

THE EARLY
BIRD

SATURDAY
21 July 1945

Vol. 2, No. 18

BIRD

THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER IN THE JAPANESE EMPIRE

LT. GRATZ RETURNS RESCUED AFTER 3 DAYS AT SEA

Other men have bailed out of their failing airplanes into the open sea, drifted about in their dinghys for eight days or longer and have returned to tell the guys all about it.

But 2nd Lt. Archibald C. Gratz Jr, of the 34th, is probably the only man who ever laughed when his would-be rescuers, attempting to land on choppy waters, broke a wing float and were forced to parachute out into the sea beside him.

SEE MAJOR FUSE LOOMING
IN SE ASIA AS MACARTHUR
AND MOUNTBATTEN CONFER

"I thought it was very funny at the time," Lt. Gratz said last night.

With Lord Louis Mountbatten back in

He had been in the west for seven

Calcutta after a three-day parley with Gen. MacArthur in Manila, the Southeast Asia Command gave out several indications that the long-awaited major push in that theatre is at hand and to come, possibly, in conjunction with another major drive by the Americans against the enemy's crumbling empire.

Mountbatten's headquarters revealed that British soldiers who have fought in Normandy past the banks of the Rhine have arrived in Calcutta from the European theatre.

They speak, too, of huge "cargo armadas" bringing supplies, reclaimed artillery and heavy equipment from the European battlefields to be thrown against the Japanese.

The Ceylon press and radio has been quite vocal in predicting unprecedented attacks following the Manila meeting.

EARLY 'BIRD' NOW

It's the "early" BIRD now. The BIG BIRD, beginning with this issue, becomes a morning paper, available each morning at your mess hall.

RETURN A SURPRISE

Lt. Gratz's return was a complete surprise to the outfit. No one had been informed.

Col. Thyng greeted him simply. "Never thought I'd see you again. Glad you're back," the CO said.

First man in the outfit Gratz saw was Lt. William Auld, over on Okinawa. Auld looked like he didn't believe his eyes.

On 1e, he saw Capt. Fowler Cary sitting in a truck and walked over. The captain's eyes went past him, then came back in a quick double take.

"Well, I'll be damned," Capt. Cary said. "Where the hell did you come from?"

days, drifting, living on a few drops of water, a limited supply of rations, the breast of a bird and four or five pre-digested fish, getting little sleep, suffering hallucinations at night. Then he saw a Dumbo heading his way and signalled it with his mirror, set off a couple of flares and put out his marker.

The signal from the marker was picked

(See Page 3)

-RESTRICTED-

'THE BIG BIRD'
(Most Reliable Paper in Jap Empire)

Published Daily Except Sunday by the
413th Fighter Group
(I&E Section)

Commanding Officer- Col. Harrison R.
Thyng

Edited by Cpls Nat Snyderman and
Doug Watt

SATURDAY 21 July 1945

MONSOON SEASON
AGAIN HITS BURMA

Monsoons, which together with the rough jungle terrain of Burma have made it the most difficult battlefield of the entire war, have struck again to retard the steady British pursuit of the enemy.

Two monsoons, one coming on the heels of the other, raged for eighteen hours up until yesterday after noon, turning puddles into ditches, roads into rivers, and even, according to one Southeast Asia Command general, grounding all birds. General Mud, long the valiant enemy of an army on the offensive, has taken over.

I HAULED GOOKS
ON OKINAWA IS.

by

PFC EDDIE BIELECKI

Patrols of the 27th Infantry Division were up in the hills in search of sniping Japs and native Okinawans, who, it is believed, are terrorized into bringing food to the enemy soldiers.

The patrols were most successful in finding Okinawans --Gooks, the GI calls them - and chasing them down to the road where they were picked up in weapons carriers and hauled to AMG headquarters.

I was visiting my cousin and since he couldn't be spared from his work I went with him! Soon I was doing the driving. I think we made 4 or 15 hauls that day, packing from 15 to 30 natives in every time.

)Laundry Service(

Most were old men and women and children. There were some young women, I was told, who would soon be working in the laundries at standard prices and who would do extra laundry work for individual GI's who want quick service at the price of a pack of cigarets.

As in other years when the monsoons in Burma arrived, most of Britain's air power will be grounded. Our ally's air arm has been severely stung a number of times by Burma's freakish storms. Mosquitoes, Spitfires, and American made Thunderbolts have been sent out during the monsoon season and returned only after heavier than the enemy could ever inflict upon them.

ENEMY CIVILIAN MORALE
SHOWS SIGNS OF BREAK

The morale of the Japanese civil population is beginning to break as a result of the increasing Allied bombardments, according to an Australian broadcast heard last night.

The general feeling of insecurity in the country is pointed out as the cause of a rapid increase of hoarding instead of banking by the Japanese people. This rapid rise of hoarding, the program held, can quite easily produce an economic or financial crisis in Nippon which would rapidly be felt by the armed forces. Despite government controls, prices are also rapidly rising.

At any rate, some of the natives were frightened and they showed it. To me it looked like more of them were thrilled and excited at the prospect of their first ride in a motor vehicle.

One woman found in the hills had given birth to a baby ten minutes before soldiers found her. She was up and around and started to walk down to the road. But the GI's had little confidence in the hardihood of the native. She was put on a stretcher and sent to the hospital.

I met Tiger Joe. He's not the original kid picked up by the GI's and "adopted," but he's a reasonable facsimile. This Tiger is about eight years old, a native Okinawa kid orphaned by the war and taken over by one of the 27's companies. He hates Japs, likes GI food and tent life and he's found a home, as they say. According to the fellows, the company CO was supposed to be a tough guy, but Tiger makes mush out of him.

Only trouble with Tiger is that his language would shock the pants off you.