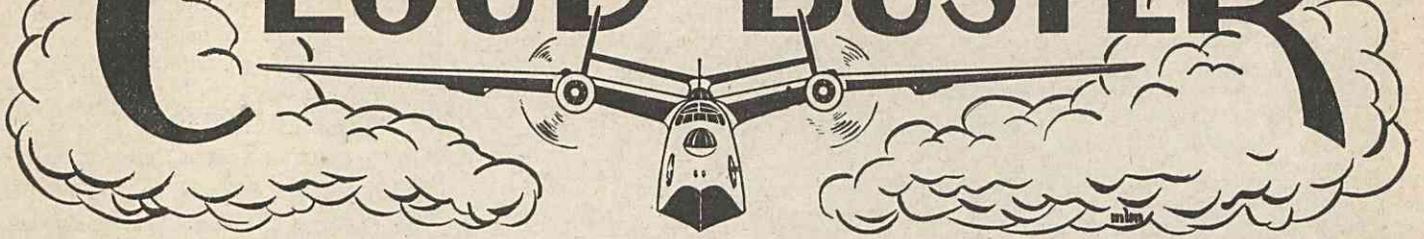


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CLOUD BUSTER



Russia Offensive

By ENS. W. O. SHANAHAN, USNR
Academic Department

As the tide of war ebbed along the vast eastern front, all the belligerents pondered the significance of Russia's greatest offensive. For the Germans it meant the loss of the initiative and all their rich booty in the Caucasus, the Donbas, and the Ukraine. To the Anglo-American forces Russia's victories offered proof that their blows had sapped the enemy's strength. For the Russians the offensive heralded the liberation of White Russia and the prospect of a new campaign in Poland.

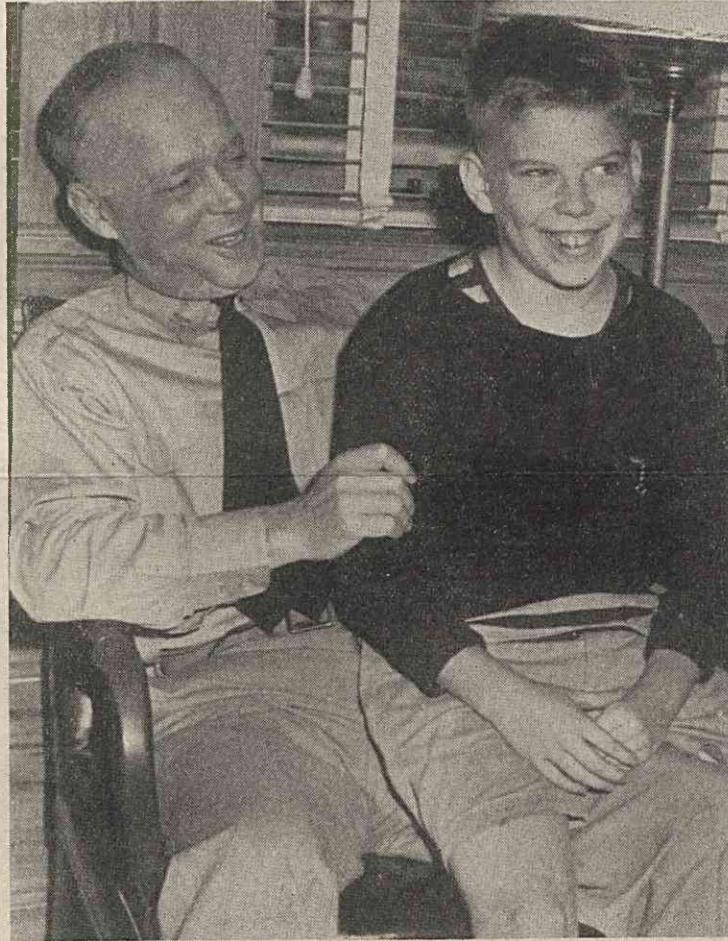
That the great drive should have stopped along the Dnieper River was generally expected. Great bluffs line the west bank of this stream, standing in some places from four to six hundred feet higher than the east bank. This circumstance, plus the great width of the river, almost a half mile in some places, has given the German armies a natural defense line. And now that the autumn rains have begun the dirt roads of central Russia are impassable for mechanized units.

While the terrain affords the Germans many tactical advantages, central Russia is an excellent springboard for a new Russian offensive. The Red Army now holds firmly in hand the principal belt of north-south railroad lines. These connect the cities recaptured during the summer, Orel, Smolensk, Bryansk, Kharkov, Belgorod, and Stalino. Although the freight yards, stations, and bridges in these places undoubtedly have been destroyed by the retreating Germans, their High Command cannot change the pattern of Russian railways.

The Red Army now has excellent lateral lines of communication. It can reenforce either wing, or shift the weight of its divisions for attack with greater facility

See *RUSSIA*, page 4

First Skipper Returns for Visit



IT WAS A HAPPY reunion with family and old friends for Capt. O. O. Kessing, USN, when he returned to Chapel Hill during the past week. Capt. Kessing, shown above with son, Jonas, was the first Commanding Officer of this Station, leaving here in November, 1942. He has been serving under Admiral Halsey in the southwest Pacific since last December.

Movie Schedule

Oct. 9—Free movie at Village Theatre, "Star Spangled Rhythm" with Betty Hutton and Eddie Bracken. Feature starts at 1930 and 2120. Complete show one hour, 48 minutes.

Oct. 10—Free movie at Village Theatre, "Bataan" with Robert Taylor and Thomas Mitchell. Feature starts at 1310 and 1516. Complete show two hours, six minutes.

Cadets May Attend

Cadets may attend the Fall Festival, sponsored by the local post of the American Legion, this afternoon and night, it was announced yesterday by Lieut. Comdr. James P. Raugh, USNR, Executive Office.

Located on the Airport Road, there are several rides and other concessions for the entertainment of cadets and others.

Five Promoted By AINav 166

Five Pre-Flight officers were promoted by AINav 166 issued during the past week, three of them to the rank of senior lieutenant and two to the rank of lieutenant (junior grade).

The new senior lieutenants are Lt. A. K. Marckwald, records officer, Lt. George Parke, Jr., medical officer, and Lt. Robert R. Hoffman, assistant dental officer.

The two officers promoted to lieutenants (jg) are William H. Rodiek, military arts instructor, and John Kuzman, platoon officer.

100% Bond Buyers

Strictly "one hundred percenters" when it comes to buying War Bonds are members of the Navy Pre-Flight band.

Lt. Wm. C. Clark, USNR, officer in charge of the War Bond Program at this station, reports that each of the 44 bandmen has registered for a regular war bond allotment to be deducted from his pay.

Officers Invited to Monday Evening Football Clinics

A weekly "football clinic" for Pre-Flight officers is being conducted each Monday evening in Room 304, Woollen gymnasium, starting promptly at 1900 and ending at 2000.

Included in each of the sessions will be football movies and discussions on various technical phases of the grid sport. The technical talk for next Monday will be "Center Play" by Lt. (jg) Thomas A. Gorman, USNR, formerly coach at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

A committee consisting of Lieut. H. R. Sanders, USNR, Lt. (jg) John D. Baker, USNR, and Lt. (jg) Gorman has been appointed by Lt. Comdr. Burton Ingwersen, USNR, athletic director, to plan the clinic sessions.