

A-26s, Miscellaneous Crew

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Boffa, 21-year-old crew chief, took a rugged ribbing from Crawford because he hadn't had time to shave when he left Oklahoma City, "that little town outside of Tulsa."

Fourth member of the crew was J. W. (Gibby) Gibbons, radio operator. Older than the others, refers to himself as Grandpop.

Lt. Frances Armin, blonde air evacuation nurse, was the only feminine member of the party. Wearing a trim blue slacks uniform and flying boots, she was so tiny she had to lower the mike to say hello to the crowd.

Libuse, returning to the center of the stage, told how the boys in the Pacific take advantage of the fact that the C-47 can use a short landing strip, and take it on many runs into the jungle.

Frances, an air evacuation nurse, who was on one of the first two C-47s that landed in the Admiralties, told of landing on the strip while fighting was still going on.

"We took in men and supplies," she added, "and took the wounded out in litters. The fighting was too close for comfort, but we kept on."

Glotzbach, telling of Guadalcanal in 1942, when the Marines first landed there, remembered "It was the C-47s that saved Henderson field. They carried supplies in, took men out. The Marines will verify that."

Billy, who by that time was being called the bearded prophet, by Crawford, returned to tell some of his experiences as crew chief.

"The loads those C-47s car-

us, we were able to hold off the enemy until we received reinforcements."

A-26s Stars

During the program, the boys were frequently interrupted by A-26s buzzing the crowds. Diving down, they'd swoop low in salute, then climb out of sight.

Many employees ganged around the speakers' stand at the plant to have a word with the crew. Many had relatives in the South Pacific, and inquired for them.

"It's good to see somebody from home!" exclaimed Glotzbach, when he was greeted by Charles McComb, Inspection Fabrication, who had formerly lived in Plainville, Kan.

G. B. Muncy, Motor Transportation, was asking about a neighbor, Lt. James Schooley, who is in the Pacific area. His own son, Lt. G. C. Muncy, Jr., is missing in action.

Pearl Beeson, Facilities Control, cornered Boffa to see if he'd run into her husband in the South Pacific.

Between shows at the plant and Mod Center, the crew had a chance to shower and shave. Surrounded by a tangle of hounds, they were being dragged off bodily so they'd have a chance to clean up.

Despairingly, one girl who had Libuse's signature and wanted to get it for her girl friend, wailed "Hurry up, Millie, if you want him to write his name. He's gotta go take a bath."

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Douglas Photo by Wilmet Dahl

THE CROWD CHEERED—Top, employees begin to gather to hear the crew of veteran C-47, Old Miscellaneous, just back from the South Pacific (quite a bunch). Below, some of the employees who rushed up on the platform after the show to ask crew members about relatives or friends in the South Pacific. Left to right, Bill