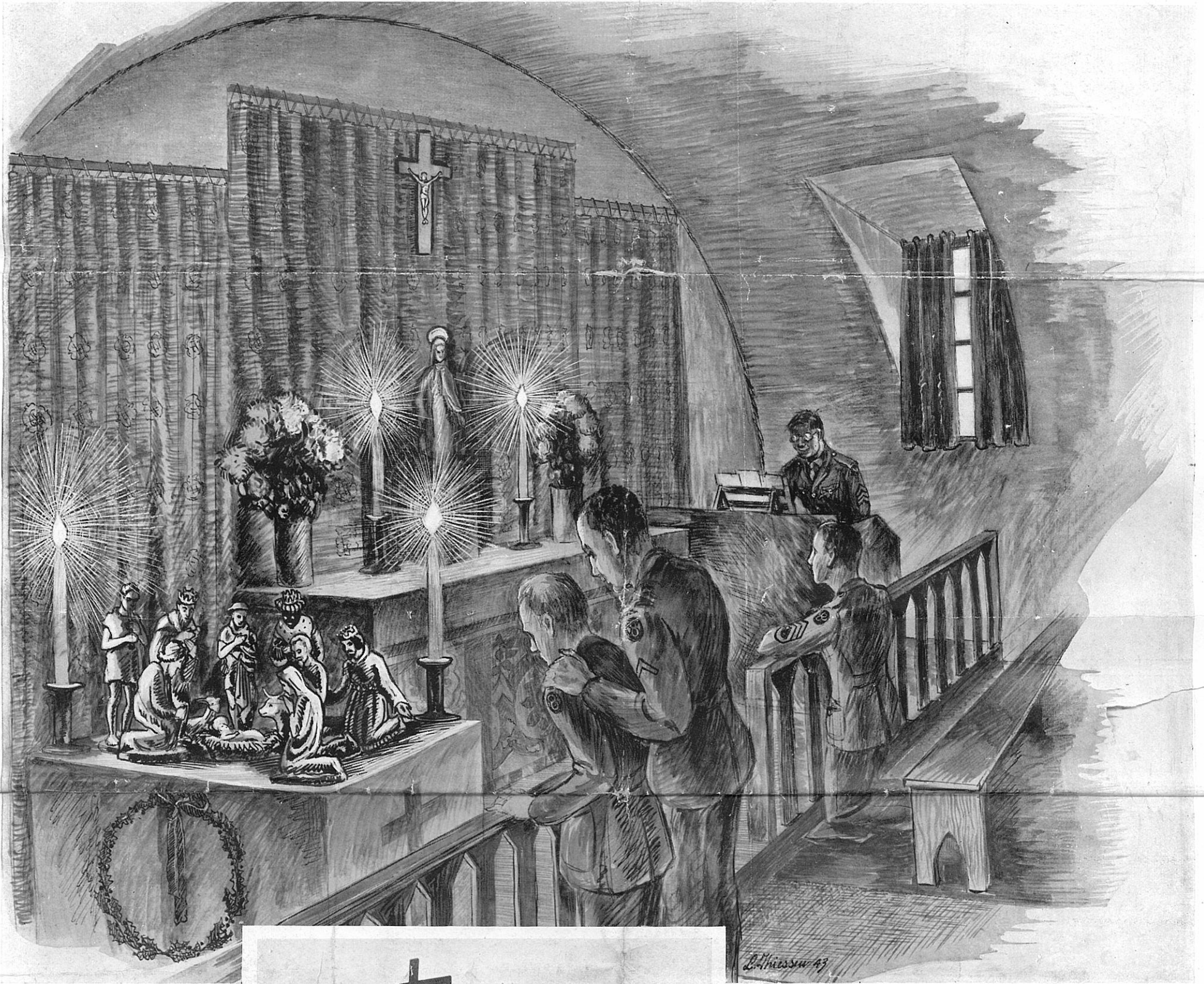


SPECIAL SERVICES CHRISTMAS BULLETIN



**S**PPECIAL Church Services for the Christmas holiday are being conducted in the station chapel, shown in the series of pictures on this page. In front of the chapel Chaplain R. Schnelle (left) and Father Method C. Billy (right) are shown with Major Roy Dier, who supervised construction of the church. Their programs for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are: *Catholic*—Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass, station theater (Confessions heard from 11 p.m.); Dec. 25, Christmas Day, Mass 11-30 a.m. (Confessions heard from 11 a.m.); Benediction of Blessed Sacrament 7 p.m. *Protestant*: Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Candle-light Communion Service 7 p.m.; Carol Singing at Officers' Club 6 p.m., living sites 8 p.m., sick qrs. 9 p.m.



**M**ORE than 100 orphans are feeling the spirit of Christmas this week as the result of a program by the officers and men of this station. Co-ordinated by Special Services, the program was to get under way Thursday night at an orphanage in a near-by large city. Technical Sergeant Joseph McGinley, as Santa Claus, was to pass out toys, candy and gum to the 67 children as well as to 30 old folks also housed there. Ice cream, too. In addition, some 25 enlisted men were to provide special entertainment.

As a big occasion for the day before Christmas, the station was to play host to 36 children from an orphanage in a near-by village. Dinner, with ice cream, was to be served at the Aero Club at noon. Later there was to be music and G-I entertainment, the distribution of candy, cakes and gum.

And next Tuesday personnel will co-operate in an annual village children's party just outside the gates. Our band will be there to provide the music. And again, there will be candy, cookies and gum.

Two holiday dances are scheduled, the Christmas Day affair for enlisted men and the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance for officers. They will be held at the Aero Club and the Officers' Club respectively.





A GRADUATE of West Point, Col. Dale O. Smith brought the force of a strong military personality to this station when he took the station command recently. He is the third commanding officer of the bombardment group, which had in its inception Col. Budd J. Peaslee, who accompanied the unit overseas and served as its commanding officer during its baptism under fire. He was succeeded by Col. Julius K. Lacey, Col. Smith's immediate predecessor. Col. Smith has a wealth of military background. After attending the University of Nevada in his home

town of Reno, he went to West Point M. A. Upon graduation in 1934 he attended Randolph and Kelly Fields. He has served bombardment aviation at Hamilton Field, Calif., Luke and Hickam Fields, Hawaii, and Langley Field, Va. where he commanded at different times two heavy bombardment groups. He was then assigned as assistant chief of staff in the Anti-submarine Command in New York City, and came to us upon that command's inactivation.

His wife and two children live in New York City.



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THIS Christmas message from the Commanding Officer is directed to all personnel:

"Since coming here as your commanding officer I have been impressed by the team play evidenced by combat and ground crews alike. That is what it takes to win.

"I have seen it so many times—that fine co-operation between the individual members of the team—that I am extremely proud of this organization. In the air it has been responsible for bringing more than one crew safely home. You men on the line, too, have demonstrated your pride in being on the team. There is not one flyer on the field who does not realize how much the maintenance crews have contributed in 'keeping 'em flying' and coming home. Communications, armament, ordnance, intelligence and the administrative staffs are doing a fine job in co-ordinating the activities of the group, which has a very high standing within the Bomber Command. Every one has taken hold in a way that is contributing heavily towards the achievement of our goal—the destruction of our targets. I am proud to be the commanding officer of such a team."

"And now, a Merry Christmas to you all. In spite of world turmoil—or perhaps because of it—the meaning of Christmas should be closer to our hearts to-day than ever before."



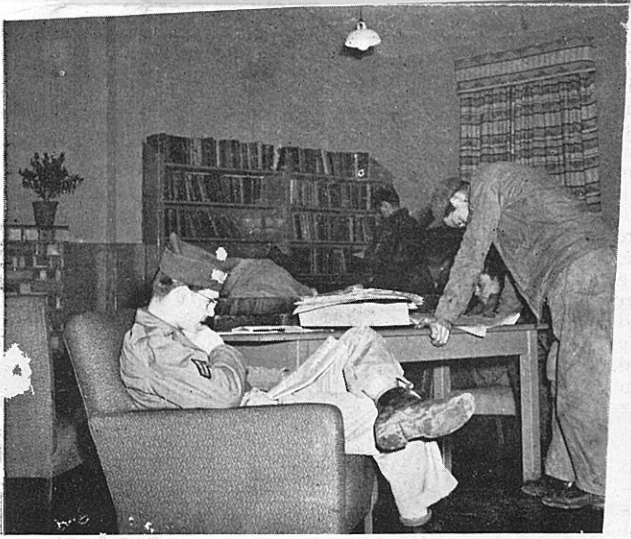
Like bees over a pot of honey, these enlisted men make short work of a freshly-dumped pile of coal (above). The pictures in the right-hand column depict an episode that comes once in a lifetime.



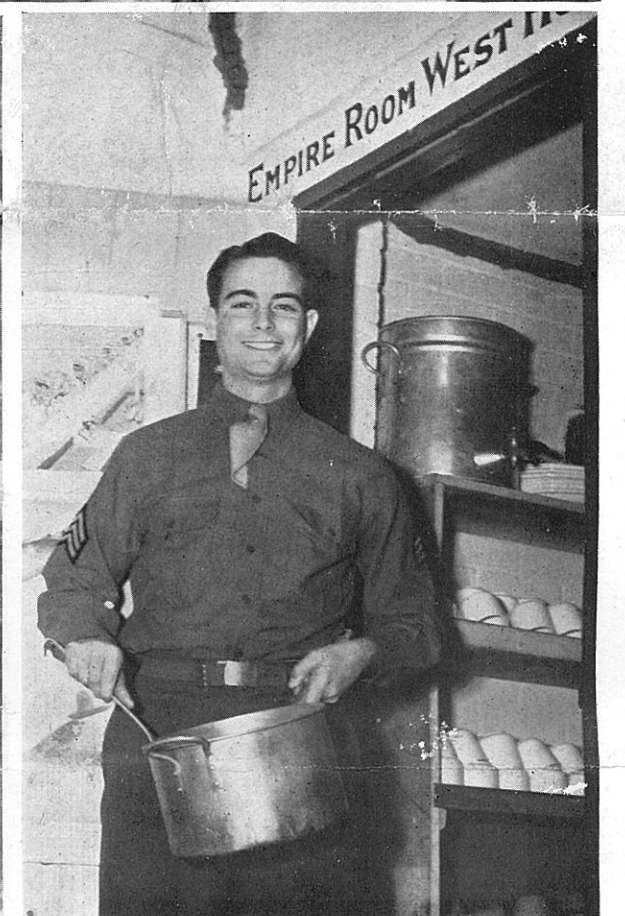
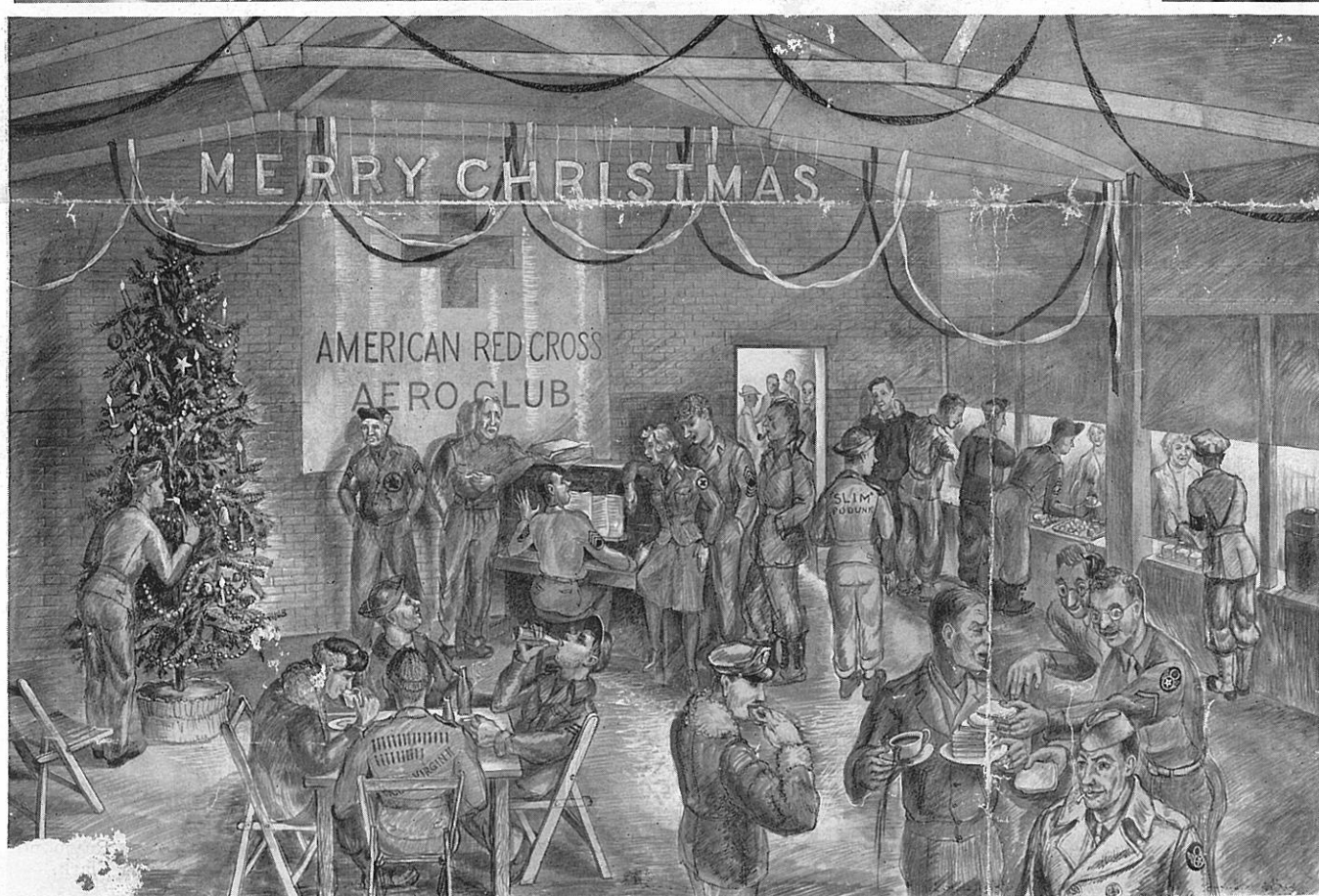
It may seem like a long time since this bombardment group came into being, with Col. Budd J. Peaslee (left), as commanding officer. Shown above are the original staff and the enlisted men who worked with it. Back Row: Maj. W. E. Dolan, Maj. Ralph W. Johnson, Capt. Warren H. Ringgold, Capt. Robt. E. Langlois, Maj. Thomas P. Beckett

Col. Peaslee, Capt. Charles Bonnett, Capt. Clifford H. Crowe, Lieut. Clayton Olson. Front Row: M/Sgt. Morris Blank, Sgt. Olen Grant, S/Sgt. Robt. E. Welch, M/Sgt. Wesley A. Slavazza, M/Sgt. J. J. Suttmiller, S/Sgt. George R. Bryant, M/Sgt. Frank M. C.





AN important part in the life of the station is played by the Red Cross. Its coffee-and-doughnut wagon rolls to the remote corners of the base, affording a welcome respite from the toils of the moment. At its Aero Club (also shown in the sketch at left, below), there are dances and games and reading, and—once a week—good old American hamburgers at the snack-bar. At the left is the "Foxy Theater," a product of American improvisation. A returning crew faces the interrogator in the picture at the right, answering questions between bites and sips of the lunch whipped up in the "Empire Room, West Hotel" (right, below). The cook's corner got its name from a tavern in a Mid-West city of the United States, where the group trained.





The Officers' Club on Christmas Day. Technical Sergeant Charles L. Thiessen, an artist in civilian life, catches the spirit of the occasion in this drawing. A ping pong game . . . some newspapers to read . . . a little good-natured ribaldry. Thiessen also is responsible for the front-page drawing of the station chapel, as well as the drawing of the Aero Club, for enlisted men, on page 3.



WHEN the big bombers return from Germany they are immediately inspected for damage. At top, left, two officers are examining the holes left by shells which ripped all around a tail gunner without injuring him. As soon as a plane reaches its dispersal area the mechanics swarm over her, quickly putting her in condition for the next flight (above). That old adage about taking the bitter with the sweet is especially true of soldiers. At right (above) a group of steam enclosed G-I's labor over boiling tanks of water, cleaning their mess kits. Not so unpleasant is the prospect of getting those letters from home being sorted by clerks swamped by the Christmas rush. Another bright spot on the calendar is pay-day (right, below). At the left Major W. E. Dolan scans his intelligence reports. Its all in a day's work in the army, and the day usually ends with a bull session in the barracks (left, below).

