



AIR-O-MECH

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

Vol. 1 No. 35

SEYMOUR JOHNSON FIELD, N. C.

August 14, 1943

Goils...Gams...Gaiety...Gosh!

Field's Personnel To Be Reinterviewed

EMs Checked On Duties And Ability

A classification and assignment team from First District Headquarters arrived here this week and began assisting the Classification Office in re-interviewing and further classifying both Officers and Enlisted Men of Seymour Johnson Field.

The team is headed by Capt. Edward L. Strongin. He is accompanied by six enlisted men, and will work in conjunction with Lt. Donald Frank and Lt. Jack W. Tinkie, Acting Classification and Assistant Classification Officer respectively.

"Our main purpose in re-interviewing Officers and Enlisted men," said Capt. Strongin "is to make sure that the qualification card of each individual is truly representative of the significant military and civilian background of that man. In this way the Army can successfully place each man where he can make his greatest contribution to the war effort."

Determine Work

According to a directive from First District Headquarters, all assigned personnel, both commissioned and enlisted, will be interviewed under the impromptu supervision of the classification officer at least once every three months to verify currently held military specialties or to determine the justification for the assignment of new specialties.

The Headquarters has ordered a "continuous classification and assignment survey of all assigned commissioned and enlisted personnel," and gives as the reason "the fullest utilization of available skills in the armed forces in a program of paramount importance in view of current shortages in specialized fields in both military and industrial organizations."

Capt. Strongin explained that the assignment team, augmented by enlisted men from the Classification Office, will go into the field to interview "men while they are working thus giving us a chance to observe the man at work as well as interview him."

Immediate purposes of the survey are to: Improve the operation and efficiency of the present classification system.

To train and instruct classification personnel in the field to insure the correct assignment of specification serial numbers at all levels of classification in order that greater accuracy in reports and central machine records may be secured.

To discover and correct possible duty misassignments of assigned officers and enlisted personnel of this command.

To formulate a definite picture of shortages of specialized skills within the various units of this command in order that corrective action may be taken within the (Continued On Page 3)

Combat Exams Given Potential Gunners

Are you qualified for training as part of an Army Combat Crew—perhaps as a gunner?

That's what the Army Air Forces was finding out this week, and permanently assigned men at all levels of classification and the width of the Post began taking physical examinations to determine their qualifications.

With the increasing need for gunners to man the giant planes America is turning out with ever increasing speed, the Army Air Forces is going "all out" to find those.

Monkeys Are The Cwaziest People



When a soldier promised Miss Sadie Braswell, civilian worker at the QM, that he would bring in a monkey, she thought he was kiddin'. But true to his word he delivered the monkey which brought about the scene above. Armed with a book Miss Braswell hopped up on the desk, while the monkey sat on a chair to ponder the situation.

Air Forces Observe 36th Anniversary

This month the Army Air Forces observe its 36th birthday. It was born Aug. 1, 1907 when a War Department Signal Corps order created the Division of Aeronautics in the Army.

One captain and two enlisted men were assigned to the division. Today, nearly 1,000,000 men—expertly trained pilots, bombardiers, radio operators, navigators and technicians, comprise the most powerful air force the world has ever seen.

One of the first three military pilots, Gen. H. H. Arnold, now heads the vast service arm. Gen. Arnold learned to fly as a second lieutenant, when it was an historic event for a plane to climb a mile into the sky.

It was on Aug. 2, 1908, that the first military "flying machines" was purchased from the Wright brothers.

Air Forces in the Army started (Continued On Page 3)

Returned Gunner Tells Of Adventures In Pacific

Things are pretty dull here for Sgt. Gary Gorsline of Lancaster, California, and he'd like to be somewhere out in China working and flying and fighting on the big planes that are going to blast Japan out of the Pacific.

Gorsline, a happy-go-lucky 23-year-old who has been in the Army Air Forces three years and 10 months, has been shot down one over the Island of Bali and once over the jungles of New Guinea. He participated in five major engagements—Java, Coral Sea, Philippines, Buna Campaign and the Bismarck Sea.

He owns four medals; the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, and these ribbons: Southwest Pacific, American Theater, Free-Fearl Harbor and Good Conduct. Besides that he can wear the Air Force Technicians badge with its bars. He also has a citation, coming from Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands for his part in the Battle of Java.

For a fellow like that how does it feel to be back? "Sweet," says Gorsline. "It's (Continued On Page 3)

Frank Ellenbogen Knows What Persecution Means

By SGT. JULIUS YELLEN — Pic. Frank Ellenbogen of the 79th knows what it means to be a member of a persecuted minority. He's been hunted, bombed, and beaten up. Take it from him, "It's awful. Many a time I got a busted head." Frank was born in Austria — Hungary 27 years ago. He came to this country in 1930 having waited five years for the chance to migrate. Only three persons a year were allowed to emigrate, and it was a happy day for

him when his name reached the quota's top. Four months ago Frank entered the service.

Though Hitler had as yet to reach the front pages, persecution and terror were already a fact in the town where Ellenbogen lived. As he puts it, "The Black Shirts were already monkeying around in Hungary, holding meetings, spreading terror, etc." He reports a lot of civilians being picked up from the streets and put to work. It's just (Continued On Page 3)

Hollywood Gaieties Due Here Friday

Yup, it's true! Another USO-Camp Show is on its way to Seymour Johnson Field. This time it's Hollywood Gaieties, a big, colorful sea-and-dance variety revue due to open Friday for a two-day run.

The first show will be at 1500 and the second at 2030, on both Friday and Saturday, at Theatre No. 1 — and on Saturday only the show will perform at the hospital at 1715.

Cast of the show is big-time, made up of skilled performers who have played the topflight theatrical and night club boards; the radio and screen, and includes 18 Fanchettes, an eye-filling line of Fanchon & Marco trained dancing girls who work through the whole revue.

Two of the show's performers — Joe and Jane McKenna, rough housing sister and brother comedians — are well-known here, having been down the boards at Hollywood On Parade. A heavy dish as a vocalist — and with a real voice, too — is Barbara Long. The McKenna routine, socko entertainment in theaters all over the world, is largely Joe's attempt to gain male ascendancy over a female. The act opens with his knocking Jane halfway across the stage. She lands in a heap of crumpled skirts. He takes a triumphant bow, the next moment he is balanced precariously on his ear — kicked, gouged and buffeted by his ever-loving sister. Interspersed with acrobatic and trick dancing, the act continues in this vein. It's slapstick comedy at it's riotous best.

Jugglers On Hand — The Three Swits, comedy jugglers of Indian clubs and three of the most skillful purveyors of the art on the boards today, also manage plenty of laughs. Their act is (Continued On Page 3)

24 Recover From Blast Of Lightning

Twenty-four soldiers injured when lightning struck and killed four others here Wednesday afternoon were reported believed to be recovering satisfactorily when the Air-O-Mech went to press this week.

The accident happened during a (Continued On Page 3)

10-Pin Alleys Open, Busy

Seymour Johnson Field's new bowling alleys, located between Chapel No. 1 and Branch No. 1 of the Post Exchange, opened this Wednesday.

The alleys hereafter will be open seven days per week. On weekdays they will be open from 100 to 2300, and on Sundays they will be open 1500 to 2300. The price for each game is 10 cents per line.

T-Sgt. John Evans said that men interested in setting pins in their spare time should contact him at the bowling alleys. They may also contact Pvt. William McCready at the alleys.

Field Urged To Save Work On Equipment

Because of the critical shortage of materials and manpower, a War Department memorandum was cited in an order issued on Seymour Johnson Field this week urging (Continued On Page 3)

Laundry Worker Has Right To Army Job

Mrs. Ellen M. Farmer, of Kingston, supervisor of the checking department here, says that Seymour Johnson Field Post Laundry, has a reason for being in the Army.

Her brother, Earl D. Mallard, is in the Navy, "somewhere in the Atlantic" theatre of operations.

Her late husband, Raymond F. Jones, was a Coast Guardsman for many years. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

And only last week Mrs. Farmer received word from the Red Cross that her son, Raymond F. Jones, Jr., is a prisoner of the Germans. He was serving with the American Navy in the Mediterranean. He's only 18.

"Yes," said Mrs. Farmer this week, "I have a right to be in the Army."