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S.W. PACIFIC

**BUNDLE OF LAUNDRY IN PLANE
SAVED BOMBARDIER FROM SHRAPNEL**

It's been two months since the Japs lost a convoy of 22 ships in the Bismarck Sea battle, but some of the side-lights of that encounter are just now becoming known.

There was the matter of Maj. Irvine Shearer's laundry. He left a bundle of clothes down in Australia about Christmas time and instructed an enlisted man to have it sent to him later.

The soldier put the barracks bag of clothing in a sandbag and turned it over to a crew chief, asking him to forward it to Maj. Shearer. Months passed and the Major couldn't locate his clothing.

Came the Bismarck Sea battle. A B-25 went in over a target and was hit in the nose by a burst of shrapnel. When the plane returned to its base, examination of the ship showed that a piece of shrapnel, about the size of a saucer had lodged in a sandbag lying on the floor. Inside the sandbag was--Maj. Shearer's lost laundry.

The clothing was torn to shreds but had undoubtedly prevented the shrapnel from striking the bombardier. He said on combat missions he had been using the sandbag, with the laundry inside, as a cushion for his knees.

32 ENLISTED MEN RECEIVE**PROMOTIONS IN HQ., 13th AND 89th**

Thirty-two enlisted men in Group Headquarters and in the 13th and 89th squadrons received promotions yesterday. Heading the list was T/Sgt. Thomas C. Murphy, chief clerk in Group Operations, who was promoted to Master Sergeant.

Others were--Technical Sergeants: S/Sgts. Henry S. Perkins and James G. Westbrook; Staff Sergeants: Sgts. Ernest P. Hewett, Jimmy L. Humphrey, Ernest V. Roy and Melvin A. Johnston; Sergeants: Sgts. Robert E. Berube, Harold W. Larsen, Robert F. Klein, Edmond Lewis, John L. Minkler and Paul A. Thingledecker.

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AUSTRALIAN PILOTS ARE GUESTS**OF 89th SQUADRON OFFICERS AT****STEAK DINNER, MOVIE AND CLUB**

Officers of the 89th Squadron found out they were going to have steak for dinner the other night so, in accordance with a custom that has grown up over a period of three months, they invited a squadron of Aussie pilots to come over and share the good food.

About 6:30 the RAAF men arrived at the mess hall. They were a half hour late, having lost their way in the rain but no one cared after catching a glimpse of the tables loaded with platters of food.

After polishing off steak, peas, potatoes, jelly rolls and coffee, the 89th officers and their guests walked over to the squadron theater and saw "Star Spangled Rhythm." Then they went to the Rainbow Room, officers' club, and spent the remainder of the evening slaking their thirst and talking things over.

They knew each other pretty well, having had dinner together several times in the past, alternating between the American and Australian messes. In addition, they had flown together several times on joint missions. Both squadrons fly American-built light bombers, although the RAAF men have planes about two years newer than ours.

One group talked about flying, tactics and the job of whipping the Japs. Another group was equally engrossed in a discussion of pearls and rubies. One of the 89th's pilots, after asking everyone his age, discovered that the Aussies averaged 28 years old, while our pilots averaged 25.

One of the Aussies had received his training in Canada and had been in the U.S. only a year ago. Since the 89th has been away from home much longer than that, the Aussie was pumped for all the information he had. The party ended about midnight. It will be repeated about once a month.

SERGEANT, 15, DISCHARGED

Milwaukee, Wis.--Sgt. Johnny Maras was at a port of embarkation about to go overseas when someone discovered he was only 15 years old. He's back home now, a civilian.

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 H. 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 Lorenson, Cpl. Clifford Cotter, Sgt. George Hall, "Pappy" Ayer, S/Sgt. J.N. Wamock, Sgt. Bill Swain, T/Sgt. R. Davis. Adviser: Lt. Selwyn Pepper.

8th SQUADRON THANKED FOR ITS AID TO VISITING CREW MEMBERS

By Lt. Ivan Head

All personnel of the 8th Squadron went out of their way to make things as pleasant as possible for crews of five ships from the 90th when they were stationed there for a three-day period recently. The 90th planes were sent to the advance base to attack targets of opportunity.

When they arrived, Maj. Towns and other officers of the 8th were on hand with transportation for all members of the plane crews. Visiting officers and men were well-housed and fed during the entire period of their stay.

Normally movies are shown every other night at the base but during the time the visitors were there, films were shown every night. Transportation was always made available.

Capt. Baldwin, 8th squadron intelligence officer, made his office and all data available at all times.

The 90th takes this opportunity of expressing its appreciation to the 8th for its thoughtfulness and cooperation.

PROMOTIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

Corporals: Pfc. George Corrado, Arnold W. Hayes, Walter Hoshosky, Kenneth G. Ward, Ternell A. Hall, Pvt. Rowland S. Holmberg, Pfc. Wayne E. Rogers, Pvt. Stanley H. Levondoski, Pfc. James D. Phillips Jr., Pfc. Ascension M. Mata, Robert C. Maister.

Privates first class: Pvt. Nicholas J. Bogoyich, Alfred A. Miller, Ivan M. Lee, James T. McHorney, James A. Owens, Harold W. Sonhabend, Peter Catizone, David R. Rogers.

FIRST CONTRACT BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

TO OPEN NEXT WEEK; CASH PRIZES

The first group bridge tournament, with cash prizes, will open next week. Teams are to submit their names before Monday to tournament managers in each squadron.

There will be two separate tournaments at the start for officers and enlisted men. The entry fee is one pound a man.

In each squadron and in group headquarters, each team will play every other team one match of three rubbers of contract bridge. The winning team will receive the point difference between its score and that of its opponent. The losing team gets nothing.

Thus the winner in each squadron and in headquarters will be the team with the highest aggregate point total when all matches have been played. Then the five winning teams in the group will play off for the group championship in this manner: Each team will play every other winner a match of 10 rubbers. The team with the highest aggregate point total wins the title.

Half the entry fees will be set aside as the prize for the winner in each organization. The other half of the fees will be lumped together to provide the grand prize.

90th SQUADRON'S ROO ROOM, OFFICERS' CLUB, CHRISTENED AT BIG PARTY

By Lt. G.K. McCoun

It was raining, spirits were low, there had been a minimum of flying, so it was decided Wednesday to open the newly-built Roo Room, officers' club in the 90th Squadron.

There was no furniture but the party was held anyway. The Roo Room sits midway up "Brass Hat" hill in the squadron area. It is 60 by 20 feet, completely screened in, 15 feet tall. It was built under supervision of Lt. "Lefty" Ingram. Pride and joy of the club is a 4 1/2 foot bar which has been sandpapered to minute perfection.

Among the guests were Col. John F. Davies, chief of staff of Bomber Command; Maj. D.P. Hall, group commander; Maj. J.C. Hood, group adjutant and others.

A toast was drunk to the memory of Maj. Lerner, after which the party broke spontaneously into his favorite song, "A Zero was chasing a P-38. He was chasing a P-38; Now while he was chasing a P-38, he was chased by a B-25."

SKETCH OF MAJ. HALL, NEW GROUP COMMANDER

Maj. Donald P. Hall, new commander of 3rd Bomb Group, has had about 1500 hours of flying since he graduated from aviation school in May, 1940. He was initiated into combat in a B-17 on a bombing raid on Rabaul on a Friday the 13th in 1942.

After graduating from Texas Arts and Industries College in Kingsville, Tex., his home city, he entered flying school.

He received his primary training at Dallas, Tex., and basic and advanced at Randolph and Kelly fields. After getting his wings, he went to Barksdale Field, where he joined the 27th Group. There he received bombing training in B-18s. Next he was sent to Fort Benning, Ga., where he flew A-18s and worked with armored divisions for six months.

From July to October, 1941, he was with the Western Division of the Ferrying Command, flying DB-7s from factories to the east coast, after which they were shipped to Great Britain. He joined 3rd Bomb about two years ago and came overseas with the group.

During the time he was in college, he worked as an apprentice machinist for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He met his future wife in high school, continued going with her in college and married her when he graduated from flying school and she got her diploma from Texas A. & I. She is living in Corpus Christi, Tex. His parents live in Kingsville.

Maj. Hall commanded the 89th for about a year, after which he became assistant group operations officer. He is 28 years old. His hobbies are fishing, cribbage, poker, but best of all--flying. He intends to remain in aviation after the war. Associates find him easy to talk to, unassuming and impartial.

Maj. Hall received the Silver Star for gallantry in action in New Guinea last September when he led a large formation of light bombers in an attack on a strongly-defended Jap air-drome. He accounted for five of 17 aircraft destroyed on the ground. He led many successful attacks in New Guinea.

He also received the DFC for completing 200 hours of operational flights. He has held the rank of Major since last Sept. 21.

M/SGT. WADE COLE NAMED ACTING FIRST SERGEANT OF 89th SQUADRON

By Sgt. Peter Flanjak

M/Sgt. Wade P. Cole has been named acting first sergeant of the 89th during the absence of Sgt. Wyburg Hanberry, who is recuperating from an illness at the Station Hospital.

Sgt. Cole, promoted to Master Sergeant Jan. 15, was in charge of the communications section of the squadron for several years. He has been a member of this outfit since it was formed and has been very active in intra-squadron affairs.

He holds an AM 2nd class rating in radio, having attended radio schools at Scott Field and at Chanute Field, Ill. Born in Inverness, Mich., he was graduated from high school there and later attended college for three years. His home is in Mayersville, Miss. He enlisted at Barksdale Field, La., in November, 1939.

CAPT. GILMORE NOW A MAJOR

Capt. John E. Gilmore, group flight surgeon, has been promoted to Major.

GETS CO'S OKAY TO SEE TOP KICK

Camp Wolters, Tex.--A brand new recruit, wishing to mail a letter and worried about the accuracy of his return address, decided to check. He approached the orderly room with fear. Noticing a great deal of activity around the first sergeant, he remembered what he had

learned in a lecture on military procedure and went into a nearby office. "Sir, I would like to have permission to see the first sergeant," he said.

Asked what about, he replied, "I have a letter to mail and I want the return address checked."

"Let me have a look at it," was the reply, then, after a pause, "Better not bother the first sergeant with a thing like this. Go ahead and mail it." With that, the company commander went back to his work.

REAL WAR BABY MAKES BOY

Ft. Wayne, Ind.--A woman warworker was tapped by Sir Stork as she stood at her machine in a warplant here. The stork escorted her from the assembly line to a restroom where she came up with an eight-pound boy.

13th SQUADRON STAGES MIDNIGHT REHEARSAL FOR AN AIR RAID ALARM

By Cpl. Lew Lehr

Sunday night. Midnight. Were a soldier dreaming of his girl friend, another dreaming of eating a large juicy --what was that? Sounded like three blasts from a whistle. There it is again..red alert..red alert..RED ALERT. Fall out with gas mask, helmets and rifles in front of the orderly room. Am I dreaming? Nope.

Check. All members present. Orders being given. All drivers get the trucks from the motor pool and line them up. Medical department place one of your ambulances at the head of the convoy and one at the rear. On the double. Men load on trucks.

Every member now either standing or sitting on those trucks like statues of ice. Where are we evacuating to? Silence. Then: "All right, men, unload. Fall out again in formation in front of the orderly room."

Check. Again all men present.

"Men, I staged this dress rehearsal for your benefit." Major Maul speaking "It was staged without the knowledge of anyone except myself. Tonight you have done a fine piece of work. You can expect many more such drills in the future. Then, if and when the real McCoy should come, we'll show them that the 13th Squadron is on the beam.

"As a reward you can now go back to sleep and carry on in the morning for an extra 45 minutes."

CALL FOR NEWS CLIPPINGS

When you get clippings from home about yourself or other members of the Group, please send them to the Group Intelligence Office. They will be returned to you if you wish.

13th SOFTBALL RESULTS

The 13th softball league is now in full swing and Armadillo is the only undefeated team. The Pencil-Pushers are second with two victories and one defeat, Ordnance and Maintenance are tied for third with a victory and a defeat apiece. This week's results: Armadillo, 8, Mechanics, 4; Ordnance, 5, Combat Crews, 4; Maintenance, 10, Pencil-Pushers, 8, and Pencil-Pushers, 5, Ordnance, 3.

MOTHERS' DAY SERVICES

Tomorrow, Sunday, has been designated as Mothers' day by proclamation of the President. At the request of the Commanding General of our armed forces, special religious services will be conducted tomorrow in observance of Mothers' day in each squadron area, Chaplain James announced.

GUARD DUTY OR MOANING LOU

By Sgt. Peter P. Flanjak

Guard duty is one of the most irksome details a GI is called on to perform and yet, if one stops to consider the significance of this important duty, he will realize the serious part, especially in war, which guard duty plays. To the majority, it is a job we hope to avoid.

I have watched with growing interest the complaints of men when they come in from the line, where work is hard and the tropical sun makes it even more uncomfortable. They fix their eyes on the guard duty roster and then, if they see their names, begin complaining. The 1st Sgt. is flooded with "crying grief" and charged with everything under the sun. If anyone knows an effective remedy, let the 1st Sgt. in on it.

