

--Ex-'Busters--

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bomber pilots who operated from a fast carrier, Air Group 44 shot down 49 Jap planes, considerably more than the number of planes making up the air group itself and, in addition, destroyed scores more on the ground.

In attacks on the Jap fleet and shipping, Air Group 44 helped sink a heavy cruiser and three destroyers—a tonnage equal to that of the group's own carrier—and 53,000 tons of merchant shipping. The group helped damage 21 other warships, including two battleships, an aircraft carrier, and three cruisers, as well as more than 55,000 tons of merchant shipping.

For this toll of damage to the enemy, the group paid with the loss of 16 pilots and 12 aircrewmen killed or missing in action.

Scout Plane Hero

The 26th Batt is represented in the Navy Department releases by Ens. Thomas F. Humphrey, of Woodbridge, N. J.

Ens. Humphrey was in a detachment of Naval airmen aboard a cruiser whose members have returned to the U. S. after 16 months of putting their nine-year-old bi-plane SOC scout planes through such antics as the designers never dreamed of.

They accomplished a feat never before reported from the Pacific war when they bombed and blew up a detachment of mounted Jap horse cavalry.

The handful of pilots, radio-men, and mechanics were aboard the cruiser for the passive job of spotting the warship's gunfire—flying above the shell bursts and correcting the aim. They did this job well. In addition, they spotted and managed to break up a "Banzai" charge by a squadron of Jap tanks; knocked out big shore guns with their little planes to help save their ship from damage; killed hundreds of Jap troops with bullets and bombs; and saved one U. S. tank trapped by enemy gunfire.

All this was achieved because the pilots and rear-seat men wanted a bigger part of the war than gun spotting, and because the skipper of their cruiser let them hang lightweight bombs on the wings of their little planes and strafe and heckle the Japs from treetop level to suit their fancy.

Army Airmen Rescued

Four Army airmen, survivors of a downed transport plane in the Philippine Sea, are alive today after their raft was spotted tossing in 12-foot swells by Ens. Eddie W. Johnson, 27th Batt member from Brocton, Mass., and co-pilot of a *Catalina* flying boat.

Thirty aircraft and two big surface convoys had passed within sight during the 17 days and 20 hours that the four airmen were adrift, but no one spotted them. Then shortly before noon on the 18th day, when the survivors had gone without food for three days, the raft was sighted

Cloudbuster Swimmers And Coaches



Splitting even in two meets each with Camp Lejeune's Marines and Duke, the Cloudbuster swimmers have completed their season. The squad as lined up for the photo follows: First row, left to right—C. F. Holmes, C. P. Willis, W. A. Maass, A. L. Hausman, R. B. Sullivan and R. W. Smith. Second row—J. C. Warren, D. K. Dillon, A. F. Frazen, F. A. Pedrich, M. R. Bechstedt, captain, and R. H. Swigert. Third row—Lieut. Comdr. B. J. Feurer, head coach; Lieut. (jg) W. R. Hoover, assistant coach; M. Cuniberti, L. K. Barnes, manager; Lieut. (jg) H. E. Hickman, assistant coach, and Lieut. (jg) C. L. Muller, assistant coach. Fourth row—N. N. Dippy, F. A. Bostwick, J. A. Van Wie, D. R. Weideman and A. Stanley.

400 Cadets Report Here

Approximately 400 cadets—one of the largest groups ever to arrive here at one time—reported aboard last Wednesday for Pre-Flight training. Included in the total were 158 constituting the 68th Batt, 110 as four-week refreshers, 129 as 12-week refreshers, and nine as 26-week refreshers. All of the 68th Batt members are transfers from the V-12 program.

OPERATIONAL REPORT

ARRIVALS:

Lieut. Francis D. Matthews; Lieut. John I. Rinne, jr.; Lieut. (jg) J. Francis Druze; Fernando Moret, SKD1c; C. D. Baker, Y1c, and D. A. Jackson, HA1c.

DEPARTURES:

Lieut. Russell E. Curry; Lieut. Eugene D. Forker; Lieut. Charles E. Galbreath; Lieut. (jg) W. O. Shanahan; Lieut. Frederick B. Lukins; Margaret J. Smith, HA1c; W. F. Macy, PhM1c; F. Williamson, S2c.

by Ens. Johnson and the rescue made.

The *Catalina*, attached to Aircraft, Seventh Fleet, was flying from Woendi to Leyte on a combination ferry and anti-submarine hop. The pilot jettisoned his depth bombs and headed down. The *Catalina* hit the water, bounced once, and settled down. The Army transport airmen waved their arms, yelled, and beat each others' backs. The *Catalina* was taxied alongside the raft and the survivors were taken aboard through the port blister.

The rescue was effected 541 miles east of Leyte's Tacloban airstrip.

Lejeune Swimmers Upset Cloudbusters In 48-41 Thriller

With the score deadlocked at 41-41 in a tense swimming duel, Camp Lejeune's Marine tankmen won the 200-yard medley relay, final event on the program, to gain revenge on Pre-Flight last week at Lejeune. The final score was 48 to 41.

A week earlier the Cloudbusters had handily beaten the Marines in the Chapel Hill pool, 56 to 22.

Summary:

150-yard medley relay—Won by Camp Lejeune (Flagg, Rodbell, Kern). Time: 1:28.6.
200-yard free style—Won by Czernerys (Lejeune); second, Warren (PF); third, Holm (PF); fourth, Van DeBerg (Lejeune). Time: 2:16.2.

50-yard free style—Won by Bechstedt (PF); second, Hausman (PF); third, Bedner (Lejeune); fourth, Sullivan (PF). Time: 0:26.2.

Diving—Won by Aaron (Lejeune); second, Willis (PF); third, Swigert (PF); fourth, Hanley (Lejeune).

100-yard free style—Won by Czernerys (Lejeune); second, Bechstedt (PF); third, Van DeBerg (Lejeune); fourth, Hausman (PF). Time: 0:59.5. (New pool record).

50-yard backstroke—Won by Stanley (PF); second, Benedetti (Lejeune); third, Weideman (PF); fourth, Aaron (Lejeune). Time: 0:31.1. (New pool record).

100-yard breast stroke—Won by Rodbell (Lejeune); second, Cuniberti (PF); third, Preston (Lejeune); fourth, Pedrich (PF). Time: 1:13.

400-yard free style—Won by Warren (PF); second, Czernerys (Lejeune); third, Holm (PF); fourth, Van DeBerg (Lejeune). Time: 5:15.1.

200-yard free style relay—Won by Lejeune (Kern, Flagg, Bedner, Blanchard). Time: 1:44.5. (New pool record).

She Sings, Too!

Miss Anne Jeffreys will NOT be seen on the Village Theater screen this week, as far as we know. The sole excuse for running her picture is by way of pointing out that the lady has singing ability which led her to the doorway of Metropolitan Opera (it is said), and won the feminine lead in RKO-Radio's "Sing Your Way Home," which eventually will come to Chapel Hill. We hope, we hope.

