



AIR MEDAL . . . S/Sgt. John S. Hall, right, is shown above receiving the Air Medal from Col. Paul L. Barton, left.

S-Sgt. John S. Hall Is Given Air Medal for Bombing Achievement

Staff Sgt. John S. Hall, whose wife, Mrs. Grace Hall, lives at 927 Arlington ave., Torrance, Calif., was recently awarded the Air Medal for duty with the 15th Air Force as a tall gunner aboard an AAF B-17 Flying Fortress. The award, for " . . . meritorious achievement in aerial flight," was presented to Sergeant Hall by Col. Paul L. Barton. Sergeant Hall is a veteran of more than 13 combat missions over some of Hitler's most vital oil, supply and transportation installations.

of Torrance High school and later was employed as a machinist for the National Supply Co., of Torrance. Entering the AAF in July of '43, he attended the Air Force's flexible gunnery school at Las Vegas, Nevada, from which he was graduated and won his wings emblematic of an aerial gunner.

His mother, lives at 1833 East 66th st., Long Beach, Calif. Sergeant Hall's brothers, Sgt. James Hall and Staff Sgt. William Hall are both members of the Armed Forces, serving overseas.

National Clothing Collection Drive Is Torrance Meeting Topic

Representatives of 26 organizations in Torrance are to meet tonight at 8 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce conference room to discuss a drive in April to cooperate with the United National Clothing Collection to relieve the suffering of the Allies.

Hillman R. Lee, chairman of the organization committee consisting of representatives of the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs, said that all organizations in the community are invited to send one representative to the meeting.

"This is one time when we urgently need 100 per cent participation from all organizations," Lee said. "More and more evidence of need for warm clothing among the suffering people of Europe, the Philippines and other theatres of war is being seen as our armies advance. Torrance will do its part, as it always has, and the cooperation of all organizations is the way to accomplish the end."

The United National Clothing Collection headquarters is being intensively organized to give thorough cooperation to local chairmen in every city and town.

Information will be available on the functions and responsibilities of the local committee; suggested plans for collection of clothing; ideas on publicity; special events and promotion; information as to sorting, packing, and shipping; and a comprehensive statement as to the urgent need in war-devastated areas.

New Oil Wells Producing in Torrance Field

Several new oil wells in Torrance and the immediate vicinity have been reported to be doing better than expected. One of these, owned by Miller and Miller of 127 E. 14th st., Long Beach, on the property of Fred Able, 3441 Torrance Blvd. is one of the best. This well is flowing about 80 barrels a day. A 1000 gallon storage tank is on the site.

The Sierra Oil Company has a new well, No. 5, at 20470 Hawthorne ave., on which cement is now being poured for the water jacket. Sierra will start drilling by Thursday. Another well at 20350 Hawthorne has the derrick up and the motors installed. Sierra is expecting to start operations this week.

The Hilo Oil Company's well at 4510 Sepulveda Blvd., down 1500 feet, has been completed for some time and is now being pumped to clean.

On the Dominguez Estate lease, at 5401 Huntington st. Wood and Callahan report that wells Nos. 6 and 9 have been completed about a month and are doing about 30 barrels a day.

Lebow and McNeel of Torrance have started several new operations at 4401, 4211, 4601, 4613, 4829 Del Amo Blvd.; but no details are available as to the extent of these operations.

CORPORAL DON E. MEYER, HERO WHO ESCAPED JAPANESE, PREPARES TO RETURN TO SERVICE; TELLS STORY

Cpl. Don E. Meyer, Torrance hero, and his four companions who escaped a sinking Japanese prison ship, are said to be the first persons to supply the United States forces with military information which aided in the reconquering of Luzon and others of the Philippine Islands.

The soldier whose leave will be up March 15, when he will report to the Santa Monica redistribution center, was a guest at the big "Heroes of Bataan" meeting at Shrine auditorium in Los Angeles Sunday, and next Sunday, will participate in the American Red Cross "prisoners of war" meeting where mothers and relatives of men thought to be prisoners of war will hear details of their captivity.

Wearing proudly and justly his Presidential Citation and Order of the Purple Heart ribbons, Corporal Meyer revealed for the first time his story of escape to the Torrance Herald. He had held the information even from his family until the War Department revealed the facts of the sinking of the prisoner of war ship with some 2000 soldiers and civilians aboard last October.

Corporal Meyer said:

His Story

"At 2:30 p. m., October 11, 1944, a draft of 1805 American soldiers and 200 civilians left Bilbid prison, Manila, for Japan. We arrived at Pier No. 7 at about 4:30 p. m., and started on board a Jap freighter of about 5000 tons. During our loading, the air raid warning for Manila blew. They crammed us in a hold and set sail immediately for the open sea. We traveled due west and after about 24 hours headed south-



east. After traveling for two days we put into a small group of islands around the Mindoro area. The conditions that we were forced to go through during this trip made it a living hell.

"For two days the Japs never issued any water. After the second day, the Japs moved me and 599 men to a coal bin. Everyone got coal and oil all over their bodies and skin infections started. The heat was unbearable as there was no room to sit down. The sides of the ship were so hot you could hardly

touch them.

Much Insanity

"Many of the men went crazy the first few days of the unbearable mess.

"Two of the men who went crazy and were taken on deck jumped overboard into the water. The Japs machine gunned them. The Japs then issued water to the men, about four ounces a day and plain, unsalted rice, two times a day, about one-half canteen cup per ration. Men were not allowed to go on deck to sanitary facilities. Everything had to be done in five gallon cans and then they were passed up and dumped into the sea. Diarrhoea, and dysentery were running wild. The medical supplies we had were inadequate to cope with this situation. It is impossible to describe what went on in this hell ship. We at last pulled anchor and returned to Manila. This was about eight days later. It could be seen that Manila had been raided by American planes again as more ships had been sunk in the bay.

Men Lost Will

"Staying in Manila bay just long enough to load on rice and water, we again put to sea. It seemed like there was no end. The fellows didn't really care what happened. We headed north along the coast of Luzon. This was October 21. We sailed north-west for three days and on the afternoon of the 24th, some excitement occurred among Japs on deck. We were told from above that a life boat with a few people in it floated by which led us to we . . .

Rainfall Here Falls Behind 1944 Total

Rainfall records as taken by Fire Chief J. E. McMaster this week were as follows: March 1, .04; March 2, .65; March 3, .06; March 4, 1.11, for a total of 1.86 inches for the week.

The rainfall for last year on this date measured 7.07 inches. This year's total is 4.64 inches. The fiscal year reading is 17.48 inches.

City Schools Would Buy Land for College Along Flooded Bixby Slough

Los Angeles Board of Education has authorized inclusion in the 1945-46 budget of the schools funds to buy a site on Bixby Slough, bounded by Vermont ave., Figueroa st., Lomita Blvd. and Highway 101, for a proposed junior college to serve the harbor district and nearby cities.

Also authorized was purchase of the agriculture farm site in San Fernando valley near Canoga Park, and an East Los Angeles site, also to serve as junior colleges.

While funds were allowed to prepare plans for the buildings and purchase of land, and for drainage and flood control at the agricultural farm site, no mention in reports has been made of the control of flood waters of Bixby Slough, of its drainage or filling, to make room for the proposed harbor district school.

Nor did the Los Angeles City Board of Education make any mention of the disposition of the dozen or so producing oil wells on the site selected for the long-promised harbor district junior college.

The San Fernando school is "No. 1" project, the board previously has announced, and it probably will be years after the war is over before any of them are started.

Meanwhile, the case of the drainage of Bixby Slough and the control of flood waters has been the subject of consideration by the Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

Construction of a proposed 72-inch drain between Bixby Slough and the harbor to control the slough's water level would cost not to exceed \$300,000, according to a report by City Engineer Aldrich to the Board of Public Works.

The board was informed that the Union Oil Co. has withdrawn its offer to contribute \$50,000 toward the drain in consideration for rights to dispose of wastes through it, and that rights of way for the drain will not be granted or sold to the city because of present plans for development of its refinery.

The county has offered \$50,000 toward the construction providing it will give reasonable protection for major streets and the Lomita pumping plant from floods, Aldrich stated.

Mayor Tolson Heads Curfew Agency

Mayor William H. Tolson has been appointed head of the local Byrne's midnight curfew enforcement agency.

Radio Voice Was That of Lt. Zamperini

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zamperini, parents of First Lt. Louis Zamperini, declared yesterday after hearing a record of a broadcast from a Japanese prisoner of war camp at Tokyo that the voice purported to be that of the world famous athlete positively is that of Lt. Zamperini.

The former Olympic track star made a second broadcast Tuesday night, and it was picked up by NBC monitors and amateurs throughout the state.

Mrs. J. L. Eichen, of 809 N. Wilmington st., Compton, made a recording of the broadcast, called Mr. and Mrs. Zamperini, and they secured the record. Playing it at home, they said definitely that it is Lt. Zamperini's voice. There was a re-broadcast of the message yesterday at 11 a. m.

All previous doubt as to the identity of the voice was removed and the Zamperini family feel relieved in knowing that their son is alive, they said.

The famous athlete was reported missing in action in the South Pacific in May, 1943, and no news of him was received until he was first heard via Radio Tokyo late in 1944.

In the second message, intercepted by NBC monitors, San Francisco, Zamperini said he "was again sending a message to my mother, through the courtesy of the Japanese authorities.

"I am hoping that my earlier message reached you and found you all in good health." In a clear, active voice he added: "I am alive, uninjured and in good health. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and are in good health."

Lt. Zamperini made the sport pages of the world again yesterday when Emil Von Elling, famed New York University track coach, classed the Torrance athlete among five of the world's outstanding "modern" milers.

Mildred Sherk Will Stay to 'Fight It Out'

"I'm in this to the finish and then I'll be home. I've decided to stay here and fight it out. It takes the rest of my life."

This is the spirit of women of Santo Tomas Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, as expressed by Mrs. Mildred Sherk, civilian nurse, in the first word to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George C. Pannier, 1819 Arlington ave., since she was liberated with thousands of others by American forces after suffering several years internment.

She continued: "I'm in good condition and still going strong. You can't imagine the relief and what joy we are experiencing being released by 'our boys.' They certainly are a wonderful bunch and nothing in Manila is too good for them.

"Jack (her husband), was taken to either Formosa or Japan, December 13, 1944. I'm heart sick over it. I'd planned so much on seeing him.

"Stuck my hand into a dirty hypodermic syringe and had blood poisoning. Almost lost my hand. However, I've all my fingers but one is a little deformed. They may slow me down but they can't stop me!

"We've been very busy, last night was the first sleep I've had in five days. Internees look pretty bad in the whole. Many deaths from starvation. Beri-beri is very rampant.

"I never thought I could hate as I do but now nothing but the extermination of the entire Japanese race will come close to appeasing me."

Torrance A.C. To Meet Tonight In City Hall

Torrance Athletic Club will hold its regular meeting in the City Council chambers tonight at 8 o'clock, it has been announced.

Newton Sleeth Is Reported As Missing

Anxiety over the fate of their son, Second Lt. William Newton Sleeth struck the home of Mr.



MISSING . . . 2nd Lt. William Newton Sleeth, pilot of attack bomber, is reported missing in the Southwest Pacific since Feb. 9.

and Mrs. Robert S. Sleeth, 1616 Post ave., Torrance, last Friday evening when a telegram from the Secretary of War reported him missing in action since Feb. 9.

Lt. Sleeth is the pilot of a Douglas A-20, fast attack bomber, used principally in low level operations. His plane carries a crew of three men, and usually flies in formation with a navigator in the lead plane.

The War Department telegram dated March 2, reported Lt. Sleeth missing in the Southwest Pacific since Feb. 9. It was signed by J. A. Ullo, Adjutant General, at Washington, D. C.

Lt. Sleeth was home on a furlough last December and left for overseas within a week after operations. His plane carries a crew of three men, and usually flies in formation with a navigator in the lead plane.

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Entering the service on March 19, 1943, immediately after graduation from Torrance high school.

T-Sgt. Tanouye Awarded DSC Posthumously

Mr. and Mrs. Nikuma Tanouye, who live at the Rohrer Relocation Center, McGehee, Ark., have been notified by the Adjutant General that their son, Tech. Sgt. Ted T. Tanouye, has been posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by direction of the President.

The nation's second highest decoration was awarded the former Torrance boy "for extraordinary heroism in action" in Italy on July 7, 1944, when he led his platoon in an attack that captured the crest of an important hill which afforded little cover or concealment.

In that engagement, Sergeant Tanouye wiped out two machine gun nests, silenced three machine pistols, and killed or wounded at least nine Germans and possibly several more.

Sergeant Tanouye died September 6 in Italy from injuries suffered five days previously. He entered the Army in February, 1942, completed his training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and went overseas in May of last year. He was 25 years of age and a Summer '38 graduate of Torrance High school.

Prior to his entry into the service, Tanouye was buyer for the Ideal Ranch Market and Ray's Friendly Market. His brother, Harumi, and sister, Sunita, are now working in Chicago, where they have resettled after leaving the center here. Three other brothers—Kiyoyuki, Isao, and Yukio—reside with their parents.

RED CROSS COMMITTEES MEETING SUCCESS AS BIG FUND DRIVE IS LAUNCHED

The 1945 Red Cross Campaign for the Torrance area is meeting with anticipated success, reports H. B. Lewis, area chairman, and the vice-chairmen in charge of the various divisions.

Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, heading the geographic division, states that the citizens are responding generously. He stresses that 365 days if the year your American Red Cross carries on its great humanitarian work on the home front as well as on the battle fronts of the world.

"Where our troops go, your Red Cross is by their side," the Rev. Mr. Wheeler said. "Once each year we are given the opportunity to discharge at least a part of our obligations to our armed forces by contributing to the annual Red Cross fund. This is more than an opportunity—it is a great privilege."

The demands this year will be the heaviest in Red Cross history, according to Area Chairman Lewis. "Although there are 400 volunteers to very paid Red Cross staff worker, the national budget for 1945 has been set at \$200,000,000 minimum," said Lewis. "The Los Angeles area quota is \$5,300,000 and the Torrance area quota is \$32,500 of this sum. The campaign slogan is "World Wide Red Cross Services Cost \$6 Per Second. How Many Seconds Will You Buy?"

At this rate, added Lewis, the Torrance area will have the privilege of supporting world wide services for 5417 seconds, or 1 1/2 hours.

Torrance Eyes County Beach Purchase Plan

Torrance city officials and civic leaders are giving considerable thought to the proposal of Los Angeles County to acquire 1800 feet of beach frontage in the City of Torrance at Clifton River.

While the surrendering of the beach has been disapproved by Major George Braden, western representative for the National Playground and Recreation Association, the Board of Supervisors has referred the matter to the supervisors' delinquent tax lands committee for investigation and report.

Local taxpayers in a number of instances have insisted that if this beach frontage and land extending from the beach is available for taxes that the City of Torrance should buy and develop it for park purposes, and not surrender it to other government agencies.

Major Braden has said that Torrance should acquire ownership of the beach and do its own developing there.

More than 1200 lots in this tract, formerly owned by the Coast and Valley, Inc. are now tax delinquent but not tax deed. The property involved is all of the land plus the beach frontage just north of the city of Palos Verdes Estates and west of the highway leading into that city.

More than a thousand other lots under control of the receiver of the defunct Coast and Valley, Inc., but not under consideration for public acquisition, lie to the east of the Palos Verdes Highway.

Lomita Man Is Killed; Hit and Run Suspected

Ponciano Sanchez, 48, 25039 Walnut, Lomita, was killed Sunday morning apparently by a hit-run driver. The body of Sanchez, who leaves a wife and four children, was found on Highway 101 between Los Altos and Vista Del Parque streets, Torrance.

The Redondo Beach Police department notified M. Schumacher of the Torrance Police department, at 2:42 a. m., of the accident. There were no witnesses.

An inquest was to be held at 9 a. m. today, at Stone & Myers mortuary. Rosary will be recited at 20350 Hawthorne Blvd., tomorrow at 5 p. m. Mass will be held at Catholic church, Lomita, Saturday at 9 a. m., with burial at Wilmington cemetery. Survivors are the widow, Eulalia, daughters, Esther, Sally and Helen and two sons, Manuel and Frank.

According to the police report it was a possible hit-run case. The body was lying on the shoulder of Highway 101, 150 feet west of Los Altos and 84 feet east of Vista Del Parque, with the head to the east, seven feet from the curb.

Sanchez apparently was struck by a car traveling east on Highway 101. No broken glass nor evidence of any damage to a car visible.

Other workers are being added from the members of the Women of the Moose.

The Torrance Rotary Club will convene one section after their regular meeting tonight, it was announced by President Otto B. Wiley.

Special gifts, under the leadership of George Johnson, Bank of America, have almost completed their solicitation. Workers serving under Johnson include: Dean L. Sears, Harry B. Lewis, Hillman R. Lee, Bernard Lee, Reed H. Parkin.

Johnson, in outlining the services rendered by the American Red Cross, stated that donors make possible these services:

Every second—eight men enter a Red Cross service club, 24 surgical dressings are made, two sweaters or other comfort articles are distributed, two doughnuts with coffee are served from a canteen.

Every two seconds—1 communication between a serviceman and his family is handled.

Every three seconds—one food parcel is delivered to a prisoner of war, one meal is served by a Red Cross canteen.

Every four seconds—one foreign civilian victim of war is aided.

Every six seconds—one pint of blood is taken to save a life; one night's lodging is provided for a serviceman.

Every seven seconds—one serviceman is aided by a field director.

Every 10 seconds—one kit bag is made to be given to a serviceman.

Every 20 seconds—one dollar is expended on disaster victims on the United States of America.