

*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 6/34)

HAWARYA, THIS MORNIN'?

THE ADJUNCT SEZ

UH-HUH, the old Adjutant feels just like that and maybe about half of you muggs out front are to blame for his sad condition. Yes-sir. As a matter of fact, all of you officers and gentlemen came darn near getting the carbon burned out of you like a bunch of grease monkeys this morning. Right.

It was only the quick and agile brain of your unappreciated Adjutant that saved you—and the Adjutant is putting himself in for two medals, a promotion and a raise in pay for the very great suggestion he thought up in saving you officers and gentlemen from being treated like a kaydet drill. It's this way.

The Adjutant is an officer and gentleman himself and it doesn't do him as much good around here as if ha was a triple-tailed blue monkey. A blue monkey would get a lot of attention anyway if he didn't get anything else. About twenty minutes ago, the C.O. called me in and he was in one of those stern, unbending moods. "This is the finest aviation club in the United States," he says grimly, "and there's only one thing the matter with it."

Well, Modocs, when he said that and looked at me the way he was looking, I figured that that "one thing" was maybe "me"—and you know that couldn't be right even if the C.O. said so. Well, for once, that wasn't the answer. The C.O. chews the place where the end of his mustache would be if he had a mustache and growls:

"Exactly 3,148 lads who have made application for membership, in WAR BIRDS," he says stormily, "have not returned their examination papers."

Well, he had the arithmetic all done and the figures were right and there wasn't anything I could do. "Blimey!" as my old ack emma used to say, there isn't any C.O. who could expect this Adjutant to answer that many questions himself—so why was I on the carpet? It was all of you muggs out front with the sheepish looks who pulled that one. But the C.O. was looking at me.

"It's ridiculous," he said, "for so many lads to be deprived of the privileges of membership in the WAR BIRDS when they have been interested enough to make application. Ridiculous!"

Well, the old Adjutant swallows his gulper a few times on that. It was ridiculous, but still I felt that I didn't do it. "And so what?" I says very respectfully.

Modocs, I like you all too much to repeat the C.O.'s language to you. He don't go for that "So what?" business from this Adjutant. He sure don't. At the end of the ninety second Marine Corps noun that he heaved at me, he roars: "Get out of here and do something about it."

So—you officers and gentlemen, you! What I was going to do was come out here and pass my razzing along. After all, it was 3,148 of you gang out front that got me in this mess. But the brain worked like greased lightning on the way out and you're safe. Listen close to the great big brain wave of the trusty old Adjutant.

(NOTE FROM THE C.O.—The Adjutant is going to tell you now what we should have told you many paragraphs back. And because it is a surprisingly good suggestion, he is only fined one day's pay instead of two for his unmilitary griping.)

The reason, says I, that so many lads have failed to send in their applications is because of a foolish pride. They are afraid they won't pass. Now fear is unmilitary and unworthy of a War Bird; but lack of confidence is no crime at all. There never was a kaydet who soloed during la guerre—except for a few crackpots—who didn't have his heart in his mouth and sweat clean down his spine when he took the stick. That was lack of confidence—not fear. Get me.

Well, you lads who lack only confidence, should get busy as blazes and tackle those questions—and win your wings. With the aid of the four WAR BIRDS booklets (five cents each), you can't miss on that exam if you've got air-feel and air-desire in you. The rest of you—

Here's the brain wave.

None of us realized it before, but it is undoubtedly a fact. We have men around our hangars who are just starting on the road to air-know. Air-minded lads they are, who want to get the feel of things before going after commissions, swell human material that can be molded into great officers once they feel at home. At present, we are barring these ambitious lads from membership by being just a little snooty; by being solely an officer organization.

Well, that isn't fair, and the old Adjutant has been booted around himself and here's his answer: You will find a coupon in this issue addressed personally to the Adjutant. Read it over.

The Adjutant's personal coupon has nothing to do with officers. It is the password that will open the doors of WAR BIRDS to the lads who want to belong and who want to get the hang of things before stepping out after a commission—it is THE NON COM'S MESS where good fellows can gather and leave the stripes outside.

To all of you who wish to defer taking the examination until later, and who wish to be WAR BIRDS badly enough to join up and wait for your commissions—the Adjutant flings wide his own corner of the drome. You are welcome as the Bowers in May, and the Adjutant will listen to your problems and help you in any way that he can. He'll send you a membership card and fight for you to get recognition for the doings of the non-com's mess alongside the regular officer column. You'll learn the game more quickly as a War Bird than you will outside. When you win your commission, the Adjutant will wish you luck and turn you over to the C.O. and his picked crowd.

What say? Are you with me? Let's have more non-coms than officers and show the shiny booters how good fellows get together, what?

Sign that coupon.
THE ADJUTANT.

Note from the C.O.: The Adjutant's plan for a Non-com Mess is most heartily endorsed. I will go a step further and promise the rank of sergeant to any applicant who sends a letter with his coupon which contains a suggestion or argument strong enough to justify rank above that of private. WAR BIRDS non-coms will receive first chance at commissions in the future, should it become necessary—because of extended privileges—to limit memberships.

Note to Officers—I am addressing a message to you elsewhere.

Carson W. Mowre,
Officer Commanding.

THE C.O.'S MESSAGE

GENTLEMEN:

It was not my intention to appear before you this month but the Adjutant seems to have walked out on us and there are quite a few things that ought to be said to the commissioned officers of the WAR BIRDS. I'll do my best on short notice.

I have been delighted with the live spirit of constructive criticism in our organization. You have done very well in passing along your suggestions and we are trying here at H.Q. to mold your magazine to your desires. In the next issue you will find the following features that you have been asking for:

MODEL PLANS—There has been a heavy demand from our model builders for data on the world war planes. It is a splendid trend. One of the finest hobbies that I know of is the building of model planes. Many of yesterday's model builders are flying today and any instructor will tell you that a model builder is a very apt pupil. In no other way can the principles of flight—and the control of flight—be dramatized as well as by the use of models. The

man who builds them well will not be baffled by the intricacies of full-size ships.

I want to encourage model building within the WAR BIRDS and I have a cash prize idea that I will announce shortly. In the meantime, we are starting the department you asked for and I believe that you will find in our new war plane series the most complete data on war planes ever presented by a magazine.

COVERS WITHOUT PRINTING—Many of you have requested that we free the cover illustrations from the marring lines of type that announce stories and authors. We are working out a solution to this problem for you so that you may preserve our covers.

STORIES AND PICTURES OF ACES— We have a series in preparation that will more than satisfy those who asked for this feature. Watch for it.

SWAP COLUMN—A lot of you have expressed a desire for a swap column that would give you a chance to trade collector's items, pictures, etc., with other members. Well, we think it would be a good idea, too, and we're starting the column next issue. Send your needs and what you have to trade to the Swap Sergeant. No charge to WAR BIRDS.

CORRESPONDENCE—We had a great many requests for addresses of WAR BIRDS and letters from officers in the organization who wanted to exchange conversation via mail with comrades in other sections.

WORDS-AWING is the answer and it is doing nicely for a young column.

WAR BIRDS POSTS—The organization of Posts is going along nicely and we are supplying a form for the proper reporting of WAR BIRDS Clubs and memberships. We'd like to see a regular club with meeting nights, dues, officers, etc., in every community.

AIRPORT COURTESIES—As one of the privileges of members, we are arranging for our membership cards to be honored at famous airports all over the country; entitling members to tours of inspection, information, etc. Several invitations have already been extended to members in these columns. There are many more which will be announced shortly.

DISCOUNTS ON EQUIPMENT—When we first organized, the Adjutant promised you that we would obtain discounts on aeronautical supplies, etc., for our members. Well, we have been working on that for some time now and making nice progress. It was necessary for us to build up the membership of our organization before we could command attention. With our organization growing every day, we are winning the respect of the industry and we will shortly have an announcement of interest on this question of discounts.

FREE PICTURES—My plan for distributing photographs to members was prematurely announced some time ago. I have not forgotten the plan, but it would have been manifestly unfair to have made the distribution at the time it was announced. There were too many prospective members who had not had time to win commissions—and, at the present moment, our organization has growing pains. I wouldn't know how many pictures to order today because I defy anyone to guess how many members we will have a month from today. **THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUBS EVER ESTABLISHED AND IT IS GROWING SO FAST THAT WE ARE SORT OF DAZED DOWN HERE AT H.Q.** As soon as we've got our growth and can figure things a little bit, I'll have those pictures for you.

LADY BIRDS—You have been a little careful in your voting on the admission of the ladies. Most of you have evaded the issue entirely and the rest of you are about evenly divided; the slight shade being in favor of admitting the girls in a special squadron if they can qualify. So be it. Girls will be Lady Birds and their squadron numeral—no matter where they live— is "80." (The Adjutant says that he will take a limited number of lady non-coms, too, and try them out. But he isn't promising anything unless they behave themselves.) Well, that's settled. Gentlemen, the ladies!

Promotions—Honors—Etc.—Be patient. Be as good an officer as you can in your own rank . . . and you never can tell.

That's all, gentlemen, except to thank you for your interest and for your enthusiasm. We have more to be enthused about now than ever and I hope that you lads who can qualify for commissions will step out and get them—and that the Adjutant's new squad of non-coms will permit you to enroll more members than formerly and

thus move more efficiently in the formation of your posts.

Mea saints, Messieurs.
The C.O.

WORDS A-WING

JOSEPH RODWELL, 25 Oxford Street, Salford, Lancashire, England, says "How about some of your blokes slinging some ink. I'll sling you penful for penful back."

FREDERICK JONES, 35 Cowin Ave., Middletown, N. Y., says he will answer any, letter received on the day he receives it.

JIM O'KEEFE, 519 Second Ave. South, Great Falls, Montana, wants to hear from Montana members and would particularly like to hear from any WAR BIRD who Served with his grand-uncle—or whose relatives may have served. His grand-uncle was Sergeant Michael J. McNally who served in the U. S. Army from 1879 to 1897 and in the U. S. M. C. from 1897 to 1914—and who won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

W. C. MERRITT of Pelzer, S.C., promises prompt replies to all correspondents.

HARRY C. FETTER, 1162 Vanhook St., Camden, N. J., has been doing kiwi work on a local field and would like to get in touch with foreign WAR BIRDS. How about ; it, you Canucks? Youse is furriners. Also, you Blimey boys and others.

We depart from the standard here to reproduce a letter from a Lady Bird. Here 'tis:

To those guys who put ixnays on us girls.
Say, you muggs have some nerve. I suppose next you'll vote that we females can't even read WAR BIRDS.
Well, if we have the desire to read WAR BIRDS stories and like them, it'll take more than you guys to keep us women out.
I'd like to write to Delores Belanko. This is, if you stingy beggars don't throw my letter into the rubbish heap.
If I can't persuade you big bad boys to make it a man and woman's club-then, Razzberries to you!

Indignantly,
Mildred Micholak,
Rd. 1, Box 364,
Hackettstown, N. J.

Of course that was received before we decided to admit the Lady Birds—and now maybe you can see why. Mildred sounds like a regular fellow.

LOUIS J. GORDON, 16 Dewey St., Boston, Mass., is glad that women have been admitted. He says his mailman is always bragging about his strength and that he (Louis) would like to see said mailman's shoulders pulled out of shape.

ROBERT L. MEADE, JR., 1406 Ave. K., Galveston, Tex., has one of the liveliest squadrons in the U.S. He would like to hear from WAR BIRDS attending commercial flying schools. His outfit, "Lucky Seven Squadron," has a well decorated clubhouse, a library and hold regular meetings.

Eugene Brouty, 2037 N. Central Park Ave., Chicago, Ill., would like to hear from other Windy City WAR BIRDS.

URBAIN HANSBOUT, 280 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Can., would like to get in touch with other WAR BIRDS in and about Winnipeg. He wants to see a post organized but has no ambition for the C.O. job. He would also like to hear from officers of Squadron 60 as he is going to Brussels, Belgium, this Fall.

GUS BESTMAN, Zieglorsville, Pa., would like to hear from fellow members. He lives in a small town and is ready for some heavy correspondence.

S. W. BINNS, 106 N. 27th Street, Richmond, Va., is a flying member of WAR BIRDS, owning a crate with an ex-German flier. He offers to answer letters on questions relative to flying and will try and help you birds with your problems of how and where to learn.

DOROTHY L. KOHN, 1546 W. 12th St., Davenport, Ia., wants to hear from other Lady Birds and says, "Happy landings to the whole outfit. We'll show those 'pee-lots.' Suppose there were another Anne Lindbergh or Amelia Earheart among us! Would your faces be red?"

JOHN BACEO, Lost Creek, West Va., wants to zoom in among you Word A-Wingers. Will answer all letters.

GEORGE MEGESI, 3191 W. 14th St., Cleveland, Ohio, is all for the Lady Birds, and is especially interested in hearing from some of the air-minded femmes. He says "air-minded" doesn't mean "light-headed."

WALTER MCGUIRE, 202 Volk St., Portage, Wise., wants his name on the Words A-Wing bulletin board. There it is, Walt, and may you have as many freckles on your nose as the name indicates.

JAMES R. LOUGHRIDGE, 414 Leopard St., Dunkirk, N. Y., agrees to answer all mail regularly. He is fourteen years old and suggests that those wanting mail send in a bit more of a description of themselves, as to age and tastes. It is a swell idea. James is of the opinion that the next war will be fought by the chemist. His hobby is chemistry.

LES. L. GRANLIN, Dodd City, Arkansas, won't forgive us if we leave him out of the column this month. He wants to swap yarns and will answer all letters.

KING CARDINAL, Starbuck, Manitoba, Canada, wants to know if he is the only French Canadian member of WAR BIRDS. He wants to hear from members in the States. His first name may be "Ring." It is kind of hard to read his signature.

CHARLES MANICA, R.F.D., 2, Box 3150, Sacramento, Calif., thinks he's pretty lucky to be a member. His letter is live and it seems he is a photography bug.

SYLVESTER DIETRICK, 771 Broadway, West Hew York, N. J., wants to hear from Squadron 5 members. He has some good ideas to exchange on insignias and uniforms.

DON B. MACREADY, 1475 Maple Ave., Hillside, N. J., is a bug on guns and offers to exchange letters with fellow WAR BIRDS.

JOHN GREEN, P.O.B. 281, Roland, Manitoba, Canada, is anxious for a cockpit with the Word A-Wingers. He has some ideas to exchange with fellow members.

EUGENE MONK, 1201 N. Pa. Ave., Roswell, N.M., is interested in back issues of this magazine, and will answer letters from all members. His favorite is O'Leary, and he would rather have more fiction, fewer articles. If he is wrong on that angle some of you buzzards might set him right.

WYMAN PHALEN, Shortsville, N. Y., is an amateur cartoonist and artist. Perhaps some of you other pen and pencil bugs can get together with him for mutual benefit.

BOB EMRICK, Horning's Mills, Ontario, Canada, is another War Bird from north of the border who would like to make friends below the line. He is a collector of aviation articles.

H. J. HOWE, 3072 Dickson St., Montreal, Canada, writes a breezy letter. He is plenty enthused about WAR BIRDS and is very interested in model planes.

HANS ZACHMAN, 3699 E. 156 St., Shaker Hts., Ohio, has some dope on rare German medals and calls himself an "avid reader of fact articles about aviation."

LEONARD VASILE, 356 West 44 Street, New York City, wants to hear from WAR BIRDS who live in his district.

JOHN CZAJKOWSKI, 223 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, New York, writes a neat typewritten letter. He suggests a special department for exchanging photographs. Perhaps he has some to trade.

WILLIAM UVANNI, 204 Pleasant Ave., Rome, N. Y., is another member who would like letters from other members.

BILL FISER, Hotel Waldo, Lima, Ohio, is a night clerk with plenty of time for reading and letter writing.

MICHAEL LIPPER, 30-16 44 St., Astoria, L. I., N. Y., is a model builder and would like to hear from other model fans.

ROBERT TANNEHIL, 161 E. 209th St., Euclid, Ohio, sends his address and is one of the many who are members but don't have a local organization.

CITATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

NOTE—A citation is not a promotion, but it helps. Members with helpful ideas are requested to comment on suggestions. All the following officers cited are Second Lieutenants.

TED WILSON, Sq. 34, suggests that WAR BIRDS Posts send in pictures and descriptions of clubhouses; the best to be printed in WAR BIRDS—also pictures of member groups. Suggests that we arrange for a WAR BIRD pennant and that we run a colored picture of the C.O.

GEORGE SPINA, Sq. 34, suggests listing of model supply houses and model advertising in WAR BIRDS. Also wants swap column.

BILL KENEFICK, Sq. 1, for very neat design for WAR BIRDS contents page.

JOHN LITTWIN, JR., Sq. 34, for very neat insignia sketches.

JIM McLAUGHLIN, Sq. 43, for nicely made up supplementary list of war plane charts; data on planes not included in our booklet, "WAR PLANES" (Note to 2nd Lieut. McLaughlin—Tut, tut, Jim—you take our competitors too seriously on some of the war plane dope they put out.)

JOHN GAUTHIER, Sq. 50, for suggestion that prize be offered for clippings of WAR BIRDS covers for entire year. Also cited for his very live interest and several other well presented suggestions submitted.

ROBERT TABARONI, Sq. 27, suggestion that we run booklet on Aces.

WILLIAM DOOHAN, Sq. 43, for many well presented suggestions.

WILLIAM HOFFMAN, Sq. 43, for many suggestions, active interest in organizing a WAR BIRDS chapter and for providing financial assistance to a prospective member who want wings and booklets.

ARNOLD NICHOLS, Sq. 27, for his suggestion that we provide primary instruction for such members as require it; glossary of terms and elementals of flight.

PAUL PRICE, Sq. 14, suggestion that we adopt a song for the WAR BIRDS.

JOE WILLIS, Sq. 37, for suggestions and for his splendid pen and ink sketches.

ARTHUR MITCHELL, Sq. 1, for his suggestion that we have a Memorial issue each year for those whose wings are folded.

C. R. MILLER, Sq. 1, for his suggestions and for his cover design.

ALOYSIUS LA MARSH, Sq. 50, for continued and active interest.

JAMES S. MEEK, Sq. 33, for his drawing of insignia.

GERALD ALMY, Sq. 23, for his suggestions nicely submitted.

JOSEPH RODWELL, Sq. 52, for his efforts at organizing a WAR BIRDS Post in England, his suggestions and active interest. (Note to 2nd Lieut. Rodwell—the only way you can be sure of getting your copies on time in England, Lieutenant, is to enter a subscription.)

EDWIN DWYER, Sq. 42, for excellent sketches and continued interest.

THE ADJUTANT—For his suggestion that all members writing in for any reason whatever follow the military custom and PRINT proper names. It is easy to make mistakes in reading handwriting.