

North American

VOL. 7

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1943

NO. 7

Mitchells Throw a Sunday Punch

The Mitchells had a show of their own at the key Jap base of Rabaul, New Britain, this week, according to a report from that theater of war. A heavy force of Mitchells sunk a destroyer, a gunboat, a 6,000 ton cargo vessel and set a corvette afire after seriously damaging another big freighter.

The bag also included 36 Jap planes destroyed on the ground and an additional 24 knocked out of the sky. Three Mitchells were lost.

During the attack, small groups of six and nine Mitchells were attacked by as many as 50 Zeros.

The B-25s were unescorted, fighting the aerial battles alone.

Chest Donations Can Still Be Made

The job of tabulating thousands of employee pledges to the War and Community chests of the Greater Kansas City area is expected to be completed late this week, so that the total of contributions from the Kansas

(Continued to page 8)

Wage Plan Awaits Approval of Economic Stabilization Board

The application of North American Aviation, Inc., of Kansas City and Dallas for wage increases for office and technical workers has been approved by the War Labor Board and goes now to the office of Fred M. Vinson, Director of Economic Stabilization, for final revision and approval. This word was received last week by Paul E. Garin, director of Industrial Relations, too late for publication in the North American.

"The approval may not be immediate," Mr. Garin cautioned employees. "The application will be judged in the same manner as was that for increases for hourly employees during the summer. In that instance Mr. Vinson's final approval was given six weeks after the War Labor Board approval."

The application asked for rate increases for office and technical workers according to the S. C. A. I. plan.

Garin said that all employees concerned will be notified how they are affected under this plan as soon as its final form of approval is announced by Mr. Vinson's office.

Knudsen Visited Plant Monday

Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen, chief of production for the War Department, toured the plant and Modification Center Monday morning.

General Knudsen was making an inspection of war production facilities in this area.

Employees' Tool Store and Credit Union Will Move to U. S. Engineers' Building

The Foundation Store, now known as the Employees' Tool Store, and the Employees' Credit Union, will soon move to new locations. Permanent headquarters for these employee services are being prepared in the former U. S. Engineers' building at the main gate.

The store is now located in the center of the plant, and the Credit Union has quarters in the row of offices between Doors 13 and 14.

The store, where employees purchase tools and tool boxes, and similar equipment needed for their jobs, will be opened at

its new location Monday at 8:30 a.m. The Credit Union, where many employees save or borrow money and purchase War Bonds, will move within a few days.

The North American Foundation, an organization set up primarily to serve the welfare and recreational needs of employees, has operated the store until this time. The store will become a part of North American Aviation, Inc. of Kansas as a section of the Plant Facilities Dept. In this way the operation of the store will be the same as it is in the Ingle-

(Continued to page 8)

Authorities Say North American Planes Are World's Best in Their Class

B-25 Mitchell bomber: The world's best medium bomber! P-51 Mustang fighter: Highest ceiling and highest speed of any fighter in existence!

A-36 Mustang fighter-bomber: A great success!

In an authoritative analysis, bringing up to date its report on the performance of American military airplanes, the Office of War Information this week thus rated the above three North American airplanes.

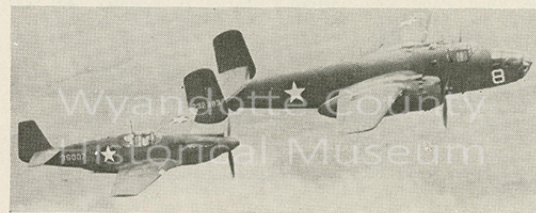
The three types played stellar roles in the activities of America's air armada which, according to the OWI on fronts throughout the world during the past 21 months:

1. Flew 223,758 sorties.
2. Dropped 105,649 tons of bombs.
3. Shot down 7,312 enemy aircraft.
4. Probably destroyed 2,196 enemy planes.

5. Damaged an additional 2,535 enemy planes.

Turning the microscope on the B-25 Mitchell, the government news agency reported: "New models of this two-engine Tokyo raider are equipped with heavier armament and possess increased speed and range. The B-25 is the chief medium bomber in the present program, production of the Martin B-26 (Marauder) being tapered off. B-25s powered with Wright 'Cyclone' engines are flying on 11 fronts, are used by both Army and Navy for anti-submarine patrol service, and have scored particular successes with skip-bombing."

The OWI in a further discussion of American medium bombers, added: "In the medium bomber class our North American B-25 Mitchell and Martin B-26 Marauder continue to be the world's best medium bombers. Their closest



The B-25 Mitchell bomber and the P-51 Mustang its fast-stepping little brother (behind and below the Mitchell) are the world's best in their class, the Office of War Information revealed this week.

competitors are Germany's Dornier 217 E and Japan's Nakajima 97 (date) and Mitsubishi 01 (Betty)."

And of the Mustang, the OWI said: "Although superior to the P-40 and P-39, the original P-51 was only a low and medium-altitude fighter. Now in production is a new P-51 with a highly supercharged,

Packard-built, Rolls-Royce engine, similar to the Merlin 61 engine in the newest Spitfires. Its performance is reported as even better than that famous ship's. The new engine gives the plane the highest ceiling (up to 40,000 feet) and the highest speed (well over 400 miles an hour) of any fighter in existence."