

Ex-'Buster' Joins Japs But Escapes In Epic Mission

Ensign Frederick C. Steputis, Jr., USNR, Glassport, Pa., and an aviation cadet of the 31st Batt at Pre-Flight at Chapel Hill was a member of Navy Air Group Eighty, which has returned home for leave holding the record for one day's destruction of enemy planes in the air by any carrier-based air group.

According to an announcement by the Navy Department, Air Group Eighty shot down 71 Jap planes in the first day of the Tokyo raid, February 17, 1945. This was accomplished with the loss of three of Air Group Eighty's pilots and the record is all the more remarkable since the fighting occurred over the Jap's own airfields, in the heart of the Empire.

Right Number, Anyway

Ensign Steputis was one of two pilots who found themselves in a perilous predicament when they joined up with a group of fighter planes near Tokyo and discovered that the fighters were not from their group but another one. So the pilots flew away and sighted another group of fighters not far distant. That, they decided, must be their own group. It consisted of about the right number, 50, and was in the right location.

They flew near to join up, carefully scanning the sky for any approaching Japs. They came within 150 feet and began taking position. What they saw then made their eyes pop. Every one of the 50 fighter planes bore big red markings on the wings. The enemy pilots were flying along serenely, apparently mistaking the American pilots for their comrades.

Carefully, so as to arouse no suspicions, Ens. Steputis and Lt. Robert H. Anderson, Eau Claire, Wis., fell astern. Then, quickly, they turned tail and "got to hell out of there."

New Carrier For FDR

The Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the 45,000-ton USS *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*, originally was to have been named the USS *Coral Sea*, according to an announcement by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal. President Harry S. Truman approved the change.

Air Expert Says New Rocket Plane To Go 100 Miles High At 100,000 MPH

Los Angeles (CNS)—Add urgent reasons for preventing World War III:

Hall L. Hibbard, vice president and chief engineer of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation says a rocket plane flying 100,000 miles an hour at an altitude of 100 miles above the earth is entirely possible.



LEADERS OF THE 65TH—One of the most enviable records ever compiled on this station is that of the 65th battalion in winning the regimental title five times in eight competitive periods and, above, are the cadet officers and commissioned officers of the champion Batt. Foreground is N. E. Heckert and the others, from left to right and by rows, are W. H. Campbell, E. W. Martin, M. L. Borchelt, R. P. Erickson, E. P. Danielson, Lt. K. O. Drexel, Lt. R. A. Peterson, Lt. F. G. Steen and Lt. W. B. Leckonby.

Two Years Ago

A recent poll of eastern sports scribes, conducted by the Public Relations office here, showed football holding the top spot among the 10 best sports for developing the nation's youth.

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One hundred and forty-three officers began training this week in the Tenth V-5 officer indoctrination course here.

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In the Ration League the Cloudbusters show three wins and four losses. Carolina, with five wins and one loss, leads the league.

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Slate gray uniforms were announced by the Navy Dept. this week as a new working uniform for officers.

COMING EVENTS

TONIGHT

HAPPY HOUR
Memorial Hall at 1900. Band music, movie shorts.

TOMORROW

BASEBALL
Pre-Flight vs. Duke, Emerson Stadium at 1500. (Ration League game).

TRACK
Pre-Flight vs. Navy at Annapolis.

MOVIES

Village: Free movie, "Three Men In White," with Van Johnson, Lionel Barrymore and Marilyn Maxwell. Complete shows at 1500, 1900 and 2108.
Carolina: "Sudan," with Maria Montez and Jon Hall.
Pick: "Land of the Outlaws," with Johnny Mack Brown.

SUNDAY

DIVINE SERVICES

Protestant: Memorial Hall at 1000.
Catholic: Gerrard Hall at 0630, Hill Music Hall at 1000.
Jewish: Hillel House at 1000.

MOVIES

Village: Free movie, "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," with Gail Russell and Diana Lynn. Complete shows at 1300 and 1432.
Carolina: "A Royal Scandal," with Tallulah Bankhead and Charles Coburn.
Pick: "Dark Waters," with Merle Oberon and Franchot Tone.

WEDNESDAY

BASEBALL
Pre-Flight vs. University of North Carolina, Emerson Stadium, 1600.

Not Bad—For Beginner

Luzon—(CNS)—In his first five minutes of action, Sgt. Clifford G. Harmon, 27, killed a total of 29 Japs—26 with a flame-thrower, one with a blow from its butt, one with a grenade and one with a tommy gun.

Oil-Scooping 'Juicy' Fleet Is Doing 4.0

Battling the enemy behind the Pacific war scene is the small but mighty "Juicy" Fleet, which sails about Pearl Harbor reclaiming the oil which scums the water's surface.

Chief objective of the Fleet is fire prevention. Clearing oil atop the water eliminates a dangerous hazard. The by-product of the operation is oil salvage and the returns practically finance the maintenance of the "Juicy" Fleet.

Besides removing the threat of conflagration, the "Juicy" Fleet units last year scooped from the harbor 3,000,000 gallons, 40 per cent of which was reclaimed oil. The salvaged "black gold" is used chiefly for oiling roadways throughout the Naval establishments, but a large portion of it also is utilized in power plants in the Navy Yard.

Officials Are Pleased

The "Juicy" units maneuver about the harbor scooping the oil scum into a large tank, the water going to the bottom and the oil passing through the reclaiming process.

The boats were originated and developed in the Navy Yard after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, when oil was inches thick on the water, and construction has been based around the problem of skimming the oil from the harbor's water. Ingenuity and skill of yard workmen have contributed to the success of the venture. Experiments continue and the Fleet may develop into something even more effective. Navy officials are highly pleased with the accomplishments to date.

The "Juicy" Fleet derives its name from the titles of the four oil reclaiming units: Juicy Lucy, Juicy Suzy, Juicy Floozie, and Juicy Scoopie.

—Wing Insignia—

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eration training which, in the case of the ones headed for patrol-bombing squadrons, will include thorough training as bombardiers. Others, following operation training, will be assigned to carrier squadrons and the Naval Air Transport Command.

With the authorization of navigator's wings and establishment of the Naval Air Navigation School at Clinton, the Navy recognizes the navigator's important role in flights over vast ocean areas and the specialization required by the multitudinous new navigational devices developed during the war.

Washington (CNS)—A total of 15,546 members of the Women's Army Corps is serving the country overseas. More than 7,000 are in the ETO alone. About 40% of the overseas Wacs are stenographers and typists.