First Army Death Sentence in This War

Leonski Doomed to Hang for 3 Australian Slayings

By United Press

MELBOURNE, July 17—Pvt. Edward J. Leonski, the former New York grocery clerk who strangled three women because he could not resist the softness of their throats and the beauty of their voices, was found guilty by a court-martial today and was sentenced to be hanged.

The president of the court-martial announced the verdict. He said it was unanimous and that Leonski was found guilty on all three murder charges. The defendant did not speak.

Leonski, 24, confessed he killed the women and a medical commission reported to the court-martial he was not insane and never had been.

A defense psychiatrist, however, testified that he had a psychopathic personality. A buddy who shared a tent with him in the American Army camp told the court Leonski once told him he had two personalities.

"'Did you ever hear of Werewolf? Did you ever hear of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,' he asked me, and then he went on to say he was like them," the soldier said.

The victims of Leonski's fascination were Mrs. Pauline Thompson, 31, Gladys Hosking, 41, and Mrs. Violet McLeod, 39. He did not attack them, altho he ripped off their colthing.

It was testified that both Miss Thompson and Miss Hosking sang to him. A lieutenant testified that Leonski, telling of the death of Miss Thompson, said:

"She was looking into my eyes; she seemed to be singing just for me alone. She had a nice voice. I grabbed her by the throat. I wanted her to keep on singing. I choked her. How could she keep on singing when I choked her?"

In a later confession he referred again to Miss Thompson and her ability to drink.

"I guess that Thompson girl was the hardest," he said. "She was strong, and oh, boy, how she could drink those gin squashes. She told me I had a baby face, but I am wicked underneath."



PVT. EDWARD LEONSKI
Women's soft throats and voices fascinated him

The court-martial was composed of 10 American officers. Leonski was the first American soldier sentenced to death since the war started.

The judge advocate, in closing the prosecution's case, said the court had heard a story of "human tragedy and human depravity not paralleled in the administration of justice in the U. S. Army."

Tear Gas Breaks Up Trenton Prison Riot

TRENTON, N. J., July 17—John L. O'Hara, warden of New Jersey State Prison, today disclosed 16 inmates were tear-gassed by prison authorities Monday after they created a disturbance while moving to new quarters.

All but two were still in the infirmary late yesterday, but are improving, Mr. O'Hara said.

The warden said the men gassed were among 30 who attempted to create disturbances among all prisoners over food and clothing furnished convicts.

Only One Filled

Local Cops Dodging Super-Sleuth Jobs

Remember those $3600-a-year "super-detective" jobs that Congress created here a year ago?

Well, only one of the four authorized spots has been filled, that by an out-of-town man, and qualified local men are avoiding the jobs like poison.

The high-powered jobs were set up after an angry House investigation committee had exposed loose administration in the Detective Bureau following the Streiff murder. Appointments to all four have been approved, but only David S. Ennis, 35-year-old former chief of police in White Marsh, Pa., a town of 5000 population, has been sworn in. He is a graduate of the FBI school.

Detective Bureau Chief Richard Mansfield told reporters the new detective would "probably spend six months" learning Washington police routine before he is assigned to a case. This would place the cost to the District at $1800 for training a man hired as an expert at crime detection.

Altho many veterans of the department were qualified, all of the appointees are from out of town. It is understood local detective sergeants refused to accept the jobs because they felt they were created on a political whim and could be cut out of the appropriation with equal ease.

And, altho the men will receive a captain's pay, they will only hold a sergeant's rank. Their badges, however, will say "Investigator." Presumably these two points would not serve to make the super policemen popular with their fellows.

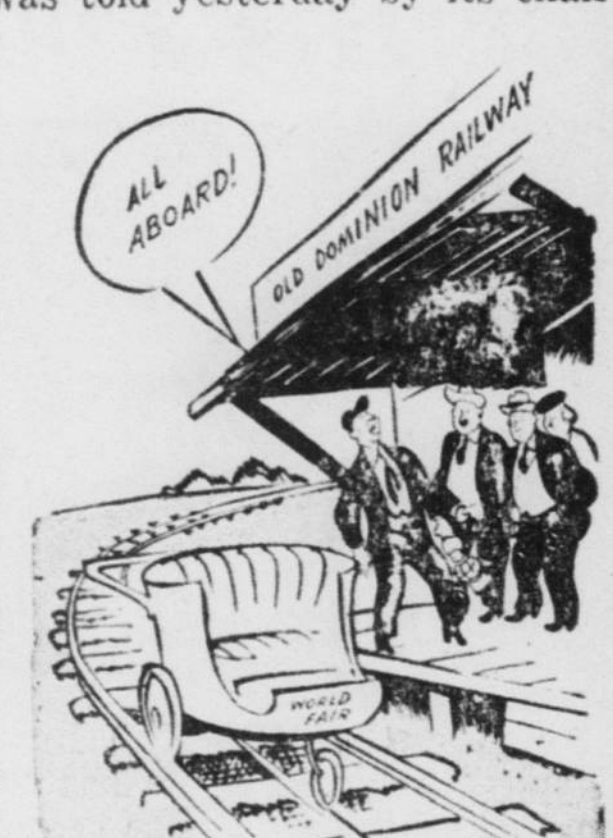
Hope for Commuters

Service on W&OD Line Being Sought by ODT

Office of Defense Transportation has been "working hard" for restoration of passenger service on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad, in near-by Virginia, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission was told yesterday by its chairman, Frederic A. Delano.

Mr. Delano read a letter addressed to him from ODT Chairman Joseph B. Eastman, in which Mr. Eastman made this statement and particularly referred to a scheduled experiment with makeshift equipment which was announced last week by Virginia's State Corporation Commission.

Mr. Delano said also that he is familiar with this equipment and believes it might work, with some improvements. Motive force is a sort of cross between a flat car and heavy truck, the truck inserted in the center of the flat car.



ABANDONED IN 1941

Passenger service on this line to Purcellville, Va., was abandoned April 12, 1941. A citizens' committee urged its restoration, with shortage of tires and gasoline.

Acting on local matters, the Planning Commission yesterday approved detailed site and development plans for four demountable home developments here, as follows: 35th-st and Reservoir Road nw, 74 units; Monroe and Seventh streets ne, 90 units; 46th-st and Hanna Place se, 138 units; Foote-st and Benning Road ne, 140 units.

All are to be erected on rented sites, and must be removed within a year after the war's end. They are to be provided specifically for war workers.

One site is rented from the Convent of the Visitation, 35th-st and Reservoir Road nw; another from Potomac Electric Power Co., Foote-st and Benning Road ne.

PLAYGROUNDS TRANSFERRED

Fourteen playgrounds and recreation areas were ordered transferred to the new Recreation Department, continuing a movement to concentrate all public recreation facilities here under that agency. Those transferred are playgrounds at Ft. Reno, Friendship, Forest Hills, Ft. Stevens, Keene School, and near National Training School for Boys on Bladensburg Road, Trinidad Recreation Center; Abbott Playground, Brentwood, Hillcrest Recreation Center; Congress Heights Playground; Kelly Miller Junior High Recreation Center; Barry Farms Playgrounds, Ft. Chaplin Recreation Center, Oxon Run Recreation Center.

Plans for developing these areas with swings, slides, volley ball courts, baseball diamonds, etc., already have been worked out.

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