

**COTTON TALES (Italy)**

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

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S-Sgt. Albert J. Cinkowski . . . . . Photographer

**Letters To The Editor**

Dear Editor,

Is my face RED!

Apparently my sins have caught up with me. Having handled many financial campaigns at home, I followed the usual practice, in the current Red Cross War Fund Drive, of preparing suggested news stories for release in the group papers.

With eager anticipation I scanned a copy of *Cotton Tales* while it was still "hot off the press," to learn how much of my story had made the news.

Horrors! I am confronted with the screaming headline:

**KENNEDY ASKS FOR RED CROSS DONATIONS**

I didn't ask.....I don't ask..... I can't ask! Of course voluntary ones are always acceptable. But will you please tell your avid *Cotton Tales* readers that I am over here to be of such help as the RED CROSS can render, and NOT as the Campaign Manager of a Fund-raising Drive.

Many thanks.

George B. Kennedy.

*We took too literally the announcement by the RED CROSS representative that money was the object of the Drive. THE EDITORS.*

**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 trade a pair of basketball sneakers, size 8, good condition, for ones which are 8 1/2 in size. See Sgt. Abraham Mintz; 450th P.R.O.

Camera (Miniature), Universal "Iris" with precision lens, leather case, flash bulb attachments and 55 rolls of film (six exposures to the roll) size 00 (similar in size to 35 mm.) Price - 135 dollars. If interested, see Cpl. H.L. Hollander, 721st Squadron.

If cuties wore electric bulbs,  
Upon each garter tight,  
The gang would drop "Sweet Adeline"  
And sing, "Lead Kindly Light."

Dear Editor,

Back in the Old Testament, in the 20th chapter of Exodus, the 16th verse says: "Thou shalt not steal." Edicts, laws and regulations have been trying to instill upon man's nature a certain amount of respect for his neighbor's property, and the army has an Article of War that covers this point thoroughly. But no matter how much ink and talk is spent on the subject, it is only the self-respecting man, who is worthy of the pants he wears that refrains from taking what does not belong to him. We are all more or less guilty of such things as "midnight requisitioning" upon justifiable occasions, but when an effort is being made to provide the entire organization with such facilities as up-to-date showers, and some IRRESPONSIBLE, SELFISH THIEF sneaks under cover of night and tears out the guards on the light bulbs in order to steal them, THAT is the lowest form of THIEVERY yet! Whoever stole the light bulbs from the newly opened Group Showers must have been hard up for money, or was too lazy to go out and buy them, or just did not give a damn about the comfort of the other 2548 officers and men for whom the showers were designed. The contemptible sneak who deprived all his "buddies" of these lights, by his action is worth the market price of seven bulbs and no more.

Capt. A. L. Daniels  
Gp. Engineering Offices

**Lost And Found**

Found: (1) A pocket knife. Owner may recover it by identifying it at Public Relations Office.

(2) American lock key. Owner may call at Public Relations Office.

Lost: (1) One dog, answers to the name of "Peanuts." Three months old, light brown color, chubby. If found, notify 722nd Ordnance.

(2) Will the soldier or soldiers or who took laundry off of a truck in front of the Red Cross in Maduria, please turn it in to the 723rd Orderly Room? The laundry was in a blue barracks bag and it was taken from truck on March 29th.

**CHAPLAINS' CHAT**

Ships take off better into the wind. From it they receive a tremendous lifting power.

The same thing is true of human lives which seek to rise above the winds of adversity. To get above them they must be met head-on. But even as a ship trying to take off down wind has less opportunity to become airborne so, too, does a man who attempts to flee from adversity find himself carried to destruction rather than safety. Problems are solved by coming to grips with them and never by flight.

Adversity has a lifting power in that making a man use his own strength, he finds within himself greater power than he knew he possessed. It is a noble sight to see strong men contending with adversity, meeting its challenge undaunted and unafraid, attempting in no manner to circumvent it. The exhilaration of combat is to them a tonic of infinite power. "Let us go forward," said Homer's Sarpedon as he led his Trojan soldiers against the Greek army, "whether it be to glorious victory or inglorious defeat." He had the right technique for mastering adversity. Samson had it when he faced the Philistines; David, when he accepted the challenge of Goliath; Hannibal, when he led his men over the Alps; the American troops, when they made the Salerno beach-head; Jane Addams, when she came to grips with the deplorable slums of Chicago; George Washington Carver, when he overcame the discriminations of race; Helen Keller, when she refused to accept the limitations of blindness; Louis Pasteur, when he refused to accept the inevitability of disease; Jesus, when he faced the Cross; their biographies are illustrative of the manner in which men and women can rise above adversity.

Some situations call not for evasive action but for dynamic collision. The former is protective insurance, the latter is the true test of strength and skill. Even as a boxing match is won not by fancy footwork and a left jab alone but by the ability of one of the contestants to hit harder and with more perfect timing than his opponent, so too, is adversity mastered by a "mixing it up" technique rather than a system of evasion. In life, even as in combat, there comes a time when defensive methods must give way to the offensive. If the present war has proved anything it has exploded the myth of impregnable lines of defense. And a human life geared with mechanisms that are strictly defensive is not strong enough to receive the buffeting

**KEEPING UP WITH THE WORLD**

Two months have elapsed since the Crimea conference and there are but two weeks before the great powers meet again: this time with all the United Nations at San Francisco. It might be well therefore, to briefly review what has been accomplished since the Yalta meeting, and to give some consideration to the problems that must be answered at the San Francisco Conference.

The Yalta communique was released on the 11th of February. On the 12th the Canadian 1st Army began its offensive against the German right flank in the vicinity of Goch. The elimination of the Germans in this bend of the Rhine set the stage for the offensive by the American 9th Army. The 9th's offensive finally culminated in the clearing of all German forces from the west bank of the Rhine. After a short breather the Allied Armies crossed the Rhine one by one; have made sensational penetrations into the heart of Germany and have placed the Germans on the brink of disaster.

The Russians in the meantime have destroyed all German forces east of the River Oder and are now fighting in the streets of Vienna. All this activity on both the east and west fronts has prevented the Germans from shifting their forces and they now find themselves dangerously short of men on both fronts. The combined activity that has resulted in this dangerous position is the direct result of decisions reached at the Crimea. Even greater things are to follow.

Conclusive gains were made on the political front too. The trouble in Greece has approached its final solution. The Jugoslavs have formed a unity government. This government combined the London Government-in-exile with Tito's National Liberation movement. And the coalition government has the support of all elements in the population.

Crimea didn't solve all political problems. Many remained. Therefore, the conference in San Francisco was set. At San Francisco the United Nations will solve those that remain, and, more important still, will draw up some form of world security broadly patterned after the proposals discussed in the informal conversation at Dumbarton Oaks.

Most attention will, of course, be devoted to the development of a world security organization. Such an organization is the most essential prerequisite to the maintenance of future peace. At the end of the last war the League failed mainly because we failed to support it. We must not fail again. The cost would be too great.

By Lt. Thaddeus Cylkowski