

# THE RATTLER

Rattlesnake Bomber Base

VOL. 1, NO. 6 PYOTE, TEXAS JUNE 16, 1943

## QMC Celebrates



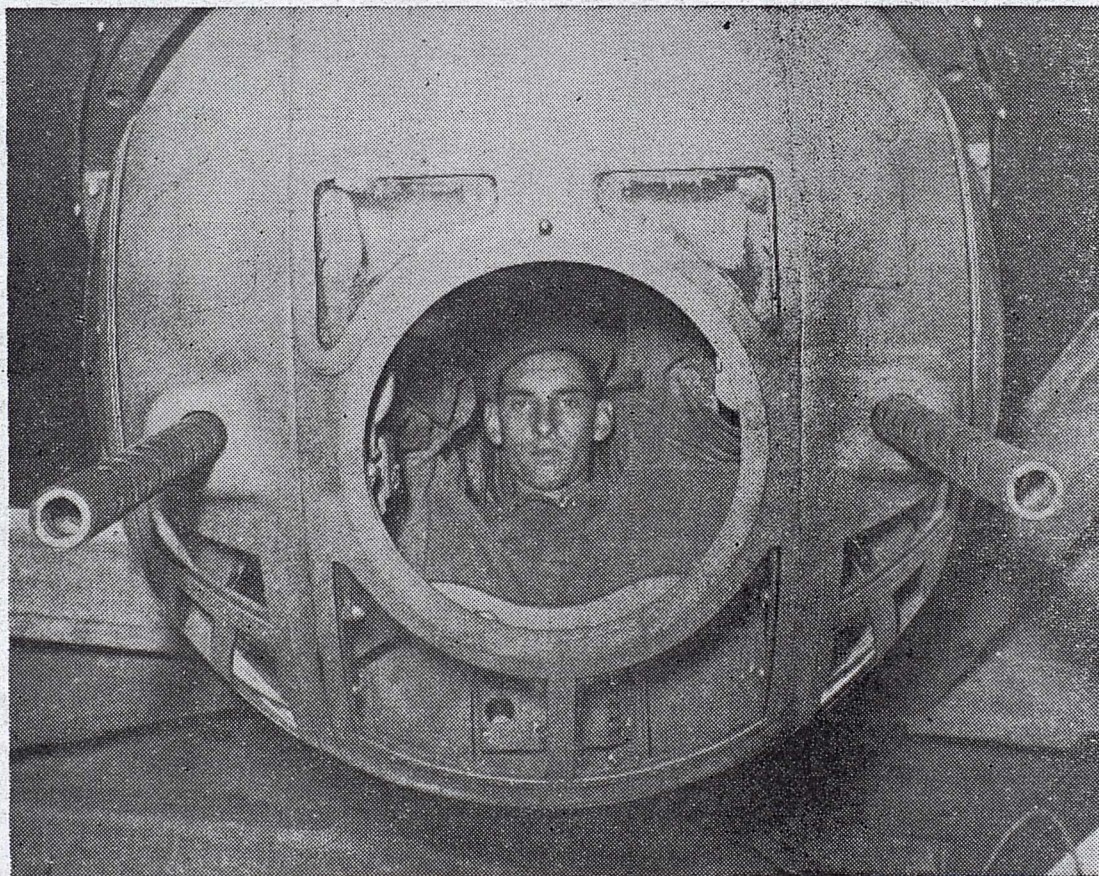
1st Lt. D. B. Meadows, Base Quartermaster, led the QMC's observance today of its 168th birthday. Exhibitions showing work of the Quartermaster Corps at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base are open to all base personnel this week. Said Lt. Meadows: "Our job is never to give anyone an opportunity to say anything of our army except that it is the best fed, best clothed, and best equipped army in the world." (Story on Pages 2 & 3).

## WAACs Win First Pyote Drill Ribbon

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# B-17 Safety: Good Gunnery

Sgt. Oliver C. Michael, 435th Squadron gunnery instructor, spent many an hour in Flying Fortress ball turrets (right) firing at Jap Zeros over the Southwest Pacific. Altogether, he flew 30 missions totaling 273 combat hours, for which he was recommended for the D.F.C., and was awarded the Airman's Medal for meritorious achievement while his 435th Fortress hovered four hours over a Jap convoy north of New Guinea last August. This photo, by S-Sgt. John Lucas, was taken at Pyote's ground gunnery range where crewmen fire at moving targets from Fortress sections containing gun mounts. (Story on Page 4).



## CREWMEN GET MUSCLE TONIC

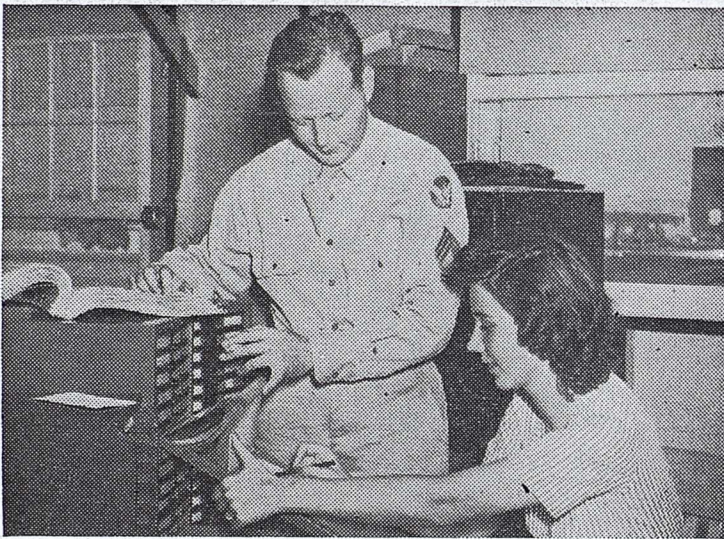
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# U. S. QMC Observes 168th Birthday

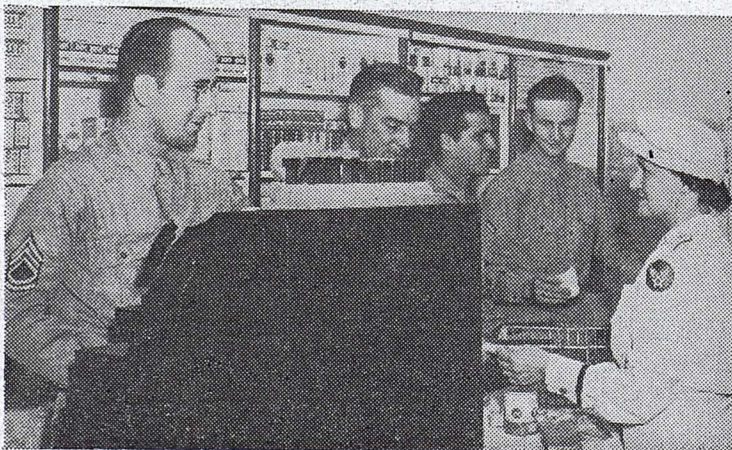
## Serious Business



## A Lot Of Property



## Nurse Goes Shopping



## The Wheel, The Key, The Saber: They Are Doing A Global Job

One hundred sixty-eight years ago—while a small group of states struggled, determined to win their independence—the Quartermaster Corps was organized as a service to the Continental Army.

And as this hard-won independence is threatened today, the Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army is performing the gigantic task of supplying U.S. troops in all corners of the earth. Indeed, as the QMC observes its 168th anniversary, it can point with pride to having outfitted the best-clothed and best-fed army in the world.

It was June 16, 1775, the Quartermaster Corps had its beginning.

Last October, when Army personnel first began to arrive at Pyote, the first six enlisted men included four Quartermaster men, and the first 10 officers, two QM officers.

It was then that the QM's began their job of arranging for the supply of military personnel who were subsequently to inhabit the Rattlesnake Bomber Base. Subsistence stores had to be procured; beds and bedding had to be requisitioned; desks, typewriters and a myriad of essential and trivial supplies had to be obtained.

Major Owen F. Murphy, now Quartermaster of the First Bomber Command, directed the QM activities of the Pyote Air Base when troops began to arrive "en masse" at Pyote. He saw the base strength jump from a few hundred to several thousand over a period of two weeks. And he saw to it that every man had a bed

and plenty to eat. He did a fine job.

Today, Base Quartermaster activities are headed by Lt. D. B. Meadows, Jr., who has carried on and obtained the necessary supplies to make Pyote one of the best-equipped bases in the Second Air Force.

All credit is due a QM Enlisted Detachment of 61 men, many of whom work until 10:30 o'clock, nightly, to keep supplies rolling smoothly. Nor can too much be said in tribute to an efficient staff of civilian personnel who perform their daily tasks in the unending job of supply.

Officers assisting Lt. Meadows include Lt. Conrad Erickson, Jr., Executive and Property Officer; Lt. Gilbert G. Hendrix, Sales Officer and Detachment Commander; Lt. T. P. Kravitz, Salvage and Reclamation Officer; Lt. E. J. Newman, Motor Pool Officer; Lt. James A. Kinn, Transportation Officer; and Lt. C. M. Van Wagenen, Base Mess Supervisor.

The local Quartermaster organization also serves as a training pool for newly-commissioned officers who, after receiving 10 weeks of sound, practical experience in the various QM functions, are sent to other Second Air Force bases for permanent assignment.

Just what do the Quartermasters do?

They furnish subsistence, the kitchen equipment with which it is prepared—and the tableware used in the mess halls. The QM's provide base motor transportation and the gas which runs the vehicles.

The beds and bedding in the barracks come from the QMC, as well as the mops, buckets and cleansing materials with which they are scrubbed. And to the Quartermaster falls the task of providing laundry facilities.

Everything a soldier wears—from "dog-tags" to the chevrons on his sleeve—come from the QM together with his canteen, steel helmet, and all other individual equipment. For the unfortunate soldier who isn't in a barracks, the QM provides a tent, as well as the cots and tent stove.

The QMC is charged with procuring and issuing desks, typewriters and various and sundry office

(Continued: Next Page)

Mrs. Anita Sontz (top picture) looks puzzled in this study, no doubt, because 1st Lt. Conrad Erickson, Jr., Quartermaster executive officer, has dug up some old 168-year-old QMC regulations.

Looking over new cardex files set up in connection with Army's new stock control system (center picture) are Miss Mary Jo Hewitt, daughter of the base commander and currently a clerk at the Quartermaster, and M-Sgt. Russell D. Thompson, chief property clerk.

1st Lt. Mary L. Szymkowitz, chief nurse at Base Hospital, finds the QMC commissary a convenient place to buy things—and she probably never had so many clerks to wait on her. Bottom picture, L-to-R: T-Sgt. Roscoe Wiggins; Lt. Gilbert C. Hendrix, sales officer; Pvt. Samuel J. Barone, Pfc. Roy D. Thursby, and nurse Szymkowitz.

# .. With Hard Work "Mom" Conner Smiles

supplies. When the Rattlesnake Bomber Base received watchdogs for the Guard Squadron, the QM arranged for their "rations" and bedding.

When an organization goes into the field, they carry with them numerous essential items of equipment—field ranges, field desks, kitchen tents and so on—all of which come to them through the QMC.

The Quartermasters are not all landlubbers, either. At air bases located near large bodies of water, the QMC has charge of the crash boats, and, until a few years ago, the QM had jurisdiction over 91 per cent of all boats registered by the Army.

A large part of the purchasing and contracting activities of the Army are performed by Quartermaster, and when a soldier dies, it's up to the QM to make all burial arrangements.

Whether in the continental limits or the Theater of Operations, the QMC performs all these functions.

The Base QM's are holding open house this week in connection with the anniversary of their organization. Displays have been erected in QM warehouses No. 3 and 8, where one may get a first-hand look at this QMC business.

The Quartermaster insignia, in itself, tells the story of this century-and-a-half old service branch.

The wheel signifies transportation; the key, storage of military supplies; the saber, the fighting qualities of the Quartermaster soldier. The eagle, naturally, the national emblem. Representing the

thirteen original states of the union are the thirteen stars around the rim of the wheel. Thirteen spokes radiate to the thirteen stars and the national colors are carried out in the hub in a white field and blue background for the stars.

The QMs in combat zones are equipped with weapons and must defend themselves as well as deliver supplies to the front lines. On Bataan they fought and died beside the besieged troops, while performing such supply "miracles" as these:

They patched together America's aerial "bamboo fleet," using, for example, a caster from a warehouse dolly as a tail wheel.

With the help of native labor, they harvested abandoned rice fields and threshed the rice. In nightly forays, they got water from the sea to boil for salt to keep slaughtered cattle as well as horses and mules.

Theirs also was the unpleasant duty of burying comrades, and registering graves, of collecting belongings of casualties for the next of kin.

When surrender came, the QMs were still tuning vehicles so the batteries wouldn't go dead. They wanted to be ready for the offensive if help came in time.

## GI DRIVERS LEARN TO PUSH

LEBANON, Tenn. (CNS) — Because a truck convoy bunched vehicles too closely on a road near here the commander made drivers get out and push their trucks back to the proper interval.



IF YOU SHOULD ever be a patient in the Base Hospital and a smiling woman who works in the kitchen puts butter on your plate, that woman is "Mom" Conner. She is shown here with T-Sgt. Joseph Rayfield, hospital mess sergeant—and the border they're examining was contributed by "Mom" to dress up kitchen walls. Mrs. Conner is a private pilot.

## FLYING GRANDMOTHER

# War Grounds Jovial 'Mom' Conner, Who Carries On In Hospital Mess

BY S-SGT. LAWRENCE SHIPP

Flyer, writer, and "Mom" to all the Medics and patients cheerfully served by her at the Hospital Mess is Aletha Caldwell Conner, whose poem, "Wings"—dedicated to the officers and enlisted men of the 19th Bombardment Group—appears on page 14.

"I want a job that no one else wants," she told Civil Service officials on applying here. "I want to work where I can do the most good, really my share for the war effort."

Mrs. Conner is happy with the job handed her in the Hospital Mess, where she has made cheering words and helpful deeds part of the routine of her work.

A mother and a grandmother, Mrs. Conner has stayed abreast of the times from the covered wagon to today's "Aerial Age." She has her own Stinson 105 and considerable solo hours toward a pilot's license. "Mom's" plane will remain in the hangar at Monahans for the duration, but as soon as the war is over she will resume flying.

As a small child "prior to the days of eighty-nine," Aletha Conner left Indiana for the new raw Indian Territory of Oklahoma. She got as big a kick out of the "prairie schooner" trek then as later skipping around in the clouds.

Watching Oklahoma's robust history unfold, Mrs. Conner absorbed a background of local color that later found expression in four books. She published the first, "Blue Bonnet," in 1929. "Pisce's

Child" followed in 1934, "Stardust" in 1937, and "God holds the Keys" in 1939. She now has adopted Texas as her home state.

For all that, "Mom" Conner also has found time to take an active part in politics, social and welfare work, and was once elected supervisor of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority for five states.

## COLD SURGERY PROMISES MEDICAL REVOLUTION

CHICAGO (CNS) — Shockless, drugless, almost bloodless surgery is on the way. The American Medical Association has announced that anesthesia by refrigeration is leading the way to the evolution of a new type of surgery that may revolutionize medicine. Already, the association says, the use of cold has proved invaluable in treatment of "immersion foot," an ailment afflicting seamen whose ships have been torpedoed.

## STOUT WAACS ARRIVE

—Headline in The Falcon News, Stout Field, Ind.

Come, gentlemen—why be so ungallant?

## Well In Hand



Discussing QMC daily needs are Miss Virginia Cherry, requisition clerk, and C. E. Laury, chief commissary clerk, two busy people.

# Model School Turns Out Flying Fortress Marksmen

## Pyote's Heavy Bomber Crews Get 26-Hour Ground Gunnery Course

When Pyote's heavy bomber crews finally go into action against the enemy they will have had some of the best gunnery training possible.

For Pyote's is a model ground gunnery school. All 10 members of each crew must complete the 26-hour, month-long ground gunnery course.

Each man, including pilot and co-pilot, are taught to enter, operate & leave Sperry upper turret and Sperry lower ball turret; to make emergency adjustments; to use and care for Sperry gun sights. Crewmen then practice tracking, setting sights on actual planes in flight.

The crew then goes to the ground gunnery range for work with live ammunition. Here the target is towed at a fast clip by a driverless jeep on a quadrangular monorail behind a revetment. Each member of the crew fires at the target from each of six kinds of mounts: ball turret, upper turret, Fortress tail section, Fortress midsection (waist guns), bombardier's compartment, and flexible gun mounts (see pictures).

Crewmen also fire at clay pigeons at two types of skeet ranges—the conventional type and one on which the gunner fires from a moving base at pigeons released at odd points along the route.

In addition, all ten men fire the Thompson sub-machine gun, cal. .45 automatic pistol, and cal. .30 Springfield.

Then comes practice at the aerial-to-ground gunnery range, when crewmen fire from a B-17 at targets on the ground. Ground school instructors check-off gunners on these flights.

### Men behind this instruction:

Lt. Milton D. Wilkinson, former bantam weight boxer, Fortress gunner, and tank gunner & commander. He is a graduate of gunnery schools at Brooks Field, Texas, and Camp Seven Mile, Spokane, Wash. He got his commission at AAF OCS, Miami Beach.

Sgts. Geo. L. Blickensderfer and Jack E. France are non-coms in charge at the turret school. Sgt. Bill Ward and Pvt. Raymond Ponchione are in charge at the cal. .50 machine gun range. The skeet ranges are under the direction of Sgt. John G. Arnold and Pvt. Jack Robinson.

Maj. John H. M. Smith, 19th Group executive, and Lt. Milton D. Wilkinson, ground gunnery school director, (below) talk things over at the ground gunnery range.

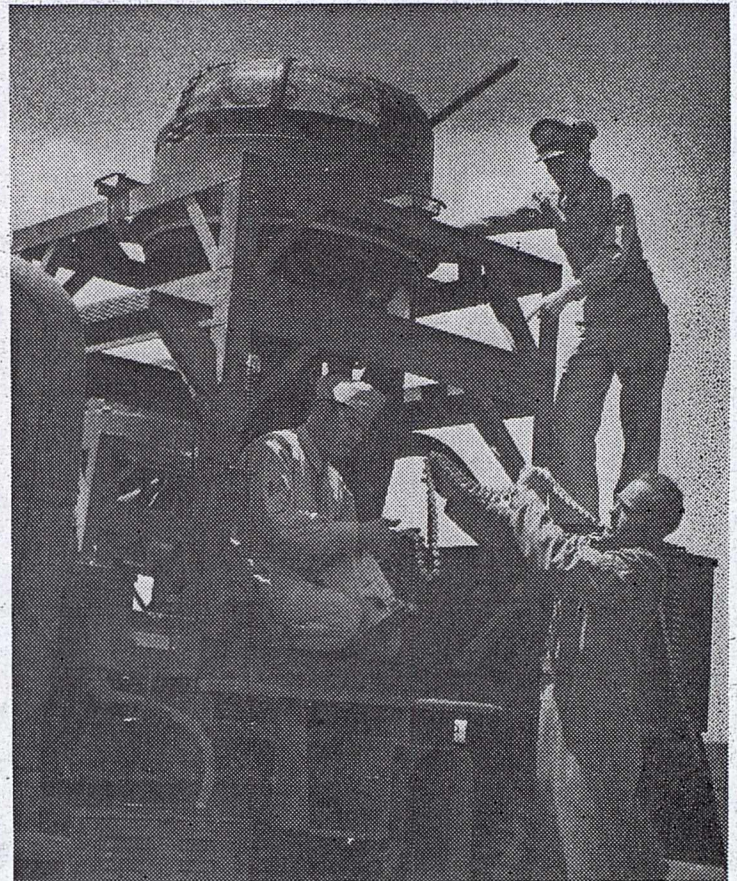
Flexible gunners on Pyote range (lower rt.) are S-Sgt. Robert D. Coats & S-Sgt. Ray C. Baldwin, range instructors.

Getting specially mounted upper turret ready for range practice (top photo) are Sgts. George L. Blickensderfer, sight instructor, & Sgt. Jack E. France, turret instructor, while Lt. Milton D. Wilkinson, director of training, ground gunnery school supervises the work.

## Maj. Smith Inspects



## Lt. Wilkinson Directs . . .



## . . . While Gunners Work



# Obstacle Course Matches B-17's Close-Quarter Points

## Every Move, Moment, And Muscle Counts When A Fortress Fights

When a guy in combat has to get from one part of a Flying Fortress to another without missing any shots at charging enemy planes every move he makes must count.

To make every movement count for bombardiers is the purpose behind an especially designed Flying Fortress obstacle course now standard training equipment at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

The course, located in the 19th Group recreation area near Base Hospital, is the special pet of Lt. Charles Guimento, Group physical training director.

Just ten obstacles make up the 150-yard course, which is covered daily by hundreds of officers and men who will soon be manning Fortresses over enemy territory.

Said Director Guimento: "Ten may not sound like many obstacles but all of the B-17's close-quarter points are represented."

The obstacle course, while an important part, is not the complete physical training picture for bombardment crews. Enlisted men turn out for athletics three days a week and officers five days. Three softball fields and three volleyball courts are in use daily. And a caesthenics area is not left idle.

### Five Men Named Aviation Cadets

Five men at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base this week were appointed Aviation Cadets and proceeded to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, for pre-Aviation Cadet basic training. One other was named a candidate for appointment.

Those appointed were M-Sgt. Ernest R. Gribble, 435th Bomb Squadron, 19th Group; S-Sgt. Robert W. Conradi, Airways Communication Squadron; Sgt. Stanley J. Becker, Base Headquarters; Cpl. Laddie Bartholomew, 435th Squadron; and Cpl. Arthur N. Knudsen, Base Headquarters.

Named a candidate for appointment was Sgt. Warren O. Scheel, 30th Bomb Squadron, 19th Group.

#### SIGNATURE REQUIRED TO DATE WAACS

**AIR BASE, Salt Lake City (CNS)**  
—To visit a WAAC dayroom a soldier first must have an invitation from a gal soldier, then must stand inspection by the area guard.

When a GI takes a WAAC off the Base he must sign her out and when he brings her back he must sign her in again, like athletic equipment.

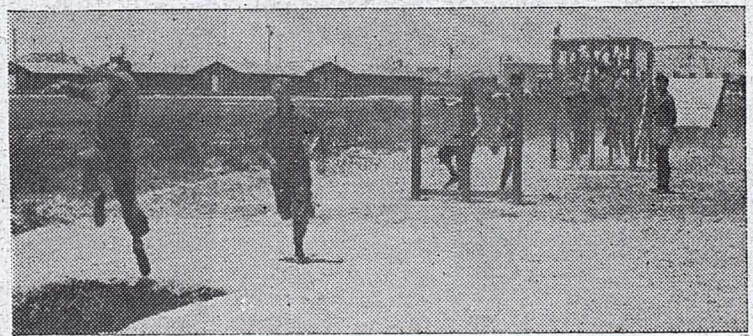
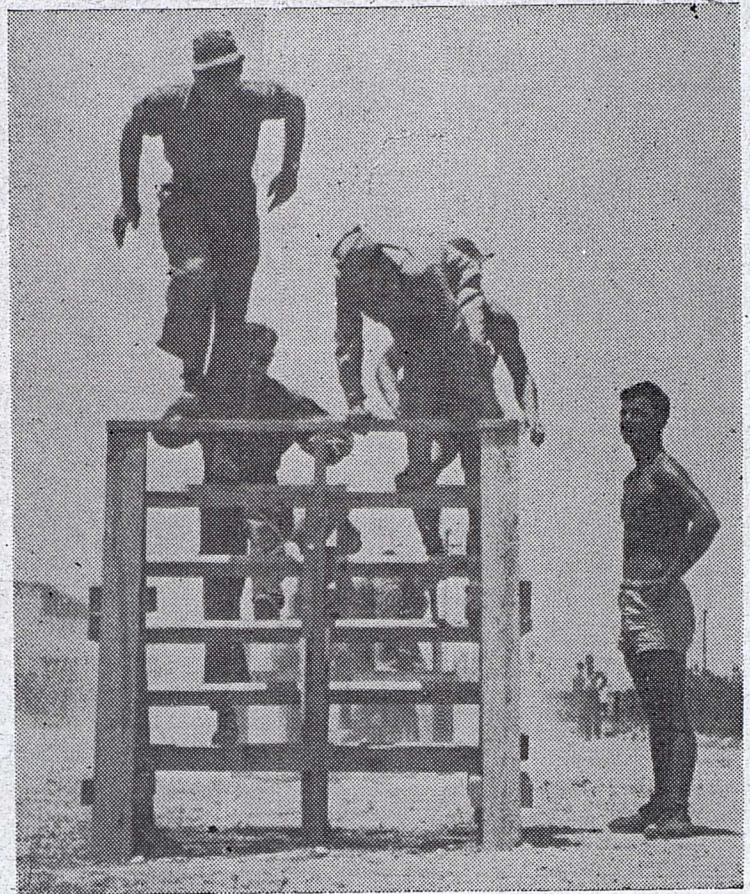
Lt. Guimento knows his athletics. At the University of Miami in 1939 he captained the football team, playing guard. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the University's coaching staff as line coach. He entered the service August 6, 1942; got his commission as a physical training major at AAF OCS, Miami Beach, March 3, 1943.

The Lieutenant's cohorts in the group's P.T. program are Capt. C. A. Smith, group headquarters; Capt. R. C. Miller, 28th Squadron; Lt. H. H. Felts, 435th Squadron; Lt. Harold Gluckesman, 30th Squadron; and Lt. John Wallach, 93rd Squadron.

Their conclusion: A crewman has to be able to lift his weight in lead. P. T. will enable him to do the trick.

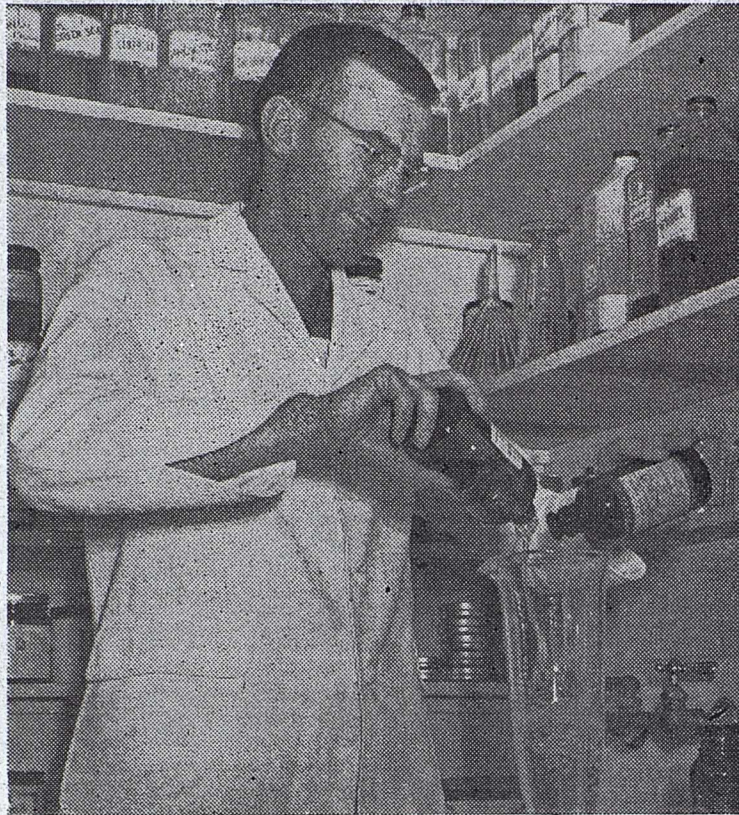
### GI Tarzans Take Course In Stride

Every muscle crew members use in getting around speedily inside a Flying Fortress gets a work-out on the especially designed obstacle course shown in the pictures on this page. Pvt. Donald E. White, physical training assistant (dressed in athletic shorts) sees reception center crewmen hurdle fence-like obstacle in top photo. P. T. officer is Charles Guimento, former University of Miami football star and line coach.



## MEET YOUR BUDDIES:

## Foe Of Germs—And Germans



**SGT. THOMAS P. RILEY**, Base Pharmacist in the Medical Detachment, mixes above a prescription for the Axis germs afflicting the world. The formula is glycerine and nitric acid: "Nitroglycerine." Usually his medicines are for less serious ailments.

## Sgt. Riley, Pharmacist - Politician, Mixes Drugs For Ailing Soldiers

BY CPL. SID KANE  
435th Bomb. Sqd.

We all know that illness is one evil that everyone tries to avoid. Meet Sgt. Thomas P. Riley, of the Medical Detachment, who does exactly the opposite thing. He looks for ills, so that he can destroy them with the drugs that he dispenses.

A Californian by birth and choice, Tom has lived in Los Angeles since the St. Patrick's Day that he entered this world. Leaving a lucrative drug business and a bit of political dabbling, he enlisted in the Army in April, 1492. He had been a registered pharmacist for 10 years and was having a rise in fortune, as far as politics go, when he felt the urge to join the colors.

In 1940, he ran on the elective ticket for Democratic County Central Committee, and was elected by popular vote. A year later, he was campaign manager for a candidate for the Los Angeles City Council, and he was successful again.

Upon the acquisition of Olive Drab, he was sent to the Medical Replacement Training Center at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, because of his pharmaceutical background. He spent 8 months there: basic

training for three months, and the next five, as a line cpl. in one of the Medical Training Field Battalions. A very ardent desire to be a member of the Air Force led him to take a "bust", and start all over again as a private in the outfit of his own choosing.

He arrived at Pyote on New Year's Day, 1943. Being the only pharmacist on the base, he went right to work combatting the sniffles and colds prevalent at that time of the year. He very modestly admits that he rolled the very first medicinal pill ever made at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base.

Sgt. Riley and his two assistants (both registered druggists) make up all the prescriptions and drugs dispensed on the base, from standard formulae as recognized

## WAACs Take First Place Award In 1st Monthly Inspection - Review

The WAACs marched their way into ribbon-holding first place Saturday at the first monthly inspection and review held at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base, it was announced today by Maj. John B. Nelson, base plans and training officer.

Stepping smartly into second place was the Base Aviation Squadron, Pyote's well-drilled and disciplined colored organization. The committee of judges chose the 435th Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group, for third place, Maj. Nelson said.

On the bouncing heads of members of the 30th Squadron, 19th Group—keepers of the model mess—fell the wrath of the judges for "the most unsatisfactory marching ever seen on this base." Had there been one, the booby prize would have been theirs. The 30th Squadron, the judges' report said, was out of step most of the way and alignment of troops was poor.

Said Lt. Col. Clarence L. Hewitt, Jr., base commander and reviewing officer: "The WAACs, Aviation and 435th Squadrons are to be commended for their work in the review. Of the 30th and other organizations which ranked only a few notches ahead of the 30th, I can only say that there is plenty of room for improvement. On Saturdays to come I hope to be able to pin the ribbon on the guidons of the organizations which made such a poor showing Saturday."

Billy Curtis, 34-year-old movie midget who is three feet seven inches tall, was ordered to report to his draft board recently for physical examination.

by the Army Medical Corps. (If your medicine doesn't help you any, blame Riley.) He smilingly reflects that his department is not like the average civilian drug store, for two reasons: One, they don't serve any milk shakes or ice cream sodas; secondly, Riley says that his drug shelves are better stocked than the largest drug store in the country.

I'm inclined to agree with him. I got dizzy looking at the row on row of clean bottles lining the cabinets.

Either Tom or one of his men are on call any time during the day or night, as are the rest of the departments in our very efficient hospital. Riley and the other medical men live in spotless barracks adjacent to the main hospital building. If you've ever G.I.'d a barracks with a Medic looking on, you'll know the secret of their spotlessness.

Don't say a word to anyone, but Riley's sweating out a trip to O.C.S. He will carry the best wishes of this column with him.



## Payne's Outfit

BY CPL. ROBERT NASH

Last reports on the squadron's outing, which had been planned for the 13th, was: It wouldn't be held. Personnel fluctuates too much.

Congratulations are in order for S-Sgt. Parvin, who was married Thursday night in Midland. We all wish the new physical training director the best of luck.

Morale of a few of the fellows went up for a few days when they were assigned to the Sub-Depot. But ever since they learned they're not going back, they've been sad, very sad.

Sgt. Wayne Newton, the Utah Kid, is one of the hardest-working men on the hill. Instead of the customary one pair, Newt has been known to dirty two pairs of fatigues in a week.

I'd say this is a lie if I hadn't heard it from the unlucky one to whom it happened:

Pfc. R. W. Stalnaker, of West Virginia, got a trip to his home state and a few days leave. Stalnaker was to report to his organization June 1. Well, for some peculiar reason he thought there were 30 days in May instead of 31. Result: He reported back on May 31.

His friends say he will recover. Recent non-com ratings made were: M-Sgt.; John W. Taylor; S-Sgt., Alexander Chemerys and Curley Conyers; Cpls. Charles Lane, Fisher and Finn.

M-Sgt. Taylor maintains his section, communications, is by far the best in the outfit. We are inclined to agree. How about it?

Some fellows around here think they have a softball team. Others think Lt. Gerdtz' boys are fair hands. Anyhow, they said for me to say that us guys challenge you guys. What about it?

A queen bee has a thousand drones,

Whom she must pet and please—  
Just think of all the eggs she lays  
To hatch out sons of bees!

## Jitterbugs Make Good Soldiers: Sgt. Manuppelli Makes The Point

Jitterbugs make good soldiers, if the case of Sgt. Arnold J. Manuppelli of the Genter Service Squadron is any indication.

His commanding officer, Capt. Ernest R. Genter, has only the best things to say of Manuppelli, champion jitterbug on the base.

Sgt. Manuppelli not only is efficient in his work at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base—as efficient as he is on the dance floor—but also he represents the service well off the base. There's documentary evidence for this.

Manuppelli was selected to accompany the remains of one of the Genter Squadron's men killed in an auto accident to Greensburg, Pa. The Greensburg post of the American Legion wrote the following to Capt. Genter:

"We desire to make known to

you one fact regarding the type soldier you sent with the remains. This man was on duty constantly. He did an excellent job and certainly he conducted himself in a manner such as you as his superior officer would expect . . . We feel it a duty to the sergeant to make known to you, his commanding officer, just what we think of him . . ."

## Pyote Negro Troops Are Welcome At Pecos June 'Teenth Celebration

Irving Berlin maybe didn't know it—or maybe he did—but when he wrote "Abraham" as appropriate music for Lincoln's Birthday he also had a hit for another holiday: June 'Teenth.

June 'Teenth—Emancipation Day—falls on Saturday of this week and a special celebration to which colored troops at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base are cordially invited is being planned by the Pecos U.S.O.

The festivities will get underway at noon Saturday in a two-block area next door to the colored U.S.O. club at Pecos—22 miles from Pyote.

Barbecue will be served free. Colored citizens of Pecos are furnishing the food.

Plans for a June 'Teenth dance Saturday night are nearing completion—and these plans include the presence of a fine group of hostesses to dance with colored servicemen.

to the delivery truck so he would be able to open the door for her. My, how times have changed since he left Cleveland. The army sure is teaching him how to be a gentleman. Can you stand it, or is it bothering you?

Sgt. Miller, who works at the locator file, has no trouble locating EMS or officers on the base, but when it comes to locating a nice looking girl he has more trouble than it is worth. Suggest that he write to John Anthony of the Good Will Hour.

Our Sgt.-Major O'Connor Satterlee has not been himself the last few days due to the fact that his girl has left for other parts. If there is anybody here in headquarters that has any suggestions as to how to console him, will they please forward same to the editor of this column? It will be greatly appreciated by O'Connor.

Sgt. Huff, who works in S-3, has been working twice as hard lately since a radio was placed beside his desk. The sweet music that comes forth from the loud speaker really puts a certain something in him. Keep up the good work, Sgt., and maybe we will all get a radio in our depts.

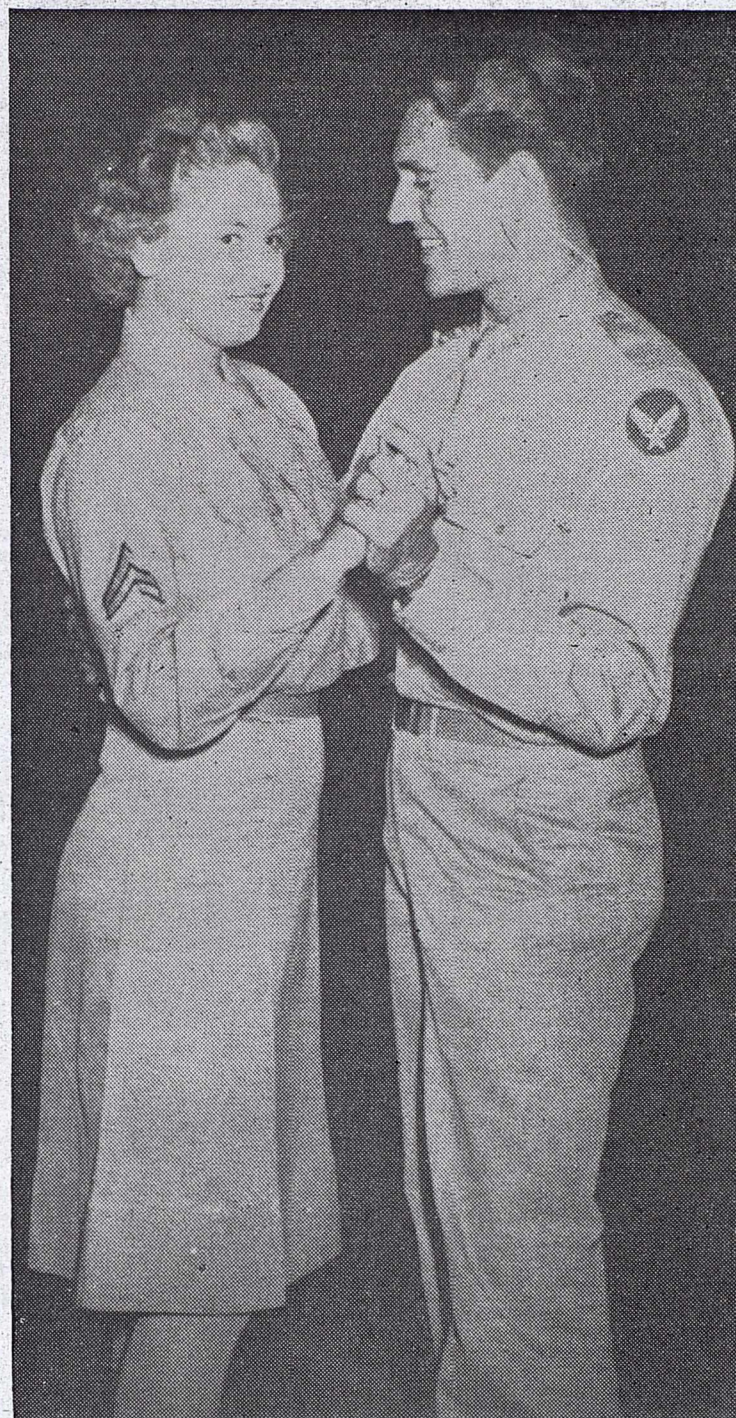
### SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN

Jean King of the Base Adjutant's Office has finally won her navigator's wings. She has come to the conclusion that navigating is better than bombing.

### AGAIN, FLASH

Sgt.-Major Satterlee has consented to take Miss Jean King to

## At Tuesday Night Dance



**BASE-WIDE DANCES** for enlisted personnel held each Tuesday night between 8:30 and midnight at the Rec. Hall took on added importance with the arrival of the WAACs. Cpl. Florence Hall company clerk from Boston, Mass., is shown as she danced last week with Lt. George Hoffmann, base Special Services officer and sponsor of the dances.

the opening night dance of our new Service Club, and Sgt. Nicholas, our special order clerk, to take his new flame, Miss Caroline Lehman. Interested in navigation, O'Connor?

Madison Square Garden will be turned over to the elephants again starting June 16 when Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey return with a "one-ring" circus.

### PLEASANT PROSPECT

#### CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (CNS)

—Charged with cursing a policeman, an Army-bound youth was arraigned before a local judge who freed the "culprit," then gave him some poor advice. "Be sure to curse your sergeant when you get in the Army," said the judge. "Yes sir!" the youth replied enthusiastically.



### BY PVT. SAMMY KAPLAN

The love bug has finally hit our own Sgt. Nicholas and Caroline, who runs the typewriter a mile a minute in the Adjutant's Office. She has been making goo goo eyes at him and, according to my opinion, another allotment may soon be entered on his service record. May all your troubles be little ones. This is for the Chaplain's information.

Our sports editor, Pfc. Hyman Brook, who has been doing a wonderful job of running the sports column, has finally lived up to his sporting name. He opened the door for a WAAC who works in his department and then followed right behind, but beat her

## EDITORIAL:

# Father's Day

June 20, the third Sunday, is Father's Day: a date for every soldier to remember.

The Nations' 32,000,000 fathers average about 44 years of age, but most with sons now in service are older. A great many were in the armed forces during the first World War, with most of the others in essential work.

For them, this is the second time around, and doubtless they would prefer to take their son's places. That impossible, they are buying war bonds and paying taxes at a rate heretofore unheard of; they know what their sons are up against, and what they need to win.

Working overtime in factories, offices, and on farms, their collective strength supports the young men in training and at the fronts. Their drive is the desire that their sons come home as soon as possible—victorious.

This Father's Day must be an anxious one for many, however resolute they may be that the job ahead must be done. Write home often, and this Sunday, make it a special letter for him. Gifts may be difficult to obtain and to send now, but that you can do.

# The Team's The Thing

Pantelleria's conquest—which Brig. Gen. Lauris Norstad, Northwest Africa, termed a "classroom classic"—was hailed as an unprecedented capitulation in that it was gained entirely by air and sea bombardment. Airpower did the main job, and ground forces for the first time were not employed except as occupying troops after the surrender.

The Flying Fortress were in there blasting; thus, the victory was one in which the men of the Rattlesnake Bomber Base rightfully may share pride.

But, neither the Air Forces nor the Navy may forget the heroic job the Infantry and the Armored Forces accomplished in the sands of Libya and the mud of Tunisia to secure the North African bases from which to strike across the Mediterranean.

"Festung Europa" is no 32-square-mile island, and invasion appears certain to involve terrific mass hand-to-hand combat. In any event, it is the Infantry that must mop up conquered territory, and hold it against counter attack.

All AF men here are proud of their buddies' achievements overseas. However, they realize that airpower, however potent, is but one member of a team—the greatest team in military history: The Army and Navy of the United States.

## THE RATTLER

Published each Wednesday at Rattlesnake Bomber Base, Pyote, Texas

LT. COL. CLARENCE L. HEWITT, JR.  
Commanding Officer

Edited & published by and for personnel at the AAB, Pyote, Texas.

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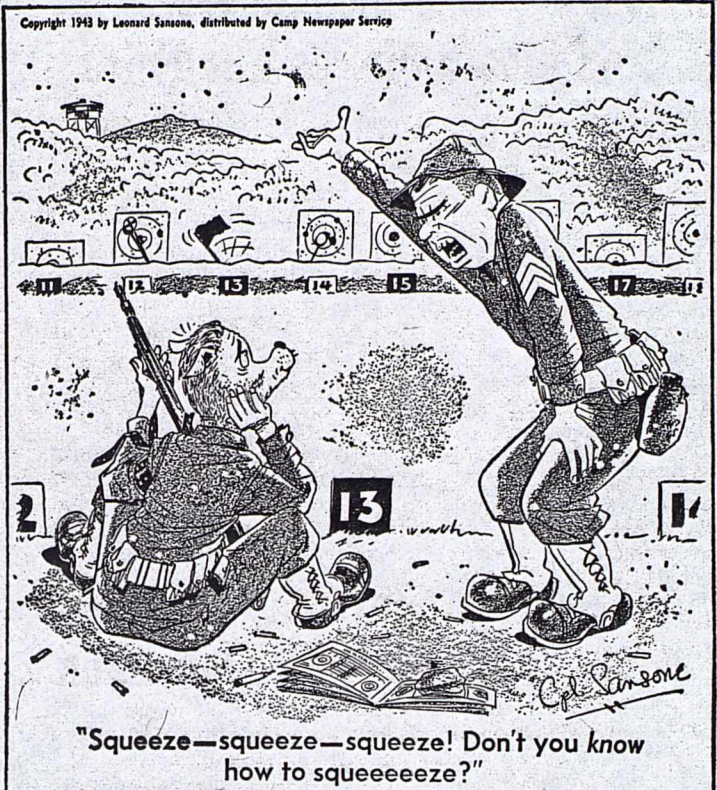
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PHOTOGRAPHERS: S-Sgt. John Lucas, Sgt. Walter Seefeldt.

The Rattler receives Camp Newspaper Service material.

## The Wolf

by Sansone



## The Diplomatic Front:

Two world wars have dealt near-fatal punishment to the French Nation. France, a powerful creative force in western civilization's democratic development, twice has taken the greatest shock of tyranny's attempt to check man's new-found freedom and to restore authoritarian government. France, with little more than half Germany's population, suffered nearly as many casualties as the latter in the first World War. Her loss: dead, 1,357,800; wounded 4,266,000; prisoners and missing, 537,000—total casualties, 6,160,800, or 73.3 per cent of mobilized forces.

For this war, accurate statistics are not available, but France lost heavily in dead and wounded before Hitler's blitz. In addition, millions of war prisoners stagnate in Germany, and Hitler has drawn painfully on France for slave labor.

With so much of her youth and strength lost in the first World War, France fell into decadence—politically, economically, socially, and spiritually—during the 1920s and 1930s. The Nation was incapable of rising to Nazism's challenge. Since the 1940 defeat, her conquerors with brutal efficiency have sought to complete France's degeneracy—robbing her resources, curtailing the birthrate, attempting to break permanently the people's spirit.

But it is not so easy to kill a great nation. Today France is

fighting for liberation, with military force almost a half million strong and a considerable navy. Within France, the unbeaten people await their chance for revolt, meanwhile resisting with underground activities.

Betrayed and oppressed, it has been extremely difficult for the French, free and occupied, to find unity in the struggle for liberation that in time will become the equally difficult struggle for rehabilitation. Today the significant factions that would lead France to rebirth have narrowed to the followers of General Henri Giraud and Gen. Charles De Gaulle, a clashing combination of expediency and idealism.

Last week, the two leaders jointly had established the French Committee of National Liberation, a central "trustee government" to exercise French sovereignty until such time as a provisional government may be established in metropolitan France. The course appears to be toward eventually a Fourth Republic formed by the people of France.

Western civilization shall need the added stability and the inspiration of a reborn democratic France. National recuperation may be long and difficult, with severe relapses. But if suffering has taught France the value of democracy—and the eternal vigilance required for its preservation—the new France may become even greater than the old.



# THE CHAPLAIN SAYS -



Last Sunday was the feast-day of courage, the feast of the Holy Spirit. The Apostles had finished three years of training with Christ: they were almost ready to take the field on their own. But the death of Christ found them lacking the courage to be heroes. They huddled together in a little room, not daring to meet their enemies in the street of Jerusalem.

Then came the first Pentecost Sunday. With the sound of a great wind, and in the form of tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit descended upon these fearful men. And from that moment on cowardice was licked. Every one of those men braved martyrdom, in imitation of their Master.

We cannot feel any resentment or scorn for the Apostles for being afraid. There is nothing surprising about their fear. They were just like any one of us. Nobody looks forward to battle as a thing to be enjoyed. None of us here would prefer jungle fighting to a nice quiet Sunday at home. We're all just a little afraid.

To give us courage for the battle, we need some extra steel in get it by prayer. We can get it not from sales talks; not even from our training program; certainly not from gospels of hate. We can get it by prayer. We can get it from the Holy Spirit, the divine source of invincible courage.

The Holy Spirit is God. He's the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, just as much God as the Father and the Son. The special work of the Father is the creation and preservation of the world; of the Son, the redemption of the world; and if the Holy Spirit, the strengthening of men against their enemies.

And so we pray to Him for courage: courage to go out on the field of physical battle bravely. To Him we pray the prayer of the Christian soldier: "God the Holy Spirit, when mine comes, let me take it like a man. Put steel in my heart that I may fight as one who is worthy of the land and the principles for which he fights."

And we pray to Him for courage to stand up bravely on the field of moral battle. He's the one we ask to keep us from sin. He's the one to Whom we say: "God the Holy Spirit, when temptation comes, when sin looks good to me, when You know I am about to fail, protect me. Put fire in my heart and steel in my soul, that I may always live as a Christian soldier; that when I die, I may die a man."

—Chaplain Bernard J. Gannon

## PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sunday: Aviation Squadron Service, 0900.  
1030, Base Chapel  
1430, Hospital Service  
1930, Base Chapel  
Wednesday: Bible Study Class, 1930.  
Thursday: Chapel Chorus Rehearsal, 1900.  
Community Sing, 2000.  
Motion Picture, 2030.

## CATHOLIC SERVICES

Sunday Masses: 0600, 0800, and 1615.  
Weekday Masses: every day but Thursday, 1730.  
Hospital Mass: Thursday, 1500, in Hospital Mess Hall.  
Evening Devotions: Tuesday, 1930. Friday, 2100.  
Confessions: Saturday, afternoon and evening to 2100.  
Sunday, before the Masses.

## JEWISH SERVICES

Friday: Sabbath Evening Services, 1930.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

Sunday, 1715.

# The Inquiring Line

**Q. I'd like to take out some insurance and would like to know whether I have to take another physical as I've been in the Army over a year. My pal says I must. Is he right?**

A. You won't have to take a medical exam. A new amendment to the National Service Life Insurance Act permits all persons on active duty in the armed forces, regardless of date of entry, to obtain new or additional Service insurance without taking a medical exam. The amendment is effective for 120 days after April 12, or until Aug. 10, 1943. It applies to all servicemen regardless of physical condition.

**Q. Can you give me any dope on the new Judge Advocate Officers Candidate School? I was a lawyer in civilian life and would like to apply for this school.**

A. Requirements of the Judge Advocate School call for a minimum age limit of 28 and a law degree from an approved university. Enlisted men with four or more years of law practice will get preference. The first class started this month at the U. of Michigan. If you meet the requirements you may make application for transfer through regular channels.

# AT THE THEATER

"Mission to Moscow," Warner Brothers' version of former Ambassador Joseph E. Davies' book, comes to the Base Theater today and Thursday.

Easily one of the most important films of the year, it has everything, including—in the opinion of the more reputable critics—a generous portion of clumsiness.

The New Yorker's David Lardner even called it inept, which in our dictionary means not apt or perhaps foolish. But the same Mr. Lardner also thought it might be "a good picture," summing it up in the "Goings on about Town" this way: "The case for Russia is presented with a great deal of ineptitude in this screening of Mr. Davies' book, but it's a strong-enough case to stand by itself. Walter Huston, Oscar Homolka, and Ann Harding play some of the important people involved."

In Liberty, Harriet Gould—expressing a majority opinion—didn't find Mr. Lardner's objection. She said: "Mission to Moscow is a healthy movie. It is not only a tribute to an ally, but a solid punch at short-sighted officials and those who would divide us so Hitler can conquer."

A fan sheet, Movie Story, said: "The film is a pictorial review of the history we saw being made from 1936 on. It is an organized and dramatic study of the political events leading up to the war."

What the semi-fascist publications had to say about this picture was long & loud, none of it being worth restatement here.

With the exception of "They Came to Blow up America," either too new or too bad (the former, probably) to have received national comment as yet, titles and casts of the other movies of the week are self-explanatory.

## This Week's Schedule—

Wed. & Thurs. — "Mission To Moscow," with Walter Huston & Ann Harding. Paramount News.  
Fri. — "They Came to Blow Up America," with George Saunders & Anna Sten. Shorts: Wood Goes to War, Mass Mouse Meeting, & Tommy Tucker & Orch.  
Sat. — "Orchestra Wives," with Glenn Miller & Orch., George Montgomery & Ann Rutherford. Shorts: Tumblebugs & The Last Round-up.  
Sun. & Mon. — "The Ox-Bow Incident," with Henry Fonda & Mary Beth Hughes. Shorts: Show Business at War (March of Time), Unbearable Bear & Paramount News.  
Tues. — Double Feature: "Swing

## Yank Birthday



## Hatched One Year Ago

NEW YORK (CNS)—A special issue of Yank, The Army Weekly, will be on sale June 18 to mark the end of the first year of publication. It will have eight extra pages with extra Sad Sacks, pin-up gals and so on. get yours—then subscribe.

Your Partner," with Lulubell & Scotty & Vera Vague. "The Leopard Man," with Dennis O'Keefe & Margo.

## Show Time:

STARTS	ENDS
1:30 p. m.	3:30 p. m.
5:30 p. m.	7:30 p. m.
8:00 p. m.	10:00 p. m.
10:15 p. m.	12:15 a. m.

## CONVICT SERVES CAUSE

BOSTON (CNS)—Convict Ralph J. Hamm, sentenced to five years imprisonment in 1941 for a tavern holdup, underwent serum experiments for the Federal Government. As a result, thousands of servicemen's lives might be saved. He has been pardoned.

## AND CAN HE SQUAWKI!

SHEPPARD FIELD, Tex. (CNS)—Cpl. and Mrs. E. E. Duck, of this Post, have a baby son. His name—Donald Duck.

@?!X!Z,—"§!!



OKAY, CALL him that if it makes you feel better, but it doesn't hurt him any. But, buying War Bonds will. Another bond, another bomb, and yours may have this \_\_\_\_\_'s name on it.

# A A B SPORTS

## Baseball Doings In The Majors

BY PFC. HYMAN BROOK  
Sports Editor

**AMERICAN LEAGUE.** — The first place New York Yankees split two of the four games played with the Phil. Athletics this week. The Yanks took the first two by the scores of 8 to 2 and 14 to 5. The Yanks scored eight runs in one inning to tally up the 14 runs. In Sunday's games the Athletics won by the scores of 5 to 3 and 3 to 2; all of the Yankees top pitchers failed to stop the bats of the Athletics.

Boston Red Sox clipped the second place Wash. Senators for three out of their five games. Tex Hughson got his fifth victory of the season. Pete Fox Boston's right fielder got his first homer of the '43 season in Thursday's game.

Chicago White Sox edged the Detroit Tigers 3 to 1 in the first twilight game. Johnny Humphries chalked up his fourth win. Rudy York made 3 of the 4 errors which cost Detroit the game. The Detroit Tigers took both ends of a doubleheader Sun. from the Sox to take over third place.

One of the biggest disappointments in the majors this year is the Cleveland Indians, and if they don't snap out of their losing streak they might just as well join up with some class-D team. The St. Louis Browns took four straight from the Tribe and lost the fifth one in ten innings of play by the score of 2 to 1.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE.** — The St. Louis Cardinals trimmed the Pittsburg Pirates two out of three games to hold on to first place. Rookie Lou Klien's fly in the ninth gave the Cards the opening game 4 to 3. The Pirates lost Sat.'s game after pitcher Jack Hallett threw a wild pitch which gave the Cards the 1 to 0 victory.

Brooklyn Dodgers edged out the Boston Braves 4 to 3 in Thursday's game. Manager Leo Durocher returned to shortstop for Brooklyn for the first time since Sept. 28, 1941. Max Macon relieved Bobo Newsom in the ninth to get the victory. The Dodgers split with the Braves in Sunday's games 5 to 3 & 3 to 2. The Dodgers will now have one of the longest stays at home during the season and will have to make a good showing if they are going to be any kind of a threat

to the Cards.

The Cincinnati Reds plastered the Chicago Cubs at their home park 7 to 4, in the first morning game of the '43 season for the Cubs. The game started at 11 a.m., and the 8,307 fans made it the largest crowd yet. Roy Muller got his first homer of the season. The Reds nosed out the Cubs in Sat. game 6 to 5 in 11 innings of play. Frankie McCormick hammered one for the Reds in the 10th inning. The Reds split a twin-bill with the Cubs in Sunday's games.

The Phillies took three out of four frames from the N. Y. Giants. In Saturday's games the Phillies swept a doubleheader from the Giants by the margin of 1 run in both games. Scores of Sunday's games were 6 to 3 and 6 to 2.

## Medics Shut Out 30th 'C' Team

With almost boring precision, the Medics undefeated softball team continues to mow down opposition. Last week the 30th Bomb Squadron's "C" team fell before them.

Despite several strong efforts to score, the "C" team was shut out, 3 to 0. "Pop" Semler, Medics manager, is still calling for challengers to meet his champs.

Last week the Medics also defeated the Ordnance Detachment, 6 to 4. The game was tied 4-4 until the last half of the 6th, when Sgt. Gilhooley banged out a homer. Kronenburg, catcher, and Okenka, on the mound, formed the Medics' battery. The Medics have won 15 straight games without a loss.

**CAMP CHAFFEE, Ark. (CNS)**— "What's the T-7 stand for?" asked an inspecting officer when he surveyed those numerals on the bunk card of one of the men here.

"Tank duty, sir," replied the soldier, "seven days a week."

Like the Phillies, the Boston Braves are a cinch to pass last year's attendance. They played to more than 120,000 in their first 19 home games. Total paid last year was 330,000.

## Big Week In Fight Game Features Titles At Stake, Hot Texas Bout

### BIVENS WINS TITLE

**CLEVELAND, June 9.** — Jimmy Bivens is now the new light-heavyweight champ for the duration since his kayo over Lloyd Marshall in the 13th round. Bivens made it his 11th straight win since he lost a 10-round decision to Bob Pastor. After a short rest Bivens will possibly meet Melio Bettina or Lou Nova. 18,448 fans saw the excellent card under lights.

### BOOD DECISION

Jake La Motta the kid from the Bronx took a 10-round booted decision from Fritzie Zivic. Pressman sitting within the the first four rows of the ringside all had their ballots favoring Zivic at the end of the fight, but Referee Al Gray saw it in a different light (no doubt). Associated Press gave La Motta the first, seventh and tenth rounds.

### PEP BEATS BARTOLO

Willie Pep, who defended his feather-weight crown for the first time, defeated Sal Bartolo in a 15-round decision. It was considered a close fight up until Pep slashed Bartolo to the floor in the 13th round with a barrage of lefts and rights; after that it was a walk-away for the kid from Hartford, Conn. The bout netted Pep \$30,000. Pep is now seeking a bout with Callura, who is considered the NBA champ before he enters the army.

### U.S. BOXERS WIN

**LONDON, June 11.** — United States Army Boxers took a 6-5 victory over British picked fighters in an inter-service championship tournament. A capacity crowd of 10,000, including soldiers and civilians, saw the allies dispute each other in the ring.

### TEXAS BOUT IS THRILLER

**DALLAS, Texas.** — With the Texas heavyweight title at stake, Jack Marshall of Dallas outpointed Buddy Scott in what was one of the most hair-raising fights to be put on for many years in Texas. The bout was so close that the fight fans stood around the ring after it was all over. Jack Marshall, who was the underdog in the betting circles by an 8-5 choice, came through in the final rounds with all the power of a B-17. Scott outboxed Marshall in the earlier rounds, causing cuts over both Marshall's eyes, and landed many body blows. The fight being such a thriller promises a re-matching of the boys very soon.

The 3,000 fight fans that were on hand was the largest crowd

since fighting made its comeback in Texas.

### WALKER SUSPENDED

**NEW YORK, June 11.** — The New York State Athletic Commission suspended Eddie Walker, manager of Chalky Wright, for failing to sign a contract that called for a title bout June 25 with Willie Pep. The Athletic Commission said it would be in the best interest of boxing. Anytime that Manager Eddie Walker wants to work his way around that suspension all he has to do is have his boy Chalky Wright act as his own manager and make his own matches. Of course Eddie Walker wouldn't say a word!

### FIGHTS POSTPONED

**NEW YORK, June 12.** — Henry Armstrong, who defeated Sammy Angott Friday night at Madison Square Garden, will be forced to postpone his fights with Willie Joyce on June 26 and with Jimmy Garrison on July 13, because of injuries to his mouth caused during his fight with Angott. Manager George Moore said it would be possibly two months before Armstrong goes into action.

### LOUIS NOT TO QUIT

**HOLLYWOOD, Calif., June 11.** — Joe Louis today made a statement to clear up any doubt which his followers may have concerning his retiring from the ring or crown. Joe said he has no intentions of quitting or giving up his crown for at least another four years. Louis made this statement while making a picture called "This Is The Army."

## Hq. Squadron Men Groan In Cadence

Men of the Base Headquarters Squadron are moaning and groaning these days under the lash of a new training program that pops them out of bed at 5:15 a.m.

The schedule, which began Monday, June 14, calls for completion of breakfast and barracks clean up by 6:45. Then, in athletic clothing or fatigues, the men do calisthenics and drill for an hour — unless the instructor forgets to look at his watch. Much more of that, and they should be ready for combat with typewriters.

Insiders claim Kirby Higbe's arm trouble is mostly mental.

## Base League To Organize

Organization of the Rattlesnake Bomber Base Softball League is underway. In order to pick out the all-star team there will be play-offs among squadrons. All squadrons and other organizations having a softball team will make their entries with the sports editor of the Rattler.

No more than 15 men will be allowed on any one team, but there is no limit as to how many teams can be entered. The deadline for all entries is on or before June 22.

There is some real talent here at the base, and as many entries as possible are desired. Just as soon as the all-star team is selected, plans will be made to play bases nearby, such as Midland, Pecos, Odessa and El Paso. Lt. Charles Yaeger, base athletic director, will have prizes awarded.

## Eight Pyote Men Set High Records In P. T. Tests

Eight Pyote officers and enlisted men made highest record for individuals on the physical training tests given all personnel recently, it was announced today by the wing P.T. officer. In addition, Pyote squadrons carried off six records based on squadron averages.

The individual records:

1st Sgt. G. Maney of the Aviation Squadron and Pvt. V. Holt of Base Headquarters each ran the 300-yard dash in 35 seconds to tie for top place.

Capt. T. C. Parkinson and Lt. G. C. Osbourne, both of the 28th Squadron, 19th Group, and Lt. D. W. Thompson of the 435th Squadron, 19th Group, ran the 300 in 37 seconds to come in at the top in the officers' class.

Lt. S. A. Bell, 93rd Sq., 19th Group, was top man in the stand & jump with 9 ft., 10 inches.

Lt. J. Wallach, 93rd Squadron, made a record of 47 push-ups, and Lt. R. B. Atchison, 435th, was tops with 92 sit-ups.

In the enlisted class, the 435th took squadron honors with an average of 42.9 seconds on the 300 and 25 on pushups.

Squadrons' records for officers were set as follows: stand & jump, 8 ft., 19th Reception Center; Burpee, 15.1, 28th Squadron, 19th; sit-ups, 42.1, 30th Squadron; 300-yard dash, 40.6, Payne's Airdrome Squadron.

The next Physical Achievement test will be June 21-26.

## Communications

BY ROGER WILCO

This week's top billing goes to our new CO, 2nd Lt. Jesse H. Wakefield, Jr., formerly of Nashville, Tenn. . . . just out of OCS in Miami, he came up the hard way and really knows his communications . . . graduated from Scott Field, parent Air Forces radio school, and was assigned to the Airways Communications Sq. at San Antonio . . . proceeded to specialize in control tower work and qualified as a CTO . . . served as a trick chief in towers at Ellington Field, Duncan Field and Kelly Field . . . his ability is recognized here and already efficiency of the outfit is on the upswing.

Add to Lt. Wakefield, three new S-Sgts . . . specialists all . . . and our new personnel list ends . . . S-Sgt. Paul Ferenci, formerly of Bergstrom Field . . . S-Sgt. James Schillerstrom, formerly of Kelly Field . . . S-Sgt. Harvey Raad, formerly of Goodfellow field. Both M-Sgt. James Godsey (station chief) and S-Sgt. Harry McDougal (tower chief) are jubilant over the addition of such talented performers.

Excerpts from the daily log: S-Sgt. Ray Kerwin flatly states that a low altitude chute probably would have saved him in a recent barracks maneuver when he sustained a severe wrenched ankle and was hospitalized. Glancing up, this correspondent noted "our boy" flying very low and headed for the floor.

Prospects for a steak fry deluxe in cooperation with the Weather Department have all the tower men in a dither. Balmorhea Park has been officially selected for the affair, and both outfits are running around like mad—lil ole red date books in hand, screaming: "whom shall I take . . . Ah yes!"

Cpl. Dale Wiele of Weather deserves the lion's share of the credit for all progress to date.

S-Sgt. Bob Conradi has been reinstated as an aviation cadet (aircrew) and is patiently (???) awaiting his appointment and duty orders. Pfc. Joe Conroy is confined to the ailing room with scarlet fever and all latest reports have it that he has the distressing situation well in hand. Visits by men in our outfit have cheered him, but "sugar reports" have been the light of his life. And finally, what S-Sgt. was seen at a recent film (on the field) with a winsome and vivacious Texas Miss from the Signal Office?

Serious Thought: Now that we have run the Axis out of Africa, and the invasion of Europe is imminent, let's all pull together more than ever . . . buy bonds and more bonds!



### PX WILL NOT SERVE OFFICERS

Effective today (June 16) no officer will be served in the cafeteria, soda fountain or tap room of the Post Exchange.

Authority: Base Memorandum No. 212.

### ALL MUST WEAR SLEEVE INSIGNIA

Beginning at noon Friday (June 18) military personnel not in proper uniform (which includes the sleeve insignia) will not be admitted to Officers' Mess, Officers' Club, Post Theater or Recreation Building.

Shoulder sleeve insignia will be worn on the upper part of the outer half of the left sleeve of the blouse or shirt; when worn on an outer garment, the top of the insignia is to be one-half inch below the top of shoulder seam.

Authority: Base Memorandum 161 & Letter dated June 14.

### ORIGINAL 'WAAC' DIES

DALLAS, Tex. (CNS) — Mrs Lizzie Redwood Goode, 98, the "grandmomma" of all the WAACs, died recently at her home here. During the Civil War Mrs. Goode worked in a Confederate military office to release a Southern man to fight against the Union.

## T-Sgt. Fillmore Appointed WO

Appointment of Tech-Sgt. Richard M. Fillmore of Base Flight as Warrant Officer, Jr. Grade, was announced today by Lt. Col. Clarence L. Hewitt, Jr., base commander.

Twenty-year-old W. O. Fillmore will continue on duty at Base Flight where he will be assistant aircraft maintenance engineering officer.

W. O. Fillmore enlisted in the Air Forces three years ago after attending the California Aeronautical School. Prior to assignment to the Rattlesnake Bomber Base he was at Kelly Field, Texas, Ft. Douglas, and Gowen Field, Idaho. His home is Jacksboro, Texas.

## Nation's School Kids Buy 39,535 Jeeps

The school kids are behind you men, though the stubby Jeep's fascination for them may partially account for their record.

Students of 20,000 American schools oversubscribed by 400 per cent their quota of 10,000 Jeeps during the April War Saving Stamp campaign, according to an Associated Press report on a Treasury announcement.

The children bought \$36,000,000 in stamps, enough to buy 39,535 Jeeps—or an average of two for each school taking part in the drive—at about \$900 per vehicle.

Pennsylvania led with 5,402, with Texas a close second, 5,111.



By BOB FORREST

"Mom made this parachute—she don't trust nothin' GI!"



## Supply

### BY LOW-SCORE FOUR

Our Supply Officer is getting uniformed-minded. He is seeking an extended visit to Waco, Texas, thinking that's where the WAAC's come from! After all, Lt. Frisinger, we have WAAC's here now—why not give the Pyote WAAC's the first chance?

What's this we hear about Mr. Patterson's new pajamas. It's reported that they're batiste and that a girl sent them to him!

Conley (Hysteria) Colburn celebrated his 30th birthday last Sunday. For instructions on how to entertain an inspector on moving day be sure to see Colburn, as he's an expert!

Wonder if Lt. Jordan thinks he's an exception—doesn't the devil come out in everyone at night?

Girl with "C" Book and car is looking for spare tire. Rubber tire preferred. Interested persons please contact Laverne Wilson.

Next time Al Leby is sick we'll bet he suffers in silence. He went to the doctor with an ear ache and came out with a sore throat and bruised nose, and instructions to see the dentist, as the trouble seemed to be with his teeth. However, the dentist found him too ill for treatment as the result of his first encounter with the medicos. Dirty remarks are floating around Contracting and Purchasing to the effect that Leby was only hypnotized by the glitter of those "gold bricks."

We don't understand the full particulars, but it was called to our attention that Min Timm is industriously brushing up on her Spanish. Can she be drowning her sorrow in study, or has a new interest inspired her?

We suggest an up-do hairdress to eliminate the long face that Bea Garner is wearing around the office these days. It can be easily understood, since her "Love" has went!

We would like to have seen the procession carrying Lt. Wyper into the hospital the other day, with Lt. Frisinger at the head and Lt. Jordan at the foot. When Lt. Wyper refused to groan, Lt. Jordan burst forth with some spine-tingling ones, causing two nurses and three ward boys to rush to their assistance. All this was for a simple change of bandage on Lt. Dwyper's almost completely healed footsie.

## Waiting For A Wolf?



**THAT EXPRESSION** — piquant mixture of apprehension and curiosity — would indicate the above parlor-posed pretty to be expecting one of Sansone's subjects to drop in drooling at any moment. Irish and blonde, Miss Martha O'Driscoll plays opposite John Garfield in RKO Radio's "The Fallen Sparrow."

## Engineering

### BY MARGARET MYERS

We are anxious to see Lt. Riley and S-Sgt. Arthur "Jingle Jangle" Rocke get the band into action. We were wondering if Lt. Riley's keen interest in Rocke's jungle drumming could be a holdover from going native while in the islands. How about that, Lt. Riley? Seems there would be a spot in the band for Pvt. Dick "Jigaboo" Armstrong. We hear he throws a mean hip when accompanied by the nasal tones of Jimmy "Bagpipe" Daffen.

Who's the "Serenade in Red" that bothers Sgt. Metcalf so much? Helen Williams is a new addition to the Sub-Depot Engineering personnel, and may we add, a very pleasant one too. We wonder how Cpl. McEntee gets any electrical work done with all those young ladies around to help him. They are a help, aren't they?

We like the competitive spirit between the night and day shift

in the parachute department, but let's not be working over ten hours per shift. Sgt. Buchan is beginning to wonder if Mrs. Hauffman will ever introduce her daughter to him.

Zomcak is still looking for a WAAC to date up. Suppose you could help him out, girls? Sgt. Howard approves very highly of the WAAC fatigue uniforms,

Bill Hall in Stock Procurement is pulling his hair out—won't you lay off a while, Paul Reid? Georgia Lewis, clerk in Inspection, is wearing a big grin . . . a third letter; he is in the Navy . . . she has forsaken the Air Corps, boys. It is rumored S-Sgt. Thomas in Inspection is "headed for the depot." Jack Drake, instrument foreman, "got in line" this week with a small gift to R. D.—don't shove, Jack, the end of the line is way back. With the new smoking restriction in effect, the slogan is: "Across 'A' street to smoke a cigarette."

## Weather Or Not?

### BY CPL. SEYMOUR G. SAUL

This column has not appeared for the past three weeks because the whole staff has been pretty busy putting the station back in order after getting its new floor, lights and other necessary equipment. Now that the job is tucked under our belts, we are once again prepared to present the happenings at ye olde weather station.

Congratulations are in order for S-Sgts. Miller and Campochairio on their promotion to Tech. Sgt., and to Pfc's Krummel, Royer, Schaffer and Saul who finally became corporals.

Our observers have started going on flights, helping the bombardiers and navigators properly fill out weather forms. The first ones to go up were Reese, Schaffer and Saul. Two of them enjoyed the trip, but the other one was mighty glad when the B-17 landed on the runway, because it seems that the "upper air" didn't agree with him.

T-Sgt. Miller is leaving on furlough June 19th, and from all indications, he "might" return a married man.

In collaboration with the "Tower Tillies," we are planning a shindig to be held at either Monahans Country Club or Balmorhea Park. Preparations are still in the early stages.

Mrs. Mayfield, wife of Cpl. Larry Mayfield, arrived in town a couple of weeks ago, and treated some of the boys to a delicious steak dinner, barbecued at the Monahans park by Chef Krummel, assisted by the entire party.

The weathermen are proudly displaying their new sleeve emblems, which consist of a gold wind vane and a blue triangular background, and is worn four inches above the cuff on the right sleeve.

T-Sgt. Campochairio and Cpl. Gaytan are currently attending the gas school, and upon completion of the course, will instruct the rest of the Weather Staff.

### SOLDIER REPORTS FOR KP: LEARNS OF HIS DISCHARGE

**CAMP WHITE, Ore. (CNS)** — Pvt Anthony Philbin, DEML, had been hanging around camp for a week, awaiting final confirmation of his certified disability discharge.

One day he showed up at the mess hall for KP.

"What are you doing here?" said the mess sergeant.

"My name's on the KP list," said the amiable Philbin.

"Hell's bells, man," screamed the Sergeant. "You were discharged from the Army last Saturday."

Philbin left camp within the hour.

# WAAC Flak

BY AUX. SYLVIA WEXLER

The WAAC Post Headquarters Company takes this opportunity to thank the personnel of the Rattlersnake Bomber Base for their cordial welcome. We surely do feel at home here and hope to do a good job so you-all will be proud of us.

As this is our first column, may we introduce ourselves?

First, a salute to our officers, the best a Waac could have:

1st Officer (Capt.), Marie Moran of Potsdam, New York.

3rd Officer (2nd Lt.), Edith Haslam of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

3rd Officer (2nd Lt.), Marjorie A. Stewart of Chicago, Ill.

And we musn't forget our Cadre—they're tops:

Alren H. Vincent, Port Arthur, Texas; Catherine R. Vransy, Baltimore, Maryland; Carrie Dennis, Cleveland, Ohio; Marguerite C. Ereksen, Staten Island, New York; Margaret M. Nugent, E. Newark, New Jersey; Louise L. Riden, Cleveland, Ohio; Annabelle Ogden, Warsaw, New York; Rita D. Burke, Cincinnati, Ohio; Roberta M. Eiselstein, Dallas, Texas; Dora B. Frye, Jeannette, Pa.; Cora L. Reed, Highland, Texas; Ethel Theresa Thibodeaux, New Orleans, La.

And the rest of our Company—Sgts. Corporals, A.F.C.'s, and a few poor little Auxies—come from all parts of the United States:

ALABAMA: Catherine E. Law-horne, Montgomery.

California: Nila O. Dee and Ruby R. Reaves of Los Angeles.

CONNECTICUTT: Doris E. Ferrell, New London; Sylvia L. Wexler, Bridgeport.

ILLINOIS: Ruth M. Armstrong, Mabel Bledsoe, Virginia Duncan, Vera Hrevus, Irene Nasalski, Lila M. Piercy, Helen R. Wagner, Melba M. Yost and Cecelia Wiater, all of Chicago. Letha C. Cutler, Mattoon.

INDIANA: Mabel Cron, Indianapolis; June Barber, Bicknell.

IOWA: Ethel F. Mathes, Cedar Rapids; Virginia Ickes, Des Moines; Mary F. Welch, Fort Dodge.

LOUISIANA: Violet R. Jacobs, New Orleans.

MARYLAND: Eleanor R. Adams, Mt. Ranier.

MASSACHUSETTS: Florence Hall, Boston.

MICHIGAN: Blanche Lightbourn, Detroit; Dorothy B. Quaife, Highland Park.

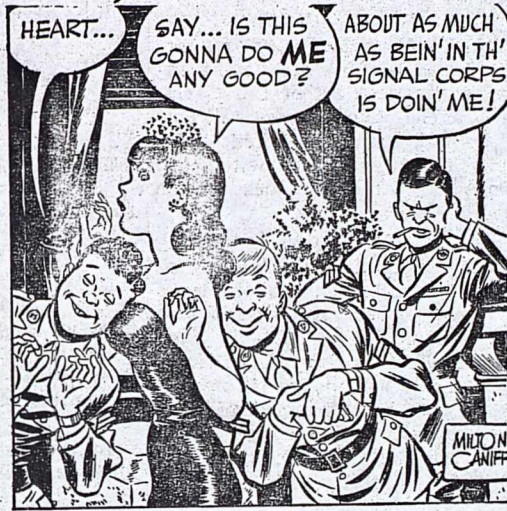
MISSISSIPPI: Vernis G. Montis, Hattiesburg.

MONTANA: Dorothy Jane Orser, Kalispell.

NEBRASKA, Opal I. Grandorff,

# M A L E C A L L

BY  
MILTON  
CANIFF



Lincoln.  
NEW JERSEY: Helen B. Henyll-Rafter, Morristown; Claire Ann Lowitz, Newark; Edwina M. Mazzei, Keansburg; Esther Schwartz, Newark.  
NEW YORK: Lenore M. Assante, Helen Birnbaum, Rose Daly, Esther D'Eustachio, and Ruth Tucker, all of New York City; Edna L. Collins, Brooklyn; Charlotte Gold, Astoria, L. I.; Amy E. Poole Syosset, L. I.; Irene B. Zenger, Tupper Lake; Rose W. Schubaur, Buffalo.  
NORTH CAROLINA: Lois V. Cunningham, Wilmington; Gladys W. Wilson, Burlington.  
OHIO: Lulu H. Fockler, Mansfield; Theora C. French, Cincinnati; Vivian Nicholson, Golion.  
OKLAHOMA: Marie H. Derby, Enid; Helen P. Glen, Shawnee.  
PENNSYLVANIA: Mary L. Calhoun, Springfield; Sarah Marie Collins, Pittsburgh, Sara Libfield, E. Stroodsbury; Jean Young Morrison, Emlenton; Althea Wagner, Allentown; Roberta H. Zentz, W. Nanticoke.  
RHODE ISLAND: Helen A. Bodge, Providence; Eleanor R. Plauffe, Woonsocket.  
SOUTH CAROLINA: Eloise Carter, Neeses.

TEXAS: Roberta Deason, Fort Worth.  
VIRGINIA: Tima Hoy, Emporia.  
WEST VIRGINIA: Leafy E. Ballou, Beckley; Margaret S. McCune, Fairmont; Ruby L. Tolley, Picataligo.  
WISCONSIN: Margaret E. Schneider, Kaukauna; Lillian T. Wiedeman, Wauwatosa.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.: Vivian L. Simmons.  
We surely have been getting service from the Quartermaster. Could it be that they like the Waacs—or is it that they have their eyes on our pretty little Supply Sergeant?  
Conversation of a newly arrived Waac and a veteran "G.I." of Rattlersnake Bomber Base:  
G.I.—Well, how do ya like Pyote?  
Waac—Swell, but isn't it hot during the day?  
G.I.—Sure is; but the nights—oh, the nights; they're so cool—and romantic!  
Waac—Mmmmm, but back home - - -  
G.I.—Where ya from?  
Waac—Connecticut (or Ohio, or California, or any other State).

G.I.—Do ya have K.P.?  
Waac—You bet—and latrine duty and Barracks Police.  
G.I.—What d'ya call your officers? Lt. Darling!  
Waac—Oh, No—we call them "ma'am."  
G.I.—(After more of the above conversation) How about the movies tonite?  
Waac—Swell.  
G.I.—By the way, what's yer name?  
One of the truck drivers thinks this WAAC crowd is sure hungry. When Mess Sergeant Ogden yelled, "O.K., girls, unload the truck."—they sure did! The driver was so surprised to see the Waacs unload the truck, he forgot to say, "stop." They had taken all the load off and only one-eighth of it belonged to the WAAC.  
And what happens to the supplies in that kitchen is something like mother used to make happen—hot biscuits, individual salads and chocolate pies—yummy! If you want good food—eat at the WAAC Mess Hall.  
We sure felt swell marching down to the parade grounds. Hope we did right by Lt. Col. Hewitt and the Rattlersnake Bomber Base.



## 28th Bomb Squadron

BY S-SGT. SHELBY WICKAM

A majority of the returned diggers are suffering from eye strain, a result of too many long periods of gazing in the direction of the WAAC Manor. According to the Stool News Agency, the fair GIs have been cautioned to avoid the members of the 19th who are "the biggest wolves on the Base." WAACKy wolves, no doubt.

2nd Lt. Mary Kennedy and WO (jg) Collin R. Pinkerton were enjoying the beauties of the Carlsbad Caverns until someone directly behind them remarked, "My, what a cute WAAC with that handsome officer." Guess who's ears burned and why.

Sgt. Sharol L. Ayers is burning the midnight oil, with Kipling as the main subject. Cobber Ayers is trying to persuade himself that the famous adage "East is East, West is West, and never the twain shall meet" (he hopes) is applicable to the blonde in Detroit, and the brunette in San Diego. Either way, the Sarge is headed for a belle and wedding bells.

There is at least one, and possibly more, of the boys who are strong disciples of the repetition of history theory. Official and unofficial letters from Down Under are causing ample headaches and sleepless nights.

Success Story: A year ago, the Orderly Room staff was composed of the following: 1st Lt. Victor J. Poncik, Adjutant; First Sergeant Collin B. Pinkerton, top kick; Sgt. Eugene O. Mutschler, company clerk; Sgt. Royce J. Hansen, assistant personnel clerk; and Cpl. Shelby Wickam, file clerk. The 1943 version: Captain Poncik, Commanding Officer; WO (jg) Pinkerton, Adjutant; First Sergeant Mutschler, top kick; S-Sgt. Hansen, chief personnel clerk; and S-Sgt. Wickam, Sgt. Major.

2nd Lt. Anson E. McMurtrey's observation of the week: "After one day on the gunnery range, I am thoroughly convinced the Squadron should be armed with sling shots and air rifles." What, no hat pins?

Someone mentioned a boat trip, and immediately one hundred applications for aviation cadet and OCS were submitted. Evidently the boys don't appreciate the pleasure (?) of a heavenly (?) South Sea cruise.

S-Sgt. James B. Holley was sweating out a trip to the altar until appendicitis grabbed him. Oh

well, one can marry any day, while an appendectomy occurs only once in a life time.

Orchids to: M-Sgt. Joseph J. (In the Bag) Fersch, who, after fifteen years of sweating (and we do mean sweating) in the Army, received an appointment as WO(jg).

S-Sgt. Leo E. Shreve, ex combat member, and now supply sergeant, became lonesome for the drone of a B-17. So, he took the exhaust off his Ford. The results were beautiful; the general public is deafened, and the Sarge is happy.

## Altitude Training

BY PVT. HENRY SPAS

The Rattlesnake Bomber Base here at Pyote is developing new ways to accustom flyers to the difficulties of high altitude. We now have an altitude chamber which helps our flyers know what happens to their bodies in high altitude flying, and how to use their oxygen equipment. The bomber crews fly here without ever leaving the ground. They nearly hit the sky limit of the human body in this chamber as they are exposed to the low pressures equivalent to an altitude of 38,000 feet.

Even with 100 per cent oxygen, a human being cannot go any higher than 42,000 feet, because the total atmospheric pressure is so low that not enough oxygen can get down into the lungs, and into the blood stream to the vital organs, such as the brain.

All you flyers that have heard stories about the chamber, the gossip about how you blackout and get the "bends," we assure you that you'll be safe in our hands. So, don't be afraid, come with full spirit, and get this much needed experience.

This unit has grown a great deal since the time it began. In the early part of May, there were only two officers and three enlisted men. Today we have several times that strength and our secretary, Miss Joyce Ragsdale, all striving to do their jobs to the best of their ability. Six combat crews go through the chamber each day.

The officers which are now on duty are 1st Lt. Hafenschiel, MC, 1st Lt. Rogers, MC, and 1st Lt. Blair, AC.

We are expecting more of-

## ❖ WINGS ❖

Wings! Wings! Wings!  
Carry me upward into the blue,  
And above all earthly things.  
How I delight to fly with you.  
Hark! How my motor sings.

Wings! Wings! Wings!  
What ecstasy your impulse brings!  
Bear me over the city's spires,  
Safe thru' trees and myriad wires,  
Propulsive force that sings.

Wings! Wings! Wings!  
Above the toil of the busy main.  
Over the clouds and under Heaven  
By wings of my aeroplane.  
Carefree, happy, motor-driven,  
The Infinite claims me again.

Wings! Wings! Wings!  
A deep-felt wish that clings,  
Comes to me, 'Tis that I might  
Never go back to earthly things  
But forever ride thru' a starry  
height

On wings! Wings! Wings!  
—Aletha "Mom" Conner

Dedicated to the officers and enlisted men of the 19th Bombardment Group, flying veterans of the Pacific war.

## Laff Of The Week

NEW YORK (CNS)—The U. S. Navy, an armed force, has its own little tricks of locating those individuals who can be trusted with secrets, both military and political. This story is about a detective-like Naval intelligence officer who approached a civilian in reference to a man who was trying to get a lieutenant-commander's commission in one of those branches which deals with mysterious things. "What we are trying to find out in particular," said the investigator, "is whether or not the applicant is the kind of a man who would tell secrets to women."

Officers and more enlisted men in the near future. The Altitude Training building is adjoining the Dispensary at the Base Hospital.

The other day when we took a crew up in the chamber:

Pilot: "How high are we, observer?"

Observer: "28,000."

Pilot: "It sure is rough out today."

The ATU's would like to know why Lt. Blair likes cactus plants so well.

Robert Freas, one of the first enlisted men in this unit received a letter from his future wife. After reading the letter he noticed a few words in the lower corner of the letter: "With Love—Keep 'Em Breathing."



## Genter's Outfit

BY SGT. LLOYD K. PEARSON

The Genter Squadron had its first lecture of the Army Orientation Course under the supervision and instruction of S-Sgt. John Hudson and Cpl. Alpheus Hodge. The lecture was extremely interesting, and Cpl. Hodge is to be complimented on his knowledge of past and current events.

On Tuesday, June 15, the last of the original Blue Room gang departed for parts unknown. It was none other than Sgt. Harry Dewalt, president and oldest member of this well known club for relaxation and thirst quenching. A new membership drive is now underway, and all men who appreciate the bacchanalian art are invited to subscribe.

Athletic Notes: The Genter Service Squadron has challenged the undefeated Medics to a game of baseball, Wednesday evening, June 16. The time will be 6:30 p.m., so let's be out there and give the team some support with a rooting section.

The age of chivalry is not dead. At least not as far as S-Sgts. Devine and Zimmer and Sgt. Manuppelli are concerned. While on the train bound for St. Louis, a rare deed of chivalry was performed. It seems that the train became quite crowded at Ft. Worth, and, without any further ado, S-Sgt. Devine raises four fingers and shouts: "Four seats for four ladies." The four ladies immediately appeared with grateful faces while the three sergeants and another unfortunate soul arose and departed. For some unknown reason, S-Sgt. Devine wasn't very popular during the rest of the trip.

Pfc. Darby has established himself as quite a marksman with the rifle at target practice. Could it be the ladies who give him such a keen eye, or was it squirrel hunting back home? Entertainment at rifle practice has been furnished by Pvt. John Konieczny and Pfc. Edward Marciniak who warble Polish ditties in volume far outdoing the noise of the gunfire. Whether this helps the efficiency of the riflemen or not, it is unintelligible to the boys who are accustomed to songs in English.

## BLAMES CUPID

DENVER, Col. (CNS) — An AWOL soldier was picked up and charged with staging seven successive holdups. He blamed his brief career in crime on his girl, who, he said, broke a date.

# MEDICAL DETACHMENT

By S-Sgt. Lawrence Shipp

In one respect only can the Medical Detachment be compared to New York City: everything does happen and anything can happen! Remember last week?

The "Blue Room," better known as the Mess Hall, was the scene of the big Medics party last Saturday night. Incidentally, Sgt. Bollman's paint job really looks good. It's startling to think there were so many "volunteers," isn't it?

Gas school is over for five NCOs of the Medics. No more sniff tests, watery eyes, or air conditioned lecture halls—wonder if they have any regrets?

The inner court of the PX has definitely turned out to be the great meeting place for Sgts. Villa, Rayfield, and Gilhooley. Who's the attractive red head, Sgt. Rayfield? Bet she's not from St. Louis. Leave it up to Sgt. Gilhooley; he knows which side his bread is buttered on. Rumors say she's a mess sergeant, and what happened to you, Sgt. Villa—get lost?

The most unusual event of the past 2 months occurred when Barracks 1 finally passed inspection once! It couldn't have been the work of the "Boy Scouts" who just moved in could it? One glance in that barracks really brings back memories of Jefferson Barracks, Mo., or Kearns, Utah, doesn't it?

What sergeant was delivering Lincoln's Gettysburg address to a very small and inattentive audience one Saturday night between the dayroom and Barracks 2. More Ward 3 material?

If there is any question about the various species and number of mosquitoes in West Texas, see Lt. Malone. From reports he was attacked by thousands of them on a recent crash trip.

No one in the Hospital would like to witness an operation any better than Mrs. Honn. Wait and see, some day she'll find time.

Pvt. Askin, Brooklyn Romeo, says bus fare to Monahans is "too high." No, Sid, there's not a nickle subway in Texas, but the Pfc. you're expecting will help.

First Sgt. Bollman was looking everywhere for Cpl. Burgarner one morning. He looked in the usual place but no soap. Guess where he found him—in ranks! That was definitely a surprise to the First Sergeant.

A bad penny always comes back. So did the Altitude Training Unit members. They've completely taken over Barracks Six and this time it looks as if they're back to stay.

## Base Sanitation

BY PFC. WITOLD KLUCZYCKI

This department is pleased to announce two more mess halls on its inspection roster, the WAAC's and the Bomb Range messes. Though but a short time in operation both messes were found in a commendatory state by an unexpected sanitary inspection. This department feels congratulations are in order.

The WAAC Mess, represented by Mess Officer, Lt. Edith Haslam, Mess Sergeant Ann Ogden and plenty of willing "kitchen enthusiasts," happened to steal second place this week in mess hall rating. The not to be forgotten "feminine touch" was noted in the well prepared meat dish by Auxiliary Cora Reed, with her "dab of chopped parsley."

It was too early to rate the Bomb Range mess, but we feel Mess Officer Lt. Elmer Siemon and Actg. Mess Sergeant Roy O. Butler will find their way into the limelight.

The newly installed method in the No. 3 twenty-four hour mess seems to work like a charm: The gang stepped out and took fourth place in the running, Lt. Reid, Mess Officer, says "its only the beginning folks!" Well, time will tell.

The Sanitation Department has adopted the point system in mess hall rating, and the first week of inspections has revealed mighty close competition among all mess halls within its jurisdiction. The smallest little overlooked detail can throw off the entire rating of a nearly perfect mess.

All mess halls have been given a copy of what the sanitary officer looks for in his inspections, and it is believed a little more wholehearted spirit of cooperation from everyone concerned will really create keen competition. Rating inspection will be held once a week; regular daily inspections will not be affected. Weekly ratings will be filed, and the five highest will be announced in The Rattler.

The entire result will be averaged for the month, and a detailed summary will appear every fourth week. Let's get off to a flying start for the second week, and be ready for the inspector when he gets around. All new ideas and constructive criticism pertaining to sanitation will be appreciated by your Sanitation Officer.

The following is the result of mess hall ratings for the first week:

- |                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Hospital     | 94 |
| 2. WAAC         | 91 |
| 3. Aviation Sq. | 90 |
| 4. Mess No. 4   | 86 |
| 5. Guard Sq.    | 82 |

## That Familiar Feeling



THE FAMILIAR feeling in mind being, but of course, the barking dogs. GIs may think they are the only ones with that trouble, particularly with all the stamping about of late, but not so. Miss Terry Martin's instep ache results from a gruelling workout on the set in Warner's musical, "Thank Your Lucky Stars."

## On The Range

BY PFC. TED SNYDER

There was a little excitement at the Range this week. It wasn't very long after the return of our Commanding Officer, 1st Lt. William H. Stewart, who was away on temporary duty. He heard the alarm given by Cpl. Walter Hertherington that a rattler was present at the back entrance of the barrack and came running with his pistol in his hand, and fired rapidly. Bingo, the snake's head was smashed, and his rattlers stilled forever. Another mark was chalked up on the long list of such casualties at the Range.

At last the dream of Sgt. Timothy J. Donovan has come true. In civilian life he worked in the subway system of New York City. He is getting plenty of sunshine now and is proud of his sun tan.

Want to thank all the boys down at Base Headquarters for giving such splendid cooperation in checking the records of the squadron.

We would be pleased if 1st Lt. George A. Hoffmann, Special Service Officer, would send Sgt. Sam Mileaf out here to put on a show for the boys, if possible.

Most of the boys seem to be happy and cheerful the last few days. Is it because Cpl. Robert Houston is leaving for Alexandria, La? Did they promise to be brave and not cry on his departure?

# Allied Bombers Smash Southern Invasion Pathways

## Island Forts Give Up Under Aerial Assault

BY PFC. TOMME CALL  
Rattler Editor

It was a field day for airpower in the global war last week.

Reputedly for the first time in the history of warfare, a fortress was reduced and its garrison compelled to surrender by aerial bombardment. Pantelleria—Italy's "Malta," a defensive outpost protecting Sicily and hence the Italian mainland—ran up the white flag after three weeks of the most concentrated bombing ever directed at a single target.

A smaller Italian island fortress, Lampedusa, surrendered under like attack 24 hours later. Naval bombardment assisted in both cases. Tiny Linosa followed quickly without a fight.

The victories were hailed as a successful and significant test of the potentiality of heavy aerial bombardment—the initial phase of the "experiment" to try to knock the Axis out from the air.

However, last week's test was inconclusive. The targets were small, and cut off from supplies. The Italian Navy did not dare reinforcement—as had the British Navy in the case of Malta, when that heroic garrison was under comparable assault. Sardinia and Sicily, probably next on the list of Allied pre-invasion offensives, would provide better examples of airpower's effectiveness. Bombing of Sicily began at week's end. Even so, the main test seemingly must await an offensive against European mainland, where defenses are mobile and reinforcement and supply easier for the enemy.

Last week British Prime Minister Churchill asserted before Commons that "amphibious operations of a peculiar complexity on a large scale are approaching." That sounded like imminent invasion, and commentators began speculating again on the point or points of possible attack, from Norway to Greece. Though whether airpower can knock out a nation remains an unanswered question, the Pantelleria and Lampedusa victories indicated what it could do in the way of establishing an invasion bridgehead on the European continent.

As Allied air might slashed



at the southern wall of "Festung Europa," Red Army aviation continued to take a terrific, and one-sided, toll of Luftwaffe strength on the Eastern Front. Thus, the Soviet Union cooperated effectively to help reduce the Axis' defensive airpower.

To increase further enemy fear of the skies, the RAF last week ended a two week lull to renew its blasting of Western Europe and German industrial centers. Also word came that the United States' Eighth Air Force in Britain rapidly is approaching parity with the RAF strength there. And in Washington WPB Chairman Donald Nelson reported record heavy bomber production in April, and extensive new facilities being readied to further step up output.

Thus, the Italians may weigh carefully President Roosevelt's recent suggestion that they revolt and submit to Allied mercy—an appeal similar to that previously made by Mr. Churchill. And the Germans should ponder well the growing airpower behind the President's warning last week that if the enemy should resort in desperation to gas warfare, the weapon would be turned against him in full retaliation. Both Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt have made several such statements. Perhaps this time the warning was intended to apply to Hitler's possible decision to use gas in defense against invasion.

Europe was not the only theater feeling the Allies' aerial might last week. Americans smashed at Kiska, remaining

Jap-held island in the Aleutian chain. Allied airpower struck at enemy bases and shipping in the Solomons - New Guinea theater with the strongest concentration since the Bismark Sea battle. Australian Prime Minister John Curtin revealed that Allied air strength there would be "considerably increased in the near future." British and Americans also carried out "widespread and destructive" raids on Japanese troops, military installations and transports in Burma.

The Chinese last week continued to hold the upper hand in the central China fighting, after their smashing victory in the Ichang region along the Yangtze. Their own and American air support was helping them gain ground and a new confidence in themselves.