



# The Monument



VOL. 2 NO. 37

U. S. S. BUNKER HILL

NOVEMBER 11, 1944

## AIR GROUP EIGHT HOMEWARD BOUND

### Year Book

Preparation for the publication of a yearbook covering the history of the BUNKER HILL, including its combat service, entered the final stretch with the sale of subscriptions to all hands.

First sales were made to personnel of the disembarking squadrons, as arrangements were made for the forwarding of the publication at a later date. Sales of the subscriptions to ship personnel are now underway.

According to Lt. Bernard Ridder, business manager of the book, subscriptions will be offered for sale at announced times, in the crew's library. Correspondence with a publisher in the States made it possible, he said, to estimate the costs and to establish the price for the book at \$5. per copy. Names of subscription purchasers are taken and recorded in triplicate to permit the book to be mailed to any address given by the purchaser.

Compilation and editing of the book is being done with a viewpoint to telling the story of the BUNKER HILL'S service since commissioning, with more than 1,000 pictures being collected from all sources. The Photographic Laboratory is providing graphic pictures of every division activity as well as typical shipboard life.

In addition to these pictures, the files of photos taken of combat have been diligently searched to provide a representative selection of shots, most of which have never been published.

Comprehensive review of every action in which the BUNKER HILL has participated, with companion articles knitting those actions into the overall war picture, will be included as the main feature of the book.

Surveys of early demands indicated that many men desire to purchase several copies to send to relatives and friends. Earlier estimates of sales have been increased to make this possible.

### Two More Stars Authorized

Stars have been approved for two more areas of operations and engagements in which the BUNKER HILL participated:

1. Marshall Islands Operations—Nov. 26, '43 to Mar. 2, '44
2. Asiatic Pacific Raids—1944
  - Truk Attack—16-17 February
  - Marianas Attack—21-22 February
  - Palau, Yap, Ulithi, Woliyai Raid—30 Mar. to 1 April
  - Truk Attack—29 April to 1 May

One star is approved for one or all of Asiatic Pacific raids.

Only those can wear the stars who were aboard the ship during the operations for which stars were approved.

### Leaves Enviably Record

After over seven months of the most rigorous kind of duty which saw them flying from one end of the Pacific to the other, Air Group Eight has been detached to begin a much deserved leave in the states. The senior Air Group in the Pacific, they have stung the enemy in every major operation that has transpired since their entrance into the combat zone.

Led by Comdr. Ralph L. Shifley, who succeeded Comdr. A. McBurney Jackson in the early weeks of their cruise as AGC, they came aboard with a reputation of being the most highly polished group to come out of training. Nor did they fall down on their advance notices, for if anything, even the fondest dreams of those who were aware of their prowess were exceeded. In spearheading almost every major attack they sunk a record amount of shipping tonnage; became one of the top Navy squadrons in number of planes shot down; and wrought a devastation on ground installations that can never be measured.

Throughout it all they operated as a highly efficient team, always one for the other, and never saw themselves bested over a single day on takeoffs and landings. Their work throughout is a genuine tribute to the men responsible for their training—Comdrs. Jackson and Shifley, Collins and Musick, not to forget the veteran officers under them, without whom, such high proficiency could never have been obtained. To Skipper Jim Arbes of the Bombers goes much credit too, although he joined the Air Group late. Filling in at a rather difficult spot for a newcomer, his personality and powers of leadership soon accorded him the confidence he deserved, and he carried this on through every operation.

The ship, while reluctant to see old friends depart, rejoiced when news of their relief was received. And they were old friends too—from the very first day they reported aboard—which made for the ideal situation and the resultant close cooperation between ship's company and Air Group that is so necessary to every carrier organization.

When all the figures have been tabulated, several new records will undoubtedly come to light as a result of their achievements. But whatever the record, the feeling between ship and Air Group will always be deep, and, as far as the ship is concerned, Air Group Eight was the finest Air Group in all the Pacific. The experiences shared will always be a close tie, no matter how far some may drift apart, and in bidding the group adieu, it is not goodbye, but just "Auf Wiedersehen."

The exigencies of the future will determine the activities of Air Group 8. After leave and rest, richly deserved, they will prepare for future participation in the war. It is quite possible that some of them may return to their old ship and add to their score and their comrades; others no doubt will create new records on others ships. Some of V17 have already returned to fly from and return to a familiar deck. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that V8 pilots may come back again. If this wish comes true a hearty welcome to them.



The Ship's Paper of the U. S. S. BUNKER HILL  
Marshall R. Greer, Captain, U. S. N.  
Commanding

Lt. R. E. Delaney (Chaplain)  
Lt. E. L. Moriarty Lt. B. H. Ridder  
Lt. W. C. Mitchell W. Elsner, Photo  
Lt. E. F. Brisnie M. Sandrof, Y2c  
A. C. Matre, RDM2c

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## Good Bye, Good Luck

Once again we say farewell to our Air Group and welcome another aboard. Group 8 with us for several months has taken its departure and a new group which comes aboard with plenty of experience takes her place.

We are not at liberty at this time to reveal the combat achievements of our departing Air Group, when, however, that time comes, it will be shown that Air Group 8 has a record that compares favorably with the best and one that makes her worthy to carry on the tradition set by her predecessors in the earlier days of carrier warfare.

Among the enviable points in her record of achievements it has the distinction of participating in more strikes concerned directly with paving the way to the Philippines than any other carrier air group. From the days that the invasion was prepared for by raids on neighboring islands to the day of invasion, the fighters, bombers, and torpedo planes of this group have played an important role in destroying enemy aircraft, shipping and ground installations so indispensable to the marked success with which we have raced across the Pacific. To the Air Group as a unit we say, "good bye, good luck." To all of them we say, "sorry to see you leave us."

## Lt. Comdr. Aurand's Good Bye

8 October 1944

Commander W. B. Meehling,  
U. S. S. BUNKER HILL  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Commander,

In all the rush attending our sudden departure from the BUNKER HILL, I was unable to say "Good Bye" or to express my appreciation for the consideration that was shown to me and my unit while we were aboard.

In behalf of the entire personnel of my squadron, may I express to you, and through you to the officers and crew of the BUNKER HILL our gratitude and our pleasure at having served on board so grand a ship.

We certainly wish continued success for the BUNKER HILL and the best of good luck for her crew.

Sincerely,  
E. P. Aurand,  
Lt. Comdr., USN,  
Commanding Officer,  
VF(N)-76

## In Memoriam

"Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

To those who have made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of freedom and justice there are not better words than these of Holy Scripture. They gave life itself, and with it life's best gift--youth. They went forth never to return. The world's millions who will enjoy the freedom that they helped to win may never know of their sacrifice, but those who flew with them, who lived with them must never forget.

To Their Memory we quote the poem of another aviator killed in action.

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth.  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things.  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long delirious blue,  
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace,  
Where never lark, or even eagle, flew;  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

## Air Group 8 Enlisted Personnel

No small share of the successful tour of duty recently completed by the present Air Group is due to the enlisted personnel who in a period of combat equalled by few other groups, have contributed a major portion toward gaining ultimate victory over the Japs. Aviation machinist's mates, radiomen, ordnancemen, radio technicians, electricians and parachute riggers have all done their part well. But greatest honors of all go to the actual flying personnel who have flown through a stretch of assorted combat missions that do justice to the best of aircrewmen.

While these men have maintained their high score in the air, the ground personnel of squadron and ship alike have done their share in keeping the planes in flying trim and ready for action day and night.

A varied assortment of American youth is typically represented in the members of the squadron who as a group cover the entire country from coast to coast.

## Discharge or Release to Inactive Duty

Circular Letter #257-44. Applications for Discharge or Release to Inactive Duty of Enlisted Personnel 42 years of Age or Over.

The following policy will govern discharge and release to inactive duty:

1. Applications will be considered only if initiated by the individual concerned.
2. The needs of the service will be considered paramount.
3. Each request for discharge or release will be considered on its individual merits and acted upon by the Bureau of Naval Personnel.
4. In order to be eligible for discharge or release, personnel must have passed their 42nd birthday.
5. Discharge will be for the convenience of the government.
6. Reliefs will be furnished if required.
7. Requests for discharge or release will not be considered, and should not be forwarded, when the individual concerned is awaiting trial by court martial; undergoing punishment as a result of court martial, or sick in a hospital.

# NEW AIR GROUP WELCOME ABOARD

## Comdr. Klinsman Speaks For Group

What good are planes without pilots? The planes of the BUNKER HILL were alive. They were lonesome and forlorn. They crowded the flight deck, some few were on the hangar deck. There was about them a spirit of uselessness, a spirit of futility. Enclosed in them was the mighty power to soar through the skies, in them were guns to blast the way to freedom, but useless without the guiding hand of man. These were the days between the departure of Air Group 8 and the arrival of the new Air Group. No man aboard could give a more enthusiastic greeting to this new Air Group than these planes if their joy could be expressed.

The Ship's officers and crew welcome the Air Group. Their enthusiasm makes us realize that they are aboard to do a job, a job that will help establish freedom in the world, a job that will bring consternation and fear to the hearts of those who seek to subjugate the peoples of the East to their cruel domination. Their efficiency and an enviable record has preceded them, many of them come aboard not to begin, but to continue an excellent score. When it became known what group was coming the question was "Where have they been, where did they come from?" The news of their experiences was quickly divulged, we realized that we were getting the best.

The group is by no means a newly formed one or one fresh from training, the majority of its members have had experience in other carriers. The greatest number come from the Ranger, a few from the others. There are in the group a number seeing their first duty aboard a carrier. They are not green or inexperienced, they have been training with those of experience so that they have become co-operating members of a smooth team. These last wait only the first combat mission to show their ability and efficiency in polishing off the enemy.

Speaking for the Air Group, Comdr. George O. Klinsman, USN, said, "We appreciate the wonderful spirit of receiving the new Air Group, making us feel most welcome on the part of the ship. We will try to live up to the fine reputation. We are proud to be members of the team."

We assure you, Comdr. Klinsman, and all the members of the Air Group that we shall be proud to work on the team with you. We admire your friendliness and your bearing of efficiency and determination to do the task that lies ahead.

Comdr. George O. Klinsman is the Air Group Commander. He has been in command since March, 1944. He is a graduate of the Naval Academy, Class of '33. He has had experience in big boats making a flight from San Diego to Honolulu and Manila in June of 1940. He is instructed at Miami for two years and has seen duty on the old Lexington and the Ranger.

Lt. Comdr. Keene G. Hammond is the Skipper of the Fighting Squadron. An Academy graduate of 1938, he has been with the squadron 28 months, Squadron Commander for 8. His "Exec" is Lt. Lykes M. Boykin, USNR. His experience has been aboard the Ranger. In this squadron, 30 of the pilots have had experience on the Ranger and 11 on other carriers.

The Bombers have for their "Skipper" Lt. Comdr. Cecil V. Johnson, USN, of the Naval Academy Class of '38, he has been in the squadron 40 months, 6 of these as Squadron Commander. The "Exec" is Lt. Cyrus F. Weeks, USNR. About half of the bomber pilots have come from the Ranger.

The "Skipper" of the Torpedo Squadron is Lt. Paul J. Davis, USNR. He has been 6 months with the squadron, 1 as Squadron Commander. The "Exec" is Lt. Lawrence L. Hamrick, USNR. Eleven of the squadron has been on the Ranger, 3 on other carriers.

The Staff of Comdr. Klinsman includes, Lt. Comdr. F. D. Gurll, USNR, Administration Officer; Lt. H. E. Yokela, USNR, Rdo/Radar Officer; Lt. C. W. Hughes, USNR, Recognition Officer; Lt. A. T. Airth, USNR, A.C.I. Officer; Lt. I. D. Frantz, USNR, Flight Surgeon; Lt. J. W. E. Wood, USNR, L.S.O. and Ens. F. W. Hopkins, USNR, Avia. Equip. Officer.

Back when Air Group 17 was taking off the BUNKER HILL for a well earned rest, Chaplain Dreith wrote, in a farewell message: "And someday when they return to the fray, we hope, we honestly hope, that we can look up into the sky and see Bombing 17, Torpedo 17, and Fighting 18, coming home to land on old 17." That wish has partly come true, for amongst the new Air Group there are Lt. (jg) William J. Ladoceur and Lt. Norman B. Hancock of V.F. 18 and also Torpedo 17 pilot Lt. Edward A. Newell.

The new Air Group comes aboard not to begin, but to continue making history. They are eager and ready to go and with the Ship's officers and crew giving them every help and assistance, a 4.0 job is in prospect.

## Rotation of Duty Program

Circular Letter #255-44 states that the Bureau is concerned with the apparent misunderstanding which has grown up among all personnel in connection with the rotation-of-duty program. A policy, regarding rotation of duty for naval personnel assigned to outlying bases and to ships operating in forward areas, was established, but emphasized that the degree to which this policy would be carried out would depend on the over-all availability of personnel and transportation, and the varying immediate demands for personnel in the forward areas in connection with the active prosecution of the war.

Experience has shown that relief of naval personnel after serving eighteen (18) months at outlying stations or on board ships in forward areas is not always possible. Moreover there is every reason to expect that rotation of personnel will become increasingly difficult to accomplish, as the war against Japan is intensified with the attendant increases in the amount of shipping required for initial movements of personnel and for the support of naval forces already deployed in the Pacific theatre.

Commanding officers of all ships and stations are directed to bring this letter to the attention of all naval personnel under their commands and to again emphasize the provisional and contingent character of the rotation policy as announced.

The Bureau of Naval Personnel will continue, as heretofore, to activate such rotation of enlisted personnel as is possible by ordering additional personnel to administrative commands for assignment, over and above the numbers required to replace new construction and school quotas, attrition, and other losses. The numbers to be so assigned will vary from month to month, depending on the availability of personnel and transportation. Rotation of officers on shore duty at outlying stations will continue to be handled through the Area commanders. Rotation of officers in ships will continue to be handled by the Bureau in accordance with current practice, integrating the needs for new construction with the policy of rotation, insofar as practicable.

*Bunker Hillbilly Says*

A WISE MAN, LIKE THE MOON,  
SHOWS ONLY HIS BRIGHT SIDE  
TO THE WORLD.

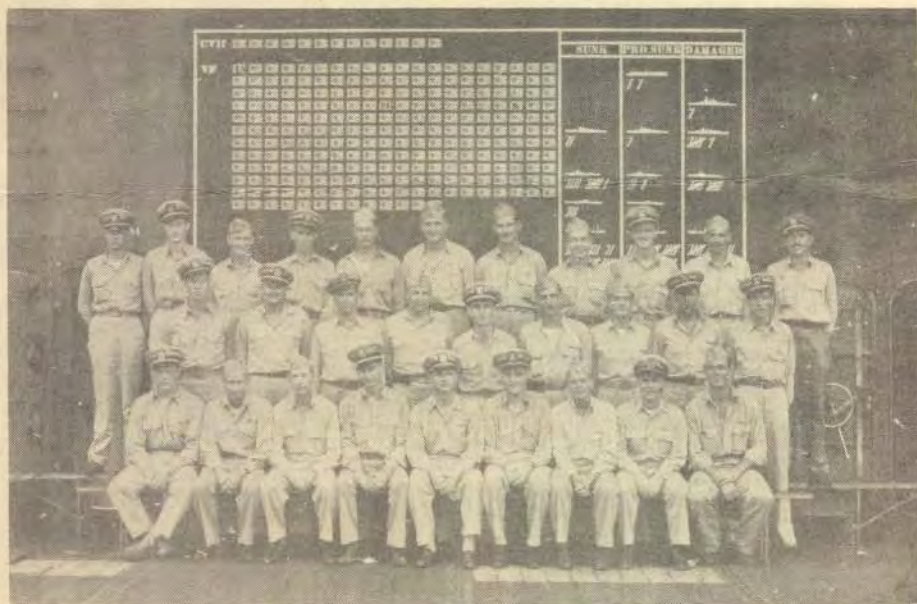


## Bombing Squadron 8

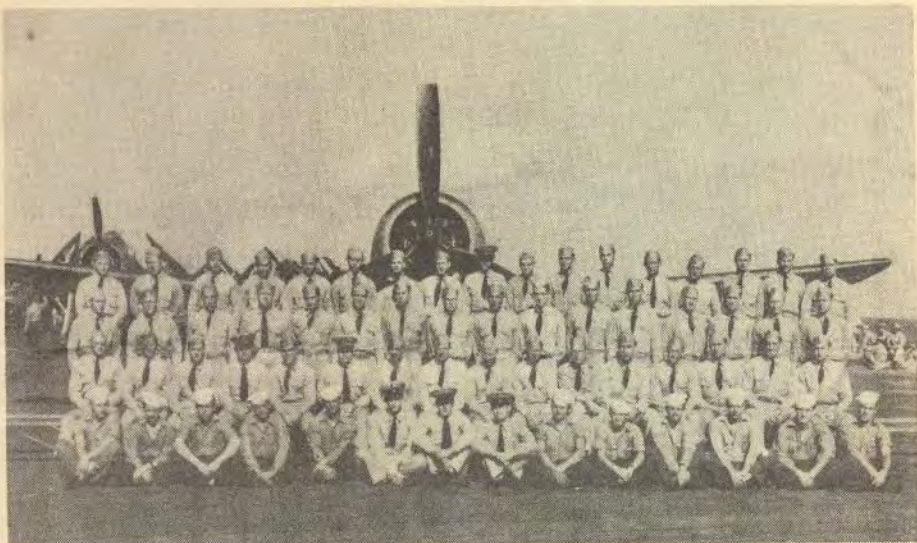


## THE MEN WHO DID THE

### *Torpedo Squadron 8 Officers*



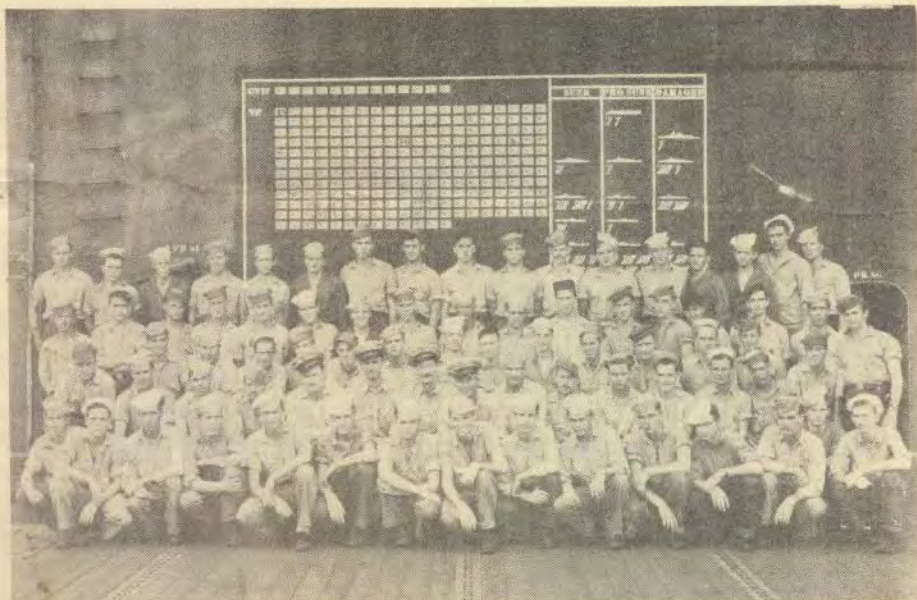
# Fighting Squadron 8



**JOB AND DID IT WELL**



## *Torpedo Squadron 8 Enlisted Men*



## Air Group 8 Basketball Team



The active part taken by squadron officers in the ship's athletic program is evidence by the fact that they won both track meets staged on the flight deck; produced fine basketball and baseball teams; and when the opportunity was presented, fielded a soft-ball team that demanded no apologies.

Perhaps the most outstanding organization was the basketball team which represented Air Group Eight. With a galaxy of ex-college stars, in addition to many who would have been college stars, if given the opportunity, they undoubtedly proved themselves one of the best teams in the fleet.

Organized by Lt. Comdr. Bob Middleton, then ship's Athletic Officer, and Lt. (jg) Don Johnston of the Bombing Squadron, it took only a few days to whip the organization into shape, once the facilities became available with the installation of a regulation-sized court on the hangar deck. Their first game was played aboard another ship, with practically no practice behind them. The result was a loss by a narrow margin, which actually meant nothing when an overwhelming victory was scored over the same team in a return engagement. Though the team played as many as four or five games in a week, during "in port" periods, only one more loss was sustained, and that to the crack BUNKER HILL enlisted men's team. With many of the squadron officers on the beach that day, even the tide might have been turned in that game, if full strength had been available.

Along with Don Johnston, who formerly starred for Washington and Lee, and whose play was steady throughout the entire cruise, the squadron officers usually lined up with such men as "Big Gus" Gustafson, former Penn luminary and captain; slippery "Ollie" Johnson of the Torps, one of the high scorers and one of the flashiest men on the court; Bob Hobbs, who won his "I" at Iowa; Perry Huntsman, from Sacramento State; and George Kirk, another

(Back Row: L. to R.) Lt. H. D. Gustafson, Norristown, Pa.; Lt. D. Johnson, Maplewood, N. J.; Lt. (jg) R. C. Degolia, Minlo Park, Calif.; Lt. (jg) R. A. Hobbs, Omaha, Neb.; Lt. W. J. Gillerlain, Chicago, Ill.

(Front Row: L. to R.) Lt. (jg) Kirk, Maline, Ill.; Lt. (jg) E. L. Johnson, Phoenix, Arizona; Lt. (jg) J. W. Topliff, Tarpon Springs, Fla.; Lt. (jg) H. J. Boydston, Durant, Okla.; Lt. (jg) S. F. Czekala, Gary, Ind.

speedy forward of definite high caliber who says he was too small to go out for the team when he was at Iowa.

When the opposition became too enthused, and got a little out of hand with their tactics, counter measure in the person of the large "Gil" Gillerlain, a former University of Chicago football and court star, was inserted. When he mixed in, the boys behaved, or at least became sufficiently enraged so as to hasten their departure from the scene on personals.

With never a set first or second team, such men as Scott McCuskey, "Topper" Topliff and "Zeke Czekala usually played just about as much as the other boys. Injected into the fray at a well-timed moment, they were always good for a new spark that was very tiring to the opposition, who usually could boast no such reserves. Athletic Officer Ken Hashagen, a former All-American cage star from Penn, also saw a little service with the team, but usually he was content to master mind from the bench, and let the squadron boys gather in their glories without his assistance.

"Pete" Sachon, of the Bombers, former Catholic U and professional football satellite, usually refereed the games, ably assisted by Chief Specialist Nagler, or Chief Storekeeper "Popeye" Hayes, who also guided the ship's team.



## Flat Top Topics

Cpl. Anthony Pezone tells this story about his small son. His mother took him to the beach, and in seeing a well tattooed sailor pass by, the child exclaimed, "Look at the funny papers on that man's arm, Mommie." A chip off the old block, Pezone!

Clinton Scott—another "Bob Hope," keeps the gang in stitches all the time. When Scott tells one—well—you will laugh, I assure you—just ask the gang.

Occhie Edwards, "King Occhie of the Scullery," loves to debate on any subject. He should be a politician when he returns to the States. His favorite joke: What did the hangman say to the condemned man when he couldn't find the noose? Answer: No noose is good noose.

All persons doubting the merits of the Marine Corps are invited to listen to the nightly talks of CPO George Misher on Battery 2. He should be a recruiting sergeant at a shore station.

Elwood Frost, StM1c, always imitating Collman Hawkins, saxophone player, does a good job of it. He tries to sing loud. Well—you guess the rest.

"Mac" Williams, that "Clark Gable" of S-2, claims to be a killer-diller with the ladies. He's always talking about his gals and cars.

"Kococo" Walker, StM1c, giving the boys the real dope about Dayton, Ohio and his college days at Wilberforce, Univ. His main post-war plan is to start a tribe of Kococo Jrs.

Roy Layton "Swing Master of the Steward Mates" usually holds his jam session each night at 1600. His collections date back 12 years and include numbers of Glen Miller, Duke Ellington, Jimmy Lunceford and Hampton's "My Home." A real lover of classical and swing music.

Just a line to the gedunk line chiselers—a line from your friends who requested these few but true words: "Do unto others as you would want others to do unto you." Truer words have never been spoken.




## Inquiring Photographer

The BUNKER HILL'S Inquiring Photographer will select one question each week, submitted by the crew at large, and query five men chosen at random on the subject. Two dollars will be awarded in cash each week to the originator of the question used. A convenient box will be placed in the ship's library to receive the question.

This week's question is submitted by C. C. Corrill, RDM2c.

### WHAT TYPE OF PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE INFLICTED ON THE AXIS WAR LORDS?

Nicholas Bakl, Y1c



"Inasmuch as these men have wrought a new and more devastating era than ever before, likewise, should a new form or type of punishment be executed to equal their crime. It is obvious that a quick death would be merciful and defeat its purpose."

Kenneth P. Trusselle, RT1c

"Capital punishment is the obvious answer. All people who are intimately associated with these war lords should be ferreted out and delt the same treatment. After all, people are making the sacrifice, so why shouldn't they also pay the same price."



Cpl. S. Tomaskovicz, USMC



"The severest punishment is none too light for these war lords. Killing them would be letting them get off the easy way. They should be imprisoned and made to do the hardest of labor that is known to mankind, and denying them contact with the outside world."

Morris Sandrof, Y2c

"No suitable punishment could be meted out that would adequately cover or compare with the barbarity of their crime. To end their lot I suggest they be rounded up, given a mass trial and sentenced to meet the same fate that befell the conquered masses."



William McCormick, RM3c



"At the conclusion of the war, the type of punishment that should be inflicted on the war lords should be to punish them with death, so as to teach future aggressors a lesson they're not apt to forget. It will be a mistake if Hitler and Tojo are allowed to live after the war."

**Male Call**

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"

**Mover-Slightly Beyond Prime**



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