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Dow Field Observer

Dow Air Force Base

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9-5-1945

**September 5, 1945**

Dow Field Personnel, Bangor, Maine

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# DOW FIELD Observer

THE DOW FIELD OBSERVER—BANGOR, ME.—WEDNESDAY, 5 SEP. 1945

VOL. III. No. 44

## 3 Dow Officers Receive Decorations

### Awards Made in Gym To Hump Fliers

Three Dow Field Officers, veterans of the India China Hump run, and the parents of a flyer killed in action, were honored Saturday by the presentation of decorations at the base gym. All squadrons participated in the ceremonies.

The parents of 1st Lt. Donald H. Huff of Kennebunkport received a Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal, and two silver and four bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, which had been posthumously awarded to him. A P-47 pilot, and flight leader with the 368th Fighter Group, Huff was killed in action over Luxembourg on February 16th of this year.

1st Lt. Arthur E. Bowen, 1st Lt. Harrison D. Willoughby, and Capt. Melvin G. Caldwell received decorations originating with the India China Division of the ATC, where they flew as pilots over the Hump run to China. Collectively, they had over 200 crossings of the world's highest mountains. Citations for all of them were almost identical:

For meritorious achievement by participating in more than 300 (to 450) hours of operational flight in transport aircraft as Pilot . . . over the dangerous and difficult Assam-China air routes, where enemy interception and attack was probable and expected. Flying at night as well as by day, at high altitudes over impassable, mountainous terrain through areas characterized by extremely treacherous weather conditions, necessitating long periods of operation on instruments, often encountering severe icing conditions and mechanical difficulties requiring courageous and superior performance of your respective duties to overcome, you accomplished your missions with distinction. Your achievement in the face of the hazards and difficulties faced regularly and continuously with steadfast devotion to duty, reflect much credit on yourself and the Army Air Forces of the United States."

Captain Caldwell received the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal, Lt. Bowen the Distinguished Flying Cross and Lt. Willoughby the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

Two other Dow officers were to receive decorations, but were unable to be present. 2nd Lt. Edward C. Price is on temporary duty at Goose Bay, and Captain Willie R. Smith is in the hospital.

### Best USO Talent Goes Overseas

The lack of "Punch" in the USO show, "Who Goes There," at T-6 last Thursday evening is evidence of the fact that many of the better acts have been transferred from domestic to foreign duty with Overseas Victory Units, and that from now on, the quality of the shows in the United States will not be up to par.

Soldiers all over the world, including occupation troops, will be the audiences for the Overseas Units. Consequently, the best is being sent to them, and those that remain are booked for appearances in the States.

According to some observers, presentations of the type appearing in T-6 last week might better have been left at home.



DOW FIELD OFFICERS DECORATED. Three Dow Officers were decorated Saturday for flying C-46s over the Hump run into China. Two others were supposed to receive decorations, but were not able to come. Left to right: Lt. Col. Edward F. Tindell; Capt. Richard Boyd, Assistant Adjutant; 1st Lt. Robert Craven, escort; Mr. and Mrs. W. Huff, who received 15 decorations won by their son, 1st Lt. Donald H. Huff, killed in action; and those decorated: 1st Lt. Harrison D. Willoughby; 1st Lt. Arthur E. Bowel; and Capt. Melvin G. Caldwell.

## Mr. Fischer, Once of Dow, Tells How He Got That Title

A recent letter from Mr. Ed Fischer, former Dow staff sergeant, throws so much light on the mysteries of final discharge that we are taking the liberty of reprinting parts of it for the enlightenment of others who are expecting to follow him into civilian life. Most Dow Field men and women will remember Ed as the gangling morning report specialist in Headquarters. Writing to his old colleagues from his home in Jefferson City, Mo., where he is now in civvies, his comments on final separation were:

"Went out to Jefferson Barracks Sunday afternoon. They make up rosters of 30 or 40 men to be processed at a time. First they get your name and other information they need and then a quick once-over of your clothing and then assign you to a barracks. Nothing more happened till Monday morning at seven when we went to a building for three films—Insurance, GI Bill of Rights, and one on returning to civilian life.

"Then medical exam and it was very thorough with plenty of opportunity to discuss with the doctors anything that might be wrong with you. (No need of that though for the civilians from ATC.) Then counseling where you supposedly can get information on any problem that you have. They also check information that goes in your final records.

"In the afternoon you go to a sewing room where the discharge emblem is sewed on your shirts. Incidentally, when you arrive if your uniform is dirty or worn out you can exchange it at clothing issue for a new one.

"Tuesday at 7:00 to finance. Sign final papers and payroll; check the correctness of your discharge and then get paid. \$50 in cash, all other money due you in a check. Then to a theater where a Chaplain says a few words and gives you the discharge certificate. At 9:30 on a bus for Union Station or the bus depot.

"The whole thing is very efficiently handled.

"One thing that surprised me at J. B. was the lack of military discipline. When we were wanted a fellow came to the barracks and said, 'Will you fellows fall out in the road?' There was no 'Ten-SHUN,' or 'Forward MARCH'; the fellow said, 'Let's go.' Nobody said

anything about picking up cigarette butts or about cleaning up the barracks. You could smoke in any building, although in several they did ask if we would please use the butt cans. Quite a difference from J. B. as I knew it three years ago. GI prisoners were the KP's at the mess hall."

Ed has already taken a job that promises to be "attractive." With regards to all his old friends, he signs himself:

"Just plain—  
Ed Fischer  
400 E. Ashley St.  
Jefferson City, Mo."

The formal Japanese surrender fell on the sixth anniversary of the start of hostilities in Europe.

## Post Exchange Will Operate As Long as Base Functions

The Dow Post Exchange will not close so long as the base is operating, in spite of rumors to the contrary, Lt. Frank Obermeyer revealed in an interview last week. Even though only civilians were to remain on the base, the restaurant branch of the PX would be open to feed them.

### The Logical Way

A more logical process of cutting down, the PX Officer declared, would come about by the transferring of the main store to the restaurant section. Luxury items like jewelry would be cut to a minimum for the soldier's use, a toilet articles counter would be added to the restaurant branch, and both civilians and GIs could continue to purchase food and beverages. In other words, PX operations will be curtailed commensurate with the reduction of personnel, but the PX would continue to function. Possibly the lack of Sunday business would necessitate closing of the restaurant. The main store is already under that ruling.

As matters now stand, Lt. Obermeyer stated, no change is planned

## Dow Cops League Title By Beating Bucksport

The heavy-hitting Dow Field Bombers, never giving up their early season lead in the Eastern Maine League, clinched the top spot on Labor Day with a twin win over Bucksport at the latter's home grounds. The first game

### Gen. George Sees ATC Reduced To 500 Planes

Air Transport Command should be able to cut down to 500 planes or less within one year if commercial air lines expand as rapidly as expected, according to a statement made to the New York Times recently by Lt. Gen. Harold L. George, Commanding General of the ATC. A nucleus of the command will remain as a permanent part of the post-war Army Air Forces.

The general believes that the post-war ATC can be useful primarily in three ways:

(1) To advance special research which will be useful to military air transport;

(2) To encourage the commercial companies to incorporate any features of potential military usefulness into the designs of their craft, where it can be done without hampering the commercial operations;

(3) To provide special air service for the occupied countries and for out-of-the-way bases in instances where it would be uneconomical for the commercial lines to meet the needs.

There are far-off military bases both in the Atlantic and Pacific which probably will be maintained, Gen. George pointed out. It was inconceivable, he said, that there would be any demand for commercial air lines to operate into some of these spots; therefore, this would be a possible future job for the military.

All these future decisions, of course, Gen. George pointed out, were speculative and depended on what action is ordered by the War Department, with the approval of Congress.

DOW FIELD	BUCKSPORT
ab	r h
Green lf	5 2 0
Cannon ss	5 2 2
Tobaben cf	5 1 2
Brogden 1b	4 1 1
McKitck rf	4 0 1
Crook 3b	4 1 2
Cherkski 2b	4 1 1
Quart c	4 1 0
Branca p	4 0 0
Kissler ss	2 0 0
Totals	41 9 9
	Totals
Dow Field	2 3 0 0 3 0 0 1—9
Bucksport	0 2 0 1 0 0 0 0—3

Errors—Green, Cherneski, Mitchell, Cannon, Holmes 2, Doucette, Gross. Two-base hit—Shirley. Strikeouts—Shirley 2, Branca 7.

## Camp Jordan to Close On 15 September

Camp Jordan, GI Summer Camp on Branch Pond, will close officially on 15 September. Sports equipment has been moved back to Dow Field, and Major Roland Murray will no longer live at the camp site.

Last Monday's NCO picnic marked the final large outing held at the Pond. The club sponsored the opening night dance on 1 July; several other groups, including Squadron E, F and B, have sponsored outings during the summer.

Special parties may still use what facilities the camp possesses, and if enough people remain at Dow Field during the winter, skating and ice-boating trips may become regular occurrences at Camp Jordan.

The camp was loaned to Dow Field for the summer by the Bangor Y.M.C.A.

## Capt. Beaumont Ties Lt. Mullen in PT Test

Listed too late for publication last week on the PT record books, Capt. Edmund B. Beaumont tied for first place in the tests, with a total of 80 points. The Captain, 38 years old, scored 114 sit-ups and 16 pull-ups and ran the shuttle run in 51 seconds. The newly released figure puts the Captain in a first place tie with Lt. Dick Mullen.

## This Issue Four Pages Because of Budget

Due to budget commitments, this week's issue of the "Observer" contains only four pages. Next week's paper will return to the normal sized issue of six pages.

Frank Craven, 70, veteran playwright, stage and screen actor, died Saturday.