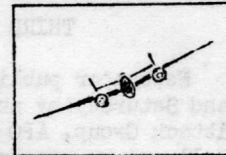


# THIRD STRIKE



VOL I, NO. 23

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S.W. PACIFIC

## The Battle Rages

By Sgt Roland Guillet

While inter-squadron rivalry goes on with unabated truculent statements on all sides, the 13th quietly submits figures which show marked superiority over other squadrons. The 90th and 89th claim theirs to be the best squadrons in the group, but let's see if they can match these figures.

### 72 Jap Units Destroyed

Though 13th activity has been negligible since a certain day in April, the following statistics are still quite impressive: Up to June 1 the 13th has compiled 3,778 combat hours, made 277 missions consisting of 1,113 sorties.

During that time the squadron has 19 Jap aircraft destroyed in the air to its credit and 44 Jap planes destroyed on the ground. They have accounted for 6 Jap merchant ships and 3 destroyers.

In spite of the other squadrons' wholesale decorations for the Bismarck Sea, the 164 decorations of the 13th stand near the top. When claims of "best" are made, "Remember the 13th."

## Scout Knives Are Distributed

Lt Richard Rogers, group special services officer, has received 160 sheath knives from Boy Scout organizations and individuals in the States.

These knives were distributed equally among squadrons, each receiving 35. Headquarters was allotted 20, each department being given two.

The knives were given squadron adjutants for distribution.

The 13th turned theirs over to tech supply with instructions to give ground defense officers first priority, platoon sergeants second and squad leaders third.

In the 90th, Lt Hinsey, assistant engineering officer, supervised distribution to combat crews and flying officers and will personally ascertain that all recipients acknowledge receipt by letter to the donor.

89th QM supply will give preference to aerial gunners. If any are left, they will be issued to ground personnel.

Capt Carroll, 8th Squadron adjutant, is personally distributing the knives to flying officers and combat personnel. He first assures himself that those receiving them do not already possess knives and that stipulations attached to their receipt are complied with.

## OLD FAT CAT IS DISABLED

TOUGH OLD SHIP'S KNEES BUCKLE; MALARIA, NO DOUBT. WILL RETURN

Fat Cat has written off another of her nine lives. The manner of her going did not reflect the glorious history she has written in the skies over Jap territory for the last year. Due to a structural defect born of age, she cracked up in landing. But, she'll be back!

Fat Cat is the oldest ship in the 90th Squadron with the exception of Mortimer, which has been written about in many periodicals and newspapers in the States.

She was assigned to the 90th Apr. 10, 1942, and was flown by Capt. "Red" Johnson while he was a member of the squadron, with T/Sgt J.B. Chesson as crew chief. Together they flew on many rough missions, on one of which they were followed back to base by 20 Zeros which strafed them as they landed. Another time the ship acted as a decoy over an enemy base to attract enemy fire while other units made their attacks uninterrupted.

### More Holes Than a Sieve

The ship's fuselage bears witness to the terrific beating it has received. It contains 387 different holes, some as big as saucers. Some bullets have gone through the same holes again and again.

Her crew on the last trip, none of whom were injured, were: 1st Lt J. E. Helbert, pilot; F/O W.O. Ruse, 2nd Lt A. Soffer, Pfc H. Axt, S/Sgt E.M. Casarino, Sgt R.E. Berube and S/Sgt J.L. Humphrey.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Sunday, June 27, 1943

General Worship Services:

10:15 a.m. 8th Squadron area  
3:45 p.m. 90th Squadron area  
6:45 p.m. 13th Squadron area

Roman Catholic Mass:

8:30 a.m. 480th Service Squadron  
12:30 p.m. 46th Service Gp Hq  
6:30 p.m. 43rd Engineer Headquarters

Jewish Services, 6:30 p.m. MONDAY, 46th Service Group. Transportation will be furnished to services not within walking distance. See your first sergeant

## 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 Department

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Lt Selwyn Pepper.....Adviser

## Broward to O.C.S.

By Pfc Leon Cohen

The 90th personnel section has lost a valuable man with departure of Cpl Gordon W. Broward for Australia to attend O.C.S. in Air Corps Administration.

Corporal Broward, of Jacksonville, Fla., has been in personnel during his entire year's stay with us. Prior to coming overseas he attended Fort Logan Clerical school and graduated from the University of Chattanooga.

ZERO'S TAIL ON  
EXHIBITION IN 13TH

By Cpl Lew Lehr

Step right this way, folks! No admittance charge--souvenir hunters welcomed! We have on exhibition the one and only almost-complete tail of a Jap Zero in the group. Already hundreds have come to see and tear off little pieces. One zealous fellow even brot along a hacksaw. Yes, sir, it's a piece of craftsmanship that should be seen by all air-minded men.

The person who made possible its showing is Capt "Doc" Floreth, 13th medical officer. While on a "run" to Buna, he came across this bullet-riddled tail, detached from its body, lying in a field. He thought the fellows back at the squadron would like to see it. He was right. So, step quickly, folks, no crowding! Just to the right of the medical shack.

Buckley Field, Col.--Eighty dollars a week is the cost paid by Pvt Edmund La Brecque for maintaining a driv-ur-self car. He explained he was lucky at craps.

WANTED--Pocket watch, serviceable cond., reas. priced, Bernier, Gp Mtl.

## COMBAT CREW IS

## Missing in Action

AFTER JUNE MISSION

Lt Raymond A. Tabb, Lt Harlan L Reid, Sgt Raymond C. Smith and Cpl Robert L. Lemons have been missing since a mission early this month.

Both Lt Reid and Lt Tabb were in the 8th Squadron before being transferred to the 90th and 13th Squadrons respectively. Recently both returned to the 8th.

Sgt Smith, though having but recently joined the 8th, has many friends in the outfit. Cpl Lemons is well known, having been with that squadron for 16 months.

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## EIGHTH GOSSIP

## 'Snow' Falls in Brisbane

T/Sgt "Buzz" Freeman, upon his recent return from Brisbane, is happy to announce that the morale of the troopers there is very high--the ratio of females to males is still 4 to 1.

He also observed that the U.S.O. comandos were very active on that front and were distinguishing themselves, as decorations in the form of "good conduct" and "per diem" ribbons were numerous.

## Wrong Numbah?

What sergeant on the line was recently overheard holding a one-way conversation with a four-star general on a dead field telephone?

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The medical tent is now 100 per cent anti-rodentized, chigger and skunk-bug proofed, thanks to carpentry work of Medicos Hodges and "Rocco." They are now working on a method of ridding the medical tent of sick cases of the "imaginary" class.

## OOPS! MISTAKE!

A pursuit pilot, escorting bombers on a mission to Kiska, was separated from the other planes due to bad weather. After searching for them for some time he located a lone bomber and flew alongside, thinking it was heading back to their home base.

Appearing over what he thought to be the base, the pursuit pilot was amazed to see the bomber continuing to circle, making no effort to land. Pulling up close to the bomber, he gestured down time and time again, the pilot in the bomber shaking his head each time. He finally gave up and flew with the bomber which soon circled and headed away from the area. He was amazed to see, after flying a while, his home field come into view. Only then did he realize he had been over Kiska. The bomber pilot recommended the pursuit pilot for DFC for wanting to go down and strafe Kiska alone!

# RESIGNATION

Engineering E/M, after four months as latrine orderly, bids fond adieu and returns to the line:

SUBJECT: Resignation.

TO : whom It May Concern.

I, Corporal ROBERT C. HOFFMAN, 8th Attack Sanitation Department, being of sound mind without mental reservation or equivocation: All of my duties I devise and bequeath to my next successor for his own headache and prestige (may Allah have mercy on his soul), and I hereby appoint him my executor without bond, with full power to sweep, scrub, burn or in any way dispose of the whole or any part of my estate.

12/6/43(Seal) Robert C. Hoffman  
ROBERT C. HOFFMAN, Corporal, Sanitation Engineer, Commanding

Subscribes, sealed, published and declared by Corporal ROBERT C. HOFFMAN, testator above named, as and for his resignation in the presence of each of us, who at his request and in his presence, in the presence of each other, at the same time, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses this 12th day of June in the Year of Our Lord, 1943, at HAPPYDALE, New Guinea.

Witnessed: (Seal) Joe Cardin  
Happydale, N.G.  
Gordon C. Aldrich  
Happydale, N.G.

## VFW vs DRAFT DODGERS

St. Louis, Mo., VFW passed a resolution asking for a comprehensive check on draft deferments, based on the charge numerous men are working in war industry solely to evade military service.

## LOSING HIS HEAD?

Quisling: If the Germans lose I'll just put on my hat and leave.  
Norwegian: But what would you put your hat on? --Esquire

Twin Falls, Idaho--A sign in the tax collector's office here says, "What are you crying about? Nobody's shooting at you!"

# Together, United

By Sgt Peter P. Flanjak

We are two great armies united--  
Together we're fighting as one,  
Our motives and emotions ignited  
By the spark of strong unison!  
We're the battling sons of Liberty,  
We, the Aussies and the Yanks  
Are fighting for Freedom's perpetuity,

To God only we're giving thanks!  
As in America; so in Australia,  
We're guided by Liberty's hand,  
And together, in battle regalia,  
Routing the enemy from our land!  
We're fighting on and cannot pause,  
We'll win with honor and pride;  
So together under a common cause,  
We're marching side by side!

Our hands clasp firm like  
family kin,  
We're brothers in this World fray:  
Our goal is victory - we'll win  
And again bring peace here to stay!

Chorus:

We are the Sons of Mother Liberty,  
We, the Aussies and the Yanks--  
We value our privilege to be free,  
And come from all classes and ranks!

REMEMBER THIS NEXT TIME  
YOU SEE A JAP PLANE!

An Allied mission in the Solomons was intercepted by 40 to 50 enemy fighters. An Allied pilot, while descending by parachute from 20,000 feet, was attacked four times by one of the fighters, the pilot of which deliberately attempted to knock him with the propeller by passing under him.

On the third pass, his right foot and part of the heel of his left foot were cut off. The Jap made one more pass at him before being chased off by an Allied aircraft.

The pilot's right leg was later amputated above the ankle and he is now recovering.

## FIVE LESS

The Army Air Corps motto "Keep 'em flying" inspired an ack-ack battery here to adopt the slogan, "Stop 'em flying." In proof of its ability to live up to the motto, the battery displays on its headquarters sign five small Jap flags --one for each enemy plane it claims to have shot down.



# 89th IMPRESSES AP WRITER

FIVE STORIES WRITTEN ON GROUP FOR RE-  
LEASE TO STATES NEWSPAPERS

Vern Haugland, Associated Press correspondent, was deeply impressed by the records compiled by 3rd Group after he spent several days here recently.

He wrote five articles about the group for the hundreds of newspapers which receive the AP service. Among the articles was a detailed study of accomplishments of the 89th Squadron which we will reprint in three installments in Third Strike. The first installment follows:

By Vern Haugland

Advanced Base Somewhere in New Guinea, June 18 (AP)--Based under the very noses of the Japanese--subjected, in fact, to a nip air raid every now and then--is America's most experienced squadron of attack planes.

The Japs long ago must have learned the designation of this daring and accomplished unit. For that reason, perhaps army censors will permit the use of its name: the 89th Squadron in the 3rd Attack Group. If not, the reader may be told only that it is an A-20 squadron activated as a reconnaissance unit at Savannah, Ga., before the start of the war.

## First Attack on Lae

The squadron left the states a month and a half after Pearl Harbor. Until its planes arrived in the Southwest Pacific area in June, 1942, its personnel served with medium bombardment outfits.

After three months of training, the planes, outfitted with -- caliber guns and bomb bay tanks, made their first surprise attack on the Japanese at Lae, 175 miles north of Port Moresby, on Aug. 31.

And a real surprise it was, recalls Capt Donald E. Good of Eugene, Ore., who, then a second lieutenant, was one of the pilots taking part. The Japs hadn't experienced this type of intensive ground strafing and low-level bombing before, and they scurried from buildings--like chickens at the cry of a hawk--when the raids started. Radio Tokyo announced that one of the planes crashed into the sea. Actually, the crippled plane reached its base and did not have a crackup until six months later.

When war broke out, the Savannah outfit was the only attack group in the

## LT. SOLOMON ON BISMARCK ACTION

Achievements and utterances of 90th Squadron men are in the spotlight at home as well as here.

The following quotation appeared in "people Say," column in PM, New York paper: "We went in so low you could have caught fish with our propellers."--2nd Lt Edward T. Solomon of Suffolk, Va., describing bombing of Jap convoy in Bismarck Sea." (Also in N.Y. Times.)--Pfc Leon Cohen.

## THE FIRST GENERAL SPEAKS

By Chaplain James

In his first general order to the Army, given July 4, 1775, the day after he took command, General Washington not only required "of all officers and soldiers not engaged in actual duty a punctual attendance on Divine service," but demanded "due observance of those articles of war established for the government of the Army which forbid profane cursing, swearing, and drunkenness."

He further stated in his first general order that "he hopes the officers by their example as well as influence, endeavor to check it; and that both they and the men will reflect that we can have little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our arms if we insult it by our impiety and folly."

country. It was thus the first to go overseas.

The squadron has lost only three pilots in the greater part of a year of front-line flying. Only one was lost in combat. One crashed on takeoff and the other was lost flying from Australia to New Guinea.

## Scores Hit With Bomb Bay Tank

Up to the end of May, the squadron had 1,035 sorties, 232 missions and 1,937 combat hours to its credit.

It had dropped 16,754 20-pound fragmentation bombs, 856 100-pound demolition bombs, and a number of 300 and 500-pounders for a bomb weight total of 442,430 pounds.

In addition, the staunch old A-20's unintentionally dropped upon the Japs one bomb bay tank (loosened from faulty racks, it hit an enemy fuel dump at Lae and set it afire) and a camera and twin guns, which fell out when one plane somersaulted through antiaircraft fire.

The planes expended 623, 970 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition and 320, 650 round of -- caliber.

(Continued in Next Issue)

KEEP YOUR GAS MASK IN GOOD CONDITION  
ALWAYS!