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NAD-LIB



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

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Free

451ST GIVEN THIRD CITATION ONLY GROUP IN AF SO HONORABLE

The 451st B-24 Liberator group Monday became the first heavy bombardment organization in the 15th Air Force to receive three Distinguished Unit Citations.

Under a warm Italian sun, Col. LeRoy L. Stefonowicz, Wildrose, North Dakota, group commander, plus hundreds of his ground crewmen and the few airmen who weren't on a mission over Austria, stood at attention while Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, commanding general of the 15th, pinned a third blue battle streamer on the 451st group flag.

The latest citation was for an August 23rd mission against Markersdorf airbase near Vienna, when the 451st destroyed 29 enemy aircraft in the air, and 12 more on the ground while losing nine bombers to the enemy fire.

The 451st, then commanded by Col. Robert E. L. Eaton, of Belleville, Ill., received its first two battle streamers for missions against the Prufening Aircraft Factory, Regensburg, Germany, and the Ploesti oil refineries, in Rumania.

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DOOLEY HALL DEDICATED

Dooley Hall was dedicated last Sunday night at the 725th and will be long remembered for its significance, entertainment and good-fellowship.

Due to injuries suffered in combat, Lt. Col. James C. Dooley, former commanding officer, was unable to attend. In his behalf the present commander, Major Theodore Gorton, accepted the key to the modernistic building, designed and built by members of the squadron.

The evening opened with a prayer and house blessing by

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NOTE FOR YOUR NOTEBOOK

Lt. Col. Donald T. Jones, Group Executive Officer, will complete his talk on EUROPEAN WAR IN REVIEW, next Sunday, 1400 hours, group briefing room, as guest speaker of the I-E Section.

MAN OF THE WEEK

MAJOR FRANK J. LATHER

Major Frank J. Lather, modest, quiet, but energetic CO of the 727th, 26, native of Chicago, claims he has no particular hobbies but does play the piano, and keeps in shape with a bit of baseball and handball in his spare time. Civilian occupation was a far cry from his present work; he was a tool and dye worker.

Has completed over twenty missions and refuses to get excited over any of them. Biggest thrill, in fact, came a couple of weeks ago... while "practicing". In the process of checking out a pilot, the wing man crossed over sharply, knocking off the rudder of his plane. He lost control for a few short moments, moments that seemed like hours, but in the lingo of the Marines, soon had the situation well in hand.

Doesn't know much about the ability of enemy pilots. "Frankly", he says, "I haven't seen any German planes yet!"

Most rabid ambition, besides completing missions and returning home, is to attend General Staff School, and if he can't get that, would like to pilot B-32's.

Still a bachelor but smilingly admits there's a future Mrs. Lather "sweating it out", like he is, in San Angelo, Texas.

Thinks European War will be over by July 1st.

Decorations: DFC, Air Medal with one Cluster.

WANNA PLAY BALL???

CALL 726TH ENGINEERS

The Engineering Section of the 726th has a ball club that they say is second to none. Under the able coaching of Master Sergeant Thom Peploe they have a combination that is going to be hard to beat. Their game is the regulation league hard base ball.

Whenever weather and work permits, you can find the Engineering boys at the ball diamond practicing. It can be rightly called a nine man team, because they have enough men for two good teams, and have worked out some excellent combinations from their abundance of good material.

They want to challenge any team in the 15th Air Force. The 726th has a good diamond and for good measure can furnish the visiting team with a chest protector. They would like opponents to bring their own bats and gloves, however. Contacts for games can be made by calling either Sgt. Peploe or Sgt. Roamer in the Engineering office at the 726th.

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GROUP GROUND SCHOOL STARTS

Have you noticed the Group Briefing room swelled to overflowing with personnel all day? The group ground school has started! In its embryonic form the school has been attended well. Col. Stefonowicz, group commander, was present at the opening of the school.

The purpose of the school is to standardize training within the group and to present a varied curriculum taught by the most capable instructors found in the group.

The curriculum is based on 15th AF minimum training requirements, material which in the opinion of staff personnel will be of assistance to

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

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Capt. Harry T. Fontaine.....Editor
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Cpl. Sanford Beck.....724th Squadron.
S/Sgt. A. M. Maffetone.725th Squadron.
Sgt Peter H. Groetsch..726th Squadron.
Sgt M. G. Weill.....727th Squadron.

THIRD CITATION (Cont'd from page one)

The Vienna citation describes "aggressive enemy fighters making suicidal attempts" against the bombers.

"The gallant crews battled their way through the overwhelming enemy opposition to the target," the citation continues, "where, under continued heavy opposition, they completed a highly successful bombing run."

One of the younger groups in the 15th Air Force, the 451st nevertheless has taken part in every major mission flown by Italian based heavies, and as Monday's citation ceremony broke up, the group's bombers flew in low, returning from their 225th mission.

The group flew its first combat attack 14 months ago and received its first unit citation for Regensburg just 25 days later.

Ground crews, as well as the airmen, have received repeated praise in each of the three citations for their "superior technical skill and devotion to duty" in readying a maximum number of aircraft for every mission.

In addition to its strategic attacks against German aircraft factories and oil, the 451st provided air-ground support for Anzio, southern France, Normandy (at a time when German troops were being rushed north from the Spanish border), and most recently, for the westward Russian drive.

---Sgt. Ray J. Schrick

GROUP SCHOOL STARTS (Cont'd from page one)

combat crews, and material which combat crews have indicated a deficiency in as found in examinations and operations.

The school is just beginning and facilities are limited, but plans are underway to secure more visual aids and mock-ups.

At present each lecture is given three times a week to enable all personnel to attend one of them. The courses now being taught will progress each week. Personnel attending consistently will have had a thorough course in each subject.

The attendance is gratifying and the conduct of the students is exemplary.

---Captain William Mattes III

RED CROSS SHOW PLEASES SQUADRONS

The Red Cross Clubmobile Show played to capacity audiences during the week at the 727th EM Club and "Dooley Hall" at the 725th. Music was furnished by a six-piece jive outfit from the 701st Chemical Co. Female vocal honors went to Miss Pat Patterson and Miss Jean Bendell.

Our own "Sally", Bea Ridsdale, Barbara Miller and Peggy Long served doughnuts.

DOOLEY HALL (Cont'd from page one)

Chaplain McNeil and the presentation ceremonies followed.

The highlight of the evening was the "Extravaganza of Eggs" a hilarious review that kept members and guests in high humor. Performers were: Pfc Paul Vanderschans, female impersonator, Pfc Al Manti, "Perry Como-like" vocalist, Pfc Grossman Cirmiluca, slap-stick artists; Cpl. Terhune, actor/dianist; Sgt. Frank Rey and Jimmy Menear, trick violinist and guitarist; Lt. Lew Sagi, dancer deluxe; the three dukes, Sgt. Murray, pantomannist; Sgt. Van Fosse; Yodeller; Sgt. Anerson, tops in taps; Pfc Arthur Curtis and Fred Sammons, prop men; Pfc. Johnny Edens, ballroom performer; an guest star Al Stearn, Group Medics, minstrel man. S/Sgt. Angelo Maffetone acted as master of ceremonies.

Captain Fred M. Kley, group supply, was a hit at the piano. His offerings, modern and classical, won warm applause from an appreciative audience.

Among those who attended were Major Frank Marek, Wing A-1, and Col. LeRoy L. Stefanowicz, Group Commander.

Officer advisory board consisted of Major Theodore Gorton, CO; Major George A. Welch, Executive Officer, and Lt. Harry Collins, Special Service Officer.

PLAY BALL (Cont'd from page one)

Here is the line-up: Hurlers are "Rocky" Paulzine, Jasper and Wallmuller. Sgt. Klotz is on the receiving end of the battery. At first and also coach is Peploe, or Tiedel. At second Nichols or Boscoe. Shortstop you'll find either Ferree, Sholtis or Simonsen. At third they have Perlman or Manly. In the outfield they have Johnson in right field, Wallmuller or Buckley in center, and in left field Husk or Reamer. Lackey and Sheppard hold down the utility positions.

Those boys are anxious for competition: lets have those calls for a game. They take on all comers.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Flying Cross: 724th, 1st Lt. William F. Hubbell; 725th, 1st Lt. Frederic G. Beasley, 1st Lt. William J. Coyle, 1st Lt. Lawrence H. Horn, 1st Lt. Robert S. Tupper, T/Sgt. Leland W. Davenport; 726th, 1st Lt. Lawrence E. Austin, 1st Lt. Wilson A. Landis, 1st Lt. Daniel F. O'Connell, 2nd Lt. Raymond S. Gauler, T/Sgt. Robert L. Grieco, T/Sgt. Harvey B. Miller; 727th, S/Sgt. Ernest J. David.

MOVIES

ATLANTIC CITY - Tonight
NATIONAL BARN DANCE - April 6th and 7th
RHAPSODY IN BLUE - April 9th and 10th

CHURCH CORNER

Catholic Mass at 1630 each Sunday and Wednesday at the Headquarters Chapel Theatre. Confession before each mass.

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

---Chaplain McNeil

WHAT THE SQUADRONS ARE DOING & SAYING--

Congrats to Lt. Franklin "Pangborn" Mc-Nerney who was recently promoted to Squadron Navigator....What the boys who fly the big ones think of the midnight curfew in the states: S/Sgt. Billy Picheimayer, AF. "Wish they'd recognize that midnight curfew when I'm on that 10 to 2 guard shift" --T/Sgt Walter "Gabby" Cienski "Wonder if that goes into effect in Bound Brook NJ. (Editors Note: Nope, curfew doesn't affect and town that has a population of less than a thousand---S/Sgt Armando "Bunch" Facchini, "I hope that doesn't affect the boys on the second shift at Pratt-Whitney in E. Hartford, Conn.---Sgt. Stan Kios, Armament Flight Chief vows to start a campaign to oust the "Barney" strip from the "Stars and Stripes"---Now that 1st Sgt Barnum and Mess Sgt Nosko are back with us again, the band can break out with a couple of bars of "Hail, Hail, the Gangs all Here"---Wishes for the speedy recovery of S/Sgt, Albert "Dutch" V. rohman, who is in the hospital suffering from the effects of Malaria he contracted in the Panama Canal---Can't understand why all the combat men made such a racket when Sidney Greenstreet in the film "Conflict" mentioned Vienna!---So Help me this is E. osher: While in Bari on Squadron Business PFC Joseph J. Cimilluca, Italian Civilian Worker boss, was picked up by the M.P.s for wearing G.I. clothing.---S/Sgt Hugh Hettler "The Terrible Tempered Mr. Bang" of the turret Dept. usually sends his friends into fits of laughter with his combination "Will Rogers-Sch Burns" Expressions ---The date for the squadron dedication show is set for April 1st, a word to the wise, come early if you expect a seat.---Cpl Reginald McGowar, Ordnance Clerk, says he wishes he could spend his Rest Camp furlough in good old Pittsburg---Say, who was the Engineer who wrote to "Superman" of the comic Strip for help. Follow this column for complete details next week.

724EH

Congratulations to T/Sgt Donald Shore for copping the chess championship for the Squadron. Besides going to France, Sgt Shore has his trip home to look forward to when he returns from La Belle France. I & E is receiving a lot of publicity and applications in the squadron. Business Administration is the most asked for subject, and reflects what the majority of us are planning for the future...Captain Charles L. Smith is watching the new addition to the Officer's Club go up with molto pride. Reports from the officers say he is doing a fine job. Congratulations to Cpt. Rollins, Lts Cunningham, Josephic, Downing, Gibbons, and Dunsmoor in the recent completion of missions. (Cont'd on page four)

BLACK MARKET

Back home in the 'ole country' everyone has thought or said: "Black Market People should be hung, or something". Why? Because they are hindering the war effort? Over here, it is very different--we become Black Marketeers ourselves--without cutting an eyelash. The war is still going on and we are hindering its successful conclusion.

The aim of the following paragraphs is to show how our Black Market Transactions affect the war effort.

At present the United States is paying for this war at the approximate rate of \$2,000,000,000 daily--yes, \$2,000,000,000 a day. Again the United States Government

VD 8-BALL TO CROUP

You never can tell, as the fellow says, when Signorina VD will give you the business. Well, it happened to headquarters--first case in 74 days.

The Lady from Rome wasn't as pure as reports had her.

As a matter of fact, the overall VD picture is not very good. No, we're upping the cases, and Doc Wagner warns again that "she just ain't exclusive."

is the biggest buyer of commodities in the history of the world. It buys in addition to materials of war, such items as blankets, cigarettes, candy, clothing, etc. Let us stop a minute and think. The U.S. Government is buying these things for our use. The Government pays for the articles. Who gives the Government money? We do. How?--in the form of

taxes. Yes it is costing each and every American about \$6.00 a day for this war, and our children, too, will have to pay.

Now let us take a single Black Market item--A GI pair of shoes which cost us about \$5.00. We give or sell a pair to an Itie for a few dollars. The Itie resells them for \$30.00 or \$40.00. The Itie store keeper in Rome, Naples, Foggia, etc. in order to buy the shoes must raise his commodity prices. Formerly, an ordinary sneaker sold for about 20 cents. Today we pay \$20 and more for the same article. In other words, the shoes which we gave to the Itie cost us around \$19.00 plus--and much worse the cost of war for that day went up \$14.00--for we'll never be able to get it back.

Let's take cigarettes. The Government buys them for about 3 1/2 cents a pack and sells them to us at 4 1/2 cents a pack. This low price to us is effected because the Government buys and sells them in very large quantities without tax. In other words the 10 cent tax is not paid by us today, but it will be in the years to come. Now an Itie pays about \$1.00 to \$2.00 a pack. This means we must pay our laborers more per day so he can buy cigarettes and other commodities. We don't get the money we expended on labor back, so the cost of war per day goes up.

Let's look at another angle. The Government contracts with ship owners to carry materiel and other commodities overseas to us. It takes a lot of ships to carry over cigarettes, candy, foods etc. If every soldier gave away just one pack of cigarettes out of his ration of seven it means that one ship out of every 7 carries cigarettes gratis for the Ities.

(Cont'd on page four)

SQUADRON DOINGS (CON'D FROM PAGE #3)

During the course of their combat careers, each one of them had plenty of cause to wonder if they ever would finish.

Sgt. Lawrence C. Eaton felt fine upon learning he was to attend a school in Foggia for a few days, but awfully sad when his name was up for rest camp and was unable to go. Things took a turn for the bad when PRO wanted him for a trip to Rome. The sergeant left early Tuesday morning for school, a sad sack if ever there was one....The thermometer registering our bond sales is going up each day, and it is believed that when pay-day rolls around again it will explode at the top.

726TH

The 726 has fourteen active soft ball teams made up of sections and flights. Games are being played everyday and the competition is keen. The 726 boasts the best ball field in the group, and are making good use of it. A new backstop has been built which speeds up the game considerably. Both officers and EM have shown great interest and the schedule is running smoothly.

Congratulations to the following officers and enlisted men who have completed their tour of duty the past week. Capt. William A. Mansdell, Lt. Laurence E. Austin, T/Sgt Casimir J. Czachorowski, T/Sgt Robert Grisco, P/Sgt Robert Q. Greene, S/Sgt John Bagwell Jr., S/Sgt David H. Eagles.

The days of wading ankle deep in mud are over. A complete network of stone walks are being laid throughout the entire Squadron area. Our hats are off to Cpl. Ralph Ferri who is doing the job and doing it well....Our S-1 officers in the persons of Major Pearson and Captain Ogg ran off with top honors in the cribbage and checkers tournament that has must ended. Major Pearson took all opposition in stride in cribbage and Captain Ogg in checkers play. Both are anxiously eyeing the group title.

Congratulations to S/Sgt Lester R. Norvel who has just been appointed to 1st/Sgt.... The 726 bids welcome to Capt William S. Fitzpatrick, who hails from good old Paducah, Kentucky. We are proud to have Capt. Fitzpatrick as one of our Pilots.... A Roll of Honor has been started in the Squadron. All past and present men who have won decorations above the Air Medal can be found on the list. The roll will be kept in the orderly room and maintained by the S-1 Section. One Legion of Merit and five Silver Stars are there in addition to many DFC'S.

TWO BRONX BOYS TO SEE NICE---

Sergeants Adolph Imperato and William Petrosky evidently know the value of the "Good Neighbor" policy. Having lived a short distance away from each other in The Bronx, Imperato and Petrosky teamed up in the 727th Pinochle Tournament and, after four gruelling eliminations, won the final and a three day pass to France. C'est la Bronx.

It doesn't matter whether the chicken or the egg came first----BUY BONDS NOW.

BLACK MARKET SWELLS YOUR TAXES (Cont'd from page 3)

and we pay all costs not to mention the loss of space for critical items as bombs, bullets, electric light bulbs etc.

Still another thought (we all heard it when we left the States) "Oh, you will get plenty of clothes overseas; shiploads are sent every day." We arrive to find a shortage. Why? The clothing meant for us has been given or sold to the Itie. Take a look at the near-by towns--they are dressed in the clothes we pay for.

Before the Americans arrived overseas, cost of living in Europe was very low. We could have saved enough money for that new car after the war if we hadn't thrown our money needlessly over here.

Because we did "throw" away our money over here we'll have to pay high taxes when we get home.

Hence, when we give away or sell any article bought or transported by the US Government we are definitely running up the cost of the war, and hindering its successful prosecution.

Get smart! Don't give away or sell your stuff. Turn it back to the PX or supply section. If you don't smoke don't buy cigarettes--to be stolen, lost, or bartered. Remember the Ities never loses on a swap, he gains many times over.

Now ask yourself whether or not Black Marketeers should be hung. Yup, the rope is a bit uncomfortable around your neck.

----Captain Herbert F. Marc

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star to Captain Henry D. Richardson, Group Statistician.

ODDS AND ENDS

One thing about I & E classes, you don't HAVE to bring an apple to the teacher.

She: "You can't win an argument from me. You don't think fast enough. I can five you tit for tat."
He: "Okay, ---tat!"

The sweet young thing goes out on a date. She has to walk back. She writes in her diary: "My pedal extremities are my best freinds." On the second date she has to walk still further. She writes: "Dear Diary: My pedal extremities are my best friends. On the third date she returns & writes: Dear Diary: Even the best of friends must part.

A young lady oyster had just returned from her first date with a lobster and was telling her oyster girl friends about it. "He was simply marvelous," she said, "First he looked deep into my eyes. Then he put his arms around me. Then he...."she clutched at her throat and cried out: "My Gawd! My Pearls!"

I didn't know she was a golfer when she asked me to play around with her.