

AIR-O-MECH

FROM THE CLASSROOM... TO THE LINE....

Vol. 1 No. 37

SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

August 7, 1943

.....In Our Time Of Trial Give Us Strength....



Rifle Range Sunday Rites Draw Throng

The sound of firing died away on the rifle range. The staccato bark of a sergeant stilled. A GI leaning his fatigues against a tree put away a fountain pen used to write a letter and struggled in this contented stillness. It was "church service time" on the range.

A little knot of men huddled near an altar under the pines, while off through the trees in other clumps two other groups of men were preparing for their hour of worship. Every Sunday evening the scene is repeated. At the 1900 hour a halt is called to all activity on the range, and chaplains of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths conduct informal services. They men attend in fatigue clothes, helmets, sometimes packs and other equipment which they must lay aside.

Two months ago it was proposed that Seymour Johnson chaplains conduct services for men bivouacking on the rifle range, where facilities of any such type were lacking. The response was immediate, until these Sundays find Officers and Enlisted Men in regular attendance.

"There's no more serious group of church goers anywhere than at the range," says Chaplain Tainter, in charge of the Protestant services. "There is something about the natural surroundings and their beauty, the fact these men are training for war fronts, and their sincerity that make the services like no other I have ever conducted."

Chaplains Gold, Olson, McGrath, and McCormick feel the same way. "The range services," they explain, "is one of the highlights of our service here."

If I don't buy \$18.00 worth of government insurance by August 18th I'm an.....

We Don't Believe It!

Sound the bugles! Break out the bunting and the flags! Look up a medal—that rarest of all soldiers has been found! It happened at the Service Club where Corporal Joe Santoro—M single, by the way—set a record by being the first GI to turn down a certain job. He was asked by a hostess to take a truck to Kingston and pick up a load of girls for a dance. "No thanks," said Joe. "I've had enough trouble with women!"

West Coast Net Pro Here

Private Don E. Thompson—rated as one of the leading professional tennis players in the West Coast—is a new arrival at Seymour Johnson Field, and one with a main objective, attendance at a liaison pilot's procedure school.

Thompson, who is already a liaison pilot, has taught such personalities as Shirley Temple, Norma Shearer, Gary Cooper, Claudette Colbert, Pat DeCico, Wayne Morris, Robert Taylor, Barbara Stanwyck, Howard Hughes, and the family of Donald Douglas, builder of some of the world's best airplanes.

"I'll be happy to teach Officers and Enlisted Men of this field anything I can about tennis," Thompson said.

In Army Two Years

Thompson had been in the Army more than two years. He served a year in the infantry. Thompson received his start by studying instruction technique under Pat O'Hara, Australian net star, at the Beach and Tennis Club of Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado, Calif. His next assignment was the Hotel Del Mar where he served the exclusive clientele of Bing Crosby's Turf Club.

Don next was appointed as head professional at the Desert Inn at Palm Springs, Calif., where he catered to the needs of the movie colony and socialites from all over the world.

Prior to his induction into the armed forces he was at the historic Athletic Country Club, Pasadena, Calif. At the club he supervised the building of his own tennis club in conjunction with the golf club. According to Don, his most interesting assignment was a case in which he was employed as a private tennis instructor to Norma Shearer. He also was a companion for her two children.

Band Concert Slated Again This Thursday

The piece is the bandstand beside the Sports Arena; the time is 10:00 next Thursday eve, and the event is the weekly outdoor concert of the Seymour Johnson Field Band.

For at this time Major Norman F. Lynch is conducting a program (Continued On Page Three)

Wanta Bowl, Bub? Alleys Nearly Set!

Those soon bowling alleys will open this coming week.

That assurance came from the Special Service Office after contractors turned the building, located on the corner between Chapel No. 1 and Post Exchange Branch No. 1, over to the Army Air Forces.

A complete schedule of bowling times has not been announced, but along with the opening will be announced through the Daily Bulletin, and GIs are instructed to watch the Bulletin for that information.

Plans are to have the bowling time correspond with the time off of soldiers attending classes to assure that every GI gets a chance to bowl. One or two alleys may be set aside for officer use. An Officer Night is also considered, while officers and their wives and messes may bowl.

The alleys felt the first tumble of balls this week when Col. Donald E. Smith, Commanding Officer, demonstrated his prowess. Bowling against him was a private, William McGready, who had been working on the alleys.

The ten alleys are now complete in every detail, and the construction is now throughout. Officers who recently visited the building said they were "some of the finest" they had seen.

Locker rooms will be available for both men and women. A balcony and bleachers will provide for spectators.

GIs may be given opportunity to make spare money in spare time by setting pins at the alleys.

Gas Non-Coms Attend School

All Seymour Johnson Field gas non-coms have attended the school the last two weeks to better qualify them for their duties, and while in session were visited by Col. M. E. Henson, chemical warfare officer for the command. Those who attended regularly & received passing grades will receive certificates of proficiency, signed by the post commander. Subjects taught were chemical agents, inspection and adjustment of the mask decontaminating procedures, first aid for casualties, duties of the non-com and related studies.

Eleven sergeants are instructors. The school was instructed by Lt. Medina, post chemical officer, and Lt. Reed, his assistant. Col. Henson was accompanied by Victor V. Martini, chemical officer for the first district. The Colonel complimented the school's personnel and approved all the field's gas alarm systems.

Open House Planned

Do you know all about what an aircraft mechanic studies in classes at Seymour Johnson Field?

Unless you're a student, you probably don't, and so the Office of the Director of Training has announced that an Open House for all Seymour Johnson personnel will be held August 10, between the hours of 1300 and 1700 in Hangar 4.

All phases of general class work will be demonstrated. Those interested in a further study of classes may obtain passes and a guide for a tour of the hangars.

Officers Get Extra Brass

Promotion of seven more captains to majorities were revealed this week through orders received from the war department. The seven and their home towns are as follows:

- William L. Gaines, Jr., Aniston, Ala.; James D. Malone, Grayson, Ky.; Solon B. Coleman, Fredericksburg, Va.; Harold N. Elliott, Greene, N. Y.; John Russell Mitchell, Bedford, Ind.; William L. Gibson, Huntington, W. Va.; and William F. Barnes, Jr., Chicago, Ill.

First lieutenants promoted to captains were:

- Guild Promoted: Russell E. Baker, Fremont, O.; John A. Morgan, Tusculville, Pa.; Edward T. Riley, Russellville, Ky.; Main A. Guild, Cleveland, O.; Joan D. Tedford, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Ralph C. Adams, Minneapolis, Minn. and Henry Merritt Escoe, Charleston, W. Va.

Second lieutenants promoted to first lieutenants were:

- Paul M. Carper, Blacksburg, Va.; Edward E. Cox, Hartford City, Ind.; James E. Cairo, Fort Chester, N. Y.; Harlan F. Daniel, Buft Springs, Ill.; Michael J. Del Casino, Brooklyn, N. Y.; William M. Morrow, Altona, Pa.; John A. Kley, Tarrytown, N. Y., and Maurice L. Bequieu, Oldtown, Me.

Enlisted Men Urged To Retry Cadet Exams

All enlisted men who failed to pass their Aviation Cadet Screening test by 10 points or less are urged to re-apply and re-take the examination since requirements have been lowered and the tests are less rigid. The waiting period has been shortened. The Aviation Cadet Board, said this week, and qualified applicants wait an average of three weeks.

FASTER THAN SOUND

Lt. Col. G. S. Hough of Plymouth, Mich., technical director of the Eighth Fighter Command in England and a test pilot, made a vertical plane dive of 200 miles per hour—faster than sound. The Colonel is 34 years old.

'Limited' Men May Get Out Under Ruling

There are going to be no more "limited service" men in the Army.

Such men will either be discharged or placed in general service after re-examination.

That is the announcement by the War Department, which indicated that enlisted men who do not meet the current physical standards for general military service will continue to be accepted in controlled numbers.

Acceptance will be predicated on their ability, special skills, intelligence and aptitude in relation to their physical ability. Initially such men will not be assigned to combat units or Replacement Training Centers of the Army Ground Forces.

Enlisted men who are now classified as "limited service" whose records show they do not meet general service requirements will be re-examined. Those who fail to meet the prescribed minimum standard for induction will be discharged. Exceptions are provided in the case of a man who is physically disabled by previous military service and whose commander desires his retention.

Every measure will be taken to place individuals in positions where their particular skill and ability will be of the greatest use. Commanders will exercise personal supervision to this end.

Few Discharges Expected. Soldiers not retained because of physical disability will return to the jurisdiction of Selective Service after their discharge.

No great number of discharges is expected to result from the order, as Army standards have not been changed appreciably since the beginning of Selective Service.

It was said that the purpose for discharging certain of the limited service men is to avoid the payment of costly pensions for service-aggravated disability. Some men, for instance, have had undetected lung weakness which became revealed after induction. Others have progressive deafness which would grow worse in the Army or in civilian life. If such men were held in service the Army might be compelled to pay the cost of their disability when military service may not have contributed to physical disability.

No. 1-B. After Aug. 1 all men accepted for service will be classified officially as I-A. Heretofore the practice has been for draft boards to classify selectees as I-A, and the Army to re-classify them after physical examination at an induction center, putting some in I-B or limited service.

Draft boards have also been instructed to re-examine all I-A's (Continued On Page Three)

