

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, May 2009

WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND - 2

Last month, under the heading of "what goes around, comes around" we looked at an inspiring story about Winston Churchill. This month we will take the theme in a different direction.

STORY # 2: Before WWII, in the days of prohibition and boot-legged alcohol, gangsters such as Al Capone had a big influence on American culture. Capone, in particular, became infamous in Chicago and his influence was everywhere. He could not have survived, 'though, without an organization of like-minded individuals around him.

One such individual was "Easy Eddie" his lawyer. Eddie was very skilled at his job and kept Capone out of trouble for many years. As his reward, Capone made sure that Eddie lived in luxury. Eddie had it all! And, by all accounts, he enjoyed his opulent life-style to the full, showing little concern for anyone or anything else.

But Eddie had one soft-spot, his son. He doted on his son making sure he always had the very best that money could buy. The one thing he could not pass on to him, however, was a good name. This must have played heavily on Eddie's mind because one day he decided to set the records straight in order to leave at least a semblance of integrity for his son to be proud of. Eddie "ratted" on the mob. He testified against Capone, but at great cost to himself. Within a year, Eddie was gunned down in a hail of bullets on a street in Chicago.

Some years after this, WWII broke out. The first naval aviator to win the Congressional Medal of Honor was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. Butch O'Hare was one of many heroes on all sides in the war.

While flying alone, O'Hare spotted a squadron of enemy aircraft heading for his mother-ship, the carrier Lexington. Unable to call for help, he dove into the advancing enemy, guns blazing, breaking up their formation in the process. He continued the assault, even after he had ran out of ammunition, diving at the enemy aircraft hoping to clip a wing or a tail as he went. Finally, the enemy retreated and O'Hare managed to get back to his carrier and make a report. He had won the day and saved the Lexington and her escort vessels, destroying five enemy aircraft in the process.

Butch O'Hare became the first US Naval Ace of WWII. A year latter, he was killed in action at the age of 29.

If you visit Chicago, you will probably land at O'Hare International Airport, named after this son of Chicago, and war hero, Butch O'Hare. While there, spare a thought for Butch. And, spare a thought for his father too, "Easy Eddie" O'Hare.



The
infamous Al
Capone, Easy
Eddie's boss



"Butch"
O'Hare, Easy
Eddie's son

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?.... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

All about Capone for those interested in gangsters:
<http://www.chicagohs.org/history/capone.html>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Well, I hope everyone enjoyed their break from work over the “Golden Week” holiday. Some of you were lucky enough to go on trips, others, like me, stayed home and relaxed. Whatever you did, “welcome back”! For the remainder of this term, we can look forward to the “end-of-term” party on the 25th of July with plays and other performances by students and karaoke for everyone else. I can hardly wait!

Junko Says: Nomads! According to Jacques Attali, a French economist, three types of nomads are evolving within the world’s population and they are playing an increasingly important role in reducing military disputes and other aggression. The three types are; “super nomads” who can physically travel around anywhere in the world, “lower nomads” who have to move around for survival, and “virtual nomads” who will travel virtually. If he is right, multi-lingual skills will become even more important in the future. For more on this, check out: www.attali.com



Alessio Says: Hi everyone! How did you spend your holidays? Did you go anywhere? I went to Tokyo for the first time in my life and it was great fun! I visited all the famous places, from the Tokyo Tower to the Asakusa temples, from Roppongi to Shibuya, the crazy Akiba and its million electronic devices and the great Kabukiza! Soooo good!!! I also went clubbing and had fun with some friends. I’m very happy to have seen this huge exciting city! And what about you? What have you done? Have you recharged your batteries? Are you ready for more English???

Greg Says:

Greg is away in Australia for a couple of weeks – let’s see what he has to say to us when he returns next month.



Emilie Dit: De ma fenêtre qui donne sur la rivière Ishite, j’ai assisté à l’éclosion, la maturation et la défloraison des cerisiers. Un jour, la pluie est tombée très fort. Quand elle eut cessé, les pétales de cerisiers qui jonchaient le sol traçaient un chemin. J’ai suivi ce chemin et il m’a menée sur les rives de Miyajima. La marée était basse et j’ai pu entrer dans le sanctuaire en passant sous le torii. Au pied du pavillon Senjokaku, situé sur les hauteurs du sanctuaire d’itsukushima, un cerisier en fleurs m’indiquait que la saison de hanami n’était pas encore tout à fait terminée.

