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32nd Anniversary

Admiral Mitscher Pays High Tribute To Naval Aviation

Carrier supremacy established in the war just ended will be devoted fully to insuring the peace, Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), declared in marking the 32nd anniversary of Naval Aviation yesterday.

Vice Admiral Mitscher, in paying tribute to all Naval airmen, past and present, dead and alive, for their part in winning the war, outlined plans for Naval Aviation in the postwar years. The former commander of famed Task Force 58, who played an important part in the defeat of the Jap Navy and the Jap land- and sea-based air forces, said that:

1. Aircraft carriers, including new carriers of the *USS Midway* class, the 45,000-ton giant mobile "airfields" from which twin-engined aircraft can be flown, should be policing the oceans of the world at all times.

2. A total of 4,300 Naval aviators and 2,600 aircrewmen should be trained each year to keep Naval Aviation a dominant factor in world peace insurance.

3. It is estimated that at least 3,000 new planes should be added during the next year.

4. New weapons, including jet-propelled aircraft designed to operate from carriers, have been developed. At least two new fighters and two radically new dive and torpedo bombers are under development. Most of these are nearly ready for operation.

5. A strong aircraft industry should be maintained, capable by reason of ample orders and an intensive research program of

(Continued on page 3)

Good Smoking News

Rationing of cigarettes, cigars and smoking tobacco for naval personnel stationed within the continental United States was cancelled last week. Ration cards no longer are necessary to purchase smoking items at ship's stores or other naval installations where they have been rationed since May 11.

Authorization for sale of tobacco products to civil service employees by ship's service departments also was cancelled.



CADET STAFF—Members of the new cadet regimental staff from the 69th Battalion are, left to right, Donald D. Foster, Breckenridge, Minn., regimental commander; Thomas Snapp, Monterey Park, Cal., regimental sub-commander; James D. Wimpee, Bryan, Tex., regimental adjutant, and Jack E. Tolar, Jr., San Antonio, Tex., regimental commissary officer.

Former Cadet Stars in Dual Role, Flying Both Wildcats and Avengers

Leading pilot among the airmen of escort carrier-based Navy Composite Squadron 93 who doubled in brass at Okinawa during their recently completed Pacific combat tour is Lt. (jg) Hatherly "Red Horse" Foster, III, a member of the 16th Battalion here from Milton, Mass.

In the dual role of flying *Wildcat* fighters one day and *Avenger* torpedo-bombers the next—first of this type of operation reported from the Pacific Fleet—Lt. (jg) Foster shot down four Japanese suicide planes, three of them by following the Kamikazes down through terrific flak from American ships.

This 24-year-old ex-Cloudbuster weighs 235 pounds, stands six feet, four inches in height, and has a great mop of red hair. Understandably he has great difficulty squeezing into the small cockpit of a *Wildcat* fighter. Although he trained in *Avengers* and was not checked out as a fighter pilot until just before his squadron left Guam in February, the "Red Horse" is today rated among the top *Wildcat* pilots.

Flies Through Flak

April 6—the day on which Japan flew hundreds of suicide planes on one-day missions to Okinawa in an effort to batter our giant invasion fleet—was a *Wildcat* day for Lt. (jg) Foster. He got his first plane when a

Val, obsolescent dive-bomber converted into a Kamikaze, started a final dive on a destroyer escort from 3,000 feet. The "Red Horse" got on the *Val's* tail. Flak was intense. At 800 feet, the *Wildcat's* 50-calibre machine guns hit a vital spot, and the *Val* exploded.

Six days later on April 12 occurred another memorable effort by the Kamikazes at Okinawa. Lt. (jg) Foster was flying a *Wildcat* again that day, and splashed three suiciders in quick order.

Number 1 was a *Val*, just like the one he bagged previously. The Jap was an easy target. Bursts from the *Wildcat's* 50-calibre machine guns set fire at the wing roots, and the enemy plane dived straight into the water.

Number 2 was an *Oscar* fighter, already in a 35-degree dive on a destroyer when the Navy pilot spotted him. The barrage of anti-aircraft fire was heavy.

(Continued on Page 4)

'Visitors Day' Here

A special "Visitors Day" was observed at this Pre-Flight School yesterday, in observance of the 32nd anniversary of Naval Aviation. Invitation was extended to the neighboring community to observe Pre-Flight activities throughout the day.

72nd Battalion Leads Rivals In Competition

Although both the 72nd and the 69th Battalions have teams entered in four of the Sports Program finals tonight, Lt. G. A. Bankston's 72nd rules as the favorite to win the regimental title because of a 65 point advantage compiled in other phases of competition.

Already the top battalion in Military and Class Athletics for the past fortnight, the 72nd enters the Sports Program championships with an aggregate of 175 points, compared with 110 held by Lt. W. R. Holmer's 69th.

The 70th Battalion, of Lt. C. A. Robinson, winner in the previous competition period, enters the Sports Program with 100 points, while Lt. A. C. Bauer's 73rd has 95.

In the ring Lt. J. G. O'Brien's 72nd fighters will square off with Lt. E. W. Brady's 69th.

Wrestling will find Lt. (jg) G. M. Daugharthy's 70th tangling Lt. H. J. Burnell's 69th.

On track and field, the 70th, coached by Lt. J. L. Peters, will compete against the 72nd squad of Lt. (jg) L. F. Heminger.

Soccer will find Lt. (jg) R. Belka's booters facing Lt. C. T. Jenkins' 72nd.

In Kessing pool, Lt. (jg) F. W. Russell will send his charges against the 73rd, coached by Lt. (jg) P. E. Lavietes, and at Woolen gym, the 69th quintet of Lt. W. W. Yarnell will oppose the 72nd of Lt. (jg) W. M. Hughes.

Sub Goes Ashore For Its Prey

(SEA)—Even Jap sailors on shore leave weren't safe from U. S. subs!

The skipper of the *USS BOWFIN* recently sighted a Japanese cargo vessel alongside a pier unloading a liberty party. A busload of Japs was standing by.

When the smoke cleared from the blast of the *Bowfin's* torpedoes, little remained of the pier and nothing at all of the cargo ship and the busload of Japs.

'E' Award Totals

Washington (SEA). — The Army-Navy "E" Award was granted to 4,044 eligible war plants during the war. Plants nominated by the Navy totaled 1,262 and by the Army, 2,782.