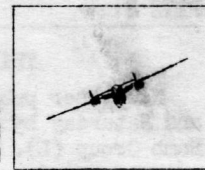


THIRD STRIKE



VOL I, NO. 48

SEPTEMBER 22, 1943

S.W. PACIFIC

SUGGESTION FOR RANK PULLERS

Ft. Moultrie, S.C. (CNS)—A newly made corporal asked a pal to paint chevrons on his fatigues. The pal did and the corporal was happy—until nightfall. Then he discovered that his friend had drawn the stripes in luminous paint.

Met Artists Make Short Appearance

REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE WELL RECEIVED

Demonstrating a smooth versatility and personality to spare, Lansing Hatfield and Edwin McArthur scored an immense hit with a large audience in the 13th area Saturday afternoon.

Their appearance was influenced by requests of Chaplain Wood and Lt Rogers. The program was necessarily short as they had another show scheduled for that evening.

Superb Voice

It can be understood why Mr. Hatfield is considered one of the greatest baritones in the world today. Every song was shaded with just the proper amount of feeling and he switched from classical to popular numbers with fluid
(Continued on Page 2)

TRANSFERRED

First Lieutenant Casper M. Thompson formerly 8th Sq communications officer, has been transferred to Advanced Echelon, VFC. He came overseas with the group.

WEWAK RAID FILM STARS 3RD

There will be no argument concerning who was first over the target in the Wewak raid. Fifth Air Force makes that very emphatic in the commentary which accompanies the official film of the historic mission. Prominence is given officers and crews of this group to the exclusion of all others.

OFFICERS' CLUB WILL OPEN

The Third Group Officers' club, "Tropical Paradise," will open formally Saturday evening, Sept. 25. Many high-ranking Air Force officers have been invited to the opening.

Fighter Group Boasts Club, Dance Band

THIRD BOMB MEN PLAY WITH ORCHESTRA, HOPE FOR OWN ORGANIZATION

One of the older fighter groups in this theater has demonstrated what can be done by mutual co-operation between officers and enlisted men.

Today on the debit side of the ledger they have a large group enlisted men's club, an orchestra, a glee club, a fine theater and facilities for producing ice cream in quantity. At the opening of the club last week 28 gallons of ice cream, 400 cinnamon rolls and 30 gallons of punch were served. The orchestra made its initial appearance at the same time.

Unfortunately, Air Force T/O's do not provide for band personnel or instruments so organizing this orchestra has taxed the ingenuity and patience of its director and the officer who con-
(Continued on Page 2)

SIX WIN DECORATIONS

Bringing to 615 the number of decorations received by the 3rd in this war, six more men were named in a recent order.

Sgt Howard E. MacDonald, 13th, won the DFC.

Lt Gordon K. McCoun, 90th, received the Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Air Medal.

Lt Joseph Castelli was posthumously awarded the Air Medal.

Other Air Medals went to T/Sgt C.C. Cook, Sgt (now F/O) Samuel Goldstein and S/Sgt Arthur J. White Jr., 13th.

6 COMBAT OFFICERS TRANSFERRED TO 11RCD

Orders have been received transferring the following combat officers to 11RCD pending transportation to the United States.

Capt Phil H. Hawkins, Lts Melville W. Fisher and Gordon K. McCoun, 90th; Lts William L. Bersch, William C. Hellriegel and Ernest C. Jones Jr., 13th.

All of them are well known in the group and their fighting qualities have contributed greatly to its successes.

THIRD STRIKE

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

--STAFF--

Sgt Byron M. Edgett.....Editor
Sgt E. Lewis.....Asst. Editor
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

T/Sgt G.E. Turocy T/Sgt H. Plassmann
Sgt Peter Flanjak S/Sgt Robert P. Neily
Sgt Robert F. Klau Pfc Leon Cohen

Lt Richard S. Prentis.....Adviser

Fighter Band- (Continued from Page 1)

ceived the idea, Capt Gilbert Portmore. A meager few instruments finally were procured through the good offices of Gen Wurtsmith of VFC who appreciates the morale building value of music. These initial pieces were paid for from the PX fund as those were subsequently bought from an airdrome squadron recently arrived at this base.

Excellent Leader

The group is extremely fortunate in having the services of a veteran trombonist leader, Cpl Alexander Palocsay, 24 years in the business, who has been a member of 75 dance bands, among them Russ Morgan, Guy Lombardo, Ray Noble and Fred Waring. His organization, augmented by Third Group men including Harold Plassmann, Bob Sharpe, Stanley Kolonoski and La Verne Jones, now consists of more than a dozen pieces. Sgt Charles Forsman is outstanding at the piano. With such a group of musicians under Al's able direction the orchestra will compare favorably with any other band this side of the ocean.

Cpl Palocsay's men will make their first public appearance Friday evening at 6:30 in the "Zamboogie" theater. Following their debut a picture will be shown.

Credit to Special Services

Much credit for the abovementioned activities is due to Lt H.H. Peterson, special services officer for the fighter group. He is sincerely interested in the welfare of those in his care and has worked diligently to procure the necessary equipment.

Sgt Plassmann and the other Third men are getting valuable practice with the fighter band and hope, in the near future to institute its counterpart in their own group. Shortage of instruments is their biggest handicap.

Names His Ship 'St. Sebastian'

LT MONTAGANO'S SHIP BLESSED BY CHAPLAIN

Lt Edmund D. Montagano, 89th, has chosen "St. Sebastian" as the name for his A-20. Chaplain Wood christened the ship Sept. 12.

The name, though unusual in contrast to Disney characters and other bits of ingenuity, is very appropriate as St. Sebastian is honored as the patron saint of soldiers and fighting men in battle. He became a martyr to the Christian faith in the first century when, a Roman soldier, he was executed by Nero for devotion to his faith.

Met Stars- (Continued from Page 1)

grace. The great power and richness of his voice was readily apparent.

Mr. McArthur's ability as a musician was taxed by a war-weary piano and a microphone whose fidelity could not be trusted but his interpretations of difficult classics and medley of Jerome Kern numbers was hailed with unreserved pleasure by the assemblage. He also accompanied the mass participation singing on a piano accordion and on every count scored resoundingly.

USO and the Marine

Being one of the first to leave the States after the outbreak of war, I think I'm in a bit of a position to know what I'm talking about. You heard of how the Marines fought at Guadalcanal and at Wake, didn't you? Tell the inside dope on why they fought so furiously is that somebody mentioned USO in their hearing.

"We have Men (with a capital M) down here who haven't as much as seen a white woman in 15 months. Their running water comes out of a bucket, and they are lucky if they can get a real good meal once in a while. Yet these fellows don't cry. They are even grateful for the few odd pieces of stationary that the USO very generously donated to us.

"Heck, yes, stop pampering the soldiers back home. Make them realize that this is a war, not a grand round of seeing who can entertain them the most. Let them spend more time learning how to be a soldier, instead of how to hold a cup at a pink tea. Close down those organizations that cater to the poor lonesome soldier, and let him get out and learn his part for this big show going on."—Capt A.B., U.S.M.C. somewhere in the South Pacific.

SPORTS SHOTS

89TH LEAGUE

	W	L	PCT	GBL
ARMAMENT	8	0	1.000	-
ORDNANCE	5	2	.715	2½
OFFICERS	5	3	.638	3
ENGINEERS	4	3	.573	3½
HAPPY TEN	3	4	.428	4½
MOTOR POOL	2	7	.222	6½
MESS	0	8	.000	8

Arm tightened their grip on first place in the 89th Sq League by winning two more games: From the Mess 5-0, and from the Oilers 11-1, to stretch their streak to 8 consecutive wins. One other league game was played, Officers out-slugged the Happy Ten and won a free-hitting, free-scoring game, 11-7.

Non-league games: Hq Motor Pool won three in a row in as many days. They defeated the Happy Ten 13-5, an Aust. Inf ten 8-7, and an 8th Sq. team 9-2.

The 8th Squadron has formed a league and play will begin soon. Team standings and scores will be published.

HQ MOTOR POOL 8, AUSTRALIANS 7

Hq Motor Pool played host to an Australian soft ball team from Hq, 8th Aust Inf Btn on Sunday but hardly acted the part as they sent them down to defeat by an 8-7 score. The Greasers, however, were pushed to their utmost to win the game which went into extra innings before being decided in their favor. Coming from behind in the 5th inning after being on the short end of a 6-1 score as late as the fourth Motor Pool tied the game on Pete Covitch's homer with two on. The Aussies again took the lead in their half of the 7th, 7-5, but again Hq was equal to the task and tied the score in their half. Finally Hq won out in the tenth when Jacobson singled with two on to drive in the winning run.

The Aussies played a surprisingly good game, fielding ground balls cleanly, showing good throwing arms and covering like veterans balls hit to the outfield. They connected with the ball sharply, most of their hits being line drive singles over the infield. Their hitting can be traced directly to the cricket game which all Australians play as much as Americans play baseball. Jack Williams with a single and two doubles, and Wilmot who hit a single and two triples, were the sluggers for the Aussies. Condon, the Inf Btn short-stop, played an excellent game in the field and errorless ball throughout the game.

Lt Rogers arranged the game with the cooperation of Mr. P. Sherman, Australian Y.M.C.A. representative.--Wetzel.

CAMP CHAMP, VAMP SCAMP

Peefcee Frank T. Campisi, group operations clerk, coined a beauty while on furlough recently.

He and another Group wolf were sitting in a lounge bar talking to some cunning stunts. The one he was interested in arose and said she had to make a telephone call; another one went with her. They remained gone. On another occasion these two persistent fellows started someplace and gave a girl a bottle to carry. She covered it with Camp's flight cap. In the press, she, the flight cap and 30-bob bottle vanished.

The third time this sort of thing happened it was too much for Frank. He turned to his clobber and uttered these historic words: "The next time a woman tells me she's going to the ladies' room I'm going with her!"

AS YOU WERE

SH-h-h-h...KEEP TRAP SHUT!...Reporters emanating from various squadron sources say that a suspicious looking character height about 5 ft 3, who is in some respects resembles that popular fiction sleuth "Sherlock Holmes," has been seen lurking in the vicinity of the officers' mess lately absorbing all the G2 conversation amongst the "wheels," ignorant of his presence. Officers are warned not to speak so freely as this character is dangerous and at times invisible. When last seen he was wearing a green colored denim cap and smoking a long curved stem pipe. Any one knowing of his whereabouts will contact Sgt Hanberry, squadron secret service chief. This person is desperate and will stop at nothing. Immediate apprehension of this alleged spy will be a credit to society.

Heard in the mess hall recently:

Cpl: "There should be an order posted demanding the expulsion of all dogs in the mess hall."

Pvt: "In that case, none of us will be able to come in."--Flanjak.

A WOLF IS A PIECE LOVING AMERICAN.
A FOX IS A WOLF WHO BRINGS FLOWERS.

IRAN TO JOIN ALLIES

Washington--Secretary of State Hull announced recently that Iran will be received formally into the ranks of the United Nations when Iranian Minister Shayesten calls at the State Department to affix his signature to the United Nations declaration of January 1, 1942. Iran is the thirty-third nation to join the Allies against the Axis.

SNOPING THE DROOPS

With Ima Snooper

This column wishes to apologize for a statement in the last issue. It was not the British Navy that torpedoed Dick Brumbaugh's best girl. It was the RAF getting in some "stick" time. My apologies Dick; any way you look at it, it's rough.

Nomination: For the saddest of Sad Sacks...Byron Edgett. Hasn't rec'd a letter from his wife in over two months. Should have gone to cooking school, Edgett.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Remember, Snooper, I know who you are.

How about the M/Sgt in Hq who, after telling a low-ranking friend that stripes are earned by men who have proved themselves alert and on the job, with the ability to think clearly, picked up the telephone in his office, rang the operator, asked to be connected with the same office, then carried on a two-minute conversation with himself.

Reliable sources inform me that I am

Behind the Ball

By S/Sgt Robert P. Neily

Capt John E. Karol, Sq adjutant, and 1st Lt Edward R. Cisler, Sq armament officer, have the distinction of being the only two remaining officers still with this organization who were members when it left for overseas January 1942. (Which of these two officers will become "dean" of the squadron?)

A Jap commentator speaking over the Tokio radio on a propaganda program two nights ago stated that the Allies might take Lae but would never take Buna. Could it be that the Japanese people on the Nip mainland are required to read the map of New Guinea upside-down?

Our Sq Engineering Dept. has formed a softball team and is seeking games with other Sqdns of the group. (Contact T/Sgt Robert R. Royle, Engineering Dept.)

about to be sued by troops who have been snooped upon. Shouldn't talk so loud, fellas. Never know when the snooper is around.--ISAGH.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
USO COMMANDOS, AC
NEW YORK CITY
NY.

375. 12

15 August, 1943

SUBJECT: Appointment of Honorary Member.

TO : Commando Candidate EDWIN L. PARSONS, APO 503.

1. Communications reaching this office confirm earlier reports of your interest in our organization. Under provisions of Para. 12, USO Memo. No. 13. Subject: Appointment of Honorary Members, this office is happy to include your name on the roster as the first member from New Guinea.

2. Upon your return to the United States, (providing you are not too well along in years) you will report to the nearest Commando Recruit Training Center for your basic training prior to becoming a Senior Commando. During the three months basic course you must attain an efficiency rating of 90 or better by performing the following:

- a. Attend 7 USO dances a week.
- b. At all times wear all the decorations you have or can borrow.
- c. Be invited out for dinner at least 5 times a week by the best families in your locality.
- d. Apply for foreign service pay at any time you are within 500 miles of the coastal limits of the U.S.
- e. Have all your uniforms modified to conform with Memo., this Hq, dated 15 May, 1943. Sub: Conversion of uniform, G.I., M1 to Uniform, Zoot, M2.

3. It has come to the attention of the Hqs. that a rival organization under the name of the American Red Cross Commandos is gaining some headway in your area. Any information you may be able to furnish on their activities will be appreciated. Their headquarters are said to be in Mackay, Qld.

For the Senior Commando:

J. FAIRCHILD SMITHE,
T/5, Underground Balloon Btn.
Recruiting Officer.

OFFICIAL:

ARCHIBALD Q. PENNYFEATHER
T/6, 7th Singer Sowing Mach, Repair Sqdn.
Adjutant.