TO NAVY

(Special To The Lima News)

CELINA, March 15—A group of 19 Mercer-co men have reported for active duty in the Navy at the Recruiting Station in Columbus. They are awaiting assignment to the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

Included in the group are: Willard B. Dilbone, Arnold C. Williams, Richard G. Eller, William F. Fisher, Harry R. Jackson, Perry E. Kreider, Wilfred J. Thomas, Virgil R. VanKirk, Ralph W. Kreider, Leonard K. Brown, James J. Butcher, Lorin D. Alt, Bernard J. Selhorst, Walter C. Minch, Lawrence A. Luebke, Harold F. Vely, Junior John Shellsberger, Paul E. Ely.

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KEM-TONE ROLLER-KOATER—Rolls Kem-Tone on walls, ceilings. Each—89¢

KEM-TONE TRIMS—Smart, ready-to-apply wall border trims. Per roll—15¢, up

Tune In—The Kem-Tone Miracle Show with Dunninger, Miracle Mentalist Every Wednesday Night 8:00 to 8:30 C.W.T. The Blue Network

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