



315TH NEWSLETTER

Published by
WORLD WAR II 315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASS'N.

APRIL, 2003 EDITION

LOUISVILLE, HERE WE COME!

Yes, it's "Louisville, Here We Come!"

Once again, the Armed Forces Reunion Committee will be hosting our 315th reunion and our programs and the very location should be outstanding. Since our hopes for a river cruise could not materialize, we are especially happy to include a luncheon-cruise on the beautiful Ohio River. It will substitute very nicely.

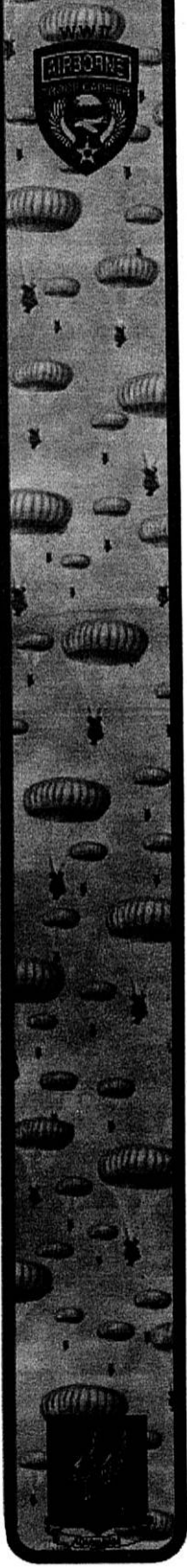
At this time, plans are still being finalized but some things are well set. Our hotel will be the Holiday Inn Downtown with rooms at \$79 per night and the usual array of goodies including a hospitality room and free shuttle to and from the airport.

There are eight airlines with over 100 flights per day serving Louisville: American Continental, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, TWA, USAir, United and soon Republic.

Activities and tours will include Ft. Knox (sorry, no samples!), a lovely old Victorian mansion and the city tour ending with our luncheon-cruise on the Ohio, complete with live music. All that plus seeing all our former buddies is just irresistible!

Please, each of you, get out your rosters and call whoever you may know, encouraging them to come. Louisville is so near the center of the country and easy to reach. Also we hope to see many second-generation family members.

You MUST plan on coming!



315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASSOCIATION
Olmsted, Florence, Aldermaston, Blida, Spanhoe, Amiens

OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD



Message from the President:

Of most importance is introducing our new Newsletter Editor, Mary Lynn Edney Schwietz. Graciously, the daughter of John Edney, 110th saw our situation and volunteered to take on this responsibility. It is now up to us, as members, to provide her with stories and information to keep our Newsletter alive. Thank you, Mary Lynn, for being our editor. And thank you, James Smith, for the years of faithful service you have given our 315th TCG. We appreciate you both.

Our attendance at San Diego last September was great and a tremendous vote of thanks goes out to Dick Ford. Not only did he do a wonderful job as president (a hard act for me to follow), but he also personally supervised every aspect of that reunion to make sure it ran smoothly. Thanks again, Dick.

All of us want to express our gratitude to the families for coming and bringing their Dads to learn about their fathers' military connection. It is this second generation that will become increasingly important to the survival of our 315th TCG, so we certainly look forward to seeing even more of these refreshing young people at our 2004 reunion!

I thank everyone one of you for the privilege of being your president these two years and assure you I want to hear your concerns and suggestions as we go along. See you in Louisville in '04!

Bernard C. Brown,
President



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Salute to the Glider Pilots



The Silent Wings Museum

The Silent Wings Museum is dedicated to telling the history of the American military glider program. The museum has been transferred from Terrell, TX to Lubbock TX in September 2000. A newly renovated facility was opened to the public on October 19, 2002 during the WWII Glider Pilots Reunion.

The President of the Texas Aviation Heritage Foundation recently called Doc Cloer and wanted to know if he thought that any of the old Troop Carrier outfits would be interested in helping to obtain an old C-47 that could be put out in front of the museum as the tow plane with the CG4A and a future Horsa inside!

If any of you are traveling anywhere in western Texas, it would be well worth your time to stop and visit the Silent Wings Museum. For information contact: Mr. Joe Hays, Mgr. Silent Wings Museum, Rt 3, Box 393, Lubbock, TX 79403-9710 Phone 806-775-2047.

From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight XXX to YYY. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush.

He answered by saying that, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

It became very quiet in the room.

Steven Ambrose Fact or Fiction ...the saga continues

Even though Steven Ambrose has passed away our past problems with him still seem to be with us!

With the likes of Tom Brokaw, Larry King, The First Lady, and others, crowning him as the Premier Historian of WWII – people are now quoting him as fact! The following E Mail message was forwarded to me by Randy Hills from Pathfinder historian, David Berry.

He reported, "I was at Barnes and Noble yesterday and saw a book titled, *Airborne: A Combat History of American Airborne Forces*, by E.M. Flanagan, Jr. I checked out the pages dealing with Pathfinders, and was dumbfounded with the errors—all of which I know came from Ambrose's Museum. The slamming of TCC etc. is reprinted AGAIN and whopping great chunks of Brother A's stuff is quoted. I think Hal Sperber, the pilot of Plane 4, will be pissed to know that all aboard his ditched plane –jumped to their death!!!! MORONIC!!!

So a new minefield – Ambroses's own writings are used as FACTS for the new generation of writers."
Dave Berry – How do we ever stop this BS?

-- Doc Cloer

Recording Secretary's Report

The one thing that has kept the old 315th together over all of these years - is the newsletter. Ed and Barbara Papp did a great job for years and then Stan Smith stepped in and continued with a great newsletter for more years. We are now very fortunate to have one of our great 2nd generation members come forward to take over the job.

Mary Lynn Schwietz is the daughter of John Edney, of the old 310th Squadron. As the new Editor -she will have a hard time publishing a newsletter if you guys don't get off your duff and send her some stories and items of interest.

The other new item of great interest: the I new THREE - ONE - FIVE - GROUP book that George Cholewczynski edited and published for us. It has received some great reviews from many people. I sent copies to all of my nieces and nephews, plus a few cousins. One of them, who was an old Army grunt during WW II, and no fan of the Air Corp, called me after he read the book - he said, "That's a darn good book that should be made into a movie".

I would think that each one of you would want to get a copy for your sons and daughters, so they could read and feel the history of their dad's old outfit. For members of the 315th family, the cost is \$20 plus \$2.00 postage. For the public, it is \$25 plus \$2.00 postage. Make a check or money order out to WALKA Books and send it to them at: P.O. Box 56307, New Orleans, LA 70156. It's 300 pages of great history and stories -- some of them may even be true.

As you know, the newsletter is sent by bulk mail to keep the cost down. This makes for at least two problems -- it will not be forwarded to you at a new address -- and for some locations it takes about a month to get to you. We mail out about 550 copies each time, and on average get about 20 returned. For each one that our Post Office returns to us, they charge us from \$.60 to \$1.40.



I then update the roster and send you a new letter at \$.60 or \$.83 cents. We see many of our members moving these days, to a retirement community, or to be near a son or daughter. I know that when this is taking place you have far more important things on you mind than sending an address change to old Doc Cloer -but it would sure help us!

We encourage all of our widows to stay on our mailing list and at the last business meeting, voted to make all 2nd generation family members honorary members. As non-voting members, you are not expected to pay dues. (I would hope at the next reunion we will be able to get the Articles of Association changed so you will be regular voting members that can hold office.) If any of you wish to have your sons or daughters added to our roster send me all of the mailing information plus phone number and e-mail address. Please print or type -- my eyes are old !

The first of the year I received a report for our hard working Treasurer, Sandy Friedman. He sent me a copy of all of his records from the time he took on the job in 1996 until this date. It shows that of the 508 active members on our mailing list during that 7 years, 265 have sent in dues from \$10 to \$100. The balance of the 243 members have not paid at all during those years.

Thanks to donations and contributions made by some of our generous members and widows, we are still in good financial shape. The biggest expense is the printing and mailing cost of the newsletter, which is going up each year. We do not want to drop anyone from our mailing list who enjoys reading about his old buddies. I know that with the cost of medicine, doctors, fuel and etc. some of our old troops are hurting. For some of you guys that got out of the stock market in time - maybe you could pay your \$20 dues for the year and help us out a bit.

Hope this finds you all well and enjoying life and planning to be at the 2004 reunion -- wherever it is!!

See you there!

-- Doc Cloer

This letter was sent in by Bernie Brown. Thanks to the flight attendant, who shall remain nameless, for sending this wonderful letter. Whether you believe in the battle we are waging now or not, it is a beautiful testimony to the support of Americans for their military men.

Sent Friday, February 21, 2003

Subject: Military Flight

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from doing a small part in our efforts against world conflict. Just got home early from Frankfurt after having picked up a planeload of troops in Alexandria, LA and taking them one leg of their trip...onward. They had just gotten word 24 hours earlier that full alert was "on" and they were getting ready to be transported.

We arrived in Alexandria on the military airfield in our 777, and the busses were waiting. The troops started to appear from the busses and they were all dressed in their desert uniforms. They looked so clean! Everything was new, including the weapons. Every soldier had a big gun, and some had knives hanging off their belts, too. They were young.

We were told that all weapons were unloaded, and that all the ammo was in the belly. Upon arrival at their destination, they would be given ammo, and they were on full alert and active duty as of the moment of landing. They were equipped with camel packs on their backs with two liters of water and the K ration packages.

First class was filled with rank, and also some very young men and women. We figured it out fast...they had won a prize...they were all sharpshooters. Business class was filled with sharpshooters too. Even though they all got the same food and the same service, these soldiers were thrilled to be in a big seat on an airliner and they kidded each other about getting to sit in the better cabins. Camaraderie filled the air in every cabin and there was lots of intermingling as they explored who got what, and how wonderful it was to be transported on an airliner with a crew and service! They treated us with respect, always calling us "m'am". We were honored to serve them and couldn't do enough for them. "No" was not in our vocabulary!

We stepped over guns, served cookies, listened to stories, and served meals. The entire crew felt it was a great honor to participate in getting these troops over there. I had a lump in my throat the entire flight. I was proud to be a part of this.

When we landed we all had tears in our eyes. A few of the guys passed out the door with, "Would you mind kissing me m'am?" "You bet I will!" I put plenty of lipstick on lots of grinning faces.

The pride in country and uniform was overwhelming. I remember my Dad, the three wars he fought in, the pride with which he wore his uniform, his patriotism, his absolute belief that the United States was worth giving your life for, and that he survived it all!

God Bless America. I am so grateful to have been a small part in serving these men and women. Let us hope any pray that every single one of them comes home to their families.

Taps

With deep regret we record the loss of these comrades.

(If you were close friends a letter to their family would be truly welcome.)

Charles H. Ennis	310 th	3 Dec. 1999
Joseph M. Ciskowski	34 th	10 Dec. 2002
Ralph M. Morgan	34 th	15 Dec. 2002
Victor H. Newman	309 th	2 Dec. 2002
Joseph W. Redd	43 rd	13 May 2002
James H. Johnson	43 rd	23 Jan. 2003
George Edw. Potter	310 th	23 July 2002
Robert E. Doane	309 th	5 Feb. 2003
Howard Tresise	309 th	1 Jan. 2003

Donations

Donations are gratefully accepted whether in memory of former comrades or in support of the Association. Families are notified when appropriate. A substantial donation has been received from:

Mrs. Howard Tresise
in honor of
Howard Tresise

A donation has also been received in honor of all our departed comrades from:

Stan Smith

In support of the Association, and in remembrance of those for whom Taps were sounded.

"The Troop Carrier D-Day Flights" – the *real* story.

Lew Johnston has completed a book that he has been working on for over two years and is now trying to get published. *"The Troop Carrier D-Day Flights"* – a fully documented close look on how Troop Carrier C-47's and Gliders delivered their troops, equipment, and supplies to the continent of Europe on the 6th of June 1944.

The following thoughts come from Lew:

Many of you know my work preserving Troop Carrier history, but you may not know my interest in collecting written and oral histories of individual experiences in all conflicts, not only WWII. I am looking for brief stories of interesting events that may have already appeared in family histories or in unit letters or books. Clear typing or printed articles are OK. So are audiotapes and copies of letters that include parts of your history. Clear photocopies are OK too. Please pass these stories on to me before they get shoved into some dark closet or trashcan. I will find a suitable home for whatever you send and you will have the chance to be part of a written history. If you have questions, call me at 415-383-0708 morning or evenings – or at 415-567-4717 most afternoons. You can also reach me by E Mail at lewjtn@aol.com anytime.

Salute to Troop Carrier

Honoring World War II Veterans

27-30 April 2003



Good news! You still have time to register for this conference!

Some Dover Civic Leaders realized that Troop Carrier has never been recognized nationally for their contributions to America's victory during WWII and decided that would like to do something about that! Dover Air Force Base will host **SALUTE TO TROOP CARRIER – Honoring World War II Veterans** from April 27th – 30th. Registrations will be taken online up to April 21st. The Reunion Headquarters will be the Sheraton Dover Hotel. Special hotel rate of \$89 will be good from April 25th to May 2nd.

Now it is up to you! This cannot be a successful event without the honorees!!! Call 302-678-8500 to make you reservation at the Sheraton. Ask for Troop Carrier rates. If you are on line – bring up the Web Page for the Museum: www.amcmuseum.org. It is a fascinating web site loaded with information. Listed are the events which include:

- Opening Cocktail Reception hosted by AMC Museum Foundation. Greetings by Delaware's Governor and Dover's Mayor
- Deluxe breakfast buffet followed by tour of AMC Museum
- Guided tours inside C-47, C-133 and C-141
- Lunch in hangar with program "*Lasting Legacy of Troop Carrier*"
- Banquet "In Honor of Troop Carrier" at the Sheraton with a medal presentation to each veteran presented by the Dover AFB Honor Guard. Special Guest Speaker
- Seminars on Troop Carrier including: *The Truth about D-Day, Post War Troop Carrier History*

These are just some of the events for those three days. Registration fee is \$98 and includes all the events listed above. I checked online and registrations will be taken up to April 21. You can also register with Kent County Tourism – Phone 302-734-1736 (ask for Mary or Barbara). I am not sure what their deadline is.

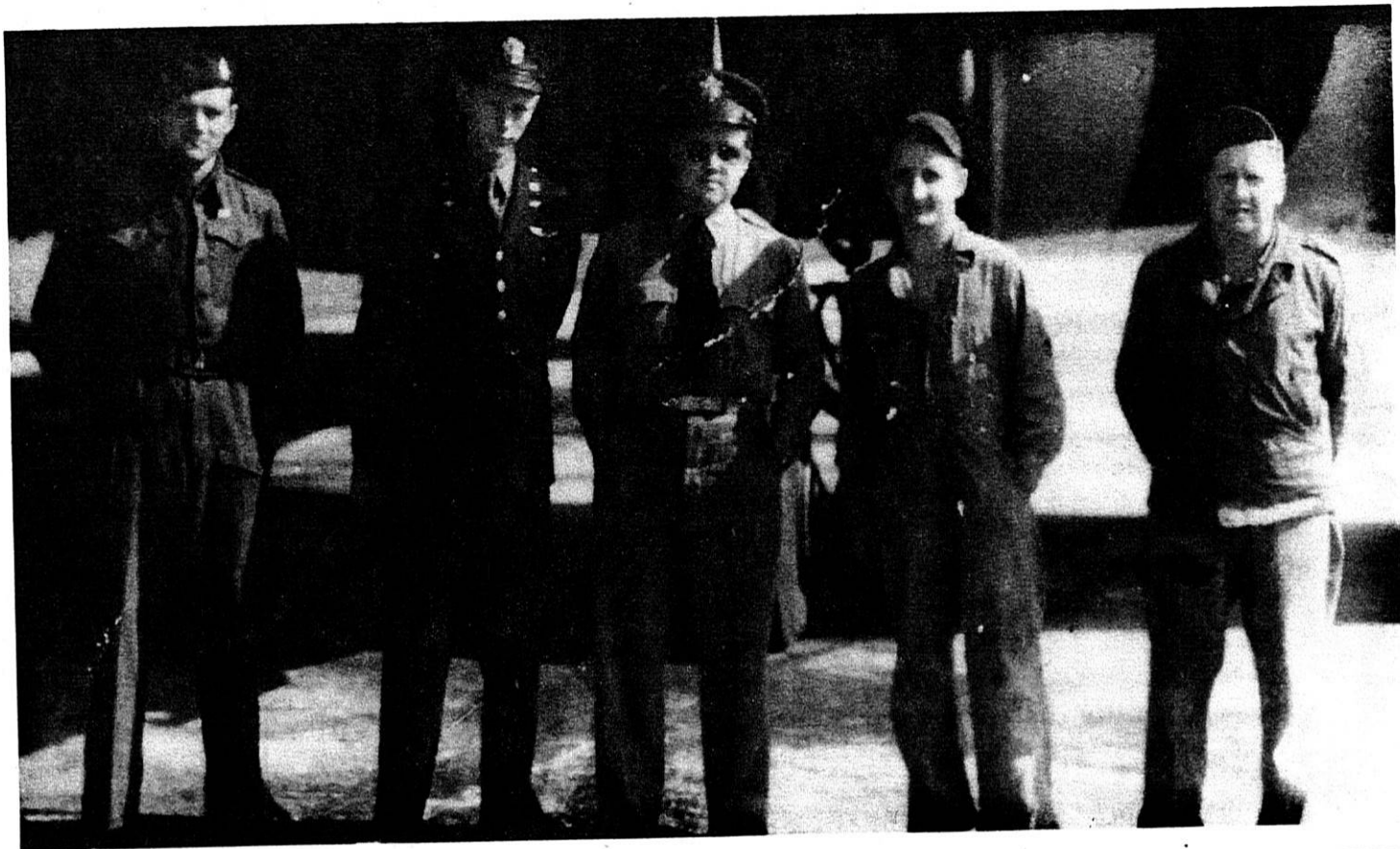
You are the most important part of this wonderful event. Be spontaneous! Plan on it!!!
Dover Air Force Base is the place to be April 27th to April 30th!

Postponed:

The D-Day Airborne Armada's "Return to Glory" on QE2

Because of the international unrest the "Return to Glory" trip has been postponed until 2004. New plans are being made which will include some changes. Prices will be much less. The trip will be aboard the Queen Mary. Col. Vito S. Pedone is working on the details. You will be hearing about this one later. Stay tuned...

BELATED THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!



**FROM THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES...
SENT TO US JUNE 30, 1998 FROM HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND**

**FROM CYRIL T. BROWN, 4TH PARACHUTE SQUADRON RE CLUB
1942 N AFRICA, 1943 ITALY, 1944 ARNHEM**

DEAR SIR:

I HAVE RECENTLY READ A COPY OF YOUR 315TH NEWSLETTER AND FOUND IT MOST INTERESTING.

I HAVE ENCLOSED A COPY OF AN OLD PHOTO WHICH HAS BEEN ENLARGED. IT WAS TAKEN AT SPANHOE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE TRIP TO ARNHEM. ON THE LEFT OF THIS PICTURE IS MYSELF. AND SECOND FROM THE RIGHT IS SGT. RANDOLPH RALF, WHOSE HOMETOWN WAS RACINE, WISCONSIN. I'M AFRAID I CANNOT RECALL THE NAMES OF THE OTHER MEN. I OFTEN WONDER IF ANY SURVIVE TO THIS DAY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL CONCERNED FOR A COMFORTABLE FLIGHT AND FOR DROPPING US RIGHT ON TARGET ON THAT DAY IN 1944.

BEST WISHES TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE 315TH TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASSN.

**YOURS SINCERELY,
CYRIL T. BROWN
131 STAKES ROAD
PURBROOK
HAMPSHIRE PO7, 5PD ENGLAND**

George N. Doll of San Jose, CA sent the following from his diaries...

Well, today we had our first fifteen minute broadcast from the stage the post Red Cross. Prior to this we would run a class "A" phone line from the local radio station to the stage of the hotel, nightclub, or wherever we were currently playing and do a fifteen minute air show each night.

Hence my thought one day that we might use the post Tannoy warning system in the same way. We got the necessary permission and cooperation of the post carpenters, telephone technicians and even talked to Sgt. Paul Andrews, in charge of 43rd Sqd. Supply, to loan us a pilot's throat mike to amplify Jack Stockton's guitar.

On Friday evenings at 18:15 hours we, and many off duty soldiers adjourned to the Arc for birthday song requests, favorite tunes, etc. Our suggestion box was always filled with requests. For about two months of Friday's our fifteen minute show was a ritual. Mechanics working on airplanes, soldiers eating in the mess halls, sick quarters, barracks, everywhere on the base, men had access to their own music!

Then one Friday afternoon in a sky filled with air traffic, one particular speck in the English skies lost altitude, became a C-47 and circled our music filled field. Wheels lowered, the tires squealed on the tarmac and the airplane lumbered to a stop – not far from a Tannoy speaker high on a wooden pole.

The doors opened and a two star general found his way to the ground. He suddenly stopped all forward motion, swiveled his head around, jammed a finger in his left ear as though to clear it, and shouted to the heavens, "Where the @/a##+ is that bloody music coming from?? Is it coming from that Tannoy speaker?!!"

Our local "radio station" closed down twenty minutes later! The jeep driver that was sent to meet the General said later, "At least he was patriotic. His eyes were blue with red whites!"

AIR RAID WARNING YELLOW



GN Doll, Leon Rubin, Max Arthur, Paul Andrews, Frank Waggoner & Jack Stockton

Jammin' with George's Group

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

For all of us who miss the wonderful humor of Red Skelton - his "Tips for a Happy Marriage"

- ♥ We sleep in separate beds. Hers is in Ontario and mine in California.
- ♥ I take my wife everywhere but she keeps finding her way back!
- ♥ I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time," she said. So I suggested the kitchen.
- ♥ When we go to the shopping mall, we always hold hands. If I let go, she shops!
- ♥ I'll admit the last fuss we had was my fault. My wife asked, "What's on TV?" I answered "Dust!"
- ♥ My wife told me the car wasn't running well because she thought there was too much water in the carburetor. I asked where the car was and she responded, "In the lake."
- ♥ As for myself, I married Miss Right, I just didn't know her first name was Always.

Where do you send information?

Everyone who received this newsletter is encouraged to submit material. Don't be afraid to jump in and contribute! Suggestions are welcome! Please send all submissions to: Mary Lynn Schwietz, 1318 North 126th St., Omaha, NE 68154 or send via E Mail to mlschwietz@aol.com.

Change of address should be sent to Doc Cloer. His address is Robert Cloer, 1417 Valley View Drive, Yuba City, CA 95993. E Mail address is: ricloer@syix.com

Dues, donations and requests for caps should be sent to: Sandy Friedman, 2425 Buckhurst Drive, Beachwood, OH 55122.

Optimist vs. Pessimist

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would believe him. He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, a pessimist by nature, and invited him to hunt with him and his new dog. As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird never getting more than his paws wet. This continued all day long; each time a duck fell, the dog walked across the surface of the water to retrieve it. The pessimist watched carefully, saw everything, but did not say a single word. On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?" "I sure did," responded the pessimist. "Stupid dog can't swim."

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