

CLOWDBUSTER

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U. S. NAVY PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL, CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

Friday, June 15, 1945

Ex-Cadet from First Battalion Wins Honors in Pacific War

Seen aboard this station last week was one of the members of the 1st Battalion of the Pre-Flight School, in the uniform of a Marine Corps aviator.

1st Lt. A. L. Walker, USMCR, accompanied by his wife, was renewing old acquaintances on his first visit since he was a cadet here at the Pre-Flight School three years ago.

Lieut. Walker has returned from the Pacific Theatre where he was flying an SBD, participating in the strikes on the Gilberts, the Marshalls, and Eniwetok.

The squadron with which he flew was known locally as "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" because of their ability to get anything in the way of supplies that there was in the islands. Just how they got these items of supply was not elaborated on by Lieut. Walker.

Citation for Eniwetok

Below his wings, Lieut. Walker wears the Presidential Citation for his part in the Eniwetok campaign, the Pacific Theatre Ribbon with three stars, and the American Theatre Ribbon.

When asked about Jap air attacks Lieut. Walker stated, "At no time while we were dive bombing Nip installations on these islands did we encounter any Japanese fighters."

Recalling old times here at the Pre-Flight School, Lieut. Walker spoke of 1st Lieut. Frank Harris, Cadet Commander of the 1st Battalion who also went into Marine Corps aviation and became a member of Maj. Gliden's famous "Ace of Spades" squadron which made history at Midway Island.

Lieut. Walker is now stationed at Cherry Point Air Station where he is getting prepared to ship out again and help deal the final blow to Japan.

U. S. Ready to Close Base in Iceland

Stockholm (CNS) — Iceland will be needed as a U. S. military base for only four or five months, Brig. General Martinus Stenseth, commander of the base, said on his arrival here on the first passenger plane on the new ATC line from the States to Stockholm. After that only an air field near Reykjavik will be retained.



1st Lieut. A. L. Walker

Plans Underway for Officers' Tennis Tournament Here

Plans are now underway for a Tennis Tournament for all officers on this station who wish to participate. Any officer who wishes to play in the tournament must sign up for it by tomorrow, June 16th. Officers may get on the list of contentants by signing the slip on either the Military bulletin board in Alexander, the bulletin board at Woollen Gym, or the board at Murphey Hall.

Players may sign as teams or sign individually and be teamed later by the scheduling committee.

The contestants will furnish their own tennis balls and the winners will keep the balls after the match is played.

Games in the tournament will be scheduled for next week. The schedule of games will be placed on the bulletin board in Alexander Hall the first of next week.

Heading the scheduling committee is Lieut. Comdr. Robert H. Bruce, Head of the Academic Department. Other members of the committee are Lieut. H. P. Cormack, Lieut. George Brown, and Lt. (jg) B. T. Welsh.

—Buy More War Bonds—

Two Former Cadets Aid Pacific Combat Record of VC-87

Two former cadets here are mentioned in a recent Navy Department release on Composite Squadron 87, which has returned to the United States on leave after a five-month combat tour in the Pacific including 15 days of direct support for the ground forces on Okinawa.

During its tour, VC-87 operated from the decks of three different escort carriers and also participated in the landings at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines.

Ens. Mack E. Wortman, 25th Batt member from Ridgely, Tenn., is credited with sinking two small craft near the mouth of the Lingayen Gulf during the landings. He also knocked out three Jap tanks on Okinawa with one bombing run.

Another ex-Pre-Flighter here in the 14 Batt, Lt. (jg) Eustace L. Edwards of Many, La., shot down one of the six Jap fighters destroyed by the squadron in aerial combat. It happened during the Lingayen operation when he dived through the anti-aircraft fire of U. S. ships to splash a Zero attempting to suicide crash one of our warships.

Nazis Sank 92 Ships On U. S. Gulf Coast

Miami (CNS)—Nazi U-Boats attacked 111 ships, sinking 92 of them, from February, 1942, until V-E Day, along the Gulf Sea frontier, which includes the coast of Florida, the Bahamas, half of Cuba, and the entire Gulf coastline. Of this total, only 4 were attacked in 1943, and none since. Twenty-five ships got the works right outside New Orleans alone.

The Navy estimates that at least two subs a month were sent to the Gulf Sea frontier early in 1942, and by May, there were at least 9 and possibly 16 loose in the region. It was estimated that at least 38 U-boats were fought by the Navy in the area during the war, but the number sunk was not given.

Station Band Has Party

Members of the Pre-Flight Band, under the direction of Chief Musician Ernest G. Smart, staged a chicken dinner and dance at the Band Center, on the evening of June 7th.

War Bond Sale Going Well in Second Week

As the Navy's "Extra" Cash War Bond Campaign on this station winds up its second week, purchases are continuing at a good pace at bond headquarters in the Welfare and Recreation Office, Alexander Hall.

It is essential that all personnel make a special effort to support to the limit this last "Extra" cash drive which will close on July 7th.

Concerning this War Bond Campaign the following statement is issued by the Secretary of the Navy:

"The coming Navy Independence Day 'Extra' Cash War Bond Sale, June 22 through July 7, 1945, will be the last Navy 'Extra' War Bond Campaign.

"The department will continue to accentuate the Navy's established method of systematic saving through the payroll savings and bond allotment plans. It is through these regular mediums that 78% of the Navy's grand total of \$1,200,000,000 War Savings Bonds have been purchased.

"Currently over 93% of all civilian employees are investing 11% of their gross pay and 58% of all officers and enlisted personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard have bond allotments. Under this system the 'Navy family' is salting away \$44,000,000 a month in Series 'E' War Bonds alone. It is requested that all addressees

(Continued on Page 3)

