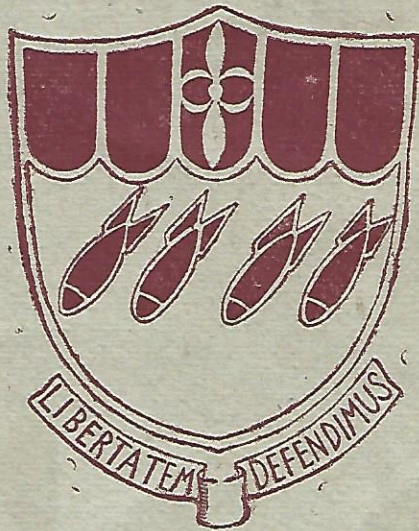


2 BOMB



in Italy



SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP HISTORY IN BRIEF

BY

SGT. CHARLES C. FAIG

The second bombardment group, formerly the first day bombardment group, first pursuit wing, was organized at Mouion, France, on September 10, 1918. At that time it consisted of the 96th, 20th and 11th, day bombardment squadrons, the 464th construction squadron and the 12th photo section. Of all the squadrons the 96th is the veteran organization, having been engaged in active operations on the front since May 18, 1918. The first important bombing mission took place on June 12, 1918, when eight planes took off to bomb Dommary-Baroncour.

After the armistice of 1918, the 49th squadron, formerly the 166th, was moved with the army of occupation to Germany, where they remained until April 1919, when they were returned to the United States. In the meantime the remainder of the group received notice of disbandment on december 12, 1918.

The group was reorganized at Ellington field, Texas, in August of 1919 and was distributed along many points of the Mexican border. They were then transferred to Langley Field, Virginia in June of 1922.

On February 1, 1932, the second bombardment group was transferred to the second bombardment wing.

Under the efficient and competent leadership of Lt. Col. ROBERT OLDS, the second bombardment group made enourmous progress and established many enviable records.

The group was reorganized under its present form on November 10, 1942, at Ephrata, Washington, and was made up of the 96th, 20th, 49th and 429th bombardment squadrons.

The group then went through several phases of training both at Ephrata, Washington, and in Montana, where the squadrons operated from satelite bases in Lewistown, Glasgow and Cut Bank, with the mother field at Great Falls.

The combat crews began their tour of foreign duty on march 17, 1943, with the majority of the ground crew following in April

The first bombing mission in world war II was made from their base at Catheau-D'un, Algeria, on April 28, 1943, when they bombed Terranova, Sardinia. In quick succession came the bombings of La Goulette and Bizerte in Tunisia.

Now a veteran overseas bombardment group the second has more than 282 combat missions to its credit. They have participated in bombings of enemy targets in the Balkans, Poland, Austria, Italy, Germany and France.

Among many of their historical accomplishments are the bombing of Rome. The bombings of Steyr, Austria, and Regensburg, Germany, the « invasion bombing mission » to southern France, and the evacuation mission to Bucharest, Rumania, in which AAF combat crewmen who had been shot down while on missions over the Balkans, were brought back to American bases. The second bombardment group also participated in the first shuttle bombing mission to Russia.

During their nineteen months of overseas duty the second has dropped more than 17, 725 $1/5$ (35,450,400 pounds) of bombs on enemy targets and installations. During this same period, second bombardment group gunners have destroyed 274 enemy aircraft, probably destroyed 87, and damaged 41 more. These figures do not account for the scores of enemy aircraft that have been destroyed on the ground.

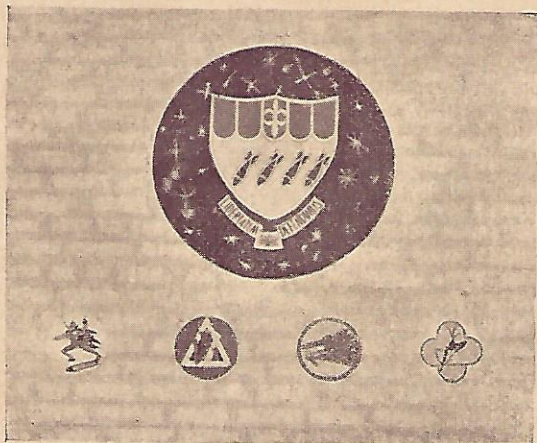
The second bombardment group has received the presidential unit citation for the bombing mission to Steyr, Austria on February 24, 1944.

Commanding officers of the group since its reorganization in 1942, have been; Col. FORD L. LAUER, Lt. Col. JOSEPH A. THOMAS, Col. HERBERT C. RICE, Lt. Col. JOHN D. RYAN, and its present commanding officer, Col. PAUL T. CULLEN.

In the entertainment world the second has been visited by a host of Hollywood stars which include; Louise Allbritton, Joe E. Brown, Humphrey Bogart, Bob Hope, Frances Langford, Jack Benny, Mary Brian, and many others. In addition to the stars, many USO camp shows have performed for the group.

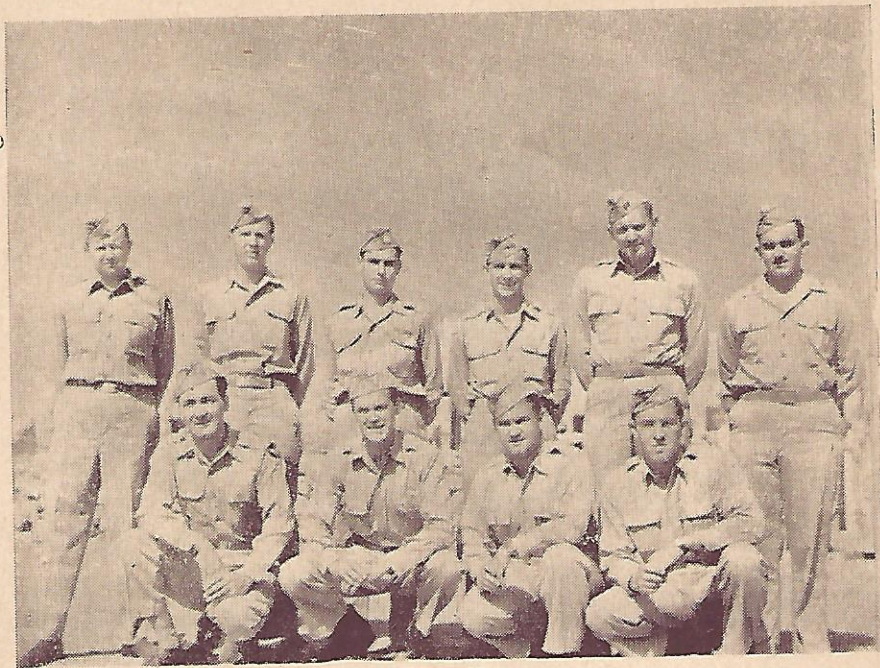
In the sporting world the second was host to Joe Louis, heavyweight boxing champion of the world, who refereed the boxing bouts at the Amendola ring. The fall season of 1944 saw the second bomb group softball team, « THE HELLCATS » sweep all opposition before them on the Italian diamonds to enter the playoffs in Oran, North Africa. There they lived up to their name, playing havoc with the opposing teams and went on to be crowned « CHAMPIONS OF NATOUSSA 1944 ».

HEADQUARTERS

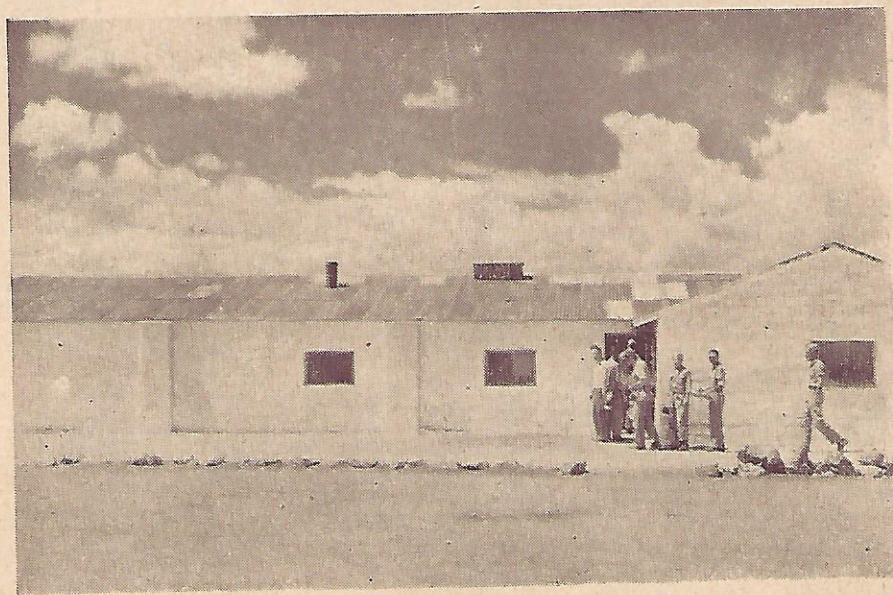


Staff Officers

20th SQUADRON

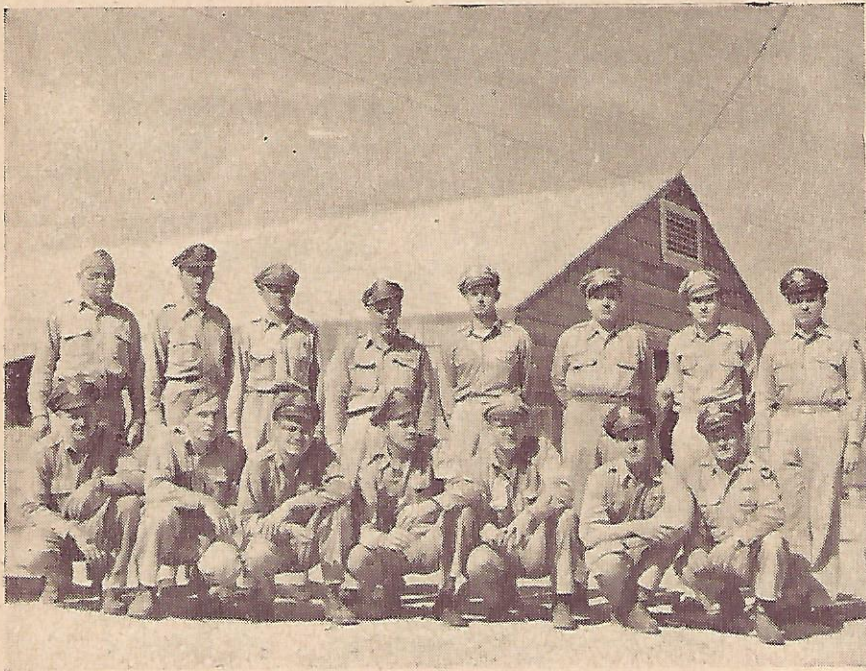


The Big Names

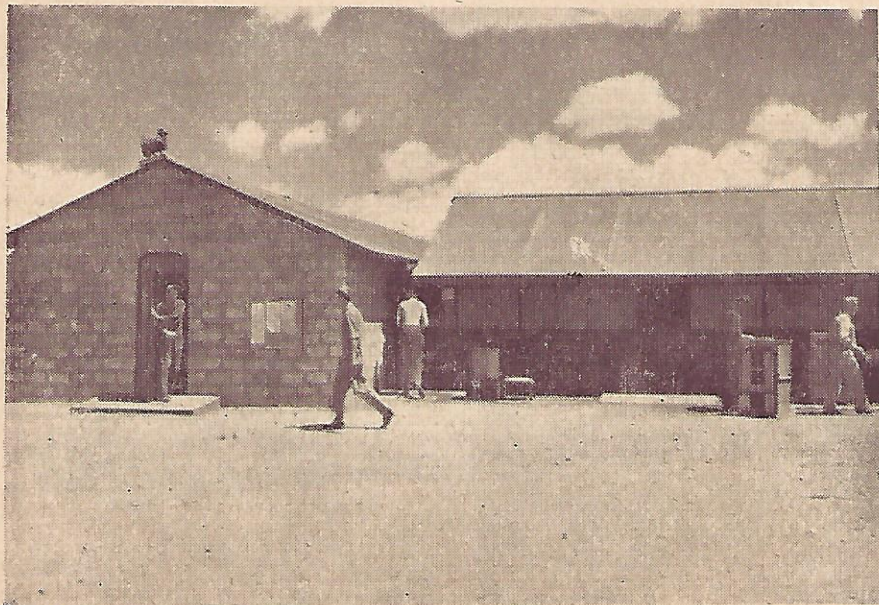


The Famous 20th Cafeteria

49th SQUADRON

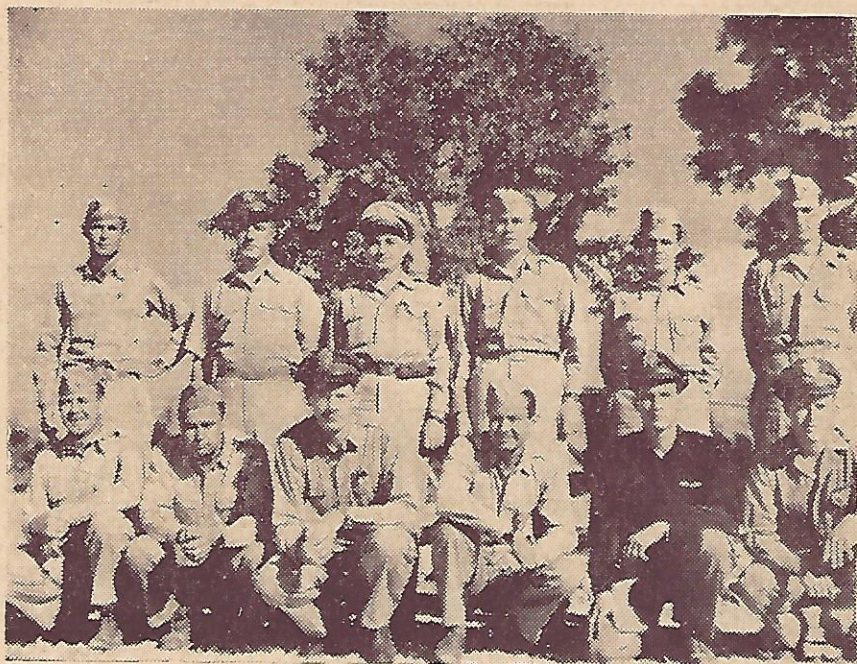


The Coaches

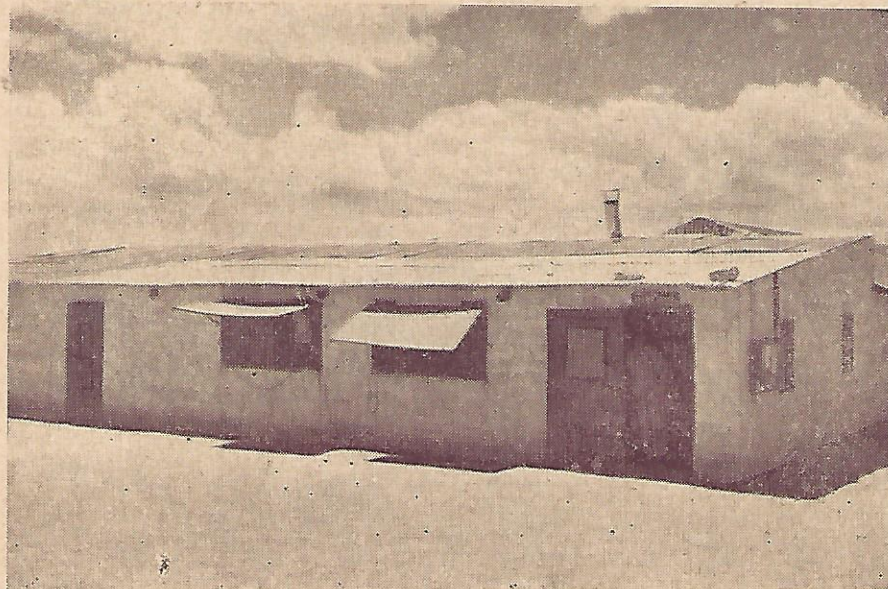


American - Italian Restaurant

96th SQUADRON



Leading Parts

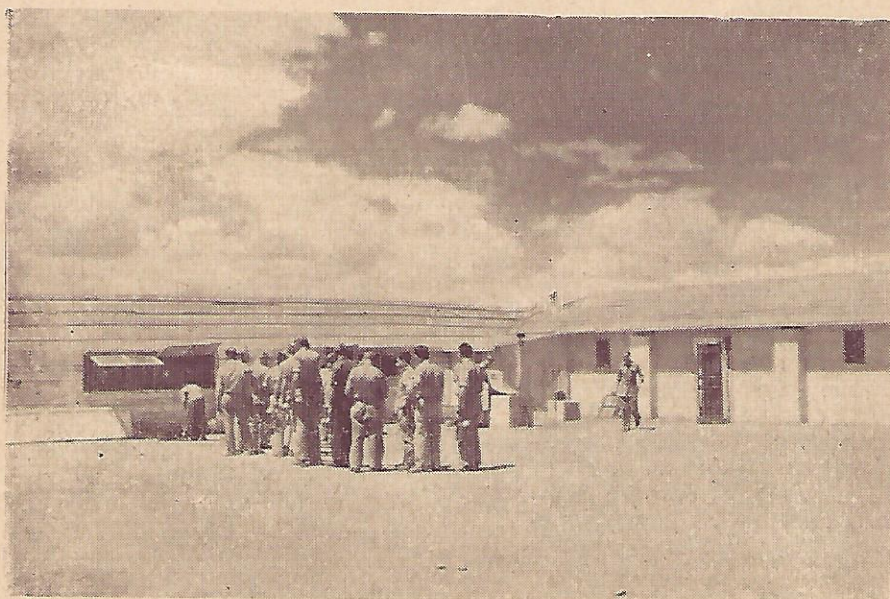


Chudy's Corner

429th SQUADRON



Here we are "Ahem"

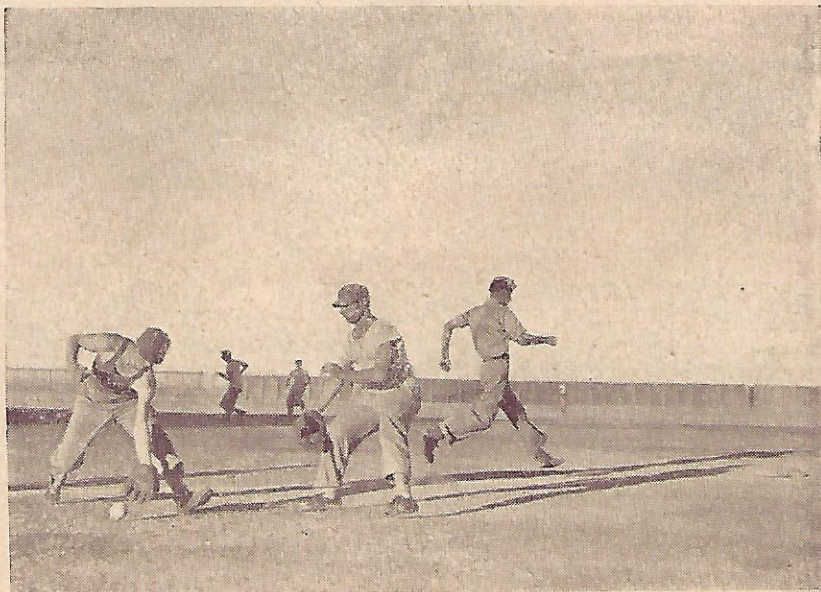


The best line in the Army

SPORTS



44 Natoussa Softball Champs



Action in Africa

SPORTS

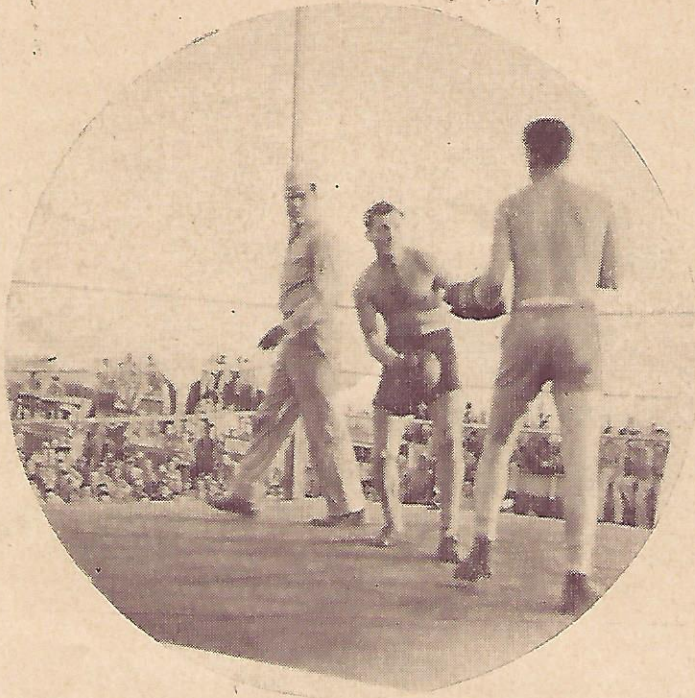


A "Lucky" Day

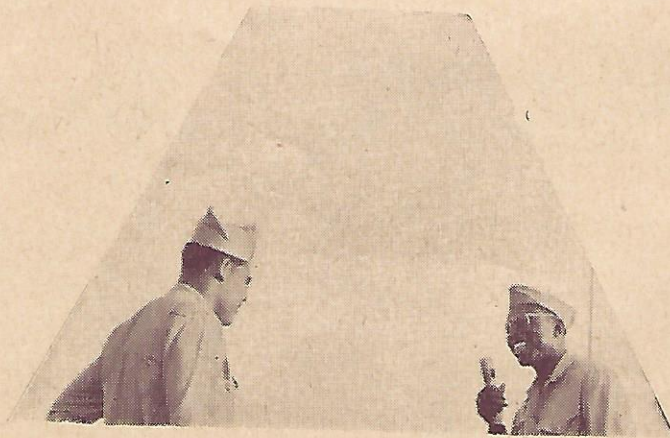


Bob "Stinky" Pugh Does it Again

SPORTS

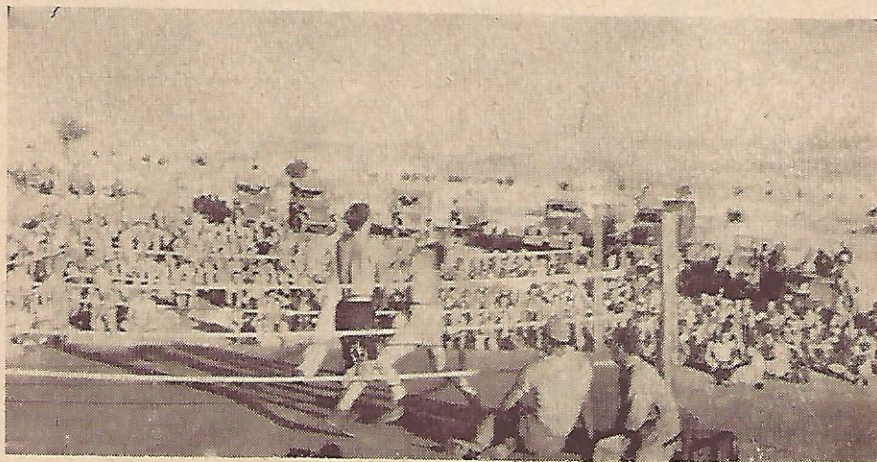


"Joe Goes Away"



Joe and Jackie

SPORTS

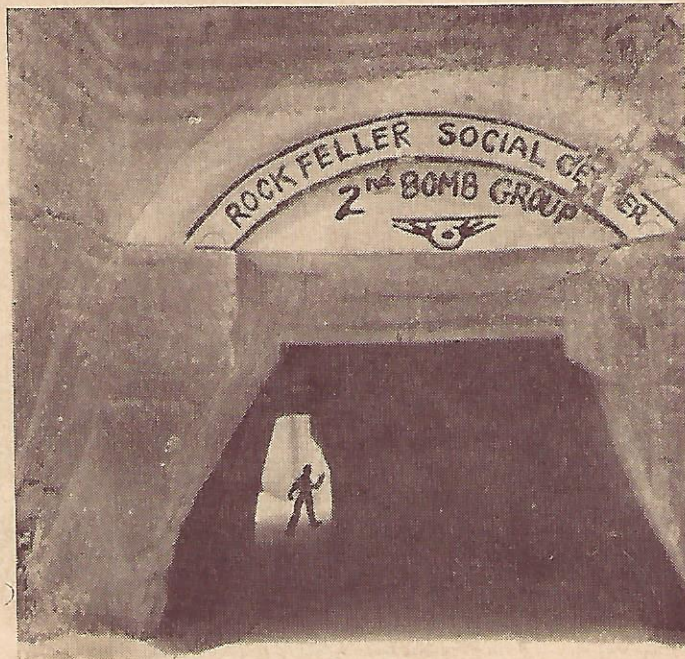


Bang - Bop - Oof - Smack!

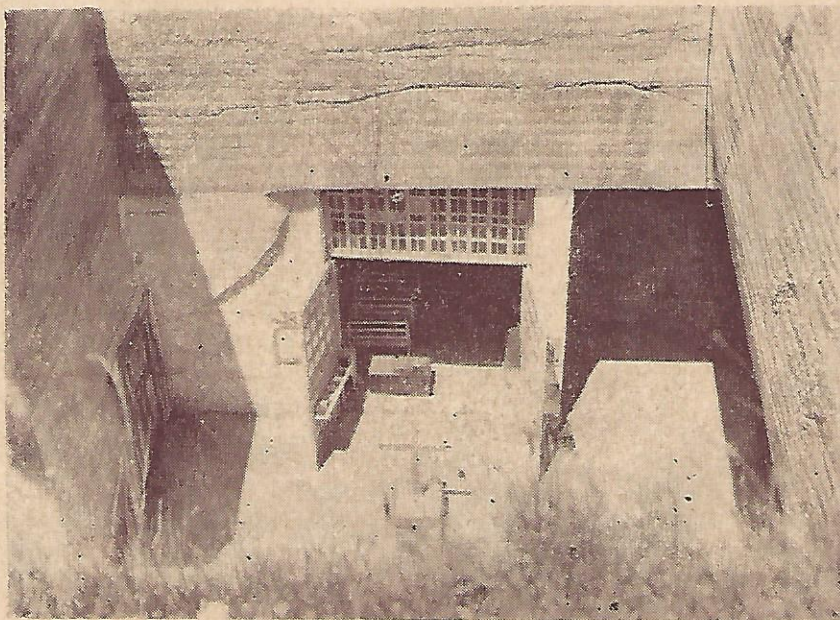


After the Fights.... With the Underground Row Boat
Service as Guests

ROCKYFELLERS CENTER

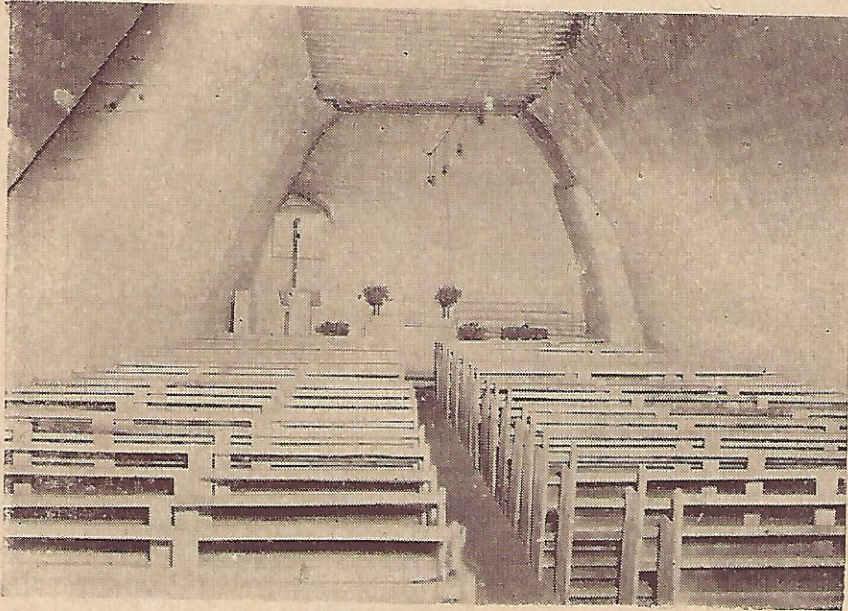


Kid Dracula has Nothing on us

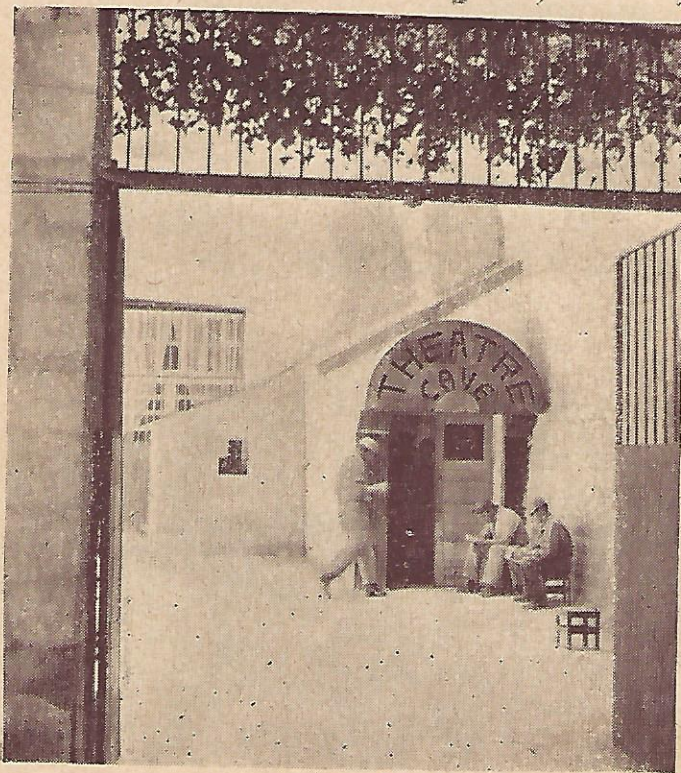


Drop in - good for the spirit

ROCKYFELLERS CENTER

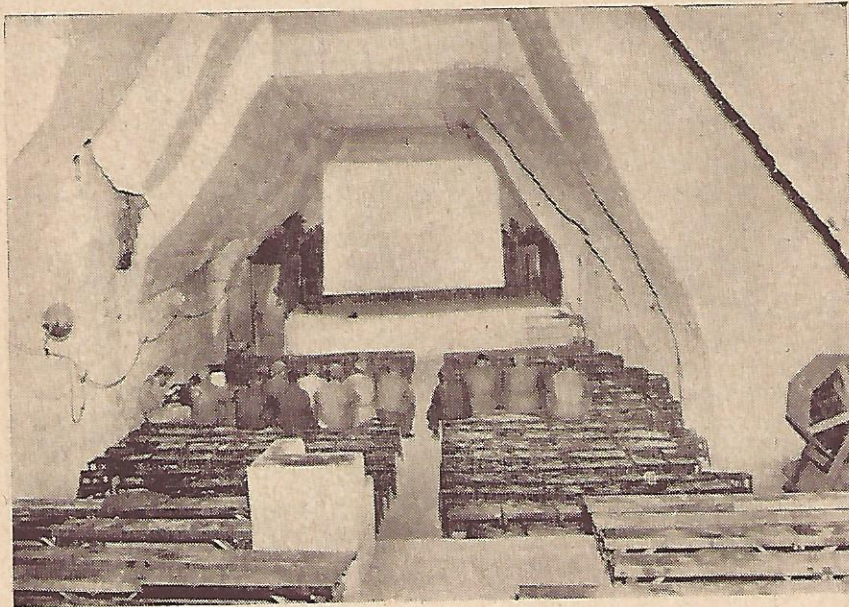


Interior Chapel

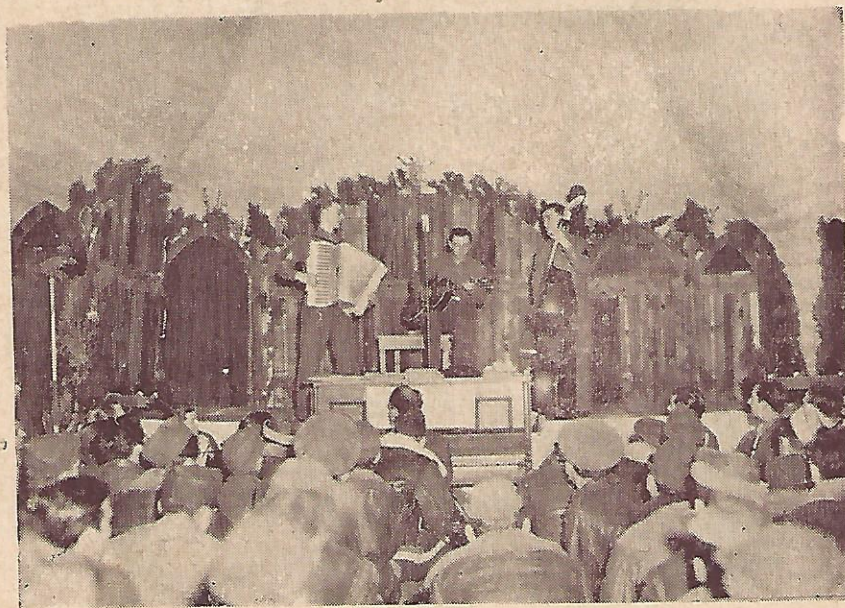


Theatre Cavé

ROCKYFELLERS CENTER

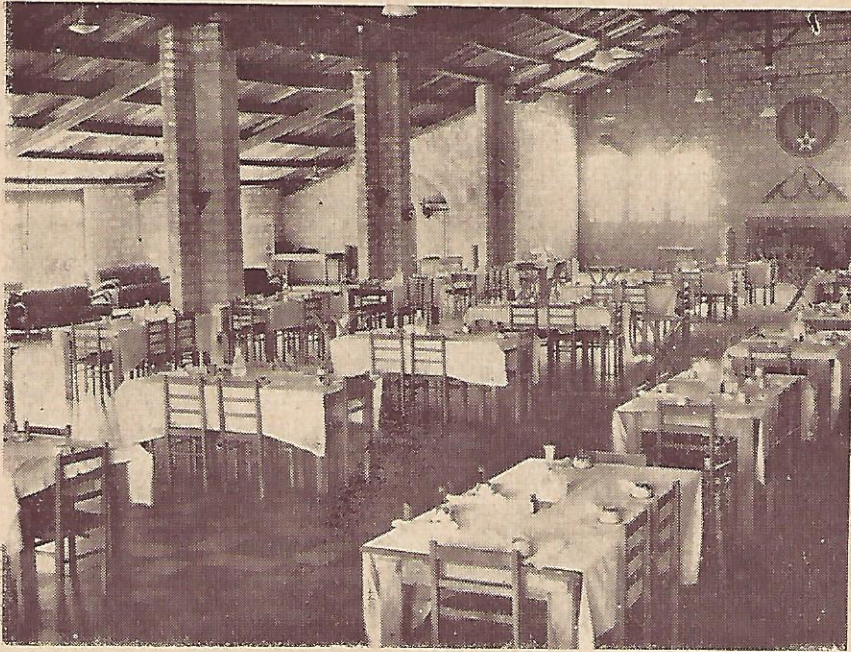


"Showplace of a Nation" Good Swimming pool on occasion:



Sure its Crowded - but so what?

CLUBS



Officers Club



Officers Lounge

CLUBS

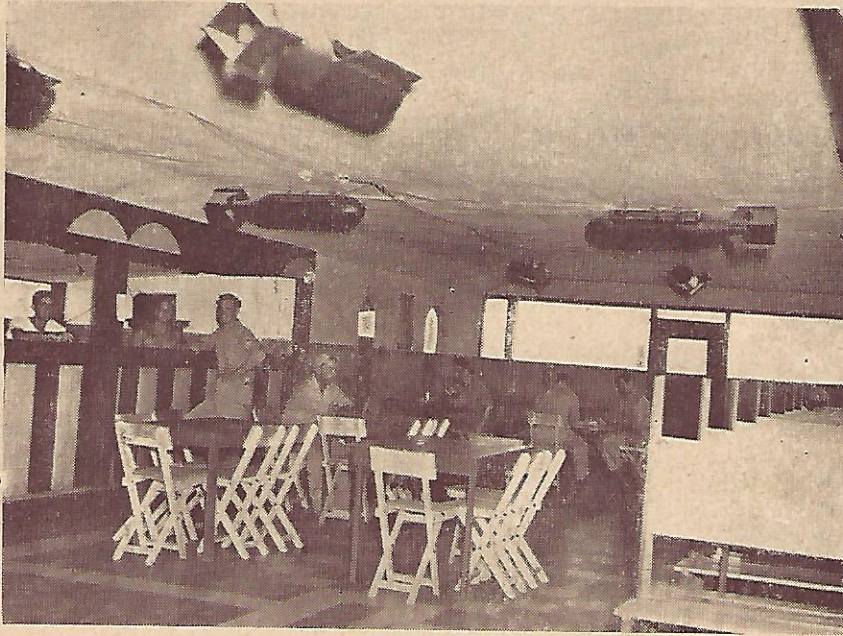


Headquarters Bar (air cooled)



20th Squadron E. M. Club

CLUBS



49th E. M. Club Neat eh?



96th Club "Devils Den"

CLUBS



429ths Tango Club

This Space Reserved for your own Photo
of the gal who "Danced" at the N.C.O. Club

ENTERTAINMENT - RECREATION



Do-Nuts and Coffee



U.S.O. Stuff - Allez-oop

ENTERTAINMENT - RECREATION



Do - ray - me - fa - so - ?

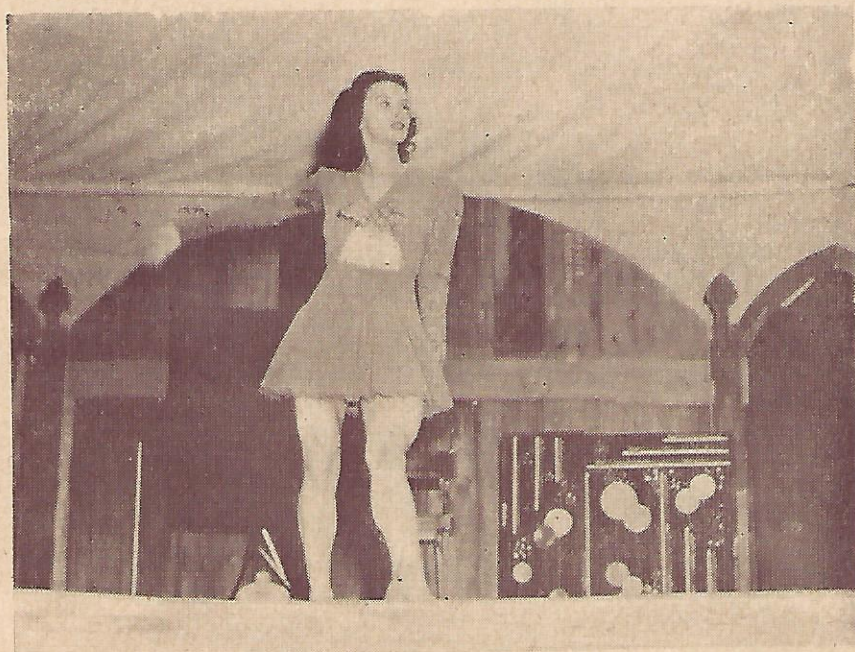


De Joint is Cased

ENTERTAINMENT - RECREATION



Small Fry



Yes - it happened one Night !

ENTERTAINMENT - RECREATION



They Played Refined Music-AND did it go over?



G. I. Gypsy Rose Lee

ENTERTAINMENT - RECREATION

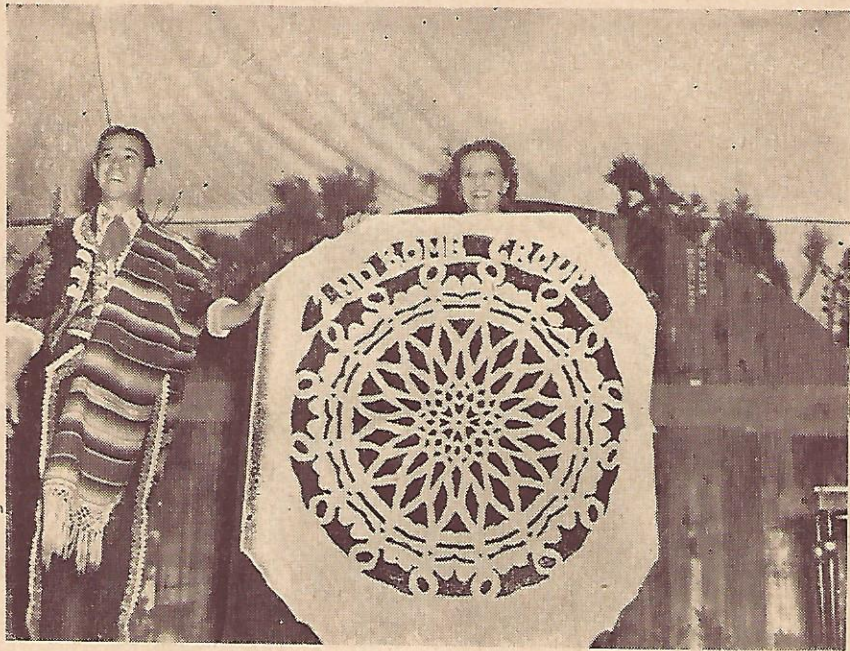


Push and Pull

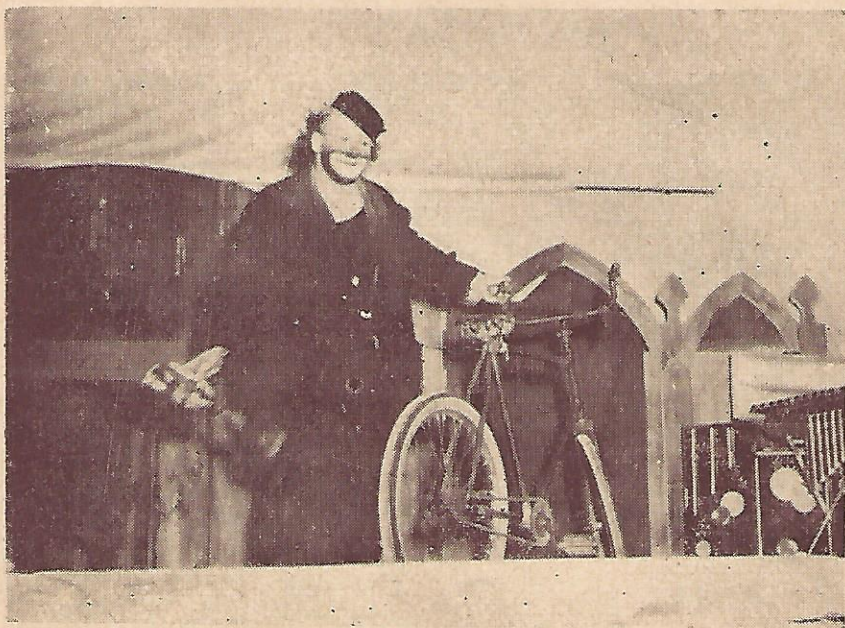


Ole Casey-at the Bar

ENTERTAINMENT - RECREATION

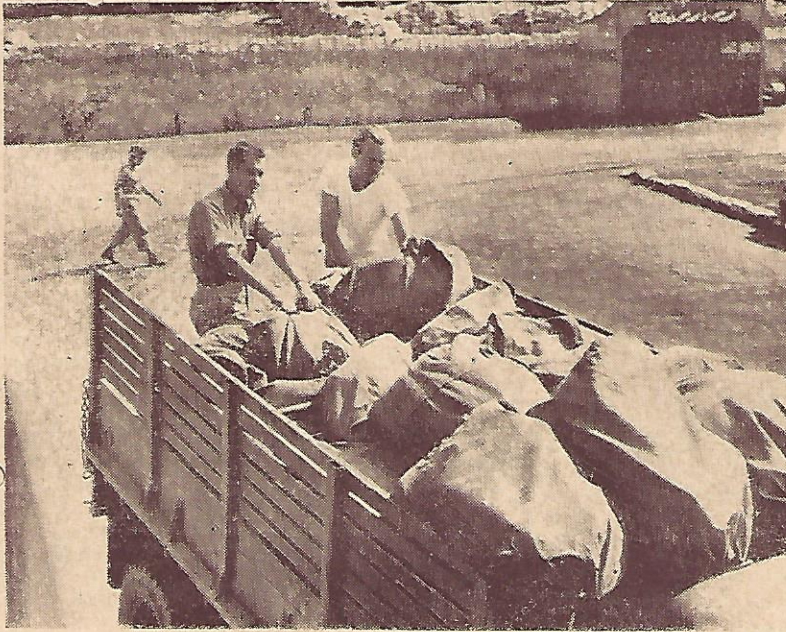


Magic Stuff

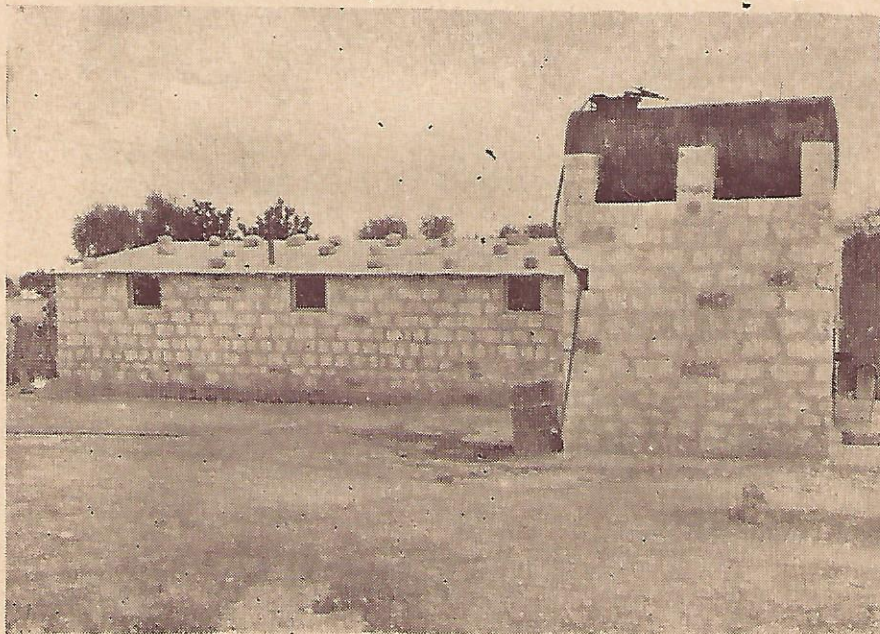


This Guy was Really Good!

NECESSARY ITEMS

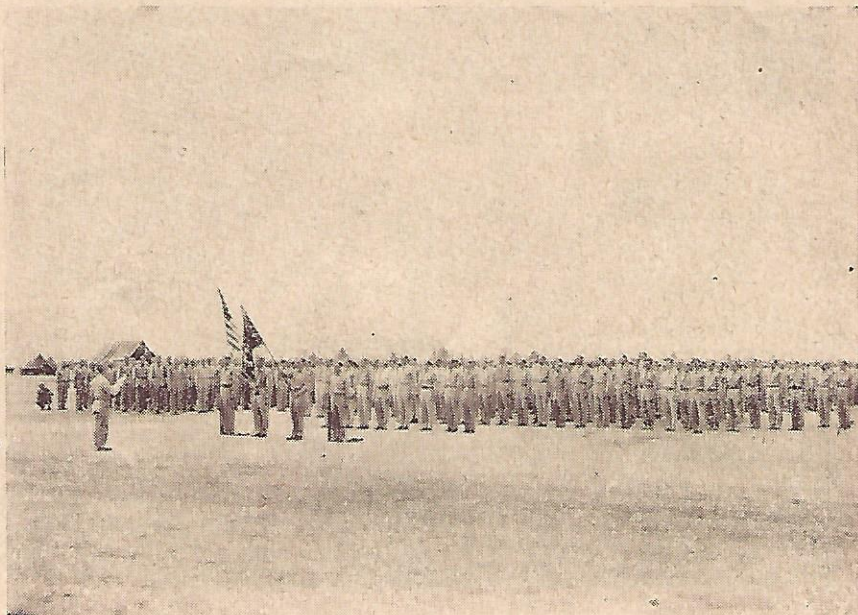


The Mail Goes Thru

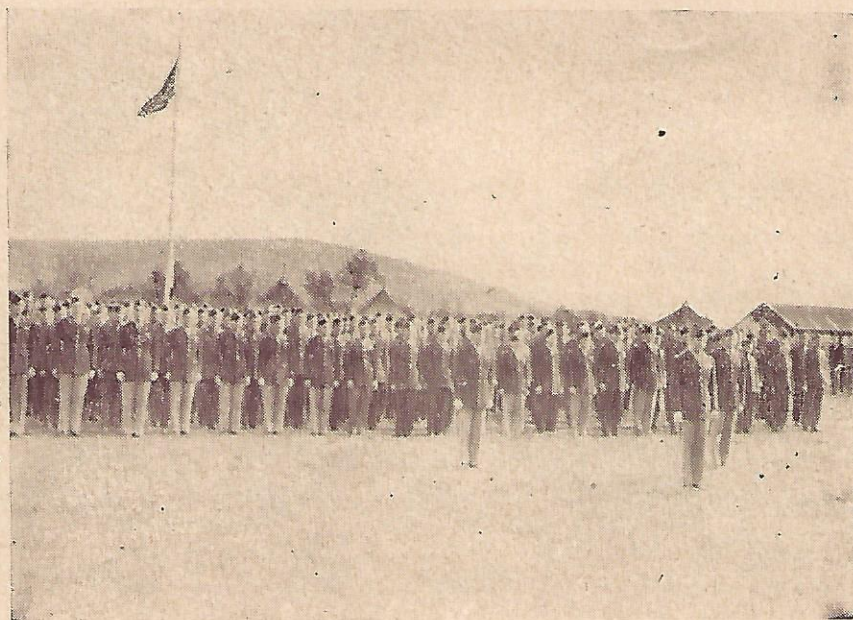


Famous Showers

PRESENTATIONS



"We Dood it"



For Flag and Country

ACTIVITIES



To our Buddies

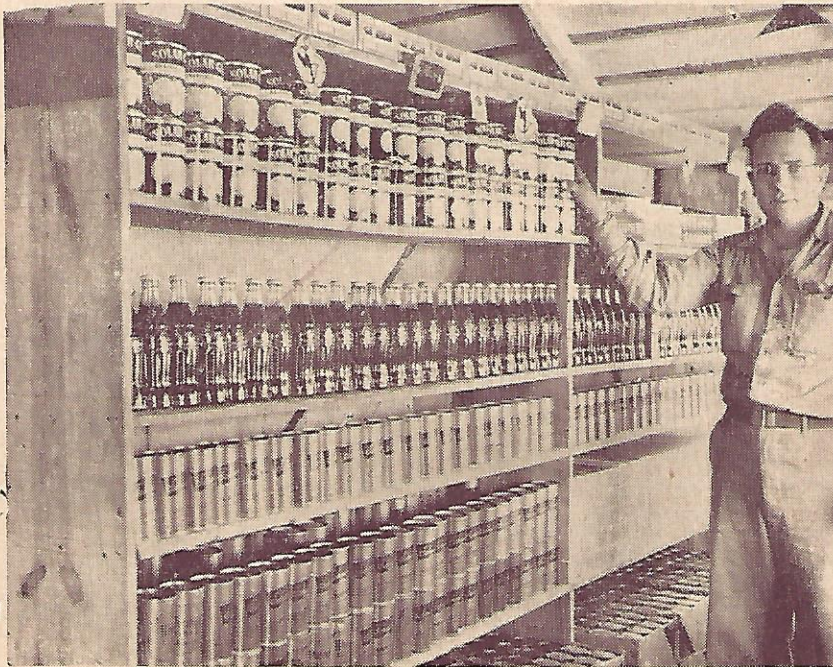


Head Table

ACTIVITIES

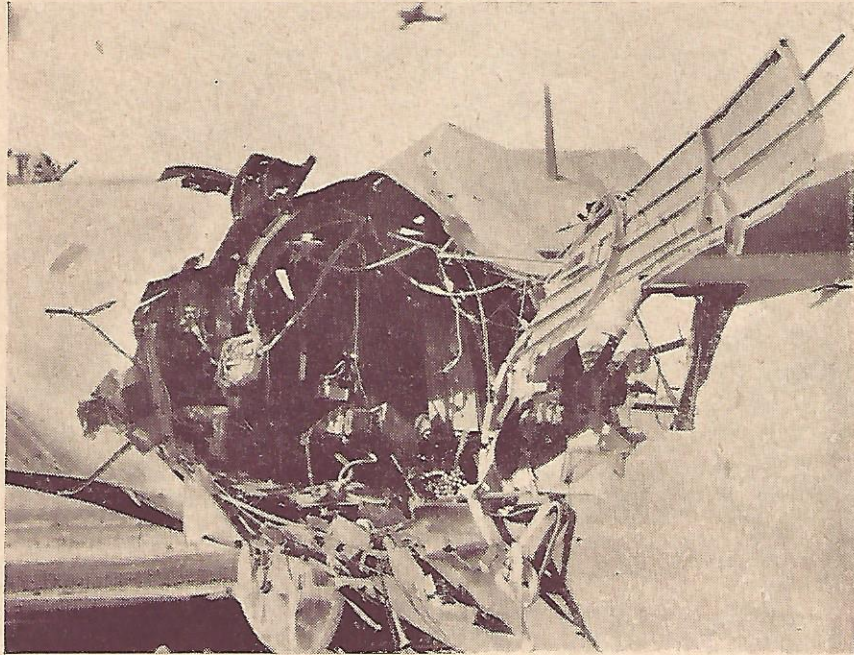


Col. Rice Carves

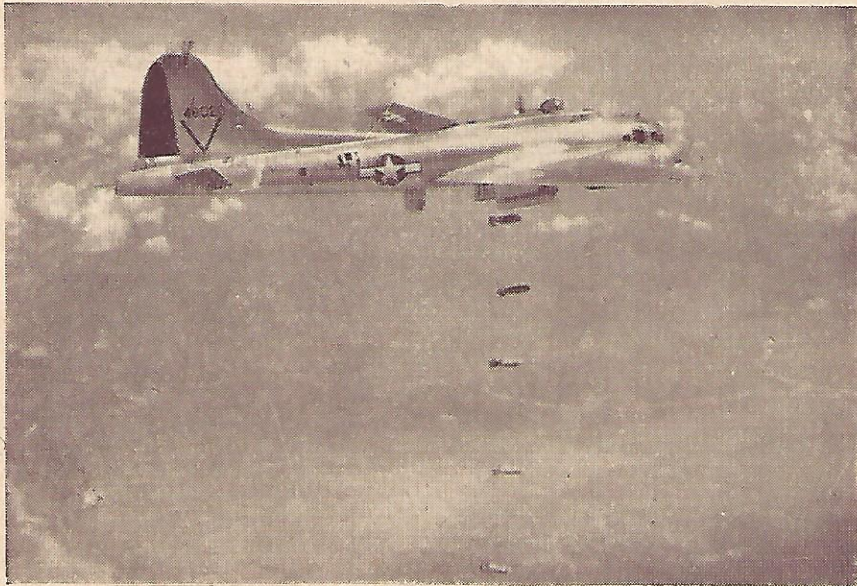


Tahnhausen's P. X.-Adjudged the best in the Wing!

SERIOUS BUSINESS

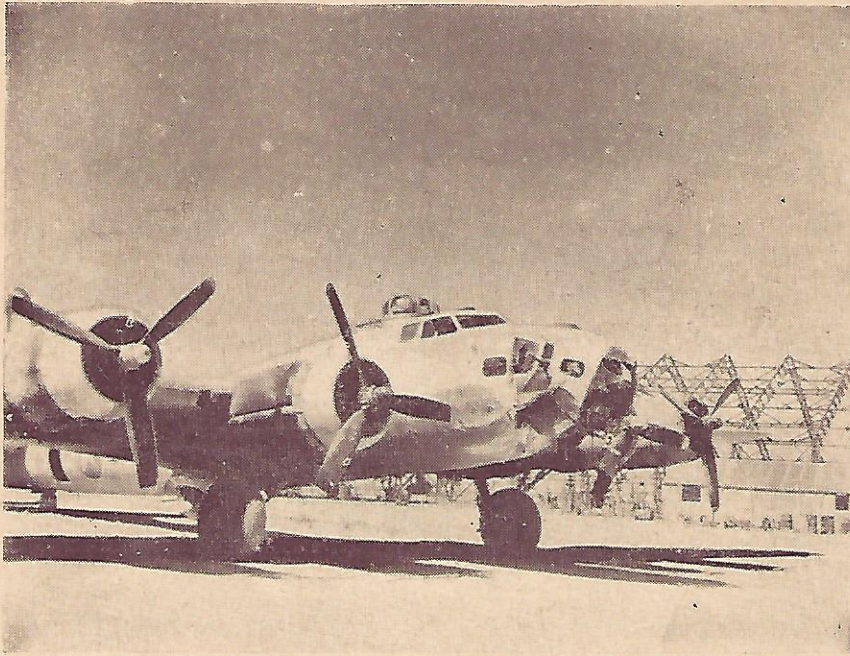


She Came Home



Bombs Away

SERIOUS BUSINESS



Nose Trouble



Its good to be home !

HOMES

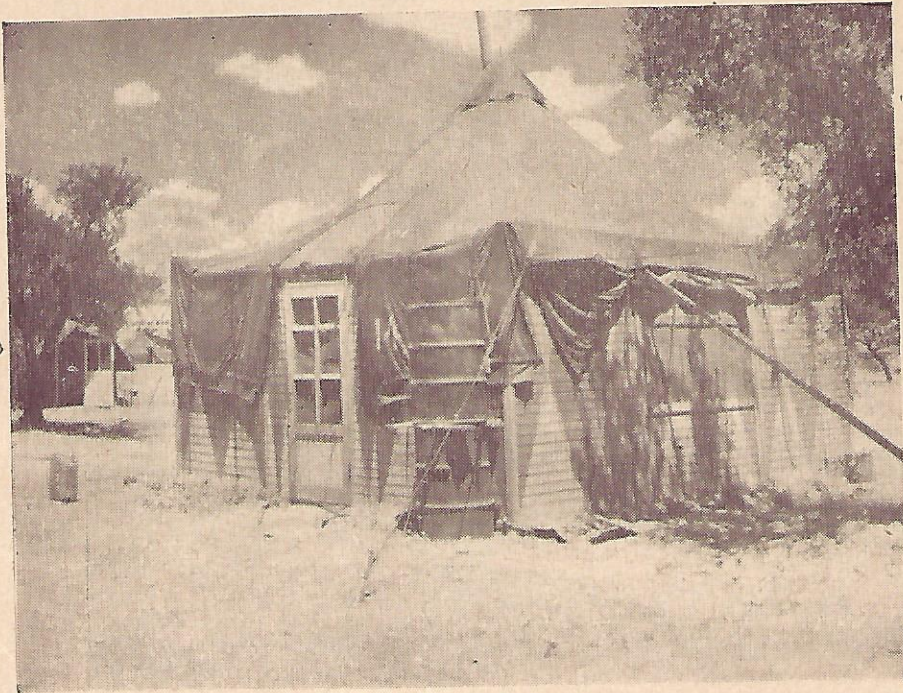


The "Big" House



Tiny's rest Camp and Santa Lucia Church

HOMES

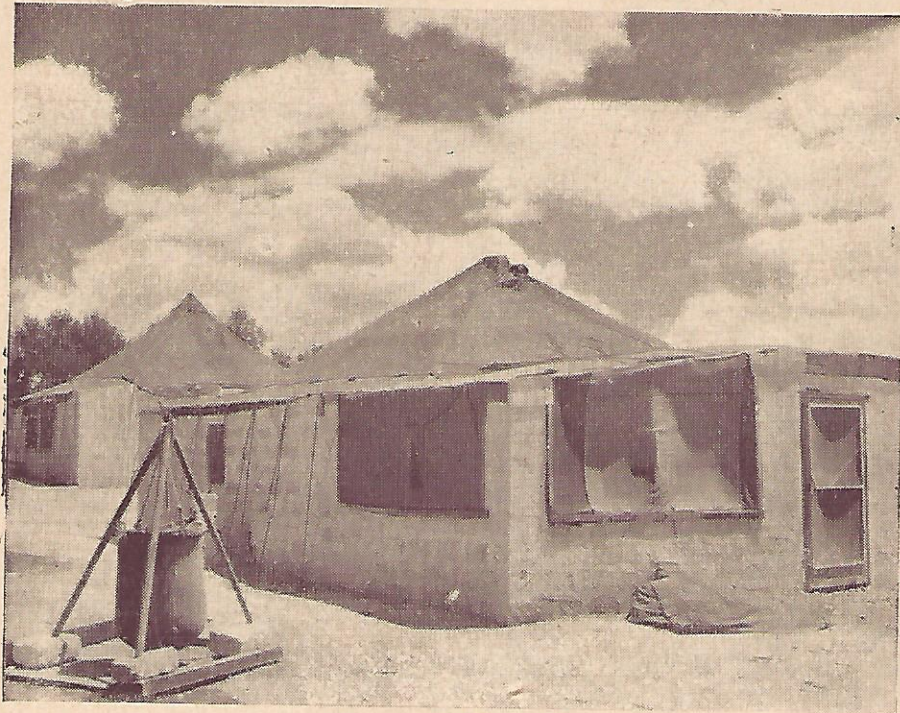


Wall Street in Italy

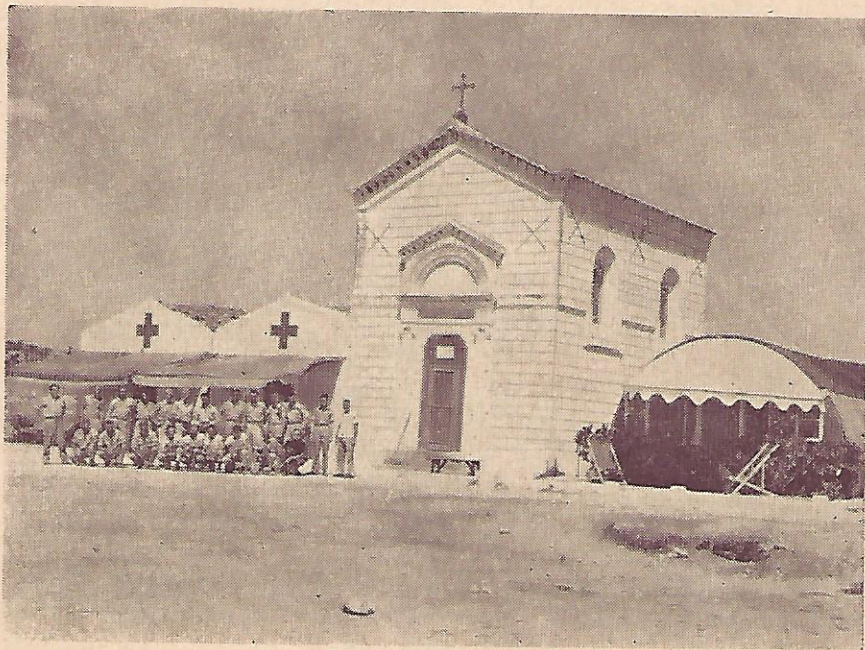


Double = Trouble

HOMES

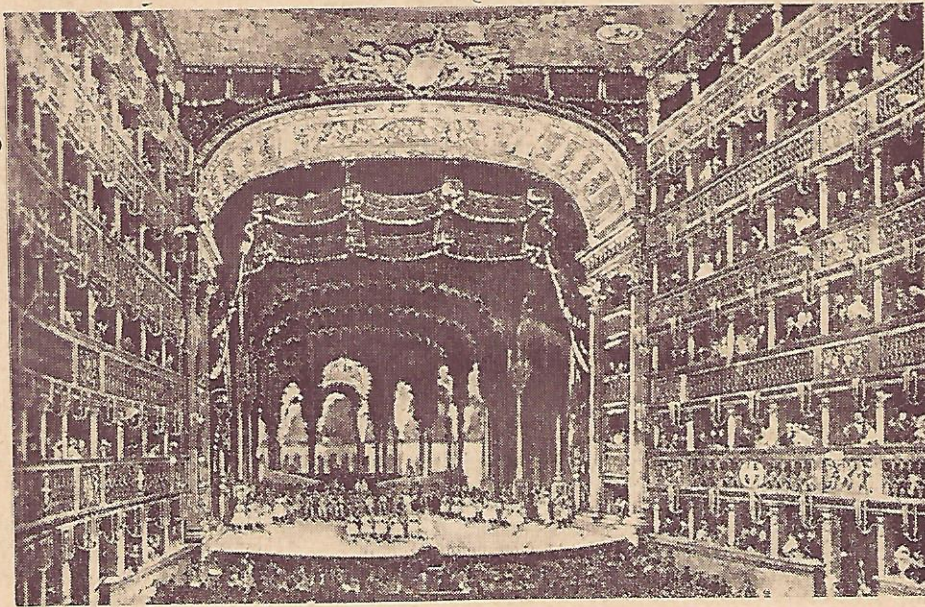


Huum - A Porch !

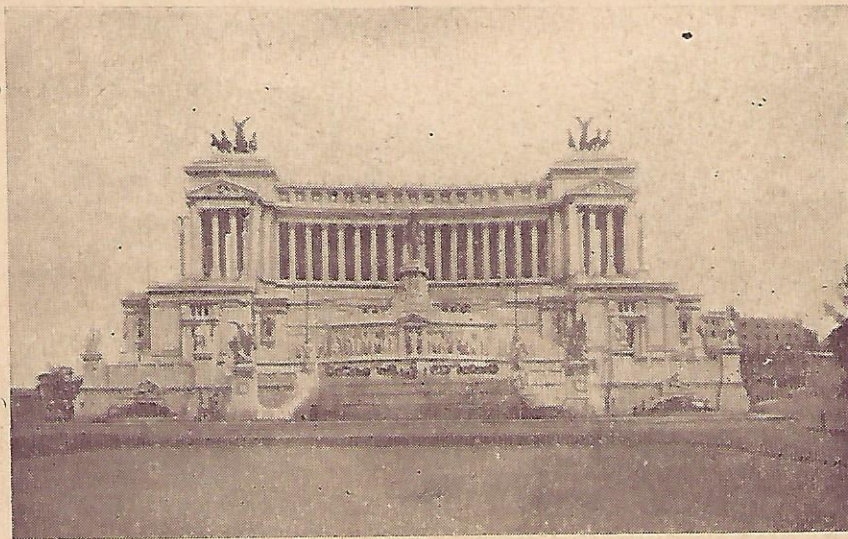


Medical Palace

WE'VE SEEN...

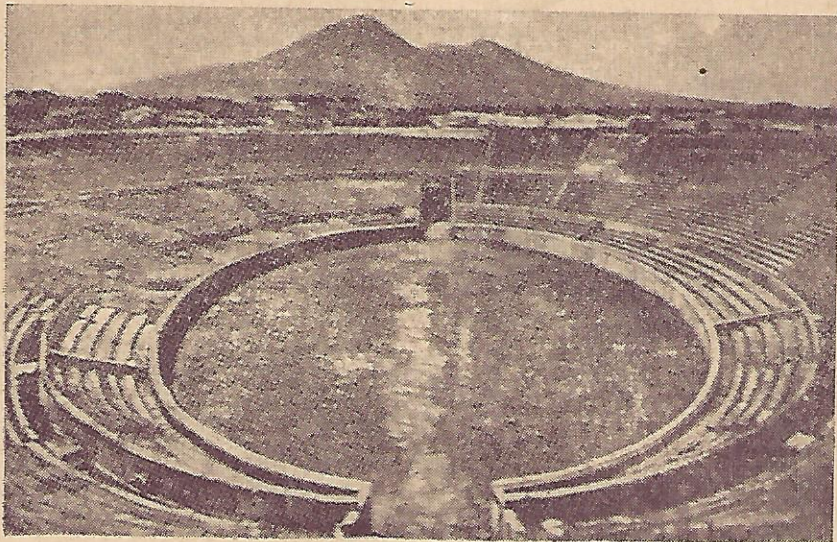


San Carlo Opera - Naples



Victor Emanuel Monument - Rome

WE'VE SEEN...



Pompei

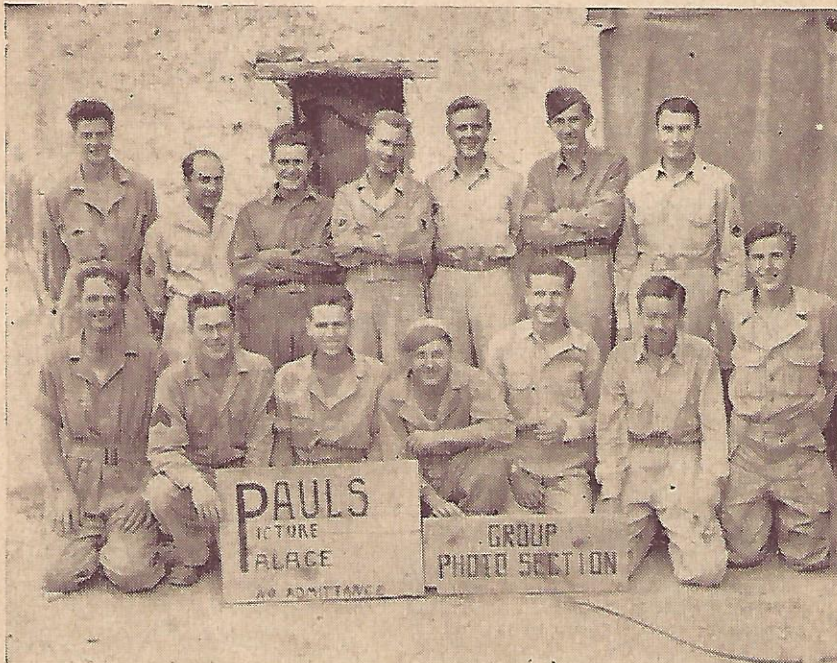


Capri

WE'VE SEEN...



Colosseum=Rome



Thanks to the Above boys for their coöperation

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PERSONAL PROBLEMS.

HOW ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION-WE
HAVE ALL THE COURSES.

SINCERELY HOPE THIS BOOK HAS
PLEASED YOU ALL.

Capt. D. H. REED
1st. Lt. ROBERT VOLGER
Sgt. PHIL REIDY Jr.
Cpl. EDMOND WHITE
Cpl. CHAS. FORD II.

1
3 2
4 5
6 7