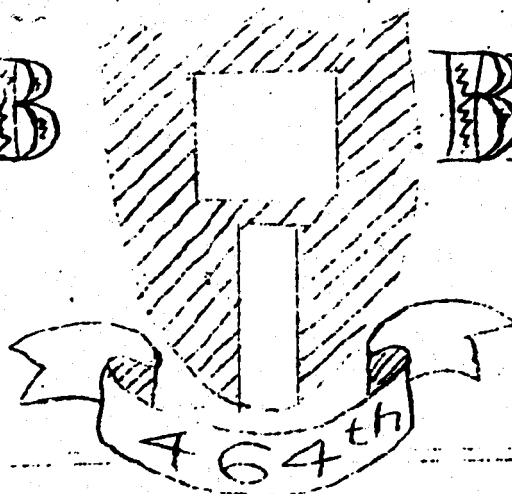


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# BOMB BLAST

VCL I No 1

15 JULY 1944



## RED ARMY BLITZING!

The walls of Fortress Europe were pushed back on three fronts as United Nations troops carried the battle to Hitler.

On the Eastern Front, following the fall of Minsk, Russian forces raced across the flat lands of White Russia and Poland.

Pototsk, Kovel, Braovichi, and finally Vilna fell to the Red Army putting Soviet troops within 60 miles of the East Prussian border and within 50 miles of the Baltic Sea. German prisoners are being taken by the thousands as the Russian steamroller seeks to break the back of Hitler's Baltic Armies by driving a wedge to the sea.

On the Normandy coast, American and British troops felt for the soft spot to drive beyond the first range of hills to the plains of France. The first drive, with the Americans leading, thrust at Le Haye, and after bitter fighting in which the town changed hands three times, the Yanks took over. The drive south from Carentan reached the town of Sainteney, eliminating the bulge of the line.

The main offensive was launched at Caen by the British Second Army, who fought their way into the shattered, battered, heavily-mined, booby-trapped town

(Cont page 3)

### HOW'RE WE DOING?

Did you know that since the beginning of operations, this group has dropped over 2000 tons of bombs on enemy targets in Germany, Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, France and Italy? That these, added to bombing accuracy, has resulted in congrats from higher echelons? And talk about your gunners! We're so far ahead of other outfits----- it's not even funny! Up until 12 July 1944, our gunners have accounted for 44 enemy aircraft destroyed, 22 probably destroyed and 16 damaged.

The 7th gunners are leading local league with 13 destroyed, 4 probables and 9 damaged.

At this rate we will become the envy of fighter groups. Keep punching!! This correspondent believes he couldn't have picked a better outfit to chisel his way into.

Come the great day, we, in this outfit, will definitely have a few things to brag about.



Editor.....C. L. V. Tolson  
 Sports Editor...C/Sgt. C. Sawyer  
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777th...S/Sgt V. Rice  
 777th...T/Sgt Kaplan

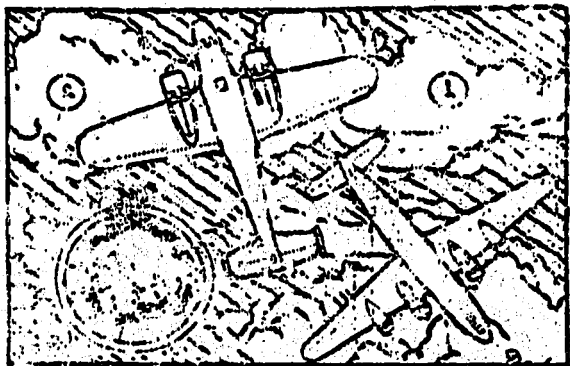
## CO'S COMMENTARY

As your new commanding officer, there are certain principles which I would like to have known and observed by all members of this command:

1. Every consideration will be given the welfare, health and comfort of all personnel. Individual initiative by officers and EM toward bettering individual living conditions, such as building houses, walling in tents, etc., will be encouraged.
2. Proper uniform and exemplary conduct, both on and off the field.
3. Prompt aggressive action by each individual to correct or improve the efficiency of the Squadron and the group.
4. Pride in individuals, Squadrons and the Group.
5. Maximum damage to the enemy with minimum damage to ourselves.
6. Good, clean food in clean neat mess halls. Recreational facilities for all for use during off duty hours.
7. A competitive spirit of rivalry between Squadrons within the Group and a definite belief that the 464th Group is the best Group in the Army Air Forces--with no exceptions.
8. Good health through good food, recreational facilities and no venereal cases. If you can't stay away from women, be damned sure to take care of the situation as you all know how to do.

In conclusion, do your job promptly, efficiently and completely. If we all do that, everything else will be taken "in our stride".

Col. A. L. Schroeder  
 Commanding.



Which one would you fire at ???

## GENERAL'S VIEW

ST. LOUIS, MO., MAY 15. (AP) - FIB. SANCTUARY.

There are two qualities which God intended should appear together, but man is ever prone to force them far apart.

Those who have visited Rome have seen strength and beauty brought together in a great cathedral. The imposing walls, the great arches and massive dome form a building of inspiring beauty. When we lift our eyes toward Heaven on a starry night we again see these qualities united; the beauty of a million lights and the unseen power that guides them.

God's greatest sanctuary is not found in atoms or celestial spheres, but in souls both strong and beautiful. Man destroys this sanctuary by deciding only to be strong. His chiefest sin is in that thinking only of his strength he fails to return into a soul of beauty. This inability of power & position coming, with total disregard for beauty of soul, destroys our peace and happiness.

We might change our text to read, "He that which is strong is also beautiful, it becomes the sanctuary of our God". May God abide in you.

Chadlain Fastwood.

## BOOK REVIEW

by Sgt. J. Shesby

To those of us who have little time for reading and who wish to acquire an overall picture of the war thus far, Special Service has the answer this week in a Penguin Book entitled "A History of the War" by Rudolf Hodley.

The story of the war on all its fronts is interestingly told in the text, maps, in pictographs, and in words. A short background of the pre-war world and its distribution of population and wealth is given. For these factors influenced the war is and interesting fact will show. From there on the author covers each phase of the war on its various fronts.

None for the first time the reasons for the German failure to invade England clearly and concisely shown in a few pages. The campaigns of Poland, France, the Low Countries, Scandinavia and the Balkans are graphically shown. The Battle of Russia is interestingly covered as is the Jap advance in the Pacific.

In summing up, it's quite safe to say that it will never become a "Book of the Month" selection but it would prove a boon to anyone interested in the story of the war.

# SCOOPS and POOP from SQUADRONS

Crash O'Connor, who became famous overnight by doing the impossible in overturning a bomb service truck on a straightaway, has been officially grounded. He is not disgraced, however, the information is that he has received offers from various airlines for testing new landing gears.

A letter has been received that a red-headed T/Sgt was seen coming out of the Group Post Office with a \$200 money order, made out to his girl back in NY. This Correspondent is just curious.

Opening night at the E Service Club witnessed some very strange sights, but the incredible happened when Alvin Lillie, the quiet, harness mail orderly, went berserk after three cans of beer. His "dance" would have made the original whirling, dervish drool. How he was able to accomplish this which flat feet is one for the medics.

Rising to inconceivable heights demanded by the dramatic occasion, our newest SrSgt, Antonio Capello, proved to the sternest of critics that he possesses the stuff stars are made by tearing off one of the meanest bits of jitterbugging, to the hot licks of an Italian Cab Callaway, that this G.I. has seen since migrating from Harlem. This easily gave him the award of the "Order of the Wheel" made weekly for the outstanding performance.

The E.M.S.C. (Enlisted Men's Service Club Committee) would like to extend a sincere welcome to any member of the Group to visit the club, not that it's the best club in the Group--but there's none better!

VIC RICE  
your correspondent.....

STUFF QUITE STRAIGHT FROM THE 78th  
by T/Sgt Kaplan.....

Things are really stirring in the 78th! Last week a Squad council was formed, composed of representatives of the various sections. Samples of their work are the completion of the E.M. Service Club, E.M. showers and bus service to Cherignola.-----T/Sgt J. Hudec ought to tell the boys how he came by the handle of "One Time"----- A swell Aerial Eng, Crew Member, Air Medals and Clusters, DFC candidate, and all-round good fellow. Every crew member of the 78th has earned his Air Medal and many have their first Oak Leaf Clusters. Many of these have their leg up on the Second Cluster. Good work fellows, we're right proud of you all.-----Just had word from Lt. "Jake" Harding, one of the first Crew Officers in the Squadron. Jake was severely injured in the first Wiener-Neustadt raid and is now at the 26th Gen Hosp making a swell recovery. Drop in and say hello to him whenever you go to town, he'd be more than glad to have the boys spend a short "bull session" with him. Lt Harding received the Purple Heart and DFC for his part in the "shootin".

Odds & Ends Dept\*\*\*\*\*  
YOU CAN SAY THIS FOR DEMOCRACY...  
"When the people aren't sure of what they want, they vote for something from what they have...Banking TENTING TONITE...Farmer: "Gosh, you must be brave to come down with a parachute in a gale like this!" Parachutist: "I didn't come down with a parachute...I went up with a tent".  
IT'S TOUGH TO BE A CIVILIAN.....  
News item: Whale meat is the latest addition to civilian diets in San Francisco. Unrationed, tasty and inexpensive, whale steaks are scheduled for an early appearance on menus throughout the country...Ham & eggs are plentiful again...razor blades are easy to get...now if we could have pleats and cuffs in our trousers, we'd be doing alright.....!

# UNEASY RESTS CROWN

by S/Sgt John F Kennedy

The bones are rattling again in the 70th Bombardment Squadron. It is payday and Cpl Andrew Kuzmick, Dickson City, Pa., flexes the dexterous kigits that have served him so faithfully in the past.

A master with the galloping dominoes, attributes his success to always betting they're wrong. "It's like this," he says. "All dice vary, some guys wont believe it, but it's true. Some dice seven more than others. They are wrong dice. I like to play with them. My opponent shoots. If he doesn't seven right away, he's sunk. He'll seldom make his point. These dice seven too often," he grinned.

Kuzmick had his system and did very well with it. The Lire piled up. Off went a shipment to Dickson City, and was put in the Kuzmick sock. The sock filled, it was put in the bank. Still the Lire flowed in. Now the largest depositor, Kuzmick was made a director, and appointed vice-president pro tempore of the bank. With a life of ease awaiting him after his lucrative career in the army was terminated, Kuzmick was a happy man.

Alas! Fickle Fate grabbed the bones!

"I can't understand it," sobbed Kuzmick, "they make their point every time, with my dice too."

It's true. That new man, the one that just won the good conduct Medal, is the main offender. He has the dice. "Bet a thousand (Lire) I eight," he says. Kuzmick still has faith. "I got it," he hollers.

The new man takes his stance. His fingers caress the bones. He raises his eyes, invoking the powers that be. Mumbled words of supplication emit from his lips. Kuzmick ridgets. Intuitively he knows he is to get the works. Here comes the swing. Now they have hit the wall and are spinning. Kuzmick peers over the shoulder of a bystander. His neck stretches five inches. His eyes emerge from their sockets. Eight! The dice are right again! Sobbing, Kuzmick is led off to his tent.

Kuzmick still has faith. A shipment of money is on its way here from Dickson City. It's the first Kuzmick money Eastbound, but there will be others. There'll be a bank failing in Dickson City. Why? Because the boys switch Kuzmick's wrong dice, and substitute right ones. Kuzmick doesn't know. He'll never know. He has faith.

Corporal Kuzmick was recently awarded the European-African-Middle East Ribbon with one Battle Star for his part in the Italian campaign.

NEWS FROM HOME \*\*\*\*\*

Dixon, Cal. (CNS)--A local newspaper ran this exciting ad: "Owner of a truck would like to correspond with a widow who owns two tires. Object: matrimony. P.S. Send pictures of tires."

Monroe, Utah (CNS)--Citizens of this town are restrained by an old ordinance from dancing together in public places "unless daylight may seen between the partners." (ED: They'd have to shoot the daylight through me)



# HITS and ERRORS

with.....S/SGT Robert G. Hoover.....

CHLTH on LITA and RITA

Capt. Billy Coan thinks it would be a swell idea for his to fight Sgt. Joe Louis again---this time for no prize---for the entertainment of GIs at home every year here!\*\*\*Harold Gordon, 26-year old French Marine and one-time middle-weight champion of Europe, is reputed to be the York bound to engage in a series of bouts for the French Marine Fund.

\*\*\*Remember Johnny Blood, famed wildman, scatterback of the Green Bay Packers? Well, he's with the A.F. in the CBI Theatre, shooting Japs under his right arm-----

---S/Sgt John McNally\*\*\*

S/Sgt Greg Mangin, former indoor tennis champion, won the DFC recently for his work as a tail-gunner in a flying fortress raid over Wiener-Neustadt, Austria.

### FOOTBALL

Plans have been drawn and construction is under way for the new athletic area, directly behind the 77th Officer's Club. It will consist of a basketball court, a volleyball court and a baseball diamond with a softball diamond inverted.

### CHEERLEADERS

Hollywood may have it's Hop-along Cassidy and Gene Autry, but the 46th has a bronco rider in Eric Carl Panyusteva. At the rodeo in Bogota the 4th of July, Carl would have won top honors in the bronco-busting contest had he not suffered a sprained ankle in the preliminaries and had to be content with 3rd place. Congrats "Tally" for showing the holiday crowd that the 46th is as well represented on the ground as in the air.

### FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"What! Me wear a flak suit?"

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## SOFTBALL

### HOW THEY STAND

465th BC (H)	1
435th BC (H)	1
464th BC (H)	2
469th BC (H)	2

Do you want it fixed too well. At the 46th game, it rains into the second round.

The 46th game at the 46th was a heartbreaker--- Sgt Mavry of the 77th did not play game, but holding down out for an extra inning. They finally dropped one in, making the count 6 to 5.

Mavry was out in the first game of a double-header against the 46th Tuesday night.

Mavry's pitching was excellent but our best team 0 to 0.

In the second game with Bears pitching four of the seven innings that proved too much for us and got their revenge. The game ended 4 to 1. Mavry or I tried to stop the tide in the last three innings but it was too late.

### JULY 23 BARRAGE FOR ARTIES IN THE B BARRAGE MEET\*\*\*\*\*

While Rome is preparing for its gigantic Allied Troop and Field meet this weekend, local interest is centering around a next event of the Special Service friends---the 46th swimmer meet.

Those desiring to compete may do so by submitting their names to S/SGT Hoover at the Special Service Tent.

Competition will be held in the following events:

- 100 meters free style
- 200 meters free style
- 400 meters free style
- 500 meters free style
- 1 mile free style
- 100 meters back stroke
- 200 meters back stroke
- 300 meters medley
- 500 meters medley relay
- 500 meters relay
- 3 meter dive
- three mile free style
- Water polo

# HALO DEPT

by Lt Dave Cameron.....



A word about awards and decorations. A medal in this theater is not a cheap thing no matter how few or many are presented. Combat Crews deserve medals. We'd like to get 'em for every bloke in a bomber. We are joined in this respect by every group and squadron member from the Colonel on down. Soldier's Medal, DFC, Silver Star and so forth. The same for Air Medals with one to ten clusters. You earn them. We try to get taem out. The rub of the green favors some, neglects others.

Once you have been recommended for an award, you are the concern of bushels of adjectives, carbons, invectives and extraneous paper work before you wind up at the Air Force before the jury. The biggest job is to get you there. Once you arrive, however, you receive a sympathetic check by a board of officers, three of whom have finished their missions and know something about the hell that can bust at 20,000. They WANT you to get the award. Their job is to protect the dignity of your deeds and the award itself. Try to remember that. What makes an award? The act of doing something to save your skin, your buddy's skin or your ship's skin----- something that Air Force didn't train you to do. Considerable cash has been spent to train you to react under pressure---to shoot, pilot, bomb and navigate, but all the dough in the world can't train a man in courage, initiative and instinctive reactions that form a large hunk of combat.

## WHAT DO THE MEDALS MEAN?

AIR MEDAL--completion of five; CLUSTER--for each additional 10 or credit for an E/A destroyed. Two probables addup to one cluster. Note: Neither AM or Cluster is a routine award. It stands for the the appreciation of the theoretical hell you endure; the clusters for the continuous pressure of building up your string. Air Forces does NOT have to grant the award for completion of five or 100 milk runs. But we don't know of a case where they have withheld the medal or clusters.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL--Heroism not involving actual conflict. If you think this is a cheap award, try to get it. Save a life without regard for your own, mend a gas leak at 20,000 minus oxygen over enemy territory while being bathed in hi-octane.... and you deserve the SM and you've earned it.

DFC--heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights. This award rates one hair higher than SM. For doing or trying to do an unusually tough job under unusually rough conditions.

SILVER STAR--For gallantry in action. Rates a notch higher than DFC. Gallantry means bravery, putting devotion to duty above devotion to your skin.

MORE OF THIS NEXT WEEK

## WHO'S WON WHAT?

Colonel Marshall Bomber.....  
The Silver Star for gallantry in action and for his leadership of this bomb group.

1st Lt Lamar Dunn and his entire crew....The DFC for the June 26 mission over Florisdorf.  
(Above MIA since 26 June)

T/Sgt Danny McMahon, 779th ----  
---Soldier's Medal. For saving the life of Lt Geo. Becker in a gas explosion at Oudna, Africa. The last we heard Becker was in a British hospital preparatory to being flown home for intensive skin grafting.

Capt Pete Ceccato---Soldier's Medal. For pulling victims out of a burning B-24 with .50 cal's busting all over the place.

Maj Clarence Poff---778th-----  
---Silver Star. For leading the group over Weiner-Neustadt despite hell and high tide.

Capt Bobt Hornbaker - 778th (MIA)  
DFC for his job in bringing home a butchered airplane despite heavy enemy opposition and a wounded co-pilot.

Capt John Fernsler - 778th - DFC  
For bringing the Green Hornet home which should have been on the salvage heap with over 640 flak holes.

Lt "Jake" Harding-778th-DFC  
Hornbaker's co-pilot that day. His leg nearly severed by flak Harding did nearly everything a whole man could have done in assisting his pilot.