

A PRAYER

Bestow upon us, O God,
that courage which Thou
alone givest: that we
may meet serenely whatever
comes, and may never fail
to think brave thoughts and
do brave deeds, through
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

1940

Argentine R.C.A.F. Volunteers



Sixteen young Argentine R.C.A.F. volunteers were caught by the photographer of the 'Montreal Star' as they arrived in Ottawa on October 17, where they were met by Mr. James S. Duncan, Deputy Minister for Air, who is also a former resident of Buenos Aires. They are training at the manning depot at Toronto.

LUCHARAN POR LA DEMOCRACIA



OTTAWA. — El ministro interino de la Defensa.

It's pouring now.

"Hilary Caldwell has got his 'wings.' Young Malcolm Bentiz has been flying fighters over France and got shot down the other day, but he managed to land his plane in England. Gossip (who used to be with 'The Standard') has a commission in the A.A. and has just gone East."

The writer concludes with the remark: "I hope we'll be back with you before too long. The Russian affair may shorten things a bit."

1942.

STANDARD.

4/3/42

WANTED TO USE HIS BOMBS

Argentine Volunteer Raids Palermo

CAIRO, March 6.

DESPITE the failure of one of the engines of his Wellington bomber, Pilot Officer F. M. Benitz of La California, Argentina, a member of the R.C.A.F., went out on his way to bomb the Palermo naval base.

His original mission had been to raid Naples but on the return journey he found that the mechanism of his bomb release had jammed and the bombs were still aboard.

Instead of jettisoning the bombs, he regained height and deliberately headed for Palermo, coming in low owing to the failure of his motor, and dropped his bombs on the target area.

Pilot officer Benitz was educated in England. — (A.P.)

EL LITORAL — Sábado 21 de marzo de 1942

interpelar al ministro Acevedo, sobre estos asuntos.

Un aviador santafesino en la guerra

ROSARIO 21. — Se ha sabido que en el reciente bombardeo de los objetivos militares de Nápoles y Palermo realizado por la aviación inglesa, tuvo un papel de importancia el piloto F. M. Benítez. Manejaba un avión de bombardeo Wellington e iba con orden de atacar a Nápoles, pero falló uno de los motores, lanzando entonces todas sus bombas sobre la base naval de Palermo, con excelentes resultados.

El mencionado piloto nació en la estación La California departamento Belgrano, de nuestra provincia.

NOTICIAS GRAFICAS. 4/3/42.

Un Argentino en la R. A. F.

Cómo Bombas Destinadas a Nápoles Cayeron en Palermo

EL CAIRO, 6 (A.P.). — Un ciudadano argentino, piloto de la Real Fuerza Aérea (RAF), cumplió una misión militar, a pesar de tener dificultades en su máquina. Se trata de un joven de La California, en la provincia de Buenos Aires, cuyo nombre es F. M. Benitz, que conducía un bombardero Wellington con la orden de atacar los objetivos militares de Nápoles.

Pero sobrevino una falla en uno de los motores y entonces el aviador argentino lanzó sus bombas sobre la base naval de Palermo, con buenos resultados.

1942.

U.P. TELETYPE TO B.A. HERALD 6/4/42.

DC

UPBA.-

Dear Willie

You might like to have this -

Heartiest congratulations & best wishes - 14

-Y

Yours for

16 0524 RELEASE 1230AM BDST TUESDAY CHAMBERS LONDON RAF PILOT

OFFICER FRANK MALCOLM BENNITZ DCAF BORN BUENOSAIRES FAMILY LIVED THERE
AWARDED DFC PARA

BENNITZ WHEN SERGEANTPILOT WAS CAPTAIN PLANE ATTACKED NAPLES NIGHT OCT
OBER YESTERYEAR STOP CITATION QUOTE POSTSUCCESSFUL ATTACK PORTENGINE

PLANE BEGANBAIL ~~XXXXXXXX~~ COURSE PROBABLE DISCOVERED SEVERAL BOMBS STILL

HUNGUP STOP ALTHOUGH DEFECTIVE GAVE LITTLE POWER CAUSED PLANE LOSE HEI

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-S HEAVILY DEFENDED AREA PALERMO PARA

VIATHIS TIME PORTENGINE COMPLETELY FAILED WHEN PLANE FOURSEVENOUGHTNOU

GHT FEET STOP BENNITZ HEADED PLANE TOWARDS COAST ORDER AVOID MOUNTAIN

AND VIAFINE AIRMANSHIP SUCCEEDED REACHING BASE LANDING SAFELY SHOWED

GREAT COURAGE DETERMINATION ENDITEM

1942.

B.A. HERALD. 6/4/42



Pilot Officer Malcolm Benitz
R.C.A.F.

Courage, Skill. and Determination

Pilot Officer Benitz Awarded the D.F.C.

LONDON, April 6.

A R.A.F. Pilot Officer, Frank Malcolm Benitz, R.C.A.F., born in Buenos Aires, where his family live, has been awarded the D.F.C.

Benitz, when a Sergeant Pilot was captain of a plane which attacked Naples one night in October of last year.

The citation states:

"After a successful attack the port engine began to fail, when Benitz on a course for his base discovered several bombs still hung up. Although the defective engine gave little power and caused the plane to lose height, Benitz changed his course for an alternative target and finally dropped the bombs on a heavily defended area in Palermo.

"By this time the port engine had completely failed when the plane was 4,000 feet up. Benitz headed his plane towards the coast in order to avoid a mountain, and by fine airmanship succeeded in reaching his base and landing safely. He showed great courage and determination." — (U.P.).

STANDARD.

6/4/42.

D.F.C. For Argentine Volunteer

LONDON, April 6.

PILOT Officer Frank Malcolm Benitz, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who was born in Buenos Aires in 1917, has been awarded the distinguished Flying Cross for his exploit during a raid on Naples in October, 1941.

After a successful attack, one engine began to fail and Benitz discovered that several of his bombs were still hung up.

Although the aircraft was losing height, the pilot changed his course for an alternative target and released bombs on a heavily defended area at Palermo and finally reached his home base and landed safely.

The citation said that "throughout this, the airman showed great courage and determination." — (A.P.).

Pilot-Officer Benitz is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Benitz, of La California, F.C.C.A., and his sister is Mrs. Keith Pryor.

Educated at Stowe, he continued his studies at an agricultural college in the United States of America before returning to this country to work on his father's estancia.

A very keen and promising polo player, he left Argentina about a year and a half ago to volunteer.

The Champaign Shout

University of Illinois Chapter of Phi Delta Theta

Vol. XXXII

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, OCTOBER, 1942

No. 1

Benitz '39 Awarded Cross With R.C.A.F.

George Ward '10 is the source of the information of the awarding of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Malcolm Benitz '39, member of Illinois Eta.

The story as it was carried on the wires of the United Press, follows:

"A.R.A.F. Pilot Officer Frank Malcolm Benitz, R.C.A.F., born in Buenos Aires, where his family live, has been awarded the D.F.C.

"Benitz, when a Sergeant Pilot was captain of a plane which attacked Naples one night in October of last year.

"The citation states:

"After a successful attack the port engine began to fail, when Benitz on a course for his base discovered several bombs still hung up. Although the defective engine gave little power and caused the plane to lose height, Benitz changed his course for an alternative target and finally dropped the bombs on a heavily defended area in Palermo.

"By this time the port engine had completely failed when the plane was 4,000 feet up. Benitz headed

(Continued on Page 2)

Benitz '39 Awarded Cross With R. C. A. F.; Letter Tells About Much-Bombed Malta

(Continued from Page 1)

his plane toward the coast in order to avoid a mountain and by fine airmanship succeeded in reaching his base and landing safely. He showed great courage and determination."

We are indebted to George Ward '10 for sending us a copy of a letter from William A. Benitz '11, of LaCalifornia, Argentina.

The letter, dated Feb. 12, mentions that his son, Malcom Benitz '39, also an Illinois Eta Phi, is a pilot officer in the R.A.F. and was recommended for the British Distinguished Flying Cross, being stationed in Malta.

Flies Heavy Bomber

Brother Benitz continues: "Gerry, his best friend and my son-in-law's brother, since then, one of my nephews, has been killed. There are about twenty of my family connections' sons fighting, mostly in the Air Corps. I fear for them all, particularly my son, as you can well imagine. He is flying heavy bombers, yet there is no alternative, we must fight for what we believe to be right, and by 'we', I mean those of us educated in U. S. A. or England. We don't quite synchronize with the Latin Argentines, as our ideals and morals are not quite the same so we keep out of local politics and attend to our own business unmolested.

"I cannot criticize the Argentine or Chile for being evasive at the Rio conference. They have not realized the danger of a Nazi controlled world and may be influenced by the well organized Nazi and fifth columnist activities which put American and British efforts in the shade. I could say a lot but it's too late. Something like slackness at Pearl Harbor and the loss of Prince of Wales and Repulse and now Singapore. I don't think I am naturally a pessimist because I have always held my head up, been on my toes, and hoped for the best."

Malcom Benitz wrote something of Malta in one of his letters. We quote:

Malta Amazing

"This island is really amazing. It is fairly flat and like Cordoba at its driest, with rock and stone walls everywhere. And the smelliest dirtiest towns and villages I've come across yet! The whole place is one solid rock, so you have to carve out a well, and it's grand for making

air raid shelters. They have masses of terraced fields surrounded by piled walls, and the soil is only surface soil. It was very dry when we came, but it has rained a lot since then, and it is quite green everywhere now. I was surprised to see Ombu and Paraiso trees growing here. We also get plenty of oranges. The Maltese are a dirty lot and smell as much as their goats, which they drive around the towns in herds and milk on the doorsteps. The horses are small, of Arab origin, and are very active for their size. There are several cinemas in the largest town, and they have a good variety of shows. We used to go swimming when we first came here, but it's too cold now. Some days are as cold as an average winter day at home."

1943.

B.A. HERALD. 19/1/43



Pilot Officer Malcolm Benitz,
R.A.F.

MALCOLM BENITZ A P.O.W.

NEWS has just been received by Mr. William A. Benitz, of La California, F.C.C.A., that his son, Pilot Officer Malcolm Benitz, R.R.F. who was reported missing some months ago, is now officially reported to be a prisoner of war in Italy.

Pilot Officer Benitz has had an adventurous career while in the Air Force. Some time ago he was mentioned for the way he brought his machine home after a bombing raid on Naples. His bomber had been hit by flak, and was losing height, but instead of dumping his bombs anywhere, he flew over Palermo harbour and dropped them there, getting back to his base safely.

He was hit by shell splinters while in another raid, and spent four or five months in hospital in the Near East. On the active list again, he was reported missing some while ago, though this fact was not made public.

The news that he is a prisoner of war will come as a relief to his relatives and many friends in this country.

Big Bombs In B. Aires

WELL-KNOWN to citizens of Berlin, the four-ton "block-busters" of the R.A.F. — in wooden models — were yesterday evening shown to a large party of Argentine Army and Navy officers who, together with a group of specially invited guests, attended an exhibition of Royal Air Force equipment, presented by Air Commodore Andrew A. Walker, R.A.F., D.F.C., M.C., Air Attaché to H.B.M. Embassy at the Circulo Militar yesterday evening.

The club's gymnasium was cluttered with the "wardrobe" of the R.A.F., that star performer in the drama of blood which the world endures. Organised by the Information Department of H.B.M. Embassy, the exhibition included photographs, armament, model planes, bombs — from the smaller sizes to the Berlin-busting four-tonners — and every conceivable piece of flight equipment.

Bigger than the average windmill tank, the immense bombs at present employed by the R.A.F. immediately caught the visitor's attention, producing a sense of awe at the thought of their destructive power.

The ceremony was attended by General Edelmiro J. Farrell, vice-president, Gral. Basilio Pertiné, Mayor of the city of Bs. As., Generals: Angel M. Zuluaga, and Juan N. Tonazzi. Sir David Victor Kelly, K.C.M.G., M.C., Mr. R. Hadow, M.C., Counsellor to H.B.M. Embassy, Mr. C. A. E. Shuckburgh, First Secretary to H.B.M. Embassy, Sir Robert Burton-Chadwick, Mr. S. R. Robertson, Press Attaché to H.B.M. Embassy, Colonel K. R. Stirling-Wyllie, Military Attaché to H.B.M. Embassy, Mr. R. H. Havendicke, Assistant Air Attaché, Payr, Commander, Lloyd Hirst, R.N., and Mr. Alfred Roberts, of the Information Department.

Main attraction was the flyer's suit with its electrical heating arrangement, which is used when flying over 45,000 feet; also there were specimens of 250, 1000, and 4000 kls. bombs.

STANDARD

18/9/43

ARGENTINE HEROES

Photographs of 10 Argentine heroes of the R.A.F. were shown. Each was accompanied by a detailed account of service.

Lieut. M. H. Middleton, R.A.F. V.R. D.F.C. Lieut. Cnel. J. MacDougall, R.A.F., D.F.C., killed in action, Captain, K.L. Charney, R.A.F.V.R., D.F.C. Captain, J. S. Watt, R.A.F.V.R., D.F.C., missing; Sergeant, J. K. Rumboli, R.A.F.V.R., killed in action, special mention; Lieut. J. C. Beckwith, R.C.A.F., D.F.C.; 1st. Lieut. F. M. Benítez, R.C.A.F., D.F.C.; Sergeant, F.A.B.G. Wonnian, R.A.F.V.R., D.F.M.; Captain J. A. Sword, R.A.F.V.R., D.F.C., killed in action; Captain, H. J. Sanderson, R.A.F.V.R., D.F.C.; and 2nd. Lieut. J. S. Walker, R.A.F.V.R. D.F.C.

The photographs of several aircraft models were also exhibited among which were: Mosquito, Halifax, Lancaster, Short-Stirling, Bombrack, Spitfire, Sunderland, Hudson, Wellington, Beaufort, Defiant, Hurricane, Beaufighter, and Manchester. There were also seen photos of the W.A.A.F., Training Command; Fighter command; Air-sea Rescue; Transportation Command; Balloon Command; Mediterranean Command; Observer Corps; Maintenance Command; Coastal Command; Bomber Command, and also Bomber damage photographs.

After the ceremony the guests were invited to the hall where they were offered refreshments.

1943

Miércoles 27 de octubre de 1943

LA RAZON

UN PILOTO ARGENTINO PERMANECIO 10 DIAS

SU AVION SUFRIO SERIO ACCIDENTE

ARGEL (U. P.) — La Real Fuerza Aérea reveló que el oficial Malcolm Benitz, argentino, piloto de un bombardero Wellington, y demás tripulantes del avión estuvieron nueve días en el mar en un bote salvavidas de goma, alimentándose durante ese período con media libra de chocolate y doce aspirinas. El aparato efectuaba una operación nocturna cuando cesó de funcionar uno de los motores. Benitz — que sólo tiene 26 años y ya ha sido condecorado con la Cruz de Vuelo Distinguido — tuvo que descender al mar, logrando posar al aparato sobre la superficie del agua después de iluminar el lugar con sus poderosas luces de aterrizaje. Pereció uno de los tripulantes y el bombardero se hundió en 20 minutos, pero Benitz y sus compañeros consiguieron salir de aquél y embarcarse en el bote de goma. Por fortuna el tiempo era fresco y el mar estaba calmo. Los tripulantes del Wellington racionaron cuidadosamente su media libra de chocolate, mas, seguramente, hubieran muerto de sed si no hubiese llovido al quinto día. Entonces se les había acabado el chocolate, pero gracias al agua pudieron vivir hasta que fueron recogidos en la mañana del décimo día.

EN UN BOTE EN EL OCEANO

Odisea de la Tripulación de un Avión Británico Conducido por El Aviador Argentino M. Benitz

Cuartel general aliado en Africa, Argel, octubre 27 (UP) — Las autoridades de las Reales Fuerzas Aéreas revelaron que la tripulación de un bombardero Wellington, conducido por el oficial de nacionalidad argentina Malcolm Benitz, sobrevivió 9 días y medio en el mar, a bordo de un pequeño bote y sin otros víveres que media libra de chocolate y doce pastillas de aspirina.

El avión había participado en un ataque nocturno en el que resultó averiado uno de los motores. El piloto Benitz, de 26 años, que está ya condecorado con la cruz de aviación por servicios distinguidos, empleando los potentes faros de aterrizaje consiguió posar el avión sobre las olas. La operación costó la vida a uno de los tripulantes.

El aparato se hundió rápidamente, pero Benitz y otros cuatro tripulantes consiguieron instalarse en el pequeño bote de salvamento. Afortunadamente el tiempo fue fresco y el mar estuvo en calma, pudiendo los naufragos soportar día tras día racionando cuidado-

samente su media libra de chocolate. Indudablemente hubieran muerto de sed, pero tuvieron la suerte de que lloviera el quinto día. Para entonces ya habían agotado su provisión de chocolate, pero aún así resistieron hasta la mañana del décimo día, en que fueron recogidos. Todos ellos estaban agotados, pero se están reponiendo rápidamente.

La ciudad natal de Benitz es La California, provincia de Santa Fe.

La Prensa 28-10-43

Malcolm Benitz, Piloto Argentino en la R. A. F., Estuvo 9 Días Perdido en el Mar

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Crítica 27-10-43

Crítica

DIOS ME PUSO SOBRE VUESTRA CIUDAD COMO A UN TABANO SOBRE UN NOBLE CABALLO PARA PICARLO Y TENERLO DESPIERTO (SOCRATES)

AÑO XXXI. - No. 10.642

BUENOS AIRES, MIÉRCOLES, OCTUBRE 27 DE 1943

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LA PRENSA

BUENOS AIRES, JUEVES 28 DE OCTUBRE DE 1943

Odisea de la Tripulación de un Avión Británico Conducido por El Aviador Argentino M. Benítez

Cuartel general aliado en África, Argel, octubre 27 (UP). — Las autoridades de las Reales Fuerzas Aéreas revelaron que la tripulación de un bombardero Wellington, conducido por el oficial de nacionalidad argentina Malcolm Benítez, sobrevivió 9 días y medio en el mar, a bordo de un pequeño bote y sin otros víveres que media libra de chocolate y doce pastillas de aspirina.

El avión había participado en un ataque nocturno en el que resultó averiado uno de los motores. El piloto Benítez, de 26 años, que está ya condecorado con la cruz de aviación por servicios distinguidos, empleando los potentes faros de aterrizaje consiguió posar el avión sobre las olas. La operación costó la vida a uno de los tripulantes.

El aparato se hundió rápidamente, pero Benítez y otros cuatro tripulantes consiguieron instalarse en el pequeño bote de salvamento. Afortunadamente el tiempo fué fresco y el mar estuvo en calma, pudiendo los náufragos soportar día tras día racionando cuidadosamente su media libra de chocolate.

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La ciudad natal de Benítez es La California, provincia de Santa Fe.

LA CAPITAL — Jueves 28 de octubre de 1943

PROEZA CUMPLIDA POR UN AVIADOR ARGENTINO DE LAS REALES FUERZAS

CUARTEL GENERAL ALIADO EN AFRICA, 27 (UP). — Las autoridades de la Real Fuerza Aérea revelaron que la tripulación de un bombardero Wellington, piloteado por el oficial de nacionalidad argentina Malcolm Benítez, sobrevivió 9 días y medio en el mar, a bordo de un pequeño bote sin otros víveres que media libra de chocolate y doce pastillas de aspirina. El avión había participado en un ataque nocturno, en el que resultó averiado uno de los motores.

El piloto Benítez, de 26 años, que está ya condecorado con la cruz de aviación por servicios distinguidos, empleando los potentes faros de aterrizaje consiguió posar el avión sobre las olas. La operación costó la vida de uno de los tripulantes. El aparato se hundió en 30 segundos, pero Benítez y otros cuatro tripulantes consiguieron instalarse en el pequeño bote de salvamento. Afortunadamente el tiempo fué fresco y la mar estuvo en calma, pudiendo los náufragos soportar día tras día racionando cuidadosamente su media libra de chocolate. Indudablemente hubieran muerto de sed, pero tuvieron la suerte de que lloviera el quinto día. Para entonces ya habían agotado su provisión de chocolate, pero así y todo resistieron hasta la mañana del décimo día en que fueron recogidos. Todos ellos estaban agotados, pero están reponiéndose rápidamente. La ciudad natal de Benítez es La California, provincia de Santa Fe.

BUENOS AIRES HERALD

(Buenos Aires Herald, Ltd.)

Day Editorial: Rivadavia 767. Telephone: Avenida (33) 1551.
Night Editorial: Rivadavia 767. Telephone: (33) 1551

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1943

NINE AND A HALF DAYS IN AN OPEN DINGHY

Half a Pound of Chocolate and 12 Aspirins

ALGIERS, Oct. 27.

AFRICAN headquarters have now revealed how the crew of a Wellington bomber, piloted by an Argentine, Flying Officer Malcolm Benitz, D.F.C., survived for nine and a-half days at sea in a dinghy, living on a half a pound of chocolate and twelve aspirins.

The plane was making a night raid when one engine cut out. Using powerful landing lights 26-year old Benitz was able to stall the Wellington and set it down safely in the sea, but one member of the crew was killed. The plane sank in thirty seconds, but Benitz and the other four managed to scramble into the dinghy.

Fortunately the weather was cool and the sea calm as the men drifted day after day, carefully rationing their half-pound of chocolate. If it had not been for rain which fell on the fifth day they would certainly have died of thirst. By then the men had exhausted the chocolate but the water enabled them to survive until they were picked up on the morning of the tenth day. — (U. P.).

A P. O. W. IN ITALY

This news of an event which occurred in November 1943 and has now been released from African Headquarters, relates to Flying Officer Frank Malcolm Benitz, D.F.C., who had been awarded his decoration in connection with a bombing raid on Palermo in April, 1942.

After his nine and a-half days' odyssey in the dinghy he was rescued by an Italian hospital ship, since when he has spent his time in various prisoner of war camps in Italy.



PILOT OFFICER MALCOLM BENITZ, R.A.F.

Meanwhile he had been posted as missing and no news was received by his family for several months, at the end of which they learned that he was safe and in Italy, since when he has been writing frequently. His first postcard asked for clothing to be sent as he found himself very short. He spoke of being well treated and was as happy as possible under the circumstances. The latest news from him comes from a prison camp at Sulmone to the north of Rome.

Born in this country his home is at La California F.C.C.A. where his father has an estancia of the same name. He was educated at Stowe, in England and later at Illinois Agricultural College, U.S.A.

The Standard

BOYER OF THE ARGENTINE PRESS -- FOUNDED ON MAY 3, 1881

Founded on May 1, 1881, by M. G. and E. T. Muirhall.
Telegrams from the Associated Press, Reuter and British Official Wireless.
Editorial and Managerial Offices: Rivadavia 827-31.
Tel. (all departments) 33, Avenida 2938 (3 lines).
Cable address: "DOUGALL."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1943

TEN DAYS IN A DINGHY

Malcolm Benitz's Adventure

ALGIERS, Oct. 27.

TWENTY-SIX year old Flying Officer Malcolm Benitz, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, from Argentina, told how five members of the crew of a Wellington bomber survived nine and a half days in a dinghy in the Mediterranean, with nothing more than half a pound of chocolate and 12 aspirins.

Flying Officer Benitz had to pancake his aircraft on the sea when the starboard engine cut out, just after starting on a night raid. The landing light went out, leaving them in complete darkness and the plane sank in half a minute.

Their chocolate was rationed to last three days. "But for rain on the fifth day," said Benitz, "we certainly would not have survived. We squeezed some water out of our Mas Wests and this kept us going." The survivors were exhausted when they were picked up. — (Reuter).

1943.

UNION JACK

The Newspaper for the British Fighting Forces

ALGIERS Daily Edition

No. 42. Thursday, Oct. 28, 1943

Daily, except Sunday. One Franc

Five Days Adrift

Drifting at sea in a small dinghy, five members of a Wellington crew survived for nine and a-half days on half a pound of chocolate and 12 aspirins.

Their story has been told by the 26-year-old pilot, Flying - Officer Malcolm Benitz, D.F.C., of the Royal Canadian Air Force, whose home is in the Argentine.

The bomber was making a night raid on an enemy airfield when its starboard engine cut out, and it was forced down into the sea. One of the crew was killed when the aircraft hit the water, and the rest had only half a minute to scramble into the dinghy before the Wellington sank.

Day after day they drifted without seeing a ship. Their chocolate lasted three days. Rain on the fifth day saved their lives, for they managed to quench their terrible thirst by squeezing out their wet Mae West lifebelts. They were in an exhausted state when picked up.

1943

Sábado 18 de diciembre de 1943

LA RAZON

TRAS ARRIESGADA ODISEA BELICA REGRESA M. BENITZ,

ES esperado en ésta, el joven oficial de la Real Fuerza Aérea, Malcolm Benitz, de la conocida familia de polistas de la estancia La California, hijo de don Guillermo Benitz, que hace ya tiempo se enrolara, como voluntario, en aquella arma británica. Malcolm Benitz, que nació en nuestro país y cuenta en la actualidad 26 años, se ha destacado por su acción en diversos combates en

la zona del Mediterráneo, habiendo merecido por ella la Cruz de Vuelo Distinguido. A mediados de octubre último fué protagonista de un accidente a consecuencia del cual cayó prisionero. El hecho, que pudo costarle la vida, según una información del comando de la Real Fuerza Aérea, fué el siguiente: Benitz, piloteando un bombardero Wellington, en compañía de otros voluntarios, efect

ARGENTINO ENROLADO EN

tuaba una operación nocturna cuando cesó de funcionar uno de los motores y tuvo que descender al mar, logrando posar el aparato sobre la superficie del agua, después de iluminar el lugar con poderosas luces de aterrizaje. En la maniobra pereció uno de los tripulantes y el bombardero se hundió en menos de veinte minutos, pero el joven argentino y sus compañeros consiguieron salir a tiempo

del Wellington y embarcarse en un bote de goma. El mismo comunicado antes mencionado agregaba que, por fortuna, el tiempo era fresco y el mar estaba calmo. Los tripulantes del bombardero racionaron entonces cuidadosamente su media libra de chocolate, mas seguramente hubieran muerto de sed si no hubiese llovido, como providencialmente ocurrió, al quinto día. Ya se les había terminado el cho-

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LAS FUERZAS AEREAS

colate, y gracias al agua, pudieron resistir hasta el décimo día de andar a la ventura en el bote de goma, en que fueron recogidos por un buque-hospital italiano. Según datos que el oficial Malcolm Benitz hizo llegar a sus familiares, fué luego internado en un campo de prisioneros del Sur de Italia, siendo después liberado por las fuerzas anglo-americanas en su marcha por la península.

1943.

LA PRENSA. 23/12/43

M. Benitz, Argentino y Piloto de la R. F. A., ha Llegado Hoy

EN un avión de la Panagra llegó esta tarde de regreso a su patria el aviador argentino de las Reales Fuerzas Aéreas, Malcolm Benitz, vinculado a los círculos polistas de nuestro país y enrolado en el ejército de Gran Bretaña al comienzo de la actual contienda bélica. A su arribo, el joven Benitz fué recibido por su padre, el señor Guillermo Benitz, y por familiares y numerosos amigos.

A pesar de las reservas impuestas por las circunstancias, el piloto argentino narró, rodeado de los suyos y de amigos, algunos aspectos de la lucha aérea en Europa, especialmente diversos hechos en los cuales actuó, juntamente con otros camaradas, como protagonista. Recordó que debido a su comportamiento en distintas acciones en el Mediterráneo le fué conferida la Cruz de Vuelo Distinguido. Al referirse a la forma en que había caído prisionero de los italianos, relató el suceso en forma vivida y en los siguientes términos: piloteando un bombardero Wellington, en compañía de otros voluntarios, efectuaba una operación nocturna, cuyo desenlace dramático fué un descenso forzado en medio del mar. Además de morir uno de sus camaradas, la máquina se hundió en el término de un cuarto de hora.

Con una sangre fría que sólo se adquiere en tiempo de guerra, los restantes tripulantes del bombardero lograron salvar del desastre un bote de goma, en el que embarcaron, en medio de la noche oscura y sin más viveres que media libra de chocolate. Amaneció el día siguiente y pasaron varios días más sin ser descubiertos por nadie. El hambre empezó a mortificarlos más que la angustia de la incertidumbre, a lo que se sumó la sed, calmada ya casi al término de la odisea, por una lluvia que les resultó francamente magra. Finalmente los naufragos fueron



Malcolm Benitz, el piloto de las R. Fuerzas, poco después de llegar

recogidos por un buque hospital italiano, quedando desde entonces en calidad de prisioneros, en cuya condición fueron concentrados en el Sur de Italia. El desembarco anglo-norteamericano los libró de ese cautiverio, gozando en la actualidad el joven Benitz de una licencia merecida, aprovechada para volver al seno de los suyos, donde fué recibido hoy con la emoción consiguiente.

B.A. HERALD. 24/12/43

MALCOLM BENITZ ARRIVES



Malcolm Benitz, D.F.C., who arrived yesterday from Ottawa, Canada.

Mr. Benitz, whose exploits while serving with the Royal Air Force have often been detailed in the cable news and in THE HERALD's "On Active Service" column, was met by many members of his family and given the warmest of welcomes.

Mr. Malcolm Benitz is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Benitz, of estancia La California, Santa Fe.

Standard 27/12/43

PILOT OFFICER BENITZ ARRIVES

THERE was an air of quiet expectancy just inside the hotel though few people were passing in or out through the main door and the small number of occupants of the lounge were so scattered that not even a murmur rose above their immediate conversations.

The portly porter at the desk replied "Not yet" once again to a question put to him innumerable times during the past few days. Pilot Officer Frank Malcolm Benitz, D.F.C., R.C.A.F., had not yet, arrived, though notice of the landing of the Panagra plane from Brazil had been received hours before from the airport.

And then, suddenly he was there, getting out of a taxi accompanied by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Benitz, and some of the family.

But even when the slight boyish figure entered the lounge there was no stir and it was only by the fervour with which he was received by a group of some half-dozen friends who had been sitting there that it was evident this was no ordinary meeting.

Pilot Officer Benitz had returned to the land of his birth after enduring more than the ordinary hazards of war, experiencing thirst and hunger in days and nights spent in a rubber boat, falling prisoner to the Italians, and after receiving the coveted award of the Distinguished Flying Cross for action over the Mediterranean.

It will be recalled that Pilot Officer Benitz, who belongs to the well-known family of polo players of Estancia La California, was piloting a Wellington bomber during a night operation which ended in a dramatic and forced landing in the sea. One of the crew was killed and the plane sank within a quarter of an hour, but the rest managed to save a rubber boat into which they climbed in the darkness of the night, without any food save half a pound of chocolate.

Several days passed before they were discovered by anyone. Tortured by hunger, thirst and uncertainty, their worst sufferings were relieved by what appeared to be a miraculous shower of rain almost at the end of their Odyssey, before they were rescued by an Italian hospital ship and taken prisoner, being sent, subse-



Pilot Officer Frank Malcolm Benitz, D.F.C., R.C.A.F., who arrived yesterday in Buenos Aires by air, from Canada.

quently, to a prisoner-of-war camp in Southern Italy.

Liberated by the Italians after the armistice, Pilot Officer Benitz eventually arrived in Canada, and the news that he was shortly expected back in this country created a great stir among his many friends and the large public which has followed with interest his brilliant and adventurous career in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

EL GRAFICO 31/3/44.



Malcolm Benitz, que es un excelente piloto condecorado dos veces, jugaba aquí al polo. Es de Las Rosas, F. C. C. A., y aparece con su prima Margarita Sympson, de estación Monte Buey, F. C. C. A., y que es actualmente enfermera del ejército británico.

31 MARZO, 1944