



# NAPIER FIELD

## ALABAMA



*Army Air Forces Advanced Flying School*



# NAPIER FIELD, ALABAMA

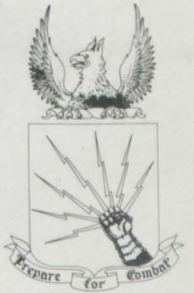
## *Into the Blue . . .*

Napier Field is one of the many fields of the Southeast Training Center with headquarters at Maxwell Field, Ala. One week after Pearl Harbor, (December 15, 1941) the first class of Cadets lifted their wings off the long runways of Napier Field six months ahead of schedule. The impetus of the emergency . . . the industry of America . . . and the grace of the Almighty . . . had literally "presto-chango-ed" plowshares into silver wings. For Napier Field, now one of the largest and most complete advanced flying schools in the Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center, was, in July of the same year, peaceful farmlands covered with new peanut and cotton crops. Wartime censorship restricts information as to size and cost of the field. Napier Field was named in honor of Major Edward L. Napier, a native of Union Springs, Alabama, who was killed in a crash of an Army airplane on September 15, 1923, while receiving training as a flight surgeon at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio. The Major had been a medical officer in World War I and had transferred to the Air Corps. The purpose of the field is to train cadets in all phases of advanced flying of single-motored planes . . . night flying, formation flying, blind flying, gunnery practice, navigation altitude flying. This field marks the final stage of a cadet's training, and it is here that he is awarded the coveted "Wings". American and British cadets receiving training here represent every state in the Union and practically every part of the empire on which "the sun never sets."

### MASCOT . . .

Gruffie, the mascot of Napier Field, is of regal ancestry, but to the men of this post he looks very much like a sad dodo. Adapted from the griffin (a legendary bird that signifies high birth and station) on the Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center Insignia, Gruffie gets in and out of trouble weekly in the camp paper, cavorts on the music racks of the band, and is Napier Field's own cocky yard-bird.





JAM ... IR.

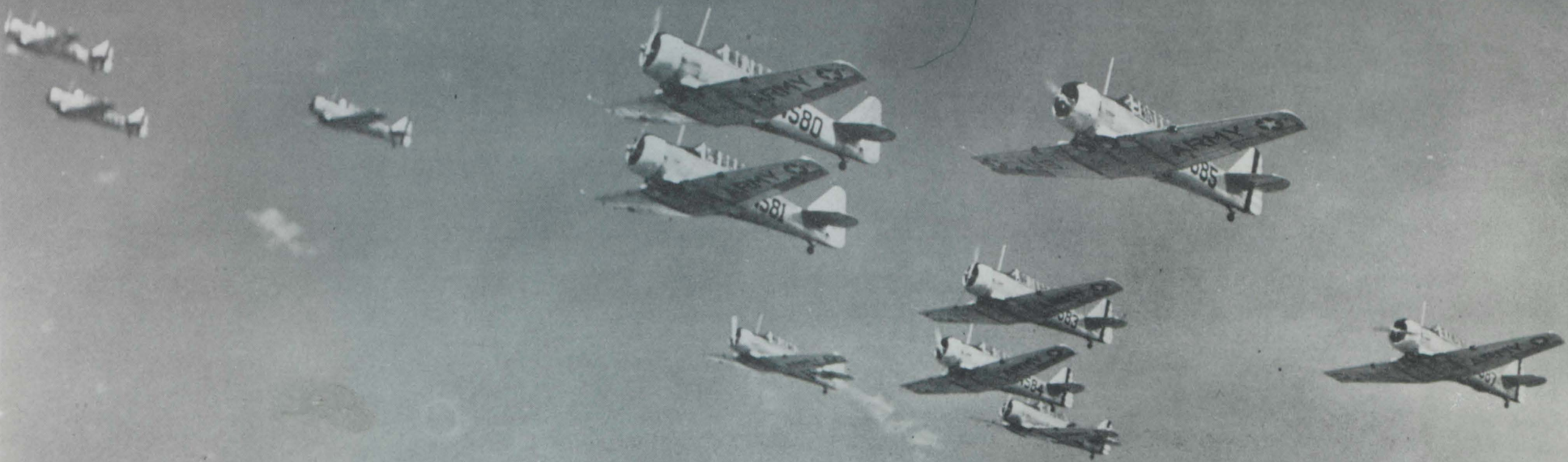




ADONIS



*Somewhere Upstairs*



POST HEADQUARTERS



*Instruction . . .*

*The Key Note at Napier*



LAST MINUTE—BEFORE FORMATION FLIGHT

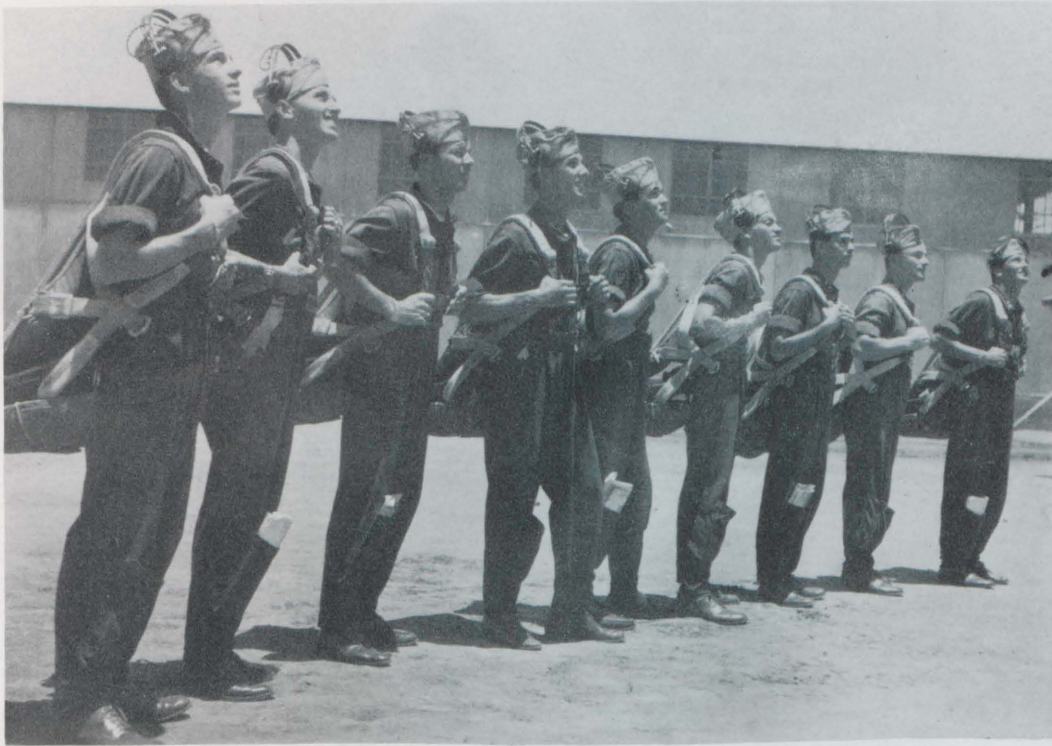


THE 3-SHIP "V" FORMATION IS EXPLAINED



IN THE TRAINER





WAITING ON FLIGHT LINE



STAND FOR A PICTURE BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE LINE



HIS BUDDIES IN THE SKY





CADETS MESS HALL AND SOME BARRACKS





HAPPY IS  
THE SOLDIER  
THAT'S WELL  
FED



"PACKAGES FROM HOME"



M. P.'S STAGE PISTOL PRACTICE

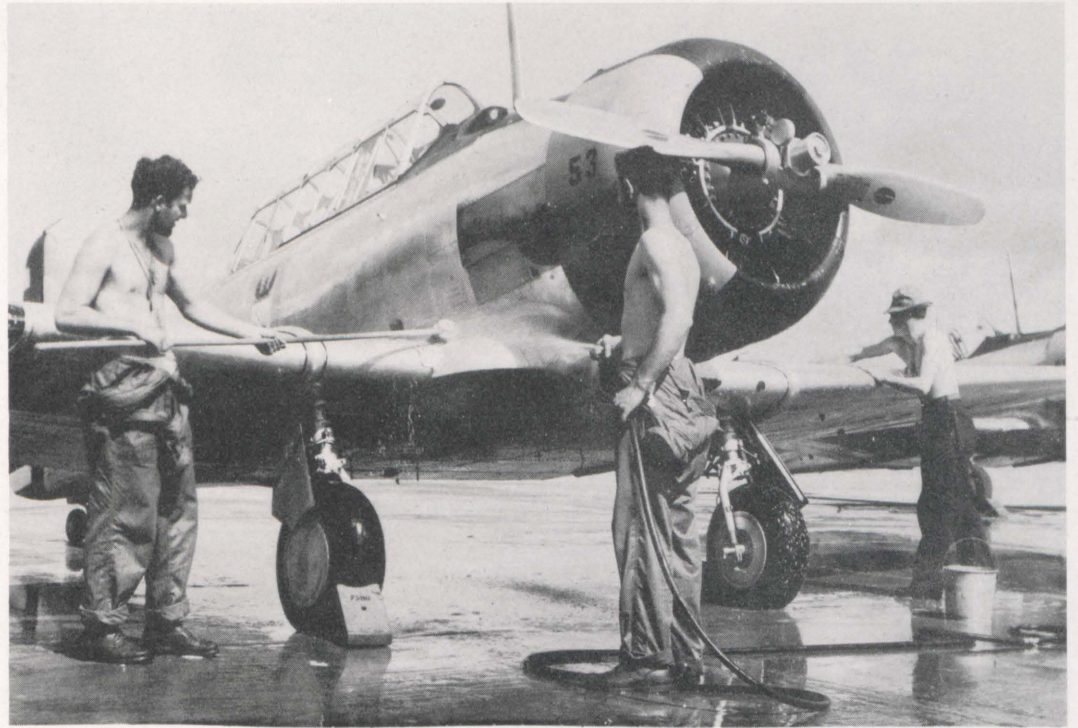




"The Men Who  
Keep 'Em Flying"



MECHANICS OVERHAULING MOTOR



SATURDAY NIGHT BATH



'ES ON THE LINE

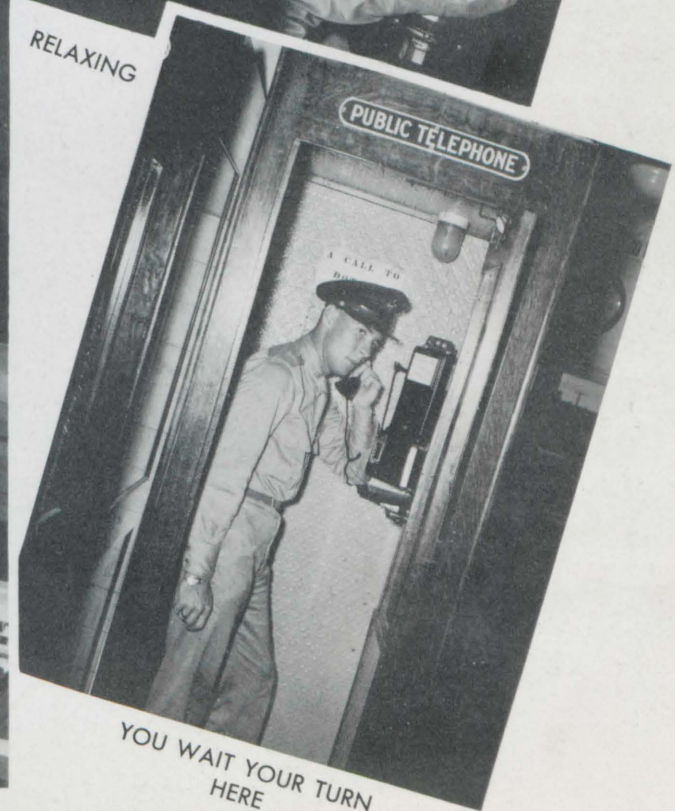




IS IT THE CLEF INTERESTED IN



RELAXING



YOU WAIT YOUR TURN  
HERE





NAPIER DANCE ORCHESTRA



"SOLDIER'S AND THEIR GAL'S"

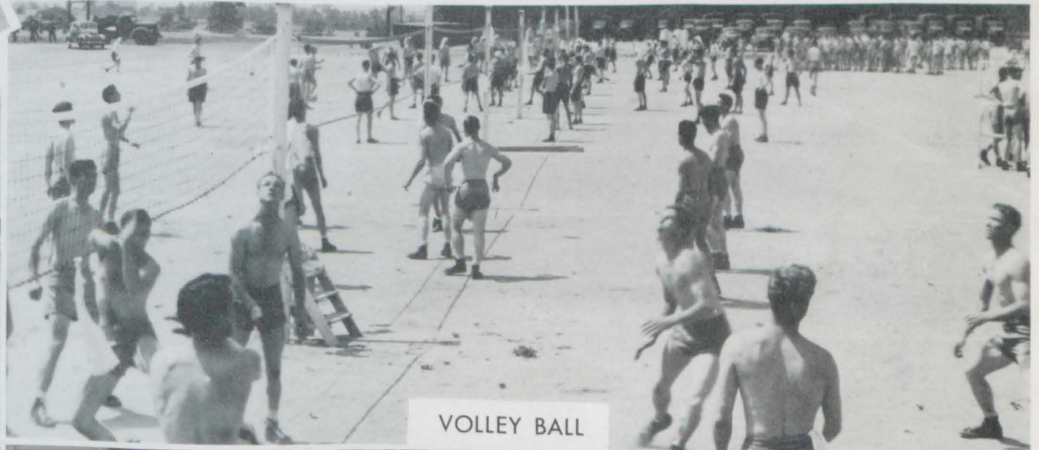
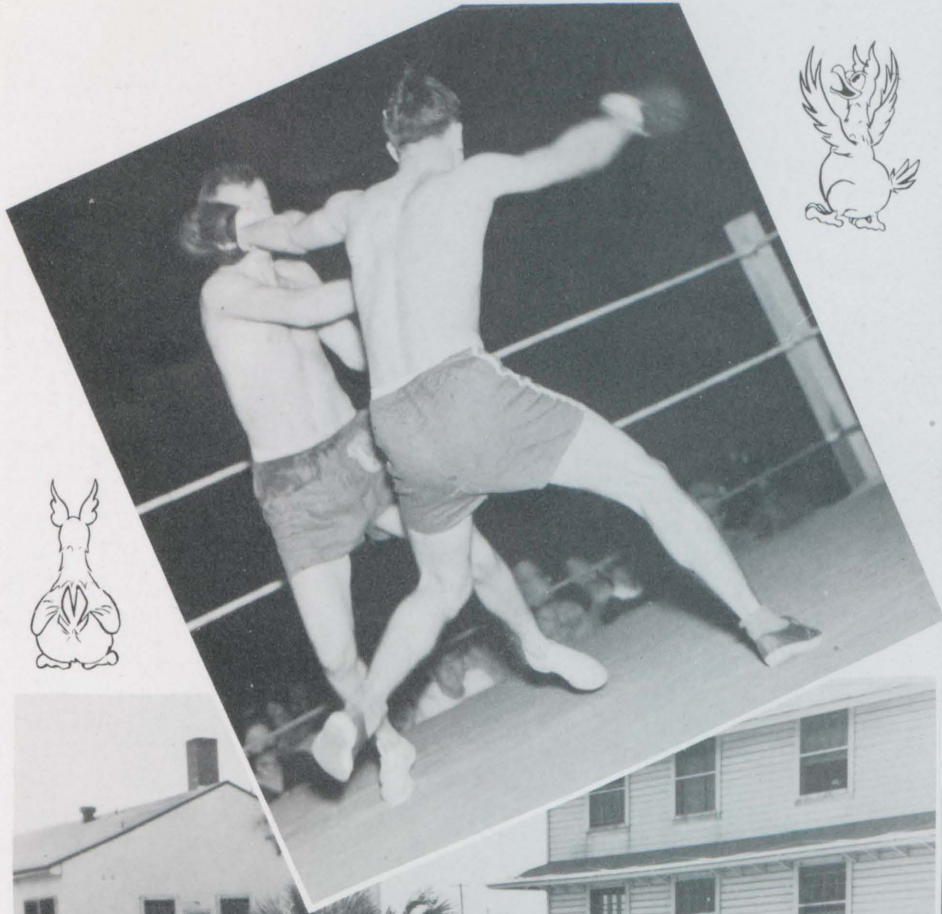
# Sports and Entertainment



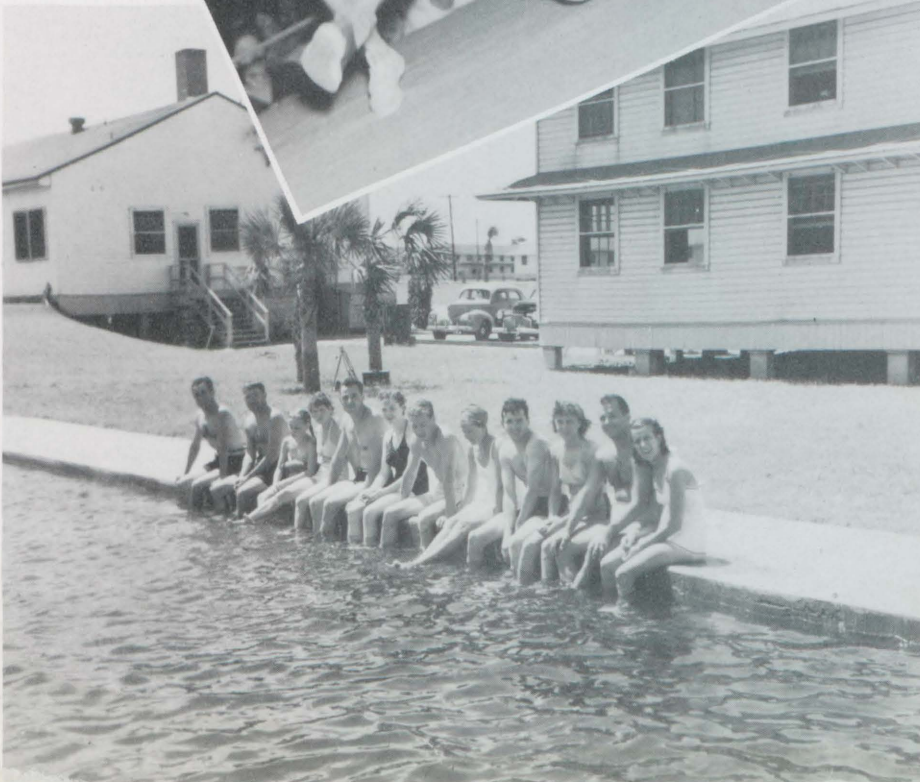
OFFICERS' WIVES' BRIDGE CLUB







VOLLEY BALL



BEAUTY AND THE OFFICERS



GOING THROUGH THEIR PACES





LT. WILLIAM SUMMER

CURRY



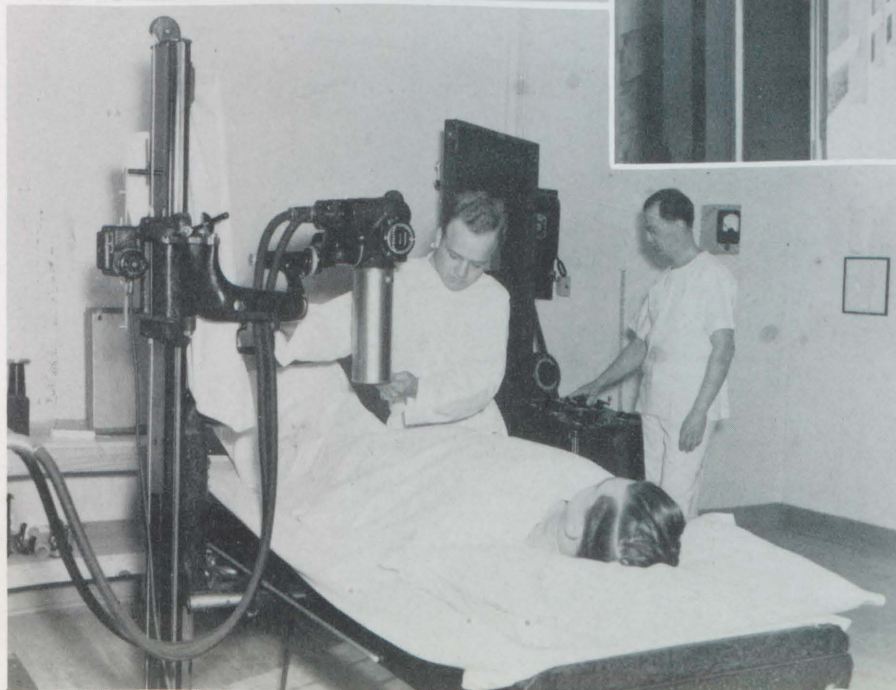
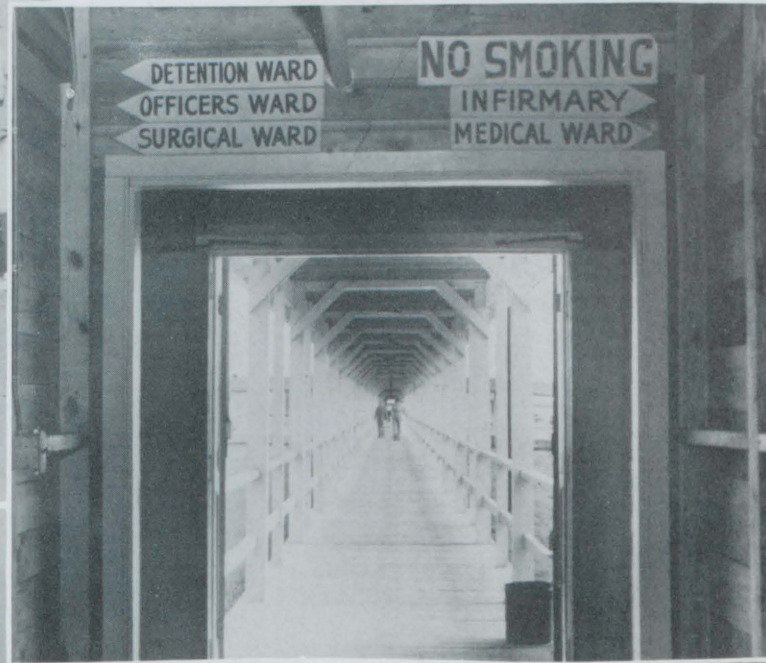
# Station Hospital



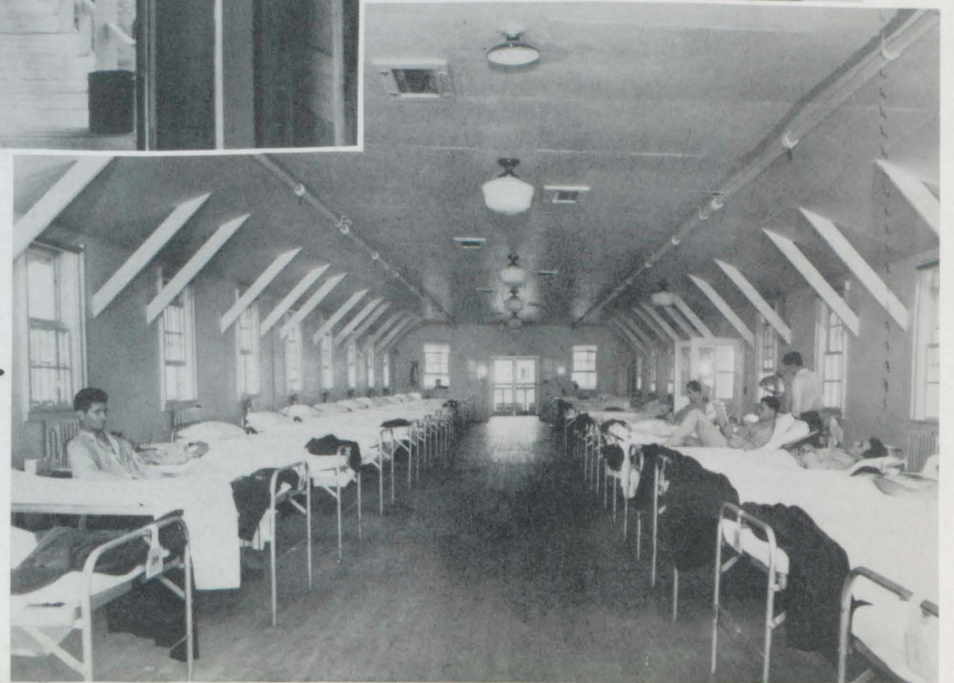
NURSES' GAS MASK DRILL



PHYSICAL CHECK-UP

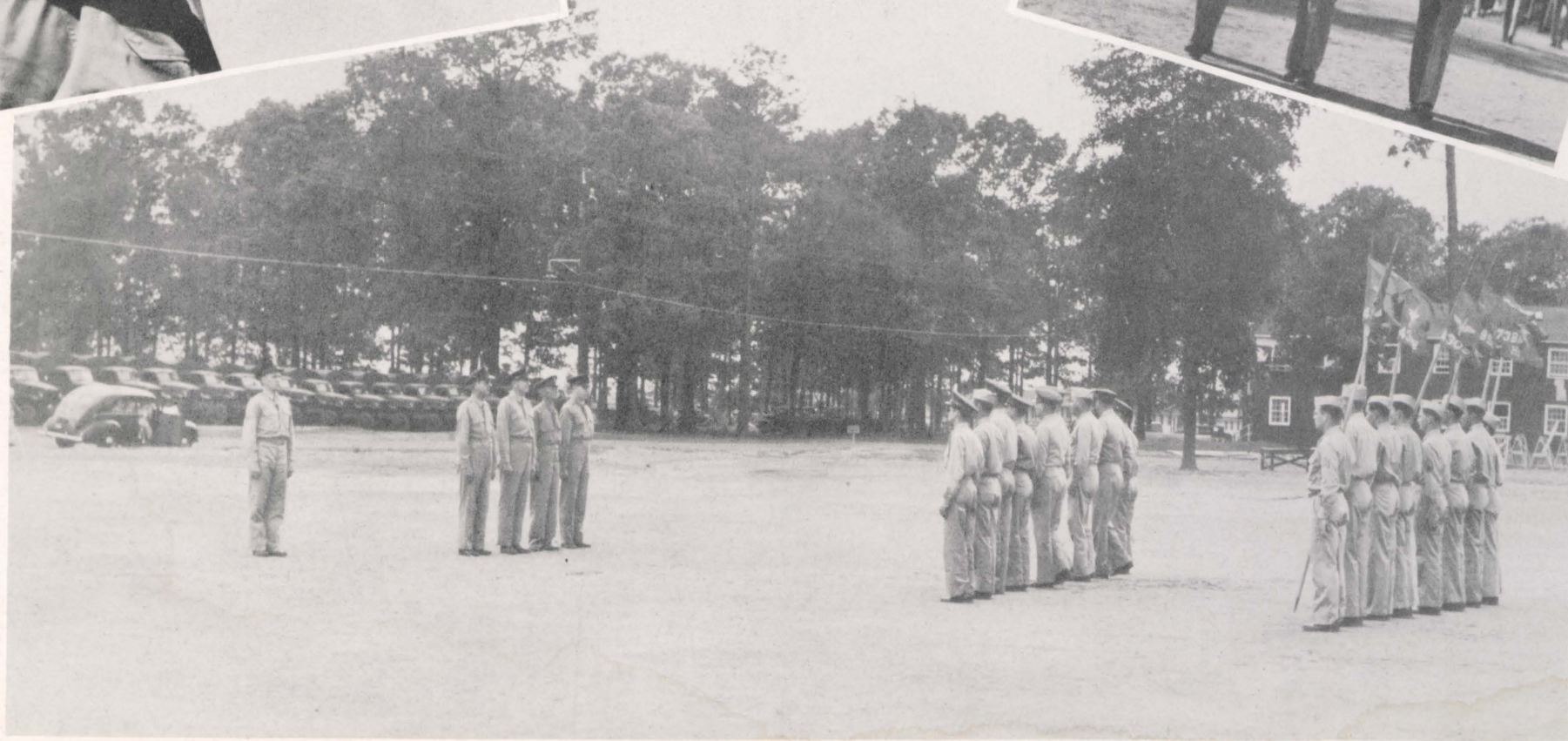
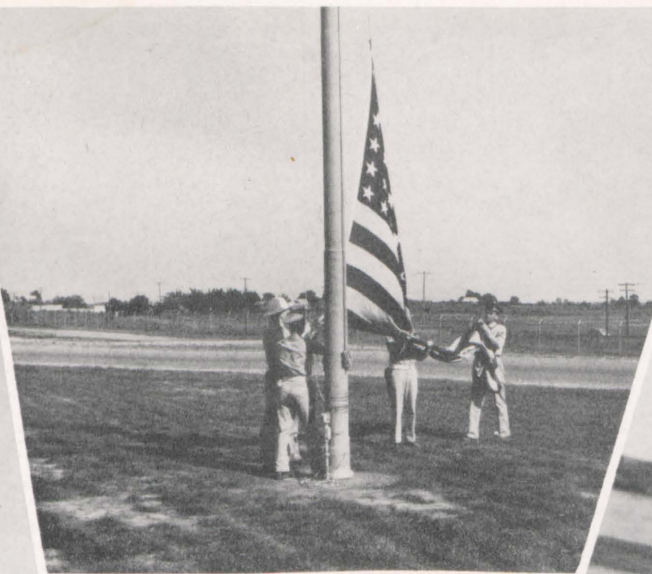


X-RAY ROOM



ONE OF THE WARDS

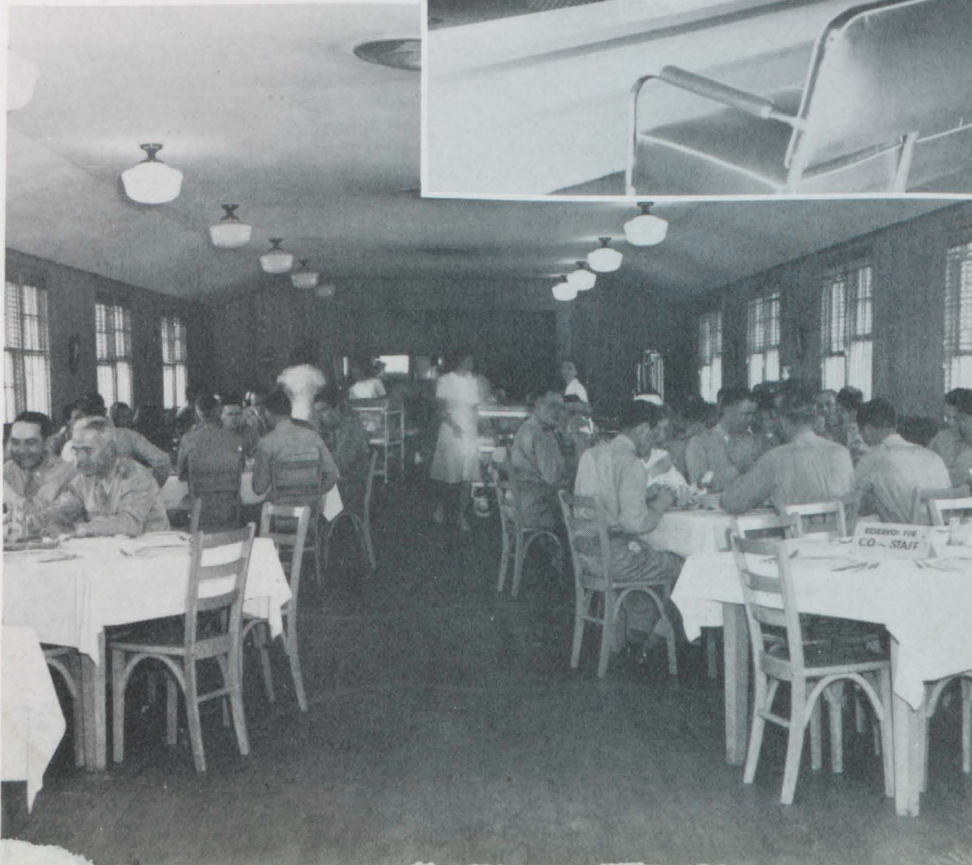
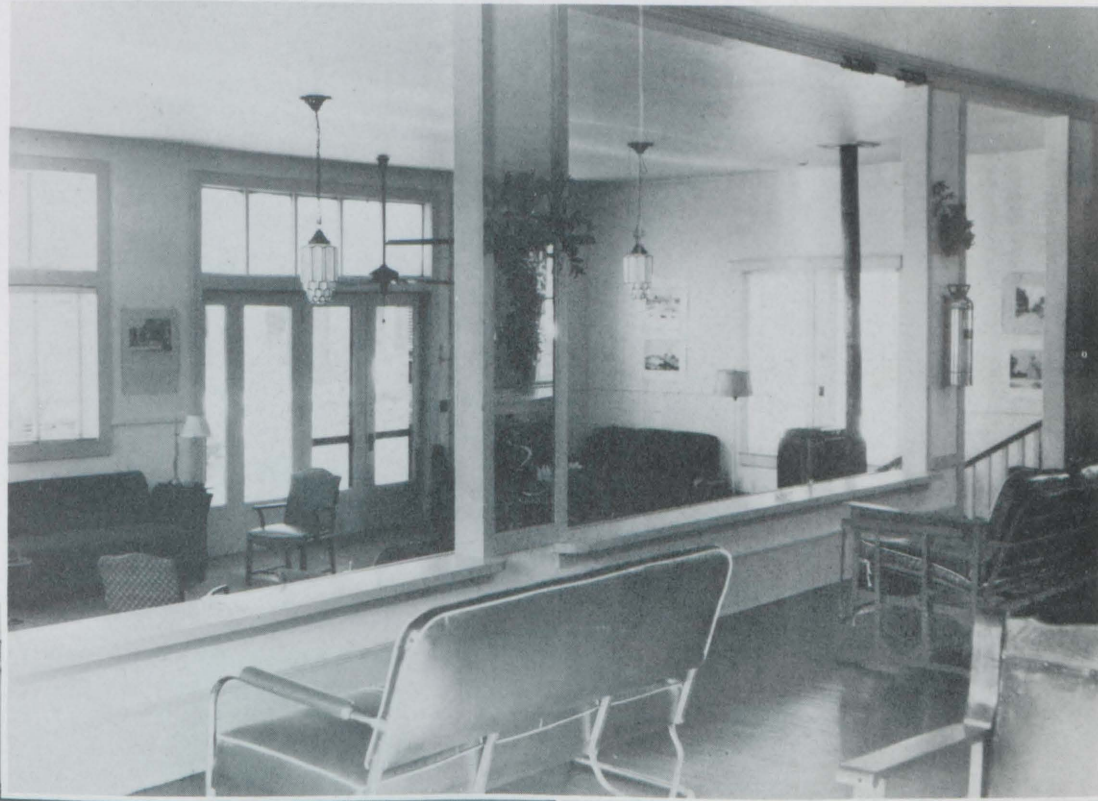




SQUADRON COMMANDERS WITH THEIR GUIDON BEARERS REPORTING TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND STAFF



INTERIOR OF  
SERVICE MEN'S  
CLUB AT  
DOTHAN, ALA.



OFFICERS' DINING HALL

RELAXING AT OFFICERS' CLUB





BRING ON THE FOOD



"Kelley  
A Wooded Natural  
Exclusive Use of

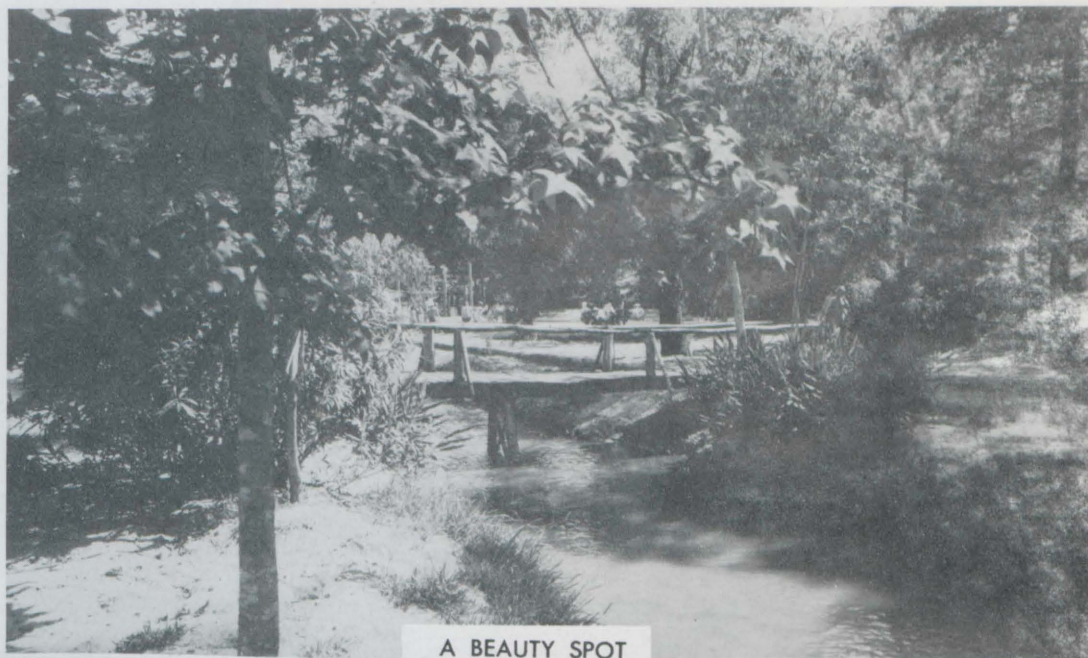


"A PATH TO FUN"





*Springs"*  
*Wonderland for the*  
*Napier Field*  
*Personnel*



A BEAUTY SPOT



"A STROLL ALONG 'LOVERS WALK'"





POST THEATRE



DIRECTOR OF TRAINING BUILDING



E C

... A 'LAGE PUP'



PART OF  
MOTORIZED  
EQUIPMENT



LOADING MACHINE GUN



STUDENTS STUDY MAP BEFORE TAKE-OFF

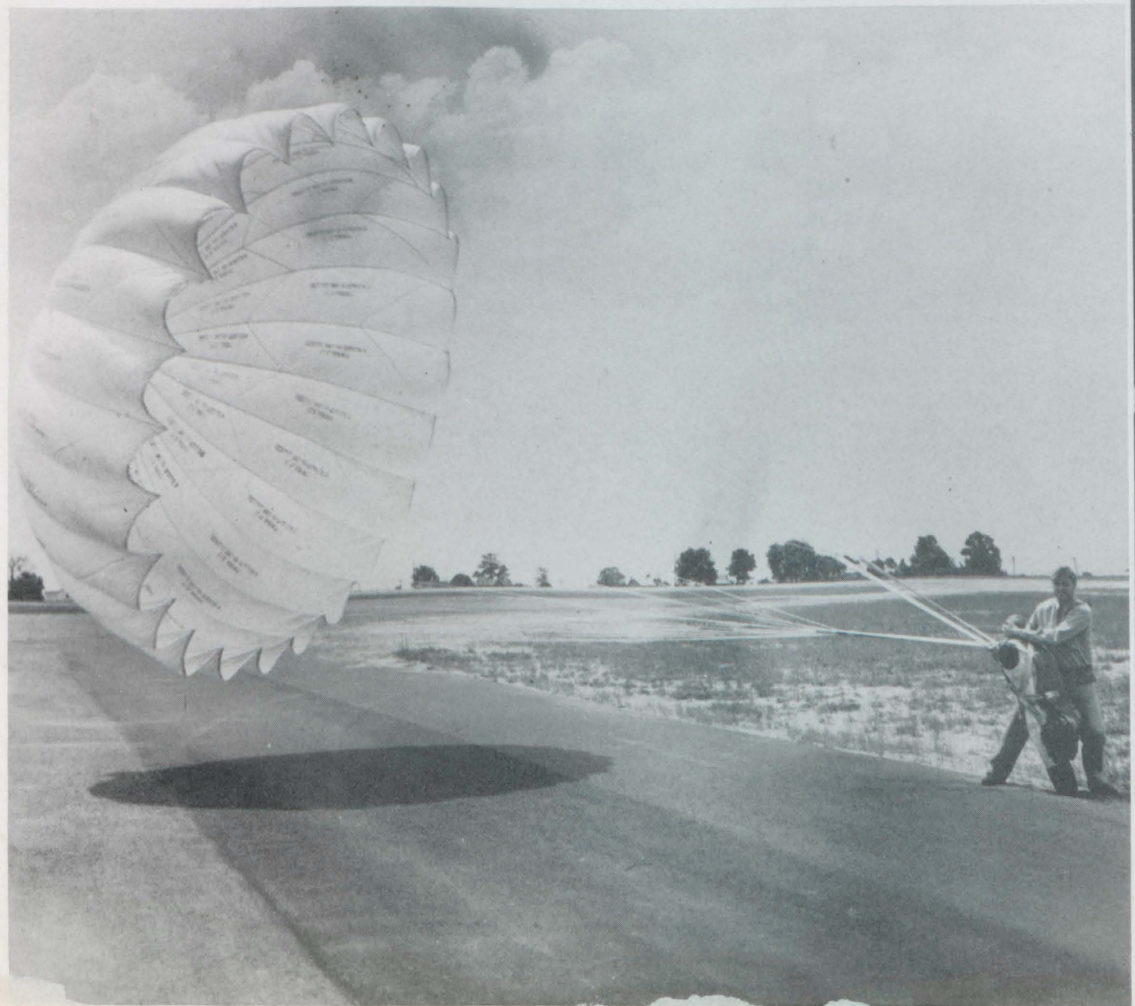
NEW TYPE INSTRUCTION FOR CAMOU





IN FORMATION





MR. DUMMY MADE A 3 POINT LANDING

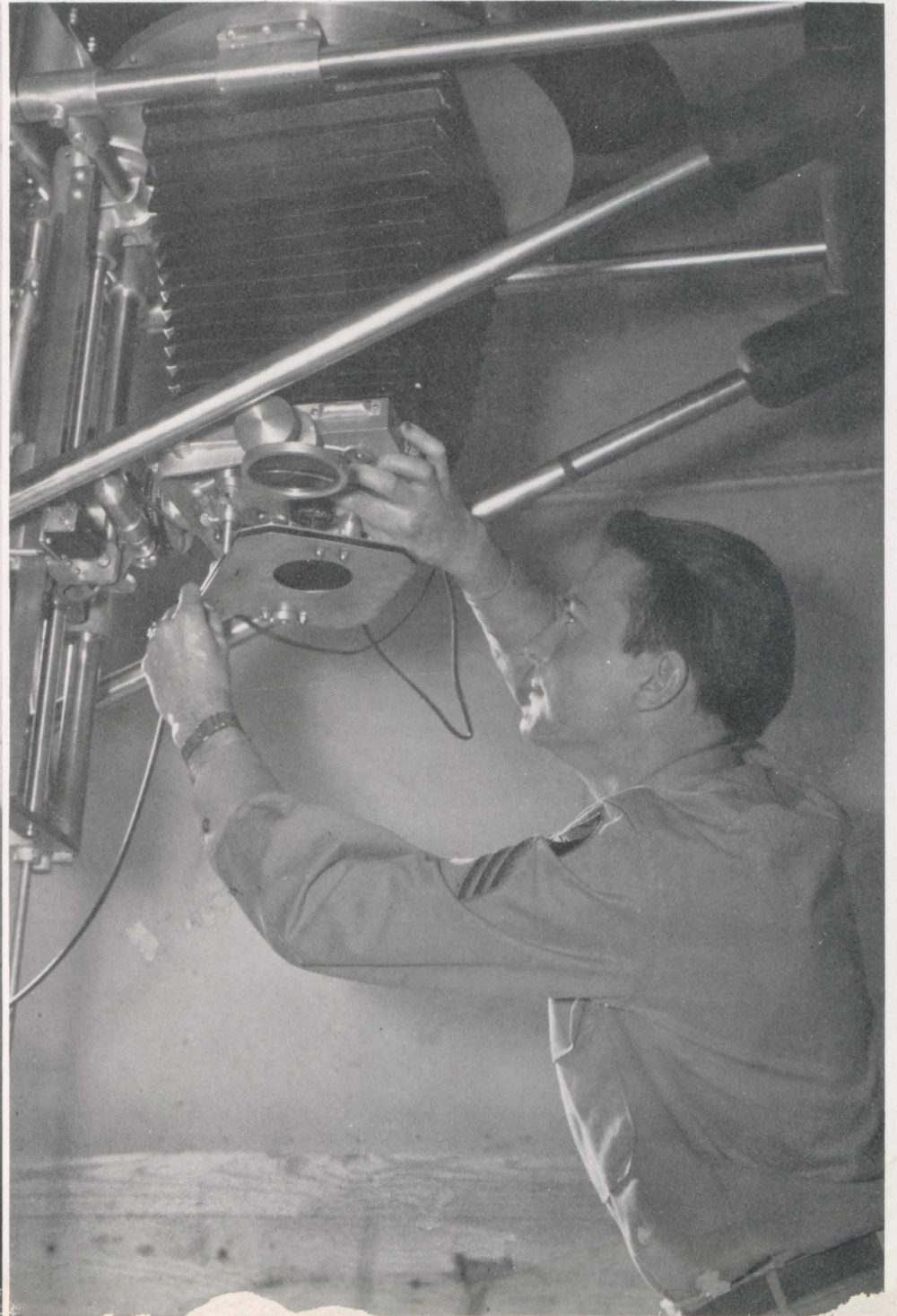


PARACHUTE RIGGER AT WORK





FLYER EQUIPPED FOR HIGH ALTITUDE FLIGHT







FLYING INSTRUCTORS—"THE BEST"

PHOTO BY: INSPECTOR NEW ENGLAND





"FOLLOW THE LEADER"

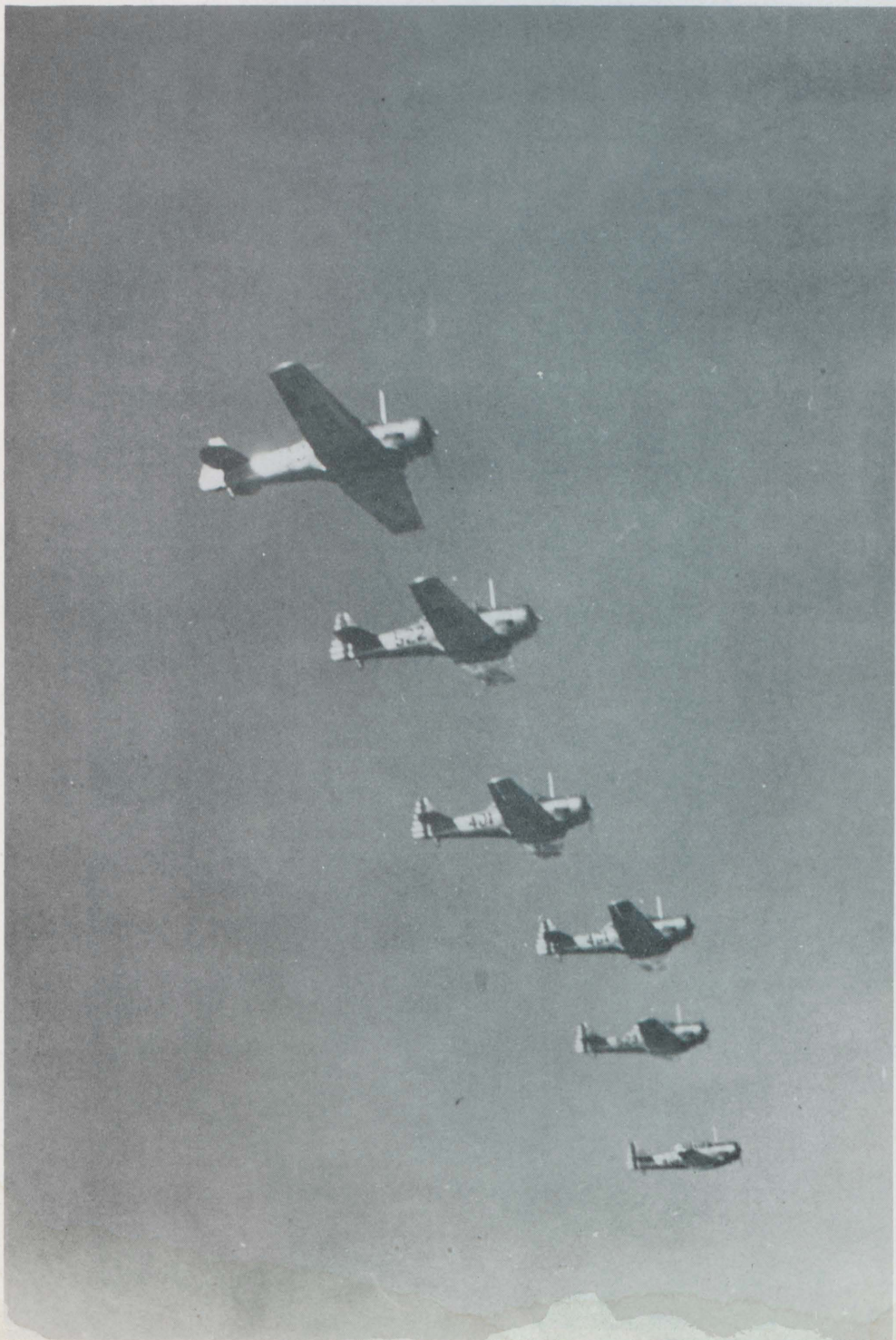


BARRACKS AREA



MESS HALL AND KITCHEN BUILDING





OPERATION AND WEAT



PLANE IN FLIGHT





*Napier*



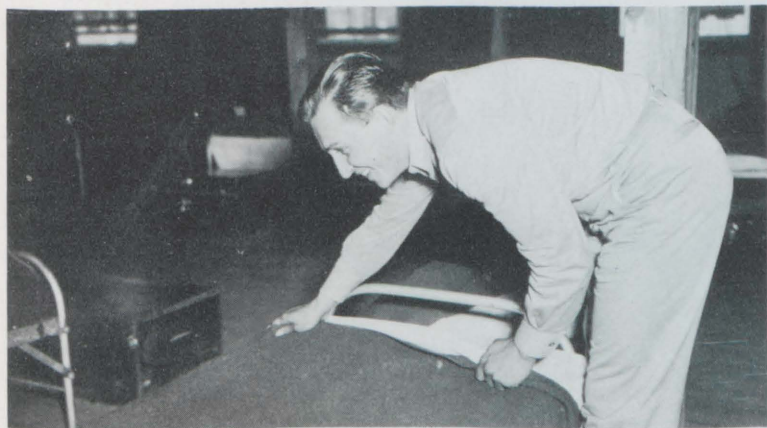
*Glances*







SQUADRON DANCE



"DINING ROOM ORDERLIES"







SOME INSTRUCTORS  
AND STUDENTS

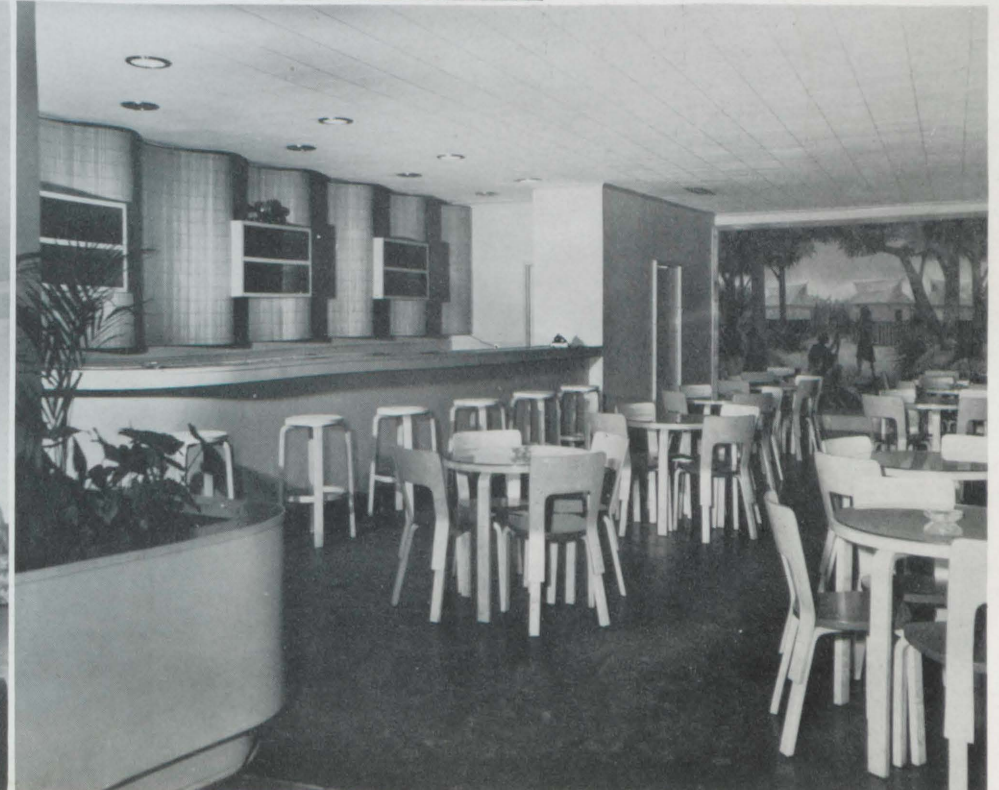


LT. TIMOTHY LINDSLEY LEADS POST ORCHESTRA



NO. IN POST CHAPEL





CLUB OFFICERS' AND BAR LUNGE AND FIRST WEDDING IN ROOM





"66"
















## *Happy Landings . . .*

Napier Field is more than a flying school . . . Napier Field is a symbol of American heart . . . American muscle . . . American ideals . . . and American determination. It is also a symbol of cooperation that knows no boundaries. For here both American and United Kingdom cadets undergo the last stages of training before taking off for the "wild blue yonder." Training together, the youth of Britain and America learn to work together with understanding and good will . . . and this understanding and good will is an indication of the better world to come.



We hope this book has been your behind-the-scenes-glimpse into our daily life here, and that it will be a reminder now, and in years to come, of scenes and events that enrich our memories of the fulfillment of our duty to our country.







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