

★ 451 ★

AD-LIB

FOR THE MEN WHO FLY 'EM • FOR THE MEN WHO KEEP 'EM FLYING



Volume 1, No. 6

Thursday, March 15, 1945

Printed in Italy

Free

TEACHERS CALL SUMMONS PROFS WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS

A Teachers Call was sound-
ed today by your Information-
Education Officer on author-
ity of Colonel LeRoy L.
Stefonowicz, Commanding.

Any experienced teacher of
high school and/or trade
school and college subjects,
is requested to consult with
his squadron I-E officer as
soon as possible.

Although classes are al-
ready being conducted in
some of the squadrons, it is
necessary to prepare a full
roster of our prospective
faculty.

Teachers will be drawn from
the ranks of officers and
men. All that is required
is knowledge of subject, abil-
ity to get it over, and a
desire to cooperate in this
army wartime project.

United States Armed Forces
Institute is doing a great
favor to the soldiers of this
war in providing ways and
means of filling in the blank
spaces in one's education.
Further, courses completed
in self-teaching and in class
room may secure for the stu-
dent high school and college
credits.

The range of subjects is
extensive and can best be
described as on trade, high
school, and college levels.

Your organization needs
teachers to make this program
a success. See your I-E
Officer without delay and
tell him what subject or sub-
jects you are able and will-
ing to teach.

725TH CREW WINDS UP 50TH

Over in the 725th the boys
are wondering if they haven't
something for the record.
They have.

Capt. William "Weepin'
Willie" Miller and his crew
are receiving congratulations
for the completion of 50
(Cont'd on page 2)

NOTE FOR YOUR NOTEBOOK

Brigadier J. T. Durrant,
Commanding Officer of the
205th Group, RAF, will be
the guest speaker of the I &
E Section next Sunday, 1400
hours at Group Briefing Room.
His subject: SOUTH AFRICA
AND HER PART IN THE AIR WAR.

MAN OF THE WEEK

OUR S-3 GETS SILVER LEAF

It's Lt. Col. Francis J.
Hoermann now.

Four years ago this June,
the recipient of this week's
AD LIB citation was a stu-
dent at Massachusetts State
College, cracking records
in the varsity mile relay.

Feeling that war was just
around the corner, Student
Hoermann put aside his school
books and became an aviation
cadet on June 6, 1941, to
discover that primary, basic
and advance flying took more
studying than what he was
accustomed to at college.
However, he sailed through
Parks Air College, Georgia
Aero Tech, and Barksdale
Field, in that order to win
his wings and commission
Jan. 1, 1942.

Former CO of the 765th Sq,
461st, Colonel Hoermann came
to Group as S-3 last January.
Since then has done a bang-
up job. Decorations: DFC,
Air Medal with two clusters.
Has 29 missions over the
flak spots of Germany, Aus-
tria, Yugo, Italy, and France.
Predictions: European War
won't be over for quite a
while--although he hopes he
is wrong. Postwar will see
great increase in B-29 type
bomber, but 24's and 17's,
medians and fighter-bombers
will still be required read-
ing for the militarists.
Plans to remain in the Air
Corps. Unmarried, and at
this moment has nothing to
say as to prospects.

GEN. TWINING LAUDS OUR 200TH IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN 15TH AF

Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining
Commanding General of the 15th
Air Force, today paid tribut-
to the striking power of the
451st Group in a letter of
commendation to Brig. Gen.
William L. Lee, Wing Command-
The recommendation in full
reads:

"I wish to extend my sin-
cere congratulations and the
best wishes of the entire air
force on the recent completi-
of 200 combat missions, by
the 451st Bomb Group.

"When one reviews your his-
tory, particularly the super-
ior operations against Regen-
burg, Ploesti, and Markersdo-
airdrome for which your org-
ization has been cited, the
full significance of your ac-
complishment is more readil-
appreciated. It constitutes
an important chapter in the
history of the growth and
power of the Fifteenth Air
Force during the great air
offensives of 1944 and this
year. The current status of
the enemy's fighter defense,
and oil resources testify to
the effectiveness of these
operations.

(Cont'd on page 2)

NEW CO PRAISES GROUP

Col. LeRoy L. Stefonowicz
Group Commander, today high-
complimented personnel of t-
451st--especially the old-
timers--on the completion o-
200 missions.

"Although I have not been
in command of this group du-
ing its entire period of op-
ation," he said, "I am prou-
to be with you during the c-
pletion of our 200th missio-
While I am proud of the ent-
group, I am especially prou-
of those of you who have be-
with the group through all
the 200 missions. This is m-
more your group than it is
mine and I hope you all hav-
(Cont'd on page 2)

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

Col. LeRoy L. Stefonowicz.....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.

GEN. TWINING CITES 451ST
(Cont'd from page 1)

"The accomplishment of 200 missions would not have been possible without the excellent leadership and wholehearted devotion to duty which has been characteristic of all personnel in the 451st Bomb Group."

General Lee indorsed the hearty commendation to Col. LeRoy L. Stefonowicz saying:

"To this very fine commendation from the Commanding General of the Fifteenth Air Force, I add my congratulations and best wishes on the recent completion of 200 combat missions."

COLONEL STEFONOWICZ PROUD OF RECORD
(Cont'd from page 1)

a feeling of deep satisfaction and pride that your group has done so well while flying these 200 missions."

SPECIAL SERVICE SUMMARY

Tournaments finish today. Names of winners in next weeks issue.

727th, under the able guidance of Lt. Ed. Voisich, won the championship of the Group Basketball League. Went through the season without a defeat.

Softball games being played on all the diamonds in the group. Great interest being shown from both the participants and spectators. Lots of good prospects. Group League schedule being drawn up. Published later. Plan is to have 5 EM teams and 5 Officer teams. Games to be held 4 nights weekly. Remaining nights to be used for inter-squadron teams, for which a schedule is being drawn up. Enter your section teams with your Squadron Special Service Officer.

---Captain Daniel J. COFFEY
Group Special Service Off

MOVIES

Strange Affairs - Tonight
Conflict - 16th and 17th
Brazil - 19th and 20th

BRUSH OFF

Two brooms were hanging in a closet. One of them spied a little "whisk" broom on the floor and turning to the other said: "Is that ours?" "No, replied the other broom, it can't be. We never swept together."

MILLER'S CREW ENDS 50TH
(Cont'd from page 1)

missions without a fatality.

Members of the crew are: S/Sgt. Albert "Speedy" Wellnitz, A.G., T/Sgt. Joseph Kuchinsky, E.G., T/Sgt. Norman Dion, R.G., S/Sgt. Harold A. Meyer, A.A.G., S/Sgt. Richard Otto, A.R.G. and S/Sgt. Carl A. Reeves, A.E.G. Officers include: Lt. Fred Carstetter, Navigator, Lt. Donald "Duck" Ayres, bombardier, and Lt. Paul S. Schreibermaier, co-pilot.

Their first mission, Aug. 24, 1944, was to Ferrara, Italy, and then followed the others, many down well-known Flak Alley. At Blochhammer the Miller-men collected 72 holes in their Liberater.

The only casualty in the 50 missions was Lt. Schreibermaier, co-pilot. Over Vienna on a Friday, the 13th, flak penetrated the right side of the fuselage and a piece dug into the right leg of the co-P. After a few days in the hospital, the flyer was all set to go again.

During one of their last raids to Munich, the boys got intense and accurate flak. A burst shattered the left stabilizer and continued through the right side of the tail turret, piercing the heating box and came out the left side of the turret. The concussion knocked tail gunner Wellnitz out of the turret. The airplane crash landed at a nearby emergency field. After repairs were made, the crew took off and arrived safely at their home field.

2ND OLC TO VD 8-BALL

Well, it looked as though the 726th had retired the VD 8-Ball, but a late flash tells us that instead of retirement, it's another OLC. Present score puts the squadron in an all-time lead since the campaign started. (But off-the-record, the overall recon photo shows great improvement in the group.)

BOOK LEAVES

Bostonians weary of being told what they can't read found a literate judge in their midst this week- one Elijah Adlow, who set free a book store clerk charged with selling an "obscene" book (Erskine Caldwell's "Tragic Ground") to a Boston cop. Said his Honor: "I'm getting tired of books being banned." When the cop admitted he had never read "Anthony Adverse" or "Gone With the Wind," the bench commented: "That's the trouble with the Police Dept. They haven't a big enough library." This touch of enlightenment comes after recent Boston bans on such "obscene" works as "History of Rome Hanks", Civil War novel, and "Forever Amber."

He: "You see if we enter a companionate marriage we can live together awhile. If we find we've made a mistake, we can separate."

She: "Yes, but what will we do with the mistake?"

724TH

The big news with the 724th this week rests with the finals of the tournaments. Last Saturday night the officer winners invited the enlisted men to decide the champions in their own homes. 'Midst the singing of an Officer glee-club, led by Capt. Norman W. Mochel, the contest got underway at 1900 hours. Major Douglas F. Sanford, CO, and Major Morris J. Drobeck, Exec., were hosts to Cpl. Harry A. Brock, and Sgt. Douglas Nelson for the bridge game. The enlisted men carried the game until the last rubber, when the "rank" pulled it out of the fire to wind up with 1000 points ahead of the EM...1st Lt. Roy R. Pence pitted his skill against that of Pfc. Robert L. Anderson in checkers, and after a four hour session, Pfc. Anderson walked away with the honors....Pfc. John Mulligan invited 2nd Lt. Claude E. Wood to the EM Service Club to run off the ping-pong finals, and like all good hosts "allowed" the swift-moving, skillful Lt. Wood to take the championship... Pvt. William McDermott dropped the cribbage title to 1st Lt. Lawrence Robertson, and wants to take him on again, France or no France. How about it Lieutenant?...2nd. Lt. Morton I. Sternberg, together with 1st Lt. Harvey Miller, kept up the deadly blows being dealt by the officers to win the Pinochle crown from Cpls. Lee E. Davison, and Elbert P. Miles. As yet 1st Lt. James C. Womack, and T/Sgt. Donald B. Shore haven't played off the Chess contest....Congratulations to Lt. Lopapa, Sgt. Shore, Brown, Volrath, and Horrell in winding up their combat career with the squadron. Good luck fellows, and take it easy at home....Captain Morris A. Manoogian, S-2 Officer, is now busy planning a hot athletic program for the squadron. With the number of games being planned, every man in the outfit should have at least one thing to interest him. The first big baseball game was played last Sunday afternoon with the Combat Officers smashing the Staff Officer team to the tune of 17-3....Our bakery shop is really on the ball now that it has been completed and almost every other supper the boys find some sort of pastry. Say, Sgt. Pinto how about another one of those cherry pies?

725TH

Congratulations to M/Sgt. William A. North and T/Sgt. Carl L. French of Armament and Bombsight, who were recently awarded the bronze star....We have it from reliable sources that S/Sgt. Vernon Zimmer and Lt. Edward A. Schwartzkoff of Supply are seriously considering going into the clothing biz "Doppo La Guerra."....Sgt. Billy Hall of the Medics is one of the (Cont'd on page 4)

Perhaps if the Norden or Sperry people could read this, their faces would really crimson up.

On a recent raid on the Maribor Railroad Yards, the leader of a 725th formation radioed back to the group that because of the undercast, the group would proceed to the alternate target.

As the planes headed back, Lt. Samuel L. Dickey, husky and dark bombardier from Kulpmont, Penn. spied a break in the heavens. The target lay below in plain view. Having no bombsight, the former coal miner promptly resorted to the old 30 degree angle theory. Propping himself up, he set his heels together and toes apart and taking careful aim, toggled off the bombs. Eleven planes followed his example.

His pilot then peeled off and dropped six thousand feet in an air pocket, losing the formation. He had to come in alone.

Upon landing, the 725th bombardier expected to be placed on the carpet, but instead of getting "reamed" he was congratulated. "Intops" showed all yards destroyed, including rolling stock, and two railroad repair shops. Imagine what he could have done with a bombsight!

S-2 MISSION ROUND-UP

On 8 March, 38 aircraft led by Lt. Col. Hoermann made a very successful attack on the marshalling yards at Hegyeshalom, Hungary. Photo recon reports an extremely accurate and heavy concentration of bomb hits covers the entire marshalling yard. All through-lines are severely blocked in numerous places throughout the entire length of the yard. At least half of an estimated 700 units of rolling stock appear to be destroyed, or seriously damaged, and the remainder are immobilized.

Mission No. 209 led by Major Sanford on 9 March was a Pathfinder mission due to bad weather and no results of our bombing was obtained.

Missions 210, 211, 212 led by Colonel Stefonowicz, Capt. McKinnis, and Major Lather respectively were all Pathfinder missions.

A TONIC

A little while with Jesus -
Oh, how it soothes the soul;
and gathers all the threads of life
Into a perfect whole.

---Chaplain William McNeil

CHURCH CORNER

Catholic Mass, 1630 hours, each Wednesday and Sunday at the Headquarters Theatre. Conducted by Chaplain Coughlin.

Protestant Services each Sunday, 0915 at 727th EM Club and 1030 at the Headquarters Theatre. Vesper at 1815 in the Headquarters Briefing Room. Services conducted by Chaplain McNeil.

nicest guys who has ever jabbed a needle in a fellows arm....Famous look alike in the squadron: Sgt. Pat. Sassone, Eng. Clerk and Groucho Marks, Sgt. Dansby of Ordnance and Willie of the Mauldin strip, and Pfc. Johnny Edens and Li'l Abner....Sgt. William Love, a former golf prof. from California, is busy taking practice swings, now that he has received golf balls and a number of irons from home....Keep your eyes peeled for the date of the squadron's dedication show to be given on the eve of the new mess hall opening. On paper the show looks like one of the best ever put on....Pfc. Samuel J. Palermo, the Squadron's champion "gum popper" had reason enough to sing "Everything happens to me." After 18 straight days of flying there is a stand-down and a terrific rain storm, on his day off....Summer is well on its way, the Negro guard squadron is back again....Sgt. P.M. Powell, classification clerk, has been dubbed "Ernie Pyle" by his friends because of his adventures, while on the Fifth Army Front....Many thanks to M/Sgt. Dana Hoover of communications for the loan of his typewriter, without which this column could not have gone to press....Congratulations also to Captain R. E. Smith, 725th's buzz king, who has completed his 50th. Remember the job he did on the 200 mission shindig?....A whole carload of orchids to Captain Wilbert Jacobs and his S-2 gang for the wonderful cooperation they are giving the "Ad Lib" and staff.... We have it from reliable sources that Lt. Louis Sagi, bombardier, won many a "Polka" contest in Dom Pulski's place in Buffalo.. Bon voyage to likeable S/Sgt. Dick L. Moreau who will probably be on his way home to Detroit before this comes out.... Upon noticing the number of Bronze Stars being handed out, Lemon tongued Cpl. Joseph Bizak of the Boston Bizaks said, "No wonder there's such a metal shortage at home."

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

DFC: Captain Charles L. Smith and 1st Lt. Elwood S. Fraser of 724th; 1st Lt. Roy R. Rocconi, Captain Robert E. Smith, 1st Lt. Donald L. Ayres and 1st Lt. Fred R. Carstetter of 725th; 1st Lt. Billy D. Marable of 727th.

PROMOTIONS TO 1ST LT. IN 726TH SQUADRON

Orrin G. Feiertag, Philip K. Pohl, Seymour J. Keshkin, and James E. Smith.

WHAT HE WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS

A young friend of ours, aged 8, had a talk with his mother on what he wanted for Xmas. After thinking it over, he said, "A baby." His mother parried the question, feeling that junior wasn't quite out of the birds and bees class. Before she had time to say anything, he came up with, "After all, it's something you can make yourself and it wouldn't cost anything."

The altus lamp points with pride, this week to Sgt. Leroy S. Rodney, versatile arc welder of the 725th Squadron, who was recently awarded the Bronze Star.

The sergeant, a native of Sewaren, N.J. was employed in the B.C. (before conscription) as a welder on various construction jobs. After receiving his basic at Miami Beach, he was sent to the Embry-Riddle school of aviation, where he served as an arc welder instructor for fifteen weeks.

Classroom routine took its toll and Sgt. Rodney asked to be placed in a cadre. It was at Wendover where he became a member of the 451st Bomb Group.

A few months later the outfit was in Italy, at their first operational field, in a cold winter. An epidemic of explosions and fires spread throughout the area as the "rockies" experimented with various types of gasoline stoves.

It was here that "Roy" took charge of the situation. With an old fifty gallon oil drum, a spent 105 mm case, and some old hydraulic lines, he helped invent a fool proof gasoline stove, that burned 75% oxygen and 25% fuel oil.

In his "spare time" Sgt. Rodney constructed a back-stop for the softball team, horizontal bars for the followers of gymnastics, tent crowns and many other items.

When the world is at peace again, the sergeant expects to go into business for himself. On leisure moments he'll take the Mrs. and his daughter motoring in his 32 foot light cruiser in the peaceful waters of New York Bay.

---S/Sgt. Angelo Maffetone

POKER, LOSSES AND IDEAS

"This is just an idea, of course," remarked a poker player one night after losing his shirt, "why not turn one's losses into a good investment for the other fellow?" "Stop the double-talk and dig for the dough," replied the winner, "that'll be good enough for me."

"But listen, old man," don't you know that there's a war on?"

"I should--I've been overseas 26 months and am bleeding in the eyes. Cough up the dough."

"But you don't understand. Now listen, suppose I buy bonds in amount of my losses to you?"

"Well, that's not a bad idea coming from you. OK, produce the bonds."

"On pay-day, of course."

Clank, clank, went his purse strings, and BANG- went the door.

"Hey, come back here!"

ODDS AND ENDS

Remember: AD LIB must not be sent through the mails--nor any part of it. Censor, y'know

Contributions to AD LIB should be addressed The Editor, AD LIB, S-1 Section, Group Hq. Type and double-space all copy.