

A letter Home

from

SCOTT FIELD



COMPLIMENTS
SCOTT FIELD EXCHANGE

Dear

So you want to know all about Scott Field?
Well, to begin with, Scott Field is called the parent
Radio School of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command
and that just about tells a goodly part of the story.
For here in Southern Illinois, on what the Indians used
to call "The Looking Glass Prairie" is an A.A.F.T.T.C. School devoted
entirely to the training of men who will some day operate the
communications sets on America's bombers and at U.S. Army
bases around the world.

It wasn't always like that though. When Scott Field was established
in 1917 and named after a Corporal who had lost his life in an
experimental flight in Maryland, the post was designed to
train pilots for war planes of the first World War. After
the Armistice it wasn't needed as a training center and
nothing much was done here until the 1920's when Scott
Field became one of the largest stations for lighter-than-air craft.
Remember the Dirigible Shenandoah? It used to land here.

When the war department discontinued lighter-than-air
activity, it was decided to "re-make" Scott Field. The big moving
mast, hangar and helium plant was torn down and in 1938 a big
building program was launched. In 1939 the radio
communications school was moved to Scott from Chamite Field
and the training of radiomen began.

Today Scott Field consists of a huge flying field and around it
are six areas... each area being practically a little military
post in itself... but all areas functioning under the supervision
of Post Headquarters. Incidentally Scott Field is in the Second District of
the A.A.F.T.T.C.

Scott Field is just like a city or like a lot of little
towns combined. Each area has its Exchange or "general
store", barbershops, schools, headquarters or "city hall",
theaters and libraries. We are about six miles from
Belleville, Ill., a city of 30,000 persons, and 30 miles from
St. Louis, Mo.

That is about the best word picture of the post I can
give you. Let's take a picture tour of Scott Field.

Wings
over
SCOTT FIELD



AAFTTC
SCOTT FIELD
Illinois



ARRIVING AT SCOTT FIELD



Recognize me here? Fresh from the troop train, ready for the TTC



Off to the barracks, fresh
from freshman supply
room frolics.

Rookies—that's me not l
"Thru These Gates Pass
Damn Radio Operators
World!"—That's the way w
bout it when we arrive at S



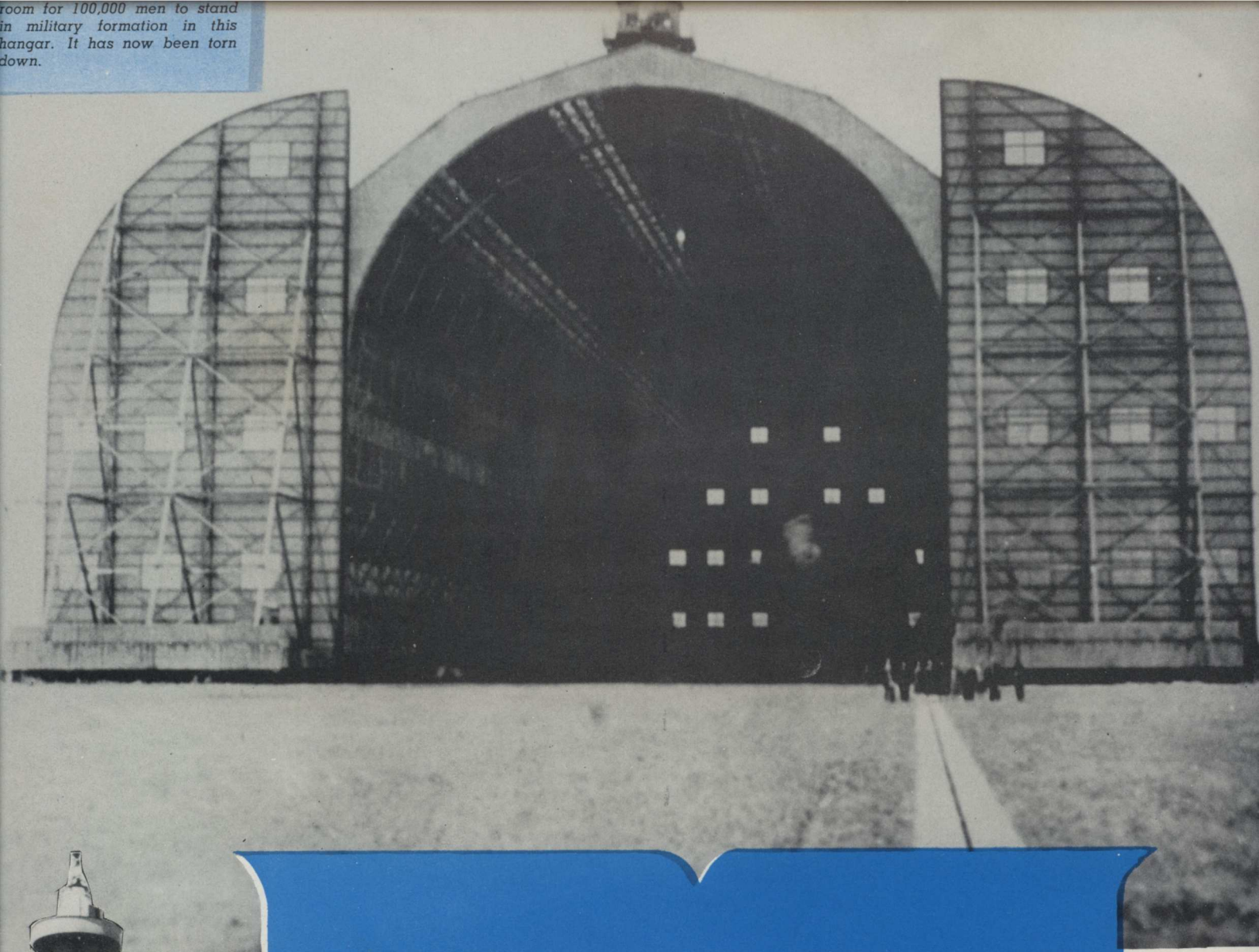
Right for sore eyes is the Main
e. It is here where men receive
l O.K. to leave the post for an
ing in Belleville, East St. Louis
St. Louis.

A letter home or a good
book and magazine. This
helps to take a man's mind
from his more strenuous
duties.

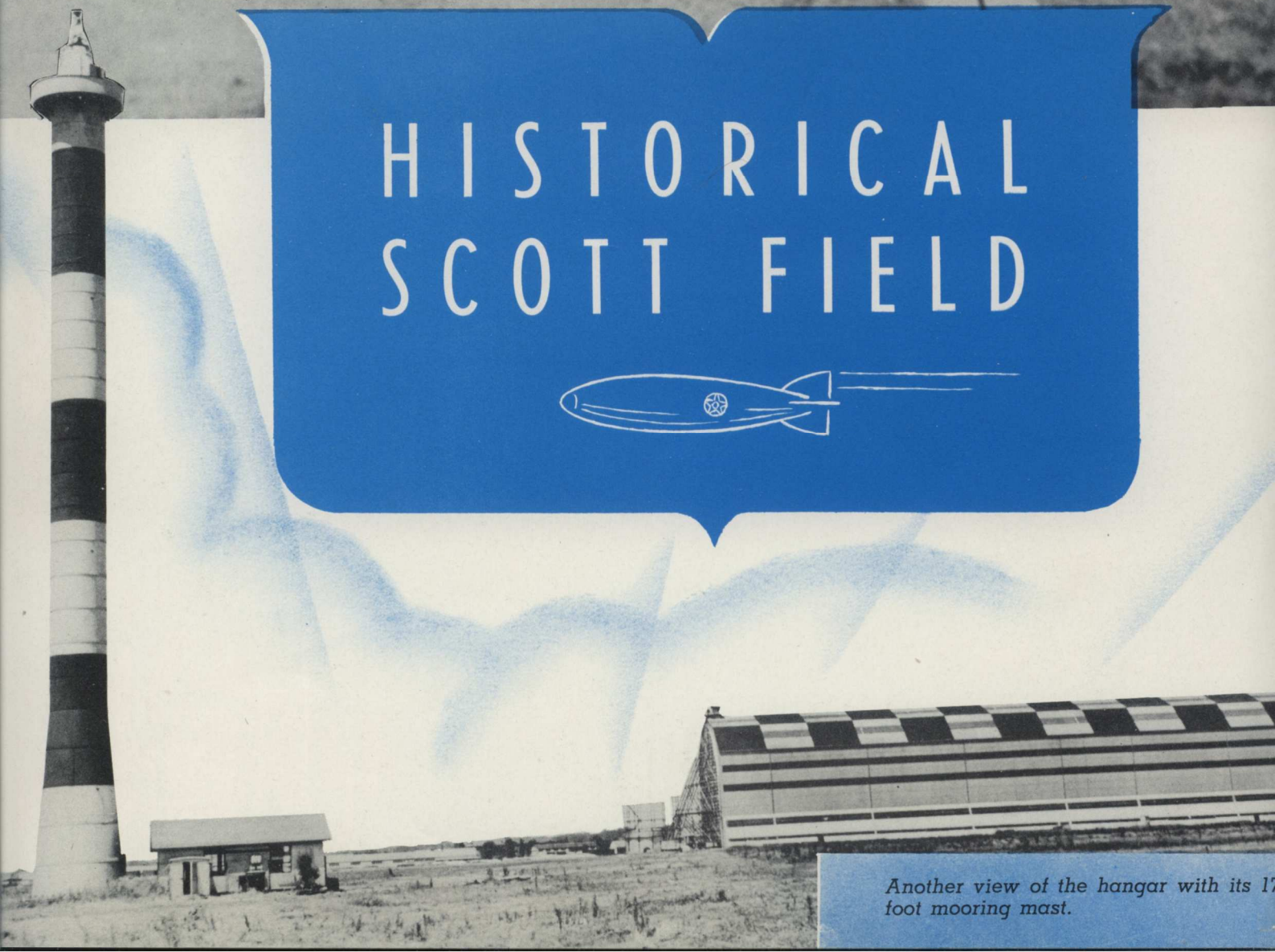


Scott Field Service Clubs re-
semble a gentlemen's social
club house. Men spend hours
within its walls.

om for 100,000 men to stand
in military formation in this
hangar. It has now been torn
down.



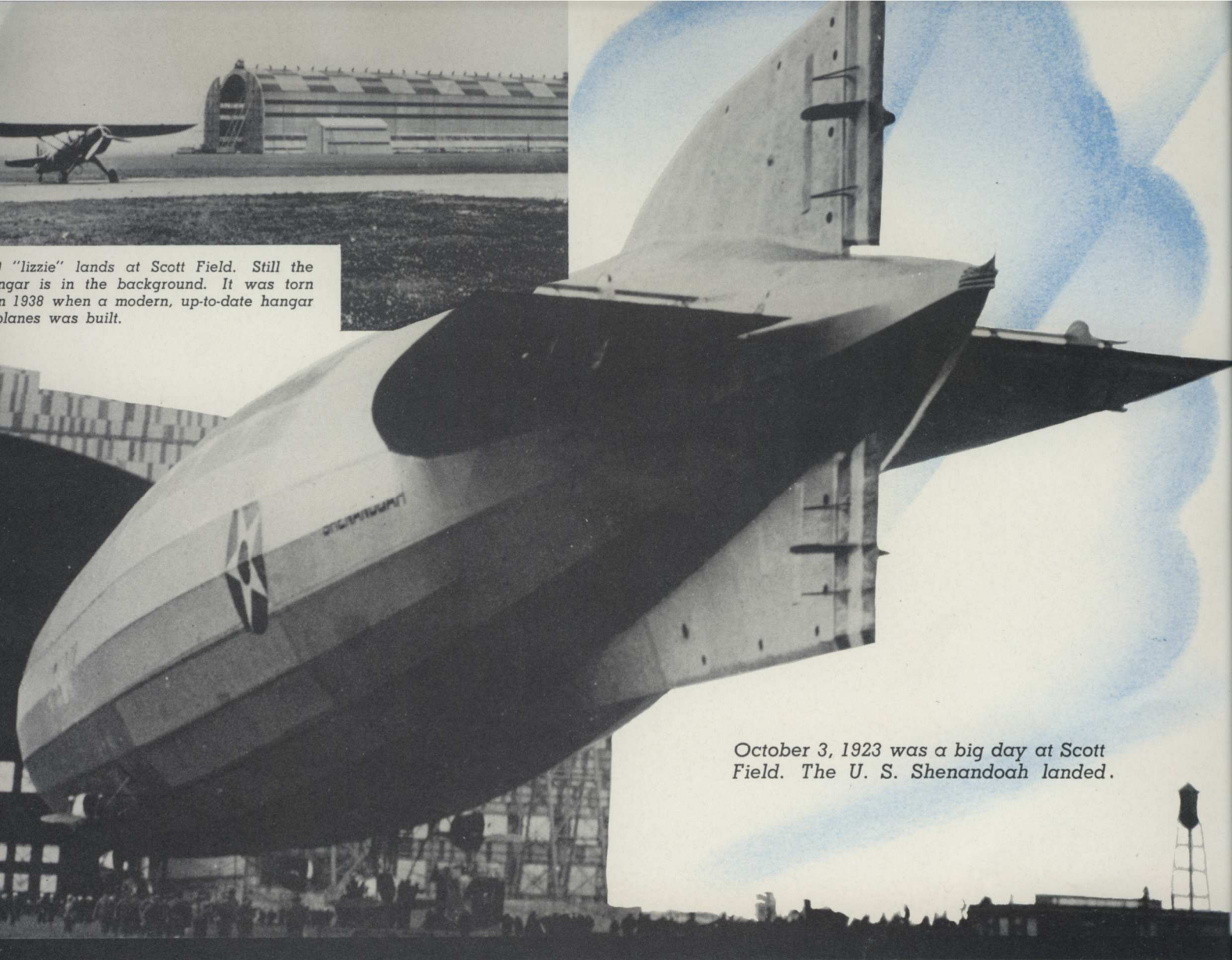
HISTORICAL SCOTT FIELD



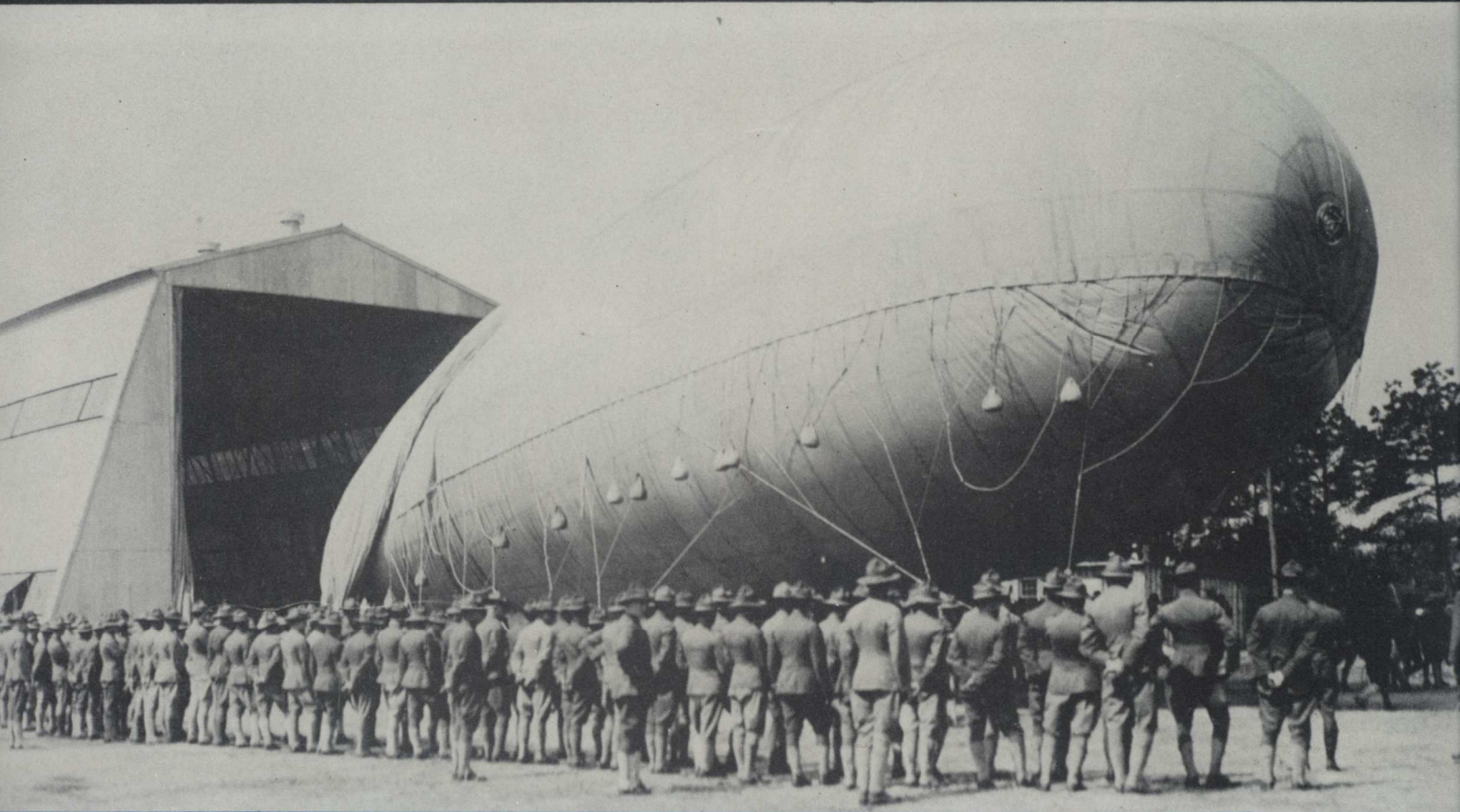
Another view of the hangar with its 170
foot mooring mast.



"Lizzie" lands at Scott Field. Still the hangar is in the background. It was torn in 1938 when a modern, up-to-date hangar for planes was built.



October 3, 1923 was a big day at Scott Field. The U. S. Shenandoah landed.



Scott Field flyers of old — let's say the twenties — find out how an observation balloon operates.

O hum,
Reveille



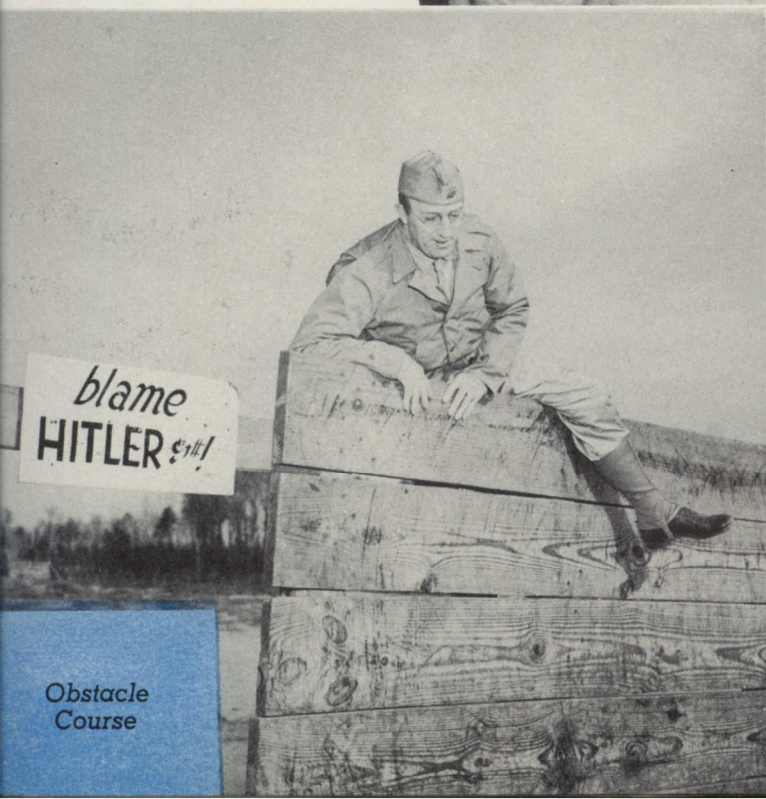
Action BEGINS



A typical day at Scott Field
goes something like this:



It takes lots of v
mins for the o
ahead.



Obstacle
Course



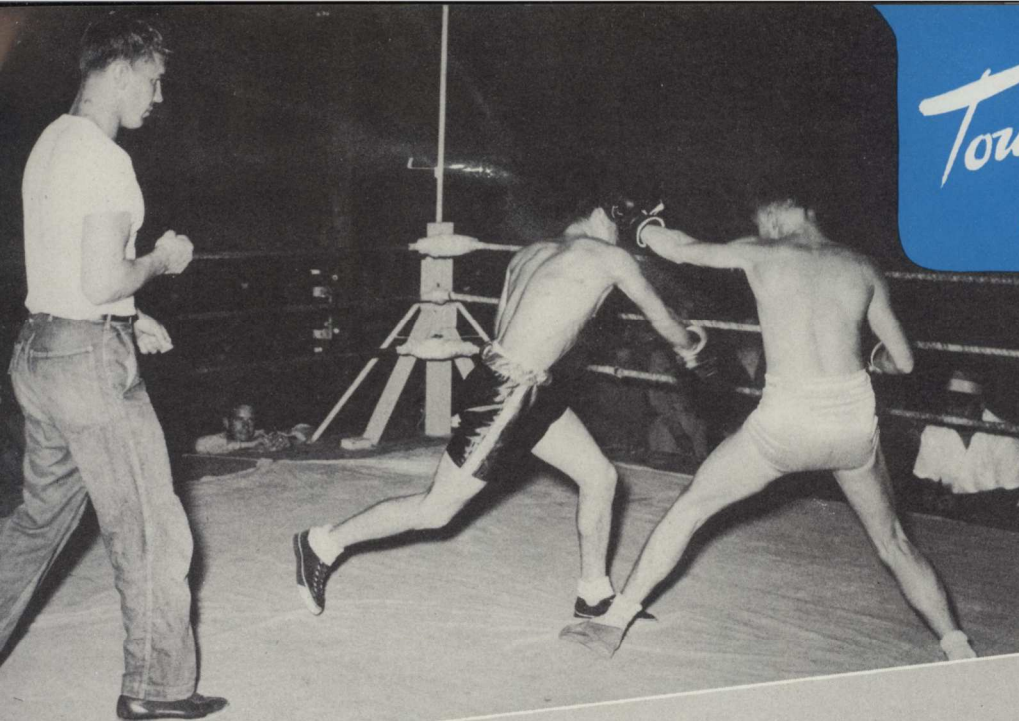
A beginning class
on radio transmitters.

Toughening UP!

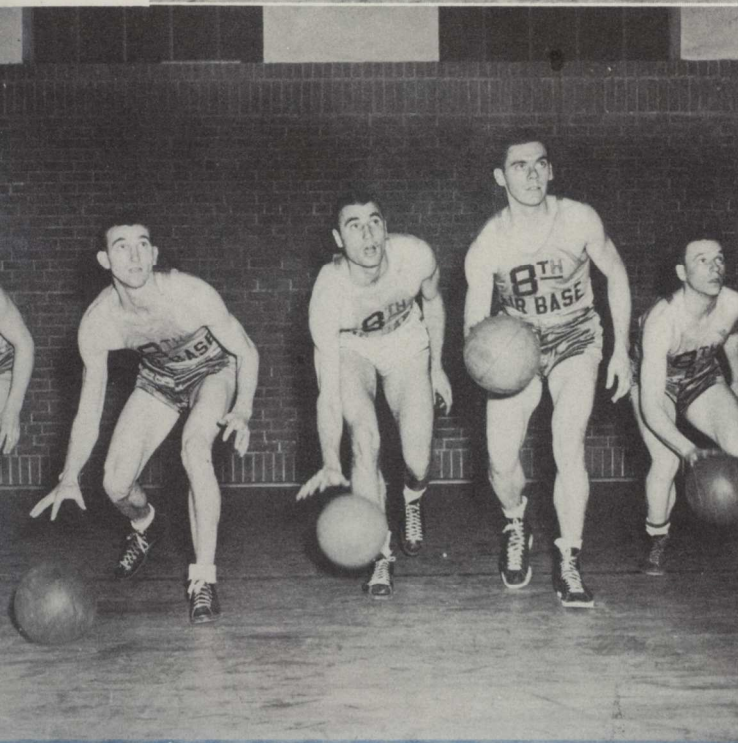


Toughening up
here involves
all sports;

Boxing



Track



and basketball. This is one of
the flashiest teams on the field.

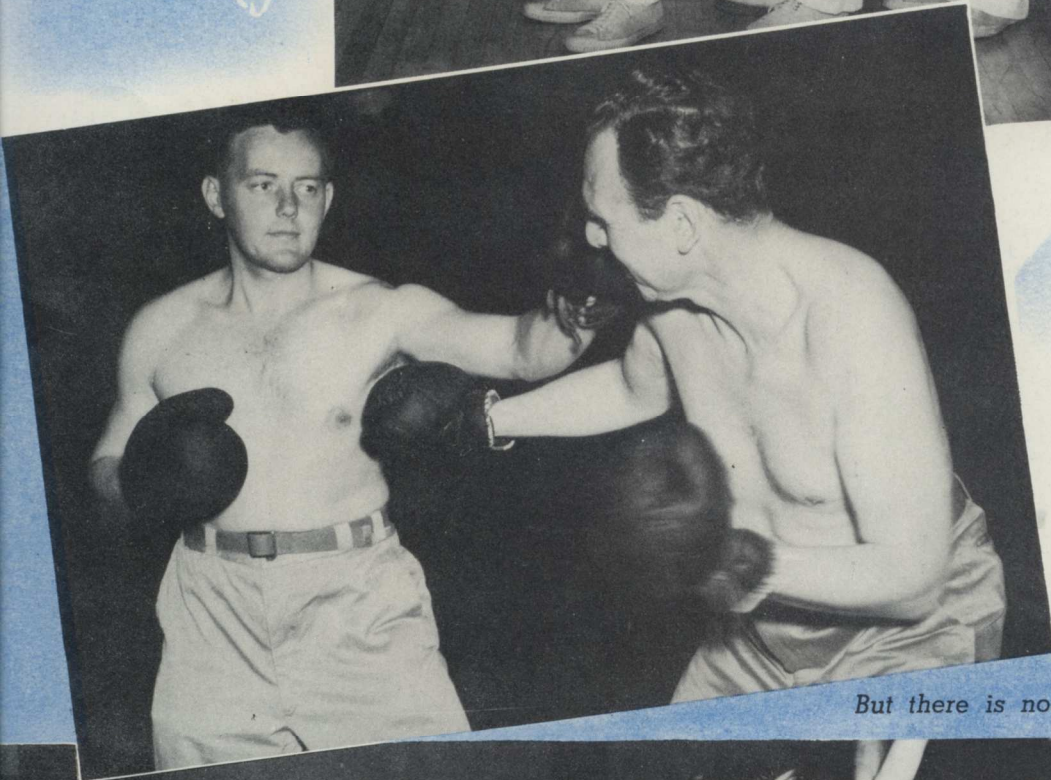
More obstacles.

Athletics

Fencing has its stars.



Baseball is popular



But there is nothing like solid body contact.



Cage act is furious



Gen. Wolcott P. Hayes, Scott's first Commanding General, sees the birth of a strike.



These boys won't be behind the ball long.

Believe it or not — basketball in gas masks.



Indoor SPORTS

Radio SCHOOL

The radio school
Scott Field produces
the world's best radio operators
and mechanics. Starting with
fundamental courses, soldiers
not only gain high code speed
but also a good basic know-
ledge of wireless equipment.



A Master Sergeant reveals the
mysteries of a basic transmitter
on a breadboard layout.

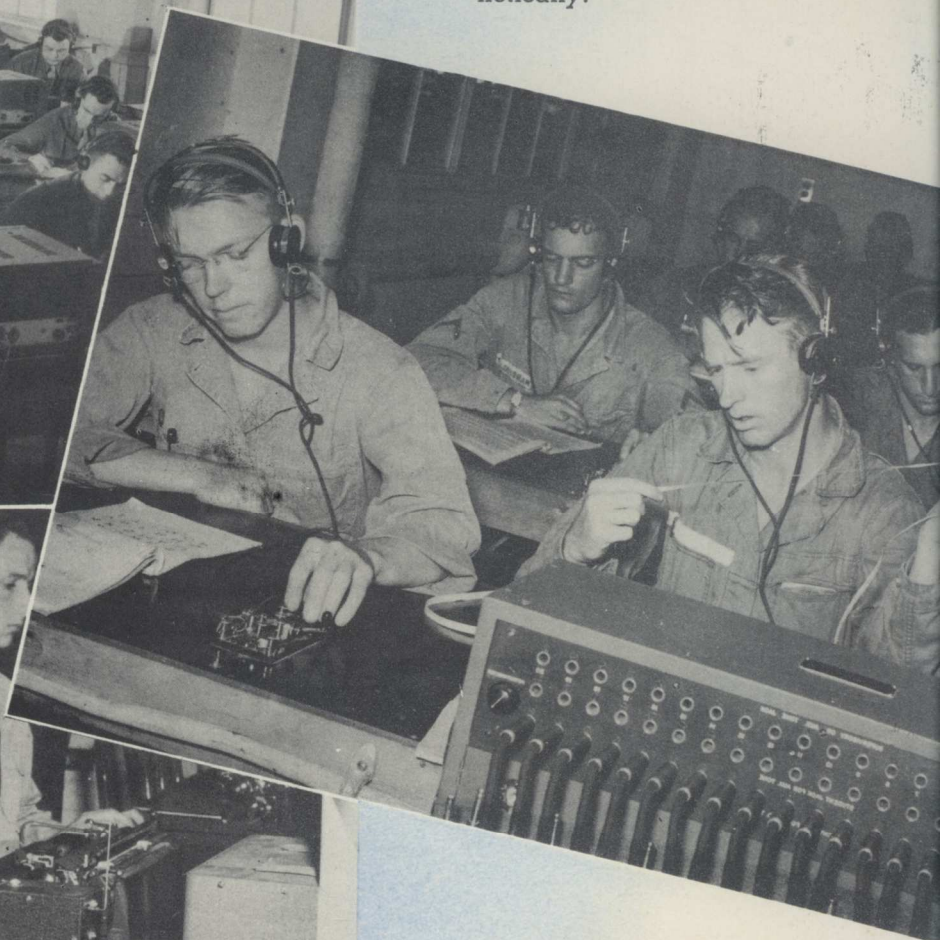


The proper method of adjusting
a high power transmitter in the aircraft

Receivers are explained by
civilian instructor. Men are



Here is a basic code class where students are taught to send signals, after having learned to receive code phonetically.



Advanced students who can take code more than 30 WPM are also taught to type messages as they receive them.

In the fast code class men receive 30 WPM. Those civilians are instructors listening in.



Most fascinating subject in the school is radio telephone operation which is the actual communication between planes and from plane to ground.

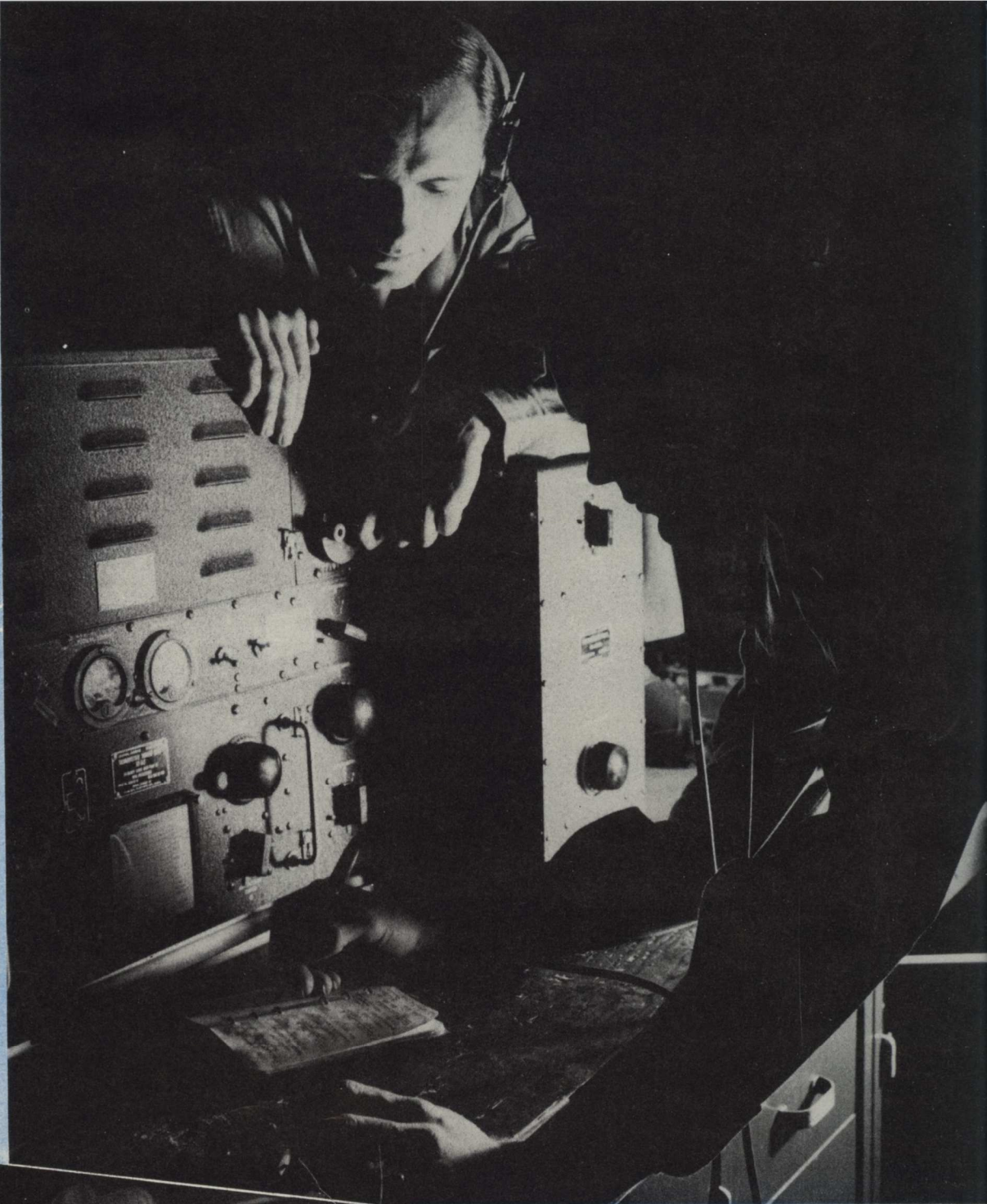
Radio



After he graduates from Scott Field, a radio man in many cases becomes a member of a combat crew. He not only handles the radio, but mans a gun and works with the navigator.

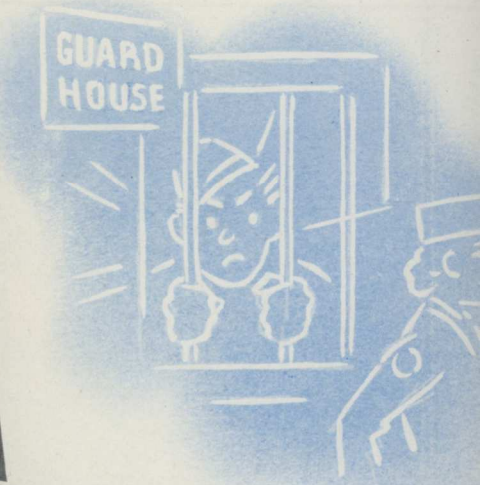


A radio man will come across many strange situations, as, for instance, a black-out.

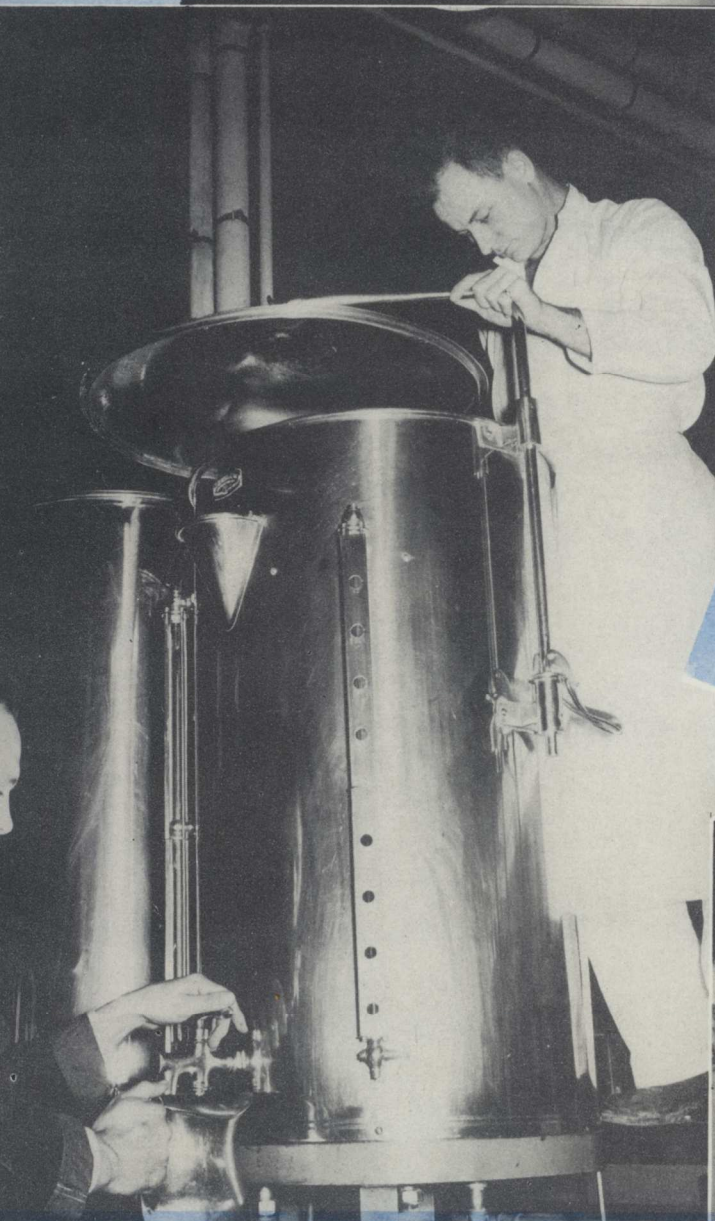
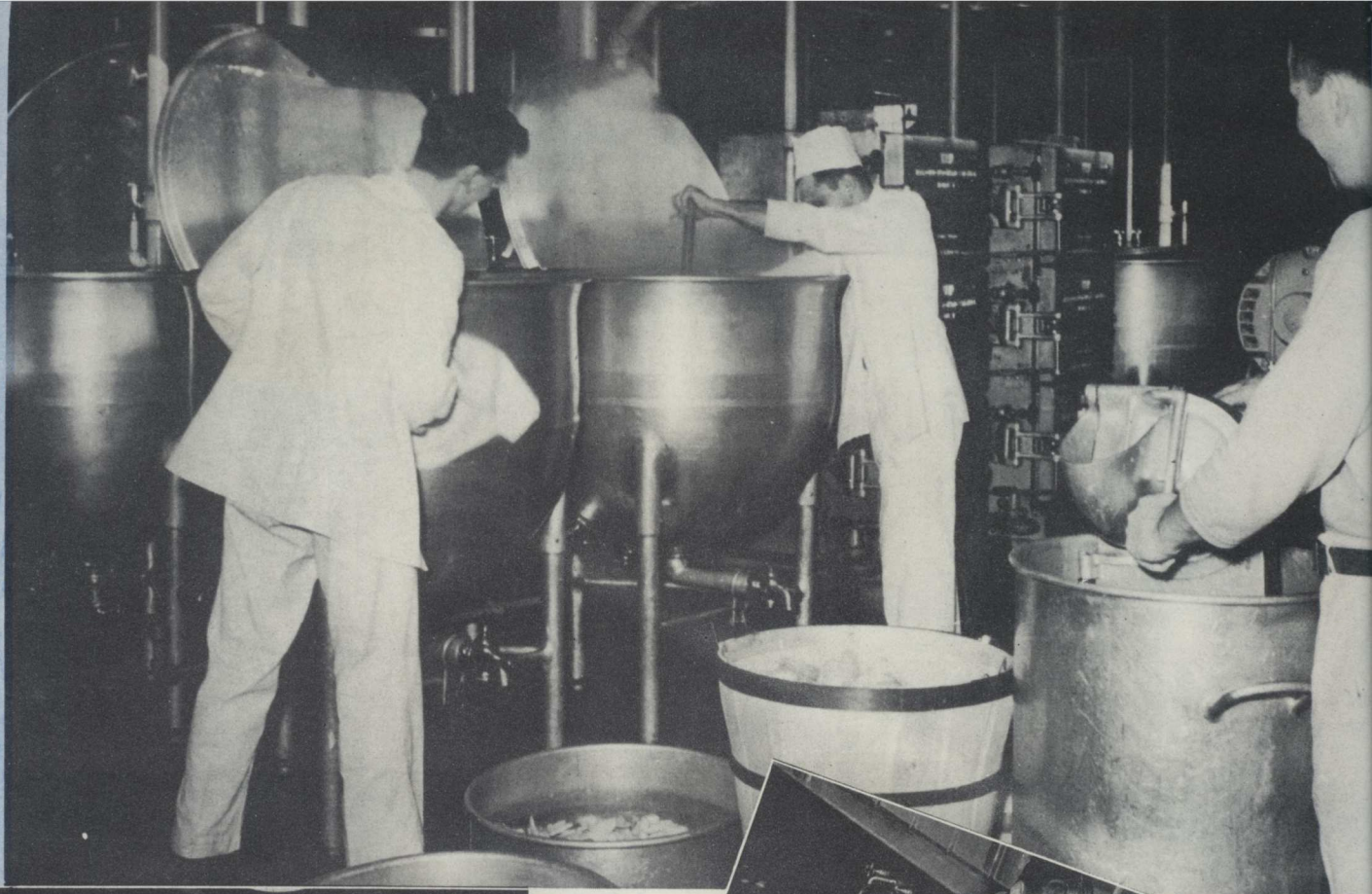


His most important job will be operation of the radio compass on a bomber.

Home, sweet, home for
a soldier at Scott Field
is still his barracks
where he relaxes, and
his day room where he
amuses himself.



s giant mess
l is designed
accommo-
e thousands
men at a time.



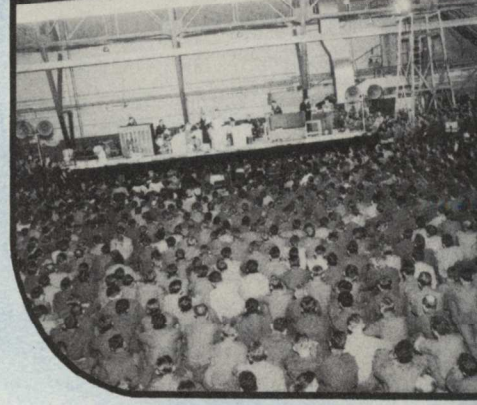
Hot coffee comes from these giant urns.

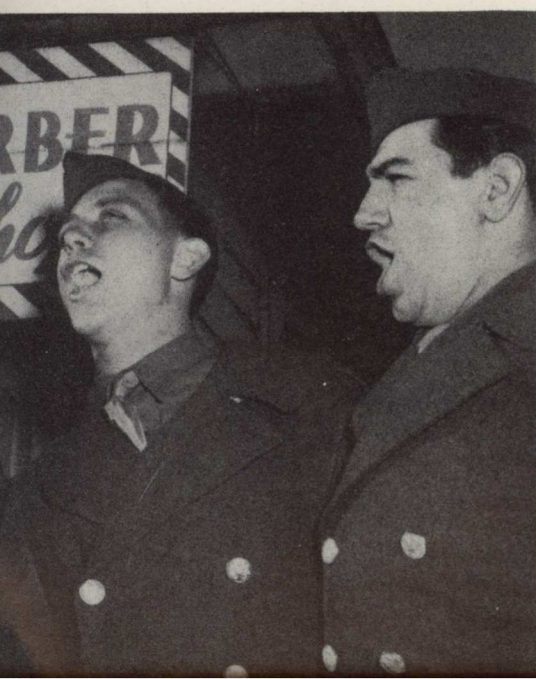
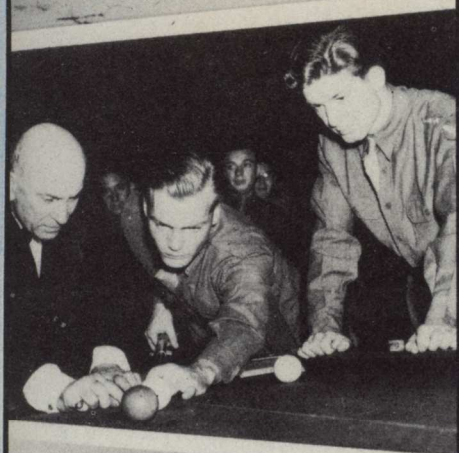


Spuds—millions of 'em are peeled in automatic machines.



"Say when" is the charge of the mess attendant.



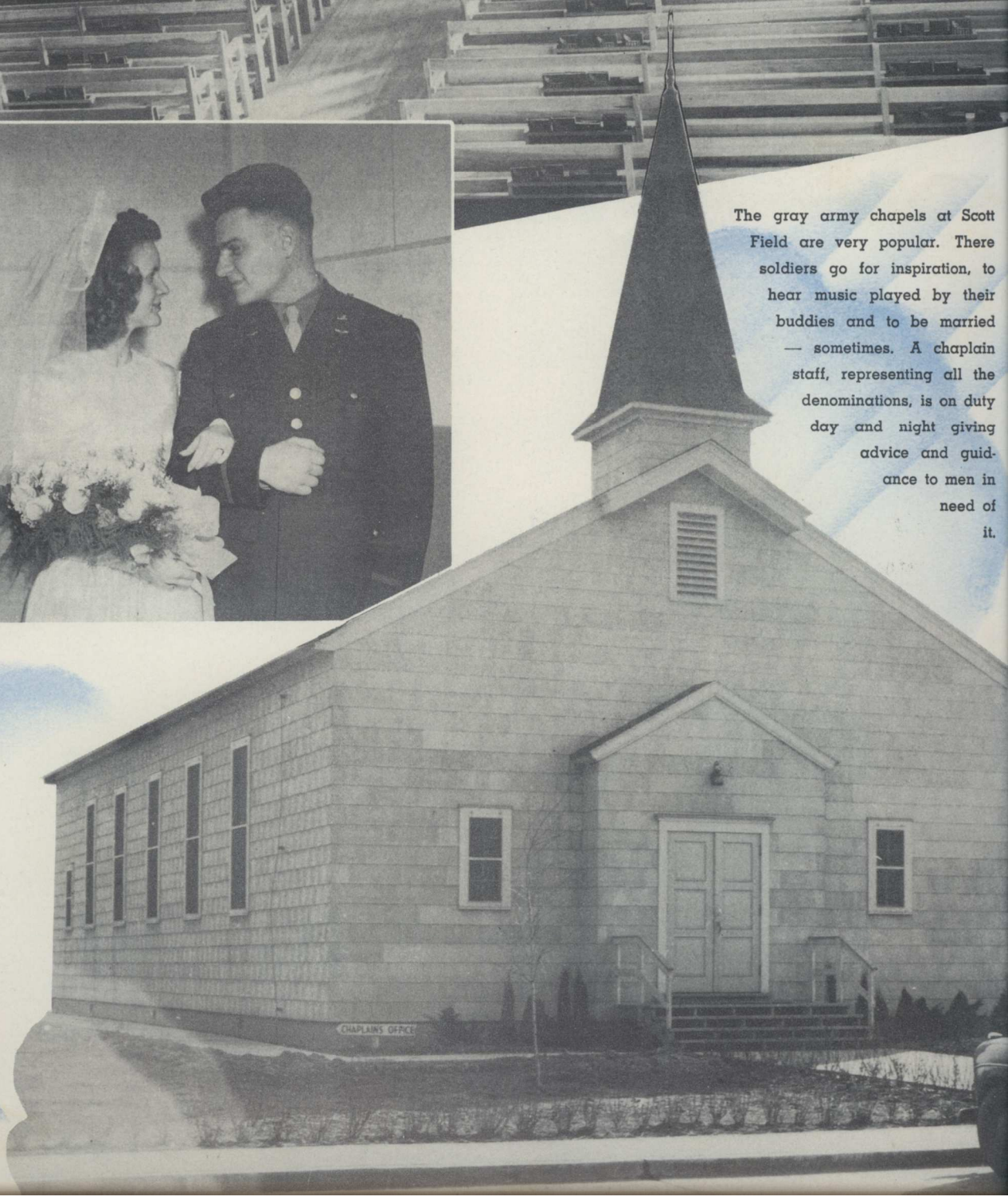


Scottsmen get their military drill marching to mess and to classes. Below is a general view of one of the biggest mess halls in the world.





The gray army chapels at Scott Field are very popular. There soldiers go for inspiration, to hear music played by their buddies and to be married — sometimes. A chaplain staff, representing all the denominations, is on duty day and night giving advice and guidance to men in need of it.



G I Date

G. I. Date — It is a red letter day here when a soldier's wife or girl friend visits him at the post.



She signs her visitor's pass at the main gate



You can usually find a secluded corner in the Service Club and talk things over

Or, you can go to the library.



Finishing touches are usually put on the visit with ice cream.



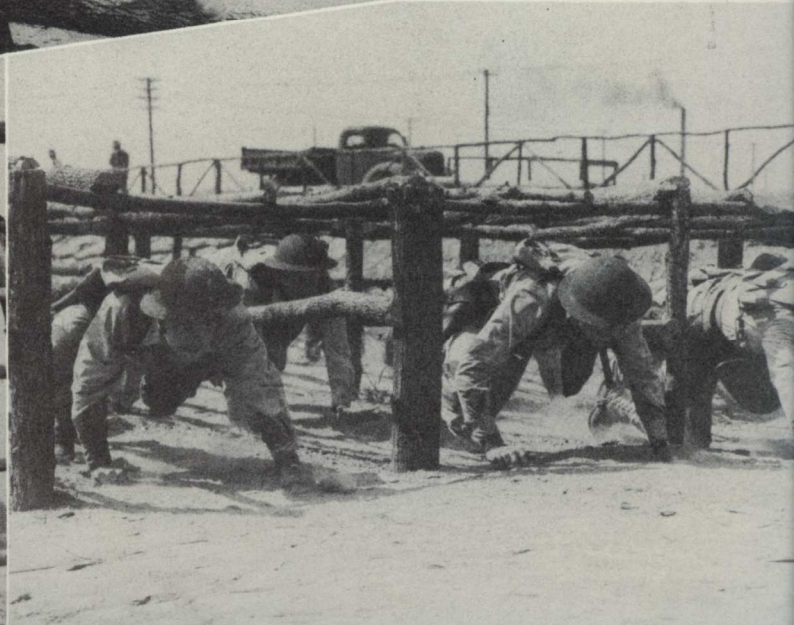
OBSTACLE *Course*



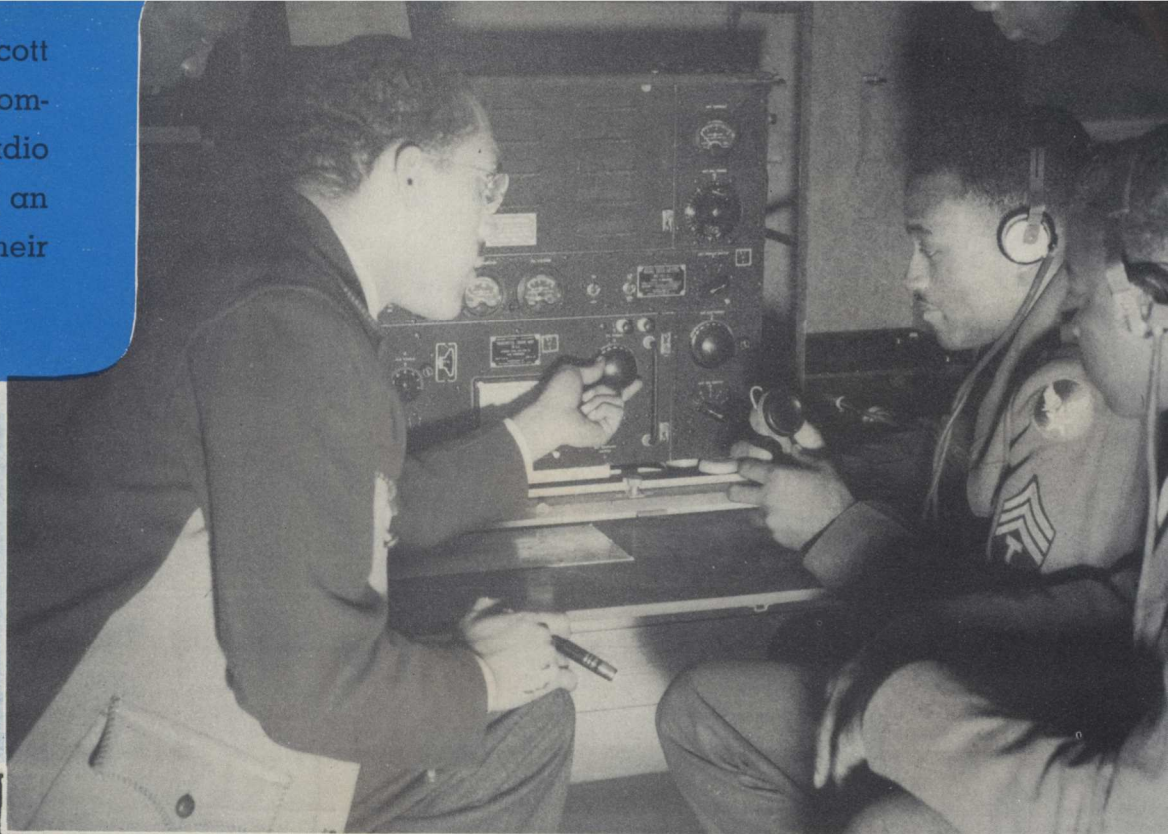
Our military training is as rugged as any
infantryman's during the time we are not
in class. Take a look!



When you are not climb-
ing over the turkey roost
you are in the "Holland"
tunnel.



Negro soldiers at Scott Field, Ill., are also becoming familiar with radio work and thus adding an important skill to their war effort.



Negro civilian instructors have been obtained to initiate new-comers into radio.



Testing parts of a radio with a volt ohmmeter is a ticklish job.



Code comes easy to many of the men.

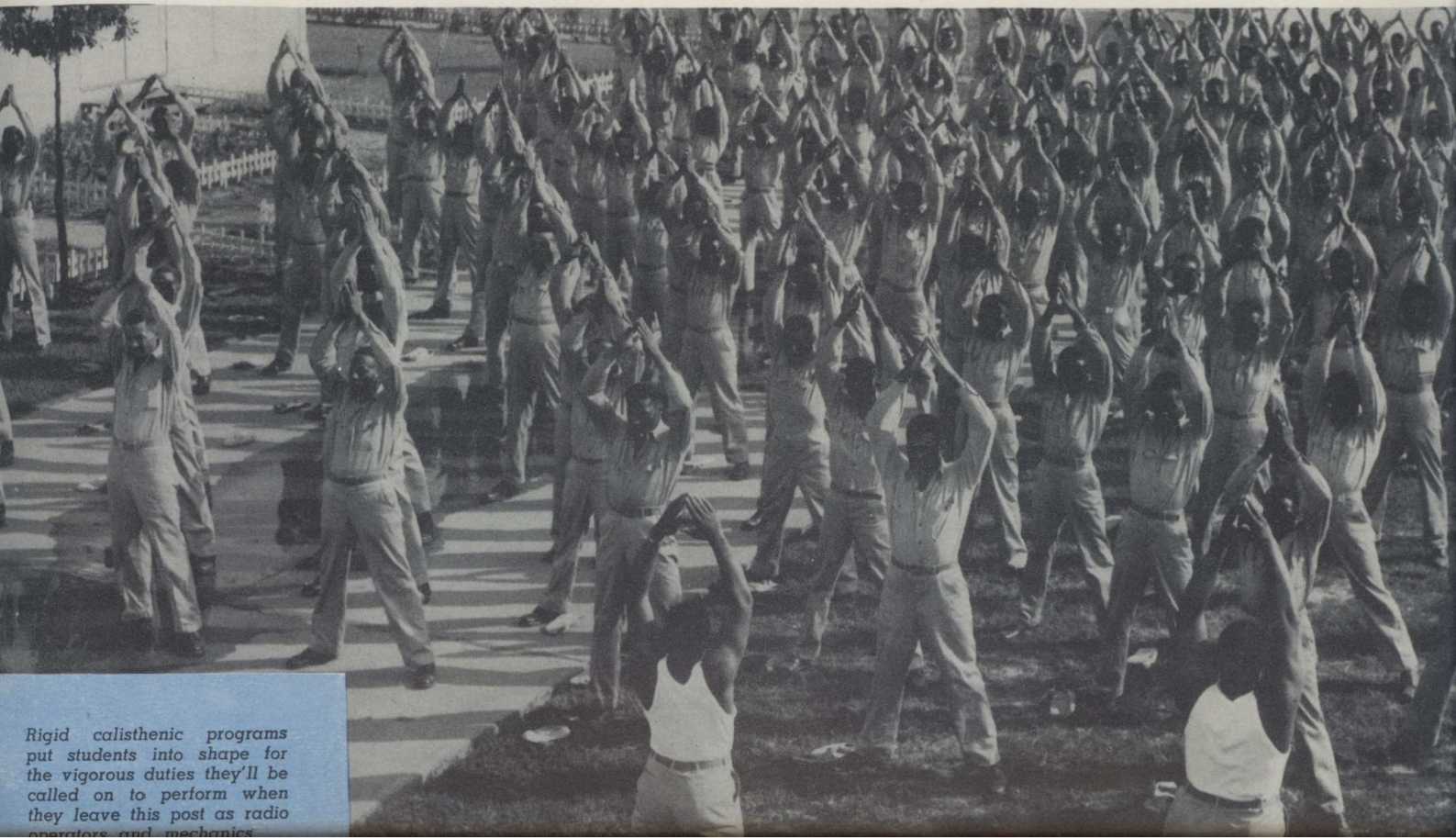


A dance is held for them in one of the Service Clubs and the music's in swing!

During leisure hours, Negro soldiers find opportunities for fun and recreation.



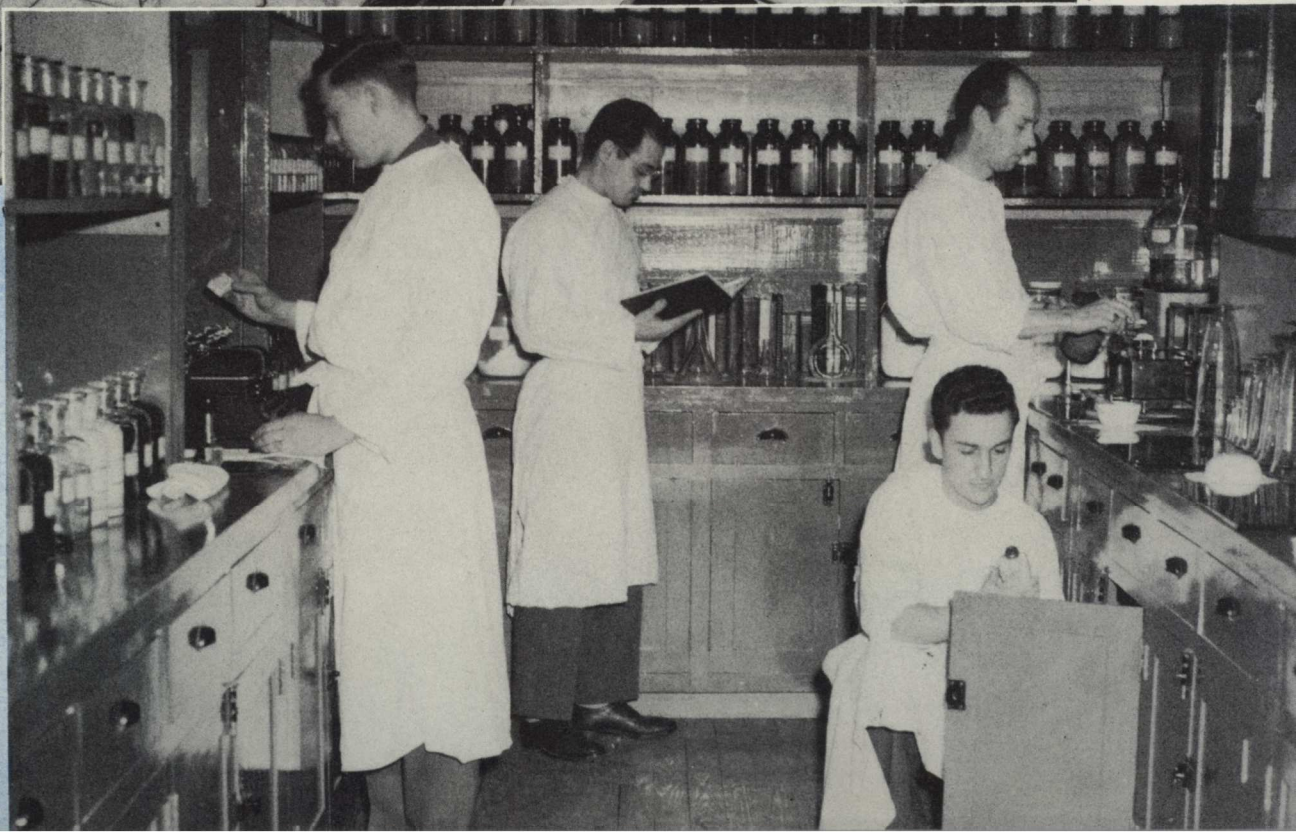
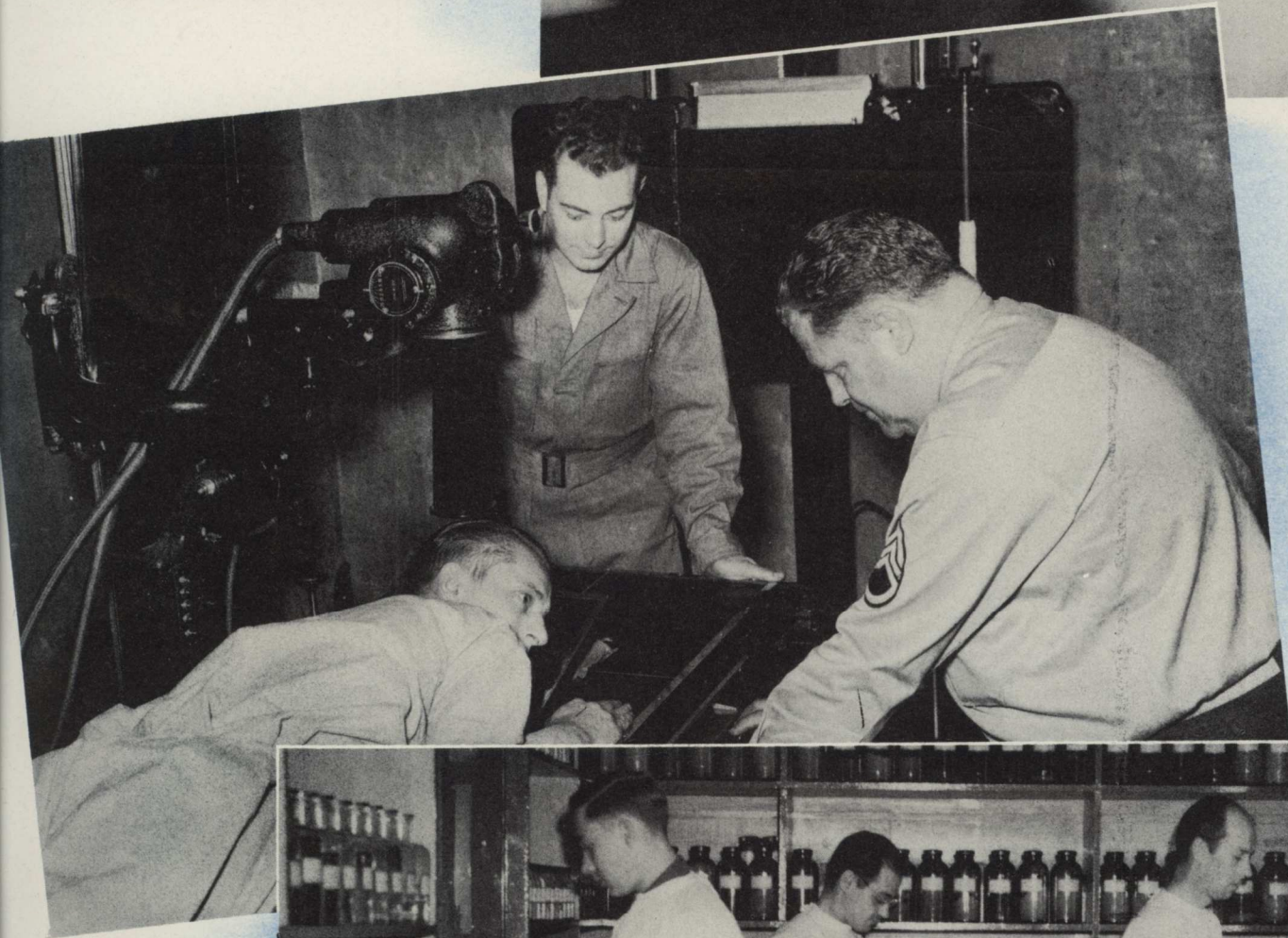
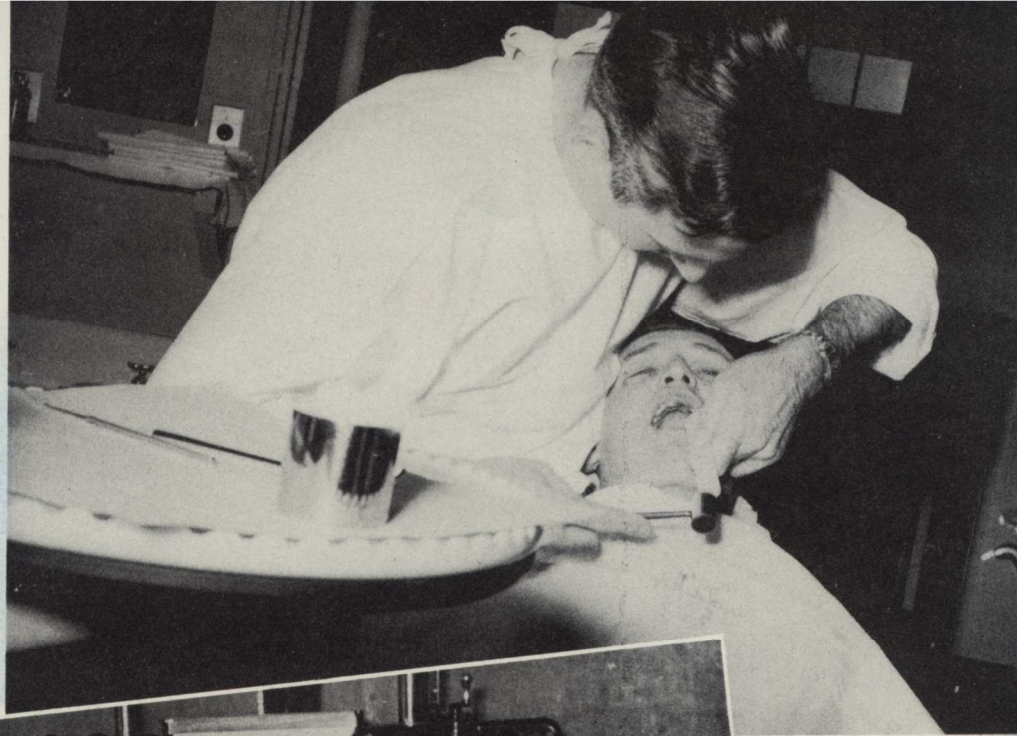
Voices of exceptional quality blend in a radio broadcast.



Rigid calisthenic programs put students into shape for the vigorous duties they'll be called on to perform when they leave this post as radio operators and mechanics.

Hospital

Whether a man needs a tooth filled or heat treatments or a prescription of some sort or another, Scott Field hospitals are equipped to take care of his needs in the most efficient and modern fashion with highly trained men in charge.





P.X.

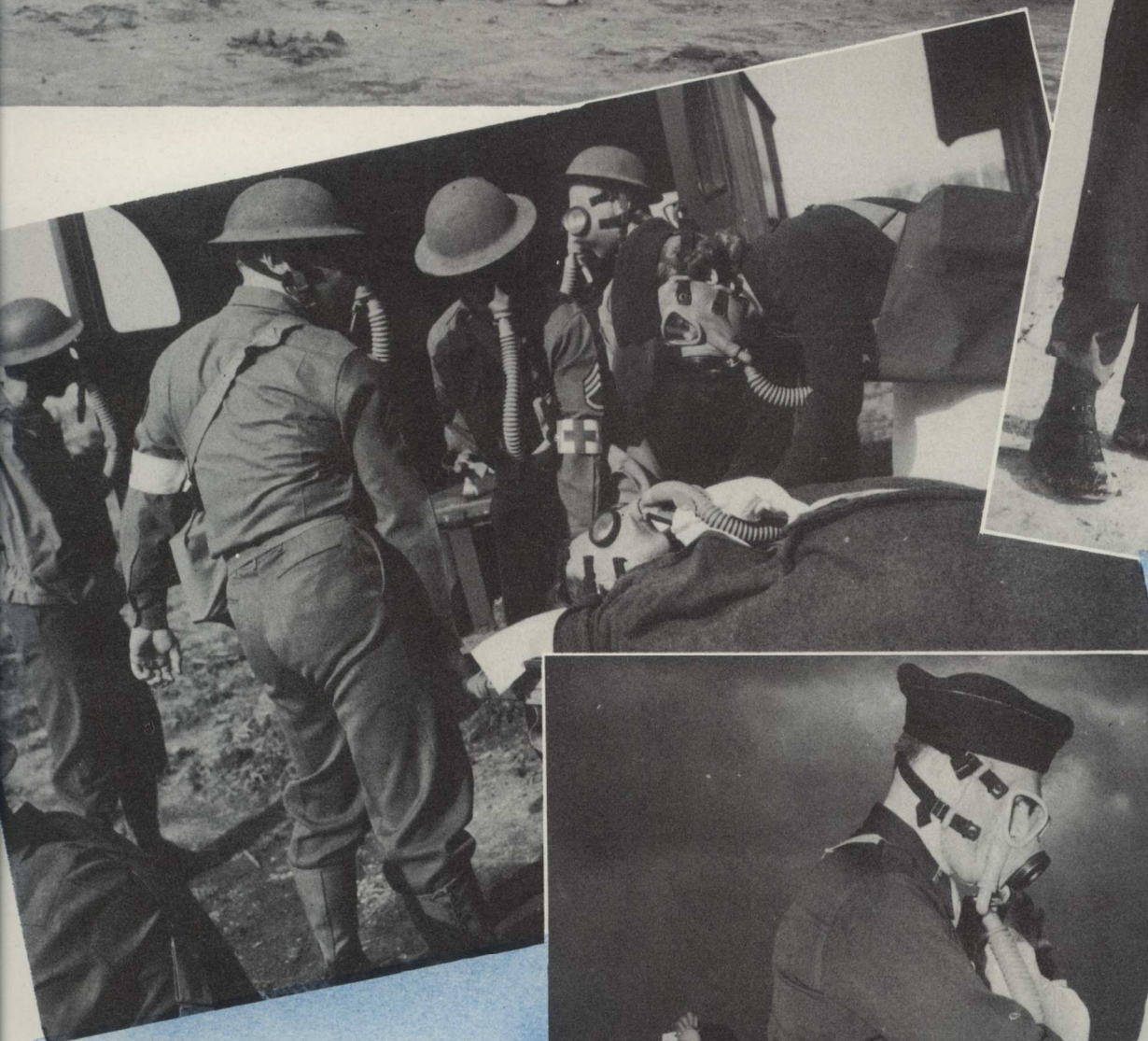
The Scott Field Exchange is like a big department store. You can buy anything here that you want, and around holidays special items are stocked. A first-class cafeteria is in operation, where the men have an occasional soft drink, and civilians grab a spot of lunch.



We don't over-look any parts in modern warfare at this post and at specified times we train for gas warfare, should it ever be employed against us.

On this page are pictures of first aid units, nurses going through their regular drill, and the sentry that gives unexpected warnings of tear gas attacks.

Gas



WAR- FARE



Wearing gas masks while going over the regular obstacle course improves breathing and enables a soldier to don masks under any kind of condition. But brother, it takes practice!

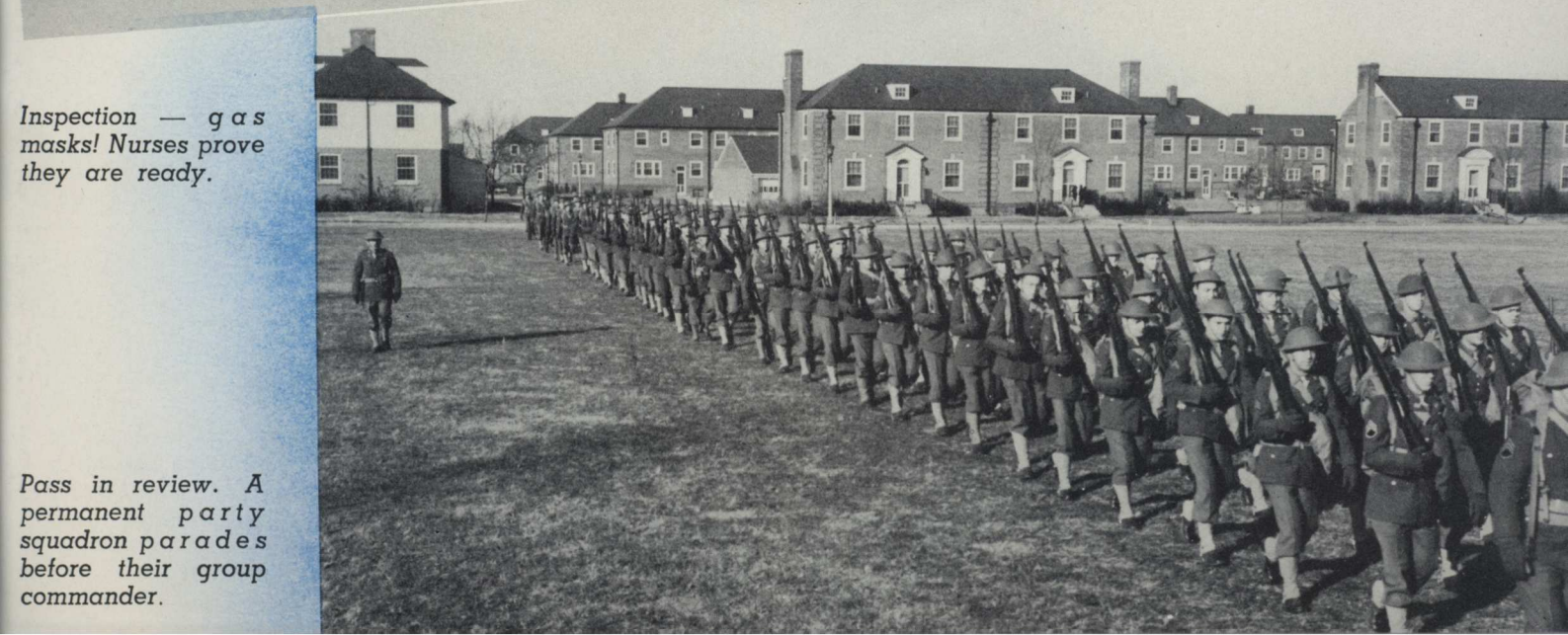
REVIEW



Sometimes formal retreat ceremonies are held on the parade grounds.



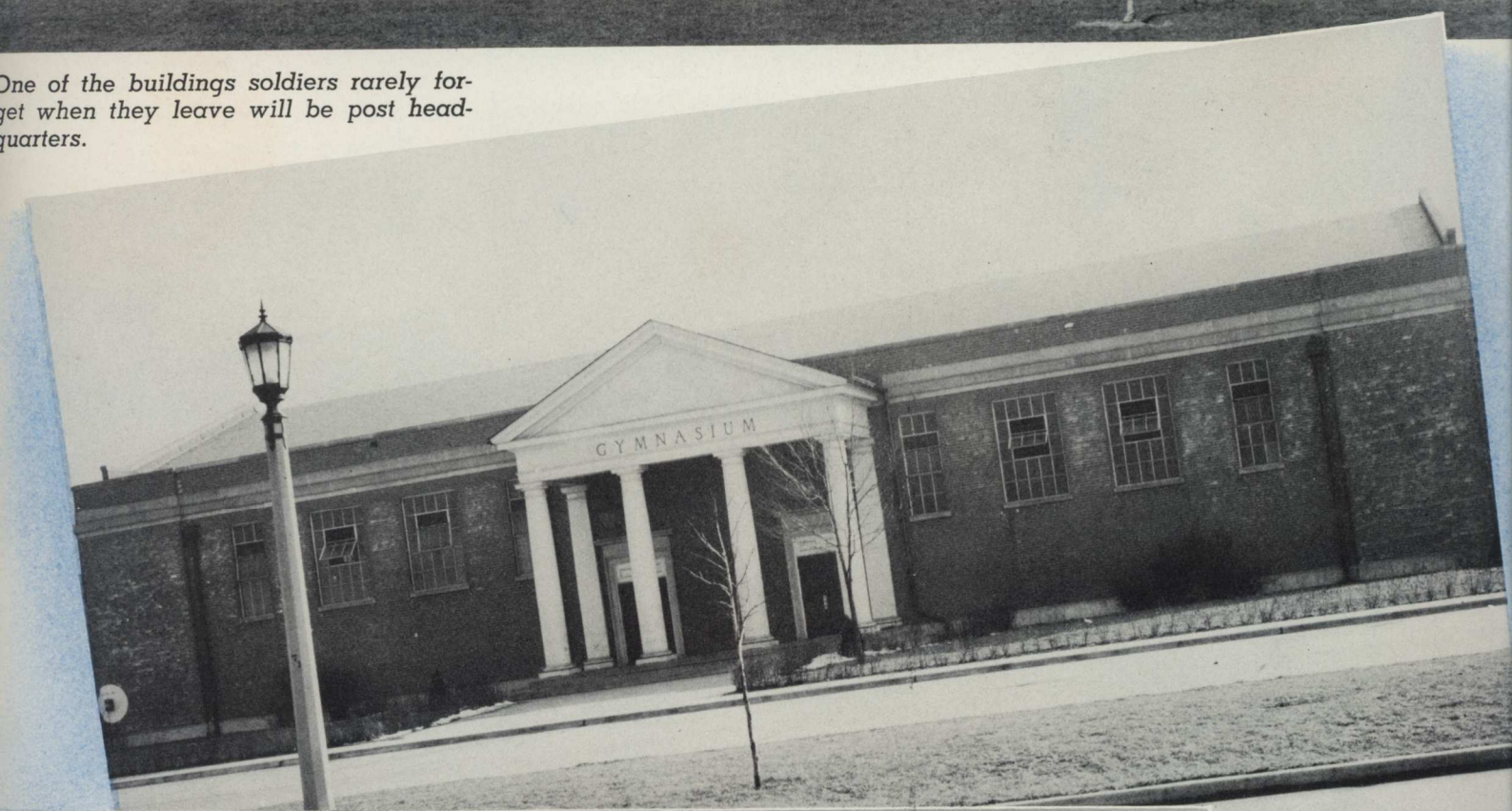
Inspection — gas masks! Nurses prove they are ready.



Pass in review. A permanent party squadron parades before their group commander.



One of the buildings soldiers rarely forget when they leave will be post headquarters.



Gymnasium No. contains every type of athletic equipment for individual work-outs, as well as a huge playing floor.

There are a lot of good shows in the 19th Group Theatre.



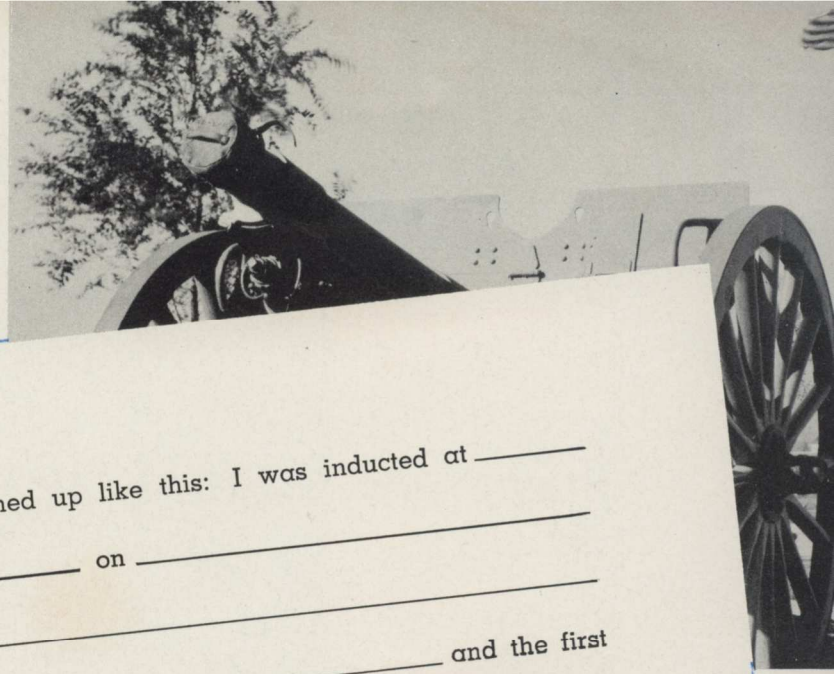
The American Red Cross does a lot of work at Scott Field, assisting soldiers in many ways and providing entertainment for the hospitalized.

When a soldier gets in a plane, after graduating from a school like Scott, he has a confidence that he knows his job.



SNAPSHOTS

My Army Career



My personal military history can be summed up like this: I was inducted at _____ on _____

First I was sent to _____ and the first

My organization was _____ was

sergeant was _____ the commanding officer. The serial number they gave me was _____

After _____ there, I went to _____
(Time Spent)

At Scott Field, where I arrived _____

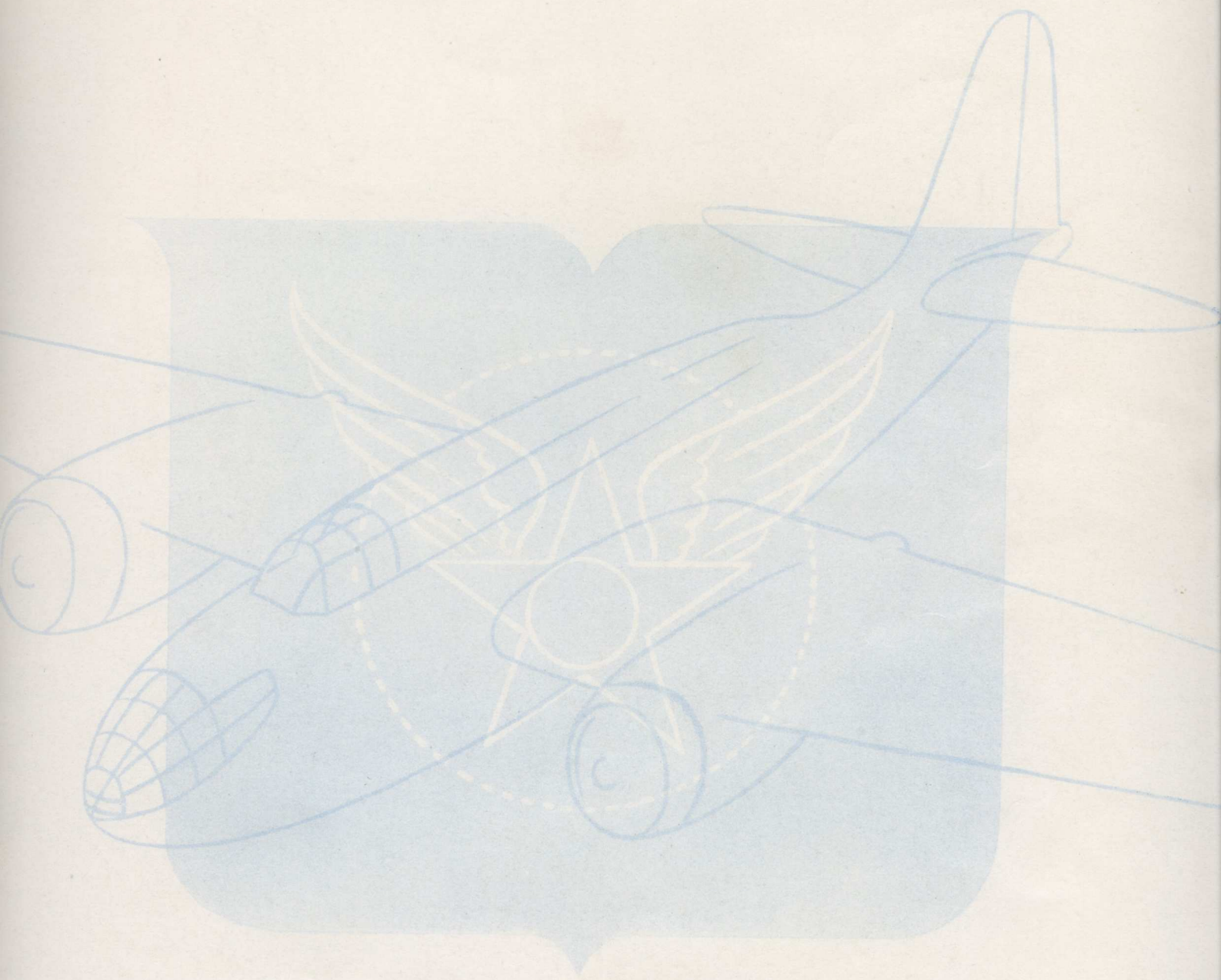
I was assigned first to _____ The commanding officer was _____ and the "topkick" was _____

My activities at this post, promotions and my changes in organizations included: _____

And right now let me record this: I am _____ tall, have _____ eyes, _____ hair, weigh _____ lbs. and my uniform measurements are: hat _____ gloves _____ trousers _____ blouse _____ shirts _____ shorts _____ overcoat _____ jacket _____ shoes _____

So long for now—

Autographs



U. S. O.

Belleville, Illinois



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