AIR-O-MECH

This newspaper is published weekly by and for the personnel of Seymour Johnson Field, N. C., under the direction of the Special Service Officer. Full coverage of the Camp Newspaper Service is received. All material is passed by the Public Relations Office. All photographs, unless otherwise credited, are Army Air Forces photographs. News appearing in this paper is for general release provided proper credit is given.

COL. DONALD B. SMITH, Commanding Officer
MAJOR J. B. MURR, Special Service Officer

EDITORIAL

D. F. Droege — M/Sgt. Richard B. Tait
Cpl. Joe Butera — Cpl. Porter Ward
Pvt. James Hearns — Cpl. George Denes, artist.

Post Photo Section

When Will The War End?

Now that Benito Mussolini is no longer singing his harmony part in the Axis trio, on every side this week has been the question How Long Will The War Last?

Debated in barracks, argued in PXs, talked about at the USO and at bus stops, the question burst out with the first news of Il Duce's abdication and will not be stilled for some time.

How long will the war last? And soldiers ask officers as if the latter were sure to possess some confidential information of which they were not aware. How long will the war last? And wives ask husbands, as if because they wear uniforms their answers bear weight beyond contesting. And men ask one another—not because they expect an answer—but because they want to air their own views or hear them substantiated.

There is certainty in nothing. This is the Army, this is a war, and the history of wars should teach us that coming events often cast their shadows before—but it takes a smart man to read the shadows. It would take more than the world's best astrologer to predict the time when this one will end.

History teaches us one other thing: wars are not always decided by the weight of cannon. Sometimes the element of chance enters into the outcome. Sometimes men with spirit, the will-to-win, have shattered forces much stronger to score a decisive victory. There was a sunken road at Waterloo. There was a pass at Thermopylae.

We are not afraid of our spirit. It has been demonstrated to the world everywhere your Brothers-At-Arms have fought. But we need to worry about the sunken roads and the unknown or forgotten passes. In this day and age, they are most unlikely to be geographical, and could well be psychological.

Let us remember that the answer to when the war will be over will be, yes—when it ends. Not before. Until then we'll go on fighting and working so that every victory will make us fight a little harder and work a little harder.

We'll talk about it when we get to Berlin and Tokio.

An Editor Leaves

The switch is thrown. The cylinders rumble—and the 32nd issue of the Air-O-Mech begins flipping from the press. The Editor's eyes are slightly misty as they watch the paper run between the plates, speed over the guides and cutters to the final folding. The Editor swallows hard as she picks up the first copy to check it for errors before signalling to the pressmen to "let 'er roll," for she knows this is the last Air-O-Mech that she will worry over, perspire over and thrill to as she watches its creation . . .

The Editor—Miss Dorothy Droege—is leaving.

In a way, of course, Miss Dorothy Droege will not leave, for the Air-O-Mech had her as founder and editor, and into its creation she poured the energy of her personality and character. Those marks, that essence of herself, will remain with it.

Exactly seven months ago today Miss Droege put a nameless, four-page paper to bed on the presses of the Reproduction Department here. Three issues later she helped select a name for the foundling. Since then, Miss Droege has nursed and cared for the paper to its present format, that of an 8-page tabloid with promise of even greater growth.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said that "an institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man," and perhaps in a similar sense we could say that the Air-O-Mech is but the imprint of Miss Droege's personality on Seymour Johnson Field.

There is little more that we could say without getting sentimental, except, Goodbye, Dot—and, damn it, we'll all miss you.

THE STAFF

SIX MONTHS AGO TODAY SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD -FEBRUARY, 13, 1943

Cpl. Frank A. Stabb recently arrived from Australia was awarded the Purple Heart.

Queenie, the Dog—mascot of the 26th, was proclaimed the first mother at Seymour Johnson—eight little pups.

Thirty-five enlisted men over 38 years of age were honorably discharged to accept jobs in war plants or in agriculture.

The first Excellence Banners awarded at Seymour Johnson went to the 781st, 794th, 860th and Finance Department.

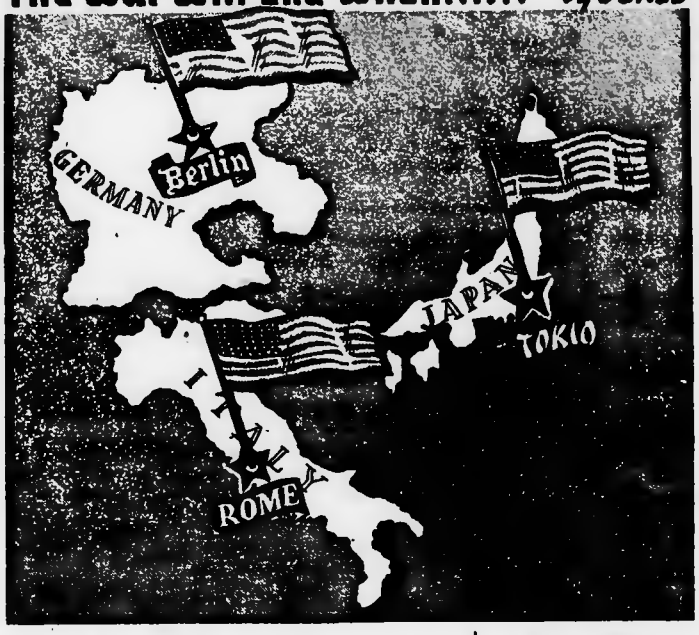
The 26th and the 97th were undefeated as the basketball tourney entered the last lap.

Fill It Up!

Our soldiers report that last week's editorial and cartoon entitled Fill It Up!" concerning making use of extra space in cars for GIs looking for a ride to town, certainly did make a noticeable difference in the thumbhole trade for the week.

Rides were offered more freely. One instance related was about the mufti clad driver who, upon packing his car with appreciative lads, kept repeating in a conscious monotone—"Well, guess that fills it up. Gotta fill 'em up, ya know."

The War Will End When..... by DENES



Whatcha Know, Joe

Army Operates Bank For Soldiers

A Yank in Tunisia walked up to his company commander and laid $300 on his desk. He had won it in a crap game.

"What's this for?" the CO asked, "the company fund?"

"No sire," said the doghace, "the Soldiers Deposit Fund."

The CO took the money, turned it over to the Finance officer and got back a deposit book for the GI, who is now drawing 4 per cent interest on his original $300 investment. It's like money from home.

A soldier doesn't have to win $300 in a crap game to open a Soldiers' Deposit Fund account. He can start with as little as $5 a month and then add as much as he wants every pay day. He'll draw 4 per cent interest — which is more of a dividend than most banks will pay on his money — no matter how small his deposit.

The Soldiers' Deposit Fund, which was started in 1879, now has more than 110,000 active accounts and it's growing every day. It's in particular favor in combat areas where soldiers have found that the best thing to do with a dollar is to save it.

The nicest thing about the plan is the sense of security it gives a GI. He knows if he makes regular deposits he will have a tidy nest egg with which to start civilian life again when he comes marching home.

The plan insures the soldier against his own weaknesses. After he has once opened a savings account in the fund he can't get his dough out again until he is discharged except in cases of emergency. He must secure the okay of his battalion or regimental commander.

The money a soldier deposits in the Fund is for him — and no one else. It can't be attached for debts. It can't be transferred to anyone else. It can't even be confiscated if the soldier gets a dishonorable discharge. In case of death the money goes to the estate of the dead soldier as soon as a valid claim is presented.

To sum it all up, here are four good reasons for opening a Soldiers' Deposit:

1. The deposits are convenient. The soldier makes his deposits through his company commander by payroll deduction. He doesn't have to worry about checks or money orders.

2. The deposits are a profitable investment. They pay 4 per cent interest.

3. The money is available. The soldier gets back every cent of his investment plus interest when he is discharged. Deposits may be withdrawn any time in case of emergency with the approval of the battalion or regimental commander.

4. The money is safe. No creditor may touch soldier deposits and the money may not be assigned to anyone else.

Marion Hargrove, author of "See Here, Private Hargrove," now is a sergeant on the staff of "The Yank" in China...Sure enough, Betty Grable reported to work on the morning after her wedding to Harry James...Louis Armstrong, a credit to his race, will give musical scholarships to four of the kids at his Louisiana orphan's home... Sgt. Ezra Stone, of original Henry Aldrich radio fame, has given up the winsome American-boy character for the duration. And the soldiers of Irving Berlin's "This is the Army," of which he is master sergeant, know it better than anyone else in the country. Ezra is playing the role of the tough sergeant for keeps...

Captain Charlie Paddock of the U. S. Marines was killed in the line of duty when his plane crashed near Sitka, Alaska with Maj. Gen. William Upshaw. Paddock was a fabulous figure of sports. He held many world records during the 1920 - 1930 era of racing...He was called the Fastest Human ever to run..... Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied Commander - in - Chief in Africa's theatre of war has received the French highest decoration — the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor. General Carl Spaatz was made commander of the Legion of Honor...Of all the things to have to worry about, now the Treasury comes along with the disheartening announcement that $10,000 bills are getting scarce. There are fewer than 2,200 at large.

Charging that a baby girl had been substituted for their new born son, a couple have started a $500,000 damage suit against a Los Angeles hospital. Attendants told them shortly after birth that it was a boy — upon arrival home they discovered a girl...After the last war the Germans, making a study of morale, concluded that British morale was due to the Englishman's sense of humor. So the Germans decided to instill humor into their soldiers also — and ordered the Germans to be humorous!

The Merry Macs have been offered $20,000 and expenses for a five week tour of Latin America... Seeing to it that Rita Hayworth has all her buttons is a big job. Rita, for a dance routine in Columbia's "Cover Girl," wears a costume on which are sewn most of Hollywood's fast - diminishing hoard of white pearl buttons ...7,520 of them...Gundar Haag, the champ Swedish runner, visited Greer Garson at M.G.M. the other day. Everything went all right until Gundar said he enjoyed Miss Garson's film, "Flowers in the Shadows." Puzzled for a moment Greer finally got it. "You mean 'Blossoms in the Dust,'" she said That's what Gundar meant...

Laff of the Week

Blackland Air Base, Tex. (CNS) —Newly-arrived WACs attended their first Base dance here. The next day this announcement appeared: "Starting immediately, dancing classes will be held for male soldiers."

The Chaplain

Chapel No. 1

Sunday
Catholic Services: Mass 0715, 0900, 1315, 1900
Protestant Services 1100, 1415, 2000
Daily
Catholic Mass 0730
Thursday
Protestant Services 2000
Chaplain Tainter, Chaplain Landtroop

Chapel No. 2

Sunday
Protestant Services 0900, 1115, 1830
Holy Communion 1900
Hymn Service 2015
Chaplain Mantle, Chaplain Davis
Tuesday
Lutheran Services ..... 1100 and 1900
Wednesday
Service Men's Christian League & Hymn Service 1800
Sabbath Services Friday (Jewish) 2000

Chapel No. 3

Sunday
Protestant Services 0915, 1400, 2000
Catholic Services: Mass 0730, 1030, 1545
Daily
Catholic Mass: 1730
Chaplain McCormick, Chaplain Reaves, Chaplain Olson

Chapel No. 4

Sunday
Protestant Services (Colored Soldiers) 0900
Jewish 1000
Wednesday
Jewish, Sabbath Services Saturday 0930, 1630, 2000
Daily Monday to Friday 0900, 2000
Protestant (Wednesday) Colored Soldiers) 2000
Chaplain Gold, Chaplain Landtroop

Chapel No. 5

Sunday
Catholic Services: Mass 1000
Protestant Services 1100, 2000
Daily
Catholic Mass 1700
Chaplain Merrill, Chaplain McGrath

Guard House Chapel

Sunday
Catholic Mass 0800
Protestant Services 0900

Range Camp

Sunday
Catholic Mass 1915
Jewish 1915
Protestant 1915

Sunday School

A new Sunday School class conducted for and by Service men invites you to attend its weekly meetings each Sunday at 9:45 at the Saint Paul Methodist Church, Goldsboro.

The classes are held in a room set aside for Service men and many activities are planned.