

HELLO GANG == I'LL BET YOU THOUGHT THIS "FLYING DUTCHMAN" HAD FORESAKEN YOU == NO, NOT THE LEAST = BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE ALL ARE LIVING ONE BUSY LIFE=FROM EARLY MORNING UNTIL THE WEE SMALL HOURS OF THE NEW DAY. TONIGHT FONDS ME BACK AT THE KEY BOARD UNTIL BERNICE ARRIVES, AS I TOLD HER I COULDN'T POSSIBLE MAKE IT BEFORE SIX=THIRTY AND I FIND THAT I MISSED AGAIN ON MY JUDGEMENT AND OLD TIME SPEED, (HAHA) AS I ARRIVED TEN MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. I HAVE SOME GREAT NEWS FOR YOU TONIGHT AND A GREAT BUNCH OF LETTERS, PLUS, LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

MARGARET BRIGGS LEE REPORTS IN AS LOCAL "SCOOPER=DO" ON A LETTER SHE RECEIVED FROM THAT HUSBAND OF HERS AND OUR "DESERT RAT" NUMBER #2 GANG MEMBER STAN QUOTE ON MARGARET'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, AND STAN'S LETTER, " I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU AT FIRST BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU, I WAS INJURED DUE TO ENEMY ACTION OVER MESSINA WHEN I STOPPED A PIECE OF "ACK=ACK". IT CAME UP THROUGH THE SEAT AND HIT ME IN THE UPPER THIGH." (THE BAD PART OF THE INCIDENT AND WOUND WAS THE FACT THAT THEY WERE QUITE SOME DISTANCE FROM HOME AND HAD PLENTY OF ACTION AT HAND AND THE WOUND WAS SUCH THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THE BLEEDING AND THE LOSS OF BLOOD MADE IT MORE SERIOUS. THIS I PICKED UP FROM "HOPPY" WHO HAD TALKED WITH STAN'S BROTHER.) " WHEN I GOT HOME THEY TOOK IT OUT. OH, WELL, THAT'S OVER, THERE WERE 40 HOLES ON MY SIDE OF THE COCKPIT AND COST US ONE OF THE ENGINES. THINGS ARE POPPING AND UP TO THE TIME I GOT HIT I WAS FLYING A LOT OVER 200 HOURS AND STILL A LONG WAYS TO GO. I'M REALLY SWEATING THEM OUT. .. GOT ONE OF "DOBBY'S LETTERS." WELL, STAN, IT'S BEYOND WORDS FOR US TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE ENJOYED THAT LETTER OF YOURS THAT YOU WROTE ON JULY 20TH JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER YOU WERE "CLIPPED". I FOR ONE WILL VOUCH THAT EVERY GANG MEMBER WAS PULLING THE CORRECT ONE FOR YOUR SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR EVERY LETTER IN ANSWER TO THE 18TH EDITION HAS CARRIED A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND GIVE 'EM HELL SPIRIT TO YOU. SO YOU KNOW NOW IF I DON'T QUOTE EACH ONES WORDS TO YOU. ~~XXXX~~ THEIR THERE JUST THE SAME. I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ALL GANG == STAN HAS BEEN AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL TO GO ALONG WITH THE OTHER MEDALS RECEIVED A SHORT TIME BEFORE HE WAS CLIPPED.

BERNICE IS HERE AND WE ARE READY TO TAKE OFF. TRUEFULLY FROM HERE ON I DON'T KNOW WBERE TO START. FIRST, LET'S ~~ENXX~~ CATCH ON WITH THE GENERAL NEWS. LT. DON HALES LEFT LAST WEDNESDAY FOR , FOUR MONTHS OF SPECIAL SCHOOL AT RANDOLPH FIELD I BELIEVE. DON HAS BEEN DOING A SPLENDID JOB AT TAMPA UNIVERSITY FLIGHT SCHOOL, WHERE ALONG WITH HIS HEAD JOB HE HAS BEEN DOING CONSIDERABLE FLYING FOR HIMSELF WITH 64 HORSE POWER CUB PLANES. "OLLIE" GREEN WAS IN TOWN FOR A TWO DAY VISIT JULY 26 AND 27 WHILE ON HIS WAY TO FLORIDA FOR A SPECIAL SCHOOL IN P.T. TRAINING. HE HAS HOPES THAT THIS MAY LEAD TO A CHANCE AT O.C.S. HE REPORTED THAT HIS BASEBALL TEAM IN OREGON WAS IN SECOND PLACE IN THE LEAGUE WHEN HE LEFT, WITH ELEVEN WINS ~~XXX~~ OUT OF THIRTEEN GAMES. KEN MCAFERTY, WHO IS A MASTER SARGEANT AT CAMP BACKALL, NORTH CAROLINA AND HIS WIFE HAVE BEEN HOME ON A TEN DAY FURLOUGH AND IT WAS OUR PRIVILEGE TO HAVE A GOOD VISIT WITH HIM. LT. BILL DRUMMOND OF THE SIGNAL CORPS DROPPED BY WITH MCAFERTY SATURDAY, JULY 1, FOR A SHORT VISIT WHILE I WAS BUILDING AN ADDITION TO MY CHICKEN, FENCE. (MORE ABOUT THOSE CHICKENS LATER). BILL REPORTS BACK TO CAMP MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY FOR ASSIGNMENT. HE WAS HAVING QUITE A TIME GETTING RAILROAD RESERVATION. JESSE KEIFER IS HOME ON A TEN DAY FURLOUGH AND GOT IN YESTERDAY. DURING THE VISIT WITH COACH HANCOCK AND JESS, JESS TOLD US THAT HE WAS JUST TOO NERVOUS IN THE AIR AND HAD ASKED FOR ELIMINATION. HIS OFFICERS ASKED FOR A MEDICAL CHECK-UP AND THE DOCTORS SUGGESTED A MEDICAL DISCHARGE FROM THE CADETS. JESS SAID HE NOW REPORTS BACK TO A RECLASSIFICATION CENTER FOR HIS NEXT MOVE. BUD BROTHERS, CAROL LOTT, AND DEANE TIMOTHY ARE ALL HOME ON FURLOUGH. BUD CAME IN LAST WEEKEND AND LEAVES THIS COMING SATURDAY, DEANE HIT TOWN LAST NIGHT AND LEAVES NEXT MONDAY, AND CAROL GOT IN TODAY AND HAS UNTIL AUGUST 18. YOU RECALL I TOLD ABOUT CAROL'S ACCIDENT WHILE PLAYING BASEBALL AND THOUGH HE WALKS WITHOUT CRUTCHES AND GETS ALONG PRETTY WEEL, HE STILL HAS QUITE A LIMP. THE LEG BONE WAS BROKEN JUST A SHORT DISTANCE ABOVE THE ANKLE. "HANG ON BOYS. HOLD YOUR BREATH. GUESS WHAT! BILL MARSH, HE WON'T WRITE BUT THE "GRAPEVINE HAS GOT HIM" AND HE CAN'T HIDE ANY LONGER. HE HAS GOT TO COME OUT AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN AND WRITE AND TELL US ALL ABOUT IT OR I AM GOING TO SICK HIS OLD BUDDIES, "HODLINGAN" RED HEAD AND DUSTY ON HIM. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT GUY WENT AND DONE? HE GOT IN DUSTY RYAN'S PRISON. YES SIR, HE IS MARRIED, SO THE "GRAPEVINE" HAS IT. EITHER JUNE OR JULY 17. THE OLD "SCOOPER=DO" FAILED YOU BOYS ON THIS ADVANCE DOPE. BILL WHY DON'T YOU WRITE? DON'T YOU THINK YOU HAD BETTER RED AND DUSTY TO GET ON (GET) THE BALL AND TRY OUT THIS GAME OF MATRIMONY? THEY HAVE TRIED ALL THE OTHER GAMES. BILL YOU RECALL THAT WHEN GEORGE LAST TRIED TO PLAY THIS GAME HE ALMOST SHOT THE WRONG THE BASKET WHEN HE PIVOTED OUT OF THE GAME. THUS, BILL, WE ARE LOCKING FORWARD TO YOUR LETTER TELLING US OF THE GREAT DAY. MAY I EXTEND OUR THE "GANGS" CONGRAT= ULATION TO YOU AND YOUR GOOD WIFE. SINCERELY WE ARE ALL HAPPY THAT YOU ARE. AND WE HOPE THAT IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL YOU WILL BE UP THIS DIRECTION AND GIVE US A VISIT. BOTH OF YOU. SO UNTIL YOUR LETTER ARRIVES, ADIOS. BOB STEELE, COLLEGE HIGH, ~~xxx~~ 1935. MACHINIST MATE 2/c DROPPED IN LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON LATE. HAD DINNER WITH ME AND WE HAD A GREAT VISIT. BOB IS STILL ASSIGNED TO SHIP SERVICE IN LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA, BUT EXPECTS TO BE SHIPPED OUT ON HIS RETURN. HE IS SURE HOPING. FOR IT AS HE HAS BEEN IN THIS LOCATION FOR OVER A YEAR AND WANTS A CHANGE OF SCENERY. IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU BOB AND JUST SAVES YOU FROM BEING IN THE DOG HOUSE FOR NOT HAVING ~~XXXX~~ WRITTEN IN TO THE "GANG" ====LET THAT BE A WARNING TO THE REST OF YOU GUYS. EITHER WRITE, COME HOME AND VISIT US, OR TAKE THE RESULTS OF A ONE SHEET PIECE OF PAPER, PICTURING YOU IN THE DOG HOUSE, WITH THE EARS SLAPPED DOWN AND THAT LONG FORLORN LOOK BECAUSE THE GANG LETTER IS JUST A PICTURE AND NO MORE. THIS TIME IT AIN'T A THREAT, I PROMISE. SO WRITE IN! WRITE THEM IN TO YOUR C.O. AND THE GANG. I REALIZE THAT THE LETTER WE HAVE IN HAND TONIGHT WILL HAVE TO BE ABBREVIATED A PLENTY IN ORDER TO GET THEM ALL INTO THIS EDITION., BUT AT THAT IT GIVES EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US A CHANCE TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF EACH OTHER AND A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AT ~~XXXX~~ EACH LOCATION.

NOTE: PLEASE WRITE TO MY HOME ADDRESS, AS DURING VACATION IT WILL BE TOUGH TO GET IN THE OFFICE HERE AT THE COLLEGE AFTER WORKING HOURS FOR I AM PLANNING TO DO A LITTLE FARMING FOR MONFORT AGAIN THIS FALL. == J. S. DOUBENIER, 2033 SEVENTH AVENUE, GREELEY, COLORADO. ~~BOB~~ CULBERTSON, S 2/C, BERNIE JOHNSON AND CHARLIE BOLLIG ARE HOME ON FURLOUGH FROM FARRAGUT, WITH BOOT TRAINING BEHIND THEM. THEY REPORT BACK THIS WEEKEND TO THE O.G.U. FOR FURTHER ORDERS. RODGE WAS UP AND SPEND AN HOUR WITH ME SUNDAY AFTERNOON. HE IS SURE LOCKING GOOD AND IT WAS DURN GOOD TO SEE HIM AND VISIT WITH HIM. ONE OF THE BOYS WAS TELLING ME THAT: " DAN PFENNING WAS IN TOWN YESTERDAY, BUT I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HIM AND I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYMORE ABOUT HIM. WHEN HE WAS HEADING FOR O.C.S. HE PROMISED TO JOIN THE GANG, BUT AS CAROL LOTT SAID TODAY THAT IS ONE PROMISE HE FORGOT. SO IF ANY OF YOU HAPPEN TO BE CORRESPONDING WITH HIM, OR SHOULD GET HIS NEW ADDRESS, DROP YOUR C.O. A LINE AND I WILL GO AFTER HIM AND TRY TO GET HIM TO KEEP HIS PROMISE. CAPT. WAYNE. ... KOENIG (DICK) LED A THREE LEVEL STRAFING ATTACK OF P39 AND P 40 AGAINST JAPANESE POSITIONS AROUND BIAROKO HARBOR ON JULY 22.