

Ad Lib

Volume 1, No. 5

Thursday, March 8, 1945

Printed in Italy

Free

INSIGNIA CONTEST STARTS

OPEN TO ALL PERSONNEL

The 451st Insignia Contest opens with this issue of Ad Lib.

Here is a rare opportunity for all personnel of our organization to conceive and design a lasting symbol of the 451st and its extraordinary record of bombardment in this global war.

The contest is open to officers and men.

There are a few general rules to observe. For instance the design should not have more than three colors. (Air Corps colors should be used. They are blue and yellow.)

The design should be simple--for effectiveness as well as printing. It should indicate the nature of our work: heavy bombardment. Our work is mighty serious business, so any slogan should be serious.

The insignia will be permanent. So take care in your art and your selection of words.

Use pen and ink on best available paper. Allow yourself at least a full page (letter size) for your drawing.

We are the best bombardment group in the Air Forces. Let our insignia be the best.

Submit your drawings to INSIGNIA CONTEST EDITOR, AD LIB, before midnight April 1.

Names of judges will be announced later.

NEW OFFICE YIELDS TREASURE

Some call the group adjutant's new office "the treasure room."

And it's not inaccurate, at that. Recently, when a partition in Major Lynn J. Bartlett's office was torn down, a treasure in oil paintings, silverware, and books, was discovered.

The owner of The Castle got the stuff, and the adjutant got a new office. So, everybody's happy.

NOTE FOR YOUR NOTEBOOK

Captain Edward A. Zraick, S-2 of 727, will be guest speaker of the I-E Section next Sunday at the group briefing room, 1400 hours. His subject: HISTORY OF HEAVY BOMBARDMENT IN RELATION TO 451ST GROUP.

MAN OF THE WEEK

LT. COL. HOPPOCK TO WED

Lt. Col. John S. Hoppock, Deputy Group Commander, wins the AD LIB citation this week, as well as the OLC to the DFC.

Graduate of Lehigh University, class of '38, where he starred in varsity football (captain) and golf. Colonel Hoppock was commissioned in college and entered active duty in 1940. Was special representative for Shell Oil Co. before Pearl Harbor, and held civilian pilot's license.

Formerly Air Inspector at Wing, the tall pilot from Maplewood, N.J., joined the 451st Headquarters last Jan. For six months prior, he was CO of the 727th.

He returned from his 34th mission today and is anxious for the next. Reason: to get home for marriage to Miss Kay Crabbe, Birmingham, Ala., whose photo decorates his desk.

Frequently led 15th and the 451st on mass attacks to Germany, Austria, and other hot targets.

Decorations: DFC, with OLC; Air Medal with two OLC's.

Smokes cigars, plays ping-pong, hopes to make the Rome open golf tournament. Believes U.S. needs best air force in postwar period to insure peace.

MOVIES

CANTERVILLE GHOST - Tonight
SHOW BUSINESS - 9th and 10th
CHINA - 12th and 13th
STRANGE AFFAIRS - 14th and 15th

I-E CLASSES TO START

SCHOOL BELLS RING FOR 451ST

I-E PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY

The Information-Education program will start formally by March 14 in all squadron and headquarters detachment it was announced today by Capt. H. T. Fontaine, group I-E officer.

The program will consist of off-duty classes, taught by competent instructors within the organization, on-the-job courses, self-teaching courses, demonstrations and special lectures.

All necessary texts will be provided by the United States Armed Forces Institute, Royal College and high school credits are not guaranteed the USAFI at this time. However, there have been numerous instances in other units where the student has been given credits. (More definite information on this matter expected shortly.)

All classes are voluntary and under no circumstances will they interfere with normal prosecution of duties.

Instructors will be drawn from the ranks of officers and enlisted men.

A special meeting of I-E Officers will be held within the next few days to determine the most practicable ways and means of conducting the program on squadron and group levels.

10,000 LIRE WORTH OF DOG

According to Sgt. Harold W. Studer, 725 AM, man's most expensive friend is his dog "Foxy", his playful canine friend, bit into the sergeant's pocketbook, full with 16-1,000 lire notes right after payday. Before the fun was over, surprised GI's were picking up the lire.

Surprised Studer recovered six of the notes. Punishment for "Foxy"? Nope. "Foxy is worth 10,000 lire barks Studer.

I-E CAN HELP YOU - PLAN TO TAKE I-E COURSES. NOW!
BUY MORE BONDS TODAY

AD LIB is published every Thursday by the Information - Education Section of the 451st Bomb Group (H) - .

Col. Leroy L. Stefanowicz...Commanding
Capt. Harry T. Fontaine.....Editor

Squadron Editors:

Cpl. Sanford Beck.....724th Squadron.

S/Sgt. A. M. Maffetone..725th Squadron.

726th Squadron.

Sgt. M. G. Weill.....727th Squadron.

WHAT THE SQUADRONS ARE DOING AND SAYING

725TH

A hearty squadron welcome to our new CO, Major Theodore H. Gorton, formerly of the 484th, who replaces the now Lt. Colonel James A. Dooley...Thanks to the efforts of Major George A. Welch, Executive Officer, the squadron's road improvement project is now underway...Cpl. John W. Fessler of Newport, Kentucky received a

package from home; contents a can of delicious spam and vienna sausage. Congratulations to S/Cgt. Micheal W. "Mighty Atom" Limbo, five feet two ball gunner of Weatherfield, Conn. who recently completed his fifty.. Recently over the "Greenlin Time" program, a letter full of jive talk; but requesting "The San Antonio Rose" and supposedly signed by T/Sgt. Spencer "Sparks" Brandies, radio gunner, was read. A jitterbug

of the first water claims he was jobbed. S/Sgt. Eugene "The Monk" Melanson was recently voted "Most Heartbroken Romeo" by his crew members...T/Sgt. Allen W. Ames, radio gunner, now fully recovered from "Flak Bites" received on July 7, 'last, thrills his tent mates with his war stories. The Germantown, Pa. native is the second oldest active combat man in the group...In one of the games in the recent pinochle tournament the score was Sgts. Trautman and Ferris minus 36, Maffetone and Werner 120...In another game the squadron champs, Sgts. Buetner and Inglis scored a trickless hand...Sgt. Levi S. Hilleary, Photographer, got one of the best shots of the war on his 13th mission, over Vienna...A nice ripe razzberry to those men responsible for the squadron winning the VD Eight Ball...also razzberries to those men responsible for lining the men up for that 200th mission deal and then not getting any picture of the shindig...Pfc Wallace B. Normet, C.Q. chirps; "It takes a good man to get up out of the sack." May we add; "It takes a better man to get him up."...Cpl. James A. Finley, who does a terrific job as mailman is tickled pink over his ultra-modern new mail room...rumbrs have it that S/Sgt. Harry A. Sheehan will replace Lil Abner as President of "The Lily Whitters."
(Continued next column)

GROUP HAS BEST RECORD IN VD

Major Lynn J. Bartlett, Jr., Group Adjutant, announced today that the headquarters detachment has been free of VD for the past 71 days--a record in the 451st.

"Just goes to prove," says the adjutant, "that being careful pays. It doesn't mean, however, that the boys at group are not ho-men and red blooded as they come."

Meanwhile, Major Clyde L. Wagner, group surgeon, revealed that the VD 8-Ball campaign is progressing satisfactorily, with group figures reaching a new low.

EASTER BOND DRIVE FINDS US LOWEST IN AF

Believe it or not the 451st is not the leader in buying War Bonds; in fact, we are rated lowest in the 15th Air Force.

The special "Easter War Loan Drive," sponsored by the Commanding General, 15th AF, gives us an opportunity to get out of the bond cellar. The goal for the drive is a cool \$1,000,000 and we have until March 31st to buy up our share. **ANDiamo!**

CAN'T STOP DAVENPORT

On Feb. 25, 1944, T/Sgt. Leland Davenport, tall, dark, husky engineer gunner of 725, flew his first mission; Regensburg.

During the raid, the ship was attacked by enemy fighters and a 13 mm shell ripped through the side of the upper turret, shattering Davenport's right knee. The Santa Ana, Calif. Sergeant was rushed to a hospital, where he was sacked in for 4 1/2 months.

He later returned to combat duty and on Feb. 27, 367 days later, he completed 35 trips over the target. He is now sweating out his ride home. When questioned he said, "It's better late than never."

724TH

S/Sgt. George R. Penatzer of the 724th was feeling very low when he found out his 35th aircraft ride was not given official credit. George sweat it out a-

nother 18 hours and after a second try, finally succeeded and now is awaiting orders to return home. Talk about sweating. To all who read this part of the paper last week, we wish to amend the title "Cpl. Marty Schindler" to SGT. Marty Schindler. This retraction was made necessary and I hope squares things...Pfc. San Shankman has all ranks on their knees to him. He is developing and printing pictures for the boys...Last Thursday the 724th quintet outshone the 726th in a hard fought contest. Bliss, Sherwood, and Demaree, totaling 10, 10, and 8 points respectively...Cpl. Boyko, Pfc. Mooney, and Pfc. Shaffrey, the first three volunteers from the squadron for the Infantry.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

OLC for DFC: Lt. Col. John S. Hoppock, Hq. BRONZE STAR MEDAL: 724th, Sgt. John M. Duchesne; 725th, M/Sgt. William A. North, T/Sgt. Carl L. French; 726th, S/Sgt. Alva R. Ferree, S/Sgt. Robert T. Street; 727th, M/Sgt. Harry D. Henderson, T/Sgt. James F. O'Malley, S/Sgt. John G. C. Doodyns.

CHURCH CORNER

Catholic Mass, 1630, each Wed. and Sun. at the Hq. Theatre. Conducted by Chaplain Coughlin.

Protestant Services each Sun., 0915 at 727 EM Club and 1030 at Hq. Theatre. Vespers at 1815 in Hq. Briefing Room. Conducted by Chaplain McNeil.