

THE RATTLER

Rattlesnake Army Air Field

VOL. 1, NUMBER 42 PYOTE, TEXAS FEB. 9, 1944

Colonel Castor To Command

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COMBAT CREW STORY

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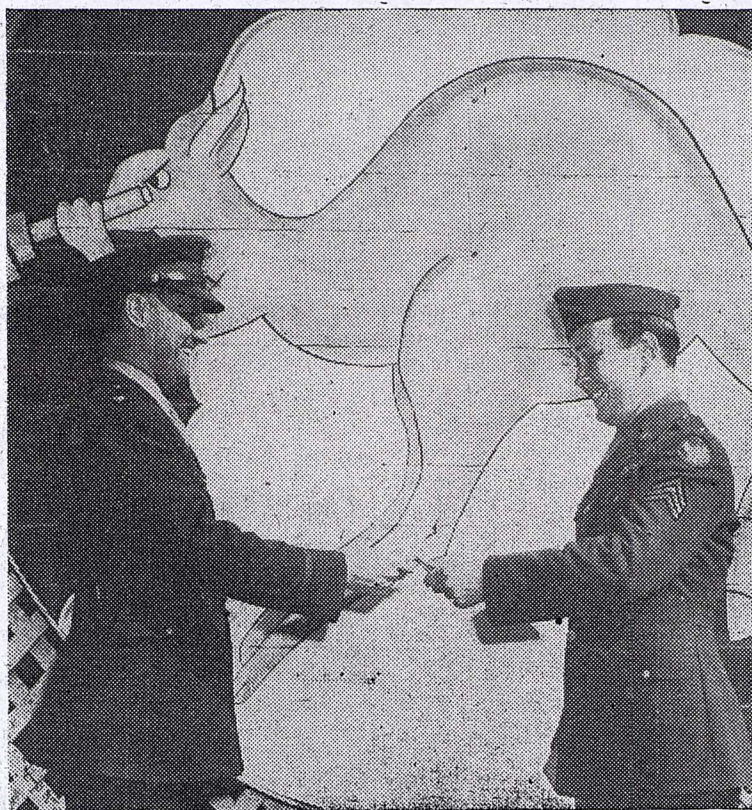
Flying Safety Day

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Pyote Officer, Wickett Belle Wed At Chapel

With Major David R. Visel (a bachelor) standing to the side looking very unconcerned about it all, Lt. Joseph G. Jordan, in charge of 3rd Echelon Maintenance bravely faces Chaplain Edwin W. Norton as he takes for his wife Miss Helen White of Wickett. The double-ring ceremony was held in the Station Chapel Friday evening and after the marriage a wedding reception was held in the Officers Club. The couple left for Mexico City for a 10-day honeymoon. Bridesmaids were Miss Katherin White (bride's sister) and Miss Lulu Van Laningham, a former room-mate in college.

Awarded For New Insignia



Sgt. Robert J. Klein of the Combat Crew Detachment is shown receiving an award of \$5.00 from Major William H. Cocke, Commandant of Crews, for submitting the winning de-

sign for the new insignia of the Combat Crew Detachment. The new insignia (shown on page 4) will replace the famous kangaroo of the 435th Bombardment Squadron.



Colonel Castor To Assume Command

As "The Rattler" went to press last night, it learned from an authoritative source that Colonel Bernard T. Castor will assume command of the Pyote Station replacing Lt. Colonel Frank P. Sturdivant, Director of Flying, who has been in command since Colonel Louie P. Turner departed for a new assignment.

It is expected that Colonel Castor will assume command on Friday, reporting from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he has been stationed.

Further details will be carried in next week's issue of "The Rattler."

EM Wives To Meet At Service Club

The Enlisted Mens' Wives Club has moved into action and when the new Second Air Force patches arrive here, the ladies promise to have workers on hand at the Service Club to sew on all patches brought there. Just bring your uniforms and patches together with a tag, giving name and organization, and everything will be taken care of.

The weekly meeting and luncheon will be held tomorrow at noon and Miss Palmer, of the Red Cross will be the guest speaker.

All wives of enlisted men are cordially invited to attend. Contact Mrs. Lois Dalbey, Extension 9 for further information about this organization.

Word of Explanation To Correspondents

Since this issue is devoted primarily to the Combat Crew Detachment and the Training Program at Pyote, it was necessary to shave many of the Unit columns pretty closely.

This is just a word to our ever faithful correspondents explaining the situation to them. We enjoy and need the literary gems turned out by Unit keyboard cowboys and girls and next week, "The Rattler" will be back in the same old groove.

So sit yourself down and hunt and peck to your heart's content but please try and have all contributions in the "Rattler" office by Friday afternoon.

Army Travel Bureau Designed To Aid Ride-Seeking GIs

A service designed to shorten travel time of men going on furloughs has opened its doors for business in Pyote where the Army Travel Bureau is now operating.

Under the aegis of Mr. Fitzgerald, the Army Travel Bureau acts as the agent between men driving home and those looking for rides.

According to Mr. Fitzgerald, this service has saved men up to fourteen hours on trips to Dallas and Los Angeles.

Men who are going to drive home on furloughs can register that fact with the Army Travel Bureau which will attempt to contact men going in the same direction.

Passengers are charged a slight fee, depending on the distance.

For further information stop in at the Army Travel Bureau in Pyote.

'G. I. Varieties' At Rec Hall Monday Night At 8:15

"G. I. Varieties", an evening packed full of entertainment, will be yours for free on Monday night at 8:15 p.m. at the Recreation Hall when the first of what is hoped to be a series of variety shows, is presented.

Master of ceremonies of this gala review, which has the accent

Red Cross Fund Drive To Start Soon

The annual drive for Red Cross funds will get underway during the latter part of this month and plans are already being made to insure the full cooperation of the personnel of this Field.

Further details on these plans will be available in next week's Rattler.

The work of the American Red Cross is well-known to all Americans and during this time of war, the Red Cross has proven of invaluable aid in contacts between prisoners of war and parents and relatives in this country.

The work of the Red Cross has received the backing of all our military leaders who urge that every means of support be given this vital work.

Here at Pyote it is hoped that all personnel, military and civilian alike, will contribute to the 1944 Red Cross War Fund. It is a work which deserves the support of all.

'TOO YOUNG TO FIGHT', SERGEANT HOLDS DFC

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS)—Sgt. Thomas Kincaid, who has more than 300 hours of combat flying to his credit, holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Aid Medal with a silver and four bronze Oak Leaf Clusters and has been in the AAF since January, 1942, is going home—just because he's too young.

Sgt. Kincaid, who is 16, has been stationed at the Army Air Base here since his return from North Africa several months ago. Appraised of his discharge he said he would reenlist as an aviation cadet—"when I'm 17."

The "Big Four", or gypsy lounge orchestra, which has been formed by PFC Bernard Tipple, former concert violinist. Left to right, Tipple, PFC Warren Koxvold, Cpl. Carmine Dantone and Cpl. Phillip Goldblatt. These lads do not exactly frown on "swing" but they rather tend towards the semi-classical. They have been performing on the bond show tours and next week will give a concert at the Officers Club.

on music, is Lt. Frank L. Hawkinson who not only makes with the jokes but can turn out a mean tune. Lt. Hawkinson studied music before Uncle Sam draped his olive drab on him and reports have it that the Lieutenant doesn't have to take a back seat to anyone when it comes to digging deep for those low notes.

This show has been visiting surrounding communities in efforts to stimulate war bond sales and all reports tell of highly successful appearances.

Other attractions in this show which is destined to make musical history at Pyote include the Russian Gypsy Ensemble under the leadership of PFC Bernard Tipple. The picture below shows this quartet of versatile artists and the formation of this music-making group fulfills the promise PFC Tipple made when he was interviewed by "The Rattler" a short time ago. In civilian life, Tipple played with some of the leading symphonies and in addition had his own lounge orchestra which played in the better hotels scattered throughout the Midwest.

The Spanish Trio is composed of three musical Medics who would rather turn out the tunes than roll the pills and they guarantee to give the authentic touch to the songs of Spain and Old Mexico.

Another newly formed organization, a male quartet will raise voices in song as part of this program. Composed of Lt. Hawkinson, Sgt. Tache, Sgt. Zerman and Cpl. Palmer, this quartet has proven to be one of the most successful parts of the traveling Pyote show.

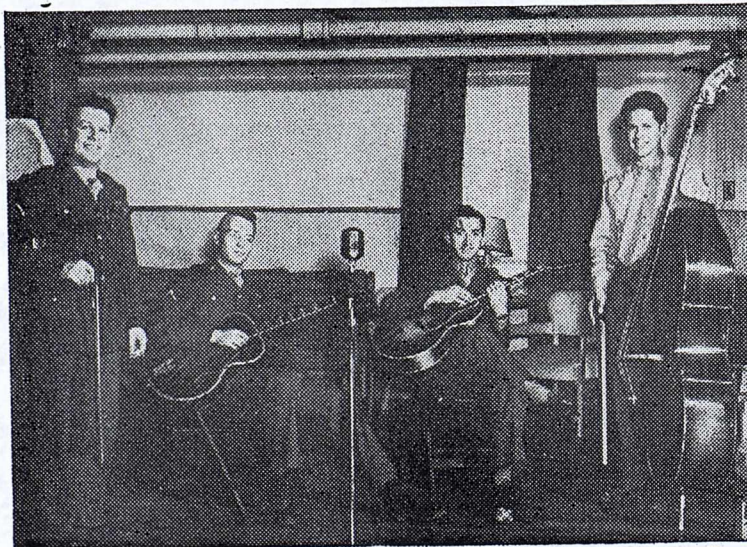
Furnishing the background music for the song and also taking the spotlight for its own numbers is the Station Band under the baton of W. O. Irvin E. Zimmerman.

A surprise starter in the show is a short skit written by Mr. Al Clark, a civilian worker on the field. Entitled "Bringing Up Father" this skit will undoubtedly prove to be one of the hits of the entire show.

PFC Robert Mercer and Cpl. Sheaffer have put heads together and come up with another stellar attraction in this G. I. Varieties.

It's absolutely free and the time is 8:15 p. m. so drop into the Rec. Hall for an evening of entertainment. It will be worth your while.

Bond Buying Music Makers



Battle Of The Sexes



Participants in Quiz Program, shown above, are, left to right: 2nd Lt. Francis Teterud; 2nd Lt. Grace L. Burlson; 2nd Lt. Louise Cook (hidden in picture); 2nd Lt. Elvie L. Bebee;

1st Lt. Bart S. Igou, Quiz Master; 1st Lt. Sidney Ruderman; 1st Lt. Francis Trotter; 1st Lt. O. F. Kraushaar; and 1st Lt. James J. Tesitor.

Brainy Male Medical Quartet Meets Fem Sharpies In "Mental Derby"

Enthusiastic patients left their wards early last Thursday evening with rather sly grins on their countenances. They had a good reason too. Questions they had prepared were to be asked 4 nurses and 4 male officers at the first program of its kind presented in the Hospital Red Cross' "Little Theater". Miss Sara Quickel, Red Cross recreation worker, who has done a very splendid job in promoting an unusual variety of entertainment, games and creative work, was responsible for the program. Her efforts were not in vain for the "Mental Derby" was a complete success.

As the show began, there on the stage in full dress uniform were eight contestants and the master of ceremonies, 1st Lt. Bert S. Igou MAC, who very capably performed in that capacity. The "weaker" sex was strongly represented by 2nd Lt. Frances Teterud, 2nd Lt. Louise Cook, 2nd Lt. Grace L. Burlson and 2nd Lt. Elvie L. Bebee and their equally strong opponents, 1st Lt. Otto F. Kraushaar, MC, 1st Lt. Francis O. Trotter, MC, 1st Lt. James J. Tesitor, MAC, and 1st Lt. Sidney L. Ruderman, DC gave them plenty of competition.

Throughout the program there were many good laughs and the final score was a tie. Difficulty arose when no member of the 'Mad Medix' could be found that could count higher than 5 so it was necessary to call on Sgt. Arthur W. Kirk (patient) of the Training Unit. The responsive patients cheered loudly when their favorite nurse came through with the correct answer. There was only one instance where a patient previously told his nurse the answer and attractive Miss Bebee made a direct confession of that fact. That in itself nearly brought down the house.

Roosevelt Signs Muster-Out Payment Bill

President Roosevelt's signature on mustering-out pay legislation during the week guaranteed veterans of the Second World War cash payments to help them make the adjustment from military to civilian life.

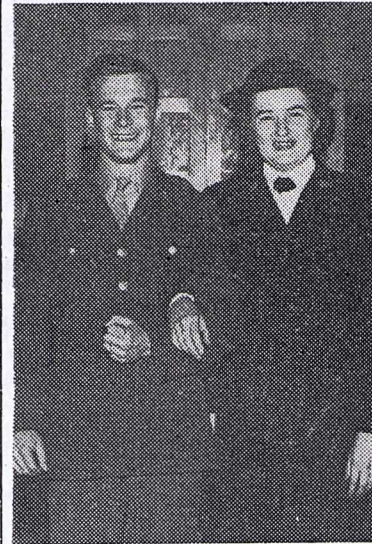
The law provides from \$100 to \$300 for each eligible veteran. Mustering-out pay of World War I amounted to about \$60. This new scale and the commensurately higher number of military personnel in this war will cost the nation approximately three billion dollars.

As he signed the bill, Mr. Roosevelt urged Congress to move full speed ahead on other proposals he has made for aiding the servicemen upon discharge. They provide for programs to allow the young men and women to continue their education at partial government expense; and set up a plan for unemployment compensation benefits.

The mustering-out pay is denied to those eligible to retirement pay, those discharged to take civilian jobs, the dishonorably discharged, those whose total period of service has been as a student in special training programs, and those ranking above a captain.

Tomorrow Designated As 'Flying Safety Day'

Army-Navy 'Hitch'



Creation of an Army-Navy fask force was effected here when PFC Clifford E. Williams, of the Pyote Medics, and Y2c Lucille A. Roman, above were married in the Base Chapel. PFC Williams is from Pittsburgh and the bride hails from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Best man for the occasion was Cpl. Gustave Wehling, of Buffalo, N. Y., and bridesmaid was WAC Cpl. Louise L. Riden, both stationed here.

Rattler Editor Off To OCS

Sgt. Tomme C. Call, editor of "The Rattler" since its inception has departed these regons for the sunny shores of Mami Beach, Fla., where he will sweat out a pair of golden bars. Tomme returned from furlough last Thursday, and was doing K.P. Friday when his orders arrived. He takes with him the best wishes of all. Staff Sgt. Robert H. Nash has taken over the uneasy chair of the Editor. Another Texan, Sgt. Nash hopes to carry out the renowned traditions of "The Rattler," striking at anything and everything against the fair Lone Star State.

Chicago. (CNS)—The Army has now uncovered a way of baking bread from salt water. According to Col. R. A. Isker, director of the Quartermaster Corps subsistence research and development laboratory here, the water is strained through a cloth to remove solid impurities and is treated with calcium hypochlorite. The period of dough fermentation is increased by 60 minutes to two and a half hours.

Designed to introduce a new era in Flying Safety in the Second Army Air Force, tomorrow, Thursday, February 10th, has been designated as Flying Safety Day for all stations in the 2nd AF.

A committee of five officers, headed by Major Richard D. Stepp, has been appointed to insure the utmost cooperation from all members of the Station in the observance of Flying Safety Day.

Other members of the committee are Major John H. Schweitzer, Captain Andrew H. Price, Captain Benjamin J. Stone and Captain Leonard L. Cox.

"This is not to be merely a one day observance," said Major Stepp, "but tomorrow has merely been designated to start a new year in Flying Safety. The practices of safe and sane flying are to be observed continuously throughout the year."

In discussing the inauguration of Flying Safety Day, Major Stepp added that since the founding of the Pyote Field 84,871.8 hours have been flown here with an accident percentage rating of .28.

This is the lowest accident percentage in the 46th Bomb Wing which means that Pyote is the "safest" field in the Wing. This Station also ranks near the top in the standings of Second Air Force Stations.

In an effort to stimulate ideas for the improvement of the Pyote safety record, Major Stepp announced that a contest would be open to the three Sections of the Combat Crew Detachment for the best thoughts on what to do in order to increase our Safety factor. Cash prizes will be awarded for the best suggestions. More details on this contest will be available later.

Contrary to popular belief every man here at Pyote has an important role to play in this fight to increase our Safety record. It is not only the men who man the planes but every individual must cooperate if Pyote is to continue to lead the Wing in its safety record.

The greatest weapon against accidents and all that goes with them is knowledge of a job. If a man knows what he is supposed to do and then does it, the chances of accidents occurring is decreased immeasurably.

Every man is asked to cooperate in this all-out drive against accidents.

Posters have been displayed throughout the Field calling attention to the fact that tomorrow is Flying Safety Day but Major Stepp warned that this isn't to be a one-day observance.

Pyote Crew Training Field Aims To Be

School For Combat Airmen Institute Born Of Necessity

Rugged Training Program Aims At Turning Out World's Best Air Fighting Teams

The 19th Combat Crew Training School is a new installation. It was born of necessity in time of war for the purpose of training initial Bomber Crews to the highest state of efficiency possible in the time allotted. You need not expect a perfectly working machine. It takes time to build an institution.

The greatest reward this station can receive is the simple expression from Air Force Commanders in the combat zones, "Good, we are getting Bomber Crews from Pyote." Those words are the coveted "E" for combat crews and instructor personnel alike. Pyote can be made the West Point of Bomber Schools but it will have to be earned by the reputation of its product.

Pyote can give the best equipment in the world . . . the best planes, superior fire-power, the finest accessories . . . but unless Pyote also turns out superior pilots, navigators, bombardiers, engineers, radio operators and gunners, you will be outfought by the enemy.

The hidden thing in the soul of man that makes a fighter is not forgotten here. That thing is the will to self-discipline, the complete forgetfulness of self in the team; the acceptance of responsibility by every member of the crew.

Do your part one hundred percent and you will find that you have raised your safety factor to the top brackets.

Top man in the Combat Crew Training School is the Director of Training.

The duties of the Director of Training as set forth by higher headquarters are as follows: "The Director of Training will be charged with the direct supervision and control of all instruction and administration concerning instruction in the Combat Crew Training School".

Lt. Col. Frank P. Sturdivant is the Director of Training at this station and as such heads the vast network of ground school subjects and classes which combine with actual flying training in B-17's to turn out from this school combat crews thoroughly trained and ready for combat.

The Training Department's staff officers are the specialists in the various types of training given the combat crews and serve as advisors to the Director of Training. In a sense they are the Directors of Training in their particular specialty. The immediate staff

consists of the following officers:

Asst. Director of Training, Capt. Ralph K. Watts; Staff Bombar-dier, Major Erling J. Nossun; Staff Navigator, Capt. Edward R. Yerington; Staff Gunnery Officer, Lt. Ewell Martin, and Staff Communications Officer, Lt. Thomas E. Spellman.

These staff officers coordinate and supervise each day's training so that the student is taught exactly what is required to the end that on graduation day he may feel equal to the finest in this country and definitely superior to those members of enemy crews he may meet in combat.

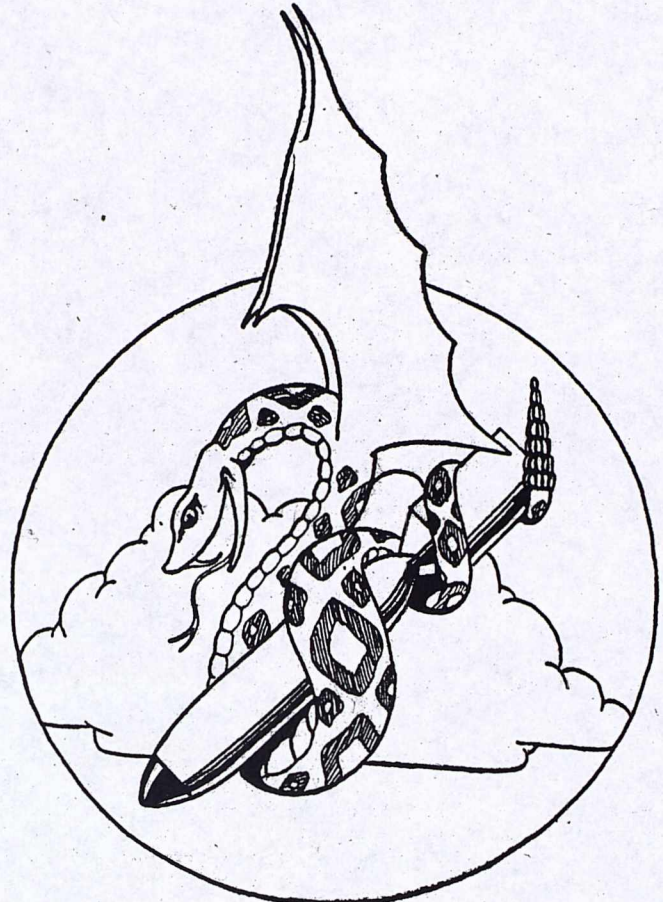
Under the Director of Training there are three Directors, each of whom is responsible for a definite part of the program:

The Director of Flying, Major Richard D. Stepp, is charged with all instruction involving flights.

The director of Ground Training, Major John B. Nelson, is charged with all instruction in accordance with existing directives, except that involving flying, and except that not specifically charged to the Director of Military Training.

The Director of Military Training, Major William H. Cocke, is charged with the discipline, processing, administration and military instruction of all combat crew members. He is also termed "Commandant of Crews" and as such has immediate command of the Combat Crew Training Detachment.

The entire training program revolves about these three directors. The Director of Flying supervises and directs all training in connection with flying through the Commanding Officers of the three flying sections. The Director of Ground Training schedules, directs and provides all instructors for all ground school classes including the gunnery ranges. The Director of Military Training is the "old man" to the trainees and as such directs full utilization of trainee time even including the time scheduled for sleep and relaxation.



A diamond-backed rattler with wings, carrying a single bomb and looking groundward, is the new insignia of the Combat Crew Detachment. The design

was submitted by Sgt. Robert J. Klein of Buffalo, N. Y. It replaces the famous kangaroo insignia of the old 435th.

Also under the Director of Training is the Standardization Board. To many personnel not connected with the training program the duties of this Board are rather vague. They consist of inspection of all instructor personnel in order to maintain standardization of all instructor personnel in order to maintain standardized and efficient instruction. Each member of the Board is an expert in his particular line and much of the credit for the efficient instruction given at this school is directly attributable to the duties being performed by this efficient organization even though very little of its efforts ever stand out boldly before the rest of the school. No flying instructor may instruct a trainee until after he has been checked by a member of the Standardization Board. The personnel of the Board is as follows:

President, Major Therman L. Patrick; Pilots, Capt. Wallace J. Kelso and 1st. Lt. Glenn C. Osbourne; Navigator, 1st. Lt. Norman R. Appleton and Bombardier, 2nd. Lt. Charles C. Schierholz.

Probably the section most wide-

ly known under the Director of Training to the balance of the station personnel is the Training Secretary's Section. The reason is that the Secretary serves as Adjutant for the Director of Training and handles all correspondence for that section. In addition, his office is a maze of charts, graphs and miscellaneous collections of figures concerning every phase and classification of training. Captain Charles R. Herpich is Training Secretary, assisted by Warrant Officer (JG) Harold W. Robinson. Lt. Earl J. Gebbie is the Statistical Officer.

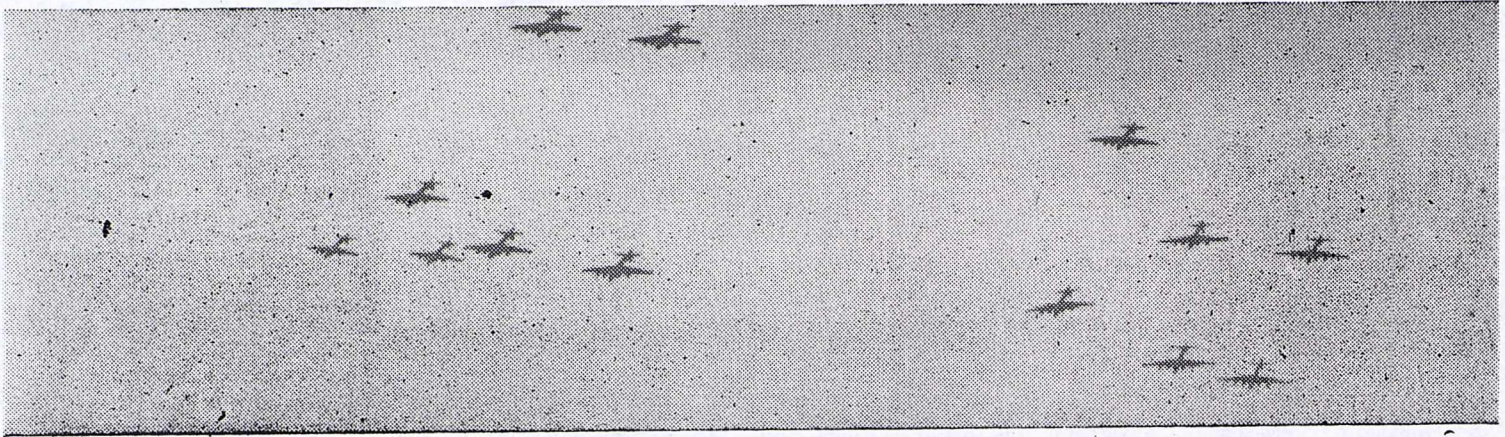
To many of the people on the field the flying set-up is more or less of a mystery. Either directly or indirectly everyone is affected by its many ramifications.

The primary job is to train combat crews. This in itself does not seem like much of a statement, but when each crew member's duty is broken down and then multiplied by the number of men being trained it begins to take on enormous aspects. In order to do this the Second Air Force has set up a

(Continued On Page 5)

The "West Point Of Bomber Schools"

They're Ladies, But They Pack a Deadly Punch



(Continued from Page 4)

Flight Training Directive, divided into three parts called "phases", each phase being one month long. It sets forth the minimum requirements that each crew shall meet before being sent overseas.

The 19th C. C. T. S. has three Flying Training Sections, and each Section is in a different phase of training. Section I, commanded by Major Leland W. Johnson, is at present in Second Phase. Section II, commanded by Major Edson J. Sponable is in First Phase, and Section III, commanded by Major Richard T. Hernlund, is just about to complete Third Phase.

Each Section is composed of instructor personnel, almost all of whom have returned from combat duty, and who have been chosen as instructors not only for what they know, but also for how well they can impart their knowledge to others. The Section Commanders have under them an Operations Officer, twenty instructor pilots, ten instructor navigators, ten instructor bombardiers, ten instructor engineers, ten instructor radio operators, and ten instructor gunners. Besides these men they also have an Intelligence Section, which keeps both Static and Trainee personnel up to date with the war, a Gunnery Officer and Communications Officer. It is in these men's hands that the success or failure of the flying training lies.

Along with the three Sections there are other departments which play an important role in making the flying training better and safer. Station Operations and Base Flight headed by Capt. Colligan; A.A.C.S. Control Tower which handles all of the air traffic; Flight Control headed by Capt. Andrew H. Price keeps the posi-

tions of aircraft plotted at all times; and then the Instrument Landing Section which keeps Pyote's radio beam in operation.

Still another section, indispensable to all flying operations, is the Weather Section headed by Lt. Shannon. The weather the past two months has added a few gray hairs to both Lt. Shannon's and Lt. Sullivan's heads; the cussing they receive from the Director of Flying and Station Commanders has bowed their shoulders, but they still carry on, predicting the weather with some of the finest equipment available.

In the training of the combat crews the Tow-Target Squadron plays a very important role. Ably commanded by Lt. Lankford these boys operate twice a day pulling a target at 20,000 feet for our crews to shoot at. They have four AT-23's which are stripped down B-26's, at their disposal. Theirs is a thankless job at best, but one indispensable to the complete training of the combat crews. Another job, secondary to the towing of targets, but almost as important is that of pursuit interception. Diving and zooming around a formation while the gunners "fire" at them with camera guns is about their only pleasure. However, the uncertainty of not knowing when someone will accidentally take a shot at them, takes some of the spice out of the work.

Supervising all of the Sections and the other Departments is the Director of Flying's Office. Major Richard D. Stepp, assisted by Capt. Condy and Capt. Price handle this work. It is from this office that airplane assignments are made, orders covering flying regulations and flying safety are put out, and the entire flying program coordinated. Sending crews all over the country ferrying ships to and from sub-depots, coordina-

ting with armament and ordnance, cooperating with maintenance, having the Sections furnish flight test crews, making up duty rosters and control tower office schedules and the myriad of other things that must be done to keep the flying training program going is the function of this office. A twenty-four hour job, seven days a week, good weather or bad is about all this office can look forward to.

This is but a thumb-nail sketch of the Flying Training Section. It would take an entire edition of the Rattler to thoroughly cover each department in this Section but it is hoped that this article will in some way show those who are not directly connected with the flying training how the station is set up and run from the all important angle of teaching our combat crews how to get over the target and get back.

SERGEANT CITED FOR BOMBER WORK

Naples (CNS)—M-Sgt. Wendel Horne, of California, has been awarded the Legion of Merit for his part in the design, manufacture and installation of equipment to improve the fire power and protect the crews of B25 Mitchell bombers. The award was made by Gen. Henry H. Arnold USAAF commander.



LONDON—An AAF sergeant stationed here was seen running around gleefully, snapping pictures of every pretty girl he saw. Someone asked him where he got the film. "I haven't any film," said the sergeant. "But it's a lot of fun anyway."



By Sgts. Paul A. Ellis, Harold J. McDonald and Russell L. Jurd

As usual President Roosevelt celebrated his birthday, January 29, 1944, in hundreds of places throughout the United States. He probably had the pleasure of only attending one but Americans all over the country honor his birthday each year to further the cause of infantile-paralysis in the "March of Dimes" campaign.

One of these parties took place in Monahans at the local U.S.O. Special arrangement had to be made with the Headquarters of the U.S.O. Society for this party and it was only because the occasion was of National charity benefit that it became possible.

It was sponsored by the Ward County President's Ball Committee and all details were handled by the Local Committee. There were about two hundred soldiers and civilians in attendance. The Station band furnished the music and as usual did a wonderful job.

Our basketball team, which we refer to with pride entered their fourth Base league game last Thursday night against the "Vincos" comprised of Quartermaster and Training Unit Men.

The spectators were treated to thirty five minutes of bang up ball with the game ending in a 44 to 33 score in favor of the 'Gallonpig Guards'.

The high point man for the evening was Captain Bill 'Run Wild' Ray of the Guards who piled up twenty of the forty four points.

Our team now stands second in the league.

Action Speaks Loud For Members Of Section One

Like the majority of organizations in the Combat Crew Training Detachment, Section One is a fledgling, just feeling its way around. You can speak of the Section impersonally yet it is made up of average fellows just like you reading this little opus.

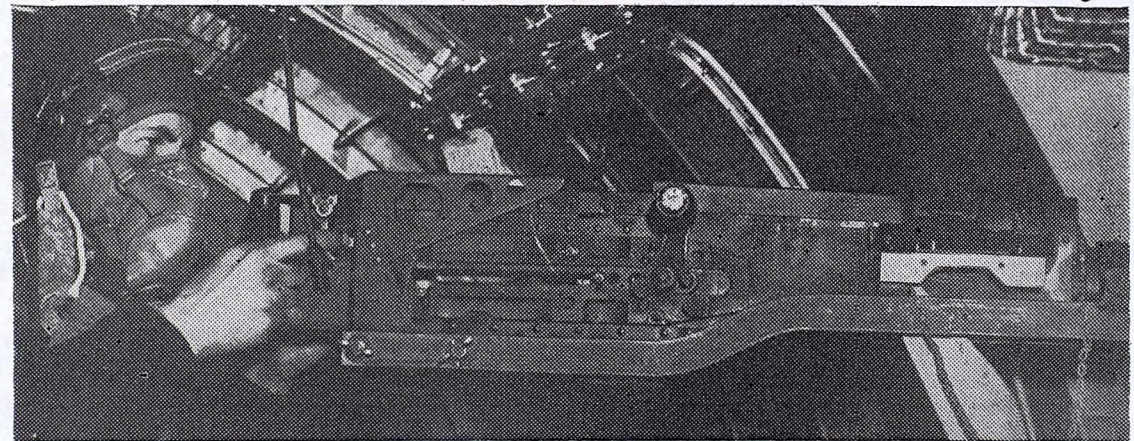
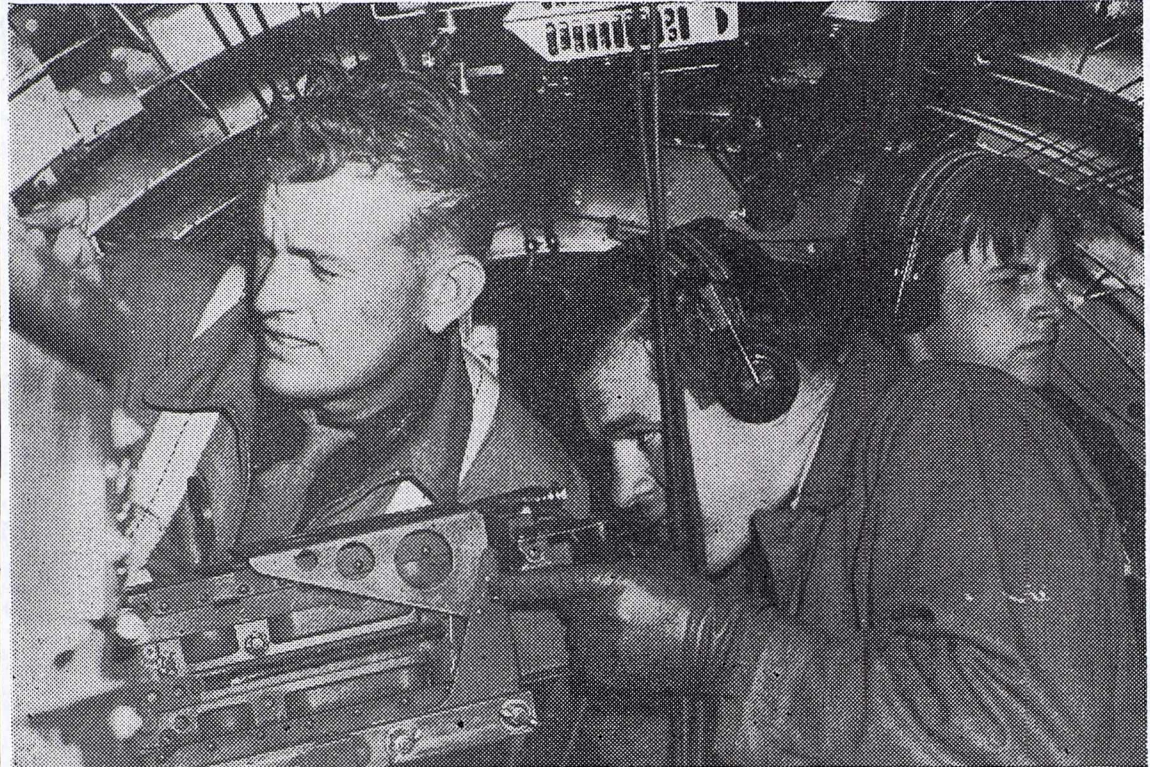
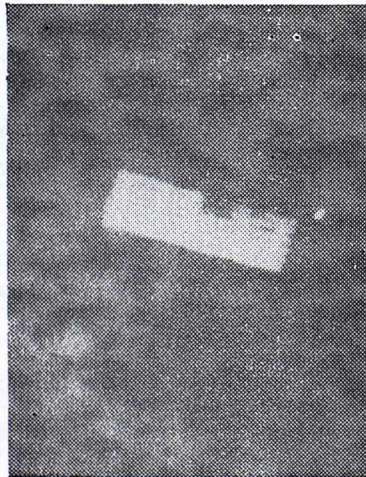
Firm believers in the old adage that action speaks louder and longer than mere words, the members of Section One believe that if they do everything well, there'll be no need of tooting their own horn.

The life has been comparatively short. It was a misty, rainy afternoon, back in December, when the first members of Section One put foot on the caliche and dust of dear old Pyote. The Base Band was on hand to blast out a welcome and after the long, tiresome ride on the bucking, swaying railroad cars, even the sight of forelorn Pyote was a welcomed one to the baggy-eyed members of the Section.

They wanted to get started with their combat training and the that be ruled that it would be at Pyote. Perhaps the sight of crumpled buildings surrounding the railroad station brought a sigh of disgust to the men but nonetheless they clinched gritted teeth and said "We're here to learn and we will."

As of this writing, Section One is approximately one-third way through second phase. Time, as Horace once said in a sober moment, flies quickly and with a full-sized training program confronting the members of the Section, time has been rushing by on the winged heels of Mercury.

The men of the Section learn many things. Most important is teamwork. While flying at high altitudes it is the inevitable prerogative of each combat crew member to look out for his buddy as diligently as he watches himself. That is what is meant by teamwork. Each man is an integral part of a whole and each is dependent on the other. There is no room in a Flying Fort for the



individual. They learn confidence in each

Way down below the dirt is kicked skyward as the bullets plow a track towards the target. Air to ground shooting is an important feature of the training of airmen at Pyote and the more accuracy learned here the greater the Luftwaffe's losses over there. This shot was made from about 500 feet above the target and according to our cameraman the next burst blasted the target to smithereens.

Learning Science Of Aerial Gunnery

Lt. William Soules casts a fatherly eye over the work of Staff Sgt. Edwin Owenby, the man behind the gun as Eddie blasts away at the target way down yonder. PFC William Radford, in the background awaits his turn to blast a few

holes in the target. Radford, who like Owenby has already seen overseas service, is training for another crack at the enemy. Every second counts in this type of work and there is no time for anything but the keenest concentration on the work.

other's ability. Here they are under some of the best instructors in the Army Air Forces. The greater majority of the instructors at Pyote have already seen combat duty and the lessons they are trying to impart to the fledgling are those backed by the actual experience gained in fighting the enemy.

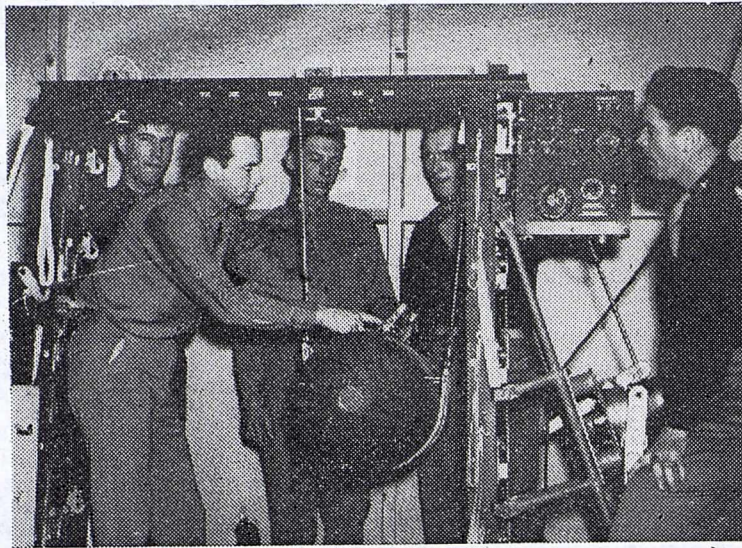
When the men of Section One take leave of Pyote, they'll trade their red patches for the blue ones of the combat theater but deep down inside each man will remember the lessons learned at the Rattlesnake Flying Field. They'll

have the best equipment in the world, they'll be the best pilots, navigators, bombardiers, etc. and to top it off they'll have learned the lesson that they are members of a hard-punching team that will work wonders working together. Teamwork will tell the story of victory.

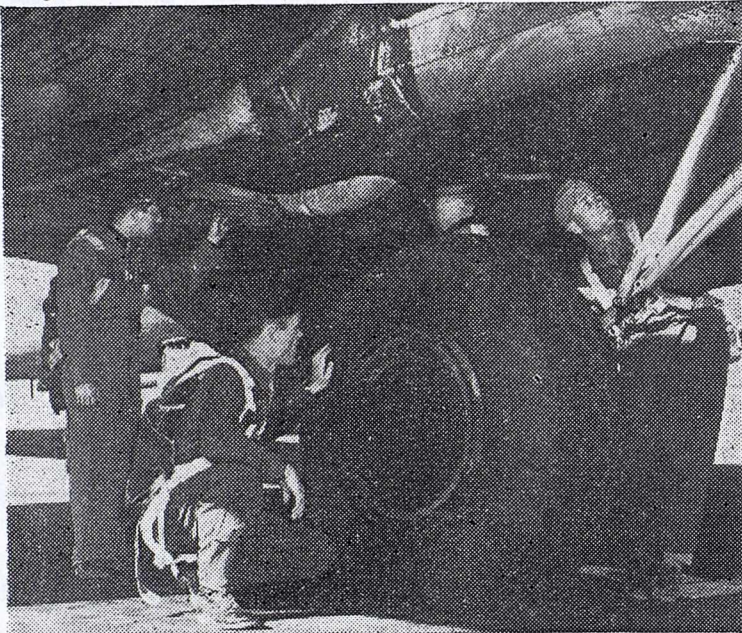
OPERETTA BY V-MAIL

LONDON (CNS)—Pvt. Charles Rasely, stationed here, and Miss Mary Cline, of Easton Pa., are composing an operetta. Rasely sends the music to lyricist Cline via V-Mail.

It's All Part Of Training



Before The Takeoff



Briefing Time



Make Enemy Die For His Country Says Section II

Section Two of the Combat Crew Detachment is the baby of the outfit. It was only a short time ago that the men now working in this Section made the long haul from Salt Lake City to Pyote. Here they're taking their three phases of training and when that work is completed they'll go forth from here not as the individuals they were when they first arrived but as members of a combat crew team. They will be the best in the world.

Section Two is now well into First Phase training and will soon be ready to start the all important second phase work. First Phase is primarily a transition period.

The crew members become acquainted with the plane they will soon be flying in combat and more important the men become well acquainted with each other. Theirs will be a closely knit fighting unit for many days to come and it is here that they first learn to cooperate and to coordinate their activities so that everything done on the ground and in the air will be of the greatest benefit to the crew as a whole.

The Pilot meets his crew in first phase and also meets the all-important plane which he will be handling in the combat theater. The "Flying Fortress" ranks with the world's best and only the best is good enough to handle the Fort.

The pilot becomes proficient in both contact and instrument flying as well as in landings and take-offs. He must further learn to handle his plane under any and all emergency conditions. The same is true of the co-pilot. The Bombardier learns to co-ordinate with the pilot on bombing runs and also is increasing and adding to his skill of unloading high explosives on pinpoint targets way down below.

All the crew members, the Engineer, Radio operator and gun-

ner learn their highly specialized and important jobs as individuals and what is more important learn to play their part in the team play which keeps the Forts in the air.

It is the object of Section Three to impress all the men with the idea that any crew in combat is no stronger than the weakest man on that crew. Section Two wants all strong men and proficient men on the jobs.

In addition to the aerial training, the daily sessions at Ground School play an important role in the work of training combat crew members. Each man attends classes in his specialty.

Last and by no means least the are taught to be good soldiers. They receive lectures in discipline, military courtesy and customs of the service. The latter may seem unimportant when it comes time to blast the enemy from the skies but discipline and military courtesy form the backbone of teamwork and cooperation and it is teamwork which licks the enemy.

Section Two is training soldiers to do their job in the best possible manner with the least amount of danger to himself or his comrades. "It is not the duty of a soldier to die for his country but to make the enemy die for his."

Bombs are dangerous toys and it takes experts to handle them. Part of the ground school training program here deals with these lethal weapons. Lt. Harold J. Glucksman, shown at top, is instructing some members of the Combat Crew Detachment in the finer points which go into dropping eggs.

Details of the ship's mechanism must be checked and approved before each takeoff. In middle picture, members of a combat crew inspect part of their ship before leaving on a practice mission.

The picture on the left taken in the briefing room gives an idea of the intense interest taken by the officers in charge of the planes of Section II. The lives of nine other men plus about \$350,000 worth of plane and mechanism depend entirely on the capability of these officers carrying out the instructions given during briefing time.

From 48 States And All Walks Come The Men Of Section III

Yes, you have heard of it (who hasn't). It is just another cubby-hole office in the Combat Crew Detachment office where officers of the old 73rd hold forth and see to it that the men preparing for their mission in the Air Forces receive the full benefit of the training program that is to make them a part of the winning team. But the job that they are doing cannot be measured by the size of their temporary home here on the field. Here are men of combat experience, men of the 'know how' class, who realize only too well that the day in and day out drudgery (if you don't think it's drudgery, ask the men) of classroom, flying, class-room, is essential if you want to come back.

Here again is an example of men with wings once more becoming "dodos" to insure the proper training of our brood of fledglings.

Section III of the CCD is, in itself, a fledgling; as with any "growing baby" of lusty disposi-

tion its growing pains are articulate groans and grunts. The family it supervises and directs is democratic in every sense of the word. Here may be found "Pointers", the pride of our good "Uncle", who have attained their wings after years of training at West Point; Officers with the Silver Wings that came through channels of Aviation Cadet Boards; enlisted men of every size and shape from all the 48 States. Walk into the barracks and talk about "dem Bums from Brooklyn" and see what I mean. The fair state of Texas is now providing a home to many lads from this suburb of Long Island.

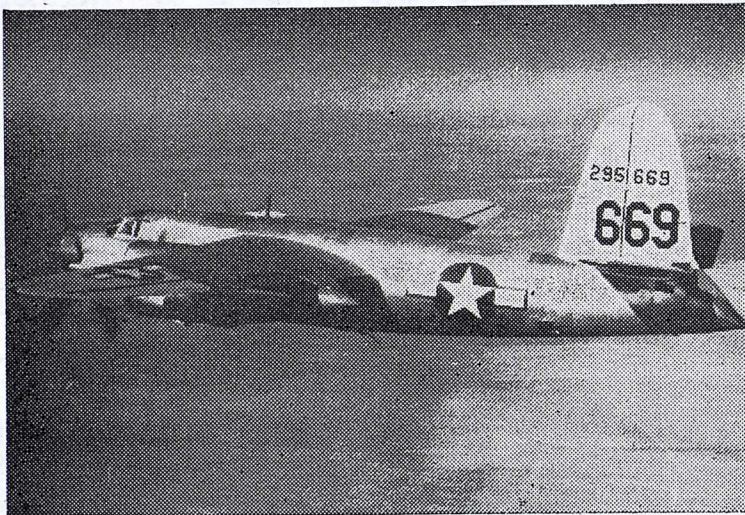
But Section III is just another way of designating a number of men in a group. To know the section you must know the men. They are a fine representation of American man-hood. You will hear of them in the near future I guarantee you—and this does not come from a crystal ball.

Men From Mars



The men don't look any too comfortable yet they're not out any comfort. These men were snapped just after completing a mission in the training schedule of Section III and when you're swinging along through the icy

cold regions high aloft it's pretty nice to have those warm flying suits along. Members of crew 383 shown are Sgt. George R. Maisch, Pvt. T. F. Carter, Sgt. David G. Willey and Sgt. Calvin O. Decker.



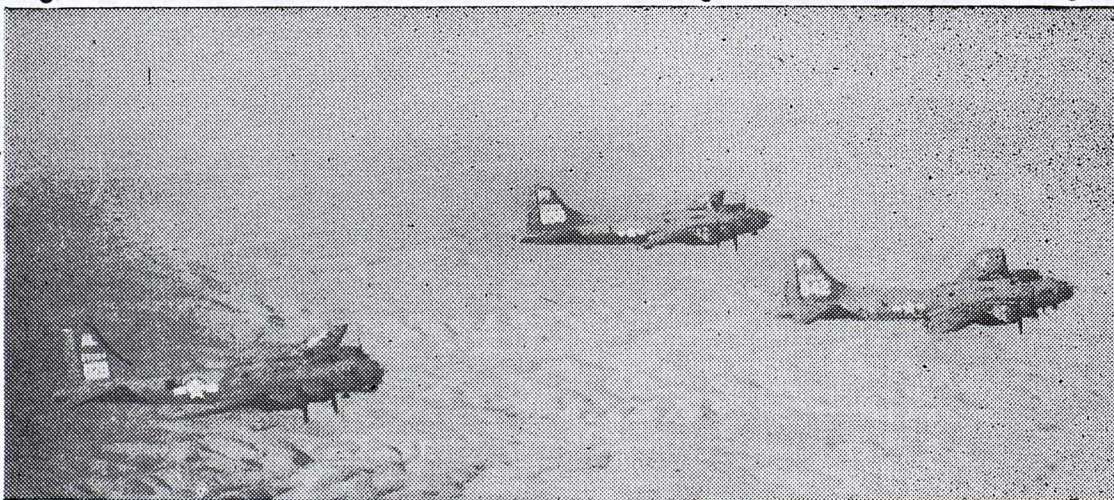
Left is one of the hardest workers of the Blue Skies. She's an AT 23 or B-26, if you prefer, and fulfills one of the most important missions in the Air Corps this side of the ocean. She is utilized for tow-target work here at Pyote but at one time many of our boys who are now flying them "over there" took their transition flying in this type of aircraft. Tow target work is essential to the development of the deadly shooting eye of our gunners which has made the "Forts" the most feared plane in the air today. These ships give the gunners exercise in leading, trajectory, angle of fire and the complicated theory of aerial gunnery.

BIG HEARTED YANKS

London (CNS)—Gen. Sir Frederick Pile, Commander in Chief of the Anti-Aircraft Command, was approached by two American privates during a blackout. The GIs, who didn't recognize the general, asked him the way to West Kensington. Gen Pile happened to be going the same way, so all three piled into a passing hack.

After an interesting conversation in the dark cab, they reached their destination and the Americans offered to pay for the ride. "Oh, no," said Gen. Pile. "I'll pay. I'm senior to you."

"You may be," said one of the Yanks "but you don't get as much pay."



Queens of the skies they have been called, the graceful B-17s, but they're also ladies of destruction, designed to pour hell from heaven on the enemy below. In themselves alone, the planes are useless: It is the crew that makes of the Fort the vital potent weapon it is. It is the teamwork of the crew that sings the death tune to the enemy. Here over Pyote, they ply their majestic way, training men to deal death blows to a treacherous enemy. "Over there", they carry lethal leads to smash and batter enemy cities.

Ground School Important Part Of Training

It seems like many months ago but it was only on October 28 last that the present Ground Training Program was inaugurated here at Pyote. On that date Major John B. Nelson, formerly Base S-3 Officer, took over the newly created Director of Ground Training post. His assistants are Lts. Noel Gros-hong and Richmond Powell.

They started from scratch . . . now there are eight fully manned and equipped schools. Schools that spare no time or effort to turn out championship teams for the allies.

As Major Nelson said: "the success of the Ground Schools has been accomplished by the conscientious and tireless efforts of both the officers and enlisted personnel of the ground school system."

"It is the desire of all of the ground school personnel that the Pyote Army Air Field have the best schools in all the Air Force, and that combat crews completing their training here arrive in the combat areas with all the knowledge possible."

Building a school system from the ground up was not an easy task. It is not a completed one either. To build a practical fuel transfer system mock-up takes weeks. A fuel system mock-up is just one of the many needed. They were built, though, and are in operation.

Finding instructors is easy. Finding hundreds of good instructors is definitely not easy. However, the schools system now has hundreds of excellent instructors.

Building a schedule that is

Bulletin Board Gang



"Information Please" say the men of Section II and the bulletin board is the font of all facts

and figures. From the looks on the face of the man on the right it might be a k.p. list he's glancing at.

practical and flexible enough to consider weather conditions, maintenance problems, parades, and many other things is surely not easy. While tactical training precludes tough sledding, Pyote combat trainees have one of the most balanced training programs in all branches of the Armed Forces.

Largest of the eight schools in the Ground Training Program is the Gunnery School. This School was first conceived in January a year ago when one officer and 18 enlisted men were assigned for this function. Under the leadership of Lt. Jerome Blair, the school has increased until it is now able to instruct over 200 "17" gunners hourly. Forty-eight instructors keep the school open 12 hours daily. Here gunners from many different schools are standardized, refreshed and knitted into well-united combat crews.

RUSSIANS DISCOVER NEW WOUND SERUM

MOSCOW (CNS)—Prof. Alexander A. Bogimoletz, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, has discovered a remarkable serum for the treatment of war injuries, it was disclosed here.

Prof. Bogimoletz said that the serum, which is obtained by repeated injection into horses of the cell elements of the spleen and bone marrow taken from human corpses, has been tried on thousands of patients and has hastened the healing of wounds and the knitting of fractures. It also may be useful in preventing the recurrence of a cancer that has been removed, he said.

This I declare,
I am standing pat on;
Headquarters is where
Hindquarters are sat on.

Varied Studies Conducted By Ground Schools

A round-up of all the facilities of the Ground School would take plenty of space but this brief condensation might give some idea of the vast work this organization is doing.

The Range, one of the best in the Second Air Force, has more than 300 men daily peppering away on the ten ranges. Aply commanded by Major John R. Knight, men become buddies with every weapon from the automatic to the deadly .50 caliber machine guns which blanket all fields of approach on the potent Forts.

The Bomb Trainer School once caused Major Nelson to pull his few remaining hairs in worry and anxiety. Today this school is one of his pet joys. Captain Bruce Gardner and Lt. B. J. French are solely responsible for the operation of the C-1 Auto-pilot trainer. Pilots and bombardiers are fully instructed on this trainer.

The Navigation Department contains one of the most unique devices that has as yet been developed for flying training. This is the Celestial Navigation Trainer. In those four towers, pilots, bombardiers, navigators and radio operators take daily tours over embattled Europe, drop their "loads" and "navigate" home.

The Link Trainer provides a chance for a man to fly all over the country and not leave the link training building. Captain Andrew H. Price is the officer in charge with Sgt. James H. Van as enlisted personnel head.

Prominent among the various departments in the Ground Training Program is the Engineering department. Aply commanded by Lt. William R. Bennet, the department has enlightened many a doubtful engineer and co-pilot as to the whys, whens, and wheres of the "17".

Communications plays an important role in helping the students attain proficiency and two officers and 15 instructors handle approximately 1,000 students arriving at regular intervals.

Latest addition to the schools system is the recently activated photo scoring unit. It's still in the embryo stage but before long this unit will be developing and analyzing aerial machine gun shots so that all may become superior gunners.

A vital part of the Ground School training program is the link trainer. Here men travel all over the United States every day and never leave the building. Science, it's wonderful.



EDITORIAL:

Words As Weapons

As preparations for the second front go on apace, the need for secrecy among military personnel grows. Every word, every careless speech that is uttered now can result in great loss for ourselves, our allies and our cause when the 'big push' comes.

This has been made clear in speeches and statements by high military and government officials. They are in a position to know, and do know, what the idle word means to the intelligence branch of the modern Army. They realize that much of the success of intelligence work today lies in the efficacy of the 'bits-and-pieces' system of gathering and collating information. This system has evolved in modern years naturally, having come into favor as the old, more romantic "spy" figures lost their efficiency and, consequently, their favor with the governments using them.

Slogan of this 'bits-and-pieces' system is: Everyone can spy. Everyone must spy; and, everything can be found out. Which is to say, if all the friends of a large power find out everything they can, and forward this information to the right place, then everything that is worth knowing can be deduced from the resultant mass of apparently unrelated knowledge.

Logically, then, it can be assumed that the perfect set of principles for defeating the enemy in this battle of wits is: Nobody will talk; nothing will be said (or shown); and nothing will be found out.

Sadly, though, for all nations at war, this is easier said than done. The average citizen and average soldier do not realize what a terrible boomerang their seemingly innocent talk can be if it reaches enemy ears. The consequent tragedy is that too many people connected with the war effort do too much talking.

Difference in results achieved under different intelligence situations are clearly indicated in a comparison of two recent Allied operations, both of them in Italy. When American soldiers struck at Salerno, they won their objective but at a heavy price. The Germans were expecting the attack and had fortified heavily. But two weeks ago American and British forces rushed onto the beaches at Nettuno, catching the Germans by surprise and executing successfully a brilliant tactical move. Significantly, the Nettuno invasion was planned for two months before it was executed. The secret was kept; it had to be, or another Salerno might have resulted.

Remember that rule: Nobody will talk. That is the only way to keep a secret.

THE RATTLER

Published Each Wednesday at the Rattlesnake Army Air Field
NINETEENTH COMBAT CREW TRAINING SCHOOL
Poyote, Texas

LT. COL. FRANK P. STURDIVANT
Station Commandant

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The Wolf

by Sansone

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(In Hawaii)



"If you've made no plans for tonight, may I suggest something?"

Monahans USO

EDWARD A. PALANGE
Director

Wed.—Spaghetti feed, 8 p.m.
Thurs.—Ping Pong tournament, 8:30 p.m.
Fri.—Discussion group (men from Pyote AAF to explain services), 8:30.
Sat.—Valentine formal (PAAF band), 8 p.m.
Sun.—Classical program in Quiet Room, 4 p.m.; refreshments at 6 p.m.
Mon.—Valentine party.
Tues.—Informal dancing; American Legion meeting in Quiet Room, 8 p.m.

MP DIRECTS TRAFFIC IN ENEMY VILLAGE

Italy (CNS)—MP Cpl. William Sunnell, of Connecticut, was sent into a front line village to direct traffic. When he arrived he found the place deserted except for a few dead Germans. To his surprise, shells were falling about him with uncomfortable consistency, but Sunnell stuck to his post.

After awhile, a column of Americans moved into the town. "What the hell are you doing here?" yelled the commander, spotting the vigilant MP. "I'm here to direct traffic, sir," replied Sunnell. "This town was taken by us yesterday."

"Sure it was," the officer said, "but last night the Germans took it back again and we're just coming in to retake it now."

AT THE THEATER

Wed. & Thur.—"Song of Russia", with Robert Taylor and Susan Peters. Also, Paramount News.
Fri. & Sat.—"Lifeboat", with Tallulah Bankhead, Henry Hull and William Bendix. Also, "Unusual Occupations" and Terrytoon.
Sun. & Mon.—"The Fighting Seabees", with John Wayne, Susan Hayward and Dennis O'Keefe. Also, Paramount News.
Tues.—"Career Girl", with Frances Langford and Edward Norris. Also "Rookies in Burma", with Alan Carney and Wally Briwn.

LaGUARDIA FORGIVES FLIER, PALS AGAIN

New York (CNS)—All's well, now, with Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and Lt. Jack Watson, who incurred the Mayor's wrath last fall when he zoomed his Flying Fortress over Yankee Stadium during a World Series game.

Lt. Watson recently brought his battered B-17 bomber back home to its base in England after a strong Nazi attack had forced him to order the entire crew to bail out. When appraised of this news Mayor LaGuardia immediately informed Watson that "all is forgiven."

THE CHAPLAIN SAYS -



Courage—looks like a lot of us are going to need our share of it in the not too distant future.— So what is courage?

"Courage is fear that has said its prayers." I was afraid not to put quotes around that one. It's such a good definition everybody would know at once that I did not make it up myself.

The courageous man knows what it means to be afraid. "He didn't know the meaning of fear" is just so much prop wash. An American ad man put a picture of a new bomber, complete with grinning pilot, into a mag ad with the caption: "Who's afraid of the new Messerschmidt?" Some jokester pinned it on the bulletin board of a squadron ready-room in England, with "Sign Here" dubbed in at the bottom. The CO signed it first.

You men who have been in combat are sick of the simpering question "Weren't you afraid?" Bet it makes you want to use a bit of that flowery language that Chaplains so often wish they could use.

Of course you were afraid! And we will be afraid too when we get there. But in the midst of our fear we can still have courage,— IF—we can make our fear say its prayers.

There's the rub: if your fear doesn't know how to say its prayers, you won't have courage when those bees start buzzing past your ears.

How do you think it will be with you? When you're afraid? Madly mumbled prayers then won't do the trick. The prayer that turns fear into courage has to be a familiar action. It has to be talking with Someone you know and are accustomed to talk with,—Someone in whom you have confidence, because you have been with Him a lot.

So the answer to whether or not you will be able to master your fear with courage lies in what you are doing right now. Are you acquainted with God at all? Will He know who you are? Have you ever introduced yourself?

Better get on the ball now.
Chaplain Bernard J. Gannon

LAREDO, TEX. (CNS)—Wasps are making good as Marauder pilots here. Members of the Women's Air Force Service who entered training on B-26 bombers several months ago now have been assigned to operations with the AAF Training Command, piloting the Marauder for flexible gunnery students here and in Harlingen.

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sunday—0900 Aviation Unit Service; 1030, Chapel Service Vesper Service 1930.

Wed.—Service Men's Christian Christian League, 1930. Subject, "How and when should we pray?" Everyone most welcome.

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Sunday Masses—0800, 1615 and 1745.

Confessions—Saturday, 1500 to 1730; 2000 to 2100; Sunday, before the Masses.

Weekday Masses—1830, daily except Thursday.

Communion—1700 daily.

Hospital Mass—Thursday at 1015 in Red Cross auditorium.

Evening Devotions — Tuesday, 1900, Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help; Friday, 2100, Novena to the Sacred Heart.

Choir Rehearsal—Wednesday 2030.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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

JEWISH SERVICES

Friday—1900, Base Chapel.

SPECIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Feb. 9—WAC juke box dance in the new game room. All E. M.'s invited to come and meet the WACs.

Feb. 10—Mrs. Worrell will be at the Service Club to sew on buttons and do any sewing from 1300 until—finished. EM wives luncheon 1200. Afterwards they will decorate the Service Club for the Valentine dance. All EM are invited to assist in the decorating.

Feb. 11—Formal Valentine dance sponsored by the Medics. All EM, wives and sweethearts are invited.

Feb. 12—Community Sing, Cpl. Bentley in charge. Song sheets will be supplied.

Feb. 13—Open house.

Feb. 14—Russian class will meet in the Special Service Office at 1930. Variety show at the Recreation Hall.

Juke box dance at the Service Club. All EM, wives and sweethearts are invited.

Feb. 15—Quiz program. Pvt. Bob Mercer will be in charge. French class will start. Cpl. Ed Craig will be in charge.

Feb. 16—Band Concert in the Service Club at 0800.

*Wanted—Some teachers for German, Spanish, French, Short-hand and Mathematics.

*All Masons contact Sgt. Ross Lawrence at 149 to start meetings.

MALECALL

BY MILTON CANIFF



MILTON CANIFF

MEET YOUR BUDDIES:

Mess Sgt., Former Printer, Makes Good In Transition To Army Life

S-Sgt. A. C. Piskorski is that husky, bespectacled fellow you might have seen wearing the fatigues and serious expression around Mess Hall No. 1.

Daily, about five hundred men pass through the mess hall, it is Sgt. Piskorski's responsibility to see that they are well fed, that the food they get is clean and well

handled, and that they get enough of various vitamins to assure them a well-balanced diet. You might say that's enough for one man to do, but Piskorski tries to do more—he tries to see that the men enjoy the food.

How he came to be a mess sergeant is a significant story of adjustment to Army life, that started almost two years ago in Bayonne, N. J. in June, 1942, Piskorski was attending NYU when his induction notice came.

For 13 years he had been a printer, layout man and copy writer. Inevitably, Piskorski was classified as a cook and sent to an Army school. In December of that year he landed at Pyote when the field was new.

During the first two months at this field, Piskorski recalls, everybody was served in one mess—enlisted men, officers and civilians. Then the officers mess was completed and that straightened things out somewhat.

"Then for a while all the food was handled through one mess hall" he remembers. "We had roads that looked like cowpaths leading to the mess hall from all over the field."

Now, all meal planning for the field is done at Mess Hall No. 2. This reduces the work of each mess sergeant to supervising the cooking, keeping things clean and combatting waste. To help him in this chore, Piskorski has 20 cooks working under him.

"We let each man wait on himself," says Piskorski. "A cook hands out the meat and dessert, and each man takes just what he wants of everything else on the menu. In this way we try to cut down on waste as much as possible. Our cooks try to make things taste as good as possible. A lot of GI's think they've got a right to kick and gripe about the food, and when they come through the line they keep up a steady line of uncomplimentary talk. They don't realize it, maybe, but that food at each meal represents several hours of work done by the cook and his helper. When a man grunts something about his food not being fit to eat, he isn't helping himself and is hurting the feelings of the man who's dishing it out. On the other hand, a word of appreciation goes a long way with the cooks, and makes them feel good."

Fifth Column

By SGT. WARD HOWELL

The Service Club Cafeteria was the scene of a dinner party given last week for Sgt. Edward David, the guy who does all the red-lining for the AB Unit, and PFC. Walter Holm of Special Services. A full course dinner was served complete with birthday cake and ice cream. Guests (they only had to cook the stuff, set the table, clean up the mess and wash the dishes) included: Frank Rogers and Tony Baca, Maint Unit "A"; Russell McClure, Maint Unit "B"; LeRoy Courrage, George Pinnell, Andy Foster and Ward Howell Air Base Unit; and Mrs. Bessie Walker of the Service Club.

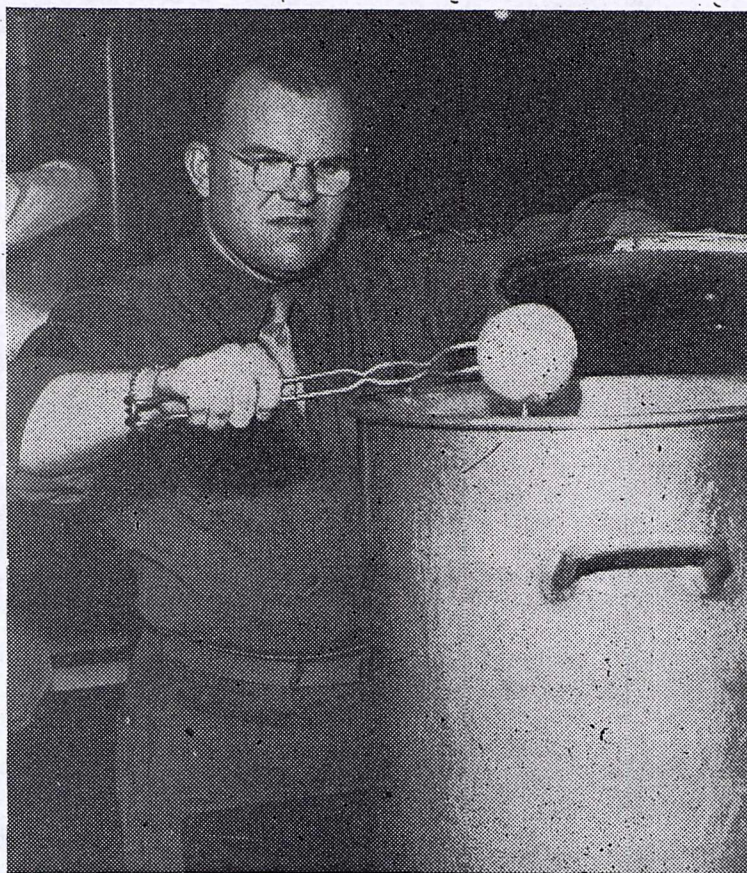
Speaking of the Service Club we might stop to remember that it happens to be the scene of a lot of things on this Field. Eating (naturally that rates first with any GI), enjoying the records and radio, playing pool or table tennis, reading and writing, and last, but by all means not least dancing to the Base Band every Friday night—and that music is plenty OK too.

All this is for free, except the food, incidentally, you'll be interested to know prices are being lowered to the soldiers level. So, in short, to all the girls who make those dances all that they are; the people who work in the Club; and to Eleanor Crowder and Dorothy Robb, we sincerely pay our thanks. By the way, what did we ever do with our evenings before it opened?

Just any evening you are in the mood for Frank Sinatra, drop into Barracks No. 3 and you'll hear Joe Muraca and Jack Tuzzio harmonizing (?) the lyrics of his latest torch ballads. They were serenading some cutie down at Civilian Personnel the other night and she liked them so well she threw a rose out the window—funny thing though—she forgot to take it out of the pot!

If Julius Covington shows the energy in the 410th Orderly Room that he showed slinging pie while on KP, they need have no worry about labor shortage problems.

An Epicure Casts An Eye



Trying out some of the GI cooking of one of his culinary aids is S-Sgt. A. C. Piskorski, above, mess sergeant of Mess Hall No. 1. Piskorski is proud of the work done by his men, maintaining that they deserve a

lot of credit. One of the reasons the men like Piskorski in return is his belief in the efficacy of a prolific coffee urn, and his practice of turning out really good java.

The Feed Bag

BY RAY PASTAMI

Lt. Peoples looks from the copy of the "Rattler" which he has been reading, with that gleam in his eye which is the tipoff that something is either cooking or will be shortly.

"How come," the Lieutenant wishes to know, "all other departments at this station can have a colyum in the 'Rattler' except only the Mess?"

Not being equipped with a ready answer for this question, we just look uncomfortable.

"The guards have a colyum", continues the Lieutenant, "the Medics have a colyum, the WACs, the civvies, the organizations; everybody but us has a colyum in the 'Rattler'. The mess, too will have a colyum in the 'Rattler' as of now."

The Lieutenant bites deeper into his seegar, which indicates the conversation is terminated.

"Sgt. Wheeler," says Sgt. Rostick, "the mess will now have a colyum in the 'Rattler'."

"Sgt. Whitney," says Sgt. Wheeler, "the mess will now have a colyum in the 'Rattler'."

"Sgt. Amundson," says Sgt. Whitney, "the mess now will have a colyum in the 'Rattler'."

"Sgt. Bundy," announces Sgt. Amundson, "the mess now has a colyum in the 'Rattler'."

"Yardbird," Sgt. Bundy says to me, "the mess will have a colyum in the next issue of the 'Rattler'."

"Yes sir," I say, and I turn, but three is no one left to address in like manner, since all the dogs are out to lunch. So I sigh and stumble over to the typewriter, and in my best Columbus system proceed to bat out the foregoing and following.

[This will serve to introduce most of the staff of the station mess, and next week and each succeeding week we will continue to dig up the low down on all the slumbers which inhabit this bee-yootiful section of bee-yootiful Texas, and pass it along to you in our own inimitable fashion.

Diedrichs' 'C' Breeze

MAINTENANCE UNIT C

By PVT. CARL R. LAMKE

It was at one of those Traveling USO Shows once, that the Emcee remarked, "a barracks is just a roof over a crap game." Only too well did he know what he was talking about. Queer thing, though, we weren't able to locate or hear 'the rattle of ivories' around the Squadron Area this past Pay-day. Even our local 'Herlock Sholmes' turned in a negative report on his recent scouting trip through the barracks. Seems the boys found 'better pickings' at some of the other outfits. Or maybe, they didn't have much of their pay left after putting almost \$1700 into War Bonds.

One of our enterprising PFC's, (name submitted to reliable authorities only), did return the morning after pay-day and purchased \$125 worth of bonds. This amount represented winnings he managed to inveigle out of our neighboring squadron, the Air Base Unit.

It's farewell to our Adjutant, 2nd Lt. Malcolm G. Baker. He left us last week for 'points north.' We'll remember Lt. Baker for his knowledge of Military Correspondence; not many a 'faux pas' on the part of the Ordering Room clerks escaped his scrutiny.

Word from Savannah, Georgia reaches us that Cpl. Jack Hancock is 'tending bar.' Nice way to spend a furlough, isn't it? Apparently he is helping out the 'man-power shortage.' Jack used to be a bartender and he tells his favorite story of being able to slide a 2 oz. glass of Calvert's down a 20 ft. bar without spilling a drop. And he had better not, either!

Have you seen the happy grin on the face of Cpl. Milton Pell these days? The wife and baby are now down here with him. Milt found quarters out "Wickett Way" for them. Incidentally, his baby girl, Sheila Dianne, has the honor of being one of the youngest humans ever to ride in a plane. While he was at mechanic school in Miami, the baby, then six months old, and mother journeyed there 'via the air' to be with him.

S-Sgt. Phil Eonta and Nina G. are at last holding hands. That was a week ago, though. We're not able to find out at the present how far the attachment has gone but expect 'almost anything' to happen one of these days.

While he was pulling CQ one night, Sgt. Rossi was given the 'supreme task' of waking up PFC Sohl. This he did, or thought he did, and when Sohl failed to appear Rossi went back and shook him again; even a third time. However, Sohl never did show up, in fact, he insisted no one disturbed his slumbers at all.

QM Sees

By SGT. JACK CANNON

SURPRISE OF THE WEEK! We make the deadline for the first time in two weeks. (O.K. Lt. McLaughlin you can drop that whip now.)

Anyone having a mystery that needs solving contact Shorty Wilson. Since he has been reading a detective novel a day he has become quite an authority on the art of being a super sleuth. Last week he investigated a poker game in Barraks No. 1, and found that the deck was missing five cards. In a statement to the press, this miniature Dick Tracy promised that "di-lisp-panary" action would be taken. We only hope that he doesn't tangle with "Flat Top" Barone.

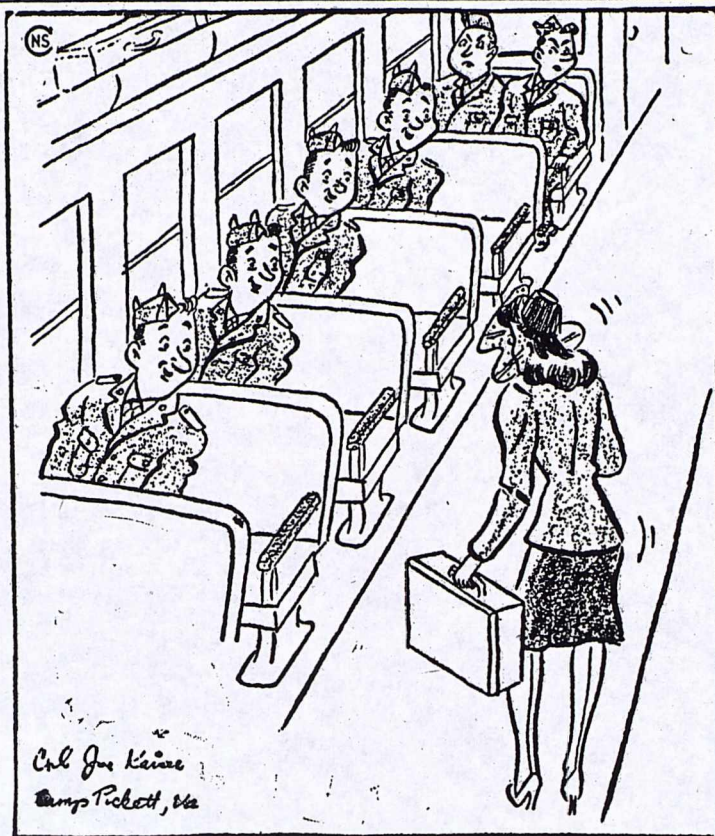
When Mrs. Hohmann started to work in the Chief Clerk section last week a new problem came up. Up to that time there was an extra desk in that section and Miss Roper had someplace to sit when Lt. Kravitz appropriated her desk as he often does. But now Lily is left out in the cold. We are not blaming you, Virginia. In fact we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our genial crew. You will not find a better gang to work in spite of the fact that Cpl. Cole holds a different viewpoint.

We welcomed back to the QM last week, Lt. George Frick who has just returned from a school session at Camp Lee. He looks very fit and from what he told this roving reporter of the schedule there we can readily see why, Calisthenics, hikes, obstacle course etc. Quoth he, "Pyote was never like that."

Lost! One Purchasing and Contracting Department. Description: One soft spoken 2nd Lt. with an ever ready smile, a supply of good jokes, and a large collection of pipes; One Staff Sergeant, quiet but diligent and one young lady, brown eyed with bright red hair and an even brighter pair of red shoes. Last believed to be in the vicinity of Station Headquarters. Finder please return to Quartermaster office. Sentimental value attached.

Pete Magdaelno still can't see what Mahaney gets out of coyote hunting. To Pete the sum and substance is that the dogs run after the coyote and George runs after the dogs, and there doesn't seem to be any sense to the whole thing. To quote George "He hasn't the soul of a hunter."

Sgt. McCurdy made a statement last week that we thought we would never hear. When asked how the weather was in California whence he just returned from a furlough he replied that "The weather most of the time was swell



Training Unit

BY PFC. ED KOOPS

There comes a time in the life of every Pyote GI when he has to transfer Squadrons. As this happens to me every fourth day I

but it rained a couple of days." Tsk! Tsk! The Chamber of Commerce is going to hate you Mac! Are you sure that it wasn't a heavy mist?

It took a little explanation to convince Bill Friend that the letters B.T.O. on the bottom of his shot record meant Blood Type O and not Big Time Operator. How that boy has changed since he began going out with girls!

Why does Amos wince when he hears Kipling's poem "Boots, Boots, Boots?" Could it be that it brings back memories?

Orchid of the week: It goes to Mrs. Edna McLeod of the Memorandum Receipt Section. This capable person is doing a swell job on a task that a month ago looked hopeless and that is straightening out the responsibility for office furniture on the Base. With little or no help at all she is finally getting things shipshape and it will be a load off the mind of a lot of officers when the job is finally done. Keep it up Mrs. McLeod because we are all depending on you to solve all the difficulties and we know that the thing couldn't be in more capable hands.

am considered quite an authority on this complex art. In fact, I'm considering suggesting a War Department Training Film entitled: "04-054" — How To Transfer Squadrons".

The first step is obtaining from your old Unit a clearance sheet. This paper is to contain such information as how many old National Geographics you swiped from the Library, a statement of charges for three broken soda straws from the Service Club, and the \$64 you owe a Staff Sergeant for the Blackjack game of January 12th. This you promptly lose.

Next you discover you locked your key in your foot-locker, which usually wins the huzzahs and friendly laughter of everyone in the barracks. You finally tote your bulging barracks-bags over to the New Unit, locate a bunk (upper in immediate proximity to the heater), find it has A. no mattress, B. no comforter. Naturally, you procure same from an occupied bunk beneath you. The occupant is a Tech Sergeant with 5 hash marks and a good right. You pick yourself up off the floor and finish moving.

TRAINING STRAININGS . . . Pvt. Bill Bills is in the hospital recovering from a nasty collision in the Pyote metropolis. The boys here all hope he makes a speedy recovery from the accident—and no more low altitude flying on the motorcycle . . . M-Sgt. Russel C. Tapley and S-Sgt. Paul E. Schaffner left last week for TOCS. We'll miss those boys . . . S-Sgt. Martin W. Haworth left for Florida.

WAC Flak

Just to bring you up to date on the latest tales from missing females: Sgt. Helen Birnbaum, recently transferred to the Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, Pa., says she is still pinching herself. She writes, "I can't believe I'm here: the work is exactly what I wanted and if my first case is approved, I'm in. My office is in the Craft shop for the blind and in my spare moments, I instruct them in plaster work, making figures, etc. These blind soldiers are swell and its remarkable that they can adjust themselves so quickly." Sgt. Birnbaum, you will remember is the manufacturer of artificial hands, feet, ears, and scar coverings as well as plaster cast and mold work. New York City (her home) is only three hours from Phoenixville, Pa., so she often goes home for the weekend. Congratulations, Helen, and good luck.

Cpl. Ethel Robson's latest word was simply a card with an APO address. She didn't stay in Ft. Ogelthorpe very long. As soon as we hear from her again, we'll let you know. By the way—the last time her name was mentioned in this column, a remark was made about her brown eyes—My! My! such a horrible mistake. They are BLUE. Nothing but the truth can be printed in this column.

Do you remember Cpl. Helen Bodge? Helen and PFC. Nila Dee were transferred to Almagordo last September as PBX operators. Now Helen is in Ft. Ogelthorpe where she had the pleasure of seeing Ethel Robson again. Bet those gals talked fast while they were to-gether.

Sgt. Sylvia Wexler, recruiting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is crying to come back to Pyote. Her latest letter, written on a Blue Monday, no doubt, was full of wants and don't wants. She doesn't want a mink coat but she wants to lose weight. She doesn't want to be a gold brick. She wants work. Plenty of it. She wants the same shots we've been taking (can you imagine?) and she doesn't want all of us to leave Pyote with out her. Buzz—Buzz. Rumors are burning Sylvia's ears.

Lt. Margie Stewart is in St. Paul according to Sylvia, and shares the same sentiments about returning to Pyote. Guess Pyote has won a place in their heart. Sgt. Roberta Deason also recruiting in Duluth, Minnesota, says they are at least reaping the results of a huge advertising campaign, launched just after the holidays.

Last, but not least, Sgt. Vernis Montis. Monty, that Mississippi Missy, sent us a V-Mail from El Paso.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

By T-SGT. LAWRENCE SHIPP

It's February. The month of Valentines and famous presidents. More than that . . . it's the month of The Notorious Medix Valentine Dance Party to be held at the Service Club Friday night. For all those GIs that are really interested in an evening of A-1 fun that they will never get elsewhere, all we can say is **BE PRESENT!**

Even though The Flyer's Dispensary is located several blocks away the EM and Officers are definitely a part of us. In this group of hard working, ambitious and jovial fellows, many interesting personalities have come to light as a result of our continued acquaintances. There is S-Sgt. (Curley Locks) Schroeder, the Sgt. Major, who has done an unusual job of fine organization. Incidentally he gets plenty of co-operation too. In the Examining Unit you can always find the "Pecos Kid" but don't look for him after work because he'll be headed West! For painless shots it's no other than PFC Richard Sawyer. Dick says he'll be a millionaire if he could collect two-bits for every shot he's given. PFC Nelson Flint, "slayer" of the opposite sex, is getting around plenty of late and never encounters obstacles either. There must be a reason! Cpl. Schutte, who is falling away to 'nothing' claims that the only "Gold" in Texas is "Black". Get it fellows? Could be! And why should some child call S-Sgt. Bankers "Daddy" on the train? Explain that one, chum! "Pop" Wehling further reports that Bankers has not unpacked his bags yet because he apparently is still carrying them under his eyes. In spite of the fact that Cpl. Riden threatened to adopt youthful PFC Cliff Williams, he went and "did it" and to a Spar too! Congratulations pal and may you both have plenty of smooth sailing.

Plenty always happens at Station Hospital and perhaps the greatest event of the week was the last meeting of Local 237 at Sunset Inn. Standing room was at a premium and the attendance hit a new high. Song, dancing and "Victory" were the highlights of the evening and for a wow of a good time—who could deny it? Those 2 "quiet" characters known as Schreken-gost and Good attempting to 'remodel' the barracks and our own "Frank Sinatra", recently discovered in PFC Browarek, reminded (but not gently) the absentees the meeting was over.

'A'ck 'A'ck

By SGT. ROBERT E. NELSON

The basketball team has gained recognition on its recent victory over the previously undefeated Vincos. The boys on the team feel they can repeat these wins with your support in the Gallery. I am sure you can help them this coming Thursday when they play the "Sad Sacks".

While going through the barracks looking for information, I overheard Sgt. Jack Leverone and Sgt. Philip James in a deep discussion about wrestling, and boxing. It seems Sgt. Leverone believes that boxing is harder on a man than wrestling while Sgt. James claims it is the other way. All opinions on this subject will be appreciated by these two. Next meeting Tuesday.

ODDS AND ENDS

Who is the heart-throb Cpl. Limbardi visits every night in Monahans? (Is it wedding bells?)

The question of Sgt. Karl's marital status has been the talk of 504 since returning from furlough.

Why has pop lost all interest in the city of Kermit lately?

A certain Tech. Sgt. in 508 has the men wondering when he is going to sweep under his bunk.

S-Sgt. F. A. Brown returned from furlough and can be found in the prone position on bunk 48, barracks 508.

M-Sgt. Carl Brown recently returned from Odessa muttering about redheads. Wonder why?

We understand Sgt. Yeager's days off are spent with a sweet young thing called Blanche

Who is going to win the battle of the Sub-Depot? We hear M-Sgt. Neathly is favored.

Among our social notes we discovered two armament men in barrack 514 were guest of the city of Pecos a few days ago.

Did you know that S-Sgt. Wheatley is a nervous wreck with his new responsibilities as Armament Transportation head. (Four Trucks.)

What is your latest offense in Pecos, Cpl. Cervantes?

There is a rumor Sgt. Sain got married while in Carlsbad. Will you verify this, Sgt.?

Sgt. Tabish is slow in recovering from the ordeal of becoming a father last week.

Transportation men are wondering how Griffith can afford to take Betty to Wink so often. Where do you stand on the subject, Sgt. Eberly?

Why does Cpl. Pannell get so enthusiastic when anyone mentions Frank Sinatra? We didn't think much of his last show, "Higher and Higher".

Sgt. Tony Baca wondered why his name didn't appear in this column. Well Tony here it is. Feel any better now?

Mail Call

Our want ad in the Rattler of a few weeks ago brought results this week when Captain Duff received a letter from El Paso telling him of a ranch for sale. It would seem to me that the offer was what he had been looking for but he denies any intention of buying a ranch or anything else here now or at any other time.

It has turned out that we have another Frank Sinatra working here in the person of Pvt. James (Killer-Diller) Boggs. Boggs says that all of the women just can't help but fall for him when they hear him sing. According to his own story he is a real dude when he dons his uniform and service cap. (The one with the bill.) He says that when he gets off from work he goes and takes a good shower and puts on some of that movie star powder and all women go for him and tell him that he is good looking. Being a modest fellow he won't brag much about himself but does admit that he is a very handsome fellow in his uniform when it is all pressed up.

Parachute Patter

Mrs. Harris returned from her leave, and after being under the doctors care for a week, she feels a great deal better. During her leave, her daughter got married. We wish the happy couple the best of luck.

Mr. and Mrs. Huffman were called away on emergency leave to visit Mr. Huffman's sick father. We hope that upon their arrival they will find him in much better health. In Mrs. Huffman's absence Jewell is acting supervisor, and a fine job she is doing too.

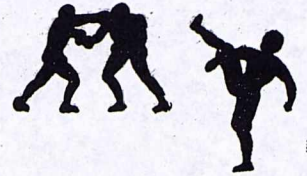
One of the boys on the night shift, namely Cpl. John Shevlin, has been in the hospital for over a month. We wish him a speedy recovery and we would all like to see him back with us very soon. He's too good a man to be on his back for such a long time.

Bruce Weisenberg has been transferred out of our happy family into the Section Parachute Department. All of us here miss him very much, but he misses only one.

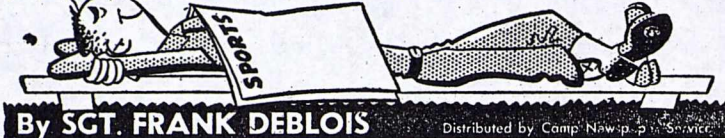
The boys in the sections have again called on the girls to assist them in the fitting of the harnesses. That gives the girl a chance to go there to work. Ever since then, the girls have given special effort to learn to fit the harnesses so that they may have a chance to go too.



RATTLE SPORTS



WARMIN' THE BENCH



By SGT. FRANK DEBLOIS

Distributed by Camp Newspaper Service

Lt. Tom Harmon, who turns up in the darndest places, is in Washington now. Someone peeked into a corridor in the Pentagon Building and there he was—safe and sound.

Harmon, who always turns up safe and sound, had just returned from China, where he spent a month wandering around in the jungles after his plane was shot down near Kiukiang, which is a Yangtze river port and not a heavyweight wrestler. Earlier last year he had spent a week wandering around in the jungles of Brazil after his plane had crashed into the Mato Grosso.

Touchdown Thomas has shown a remarkable adaptability to jungles, considering the fact that he's pretty new at the game. During his athletic career at the University of Michigan, the only jungles Tom ever saw were those Fritz Crisler used to map on the blackboard while diagraming plays for his team.

Harmon wouldn't talk about his escape from the jungles of China. "It would just mean reprisals by the Japs," he explained. "And maybe it would put a rope around some other pilot's neck."

He had plenty to say, however, about the dog fight he had with two Zeros which cost him his plane, his pants, and 32 days in the wilderness.

"It all began," said Harmon, "with four P-38's going out to dive bomb a target and four more flying top cover. I flew tail-end Charlie for the top-cover men. Pretty soon six Zeros appeared, then six more, and then some others which made about 20.

"I turned back into those Zeros, busted right in between two of their three-plane formations. I hit one with my cannon and the whole thing exploded. Then I saw a Zero up ahead, came in beneath him, tore a chunk off his left wing near the fuselage, closed in to about 50 yards and let everything go. He went up like a matchstick."

Three shells hit Tom's plane, the third landing right between his legs.

"It started a fire in the cockpit," said Tom. "And blew the pants leg off above my knees.

I tried to smother the flames with my hands but it was no good, so I loosened my safety belt and jettisoned the cockpit cover. I was going at such a speed that it pulled me right out of the plane.

"I didn't know the altitude so I opened my 'chute immediately. That wasn't good. I was at about 5,000 feet and two Zeros started circling me. I was afraid they would turn into me and let go, so I folded over and played dead. After I landed in a lake they came over three or four times and each time they did, I'd duck under my 'chute. Finally they went back to their airport and I swam ashore."

Harmon leaned back in his chair. "That's all, I guess," he said. "Say—did you see any Michigan games last November?"

Sgt. Joe Sage, 25-year-old New York municipal golf champion, who had been missing in action since Nov. 5 when a Flying Fortress on which he was bombardier was shot down in action, is a prisoner of war in Germany, his parents have been notified.

Fred Apostoli, BM1c, was named boxer of the year in the 19th annual rankings of The Ring magazine, published by boxing expert Nat Fleischer in New York. Apostoli, the California bell hop who once held the world's middleweight crown, won the mythical title for his meritorious action in combat against the Japs. Last year the nod went to Marine Sgt. Barney Ross, hero of Guadalcanal.

Team Standings

	W	L	Pts.
Crippled Commandos	4	0	.1000
Galloping Guards	3	1	.750
Vincos	2	1	.500
Fighting Armorers	1	2	.333
Sad Sacks	1	2	.333
Aviation Unit	1	3	.250
Ordnance	1	3	.250
Question Marks	0	2	.000

Commandos Cling To Lead In Rattlesnake Hoop Loop

The upsets are running thick and fast in the Rattlesnake Basketball League these days, the latest being Tuesday night in the only game played. The Aviation Unit took the Fighting Armorers in one overtime period to score a 27-25 victory. The Armorers led in scoring until the last quarter when with 5 minutes to go Pvt. William Brant

ARMORERS LOSE

Fighting Armorers	G	F	Pts.
Jasaitis, f	2	3	7
Cervantes, f	3	1	7
Blarr, c	3	0	6
Tamburrino, c	0	1	1
Hajlo, g	1	0	2
Kaufman, g	0	0	0
Cargile, g	0	0	0
Blackmeyer, g	1	0	2
	10	5	25

Aviation Unit

	G	F	Pts.
Lester, f	0	1	1
Lastrop, f	0	0	0
Dean, f	1	0	2
Scott, f	3	0	6
Sims, c	2	4	8
Russell, g	1	0	2
Brant, g	4	0	8

GUARDS COMEBACK

Vincos	G	F	Pts.
Maxwell, f	9	1	19
Castner, f	2	0	4
Flint, c	1	1	3
Roberts, g	3	0	6
Harris, g	0	1	1
Duran, g	0	0	0
	15	3	33

Galloping Guards

	G	F	Pts.
Felix, f	4	0	8
Pflugrad, f	0	0	0
Sheppard, f	3	0	6
Camp, c	4	2	10
Ray, g	8	4	20
Matthews, g	0	0	0
Denwick, g	0	0	0
Chavis, g	0	0	0
	19	6	44

COMMANDOS ON TOP

Gunbusters	G	F	Pts.
Michna, f	2	0	4
Snyder, f	1	0	2
Lagerguist, c	4	1	9
Cambell, g	1	0	2
Snyder, J., g	3	0	6
	11	1	23

Crippled Commandos

	G	F	Pts.
Boots, f	7	1	15
Casper, f	8	1	17
Sartori, c	1	0	2
Perachek, g	1	1	3
Shownberg, g	0	0	0
Marin, g	1	0	2
	18	3	39

and Cpl. John Sims each put three two pointers in to tie the game at 21 apiece. The Sgt. Art Blair and Pvt. Pete Jasaitis retaliated with two points each to put the Armorers in front 25 to 21.

With 3 minutes left to go Sims of the Aviation Unit put in two free throws to bring the score to 23-25, and with less than a minute to go Pvt. Brant of the Aviation Unit broke inot the clear to sink a short one and tie the game up at 25 apiece.

In the first overtime period PFC. Bob Russell got behind the Armorers defense and sank a basket to win the game for the Aviation Unit, 27 to 25. The remainder of the overtime period went scoreless, this giving the colored boys their first victory in four starts.

Sgt. John Cervantes and Pvt. Pete Jasaitis scored 7 points each to lead the Fighting Armorers and Cpl. John Sims and Pvt. Bill Brant led the Aviation Unit with eight points each.

Thursday night the vastly improved Gun Busters tried to overcome the league leading Crippled Commandos, but were unsuccessful in the attempt. PFC. Harold Cooper again led his Cripples with 17 points, aided by PFC. Joe Boots who put in 15 points. The Gun Busters led by Cpl. Lagerguist with 9 points played a sweet game but could only score 23 points. The final score 39 to 23.

In the second game the Galloping Guards started their comeback at the Vincos' expense to a score of 33 to 44. It was a game of high individual scoring with Cpl. William Ray making 20 and Cpl. Charlie Maxwell of the Vincos making 19 points. Both men were hot and hit the basket from all angles. It was a fast and furious game with the Vincos threatening to overtake the Guards at any time, especially during the 4th quarter.

Advance In Marshalls Furthers Pacific Strategy

Vatutin's Forces Continue To Chew Up Nazi Armies

While Americans at home last week read and became angered at the first government-sanctioned stories of Jap atrocities, the armed forces of the United Nations went ahead on many fronts with the steady, grinding business of war.

American forces have practically completed conquest of Japan's largest atoll of the Marshall Islands. Not many of the defenders were taken prisoner. The assault against the Marshalls was the logical step expected since the taking of the Gilberts weeks ago. They had been pounded from the air with tons of bombs dropped by the Liberators of the Seventh Air Force.

Capture of Kwajalein atoll puts Yank bombers within 1,000 miles of the great enemy stronghold at Truk.

Different strategy than that adopted against the large islands such as Southwest Pacific had to be used against Kwajalein. Where it is possible to outflank the enemy on a large island, the attacking force going against a small atoll can only succeed by overwhelming the enemy, who is everywhere on a small defended point. This was done on Kwajalein. After heavy bombers had more or less 'saturated' the island, carrier-based dive bombers struck at specific targets. Then warships move in to help the dive-bombers. Finally, under combined sea-and-air bombardment and protective smoke screen, the troops come in from their amphibious craft.

General MacArthur is now using this process against the Admiralty Islands, north of New Guinea, indicating his next invasion goal is there.

Meanwhile in Eastern Europe, Russian forces have swept further into old Poland and taken two important towns—Rovno and Lutsk, a city that the Germans captured in June, 1941, a week after they invaded Russia. Now Gen. Nikolai Vatutin's First Ukrainian Army stands only 85 miles away from the nine-way rail junction of Lwow, control point for the Warsaw-Odessa line and only direct main line German railroad still running into the Dneiper bend.

At Smela, where the Reds have about 100,000 Germans pocketed they tightened their noose around the doomed Nazis when their southern and western forces turned back heavy German counterattacks and advanced up to three miles. The Germans are caught within an area about 50 miles long and only 25 miles across at its widest point.

Russian artillery and planes are pounding the Germans heavily, evidently with the intention of their utter destruction rather than forcing a surrender.

In the northern central part of the long Eastern front line, Soviet forces are hammering at the Germans, near the old Latvian border in the Nevel sector.

One of the interesting rumors, pertinent to the Eastern Front, was the one that had a German general making a special plane trip to Hitler's headquarters to ask der Feuhrer if he could please surrender. According to the story, not verified, der Feuhrer told him not only no but Hell No, to get back there and hold off Russians as long as possible.

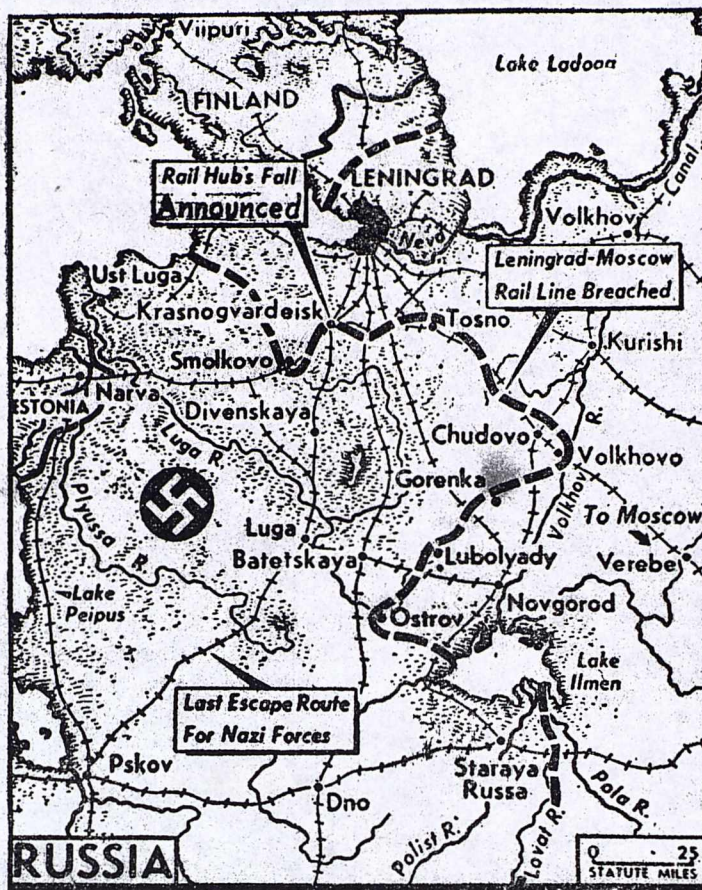
Other stories emanating from Sweden indicate that the Nazis now in Poland are not buying any summer suits or anything else that might slow them down when they start getting out.

On the home front Americans lost their temper in mass quantities when the Commander-in-Chief decided the time had come to let the people know how the Japanese treat their prisoners. Everyone who knew anything about the Japanese had been yelling the same thing since the war started but a lot of people have to be told by the President himself before they really believe it.

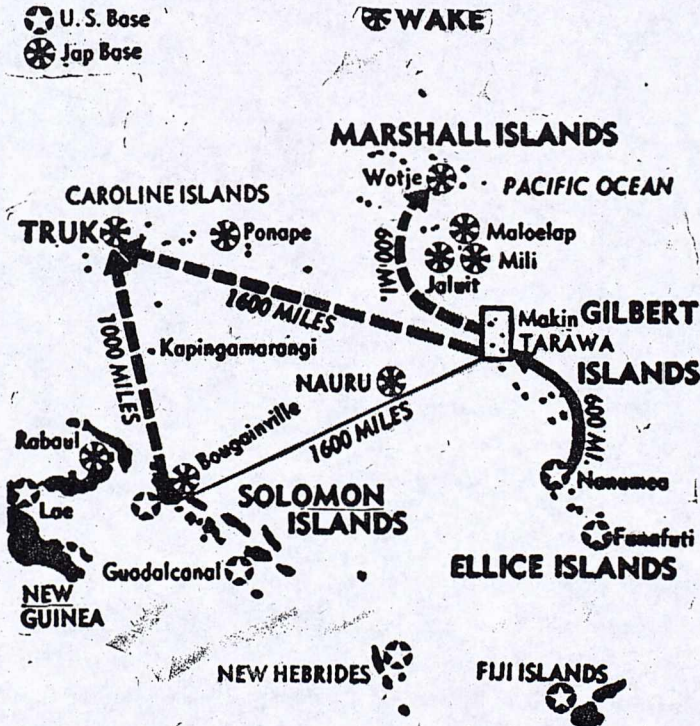
To a small extent, the release vindicated the policy and persistence of old Elmer Davis, head of the OWI, who has repeatedly asked for more straight news, regardless of whom it hurt. It came at a time when Davis was on his way out, glad to go.

American planes were almost unopposed when they struck against the French invasion coast in groups of as many as 1,500. The Doolittle touch was felt by the Germans, as General Jimmy's heavies struck at fighters on the ground with good results. It is the belief of Maj.-Gen. Jimmy Doolittle that enemy air strength can best be destroyed by hitting fighters on the ground whenever possible.

Diplomatically, America hardened her heart toward Spain and Argentina, two rope-walking neutrals who've dealt us plenty of misery in the past. Suspension of oil shipments to Spain is expected to show that country the light.



Indications that Russia is about through fooling around with Finland may mean more action to come on the Northern front. Dotted line above shows how area around Leningrad has been expanded, allowing room for operations against the Finns. The Soviet nation wrote its ultimatum with a tremendous bombing of Helsinki.



Shortening the bomber run to Truk and the supply lines from Hawaii to Australia, American troops are now battling for atolls in the Marshall Islands.