A GUEST EDITORIAL



I'M GOING TO MAKE A SPEECH - AND
IT'LL BE THE LAST ONE OF ITS KIND
IN CAPTIVITY - SO DON'T GET A SHORT
CIRCUIT BETWEEN THE EARS...
NO,
SIR

WELL, YOU MADE IT... YOU'RE A FLIGHT
OFFICER IN THE AIR FORCES OF THE
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES... THOSE
WINGS ARE LIKE A NEON LIGHT ON YOUR
CHEST... I'M NOT GOING TO WAVE THE FLAG
AT YOU — BUT SOME THINGS YOU MUST



...EVERY COUNTRY HAS HAD A HAND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AIRPLANE — BUT, AFTER ALL, THE WRIGHT BROTHERS WERE A COUPLE OF DAYTON, OHIO, BOYS-AND KITTY HAWK IS STRICTLY IN NORTH CAROLINA... THE HALLMARK OF THE UNITED STATES IS ON



... 50 YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A POSITION TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY THAT GAVE YOU THE WEAPON WITH WHICH TO DO IT... BUT IT WASN'T JUST YOU WHO EARNED THOSE WINGS... A GHOSTLY ECHELON OF GOOD GUYS FLEW THEIR HEARTS OUT IN OLD KITES TO GIVE YOU THE KNOW-HOW...



... AND SOME SMART SLIDE RULE JOKERS
SWEAT IT OUT OVER DRAWING BOARDS
TO GIVE YOU A MACHINE THAT WILL
KEEP YOU UP THERE SHOOTING ... I
RECOMMENDED YOU FOR FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
AND I WANT YOU TO BE COCKY AND SMART
AND PROUD OF BEING A BUZZ -BOY ...



... BUT DON'T FORGET THAT EVERY BULLET YOU SHOOT, EVERY GALLON OF GAS AND OIL YOU BURN WAS BROUGHT HERE BY TRANSPORT PILOTS WHO FLEW IT IN OVER THE WORST TERRAIN IN THE WORLD! YOU MAY GET THE GLORY—BUT



... AND DON'T LET ME EVER CATCH YOU BEING HIGH-BKYCLE WITH THE ENLISTED MEN IN YOUR GROUND CREW! WITHOUT THEM YOU'D NEVER GET TEN FEET OFF THE GROUND! EVERY GREASE MONKEY IN THAT GANG IS RIGHT BESIDE YOU IN THE COCKPIT— AND THEIR HANDS ARE ON THAT STICK, JUST THE SAME AS YOURS...



...YOU'LL GET ANGRY AS THE DEVIL AT THE ARMY AND ITS SO-CALLED RED TAPE... BUT BE PATIENT WITH IT... SOMEHOW THE OLD EAGLE HAS MANAGED TO END UP IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL IN EVERY WAR SINCE 1776 — SO JUST HUMOR IT ALONG ...



OKAY, SPORT, END OF SPEECH... WHEN YOU GET UP IN THAT "WILD BLUE YONDER "THE SONG TALKS ABOUT - REMEMBER, THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD GUYS MISSING FROM MESS TABLES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ALASKA, AFRICA, BRITAIN, ASIA AND BACK HOME WHO ARE SORTA COUNTING ON YOU TO TAKE IT FROM HERE!





Reprinted by permission: Tribune Media Services and Milton Caniff