

Basic Bombardier

EXTRA

VOL. 1, NO. 48

JULY 9, 1943

FAMOUS FORTRESS AND CREW WILL HAIL B.M.I. FULL PRODUCTION HERE ON MONDAY

THE MEMPHIS BELLE, proud, battle-pocked Flying Fortress, home from many a blasting sweep over Nazi-held Europe is coming to BMI next Monday with her gallant original crew of ten.

She, from whose bomb bays rained high explosive blockbusters and magnesium incendiaries in 25 raids against the enemy, is coming here to celebrate full production in the world's largest magnesium plant. It will be the first visit of the big Fortress and her crew west of the Mississippi—and she's flying in from Dayton, O., just to let us at BMI know how the boys who drop them appreciate full scope production of the metal that makes magnesium bombs.

The Belle which shot down eight German planes will land at the Western Air Terminal near Las Vegas Sunday about noon. In the afternoon the great ship will fly over BMI and the Townsite. There will be a parade and ceremony in Las Vegas, Sunday night.

On Monday, a full program has been arranged here at the plant. It includes a tour of the plant by the crew of the Memphis Belle, a big parade at night, followed by an

outdoor program climaxed by the bombing of two buildings by magnesium incendiaries. Monday morning the crew of the four-motored Fortress will tour the plant, visiting all units. Luncheon for the fliers and attending Army officers will follow.

In addition to the bomber crew riding in Jeeps the parade will feature a complete mechanized company from desert maneuvers. The procession will move down Water Street from Basic Road to Victory Road to the strains of a 40-piece Army band from McCarran Field.

It will then proceed to the main gate at Andersons, will move through Andersons' Camp and thence to the Trailer Park, from which area it will move to the softball field at the Plantsite. The speakers' stand will be erected at home plate and the audience will assemble over the baseball diamond. On the platform an Army master of ceremonies will introduce members of the fortress crew and speakers representing the Army, War Production Board and Defense Plant Corporation. This program will start at 8 o'clock. At the conclusion of the ceremony at 9:15 a large bomber will simulate an attack on two wooden build-

ings which will be destroyed by magnesium incendiary bombs.

The Fortress crew will be in command of Lt. Col. P. O. Brewer, Commanding Officer 52nd Sub-Depot, Air Service Command, Las Vegas Army Air School.

Major Clifford W. Macfarlane, Industrial Services Division, War Department Bureau of Public Relations will be in charge of arrangements.

The crew of the Fortress with her gallant record of combat over Europe is as follows: Capt. Robert K. Morgan, Asheville, N.C., pilot; Capt. Vincent B. Evans, Henderson, Texas, bombardier; Capt. Charles B. Leighton, East Lansing, Mich., navigator; Capt. James A. Verinis, New Haven, Conn., co-pilot; S/Sgt. John P. Quinlan, Yonkers, N.Y., tail gunner; S/Sgt. Clarence E. Winchell, Oak Park, Illinois, waist gunner; S/Sgt. Cecil H. Scott, Altoona, Pa., ball turret gunner; S/Sgt. Casimer A. Nastal, Detroit, Mich., waist gunner; T/Sgt. Robert J. Hanson, Garfield, Wash., radio operator; T/Sgt. Harold P. Loch, Green Bay, Wis., top turret gunner.