



CHARLES P. SOURES

**VEGAS IS GAY**

Again Vegas is gay with banners fluttering in the breezes and the cottonwood fuzz is heaping itself into queer little drifts which crawl along queerly from one place to another as if seeking an extra good location from which to view the wonders of Aviada.

Las Vegas has had some colorful celebrations, but none more interesting than this eighteenth anniversary of the flight of airmail from Los Angeles to New York by way of Las Vegas.

At the time airmail was established there were not many people who considered it more than a rather forced innovation which would never amount to much in our daily lives. It would cost us two or three times as much to send a letter by airmail as by train and at that the letter probably would be burned up when the old crate crashed. Beside what difference does a day or two mean in the general run of business?

Well, as I recall, among the first regular users of airmail in quantity, were the banks. They quickly discovered that by the use of airmail they could save millions of dollars a year in interest by reducing the time of funds, checks, drafts and securities in transit. By airmail, the Los Angeles bank for example, could receive credit by New York banks the next day whereas by regular mail it would take at least five days. And five days' interest on fifty or a hundred million dollars is quite some asparagus.

So the banks, although perhaps it wrongs their financial hearts to pay twice or three times as much per ounce for mailing their letters as they used to pay, quickly became the first users and the chief beneficiaries of the new folderol of air mail.

Nevertheless airmail was one thing, but the idea of sane and sensible human beings risking their lives in the vegetable crates they, twenty years or more ago, called airplanes, was quite another thing. The fellow who took a ride in a plane became a person of distinction who had risked his life for the sake of a little cheap publicity. But why ride a plane between Las Vegas and Los Angeles, for example, when you could board a train at night and be there all in one piece in the morning?

Well, we have seen airplanes improved and flying time decreased and safety measures adopted which made air travel far safer than it is to step out the kitchen sink to get a drink after dark. In fact travel by air became so safe that the whole growing danger will be in the air industry soon will be in the hands of grizzled old men like Fred Kelly (1) or Mason Mallory, whose only way out is to die of old age along in their nineties.

Even Delphine, who roundly swore (to herself) that she would never be persuaded to set foot on one of the contraptions, finally made an air trip, rather because it seemed necessary than otherwise. The only trouble she experienced was that she spent more money riding back and forth between Los Angeles and the Burbank airport trying to get a seat on the plane than it cost for the plane ticket.

Finally she connected with a seat and settled herself comfortably and discovered that the plane was in the air. So she was getting out her knitting and a magazine for a nice comfortable ride when the stewardess said: "Madam, you will have to get off here."

"Why, I can't get off here because..."

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Capital of an Industrial Empire

LAS VEGAS AGE

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

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GREETINGS TO ALL AVIATION

Aviada Opens to Tune Of Thundering Planes

Red Army Has Sevastopol in Close Reach

By ROBER MUSEL  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
LONDON, Apr. 15 (UP)—Red army forces pressing the enemy's battered remnants into Sevastopol's "coffin corner," today smashed to within four miles north of that historic battle-ground city, while in southeastern Poland other red army units toppled the German stronghold of Tarnopol, killing or capturing more than 13,000 Germans.

With today's additions, the Russians have killed or captured approximately 66,500 enemy troops in the whirlwind campaign of the last eight days which also has seen them overrun more than 2,250 towns and villages.

**Fifteen Miles In Day**

Racing 15 miles down the dusty peninsula in a single day, units of General Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Fourth Ukrainian army brought Sevastopol under the range of red army light artillery by hurling the Germans from the town of Belbek, four miles north of Sevastopol. That force also took Belbek station, seven miles north of the size fort which the Russians held under a 250-day siege in 1941-42.

Capture of the town of Lyubimovka put the Russians three miles north of Sevastopol.

A supplementary announcement by the soviet information bureau meanwhile announced that General Rodion Y. Malinovsky's third army, which liberated Odessa last Monday, had killed 26,800 Germans and captured 10,690 during 10 days of its campaign ending April 12. Those were the battered remnants of the German Sixth and Eighth armies which the Russians had driven across the lower Ukraine from Kikolayev to the Dnestr river.

The Moscow broadcast war bulletin announced that the two soviet armies pounding down the Crimea—the other is General Andrei I. Veremanko's independent maritime army—had captured more than 37,000 German and Romanian troops in the first week of the campaign ending Friday.

In today's fighting the Russians pressed the Germans back to a pocket around Sevastopol of perhaps 200 square miles. The two armies captured more than 60 points today including Shuli, 10 5/8 miles east of Sevastopol, Adzhubulet, 17 miles north, Mamashay, eight north; and Albat, 17 east-northeast.

Program of Aviada Features Set for Today and Tomorrow



**SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY**  
Chairman L. Welch Pogue of the Civil Aeronautics Board, who will be guest speaker at the first annual Aviada banquet at Hotel Las Frontier Monday evening at 7:45.



General Feodor I. Tolbukhin will preside today at the first annual Aviada War Heroes luncheon, to be spread at the Hotel Nevada Biltmore at 12:15.

Commemorating the anniversary of the inauguration of airmail service exactly 18 years ago, Las Vegas first annual AVIADA opened thrillingly and brilliantly yesterday for a three-10 5/8 mile celebration.

With war skyraft thundering overhead and guns roaring on the streets, the unique fete sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce got off to more than a flying start.

The morning aerial parade, saluting the people of the community for their active and earnest part in the war effort, was a 15-minute show by many planes of various types from the Las Vegas army airfield—a little demonstration of what airpower means.

Immediately afterward was a mobile parade announcing the opening of the exhibition at the War Memorial building. This procession included a number of artillery pieces, with two 50-caliber machine guns mounted on turret trucks, firing at intervals of a few minutes. This parade moved to BMI at noon for the benefit of war workers there.

**Here They "Took Off"**

The official "take-off" was a luncheon at Hotel El Rancho Vegas, with Robert Griffith as master of ceremonies—fittingly so because he was postmaster here when the first commercial cargo of airmail was delivered, and has ever since been an aviation enthusiast, including all its phases. He has been a material booster, having operated his own plane and "fathered" the army airfield.

There are many local enthusiasts and the toastmaster introduced such men as Bill Pike, Al Corradetti, James Down, Sr., A. E. Cahlan, Ernest Cragin, C. P. Squires, Art Smith, A. C. Grant, Chet Gilbert, Joe Bonnow, Earl Rockwell, Harry Austin, Bill Rockwell, Herb Krause, Bill Morgan, Cal Liles and J. M. Murphy. It was a happy "take-off."

With Major Clifford MacFarlane, industrial service office, ninth service command, as master of ceremonies, the exhibition in the War Memorial building was officially opened at 8 o'clock last night. Eighty officials participating in the celebration were introduced, and Major MacFarlane presented Mayor E. W. Cragin as guest speaker.

Displays of great interest are included in the exhibition, which is highlighted by that of the AAF, arranged by Major MacFarlane, Lieutenant Sturgis Carne, combat engineer, and Colonel George Henry and Lieutenant J. T. McCloud, Las Vegas army airfield. Comprising a part of this major exhibit are the motor, fuselage and sections of the wings of a Jap Zero, shot down over the south Pacific; parts of a Messerschmitt 109, captured German fighter plane; parts of a P-39; aerial bombs; captured German field pieces, and numerous other war trophies.

**Others Outstanding**

Other outstanding exhibits are those of CAA, depicting the history of air travel and the possibilities of aviation in future; the Las Vegas army airfield, ordnance, life raft, and other displays of special interest to civilians; BMI aircraft parts made of magnesium, and light-metal parts of enemy equipment captured on battlefields in Africa and elsewhere; and Las Vegas high school students, model planes, aircraft drawings, and other aviation subjects of public concern.

All these exhibits are open to the public without cost during the Aviada celebration.

**Army Airfield Open**

In the interest of the Aviada and for public benefit the army airfield will be open today and Monday from 1 to 4 p. m., and there will be an aircraft display for civilian inspection on the flight line apron, between the control tower and civilian airport. In the group of combat and training craft is the famed B-17-E, the heavy bomber now blasting enemy territory harder than ever.

American fighting planes are represented by P-39 Airacobra, lend-lease fighter largely used by Russians against German tanks.

With the army planes will also be shown the navy's first-line Douglas divebomber.

The single-engine North American AT-6, two-seat trainer used at the airfield for air-to-air firing in gunnery training, is there, too.

**PROGRAM ON PAGE FIVE**



Fearing further trouble after a shed on his farm burned under mysterious circumstances, Edward Kowalick (left), Great Meadows, N. J., farmer, yielded to public "protest," discharged the five Japanese-American laborers shown with him that he had acquired as "share-croppers" through War Relocation Authority. Neighboring farmers formed a committee of 300, announced that if the Japanese workers were not moved from area, the committee would take action.



**(NEA Telephoto)**  
Mrs. Louise Fiack strides through Kansas City's Union Station, en route to San Francisco to answer murder charges as result of starvation death of her 8-year-old daughter during Christmas week.

Mountbatten Optimistic on Imphal Visit

By DERRELL BERRIGAN  
United Press War Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Apr. 15 (UP)—Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten has made a flying visit to Imphal which is virtually isolated by the Japanese, and personally congratulated Maj. Gen. A. T. Cowan's crack 17th Indian division for smashing its way into the beleaguered Indian city "in one of the best battles of the war."

The southeast Asia commander toured Cowan's headquarters by jeep, it was learned today, to commend the jungle fighters who, cut off for three weeks by Japanese road blocks along the Imphal-Tiddim road and depending on parachutes for food and ammunition, knifed through to reinforce the capital's hard-pressed garrison.

Mountbatten told the troops they "now have the opportunity of crushing the Japanese in northern Burma." Afterward, he returned by plane to India.

Tension was reported mounting in Imphal, about which the Japanese have thrown a rough semi-circle starting at a point 10 miles from the city to the north and curving southeast through the Tamu sector and then west to a segment of the Bishenpur-Silchra trail, the defenders' last supply route from India.

Enemy parties which thrust through to this 70-mile east-west trail Friday still were reported operating in the area. Front dispatches indicated the enemy drive from north of Imphal was gaining in strength, with heaviest immediate fighting reported around the Japanese-occupied Jungshigun peak 10 miles northeast of the city.

The southeast Asia communique, however, described the fighting there merely as "local action." The communique added there was no change in the Kohima area, 100 miles north of Imphal, where offensive operations against enemy road blocks near the stronghold were reported "progressing."

Two hundred miles east of Kohima, Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stillwell's 22nd and 39th Chinese divisions were reported inflicting casualties on Japanese retreating from Pumsin, west of the Mogau valley, toward Myitkyina, April 11.

High Compliment Handed to WAACs

SWEETWATER, Tex., Apr. 15 (UP)—Speaking to the women air force service pilot graduating class here today, Brigadier General Luther Stevens Smith, commanding general of the central flying training command, said that the Wasps, although still civilians, "have delegated themselves to the army and deserve the best the army has to offer."

"We want the Wasps to carry with them the knowledge that Avenger Field and the central flying training command have given them the best they have," General Smith said. "It is your duty now to carry on—you know you can fly—now go to it."

Dorothy Moulton of Huntington Park, California, was awarded a war bond as one of the outstanding graduates.

WOMEN WELDERS 47% PORTLAND, Ore., Apr. 15 — Women welders now turn out 47 per cent of the welding at the Kaiser Company Swan Island shipyard here, yard officials announced today.

Keynoting of GOP Answered Soon

CHICAGO, Apr. 15 (UP)—The question of who will keynote the republican national convention this summer probably will be answered next week, Harrison E. Spangler, chairman of the GOP national committee, said tonight.

Choice of a keynoter, permanent and temporary convention chairmen, and other personnel necessary to run the convocation will be made by the party's full committee on arrangements which will meet here Tuesday and Wednesday.

Subcommittees on arrangements for both the democratic and republican met today at the Chicago Stadium, the convention site, to complete final plans on the mechanical features.

The republican convention will open July 26, the democratic, on July 19.

Over Million for Sales of Timber

PORTLAND, Ore., Apr. 15 (UP)—W. H. Horning, chief forester for the general land office of the department of the Interior, announced today total sales price of \$130,788 was received in the sale of 39,915,000 (M) board feet of timber on 13 tracts of timber on the revested Oregon and California grant lands on April 11.

Allied Airmen Sink at Least Five Jap Ships

By DON CASWELL  
United Press War Correspondent

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Sunday, Apr. 16 (UP)—Australian jungle fighters on the northern New Guinea coast are continuing to push toward the large enemy base of Madang from captured Bogadjim while allied airmen swept over scattered Japanese airfields and sank at least five small ships, it was announced today.

The heaviest raid carried out despite adverse weather over the southwest Pacific battle area was at Rabaul, New Britain, where Solomon-based Mitchell bombers, torpedo planes and divebombers unloaded 89 tons of bombs on devastated installations Thursday, General Douglas MacArthur's communique reported.

A headquarters spokesman announced that Australian patrols on the New Guinea coast continued to move northward along the shore of Astrolabe bay, driving to the Gori river as they moved toward Madang, 16 miles above captured Bogadjim.

The spokesman said other positions around Bogadjim remained unchanged since the Aussies broke Japanese forces into small groups when they took the town without resistance Thursday. He said the Gori river was a "broad, difficult obstacle" on the route to Madang.

**Three Thousand Japs Dead**

He revealed that the Americans in the Admiralty Islands have now counted 3,000 Japanese dead since the first U. S. landing February 29. An unestimated number of Japanese bodies still are undiscovered or were destroyed by bombing and shelling, he said.

Three enemy coastal vessels were sunk off Pritzitz Point, north of Asatapa, as bombers ranged along the northern coast and hit the Wewak airdrome of But and Dagua with 20 tons of bombs. Five parked planes were destroyed at Wewak and smoke was visible for 30 miles after the attack.

Two Japanese cargo ships of small size were sunk in the Mapia islands of the Dutch East Indies, the communique reported.

**Smashing With Bombs**

Other Solomon-based planes striking at Japan's Bismarck archipelago bases bombed the Kavieng airdrome on New Ireland with 25 tons of bombs, landing two planes to anti-aircraft fire. Light naval units, presumably P-T boats, destroyed six enemy barges and damaged two others in Wide bay, on the New Britain coast 60 air miles southwest of Rabaul.

The Rabaul attack, continuing the ceaseless south Pacific offensive through the 10th week, brought to more than 6,100 tons the total weight of explosives dumped on the battered enemy stronghold since the beginning of February.



Following bitter fight for Talaasca, New Britain, this Marine slings his rifle on his shoulder, kneels to pray at village shrine. Signal Corps photo.

Allies Strong On Beachhead Of Anzio Now

By ROBERT VERMILLION  
United Press War Correspondent

ANZIO BEACHHEAD, Apr. 14 (UP)—The allies positions on the Anzio beachhead are stronger than ever 24 days after its founding, and the Germans, now completely on the defensive, have not the faintest chance to drive us back into the sea.

Although the establishment of the beachhead failed to gain its initial objectives—the capture of Rome and entrapment of large German forces to the south—it has far exceeded its expectations as regards the effect on general European strategy.

"The primary objective of the entire Italian campaign is to divert German strength from the eastern front and the impending battle theater of the west.

**Ties Up Enemy Forces**

The beachhead has tied up many more enemy divisions than it was expected to, forcing the Germans to draw large numbers of men from the Balkans and France.

As a coordinated military operation by British and American ground forces with support from artillery, the air and sea, the beachhead campaign is expected to go down in military books as a classic for staff school studies all over the world.

The beachhead organization, built around anti-aircraft defenders that have shot down 150 German raiders, is a far cry from the first few days of stumbling and confusion—conditions which are bound to arise in the opening phase of any amphibious operation.

**Germans' Back Broken**

The allies broke the back of the German attacking power back in mid-February when a swiftly organized American counter-attack ended a truly serious threat to the beachhead's existence. This counter-blow was launched in the darkest hour, when six German divisions were throwing their weight down the Anzio road with determination to crash through to the sea.

Only once since then have the Germans attempted to attack, on February 29 between Carroceto and Cisterna when the enemy sent out small assault forces which were slaughtered by American artillerymen, riflemen and machine-gunners.

First Soldier Up For Treason Trial

OMAHA, Neb., Apr. 15 (UP)—Major General Clarence Danielson of the seventh service command tonight designated a general court to serve on the first occasion in U. S. history that an American soldier will be tried on a charge equivalent to treason.

The defendant, Private Dale H. Maple, is charged with deserting from Camp Hale, Colorado, and aiding two German prisoners of war to escape. They were captured in Mexico February 18 and returned to camp while Maple was held at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to await trial.

Specific charges against Maple are violation of the 58th article of war which penalizes desertion and the 81st article which covers "relieving, corresponding with, or aiding the enemy."

The latter charge, Danielson said, is equivalent to treason. The death penalty is possible under both charges.

Army Pilot Dies In Plane Crash

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Apr. 15 (UP)—An army plane from Lemoore Field, California, crashed near the remote Lake of the Woods country, killing the army pilot and injuring his passenger, navy hospital officials announced today.