



AIR-O-MECH

FROM THE CLASSROOM... TO THE LINE...

Volume 1 No. 11

SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

MARCH 20, 1943

Col. D. B. Smith Assumes Command of Field

POST GAS ALERT DRILL GOES INTO EFFECT THURSDAY, MARCH 25

A Gas Alert Program under the supervision of the Post Chemical Warfare Office has been inaugurated at Seymour Johnson Field. Headquarters has designated each Thursday as Gas Alert Day, effective Thursday, March 25, 1943. All military personnel under this command will have their gas masks with them at all times between the hours of 0800 and 1700 on Gas Alert Days.

Post Gas Alerts will be given from time to time on one of these designated days. The Gas Alarm will be given on the precision alarms, which are distributed in the squadron and various department areas throughout the post. The time at which these Gas Alerts are to be given will not be announced. There may be only one alert or perhaps as many as six and on the other hand, there may be no alert at all; so it will be wise to be on the alert the entire day, with your gas mask handy and your ears open.

When a simulated gas attack is given, one precision gas alarm will be sounded. This gas attack warning will be picked up at the next nearest alarm. In this way the gas

See "Gas Alert Drill, page 3.

Field To Get World News Daily By Wire

Last minute world news will be wired daily to Seymour Johnson Field beginning sometime this month, it was announced by the Special Service Section.

This news service consists of a 1000-word summary of world news and is being sent to troops here and abroad. This service was inaugurated on the theory that a well-informed soldier is a more effective fighting man.

The Domestic News Service, which will be the type sent to Johnson Field, will utilize all the regular news sources such as Associated Press, United Press, International News Service and Transradio. This news will be rewritten with the needs and interests of soldiers kept particularly in mind. There will be more facts about such things as terrain and tactics than is found in the average civilian periodical.

See "World News Daily", Page 3.

Red Cross Donations Climbed To \$3,500

At the end of the third week of the American Red Cross War Fund Drive on Johnson Field, approximately \$3,500 has been donated. This is just \$150 short of the \$10,000 goal. Field Director Edmund H. Evans expressed the belief that the goal would be reached by the time the drive halts on March 31.

New Commanding Officer



New C.O. States We Must Strive For New Ideas, Improvements

We must strive to improve and to look for new ideas, Colonel Donald B. Smith, who assumed command of Seymour Johnson Field on March 15 stated at a meeting of officers at the Sports Arena Wednesday.

New ideas may emanate from any one within the organization, Col. Smith revealed. He explained that many times enlisted men, including privates, who are doing minute details are able to make suggestions that improve the efficiency of the entire unit and thus contribute materially to the overall performance of the station.

The new Commanding Officer who has been in the Technical Training Command for four years, stated he had seen very little of the Field

See "Commanding Officer, Page 3.

Post Goes On Field Rations To Save Food

With civilians being required to take a rationing notch in their belts, Seymour Johnson Field as a part of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command is doing its share to aid the national effort to conserve food without stinting the healthy appetites of soldiers in training.

A step in this direction has been taken by the switch from garrison to field rations in all post mess halls, a change dictated chiefly by the increasing shortage of coffee, tea, sugar and cocoa, which must be imported through depleted and diverted shipping facilities. Growing demands for food and more food for shipment overseas also were contributing factors.

But Air Force Trainees who think of the field ration in terms of hard-tack and bully beef are wrong. In fact they will have to be sharp to note any change in the quantity and quality of food served them.

See "Field Rations" page 5.

WAR BOND SAVINGS PLAN TO CHANGE

All Class A pay reservations for the purchase of War Savings Bonds now in force for military personnel will be terminated with the March 31 payday, according to information received from the Adjutant General's Office in Washington.

Military personnel wishing to continue their pay allotments or make out new allotments will make out a new Class B allotment. Personnel can begin making out these allotments immediately, but they cannot be made effective earlier than April 1st.

The new Class B allotments will be sent to a new Army War Bond office at Chicago, Ill., whereas the present Class A allotments have been filed in Washington, D.C. This will probably give the Washington office a chance to catch up on its back deliveries while the new Chicago office will be able to start out from scratch as of April 1st.

See "War Bond", Page 3.

New Dental Clinic On Fourth Street

Opens For Students

The newest building on the Field, one designed and equipped to improve the physical condition of the men, was put into operations on March 8th. This is Dental Clinic No 1, Bldg. #7264, located in the midst of activities.

Story and pictures of Dental Clinic continued on page 6 of the AIR-O-MECH.

"Looping The Loop" Makes Second Day Performance Here At Theatre No. 1

"Looping the Loop," the glittering, glamorous and gay USO Camp Show which made its appearance at theatre No. 1 last night, will repeat its performances Saturday at 1000, 1300 and 1900, to be the first USO Show to give a two-day run of its performance here at Seymour Johnson Field.

The show which was produced in Chicago for USO-Camp Shows consists of an all-star cast, and the admission is absolutely free.

From the first smash curtain-going-up dance routine by a line of high stepping lovelies, to the colorful grand finale, the show never lags. It has plenty of comedy, songs and plenty of novelty in the specialty turns.

See "Looping the Loop", Page 5.

Roving Reporter Praises Work of Air Mechanics At Advanced Bases in North African Theatre

By United Press

Proof that the motto of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, "Sustineo Alas—I sustain the Wings" is no idle boast was presented dramatically to newspaper readers throughout the length and breadth of America last week in a front line dispatch from the North African theater.

A factual, vivid, eyewitness account of the super-human deeds of a crew of air mechanics, all grad-

uates of Technical Training Command schools, written by United Syndicate's nationally famous roving reporter, Ernie Pyle, from a forward Tunisian airbase, appeared in the columns of daily newspapers throughout the United States Thursday, March 11.

Air Mechanic students as well as the thousands of other technicians in training throughout the vast network of Technical Training Command schools derived new inspiration from Pyle's statement that "Every-

See "Roving Reporter", page 5.