

# CLOUDBUSTER

INFORMATION CENTER

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

Friday, March 9, 1945

## From Marshalls, Cadet Of 5th Batt Just 'Went On West'

A fifth battalion cadet who spotted gunfire for a heavy cruiser from his Kingfisher came aboard last week to show his bride of 11 days his Pre-Flight alma mater.

He is Lieut. (jg) W. F. Allen, who was en route to Pensacola for multi-engine training following a year of sea duty in the Pacific. Flying from the catapult of his ship, Lieut. (jg) Allen not only spotted gunfire but aided in rescuing downed pilots at sea.

Completing his training here in September, 1942, Lieut. (jg) Allen went through Memphis, Pensacola and operational training at Jacksonville before joining his squadron. In January, 1944, his cruiser joined her task force. "It seemed as if we just started on the Marshalls and went on West all the way," he said. "We made raids at Marcus, Truk, Wake, Hollandia, Yap, Wolei, Saipan, Tinian, Guam and the Philippines."

**Rescued Squadron Commander**  
Last June Lieut. (jg) Allen participated in a notable rescue when, following a hard encounter with the Jap fleet, some Navy planes were late getting back to their carriers. In the darkness and out of gas, they fell into the drink but the following day seven survivors were picked up, Lieut. (jg) Allen rescuing Comdr. Blich, commanding officer of a dive-bombing squadron from the *Wasp*.

"The two planes aboard our cruiser went out at dawn," explained Lieut. (jg) Allen, "and with fighter protection overhead, we flew at levels of 1,000 and

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## Making Dates Is Now 'Only' Half As Tough

The problem of dating local girls by phone or chinning with the one back home was halved for cadets during the past week with doubling of telephone facilities in Navy Hall.

Installation of two additional booths in the east end of the basement raises to four the number available to Pre-Flight personnel in Navy Hall. Local calls are made without charge.



Showing his bride around the station is Lieut. (jg) W. F. Allen, a 5th Battalion cadet who visited Chapel Hill en route to Pensacola following experiences in the Pacific, where he served as gunfire spotter from his *Kingfisher*.

## All Hands Aboard Are Urged To Join In Red Cross Drive

Membership in the American Red Cross for each officer, cadet, crew member and civilian employe is the goal of the 1945 War Fund Drive on this station during the campaign which started March 7 and which will run through March 14.

Chaplain George W. Cummins, chairman of the Red Cross committee, has announced that names of all personnel to be solicited are in the hands of the various departmental chairmen and he urges all hands to join.

Enlisted personnel will not be solicited, pursuant to instructions from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, but all others, including civilians, will be solicited and Chaplain Cummins has expressed the hope that members of the crew will voluntarily join 100 per cent.

The national goal of the War Fund campaign is \$200,000,000, which will finance Red Cross activities during another year under war-time conditions.

### \$7 Per Second Pays

It requires \$7 per second to keep the Red Cross going.

## Four Former Carolina Cadets Win Mention In Navy Releases

### CADETS TO DANCE ON BASE SATURDAY

Cadets of the 64th and 66th battalions, together with 11-R-A, will dance tomorrow in the Pine Room, Lenoir Hall, at a Welfare and Recreation Office hop. The Cloudbuster swing band will provide the music and refreshments will be served.

The dance will start at 2100 and wind up at 2400. An extension of liberty for the battalions invited has been granted.

### NAT Chief Earns DSO From Britain

Rear Admiral Charles A. Pownall, USN, Chief of Naval Air Training, has been awarded honorary membership in the Distinguished Service Order of Great Britain for "outstanding gallantry and leadership" in the Gilbert Islands campaign.

Rear Admiral Pownall earlier had been honored by the President of the United States with the award of the Distinguished Service Medal for his work as Commander of the Carrier Force, Central Pacific Force, in operations for re-conquest of the Gilbert Islands in November, 1943.

### Fountain Pen Lost

A brown-and-gold striped Shaeffer fountain pen with a gold cap has been lost by B. E. Earp, Y3c, WAVES quarters, Alexander Hall.



## Ex-'Busters' Figure In Pacific Air War

Four former Carolina Pre-Flight cadets, ranging from the 5th to the 27th Batts, figure in recent Navy Department releases on the war in the Pacific.

Lieut. (jg) W. J. Ennis, 5th Batt member from Jackson Heights, L. I., N. Y., is described as "the champion water-lander of the Pacific Fleet," for his feats as a pilot in Carrier Air Group Seven. A veteran of the first carrier strikes against five important outposts of the Jap's "New Order" in the Pacific, the group is returning home on leave after a four-month combat tour in which it amassed a total of combat flying hours ordinarily compiled in six months.

Air Group Seven participated in the first strikes on Okinawa, Formosa, and Amami O Shima, as well as the historic January assault on the Asiatic continent, blasting targets in China and Indo-China.

Record of the group shows 76 Jap aircraft shot out of the air and hundreds of others destroyed on the ground. The group helped sink 64 ships of all sizes, including one light cruiser, one submarine tender, one destroyer and five destroyer escorts.

During the Battle of the Philippine Sea, Lieut. (jg) Ennis was forced down three times in three days. Twice his plane was shot down. Both times he was rescued, but after the second rescue the seaplane which picked him up was itself forced down by foul weather. He was saved this time by a destroyer.

### Navy Cross Winner

Another Carolina Pre-Flighter, Lieut. (jg) Fred B. Roach, 15th Batt member from Dover, Mass., has been awarded the Navy Cross, as one of four torpedo pilots of Air Group 44 who scored torpedo hits on a Japanese battleship last Oct. 25 during the second Battle of the Philippine Sea.

The record of Air Group 44, returning to the United States from four months of heavy action in the Pacific, typifies the lopsided score of destruction which Naval air power, operating from aircraft carriers, is inflicting upon the Japanese.

A small-sized but high calibre group of fighter and torpedo

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