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SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

FEBRUARY 13, 1943

PURPLE HEART AWARD RECEIVED BY CPL. STAAB FOR ACTION IN AUSTRALIA; NOW STATIONED AT SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD

By Pfc J. Butera

Dive bombers screamed down out of the sky with a hell's roar, while Jap Zero fighters splattered machine gun bullets over the entire deck of a small Australian luxury liner. The crew with only four machine guns on the deck of the boat fought wave after wave of Jap planes. One of the men on that boat was Corporal Frank A. Staab, who was recently awarded the "Purple Heart."

Corporal Frank A. Staab recently assigned to the 333rd Air Base & Headquarters Squadron of the Seymour Johnson Field, was part of this battle, he saw "action", he fought, suffered and was seriously wounded. Still a bit unsteady from his 11 months of hospitalization, Staab was interviewed by an "Air-O-Mech" staff reporter, and although very modest and unwilling to relate his experiences, enough was learned from his many letters and citations to give you this story.

One of the paragraphs from General Marshall to Corporal Staab, reads as following:

Award of the Purple Heart to Frank A. Staab, ASN 6568938 of the 453rd Ordnance Company Aviation (B)

For singularly meritorious act of essential service near Bathurst Island, Northern Territory, Australia, on February 19 and 20, 1942. Volunteering as a member of the gun crew of a vessel carrying supplies for the relief by enemy action going to the aid of others, he was struck by shrapnel, but in spite of a serious wound, he continued to help injured comrades.

By Command of General Marshall.
See "Purple Heart", Page 3

THIRTY-FIVE OLDSTERS LEAVE SERVICE FOR WAR JOBS

About 35 enlisted men at Seymour Johnson Field have already been discharged honorably from the Army, under the recent War Department ruling allowing men over 35 to leave the service to accept jobs in war plants, or in agriculture.

Though many more oldsters have requested such discharges, most of their requests are being held up by improper applications. Most common error is in the soldier forgetting to have his prospective employer initial the letter asking for the soldier's release.

See "35 Oldsters", Page 3

G.I.'S CAN PURCHASE SHOES; WITHOUT RATION BOOKS

ellers: Don't let old man rationing scare you to death if you want to buy shoes other than "G.I." We don't have to have ration books for that, praise the Lord!

Service men, am women, aren't effected by the recent Washington decree that civilians can only purchase three pairs of shoes a year.

Theodore S. Johnson, North Carolina CPA director, explained this week that those in the services, who want to purchase shoes "on the outside" can do so, if they secure a letter from their supply officer.

ALL COLORED MUSICAL SHOW PLAYS THEATRE 1, WEDNESDAY

An all-colored musical show, will play Theatre 1, Wednesday, Feb. 17. Presented by USO-Camp shows, the production features a chorus line of 12 copper-colored dancing gals, crackercrack comedians and its own orchestra of 20 pieces. There will be two performances, one at 1830, and the other at 2030.

The first all-colored musical show ever to be presented on Broadway, "Shuffle Along," made theatrical history. Though such old tunes from the show, written by Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake, as "Love will find a way," "I'm just wild about Harry," will be played by Eubie Blake himself and his orchestra, newly-written tunes also will be heard.

Chuck and Chuckles, who have just finished working in a Columbia picture starring Jack Oakie and Don Ameche, will provide some hepto the performance with their well known harmonizing.

And more hep will be dished out by the Hep Cats and Dally, three men and one woman, who will perform on piano, string bass, guitar and with voice as they have so often done on their popular Decca recordings.

And last but not least are the Copper Colored Careyttes, 12 high-stepping colored girls, trained by Addison Carey, well-known dance director, who as a boy was in the original "Shuffle Along."

'QUEENIE' OF 796TH T.S.S. PROCLAIMED FIRST MOTHER'

Queenie, the 796th's popular dog-mascot of indeterminate origin, has the unusual distinction of being the first mother at Seymour Johnson Field.

Bearing a litter of eight pups several weeks ago, Queenie decided to make a public announcement of the births this week.

"You see, I wanted them for myself a little while," the collie stated. "With so many dog-faced around wanting mascot, it would have been difficult to mean them."

Queenie disclosed that only three of the pups are left, that five of them were expropriated by the orderly room gang.

See "Queenie", Page 3

FRENCH, SPANISH CLASSES TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK

Conversational courses in both Spanish and French are slated to start next week, the Special Service Section office announced.

Classes, which will be arranged to accommodate soldiers on every shift will be held in the Service Club under the supervision of the hostesses.

See "Classes", Page 3

Ole Dan Cupid Is Working On War-Time Schedule

That little feller with the bow and arrows made sure, that in keeping with the spirit of the times, he used plenty of G.I. ammunition.

In his annual St. Valentine's day statement to the press, PFC Cupid stated he is able to report that at least 300 marriage licenses were issued to enlisted men of this post by the Office of the Registrar of Deeds in Goldsboro, since Seymour Johnson Field began functioning in July of 1942.

Most of the marriage licenses were granted during the holiday season in December of last year, which wasn't surprising, considering the flock of pretty misses who visited Goldsboro at that time.

PFC Cupid's statement is just another indication of the failure of the dictator-jerks who thought they would have a lot of fun messing up the lives of ordinary Americans.

We hope this issue of Air-O-Mech reaches the unhappily unmarried, "schone" Adolf at Berchtesgaden, and by the time next St. Valentine's day rolls around, we hope to be able to report that the jerk's resting uneasily under some cold earth.

A VALENTINE GREETING



GROUND CREW SONG IS HIT OF 797TH T.S.S. FROLICS

Husky men voices gave vent to a new song written by Pvt. Morton Krebs, introduced in "The Ground Crew Frolic" presented under the auspices of the 797th Technical Squadron at the Sports Arena of the Seymour Johnson Field.

The song was a great success, for the ovation that followed the initial public presentation of "The Song of the Ground Crew" literally rocked the building. Cheers and See "Ground Crew", Page 3

FIRST EXCELLENCE BANNERS AWARDED THIS FIELD EARNED BY 791ST, 794TH, 800TH T.S.S. AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Headquarters pointed out. They have received the highest ratings, generally, in such fields as academic training, military and physical drill, administration, discipline barracks-keeping, and execution of military duties.

In addition to being able to display their excellence banner on the squadron's guidon staff, the winning squadrons will be able to run their own dances at the service club. Also the plaques of the winning squadrons will be displayed prominently at the Service Club.

These organizations have shown superior work in every possible endeavor, for the month of January,