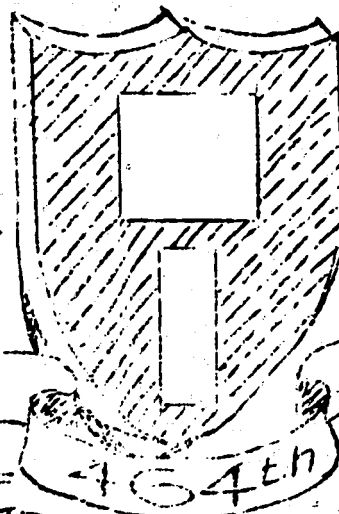
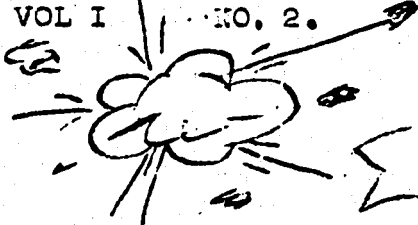


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# BOMB

VOL I NO. 2.



# BOMB

22 JULY 1944



## "HERKY" HEADS HOME

The Germans throw flak up like confetti, then fringe it with streams of ME109's to pick off the cripples and the stragglers. Add the weather and the breaks, and a Pilot has to be good to reach the rainbow's end.

Capt Raymond 'Herky' Drake is good. Not the Hollywood headline good but the kind that pays off over the long haul. For Drake has piloted his Liberator, "Maiden U.S.A." on bombing assignments from one end of occupied Europe to the other.

Drake's outfit started hitting Hitler on May 2nd and 76 days later, Herky finished his tour of duty in this theater with 50 missions to his credit. One of the shortest runs on record.

The routes the 15th AF covers are by no means milk runs, but deliberate drives at the heart of the Nazi army. The oil, the factories, the railyards, the stores, dumps and everything needed to keep the German machine running. Drake's ship has picked up enough flying steel to build another Holland tunnel, while his crew has sent more than their share of planes spinning out of the sky.

As Herky's streak started to push close to the 50 mark, every man on the base started to sweat him out. 45....47.....they'd watch the planes fall into the pattern and start to land. "Herky's in." 48.....49..... "The sun's a-come home soon."

Cont'd on pg. 6.

## ALLIES PUSH FORWARD IN NORMANDY SLOW BUT QUITE SURE

The news this week continued to be good on all the far flung battlefronts, but perhaps nowhere did the enemy feel the wrath of Allied might as did the Germans around Caen in Normandy.

It has just been announced that the greatest air bombardment in the history of warfare preceded the British and Canadian advance past Caen. The attack began on the night of the 18th with the R A F pounding the Germans relentlessly. As dawn broke the 8th A A F began its runs over the Germans. When it was over British and Canadian troops pushed through the gaps, capturing hundreds of dazed Germans.

Farther south in Normandy the Americans continued to push their lines farther into enemy territory around the St. Lo Area, now in our hands. Many additional small towns were captured in this area.

A Russian military staff inspection of the beachhead was enthusiastic in its praise of the Allied success to date and ventured the opinion that once we put into operations the mountains of supplies and men we are building up in France, the break-through will be fast and decisive.

Con't. on pg. 8

Bomb Blast:

Editor.....C. J. Feldman  
 Sports Editor.....S. J. Hoover  
 Staff:

776th.....Sgt John F. Kennedy  
 777th.....Sgt V. Rice  
 778th.....T/Sgt Kaplan

ECC: WLSJ

by.....Sgt Jack Sheehy

CO's COMMENTARY

This week one of our pilots, Captain Drake, completed his fifty missions. I take this opportunity in congratulating Capt Drake, his crew, and ground personnel in their excellent accomplishment. In a period of 11 weeks to have achieved the completion of 50 missions is in itself an outstanding feat. To have accomplished this with deadly devastation to the enemy is doubly noteworthy.

Last week in this column one of the principles I set forth was "Maximum damage to the enemy with minimum damage to ourselves." Capt Drake and his crew have lived up to this principle as, I feel sure, they have lived up to the others.

In the coming days, I expect many more of our men to distinguish themselves and the group. This will be known as the finest group made up of the greatest bunch of flying men this side of the divide. We have the men for it!!! With the indispensable help of the ground personnel, we shall become to be regarded as the outfit that was one of the greatest instruments in knocking out the enemy.

Col. A. E. Schroeder  
 Commanding.

.....THE CHAPLAIN'S FLIMSY

When I go into tents on this hillside I very often see an expression on the faces of the occupants which seems to say, "Did he hear what we were saying?" The answer is I did hear although I may have attempted to show no indication of it.

The habit of clean and cultivated speech is acquired by very few. It is strange man should give so little attention to that which reveals most clearly what he is. Perhaps it is because our words are so much a part of what we really are that makes them so hard to master. If a man has money he can appear clean and cultivated by wearing fine clothes. He can assume an outward appearance. But when he opens his mouth he reveals to all the world what he really is. If his speech is to be clean he must have a clean heart; if cultivated, an active mind. These cannot be assumed.

If you have read this far I now encourage you to rise above the profane, ignorant and mentally lazy masses who seem powerless to make their conversation anything but an endless repetition of vulgar expressions. If you become a gentleman really, never will you need to be ashamed of what you say.

Chaplain Eastwood.....

Ever since Pearl Harbor much has been said about the Jap soldier. Some accounts make the Jap a superman, other make him appear stupid and robot-like. Obviously the Jap rates somewhere between these two---but where? The answer to that and many other questions Americans want to know about the Jap soldier may be found in a small volume titled "The Jap Soldier" ---to be had for the asking at the Special Service Library.

From this book the reader gets an insight into the Jap soldier's life, what he has been taught to believe and what his outlook on life is. With few exceptions, the Jap is primarily a soldier-----a slave to the Emperor and a few powerful families, who today control Japan. From the kindergarten age until he is of no further use as a soldier, the Jap is taught to hate his enemy with an all-consuming passion, to obey orders blindly---regardless of the consequences to himself. His runt-like body is hardened by training that is reminiscent of the dark ages at its height of brutality.

This can be said to be a book with a double offer for its reader; it is both instructive and interesting.

Definitely a "Must" we suggest you drop in on Special Services and borrow this book.

# "The Wall" by KENNEDY 776th

## MEIN KAMPF (cook's version)

That's it like being an Army cook? Listen to the trials and tribulations of Corporal Virgil L. Littrell, 29, 76th Bomb Sq, and we shall learn.

"I was a truck driver before entering the Army, said Littrell. "I just sort of drifted into cooking."

An inspiring example of the opportunity offered for advancement in the service, Littrell started on the lowest rung of the ladder as K/P. Hard work and perseverance counted, however, and today he is a full-fledged cook.

"Yeah, we make mistakes," he said. "Salt looks so much like sugar. Sometimes we run short of a dish. We just gotta eke out. Maybe there was a little cereal left over from this morning. Perhaps a few odds and ends of meat. Mixed together with the original dish there's enough for all. Some of them guys kick. They wanna know if we mislaid the garbage can. They eat it though," he concluded indignantly.

Chow hounds are the bane of cooks. If too much food is cooked it will be wasted, or various forms of goulash will appear on the mess table. These dishes of unknown ancestry are not popular with the boys.

"We eat enough of the main dish," said Littrell. "If they're hungry they can eat more of the other stuff. But no. They want that 'turkey'."

There's Freeman for instance. (S/Sgt Ralph W. Freeman, 29,

776th.) All he does is point signs, "this way to the mess hall". He's always sneaking back in line," continued Littrell. "Yesterday we had meat, and he was back for four helpings. How can we stop him. We have to serve fast. We seldom have time to see who we're serving. He has another plate full before I realize he's been here before."

Freeman stays hungry no matter how much he eats. The cooks might as well give him all he wants. He'll get it anyhow. More than once has he sneaked out of the kitchen, his pockets and mouth bulging.

K. P!!! He never pulls K.P. They won't have him. They tried once. It was at the POE. 'Twas a horrible mistake. Food stocks ran alarmingly low. Not only did he gorge himself on choice delicacies but he invited the other chow hounds to join in the repast.

They threw him out but their troubles were not over. He knew the location of the food stocks, and means of egress to them. Nocturnal raids followed. Gaunt, emaciated soldiers staggered to the PX for nourishment.

Relief was in sight. A boat arrived. The mess officer, mess sergeant, and station personnel held their collective breaths. Would the blight be removed? Would food, once again, appear on the table?

Freeman boarded the boat with a barracks bag full of groceries.

## THE CAT'S - IN-JAMMER KID

Herky was AWOL. That's a courts-martial offense in the Army. A reward of \$5.00 was offered for his apprehension and he was taken into custody after an absence of 3 days. Due to certain mitigating circumstances, he was let off with company punishment.

Herky is eight weeks old. He's a little tom cat, and the mascot of the Liberator, "Maiden U.S.A." A cute little fellow, he is five inches tall. The boys say that Herky is the only member of the Armed Forces that likes C rations.

He hates gambling. Let a game of poker or craps start and Herky is right in the middle of it. That potential seven becomes a two. Some player has four cards. Herky has the other on his way out the door.

AWOL is a serious offense. Herky was broken from PFC to Private and sentenced to a bath. After the bath he was easily the cleanest pussy in Italy.

Officer's Exchange store at Spinassola will be closed 25th July 1944 for inventory

# News from **HERE** -and- **THERE**

CONCORDIA, MO.-- The Concordia band opened its 1944 season as usual, with an impressive roll on the snare drum by August F. Brockman. It's old stuff from Brockman. He started drumming with the Concordia at the age of eleven.

LONDON, ENG.--(INS)-- The former film star, Jimmy Stewart, officer with the American Air Forces in the European theater was promoted today from major to lieutenant-colonel.

## LENS-LEASE

YORK, PA.--A pair of spectacles turned up at Russian relief headquarters with this note attached:

"I wore those when I first met my wife and decided they might help some Russian find a good wife."

## IN BOTTLES OR DRAUGHT?

NEW ORLEANS\*\* (AP)--Beer is being sold this season at Pelican Stadium, home of the New Orleans baseball club, for the first time since the league was organized in 1901.

## CHOW HOUNDS!!!

There are 500,000 restaurants in the U. S., normally giving employment to 1,500,000 persons.

## REASSURED

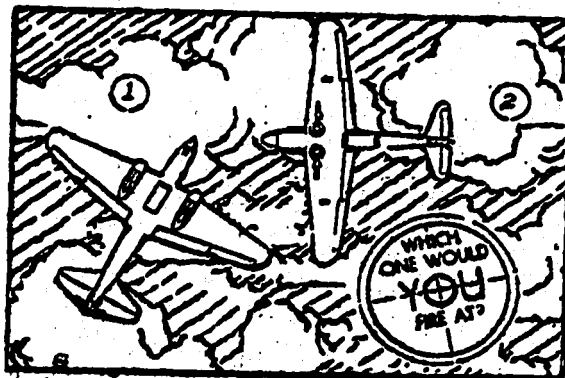
One night the late famous Louisville editor, Henry Watterson, encountered his friend, Col. Dick Wintersmith, in the lobby of a certain swank Washington hotel. The latter seemed to be in a quandary.

"What's the matter, Dick?  
"Oh I'm dying for a steak and onion dinner but I dread carrying the breath of onions."  
"Don't let that worry you. Go ahead and eat the steak and onions. When they hand you your bill it'll take your breath away."

sergeant, bellowing at a private:  
"The afternoon off! What the hell do you think you are----- a human being?"

Why clerks go AWOL:

"Arrange these documents alphabetically and burn them."



## A SENSE OF FAILURE

A sexton cleaning up the pulpit after Sunday service took a peek at the preacher's manuscript. Along the left margin were instructions such as: "Pause here," "Wipe brow here," "use angry fist gesture," "Look upward". Near the end was a long paragraph of texts, opposite which the preacher had marked in capital letters: "Argument weak here, yell like hell!"

## ITALIAN PHRASES:

Which way is north?  
DOVE'E IL NORD?

Point it out to me. INDICATEMI.

I want to be shaved.  
DESIDERO FARMI LA BARBA.

Do you understand?  
AVETE CAPITO?

I will pay you.  
VI PAGHERO.

# WHAT'S COOKING?

## MOVIES-----

Sat & Sun, 23 & 24 July  
THE BRIDGE OF SAN LOUIS REY  
John Lederer - Lynn Bari

Mon & Tues, 25 & 26 July  
COLT COMRADES  
&  
HOPALONG CASSIDY....  
Wm. Boyd

Irving Berlin's  
All Soldier Musical Show  
"THIS IS THE ARMY"  
Presented for  
the last time

Tuesday, 25th July 1944

## THE WOLF by Sansone



## LET O' THE WEEK

"Ladies and gentlemen in America," the Berlin short-wave radio blared, "we have sensational news. Stand by for it later in this program. But first---today's war news." NBC monitors sat tense and whitefaced, awaiting the "sensational news," while Berlin droned through a highly colored and inaccurate account of the war in Italy. When the great moment arrived.

"And now"--Berlin was obviously excited--"for the sensational news we have promised you. In just a few minutes you will hear a very talented Berlin artist play on a violin that was made in 1626!"

## REACTIONS



Two young soldiers in New York City for the first time wanted to see the Empire State Building. As we climb of the steps out of the subway station, there stood Building right before our eyes. The soldiers were overawed with its immensity and stood silently looking from the bottom to the top and down to the bottom again. Finally one of them said "Damn, wouldn't she hold a lot of hay!"

Bob Hope at Annual Dinner of White House Corr. Ass: "Willkie has his eye on the presidential chair---but look what Roosevelt's got on it!"

A large wall sign over the Travelers Aid booth in the Union station at Washington, D.C. reads "Information about Baltimore and other problems."

## CARTOON JERBS

I think we've got their morale a little too high, sir---they want to know if it's true that some day they might have to return to civilian life.



# HWTS and ERADTS

BY.....S/Sgt Herbert C. Hoover

## CHATTA ON THIBA AND THATA

## LOCAL POOP

Harry Hillman, Dartmouth track coach says, "A four minute mile can't be done." He should get some confirmation on the German retreat out of Russia.....  
 "Out with the referee!" says Abe J. Greene, president of the National Boxing Assn. "Too many are promoting the shows they are refereeing.".....Voted to soften up golf courses...Tom Walsh, Chicago; Joe Novack, L.A. Calif. Bobby Cruikshank, Richmond, Va. Ellsworth Jones, Monterey, Cal..  
 ...all the greets!!!!

Darlene's halted a fast game between the 450th and the 454 softball teams the other night. Both outfits were out for blood and the results are indicative of the brand of softball played. The game ended at sundown in a 0 to 0 tie.

With barely enough men to form a team, we tangled with the rugged 485th Sunday afternoon. Mavry pitched an excellent game but they proved too tough that day and we lost 3 to 0.

### FAMOUS LAST WORDS...

Don't shoot at that plane heading at us it might be one of ours!!!

### CRASH BASH.....

Cadet to instructor: "Sir I think this plane should be grounded, it has a tendency to over-shoot the field."

### ...OVERHEARD ON THE LINE

"I hate like hell to go to a rest camp now, just when we have an engine change."

### 464TH TO BE WELL REPRESENTED IN COMING SWIMMING MEET!!!!

The Italy Number 2 District swimming meet, which will be held in Bari on 29 and 30 July, will have six of our men vying for honors.

Lt Dave Camerer of Hq, will compete in the 100 meter free style as will T/Sgt Konhard Hq Sgt H. Carlton, 778th; J. Berry and Carnaggio of the 779th. Sgt Gilfillen Hq is signed to do the century in the breast stroke... while Kennard and Carnaggio will try to win further awards in swimming the 100 meter back stroke.

Entries for this meet will be closed 22 July, but those who feel they have a chance of winning any of the events, may report to the Special Service Tent and submit their names and events they wish to enter.

The Group Softball League is to be formed and all entries should be in by the 25th of July. The softball field, having been completed all those teams who wish to get in some practice before beginning their regular games may contract its use by submitting their names to S/Sgt Hoover at the Special Service Tent.

A maximum number of teams are desired. If necessary, two leagues can be formed.

So hurry!!! Hurry!!! Get your teams assembled and submit the names of said teams to Hoover before the 25th.

### VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE TO BE FORMED.....

Calling all pilots, navigators, bombardiers and ground officers! An Officer's Volleyball league will be formed!!! If you have a great, potential or an alleged team, submit the name of it to The Special Service Office as soon as possible.

### MALE CALL

by Milton Caniff



### HOOKED ON THE BOOK



...TUSH FORWARD ...RENDY

LET'S ... ON THE BALL !!!

Cont'd from page 1.

In the early part of ... the Russians reit ... their forces. When ... the offensive, three steel arms struck at Brest-Litovsk, Bialystok and Lwow, with the intention of pushing on to meet behind Warsaw and form a ring of armour around the old capital of Poland.

In Italy the big news of the week was the almost simultaneous capture of Leghorn on the west coast by the 5th Army and Ancona on the east coast by Polish legions of the 8th Army. The Poles swarmed into the city and hardly waiting to draw a breath, poured out north of the city after the harried Germans. In Leghorn it was a pincers movement that finally resulted in the city's surrender. Leghorn, at one time, Italy's 3rd largest port city, was pretty well demolished, especially around the dock areas but already American engineers are readying the port for Allied use.

In the Pacific, Guam was twice subjected to bombardment by heavy American Naval shells.

On New Guinea, hundreds more of trapped Japanese 18th Army were killed while attempting to break out of the trap set for them by the Allied landings at Hollandia.

From Japan comes the boastful announcement that the American lost over Japan on the last B-29 raid had been executed. It was added, apprehensively, that the Japanese are taking full precautions against possible 29 raids from newly acquired bases on Saipan.

The War Dept has announced an unconfirmed report to the effect that Premier Tojo has been relieved of his post as chief of staff. If this is true, it is a good indication of the desperate Jap military situation.

We have recently become aware of the fact that a feeling of over-optimism is prevalent ... Next ... back, this probably constitutes one of the gravest threats to the war effort.

Since the beginning of operations, opinions have been framed by minor successes and wishful thinking, which, though human, is a major fallacy.

The length of the present conflict will be determined by the amount of zest we put into our own particular duties. No man, who believes this war is about over, can honestly claim he is putting everything he has into his work. It's human to coast occasionally, and a coasting army is one ripe for a setback.

Just what is the basis for this feeling of over-optimism? Is Germany beaten? Hitler and his gang have been taking a terrific beating, but don't be beguiled into thinking that they're licked yet. It took a long time to acquire sufficient men and material with which to start an invasion of France, and that, at a pretty high cost is hardly more than a beachhead with much hard fighting ahead.

In the minds of some, the Italian campaign ended with the fall of Rome. Have we ceased fighting since then? Has the intensity of the fighting lessened? On the contrary, German opposition becomes greater as we advance, necessitating an intensification of our efforts instead of a let-up.

Let no man claim to recognize signs of the day. This war will end in unconditional surrender of the enemy and no army surrenders unconditionally unless the last vestige of hope has been erased. Until that day--- let's keep pitching!!!

### HEEKY'S HEADING HOME

Cont'd from PG 12.....

.....mechanics worked a little longer. The target on the last one didn't matter. It was strictly dressing for Drake. The little fellow, ... 5 feet 1 and all of 115 pounds, was the big boy. Collective breaths were held until the B-24 rolled to a stop. Number 50 was in. Only then did he pin on the captain's bars that he received two days before.

For the meticulously inaccurate officer who would like to maintain that reputation at bargain prices, the following "buys" were seen at the Officer's Exchange Store at Spinazzola:

Trop. Worsted Shirts...\$5.30  
Trop. Worsted Trousers...\$6.02

The store will be closed on the 25th of the month.