

Religion

“There are no atheists in foxholes”, these famous words were uttered by a soldier fighting on bataan. There are no foxholes in the sky when flak is thick enough to walk on. The combat crews flying these airplanes undoubtedly felt the same way as the soldier on bataan. Through the untiring efforts of our group chaplain, chaplain carter, religion and its meaning to them, the combat crews, has been effectively brought home to them. In addition to conducting services for his own group, the chaplain has also held services for the service squadron, ordnance company, trucking company and the signal company at least once a week. A beautiful chapel was built through the untiring efforts of the chaplain. Taking a custom from home, the chaplain conducted easter sunrise services in front of the chapel. His work has also consisted of holding classes in religion several times weekly. The group has three choirs which have all been trained by the chaplain. At the time the group was ferrying supplies in france, the chaplain accompanied them for a short period and conducted services. For these many achievements and his good work the chaplain was recently awarded the bronze star medal. Shown below is a monthly tabulation of the group attendance for services of all religions.

May 44	1,717	Nov 44	2,498
June 44	1,599	Dec 44	3,430
July 44	2,467	Jan 45	3,126
Aug 44	2,720	Feb 45	3,560
Sept 44	2,388	Mar 45	4,088
Oct 44	2,205	Apr 45	5,003
Total		34,891	

Public Relations

As a morale factor, public relations has proved itself to be of great benefit to both in the army and those back home. Through its stories and picture releases, it has brought the home front in closer contact with the men overseas. It was through the efforts of the public relations, by gathering all the important data, putting it together and forwarding it to higher headquarters, that the Group has been the recipient of two Distinguished Unit Citations. Unfortunately, records are only available from July 1944. Shown below is the breakdown of the number of stories, releases and radio recordings released for publication.

Months	Stories	Pictures	Radio
Jul 44	230	5	0
Aug 44	443	18	0
Sep 44	709	52	2
Oct 44	682	52	0
Nov 44	328	32	2
Dec 44	448	26	28
Jan 45	375	49	24
Feb 45	331	45	13
Mar 45	540	58	40
<u>Apr 45</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>47</u>
Totals	4,581	419	156

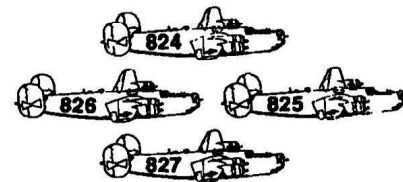
Special Service

To bolster the inner man, Special Service, in November of 1944, started a series of courses such as; Physics, Accounting, Business Management and Business Law, Algebra and Radio. These courses were available to all Squadrons. Text books were furnished to Special Service. Also, during the past year, 1,078 men enrolled for the Army Institute and various University Correspondence courses. In addition, they have maintained a widely circulating library of books, and magazines.

Throughout the year, through the courtesy of Special Service, we were entertained by 185 entertainment films, 52 GI Movies and had a total of 20 USO shows. Each of these films was shown a total of seven times before it left the Group. During last summer, all movies were shown outdoors. However during the cold winter months, a Niesen Hut was located and immediately put up. At each performance of the movies, Special Service inaugurated the broadcasting of the latest news bulletins for the benefit of all personnel.

In celebration of the first year overseas, the Group had a field day. Normal operations were maintained, but each squadron and Group headquarters was properly represented. Such events as Softball throw, Crab race, Three-legged race, Combat Crews Race, Cooks' Obstacle race, Tug-of-war, Skeet Shoot, Flak suit race, Donkey race, 50 yard Dash, Horse Shoe Pitchin and Volley Ball, were held.

For the numerous holidays that had passed while the Group has been overseas Special Service had special V-mail greetings made up. These were distributed to each squadron and made available to all personnel. A tournament which was run by Special Service included the following indoor sports of Bridge, Chess, Pinochle, Cribbage and Ping Pong was recently held. The winners are all entitled to a trip to France for winning in their respective events.



The Medics

Since the arrival of the Group in the combat area, it was steadily evident that the enemies on the ground, earth clinging diseases, could be as vicious as the heaviest flak or fighters. Most dreaded foe has been malaria. By nature of its insidious contagion and its usually determined lingering indefinitely in the body, stringent controls, (sprays, repellants and personal discipline), were established. Just how these imposed barriers to infection rewarded the efforts can never be determined in cold statistics, but the following data evidences that all necessary precautions were taken, therefore the low number of malaria cases.