

-
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. Brink, 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 Iturbi.
-
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 now 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, work 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.

S E C R E T

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, Dave!"

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.

S E C R E T

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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. USSAF, 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.

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~~SECRET~~

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

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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 REQUISITION (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 thome 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 operations)

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. 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. 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 daru 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 INVASERS' 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 10th anniversary. 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.

Signed, Hada the Horrible.

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

THIS PAGE

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Feb 1943

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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

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