

COTTON TALES



VOL. 11. NO. 9

Thursday, March 29, 1945

ITALY

NEW SHOWERS FOR E.M. AND OFFICERS

No longer will you sweat out a long line in order to take a shower. No more electric shocks or failure of water when you are covered with soap suds. A new, elaborate shower-room with separate showers for enlisted men and officers was opened this week. The building, which is located just south of the 721st mess-hall, houses 32 showers, 24 for enlisted personnel and 8 for officers.

A central heating unit with a boiler and a 1000 gallon hot water tank is centrally located between the E. M. and officers' showers, insuring a steady stream of water at a constant temperature. The heating plant is part of an army portable shower unit and can be removed and taken with the Group when we move.

Ample space has been provided for dressing and for hanging cloths. The rooms are heated and men can now prepare for their early morning ablutions without shivering because of cold drafts.

The building was designed and the construction supervised by Major Thorpe, Group Flight Surgeon and Captain Daniels, Group Engineering Officer. Lt. Kuhn was construction foreman and Captain Hessen procured the materials.

THREE DAYS LEFT TO HELP BOND DRIVE

The Special Easter War Loan Drive will end on March 31. The following table indicates that we are short of our quota, but one Squadron is out to take the lead. Says a certain Adjutant: "We do our talking on Pay Day."

Bond Drive Standings	Cash Sales Allotments
Gp HQ 1215.00	none
720th Sq 1800.00	none
721 Sq 3,296.25	637.50
722 Sq 2,482.50	137.50
723 Sq 5,317.50	382.50
Total - 15,269.50	

720th Cops Parade Honors

The 720th Squadron made the best parade appearance at the decoration last Sunday. The 723rd was judged close second by the Group Staff members.

The Story Behind The Name

As a result of a well known combat incident over Germany, the 450th earned the appellation of "White tailed-Liberators", an apode attributed to the mellifluous "Axis Sally," known less affectionately as the "Berlin Bitch." In the course of time the "White-tails" developed into "Cottontails," for obvious reasons, and by that name the Group has been made known to radio audiences in this theatre as well as to readers in the United States. The 450th Bombardment Group has been so thoroughly associated with its fortuitous nick-name that in the interests of publicity and better representation, the newsweekly now sheds its Italian connotation for the more analogous name of "Cottontails." In putting "Molto Buono" on the shelf, we do not bury the established tradition of our Group newspaper, but rather, implement a tradition of which we may well be proud. We hope that our reading public, boosters as well as iconoclasts, continue to avail themselves of this organ to voice their opinions, air their views and to keep hopping along with us. So, *ave* "Cottontails" *ed vale* "Molto Buono."

723rd Gang All Go To See Cutie Collonna

"There's more to this show than just a strip-tease," MC John Garson rightly observed, although for the men of the 723rd Squadron, the appearance of nude Nella Collonna was a high spot of "Welcome the Cotton-Tails," a variety show performed at the theatre last Saturday night.

It was wholly a 723rd affair. The company was engaged by Sgt. Jack Taylor, representing the EM Day Room Committee, through the Special Service Entertainment Bureau, Adriatic Base Command. The cast was paid for out of the Day Room funds.

Packed with trained, professional talent, both G.I. and Italian, the unit, known as the Tiny Allen Art Players, was judged by the audience to have staged a show superior to any presented in these parts by comparable USO units.

First there was John Garson, a native of Vienna now attached to Special Services, who speaks a dozen languages and has a cultured baritone voice. He sang well-known, representative songs of Europe, accompanying himself on the guitar, and also acting as MC.

Sgt. Joe Allen, the original Donald Duck, rendered a medley of popular tunes in a smooth tenor, and Sgt. Howard Jackson, an old-time vaudeville star, brought down the house with his lusty (Continued on page four)

Capt. Rush Young New 720th C.O.

Capt. Rush L. Young has been appointed Commander of the 720th Squadron. A former 722nd Operations Officer, he has 32 sorties credited to him and holds the D.F.C and Air Medal with two clusters.

In the course of his 32 sorties, he has had his share of close calls. Although Capt. Young claims his combat tour has been uneventful, he barely mentions the fact that a 20mm shell passed through the main spar of his Liberator's wing, but failed to explode.

Very pleased with the excellent condition of the squadron area and the high morale of the personnel, he stated that with this fine cooperation the 720th will become a more outstanding organization in the Air Force.

Capt. Young entered the service (Continued on page four)

Easter Services

Special religious services will be held for both Catholic and Protestant servicemen on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Catholic services will be held at St. Anthony's Church in Manduria while Protestant services will be held in the group theater at 1800.

Easter Sunrise Services will be held at 0600 hours on the morning of April 1 near the outdoor theater site. Captain Keefe, Group Chaplain will officiate. Regular Sunday worship will be at 1000 and 1830 in the theater building.

ERNIE PYLE CONVINCES "HARD LUCK" DOLAN

S/Sgt. James A. Dolan Jr., 720th nose-gunner from Brooklyn, wounded for the second time over Vienna, had the fact that his war brought home to him with a big bang. A piece of flak hit his hand while he was reading Ernie Pyle's HERE IS YOUR WAR and another piece almost blinded him.

Sgt. Dolan believes in utilizing his spare time, even while in the air. As a guard against boredom, he always carries a war-adventure book with him on his missions. Returning from Vienna, he was deeply engrossed with Ernie Pyle's story of American men at war when the "whoomp" of flak made him turn his head. Curiosity might have killed a cat, but in this case it saved Sgt. Dolan's right eye.

Still holding Mr. Pyle's thriller, another piece hit the fingers of his right hand and almost tore the book in half. Despite a badly bleeding hand and his being momentarily blinded in one eye, the Brooklyn sergeant didn't sit down and whimper (attention: Noel Coward) but climbed out of his turret and attempted to fix the flak-shattered radio on the command deck. Later, he allowed himself to be treated for his wounds.

"It always happens to me," lamented Dolan. "The last time I was reading OVER FORTRESS EUROPE when flak banged up our ship so badly that we had to make a crash-landing. Another time I had to bail out over Yugo. This time it was HERE IS YOUR WAR. The next time I decide to read on a mission it will be A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN—maybe I'll get a little peace then."

Gen. Rush Decorates 450th Awardees

Leading the recipients of awards at the presentation held on the 25th of March, Colonel Jacoby was awarded the Silver Star for leading the attack on the Apollo Oil Refineries at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. T/Sgt. Timothy A. Wilkerson of the 720th Squadron shared honors with his commanding officer by stepping up (Continued on page four)