

(Continued from previous page)

Wing-Commander Robinson gave the "bale out" order. One by one the crew jumped. The skipper was about to follow when the fire died down. He stayed, and brought the machine home.

Precious Seconds

The order in which the crew bale out varies with different types of bombers. In all cases the skipper is last to leave.

In a Stirling the sequence is (1) flight engineer, (2) mid-upper gunner, (3) rear gunner, (4) wireless operator, (5) air bomber, (6) navigator, and (7) pilot.

Escape chances vary with the damage a machine has suffered. If the tail has been shot away, the outlook isn't too rosy.

The tendency is for the aircraft to go down in a vertical, uncontrolled dive. With every second counting, you can imagine the difficulty of clipping on parachutes and crawling to exit hatches. Still, it can be, and has been, done.

The same applies in any impending crash in which the pilot has lost control.

One of the worst is a spin. The men inside the fuselage have to crawl to the nearest hatch, and open it. Neither is easy when you're being flung about like peas in boiling water.

In a "bale-out" the men least to be envied are the skipper and the tail gunner. By the time the others have disappeared, the skipper's chance may have gone.

The tail gunner is O.K. so long as his turret is working. Then all he's got to do is rotate it until the exit doors face outwards—and fall back into space.

But if the turret is jammed in the fore and aft position—and this can easily happen when a machine has been plastered with flak—he's got to crawl a good 20 feet along the fuselage.

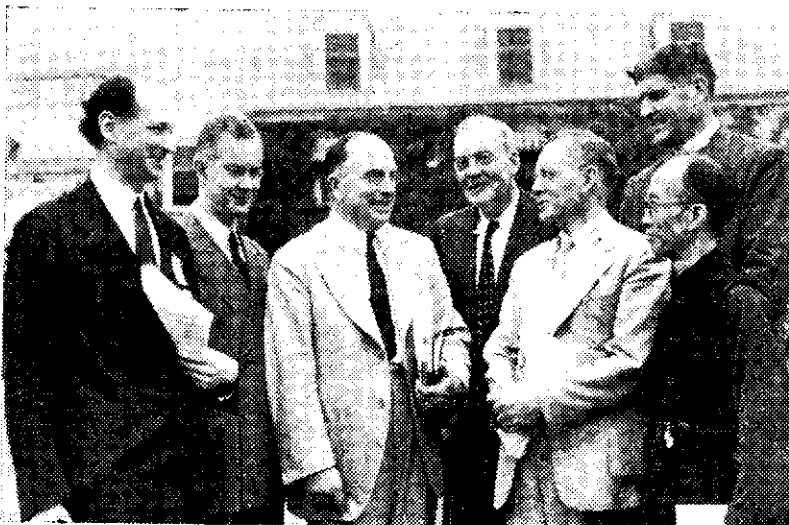
Fire is the bomber's biggest enemy. There are chemical appliances for dealing promptly with it, but if the flames catch, say, a leaky petrol tank, well, seconds are precious indeed!

Lifeboat from the Clouds

A HALIFAX bomber returning from a raid on Germany had to come down in the North Sea. The crew took to the dinghy and fired off their distress rockets. A Coastal Command Hudson out on patrol saw the signal, circled the dinghy and radioed its position back to base. Another Hudson was sent to the rescue. In the words of its pilot: "We were told that the dinghy was about sixty miles from the English coast. We flew over the dinghy and carefully tested the direction and strength of the wind. Then we released the airborne lifeboat. I hardly dared to breathe as it went down, for this was the first time it had been used, except on 'trials.' But the parachute blossomed out beautifully, and the boat fell in the water as neatly as could be. We all whooped with delight."

The man in the boat said he'd "never been so scared in his life" as when the great boat came sailing down towards them from the air. They were all sure it was going to hit them, it dropped so close. They scrambled in and could hardly believe their eyes when they saw it had engines. They got them going and were within ten miles of the English coast when a naval vessel picked them up.—BBC Radio Newsreel.

Towards World Government



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION between the Churches for the purposes of post-war reconstruction and a just and durable peace is expressed in this photograph given to "The Listener" by the Very Rev. A. K. Warren, Dean of Christchurch, on his return last week from America where, as delegate of the New Zealand Council of Churches and the Campaign for Christian Order, he attended the International Round-Table of Christian leaders, held at Princeton, New Jersey.

The photograph shows the Round-Table Guiding Committee which did most of the work of drafting resolutions and statements for consideration by the full conference. From left to right: Dr. Harold A. Cockburn (head of the British Information Service, New York); Dr. H. J. Gezork (Professor of Social Ethics, Newton Andover Theological Seminary, Massachusetts); Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam (Bishop of the Methodist Church, Boston area, and Chairman of the Conference); John Foster Dulles (well-known international lawyer and Chairman of the Federal Council of Churches' Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace); Dr. Gordon A. Sisco (General Secretary of the United Church of Canada); Dean Warren; and Dr. Timothy Tingfang Lew (Dean of the Department of Theology, Yenching University, and Honorary Co-operating Secretary of the National Christian Council of China).

"WE are committed to the goal of a world-wide political order, and thus to the establishment of institutions or organisations best suited to serve the purpose of this order—not because world government as such is a distinctive Christian objective, but because it is a necessary condition of the unified spiritual society which is our Christian objective. The need for action is urgent." That is one of the findings of the Conference. In an interview with *The Listener*, Dean Warren elaborated it by saying that post-war planning was a live question in the U.S.A., and it was realised that, if the peace was to be won, there must be adequate preparation among all the nations, both victors and vanquished.

"The Princeton Conference was the first attempt of an international nature to examine peace suggestions in the light of Christian standards, and from the point of view not only of the United Nations. As an examination of the Conference findings will reveal, there was a very definite appreciation of the need to avoid another peace treaty like Versailles.

"At the same time, plans for international co-operation are of little worth without the will of the people to put them into effect. The Christian Churches therefore have a vital part to play in creating a sound public opinion. When peace conferences come to be held,

nations will be war-weary, and the Churches will have failed unless they have met the situation in advance. It is important to realise that in enemy and occupied lands there are increasingly large groups of Christian people who are being kept informed by shortwave broadcasts and other means, of what is being planned for the future by the United Nations, and it is hoped that from such groups may spring leadership for the future."

World-Wide Christian Fellowship

From what had happened at the conference and from talks with leaders in State and international movements in America, delegates had found that "the battle for world co-operation has been won on the intellectual front, is being won on the political front, but still has to be won on the peoples' front." A new factor in securing this victory was the ecumenical movement—the world-wide Christian fellowship. And that, concluded Dean Warren, had been a reality experienced at Princeton, where there had been 68 delegates from 12 different countries, including citizens of occupied lands and former citizens of states with which we were at war, among them Germany and Japan.

It is likely that at 8.45 p.m. this Sunday, September 12, Dean Warren will give a talk on the Princeton Conference from the main National and Commercial stations.

DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH

Democratic Soldier Labour cannot afford a lavish display of hoardings or advertisement. Nor can we afford a huge expenditure on literature or paid canvassers. Over fifteen of the Democratic Soldier Labour candidates are soldiers on leave without pay and allowances for their wives and children. Thirty have worn the uniform in this, or the last, war... twenty-four in this war.

ONE RADIO HOOK-UP

We have been offered ONE radio hook-up only, and that on Thursday, 2nd of September. After that one radio hook-up, we have to be verbally knitted in the back without any reply whatsoever!

We have many distinguished soldiers in our team. They were good enough to give the freedom of their lives to their country—they are not good enough to have reasonable freedom of the air.

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER

We have addressed the following letter to the Prime Minister:—

"Dear Mr. Fraser,—I believe the Democratic Soldier Labour Party are entitled to have an opportunity late in the campaign to reply to those who have attacked us. Having regard to the large team of candidates—at least half of whom have given service, and many of them, distinguished and gallant service to their country—this is not too much to ask for.

Yours faithfully,
John A. Lee."

OURS IS AN HONEST POVERTY

Poor in our resources, we are rich in our cause, and we ask you to attend at least one meeting. David felled Goliath despite all his mighty power, for David had a cause.

If you would like to help, send donations to Lee, M.P., Wellington.

Send "Stones for David's Slings!"

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Without a crust of bread
Yet gaily marched
The Regiment!"

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