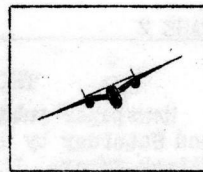


THIRD STRIKE



VOL I, NO. 43

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S.W. PACIFIC

FLASH

A communique has just been received from the rest area down south. Although a bit hazy and with a faint scent of rum, beer, wine and scotch, it makes one thing very clear. A softball team composed entirely of 3rd Gp men, including men from each squadron and Gp Hq has completely swamped the Navy. Although no one can actually recall what happened, everyone agrees that its true that the final score was; 3rd Gp 13, Navy 7.

89th Pilot Halts Strike

A flying officer of the 89th Squadron was an unwitting factor in settling a labor dispute in the States, according to a letter he received recently.

The officer wrote his family his thoughts and reactions on his first combat mission over enemy lines. The letter was so well written that his family showed it around until it came to the attention of a factory owner who was facing the threat of a strike. The letter was read to a mass meeting of the workers and, according to reports, was one of the principle factors in their decision to call off the strike.

WORLD NEWS

Pacific War--Two high American officials predicted that a big Allied offensive soon would be undertaken in the Pacific and that Tokyo would get a rain of American bombs.

North Africa--Allied air might poured ruin on remaining links in Southern Italy's railway system yesterday with Flying Fortresses battering Orte, 40 miles north of Rome.

Copenhagen--The Germans seized all civil and court functions in rebellious Denmark Monday and warned widely that courts martial under the new military dictatorship would be established immediately to mete out death penalties and other severe sentences for disobedient Danes.

Wellington, New Zealand--Cheering crowds filled the Majestic Theater and tied up traffic along the main thoroughfare outside when Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt made a brief farewell speech late today.

Cameramen Make Photo Record for War Dept.

In the recent devastating attacks against the Japanese, Sgts Joseph E. Hartman and William R. Campbell of the 5th Air Force Combat Camera Unit have made almost complete photographic records of the various strikes.

Sgt Hartman flew over Wewak with the first mission and recorded the action on 35mm movie film. There were many pictures taken of the fighter planes in action and the bombers strafing and bombing the area. The following day both Sgts flew with Capt Virden and took movie film to complete the evidence of the destruction for War Dept.

While recording the Hansa Bay mission Sgt Hartman was hit in the leg by ack ack and Sgt Campbell's ship was forced down at an advanced base but he was uninjured.

On many missions with our planes they have taken over 4,000 feet of film and many reports of commendation have been received from higher headquarters. The film will be used to teach other pilots the method of aerial tactics and improve effectiveness of aerial warfare.

Chaplain Wood Joins 3rd

Chaplain Joseph J. Wood has joined the 3rd Group succeeding Chaplain Joseph W. James who has returned to Australia awaiting orders to return home.

Chaplain Wood comes from Philadelphia and is a graduate of Duquesne University where he received his MA degree. Later he attended Seminary and did other post graduate work at Catholic University, Washington, D. C. He taught high school and junior college at Springfield, Ill. and Des Moines, Iowa.

He is interested, says Chaplain Wood, in the welfare of the fellows, whether they be Catholic, Protestant or Jewish, and wants them to feel welcome to come to his office whenever they have any problems. He does not want them to think of him as a Turkish towel but as a friend and a councilor and will help them in any way he can.

When interviewed, the Chaplain said, "I have heard that the 3rd Group is the finest outfit in the SWPA. I am honored, privileged and very happy to succeed

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THIRD STRIKE

Newspaper published every Wednesday and Saturday by and for members of 3rd Attack Group. Lt Col Donald P. Hall, group commander; Capt Walter W. Shegda, intelligence officer.

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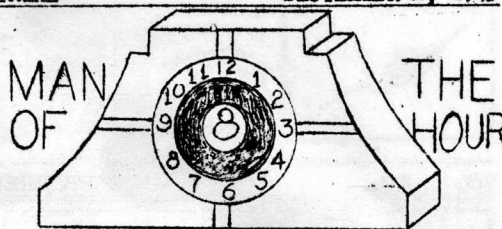
Chaplain James Leaves

Chaplain Joseph W. James has been transferred to the 11th R.C.D. awaiting orders to return to the States. He is well known to the group, having been with it since May 1, 1941 when it was still in Savannah, and has been instrumental in helping many with domestic and legal problems.

Chaplain James, whose home is in Humbolt, Tenn., received his B.A. degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn. and later attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Ky. where he received a Th. M degree. 3 weeks and 5 days before coming overseas he married Nancy Harper of Greenwood, So. Carolina. She is a graduate of South Carolina University and took one year of special work at Columbia University, New York. At present she is Librarian at Briarcliff College, N.Y.

When asked what his plans were for the future Chaplain James said, "They are indefinite and depend wholly upon the army." He said what he would remember most about the 3rd Group was "The eagerness, the willingness and the dispatch which the several squadrons have shown as they put their shoulders to the wheel in a difficult task as an individual squadron and as a unit." He was asked how he felt about going home and answered by saying, "The admixture of emotions connected with leaving a unit where so many fond friendships and acquaintances have been made under many experiences and the idea of a probable reunion with those we love back home make a clear statement difficult, but, if it is possible, I am both happy and regretful at the same time."

Ideas are funny little things. They won't work unless you do.



March 11, 1943 is truly a red letter day in the history of the 8th Squadron for on that day Maj James A. Downs assumed command. Up to this time the squadron was at the lowest ebb ever experienced in its long history which dates back to World War I. They had no planes and had not been in combat for over ten months but still the squadron was full of experienced mechanics, gunners, radio men, armorers and all other trained specialists necessary for the efficient performance of a combat unit.

Having this nucleus to work with, Maj Downs proceeded with the tremendous task of re-building the squadron to a point of being worthy of its proud record of the past.

Maj Downs has not only accomplished his objective but has gone further, considering the comparatively brief space of time which he has had. It was in May, 1943 when the squadron was assigned its first B-25's.

To date the 8th Squadron has accomplished what seemed the impossible and is again on the front line with the other squadrons. Maj Downs, regarded as a leader and a "pilot's pilot" is one of the best flyers in the group.

The major hails from the state of West Virginia. He received his commission as 2nd Lt in the Air Corps Reserve May 11, 1940. Since being overseas he has participated in 27 combat missions.

The 8th Squadron takes "time out" to salute Major Downs, to give tribute to the man who brought the squadron from out of the darkness into the light.

Back in States Again

Lt (Tod) Arter, former navigator with the 90th Squadron and one of the few men to get out of the Philippines, has arrived in the States. He has been promoted to the rank of captain and is assigned to the 472 Bomb Squadron, 334 Bomb Group at Greenville Army Air Base, Greenville, So. Carolina. In a letter received from him, he says hello to all the fellows of the 90th.

A letter has also been received from Major Shearer, former group intelligence officer. He is at Lure Lake, a rest camp in North Carolina, and according to the major he is undergoing a tough course in USO Commando training.

13th potpourri

By Sgt Roland Guillet

There are many news stories coming out in the papers back home about the 13th. This week a Chicago paper was received by Pvt John L. Gosse which contained a story of the sinking of a Jap ship by Lt Bersch off the coast of New Britain early in July. The story also told of some of the other men of the squadron such as Lt Walker, Pvt Gosse, Pvt Vuckovic and Cpl McLernon.

A Boston paper told the story of the famous 13th B-25 "Mortimer." It tells how it had taken part in the famous Philippine raid, had fought many battles with the Japs and shot down 7 Jap Zeros. It speaks of Maj Gerrity, former 13 CO, Capts J.R. Smith and Robert A. Price who have left the 13th lately and of Capt Solomon who is now assistant Group Operations Officer.

In another Boston paper a clipping of the story of the Soputa Race Track was received by Pfc Mazzuchelli of Boston. It tells of the English horses from Malaya captured by the Japs and recaptured by the Australian forces in the Buna campaign and of the races and events held there on the 4th of July. The paper mentioned Lt Rogers of Group Headquarters as the prime mover in these entertainments.

Time magazine featured a story of Lee Van Atta, the INS war correspondent, who is now with the 13th Squadron.

Chaplain— (Continued from Page 1)

Chaplain James as group Chaplain. I consider myself very fortunate to be associated with such a live group of officers and men, and trust that I can serve them for the duration of the war. I want to stay here and see this thing through to the finish and see the Japs slapped down by the 3rd Attack Group. I hope the men treat me as a regular guy. I am interested in athletics and men."

89th Random Shots

The 89th Medicos don't believe in standing short these days and to prove the fact, one of the fellas returned from down under with a batch of healthy fowl (chickens to you) and as a result, Doc "Quack" Conner has taken the 'back-to-the-soil' attitude, by setting up a flourishing poultry farm next to his productive victory garden.

Every one is wondering when the two B's (Bocchino and Black), gunners in the 89th will get into a debate of some sort. If ever they do, it will be a one sided battle of words (not wits mind you) for the mere fact that Bocchino is the boisterous type who says everything and gives nobody a chance to say anything whereas Black, on the other hand, is reticent.

The 8th Diurnal

Capt Radnik finally sank a boat all by himself the other day on a raid near Hansa Bay. Up till now he's been dogged by Mr. Bad Luck in person, but now that he's started, may he do a Helen of Troy in reverse and "sink a thousand ships".

Some of the boys were throwing rocks at a specimen of Simian life in a nearby tree when Sgt Matherne said, "Hey, Glickman, that's a helluva way to treat your relatives." Needless to say, the monkey ceased to be Cpl Glickman's target while Matherne beat a hasty retreat closely pursued by an egg-sized rock. When last seen, as the shades of evening fell, the monkey had it's thumb to it's nose and the rock-throwers were nursing sore arms.

A certain "Buck" sergeant recently received a letter from his wife. He answered the letter and dropped it into the mail. A few weeks later he received a "Red Ball" letter from his wife. The letter he had sent, was the letter she had sent him which he absent-mindedly sent back to her. Was his face red!

MALE CALL

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"



STAND BY TO REPEL SIDE



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== SIGNS of the TIMES ==

Knoxville, Tenn. (CNS)--A wise guy placed a toy pistol cap on the business end of a judge's gavel. The judge banged for order. The cap exploded. "The Lord will punish those responsible for this," he said.

San Diego (CNS)--Police Chief Isaak Palhamus of Yuma, Ariz. faces charges here of raping a 14-year-old child bride. Palhamus was accused of attacking the girl as he was returning her and two other juveniles from Yuma to San Diego authorities.

Indianapolis, Ind. (CNS)--Lawrence Shaw, a lawyer, was approaching court with a lady client. The client's husband saw them and took a swing at Shaw. The lawyer kayoed hubby, won his case.

Seattle, Wash. (CNS)--When a burglar alarm at the Night Safety Vaults, Inc. went off the other night eight cops came dashing to the scene, expecting a robbery. Instead they found a man beating his wife's head against the walls of one of the vaults. When a vault attendant saw the customer punch his wife in the smeller he turned in the alarm. The wife beater said he had become annoyed at his wife when he discovered that \$1,000 he had left in a safety box in her name had dwindled to \$100.

90TH CHIPS & CHATTER

The enthusiasm of the enlisted men of the squadron was clearly shown by the fast job they did in pouring concrete for the floor of the new club under construction. An area of 60 feet by 24 feet and several inches thick was laid in less than two hours. It is hoped that the building will be completed in another week.

This squadron extends welcome to S/Sgts Childers and Cardwell, Cpl But-ton and Pfc McCann. They are its latest arrivals.

Is it true that a S/Sgt in ordnance (not Messerlie) was very "cold" in bed down south lately?

S/Sgt John Powers, 90th gunner seriously doubts that only cats have nine lives.

While flying over an enemy base on August 25 his plane, piloted by Lt. Rickord was hit by ack ack fire which completely destroyed the top turret canopy. S/Sgt Powers escaped uninjured.

On a previous flight, an explosive bullet struck his cap.

SPORTS SECTION

The 89th ordnance boys continued their unbroken winning streak Monday, as they won their second major league game by defeating the engineers 4 to 3. Battling their way through until the last of the ninth when they started losing ground, the engineers were edged out when Wagman, the ordnance home-run king, let loose with a homer over center field, and with one man already on base, counted for the two winning runs which decided the game and put the ordnance ahead by one score. Price and Bodnar were the principle hurlers for the engineers and O'Brien pitched a fine game for the ordnance. Mayberry, Giroux and Benson batted a good average for the engineers while Osborne, Wagman and Buchanan piled up the runs for the victor.

The first softball game of the season was played at the 13th Sunday in which a tight pitchers' duel between S/Sgt Dufour and Lt C. C. Smith resulted in a victory for the enlisted men. Each team's first run was scored exactly in the same way. In the 3rd inning Lt Fitch opened with a single and when the catcher's throw went wild to second base trying to catch him in a steal, Lt Fitch scored all the way. In the 4th inning Cpl Davis also opened with a single and scored the same way as did Lt Fitch. The winning runs came in the 6th inning when Davis, Forrester and Rich hit successively to score two runs.

Last Sunday, on the spur of the moment, Gp Hq pencil-pushers organized a baseball team and played the motor pool truckers. The game was a rough one with neither team emerging victorious; the final score being 12 to 12 and the game called before things got too hot.

T/Sgt Turocy, standing behind the plate, was the hardest working man on the team. It seems that every time one of the players of the opposing team ran home he would invariably run into the Sgt causing him much discomfort. The highlight of the game was when one of the motor pool boys was suddenly stopped running to third by a wild throw that bounced off his head.

Cpl Hansen was the cheer leader for the pencil-pushers but there were times when we were wondering which side he was rooting for. Sgt Lower acted as umpire and when asked to call a close base play he said he didn't see it.