

# FOGGIA OCCUPATOR

VOL. 2 No. 26

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1946

DISTRIBUTED FREE

## Explosions Rock Ammo Dumps

July 23 — A grass fire of undetermined origin swept across the fields of the Manfredonia Ammunition Dump this afternoon touching off several stacks of bombs.

Five fire engines from the 1898th Engineering Squadron and one from Foggia Army Air Base were called to combat the blaze.

The Manfredonia road was closed to traffic to prevent any possible casualties as the high explosives were detonated.

At Bitonto, near Bari, this week, five civilians were killed and three more seriously injured, when an Allied Depot exploded. Another fire swept through an Allied Depot at Torre Annunziata, near Naples, Wednesday.

## FAAB Personnel

### Asked To Cooperate

July 24 — The Army Air Forces Aid Society, in an attempt to bring up to date a booklet of "Air Force Airs" originally published in 1943, would appreciate the co-operation of all FAAB personnel.

It is requested that any man knowing the names, words, or music to any songs, nice or otherwise, which were popular with the Army Air Forces during World War Two submit them to the I & E office without delay.

## 529 Wins

### Softball Playoffs

July 24 The 529 softball team won over the 955 Turbo's 16-11 today at the Foggia Stadium and thereby shall represent FAAB in the MTO Softball Championships to be held in Leghorn on August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

It was a game of errors and wild pitching as the 529 lads overcame an 8-1 lead held by the Turbos in the third inning and scored fifteen runs in the final four stanzas to win going away.

Bob Shrowe hurled the win for the 529ers and Slim Matroka was the losing pitcher.

## Occupator Cut

The Foggia Occupator has been cut to four pages temporarily due to the shortage of paper. The weekly photo section, pinups and other features will return with the regular eight page edition.

## SENATORS VISIT FOGGIA



Senator Allen J. Ellender and Senator Hugh Butler, members of the Congressional Party en route home from the Philippine Islands where they participated in the Philippine Independence Day celebration, stopped for a brief visit in Foggia en route to Bari to inspect the American Military Cemetery. They were accompanied by Colonel Kurtz, former Commanding Officer of the 463rd Bomb Group which operated from Foggia during the war, Lieutenant Colonel Scott, Chief of Graves Registration in Mediterranean Theatre and Major Hickey, Air Attache in Rome.

Pictured above are three of the visitors together with the welcoming committee. They are, left to right: Lt. Col. Scott, Major William Berg, Col. Robert K. Martin, Maj. Hickey, Senator Allen J. Ellender, Lt. Elina, Maj. Thayer, Lt. Col. William R. Wells, Lt. Henry O. Rose, Capt. Boyce C. Alvora.

Photo by Bufalo

## Educational Facilities For American Children In Switzerland

July 24 — Swiss public schools are not in a position to receive English-speaking students for want of English-speaking teachers and English textbooks. However, over two hundred private schools exist in Switzerland for boarding students, day students or both.

Course of study, in their objectives vary from general to the specialized and professional. Many of these schools operate with winter and summer terms. Ages of admission of pupils to these schools naturally range, according to the scope of the curricula, from two years to twenty years.

Advertised fees are variable ranging from about two hundred and seventy dollars a year to one thousand two hundred and seventy dollars a year for boarding students.

### I & E Has Information

In view of increasing request for information regarding educational facilities for American children in Switzerland, a summary of such information is available at the Information and Education Office for the guidance of interested parents.

## Army Takes Over Red Cross Clubs

July 26 — (Rome American) American Red Cross Headquarters in Italy yesterday announced that in accordance with a War Department agreement effective July 1, ARC clubs for American soldiers in Italy are now military installations.

It was also announced that the recently closed snack bars will be reopened August 1 under Army Exchange auspices, and food will be sold on a cost basis to military personnel.

Beginning August 1, the ARC in Foggia will again serve donuts and coffee every day; nine in the morning and nine in the evening.

"Just a tip off," Joe Hamilton said, "don't miss the 838th Colored Jive Band tonight (Sunday) at 8:30.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**An undisclosed number** of FAAB personnel left Foggia this week for duty assignments in Germany and Austria where they will be attached to the Twelfth Tactical Command.

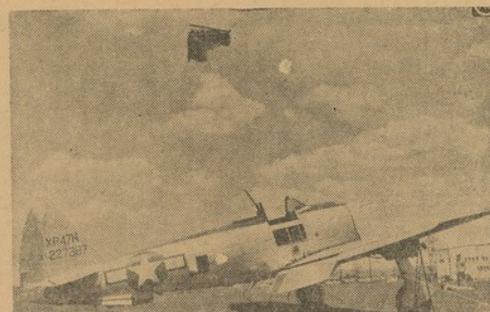
**Absentee Ballots** required for voting in the coming primary, general, or special elections were received this week at the Information and Education Office. The ballots will be distributed to the Special Service Branches at the various organizations.

**Capri PX** discontinued operations as of July 22. Personnel planning to visit Capri on week-ends or rest tours are advised to purchase rations before leaving Foggia.

**All dogs** belonging to personnel of this Command must be registered at the Base Surgeon's office immediately. Dog tags may be obtained when dog is registered and any dog found without tags will be picked up by civil police.

## ALL IN THE AIR

### Catapulted To Safety



The latest safeguard for Army pilots is demonstrated at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. When the danger of a crash arises and the pilot is locked into his seat, all he has to do to reach the ground safely is to push the lever. He is then catapulted fifty feet into the air. The parachute opens automatically. In the picture above a dummy pilot was used for the demonstration.

Acme

# LOCAL ITEMS

## Aviation

"Air Force Day! What the hell is that? I've never even heard of such day," said Lt. Frank Piro, when we approached him this afternoon in front of the PX. It seems that very few of the FAAB personnel actually know when Air Force Day comes around. When we asked Sergeant Roy Majeske he said that he had never heard of it and that makes three persons who are in the dark, the third being us. So we looked it up and here are a few of the highlights on why August 1 has been designated as Air Force Day.

On August 1, 1907, an Aeronautical Division "to study the flying machine and the possibility of adapting it to military purposes" was established. One officer and two enlisted men were assigned to the division, but there were no airplanes.

Late in 1907 the Army asked for bids for an airplane capable of flying sixty minutes while carrying two men whose weight did not exceed 350 pounds. The first plane was delivered by the Wright Brothers but it crashed during trial flights at Fort Meyer, Virginia. In June, 1909 they returned with a bi-plane which stayed aloft one hour and twenty minutes. The Army accepted it thus making it the world's first military airplane. In the months that followed, pilots were trained, among them Lieutenant Henry H. Arnold, now Commanding General of the AAF.

When we went to war on April 6, 1917 the aviation section had 65 officers and 1087 enlisted men. The total of our airplanes was 55, all of them obsolete. However in the closing months of the war our air squadrons chalked up an impressive record in aerial combat.

The 23 years of peace, in spite of the small number of personnel and limited appropriations, was a period of progress for the Army's air arm. New techniques, tactics and equipment were tested and from peacetime research came almost all of our present day combat planes. Along with this, high level precision bombing was developed, aerial formations and tactics were evolved.

Now in our post war era we are advancing in even greater leaps and bounds. Developing new types of bombs, even better airplanes such as the Jet plane, and improving our fire power. Perhaps most important is the formation of highly skilled men who know aviation from top to bottom. With these men we will keep hundreds of thousands trained for air duty.

## Contentment

Feeling we have that everybody should keep on his toes prompts us to discourse on the Foggia Sears and Roebuck, better known as the P. X. Idle gossip, picked up in various places, tends to lean toward the belief that the store personnel live the life of Riley. Deciding to look into the situation, we stopped by the P. X. office and had a chat with Sgt. Bob Kerr, head cashier. "I'll be with you in a minute," he said.

Working with experienced hands, he quickly rid the desk of lire notes. We watched fascinated for a moment, then the sergeant spoke. "Although it's a good deal," he said, we work at our respective jobs as anyone else might. What with GI's forever coming in to redeem lost ration cards, paying for supplies bought by an outfit, or inquiring why they are not entitled to back rations this office is always in an uproar.

"Convoys" he went on to say, nodding to Sgt. Joe Howard, records clerk, "are constantly being sent to Leghorn. Joe types the requisitions and helps keep stock levels steady. Busy with type written sheets, Sgt. Howard paid scant attention to the statement.

While carousing about we noticed Nick, an Italian odd job man, painting a sign informing us the P. X. will be closed four days for inventory. "That" remarked Bob displaying a sour face, "is the thorn in our side. Some people say we're learning a trade, but I for one will get gray hairs in the process."

Although the store was bustling with activity, we observed that the GI help wasn't too plentiful. When asked, Bob replied "the shipment to Germany claimed two men while two more men are on convoy. The fella's in the store proper, Jerry Silman, Ben Gillespie, Bob Bastian, and Ernest Beauregard have their hands full performing their duties." He added however, not one in the bunch would ask to be put elsewhere.

## Rumors

With everyone eagerly awaiting the next rumor to blossom forth, life in Foggia has taken a new trend. A greater interest is entwined into the day as everyone breaks out with a smile that quickly disappears in the midst of a conversation when something foreboding is mentioned.

## Going Home

The first words that are generally spoken when buddies meet, pertains to the rumor of going home. By adapting ourselves to this way of living we become accustomed to the rise and fall of our emotions throughout the day. As these false tales disintegrate, new ones will rise to take their place until eventually the truth will be told.

## Courtesy

We needed a cigarette the other day and Pfc. Ted Pimm happened to be around. When we asked Ted, he quickly whipped out a shiny case and offered us one. We found this inscription on the inside, "You are receiving a cigarette through the courtesy of Ted Pimm."

## Wit

Out of the weeks stack of witticisms we picked this one as being, we think, among the best. "It gets so hot in these parts I'm told the chickens lay their eggs hard boiled."

## Heaven

Chuckling to himself as he watched the sweat pour from our foreheads, Cpl. Arthur Dean, NCO in charge, pointed to six massive ovens and told us the fires in them were kept going steady from 7:00 AM until the time they quit, which was fourteen hours later. "Temperatures of 100 degrees are not uncommon," he added. On hearing this we quickly looked for a cooler recess.

Following him into the office, we asked about the finished product. "Our distribution manager, Pfc. Frank Gustafson" was the reply, "issues approximately twenty-five hundred loaves of bread daily. We are having some difficulties in baking, due to the flour being used, but the 779 AMS doesn't have anything else to offer so we make the best of it. Taken as a whole though, both Frank and I believe we have a good deal."

The job of the Foggia Home Bakery is by no means a small one. With having to supply the FAAB area, Amendola and civilian mess halls, the bakery is required to operate continually for about fourteen hours. "We were running two shifts", commented the corporal, "but with the departure of the Austrian PW's the staff was cut down from seventy-five men to it's present number of forty, forcing us to work one shift."

Touring the shop with close scrutiny, we immediately noticed the cleanliness in the happy home of the Honey Crust Bakers. "We are undergoing a few repairs," said the Corporal. "Those walls have been freshly painted from an olive drab to white. Looks pretty good doesn't it," he queried. We were inclined to agree.

## Father

Very excited and beaming all over, Pvt. Ben B. Lewis, in charge of the Film Exchange Library, rushed into our office and blurted out. "This is a happy day I'm going home. The call just came through from Caserta for me to start packing."

Ben is the father of two children and a native of Los Angeles, California.

## SAFETY AT SEA



"The Covered Wagon" Because of its large canopy for protection, this Army Air Forces twenty-man life raft is the newest development in Air-Sea rescue experiments by Air Materiel Command engineers. The raft has an inflated seat for the comfort and protection of its occupants, and is so constructed that if one side is punctured, the remaining half will still support the twenty passengers. The entire raft is constructed out of rubber and inflated with carbon dioxide. *British Combine*

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2,546 Years Old



**Saint Maria** of Siponto, on the Manfredonia road, is one of the oldest churches in Italy. Erected in 600 B. C., the structure served as a Roman Pagan Temple until 1117 when it was consecrated by Pope Pasquale II. (See Tours Around Foggia)

Photo by Bufalo

**A Lire For Your Thoughts**

Cpl. John W. Cave, 529 ASG--- "My three months here leave me without any warm sentiments about Foggia. I'm lucky in the respect that I spend the better part of a week elsewhere in the capacity of a courier."

Pfc. Joe Womack, 18th Weather Station--- "Sending up weather balloons isn't what I'd call an ideal job, and because of shifts we work, off duty time is something we don't get enough off."

Ann Martin, ARC Chicago Ill. "I've been in Foggia three months, and still wondering how much more time I'll have to put in."

Lt. John P. Cunniff, Ordinance Base Depot, Leghorn--- "My first time will be my last time. The African desert has nothing on this place."

Pfc. Willy White, 779 AMS--- "I guess any change, Germany or otherwise will be better than Foggia. I'm also looking forward to wrapping myself around some German beer."

Pfc. Henry McFarland, 955 Engineers--- "Wonder what happened to all the rank. It appears like the guards have been forgotten."

**Stateside**

**Washington:** Navy boosters ran up the victory flag Saturday at word that President Truman agreed to drop his demand for Congressional action on the armed forces merger this session.

**Rome American**

**Passage of G. I. terminal pay bill** now is certain. This will bring expenditures for fiscal 1947 to around 42,000,000,000 (dollars) Receipts are estimated at 40,000,000,000 (dollars) plus.

**Truman's compromise measure**, calling for payment of sums over fifty dollars in non-negotiable five-year bonds, probably will be accepted by the House and Senate. This would delay the bulk of cash outlays until the bonds mature but the entire cost estimated at around 2,750,000,000 (dollars), would be charged against this year's budget anyway. *News Week*

**Washington:** Dr. Francis Brown, national authority on veteran's education, said some schools and employers were making a "racket" of the G.I. educational program under which 900,000,000 (dollars) already have been spent. *Rome American*

**Mail:** Military personnel in Foggia Italy, commented on the "satisfactory manner that soldier air-mail to and from Italy was moving"--- First delivery in two weeks.

**Tours Around Foggia**

(This is the second of a series of articles exploring Foggia and vicinity.)

This morning we met the old caretaker again and he told us of another church, one of the oldest in Italy. It is located on the Manfredonia road about 300 yards west of Siponto and is called Saint Maria of Siponto, originally a Roman Pagan Temple.

The Pagan Temple was erected about 600 BC. as part of the ancient city of Siponto, and is the only building still standing. It was not called Saint Maria until 1117, when it was consecrated by Pope Pasquale II. In 1256 the city of Siponto was abandoned but the church was kept a place of worship.

**Hands On The Wall**

Upon entering the church one can easily notice the tracings of hands on the walls. They are the symbols of the pilgrims who have made the crusade from the nearby villages. The church was constructed in the style of Pisano-Lucchese and has four pillars Bizantino design.

The crypt underneath the chapel houses a grotto which contains a

statue of the Black Madonna and Child. In accordance with an ancient custom, articles of clothing were deposited by the grateful worshippers who's prayers the Black Madonna answered. On either side of the statue the walls are almost covered with garments and sketches. On April, 7, 1946, a dying girl was saved through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and her garments are the latest addition. Crutches left behind by cripples line the wall at the rear of the church.

Fascinated by the attachment the ancient structure held for us we inquired at the Foggia Museum and of several professors to find more information pertaining to the history.

**ITALY**

**The Foggia Civilian Hospital** received two hundred pajamas, one hundred and fifty morning-gowns, sixty shirts for the nurses, eighty jackets for the babies and forty blankets from the American Red Cross and UNRRA through the ENDSI (American Society for Distribution of Aids to Italy.)

**President Truman** sent his congratulations to Mr. De Nicola on the occasion of his assignment as President of the Italian Republic.

**UNRRA Director - General** Fiorello H La Guardia landed at Ciampino airport Sunday afternoon, and by Monday evening, in a whirlwind get-acquainted program, he had talked to several dozen people ranging from Pope Pius XII and Premier Alcide De Gasperi to Italians in an UNRRA mess hall in the Vila Borghese. He was easily the most welcome visitor to come to Rome since the first doughboys fought their way in from Anzio.

**Carabinieri** and armored cars were called out in Milan Monday when a frenzied mob of unemployed Italian war veterans attempted to lynch the provincial prefect during a demonstration on the steps of the city hall.

**ANN GIRL ABOUT TOWN**



"He gimme these duds an' took off!"

Enter "Skeenorina five by five" with encore chatter picked up around the streets of Foggia. Yes, it's hats off to Germany because "the hat's" off to Germany. Who wants to take his place? The Red Cross bade Aufwiedersein to those bound for Deutschland Sunday nite. Seth Spaulding wants it to be known that he's going to kiss all the Red Cross girls Goodby with his mouth full of popcorn. Cahill of the Embassy and Gehring drew lots, and Gehring won out on the German bier---yum!--- Cahill stays here to hold down the Cognac bottles. Others following along are Jelks, Ross, Keagy, "Ciaciu" Lombardy, Eugene Kline, George "the beard or the beast" Malcheff, "Ombriago" Lynch, "Bugchaser" Neitbarger, "Casanova" Peterson, Cleaveland Rodney Crapp and Dewey, Harold

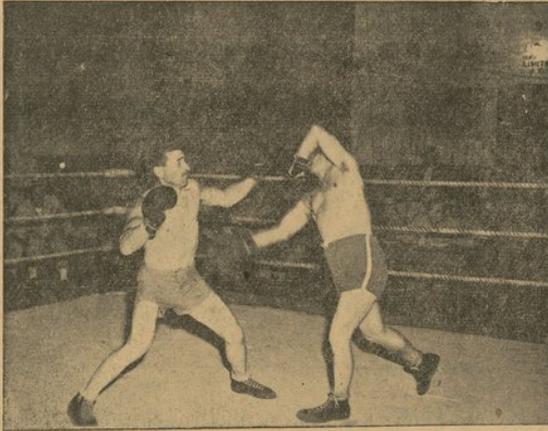
Carr' Peela of 955, Fallat, and ACS's main cog in the wheel, Hansberry. Oh yes, and Byron Niehans is taking "Daisy" up there where mutts aren't so plentiful.

Sunday nite there were merry-makers at the Castle Bar making their farewells to Colonel Wells. Jo Balliano and "Sweater Boy" Baswell are still talking about it. Cindy and Bob Olivigni are wending their way statesward this week too, so we wish them bona viaggio and fortuna. Lickety-splitting it back to Foggia is J. T. Clark to see a certain Signorina

Wanted: One new "Esquire" magazine for Moose Varga who is already looking for the newest and latest in drapes and shapes for life back in the States. And with mention of God's Country, 'tis fitting to stop and dream just a little.

1946 JULY 1946						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## THE CONNECTING BLOW



"Pop" Mario delivers sweeping uppercut to Pasquale Messa's jaw in third round of Tuesday's fights at Flagella. Mario won the five round decision.

Photo by Bufalo

### Sparkplugs Smash Rebels 9-2

July 21 — The 955 Sparkplugs took over the league lead by trouncing the 779 Rebels 9-2 at the Foggia Stadium today. The Sparks climbed on southpaw Jim Boyle for all of their nine runs and ten hits to make it an easy time for "Red" Cooke, 955 hurler.

It was Cooke's sixth victory in seven starts as he held the Rebs to five hits while striking out nine. Lee Palmers home run to deep left in the seventh inning was the big hit of the day.

### Cooke Hurls Win Over Former Teammates

July 22 — "Rapid Robert" Cooke, former manager and ace moundman of the 955 Sparkplugs, turned in a neat two-hit pitching performance for the Special Service nine as the lowly Specials upset the league leaders 5-1 at the Foggia Stadium this afternoon.

Lee Palmer spoiled Cooke's bid for a shutout by doubling home Jim Reese with two outs in the last inning. Palmer garnered both of the Sparkplug hits by clouting two doubles to deep right field.

Cooke, pitching his second win in two days faced only 24 batters as he struck out seven and walked none. Jim Boyle drove home four of the Specials five runs on two singles. The victory ended an eight game losing streak for the up and coming Specials.

#### LEADING HITTERS

(As of July 24th)

Player	G	AB	R	H	BA
Damato, Specials P-SS	14	47	22	29	.425
Elliot, Specials P	9	27	7	11	.407
Ingenito, Sparkplugs 3B	14	46	9	17	.369
Greiner, Bulldozers 3B-P	13	44	12	16	.363
Thompson, Rebels OF	9	22	6	8	.363

(Includes players participating in 8 games or more)

Runs Batted In  
Janovick, Rebels 16; Childs, Specials 15.  
Home Runs  
Damato, Specials 3; Ingenito, Sparkplugs 2; Childs, Specials 2.

### Rebels Upset Bulldozers, 8-6

July 19 — The surprising 779 Rebels led by pitcher Mike Damato and outfielder Sid Robarge upset the league leading 1898th Bulldozers 8-6 in a thriller at the Foggia Stadium this afternoon.

The 'Dozers started strong in the first frame by tallying three runs on three successive errors that filled the bases; a walk, and a two run double to left field by Lefty Johnson. They made it 4-0 in the third when Ed Greiner drew a pass, stole second and came home on Akira Minamide's single.

With two outs and the bases bulging with Rebels in the bottom half of the fourth, Greiner cut loose with a wild pitch and all three runners scored on a bad throw by catcher Sakanashi. The Bulldozers made it 5-3 on three more Rebel errors in the fifth but the 779 lads knotted the count in the same inning when Bill Falk tripled, "Patchy" Thompson was hit by a pitch and Damato drove both runners home with a double to deep right field.

The Bulldozers went into the lead again when "Slats" Omiya lay down a perfect bunt with Stan Tokuda on third. With one out and runners on first and second, Sid Robarge broke up the game with a terrific drive to left field good for three bases. He scored moments later on a wild pitch to make the final count 8-6.

Damato allowed but three hits as he went the rout for the winners and was constantly in trouble due to nine costly errors. Greiner, Tokuda, and George Shimizu divided the pitching chores for the Bulldozers and allowed seven hits.

#### LEAGUE STANDINGS

(As of July 24th)

Team	W	L	Pct	*GBL
1898th Bulldozers	9	5	.642	
955 Sparkplugs	9	5	.642	
779 Rebels	7	8	.466	2 1/2
529 Yankees	4	9	.309	4 1/2
Special Service	3	11	.214	6

\*Games behind leader

## Pescara Edges Foggia

### Boxers At Flagella

July 24 — Salvatore Tibera, welterweight champion of Europe, defeated Mike Pippo of Foggia in the main bout and made it possible for the Pescara boxing team to earn a scant decision over the Foggia lads this evening at the Flagella Theater. Four of the five inter-city professional bouts ended in draws thus Tibera's win gave the Pescarans a one bout margin.

### Security Pacing Basketball League At End Of First Round

July 24 — The half-way point in the summer basketball league finds the Security "Bucketeers" pacing the six-team league with five wins and no losses. Led by Jim Cleveland the Security five as beaten every team in the tournament once and rules as the predominant favorites to rest on top of the pack on August 12th.

Following are the league standings for the first round and the leading scorers:

	W	L	Pct.		G	Pts
Security	5	0	1.000	McDonald, 529	4	49
529th ASG	4	1	.800	VanDien, 529	4	48
1898th	3	2	.600	Jenkins, Fire Dept.	4	48
Fire Fighters	2	3	.400	Malenka, Fire Dept.	4	40
779 AMS	1	4	.200	Stewart, 529	4	40
955th	0	5	.000	Cleveland, Security	3	34
				Wolff, Fire Dept.	3	31

Mario "Pop" Solamano again had the fight throng in an uproar over his peculiar ring tactics as he decided Pasquale Messe of San Severa in the most popular fight of the evening. Introducing a new delivery known as the "off the ropes head punch", "Pop" also baffled his opponent with his favorite "behind the back" blow. It was a popular victory.

Stew Evans lived up to advance notices by gaining a TKO over Vince Carbonara in two rounds of the outstanding amateur bout of the night. The 170 pound Gt displayed a wicked left as he all but knocked Carbonara out of the ring in the first round. Carbonara was so thoroughly beaten that he was unable to answer the bell for the third round.

In the remaining professional fights of the night Nicole Tamalio, Frank Scarano, Matteo Tamalio and Francesco Gallo of Foggia fought to five round draws with Frankie Franceschelli, Vince Risigo, Romeo Milite and Mickey Montanara from Pescara.

## Sport Shots

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By Jim Boyle

In a recent edition of the Occupator it was noticed that one of the fellows seemed to think that the sports activities were limited to baseball in Foggia. In investigating the situation it was surprising to learn just how many athletics are available.

At the present time there is a softball and basketball league in progress. Boxing, wrestling, fencing, weight lifting, handball, volleyball, badminton, ping pong and pool are featured in the athletic program at the local gymnasium. The swimming pool is located one block from the gym and is open every day from 1000 to 1800 hours. The Foggia Stadium is open from sun-up to sundown for those interested in running a few laps, pole vaulting, broad jumping or high jumping.

With all these facilities on hand there is enough sports to keep most of the athletes in FAAB well occupied.

When the Special Service Specials took the field against the league leading 955 Sparkplugs last Monday and proceeded to upset the

pacesetters 5-1, there was only one player participating that was with the original Specials nine. He is manager "Stuffy" McDonald, erstwhile third baseman. Newcomers to the rejuvenized Specials include "Flash" Welker, "George Washington" Ruzich, "Rapid Robert" Cooke, "Pee Wee" Damato, "Schnozz" Childs, "Dom" Clarke and "King Kong" Hutchinson. The team is loaded with pitching, hitting and speed. After trouncing the Sparkplugs, one of the team was heard to remark, "Just another special service!"

The Foggia baseball fans should be in for a treat for the next few weeks. The 838th Negro outfit's classy hardball nine is taking over the 345th Rangers spot in the schedule and will play all the teams in the league at least once.

The games will be practice hits and shall have no bearing on the pennant race. From reports on the 838's, it has been learned that they have a hot ball club and are anxious to play Foggia's best.