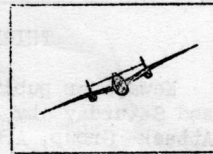


THIRD STRIKE



VOL. I, NO. 28

JULY 14, 1943

S.W. PACIFIC

4 RESCUED FROM B-25 CRASH

FRANKLIN LETTER HELPS-

SELL BONDS

IN MISSISSIPPI

S/Sgt Charles D. Franklin, 90th, formerly of Meridian, Miss., wrote a letter to a friend, Mrs. Christianson, head of the Meridian defense council. One of the subjects he touched on was the strike wave sweeping the States.

"Instead of thinking purely of themselves," he wrote, "Why don't the folks back home buy a few war bonds and help us to get this war finished."

Mrs. Christianson took the letter to heart and not very long thereafter inserted this advertisement in the Meridian Star: "Buy a Bond and Help Get Meridian Boys Home." Franklin's letter was reproduced as part of the ad's context.

A MERE NOTHING!

PILOT RISKS LIFE TO SAVE PLANE AND CREW

By Pfc Leon Cohen

When his bomb release mechanism and hydraulic system were knocked out of commission by heavy fire over enemy territory the other day, Lt Walter S. Lee, 90th Squadron pilot, anticipating a crash landing, handed his plane's controls over to Lt John R. Meding, co-pilot.

Removing his chute, Lt Lee crawled down into the open bomb bay and with a hammer calmly released the live bombs manually. Returning to the controls, he then brought the crippled ship safely back to base.

Lt Lee, who holds the Air Medal, thought his act so insignificant that it was brought to light only by a chance remark of his gunner, S/Sgt Jimmy Lott.

NEW YORK has achieved what it's been aiming at for over a year--an air raid drill in which everybody was completely confused, including those responsible for it--New York Evening Sun.

Falls In Ocean After Attack

CAPT MURPHY TRAPPED 40 FEET BELOW SURFACE, EMERGES WITH ONLY BLACK EYE

Four members of this group -- Capt. William H. Webster Jr., pilot; Lt Robert B. Widener, co-pilot; Capt Francis G. Murphy, weather officer, and Sgt Lawrence M. Allport had some thrill-packed minutes the other day when their weather recco plane was jumped by four Zeros and a dive bomber and shot down over the Pacific ocean.

First Burst Fatal

Capt Webster's first intimation that there were Zeros in the vicinity came when one of them opened fire on him at 50-yard range. One engine was shot out and a wing set afire. The wing subsequently exploded.

Seeing they were going to crash, the pilot released the emergency escape hatch and the co-pilot called to the crew to "Prepare to abandon ship." Then the plane struck the water Capt Webster and Lt Widener were freed almost instantaneously but Capt Murphy, who was in the navigator's compartment, did not
(Continued on Page 6)

JUST WAVE AND SAY:

"HYA, BUDDYETTE!"

Though men in New Guinea may never get to use it, "Hya, Buddyette" is reported to be the most popular form of greeting for servicewomen, WAVES, WAACs, SPARs, etc., who are coming overseas.

MAGAZINES FOR AIR FORCE NOW

A new system of distributing magazines to troops in New Guinea will result in many more issues of popular publications coming to this Group, Lt. Richard Rogers, special services officer, said today. Heretofore all the magazines went exclusively to ground forces. Already five issues of Yank have been received in the past few days and have been widely circulated.

THIRD STRIKE

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

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

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Rabaul, Gasmata Famous Dogs

By Sgt Roland Guillet

The interest in our squadron dogs, Rabaul, Gasmata and Whisky is being greatly enhanced by daily humorous reports on the evening news broadcast by Lt Newmeyer. It seems that our famous bulldogs Gasmata and Rabaul haven't quite reached enough maturity to lift a hind leg when encountering a tree. Lt Newmeyer has offered a prize of a free trip to Tokyo to the one who first observes the dogs leaving their adolescence behind.

Rabaul is a placid, indolent creature as a rule. Our little Scottie, Whisky, realizes this and does all he can to arouse Rabaul from his lethargy by barking at him furiously and dashing in and out under Rabaul's nose until the latter has had enough. Rabaul then proceeds to thrash Whisky (if he can catch him).

On the whole Whisky makes life rather miserable for peace-loving Rabaul. Gasmata remains as usual, aloof and lordly in his bearing, looking on his brother's troubles with a condescending attitude without offering any consolation.

M/Sgt "York" Baird of the 13th Construction company has returned from a well-earned rest in Australia....First Sergeant Gillum has taken over the leadership of the squadron after a bit of coaching from the old master, former First Sergeant Cates....David R. Rogers and Howard L. Hunter have recently been promoted to sergeant....A certain T/Sgt in the outfit bet another

Just One More Chance

Some time ago Third Strike reprinted a story from Fifth Fighter Cover about the thrilling attempt of a rescue party in a rubber boat to reach a pilot stranded on the shore of a nearby lake. It was reported that one Lt Bong, piloting a P-38 and following progress of the expedition, saw a crocodile menacing the rescuers and dispatched it with one short burst of his cannon.

Hardly had Third Strike got on the street before VFC came out with a retraction...Seems Lt Bong hadn't seen any croc, nor could he have shot at one if he had for fear of injuring those in the collapsible boat. But it was a good story, while it lasted.

Here's another one from the same source. If this one bounces we'll sue.

An officer of the day was making his rounds and asked a guard, "What is your sixth general order?"

"Don't know, sir," was the answer.

The OD tried again. "What is general order No. 4?"

Same answer.

"What did the sergeant of the guard tell you?" bristled the OD.

"He said, 'Watch out for the OD, he's a louse!'"

"THE OLD ARMY GAME"

Reproduced (without permission) from the Latrine Leader, spicy but short-lived forerunner of the Third Strike.

By T/Sgt H.S. Perkins

Twinkle, twinkle little guy,
All dolled up in bright G.I.
Think you're pretty goddam high--
Givin' all the babes the eye.
Go to town and hit the pubs,
Shoot the bull with other dubs.
End up getting awful stinko,
Sock M.P.--stuck in the clinko.
Get hard labor, thirty days,
Work like hell but draw no pays.
End of time...got new impression,
Yessir, folks, I've had my lesson.
Go 'round like a meek li'l soldier...
Time goes on...get li'l bolder.
Hit for town on payday night,
Slurp the booze, get into fight.
M.P.'s grab--shove in the clink,
No got time to even think.
Jeez cri, you little mutt,
Get your ass out of that rut.

P.S.: We did---we came to New Guinea.

that a city was not the capital of a certain state, convinced the other, then thrned around and bet that the city was the capital of that state and proved it to win two bets.

Sportsquiz -

This sports quiz is presented for you oldsters. Each question relates to an event in the "Roaring Twenties," heyday of Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Red Grange, and Bobby Jones, rightly called the "Golden Age of Sport."

Pick the right answer from the four choices given. If you answer them all you will be entitled to wear a "citation device" when the group wins another citation:

1. Man O'War, greatest race horse of the Golden Age, competed in but 21 stakes. How many races did he win?
(a) 15, (b) 20, (c) 21, (d) Six.
2. The Notre Dame backfield of 1942 was known as the Four Horsemen. Who was the quarterback?
(a) Elmer Layden, (b) Harry Stuhldreher, (c) George Gipp, (d) Knute Rockne.
3. Jack Dempsey fought before a million-dollar gate five times in his career. Who was his opponent in the top gate of all time?
(a) Gene Tunney, (b) Luis Firpo, (c) Jack Sharkey, (d) Estelle Taylor.
4. What National League star hit .424 in 1924, the highest batting average in modern baseball?
(a) Honus Wagner, (b) Rogers Hornsby, (c) Bill Terry, (d) Leo Durocher.
5. What big time golfer won the most tournaments during the Golden Age?
(a) Bobby Jones, (b) Walter Hagen, (c) Gene Sarazen, (d) John D. Rockefeller.

(Answers on Page 6)

MUST BE FORMER ARMY MEN THEMSELVES

While members of the McClellan Field (Cal.) baseball team were playing inmates of San Quentin within the prison, some convicts rifled apparel of soldiers in the players' locker room.

One soldier was nicked for 20 bucks and two fountain pens. A good many packs of cigarets were lifted. The home team manager said, "A few men are unable to put aside criminal tendencies."

It looks like the army lost that one.



"Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers—Now you fan me a while!"

THIRD STRIKE

SPORTS SECTION

JULY 14, 1943

PAGE 3

League Roundup

By Sweigert

HOW THEY STAND

American League	National League
New York (3½)	St. Louis (4½)
Detroit	Brooklyn
Chicago	Pittsburgh
Washington	Cincinnati
Cleveland	Philadelphia
Boston	Boston
St. Louis	Chicago
Philadelphia	New York

HOME RUN LEADERS

(Last Week)

KELLER, Yankees.....	10
STEVENS, Browns.....	9
GEORGE, Tigers.....	8
GORDON, Yankees.....	8
OTT, Giants.....	8

(This Week)

Ott, Giants.....	12
Stevens, Browns.....	10
Laabs, Browns.....	10
York, Tigers.....	10
Keller, Yankees.....	10
Nickelson, Cubs.....	9
Dimaggio, Pirates.....	9
Litweiler, Phillies.....	9

LEADING HITTERS

Stevens, Browns.....	337
Meusiel, Cards.....	329
Herman, Dodgers.....	324
Hack, Cubs.....	324

LEADING PITCHERS

National League		W	L
Sewell, Pirates.....	12	2	
Christ, Cards.....	7	1	
American League		W	L
Grove, White Sox.....	7	0	
Mini, Senators.....	7	0	

RELEASED-SUSPENDED

WASHINGTON, D. C. (BY RADIO) -- Vernon "Lefty" Gomez was given his unconditional release from the Washington Senators.

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (BY RADIO) -- Manager Lee Durocher has suspended, indefinitely, Bobo Newsom, ace pitcher.

PVT MAX BAER'S Sacramento Air Depot boxing team was defeated in a recent match with Camp Stoneman sluggers.

Capt Clark Gable IS 'FARM PROBLEM'

LONDON -- A "farm labor" problem has developed near an Army air base here because the farm girls won't work. They prefer to spend their time hanging around the base hoping to catch a glimpse of Gable -- the American movie idol. On one trip to a nearby village he was mobbed by feminine admirers, who tore buttons off his tunic. He took refuge in a church, the sissy.

AUSTIN, TEX.--The state treasurer reported a deficit in revenue--lowest in two years. His name is Jesse James.

THERE GOES OUR LAST JOB

CHICAGO--A baby conceived by artificial insemination has passed its second birthday. This is the first time on record in which the sperm was transported by airplane, according to doctors attending an AMA convention here. The donor was selected because of his resemblance to the patient's husband. Doctors also were careful to choose a man with children.

* * * *

The day is probably not too far distant when babies can be conceived by V-letter.--Ed.

The Winning Hand

THIS IS THE LAST INSTALLMENT OF AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY NORMAN L. CATES, 13TH SQUADRON FIRST SERGEANT

Came the third quarter with the 13th and 90th Squadrons putting all they had into stopping the Japs before roared out of Port Moresby to hit the Japs at Lae, Gasmata, Milne Bay and any other place the enemy could be found. They'd return long enough to eat at "Sloppy Joe's", load up and go out again. Those were the days when you either got out by daylight or not at all. Many times the boys were escorted back to base by the high-stepping Zeros. This period cost us some of our best friends....but the ball was carried well in the third quarter.

CITATION FOR GROUP

Then the last and longest quarter. The Japs were making their bid for Port Moresby. While the 13th and 90th Squadrons hit them on the far end of their lines the 89th Squadron with their A-20s literally cut the Japs to pieces and got much of the credit for saving Port Moresby. Flying at tree-top height these boys made a blazing entrance into the game but, lest you forget, there was the 8th Squadron backing them up by repairing ships, changing engines, and doing all the other unsung heroes' jobs. The 3rd Group played a major part in throwing the Japs back to the coast. Their part was recognized by a group citation.

The final minutes of this grim game found the Japs with a lot of face to save and the only apparent way to do it was to send in a major force to teach these fresh Yanks a lesson. All the way from the Philippines the Jap found easy sledding. And no wonder with the Americans, Dutch, and Aussies manning about enough planes for a boy scout maneuver. But the song had changed its tune now, for when they came sailing down for another easy conquest they found the gate barred by the most determined force ever to get in any invading army's way. The story of

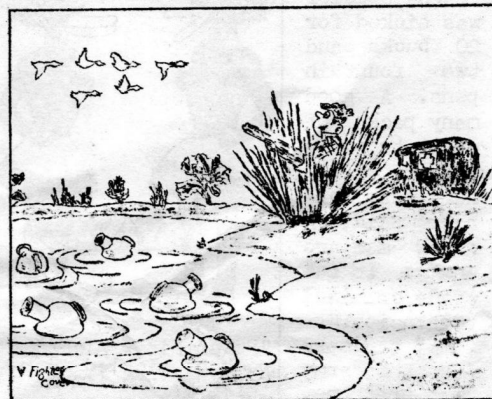
what happened to that Jap armada will be told and re-told, fought again and again over several decades, but the truth of it was that the entire group, spearheaded in this instance by the 90th Squadron in their newborn strafers, were getting in the groove. In this final quarter of the game we scored hard. Yes, we, as a group, are good. But any time any one squadron gets so good they can fight this war alone I am sure they will find the rest of us willing to go home and let them have it. Am I right?

In the preceding paragraphs the credit due the Lockheed Lightning, P40s, Australians, or heavy bombers has not been detracted from in the least.

They played a major part as members of the same team we are on. I have tried to show the value of a team within the group rather than four Squadrons all trying like heck to get credit for winning a war that is a long way from being won.

As in poker, no one card is sufficient. It must be a winning combination of five before the dragging is done.

LOWER == LEAVE



WHO?

There is a weighty problem in the 90th. Seems two of the boys on a recent leave managed, as G. I.s do, to hang on a good one.

These two gentlemen were marooned on the outskirts of a city, three miles from their hotel, with no transportation in sight.

As they were riding the Shoe Leather express they spied a wheelbarrow. Being in the "palsy-walsy" stage the boys began arguing who would wheel the other home.

Somebody got wheeled home. O.K., Barnes and Shuell, which one was it?

PERSONNEL SEES SMALLER--

SNAKES

--THAN COMMUNICATIONS

By T/Sgt George Turocy

Group Personnel is seeing snakes, too. Friday night T/Sgts Tremblay (reading a magazine), Perkins (writing letters), Plassmann (reading *Random Harvest*), the writer (kibitzing), S/Sgt Kenney (just there), Cpl Hanson (lurking about) and S/Sgt Mike O'Donnell (looking about) were busily doing their work. Suddenly Spotter O'Donnell spied a four-foot snake under Plassmann and his desk. He emitted a long wail like the first blast of the siren but which later was interpreted to mean, "Plaz, there's a snake under your desk!"

Plassmann erupted from his chair and Hanson, disregarding entirely his personal safety, lunged at the snake with a pair of shears.

"A hell of a way to treat a poor snake who just came in to get out of the rain," said the reptile and, flicking his rear disdainfully, crawled forth into the night.

Tremblay (waking up): "Whatwasit? A rat?"

BOOK REVIEW; BOMBER DRIVE

Floating around camp is John Gunther's book "Inside Asia"; interesting reading in view of present day events. That portion dealing with Japan throws into sharp relief the formidable nature of our enemy. China, one of our allied nations, too, is treated. Their background, history and problems make it worthwhile reading.

From N. J. comes word that the boroughs of Rutherford and East Rutherford pooled their interests and launched a drive to buy a bomber. The drive was a huge success. The plane is to be christened the "Spirit of the Rutherfords."
--Russell Pritchard.

Toppling Tree

Terrifies Tenants

By Cpl Ira B. Cohen

Some 89th Squadron men had a tragic experience recently when a tree fell through a partly-completed barrack setting ahead the date of completion from two to 14 days--the time depending on how many vitamin pills the construction detail consumes each day.

In order to forestall a recurrence of this tragedy, a logging crew headed by Olly, woodsman extraordinaire, set to work clearing several threatening trees. All went well except for one big tree. Olly set this one down neatly between the chaplain's office and the barrack occupied by Hq communications personnel. The upper branches climbed the bank and whacked the side of the building, setting the men on a hurried dash for the far end.

The noise awoke Pvt J. (Jap rifle) McMerney, sleeping after a night on duty. He attempted to jump out of bed but got hopelessly entangled in the mosquito netting. His violent actions caused cot and all to topple, dumping him unceremoniously on the floor.

Only damage caused was a slightly bent roof, a couple of telephone wires severed and an invasion of ants.

Lt Byron TRANSFERRED TO TASK FORCE HQ

Lt Roger A. Byron, assistant intelligence officer of the 90th Squadron, has been transferred to Air Task Force headquarters.

Lt Byron, whose home is in Hopkinsville, Ky., has been with the "cooked dice" squadron since March. He graduated from Berea College, Ky., and Georgetown Law school.

'OUTTA MY WAY!'

CAMP WHITE, ORE - Pvt Anthony Philbin, DEML, had been hanging around camp for a week, waiting final confirmation of his certified disability discharge. One day he showed up at the mess hall for KP.

"What are you doing here?" asked the mess sergeant.

"My name's on the KP list," said the amiable Philbin.

"Hell's bells, man," screamed the sarge, "you were discharged from the army last Saturday!"

Philbin left camp within an hour.

COLONEL HOLDS JAP PILOT LICENSE

FT. LOGAN, COL.--A Japanese pilot's license is held by Col Arthur Goebel who says he longs to use it flying over Nippon dropping bombs.

Radio News By Sweigert

The war department announced Thursday that all army planes soon will be sporting a new wing insignia. It was adopted to prevent confusion with enemy planes. The new insignia is a white star in a circular field of blue with a white rectangle horizontally on the left and right of the star and a red circle enclosing the entire device.

CONGRESS HAS APPROVED LEGISLATION RAISING THE ALLOTMENTS OF SERVICEMEN'S DEPENDENTS WITH ONE CHILD FROM \$62 TO \$68 A MONTH.

The Chicago servicemen's center has a new kind of trouble, girl trouble. The reason, too many girls. The girl's committee of the Women's Advisory Board announced that 300 girls would be dropped from the rolls. There are 10,000 girls on the waiting list and this action was taken to give the other girls a chance.

YOUR HIT PARADE

1. Coming In On A Wing And A Prayer
2. You'll Never Know
3. Let's Get Lost
4. As Time Goes By
5. In The Blue Of Evening
6. Don't Get Around Much Anymore
7. It's Always You
8. It Can't Be Wrong
9. Taking A Chance On Love
10. You Can't Escape From Love

LONDON--Grammar school kids killed seven Nazi soldiers in Rotterdam, according to reports received here.

CRASH- (Continued from page 1)

fare so well.

The ship sank immediately and Capt Murphy found himself 40 feet below the water's surface struggling to extricate himself from a parachute and numerous ammunition cans which pinned him in when sides of the fuselage collapsed.

When finally freed, it was necessary for him to dive to get out the escape hatch. About halfway to the surface he blacked out and knew no more till he came to while being towed ashore by Lt. Widener and Capt Webster. Somewhere along the way he collected a beautiful "shiner."

Capt Webster is known to his squadron as "Fappy Cappy" because in the short space of 37 days he became father of a son and was promoted to captain.

Sgt Allport, who got ashore using an oxygen tank as a life preserver, suffered slight injuries. The fifth member of the crew is unaccounted for.

WHAT WE'RE DOING-

Ground-Air Support

-REPORT FROM G-2.

By S/Sgt Edward F. Hines

Third Attack Group spearheaded an attack July 8 on enemy positions in a sector near Salamaua where intensive fighting is now in progress.

Led by Maj John P. Henebry, 90th CO, the 13th and 90th, with planes of another group, made a co-ordinated strike.

After their rendezvous they picked up fighter escort and proceeded toward the objective.

The accompanying squadron made their bombing, then strafing on the return run. All bombs were seen to fall in the target area which was thoroughly strafed.

During the attack, unidentified friendly planes were observed attacking Salamaua region.

All planes returned safely to base.

Comment: It is assumed that no Nips have made entry of this attack in their diaries as there are probably no live ones left. The boys dropped a helluva mess of bombs and poured plenty of m/g ammo smack in the bulls-eye. That's ground-air support.

A nationwide drive started in New York last Saturday for collection of an estimated 200 million old phonograph records to be made into new ones for overseas forces.--Sweigert.

ANSWERS TO SPORTS QUIZ

1. (b) He lost one race (1919) in his two-year career and that one to a horse named Upset.
2. (b) One of the Four Horsemen. Other three members of that backfield were Elmer Layden, Jim Crowley and Don Miller.
3. (a) Fans paid \$2,650,000 to see Jack Dempsey's last fight at Chicago in 1927. Floored by Dempsey, Tunney returned to win with the aid of Referee Dave Barry's famous "long count" of 14.
4. (b) Member of the Cardinals, Hornsby compiled the best average since 1887 when J. E. O'Neil, St. Louis, hit .492. In 1887, however, bases on balls were scored as hits.
5. (a) Jones won 13 major meets in 10 years of big time golf. His record: U.S. Open, four times; U.S. Amateur, five; British Open, three, and the British Amateur once. In 1930 he won them all, then quit. No future.

A statesman promises sweat, blood and tears; a politician apologizes for a little cut in rations.

--Robert Quillen