

Prop-wash

S-A-W

Bluethenthal Field

Wilmington, N. C.



December, 1944

Prop-wash

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COVER

Bluethenthal's own Santa Claus, S/Sgt. Aloysius Patrick Mahoney, on the extreme left, pictured with some of his yuletide helpers as the package rush begins at the Base PO. Right front is Cpl. Bill Goetzinger, and at the top Sgt. Ben Mathews, both of D-4, between them are Sgt. Bernard Shepard and Cpl. Eugene Compton, who are helping handle the packages for the 413th.

Airman's Psalm

*The Lord is my Pilot. I shall not falter.
He sustaineth me as I span the heavens;
He leadeth me, steady, o'er the skyways.
He refresheth my soul.
For He showeth me the wonders of His firmament
For His Name's sake.*

*Yea, though I fly through treacherous storms and
darkness
I shall fear no evil, for He is with me.
His Providence and Nearness they comfort me.*

*He openeth lovely vistas before me
In the presence of His Angels.
He filleth my heart with calm.
My trust in Him bringeth me peace.*

*Surely, His Goodness and Mercy
Shall accompany me each moment in the air,
And I shall dwell in His matchless heaven forever.*

—FROM THE OFFICE OF THE AIR CHAPLAIN
Reprinted from Air Force

THE INQUIRING CAMERAMAN ??? QUESTION: Where were you last Christmas and what was cooking?



M/Sgt. Robert E. Stevens from Lorain, Ohio, 1st Sgt. of 371st. "I was in Anchorage, for the third Christmas in a row, sweating out a boat to come home. I managed to get some turkey and it sure tasted good after two Christmases on Spam."

Pvt. Ben Snyder from Pittsburg, Pa., Base Engineering, "Western hospitality made my last Christmas a merry one while I was a student in Engineering and Operations at Fort Logan, Colo. The mess was swell and so was the first real morning's sleep I had had since school started."

Pvt. Eugene Napier of New York City, cook in the 34th Sq. "I was spending my first war Christmas in the good old U. S. A., having spent two at Hickam Field and one in the hospital. I worked all day fixing up a holiday meal for the boys of 17th Base Sq. of Westover Field, Mass."

T/Sgt. William H. Forrest of Tigerton, Wisconsin, Base Photo Lab., "My last two Christmases were spent on Guadalcanal with a heavy Bombardment Sq. The first under combat conditions, the second after we'd driven the last Jap off but were still sweating out bombings. We had turkey both years but the first was a little rough and rushed."

Pvt. John M. Hughes of Birmingham, Ala., Guard Section. "Last Christmas I was home in Birmingham and it was swell — family, friends, and turkey with all the trimmings. However, I had already received my notice and I was inducted early in January."

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337th SERVICE GROUP APPEARS ON SCENE



TENT CITY SPRINGS UP ON MAIN INTERSECTION

Some of the boys of the advance party working on the tent city which now houses the 371st Engineering Sq. of the 337th Service Group. Located on the corner of the Broadway and 42nd Streets of Bluethenthal Field, near the theatre and shopping district. The modern comforts installed just go to prove that an enterprising G. I. can make himself at home any place.

D-1 Bombers Raid Wilmington Armory

By S/Sgt. Jim Marinucci

(SNAFU Newsflash) "A communique from FAF reported a large formation of D-1 bombers neutralized the Cape Fear Armory works. Returning units report complete annihilation of targets. Casualties were very slight."

Wilmington, N. C., 9 December 1944.

Festivities commenced at exactly 2000, though I understand a few impatient men did get off to a head start, but that's unofficial. Like formations of B-29s the D-1 wolfs stormed the Armory and targets such as beer, food and lovely women were quickly recognized and "dealt with."

While their elder buddies guzzled the beer, the younger set, led by S/Sgts. Marinucci and Flood and Cpl. Gottfried, jitterbugged, lindy hopped, and bounced to the crazy rhythm of Tommy Head and his Head Hunters. Master Head was ably assisted at the baton by "Pop" Dobbins, who in spite of his efforts never did get to hear Mexicali Rose. Waltz and fox trot time found the "older set"

(Continued on Page 5)

413th Group Revue

We did a revue in town, at the "Second and Orange" USO, on the night of December 23. Not much to it—30 minutes of songs, dances and skits. Most of it was lost in the big hall. The voices got tangled up in the stage curtains and vied with noises coming in from the lounge. So, to the 300 or more spectators, it was like watching a dumb show.

Too bad, too, because it was a pretty good show. The songs and skits were written by Pfc's Nat Snyderman (21st Sq.—Tech Supply) and Doug Watt (Group Special Services) and there were good performers. Seven USO victory Belles supplemented the five men from the 413th. They sang and acted in one skit.

S/Sgt. Ernie Nole (34th Sq.—Armament) EM-ceed the revue. Sgt. Harry Vineberg (34th Sq.—Communications) did a song, dance and comedy solo, "I never had it so good". Cpl. Kort Falkenberg (1st Sq.—Classification) appeared in all three skits.

Lt. Henry G. Beenders, Group Special Services Officer, supervised the production and kept things moving back-

New Group Has Experienced Nucleus

Under the command of Lt. Col. Ivins L. R. Browne, the 337th Service Group, which has earned the nickname of "Old Timers" or sometimes "Sourdoughs" recently arrived at this field after extensive service in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

The 337th Service Group was one of the first "Old Type" Service Groups, having been activated in Alaska with personnel, the majority of whom were in that theatre prior to Pearl Harbor. This was in 1942 when a critical period existed in that theatre of operations. Sixty per cent of the present Group personnel were assigned to duties throughout the Aleutian chain during the entire campaign for Attu and the occupation of Kiska. Battle honors being awarded the Group for the part played in this campaign.

The "Old Timers" like to sip their "coffee" and talk about their experiences from the time of the Japanese occupation to the complete evacuation of the enemy from the Aleutians and Rat Islands. From their accounts and from their souvenirs of battle you know that these "Old Timers" are a tough and rugged bunch of "Sourdoughs" who are anxious to get back into the "fray" again.

Lt. Col. Ivins L. R. Browne, "The Old Man" as he is affectionately known has been with the Group practically since its beginning. Born in Philadelphia, Pa., and a graduate of West Point, Col. Browne served with the 14th and 18th Infantry in France and Germany during World War Number I.

Christmas Cheer

Boys, keep your eyes peeled on your organizational bulletin boards and read JUNIOR daily for news of holiday activities on the Base and in Wilmington. We'll try to dig up something to make everyone happy, however they like to spend the Christmas season. We'd like to advise you that holiday traditions in Wilmington are built largely around firecrackers and a very mild alcoholic beverage known as Sillybub. Your own organizations, Base Special Services, the USO's, the Hut and the citizens of the town are bending every effort to make this Christmas a merry one for the Boys.

stage in addition to operating the curtains and lighting.

We'll do another soon.

PROP-WASH VISITS

THE FOUR THIRTEENTH



Above are some of the scenes from the 413th's life at Blue-enthal. In the upper left hand corner a bunch of the boys sweat out the chow line with what is apparently great optimism, which seems to be justified from the scene in the lower right hand corner. In the top center another bunch tries relaxing in the PX, probably after one of the Ground Training School sessions, shown in the upper part of the page, where they definitely don't relax. In the center, an unidentified pilot warms up for an altitude flight, while right beside him, the

Group Sgt. Major and his cohorts ponder a weighty administrative problem. Coming down on the left side, part of the 34th's Comm. gang gather round a jeep—a few boys of the 21st line crew take a breather on a pile of crates—and in the corner some of the mechanics and crew chiefs from the 1st Sq. line up along the wing of one of their ships for a photograph. Just below the pilot is interposed a typical swamp view just to make the boys homesick for Blue-enthal and its environs wherever they may go.