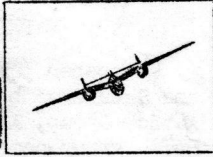


THIRD STRIKE



VOL. I, NO. 30

JULY 31, 1943

S.W. PACIFIC

VETERANS...

From PT boat to battlegon. That must be the way Lieutenants Birge A. Neumann and Albert W. Smith feel.

These officers recently transferred to the 90th Squadron from a P-40 fighter outfit stationed nearby. Lt Neumann has had 98 missions and Lt Smith 78 as pursuit pilots.

7 Are Awarded The Purple Heart

Six awards of the Purple Heart for wounds received as a result of enemy action have been accorded members of the Third. S/Sgt Lionel G. Young, previously wounded, was given an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Purple Heart.

Winners included Maj. Thomas P. Gerity, 13th (former 90th CO), who was wounded in defense of Nichols Field, Rizal, P.I., Dec. 9, 1941, and Lt. Edward D. Benham, 13th, wounded at Clark Field, Manila, on the day of Japan's sneak attack. Both officers have returned to the States.

Others to win the decoration are: Pfc Everett F. Beecher and Capt John M. Hill, 8th; Cpl. Emmor B. Mullenhour, 90th, S/Sgt Lionel G. Young and Sgt David R. Rogers, 13th Squadron.

KFS (SAN FRANCISCO) WAR NEWS BROADCAST Transcribed by Janoff

S. PACIFIC—150 American sailors, marooned for week on Jap-held island in Solomons, rescued. Catalinas raid Nauru isle, do much damage. All planes safe.

N. Africa—CITY OF ROME BOMBED SUNDAY NIGHT by Fortresses, Mitchells and Marauders from Africa and B-24s from Middle East. Crews train for weeks for raid, carry aerial photos marking Holy City and churches. These labeled: "Must on no account be damaged."

Italian troops surrendering by thousands. Only organized resistance is by Germans. 35,000 prisoners taken—23,000 by Americans. Enna, Catania fall imminent. Nearly half of island in Allied hands. Three Ittie generals surrender.

LONDON—Prime Minister Churchill last week said "the war is going so well that I am afraid to really say how well."

Leaps From Moving Plane

PILOT HAS NARROW ESCAPE; GUNNER DOESN'T WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS

F/O Ira Weidler of the 89th Squadron had fate deal him the winning hand the other day.

While on a strike mission his left engine caught fire causing him to leave the formation and return to Dobodura ahead of the rest of the flight. He (Continued on Page 6)

Lt Pepper to GHQ

GROUP'S FIRST PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

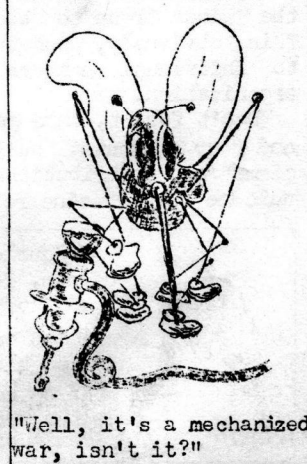
First Lieutenant Selwyn Pepper, group public relations officer since Mar. 14, left Monday for temporary duty in the public relations office at GHQ SWPA.

For 10 years prior to joining the Air Force Lt Pepper worked as a reporter on the St. Louis Post Dispatch. His term of service with that paper began during his college years at Washington University where he majored in English and political science, receiving his BA degree in 1935.

An Enlisted man for 16 months, he attended Officers' Candidate School at Miami Beach. While in the Air Force he has edited three service papers. Was Third Strike Adviser

Lt Pepper was the first public relations officer—ANDY ANOPHELES

ever assigned to the Third Group. While in that position he acted as adviser on and wrote for the 3rd Strike. An apt and prolific writer, his efforts have put the group among the most publicized in the American Air Force in the Southwest Pacific.



"Well, it's a mechanized war, isn't it?"

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.

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

--STAFF--

Cpl Byron M. Edgett.....Editor
Sgt E. Lewis.....Art and Presswork
Cpl Robert Burnette.....Typist

CONTRIBUTORS

Sgt John Sieswerda Cpl Henry P. Hertl
S/Sgt Edward Hines T/Sgt Jean Coulter
Sgt G. Hall T/Sgt Allen E. Sweigert
Pvt Lewis Janoff Pfc Leon Cohen
Sgt A.D. Underwood Sgt Bill Swain
Sgt Roland Guillet Sgt Peter Flanjak
Capt Walter W. Shegda.....Adviser

EDITORIAL-

NON SOLUM ARMIS

This issue marks the thirtieth edition of your paper; "The Third Strike."

With it we lose, at least temporarily, an officer to whom the paper owes much for his untiring efforts in its behalf, Lt Selwyn Pepper, group public relations officer. The high editorial standards he has set will be religiously maintained.

We have made, and will continue to make, an honest effort to promote pride in the Third, "Spearhead Group of the American Air Force."

With the co-operation of every member, this paper can become the finest unit publication of its type in the armed services. Already it has been publicized in many United States dailies in articles written by George Weller, Pulitzer prize winner and correspondent for the Chicago Daily News; Vern Haugland, AP correspondent, and in an official organ of the U S Special Service Division of the War Department.

Each mention of the "Strike" calls the Third Group to the reader's mind. This, obviously, can but be beneficial to individual members as well as the organization.

Don't forget, this is YOUR newspaper and your comments, suggestions, criticisms and contributions are not only welcome but are sincerely solicited.

EDITORIAL-

FLYING FORT

--INDEED!

Bill Cunningham, Boston Herald columnist, recently published the following statement relating to a former 3rd Group member:

"The island (Wantuckot)...also has its heroes. There's Andrew Jackson Swain, thrice-decorated rear turret gunner of a Flying Fortress that's been hammering the Japs in New Guinea. Young Swain is one of the real old stock. His ancestors used to go whaling out where he is now. He's whaling the Japs all over the same waters."

The Flying Fortress is a fine ship--perhaps the best four-engine pursuit in the AAF. Up until only recently it has received more than its share of palms, leaving the mediums and lights little recognition for their highly successful exploits.

But there's one thing the B-17 can't have. That's the record of Andy Swain in the SWPA. That belongs to the 90th Squadron and The Billy Mitchells.

He was one of the original Third -- those who have spent 18 months tripping the Nip in New Guinea and its environs.

With them he flew 25 missions when Japan had swarms of Zeros and we had no fighter protection. He accumulated 120 hours of combat flight. For his part in the Bismarck Sea battle and during the Papuan campaign he received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Air Medal. His 25 missions automatically qualify him for an Oak Leaf Cluster to the latter award.

And Bill, next time you see Andy ask him about that award for heroism he is reported to have won as a civilian -- Andy didn't spend his time talking about himself so we have no way of knowing the circumstances.

PHYSICAL COURAGE

IS NOT ENOUGH

Education, whether of black man or white man, that gives one physical courage to stand in front of a cannon and fails to give him moral courage to stand up in defense of right and justice, is a failure.--Booker T. Washington

Colourless lives can be explained as science explains colourless objects. The light which falls upon them is either wholly absorbed or wholly rejected.--Hugh Redwood

They Say: A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.--Buffalo News

If we knew as much about mental health as we do about physical health, an epidemic of hate would be considered as dangerous as an epidemic of typhoid.--Dr. David Levy

ON THE SPORTS FRONT

The Boston Red Sox, who have sent Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky, Lou Finney and Dom DiMaggio into service, claim to be the biggest contributors to the war effort in the big leagues; a claim that is disputed by the Detroit Tigers, who have lost 22 men to the armed forces. Among the Tigers to go were Hank Greenberg, Charlie Gehringer; Barney McCosky, Freddie Hutchinson, Pat Mullin and Birdie Tebbets.

Lt. Big George Earnshaw, who helped right hand the Philadelphia Athletics to pennants in 1929, '30 and '31, has been switched from his job at the Jacksonville (Fla.) Naval Base to a plane carrier.

Buzz Borries, Navy's great back of a few years ago, downed a pair of Zeros in his first five minutes of flying in the South Pacific. He's now an instructor at Pensacola.

MAJOR LEAGUE

Baseball Results

SATURDAY SECOND GAMES

National League

New York 8, Philadelphia 7; Pittsburgh 3, St. Louis 2.

American League

Detroit 3, Chicago 0; Washington 3, Boston 0.

SUNDAY FIRST GAMES

National League

Brooklyn 8, Boston 5; New York 10, Philadelphia 3; St. Louis 7, Pittsburgh 4; Chicago 3, Cincinnati 1.

American League

New York 7, Philadelphia 2; Washing-



THIRD STRIKE

SPORTS SECTION

JULY 21, 1943

PAGE 3

Carideo to Navy

Frank Carideo, star quarterback on Knute Rockne's last team and backfield at the State University of Iowa, has been ordered to report June 29 at the Naval Aviation Training Station at Quonset Point, R. I. Carideo already has been sworn into the Navy with the rank of lieutenant, junior grade.

ton 9, Boston 2.

(Sunday Second Games)

American League: New York 4, Philadelphia 3; Washington 5, Boston 4; Cleveland 10, St. Louis 7.

National League: New York 3, Philadelphia 2; Brooklyn 4, Boston 4 (called in the sixth, Sunday law); St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 5.

Sports Quiz

By Camp Newspaper Service

Some sporting figures, like Johnny Vander Meer who once pitched two consecutive no-hit ball games, seem predestined to accomplish the unaccomplishable. Such were the men who hold the records listed below. Can you pick them? If you score 100%—you can write the next quiz, smarty!

1. In modern baseball, six pitchers have won 300 or more games. Who won the most?

() Walter Johnson. () Cy Young. () Christy Mathewson. () Joe E. Brown.

2. Who holds the Olympic record for the 100-meter dash?

() Charlie Paddock. () Jesse Owens. () Eddie Tolan. () Ernie Lombardi.

3. Only one modern fighter has held three world titles simultaneously. Who is he?

() Gene Tunney. () Henry Armstrong. () Beau Jack. () Tony Galento.

4. Four big league ball players have hit four home runs in one game. Who was the last to pull this stunt?

() Chuck Klein. () Lou Gehrig. () Babe Ruth. () Connie Mack.

5. Only one race horse has succeeded in winning the top four races for three-year-old thoroughbreds. What was his name?

() Whirlaway. () Man O'War. () Sir Barton. () The Black Stallion.

(Answers on Page 6)

89th Goes On Building Spree

By Cpl. Adrain Bottge

Building is proceeding in high gear in the 89th. Noise of hammering and sawing fills the jungle long after tired G.I.s should have hit their sacks.

Cause of all this activity seems to be three fold. Some weeks ago it was announced that the Papuan Bored Lumber Co. would supply lumber for flooring. Many breathed sighs of relief and sat back to wait. When it finally became evident that the sawmill couldn't possibly turn out enough for all at the same time--and the rats became more chummy nightly--most of the boys decided they'd better get upstairs--soon!

Consequently, black palm for flooring has become a dear commodity. Late-comers found early birds had stripped the fringes of the jungle of choice palms and the only way to get suitable trees was to drag them out from deep in the woods.

BOYS IN STATES--

BEMOAN

--'NOTHING TO DO'

By Pvt Lewis Janoff

A headquarters man received a letter a few days ago from a G. I. in the good ol' fatherland. It seems that a number of troopers, along with himself, are unhappy in the service.

Their outfit is stationed in the Olmstead Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio. They are woeful because they can't find anything to do.

We who are happy in the service should try to help our despondent fellow troops. We could write a letter to the USO but that would be helping them indirectly.

The best thing to do, I think, would be to start a drive to get them something else besides iced cokes, ice cream, liquor and weekend passes. We could even get them into a Lonely Hearts club.

In case you didn't know, a Lonely Hearts club is run along the same lines as a mail order catalog.

It is indeed a shame that they have only two ping pong tables, unlimited supplies of records and books and the city of Cleveland at their finger tips.

We hear stories of brutality in other nations but didn't think it existed in the states.

Any suggestions or contributions will be gladly accepted. Just send them in, along with a label from a can of dehydrated spuds, to the Third Strike's Soldiers Welfare Department.

SONG OF THE P-X MAN

(Forward Base Parody)

By T/Sgt Joan Coulter

"No I haven't any chocolate

The ink you see is blue,
Yes, the writing paper's plain,
And the envelopes--no glue.

The fruit's all gone--been gone for days.

No change for ten pound notes;
The rats ate all the biscuits,
No milk--start raisin' goats.

The cordial's orange and lemon,
No lighters, bulbs or flints.
No likee can tomato juice?
I just sold out of mints.

I've salmon canned in Tokyo,
Your scrap of '33.
Lifebuoy soap and pure Camay
To keep you odor-free.

I might have towels tomorrow,
Depends on Steak and Eggs.
No credit giv'n to any ranks,
Not even if he begs.

And so it goes till ten o'clock,
Unless there be a show,
And then I close at 6:00 P.M.
And brother, really blow.

And when I close my eyes at night.
In the damp and sweltering hot,
I pray tomorrow some kind soul,
Will ask for what I've got!!

COMMODORE'S GRANDCHILD JOINS

NEW YORK--Phyllis Perry, 20-year-old granddaughter of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, has joined the WAVES. Commodore Perry was a hero of War of 1812.

"The Wolf"



"Squeeze--squeeze--squeeze! Don't you know how to squeeeeeze?" (see page 6)

LAFF OF THE WEEK

Boston.—In this staid old city of beans and breeding, school styles are important. Consequently one firm was hurled back in something less than an orderly retreat when the president of the senior class at the high school wrote a letter saying, "Please send me the prices for caps and gowns, particularly zoot gowns if you carry them."

3rd Group Help Asked for Natives

CHAPLAIN JAMES MAKES PLEA FOR "FUZZIES"

Every one of us recognized what an invaluable aid the assistance and goodwill of the native has been, and is, to us in our efforts here in New Guinea.

Their friendliness and helpful assistance is due in large measure to efforts of missionaries of the various churches who have labored here for many years working with the native, building mission houses, teaching them the principles of Christian living.

Because of the fortune and necessities of war many of the mission houses have been damaged or completely destroyed.

There is one way that we can show our appreciation and partially repay these "fuzzy-wuzzy angels." We can contribute money that will help them rebuild their mission houses when war is over.

It would be an admirable gesture on the part of the Third Group if every one of us would make a liberal, free-will contribution toward this effort.

Such funds as are given will be turned over to the group chaplain who will transfer them to the missionary agencies of the churches active in this area.—Chaplain Joseph W. James.

SECRET WEAPON?

Pvt John Jackson, Camp White, Ore., bought a lawn mower for his company in a nearby town, started for camp. In the next hour he was: Halted by an MP, accused of theft, hauled to jail, released; halted by two MPs, accused of being A/IOL, lent them a nickel to phone police headquarters, was released; arrived at barracks, tripped over mower, broke leg; was commended by his commanding officer for devotion to duty, resourcefulness, efficiency.

DOVER-FOXCROFT, ME-(BY RADIO)—Private funeral services were held July 15 for Sir Harry Oakes, wealthy mining engineer who was bludgeoned to death in his Nassau, Bahamas, home last week.

Michelangelos, Dead-Eye Dicks

EIGHTH DRESSES UP PLANES, BRUSHES UP ON MARKSMANSHIP

By Cpl Hertl and Sgt Sieswerda
Eighth Squadron B-25s will soon have the appearance of flying Christmas trees.

Each plane, in addition to its registry number and squadron number, will have the names of pilot, co-pilot, crew chief and gunners carefully inscribed on the fuselage.

The nose section will be decorated with a recognition mark—the squadron's colors—while under the co-pilot's window will be the usual pictorial record of the plane's activities.

However, the biggest addition will be the foot-high Jap characters with English translation below. Its meaning is one the Japs already know all too well, "The Sting of Death."

* * * *

FIRE POWER

When 15 localites visited the "Soputa rifle range" last week to brush up on their marksmanship, they found infantry men on hand to coach them.

When all rifles had been properly zeroed, five rounds were fired in each of the regulation positions, after which 16 rounds were expended in rapid-fire manner within a 70-second period.

To date, high score with the M1 is held by Sgt Pyron, while S/Sgt Fedorchak leads the Springfields. Although bullseyes were numerous and confidence was gained by all, it is believed that the participants feel a whole lot happier having the infantry around, rather than having to rely upon their own marksmanship alone.

* * * *

The 8th Squadron nearly had an opening for another flight chief the other day when the balky recon he was piloting stalled in the path of a taxiing B-twobits.

U.S. SERGEANT TELLS OFF GENERAL MONTGOMERY

CAIRO — Sgt Worden F. Lovell, a U.S. Army "shutterbug," was trying to catch up with some advanced 8th Army units.

He stopped his jeep to ask directions of a group of soldiers. One of them asked him why he wanted to know. Sgt Lovell made it plain he was in a hurry and had no time to answer damned foolish questions.

"Who was that guy?" asked Lovell of a British soldier riding with him. "That was General Montgomery, 'replied the Tommy.

LATE NEWS

PACIFIC—A Navy communique Monday told of a Japanese raid over Guadalcanal. Bombs caused minor damage to equipment and buildings and some casualties among personnel. This was the first Japanese raid on Guadalcanal area since June 16.

CAIRO—More than 75 Cairo-based Liberators of 9th Air Force blasted the port of Naples with over 325,000 pounds of explosives Saturday and destroyed at least 22 enemy planes over the city.

MOSCOW—On the central front Russian armies continued to press toward Orel Sunday against stiffening Nazi resistance which has slowed but cannot stop the great summer offensive. In one place Soviet forces have plunged six to eight miles deeper into German lines around Orel. The battle is spreading violently to Caucasus and Donets fronts. Berlin admits penetrations. Soviet dispatches say huge aerial battles continue despite rain.

LEAP-

(Continued
From Page 1)

succeeded in putting out the fire on his return. But on letting his landing gear down over the field the engine again was enveloped in flame.

And with no brakes or flaps to aid him in landing it looked like the finish. But the plane hit the runway and started its run away race. The gunner, Cpl M. Yanoska, had left the ship as soon as the wheels touched the ground.

F/O Weidler, seeing that nothing could be done, jumped from the burning plane only to fall in line with the landing gear of the moving ship.

Paralyzed by the shock of the fall, F/O Weidler managed to roll away in the nick of time. A fire extinguisher had fallen from the plane and was run over by the landing gear. A moment before this F/O Weidler's right leg had been in the same spot.

He later stated that, "When I saw the wheel pass by and run over the extinguisher I pictured myself in its place." F/O Weidler and his gunner were uninjured. The ship is being repaired.

MISSION REPORT—

What We're Doing

--FROM G-2

By S/Sgt Edward F. Hines

Early the morning of July 18, 13th Squadron B-25s took off to attack shipping sighted off the south coast of New Britain. Their target was a 500 - 1,000 ton enemy tanker (Sugar Charlie).

At 0825/K the B-25s approached their objective and immediately prepared for the kill, making individual "buzz-bombing" runs, from altitudes of 50 to 100 feet.

Two direct hits were scored on the stern and amidships.

Two more bombs were near misses. Wounded, "Sugar" flared up, split in the middle, turned turtle and sank within two minutes.

That ended the hits for by the time the planes got into position to make a

second masthead attack the vessel had already started to sink. Two strafing passes were made over the hulk and our aircraft, piloted by Lieutenants William L. Bersch, John Cunningham and Mac Norwood, were on their way home leaving a wake of debris behind them.

A very successful achievement; a chalk-up for the Third Attack score board on the destruction of enemy shipping. Photographs of the attack and sinking confirm the above story.

ANSWERS TO SPORTS QUIZ

1. Denton Tecumseh (Cy) Young, pitching for Boston, St. Louis and the Cleveland Indians, won 511 big league games in 22 years. Walter Johnson was second with 414, all won for Washington.
2. Eddie Tolan ran 100 meters in 10.3 in 1932 at Los Angeles, top mark for Olympic competition.
3. Hammering Henry Armstrong once held the featherweight, lightweight and welterweight crowns all at once.
4. Chuck Klein, of the Philadelphia Phillies, was the last man to hit four home runs in a single game. Others to accomplish this feat were Lou Gehrig, Bobby Lowe and Ed Delahanty.
5. In 1919, Sir Barton won the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, the Withers Mile and the Belmont Stakes. No other horse has ever duplicated this feat.

