

May 25, 1951.

Lieut. Colonel Robert L. Schulz  
Aide to General Eisenhower  
Hq. SHAPE  
APO 55, c/o Postmaster  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Colonel Schulz:

In compliance with your request of May 21, enclosed you will find two copies of John Roderick's article concerning Air Chief Marshal Saunders, which appeared in the April 30 issue of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Hope all goes well with you, and with best wishes,

Sincerely,

Secretary to A. G. Carter

KD:mm

# Eisenhower's Air Deputy Little Known Because He Carefully Shuns Limelight

BY JOHN RODERICK.

LONDON, May 3 (AP). — The dictionary definition of a dingbat is something you pick up and throw. But no one is going to toss Air Marshal Sir Hugh (the dingbat) Saunders around.

Sir Hugh, a big bulldog of a man just named General Eisenhower's air deputy in the North Atlantic treaty army, has a reputation for tenacity. Once he has made up his mind, he won't be thrown for a loss.

He got the "dingbat" nickname from the officers and men of the Royal Air Force which he has served, man and boy, since World War I. No one really knows how he got the tag, but his friends say it is because he has a knack for taking off hell-for-leather on any problem that crops up.

To Americans, 56-year-old, South African-Born Sir Hugh is practically unknown. Aside from his reputation as a sound military man with a record for heroism and efficiency, he is nearly as obscure to the British public.

## DISLIKES LIMELIGHT.

The reason is his abhorrence of the limelight. A brilliant speaker, equipped with a sharp sense of humor, he shuns public appearances like the plague.

When he was appointed to his top Atlantic defense job March 20, the British press covered his biography in a couple of paragraphs. Their files revealed little of the spectacular or anecdotal in his published career.

As Eisenhower's right hand man in charge of air activities, his is an overall command on a par with that of his British colleague in the army, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery.

His job in the Atlantic force will be to cover the advance of ground forces with Allied bomber and fighter might.

## RAISED AIR UMBRELLA.

This is the sort of job he did in World War II as Eisenhower's deputy chief of air staff when he was the little-publicized but brilliant brain behind the giant air umbrella which protected Allied soldiers in their invasion of Normandy. He holds the U. S. Legion of Merit for his job in supplying fighter protection to America's Britain-based bombers before an American fighter force could be created.

In 1921, he got a bar to the DFC for his exploits against the Turks. On two occasions he risked his neck to drop food and supplies to the beleaguered garrison at Samawah, Iraq, and to the stranded gunboat "Firefly" in the Tigris. Several times he had to make crash landings, when engines conked out after enemy engagements.

He became an air marshal in 1947, with three years of solid achievements behind him, including command of RAF operations in Burma, the Normandy invasion, and the Northwest Africa campaign.

## REBUILT AIR FORCE.

He has been inspector-general of the RAF since 1949, entrusted with the job of rebuilding an air force gone rusty in peacetime. He wielded a brisk broom which swept out officer deadwood and swept in a new fighting spirit. Before the Eisenhower appointment, he was briefly chief of



—AP News Sketch.

'DINGBAT' SAUNDERS.  
... Shuns limelight.

Western Union (Brussels treaty) air forces.

Americans may remember him as the man who headed a good

will bomber mission to the United States in 1947 which touched Michigan, California, Colorado and New York as well as parts of Canada.

He has a quick grin but despite his good-humor, he insists on discipline. Luckless officers who get "a strip torn off" by him—British for being taken over the coals—never forget the experience. It's shattering," they say.

He has phenomenal luck at "liar's dice"—a crap game which depends on a straight face and a capacity for bluffing. He dotes on golf. He plays rugby, tennis and squash and, an expert gardener, spends as much time as he can digging among the squash and sweet peas.