

*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 7/34)

THE C.O. SOUNDS OFF.

WE HAVE not had a meeting since the WAR BIRDS was organized at which so many matters clamored for attention. For my part, I am going to talk fast, clear the desk of a few matters that the Adjutant has turned over to me and then speak to you briefly of the program immediately ahead of us.

It was never my intention to occupy this spot at the entrance of the WAR BIRDS club house in back of the boob. I was quite content to let the Adjutant handle the greetings, the promotions and the dissemination of news. Since the Adjutant has deserted, us, however, to rule the Non-Com mess, I have been giving a lot of thought to these monthly meetings of ours. I think that it is probably better that things have happened the way that they did. The Adjutant is a good mixer and he keeps a meeting in good humor, but the officers of WAR BIRDS do not expect a vaudeville show when they gather officially. If this group is not capable of serious thought and serious effort, it is a long way from the tradition of 1917 and 1918.

I am going to conduct this column personally from now on and the time has come for a serious program. We have gone through our growing pains period, we are a full-fledged organization—and there is work for us to do, rewards for us to win.

Whether you realize it or not, you gentlemen who are officers of the WAR BIRDS have already done a big job. You have almost completely remade your magazine in a little better than six months. Practically every feature from the front cover to the back of the book has been built to your specifications. You wanted covers without printing which you could clip and keep and you wanted famous planes and pilots on those covers. You have them. You wanted the stories of the aces from the pens of the aces themselves—and we are giving them to you. You wanted the story of America's wings in the world war and we are running that story—squadron by squadron. You wanted model plans of famous ships and we have gone you one better; we have given you the story that goes with the ship as well as plans that are one hundred percent accurate and performance specifications that you can depend on.

WHEN we organized, it was the pledge of H.Q. that every officer in the WAR BIRDS would have a voice in what we printed and what we did. We have kept that pledge. There have been occasions when certain suggestions were passed without action. In every case of that kind, the registered opinion of the majority was unfavorable to adoption. We are going on with the program. You are perfectly free to come to this meeting place at any time and lay down your suggestions, your criticisms and your opinions. We have the facilities for giving you what no other magazine on the market can provide. We have only to know what you want.

And right now—when you lay this issue of WAR BIRDS down—I'd like you to do something for me and for the organization. Buy a penny postcard (Don't use stationery—the post card makes easier filing) and let me know the name of your favorite author in the air-war field. You may nominate a first and second choice if you will, but no more than two. If you read competitive magazines and your favorite does not write for WAR BIRDS, you are at liberty to put his name down. We are justly proud of our WAR BIRDS staff and we believe that we have the best in the field; but we want to know what you-think. We can get any writer you want and we will feature the writers who get your vote. Do not take that as a suggestion that you name a writer outside of our staff, but take it for what it is, permission to name such a writer. I would like to hear from every WAR BIRDS officer and every civilian reader on this.

On the question of letters to H.Q., I want to direct your attention particularly to the notice that appears elsewhere in this issue. Hereafter, no citations or promotions will be awarded to officers who fail to observe the proper procedure for submitting suggestions and making reports. Here, in brief, is the way to address your communications:

Date them. Address them to the Commanding Officer. Put the subject at the head of the letter. (As, for instance—"Suggestions" or "Reports on Members" or "Sketches of Insignia" or whatever your subject may be.) Sign the letter on the typewriter or in hand-lettering; printing out the name and address legibly. Put your rank and squadron below your name. DO NOT discuss a variety of subjects, make a few reports and ask a few questions all in one letter. Stick to the subject at the head of your sheet and if you have some unrelated matter on your mind, make out another sheet with another subject head and sign as before. You may mail as many memos as you like in a single envelope, but be efficient and military in making out your memos.

WE ARE not being stiff in requiring precision in correspondence—we are merely following the military fashion as befits an organization of our type. Army officers found long ago that important information became lost and orders confused if unrelated matters were jammed together in a single memo. Citations and promotions in the next few months are going to go to the WAR BIRDS who act most like officers and demonstrate their fitness to grasp the military manner of doing things.

Remember—your suggestions must be presented in the above manner or you will not be credited with them on the honors list.

That's enough for that. I have been quite gratified by the amount of activity that you have evidenced in the organizing of groups, but I believe that there should be more of it. There will be a report on this activity in the next issue and a list of promotions awarded to organizers and elected officers. The term "War Bird Post," incidentally, is now obsolete. We are indebted to Lieutenant Roy Reynolds of Squadron 12 for the suggestion that we substitute the term "Flight" for "Post."

After this, we will speak of these groups only as "War Bird Flights."

I want particularly, too, to direct your attention to the suggestion of Lieutenant Samuel Paquin, Jr., which appears in the Honors List. He suggests that WAR BIRDS Officers inventory the planes that are kept at their local airports and that are flown from them; submitting a report to H.Q. for publication in the magazine. I think that this is excellent. This work is right down our alley. It gives an officer of the WAR BIRDS a job to do that he is particularly fitted to do, and it affords him an excellent opportunity of becoming acquainted with the local pilots and the equipment flown in his vicinity. When the reports come in, we will publish them for the information of all members. The ultimate result will be a good picture of America's air strength.

To those officers of initiative who wish to act immediately on this suggestion, I'd suggest that the WAR BIRDS commission be shown to the local airport manager and that he be requested to supply the information on the number and type of ships— plus any other interesting facts that occur to him or to the officer requesting the information. I would further suggest that the officers undertaking this work inform the airport managers of the open house policy of those airports which have given the WAR BIRDS courtesy of the drome. Reports should be made immediately if the local airport manager agrees to extend a similar courtesy. You may promise him mention in the columns of WAR BIRDS in return for his cooperation. Be sure to get the man's name, his initials, and the name of the company operating the airport if it is not a municipal airport.

I WILL be very receptive to the awarding of substantial increases in rank to those officers who carry out this mission in an efficient manner. I want to caution you, however, to be polite, courteous and military in your dealings with the airport managers. Any report of ungentlemanly behavior on the part of a WAR BIRD officer on any port will bring summary court-martial.

This meeting has, perhaps, been over-long, but I did want to emphasize the fact that the easy cadet days are over. The rewards in this organization from now on will go to the workers. There will be more missions and more assignments and the mettle of the WAR BIRDS will be put to the test. Out of this organization will come, I am sure, some of the big names of aviation's tomorrow. We are going to encourage talent, initiative, courage and industry. We don't have to be tough, but we are not going to have much room for he-lollypops.

That's all except for the familiar caution that you should not be too impatient about increases in rank. As you

read the history of American squadrons which we are running now, I think you will be impressed as I was impressed with the fact that rank was gained slowly in our Air Corps during the war, that it was more than merited before it was granted—and that the big jobs of the war were done by men who had very little rank.

You wouldn't want the WAR BIRDS to be like the Moronian Army would you—the famous army where there were more colonels than captains, twice as many major generals as there were colonels—and no lieutenants at all? Okay, then— at ease.

THE C.O.

THE ADJUTANT SEZ

THE NON-COM'S MESS

HELLO, you muggs!

I notice a few officers sneaking in here to listen to the good old Adjutant and maybe that don't give me a grin. Down here with the hired help of the Buzzard roost, we don't go in much for boots and belts on our night off . . . and the Adjutant has to hide a conceited snicker. He knows blamed well that you just came down to hear him sounding off.

Well, I'm glad that you commissioned buzzards came around, but I'm not shooting any talk at you. The C.O. didn't give me much space this mpnth on account of my bunch o' Modocs being so green and so unorganized. But wait—this Non-Com mess is going to be the darnedest outfit that ever stepped out for itself and in a month or two, the shave-tail gang is going to have to hump to keep ahead of us. Yezzir!

For you muggs who didn't come around last month, I just want to say that this is the gathering place of the lads who don't feel like trying for commissions and passing examinations. This is the place where a man can be a WAR BIRD even if he doesn't want a commission. The price of admission is the Non-Com coupon in this issue of the department. Fill it out and pull up a chair.

Down here in the grease-pen, we're going to have our fun. We are going to find out just as much about the war and just as much about ships and about flying as the officers. We are going to have our talks and we are going to have our citations for exceptional service and for suggestions and we are going to have our promotions. When a Non-Com feels that he'd like to pack up his kit and move over to the commissioned officers group, we are going to pat.him on the back, wish him luck in his exams and let him go. If he flops on the exams, he is still welcome back here where the grub is rough and the seats hard and the language kind of sloppy. Some men just weren't born to be officers.

And we are WAR BIRDS, too.

Since the announcement last month, the mail has been rolling in and the Adjutant has a crick in his back and a sprained finger from picking up letters. And that's okay. Do you suppose that you lads in the back pews who have been a little bashful about trying for the WAR BIRDS could rally round with me a little more? The C.O. has his gang nicely organized and in his first six months, he pulled in more commissioned officers for the WAR BIRDS than any flying group ever pulled in on such a short campaign. It's plenty swell—but could you lads kind of get the lead out and grab a pencil and come along with this mess o' mine?

I have a hunch that there are enough of you out there to make the Non-Coms' mess bigger than the officers' mess. And I'd love it. Me, I'd be snooting the C.O. like nobody's business and if there was an awful gang of you in my mess, I'd be able to get you stuff that maybe the officers didn't have. I don't know, you understand, but your Adjutant will be glad to die trying. (I'm kidding you a little—don't ask me to go through with the dying part.)

As for the privileges—you get them. You can use the Swap Column and the Words A-Wing with your Non-Com membership. You have the privilege of making any suggestions that occur to you and you can have the feeling that you belong. The only drawback is the fact that you are outranked, that you can join a Flight but

not organize one and that the C.O. can limit certain privileges at any time to “officers only.” To balance all that, you have a prime chance of working for your commission from the inside—of coming up from the ranks.

We want to have roar and snap and hustle in this mess next month, and it is up to you buzzards to supply the fireworks. Shoot along your application and the Adjutant will be right back at you with a membership card. . . . and if you send a letter with your coupon and act like you are alive and interested. I'll see if I can start you off as a corporal instead of as a buck private.

Whaddye say, Modocs — let's waddle.

#### THE ADJUTANT.

#### CITATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

NOTE—A citation is not a promotion nor a decoration. Each citation, however, goes on the service record of the officer, cited and is an aid toward obtaining increased rank.

The Commanding Officer commends the following officers for services to the WAR BIRDS as cited:

2ND LT. WILLIAM H. HOFFMAN, Sq. 43, for his suggestion that all correspondence with H.Q. be on a semi-military basis (see comments in C.O.'s column) and for presenting his suggestions in a manner compatible with WAR BIRDS dignity. This officer is further cited and raised in rank to first lieutenant for his activities in organizing a WAR BIRDS Post and for general interest and effort.

2ND LT. WALTER E. ROOD, Sq. 1, for his suggestion that we have non-commissioned ranks for those who cannot qualify for commissions. (This idea had already been adopted before Lieut. Rood's suggestion was received, but the suggestion showed clear thinking and active interest. Lieut. Rood could not have known that we were already planning such procedure.)

2ND LT. M. POGOZELSKI, Sq. 3, for constructive opinions on WAR BIRDS magazine and for his booklet suggestions.

2ND LT. DANIEL PHILLIPS, Sq. 1, for sketch submitted.

2ND LT. GORDON McLENDON, Sq. 30, for general activity in behalf of WAR BIRDS and for active interest demonstrated. (This officer has been recommended for promotion for his activity in organizing a Flight. A11 Flight appointments will be announced in the next issue.)

2ND LT. SAMUEL PAQUIN, JR., for his very-- excellent suggestion that WAR BIRDS officers be requested to make an inventory of the planes hangared and flown from their local airports. (See comments in the C.O.'s column.) This officer is hereby elevated in rank to first lieutenant.

2ND LT. RAYMOND BIANCHI, Sq. 43, for his suggestion that pictures of the aces who tell their own stories in WAR BIRDS be printed on heavy paper in color. (This procedure was adopted before Lieut. Bianchi's suggestion was received, but there was no way in which he could have known about it.) See this month's cover.

2ND LT. WILLIAM KILPATRICK, Sq. 34, for his suggestion that we run a monthly calendar with the events of the war for that month listed, (b) For his further suggestion that a contest be conducted to test the knowledge of WAR BIRDS and their qualifications for higher rank, (c) For his suggestion that WAR BIRDS Flights be encouraged to establish treasuries and saving accounts which will enable them to buy planes in the future and obtain training, (d) For interesting facts submitted. This officer is raised in rank to first lieutenant.

2ND LT. PAUL PRICE, 14 Squadron, for his excellent sketch of the Gay Ghost insignia. This officer is also cited for his activity in Flight organization—to be reported next issue.

2ND LT. DANIEL McGUIRE, Sq. 16, for many excellent suggestions and three very fine insignia sketches. This officer has also been cited for his activity in organizing a WAR BIRDS Flight. This to be reported in the next issue.

2ND LT. JOHN BACCO, Sq. 38, for an excellent letter of comment and for his thoughtful suggestion that our trading post be under control so that it will not compete with our advertisers.

2ND LT. RANDOLPH GRAHAM, Sq. 16, for presenting his excellent suggestions and comments in military fashion.

2ND LT. STEPHEN NORAHO, Sq. 1, for several interesting suggestions and comments interestingly presented.

2ND LT. DANIEL HARDESTY, Sq. 14, for several interesting suggestions and

Please mention Dell Men's Group when answering advertisements comments ably presented and for his thoughtful interest in constructive activities for the WAR BIRDS. This officer is further cited for sending along a copy of House Resolution 7413 with suggestions for action. This officer is raised to the rank of first lieutenant.

1ST LT. WILLIAM HOFFMAN, Sq. 43, for his suggestion that WAR BIRDS start picture collections of their squadron mates and that they have snapshots or photos made for trading purposes.

2ND LT. ROY REYNOLDS, Sq. 12, for several excellent suggestions ably presented and for his general activity as model builder and aviation booster, (b) For his specific suggestion that we eliminate the word "Post" in connection with WAR BIRDS and substitute "Flight" (See the C.O.'s column). This officer is raised in rank to first lieutenant.

2ND LT. WYMEN PHALEN, Squadron 1, for his series of beautifully designed sketches for a WAR BIRDS Distinguished Service Cross and the idea that such a decoration be awarded members who perform deeds of valor. This officer is raised to the rank of first lieutenant.

#### THE SWAP COLUMN

M. POGOZELSKI, 435 Kossuth Street, Bridgeport, Conn, has 22 Cleveland outline drawings of modern and army planes, detail built up scale plans of Fokker trimotor, 24" detail scale plane of Frank Hawks' "Sky Chief," an 8 x 10 photo of Hawks and his plane and scale plan of Sikorsky amphibian. Will trade for books. Wants particularly "Red Knight of Germany," "Wings Over Poland," or other books on war planes and aces. Books must be complete with illustrations.

#### WORDS A-WING

Publication of your name in this department entails an obligation to answer all letters received. Post card replies are permissible, but WAR BIRDS who fail to obey the rules governing the use of WAR BIRDS facilities and privileges are subject to court-martial and the revocation of commissions.

JAMES TOBIN, 1626 West Lehigh Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., is making his own WAR BIRDS booklet of famous dogfights and is interested in the idea of an international post by correspondence. Would like to hear from WAR BIRDS everywhere.

JAMES MILLER, 1610 North Mason Avenue, Chicago, 111., is a member of A. O. T. C. at Austin High School.

LOUIS BAILEY, 79 Napoleon Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, wants to hear from squadron mates in 50 Squadron.

JOSEPH MEADE, 1378 First Avenue, New York City, is a collector of pictures on modern planes and world

war aces.

WILLIAM W. PURVIANCE, 144 Linden Avenue, Leechburg, Pa., is 15 years old and would particularly like to receive letters from Texas.

WILLIAM H. HOFFMAN, Duquesne, Pa. (whose citation appears elsewhere in this issue) would like to receive letters from everywhere, but particularly from squadron mates in 43 Squadron.

JOHN BACCO, Lost Creek, West Virginia (whose citation appears elsewhere in this issue) writes a fine letter and would like to hear from WAR BIRDS comrades.

DANIEL HARDESTY, Clinton, La. (whose citation appears elsewhere in this issue), would be particularly pleased to hear from readers in the U.S. Air Corps or from West Point graduates or cadets. But he will welcome letters from anywhere.

STEPHEN NARAKO, 378 Central Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., wants to hear from squadron mates who live in Brooklyn.

JOHN GAUTHIER, 8656 St. Dinis Street, Montreal, Canada, is eighteen years old, five feet, eight inches tall, plays all sports and likes rugby best. Already in Words A-Wing once, John managed to get in touch with another air-minded Canuck in his city. Together they are starting a War Birds Flight. He speaks French and English, does this War Bird.