



# THIRD STRIKE

Vol. 1, No. 16

May 19, 1943

S.W. Pacific

## GROUP CITED FOR BISMARCK SMASH

26 D.F.C.s, 42 Air Medals Are Awarded  
In Group's Largest Mass Citation....

### Group P.R.O. Attends School in Australia

Lt. Selwyn Pepper, group public relations officer and "Third Strike" advisor, has been called to Australia for a short course in Chemical warfare.

His services on the Group newspaper are being missed, as are his efforts toward group publicity. He will be gone about 10 days.

### Missing 90th Crew Had Brilliant Record

First Lt. Nelson P. "Lefty" Ingram, Jr., veteran 90th Squadron pilot and his crew are reported missing after a night mission May 15. Co-pilot of the ship was 2nd Lt. John A. Key, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.; upper gunner, Redus W. Harrrell, Terry, Miss., and radio operator and gunner, S/Sgt Walter A. Clifford, Upper Darby, Pa., 13th squadron man attached to the 90th.

Three ships participated in the mission, low level strafing and bombing of an enemy drome. After the run, only two ships were in evidence.

#### HAD SKIP-BOMBED JAP SUB

Lt. Ingram had 24 missions to his credit, one of the most noteworthy being that in which a large Jap cargo submarine was blasted to bits in a skip bombing attack. For this action he was recommended for the D.F.C. He had been recommended for the Air Medal as well.

Lt. Key was a newcomer to the outfit but in the short time he flew with them, he showed promise of becoming a

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Officially recognizing the major part played by the Third Group in the recent Bismark Sea Battle, Fifth Air Force on May 8 awarded 68 decorations to members of the 90th, 89th and 8th squadrons.

Six other medals were granted at the same time, thus making this the largest mass award in the long and outstanding history of the Third Group.

#### GROUP WAS SPEARHEAD OF ACTION

Spearheads of action that sank the 22-ship convoy in the Huon Gulf, the 89th and the 90th have everywhere been lauded for unprecedented ferocity and effectiveness in their attack.

These exploits have been publicized by newspapers, magazines and radio the world over

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### Three 90th Officers Trade in Gold Bars

Three officers from the 90th Squadron have recently won promotions from 2nd to 1st. Lieutenant.

They are Lieutenant Ivan P. Head, first intelligence officer of the squadron, Lieutenant Edward T. Solomon, recent winner of the Distinguished Flying Cross and Lieutenant Joseph E. Helbert.

Congratulations, Lieutenants!

#### JAP RIFLE REFUSES TO CO-OPERATE!

When Pfc James McNerney tried to sound the red alert in Hq. detachment May 15, the Jap rifle he was using jammed and caused him momentary embarrassment. Fortunately, his lungs were U.S. made and worked.

## 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.

STAFF: Cpl. Byron E. Edgett, Sgt. Peter Flanjak, Sgt. Roland Guillet, Sgt. Edmond Lewis, Sgt. "Pappy" Ayer, Cpl. Albert Lehr.

Adviser: Lt. Selwyn Pepper.

Acting Adviser: Lt. F. L. Newmeyer.

## Brothers Reunited In New Guinea

Once in a while a bright event occurs to cheer the long days and nights that stretch interminably for soldiers far from their familiar homelands.

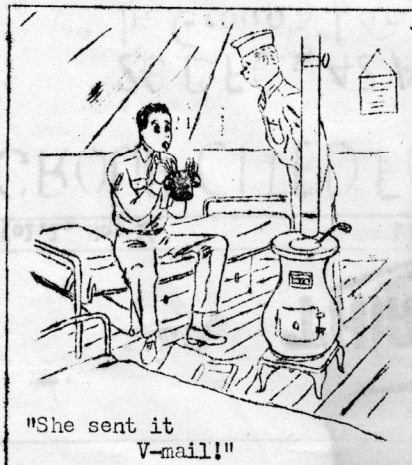
Cpl. Robert Burnette, Chaplains assistant, had such a thrill lately when he found that his brother was serving in New Guinea only a few miles from where he was stationed.

### LAST MEETING WITH ILL MOTHER

S/Sgt. James Latta of Grand Salina, Texas, is another to be so surprised. He had not seen his brother Bluford for nearly two years. At that time, they had met at the bedside of their mother who was seriously ill at that time. James was then on leave from the Air Forces. At that time it did not seem possible that their next meeting would be down here on the other side of the world.

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WHEN YOU'VE READ THIS COPY OF THIRD STRIKE PASS IT ALONG TO THE NEXT GUY. EACH EDITION IS LIMITED....



"She sent it  
V-mail!"

## Furlough Capers

T/Sgt. Harold Plassman is on leave and according to the usually reliable sources of information, is drinking six quarts of milk a day.

He sleeps 6 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., rides bicycles between 10 and 11 a.m. and 2 and 3 p.m. daily and is building himself up (And how!)

T/Sgt. George Turocy just returned with a report that he spent 46 pounds to gain one!

M/Sgt. Murphy (it is reported) on the eighth day of leave became engaged. On the tenth day, he spent the evening with friends to whom he gave explicit instructions to see that he made the transport back to his base.

M/Sgt. "Bucky" Walters listened to stories like these so long he finally broke down and is trying it himself.

Sgt. Eddie Lewis tells of sleeping under blankets and eating all sorts of choice viands. Pardon us and our skepticism, Sergeant, but is it so hard to visualize those things from New Guinea?

DID YOU KNOW...that the recently completed Alcan highway is 1671 miles long and extends from Dawson Creek, Canada, to Fairbanks, Alaska. Ten thousand army engineers did the job in 6 months—about 9 miles a day

## NO LAUGHING MATTER!

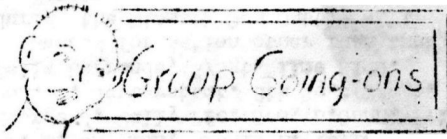
Tech Sgt. Roy E. Davis relays a tale told him by Lt. R.J. Crego:

Some Yanks were wise-cracking at German and Ittie prisoners being taken by trucks to stockades in Africa.

An Italian stood up and yelled back in perfect English, "What are you laughing at? We're going to New York and you're going to Italy!"

KEEP THOSE BARE LEGS AND ARMS COVERED! DON'T INVITE MALARIA!

\* \* \* \* \*



By Guinea Gus

THOUGHTS--WHILE-OGGLING-A-NIGHT  
RAID--FROM-A-HOLE-IN-THE-GROUND

Darned inconsiderate of the Nipper to break up our poker game. I was all set to open for the size of the pot on my pair of Jacks and scare everyone out. ...I'd be rich now!...Oh oh...here they come now. Why didn't we dig this fox hole deeper! It hardly covers my, er, well, it should be deeper!...

The search lights have him already.. ..Give those guys fresh eggs for breakfast tomorrow morning. They're sharp! Ka-lumph, ka-lumph, ka-lumph! At a boy, ack-ack...Go gettem!...Fourth of July at the ball park was never like this! (And not as dangerous, you dope!) ...Wow, that was close! (Get the sheet metal out Komoto, plenty big holes)... What am I so scared about. Think of that poor Nip-wit up there! What he'd give for a bottle of Saki right now!... Hey, whoever I'm standing on, grab the Flit gun and start pumpin'. These baby B-17s are getting bad...Rat-tat-tat-tat. Must be our night fighters. It is! Nip's been hit! He's on fire! And going straight down. Balooom! Yipee! Hirohito has 5 new divine heros and we have one less Betty to bother blasting later... Yea, this has been exciting, but give me a thick chocolate malted, a blonde from St. Louis and the pin ball machine down at Joes and I'll trade you even-steven every time!

POEM:

A native village! Now's your chance,  
To get a skirt. And lose your pants.

DEFINITES AND PROBABLES

Give the guys over at the 13th Intelligence credit for retaining a sharp sense of humor. They've drafted a new member into their department. Captain Wiss and his intel crew call him Foto Joe. Actually Joe is a cocky little stick man, a refugee from a bottle of India ink who's job it is to give the 13th men the low down on all the latest intel photos via his own private bulletin board.

Recently Joe presented a shot showing a native garden, a native canoe and a laundry hanging out. Joe's comment: "Here is a native Liberty Ship, a Victory garden and Monday's wash, 4 days late. The wash showed tattle gray and was strafed. Results: One blanket, definitely shot down, two sarongs, probable"

Captain Karol Holds  
Down "Worry Post" in 8th

By Sgt. Raymond Perkins

Captain John E. Karol, 8th Squadron adjutant, has served his squadron in a manner that would make Mr. Jack of all trades jealous. At one time he performed duties of adjutant, squadron supply officer, censor, base camouflage officer and special service officer simultaneously.

Captain Karol is a native of Pittsburgh, Penna., the city in which his wife now resides.

SPECIALIZED IN ART EDUCATION

Specializing in commercial art, vocational guidance education and physical education, he attended Carnegie Tech, California, and the University of Pittsburgh, where he received his bachelor of science degree. His civilian occupation was commercial art instructor at McKeesport Vocational Trade school. He taught all phases of drawing, lettering, oil painting and photography.

While at college he participated in cross country and basketball events and later became coach of a high school basketball team.

GRADUATE OF A.G. SCHOOL

For eight years Capt. Karol served as a reserve officer with the 372nd Field Artillery. In 1941 he graduated from the Adjutant General's school and was assigned to the 8th Squadron.

As adjutant for the last nine months, he has assumed most of the squadron's worries. He is responsible for the clean, efficient mess facilities of which the outfit now boasts and the smooth working of all departments under his jurisdiction.

13th Tennis Court of  
No Interest to Nip

If you want to be on the receiving end of a mass attack of fists and feet, just walk over the 13th's new tennis court after a rain.

It's their pride and joy and it gets all the gentle care of a baby.

The men were greatly relieved recently when the results of a raid on a Nip base revealed a tennis court in the target area had not been hit. One officer spoke for all; "That's fine. If they leave ours alone, we'll leave theirs!"

# MANY SQ. MEN MOVE TO GROUP HQS.

## Group Awarded For Bismark Sea Smash

(Continued from page 1)

For extraordinary achievement in destroying the warship escorted and fighter protected convoy, the following officers were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross:

90th: Major Edward L. Larner (posthumously), Captains John P. Nenebry, C.O., Robert D. Chatt, John W. Smallwood, Donald E. McNutt, James B. Criswell; 1st Lts. Melville W. Fisher, Roy J. Moore, Harlan L. Reid, Robert W. Reed, Gordon K. McCoun, John E. Sbisai; 2nd Lts. Keith A. McKee.

### TEN D.F.C.s GO TO 89TH

89th: Captains William J. Beck, Jr., Edward J. Chudoba, Roger D. Dunbar; 1st Lts. John C. Conn, Charley H. Mayo, Edmund D. Montagano, Edward R. Richardsen, John F. Taylor, Turner P. Lessick, William W. Neel.

8th Squadron: 1st Lt. Richard G. Ruby.

### MANY AIR MEDALS INCLUDED IN AWARD

Air Medals, for meritorious achievement, were awarded the following:

Cpl. Kenneth G. Ward and Sgt. Robert E. Berube of Headquarters detachment, for photographing the Bismark Sea action in the face of intense enemy fire.

90th Squadron: 1st Lt. William G. Paine; 2nd Lts. Robert V. Lockhart, Jr., William F. Rickord, Walter S. Lee, Kenneth E. Rosebush, Orval A. Rander-son, John J. Clarke, Lee H. Jones; T/Sgt. Andrew J. Swain; S/Sgts. Vernon C. Patterson, Charles H. Maupin, Richard S. McKinney, Joseph H. Clark, Charles C. Thompson, Jess W. Roland, Harold Axt, William H. Epperson, Paul W. Malito, Bennie Estep, Franklyn L. Timberlake, Redus W. Harrell, Forrest O. Sampson, William E. Byrkett, Woodrow W. Butler, S.P. Newell and John C. Boggs; Sgt. Richard A. Martin.

89th Squadron: S/Sgts. Greatie A. Burk, Herbert A. Marion, Hubert P. Sorenson, Joseph Fox, S.B. Silva; Sgts. Wm. M. Sherman, Archie H. Taylor; Cpl. George J. Hall, Pfc. Geo. L. Gann, Pvt. Don. J. Setterstedt. 8th Sq.: T/Sgt. Felix Larronde, S/Sgt. Wilme Kidd.

Awards for action other than that during the Bismark Sea Battle will appear in the next issue of Third Strike.

## Nineteen Transferred To Fill New Group T. O.

In accordance with a new table of organization allowing headquarters additional strength, many men have been transferred into the detachment from other squadrons of the group.

### FIVE MOVE FROM 90TH

Some of the men to be so transferred have been attached to headquarters since last September. Others, transferred more recently, are: from the 90th squadron, T/Sgt. John B. Chesson, Cpl. Byron M. Edgett, Pfc. Richard F. Brunbaugh, Pfc. Robert J. Byrnes and Pvt. Lewis Janoff.

Attached to headquarters from the 13th are S/Sgt. Wiley W. Carroll, Sgts. Cecil O. Lancaster, Stanley Jubaia; from the 89th, Sgt. George J. Hall, Cpl. George C. Wagner, Pfc. John J. Kundel, Pfc. Marvin S. Ezekiel, Alexander Litnansky and Pvt. Harry M. Fassnacht.

Later transfers from the 90th include Cpl. Stephan Kozloski, Pvts. Morris C. Etherton and John Heffernan.

Cpl. John J. Paulovich was transferred from Headquarters to the 89th.

## Missing 90th Crew Had Brilliant Record

(Continued from page One)

a stellar pilot. Both Lt. Ingram and Lt. Key could rightly be called two of the most popular officers in the 90th.

### SERGEANT HELD AIR MEDAL

Staff Sergeant Harrell was well known and liked in the Third Group, having been in Headquarters Squadron for some time before being transferred to the 90th. Only recently he was awarded the Air Medal for his part in Bismark Sea Battle.

Staff Sergeant Clifford had many missions in the 13th and had been cited by that squadron for his work as a gunner.

Steve Wozniak, world record holder in the five-mile swim and five times national champion in this event, is a private in the engineers Amphibian command at Ft. Devens, Mass.