

# Gen. Hansell, Fortress Boss, Is Tech Graduate

**Veteran Flier, Who Worked With Chennault, Now Plans and Executes Raids on Nazis**

Brig. General Haywood S. Hansell, the subject of the following article, who was graduated from Georgia Tech 16 years ago, is a nephew of Mrs. Louie Hansell Whittle, 724 Piedmont Avenue, N. E., Wharton Wilson, Atlanta attorney who lives at 815 Juniper Street, N. E., and William A. Hansell, assistant chief of construction for the City of Atlanta.

General Hansell's father, a retired colonel, was stationed at Fort McPherson many years ago. The colonel and his wife now live in Texas. General Hansell commands the Flying Fortress section of the U. S. Army Air Forces operating from flying fields in England, and is only 39.

**By GLADWIN HILL**  
U. S. FLYING FORTRESS HEADQUARTERS IN ENGLAND, June 4.—(AP)—On December 7, 1941, a young Air Force major named Haywood S. Hansell Jr. was driving his wife and children along a Virginia highway near Washington, listening to a radio broadcast of "The Mikado."

Suddenly an announcer broke in. "We interrupt this program to bring you an important news bulletin. . . . The Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor."

The unreality was not lessened when the radio went right back to Gilbert and Sullivan's whimsy about the Emperor of Japan.

Hansell, now a brigadier general in charge of the Flying Fortress section of the United States Army Air Forces here, was singularly prepared for what had developed.

Ten years before he had worked with Captain Claire Chennault—now the brigadier general of Flying Tigers fame—and Captain Luke Williamson in an aerial acrobatic team which developed many of the fighter plane tactics in use today.

**Later an Instructor**  
Late he was an instructor when a course on the use of air power was introduced at the Air Force Tactical School, and he had a hand in drawing up some of the doctrine in force today.

A year before Pearl Harbor, Hansell went in a third field, the Engineering Air Corps intelligence section in Washington, and helped collect the information on which our present air operations are based.

In the summer of 1941 he came to England as an official observer of the RAF.

A slight man of 39, who might pass for 25, he has a thin, inquisitive nose and mouth and small, bright eyes that won him the nickname of "Possum."

Possums don't make much noise, but they get around a lot.

The son of an Army doctor, Hansell was born at Fort Monroe, Va., and was taken to China during the Boxer rebellion when 1 year old, learning to speak Chinese.

**Tech Graduate**  
He grew up at various Army posts, went to Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee and graduated from Georgia Tech at the age of 23.

Migrating to the West Coast, he discovered the difference between an engineering degree and earning a week's pay. He finally went to work for the Steel Tank and Pipe Company in Berkeley, Cal., and after "the hardest year's work I ever did," qualified as a journeyman boilermaker and was invited to the boilermakers' ball.

"I couldn't imagine whether you wore dungarees or a tuxedo to a boilermakers' ball, so I decided to err on the side of formality, and wore a tuxedo," he relates. "I was right. I was the only one there in a tuxedo. Everybody else had on full-dress suits."

Later, after three years as an engineer, Hansell decided airplane manufacturing was a promising industry, and that as a preliminary to venturing into the field he should know how to fly. So he joined the air force. He never got around to leaving it.

**Goes to Langley Field**  
On completing his training in 1929, he was assigned to Langley Field, Va., where he once had to bail out, landing in Chesapeake Bay.

Hansell considers it sheer chance that he lived through the next phase of his career, on the air force acrobatic team which performed at the Cleveland and Miami air races in 1934 and 1935.

"Chennault used to sit up nights thinking up acrobatics that couldn't be done," Hansell says. "The Navy had a team like ours and used to come with them 'at all the shows.' We'd certainly all have been killed if we kept at it long enough."

Hansell went through the tactical school at Maxwell Field, Ala., a classmate of Ira Eaker, now his boss commanding the Eighth Air Force; served on the faculty of the school; and in 1938-39 was one of two first lieutenants among all the captains, majors and colonels at the Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

**After Pearl Harbor**  
After Pearl Harbor Hansell moved from the head of the European section of the air force's war plans division to corepresentative of the air force on the general planning staff which, with a British commission, mapped out the United States' participation in the war. Then promoted to lieutenant colonel, he became air force member of the Joint Army-Navy strategy committee, advising the joint chiefs of staff on the employment of American forces.

Last August, when General Eisenhower was commander of the European theater of operations, Hansell came to England as a member of his air plans staff, and on New Year's Day took over command of the Fortresses. For several months he had to carry on with a token force, watching his men gradually being whittled away without relief or replacements.

No swivel-chair general, Han-

sell has first-hand knowledge of what they went through because he has commanded seven raids himself.

The raid on Amiens, France, March 13 was his son Tony's eleventh birthday, so Hansell christened one of the Fortresses "Tony H." and dropped a load on the Amiens freight yards.

**Two Other Children**  
He has two other children, Lucia, 3, and Dennis, 2. His wife, the former Dorothy Rogers, of Waco, Texas, is living in Indian Rocks, Fla., where Hansell hopes to "rent a tree and sit under it" after the war.

He often works from 8:30 a. m. until midnight or 1 a. m., taking time out for an occasional game of tennis or session with his phonograph records.

He's a confirmed exponent of that "extra something." Recently the Duchess of Gloucester, who is interested in the Waafs, called to see their work here.

He escorted her around, said good-bye. When she got in her car she discovered a little pile of chocolate bars and canned peanuts—rarities even among royalty in England today. Hansell had gotten them from the Post canteen and sneaked them into the car.

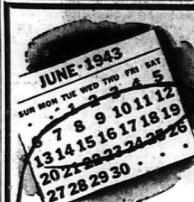
## Cordele Flier Awarded Medal

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA, June 5.—(AP)—Forty-three members of the aerial transport division of the U. S. Army Air Corps recently were awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in New Guinea.

Each participated in at least 25 operational flight missions, dropping supplies to advanced outposts, transporting troops and equipment to forward areas and evacuating wounded.

Among those decorated were: Staff Sergeant Henry F. Arts Jr., Nashville, Tenn.; Staff Sergeant Lorenzo R. Cower, Nashville, Tenn.; Captain Frank C. Church, Ville Platte, La.; Second Lieutenant John R. Meeks Jr., Cordele, Ga., and Captain Leonidas Baker, Raleigh, N. C.

In the first year of war the fire loss to critical materials and factories in the United States was \$100,000,000.



## THIS WEEK IN ATLANTA

Welcome to Rich's

Sunday, June 6 — Soldiers' Hour Musicale. 4:00 to 5:00 P. M., the High Museum, 1262 Peachtree Street, N. E.

Welcome to Rich's

Tuesday, June 8 — Rich's Weekly Fashion Show. Magnolia Room, Sixth Floor, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30 P. M.

Welcome to Rich's

Wednesday, June 9 — Junior Red Cross meets at 3:30 P. M. in Rich's Magnolia Room, Sixth Floor.

Welcome to Rich's

Wednesday, June 9 — Backyard Garden Club meets 3:30 P. M. Rich's Magnolia Room, Sixth Floor.

Welcome to Rich's

Wednesday, June 9 — Atlanta-Birmingham baseball game. Sponsored by the Young Matrons' Circle for the Tallulah Falls School. 8:15 P. M. At the Ponce de Leon Ball Park.

Welcome to Rich's

Friday, June 11 — Southern Hosiery Manufacturers' As-



**CHIEF OF THE FORTRESSES**—England.—Brig. General Haywood S. Hansell Jr., of Atlanta, commanding general of the Eighth U. S. Air Force Bomber Command, is shown at the opening of the first American Red Cross Aero Club at an airfield in Great Britain.—AP.

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