



AIR-O-MECH



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

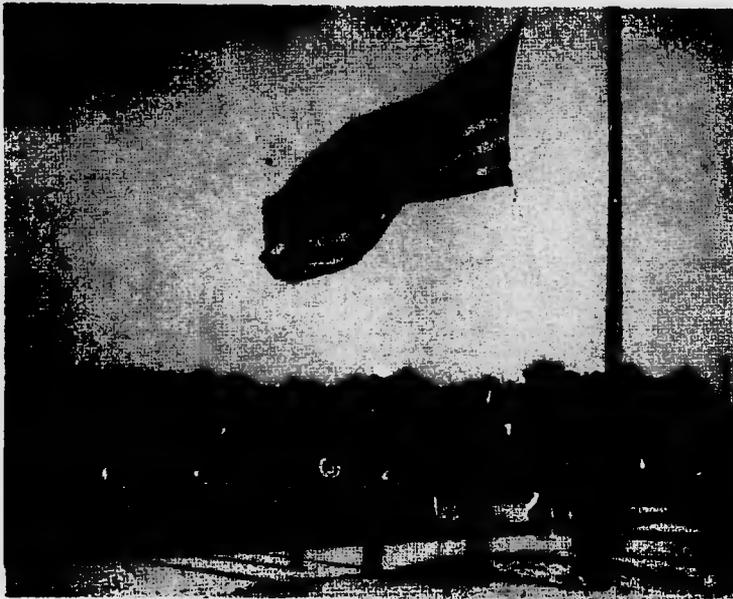
Volume 1 No. 12

SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N.C.

MARCH 27, 1943

JOHNSON FIELD TO HAVE NEW AMPHITHEATER

Flag Lowering Ends Another Day



Every afternoon at 1715 the post band marches to its place beside the flagpole at Headquarters and plays a prelude to the closing of the day's activities. Popular selections weave a musical background as the Officer of the Day marches the Guard into position before the flag and inspects the Guard. Just before 1730 the music fades away into dramatic silence. The band leader raises his baton and the clear bugle notes of "Retreat" become the signal for all vehicles on the Post to stop, for all personnel to halt, face the flag and salute. While "Retreat" is being played, the flag is slowly lowered, to end another day at Seymour Johnson Field.

Sgt. A. W. Smith, Just Back From China, Relates Experiences As Radio Operator and Belly Gunner

Twenty-eight months service and nine of them were spent in foreign service. And we do mean foreign service, South America, Algeria, Egypt, Arabia, India and China. That's the record of Sergeant Arthur A. Smith who arrived at Seymour Johnson Field this past week.

Sgt. Smith was born in Tacoma, Washington 27 years ago. His civilian experience as an electrician and auto-mechanic was put to good use when he entered the Army and became a radio operator and belly gun-

ner of the crew on a B 25. Sgt. Smith graduated from Aerial gunnery school at Tyndel Field but learned to be a radio operator the hard way, picking it up and studying it on his own time.

The bulk of his foreign duty was spent in China where he participated in many observation and submarine patrol flights. His main job was as the radio operator but when strafing was necessary, into the

See "Sgt. Smith," Page 3

Post Firing Range Nears Completion

A pistol range will be completed in the near future in the area northwest of the Runways and west of the Gas Chamber. The range will be used for firing 45 automatic and 45 calibre machine guns.

Preference in target practice will be given to those soldiers most likely to use the guns such as guards and men working in operations. Students and permanent party men who may have occasion to use the guns

See "Firing Range," Page 3

One Captain; Three 2nd Lt. One 1st Lt Advance Ranks

Five Officers were promoted at Seymour Johnson Field. It was reported by the War Department this week.

Thomas D. Jordan, was promoted from Captain to Major. He is the Commanding Officer of the 797th Tech School Squadron. Major Jordan is from New York City and was in the Insurance business. He served two and one-half years of active duty

See "Advanced Rank," Page 3

WAR BRINGS FIRST REUNION OF STUDENT AND FAMILY

It took a war to bring about a reunion between John C. Marker, 20, of Seymour Johnson Field and Greenville, Ohio and his family for the first time in nearly 18 years.

John, a member of the 796th Technical School Squadron, explains it happened like this:

When John was 3 years of age, he and his year and a half-old brother were placed in the Brethern's Home in Greenville. John was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Marker and the younger brother by a different family. The brother was drowned when he was 15 years old.

See "War Brings Reunion," Page 3

Commanding General of Army Air Forces Promoted To Full General; First Airman to Receive 4 Stars

Lieutenant General Henry Harley Arnold, the commanding general of the Army Air Forces, added another to his list of "firsts" in military aviation this week when he was promoted to full general to become the first airman to receive the four stars of the Army's highest rank.

When the Senate approved the President's nomination, Arnold became equal in rank to General George

Outdoor Stage Feature Of New Construction; Will Seat About 5,000

Construction of an amphitheater which will seat approximately 5,000 persons has been started on Seymour Johnson Field. The new auditorium is being built under supervision of the Special Service Section.

The outdoor theater will be located beyond the hospital area near the Elm street gate. The natural slope in the terrain will be utilized in constructing the amphitheater.

An outdoor stage and two complete dressing rooms are to be part of the theater, according to the plans set forth by the Special Service Officer. A log's stockade will enclose the auditorium.

The primary function of the new construction will be to provide a place for summer band concerts and U.S.O. outdoor camp shows. G.I.s will be entertained at the spot that before Seymour Johnson Field days was the greatest "courtin'" grounds in the county according to townspeople.

Seats will be bench-type.

See "Outdoor Stage," Page 3

Four Big U.S.O. Camp Shows Coming To Post

Four big U.S.O. camp shows are scheduled to be playing at Seymour Johnson Field shortly.

"Room Service" will play here April 9 and 10. Ted Hart, who played in the original stage production as well as in the screen version of the play, will be featured. "Room Service" is a hilarious comedy concerning hotel life.

"Hollywood on Parade" is due here April 20 and 21 while "Arsenic and Old Lace" is scheduled to play here May 14 and 15. "Flying Colors" to be here May 28 and 29 will bring to a close the U.S.O. Camp Show Winter Entertainment program.

C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, and the two American commanders-in-chief in war theaters--Douglas MacArthur and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The War Department stated:

"The growth of the air force toward the strength of a million and a half officers and men, the respon-

See "Commanding General," Page 3