



AIR-O-MECH

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

Vol. 1 No. 32

SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

July 24, 1943

Missing—Man With Shotgun



Watah-mel-on! Yowah, boy and how! And if you don't think the 36th School Group is enjoying the ripe and red fruit in the green

container, just look at these expressions. Note also the modest size of the melon slabs. One fellow looks like he only has a third of a melon!

Crack Band Plays Music For Review

When the 100-piece white helmeted military band of S. J. Field takes the lead in the special review this morning on the post drill field, there will be martial music a-plenty.

But the band, under the command of Lt. Walter D. Stark, is composed of more than just musicians. Every man is a soldier as well as a specialist in keeping with the highest tradition of the Army Air Forces. For all bandmen received their basic training before they entered bands and are even now continuing their full quota of military and physical training.

Band composed of 100 men. The Seymour Johnson field band twice winner of the Post Excellence Award, is composed of the 7th AAF Band and the recently arrived 24th Air Band. Freeman L. Russell is bandleader of the 7th, and M-Sgt. Norman F. Leyden, the 24th.

As a marching unit, the combined bands perform at special reviews and parades, and as separate units take part alternately in retreat ceremonies and change of classes. The drum majors of the respective outfits are Pl. C Carl Hulsey and Pl. C Arnold E. Jordan.

Drum And Bugle Corps Outstanding

A smaller, but no less distinctive, martial unit of the band is the Post Drum and Bugle Corps, under the leadership of Cpl. Joseph Murray. The Bugle Corps is a 25-piece organization which supplements the performance of the marching bands with colorful field music. The post bugler is also chosen from this group.

Another important function of the bands is participation in the extensive singing program of the Field. When leading the troops, the bandmen render favorite marching songs in addition to the regular marches.

Whether the setting is a dance, a radio show, a theatre, a camp show, or a mess hall, there is a unit ever ready to handle for the Post band to keep the place jumping.

Hot and heavy, sweet and low, it makes no difference to the leaders of the orchestras—they have it in their bag, and can produce it on demand. When a radio show is in the offing, the Tech Commanders M-Sgt. Norman F. Leyden step in with a handful of their own arrangements to enliven the proceedings.

When there is a dance at the USO, or the Service Club, Sgt. Oscar McCaulley lines up his 18-piece

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War Quiz Given Seymour Johnson's G Is

Tests Show Knowledge of War Fronts

Seymour Johnson Field soldiers are well informed on some phases of the war's events but fall slightly below par on others, a survey taken by the Air-O-Mech revealed this week.

To take the survey, the Air-O-Mech gave a written news quiz to a group of the field's first sergeants, several officers, and enlisted personnel taken at random. Four civilians also took the exam. Altogether 50 persons were quizzed.

The quiz called for the names of three neutral nations; checking air commanders in a group including Patton, Montgomery, Tedder, Eisenhower, Spaatz, and Alexander; naming the battle in which Hill 609 figured; naming the sector in which Munda is located; and the naming of three fronts on which American troops are engaged in large numbers.

Only eight scored 100 on the test. Ten scored 90; 14 scored 80; six scored 70; three scored 60; four garnered 50 points; three had 40 and one had only 10 and another scored a zero — a perfect blank.

When the test was set up, it was agreed that a grade of 90 to 100 would be considered excellent to 80 to 90 good, and 70 to 80 fair. The average was expected to be 80, however, the average was only 78. Five points below the "par" for the quiz.

Most commonly missed question was that pertaining to Hill No. 609. Would you like to see how you could do? The test is on this page, and the answers on another. Try it.

Movie Star Gilbert Roland Now Lt. Stationed Here

Stenographers in Finance O-Mech newshawks that his wife, Constance Bennett, beautiful stage screen star, is now doing a stage play in New York "but I don't know when I'll get a chance to see her again."

Up from the ranks, Lt. Roland was inducted 15 months ago and did his basic training at Camp Crowder, Mo. Later he was transferred to Bolling Field at Washington.

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Hey, Bub! Ya Gotta Stamp Air-O-Mechs

You can't send your Air-O-Mech home free — there's a mailing charge on it.

That word came from the Post Office at Seymour Johnson this week as officers and men revealed that more than 400 of the papers had been returned to soldiers who tried to send them without postage.

The paper may be clipped after it is folded and addressed, or it may be wrapped and addressed, and sent for one and one-half cents postage; or it may be placed in an envelope, the flap not glued but simply stuck inside the envelope, for one and one-half cents postage.

With the warning came additional advice and reminders from the postoffice. These were:

"Free" mail applies only to first-class matter — ordinary letters and post cards. The word "free" and the sender's name and return address must be in handwriting, not typed.

Postage must be fully prepaid at the office of mailing for parcels, registered letters, air mails. Special delivery stamps are used with either a three cent stamp or the word "free". A complete return address must be shown on all mail.

In mailing parcels, do not enclose old letters or writing of any kind. This will subject the parcel to first class postage at three cents per ounce. Sealed parcels will not be accepted unless printed parcel post labels are used. The labels may be obtained at the Main Post Exchange wrapping station.

Handbags must not be looked. Continued on Page Three

AIR-O-MECH NEWS QUIZ

1—NAME THREE NEUTRAL NATIONS:
2—CHECK THE MEN WHO ARE AIR COMMANDERS IN THE FOLLOWING LIST:

- a—Patton _____
- b—Montgomery _____
- c—Tedder _____
- d—Eisenhower _____
- e—Spaatz _____
- f—Alexander _____

3—IN WHAT BATTLE DID HILL NO. 609 FIGURE?
4—N WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WAR SECTORS IS MUNDA LOCATED? (Check One)

- a—North Pacific _____
- b—Solomons _____
- c—Burma _____
- d—Tunisia _____
- e—Sicily _____

5—NAME THREE FRONTS ON WHICH UNITED STATES TROOPS ARE AT PRESENT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN LARGE NUMBERS:

(Answers on Page 3)

Famous Pianist Entertains G.I.s

Mrs. Marya Solits, who was here at Seymour Johnson Field visiting her husband Sgt. Charles Solits, of the 711th Tug. Co. last week, performed the rather conspicuous trick of turning a clamorous Service Club into a silently listening group by playing and piano playing. Enlisted men enjoyed her talents during the days she entertained at the Club.

Mrs. Solits, whose husband Sgt. Solits is a P. T. man on the field and an ex-wrestler and weight lifter, is a statuesque Russian-Greek girl who studied voice and piano playing in Vienna, France and Italy and has been doing charitable work in the leading night clubs throughout the country. She recently finished an engagement at Jack Dempsey's Grill in New York City. She lays claim to being able to sing in 16 different languages including Chinese and Arabic.

Our soldiers said that her vocal work and piano playing was a real treat. They listened raptly from the seats in the balcony and downstairs. At a available seating was taken and many khaki-clad and fatigue-clothed G.I.s filled the outer recesses of the Service Club, as they listened to the smooth strumming of the piano.

Sgt. Solits' wife praised the Servicemen as an audience and said they had good taste in their requests for tunes.