

AIR SCOOP

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

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HOW EX-GI WON DFC THAT WON HIM KISS

Grady Mitcham, the young man who was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross in such a novel manner a few weeks ago, has quite a story to tell about how he came to win the decoration.

A staff sergeant with the AAF in Italy, he was flying nose gunner on a B-24 Liberator on a mission over a German airbase housing ME-262's, the Nazi's jet fighter. His ship was carrying fragmentation bombs in clusters of five or six. They made their run over the target and were beginning to settle down to a battle with flak and the jets when it was noticed that one cluster of bombs had not been fully released, but was dangling in the bomb bay, arming wire pulled.

For the most part, an entirely green crew was aboard and they had little idea what to do in such a circumstance. Mitcham however, had seen things like this happen before, and volunteered to attempt to loosen the bombs by hand. Removing his parachute to facilitate climbing down into the bomb bay, and strapping an oxygen bottle to his chest because the conventional mask wouldn't fit the situation, he stuck an oxygen tube in his mouth and set about his task.

Flying at 24,000 feet, with ack-ack and jets pressing the attack, he went into the bomb bay and released the remaining bombs by hand, and watched them go hurtling out of sight below.

Mitcham also was awarded the Air Medal with three clusters, The Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster, and the Good Conduct Medal. An alumnus of Auburn, lacking but two courses for his engineering degree, he plans to finish his work by correspondence and would like to stay with the work in which is presently engaged.

BRAINBUSTERS PLAN MODEL MEET FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

The Brainbusters are planning a model meet for gas models in Classes A, B, and C and rubber powered models on Sunday, September 23. The meet will be at the field on La Salle Avenue

DADDY DISCHARGED



Rufus "Daddy" House, Budget Officer, is the first of the Laboratory's group of men who made the trip to Richmond and came back in the ACER to receive an overage discharge. The reason--"Daddy" is a 38 year man. It's an even money bet that he is one of the first men ever to be honorably discharged from the Army who has no problems in getting adjusted to a civilian status.

RAISE TOBACCO RATION QUOTAS

Tobacco rationing on Langley Field was eased last week. Cigarette smokers may now purchase a full carton a week while pipe smokers may buy six ounces of their favorite tobacco. The boys who puff on stogies can come close to puffing to their hearts' content; their new allotment is 40 per week.

FOR ARMY ACER'S

All ACER personnel who leave the Laboratory to be discharged from active duty and who wish to return to work here may be granted leave without pay until they return, it was learned this week from the Washington Office. If desired, these employees may take annual leave up to the date they report to the separation center.

EX-GI'S, WIDOWS GIVEN PREFERENCE FOR JOBS

Widows of veterans of the armed forces, and disabled veterans are urged to apply to the Civil Service Commission for Veteran's Preference Ratings for Federal employment. Veteran's Preference grants an additional ten points to the eligibility score of disabled veterans and widows, and five points to any veteran. The Laboratory has recently learned, through the Fourth Civil Service Regional Office, the personnel at the Laboratory, who were sent here on inactive service from the Army, are also eligible for the five points. Complete information may be obtained from the Local Board of Civil Service Examiners, telephone 2308.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

This year the Civil Service Commission is cooperating in the Nation Back-To-School Drive, which is being sponsored by the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, the U. S. Office of Education, and the Federal Security Agency. The purpose of the drive is to encourage boys and girls of high-school age to complete their high-school courses and to increase the enrollment this fall by a million. Appeals are being made particularly to those in vacation jobs and those who are being released in a reduction in force. Young Government employees are encouraged to return to school on a full time basis and arrangements may be made for a suitable part-time schedule for those desiring to combine some part-time work with school.

The Fourth Regional Civil Service Office has ruled that ACER's who have been transferred here on inactive duty are eligible for Veteran's Preference Rating on any examination. Complete information may be obtained by calling 2308.

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DAWN OF A NEW DAY

Coincident with the ending of the war with Japan, one of the worst bugaboos that some employees have had to deal with, manpower control, was for the most part eliminated. Necessary to the war effort to keep vital workers where they were most needed and to prevent job hopping, manpower control was still hard for the rank and file to understand.

For instance, a man making \$2000 here might find out that there were openings in Norfolk doing the same job at \$65 a week. He wanted to resign and take the other job. It was difficult to explain to this man that while he could resign, Laboratory officials were not permitted to issue him a release to accept other employment. When the Laboratory was still recruiting workers in his category at top priority, the War Manpower Commission would sanction no releases.

Now that the war is over, things are different. With minor exceptions, workers throughout the land may work wherever they find the job they want. Draft eligibles must still get permission of their draft boards to change jobs, and federal employees must have a release to accept employment with another government agency. Last week, H. J. E. Reid announced that for the first time in several years releases may be granted to employees transferring to other Civil Service jobs. It's a good sign. It means that the freedom for which so many fought and died is extending again into our regular way of life. It's the way back to peace.

FULL SIZE NEXT WEEK

What with the holidays and the shortage of help in the Reproduction Section, we have encountered several difficulties in getting the Air Scoop out on time. Therefore, this shortened edition appears this week to give the staff a chance to catch its breath. The regular sized issue will be published next Friday.

OFFICIALS MAKE SMALL REDUCTION IN FORCE

On Friday, August 31, 50 lower grade employees of the Laboratory were notified that they would be separated in 30 days, in accordance with a slight reduction in force necessitated by the Bureau of the Budget's cutting 50 positions from the number allotted the Laboratory. For the most part, positions affected were mechanic learners, laboratory aides, and computer trainees. Employees affected by the reduction in force may obtain information on their reemployment rights from the Councill-Office, 2226.

WANTED: Bedroom suite with twin beds. M. R. Seldon, Flight Research.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Instrument Coordinator - 2334. East Engineering subsection head - 2316.

TENNIS TOURNNEY NOW UNDERWAY

With the men's matches in the NACA tennis tournament already underway, the women's events will start September 9. The following matches are scheduled for the first round in women's singles: Margaret Swanson, Stability Analysis, versus Dot Beadle, ALD; Mary Hester Erwin, Stability Analysis, versus Gerry Couch, Impact Basin; Margaret Ivey, 7 X 10, versus the winner of the Swanson-Beadle match; and Alice Aronson, PRD, versus the winner of the Erwin-Couch match.

The matches scheduled for the first round in the women's doubles are: Aronson and Nancy Stern versus Couch and Beadle; Erwin and Swanson versus Eleanor McKinstry and Louise Crane; and Ivey and Shirley Huxter versus the winner of the Erwin-Swanson match.

A complete schedule of both men's and women's events is posted at the NACA tennis courts on Fox Hill Road.

LABORATORY of the

Steve Simyak, AWT was passing out cigars last Friday in a manner typical to all new fathers. It was a five pound eight and one-half ounce son, Steve, Jr., born Thursday, August 30.

Another proud papa who received his new title on the official V-J Day, was Durwood Dereng of the Dynamic Model Shop. As has been the unwritten Laboratory policy within the past few weeks in order to avoid the supremacy of one sex during the reign of the future generation, the Derengs balanced the records with a daughter.

Mike Panz, West Machine Shop surprised everyone when he went around the Laboratory last Tuesday introducing his new bride, the former Peggy Holstein of 16-Foot Tunnel. They were married Sunday, September 2 in South Mills, N. C. Bert Batzold, also of West Machine, and his recent bride were the only attendants.

Billy Warren, formerly of AWT has decided to settle down to married life and the final arrangements will be completed when she and Lt. Frank Connelly, who has just returned from overseas, take their final vows Saturday in the chapel at Fort Monroe.

Another post-war wedding took place last Friday when Nell Keen, West Area Blueprint, and Bill Wright, Technical Service Office, were proclaimed man and wife at the Central Methodist Church in Hampton.

Picking up the "Daily Press" one day, we saw that the John R. Dawson family had just been blessed with a new son, born August 24 at the Dixie Hospital. Well, that was all well and good, in fact, we went so far as to announce it in last week's Air Scoop. A week later we were glancing through the paper and read that the John R. Dawson family had just been blessed with a son, born September 1 at the Buxton Hospital. Needless to say, we were a bit confused as were a lot of other people. Thinking that perhaps this was the eighth wonder of the world we called Dawson at the Tank to get all the inside dope. Nope, no scoop, both babies were perfectly legitimate - there just happen to be two John R. Dawsons on the Peninsula.

PITCHING HIGHLIGHTS SCORELESS DEADLOCK

Andy Anderson and Al Martina put on a real pitchers' battle Tuesday night in the first game of the final playoff series between Structures Reds and 19-Foot which ended in an eight inning scoreless deadlock.

Both pitchers hurled one-hit ball, Martina giving up a triple to Hal Crate in the sixth and Anderson weakening to allow Freddy Burnside's scratch single in the eighth. Martina was a bit more effective, striking our nine and walking one. Anderson struck out seven and walked two.

Bill Conner made a sensational retrieve of Crate's smash which went to the left field wall. Crate died on third. Jerry Teplitz was the only other man to reach third. The 19-Foot shortstop drew a base on balls in the first inning and was sacrificed around.