

THE 776TH PUTT PUTT  
A WEEKLY

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEN OF THE 776TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H), 464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), APO 520, U.S. ARMY, "SOMEWHERE IN ITALY".....

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THE WALLING WALL

AN INDICTMENT: In common with the other members of this squadron, this writer has the highest opinion of Joe Howard. There has never been a whisper casting a shadow on his integrity. His good intentions and efforts to benefit the enlisted men of his unit are also unquestioned. It is with reluctance that we conclude that these good qualities in themselves are not sufficient - that tangible results are not being achieved - and that new leadership is urgently needed.

It is the writer's considered opinion that the following improvements are possible and could be secured with more energetic leadership. In making these charges, the writer has no personal axe to grind. He is not after Joe Howard's job, and would be unable to take it if it was offered to him.

The suggested improvements are as follows:

1. First, and most important, is adequate lighting.
2. Second at least one other stove is needed to heat the club.
3. The immediate construction of a building, adequately heated, well lighted, and with facilities for heating water.
4. At least one more barber is needed so that the men won't have to wait ten minutes to an hour.
5. Construction of a squadron reading room where those that prefer to spend an evening in quiet may do so without ping pong balls whizzing past their ears, and where they will be away from the noise of those that care to imbibe til they get ziggy zag.
6. The procuring of more suitable and durable furniture, with a thought for the present comfort of the men instead of utilitarian use at some future day.

It is possible to go on listing improvement after improvement, but the main thing needed is to make a start right away. There is so much that can be done, by the men themselves for their own welfare, and so little that is being done, the conclusion is inescapable that something is seriously remiss.

When things go wrong, alibis are just around the corner. Adam started it and ever since there has been no lack of excuses to explain away shortcomings. In some cases excuses are valid - in other cases - .....Well it is up to the men to decide. When a thing is not procurable through ordinary channels, that in itself does not mean it is unprocurable. Though charges may be made of non-co-operation by the wheels, and the accusation may or may not be true, it is still hard to believe that the so called wheels would prevent the men from helping themselves.

Joe Howard was elected president of the club by the unanimous vote of the men, but a lot of plunds have taken to the air since that time, and a vote of confidence in his leadership seems to be in order.

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 GHOULS INC: In the states we had MURDER INC. and not to be outdone some of the men in this unit are playing a trade just as reprehensible - we may aptly name them GHOULS INC. In former times any ghoul, if he had any self respect, would rob only the dead, but these modern ghouls, unfortunately members of our own squadron, wait not for the last agonized gasp from their victims before robbing the corpse of its personal belongings, taking even cherished keepsaks. There have been cases of the "dead" returning, but few if any of valuables returned. Robbed, not only of his belongings, but of his faith in his fellow men and "comrades", the victim is spared only his life and unpleasant memories of his associates.

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 FREEMAN: Sweating out his application for aerial gunnery school.  
 COOKS: Want Xmas donations for Italians working in mess hall.  
 LOST: Bulova wrist watch. Finder please return to Pfc. Atkinson.  
 AMERICAN WHISKY: Donated by Lt Col. Reddell to enlisted men was appreciated.  
 QUESTIONS ASKED: When are they going to winterize the tents? ..... When is Freeman going to get his stripes back?..... Where are those sacks of cement reportedly sent here by King for winterization of tents?  
 END OF THE TRAIL: for T/Sgt. Sol Rabinovitz---fifty finito.  
 PILLOW: wants ample supply of liquor in for Christmas. Announces he will step down from water wagon at that time.  
 BOAN: eats first Thanksgiving Dinner that he didn't help to prepare.  
 OFFICERS: want their Air Meals to send home in time for Christmas. Also praise mess personnel for excellent Thanksgiving Dinner. Would appreciate a hot shower, minus icicles.  
 LOST: One Shaeffer gold tipped pencil. Finder please return to Lt. Hardina.

S/Sgt. John F. Kennedy

THESA A. THATA.

I hear a braying from over in the direction of the "Screedhing" Wall, and I have absolutely no comment to make but do wish to make a correction in one statement made. I am not the President of the EM Service Club; it was quite a while ago that I caused a resolution to be introduced wiping out the former Officers' slate, substituting therefore a Committee of seven members. The men elected as Committeemen were the First Sergeant (Chairman), the Supply Sergeant, the Mess Sergeant, the Mail Orderly (Secretary and Treasurer), M/Sgt. John Graham, M/Sgt. Edwin Verreau and this reporter. The idea was to spread responsibility and tie key men into the Club management. By tacit consent of the Committee this reporter is entrusted with carrying out routine details but no matter of importance is acted upon without the other Committee members being consulted and their O.K. secured. If the majority of our members wish to make any changes in this Committee they are privileged to do so. Simply request that a Club meeting be called and I take such action as this meeting shall decide.

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 In spite of transportation limitations which cost us some guests, our Jamboree on Thanksgiving was seemingly enjoyed by all. A vote of thanks is due the members who attended for their exemplary conduct.

Sgt. Joseph A. Howard

