



# AIR-O-MECH

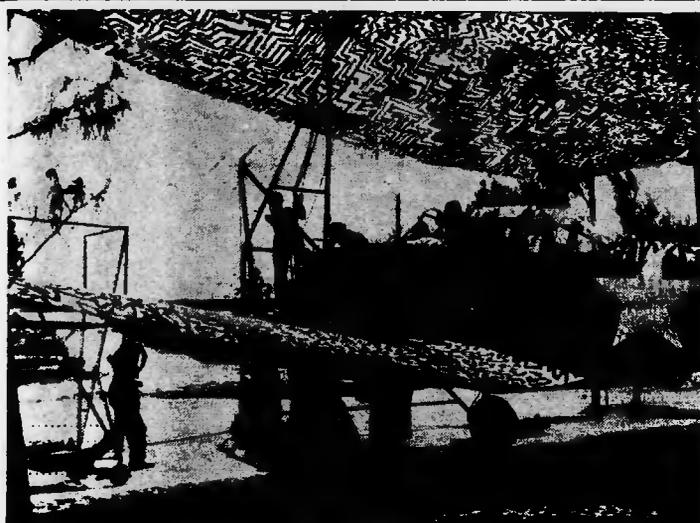
FROM THE CLASSROOM... TO THE LINE.....

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SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

June 12, 1943

## GIs TRAIN IN NEW COMBAT AREA



Like the cross-hatch work of an ink sketch is this photograph of a plane under a camouflage net at Henderson Field, final training plot for student mechanics at Seymour Johnson. With little in the way of equipment to work with, men change engines, repair mock crack-ups and perform other tasks being done in war zones over the world.

### Sparkling Girl Show Due At Camp This Week End

ADA LEONARD, a talented musician and a beautiful brunette with peaches-and-cream skin, is the headline attraction in the big-sparkling USO Camp Shows musical show, "Ada Leonard and Her All-American Girl Revue, which plays this coming Saturday and Monday at Post Theater No. 1. Ada and her all-girl band, one of the finest aggregations of its kind in the country, proved such a hit with American service men when she toured nation-wide for USO - Camp Shows last winter that she's back again this winter by popular request.

"All American" has been the theme of the pulchritudinous Miss Leonard's extremely successful theatrical career. She boasts of having Sioux Indian blood in her veins as proud of the fact that her ancestors fought in the American Revolution and that her girl musicians come from no one section of the country, but hail from all over the land.

**Band In The Groove**  
Ada Leonard's band is strictly in the groove with fine arrangements of new and old hit tunes. (Continued on Page 3)

### Field's GIs Checked For Special Courses

Seymour Johnson Field soldiers are not being forgotten in the Army's Specialized Training Program, the Classification Office said this week.

Form 20 records of every soldier on the field is being checked by the office to determine if he has general qualifications which would enable him to take advantage of the schooling — leading to OCS or at least a rating. If general qualifications are apparent on the Form 20 records, the soldier is called to Classification for an interview.

Should the soldier qualify, his papers are endorsed and forwarded. While no men had been called from Seymour Johnson early this week, many applications were on file. When they leave here, qualified men will be forwarded to STAB units, where they will be re-interviewed and assigned to the proper schools.

First Form 20s checked are those of students. Next are those of permanent party.

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### Non Coms to Open Books, Learn Judo

Tentative plans for a Non-Commissioned Officers' school was announced this week for Seymour Johnson Field by the office of S-3. The school will include military training, all phases of administrative work that concerns enlisted men from the time a GI enters the Army until the time he is discharged and physical training.

Every non-com on the field will be required to attend classes, from the Post Sergeant down to the newest made Corporal on the field. The objective of the school will be to train all non-coms so that they can set an example for the men under them.

Tentative plans call for 192 hours of instruction given over a period of 42 weeks at the rate of five hours per week for the first 24 weeks and the remainder of the time distributed over a period of 18 weeks. Ninety-five hours will be military training, 73 hours will be administrative training, and the remaining 24 hours will be physical training, according to present plans.

One of the outstanding plans for the course call for the inclusion of Judo — a study of commando tactics as regards hand-to-hand combat. These classes have proved among the most popular at other posts where the school has been held.

A tentative suggestion made was that each class for the Non-Coms would be under the control of the senior non-com of the class. The class would then be sub-divided into sections, and instructors in the various subjects would then be chosen. Each instructor would be an expert in his particular field.

No date for the start of the school has been set, but is expected to be announced in the near future.

### Tax Payment

Despite the new tax bill passed by Congress, service men are expected to pay their second quarterly installment of federal income taxes by June 15, the Judge Advocate's Office advised this week. It was explained.

Service men unable to make payment by June 15 should visit the Judge Advocate's Office before that date.

### Reminder

Why don't you send home this copy of the Air-O-Mech? There are many things in it which will interest your family, friends and business associates. The Air-O-Mech will give them a picture of what's going on at your post in the army. All you have to do is fold the paper, staple it and attach the address and a cent and a half stamp.

### Best GIs To Get Banquet For Reward

Being strictly "GI" during inspection at military formation is going to pay off on Seymour Johnson Field during a new plan announced this week.

The plan entails a special "steak supper" with a real banquet atmosphere to be served superior GI by the Special Service Section of the field, and, last but not least, extra pass privileges.

"While approximately two percent of students and permanent party may be rewarded, it is estimated that a smaller percentage will qualify and certain of the permanent party may elect to receive reward of additional pass privileges," said Capt. Peter O. Miller of S-3.

To accommodate the various shifts of student personnel, three steak suppers would be served.

Each organization will be furnished cards which in turn will be presented to excellent soldiers. Men qualifying and electing to attend the "banquet" will be excused from conflicting mess formations. The dinners will be served at Service Club cafeteria.

Negro combat fliers from the United States have arrived in North Africa to take their place in the aerial war against the Axis. They compose a fighter squadron equipped with P-40 Warhawks.

### 'War' Props Help Mechs Learn Front Line Jobs

The whistle shriled through the jumble of men's voices, the clatter of a falling wrench. It shriled again. Again, and by the time the third blast cut through the startled activities on this mock combat area of Seymour Johnson, classes disbanded, running feet and shouts marked an abrupt transition to a "Commando" atmosphere.

Men flung themselves into gun emplacements, positions near ammunition supplies, scattered for holes. And then the place was tenes with its readiness, and your imagination almost conjured up the hum of approaching enemy planes so real was the action, the tableau.

### Pantelleria Big Victory For Air Power

Surrender of the Italian island Pantelleria represents first blood for the Allies in their all-out aerial offensive against the Axis.

This strong point in the Mediterranean neck between Sicily and the Italian mainland has been blasted into submission. Troops are going ashore without suffering the terrible losses which would have attended invasion without such preparation.

The submission of Pantelleria removes a grave menace to Allied shipping from the Channel which the Allies must control for further operations in the Mediterranean. This provides a stepping stone in the direction of Italy. As things have been going, one would expect to see bombing of the great islands of Sicily and Sardinia stepped up now.

If the Allies continue as they have started, they will proceed methodically with their operations. They will go as fast as is feasible, but won't be rushed.

Naturally everybody is looking across the island toward Italy. Secretary of State Cordell Hull may have been speaking with prophetic voice when he referred to "the timely end to which he (Mussolini) is rapidly approaching."

Actually, while we want to see Italy in Allied hands as soon as possible, it already is so battered from the air that it is a mere threat. It used to be. From the standpoint of security, the Allies needn't rush its invasion.

The words "too late" are run-ning across Italy like a theme song. Radio commentators are preparing the public for the storm.

Camillo Felzani, National Councilor, said that "there is at present a general state of confusion which cannot last long." The war has entered its second stage, he explains, and many issues related to the war are now becoming different. At the outset it looked as though the war would be confined to Europe.

### Furloughing Soldiers Offered Ration Points

Soldiers on furlough who want to obtain ration certificates may obtain them by applying at their home rationing boards, it was explained this week by the Goldsboro office of OPA.

A previous announcement had indicated the soldiers' could get their ration points by applying to the ration office on the field. This was incorrect. The soldier applies directly to his home office.

Those entitled to the points are service men on leave for 72 hours or longer. Heretofore, a week was the minimum period for which ration certificates could be obtained.

Soldier on leave for four days will apply for a 13 meal allowance and will receive two units, or enough for 13 meals.

In just 45 seconds Seymour Johnson aircraft mechanics in their last phase of study had turned Henderson Field into an exact replica of a makeshift field on a war front. Camouflaged, their noses occasionally poking from under netted-trees, planes were in various stages of repair. The men in the fox holes were practically invisible. The men at the gun emplacements were alert, poised.

**Eight-Day Course**  
This is part of the eight-day course of the graduating mechanics as constantly improved and changed to better fit them for actual conditions they may meet in the field. For six hours each day, the mechanics work on the line. The remainder of the day is spent in "coming down under" preparing themselves for the day when the warning whistle will bring them forth to man guns against approaching Zeps, Heinkels, bent their destruction.

In the first day, an orientation course is held. During this men learn to care for a bivouac area—how to pitch, how to tear down under tents; trench them; sterilize water to assure its fitness for consumption. The second day they are given instruction in small arms, use of caliber automatic and sub-machine guns. These they learn to tear down and put together. On the third-day, the mechanics study technique of fire, manual of arms and map reading, which gets extra attention. On the fourth day mechanics get a short course of instruction on interior guard and a review of the subject taken on the previous days. On the fifth day, students pull actual combat guard duty, in full pack, and with rifle.

On six hour tours of duty, they receive their meals. During the sixth day, students receive drill on fox holes and camouflage, both for equipment and themselves. On the seventh day, students study "triangulation" of fire on a natural range. Care of the rifle is featured on the eighth and final day. This includes firing practice.

The anti-aircraft gunners study a complete review of what they have studied during the course. Despite the shortness of the course, instructors say it is all the average student needs to thoroughly grasp the fundamentals given the student in the 8-day period.

### Anti-Aircraft Guns Used

The anti-aircraft guns have five-man crews—gunner, sighter, feeder, passer and the crew chief, who is also the spotter. Men and their way around in the dark, simulate work under blackout conditions.

Tents are trenched and beds are cots without mattresses. The only equipment which the students carry are the full field packs, rain coats, helmets and gas masks. They wear coveralls.

**Four Officers**  
The officers, Capt. Comer and Lt. Atco, Miller and Henderson, go direct to their command post on the first whistle alert. Their instructions to the various gun crew chiefs travel by phone.

The headquarters is equipped with field facilities, including a field telephone system. Without electricity the phone system and lights operate from storage batteries.

Seventeen anti-aircraft gun emplacements dot the area at strategic points. During the eight days, students do not leave the area at other than food and mail.