

Glider

GLOSSARY

By Sgt. Clarence J. Bonnell

Some day perhaps a modern Noah Webster, sporting the latest in GI (that's short for government issue) uniform, will sit down and compile a dictionary of words and terms born during the present war. More power to him, but it's a safe bet he'll wind up many short and will have to establish an MC (mail call) to complete the listing.

Every branch of the Armed Services has its own official and unofficial dictionary and the GP's (glider pilots) have been no exception. Getting a gang of these lads together and trying to eavesdrop on their conversation, would be about as enlightening to a rookie as say, an uninitiated at a jive jamboree at a Harlem juke joint.

Without guaranteeing the completeness of the list, Lt. Michael Samek, a veteran of the first use of gliders in the invasion of Sicily, helped me compile the following listing. Some terms might well hold over till final peace when GG's or Glider Guiders or GP's—pay your money and take your choice—get together at Harris Hill, Elmira, N. Y., Twenty-nine Palms, Cal., or some of the Texas thermal spots, and try to outdo each other in attempts at national glider records.

A GLIDER PILOT'S OWN DICTIONARY

GUTS . . . That's what the "G" on the silver wing worn on blouse stands for.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO BE A GLIDER PILOT BUT IT SURE HELPS . . . An old saying.

GP . . . Glider Pilot.

GLIDER GUIDER . . . Glider pilot, now frowned upon.

BOXCAR . . . Glider.

KITE . . . Glider.

SHOOTING GALLERY . . . Glider loaded with ammunition.

FULL HOUSE . . . Glider loaded with troops.

OLD EXPENDABLE . . . Glider in bad condition.

REMORSEFUL THING . . . Nose-heavy glider that can't be trimmed properly and takes lots of energy to fly.

WHALING SHIP . . . Glider loaded with jeep or gun.

LOUNGE . . . Passenger compartment of glider.

TUG . . . Towship.

GOAT . . . Towship.

MARY . . . Towship (from Mary's little lamb).

HONEYMOONING . . . Flying with co-pilot.

PASSING THE SUGAR . . . Switching control column from one honeymooner to the other.

RED AIR . . . It stinks.

COOKING WITH GREEN AIR . . . Doing fine. The terms green and red air originated from the variometers used in sailplanes. A variometer is a very sensitive rate of climb indicator; two glass tubes with a red pellet in one and green in the other. If the green pellet goes up there is an updraft; red goes up, there is a down draft.

SLOPPING ALL OVER THE SKY . . . Oscillating on tow, not flying smoothly behind towship.

CUT . . . Release glider from towship.

DOWN AND GO . . . On your own. The real McCoy.

LET HER GRAZE . . . Diving after release.

COMPANY IS COMING . . . GP's on ground awaiting landing of more gliders.

PAINTING IT ON . . . A very smooth landing.

GREASING IT IN . . . Another smooth landing.

SHOTGUN LANDING . . . Forced landing.

AIR MAIL STAMP . . . Large landing field.

ONE CENT STAMP . . . Small landing field.

LZ . . . Landing zone (military).

DZ . . . Drop zone for paratroops or supplies.

HAVING DISHPAN HANDS . . . Glider pilot who has washed out a glider.

DEAR DIARY . . . Accident report filing.

DEAR POP . . . A report to the Commanding Officer.

POOP FOR THE GROUP . . . Briefing for a mission.

SNATCH . . . Glider pick-up aircraft.

BEING SNATCHED . . . Being picked-up. (Was done for first time in combat in Normandy).

GETTING THE GP TREATMENT . . . Being shoved around (GP's say power pilots and others ignored them too much. Thus the saying).

