

# AIR-O-MECH

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## Jumping The Gun

Italy surrendered last week and everybody felt swell. Everybody turned to the guy next to him and smiled or laughed and made some remark like "Well, one down, two to go." Or, "It won't be long now, fellas." Everybody felt swell.

Then, hot on the heels of the original announcement, came the news that the Nazis had occupied Rome, had freed Mussolini, and were setting him up in business at the same old shop, but with a reduced number of customers. Then, everybody didn't feel so well.

Things happen fast in a war like this one, so fast that a lot of us read about our victories and begin to get the idea that the enemy is on his last legs. He's got one foot in the grave. He's licked, he knows it, and he isn't even trying to fight.

So we're surprised and a little shocked when the word comes that the Nazis aren't taking this invasion of Italy as meekly as we thought they were. We blink once or twice and shake our heads and wonder how we ever thought we had that vital little peninsula in the bag.

There'll be a tough, bloody fight for that piece of land. The Nazis don't intend to let loose of it without a struggle, and we know that we need it for the final phase of the three-front invasion of Germany. The Nazis have pulled the old "Puppet Government" routine out of their well-stocked bag of tricks and they'll be manipulating it for all they're worth.

They may not last long. We hope not. But, on the other hand, they may consider the holding of the Italian peninsula a last-ditch stand, a final desperate attempt to hold off the approaches to "Fortress Europe." If this is the case, they will pour as many men as they can spare into the fight, things that war is—but one hell of a fight.

And if they do, it'll be one hell of a fight. Worth every life, worth every dirty, sleepless day of battle, worth all the things that war is—but one hell of a fight.

So you see, we had very little right to be so happy about Italy's surrender. For all we know, we might have killed for a line. We jumped the gun on our merry-making, at any rate.

There'll be happiness and parades down the main street and confetti streaming down from the office windows. But not just now. Not for a little time, yet. A little time that must be filled with work and fighting. Because, we're the people who are winning the war and we don't win it by turning to the next guy and saying, "Pick up your barracks-bag, bud, we're getting discharged tomorrow," every time our forces advance spectacularly.

Yes, there'll come a day. But first, comes work.

## Stripes Is Stripes . . .

A CORPORAL is said to be a man who knows a great deal about very little and goes on knowing more and more about less and less until he knows practically everything about nothing.

A BUCK SERGEANT, on the other hand, is a man who knows very little about a great deal, and who keeps on knowing less and less about more and more until he knows practically nothing about everything.

A TOPICK starts in knowing everything about everything but, because of long association with corporals and buck sergeants, he learns less and less about less and less until he ends up knowing nothing about anything.

## Symbol Of The Army Air Forces

The symbol of the Army Air Forces is a white star in a blue circle. We point it on the wings of all our planes. Men watch for this insignia—from the deck of a troop transport in the Coral Sea, from fox holes in a South Pacific jungle, from the bridge of a lonely tanker in Alaskan waters. Tired boys, far from home, battle-sore and facing death, look up with red-rimmed eyes and see our emblem in the sky—and cheer.

Still others of our sons are waiting and watching for this symbol—General Wainwright's men and those who fought at Wake and Guam. They stand behind the barbed wire of Japanese prison camps. What will our white star, borne on aviating wings, mean to them? The Germans hold prisoners too, haggard men who with all their courage endure the weary days until we come.

The white star is more than a design painted on fabric or steel. It is the living symbol of our own flesh, our own blood, our own wounds, our own tears, our own fierce anger. It is a sign to all men who live in darkness and in chains. We Americans have put that star in the sky. We must keep it there. It's a sacred symbol, for it glows with Freedom's holy light.

—From AAF Blue Network Broadcast "Wings to Victory"



## Ever Wonder About What That WAC Insignia Meant

Who's de Babe? That's the question we have been hearing so many times regarding the Greek goddess on the lapel of WAC coats and jackets.

It seems that lady's name is Pallas Athena and that she was one of the better-known Olympian deities. In fact she was the daughter of Old Zeus himself. Pallas Athena herself was said to be prominent as a civic goddess, wise in the industries of peace and in the arts of war. That last angle is probably why she was selected as the lady on the WAC insignia.

## Cadet's View Of Our Field

The arrival of Aviation Cadets here on the field has brought with it much curiosity as to how they like the field, what they think of the men on it, and, in general, what they think about as they go through their training.

The Pro-Technical Cadet School publishes its own mimeographed newspaper, named, aptly enough, "Wings Over The Air." A glance at its pages makes interesting reading for men who want to find out how Cadets have reacted to Seymour Johnson Field.

This week's issue contains an editorial titled "Field Friendly." It says, in part: "... enlisted men of the field have already formed a flaring opinion of the Cadets in their midst. . . Cadets have been told that our drilling and discipline have caused their own drilling to improve in an effort to compete with us. . . Thus far, we Cadets are in a fortunate position here, because we are respected as well as envied." End quote.

A column from Squadron R, written by A-O R. Dorchmar, has this to say about the field: "Lastly, think of the homeing pieces Cadets Johnson and Bednaruk, who have come back to Johnson Field dividends.

She was born in Athens and her mother, Zeus' wife, was called Minis which is Greek for "Prudence." Zeus had been forewarned that his wife would bear him a daughter, and he was so displeased that he wasn't going to have a son that he up and swallowed his wife Minis, planning in that way to rid himself of his wife and his unborn daughter. But the other gods were mischievous and pulled some yeggerdama of their own and, as a result Pallas Athena sprang from her father's head, much to their surprise, you may be sure.

Pallas Athena, however, was such a bright girl and endowed with so many virtues that after a while Zeus lost some of his disappointment and, in fact, became quite proud of her, especially when she became known as the Goddess of Council and Bringer of Victory. Now you know who de Babe is. She was pretty too!

to root. I wonder what the h— induced them to come back here."

Cadets on this field remain here for a period of twelve weeks. Then they go elsewhere for the rest of their training.

Practice Makes Perfect  
The big AAFTO Radio School at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has been in operation for some time. Since its first day over 15,000 radio sets have been built and torn down again by Army students. A lot of work, but well worth the dividends.

## The Chaplain Speaks Honesty Always Best Policy

Most of you have either read or heard of the Biblical story of Noah and the Flood, but there is another story, an ancient Rabbinic legend, in connection with Noah and the Flood, though not as familiar as the main theme, it is none the less important.

Noah was preparing to sail, having loaded on board all supplies, all the animals, and the members of his household, the Ark came running toward the Ark and pleaded with Noah that he allow him to enter the Ark. Whereupon Noah informed him that the only way he could come aboard is if he had a mate since God had thus commanded him. Mr. Liar went on his way, first asking one girl and then another if she would marry him and then they would both be saved from drowning. But who would marry a Liar; they preferred Death to him! At long last he met up with Misfortune and he asked her to marry him so that they will both be allowed to enter Noah's Ark. Misfortune answers him with a question, "What will you give me for marrying you?" The Liar answered, "For evermore everything I earn shall go to you, Misfortune."

And we can still see this agreement in force today. Year after year, Hitler lived and thrived on the —conquered nation after nation on twisted truth. But today we can see that Misfortune is claiming her rightful share from Mr. Liar.

Remember soldiers, whenever you are in a tight spot, don't be your own man. Temporarily, your lying may help you, but sooner or later, Misfortune is going to claim her share. It's the old, old axiom, "Honesty is the best policy."

Chaplain Gold

## P-51 Now Flies Higher, Faster

Re-designed to keep pace with any high-altitude, long-range bomber in the Allied lines of organization is the sleek new P-51 Mustang Fighter. Built by North American Aircraft, the Mustang now sports a Packard Merlin engine patterned directly from the famous power plant of the Spitfire fighter.

This new American super-plane is expected to play an important part in the war fought out of sight of man's eyes six or seven miles above the ground. Top speed and altitude on the new fighter is so great, but the original classification of "above 10,000 ft." has undoubtedly been stepped up. The Mustang is expected to enable the Mustang to accompany American bombers and protect them effectively at tremendous heights.



"How did you make out with the OCS board, Bud?"