

MOLTO BUONO

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ITALY

450th TROUNCES CHAMPIONS OF 98th

Last Saturday, the 450th "Cottontails" went on their highest scoring spree of the season when they eliminated the 98th Bomb Group from the unbeaten ranks by a 73-45 score at the 98th gym.

The muchly touted undefeated 98th bowed to a superior aggregation of 450th spark, speed and accurate shooting. The "Cottontails" ran up a score of 14-3 in the first quarter and never allowed the 98th basketballers to catch up.

No Match for 450th

By the third quarter, the 98th had fared no better and found itself behind the eight ball with a 52-25 score staring them in the face. The 98th ball handlers fought desperately but they were no match for the powerful "Cottontail" attack which time and time again rolled down the floor and terminated in scores. The 98th rallied in the last quarter trying to overcome the 450th lead, but the "Cottontails" kept their advantage until the final whistle.

Courtney Outstanding

"Red" Courtney, 720th forward, led the scoring procession by putting 24 points through the hoop. Powers, 723rd combat man, showed a brilliant floor game as did Jackson, Daniels and Thomas.

Never showing the brand of basketball which earned them their lofty reputation, the 98th couldn't cope with the all-around "Cottontail" attack.

K9 Mine Detectors

Because many of the land mines buried in France by the retreating Germans are made entirely of wood and cannot be located by the best mine-detecting apparatus, the British army has trained and is now using its war dogs for this work. Twenty of these animals, working at one time, are able to clear a lane 48 feet wide at the rate of 1,200 feet an hour. Mine clearing, according to the Engineers, was always a sonovabitch of a job anyhow.

An eager young Romeo from Lansing Was snorting a-rearing and prancing He found a mean hip Who gave him the slip And now he's all through with romancing.
HE'D BETTER BUY BONDS!

WHO'S DE BUM?

The notorious Brooklyn Battle Cry, "We'll moider de bums" which was voiced by the 720th camp and quoted in a *Molto Buono* article last week, quickly reverberated through all parts of the line, and provoked such a violent reaction on the subject of bums, that a survey was made of consecutive missions flown without an early return by 450th Liberators.

The survey revealed the following statistical accomplishments:

"*Molto Buono*" (misspelled "*Moultu Bouno*") - 720th Sq. - 59 missions

"*Fast Freight*" - 722nd Sq. - 65 missions

"*Strip for Action*" - 722nd Sq. - 66 missions

"*Queen Ann*" - 722nd Sq. - 66 missions

"*TU Get By*" - 723rd Sq. - 66 missions

"*Patty*" - 721st Sq. - 75 missions

The unruffled 720th still countered from the cellar: "Wait till next year!"

723rd Votes To Stay

"To move or not to move". That was the question put to a popular vote in the 723rd Squadron last week, and the conservative view point won, by acclamation. The men decided to sweat the war out in their comfortably fixed *casas* rather than pitch tents in a new area on the other side of Manduria Blvd.

Last fall, the 723rd was given an order to evacuate their old area because of the runway extension project. The additional taxi-strips contemplated would have overrun the better part of the area, so another site was picked, opposite the entrance to the base.

Architectural planning and long, arduous labor went into the erection of "the latest" in mess halls, a splendid Day Room, modern shower (relatively so) and other attractive improvements. Unquestionably, this new area shaped up to be the best in the group, according to impartial observers.

With the work completed and the 723rd all set for the shift, the order to move was rescinded. Overnight, moving became a matter of choice, and Major Engstrom, Squadron CO, decided to conduct a democratic election.

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HQ ADDS FIFTH SQUADRON Well Received By Headquarters

The Headquarters unit which had hitherto been more or less a step-child first attached to one squadron then another is now an independent

723RD C.O. RISES TO LT. COLONEL

Lt. Col. Melvin Engstrom, C.O. of the 723rd Squadron, was elevated from the rank of Major this past week.

He has been with the 450th since January, when he assumed command of the 723rd. However, his overseas service dates back to November 8, 1942, when he landed in North Africa, as Assistant Operations Officer of the 12th Air Force's 5th Wing. He later served in the capacity of Asst. A-3 of the 12th Air Force HQ Training Command.

Col. Engstrom saw action in the African campaign, flying missions over Tunis, Bizerte, and Sardinia, among others. Just prior to joining the 450th, he was a member of the Flying Evaluation Board at M. A. A. F. HQ.

Major Blair Recommends Cannes

Major Blair, Group Operations Officer, has just returned from a three day sojourn in Southern France with some very encouraging reports concerning the recently established rest camp. While open only to officers just now, arrangements are being made to take care of a considerable number of enlisted personnel in Nice.

Major Blair was the first member of the Group to enjoy the facilities of the Martinez Hotel, set aside for Air Corps personnel in Cannes. The surroundings, according to the Major, are very pleasant, the weather is ideal and the beach leaves little to be desired. The residents of Cannes are interesting and agreeable, although the original glow of enthusiasm has already worn off.

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organization. On recommendation by Col. Jacobson a new provisional squadron was formed with John H. Wells, Jr., Group Adjutant, acting C. O. and Harold A. Fritz, 1st Lieutenant.

The announcement was met with enthusiasm and immediate approval by all Headquarters men. An organizational meeting was held and committees were selected to work out plans for integrating the activities of the unit. A varied social program is contemplated with parties and dances, the first of which will be held on April 7th.

The mess-hall, too small to accommodate the increased personnel, will be expanded to twice its present size in the near future. Arrangements have been made to obtain individual service plates and replace the awkward bench-like tables with smaller more modern *table d'hotel*, set in a style which brings memories of cafe varieties back home.

Local Radio Man Returns to 450th

Last October, when the Cottontails went on the air, the voice of Lee Saint John, long familiar to radio listeners of Detroit, was introduced to the 450th and the surrounding area.

After much hard labor of his own, Lee Saint John, known in real life as Sgt. John L. Shaffer, finally had a real radio station to work with, the first ever to be owned by a Bomb Group in this theatre.

But he didn't stay with it long. In November, Lt. Col. F. C. Fogel, officer in charge of the radio branch MTOUSA, who directs all the other American Expeditionary Stations in this area, requested that Sgt. Shaffer be put on DS with the A. E. stations in this theater and France.

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She told him her name was Estella And said "Stick around me young fella!" But what a mistake The soldier did make In counting what he thought was bella NEXT TIME HE'LL BUY WAR BONDS