

NOW I KNOW WHAT FALLING THROUGH SPACE IS LIKE

They Dropped Me By Parachute

By JOHN A. HANNIGAN, "DAILY RECORD" WAR CORRESPONDENT

NOW I know, like thousands of British and Polish paratroops in Scotland, really what it means to be "for the high jump."

Peak point of the parachutist's early ground training is the moment he takes his first step into thin air from the top of a 100 feet high steel tower of the type they used in Poland for the same purpose long before the war.

I stood one morning in a hidden glade at a parachute training school in Scotland watching one figure after another detach itself from the tower's top platform and coast down to earth at speeds ranging from 10 to 25 feet a second.

A Polish officer-parachutist by my side explained the system how the parachute safely depending from a cable is operated by an ingenious mechanism at the top, how the jumper can descend at any one of five different speeds, and how the switch of a lever can stop or start the parachute in mid-air.

"It must be fun," I remarked. "The boys," my companion replied, "think it is a very good game. You would like to try it, no?"

"Sure," I answered unthinkingly.

Not The "Fun" It Looked

Five minutes later, I was anything but sure. By then, I was high up on the top platform, imprisoned in parachute harness and working myself up to the point of actually taking the drop which had looked such "fun" from below. It was windy up there. So was I. The ground seemed a long way off even from a hundred feet.

"All right?" a young lieutenant asked as he clipped the parachute ring to my harness and gave it a reassuring tug.

"Fine," I said in a smallish voice as I squatted, legs dangling, over the edge of the platform in the approved m-manner.

"Very well. I give you slight push. You let yourself go."

"Whatever you say," I gulped. A firm hand pressure on the shoulder blades, in the small of the back and away I went into space with nothing I could do about it.

A split second, which might have been a split century, and I felt a sharp tug. The parachute was fully inflated, the cable unwinding serenely from its drum, and down I went for 80 or 90 feet at an easy, but quite exhilarating pace—12 feet a second they told me later.

Five or six feet from the ground, another tug as my descent stopped suddenly, leaving me hanging limply like a Christmas turkey at a shop door. They had decided to let me down gently.

From "stop," the lever up above was once more swung over to "start" and next thing I was landing softly on my feet.

Not a Nerve Cure

Two Polish soldiers hurried over, unclasped the parachute ring, grinned at the somewhat mixed expression on my face—and it was all over.

It wasn't until then I realised there was nothing to it, that there was no risk at all, and nothing to feel heroic about.

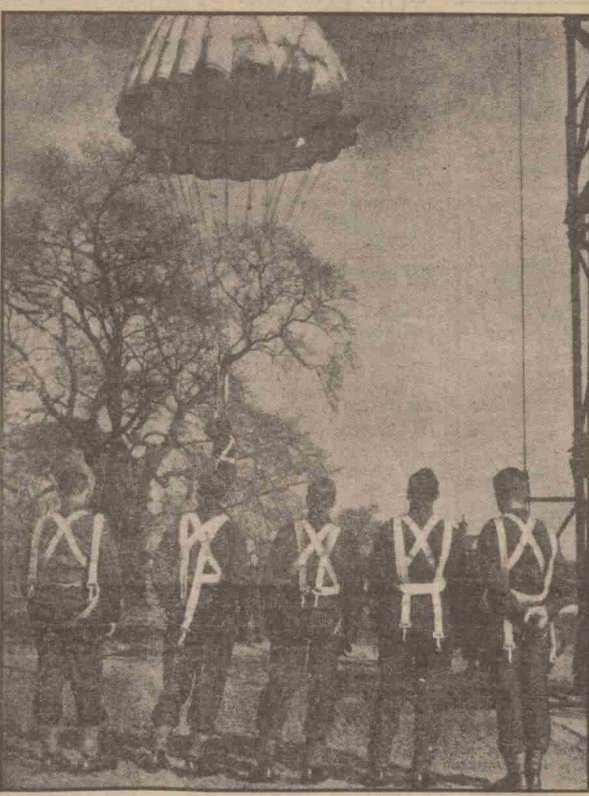
Even so, I don't recommend that second or two before the cast-off from the top as part of anybody's nerve cure.

Paratroops at this point in ground training are practically all set to go from a troop carrier.

I watched these Polish soldiers at every phase of the training, starting off with a special brand of physical jerks as the first stage of the toughening process, then mauling each other about in unarmed combat.

This is a real strength, speed and endurance exercise demanding plenty of initiative and stamina in varying weather conditions.

The Polish paratroops I was with have it working to the last detail. Trained to a hair and the minute, they are, as we say in Scotland, a fine body of men.



Pupils at a Parachute Training Centre in Scotland at the tower with cable-controlled parachute.

They Want To Be Gauleiters

By A Special Correspondent

THE Nazi regime in Germany is now in its tenth year. We know of the results in the militaristic and the political spheres. What of others?

Education, for example. A German source announces that the first batch of graduates from the Adolf Hitler Schools are "graduating" this Spring—first fruits of an educational system designed expressly to develop Nazi principles in young Germans.

Typically, it is revealed, of these first complete products of the system, 67 have chosen political leadership for a career. Those choosing scientific and technical careers are just over 7 per cent, and teaching, barely that proportion, while under 4 per cent, favour the

medical profession.

Fewer than 3 per cent want a business career, and about the same number choose agriculture and forestry.

These figures must cause concern even to the most purblind of Nazi leaders. When much more than half the products of Nazi schools select politics as their career, what is to become of Germany's industries and professions?

Didn't Hitler himself say, "Germany must export, or die?" Whence, then, is he to draw his technical experts of the future, his business directors, his leaders of industry, trade and commerce? Germany used to be one of the most scientifically minded nations. Its technicians were

sought after all over the world.

Many of the best of them are dead, in concentration camps, or in exile. And under the Nazi system only 7 per cent of the students aim to replace them.

Hitler "purged" a big proportion of Germany's doctors because they were Jews. Result, a shortage of doctors. Only three out of a hundred young Nazi students show any desire to fill the gap.

On the broader aspect of education generally, the development of intelligence and character, the effect of this system must be even worse and more widespread.

Even the Leader—the Hitler Youth Movement, Von Schirach, has dared to voice his fears in this connection.

CAMOUFLAGE ON BURMA FRONT

Chinese Look Like Jungle

THE Chinese General was sitting, crisply efficient, in his little office issuing orders when I saw him (writes Reuter's special correspondent with the Chinese forces on the Toungoo Front, Burma, in a delayed message):

He greeted me with a broad, friendly smile, and then explained the situation to me in perfect English, spoken with an American accent. Nearby stood the American liaison officer for Lt-General Stillwell, U.S. Officer Commanding the Chinese Armies in Burma.

All round there is impressive evidence that China's aid to Burma is no mean thing—Chinese troops are everywhere, many tirelessly working on defence positions in their coolie hats.

COOKHOUSE CALL

Though ruthless and implacable when fighting the Japs, the Chinese soldier is naturally of a friendly and cheerful disposition, and has been quick to fraternise with the Burmese villagers, who are doing a roaring trade selling fruits and minor luxuries.

A strange, wailing bugle note, which to European ears sounded most eerie, was, I learned, the Chinese equivalent for "Come to the cookhouse door, boys."

A little later, I saw a platoon plying their chopsticks with uncanny dexterity and making short work of an ample meal of rice, meat and vegetables, washed down with tea.

ALERT SENTRIES

A party of Chinese troops armed with automatics, returning from patrol, padded along silently in their soft-soled shoes. They were so camouflaged as to be completely invisible against the jungle foliage.

It was a tricky business leaving the Chinese positions after darkness had fallen, and I was left in no doubt as to the efficiency of their organisation.

Sentries mysteriously appeared every few hundred yards, calling out some Chinese phrase which, for safety's sake, I decided meant "Halt!"

My picturesque pass—all in Chinese characters except for the name—acted, however, like a talisman.

Frowns of suspicion quickly turned to broad grins whenever I produced it, and I was permitted to go on my way without hindrance.

JOBS FOR STAND-BY HOURS

Aberdeen, Bremen on Civil Defence duty have asked Councilor W. D. Reid, as Convener of the Town Council's War Vigilance Committee, to help them to formulate proposals for the employment of part of the Civil Defence personnel on productive work during their idle stand-by hours.

PRO-NAZI' ROMAN SAILED

...to have told a lieutenant in a cafe ...Germany would overtake in the Spring and ...they would then have ...Mrs. Elizabeth ...ward (63), described ...of Medina ...Sussex, was at ...to one month's ...and fined £50 for ...a statement likely ...alarm and despondent ...aid Paling, prosecu- ...that last January ...ard was fined £25 at ...a similar offence. ...she may suggest ...is an irresponsible ...inclined to chatter. ...tion of the prose- ...that she is not an ...woman, but is a ...and anti-British ...who has made ...statements." Mrs. ...and the conversation ...a silly one."

BELFRY

...The Russian soldier's winter foot- ...wear la felt."—News item. ...Especially on the Nazi pants, hey? ...Collapse of elderly reader who ...thought he was perusing the Births, ...Marriages, Deaths column. ...RIVALRY between the various ...political groups to manipulate ...advantage for themselves is ...obvious."—New Delhi message. ...The daughters of the horse-leach ...whose cry is "Give!" and "Give!" ...Have nothing on the Aryans ...To Allah thirled or Shis. ...Bo Probably Sir Stafford ...Will seize the first short pause ...To point out rather firmly, ..."The name is Cripps, not Clause."

M. P.s Plan Easter Pop-Talks To

...M. Constituents."—Headline. ..."Severe Tests of Endurance Still In ..."—Headline. ...THE news that the Home Guard ...may have its own air arm was ...warmly welcomed by Dr. Pincush, the ...celebrated thigmomologist, at Paddock- ...bury yesterday. ...After some rapid calculations, the ...aid man said, ...Dropped from a height of 2000 ...feet, the regulation pike would pene- ...travestry of a thickness equal to ...inches of oatmeal ...weight, 67 inches of baled and com- ...pressed slag, or three volumes of the ...most potent of British ...and terrible weapon is placed at the ...disposal of Britain's bitter-enders. The ...pike would, of course, be recoverable ...by means of fishing line and reel.

The Gangrel

A.T.S. UTILITY TRESSES

SINCE a woman's hair is her glory, it would be obviously unwise to standardise haircutting in the women's services. It seems worth while though, to aim at styles or modes with a utility instead of a glamour background.

Members of Bradford Ladies' Hairdressers Society have been demonstrating along those lines to A.T.S. girls at a Northern Command A.A. site with considerable success.

On a recent Sunday afternoon officers and personnel of the unit watched girls in khaki have their hair styles changed in accordance with the Bradford plan. The results appealed to them immensely.

Girls with long hair even volunteered to sacrifice it in such a good cause.

Each operator worked on a different style, but all had the

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Aftermath Of Fatherland Holiday

From "Daily Record" Listening Station

GUATEMALAN citizens of German origin who have spent a holiday in Germany since the commencement of the Nazi regime are to be rounded up for questioning as to their activities in Germany and since. Information has been received of conversations of returned ex-germans which lead the authorities to believe that their loyalty is questionable.

SPAIN.—The police have arrested the former leader of the Communist Youth Party. They report finding documents proving that he had British and Russian support, and that the equipment of his forces was supplied entirely by the British.

INDIA.—The leader of the Hyderabad Congress, speaking of Cripps' visit, says:—"Cripps' task is a difficult but noble one and I feel sure that he will solve it with his usual genius."

PHILIPPINES.—Manuel Quezon, President of the Philippines, says that 60 per cent. of the Philippines are yet unoccupied or even menaced by the Japs who have occupied a few strategic points and are struggling to maintain them.

FRUGUAY.—Montevideo reports that a strong protest has been made to Germany through Switzerland about the sinking of the Montevideo. Meantime, the attacks on Axis persons and property go on unabated in the Capital and provinces of Uruguay.

ROMANIA.—Maniu, the Rumanian peasant leader, and Bratianu, the Liberal leader, precipitated the Rumanian trouble by sending Antonescu a memorandum which read:—"If victory in the Eastern Front has already been won, why send troops there? Let those who have been sent return, for there are victories need at home."

MEXICO.—The Mexican Government have given U.S.A. freedom to use the Mexican Pacific Coast and to make any arrangements for its defence they think fit.