

# THE RATTTLER

B-29s FROM PYOTE TO TOKYO!

Vol. 3 No. 23

Rattlesnake Army Air Field, Pyote, Texas

Sept. 26, 1945

## Weekly Inspection And Review Set For Saturday AM

A weekly review and inspection will be held each Saturday at a time announced later, effective this Saturday, September 29th.

All officers and enlisted personnel of the field will attend, it was announced.

In addition to the review, a personal inspection of all personnel will be held, as well as an inspection of all barracks, buildings and departments. These tours of inspection will be conducted by the three department heads—training, maintenance and supply, and administration and services.

## Lt. Col. Persons, Deputy CO, Heads For Separation

Lt. Col. Stanley M. Persons, Deputy Station Commandant since June 15, 1944, is trading in his silver leaves for civvies. Colonel Persons left for separation center in McLellan Field, Calif. on Tuesday.

Col. Persons has had the longest Pyote career of any executive officer. He arrived at Pyote June 1, 1944 to take over the CO's job, replacing Col. Bernard T. Castor. With arrival of Colonel William W. Jones June 15th, Colonel Persons was named Deputy Station Commandant, a post he held until this week.

Born in New York, Colonel Persons later settled in Biggs, California. His military career dates from the first world war when he was a flying instructor at Kelly Field.

He returned to active duty following Pearl Harbor, and his first assignment was operations officer at Wendover Field, Utah. Subsequent assignments, included: Executive officer at Wendover, CO at Rapid City, So. Dak., Ephrata Wash., and Geiger Field, Wash. Air Bases.

## Mercury Stays Up In Nineties Despite Season

While days edged on to October, forecast in Pyote was for a red hot Indian summer. In Peoria they might be dragging out racoon coats but swimming trunks were still Pyote's most popular togs. Mercury still simmered in the nineties this week and OD's still hung by the barracks wall with nary a thought for the fall cleaning.

High mercury mark for the week was last Wednesday's 97, with the rest of the week following close under. According to the Base Weather Station the reading goes Thursday 93; Friday 94; Saturday 94; Sunday 90; Monday 96; and Tuesday 95.

## Posthumous Bronze Star, Air Medal Awarded Here

The Bronze Star Medal, awarded posthumously to Pfc. Robert A. Haynes of Monahans, Tex., was presented to his father, Mr. Cliff B. Haynes, and the Air Medal was presented to Colonel Algene E. Key, of Meridian, Miss., commanding officer of Pyote Army Air Field, at a special ceremony and review held at the field on Saturday, Sept. 22.

The medals were presented by Lt. Col. Stanley M. Persons, deputy station commandant, after which the recipients joined the reviewing party while the troops passed in review.

## LAVISH WATER USAGE THREATENS LOCAL DROUGHT

Men of this field are using 155 gallons of water per capita per day. "This is altogether too much and certainly looks as if much of the shortage is due to waste. Please cut down on your use of water. Save water—water saves electricity—electricity saves fuel," Major Ocie L. Conger announced this week.

Pyote is faced with a serious water shortage threatening the water facilities of this station.

## DECORATED AT REVIEW



Lt. Col. S. M. Persons awards the Air Medal to Col. A. E. Key, and the Bronze Star, posthumously, to Mr. and Mrs. Cliff B. Haynes of Monahans.

The Bronze Star Medal was awarded posthumously to Pfc. Haynes "for heroic achievement on February 10, 1945 in Germany. During an attack on the high ground near the town, the company of which Pfc. Haynes was a member, encountered heavy resistance. Pfc. Haynes operated his radio in an exposed position at head of the company and contacted the regimental commander for supporting artillery fire and mortar fire from the battalion. Though he was subjected to continued observed shellfire, he remained in the front ranks of the company and by relaying accurate fire data over his radio, enabled artillery and mortar units to register effective fire upon enemy defenses and destroy them. His heroic achievement was in accordance with military tradition."

Pfc. Haynes was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff B. Haynes of Box 1473, Monahans, Tex. He is a graduate of Monahans High School, class of 1943 and was a backfield star on the high school football team. He was chosen as an All-State backfield man at the State conference at Waco, and he played in the Oil Bowl game at Wichita Falls, Tex.

Following graduation he worked for the Texas & Pacific Railroad at Monahans, Tex., until he entered the Army in September 1943. He trained at El Paso and Camp Fannin, Tex., and at Ft. Meade, Md., prior to going overseas. He first went to England and then moved into France and Germany with his company.

Pfc. Haynes would have been 20 years old on August 16 of this year.

The Air Medal was awarded to (See Awards, Page 3)



# THE RATTLER

PYOTE, TEXAS

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Pictures by Base Photo Lab.

Twice selected by Camp Newspaper Service as one of the best GI newspapers in the world, 1944, 1945.

COL. A. E. KEY, STATION COMMANDANT

Lt. W. C. Gruben, I & E Officer

Lt. Walter C. Van Buren, Public Relations Officer

RATTLER STAFF: Cpl. Ed C. Koops, S/Sgt. Robert H. Nash, Sgt. Marie A. Rados, and T/Sgt. Don O'Rourke

## An Apple for the Teacher

Wanted: A few million geography and history teachers for spare-time, free-will labor.

They're needed by the War Department, the Army, the State Department. They're needed for duty on the home front.

The big job is to bring the facts of life, politically speaking, to the people at home who are still content to let everybody else go their own way as long as prices stay up and we don't have any Pearl Harbors.

The men who can help to do this job are those now in the Army who have seen in scattered countries the results of indifference of one nation to conditions in another. They know that what goes on in the Philippines or the Balkans can concern us; this they know because they're in the army today because of what went on in foreign lands when we didn't pay enough attention.

As rude as this may be to your illusions, here is a fact that could possibly alter your life again, or maybe the life of your son. It's this: There are SOME people at home who are still notoriously allergic to any disturbing news from foreign countries. They still want to let everybody else go their way while we go ours. Provided of course that: (1) Prices stay up and (2) We don't have any Pearl Harbors.

The men being discharged daily from the armed forces may still remember the day when they cherished similar illusions, or at least didn't have any positive disbelief. They know that, as the novelist, when the bell tolls for one man it is the concern of all men everywhere.

This is a fact to which they've become adjusted, like the presence of air. It is a fact which some people on the home front—not all by any means, but a sizable body—should become adjusted. If the boys who are getting out will repeat it enough, these people may be convinced. Just a few basic lessons of geography and history, just the story of the guy on the other side of the fence and across the pond, may do it.

If you know any stories like that, don't hesitate to tell them around when you get home. Especially to the right people.

After hearing about the GIs who never want to wear a "tan suit" again, we were a little worried as to who would be wearing brown civilian clothes. Our worries are over. We just heard a sailor who doesn't ever want to wear blue again.

The modern girl seems to be fool-proof, run-proof, kiss-proof and 86 proof.

Bilious Burpsey, the library lounge-lizard reports that when it comes to accredited service ratings, he hasn't enough points to get to Wickett.

## This Week

### At The Theatres

Unless otherwise noted, Theater No. 1 shows at 1:30, 6:30, and 8:30; Theater No. 2 shows at 7:15 and 9:15 with matinee Sunday only, at 2:15.

#### TODAY AND TOMORROW

"THREE STRANGERS" with Peter Lorre, Sidney Greenstreet. (The horror boys are in the spy racket. Eventually they scare each other to death.) Shorts: "The Legend of Coyote Rock." Cartoon and Paramount News.

#### FRIDAY & SATURDAY

"STRANGE AFFAIR OF UNCLE HARRY" with George Sanders and Geraldine Fitzgerald. (Melodrama. Two sisters prevent brother's marriage, so he kills one and frames the other. Everybody goes mad or dies.) Shorts: "This Is America" and Popeye cartoon.

#### SUNDAY & MONDAY

"MEN IN HER DIARY" with Jon Hall and Louise Albritton. (One of those light, airy comedies that sounds like a pleasant couple hours) Shorts: Army-Navy Screen Magazine and Paramount News.

#### TUESDAY

(Double Feature) "WHY GIRLS LEAVE HOME" with Pamela Blake and Sheldon Leonard. (Not a juvenile delinquency movie, don't let the title fool you. Bobby-soxer falls for band leader, gets mixed up with a gambling joint and is rescued by brave newspaperman.) "BLAZING THE WESTERN TRAIL" with Charles Starrett and Carole Matthews. (Two rival stage coach companies vie for mail contract. A stage coach race decides.)

#### WEDNESDAY

"STATE FAIR" with Dana Andrews, Jeanne Crain and Dick Haymes. (A musicalized version of the Iowa family taking in the fair. Complete with prize pigs, spiked preserves, and pitch games. All sorts of fun.) Shorts: Cartoon and Paramount News.

### Around the Field

PHONE EXCHANGE: Phone exchange room open 24 hours a day in northeast corner of Post Office; furnished with chairs, writing tables, magazines. Attendant on duty from 5 to 10 PM weekdays and 8 AM to 11 PM Sundays who expedites long-distance calls and makes change.

CARLSBAD CAVERNS: Trips to the Caverns each Saturday and Sunday; two busses leave from Sq. A orderly room at 6:30 AM

both days. Trips are open to GIs and wives. Only expense to GIs is cost of noonday meal (50c). Wives must pay regular admission fee to caverns (\$1.80). Reservations must be made prior to trip at Special Service Office, next door to Service Club, phone 27.

SCHOOL: USAFI Correspondence courses—details from I&E Dept., Special Services office, next door to Service Club. Off-duty education program—details at Special Services office. Phone 27.

SWIMMING POOL: Noon to 11:00 p.m.

LIBRARY: 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

DANCING: EM dance Friday evenings, 9 to midnight, at EM Club Patio.

REC. HALL: Open from 8 AM to 11 PM.

SEWING: Free sewing work at Red Cross office, Thursdays from 10 AM to 5 PM. Office located across street from library.

SERVICE CLUB: Cafeteria open from 8 to 10, 11 to 2, and 3 till 11. No beer before 5, and Class A after 5 PM.

BOWLING: Alleys open from noon to 11 PM.

### At the Chapel

CATHOLIC: Sunday Masses: 8:00, 12:00, and 5:15. Daily Mass: 5:15. Evening Devotions: 5:45 PM Tuesday and Friday. Confessions: 7:30 to 8:30 PM Saturdays and before all Masses.

PROTESTANT: Sunday: Hosp. Service, Red Cross auditorium, 9:15; Civilian Sunday School at Civ. Pers. 9:30; Section C chapel service at 10:00; Station Chapel Service 10:30; Section C Vesper Service at 7:30; Station Vesper Service at 8:00. Wednesday: Section C Bible Study 8:00; Bible Quiz hour. Station Chapel, 8:00.

JEWISH: Friday Sabbath evening service, 7:30

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: Weekly service Sunday at 2:15 PM.

## Supreme Court to Judge Seniority Rights of Veterans

The United States Supreme Court will be given opportunity to pass final legal judgment on super-seniority job rights for returning veterans. Supreme Court action will come on an appeal by the Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of the CIO from a decision by Judge Matthew T. Abruzzo of the Federal Court of Brooklyn. Abruzzo ruled that "for a year after he gets out of service and goes back to his job, a veteran is entitled to work even though a non-veteran with greater seniority is laid off."

In announcing the appeal to the Supreme Court, John Green, union president, said that the shipbuilding industry would be reduced from 1,100,000 workers to a half-million by January 1; that there were more than that number of former employees who had gone into the armed forces, and that, by the ruling of the Brooklyn judge, would mean every worker would be fired and replaced by a veteran.

Meanwhile, veterans' organizations, labor unions, and the US Chamber of Commerce agreed that one of Congress' first acts should be to re-phrase the job-rights law so its meaning would be clear to everyone.

### Legion to Introduce Bill

The American Legion sponsored bill perpetuating vet re-employment rights after the Selective Service Act expires will be introduced in both houses of Congress.

The bill will eliminate the joker in the act which provides the protection only as long as the act is operative. The Selective Service Act is limited to May 15, 1946 and all men and women in service after that date have no job protection.

## At Monahans USO

Mon.—Game night; classical music.

Tue.—Hospital picnic and quiz.

Wed.—Dance instructions; Beginners 8 p.m., advanced 9 p.m.

Thu.—IQ Quiz, 8:15 p.m. Bingo, 8:30 p.m. Refreshments. Birthday night. (All birthdays in September celebrated).

Fri.—Informal recreation.

Sat.—Dance. Junior hostesses.

Sun.—11 a.m., coffee hour; 5:30 p.m. Hospitality hour; 8:30 p.m., Feature movie and shorts.

## 600 STATIONS SET UP IN RECRUITING DRIVE

Brig. Gen. Harold Gilbert, head of the Army's recruiting campaign prior to the war, has been given the job of heading the new drive for soldier volunteers. He will work through 600 recruiting stations which soon will be estab-

## US Replacement Survey Shows Small No. Eligible

Camp Newspaper Service has released a story regarding the number of replacements in the U.S. for personnel now serving overseas. Their findings are that there just aren't that many soldiers at home.

At present there are approximately a million new soldiers at home training as replacements. They will be Pacific-bound after training. Then there are about one million other soldiers in the continental U.S. mostly on duty as "operating military personnel". Of these, 400,000 are physically disqualified for overseas, 300,000 have already been over, and only 300,000 eligible men have not been overseas. Of these, about half are specialists urgently needed in their present work. The remaining 150,000 are AAF men, with very few in ground or service troops.

## Tokyo Says Air Raids Killed 260,000 Japs Since Start of War

Radio Tokyo said last week in a broadcast recorded by Associated Press that 260,000 persons were killed, 412,000 injured, and 9,200,000 homeless on Japan's home islands "as the result of enemy air raids during the course of the war in Greater East Asia".

Quoting figures available thus far at air defense headquarters, the broadcast said the two atom bombs dropped killed 90,000 and injured 180,000.

The nearly ten million persons suffering from the attacks represented a sixth of the Jap population on the home islands.

## Army Losses Total Almost Two Million Up to May 31, 1945

Losses to the Army, through deaths and other causes from the beginning of the present war through May 31, 1945, totaled 1,998,000 the War Dept. has announced.

Figures (reckoned to the nearest thousand) reported from Dec. 7, 1941, to last May 31st, show total deaths, battle and non-battle, to total 243,000; officers 37,000, and EM 206,000.

Forty-seven thousand officers were discharged in that period and 1,394,000 enlisted men. Prisoners of war and men listed as missing total 107,000—with officers accounting for 22,000 and EM for 85,000 of the total.

Miscellaneous separations total 207,000 with EM accountable for 202,000 of that figure.

lished in all parts of the world.

## Something New Has Been Added at Station Weather

Captain Robert Reece, Base Weather Officer, has proof that Pyote is among the few fields that can boast of one of the newest weather detecting inventions of this war. With this electronic equip-



Lt. Victor Profumo checks new weather forecaster which makes storm forecasting simple.

ment, Lt. Victor Profumo, Asst. Weather Officer, in charge of the latest in weather finders, can forecast an approaching storm within a radius of 50 miles within a fraction of a mile. The storm is detected and its path followed by pictures of cloud formations on a scope. Looking into this scope a series of circles, one within the other, form a pattern in the 4" by 5" frame.

Cloud formations can be detected and according to the brilliance of the white patches, the density of the clouds and severity of the storm can be determined. As the clouds move or disemble, so the storm can be forecast.

Weather forecasts made for cross-country hops and other flights are compounded from hourly reports wired in from every station in the world. One of the most common sights around the weather station area are the balloon releases. Various colored pilot balloons are sent aloft to measure wind direction and velocity. As the balloon ascends, a man is stationed at the theopolite calling his computations through a phone set to be teletyped out to various stations at hourly intervals.

Each pilot on a mission has a weather map given him. The maps and forecasts thereon are computed by Capt. Reece, and his assistants, Lt. Erwin M. Jennis and Lt. Robert W. Miller.

## Awards—

(Continued from Page 1)

Col. Key, commanding officer of this field, for his part in the initial testing of a secret type bomb during his period of service with the Eighth Air Force.

The citation follows: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight during the period of May and June 1944. As pilot of a B-17 aircraft, Col. Key assisted by his co-pilot successfully completed the initial flight testing of a secret type bomb. As a result of his courage, skill and determination, a flying technique was established which enabled units of the Eighth Air Force to use this type of bomb against enemy installations on the Continent."

Since the end of the war it has been disclosed that the secret type of bomb which Col. Key tested was a "rocket bomb", having a striking speed greater than that of sound.

Col. Key wears the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the British Distinguished Flying Cross.

## MARINES TRIPLED STRENGTH IN THREE YEARS OF WAR

Marine strength today—3 years after the invasion of Guadalcanal—is nearly three times that of the Corps when the Canal was first hit. At that time the Marine Corps had but two divisions available for action in the Pacific. Today there are six full divisions in the field. Overall strength has grown from 161,236 to 475,000.

## Superbombers Drop 2nd Tilt

Second Air Force Superbombers, the star studded beauties of the gridiron, and Pvt. Frank Sinkwich went down before the unheralded Blue Jackets of Shoemaker California 7-0 before 60,000 fans in San Francisco's Kezar Stadium Sunday September 23. The Gobs held the vaunted power and speed of the Superbombers and capitalized on 34 yard penalty to the airmen's one yard line to push the second quarter tally over.

Major Ed Walker's charges will attempt to climb into the win column at the expense of Fort Warren, Wyoming in Denver Sunday Sept. 30. Using the Warner system in big time football is proving a failure to the Colorado Springs boys. Coach Walker is attempting to utilize the potential greatest line in the nation to give his backs the precious extra seconds necessary to put the system in effect. Last season proved the scoring possibilities of this theory when the Superbombers led the nation in scoring.

# RATTLESNAKE CHARMER



You eye is caressing each succulent curve of a girl named Jean Gibbons. Jean is a television tonic who performs over NBC's television station in New York. She hails from Washington, D. C., has black hair, brown eyes and sings for a living. Her chest-tones, authorities say, are something to write home about. Yum.

## This Wacky World

Goshen, New York's election board has received a request to drop the name of Bryan Medina from the list of candidates for coroner. He's been dead four years.

... And a Lawton, Okla. GI applied for his old job at the factory. He worked one day and quit saying, "the work is harder than I remembered it. I won't be back."

... A New York City bank dick found \$1000 worth of cash on the floor of the bank he was guarding. He has turned in the dough, and if nobody claims it, it's his.

... A Salt Lake City farmer has asked a downtown store for a "half pound of this here atomic stuff" to use on his potato bugs. ... And out in Los Angeles, the wife of the dean of Southern California University is seeking divorce. According to her, hubby insisted on love-making at all hours of the day. "Such a course of conduct", says she, "was embarrassing." Wotta world!

### TWO NEW YORK PAPERS RUN FREE ADS FOR VETS

Helping vets find the right post-war job is a campaign by two New York publications who are printing free want-ads for ex-GIs. Billboard, show business weekly, will carry ads from men and women with experience in the amusement industry. PM, 164 Duane Street, allows GIs to write ads up to 25 words. Both sheets accept ads solely from men with honorable discharges.

### SEND THE RATTLER HOME!

## Army and Navy Submit Proposals to Gain Enlistments

A joint Army-Navy board is submitting a number of proposals to boost voluntary enlistment in the regular Army and Navy to the House Military Affairs Committee. The idea being to make continuance of the draft unnecessary.

Among the suggestions: permit EM to vote on whether they prefer family allowance or cash payments in lieu of quarters for dependents; increased overseas pay on a graduated scale beginning at 20% and increasing 5% annually up to a maximum of 35%; liberalized allowances for the lower four graders; continuance of free postage; liberalized retirement policy payment of mustering-out pay for re-enlistment in the Regular Army; payment of transportation and subsistence during re-enlistment furlough.

Congress would have to approve these proposals to make them effective.

### SIXTY DEATHS PER DAY IS ACCIDENT AVERAGE

Sixty deaths a day is the annual average for motor vehicle accidents in the United States. That adds up to a total of over 21,000 deaths per year, which places motor vehicles among tops as a killer. All drivers and pedestrians will do well to remember the killing potentialities of the motor vehicles.

### STATION INTELLIGENCE MOVES TO NEW QUARTERS

The Station Intelligence Office is now located in the office behind the Provost Marshal, previously occupied by the Ration Board. The Intelligence phone is now 6.



OWENS—Born at the Pyote Regional Hospital on Sept. 9, to S/Sgt. and Mrs. Albert B. Owens, a boy, Earl Lee, weight 7 lbs., 14 ozs. S/Sgt. Owens is assigned to Sqdn D.

VINSON—Born to Lt. and Mrs. Larry Vinson at the William Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso, a girl, Sandra Janelle, weight 6 lbs. 3/4 oz. Lt. Vinson is assigned to Sqdn. F.

PARKS—Born to T/Sgt. and Mrs. Charles W. Kane at the Pyote Regional Hospital on Sept. 14, a boy, Charles W. Jr., weight 8 lbs., 10 oz. T/Sgt. Kane is assigned to Pecos AAF.

HAND—Born to Captain and Mrs. Edward J. Hand on the 17th of Sept., a girl, Mary Patricia, weight 7 1/2 lbs. Capt. Hand is assigned to Sqn. F.

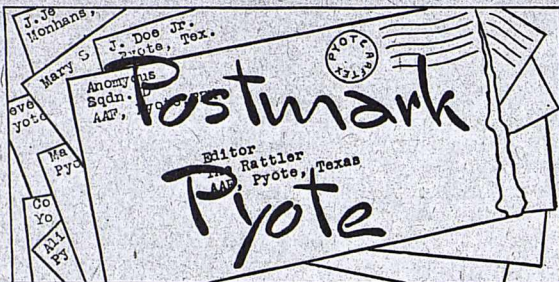
## So This Is Pyote!



This week's Pyote pictorial is a real collector's item. It's Pyote's main street—but don't let the traffic fool you; it's Pyote as of 1932 when the town was in the midst of its second oil boom. Contrast the busy street scene above with the quietude of the town today.

The above picture was loaned to the Rattler by Mr. Taylor, life-long Pyote resident. It shows you what the town was like in the "good old days". Few of the buildings at Pyote at the time remain in their original location or condition. The two hotels (one complete with 35 rooms and modern plumbing) have both vanished from the scene, the theatre has closed, and the Sheriff's office is now the Greyhound Bus Station.

"Postmark, Pyote" opens the columns of The Rattler to any and all correspondence. Letters should be signed but names will be withheld on request. Address: Editor, Rattler, Pyote AAF, Texas. The Rattler reserves the right to edit letters, and decide which are to be published. No letters will be returned. If your barracks bag's in salvage, blow it out here!



**MARRYING A SOLDIER**

Editor, The Rattler:  
Can a WAC be discharged to marry a soldier who has been discharged?

Pfc. K. T. R.

• A Wac may be separated to marry a veteran of the armed forces who served any time since Sept. 16, 1940.

**OJT EMBALMER**

Editor, The Rattler:  
I would like to be an embalmer after the war. Can I study this subject under the GI Bill of Rights?

Cpl. M. R. Wilson

• Yes, provided you go to an approved school and are eligible under the GI bill.

**ATOM BOMB PATCH**

Editor, The Rattler:  
Can you tell me if the GIs who worked on the atom bomb project wear any special shoulder patch?

Sgt. N. R. O.



• Yup. The WD has issued the above patch to 3500 officers and EM assigned to work on the development of the atomic bomb. It has the star, question mark, lightning bolt and the circle at the bottom is an atom.

**FIANCEE CAN'T BENEFIT**

Editor, The Rattler:  
Can I make my fiancee the beneficiary of my insurance?

S/Sgt. F. F. W.

• Nope. Only wives, children, parents, brothers, and sisters may be designated as beneficiaries.

**DAUGHTER IS 18**

Editor, The Rattler:  
My daughter has just reached 18, and, as I understand it, is no longer eligible for an allotment. Is this right? Should I notify the government?

Cpl. M. H. D.

• Your daughter ceased being a Class A dependent on her 18th birthday, and is no longer eligible to receive that allotment. Better report the matter to your orderly room for sooner or later the ODB will catch up and you'll have to refund the overpayment.

**PRE-PEARL HARBOR**

Editor, The Rattler:  
I, one of the 250,000 forgotten men in the Army of the United States, have been listening to a lot of pros and cons on how to discharge men and who to discharge first.

When the war broke out on December 7, 1941, there were approximately 750,000 men in the Army. About one-third of them went to the ETO and one third to the Pacific. The other one-third had to remain in the States for home front protection and instructing the new men as they came in.

I happened to be one that went over to the Pacific. In the Pacific theatre we weren't given as many battle stars as they gave out in the ETO, and so with over 4 years service and 18 months overseas I have a total of 74 points after the scores are recomputed this month. No mention whatsoever has been made of the men who were conscripted before the outbreak of the war, and after patient waiting, we, who wear the pre-Pearl Harbor ribbon, believe we are entitled to some consideration.

(Name Withheld)

**CASUALTIES**

Editor, The Rattler:  
Settle this bet. How many U. S. men have been killed in the war to date?

Joe Franko, Sec. II

• Army casualty lists (through August 29) list 201,126 dead, 571-346 wounded, 31,541 missing, and 119,351 prisoners. These figures represent only Army. Marines and Navy deaths would raise the figure at the most to 300,000 if that.

Rattlesnake Tale (Part 2)

**They Made Us What We Are Today And We Hope They Are Satisfied**

(Editor's Note—This is the second installment of a series which attempts to tell the story of Pyote Army Air Field from the days of its beginning to the present time. Today's chapter deals with the personnel which has been stationed here.)

BY S/SGT. ROBERT NASH

There's a story told about two fliers who met in a Stalag Luft in Germany. Being two pilots, they naturally got to talking about their training days. Inevitably one remarked:

"That reminds me of the time in '43 when I was at Pyote"

"Pyote! Brother, that's rough," replied his fellow prisoner, and started lambasting the place. "I was never there, but I heard plenty," he says and takes off from there.

And right then Pilot No. 1 straightens him out. "It wasn't so bad," he says, and threatens to beat the bejabbers out of his buddy if he doesn't mind his manners.

And that story, to our notion, illustrates the feeling held by many persons who have been here, either in training or as a part of the overhead personnel. After so many weeks or months you begin to feel about this place like a member of the family . . . You can cuss it to your heart's content—and do—but you resent it when somebody else maligns this caliche-blanketed outpost.

Unless the speaker has been stationed here. Then you probably have a beer and see who can moan the hardest.

When this spot was picked for a training field, back in the summer of 1942, and buildings started going up, all that the surrounding limitless acres represented was just a lot of potential flying time. And a few months later, when the first sizable cadre landed here on Christmas Day, all that Pyote Army Air Field could claim was a few buildings, a spreading ramp—and a lot of potential flying time.

In the selection of personnel who had to direct the training program, this installation has been fortunate from the beginning. Most of the COs of this base have had overseas experience, and seemed to have a mind and ear for the future combat man and his problems. And a large share of the "wheels" both large and small, which kept the training program rolling have been overseas veterans.

The touch of one organization—the fabled 19th Group—has been felt here more than any other. That's because the 19th veterans started coming in during the first days of 1943 and supervised the training program during its expanding days. Other outfits followed them, outfits boasting a lot of brag rags themselves and conceding very little to anybody in the matter of air skill.

An early commander of the 19th, Col. Louie Turner, probably is remembered best by those who have been stationed here as a CO. His first words when he arrived here were:

"Now is not the time for words."

And with this guiding line, Pyote Army Air Field has piled stack upon stack of flying hours, and plenty of those who trained here in the early days of this field's operation later returned as instructors. The work that has been done here has time and again been commended by higher headquarters. Operating on a 24-hour flying schedule, this field has turned out thousands of crewmen who've helped whip Germany and Japan.

Soon after the base started the Pacific veterans here met veterans of the European Theater of Operations when Lt. Col. Elbert Helton, then CO of the 19th, greeted Capt. William J. Crumm and his Flying Fortress crew. The Crumm crew arrived here from an England airfield after a tour of dropping block-busters on German industrial centers.

Every overseas theater and every air force has been represented here, their members imparting the savvy that goes into a good training program. During the unfolding days of this field's operation, things were hectic and high-g geared with a semi-informal, down-with-red-tape attitude prevailing.

(Next week we'll look into the developments that have occurred in the training program since the first B-17 took to the air from Pyote).

# 'Cripes! What Stripes!', Promotions Announced

One of the largest stacks of promotions in the history of Pyote came out on orders last week. The Rattler, attempting in vain to keep up with recent promotions, lists many of the past month. If any are missed, please call the editors' attention to them.

## FIRST SERGEANT

**Sq. A:** Cataldo T. Cimarusti.

## TECHNICAL SERGEANT

**Sq. A:** Ralph K. Jarrell, James W. Endsley; **Sq. E:** Alton B. Hale; **Sq. M:** Phillip D. Masters.

## STAFF SERGEANT

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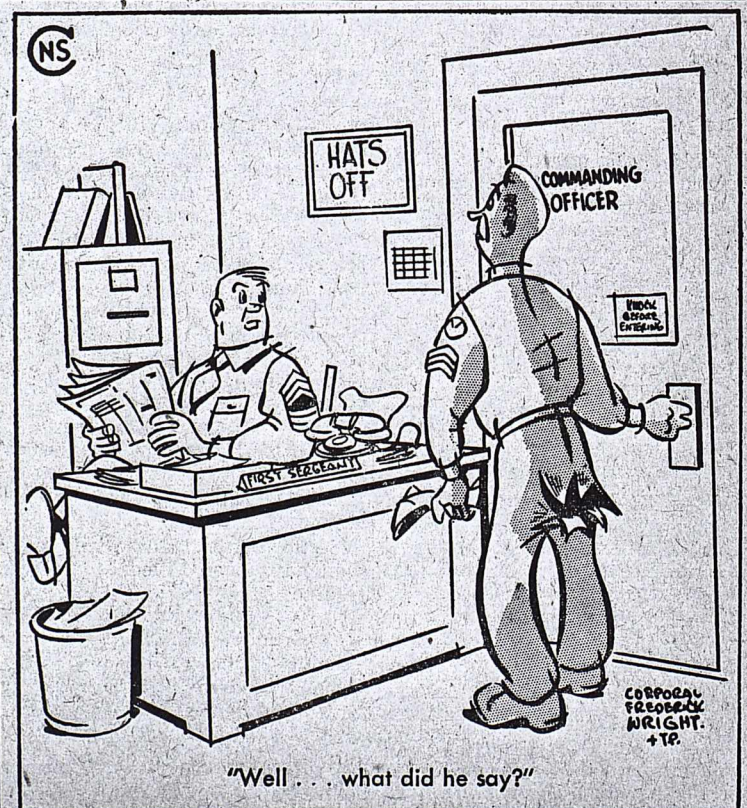
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**Sq. D:** Richard Holt, Alva Horton, James Keak, Willard Moore, Johnson Price, John Williams, Floyd Schoonover, Mark Stolp, Carl Blaker, Joseph Costa, Esra Ghudni, Peter Giarrazza, John Griffey, Hugh Hawkins, Dewey English, Bennie English, Thomas Kennedy, Henry Laundre, Charles Paterson, Donald Sellers, Glenn Biesterveld, Ray Cobb, Peter Despot, Milton Fuller, William Goeder, Joel Cross.

**Sq. E:** Joseph Little, Donald Raith, Lawrence LaClair, James Mencshing, David Orr, Lloyd Bennett, Shelby Goodman, Alvin Rafuse, Clinton Rawlins, Blake Olmstead, Harl Evans, Garland Benigar; **Sq. F:** German Shapiro, John DiBiagio, Aubrey Wirsham; **Band:** Fred Williams.



"Well . . . what did he say?"

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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### FOR SALE

CABINET RADIO (Majestic) and an electric two-burner hot plate. Contact S/Sgt. J. A. Ruof at Base Flight or apt. C-18-D at Pecos AAF.

FOR SALE: GIRL'S AND BOY'S BICYCLES. Good condition and can be bought separately or as pair. Apt. 1329-D. Civilian area. See Sgt. S. E. Cowler of Sqn. D.

### LOST

SOMEWHERE ON THE FIELD, NAVIGATOR'S wings with personal inscription engraved on back. Reward for return to Rattler Office.

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN: From the tail-gate of a truck at the beer party grounds, Saturday, Sept. 15th. One fatigue shirt containing my dogtags, pair of rosaries, pencil, comb, 2 keys and some papers. Finder please return them to Pvt. Gene Sheridan, Sqn. D, Barracks 513 or to the Rattler Office.

LOST—PAIR OF GOLD FRAME, TINTED rimless eye-glasses in apartment T-1340. Return to Pfc. Hurt at the Special Service Office.

### WANTED

WANTED TO BUY USED CAR—1935 to 1941 model. Will pay cash. Contact Lt. Stancel at the Convalescent Service Office. Ext. 101.

### FOUND

A STRAIGHT STEMMED PIPE. Well smoked. Call for it at the Rattler Office.

WILL SGT. WILLIAM HAYS come to the Rattler Office for his writing box, please.

WILL SGT. GLENN WATMORE come to the Rattler Office and claim his wallet?

### HOUSING

NEW HOUSE, NEVER been occupied. Well built, well arranged. See Sgt. Yoder, Ground Gun-

nery Range or apt. 1368D in Civilian Housing after 1700.

ANYONE WISHING APARTMENTS contact Sgt. Hopkins at the Base Post Office. Available are: 4 two room apts. with bath, all furnished. Located in Barstow along US Highway 80.

### PERSONALS

WILL THE PERSON WHO picked up Tommy's little black and white terrier pup, "Spot" please return it to Apt. 1326E. My baby is heartbroken at the loss of his pet. Pfc. Robert Wilkenson.

WILL THE PERSON WHO BORROWED my Eversharp pen in the telephone room on Labor Day please return it to Barracks 612, Sec. II, across from the Rec. Hall. Name inscribed. Thank you.

I ASK YOU, how can you fry an egg (once over light) when you don't have a spachula or egg-turner-over. I am sick of eggs sunny side up and I can't flip them up in a frying pan without getting eggs all over the ceiling. Will buy a spachula and an egg beater from good samaritan who cries easily. See Koops, Rattler office.

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# KOOPS' KORNER

(An end of the month round-up of notes and memos from Koops' ever-lovin' secretary, Sugar.)

## SUGAR REPORT

According to your Washington source, the May bill calls for all men with two years service as of September 1, 1946 to be discharged. The bill has been passed by House and Senate, and awaits the President's signature. Says the bill: "if demobilization is accelerated the date September 1 will be advanced accordingly" . . . Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall's statement that men with two years service will be able to walk up and get a discharge by just asking for it, by late winter, means GIs with two years service (or who will have completed 2 years service by March 21) are now into a final 6 months in the Army, doesn't it?

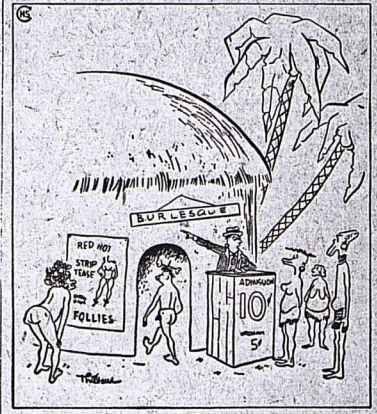
. . . The Shelton Hotel, Lexington Avenue, New York, offers special discount rates to members of the Armed Forces . . . According to the A-N Journal, personnel on emergency leave or furlo, granted because of illness, death, or other such urgency, may apply to the nearest Air Transport Command for transportation . . . The War Dept. has stopped buying cigars and reduced orders for chili con carne, figuring, I s'pose, that sufficient stocks are on hand . . . Civilians are crying for K rations and spam—they wanna see what they taste like. The Army says no can do, because servicemen still need 'em. . . . New York's Grand Central Station now has standing room only signs at entrance to trains, when necessary. . . . Didja see where Senator E. V. Robertson (D.-Wyo.) charged that men



are being held in the Army to allow war-workers to get the cream of the jobs without competing with the veterans' job priorities? . . . Inside dope from Wash'n says total employment should be 34% higher than it was in 1940. Estimates figure that reconversion should be completed by September 1946 with unemployment reaching its peak next month. . . . Even more encouraging news for job-seeking vets is the fact that 57 of the communities surveyed actually predicted greater employment after reconversion than they enjoyed during wartime. . . . The item you ran re: War Manpower Commission giving officers best jobs has this come-back from the WMC in Washington, dated September 10: "A veteran is a veteran to the U.S. Employment Service, and reports that we are giving former officers the breaks on placements in civilian jobs is just plain bunk". So says Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the WMC. . . . For your info, last year ODs became optional October 1 and mandatory November . . . . Senator Hugh B. Mitchell (D.-Wash.) wrote the Secretary of War that the point system is neither "fair nor equitable" and that the GIs morale is being impaired. Mitchell said that servicemen state that they do not think a fair, overall poll was taken to determine GI's discharge preferences . . . Whatinel gives out in Los Angeles, anyway? In 24 hours, three girls were arrested for frolicking nude in public fountains to the cheers and edification of scores of on-lookers. (Trains leave for Los Angeles at 11:50 and 4:00 A.M.)



Linotypists and pressmen, not up for discharge immediately, are urged to contact the Rattler, it says here. . . . Our laff of the week was Friday when Squadron A gathered to make a dry run on the parade. Sand, wind, dust and raindrops swirled over the GIs in the formation when one voice spoke up saying: "Anybody wanna re-enlist?" . . . Koops, did you know this makes your eightieth consecutive Korner come hell or high dust? . . . Additional info on the "duration plus six" question for you. Washington sources hint that Congress is likely to declare Sept. 2 as the actual day ending the second world war, for holiday purposes, but is on the way to a tangle calling "the duration". Rep. Marion L. Bennett (Rep.-Mo.) has introduced a bill in the House officially establishing Sept. 2 as the end of the emergency. If Truman signs it that would mean the end of all war emergency laws, special Presidential powers, and war bureaus, and would also provide that March 2nd would automatically terminate the connections of draftees with the services. . . . The catch is that Bennett offered it as a "concurrent resolution" which is not binding in law and the President can ignore it. This is the same thing that happened after World War I. A joint resolution proclaiming the duration up was passed by both houses in 1920 but Wilson vetoed the measure. The Congress was unable to muster a two-thirds vote for it, so the war lingered on, officially, until 1921—two and a half years after the shooting stopped. . . . Somebody told me that due to the display in the library,



listing senators' states and address—two bags of registered mail to Congressmen went out of this station in a week's time! And that is what I call snappy action. . . . And latest dope is that Congressmen are touring 25 separation centers to check on the speed of demobilization and discharge. The House Republican Steering Committee has gone on record as favoring the immediate discharge of fathers and 2-year veterans, replacing them with Chinese and Philippine forces in the Jap occupation. Minority leader Joseph Martin (R.-Mass.) says that no specific plan of action has been adopted by the committee. . . . And for a guy that sticks his neck out, you have to hand it to Private George L. Mark of Cleveland who appeared before the Senate Military Committee and testified that he and others at Fort Belvoir had cut "grass with bayonets" and done similar jobs "just to keep busy". Said George: "I'm sticking my neck out". Love, Sugar.

## The Wolf

by Sansone

