

THIRD STRIKE

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SW PACIFIC

GEN. KENNEY PRESENTS DECORATIONS TO 51

90th PLANE ON TRAINING HOP CRASH LANDS IN A SWAMP, MEN SAFE

By Col. Byron Edgett

Never a dull moment in the 90th. On a gunnery training hop April 16, Lts. Howe, Head and Halbert, S/Sgt. Andy Swain and C. L. Leonard Brant found themselves in hot water—muddy water at that.

While testing the prop governor on the left engine, the right engine started to cut out. Lacking necessary power, the plane began to settle. Unable to gain altitude, there was nothing left to do but seek a spot to set her down.

Lt. Howe picked the first open space, which happened to be a nice juicy swamp, and crash-landed the plane so neatly that none of his passengers was even slightly injured. By his good judgment, he averted what might have cost the squadron some of its best men.

Lt. Head, intelligence officer, went along for the ride but didn't bargain for a hike through a crocodile-infested slough and a return trip via Model A Ford.

DRILL, CALISTHENICS AND LECTURES DAILY PROGRAM IN 13th SQUADRON

By Sgt. Roland Guillet

Tramp, tramp, tramp the boys are marching! Every morning four platoons of men in the 13th are going through close order drill and calisthenics.

There are also lectures on military courtesy, discipline, chemical warfare and care and cleaning of weapons. The boys are determined to be ready for any contingency.

THE BOYS WHO CRY "WOLF"

Several G.I. jokers have taken up the practice of yelling "Air Raid!" whenever in a crowd. This aspect of juvenile mentality has no place in an organization that has a job to do.

Fifty-one officers and men of 3rd Bombardment Group received awards for heroism and gallantry from Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney, commander in chief of the Allied Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific, at a ceremony here Sunday.

First to be decorated was Lt. Col. Robert F. Strickland, Group Commander, who received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism.

Two officers and one enlisted man received two decorations each.

Lt. Joseph M. Bean, group navigation officer, who was the navigator for the late Capt. Colin P. Kelly when the latter blew up a Jap battleship, received the Silver Star for gallantry in that action and the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating in a record-making flight. (An account of Lt. Bean's career will appear in Saturday's Third Strike).

Lt. Donald E. Anderson of the 8th Squadron received the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Col. Gordon W. Barton of the 90th received the Silver Star and Purple Heart also.

Officers and men were drawn up in a U-formation when Gen. Kenney arrived at 2 p. m. Those to be decorated then formed a line across the front. As he pinned the medals on the left breast of each man, Gen. Kenney offered his congratulations and asked each the circumstances of the award.

Col. John H. Davies, former group commander, who recently returned from the States, attended the ceremonies.

Names of the award winners will be published in Third Strike Saturday.

GEN. CHENNAULT SOFTBALL PITCHER

Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault opened the softball season in China by pitching the headquarters team to a 17-13 victory over a bomber squadron. The General pitched the entire game, allowing 13 hits and striking out two men. He himself made two hits, scored a run and stole a base.

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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Adviser: Lt. Selwyn Pepper.

ARMARADIO NOSES OUT SQUADRON TEAM, 6-5, IN 13th SOFTBALL GAME

By Sgt. Roland Guillet

The supposedly invincible squadron team took it on the chin twice this week in the 13's softball league.

Armaradio was the first to take the Squadron team, 6-5. Sunday Maintenance humbled the Squadron players, 5-4, in a thrilling pitchers' battle in which Cook outlasted Nary.

The Outlaws broke the ice with their first victory Monday, beating the Pencil-Pushers, 4-2, in the rain.

Sgt. Meredith Irwin, who cooks for the 13th, is the proud father of a baby girl, born to his wife, Ivy, in Australia April 14.

M/Sgt. Clarence Carr, fondly known as "Old Folks," returned from the hospital this week after an operation which laid him up for 10 days.

89th SOFTBALL TEAM READY TO MEET ALL CHALLENGERS ANY TIME

By Sgt. George J. Hall

The 89th Squadron serves warning that it is ready to meet the cream of the softball teams in New Guinea. Under the guidance of Capt. Good, the squadron team has enrolled in the newly-formed New Guinea League.

The 89th's latest accomplishment on the softball diamond was in handing the ack-ack boys of Battery B a 23-2 defeat. The 89th is particularly anxious to hear from the 13th again. In previous games, each squadron won once.

Sgt. Al Farrar of the 90th returned from furlough in Australia a poppa. His daughter, Sandra Glee, was born the day after he left for New Guinea, so he didn't get to meet her. Mother, father and infant are doing well.

'HELLZAPAPUAN,' BY AND FOR ARMY, A HIT SHOW

By Cpl. Byron Edgett

With true American ability to laugh off hardships and go to any lengths for a gag, "Hellzapapuan," a musical show, played to large and appreciative audiences last week at the 5th Air Force Red Cross Hut in celebration of its opening.

The show started with a bang—a bang that had the audience literally falling on the ground. Instructions were given on who to do in the event of an air raid and almost at once, the ordnance boys cut loose with a display of pyrotechnics that would have made Tojo blush with shame. The simulated bombing was made more effective by searchlights flashing eerily and showers of gravel coming from everywhere.

To Jack Morgan go plaudits for superb direction of the 14-piece band, drawn from outfits all over the island.

Morgan used to be musical director for Radio Station WJPS in Memphis. The group rehearsed only one week, an unusually short time in which to achieve such a degree of perfection.

Star of the production was John Killen as "Joe Doakes," permanent recruit who, thinking he was applying for furlough, wound up in CCS. John also was responsible for direction of the show and staging of dance numbers. He used to be a member of Ethel Barrymore's troupe.

Frank Coley made a big contribution in his numerous appearances but his impersonation of the censor was the payoff.

Using a native village as the setting, our colored troops did a swell job and were rewarded with much applause. We'll swear there was a Papuan lass on the stage. The scene was stolen by scantily-clad Negro actors who did a little jitter-bugging too. Five colored boys were encored repeatedly for their "Ink Spot" song interpretations.

A number of good vocalists were in the show, particularly Bill Clark, who was formerly a member of St. Bartholomew's choir in New York. Miss Susan Tate of the Red Cross was the only woman in the cast, appearing in "Freudian Interlude."

Goddard Light and John F. Butler wrote the story. Miss Helen Schoeni directed.

Next week's show will be East Lwano.

Officers still lead the 90th Softball League with one win and a tie. In the week's best game, Camp Area and Eng. 1 tied, 5 to 5.

 STORY OF RECOVERED PARACHUTE
 REACHES STATES IN TWO DAYS

The story about Capt. Walter W. Shegda's recovered parachute, which appeared in Third Strike April 10, was carried in newspapers in the States two days later, it became known here when Maj. Donald P. Hall received a cable from his wife saying she had read about the incident.

Capt. Shegda's parachute fell from an A-20 five months ago when the plane, piloted by Maj. Hall, was hit by ack-ack and plunged violently. On April 8, Maj. Hall was riding in a jeep over the same area and found the 'chute exactly where it fell, tattered but still bearing its number.

The story was given to newspaper correspondents at the Press Hut the next day. It cleared the censorship and appeared in U.S. papers in two days.

Mrs. Hall cabled her husband from Corpus Christi, Tex.: "Glad, darling, enjoyed yesterday's jeep trip. Request small portion of tattered parachute for scrapbook."

SGT. McCAIN HEADS "LAKANUKE"

S/Sgt. Arthur McCain has been elected president of Club Lakanuke of the 89th Squadron. Other officers are: S/Sgt. James Lemoyne, vice president; S/Sgt. Jean D. Coulter, secretary, and T/Sgt. Will J. Orr, treasurer.

22 MEN RECEIVE PROMOTIONS IN
 90th SQUADRON; FIVE NEW TECH SGTS.

Twenty-two enlisted men of the 90th Squadron have received promotions, it was announced yesterday. Five were named tech sergeants, six staff sergeants, five buck sergeants and six corporals.

New techs are: S/Sgts. Allen E. Sweigert, Charles A. Stone, John A. Nadon, Joseph E. Duval and Anthony Sulkus. The staffs are: Sgts. Raymond F. Greene, James R. Latta, Daniel H. Duhon, George H. Landers, George T. Archibald, Clifford E. Gresham.

The sergeants are: Cpls. Wilfred L. Duethman, Stanley S. Zack, James B. Huntley, Harry V. Williams and Charles H. Johnson. The new corporals are: Pfc. William E. Shuell, James F. Manning, Salvatore Ienna, Ed J. Kraus, Delmar W. Haskin and Harold M. Koplan.

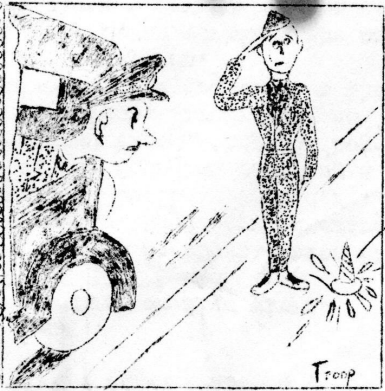
MUSIC AND NEWS HEARD OVER NEW
 PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM IN 89th SQ.

A public address system has been installed by the 89th Squadron to broadcast music and news to its members. "First call" is announced over the loudspeakers, followed by "wake up" music.

Lt. Edmund Montagano is in charge. The system was installed by M/Sgt. Cole and his aides.

Plans are also being made to re-broadcast music and entertainment programs from the States. An anonymous news commentator, the Saint, is heard every evening at 5:15 o'clock.

KEEP THAT HELMET AND GAS MASK HANDY



"Here's us-so you can see
 you're about 300 miles from
 your base"

30 MEMBERS OF 3RD BOMB WORKED LONG DAYS BUILDING DESTINATION 'X'

By LT SELWYN PEPPER

Thirty members of 3rd Group, all volunteers, most of them from the 8th Squadron, worked for six weeks with 260 natives in clearing thick jungles and erecting mess halls and recreational buildings for the Group at Destination "X," Capt. John H. Crerar, assistant group materiel officer, who was in charge of the work, related today.

Often the men worked from 6 a. m. to 8 p. m. and in one instance from 6 a. m. to 4 o'clock the next morning with only a few hours off in the afternoon.

The construction gang built the largest enlisted men's club in New Guinea, a screened building 100 by 20 feet in size, with a thatched roof. As a reward for their work, they were taken to see a native dance.

For the 90th Squadron, they built a large officers' recreation building, which is almost completed. They built a similar structure for the 8th, a building 70 by 24 feet, screened and provided with electricity. The 13th area has not been selected yet but may be near the 90th.

AUSSIE SERGEANTS BIG HELP

A large share of the credit for the work should go to Sgts. Bliss and Cameron of the Australian New Guinea Forces, who secured the services of the natives, Capt. Crerar said. Bliss has spent 15 years in New Guinea and Cameron seven. They also helped get natives to work on bringing out a damaged plane.

The natives worked for two twists of black Virginia tobacco a day, women smoking it as well as men. The women, the lame and the sick wove the "sago" grass used in putting roofs on buildings. Some of the work was done by boys, who wore brightly-colored flowers and leaves in their hair and arm bands.

"Boss boys" did no work, except to supervise the others. "Cook boys" spent all their time preparing meals. Each day a goal was set for the workers and they always reached it, Capt. Crerar related.

Polygamy is practiced by the natives which led to an unusual complaint. Younger men protested that the old men appropriated all the eligible wives while they were away carrying out wounded soldiers. Some of the

old men have four or five wives.

SANG FOR RELIEF MAN

As they worked at "Destination "X" the natives sang. They carried extremely heavy loads on their shoulders. When one of the four men carrying a heavy load grew tired, they all began chanting in unison. Immediately another native ran forward to take the place of the weary man.

Before they began working, the natives were given a day to build a village for themselves.

During the period of their work, one of the women gave birth to a child. She was up and around the same day. Capts. Gilmore and Connor were relieved when they learned they would not be needed to assist in the delivery. The physician took care of natives as well as soldiers at all hours of the day and night, Capt. Crerar said.

LEARNED TO USE SLIT TRENCHES

After several raids, the natives learned to go to slit trenches when Jap planes came over.

The climate of the area is somewhat better than this since the humidity is less noticeable, the Captain continued. A clear stream is used for swimming and some men even stand in it when shaving.

Fifteen of the men in the advanced echelon have now gone South and the other 15 are expected to go soon for a well-earned rest, Capt. Crerar said. One of the most pleasant aspects of the job, he added, was that everyone was a willing worker and there was no "bitching."

The 8th Squadron in its entirety is now established in the new area.

HARD TO FIND G-2 AT CAMP BARKLEY

Ask for G-2 at any Army headquarters and as a matter of course you'll be referred to the intelligence officer. But when you ask for G-2 at Camp Barksley, Tex., the chances are 50-50 that your call will be directed to Pvt. Gee Toc, a San Francisco Chinese in training there.

WASHINGTON--An unidentified person has bought \$21,000,000 in war bonds at Cleveland, O. The same purchaser bought \$11,000,000 in bonds in December.