

# THIRD O STRIKE

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4 PAGES

## PARACHUTE FOUND - AFTER 5 MONTHS - WHERE IT FELL

Capt. Walter W. Shegda, assistant group intelligence officer, went along on a strafing mission over Soputa in an A-20 to take some pictures. As they got over the target, Jap ack-ack opened up, hit the plane and caused it to plunge violently. Capt. Shegda's parachute, lying on the floor of the plane, fell through the open hatch.

As the plane limped home, he wondered how he could fasten himself to the gunner so that both could reach safety with one parachute, if it should become necessary to jump. But as a result of excellent piloting by Maj. Donald P. Call, assistant group operations officer, the A-20 reached home.

That was five months ago. A few days ago, Maj. H. J. ... went over to the Soputa area and ... from the ground at the old Jap ack-ack positions. There, exactly where it fell, he found Capt. Shegda's parachute, lying beside a Jap skeleton. The jungle kit and knife had been removed but the chute was still packed, although tattered.

A comparison of the number on the 'chute with the one charged to the Captain showed it was the right one.

## DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO CAPT. PRICE AND SGT. ALLSOP OF 13th

By Sgt. Roland Guillet

Smiles as broad as the wing span of their B-25s sparkled from the faces of Capt. Robert Price and S/Sgt. Ronald Allsop of the 13th this week when word was received that they had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Both Capt. Price and Sgt. Allsop were honored on the basis of completion of 50 operational missions in the Southwest Pacific between April 5, 1942 and Feb. 1, 1943. The operations consisted of reconnaissance missions and bombing and strafing attacks on enemy shipping, naval forces and land bases.

Capt. Price is from Meridian, Miss., Sgt. Allsop from Polson, Mont, two towns which have reason to be proud of their native sons.

## AUSSIES DONATE JAP TROPHIES TO 89TH SQ U.S. PILOTS INVITED TO VISIT ALLIED FORCES

By Sgt. Peter P. Flanjak  
Japanese trophies captured by Australians at Wau have been donated to the 89th Squadron in appreciation for American air and ground fighting in the Allied drive against stubborn Jap resistance.

The trophies include a Jap trench shovel, about three feet long; two steel helmets, a small canteen and a weather-beaten "ground to air" strip of red and white. All are on display in the "Rainbow Room" of the 89th's Officers' Club.

Major Henry C. Quinn of the Australian Infantry, in a letter to the commander of the 89th, Capt. Glen W. Clark, wrote: "It is my desire to show in a practical way, the appreciation of this unit of the job your boys are doing. With this in view, I have forwarded, per favour of Major Marshall, a few small trophies captured during the operations at Wau.

"If arrangements would be made for your pilots to visit us from time to time, we would be delighted to accommodate them. By this means, a spirit of cooperation would be of great assistance in the carrying out of future operations."

Inside each Jap helmet, someone wrote: "Please register in target area if used as a spittoon." The canteen water bottle had been pierced by .30 calibre bullets.

## OFFICERS, ENGINEERS TIE IN 90th

Officers and engineers of the 90th battled to a 3-3 tie Tuesday evening, the game being called at the end of the sixth because of darkness. The contest will not be replayed unless it would affect the standing at the end of the first half of the season.

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THIRD STRIKE

Newspaper published every Wednesday and Saturday by and for members of 3rd Bombardment Group, APO 929. Lt. Col. Robert F. Strickland, Group Commander; Maj. Irvine H. Shearer, Group Intelligence Officer.

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STORY OF THE CORAL REEF--  
WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT LIVES

By Cpl. Harold Larsen

That wave-washed border that fringes the coastline in this vicinity is the Southwest Pacific's marine phenomena, the coral reef.

The reef is about 100 yards across beginning about a mile off shore, and on the ocean side it extends out to where a drop of nearly 1000 feet terminates it. From a boat over the coral it is possible to see formations that may be about 20 feet under water that is so clear that the coral appears a few feet away. The shapes of these polyp-fostered plants are varied and beautiful. The colors are many and different, including all shades of green.

Coral is distinguishable into hard and soft, the hard being a dark, bright green and the soft a grey-green. The color that enflames the reef is caused by the polyp--he is the flashy fellow, his resultant formations being lime and therefore devoid of color when removed from life-giving water. Some formations have a round, brain-like appearance; hence the brain-coral is not misnamed. The elk-horn coral tends to beautiful blues and greens.

Many strange fish are seen swimming about. There are molluscs, including the Conus Geographus, a poisonous creature. The mollusc stings when picked up, sometimes fatally. Dr. Flecker, Australia's noted radiologist, reports one fatality from the Conus Geographus and a number of rather serious accidents.

Lying in the coral beds are beche de mere, a purple, black or putty-colored creature, long and lifeless, shaped like a devitalized sausage. They are edible--if you like them.

CLOTHES MAKE THE OFFICER--ALMOST

Gowen Field, Ida.--Pvt. Howard Gamble grabbed the nearest blouse one day when mess call sounded as he worked in the inspector's office. He hurried to dinner. As he entered the mess hall, someone barked "attention" and the men stood at their places until Pvt. Gamble sat down. Sensing that something was wrong, he looked around, finally noticing that he was wearing the colonel's blouse.

MINISTER'S DAUGHTER--BURLEQUE GAL

Hollywood--A minister's daughter, Victoria Faust, has won a long term movie contract and a role in a forthcoming movie entitled, "Lady of Burlesque."

CONCENTRATED SENTIMENT JAMS WIRES

Nashville, Tenn., Air Base--Sentiment still thrives despite the war. Pvt. Jim Kane of the Base telegraph office says four out of every six telegrams sent out by cadets are addressed to girl friends, mothers or wives and definitely on the mushy side. Kane gives us as the best example of concentrated sentiment: "Need you. Want you. Miss you. Love you."

12,000 INDIANS ON WAR PATH

Philadelphia--Twelve thousand Indians are serving with the armed forces of the U.S. and another 12,000 are working in war industries.

Another denizen of the deep is the coral anemone, a bush of waving, soft, pliable stuff that appears like an oversized asparagus blossom. The anemone poisons fish. There is, however, a beautiful black and yellow fish that swims into the anemone mass, nuzzling in its soft substance, playing and moving about. These brightly-colored demoiselles are immune to the poison of the anemone and swim about in it to entice other fish to it. When the unsuspecting victim swims into the anemone he is devoured by the coral plant, and after it is feasted, it throws out the parts of the prey it doesn't want to its co-hunter, the demoiselle. (The old badger game all over again).

Thus one of the most fascinating life processes transpires, quietly and unnoticed in tropic waters. Like men who make dupes of other men, a fish and a coral anemone co-operate to do the same.



8-OUNCE PARCELS NOW MAY BE SENT OVERSEAS; OTHER CHANGES ON MAIL

Parcels weighing up to 8 ounces now may be sent to Army personnel overseas, Fifth Air Force Hq. announced in a memorandum yesterday. This can be done without presentation of an approved request from the addressee.

This modification of the Jan. 7 order restricting overseas shipments to Army personnel was agreed to by the War Department to facilitate sending of small essential articles, such as eyeglasses, watches, fountain pens, insignia and the like.

Individual copies of employe publications, church bulletins and similar publications also may be sent to soldiers and officers under the same conditions as to weight and postage.

The War Department has informed the Postoffice Department that hereafter renewals of present subscriptions to newspapers and other publications entered as second-class matter will be considered as a continuation of the subscription. This will be done regardless of whether the renewal has been specifically requested in writing by the addressee.

Thus renewals may be paid for by others without any request from the soldier. That does not cover complimentary copies from a publisher.

Medical books sent to doctors connected with Army hospitals for their official use, and parcels containing uniforms and military accessories ordered by officers may be accepted without approved requests and without regard to limitations of weight and size prescribed in the January order. Such parcels should be endorsed "Mailing authorized by POD Notice Mar. 12, 1943."

HIT PARADE FOR WEEK MAR. 21-27

- 1. I've Heard That Story Before.
2. You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To.
3. That Old Black Magic.
4. Brazil.
5. There Are Such Things.
6. As Time Goes By.
7. Moonlight Becomes You.
8. I Had The Craziest Dream.
9. It Can't Be Wrong.
10. For Me and My Gal.

REPRINTS IN GUINEA GOLD

Five items in Wednesday's Third Strike were reprinted promptly in the American edition of Guinea Gold.

BACK IN THE STATES

Yes, the USO is flourishing
And the Fat Cats are purrin'
And the G.I.s sit and gripe about
The Hardships they're endurin'

And in the West Coast "combat zone"
The soldiers risk their lives--
Not fighting Nips but chasing after
Other peoples' wives.

The gals we thought that we could trust
Are giving us the gate
Their hearts may still be with us
But their britches couldn't wait.

The Welders' Union's plenty mad
In fact, they're downright sour
They say they simply cannot live
On just two bucks an hour.

And drinks are getting mighty scarce
The boys can't understand
Why sometimes it is pretty hard
To get their favorite brand.

They say the birch-bate's gone way up
But do not give the reason.
However, it's a well-known fact
That rubber's scarce this season.

There's just one laugh we have on them
(They probably think it's mean)
They have all the comforts--
But we've got gasoline.

--Sgt. Scherer
Group Ordnance Office

SPORTS ITEMS

Gathered by Radio by S/Sgt. Allen Sweigert

Detroit Red Wings won opening game of Stanley Cup playoffs from Boston Bruins, 6-2.

Wyoming won mythical intercollegiate crown, defeating St. John's 52-47, in overtime game at Madison Square Garden.

Duquesne officials announce all intercollegiate sports discontinued for duration. (Its basketball team was the only one to defeat Wyoming this season).

UXB means "unexploded bomb" in Army lingo. A word to the wise etc.

PRACTICAL JOKER SCORES ON SLEEPING  
ENGINEERS; OTHER NOTES FROM THE 90th

By Cpl. Byron Edgett

M/Sgt. Brooks is recovering from a severe case of soreness of the abdominal muscles occasioned by a stunt he pulled on a couple of engineers.

The boys were catching 40 winks under the wings of a plane. Brooks had a CO2 extinguisher partially expanded, but in which there was enough pressure to give off a loud hiss and much vapor.

He let it go right over the heads of the sleepers who awoke on their feet and hit for the woods. Said one of them: "When I heard that noise and saw the smoke, I decided that was no place for me. I didn't know just what it was but I thought I could find that out later."

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Lt. C.A. Jones has been taking movie shots around the squadron featuring various departments and candid glimpses. He has gone to a lot of trouble developing them and promises we'll see them in the near future.

S/Sgt. Burch, upper gunner, has returned from the hospital looking none the worse for the experience. Not quite as much can be said for Cpl. Suderth, one of armament's best-liked boys, who was laid low by a series of boils. On arrival it was found he was suffering from dengue fever. Before he could move a muscle, they had operated on him for an abscess. One stop service. He is with us again but has lost some 12 pounds.

T/Sgt. (newly-made) J.B. Thompson is suffering from an injury to his eye, severe enough to keep him hospitalized for a time.

Lts. Moore, Sbisa, Paine and Rosebush; S/Sgts. Estes, Lott, R. Harrell, Sucker; Sgt. Farrar, Cpl. McClure and Pvts. Gunter, Browne and Jesse Johnson are the lucky men who left on furlough this trip. For many this is the first leave since coming into service. We hope they enjoy themselves to the full.

ASKS FURLOUGH TO CHINA, GETS 3 DAYS

Camp Kilmer, N. J.—Pvt. Ling Foo Lim wanted a furlough. Capt. George J. Pedneault asked why the time off was needed and the soldier said he was lonesome—he wanted to visit his wife.

"Okay," agreed the Captain, "where does your wife live?"

"China," was the calm reply.

The Captain gave him a three-day pass

AXIS RADIO AND MORSE  
INTERCEPTS

Elier Morale

Tokio, March 30—A sign of how the morale of enemy fliers has dwindled is provided by the fact that not a single plane challenged the Japanese Air Force between March 21 and 25 (in the Southern regions).

Comment: It is interesting that Tokio should speak of "morale" of fliers in a period when combat losses of Jap planes are rising rapidly.

Guadalcanal

Tokio, March 30 (In English)—  
"It took the Americans 8 months to clear the Japanese out of Guadalcanal. If it takes 8 months to re-occupy one island, how long will it take to recover all the islands now under the Japanese army and navy? Altogether there are about 8000 islands, but we will say that only 100 are of military importance."

Comment: This is the first time Tokio has spoken of Guadalcanal as a defeat. Also, note the defensive tone.

Japanizing

Batavia, March 25—Letters have been received in Tokio from 27 Javanese teachers. The messages were written in simple Nipponese acquired at training courses.

More Japanizing

Tokio, March 26—Sixty-nine Japanese teachers have recently arrived in Manila to give instructions in Japanese language and culture to native teachers and other inhabitants!

CAPTAIN BUYS ISLAND FOR CIGARETTES

South Pacific Area (Camp News Service)—Cigarettes paid for an island in the Pacific in a hard bargain driven by Capt. Charles Nissen, stationed here.

He swapped a native chief out of the island which included coconut groves, palm trees, crystal clear lagoons—and native girls sunning themselves on the beaches. The island is a mile wide and two miles long.

The cigarettes cost the Captain 11 cents.

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