

Chapter 5 – Preparing for War – Stateside



Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics



World War II Air University AAF shoulder patch

At the entry of the United States into World War II on December 7, 1941, the USAAF had expanded to 67 groups from a pre-1939 total of 15, but approximately half were paper units just forming. The entry into the war meant an immediate significant increase in the numbers of new combat groups, expanding to 269 groups by the end of 1943.

The training establishment then in place was inadequate to train units wholesale, and the concept of training cadres who in turn would direct the training of their assigned units was adopted. AAFSAT was established October 9, 1942, to provide this training. The first group receiving AAFSAT training to deploy overseas was the 390th Bomb Group (Heavy) in July 1943, based in England with the Eighth Air Force.

Headquarters USAAF originally intended that four tactical schools be developed across the United States, one for each of the four major military aviation functions. However, "to save administrative costs and physical outlay" (Army Air Forces Historical Study 13) and to facilitate coordination between the schools, all four would be consolidated at a single location. Orlando was chosen November 1, 1942, primarily because it was already the location of Fighter Command School, which would be subordinated to AAFSAT, and because of its large geographical area. The school officially opened November 12, 1942. Between November 1942 and September 1945, AAFSAT trained 54,000 personnel and the cadres of 44 bombardment groups.

In addition to training cadre, AAFSAT also became a tactics development center, testing new tactics and disseminating their conclusions and procedures to combat theaters around the world. That role had been formerly held by the Air Corps Tactical School, but it had been a professional development school for future air commanders and had never developed into a true tactical center. Its suspension of classes in June 1940 and dissolution in the summer of 1941 had left a void in the promulgation, testing, articulation, and dissemination of doctrine and tactics, which AAFSAT was tasked to fill.

The AAFSAT school bombardment unit was the 9th Bomb Group, from October 31, 1942 to March 9, 1944, when it was re-designated a B-29 group and moved to Nebraska to train for combat operations.

SECRET

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England.

10 June, 1944.

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History Until Arrival in ETO. (European Theater of Operations)

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.
(through 397th Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

In the spring of 1943, the 596th Bombardment Squadron (M) of the 397th Bombardment Group (M) AAF, was activated at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla., by General Order Number 28, Paragraphs 1 through 5, AAB, MacDill Field, Fla., as of April 20, 1943. On May 10, 1943, the newly created Squadron received its first member when a cadre was transferred from the 313th Bombardment Squadron, 21st Bombardment Group (M) MacDill Field, Florida, by Special Order Number 126, Paragraphs 6 and 10 dated May 6, 1943.

The majority of our filler personnel was obtained from the 21st Bombardment Group MacDill Field, Florida, and the First Minimum Altitude Bombardment and Torpedo Unit, Eglin Field, Florida.

This filler personnel was assigned under the following Special Orders during the year 1943:

Hq. Third Bomber Command: S.O. 165, par 8, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 123, par 5, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 139, par 5, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 161, par 1, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 163, par 1, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 172, pars 18&19, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 174, par 1, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 178, par 3, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 177, par 2, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 188, par 3, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 195, pars 3&4, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 197, par 9, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 253, par 9, Hq AAF Pilots School, Stuttgart, Arkansas.
S.O. 238, par 8, Hq Freeman AAF, Seymour, Indiana.
S.O. 312, par 16, Hq AAB, Barksdale Field, La.
S.O. 314, par 8, Hq AAF, Lake Charles, La.
Hq. Air Base Area Command, MacDill Fld, Fla:
S.O. 129, par 47, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 139, pars 1&5, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 170, par 170, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 184, par 26, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 187, par 15, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 210, par 5, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 228, par 2, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 308, par 11, Hq ABAC, Hq MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 293, par 25, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 294, par 17, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 243, par 13, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 253, par 9, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 284, pars 10, 13 and 17 Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
S.O. 287, par 34, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.

At this juncture, Dad crossed paths with another person who would play a major role in his life – Pilot George Parker. After the war George Parker was the founder of the B26 Historical Society and in a letter to a friend many years later, he spoke of his experiences with the B26 and his arrival at MacDill Field, Florida, where he and my father became crew members:

George Parker
397th BG, 596th BS

Mike,

I will tell you what I knew and felt about the B-26.

To put it all in perspective we need to look at the dates: Feb 1941, First B-26 delivered to the Army Air Corps; Of the first 56 B-26 delivered 53 of them left December 8, 1941 (next day after Pearl Harbor) for Australia. In 1942, B-26 were in the Aleutian Isles area; later in 1942 the first group was sent to England.

The first mission at low level to avoid detection by radar etc , was ten aircraft. One was lost, the rest were badly damaged, but got back to base. On second low level mission of ten. all ten were shot down. This was devastating -- I never knew of these missions until a year or more later.

I completed pilot school at Lubbock Army Airfield, November 10, 1942. I had a choice of C-47 or B-26 and I ask for the B-26. I did not know much about the airplane then...just that it was new, and the fastest bomber which out ran fighters when delivered to the Air Corps.

My first assignment was to Tarrant Field, Ft Worth TX...ten of the early, short wing model B-26s were there. This was to become the first class of the B-26 Transition School at Del Rio-- the new base at Del Rio was not opened yet.. As I recall, we flew these planes to Del Rio in late January or early February 1943.

We did not get much flying time in at Ft Worth... as I remember, we were not checked out as a B-26 pilot until later at Del Rio.

I must admit, that it appeared, in a B-26 as though we were buzzing the field when we came into land. The AT-9 was good preparation for the B-26-- it was a two engine plane that would not fly on one engine.--the talk was that the AT-9 took off at 120, cruised at 120 and landed at 120 mph. I did not like the AT-9 and nearly washed out of flying school on my first solo flight in it.

The instructor pilots we fly with seemed competent to me, and I detected no fear from them... although a few months later, I did fly with a Captain or two when I was a 2nd Lt, and after we landed the B-26 I noticed that the Captain would be filling in the flight hours with a pencil and his fingers were quivering. I never said anything about that, but under my breath, I said to myself if flying airplanes causes me to be nervous, I will quit flying.

From the first time I flew in a B-26, I felt that all I needed to do was understand and know the aircraft and I could fly it like any other aircraft. I paid no attention to rumors that it was a "hot" airplane etc.. I just felt it was a matter of being checked out properly and knowing the aircraft. I took the emergency procedures very seriously...before every take off, I would go over emergency procedures, especially, what to do if an engine loses power on take off? I had heard of run-a-way props as a cause of B-26 crashes on takeoff. I came to believe that my having been through airplane mechanics school at Chanute Field in December 1940-June 1941 saved me by being able to know the Curtiss electric props and their control switches. I thought some pilots crashed on take off because they did not hit those switches quick enough. Or, they had not mastered emergency procedures so that they could react quickly with little or no thinking about it.

I knew of three or four 2nd Lt. pilots at Del Rio who ask for a transfer out of B-26s.. one of my good friends decided to ask for B-24s. He was really determined not to fly the B-26 -he thought it was too dangerous. I never agreed with that -- I just thought it was a matter of learning how to fly it. So, any talk about the B-26 being dangerous never bothered me. I thought my friend was a good man and he was a brave soul...he just honestly thought the B-26 should have been a safer plane. He went on to successfully complete a combat tour in the B-24.

From Del Rio, I was assigned to Eglin Field, Florida to a special secret mission-- the unit was like a squadron--it was called, the First Minimum Altitude Bomber Torpedo Unit. These new B-26s had the 3 1/2 feet added on each wing tip. We flew about sixty days preparing for a mission to harass the Japanese ships. Capt Jim Muri was the torpedo instructor at Eglin. Four B-26s at the Battle of Midway, were equipped with torpedoes--Muri flew one of the two B-26s that survived . Night and day we practiced short field take offs and landings, low level, skip bombing, fixed gunnery--to drop a torpedo we were instructed that our speed approaching a ship must be lowered to 165 mph. to drop a torpedo.

I suppose the only reason we survived WWII is because this mission was canceled in late April 1943. Most of the personnel were assigned to MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida in a B-26 Bomb Group preparing to go to England. I joined the 397th BG/596 Sq. We flew new B-26B-55 aircraft the Southern Route to England departing Savannah, Georgia February 27, 1944. I with the 397th until the war in Europe was over. I arrived in NY on the Queen Mary, August 2, 1945.

I have heard that there were a good number of pilots who opted to get out of the B-26 assignment -- I don't know what magnitude this was. And, I would not criticize anyone who decided to fly another bird...because many of them were brave men like my friend who just saw it as the better part of wisdom to select another aircraft.

George Parker

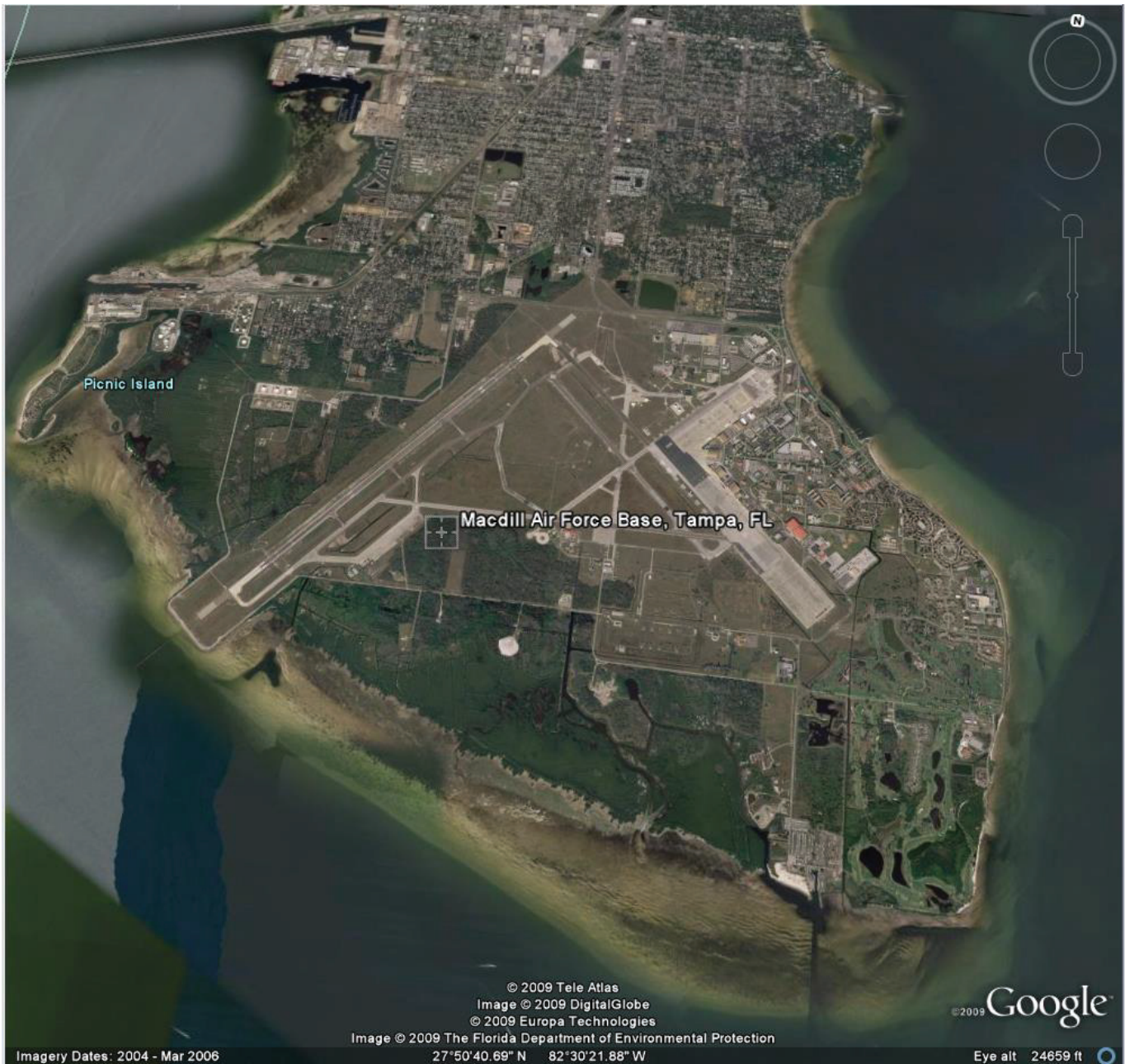


Back Row Left: Pilot, George Parker
Back Row Right: George Hofmann



First from Left: George Parker
Third from Left: George Hofmann

MacDill AFB, FL



MacDill [sometimes mis-spelled McDill] AFB is located eight miles south of downtown Tampa. Now an operational base, MacDill has about 6,000 airmen and civilians on 5,000 acres, located on the Southwestern tip of the Interbay Peninsula on the west coast of Florida. Activated in 1941, MacDill Army Air Base was named after Col. Leslie MacDill who died in a plane crash near Washington D.C. in 1938. Its first mission was training World War II airmen on B-17 and B-26 aircraft. The base has gone through many changes and military conflicts in its 60 years, including a stint on the Base Realignment and Closure hit list in 1991.

During the Spanish-American War (1898), Tampa, because of its strategic location, was chosen as a rendezvous point for troops heading south to help Cuba gain independence from Spain. Approximately 10,000 of the 66,000

troops in Tampa waiting for ships headed to Cuba set up camp around what was then known as Port Tampa City, which bordered what is now MacDill AFB. There are several dates surrounding the history of MacDill AFB. Official records report an establishment date of 24 May 1939, date construction began 6 September 1939, date of beneficial occupancy 11 March 1940 and formal dedication 16 April 1941. This last date is normally associated with the age of the base.

Originally known as Southeast Air Base, Tampa, and later named MacDill Field in honor of Colonel Leslie MacDill, the field became MacDill Air Force Base shortly after the establishment of the United States Air Force in 1947.

Flying operations at MacDill began in 1941 with the base's first mission including transitional training in the B-17 Flying Fortress. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, MacDill became a major staging area for Army Air Corps flight crews and aircraft. In 1943 the base discontinued B-26 training and returned to B-17 training which continued through the end of World War II. During the war as many as 15,000 troops were stationed at MacDill at one time. Estimates of the number of crew members trained at the base vary from 50,000 to 120,000. Several bases in Florida, including MacDill, served as detention centers for German prisoners-of-war (POWs) in the latter part of 1944 and 1945. At its apex, 488 POWs were interned at MacDill. Following the end of hostilities in Europe, MacDill transitioned to a B-29 training base in January 1945, and after the war, continued B-29 training through 1953.



The staff at MacDill published a quarterly newsletter starting in the spring of 1943. A copy of their summer publication follows and provides excellent insight to the life and times of those preparing for war:



Thunder

Bird

Vol. 1 No. 2

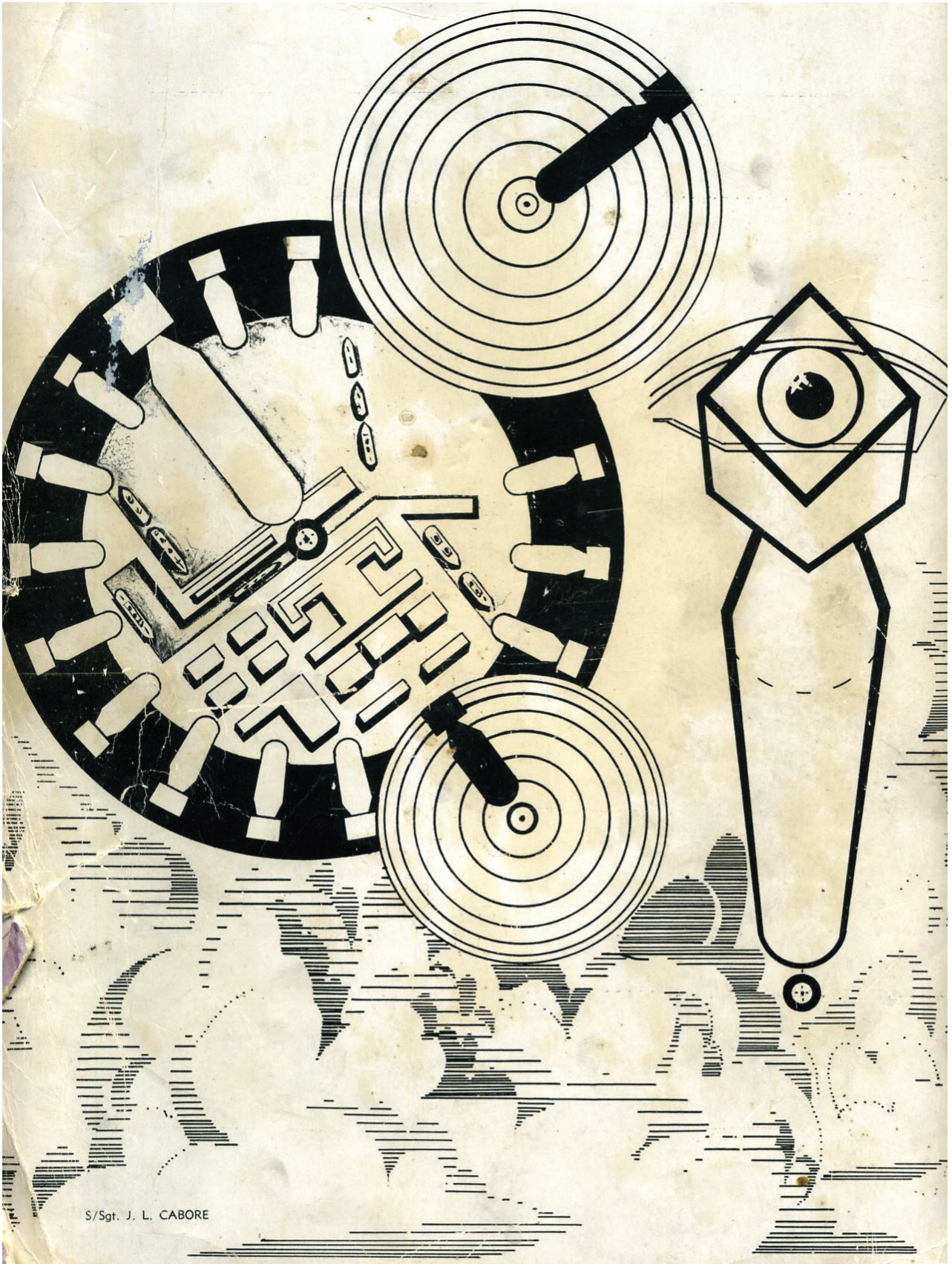
Summer
Edition
1943

MacDILL
FIELD
QUARTERLY

75¢







S/Sgt. J. L. CABORE



Foreword

Humbly we make this dedication to the men from MacDill who have made the supreme sacrifice; the brave who have died, the intrepid who have suffered a thousand deaths from the wounds of the enemy.

Many are the men from this field, enlisted and commissioned, who have expended their all in the embattled skies from Manila to Alexandria, from Nome to New Delhi, from Reykjavik to Cairo . . . men of the air corps who have carried into battle unafraid, and "to hell with the enemy," a hissing torch of freedom. It was dropped but few times, and each time it was dropped men have died. Yet each time it has been retrieved by the soldiers of the sky, and again thrust flaming into the heart of the enemy.

Some are remembered in posthumous medals. Many more are remembered only by the final entry in their records. But all have America's eternal gratitude.

To those men this "Thunderbird" is dedicated, that we may not forget that what they gave, we, too, must offer.





MacDILL GOES CO-ED



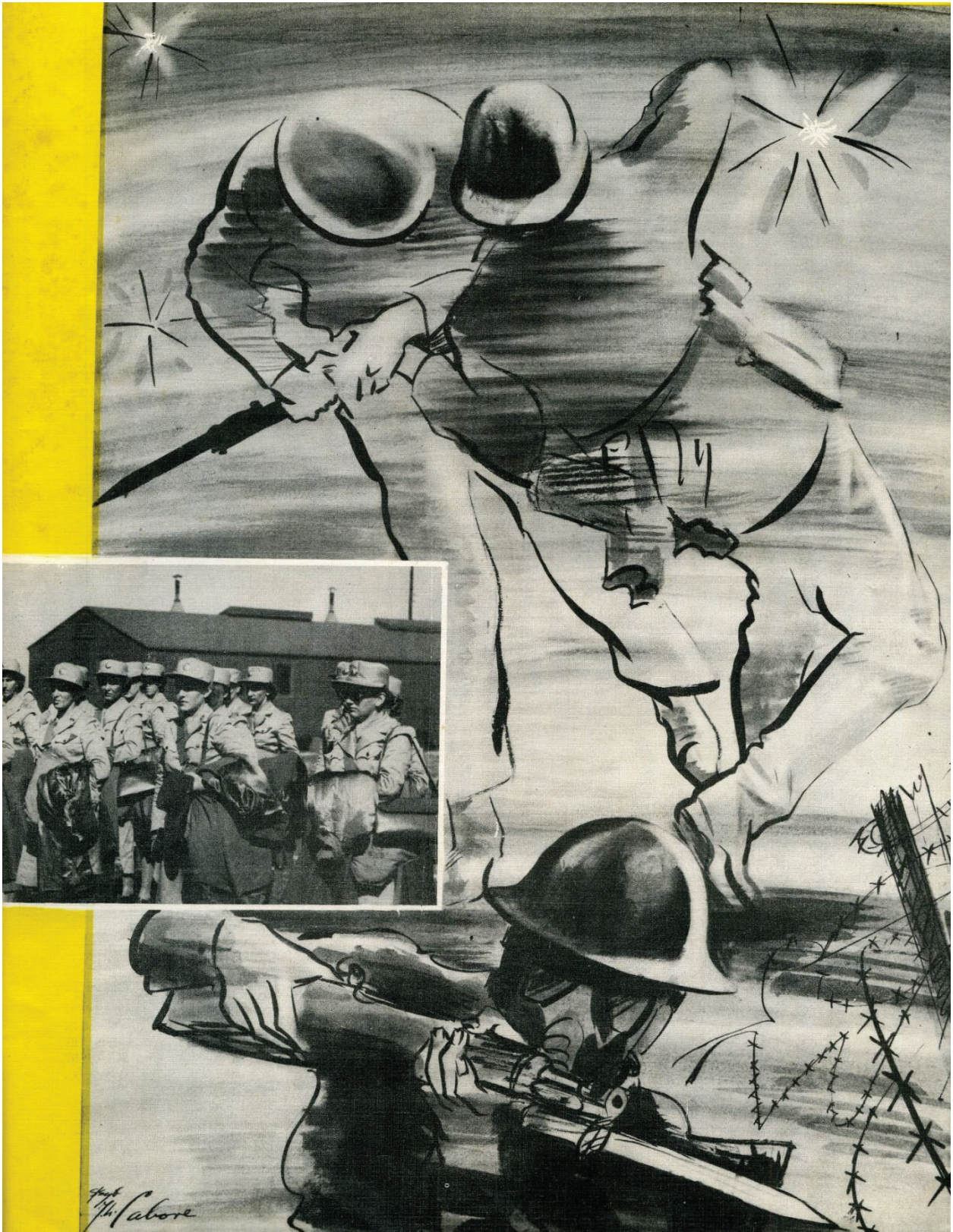
The head of Pallas Athene, mythical character, is the emblem of the WAAC. She is the Goddess of Reason and Practical Wisdom and Patroness of Arts and Crafts. She is also Goddess of War Strategy, Victorious Defender of Cities, Champion of Civilization and Justice. She represents the "warlike courage that gives peace, and the intellectual activity that makes it fruitful." That statement alone makes her a noble emblem.

WOMEN have always played an important part in the lives of men — as mothers, wives, sweethearts, companions; and when necessity demanded, as fellow workers in man's various fields of endeavor.

Historical records show that since the beginning of time women have experienced bitter hardships to preserve a way of life, even if only to insure food and shelter for their families. An outstanding example of women's courage in times of strife is pictured in the history of the Pilgrims. These pioneer women fought and toiled side by side with their men to establish the rude beginning of what we know as America today.

The time is here again when women are needed to share man's burden. They have responded and are now engaged in war work in every industry in the land. This being total war, women are going a step farther. For the first time in history they are directly involved in our struggle for survival as auxiliary members of the armed forces.

Page Six





THE WAAC UNITS STATIONED HERE, BEING SELF-SUSTAINING, HAVE THEIR OWN KITCHEN FORCE. SPECIAL TRAINING IN ARMY SCHOOLS IS REQUIRED BEFORE A WAAC IS QUALIFIED TO COOK OR BAKE.

Army. The WAAC Officer's function in the field is to administer the welfare and discipline of the WAAC units in their charge, under the supervision of the Commanding Officer of the Post to which they are attached.

In a speech marking the opening of a new WAAC training center, General Marshall said:

"The establishment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was urged by the War Department for two reasons: first, there are a great many jobs connected with the Army's war program which women can handle better than men; second, it was evident then, as it clearly is today, that the demands on manpower would be so great that a large number of women should be incorporated in the Army's effort.

"Although the Corps is still in the formative period of organization, its members have convincingly demonstrated their ability to render a vital military service. The standards of discipline, training and general efficiency, are on the highest level and are a complete reassurance to the officials of

(Continued on Page 58)



LOOKING TYPICALLY "G. I." THESE GIRLS HAVE JUST COMPLETED A NIGHT SHIFT IN THE PHOTO LABORATORIES OF THE THIRD MAPPING SQUADRON. THEY ARE ANTICIPATING A NICE, HOT SHOWER AND BED.

Page Twelve

One of the outstanding units of this type is the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, which was organized at the request of the War Department to serve with the Army of the United States for the purpose of releasing men in rear-line duties for service at the fighting front.

In answer to the many speculative reasons skeptics have given for the organization of the WAAC, Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby, director of the organization, says, "The origins of the WAAC lie in military necessity. There is no other reason for the WAAC. There is no other purpose behind it."

The men of MacDill Field will vouch for Colonel Hobby's statement. Since the WAACs arrived here on April 27, hundreds of qualified men have been released from jobs better suited to feminine personalities, and are now on their way to active combat duties. On their arrival the WAACs were greeted by MacDill Field's outstanding military band and hundreds of curious soldiers, who stood off at a distance (the WAAC area being out of bounds to men) looking rather bewildered at the sight of khaki-clad women. The novelty soon wore off and both men and women have settled down to their routine duties as if nothing had changed.

Forming two complete companies, there is a total of 250 WAACs and six officers in the MacDill Field contingent. The 711th WAAC company, designated as the Post Headquarters Company, and commanded by Second Officer Louise Black, has a complicated schedule. Members of this company are assigned to practically every department in the base command, including the Station Hospital, Dental Laboratory, Transportation Office, Library, Hostess' Office, Rationing Office, Quartermaster, Ordnance, Fourth Communications Squadron, Finance Office, Publications Section, Base Signal Office, Base Photo Laboratory as photo technicians and in all offices in Base Headquarters and in the old base headquarters.

In handling company administration, Second Officer Black is assisted by Third Officers Edith J. McCormick, executive officer, and Lois M. Galbraith, supply and mess officer.

The 653rd Photo Lab Company, headed by Second Officer Jane Arbogust, is not actually a part of MacDill Field. They are assigned to the First Photo Group at Bolling Field, Washington, D. C., and attached to the Third Mapping Squadron here at MacDill Field. This specialist organization is

A BUSY DAY JUST ENDED, THIS TRIO IS PREPARING TO RETIRE. JUST LIKE ALL G. I.'s, WAACs LOVE TO SIT AND GOSSIP BEFORE THEY CALL IT A DAY. WAAC QUARTERS ARE STANDARD ARMY BARRACKS, EQUIPPED WITH REGULAR ARMY COTS AND BEDDING. IN THE BACKGROUND IS A CLOTHES RACK AND CABINET, WHERE TOILET ARTICLES ARE KEPT.





comprised chiefly of photo technicians. Some of the WAACs have had previous photographic training, others have attended technical training schools operated by the Army, or learned the fundamentals of photographic work by practical instruction in the Third Mapping laboratories. The school, conducted by experts in the Mapping Squadron, was originally set up as a camera familiarization course. It was felt that the girls who developed and processed aerial films should have a working knowledge of photography. However, such interest was manifested that the course was extended to cover all phases of photography. As a result, the WAACs have shown a remarkable aptitude for this type of work and are proving a valuable asset to the Mapping Squadron.

Third Officers Jeannette Light and Alice Games are serving as assistants to Second Officer Arbogust in conducting the 653rd Photo Lab Company affairs.

Both companies of WAACs at MacDill Field are self sustaining. Each unit has its own orderly room organization, which includes a first sergeant, company clerk, other administrative personnel, and bakers and cooks.

Housed in standard Army barracks, the WAACs lead a life similar to soldiers. This means drilling,

WAACs HAVE TAKEN OVER MANY IMPORTANT DUTIES, INCLUDING POSITIONS IN THE CONTROL TOWER. THIS WAAC IS LEARNING TO OPERATE A LIGHT GUN, WHICH GIVES A STOP OR GO SIGNAL TO PLANES TAXIING TO "TAKE OFF" POSITIONS. VEHICLES CROSSING "LIVE" RUNWAYS ARE ALSO CAUTIONED BY THIS LIGHT. THE NORMAL DUTIES OF A WAAC IN THE CONTROL TOWER CONSISTS OF KEEPING A LOG AND ANSWERING TELEPHONES.



AN EVENING BEFORE A DAY OFF INVOLVES A VISIT TO THE "BEAUTY PARLOR" LOCATED IN THE WAAC AREA. EQUIPMENT FOR ADDING GLAMOUR OF ANY TYPE IS AVAILABLE. EXPERT CIVILIAN OPERATORS ARE KEPT BUSY ON THIS PHASE OF WAAC ACTIVITIES.

Page Eight

lectures, inspections and the usual forms of discipline familiar in the Army. Like regular troops, they can take it, even though military life has meant a more drastic change in their mode of living than it has to the average men who in civilian life were perhaps more regimented because of the routine work to which they were accustomed. Up to the time the world was inflamed with war, the average girl had but one primary mission in life . . . to look pretty, dance and laugh, and otherwise entertain man. Suddenly—overnight in fact—they dropped their glamour paint, donned work

clothes and uniforms and pitched in with the men to insure ultimate and complete victory.

After a hard day at their job many of the girls seek relaxation at various social functions provided by the Special Services Office. For the convenience of those who would rather spend a quiet evening, a beautiful recreation room has been provided. This is the WAACs sanctuary, where men's feet never tread, except on strictly official business. The day room, shared by both WAAC companies, is richly furnished with easy chairs, rugs, piano, combination radio-phonograph, reading room, and ping-pong table. Adjoining is a miniature Post Exchange adequate to serve their every need. Umbrella tables on the lawn are an added feature of the WAAC day room.

Despite all these facilities there isn't much time to play. Most of the WAACs wash their own clothes during "off duty hours" and all of them must scrub and clean their bunk area in the barracks. Then there is K. P. duty, clean-up details for the barracks



OPERATING THE TELETYPES IN THE BASE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE, THESE WAACs HAVE REPLACED SOLDIERS FOR MORE ACTIVE DUTY. THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY JOBS FOR WHICH WOMEN ARE CONSIDERED BETTER QUALIFIED THAN MEN.

"A ROTATING DUTY"—THE JOB OF MAINTAINING THE HOT WATER HEATER. DUE TO THE SCARCITY OF COMMERCIAL GAS, COAL STOVES AND HOT WATER HEATERS ARE INSTALLED IN MORE RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED BARRACKS.





comprised chiefly of photo technicians. Some of the WAACs have had previous photographic training, others have attended technical training schools operated by the Army, or learned the fundamentals of photographic work by practical instruction at the Third Mapping laboratories. The school, conducted by experts in the Mapping Squadron, was originally set up as a camera familiarization course. It was felt that the girls who developed and processed aerial films should have a working knowledge of photography. However, such interest was manifested that the course was extended to cover all phases of photography. As a result, the WAACs have shown a remarkable aptitude for this type of work and are proving a valuable asset to the Mapping Squadron.

Third Officers Jeannette Light and Alice Gamble are serving as assistants to Second Officer Arbogust in conducting the 653rd Photo Lab Company affairs.

Both companies of WAACs at MacDill Field are self-sustaining. Each unit has its own orderly room organization, which includes a first sergeant, company clerk, other administrative personnel, and bakers and cooks.

Housed in standard Army barracks, the WAACs lead a life similar to soldiers. This means drilling,

WAACs HAVE TAKEN OVER MANY IMPORTANT DUTIES, INCLUDING POSITIONS IN THE CONTROL TOWER. THIS WAAC IS LEARNING TO OPERATE A LIGHT GUN, WHICH GIVES A STOP OR GO SIGNAL TO PLANES TAXIING TO "TAKE OFF" POSITIONS. VEHICLES CROSSING "LIVE" RUNWAYS ARE ALSO CAUTIONED BY THIS LIGHT. THE NORMAL DUTIES OF A WAAC IN THE CONTROL TOWER CONSISTS OF KEEPING A LOG AND ANSWERING TELEPHONES.



AN EVENING BEFORE A DAY OFF INVOLVES VISIT TO THE "BEAUTY PARLOR" LOCATED I

area and other minute tasks, which, when multiplied, take a great deal of the so-called "spare time."

The WAACs at this field received basic training at Daytona Beach, Fla., where they underwent a four-week period of instruction. They studied military customs and courtesies, Army and WAAC regulations, sanitation and personal hygiene, close order drill, physical training and other, more technical, subjects such as defense against chemical and air attacks. The latter two are extremely important, as WAACs may be called to duty in any part of the world. (During the African campaign the WAACs played important roles in non-combatant jobs behind the battle lines.)

After completing basic training some of the WAACs are sent to Specialist schools for technical training, while others who are qualified apply for Officer Candidate school. Upon completion of a two-months' course at the Officer Candidate school the successful candidates are commissioned as Third Officers, the equivalent of Second Lieutenant in the

THE MODERN WAAC DAY ROOM IS A POPULAR SPOT, WHERE WAACs GATHER TO LISTEN TO MUSIC, READ, PLAY CARDS OR PING-PONG. ADJACENT TO THE DAY ROOM IS A MINIATURE POST EXCHANGE, WHERE REFRESHMENTS AND REGULAR MERCHANDISE ARE SOLD.



WAACs TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FACILITIES FOR LAUNDERING THEIR CLOTHING. EACH BARRACK IS EQUIPPED WITH STATIONARY WASH TUBS AND IRONING BOARDS. THE IRONS ARE NOT STANDARD EQUIPMENT, AND MANY OF THEM WERE DONATED TO MacDILL'S WAACs BY GENEROUS TAMPA CITIZENS.

Page Ten



"YOU SEE, COLONEL, THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY."



ST. PATRICK

He's tough and he's strictly G.I. His serial number—7422. You have all seen him and probably did not realize at the time that he is the hard-working little fellow who brings all the necessities for both Marauders and men of MacDill Field.

It's hard to tell whether he's coming or going because he looks the same, both fore and aft, and his crew will tell you that "St. Patrick" is more than the name of a Saint. It is also the formally christened name of the busy little shifter of MacDill Field.

Shuttling between the Atlantic Coast Line junction at Port Tampa and MacDill's yawning warehouses, refrigerators and gas-line tanks, St. Patrick brings many cars laden with both Quartermaster and Sub-Depot supplies.

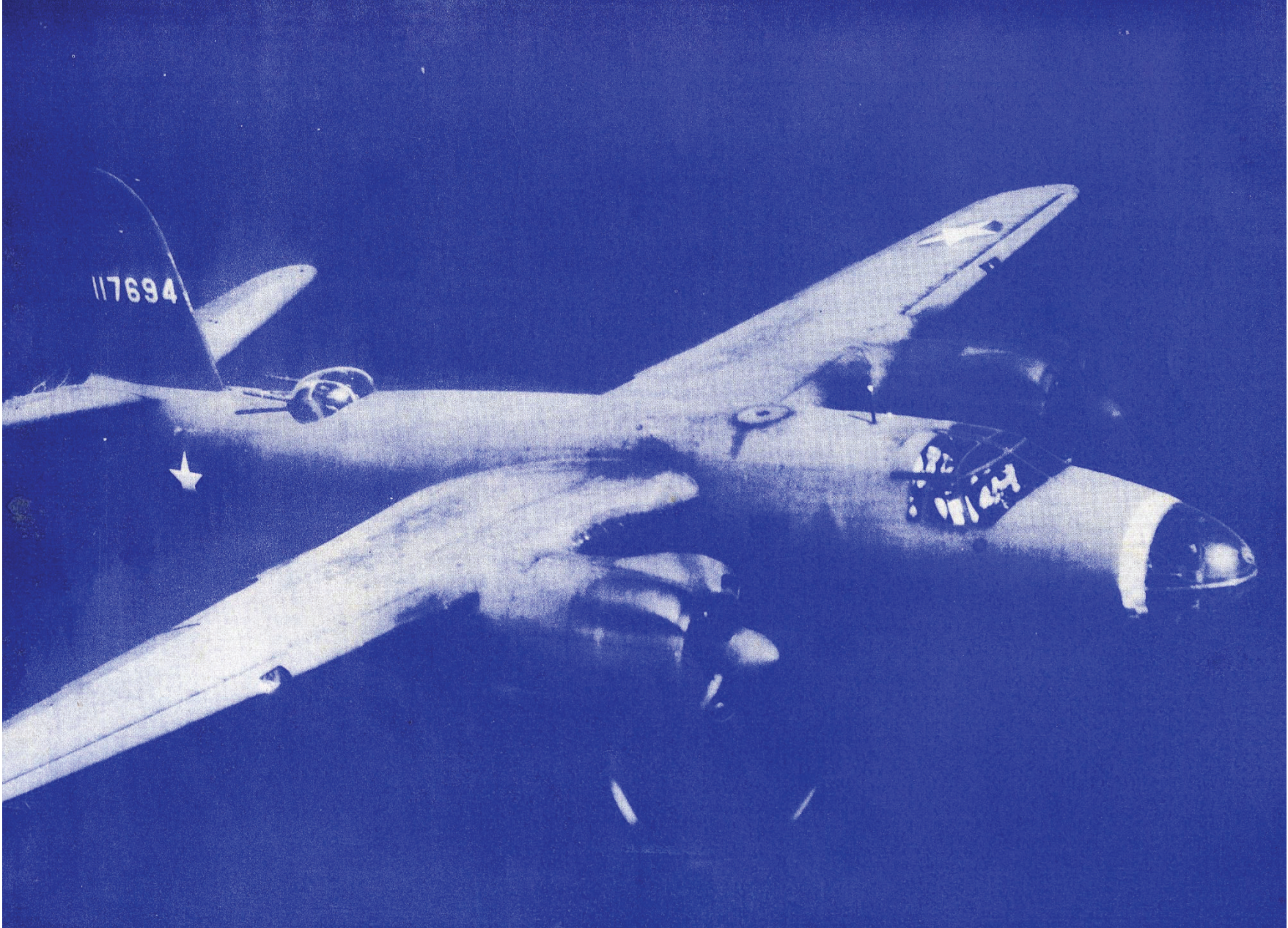
The most powerful in a line of three predecessors, St. Patrick does his daily job with only one assistant, which is held in reserve in case Pat should have a bit of a hangover someday.

J. W. McCally, a Kentuckian with 32 years of railroading behind him, is usually in the pilot's seat, although Pat has a crew of G.I.s who also know their railroading.

The spirit of Casey Jones and old "97" will not die as long as St. Patrick and his crew bring 'em in on time to war-busy MacDill.

B-26 MARAUDER—ON TRAINING FLIGHT OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO, ADJACENT TO MacDILL FIELD. →

Page Fourteen





AMERICA'S

Destined To Deflate

MEDIUM bombardment, as styled by MacDill Field's famous Marauding B-26s, is spreading an epidemic of "jitters" in Axis lands. These B-26s are striking with telling fury at every front. They wrought havoc to enemy shipping, on land and sea; to industrial centers, and to enemy strategy on the battlefields. They are the closest thing to hell that our enemies have ever experienced.

Genius of American industry produced this beautiful but deadly weapon. To fly it America has chosen a breed of men who are putting to shame Hitler's boasts of a superior Aryan race.

America's Ambassadors of Peace and Goodwill have been ruthlessly expelled from Germany, Italy and Japan by the mad individuals who today dominate these countries.

To replace them we are sending Ambassadors of death, knowing that they will be better understood than their predecessors — the Goodwill diplomats.

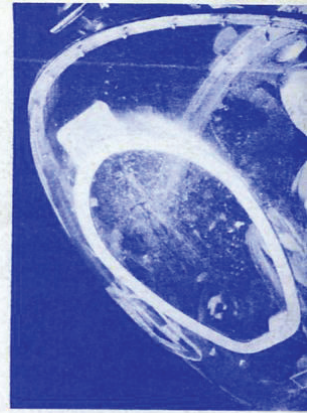
Following is a story, illustrated with photographs, of the special diplomatic corps America is training at MacDill Field for eventual service in Axis territory. The pen may be mightier than the sword, but these men prefer to deliver their messages with the marauding B-26.



B-26 CREW IN CUSTOMARY FLYING TOGS RETURNING FROM

SUPER-MEN

the "Balloon" of Aryan Supremacy



A B-26 combat crew is comprised of six men: pilot, co-pilot, radio operator, aerial engineer, armorer-gunner, and bombardier-navigator.

The most important job on a B-26 rests with the pilot and co-pilot. To be of any use the bomber must first fly. Hundreds of hours of rigid training are required before a pilot capable of handling a B-26 is produced. With four thousand horsepower at the control of their keen minds and sensitive fingers, there isn't much room for error. Green pilots assigned to this field are coached by some of the Army's outstanding pilots. It is here

that they learn all the temperamental characteristics of this sensitive monster. MacDill Field is proud of its pilots. The brilliant performance of their B-26s in many of today's decisive battles speaks well of the pilot-training program at this famous air base.

The heart of a combat crew is the bombardier. All the months of exacting preparation was but for one purpose; to deliver bombs to the countries who so openly asked for them. After being ferried to their objective it is the bombardier who actually makes the delivery. As he looks thru his bomb-



TRAINING FLIGHT OVER FLORIDA, A DAILY ROUTINE OF COMBAT TRAINING.

are produced by radio waves, warning the pilot and navigator when the ship is off its course.

A radio compass provides another means of navigation. In enemy territories the frequencies of their radio stations, including military and commercial, are discovered by our intelligence staffs and charts giving the frequencies and station locations are distributed to combat crews prior to take-off for a mission. The radio operator locates a station near the destination and from that time on the radio compass does the job by pointing directly at the radio station, giving the pilot and navigator the compass reading.

Should these facilities fail, the navigator can still use the stars as a guide. But to do so he must have a thorough and intimate knowledge of the constellations and the figurations in which they move. This last resort of the navigator places the margin of safety in the constant heavens rather than a fragile instrument made by man.

Sometime, perhaps tonight, a Marauder with a crew trained at MacDill Field, will fly home from a raid on Germany or Italy without deviat-

ing from its course, simply because the navigator can read the signposts of the sky.

To keep in contact with ground stations during a bombing mission is one of radio operators' chief duties. These liaison contacts, made in secret codes, keep the high command constantly informed on the progress of battle. Another duty of the radio man is to maintain the inter-phone communications system. Without this vital life line the combat crew cannot work as a team. It is





sight with calm assurance, the bombardier recalls the many long hours of study and practice at MacDill Field. It was here that he developed his deadly accuracy; and it is here and at scores of similar bombardment training fields that other bombardiers are being trained for the day when they too will have a part in the game of war.

In the B-26 the bombardier has a dual role to play. When not actually dropping his lethal loads he serves as navigator. The sky is far from being a trackless waste; "signposts" are there for those skilled men who can find them and utilize them. Reading these signposts is the job of the navigator.

To aid him in directing the course, the modern aerial navigator is surrounded by navigational instruments. Radio aids, however, are used by the B-26 navigator to a greater extent than any other system. The operation of this system is simple. In the United States, for instance, stations providing radio beams are set up at key points. A beam is similar to a highway. Tuned to the station at the desired destination, the pilot is re-

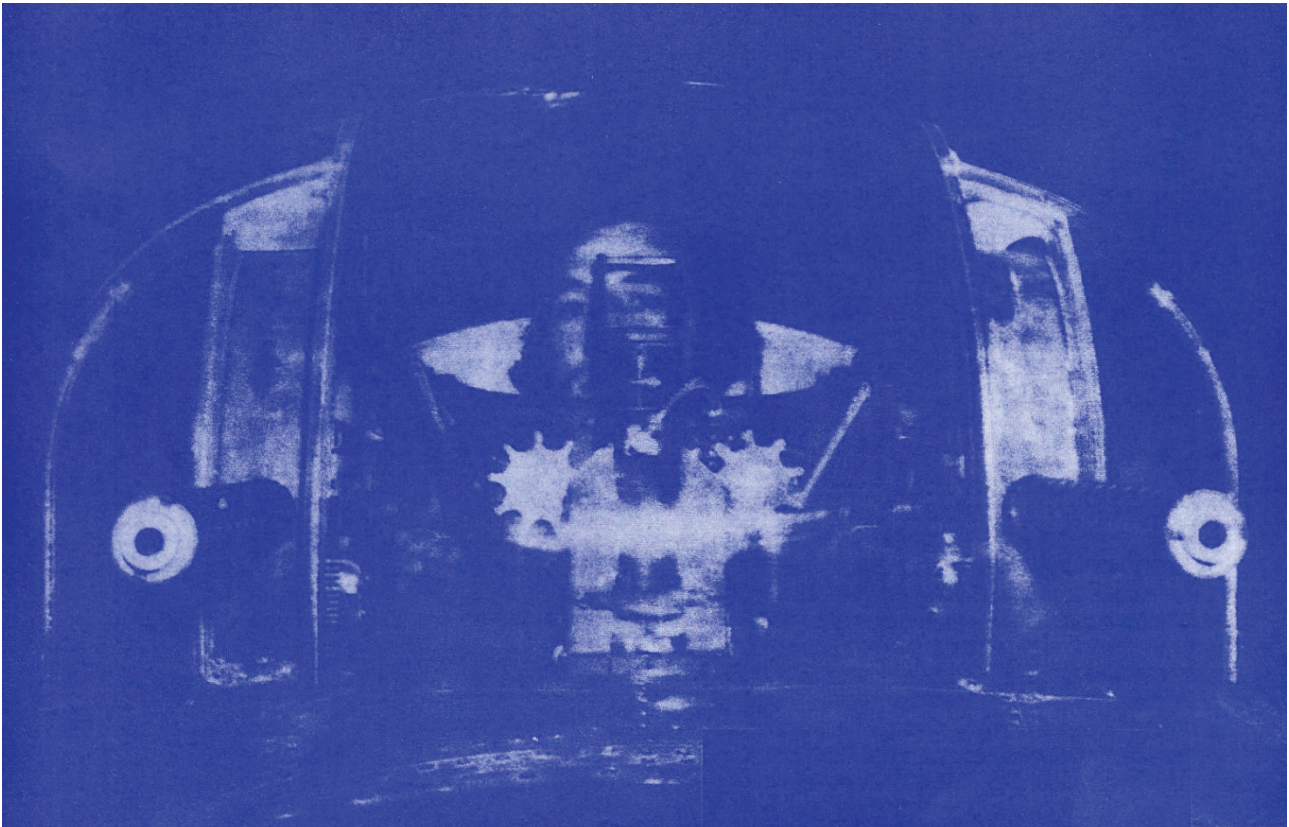


...the only means of contact during battle and must be in perfect working order at all times.

Trouble shooter in the B-26 is the aerial engineer. During flight he is perched behind the pilots, acting as advisor and aide. He carefully checks all instruments, and when trouble develops, is required to make repairs if possible. The engineer is required to make repairs to accessible parts, which are not functioning properly, while the plane is in flight. In preparation for a take-off, this overseer conducts routine checks and starts the generator, commonly called the "putt-putt," which generates power to start the huge 2000 horsepower engines.

Ordered on a combat mission, the pilots and navigator calmly guide the plane on its course. They can afford to be calm because guarding the security from behind are the ever-alert tail gunner and turret gunner who are constantly scanning the skies for signs of enemy opposition. Most attacks occur from behind and the rear gunner is generally the first to sound the alarm over the interphone communications system. In his trigger fingers rests the safety of his combat teammates as he pits his skill against that of



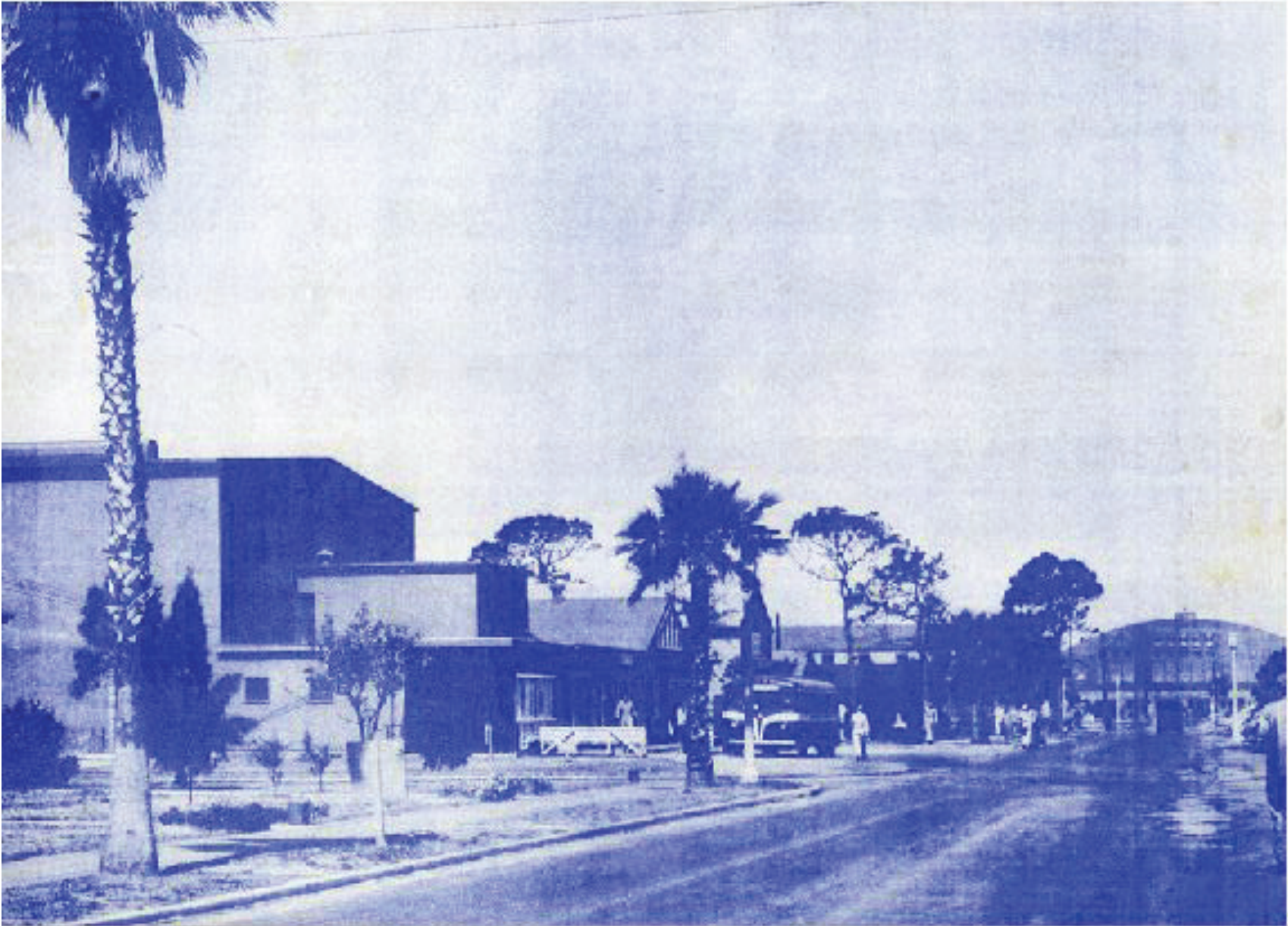


enemy fighters. The attack is the moment the gunner has trained, dreamed and waited for. He is the hero of the hour. The skill and courage of American gunners can be measured by the daily score of enemy planes downed.

One of the gunners in a B-26 crew is an armorer expert. He generally operates the tail guns. Maintenance of all guns on the fighting Marauders is his responsibility. While the crew rests after a mission, the armorer-gunner is busy repairing and cleaning the guns in preparation for the next battle, which may come at a moments notice.

Every man in the B-26 crew is a qualified gunner, having passed an intensive gunnery course in addition to other schooling in specialized subjects, such as radio and engineering. When an aerial attack occurs they man the waist guns, top turret and nose guns, forming a ring of protective fire power equivalent to a formidable fighter escort.





HISTORY OF MacDILL

This article is intended to be a brief condensation of MacDill Field's history. To tell, even briefly, the story of MacDill Field would fill several volumes the size of this magazine. Its history is by no means confined to the geographical location of this gigantic air base. To touch on all phases of MacDill's far-reaching influence it would be necessary to visit practically every bombardment airdrome in all theaters of war. That is where MacDill Field is making history—flaming pages of history—through the star-studded achievements of combat and ground forces trained here.

Construction of MacDill Field was authorized four years ago, July 19, 1939, by far-sighted statesmen who knew America was to be inundated by the great tidal wave of total war, which at that time had engulfed practically every civilized and heathen nation in the world.

Actual work to convert a wasteland of tropical vegetation and swamps into the largest Army Air Base in the Southeast began in November of 1939. In a short time real progress was underway and the field was ready for its first contingent of soldiers, who arrived in March of 1940.

The field began to take form during Colonel Harry H. Young's command. Colonel Young replaced Major General Clarence L. Tinker as commander of MacDill Field. (General Tinker lost his life in the battle of Midway on June 13, 1942.)

Colonel Thomas S. Voss, present commander, arrived here on July 30, 1942, from Orlando Field, Florida, replacing Colonel Young. By this time the field had passed the embryo stage and Colonel Voss started an intensified campaign to make MacDill Field what it is today. Many improvements had to be made, including construction of numerous buildings for recreation and administration purposes, and general landscaping, which also serves as effective camouflage. He also inaugurated a rigid training program aimed to qualify MacDill Field's personnel with the best in the Army Air Forces. Under his guidance this vast program has been a complete success, with new improvements being planned and carried out constantly.

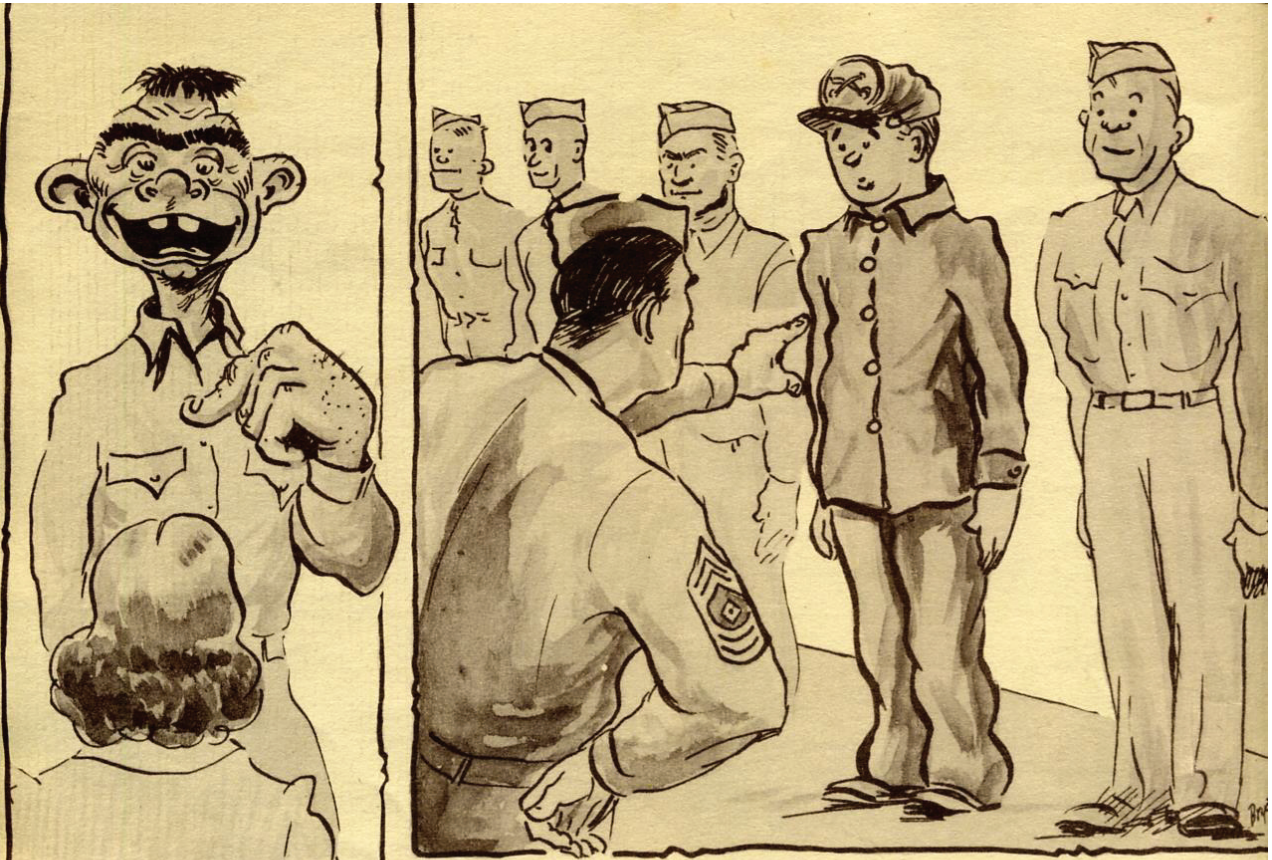
The first tactical group to arrive here was the famous 29th Bombardment Group from Langley Field, Virginia. This was in May of 1940. MacDill's runways were not completed, so their B-18's, America's super heavy bomber of the time, nested at Drew Field, formerly a municipal airport for the Tampa district.

The runways were completed by January 14, 1941, and General Tinker made the first landing with a twin-engined B-18 bomber. Shortly after the formal opening, this field became the home station of the 44th Bombardment Group, 21st Reconnaissance Squadron, and the 14th Reconnaissance Squadron,

(Continued on Page 82)

← FLORIDA AVENUE, MacDILL'S MAIN THOROFARE.
INCLUDED IN PHOTO IS THE THEATRE, BUS STOP,
POST EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, AND IN THE DIS-
TANCE, THE BASE HANGAR.

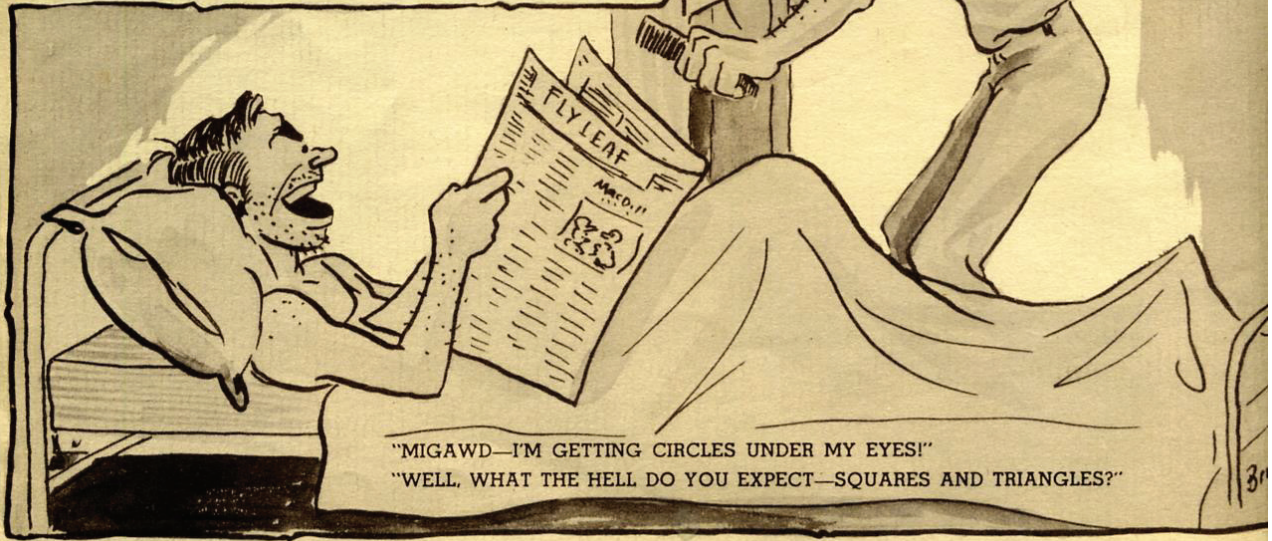
Page Twenty-three



BUT THIS IS WHAT THE LAUNDRY SENT BACK, SERGEANT!



"YUH GOT SOMETHING I CAN READ?"



"MIGAWD—I'M GETTING CIRCLES UNDER MY EYES!"
 "WELL, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT—SQUARES AND TRIANGLES?"

CO-ORDINATION COMES FIRST

Modern warfare operates at a terrific speed, and split-second coordination of all military units is a prime essential in successful combat operations. It is this all-important coordination that excellent communication provides.

Attached to the Third Bomber Command, a command that activates combat organizations, the Signal Corps units at MacDill Field are training strictly for the establishment of communications in the field.

Without communications armies could not operate as a closely-knit unit, coordination would be impossible. Signal companies have two main missions to accomplish: to dispatch vital information in the quickest possible time, and also to withhold that information from the enemy.

Requiring the most modern equipment it naturally follows that it would require a very highly skilled technical personnel who thoroughly know radio, teletype, telephone mechanics, and message center operation.

RECEIVING A MESSAGE ON A TYPICAL FIELD SET



OPERATING TELETYPE IN THE FIELD

These specialized men consist of experienced radio operators, telephone linemen, radio intelligence specialists and cryptanalysts. The job of the latter two being the interception and deciphering of enemy messages.

The reliance placed upon communication instruments of various types indicates how truly this war has become a "war of science." Motorized trailers with powerful radio transmitters make up part of
(Continued on Page 58)



MAJOR KARL L. RUDSER

P O S T

The achievements of the Post Engineer's Department is the foundation upon which rests all the training program of the Army Air Forces as carried out at MacDill and hundreds of similar bases. Without adequate housing, water and sewage facilities the personnel would be unable to devote undivided attention to the intricacies of training. Without roads, runways, hangars and drainage the powerful Marauders would be birds incapable of flight. Without the work of the Engineer the Medical Corps would find it virtually impossible to maintain the health of the field's personnel. Every plane and combat crew that reaches the front line is there by virtue of the foresight, planning and unadulterated hard work of the Post Engineer and his department.

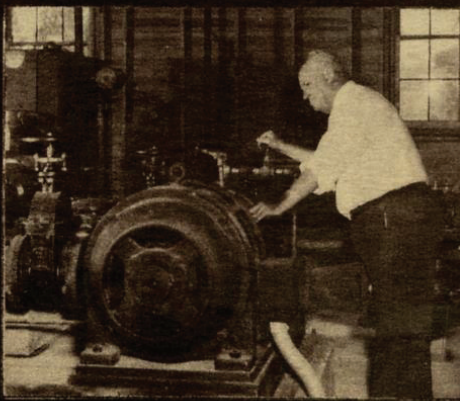
SERVING the field to a larger degree than any other organization of the Base Command, the Post Engineers maintain and provide the many "taken-for-granted" necessities required to operate a large, modern Air Base.

A vast program, ranging from maintenance of the fine, concrete runways to the insect, rodent, and vermin control project is under the direction of the Post Engineer, who accepts all the responsibilities of the Post Commander in regards to utilities and repairs. Major Karl L. Rudser heads the Post Engineers at MacDill Field.

Falling into many categories, the functions of the Post Engineer and his staff are numerous.

Perhaps the most important function concerns the procurement of water, electricity, manufactured and natural gas, and the repair, maintenance and operation of Post Utilities plants and systems. Included in the utilities plants and systems are the huge pumping station used to conduct the water system (Chlorination of water is also done at the pumping station); and the intricate Aqua Duct system used to create pressure to force the flow of gasoline from the various storage tanks on the hangar line.

Much attention is paid to the maintenance, repair and operation of heating, power, refrigerating, sewage and waste disposal systems and plants, as they are vital to the welfare and comfort of



MAINTAINING THE WATER SUPPLY

ENGINEERS

Maintenance Magicians of the Army

every man stationed at this post. A faulty sewage and waste disposal system, for example, could cause untold damage to the general health of MacDill Field's personnel.

Fuel plays a big part in the operation of the numerous plants and systems under the supervision of the Post Engineer. Therefore he is required to initiate the requisitions for procurement of such fuel.

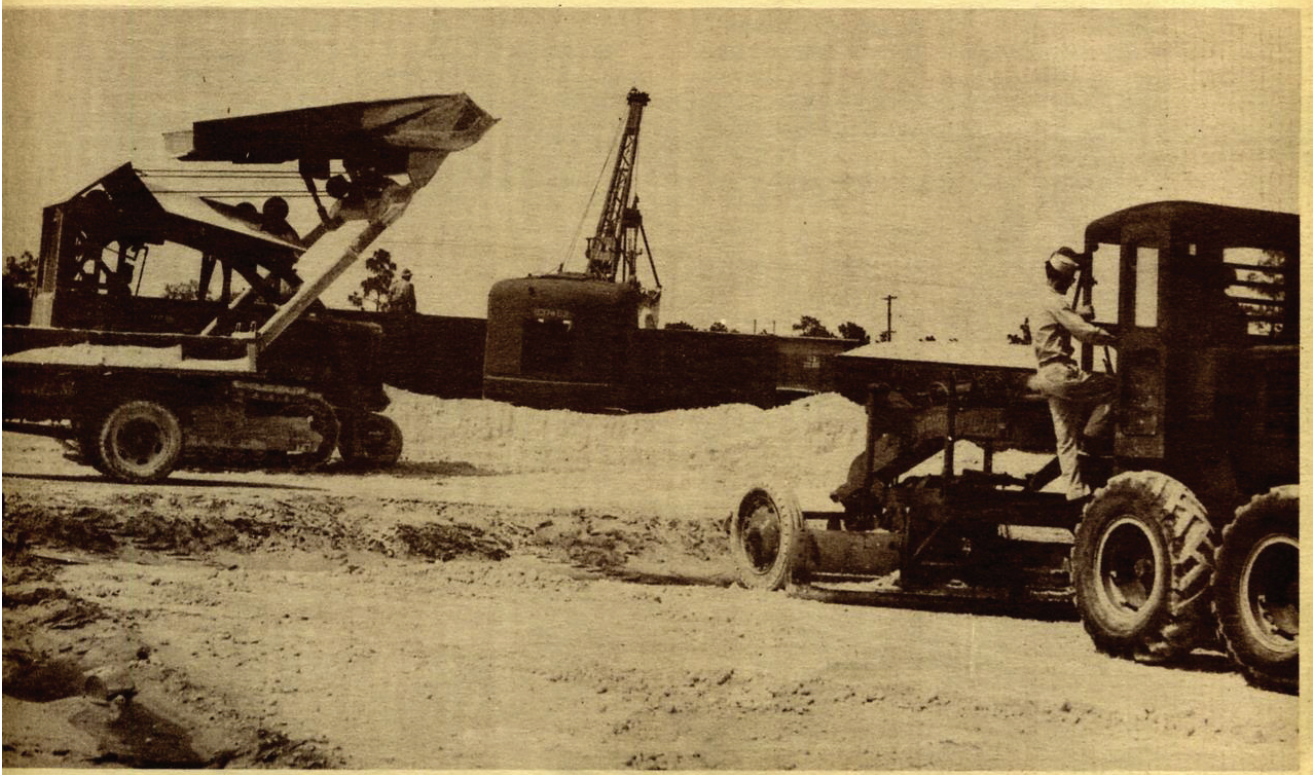
All of the buildings, structures, roads and walks, grounds, railway roadbeds, railway accessory structures, and target ranges have to be maintained and repaired. Skilled and unskilled labor, plus materials, must be provided through the Post Engineer to carry out this enormous task.

A number of other responsibilities charged to this important department are: Maintenance, repair and operation of power operated or immovable kitchen and mess equipment; preparation of reports of destruction or damage of buildings; issu-



FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IS TESTED

HEAVY EQUIPMENT USED IN RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION





A WELL EQUIPPED CARPENTER SHOP

ance of instructions and granting of permits for digging in the vicinity of military underground cables, water mains, sewage pipes, or other underground installations.

Even the equipment and mechanical shops which are required to carry out the work outlined for the Post Engineer must be maintained, repaired, operated and constructed, if possible, by his department.

One would think that all these duties would be more than ample to keep an average department busy for a long, long time. The Post Engineer, however, handles even more. He also holds the position of Post Fire Marshal, which charges him with the repair and operation of all fire protection equipment and systems on the base. Training of civil firefighting personnel also comes under his jurisdiction.

Although assigned to Posts, Camps and Stations by the Chief of Engineers in Washington, the Post Engineer is a subordinate of the Post Commander and is responsible to the Post Commander for all duties assigned to him in connection with repairs and utilities. The policy of the Post Engineer, however, is guided by the Division Engineer, who, in this case is stationed in Atlanta, Georgia.

The mosquito control program, which is a part of the Post Engineer's responsibilities, is carried

out by a crew of civilians whose work is supervised by the Medical Corps in a constant round of planning, inspection and research.

Although never operating outside the base limits the mosquito control program has made MacDill Field one of the most insect free spots on the Florida coast. Drainage, filling and larvicidal work carried on under the Post Engineer has made it so.

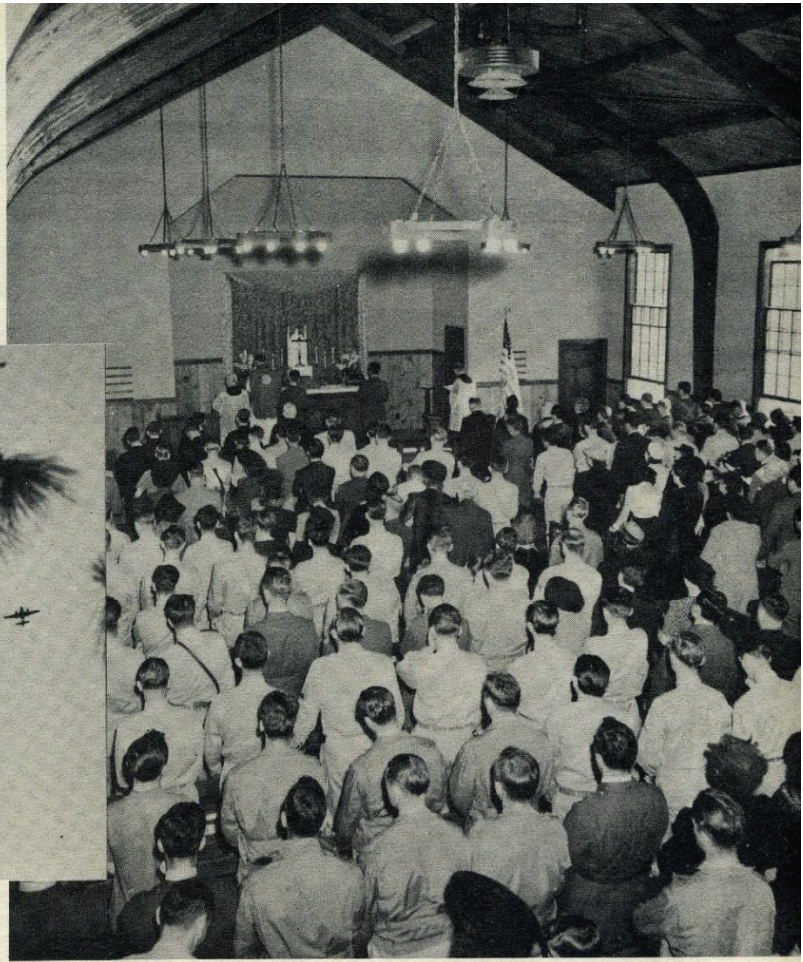
A widespread landscaping project, which is designed both for beautification and camouflage purposes, has been in operation for some time. Pine trees, banana trees, and

palms are interspersed with various flowers and shrubbery, transforming MacDill from a bleak filled area into a pleasant park-like Air Base.

Although assigned to Posts, Camps and Stations by the Chief of Engineers in Washington, the Post Engineer is a subordinate of the Post Commander and is responsible to the Post Commander for all duties assigned to him in connection with repairs and utilities. The policy of the Post Engineer, however, is guided by the Division Engineer, who, in this case, is stationed in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Post Engineer has a staff of well qualified men to head each department under his authority. With the exception of his immediate assistants, who are Engineer Officers, they are all civilians. Conscientious, hard-working people, these civilians have earned a rightful place in the history of MacDill Field.





A "GOD-FEARING" ARMY

A God fearing nation, the United States is the world's foremost advocator of religious freedom. In this fact this country was founded as one of the basic principles of Democracy.

Today with the nation plunged into war, religion has taken on new interest and is being practiced to a greater extent than ever before. The overcrowded churches in every city and hamlet give proof to this statement.

Our young men in the armed forces need and demand facilities for worship. To this end the government has expended thousands of dollars to build suitable chapels. Two such chapels are located at MacDill Field. They are of a standard type, providing facilities for any type of worship. They

are not elaborate in design, but create the desired atmosphere for worship.

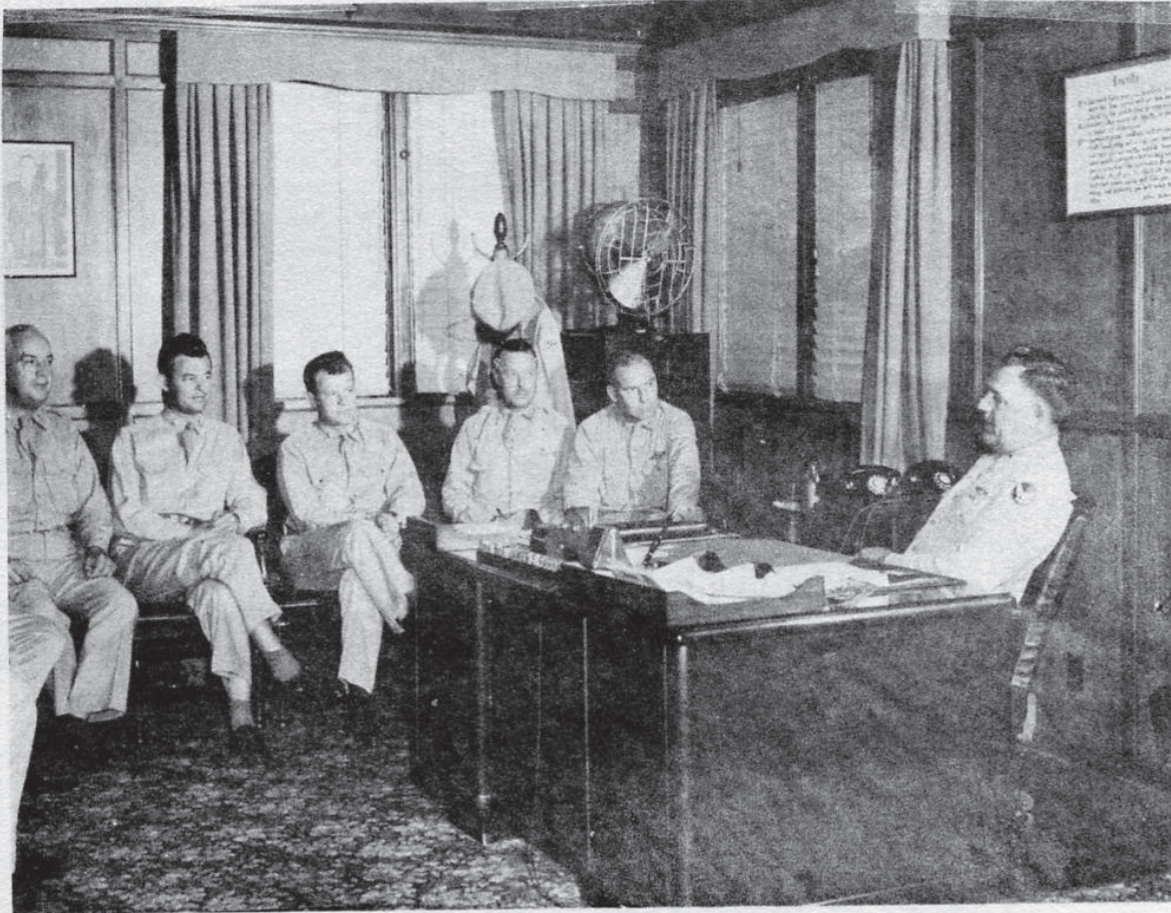
Organs are standard equipment in Army chapels. They are played either by patriotic civilians or soldier-organists, as they accompany choirs generally comprised of the soldier-congregation.

These two chapels at MacDill provide for Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish services.

Associated with the chapels are the chaplains. No man is doing a more worthwhile service than the Army chaplain. He conducts services for his particular denomination; visits the sick; offers encouragement and help when necessary; gives advice to troubled soldiers; performs marriages, and generally looks after the welfare of every soldier.



THIRD BOMBER COMMAND



GENERAL PARKER AND STAFF AT REGULAR MEETING



Twenty-five years ago when airpower was introduced to the military authorities its mobile firepower and potential destruction might were not immediately recognized.

Today, World War II has already attained more furious heights than anything the world has ever seen, and with each day bringing more and more intense action, the keynote of all victories is "Airpower." Planes . . . big and small, land and sea, fighting and reconnaissance . . . but planes.

Granting that airpower alone cannot win this war, even the staunchest opponents of fighting in the skies will admit that without superiority in the air, no military power, however great, could ever hope for victory.

Here in America, where the problem of producing planes is being solved and where airplane production is as great as the combined production of the entire world, we are faced with another problem . . . that of producing enough fighting men to fly and maintain our ships. Pilots, co-pilots, navigators, bombardiers, gunners, radio-men, mechanics, truck-drivers and office workers are vital in this all-out war.

Before going across the seas to meet our foe, members of the Army Air Forces undergo a thor-

ough and intensive training schedule so effective that when face to face with the enemy, our superiority is an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

Typical of training units in this country is the Third Bomber Command, under the direction of Brigadier General James E. Parker. The primary purpose of this organization is to so train American bombing crews in the fundamentals of this type of fighting that they will act instinctively and with confidence when the crucial moment is at hand.

Symbolic of the Third Bomber Command is the Martin B-26 Marauder and the North American B-25 Billy Mitchell. Both these medium bombers have already distinguished themselves in all theatres of operations. The B-26 was a major factor in winning the battle of Midway when they were converted into torpedo carriers. In the Aleutians, in the south Pacific, and in North Africa, this speedy, twin engined Marauder has proven its worth.

The B-25 startled the world by taking off from an aircraft carrier to bomb Tokyo . . . the first time a bomber had ever used a sea-going vessel as a base. Like the B-26, the Billy Mitchell is active on all fronts, making the Axis rue the day they were seized with their Napoleonic obsessions.

Taking in view the radical changes a civilian undergoes when first becoming a part of a war machine, the Third Bomber Command training program has worked nothing short of a miracle.

A plan was developed whereby former pencil-pushers, soda-jerkers, farmers and quiet business men have, in a remarkably short time, become qualified, deadly gunners. Pilots, navigators, bombardiers and other crew members have been converted from men of all walks of life. However, just learning one particular phase of the game is not enough. Working together as one unit is an important factor not to be overlooked. Combat crews receive training together so they can act as one, or if the occasion calls for it, the various members can take over positions occupied by their team-mates.

Void of the glamour that accompanies flying personnel are the numerous departments that outline and direct to conclusion the vast training sched-

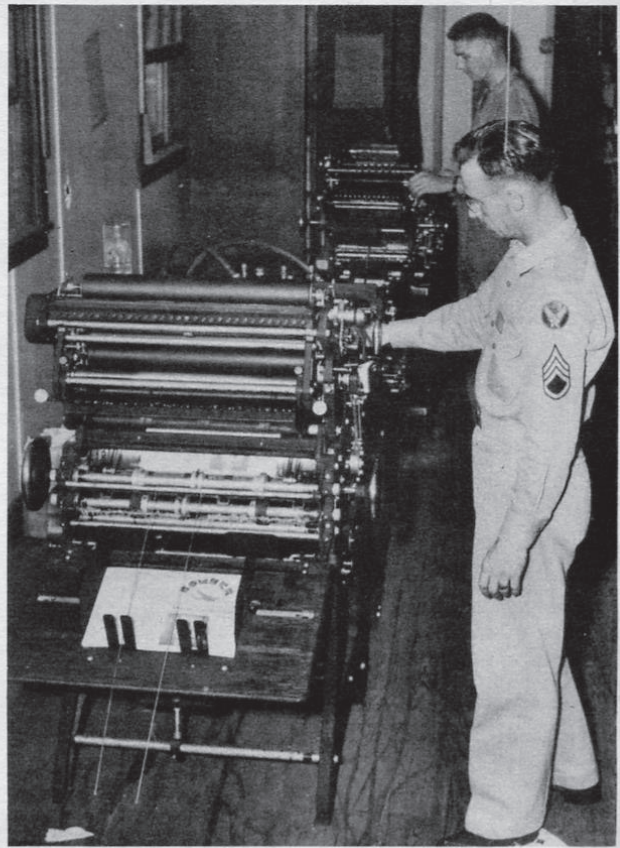


A-2 OFFICER TALKS TACTICS TO PILOTS WITH THE AID OF A SITUATION MAP.

ules. Yet each and every section is a vital link in the Third Bomber Command program.

A busy place is the Bomber Command headquarters with its varied sections and their duties. The Adjutant General section is charged with the promulgation of orders, coordinating the work of the other sections and the general supervision of all headquarters records and personnel. A-1, or Personnel, handles the intricate task of procurement, classification, assignment, pay, promotion, transfer, discharge or other status concerning the Third Bomber personnel. The Military Intelligence Section or A-2, plans and prepares orders pertaining to the collection, evaluation, interpretation and distribution of information concerning the enemy. Counterintelligence activities are carried out by this Section also. A-3, the Operations and Training Section, directs the functions relating to organization, training and combat operations, along with being responsible for tactical and training inspections throughout the Command. A-4, Supply, procures, stores and distributes all supplies; has charge of construction of all facilities and the maintenance of roads, docks, airdromes and equipment, which is undeniably a tremendous job. Then there are the Inspection Section; the Medical Section, which is in charge of the Flight Surgeon; the Ordnance Section; the Signal Section; and the Chemical Section, whose names indicate the nature of their responsibility.

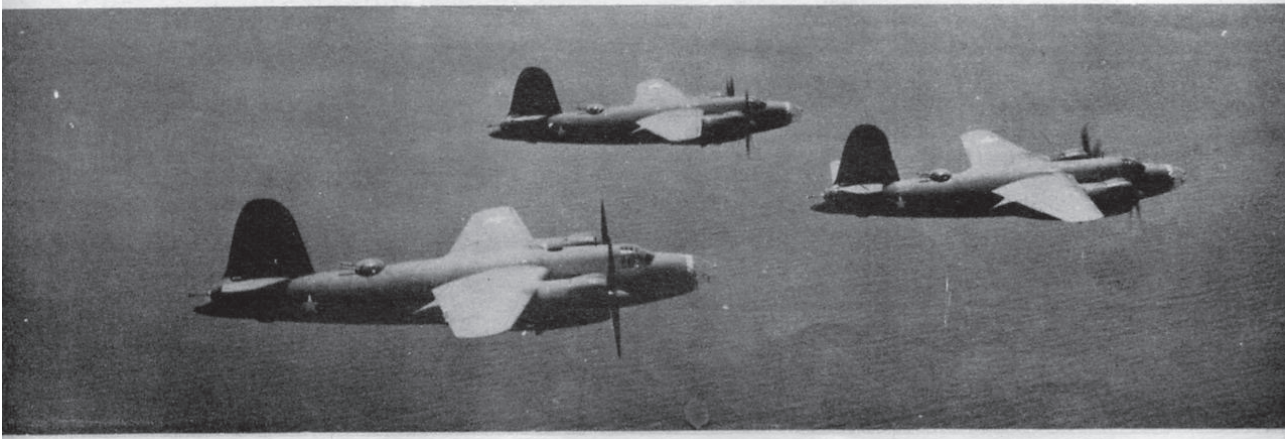
The Third Bomber Command already has a proud, though brief, history. It grew out of the Third Attack Wing which existed on paper prior to 1935. In 1935 it became the Third Attack Group and the 20th Pursuit Group at Barksdale, La., its home station. Later these organizations became the Third Bombardment Wing at MacDill Field in January of 1941, with General Tinker in command. Six months later the activation of the Third Bomber Command took place and since that time has proved to be one of the most potent producers of fighting bomber crews in the United States Air Forces.

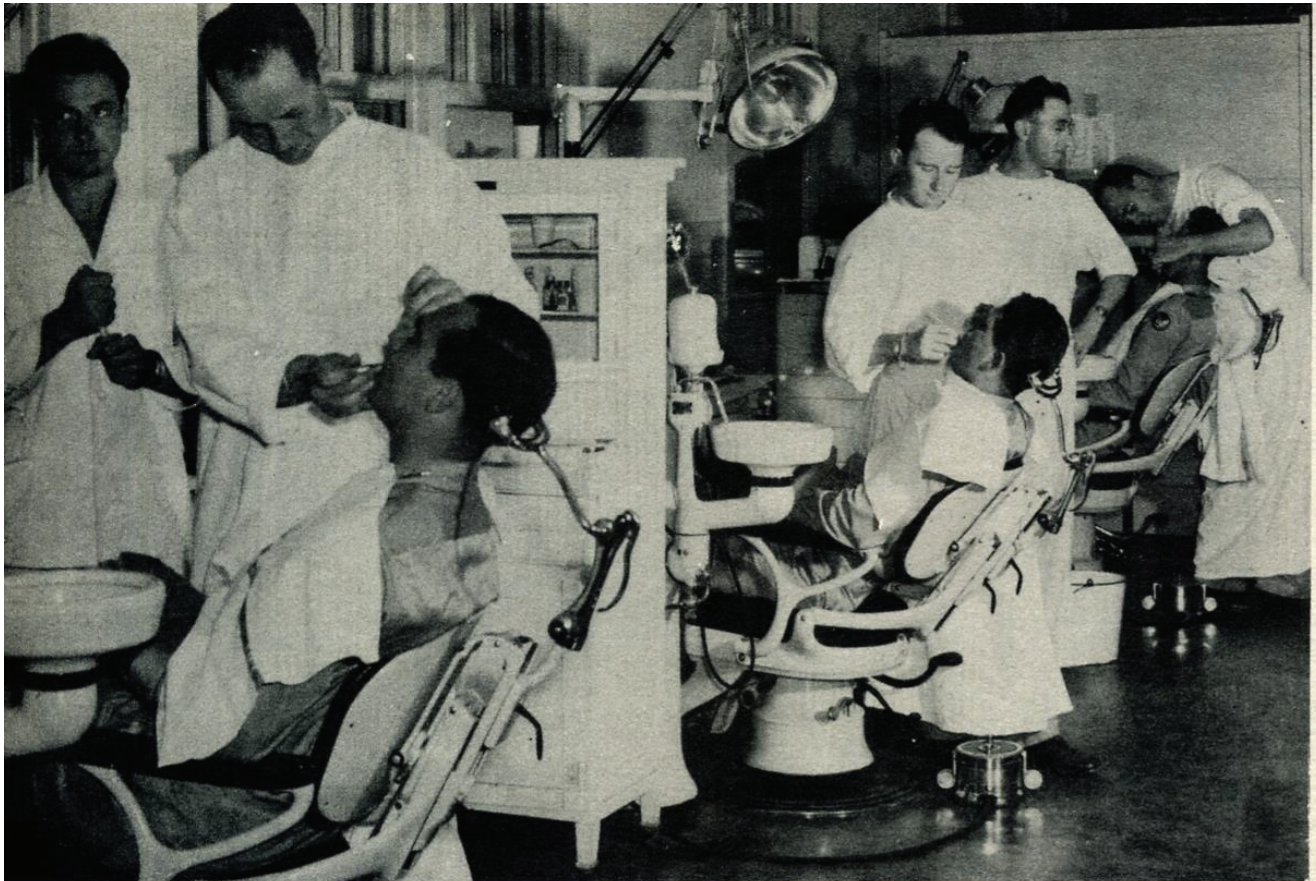


PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMAND, A KEystone OF COORDINATION.



TRAINING FLIGHTS IN THE PROGRAM OF THE THIRD BOMBER COMMAND OPERATIONS LEAD DIRECTLY TO THE SCENE OF COMBAT





A PORTION OF THE BASE DENTAL LABORATORY

DENTAL HEALTH

Dentistry plays a major role in the scheme of things at MacDill Field. Whatever a soldier's teeth needs is provided at the Base Dental Clinic because the efficient soldier must not only be able to see, hear, walk and otherwise be physically capable, but he must be able to properly masticate Army rations and be free from oral infections.

Under the experienced guidance of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Strickland and his assistant, Major R. B. Cunningham, the staff of dental specialists serving MacDill personnel is deservedly considered among the finest available, in the Army or out. The policy at the clinic being 'specialization,' each dentist who is particularly adapted to a certain phase of dentistry is placed in that particular work. For instance if one of the staff is extraordinarily skillful in extractions, he will find himself specializing in the elimination of renegade molars. On the other hand, several dentists may be experts in doing inlay

and repair work, whereupon they are assigned to save teeth from the scrap heap if at all possible. A tooth will always be saved if there is any chance of doing so, and no case is too large or too small for the well equipped staff to handle.

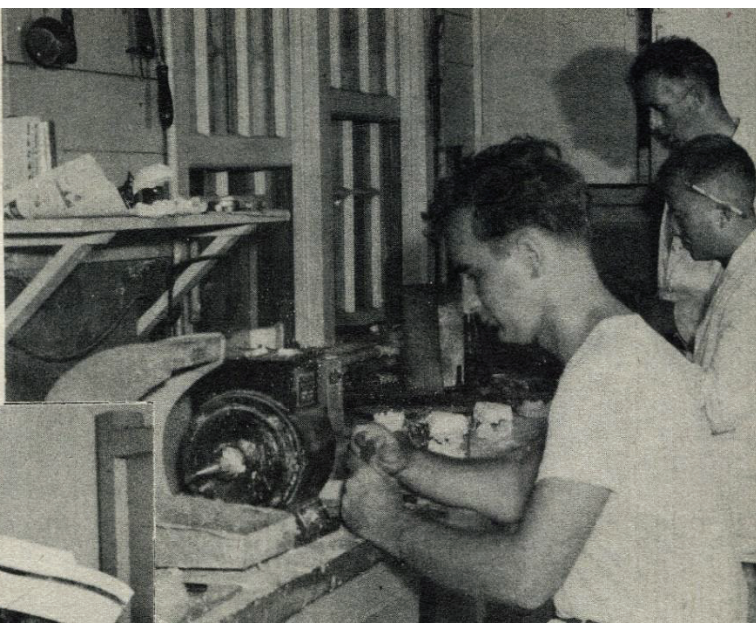
So busy has been MacDill's Base Dental Clinic that often double shifts have been instituted, thereby utilizing 15 hours of the day.

The primary objective of the Base Dental Clinic is to prepare all personnel for field service, hence alerted outfits always get first preference.

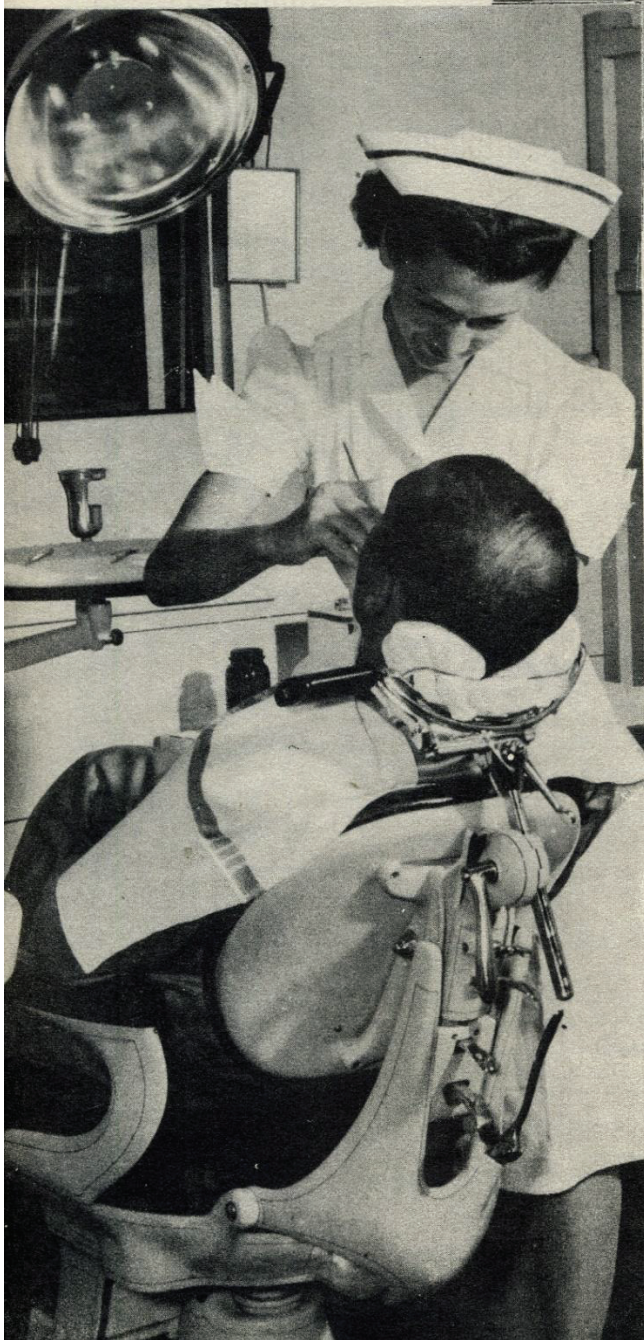
The Clinic staff consists of 16 dental surgeons and 20 enlisted men plus several civilians and WAACs. Eleven of the dental surgeons are on station complement and five are from tactical units.

In addition to giving the necessary dental care to MacDill personnel, it is the duty of the staff to give instruction in the proper care of the teeth and their surrounding tissues. A considerable per-

LABORATORY TECHNICIANS
MAKING FALSE PLATES.



ATTENDANT CLEANING TEETH, A POPULAR SERVICE
OFFERED TO MacDILL SOLDIERS.



centage of soldiers have had little dental experience in the past, and the officers are therefore delegated to creating a dental health consciousness in the minds of the men.

Today an average number of monthly patients is around 6,000, and has necessitated expanding the Clinic from a four chair office to its present imposing size of 15 chairs, a lab, oral surgery room and an X-ray machine.

The transition from a civilian dental practice to the routine requirements of the Army has necessitated special instruction on the part of the many officers and enlisted personnel. The establishment of the Army Dental School in Washington, D. C., in 1921 was an early step in the training program. It has provided courses of instruction in professional procedures, and practically all members of the Regular Army Dental Corps have taken one or more periods of instruction there. Hundreds of enlisted men have also been taught the duties of the dental and X-ray technicians.

It's a maxim here at MacDill—Good chow plus good teeth makes good soldiers.

The Dental Corps is encouraged and enthused with the response received at every hand by the officers and enlisted personnel of every component within the Army Air Forces. It is cognizant of its multiple problems and shall extend every effort of organization and training to accomplish its mission.

**Leon Wins
 Medal
 Action**

Elmer J. Gedeon, of Bomb Sq., received week that he has been the Soldier's Medal for he displayed when he was navigating the takeoff at the Murphreeport, Raleigh, N. C., it.

tion for the award from of Maj. Gen. St. Clair ad in part: "After examining himself, Lt. Gedeon re- of the fact he had suff- ken ribs and severe -entred the burning and removed Cpl. John a fellow crew member, been rendered helpless ash.

"ISH ACTION"

arrat would have burned had it not been for the action of Lt. Gedeon addition to his other in- ceived severe burns on right arm ar oism disple on this occa dit upon his service."

coming into on won national ing new records in the n and Big Ten high hur- ppetition while at the Uni- of Michigan. His time of nds for the 70-yard Big a has not been clipped to d his nine-second record American record has been t never beaten s senior year he played the same team that had a sophomore flash, Tommy

ED WITH SENATORS

in his home town, Cleve- Ohio, baseball had been s' chief interest and as he completed his school- left for Charlotte, N. C., a agton farm team.

next year, 1940, he wer ing training with the Se- and stayed with them f- of the year. He hopes to r- o big league baseball when completed his hitch in the

was drafted March 12, 194 ant to the cavalry school a- Riley, Kan. He transferrea e Air Forces Nov. 5, 1941, was commissioned at Wil- Field, Ariz. Lt. Gedeon to MacDill last June.

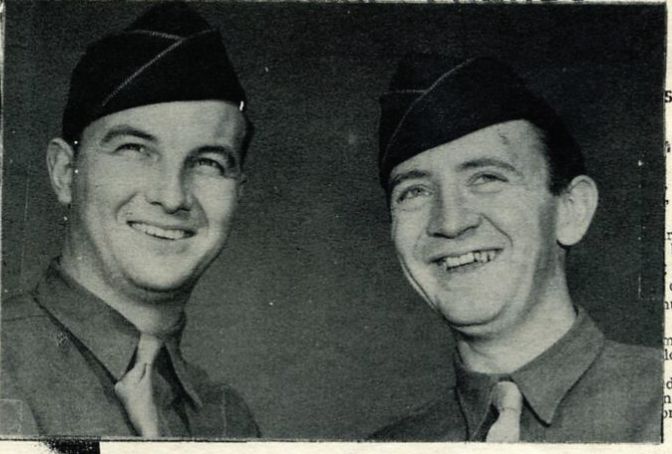
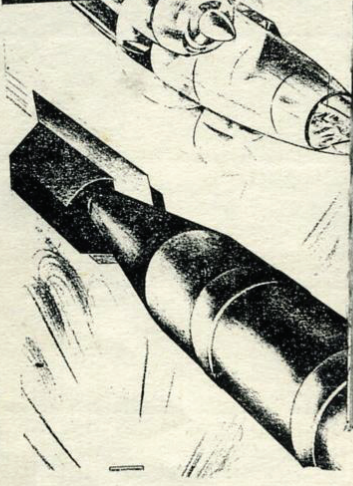
**Back From Overseas
 Newlyweds Still
 ible for Ration Book**

icers and enlisted men w- returned from overseas dur- ho have been recently mar- are eligible to obtain Ratio No. 1 at the Base Rationin s in the rear of the Pos.

tion Book No. 1 will also be b- tted to parents who have babies.

Returning office said all

Thunderbird



**MacDill's Sensational
 Magazine Thunderbird**

POST NEWSPAPER

The progress of the MacDill FLY-LEAF has kept pace with the Army Air Forces. Youthful, ambitious, uncertain and small at first, the FLY-LEAF in the brief span of two years has grown from a one-page sheet to a full sized eight- and 12-page newspaper.

Major General Clarence L. Tinker, the highest ranking and first Air Corps General to be killed in action in this war, was commanding officer at MacDill when the paper was started April 17, 1941. Of the 100 names submitted by enlisted men and officers General Tinker selected the name FLY-LEAF. It best expressed the type of paper it was in those days, because it was a "fly leaf" of another newspaper.

Major Glenn F. Marston, the Public Relations Officer, was assigned the job of editing the news submitted by his staff of enlisted men. In those days he not only supervised the paper, but to a large extent wrote it himself.

Some excellent newspaper men have served on the staff of the FLY-LEAF. Staff Sergeant Andrew Seraphin, Technical Sergeant George Butler, now in England; Staff Sergeant Robert Butler, now in North Africa; Master Sergeant Leo Koeberlein, now at Myrtle Beach, S. C.; Lieutenant Alden Sonnier, on foreign service, and the present staff: Staff Sergeant Joe Meyer, Editor, and Staff Sergeant Don Flynn, Asst. Editor.

When the present Editor, Sergeant Meyer, came to MacDill the paper had grown to four pages, however it was still linked to the neighboring gossip sheet. This was a distasteful arrangement to the men on the field, who felt that MacDill had grown sufficiently in size to merit a paper that was totally divorced from civilian news.

Early in February, 1942, the FLY-LEAF broke away and became the independent, sparkling newspaper that it is today, catering only to the needs and desires of the military personnel of MacDill Field.

Every item in the magazine is original. It has been developed bodily and completely from the actions MacDill has made on the minds of the editors during their stay here.

It combines the finest features found in such magazines as Fortune, Life and Esquire, yet it retains a purely MacDill mood, and nothing from any news periodicals. ny colors, and ed with multi- "Thunderbird" national fame rt yet to come ost in the mag

professional in ent, and it con- bout practical; n on the field. es in the 54-pag- ve already wot- tion from Publi- s in Washington- advertising i- and therefore, th- the entire co- of this type. Th- cents per cop- will be on sale i- is Sunday, at th- in front of th- id at several ou-

**Red Cross
 Drive
 'ch 1st**

re to swell the v- nican Red Cr- Monday and clo- rttime program. Cross has sel- of \$125,000,000- al year. Most- being utilized- any, Navy and Ma- services. There will be no "pay li- solicitation of funds for enli- men, it was announced this w- However, in a special memo-

**vegetable
 Use on 200 Acres Here**

Air-minded soldiers stationed here will take to the ground in

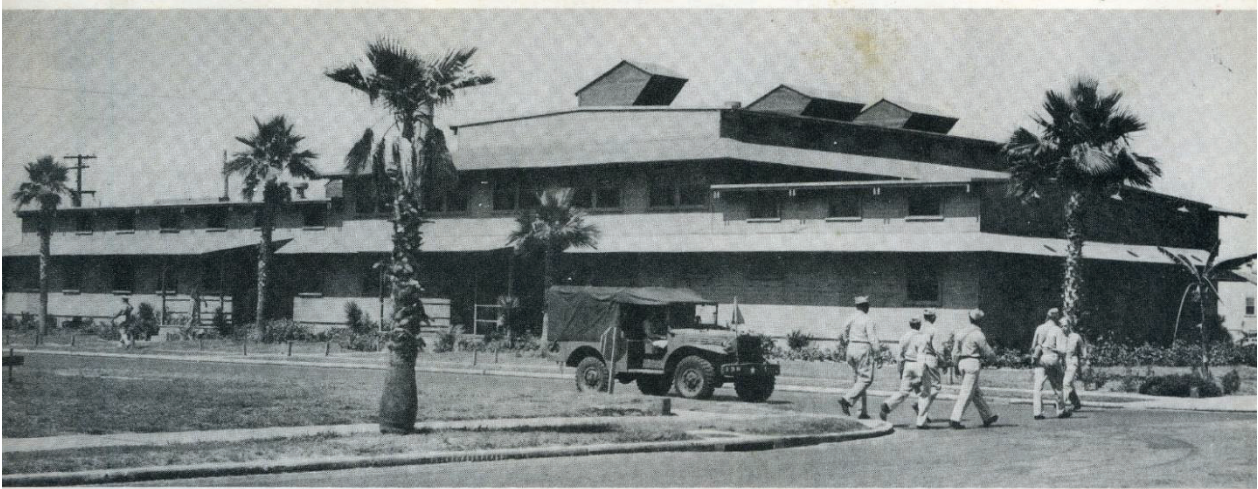
All person- have oppo- opportunity to use the alleys, Mr. Ray Taylor, alley supervisor, stated.

All personnel may bowl all day Sunday, Monday and Saturday.

need to take, time for before. Besides the usual college subjects, such courses, as criminology, astronomy, script writing for radio and social path- ology, are offered.

any, Navy and Ma- services. There will be no "pay li- solicitation of funds for enli- men, it was announced this w- However, in a special memo-





THE ENLISTED MEN'S SERVICE CLUB

SPECIAL SERVICES

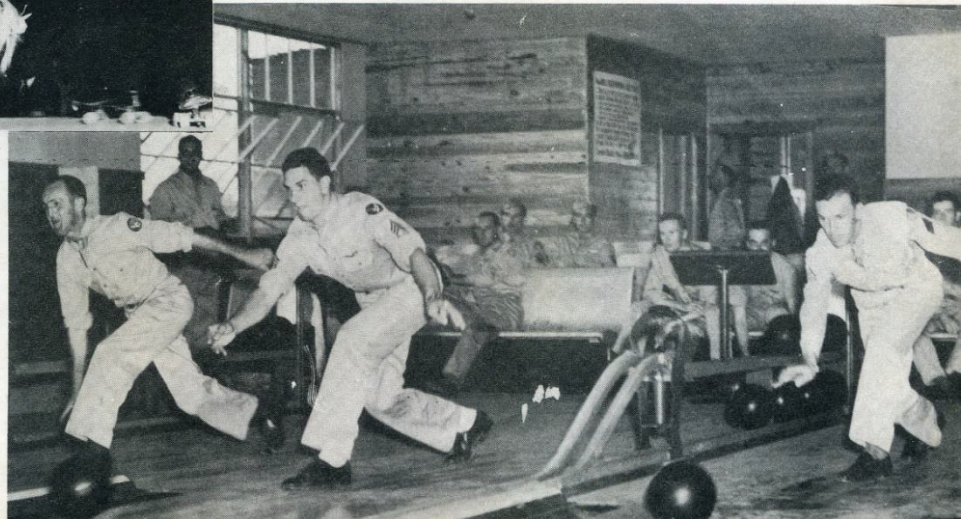
ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE SKATES?



Far-reaching and ultra important is the work of Special Services, for it is this branch that is charged with assisting Commanding Officers in their responsibility for maintaining the mental and physical stamina of their troops for combat.

By means of film, radio and publications American soldiers are provided with information on our allies and our enemies. This is the Orientation Course that makes the American Army the best informed large body of men in the world today. General Montgomery used the same psychology in recognizing the intelligence of his men when he took them into his confidence and, through his officers, explained his tactics, the mission at hand and the reasons for certain movements, with the result that is now history.

... AND THESE MEN GRIPE ABOUT CALISTHENICS



Page Forty-three



The Morale Division of the Adjutant General's Office was first created on July 20, 1940. On March 3, 1941, it became the Morale Branch in the Office of the Secretary of War; the designation was changed to Special Services Branch on January 15, 1942. Three months later the Branch became the Special Service of the Army Service Forces.

At MacDill Field, Base Special Services Officer Captain Frank E. Rokusek administers a wide program of recreation, procurement of athletic equipment, orientation and educational opportunities to supplement Air Corps training. Assisted by First Lieutenant Harlowe F. Dean, Jr., Captain Rokusek has done much to create and maintain that mental and physical stamina in MacDill's soldiers which undoubtedly makes them better and more effective fighting men.

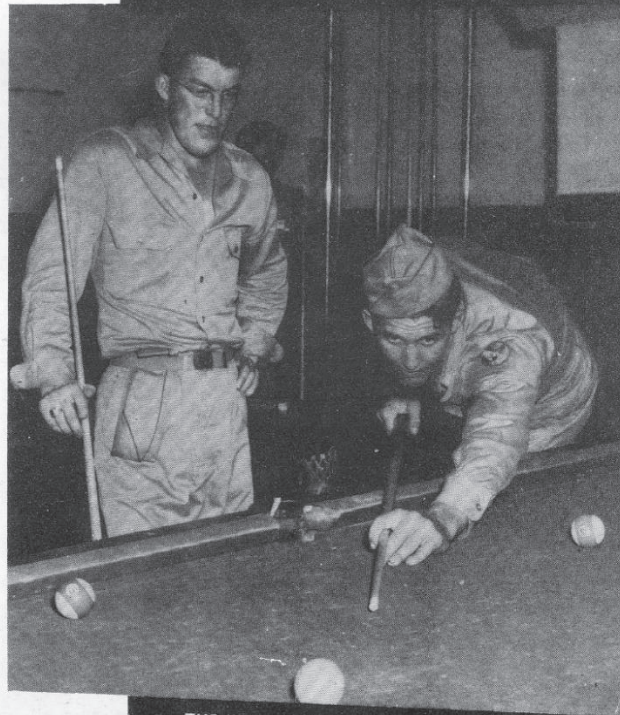
An extensive and varied athletic program, with maximum participation, already exists. Baseball teams, boxing, volley ball, basketball, roller skating, shuffleboard, tennis and other sports are active all over the base.

The sit-by-the-fire civilian may doubt that any soldier, after a day of drill, could possibly want any more exercise. But many of them do want it, particularly if it is disguised as a fast game of handball or a few rounds with the "gloves."

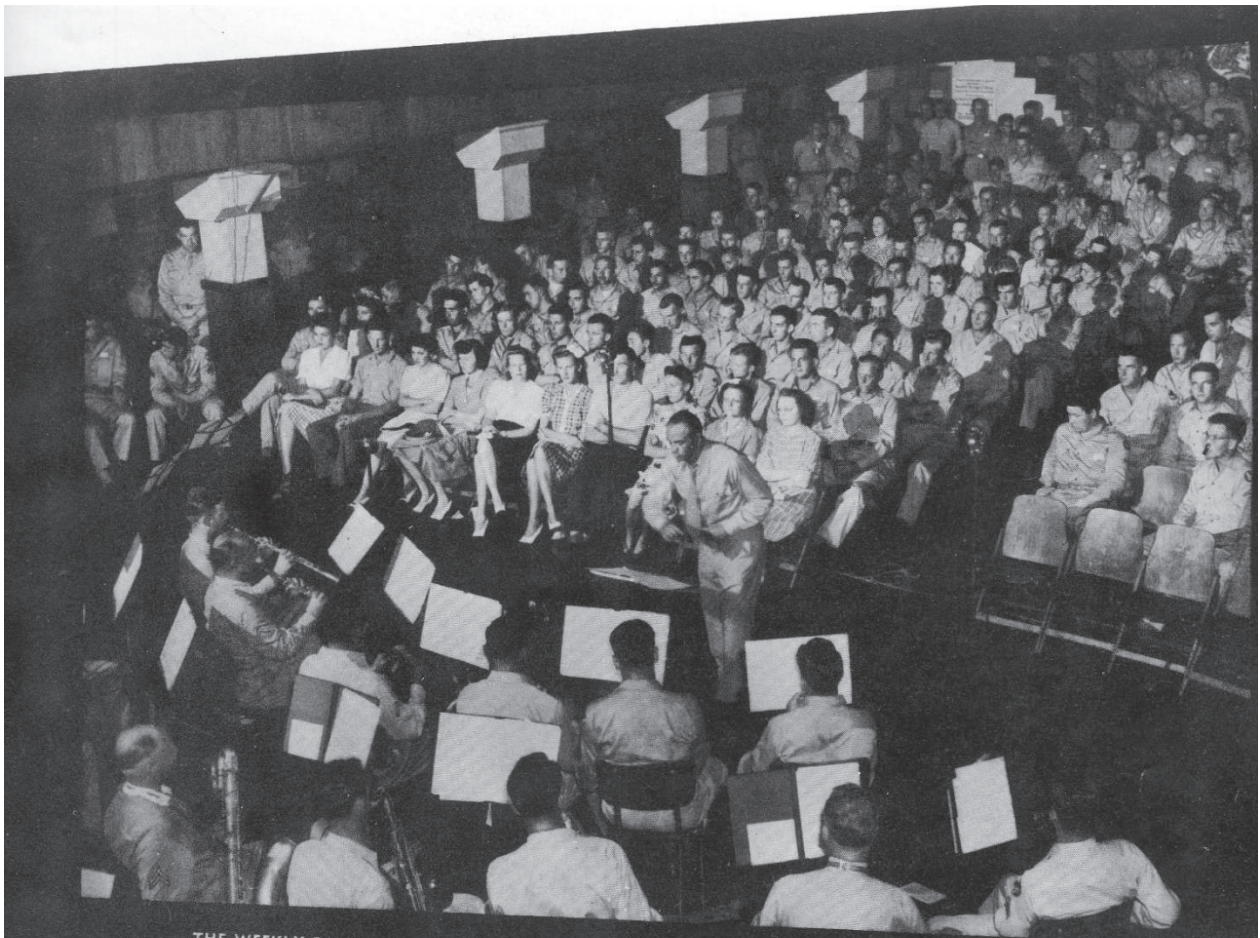
On the recreational side, MacDill Field has a super-abundance with Special Service dances, USO shows, band concerts, community sings, glee club, recordings and radios, base movie theatre, bowling alleys,



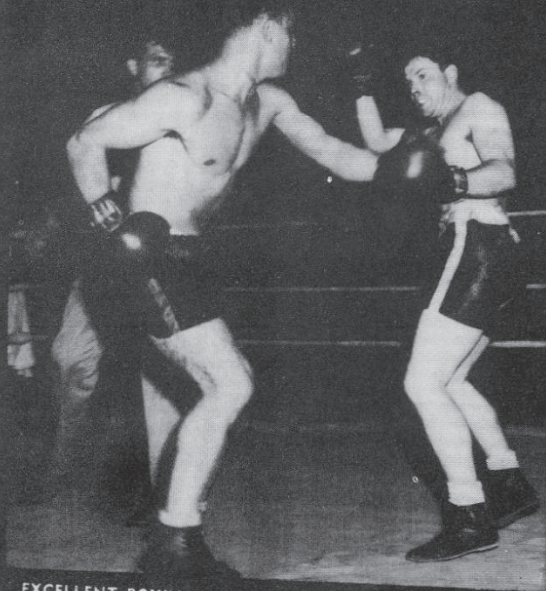
SEX TAKES A HOLIDAY



THE "EIGHT BALL" IN THE CORNER POCKET



THE WEEKLY BAND BROADCAST, AN EXTREMELY POPULAR FEATURE AT THE ENLISTED MEN'S SERVICE CLUB



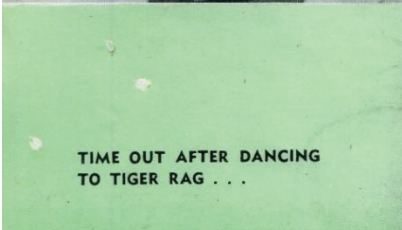
EXCELLENT BOXING CARDS ARE A REGULAR ATTRACTION



NOT A HOG-CALLING CONTEST ... IT'S A USO CAMP SHOW



THIS IS A DANCE, AS ANY FOOL
CAN PLAINLY SEE . . .



TIME OUT AFTER DANCING
TO TIGER RAG . . .

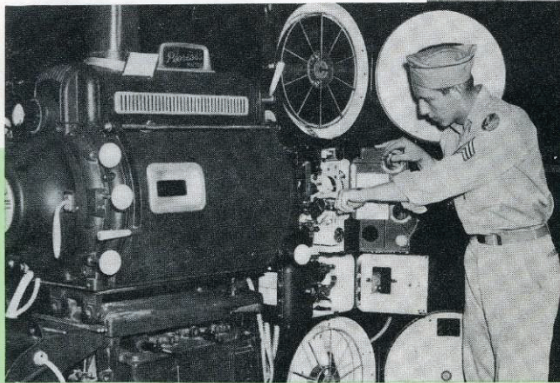


KEYBOARD WIZARDS ARE ALWAYS GOOD FOR A
LITTLE EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT AT THE E. M. S. C.



SOME PEOPLE COME HERE TO READ,
THIS BEING THE LIBRARY . . .

IT'S NOT RUBE GOLDBERG—
IT'S THE PROJECTIONIST AT
THE BASE THEATER.



also many shortcomings—which the agencies themselves were the first to acknowledge. Hence when mobilization plans were drawn up in anticipation of the present war it was directed that “in-camp” off duty programs and facilities should become the direct responsibility of the Army itself. It is here that Special Services shines. The “day-rooms” and the Service Club play an important part in the soldier’s social life. He can listen to Brahms or boogie-woogie. He can write a letter or read a newspaper in surroundings and on furniture that have a home-like atmosphere.

gymnasium, and although the soldier at MacDill may be a long way from home he need never feel far from Broadway for the latest song hits and road shows come his way early and often. Outdoor dancing and shows will soon be a big feature also.

In the First World War, recreational, welfare and educational programs for the armed forces were carried on largely through civilian agencies. Considering the difficulties under which these units worked they did an excellent job, but there were

The Service Club has a dance floor, a game room, reading room, writing tables, a cafeteria and soda bar. Until recently the library, too, was housed in the Club, but now its 10,000 volumes and racks of magazines are across the street in the new and well furnished library building.

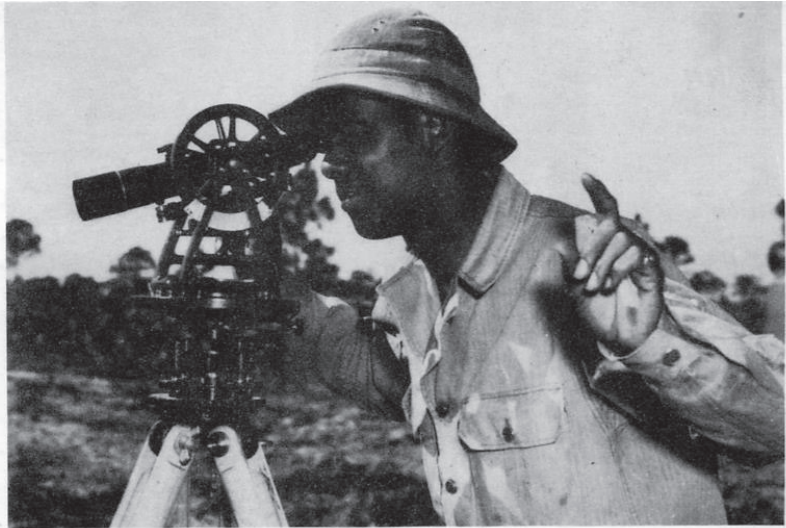
(Continued on Page 58)

IF YOU MUST KNOW, THIS IS A DAY-ROOM





← TALL, CLEAN-CUT AND ALERT,
THIS GUARD TYPIFIES THE
AMERICAN NEGRO SOLDIER.



DETERMINING THE LEVEL IN BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

NEGRO UNITS

*Preparing to take battle to the enemy
MacDill's Negro troops train diligently.*

A Negro soldier has a proud tradition. In all the wars from the Revolution to the present conflict, Negro troops have assumed their full share and acquitted themselves nobly. More than 400,000 Negro soldiers served in World War I. The number serving today is a military secret.

At MacDill Field, whether in Aviation Squadrons, Engineering companies or Ordnance units, the Negro soldier will be found doing his job and doing it exceptionally well. Serious, hard-working and high spirited, he has exhibited on numerous occasions his ability for crack performance on the drill ground or in specialized training work.

MacDill Field is justly proud of its Negro units, for they are not only builders and maintenance experts, they are combat teams that offer a formidable front to any enemy that may oppose them.

At Mullet Key is the MacDill Field bombing and gunnery range, which is maintained by men from the Aviation Squadrons. Many skilled Negro soldiers serve in the checking towers on the bombing range and on the gunnery range where aerial fighters learn their trade.

From one end of the country to another thousands of Negroes are learning to use the tools of modern war. Negro officers, soldiers, doctors, nurses and WAACs, all adding to the distinguished record made by their forebears.



KEEPING SCORE AT THE BOMBING RANGE



THIS 37MM. GUN CREW PRACTICES MARKSMANSHIP



APPLYING SPLINTS UNDER
FIELD CONDITIONS.

FIRST AID COMMANDOS

The job of the medical soldier changes but slightly from training camp to front line station. Injured men are injured men, wherever and whenever they are found. To safeguard the health of all, and restore to duty injured personnel is a real, out and out 24-hour per day job. Conserving the manpower and fighting efficiency of the Armed Forces is the objective the Medico is ready to, and often does, risk his life to accomplish.

Attached to the Air Corps, the Medicos at MacDill work hard as they prepare to "bring 'em back alive" on any distant forward airdrome in a battle area. Dashing through brambles and palmetto scrub, with a full medical pack and a stretcher is no assignment for a panty-waist.

Bandaging, sanitation, first aid, use of sulphur drugs, water purification, treatment of shock and stanching of bleeding are just part of the hundreds of other important details that a medical soldier must have virtually at his fingertips at all times.

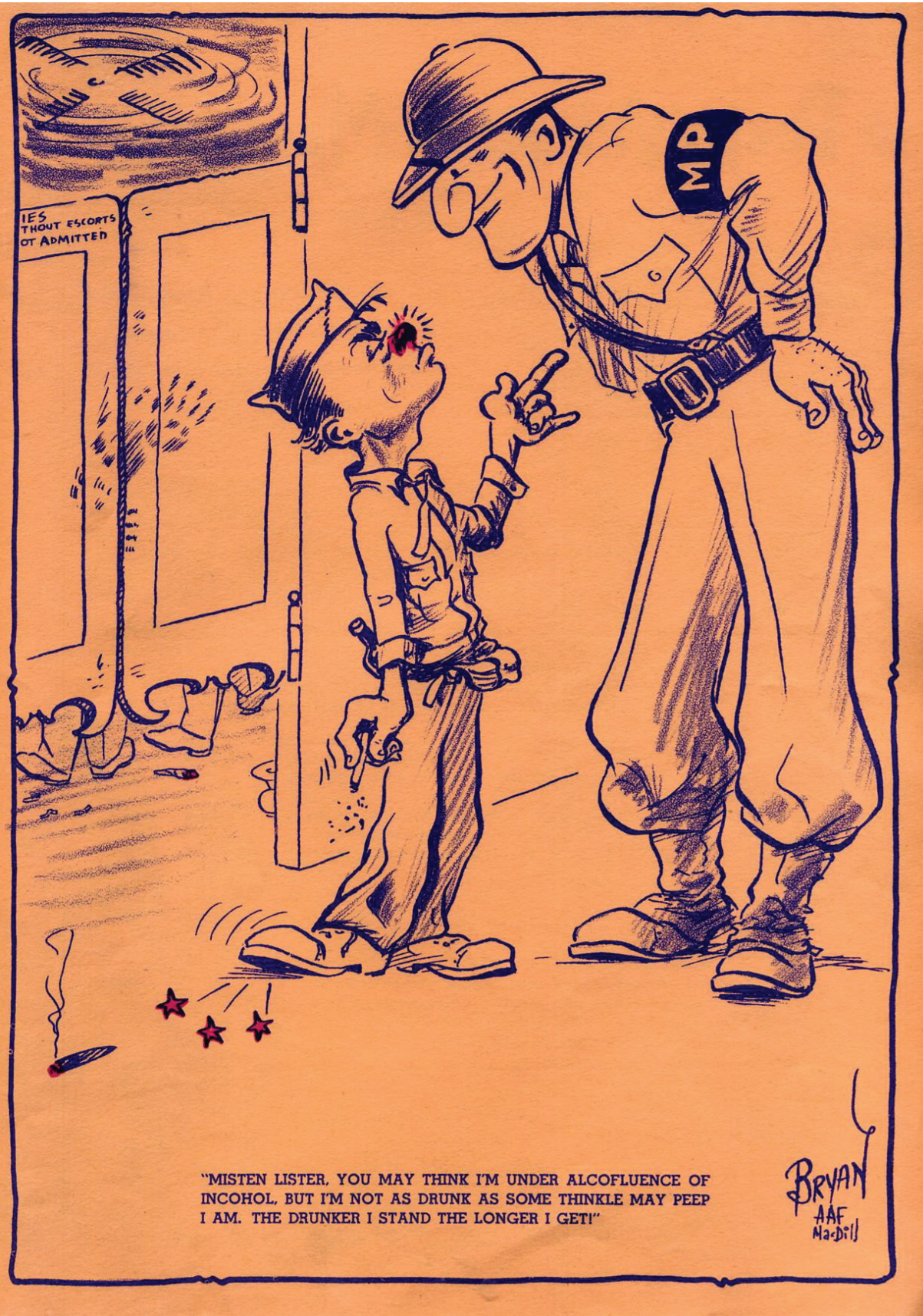
Then, too, he is often required to pass this information and training on to the Air Base units and Bomb Squadrons as they are trained at MacDill. A medical officer with several well trained medical enlisted men are often found conducting classes in first aid and sanitation for the benefit of some outfit soon to be alerted.

On every battle field, medical men have distinguished themselves in a manner of conduct equal in every respect to the skill and courage displayed by the hardest combat soldier.

Efficient medical men are not only a physical asset in combat, they act as powerfully on morale as any element in existence. When the bullets and shell fragments are flying thickest, its damn good to know that a tough, capable Medico is right in the next foxhole.

SIMULATING ACTUAL PROBLEMS
ON A BATTLE FRONT.





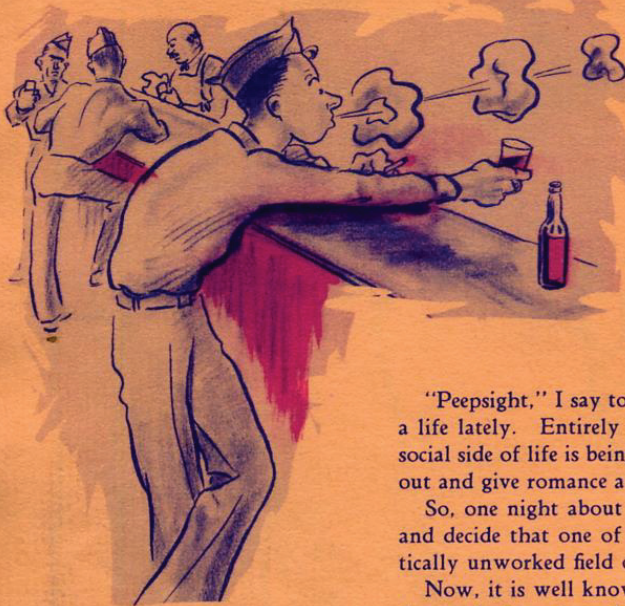
"MISTEN LISTER, YOU MAY THINK I'M UNDER ALCOFLUENCE OF INCOHOL, BUT I'M NOT AS DRUNK AS SOME THINKLE MAY PEEP I AM. THE DRUNKER I STAND THE LONGER I GET!"

BRYAN
AAF
MacBil

Peepsight and the Muscovites

By CPL. JACK B. BRYAN

Giving romance a boot in the shins led Peepsight to feel like the guy who set fire to the Old Ladies' Home.



I GO INTO A HUDDLE WITH MYSELF.

"Peepsight," I say to myself one night. "You have have been leading a hell of a life lately. Entirely too many brews have slipped past your tonsils and the social side of life is being neglected to an alarming degree. The thing to do is go out and give romance a boot in the shins and step out with a nice bimbo."

So, one night about two days after payday, I go into a huddle with myself and decide that one of the best spots to meet such damsels would be the practically unworked field of the Public Library.

Now, it is well known to all and sundry that the G. I.s from MacDill Field do not flock to the public library so soon after payday—in fact it is claimed by some citizens that 98% of the soldats don't go in the library at all. Take myself, for example, I believe books are O.K. for guys who have broken legs, but healthy G. I.s with red cor-

puscles playing leap frog through their veins hardly care to curl up with a book, no matter how damn good it is.

So, it is with an entirely different purpose in mind that I saunter into the P.L. on a balmy June evening with 30 bucks folded neatly into my watch pocket and a look in my eyes like that of "the old man" at Saturday A.M. inspection.

I roll my gaze over the joint and see no one but a few young judies who have apparently dropped in for a little 3rd grade research. Tucking my cap under my belt, I wander into the reading rooms where I see a collection of old geezers with gray whiskers and few elderly mamas who no doubt are brushing up on cooking formulas that specialize in the absence of meat. Also, (and I here mentally give myself a huge roar of applause), there are very many young tomatoes who are easier on the eyes than the back of the First Sergeant's neck. At this point I look about me to size up the competition, reconnaissance being always good tactics, and find that I am the only G.I. in the



-- AND KNOCK OVER ONLY THREE CHAIRS ON MY WAY.



"DARBREE VAYCHIR, TOVARISCH?"

house, except perhaps one or two who possibly are veterans of the War with Spain, and of course by this time they are not interested in young judies any more.

Planning my campaign and singling out my objective, I run down the line of tall ones, fat ones, red heads, brunettes, blondes, etc. until I spot one particularly swell little number away off by herself poring over some funny little books.

In my usual tactful manner I head directly for this corner of the library and knock over only three

chairs on my way. I pull out a couple of books just to make it look official, and hang the old observation on the young lady from a distance of about 3 feet, or less. Everything I see registers quite all right with my exacting standards, but just at this moment the gal looks up, and, to keep her from thinking I am staring at her, I switch my gaze to the book she is holding in her cute little duke, and she says as follows:

"Dawbree vaychir, tovarisch."

"Come again, cupcake?" I ask her, with a look on my pan that must have resembled the little white dog's that used to pose in front of a phonograph horn.

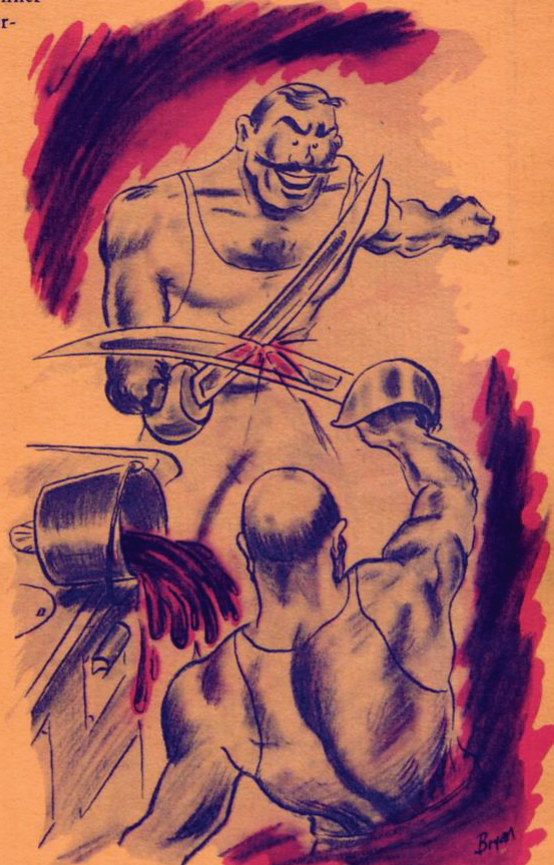
"I'm sorry, soldier, I thought perhaps you spoke Russian since you like Russian books."

Well, one thing led to another, and before the evening was over I confessed what had been cooking in my bean.

She seemed to like the idea, remarking that it seemed she had won a sort of private beauty contest. I am learning that such things as honest tributes to their looks seldom make women even slightly peeved.

Don't ask me how it happened, because I am usually against such things as being drug home by new-found girl friends. But there I was saying howdydo to Karen's mother and the big military looking gent who was either her father or a reasonable facsimile of same.

For years I have been cursed by the ability to be liked much better by the old folks at a girl's home than by the females themselves. That's a hell of a way to be, but there it is. I am hoping to make a break from the old



-- SWINGS A CHOP AT HIS GLISTENING BALD HEAD --

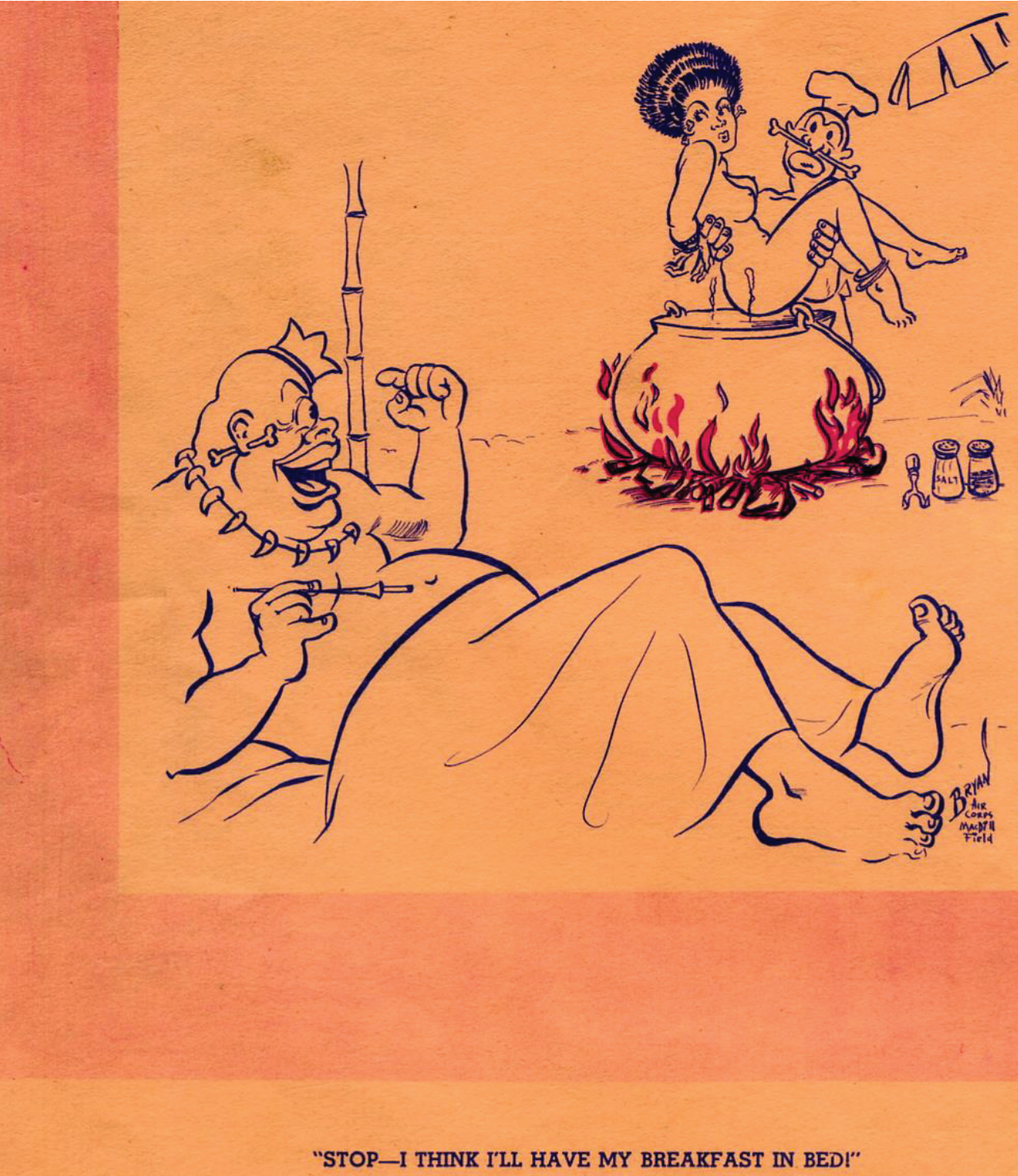
gent who has finished pumping my hand and has left it in such a crushed condition that I doubt very much if I will be able to pick up the huge slug of vodka he is pouring out.

Karen is lurking in the background, apparently glad that the folks have "cottoned" up to me in such a manner, but I can tell by the look in her eyes that she would like a little more attention from me. But

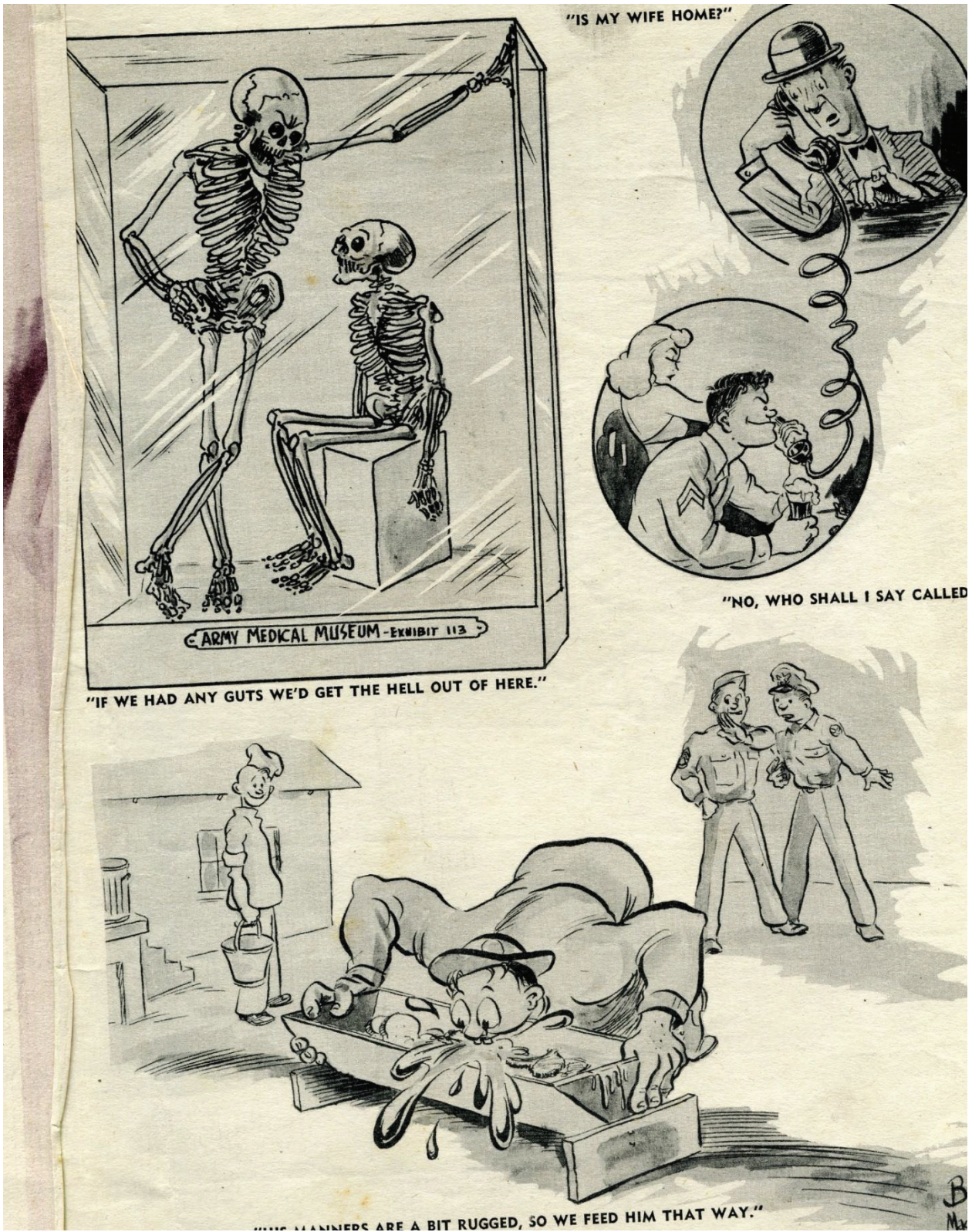
(Continued on Page 59)



STANISLAV LAID HIS SABRE ON THE TABLE AND SAT DOWN.



"STOP—I THINK I'LL HAVE MY BREAKFAST IN BED!"



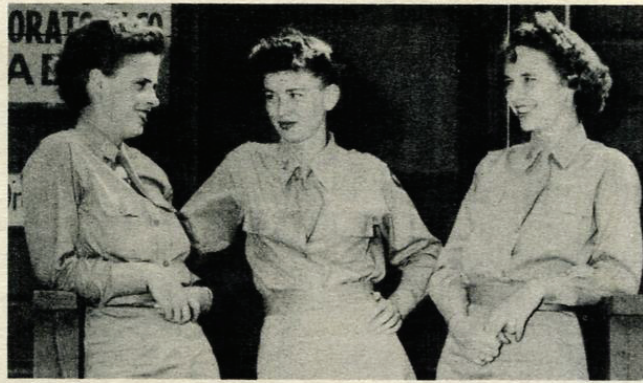
"IS MY WIFE HOME?"

ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM - EXHIBIT 113

"IF WE HAD ANY GUTS WE'D GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE."

"NO, WHO SHALL I SAY CALLED

"HIS MANNERS ARE A BIT RUGGED, SO WE FEED HIM THAT WAY."



OFFICER PERSONNEL OF THE 711th WAAC POST HEADQUARTERS COMPANY LOOK OVER A NEW REGULATION. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, THEY ARE: THIRD OFFICER LOIS M. GALBRAITH, THIRD OFFICER EDITH J. McCORMICK, AND SECOND OFFICER LOUISE BLACK, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 711th.

SECOND OFFICER JANE ARBOGUST, THIRD OFFICER JEANNETTE LIGHT, AND THIRD OFFICER ALICE GAMES—THE EXECUTIVE STAFF OF THE 653rd PHOTO LAB COMPANY.

MacDILL GOES CO-ED

(Continued from Page 12)

the War Department as to the outstanding services which will be rendered by this organization.

"A recent executive order expands the Corps to a possible total of 150,000, giving women an opportunity to serve in many more positions than were originally contemplated. This expansion became necessary because of the repeated requests from the commanders of our troops and services. I am confident that the women of America will meet this urgent need of the Army."

This speech by General Marshall was made in February. Since that time the WAAC has more than proved the need for such an organization, and has steadily expanded. For example, the WAACs have proved of such value that a request for more has been made. Additional barracks are now being completed to house the new units.

As a reward for a job well done, Congress recently passed a law incorporating the WAACs into the Army; and effective October 1, they will be known as the WAC (Women's Army Corps, instead of Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.)

By joining the Women's Army, these patriotic and unselfish women are keeping married men with children at home, where they can contribute to the war effort by working in essential industries, and keeping intact the American home.

WAACs receive the same amount of pay as soldiers of corresponding rank. At present the rank of WAACs is designated as follows: Auxiliary for private; junior leader for corporal; third officer for second lieutenant, etc. After the new ruling, incorporating the WAACs into the regular army, comes into effect, the rank will be designated in the same terms that now apply to the regular army.

As each day passes the WAAC is becoming a more integral part in the machinery of war. They are earning an enviable reputation in the civilian world where they have been accepted with justifiable enthusiasm.

Any working body that contributes to the war effort cannot be taken lightly. The WAAC is such an organization.

CO-ORDINATION COMES FIRST

(Continued from Page 25)

the elaborate equipment of the Signal units of a bomber command.

The "trailer" is a movable radio establishment, gas-proof in construction and capable of operating seven miles distant from transmitter. It can operate from either commercial or emergency generators. The staff of a trailer consists of two radio operators, three teletype operators and three message center men.

Typical of MacDill's Signal units is the 386th Signal Company (Aviation). This unit of husky, tanned linemen are equipped and trained to install and maintain military cable, telephone and telegraph lines, operate radio communications, and in general see that their command's lifeline of communications is uninterrupted.

As the Army Air Forces press forward their advance airdromes, storage and maintenance facilities, housing and technical installations, on the various combat fronts it is the Signal men who will keep them in contact with their supporting units and their commands.

This is often a hazardous as well as important mission and the Signal troops are trained and ready to become wire-stringing "infantry" if the enemy insists upon it. The rifle, pistol or machine gun is no more foreign to them than a pair of lineman's pliers.

The supply service of the Signal Corps handles the procurement of all radio, telephone and other signal equipment for the Air Forces and other branches of the Army. This means the standardization, purchase, inspection and distribution of tremendous quantities of communications equipment.

With this equipment, MacDill's Signal men are daily simulating actual field work in the rugged palmetto scrub. Messages are sent and received, intercepted and decoded, equipment is repaired, and all for one end—get the message through, and someday flash VICTORY back.



SPECIAL SERVICES

(Continued from Page 47)

New books come in to the library almost every day and Miss Kathleen Fletcher, librarian, sees that all the best sellers and most up-to-the-minute books on the world situation are always available.

The Day Rooms are less formal and more masculine than the Service Club. Here there are no hostesses or guests. It is the soldier's own clubroom where, at the end of the day, he goes to join other men of his squadron who are spending the evening "at home."

The rooms are sturdily but comfortably furnished with easy chairs and sofas. Not too frilly, but pleasant. A bookcase holds some "Westerns" and a stock of magazines. There may be a pool table and ping-pong set; there is sure to be a radio, and perhaps a piano. There is no planned program. The men just sit around and joke, play cards, swap yarns and listen to the radio over a cold coke.

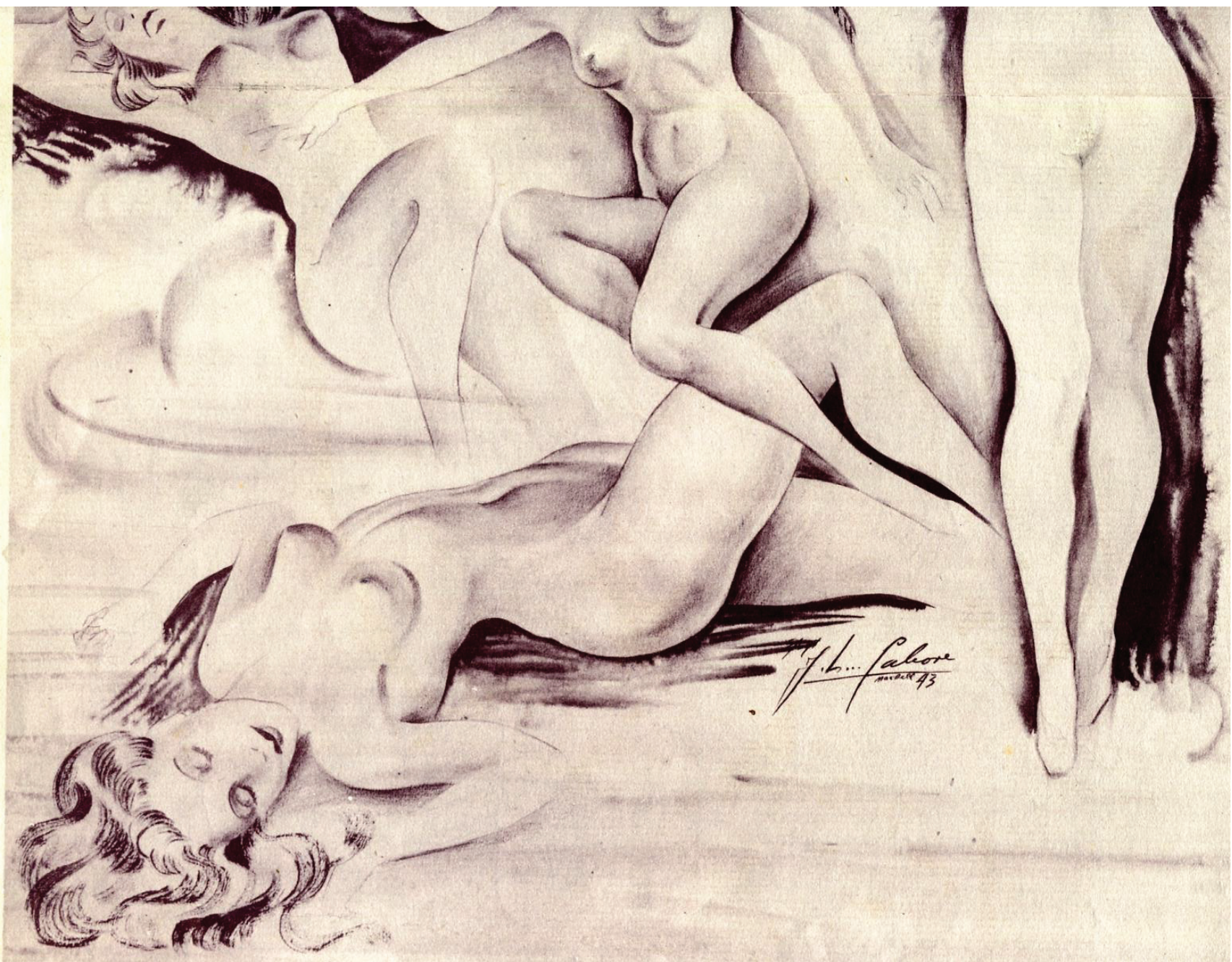
Next comes the Special Service educational facilities. Classes in foreign languages, art, music, mathematics and other subjects are organized to meet the interests and needs of both the Air Corps and the individual soldiers. At MacDill much interest has been shown in the language courses in Spanish, French and Arabic.

Sixty-four correspondence courses are available through the Army Institute in basic and technical subjects, while over 500 courses are available through 75 cooperating colleges and universities.

Under the jurisdiction of Special Services also comes the base newspaper, the MacDill FLY-LEAP. Radio broadcasts and quiz programs snap up many an evening at MacDill. The Base Theater features the latest Hollywood releases often before they hit the main theatres in nearby cities. Training and orientation films produced jointly by Special Services and the Signal Corps are interesting additions to the soldier's movie fare.

Captain Rokusek can easily be classed as one of the busiest officers on the base as he keeps his fingers on the pulse of Service Club expansion. Band Shell construction, athletics, entertainment, new library and the morale of MacDill's husky personnel.







WITHOUT FANCY LINEN OR DAINTY CHINA THE WAACs ACCEPT THE G. I. SETTING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE DAY

PEEPSIGHT AND THE MUSCOVITES

(Continued from Page 53)

I have a certain code that will not permit me being rude to a fellow pouring a drink.

At the words "Good luck" I bravely lift the tumbler of innocent looking vodka and swallow not only it, but my tonsils, and the melted fillings from some of my pet teeth. My eyes bulge out until you could hang your hat on them and after my breath comes back into my contracted lungs and my eyebrows have stopped chasing themselves around over my forehead, I try to make the usual sounds of gusto but not a sound comes out.

Mr. Feodor Chernov beams at me and is just reaching for the bottle a second time when the door opens and in comes a guy who has to go through the door sideways to clear his shoulders.

"Hello, Feodor," roars this rugged individual, "How is Mamma Chernov and 'dyeh-vachka,'" as he picks Karen up bodily and whisks her towards the ceiling.

Karen yowls in protest and embarrassment, no doubt trying to impress everyone that such antics are not to be participated in by young judies who have reached the ripe old age of 19. But the husky ex-cossack pays her screams no more attention than he would to one of Hitler's speeches.

"Who is the sawdaht, Karen?" shouts the newcomer as he good-naturedly sticks out his massive paw and I mentally say goodbye to what is left of my poor old lunch-hook.

Karen explains my presence, and introduces this human cyclone as Uncle Stanislav, formerly of the Russian Cavalry.

Uncle Stanislav immediately wanted to know the number of horses in my regiment and seemed a bit crestfallen when he learned that the little flowers growing at MacDill Field had to have nourishment imported. This sad state of affairs called for copious drafts of vodka all around. Karen also took part this time, seeking no doubt, a portion of the spotlight which modern females seem to believe is necessary for their complete happiness.

This was one gathering where I did not have to watch out about divulging military secrets. Uncle Stanislav was giving me no chance to even speak.

The conversation became loud and of a military nature as the vodka bottle disappeared and another took its place. Uncle Stanislav was putting out plenty of noise and violent gestures as he vividly described wild charges over the icy steppes. (I have gone over a few icy steps in my time myself—but that's another story.) Suddenly Mr. Chernov, who is also beginning to put his oar in more and more, remembers that he has upstairs the two sabers used by himself and his dear brother-in-law, Uncle Stanislav, when they were soldiers of the Czar.

Uncle Stanislav positively roars with glee at this and begins to "kazotsky" all over the place, while Mr. Chernov dashes for the sabers.

Well, here it is again, I tell myself. "Why can't you be content to go up to the Service Club, like a little gentleman, and write letters to your loved ones? Must you always get yourself into affairs involving knives, arson, intrigue and now sabers?"

Mrs. Chernov, who has been busily preparing a light repast that would put to shame Brillat Savarin, now begins to wring her hands in anguish, mumbling something about "those awful sabers, again. Tsk, tsk—please, Stanislav—no sabers tonight, please."

Even Karen is showing unmistakable signs of disapproval. But the vodka, coupled with Uncle Stanislav's colorful military mood, will not be denied. It must be sabers!

Down comes Mr. Chernov with a pair of the most business-like sabers I ever care to see. Uncle Stanislav seizes one of them and sends it in whistling arcs, as Mrs. Chernov and Karen seek cover in the next room.

I ask to see one of these overgrown corn-cutters and when I feel the razor-like edge the hair on the back of my neck begins to bristle. WOW, sharp sabers, and Uncle Stanislav is whipping it about like it was an old inner tube.

Just to make conversation, and perhaps take the attention of the two old sabreurs away from such homicidal tools, I state that such swords, while alright for chopping at enemies from horseback, would be no good for duelling purposes. Here is where I made the grade "A" mistake of the evening, next to leaving MacDill Field in search of romance.

Mr. Chernov and Uncle Stanislav both howled indignantly at such an assertion. In fact they would demonstrate immediately

how one could fight on foot with such beautiful weapons; whereupon they took a fighting stance and began hacking, thrusting and chopping at each other.

Karen and Madame Chernov are quite upset at the turn of events and are chanting entreaties for peace, by the numbers. I, too, certainly feel like the guy who set fire to an old ladies' home as I see the result of a casual remark.

Mr. Chernov, tough old non-com in a troop of hard-riding Russian cavalry, makes a beautiful parry as his pal and brother-in-law swings a chop at his glistening bald head. The blow is deflected enough to send the blade crashing into a large kettle of borsch sitting on the stove, sending its red contents over most of the room. The two old timers roared with laughter but kept right on. This is going too far, I tell myself, so I decide on something drastic.

I take the ketchup bottle and pour a large gob of it in a piece of paper napkin. The battlers are not watching me as I heave it right at Uncle Stanislav's ear. It hits the side of his head with a smack and the gory-looking contents dribble down his neck.

This worked. Mr. Chernov dropped his saber and Uncle Stanislav ceased his hacking and put a hand to his ear. He was strangely quiet as he carefully laid his saber on the table and sat down.

I had an awful time to keep Mr. Chernov from putting a tourniquet on Uncle Stan's neck—which would hardly be the thing to do in any case. Karen and Mrs. Chernov, who had witnessed the whole thing, trickled back into the kitchen.

"I must be getting numb—nothing hurts," said Uncle Stanislav.

I handed Uncle Stan a tumbler of vodka as I wiped away the ketchup, telling him it was just a slight wound and would heal up in a day or so. Then I winked at Karen and asked her for a small tape bandage which I applied to Uncle Stan's ear.

Before I left I succeeded in talking the ex-cavalrymen of the Czar into hanging their sabers upon on the wall, bolted on permanently in a cross position just like the cavalry insignia. This won the undying gratitude of Mrs. Chernov.

Karen was not in the mood to kiss me goodnight, but Uncle Stanislav was—and did—on both cheeks.

Page Fifty-nine



TAKING THE PLACE OF MOTHERS, VOLUNTEER RED CROSS WORKERS DEVOTE THEIR TIME REPAIRING, ALTERING AND SEWING INSIGNIA ON SOLDIERS' UNIFORMS.

RED CROSS

The one pinnacle to which troubled humanity can always turn its eyes is the American Red Cross as it towers above the disasters of nature, and those inflicted upon mankind by mankind itself.

Particularly in wartime does "The World's Greatest Mother" render service of the most varied nature. America's fighting men overseas can thank the Red Cross for many pleasant evenings of recreation, cigarettes, off duty lunches, and the many little comforts that mean so much.

Here at MacDill, as in hundreds of other Army Bases, the Red Cross is supplemented by many volunteer workers called affectionately the "Gray Ladies." These unselfish women devote many hours each week to such work as sewing for the field's personnel, preparing surgical dressings, reading to the hospitalized soldiers, and distributing stationery, reading material and games.

Probably the most distressing situation in which a soldier can find himself is caused by serious bad news from home. His immediate presence is needed, yet he has not sufficient funds to buy his transportation. Here, too, the Red Cross helps the soldier over the rough spot by aiding him get his emergency furlough and speeding him on his way with a ticket.

Thus it is that the vast network of Red Cross world-wide communication service reaches out to bring hope to many anxious minds, and helps to bridge over the long separation brought about by the war.



"BOOBY - TRAP"

Letters to

THUNDERBIRD

Dear Col. Voss:

Many thanks for the colorful and interesting copy of "Thunderbird." I enjoyed it immensely and got some good laughs out of it . . . and feel everyone connected with its production should be congratulated on the magnificent job they did.

George E. Stratemeyer,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Air Staff.

Dear Col. Voss:

The first edition of "Thunderbird" has set a very high standard of excellence. Please convey my congratulations to the men who produced the first edition. I hope that they will be able to maintain the high standard which they have established.

Joseph T. McNarney,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

Dear Tom:

Many, many thanks for the inaugural copy of "Thunderbird." I think you and your helpers have taken a splendid step in the direction of happiness and morale for your command. Please extend to your cohorts my congratulations, as well as my appreciation, for the production of this fine piece of work. I feel their pride in their contribution must fully compensate them for their efforts.

St. Clair Street,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding General,
Third Air Force.

Dear Col. Voss:

Congratulations and many thanks for my copy of the first issue of "Thunderbird." It serves as both a pictorial and verbal delineation of the activities at MacDill Field—from its inauguration up to the present war time tempo. It is a splendid piece of work and the men who worked long hours preparing it should be partially repaid by the knowledge that it will be greatly appreciated and treasured by their fellow men because of its close connection with their months in the Service.

Thomas D. White,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff,
Third Air Force.

Dear Tom:

You and your press relations section are certainly entitled to the heartiest congratulations upon this splendid publication. In my opinion it is a tremendous morale factor and don't be surprised if you see an imitation issued from AAESAT in the near future.

Hume Peabody,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.,
AAF School of Applied Tactics.

Dear Captain Marston:

We read "Thunderbird" with a great deal of interest. We want to send our congratulations on a really swell job. "Thunderbird" has been added to our collection of unusual publications . . . Our best wishes to the "Thunderbird's" staff for a successful career.

Jean Timberlake,
"Life," Magazine.

LAST ISSUE

If the editors had had no other measuring stick than the exclamations of praise emitting from the thousands who purchased the March issue of "Thunderbird," we would have considered that alone enough encouragement to labor away our spare time for the past four months producing this summer edition. But we had more. We had letters of praise from every high ranking officer in the Air Corps, including General Marshall and General Arnold. And, we are happy to report, there was a small profit made on its sale, the entire amount of which was added to your recreation fund.

THUNDERBIRD

"The Fighting Man's Magazine"

OFFICIAL MACDILL FIELD QUARTERLY

COLONEL THOMAS S. VOSS, *Commanding*

PRODUCED BY THE BASE PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF

Major G. F. Marston S/Sgt. S. L. Mase

S/Sgt. J. L. Cabore Cpl. J. B. Bryan

Lithographed by The Tribune Press, Inc., Tampa, Fla., U.S.A.

THIS ISSUE

There is so much to write and shout about at MacDill Field that our natural editorial instincts went completely berserk when preliminary plans were laid for this issue. That's why we couldn't resist a bigger magazine this time. Although it's slightly smaller in over-all dimensions, it's 50 pages thicker, making 100 pages in all, and contains fifty times as much information. Furthermore, we lived up to our promises about a WAAC feature, and a story on our Sub-Depot. And that, you'll agree, is 75c worth of education (and souvenir) alone.

Dear Captain Marston:

I don't wonder that you and the other men at MacDill Field who were responsible for its publication are proud of your efforts. It is a very fine job.

E. T. Leech,
Editor,
Pittsburgh Press.

NEXT ISSUE

Sorry we have to mention the ugly word—it depends upon the course of the war! But like the B-26 the name "Thunderbird" exemplifies, the Winter issue will be roaring into your life on December first with even greater prestige to its credit. All dressed up in tinsel, and loaded with Yuletide cheer, you'll want to bundle one off with every Christmas package, to Aunt Agatha and Cousin Juniper included. The usual low price will prevail, in spite of the fact that it will be worth twice the amount.

Dear Captain Marston:

I'm stumped on just how to praise your initial copy of "Thunderbird." I've hunted through the dictionary for a more praise-worthy word than superb, but those six letters seem the best I can do. If this word fails to typify "Thunderbird," then I guess words just fail to cover the marvelous job you all have done. From cover to cover and page by page, the magazine is outstanding. You have put over the rugged courage and daring of the Air Corps along with its attention to detail and love of the exciting.

R. M. French, Jr.,
State News Editor,
Miami Herald.

Dear Captain Marston:

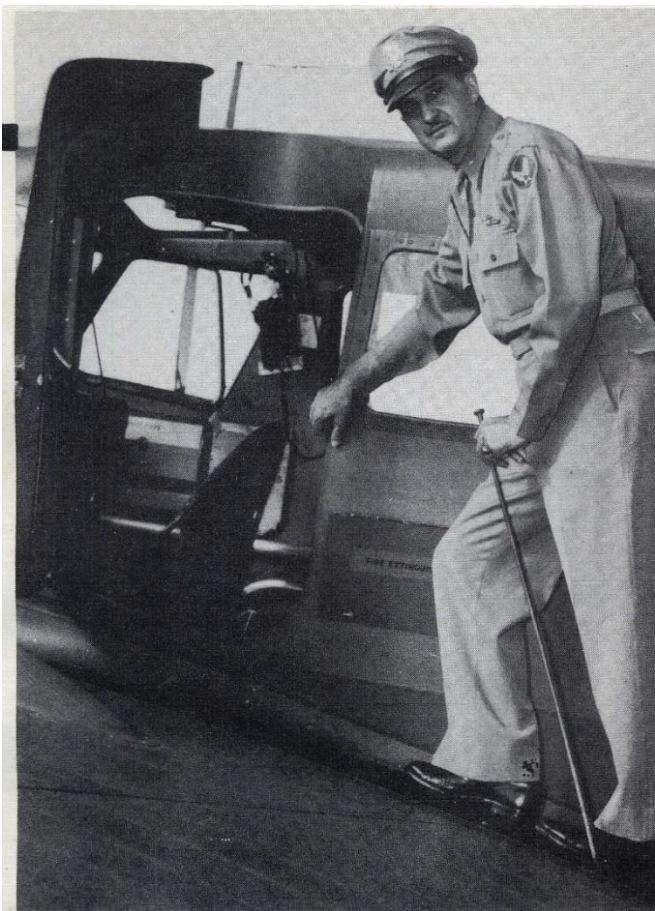
"Thunderbird" is excellent. . . . It certainly is the type of publication a man at MacDill should want to send home and to preserve in later life among his war documents.

R. W. Simpson,
Managing Editor,
Tampa Morning Tribune.

Dear Captain Marston:

You have reason to be proud of "Thunderbird," copy of which I received today. In its format, composition, art and editorial contents, it is one of the finest military publications I have observed to date. Our congratulations to you and your staff on a most excellent publication.

Barry Faris,
Editor-in-Chief,
International News Service.



Col. THOMAS S. VOSS

Commanding

A fate never to be shared by MacDill Field with most of the army air bases in the south when the war is won is that of abandonment, or transfer to a civilian agency. There will always be a MacDill Field.

Not only does this base have a great future. It has had an important past—a past that has required great ingenuity and command ability on the part of its base commander. There are few big fields in Florida, excepting the flying schools, which at one time or other have not been directed by MacDill Field, among them Drew Field and army air bases at Ft. Myers, Sarasota, Jacksonville, and Lakeland, the latter of which is still supervised by this base. Even the army air base at Florence, S. C., was at one time assigned to MacDill Field for supervision.

Directing these bases, in addition to the huge installation at MacDill Field has been a mammoth task, and every week Colonel Thomas S. Voss, air base area commander, was winging his way across the state to one of the sub-bases to confer with his executive officers, and give to the job the personal attention such a responsibility entails.

It's no wonder, then, that the War Department considers MacDill a model army air base, and that the report of the Inspector General to the Army Air Forces, who sought out every record and reviewed every activity, was the highest rating possible to accord any army installation—excellent.



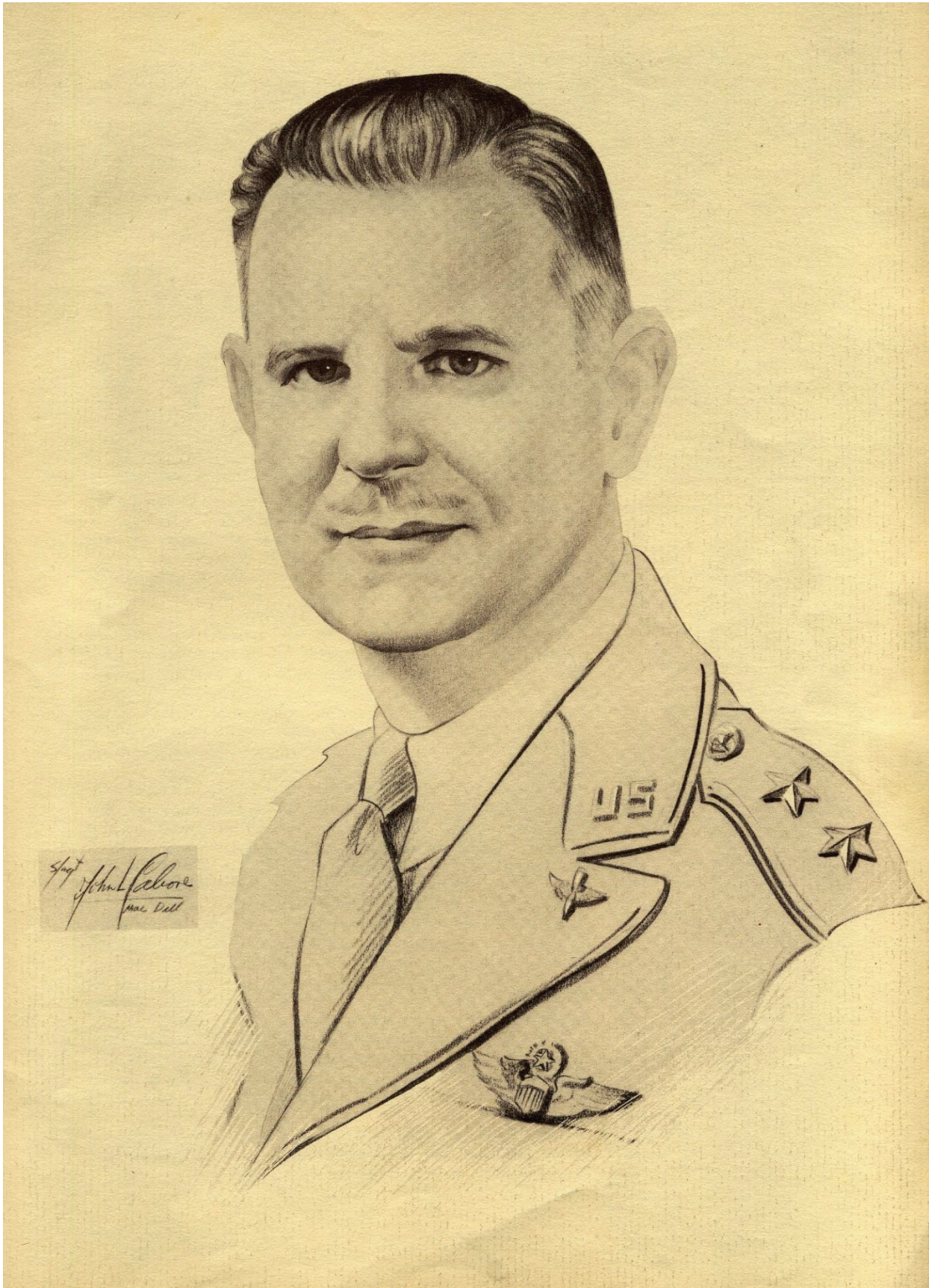
Maj. Gen. G. E. STRATEMEYER

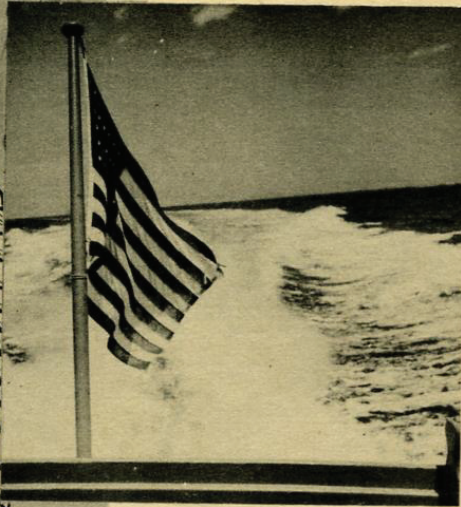
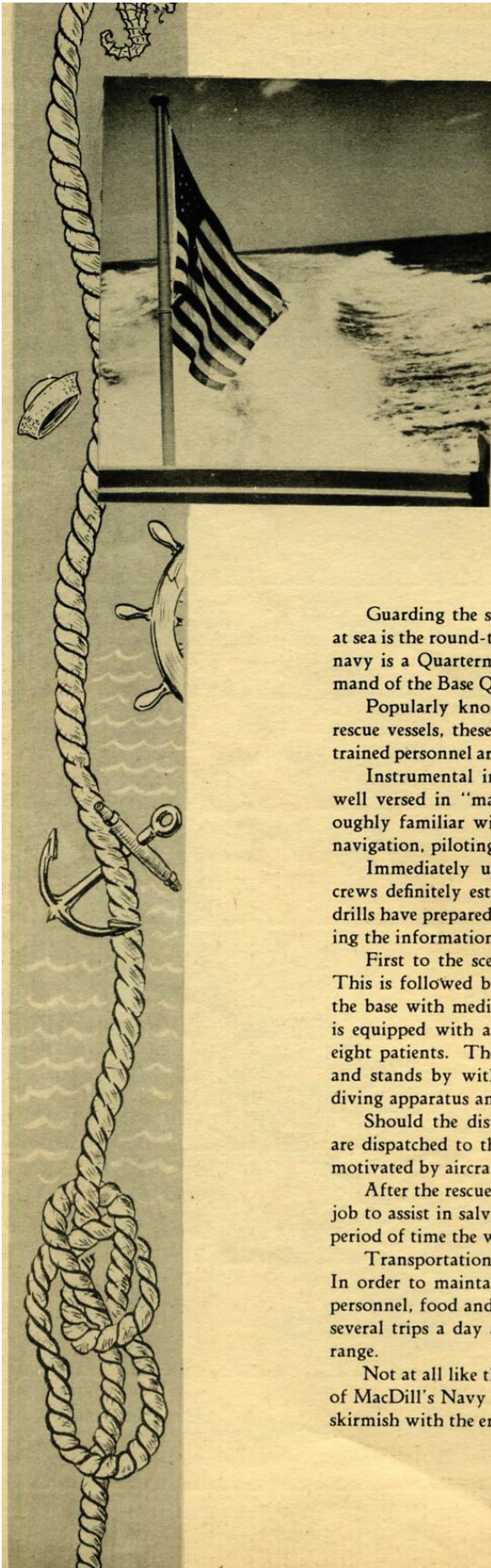
Major General George E. Stratemeyer, Chief of the Air Staff, is the busy executive officer who coordinates the branches of the expanding Air Forces.

General Stratemeyer is a native of Ohio but was appointed to the Military Academy from Indiana. He received his B.S. degree from West Point in 1915, at which time he was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Infantry. Shortly after being commissioned First Lieutenant he entered the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps. Promoted to Captain in 1917 and Major in 1920 shortly after being transferred to the Air Service.

General Stratemeyer is a graduate of the Army War College, the Command and General Staff School and the Air Corps Tactical School. He is rated both a Command Pilot and Command Observer.







THIS AERIAL VIEW SHOWS A MacDILL RESCUE BOAT SPEEDING ACROSS THE WAVES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

MacDill's **NAVY**

Guarding the safety of MacDill's airmen who may be forced down at sea is the round-the-clock job of the "MacDill Navy." This miniature navy is a Quartermaster Boat Company and as such is under the command of the Base Quartermaster, Colonel W. V. Witcher.

Popularly known as "crash boats," but technically called aircraft rescue vessels, these high-powered, seaworthy little ships and their well trained personnel are ready for any nautical emergency.

Instrumental in saving many lives, these rugged soldier-sailors are well versed in "marlinspike" seamanship, which means they are thoroughly familiar with the intricacies of knot tying, rope splicing, basic navigation, piloting, signaling and of course, marksmanship.

Immediately upon notification of a crash or forced landing, the crews definitely establish the location of the crippled plane. Countless drills have prepared for such emergencies, and within seconds after receiving the information, they are underway with rescue equipment.

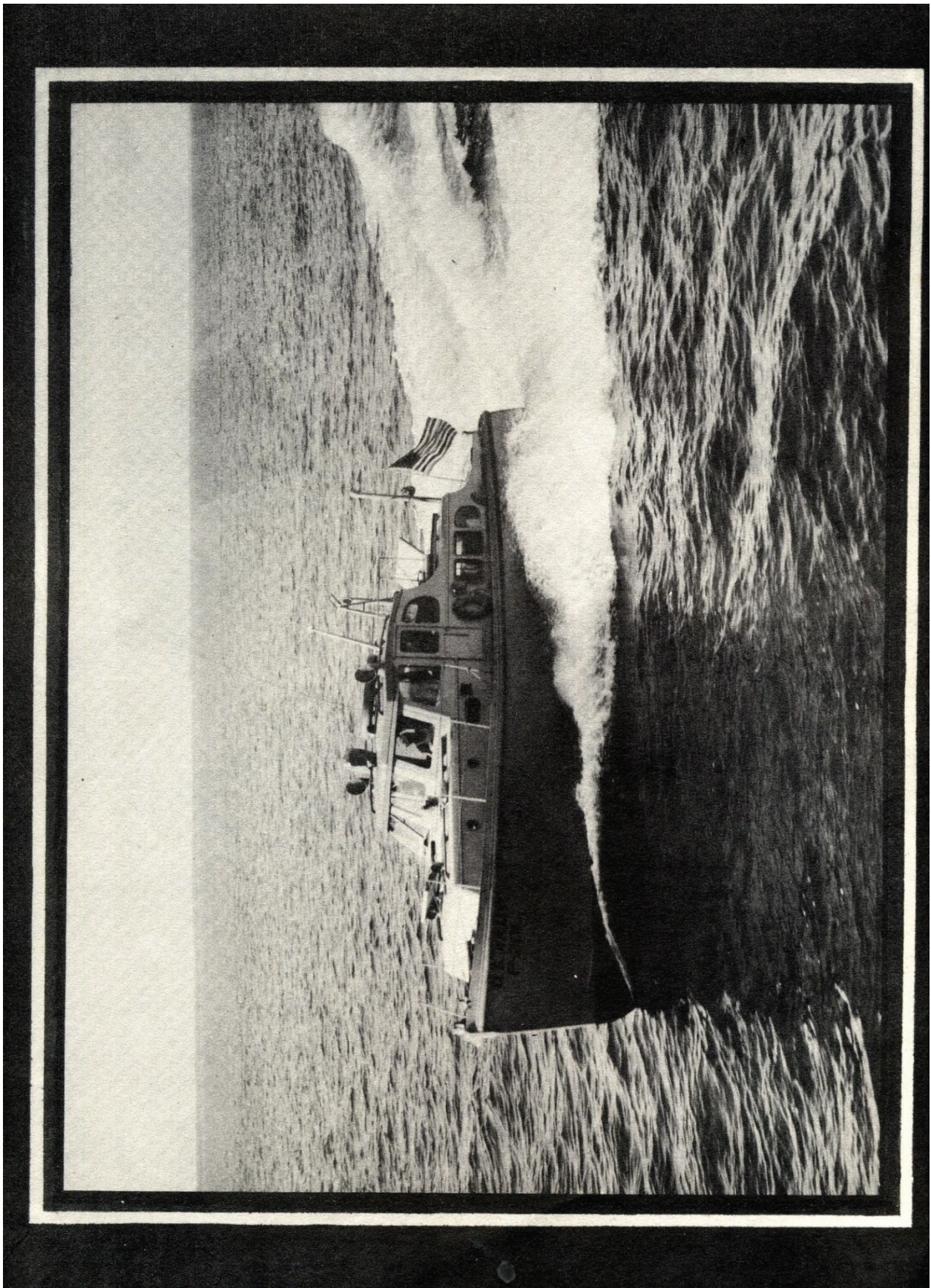
First to the scene is the J-boat, popularly known as a speed boat. This is followed by an equally swift ambulance boat, dispatched from the base with medical officers and other necessary personnel. This boat is equipped with a dispensary and facilities capable of accommodating eight patients. The "mother boat," an 83-foot salvage vessel, follows and stands by with supplies, food and medical equipment, as well as diving apparatus and tools required for salvage work.

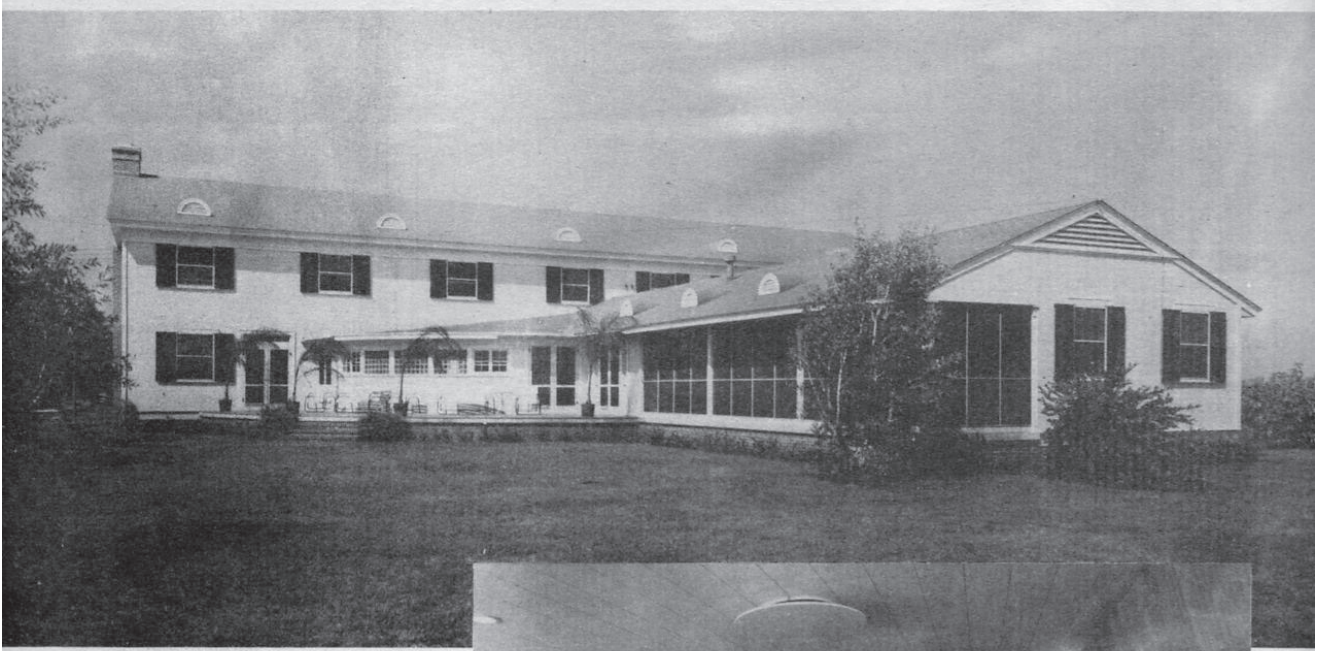
Should the distressed plane land in shallow water, swamp gliders are dispatched to the scene. The gliders are small, flat-bottomed boats, motivated by aircraft engines and pusher type propellers.

After the rescue of victims is completed, the boat crews remain on the job to assist in salvage operations. When such duty extends over a long period of time the working crews are fed on the supply ship.

Transportation is another reason for the existence of MacDill's Navy. In order to maintain the bombing and gunnery ranges at Mullet Key, personnel, food and machinery must be transported by boat. Sometimes several trips a day are required for proper maintenance of the bombing range.

Not at all like the checker-playing, small town firemen, the personnel of MacDill's Navy are ready to handle anything from a diving job to a skirmish with the enemy, but their main job is SAFETY.





EAST VIEW OF THE OFFICERS' CLUB

THE OFFICERS' CLUB



THE "BAR"—CONGENIAL IN DESIGN AND HOSPITALITY

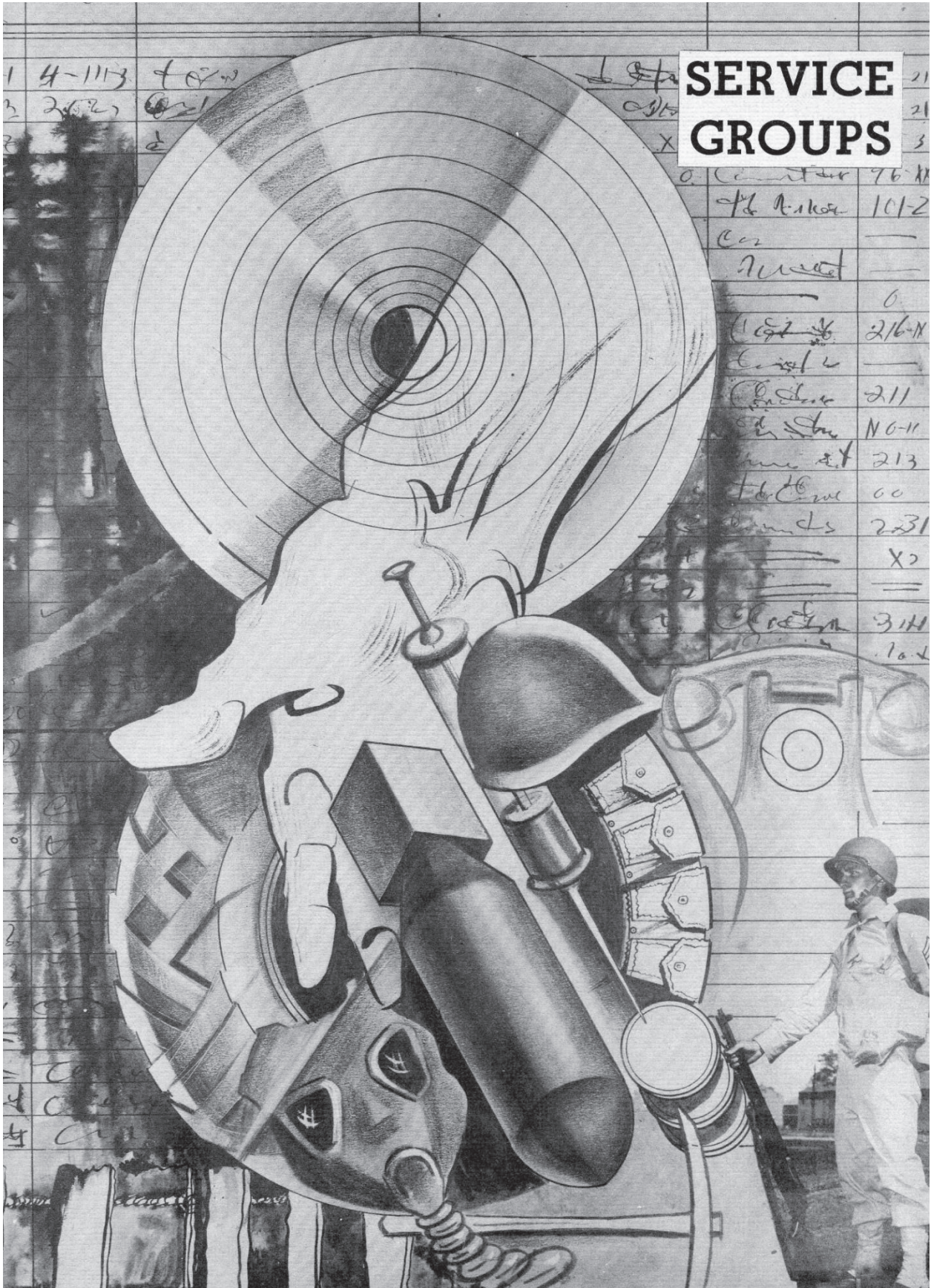
In addition to his clothing, his food, and his lodging, an officer must also furnish his own place of recreation and hire civilian employees for maintenance. Unlike the enlisted personnel, who are furnished all the necessities except a guarantee that they'll get their own laundry back, the officers are paid sufficiently to furnish their own necessities, including base recreational and messing facilities.

Through funds acquired by dues and profits from the bar and mess, the officers at MacDill Field have built and equipped one of the finest clubs in the army, topping some of the best on older posts which still bear the lichens of more peaceful days. The club consists of a large, well lighted air conditioned bar, game room, mess hall, comfortably furnished lounge, and a completely modern kitchen. The officer in charge is Major Joseph V. Lauro, whose long service in the army is indicated by the three rows of brightly colored ribbons.

A chef whose cuisine is nothing short of the Waldorf Astoria, Mr. H. G. Kindig, presides over a battery of cooks who turn out excellent food.

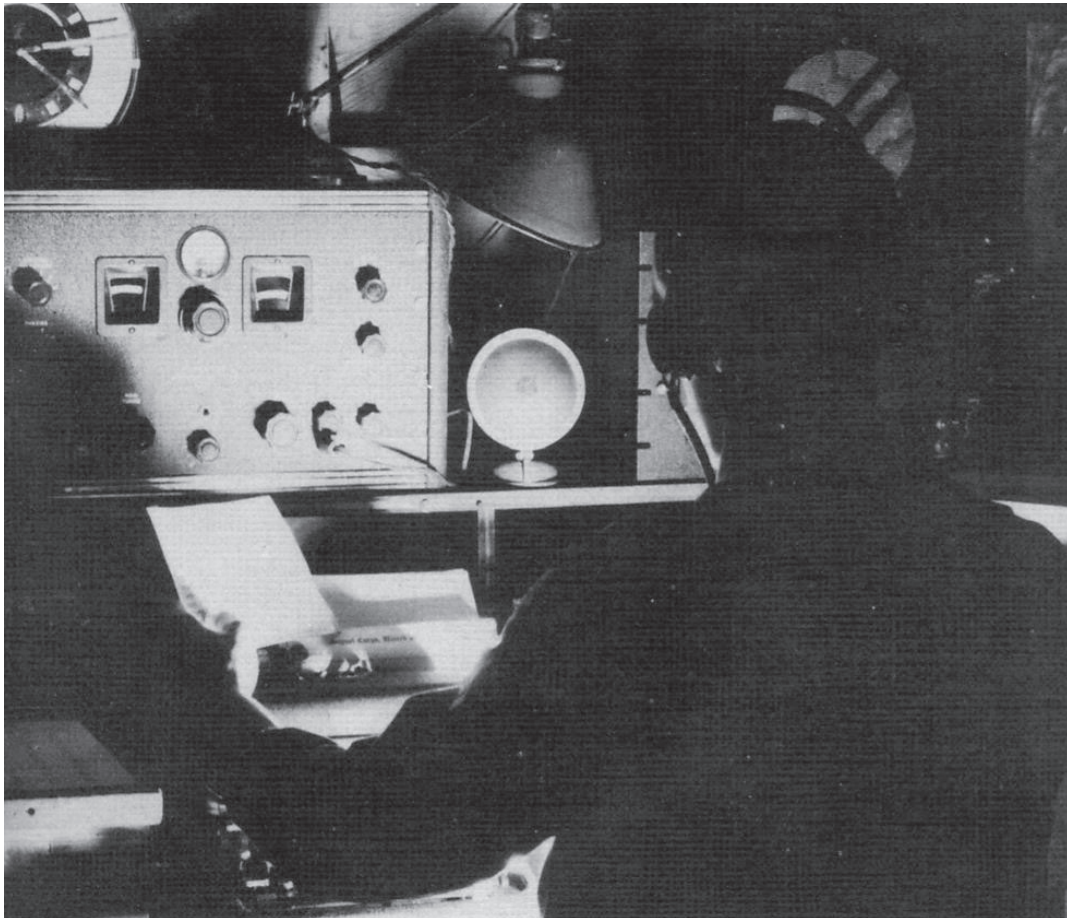
The bar is modernistic in every respect, except in the implications of the name. No hard liquor is sold, and only beer and soft drinks are obtainable. For the past

(Continued on Page 82)



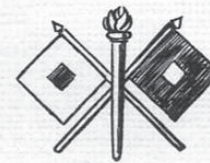
SERVICE GROUPS

0	Comstar	76-11
1	4th Airborne	1012
2	Co2	---
3	Armed	---
4	---	0
5	Co2	216-11
6	Co2	---
7	Co2	211
8	Co2	NO-11
9	Co2	213
10	Co2	60
11	Co2	2231
12	---	X2
13	---	---
14	Co2	311
15	---	102



TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE VIA THE WAR DEPARTMENT RADIO.

SIGNAL



Nerve center of an army air base is the Signal Corps.

It is the duty of this branch to direct and handle all matters pertaining to communications.

In the Army, the Signal Corps in conjunction with the public telephone system for "outside" calls, provides this phase of communications. All telephone lines, phones and switchboards are installed and maintained by Signal Corps experts, many of whom are in training for similar duties in combat zones.

In combat the job of the Signal Corps is vastly more important, the sole means of communications in most cases resting with this organization. Secrecy and speed are the guiding principles of the Signal Corps in dispatching messages. Radio, wireless and wire communications are the mediums used.

Most reliable of all methods of communications is the carrier pigeon system. They have made history in many wars, including the present one, with

their reliability in delivering vital messages. They have braved fierce storms and other hardships to "bring the message through." Making hard targets to shoot at, these invincible birds are depended upon to carry secret messages of extreme importance. When no other facilities are available, the homing pigeon becomes an indispensable link in the field of communications.

No other organization has played a more important role in the Air Corps. In fact the Air Corps is an outgrowth of the Signal Corps, where planes were used to carry dispatches before they were powerful enough to carry guns or bombs. Today the air branch has greatly outgrown its parent organization. The Signal Corps still serves its child by providing radio compasses to guide airplanes, radio command and liaison sets to coordinate their operations, and interphone equipment for communication among the crew members of bombing planes.

CHEMICAL

The Army Air Force stands ready to retaliate quickly and efficiently with "test tube death," wherever and whenever such methods are called for.

The Chemical Warfare unit at MacDill Field is one of many from this branch of service now attached to the Army Air Corps. At an air base the Chemical unit has charge of the storage and care of chemical warfare material, and at MacDill each bomb wing has an attached Chemical Warfare officer who supervises the chemical activities of both offensive and defensive nature. In combat, this officer acts as an advisor to the Commanding Officer.

Chemical Warfare, as we know it today, began in 1915 during the first World War. Modern large scale production of chemicals made possible their extensive use, while technical developments for disseminating these agents increased their value for military purposes.

By an act of Congress, the Chemical Warfare Service was organized in 1920 as an integral part of the Regular Army. This service is charged with the conducting of research in the development of chemical warfare material for the Army; the training in offensive and defensive procedure; and the

organization and operation of special gas troops.

Chemical warfare agents are useful in war for one or more of the following purposes: to produce disabling effects on personnel, to produce dense volumes of smoke for screening operations and to act as incendiaries that will cause destructive fires.

One result of the research carried on by this tireless service has been the constant improvement in the gas masks supplied to the Army, and it is believed that today the U. S. Army is equipped with the finest gas masks in the world for military purposes.

The Chemical Warfare School at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, is the founthead for Chemical Warfare training in the Army. Any new developments are promptly sent out to the forces in the field where they are utilized by the Chemical Units. The foresight and planning of this specialized service is of inestimable value to the Army Air Force.

At MacDill Field the responsibility of training for defense against chemical attack rests on the base

(Continued on Page 82)



**DRESS REHEARSAL
FOR GAS ALERT.**



Page Seventy-one



CAMOUFLAGED LOOK-OUT NEST

AAF ENGINEERS

Meeting the challenge of new conditions, the fighting Engineers attached to the Air Forces have long ago proved to be one of the most indispensable branches at MacDill Field.

Regardless of what is required or how difficult the assignment may be, this versatile organization makes the going easier for American combat units and infinitely tougher for the Axis.

The Engineers build, repair and maintain runways, roads and structures of nearly every kind. In fact so valuable are the Corps of Engineers that advice on Engineer operation is made available to commanders throughout all echelons of the Army.

The Engineer of today, being completely motorized and working largely through the use of power tools, is more efficient than ever before. Yet, despite his modern vehicles and power apparatus he is still able and willing to seize his pick and shovel or rifle and accomplish his mission the "hard" way if necessary.

Two of the most important types of Engineer units are: The Combat Battalion of the Armored Division, and the Engineer Regiments and Battalions (Aviation) of the Air Forces, the former being an essential factor in the mobility of armored col-



ENGINEERS SOLVE A PROBLEM INCIDENT TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION



(Photos this page by Sgt. N. F. Brady)

umns, while the latter is concerned with building and maintaining landing fields and other air base facilities.

Camouflage is everybody's job, but the Corps of Engineers at MacDill is charged with the development of camouflage technique, the preparation of instructive literature, and the procurement of camouflage supplies. Engineers also assist with their technical knowledge in the training and practice of camouflage.

There are many evidences of growing proficiency and interest in camouflage in the Army Air Forces. Reports from combat areas resound with such phrases as: "They hit our dummy planes and guns, but they did NOT get the real ones."

(Continued on Page 82)

ORDNANCE

Supplying the "punch" and fighting tools to MacDill Field's Marauders is the important job of the Ordnance Department units attached to the Army Air Forces.

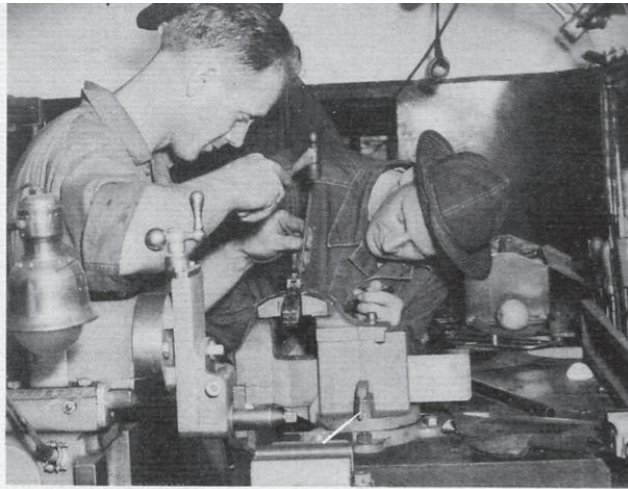
Closely cooperating with the Air Force Armament Laboratory, the Ordnance Department is producing results that make American fighting planes and medium bombers among the most formidably-armed aircraft in the world.

Armed aircraft dates back to College Park, Maryland, when in 1909 the Wright brothers were training America's first military aviators, among them General Henry H. Arnold, present chief of U. S. Army Air Forces. Here, the first machine gun was carried on an airplane and fired on a ground target. Crudely fashioned bombs were also dropped from aloft.

The present day block-busters are a far cry from the "tin cans filled with explosives" that were dropped on the outlaw bands of Villa in 1916, which is the first-known incident of aerial bombardment for combat purposes.

Today U. S. medium and heavy bombers carry bombs that weigh anywhere from 17 to 4,000 lbs. and cost from \$25 to \$5,000 each. Machine guns of .30 and .50 caliber, capable of 1,000 shots per minute, are carried as protective armament.

Charged with the task of keeping pace with scientific research, the Ordnance Department must



PORTABLE ARMAMENT REPAIR SHOP

see that the latest bombs, ammunition and armament are procured for the use of the various fighting branches of the Army.

At MacDill Field the indispensable Ordnance units supply all ammunition and arms both to the fighting medium bombers as well as the various

(Continued on Page 82)



A SCENE IN THE ORDNANCE MAGAZINE AREA PRIOR TO DELIVERING BOMBS TO WAITING B-26's





AERIAL VIEW OF MacDILL STATION HOSPITAL

THE MEDICAL CORPS

Our first line of defense rests with the medical department, which combats our most dreaded enemies—disease and infection.

Records from all the wars in history prove that more men are killed by disease than at the hands of the enemy. Then, too, many wounded soldiers have died in the past because of improper medical and surgical treatment.

With the medical profession greatly enlightened since the last war, the danger of disease and infection have been practically eliminated. The finest doctors, nurses, and pharmacists have joined the Armed Forces in the struggle to defeat the Axis. Their work, in a broad sense, is more instrumental in defeating the enemy than all the bullets and bombs our forces hurl into their lines. Health is the keynote to success, and in all probability disease will be a big factor in determining the losing side. America's medical men are stationed all over the world to insure us that an epidemic will not cause our downfall.

Professional men and women alone are not enough to carry out the work of the medical branch. Enlisted men, specifically trained for certain routine duties, are a great factor in the success of the medical units. They perform duties normally executed by nurses in civilian life. Giving hypodermics, minor first aid treatments and generally looking out for the welfare of the wounded and sick comprises a major part of their work on the home front. In



battle zones, these duties are augmented by the dangerous task of rescuing wounded men in the front lines, rendering temporary first aid and delivering the victims to a hospital.

In keeping with the broadened medical program of the Army, the MacDill Field Station Hospital is provided with the finest equipment available and staffed by leading doctors, surgeons and nurses. The enlisted personnel, too, are among the best trained and most competent in the service.

The Base Dispensary is an important branch of the Station Hospital. Here preventative medicines are administered, minor ailments tended to and preliminary physical examinations conducted.

The soldier stationed here is offered every type of physical welfare service, including dental, eye and the usual medical and surgical care.

Responsible to a great extent for the outstanding hospital facilities at MacDill Field is Lieut. Col. L. O. Crago, chief surgeon, who heads all medical and dental units on the base.





QUARTERMASTER

An organization having the greatest material influence in the daily lives of men at MacDill Field is the Quartermaster Corps. Starting with a force of two men during the revolutionary war, the Army Quartermaster Corps today is comprised of more than half a million soldiers who are serving in all parts of the world with all branches of the Army.

Every soldier should be familiar with the work of the Quartermaster Corps, the organization which feeds and clothes him. Millions of pounds of food a day are required to feed our enormous Army, not to mention the vast amounts daily purchased and stored for future consumption. The Quartermaster is also the greatest clothier in the country, supplying

every stitch of wearing apparel American soldiers are issued, including steel helmets. The general supplies furnished range from snowshoes to horses, giving an idea of the diversified field it covers.

The Base Quartermaster Depot at MacDill Field, commanded by Col. W. V. Witcher, is comprised of a general supply division, including a salvage and tentage warehouse, stationery and office supplies warehouse, clothing warehouse, organization equipment warehouse, salvage yard and general supplies warehouse; a subsistence division, which includes a cold storage warehouse for perishable foods, and a purchasing and contracting division, through which local purchase of equipment and supplies may be made.

In the salvage warehouse shoes, clothing, furniture, typewriters and other items are repaired. Scrap metal is the biggest item handled by the salvage yard.

The Quartermaster is the life line of our armies. We are only as strong as our supply system. To quickly win the war we must keep our supply lines open and destroy those of the enemy. It is with this motive in mind that most of our great aerial assaults are made.

Major General Edmund B. Gregory, Quartermaster General of the U. S. Army, states that, "Today our task is bigger and the problem more complex, but basically the fundamental situation is unchanged. To win the war the troops must be supplied. We will win this war by superior supplies, superior transportation and a superior distribution system."

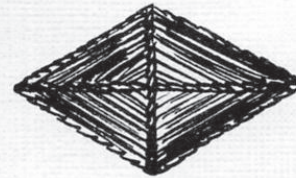
PORTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY STORED IN MacDILL FIELD'S SPACIOUS WAREHOUSES





COL. J. H. DICKIE WITH THE AID OF A SIGNA-GRAPH HANDLES FIVE CHECKS AT ONCE.

FINANCE



Established as a separate branch of the Army by an Act of Congress on June 4, 1920, the well organized Finance Department today is an indispensable branch of the War Department.

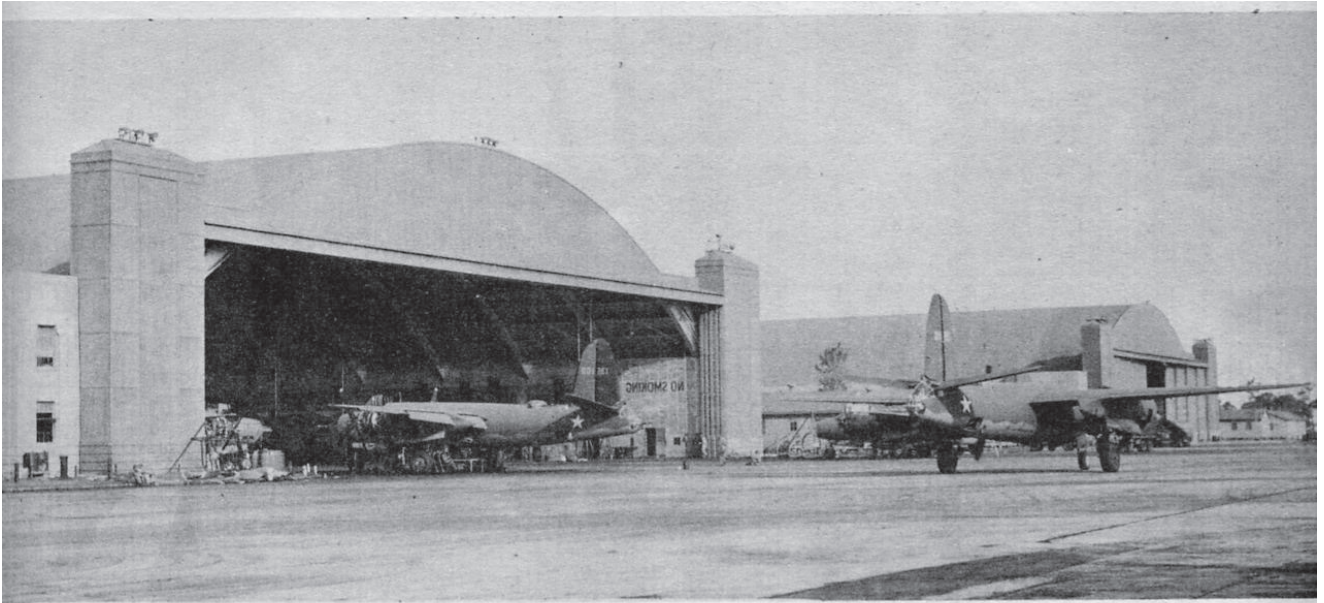
The men of MacDill are chiefly concerned with one department of the Base Finance Office . . . the payroll department. They know that on the last day of every month their salaries are ready, but they probably have not given a thought to the tremendous amount of accounting that is necessary to insure them prompt and correct payment. To make certain that all War Department obligations are correctly paid and immediately when due, an efficient staff of accountants—both civilian and military—are maintained.

This being a procurement station, it handles funds for all expenditures at MacDill Field, including commercial accounts, civilians pay, and enlisted

men's, officers' and WAACs pay. In addition, this office manages the financial affairs of other smaller fields in this area, the Third Air Force Headquarters coming under its service.

Supervision of finance men in tactical organizations which eventually will be overseas is maintained by the Base Finance Office, where they are given added instruction, in addition to technical training most key men receive at the enlisted or Officer Candidate and Officer's Sections of an Army Finance School. The duties of a Finance Office in an overseas post are far more complicated than those within the continental limits of the United States, since all troops abroad are, where possible, paid in the local currency of the area in which they are operating.

(Continued on Page 82)



HANGAR LINE



The most colorful part of MacDill Field is the "line." An hour in the plane-filled hangars and on the huge, bustling aprons will move the most phlegmatic to a deep realization of the effort being put forth by victory determined America.

Bombers that can defend themselves while unleashing their whistling packages of death must have trained crews and an even larger quotient of maintenance personnel. MacDill's job is to train men for both these highly important jobs.

This huge field, that still enjoys the distinction of being the largest bombardment base in the southeast, has contributed many a telling blow to the Axis through its well trained sons who man the Flying Fortresses and the B-26 Marauders on the far flung fronts.

It is difficult to realize that the huge expanse of concrete that is MacDill was only a swampy palmetto flat scarcely three years ago.

MacDill is at war. Dozens of huge Marauders warm their engines, while others are lifting their roaring cigar-shaped bodies from the long runway farther out. Maintenance crews are clustered about those that are temporarily at rest, busy with wing jacks, tool racks and grease guns.

Massive tank trucks rumble by on refueling missions, supplementing the aqua system. Flying officers breeze in and out of Operations offices. A lieutenant colonel drops out of a cloud in his "Cub" and heads for the headquarters of the Bomber Command. Over in the far hangar is a B-26 with its motor cowl off. Mechanics probe deep in its innards, checking and adjusting in the eternal round of maintenance which spells safety and efficiency for MacDill's fighting bombers.

Graceful white gulls from the nearby bay, wheel in the sky as if trying to compete with the birds of war flashing thru the clouds so far above. They are the only element reminiscent of peace in this highly charged atmosphere of war activity, and they are symbolic, too, of the unfettered freedom that Americans always have, and ever shall be, willing to fight for.



WINGSPREAD SODA BAR, MacDILL'S FAVORITE SPOT FOR ICE CREAM ENTHUSIASTS.

POST EXCHANGE

MacDill Field, being a permanent base, is justified in its elaborate equipment and large and unique Post Exchange organization.

The Exchange system at MacDill is built around a central operation which consists of three distinct enterprises, set up on the plan of a modern department store. One being a merchandise store in which are distinct shoe, clothing, drug, candy, tobacco, jewelry, magazine and notions departments. Another being the modern and colorful "Wingspread" soda bar, which was the first P.X. refreshment center to incorporate a distinctly Air Force motif. The other remaining building of the central P.X. is the enlisted men's cafeteria and beer bar, the cafeteria being a 24-hour operation. These three buildings are connected by glass enclosed passages flanked by a "soda" garden and a "beer garden," both being

beautiful outdoor patios with colored umbrella shaded tables and chairs. All in a tropical setting of palms and Florida flowers, where weary soldiers may relax over a snack or a drink.

The main Exchange and headquarters are located in the heart of the field, adjacent to the Base Headquarters, theatre, gymnasium and Service Club. Also located within this area are the Exchange meat market, service station, civilian cafeteria, and a large warehouse for receiving goods by freight. Here the supplies are allotted and delivered by a fleet of four trucks on specified schedules to the branch units of the Post Exchange.

As MacDill Field has expanded, so has the Exchange; setting up complete sub-exchanges at various points over the field where they could best serve

(Continued on Page 82)



MACDILL'S AIR FORCE BAND



PIN UP GIRL FOR GUYS WITH 20/400 VISION

Being assigned to MacDill Field in Florida was a blessing for George. Hazel, her sister, Doris, and mother, Hazel Sr. were able to get away from New York for an extended time and travel to Florida by train where George and Johnnie would finally begin to bond. It was a glorious time and one of the few they talked about often.







SECRET (continued)

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England.

10 June, 1944.

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History Until Arrival in ETO.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.

(through 397th Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

4. a. The Squadron was located and trained at MacDill Field, Florida from the time of activation until October 12, 1943 when they moved to Avon Park Bombing Range, Avon Park, Florida, by Special Order Number 137 pars 7 and 8, Hq, 397th Bombardment Group, dated October 11, 1943. During its location at MacDill Field, however, the Squadron spent six weeks on maneuvers at AAFSAT, Orlando, Florida.

SECRET

596 Bombardment Squadron

397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

31st October, 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of October.

TO : Historical Officer, 397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

October

The month of October was a month of activity for the Squadron. On the fifth of the month a review was held at 1700 in which all four squadrons of the group participated. The troops were reviewed by General Parker, Commanding General III Bomber Command. On October 12th the entire group moved to Avon Park Bombing Range, Avon Park, Florida. This movement was made by truck and convoy. The convoy consisted of 30 trucks and 10 trailers and covered a distance of 122 miles from McDill Field to Avon Park.

The following personnel changes were made in key personnel: (redacted)

The following co-pilots were added to this organization: (redacted)

The strength of this organization on October 31st 1943 was (redacted) Officers and (redacted) enlisted men.

Tactical training was continued throughout this month which consisted of low-level and skip bombing.

John R. Neale

1st Lt. Air Corps.

Asst. Intelligence Officer

APAFR was first opened during World War II under the name of Avon Park Army Air Field. The Third Air Force used the airfield for training B-17 air crews in air-to-ground bombing and for antisubmarine patrols.





Avon Park Air Field

SECRET (continued)

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England.

10 June, 1944.

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History Until Arrival in ETO.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.
(through 397th Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

b. The Squadron remained at Avon Park until November 1, 1943 when it was moved to Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia by Special Order Number 155, pars 1 through 5 dated October 29, 1943, where it continued its training. On November 22nd our Combat Crews left for maneuvers to train with amphibious landing craft and search missions at Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida until November 29, 1943.

SECRET

596 Bombardment Squadron

397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

30 November 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of November.

TO : Historical Officer, 397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

November: November was a month filled with events and activities. On the first of the month, the Squadron left Avon Park, Bombing Range for Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia, a permanent change of station. The flying personnel left by plane at 0800 and the remainder of the Squadron proceeded by rail, leaving at 2000 and arriving at Hunter Field the next day. At Hunter Field, the Squadron progressed along its regular training program getting prepared for its eventual overseas movement, for which we all looked forward to with anticipation.

As new men were assigned the squadron now became close to full strength. There were numerous special courses for all personnel to attend in preparation for field conditions and several days were spent on the rifle range to qualify the personnel in small arms firing. A two day course in basic sanitation and first aid for use in the field was given by the medical department led by Capt. Kennard and Capt. Sherry.

Hunter Army Airfield



Hunter AAF - 15 February 2000

On 30 August 1940, the United States Army Air Corps received approval to build a base at Hunter Municipal Airfield. Official dedication of the airfield as Savannah Army Air Base took place 19 February 1941. The Army Air Corps assigned Savannah AAB initially to the Southeast Air District (later Third Air Force), III Air Support Command.^[3]

The 27th Bombardment Group, equipped with Douglas B-18 Bolo medium bomber aircraft was the first assigned unit to the new airfield. The 27th was reassigned to the field from Barksdale Field, Louisiana. The group consisted of the 15th, 16th and 17th Bombardment Squadrons.

In 1941, the group was reequipped with Douglas A-24 Dauntless Dive Bombers, and on 21 October 1941 the group was ordered to the Philippine Islands in response to the growing crisis in the Pacific. The 27th returned to Hunter, without personnel or equipment on 4 May 1942 after being severely depleted in strength during the Battle of the Philippines (1942), and subsequent combat in the Dutch East Indies and New Guinea Campaigns (1942). The unit was reequipped with A-20 Havocs, remanned and retrained at Hunter. It was then deployed for combat with Twelfth Air Force in North Africa in July 1942.

During early 1942 after the Pearl Harbor Attack, Savannah AAB became a base for several Antisubmarine groups and squadrons of I Bomber Command and later Army Air Forces Antisubmarine Command with a mission to patrol the Atlantic coast, locate and attack German U-Boats.

Throughout 1942, light bomber and dive bomber groups received combat training at Savannah AAB before being deployed to the combat zones overseas. Units assigned were:

- 85th Bombardment Group (Light), 9 June-15 August 1942
- 86th Bombardment Group (Light), 20 June-7 August 1942
- 311th Bombardment Group (Light), 4 July-22 October 1942
- 339th Bombardment Group (Dive), 10 August 1942-6 February 1943

With the U-Boat mission taken over by the Navy after mid-1943, Savannah AAB became a training base for B-26 Marauder medium bomber crews. Marauder groups which received final combat training were:

- 344th Bombardment Group (Medium), 19 December 1943-26 January 1944
- 397th Bombardment Group (Medium), 1 November 1943-13 March 1944

At the end of the war, Savannah AAB was used as a Separation Center for the discharge and furlough of service members returning from Europe. In June 1946, the airfield was returned to the City of Savannah.

SECRET (continued)

596 Bombardment Squadron

397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

30 November 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of November.

TO : Historical Officer, 397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

On 22nd November, all combat crews of our squadron led by Major McLeod, Squadron C. O., left on maneuvers to Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida for training and coordination with amphibious landing craft and to train in search missions. They returned from this mission on 29th November, 1943.

The following personnel changes were made in key personnel during the month.

The strength on 30th November was Officers and enlisted men.

John R. Neale
1st Lt. Air Corps.
Asst. Intelligence Officer



Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, FL - 1949

SECRET (continued)

596 Bombardment Squadron

397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

30 November 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of November.

c. Training missions were continued at Hunter Field through the month of December, 1943. On the first of January, 1944, the Squadron, with the exception of the flying crews, entrained for maneuvers at Atterbury Army Air Base, Columbus, Indiana, arriving January 3, 1944, the flying crews arriving January 5, 1944. With these maneuvers completed, we arrived back at Hunter Field on January 17th, 1944 and the flying crews arrived January 16, 1944.

John R. Neale
1st Lt. Air Corps.
Asst. Intelligence Officer

[For a detailed description of the training program please see **Appendix A – AAF COMBAT AND UNIT TRAINING MANUAL - 1939-1945**]

As the SECRET reports through November of 1943 indicated, there was much preparation to do and, consequently, not much time expected for the upcoming holidays.

However, no one at home was expecting the very bad news that arrived in early December....