

AIR GUNNER

A veteran of 26 bombing raids over Tunisia, Gunner Sgt. Robert E. Riley, 22, a former drill instructor at Sheppard Field, Texas, an Army Air Forces Technical Training Command post, told reporters last week that American success in North Africa is due to airplane mechanics who "really know their business."

Sergeant Riley landed in Tunisia on November 15, four days after the big drive in North Africa began. He is back in the U.S. to instruct classes in aerial flexible gunnery at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City.

His two campaign ribbons are the blue-striped medal of the campaign of England in the air over occupied Europe and the green-striped ribbon of the North African campaign. He has seen twelve months of overseas duty with the U.S. Army Air Forces. His attack-bomber squadron of Havocs (A-20As) fought over Holland, Belgium, France, the English Channel, England and finally in Tunisia.

"Our success was due to the mechanics in our outfit in Africa. We never lost a plane due to mechanical failure," he said. "It's hot over there—both the weather and on the ground and in the air."

"Our plans got banged up a lot and we had a piece of a five-gallon gas can, a sheet of a P-38 and another from a B-25 to cover the holes from enemy machine guns and anti-aircraft fragments," he explained. "Our ground crew gang knew all the tricks."

His distinctive insignia immediately marks Riley as a veteran. Besides his back-sergeants stripes and the Army Air Forces shoulder insignia, he wears the two campaign medals, aerial gunner's wings, a gold replica of an A-20-A on his left lapel and two overseas stripes.

About American equipment he is excited. He said, "Our equipment is all-around better and will take a lot more punishment than any German or Italian ship we ran into. It's almost impossible to knock out a Flying Fortress."

"The Germans never wanted to come in for a fight unless they had odds of from 2-1 or 3-1 and sometimes more. Whenever our outfit swapped, we easily outran even the enemy fighter planes."

"Another thing—our boys have a lot more guts than we ever saw the Germans or Italians show. There is no doubt who'll come out on top over there," he said.

Riley said, "The Army airplane mechanics are doing a great job. They keep 'em bussing all the time under really tough conditions."

Before he enlisted in the Army Riley worked for the Atlantic Refining Co., in Elkland, Pa. After completing his basic training in the former 402nd technical school squadron at Sheppard Field, he was named a drill instructor there. In the fall of '41 he trained at Will Rogers Field and was transferred to an English air base a few months later.

The Air-O-Mech this week lacks any fancy striping which would lead you to believe it is a Mayday, but non-the-less appears on May Day and is proud to say:

"Happy May Day to You, Soldier—And Many More Of 'Em!"

"Robert, you shouldn't have kissed me like that even if there is a black-out."

"I didn't kiss you," said the boy, looking around angrily in the crowd. "I wish I knew who it was—I'd teach him a thing or two."

"Robert," sighed the girl, "You can't teach him anything."

BUY STAMPS

Through an error of omission, the Air-O-Mech last week failed to credit the Goldboro News-Argus for the picture of Movie Actor John Garfield, Starlet Anne Gwynne, Major J. S. Murr and Pvt John Grant. The picture was the property of the News-Argus and the Air-O-Mech takes this opportunity to thank that newspaper for its use.

LUNCHEON MUSIC

Music hours for the Band and Radio division units at the Mess Hall were announced for the coming week as follows:

TUESDAY		
Unit 3	Mess 6	1200-1300
Unit 5	Mess 8	1225-1300
WEDNESDAY		
Unit 5	Mess 1	1200-1300
FRIDAY		
Unit 2	Mess 5	1200-1230
Unit 4	Mess 2	1145-1245
Unit 5	Mess 5	1200-1230
Unit 5	Mess 3	1700-1805
SATURDAY		
Unit 5	Mess 7	1640-1740

THOSE COOL KIPS

Jack Benny says Jap soldiers are so cool under fire that they actually shiver.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE

Legislation just approved by the 78th Congress provides that military personnel in active service may be granted National Service Life Insurance without medical examination and without medical history statement upon application in writing made within 120 days from April 12, 1943, and payment of the premium or execution of allotment.

Veterans Administration form No. 350 is used for applications.

All pending applications which require physical examination will be approved during the 120-day period without physical requirements. Applicants who, prior to April 12, 1943, were rejected for insurance may now reapply.

PROP WASH



Prop Wash—the famed Polar bear mascot of the 11th Technical School Group, these days has a noisy feud with a neighborhood dog.

The bear, believed in some AAF circles to be a brother-in-law of Jack Benny's Carmichael, is a quiet fellow and not much given to talking.

One of the more insistent dogs around the area has been approach-

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Giant War Bond



T/SGT. JOHN EVANS

T/Sgt John Evans, Special Services, this week hung up a record. He was the first EM to purchase a \$1,000 War Savings Bond on the post.

Evans said he purchased the bond through the PX so the "field would be sure and get credit for it. "I feel now that I'm doing my part in the 13 billion dollar drive and I'm certain you can't find a better place to invest your money."

Evans, from Kingo Junction, O., has purchased a total of \$1,600 in bonds at Seymour Johnson Field.



"PLEASE, YOUNG LADIES, HAND ON WILLOW! AND DON'T TRY TO GET A MAN IN THREE MONTHS."

CONCERT

The first band concert ever presented at Seymour Johnson Field took place on Wednesday, April 28, at the Service Club. The light period of concert music ran from 20:15 to 21:00 and the audience of EM and their guests were held spellbound throughout this time by the delightful strains of the fine selections.

Some of the tunes played were March Heroic, Richard the Third, Rhythm Moods, Over There, Begin the Beguine, Mosquitoes Parade, etc.

Warrant Officer F.L. Russell is from Kalamazoo, Mich., and plays all musical instruments. He has played the bassoon in symphony orchestras. He attended Western State Teachers College in Michigan.

His regularly scheduled concerts are to commence on May 11th at the Sports Arena. The programs will start at 20:00. Other dates for the shows are May 20, May 27, June 8, June 15 and June 24th.

These shows will cater to the musical tastes of the men and attempts will be made to stage some of them out of doors.

'NUP SAID

He appeared before the commander, charged with using insulting language to his sergeant.

"Please, sir," he protested, "I was only answering a question." "What question?" snapped the officer.

"Well, sir, it was like 'this. The sergeant says, 'What do you think I am?'—and I told him."

BUY STAMPS

ing him every morning, however, and attempting to strike up a conversation. Lately, observers have noticed that the dog is becoming more and more irritated with the cool response he gets. Prop Wash has not only been ignoring him, but on several occasions has cut him dead. It's an even money bet that one of these mornings the dog is going to up and bite poor Prop Wash and find out he is made of plaster.

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