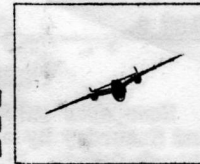


# THIRD STRIKE



VOL. I, NO. 45

SEPTEMBER 11, 1943

S.W. PACIFIC

## POOR BUSINESS

STURGIS, MICH. (CNS): Gene Taggart saw a dime on the sidewalk, stooped over to pick it up and dropped his glasses. Then he stepped on the glasses, slipped, fell and broke his leg. He got the dime.

## JUNGLE JIVE

The much talked of Group Orchestra has finally burst out in rhythm. Under the direction of T/Sgt Plassmann of Hq the first rehearsal was held last Thursday evening. The talented men who participated in the noble event were: S/Sgt Epperson, 90th, piano; T/Sgt Ellerby, Hq, guitar; Pvt Sharpe and T/Sgt Perkins Hq and Cpl Dutton, 8th, trumpets; S/Sgt Drew, 8th and Sgt Kolonoski, 13th, saxes and T/Sgt Plassmann, Hq, trombone.

There are still several instruments available and it is requested that anyone who can play, especially the trombone, get in touch with Sgt Plassmann at Gp Hq Personnel.

## Receive Decorations

The following awards for the 3rd Gp. has been announced:

Silver Star; T/Sgt Arnold M. Thompson, 90th Squadron and Capt William H. Webster and 1st Lt Robert B. Widener, 8th Squadron. Sgt Vernon McBroom and Sgt Robert T. Middleton, 90th, posthumous. Cpl Walter N. Cook Jr., 90th, missing in action.

Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star; Capt Frank P. Bender, 90th. T/Sgt Robert L. Barlow, 1st Lt Ralph L. Schmidt, and Cpl Richard M. Wallace, 90th, missing in action.

DFC; Capt Arthur Small, 13th. Oak Leaf Cluster to the DFC; 1st Lt Ralph L. Schmidt, 90th, missing in action.

Air Medal; Sgt Perry C. Alford Jr., T/Sgt Jack O. Mathvin, T/Sgt Edward G. Haynes, Cpl Milo J. McClernon, 2nd Lt Clifford P. Taylor, M/Sgt Clifford R. Baird and S/Sgt Lionel G. Young, 13th and Capt Thomas P. Talley, 89th.

Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal; 1st Lt William L. Bersch and Sgt Eugene F. Witeck, 13th and Capt Thomas P. Talley, 89th.

The total number of awards the 3rd Group has received to date is 609.

## British Capture Taranto Germans Attack Rome

Taranto, great naval base on the Italian heel was in British hands Friday night after a bold thrust of the Royal Navy. The American Fifth Army was driving inland in a vast envelopment of Naples, after loosening the German grip by shattering five strong counterattacks. A German army attacked Rome precipitating undeclared war against Badoglio's regime in a desperate effort to salvage something from the disaster of Italy's surrender. Artillery has shelled the suburbs of Rome which was bombed Friday night. The only resistance to the German occupation was from the Italian army. On the basis of information at the Allied Hq no American or British troops have reached the Rome area. Italians were reported to be fighting the Germans in many parts of Italy especially in the north where the Germans have virtually taken control. Fiercest fighting between Allied and German forces was in the Naples area. Naples was under violent American and British attack by land, sea and air. A tremendous Allied armada poured troops by the thousands and mountains of material onto the firmly established bridgeheads. Some landings were actual.

(Continued On Page 3)

## Nip Nips Then Gets Nipped

Cpl Francis Larkin, 89th gunner and former sports writer for the Associated Press, was slightly wounded a few days ago while participating on a strafing run somewhere over North New Guinea.

Larkin found himself "nipped in the bud" when a piece of shrapnel from a stray enemy bullet ricocheted through his compartment and slashed across his right collar bone. He admitted being somewhat frightened but added, "I didn't know that I was really hit until I noticed the blood pouring from the cut caused by the bullet."

Cpl Jim Setterstedt, also of the 89th, accompanied Larkin as an aerial photographer in the ship piloted by Capt Charlie Mayo. The enemy machine gun nest was put out of action.

## THIRD STRIKE

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

## --STAFF--

Cpl Byron M. Edgett.....Editor  
Sgt E. Lewis.....Art and Presswork  
Cpl Robert Standing.....Rewrite  
Cpl Robert Burnette.....Typist  
Pvt Lewis Janoff.....Radio News  
T/Sgt Allen Sweigert.....Radio News  
Cpl Everett W. Wetzel.....Sports

## CONTRIBUTORS .

Sgt Roland Guillet      Sgt Peter Flanjak  
Sgt Robert F. Klau      Pfc Leon Cohen  
T/Sgt G.E. Turocy      T/Sgt H. Plassmann  
S/Sgt W. L. Fiske      S/Sgt Robert P. Neily  
Lt Richard S. Prentis.....Adviser

*editorial*

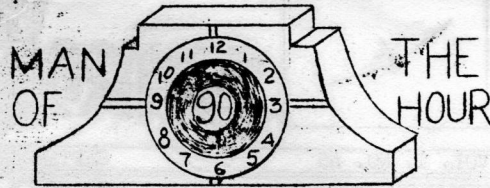
After 19 or 20 months overseas one becomes accustomed, to a certain extent, to any situation and as a result may adopt the "don't care" attitude. If a man gets to the point where he is too careless to care about his own safety then he should at least give some consideration to the men around him. The point is this--certain individuals persist in ignoring the blackout regulations. Although few seem to realize it, the numerous false alarms are for our own safety. There are certain men whose duty it is to sound the alert or notify us when unidentified planes are near. They don't take chances so why should we.

Corporal Robert Burnette who, with the older men in the group, has been in several raids has this to say, "I think the men are getting very careless. The boy who yelled 'wolf' in fun got very serious consequences. Some night we're going to have something besides a false alarm and the fellows who don't regard the blackout regulations as a 'must' might possibly cause serious damage and loss of life in the entire area."

Corporal R. T. Standing who has never had to dig in and hope says, "I think it is very foolish to leave lights on during an alert because they can be seen for a great distance from the air and will give the location of our bivouac area to enemy planes."

Our strongest instinct is "self preservation" -- let's use it!

Bradley Field, Conn. (CNS)--The following notice ran in a mimeographed bulletin at this base: "Lost - Pair of pants (tropical worsted). Reward offered due to sentimental value. Call Capt V



This week the spotlight is turned on a man of the 90th Squadron, Major John P. Henebry whose past record has earned him the title "Man of the Hour."

On the 1st of May Major Henebry assumed command of the 90th Squadron and has led it in many successful attacks against the enemy. His record in the Southwest Pacific is one of the finest in any of the squadrons. He has participated in 67 combat missions and has 333 hours combat time to his credit. During the Bismark Sea battle Major Henebry displayed his skill as a flyer by scoring a direct hit on an 8000 ton transport and one near miss. Then he thoroughly strafed the decks of other ships in the convoy. In another combat mission he led the flight that sighted and sank a 2100 ton cargo carrying submarine that was unloading supplies for the beleaguered garrison at Lae. He also took part in the raid on Wewak airdrome on August 18 and did much damage to the Jap planes and installations on the ground. He has accounted for the sinking of many Jap barges along the coasts of New Guinea and New Britain which has undoubtedly been the determining factor in Allied successes these past few days.

For his action in leading the flight on the Bismark Sea battle, Major Henebry received the DFC. Since then he has been awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the DFC and has been recommended for the Air Medal.

Major Henebry was born in Plainfield Ill. in 1918. He holds a degree from the Notre Dame University.

After considering all that has been accomplished by this man in such an excellent manner, the Third Strike believes that Major John "Jock" Henebry has earned the title "Man of the Hour."

*church notices*

September 13-19, 1943

Protestant

Sunday--Worship and Song Service  
6:30 pm, 13th Sqdn Mess Hall.

Thursday--Bible Class, 7:00 pm,  
Chaplain's Hut in Gp Hq Area.

Catholic

Sunday--Confessions and Mass,  
8:30 am, 89th EM Club.

Tuesday--Confessions, Mass and  
Novena Devotions, 6:45 pm, 89th Club.

Jewish

Friday--Regular Services, 6:30 pm  
43rd Engineers Mess Hall.



## AS YOU WERE

A WHOPPER.....Cpl "Bill" Polk and "Sorry" Sorenson, both 89th armament boys went on a fishing spree the other day and hooked onto something that would make any fisherman's eyes pop with amazement. They pulled a 600 pound mammal fish out of the water and proudly displayed it to the entire squadron. This sort of "catch" is one for the books and quite a haul in any "Fish-Monger's" language.

While we're on the subject, Lt Jones with Cpls McDonnell and LeClair of the medics journeyed forth one day and brought back with them a fair-sized sea bass weighing 250 to 300 pounds.

\*\*\*\*

"Yogi", our squadron authority on Human Psychology, is also an efficient watch repairer. "Yogi" bought an old fashioned and rather run-down pocket watch from a GI who said it was useless and no good. He dipped it into a can of white gasoline, retrieved it and miraculously enough, the battered ticker commenced working and keeps perfect time. "Some of you guys may want to try this treatment on your watches," "Yogi" said, "but I'm warning you, this doesn't always work."

## Invasion — (Continued from Page 1)

ally made in the Bay of Naples.

LONDON--Adolf Hitler's Hq announced Friday night that German forces had captured Rome and assumed protection of Vatican City. Thrusting swiftly into strategic positions in the western and northern parts of Italy and Germans said they held much of the northern section above and extending south of the Po river to Bologna and had seized the coastal section from Toulon, France to Spezia, Italian naval base southeast of Genoa.

## Behind the Ball

Our squadron can justly boast of having one of the finest engineering departments among the squadrons of the group. It is now complete with six buildings, a good road leading in from the main road, newly painted signs on all buildings and road signs. The area surrounding the buildings has been cleared of brush and undergrowth.

The six buildings housing the engineering dept. consist of the instrument, hydraulic, paint shop, engineering office, tech supply, engineering shop, battery shop and storage building

The present staff of the engineering department is as follows: 1st Lt Joe G. Pearson, engineering officer, 2nd Lt Warren O. Andres, asst engineering officer, M/Sgt Archie B. Hill, line chief S/Sgt Gurman M. Wolfe, chief clerk, M/Sgt Orville Casteel, chief airplane inspector, T/Sgts Stancell L. Norwood Jr. and Johnie G. Swindoll, asst airplane inspectors.

\*\*\*\*

Last Tuesday night when the whining of a Jap airplane was heard, one 8th GI (new) told another GI (old) that the sound was nothing to worry about as it was only our nightfighter soaring around, "Well," said the other GI, "if that's our nightfighter then he must have gone to Tokyo for an engine change

## 90TH CHIPS & CHATTER

The 90th Squadron welcomes 2nd Lts Joseph R. Fox, Royal F. Hibblen and Donald O. Frey who were recently assigned to this organization.

\*\*\*\*

We wonder why a certain T/Sgt in the engineering section wears silk panties. When approached on the subject by some of his cobbors, his weak reply was, "That was all they had." Could it be that someone he was visiting on his trip south is standing short?

\*\*\*\*

What Irish pillroller has a laugh like the wail of a banshee?

\*\*\*\*

Aren't you amazed to learn that Bernard learned to play the banjo in just one day. McGovern, who has not acquired a taste for music, is so dumb that he doesn't know when Bernard is tuning up or playing The Cannonball Express. (Nor does Bernard.)

\*\*\*\*

Cpl Windyowski (mail clerk) firmly believes that a growing boy requires a lot of sleep, which is probably the reason that he has to be pried from his sack every afternoon.

## 13th potpourri

To report the rumors (sometimes even the truth) to the squadron and to do it in a more efficient manner the squadron has hired one of the famous Gremlins of R.A.F. fame to root around and bring all the stuff to light. So from now on if any man in the outfit doesn't want to read it then don't do it or talk about it. For security reasons the Gremlin prefers to remain anonymous.

\*\*\*

To start the ball rolling let's all give the "13th Strafers" ball team a pat on the back for the jam up job they did on the First Airdrome Squadron Wednesday and in particular the grand performance of the pitcher, S/Sgt Dufour, in allowing them exactly no hits, no runs and no man past second base.

The boys played good ball throughout seven innings while Dufour was busily engaged in striking out twelve men.

\*\*\*

A major debate as to which officer is having the most dog trouble is raging all through the squadron. Decision pending inspection of tents.

\*\*\*

M/Sgt, name unknown, initials A.L.S. seems to be the man for the next advance detail. Has he heard about it boys?

\*\*\*

What officer was in hot water recently for not writing his true love more regular? And speaking of true love who "sweats" the door of the mail shack

\*\*\*

Is it true that a certain M/Sgt has completed packing his baggage and is now dickering for a "Moose Suit" to wear when he leaves? What about the bet?

### THE WOLF

by Sansone



## SPORTS SECTION

Outstanding of all the games played by the 3rd Group softball teams in the past week was the 3-0 defeat of the 1st Airdrome Sq. by the 13th last Wednesday S/Sgt Dufour, backed up by the perfect play of his fielders turned in a no run no hit game and struck out 12 of the 21 batters to face him in the seven inning game. Only 3 men reached first base by virtue of three bases on balls, not one of them getting further than second.

Ben Howes was the heavy hitter of the game. His home run in the fifth inning with one on base sewed up the contest for the 13th.

SCORE BY INNINGS--13th 0100211 - 3  
1ST A. SQ. 0000000 - 0

\*\*\*

On Thursday the Engineers defeated the 89th Mess by a 4-1 score with Ellerbee and Venable sharing batting honors for the winners. Gideon's steal of home for the Mess' only run provoked an argument between umpires Waddell and O'Neal as to whether or not the run should be allowed. After consulting the score book, something to have handy at any ball game, they finally agreed that the run was legal. Bodnar of the Engineers turned in a well pitched game and was backed by tight fielding. Pop Beardall hurled a good seven innings for the Mess but weak fielding and hitting lost the game.

\*\*\*

In one other game Hq Motor Pool counted six times in a hot last inning rally to top the 89th Oilers 9-6. MacLaughlin's homer in this big inning won the game for Hqs. Bad fielding was the cause of the 89th's defeat.

\*\*\*

Six teams have organized in the 89th Sq forming an intra-Sq league. The number of games to be played hasn't been announced yet. Clubs from the 13th and Gp Hqs will be organized into still another league and team play will commence as soon as a playing schedule can be worked out.

So far, no news of softball games in the 8th or 90th has been received although it is known that there are ball clubs in both of them. If information will be forwarded to the 'Strike' concerning scores of games played, and future plans for league play, it will be published along with any others. Managers are requested to contact this department at once.