

# AROUND The STATION

Dances for the crew and for members of the 58th Battalion are on the Welfare and Recreation bill for next Saturday.

The crew dance, with free refreshments, will be held at the Country Club from 2100 to 2400.

The 58th Battalion hop is slated for the Pine Room of Lenoir Hall, also from 2100 to 2400. Uniform for the cadets will be service blue, able, with optional dress for the ladies.

Sections of the Pre-Flight band will furnish music for both occasions.

The five top cadets of the 60th Battalion academically are D. Robinson, Jr., (K-2) with average of 3.767, W. A. Pavlik (L-2) with 3.726, D. L. Darrow (L-1) with 3.691, W. T. Groves (L-1) with 3.617, and R. J. Ferron (L-2) with 3.615.

In weather to which Henry Hudson was accustomed, Pre-Flight's new "trading post" was opened early this week. The brain-child of Lieut. Frank Bowman of ENS, the post is located at the Canteen and latest reports had it that brisk trading, buying and selling was in process. Seems you get a 3x5-inch card, fill it out, pin it up, and, presto, you swap your shoulder-boards for a cigarette lighter, a bicycle for a sled, a blonde pin-up girl for a brunette, etc. Ten-day leaves were at a premium, however.

Lieut. Howard L. Hanson, photographic officer of the 167th Sig Photo Company in Europe and brother of Harold Hanson, Specialist - Photographer aboard this station, writes that since arriving overseas last October he has made four trips from Cherbourg to the front and back again—and each time by a different route. Lieut. Hanson's photographers have taken nearly all of the newsreel and still photos showing action in Holland below Antwerp and at last report they were shooting less than a mile from the enemy front lines. When they entered Aachen they found only five persons not attached to their own company. "In their hurry," writes Lieut. Hanson, "the Germans left hot food on the tables and several officers left their overcoats."

## Divine Services

- PROTESTANT  
1000 -- Memorial Hall
- CATHOLIC  
0615 at Gerrard Hall  
1000 at Hill Music Hall
- JEWISH  
1000 at Hillel House

## Night Flying Experiences Told Cadets By Army's Lt. Wirkus



LIEUT. LEONARD V. WIRKUS

AFT cadets last week were treated to an informal narration of personal experiences in night fighting over Europe by Lieut. Leonard V. Wirkus, AAF, who came to Chapel Hill to visit his brother, Warrant Officer Faustin E. Wirkus, head of the Marine Aviation Detachment here.

Emphasis was on the importance of navigation in air operations, as Lieut. Wirkus described experiences gained during 150 hours of night flying in British Beaufighters, mostly in the Italian theatre.

Lt. Wirkus, who entered Italy right after the capture of Naples, flew cover for the Anzio operation, as well as for the invasion of southern France. He holds the Air Medal with 2 clusters for sustained operations over Italy, the Unit Citation, and ETO and ATO service ribbons.

## —SHOT DOWN—

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"Our first action on a large scale came in the big naval engagement in November. Our objective was the Jap fleet, composed of a few carriers, battle wagons and several transports. We were successful, for the most part, and our outfit sank the battleship Kongo. That is, we put seven 'fish' in her, and she exploded that night.

### Ack-Ack Hits Home

"We were busy every day. When we couldn't find Jap ships we would bomb Munda as an alternative."

It was while returning from a bombing mission over Munda that LeLande experienced the first of three parachute jumps with Jap planes overhead.

His plane, along with several others, had dumped its load and was on its way home when ack-ack hit the engine and knocked out a couple of cylinders.

"Nine Zeros were after our formation at the time," explains LeLande, "but we bailed out and our own ship gave us wonderful protection. We landed in the water, close to a small island, and were picked up the next day. No one was hurt."

Later, the American forces started attacking Bougainville, and LeLande's group started going through "real hell." Their objective was two-fold: In the day time they would attack ships in the harbor while the B-17 and B-24 would raise hell with the air fields. At night they would drop aerial mines, which was especially dangerous in that they had to fly at a slow speed and low altitude.

### Wears Two Citations

Not long thereafter, LeLande took to his parachute again. His ship was escorting a cripple back to Guadalcanal when two Jap planes spotted them. Seconds later his own ship was

## 64th Battalion Tops All In Academics

Academic standings for battalions failed to run true to form for the two week period just ended when the junior instead of the senior battalion won top honors.

The latest entrant in battalion competition—the 64th—won first place with an overall mark of 83.35%.

The 61st was second with 82.80, while the 62nd had 65.97, and the 63rd, 65.58.

Missouri's first deer season in 7 years was a big success. No hunters were shot. No cows were shot by careless hunters. Only a few deer were shot, too.

## COMING EVENTS

### TOMORROW

#### AT THE MOVIES

Village: Free movie, "GREENWICH VILLAGE," with Don Ameche and Carman Miranda. Features start at 1918 and 2048.  
Carolina: "NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART," with Cary Grant and Ethel Barrymore.

Pick: "WEIRD WOMAN," with Lon Chaney and Evelyn Ankers.

#### BASKETBALL

Woolen Gym: Pre-Flight vs. Cherry Point Marines, 1930.

#### DANCE

Pine Room, Lenoir Hall: Officers' dance from 2100 to 0100.

### SUNDAY

#### AT THE MOVIES

Village: Free movie, "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT," with Phil Baker and Phil Silvers. Features start at 1326 and 1452.  
Carolina: "MRS. PARKINGTON," with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon.  
Pick: "DARK MOUNTAIN," with Ellen Drew and Robert Lowery.

#### OPEN HOUSE

Alderman Dormitory: For 62nd battalion from 1530 to 1730.

### WEDNESDAY

#### BASKETBALL

Woolen Gym: Pre-Flight vs Seymour Johnson Field; University of North Carolina vs. High Point College, at 1900.

## Ens. Thomas Weds Lt. Hewlett Jan. 6

A Pre-Flight romance which began six months ago will culminate on January 6th at York, Pa., with the marriage of Ensign Gertrude Thomas to Lt. Joseph Hewlett.

The couple will be married in the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in York, Pa., home of the bride to be. The wedding will be a simple affair, with close friends of the couple on deck. Ensign Thomas, who has resigned her commission effective December 15th, will leave on that date for York to make plans for the wedding.

Lieut. Hewlett has served as head coach of gym and tumbling. Prior to being commissioned in the Navy he was an instructor in Devereux School at Berwyn, Pa.

While stationed in Chapel Hill, Ensign Thomas was attached to the Naval Dispensary as a member of the nursing staff.



**BRIDE-TO-BE**—Of interest to all station personnel is the forthcoming marriage of Ensign Gertrude Thomas, above, to Lieut. Joseph Hewlett, head coach of gym and tumbling. The wedding will take place on January 6 at York, Pa.

knocked out, and the crew of three landed in the "drink" to be picked up shortly thereafter by PT boats.

Just before returning to the states it happened again. This time a group of Jap fighter planes did the damage, and LeLande, the pilot and turret gunner took to parachute.

LeLande stayed on Guadalcanal for nine months. During that time Americans at home were building ships and planes to replace those that had been destroyed at Pearl Harbor, and Americans at Guadalcanal were starting an offensive that will not end short of Tokyo.

LeLande wears the Pacific Theatre and American Defense ribbons with three battle stars, along with two presidential citations.