

OTTONT ES (Italy)

Unofficial weekly publication of the 45th Bombardment Group (H).  
 Col. E. R. Jacoby, Managing Editor; Capt. A. L. Campa, Publications Officer.

Vol 2 N. 11 Saturday, April 14 1945

T-Sgt. Chester J. Micek . . . . . Editor  
 Sgt. Mortimer Metchik . . . . . Associate Editor  
 Sgt. Harris A. Hillendahl . . . . . Managing Editor  
 Sgt. Abraham Mintz . . . . . News Editor  
 Lt. Robert Maurer . . . . . Artist  
 S-Sgt. Albert J. Cinkowski . . . . . Photographer

Letters To The Editor

Subscribers "Abroad"

A letter from a former "Cotton Taster" asks if it is possible to subscribe to "Cotton Tales." Capt. Chet Langsman, who is now Special Services and Recreational officer at Lake Lure Rest Camp, would like to add the 450th newspaper to his reading rack for the benefit of the Group men who are assigned to the rest camp. According to Chet, they all like to talk about the "old days," and are interested in knowing what's cooking in the old camp ground. They are particularly interested in reading the "450th Alumni" notes in order to keep up with the gang. Capt. Langsman encloses a very enticing photograph showing the restees canoeing in the rapid waters of a mountain lake and adds: "This is the real stuff-tell the boys about it. I'll take good care of them when they arrive."

School Opens Monday

The Information and Education Section of the 45th Bomb Group is now registering students for classes which will begin the 16th of April. This is the second school begun by this Section, the first school having had 38 different classes in progress at one time.

Courses are to be offered in the following subjects:

- Geometry I&II
- Trigonometry
- Physics
- Calculus
- Auto Mechanic
- Radio for Beginners
- Harmony
- Business Law
- Typing
- Livestock Production
- Poultry and Management
- Elementary Photography
- Blue Print Reading
- American History
- Italian
- French
- German
- Counterpoint
- Psychology

Other courses are available if requested.

Professional instructors, several of whom are in civilian life, have been secured to teach these courses.

(Continued on page three)

Bill of Rights Really Works

Soldiers who are planning to take advantage of the guaranty provisions in the G. I. Bill of Rights may be interested in the story of a disabled veteran who wrote in the following information with the note that: "You can tell the boys that the GI Bill of Rights really works, both as to its educational and loan guaranty provisions."

An officer and two soldiers were discharged from the army because of their disability in combat. All three ended up in Texas trying to take up where they left off. The officer had an A. B. and M. A. degree from a university and decided to go back and finish a Ph.D., so he was granted \$72.00 monthly at the University of Texas. When he tried to get a place to live in Austin, the realtors told him that the only way to get a house was to buy one. He found one for sale, but he lacked sufficient cash. Again

he appealed for a loan and got it in record time. He bought the house, rents the upstairs apartment for 75.00 dollars and pays 42.12 dollars monthly on his loan and lives on the first floor while going to school.

One of the discharged soldiers had a chance to go into business, so he borrowed 4000.00 dollars and in now nicely set up in a very remunerative business of his own. The other soldier was a farmer, but also needed funds to get his crops started. He applied for a loan and is now on his way to a fine crop of cotton and alfalfa in west Texas. The thing that surprised all three was the rapidity with which they were able to secure their loan. Said the businessman: "All you've got to do is satisfy the government that your business idea is sound, and that you can deliver the goods, and you'll get the money."

WANNA SWAP?

Would like to trade gold watch band for silver band. See Pfc. Joseph W. Bailey, 720th Ordnance.

\*\*\*

Will trade one quart of Shenley's whiskey for twenty (20) bottles of beer. See Lt. Lorenz, House 18, 722nd Squadron.

CHAPLAINS' CHAT

It is not necessary to dwell at great length upon the importance of props to an aircraft, nor to discuss the dangers of prop wash, when writing to men who fly. They who have felt the pull of props biting savagely into the atmosphere, and have taken off or landed in air made turbulent by the ship preceding them, know about these things far better than I. In applying aeronautical terminology to the realm of daily living, however, the Chaplain claims license for the prerogatives of the preacher.

Even as the props of an aircraft are dependent upon their engines for power, so, too, must the props which pull us from the cradle to the grave be attached to a power-generating element. There are some men who depend upon their own strength to pull them through. Others, however, have found a strength greater than that contained within themselves, the power of the God who created them. An analysis of the two sources of power, man-centered and God-centered, shows the latter to have far more durable qualities, for though under perfect conditions man can rise above the level of perennial adolescence, when he hits the prop wash of life, his props are not adequate for the demands made upon them. Then it is that he needs a power greater

than his own. For he who tries to ride out the prop wash of life without God's help is truly in a serious predicament. The best prop ever turned off the assembly line is valueless unless it is attached to an engine high enough to use it. Even so is it with men. Strength of body and bigness of intellect are not enough to pull men through childhood and adolescence to the level of adulthood and thence successfully into the fullness of old-age. To reach the heights of human experience the props of our lives should be attached to God. For though human strength can wane, and human minds are fallible, the power of God is constant. And though human weaknesses lead to feathered props, those attached to God-powered lives need fear no malfunctions.

This Is Corny

A big potato from Maine married a small potato from Idaho. After awhile, a sweet potato chip came to bless their happy home. When the potato chip had grown to maturity she went to New York where she fell in love and wanted to marry Lowell Thomas. The Spuds would not hear of it, for he was a common tater. (We told you so.)

KEEPING UP WITH THE WORLD

A Review of Howard Fast's "Freedom Road" by Sgt. Eli Fishleder.

It may seem strange that a review of a story dealing with the post-Civil War Reconstruction Period appears under the heading "Keeping Up with the World." But if we view history as a guide to understanding contemporary situations and future problems, "Freedom Road" has a present-day significance.

After the Civil War, the South was in a state of complete chaos: plantations had been abandoned by their owners, civil government was disrupted. A majority of the Negroes who had been freed remained on the plantations where they had spent their lives, because they were ignorant and fearful of the outside world.

"Freedom Road" deals with one such group of Negroes, living on a plantation called "Carwell." Among them was Gideon Jackson, who had fought with the Federal troops during the war. When the people of the state chose representatives to a constitutional convention, Gideon was elected to represent a small district.

He went to the convention an ignorant farmer; he returned from it filled with the vision of a land where all men could live as brothers. He had learned to read and write, and to understand that freedom was something to be fought for. He knew that if his people and the poor whites were to make freedom

a reality, they must own their means of livelihood. They decided to purchase their own land. Several neighboring whites were persuaded to join in their plan. They worked as day laborers on a railroad construction project and with their earnings as security, Gideon secured a loan from a sympathetic Boston banker. Three large segments of the plantation were bought at a public auction and land was distributed equally among the families. Each family lived on their own plot of land, with the church and the school serving as the center of their community. And the experiment was a success! Whites and blacks lived in harmony; problems were settled in a democratic fashion. These people, who been slaves, succeeded in becoming truly free and equal men, economically and politically.

Why is this powerful and moving historical novel a lesson to us in 1945? First, because it tells us the truth about one of the most crucial periods in our nation's history; and secondly, it shows us that true democracy is not "just so much propaganda," but a reality which we may, by a realization of facts and by hard work, someday achieve. It is only very rarely that you can learn so much, in so few pages, as in Howard Fast's "Freedom Road."