

*This is the meeting place of the WAR BIRDS flying club.
Each month news of the organization and members will be discussed.*

THE COCKPIT
(WAR BIRDS 2/34)

CHEERIO and Pip Pip:

How do you like the Limey greeting? Not so good? Oh, well. You've got to pardon the old Adjutant this morning. Now that everything is all legal, we just had a nice package from England (you know, the country where all the distilleries are). Of course, none of you lads should receive packages like that, but the Adjutant finds that they help his neuritis.

You've sure been shooting the mail these days. Between moving our base and reading mail, the old neuritis has been acting up. I hope that you will all note the new location of Wing H.Q. Yessir. We are now at 149 Madison Avenue, New York City. We needed a bigger hangar for the Adjutant's private blimp and besides that, you fellows had worn out every mailman they had over on Fifth Avenue and the post office was serving us notice that we had to carry the coupons up ourselves. Not so good. So we moved and the new set of mailmen look very strong and stalwart, like the lads you see on the Marine recruiting posters.

The complaint department was not moved when we left 100 Fifth Avenue. We found that we wouldn't need it any more. Now that everybody is getting prompt service on booklets, applications, examination papers, commissions, etc., the grunt and growl mail has declined. Much obliged.

The inquiries are starting to come in now about the WAR BIRDS wings. Well, hold it a bit. You'll have all the dope in the next. We are contracting for the niftiest silver plated pins you ever flipped a glim on—and we are making arrangements to supply them to every commissioned member of the WAR BIRDS at absolute cost. The price will be reasonable and your pin is something that you can be proud to wear. It is not a premium for clipping coupons —it is the insignia of an organization into which no member was ever accepted without qualifying. When you see it on another breast, you know that you are meeting a fellow worth knowing, a chap who has passed the tests that you yourself had to pass; and when the other chap sees your pin, he recognizes a kindred spirit.

If you are impatient for the insignia distribution to get under way, you haven't got a thing on us. We are as eager as you are. The old Adjutant is going to get one powerful boot out of promenading down the avenue and recognizing those pins on the broad chests shoving by. Yezzir. And the C.O.—tough as he is—has a gleam in his eye when he talks about those pins and the lads who will wear them. So hold it, Buzzard, and we'll be impatient with you!

The free pictures! Yep. A few of you are asking about those, too. Well, you know what the C.O. said in his last. I've never heard him lie to anyone yet. They'll be along. Just watch the sheet.

And don't miss the WAR BIRDS news column this issue. There is a long list of personal mention. The controversy about admitting German and Austrian members to the WAR BIRDS has brought us a lot of mail. We found the letters very helpful. The thing, however, that stirred us up most was the enthusiasm shown for the organizing of WAR BIRD posts and clubs. The Skipper is all heated up about that and he has authorized me to make an announcement.

ATTEN— 'SHUN!

Bugle that bugle a bit, Bugler! Everybody got the ears back? Righto! The Adjutant is about to announce an official announcement. Here 'tis. To the organizer of each and every club reaching a membership of twenty, H.Q. will grant a Captain's commission.

Let that soak in. There will be another announcement in a moment or two. The idea is to boom the organizing of WAR BIRD posts. The qualifications are: (a) The organizer must be himself a commissioned

officer in the WAR BIRDS; (b) He must turn in a list of his members when the membership reaches twenty; (c) All members must be officers in the WAR BIRDS or must have their applications in for commissions; (d) In cases where the member's town is small, the club will be recognized with less than twenty members. Just convince us that you have done the best possible with the town or the neighborhood that is yours.

ATTEN— 'SHUN! We announce some more.

To every WAR BIRD post so organized, we will give a WAR BIRD charter to be hung in the club house, plus certain concessions which will enable them to buy club equipment, etc., at cost.

Get aboard and whoop 'er up. We want a WAR BIRD post in every town. (The Adjutant travels quite a lot and he would like to be able to get free sandwiches and a cot in a corner every place he goes. Boy, would that cut down expenses?) The C.O. says to put the brackets around that last crack; that it isn't official. But we still maintain that it will make it nice for all members if they know where there are posts and can drop in and chew the fat about this and that.

Now—one more matter. So many members have written in for the addresses of the two German lads that we have been puzzled. If we gave out those addresses, the German brothers would have so much mail that they could never answer it even if they worked nights—and if they didn't answer, you lads would get sore at them. We decided to hold the addresses back. The same goes for other lads who write in—but we've got an idea.

As long as so many of you like to write letters, we'll give you a mail depot. Any of you who want to send and receive mail can shoot a note to the WORDS A-WING department. Your name will be listed—and it's your job to answer every brother that writes. Fair enough? Well, watch for the WORDS A-WING column and if you want a spot in it, shoot your request along.

That's enough. The Skipper just came in and started to read this over my shoulder. He says that it sounds as though I had been reading Alice in Wonderland—and he opines that maybe there ought to be a vote of the members as to whether we need a new adjutant or not. Well, I dunno. How'd you vote, brother?

Saluting with stiff dignity.
The Adjutant.

NOTES OF THE WAR BIRDS

Where did that expression "Deaf as a Post" originate? We don't know, but it certainly wasn't around this gang. A lot of WAR BIRD posts heard the Skipper's call last month and have been springing up to attention.

Shelbyville, Indiana, started it, you know. George Hurst out there organized one. Now there comes a lad named John H. Pomeroy, of 92 Pasadena Street, in good old Pittsburgh, Pa. John's club is off to a flying start with sixteen members. That's a swell turnout and if he'll shoot along the roster and the name of the post, we'll run the names in the next.

And Brooklyn — Gotham's little brother—has a post getting under way. Herbert Lakow is organizing that one. Salutes, Herbert. Note the dope on clubs in the Adjutant's column and govern yourself accordingly.

And Long Island! The boys out there have been working on the idea. John E. Mills, of Amityville, is the commander of L. I.'s first post. He has eight on the roster and thinks that 20 will be easy. The post has a real neat insignia that we may print later; a flaring red tail behind a red star that is burying itself into a circular field of blue. Nice. They call themselves the "Eight Comets." Something will have to be done with that name if they get 20 on the roll.

George Donald Ferris, who holds down a cold night trick for Western Union up at Traverse City, Michigan, is also lining them up, but he doesn't tell us how many are in nor what he is going to call his post. So far, he merely wants to know if it is all right.

Well, it certainly is all right. We're all for the idea and we want the name of the post, the names on the roster and all the dope as quickly as possible. We'll take care of them in this column. Now get going. No charters have been issued yet—not even to those clubs already mentioned. It is everybody's white alley. Read the Adjutant's remarks and start shooting. Pick a name for your post from your own inspiration, but file it with us so we'll all know what you call it. Some of the posts are being named for favorite air authors, some for favorite aces, some for favorite war-time ships . . . the range is infinite. Use the old originality and let us all whoop it up.

THE controversy on the German applicants was quite interesting. We have had over a hundred letters and the voting has been heavily in favor of admitting our former enemies on an equal basis. We are glad that you all feel that way. Our quarrel with the Central Powers was settled long ago and our chief concern now is in keeping alive the spirit that Youth took to the skies in those dark hours of yesterday—Youth of whatever country color, creed or conviction!

A salute then for our latest squadron—enrolled by acclamation. SQUADRON NUMBER SEVENTY — GERMANY! Hoch!

Since the letters on the German member question give a good cross-section of how the minds of our members work, we are going to publish a few extracts. Here Y'are:

ROBERT MEADE, JR., of Galveston, Texas:

"The spirit of patriotism flows in the veins of these German applicants just as it does in the rest of us. As the object of the WAR BIRDS is to revive and retain the 'Spirit of '18,' a man's patriotism should be the test. It shouldn't make any difference if he's patriotic to a different country than ours."

M. CARR., JR., New York City:

"I believe that the Germans and Austrians should join the club. After all, the war is over and has been for fifteen years. Why not let us all be friends . . ."

EDWARD BEITZLE, Wilmington, Del.:

"Let's bring in the boys from Germany and give some of our stamp collectors a chance to get some new stamps through writing to all of the nations of the world."

ROY BIANCHI, Pittsburgh, Pa:

"To deny the citizens of the Central Powers admittance to WAR BIRDS would serve only to keep alive the flame of war-time hatreds and prejudices, most of which were unfounded."

WILLIAM J. RASSBACH, St. Paul, Minn.:

"The Germans should not be admitted to the WAR BIRDS. There are enough Americans without citizens of foreign countries joining. I do not believe that they would allow us to join any of their clubs, so why should we admit them?"

CLAIR VATER, Whiting, Ind.:

"Let them join. If they are war veterans, they can give us their opinion and if they are not, they can tell us how people in Germany feel about the aces we read about."

DONALD F. CONREY, Cheyenne, Wyo.:

"The Germans fought for their country just as the A.E.F. fought for ours. If this organization could be built into an international meeting place for readers from all nations, wouldn't that give us all a better Understanding of the people of other nations—and they of us?"

JIM WHITTUM, Edgewood, Pa.:

"Let the Germans and Austrians in. They can teach us the other side of the war. Most of us would like to learn about the other side. Personally, I think the Germans were pretty good fellows even if they were foes."

HENRY M. STONESTREET, U.S.N.R., 8th Batt.:

"I, for one, would be proud to have the Germans and Austrians for comrades. After all, in 1918, Germany was fighting on her five yard line and they were just as courageous as was France in 1915."

BOB FRANCIS, Glendale, Calif.:

"Let them join. In the stories, I would like to see the Germans portrayed as heroes once in a while. If I know anything about war flying, the Germans ran up pretty nice records for themselves."

EDWARD ALLEN, Buffalo, N.Y.:

"We should be glad of an opportunity for building up friendship and understanding between nationalities. The German boys cannot help what happened in 1914-18. If we can admit squadrons from all those other countries, why not Germany? They are as good as anyone. Let them join."

STANLEY KOVALL, East St. Louis, Ill.:

"The boys weren't drinking any loving cups with the Huns in T8 and I don't see any reason why we should be patting them on the back now. Let 'em form their own clubs."

THERE were a lot more of the letters on the question of German memberships but we had to pick them out of the hat at random and space wouldn't let us print them all. All of you lads will have to get used to this hat-diving. If your name doesn't come up, don't think we're sore at you. Keep writing when you have an opinion.

Not much room left. But we have to salute the ladies. There is one of them in our midst. Delores Bosanko, of 3286 Stuart Street, Denver, Colorado, has applied for membership; has voted in favor of admitting the Germans and is anxious to do a little writing to members. What do you think of this? Can the ladies belong, or shall we be a stag organization? There was a women's auxiliary to the Royal Air Force during the war, you know, and many women's organizations backing up the lads in '18 right here in the U.S.A. Up at H.Q., we don't know. What do you say?