



THIRD STRIKE



VOL. I, NO. 38

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S.W. PACIFIC

FORMER 13TH MAN MEMBER OF B-24 'CREW OF WEEK'

T/Sgt W.A. Doiran, former 13th Squadron engineer, has been named a member of the Liberator "Crew of the Week." His ship was on a recco north of New Ireland, only 400 miles from Truk when it spied a convoy of 10 boats. In the resulting action they sank the largest of the transports.

Capt Langevin will Conduct Math Class

PROMISES UNORTHODOX APPROACH TO SUBJECT

First of a series of classes in higher mathematics will be held tomorrow (Thursday) evening at 7 p.m. in the Public Relations office, Headquarters area. Capt Robert Langevin, group communications officer, will direct the study in what he promises will be an interesting and different manner.

Small Class Desirable

Capt Langevin is not interested in a large attendance, primarily, but rather a possibly few men of the entire group who will be able to attend regularly and only those who are sincerely interested in the enormous power of figures and symbols.

No latecomers will be accepted, according to the captain. Membership will be limited to those present at the first class.

The only requisites of students is that they possess normal intelligence. No previous training in higher math is necessary.

More Officer Promotions

The following officer promotions have been announced this week:

From first lieutenant to captain: K.P. Christiansen and R.H. Ellis of the 13th Squadron, and C. H. Mayo, 89th.

From second lieutenant to first: M. A. Copland, R.N. Dow, R.H. Elliott, F. P. Lamborn and J.W. May, 89th Squadron; H.J. Eisele, A.H. Fail, R. R. Fitch, E. P. Gove, N. Gunter, R. D. Mackoy, G. A. Masden, F.L. Newmoyer, M.C. Norwood, F. T. Potter, G.J. Prokopovitz, C.C. Smith and R. L. Walker of the 13th; S. A. McDowell of the 8th, and B.A. Neumann and A.W. Smith of the 90th.

Nine Receive Purple Hearts

COL HALL, CAPTS MURPHY, WEBSTER NAMED

Nine 3rd Group men were recently awarded Purple Hearts for wounds received in action. Among them were Lt Col Donald P. Hall, group commander, who was wounded in the strike off Cape Gloucester when two destroyers were sunk and much other damage effected by a surprise attack.

Capt Francis G. Murphy, group weather officer, also received the award for injuries sustained when the weather recco ship in which he was a passenger, crashed in the Coral Sea after being attacked by Zeros.

Others to receive the decoration were: Capt William H. Webster, 8th; Lt Roland B. Nelson, 90th; S/Sgt John Deckelman, 13th; S/Sgt James F. Lott, 90th; Sgt Ernest V. Roy, Hq., and Cpls George F. Parma and John H. Simons, 13th

THAT COULD BE QUITE LARGE

The army announces perfection of a new machine gun weighing nine pounds, capable of firing 450 rounds a minute, costing \$20 and small enough to fit into a woman's handbag.

A Touch of WAAC in the 3rd Attack

By T/Sgt George E. Turocy

At last the 3rd Attack has received the touch of a WAAC.

Marion D. Garrett, 3rd Officer, (whatever that is) WAAC, assistant adjutant at an army air base in California, is the first WAAC to give the group that feminine touch.

We think of the WAACs as something remote and it was a distinct shock to see the signature of one on an official paper in Hq.

Sorry, there are no TBO vacancies in the group for WAACs and we feel assured you will never have or even see one. Requisitions for same will not be submitted. All pertinent regulations have been checked and there are no provisions for getting one (or more) legally or illegally.

THIRD STRIKE

Newspaper published every Wednesday and Saturday by and for members of 3rd Attack Group, APO 503. Lt Col Donald P. Hall, group commander; Capt Walter W. Shegda, intelligence officer.

Third Strike receives material from Camp Newspaper Service, War Dept.

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Test your knowledge

By Lt Prentis

Are you mentally alert? If you can answer the 15 parts of the following questions, correctly you haven't been in New Guinea very long or don't belong here in the first place. Nine correct answers are average. Under five--better take hold of yourself.

- The following group of jumbled names are persons famous for their spine thrilling detective mysteries; unscramble them from the correct answer:
 - Sir Conan Gardener, b. John P. Reinhart, c. Mary Roberts Queen, d. Erle Stanley Marquand, e. Ellery Doyle.
- Give the profession of the following men:
 - Samuel F.B. Morse
 - Charles Goodyear
 - Joseph Pulitzer
 - John L. Sullivan
 - Eugene Field
- Who were the writers of the following poems:
 - "The Deserted Village"
 - "Auld Lang Syne"
 - "Ode to a Nightingale"
 - "The Raven"
 - "Trees"

(Answers on page 4)

ONE FAMILY THAT
WON'T GO BROKE

Pfc Silver Dollar, on maneuvers with the 2nd Army in Tennessee, gets mail from a sister, Gold Dollar; a brother, The Dollar Bill; a half-brother, The Almighty Dollar.

Our Personal Battle

There is nothing to be gained by sitting on our hands and bemoaning the fact that we are going to be in this neck of the woods for some time. While we seem at a standstill, the world goes on turning, time keeps on passing just as though we were at home.

A year and a half of our education has been wasted and it is time to call a halt to this wanton waste of intelligence. Lost time can never be regained. Though we cannot have many of the things we would like, we still have the ability and opportunity to learn.

We know that competition for employment is going to be keen when we return because of increased use of women and machines in industry. Those who are most mentally alert will have the best chances for success in this rapidly changing world.

We feel an increasing mental sluggishness in this climate and a lazy brain cannot be disciplined any easier than a lazy body. In time this condition becomes impossible to combat.

Opportunities to increase our knowledge, to investigate new fields of thought, to use our mentality, are afforded us; we should make use of them.

As the first step in this direction, a class in radio fundamentals, mechanics and mathematics necessary to the radio technician, meets three times weekly. Cpl Bolton, a radio instructor, Cpl Ira Cohen, an engineer, and others have volunteered time and energy to bring their knowledge to you.

Lack of knowledge of mathematics has been the stumbling block which has kept many of us from attaining that position in life to which we aspire. Recognizing that fact, Capt Robert Langevin, who has spent a lifetime plumbing the possibilities of figures and symbols and teaching various phases of the subject, is willing to devote himself to giving the 3rd Group an opportunity to share his findings. This class will begin Thursday evening (tomorrow) at 7 o'clock in Hq area.

In the very near future, Cpl Robert Standing, public relations, who has spent three years in the Argentine, will institute a class in Spanish.

There are men from all walks of life in our organization. Many know things we'd like to know. They are unselfish about giving us that opportunity so let us respond and make this unofficial, voluntary educational program of the Third Group as outstanding as its record has been and is. The classes are without precedent in this theater so far as is known. If we can make it click it will be another "first" for the Third.

WORLD NEWS

SICILY--The Germans are in full retreat. Allied heavy guns are hammering the evacuation port of Messina and the Italian mainland is being blasted incessantly by the Allied Air Forces. U.S. 7th Army is within 14, the British 8th Army within 15 miles of Messina.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC---Our 3rd Attack did it again when B-25s made a surprise attack on Dagua, Boram and Wewak. Seventy to 80 Jap bombers and fighters were caught on the ground and destroyed or damaged. Photos were taken. One Zero was shot down. A telegram of congratulation has been received from General Whitehead.

RUSSIA---The advancing Red army captured the city of Kerechev after stubborn street fighting and are now less than 19 miles from Bryansk. In the Kharkov area the Russians were last reported to be storming the city's suburbs. In the Smolensk drive the Russians improved their positions.

ITALY---RAF England-based Lancasters on Sunday night carried out another heavy attack on the Italian industrial city of Milan for the third time in four nights. Bombs dropped included over one hundred 2-ton block busters.

DOTS 'N' DASHES

Appenicitis is caused by information in the appendix.

Trigonometry is when a lady marries three men at the same time.

Gravity is what you get when you drink too much and too fast.

A skeleton is a man with his inside out and his outside off.

Purgatory is a place where those go who are too good to go to heaven and too bad to go to hell.

A mugwump is a bird that sits on the fence with its mug on one side, and its wump on the other.

Strategy is when you don't let the enemy know that you are out of ammunition, but keep on firing.

A virgin forest is a forest which the hand of man has never set foot.

Recruit 'Hep' McGee Unhappy In Service

By Peter P. Flanjak

This is the story of Pfc Don (Hep) McGee, ASN, 000000006, US Army Air Corps, somewhere beyond nowhere--and his whirlwind career!

Only 28 years of age, ole Hep is slightly grey-haired, single and was inducted just a few days after Pearl Harbour.

In his younger days, Hep was a veteran rug-cutter and jitterbug in lower New York and quite often boasts of the fact. For this reason his chums fittingly gave him the handle, ...Hep.

Hep insists he is not happy in the service. "You may think," Hep claims, that in order to get in the Air Corps, one had to have a high school diploma and an GCT of 110 or better. You are looking at the proud possessor of an IQ of 65.

Hep McGee's life, as far as the army is concerned is a mess. The other day he said he would see the CO if the top kick didn't do something to take him off the long list of details that he says he saw the Sarge making out. The old Sarge has contested Hep's proposed threat with severe measure. Sarge said, "Hep, since you are a well liked recruit around here, I'll be lenient with you. Instead of giving you three days of KP duty, you'll get six days and like it with extra fatigue detail after you've finished!"

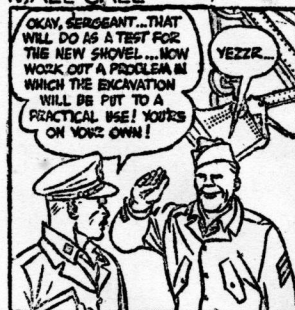
ORDNANCE LAMENT

Bending backs, arms that ache,
Throbbing heads, almost break.
Load the bombs, through the muck;
Haul them back, bouncing truck.
Bombs, bombs, bombs,
Breaking back,
Bombs, bombs, bombs,
Through the flak;
Hauling bombs throughout the day,
No night's sleep, work always.
Fliers to high rank aspire,
But we furnish them the fire.

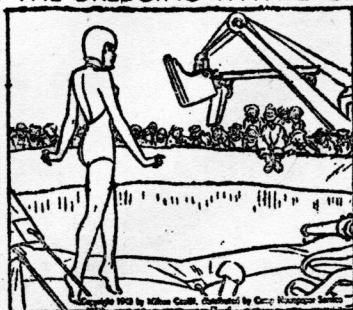
--L. Hudson

MALE CALL

by Milton Caniff



EDGING THE DREDGING WITH LACE



This Modern Age

The following is entirely fictitious and any reference to persons or personalities in Group personnel is entirely true and is not to be confused with Sgt Majors.

dere plas

your money has started rollin from washiton and we have been awful rich sense that first check got here no sooner than we got that check swapped into honest money your ma barged rite into sears and roebucks and a slick talking feller in there loaded her up with one of these here new fangled bathroom outfits like the one you writ about having down N.Y. way. i wooden here to the feller coming out and puttin hit up cause i figured to save all that work and high wages he was talkin about for som plumin union i lit into here and boy you ought to see that thing work. i will try to discribe hit so you kin just see hit in ou shanty.

over in one side of the room is a big long white thing like hogs drink out of only you can get in the thing and take a all over bath in the summer-time but that haint nothin on the other side of the room is a little white gaget what they call a sink and that is for light washin of your hands, face nek and years the dern fool sent along a roll of white rittin paper but forgot to send the envelopes with hit.

but boy over in the north corner of the room we got a thing i bolted to the floor where you can really wash your feet after a hard days plowin or from jes gettin around you put one foot in and scrub hit then you pull a chain right hard and get some more fresh water for to wash the other foot in we all wash our feet every nite now and some of the nabers are beginnin to come in and use hit. hits just downright cute how smart that thing is you just pull down on the chain and before you no hit heres fresh water for that other foot, they sent two lids with this footwasher but we haint got no use for them in the bathroom so your ma is usin one for a bread board and we have framed grandpappys pitcher in the other one you sure will be proud of what your wary money is buying once you git home again, we quit the WPA and the crop the same day youre money got here keep hit commin son.

yours for a long war
pappy

(This letter was received by a number of group men at about the same time. One of them was Sgt Cato, another, Sgt Oliver.)



Dirty Gertie

Dirty Gertie from Bizerte,
Hid a mouse-trap in her skirte,
Tied it to her knee-cap purty,
Baited it with Fleur-de-Flirte,
Made her boy friends fingers
hurty,
Made her boy friends most alerty.
She was voted in Bizerte,
"Miss Latrine for Nineteen-
thirty."

P.A. System Saves Shoesoles

It appears as though the Air Corps has shelved its policies of severity and has gone in for a lighter vein and in a streamlined fashion too!

All that the 1st Sergeant has to do now in order to prevent any of his details from slackening or evading their duties, is to grab the "mike" and without straining a muscle, croon over the public address system, "Okay fellas, go back to the jobs you were on this morning," or "Cpl So and So, report to your Job."

Another instance: At reveille the CQ half asleep, moaned over the loudspeaker in a drowsy sort of way, "All KP's c-r-a-w-l o-u-t o-f y-o-u-r p-a-d-s and report to the mess hall immediately!"--Flanjak.

Advice to American children: "Eat every carrot and pea on your plate."

LET THEM BE KNOWN

At eight o'clock this morning a formation of twelve medium bombers took off on a combat mission against the Japs. At ten o'clock the first plane in the group landed, interrogation of all personnel followed in the intelligence on the line. Results: two destroyers blasted, ten barges destroyed, five left sinking, three villages strafed and set afire, and four Zeros downed. A successful mission...yes, but let it be here considered why it was a successful mission.

What happened today between the hours of eight o'clock and ten thirty, and what takes place daily before the pilots rise and the gunners take their positions in the planes. The events here included are similiar to those which have occurred in the Army Air Forces in all parts of the world since December 7, 1941.

The flying of the plane and its operations in combat is, of course, truly important, but no wheel would move, no engine would start, no propeller would turn and no gun would be fired if the efforts, energies, devotion to duty, and sincerity toward doing the job right was not felt by every man in the ground personnel. The fullest realization of the positiveness and complete truth of this statement is perhaps more vitally and clearly seen overseas, not that the fire and strength in caliber of work is less, but the daily difficulties, occurring twenty-four hours a day, every day in the week are momentous. Perhaps in a view of life at an advanced flying base in New Guinea a portion of the difficulties will be realized.

Preliminary steps in the establishment of an airbase in this area was the problem of an advanced echelon, usually consisting of a couple of hundred men, whose job it was to make ready in the minimum of time the site selected for the barracks, mess halls, offices and landing strip. The constant confusion and the natural hazards of every description are impossible to estimate. No one can appreciate to any degree just what a jungle is like unless it is actually seen. Almost impregnable vines and trees, muddy marshes in every direction, heat of highest humidity, ever present rain, and the constant threat of diseases and sickness caused by malaria mosquitoes, poisonous snakes, and a multitude of other insects. This is only a part of the picture in which these men labored. Because of their almost complete isolation from civilization, except by plane connection, the food was scanty, mostly consisting of canned rations, the danger of air raids greeted them continually, for in the beginning no air raid warning system was established, and the fact of enemy snipers close by was known. The men worked in shifts for two and a half complete months, day and night in every imaginable type of weather. And their job was finished, but this was merely the beginning, much was yet to come.

The rest of the ground crew and combat personnel arrived, all by plane and the scene grew in scope. Buildings rose, more trees were cleared out, the fear and power of the mosquito was partially eliminated, a water system was developed, a communication system was instituted, and better food was brought in. But still the main purpose, the reason for bringing these men overseas from all parts of the states to actively engage in aerial combat had not yet begun. And it is here that personalities enter to make possible the purpose of the group.

There is Corp. Forest J. Pelletier, Augusta, Me., Sergeant Howard J. Holderbach, Staples, Minn., and Corporal James H. Hetcox, La Grange, Ga., all fuel supply men on twenty-four hour duty - and it is their responsibility to see that there is always fuel in the planes, and an adequate supply on hand. And Corporal Robert A. Lane, Nashville, Tenn., First Class Private Frank S. Bannach, Brooklyn, N.Y. and First Class Private Herman T. Heggen, Stephan, Minn., all truck drivers and road construction men who if theirs had not been a will to work, all means of locomotion would cease.

And to this group we add Sergeant Milton J. Grout, Keene, N. Hamp., and Staff Sergeant Ernest W. Page, Bogalusa, La., auto mechanics; Sergeant Le Roy J. Kvaay, Pulaski, Wis., Private Leroy Lacuze Jr., Oakdale, La., armament; First Class Pvt Glen D. Wells, Caldwell, Ohio, Staff Sergeant Teddy Swidzinski, Four River, Mass., technical supply; Technical Sergeant Edward J. Dowling, Baltimore, Maryland, materiel; Corporal Thomas K. Skelton, Jacksonville, Tex., switchboard operator; and Sergeant Robert L. Reynolds, Shreveport, La., and Corporal Frank P. Cook, St. Louis, Mo., bakers.

THE NAMES OF THESE MEN ARE NOT IMPORTANT, for they represent only a small percentage of the total number who are in there pushing. They come from all cities and hamlets in the Union and their ordinary lives have as much of the samenesses and differences as one would find in any large assembly. But to no other selection of men, the ground crew, who make all air activity possible can we approach an expression of thanks and gratitude. The work they do is their duty....but the way they work comes from might and heart.

This story has been released by our Public Relations Office, to all papers in the states and it expresses my sentiments fully.

Donald P. Hall
DONALD P. HALL,
Commanding.