

# MOLTO BUONO

VOL. II. NO. 8

Saturday, March 24, 1945

ITALY

## PROP BLOWN LOOSE WRECKS A SECOND LIB

"Anything can happen in combat." But a 723rd Squadron crew never expected to have their bomb-bay wrecked, stabilizer almost chopped in two and the controls locked-all as a result of a whirling propeller.

When the Pilot, Lt. Mickey Rorer, sped the bomber down the runway on take-off, he was unaware of the fact that the plane just ahead of him had skidded to a halt, its engine afire. Suddenly, as he left the ground, Rorer spotted an object hurtling through the air, sensed it aiming toward him. It was the prop from the burning plane!

Reacting quickly, he tried to maneuver the Lib so that the unavoidable prop, whirling through space, might strike the least critical spot. He braked between the left landing gear and the bomb-bays, cracking the main spar, then bounded back and gashed a hole through the left horizontal stabilizer.

All were stunned at the disaster, but reassured, when the pilot, after

(Continued on page four)

## QUICK THINKING SAVES FIVE

Quick, clear thinking and disregard for personal safety on the part of three 723rd men saved the lives of five of the crew whose plane exploded on take-off last Friday.

Col. Engstrom, 723rd C.O., was on the line close to the Engineering area at the time the mishap occurred. Spotting the burning engine, he dashed into the nearest tent for a fire extinguisher and informed Capt. Massey, Engineering Officer, of the situation.

The Captain climbed into a jeep, overtook the Colonel, and together they headed for the plane, which by this time was a raging inferno. Some of the crew had managed to escape from it, but they were on fire and burning badly. Col. Engstrom turned his extinguisher on the human torches.

Meanwhile, M/Sgt. Mervin Berkin, Ordnance Section Chief, who was also a witness to the disaster, realized that there was no suitable transportation to remove the stricken men, and acted swiftly. He ran off, returned with an Ordnance truck and the most severely burned were rushed to the Group Hospital. The bomber exploded seconds later.

## "Bottoms Up" Disappears On 105th Mission

"Bottoms Up," the last plane of the original air echelon that left from Alamogordo, New Mexico, in the winter of 1943, was lost on its 105th sortie, a mission to Wiener-Neustadt.

Grounded after its 100th sortie, "Bottoms Up" was reconditioned by the 721st Squadron and put back on flying status by the 15th AAF Hq. on March 8th.

Beginning her record afresh after major overhauling, "Bottoms Up" made successive trips to Korman, Maribor, Vienna, Regensburg, Varadin, and Wiener-Neustadt. She had over 1060 operational hours at the time she disappeared.

The plane was first received by the 721st Squadron on October 30, 1943 and M/Sgt. Lester J. Witte- spoon was appointed her crew chief. Developing mechanical difficulties on the trip over the pond, "Bottoms Up" was the last ship to arrive at her overseas station. She got here in time to participate on the ninth mission of the Group, a flight to Pisa, Italy on January 18, 1944.

Originally manned by Lt. Joseph P. Gallagher and his crew, ( now all POWs ) the plane knew many pilots and crew members. Captain Wood took her on her 100th mission over enemy-held territory.

## 723rd First in Parade

The following squadrons were rated as indicated by members of the Group Staff at the formation, Sunday, March 18.

- First 723rd Squadron
- Second 720th Squadron

## Unique Record By Lt. Hall

A most unusual record was turned in by First Lieutenant Harold B. Hall, 722nd, Pilot, recently when he completed his fiftieth combat mission without an early return, without ever feathering an engine, without ever leaving a formation and without ever having to stop for gasoline or for any other reason upon his return from a mission. To the best of our knowledge, no other member, either past or present, of this group, has ever equalled this record.

Lt. Hall made his first mission over the Ora Rail Road Bridge on

(Continued on page four)

## Donovan and Wells Up Another Notch

The Group Executive Officer and Group Adjutant were both elevated in rank last week. It is now Lt. Col. Clarence J. Donovan and Maj. John H. Wells Jr.

Col. Donovan was the original Adjutant of the Group and served in that capacity until several months ago when he succeeded to the post of Executive Officer. Moving up a notch at the same time, Maj. Wells left the 720th Squadron, where he held the positions of Squadron Adjutant and Executive Officer, and became the new Group Adjutant.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Col. Donovan was a lawyer in civilian life. His home town is Bedford, Indiana. Maj. Wells, North Hollywood, Calif. was a Pre-Med student at the University of Washington and a sales manager for a manufacturing concern.

## Reese Heads Group Club Plans April 7 Dance

A Group Enlisted Men's Club was organized at a meeting held by the newly-formed Headquarters Squadron, last Monday afternoon. M/Sgt. Leo E. Reese was elected president; T/Sgt. Francis B. Marrer, vice-president; and S/Sgt. Howard Blaise, secretary.

A constitution has been proposed and the newly-elected officers intend to study and amend it before formal presentation at the next regular meeting. On adoption, the instrument will be sent forward to the 15th AAF Hq. to gain official recognition by higher headquarters.

S/Sgt. Earl Thomas, chairman of the dance committee, reported that arrangements have been completed for the coming dance on April 7th. American, English, New Zealand, and Polish girls have been invited as guests and the 98th Bomb Group's "Jive-Bombers" have been hired to furnish the music.

Plans for renovating the mess-hall and day-room are nearing completion. The proposed extensions will be ready for use about a week before the dance.

**Red Cross Drive On Now!  
Donations Accepted at Gp.  
and Sqdn. Orderly Rooms  
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## MAMMOTH ATHLETIC PLANS UNDER WAY

Special Services has announced the opening of the new Group gymnasium behind the theater on or about May 1st. It will house both a basketball and badminton court. A complete set of ba-bells will be constructed by the Service Squadron and will be made available at the gym.

South of the new 723rd area, a huge athletic center is under construction. A separate baseball diamond, four volleyball courts, and four horse-shoe pits are planned for each squadron. The Headquarters Squadron will have its baseball field back of the theater. Three volleyball courts have already been completed for the Headquarters unit.

Though tennis equipment is difficult to obtain, Special Services is making every effort to secure some for the Group. Two full-sized tennis courts are planned for the new athletic area.

To facilitate the handling and drawing of athletic equipment, an office and store-room will be built in the new area. One man from the A & R office will be available on full duty to aid in planning and organizing competition in the Group.

As part of the new expansion program, a new boxing ring will be built and bouts will be held regularly once each week beginning April 4th. Prizes consisting of war bonds will be given to the winners. The conditioning program for aspiring pugilists will begin in a few days and those interested may obtain information from Lt. Walsh.

## Easter Services

Several guest chaplains will participate in the Holy Week Services to be sponsored by the 450th Group Chaplain's Office.

Holy Week Services for the Protestant men of the 450th will be held at 1800 hours in the theater building from Monday through Friday, March 26-30.

The schedule is as follows: Monday, Chaplain Richard O. Flinn; Tuesday, Chaplain Guy W. Mayfield; Wednesday, Chaplain John H. Keefe.

*my pilot: Harris, the whole crew some got hit by the capsilot fellow: Kozuka all went down on bottoms up - 45*  
*March 16-45*

**MOLTO BUONO (Italy)**

Unofficial weekly publication of the 450th Bomardment Group (H).  
Col. E. R. Jacoby, Commanding; Capt. A. L. Campa, Publications Officer.

Vol 2 N. 8

Saturday, March 24 1945

T/Sgt. Chester J. Micek . . . . . Editor  
Sgt. Mortimer Metchik . . . . . Associate Editor  
Sgt. Harris A. Hillendahl . . . . . Managing Editor  
Sgt. Abraham Mintz . . . . . News Editor

**Will You Register?**

Cottontail College is now ready to begin its second semester. Classes will begin after a two-week registration period and will be held at the new location.

Registration will commence on the 2nd of April and continue through the 13th. In the meanwhile the classroom is to be furnished, books obtained, and instructors secured.

Twenty subjects, ranging from Harmony to Business Law will be offered. Credits are obtainable for these courses at both high school and college levels.

**I and E Bulletin Boards**

Situation boards have been erected in the I & E Office, Officer's Club, and all five squadrons. These boards feature pictures, map displays, and current news dispatches. The pictures will be rotated every three days, and the news and maps will be changed daily.

In addition to world news the boards will carry statements regarding classroom activities. This will become more evident as the registration for the second semester in Cottontail College gets started.

"Why do men men prefer women over forty?"  
"I give up."  
"They won't tell, they don't swell, and they are grateful as hell."

**Business Is Business**

Abraham was a total flop as a rookie. Efforts to teach him anything about the army were in vain. However, he was taken along when his outfit went overseas and the first day of action he was the most outstanding soldier in the entire company, wiping out six machine gun-nests single-handed. The commanding officer was amazed and asked his top sergeant for a possible explanation.

"Just what did you do to make Abraham change so quickly from a total flop to a good soldier," he asked the sergeant.

"All I did, Sir," replied the sergeant "was to stick a machine gun in his hands just before the battle and say: 'Abe, from now on you are in business for yourself'."

**Letter To The Editor**

Dear Editor:

Crazy ain't it? When the "Doc" tells you you're marked "quarters" don't complain, cause he knows what's what. Besides, your stay will be pleasant. First off, upon entering the ward, the nice thick mattresses will greet your eyes. Next you'll be handed a clean pair of pajamas that probably won't fit. (The trousers issued to me were size 49W x 45L) Upon exchanging your clothes for the pajamas, the next and most luxurious move will be to climb or crawl (anyway you want it) between the clean sheets on the assigned cot. Mighty comfortable! A few squeaks and squawks are followed by a hot band. Look over the back entrance—that's a speaker hooked up to the Cottontail Radio Station, continuous as long as the station operates. Chow time rolls around and if you're not able to go to the mess at all a ward attendant, or one of the more fortunate patients, will bring a tray to you. Just like the Waldorf-Astoria, music with your meals. The afternoon and evening passes quickly and it is 2200, time for lights out. Nope, they are not going out—someone is setting up a projector and here comes Dick Price with tonight's movie. Can't beat this, lying in bed and watching the show—the same one the rest of the Group saw earlier in the day! Don't make any difference about the hour—the movie is shown to the finish. Got to hand it to the Medics and Special Services for making the patients' stay so damned comfortable.

An Ex-Patient.

**WANNA SWAP?**

*Do you have anything that you wish to swap, sell or trade? Do you want anything for which you have something to trade in return? Do you want to buy some article for cash? Convey your wants to the staff at Public Relations Office before Wednesday of any week and your ad will be published in this column.*

Will sell an Evans lighter, 5.00 dollars. If interested contact Cpl. Harry Pruitt, 720th Communications. Will buy and pay best prices for Rolli-Flex, Iko-flex, or Rolli-cord camera. See S/Sgt. E. L. Staatsburg, Group Gunnery Office.

**CHAPLAINS' CHAT**

For Christian men, next week is fraught with holy and sacred significance. It begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter. It begins with acclamation and ends with resurrection. It shows the popular acclaim of the crowd turning to scornful ridicule; it shows a strong man boldly denouncing evil wherever he found it; it illustrates the willingness of Jesus to lose his earthly life rather than thwart what he considered to be the will of God; it contains betrayal and denial; it contains fellowship on its highest level—the fellowship of God translated into terms of human relationships; it depicts devastating defeat followed by supreme victory.

It is easy for Christians to approach Holy Week with an attitude of acclamation. It is expected of them. But let them examine their hearts carefully lest theirs be the fickle homage rendered Jesus by the crowd that gathered about him as he entered Jerusalem. Now, as never before in their lives, they must be sincere regarding their praise of him. For acclamation without depth of sincerity is hypocrisy of the worst sort.

It is easy for Christians to denounce evil in general terms. But if the world is to become more Christ-like, the time is at hand for those who would follow Jesus to combat evil as well as denounce it. And evil is not to be overcome by evil but by good. That is a Christian premise, the truth of which will be proved only when Christians are willing to go all the way with their leader and Master.

To go all the way with Jesus is no easy task, for in our own day there may be a contemporary Calvary waiting for us. Right is all too often found upon the scaffold, and wrong upon the throne. But, in the words of our American poet, James Russell Lowell, "that scaffold sways the future and behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadows keeping watch above his own."

There is no fellowship greater than that which should prevail among Christian men. It is a society of unselfish, compassionate men who have seen into the mind and heart of God because they have chosen to follow a leader who was willing to endure the Cross rather than embrace evil.

Holy Week does not end on Friday. If it did, Jesus would represent nothing more than a disillusioned man who was the victim of more powerful men. He would have sacrificed his life for an ephemeral dream. But at the end, his faith did not turn to disillusionment nor his dreams to nothingness. He died

**KEEPING UP WITH THE WORLD**

In his inaugural address, President Roosevelt stated that during the first six months of the current year 900,000 men will be needed by the Armed Forces, and 700,000 more by the war industries, a total of 1,600,000 men in addition to the 12 million already in the services and the 53 million in war factories. He based his figures on estimates of the War Manpower Commission, and stated that work or fight legislation would have to be passed in order to get the necessary number of men.

**Legislation Introduced**

Late in January such legislation was introduced in Congress. There were two bills: one advocating that all able-bodied males be given the choice of working in essential industries, fighting, or going to jail; the other, containing no penalty clauses, stating that more intensive efforts be made to draw men into factories voluntarily. It added that more efficient use should be made of the men now engaged in the nation's war effort. Although neither bill has been passed, it is safe to say that the one leaning toward the voluntary system without penalty clauses seems to be favored.

**Sentiment versus Practicality**

There is a tendency on the part of some servicemen to think that since they are compelled to perform their military duties, men and women in war plants should also be coerced by some type of legislation, and further, that jail is the place for those who violate work or fight orders. That kind of reasoning is based mostly on sentiment, but is it practical? In rejecting the compulsory manpower bill, Congress was motivated by the consideration of the following facts: 1: In England, where compulsory work or fight legislation has been enforced for almost two years, labor has been less productive and has had a higher strike rate than voluntary labor in the United States. 2: Congressmen claim that present material and manpower shortages are mainly the result of the cancellation of war contracts by the Army and Navy purchasing boards during the months of August and September of last year when the Allied offensive in France was going so well. They disclaim any responsibility for pre-

(Continued on page three)

in the assurance that even death could not separate him from God. And Easter gives the same assurance to those who would follow him. The final victory belonged to Jesus rather than the men who thought they had destroyed him. For he, following the will of God as it was revealed to him, found himself being led through a transitory existence on earth to life everlasting.

## PREVIEWS BY "PROFILE"

AND NOW TOMORROW brings Alan Ladd back to the screen after his brief stay in the Army. He plays the part of a Dr. Marek Vance who comes from the wrong side of the tracks. His professional patient and later love interest is Loretta Young. The story briefly is: rich girl breaks engagement to fiance due to permanent deafness threatening her life. She, in desperation, turns to Dr. Vance in hopes that he can save her hearing. True to the Hollywood tradition he does and also captures her heart. Ladd fans will, at first, resent his portrayal of a doctor after his many Screen villainies, but one grows accustomed to his stethoscope after the first reel. Loretta Young is beautifully photographed. Lasting impression upon you G.I.'s will be the minor role of Loretta's sister played with dynamite by Susan Hayward, the pouty lipped Paramount hopeful.

With dirty work afoot in Hollywood, who else could you call in to solve the crime but Tom Conway as the Falcon? See this one at your own risk. FALCON IN HOLLYWOOD.

Up periscope! Man the coming tower! We're off again on one of those minor war thrillers in SUBMARINE ALERT with Dick Arlen and Wendy Barrie. You old salts can enjoy it, I get seasick!

(Continued from page two)

## KEEPING UP

sent shortages, and conclude that labor and industry are capable of meeting the increased production requirements. 3. There is a considerable amount of labor hoarding by various industries in the States. Manufacturers keep unneeded labor during tax periods in order to avoid labor shortages when big contracts come through. To ameliorate this situation it has been suggested that available manpower and work be coordinated in the granting of new contracts. 4. It has been further suggested that 4-Fs be used in the Army Supply Services. 5. It was pointed out that half a million 18-year olds will come of age between January 1 and June 30, and lastly the contemplated legislation is inconsistent in that it makes provisions for coercing labor but none whereby industry and capital may be similarly controlled.

## Goal is Increased Production

The goal of the Manpower Commission is increased production in the war factories, and more men for the Armed Forces. Congress feels that these things can be obtained without compulsion. If we have the choice of letting a man work at will, or with the threat of a jail sentence hanging over his head, it is far wiser to choose the

## 450th ALUMNI

Lt. Dale Robertson, former 723rd Navigator who won the DFC over Ploesti, is doing ground duty as TAC officer in Mariana Field near Tucson, Arizona until he recovers from a kidney operation. He writes: "So far as I am concerned, the 450th won the battle over Europe!"

S/Sgt. Willard A. Rabe, former 722nd gunner and returnee from Rumania POW camp is now at Chanute Field, Ill. To put it in the sergeant's own words, "I've jes' bin loafin in the past two months."

Lt. Cantrell writes us from an R. T. U. at Charlotte, N. C. to say that the land across the pond is *Molto Bella*. Cantrell is now an operations officer.

We have finally caught up with "Uncle Jack," (Colonel Mills to the new arrivals) our first Group C. O. After chasing him across the country we learn that he is behind a desk at the Pentagon in Washington.

Bombardiers Click  
As Song-Writing Team

Lts. Thomas J. McMahon and Paul Eric Eisler Jr. are two 723rd bombardiers who have really been dropping their eggs on the same target. When Lt. McMahon left for Naples and home this week, he broke up a happy song-writing team that had already turned out five popular tunes awaiting publication in New York.

Lt. Eisler, bombardier, musician and composer, was left, temporarily at least, without a lyricist. He and Lt. "Mac" discovered each other in the barracks one day, and decided to mate their verse and melody.

Eisler, a musician with classical inclinations is nevertheless keenly sensitive to the commercial possibilities in the musical world, and sufficiently versatile to channel his composing along popular lines. McMahon writes the sort of verse that is easily adaptable to the light ballad, so the two of them got together, and hope to stick together as a song-writing team in civilian life.

Meanwhile, Lt. "Mac" will send his fresh lyrics by mail to Lt. Eisler, so that any day now we may be humming an Eisler-McMahon hit.

voluntary way. The American people have always had an instinctive distaste for anything that smells of "do it or else." This is one of the reasons for our participation in this war. Why impel our people to work under a system which resembles to some extent the one which we are destroying by force of arms?

S/Sgt. Louis Falslein, 723rd tail gunner, writes from Atlantic City, New Jersey, "I was fascinated for several days by the sumptuously packed delicatessen windows. And there is plenty here! The headlines have created a strong mood of optimism. People stand in lines 3 blocks long for a pack of smokes."

T/Sgt. Charles Shaffer and Cpl. Richard J. Pinardi, both of the 721st, are now POWs in Germany, according to a letter received from Mrs. Pinardi.

Major Louis Wright, Group Communications Officer, is still studying at Miami Beach and he reports in a letter to a friend that: "This is the land of plenty. I have been sleeping till noon, dining, dancing and swimming at the beach." For some reason he doesn't appear any too anxious to return to his *Alma Mater*.

"Airmen" Hot Jive Band  
Under Maestro Kirzeder

When you hear the musical rhythm of "Do You Ever Think Of Me?" over the "Voice of the Cotton-tails," just sit back in your easy chair and prepare yourself for an enjoyable time with the "Airmen," 450th EM swing band, under the direction of Cpl. Harold Kirzeder.

Organized a month ago, Kirzeder, accordionist *de-luxe*, started his swingsters with a bass fiddle player, S/Sgt. Carrol Stephenson, and a guitarist, S/Sgt. Charles Bardoff. Well liked over the group radio station, the trio expanded and obtained the services of Sgt. Donald Shadel, saxophone; Cpl. William Abbey, trumpet; Sgt. Claude Bisbee, guitar soloist; and Sgt. Thomas Anderson, clarinetist.

After a few rehearsals, the "Airmen" were invited to play at the Red Cross Town Club in Manduria. Specialists in jive and jump renditions, they are also capable of performing the more conservative type of music. Their favorite number is "Exactly Like You," and when they play their version of this swing tune, G. I.'s find it difficult to keep their feet from vibrating in rhythm to the hot notes of Cpl. Kirzeder's jivesters.

Besides being the studio band of the "Voice of the Cotton-tails," the "Airmen" play at squadron dayroom shows. Their reputation has not only been established in this group, but sources from the 62nd Service Group claim this seven-man organization to be even better than the 98th's "Jive Bombers."

All but Cpl. Kirzeder are combat men. The band is still open to additional members, so if you are a musician here is your chance to play with a fine organization.

## Religious Services

## CATHOLIC

Sundays

1100 — Theatre Building  
Confessions in Gp. Officer's Club  
1930 - 722nd Mess Hall

Tuesdays

1930 - 722nd Mess Hall

## PROTESTANT

Sunday

1000 - New Theatre Bldg.  
1830 - Chaplain's Office

Thursday

1900 - Chaplain's Office

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
Sunday

At 1930 Manduria Red Cross

JEWISH

1830 - Friday in the  
Chaplain's Office.

CHAPEL OF THE AIR

1230 - Voice of the Cotton-tails.

## THEATRE

Reg. show. M-T-W-S at 1900-2230  
Matinee M-T-Th & Sat at 1330

✦ MONDAY — Mar 26 ✦  
"AND NOW TOMORROW"  
WITH LORETTA YOUNG AND ALLAN LADD

✦ TUESDAY — Mar 27 ✦  
G. I. MOVIES  
News Lecture

✦ WEDNESDAY — Mar 28 ✦  
"FALCON IN HOLLYWOOD"  
WITH TOM CONWAY

✦ FRIDAY — Mar 30 ✦  
"SUBMARINE ALERT"  
WITH RICHARD ARLEN AND WENDY BARRIE

SELECTED SHORT SUBJECTS

Buy War Bonds

Restricted to members of  
the Armed Forces overseas  
Not to be Mailed Home

**PROP BLOWN**

(Continued from page one)

surveying the damage, concluded there was nothing to worry about. Loaded down with a maximum weight of bombs and gasoline, the plane could not be immediately landed however, so Lt. Rorer decided that the bombs should be released. He climbed to several thousand feet and headed for open sea.

Meanwhile, Sgts. Stanley Duch, Sidney Spyer, Miles Stephenson and Lt. Robert D. Goodoak, the bombardier, removed the bomb fuzes. Two of the bombs were later successfully salvaged, and then, as they were working on the forward bombs, the Liberator suddenly went out of control and lurched downwards.

They were over water, and Lts. Rorer and Bigbee desperately fought with the plane, finally gaining control of it and heading it for land. Everyone had their chutes on, ready to bail out.

**Bombay Door blew off**

Checking to find out what had caused the plane's abrupt, violent behavior, Sgt. Duch discovered that the previously damaged from bomb-bay door had blown off, been swept back by the slip stream and had smashed into the already torn stabilizer, cutting it almost in two. It ripped the fabric on the left elevator and wrapped itself firmly around the stabilizer.

Lt. Rorer, still confident of safely landing the ship despite the disabled elevator, informed the crew of his intention and gave them the opportunity to bail out, if they so desired. All chose to stick with him, and braced themselves for an anticipated rough landing.

"But when we got down we were amazed by two things," recalled Sgt. Duch. "First, the way Lt. Rorer brought that plane in—so smoothly that we didn't even know when we touched the ground. We couldn't so much as feel a jar. And then we were even more amazed when we saw that bomb-bay door still tangled in the stabilizer!"

**New Staff Officer Joins Group Surprised at set up**

First Lt. William B. Cox, freshly from the Training Command at Tuskegee, Ala., joined the Group recently as the assistant to Captain Schmidt, Group Statistical Officer.

A student in Business Administration, Cox was a senior at the University of Tennessee at the time of his enlistment. Receiving his initial training at Boca Raton, Florida, Cox was sent to the AAF Statistical School at Harvard University.

Asked how he liked the Cotton-tails, Lt. Cox replied that he was pleasantly surprised at finding a base as complete as this in a combat theatre. "I expected to live in and work out of a tent," he explained.

**WHO'S WHO**

Those of us who are beginning to weaken after 15 months of duty in Italy might do well to take a lesson from S/Sgt. Harold B. Mills who has been overseas for 32 months.

Arriving in England on August 5, 1942, Sgt. Mills spent three months preparing for the invasion of North Africa. He landed with the first assault wave at Oran, and took an active part in both the Algerian and Tunisian campaigns as a member of an "ack-ack" battery. Fighting in the original 7th Army, then commanded by "Blood and Guts" Patton, he later took part in the invasion of Sicily. When asked how it felt to wade ashore with enemy guns pointed at him, he countered modestly with "Have you ever felt your kness sink and refuse to support your weight?"

While the American armies were being regrouped for the uppercut at France, Sgt. Mills was assigned to the 5th Army and joined in the drive above Rome that ultimately brought the Allied Armies to the mountains overlooking the Po Valley.

Brought to the 450th to set up a homing beacon, Mills was transferred to our Group on December 6th of last year.

A graduate of the Oakfield High School in Basom, New York, Mills enlisted in the army in February of 1941 and received his electrical training at Fort Totten, New York.

Though he is eligible for a thirty-day furlough in the States on the detached service plan, he prefers to stay with the Group until he can return under permanent rotation.

**Did You Know?**

That this Group had more basketball entries in the League than any other in the entire wing?

**ON THE LINE**

Following a discussion of the subject of lowering the nose wheel when the normal method failed, it was noted that a small but highly important detail had escaped some of the engineers. We present for your information the following steps in lowering the nose gear during emergency.

**Step 1.** Place landing gear lever in the down position. Note: On entering nose wheel compartment it may be necessary in some airplanes to remove the draft curtain to get access to the nose gear.

**Step 2.** Remove the butterfly pin in the latch linkage from its normal position and reinsert disconnected link to keep from losing pin.

**Step 3.** Release the nose gear latch by pulling on latch link while pushing up on the drag link.

**Step 4.** Take a sitting position near the top of the shock strut, pull back on the drag link, then grasp the top of the shock strut with both hands and lift upwards to force the gear into the extended position. Note: It may be necessary to rock the gear two or three times to gain momentum.

**Step 5.** After the gear falls, make certain the lock is securely latched. If the latch is not securely locked, push upward on the aft drag link to force the lock into the latched position.

**CAUTION NOTE:** Do not reconnect disengaged linkage until after landing has been successfully completed.

Instructions for crew chief after emergency nose gear is let down: The application of hydraulic pressure to the system, plus a complete check of all clearances in the nose gear linkage should be accomplished on all airplanes after the emergency lowering procedure has been used, and prior to the next flight.

Master Sergeant Stephen Radkoff.

**UNIQUE RECORD**

(Continued from page one)

September 13th. His last mission was over Zagreb, Yugoslavia, on March 14th. During that time, most of his missions were flown with members of his original crew, and on the day that he finished his tour of duty, two other members of his original crew were in the plane with him, also finishing their fiftieth missions.

Lt. Hall wears the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**721st Ordnance Team Takes Hoop Finals, 38-23**

Trailing 61-14 at half-time, a fighting 721st Ordnance team rallied to smother the highly touted Group HQ quintet by a 38-23 score in the finals of the Special Services basketball tournament. Judd, lanky Ordnance center, garnered top scoring honors for the afternoon with 20 points.

The Ordnance cagers, coached by Lt. Thomas Howard, had a hard time getting started against the tight HQ defense. Time and time again, the lofty HQ quintet, paced by Cunningham and Jackson, puzzled the 721st boys.

The second half turned out to be a horse of a different color as Ordnance's Judd and Walsh banked shots through the loop from every corner of the court. Aided by Hortle, Judd and Co. they pulled away from a firing HQ team. The final whistle saw the 721st Ordnance cagers out in front by a 38-23 score.

Marshall and Stahlhoefer played a steady floor game for Ordnance and cut short many HQ scoring threats. Walsh and Hortle tallied 10 and 8 points respectively for the 721st quintet while Cunningham was high man on the totem pole for the HQ team with 14 points.

**BOX SCORE**

721st ORDNANCE		FG F		TOTAL
Hortle f	4	0	8	
Walsh f	5	0	10	
Judd c	9	2	20	
Marshall g	0	0	0	
Stahlhoefer g	0	0	0	
	18	2	38	
EF F TOTAL		GROUP HQ		
Cisternino f	0	1	1	
O'Karma f	2	0	4	
Cunningham c	6	2	14	
Petry g	1	0	2	
Jackson g	1	0	2	
	10	3	23	

It was mating season for the monkeys at the zoo, and they remained far back in their cages, out of sight of visitors.

A modern young Miss, disappointed at not seeing them scampering around in their usual manner, asked the attendant: "Will they come out if I offer them peanuts?"

"Darned if I know, Ma'am," replied the zoo keeper, "would you?"

