

# Only B-36 Available to Bomb Russia, Probe Told

## Cab Driver Is Charged

### GWTW Author Gravely Injured When Struck by Car in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Aug. 12 (P).—Margaret Mitchell, the little Southern lady who made the high courage of a lost cause into "Gone With the Wind," was critically injured Thursday night by a speeding car. Police said the quiet, middle-aged author of the fabulous romance of the War Between the States, was knocked to the pavement by a drunken taxi driver and dragged 15 feet.

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she was too gravely hurt to be moved even for X-rays. She was placed under an oxygen tent and was given a blood transfusion early Friday, after her blood pressure fell. Attendants said she responded satisfactorily.

Hospital attendants made it plain that Miss Mitchell would need a stout heart to pull through.

Miss Mitchell—in private life she's Mrs. John Marsh—received a possible skull fracture, internal injuries and an injury to her right leg. Her face was badly bruised.

She was struck by a car owned and driven by a taxi company employe. The company said the vehicle was not used as a taxicab

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was about a step behind his wife. Otherwise he, too, would have been injured.

One interne said it might be as much as 72 hours before X-rays could be taken, though there was a chance they might be made later Friday.

Police charged the taxi driver—28-year-old Hugh D. Gravett—with drunken driving, speeding and driving on the wrong side of the street.

They quoted him as saying he tried to avoid striking Miss Mitchell and would have missed her if she "had not run back toward the curb."

Marsh, advertising manager for the Georgia Power Company, said his wife saw the vehicle bearing down upon her and tried to evade it.

"There was a loud crash as the car hit here," he related. "It dragged her 15 feet before it stopped."

Miss Mitchell started out to be a newspaper feature writer and wound up penning a novel that literally swept the world. "Gone With the Wind," her only book, has been translated into a dozen foreign languages and has sold nearly 6,000,000 copies.

It came out in 1936, 14 years after she went to work as a girl on the Atlanta Journal and 11 after she married Marsh. It drew immediate acclaim and in 1937 was awarded the Pulitzer prize for the year's best novel.



Associated Press Wirephoto MARGARET MITCHELL

### Mrs. Truman Is Linked With Gift Freezer

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (P).—A report that Mrs. Harry S. Truman was among notables who received deep freezers from a concern figuring in the Senate five percenter inquiry Friday brought this reply from Presidential Secretary Charles G. Ross:

"I have no information whatever about that."

Ross was told a news story named Mrs. Truman, along with Chief Justice Vinson, Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, James K. Vardaman, Federal Reserve Board governor, and George E. Allen, former RFC member and presidential intimate.

"I know nothing whatever about that, either," Ross said when the other names were mentioned.

Vinson left a White House cabinet meeting a few minutes later and said that since the Senate investigation committee is making an inquiry, "I believe I prefer that the matter be developed by the committee."

"I feel I ought not to make any statement," the chief justice said.

Allen denied flatly in New York that he ever received a deep freezer, saying, "I certainly never got one."

There was no immediate comment from any of the others.

The matter of the deep freeze units entered the hearing Thursday when a Milwaukee business man testified that he shipped one in 1945 to Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, President Truman's Army aide.

Truman told his news conference later in the day that nothing brought out at the inquiry so far had changed his opinion of Vaughan in the slightest.

"Well, I'll be damned," was the first reaction of Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin, a member of the investigating group.

When Friday's hearing resumed, McCarthy followed up that comment with a formal demand that Vaughan be called for questioning.

McCarthy based his demand chiefly, however, on Vaughan's reported efforts in connection with a race track construction case rather than the deep freeze

### Gen. Vandenberg Praises Power of Big Plane

BY EDWARD JAMIESON. WASHINGTON, Aug. 12. — The blunt assertion that Russia is the "only military threat to the security of the United States and the peace of the world," was made Friday by Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, chief of staff of the U. S. Air Force.

At the same time, General Vandenberg declared that the B-36 is the only plane available to this country today for the bombing of Russia.

"If the B-36 were abandoned," he declared, "there would be no bomber that had the range to go from bases on this continent to the potential targets in the Eurasian land mass and return to base."

Vandenberg made his frank statement to the House armed

services committee at the fourth day of hearings in the inquiry into the B-36 procurement program by the USAF.

He made it clear in his opening remarks that the Russian threat had been a decisive influence when the Air Force and joint chiefs of staff last year, after much deliberation, rejected proposals to cancel construction of the B-36 and later increased the number on order from 95 to 170.

"It is important that we keep in mind the historical setting in which these issues arise," he told the committee.

"First, there is only one military threat to the security of the United States and to the peace of the world. It is pointless to talk in riddles: This threat comes from the Soviet Union."

For Western Unity.

"Second, in dealings with the Soviet Union the normal international processes of negotiation, agreement and adherence to the pledged word have not succeeded in creating world stability.

"Third, under current realities of world economic and military power, the current aggressive thrust of the Soviet Union can be contained only by the active participation of the United States with the other nations of the Western World.

"Fourth, the United States, with atomic bombs in significant quantity, plus the means of delivering them, can check the aggressive designs of Soviet leaders who recognize no restraint other than force.

"It is deplorable that we should have to think in these terms with the harrowing experience of a world war still fresh in our minds. But at least that experience taught us one lesson: The only way a nation can really win is the one that never starts. When reason, good will, and the accommodation of competing national interests give assurance of keeping the peace, the maintenance of deterrent forces will be unnecessary. Until that day comes, the striking power of atomic weapons in the hands of this country is a prerequisite of national and world security.

"Other governments and peoples around the world have made it clear that they consider their own security dependent primarily on the strength of the United States—a strength that should be effective not only in the Western Hemisphere but wherever a threat arises.

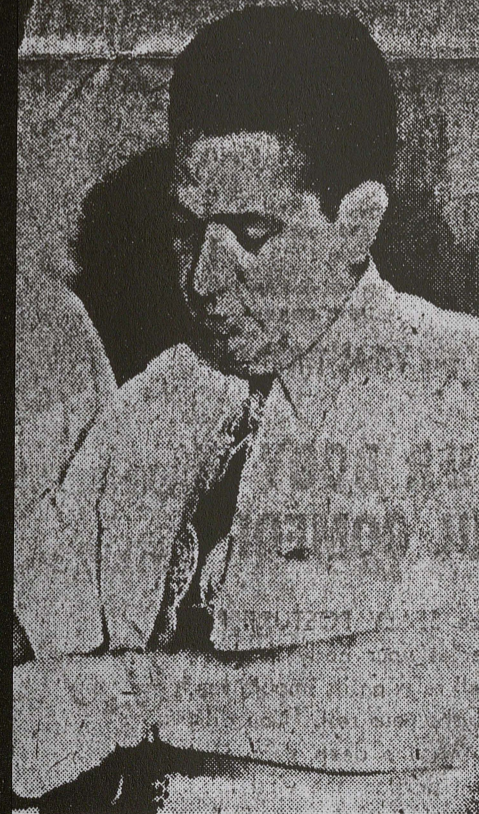
"This represents my personal, well considered judgment."

Strategic Bombing.

The B-36 is the key to the strategic bombing strength of the United States, General Vandenberg told the committee as he outlined in considerable detail the part that strategic bombing played in winning World War II and what it would do in event of another war.

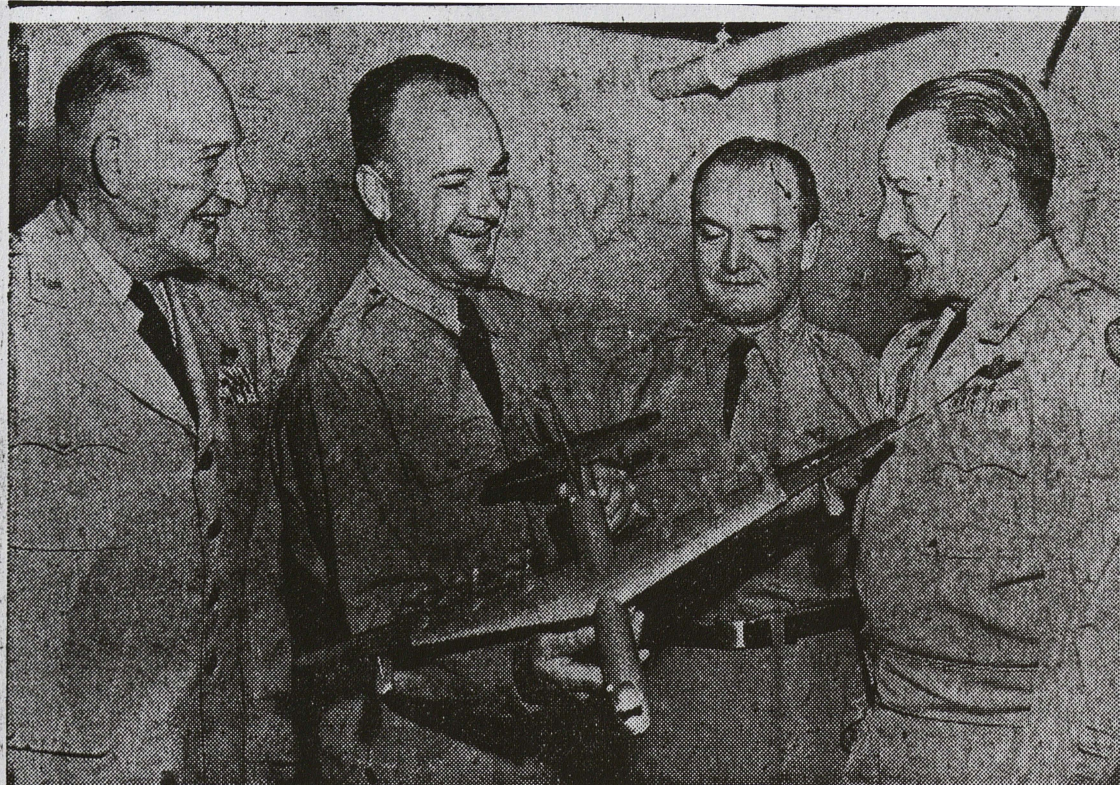
"I want to make it perfectly clear," he declared, "that the Air Force does place first emphasis on its strategic air elements. General Bradley (newly named chairman of the joint chiefs of staff) has said that a strong strategic air arm is America's first line of security, but he has added that

Turn to B-36 on Page 4.



Associated Press Wirephoto. Hugh D. Gravett, left, charged with automobile which struck and seriously injured Margaret Mitchell, author of "Gone With the Wind," being fingerprinted at the Atlanta

### Gunman Takes Drive-In Cafe



—Star-Telegram Staff Photo.

**SOUPED UP**—Spectacular performance of the new B-36 Model D equipped with twin jet pods for fast bursts of speed was demonstrated by Col. William P. Fisher, Carswell Air Base, 7th Wing commander, with a plastic model as 8th Air Force wing commanders convened here Friday for their fall planning conference. Left to right are Col. C. S. Irvine, 509th Wing, Roswell, N. M.; Fisher; Brig. Gen. David W. Hatchison, 97th Wing, El Paso, and Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey.

## MORE ABOUT B-36 INVESTIGATION

Continued from Page 1.

for absolute security we must be stronger in every field. In this I concur."

Though Vandenberg, like other Air Force officers who have testified before him, said that eventually the B-36 will be superseded by a better bomber, now in the design stage, he declared that "we are convinced that for the next few years the B-36 provides the spearhead of the ready-for-combat force in being which this country must constantly have at hand."

### Denies Politics Involved.

Vandenberg bitterly assailed the implication that Secretary of Air Symington had forced continuation of the B-36 because of political or other influence.

"That Mr. Symington could have entertained the idea of jeopardizing the security of this country by favoring inferior airplanes for the monetary advantage of a political party or because of the personal influence of an individual manufacturer is utterly unthinkable," he told the committee.

Pointing out that the present investigation apparently was inspired by one anonymous letter and a speech on the floor of the House, made by Representative Van Zandt of Pennsylvania, Vandenberg asserted:

"It is apparent that one result of these documents had been to raise some question as to the integrity of certain individuals. It is no part of my professional duty as chief of staff to defend the secretary of the Air Force. I raise my voice, however, as any man might who hears a friend unjustly accused.

### Praises Symington.

"During the last few years I have been in almost constant contact with Secretary Symington. From the time when he took office as assistant secretary of war for air in the spring of 1946, to the present, he has labored tirelessly to produce effective and economical military air power for the defense of this country. He has established an effective working balance between the democratic principle of civilian control and the weight which properly should be given to professional judgment in technical and military decisions. He brought to the Air Force his broad experience in industry and government—a contribution which this new department of the military establishment needed badly."

"We welcome this opportunity to clear the record," he continued.

## Four Fathers Sent to Jail

Friday was "Father's Day" in 96th District Court.

But there was no honor attached to proceedings for four paternal parents who appeared before Judge Renfro.

He sentenced each to county jail after they were adjudged in contempt for alleged failure to make child custody payments.

Sentenced were Archie Clark, Raymond Leon Morris, J. E. Payne and J. C. Britton, charged with being behind from \$100 to \$320 in payments.

The men appeared in court for their hearings and after sentences were passed were taken to jail to serve one day and until they purge themselves of contempt—meaning until they pay up.

## Bond Posted in Youth's Beating

Byron French Williams, 18, of 2517 Marigold, one of three youths accused of beating a Riverside boy, posted \$500 bond Thursday in Criminal District Court No. 2, where he is charged with aggravated assault.

Jimmie Charles Richardson, 16, of 3000 Yucca, and Edward Allen Wilson, 16, of 2701 Daisy Lane, also were charged with the alleged beating in delinquency petitions which were filed in juvenile court.

Kenneth Whitten, 16, of 1404 N. Riverside Dr., who told investigating officers that the two beat him in "heckling" persons in parked cars, was reported in "fair" condition at his home Friday.

"The false rumors and innuendoes which led to this investigation have damaged the spirit and morale of the service upon which the United States must depend in large measure for its future security. Because of the time required to prepare answers to charges, regardless of how fantastic they may be, already overloaded staffs have been diverted from the primary task of planning and providing for our national security. In fairness and justice I believe the committee will see fit to remove the burden of these charges of dishonesty before proceeding to other items on your agenda.

### Not Infallible.

"Like all men we are human—our judgment is not infallible, even in the field in which we properly claim the greatest competence. However, there can be no question of the honesty, earnestness and integrity of these men.

Vandenberg, who assumed full responsibility for not only continuing the production of the B-36, but also for increasing the number to be purchased, briefly reviewed the developments leading to the final decisions, all of which were outlined in detail to the committee by Maj. Gen. Frederick H. Smith, chief of the requirements division of the USAF.

Pointing out again that the plane's actual performance had greatly exceeded expectations based upon initial tests of the experimental models, Vandenberg said that "relative importance, balanced against the tasks to be performed, was the critical factor in the decision."

Vandenberg indirectly urged the House group not to press the Air Force and other military branches to disclose too much of their plans during the present inquiry, but to rely upon the military chiefs to do the best job within their power.

### Details Given Committee.

After discussing the tremendous value of strategic bombing in World War II, he said it would be appropriate to "look into the application of this concept in our future plans.

"It will be obvious to you, however," he declared, "that such a discussion would deal with matters of the highest national security and of vital interest to any potential enemy. The joint chiefs of staff are greatly disturbed by the depths to which this committee would have to explore our war planning and other military secrets and the implications of such an exploration."

He added that the chiefs of staff have written to the committee in detail, but that he would only make this declaration:

"The joint chiefs of staff separately and jointly are of the firm opinion that the concept of strategic bombing, and the extent of its employment as now planned, are sound. I can not believe that this concept of strategic defense can be under attack by this committee."

### Visited Odium.

Under questioning by Committee Counsel Joseph B. Keenan, Vandenberg admitted that he spent one night at the home of Floyd Odium, chairman of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, which builds the B-36 at the Fort Worth plant.

He denied, however, that he had discussed the B-36 with Odium. He said that the only plane he discussed was the one he had flown to California at that time for repairs. He said he had only met and talked with Odium on two other occasions, and had never discussed planes with him then.

Asked by Keenan if he or members of his staff had ever discussed the B-36 contract with Secretary of Defense Johnson, who was a director of Consolidated before his appointment, Vandenberg replied:

"I have never discussed this with Secretary Johnson and to my knowledge neither has anyone on my staff."

Vandenberg told the committee that he had discussed the B-36 with virtually everyone who had any contact with it while he was considering his final decision. He mentioned by name Lt. Gen. Curtis LeMay, commanding general of the Strategic Air Command, and Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey, commanding general of the 8th Air Force at Fort Worth, who received the first operating B-36s. Pilots, engineers and other officers familiar with the plane were also consulted, he added.

When Keenan asked him his

opinion of General LeMay, the chief of staff replied:

"General LeMay knows more about strategic bombing than any other man in the world."

Pressed to expand upon what convinced him that the B-36 should be retained, Vandenberg explained:

"The airplane business is an art—not a science as many people believe. In order to succeed in it, one must have sufficient faith in an idea.

"Those who were responsible for the B-36 had faith in an idea and today we know that this faith resulted in a plane which has far exceeded in capabilities and possibilities those which its firmest believers hoped for. It was luck, perhaps, but we now have a plane which is still capable of greater expansion and development than we have reached today.

### Probe of Material.

Vandenberg said the air inspection general is investigating reports of faults in material going into the B-36s.

In answer to a question by Committee Counsel Keenan, the general said he was told about the investigation by the inspector general, Maj. Gen. Hugh J. Knerr.

"General Knerr said he was going to put an inspector on the problem. Since he is taking action, I have not followed the matter further."

In Keenan's question, he referred to "faults in material going into the plane" and "a substitution of material other than that listed in the specifications."

Neither Keenan nor Vandenberg elaborated and the point was dropped.

### Wide Field of Subjects.

The questioning of Vandenberg ranged over a wide field of subjects—the reasons for abandoning the proposed tests between the B-36s and the "Banshee" fighter; the degree of precision of bombing with the B-36; and the output of B-36s.

Representative Gavin set the hearing into a hubbub when he asked why General Lemay was "not getting enough B-36s?"

This question was followed immediately with a request by Gavin for the reasons why Fort Worth was chosen as the site for the plant.

### Eight Planes Per Month.

Vandenberg said the Air Force was receiving the planes on schedule at the rate of eight during July and eight during August.

As for the reason for locating the plant at Fort Worth, Vandenberg said this had been determined during the war and before he became air chief of staff.

Gavin complained that there were not sufficient "skilled mechanics" at Fort Worth.

Chairman Vinson interjected: "If the plant had been located in Pennsylvania, the gentleman from Pennsylvania would not be so disturbed."

The B-36-Banshee test was opposed by the joint chiefs of staff because "we could learn nothing from it" and it would give other nations "valuable information on altitude, rate of climb and other matters."

The test had been requested by the committee.

### Bombing Accuracy.

Asked about the accuracy of bombing by the B-36, Vandenberg said that it was as accurate at an altitude of 40,000 feet as were B-17s during World War II.

He made it clear that he thought the B-17s did a "magnificent" wartime job when it came to hitting the target.

The B-36 can bomb as accurately as the old B-17 from 40,000 feet even when flying over an overcast, he said in response to questions by Representative Brooks of Louisiana.

The rocket has its limitations for use in fighters attacking the B-36, he said, because it has no reload in midair.

He said the guided missile would "someday" become effective as a defense against the B-36, but made it clear that he was speaking of the future, not the present.

Noting criticisms that the B-36 is a "sitting duck," Vandenberg said it was "a duck with a sting." The firepower on the plane is "considerable," he added.

The inspector general's investigation of "faulty material" is the only report Vandenberg said he has received about the B-36.

There have been no rumors or gossip of favoritism or corruption in connection with the B-36 that have come to his attention from the air inspector general, he said.

# Colonel Roberts Named B-36 Group Commander

—With 3 col and ½—Souped up Transfer of Col. John A. Roberts from chief of staff of the 8th Air Force to command of the 7th Bombardment Group of B-36s was announced Friday by Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey, 8th Air Force commander, as he convened a session of staff officers and wing commanders to discuss fall training plans.



COL.  
ROBERTS.

Roberts will succeed Col. Charles D. Farr, transferred from the 7th Group here to the 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Fairfield-Suisun Air Base, Cal., effective next Tuesday.

Farr is from Camden, Ark., and Roberts, now making his home here—at 6336 Darwood, is from Beebe, Ark.

The new group commander, 8th AF chief of staff since last February, goes back to the group of which he was a member and B-17 pilot based at Clark Field, Manila, when the Japanese struck there on Dec. 7, 1941. Roberts thereafter went through some of the fiercest air combat of the war in the Pacific, transferring from the 7th to the 19th Bombardment Group for the remainder of the First Battle of the Philippines, flying missions there, then from Australia.

When the battle scene was transferred to New Guinea, Roberts moved up, flying from bases there with the 43d Bomb Group as executive officer, then as its commander.

In all, he flew 143 combat missions, piling up 907 combat hours, and was decorated with the

Legion of Merit, Silver Star with two Oak Leaf clusters, DFC with cluster, Air Medal with two clusters and six Presidential unit citations. He participated in the atomic tests at Bikini in July 1946, then came here in June 1947 as deputy chief of staff for plans with the 58th Wing, continuing in that capacity when the 58th was converted into the reactivated 8th Air Force.

Participating in the conference were Col. William P. Fisher, commanding the 7th Wing here at Carswell; Col. Richard Carmichael, his 11th Group commander; Col. Cecil Combs, deputy 8th AF commander; Brig. Gen. David W. Hutchison, 97th Wing, El Paso; Col. James C. Selser Jr., 43d Wing, Tucson; Col. C. S. Irvine, 509th Wing, Roswell; Col. Ashley B. Packard, 27th Fighter Wing, Austin, and Col. Cy Wilson, 27th Group commander, and Col. Frederic Glantberg, 2nd Wing, Savannah, Ga.

Farr goes to one of the reconnaissance wings expected to receive delivery in the next few months of the new Model-D B-36s with jet pods for added power.

## Joins Advertising Firm

Stanley Schlenker has joined Albert Evans Advertising Agency here as senior account executive, it was announced Friday. Schlenker at one time was director of international advertising for Trans World Airlines, and was employed by a New York advertising agency when he joined Evans.

## Hill Orders Bond Election

HILLSBORO, Aug. 12 (Spl).—Hill County commissioners court Friday ordered an election Sept. 17 on a \$50,000 bond issue to aid in construction of a road between Blum and Aquilla, to con-