

13. Friday the thirteenth did not run true to its proverbial form. To the contrary, it proved to be a lucky day for the 50th. A swimming contest was held at the Group swimming pool in Gross Gerau. The participating organizations were the 370th Group and the 50th. We won all the events with the exception of fancy diving which was won by Lt. Edwards of the 370th. The star contestant of the day was 1st Sgt. Deloier of the 50th Squadron who won both the 50 and 100 yard free style events. The judges were Capt. Hyler, 527th Squadron Surgeon, Capt. Frink, 525th Squadron pilot and Lt. Sawyer of 525th Squadron Operations. Twenty-nine of the Group's planes are scheduled to be transferred in the near future. Last evening's movie gave us a combination of talent in both the theatrical and musical fields. The featured players included were, June Allyson, Jimmy Durante, Margarite O'Brien and Joseph Teresi.

14. An inspection and review were held this morning with Lt. Col. Robert J. Hirsch and Lt. John Sawyer presiding. One purple heart and eight bronze stars were awarded. General order came through awarding 1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore of 525th Squadron the Silver Star for gallantry on 12 April, for leading a formation on a fighter sweep in the vicinity of Paderborn Germany. Four planes of the 50th Squadron escorted a C-47 to Berlin. General opinion is that the plane was part of the president Truman's retinue and the U.S. General accompanied himself.

15. Anyone driving along the highway from Gross Gerau to Darmstadt today literally rubbed their eyes to be certain they weren't seeing things. D.F.C. and German frauleins walking and in arm or lolling on the grass was a common sight. Reason??? The ban on fraternization has been lifted considerably, as of 7 am. and no time was wasted to take advantage of this announcement. What next? The "Unseen", with Joel McCrea, Paul Hagen and Herbert Marshall was the movie shown this evening.

16. The first of the group of officers has left today to try out the new Officers' Rest Camp at Brussels, Belgium. A welcome treat today was the addition of good ole fresh spuds to both noon and evening chow, and to top it off, chocolate ice cream and the issue of P.M. editions. Not bad!!!

17. Five of the Group's golf enthusiasts are busy getting in trim for this Thursday's XII TAC Elimination tournament. Those who qualify will have opportunity to participate in the 9th Air Force contest. The regular ground and pilot training program continues. Rumors about a move to another location very shortly, still persist.

18. A great disappointment to the enlisted men was the news that their proposed rest camp in Southeastern Germany cannot be. Reason?? Site is now in French territory and permission will not be granted. However, word has it that a search for a new location is under way. Lt. Albert C. Altman has been relieved from duty as Ass't Group Operations Officer. His new duties will include that of Group Technical Inspector and Group Rubber Coordinator. Group Band left today for a playing tour of Brussels and Paris. Nine low point men were transferred from Group today. Signification?? No one seems to have the answer.

~~SECRET~~

---

19. Lt. Duncan, Cpl. Bennett and T/Sgt. Pausch, three of the five men that represented this group in the elimination golf tournament today, have qualified. They, with two others of the XII T.A.C., will comprise team to represent this Command in the coming tournament with the 6th Air Force. Rain prevented showing of tonight's scheduled movie.

---

20. The "Old Man" was so pleased today, after receiving a commendation from General Barcus, congratulating the group for having the lowest V. D. rating for June of any Group in the XII T.A.C., that he called informal meetings with every squadron and headquarters to advise them of his pleasure. Major Shaw, the Group Surgeon, and Chaplain Zink also addressed the men. Another dance has been arranged for the Enlisted Men for tomorrow evening.

---

21. Back in Sicily in '43, when the slogan was, "Thanksgiving in Rome, Christmas at home", we were on our way to see the Bob Hope Show. Enroute we were flagged and advised that the show was called off. Naturally, it was a great disappointment for all of us. Well, here we are in Germany, and have just been advised that Bob Hope and Company will arrive in Gross Gerau Tuesday afternoon to entertain us. But this time, "for sure"! We hope. Those Enlisted Men that didn't attend the dance this evening, could be found listening to Glenn Miller's Band in Frankfurt.

---

22. Regular standdown today, good thing, too, as last night a P-61 took off and pulled his wheels too soon. Result, a torn runway. Thirteen more men have been transferred out of the Group these last few days. Without notice, a thorough check of all vehicles, civilian and military, was begun today, in addition to the searching of every civilian home in this area. This will continue until Tuesday morning.

---

23. Night flying, under the new training program, is scheduled to commence tonight. Rumor has it that all low point men will be transferred from the Group, but as rumors go, probably so will this one. If weather permits, the Bob Hope Show will be shown in the 415th Night Fighter's area, otherwise at the Group Enlisted Men's Club.

---

24. Standdown this afternoon until after the Bob Hope Show. Inclement weather prevented the initiation of night flying yesterday. Applications are still coming in for the Army University Center, and the first group of men should leave for England within a week.

---

25. Bob Hope came through this time and really put on a great show, yesterday afternoon, ably assisted by Jerry Collona, Jack Pepper and three gorgeous girls. He played to a capacity crowd, some of the G.I.'s having driven from as far away as Heidelberg to see the show. The Ground Training Classes today included some more "Basic Training" lectures, namely Customs and Courtesies and the good old "Articles of War", and a good time was had by all. Night flying got off to a start last night.

---

SECRET

---

26. S/Sgt. Sylvester "Jeep" Macri of Group Operations, while driving through Frankfurt, got a close glance at our "Commander in Chief", President Truman. A general meeting of the Enlisted Men Club was held this evening followed by the movie, "Circumstantial Evidence" with Lloyd Nolan. Lt. Duncan and two enlisted men left today to compete in the Ninth Air Force Golf Tournament today. Good Luck, men!

---

27. Our Group Executive Officer, Capt. Jack B. Gross and our Sergeant Major left today for a seven day sojourn in Switzerland. Some people have all the luck! The men who have been selected to attend the eight week course in England are scheduled to leave tomorrow. A new university will open in Biarritz, France in the near future, and from all indications, a good many of them will make application. Most of the men have shown a great deal of interest in the courses offered, but unfortunately all that apply will not be accepted because of a shortage of trained men.

---

28. An award ceremony was conducted today near the Group Operations tent. Bronze stars were presented by Col. Lee. At long last the authorization of our sixth battle star was received. A correction of the Group A.T.P. score was immediately submitted. This additional five points will place many of the men into the "65" and over category. The Group 1-26 returned from Bologna, Italy today with a good load of cognac for the Officers and Enlisted Men's Clubs. This will definitely provide incentive for a considerable number of high class "wings".

---

29. Today marks our "Twenty-Seventh" month of overseas duty. The men really must be getting "civilian conscious", judging by the numerous ties, cuff links, etc., that have been purchased in London and Paris - for personal use and definitely not souvenirs. Those who already have left for the States and discharge, are sort of "rubbing it in", by writing to various members of the Group and underscoring the "A.R." in the return address. "Eat your heart out, boys!"

---

30. The lifting of the fraternization ban has not proven to be as bad as was expected. Generally speaking, the men are behaving very well. This reverts back to the old adage: "When you can't have a thing, you want it that much more". The pilot and ground training program is now in full swing and running smoothly.

---

SECRET



118  
245

P R E F A C E

This installment of the 86th Fighter Group AAF (SE) History initiates a change of form; consolidating the diary as a section of the history. Heretofore the history has been written in letter form with War Diary included as an inclosure.

The first installment of Unit History and Diary covering period 10 February 1942 (date of activation of 86th Bomb Group (L) AAF) to 31 October 1943, was submitted to 12 Air Force on 15 November 1943. Subsequent installments through February 1945 were submitted to 12 Air Force. (86th Fighter Group AAF (SE) relieved of assignment XXVI TAC, 12 AF, 20 February 1945; assigned XII TAC, 1st TAF (Prov) 20 February, 1945). March and April installments were submitted to XII TAC, 1st TAF (Prov). On 20 May, 1945, 86th Fighter Group AAF (SE) relieved from assignment to 1st TAF (Prov) and assigned to 9th AF, per assignment of Units (No. 41) Hqs. USAAF, dated 16 May, 1945; May, June, and July installments submitted to XII TAC, 9th AF.

Unit Histories of 525, 526, and 527 Fighter Squadrons AAF (SE) are included with Unit History of Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF (SE), each with separate table of contents.

139  
246

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 60TH FIGHTER BOMB AND  
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I ----- Organization and Current Status
- II ----- Narrative
- III ----- Diary
- IV ----- Combat Operations
- V ----- Non-Combat Operations
- VI ----- Training
- VII ----- Statistics
- VIII ----- Staff Activity and Conferences
- IX ----- Press Releases and Photographs
- X ----- Appendix

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (SS)

AUGUST 1945

UNIT HISTORY

I. ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

1. Organization
  - a. The current T/O of this organization: 1-12 A.O. dated 28 December 1943. Total strength authorized: 30 officers, 70 enlisted men.
2. \*Strength
  - a. For the period of this report: 29 officers, 77 enlisted men.
  - b. Gains and losses for August: gain: 22 enlisted men, losses: 2 officers.
  - c. The 86th Fighter Group operates a replacement depot. For the period covered by this report, 607 enlisted men have been assigned to this Headquarters and subsequently re-assigned to other organizations.

\* Information compiled from the morning report, 14., 86th Fighter Group.
3. Stations
  - a. No change in station. Present station, 7-72, Braunschardt, Germany, 16 April, 1945.
4. Losses in Action: Negative.
5. Awards and Decorations: Negative.

II. NARRATIVE

Low morale zoomed, briefly, at news of the Japanese capitulation, then sank to a new low in proportion to soldierly impatience for a speedy return to the United States; was not lifted any by an impossible mail situation. USO shows, movies and dances, occupied a fair amount of the mens' time in the evening, enabling them to forget, temporarily, the point system. The office of Information and Education sent forty-five men to Army University Centers and two men to Technical School. Programs for training pilots and ground personnel are being carried out despite the increasing difficulty, due to an extensive turnover in personnel, of keeping progress charts and obtaining qualified persons for instruction. Several staff conferences were called during the month for solutions to pertinent problems. Frequent transfers, both in and out, left this Headquarters with twenty-nine officers and seventy-seven enlisted men at the end of the month.

# INVADERS' INVENTORY NEWS

Weekly Publication of the Enlisted Men of Group Headquarters  
86th Fighter-Bomber Group, USAF

No. 2 ITALY Saturday, October 16, 1943

## THE STAFF

- S/Sgt. James W. Qualls.....Editor
- S/Sgt. George W. Hunt, Jr.....Assistant Editor and Business Manager
- Sgt. John H. Cook.....Staff Artist
- S/Sgt. Joseph P. Choek.....Mimeographer
- T/Sgt. Clayton A. Ragsdale.....Staff Member-at-large
- S/Sgt. William E. Lakin.....S-1
- S/Sgt. Raymond L. MacDonald.....S-2
- S/Sgt. Howard M. Elwell.....S-3
- S/Sgt. George E. Shuttleworth.....S-4
- Corp. Richard Bell.....Communications
- Corp. Carmine H. Fasano.....Medics
- Sgt. Donald E. Mills.....Mess
- Corp. Walter C. Grimmer, Chaplain's Asst.
- Capt. Paul E. Verseput....Officer Sponsor

## EXCELSION

We can't help but feel that we have "arrived," because on the day after our first issue appeared we actually received a "letter to the editor" - and from a first sergeant, too.

Many thanks, Sgt. R. O. Tidwell of the 525th Squadron, for your interest and commendation and for your informed comments on our editorial, "In Tribute to Our Hq. Mess." Come back and eat with us again some time, won't you?

All of which prompts us to announce plans for the expansion of the 86th INVADERS' INVENTORY-NEWS to become the weekly newspaper for the entire Group. It may be possible for us to work this out with the three first sergeants and others in the squadrons in time for the third issue next week.

In any event we shall do our best, and in the meantime the whole staff and our Group Sergeant Major, Ralph H. Bell, would greatly appreciate the comments and suggestions of all those interested throughout the Group.

We share the belief and hope of the sergeant major that the INVADERS' INVENTORY-NEWS as a Group medium should be an excellent means to bring together all the men in the three squadrons and headquarters. Teamwork on the paper would be reflected, for the good of all, throughout the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group.

"Upward and onward" is the immutable Law of Growth, and even with this second issue we confidently look forward.

## CARTOON

Our Own Detective Thriller  
Being the Adventures of  
Inspector Cheek, S.S.I. (Special Service Investigator)



## THE \$64 QUESTION

What popular Headquarters first lieutenant, "sweating out" another bar, is already receiving mail addressed "Captain"?

## BIRTHDAY OF THE WEEK

"Happy Birthday to You!"

Friday, October 22 - Corp. Michael William Ablondi, our Group "postmaster-general" (sometimes, "General" for short).

\* \* \* Thumbnail Biographical Sketch \* \* \*  
By his buddy-buddy, T/Sgt. C. A. R.

Our inimitable Group mail orderly, Corp. Michael William Ablondi, was born October 22, 1905, in Framingham Center, Massachusetts, the son of parents who were both born here in Italy. Little Michael grew up in Framingham Center, being a complete nuisance to the townspeople and attending the public schools of Framingham.

Corp. Ablondi was able to outtalk the officials of Sears, Roebuck & Co. and at the time of his induction was manager of the furniture department of one of their large stores. Apparently his charming ways never registered upon the fairer sex, as he has remained single all these years.

Corp. Ablondi, who had previously out in two years with the Massachusetts National Guard, reported to the Reception Center, Fort Devens, Massachusetts, July 1, 1942. He passed his physical and returned home for a ten-day period to finish painting the town red.

Returning to Fort Devens for induction July 10, 1942, Corp. Ablondi was sent to Miami Beach for basic training, and he made pfc. by October 1. His second stripe came in two more months, and now Corp. Ablondi is "the ranking corporal of Headquarters."

Listen for the familiar chant (of the Lucky Strike auctioneer? No!) of Corp. Ablondi: "Nothen for 'quarters!"

PERSONNEL DATA (S-1)

Sights unseen before now; Joe Cheek playing cards and Clayton Ragsdale indulging in the Devil's pastime - playing cards for stakes!

Question of the Week: Who has the largest, most imposing glass-covered desk in this section?

Found in the mail coming from home: Rob Vetter receives a large box of hard candy melted into a hard mass (mess?). Joe Unger comes through with cookies which have been thoroughly churned into crumbs. Tough luck, fellows.

After cutting beaucoup stencils the other evening, Ralph Bell, we think, wasn't "so sorry" when the supply of blanks ran out.

The medics are certainly hospitable. says Tom McLaughlin. "Not only do they entertain me all evening playing cards - they also furnish me a bed for the rest of the night and serve breakfast in the morning."

Never send Bert to the bakery, says Bill Lakin. He gets so hungry on the way back he just naturally eats all the pastries.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT (S-2)

Ever since that night at Korba T/Sgt. Beadle has been waiting to meet Bonita Granville again - in his dreams.

When S/Sgt. Qualls looked for the sectional ruler, of course S-3 had borrowed it. And where had they put it? In their wastebasket!

The disappointed "sweaters" are consoling themselves by the fact that they will be eligible for Section Eight in the very near future.

Who writes regularly to "my jeep-jogging friend, Giovanni Cechinello"? Answer - his Oklahoma gal friend, "Laughingwater." Wu-wu-wut.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY (S-3)

Hoper F., Robert D., and Chester P. seem to have found something interesting in a town somewhere south of here. Could it be good food and wine that has taken them back four times, or is it a beautiful gal or two? We might investigate the matter, but for one thing - they can never remember the name of the town!

We've heard of bats in the belfry, but now Newcomb is sleeping with a rat in his jacket. At least he did one morning.

MATERIAL ACQUISITION (S-4)

New addition to the S-4 staff was made this week when the appearance of "Snafu" was noted around the Group Material Officer. "Snafu" holds the rank of buck sergeant, acquiring his three stripes on the same day as Corp. Mills. Corp. Ablondi was observed offering them his congratulations.

MEPICS' DIAGNOSIS

Corp. George "Whitey" Laudonbach has been outdoing Old Dutch Cleanser these days by whitewashing cans, tables, and other loose stuff around the hospital.

OUR OVERSEAS BENEFACTORS

Happy wedding anniversary, boys! Yes, nuptial bells pealed just one year ago for:

Today, Saturday, October 16, S/Sgt. David McConnell.

Tuesday, October 19 - T/Sgt. William Richter, Jr.

And don't forget to remember the little woman back home.

EXCHANGES

From one of our contemporaries in the States, THE HOPEWELL NEWS, Hopewell (the Inland Port), Virginia, August 6, 1943:

"Miss Elizabeth Munt has received word that her brothers, George and 'Coco' ((that would be Plummer C. Munt of the 525th)) are safe. They both are attached to the same bomber command and were among those who raided Sicily."

Hiya, Invader - er, we mean Raider!

THE GROUP CHAPEL

By Chaplain Francis Fischer

"And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him." - Judges 16:20.

Samson is one of the most colorful characters of the whole Bible. His interest lies in his prodigious strength. Even today he is a symbol of power, just as the Rock of Gibraltar is of permanence.

The one thing he forgot was that his strength was a God-given trust. Because he forgot his God and his obligations to Him. Because he gave himself over to one mistress after another, there came a time when one of them, Delilah, was his downfall.

The tragic side of it was that he did not even know that his strength had left him - "and he wist (knew) not that the Lord was departed from him." Those who sin always have a bitter awakening.

COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIONS

T/Sgt. William E. Richter has acquired a new theme song, entitled "I'm Walking the Floor over You."

S/Sgt. "Golden Boy" McConnell is no old '49'er, but he hit three strikes this week by winning three baseball pools.

CHOW "LIVE" (MESS)

After a year of "sweating," the good Corporal Mills finally made the grade. It's now Sergeant Mills. F.P.'s, be careful!

Our vote for "Snafu" this week goes to Pvt. Halupka, who put salt instead of sugar into the sugar bowl at breakfast last Saturday. The good Chaplain Fischer, being chow-bound for the day and forgetting that sugar is rationed, was the only "salty coffee" victim.

Corp. Thuillier has again "relieved" himself from duty with the mess and has been vacationing in Naples with Lt. Gross and Mr. Proctor.

CENSORED - Maybe you think some of the above items should be - but you CAN mail this home, believe it or not.

A NEW FEATURE  
THE HQ. CROSS WORD PUZZLE

Note - If this experiment proves successful, we can have others. In fact, submit us some of your own. - Ed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						XXX		XXX		XXX									
						XXX	XXX												
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20									
						XXX	XXX												
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20												
						XXX	XXX												
16	17	18	19	20															
						XXX	XXX												

## HORIZONTAL

1. A Hoosier form of sergeant.
7. First name of famous rescued ace.
8. The boys we're fighting.
10. First name of the Red Cross field representative.
12. Direction.
13. Long Island (abbr.).
14. What's another name for your bivouac?
16. He was drafted to draft.
19. Goes with "sack."
20. Help!

## VERTICAL

1. A strong, silent man in Hq.
2. First two initials of No. 1 horizontal.
3. You wear this in winter.
4. Newcomb called his reports to them.
5. A news service.
6. Said to annoy an oyster; little Bell makes his share.
9. The people Ablondi outtalked.
11. The airplanes won't run without it. (plural).
14. First name of the defeated presidential candidate of 1924.
15. Famous literary initials.
17. First two initials of an intelligence officer.
18. First name of an operations officer.

## THE GROUP CHAPPEL

By Chaplain Francis Fischer

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." - Joshua 24:15.

## THE OPEN SECRET OF

What a tremendous profession of faith! Faith is belief IN ACTION! Faith is decision to follow REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCES! So the leader, Joshua, pronounces the great Open Secret of Faith - belief in action regardless of consequences in following the high call of God. Notice, he uses the emphatic "WILL serve the Lord." Faith also in trust: placing your life and all IN TRUST IN God and His will. In the "thick darkness" of 1939 in his Christmas broadcast King George VI quoted, "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the

PARTY OF THE REAR PART  
(Report smuggled out of the rear part of the operation)

All were out at the Grand Corp. Mike Ablondi's Italian steno held at the Enlisted Men's Club at the Rear Base. Corp. Mike had quite a variety for the G.I.'s to pick from, including Grandma, the chaperone. Grandma was quite a drinking character, and she had just begun to drink when she drank Sgt. Heider under the table. Sgt. Heider's face was very flush indeed, and one of the visiting officers remarked that Granny was quite a gal. Sgt. Ragsdale's "army" (now converted to WAC's), accompanied by the band, put on a featured act which was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the ack-ack musicians who played for the party, and many regrets that our advanced party and "Hodes" could not be with us. (Footnote: The editor will award one stick of chewing gum to the first man to guess the author of the above dispatch.)

## MEDICS' DIAGNOSIS

It could be our elegant facilities and attractive rates; anyway, our record must list includes such Hq. stalwarts as Lt. Dwyer, our Sergeant Major, Ralph Bell, Sgts. Vetter and MacDonald, and Corp. Hall. Gee, we may have to start rationing

## CHOW "LINE" (MESS)

Don't tell D. E. anything about that stuff of "carrying coils to Newcastle." His dear mother-in-law, in the true Christmas spirit, sent our reduced mess sergeant a can - you guessed it - of Spam and Vienna sausage.

## COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIONS

We proudly announce the birth of a 7-pound baby boy to our most esteemed section head. Congratulations, "Rick"; we didn't know you had it in you.

## IN MEMORIAM - SGT. HOWARD HOUGH

The recent death of Sgt. Hough of Group S-4 is being deeply felt by his section and by all the men who knew him. Sgt. Hough was a swell fellow and a friend of all the men in the Group; his place in our affections will be hard to fill.

## PERSONNEL DATA (S-1)

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mike Ablondi, who, despite the worst affliction possible - loss of speech - has kept on the job regularly and continuously. That is what is called "Serving in silence."

These frequent pauses for refreshments are most gratifying. Incoming Christmas boxes have reached a new high - fruit cake, chocolates, and cookies are being passed out mighty often these days.

unknown"; and he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."

# INVADERS' NEWS INVENTORY-NEWS

CENSOR'S STAMP

Weekly Publication of the Enlisted Men of Group Headquarters  
86th Fighter-Bomber Group USAAF

No. 5 ITALY Saturday, December 18, 1943

### THE STAFF

- S/Sgt. James W. Qualls.....Editor
- S/Sgt. George W. Munt, Jr.....Assistant Editor and Business Manager
- Sgt. John M. Csek.....Staff Artist
- S/Sgt. Joseph F. Cheek.....Mimeographer
- T/Sgt. Clayton A. Ragsdale.....Staff Member-at-large
- S/Sgt. William E. Takin.....S-1
- S/Sgt. Raymond L. MacDonald.....S-2
- S/Sgt. Howard M. Elwell.....S-3
- S/Sgt. George E. Shuttleworth.....S-4
- Corp. Richard Bell.....Communications
- Corp. Carmino N. Fasano.....Medics
- Sgt. Donald E. Mills.....Mess
- Corp. Walter C. Grimmer..Chaplain's Asst.
- 1st Lt. John E. Dwyer.....Officer Sponsor

### A FAREWELL FOOTNOTE

Upon the well-taken suggestion of several of our readers, we had planned either to discontinue or else sharply curtail the above rigamarole of the staff. We can readily understand how such a device (however de rigueur or S.O.P.) could become, through long familiarity, as boring as Hollywood "credits."

However, we have decided not to abandon our "roll call" in this, our last issue as a purely Headquarters medium. Yes, after some delay in our plans, next Saturday - Christmas Day, 1943 - will see us shed our journalistic chrysalis and blossom forth at last as the EM organ for the whole group. Naturally - and rightly - we shall be as changed as the resplendent butterfly is from the caterpillar.

Before we write "thirty," then, to these five small pioneering efforts, we can all afford to read the staff list once more and thus thank everyone for lending a hand and paving the way to bigger things. So long, but not good-bye. See you on Christmas!

### PERSONNEL DATA (S-1)

An unusual oddity (see cartoon at right) has been on display here - an honest-to-goodness bottle of Coca-Cola! C. A. Ragsdale found it in a Christmas box he received recently....With the addition of the large Christmas tree at our entrance, the Yuletide spirit is becoming more apparent. If you want to help trim the tree, come around and let us know....Bouquets of the week go to Carl Grimmer for the excellent manner in which he has been taking charge of services in the chaplain's absence. The services were well worked out, his talk inspiring and enjoyable - the result of a lot of hard work and preparation.

### TWOSCORE YEARS OF FLIGHT

In the busy rush of war and kindred overseas distractions, many of us, even in the Air Forces, could be forgiven about forgetting yesterday. For us, though, it's almost like forgetting our wedding anniversary, not to mention the birth of an unparalleled new era.

Only forty years ago yesterday - on December 17, 1903 - man acquired wings and a new dimension of power both for good and for evil. On that early winter day, on a North Carolina beach called Kitty Hawk, the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright raised their exotic craft - heavier than air - into brief, besitant flight. Such was the "open Sesame" to our Age of the Air.

So new is this superinvention that one of its creators - Orville Wright - is still alive; so gigantic and revolutionary are the changes wrought by the airplane that its inventor has lived to see it sway the course of two world wars and to "hep" oceans like so many oversize ponds. Long after Lindbergh's spectacular flight (and that was only sixteen years ago), it was front page headlines every time some daring flier crossed the Atlantic. Now, as we all know, that sort of thing is, quite literally, a common everyday occurrence, more than taken for granted by a world at war.

Lest we forget, we pause, then, to pay homage to Kitty Hawk - even while its namesake planes are taking off for combat. Who dares imagine what another four winged decades will bring mankind?

### CARTOON

"The Pause That Refreshes"  
or  
How "Svengali" Ragsdale  
Tortured S-1  
with a Genuine "Coke"



## OF TRAVELERS

Conducted Tour by Uncle Sam

To fight a global war, it doesn't hurt to know your globe - a plain truism. Accordingly, let us turn our terrestrial spotlights here on Italy.

First, for our bearings, remember that Rome, historic capital of the country and approximate center of the Italian peninsula, is pretty far north, in spite of the mild (?) Mediterranean climate. In fact, "the Eternal City" is in the very same latitude with Cape Cod, Massachusetts, or Chicago or the Oregon-California boundary. Also, Rome is 150 miles farther from Berlin than London is, although Italy and Germany have a common frontier at the famed Brenner Pass in the Alps.

Now the Kingdom of Italy (which includes Sicily and Sardinia), with its 120,000 square miles, is only three-quarters of the size of California, but with 44 million inhabitants, this country contains more than six times the number of people in "the Golden State." To make some European comparisons, Italy has (1) roughly the same population and area as the British Isles; (2) roughly the same population, but scarcely more than half of the area of France; (3) somewhat more than half the population and area of pre-war Germany.

The southern part of the Italian peninsula, below Rome (now mostly in Allied hands), covers less than one-fifth of the area (22,000 square miles) and population (8 million) of the whole kingdom, comprised in the four provinces (capitals in parentheses) of Campania (Naples), Lucania (Potenza), Apulia (Bari) on "the Spur" and "Heel," and Calabria (Crotone) on "the Toe." (Remember that, in addition to this part of the Italian mainland, the Allies also hold Sicily and Sardinia, integral parts of the Kingdom of Italy since its foundation more than 80 years ago.)

So much for preliminary orientation and a sort of statistical outlook on our "temporary home." In later issues, if it please, THE INVADERS' INVENTORY NEWS will be glad to explore a bit of the rich historical and cultural heritage whose evidence we see all around us.

## UP FRONT WITH MAULDEN

A low bow to the STARS & STRIPES artist) - A FLAMING YOUTH -

Sgt. Clavin Harrison "Red" Maulden, although the youngest operative in S-3 and one of the youngest in HQ, comes up for his 20th birthday. Congratulations and many happy returns, "Red"!

Not long after his twentieth birthday and only a fortnight after Pearl Harbor, Sgt. Maulden took his bride, Marilyn, down the middle aisle. The following March (1942) "Red" joined up with Uncle Sam. More than a year later, after he was overseas, "Red" became the proud father of a bouncing baby daughter, Cathy, now at the ripe age of 6 months.

## THE GROUP CHAPEL

By Corp. Walter O. Grimmer,

Asst. to Chaplain Fischer, on leave

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." - Psalms 119:105.

## THE BLANK BIBLE

"I'd like to make you a present of a beautiful Bible, if you'll promise to read it entirely through," he said.

I looked up from my desk to see a friend standing there, his hand extended, holding as lovely a piece of the book-binder's art as my eyes have rested upon in many a day. The book was of the finest leather; the gold edges marked it as something exquisite.

"Look at the way it is printed," my friend said - and I thought I detected a quizzical tone in his voice. But I opened it at the first chapter of Genesis and found the printing to be clear, readable, and pleasing to the eye. Then as I turned the pages I had the shock of my life. After the first few pages, the book was entirely blank!

A word of explanation. The book had been printed by some publisher in order to show what his finished product would be like - i.e., he had bound up a "dummy." It was a complete book in every respect except that, following the fourteenth chapter of Genesis, it was blank.

Is that blank Bible like the one that you read? Or rather, would a blank Bible after the fourteenth chapter of Genesis do for your Bible, because you never read any more than that? Maybe we do read the Bible, but do we know what we are reading? Does the real meaning sink in?

## A PROFESSIONAL VISIT

S-2 recently enjoyed the unprecedented honor of a visit from the medics. We wonder if our way sign out front could have caused some confusion - or only professional jealousy. If the latter be the case, just relax, boys. PRO down on the line - even in red letters on a white background - refers to our new Public Relations Office. Better not come in unless you want all this and publicity, too.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dearest Editor: 12-16-43

In the cartoon of your issue dated 11 December 1943, I, as the subject, feel that a gross injustice has been perpetrated on my sterling character. Under the circumstances, I feel impelled to ask for a published apology...based on the following counts: (1) defamation of character; (2) willful misrepresentation of my occupation - radio is my hobby.

The wonderful reputation and absolute integrity of our fine telephone company being also at stake - possibly causing great harm to their business, etc., etc., - unless, etc., etc., shall be forced to consult my lawyers and bring proceedings.

Sincerely, Hada the Horrible.

Dear Hada: Our TS Committee is giving due consideration to your sad case.

THIS PAGE

85¢ Per Copy  
Support the G.I. Community  
Feb 1943

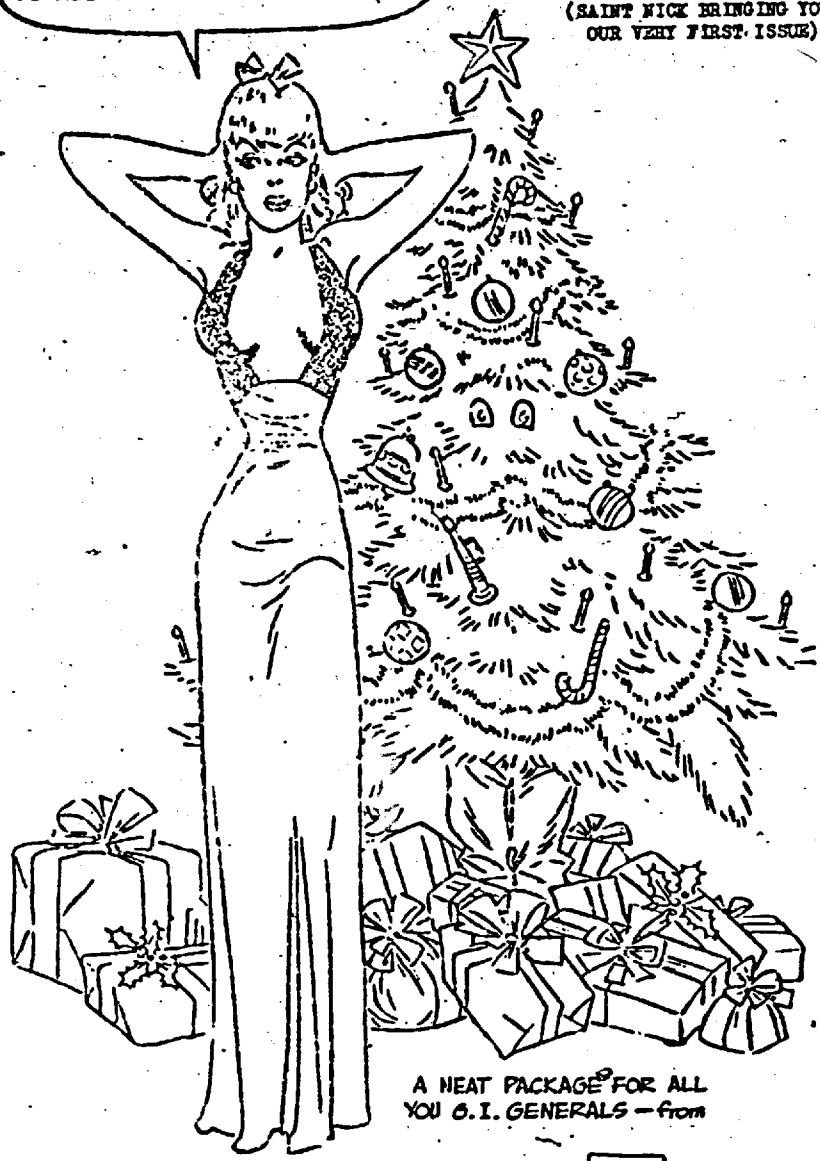
254

# INVADERS NEWS

CLEVER'S STAMP

SOMEHOW, LACE DOESN'T FEEL  
SO ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS . . . !

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES  
FOR A VICTORIOUS NEW YEAR  
FROM YOUR NEW GROUP NEWSPAPER  
(SAINT NICK BRINGING YOU  
OUR VERY FIRST ISSUE)



A NEAT PACKAGE FOR ALL  
YOU G.I. GENERALS - from

Copyright 1943 by Milton Caniff. Distributed by Camp Messenger Service



# INVADEES' INVENTORY NEWS

ISSUED BY THE 86TH GROUP, 5013  
 (UNIT) Saturday, December 20, 1943 Page 2

## STAFF

Material Representatives  
 S/Sgt. James W. Qualls... For Headquarters  
 S/Sgt. Raymond E. Anderson... For 525th Sq.  
 P/O. Carrington E. Burgess... For 526th Sq.  
 Corp. Joel G. Prouty, Jr.... For 527th Sq.  
 1st Lt. John E. Dwyer... Officer Sponsor

## THE 86TH GROUP SINGS

At the local cinema palace the other evening, not a few of you fellows heard our group song for the first time and later requested the words for it. Here they are:

### "WE'RE FIGHTING 86TH"

We've left our homes, we've left our  
 lend,  
 We'll do our best for old Uncle Sam.  
 The Heinie's in a fix when we show our  
 tricks,  
 'Cause we're the men of the Fighting  
 86th!

"Keep 'em firing" is our motto, keep  
 'em firing the guns;  
 Keep 'em down on the line till the  
 day's work is done.  
 Come on, you rookies, we're getting in  
 our lick,  
 We're the men from the Fighting 86th!

We fly high and we fly low,  
 It don't make a damn which way we go!  
 We'll do our best to whip the rest,  
 Come on, men, let's give 'em a show!

The pilot's in the cockpit - he's a  
 flying son-of-a-gun!  
 He's bound to get the Heinie when his  
 hand is on the gun.  
 Bring on your Zeeko-Wilfs and Messner-  
 schmitts,  
 We're the men from the Fighting 86th!

How about turning in all the old  
 books and magazines that you have and  
 don't want to the Group Library (Chap-  
 lain's Office)? New distribution service  
 to you on the line is in the making.  
 Thanks.

## HEADQUARTERS NOTES

"Snefu" of the weak took place when  
 J. A. Reggsale and our good man Qualls  
 both reported for their tour of CQ the  
 same night. After a quick look at his  
 roster, our duty sergeant duly admitted  
 his error, picked up his bed roll, and,  
 like the proverbial Arabs, quietly stole  
 away.... "Fas" pulled a couple of good  
 ones this week. When Capt. Gross had  
 finished his announcement at mess about  
 Humphrey Bogart's visit in our midst,  
 "Fas" piped up, "Should we bring our  
 tommy guns?" Our inimitable medic  
 reports that, as a result of the central  
 inspection, plenty of us have come up  
 "with holes in our heads." Ouch!.....  
 "Smittle" who has Birthday DIVE next  
 week, was actually born on Week 23!!

## GREETINGS AND SALUTE TIONS!

"Christmas Gifff!" Such is the tradi-  
 tional greeting given on this festive  
 morn by the Negroes of the Old South.  
 Somehow it seems to fit our situation  
 better, than the more familiar "Merry  
 Christmas," since neither the time nor the  
 place of our present life leaves much  
 room for outright merriment (vino addicts  
 excepted).

However, we cordially extend the  
 season's greetings as on this high and  
 auspicious day **The 86th INVADERS'**  
**INVENTORY NEWS** bows in as your weekly  
 group newspaper. This development has  
 grown logically from five pioneering  
 issues published at group headquarters,  
 and now we seek to please and interest  
 you, our wider and proper audience, the  
 enlisted men of the entire group.

Our success, then, will assure us a  
 helpful place in the integrated activi-  
 ties of our group.

Inside you will find each week a page  
 or pages carrying the news of your  
 squadron, compiled wholly by fellows in  
 your outfit, and also the pages with the  
 doings of your neighbors. We shall not  
 only welcome, but seek your constructive  
 criticisms and suggestions.

So much for introductions. We leave  
 it with you to open and judge the rest of  
 this particular Christmas "package,"  
 hoping that we have "sized" the contents  
 aright.

## THE GROUP CHAPLAIN

1st Lt. Walter C. Griener,  
 Asst. to Chaplain Fischer

"For unto you is born this day in the  
 city of David a Saviour, which is Christ  
 the Lord." - Luke 2:11.

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: THE FASHION TODAY

If you haven't read the Christmas  
 story of the birth of Jesus, or haven't  
 heard it read in the last few days, by all  
 means read Luke 2:7-20. You will find a  
 great blessing from the reading if only  
 you will try to picture the beauty of the  
 words, recalling what this story has done  
 to change all lives, from the lowest to  
 the most sublime.

The fashion today is to make Jesus  
 simply a wonderful spiritual genius, and  
 to think that the wonderful parts of the  
 gospel story are legend. Always the idea  
 is to make the glorious picture that we  
 have in the gospels unreal. And the next  
 step is to feel that we cannot expect  
 Christ in any real and vital way to come  
 into the hearts of us world-minded mortals  
 and give us the grand victory over our  
 weaknesses and sins.

The true gospel is expressed in the  
 words, "Behold I stand at the door and  
 knock; if any man will open unto me I will  
 come and sup with him." To have this we  
 must CLEAN HOUSE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING  
 TODAY TO REMOVE THE OLD'S DIRTY

255

## WELCOME AND ADVICE

Coming to us from Group and no stranger to us is our new Commanding Officer, Major Edwin A. Bland, Jr. We do accept his offer of coming half way to meet him in all matters that come up, and know that his past record will prove he has always gone a step further, toward helping his men. Certainly there is no one who can do more for us enlisted men than our C.O., so let's do our part so he can always back us to the limit. We do welcome you, Maj. Bland, and we hope it won't be long until our squadron is again on top in every way as it was all through Stally.

On your transfer to Group, Major Cohnigan, we wish you success, appreciate your efforts as our C.O., and hope that you can continue to try for our squadron.

Leaving top four the enlisted men's ranks, is W/pt Carl Schank. Sgt. Schank had been our line chief since before leaving the States and has now assumed the duties of group inspector. The best of luck, Carl, hope you find few hours to pick with your old crew.

## REJUVENATED MESS

The past month found our Mess Hall under the supervision of S/Sgt Hollis Vieau, ex-gurman, or should I say "Armed and dangerous"? Guess we can call him "pistol packin' papa" as his wife presented him with a baby girl recently. Whether it's the latter or not, something sure got fired in our kitchen and except for the usual grocers, nary a grip can be heard of late. Imagine it's quite a disappointment for the line of Italians waiting outside the door looking for remains. As for pie and cookies, we have the best when it comes to producers, Sgts Bailey and Kopniak are really giving out. We have a pretty good bunch of Italian KP's who have been with us for quite a while now and it's a real break for those who ordinarily would be pulling KP. Our carpenters have been busy and built nice tables and together with the electric lights, make the meals more enjoyable. Humor is that we are to have turkey again Christmas, hope the pans are filled so we do not have to worry about getting enough. You have really done swell, Vieau, let's keep it up, we all appreciate it.

Psst!! Tuffy's a big girl now!

## BEST WISHES

I wish to take this means of thanking each one of you for the fine cooperation and work each has shown for the short time I have been with this organization. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with such a fine body of men.

I wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and may we all be here for the next one.

Edwin A. Bland, Jr

## DISCUSSION CLUB FORMING

With such gatherings as we now have each night in our enlisted men's clubroom, we feel that even the "dog-gies" could have an interesting round table discussion. S/Sgt Malone is in charge of a committee which is active, trying to choose a fitting subject and the night it is to be "hashed out". In no way are these sessions to be formal and subjects of interest to all will be discussed. To be remembered although, is that it is not a "bitch" club but merely a meeting to bring out ideas of present, current, and past war problems. Any help or suggestions to aid such a thing let Malone in on your thoughts. We should kindle the fire for the "Hot Stove League" is on and grow at least to ourselves that "Doggius" can think.

## ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB

The enlisted men's club is now operating in full swing. The ping-pong table seems to be running a close second to the bar for top honors in popularity, and very convenient. Writing tables are also now in use. Sgt Terrebonne seems to be the most regular customer in the writing room. If it's not his "Navy" mess tray under his arm, it's his alumina writing case.

The 'old masters' at ping pong are still coking out on top, and some of the 'novices' are getting pretty handy with the paddle, too. It sort of distinguishes the "Roe Hall Regulars" from the days at 'durr old Key'. Not mentioning any names of course, but the guy with the baseball cap seems to win his share of games pretty consistently.

Cpl Young and Blackie are still dishing them up from behind the bar and I'm sure their efforts toward making the Club the success it is, are greatly appreciated by everyone.

**OFFICERS' LOUNGE COMPLETED**

The officers are now enjoying their new combined mess hall and club, which has recently been completed, under the supervision of Capt. Anton. Cpl. McClure, recently transferred from the line, is the headwaiter, aided by his two bar-tender assistants, and after the evening meal is cleared away, the two rooms are quickly converted into a very comfortable and luxurious lounge, consisting of the Blue Room and the Mural Room. The walls of the latter are decorated with zooming '36's, the newly approved squadron insignia, along with the names of the pilots the squadron has operated from since arriving overseas, and last but not far from least, a few hearty clad fellows, "lest the boys forget".

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To the four new captains in the squadron, ex-lieutenants Blackwell, Louis, Schuyler, and Actor. The latter is one of the few remaining of the first group of pilots who were in the squadron when it first started operations back at Key.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to each and every one of you for the cooperation you have given me during the past year. A Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

R. O. TIDWELL.

**CORRESPONDENCE COURSEIS OFFERED**

Information on Government extension courses may now be obtained from Captain Blackwell. A manual has been received with subjects possible to take, credit received, and whether or not subject is through the Government school or one of our country's universities.

**HERE AND THERE**

Visitors recently in Cava were Early, Valverde, Lehey, and Loucks. Words were not needed to toll as their three day pass was quite a strenuous affair. Soons as the Early and his possessions fared alright until he tried to steal Loucks' "stuff" away from him, but she floored him. Early is finally out and around again, but now he's looking for a rest camp and leaving all of Cava for Louie McGraw.

Organizing a basketball team is a movement on in our squadron. The late in getting started, we hope soon to have a "five" capable of giving some team trouble, especially our rival teams in the group. A gym for our use has been found and as soon as our work permits, we shall try and assemble. The time will be announced on the Bulletin Board.

Our squadron string band, plus Pycink's accordion, has made several appearances of late, including the enlisted men's lounge of the Red Cross in Naples.

The gun inspection held recently, seems to have caught more than a few of the fellows, "with their pants down" so to speak, judging from the list on the bulletin board the next day. Shifu, the C.J. for the day says he used up at least half the paper in the Orderly Room, scribbling names and notations such as ----"dirty"----- "rusty barrel"----"no oil can", etc. ----Well, guess we ARE in a war zone, after all.

Wondering how many have noticed the lights on the Christmas Tree in the dayroom? Some say we are the only squadron which has lights on its tree. They were made possible the home made way by S/Sgt Joyner.

So generous of the Red Cross to give us two big doughnuts and a cup of coffee again. They even had a group of GI singers to sing some carols for us afterwards, too.

257

THIS PAGE

526th BASKETBALL TEAM UNDEFEATED  
 The 526th basketball team undefeated in 16 consecutive starts defeated an All-Star team, composed of stars of other teams in this area, to the tune of 19 to 18.

Faced by Capt. McGoldrick, who racked up 12 points to run away with individual scoring honors and Pfc Bennett who had the crowd on its feet several times with his "How you see it now you don't" tactics with the ball, the Invaders held a commanding lead at half time and the end of the third quarter found them leading 18 to 10. In the fourth and final period the all stars taking advantage of their superior height closed the margin to 19 to 18. The Invaders with a masterful bit of stalling controlled the ball for the last two minutes of the game to protect their one point margin. Other members of the team include Lt. Hood, S/Sgt. Puckett, Cpl. Fetterich, Col. Miller and Pfc. Ripkin.

Sgt. Duncan Gordon, who is in West Virginia recovering from injuries suffered in a collision with an airplane in Africa last July, is doing well, according to a letter received by S/Sgt. Pierson recently. In the same hospital, at White Sulphur Springs, is Pfc. Carmine Palmieri, undergoing treatment for burns suffered on Cape Cor last July.

Through the "grapevine" Palmieri said he had heard that half the outfit had been awarded on its way from Sicily to Italy.

Pfc. Ray Miles received a bottle of Coca Cola in a Christmas package. Sgt. Muzio received Spam, while S/Sgt. Kennedy was honored with Vienna sausage.

Congratulations to Sgt "Pop" Grice for the nice Christmas tree in the club. All the spirits there are not in bottles. The barber shop has moved to the next series of buildings, Apartment 6A, middle room.

The usual contingent of opera-lovers arrived for the "L'Espresso" show. Most of the boys enjoyed the spectacle. Others said "the singers just stood up there and belted."

Flowers to the motor pool boys for putting over-stuffed furniture in the truck that journeys to town.

S/Sgt. Billy D. Buy is receiving congratulations on the arrival of a son, Billy D. Buy, Jr., December 17, in Oklahoma City.

258

# FOUR WASH BARES

As you know there is a foxhole  
 up yonder in the blue  
 where friend or foe, either one, can go  
 Even their life on earth is thru  
 There is no water at the bottom  
 To soak you to the skin,  
 No gun will scare the rookie there,  
 He will be safe within.

All the soldiers of this war  
 Will someday soak that place,  
 And wry up there, will do his share,  
 There will be no rank or race.

There'll be no hate or conflict  
 Only room for peace and love,  
 To each other, we'll be a brother  
 In that foxhole up above.

I wonder if I can reach that foxhole  
 When I love this world behind,  
 And reach the goal, where every soul  
 Is pure and good and kind.

That foxhole is called "Heaven",  
 Where happiness reigns sublime,  
 Sorrows cease and there is peace  
 Forever, until the end of time.

P. T.

## ROMAN RENAISSANCE CT 1943.

Today I heard an Invader say  
 "He had trodded merrily down Naples  
 why  
 "Is spaghetti, roast beefe and p. snots  
 their living,  
 Or is 'verry nicee gurla' their every  
 day's giving!"

"But shall I do when they roar  
 'carniola'  
 But shine my shoes and run like hell!  
 Now I don't claim to be a wild old  
 man,  
 But I've mastered some tricks for this  
 wild rage.  
 It took the blessed Nazis to get them  
 this way:  
 So we can't drive the devil out of them  
 in a day.  
 Remember—they're thankful, Yanks, you  
 gave them the story,  
 and the freedom and devotion of Old  
 Glory.

### SIGN LIST

- S/Sgt. George W. Fink
- S/Sgt. James V. Day
- S/Sgt. Johnnie R. Yates
- Sgt. Alfred Ripoli
- Sgt. Marvin E. Townsend
- Cpl. Quinton E. Fero
- Pvt. Merlin H. Ferguson

## DARRELL

December 10, 1945, Lt. John W. Gee, of Groesby, Illinois, flag, tail and Charlie on a 12 ship mission to complete his tour of duty with this squadron. Lt. Gee joined our squadron in June in North Africa and immediately proved himself to be an excellent pilot and flight leader. In the near future, Lt. Gee will return to the USA and will take with him best wishes from the whole squadron. Lots of luck, Lieutenant.

## ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB

By

Sgt. Sidney Howard

The creation of our fairly new enlisted men's club has proved the solution to the problem of keeping the kiddies off the street at night. For the first month or so of its existence, the club consisted of merely a bar, and one broken down victrola. We did a booming business, better than \$1500 taken in during the first month, but still there was nothing to attract the teetotalers. The members finally got on the ball, however, and in a very few days, we had a club fixed up that is currently the cynosure of all eyes. A large 15 foot bar has been built. We have knocked down the wall separating two of the side rooms to make one big game and reading room. We hope soon to have a floor that will be suitable for tripping the light fantastic. The windows have been closed in with glass, thus allowing the improvised heater to keep all three rooms plenty warm.

We feel that a few orchids are in order for those men who have helped so much in making the club the success we feel that it is, namely brothers Randolph, Bradford and Larsen. They drew a natural mural which enliven the walls. (Even though they do present a problem during Sunday night church services.) Red Sigler, whose constant attendance and patience paid dividends in the form of a half dozen easy chairs and some thirty straightback jobs and whose raffle was a big success. (Even though the cobra multi-striped boys walked off with the big prizes) George Wilson, for doing a swell job of constructing the bar and last, but far from least, Dennis Rich, our procurer of liquors. (Plenty of other squadrons would like to know where he gets that German rum.)

Our enlisted men's club was started with the idea that it would be for members only. We are proud of the fact that we have a 100 percent membership. However, we invite any of the other fellows in the Group to drop in for a short or long stay. We recommend our Special of the

## ARMAMENT SECTION

Sgt. Thomas Andreotti, is one of those fortunate few who is celebrating this Christmas season in a very special way. Through his Commanding Officer, he has been granted a three day pass to visit his brother, who is a citizen of Castel Baronia, Province of Avellino. Sgt. Andreotti was born in Castel Baronia and at the age of twelve moved with his family to Boston, Mass. In later years, his brother and father returned to Italy, only to find themselves caught in the wheels of World War II. Since that time, and until November of this year, those two brothers had not seen each other.

One day this week, the Armament weapons carrier was spotted stalled beneath the nearby underpass with some ten or twelve Armoreds dismounted and gazing skyward. An air raid? No! Just that backsome brunette procerously picking her way across the railway ties. "Colorado hasn't the only Grand Canyon," was Sgt. Slingland's only remark.

Rumor has it that M/Sgt. Harvey Bahf may report back to duty before too many days. Bahf has been evacuated to Africa for specialist treatment of a punctured eardrum, which he received in an accident in October. A recent letter informs us that he is progressing rapidly and feeling fit as a fiddle.

## SQUADRON SUPPLY

A notable contribution to this squadron is Cpl. Sol (I can get it for you 'holosalc) Susser's ability to scangle scarce items from the Quartermaster. If they have it, Sol will get it in the alogan.

## L!Affair Cement Mixer

The cement mixer affair happened on a rhubarb run by our squadron. It seems that there was a cement mixer run by Jerry, that was going full blast, mixing cement for concrete pilings. If the mixer was destroyed, it would hold up the Jerry retreat immeasurably. O. H. brought his gun sights to bear on the helpless mixer, and let go a short burst. His tracers bounced in and out of the mixer. All the Jorries around if were doing swan dives, fast gyrations, and similar movements to get out of the line of fire. One fellow jumped for the ditch like Superman and crawled the rest of the way in a devious pattern. After reconnaissance the next day, it was found that Jerry will have little use for it, except maybe to use it for a spaghetti roller-rotor, if they can get the floor

# IN VADERS NEWS

Fortnightly Publication of the Enlisted Men  
86th Fighter-Bomber Group USAAF

Saturday, February 5, 1944

ITALY

No. IV

## THE STAFF Editorial Representatives

S/Sgt. James W. Qualls...For Headquarters  
S/Sgt. Raymond E. Anderson...For 525th Sq.  
Pfc. Carrington H. Burgess...For 526th Sq.  
Corp. Joel C. Prouty, Jr....For 527th Sq.  
Capt. Paul E. Verseput....Officer Sponsor

## SERVICE MEN'S CHRISTIAN LEAGUE

First meeting of the Service Men's Christian League (publishers of THE LINK), local chapter, was held January 31 at the Base Chapel. Provisional officers were elected for the next two weeks, to serve until the general election of officers is held. This is to give us time to meet the men in the other groups and other units attending our meetings.

The following men were the provisional officers so chosen:

President - Bob Shultz, 332d  
Vice-President - John Englishman, 27th  
Secretary-Treasurer - Bill Lakin, 86th  
Program Committee - Carl Grimmer, 86th  
(Chairman); Mike McKitrick, 27th;  
William Pawl, 332d  
Nominating and Constitution Committee -  
Capt. Over, 27th (Chairman); Sgt.  
Flaner, 332d; Sgt. Parker, 86th;  
Sgt. Myer, 3d Photo; Sgt. Brady, 332d

ALL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN CORDIALLY  
INVITED TO OPEN FORUM  
At 1900 hours, Monday, February 7, 1944  
Base Chapel

Subject: "Are There Evidences That  
We Are Laying the Foundations for a Better  
World?"  
— Carl Grimmer reporting

## \*\*GROUP HEADQUARTERS\*\*

More Personnel Data (S-1): Sgt. Ragsdale is happy and carefree again since he has been relieved of his responsibilities as acting mail orderly. Mike Ablondi is buck on the job now after convalescing for the last month in the hospital..... We have the most interesting neighbors, and from our balcony one can chat and gaze longingly at feminine sights. For fuller explanation, ask "Rosy" McLaughlin, who is No. 1 Observer for our staff.

## WANTY HAPPY RETURNS!

The coming fortnight will mark the birthday of our genial "Toonserville" bus driver, Martin B. "Arky" Wills (February 9), and also of one of our long-standing stalwarts (some pun), S/Sgt. "Doc" Cheek (February 12). "Arky" once taught typing during his six months with the three C's (so now he drives trucks). Arriving on the same day as Lincoln - 104 years later - "Doc" doubtless grew into his present GI job with the message center because of his years with Southwestern Bell Tel. Co.

## "WHEN I COME BACK"

Editor's Note - The provocative four words above make up the title of the following theme in a military section of English composition. The paper was written originally by an unnamed aviation student of the Thirteenth College Training Detachment, Southwestern College, Memphis, Tennessee. We feel that this theme contains an exceptional amount of food for thought and is quite apropos (see adjoining column) for everyone of us who yearn to go back home.

I want to return to a nation of promise, of opportunity, of hope. I want to find a people who see clearly the tremendous problems of the future and who are progressively going forward to meet them. I want to find a nation looking toward a new world.

The United States I will return to is being established now. Post-war America is but a continuation of America at war. I cannot help thinking how disappointed I would be to return to civilian life and find the present situation. Somehow, somewhere, some day, people must become cognizant of a world much larger than themselves, their families, even their nation. If I could return to a people finally willing to try to solve the problem of living together with other people in cooperative endeavor to build, I would ask nothing more. But to find a nation dominated by the individualistic desire to get ahead at the expense of other nations - that would make all this fighting seem so futile.

I do not expect, or even wish to find a Utopian solution to the nation's problems. It is a much smaller, and the again, a much larger goal. Simply, if people would BECOME DETERMINED to find a system of peace, if people would BECOME DETERMINED to extend democracy to all peoples and all phases of life, if people would REALIZE the promise of the future, then the solutions would eventually follow.

We are very far from such an ideal. Perhaps it will take another war to arrive at the point where we can begin to face the future. I would like to return to a United States determined to make that unnecessary.

## \*\*GROUP HEADQUARTERS\*\*

Personnel Data (S-1): Sgt. Bell is grinning through a toothless smile since his most recent jeep accident, which cost him three of his front choppers. Rough eh, Sarge?

BUY WAR BONDS

THIS PAGE IS

Three of our pilots completed their required missions this week and are now homeward bound. Before leaving, Captain Anton went over to and around the 16th Ave. Hospital where he had claims on a pretty nice in base. Lt. Jackson had hoped to stay around awhile, in fact he got out in an extra mission when called on one day, yet the wedding bells rang too loud at home to stay here any longer. Lt. Duffell is the third pilot and he will miss seeing his three old covers.

See where "Pappy" Frost is getting the jeep time these days. Pappas looks strange wearing a regular mechanic's cap. — does anyone have a ball cap they can spare???? Gierke's brother, Wilson, of the 36th Division recently visited here and reports things at the front as "rough". Says they're glad to see our A-36's coming up so often.

Leave it to Louis McGraw to make news and too, a laugh. Seems as though a peanut vendor was passing the Communications tent and after selling his peanuts to the boys he told them of other wares you could buy just across the canal which is a short distance from the tent. In a second the vendor found himself alone and in a cloud of smoke, the boys were already to the canal bank. With Early, Logan and McGraw hearing of such a thing across the canal, you know they were there first and here's what happened. With such a prize across the water there was no doubt in McGraw's mind that he could not make it.

Congratulations to Knight, Bennet and Fisher for having passed the qualifications to enter Cadet training. Stop in to Sgt. Millers room and see the ferns and what notes he has painted on the walls. If you are ever near Torre Annunziata, stop in at the Salvation Army Canteen for a spot of hot tea plus as many fresh rolls as you like. Any one wishing to have a souvenir ash tray made, see John "Fisher" Wetzel, just lay the needed shells down and tell him when you expect to pick up the finished souvenir. Blackshaw asks that magazines be left in the day room, read them there and let the next fellow read them too. Mail service is speeding up. Shifley received a letter on the 4th of February which bore the postmark of the same day but from the States, but from a friend on our front lines.

Logan and Early though wanting to reap the prize, decided the canal was too wide and deep for them to want to jump. McGraw getting more anxious by the second wagered with them that he could do it, and so they accepted his bet. So down the bank goes Darius, down and down, his feet reach the edge, the leap, his body is half way across the water, he's clawing, his head is spinning on his body, he puts himself in auto-rich, there's nothing to do now, except pull himself out, he is in the drink. Yes, one last move, he is clawing his billfold, but it too has forsaken him and his limbs have taken wings and are heading for Logan's and Early's pockets. After toasting himself beside a fire and in a new set of clothes, Louis again set forth for the canal. Logan and Early offered the money back if he could jump it the second try but McGraw said no, and that he could go to Cava and would neither have to jump nor get wet.

Only a few turned out from our Squadron the past week to attend meetings of the newly organized S.M.C.L. (Service Mens Christian League) This is an effort sponsored by Chaplains and aided by funds from young peoples league in most of our churches in America. Certainly some officers and enlisted men could and should want to attend one of it's meetings during the week. Aside from spiritual meetings there will be many social meetings, so follow the chaplain's bulletin and pay a visit at some of these meetings.

2nd Lt.: Why didn't you salute me?  
Pfc.: Oh, I didn't see you, sir.  
2nd Lt.: That's alright, I was afraid you were mad at me.

Sign in a Jackson (Michigan) tavern: "Government regulations -- Do not leave bar during black out, you may be half lit."

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

GOING HOME

It is with deep regret that we announce the departure of Major JOHN V. HARSH, the squadron commander, for the States after having completed his tour of duty. Upon leaving Major Harsh said: "This is a fine bunch of fellows and if I come back to this theatre I hope I am re-assigned to this squadron." Major Harsh's home address is Eldorado, Ark.

Captain AVAN E. WILLIAMS, also completed his tour of duty this week, and left yesterday for the States. Captain Williams is one of the veterans of the squadron, having been with the outfit 14 months. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin.

CAPTAIN HOOD BACK AGAIN

Capt. ROBERT HOOD, who went to group two weeks ago as assistant operations officer is back with the squadron as Operations Officer replacing Captain HARRY W. LOREIS, whom we welcome as our Commanding Officer.

526TH FOOTBALL TEAM DEFEATED

The 526th football team dropped a game to the 332nd Service Group team by a rather top heavy score. The invaders, altho threatening several times, seemed unable to come up with a scoring play. The final score was 26 to 0 in favor of the 332nd.

Two casualties resulted in the ranks of the 526th. S/Sgt. Fred Wilson and Sgt. Tom O'Shea both out with leg injuries.

PINK QUALIFIES FOR LEASE OFF CLUB

S/Sgt. George Pink of this group received an official communique from the states this week notifying him that his girl was a 4-For. This authoritatively makes him a bona-fide member of the brushoff club. When questioned about this distressing situation Sgt. Pink issued the following statement quote "CLUB-SCREWED" unquote.

FAITHFUL

That's it at nite, while I am deep in slumber,  
I think of as being, a next little number?  
Who's always been faithful and thrifty as well,  
I'd be lost without you, as a body could tell.

All these years, no trouble you've caused,  
No hesitation, never a pause.  
I've no doubts about you; I know your my friend,  
I know you'll stick by me till the bitter end.

BUY WAR BONDS

I'm dreading the day; I know it will come,  
You'll be an old-fashioned and look like a bum.  
Even then still I love you; I know you're unhurttable,  
I'm speaking of you, my old blue convertible.  
H. & C.

ODDS AND ENDS

Sgt. Lervin Townsend, of the mess hall, has returned to the squadron after several weeks in Africa where he underwent treatment for yellow jaundice.

S/Sgt. Connell is being hospitalized Orchids to Captains, Williams, Hood and Barber on their promotions this week to their present rank.

It is not permissible to use ammunition boxes in which to enclose articles for shipping to the States, according to an order issued Thursday.

The reporter will render a solo Sunday morning at services to be conducted by Chaplain Fischer in Group Chapel.

THE SOLDIER'S PRAYER

The Sarge is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me pick up burnt matches;  
he leadeth me through mud puddles.

He guideth me on the course of obstacles for my health's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valleys,  
I must run up the hills.

He smiteth my head with abuses;  
my cup runneth over.

Surely ordnance and K. P. will follow me all the days of my army life;  
and I will dwell in the hair of my sergeant forever.

You guessed it. Thirty minutes later, the private had begun an indefinite tour of K. P.

ODDS AND ENDS

The bird we hear at night, sounding something like the yelping of a puppy, is a screech-owl.

The Italians do not observe Valentine's Day. Thus, G.I.'s are hard put to find a moment for the occasion. Maybe this information will explain to the girls at home why they are getting less Valentines this year.

BUY WAR BONDS

Two years ago, when the people of the United States voted to forsake their pseudo-neutrality and join the United Nations, the military situation was a black one. The forces of aggression were rampant in Europe, Asia and Africa, and the headlines throughout the world screamed of Singapore, the Philippines, German victories in Russia, and the terrible "blitz" of London—certain to spell the doom of Britain. Many times the soldiers of the United Nations were called upon to face terrible odds—armed only with the courage and faith in our cause. With these weapons we passed the crisis and finally began to turn defeat into victory.

Now, after a year of local successes on many fronts, we have marshalled our forces and stand ready to strike for total victory. The opposition is still strong and the battle will be a bloody one, but if we go forth armed with the same courage and devotion to duty, victory is sure to be ours.

To the officers and men in this organization my congratulations and heartfelt thanks for a job well done. Now, on the threshold of success, we must beware of false optimism, redouble our efforts, and rededicate ourselves to the cause of freedom throughout the world.

Major Robert J. Kirsch  
Commanding Officer

Dear Pfc.,

All right, all right, so it's about time I was writing. Can I help it if this Army life, dago drink and beautiful (?) signorinas not to mention the censorship—put a crimp in my literary style? On top of all this, as the hometown rag doubtless tells you, things have been fairly popping over here. I doubt, however, that the newspapers tell you that a fair share of these poppings are coming from the bar of our Enlisted Mens' Club.

To explain:

One of the big problems of the Army, as you should know, is "how to keep the kiddies off the streets". With a little louse known as "typhus" and others of his more repulsive ilk flourishing in this theatre, the problem became doubly perplexing. At this critical juncture—pause—fanfare of trumpets—enter the Fightin' 527th Enlisted Mens' Club, to solve the problem at one fell swoop. Many problems were presented, natcherly, but the greatest proved to be that of "provisioning" the bar. Scotch, bourbon, beer, etc. over here are merely the stuff of which dreams are made, so we were forced to the native mart-

Here our greatest coup was the unearthing (and I mean this literally), of a large supply of German gin. Seems that our good dago buddies buried the stuff to keep it from Jerry when that gentleman evacuated the area. Anywho, mixed with cherry brandy and grapefruit juice, this squarehead gin makes our big selling special "The Invader". "Neapolitan Wites" is another house favorite, while the "Skullbuster" is for those who prefer the Michael Finn type of "cocktail".

Rivalry between the Army and Navy branches of the service is legend, but I'm here to tell you that it's strictly "feenesh" so far as this out-of-fit goes. We have acquired a great and lasting love for those "men who go down to the sea in ships"—namely a love for their big guns. It so happened, a while back, that the fickle fortunes of war chose to deposit our bunch at an "advanced Italian airfield" very conveniently located between Jerry's artillery and ours. (And brother, in G.I. or civilian lingo, that is advanced. Strictly no place for the Air Corps to be.) I began to get an idea how close we were to Jerry when I heard the Operations Officer briefing the pilots on the first morning. "We'll rendezvous at 5000 above the field", says the Major, and gerinto our dive on the target from there." Says I to myself "this is not solid." (With apologies to the flight chief author of this statement.) To make a very long story short, however, and tie this thing together. I'll get back to the Navy. Lying off shore in their battle wagons, cruisers, destroyers, et al, they had been shelling the kraut positions intermittently, but when the situation got really rough, they poured out those shells faster'n H. James plays "The Bee" on his horn. Every time one of those 16 inchers went off I went up, (about 12" off terra firma), but I've never heard any sweeter music this side of heaven (Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians to the contrary notwithstanding.) I never did thin much of this traveling business, and my Army experiences have turned me into a real homebody, but one thing I can be thankful for and that is that each stop on our many whistle-stopped route gets a little better. Sandy, treeless North Africa holds memories of nothing but lousy "veeno" and Arab kids yelling "Johnny gimme bon bon, cig'rot, chewin' gum, biscuse". Sicily, especially the northeastern section around Messina, was a little improvement but noisy. "Caranelli, passon" was

their battleship. Then we lit in Mussa's old stamin' grounds. Then the rains came, and the kids with their "Amigo, minger", and the sig-norinas, and here we are. Hey tempus fugit even faster.

Recently we had the very good fortune to see and hear Ella Logan of Loch Lomond fame and her touring U S O troupe. She brought us up to date on the latest song hits in the States, including that perennial hit "Pistol Packin' Mama". This little number caused us all to fear for the mentality of the people back there. The guy that wrote that should be permanent latrine "writing". But when that little Scotch gal threw her long hair back over her shoulder, closed her eyes and gave out with "Good bye Sue" - well, she had us right in the palm of her well-turned mitt. As we guys rot are hop says "It was outta dis world."

Communiques from the guys and gals back there isn't what they used to be. All the gals seem to be infanticipating, past, present, or future. All the guys seem to be up for Capt - ain or Major. They tell me that I can make Staff if I sign up for 20 years, but I don't know. Looks like you and I are gonna be somethin' like Wilco and Vermont at the big round - in a class by ourselves. Thought for the nounces. Our nomination for the Company least likely to succeed after la guerres Spem, Inc. A guy does have to eat though, unfortunately, so I'd best secure this scuttlebutt for now, dash over to the mess hall, and best the maggots to my share of same. Lip upper stiff, kid, and have it around the infield, upst-airs or down, in the logos or not.

-Love and Kisses,

Sid

Most of the space for the Squadron news has been devoted to outstanding excerpts from the Squadron Year Book. Along this line, many thanks are due, especially to 1st Lt. Donald Kubly, and Sgts. John Randolph, Horace Bradford and John Hatch for their facile drawings that did so much to enhance the Year Book. Of course, without the cooperation of the entire squadron the book wouldn't have been possible at all. Lt. Kubly's satirical drawings were highlighted in the center of the book. Sgt. Randolph contributed a number of drawings of life on the line which were very comical.

BUY WAR BONDS

Our ship pulled out early, headed in to the open bay; Chalk marked the hard pine deck, spaces for us to lay; Chow lines long, twice a day, mess three docks below; We had smokes and sweets solitary, poker, down and go. Days later we sighted land, it was the Spanish coast; Then we loomed Gibraltar, the old Prudential boat. Our trip was nearly over as we sailed thru the strait; We reached our destination, My lith was that date. C's and K's and puppets, the battle of tin can; We piled cans way up high, salvaged metal for Uncle Sam. We moved to another airfield, serious training had begun; Soon we were ready for action, north a hot African sun. Our pilots bombed o'er Sicily, and soon we had a base; They dropped a few 'rounds Etna, Jerry sought a safer place. They continued bombing Italy, raising hell on every flight; And when they hit Salerno, Jerry really felt our might. We hit a rainy season, and things went pretty slow; Our story hasn't finished, other places we will go. The axis days are numbered, we'll seal der Fuehrer's cove; Then we'll deck our A and B bags, and take a ship for home.

- Col. Henry G. Smithies.

Several budding Aviation Cadets have passed the first round of a long and tedious task. Sgt. Bernard Clark, Operations clerk and S/Sgt. Jack D. Erwin are the men who have passed the physical and mental tests required by the PBS Cadet Board.

Another departure for the States is 1st Lt. Harry A. Stone. An ex Regular Army crew chief, Lt. Stone has been with us since joining our squadron in June in North Africa. Lt. Stone was famous for his many talks to the enlisted men on the operations of the day in the air.

S/Sgt. Charles Strancy, mess sergeant, has introduced several tasty items to the messes of late. These welcome additions to the menu have been sadly lacking until now.

BUY WAR BONDS

CONFIDENTIAL

265

# THE INVADERS' NEWS

Fortnightly Publication of the Enlisted Men  
86th Fighter-Bomber Group USAAF

Saturday, March 4, 1944

ITALY

No. VI

## THE STAFF Editorial Representatives

S/Sgt. James W. Qualls...For Headquarters  
S/Sgt. Raymond E. Anderson...For 525th Sq.  
Corp. Carrington H. Burgess...For 526th Sq.  
Corp. Joel C. Prouty, Jr....For 527th Sq.  
Capt. Paul E. Vergeput....Officer Sponsor  
Published first & third Sat. of the month

### \*\*\*GROUP HEADQUARTERS\*\*\*

**FLASH! EXTRA** - The rumor to end all rumors..... Have you heard? Is it really true that a certain sergeant got himself engaged to one of the local signorina? It is also rumored that the happy couple will supplement their income by taking in H laundry. To help set up the newlyweds in business a petition has been circulated to present them a wedding gift of a cart and donkey - or will that be unnecessary? Will the mother-in-law pull the cart?

Our boy, J. J., has been conspicuous by his absence at breakfast these many winter mornings. Could it be that he is getting enough liquid nourishment to keep him going on two meals a day?

Robbie Vetter is still a victim of one of New York's strange customs. Ever notice how he eats most of his meals standing?

What's this we hear - that if Sgts. Brownin, Munt, and Ablondi would pool their resources, they could quickly produce a second lieutenant?

### 64 QUESTION

Part I - Where did Sgt. Check win that "cluster" on his forehead?

Part II - How come a high-ranking sergeant in S-4 got slapped by his laundrywoman? Playful, eh sarge?

We cheerfully award our version of the Purple Heart to Sgt. Unger for climbing that big mountain a while back, but what about "Naturally Powerful"? Was that sensible, Guachinello?

So in buddy-buddying at the cinema - S/Sgts. Grices and Heider and a bit of mine.

Today S/Sgt. "Rosie" McLaughlin completes two years in the Army, just as his commander-in-chief rounds out eleven years in the White House. Yes, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was first inaugurated on March 4, way back in 1933.

Speaking of "Rosie," if you ever want any "dope" on the "Invaders" after the war, look him up. "Rosie" has one of the largest and most complete scrapbooks yet.

It's hard to say good-bye to two such good men and old friends as Sgts. MacDonald and Scowden. Ron voyage, fellows

**COLONELCY FOR GROUP C.O.**  
The whole 86th Fighter-Bomber Group feels very proud indeed to be headed, for the first time, by a full colonel. The promotion of our commanding officer comes as a well-merited recognition not only for Colonel Kofahl personally, but also for our group and its outstanding record in the invasions of Sicily and Italy. Sincere congratulations, Colonel, and best wishes for the future.

### THE GROUP CHAPEL

By Chaplain Francis Fischer

### THE LENTEN SEASON

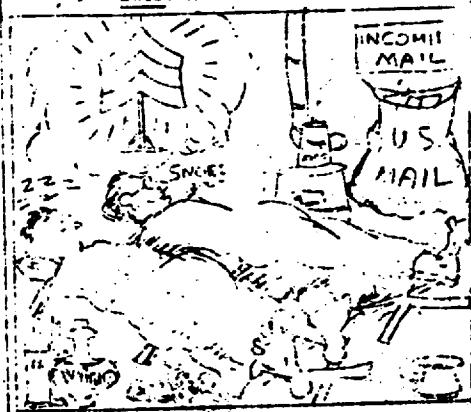
The word, "Lent," goes back to the Anglo-Saxon and had to do with spring, lengthening of the days; but, the period which it designates, is of early Christian origin. It was a time set aside by the early Church to contemplate the Passion of our Lord.

Lent covers 40 days or 40 days not counting the Sundays. The 40 days' preparation, no doubt, goes back to the fasts of Moses, Elias, and our Lord. From the writings of Chrysostom, Augustin, Cyril of Jerusalem, etc., we learn that special Lenten sermons were preached.

Easter is the high time in the Church year. And much that men receive from it is dependent upon their preparation for it. Thus Lent must be a time of Gospel study (a study of those last days and of the resurrection); and it must be a time of repentance, faith, and the real fruits of faith.

### CARTOON

--- Drawing of an O.D. Christmas ---  
At last the stripes are big and bright  
Deep in the heart of Italy  
For Sgts. Ablondi and Sobina



And likewise congratulations to our new corporals in Eq.: Davis, Digianfelice and Olschewski.

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT ITEM** - "Gokes" now sold at local PTA three weekly 34¢

