NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Gliders offer opportunity to teach young aviators fundamentals of flying . . . Washington observers question policy of giving England only half of arms output.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—Germany's huge supply of trained airplane pilots is due, in very large part, to the fact that, during the long period after the first World war, in which she was not allowed to have armament, her youth went in for gliding.

America, many authorities are contending, should do the same thing, not because there is any legal restriction on military planes in this country, but because the development of gliding as a sport for youth would provide an enormous reservoir from which the army and navy air forces could draw in an emergency.

Commander Eugene F. McDonald Jr. of the naval reserve quotes Ernest Udet, the German flier, as saying that from 250,000 to 300,000 young Germans learned to fly, in the period just before the outbreak of the World war, in inexpensive gliders.

American boys are even more adapted to this sport than the young Germans, McDonald points out. And the great advantage of glider flying is that it is within the possibilities of so many more American boys proportionately. If put into quantity production, good gliders could be sold, McDonald contends, for about $150 each. But the big factor is that there is little upkeep for gliders. The chief expense, after the sail planes are acquired, is an old automobile for towing and the gasoline to run it.

FAVORS FREE GLIDERS

Many experts think that one of the most economical expenditures the United States government could make would be to supply gliders free to boys' clubs. Orders for as many planes as would be demanded, should this be started, would result in a very low price per sailplane, perhaps as low as the $150 Commander McDonald calculates.

The chief advantage of glider training for prospective airplane pilots is that they are forced to learn all about air conditions, particularly rising currents, air pockets, down drafts and how to take advantage of them.

Many of the important improvements in radio, McDonald says, were first conceived by the radio amateurs, of whom he estimates there are at least 54,000 in this country. He predicts that many improvements in aviation will be devised by amateurs if we can get our boys enthusiastic about glider clubs.

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BRITAIN NEEDS PLANES

Mysterious to many observers is President Roosevelt's attitude on the present system of giving Britain half of America's military aircraft production and giving the other half for our own defense. It does not seem to these observers to fit in with the underlying notion of many persons that unless Great Britain wins this war the United States is in trouble, and hence every possible aid should be extended to Britain, not so much as an unselfish line of action as one of very real but intelligent selfishness.

If Britain vitally needs more fighting and bombing planes, of which there seems to be no doubt whatever, it would seem that the interests of the United States—once it is accepted that if Britain goes down we are in trouble—would require that Britain be given every fighting plane this country can produce.

It is very simple to say that if Winston Churchill's warnings had been heeded (he said as long ago as 1917 that Britannia must rule the clouds as well as the waves) there would have been no such terrific bombing of London and the Midlands as Britain has undergone. It would be just as simple to say that if the warnings in this country voiced by Gen. William Mitchell had been heeded, from 1920 until his court martial in 1925, this country would now be in a position to supply Britain as well as our own defense with all the planes needed.

WARNINGS IGNORED

The facts are too simple for that. The facts are that old-fashioned high commands in both the British and United States army and navy made compliance with such warnings impossible.

Recrimination NOW is of no especial value. Most of the men who disagreed with Churchill in Britain and Billy Mitchell here were sincere in their views. The point is: What should be done now? There is no doubt that Britain is STILL in danger. Whether the island can be fed despite the constant destruction of merchant shipping by bombers, added to the shipping toll taken by mines and submarines, depends very largely on the number of planes that can be sent her from America. Meanwhile we are building up capacity to produce planes for our own defense.

People Hurt Themselves the Hard Way During Most Unusual Accidents of 1940

By PAUL JONES

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

CHICAGO.—Each year a surprising number of people discover new and novel ways of getting hurt. And the results are positively startling.

A man in Chicago, for example, is bitten by his own false teeth. A steel executive in Colorado rides out of his office on the cowcatcher of a locomotive.

Some of these odd accidents are amusing. Others are tragic. Put them all together and you find that Fate, the master showman, again has produced a literal hit parade of the year—the Oddities of 1940.

So, without further ado, on with the show!

Chief Clerk John Donnelly of the Cleveland Municipal court is quite a reader and frequently has his nose in a book. But one March day this year he had his nose in book ends—and it wasn't comfortable.

Mr. Donnelly was moving several books, in book ends, from one table to another. The books began to slip and he tried to push them back between the book ends with his chin. But the books fell anyway, and the book ends came plopping together with Mr. Donnelly's nose between them. It was well red.

Louis Durdy of Pana, Ill., can understand now why the man in the Bible had so much trouble finding a good Samaritan. Smelling smoke one November afternoon, Mr. Durdy dashed into a nearby hotel room and rescued a sleeping guest from a flaming mattress. Firemen came, seized the burning bedding and tossed it out the window. It landed on an automobile parked outside the hotel.

Yes, it was Mr. Durdy's auto. The auto was burned up, and so was Mr. Durdy—plenty!

Joseph Callahan of Chicago always had taken good care of his false teeth and, so far as he knew, they had no reason to dislike him. But one day as he dozed, he slipped off his chair. His teeth fell out and landed tooth-side up on the floor. Mr. Callahan's forehead struck them and they gave him a vicious bite.

Mr. Jay J. Martin, of Pueblo, Colo., is ready to believe that almost anything can happen in the steel business. Mr. Martin, a steel company executive, was seated at his desk one day, intending to stay there a while, when the next thing he knew, what was he doing but riding out of his office on the cowcatcher of a full-fledged locomotive!

At the end of his journey, which took him through a partition or so, Mr. Martin, understandably travel stained, learned that what had happened was that the locomotive had jumped the track just outside his office and had come on in through the wall. Mr. Martin didn't take the same train back.

Drinks Brake Fluid.

Bill Hilterbrand, of Springfield, Mo., knows now just how a hydraulic brake feels. He was drinking a bottle of soda pop in a filling station and discussing politics with a friend. Engrossed, he picked up a bottle and took a big swig. It wasn't the right bottle, and it wasn't even pop. It was brake fluid! The results weren't serious, however, for, as you might expect, Mr. Hilterbrand was able to stop quickly.

Only a bumper guard prevented this automobile from plunging into Lake Michigan after it skidded out of control on an icy pavement. The driver escaped with a ducking. Some of the many other freak accidents of 1940 described in the story below are illustrated above.

Ever so often, it seems, some poor soul has to have his pants jerked off in public by an automobile. This year's victim of Fate's perennial gag was Mr. Giovannia Evangeliati, of Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. E. was waiting, believe it or not, for a street car in the crowded downtown district when the door handle of a passing automobile caught the Evangeliati trousers and neatly swooshed them off. The apologetic driver rushed Mr. E. home for replacements.

Calf Lassoes Man.

When a calf lassoes a man—that's noose! The man, Edward Acree, was walking along a road near Brazil, Ind., when the man-puncher calf broke loose from its tethering stake and dashed across the highway, its chain swinging. Mr. Acree complains that the next thing he knew the calf had lassoed him with the chain.

Bob Forde, strolling along in Marysville, Calif., wondered why the two men approaching him were walking so far apart. It wasn't neighborly. Mr. Forde decided to go between them. By the time he discovered they were carrying a big sheet of window glass, it was too late. Mr. Forde describes the experience as paneful.

Walter Bell, a rural mail carrier of Harlan, Iowa, has heard of people fighting buzz saws, and he believes he can appreciate what they are up against. On a warm day this summer Mr. Bell plugged a six-volt fan into an 110-volt socket. The fan, the sissy, couldn't take it and leaped whirring toward Mr. Bell like an airplane. He raised his arm to stop it. Result: 35 stitches.

Inflates Arm.

Elmer Mahnke is one of the people who fear quick inflation. This perhaps is understandable in view of an experience Mr. Mahnke had this year.

Mr. Mahnke is a filling station man at Racine, Wis., and part of his job, of course, is to blow up footballs and basketballs for small boys in the neighborhood. On the occasion to which we refer the air needle not only pierced a basketball, but Mr. Mahnke's arm. The first thing he knew his arm was bigger than Popeye's.

Never have more things happened to the Kaczynski family, of the Pittsburgh Kaczynskis, than on a cold day last winter.

First, six-year-old Frank Kaczynski grabbed a charged wire and couldn't let go. Then his brother Walter, eight, grabbed Frank, and he couldn't let go. Then sister Anna, 17, heard about it and dashed for the scene, just in time to see her sister, Frances, 14, get struck by a car. As Anna ran to help Frances, a big dog ran up and bit Anna.

The commotion attracted brother John Kaczynski, 24. John chased the dog away and a few minutes later the Kaczynskis began pouring into the hospital.

Frank and Walter were treated for burns, Frances for cuts and bruises and Anna for dog bite. The police sergeant who wrote it all up for the records was treated for writer's cramp and fervently hopes that if it all ever happens again, it will happen to Smiths.

In Chicago a dignified old gentleman was standing on a safety island, waiting for a street car and having no intention whatsoever of taking a taxicab. But he did. For as a passing taxi swerved sharply to miss another car, the back door flew open. It scooped up the nice old gentleman and deposited him gently on the floor of the cab, all set for a ride.

As Ralph Lyman of Clarinda, Iowa, hurried to answer the phone he slipped and fell, but crawled painfully on to hear a voice say, "This is Doctor Burnett. Can you come right over and look at my furnace? It's broken."

"You'd better come right over and look at my leg first," replied Lyman. "It's broken, too."

And it was!

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Mann of Indianapolis weren't expecting anyone to drop in on them that day last winter. But 22 students of Indiana university did—in a buss! Mr. Mann was that surprised he thought it was an earthquake shaking the house. But Mrs. Mann wasn't so sure, and when she investigated she found a big bus poking its nose through the basement wall. The bus was taking the students back to school from a vacation and the driver had swerved to miss an auto.

Herbert Greenwald of Berwyn, Ill., is a meticulous golfer and always tries to have his eye on the ball. But one day in October Mr. Greenwald switched the formula and had the ball on his eye.

Swinging lustily in the rough, Mr. Greenwald struck the ball squarely. It hit a nearby stone concealed in the grass, ricochetted straight upward and broke Mr. Greenwald's glasses into bits. The unhappy golfer not only was cut about the face, but he lost a stroke—and it was match play!

Mrs. Olen Deatherage of Springfield, Ill., knew that some women drivers can make an automobile do some mighty funny things. But she never dreamed she could run over herself, until she did it. Her car spun around after a collision, throwing her out the right hand door. Her body hit the gear lever and shoved the gear from low to reverse. As she fell from the car it backed up over her.

Yes, in these days anything can happen—and does!

Many a pedestrian has been struck by a hit and run driver. But to Mrs. Anna Martinelli of Johnston, R. I., goes the distinction of being the victim of a hit and run dog which itself was the victim of a hit and run driver. The driver hit the dog and fled. The dog hit Mrs. Martinelli and fled. Mrs. Martinelli did not flee. She had been knocked unconscious by the dog. Her injuries were not serious.

These are but a smattering of the many freak accidents of 1940 recorded in the files of the National Safety Council in Chicago.

Warfare Becomes an Art

The technique of camouflage is being developed to a fine art by the U. S. army. You would have to get close to the machine-gun nest above before you could identify it for the death trap that it is, and then your identification would come too late. These soldiers are shown practicing at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Americans Spent More, Earned More Last Year

MINNEAPOLIS.—Americans are going places and doing things with their rearmament prosperity; during 1940 they bought a billion gallons more gasoline, 600,000 more automobiles, 25 per cent more entertainment, 13,000,000 gallons more liquor, and 6,000,000,000 more cigarettes than by this time last year, according to a buying summary made by Northwestern National Life Insurance company. Private sale of guns and firearms also increased.

Soft drink manufacturers report new sales records; candy sales are up, the report goes on. Out of more pay envelopes and fatter pay envelopes the public bought 25 per cent more theater tickets and admissions to other amusements. It purchased 25 per cent more radios and radio equipment; the boom in sales of this last named item can probably be partially credited to interest in war news and in the political campaign just finished, the report comments.

X-Ray an Aid In Treating Sinus Trouble

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON

TODAY'S HEALTH COLUMN

ONE day you may read of the great success certain specialists have had in the treatment of chronic sinus ailments by use of X-rays and of how the clearing up of the sinus infection has resulted in greatly improved hearing of the patient. The specialist in this case has treated a number of cases and had cured or helped the majority of them.

Perhaps the next day you read of another specialist using X-ray treatment in the same number of cases without any success whatever.

Dr. Barton

Now there would appear to be something wrong when one specialist gets good results from a method of treatment and another gets no satisfactory results whatever.

Dr. E. Trible Gatewood, Richmond, in Archives of Otolaryngology (ear and throat) reports the study of 22 cases of chronic sinus infection (sinusitis) before and after treatment by X-ray. Four patients of the group showed complete relief of symptoms and eight were improved as far as their symptoms were concerned. Ten patients were not helped at all.

Why were some of these cases cured, some improved and others not helped at all?

Ventilation of Sinus Needed.

It depends upon the condition of the lining or mucous membrane of the sinus. When this has become very thick or hardened, the X-ray (in the dosage given anyway) was unable to penetrate or restore it to normal. If this lining can be restored to normal, the sinus can be properly ventilated. A well-ventilated sinus gives no trouble, as the air destroys harmful organisms and, if lining is not swollen and thickened, the sinus can drain properly into the nose and throat.

Another point about the success or nonsuccess of X-ray treatment of sinus infection is that X-ray specialists are not agreed as to the "dose" of X-rays that should be given or how often.

Sufferers with chronic sinus disease who have tried without success all the usual methods of treatment—sprays of adrenalin up the nose, washing out with salt and water, injections of ovary extracts—can finally try X-ray treatment.

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How to Relax And Go to Sleep

A PHYSICIAN is often asked by adult patients as to the length of time they should sleep, and his answer in most cases is that eight hours is about right.

Two cases often cited are Thomas Edison, who slept about four hours at night, and Woodrow Wilson, who required nine or ten. Most people forget that Edison was hard of hearing, and so when he slept he was not disturbed by noises low or loud, strange or familiar.

It is being able to keep body and mind relaxed that prevents us from becoming tired too soon. A completely relaxed body and mind is getting 80 per cent as much rest as if it were asleep; that is, from the standpoint of heart rate, breathing, temperature and blood pressure.

When the physician wants the patient to relax completely so that an examination of the abdomen can be made he asks him to hold his mouth open and breathe slowly through the mouth. This relaxes the body and, to a considerable extent, the mind also.

Relaxation is the exact opposite of tenseness. To relax requires no effort. It means to "let loose," to stop doing. In learning to relax a person learns to recognize tenseness wherever it occurs in the body. By letting each part of the body go limp or loose—legs, arms, trunk—one after the other or all together, tenseness of body disappears and with it often tenseness or alertness of mind.

Sometimes when there is no noise, no light, no draft, no heat or cold keeping you awake, try lying on either side with arms and legs bent and your mouth loose and open. You may snore, but you should get off to sleep.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Would prostate gland trouble have any unfavorable congenital effect on a child? Is it possible to cure prostate gland trouble?

A.—If prostate trouble is simply an enlargement of the gland this could not affect a baby born to you. If infection is present treatment by a specialist is usually necessary. Sometimes it is necessary to remove prostate gland. Don't hesitate to speak to your family physician about it.

New and Fascinating Transparent Sewing

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

THERE are fascinating new transparent materials on the market now. Luncheon sets and aprons and rain coats and closet accessories all take on new glamour when made of them, and you will find that every left-over scrap will be used for something that is attractive and worth while.

Less than 50 cents' worth of this window-pane clear material made the hat cover, underwear case and

two glove cases like the one shown here. All the directions for cutting and making the hat cover are given here in the sketch. The material from two corners made the square underwear case. The material from each of the other two corners was folded to make a glove or handkerchief case. Bright blue bias tape was used for seam binding and the bottom facing and loop handle of the hat cover; and colored zippers to match the bindings were used for the case closings.

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Today's article is typical of the economy short cuts that I like to plan for homemaking budgeteers. There are complete working drawings for thirty-two homemaking projects in SEWING Book 6—enough exciting ideas to keep you busy all the rest of the winter. Send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
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Live to Apply

To live is not to learn, but to apply.—E. Legouve.

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● When you feel gassy, headachy, logy due to clogged-up bowels, do as *millions* do—take Feen-A-Mint at bedtime. Next morning—thorough, comfortable relief, helping you start the day full of your normal energy and pep, feeling like a million! Feen-A-Mint doesn't disturb your night's rest or interfere with work the next day. Try Feen-A-Mint, the chewing gum laxative, *yourself.* It tastes good, it's handy and economical . . . a family supply costs only

FEEN-A-MINT 10¢

Unwanted Sorrow

Ah, nothing comes to us too soon but sorrow.

Miserable with backache?

WHEN kidneys function badly and you suffer a nagging backache, with dizziness, burning, scanty or too frequent urination and getting up at night; when you feel tired, nervous, all upset . . . use Doan's Pills.

Doan's are especially for poorly working kidneys. Millions of boxes are used every year. They are recommended the country over. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS

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BEACONS of SAFETY

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