



FINAL APPROACH



SAAF-AFS
STUTTGART, ARKANSAS

The 'FINAL APPROACH'

HERE AT STUTTGART, ARKANSAS, in late August of 1943, it is "The Final Approach" for us of Class 43-H in the months' long transition from aviation cadets to pilots, U. S. Army Air Forces. Throughout long, rough days that led from Nashville's classification center to preflight, primary, basic and advanced, we have "sweated it out"—moaning, worrying, working, relaxing during those moments of open post—and all of the time, looking ahead to this "final approach" day.

THERE WERE DAYS, and it was an experience, none of us had ever charted; but the war changed all of that. Although many of us would deny it, not really believing our denials, we went through this long aviation cadet siege because it was where we wanted to be in the vast wartime mosaic. We put ourselves there in the first place, because there was something about flying that appealed to us; and we wanted to be at least a small part of it. From the training 'planes, it is the long-awaited step for us now in to the "big league" of the big combat ships.

WE'VE WAITED A LONG time for this day; and while we are not sorry these aviation cadet days are past, still we would like some printed record of it to turn to in moments of reminiscence. Some "time capsule," so to speak, of the hours we have spent, the things we have done, the men with whom we have associated during these days as "misters" of the aviation cadet corps. This "Final Approach" is that record.



FRANK J. DOUGHERTY, cartoons; GEORGE A. DRAUT, editor-in-chief; HENRY GARDINER, assistant editor; WARREN E. DAVIS, JOHN F. TANKERSLEY, circulation.

All photography in "The Final Approach" by PRIVATE FIRST-CLASS DENNIS C. (TEX) NORTON and PRIVATE FIRST-CLASS KENNETH C. BROOKS of the post photographic section, headed by LIEUTENANT JULIAN H. L. WOLFSOHN, photographic officer, and LIEUTENANT R. B. JACOBS, assistant photographic officer.

DEDICATED TO A GUY NAMED "JOE"



We of 43-H dedicate this class book to a guy named "Joe." "Joe" is legion. He is the instructor who showed us the way and shoved us through to the attainment of those silver pilot wings. He is the instructor, who—maybe with his fingers crossed—sent us up in the PT's on that first solo. Later, "Joe" checked us out in the BT's. At this last aviation cadet stage, he introduced us to the twin-engine AT-10. What we know about airplanes, whatever skill we have in flying, we owe in very great part to "Joe." "Joe" is very much in the background in a wartime day when U. S. pilots are very much in the headlined limelight. "Joe" is doing a very good job at a very tough job; and we hope when this war ends and the complete story of the massive scope and achievements of the U. S. Army Air Forces is written, they won't forget a guy named "Joe."



A SALUTE TO THE CLASS OF 43-H

You are joining the ranks of the greatest organization to be developed by the present conflict. The outstanding performances of your brother members of the Air Forces sets a goal of attainment for you which will be difficult to achieve. I have no doubt you will emulate glorious achievements of those who have preceded you and I can assure you that if you continue to strive for knowledge of flying in the same manner that characterized your performance at this station you can rest assured that yours will be a glorious record. The command extends to you their wishes for your continued success.

EDGAR R. TODD,
Colonel, Air Forces,
Commanding.



Major Jack D. Powell
Director of Training



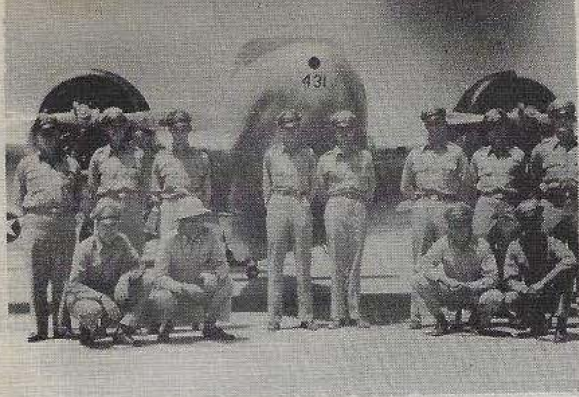
Captain Robert B. Knox
Air Inspector



Your training days as members of the Aviation Cadet Corps have reached an end, and you leave here now to take up your new posts and new duties as pilots and officers of the Air Corps. Wear your wings and the insignia of your officer rank proudly. You have worked hard to earn the right to hold them. You know the high traditions, built upon unimpeachable honor, character, ability and leadership, which are the prerequisites of the officership you assume. They are not to be taken lightly.

Through indoctrination, daily training and example, your officers of the Aviation Cadet Detachment have tried to teach you and show you the pride and responsibilities that go with being an officer. A great part of your long training as cadets has been toward this end, and I know from my contact with you during your final cadet training here that you will carry on the high traditions and records of officers of the U. S. Army Air Forces, who have gone out ahead of you.

R. S. McKEE,
Captain, Air Corps
Commandant of Cadets



SQUADRON 5

Front row—Lt. John N. Badgett, Jr., Lt. Richard McGehee, Lt. David O. Fredsall, Lt. Daniel T. Balmer.

Standing—Lt. Torrey M. Johnson, Lt. Henry H. Reinhardt, Jr., Lt. William S. Oman, Captain Edward P. Asmus, commanding; Lt. Robert L. Morse, Lt. Thomas S. Hancock, Lt. William R. Murray, Lt. James M. Phelps.



SQUADRON 6

Front row—Lt. Wagner H. Roberts, Lt. Russell E. Dougherty, Lt. Harkless G. Enns.

Sanding—Lt. John R. King, Jr., Lt. Theo Nichols, Captain John S. Klein, commanding; Lt. Anthony J. Canale, Lt. Thomas R. Summer, Jr.

Not pictured—Lt. Richard F. MacKenzie, Lt. Richard V. Stuart, Lt. Woodrow L. Goodrich, Lt. Winton D. Wordsworth.



"FLIGHT LINE"

Here on the flight line is the center of the aviation cadet's training stage—the "jumpoff" point for this "wild blue yonder" they're always singing about.

Here on the flight line is the mainspring that runs the A/C clock—the "business" end of the cadet training program, learning to fly. From the PT and BT days of lazy 8's and chandelles to formation and night flying, cross-countries.

Here on the flight line was the best of all, of all the aviation cadet days.

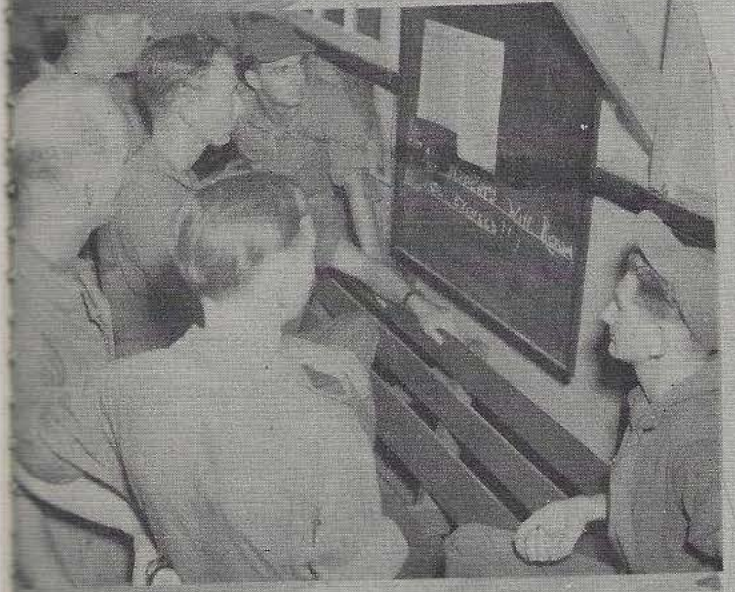
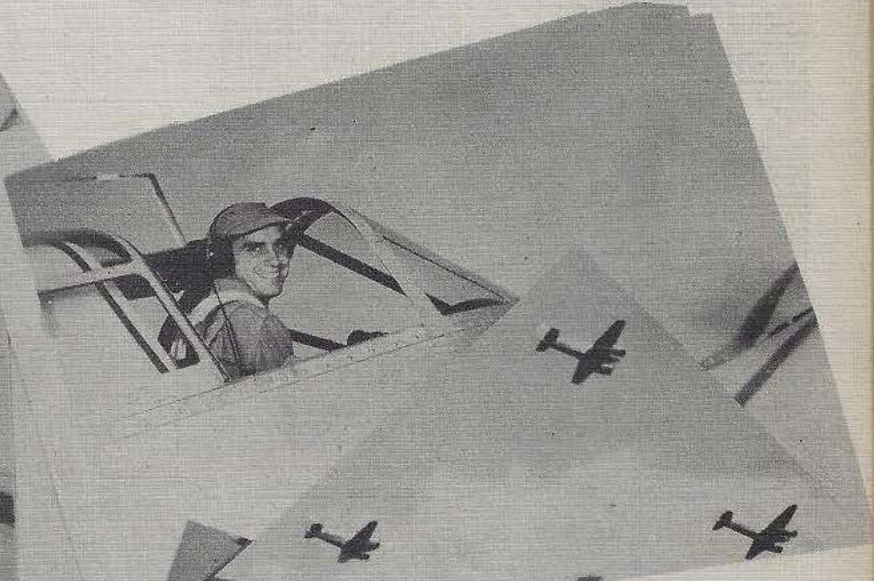
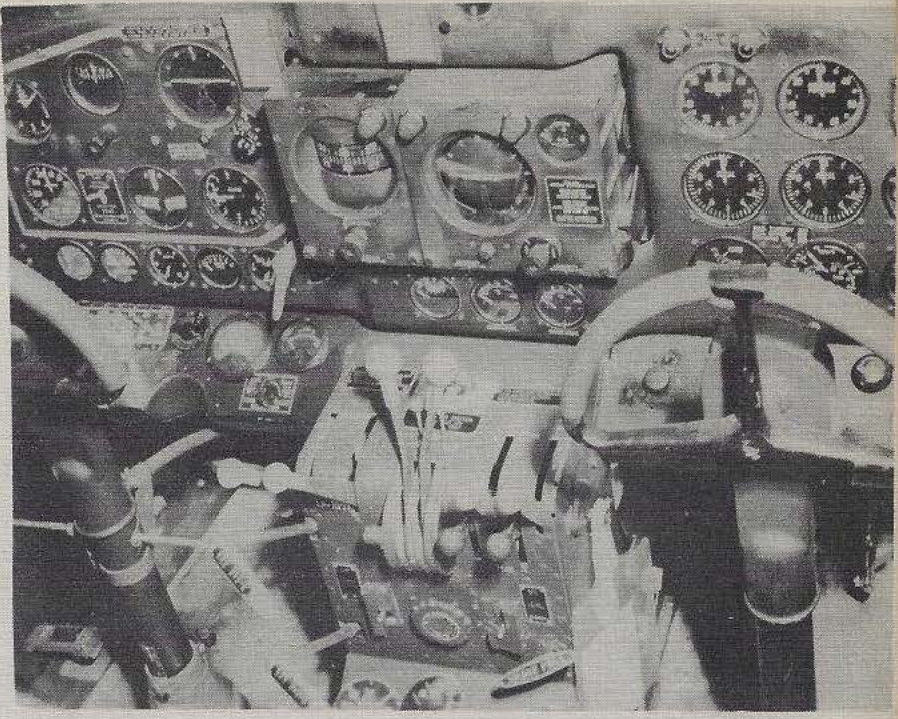


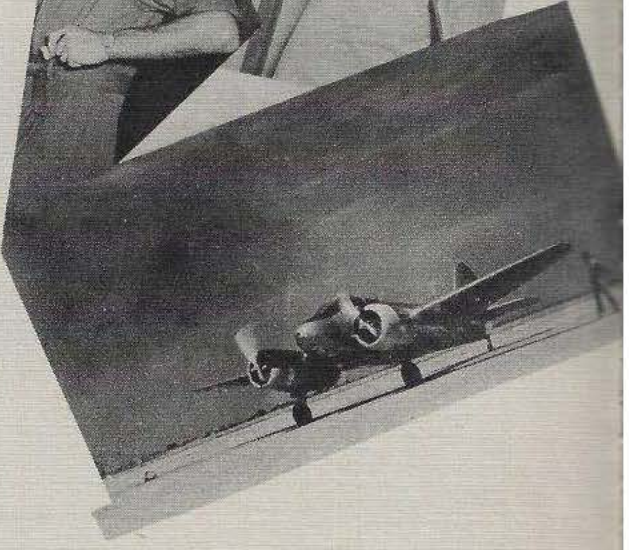
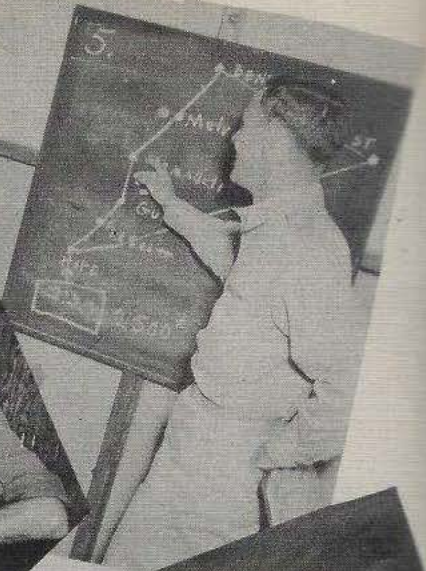
INSTRUMENT SQUADRON

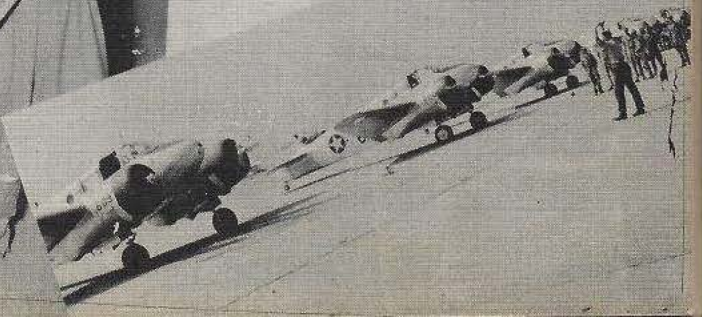
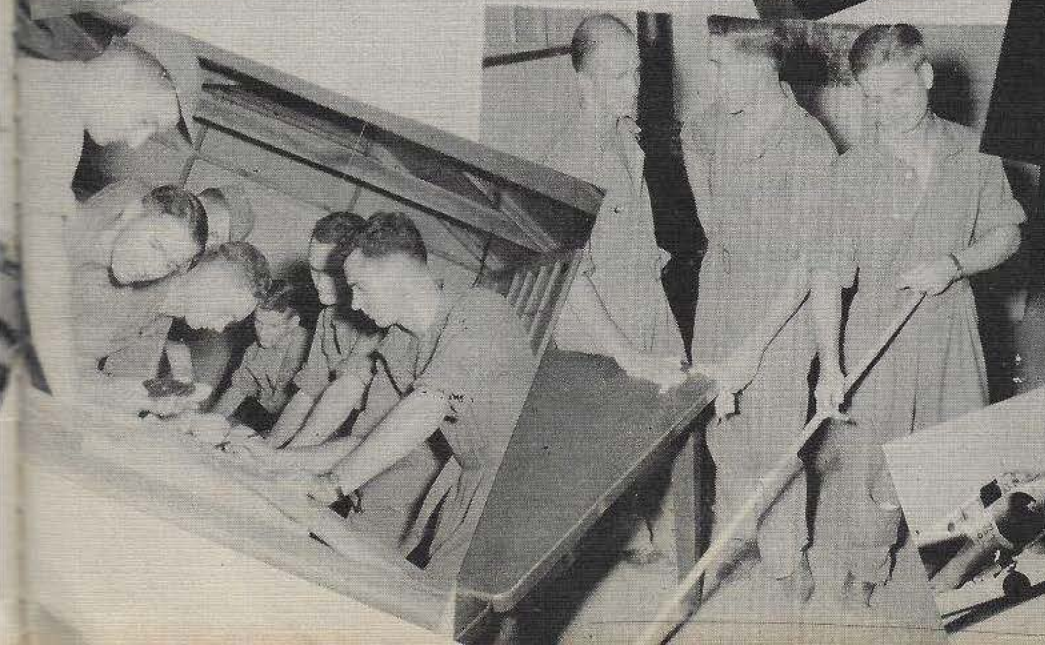
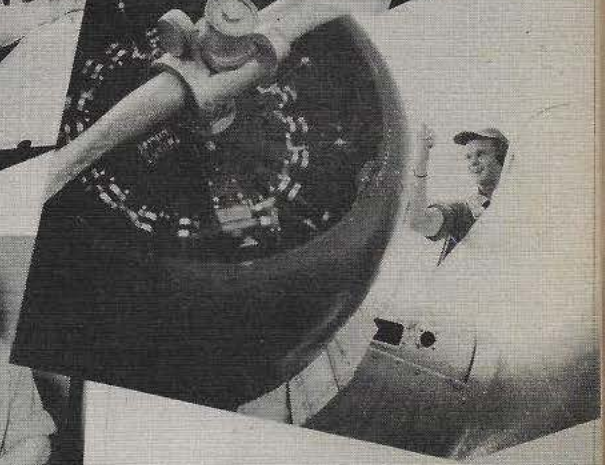
Front row—Captain Leroy W. Brooks, Squadron 2 commander; Lt. Fred R. Baggett, Lt. Byron D. Huffman, Lt. Glendon L. Armstrong, Lt. Robert T. Chalmers, Lt. Guy J. Shehane, Lt. John R. Strianese.

Standing—Lt. Owen B. Cox, Lt. James F. Douglas, Lt. James D. Gilbert, Lt. Robert O. Bigelow, Lt. Elmo H. Dohrman, Lt. Robert H. Kincaid, Jr., Lt. Richard J. Clark, Lt. Francis M. Sprinkel.

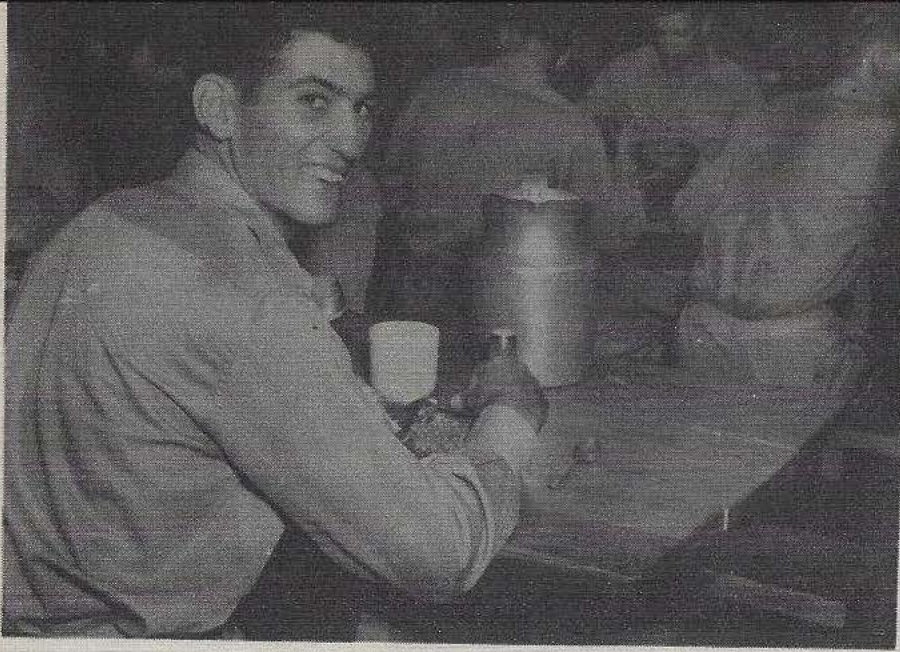
Not pictured—Captain John A. Tyson, Squadron 1 commander; Lt. William R. Brooks, Lt. Miles F. Blum, Lt. Roy R. Knotts, Jr., Lt. Rudelle B. Webb, Lt. John A. Dilworth III, Lt. Paul T. Gaynor, Lt. Talmage T. Stockstill, Lt. John R. Sally.







“CHOW”

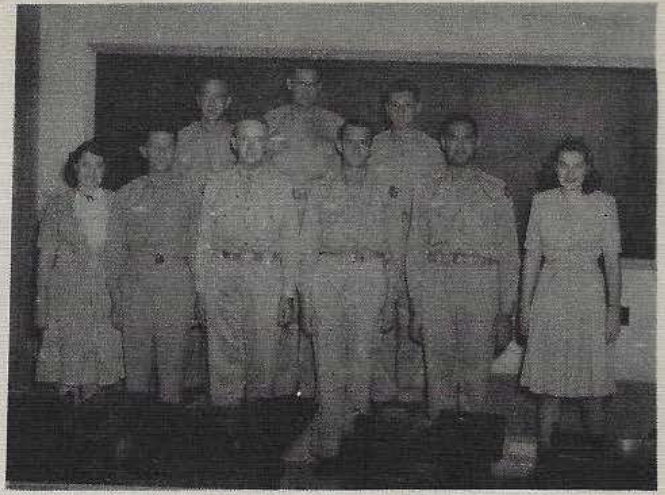


“GROUND SCHOOL”



Not all of flying is learned in the sky.

Here at ground school have come hours of training and study in many, many subjects—from navigation, aircraft recognition, engine courses to armament, and good, old Morse code—to name a few of a long list.



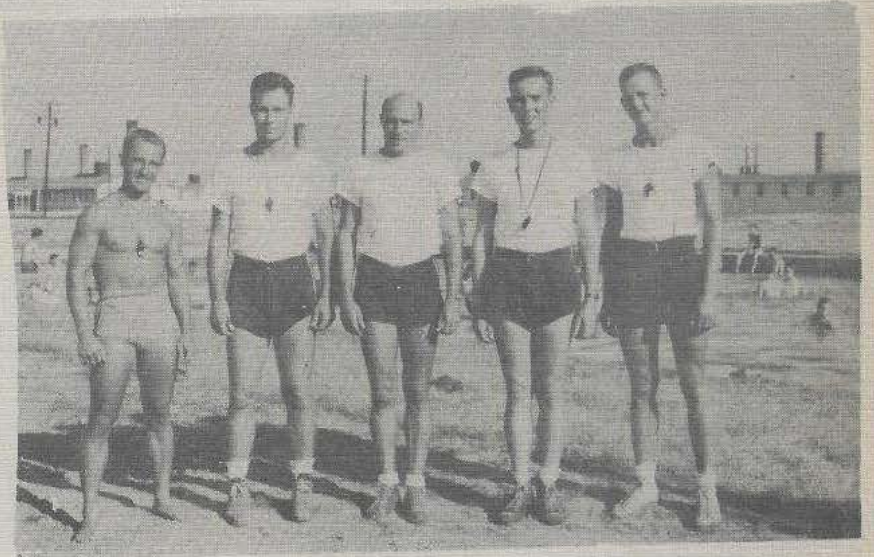
Front row—Miss Vermilla McCanley, Lt. James P. Quinn, Jr., Lt. Ben Copeland, Lt. Shanley Collins, Lt. Sam Feltenstein, Miss Sarah Broyles.

Second row—Lt. Penton T. Reynolds, Lt. John Johnston, Lt. Morris Raskin.

Not pictured—Major Adolph W. Eberle, director of ground school; Lt. Ormond E. Dunlap, school secretary; Lt. Edwin F. Sager, assistant school secretary; Captain W. C. Cox, Lt. E. D. Timmons, Lt. C. W. Peavey, Lt. W. B. Conroy, Captain Don B. Ritsch, Captain Jack G. Chapman.



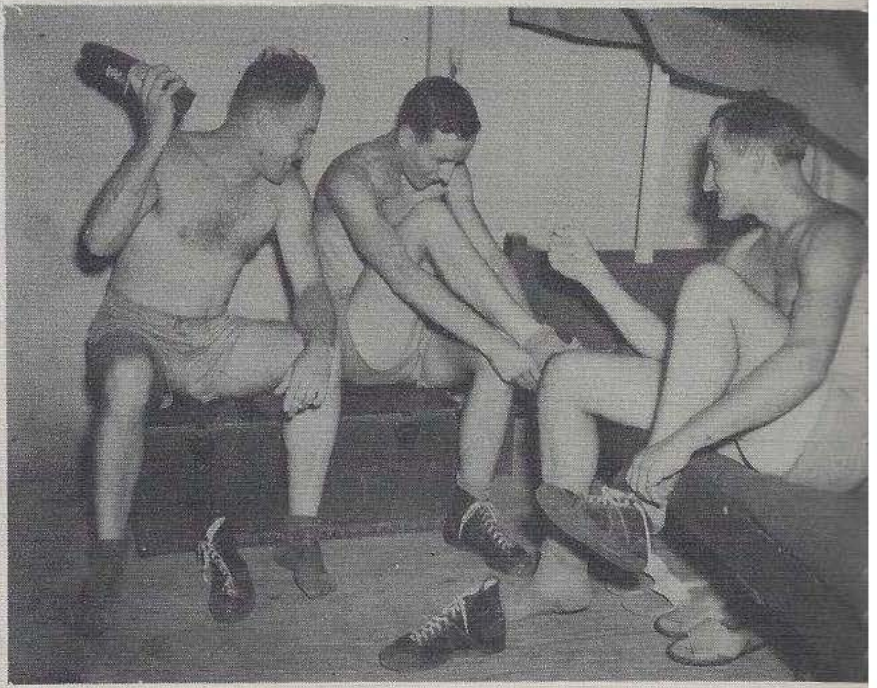
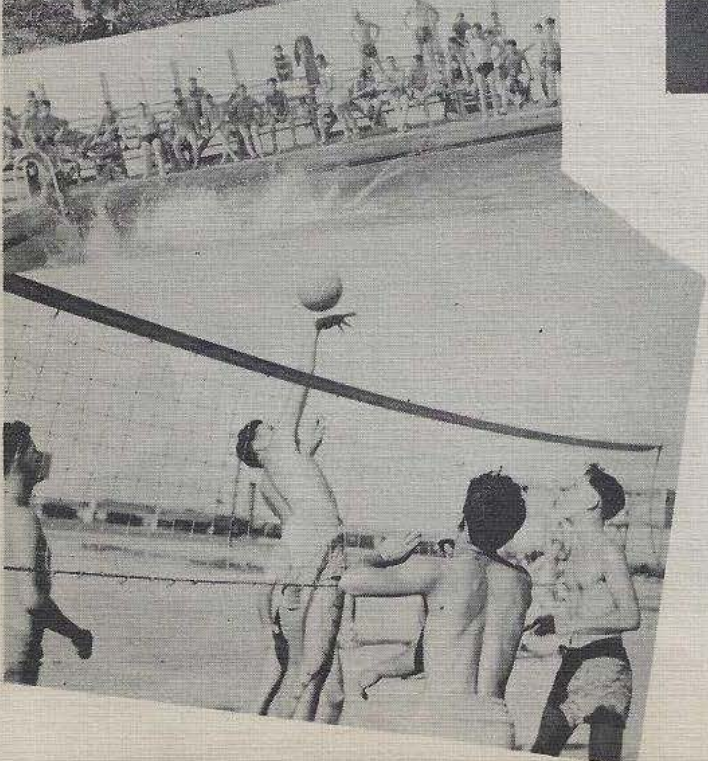
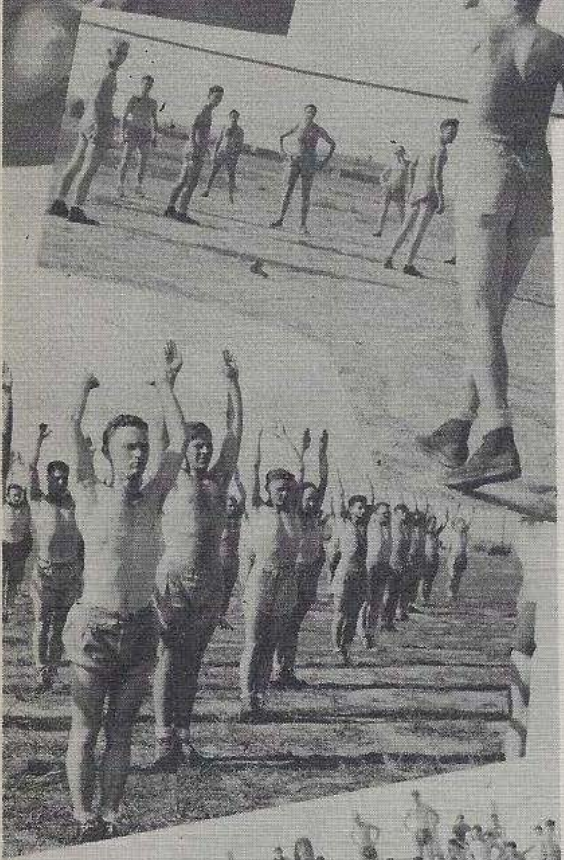
ATHLETICS



Sergeant John F. Gabriszeski, Lt. W. D. Pearce, Lt. S. L. Parks, department head; Lt. R. A. Gibson, Private First-class C. C. Cole.

The aviation cadet's "eye on the weather" doesn't deal strictly with his flying. Weather first became an A/C prime topic back at Maxwell with "Underclass, pray for rain"—always when athletics period was coming up. Obstacle courses, volleyball, cross-countries, swimming, softball, just plain old-fashioned calisthenics—all part of the cadet's daily "menu."

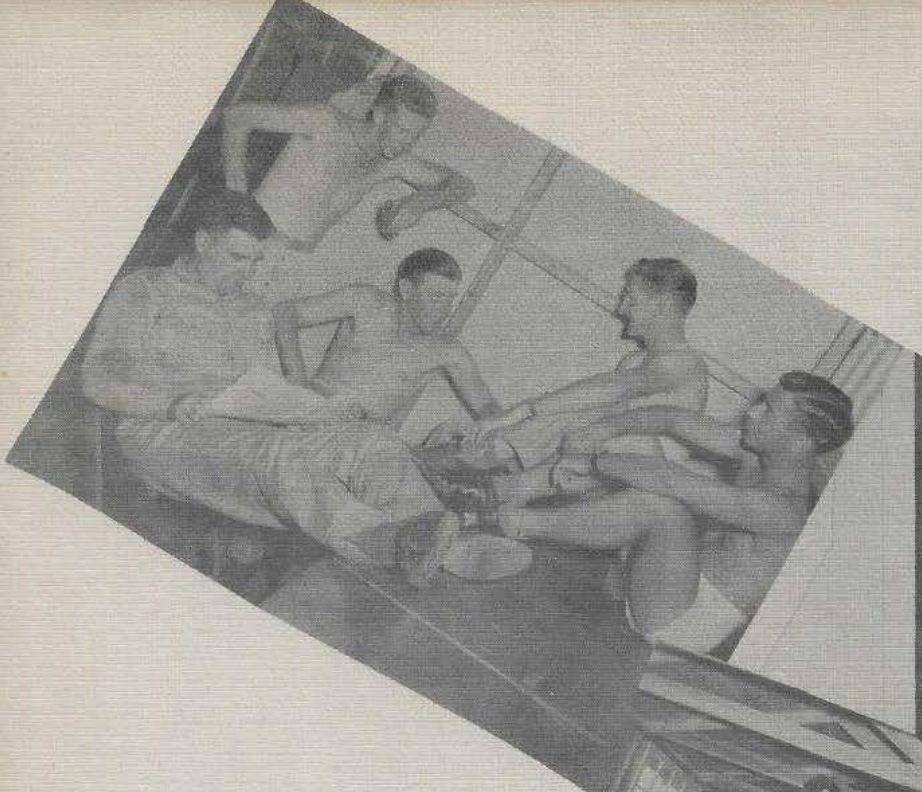




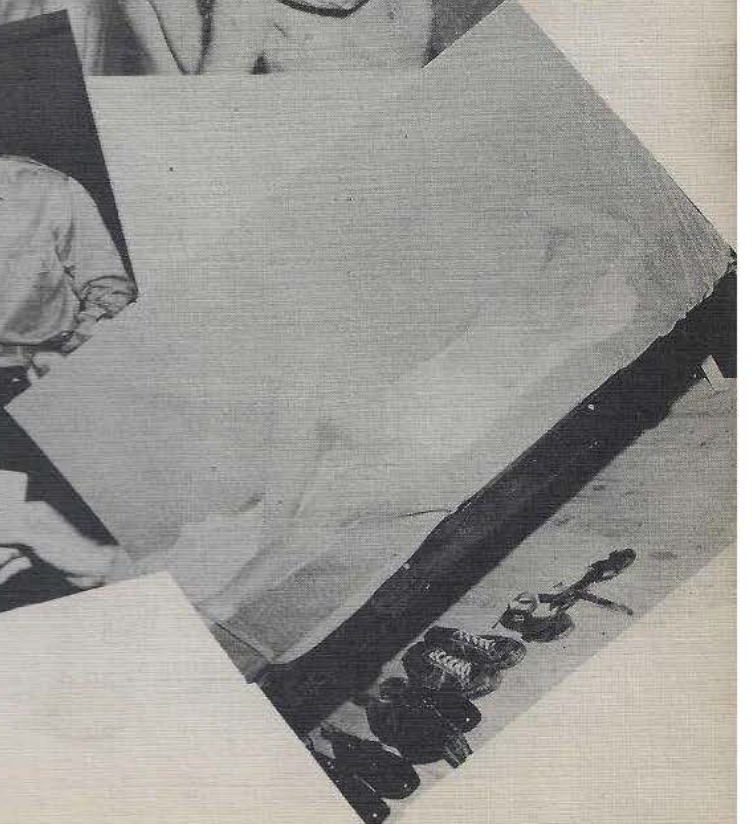


"AT EASE"









CADET

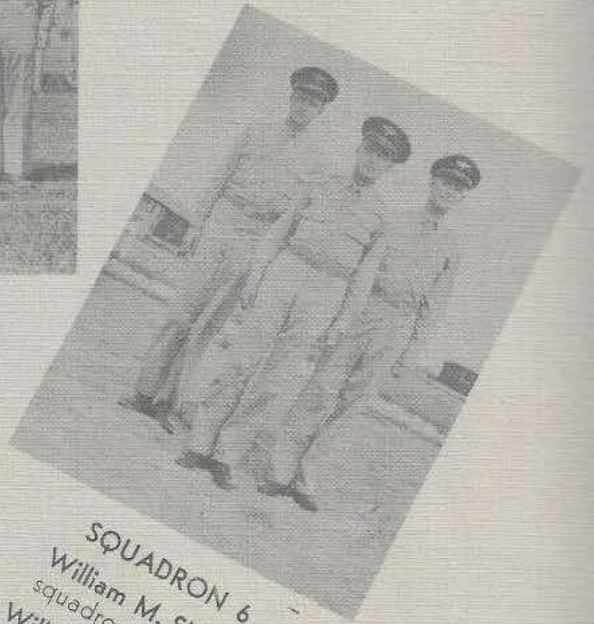
OFFICERS



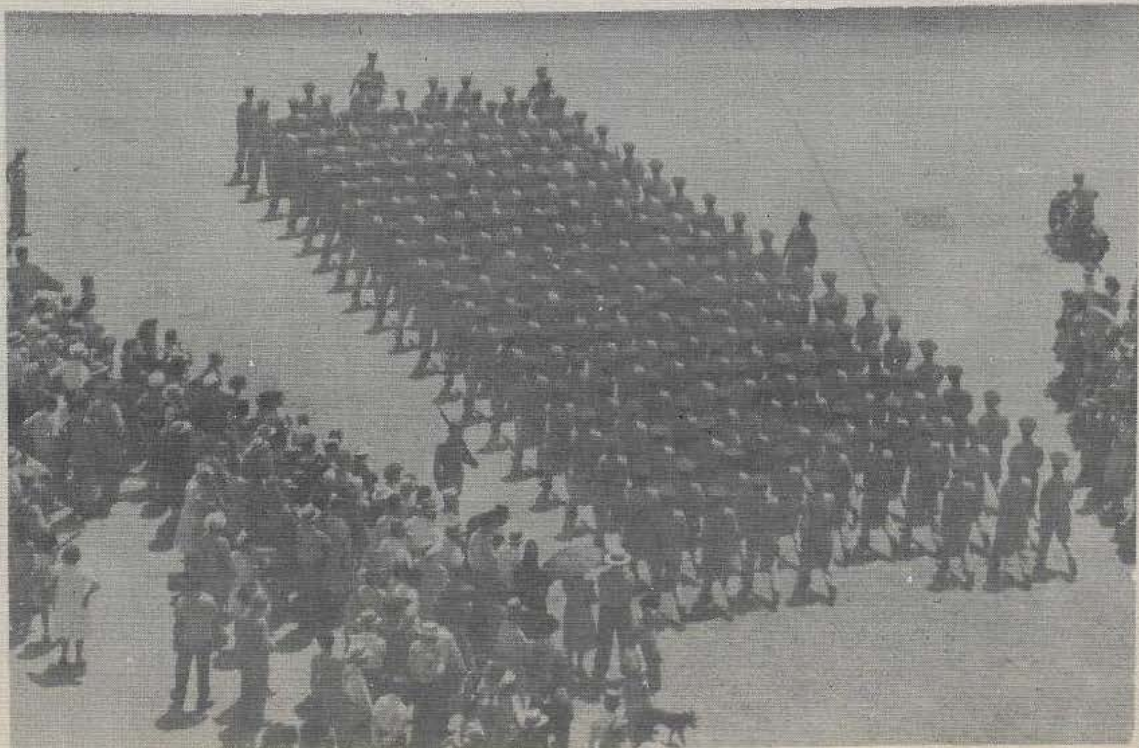
GROUP STAFF
 George M McCloud
 group adjutant
 Arville J. Williams,
 group captain
 Hilmer C. Landholt
 sergeant-major



SQUADRON 5
 Ralph L. Creiman,
 squadron lieutenant
 James M. Elliott,
 squadron captain
 Robert G. Hilger,
 squadron first sergeant



SQUADRON 6
 William M. Shiland,
 squadron lieutenant
 William D. Markland,
 squadron captain
 Francis O. Proteau,
 squadron first sergeant



SQUADRON V



Congratulations to Class 43-H for successfully completing your training as aviation cadets. You have proven yourselves worthy of wearing the traditional silver wings. It is with knowledge you will bring honor and distinction, not only to yourselves but to this field, in future days, we bid you "good luck and good hunting."

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1st Lt. Air Corps

W. C. Deal
1st Lt. Air Corps



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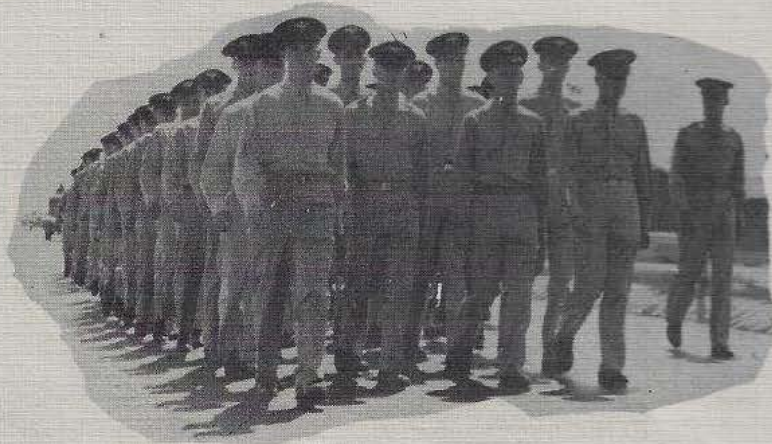


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Not pictured-
FRED E. CALL
R. F. D. 4
Boise, Idaho





SQUADRON VI

Those of us who remain here to train others wish for you who are leaving now for new assignments all success in whatever you undertake.

Wear your wings well. Wear them in the knowledge that you have been trained to do a job that is difficult and exacting. And remember, that wherever you may go, we will fly with you, proud of the accomplishments as pilots and officers in the Army Air Forces of the Class of 43-H.

WILLIAM J. DODDS,
1st Lt. Air Corps

William J. Dodds
1st Lt. Air Corps



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