

July 7, 1943

## Brig. Gen. Travis Takes Command

BRIG. GEN. Robert F. Travis brings to his position of commanding general of the First Bomber Command the experience of a military career devoted to heavy bombardment. He was one of the original dozen Flying Fortress pilots under the late Gen. Robert Olds. Gen. Travis replaces Brig. Gen. Robert B. Williams, who has been given an important new assignment of undisclosed nature. A Georgian, the new commanding general belongs to a prominent military family, and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1928. Headquarters of his command, which the Rattlesnake Bomber Base is now under, is at Biggs Field, El Paso.



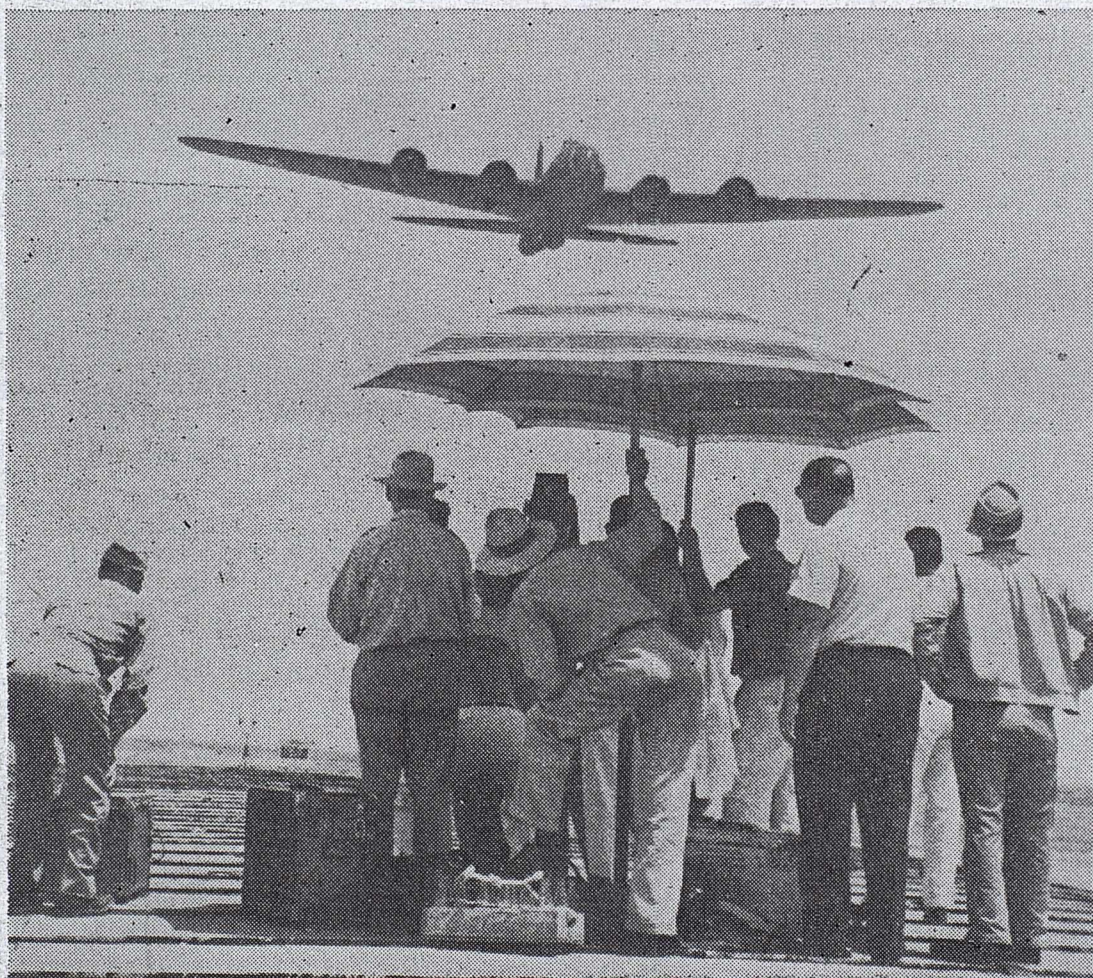
STORY PAGE 11

## Magic Phrase: 'Payday Today'

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# Pyote B-17s: Movie Stars

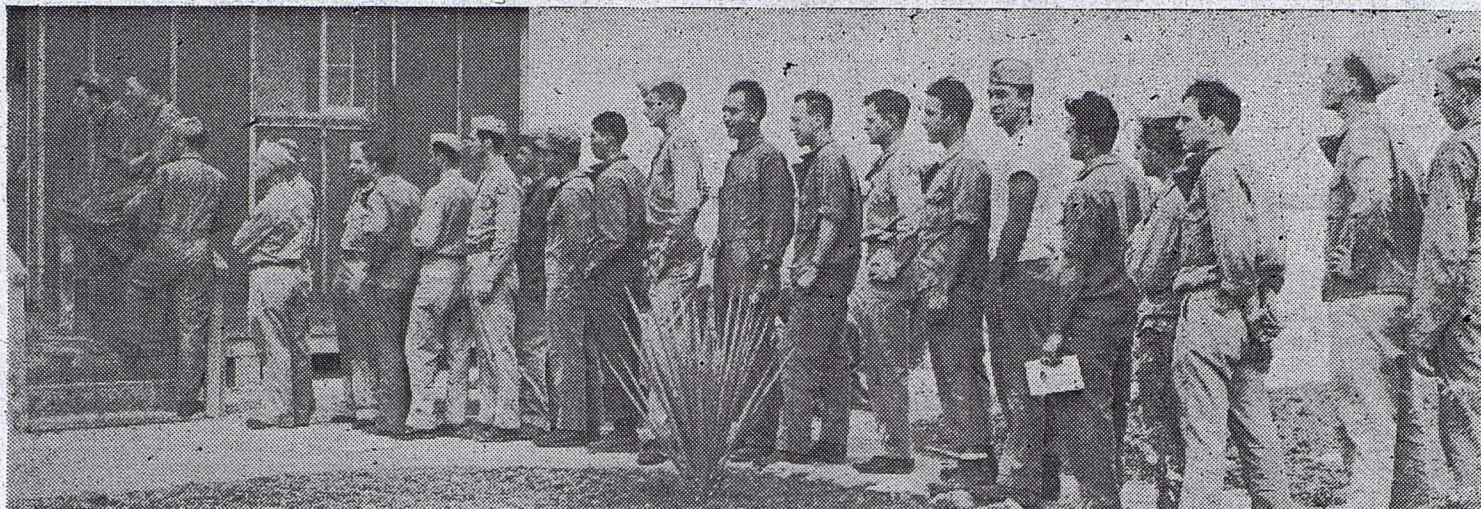
Top-flight Paramount camera crew—under the direction of Arthur H. Rosson, associate to Cecil B. DeMille—took four flying scenes here for "The Story of Dr. Wassel". The action's setting is Java, where the Navy doctor heroically saved wounded seamen, evacuating them under enemy strafing. Flying Fortresses saved the day by roaring in to drive away the Jap Zeros. Grouped in the picture to the right, the movie men capture a stirring shot of one of the huge craft winging low in simulated attack. With War Department sanction, the motion picture production here last week was arranged by Col. Louie B. Turner, 19th Group CO, with Major R. E. Thacker, group operations officer, in charge. Gary Cooper will be Dr. Wassel in the forthcoming film. (Story Page 7)



## Model Barracks

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# It's A Long, Long Line, But The End Is Mighty Fine



THE PAYDAY lines—this one at the Base Headquarters Squadron's orderly room—are full of grumbling at the wait in the Pyote sun, but no one ever leaves before reaching the pay window. The frowns turn to grins, and the fatigues to sharp suntans once the 20s are tucked away. Some lose, some win, some save and some spend, but payday is the month's gay day.

## Only Complaint: Why Don't We Do This More Often?

BY CPL. ROBERT NASH

Payday today.

That's the magic phrase that keeps most of us going during the latter half of the month. It puts the beer on ice, waxes the dance floors, cheers up the storekeepers and greases the wheels for the monthly "big trip" to town.

There are several sides to this picture of a soldier stepping up to the desk, snapping a salute and drawing his envelope of money.

The "whinging", or monthly blowout, is one, common to many soldiers and limited only by the number of paydays. Especially if a three-day pass can be wrangled, it is a passport to pleasure.

To the married soldiers it's a chance to straighten up his bills, perhaps buy the wife a new dress.

Buying a bond, another financial poke at the Axis, is the meaning for many. To some it means sending a money order home to help out the folks or to go in a savings account that will be a cushion for the expected post-war letdown. Figuring on a furlough some day, others sock part of it away in a "furlough fund."

Payday is always felt in nearby towns, even more than in camp. It makes the MP strive mightily to keep his brethren in line.

Different pay scales, deductions and additions often make soldiers of the same grade draw different pay. A buck sergeant who has two or three dependents and makes a bond deduction, for instance, draws only a fraction as much as the sergeant who is on flying status with no deductions coming out. Laundry and insurance are the two most common deductons.

Getting the soldier his pay is the work of the Finance Department, which on this base consists of 15 enlisted men, a warrant officer and two officers.

Basis from which the squadron

payroll sheets are made is the individual service record of each soldier. From information contained therein, a "pay card" is made up, containing information on base pay, extras and deductions.

The payroll total is figured, then a "change list" is made up, and the money turned over to the

squadron's class A agent. There the Finance Department's responsibility ends.

The greatest pecuniary tragedy that can happen to a soldier, outside of a pair of crooked dice, is the "red line," which can deprive you temporarily of pay. Of course you will get it (and more) on a supplementary pay roll around the middle of the month, but it means you will have to stall off your creditors for two weeks. Most common causes for "red lines" are improper signatures, although mistakes made in making

out the payroll sometimes are responsible. Omission of the middle initial or "Jr." after the name, or signing the name backwards, are frequent mistakes. Although the name is typed with surname first, it should always be signed on the payroll as "John H. Doe Jr."

Sometimes an allotment is approved and is paid to a soldier's dependent without deductions having been made from his pay. If you know this is happening to you, it is better to go to your payroll clerk and have him straighten it out.

### Joe's Tavern: Payday Party

Here a supper party is in progress at Joe's Place, Pyote. Merry-makers, L-to-R, are Cpl. Doyle Nixon, Base Hq. Squadron; Pvt. Andrew Derrick, Guard Squadron; Miss Helen Swavola, Scranton, Pa.; PFC Gene Martin, QM Detachment, and Mrs. Martin of Scranton; Sgt. Earl Marsa, Krueger Airdrome Squadron. Busy on payday is waitress Miss Dolores Whitefield.



# Young Pacific Veteran Heads 435th

## Capt. Steinemann Left Law School To Become Expert Jap-Destroyer

By CPL. SID KANE  
435th Bomb Squadron •

To his highly responsible task as commanding officer of the 435th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Group, Capt. Frank C. Steinemann brings combat experience gained in major air battles throughout the Pacific theater.

A veteran, at 25, tall, pleasant Capt. Steinemann, of Sandusky, Ohio, enlisted as a flying cadet in September, 1940, leaving a pre-law course at Ohio State University.

After training at Lincoln, Nebraska, and Randolph Field, Texas, he won his wings at Brooks Field, Texas. His orders assigned him to the 5th Bombardment Group, stationed at Hawaii, June 2, 1941, Capt. Steinemann left for what was to be one of the hottest theaters in the global air war.

It was just one of those things that he wasn't at Pearl harbor at the time of the Jap sneak attack—he had returned to McClellan Field, Cal., to pick up some new B-17s to take to the Philippines. He returned to Hawaii a week after the "day of infamy", where his outfit, the 26th Bombardment Squadron, did reconnaissance work until May, 1942.

Moving on to tiny Midway, Capt. Steinemann and his crew flew many combat missions in that highly strategic area before leaving for the Southwest Pacific theater in July.

In the Solomon Islands offensive, Capt. Steinemann participated in the bombardment of Guadalcanal and Tulagi for the ten days preceding the Marines' landing.

During the Solomons fighting, the 26th was credited officially with shooting down 60 Jap Zeros and two four-engine flying boats and with sinking 11 warships. Every crew in the squadron flew an average of 35 to 40 missions. Their operations were mainly against enemy shipping, with the missions carried out from Henderson Field.

They bombed Kihili, Ballale, Munda, Bulka, and Villa, all important Jap airdromes, and shipping in the harbors of Toneli and Shortland. On New Year's Day, 1943, Capt. Steinemann and crew visited the "hot spots for a helluva good time"—they bombed Rabaul.

Leaving the Solomons for the States in February, this year, the Captain spent a few well-earned days at home with his family before reporting to the 18th Replacement Wing at Salt Lake City. There he received his assignment to the 19th Bombardment Group here at Pyote.

Arriving here on May 5, he was

appointed flight commander, 435th Squadron, under Major Robert E. Thacker—where his valuable experience was put to use training smoothly-functioning combat crews.

On June 25, Capt. Steinemann was elevated to squadron commander. The news was not broken to him gently.

The special orders bearing the appointment were published on a Friday evening. The next morning, the Captain, not yet informed of his new job, was walking casually from his BOQ to 435th Operations. Major Thacker, pulling up in a Jeep, took the Captain aboard. After a few moments, he asked:

"Captain, are you in the mood for a soul-shaking surprise?"

Captain Steinemann gritted his teeth for anything that might come, and said: "Go ahead, Major."

"The 435th has a new CO, and brother, you're it."

And serious, efficient Capt. Steinemann is "it" to the officers and men of the 435th, who are striving for the title, "Best Squadron at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base."

## Gen. Johnson Explains Tough 2AF Training

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

—With discipline and leadership as two of its main components, a training program has been designed by the Second Air Force not only to make four-motored bomber crews the most efficient in the world but to make each man and officer so rugged he will be able to out-scrap anything the Nazis or Japs have to offer.

At headquarters here, it was revealed that the Second Air Force operates in more than 20 states and that the men are training under all types of conditions and weather.

"The life of soldiers in the Second Air Force certainly is no bed

## He Brings Combat Lore To Pyote



CAPT. FRANK C. STEINEMANN, veteran of Pacific air battles from Midway to the Solomon Islands, became commanding officer of the 435th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Group, June 25, this year. He replaced Major Robert E. Thacker, who was elevated to the post of 19th Group operations officer. Native of Sandusky, Ohio, Capt. Steinemann left Ohio State University to enlist in September 1940, winning his wings later at Brooks Field, San Antonio, Texas.

of roses," said Major General Davenport Johnson, commanding general, "but, then, neither is war. If discipline is maintained, leadership stressed, living conditions stripped to war necessities, the routine confining, the physical and mental strain demanding the utmost obtainable, it is simply because we are striving for an objective. And that objective is to insure against needless waste of lives of men we send into combat areas.

"We want these men thoroughly

prepared to cope with an enemy who has made himself infamous for his brutality and unscrupulous methods. We want them so well trained they'll be able to outfight any adversary and come home to tell about it."

Such a training program is more than producing the expected results, according to General Johnson. "The boys we're turning out at the end of our rigid program are seasoned, fit and confident. I'm willing to stake my blue chips on them any time, any place."

## Standard Barracks Layout

All barracks of this base are to be uniform in arrangement. Major John B. Nelson, Base S-3 Officer, announced last week. It shall be the responsibility of each unit commander that the barracks under his command are properly arranged as presented on this page.

Barracks housing flying crews will use the same layout plan excepting that the A-3 bag and the B-4 bag will replace the foot lockers between the windows.



Twenty four double beds will be placed parallel to the length of the barracks, with twelve double beds on each side of the barracks. Double beds will be placed 42 inches from the side wall of the barracks, and placed in pairs with a 24 inch interval between pairs of beds. Double beds will be made up so that the

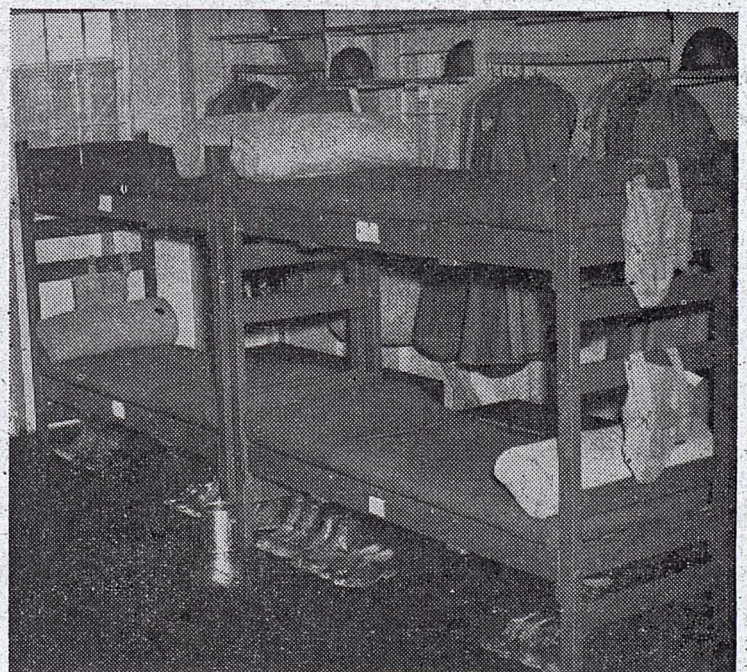


Barracks bags will be hung beneath the windows, four to a window. Foot lockers will be placed between the windows against the wall. Gas masks will be hung on the outside end of each individual's bed.

The shelves will contain nothing except the issue helmet; personal effects will be kept in the barrack bags or foot locker. Clothing will be placed on the clothes rack as follows, from right to left: raincoat, overcoat, blouse, field jacket, O.D. shirts, O.D.



foot of the beds are together. Two single beds will be placed at right angles to the length of the barracks, on the extreme end, one on each side of the barracks, with the head of the single beds 20 inches from the side wall of the barracks, and the side of the bed 24 inches from the end wall of the barracks.



trousers, suntan shirts, suntan trousers, fatigue clothing, and one towel will be hung on a coat hanger next to fatigue clothing, and all other towels will be kept in foot locker or barrack bags. Shoes will be placed on the floor in line under head of each individual's bed, facing the center of the barracks.

### Latrine Scores

Last week's latrine sanitation inspection resulted in the following scores, by organizations responsible and officers in charge:

435th Bomb Squadron	
Lt. J. J. Trella	98
Med. Det. (Consol.)	
Lt. B. Igou	98
Guard Squadron	
Lt. O. M. Stephenson	97.5
Med. Det. (T-325)	
Lt. Igou	97
28th Bomb Squadron	
WO C. Pinkerton	96
30th Bomb Squadron	
Capt. E. Sponable	96
93rd Bomb Squadron	
Capt. R. T. Hernlund	94
Service Squadron	
Capt. E. R. Genter	94
Bombing Range	
Lt. E. C. Simon	93
Squadron X	
Maj. H. M. Harman	92
Aviation Squadron	
Lt. F. W. Thacker	91.5
WAC Company	
Capt. G. M. Moran	90
Base Hq. Sq. (T-842)	
Lt. R. O. de Castongrene	89
435th Trainees (T-624)	
Lt. Trella	83
Base Hq. Sq. (T-852)	
Lt. de Castongrene	78
Service Squadron	
Lt. M. A. Diedrichs	75
93rd Bomb Sq. (T-646)	
Lt. C. M. Trant	72

Where more than one building is represented by the score, the figure is an average.

### Mess Hall Scores

This week's mess sanitation point ratings:

WAC Company	95
Base Hospital	93
Guard Squadron	91
Mess No. 1	
(Base Hq. et al)	90
Mess No. 2	
(Service Squadrons)	90
Aviation Squadron	
(Colored)	89
Range Squadron	89
Mess No. 4	
(28th & 93rd)	89
Mess No. 3	
(19th Group Trainees)	86
PX Cafeteria	86
Officers Mess	86
Mess No. 5	
(30th & 435th)	85

### COMBAT GUNNER RETIRED AT RIPE OLD AGE OF 16

NORTH AFRICA (CNS)—S-Sgt. Clifford R. Wherley of Elmwood, Ill.—turret gunner of a Martin Marauder with more than 100 combat hours to his credit—is retiring from the war. Four times decorated, Wherley is being sent back home by parental request. He's only 16.

## Base Latrine Sanitation Improves, With Medics, 435th, Guards Ahead

Last week's latrine inspection, by Lt. Robert S. Russ, Base Sanitary Inspector, indicated definite improvement over the previous check, with the lowest score moving up from 31 points out of a possible 100 to 72 points.

Building T-646, used jointly by the 93rd Squadron, Kreuger Airdrome Squadron, and 19th Group trainees, improved to more than double its previous score, but still remained in the cellar. Officer in charge was listed as Lt. C. M. Trant, and NCO in charge as M-Sgt. R. Davis. Things wrong with the latrine included:

No garbage can; poor policing, heater covered with plastic material; no mop and broom rack; water standing on floor; cigarette ends on floor; needed containers on shelves for razor blades; needed two sets of duck-boards for shower room.

The 435th Squadron's latrine T-543 shared top honors with the Medical Detachment's consolidated latrines, with scores of 98 each. Officers in charge respectively were Lt. J. J. Trella, and Lt. B. Igou, and NCOs in charge were S-Sgt. M. Casrella and 1st Sgt. B. Bollman.

The previous week's winner, the Guard Squadron—officer in charge, Lt. O. M. Stephenson NCO in charge, Sgt. T. C. Pauley—dropped to a close third, 97.5, from 99.

## WACs, Hospital, Guards Again Lead Field In Mess Sanitation Scores

In the weekly mess hall sanitation inspection, the WAC Company, the Base Hospital and the Guard Squadron again led the field in that order, Lt. Charles P. Ripley, inspecting officer, reported.

Capt. G. M. Moran's WAC Company—with Lt. Edith Haslam as mess officer, and Sgt. Annabelle Ogden as mess sergeant—scored 95 points, same as the week previous.

The Base Hospital Mess dropped off one point to 93, but retained second place. Mess officer was Lt. Wm. Burns, and mess sergeant, Sgt. J. F. Rayfield.

The Guard Squadron Mess, which tied with the hospital for second place the previous week, dropped off three points to score 91, third place.

Mess Hall No. 1, Base Headquarters consolidated mess, climbed up from the cellar spot the previous week to score 90 points last week and take fourth place. Mess officer, Lt. Douglas M. Roberts, and mess sergeants, Sgt. Kurt Whatley and Sgt. Jack Weir, demonstrated initiative for improvement which publication of these scores is designed to inspire, the inspecting officer reported.

Last week's low score was the unfortunate lot of Mess Hall No. 5, where the 30th and 435th Bomb Squadrons eat. However, the 85 low was a definite improvement over the previous week's lowest score, 74. Four messes scored below 80 the week before last, none last week. No. 5 is the responsibility of mess officer, Lt. J. B. Blanchard, and mess sergeant, T-Sgt. G. L. Blank. Though their trays were in excellent condition, the inspecting officer found these faults:

Clothing kept in storeroom; back of refrigerator not enclosed; broken wheel on food chart; no cover for fryer; kitchen floor

needs more work; more care needed under serving counter; fly traps needed for garbage scraping rooms; ladder rung to be fixed; more careful washing of GI cans necessary.

### TRIPLETS JOIN NAVY ON 17TH BIRTHDAY

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — The Guenther triplets—Robert, Marvin and James—enlisted in the Navy on their 17th birthday. They had tried to enlist last year on their 16th birthday but were turned down.

### TANKS WEAR 'SNOODS' THIS SEASON

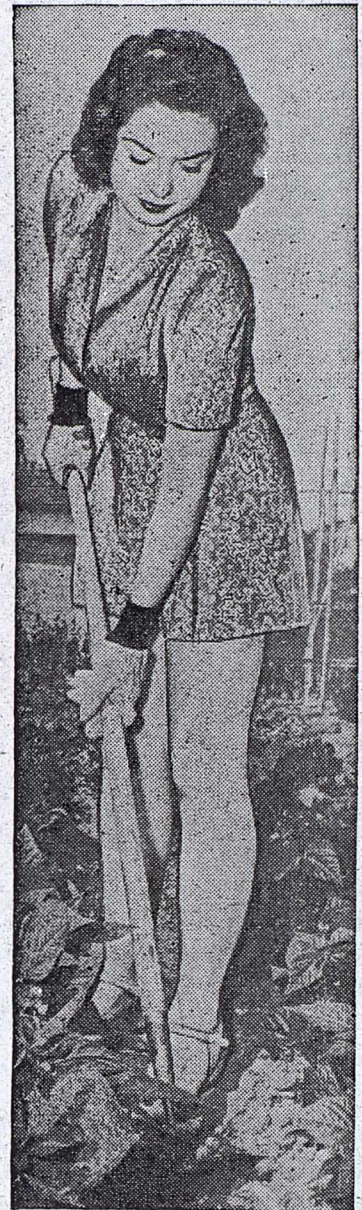
CHICAGO (CNS)—Snoods for tanks is the latest note in battle-fashion. Chicago's lace curtain industry is busy turning out yards of netting to supply the Army's mobile battle units with "snoods" for camouflage.

### NEW KIT HELPS FLIERS IN SELF FIRST AID

LONDON (CNS)—A new small, blast-proof, non-inflamable first-aid kit is being supplied fliers in the RAF, making it possible for an airman to treat his wounds while descending by parachute from an abandoned plane.

The kit contains a pair of sterile gloves, morphine, cream for burns, bandage and one safety pin.

### Pretty Patriot



NEW STARLET, Georgia Lee Settle, finds time after hours on the Warner lot to work in her victory garden. The food situation is getting serious when such too, too tender care is lavished on mere vegetables.

### DEPENDENCY ALLOTMENTS URGED BEFORE 'GOING OVER'

NEWARK, N. J. (CNS)—Soldiers have been urged to submit authorizations for allotments of pay before leaving the United States, according to Brig. Gen. H. N. Gilbert, director of the Office of Dependency Benefits, here.

"Individual authorizations for allotments of pay may be made by radiogram from overseas; however they must be confirmed by the regular authorization form by mail," said Gen. Gilbert. "Army men are urged to submit their authorizations before leaving to avoid the delays incident to transmitting and processing those sent in from overseas."

## Farmer Turns Mechanic



**FORMER FARMER** M-Sgt. Freeman Paschall, on ladder, gives some pointers to his ground crew on how to keep a B-17 ticking tunelessly. Crew

members include S-Sgt. Paine, Pvt. Uhl, Sgt. Brown, Pvt. Young, Sgt. Czapor, Pvt. Lent, and Cpl. Kearnes.

## Veteran Ground Crew Chief, Daddy Of '070', Gives 'Baby' Loving Care

By **CPL. SID KANE**  
435th Bomb. Sqdn.

"Keep 'Em Flying" . . . that's the job of this week's "buddy". Meet M-Sgt. Freeman Paschall, 435th Bomb. Squadron, who is the Ground Crew Chief of airplane 42-3070. His is the responsibility of getting and keeping "070" in the air. But, first, a little of his background.

He enlisted in the Air Force in October 1939 (wow, he's really a vet) at St. Louis, Missouri, where he made his home, and his daily bread by farming. After basic training at Hamilton Field, California, he was sent to Chanute Field, Illinois, where he took a course in engine mechanics, and received his A. M. rating. Thence to Salt Lake City, and from there to the 7th Bomb. Group, which was heading overseas two months before the Pearl Harbor stab in the back.

He certainly has a first-hand working knowledge of what it's like to repair and maintain a B-17 out in the wilds of nowhere: working at night, with only the light of a small flashlight, keeping that dimmed, so enemy reconnaissance units wouldn't spot the location of their plane. Spare parts and tools were practically nil, im-

provising was the order of those days. Joining the 19th Bomb. Group in Australia, he returned with them to this country.

After a well-earned furlough, he joined the group at the very new Rattlesnake Bomber Base. After one month on the line at Pyote, he was made the "daddy of 070." He has complete charge of his ship, and he knows every inch of her, like a skipper knows his boat. He takes great pains to see to it that the 10 men who are assigned to him for work on the plane, give it the same rapt attention that he does.

The prime function of Sgt. Paschall and his crew, is to keep "070" in the air, and to get as many flying hours as possible out of the plane and the combat crews which use it for their school room. They all have a soft spot for the ship, and really treat it like their own baby. I know, for I live with most of them, and all I hear is 070, day or night.

Sgt. Paschall thinks the B-17 is just the acme of perfection, as far as warplanes go. He does have quite a time keeping the plane in tip-top shape, due to his men being detailed as KPs, room orderlies, latrine generals, etc., etc. In

## Macmillan Company Offers Awards To Authors In U. S. Armed Forces

Marking its first hundred years in the publishing business, The Macmillan Company is conducting a writers' contest especially for authors in the armed forces, Lt. George A. Hoffman, special service officer here, announced last week.

To encourage soldiers who intend to follow writing careers after the war, or currently are working on material, is the purpose of the Macmillan Centenary Awards.

American awards will be \$2,500 for the best novel and \$2,500 for the best work of non-fiction, with smaller awards totalling \$5,000 for other manuscripts or publishing proposals. Similar awards are offered Canadian and British servicemen.

Deadline for manuscripts is December 31, 1943, and submissions should be made to The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New

York, N. Y.

Contestants must be from 19 to 35 (inclusive), either an American citizen serving in a branch of the armed forces or any of the United Nations or anyone, citizen or otherwise, serving in a branch of the armed forces of the United States.

For further information, those desiring to enter the contest should see Lt. Hoffman, or write to the publishing house for the contest circular.

## Activities At Monahans USO

By **EDWARD A. PALANGE**  
Monahans USO Director

Mrs. Allen D. Forsythe, Monahans resident, July 1, took over duties as senior hostess and member of the club's staff. She replaces Mrs. Adele B. Lawlor, former assistant director, who was transferred to the Amarillo USO Club.

Mrs. Forsythe will continue the organization of junior and senior hostesses and assist in the orderly operation of the planned USO program.

This week's activity schedule at the Monahans club follows:

Wednesday: Game night, chow mein, chump-checkers, dominoes, cavalcade, snake eyes, parchesi, and bridge.

Thursday: Community sing, secretaries available for personal correspondence; drawing of lucky number for free telephone call

order to discover any ills before they become too serious, there are daily inspections, pre-flights, 50-hour, and 100-hour inspections. In addition, Paschall has the duty of training new men, fresh from Air Force Technical Schools. Most of these new men are excellent material, and have a genuine desire to learn.

I could probably use 2 or 3 more pages to tell you that the boys are doing a swell job. However the proof is in the flying, and therein lies an interesting fact. The 435th Squadron Commander invariably selects 070, when he goes up for a training flight. So, they must know the score or a bare sleeve is the net result.

M-Sgt. Freeman Paschall stated that he would match Pyote's mechanics and ground crews with any in the Air Force, and certainly with any in the enemy's forces. The excellent flying record that they helped make a reality backs his point.

home, only those present participating.

Friday: Bingo, with cigarette prizes for winners. Meet the junior hostesses.

Saturday: Know-your-plane games, 8:30 p.m., only soldiers and WACs eligible; handsome prize to be awarded to first and second winners; informal dancing, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday: Free coffee and doughnuts, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Lounge, read and write; quiet games available, new records; dancing permitted.

Monday: Checking service, snack bar, reading and writing facilities, radio music, home registering, information service, free shaving, pressing and shoe polishing facilities at all times.

Tuesday: As every day, open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., with regular activities.

Highlights of last week's program was the informal dancing Saturday night honoring men in service who registered as 18- and 20-year-olds June 30, last year. Soldiers and WACs attended a free chicken barbecue and picnic Sunday.

**CAMP BLANDING, FLA. (CNS)**

—Two sisters, Catherin and Hilda Malcolm, were married here recently to twin brothers, PFC Herman Chandler and Pvt. Hirman Chandler. Both are members of a Quartermaster laundry battalion

## Pyote Pilots Ready To Fly For "The Story Of Dr. Wassel"



**DIRECTOR** Arthur H. Rosson, associate to Cecil B. DeMille, and Maj. Robert E. Thacker, 19th Group Operations Officer (center foreground), plan the Fortress formations that will

appear in the flying scenes of Paramount's "The Story of Dr. Wassel." Pilots participating include, left to right, Lt. Virgil B. Lindsey, Lt. Claude H. Lawrence, Capt. William J. Gibson,

squadron commander, Lt. Charles De F. Besore, 435th Squadron, Lt. William J. Myer, Capt. James A. Ferguson, deputy commander, Lt. Ellsworth E. McRoberts, Lt. Robert H. Brown,

93rd Squadron, Lt. Ralph K. Watts, and Capt. Robert E. Hawes, 435th Squadron. C. Kenneth De Land, production manager, stands hatless to Major Thacker's left.

# Paramount Shoots Movie Scenes Here

BY CPL. ROBERT NASH

On the decks, wounded sailors from the Marblehead and the Houston lie in their makeshift stretchers and groan. Officers and men struggle furiously, desperately to get to the Jensen, last vessel away from Java, into the clear and away from the Jap Zeros overhead.

Steadily, hastily the Zeros strafe the ship and its personnel. Dr. Wassel, the missionary doctor from Arkansas, tries to comfort the men as much as possible. His job—against orders—seems hopeless.

Then a new, heavier drone than that of the whining Zeros is heard. The full-throated, deep and steady hum of Uncle Sam's heavy bombers.

Here come the Flying Fortresses!

That page from history—torn from Japan's bloody conquest of the Pacific—is being filmed by Paramount studios. Needless to say, the Zeros take a pasting and the Jensen gets away safely with the help of the fortresses. And Dr. Wassel (Gary Cooper in the forthcoming movie) gets a decoration from the President.

When you see "The Story of Dr. Wassel" look closely at the

B-17s when they come tearing in at the Japs. You'll have only three or four minutes, but maybe you can spot Cactus Jim or another one of Pyote's planes. Four flying scenes for the picture were shot here last week, with Major R. E. Thacker, 19th Operations Officer, in charge. Under War Department sanction, filming of the scenes by Cecil B. DeMille's cameramen was arranged by Col. Louie B. Turner, 19th Group CO.

Two flying veterans of Pacific warfare, Capt. William J. Gibson, and Capt. James A. Ferguson, were squadron commander and deputy commander, respectively, of the formations.

Nine ships participated in the formation flying, being manned by Pyote flying instructors. All of the ships, in a V of V's, dipped in over the hangar—while cameramen on the roof ground away.

Pilots flying in the formations were: Capt. Ferguson, 1st Lt. Ellsworth E. McRoberts, 2nd Lt. Robert H. Brown and 2nd Lt. William J. Myer, all of the 93rd Bomb Squadron; Capt. Gibson, Capt. Robert E. Hawes, 1st Lt. Claude H. Lawrence, 1st Lt. Virgil B. Lindsey, 1st Lt. Ralph K. Watts, and 2nd Lt. Charles De F. Besore, all of the 435th Bomb Squadron.

Capt. Gibson participated in the Hawaii, Australia and New Guinea campaigns, serving as assistant flight commander while overseas. Holder of the Air Medal, he is Operations Officer of the 435th.

Capt. Ferguson, holder of the American Defense Medal, the 19th Group citation and the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon, served in the Java, Australia and New Guinea campaigns, running up over 200 hours of combat flying in the different theaters.

Heading the list of Paramount notables here to make the pictures was Director Arthur H. Rosson, associate of Cecil B. DeMille. With

him were C. Kenneth De Land, production manager, and Harry Caplan, assistant director.

To take the pictures Paramount sent the following technicians here: Loyal Griggs, first cameraman; William Snyder, first cameraman (Technicolor); Paul Perry, second cameraman; William Cline, technicolor technician; Edward Moviuis, technicolor assistant cameraman; Fred Seigle, technicolor mechanic; Charles Morton, script clerk; Andy Durkus, head grip; and Elmer Martin, camera electrician.

Three of the moviemens, Rosson, De Land and Durkus, were recently under water for a total of 33 days during the filming of the squid sequence in De Mille's "Reap the Wild Wind."

"The Story of Dr. Wassel," written by James Hilton, first appeared in Cosmopolitan this spring and has since been published in book form. It tells the story of the American country doctor who went to China as a medical missionary. When war came he joined the Navy.

## EDITORIAL:

# Silence Is Golden

Both civilian and military personnel at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base lately have been dangerously lax in their duty of safeguarding information that would aid the enemy.

Loose talk on busses, in restaurants and bars, on street corners—wherever strange ears may pick it up—leaks out information on troop movements, equipment, training activities, freight shipments and the like.

This base is a vital link in the United States' vast heavy bombardment program which now is putting terrific pressure on the enemy's defenses. The Axis Powers' military leaders must be anxious to obtain all possible knowledge of American airpower in their attempt to offset its destructive force.

Their espionage system, assisted by non-professional sympathizers, is admittedly efficient. Little, seemingly unimportant bits of information picked up here and there throughout the country can be pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle. One careless phrase uttered by you may be the very material needed by enemy agents to obtain a complete picture of planned action, and thereby destroy the often decisive element of surprise.

Each civilian employee should reconsider seriously the oath of silence, stating in part:

"... knowing full well that the disclosure of military information may cause great damage to my country and may result in the loss of many American lives, and realizing that carelessness may be as damaging as deliberate intent, do solemnly swear . . . that I will not divulge, either carelessly or deliberately, to any person or persons not authorized to receive it, regardless of their relationship to me, any information whatsoever that reaches me through my official position . . ."

The oath also binds employes to report to proper military authorities any questionable disclosures of information by others which they observe, whether on duty or off duty. Soldiers are charged with the same responsibility.

Perhaps the most flagrant violation of the responsibility for safeguarding military information is by soldiers and civilian employes who think it is smart to show off their knowledge of military affairs and activities. They blab to impress others with their importance to the war effort. Actually they only prove their own foolishness, and unintentionally may be serving Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo.

If you must talk about war activities, confine the conversation to information that has appeared in newspapers and magazines, that has been made public through official channels. Anything more is almost certain to be of value to this nation's enemies.

## THE RATTLER

Published each Wednesday at Rattlesnake Bomber Base, Pyote, Texas

LT. COL. CLARENCE L. HEWITT, JR.  
Commanding Officer

Edited & published by and for personnel at the AAB, Pyote, Texas.

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Lt. B. M. Robertson, Director of Publicity

Pfc. Tommie C. Call, Editor

Sgt. Elliott Core \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Clerk  
Pfc. Hyman Brook \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Editor

CORRESPONDENTS: Miss Margaret Myers, S-Sgt. Lawrence Shipp, John Bogard, Cpl. Robert Nash, Sgt. Lloyd K. Pearson, PFC Sammy Kaplan, Cpl. Hueling Davis Jr., Cpl. Sid Kane, Miss Fern Hunt, Aux. Sylvia Wexler, Sgt. Warren Keys, Sgt. Roy Wortendyke, Cpl. R. Czernakowski, S-Sgt. Tom Nevinger, PFC Henry Spas.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: T-Sgt. John Lucas, Sgt. Walter Seefeldt.  
FEATURE WRITERS: Cpl. Robert Nash, Cpl. Sid Kane.

The Rattler receives Camp Newspaper Service material.

## The Wolf

by Sansone



## The Diplomatic Front:

Most American commentators on foreign affairs, including this column, fell overboard in welcoming Argentina's new regime into the democratic fold, following the military coup in Buenos Aires.

Ernest Lindley, Washington observer with close Administration contacts, convincingly summarizes what a second look reveals:

"Hopes that the new Argentine government would line up with the Allies have begun to fade. The military junta headed by Gen. Pedro Ramirez promised to adopt policies conforming to those of the other American republics. In the same breath, it pledged continued neutrality in the war.

"At first this double talk did not seriously perturb Allied capitals. They received various private assurances. But ensuing events have created doubt as to the purposes and trustworthiness of the new regime.

"On the whole, the trend of the new regime seems to be toward further suppression of popular government, corrupt administration and crude opportunism in foreign affairs."

Of immediate concern is whether the Ramirez government will crack down on Axis espionage elements using facilities in the Buenos Aires area to gather information on Western Hemisphere war activities. Secondly, the other American republics have a right to expect that Argentina will keep its promise, made at the Rio conference

a year and a half ago, of closer cooperation in the hemisphere's defense.

Argentina is disturbed at the economic and military assistance being extended the other American republics, particularly Brazil, by the United States. Its position of leadership in South America is threatened. The military coup perhaps was designed to set up a government that could bargain for such assistance, without disturbing the controlling power of the conservative-reactionary elements favoring Argentina's "prudent neutrality."

However, Allied leaders are not likely to bargain with Argentina until the new regime takes positive cooperative action. The only acceptable proof apparently would be Argentina's breaking relations with the Axis powers, actually and formally.

Western Hemisphere solidarity does not mean regimentation of the American republics into any set pattern of democratic government or under domination by any one nation. Cooperation in all fields of common interest, inter-American affairs, is the ideal which the United States' good neighbor policy points toward.

While the other American republics have no justification for dictating to Argentina how it should run its internal affairs, they rightly resent that country's shortcomings in hemispheric defense.



# THE CHAPLAIN SAYS -



One of the most detrimental things to progress is the habit of looking backward. Living in the past slowed down many a man and nation. "The good old days" that the old folks talk about were not any better than the days today.

True, we are in the most terrible war in all history. What makes it terrible is the fact that much progress has been made in recent years. This progress has made itself manifest right now in refined ways of killing. It is not that men hate any more than they used to, but merely that 2,000 pound block-busters are more devastating than a stone thrown from a catapult. The machine gun is deadlier than the spear. The man operating the gun isn't any more depraved than his forebears merely because he kills ten times as many of the enemy.

Let us look forward to the day when the genius of man can be turned to constructive channels. The same mind that developed the B-17 can, just as well, conceive and bring into being a super-plane for freight and passenger service. The man responsible for "Radar", which makes location of enemy aircraft no longer a matter of guesswork, can direct his planning to peaceful pursuits, thus making life easier and happier for all of us.

When will these men be permitted to turn their energies to other ends than destruction? When will we be using rubber made from oil, silk from coal and air, and auto bodies from beans? The question, in some ways, is hard to answer. We can't set a definite date. We can say this: "When men learn to live according to the teachings of the Man who went about doing good, then lasting peace will have come to the world."

We must pray that such a time will come; and we must so live that we will not be a hindrance to such a world of peace.

—Chaplain Edwin W. Norton

**GUADALCANAL (CNS)** — Hanging helplessly from the end of his parachute, Lt. Henry Matson of Perry, N. Y. saved himself from Jap attack by giving a realistic imitation of a Nip flier.

The Japs shot his plane down and when he jumped they dived at him, but Matson screwed his face up to make it look like he had buck teeth and grinned at them. They evidently assumed he was a Jap for they flew away and left him.

## PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sunday: 0900, Aviation Squadron Service; 1030, Base Chapel, Sermon, "Practical Religion"; 1930, Base Squadron Night at the Base Chapel, Sermon by Sgt. William E. Bernard; 1715, Christian Science Service.

Wednesday: 1930, Bible Study Class.

Thursday: 1900, Chapel Chorus Rehearsal; 2000, Community Sing; 2030, Motion Picture.

Friday: 1930, Jewish Service.

## CATHOLIC SERVICES

Sunday Masses: 0600; 0800; and 1615.

Confessions: Saturday, 1500 to 1730; 1900 to 2100. Sunday, before the Masses.

Weekday Masses: 1730, daily except Thursday.

Hospital Masses: Thursdays at 1500; in Hospital Mess Hall.

## The Inquiring Line

**Q. I'd like to be transferred to the parachute troops. What are the necessary qualifications and requirements?**

A. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 32 inclusive. Weights may vary with height but no soldier weighing over 185 pounds is accepted. Maximum height is 72 inches. Distance vision uncorrected must be 20/40 each eye, or better. In addition the applicants must have steady nerves, be alert, active and dependable. Your transfer is handled in accordance with existing Regulations, specifically AR 615-200—convenience of the Government and the good of the service being the deciding factors.

**Q. My mother died when I was 11 and I was raised by my foster parents. Are they entitled to receive a dependency allowance from the government even though they aren't my real parents?**

A. Yes, if they can show that they are dependent upon you for a substantial portion of their support. Proof must also be submitted showing your relationship to them, such as a certificate from the clerk of the court which legalized the adoption or a certified copy of the order of adoption from a court of competent jurisdiction.

**FT. DIX, N. J. (CNS)**—Pvt. Lloyd Baxter, former ice skating star, wondered what the Army would give him to do. He didn't have to wonder long. The day after he was inducted he was put to work cleaning out an ice box.

# AT THE THEATER

Top billing this week goes to beautiful bouncy Betty Grable, in the Technicolor "Coney Island", 20th Century-Fox product (Sun. & Mon.) As Time describes it:

"Behind and around her moves a recreation of vintage-1905 sporting life with a noisy host of roisters, pitmen, barflies, and by-ones innocent bystanders. Miss Grable's tunes, dances, and virtually unprintable person will take full care of the general public." (And, it might be added, of GI wolves.)

Excellent research was done to reproduce the old Coney Island authentically. One of the best shots in the gaudy but delightful show reputedly is the brawl in a Coney harem.

Of "Five Graves to Cairo" (Wed. & Thurs.), Look's movie editor comments:

"Erich von Stroheim does a striking characterization of Field Marshal Rommel in this fictional but highly ingenious explanation of the Nazi leader's rise and fall in Africa."

Though complimenting the camera work, Time's critic considered the Paramount drama too polished for the subject:

"Once again, a packaging job of high sheen fails to conceal the fact that there is very little product inside."

Another war film, another musical, the Tuesday double feature add up to a very acceptable week of entertainment.

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Wed. & Thurs.—"Five Graves to Cairo," with Franchot Tone, Ann Baxter, and Erich von Stroheim. Shorts: "The War", Paramount News.

Friday—"Squadron Leader X", with Ann Dvorak and Eric Portman. Shorts: "Golf Limited" and "Red Hot Riding Hood."

Saturday—"Priorities on Parade," with Johnny Johnson and Betty Rhodes. Shorts: "Boobs in the Night" and "Duty and the Beast."

Sun. & Mon.—"Coney Island," with Betty Grable, George Montgomery, and Cesar Romero. Shorts: March of Time, Paramount News.

Tuesday—Double feature: (1) "All by Myself", with Patrick Knowles and Evelyn Ankers; (2) "Strangers from Pecos", with Johnny Mack Brown.

**Show Time:**  
STARTS  
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.

# Texas Pilot Tells Lessons Learned In North Africa

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—It was the constant shattering of Axis Mediterranean supply depots and convoys that softened the way for Allied ground forces to break through in Tunisia, according to Captain Harold Brasher, 25-year-old Texas bomber pilot, just returned from the North African theater of operations.

In keeping with Second Air Force policy, Captain Brasher has been brought back to give the benefits of his combat experience to pilots and crews on their way to combat zones.

For five months, Capt. Brasher and the crew of the B-17 Flying Fortress, "The Maverick," participated in unceasing raids over Sfax, Tunis, and Bizerte. With each mission, he was able to observe the terrific effect of the AAF and RAF in opening breaches for the armored and ground forces to pour through.

Heavy artillery fire, synchronized with the devastating air raids, combined to accomplish the perfectly timed attacks. Precision timing was the important factor and the air force was required to be as regimented in flying formations as were the ground forces below in the desert sands.

"The art of heavy bombardment combat missions," Brasher said, "is primarily to drop your missiles and stay in line as long as possible. In this manner, you obtain maximum effectiveness in hitting designated targets and in assuring the defenses of your squadron against enemy interception."

"To accomplish this," Brasher continued, "the pilot must have complete faith in the members of his crew. He must know that when the enemy's fire gets the hottest, each man will stick to his guns and react according to instructions. He must think, not of self-preservation, but rather of the collective lives of his team."

Decorated with the Purple Heart and the Air Medal, Captain Brasher is now at Davis-Monthan field, Arizona, where he is instructing student airmen in enemy tactics and studying the operations of B-24 Liberators. Later he will be assigned to a new group for further action against the enemy.

CHICAGO (CNS)—"Please call my girl and break a date for me," a hospitalized soldier asked a nurse in the Air Force training station here. "But don't tell her I've got the measles," he added sheepishly.

# A A B SPORTS

## Majors Hit Mid-Season Mark In Pennant Races

By PFC HYMAN BROOK  
Sports Editor

The 1943 baseball season hit its halfway mark this week with the St. Louis Cards and the New York Yankees holding top positions. Even though the season is half over it still looks plenty tough in both the American and National Leagues as to who will wind up with the pennant at the end of the season.

In the National League it seems to be nothing but a two team race, and what a race it will be before the season ends. Both the Brooklyn Dodgers and the St. Louis Cards will be battling with all they have until the last game of the season. In '42 the Cards came through to win 28 out of 32 games toward the end of the season, surprising baseball fans all over the country to win over the Dodgers.

At the half way mark the Cardinals are leading Brooklyn by four games after trimming the Dodgers twice in Sunday's games.

The Pirates, who are now in third place, and 7½ games behind the leader, will be little threat for the pennant. Neither of the other National League teams have made any kind of showing to be up there in the money at the end of the season. The biggest disappointment in the Nationals is the New York Giants, who are now in the cellar by 17 games. The Phillies have been having their ups and downs and will probably wind up in fourth place at the end of the season.

In the American League it looks as if anyone of the eight ball clubs could win the pennant, the way the standings are to date. Between the top-holding New York Yanks and the last place athletics there is only eight games difference.

The New York Yankees, from the time they got hold of first place, have been hanging on to it despite threats by the Washington Senators and the Cleveland Indians. The Yankees have been falling behind, this past week dropping two out of three games to the Indians and also two out of three to the Tigers. This is one year that the Yanks will have to do better than what they are doing now if they expect to win the pennant.

The Washington Senators, surprise ball club in the American League, may prove really to be tough before the season is over, and then again they may drop be-

hind like a cold potatoe. The Senators are but one game behind the Yanks and only a game and a half ahead of the third-place Tigers.

St. Louis Browns, who were picked by many sport figures to win the pennant, are now 3½ games behind the leader and are tied up with the Cleveland Indians for 6th and 7th positions.

Chicago White Sox have finally made their bid and are slowly but surely rising up from last place.

### Forecast For Finish

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

- Cleveland Indians
- New York Yankees
- St. Louis Browns
- Chicago White Sox
- Washington Senators
- Boston Red Sox
- Detroit Tigers
- Philadelphia Athletics

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

- St. Louis Cards
- Brooklyn Dodgers
- Cincinnati Reds
- Philadelphia Phillies
- Pittsburgh Pirates
- New York Giants
- Boston Braves
- Chicago Cubs

CHICAGO, July 5—Rounders, the Valdina Farm's horse, today came down the home stretch at Arlington Park to win the \$50,000 Fourth of July Feature. Rounders covered the mile and an eighth distance over a muddy track in 1:54 3/5 to win by three quarters of a length over L. G. Myer's Thumbs Up. Sun Again, the 2-to-1 favorite ran fourth, and Green Tree Stable's Devil Diver was fifth. Devil Diver broke bad at the post and was last all the way.

## Medics Beaten By Own Officers

On Thursday evening the undefeated Medics met their first downfall of the season, but it had to take the officers of the Medics to do it. After 17 victories and no defeats the boys from the Medics lost by one run, 5 to 4. Pvt. Joseph Okenka, the star pitcher for the Medics, suffered the loss after having ten wins to his credit. Friday evening, the Medics really were hot after losing Thursday's game, defeating the Gerdts Airdrome Squadron, 10 to 5. Once again Okenka chalked up a win, making 11 wins and one defeat.

### 28TH DEFEATS BASE HQ. SQUADRON IN CLOSE ONE

Monday evening the 28th Bomb Squadron nipped the Base Hq. Squadron, 6 to 4. It was M-Sgt. Howard Gamble on the mound for Base Hq. to make it one win and one defeat. Gamble pitched good ball all the way but 6 errors lost him the game. He struck out 11 men making his record for strike outs in the last two games 23.

## Standings

### TUESDAY

National League			
Teams	W	L	Pct.
St. Louis	42	23	.646
Brooklyn	42	31	.575
Pittsburgh	35	31	.530
Cincinnati	33	34	.493
Philadelphia	32	35	.478
Boston	30	35	.462
Chicago	29	39	.426
New York	27	42	.391

American League			
Teams	W	L	Pct.
New York	35	29	.547
Washington	36	32	.529
Chicago	32	31	.508
Detroit	32	31	.508
Boston	33	33	.500
Cleveland	32	33	.492
St. Louis	31	32	.492
Philadelphia	30	40	.429

Market Wise copped the \$50,000 added Massachusetts Handicap Monday at Suffolk Downs to whip the second favorite Shut Out, who won last year's Kentucky. A field of six horses went to the post. Market Wise, known as the "Cinderella" horse, broke 2nd and was trailing the long shot over most of the route of a mile and one furlough.

HAVANA—Negro boy Chalky Wright knocked out Kid Nacional of Cuba in the eighth round of a ten round bout. Chalky Wright is more or less tuning himself up with some semi-pro fighters to get in shape for his bout at the Gardens in Sept.

## ASK ME ANOTHER Sports Quiz

(CNS)—Oldtimers claim that we shall never see the equal of the athletes who performed in grandpa's day. True enough, perhaps, but the fact remains that few of this generation remember the big names of long ago. How are you on history?

1. Who were the participants in the longest fight in ring history?  
( ) Sullivan and Killrane. ( ) Tunney and Hones. ( ) Louis and Schmeling.

2. Who took part in the first intercollegiate football game ever played in the U. S. A.?  
( ) Yale-Harvard. ( ) Army-Navy. ( ) Princeton-Rutgers.

3. Most famous of all early American fighters was John L. Sullivan. Whom did he lick for his title?  
( ) Jim Corbett. ( ) Paddy Ryan. ( ) Jake Kilraine. ( ) Maxie Baer.

4. The hole-in-one, that golfing phenomenon, has eluded many top-flight golfers. Do you know who shot the most holes-in-one?  
( ) Bobby Vardon. ( ) Bobby Jones. ( ) Sandy Herd. ( ) Groucho Marx.

5. Who was heavyweight champion of the world when Jack Dempsey was born?  
( ) Bob Fitzsimmons. ( ) Jim Corbett. ( ) Jack Johnson. ( ) Charles Atlas.

### ANSWERS

1. The longest fight on record was between Patsy Tunney and Jack Hones at Chelsea, in 1825. Hones won in 276 rounds. Next longest was a draw between A. J. Burke in New Orleans, April 6, 1893. This bout took seven hours, 19 minutes.
2. Rutgers and Princeton played the first football game in 1869. Rutgers won and since that time has won only one other game from Princeton.
3. John L. Sullivan, the famed Boston strong boy, defeated Paddy Ryan for the world's heavyweight title in 1882 in a bare knuckled fight.
4. Hole-in-one king is Sandy Herd, of Scotland. He shot 18 in 50 years of competitive golf.
5. Jack Dempsey was born June 24, 1895 in Manassa, Col. At that time Jim Corbett was champ.

NEW ORLEANS, July 4—Bob Montgomery, who is recognized by the New York and Penn. Boxing Commission as the world's lightweight champion, scored a sixth round K. O. over Al Reasoner of Chicago before 5,560 fight fans. As stubborn as Reasoner was, it was Montgomery's fight all the way.



## Payne's Outfit

By CPL. ROBERT NASH

The boys were singing "Christmas in July" this week after the orderly room broke out in a perfectly furious rash of furloughs.

Cpl. John G. Weden headed back to Bloomfield, N. J.; S-Sgt. Roy A. Dixon went to St. Louis; Cpl. Charles A. Merriman is sojourning in Trescott, Kansas; PFC John D. (Our Boy) Lyden is in Youngstown, Ohio; Cpl. Richard D. (Dangerous Dick) De Bronk-art is back in Little Old New York, trying to stay single; PFC Van S. Reid is taking care of business in Little Rock, Ark.; other fortunate ones on furlough this week are PFC Virgil R. Brummett, PFC Andrew Lesney, and Pvt. Clayton C. Jones.

What is so attractive about the Midland AAF base laundry? Fellows who are not noted for being particularly energetic scrap to be sent after the weekly washing.

PFC Harold Hersch, the Coca Cola kid from Georgia, is now taking his aerial gunnery instructions, and is very happy about it. The only one around here who didn't regret to see Harold go was the mailman. Hersch held the squadron record for incoming correspondence.

## WACs Here Pleased To Be Part Of U. S. Army And Not Auxiliaries

WACs on this base all seem well pleased with the change which was made in their status by the recent Army appropriations bill for the 1944 fiscal year.

No longer an auxiliary to the Army, the WACs (new name: Women's Army Corps) are now a part of the Army of the United States. Capt. G. M. Moran, commanding officer of the WACs, stated that the change in status seemingly will be beneficial all the way around, although no information has come through official channels.

Several changes will be observed as a result of the WAC's part in the record (71 billion) bill, but most important is that they will enjoy all privileges, such as franking mail and government insurance, which has heretofore been allowed only to the men. The cumbersome "Leader" and "Junior" business is dropped, and all officers and non-commissioned officers will bear the same titles as men. Although it is pronounced the same as always, their name is now spelled "WAC." The word "Auxiliary" was dropped from their former name, "Women's

## 19th Bomb Group

### 435th Squadron

By CPL. HUELING DAVIS JR

Ist Sgt. DeLateur is getting to be a veteran married man. Last Friday he celebrated his sixth wedding anniversary (months).

Cpl. Dave Copeland believes in the old adage concerning safety in numbers. The other night he dined with his best gal at her home in Monahans. That is, his gal and sixteen others equally as attractive. Would he call for help? Uh, uh.

Latest bulletin on the search for information on Pvt. Rusk—he has gone on furlough, so still no dope on him.

We wonder who's watching who in Wink. Lt. Felts and T-Sgt. Amundsen live opposite each other. Perhaps both had better keep the shades pulled.

S-Sgt. Olen Whistler, of Independence, Kans., is trying awfully hard to wrangle a furlough. The boys in Supply suspect the reason for the anxiety is so the wedding bells may toll for Whistler and a certain brunette. How about it, Sarge? Is that how come?

Tony Gonzales, the Armament bullfighter (and we do mean fighter) had a date for a bout with a bull at the Pecos Rodeo Saturday night but KP reared its ugly head. Too bad, Tony.

No further news from Armament. Everything is running too smoothly.

## Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis Is New Head Of First Bomber Command

Brig. Gen. Robert B. Williams Saturday relinquished command of the First Bomber Command, Second Air Force, for a new and important assignment, details of which cannot be revealed.

Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis has assumed the post of commanding general of the First Bomber Command, Biggs Field, El Paso, of which the Rattlesnake Bomber Base is a part.

## Gas House Gang

By CPL. R. CZERNIAKOWSKI

After being AWOL for three weeks from the Rattler, the Gas House Gang returns and promises to be faithful from here on in.

During our AWOL seige, a 32-hour course was conducted from June 7 to June 15 and a class of 54 officers and enlisted men successfully completed it. These graduates are now qualified as instructors in chemical warfare and will conduct classes within their own units.

A large incendiary demonstration was staged for several squadrons on June 28. The Fire Department has been very helpful in staging such a demonstration; without its many kinds of extinguishers, an incendiary demonstration could not be put on. Thanks, Chief.

PFC Walter Mislik just returned from a furlough which he spent at his home in Flint, Michigan. It took him 11 of his 12 days to make up his mind to marry his girl friend; yes, he married her on the last day. As PFC Mislik puts it, "It was a tough fight but she finally won out."

The WACS are keeping Sergeant Fred Wildfong mighty busy, or at least he is always spending his time down in the WAC area. He says he is supervising chemical warfare training. He insists this department will never be able to function properly until a WAC or two are requisitioned. So far Sgt. Wildfong has not been able to find the correct nomenclature from our SNPL, but he does have his ideas.

For three weeks this section had an assistant chemical officer in the person of 2nd Lt. Allan McMullan, but he has moved on after doing a fine job as supply officer. "Mac" will be Base Chemical Officer at his next station.

## AWOL PIGEON FLIES INTO ARMS OF MP

PINE BLUF, Ark. (CNS) — An Army carrier pigeon who went AWOL flew smack into the arms of an M.P. here recently.

The wayward pigeon showed up at a nearby Chemical Warfare Service arsenal after an absence of several days from his Signal Corps station at Camp Claiborne, La. S-Sgt. Phillip E. Gladding, an M.P. at the arsenal, caught the

Gen. Travis, a Georgian, belongs to a prominent military family. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1928, and went immediately into the Air Corps. He has been identified with heavy bombardment development throughout his military career.

His father, Gen. Robert J. Travis, USA Retired, resides in Savannah, Georgia, and his brother, Col. William Travis, is on duty overseas with the Air Forces.

Gen. Travis was one of the dozen original Flying Fortress pilots serving under the late Gen. Robert Olds in the old 2nd Heavy Bombardment Group at Langley Field. In assuming command of the First Bomber Command, Gen. Travis paid tribute to Gen. Olds' accomplishments in setting up the heavy bombardment training program, stating: "Gen. Olds has always been my guiding star."

A pioneer in the development of heavy bombardment training techniques in the Air Forces, Gen. Travis brings to his new and vitally important post the accumulated experiences of his entire military career.

## USO-Camp Show Due Thursday

"Sky High," USO-Camp Show musical comedy revue, is coming to the Rattlesnake Bomber Base, Thursday, July 8. The free show will begin at 9 p.m. in the Rec. Hall, Lt. George A. Hoffmann announced last week.

The five-act show will feature Arthur and Morton Havel, comedy team; Duke McHale, tap dancer; Hector and Pals, 12-dag act; Lewis and Ames, comedians, and Ballard and Rae, slap-happy inebriates in full evening dress pantomime.

Advance notices indicated that all acts were variety headliners, particularly Hector and Pals, which was starred last season in Ed Wynn's "Laugh, Town, Laugh" at the Alvin Theater, New York.

offender and turned him over to Lt. Robert C. Silner for appropriate action. Although a mock court-martial awaits him the culprit appears undisturbed by any fear of losing his Army wings.

# MEDICAL DETACHMENT

By S-SGT. LAWRENCE SHIPP

"Great things are never done in a mob," nor "do future Presidents idle their time away at the drug store corner" are statements often repeated. So may it be in the case of PFC Robert Mercer, who works on the "Graveyard Shift" at the information desk. At an early morning hour last week when all was quiet PFC Mercer laid down his violin and suddenly received an inspiration to write a poem on two very efficient and capable night workers: one was Nurse Barnes and the other was Sgt. Keyes. The latter will soon be released from the Army and go back to work in a Rochester, N. Y. war factory. Here is a result of that early morning inspirational feat:

## NURSE BARNES

Miss Barnes is a nurse  
Who really abhors  
Wardboys who "goldbrick"  
On their daily chores.

Wardboys—if you please—  
Wish Barnes overseas  
'Cause hard work with them  
Just never agrees.

But let there come trouble  
Then they're on the double  
Glad to be serving  
Under one so deserving.

## SERGEANT KEYES

At night the toughest  
Soldier one can see  
Is a short Sergeant  
By the name of Keyes.

To the Dispensary  
Come the patients sick.  
He gets rid of them  
Oh, but good and quick.

They really tremble  
At his stern approach,  
For even his face would  
Scare a cock-a-roach.

Hastily he ambles  
Through the corridors,  
Picking tired Ward Boys  
Up off the floor.

Soon at his watch  
He takes a look,  
And suddenly growls  
"Time to wake the cook."

And when he snoozes  
You should hear him snore.  
Even a bomber engine  
Would welcome his roar.

Much too soon will come  
The tenth of July.  
Oh! Dear God, how  
We will miss that guy.

Song-writer PFC John Beidma

## Hard-Working Buffbraids Get A Break



FIVE TOP Quartermaster sergeants have left the Rattlesnake Bomber Base to become troubleshooting experts for the First Bomber Command, with headquarters at Biggs Field, El Paso. They will travel around the 2AF poking their noses into

quartermastering in general. With their former officers, the sergeants are, left to right, T-Sgt. Eugene Wiggins, S-Sgt. George T. Farris, Lt. G. G. Hendrix, M-Sgt. Russell D. Thompson, Lt. Daniel B. Meadows, Base Quartermaster, Lt. T. B.

Kfavitz, S-Sgt. Jose Regalado, and Lt. Conrad Erickson, QM executive officer. Mrs. L. R. Griffith, former junior administrator (end right), also is leaving to join her flying husband, Lt. Griffith. Mrs. Griffith's position will be filled by Miss Lilley W. Roper.

from San Francisco has written the words to "America Marches On." This is a very good and timely number and we hope the War Dept. likes it too. Frances Swaye of the same city wrote the music and, in collaboration, this song has already been published. Good luck, John.

Two very noticeable "shiners" have been visible in the Medics this past week. One was PFC Scott who was watching a bomber rather than a ballgame. And as to how Sgt. Gilhooley got his, your guess is as good as ours!

PFC Sanders, "Day Room Keeper," doesn't trust his own eyes. He must have all his letters from the Bronx read aloud before he believes the contents.

Corporal Warren Nichols in Sick and Wounded says he's done everything now; it seems his latest job was a crack at "chambermaid"! Could be worse, Nick!

If you run across the July issue of the Elks Magazine turn to page 12 and there you will find a picture of PFC Stephen McTigue and his father, pulling up a "big catch" from a Canadian lake. Only a 15-day furlough to Des Moines could put back that Irish smile on Mac's face now. Am I right?

PFC Clarence Hildenbrand is already pounding the corridors in "Keyes" style. He's ready and willing to do the job and do it well.

What a morgue the dispensary will be when Sgt. Fairchild leaves; perhaps not, there's AFC Barber, and if we give her a little more time, she'll be able to make plenty of noise too.

"Becky" Whitefield in the Executive Office claims she's a real native of Pyote and she's proud of it too. The other day when we needed a Spanish and Mexican interpreter Becky really helped us out.

First Sergeant Bollman's "Torpedo" isn't the car it used to be. From reports the ride back from Wink the other night on four wheels and three tires was just a little bumpy!

## Altitude Training

By PFC HENRY SPAS

During the past week the Altitude Training Unit had quite a hard set up. Out of our nineteen enlisted men, we only had seventeen to do the job with PFC Jack Minkin in the hospital having his tonsils taken out and Pvt. Lewis Scott stopping a fast ball, just above his right eye, which was hit by one of the combat crew members during a game last week. Pvt. Scott says from now on he will keep his eye on the ball. Although we have these two men in the hospital, we are still fulfill-

ing our quota, which is six crews a day.

We are now taking up combat crews of the 435th Squadron. Most of the men in this squadron had never been in a chamber, so it leaves us with a responsibility to see that nothing happens to them. Our well-trained men have been quite fortunate while working with the combat crews; out of 200 "flights" in the chamber, they haven't had a single accident.

Miss Joyce (Bubbles) Ragsdale, our secretary, has been feeling a little blue for the past week. We guessed it was because her pilot has left the Pyote Air Base.

Sgt. Shipp of the Sick and Wounded office visits Ward Six a great deal. Do you have any relations there, Sgt. Shipp, or is it that cute WAC?

The ATU's welcome PFC Bruske back from his furlough. After serving in the Army thirteen months he received 15 days at home.

PFC Irving Moskowitz seems to be very lonely at times. He falls deeply in love, his girl doesn't write very often, then all the fellows start razzing him.

CAMP ROBERTS, CAL. (CNS)  
—Ensign Calvin Miller, stationed in an island in the Pacific, recently received by mail a ticket for overtime parking in San Francisco.



**Supply**  
BY LOW-SCORE FOUR

We've been told time and time again never to make excuses for our copy, but after reading this non-informative trash we're sure our readers will understand any apologies or excuses we have to offer. It's a sad and newsless day with all the Low Score Four on hand. However, it makes us feel better to blame our ill feelings on the wet weather we've been having. We can only find deep consolation in the fact that we haven't had to watch J. O. Donaldson get out of the way of any more floating tents.

It seems Supply is hearing wedding bells again soon. If events run as scheduled, Bea Garner will be married to Sgt. Otis Lovell July 3, 1943. Applications of eager husband-hunting gals are overrunning Supply these days. It seems it's a sure thing for Supply girls to secure a husband—well, some of them, anyway.

News from Mrs. Loraine Lawrence, the former Lulu of Base Weather fame, indicates she's having one more swell time visiting the big cities. We're afraid Lulu's seeing the world and leaving our league. It's a far cry from a ride on a New York subway and a walk in a Pyote dust storm.

Kilpatrick and Patterson are competing for outlandish sleeping garments. Anyhow, someone told us that Kilpatrick has a new red nightie!

Jackie Melton has shaken away the moth balls of Warehouse Three and moved to Stock Records with "Maybe" Johnson.

We'd all like to have been at the Pecos Rodeo to see Irene Hanson "Woping" and "Winding." Plaster of Paris casts are expendable, Irene. Have you "Not-in-Stocked" a sufficient amount?

Min Timm is off in a cloud of dust, well, off anyway, to visit the current flame in Oklahoma City. If any other flames are offended by this, just consider that Low Score Four was misinformed.

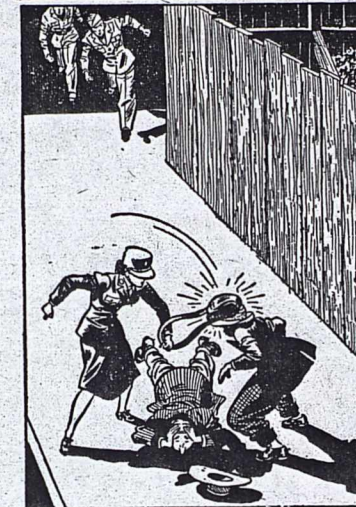
Central Files is in mourning this week with Cpl. Loren Cox away on furlough.

Request is hereby submitted to the Base Cafeteria to have a large stock of Chocolate Pie each day, in order to avoid a major catastrophe among Sub-Depot employees. The ones at the end of the line always get mad at Colburn, who always beats 'em to it!

If any of Supply is missed this

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BY  
MILTON  
CANIFF



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week, just put in a call for San Angelo, as it sounds as if the majority are celebrating the Fourth there.

Happy New Year! Everone thinks we're crazy, but after all, as we corrected umpteen jillion records we came to realize that this is the Fiscal Year 1944.

**Engineering**

By MISSES MARGARET MYERS AND FERN HUNT

Lt. Riley should be complimented for the splendid way he is handling the organization of the Diedrichs Squadron baseball team. From all reports, he has some pretty good material to work with over there, too. Looks like Jane Creary is getting the rush act from Sgt. Manupelli. Seems that a Mrs. Metcalf paid a surprise visit to Pyote last week, or could it be we heard wrong? We hear there's a gruesome twosome hanging around the air base that has a few of the boys in a dither. It seems that the Sub-Depot engineering Dept. was well represented at the Pecos rodeo on the Fourth of July.

Willie Hillard is wondering what the "B" shift is supposed to

do for entertainment. Incidentally, she's a girl, so someone should go to the electric dept. and give her a few suggestions. Ruby Dendy is wearing that smile since Sgt. Yearwood returned from his furlough. Georgie Lewis was proudly showing off her children in the Sub-Depot hangar last week. Seems that one of them got lost in a B-17. Our two Helens from Wickett have the boys guessing as to which is which, but it seems the boys will date either if they get the chance.

Two more additions to Frank Williams' crew are Margarite Hyter and Wyn Nelle Cape, both very likeable. Mabel Algood (everything "the word implies") has the makings of a sharpie with her rolled up pants and baseball cap. What is that Mabel, a mechanical zoot suit? How did Stribling get that aged, bent-over appearance? He looks like a perfect example of a 4-F.

Did you hear about Jack Walzel really painting the city of Tucson red? Abbott still says nobody can drink him under the table. It is believed by all now. Isn't it swell to have the smiling face of M-Sgt. Goodman back with us again?

**\$\$ Financiers \$\$**

By S-SGT. TOM NEVINGER  
This week's news takes our WO, Mr. T. S. Kleppe, on a leave to North Dakota to enjoy a few days of well-earned rest.

It is with regret we bid goodbye to Cpl. David Bell and Sgt. Richard Miller, who have been transferred to Galveston, Texas. We have worked together for a long time fellows, and here's hoping we all have the chance to have another party with all of the Finance Men in this office present. I know you always remember those dinners at Joe's. Here's good luck and the best of health to you from your pals at Pyote.

Victor Pearson has been very sensitive about horses since he fell off of one. Ask him to tell you the story, and—Oh yes! Vic, I promise not to turn our barracks building around any more when you come in late at night. Or was it turned around? Let me know when you are going out, Vic, and I will have a guard on duty to prevent those Gremlins from stealing your bed again.

Anybody like picnics? . . . See Private First Class Elmer Tepe for complete details.

## BASE HEADQUARTERS

By PFC SAMMY KAPLAN

Hello, everybody, here I am again with a bit of gossip from all parts of Headquarters Squadron. Ready?

The personnel of Base Hq. is wondering why Cpl. Gerst, assistant special order clerk, took his wife home with him on his furlough and forgot to bring her back. Could it be the WACs?

Congratulations to Lt. Bogart and Mr. DeBor of Base Hq., as both officers have a leave of absence effective July 1. Hope they have a nice time on their trips. Lt. Robertson, public relations, also left last week for Kilgore, his oil-boom home town in East Texas, after a frantic 48 hours of "winding up stuff."

Cpl. Marrable of Base S-4 is thinking about trying to join the WACs; at least the other day he was wearing one of their hats around.

Sgt. George Ralston was painting in the Service Club this week and all of a sudden fell on the floor. He claims the fumes from the turpentine made him dizzy. Must have been awful strong turpentine.

T-Sgt. Robert W. Huff of Base S-3 thinks there isn't anything better than taking morning exercise. He thinks that we should do it more often. What about that, fellows.

If anyone of the Headquarters Squadron has any tea that they don't want, please give it to Sgt. Ross, Base Flight, as he can sit down and drink ten glasses without stopping—then after the 10th he stops counting.

Congratulations to Sgt. Lubitz, who has taken over the publications and supply dept. Lots of new changes have been made, and in the very near future he claims the dept. will be a real model. Congratulations also are in order for the promotion to sgt.

Sgt. Nicholas, Adjutant's Office, must be counting on OCS. One should have seen the good sgt. take over the drilling duties last week. Oh, my! What inspiration.

1st Sgt. Ed Ryan knows what sportsmanship in the army means—most any of the boys in Hq. can quote an example of that.

A real sport and a GI friend has returned from school, but why so pale, sir?

Suggest that Miss Jean King, the little darling of Base Adjutant's section, write the following verse to her dear bombardier who is now on the other side and with whom she is so madly in love:

I'll be waiting, always waiting,  
For you to come back to me.

## Down Deep In The Heart Of . . .



TEXAS, that is shapely Ann Sheridan's native state, where she once studied in a teachers' college. In Warners' "Thank Your Lucky Stars," the school marm conducts a class in love for the dormitory dolls." One glance, and how hungry for knowledge we are!

It may be years, and I'll shed  
many tears

Before your dear face I'll see.

But I know some day I'll see  
you

As God meant it just that way.  
Else why did He bring us together,

If sweethearts we weren't to  
stay?

Why would He make me want  
you

Each hour of the day?  
And why did He make me love  
you,

If He meant to take you away?

I know we were born for each  
other.

My heart tells me that you see.  
So I'll be waiting, always wait-  
ing,

For you to come back to me.

CAMP POLK, LA. (CNS)—Archery equipment has been added to the recreation facilities of an Armored Force division here. Shooting bows and arrows is done primarily to give the soldiers some fun, but the possibility of emergency use is considered also.

## 4 Base Officers To Leave Soon

The Rattlesnake Bomber Base soon will lose four popular and efficient officers to the Material Command, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

Those leaving are Capt. Valmer L. McCroskey, executive officer; Capt. Thomas C. King, S-4 officer, and Lt. Wade W. Lackey, theater officer.

These officers are being sent to Wright Field to assist in studies related to price adjustment matters.

### PROPOSAL, FOR ALL WORLD TO HEAR, WINS 'YES'

CAMP GRANT, ILL. (CNS)—"Helen, darling, I love you," said Pvt. Joseph Moscar in a soldiers' hour radio broadcast here. His girl friend, Helen Barus of Milltown, N. J. was listening. The wedding will be during Joe's next furlough.

## Loose Link Talk

It appears that there has been a "link" missing from the Rattler since its inception . . . and it seems rather odd to find it right where one would expect it, namely, the Link Trainer Department.

But before we attempt to break into the 4th Estate with 6th column activities (no relation to the 5th), we would like for you to meet our officer in charge, the ever-popular and personable personage (yes, that man is our boss!) none other than 1st. Lt. Fred W. Thacker. We find that the Lieutenant sure does get around . . . personality plus!

We have another chap here wondering whether it will be a boy or a girl when Sir Stork pays a visit . . . however, we have it to good authority that when Mrs. Perry does present our Department Head, T-Sgt. Don Perry, with that armful of heaven he will be too excited and happy to note the difference! In the meantime we see that many of the boys are learning how to puff on El Products and Corona Coronas. Anticipation!

No doubt most of you have heard of Link training, and many have wondered just what it is (your correspondent is still wondering). If interested we suggest that you ask any of our Link instructors about it, and it's 10 to 1 you'll be "on the beam" before he is through with you. However, since the department is restricted (the building is air-conditioned!), we imagine that it would take a War Dept. Memo, or Army Regulation, or somethin' to take you on a tour . . .

Speaking of instructors, some of us are wondering about a certain group which has suddenly become pious (or is it sanctimonious!). Regardless, we find that quite a few of the boys are paying frequent visits to a certain church in Monahans for the Sunday evening services . . . for further information see Cpl. Gilmore.

We also find that many of the boys are riding (not flying) the "range" which leads to Odessa! And that leads us to the finish for now . . . hope that you will take what's written here, and what's to come, in the spirit for which it was intended.

In the meantime, we advise you to be on guard, for our prowlers all have large ears and big eyes!

HOUSTON, TEX. (CNS)—Emerson McCord, a fountain pen repairman, gives reconditioned pens to soldiers at Ellington Field near here so they can write home more often. He will repair any pens sent to him and turn them over to the Army for distribution to soldiers.

# SERVICE SQUADRONS

## Diedrichs' Outfit

**SGT. WARREN E. KEYS AND SGT. ROY A. WORTENDYKE**

Perhaps it is due to Lt. John D. Riley's all-squadron program of physical and military training in these cold dim dawns that Lt. Martin A. Diedrichs' lame ducks (limited service men) are discarding their crutches and wheelchairs and joining the 1 A's in athletic preparedness.

The newly organized baseball team promises to offer stiff competition to any and all comers. Pitching staff consists of Sgt. Lidy, Pvt. Christianson, Pvt. Peters and last but not least, in height only, Mr. 5' 1" S-Sgt. Roche. Cpl. Herbert Hatcher, the squadron carpenter, is building a portable mound for him. After a week or two of practice under the watchful eyes of Lt. Riley and M-Sgt. Yaros, our swatsters hope to be one of the best teams on the base.

Lt. Diedrichs' versatile outfit will accept challenges for baseball, softball, volleyball or horseshoe pitching. Phone 74 for open dates. Also looking for competition is Sgt. Silverstein, wizzard of the checkerboard.

Cupid circled the squadron area, shot his arrows and disappeared. Into whose lucky hearts did the arrows fall? Supply Sgt. Guttridge will marry a SPAR. S-Sgt. Norman Vonesh while on furlough plus extension married a girl from Chicago. Cpl. Ted Sutherland and his new wife, the former Leta Gay, of Brownwood, Texas, are now on their honeymoon. Teddy will probably have a few grey hairs when he comes back. He left his rings in the supply room, and, when he wanted to leave, the supply sergeant was gone. The supply sgt's. early return prevented his missing the rings as well as his train.

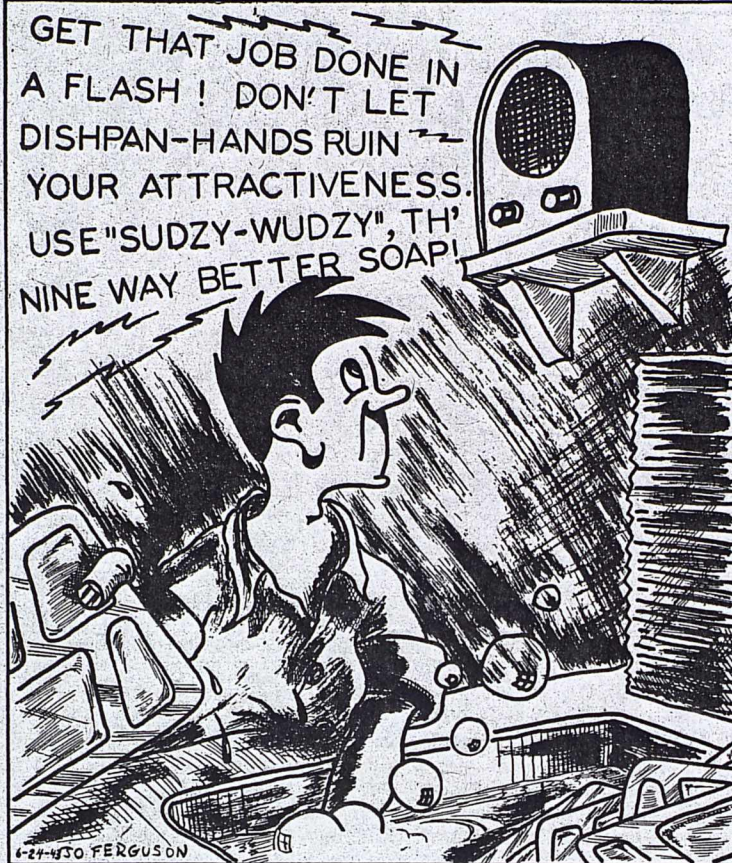
Sgt. Hayward Barcus is in the market for a good book on how to be a detective. He is trying to track down his shoe which disappeared sometime around midnight on July 1.

Due to a rapid decline from the top bunk, 1st Sgt. Ed. Walsh is nursing a new wounded knee. It is speculated that the fall may have been the result of the 1st Sgt's. experiences the evening before during which time he tried earnestly to keep a friendly WAC's cigarette lighted in the Aztec Cafe.

The blame for the recent rains might be placed on this squad-

## Private Parsnip

Jo Ferguson



ron's CQs. Since one of their duties is the watering of the cactus garden, they have been extremely earnest in their prayers to the rain gods.

## Genter's Outfit

By SGT. LLOYD K. PEARSON

This week's laurels go to Staff Sergeant Zimmer for his excellent work in taking over the duties of 1st Sergeant in the absence of Acting Sgt. Eckberg. Congratulations are also in order for Mr. Roper, who is now the proud father of a bouncing baby boy.

Who is the young lady working in the Sub-Depot Engineering Office who is arousing the interest of PFC Engel? C-mon Harold and give us the whole story. What is the mystery concerning Corporal Manning going to bed with his overhauls on? If the corporal dreams that much about his work we ought to give him a couple of wrenches so he won't be unprepared when he reaches the Land of Nod. See where Master Sergeant Goodwin is now sporting a new pair of glasses. What's the matter, sarg, have trouble finding Pyote after visiting the big city? Glad to know that Sergeant Burt Eldredge has recovered from his injuries after being struck by lightning last Wednesday night.

Best known personality on the Pyote Air Base is none other than that suave gentleman of the Gen-

ter Squadron, Sergeant Jimmie Manuppeli. This can be readily verified by questioning any girl in Monahans. I know, because I have. After reading the Hartford Times and the writeup about Private Lynch of this squadron I can see where the reputation of the Genter outfit is expanding from coast to coast. Copies of the Rattler are being sent to Canada, Mexico and all through the United States by men in this squadron alone. What with all this publicity and the letters home the Genter outfit will soon have nationwide recognition.

## Laff Of The Week

ENGLAND (CNS)—Capt Percy Young was showing lantern slides of German industrial areas to a group of bomber crews who were about to take off on a daylight raid.

"Your target is a German industrial base," said the Captain turning with his pointer to what he thought would be a large air-view of the area. Instead there flashed upon the screen a large picture of a particularly seductive and luscious nude. The Captain was nonchalant.

"This, gentlemen," he said, "is your target for tonight. The zero hour is 10. p.m."

# WAC Flak

By AUX. SYLVIA WEXLER

Come one, come all and meet the newest enrolled member of the WAC Company. She is strictly "GI" as shown on her dog tag. And we do mean DOG! Our little black dog is getting her basic training here at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

Her original owner, a 12 year old boy of Monahans, immediately enlisted her in the WAC when he succumbed to the charms of our Lt. Stewart and Sgt. Vraney, who now take charge of her training. She sleeps between the sheets in the Supply Room—and, believe it or not, is restricted this Saturday night because she failed to salute two officers, and did not come to attention when it was called. GI attends classes including gas mask drill—and her favorite color is khaki. (It had better be.)

Aux Lois Cunningham of Wilmington, N. C. reads in her letters from home that Archie Sidbury, rank unknown, is stationed here, too. If said soldier is on the Base, do stop in the orderly room or call WAC Hqs.

The WACs are a dizzy bunch. They sing before breakfast, when washing windows, and even on KP. The Chaplain didn't think they should confine their talents to the WAC Area, so now, every Thursday night, you can find them at the community sing—really going to town with their music. Last Friday, Sgt. Deason, Aux. Bledsoe, and Cpl. Nicholson sang at the hospital for all nine wards of convalescents. They felt repaid for their efforts when they saw one of the patients at the swimming pool the next day—some recovery! Some singing! If you stop into the Chapel on Sunday, you'll find our WACs singing in the choir.

The WAC's new KP song—Why do we do this so often? Where are all the men who wanted to do KP in our mess hall? Aux. Irene Zenger of the Base Adjutant's Office is still raving about the grand time she had on her 3-day pass to a nearby ranch. What is Aux. Hoy's interest in the Public Relations Office, these days?

What popularity! We had invitations to two special dances in one week—the X Squadron and the Krueger Airdrome Squadron parties. Aux. Armstrong walked away with an identification bracelet, given as door prize by the Krueger Sq. Guess they really wanted us there, as they even sent special transportation for us because of the rainy weather—or was that just a heavy mist?

# Gen. MacArthur Launches Move Against Jap Bases

## Summer Drives Of Global War Get Underway

BY PFC TOMME CALL  
Rattler Editor

Despite raucous continuation of the "come-and-get-us" pre-invasion propaganda from Berlin, all Allied eyes last week turned to the Southwest Pacific.

Long hungry for news of action against Japan—seemingly growing stronger off stolen resources while the United Nations concentrated on Hitler's fortress—Americans welcomed the news.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's men—supported by Admiral William F. Halsey's South Pacific forces—were on the march toward Rabaul, with the ultimate objective perhaps the Philippines. Gen. MacArthur, when Bataan and Corregidor fell, promised he would return. News last week was that he was on his way.

In surprise assaults, covered by the Allies' war of nerves in Europe, American and Australian forces took three strategic points converging on Rabaul, New Britain, as indicated on the adjacent map.

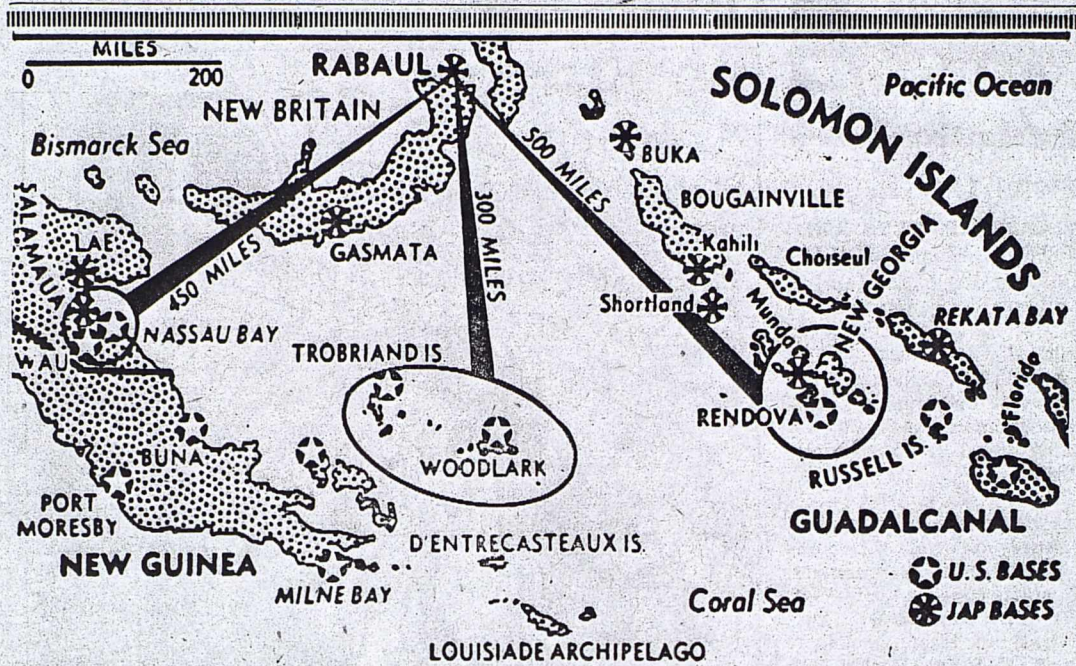
The landing at Nassau Bay threatened Lae and Salamaua, strong remaining Japanese bases in New Guinea. Landings on Rendova Island and New Georgia virtually encircled the heavily-bombed enemy base at Munda, which has been giving trouble since the capture of Guadalcanal. Occupation of the Trobriands and Woodlark completed the arc tightening around Rabaul.

Allied forces held the initiative in the Southwest Pacific, to no small measure because of air superiority. As the latest United Nations' offensive began, this one mainly an American show, Secretary of the Navy Knox asserted:

"We are exerting a major effort in the Pacific, and this effort will be increased and intensified as time goes on."

Secretary Knox indicated that the United States now is pouring more ships, planes and other fighting power into the Pacific than generally known. Prime Minister Churchill, while in Washington, hinted at great American power preparing in the Far East.

Beyond Rabaul lies Japan's powerful Truk Island base, and the fortified mandated islands,



More thoughtful observers—glancing over the broad Far East theater, where present action appears small in perspective—considered Gen. MacArthur's current offensive as one to gain advance bases from which to launch the great general Allied campaign against Japan when the time shall come.

The war-thwarting rains in Burma are not due to cease until fall, and China cannot exert strong offensive pressure until supply-lines shall be opened. Furthermore, the larger portion of Allied might is still pouring toward Europe. Checking optimism, one must consider the Southwest Pacific offensive another move to contract steadily the steel ring around Japan, as well as to press its air force and navy into attrition combat. (Last minute news reported heavy air and sea battles developing.)

If that be the strategy, it is progressing gradually. Bombings of Kiska, last enemy outpost in the Aleutians, picked up last week, and the Chinese on the central Yangtze front continued to push back their invaders. Japanese entrenchment appeared nearing an end; they soon would have to come out and fight—risking their aggressive but limited air force, and their all-important navy, which holds their water-spaced empire together.

The United Nations' ability to conduct global warfare was pointed up by the Southwest Pacific offensive, coming close on the heels of the North Afri-

can and Mediterranean victories and current with the enemy-credited threats of invasion of the European continent. Doubtless the greatest disappointment to Americans in this war has been the prospect of having to allow Japan to wallow in its stolen riches while Allied warpower concentrated first on Europe. Gen. MacArthur, who first stimulated America's fighting spirit with the defense of Bataan, last week created another such lift with the implied promise that the offensive against Japan need not wait defeat of Germany and Italy in Europe.

However, it is recalled that President Roosevelt, last February 12, stated:

"We do not expect to spend the time it would take to bring Japan to final defeat merely by inching our way forward from island to island across the vast expanse of the Pacific."

That statement would indicate that the current offensive action in the Southwest Pacific is a process of getting set for future major campaigns. Success here would open several routes for subsequent major advances.

Strong argument remains that the quickest, least costly and most certain route of assault against Japan proper is from the north, combined with Chinese operations and perhaps—a very vague perhaps—Russian intervention. If that should be the future strategy, last week's events might be to draw Japanese strength to the south and out of the way. At any

rate, the action should have the effect of relieving struggling China and lessening the threat to Russia's back door.

Meanwhile in Europe the aerial bombardment of Germany and Italy continued from Britain and North Africa. The enemy appeared convinced that the attacks were nearing imminent pre-invasion intensity. Prime Minister Churchill predicted heavy fighting in the Mediterranean "and elsewhere" this summer. His speech reiterated the claim that the Germans' U-boat offensive is failing miserably in its grand attempt to sever Allied invasion supply-lines. Thus, the United Nations are able to pour materiel and men into the springboards around the European fortress' moat. A commando raid off Crete Monday gave some weight to speculation of a coming Allied offensive from the Middle East.

The German offensive in the Orel-Kursk-Belgorod sector at Rattler press time ended the hundred days lull on the Eastern Front. Following weeks of concentration by the powerful opponents in that area, this may be Hitler's long-awaited summer offensive. If so, it could well mark the signal for the Allies to strike from the south, the west, or both. The Red Army from all reports is blocking the German offensive action successfully, and this time may permit no such great break-through as carried to Stalingrad and into the Caucasus last year.