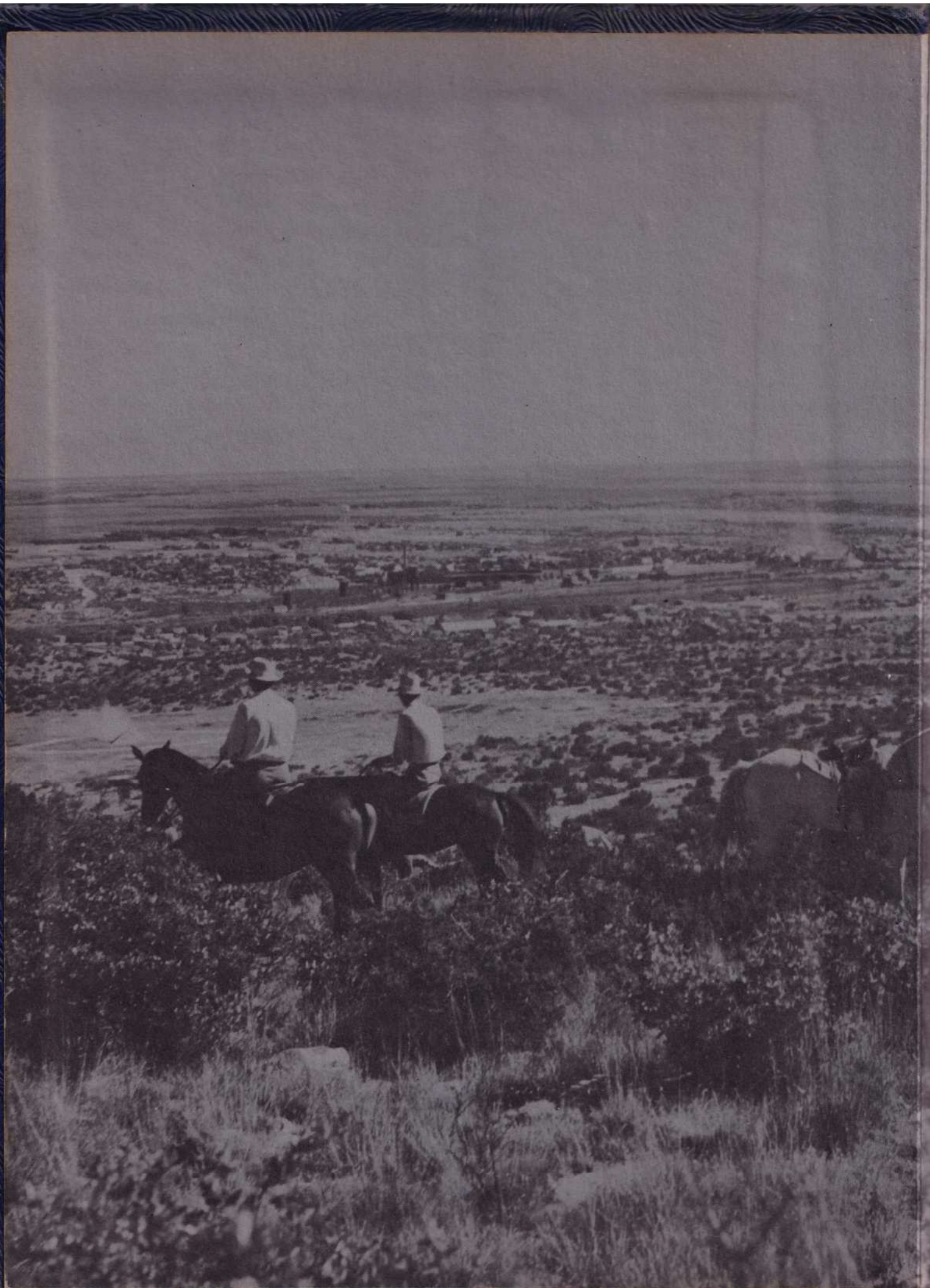


415

415

VIRGIL BOND

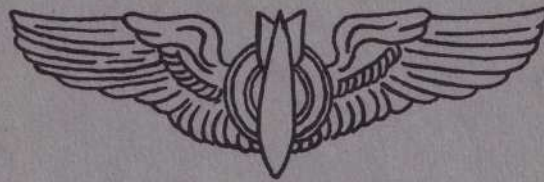












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Art Directors

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Editorials and copy written by RAY H. KASSER





*Class 415*

*Presents*

*Gyro*

*Army Air Force Bombardier School*

*Big Spring, Texas*

*September 1945*





## *Dedication*

This classbook is a testimonial to the months of intensive work and study that lie behind us, and it is dedicated to the man, who, during those months, has acted in the official capacity of tactical officer. Lt. Robert C. Sullender has been more than just a tac officer; he has been friend and adviser, confidante and comrade. Yes, his actual performance has been "above and beyond the line of duty."

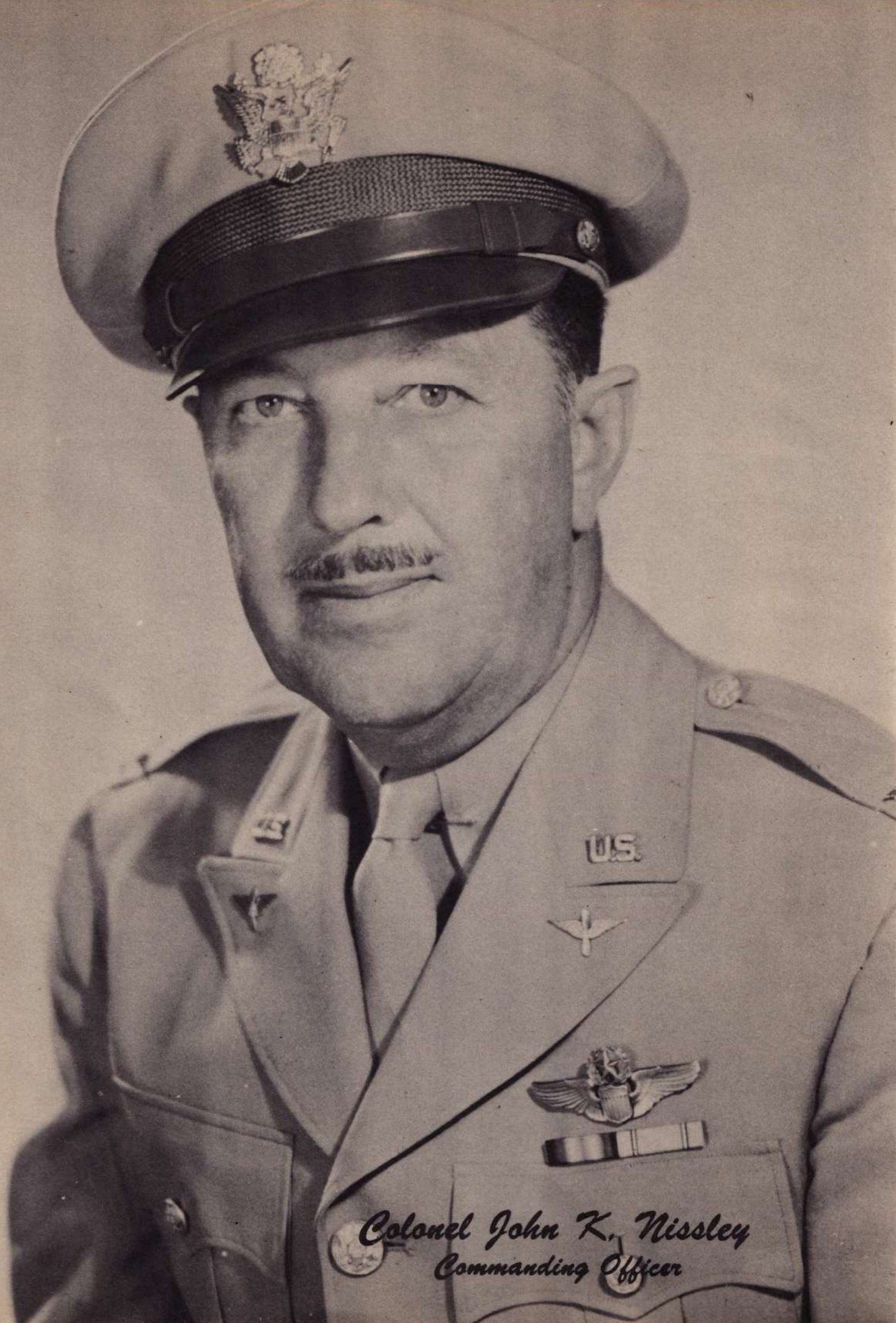
At times when the morale ran low and the obstacles appeared insurmountable, we drew on his seemingly inexhaustible supply of good humour, and once again faced the future with a self-confident grin. Lt. Sullender is the possessor of the rare combination of qualities that serve to make a man an ideal leader, and we realize how fortunate we have been in having such a man as our guiding light.

To express our appreciation and gratitude we dedicate this book to our tactical officer — Lt. Robert C. Sullender.



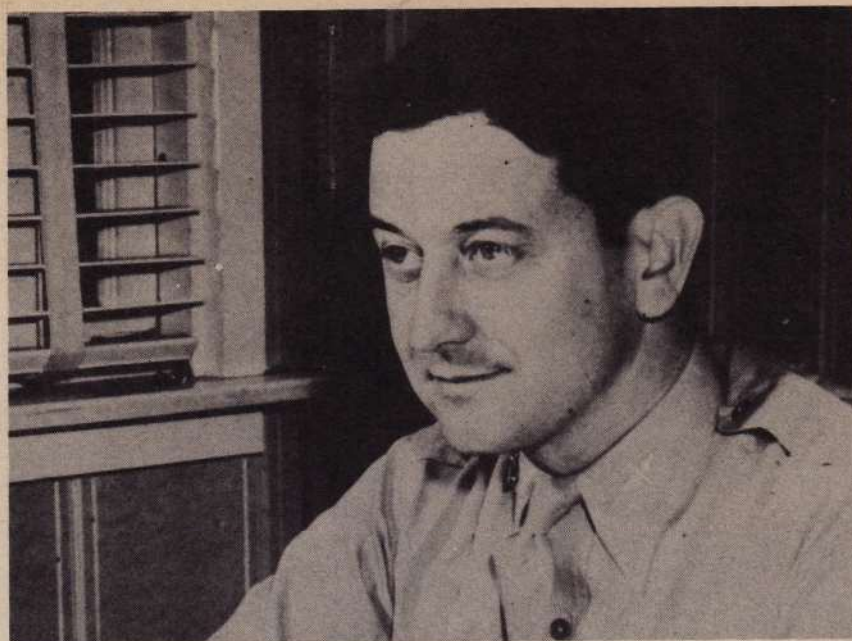




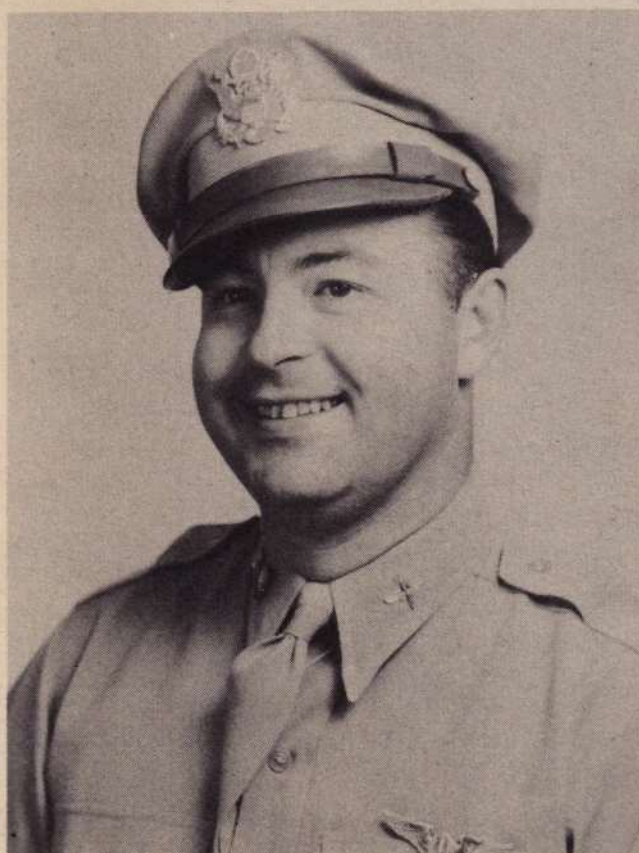


*Colonel John K. Nissley*  
*Commanding Officer*





**COL. ELBERT HELTON**  
Director of Training



**MAJOR E. A. FREDERICKSON**  
Director of Ground Training



**CAPT. L. K. BOWEN**  
Director of Ground School

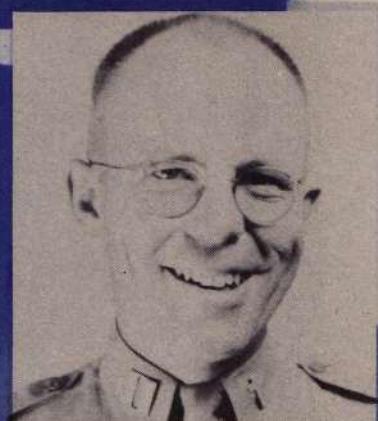


Catholic



CHAPLAIN McMAHON

Protestant



CHAPLAIN BALDWIN

HOLY

HOLY

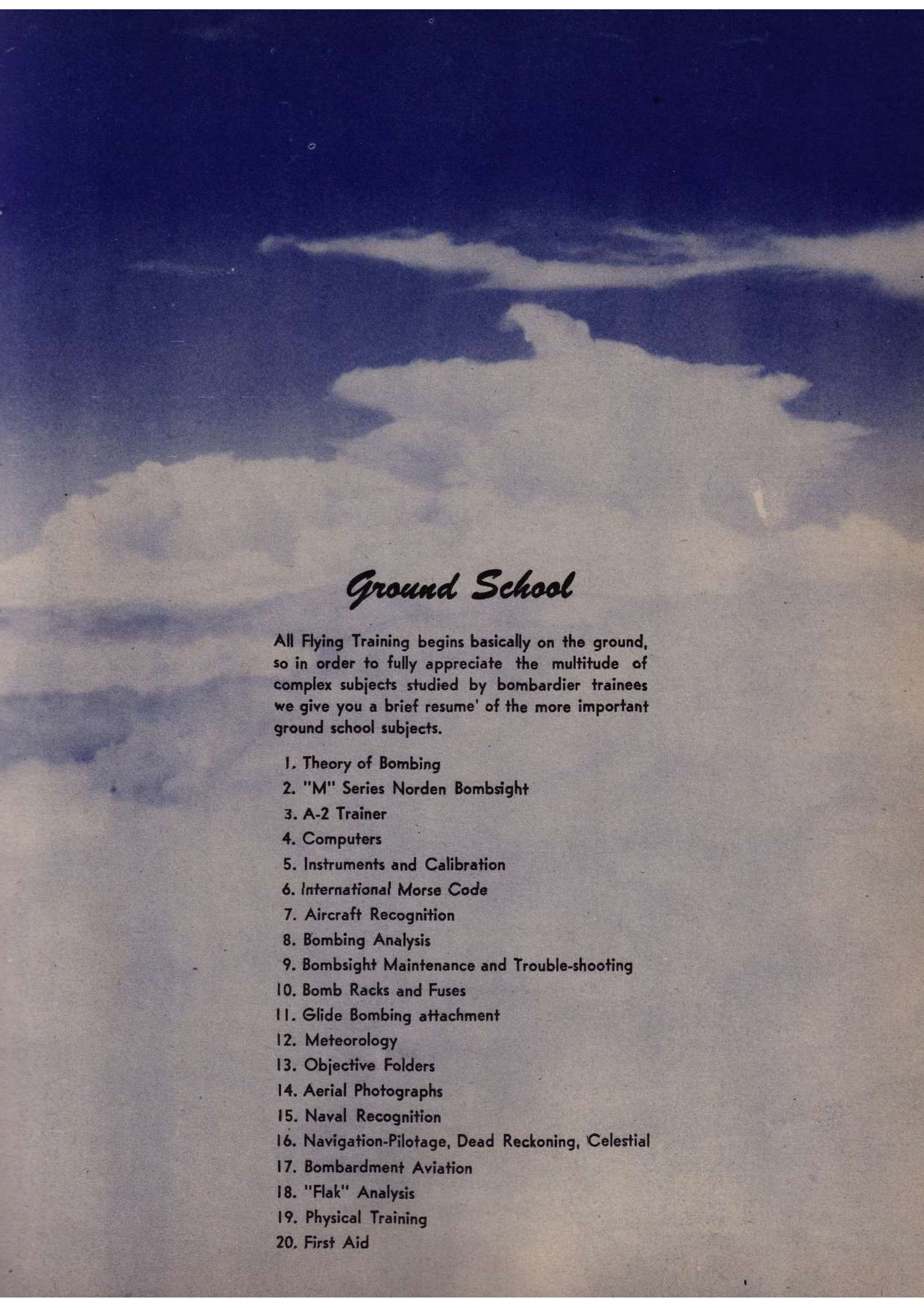
HOLY

Jewish



CHAPLAIN TROY





## *Ground School*

All Flying Training begins basically on the ground, so in order to fully appreciate the multitude of complex subjects studied by bombardier trainees we give you a brief resume' of the more important ground school subjects.

1. Theory of Bombing
2. "M" Series Norden Bombsight
3. A-2 Trainer
4. Computers
5. Instruments and Calibration
6. International Morse Code
7. Aircraft Recognition
8. Bombing Analysis
9. Bombsight Maintenance and Trouble-shooting
10. Bomb Racks and Fuses
11. Glide Bombing attachment
12. Meteorology
13. Objective Folders
14. Aerial Photographs
15. Naval Recognition
16. Navigation-Pilotage, Dead Reckoning, Celestial
17. Bombardment Aviation
18. "Flak" Analysis
19. Physical Training
20. First Aid





# *A Salute*

## *To Our Instructors and Pilots*

Due to the recent turn of events that have been responsible for the many changes that have taken place on the flight line, it has been impossible for us to obtain the necessary photographs and data that would serve as a fitting testimonial to our squadron leaders, flight leaders, instructors and pilots. So, with profuse apologies, we offer this writing in deep appreciation of the untiring efforts of our instructors and pilots in Group I and Group II.

Without their able assistance, understanding, and expert instruction, our training would have been far more difficult and trying than it was, and we fully realize the debt we owe to these men.

Words fail to express our gratitude, so we, Class 415, can only say—thank you.





**MAJOR GAYLORD W. SCHULTZ**  
Commandant of Cadets



**LT. C. G. WALKER**  
Sr. Tactical Officer



**LT. B. D. HORAN**  
Adj. Cadet Detachment

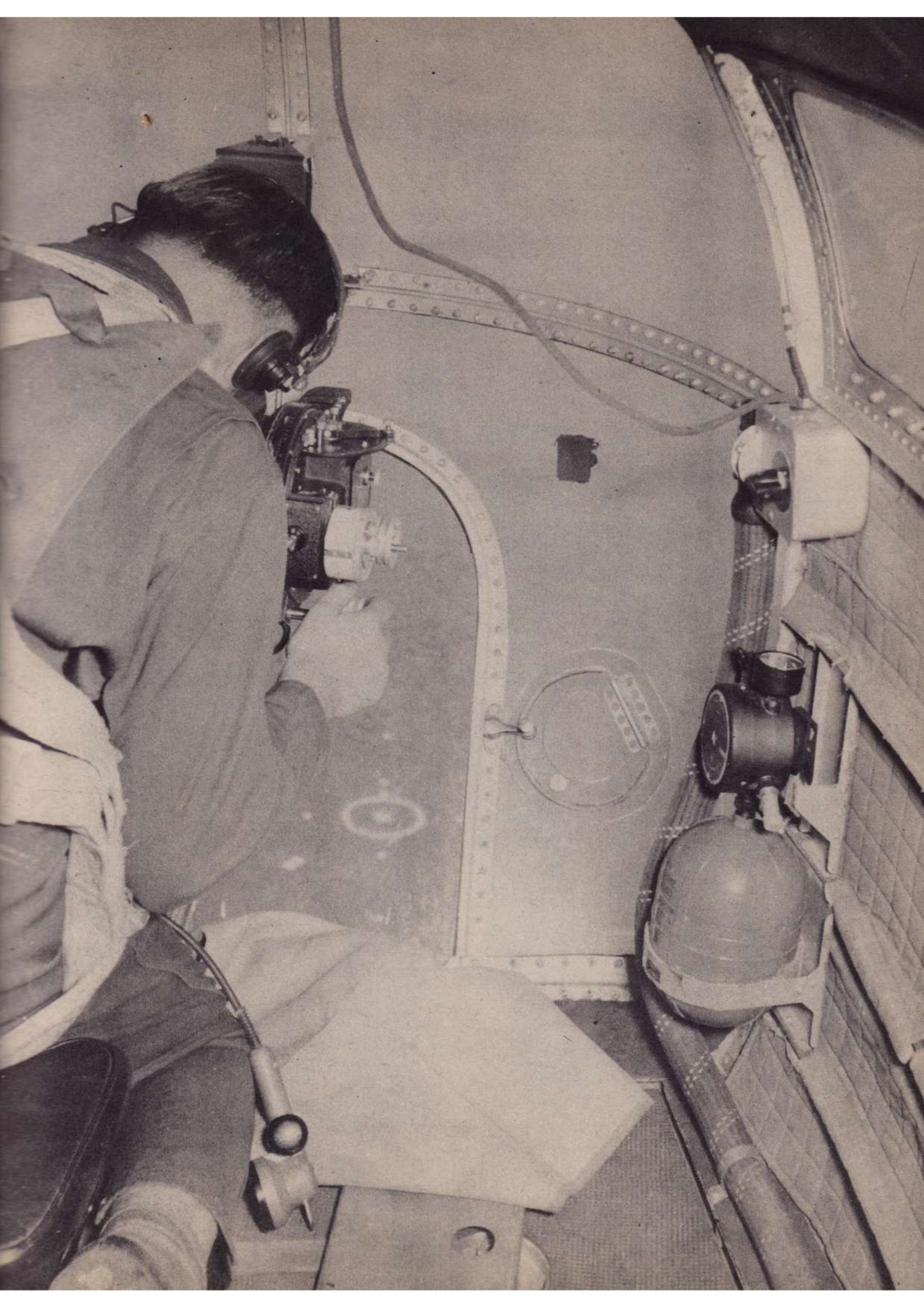


## *Bombardiers' Oath*

*In the presence of Almighty God, I do solemnly swear and affirm, that I will accept the precious trust placed in me by my Commander in Chief, the President of the United States of America, by whose direction I have been chosen for Bombardier Training.*

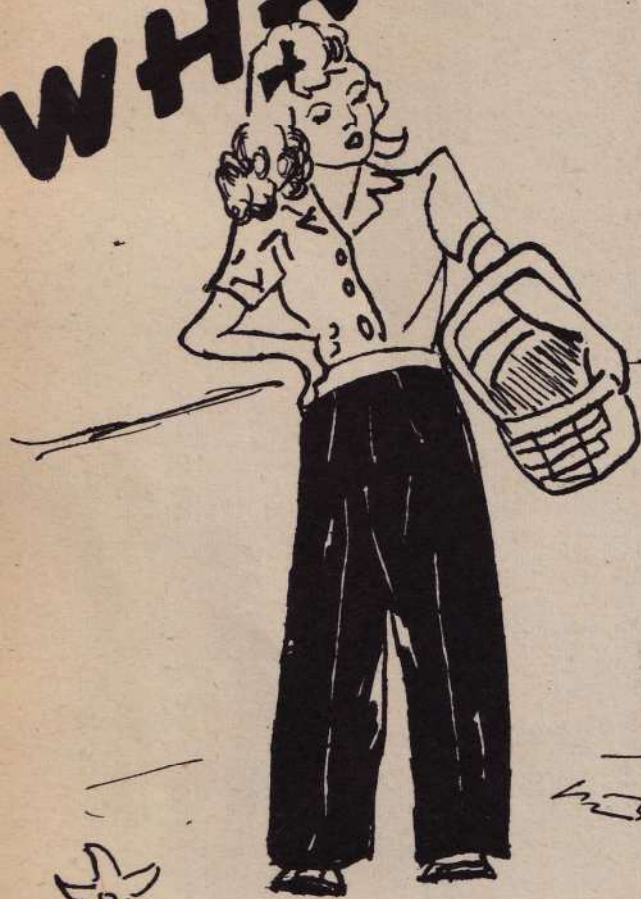
*I pledge myself to live and act according to the Code of Honor of the Bombardiers of the Army Air Forces. I solemnly swear that I will keep inviolate the secrecy of any and all confidential information revealed to me, and in the full knowledge that I am a guardian of one of my country's most priceless Military assets, do further swear to protect the secrecy of the American Bombsight, if need be, with my life itself.*







MOMMY!  
WHAT'S CADETS!











"Ank"  
**Thornton L. Ankelein**  
 9 Warren Street  
 Little Ferry, New Jersey



"Blackie"  
**Albert T. Blackwell**  
 Ridge Road  
 Hanover, Maryland



THE START of ALL OUR TROUBLES!



"Stick"  
**Virgil V. Bond**  
 2855 Bristol Street  
 Omaha, Nebraska



"Bruce"  
**Edward S. Brusquis**  
 305 Washington Street  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts

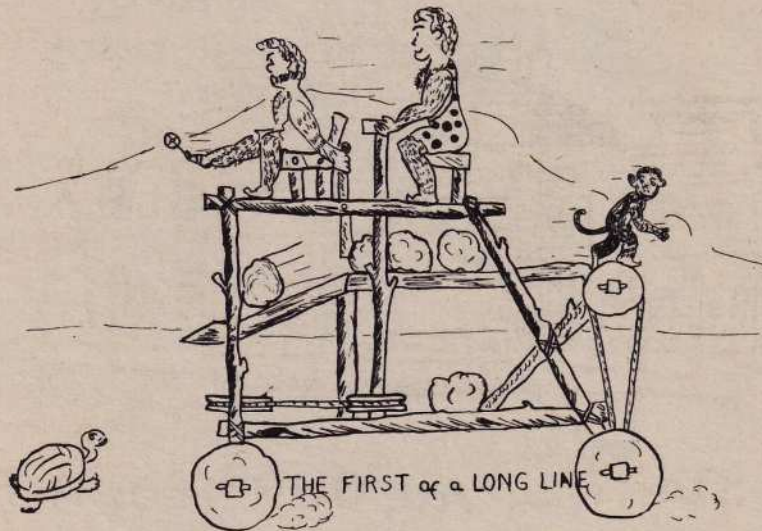




"Punchy"  
**Donald G. Busch**  
 4303A Shreve Avenue  
 St. Louis, Missouri



"Vulture"  
**Alfred A. Calabro**  
 140 W. Avenue 28  
 Los Angeles, California



"China"  
**Wilbert T. Chung**  
 913 E. 20th Street  
 Los Angeles, California



"Denny"  
**Denton S. Dabbs**  
 711 Lewis Street  
 Chattanooga, Tennessee

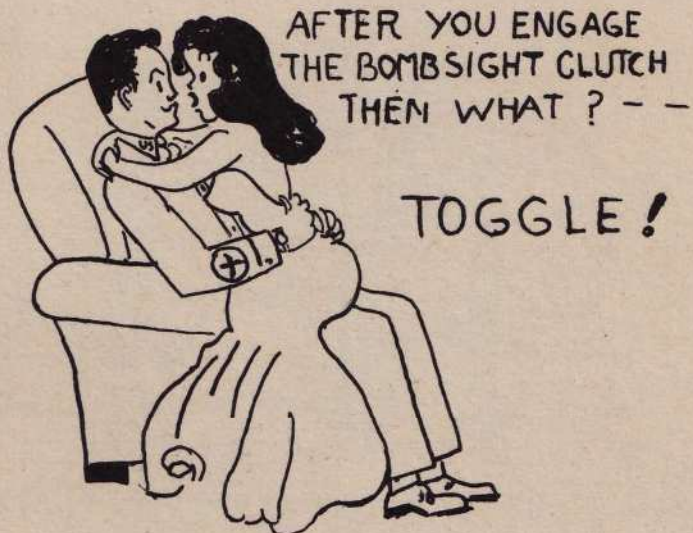




"Pete"  
**Peter L. De Serio**  
 349 Fairmount Avenue  
 Newark, New Jersey



"Jackson"  
**John P. Devitt, Jr.**  
 5236 N. 15th Street  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



"The Cat"  
**Charles H. Ellis**  
 640 S. 39th Street  
 Birmingham, Alabama



"Pat"  
**Francis ~~Pat~~ Farren**  
 800 N. Canal Street  
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

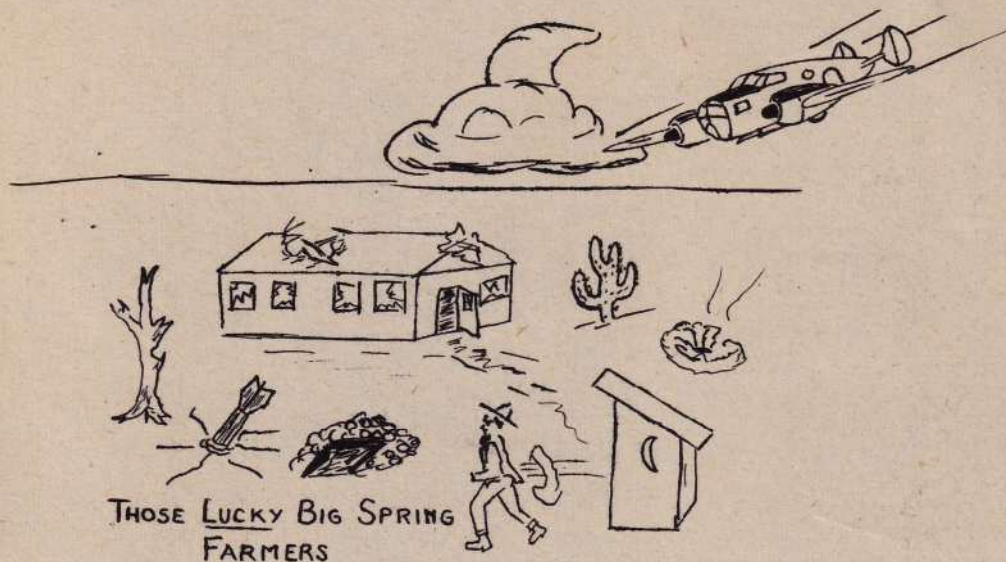




"Bob"  
**Robert P. Forti**  
 5 Alvan Terrace  
 Dorchester, Boston, Massachusetts



"Al"  
**Albert F. Frakes**  
 C. M. A. Lane  
 Columbia, Tennessee



"Norm"  
**Norman R. Greenbaum**  
 217 27th Street  
 Hermosa Beach, California



"Norm"  
**Norman K. Greenbaum**  
 217 27th Street  
 Hermosa Beach, California

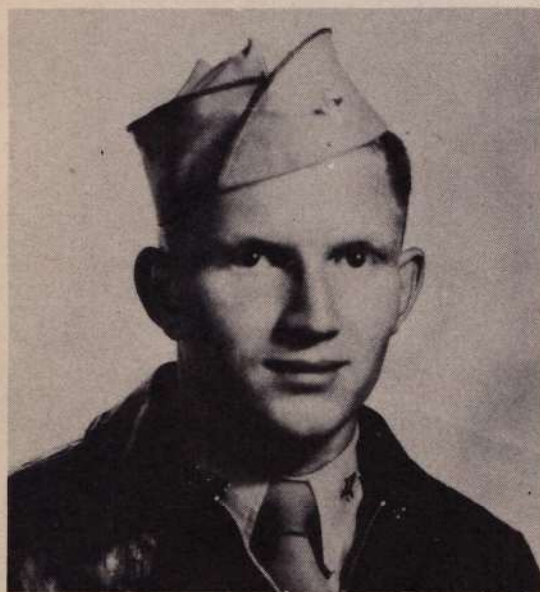
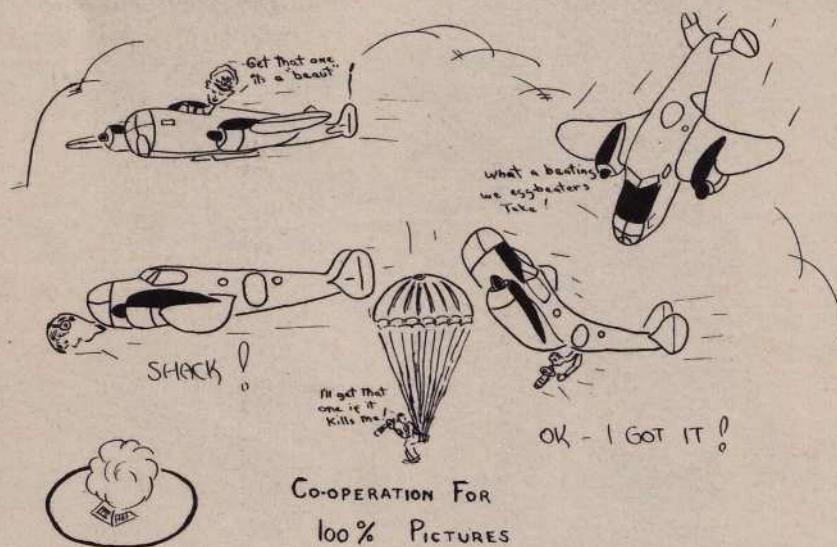




"Grube"  
**Richard D. Gruber**  
 159 Holmes Avenue.  
 Glenbrook, Connecticut



"Habe"  
**Kenneth A. Habeck**  
 Route 2  
 Elkhorn, Wisconsin



"Red"  
**Burton E. Harrell**  
 Box 88  
 Madera, California



"Hass"  
**Joseph L. Hassell**  
 121 10th Court West  
 Birmingham, Alabama

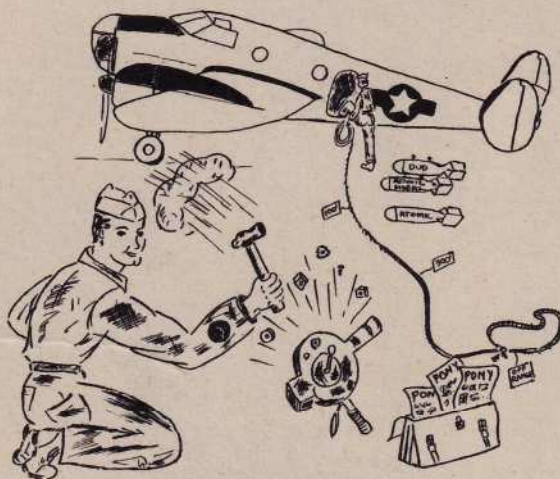




"Kass"  
**Raymond H. Kasser**  
 2409 Golf Road  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



"Kelse"  
**Robert L. Kelsey**  
 162 Summit Avenue  
 Buffalo, New York



**PRE-FLIGHT**



"Pete"  
**Peter Laskow**  
 102 Wythe Avenue  
 New York, New York



"Larry"  
**Richard F. Lawrence**  
 122 11th Street, S. E.  
 Washington, D. C.





"Frog"  
**Albert F. LeBreton**  
 1616 53rd Street  
 North Bergen, New Jersey



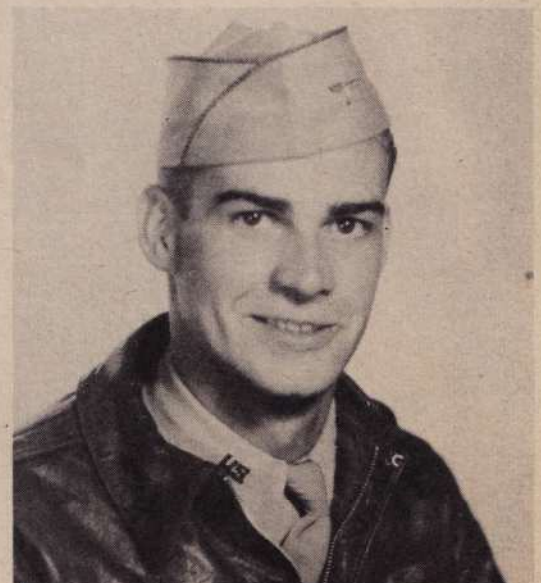
"Bill"  
**William M. Lewis, Jr.**  
 Pleasant Hills  
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



"AND THEN HE ASKED FOR A LEVEL"



"Okie"  
**Onace E. Long**  
 Box 117  
 Panama, Oklahoma

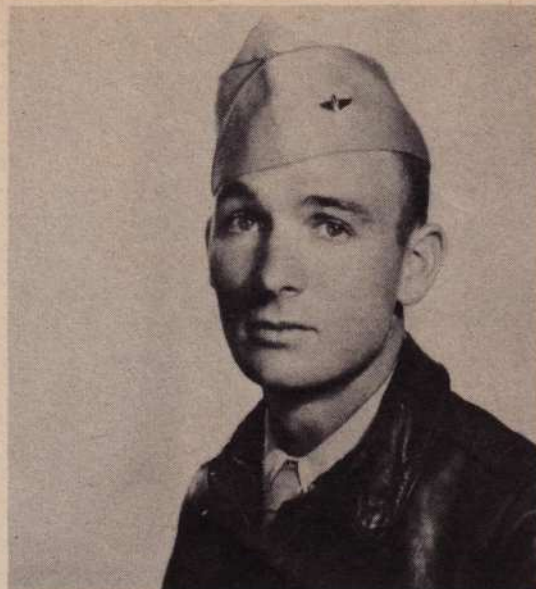


"Mac"  
**James G. McKeever, Jr.**  
 Box 94  
 West Point, Virginia





"Mac"  
Herbert M. McKnight  
4716 Interlake Avenue  
Seattle, Washington



"Ray"  
Ray L. Medlock  
Superior, Arizona



NIGHT FLIGHT !

BUT YOU DID WHEN I  
WAS A CADET.



"Mare"  
John M. Meraviglia  
779 Lincoln Avenue  
Burlington, New Jersey



"Ben"  
Benjamin N. Miller  
77 1/2 McDowell Street  
Welch, West Virginia





"Mitch"  
**John L. Mitchell**  
 422 Euclid Avenue  
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania



"Don"  
**Donald M. Munding**  
 237 Otis Street  
 Rochester, New York



"Pake"  
**Roland G. Paguin**  
 200 Grove Street  
 Woonsocket, Rhode Island



"Pete"  
**Lyle J. Peterson**  
 1115 E. 4th Street  
 Vinton, Iowa

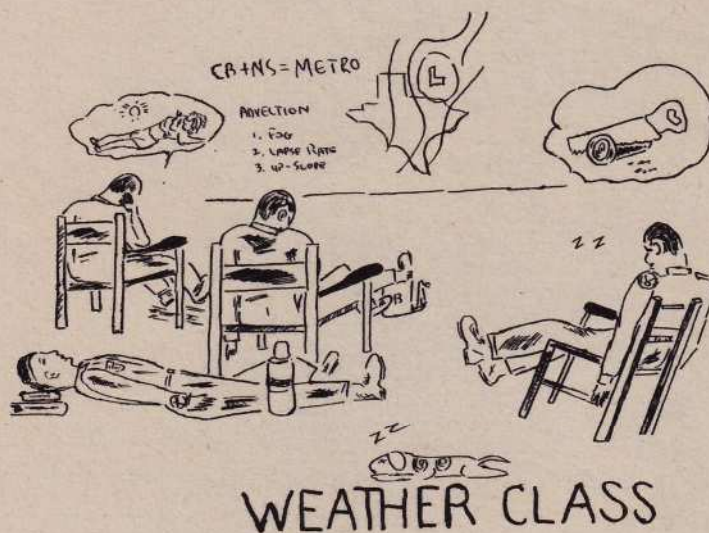




"Joe"  
**Joseph P. Radin**  
 4000A St. Louis Avenue  
 St. Louis, Missouri



"Dick"  
**Richard L. Sasala**  
 841 Broadway  
 Buffalo, New York



**Joseph F. Sassone**  
 755 Southern Blvd.  
 Bronx, New York



"Ray"  
**Charles R. Schattilly**  
 1111 Ward Street  
 Saginaw, Michigan

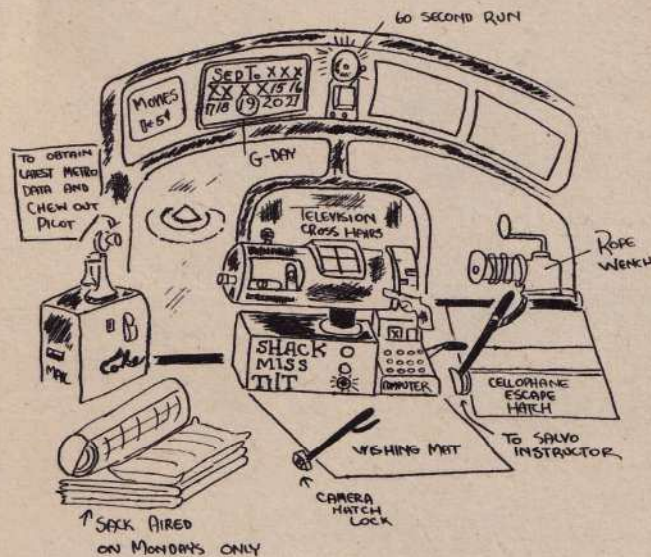




"Buddy"  
**Louis H. Soroe**  
 2600 Cleveland Avenue  
 New Orleans, Louisiana



"Steve"  
**Jack M. Stephens**  
 1233 East Blvd.  
 Charlotte, North Carolina



"Bud"  
**Harry C. Thomas**  
 617 Wenzel Avenue  
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



"Tommy"  
**Donald A. Thompson**  
 313 Sixth Street, N. W.  
 Minot, North Dakota

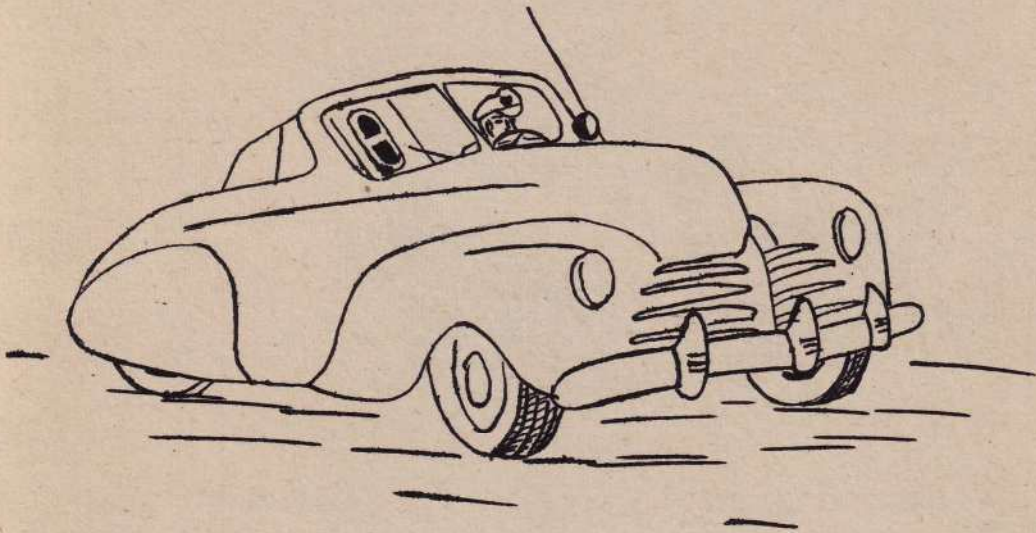




"Jule"  
**Julian A. Toro**  
 Route 2  
 Plainfield, New Jersey



"Larry"  
**Martin True**  
 602 4th Avenue  
 Rock Island, Illinois



**Francis N. Walters**  
 Moravia, New York



**Charles R. Walthour**  
 Route 3  
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania





"Whitie"  
**Glenn A. White**  
 3128 Henrietta Street  
 St. Louis, Missouri



"Willy"  
**Gail D. Wilkin**  
 431 West Walnut Street  
 Hillsboro, Ohio



"Atomic" - M38-A2



"Wolf"  
**Billy L. Wolfe**  
 2547 E. 18th Street  
 Tulsa, Oklahoma



"Gord"  
**John G. Wommer**  
 342 Church Street  
 Millersburg, Pennsylvania





"Zeke"  
Joseph Zeleznok, Jr.  
76 Hermac Street  
Garfield, New Jersey



"Wally"  
Wallace J. Zwagerman  
Hospers, Iowa

## *Wing Staff*

JOSEPH L. HASSELL  
Commander

RAY L. MEDLOCK  
Adjutant

HAROLD C. THOMAS  
Supply

## *Squadron Staff*

RAY H. KASSER  
Commander

DONALD A. THOMPSON  
Adjutant

MARTIN L. TRUE  
Supply

JAMES G. McKEEVER  
First Sergeant



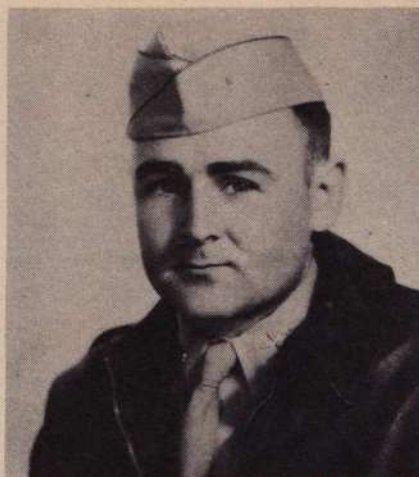
No

No

a



"Bob"  
**Adrien F. Adam, Jr.**  
 258 Washington Street  
 Hartford, Connecticut



"Pappy"  
**Robert H. Brooks**  
 Oceana, West Virginia



"Burt"  
**Robert J. Burton**  
 441 Parkwood  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan



"Gus"  
**Carl E. Gustafson**  
 14 Grand Street  
 Bethel, Connecticut



"Bill"  
**William D. Irwin**  
 338 Lorain Street  
 Sharon, Pennsylvania



"Bob"  
**Robert R. Goad**  
 Route 2  
 Blountville, Tennessee



"Cube"  
**Weston B. Jones**  
 210 Rhode Island Avenue, N. E.  
 Washington, D. C.



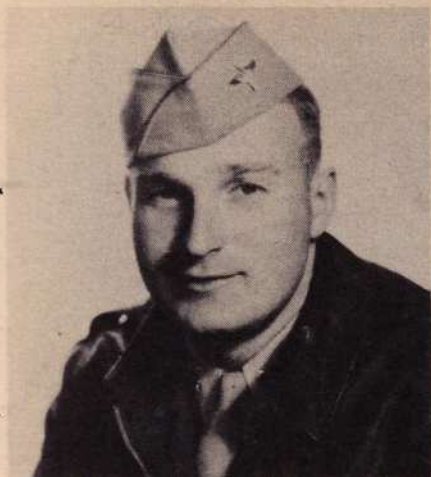
"Kerst"  
**Carleton G. Kestetter**  
 Benton Harbor, Michigan



"Corn"  
**James P. Maish**  
 State Center, Iowa



# Thousand Times No!



"Phosgene"  
**Earl M. Meyers**  
Route 2  
Snohomish, Washington



"Mole"  
**Joseph J. Moll**  
714 Bush Street  
Jackson, Michigan



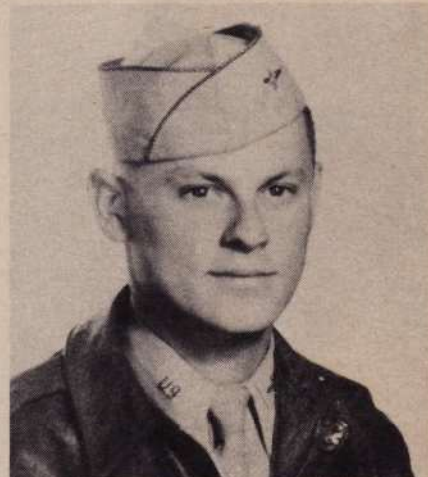
"Raunch"  
**James C. Meyers**  
Route 1, Box 94  
Camas, Washington



"Walmsley"  
**Herbert G. Opitz**  
114 E. Melendy Street  
Ludington, Michigan



**William D. Parks**  
Charleston, West Virginia



"Rebel"  
**James M. Pickett**  
Richland, Virginia



"Peanuts"  
**Edgar K. Pinnick**  
Lincoln, Kansas



**Oswald W. Preedin**  
11808 Darlington Avenue  
West Los Angeles, California



"Scotty"  
**John D. Scott**  
3413 Sheffield  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



# Brazilian Cadets



"Nick"  
**Bal Nicolau Sartori**  
Rua 18 Do Forte No. 2124  
Caxias, Rio G. Do Sul

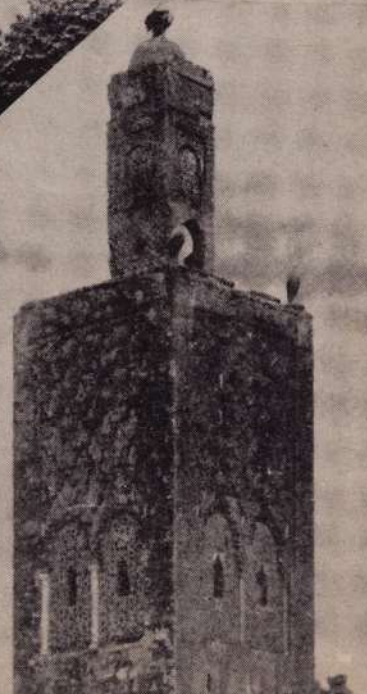
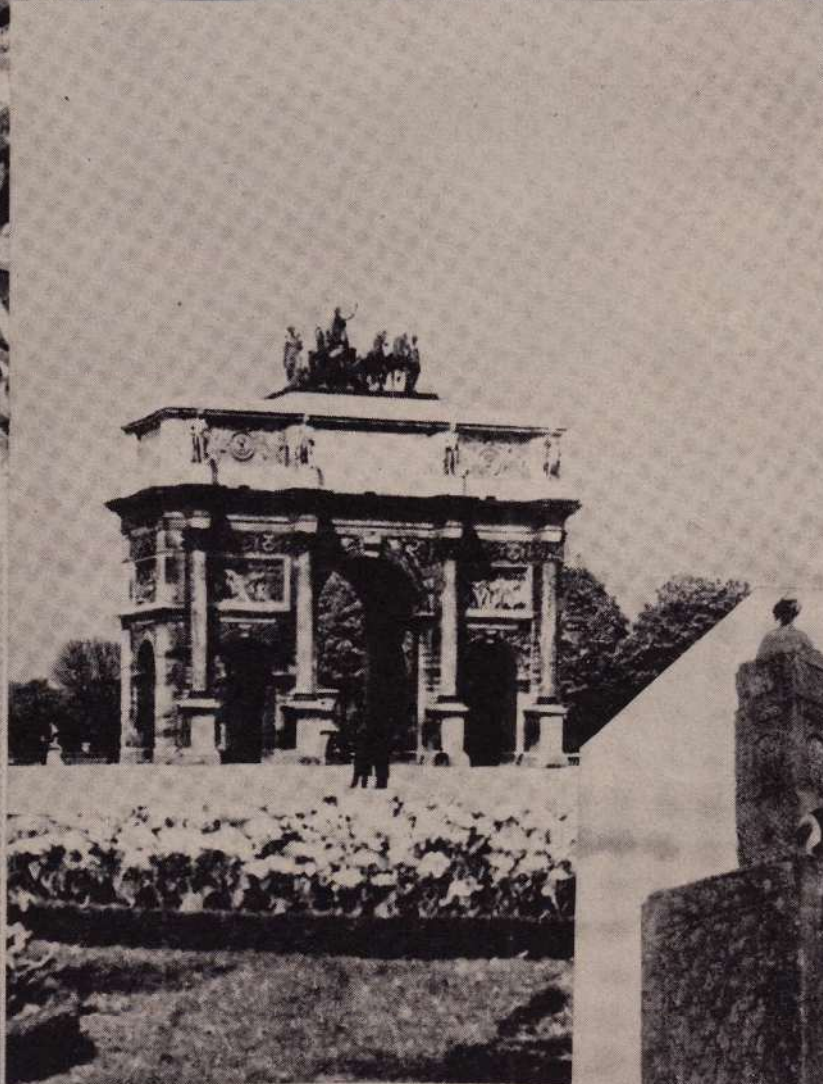
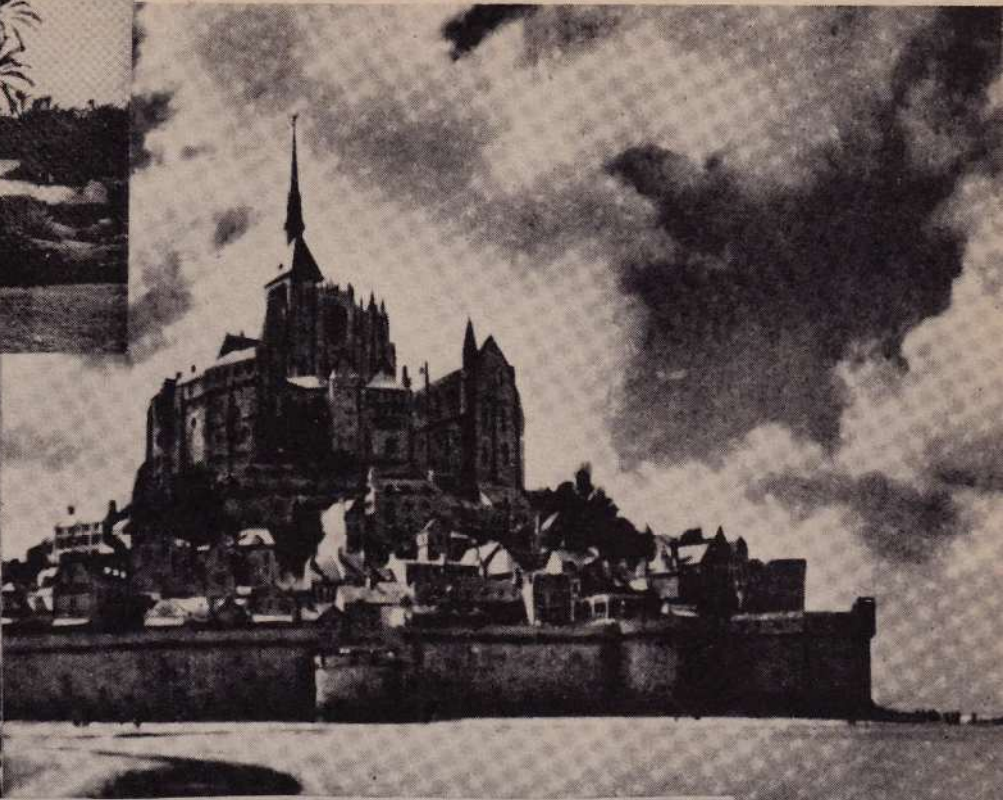
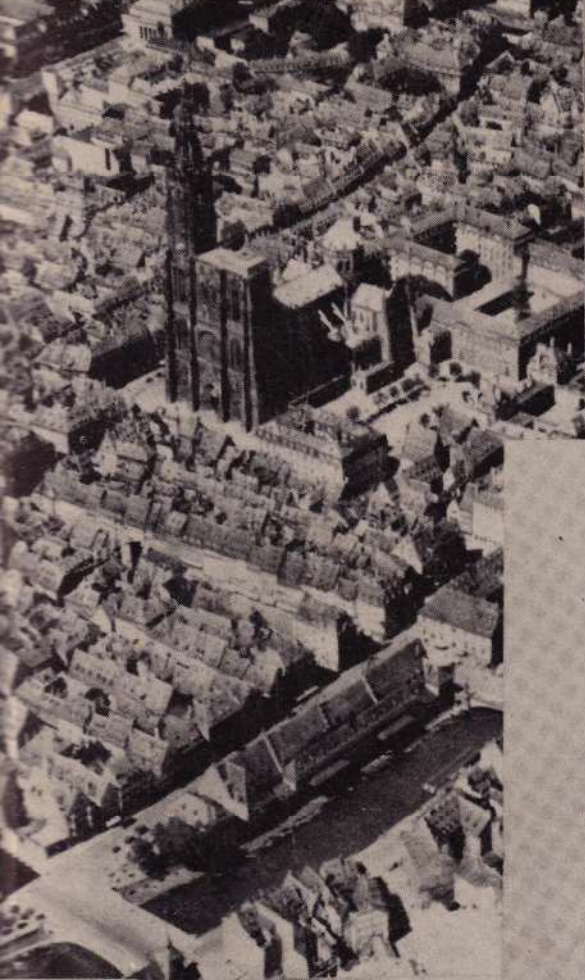


"Tex"  
**Leopoldo L. De A. Teixeira**  
Visconde de Morais No. 29  
Niteroi, Rio De Janeiro





# *French Detachment*







LT. B. BONNARD



ASPT. BOUICHOU



2ND LT. G. J. SCHNITZER



2ND LT. R. E. BIGNON



1ST LT. A. M. BROWNE





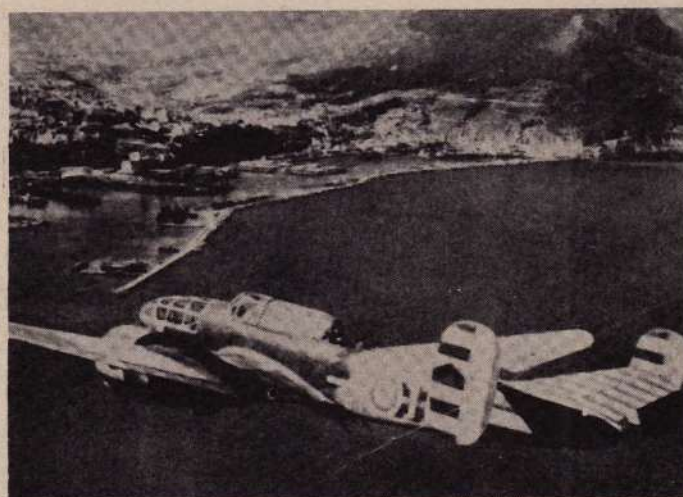
"Gloire Aux Sports"  
**Clement A. Soucare**  
 18 Place Je La Dorave  
 Toulouse HTE Garonne



"Gloire Aux Sports"  
**Emile A. Naulet**  
 Tours, France



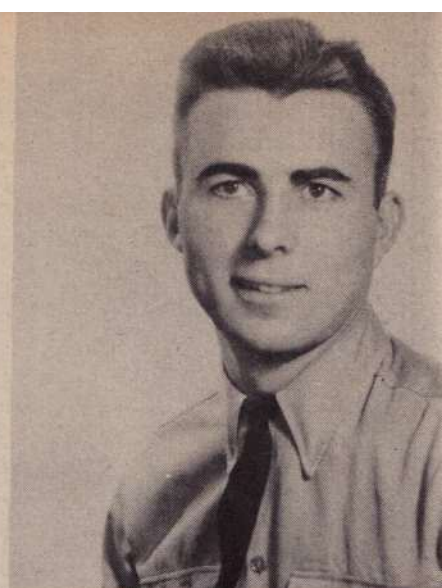
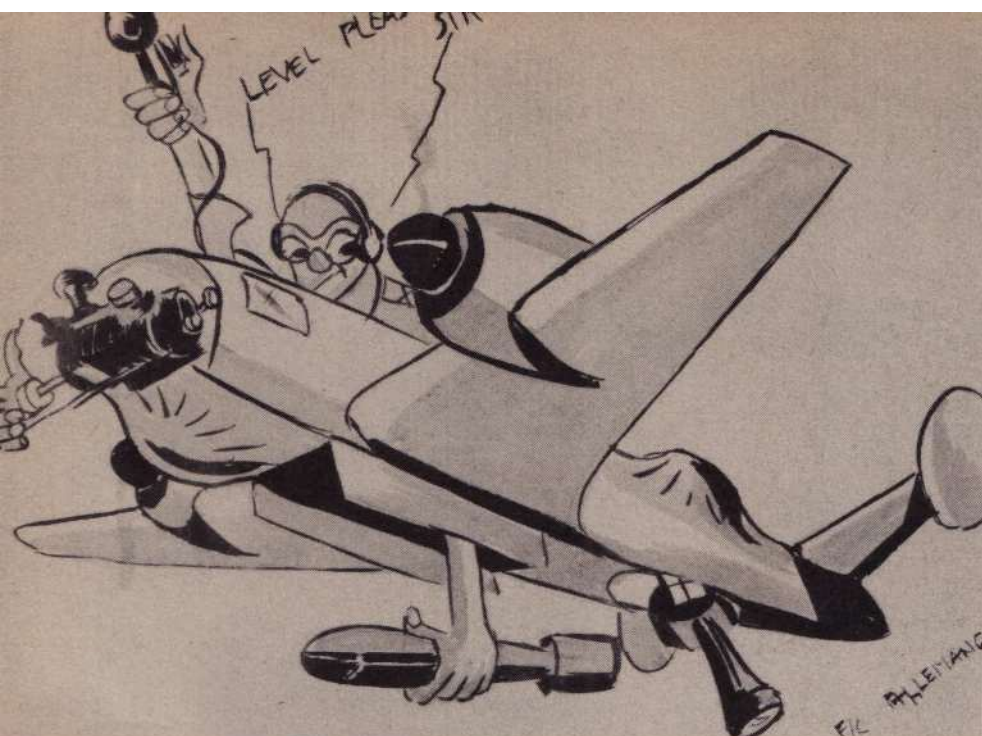
Drinking Rum "Sans" "Coca Cola"  
**Jean C. Monney**  
 780 Cours Le Fayette  
 Lyon (Rhône) France



"L'Art . . . du" "Camouflage"  
**Jacques P. Allemang**  
 15 Rue Ve Mulhouse  
 Strasbourg, Bas Rhin







Je Chasse . . . !!!  
**Joseph M. Casalta**  
 A Mezzavia Ajaccio  
 Corse, France



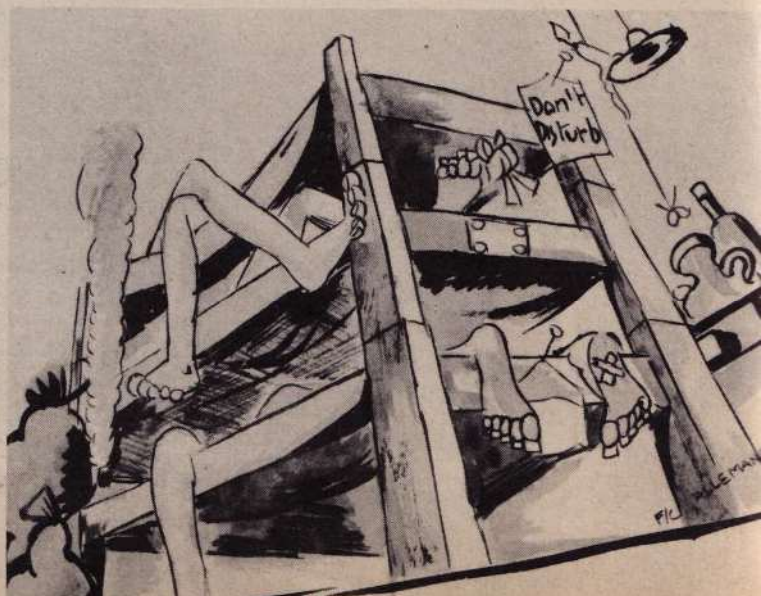
"Take It Easy"  
**Andre Rabasso**  
 8 Rue Capitaine Clavel  
 Oran, (Algerie), France



"L'Oiseau De L'Ile"  
**Pierre L. Giacobbi**  
 Pietroso  
 Corse, France



"Un Coup . . . en passant"  
**Andre A. Elbaz**  
 Place Clemenceau  
 Oujda, Maroc







"Quand Ca Pique"  
**Henri M. Clement**  
 '5 Passerieu Street  
 Philippeville, Algeria



"A' T A Place"  
**Maurice R. Cottarel**  
 17 Rue De L'Aures  
 Batna, Algeria



"Rein ne se Perd  
 Rein ne se cree"  
**F/C Henri Schubert**  
 62 Rue Joseph Bosco  
 Constantine, Algeria



**F/C Marcel A. Mery**  
 40 Boulevard Pasteur  
 Constantine, Algeria



**Emanuel J. Prevalet**  
 Philippeville  
 Algeria, North Africa





**OH, MY ACHIN' BACK!**





# THE LAST OF THE BOMBARDIERS

On a lonely road thru a cold black site,  
A miserable beggar trudges thru the night.  
The people whisper over their beers,  
There goes the last of the bombardiers.

What was a bombardier? No reply—  
For men turned silent and women sigh,  
As a breath-like silence fills the place  
With the gaunt, gray ghost of a long lost race,

It's hard to explain the catch of breath,  
As they seemed to sense the approach of death,  
Furtive glances from ceiling to floor,  
'Til someone or something opened the door.

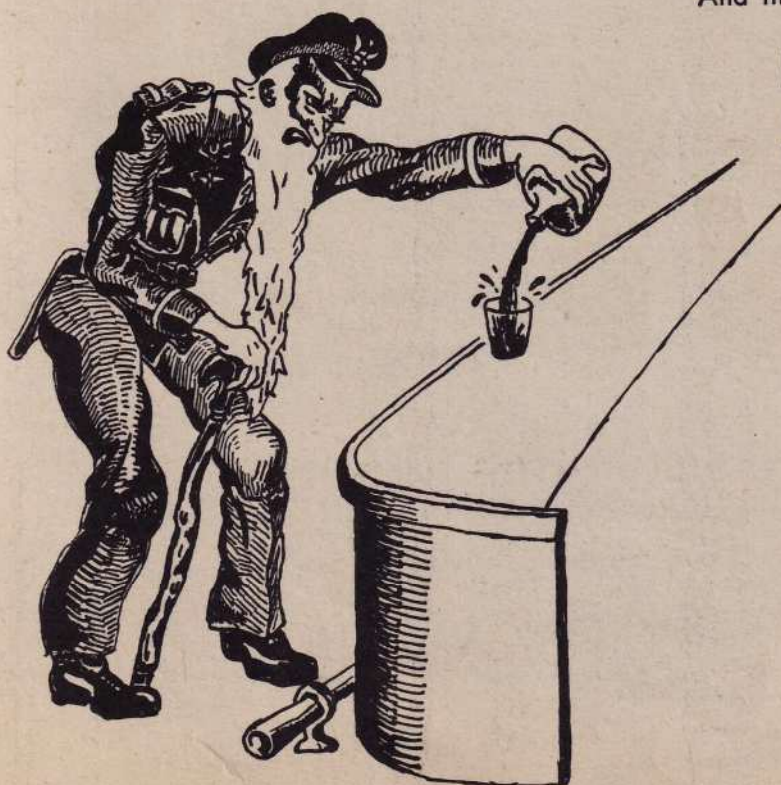
The bravest of hearts turned cold with fear,  
The thing at the door was a bombardier.  
His hands were boney and his hair was thin,  
His back was curved like an old bent pin.

His eyes were two empty rings of black.  
And vaguely he murmured, "SHACK! SHACK! SHACK!"  
This ancient relic of the second World War,  
Crept across the room, and slouched on the bar,

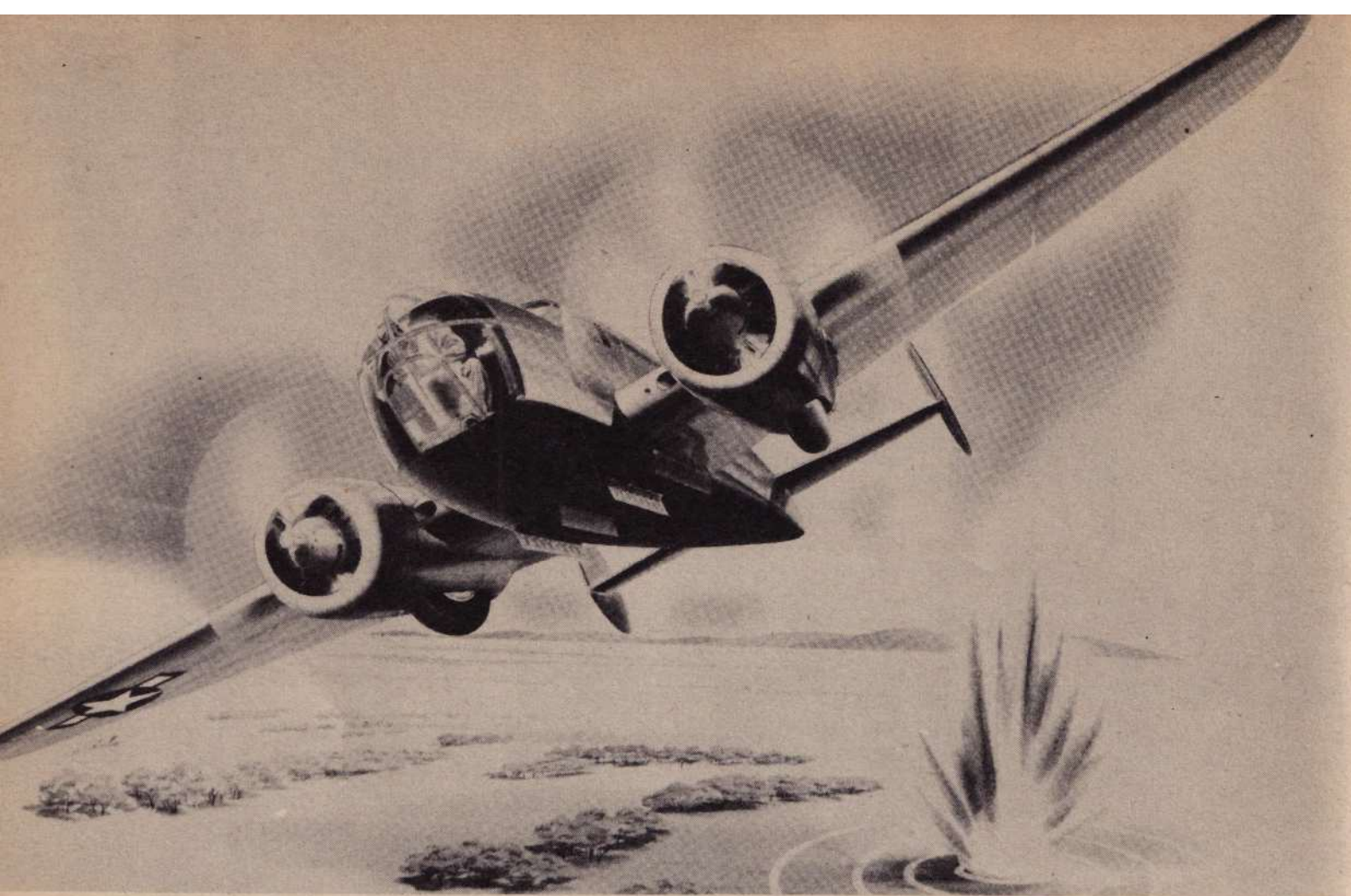
No one spoke, but they watched thru the glass,  
As the beggar produced a bombsight pass.  
And with hollow tones from his sunken chest  
He demanded drink, and only the best,

Glass to his lips, they heard him say,  
"The bomb-bays open—Bombs Away!"  
Then speaking a word he strolled to the door,  
And the Bombardier was seen no more.

People still wonder at the strange last words  
'Twas the strangest phrase they'd ever heard,  
But all thru the times, the phrase has stuck,  
When they say bombardier, they say—"HA-ARD LUCK!"







## *"We Got It Made"*

In the previous pages you have seen the men of Class 415. These men have completed their training and are now wearing the coveted wings of a bombardier—wings that were won by sweat and strain. Yes, it was hard work with little time for relaxation, but it was well worth it, and any one of these men will confirm that.

There were more than a few thrills experienced during these past six months, and one of the greatest was in dropping that first bomb, and wondering where it would hit. In the eyes of the novice bombardier the target suddenly took on the appearance of an important objective, and for the moment he was lost in the exhilaration of bombing a vital enemy installation.

Although dropping bombs became a daily occurrence, the young bombardier never failed to experience that unusual sensation upon calling, "Bombs Away." The seconds that it takes for the bomb to hit seemed an eternity, and he "sweated it out" until he saw the impact, and then he gave out with a sigh of satisfaction, or sometimes an exclamation of disgust at his own inaccuracy.

Many men, having failed to meet the exacting standards of the Air Force, were



dropped by the wayside, but that was all part of the game. The rest of us continued to plug through rigid ground school examinations and through the tedious and fatiguing month of night bombing that kept us worn and weary for what seemed to be years, but was actually thirty days—and nights. Upon completion of that stage we entered the combat bombing phase, and when that reached its termination, the expression, "We got it made," became the battle cry of 415.

But, alas, another type of training had yet to be overcome, and we became navigators, sometimes known as "flying stenographers." The barracks floor was constantly blanketed by maps and charts, and conversation narrowed down to the intricate subject of navigation.

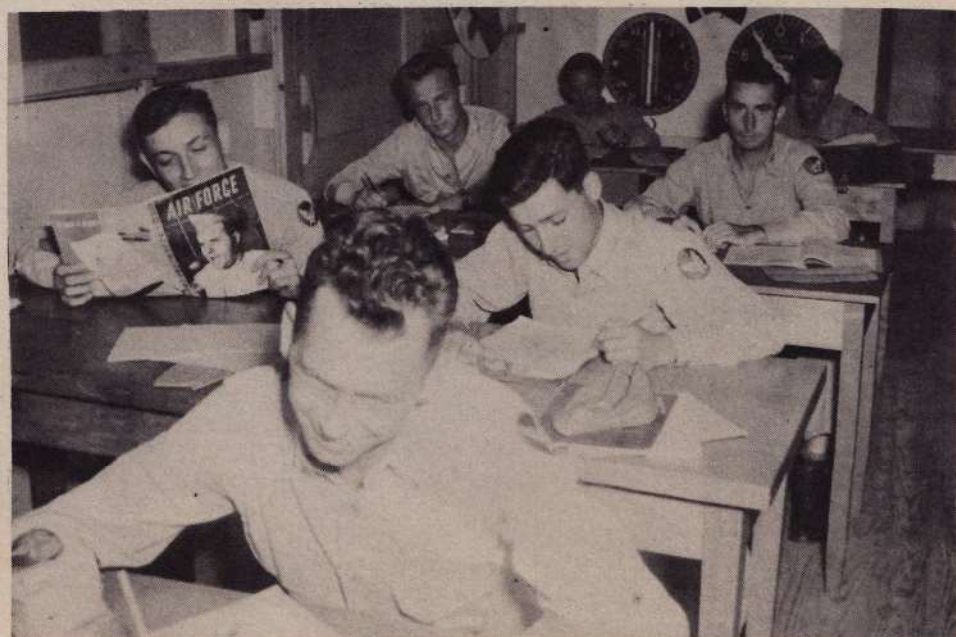
These were simulated combat missions, and we "bombed" targets such as dams and bridges, factories and warehouses. The local VFW building also came under the crosshairs of our bombsights. Although no bombs were dropped the missions developed an air of reality and our minds played with the thought of dropping block busters on Tokyo.

A few weeks before graduation the world received the long-awaited news of the capitulation of the Japanese war-lords. The war was over and it became obvious that all types of specialized training would be suspended or limited, and then we were given the choice of either continuing training or dropping out. It was purely a personal problem and graduation day found Class 415 with many of its former members missing.

Although the war is over, the emergency is not, and we stand prepared to serve Uncle Sam in any way he desires. The future is uncertain, but the men of Class 415 will see it through, and no matter how black it may seem, we will grin and say, "We got it made."

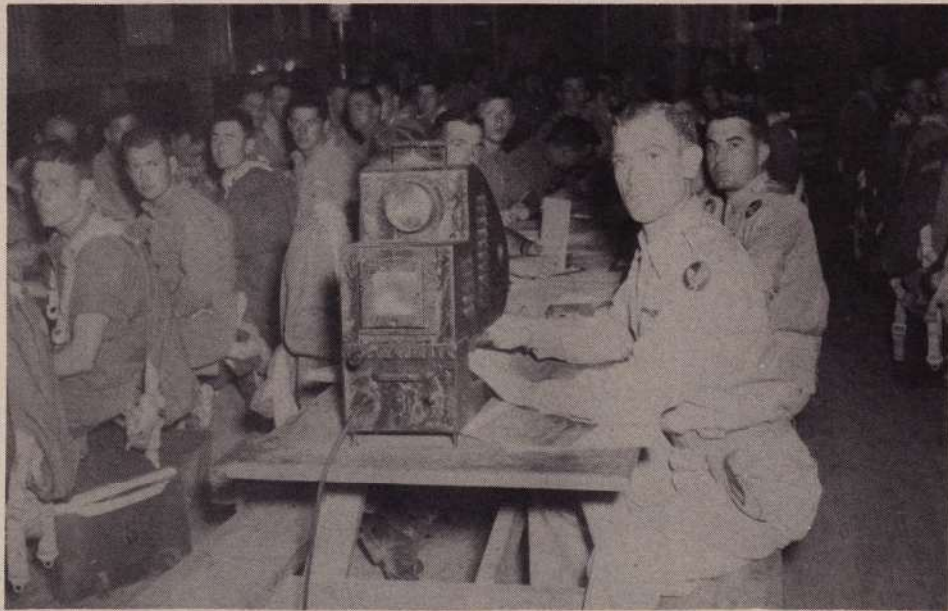


# 415 In Ground School





# Navigation



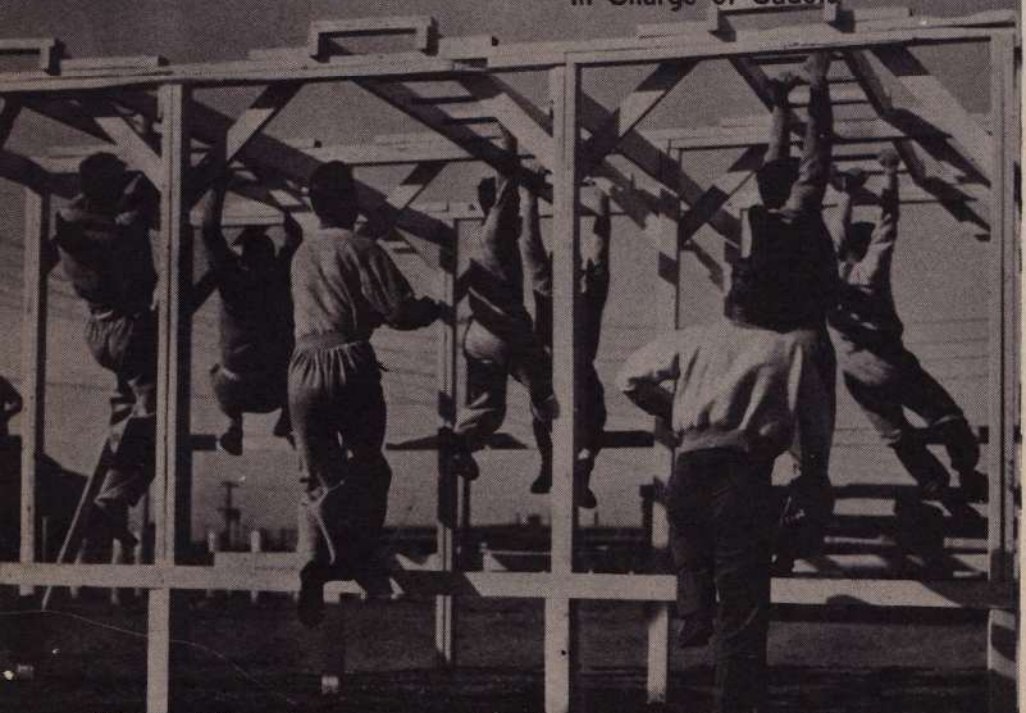


# P. T.

"DO WE GET FREE PLAY TODAY, SARGE?"

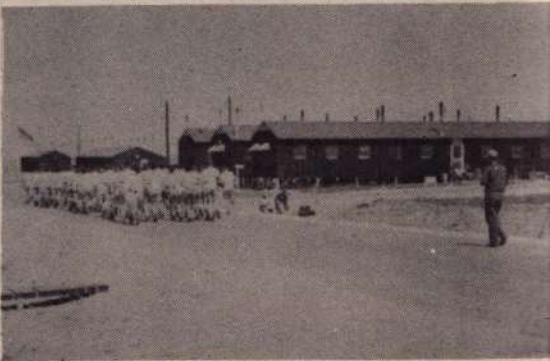


LT. L. O. BLOOMINGDALE  
Physical Training  
In Charge of Cadets



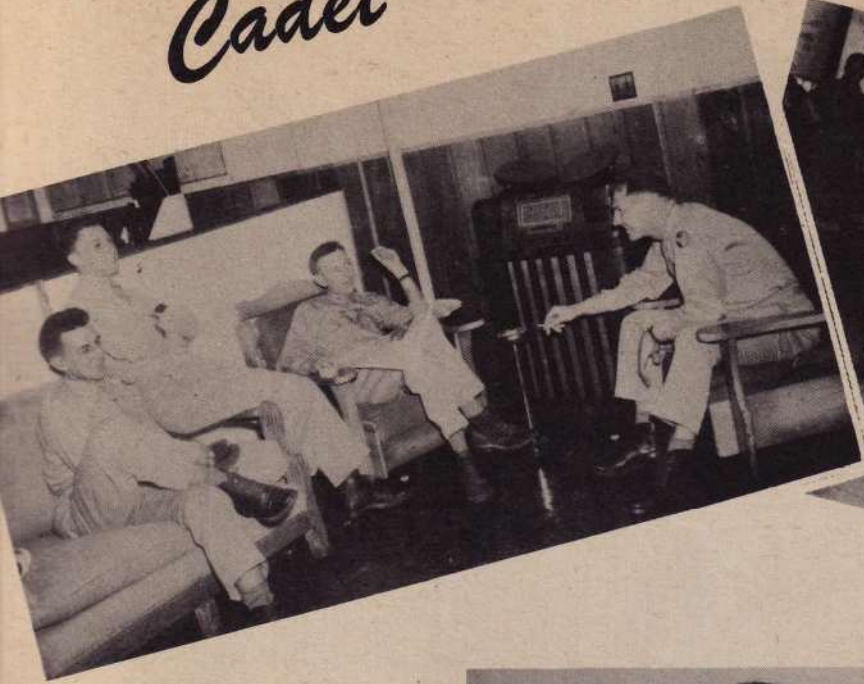
"Rain or shine, foul weather or fine," seemed to be the motto of the physical training department.

The class expresses thanks to Lt. Bloomingdale and the non-coms who assisted him. We leave Big Spring physically fit and with a better concept of outdoor play and sportsmanship.

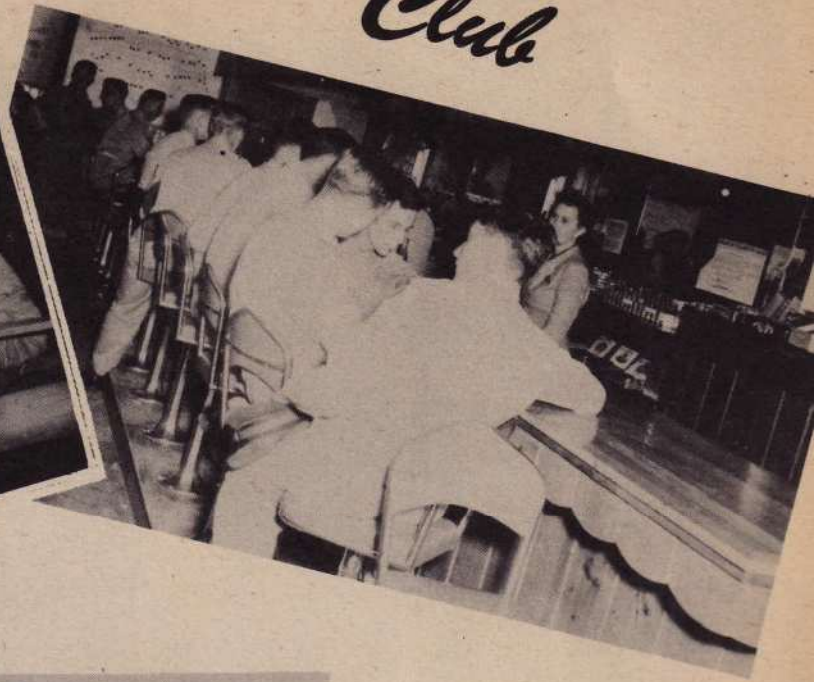




*Cadet*



*Club*



*Mrs. "Mac"*







*Mess  
Hall*



*Retreat From the Heat*







*"Flak"*



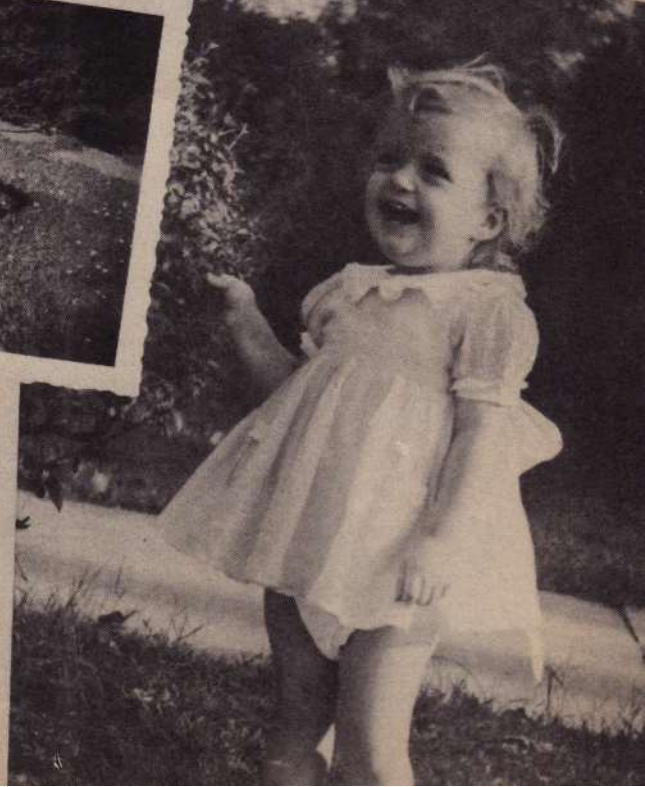
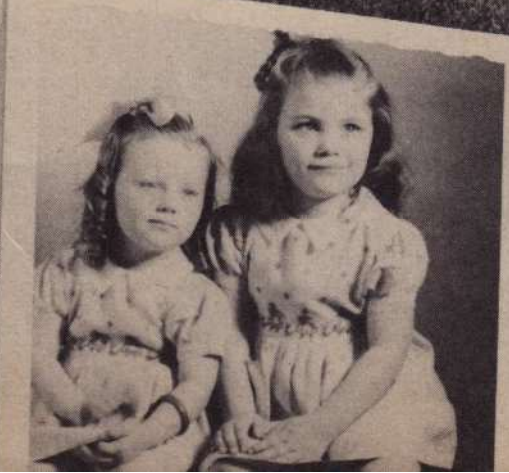




*Sugar 'n Spice*



*an' Everything Nice!*









*Dears*





Bomba









# *Autographs*

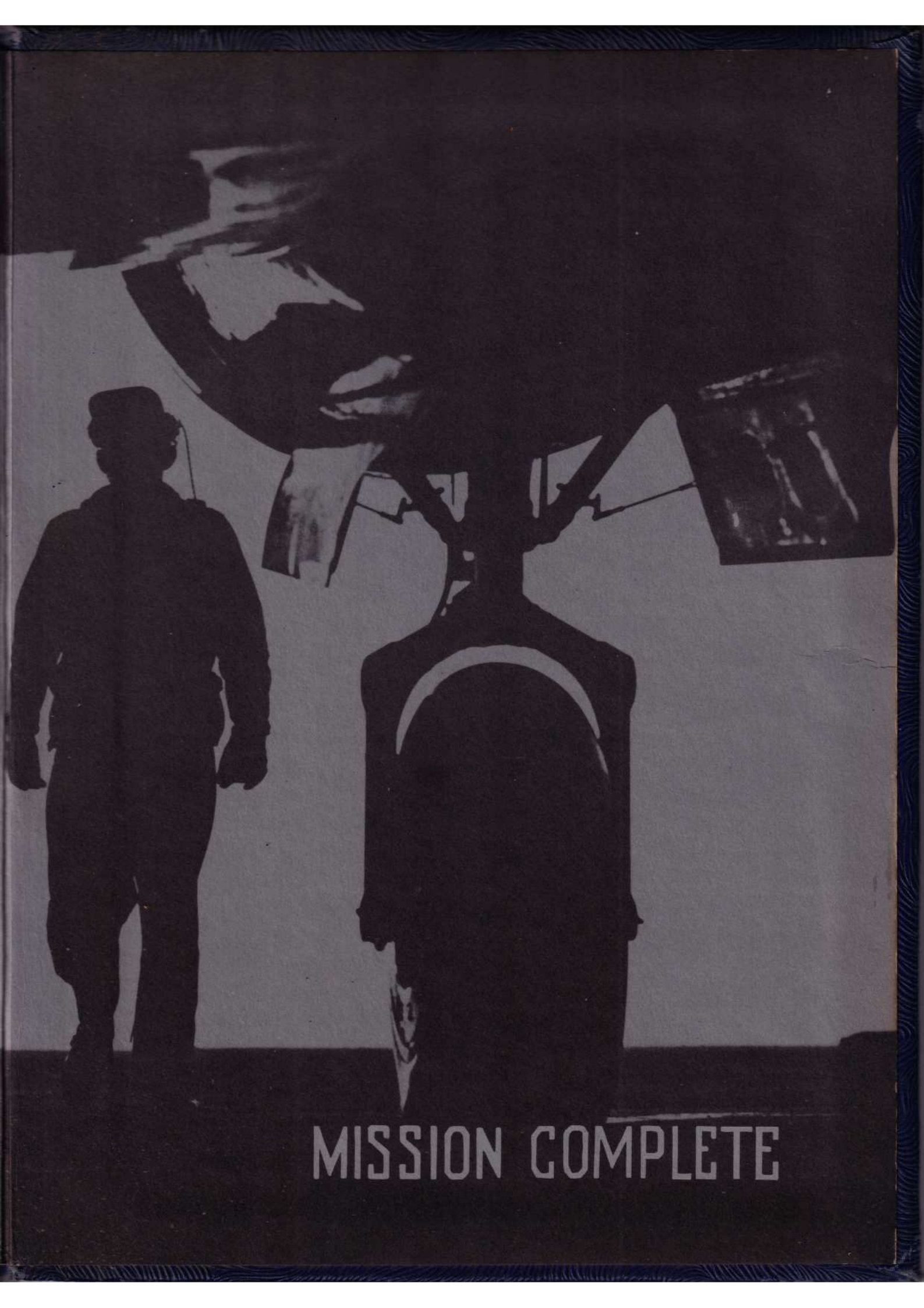












MISSION COMPLETE



