

AIR-O-MECH

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

Vol. 1 No. 27

SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

June 19, 1943

Post Welcomes Four New Chaplains

Four new chaplains reported for duty this week at Seymour Johnson Field. Captain James E. Taintor, post chaplain, announced. It was made known simultaneously that a complete change in assignment of chapels has been made so that all chapels will be used by all denominations of faith.

The chaplains that arrived this week were Captain Edward J. McCormick, Catholic; Lt. Lance Mantle, Presbyterian; Lt. Edmund McGraith, Catholic; and Lt. Earl R. L. Landroop, Baptist.

Chaplain McCormick came to Seymour Johnson Field from Fort Dix, he had previously served at Pease Army Air Field. He has been in the Army Air Forces since March, 1942. The Captain comes from the Little Rock, Arkansas diocese and holds from Brockton, Mass. Re-entering Service.

In active service for the second time is Lt. Lance Mantle, who served 10 months overseas in Ambulance Company 35 of the Seventh Division. Chaplain Mantle served a parish at Vincennes, Indiana before re-entering service. He attended St. Dunstan's, London. (Continued On Page Three)

New Way to Send Letters Home Launched On Field

A new way of sending letters home was launched at Seymour Johnson Field this week when a recording machine was installed at the Service Club and began cutting air-high discs of soldiers' voices. There is no charge to the GI.

Operated as a free service for men in uniform by a soft drink company, the equipment is in charge of David B. Mangham, who says he finds the work about "the most interesting I have ever done."

The soldier talks into a microphone and his voice is transcribed to the small record. The record is then played back to him for his O. K., and is then mailed by the company to his sweetheart, wife, mother, father, or to whomever the soldier wishes.

Hold Your Hats, Gang, All-Girl Revue Is Here!

Who Was This Guy York? New Firing Range Set Up

Those rough, tough marines may be expert marksmen and have certainly earned their reputation for spotting Japs, but men of the Army Air Forces aren't going to confine their shooting to knocking down zeros and Messerschmitts.

That became known here this week with announcement that men on this field will follow up their preliminary instruction in small arms by actual proficiency tests on the range.

The range — brand new with facilities for use of all types of small arms — has been constructed here by Army Engineers, and the sound of firing will soon be added to the drone of airplane engines at Seymour Johnson a serious reminder that the Technical Training Command is part of a nation at war.

The program is under the supervision of S-3. Plans call for bi-

voicing under conditions closely simulating conditions closely simulating conditions in the field. The men using the range will live in pup tents, eat from mess kits and when not engaged in firing will receive instruction in commando tactics and other combat methods and exercises.

First Lieutenant Rixford will be in charge of Second Lieutenant Kenneth Adams. A specially trained non-coms will supervise firing.

Honor Roll

The following squadrons of Seymour Johnson today are on the Air-O-Mech's Honor Roll. They are the squadrons which struck a blow for the Allied cause during May. For the entire month they were without a single AWOL.

The squadrons: Headquarters & Headquarters Sq., 23rd Base Sq. & Air Base Sq., 7th Air Force Band, Sgt. G. M. Platten, 8th Signal Co., Detachment Finance.

G. I.s Can Have Eighty Dozen 'Sinkers' Hourly

A special doughnut shop capable of turning out a total of 80 dozen doughnuts an hour has been set up in the main PX Cafeteria, and this week began making the nut-brown goodies.

Two doughnut-making machines were placed in production this week through the services of Fred Kuchin, representative of a doughnut concern.

"The shop is without doubt one of the most attractive in the army," said Kuchin, who said he had helped establish similar shops in 17 states.

Each of the two machines is capable of turning out 40 dozen doughnuts each hour, said Capt. David A. Spargerstone, Post Exchange Officer.

Not only will the shop provide doughnuts for the cafeteria and for retail sale at the shop itself, but will also supply all other outlets on the field.

12-Year-Old Really Wanted To See Brother

Using money earned delivering telegrams after school for the 1000 mile train trip, Gerald Wayne Taylor, 12 years old, arrived here from Mobile, Ala., to visit his brother, Pfc. Rutherford D. Taylor, 19, at this AAF Technical Training Command station.

First member of the family to visit Pfc. Taylor since he enlisted in the Army October 17, 1942, Gerald made the trip alone arriving here last Saturday after a 2-day train ride. The boy's sister, Miss June Taylor, 13, is expected to do the same thing shortly, when Gerald returns home.

A seventh grader, Gerald saved the money for his trip out of earnings from about three weeks of afternoon work. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Taylor, 222 E. Alabama Village, Mobile, Ala. As soon as he is old enough, Gerald wants to follow his brother into the army, as a pilot.



46 Year-Old PFC Wants To See Action

In just a few days, 46-year-old Lawrence Case — a private first class and a graduate of the AM school — hopes to leave Seymour Johnson Field for some place where he can "work on the line." And he's also hoping that it won't be long until he can cross the ocean to do the same thing — for the second time.

For Pfc. Lawrence Case, formerly of Salem, Mass., enlisted in Detroit, Aug. 17, 1917, and saw 17 months and 22 days of service overseas with the 50th Air Group during the First World War. When the Armistice was signed, Case was a Sergeant first class, equivalent to a Troop Sergeant of today.

"Sure," Case says, "I know I'm over age, and maybe they won't let me go back across, but I want to go back and see what it's all about. Maybe I can help a little — can't be a gunner, but I can help keep those planes in repair."

And don't think the air bases of World War I were "safe places," Case tells the story matter - of fact, but you learn that the 50th Aero Group had its share of action. It lost "something like" 82 of fliers alone. When the outfit moved into the Champagne sector, the Germans spotted its location, and soon had it under direct artillery fire. "No bombings," says Case, "but we got plenty of shells — and they weren't nice things to have falling around."

Trained At Kelly Field

After enlisting in Detroit, Case was shipped directly to Kelly Field Tex., and there with a unit underwent his training with an outfit which was made up of DE4 Martins planes for strafing and reconnaissance equipped with Packard-Liberty motors. "That is one thing that's a lot different," says Case. "We were trained as a unit with the plane as we were used to. However, I believe this way of specializing may be better."

The 50th Aero Group shipped out from Hoboken, N. J., to Liverpool, England where Case arrived on his birthday. For four months, the group stayed in England, preparing for front line duty. "Then we got it — all over France," Case explains.

In Major Actions The outfit was in almost every major action Saint-Mihel Meuse Argonne and so on. "We even had the famous Lost Battalion and dropped food to it," says Case. Job of the 50th Group was to direct artillery fire, pour machine gun fire on enemy troops, and see who was going on behind the lines. Case worked as a mechanic, a chauffeur for the commanding officer, and at (Continued On Page Three)

Ada Leonard To Play Camp For Two Days

Whoopie girls... Whoopie musical... Whoopie gags!... and, well, just plain whoopie!

That's it, Gang. Slick back your hair, see that these inspection khakis are creased and fitted, bring along a magazine to read while you stand in line, and make way to attend the Ada Leonard All-American Girl Revue, opening at 1800 tonight at Post Theater No. 1.

A cast of stellar, slightly musical and "simply delicious" gals will perform through four shows on Seymour Johnson as part of the USO-Camp Shows program to keep GIs happy by revealing to them some of the things they find worth fighting for. Other performances are scheduled for 20th Saturday, and 15th and 19th Monday. Free Admission.

Admission is "for trees."

The pubertitudinous Miss Leonard's career and background make her ideal for USO-Camp Shows. She boasts of having Sioux Indian blood in her veins, is 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.

Her band is strictly in the groove and Ada herself plays the piano and cello. Supporting acts include big-time theater and night club performers, including Catherine Westfield, Key Taylor and Maude Hilton & Co.

Seventeen Gals In Band

There are 17 gals in Ada's band, and it has played such circuits as Warner's, Lowe's, and RKO, plus long-run bookings for the big-time night spots. The cuties toured nationally last winter for USO-Camp Shows and scored a resounding success.

One of the novelty acts is that of Catherine Westfield, a puppeteer, who has played in theaters in a New York area, and clubs throughout the South and Canada. She operates a troupe of six almost life-sized dolls, fashioned after the celebrities whose mannerisms they are.

Tap Dancers

Key Taylor is a talented and attractive young tap dancer who has played so many clubs they are difficult to name, and was featured in the Broadway production, "Too Many Girls."

Another corpulent exciter is Elinor Sherry, pert, pretty and more than just popular with GIs, as she thrushes songs close to the heart. She came directly to the Camp Shows circuit winter for the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans.

Then there is Maude Hilton & Co., a comedy act. Miss Hilton has toured the world as a single act, and has just returned from a 12-month tour in Austria and the Tivoli Circuit.

The Leonard band plays hit tunes, instrumental specialties and hot numbers. Home town of Miss Leonard, whose beauty is renowned in the theatre circles, is Lawton, Oklahoma.

Change in Sun. Movie Schedule

G. I.s will now have an additional movie on Sunday afternoons. Theater Officer Lt. Dwight McCracken changed the movie schedule to a 1:30 show at Theater No. 3 on Sundays only. The new schedule will be in effect tomorrow.



With this ring I thee wed, and with these words another Johnson Field Mechanic bit the dust.