

BEATING PROBE IN DEATH ASKED

Acting King County Coroner C. L. Harris said last night he has asked Capt. H. J. Lawrence, head of the police homicide detail, to conduct an investigation to determine whether James L. Robiecki, 33-year-old Boeing worker, 1214 16th Ave., died in Harborview County Hospital Monday as the result of violence.

Harris said the investigation will determine whether he will hold an inquest into Robiecki's death.

The acting coroner's announcement was made after officers of Aeronautical Mechanics Union, Local 751, of which Robiecki was a member, said the union also is investigating the case at the request of Mrs. Robiecki.

Comdr. Francis Likes to Play With Children, Forget War



LIEUT. COMDR. and MRS. J. A. FRANCIS
He was mum on 1200-line planning—she spilled the beans

By ROBERT A. BARR
It was, D-day-minus-3, beginning of the historic battle of Iwo Jima, and dawn was just breaking through the heavy overcast—unseen by 50 officers and men under Seattle's Lieut. Comdr. J. A. Francis in the plotting room deep in the ship which lay well offshore.

Francis knew where every one of the 15 carriers, big and little, and all their planes should be, and for a good reason. For two months he and Lieut. Comdr. Harry Helms of Boston had been planning and plotting the entire air-transport operation, the deployment, the scheduling of planes, their bomb loads, fueling, and the assignment of radio frequencies, all in infinite detail.

The ship that Francis was on didn't look like much of a fighting ship and perhaps she wasn't. But she was the flagship of the force, the heavily protected "nerve center" for the entire support of the landings, and the softening up that was beginning then.

Admiral Blandy in Charge
On her bridge was Rear Adm. W. H. P. (Spoke) Blandy, boss of

the opening operation, the terrific pounding of Iwo by shell and rocket and bomb.

In the room below were 15 officers and some 35 enlisted men, alert, with a big job ahead of them. It was that of logging all communications from attacking aircraft, dispatch of target assignments.

In the "sit" was Francis, veteran of Saipan, Guam and Leyte. Over his desk passed all of the operation orders from the planes, communications from the planes and battle wagons.

All Action Coordinated
His job was that of coordinating all of these, including the naval gunfire so it would not hit low-flying aircraft during the bombing and strafing. The room was like a newspaper office. "Screens," (teletype machines) cluttered the room. Typewriters sounded incessantly logging every call from every plane in the air.

Yesterday at his home at 2418 N. 41st St., Francis was grinning indulgently as he got up from the floor where he had been wrestling with his son, Pete, 10 and his daughter, Susan, 7, both at once. He was home again and was loving it.

But his easy-going manner, his grin, did not hide the tiredness that showed in his eyes. He had a 19 to 20 hours of duty day after day, on coffee, lots of coffee, and sandwiches.

He Is Soft-Spoken
To talk to Francis, who is soft-spoken and unassuming, one would not guess the parts he played at Iwo and Okinawa. It took his wife to bring that to light. He made no mention of it. His work sounded just like another desk job.

"I haven't much to tell," he said. "I was just in the joint-operations room where they coordinate the air-support operations with the rest of the action, target assignment and things like that. We don't do any flying. Can't even see outside."

It was like that for an hour when he was deck officer, spotting and launching planes from a new Essex Class carrier, to Iwo and Okinawa. Francis simply wouldn't put himself in the lime-light.

Wife Asks Questions
But under questions from Mrs. Francis he somewhat reluctantly admitted how he had planned for Iwo. Then she wanted to know why he hadn't said something about it.

"I didn't think it was important enough," he replied apologetically. Francis, who is a 1933 graduate of the University of Washington, has been in the Navy since then as a combat pilot, flight instructor at Pensacola, Sand Point, recruiting officer here and in headquarters in Washington, D. C. He is home on a 30-day leave.

Asked what a joint-operations room is like, Francis grinned and said, "Well, I guess it's about as good an example of organized confusion as you can find anywhere."

Jet-Propulsion
Engine Exceeds 780-Mi. Speed
—Engineers Hint
SWAMPSCOTT, Mass., June 2—The most powerful aircraft engine in the world—a super jet-propulsion engine—was unveiled here today.

The powerful engine is used to drive the Army Air Forces Lockheed P-80. It was developed by General Electric engineers and is being produced at West Lynn for the Army Air Forces.

The super jet engine drives the P-80 Shooting Star faster than any other plane ever was flown. It develops a speed which engineers hint is faster than the 780-miles-an-hour speeding sound.

Force from the engine is so terrific that steel fences must be placed in front of the jet during tests to prevent brick walls in the testing laboratory from being blasted to bits.

The engine generates virtually no vibration—eliminating a factor which causes much pilot fatigue. It has only one moving part—an impeller and turbine connected by shaft. Frequently the air compressed by the impeller is 50 degrees below zero, while that pouring through the turbine buckets is blasting hot—1,200 degrees Fahrenheit or more.

The super jet engine when at full speed has a deafening sound which can be heard for miles. It is built to be easily mounted so that it can be installed in a matter of minutes. Any type of fuel, including kerosene, can be used to power the super jet engine.

TELEPHONE GIRLS FOIL DOUGHBOYS

LONDON, June 2—British telephone operators had to find some way to deal with American doughboys looking for a "date." If their favorite method of finding a girl—phoning a number at random—failed to work, they generally start talking to "central."

When she hears a transatlantic accent, proclaiming, "Say, baby, you sure have a nice voice—how about a date?" the operator immediately connects the caller with "Tina," the golden-voiced talking clock, which tells him the time. It frequently takes disappointed G. I.'s several minutes to catch on.

BLITZ-PROPERTY OWNERS MISSING

LONDON, June 2—The British government cannot find the owners of many blitzed sites in London where it proposes to erect some of the 20,000 temporary houses now being supplied to the homeless.

Months of inquiry have failed to trace scores of owners but the need for housing is so desperate that the government is posting 10-day notices of intention to build, and then is proceeding with construction.

Army Nurse Can't Forget Wounded Men She Helped

Rose fragrance and soft music filled the lazy Saturday afternoon atmosphere in the living room, but Lieut. Ruth D. Lewis only half-heard the nostalgic tunes of "Blue Heaven" and paid scant attention to the flowers.

Behind the luminous brown eyes of the Army Nurse Corps officer lay memories of the thousands of battle-battered "merry-go-round" men who came aboard the hospital ship Comfort during early fighting on Okinawa.

Beneath her polka-dot bandana, disciplining her newly-washed hair, there was the recollection of sudden, unbelieving shock aboard the Comfort when a tricky Kamikaze pilot slammed his suicide plane right into the center of the huge red cross on the starboard side of the vessel, like a bull's-eye hit.



LIEUT. RUTH D. LEWIS
She remembers men in pain

Racial Problems Will Be Discussed

Prospects of overcoming racial problems in establishing world unity will be discussed at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening by the public affairs committee of the Y. W. C. A.

Panel members include Dr. Theodor W. Cook, University of Washington professor; Miss Maxine Gontog, of the Philippine Intercommunity Organization of the Western States; Kenji Okuda, relocated Japanese-American; Dr. Erna Gunther, University of Washington; Dr. Jay Wright, head of the International House; and Charles M. Stokes, attorney. Rev. William Gold of University Congregational Church will be moderator.

Pershing Not Near Death, Says Doctor

WASHINGTON, June 2—Reports that John J. (Blackjack) Pershing, 81-year-old General of the Army, was near death were denied outright tonight by Pershing's personal physician, Maj. Gen. Shelley U. Marietta.

Marietta, commandant at Walter Reed Hospital where Pershing resides, said he saw the First World War American Expeditionary Force commander tonight after he had finished "a hearty dinner." Marietta said Pershing was in excellent spirits and that his condition was fine, considering his advanced age.

Kaiser Launches Adelphi Victory

RICHMOND, Calif., June 2—The 10,800-ton cargo ship Adelphi Victory sailed down the ways at the Kaiser Richmond yards tonight with Capt. Harold E. Stassen and Mrs. Stassen as sponsors.

Mrs. Stassen christened the vessel and Stassen pulled the launch trigger. The ship, named for Adelphi College in Garden City, N. J., was the 717th ship to be launched at the four Kaiser yards here.

Man in Crosswalk Bruised By Auto

Struck by an automobile at Third Avenue North and Nickerson Street about 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Orson R. Frair, 62 years old, of 259 University St., suffered several bruises. He was taken to Harborview County Hospital.

The driver of the car, Julius R. Schoeur, 429 Duane St., was cited for failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

Patterson said auditors have completed study of Waterfall-Frazier records brought here from Kansas City, Mo. The investigation was ordered by the Legislature at the request of Gov. Earl Snell to dispell talk of "politics" in connection with the transaction.

Fiancee of Accused Collaborationist Held

PARIS, June 2.—A 25-year-old blonde who was to become the playmate of Sacha Guitry, French playwright and actor accused of collaborating with the Nazis, was reintended today at Camp Drancy outside the French capital.

The wife-to-be, Regine Richard, who also is accused of working with the Germans, served as a nurse last autumn in Drancy.

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Oregon Distillery Hearing to End

PORTLAND, Or., June 2.—Concluding phases of the legislative investigation into state purchase of the liquor stocks of the Waterfall-Frazier and Shawhan Distilleries will be ordered by the Legislature today, State Senator Paul Patterson, chairman of the investigating committee, announced today.

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Work of German War Spies Disgusted Nazi Navy Officer

By THOMAS R. HENRY
North American Newspaper Alliance
OSLO, June 2.—A German army officer of nearly half a million men, still in uniform, returned to Germany after liberated Norway. Once this country's complete masters, these men now are subservient and cooperate with Allied forces.

The situation is novel since the status of the Germans here is not that of war prisoners, but "disarmed Germans." But, actually, few have been disarmed and they are living well on their own accumulated rations. Disarmament is progressing in orderly fashion, but the Nazis return to Germany await transports not yet available.

Navy Office Operates
Last night, I entered a big office building cellar which still was a center of German naval communications, with uniformed girls operating a 150-line telephone switchboard connected with all naval installations in the country. Calls came frequently and during intervals the girls exchanged light gossip with operators at Narvik, Bergen and other places. Three sailors were busy sending to other ports a teletype news summary picked up from British stations.

The sailors and girls seemingly were well satisfied. "The station is commanded by a young German naval officer, who was arrogant at first, but later became subservient. The boasted German navy discipline is a low ebb. A common sailor, acting as interpreter,

talked to the officer as an equal, never said "sir."

Detection "Largely Overcome"
This young officer revealed that until three weeks ago he had command of naval communications in Narvik, where for three years he controlled intelligence operations against Allied "Murmansk" convoys. He said that starting in 1942, Germany had a fleet of 15 submarines there which was increased to 40 in 1943. Their purpose was intercepting such convoys, usually receiving their first intelligence reports on convoys from somewhere north of Scotland by means of radar or air observer reports.

He said reports of spies in America and Britain were few and very unreliable and expressed disgust with the whole German spy system. The officer asserted that the U. S. Navy's first operations were highly satisfactory to the high command, but that during 1944 more convoys constantly got through because of superior Allied sub-detecting devices. He said lack of cooperation by the Luftwaffe also was a factor.

The young officer said, however, that the danger of "sub" detection had been largely overcome near the end of the war with the use of new types of U-boats, which were able to stay submerged over longer periods with absolutely no detectable engine vibrations. He confirmed to some degree off-heard stories that "merry-go-round" operating out of Lorient, supplied the U-boats in the Atlantic. He seemed bitterly disappointed at the German navy's failure when, seemingly, it had been so close to success.

MERRY-GO-ROUND BACK IN BRITAIN

LONDON, June 2.—Residents of Asbridge felt that England was coming back into her own again when a merry-go-round, swings and booths appeared in the market square and the Lady Day Fair was revived for the first time since the war.

The fair is held under a charter granted by Queen Elizabeth, who also gave her people the right to set up their own "Pie Powder Court," at which pickpockets, quacks and beggars would be tried on the spot and put in the stocks. Pubs stayed open an additional hour.

Presbyterians Ask \$2,000,000 for Work

MONMOUTH, Ill., June 2.—The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church today called on its members for a \$2,125,000 subscription fund for a two-year "world-wide Christian advance."

The assembly allocated \$1,000,000 of the proposed sum to be divided between the home and foreign mission boards and \$500,000 to be spread among five colleges under supervision of the church.

The assembly voted in favor of continuing negotiations for uniting with other Presbyterian denominations and instructed its committee on church relations to confer with representatives of other Presbyterian churches.

A cow has no upper teeth and only front lower teeth.

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