

*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 3/34)

WINGS FOR WAR BIRDS

THERE, Gentlemen, is the slogan for the month. Does the old adjutant seem too polite this meeting? Well, it just can't be helped. Since getting a slant at the silver glint of our official pin, I'm just bubbling over with dignity. Boys, that pin is a honey.

When this meeting adjourns, the first thing you want to do is to make a bee-line for the mail box. Your pin is up here at the new H.Q. shack— 149 Madison Avenue, N.Y.C. The skipper has instructed me to mail out the pins as fast as orders are received. You get the exact cost price of production with no wholesale, retail, jobber, distributor or other profit added. You lay—what do you suppose?—just fifteen cents on the line. That pin is silver plated, too.

Yezzir. For three little nickels, you get the classiest lapel pin that you ever flipped an eye on—spreading wings with WAR BIRDS on the center shield. Only commissioned members of The WAR BIRDS, of course, can have them. Name, address and squadron number must accompany each application. If any of you lads at this meeting have not yet qualified, act fast and get your application in for the War Birds examination. As soon as your commission has been signed, you are eligible for wings.

Some of you have been cracking down with a great idea. You have, of course, taken the WAR BIRDS post idea to your hearts as we expected that you would and many of you are busy organizing. That is great. Some of you have been designing individual town and state insignia.

Now that's hot. Our mail has contained a number of designs lately that were better than good and when you consider that every squadron in France designed its own insignia, you can appreciate how logical the idea is. Only we never thought of it up here; you did. If you'll ride right after that and get busy on squadron insignia as soon as you get your groups and posts organized, we'll surprise you one of these days and devote an entire section of this magazine to reproductions of the designs and dope about the lads who organized the posts and designed the insignia.

Two more things and we're through. Don't forget the correspondence club. We'll list the names of members who wish to correspond and who are willing to welcome traveling WAR BIRDS who stop off along the way. We ask only that those who promise to write, actually do it. "A promise made is a debt unpaid" and unpaid debts lead to court-martial. Watch it!

And that's enough, Ye Adjutant.

NOTES OF THE WAR BIRDS

A COMPLICATION has developed since we first announced that this page would be given over to news, notes, decorations and promotions.

We were a little bit disappointed to find that there were WAR BIRDS who refused to join posts if other WAR BIRDS were in command; the objectors figuring that the commanders would have higher rank. That's something that calls for consideration. Let us get it straight.

We are going to grant rank to commanders. Any group commander will rate promotion who can report six commissioned members of WAR BIRDS as assembled in one post provided the post is regularly organized, has a regular meeting schedule, an insignia and a name. His rank for a six to ten member post will be "Captain" provided that he sends in a notice of his election as Post Commander signed by each of the post members. For an eleven to twenty member post, the commander's rank will be "Major" and he will be

entitled to one Captain under his command. Lest this seem to make the higher rank available only to men in the larger towns, we wish to add that a six member post can qualify by special service as an A-I post, giving it the same rank privileges as the larger post.

Got all that? Okay. Now for the sorehead stuff. Somebody has to swing rank and some of the finest aces of the war never commanded a squadron. Ball never did, nor Guynemer, nor Fonck, nor Rickenbacker. Few in fact of the really great went high in rank. Greatness and authority do not necessarily go together; they are different things altogether.

“But,” writes one alarmed member, “I have gone to a lot of trouble in stirring up interest in the post idea and have one started here—now some of the other fellows are getting together to make another fellow the commander.”

On the face of it, that is tough. But lads capable of qualifying for WAR BIRDS have good judgment and there is probably a lot behind this case and others like it that may come up. The boys probably figure that the other lad would make a better leader. But we want to be fair and we want to reward work where work is done.

In cases like the one above, we think that the organizer rates a reward. If his post says that he does, he gets it; no matter who gets the rank. And there will be ways worked out for passing on citations sent in by Post Commanders.

The main thing is to get the posts organized—then all the rest will follow. And that’s that.

#### OFFICERS’ MEETING PLACE

NO decorations this trip. Just honorable mention. Some of these lads may rate later.

LIEUTENANT JOHN LITWIN, JR., Chicago, 111., comes through with the idea of making up plans of war planes for interested members. Maybe we can do this, too. What’s the vote?

LIEUTENANT EDWIN DURYER, Tilton, N. H., sends in a suggestion for a mighty clever insignia and reports that he was offered fifty cents for his booklet on War Planes which WAR BIRDS sent out for a thin nickel. Several other members have reported interest by outsiders in our booklets and attempts to buy them. Don’t sell them. Tell them where they can get them and try to make members of them. And by the way, we have reprinted those booklets several times to meet the heavy demand. The present supply is short. If you haven’t got the four booklets on “War Planes,” “Archy,” “Synthetic Aces” and “Plane Facts,” you’d better send your twenty cents to the Adjutant and get them right away. And what do you fellows think of another series of booklets? Would you buy them? And what subjects would you like? On the insignia, Lieutenant Duryer, you’d better get a post organized. It’s about the only way to use it.

The same answer on insignia to LIEUT. TED WILSON of Lake Forest, 111., who sent in a nice design for his state.

LIEUTENANT GEORGE HURST who organized the first WAR BIRDS post sends in an impressive list of members ; nearly all pilots and one of them a flyer with war experience. This Shelbyville, Indiana, bunch has snap and hustle to them. They own an Eaglerock plane and they have a long start on a great post out there. We’ll run that roster, lieutenant, when we get the squadron name and a signed report on the vote for Commander.

LIEUTENANT PATRICK FRISCIA, 218 Grand Street, New York City, suggests an annual dance in the big town —a WAR BIRD affair. It might go over. We suggest that those organizing posts in Manhattan consider a general yearly get-together.

LIEUTENANT ROBERT JAHNKE is another Chicagoan who has a nice insignia idea. Get a Post on the way, Lieutenant. He also cracks a request for names of WAR BIRDS. Watch for the correspondence club column. That ought to do it.

LIEUT. G. VON TRABBOLD, Laurel Springs, N. J., reports that he is organizing a post called the Flying Fox squadron and includes a well done drawing of his insignia. Follow through, Lieutenant. We'd like to have a Yank WAR BIRD Post commanded by a lad with a "Von" on his name. Swell.

#### PROMOTIONS

ROBERT D. HATCHER, 2nd Lieut. Squadron 2, Annapolis, Maryland to 1st Lieut. Effective immediately. Valuable suggestions.

ROBERT L. MEADE, Jr., 2nd Lieut. Squadron 37, Galveston, Texas. 1st Lieut. Effective immediately. Valuable suggestions.

V. BURNERT, 2nd Lieut. Squadron 17, St. Louis, Mo. 1st Lieut. Effective immediately. Valuable suggestions.

JOHN P. SCHAFER, 2nd Lieut. Waterbury, Conn. 1st Lieut. Effective March 1st. Meritorious service.

*There's the bugle. Lights out!*