

FLOWER HILL



VOLUME I

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NO. 3

Since our last edition some more Flower Hill men have joined you fellows in the Service. The new draftees are:

Frank Voss
Ed Pindleton

This will be the first issue of the "SPARKS" they will have received so we want to take this opportunity to send them our best wishes. Don't forget to write us you guys.

Vinnie Brooks was back recently and very modest about his exploits. However, Neil Bansch spotted an article about him in Newsday and we are reproducing it below:

PORT WASHINGTON FLIER TELLS OF SINKING JAP CRUISER

"Port Washington -- 'We were out on a snooping patrol when we sighted the wake of the 'late' Jap cruiser. We got her on our first bombing run. It was all in a day's work'. Thus lightly does Lieut. Vincent Brooks, U.S.A. dismiss the action which sunk one of the enemy's heavy cruisers in the South Pacific late last year."

"Interviewed in the home of his grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Klotze of 22 Mackay Ave., the 25-year-old pilot had little to say of his exploits in the

Pacific during his six months stay there. He acknowledged that the War Department had credited him, together with his navigator Lt. George Desco, with sinking the ship but 'details I'm not at liberty to divulge.'

"Lt. Brooks, attached to the 13th Air Force, said he was flying a bomber on patrol, the day of the sinking. When he sighted the cruiser, he brought the plane in for an attack from an altitude of 1,500 feet. Two direct hits were scored on that run, one directly amidships which started off a series of violent explosions. In spite of heavy flak, no one in the plane was injured.

"Lt. Brooks, a native of Port Washington, is 25 years old. Until his enlistment in 1940, he lived here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brooks. His parents now reside in Hyde Park, New York. He was graduated from Port Washington High School in 1936 and spent one year at Syracuse University. Lt. Brooks has one married brother and a sister who is a graduate nurse."

MORE NEW EQUIPMENT

Ransom House worked a deal with the Civilian Defense Council to take over a large air compressing unit complete with storage tank which had been secured as

part of the air raid warning signal installations. The unit was not being used. It has been set up in the rear of the truck room near the door to the Men's room, and should come in handy for tires and other jobs where compressed air is used.

Another piece of equipment which we have the use of, but which belongs to the C.D.V.O., is a trailer pumper unit. The job is mounted on two rubber tired wheels and can be towed along behind out Jeep. It consists of a 4 cylinder Chrysler engine connected directly to a Barton pump. Capacity is 500 gallons of water per minute at about 180 lbs. pressure. There are two lengths of hard suction, about 500 ft. of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " hose, a complete assortment of tips, hose connections, gate valves and tools. This unit is well engineered from top to bottom, simple to operate and can be easily moved by hand, if necessary, right down to the edge of the bay in order to draw water. We took it down to the mill pond for testing recently and it is certainly a sweet little number.

ANNUAL SPRING DINNER DANCE

The Company decided after much debate that we should hold the Annual Dinner Dance. The date is April 29th and it will be at the firehouse hall. Stu Carmichael discovered a 7-man orchestra from Forest Hills which has been engaged to play for the event. We hope that you fellows, who are not too far away, will make a note of the date, and can get a furlough so

you can make the dance. As in previous years, the parents, whos, sweethearts of any man in Service are invited to be our guests for the evening.

Ellsworth "Bundles" Reynolds had himself a little fun recently according to all reports when he went A.W.O.L. from camp and came back to Port for a reunion with some of his friends. The story we heard sounded like a detective mystery with Reynolds being chased all over Port by his Sergeant who missed him at every turn. The Sergeant would get a lead on his whereabouts at that moment and as he entered the front door, "Bundles" would duck out the back one. How about it "Bundles" what kind of reprimand and sentence did you get when the Sgt. finally caught up with you back at camp??

THE MAIL BAG

You fellows have certainly sent in some swell letters, so here they are:

The first one is from Ted Minich

"Dear Bill,

At last I have an address that I can send you. Before this I have had 4 different addresses and all temporary. This one, much as I dislike it, is the permanent one.

"Our Presidential Unit Citation came through this week so we are a pretty proud and cocky bunch right now. It will wear off in time though.

"This section of the country is just as flat as a pool table for as far as you can see and

trees are almost non-existent. The weather is pretty nice though warm during the day and cold at nite.

"I'm looking forward to getting the "Sparks" so I can keep up on all the F.H.H. Co. news.

"Hope to be home on a furlough and see you all again soon.

Yours,
Ted Minich"

Towney Jones checks in with a letter:

"Dear Bill;

Yesterday I received the Dept's money order which has been following me around since December. Needless to say, it was very welcome and came in doubly handy because I was nearly broke and had a heavy date coming up.

"My outfit has finished all its training and we are packed and waiting to move to a Port of Embarkation and from there, overseas. We all think we've been hanging around the states long enough and are anxious to see a little action. As soon as I have one I'll send you my A.P.O. address.

"My regards to all the boys and I hope it isn't too long before I see you all again.

"Thanks again for the Money Order.

So long for now,
Towney Jones"

"Bundles" Reynolds writes:

"Hi!

Just a few lines to let you know that my address has been changed since I was home last. I hope to be home this Sat. morn-

ing.

"Bill, if you go over to the Fire House will you see if I left my glove in the new mach. and tell all the boys that I was asking for them, and tell Mil I was asking for her. It has been warm here today, how is it in Port?

"We had a fire here on the Post the other day and I was thinking of the Flower Hill Hose Co. because they would be there first, like they always are.

"I have to go and look at my fires, so I will close and hope to see you soon.

Pvt. E. Reynolds"

From Ed Bonczek in California:

"Dear Bill:

Wish to acknowledge the fact that I received the ten dollar Money Order and wish to express my thanks to the members of the Flower Hill Hose Co. for the same. I should have written you sooner but I've been moving all over the country.

"From Georgia I was sent to North Carolina to take a course in the new plane detecting de- that the Army has 'Radar'. I must say it is a very interesting apparatus, and that's all I can tell you. At present I'm in California, and spent the Xmas holidays on a desert in a dust storm, and it sure is raising hell right now.

"I also received the Company paper and think it's a swell idea. Will be looking forward to it from now on. Congratulations to J. Duncan on his promotion in the Department.

"I guess I'm a bit late, but here's wishing that you had a Merry Xmas and have a Rioting New Year.

"I don't know how long I'll be here as we were told that we're a hot outfit, and expect to be going places in the near future.

Sincerely,
Edward Bonczak"

From Van:

"Dear Bill,
Sorry to have waited so long to thank Flower Hill for the 10 bucks, but this is the first chance I have had to mail a letter. Also read our new paper and got quite a kick out of it. I wish I could give you some news for the next issue, but censorship is too strict to permit my saying anything about my doings or my whereabouts.

"Thanks again to all the boys and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Fraternally,
Van"

And Jonesy:

"Dear Bill,
It's really about time I wrote and thanked the fellows for everything they've sent me.

"The ten dollars, last year and this, were very much appreciated. I should have written and thanked you then but I just kept putting it off and there is nothing I hate more than writing letters.

"I received the Company paper the other day and it was really swell reading. It's good to hear about the fellows. It's mainly much newsier than the Gown paper which they send whenever they get a notion to.

"I haven't worked my fingers to the bone for the past seven or eight months, but I have been kept pretty busy. I've been moved around a couple of times since the time I was home on furlough. I left Okla. City the end of August and worked in Grand Island, Nebraska. I stayed there for three months and last Dec., just before Xmas, we moved to Hearnsey which is only forty miles away.

"Thanks again for everything, fellows.

Respectfully,
'Jonesy!'

Gus Johanson "Somewhere in England" writes:

"Dear Bill--

I don't know how to thank you all for the latest present. As I don't need it over here, I'm sending it back to Mother. Some day I'll explain why I sent the two checks back, but I really don't need it here.

"No doubt you are quite surprised as to the heading of my letter. Well a lot of water has gone over the dam since I left the States. Sometimes I have to pinch myself to believe it myself.

"Personally, I don't care much for England, never did even in peace time. Scotland always appealed to me more, probably because the whites and blacks never mixed up there.

"I've received the first copy of the 'Sparks', am eagerly awaiting your next copy. Give my regards to everyone. In case you don't know, Tom Murray is in Sardinia.

Cheerio,
G"

Tom Murray in Sardinia:

"Hello Fellows:

It is my great pleasure to send you my sincere thanks for the money order and also the 'Flower Hill Sparks', which I find very interesting and will be looking forward for your next issue.

Regards to all,
Murray"

Jack Cowley V-Mails from North Africa's mud:

"Hello Gang:

I received your swell letter and also the Postal money order today. It is swell the way you fellows think of us over here. I think I would be safe in saying that all the fellows over here often think of you back there. I know I often wonder if Flower Hill Ford still gets there first.

"I am still here in North Africa. Things remain about the same, plenty of rain and mud, that just about makes it perfect for a doughboy.

"Well gang I will close now. Hope to see you all soon. Just keep 'putting them out' until we get back.

Jack Cowley"

Bob Fraser, a true gentleman acknowledges the beer party as follows:

"Dear Bill:

A little late in writing to you to thank both you and the Flower Hill crew for the money order.

"That scandal sheet the Company puts out is damn swell, even

if you do keep rubbing in the fact that I owe a keg of beer. I promise you all I won't forget, as it will make a good excuse for me to drink some brew, too.

"Incidentally, my address has been changed from Greenport. For a little while we'll be down in Rockaway, which has absolutely nothing to offer.

"Thanks again, Bill, for the check, and give my regards to the boys of F.H.H. Co.

Sincerely,
Bob Fraser"

Phil Tomlet, Jr. was in town at Xmas time. Sorry we missed a chance to interview him for the paper. Here's his letter:

"Hello Gang:

Rec'd your swell Money order and I want to tell you that it sure came in handy, I just rec'd it as I was getting ready to leave on my furlough.

"I was home for Xmas, and I was kept pretty busy, but I did manage to get down to the Firehouse a few afternoons, and was unable to see anybody, but I met Charlie Dargan on the street, and he gave me the news of the boys etc.

"I also met some of the fellows as usual over at the Royal, Charlie Lang was the Bar Tender, it sure was good to get back to old Port. I sure did hate to leave, but I guess I didn't have much choice.

"I got back to camp OK, and found Texas the same old mud hole as I left it and to make things worse the Germans started acting up and we were on the alert for a couple of days. Now that we have everything under control again,

