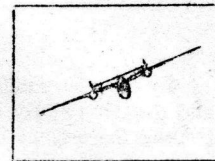


THIRD STRIKE



VOL 1, NO. 32

JULY 28, 1943

S.W. PACIFIC

GROUP C.O. WINS SILVER LEAF

Five Officers On Way Home

Five combat pilots of the 3rd Group have been given the green light and have taken off for the States in a cloud of discarded personal effects and worries.

They are: Maj. H. V. Naull, former 13th Squadron C.O. and group operations officer, Captains John C. Conn and William U. Neel, Lieutenants Turner P. Messick and William J. Langley, all of the 89th.

Notice to leave was short—but more than ample for these officers who have been heroically pushing the Japs back for nearly 18 months. Together they have 254 missions to their credit.

CPL JOSEPH H. R.

BLAIS

-MENTIONED IN MASS. PAPER

In the Lawrence (Mass.) Evening Tribune of May 14 there appeared a story about the Blais brothers of that city, all members of the armed forces.

Cpl. Joseph H. R. Blais, 22, one of those brothers, is a cook in the 13th
(Continued on Page 3)

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN HOLDS MEMORIAL MASS FOR 3RD DEAD

Seventy-five men were present Tuesday night to hear Chaplain Tobin Wood say mass in memory of 3rd Group deceased personnel. The service was held in the 89th officers' mess.

Henceforth, regular masses will be conducted at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday, preceded by confession. Tuesday night at 6:45 confession and mass will be held and a novena for peace offered.

allies roll on →

At latest reports American divisions were driving along the north coast of Sicily more than 20 miles east of Palermo. Other forces occupy the central section of the island while the British 8th Army pushes toward stubbornly defended Catania. (Shaded area is in Allied hands.)

Lauds Squadron Co-operation

PUTS TEAMWORK ABOVE INDIVIDUAL GLORY;
GIVES PHOTO SECTIONS

By Cpl Byron M. Edgett

On the event of his recent promotion to lieutenant colonel, Group Commander Donald P. Hall expressed great pleasure at the co-operation being shown among squadrons of his command.

"Squadrons are flying together on missions and operating in complete harmony," he remarked. "This co-ordinated action under leadership of one command is working out surprisingly well and results are eminently satisfactory.

"Contrary to expectations there has been no friction. The only possible criticism would be that pilots are
(Continued on Page 4)

URGES SECOND FRONT

LONDON—Urgings for a second front in western Europe were renewed with fresh vigor over Moscow radio recently by M. Victorov, authoritative Soviet commentator. He declared such an attack now would turn the present Nazi crisis into "veritable catastrophe." In the plainest talk from Moscow since the Sicilian invasion, Victorov asserted that "only joint blows from east and west can put an end to the hopes of Hitler."



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. Shegja, intelligence officer.

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

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finito for benito

The "resignation" of Benito Mussolini as premier of Italy and secretary of the Fascist party is the biggest news to come out of Europe in many a day.

Mussolini's successor, Marshal Pietro Badoglio, has been the dictator's enemy for years, though he headed the conquest of Ethiopia. The little king, Vittorio Emanuele, now in command of Italy's armed forces, has never been one hundred per cent Fascist. He has been virtually a prisoner under the 22-year rule of Benito and his torpedoes.

Perhaps, because of Nazi guns in their backs, the Italian nation will not immediately capitulate but certainly co-operation with the Axis will not be enhanced by the new setup.

FORMER COMBAT MAN
IS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Lt Robert S. Williamson, new 90th Squadron assistant intelligence officer, must feel as though he has "hit the jackpot."

Lt Williamson was chosen from this theater to attend OCS in Australia. He is a former member of another Billy Mitchell group which is stationed near here. While a member of that organization he participated in 21 missions and was a member of a crew that accounted for two Jap planes.--Cohen

WACKY SALUTE GIVEN BY WAAC

Gowen Field, Ida.--Wacky was the salute given by a bundle laden WAAC to a major. He kidded her about the sloppiness of her highball so she thrust the bundles into his arms, saluted snappily took the bundles back and glided away.

New Publicity
Officer for 3rd

Lt Richard S. Prentis has joined the 3rd as public relations officer, superseding Lt Pepper, recently transferred to GHQ.

Lt Prentis was an enlisted man before becoming an officer. As such he was a member of the 99th Bomb Group at Sioux City, Ia. doing operations work. He also served on the staff of the base publication, "The Bombardier".

He attended clerical school at Ft. Logan, Denver, Colo., and OCS at Miami, Fla. With other fortunates he was quartered in one of the finest hotels there. In his time in the Air Force he has been stationed at 10 different bases.

Holds Bachelor Degree

His home is in Detroit, Mich., where he attended Detroit University School. After graduation he attended Washington U in St. Louis, Mo., and the University of Missouri where he received a degree Bachelor of Journalism.

While attending the latter school he was a staff member of the Columbia Missourian, privately owned paper edited by the student body for the community as well as the university.

New Guinea holds great interest for him and he proposes to make as much as possible of his unusual assignment. The potentialities of the Third Strike appeal to him and he is determined to help make it "the best and biggest newspaper of its type this side of the Golden Gate."

WIN AIR MEDALS

Lieutenants William H. Hofmeier Jr. and Richard F. Tobin, 13th Squadron pilots, have been awarded Air Medals for having participated in more than 25 combat missions.

Lt Hofmeier lived in San Antonio, Tex., Lt Tobin in Medford, Mass.

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Prospective juror in a Brooklyn murder case was asked: "Have you any prejudice against capital punishment?"

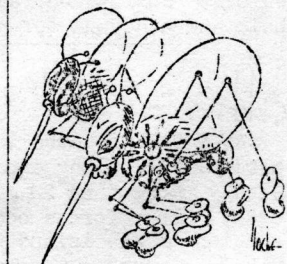
"No," said the prospect.

"What is your business?"

"Salesman of tombstones and mausoleums."

The court: Juror relieved.

ANDY ANOPHELES



"A perfect disguise, Oscar. Give 'em hell!"

THE THIRD--

STRIKES AGAIN

By S/Sgt Edward F. Hines

B-25s of the 13th and 8th Squadrons, led by Col Hall, group commander and Col Gunn, well-known in the 3rd Attack Group and veteran of many sorties against the Japanese in the SWPA, took off at 0900K the morning of July 23 to bomb and strafe buildings and general area around Malolo.

At a given signal upon approaching the target, the aircraft peeled off and made their bombing runs individually. As 300 lb demolition bombs were dropped from tree-top level with great success. One native hut was observed blown to pieces and several others had direct hits scored on them.

* * * *

A successful bombing and strafing mission was recently completed against water and land targets along the New Guinea coast area from Hanische Harbor to Weld Bay and over to Cape Bushing, New Britain. Heavy Jap barge concentrations received several 500-pounder attacks, followed by individual strafings on a coastal village.

Fifteen barges were definitely destroyed in the waters off New Britain, and 15 others probably damaged. The Nip camp areas near the mouth of the second and third tributaries of the Itne River were also well strafed.

Capt Oscar L. Wertz and his crew, Lt Glenn J. Maddox, co-pilot; Lt Charles J. Hansen, navigator; Pvt Walter J. Kennedy, radio gunner, and S/Sgt Jack R. Keith, turret gunner, were presumably lost, as their ship was seen to crash in the sea near Hanische Bay.

BLAIS-

(Continued
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Squadron. He came overseas with the 3rd as a member of an attached ordnance outfit. In civil life he was a weaver in a textile mill.

His other brothers, Roland, 25, Lionel, 21, and the baby, Alcide, 18, are now overseas but each one in a different branch of the service.

Roland served at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as an infantryman before the war. When he again entered the service, this time with his National Guard outfit, he transferred to the Field Artillery. Lionel was in the Coast Guard but transferred to the Navy Commandos. Alcide is a marine.

Joseph can envision some hot arguments about who won the war when they are reunited.

The four boys constitute the entire family. "I believe," Joe said, "We are doing our bit."

Much Activity
In 13th Squadron

By Sgt Roland Guillet

Our official informer, "Foto Joe", has finally released photographic evidence of the destruction of a troublesome red-roofed house at Malolo at which our outfit took a crack the other day. "Foto Joe" keeps our combat crews well informed by his daily displays at the Intelligence briefing room.

Another new addition to our dog family is "Mike", a tiny sheep dog brought back by Lt Mackoy....We're losing our evening newscaster for a fortnight as Lt Newmeyer goes on leave this week... Coca-colas were an extra treat the other night for 13th members through the courtesy of some of our pilots who brought some back from the mainland... The 13th feels the loss of Lt Bromage and F/O Sturm who were killed in a crash last week. The gunners, Sgt Shinke and Cpl Kauffman, were rescued.

Native labor is being used to construct a drainage system out on the line to relieve the flooded conditions which exist after a hard rain....Capt Minor is to be congratulated on his promotion from 1st Lt...T/Sgts "Whiskey" Taylor and Floyd Reed have returned after being on Detached Service for nearly three months.

Decorated Today

Four 3rd Group officers and men left this morning for advanced base headquarters to be decorated by general command at a public presentation.

They are: Lt Edmund Montagano, 89th, and S/Sgt Victor Ceryanec, 90th, who will be presented Silver Stars; Capt John F. Taylor, 89th, who will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, and Sgt Robert Berube, Hq, the Purple Heart.

What Do You Think?

Beginning this issue and continuing each week hereafter if interest warrants, a question will be asked of the Third Group at large.

Your answers should be brief and to the point. They should be constructive in nature rather than carping. They must be signed in the handwriting of the sender.

Suggestions for future questions may accompany letters.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: "WHAT DO YOU MOST DESIRE IN YOUR MAIL FROM HOME? ARE THE LETTERS YOU RECEIVE SATISFACTORY? WHAT DO YOU MOST WANT TO HEAR?"

Choose one of the above points and express your views.



"Can you direct us to the Motor Pool?"

COFFEE RATIONING OFF?

Removal of coffee from the ration list is imminent, government officials said Friday. No date for lifting of rationing has been set but they said an announcement is expected to be made by the O.P.A. within the next few days.

COLONEL

(Continued
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crews are too eager and, of course, that doesn't do the Nips any good."

The group at present, he reminded us, is at greater strength and has more planes than at any time before in its history.

Teamwork Is Goal in Group

Concerning recognition of individuals the colonel cited figures showing that we have more decorations than the entire Australian Navy. "Still," he added, "too much stress should not be placed on individual achievement... We'd rather make a winning team than a lot of individual stars. Excellent work of ground men and officers is being taken into consideration. By that I mean to include every department without exception."

"We have won one citation and are pressing for a second and third. It is reasonable to expect there will be more -- possibly for the Philippine mission and the Bismarck Sea victory. A second citation will entitle every man in the group at the time of either deed to a citation device which he may wear and treasure for the rest of his life."

Explains "Attack" Designation

Col Hall explained why, in his estimation, we are the only attack group in the American Air Force: "Ours is the

CLASSMATES REUNITED

Wars are like cyclones...there's no telling what they will do next.

Take the case of Lt. R. Stacy Williams, recently assigned assistant supply officer in the 13th, and M/Sgt Nelson P. Nickelson of the 90th.

Classmates in high school at Arcadia, La., their ways parted when they graduated in 1927. Lt Williams became a bank cashier and Nickelson chose the army as a career.

Now, 15 years later they have again come together 15,000 miles from home.

Meet By Accident

Sgt. Nickelson was poking around other outfits getting ideas for his squadron mess. In a fighter outfit he visited he saw a group of men near the chow hall and, on looking them over, spied Lt Williams, then a sergeant in ordnance. The lieutenant spotted Sgt Nick at the same time and according to Nickelson, what they said at meeting is nobody's business, especially since one of them is now a commissioned officer. That was at another base and their outfits were separated again.

The next time Williams and Nickelson met they were members of the same organization.

only organization whose primary function is low-level bombing, jumping the enemy, harrassing him and cutting him to ribbons with our great firepower wherever he may be found. It would be unfair to call us anything else," he added.

The colonel mentioned in glowing terms work of squadron photo sections. In a personal record of pictures published in intelligence summaries over a period of the last six months, he has found 50 per cent to be of Third Group origin.

Third Overseas Commander

Col Hall is the third to command the group since it has been in combat overseas. He is one of the top ranking flyers in the organization, a pilot qualified in both A-20 and B-25. He possesses the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Australian headquarters asked that his name be submitted for a high RAAF decoration. He is one of two Americans to be so honored.

His first love is combat, of course, but he shows keen regard for problems of ground personnel and administration. Everyone, officer or enlisted man, who comes in contact with him is impressed first by his directness and modesty.

Under his command and in view of our present opportunities there should be no stopping the Third short of Tokyo.