

# THE RATTLER

Rattlesnake Bomber Base

VOL. 1, NUMBER 35 PYOTE, TEXAS DEC. 22, 1943

## Rattlesnake AB Hails 1943 GI Christmas Day With Food, Fun

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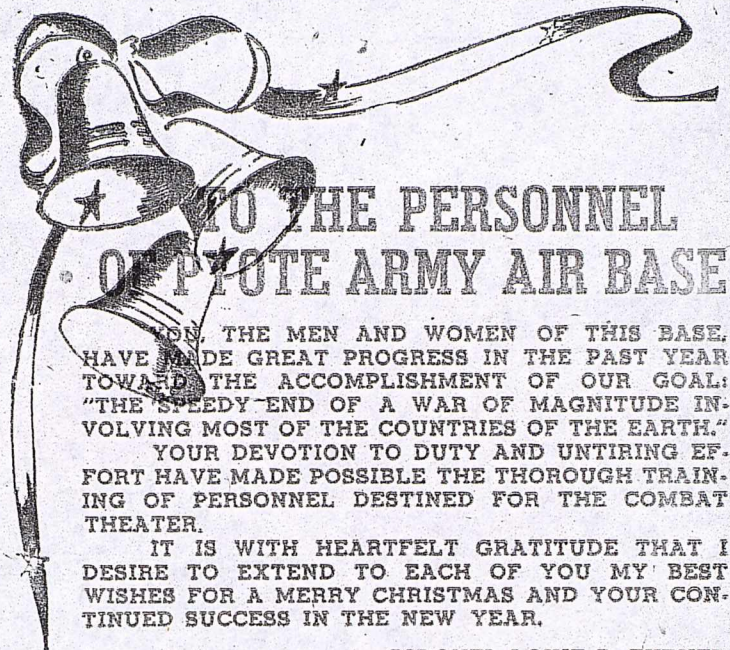
### WAR ROOMS EDUCATE CREWS TO FOE TRICKS

Pages 8-9

### For Heroism Over Europe



Col. Hugo P. Rush, 15th Wing CO, pins the Oak Leaf Cluster (Air Medal) on Lt. Col. Herbert O. Wangeman, Bomb Group CO, in ceremonies here last week. The citation was for meritorious achievement while leading a squadron of B-17s on a bombardment mission over enemy Europe, during which Col. Wangeman displayed exceptional courage and skill through unusually intense anti-aircraft fire.



### TO THE PERSONNEL OF PYOTE ARMY AIR BASE

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS BASE, HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN THE PAST YEAR TOWARD THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OUR GOAL: "THE SPEEDY END OF A WAR OF MAGNITUDE INVOLVING MOST OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE EARTH."

YOUR DEVOTION TO DUTY AND UNTIRING EFFORT HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THE THOROUGH TRAINING OF PERSONNEL DESTINED FOR THE COMBAT THEATER.

IT IS WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE THAT I DESIRE TO EXTEND TO EACH OF YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND YOUR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE NEW YEAR.

COLONEL LOUIE P. TURNER  
STATION COMMANDANT



Shirley Ross, blonde Hollywood singing star, brought pre-Christmas cheer to soldiers at the Service Club last week. She is making a tour of out-of-the-way bases, of which Pyote definitely is one.

But Once A Year—

# Rattlesnake Bomber Base Hails GI Christmas 1943, With Fun, Gifts

Today—the first of winter, to be followed by Christmas Eve Friday and Christmas Day—men and women from all States in the Union plan to observe here, at Rattlesnake Bomber Base in isolated Pyote, wartime Christmas 1943.

Barracks, day rooms, offices, library, theater, rec. hall, EM Service Club, Officers Club, Chapel, and centers in nearby towns are decorated with whatever could be found. A special Christmas menu is something to look forward to, and parties and dances will entertain all who can attend.

A skeleton crew will keep things going Christmas Day, allowing the day off for as many as the continuing training program will permit.

The past Sunday religious services expressed the Christmas theme, with WO Irvin E. Zimmerman directing the Chapel Choir in the Christmas Cantata, "Gloria in Excelsis", in the absence of Chaplain Edwin W. Norton, who is confined in the hospital. Chaplain James Duvall will take over Chaplain Norton's services.

Lutheran services were held in Monahans, with Holy Communion. Christmas Carols are to be sung in the Monahans Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m. Friday.

Christmas Day masses will be at 6 and 8 a. m., with High Mass in the Rec. Hall at 4:15 p.m., Chaplain Bernard J. Gannon announced. Father Gannon also will hold midnight mass at the Monahans Catholic Church Christmas night. Confessions will be heard Wednesday, 3 to 6:30 p.m., and Friday, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

At the holiday bedecked EM Service Club, the WAC Unit is sponsoring a Christmas Eve formal dance, with carols to be sung during intermission. Watch announcements for exact time of the afternoon variety show scheduled Saturday. With sparkling trees brightening the lounge and cafeteria, club workers have been busy for a week wrapping soldiers' Christmas presents going to families and friends. The band and other musicians will provide appropriate music throughout the holidays.

At the new Monahans USO Club—decorated with a tree, large picture of the Nativity, lighted crosses, signs and holly—a Christmas night dance will



climax the program. Cookies, cake, candies, carol singing, and comparing of interesting Christmas cards will fill Christmas Eve, with transportation available for those going to midnight mass. Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m. until noon, coffee and fruit cake will be served, with music and games being the afternoon's entertainment.

The Pyote Baptist Service Center will contribute 165 boxes of good eats to Base Hospital patients. The Center has its tree, and will serve nightly refreshments Wednesday through Sunday, prepared in the new kitchen. All persons in uniform are welcome to the open house, where Christmas carols will be sung from time to time.

At the Red Cross Hospital Recreation Building, moving pictures will be shown Christmas Eve, with carol singing. A big tree with presents—provided by Camp Hospital Councils, church organizations, Eastern Star and other local groups—will be enjoyed by convalescents. The Grey Ladies are among those making candy for the patients. Open house will be 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, for all hospital personnel, to play games, sing carols, and partake of the free cigarettes, cookies and punch.

Besides the big Civilian Center program, PX office employees will have a Christmas tree gift party and grab bag, with sandwiches and coffee, from 2 to 5 p.m. Christmas in the accounting department. The new Civilian Center cafeteria opened Tuesday, and will serve a Christmas menu Saturday; the main branch cafeteria will not be open Christmas.

A dance Christmas night will provide holiday fun for officers and their wives at the club, which sports a tree and other decorations. Christmas Day will be open house. Carols will be one of the shorts at the Base Theater, where "The Rains Came", with Ty Power and Myrna Loy, will be playing.

The Medics are planning a party in their Day Room, and all the hospital wards will have trees with gifts. Barracks are decorated, and the Hospital Mess has a tree.

A recreation club's box in Pyote yielded \$10.20 in GI donations for patient presents.

The Guard Squadron jumped

## Christmas Dinner Menu

CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP			
ROAST TOM TURKEY WITH OYSTER DRESSING			
CRANBERRY SAUCE		GIBLET GRAVY	
SNOWFLAKE POTATOES		CANDIED YAMS	
CREAMED CORN		BUTTERED PEAS	
ICED CELERY		SWEET PICKLES	
PUMPKIN PIE	FRUIT CAKE	ICE CREAM	
MIXED NUTS & MIXED CANDIES			
ASSORTED FRESH FRUITS		PARKER HOUSE ROLLS	
BREAD & BUTTER			
COFFEE	MILK	SUGAR	ORANGEADE

the gun with a Christmas party in Monahans Thursday night last week, attended by the W-ACs and QM Detachment. Sgt. Peggy Nugent played Santa with the gifts, something going to everyone.

The WACs are having a tree in their day room, with names drawn for gifts. The Aviation Unit plans a party and decorations. Barracks 3 of the Service Squadron is among those with trimmed trees. The Band scheduled a party Monday night at Monahans Country Club.

Those are the high spots. The Rattler staff hardly could list all the celebrations planned, group and individual. And now, excuse us, we're going out to open a keg of—Merry Christmas!

### COLLECT AUTOGRAPHS? WANT MISS MARTIN'S

Texas beauty Mary Martin, screen and stage star, sent greetings to Rattlesnake Bomber Base personnel in connection with the special Texas issue last week, but the material did not arrive in time for the deadline.

Consequently, The Rattler has an authentic ink autograph by Miss Martin, which it will give to any collector of such things. First come, first served.

### EM WIVES TO MEET

Servicemen's Wives Club will hold their regular luncheon and meeting Thursday noon in the Service Club.



The first GI Christmas party (1942) on the then incomplete Rattlesnake Bomber Base found some 250 officers, men, and their families enjoying a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including the kind that made Milwaukee famous. These men had only been in Pyote a few hours, hardly long enough to get over the initial shock, when mess call mitigated their miseries. In photo to right, one of the professional entertainers imported for the occasion shows how easy it would be for her to undress in a Pullman upper.





Camp Stewart, Ga.—A British soldier visiting here was introduced to corn on the cob at a local mess. He studied it a minute, then gingerly picked it up.

"Hold it in both hands and eat it like you play a harmonica," an American sergeant explained.

The Briton looked puzzled.

"And what," he asked, "is a harmonica?"

Most frequent among the wishes for presents expressed to The Rattler staff was a headline hailing the end of the war with victory. That we could provide:

## Hitler And Tojo Throw In Towel, War Ends Today

Looks good, doesn't it? Let's all join in a New Year's resolution to make that headline come true, in 1944 if possible.

### TRUCKING INTO MOVIES

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Lou Harding, a pretty 19-year-old girl truck driver, crashed into one of the buildings on the Universal Pictures lot. She immediately got a screen test, signed a contract for \$75 a week said the press agents.

### YOUNG HUNTRESS

AUSTIN, TEX. (CNS)—Gov. Coke R. Stevenson took his nine-year-old granddaughter on her first hunting trip. With two rifle shots she bagged a deer and a wild turkey.

## Christmas Day Marks Anniversary Of Arrival Of Old 410th AB Sq.

Christmas Day a year ago, at 10:30 a.m., the 410th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron cadre of some 250 officers and men jolted into Pyote on the T & P, and were plopped onto a Base that would not be activated before January 5, 1943.

No transportation being available, they trudged through the caliche to the partly completed 410th area. But Christmas was not unobserved, for a full holiday dinner awaited them in the decorated mess hall, replete with entertainment by singers, dancers and speech-makers, and attended by officers, their wives and families.

They tell us it was even rougher in the early days what with hauling drinking water and no hot water for the showers. Only two or three dozen of the men who dropped on folding cots in the barracks that first night are still here.



## Squadrons Now Units; Addresses Must Be Changed

Units of the 410th Base Hq. & AB Sq. have been redesignated, and personnel should advise correspondents of the revised addresses.

Air Base Squadron A has been changed to Air Base Unit; WAC Squadron B to WAC Unit; Aviation Squadron C to Aviation Unit, Maintenance Squadron D to Maintenance Unit A, Maintenance Squadron E to Maintenance Unit B, and Training Squadron F to Training Unit.

New designations will be used on special orders and as letterheads on official correspondence. Here's the way to mark your return address on free mail:

Pvt. Joe Blow,  
Air Base Unit,  
19th Combat Crew Training  
School,  
AAB, Pyote, Texas.

### IT'S LT. COL. SAENGER NOW, SUB-DEPOTITES

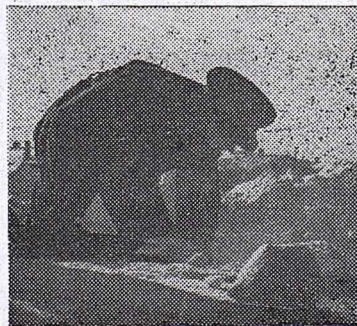
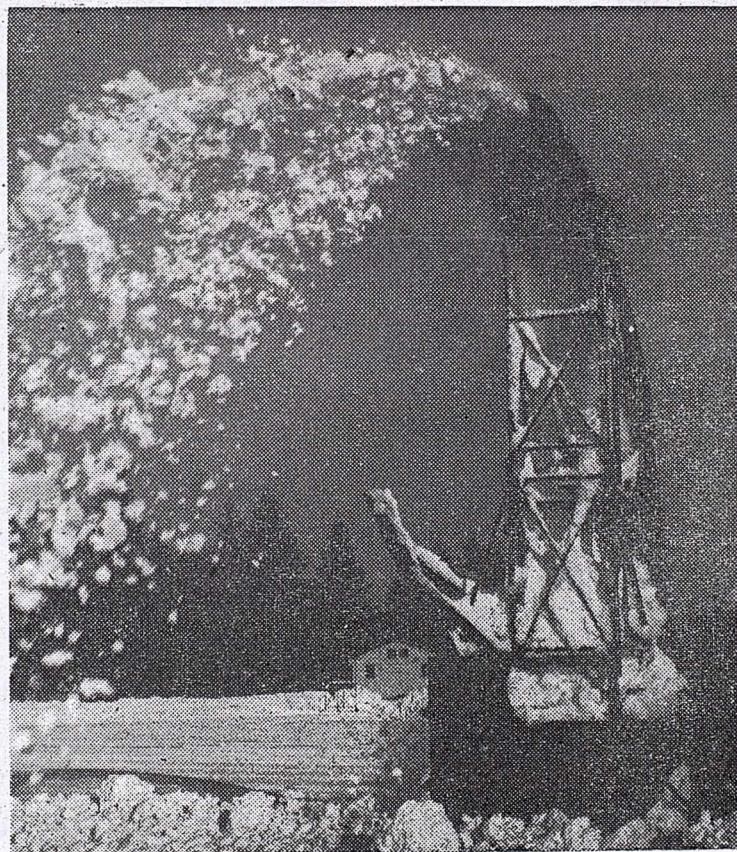
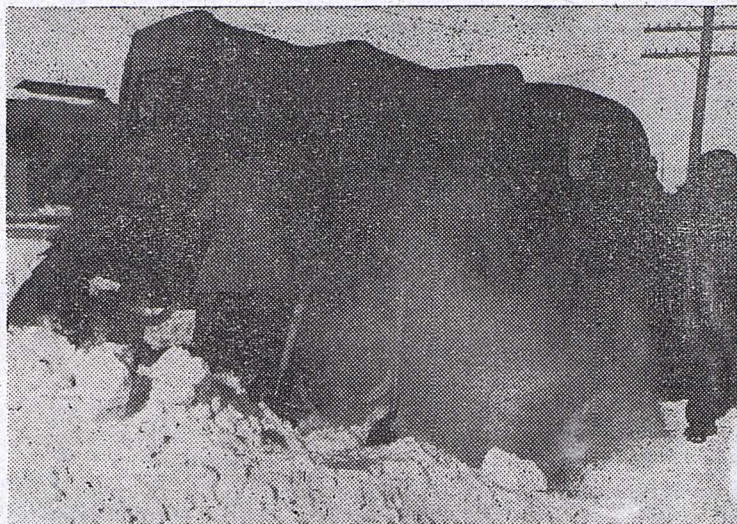
The many friends of Major Alfred O. Saenger will be happy to know that now he wears the silver leaf of a lieutenant colonel.

Former commander of the Sub-Depot here, Col. Saenger is chief of San Antonio Air Depot Supply Division. He was transferred to Kelly Field in October, 1943, and assigned as chief, control section, depot supply.

The cadre that came from Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, helped build the Base they later served in administration. They had to round up the stray cattle roaming over the unfenced air field—using trucks and jeeps for the job—before things could get underway.

So this Christmas, it's happy birthday for the 410th, now the Air Base Unit in the revised organization at Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

## Dreaming Of A White Christmas?



If you are dreaming of a white Christmas, note here some of the trials and tribulations of northern bombardment base soldiers wrestling with the powdery drifts. In top photo, a stuck truck strains some muscles, while in the center picture a rotary plow bucks banks averaging ten feet in height. Typical scene below finds member of the ground forces clearing runways and taxi aprons for crews undergoing cold weather flight training.

RATTLER'S YULETIDE GIFT OF LOVELIES

Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year



## Non-Coms Wed In Base Chapel



In center is the happy couple of last week's all GI wedding in the Base Chapel. Left to right

are best man, Groom Sgt. Robert Carlisle, Bride Cpl. Ruth Armstrong, and maid of honor.

## War Restricts Married Life & Honeymoon

In the first wedding of its type at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base, Sgt. Robert Carlisle of Base Operations and Cpl. Ruth Armstrong, formerly of Base Operations but now in Celestial Navigation, were married in the Base Chapel Friday, December 17, at 6:15 p.m.

Chaplain James T. Duvall performed the double ring ceremony while Cpl. Norman Labnon played the organ. Flower bowls decorated the altar.

It was strictly a GI wedding, with clothes designed by Quartermaster, as the Chicago WAC corporal and Flint (Mich.) sergeant were married (At least she can't "pull her rank" on him). Lt. Edith Haslam, WAC Unit CO, gave the bride away, Sgt. Opal Grandorff was bridesmaid, and Cpl. Claire Lowitz was maid of honor. Best man was Sgt. William Herrell, and Sgt. Donald Courtnag was usher.

Following the ceremony, the wedding party and guests were entertained in the WAC Day Room, where they were served one of Sgt. Roberta Eiselstein's famed decorated cakes.

A three day pass had to serve as a honeymoon, war being what it is, and the couple will continue to live separately in their respective barracks, adding further proof to Sherman's irrefragable remark.

WACs attended in strength and tossed the traditional rice at the newlyweds. Don't ask where the non-rationed rice came from, but a palmful, per WAC KP, per day, after awhile adds up.



## Unpardonable Sin! Rattler Bows Head Over 'A' For 'I'

"The Rattler" bows its battered head in shame and herewith slinks into a corner to die a miserable death. But, fear not, we will live again.

That unpardonable sin of journalism—the misspelling of a man's name—has reared its ugly head in our esteemed pages.

If this had happened but once, we would forget it and go on our merry way, bringing news, views, and comfort and joy to our readers. But sad to say, it occurred twice within the space of two weeks and there is nothing to do but beat ourselves to a bloody pulp and then ask forgiveness.

Major Sebastian J. MANGIMELLI, commanding officer of Maintenance Unit "A" whose name never appeared in the pages of "The Rattler" prior to two weeks ago is the man we've wronged.

He has served due notice to the staff that his name is not MANGAMELLI but is MANGIMELLI. Any future mistakes will be dealt with harshly, says Major M—.

So sorry, says us. It will not happen again. (we hope.)

### CUPID TRIUMPHANT

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS)—Several months ago a women's organization here proposed an enforced ban on kissing in public places. The other day the ladies dropped their fight. Here's why: First, a group of soldiers objected. Then the mayor objected. Then the Chamber of Commerce objected. Finally some of the ladies themselves objected.

## MEET YOUR BUDDIES:

# Sgt. Bayse Balks At Interview, But Hard Work Alone Makes His Story

According to a certain journalistic school, none too popular in our tabloid circles, interviews should be washed off the books. What some cheesecake queen or five and dime heiress has to say about world events is so much bunk and of no interest to anyone other than the interviewee. But, answers us, sometimes the pictures are worth all the ear bending which accompanies them.

From time to time "The Rattler" has bounced off a stonewall in attempts to bring you this weekly "Meet Your Buddies" opus, and we were seriously thinking of shelving the whole matter. Last week was nearly one of them.

The grapevine had told us of this week's hero but when we asked him to come over and sound off, he grunted and groaned, huffed and puffed, but finally said okay.

Frankly we were going to put the needle in him but after talking to him and later jawing with his boss, we've changed our mind. As Socrates didn't say "first impressions are sometimes all wet".

Tech Sergeant Harold L. Bayse is just an ordinary fellow with a little less hair than he deserves. He's quiet and unobtrusive and frankly would rather have a biscupid yanked than have us tug information out of him.

What distinguishes him from the rest of the men on the Base? Frankly, there isn't too much. Of course the fact that he's been off the Base only twice since he arrived here back in November, 1942, is something different but more than likely if we looked deep enough we'd find some poor soul who hasn't yet found the Main Gate since he arrived at this station.

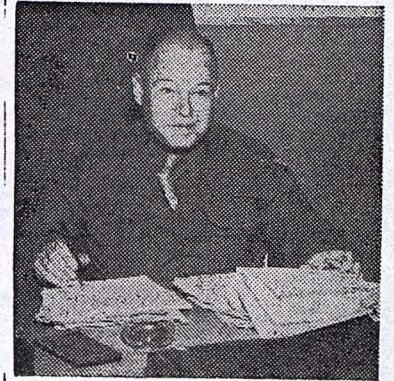
But it's true. Sgt. Bayse left the confines of the post twice since the day he first pulled in here. Last Christmas Day, he went into town to have dinner and the second and last excursion to the outer world came a short time later and had to do with getting a hair-cut. Looking at his rapidly receding hair line, you wonder why he bothered to make that second journey.

We pumped him about his pre-war career and finally wormed out the fact that San Francisco was his home town. He had managed a hospital, acted as secretary to a gold-mining engineer and did a bit of everything but not too much of anything.

All of which isn't too much on which to peg an interview so desperation urged us to contact the Base Signal Office where he has worked since his arrival.

Lt. Frank R. Cerra, Assistant Signal Officer, who stands knee-deep to a grounded grasshopper, bounced into the office in re-

## Reticent



T-SGT. HAROLD L. BAYSE

sponse to our request and told us the real story.

Sgt. Bayse doesn't say much but he is one of the hardest working men on the Base. That isn't his opinion but that of Lt. Cerra.

As the lieutenant told it, Sgt. Bayse puts his all into his work and during the early hectic days at Pyote, it wasn't unusual for him to put in sixteen to eighteen hours a day as the Base Signal Property clerk. There was a job to do and competent help wasn't available so he pitched in and worked day and night.

To quote Lt. Cerra, "He is one of the most valuable men on this Base and he makes our office look good."

Some of our happy defense workers scream high heaven when they work more than 40 hours a week but Sgt. Bayse has often put in 90 to 100 hours per week and never a squawk.

He has never turned in a report that bounced. He is very exact in all his work, sometimes to the point of exasperation, but when he turns out a job, you can bet your bottom greenback that it is a good and thorough job.

He has a secret ambition. Secret in the sense that he doesn't boast about it, but he wants to be a writer. He has worked hard at it but as yet hasn't shown any of the finished products to the world. He says they aren't good enough.

More than likely when the war is over, he'll return to San Francisco, hole-up some place and write. The day will come when he'll make his mark and then you'll say "well, I knew him when he was at Pyote."

## Civilian Employees Hold Christmas Program Tonight

### Hymns, Readings, Santa Claus Visit In 3-Part Party

Rattlesnake Bomber Base civilian employees will spread true Yuletide spirit, with a reverence appropriate on this wartime holy day, at their Civilian Community Center Christmas Program Wednesday at 8 p.m., Mrs. C. E. Wattenbarger, program chairman, announced.

The program will be divided into three parts. Part one will open with a hymn, "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful", by the attendance, and another, "Silent Night" by all the children present. Chaplain James T. Duvall will tell the Christmas Story from the Bible, and give the Invocation.

Tableaux and carols by a soldier quartette will be Shepherds, "The First Noel"; Wise Men, "We Three Kings of Orient Are"; Manger Scene, "Away in a Manger". Jean Horton and Bettiann Hicks will sing a duet, "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and Chaplain Edwin W. Norton will offer "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day".

Part two of the program will be readings, including "Contagious", Murry Ennis Page; "Baby's First Christmas", Shirley Kestler; "Christmas Plan", Jimmy Horton; "My Budget", Eddie Ragsdale; "Jest 'Fore Christmas", Sidney Ragsdale; "Drawing the Line", Doris McKenzie; "A Christmas Argument", Myrtle Thelma Weaver and Billy Nicks; "An Explanation", Lila Lee McKenzie; "Ways and Means", Bettiann Hicks; "Why We Have Christmas Trees, Holly and Mistletoe", Joy Harper; "The Aftermath", Donny Vigee; " 'Bout a Million", Carolyn Sargent. This part will close with a song, "Jingle Bells", by the children.

In the final part, Santa Claus will distribute boxes of candy, fruit and nuts to all children present, and his visit is being arranged by the Civilian Sunday School, which meets at the Civilian Center Auditorium each Sunday for both adults and children.

## Grab Bag Party On Christmas Eve Planned At Center

A grab bag of presents will be the highlight of the Christmas Eve party to be held Friday at 8 p.m. at the Civilian Community Center.

SOMEHOW, LACE DOESN'T FEEL SO ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS EVE!



A NEAT PACKAGE FOR ALL YOU G. I. GENERALS — from MALE CALL, CAMP NEWSPAPER SERVICE and

MILTON CANIFF

Copyright 1943 by Milton Caniff, distributed by Camp Newspaper Service

There will be music and plenty of free candy, fruits, nuts and other refreshments. Bring all the children.

Admission will be a gift, not to cost more than 25 cents, for the grab bag. The gifts may be brought to the Center any time before the party.

## SUB-DEPOT WORKERS HAVE HOLIDAY DINNER

Sub-Depot employees will throw another of their famed cooperative dinner parties Wednesday at noon in the Hangar, in observance of the Christmas holidays.

As for the Thanksgiving Dinner in the Sheet Metal Shop, employees who plan to attend will chip

in with the food and other necessities to make the party meal a big success.

CHALLIS, IDA. (CNS)—William Woods is rounding up antelope by airplane. He buzzes the animals to scare them into a corral from where they will be trucked to better range.

# WAR ROOMS EDUCATE FIGHTERS

## Today's American Soldier No Dope, But Knows The Score Against Foe

### 'Learn To Kill Or Be Killed' Is His Creed; All Else Will Have To Wait

Some how, some way a story is circulating the country that the average American soldier of today is a dunderhead, not worth talking to for he has nothing in his head except a desire to get home and a mental image of his favorite pin-up girl. For the time being we shall let that rest easy but plan to deal with it more effectively in the future. However, it can be safely said that today's American soldier compared to his Allies or his foe can stand up on his own two feet and not take a back seat to any one of them.

When it comes to training and equipment, the American fighting man ranks right at the top. When it comes to the pay table, it might be added, the American soldier is again in the front ranks.

And to further the argument, we add without fear of contradiction that America's fighting men of today are among the world's best informed and educated.

When General Davenport Johnson was head commanding general of the Second Air Force, his motto was "Learn to Kill Or Be Killed".

That advice has been taken seriously and forms the very heart of the training program. What a man learns here at a Base such as this is what will make him a more effective fighting man in the combat theater. If a man knows his weapons, knows his planes and knows his enemy, his chances of survival are upped one hundred percent.

That is the purpose of the training program—to give the American soldier the knowledge which will help him come out on top.

To know the enemy, his ways and wiles and to know the tides of world-wide battles is as much a part of the education of the American soldier as is the knowledge of how to field-strip a .50 calibre machine gun.

It is true that in the early days of our participation in the war, a training program was devised with all the emphasis on turning out fighting men who were well-equipped and well-trained. The training program didn't go much beyond that.

Today another feature has

Cpl. Jacob Warner, S-2 Clerk, Section 2, points out scene of latest RAF bombardment—devastated Berlin, capital of Nazidom—to group of interested on-lookers. This is Section 2 War Room.

added and that is to see that the United States fighter is also well-informed on his enemy, his tactics and his thoughts. One way of passing this information on to the trainees is through use of "war-rooms".

Housed in "lean-tos" behind the hangars, this Base has three of the best "war rooms" in existence. Walls are plastered from ceiling to floor with huge maps, covering the various fighting fronts. Plastic models of all type aircraft swing from the ceiling. Models of naval fighting craft also are available.

To know the enemy gives the soldier a chance to get in the first punch. It's an old saw but still true—"he who hesitates, doesn't get a second chance".

Information gathered from battle-fronts girding the globe is at arm's reach in these war rooms.

Capt. Edward W. Stone, S-2, Section 1, gives a short demonstration of aircraft identification. Taking it in, left to right, are S-Sgt. Joseph J. Tomezyk, Sgt. Charles W. Custer (direct descendent of Gen. Custer of last stand fame), Pvt. Charles Demoponlos, and Sgt. Hueling Davis.

And it isn't a haphazard collection either. Great care has been exercised in the selection of material.

Combat intelligence is the font of most of the information and through its work, the embryonic fighter has access to information which someday may prove the difference between life and death.

The war room works to provide an exact and graphic daily picture of the war. Through media of maps, diagrams, and the latest news bulletins, a rounded picture of the world-wide change from day to day is presented.

Carefully compiled information

Sgt. Hueling Davis, S-2 Clerk in Section 1, sketches in new battle lines on map of Italy. Part of the work in the War Rooms is to keep men informed as to what's going on in all theaters of the global conflict.

regarding the enemy's weapons, tactics, and psychology is provided. From prisoners of war and from pilots who have fought the enemy, information is gathered, sifted and made available.

Many of the maps on the walls of the various war rooms here would bring gleams of joy to the National Geographic Society. These maps have been made from photographs, blown up and are



**EDITORIAL:**

**Peace On Earth . . .**

This Christmas will not be like others. Emergency jobs won't wait; a few hours celebration, if any, will have to suffice. The Japs and Nazis won't take off more time for the Holy Day; that is certain, and neither can we.

That Happy Myth, Santa Claus, will miss a lot of us. GI 3.2 is a poor substitute for Tom and Jerry, and Pyote's desert will have no dazzling Yuletide snow banks.

Thinking of "Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Men" while warming up a battlegon of destruction like a Flying Fortress undestandably may seem bitterly ironic. Family and friends are far away now, and they too will be spending a rationed Christmas.

As best we can, with what we have and the time we can spare, however, we are celebrating Christmas this year—with traditions that now we are devoting our lives to preserve.

There will be decorated trees, gifts, several dances, religious services, carol singing, a Christmas dinner at the mess halls and similar evidence that God's gift of his own son to mankind is not forgotten in the midst of war's hatred and horror.

More than anything else thoughts of Christmas holidays gone by will be in our minds, and with them the determination that neither hell nor Hitler will block our effort to restore the peace and security and prosperity to fill each future Christmas with happiness.

It is well that approval is had to celebrate this Christmas among the armed forces, however pale the holiday may be against peacetime observances, however hurried the merrymaking must be. We need the reminder of what we are fighting to keep, and to gain.

Christmas 1943 carries the message that victory in this greatest of all wars must bring more than a return to the world as it was, it must bring the greatest of all peaceful eras. "Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Men" is a hope that present sacrifice can grant, if our resolve shall continue beyond the actual fighting.

Never before in the Christian era have such powerful forces united to put down evil. With understanding, tolerance, cooperation, these mighty United Nations have the means to fulfill the aging dream of man for a rational, humanitarian, workable world order, where the worth of each individual may be recognized and opportunity unrestricted by tyranny or economic barriers.

Sorrow may haunt many holly-decked firesides this Christmas, and the New Year bring only more strife and strain with each hard-bought victory in the field, but a freeman's spirit remains in the unchangeable greeting:

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR."**

**THE RATTLER**

Published Each Wednesday at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base  
NINETEENTH COMBAT CREW TRAINING SCHOOL  
Pyote, Texas

**COLONEL LOUIE P. TURNER**  
Station Commandant

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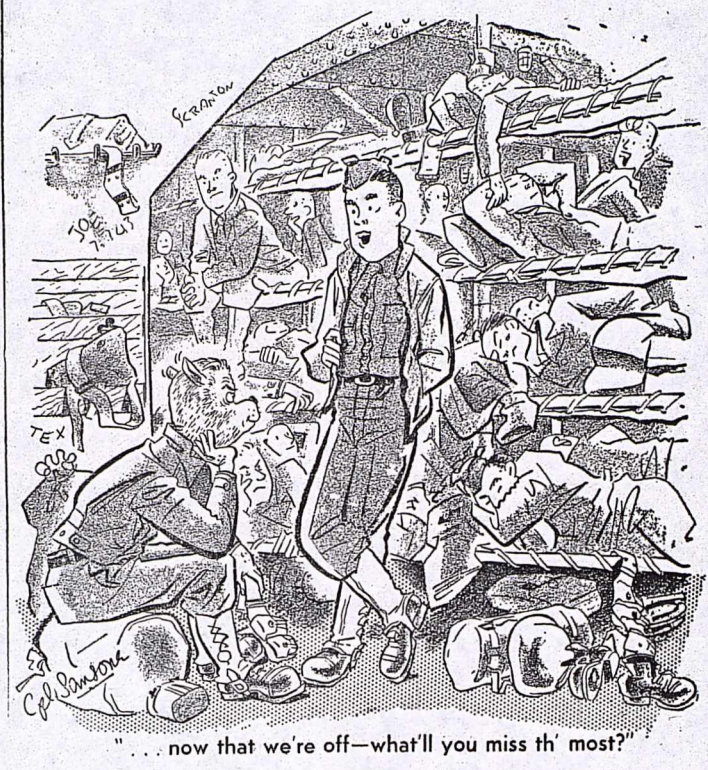
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The Rattler receives Camp Newspaper Service material.

**The Wolf**

by Sansone

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**THOUGHTS OF OTHERS**

**Begged, Borrowed Or Stolen**

The possible thoughts of a soldier from Centreville U. S. A. now with X Company of Engineers in Palestine, December 24, 1943:

"Gee' it's Christmas Eve back home. I wonder if it snowed. They'll be having a tree, Mom and Pop and Sis and young Jimmy. Maybe after supper Mary'll come over for a while and help Mom wrap presents. I guess they're thinking of me as I am of them . . .

"Wouldn't they be surprised if they knew where I am tonight—right where it all started. Funny, when you're back home you don't think about it much—Christmas Eve, the night Christ was born. It happened right here, maybe not far from where I'm standing. I'd like to be back home with them, but maybe I'm lucky to be here where everything began. It makes you think—all kinds of things you never thought before . . .

"This is the night when Christ was born . . . He lived right here. Men saw Him and heard Him talk. Maybe He once stood where I stand . . .

"I used to think they made up those pictures of Bethlehem I used to see around Christmas, but they looked just like it looks here now, just the same kind of old plow. Christ could have walked under the same moon . . .

"He was a good guy. He wanted everybody to be on the square and

give his neighbor a decent break. I guess maybe that's really what we're fighting for, why I'm here. This is where it started. Maybe He walked right in these hills one night, thinking those kind of thoughts. What a long way it is from Centreville to here, and yet back home we've forgotten those thoughts He had and the words He spoke. That's what they taught us to live by, and I guess if you learn to live by something you'll fight and, if you have to, die for it. too . . .

"He had enemies in those days too, all the guys who weren't on the level, but full of pride and power. Funny, how it's the same guys who are His enemies today. You got to be on one side or the other. The guys we're fighting are against everything He stood for. All He wanted of folks was to be decent and act decent towards one another; for the strong to look after the weak, not to rob, or cheat, or get puffed up with money or power . . .

"The guys we're fighting say He was all wrong, that the strong were meant to steal from the weak and persecute and torture them, and that's what they're going to do. I guess that just about puts us in His army and on His side . . .

**PAUL GALLICO,**  
Esquire Article



# IN DEADLY ART

made exactly to scale. There is nothing slipshod about the work.

From all the above it might seem that daily attendance at a war room is a "must" on the program of a trainee. But that's not so. A war room is a so-called second dayroom. It's a place to hang your hat and wait. But instead of picking up the latest edition of Movie-Star magazine, the reader will find confidential reports from world-wide battle fronts.

War Department publications abound but the highly technical is spiced with weekly news magazines which are among the best sources for following the progress of a battle, from week to week.

There are some people who might think that these war rooms are just a waste of time and money but take it from the men who understand their purpose, they're not. If, by the knowledge gained in one of these rooms, a man's life is saved, then all the work and trouble put into them can't be measured in terms of time or money.

Some of our war correspondents may decry the lack of in-

terest the American soldier shows in the post-war world but they might also remember that the American soldier is out to do a job first and that is "kill or be killed". When you have something like that on your mind, it's better to leave post-war planning to our sofa strategists who can mix highballs and toss away human life with equal aplomb.

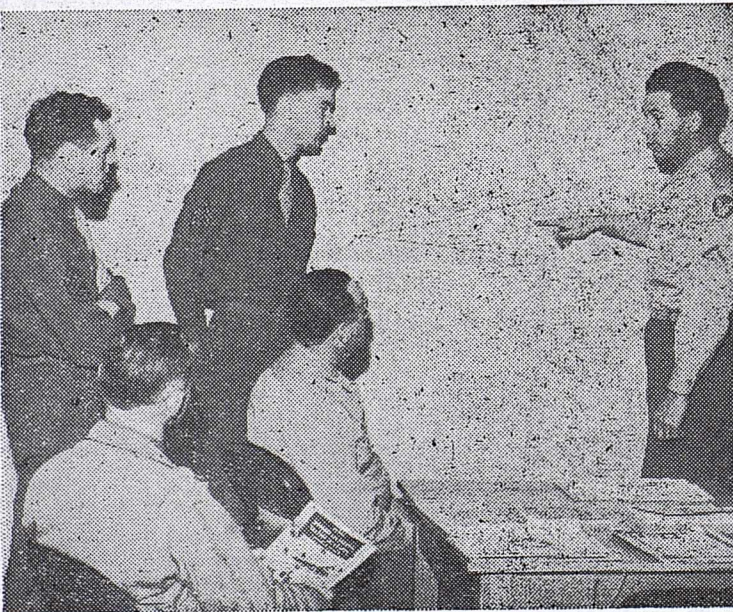
## OFFICER RELEASES BOMBS BY HAND IN FREEZING COLD

ENGLAND (CNS)—When the bomb release mechanism on a Flying Fortress froze, Lt. William F. Piekarski, 20, of Lowell, Mass. left his precision bombsight in order to pry out the bombs with a screw driver from the bomb bay where the temperature was about 50 degrees below zero.

To release the bombs Lt. Piekarski had to lean across the open bomb bay doors while holding on with one hand. He sighted his target with his naked eye. An icy gale lashed across his face and he was groggy from lack of oxygen but another crew member tossed him an oxygen "bubble" just in time to keep him from collapsing.

PFC Harry H. Rhonemus, S-2 clerk in Section 3, points to Arawe on New Britain, scene of Sixth Army invasion. PFC Rhonemus made this map, correctly scaled from photographs, in twelve days.

PFC Marion D. Dalbey, S-2 Clerk in Section 3, traces the progress of the Allied drive in Italy on the maps by lines of colored pins.



# Emergency Measures Put In Force To Combat Respiratory Diseases

Although the physical training schedule will be maintained, the program will be relaxed somewhat temporarily because of the prevalence of respiratory diseases, which are aggravated by undue fatigue, P. T. officials announced last week.

Last week measures for control and prevention of respiratory diseases were put into effect generally on the Base, in the effort to combat influenza, pneumonia and the like—which could reach proportions seriously hampering the training program.

Sanitary measures were ordered intensified, and unit commanders were directed to inform all personnel of proper personal hygiene related to respiratory infection. Among the individual precautions:

1. Avoid crowded areas.
2. Use handkerchief when coughing or sneezing.
3. Report promptly to sick call at first symptoms of respiratory diseases.
4. Watch cleanliness, temperance, adequate rest and wholesome food to maintain resistance.
5. Avoid activities causing undue fatigue or exhaustion.
6. Avoid exposure to damp and cold.

Proper ventilation, heating, humidification, and bed-spacing were stressed as preventative measures in barracks. Bedding is to be aired twice weekly, and barracks kept scrupulously clean. Messes were directed to maintain highest possible level of sanitation, particularly in sterilization. Extra number of charge of quarters were placed on duty, with instructions for measures to keep down infection.

The memorandum termed the measures of an emergency nature, and it is extremely important for personnel to exert all possible care to avoid infection at this time.

## LIKELY PROSPECT WHACKS MALE WAC RECRUITER

DENVER, COL. (CNS)—F-Sgt. Robert E. Payne walked up to a pretty girl on a street corner here, tipped his hat and said, "Pardon me, miss." That's as far as he got. The girl turned around and whacked him. She didn't know he was a member of the Air WAC recruiting team here.

subjects. Textbooks may be furnished to groups within a single unit who cooperate in their studies:

A soldier may start taking a course from the Institute by sending a \$2 enrollment fee to the U. S. Armed Forces Institute in Madison, Wis. There are no additional fees or textbook charges and the student may take as many courses as he desires.

Complete details for enrollment may be obtained from Special Service officers, education officers and librarians at all posts, camps and stations.

# Overseas Soldiers Culture Conscious, Gen. Osborn Says

## 70,000 In Service Take Armed Forces Institute Courses

(CNS)—Soldiers overseas are becoming culture conscious according to the findings of a survey recently made public by Maj. Gen. Frederick H. Osborn, Director of the Morale Services Division.

The report shows that American soldiers stationed abroad want some means of continuing their education in their leisure time. Interest was expressed in such subjects as engineering, economics, the liberal arts and the sciences. Men wanted to know how they could "bone-up" on these studies.

Apparently the school-hungry soldiers were unacquainted with the Armed Forces Institute which provides courses in all these subjects—and many more besides.

The Armed Forces Institute is an organization set up within the Army to help the soldier who is ambitious to help himself. Through it enlisted men and women are encouraged to advance themselves within the Army and as a preparation for a return to civilian life after the war.

Right now nearly 70,000 men and women in service throughout the world are utilizing a few hours of their off-duty time each week for study through the Institute. Some of them are working on promotions in the Army. Others are working for high school diplomas or college degrees. Still others are planning to take over a good job after the war.

All use the same medium—correspondence courses issued through the Institute by high schools, technical schools and leading universities in America.

Right now there are more than 300 high school and technical subjects which the student may take by correspondence direct from the Institute. In addition 82 colleges and universities are offering extension courses in 343

# THE CHAPLAIN SAYS -



The fever of Christmas is in the air. The great feast day of the Christ Child is upon us before we can realize it, and we are caught without a present for Aunt Matilda, and the stores are empty, and anyway, who can get to a store?

Yes, the fever is in the air—but is that all Christmas means to us, just a season of excitement? Just a time to send out greeting cards and a few presents, and have a good meal and a Christmas party at the club?

To an observant person there are many indications that Christmas means no more than this to some of us. Just to take a random example: In our PX there is a certain array of greeting cards—oh, you've seen them? Yes, I do mean the ones with the elaborately unclothed Varga girls, or Petty girls, or whatever they call them. We will say nothing about the person responsible for displaying them, whoever he may be. But what of the man who buys them to use as Christmas cards? To use this fake, pornographic pandering of a Petty or Varga or Hollywood pinup to extend a greeting on the Birthday of Christ betrays a saddening ignorance of the meaning of Christmas.

The only way to bring Christmas into its own is for you and me to make it mean in our own lives what it meant in Bethlehem one thousand, nine hundred, and forty-three years ago. That first Christmas was the fulfillment of a divine contract. Almighty God promised the human race a Redeemer: One Who would win back the friendship of God, lost through the rebellion of the first man and woman. That promise God had renewed to Noah, to Abraham and the Patriarchs. He kept it alive in the minds of His chosen People, the Hebrews, through the teachings of His Prophets.

Now, in the fulness of time, God fulfilled His contract. In a wondrous way, incomprehensible to our weak intellects, He fulfilled it.

A babe was born, in Bethlehem of Judia, to a Virgin called Mary, espoused to a man named Joseph, of the family of David.

That babe was the Son of the Most High God, come into the world in human flesh, to make atonement to the majestic justice of God for the sins of mankind. His birth was proof of the unlimited love of God for man.

## PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sunday—0900, Aviation Unit Service; 0900, Chapel Service; 1030, Chapel Service; 1930, Chapel Service.  
Wednesday—1930, Service Men's Christian League.  
Thursday—1900, Chapel Chorus Rehearsal.

## CATHOLIC SERVICES

Sunday Masses—0600; 0800; and 1615.  
Confessions—Saturday, 1500 to 1730; 1900 to 2100; Sunday, before the Masses.  
Weekday Masses—1830, daily except Thursday.  
Communion—1700 daily.  
Hospital Mass—Thursday at 1430, in Red Cross auditorium.  
Evening Devotions — Tuesday, 1930, Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help; Friday, 2100, Novena to the Sacred Heart.  
Study Club—Monday, 1930.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Thursday—2000, Base Chapel Services, Mrs. Mabel New Homes.

## JEWISH SERVICES

Friday—1900, Base Chapel.

# G. I. Q.

### By Camp Newspaper Service

1. The rank of captain in the Navy has been given to Mildred H. McAfee, director of the WAVES (Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service). Her new rank corresponds to the Army grade of—

A—Lt. Colonel B—Colonel

2. Mormagao, the port on the west coast of the peninsula forming the lower part of India at which a recent exchange of prisoners between Japan and the United States took place, is controlled by—

A—Britain B—Portugal

3. A new 10,000-ton aircraft carrier built for the U. S. Navy at shipyards in Camden, N. J. and recently commissioned, is named the—

A—Bataan B—Guadalcanal

Answers: 1-B; 2-B; 3-A.

NEW CITY, N. Y. (CNS)—Three men were arrested here for hunting with bows, arrows and klieg lights.

Christmas is not Christmas unless it carries with it the acknowledgement in our hearts of the sovereignty of the Babe of Bethlehem. And the only acknowledgement worthy of the name consists in living our lives in keeping with the teachings this Babe was born to give and died to uphold.

—Chaplain Bernard J. Gannon

## Monahans USO

BY EDWARD A. PALANGE  
Director

Wednesday—Beginning of winter. Make popcorn balls at 7:30 p.m. Movie at 8:30, "Having A Wonderful Time". 12:30 noon, Servicemen's Wives Club.  
Thursday—9 p.m., Christmas quiz in Recreation Room.  
Friday—Christmas Eve. Compare your most interesting Christmas Cards. Carol singing, cakes, cookies, candies. Transportation to Christmas Mass.  
Saturday—Coffee and fruitcake, 10:30-12 noon, Games and musical program during day. 8:00 till 12 p.m., formal dance, Base Dance Band.  
Sunday—Coffee and donuts, Sunday papers. 3 to 4 p.m., discussion group in quiet room. 8 p.m., recreation room, checker tournament.  
Monday—8:30 p.m., musical bingo.  
Tuesday—Informal dancing, juke box, 8 'till 11 p.m. 8 to 9 p.m., American Legion meeting in quiet room. 9 p.m., discussion group.

## Sunday School Open To Adults, Children

The Civilian Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. at the Civilian Center Auditorium, and both adults and children are welcome.

Chaplains Edwin W. Norton and James T. Duvall conduct morning



Q. How long must a man serve in the Navy before he can wear the good conduct medal

A. The good conduct medal in the Navy is awarded to men who have completed at least three years of their six-year enlistment, providing that they have maintained a high rate of proficiency. In the Army the good conduct medal is awarded to deserving soldiers after a year's service.

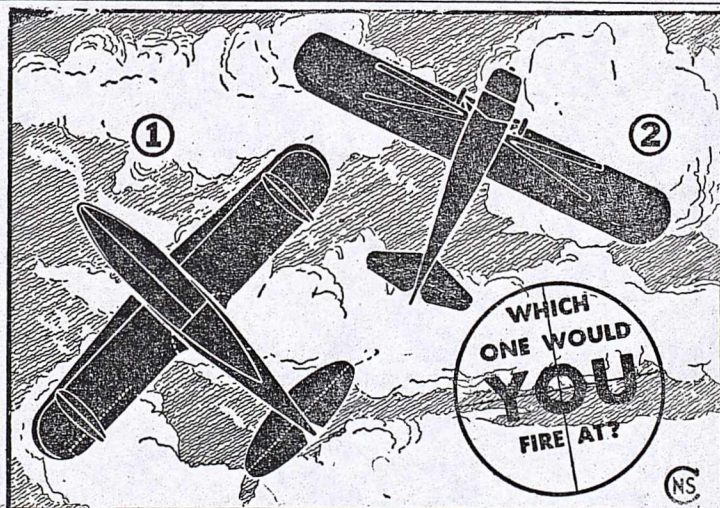
Q. My kid brother is not quite 18 years of age. He graduates from high school next June. When does he have to register with his draft board and when can he enlist.

A. He will be eligible for enlistment on the same date he must register with his draft board—his 18th birthday.

Q. I received a Certified Disability Discharge from the Army and since have lost my discharge papers. Where can I get proof of my service?

A. Write to the War Department in Washington and be sure to enclose your dates of service, rank, the unit in which you served and your former serial number.

services at 11:30 a.m. Special music often is furnished by the chaplains or other talented Base personnel.



FIRE AT NO. 1! It's the Japanese Navy seaplane Kawanishi 95, which operates from warships. This biplane has wings of unequal span. The top wing is swept back on the leading edge and the lower wing is rectangular. It has a large single float directly under the fuselage and two small wing floats. The elliptical tailplane has a single fin and rudder. Get 'm—quick!

NOT AT NO. 2! It's the Taylorcraft L-2B, a high-wing single-engine plane, used by the U. S. Army as a liaison ship. The wings, rectangular with rounded tips, are braced with V struts to the bottom of the cigar shaped fuselage. Its landing gear is fixed. Both edges of the tailplane taper to rounded tips and it has a single fin and rudder. It's a tame grass-hopper.

Courtesy Dodd, Mead & Co., Aircraft Spotter by Lester Ott.

# Gypsy 93rd

## MAINTENANCE UNIT B

By CPL. IRVING J. PACKER

### A MESSAGE TO MEDICS—

Last week yours truly went on sick call at the Base Hospital and after being administered a little first aid was sent back to the Orderly Room for duty. When the sick book was returned in the evening the following notation made alongside my name was "Disposition—Hospital." I will admit that it was quite a feat on my part to be in the hospital and the Orderly Room at the same time.

This little incident reminds me of the following anecdote: John Sot attended a party and it seemed that he not only drank too much but mixed his 3.2's—Budweiser and Schlitz. On his way home he zigzagged his way into a cemetery and in the quiet of the night he found a resting place among the tombstones. When he awoke the following morning he still had a slight hangover. He took out a cigarette and after much fumbling lit it. He then said to himself, "If I am still alive what am I doing here, and if I am dead how is it possible for me to smoke a cigarette?"

### A REPORTER'S NOTE

**ABOUT PYOTE**—In last week's issue of The Rattler there appeared many pictures of the beautiful parts of Texas. Among those pictures did anybody see the fair town of Pyote? Perhaps it was hidden behind El Capitan, the highest mountain in Texas. Of course when all the nice places are shown about Texas and some of the places that are not so nice are omitted it is not truly representative of the State.

Another gripe that I have is with the following statement of the Editor's Note, "A Brooklynite may never like Texas, but he should understand why Texans do; a Texan may never like Brooklyn but he should understand why Brooklynites do." Since I have been a native of Brooklyn for many years I believe I am qualified to speak on behalf of my fellow Brooklynites about their fair Borough. In the first place, never has a Texan nor a reasonable facsimile ever visited Brooklyn. How can anyone expect a Texan to have an opinion about something that he has never seen? Any opinion that he may form is nothing but hearsay and perhaps from slanderous remarks made by some natives of the Borough of Bronx, who have had a long standing feud with the natives of Brooklyn. I may be getting off my topic when I say that this feud was started over a silly game known as baseball when the Yanks played the Dodgers in the World Series several years ago. The less said about

# MALE CALL

BY

MILTON

CANIFF



WHAT'S THIS G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4 STUFF I'M ALWAYS HEARING ABOUT IN THE ARMY?

WELL, MISS LACE, EVERY COMMAND HAS FOUR FUNCTIONS—IT'S LIKE THIS...



...TO IMPOSE YOUR WILL ON PEOPLE, YOU GOTTA HAVE SOLDIERS LIKE ME, SEE! —THAT'S G-1, THE PERSONNEL SECTION—AND YOU ARE THE OBJECTIVE I WANT TO ATTAIN!



G-2 IS MILITARY INTELLIGENCE—I GIVE YOU THE O.O., SEE? THAT YOU'RE NOT CONVOYED, SIZE UP THE POSSIBILITIES, ESTIMATE MY CHANCES—AND MAP MY CAMPAIGN...



G-3 IS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING—I THROW MY TACTICAL FORCE INTO ACTION... I SAY, 'HIYA, BABE, WANTA SMOLDER ON A SOLDIER'S SHOULDER?'



...AND G-4 IS SUPPLY AND EVACUATION... I GET IT! WHEN YOU FIND OUT HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO SUPPLY ME—THEN YOU EVACUATE!

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it the better—eh, Brooklynites. Now among many Texans there is the popular but mistaken belief that all Brooklynites say boids, goils, etc. Now assuming that to be a fact—is a canary in Brooklyn any different than a canary in Texas even though a Brooklynite may call it a boid and a Texan may call it a bird? There is no doubt that Miss Tarpon shown in last week's Rattler is pretty, but it wouldn't surprise yours truly that she was born in Brooklyn. Whether you call her goil or girl, this fair lassie would still have a nice chassis irrespective of her place of abode.

Now let me give you a little history and background of Brooklyn. Manhattan is adjacent to Brooklyn and was purchased from the Indians for \$24 in the Seventeenth Century. At that time several thousand natives of Brooklyn pooled their resources and outdid the Manhattanites by purchasing Brooklyn for \$28.50 and a couple of Woolworth trinkets. So you can see that it was not necessary for Brooklynites to fight the Indians since they have always believed in fair play. As I recall it, the only fights with Indians took place at Ebbets

Field and Cleveland Stadium in the autumn of 1920.

At one time the industrial and residential centers of Brooklyn were centered around the Gowanus Canal. The bed of this canal was noted for its copper since it has been said that many a scent, bad or otherwise, permeated the air. The effects of this sweet aroma were astounding and as a result natives were lulled to sleep—some temporarily, others permanently. That is one of the reasons why Brooklyn is now known as a city of cemeteries. Now since I have used practically all the space allotted to me I give you the following summary of Brooklyn. It derived its fair name from \_\_\_\_\_; has a population of \_\_\_\_\_; is \_\_\_\_\_ square miles; and has put New York on the map. Now fair Texans, aren't you a bit enlightened about my fair city?

My humblest apologies to S-Sgt. Allen B. Ridgeway, whose name wasn't mentioned last week as one who contemplates visiting the justice of Peace shortly. It would not have been necessary for me to apologize to you, Ridgeway, if you hadn't kept your wedding plans a secret. Good luck to you and the bride!

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all.

## OCS Standards Getting Tougher

Getting into Air Forces OCS will be tougher than ever, according to word from Washington that the War Department has ordered more care in selection of candidates.

Candidates arriving at Miami Beach have had many among their numbers deficient in physical condition, basic training, and "far short of measuring up to intelligent selection standards".

From now on selected applicants must have completed basic. Those not meeting OCS qualifications will be returned immediately to their former stations.

The same order directs candidates not to drive to Miami Beach. Candidates are forbidden to permit their wives to accompany them.

### PRETTY PENNY

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—The mint here has started to ration pennies. Faced with a shortage of the copper coins, they are being rationed to Federal Reserve member banks.

## What Isn't GI Now?



Sgt. Edwin Werthamer of the Base Band tries out the newest QM GI item, an OD midget-sized piano. Now if QM would

stock a blonde thrush to go with it, service would be all that could be asked.

## MEDICAL DETACHMENT

By T-SGT. LAWRENCE SHIPP

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Devotion to deadline on part of our organization correspondents is desperately appreciated. T-Sgt. Shipp is one of the most faithful, not to mention interesting. This column he wrote while flat on his back in Ward 4 of the Base Hospital, getting some of his own medicine. He is better now, and has our best wishes for a speedy complete recovery.)

The greatest of Christian holidays is rapidly approaching. Evidence of it is seen everywhere. Writing of cards, wrapping of gifts and "sweating" out long lines at the Base Post Office are typical scenes. One of the first Christmas trees appeared in the Hospital Administration Building, which added to the Yuletide spirit.

The Medics' trips to Juarez have become more and more frequent and purchases there have definitely been of "varied natures". PFC Negoshian came back with enough trinkets to open his own concession. PFC Fisk returns with enough rugs to cover the floors of Base Chapel, but the pay-off was when Cpl. Nissen buys a "Juarez Mongrel" and has the great misfortune of losing him in El Paso. And no "luxury tax" either; how

unfortunate. Cpl. McTigue had to be different so he brought back a "case of Nasopharyngitis". Poor Mac, it's Ward 4 for him now.

Could it be that Lt. Lerner and Lt. Christ are taking the book, "You Too can Become a Strong Man" serious? Bright and early the other morning, for one solid hour, they were vigorously undergoing varied calisthenics. See what a little "ambition" can do for one! Take warning fellows, you too can become an "Atlas".

Have you noticed how color-minded "Scipio" Biondi is of late? Since he's become an official "radio announcer" over PYO Station all you can hear is "red and green, do this; purple do that, but green and yellow do something else". That's OK, Scipio, Plans and Training must go on.

PFC Tony Frain is again happy. It's something like "The Harvester". He's never seen her but from all indications she's terrific. A "Harvard girl" personality and a real Bostonian—now Tony, isn't that worth fighting for?

Cpl. "Papa" Solick is now thoroughly convinced that "seeing is believing": "Papa" is now a detective. As the "mysterious reporter" tells us, Joe jumped two feet and his dark eyes popped one inch. Result: Joe "got his man".

A charity drive for the "Medic Washouts" will be conducted next Saturday. Give freely, fellows, can they help it if they are no longer in the Medics? If there are any questions to be asked in regard to the "Medic Washouts" ask T-Sgt. Echols or S-Sgt. Blum-

## WAC Flak

A certain WAC attended a spaghetti party last Sunday night and stumbled over a little gossip that might interest you. There is a little romance going on at the photo lab that not many know about. Adele and Hank announced their engagement, but, ah me, the ring that Hank pasted n Adele's finger was washed right off. Now, Hank, is that any way to treat a sweet little WAC like Adele Berlowitz?

But listen to this, another WAC while in the hospital recovering from the 'flu', was visited by a soldier who works in the same office with her and his sympathetic reactions developed into love and the 'flu', so he was also sent to the hospital, but much to his sorrow he entered the hospital the same day she was discharged. Ah, cruel, cruel, fate.

Sgt. Mary Welch from Ft. Dodge, Iowa, works in the Classification Office and as she had some extra work, came back in the evening to finish. Mary was much surprised to meet a Sgt. from her own home town. They had a nice chat, as they were old acquaintances living only four blocks from each other. Now Mary has gone home on furlough and will be able to deliver all those messages to Sgt. Wretman's relatives. It really is a small world.

The WACs who attended the formal Christmas party in Monahan given by the Guard Squadron had a lovely time and agree

enthal. These two "characters" will be happy to clarify the above "project".

What Cpl. from Barracks No. 2 unwrapped a Christmas package, fumbled over a so-called "scrapbook" and suddenly discovered someone had sent him a Des Moines Telephone Directory by mistake. Couldn't be a hint, could it chum?

Sgt. Bruske and Sgt. Bowser are still inseparable. From recent reports they were "guests of the Base" and at the same time too. Ah! What bosom buddies they are.

Cpl. Gregory Dwyer will no longer inhabit the WAC day room. How sad! There's a mighty good reason too. And it's simply this: The Little Lady from Syracuse, N. Y. is on her way to Pyote. A one-way ticket, too! If all the threats of the WAC were to become a reality, a round-trip ticket would have been the only conclusion. Right, Greg?

As 1943 gradually draws to a close, as victory becomes more certain, and as true and sincere friendship amongst the best group of Medics in Texas becomes more firm, let us truly make this the Merriest Christmas and Happiest New Year ever.

## New Officer



LT. ELIZABETH FULLER

it was the best party they had enjoyed for quite a while. Sgt. Peggy Nugent was acting Santa Claus and had the pleasure of distributing gifts to all.

Sgts. Nugent and Vraney will be home for Christmas making the biggest wish of all come true for them. They may not just be dreaming of a White Christmas either, as snow is not unusual in New Jersey and Pa.

Lt. Elizabeth Fuller is our new officer and we hope she likes us. She is from New York and has been stationed in Casper, Wyoming, but more recently attended Post Exchange School in Princeton, N. J. Pyote does seem a little dreary after the bright lights of New York but there are plenty of New Yorkers here Ma'am who are only too happy to reminisce with you. Maybe now Lt. Haslam will be able to recapture the thrill of a three day pass. El Paso is nice and Jaurez is just over the bridge. Yo hablo Espanol. Si, si.

Well, all right! We're in the Army, it's Christmas and we're going to enjoy it right here in Pyote. Those three day passes to El Paso and Jaurez were not pleasure trips but honest-to-goodness shopping tours, and we've been counting the days just like we always did. Every evening and lunch hour is spent in wrapping gifts or addressing Christmas cards. We even decorated the barracks but we've been unable to find the mistletoe we need for the occasion (not that it would do us any good). There's a Christmas tree waiting to be decorated in the Day room and names have been drawn so each one of the Company will receive a package, something to remember a Christmas spent in dear old Pyote. Does Sgt. Vincent really think "Jingle Bells" is a Christmas carol? That's the one she always starts singing.

Merry Christmas to all.

Bledsoe Saidso

## Diedrichs' Squadron

By S-SGT. ROY WORTENDYKE

Ready on the right? Read on the left? Ready on the firing line? Flag is waving. Flag is down. Targets up! Eight guns speak hurriedly into the sharp morning air. Then, a pause. Empty clips rattle to the ground and new ones are slipped into place. As the guns crack again the dirt of the protecting hill behind the targets spudders in little puffs. Targets down! The guns are cleared and, at command, eager men move over the well-tramped earth to check their scores.

Over and over again during the past week this procedure has been followed by the men of this squadron who have been on the range for qualification firing. Though up to the time this is written some men have failed to qualify, eight men have been classified as "experts". They are Sgt. Oran Dunlap, S-Sgt. Ed Hollingsed, PFC Jesse Brittain, PFC Frank Rasmussen, T-Sgt. Charles Stevens, Pvt. Robert Smith, Cpl. Clifton Carter and Cpl. Ed Dezort.

"Diedrichs' Crippled Commandos", the squadron basketball team, is bent on winning the Base Basketball League Championship. Under the wise coaching of PFC Harold Cooper, the Commandos snatched three victories in pre-league plays. Last Friday, with PFC Chester Sartori at center, PFC Joe Boots and Sgt. Frankie Padak in offensive positions, and S-Sgt. Stanton Gerrard and PFC Ed Perichak guarding the basket, the Aviation Unit came out on the short end of the 23-10 score. Sgt. Jerome Matuszek substituted in a forward position. In the two games the previous Friday when PFC Perichak held the center and Sgt. Matuszek played guard, the Aviation Unit lost 25 to 14 and Training Squadron F dropped its game 35 to 10. Substituting were PFC Archie Robinson and Sgt. Joe Murcko, guards, and Sgt. Philip Eonta, forward.

S-Sgt. Douglas Pilcher added another sports note this week: after swatting his way to the semi-finals in the Special Service ping-pong tournament only to be nudged out by a man who was Number 2 in the U. S. before he entered the Army, he came back a few days later for a lightning exhibition game in the Service Club. S-Sgt. Pilcher won the Base Championship at the Hondo Army Air Field, but he found the competition at Pyote too stiff.

Squadron congratulations go to PFC Warren Besse, whose daughter was born late in November and who obtained a furlough to see her . . . PFC Morris Levin, orderly room, was close



to being "raving mad". After complying with orders requiring him to change about one-fourth of the military classification numbers on the records in his care, he received another order rescinding the first and directing him to change the numbers again. Sorry, we can't publish his statement . . . It is hoped that PFC Roy Bunten is taking life easy during his stay at William Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso.

After a three-day leave Captain Martin Diedrichs, commanding officer, is back at his desk . . . Cpl. Douglas McElfresh took advantage of his long-awaited furlough to have the nuptial knot tied. All men of the unit wish him and his bride happiness and success in their new adventure . . . Recent newcomers to the squadron are PFC David Fillyaw, S-Sgt. Charles Knaisch, S-Sgt. George Liles, and Pvt. Earl Yellowcloud . . . If his request for a leave is not lost again, Lt. Malcolm Baker, adjutant, expects to spend Christmas in his home town, Houston, Texas. You know, of course, "Uncle Larry", that you were not put in the hospital to get acquainted with the nurses.

## Maternity Care Available Here

Federal funds are now available in this state for maternal medical care for wives of enlisted men and for medical and nursing care for their infants, Texas Health Officer Dr. Geo. W. Cox announced last week.

Forms for requesting care may be obtained from the local or State health departments, welfare agencies, American Red Cross Chapters, USO centers, and local physicians. Officials stressed that such was in no sense a form of charity, but a right of any wife or infant of an enlisted man in the fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh pay grades of the armed forces.

## Sub-Depot Supply

By LOW SCORE FOUR

Christmas is really here . . . In fact Augustine, our cute little janitress, thought good ole Saint Nick himself and his Raindeer were in the Captain's office the other morning; as she opened the door to go to work, peeking out from the corner was a perfect replica of Santa and a nice gentle stuffed raindeer . . . They were both life size and looked real enough . . . but, too much of a surprise for Augustine . . . Eeeek!

Yes, we really are in the spirit of Christmas . . . come and see our beautiful Christmas tree . . . and don't forget next Wednesday to come to our party . . .

Well, it looks like the honeymoon is over for our boss . . . He was gone one week-end and his wife the next . . . How about that?

Hats off this week to a Good Soldier . . . One Joe Denton . . . A veteran of the last war and really in there again this time . . . Joe started training at Goodfellow Field last September, and was one of the first to come to Pyote . . . Credit is due him for many things . . . for his particular interest and initiative in his work . . . for his patience and willingness to help everyone with whom he comes in contact . . . His dry wit and humor . . . Being of an ambitious nature, he is always eager to know and try new ideas . . . So hats off, and Hurray to one swell guy . . . Joe Denton!

A good, big, bit of Supply was gone last week to San Antonio . . . How is he, Dorothy? We sure did miss you.

More remodeling has been going on this week . . . Before long it will take an act of Congress to see the Supply Officer . . . Enter the main office . . . and if they like you, you are admitted to the anti-office, and if they pass the sentence there you may finally get in the Boss' office.

Remember last time we said that we had heard a rumor to the effect that Sgt. Brown was going to take the final step . . . Well, we have a confirmation on that report and it is all too true . . . So girls, between now and December 26 is your last chance . . . The wedding is to take place on Sunday, December 26th at Grandfalls, Texas . . . in the Baptist Church. Best wishes and all the luck in the world.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS. (CN-S)—WAVES stationed at Smith College and Mount Holyoke have elected Admiral Ernest J. King their favorite "Pin-up Boy".

repeat a line from the old masterpiece—"GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU".

## Parachute Patter

By MISS JANE CEARLEY

The Yule tide spirit is high in the department this week. The Christmas tree looks very pretty. The nippy weather is also adding to the Christmas feeling. We are all hoping that Santa doesn't forget us.

The party at Odessa that was continued from last week turned out all right. No one felt too bad the next day. The only casualty was soreness from laughing.

Mrs. Jo Dee Harris had a telegram telling her to come home and store her furniture. We have heard about people stacking furniture—is it the same, we wonder?

We are proud to state the fact that Mr. Brownlee, the shop superintendent, complimented us on the work the department is turning out. Even if chutes are coming in at both doors, and I do mean fast, we are keeping up with our work. We are glad that our effort was recognized.

We Texans in this department, and I believe I can add all other departments, want to thank Sgt. Tomme Call for the nice write-up he gave Texas in The Rattler last week. He put our thoughts into words. It is like he said, we don't have to brag about Texas, just state facts and Texas can take up for itself.

What is this, a New Year resolution already? Floy wrote a letter this morning, the first one in almost 6 months. A letter—that is all the information she would give us.

Since The Rattler is sent to Alaska to our friends now stationed there, we want to reserve this space for wishing them a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. We only wish all of you could be here to spend the holiday with us. But since that is impossible, we will

## QM Sees

By SGT. JACK CANNON

Holiday greetings to all! As we go to press for the last time before Christmas we would like to take this opportunity to extend to one and all our greetings of the season. We wish most of all to extend our sympathies to those boys who are used to spending Christmas in an atmosphere of snow, and all that goes with it, but who are forced this year to assume the Crosby role and go on "Dreaming of a White Christmas" while they plow through the sand drifts of old Pyote instead of the snow drifts of Milwaukee, Buffalo, Providence or all the other northern cities from which our boys hail.

**Casualty of the week:** Recently during a discussion of the athletic prowess of Sgt. Jantzen (not of this base) who performs 1000 chin ups in 90 minutes, Sgt. Gelhaart chimed in with this remark: "And to think that this morning, I sprained my wrist trying to open my fountain pen". Oh well Bob, keep drinking that GI coffee and who knows what will happen.

The QM was happy to welcome back T-Sgt. Roscoe Wiggins who returned to Pyote on an inspection tour. Sgt. Wiggins is now connected with the 46th B. O. T. W. and travels the installations of that command inspecting the commissary setup at the various bases. From what he says the boys here at Pyote have a "good deal". Some times we doubt it but as someone observed, every good soldier gripes. If that is true then we must have one of the best outfits in the world. But anyway it helps to pass the time away.

We hear that Louis Gemmelic spends much of his spare time in Pecos. We wonder what the attraction is. It couldn't be the bowling alleys. Also we hear that the attraction has a sister. Is that right, Ladner?

**Luxury of the week:** S-Sgt. Wilder having a breakfast in bed. Pretty soft, huh? There was a reason behind it though. The big boy from "Kaintuck" sprained his ankle and found it impossible to navigate to the mess hall. It must have been pretty bad to keep a member of the QM, noted as chow hounds, out of the mess hall.

The arguments carried on by the "barracks wreckers" in Barrack No. 2 have lost a little of their volume since Cpl. "Ironhead" Barafatto has moved to town. Benny tells us that the room that he has is pretty cold. He claims that he feels the cold on his head mostly. We don't know why that is. With that head of skin, Benny should be able to stand anything.

**With the advent of the Christmas season there is plenty to eat in the barracks due to the**

## Muscles Are Their Business



They take their body-building business seriously, these physical training instructors, and each of you will see one of them three times a week under the new toughening up program. Front row, left to right, are Sgt. Donald White, Sgt. Lamar Smith, Cpl. Michael Fedor; back row, l-to-r, S-Sgt. Woodrow Moore, Cpl. John Dahl, S-Sgt. Mason Parvin, and Sgt. Shipley Farroh. Not in the picture is instructor Sgt. Eddie Lockamy.

influx of Christmas packages containing cookies, candy, etc. Hurrah for the folks at home!

With moanings and groanings the QM began their new P. T. program last week. We never knew that there were so many old men in the outfit until we saw the number that responded to the call to join the "old timers" class. Sam Barone says that for P. T. he would like to play pool. I don't think that it can be arranged, however.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend to the Guard Squadron our thanks for the invitation to their party in Monahans. The QM turned out almost to the man and from the volume of noise a good time was had by all. We hope that we will be able to return the favor in the near future.

**Fashion note of the week:** We think that those pink shoes that "Shorty" Wilson wears while bowling are just adorable. Bill Friend suggests that Marchewka ought to get a pair to go with that Sonja Heinie form that he has.

## Service Command Reports Veteran Buttons Ready

Eighth Service Command at Dallas has announced, according to a local newspaper there, that former soldiers with honorable discharges now may obtain lapel buttons from their nearest military posts, camps or stations.

The buttons, about dime-size, of gold-covered plastic, were authorized by the War Department for men and women veterans of World War II. Applicants for buttons may call in person or write, but evidence of honorable discharge must be presented. Those in the future receiving honorable discharge papers will receive buttons at the same time.



Wed. & Thur.—"His Butler's Sister", with Deanna Durbin, Franchot Tone, Pat O'Brien. Also, Paramount News.

Friday—"The Rains Came" (revival), with Tyrone Power and Myrna Loy. Also, "Stars and Stripes".

Saturday—"Women in Bondage", Gail Patrick, Nancy Kelly, Bill Henry. Also, Radio Melodies and Unusual Occupations.

Sun. & Mon.—"The North Star", with Walter Huston, Walter Brennan, Anne Baxter, Ann Harding. Also, Paramount News.

Tues.—"Hands Across the Border" with Roy Rogers. Also, Calvacade of Dance, and Alaskan Frontier.

### SHOW TIME:

STARTS	ENDS
1:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
10:15 p.m.	12:15 a.m.

### QUICK-THINKING SOLDIER SAVES HIMSELF WORK

CAMP BLANDING, FLA. (CNS) —Pvt. Peter Glod and a couple of other guys were drafted to move a batch of equipment from one building to another. A pal passed. "Where you going?" he asked. "Payline," said Glod.

A small mob heard this exchange and immediately fell in line behind Glod. All were welcomed cordially by the officer in charge of the detail who gave them each something to carry although it wasn't a pay envelope.

## Soldier Sports

By Camp Newspaper Service

Frankie Frisch, manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, is top man in a group of five major league baseball stars now touring U. S. Army installations in Alaska and the Aleutain Islands. Frisch is accompanied by Stan Musial and Danny Litwhiler of the St. Louis Cardinals, Hank Borowy of the World's Champion New York Yankees and Dixie Walker of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

**Lt. Tom Harmon, ex-Michigan gridiron great who was rescued by Chinese guerillas after being shot down by Jap Zeros last month sent this telegram to his parents back home in Ann Harbor, Mich.: "Arrived safe and sound. Don't worry. Everything in perfect shape."**

Hi Bithorn, big righthander who won 18 games for the Chicago Cubs last year, has been assigned to the Naval Air Station in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Bithorn, a native Puerto Rican, was inducted last month.

**Alex Campanis, formerly of the Brooklyn Dodgers and now of the Navy, is gunning for a Chief Petty Officer's stripes. He is now attending a Naval physical fitness school at Camp Perry, Va. and if he completes his schooling successfully he'll become an instructor with the top noncommissioned rating.**

Catcher Ray Berres of the New York Giants was rejected for military service in Milwaukee because of a chronic sinus condition. And Bill Woods, former Villanova College pitcher, received a Certified Disability Discharge from the Army and has been signed by the Philadelphia Athletics.

**Pitcher Fred Sanford, Catcher Andy Keller and Infielder Henry Schmulbach are the three latest members of the St. Louis Browns to be called into service.**

Primo Carnera, the giant Italian who once held the heavyweight championship of the world, is a prisoner of the Nazis in Italy according to a report from the front. Carnera is said to have been captured and held on a charge of fighting against fascist forces.

**Bill Veeck, president of the Milwaukee Brewers in the American Baseball Association, has joined the Marines and is taking his boot training at San Diego, Cal.**

### BE PREPARED

BERN, SWITZERLAND (CNS) —One Berlin paper recently printed an article on "How to Make a Will".

# RATTLER SPORTS

## WO Kleppe Nabs Win Over Odessa In Final Minutes

With Warrant Officer Tom Kleppe tossing in two baskets in the last five minutes of play, the Pyote Coyotes scored a close 24-21 victory over a hard-fighting Odessa High School basketball team last Friday night in a game played at Odessa.

The Pyote Coyotes, still suffering from shock after their encounter with the Marfa five, took a long time to get underway in the Odessa game and it wasn't until the final quarter that the boys turned on the heat and looked like a winning combine.

But once they started to move, they worked smoothly and came through to rack up this win, their second in four starts.

Pyote trailed all the way until the final five minutes when Kleppe managed to dump two through the hoop on lay-up shots.

During the first half, the Pyote team only scored two baskets as the Odessa aggregation controlled the ball most of the time. With the opening of the second half and trailing by one point, the Pyote five turned on the pressure and steadily fought their opponents up and down the hardwood.

Played under high school rules, the game appeared to be a rough one and Pyote lost two men on personals while Odessa lost three.

Boles led the Pyote scorers with seven points but high scoring honors went to Clark of Odessa who swished seven of nine free throws through the cords and one field goal for nine points.

Tonight the Base team travels to Carlsbad to play the first of a home and home series with the Carlsbad five.

### THE LINEUP

PYOTE	G	F	Pt
Swayne, f	0	1	1
Joyce	0	2	2
Mullen, c	0	1	1
Kleppe	3	0	6
Edge, f	0	0	0
Hogan	0	0	0
Harcourt	0	1	1
Lawrence	1	0	2
Emmert, g	0	0	0
Glucksman	2	0	4
Boles	3	1	7
White, g	0	0	0
White, g	0	0	0
Bundy	0	0	0

## Warmin' The Bench—

### 'Take Me Out To The Bowl Game'—Soldiers To Bend Ears To Classics

By SGT. FRANK DE BLOIS  
CNS Sports Correspondent

If it's true what they say about the bowl games this year, everyone in the armed forces will get a chance to listen to one or more of the contests. And that's the next best thing to being there in person.

In some cases, it's even better than that because every seat by a radio is right on the 50-yard line and not behind the popcorn stand in the 48th tier back of the goal posts.

Present plans call for a short-wave broadcast of the Orange Bowl game in Miami through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company. Ted Husing will be at the mike for this one, which brings together thrice beaten Louisiana State University and once beaten, once tied Texas A. and M. And frankly, fans, this one ain't the game of the century.

LSU was invited to participate in the Orange Bowl right after dropping a game to Tulane and the Aggies were asked to come along too after they had taken a drubbing from Texas. The teams already met once this season with the Aggies winning, 28 to 13.

There is some talk, too, of shortwaving the Rose Bowl game at Pasadena, most storied of all New Year's classics, to points in the Pacific theater. The opponents in this one are the University of Southern California, winner of the Coast Conference's southern title, and the University of Washington, top team in the northern end of the conference.

The Washington huskies played only four games this season and won them all. USC played nine games, lost two. The Trojans beat Amos Alonzo Stagg's powerful College of the Pacific eleven, 6 to 0, but lost to the San Diego Naval Training Station, 10 to 7, and to March Field, 35 to 0.

Totals	G	F	Pt
9	6	24	
ODESSA	G	F	Pt
Anderson, f	2	1	5
Stevenson	0	0	0
Babb, f	0	1	1
Cook	0	0	0
Eppington, c	0	3	3
Coats	0	0	0
Reynolds, g	1	1	3
Clark	1	7	9
Kelly, g	0	0	0
Totals	4	13	21

Best game of the day will be the Sugar Bowl clash between the Rambling Wrecks of Georgia Tech and undefeated Tulsa University. The Wrecks, beaten by Notre Dame, Duke and Navy, are favored over Tulsa which played a less rigorous schedule.

Top man on the Tech totem pole is Eddie Prokop, one of the best backs in the country. Prokop can run, pass, kick and block. And you ought to see him imitate four Hawaiians.

Then there is the Cotton Bowl game. This one will be played in Dallas, Texas, between the fliers of Randolph Field and the University of Texas. These teams each lost one game—to powerful Southwestern of Texas.

Randolph Field rates the nod over Texas because of the presence of Glenn Dodds in the fliers' backfield. Dodds, All-American star at Tulsa last year, broke Sammy Baugh's record of pitching seven forward passes for touchdowns in Randolph Field's 53 to 14 win over the Wake Island Marines one Saturday last November and the very next week he completed 29 more passes, three for touchdowns, in the Fliers' 20 to 13 victory over the North Texas Aggies.

Because of his experience, Dodds was generally overlooked by All-American pickers this year and so was Bob Steuber, of DePauw, top scorer in the country. Dodds played three years with Tulsa and had an offer from the Chicago Cardinals and Steuber, a star at Missouri last year, is the property of the Chicago Bears.

The fans back home are still clamoring for a post-season game between Notre Dame and some professional team, but Notre Dame has turned thumbs down on this proposition. It's a well known fact that a tilt be-

## Basketball League To Open Jan. 12, With Fine Prizes

The official Rattlesnake Basketball League season will open Wednesday, January 12, and any ten men who want to organize and enter a team may submit a roster at the Rec. Hall.

Either ten miniature gold basketballs (if available) for individuals or \$50 for the team, will go to the championship five, and second team will get ten miniature silver basketballs or \$30 in cash.

Practice games last week revealed some good play, with the Service and Guard Squadrons getting the better of the shooting.

The Guard Squadron took the Air Base Unit in two straight, 33-17 and 33-31. The Service Squadron downed the Aviation Unit twice, 25-14 and 20-10, and then snagged the old 28th Sq. team 35-10.

## Capt. Condy Wins Ping Pong Series

Captain Condy last week won the hotly contested Rattlesnake Bomber Base ping pong championship, taking Cross in the finals with three straight, 21-13, 24-22, 22-20.

Captain Condy defeated S-Sgt Douglas Pilcher, formerly Hondo Army Air Field champion, in the semi-finals, 21-7, 21-17. Cross took Schillerstrom, 21-14, 21-8. Taylor, Benenson and Fisher lost in the quarter finals.

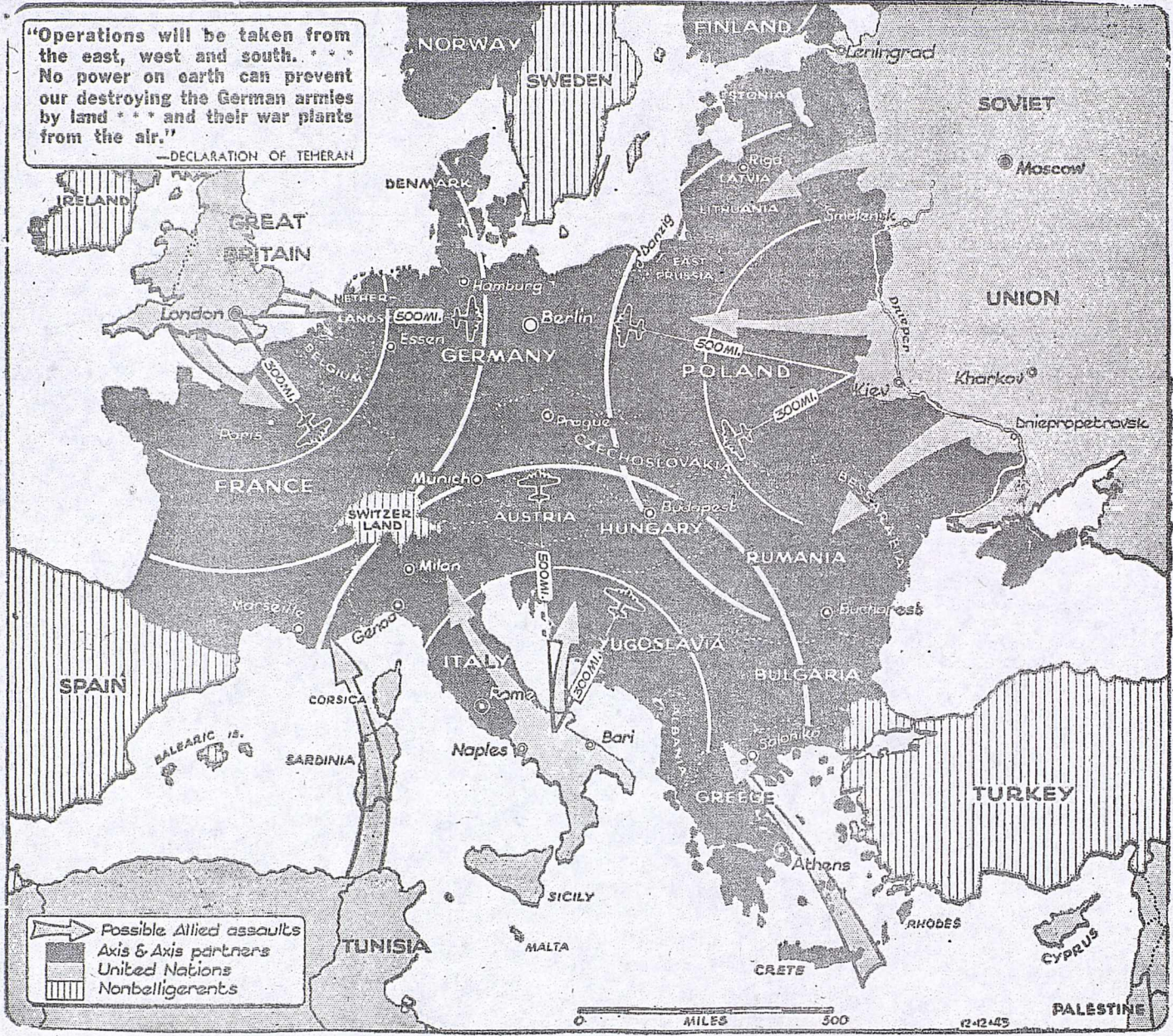
The tournament drew 17 entries and the skillful play won numerous rounds of applause from the spectators.

tween the Irish and the Bears, Packers, Redskins or Giants would outdraw any Bowl game in the land.

And that's about all the football you'll get out of us until the fall of '44.



"Operations will be taken from the east, west and south. . . . No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land . . . and their war plants from the air."  
 —DECLARATION OF TEHERAN



# Allies Intensify Rumor Barrage In Nerve Battle

By SGT. TOMME CALL  
 Rattler Editor

Invasion possibilities shown on the above map were core of a continuing welter of speculation from the European theater which began with the Middle East conferences of leaders of the United Nations' major powers.

Predictions on the war's time limit likewise came from high quarters. Average prophecies: 1. Invasion of continental Europe on a grand scale early in 1944. 2. Probable defeat of Germany sometime later the same year. 3. Mounting of the major offensive against Japan in middle or late 1944. 4. The war would extend into 1945, but hardly longer.

Civilian news sources were

confident that the U. S. Army's Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, would become commander of all Allied forces (save Russian) attacking Germany's Europe. But still uncertain was whether the main invasion would spring from the Middle East into the Balkans or from the British Isles into Western Europe; favorable and unfavorable factors were finely balanced in the choice. Turkey's final decision might weigh heavily in that balance, as well as the development of revolutionary movements in south-eastern Europe. The Channel leap still seemed a good bet for early spring.

With U. S. war production top priority going to a great armada of landing craft and the

aerial offensive over Europe approaching full-scale pre-invasion proportions, weeks—not months or years—marked approach to doubtless the greatest over-water offensive in military history.

Last week the Red Army opened the first phases of its winter offensive, a powerful drive in the Nevel sector which further freed Leningrad and pointed toward the Latvian frontier. That the Russians could open a new offensive while struggling forward beyond the Dneiper bend and blocking a mighty Nazi counter-offensive west of Kiev, emphasized Russian reserve strength for winter operations. A mass Russian offensive on the Eastern Front is the logical

prelude to British-American offensive operations from the other sides of Europe.

More than a year ago the landing on Guadalcanal set the Allies' southwest Pacific objective, as Rabaul, New Britain, foremost enemy operations center in that theater. Last week, the American Sixth Army blasted open beach-heads on New Britain, began the final phase of the Battle for Rabaul before Bougainville to the south had been cleared. With Rabaul and a few more key central Pacific islands, the U. S. team of all services would be set for the contemplated 1944 oceanic offensive.

Map courtesy N. Y. Times