

BYRD PARTY IS ISOLATED FROM CIVILIZATION

Choice of Food and Skill In Outfitting Expedition Now Proves Its Value

Three Aces of Byrd Expedition Cut Off From Base

On March 18th, Larry Gould, Bernt Balchen and Harold June, three aces of the Byrd Expedition, rounded out eleven days of total isolation from the outside world and their contact with "Little America," the base headquarters of Commander Byrd's Polar Bear Party. The New York Times' correspondent, Russell Owen, who is a member of the Byrd forces, writes as follows in his special dispatch of March 18th: "Party on Rockefeller Range have food and fuel for two months."

Anxiety for the men marooned for eleven days is expressed because no radio communication had been received from them for four days. The Times' correspondent writes: "Barring some unlikely mishap, they should be as safe there as we are here at the base. The fact that the three lone men who are cut off from communication with 'Little America' have sufficient food and fuel for two months eliminated the possibility of danger from exposure and starvation. The food and fuel supply of Gould, Balchen and June is an example of the caution with which the expedition is proceeding. Commander Byrd has carried out his plans with exacting care, always preferring an expenditure of extra time in preference to an unnecessary rush."

Hazards of Exploration Reduced

Heretofore, Arctic and Antarctic expeditions have set off on perilous voyages equipped with limited food supplies and the element of risk was enhanced by outfitting inadequate to provide for more than a minimum of delay and unforeseen disaster.

Commander Byrd, while an intrepid adventurer whose achieve-

ments and daring match that of an explorer-scientist, is, in the truest sense of the word, a practical man and a realist. His deliberate planning to ward off disaster and to provide for unforeseen delays has proven him to be the most outstanding Antarctic explorer in history.

Snug Home in the Bleak Antarctic "Little America," the name given the sweeping area upon which Commander Byrd's main base camp is built, is a splendid example of the thought given to the safety of the fifty-two men who are to remain stationed in the great Antarctic wastes, waiting their opportunity to bring to completion their exploratory work and scientific observations and the ultimate flight of Commander Byrd over the southernmost point of the globe—the South Pole.

"Little America," at the edge of the desolate Ross Ice Shelf, is snug and shipshape to meet the blizzards and cold of the Polar night. It consists of nine buildings, two giant radio towers and a great pole flying the flag of our nation. A main executive office in which a laboratory, a high-powered radio station and the medical department are located, occupies the largest of the group of nine buildings comprising "Little America." A bunk house, a machine shop and a generator house; a second bunk house, three airplane sections for safe housing of aircraft, and a magnetism observatory, make up the balance of the Byrd main base camp. Russell Owen, in telling of the base camp just before its construction on the Ross Ice Shelf, writes: "It will be a snug home, though somewhat confined; a home buried in the snow while the wind howls in darkness and the aurora plays overhead." The camp, "Little America," is typical of Commander Byrd's genius for detail and his everlasting concern for those who assist him in his perilous exploration work.

Even the inaugural work undertaken in New York bore the evidence of Commander Byrd's master hand of leadership. A review of all of the phases of the expedition thus

far gives every indication of infinite care and precision, coupled with a business-like execution.

Expedition Outfitted for Two Years

It is difficult to visualize the perfection of detail that characterized the outfitting of this expedition. Plans were made for a lengthy voyage—thought was given to each minute hit of the equipment and the supplies that were taken along. Three ships were manned; eighty men were outfitted for two years of rigorous Antarctic weather; base camps were designed, built, and packed in the holds of the supply ships. Special furniture was made—comfortable, yet practical from every conceivable angle of convenience, and such that it would occupy the minimum amount of space. There were tests conducted for the portable houses that were to shelter the expedition when it reached the Great Ice Barrier in the Ross Sea, for these shelters had to be the least cumbersome—the most compact—procurable, yet they had to be sturdy in order to withstand the Antarctic climate for two long years. Then there were medical supplies for emergencies that are always certain to arise during such a dangerous undertaking. There were things that had to go with these men to help while away long hours of solitude—games, cards, a phonograph, a player-piano, radio receivers and transmitter with which to keep in touch with the outside world. But most important of all was the food supply which was to last these eighty men for the two perilous years of the expedition!

Experts For Every Phase of Work

Commander Byrd was careful to select experts to handle every phase of his two years of exploratory work in the frozen wastes of the Great Antarctic. It took months for him to assemble his crew and his staff of scientists—and as a result, each man, no matter what his particular calling, was an expert in his own field.

From a long list of applicants, Commander Byrd selected Sydney Greason to assume the duties of Chief Steward. To him fell the re-

sponsibility of provisioning the expedition. It was he who had to compute the amount of supplies that would be necessary to last for the length of this great adventure. There must be no room for doubt—no possible error could be rectified down in the icy wastes of the Ross Sea—and food was the very back-bone of the expedition! To provide such a large group of men with food needs for over two years, so planned as to insure the maintenance of health under extra-ordinary and precarious conditions, was a task which demanded thorough commissarial knowledge, and an accurate and complete understanding of dietetics as well. Dr. Francis Coman, of Johns Hopkins University, Medical Director of the expedition, worked with Mr. Greason in preparing the two year food supply for the Polar Party. To these two men fell the responsibility of equipping the expedition with the food necessary for the entire two year stay in the Antarctic.

Weeks of Exactng Coffee Tests

A particularly careful, and an altogether remarkable test, was given to coffee. It is coffee that Byrd's men are to depend upon so much to ward off the chill of Antarctic temperature. Numerous brands of coffee were tested in the very earliest days of preparation, and both Dr. Coman and Mr. Greason selected Bokar as the best. The initial tests led to the selection of six brands of coffee for the final decision, and these brands were subjected to an even more stringent test.

Five pounds of each of these brands of loose coffee were placed in the sun on the roof of the Biltmore for four weeks during the very hottest of summer weather—then put in cold storage, open, and left in a temperature of from ten to twenty degrees below zero for another four weeks. The coffee was then ground and tested, and it was found that Bokar alone had retained its flavor! A severe test, this—but coffee that was to cross the equator, with its terrific heat, and yet retain its flavor when subjected to the intense cold of the Antarctic, had to

meet it—successfully! To quote Mr. Greason's own words, Bokar was chosen for the expedition because they "had to have the best"—and Bokar undeniably topped all the rest. The "City of New York" was stocked with enough coffee to brew 150,000 cups—two and one-half tons of the steaming beverage, that will play so important a part in fitting these eighty intrepid men to face the rigors of Antarctic weather.

Baked Beans—A Chief Item of Diet The good old army of ration, baked beans, was selected as one of the mainstays of the Byrd Antarctic diet. Ten thousand pounds of Quaker Maid Beans sailed under the Byrd banner for New Zealand, and thence to the Pole. And why not? Beans have unusual sustaining qualities—they can be kept indefinitely—packed easily—and take up comparatively little space aboard the ships. In the case of Quaker Maid Beans, it was not the nutritive standpoint alone that prompted their choice, but their appetizing taste—their delicious flavor—as well. And baked beans can be so easily packed and carried on dog-sleds, for the long trips of exploration from the base

(Continued on Page Eight.)

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MR. FARMER:

Would you rather have \$80 an Acre From your Land or \$25?

A foolish question, you say. Of course it is, but it is being asked you in all seriousness. The cannery proposition for the farmers of this section is still "hanging fire." And it seems that the farmers prefer the \$25.00 an acre proposition to the \$80.00 proposition. Here is why and how:

Less than 100 acres of tomatoes have been taken on the cannery proposition, and there needs to be around 200 acres of tomatoes and 100 acres of beans.

The cannery people have agreed to come here and buy your tomatoes at figures based on one-fourth of a crop at around \$80.00 an acre at gathering time.

Corn at gathering time is usually less than a dollar a bushel, but granting that it is a dollar a bushel, \$25.00 is a high average for an acre of corn at gathering time.

Here are the figures:

The average yield an acre of corn in the state of North Carolina is 15 bushels. The average yield for Cherokee county is conservatively and liberally estimated at 25 bushels an acre.

It takes practically the same amount of work to grow an acre of corn that it does to grow an acre of tomatoes.

An acre of tomatoes will require 3630 hills. If only half of these plants live, you have 1815 hills. If each hill produces one peck of tomatoes, which is a low estimate, this gives you 453 3/4 bushels. The price of the tomatoes delivered to the cannery is 35c a bushel, and at this rate an acre of tomatoes will bring \$158.55.

On top of these figures, some growers will tell you that they have raised as high as a bushel of tomatoes to the hill.

However, let's figure still more. Say your acre of tomatoes contains 3630 hills or plants. Half of these get killed, and the season is bad for growing tomatoes, and you only got a gallon to the hill on the half of your plants which are not killed. This gives you \$79.27 or around that \$80.00 an acre we were talking about.

Figure it out for yourself. Our figures may not be right. See if we have made a mistake.

Read the contract herewith, and let yourself know whether or not you would rather have \$80.00 an acre from just a fourth of a crop or \$25.00 an acre from a full crop, by seeing any member of the Lions Club, your County Agent, or the editor of The Cherokee Scout AT ONCE, and contract blanks will be furnished. The seed are already here and need to be put in the ground during the next week or ten days.

TOMATO GROWER'S CONTRACT J. W. Gillaspie and Co.

No. _____ Murphy, N. C. _____ 192__

I, _____, hereby agree to devote the land and furnish everything necessary to plant and cultivate in proper manner _____ acres of land in tomatoes, all to be planted with the variety of seed furnished by J. W. Gillaspie & Co., to be well set with plants as early in the season as weather condition will permit, and to keep them well tended and cultivated, and I agree to deliver all the products of the above specified acreage to J. W. Gillaspie & Co., at his factory at Murphy, North Carolina in a sound and ripe condition during the season of 1929. Tomatoes that are green on one side or not fully developed in size or color, or less than two inches in diameter, or bruised jammed overripe, or sunburned, will not be considered merchantable, and if not merchantable are subject to dock or refusal. I also agree, should I sell to any party or parties any tomatoes from this acreage, without the written permission of J. W. Gillaspie & Co., to forfeit to the J. W. Gillaspie & Co., the entire sum received from such sale or sales.

Tomatoes, when ripe, to be delivered to the factory in slat boxes or splint baskets. I further agree that, should I fail, for any cause within my control, to cultivate the number of acres specified, I will forfeit \$_____ per acre for such shortage.

J. W. Gillaspie & Co., agreeing that if he fails to receive all tomatoes above described when delivered during the days and hours named below, as fast as they can reasonably weigh and take care of them, they will pay me \$_____ for each acre on account of such failure, except as hereinafter provided. All tomatoes delivered at factory are to be left in the crates or baskets until emptied in their turn.

In consideration of compliance with the above condition, J. W. Gillaspie & Co., agrees to furnish all seeds, and to charge grower for same, to be paid out of Tomatoes delivered, and pay for the Tomatoes \$14.00 per ton of 2,000 lbs., delivered in the condition above mentioned, at his factory at Murphy, North Carolina.

Settlement to be made on first of each month. Tomatoes to be delivered between the hours of 7 A. M. and 5 P. M. of each receiving day of the week, except on Friday, no Tomatoes received after 12 o'clock noon, and no Tomatoes received on Saturday, without special permission.

I hereby agree that in case of destruction of the cannery by fire or the elements, or if for any unavoidable cause the factory is unable to receive all the Tomatoes grown, said factory shall have the right to limit the delivery of said acreage.

Witness: _____ Grower

Accepted: J. W. GILLASPIE & CO. Per _____

The Farmers of Henderson County Have Made from \$70 to \$270 an Acre on Tomatoes and Over in East Tennessee the farmers have made from \$79.00 to \$297.00 an Acre on Tomatoes.

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