
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2014 9:16 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - September 20, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

September 20, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound
of the Teletype



**In a time of journalists' executions,
Remembering AP WWII Correspondent Joseph
Morton**



Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning.

Connecting colleague [George Krinsky](#) shares:

At a time when western journalists have been publicly murdered in overseas war zones, it should be remembered that the first American correspondent to be executed by a foreign enemy in wartime was an AP newsman.

His name was Joseph Morton, a Missouri native who joined the AP in 1937 and was later assigned to the European theater in World War II. *(Photo of Morton above)*

[Larry Heinzerling](#), a foreign correspondent and AP executive who retired in 2009 after 41 years, extensively researched and wrote perhaps the most comprehensive account of Morton's fate. He had a good reason: His father, Pulitzer Prize-winning AP correspondent **Lynn Heinzerling**, was assigned during the war to investigate what happened to Morton, who disappeared in late 1944, having simply told his bureau chief that he was off to pursue "the story of a lifetime."

What follows is a summary of Larry's research. Note his postscript at the end of the account.

-0-

By LARRY HEINZERLING

In the final months of World War II, AP War Correspondent **Joe Morton** joined a daring, top-secret military mission deep in the heart of Adolph Hitler's occupied Europe. The Office of Strategic Services - forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency - planned to gather military intelligence and support a Slovak partisan uprising there against Nazi rule with guns, ammunition and sabotage.

Morton, based in Bari, Italy, the OSS headquarters, told his bureau chief in Rome, Noland "Boots" Norgaard, it would be "the story of a lifetime" but could give no further details of the Balkan adventure because of strict censorship. He promised to return on the next available flight.

Morton and the OSS unit were flown into Slovakia on a Saturday, October 7, 1944, in six B-17s escorted by 32 P-51 Mustang fighters of the 15th Air Force. Morton's portable typewriter appearing somewhat incongruous amidst the cargo of machine guns, ammunition, medical supplies and gasoline for the Slovak forces. Guided by smoke signals from bonfires, they landed at a makeshift airfield at Tri-Duby near Banska Bystrica, greeted by scores of cheering partisans.

When the planes returned to Italy, Morton decided to remain in Banska Bystrica, a valley town of 25,000 slowly being encircled by the German army seeking to snuff out the Slovakian rebellion. On October 20, German Stukas heavily bombed the city. A week later, with only hours to escape, Morton and the OSS abandoned the town and joined long columns of soldiers, partisans and civilians fleeing in panic into the Tatra mountains. German planes strafed and bombed the roads and artillery fire followed the human wave of refugees deep into the forests. German units with dogs followed in pursuit.

For the next six weeks, Morton, members of the OSS team, partisans and others fled their Nazi hunters in the woods, seeking to reach the front lines of the advancing Red Army. Winter weather now threatened them all. Howling winds, a blizzard, crippling icy streams that froze boot leather to skin, all took their toll. Pack horses were slaughtered for food. Scores froze to death. Others suffered severe frost bite and pneumonia. There were nightmare scenes of fallen comrades, their color turned a deep claret as the blood froze in the capillaries under their skin. Their stiffened limbs stuck out in the snow in grotesque mockery of the ice-covered tree branches in the forests where they hid. And always, the German army was in pursuit.

As Christmas approached, Morton and some members of the OSS unit reached a hunter's lodge near Volky Bok where the group rested to recover strength. They sang Christmas carols in Hungarian, Slovakian and English, even German. The day after Christmas, the shack was suddenly fired upon from all sides by a large group of 250 German soldiers, Ukrainian troops and

Slovakian Hlinka Guardists. The group had been betrayed by a local villager.

Morton and the 16 others were taken to Bratislava, the capital, for interrogation. They were then taken by truck to the Nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen near Linz, Austria. There they were further interrogated and some of the OSS officers were tortured. Morton was not harmed during the interrogations and protested that he was a correspondent of The Associated Press.

It was to no avail. On January 24, 1945, a telegram arrived at Mauthausen (*photo at right*) from Berlin, signed by Ernst Kaltenbrunner, the widely feared chief of the German security police (SS) and right-hand man to Heinrich Himmler, architect of the Nazi death camps. The telegram ordered the execution of all members of the Slovak mission.



In the camp's execution room, a fake camera was set up. The prisoners, lined up in the courtyard outside, were individually taken into the room and told they would be photographed. After facing the camera, they were told to turn around. An SS guard, Georg Bachmayer, then stepped up and shot each in the nape of the neck. Morton was the only American correspondent ever to be executed by the enemy in war time.

On May 3, Gen. George Patton's Third Army liberated Mauthausen. Morton's fate was not learned until fellow AP War Correspondent Lynn Heinzerling, also in Italy, was assigned to investigate Morton's disappearance at war's end. He visited Mauthausen in late June with an investigator of the War Crimes Commission. They interviewed an eyewitness, a camp prisoner who removed the bodies after the executions, and were given other details from interviews of a captured German interpreter who had helped interrogate the prisoners.

On July 17, Morton's widow, Letty Miller Morton, who had earlier given birth to a daughter, Melinda Ann, who Morton never saw, wrote AP General Manager Kent Cooper. Part of it read: "I cannot end this letter without writing of Joe's deep love for The Associated Press. Its name was synonymous with the best reporting and it was always with pride that Joe said, 'I am with The Associated Press'."

POSTSCRIPT by Larry Heinzerling:



I actually owe my existence to Morton. Military censorship made it impossible for AP in Italy to inform New York of reports that Morton may have been captured by the Germans after he went into Slovakia. My father (*shown at left*) was authorized to return to the U.S. on home leave in December 1944, in part I believe to be able to report to New York what the AP staff in Italy thought had happened to Morton. My father then

joined my mother in Elyria, Ohio. I was born August 28, 1945.



*George Krinsky (left) and Larry Heinzerling
at Larry's retirement party in 2009)*

8 ways the Obama administration is blocking information

The fight for access to public information has never been harder, Associated Press Washington Bureau Chief **Sally Buzbee** said recently at a joint meeting of the American Society of News Editors, the Associated Press Media Editors and the Associated Press Photo Managers. The problem extends across the entire federal government and is now trickling down to state and local governments.



Here is Buzbee's list of eight ways the Obama administration is making it hard for journalists to find information and cover the news:

- 1) As the United States ramps up its fight against Islamic militants, the public can't see any of it. News organizations can't shoot photos or video of bombers as they take off - there are no embeds. In fact, the administration won't even say what country the S. bombers fly from.
- 2) The White House once fought to get cameramen, photographers and reporters into meetings the president had with foreign leaders overseas. That access has become much rarer. Think about the message that sends other nations about how the world's leading democracy deals with the media: Keep them out and let them use handout photos.
- 3) Guantanamo: The big important 9/11 trial is finally coming up. But we aren't allowed to see most court filings in real time - even of nonclassified material. So at hearings, we can't follow what's happening. We don't know what prosecutors are asking for, or what defense attorneys are arguing.
- 4) Information about Guantanamo that was routinely released under President George W. Bush is now kept secret. The military won't release the number of prisoners on hunger strike or the number of assaults on guards. Photo and video coverage is virtually nonexistent.
- 5) Day-to-day intimidation of sources is chilling. AP's transportation reporter's sources say that if they are caught talking to her, they will be fired. Even if

they just give her facts, about safety, for example.
Government press officials say their orders are to squelch anything controversial or that makes the administration look bad.

6) One of the media - and public's - most important legal tools, the Freedom of Information Act, is under siege. Requests for information under FOIA have become slow and expensive. Many federal agencies simply don't respond at all in a timely manner, forcing news organizations to sue each time to force action.

7) The administration uses FOIAs as a tip service to uncover what news organizations are pursuing. Requests are now routinely forwarded to political appointees. At the agency that oversees the new health care law, for example, political appointees now handle the FOIA requests.

8) The administration is trying to control the information that state and local officials can give out. The FBI has directed local police not to disclose details about surveillance technology the police departments use to sweep up cell phone data. In some cases, federal officials have formally intervened in state open records cases, arguing for secrecy.

Survivor implicates Mexican army in massacre

In what's being called "the worst civilian massacre" in years, Mexican soldiers allegedly executed 21 men and a 15-year-old girl who apparently surrendered to them moments earlier, according to witness accounts first reported by the Associated Press journalist Mark Stevenson.

Official reports say the army acted in "legitimate defense," when on June 30, it shot at a group of gunmen that allegedly held three women at a grain warehouse in San Pedro Limon a town in the municipality of Tlatlaya, in central Mexico.

But testimony provided to the AP by one of just three witnesses at the site [the other two are now in prison] suggests otherwise. The news agency's witness says that soldiers executed the group of men who shot at them at the warehouse after they had surrendered.

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Paul Colford)

Stories of interest

[Senate Puts \\$10 Million Bounty on Journalist Murderers](#)

The Senate Friday unanimously passed a bill that would provide up to \$10 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the murder of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, who were murdered by ISIS terrorists.

-0-

[AFP publishes strategy for covering ISIS, states agency will no longer work with freelancers in Syria](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Agence France-Presse's Global News Director Michèle Léridon just published a fascinating article on how the wire service covers the emerging Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL) on AFP's Correspondent blog. AFP is currently the only international news agency with a bureau in Damascus. Since August 2013, AFP has stopped sending their journalists to rebel-held territories within Syria. The post also says, "we no longer accept work from freelance journalists who travel to places where we ourselves would not venture....[I]f someone travels to Syria and offers us images or information when they return, we will not use it."

-0-

[Exploring ethics through journalism hotlines](#)

Media ethics are always a hot-button issue in journalism, but there's reason to pay particular attention at the moment, as new initiatives are stirring up old ways of thinking.

The Society for Professional Journalists just revised its code of ethics for the first time in 18 years for the digital age, and the Online News Association is crowdsourcing a project that allows journalists to build individual codes of ethics on the premise that one standardized code can no longer represent everyone.

Lodged in between these contrasting initiatives is a question about whether more standardized ethics codes have become stale in a fast-paced media environment where the working conditions for journalists are ever-changing. Or, do they in fact represent much-needed, objective fix points in a fluid world where far too much is already relative and individual?

-0-

[Pennsylvania High School Suspends Student Editor For Refusing To Print The Word 'Redskins'](#) (Bill Beecham)

School officials at Neshaminy High School in Pennsylvania have issued suspensions for the student editor and faculty adviser of the student newspaper there after the paper refused to print the word "Redskins," the racist nickname of the school's athletic teams.

Gillian McGoldrick, the paper's student Editor-in-Chief, was suspended from the paper for a month. The paper's faculty adviser Tara Huber was also suspended without pay for two days by district Superintendent Robert Copeland for failing to stop the students from moving ahead with their ban on the word.

-0-

2014 ASNE Board of Directors

The ASNE Board of Directors added five new members and elected a new executive committee at the organization's first joint conference with APME in Chicago. Chris Peck of The Riverton (Wyo.) Ranger (photo at right) took the reins as ASNE president as 2013 ASNE President David Boardman handed over the gavel during the ASNE business meeting Tuesday at the conference.



The ASNE Board of Directors added five new members and elected a new executive committee at the organization's first joint conference with APME in Chicago. Chris Peck of The Riverton (Wyo.) Ranger took the reins as ASNE president as 2013 ASNE President David Boardman handed over the gavel during the ASNE business meeting Tuesday at the conference.

Elected to the organization's executive committee pending the expected approval by the new Board:

Vice President Pam Fine, Knight Chair for News, Leadership and Community at The University of Kansas, Lawrence
Secretary Mizell Stewart III, The E.W. Scripps Company, Cincinnati
Treasurer Alfredo Carbajal, Al Día (The Dallas Morning News), Dallas

Five directors elected for three-year terms:

Debra Adams Simmons, vice president of news development, Advance Local
Emily Ramshaw, editor, The Texas Tribune
Mark Russell, managing editor, The Memphis Commercial Appeal
George Stanley, managing editor, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Joyce Terhaar, executive editor/senior vice president, The Sacramento Bee

Peck appointed two new members for one-year terms:

Alan Miller, CEO/president, News Literacy Project
Robyn Tomlin, chief digital officer, Pew Research Center

AP Beat of the Week

AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi got one of the biggest sports scoops in memory. And he got it the old-fashioned way -- working a source, pressing for more information, checking and double-checking to make sure he had it right.

His explosive revelation: Despite their denials, NFL executives had long ago been given graphic video of Ray Rice cold-cocking his then-fiancee in an Atlantic City elevator. It is this week's Beat of the Week.

Almost instantly, a story that had already transcended the sports pages kicked into overdrive. Already pilloried for what was perceived to be insensitivity to domestic abuse, NFL officials -- and in particular, commissioner Roger Goodell -- were accused of lying about when they knew exactly what had transpired when Ray punched out Janay Palmer in February.

Everywhere, AP was credited with a major break in the story.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/sports/2757192-184/source-ray-rice-video-sent#page=0>

For months, the Baltimore Ravens running back had been apologizing for his "actions" at the Revel Casino. Video had been released that showed Rice dragging the unconscious Palmer out of the elevator. Rice entered a pretrial diversion program, apologized to his team and fans, married his fiancee and was suspended for two games.

The two-game suspension drew criticism, especially when other players were suspended longer for testing positive for marijuana or amphetamines.

TMZ.com was the first to show video of the punch that knocked Palmer out.

But Maaddi learned that a person he knew socially who worked in law enforcement had access to the video. Working carefully -- he knew the law enforcement official's job was on the line if he was caught sharing the evidence without permission -- he convinced the source to show him a video that was more detailed than the one TMZ showed; it was longer and included audio.

As they viewed the video, the source told Maaddi that this wasn't the first time he had shared the video without permission. He had sent it to the NFL in April.

The source initially set requirements about how he and his actions could be described, and he was hesitant to share details. Over the course of three face-to-face meetings, the source shared more information that made his account credible and agreed to allow the information to be published.

He explained his motivation: He wanted the league to have it before it decided on Rice's punishment. He explained how he had mailed the package and included no information about himself other than a phone number to a burner cell phone.

He let Maaddi repeatedly listen to a voicemail sent to that phone confirming receipt of the DVD -- "he's right, it's terrible" the voice said -- and let Maaddi see the caller ID. The number was at NFL headquarters.

Meanwhile, Maaddi and AP Pro Football Writer Barry Wilner pressed the NFL for details. Had anyone at the league seen the video? Again and again, the league said no one at the NFL or the Ravens had seen the video until last week.

AP moved the story Wednesday afternoon. ESPN broke into its highest-rated block of scheduled shows to report the story, Goodell cancelled an appearance and headed back to New York. By Wednesday night, the league announced that former FBI Director Robert Mueller would lead an independent investigation, while several groups called for Goodell's resignation.

For a hard-earned beat that led to major developments in a major story, Maaddi wins this week's \$500 prize.

AP Best of the States

Ten years after casino gambling was legalized in Pennsylvania, by many measures it has been a huge success. The state's gambling industry now ranks No. 2 in gross revenue behind only Nevada, after helping push neighboring New Jersey's Atlantic City into a tailspin.

For a 10th anniversary story, AP correspondent Michael Rubinkam sought to test the claims by Gov. Ed Rendell and top state lawmakers in 2004 that casino gambling, if legalized, would enable the state to provide historic relief from burdensome school property taxes.

Examining years of data, Rubinkam found that, indeed, the state's cut of casino revenues has restrained the growth of property taxes, and eliminated it for thousands of low-income seniors.

But his analysis also showed that the money generated for the state has failed

to put a significant dent in most homeowners' tax bills. Homeowners got a slots-financed break of about 6 percent on their school property taxes between 2008-09 and 2012-13, he reported. The average amount knocked off tax bills: just \$187.

To come up with his numbers, Rubinkam built a spreadsheet from several databases at the state Department of Education. The spreadsheet enabled him to see how much tax relief was offered each year to homeowners in all 500 school districts, how much those districts collected in property tax for those years, and how the tax burden had risen over time while the amount of relief remained about the same.

After crunching the numbers, he ran his conclusions past the Department of Education and several independent experts and got no pushback. "The numbers are the numbers," he was told.

His story got prominent play across the state, including on the front pages of at least five newspapers, including rare above-the-fold treatment in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

A number of newspapers also editorialized about his findings.

Citing the AP's conclusions, the editors at the Pennlive.com website wrote: "In the workplace, some of the best advice an employee can get is to under-promise and over-deliver. Keep expectations realistic and then do your best to exceed them. In politics, the mode of operation is often just the opposite: over-promise and under-deliver."

For his sharp analysis and his determination to break news on the 10th anniversary of casino gambling in Pennsylvania, Rubinkam win's this week's Best of the States prize.

(Beat of Week and Best of States shared by Valerie Komor)

The Last Word

From AP Images:

This month we highlight an image of a WWII paratrooper as he lands in the British Isles, rifle raised and ready for action.

Since the 1900s our photographers have been documenting the world and our groundbreaking photography has won 31 Pulitzer Prizes over the past 90 years. View the world's largest collection of historical and contemporary photos at APIImages.com.



Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)

 [SafeUnsubscribe](#)

This email was sent to stevenspl@live.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215