



# AIR-O-MECH

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

Vol. 1 No. 24

SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

May 29, 1943

## New Obstacle Course — Ouch!



Sgt. John Brothers (foreground) and Cpl. Glenn Williams try the tight wire act which is included as part of the new Ranger-Com-mando type obstacle course for Seymour Johnson Field Ois. Brothers and Williams don't plan on slipping—they're too far off the ground. Picture at right shows Williams demonstrating the Blind Rope trick to see!



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### New Training Course Is No Sissy Stuff

Oh, woe is me! Brother, brother, Brother! You should see that new "Ranger Obstacle Course" which physical training has constructed in the woods adjacent to the old one. Combining the more wicked features of the U. S. Ranger and British Commando conditioning tracks, it possesses innovations which are said to be in use only at this Post.

Officers say it will be ready for use "any week now." Built from scrap lumber and cables, the 350-yard course was planned by Lt. Charles Harbaugh of Physical Training. "It is designed primarily for A. M. students in their last 30 days of training," said the Lieutenant.

**Requires Training**  
"It requires a maximum of physical endurance and efficiency and might harm an untrained man. If a soldier does not feel up to it we plan to delay his attempting the course by putting him in another group until he has obtained a degree of stamina and skill commensurate to the course. The course requires the same skills as the main course, only more so. Balance, for one thing, is stressed more than ever."

The Lieutenant said valuable suggestions for the course came from Lt. Col. Francois D'Eliscu, formerly director of P. T. at New York University and now teacher of tactics to U. S. Rangers in Australia.

**Three-Foot Jump**  
The course starts with a deceptively easy foot high jump and is closely followed by a "low elbow crawl" which is 40 foot long and is under a camouflaged cover 36 inches from the ground. Then comes the scaling of a five foot high log pile. The logs are loosely arranged and subject to movement and dislocation under foot.

**Barbed Wire Entanglement**  
Eight-hundred square feet of barbed wire entanglement next confronts you and you will find that the only way you can negotiate this is by crawling along on your back and lifting the wire (Continued on Page Five)

### PX Opens Outdoor Garden on Post

The only thing lacking in the official opening last Wednesday night of the first "outdoor garden" at Seymour Johnson Field was an array of pretty girls. Outside of that, it had everything that the nightclubs in Chicago, New York and Philie have.

The garden, located alongside Post Exchange No. 1, sports many facilities that promise a good place for complete relaxation and fun. Juice boxes are available for music and plans are being made for musical units to entertain several nights a week.

According to Captain David Saperstone, this place is a real "get together spot." "If a fellow wants to enjoy a bottle of 'Budweiser,'" he can do it over a table. Real man to man conversations can be carried out sipping beer, cokes or eating ice cream while sitting comfortably at one of the many tables and benches provided.

Anything is allowed to be taken out into this garden." However, it (Continued on Page Five)

### Flying Colors Makes Big Hit

Keeping up with past performances, the U. S. O. Camp Show latest presentation at Seymour Johnson Field, FLYING COLORS, played to a mammoth audience last night at Theater No. 1. The group will close out tonight when they give the second and last show at theater and those who don't squirm their way in to see it are missing a bang up, uproarious, untempered comedy hit.

Masterful terpsichorean displays were given by various stars and the catchy songs and comedy spurs kept the Enlisted Men, Officers and their guests in a merry frame of mind throughout the evening. The men of Seymour Johnson Field again thank the U. S. O. for another fine Broadway show which they have made possible for us to see.

### Raleigh Times To Publish Air-O-Mech

With this issue your Air-O-Mech comes to you in brand new format—printed with regular newspaper type. The paper previously had been published by reproduction here on the field, but because of the press of work it became no longer feasible an agreement was made with the Raleigh Times, which will henceforth publish the Air-O-Mech.

The staff of the paper wishes to thank Lt. Collier H. Ellis, Jr., and members of the Reproduction Division for the work they have done for the Air-O-Mech. Although regular editions will be published by the Raleigh Times, special editions may occasionally be published by reproduction.

The staff also hopes you will like the new style Air-O-Mech, and that you will find the new features much to your liking. It will include more news, features, pictures and a regular newspaper style.

Further improvements will be added to succeeding issues.

### Pace Wins Mural Contest

A typical hangar scene won for Cpl. James Pace of Hqs & Hqs Squadron the mural contest sponsored by the Main PX.

Pace was announced winner this week by Capt. David A. Saperstone, Exchange Officer. He will receive \$15 in war stamps. Cpl. Francis W. Brouard, also of Hqs. & Hqs. took second place and won \$10. Third prize went to Pfc. R. Harlow of the 11th Academic. He won \$5.

Among those who won honorable mention, and will be presented (Continued on Page Five)

### Post Bond Drive Reaches \$30,000

Any Bonds today? The days in which you can contribute toward the Field drive of selling enough war stamps and bonds to equal the price of a P-40 pursuit bomber are numbered. To date \$30,000 has been collected.

The mock-P-40 outside the Air O Mech office was removed by orders from Headquarters, however, the bond drive will not halt until June 1.

### Nine Enlisted Men Are Promoted

Nine enlisted men of Hqs & Hqs Squadron this week received promotions to the next highest grade. The men, with their new rank, are as follows:

1st-Sgt. Harold Beckholt, John J. Barton and Frank E. Falls; 2nd-Sgt. Devon Bergangen, Sgts. Robert S. Finlay and Henry Bender, and Pfc. Gilbert Orlander, Robert E. Cooks and Albert R. Eberts.

### Paging Private Hargrove!

## I-4's Only Flying Ship Becomes War Casualty

Here in the wilds of "Henderson Field" nature goes serenely on, undisturbed by hundreds of Brooklyn woodsmen, roaring aircraft engines, careening motorcycles and a clattering Cle-trac. Amidst this turmoil two bluebirds went quietly about their business, undisturbed by the I-4 training program. Presently a little bluebird occupied their nest—but not

for long. While still in pre-flight training the little clipped wing job chirped early one day and then stepped boldly from his nest for premature test hop. It's hard to say what caused the crack-up. Maybe his engine cooked, or possibly he didn't use enough flap on his approach. At any rate he wound up in a very ungraceful spin, pulling out just in time to prevent a complete washout. As it was, the only damage was a slightly bent up landing gear.

Test Fer Air Mechs Here was an opportunity for I-4's combat instructors to prove that they could take a cracked up flying machine and put it back into the air. Meanwhile, by their adoption of this wounded feather-bird. With this improvised nest placed atop the branch's



ed friend, they also proved that the men of the Air Force, those who live in fame or go down in flame, still possess a certain amount of the fatherly instinct.

A discarded junction box from an old A-20, a handful of dry pine needles from under the headquarters shack was all it took to quickly fashion a wartime housing unit for one (each) baby

warm amplifier unit, maintenance work was begun on the damaged bird. Repair procedure consisted of a few worms and a few drops of water injected into the intake system every hour on the hour.

Enter—The Killian Overhaul work went along nicely for ten days and every mechanic agreed that this tummy chirping ship would certainly scarce more. But no one reckoned with Mr. Thomas, the branch loan cat.

Thomas has slant eyes and this feature alone made him a character to be watched closely for sabotage. Instead, he was permitted to sit quietly in a corner licking his chops and keeping a watchful eye on his objective which was growing fatter with every worm.



Tom! The nest is empty. The slant eyed cat cannot be found. Together those two facts add up to enemy action. Call it poor camouflage or call it insouciant guard duty, but the fact remains that I-4's only flying ship is now a casualty of war.

