

Ground Forces Need More Air Awareness

NUERNBERG, Germany, Sept. 14 (AP).—America's ground forces in Europe are in vital need of training to increase their air consciousness, staff officers of joint occupation forces maneuvers were told Wednesday night.

Brig. Gen. C. T. Lanham, chief umpire for the United States constabulary, "aggressors" in the games, said that was one of his chief observations during nine days of mock battles.

Lanham said ground forces must be trained to relearn a wartime lesson—the deadly significance of the bomb line—against some future day when the air may be filled with hostile planes.

"They gawk at jet planes and fighters overhead," he said. "They say: 'They are ours, ain't they' but the time may come when the wild blue yonder will belong to hostile wings."

Lanham's comments were the first official summing up on "Exercise Harvest," first field maneuvers involving army, navy and Air

Force under the United States Army Forces' new joint command.

They followed denial by the United States joint command in Germany today of a report that discord between high-ranking army and Air Force officers was disrupting the maneuvers.

Lt. Gen. Clarence R. Huebner of the army, Lt. Gen. John K. Cannon of the Air Force and Read Admiral J. K. Wilkes in a joint statement objected formally to a United Press report to this effect.

They said it was based on an "earnest discussion" of an umpire's decision in the games between the chief umpire and an Air Force general, overheard by a reporter who drew his conclusions from it.

The incident referred to had this sequence: On Monday Brig. Gen. Philip Gallagher, chief umpire, had praised ground forces in a report to reporters on the games and later remarked, after completing his report, "Gosh, I forgot to mention the air."

In the later conversation that was overheard, Brig. Gen. Charles Born, Air Chief of Staff, objected to Gallagher when he thought proper credit was not given the Air Force. Gallagher explained his oversight was unintentional and later issued a formal announcement that planes had caused "unbelievable" damage to the aggressor forces.

"The United Press feels that the apologies made publicly by the army the next day support its story," Walter Rundle, United Press manager in Germany, commented after seeing the joint command statement.

The maneuvers moved Wednesday toward a climax Thursday in a big tank battle between the "defending" United States Army First Division and the aggressors near Grafenwoehr.

Thunderbolt fighters smashed Wednesday at eight road convoys of "enemy" troops in retreat.

One Thunderbolt crashed in Bavaria after an engine failure and its pilot was killed. His death was the fifth officially reported in the games. Two pilots have been killed in other crashes and three infantrymen fatally injured in truck accidents.

The name of today's victim was withheld. He had been attached to the Neubiberg air base.