

CLOUD BUSTER

Vol. I—No. 10

U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill, N. C.
Saturday, November 21, 1942

5c a Copy

Who Dood It?

Out of the Public Relations Office mail bag come two letters received during the past week, directing a strange and pleading message to all lieutenants of the station.

Said the first letter, dated Nov. 16: "Gentlemen:

"While in your town attending the Duke-Carolina game on Saturday, Nov. 14, I met a lieutenant in the Navy, with whom I made a \$10 bet on the game.

"At the end of the game we were unable to get in touch with each other. A friend of mine advised me to write to your school, thinking perhaps that you could help me with the matter.

"My being the winner of the \$20 involved, I am anxious to get in touch with this man, or see if I can find out something concerning same.

"Will you please let me have an answer? I am enclosing a three-cent stamp."

Then came the second letter, dated Nov. 17:

"Gentlemen:

"On yesterday a letter was mailed to you concerning a bet that was made on the Duke-Carolina game.

"This letter was not personally signed by me, and on reading copy of same this morning, I found a mistake that was made by the writer. The lieutenant referred to was only holding the money for a civilian and myself. In other words, we each gave him \$10 to hold until the finish of the game.

"I hope that this will make things clearer for you."

The lieutenant who is holding the ante may return it to the writer of these letters through the Public Relations Office.

Next Smoker Nov. 25

The next station Smoker will be held Wednesday, Nov. 25, in Memorial Hall, starting at 1915, according to Lieut. Frank Gillespie, assistant welfare officer. Future Smokers will be held in Memorial Hall instead of Woolen Gymnasium until further notice, he said.

Cloudbuster-Seahawk Grid Game Cancelled

The Pre-Flight football game scheduled to be played at Chapel Hill on December 12 between the Iowa Seahawks and the Cloudbusters has been cancelled because of transportation difficulties, Comdr. O. O. Kessing, commanding officer of the station announced last Thursday.

Coming Events

Nov. 21—Free movie at Village Theatre, "South of Tahiti" with Brian Donlevy, Brod Crawford and Maria Montez. Feature begins at 1330, 1455, 1920 and 2045.

Nov. 22—Free movie at Village Theatre, "The Glass Key" with Veronica Lake and Brian Donlevy. Feature begins at 1300 and 1435.

Nov. 25—Smoker in Memorial Hall, starting at 1915.

Other Weekend Movies

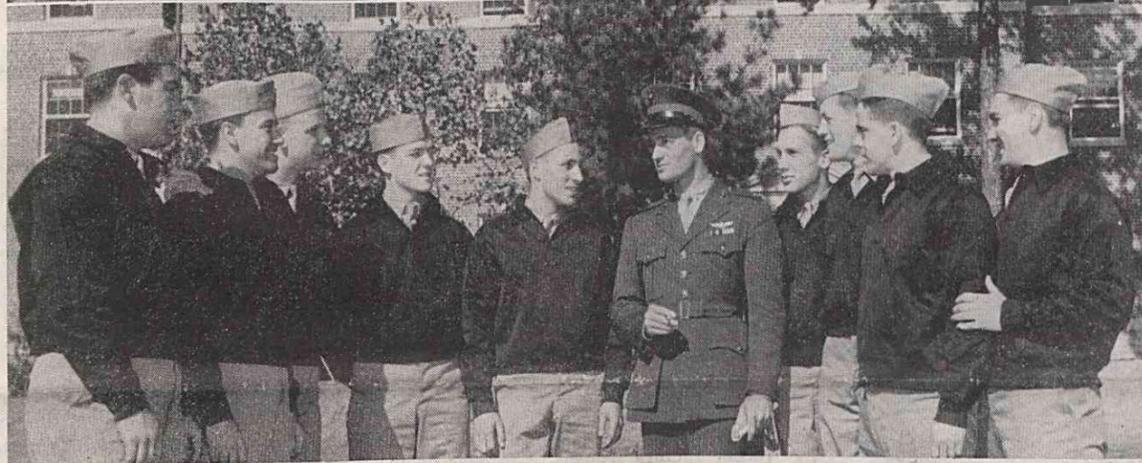
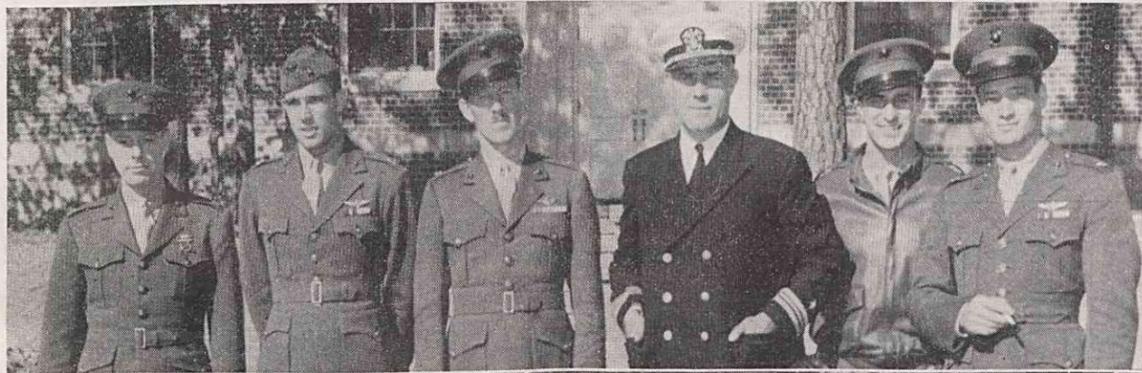
Nov. 21—Carolina Theatre, "You Were Never Lovelier" with Rita Hayworth and Fred Astaire.

Nov. 21—Pick Theatre, "Bells of Capistrano" with Gene Autry and Smiley Burnette.

Nov. 22—Carolina Theatre, "Road to Morocco" with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour.

America's Flying Ace Says:

Aviation to Play Key Role in Victory



MARINE FLYING ACES back from the war in the Pacific are shown above as photographed during their visit to the Pre-Flight School last weekend. Pictured from left to right in the top photo are Capt. T. E. Hicks, Jr., USMCR, of headquarters Marine Corps, who accompanied the fliers to Chapel Hill from Washington; Capt. Marion E. Carl, USMC, who has just returned from the fight in the Pacific; Lt. Col. Richard C. Mangrum, USMC, commander of a dive bomber squadron who has had much experience with the training of aviation cadets; Lt. Comdr. John P. Graff, USN (Ret.), executive officer of the Pre-Flight School; First Lieut. Christopher Dale, USMCR, who heads the Marine Detachment assigned to this station; and Maj. John L. Smith, USMC, 27-year-old ace who has 19 Jap planes to his credit.

In the bottom picture, Maj. Smith is shown chatting with nine 13th Battalion cadets from Pennsylvania. From left to right: Jack Williams of Llanerch; James Moir of East Lansdowne; Carl Schulten of Philadelphia; Ed Cawley of Philadelphia; John Habbersett of Media; Maj. Smith; Karl E. Goslin of Lansdowne; Roy H. Seifert of Philadelphia; John Larkin of Philadelphia, and Robert C. De Giovanni of Philadelphia.

Maj. John Smith Tells Experience Bagging 19 Planes

"When the war is won by the United States, aviation will have played the key role," America's No. 1 air ace, Maj. John L. Smith of the United States Marine Corps told a CLOUD-BUSTER reporter in a special interview last weekend.

Here to speak before the cadets and also to appear on the Kate Smith program, the lean, handsome Marine officer declared that, "You cannot overestimate the importance of aviation in this conflict."

Maj. Smith, who at the age of 27 is one of the youngest men in the U. S. fighting forces to earn the privilege of wearing the gold embroidered leaves of a major, was piloting a fighter plane over Guadalcanal only a month ago.

He left the island on Oct. 14, along with two other Marine officers—Lieut. Col. R. M. Mangrum, of Seattle, Wash., and Capt. M. E. Carl, of Oregon. They reached the United States by plane several days before appearing here.

Maj. Smith has since been awarded the coveted Navy Cross with this citation: "For extra-ordinary heroism in aerial combat with the enemy as commanding officer during the Solomon Islands Campaign of 1942—in the name of the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief of the United States, Pacific Fleet, takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Major John Smith, United States Marine Corps."

Maj. Smith was born in Oklahoma, the youngest of three sons of a rural mail carrier. He entered the Marine Corps in 1936 and three years later was made a naval aviator. Then followed a year of service and promotion to the rank of captain.

He was made a temporary major in August of this year while on active duty in the Solomons. On Guadalcanal a few months ago he shot down four Japanese Zero fighters in less than 15 minutes. And before leaving the island on Oct. 14, he set the record of 19 planes shot down to boost him to the top as the nation's No. 1 air ace.

Asked how he managed to bag four Jap planes in 15 minutes, Maj. Smith described the action as follows:

"I blasted the first Zero from the rear and that was one Jap that never knew what hit him. Then I saw another Jap attacking my wing man so that I banked sharply and was lucky enough to catch a Zero full in sight. My third Zero came right up under the belly of my plane sowing bullets up and down the fuselage. I dropped the nose of my plane and came at him head-on. One of his bullets hit my windshield right in front of my own nose but it missed me. My own bullets were tearing him apart by this time and huge chunks of his plane were dropping all over the place. When I looked over my shoulder he had lost control and was spinning down. I saw the pilot unload but don't know if his 'chute opened. Then I headed for home, since my gas was low and I only had a few rounds of ammunition left.

"As I skimmed over the tops of the
See FLYING ACE, page 6

Six Pre-Flight Officers Detached

Six Pre-Flight officers have received detachment orders recently transferring them to duty elsewhere.

Lt. (jg) Joseph J. Crowe, Jr., and Lt. (jg) Clarence O. Sapp, platoon officers, were detached on Nov. 16 for duty at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Ottumwa, Ia. Both officers had been here on temporary duty for six weeks.

Lieut. William P. Patterson, instructor in nomenclature and recognition, was transferred Nov. 14 to the Naval Training School for Recognition, Ohio State University, Columbus, O.

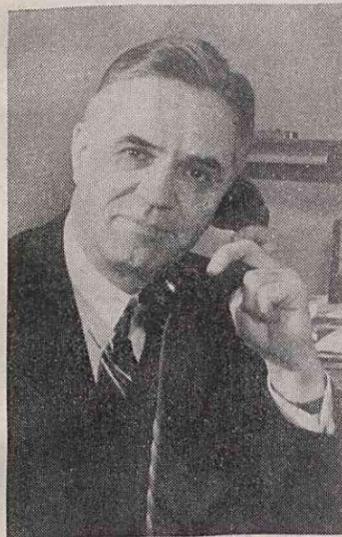
Lt. (jg) E. Shelton Fisher, instructor in essentials of naval service, was transferred to the same station on Nov. 4, while Lieut. J. P. Ginley, assistant coach in hand-to-hand combat, was assigned to a training center in Miami, Fla.

Ens. George D. Matson, former SK3c of the disbursing office, has been sent to Charleston, S. C., for instruction in the Supply School.

Montgomery Commissioned

William F. Montgomery, former PhM2c, was commissioned as an ensign Nov. 14. Ens. Montgomery will be here on temporary duty until early December.

Speaks Tonight



RALPH A. BARD

Naval officers, cadets, enlisted men and their friends are invited to hear Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Ralph A. Bard when he speaks tonight from the stage of Memorial Hall starting at 2015. His topic, as announced by Dick Railey, chairman of the Carolina Political Union which is bringing the noted personality to the campus, will be "The Tenders of the Navy—the Unsung Heroes."

Former Secretary of the Navy Joseph Daniels will introduce the speaker.

Pre-Flight Movie To Be Shown at Local Theatre Next Week

Grantland Rice's Sportlight, featuring the Pre-Flight program here, will be shown at the Carolina Theater on next Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, Manager E. C. Smith announced yesterday.

"Usually a short such as this is shown but two days," Mr. Smith said. "However, we know that the cadets will want to see it so we are bringing it back on Saturday."

The feature picture on Wednesday and Thursday is "Seven Sweethearts," starring Van Heflin. "Tish" will be shown on Saturday.

Pictures of the Pre-Flight program were photographed in August by Rod Warren and Russ Erwin. On the film Ted Husing does the narrating.

Both Mr. Warren and Mr. Erwin were at the station this past week. Last Monday night the film was shown before an assembly of Pre-Flight officers in Gerrard Hall.

Exhibitions at Art Gallery

Visual aids in Army education and modern French paintings are the subjects of exhibitions currently on display at the University's Person Hall Art Gallery. Hours: weekdays and Saturday, 1000-1700; Sunday, 1200-1700.