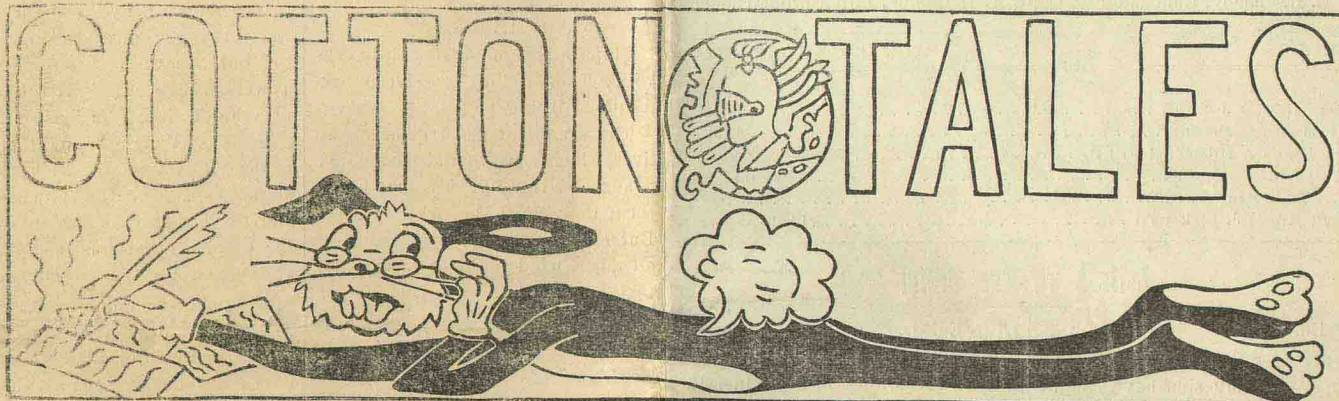


# EXTRA!



VOL. 11. NO. 10

Saturday, April 7, 1945

*2nd Cit to this group - general Twining arrived by plane!*

ITALY

## 450th RECEIVES 2nd CITATION

### KNEE ACTION, OOMPH SAVES LIBERATOR

You have probably heard about knee action on a car but have you ever heard about knee action on a Liberator? Lt. Hart H. Mark, Jr., 720th pilot, had to employ an intensive amount of knee action in order to bring his holed Liberator with a wounded gunner aboard back from Vienna.

Flak in the elevator forced his plane to climb at an alarming rate. Compelled to wedge his knee on the control wheel, it was only through sheer physical strength that he was successful in keeping the nose at an even keel.

Returning from Vienna, Lt. Mark's plane encountered a terrific flak barrage which played havoc with the silver Liberator. Three bursts knocked out the rudder and elevator trim tabs, and also an engine. One burst wounded T/Sgt. "Hard-Luck" James Dolan, Jr. of "Here is Your War Fame." Despite his wounds he climbed out of his nose-turret and fixed the smashed inter-  
*return*  
*green*

phone. The left rudder cables had been flattened by the terrific flak barrage and had to be fixed in order to make a safe landing. T/Sgts. Ralph Syverson and Gilbert Howe, engineers, tore up most of the equipment under the flight deck so that they could reach the control cables. Both engineers worked frantically and when they had finished, the entire compartment looked like a tornado had swept through it.

Syverson spliced the left rudder cable and Howe held the elevator trim tab cable so it wouldn't foul up the remaining cables.

The combined Special Easter and Sixth War-Bond drives netted a total of 96,445.25 placing the 450th second in the 47th Wing.

### BASKETBALL TOURNEY BEGINS ON MONDAY

Although the pleasant breath of Spring has passed over the group, Special Services has decided to give old man basketball one last fling in their Invitation Tournament which is scheduled to open on April 9th.

At this writing 11 top-notch teams have accepted. Although the lofty Group HQ. team and 721st Ordnance enter the tournament as heavy favorites, the 722nd Armament, strengthened by the addition of V. netter, league leading scorer, promises plenty of trouble for the favorites, as do the 47th Wing EM, 721st Combat EM and 723rd Armament.

#### Consolation Prizes

Two games will be played each night, beginning April 9. The first game will begin at 1900 and the second at 2015. Teams that lose their first game will be eligible for the consolation championship. After the final whistle rings down the curtain to the Invitation Tournament, the Championship team will play a team composed of the tournament all-stars.

The games will be played at the "Cottontail" gym which is located in back of the theater.

The following teams have accepted their invitations:

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### General Twining Present At Ceremonies Here; Group Cited For Historic Ploesti Mission

At 3 P.M. this afternoon, Maj. Gen Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General of the 15th Air Force, presented the 450th Bomb Group with a cluster to the Distinguished Unit Citation. Earlier this week, it was disclosed that the award had been granted, in recognition of the group's successful leadership and outstanding performance of duty in opening the Ploesti Campaign last April 5th.



General Twining

A year ago at this time, the Ploesti Marshalling Yards, key transportation hub for supplying petroleum to the still powerful Nazi forces on the eastern Front, was ablaze from an incendiary attack paced by the Cottontails. It was the first in a series of incessant blows that were to materially weaken the Wehrmacht and subsequently pave the way for the Red Army's conquest of the Balkans.

The 450th was in the vanguard of this initial, April 5th assault. Forty of its planes were dispatched to this "most highly defended target in the world" without the support of fighter cover. The Luftwaffe, a redoubtable force at the time, was sent up to challenge the formation and thwart its objective. Twenty five minutes before target time a dozen ME 109s dove out of the clouds, and attacking aggressively, shot down three bombers from the leading box.

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### Group PX Plans

#### Well Under Way

Maj. John H. Wells, Jr., Group Adjutant, announced recently that plans for the new Group Post Exchange are well on their way. The P.X. building, located on the site which was to be occupied by the 723rd Squadron, is expected to open the first week in May. Included in its huge set-up will be an elaborate gift shop.

The Post Exchange building will be divided in two parts, one for Officers and the other for Enlisted Men, and will be comparable to those in the States.

### "SIGNORINA" MARAVILLA CAUSES SCANDAL IN CAMP

Men frequently tell stories of seeing pink elephants after a night of healthy drinking, but when a beautiful signorina comes in place of the 1st Sgt. to awaken the soldier in his barracks or casa then there is cause to worry. Such was the case for several officers and enlisted men in the 721st squadron last Sunday, when a dark-eyed, Italian beauty dressed in white blouse, plaid skirt, and rayon stockings

broke up the sobriety of Easter Sunday morning by playing C. Q. and chasing the more modest through the area.

Many men were disturbed, but the best stories are told of those who indulged in poker to relieve the monotony and partook of alcoholic spirits to lower their inhibitions in the long hours of a dull evening. Of the many anecdotes related

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