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S.W. PACIFIC

**JAPS TELL WILD TALE AFTER
90th SINKS TWO NIP SHIPS**

Two small Jap vessels were sunk Saturday when attacked by B-25s of the 90th Squadron near a Jap-held base.

Several hours later, the Jap radio announced that "four North American bombers" had attacked two Nip ships. Two of the bombers, after dropping their loads, "blew up," after which the other bombers took cloud cover and fled, the Jap announcer reported. He said the Jap ships were undamaged and there were no personnel casualties.

Photographs taken by the B-25s showed a 1500-ton Jap cargo ship burning and sinking after receiving three direct hits. A 400-ton vessel received two direct hits and four very near misses. It was left burning and on its side. Before it was hit, our flyers saw a Ford sedan with white sidewall tires on the ship's deck.

Beaufighters strafed the Jap ships before the B-25s struck. The Aussies saw the enemy vessels hit and destroyed by the B-25s. They also saw troops crowded on the deck of the larger ship. Eight Zekes attempted interception of the B-25s but were evaded. All the 90th planes and the Beaufighters returned safely.

39 STATES REPRESENTED AT SERVICES

MOTHERS' DAY; CHAPLAIN WRITES PARENTS

Thirty-nine States were represented at Mothers' day services Sunday. Georgia led with 19 sons present.

About 200 letters were sent to mothers and wives of the men by Chaplain James. He told them their sons or husbands had attended the services, adding, "It will also make you happy to learn that he attends the regular worship services on Sundays when his duty permits. All of us join in a prayer that our God will continue to pour out his blessings upon you and upon all the Mothers of our land."

**7 CHANGES IN GROUP
AND SQUADRONS' COMMAND**

Seven important changes in the leadership of 3rd Bomb Group and its squadrons were announced yesterday.

Maj. Christian Petri Jr., was appointed group operations officer, relieving Maj. Alexander G. Evanoff, who was transferred to a new station. Maj. Petri had been assistant operations officer.

Maj. Harold V. Maul, former C.O. of the 13th Squadron, was appointed group ground air support control officer.

Capt. David M. Conley was named C.O. of the 13th. He had been squadron operations officer.

Capt. John P. Henebry was appointed commander of the 90th Squadron, replacing the late Maj. Edward L. Lerner. Capt. Henebry had been operations officer for the squadron.

Lt. Joe M. Bean, former assistant group intelligence officer, and Lt. John B. Wright, who was assistant group communications officer, have been named assistant group operations officers.

Capt. Edward J. Chudoba, operations officer in the 8th Squadron, has been ordered to Australia on temporary duty to instruct RAAF men in a specialized type of work.

13th MAY BUY ICE CREAM FREEZER

WITH PROFITS FROM BINGO GAMES

By Sgt. Roland Guillet

Under the O-65--Bingo! That is becoming a familiar cry in the 13th recreation hall now that bingo games are held every night. There is always a capacity crowd playing for prizes of three to four pounds a game. Several times during the evening, all entry fee money goes into the prize.

About twice a week before the movie, a war bond is raffled off. One \$50 and one \$25 bond have been raffled so far. All profits from the games and raffles go into the squadron fund toward the purchase of an ice-cream freezer.

THIRD STRIKE

Newspaper published every Wednesday and Saturday by and for members of 3rd Bombardment Group, APO 929. Maj. Donald P. Hall, group commander; Maj. Irvine Shearer, group intelligence officer. Third Strike receives material from Camp Newspaper Service, War Dept.

Contributors: Cpl. Byron Edgett, Sgt. Peter Flanjak, Sgt. Roland Guillet, Cpl. Albert Lehr, Sgt. Edmond Lewis, Sgt. Harold Larsen, Cpl. Clifford Cotter, Sgt. George Hall, "Pappy" Ayer, S/Sgt. J.H. Wamock, Sgt. Bill Swain, T/Sgt. R. Davis
Adviser: Lt. Selwyn Popper.

LIFE MAGAZINE WRITER TELLS
OF 3rd GROUP'S PART IN THE
BATTLE OF THE BISMARCK SEA

A complete account of the Bismarck Sea battle, as told by Maj. Irvine Shearer, group intelligence officer, was written for Life Magazine by its staff writer, John Purcell. The article was illustrated by about 30 photographs many never published before.

"It was a sort of special day for the Third Bomb Group," Purcell quotes Maj. Shearer as saying. "You see, we're one of the old outfits. Attack aviation began with the Third Group back in 1923, when someone tied wing-guns on the old DH-4s. That's too far back for the kids now to remember, but they remember some other antiques, Shrikes, A-17s, A-18s. We were the first people to get A-20s. We flew a lot of maneuvers before the war, Benning, Chattanooga, Louisiana, Hartford, the Carolinas. We got the first A-24s. We had a lot of savvy pilots.

OLD OUTFIT HERE

We're an old outfit in this theatre too, 15 months old. We were chopped up and shipped out here January before last, 44 of the pilots, the whole ground crew, and three knocked-down A-20s. We managed to borrow a dozen B-25s from the Dutch, taught ourselves how to fly them and went to work.

On the morning of March 3, Maj. Shearer related, "pilots of 3rd Bomb were finishing breakfast, pancakes and coffee. Already they knew it would be a special day and were trying hard not to show it. One late riser ate slowly as the others yelled at him to hurry. 'The kids can damned well wait,' he said, 'until I'm through with my coffee.'

When the planes arrived near the

convoy, Maj. Shearer continued, "the whole show looked like the wildest sort of Hollywood production crossed with a Fel Geddes model.

"As the pilots saw it, the battle was broken, episodic, a succession of single incidents. Said the A-20 pilot who got a little 800 ton tanker (Capt. Dunbar): 'Well, if I'd known I was that good, or that the little ——— of a ship was going to blow up so easily, I'd have saved a bomb for something else!'

"VICTORY THROUGH AIR POWER"

"A fighter pilot, each time he lined up a Zero, yelled, 'Victory through air power, oh boy, oh boy!' as he pushed the button."

The 3rd was credited with a major share in the destruction of the full convoy of 22 ships.

After the battle, General Kenney sent this message: "Tell the whole gang that I am so proud of them I am about to blow a fuze."

In the mopping-up period, in a strafed lifeboat one Jap rose to his feet with a gesture of final defiance and flung his helmet at the low-flying attacker.

On that part of the Papuan coast controlled by our forces some 500 Japs drifted ashore and were taken prisoner, Purcell wrote.

ORDNANCE COMPANY TRANSFERRED FROM
89th; HONORED AT FAREWELL PARTY

By Sgt. Peter Flanjak
Lt. Frank Brennan, ordnance officer, and enlisted members of an ordnance company which had been assigned to the 89th, have been transferred to another outfit. A farewell party was held recently in their honor.

Capt. Edward A. Keszler, adjutant of the 89th, and Capt. Fred W. Klatt, chemical warfare officer, are in Australia on leaves of absence. Acting squadron adjutant is Lt. John W. May.

The squadron baseball team chalked up another victory the other day, defeating an M.P. regiment, 7 to 1. Capt. William Beck, sports enthusiast, and Sgt. George Hall are arranging games for the team. They are looking for opponents.

Lt. John C. Conn, a pilot, has acquired a new pet, a fuzzy little pup, which follows him all over the area. Conn, incidentally, is the pilot of "My Baby." At the entrance to the plane's revetment is a sign reading, "My Baby's Cradle Rocked." Sgt. Hall and S/Sgt. John K. Higgins are his gunners.

"PAPUAN BORED" SAWMILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A sawmill made of parts from a wrecked airplane, two abandoned trucks, a worn-out tractor and an abandoned copper mine, has started turning out 5000 feet of lumber every day for 3rd Group. The parts are of Japanese, German, Australian, British and American origin.

Value of the sawmill, without its power unit, is estimated at 300 pounds, or almost \$1000 by Capt. Donald Y. Spicer, assistant materiel officer.

Pulleys and cables came from a wrecked Mitchell bomber. A transmission was taken from an abandoned German truck found at an old copper mine. From the mine itself came parts of a carriage assembly, on which the logs are rolled to the saw blades, and wheels and rails for the carriage. Another transmission came from a Jap truck seized near our advanced base.

ONLY TABLE SAW PURCHASED

More parts were obtained from a small American tractor which wore out after pulling too many planes around a drome. The only part of the sawmill actually bought for cash is a small table saw made in London and purchased in Australia for 35 pounds.

Power is supplied by a large American tractor. A bearing and shaft assembly thrown away by an American engineering unit as unfit was reclaimed by our materiel men. With that they started building their mill, after deciding we needed one of our own, rather than continuing to use the engineers' mill.

Requisitions for other parts for the mill were submitted to Air Forces Supply, the Engineers and Quartermaster, but none was filled, Maj. Herbert Imbt, materiel officer and supervisor of the project, related.

BEAT BUSH FOR PARTS

For two months, whenever they had any spare time, enlisted men of the materiel department scoured the country side for usable parts, led by W/O Ralph E. Hughes. Twenty miles away they found the abandoned copper mine and made many trips there and back with parts.

The first logs to be cut at the mill were brought in yesterday by a group of Aussies, who needed flooring for their shelters and some loading racks. They agreed to give the mill operators 20 per cent of the logs as the price for cutting the lumber.

Twelve men will be employed in operating the mill. Soon it will be broken down and transported by air to an ad-

vanced base, where lumber is needed in large quantities for mess halls and other buildings. As the infantry clear out the Japs, the mill will be moved forward.

"The Papuan Bored Lumber Co." is the name for this newest New Guinea business enterprise. The name was chosen as the best submitted in a contest. Prize winner was Sgt. W. Max Scherer, group ordnance clerk and frequent verse writer for Third Strike.

SLAP HAPPY SLAB SITTERS

To enhance the appearance of the new establishment and identify it to passersby, an enlisted man painted a huge blue and white sign, announcing, "The Papuan Bored Lumber Co., Phone Reg. 5087. Operated by Slap Happy Slab Sitters." The billboard lists Maj. Imbt as president, Capt. Spicer as vice president, "bored directors" and "kibitzers." Chief kibitzer was Lt. Col. Strickland, former group C.O., who was an interested spectator almost every day as the sawmill was assembled.

"This sawmill," said Maj. Imbt, "is like a bride's costume: 'Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.'"

STORY ABOUT NATIVES AT ADVANCED BASE REACHED U.S. IN ONE DAY

A news story about the romantic troubles of natives working at our advanced base, released to reporters by Group Intelligence on April 20, appeared the next day in newspapers in the States. It was also carried in Australian papers.

Capt. John H. Crerar, assistant group materiel officer, related that bachelor natives had complained that while they were away from their villages building camps and carrying out wounded soldiers, the old men of their communities married all the eligible girls. Some old men now have four and five wives, the bachelors complained.

Capt. Crerar received a letter from his wife written April 21 saying she had been "taking a razzing" since the Captain became an "advice to the love-lorn" expert. She said the phone rang all day after friends saw the story and newspapers called for further details.

SUGGESTS PLACE FOR AXIS LEADERS

Sir Harry Charles Luke, former British High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, said, "The ideal place of residence for Axis chiefs after the war would be Falcon Island. It is volcanic, sinks into the sea for a period of years and then rises again."

B-24 SQUADRON IN AFRICA

GETS THE FACTS ABOUT EXPERIENCE

The 89th has succeeded in straightening out the record regarding which light bombardment squadron has had the most experience.

Wes Gallagher, an Associated Press correspondent in North Africa, wrote a story Jan. 2 about Maj. Charles C. Kegelman's A-20 squadron, which had completed 41 missions. The Major was quoted as saying his outfit was "the most experienced light bomber squadron in the American air forces."

When Lt. Col. Robert F. Strickland, former group C.O., saw the story, he called in the correspondents here and gave them the facts.

"The figures show," wrote AP reporter William F. Boni, after talking to Col. Strickland, "that where the African squadron had 41 combat missions, this outfit has had that many in a single month and had 40 another month and 32 a third month.

"Here is the clincher for Kegelman and company--the squadron has a record through Jan. 31 of 709 sorties; they have 2367 combat hours; they have made as many as 185 sorties in a single month, 163 another month and 162 a third month. Our squadron destroyed 22 Jap planes on the ground and two in the air."

Maj. Kegelman is a former member of 3rd Group.



Richter

"I'm afraid, Kimball, you'll need more proof that you've broken the altitude record"

LAST PAGE LYRIC

By S/Sgt. W. M. Scherer

I do not think a soldier's mind
Should linger on romance.
He should not dream of Varga Girls
In filmy, black lace pants.

He should not pin a sweater girl
Upon his work-scarred bench.
What good can come of gazing
At a well-developed wench?

I think it's quite destructive
To anyone's morale
To let their memories dwell upon
Some lissome, round-hipped gal.

Yes, this what I tell myself,
But is there any need--?
To tell you that my self-aimed lectures
Never quite succeed!!

HIT TUNES OF THE WEEK AT HOME

1. As Time Goes By.
2. That Old Black Magic.
3. Don't Get Around Much Any More.
4. I've Heard That Song Before.
5. You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To.
6. It Can't Be Wrong.
7. Brazil.
8. What's The Good Word, Mr. Bluebird?
9. Don't Cry.
10. Taking a Chance on Love.

Numbers 8 and 9 are new choices.

LONG-HANDLED HOMSI

Boston--Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Homsy are great admirers of President Roosevelt, Gen. MacArthur and Premier Stalin, so they named their new son Douglas Delano Stalin Homsy.

RUBBER ARTIST

Marceline, Mo.--A young man in city court was charged with passing worthless checks and was fined \$17.95 when found guilty. He handed the judge a check. It bounced, too.

SMALL WORLD STUFF

Greenville, S.C. Air Base--Peter Shaffin and Peter Shaffin, both from Naticoke, Pa., met for the first time when their mail got balled up after they were assigned to the same unit.