



# AIR-O-MECH

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

## HALLOWE'EN . . . GI STYLE;



First Sergeant Martin A. Birch, of the 791st T. S. S., is a plenty mad non-com as he sits up there in his leafy perch, the victim of practical Halloween jokesters in his squadron. Seems that the lads, who used to take their neighbors' gates and throw them on garage roofs in civilian life, have now graduated into the GI method of celebrating the spooky holiday. They toss First Sgt. up in trees! (Ed's Note: Air-O-Mech's photog helped Birch down, a disgruntled and broken man).

## Quarantine New Arrivals To Stop Spread of Colds

A sweeping program of preventive measures designed to halt the spread of colds and other epidemic diseases caused by changing weather has been instituted here at Seymour Johnson Field. It was announced this week. All enlisted men arriving on the field, a newly issued memorandum stated, will be placed under a 14-day working quarantine which may be extended as deemed necessary by the Post Surgeon. While in quarantine, newly arrived men will be quartered in separate barracks and will not be allowed to attend such places as the Post Theatre or Exchange. In addition, such men will attend separate mess in their own formations and will remain segregated while in the Mess Halls. Upon inspection at the proper dispensary, men under quarantine will be removed from it, if their physical condition warrants such action. If any men show symptoms of upper respiratory diseases such as colds, influenza, grippe, they will be subject to a further examination and will be hospitalized whenever necessary. New arrivals under this restriction will be allowed to visit the Post Barber shop as long as they attend in small groups and refrain from loitering there. A few general health rules have been brought to the attention of personnel on the field. They are: (1) Avoid crowds, (2) observe strict personal hygiene, (3) avoid unnecessary exposure, chilling and fatigue, (4) ample ventilation, (5)

report to dispensary at first sign of cold, (6) cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. All organization Commanders have been made responsible for carrying out the following measures, and enlisted men on the field may expect action where needed there: (1) separation of beds as far as space will permit, (2) proper ventilation of sleeping quarters, (3) head-to-foot sleeping, (4) adequate clothing and bedding, (5) the avoidance of crowding in day-rooms and other gathering places, (6) the discouraging of individuals with colds from attending Post gatherings.

Spearheaded by fast-moving tank units and mobile armored columns, Red Army Troops plunged through the wide steppes of Western Ukraine last night and this morning to roll back the Nazi troops to within 80 miles of Perekop, last escape door open to German Crimean divisions. Meanwhile, from Allied Headquarters in Algiers, word came that American ships of the U. S. Navy were pouring broadsides into Field Marshal Rommel's communication lines along the ancient Apennine Way in Italy. Allied Fifth and Eighth armies punched out short advances in the face of massed Nazi artillery, the dispatch said. In Yugoslavia, reports from London indicated, native Partisan forces under Josip Broz (Tito) have

## Fighter Group Trains "Thunderbolt" Pilots

### "Well Done!"

Navy Day, this Wednesday, is a day set aside to the honor and memory of the United States Navy. This year, it marks the end of almost two years of the most bitter, hard-fought naval war this country has ever engaged in. Nearly 100 of our ships have been sunk, and close to 20,000 Navy men are dead or missing. In these past 22 months of war, our Navy losses have been greater than in all our previous naval history. Navy Day this year should be a day of tribute, then, to the men of its services who have fought hard and well in the defense of our American ideals. We think of this war in terms of Guadalcanal swamps, and the blazing wasteland of Tunisia. But midway, the Solo Islands and the thousands of aerial engagements in plane-streaked skies over the Pacific bear testimony to the importance of our Navy. In no major engagement to date have odds been in our favor. Yet, with few exceptions, we have conquered on the sea. This year's Navy Day is a day for the toast . . . to the men who fight their country's battles in the lonely, cramped quarters of submarine and cruiser alike. . . . "Well done!"

Those fast, bullet-like P-47 Thunderbolt fighters now knitting the skies over Seymour Johnson Field have a story all their own, a story that, up till now, has been a secret. But, this week, word came that the lid was off. The speedy craft are assigned to a Fighter group for training P-47 pilots right here on the field. Under the command of Lt. Col. William S. Steele, the fliers will receive instruction from veteran aviators, many freshly returned from combat zones ranging from the Aleutians to the Mediterranean. Instruction, according to Colonel Steele, covers regulation flying, preliminary formation flying, scouting, and combat training in the high-altitude Republic Thunderbolts. Colonel Steele, who was stationed at Wheeler Field in Hawaii when the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor, transferred with his Fighter Group from their former headquarters at Westover Field, Massachusetts. He was sent there from Hawaii in March of this year and joined the New York Fighter Wing, taking command of the outfit in June.

## Servicemen's Wives Write, Produce Show!

Produced, directed, written, and acted by servicemen's wives from the field, a new variety show is now in production at the U. S. O. in Goldsboro. Tentatively titled "Anything For The Boys," the show will be a series of skits and acts collected from various writers in and around the field and town. Pfc. Gordon Peck, who has a long civilian record of theatrical work with such important names as Katherine Cornell and Eva Le Gallienne, will direct the show with Mrs. Betty Ruth assisting. Scripts are being collected from various writers and put together by Mrs. Malcolm Sills. All wives of servicemen who feel that they have any talent to offer are invited to attend and help with the rehearsals which are set for the near future at the U. S. O. Clubhouse in town. GIs who want to aid with production details are

also welcome, according to Miss Ruth Bormmann, U. S. O. representative in charge of the revue. Release Data On Explosive .50 Cal. Bullets A new explosive .50 calibre aircraft bullet now in use on both European and Pacific fronts, was disclosed last week by the War Department. Hinted at in war-front dispatches for some time now, the new ammunition has been taken out of the "hush-hush" category and described by General H. H. Arnold as "The outstanding small arms development for use against airplanes." Self-sealing gas tanks, reports stated, made the new projectiles necessary. The new incendiaries penetrate wing-sealing tanks, pass into the center, and then explode the fuel. They are reported to spread a sheet of fire may meet 1 1/2 diameter which causes enemy planes to burst into flames at impact. The flame burns at blast furnace temperature and armor plate, which would be used to stop them is too heavy for aircraft. A novel use of them was demonstrated in a recent attack by AAF pilots on a Japanese freighter. The flyers zoomed in low over the ship, dropped their auxiliary gas tanks on its deck, and then flew back over the vessel and machine-gunned the spilled fuel into a fury of flame. The freighter was left ashore from stem to stern. Factories manufacturing the heretofore secret "blue-geese" bullets were under strict military guard. Employees were maintained in a separate area and the ammunition itself was tested in concealed, underground ranges—no visitors allowed. (Army Times)

## Nazis Cornered in Crimea; Navy Shells Rommel; Take Two Islands

struck one of their most effective blows against the German armies occupying their country. In a lightning-fast swoop, guerrilla bands succeeded in cutting the important Zagreb-Beigrade railway to more than 130 positions along a 40-mile stretch just east of Zagreb. News from the Southwest Pacific area this morning was equally joyful. Warships, planes, and troops of Admiral William F. Halsey have stormed Treasury Island, 30 miles south of Bougainville in the Solomon group. Made up of two separate island reefs, Mono and Strifing, the Treasury group was taken under cover of a jelling raid by American bombers. As daylight appeared after an all-night aerial attack on enemy

airfields, American and New Zealand troops moved off big ships to landing barges and swarmed over the beachhead. Overhead swarms of fighter planes roamed unchallenged by Jap opposition. After overcoming scattered mortar fire, troops pushed the Jap troops back into inland hills where mopping-up operations are now progressing, it was announced.

### THIS CIVILIAN WORLD....

Mrs. E. J. Grady, of the Great Falls, Montana, Grady's, came home the other night and was pleasantly surprised to find 60 red ration points lying on her kitchen table. Puzzled, she looked in the icebox and found that three thick, luscious steaks had been swiped. (CS)