

# Wounded Sergeants Save Their Fortress

Washington, Sept. 14— How two wounded sergeants aboard a severely damaged B-17 Flying Fortress of the United States army Eighth air force stood by their guns and beat off a swarm of German fighter planes until the crippled bomber, on its way back to England from an attack on the German submarine pens at St. Nazaire, France, could make a successful landing at sea, was disclosed by the war department.

The men are S-Sgt. Edward F. Clements, Washington, D. C., a waist gunner, and T-Sgt. Edward W. Maslowski, Cloquet, Minn., radio operator, members of the crew of the Flying Fortress, "Myrtle."

Other members of the crew gave them full credit for preventing the enemy from destroying the American bomber in the air, which probably would have resulted in the death or capture of the entire crew. The Fortress came down in the sea near England soon afterward and although the rubber life rafts had been damaged by shell fire they were patched up and held together for hours, until rescue boats arrived.

## Headed Home

The "Myrtle" had made its bomb run and headed back to its English base when flak struck its control cables. It soon became apparent that a landing at sea would be necessary, but to get as near as possible to England, the pilot, First Lt. Sell W. South, Birmingham, Ala., gave orders to lighten the load.

"As we were busy tossing overboard everything we could get our hands on, the Focke-Wulfs swooped down on us," said First Lt. John W. Hargrove, Talco, Texas, the copilot. "Actually the first we knew of them was when their tracers started whizzing past the bomber."

The two gunners were wounded in that attack. But when the nazis struck again they were still at their posts. Sgt. Maslowski fended off the Focke-Wulfs until he collapsed. Sgt. Clements, severely wounded in one arm, kept a stream of bullets on the attacking planes.

## Roosevelt Subject Of Marine Echo To Japs' Blood Motto

Washington, Sept. 14 — (Science Service)—If Franklin Delano Roosevelt is identified with a blood-drinking orgy by future generations of Japanese children, don't hold the republican party responsible. Give the credit to the United States Marines' catch-as-catch-can variety of psychological warfare.

A hard-bitten colonel of marine (name not disclosed) reports in The Infantry Journal that during close quarter fighting on Guadalcanal the Japanese would yell, "Marines, we're going to keel you! More blood for the emperor!" Whereupon the marines would return the compliment, with interest: "You (three words deleted)! We'll kill you Japs. More blood for Franklin!"

This yelling, in hand-to-hand action, is important," the officer comments. "It is like a football team talking it up."

## Trick Of The Trade

Other rough-and-ready psychological lessons, learned the hard way in the jungle, included not getting jittery over night noises, especially mysterious-sounding cries of bird and lizards; refusing to be tricked into firing prematurely by noise purposely made by the enemy, patiently out-waiting even the patient Japanese.

One sergeant of marines scored one on his enemy by a quick-witted variation in grenade technique. The "natural" way of fighting with grenades, of course, is to pull the pin and wait a couple of seconds and heave. This sergeant, in a foxhole, was suddenly joined by a Japanese. He pulled the pin from the grenade and heaved himself out of the hole. The Japanese, less quick on the uptake, stayed there with the grenade—but only for a few seconds. Then he went to his ancestors.

The Mount Evans highway i

## John Wise Hargrove Jr article in Rapid City Journal Sep 14, 1943

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