

FORT WORTH, TEXAS—WHERE THE WEST BEGINS

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BEHOLD THE MAN—X

Soldiers Found Execution Duty Distasteful

BY WARD CALLE

Chicago Daily News Service

Gaius Longinus, the centurion, was the last man in the ranks to regard a tribune with favor. In 19 years of service, he had seen them come and seen them go. In the man, they knew nothing but senatorial arrogance upon arriving in the camps—and little more when they returned to Rome and still greater appointments. Perhaps officers were necessary to the conduct of an army, but on his life Gaius Longinus knew not why.

All the same, he had a grudging fondness for the Most Noble Marcus Valerius, senatorial scion or not, here was a man who had come into the East to fight Parthians. It was not his fault that instead he found himself in command of a cohort which policed a rabble nation city. So it was that Longinus understood full well when Valerius led him aside and spoke

to him privately as they reached the hill called Calvary outside the walls.

"This business turns my stomach," the young officer said to the veteran. "A valiant work, dragging forth three men half dead to torment them further! The most eminent, my father, should see us. He'd puke."

"DOMINE, I AGREE," said Longinus. "But duty is duty." "Indeed," said Valerius. "Yet here I leave you. I've brought you beyond the walls, and here is the designated place. The mob is orderly. The victims still live, though the Galilean scion is in a bad way. Are you soldier enough to raise three crosses without my aid?" Longinus spat elaborately. "Three or 30, it's all the same to me." Then, hastily he added, "I mean not quite, Domine. It's filthy business. In your rank, I'd do the same."

"Proceed then," Valerius said, he raised his arm in casual salute and was gone.

Gaius Longinus pushed back his helmet and surveyed the area about him, jerking his thumb at the dozen soldiers of his command. In silence they proceeded with their task.

Of all the executions in his memory, Longinus liked this one least. He had been in the praetorium and he knew the basis upon which this Jesus had been convicted. As to the other two—brigands both—he gave not a thought, but the conviction of the Galilean outraged his sense of Roman justice. Given a man in place of the rose-crowned Pilate, he thought, and this would not have happened.

THEN THERE had been the trip through the streets. At most executions there was a spirit of holiday, a public gladness at being rid of the wicked.

But the rabble in the streets this day had been in sharp contrast to those who jammed the praetorium demanding conviction. They who filled the streets had wept for this Jesus, and once He had paused in His staggering progress, making no plea for mercy, but exhorting them to weep not for Him but for their own sins of injustice.

Nor had Longinus relished the need for flogging the Man to His feet when He fell, nor for conscripting a farmer at last to carry the cross. He was too weak to bear Crucifixion. He had been too weak to need that it be made worse.

The centurion glanced briefly at the silent crowd. There was the woman again, with the two who were her friends. He could not recall when a mother had been with her son in the hour of his execution. That a woman should be so tortured seemed obscene to him. And as for this Annas and his posturing son-in-

law—Longinus spat again. His vision of the Sannidim would never be high. As to why Jesus of Nazareth refused the drink that might have eased His pain, the centurion had no idea whatever; but it served to increase his dislike for the day's duty.

THE SECOND of the three crosses was in position now, its base cemented to the hole in which it must be planted. Longinus walked over to it, watching his men sharply as they proceeded with their work.

Roughly they pulled the clothing over the head of the Galilean, leaving Him naked but for His loin cloth—after which they seized His wrists, flinging Him backward to the ground and dragging Him to the cross-beam. Two of the others lifted His hips, seating Him upon the peg which protruded from the upright member. And as for this Annas and his posturing son-in-

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COLLECTED—McLean Junior High School students, Vicki Hayden of 4317 Surrey Dr. left, and Karen Miller of 4220 Hilding Dr. W., collected \$12 for the Star-Telegram-Zoo Giraffe Fund on a stroll through their neighborhood.

Candy Sale Proceeds Blue Birds Give \$7.92 To Giraffe Campaign

BY DELBERT BAILEY "We want a new giraffe!"—Linda Le Barre. "We are glad to give our money"—Kilzi Jane Bilch. "We miss the giraffe"—Paula Kaye Pruetz. "We hope we can at least buy a half a spot"—Jenny Jopling. "We want a new giraffe at the zoo"—Mary Kay Metzger. "We want some more"—Janet Hanna. "We all hope we can get some more giraffes because we like them"—Melani Green. "We are going to give \$7.92"—Melinda Bruner. These comments and a \$7.92 check came from the Busy Bees

Blue Bird Group at South Hi-Mount Elementary School. The gift was presented to the Star-Telegram-Forest Park Zoo Giraffe Fund in an effort to collect \$6,000 to purchase a pair of new giraffes.

The zoo's giraffes, Goldie and Topper, died recently. Mrs. Joe Jopling, Busy Bees leader, said the money was earned with a candy sale.

Theodore Mack, a father who in 1948 won a pair of parakeets in a contest sponsored by the zoo to suggest the animal that the zoo should acquire with the funds it had available, mailed in a \$2.50 check for his 18-month-old daughter, Katherine Norma.

Mack's 1946 suggestion was to buy a giraffe—Topper. He also contributed pennies toward the acquisition of both Topper and Goldie.

Larry and Lori Holmes of 310 Live Oak Lane in Weatherford saved \$1.27 from their allowances and contributed it to the giraffe fund.

"We want to help. We visited the zoo on a picnic a few weeks ago and missed the giraffe and thought the empty pen was (some looking," stated the Holmes children's letter.

Mrs. Mayne Miller of 2620 S University Dr. mailed in a \$5 check.

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Beer contributed \$10 to the fund. The aquarium at Forest Park Zoo is named in honor of Beer.

Two \$1 bills were received from Paula and Cheryl Bates of 3909 Acacia.

Enclosed is a donation of \$1, each in honor of my grandchildren, Tobi Parks and Teri Parks. Hoping that we will soon have enough to buy another pair of giraffes," writes Mrs. W. C. Parks of 6912 Sheridan Rd.

Miss N. Patterson of 6909 Jewell mailed in \$5 for her grandchildren, Debbie, Jana and Jimmie Patterson of Fort Worth and Gill, Will and Phyllis Thomas of Knoxville, Tenn.

Members of the Amity Club Turn to Blue on Page 4

Advertisement for YARBOROUGH OKS TEXANS' TFX STAND. Includes a map of the Atlantic Ocean region and text by Carol Foley.

Sniper Misses Gen. Walker

DALLAS, April 11 (AP)—An unseen rifleman fired through a back window and missed congressional ex-Gen. Edwin A. Walker by a scant inch in his home Wednesday night.

Police said a slight movement by Walker, at a desk working on his income tax report, apparently saved him.

"Somebody had a perfect bead on Gen. Walker," said a police spokesman. "Whoever it was, he was certainly wanted to kill him."

The bullet, from a 30-06 rifle, was fired from an alley behind the Walker home in a fashionable North Dallas district, police reported. It went through wood framing the glass window.

A reporter asked if the former Army general had any idea who shot at him.

"There are plenty of people on the other side," he replied. "You don't have to go overseas to earn a Purple Heart. I've been saying the front was right here at home."

Walker brushed fragments of glass from his hair as newsmen arrived shortly after the incident, which he described as an attempted assassination. It happened about 9:30 p. m.

"When I saw the hole in the wall, I went upstairs and got my gun," Walker said, "and then outside to take a look... I didn't see anybody, so I went back to the house and notified the police."

He returned only Monday, Walker related, from a coast-to-coast speaking tour which he called "Midnight Alert."

An aide notified the first night he was back home that an unlicensed car with lights out was parked in the alley about 30 minutes, he said.

Advertisement for YARBOROUGH OKS TEXANS' TFX STAND. Includes text by Carol Foley and a map of the Atlantic Ocean region.

KIN OF FORT WORTH MAN MISSED TRIP

Chief Petty Officer Orville Winans, brother of J. W. Winans of 8616 Santa Paula Dr. in White Settlement, just missed being aboard the missing submarine Thresher.

Winans said Thursday another brother, James Winans of Waco, called Orville at the New London, Conn., Naval Base Wednesday night and found the submarine galley chief at home in bed.

Normal crew count of the Thresher, said J. W. Winans, is supposed to be 124, but many regular crewmen, apparently including his brother, were eliminated from this trip by the presence of additional officers and civilians on board to test the vessel.

Mrs. Addie L. Winans of 411 N. Center in Arlington is mother of J. W. Orville and James Winans.

MIDLAND SAILOR WAS ABOARD SUB

MIDLAND, April 11 (AP)—A Midland family is one of those keeping anxious watch for news of the missing U.S. submarine Thresher Thursday.

Among its crew members were Edgar S. Bobbitt, 23, electrician's mate second class.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. James A. Bobbitt. They also have another son and a daughter. The father is assistant production superintendent for Superior Oil Company.

Two others among the 129 missing men were Clyde E. Davidson III of Hobbs, N. M., and Templeman Mabry Jr. of Albuquerque.

Advertisement for Epitaph Slated by President. Includes a portrait of John W. Harvey and text about a ship's recovery.

Epitaph Slated by President

WASHINGTON, April 11 (AP)—The Navy gave up Thursday the nuclear-powered submarine Thresher and the 129 men who rode her down into a mile and a half of water 230 miles off Boston Wednesday.

Adm. George W. Anderson, chief of Naval operations, made the announcement more than 25 hours after contact was lost during a deep-diving test of the rescue-entangled vessel.

"Very reluctantly I have come to the conclusion that the Thresher has indeed been lost," said President Kennedy in a statement expressing his deep distress over the disaster, wrote epitaph for the ship's complement of officers, enlisted men and civilians.

He commended them with "their fortitude who led the advance on the frontiers of our civilization" and added:

"The future of our country will always be sure when there are men such as these to give their lives to preserve it."

Anderson said two main factors influenced his judgment.

The salvage vessel Recovery followed an all-slick detour Wednesday and found his lot of cork used in internal construction of submarines.

Even if there had been a communications failure or the Thresher had got out of position in relation to its escort ship, the Skylark, "stirring in the interim that the missing submarine apparently for the Thresher," to have re-established contact.

I conclude with great regret and the loss of this fine ship with 129 souls aboard is lost," Anderson said.

He disclosed at the same time that officers had gone out to two Turn to Navy on Page 6

THE INDEX

Heyday of Hotel Told In Story

The glitter and glamour of the heyday of Mirera Wells' Baker Hotel now in danger of being closed, is recalled by Jack Tinsley on Page 4, Sec. 3.

TRACK IN TEXAS HAS ONE big thing going for it—A. A. Tully's coach, Fort Worth attorney. Read about it on Page 4, Sec. 5.

THE BROWN-LUPTON Foundation is the subject of Mabel Grody's series on charitable institutions. It's on Page 8, Sec. 8.

WHAT'S THE PARKING situation at Fort Worth schools? It depends on whom you talk to, says Dan Bates on Page 8, Sec. 4.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Page Sec. Includes Amusements (2-3), Astrology (16-5), Crossword (13-5), Daily Word Game (2-6), Editors (2-5), Financial (10-5), Oil (7-8), Outdoors (7-8), Sports (4-2), Television-Radio (6-4), Women's World (6-7), Your Money's Worth (1-2).

THE WEATHER

Rain to date 2.27, normal through April 10.29. Sun sets 6:55 Thursday, rises 6:03 Friday.

High temperature Southwest Airport Wednesday 98, downtown 99, low Southwest Airport Thursday morning 65, downtown 69. Relative humidity at 11 a. m., 67.

Fort Worth and Vicinity—Cloudy and cooler Thursday afternoon and night with temperature dropping to around 50 by midday Friday. Partly cloudy and cool Friday with high in the mid-70s. Wind northerly about 20 m.p.h., diminishing Friday.

Weather map and state forecasts on Page 13, Sec. 1.

Murray Probe Turned Over to Local Officials

By GARTH JONES AUSTIN, April 11 (AP)—Attorney General Waggoner Carr said Thursday he is turning further investigations of former Railroad Commissioner William J. Murray Jr. over to local officials.

Carr said Murray's resignation Wednesday in the wake of a probe into the West Texas oil venture makes the question of removal from office moot. Removal might have a bearing on the state's code of ethics law.

Further investigation will center possibly on violation of penal statutes, and these matters come within the jurisdiction of local law enforcement officers and prosecutors," Carr said.

He said he has delivered or plans to give to Travis County District Attorney Tom Blackwell all Railroad Commission records which might have a bearing on the case and Murray's personal records which were given to the state auditor. Carr said he has contacted no other district attorneys. "There is no indication of a need for that. Any further steps now should be initiated from Travis County," he said.

THINK IT OVER

Some people seem to think they have not done wrong unless they are found out.

Public officials share a sacred public trust. It is imperative to continued confidence in our form of government that their conduct in office be beyond a shadow of doubt. Anything less undermines the confidence of

oil from another's lease. "It is regrettable for all of Texas that the documented facts made public within the past few days indicated a question of propriety or legality of his outside business transactions in view of his position of authority on the commission," Connally said.

"Considering these facts, it is my judgment that Mr. Murray's resignation is in the best interests of our state."

Within the last year, mostly while Murray served as chairman of the Railroad Commission, there have been more than 300 criminal indictments returned against persons who allegedly slanted oil wells to take

Turn to Murray on Page 4