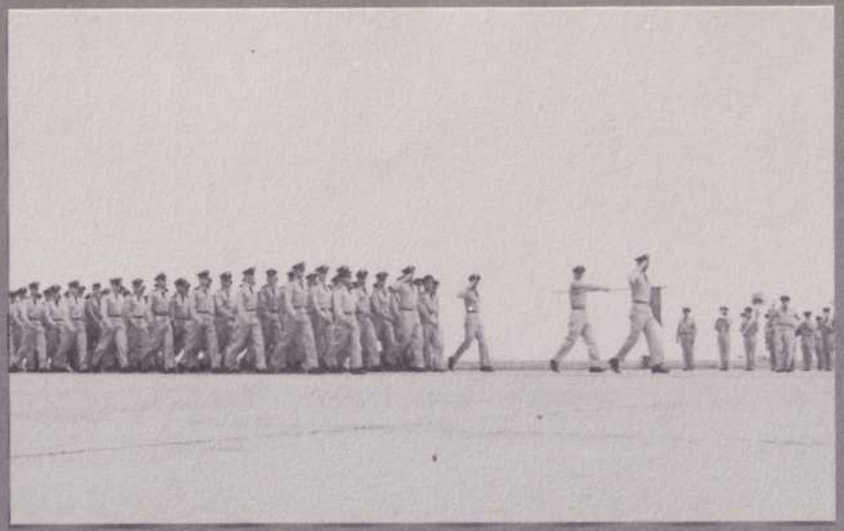
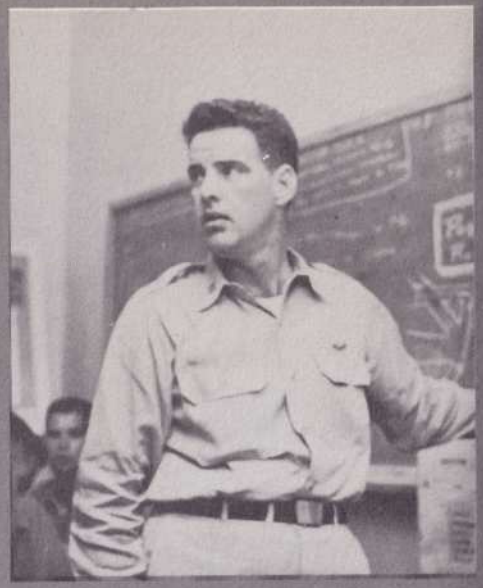
# FINAL APPROACH

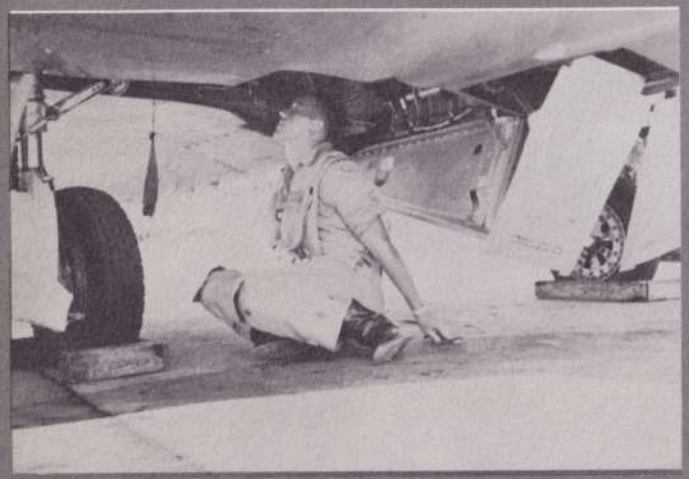


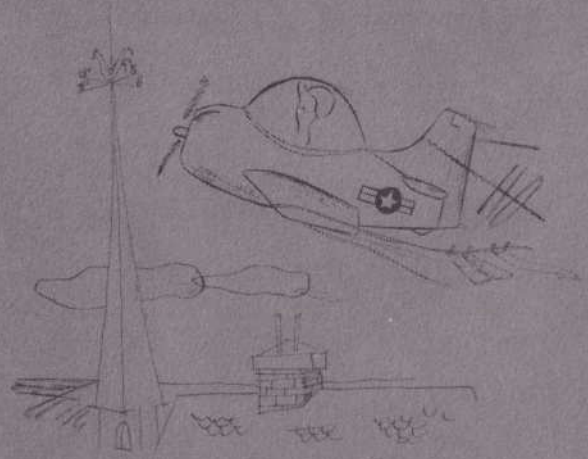

## 53-E





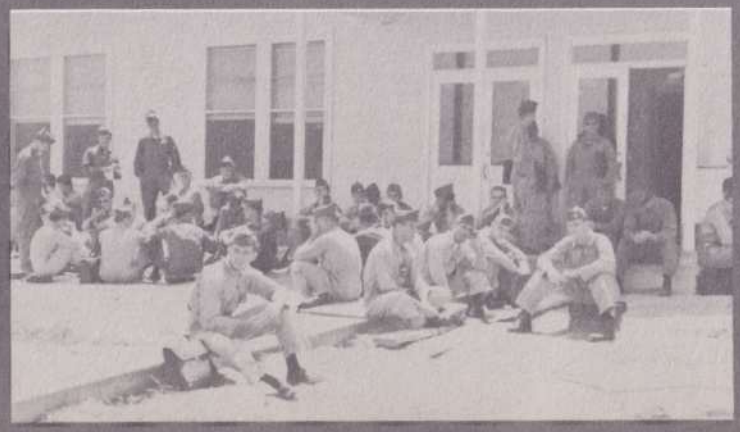




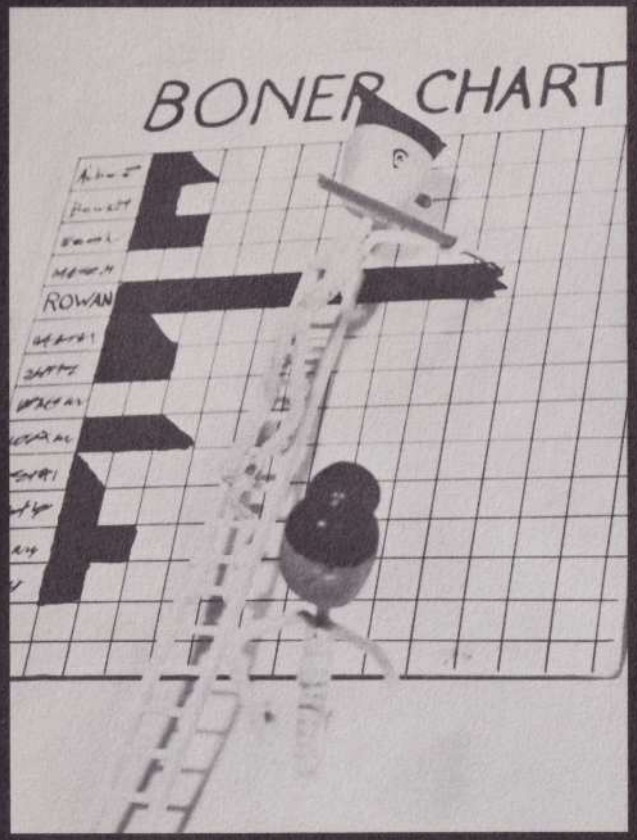


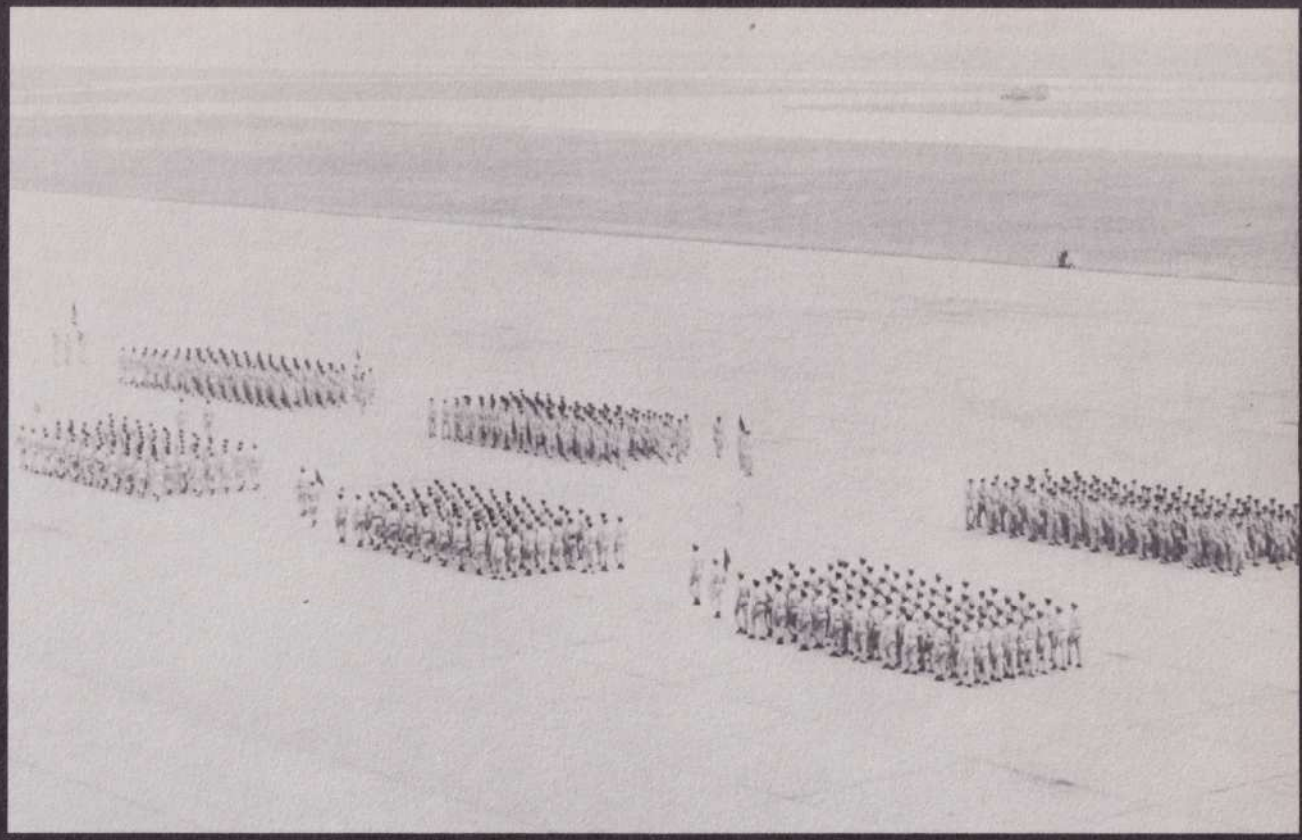
















"It isn't supposed to be comfortable."

Roby R. Craft

staff

editor — d. purdy

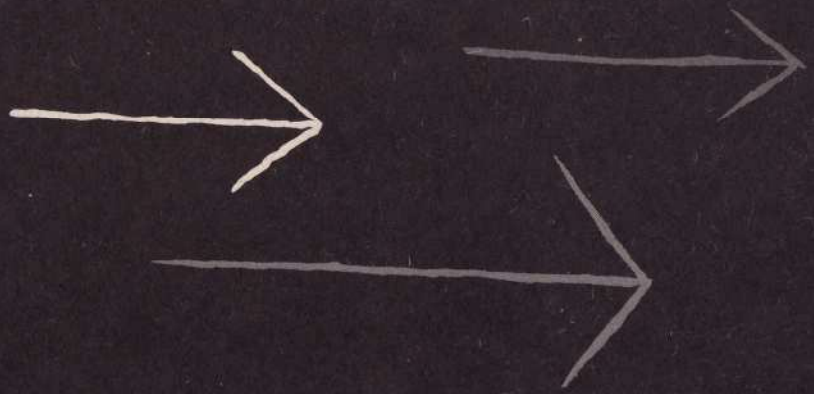
layout and design — j. ensign

business manager — h. pluenneke

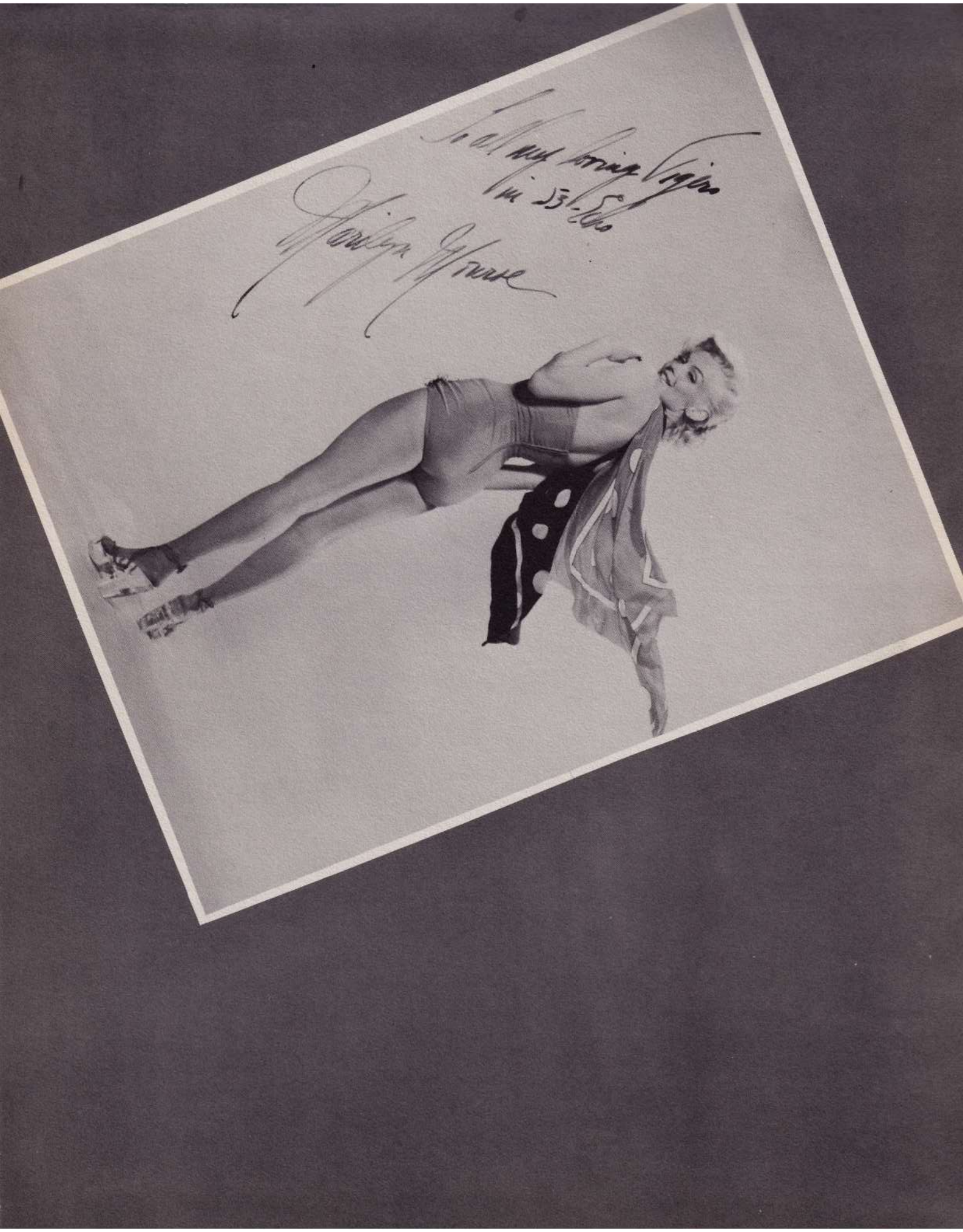
photographic editor — d. vaughan

photographers — i. handley
g. urban
g. oswald

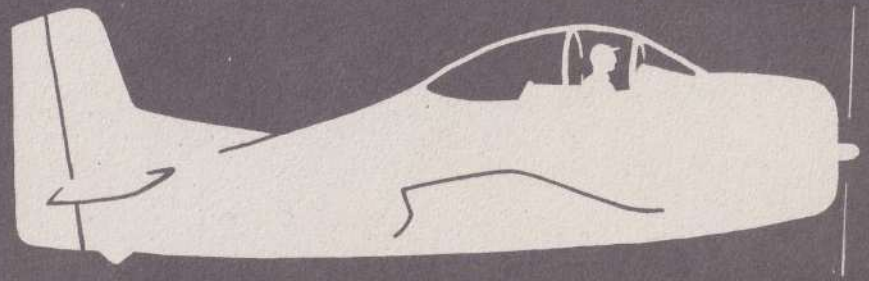
art — j. moorefield



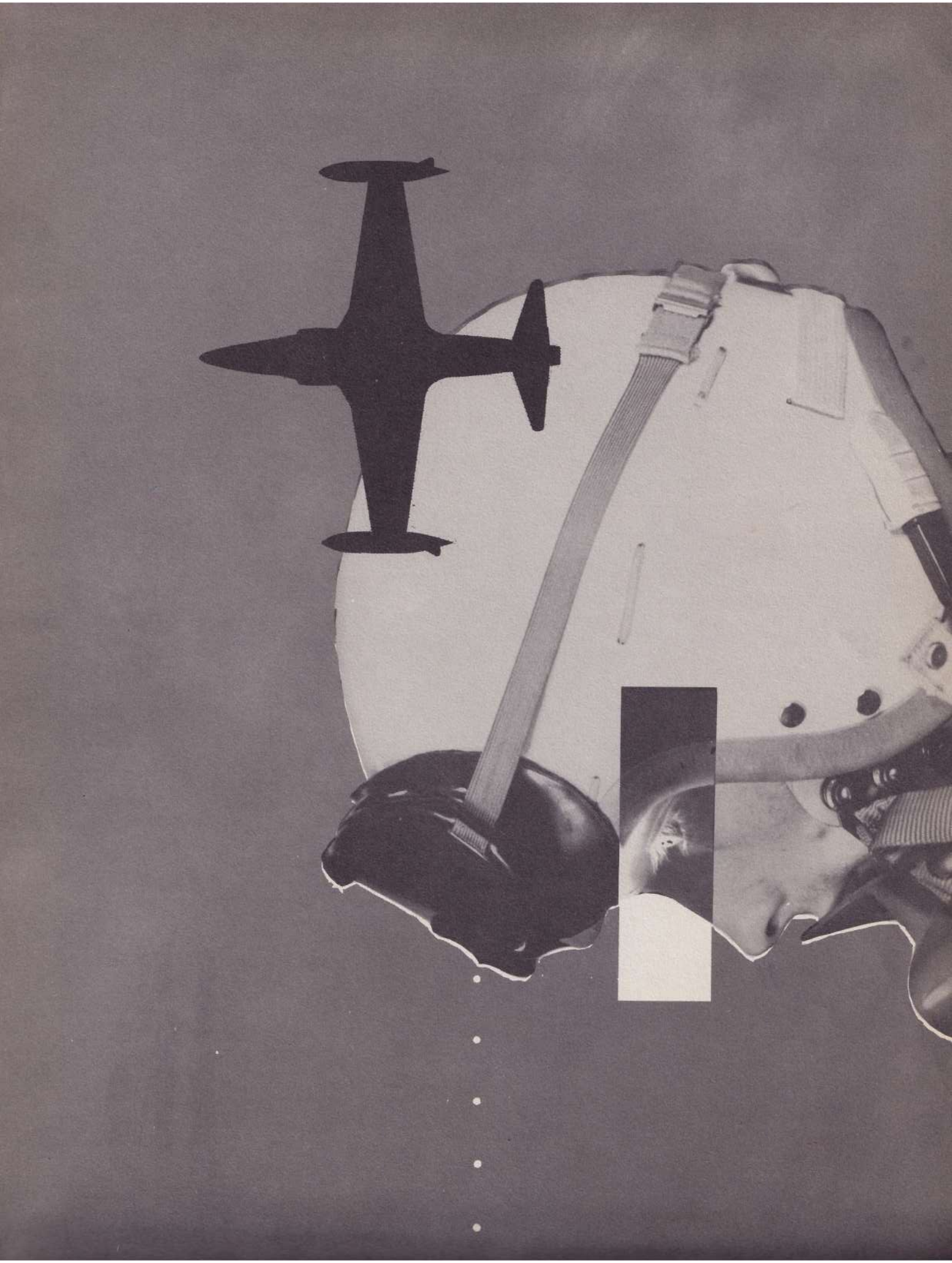
53-e final approach



# class 53 echo



jet pilot
training, foster afb,
victoria, texas






**on your final approach**

To Members of Class 53-Echo:

Your class is the first to have received its complete basic pilot training here at Foster. It is also the first to graduate the allied students who have lived and worked side by side with us for the past six months. For these reasons, your progress here has been of particular interest to all of us.

Much of your early training was accomplished under somewhat adverse conditions. In spite of this, you maintained high standards and completed your training in a commendable manner. The projects you have pioneered here will be of great assistance to the students who succeed you.

We are especially proud of you allied students for your exemplary performance during your stay with us, and for the superior manner in which you have gained credit for yourselves and your respective countries. It is a privilege to have had you among us, and after observing your progress closely, I do not believe that your governments could have selected more willing and capable emissaries.

As you leave this phase of the pilot training program, we take pride in having helped you reach this goal, and will eagerly anticipate news of your future accomplishments. It is in men of your high caliber and uncompromising efforts that our great organization holds the key to the success of its vast undertakings.

My personal congratulations to each of you.

Sincerely,

C. D. SONNKALB
Colonel, USAF
Commanding

colonel
charles d. sonnkalb
commanding officer
3580th pilot
training wing



# group

## staff

## officers



colonel
harry l. downing, jr.
commanding officer
3580th
pilot training group



lieutenant colonel
stephen h. crosby, jr.
group executive

the pilot training group staff officers are the personnel that administer the over-all functioning of the group.

these are the men behind the scenes, who provide plans, materials, coordination and smooth internal functioning with other units of the base.



major
keo l. snook
educational and
training



captain
leslie m. moore
group adjutant



captain
thomas g. morris
group supply officer

**south texas . . . where always**

**is heard a discouraging word and**

**the skies are**

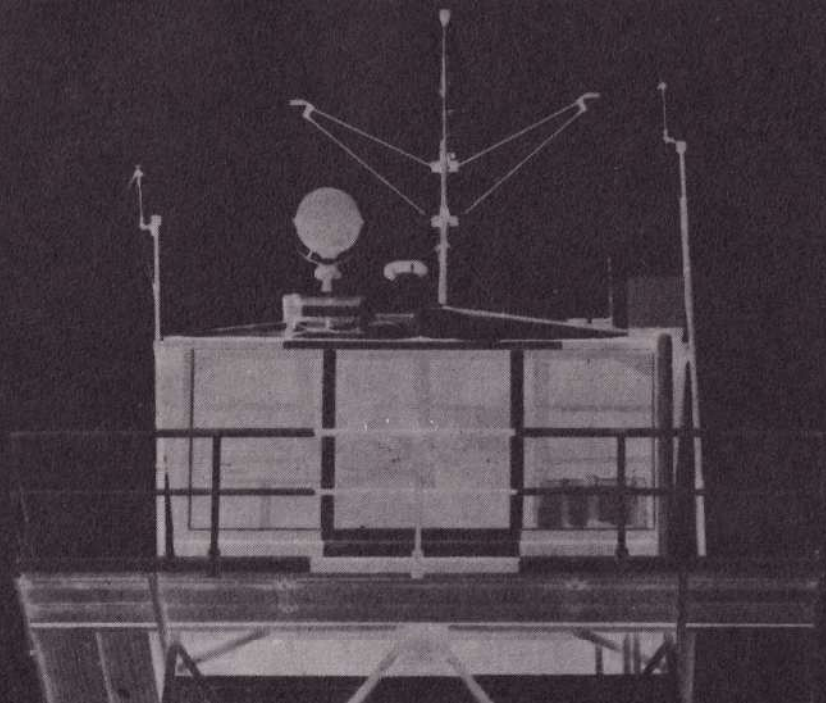
**cloudy all day . . . . .**

# We arrived second

February sixteenth, nineteen hundred and fifty three. All roads led to Foster Air Force Base for those of Echo class. True, we arrived second—but second to none in ability and spirit.

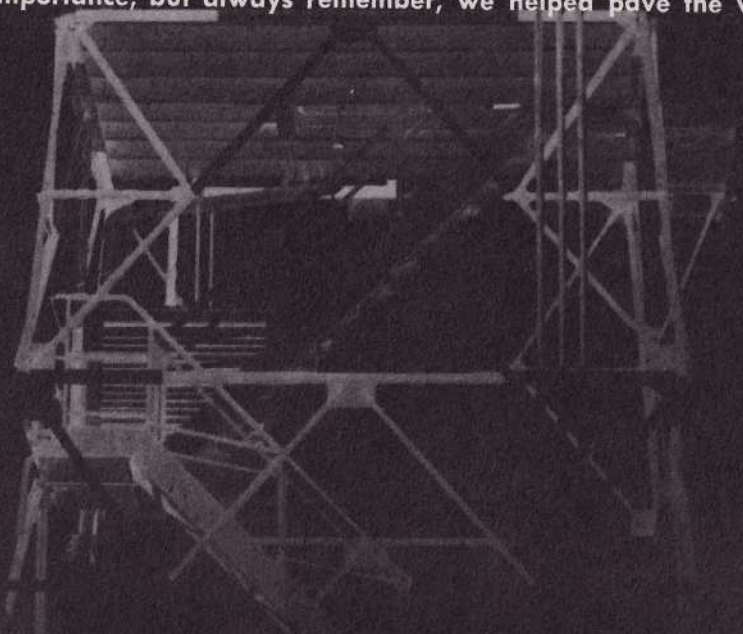
"A scurvy lot" agreed the tactical officers as they watched us wind our way down the dirt roads. "Raunchy indeed," said the base commander. The rains came and the roads turned to mud, we sloshed our way from barracks to mess hall and from mess hall to flight line. The section marcher, (his was a sorry lot) saw to it that we arrived late for all formations. The right guide, equipped with carbide lamp and mae west, led us on forced marches as we sang with mad enthusiasm that old song dear to the hearts of those in Echo class, then known as: "Forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty, — Hor-r-r-rse FEATHERS ! !

The T-28 phase passed quickly, much to the pleasure of our faithful instructors who had stood up quite well under the strain. "An unusual group of students," hissed one instructor, as he raked his shaky fingers through his gray hair. "Another crossunder like that and I'll turn in my space cadet badge!" Academics held us spellbound. On a warm afternoon during a heated lecture, numerous cadets could be seen pulling extraordinary positive "G" forces. Some went so far as to black out completely. A few words should be said concerning open post. Places that are familiar to all of us: The Jet—The Turf—the rendering plant . . . . .



We received our hard hats for the jet phase. Many of us had trouble finding helmets to fit our pointed heads. Mobile control laughed hysterically as we cocked the nose wheel on our initial solo. We suffered heavily under excessive boners.

All went as well as could be expected, and we graduated. Farewell, Foster. Goodbye friends, it's been great, really. The base has grown in size and importance, but always remember, we helped pave the way. We arrived second.





major
edward r. wiley
commanding officer
3580th
student squadron



major
ralph bradley
military training officer
3580th
student squadron



1st lieutenant
harry l. loper
personnel officer
student squadron

# military training officers

2nd lieutenant
f. w. shafer
military training instructor



1st lieutenant
richard o. brooks
senior training officer



1st lieutenant
kenneth g. baker
military training instructor



the military training officers mold air force officers from men of civilian and enlisted status. theirs is the job of instilling in their men the customs of the service, military courtesy, a respect for discipline and above all, the ability to think and act for themselves.

# academic officers



captain
orlando r. d'alessandro
director of
academic training



captain
richard w. bloomingdale
academic instructor

1st lieutenant
sylvester s. renner
academic instructor



1st lt.
william k. hurlbert
academic instructor



2nd lt.
e. c. hanpeter
academic instructor



1st lt.
kenneth w. rogers
academic instructor

the academic department attempts to explain the how, why, and when of aeronautical principles, practices and machinery. their working day revolves around formulating lesson plans, lectures, quizzes, and grading. with heads bowed and eyes closed, these are the men who eagerly present the day's lecture.



1st lt.
w. w. bierman
academic instructor



1st lt.
j. r. carpenter
academic instructor



2nd lt.
r. m. moreno
academic instructor



2nd lt.
p. d. hilton
academic instructor



2nd lt.
r. e. rinker
academic instructor

# flying training officers

. . . . . here's a toast
to the host of those who
love the vastness of the sky . . .



with these men lies the bulk of the experience of the flying phase of your training. some of you have been directly connected with these men and you have found them to be human and damn fine people because with that "palm of their own right hand" they have placed a stamp of approval . . . . . on you.

major
robert e. erickson
commanding officer
3581st pilot
*training squadron*

major
frankie r. scariano
squadron
operations officer

major
harold d. buckley
section commander

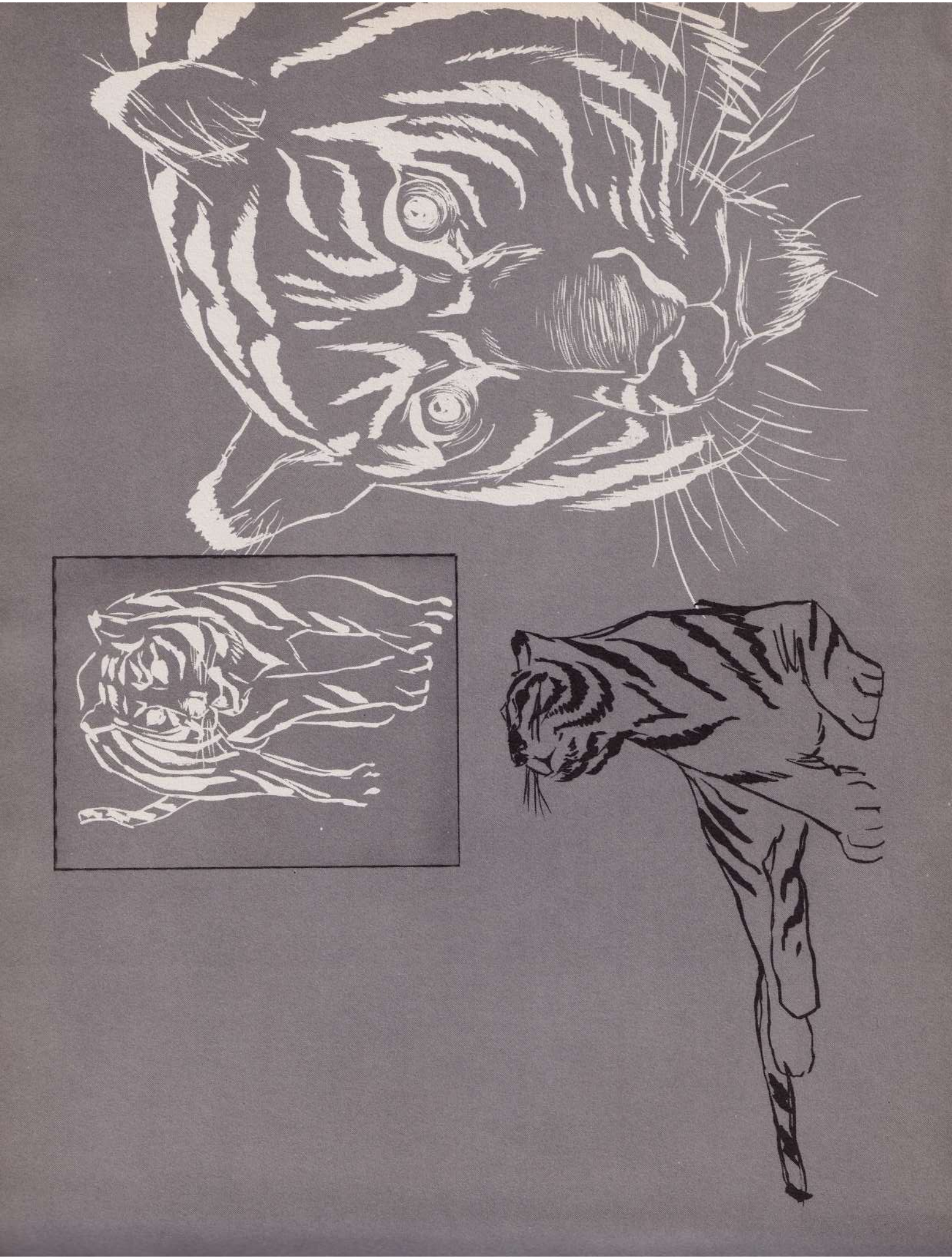






# the tigers





# military

captain
a. doering, jr.
flight
commander



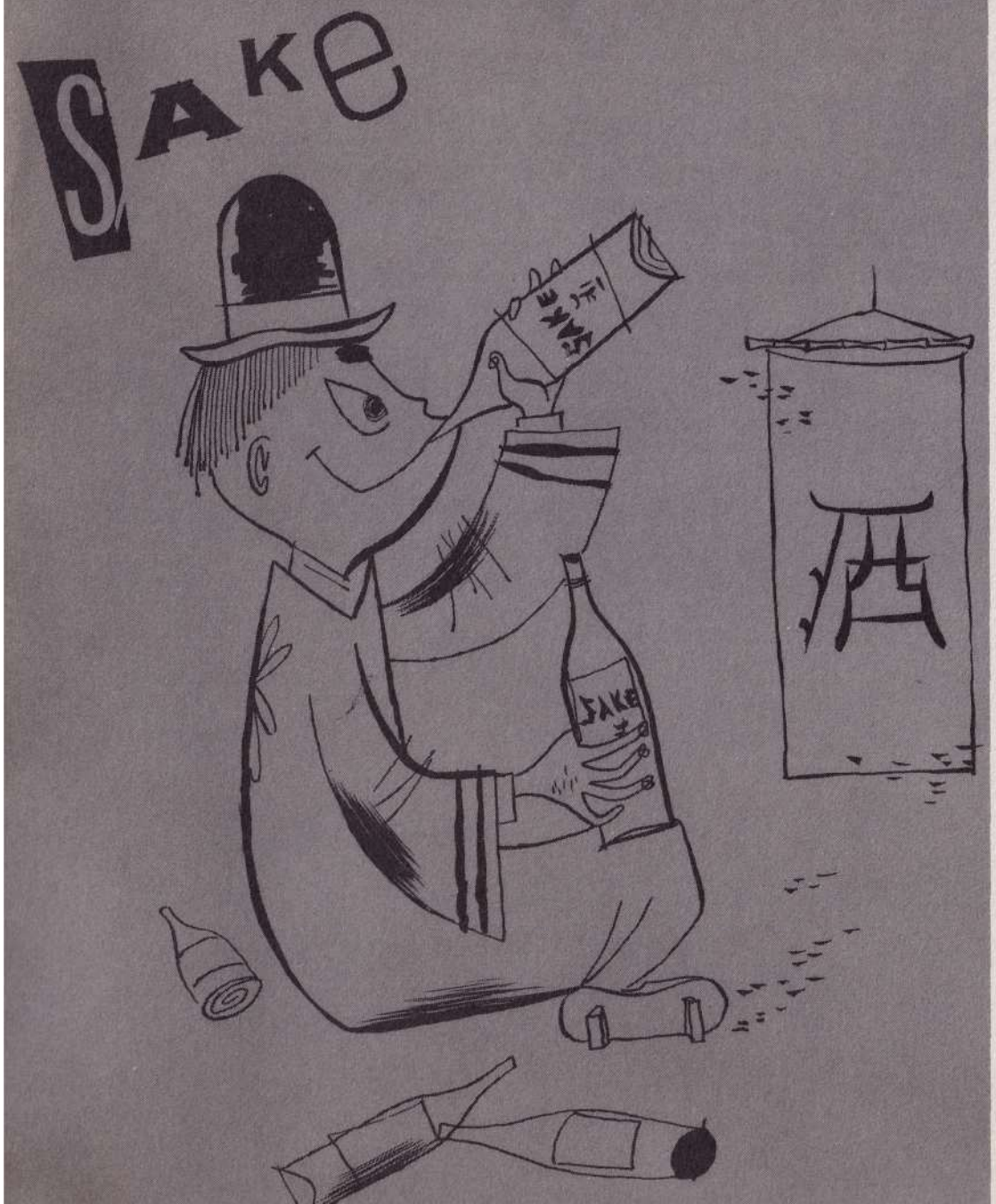
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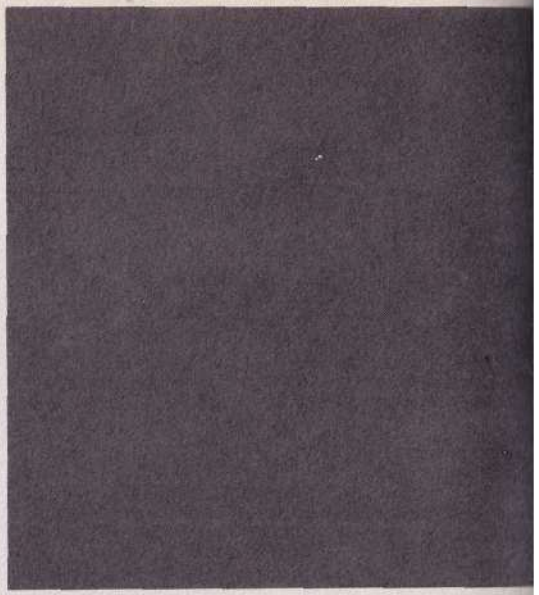


d·e



element l

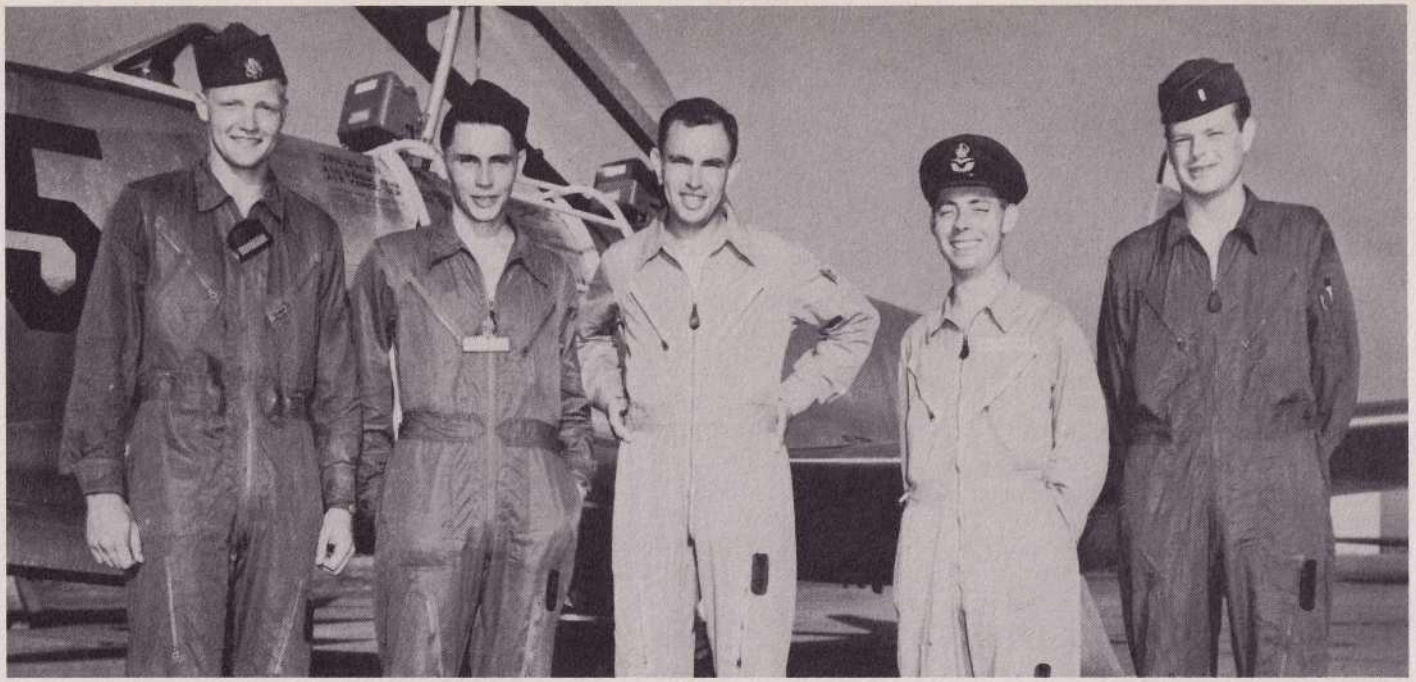


"Red"
D. W. Bryan
625 West Main St.
Lebanon, Tennessee

"Pappy"
Captain Elma Eubanks
Rt. No. 1
Winters, Texas





"Oise"
Jean F. Deckert
12 Rue Aristide Briand
Margny-Les-Compiegne, France



"Ron"
Rodney Naisbitt
East Herrington
Sunderland, England

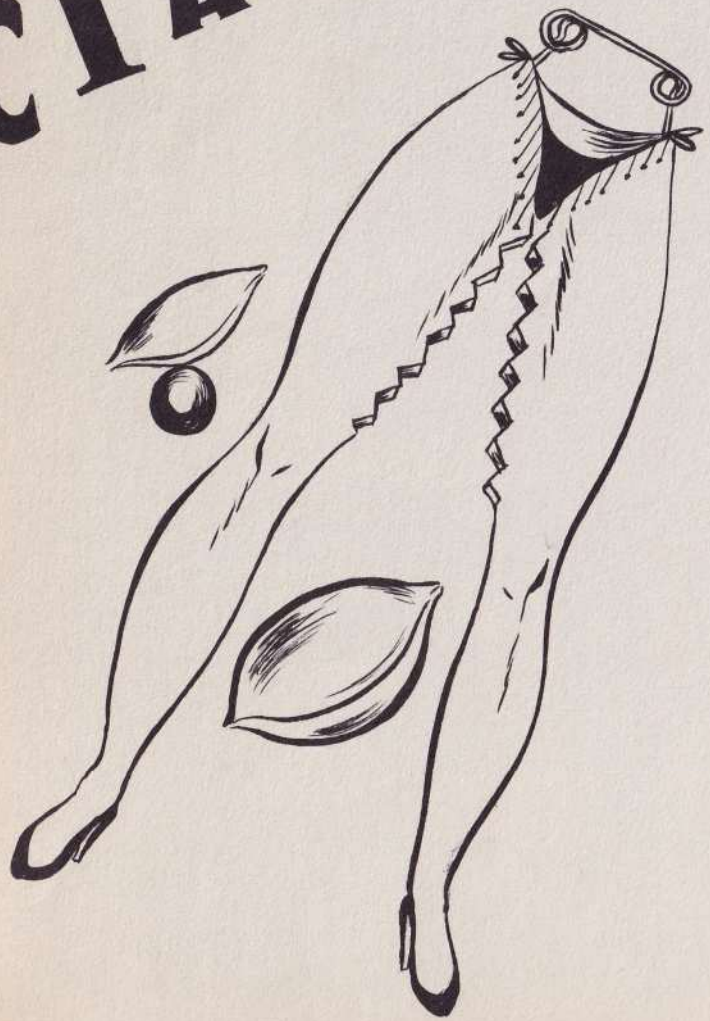


"Zeece"
Robert L. Ziesenis
1627 Rhode Island St.
Laurence, Kansas



element 2

# cracker





"J. D."
1/Lt. James D. Hogan
1501 Washington St.
Columbia, South Carolina

1/Lt. Wallace Simpson
Victoria,
Texas





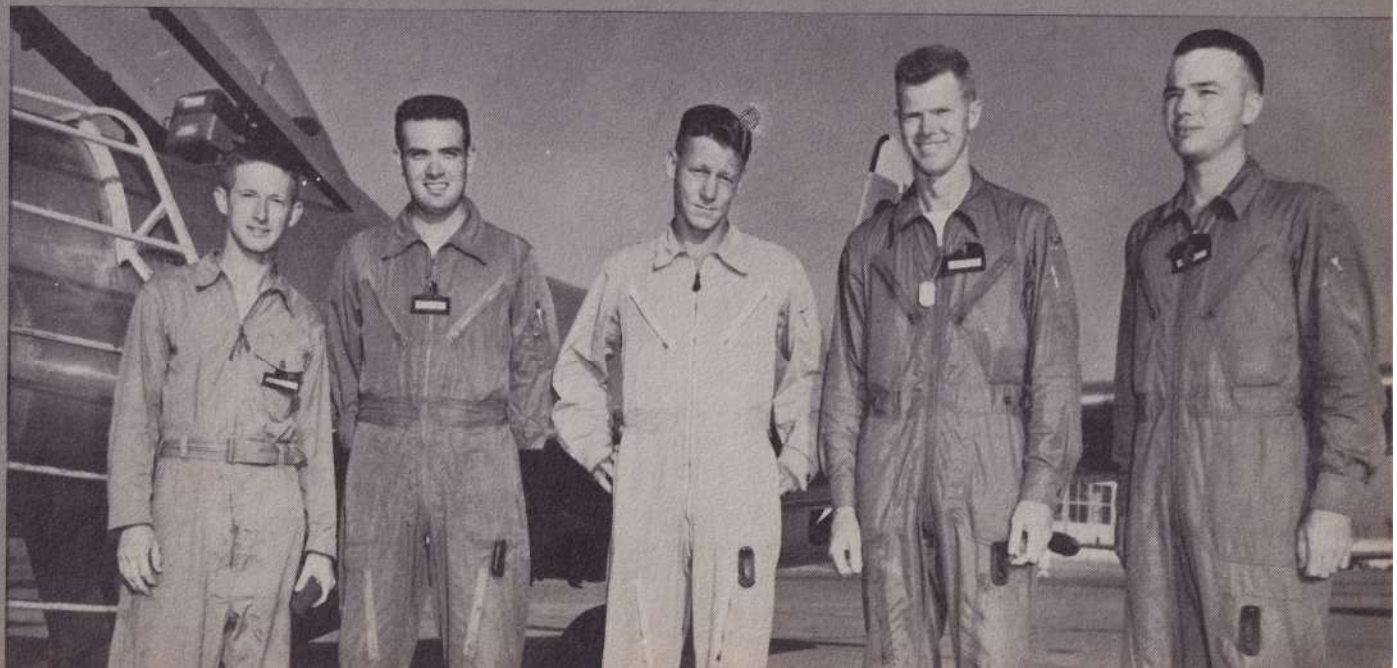
"Chuck"
Charles R. Carter, Jr.
Baltimore,
Maryland



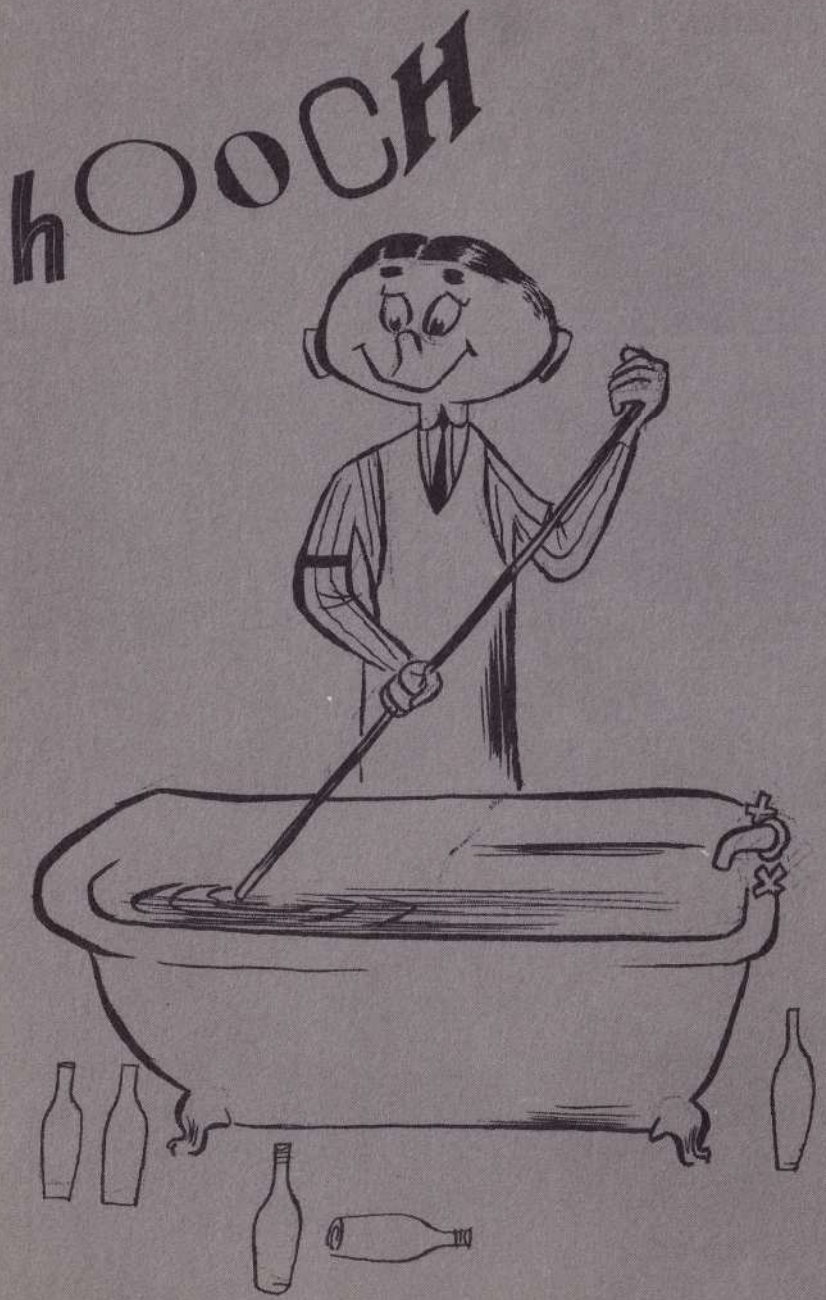
"Jake"
Jacob L. Bland
Marlboro,
New Jersey



"Don"
Donald G. Downen
3940 East Admiral Court
Tulsa, Oklahoma



# element 3




"Hooch Lead"
Captain Jackson H. Gurley
Asheville, North Carolina



"Jack"
Jaques F. Deweulf
19 Rue Guillain
Dunkerque, France





"Bill"
William K. Hardy
106 S. Independent St.
Kinston, North Carolina



W. B. Cumbaa
3348 N. W. 9th Ave.
Miami, Florida



"Swede"
Robert W. Johnson
536 8th St.
Oshkosh, Wisconsin



element 4

# SYLVESTER





"Big Tommy"
Capt. Thomas A. Nivens
624 A. St., N.W.
Ardmore, Oklahoma



"Jerry"
Gerald Lee Urban
1004 Mulberry St.
Yankton, South Dakota





"Nickie"
Arlie N. Sauls, Jr.
Route No. 2
Sumner, Georgia



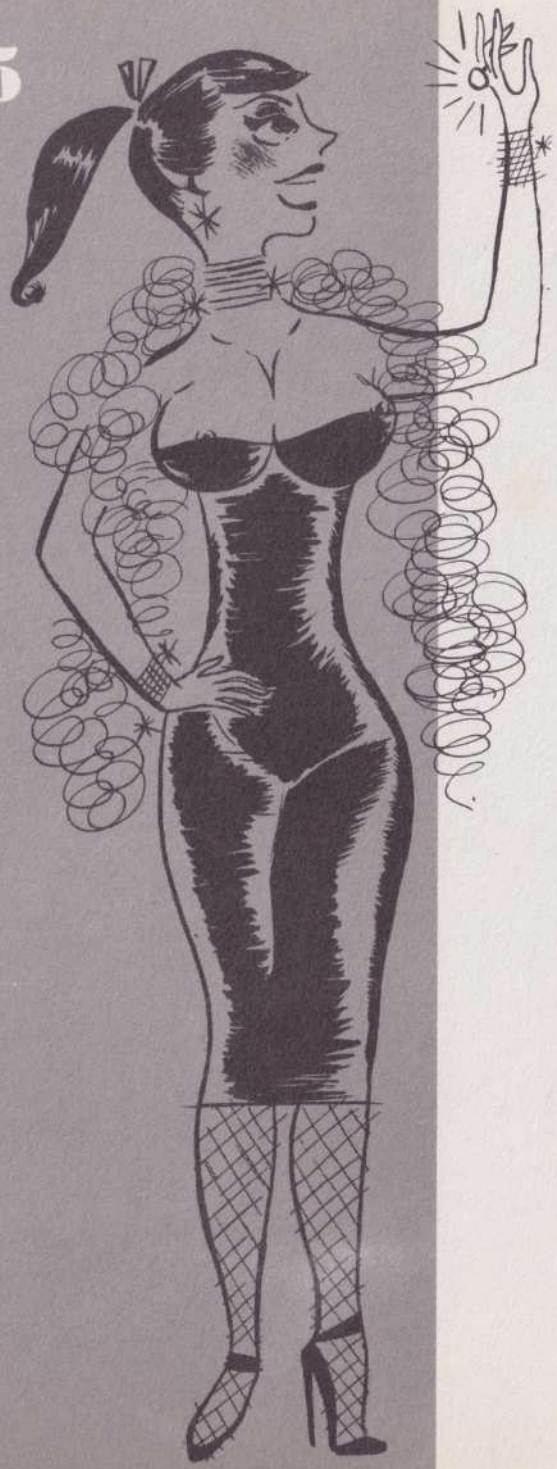
"Gov."
John P. Churchill
Linden Lane
Madison, New Jersey

"Pouk"
John K. Craven
Eightlands' Pocklington
York, England



element 5

zircon





"Slim"
1/Lt. Dyson S. Lloyd
1227 Larson St.
Racine, Wisconsin



"Fritzie"
John M. Fritz
20 Crestwood Road
Port Washington, New York



"Commode"
Robert R. Caumon
Meze
Herault, France



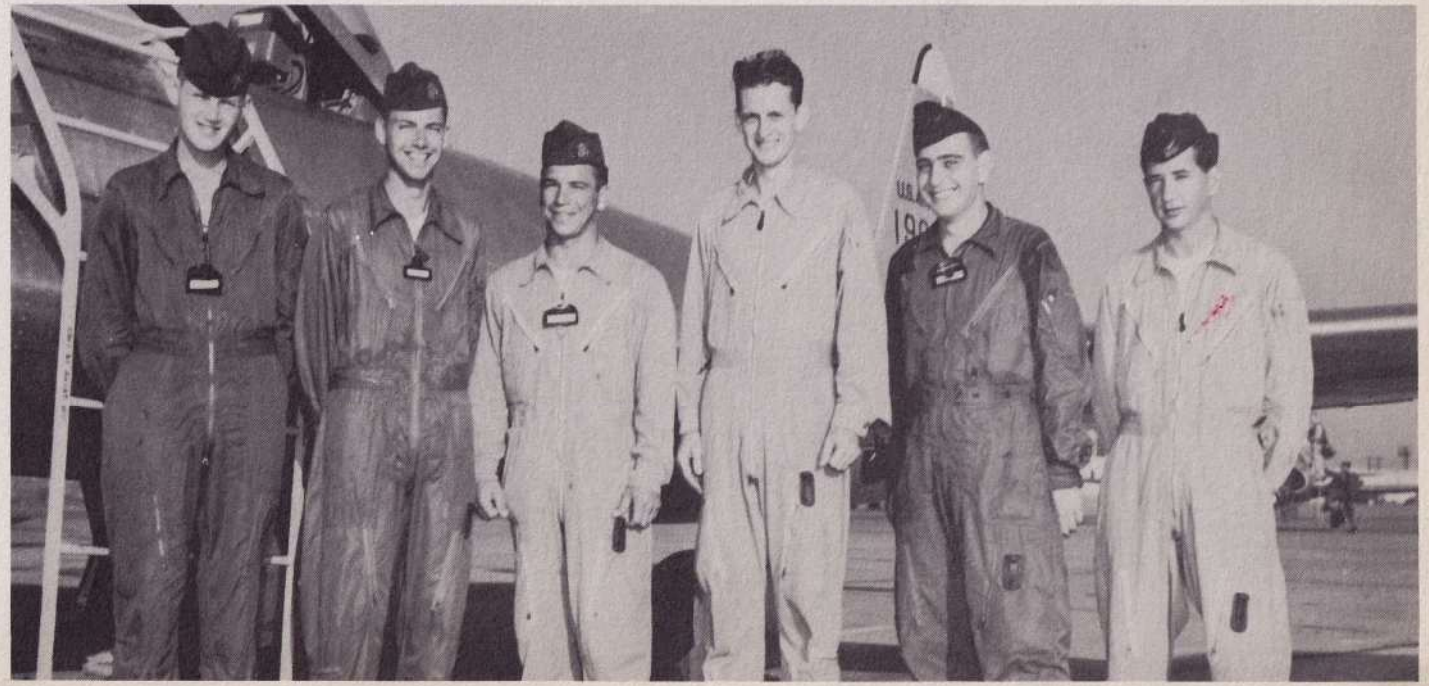
"Mitch"
David K. Mitchell
Nicholson,
Mississippi



Raymond P. Campy
23 Avenue Du General Leclerc
Paris 14, France



"Dave"
David J. Aub
836 Xenia Street, S.E.
Washington 20, D. C.



# element 6



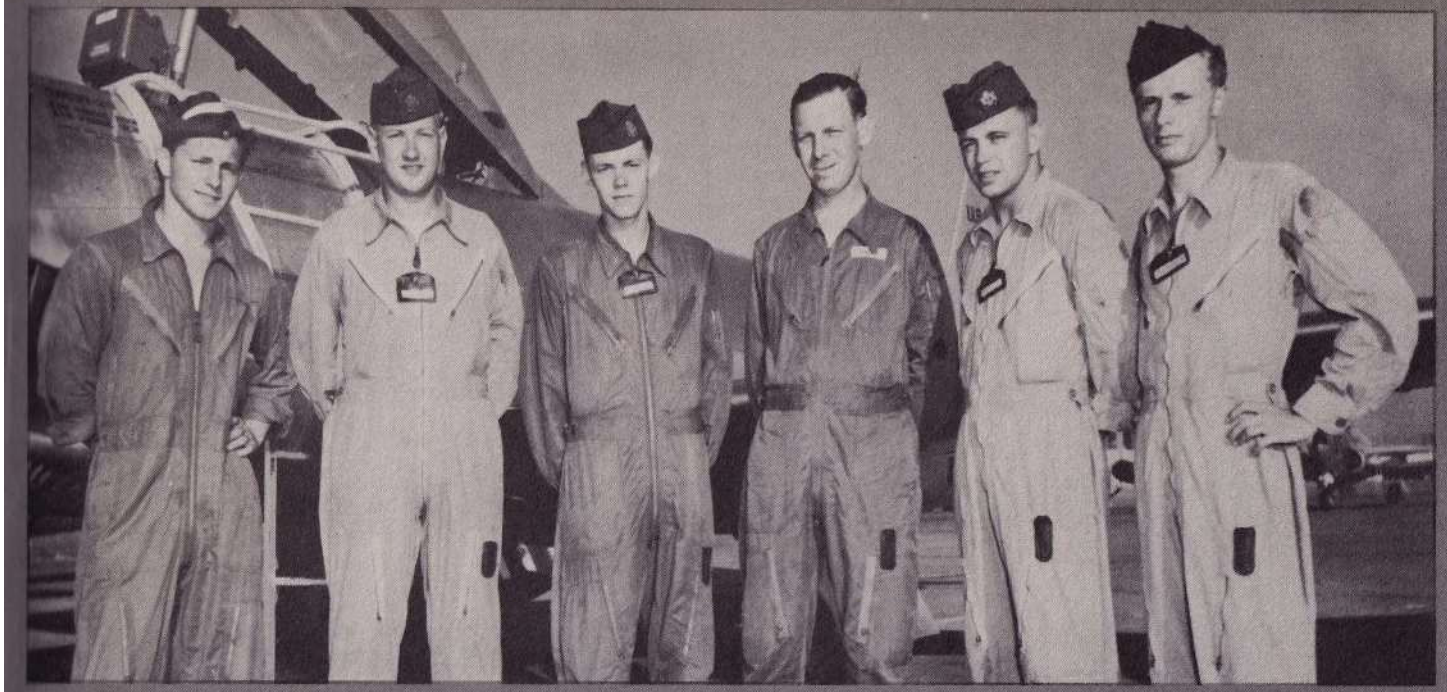

MUSCATEL



"Easy Ed"
1/Lt. Edward F. Manz
4763 Beacon Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri



"Mike"
Michel G. Millotte
Rabat Sale, French Morocco
North Africa



"Tarbo"
Ralph J. Taeuber
Tiffany, Wisconsin

"Jason"
Jack H. Wenning
264 E. 216th St.
Cleveland 23, Ohio

"No Sweat"
Donald R. Silke
Elberfeld, Indiana

"Hank"
Henri M. Steenacker
Quai Des Pecheurs 39
Ostend, Belgium









element 7



# FALSTAFF



"Jungle Jim"
1/Lt. James J. Grossart
4570 S. Sherman
Englewood, Colorado



Frank J. Kisner
5309 Cooper Ave.
Detroit, Michigan



"Kid"
Omer Gonnissen
20 Gemeentestraat
Tervuren-Brussels, Belgium



"H. C."
Harold C. Pluenneke
Mason, Texas



"Dirty"
Robert Glen Daugherty
Route 1, Box 27
Carlsbad, New Mexico

"Lucky"
William R. Round
821 Parker St.
St. Joseph, Missouri



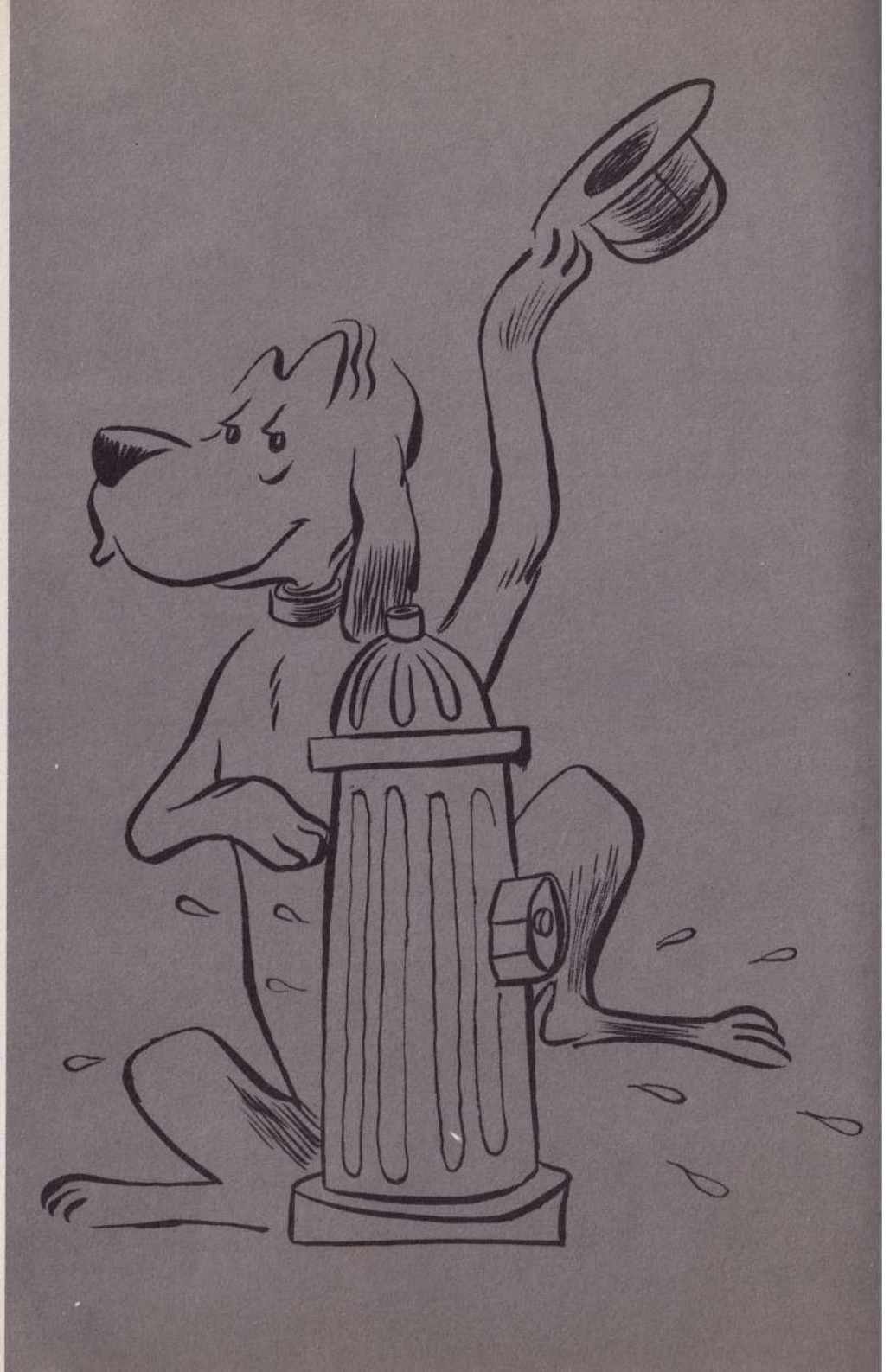


element 8

# dogpatch



"Uncle Melvie"
1/Lt. Melvin J. Moore
Rusk,
Texas







"Ozzie"
George H. Oswald
1915 Beverly Glen
Los Angeles, California



"Mac"
Edmund A. Mackett
8731 North 64th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



"Tom"
Thomas E. Walls
1420 Trouville Ave.
Norfolk, Virginia



"Dutch"
Johannes Bosma
Hereplein 7
Groningen, Netherlands

# element 9



"Rascal"
1/Lt. Richard E. Tidwell
Atlanta, Georgia

# eIGHT BaLL





"Nut"
Charles Ball
1 Lexington Ave.
Merchantville, New Jersey



"Fat French"
Jean-Marie Durand
45 Rue Jean Racine
Amiens, France



"J. Rodney"
James Rodeen
3419 Transit Ave.
Sioux City, Iowa



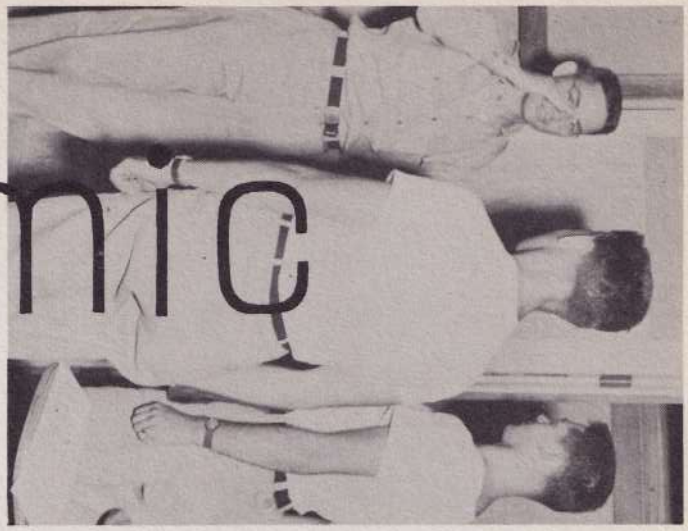
"Anus"
William H. Cornelius
1220 Kenwood St.
Burbank, California

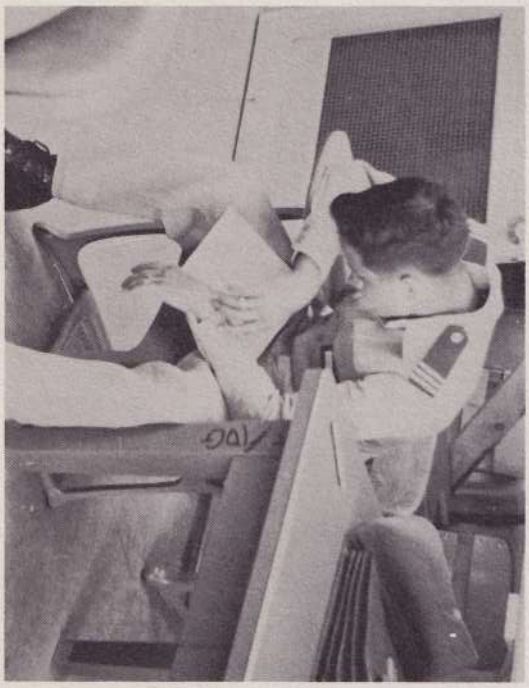
"Cleancut"
Coy E. Etheridge
516 Park Terrace
Wilmington, North Carolina

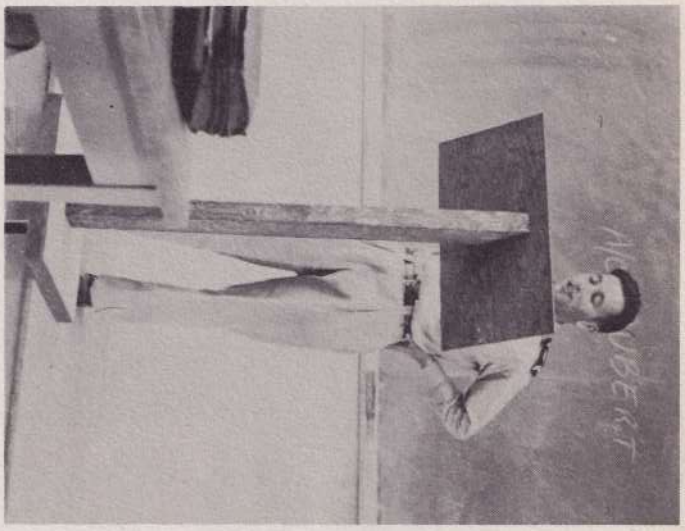




# academic

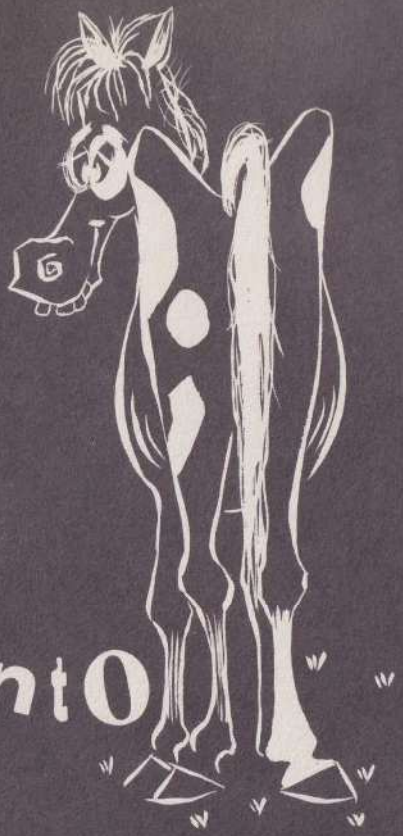
















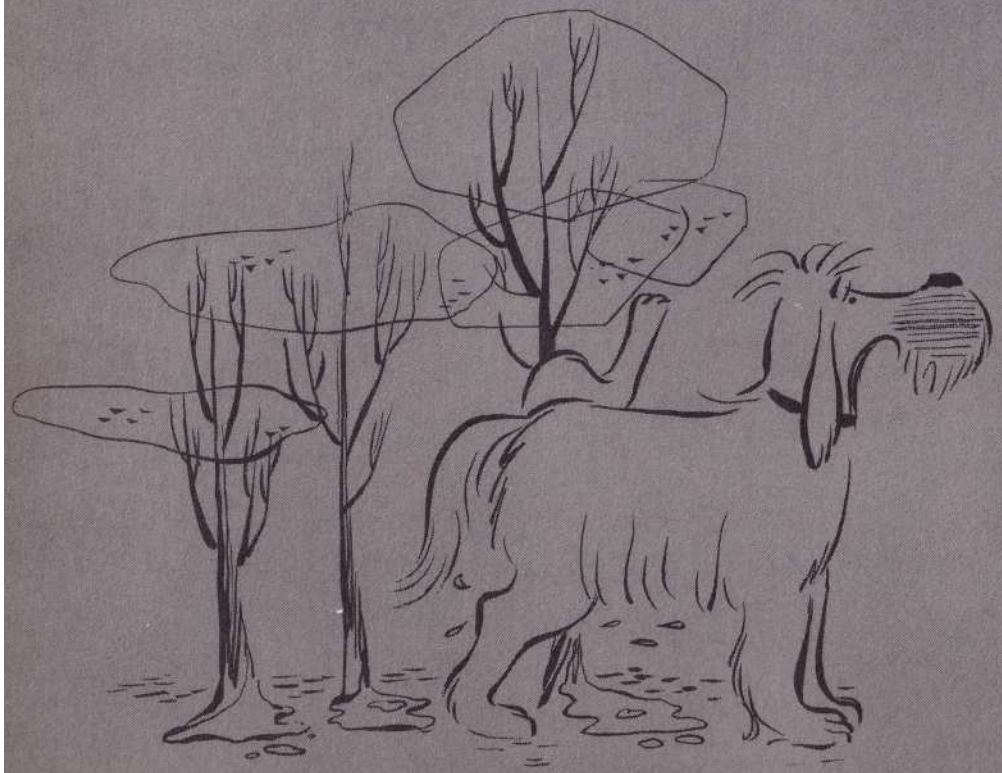


captain
m. e. hightower
flight
commander

# echo 2

element l

# BLAZER

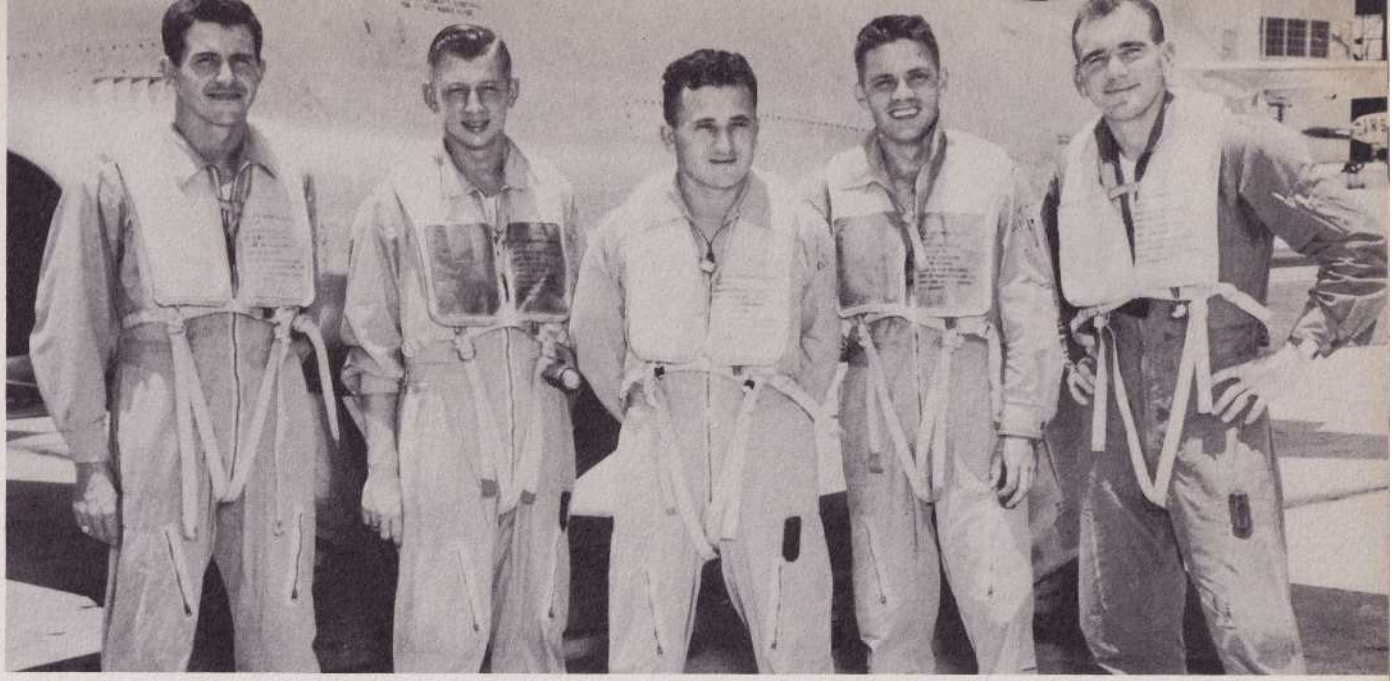




Frank A. Blase
51 North 8th St.
Easton, Pennsylvania

"Chauncey"
Dorsey Don Cross
416 S. Van Brunt Blvd.
Kansas City,
Missouri





"Jim"
James H. Webber
RFD 2
Texarkana, Texas

"Dick"
Richard C. Heatly
437 West Lincoln
Mangum, Oklahoma

John A. Wilkes, Jr.
RFD No. 1, Box 778
Rahway, New Jersey







# element 2

# kooSSHay





"Tata"
Guy Talon
13 Rue du Rocher
Houilles
Seine Et Oise,
France



Francis P. Markle
131 East Utica St.
Buffalo, New York



"Don"
Donald A. Griffing
4708 East Bayley
Wichita 17, Kansas

"Skip"
Duane C. Vaughan
153 E. Hazeltine Ave.
Kenmore 17, New York

"Bob"
Robert M. Burch
763 Chestnut St.
Kulpmont, Pennsylvania

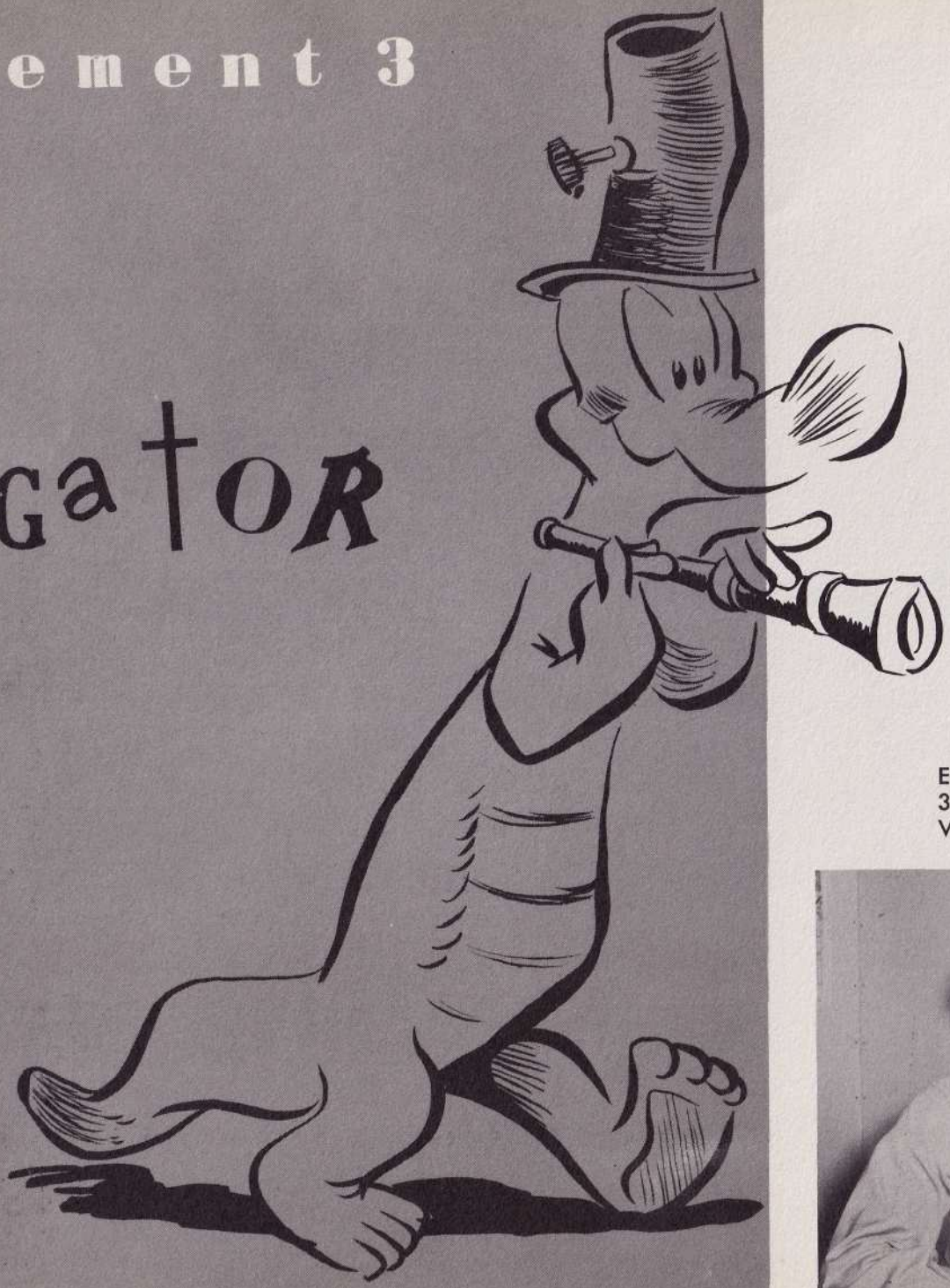






element 3

# 'gator



"Take Five"
Erceal V. Doty
3202A Wildwood
Victoria, Texas



"Wim"
Wilhelmus J. Lambermont
Millemstraat 34
Ryswyk (ZH), Holland





"Speedy"
Paul A. Finseth
5300 Benton
Minneapolis, Minnesota

"Jerry"
Gerald J. Carey
15 Oliver St.
Brooklyn, New York

Doyle D. Rowan
4344 Monroe Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri







# element 4

## riff-RAff






"Willie"
William G. Britton
Jackson, North Carolina

Captain D. Brock Foster
2903 Oaklawn
Victoria, Texas







"Nick"
Billy J. Nichols
Coal Run, Kentucky



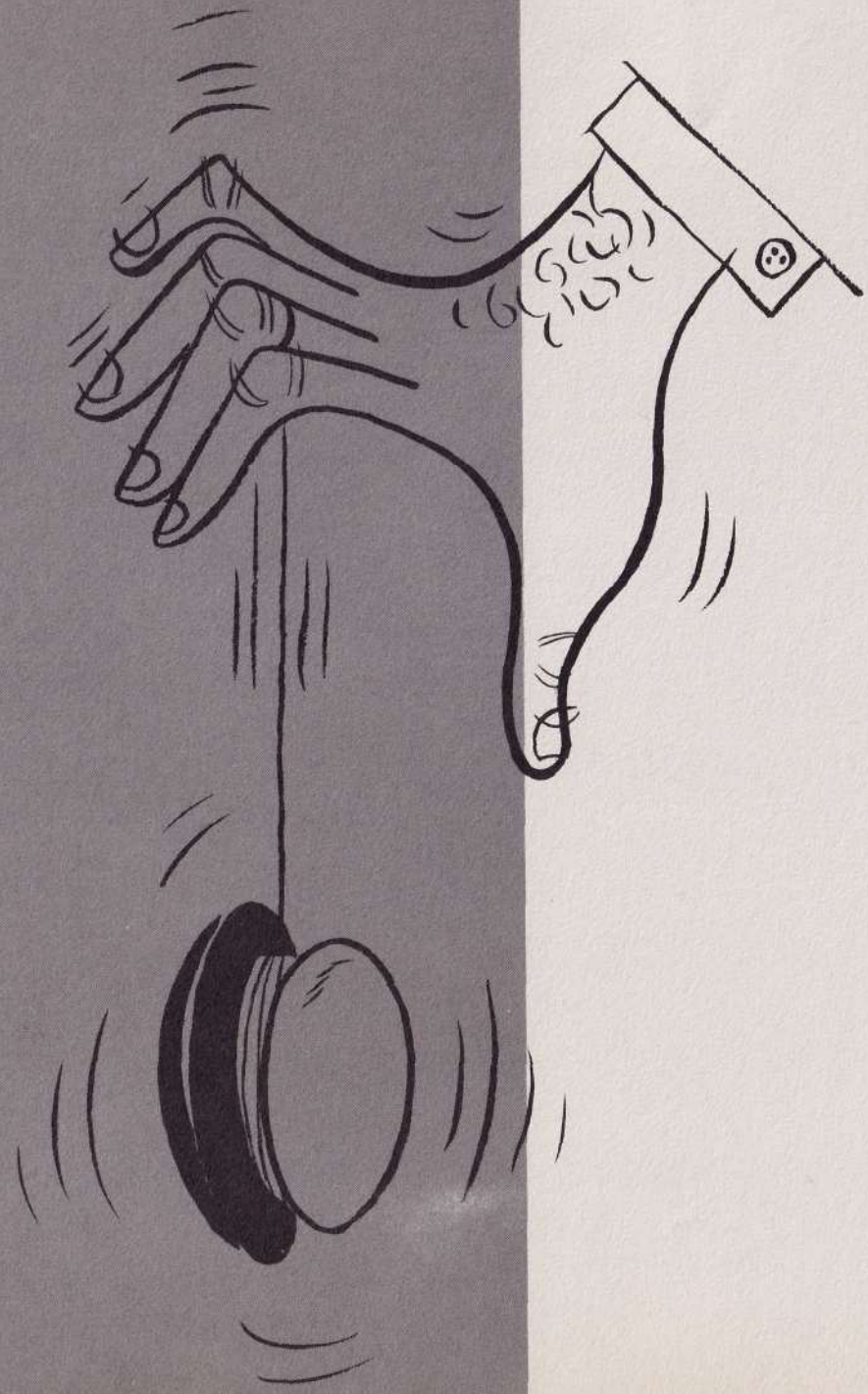
"Tovaroff"
Philippe Collet
29 Rue du Rempart
Tours, France

John Paris
84 Third Ave.
Norwood, Rhode Island



element 5

# Yo * YO





Capt. Carroll H. Bledsoe
602 Mistletoe
Victoria, Texas

"Bob"
Robert E. Hubeli
6746 High Circle Drive
St. Louis, Missouri





"Popov"
Paul E. Chadefaux
St. Simon
Cantal, France



Wells E. Sommer
RFD 2
Wheelersburg, Ohio



Robert C. Jones
2400 Porter Road
Nashville, Tennessee



element 6

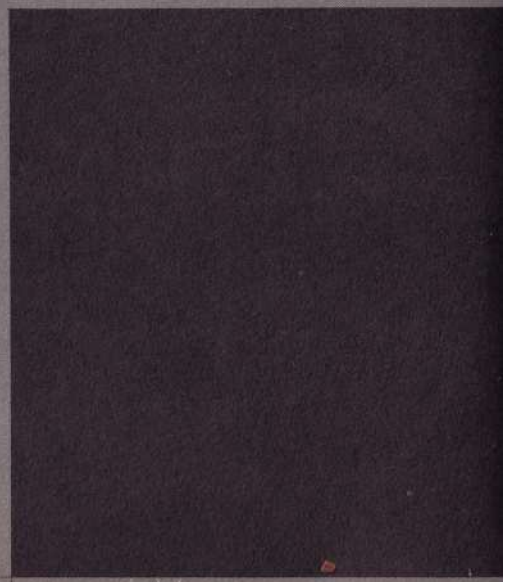


CRAZY



"Red"
James E. Futhey
1227 Edwards Ave.
Lakewood, Ohio

Capt. James W. Foreit
3107 Wildwood
Victoria, Texas





Bob C. Rogers
Tabor City,
North Carolina




"Pat"
Francis L. Cummings
Chicago, Illinois



"Ernie"
Ernest G. Schultz
217 East Jewell St.
Salina, Kansas



element 7

argo





"Shack"
1/Lt. E. W. Shacklette, Jr.
116 Linn St.
Boonz, Iowa



"Dede"
Andre R. Bardet
4 Rue de Toulouse
Limoges (H-V) France



"Blondie"
Richard A. Dinwiddie
2409 Orchard Road
Toledo, Ohio



"Bob"
Robert L. Davis
211 High St.
North Judson, Indiana



"Paquito"
Roland Bonnet
Lyon (Rhone) France



element 8

# LeopArd



"Mac"
1/Lt. Alton S. McAlpin
2330 Goliad St.
Beaumont, Texas





"Lafleur"
Jean A. Dubey
39 Ave., Stephen Liegard
Nice, (A-M) France



"Ed"
Eugene R. Edwards
365 Diamond Spring Rd.
Denville, New Jersey



"Crame"
Jacques Brule
2 Rue du Clos 2
Istres (BdR) France

"Deadstick"
Dwight L. Purdy
Box 311, Route 14
Tulsa 15, Oklahoma





# element 9

# JUgHaid

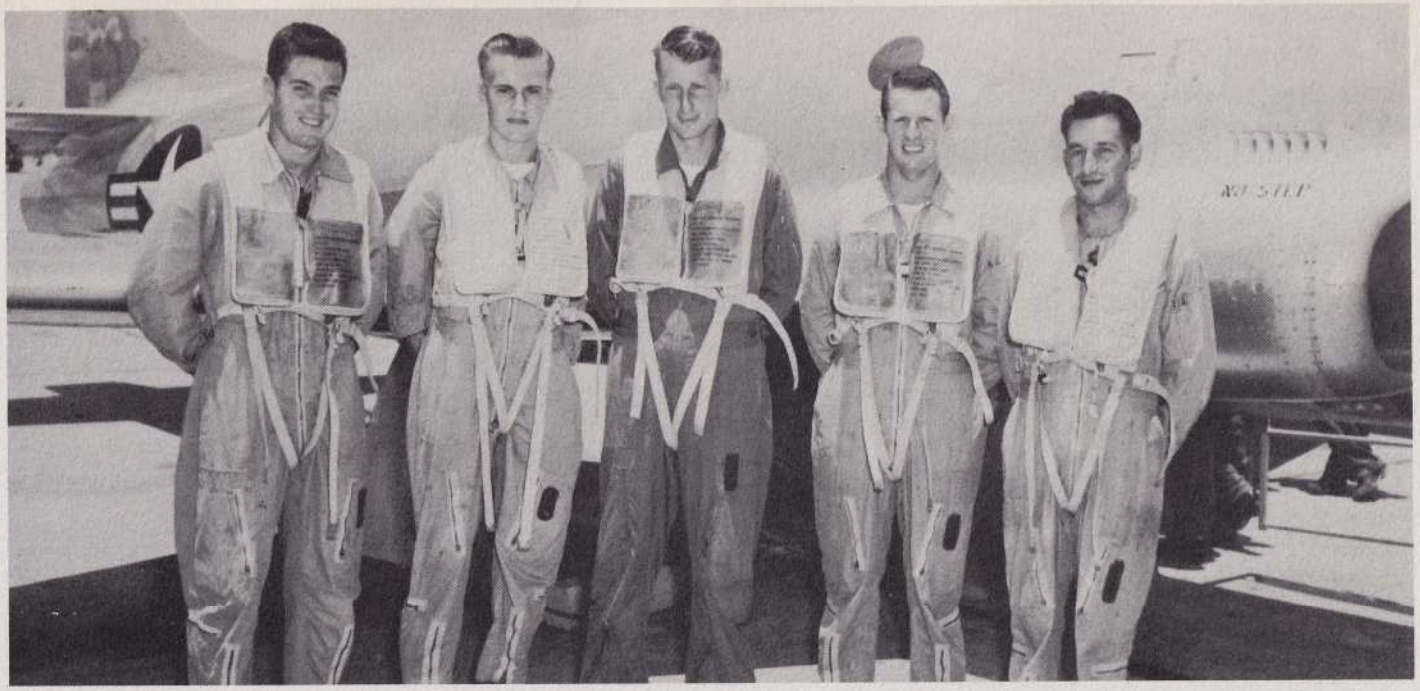




"Dick"
1/Lt. Richard M. Connor
Willsboro, New York

"Tony"
Bernard Aubert
54 Route des Forges 54
Grandrupt - Golbey
(Par Epinal) Vosges, France





"Walt"
Walter M. Clerihew
Jermyn, Texas



"Chic"
Warren F. Bowen
Deale Post Office
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

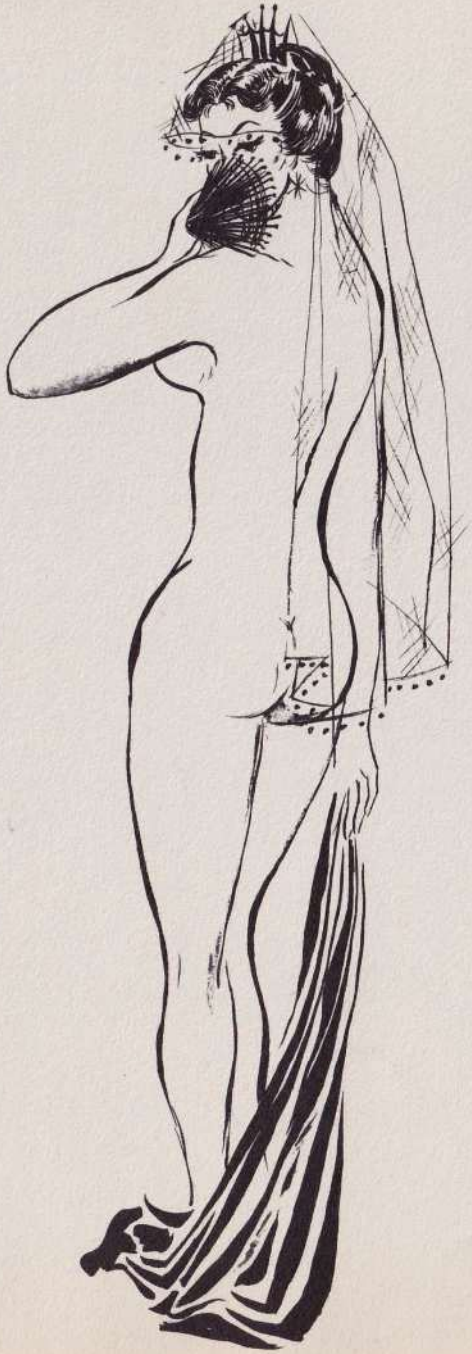


"Hey, you!"
George R. Carter, Jr.
709 Harvard Road
Cynwyd, Pennsylvania



element 10

# Belle





"Ted"
1/Lt. Theodore A. Bell
72 Margaret Drive
Walnut Creek, California

"Ray"
Donald Ray Dellinger
1206 LaVela St.
Waco, Texas



"Mark"
Otto M. Stewart
591 N. Central Ave.
Richland Center,
Wisconsin



"Daddy Warbucks"
Herbert C. Zimmerman
12600 Pawnee Road
Palos Park,
Illinois



"Johnny"
John E. Mason
207 Ottawa St.
Bay City, Michigan





# flying





WiLdgooSE

# echo 3

captain
j. m. griffiths
flight commander



element 1

# honey bucket








Captain Martin C. Engquist
Austin, Texas

"Don"
Donald L. Booker
RR No. 2
Camden, Ohio



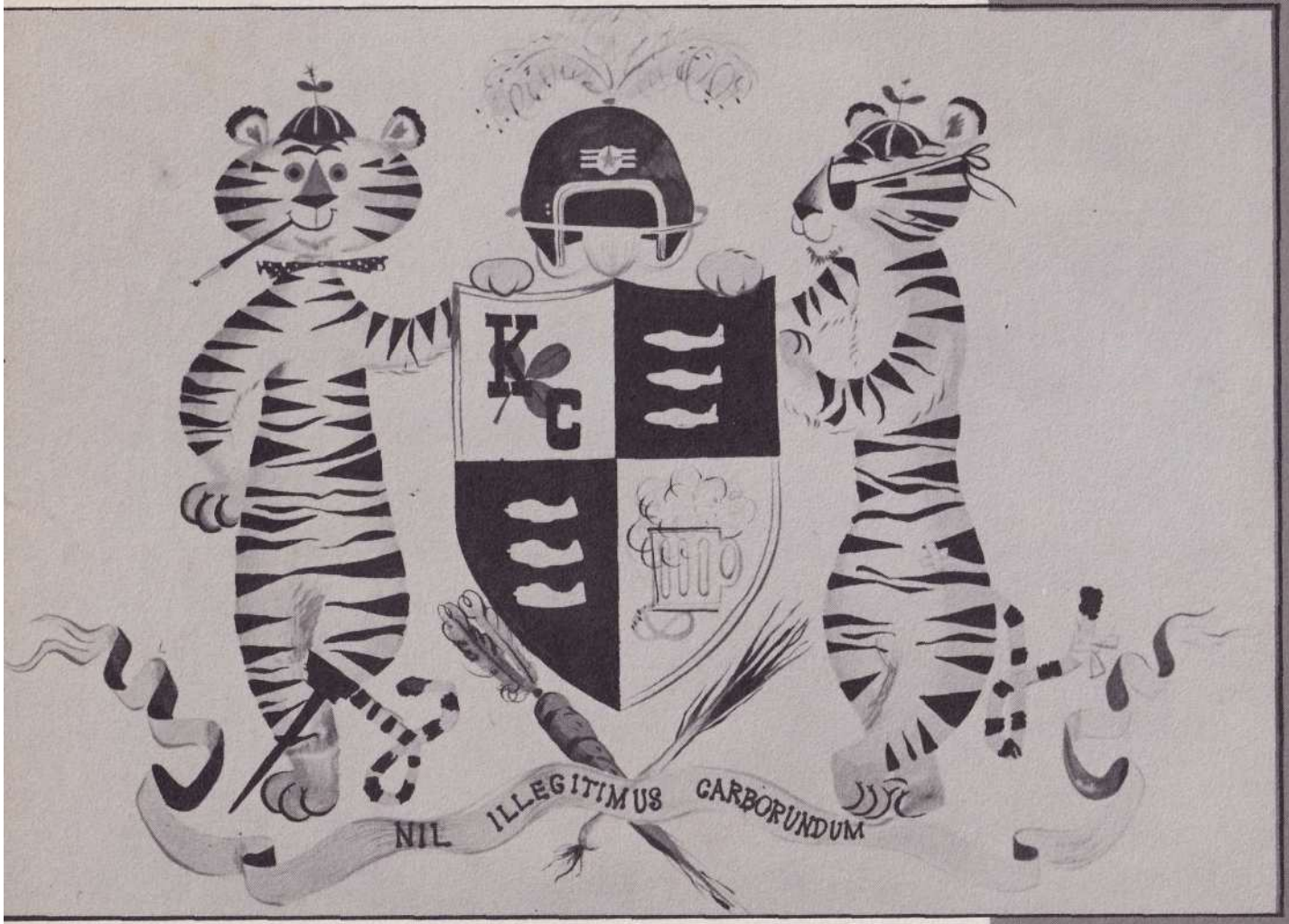


"Wally"
Erwin P. Wallaker
1629 Traver St.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

"John"
John L. Baldner
Xenia, Ohio



# element 2




# Casey



Captain K. L. Coykendall
3001B Oaklawn
Victoria, Texas

"Runt"
Thomas G. Caughell
Worthington, Ohio





"Jim"
James R. Brickel
37 Orchard Terrace
Burlington, Vermont



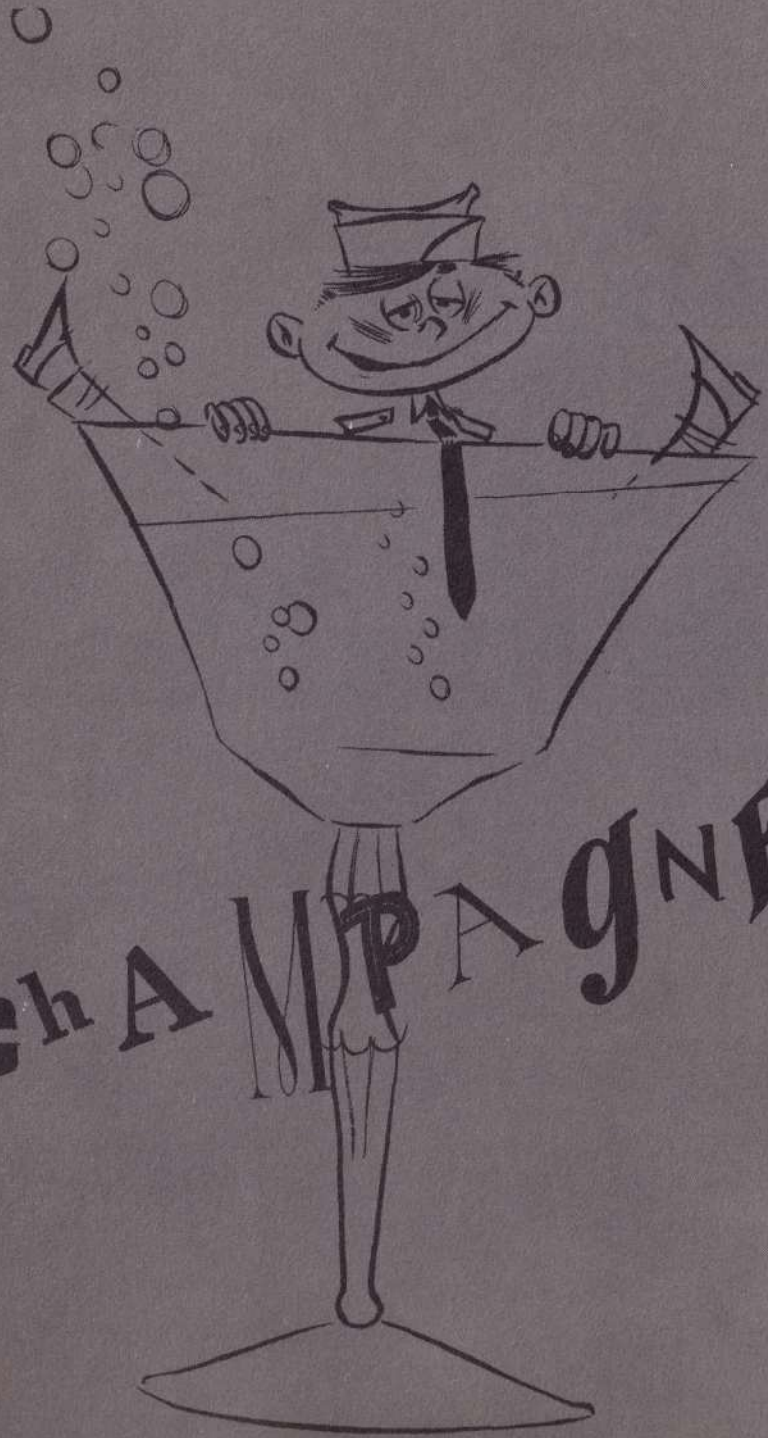
"Jeckel"
H. Roy Burrows
Gainsford House
Hurst Road
Eastbourne, Sussex, England

"Goose"
Roby R. Craft
714 Temple Ave.
Danville, Virginia





element 3




"Tony"
Victorin P. Brunel
27 cite Violet Rochebelle
Ales Gard, France



Kenneth B. Hatton
2206 East Colorado
Victoria, Texas



"Casey"
Keith D. Cordes
607 East 5th St.
Loveland, Colorado



"Heckel"
E. F. Huntley
29 Windsor Road
Gosport, Hampshire, England



"Dave"
David C. Dahl
704 Nicholson St., N.W.
Washington 11, D. C.



element 4

# odd BALL





"E. C."
1/Lt. Eldred C. Johnson
3104A Oaklawn
Victoria, Texas

"Willie"
William S. Henderson
2519 North 66th St.
Wauwatosa 12, Wisconsin





"Hoss"
Cecil B. Doss
245 3rd Southeast St.
Paris, Texas



"Sandy"
William C. Sandlin
Box 143
Calera, Alabama



"Cy"
Cyril V. Devery, Jr.
Carriage House Lane
Riverton, New Jersey



element 5



SINBAD



"Shotgun"
1/Lt. Donald C. Shogren
Portland, Oregon

"Royboy"
Roy C. Gill, Jr.
2115 Vee St.
Sacramento, California





"Bernie"
Bernard DeBackere
30 Rue Mollien Calais
(PGC) France

"Ned"
Edwin H. King, Jr.
Bruce Park
Greenwich, Connecticut

"Sam"
Keith H. Workman
2712 Garbett St.
McKeesport, Pennsylvian







# element 6



"GEE WHIZ NO, HONEST... I REALLY DON'T FLY JETS"!

TIGER



"Clyde"
1/Lt. Casper S. Bierman
Brandywine Meadows
Wilmington 1, Delaware

"Bill"
William E. Wieger
New York, New York







"Larmaloeil"
Michel R. Chaffin
Gefosse Fontenay par
Isigny sur mer Calvados,
France

"Ted"
Paul E. Noell
6 East Franklin St.
Baltimore, Maryland

"Brad"
Bradley A. Blake
1317 Jersey St.
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

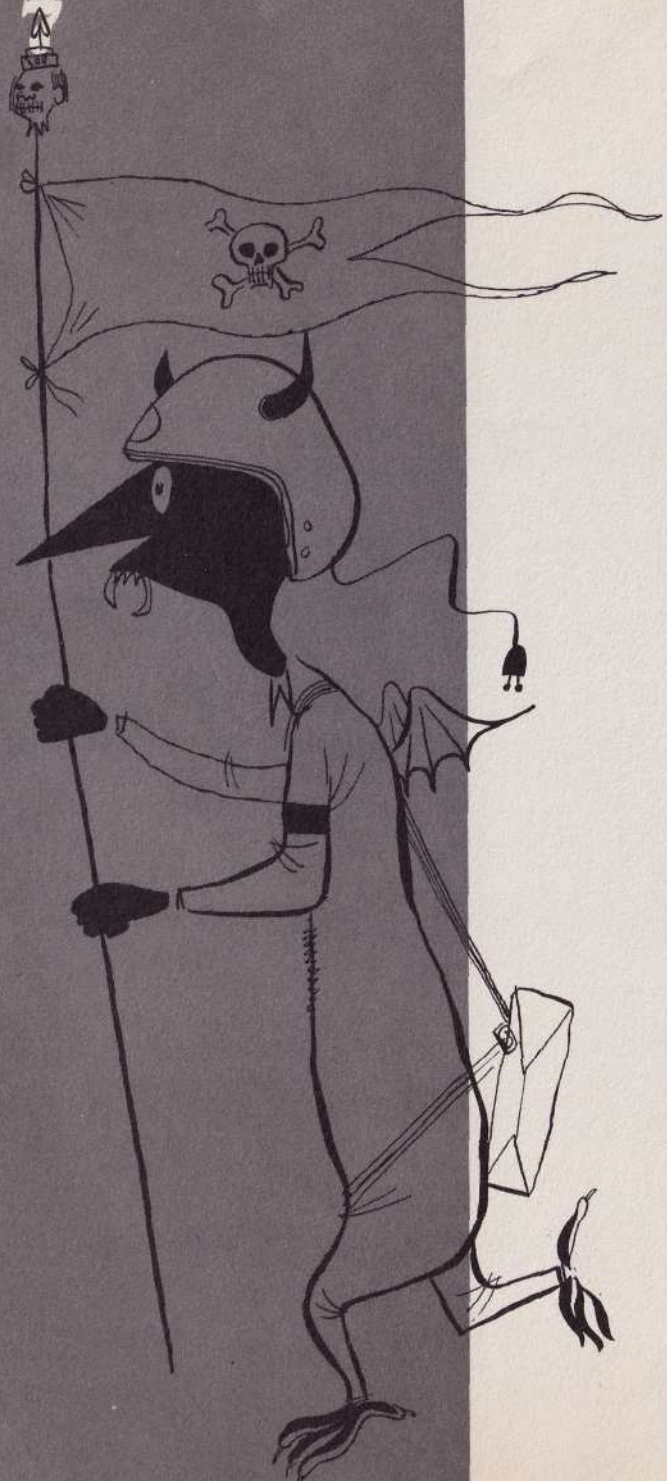
Pierre Carnel
15 Rue Biscarrais
Nice, France





element 7

# zOmBiE





1/Lt. Wayne H. Hemm
3105A Oaklawn
Victoria, Texas



"Cal"
Calvin D. Phillips
Higbee, Missouri



"Ricardo"
Claude R. Massac
Beziers, France



"Ray"
Raymond D. Swank
Keithsburg, Illinois



"Suzie"
Charles J. Soucia
Chateaugay, New York



element 8

# MOONSHINE





"Gator"
Roy D. Leak
128 North 16th Ave.
Jacksonville Beach, Florida

"Nanar"
Jacques A. Durand
Ouzouer S/Loire
France



1/Lt. John J. Rowe
3208A Oaklawn Road
Victoria, Texas





"Wint"
Winton W. Culbreth
Rt. No. 2
Columbia, Alabama



"Bob"
Charles R. Turner
1724 North Webster St.
Kokomo, Indiana

"Moose"
William E. Moorhead
165 Seneca Drive, Nixon Place
Clarksburg, West Virginia





# element 9



1/Lt. William G. Aman, Jr.

# UNDERPAID!







"Bert"
Bert V. Rhoton
919 Williamson Ave.
Winslow, Arizona

"Dumb Smack"
Andre Freyburger
2 Rue de l'Eglise,
Strasbourg, France

"Jeep"
John P. Rollston
248 Lucille Place
Webster Groves, Missouri

"Jim"
James M. Ensign
Orchard Knoll
Franklin, Michigan

"Ivan"
Ivan D. Hanley
Narka,
Kansas



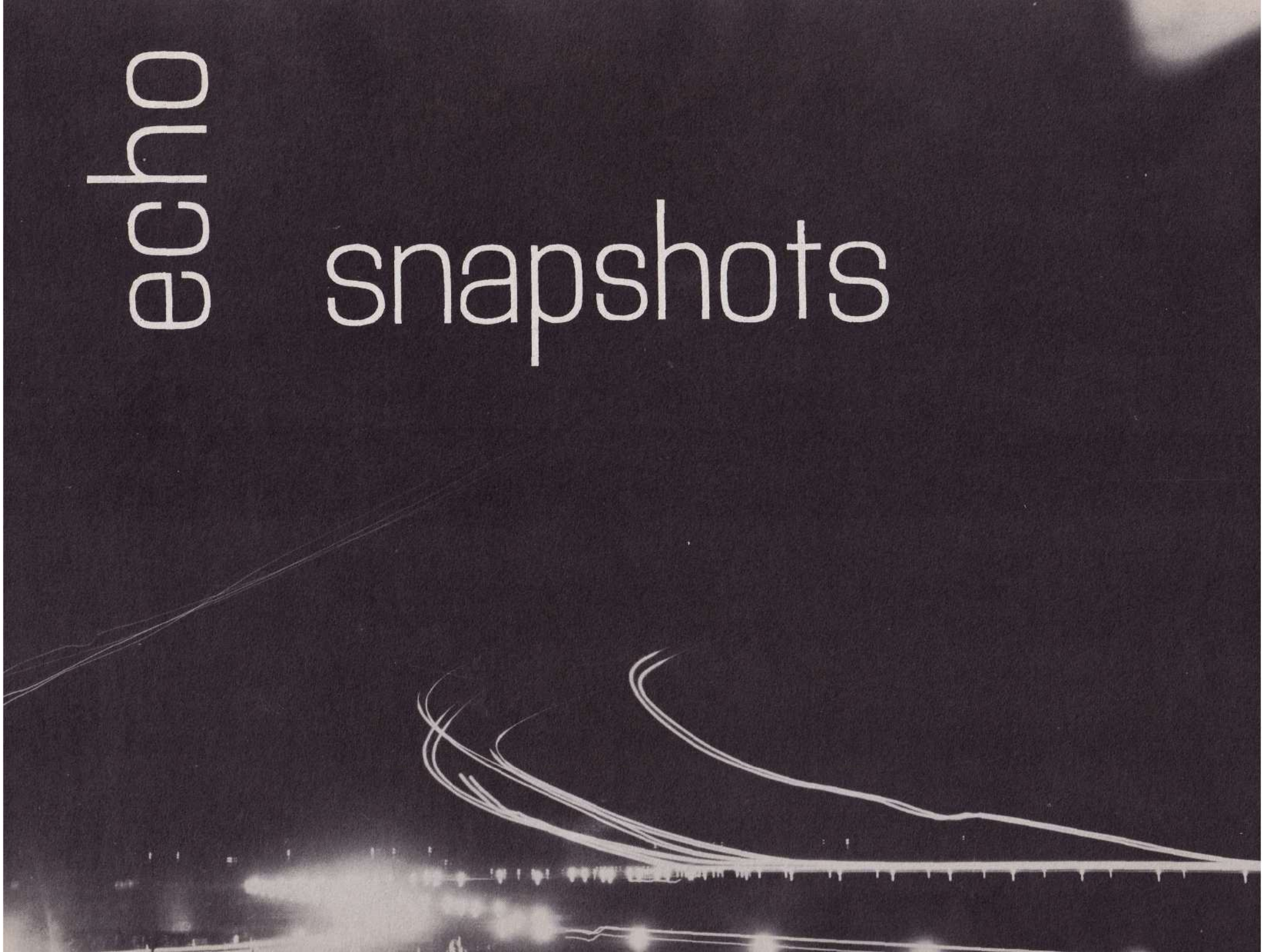


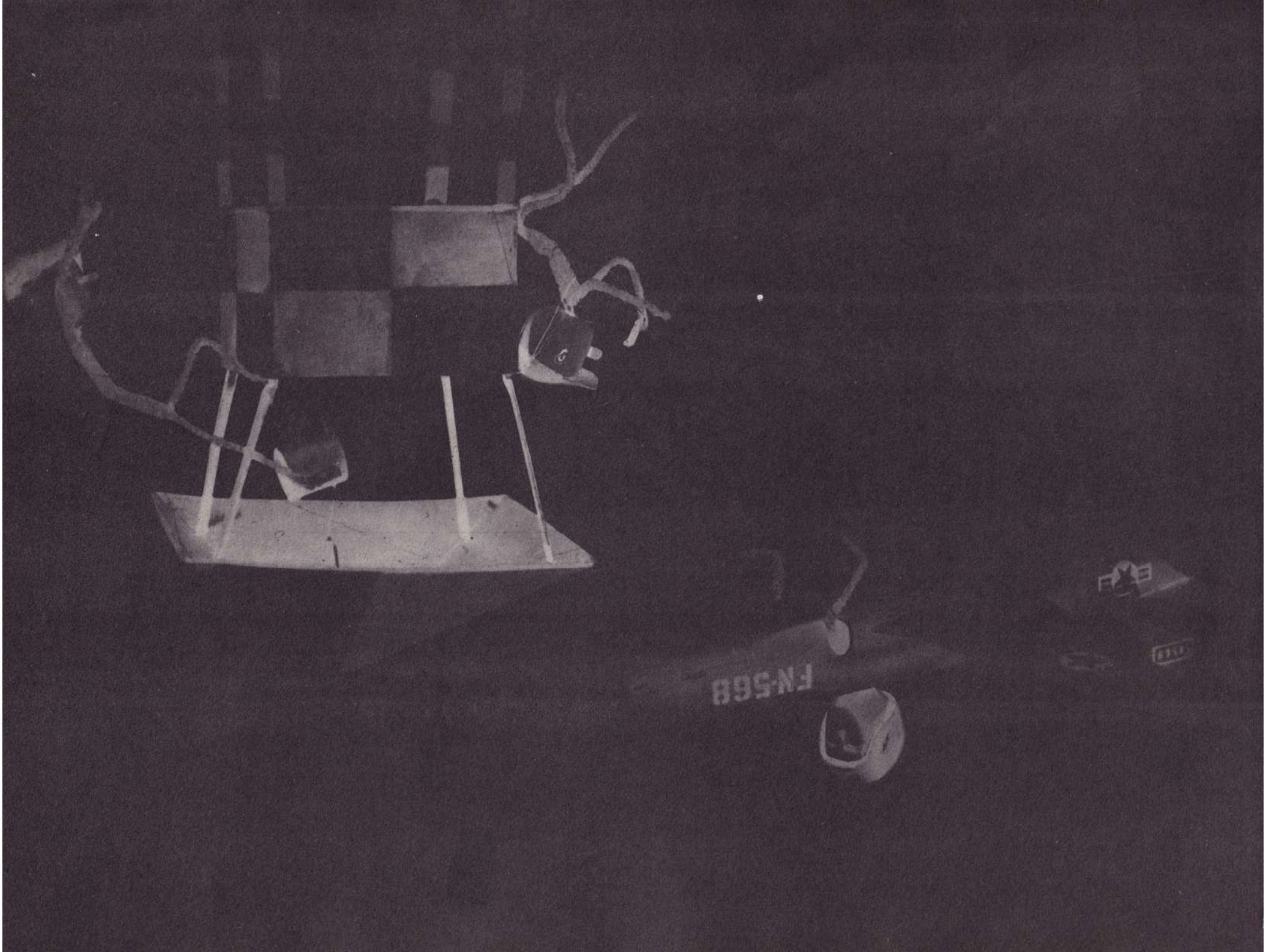




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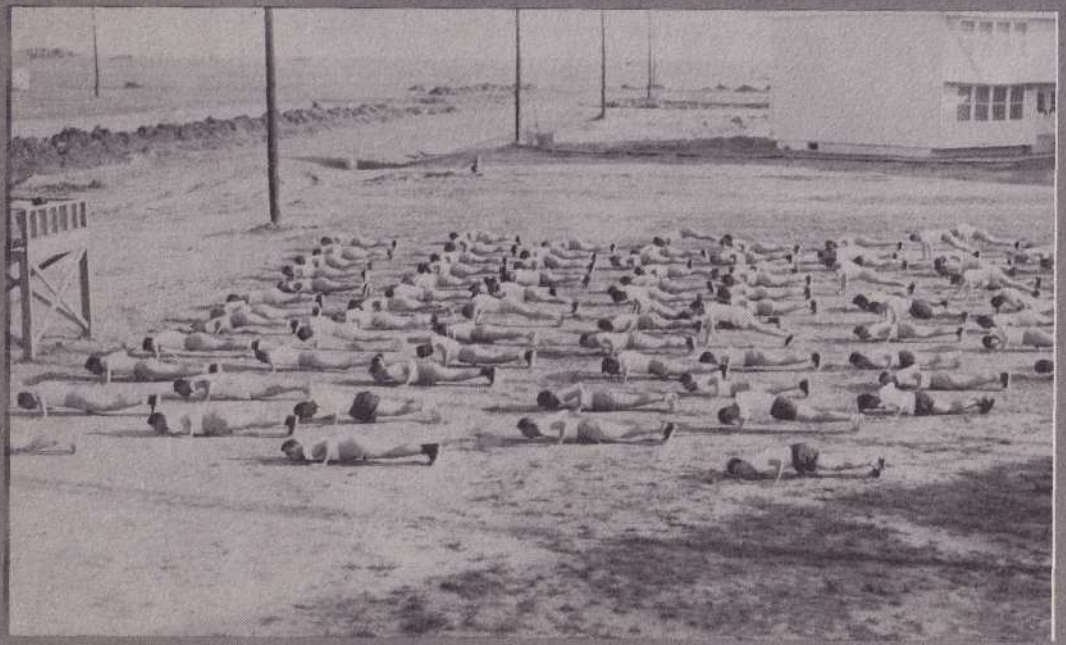
# snapshots




FN-568







"One, two, three, four, five, six, THREE,
four, five, six, THREE . . ."

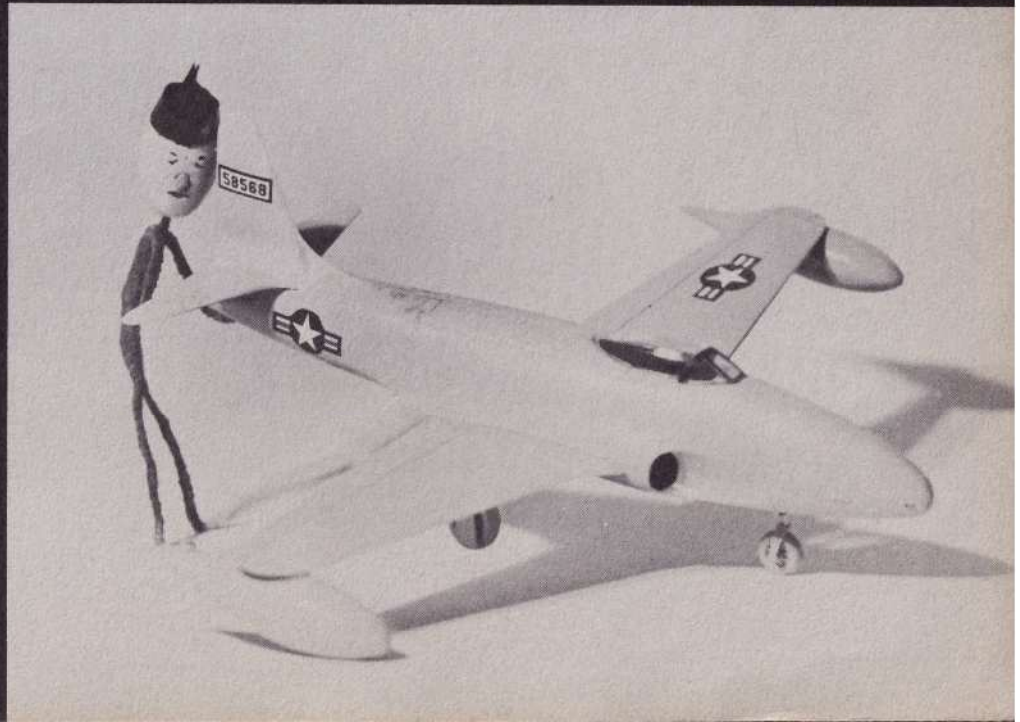


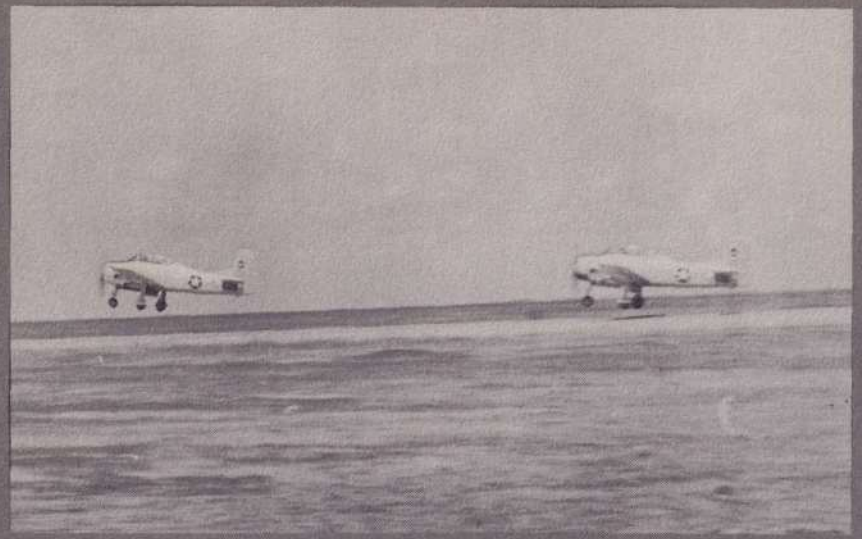




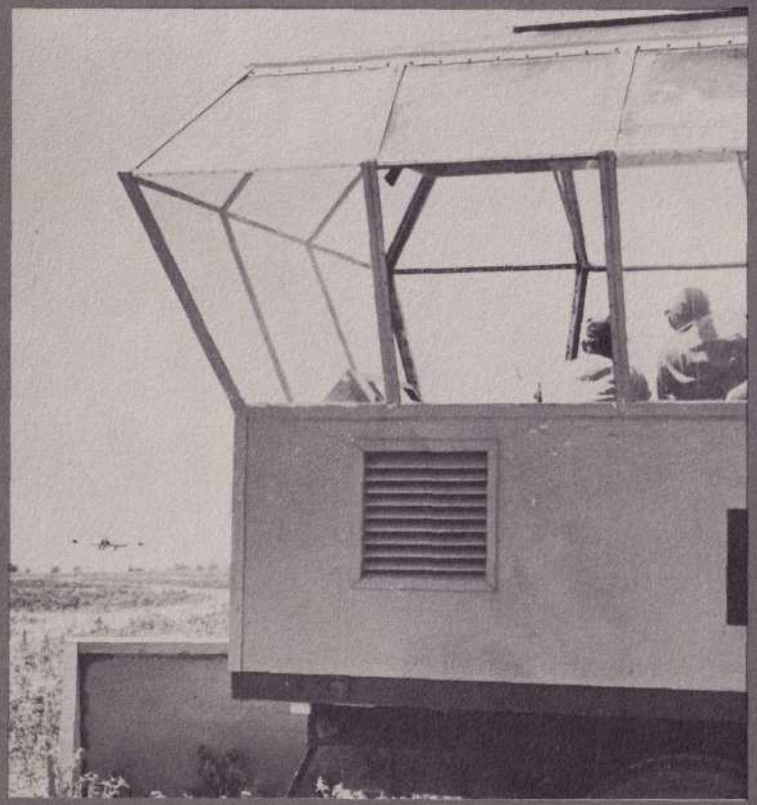


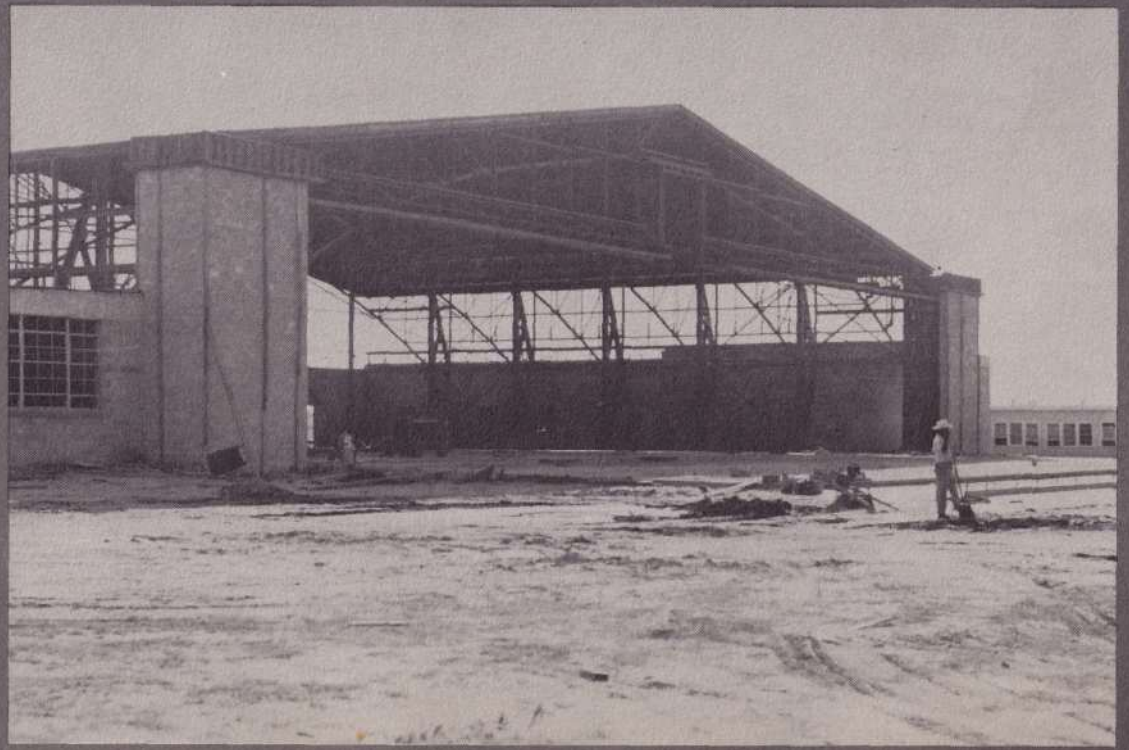

"Sir, shall I wake up the crew chief?"

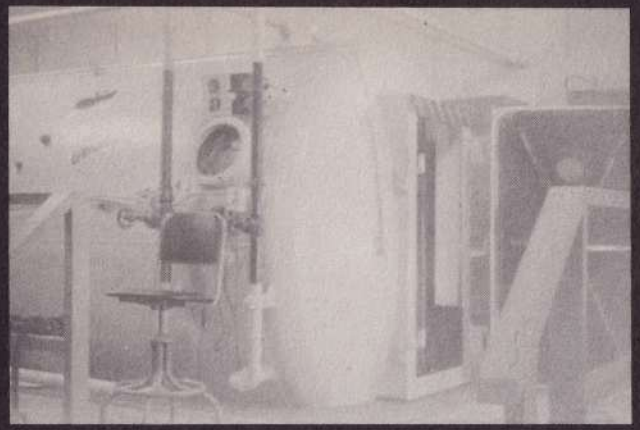


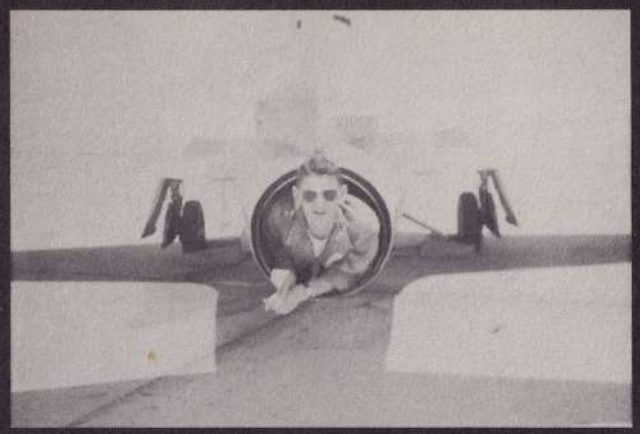


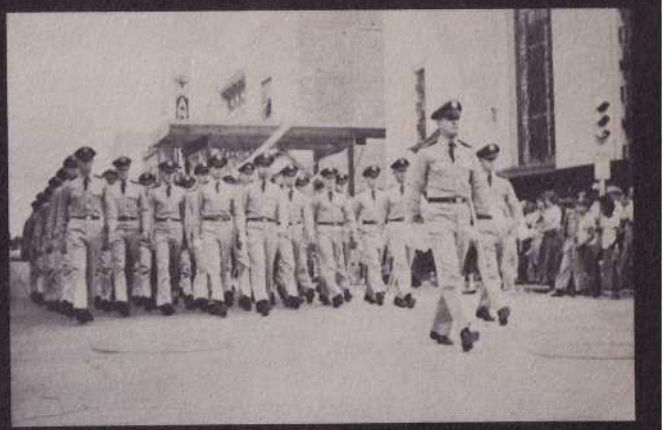


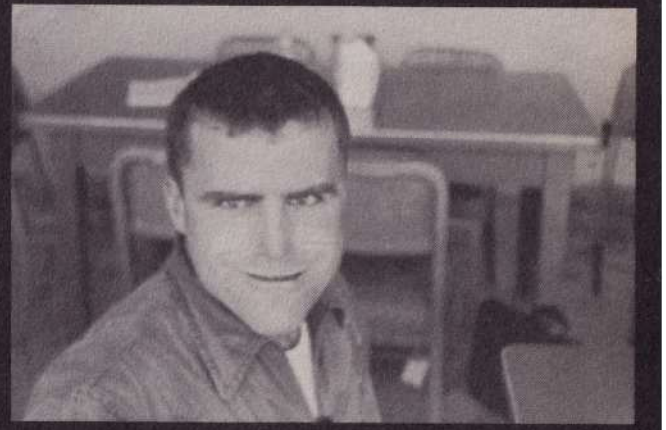






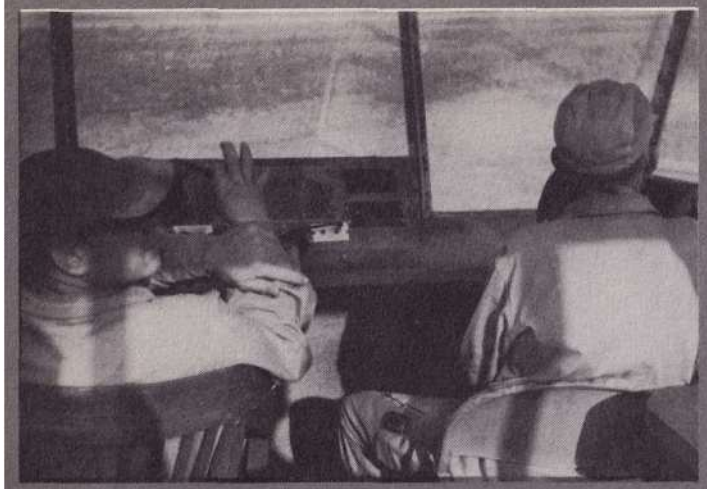


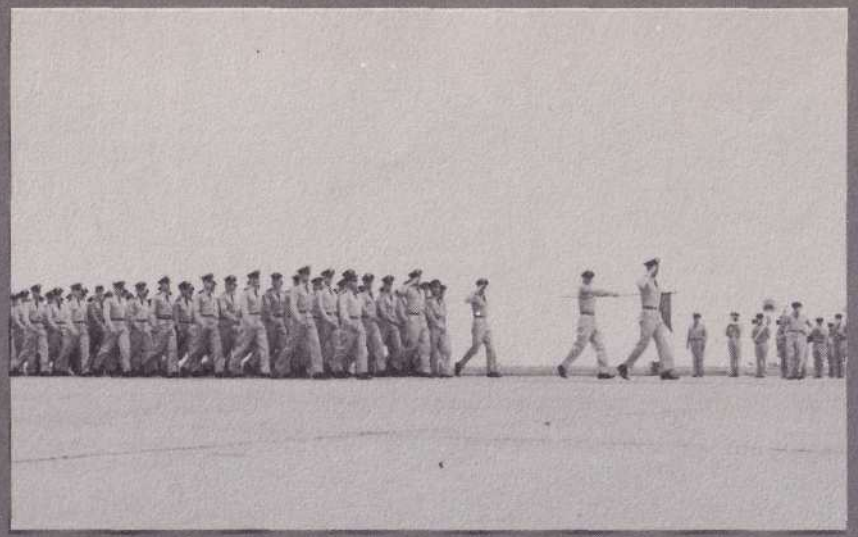


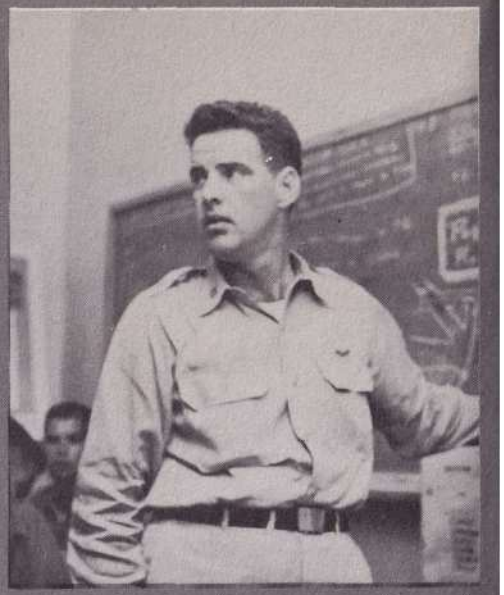


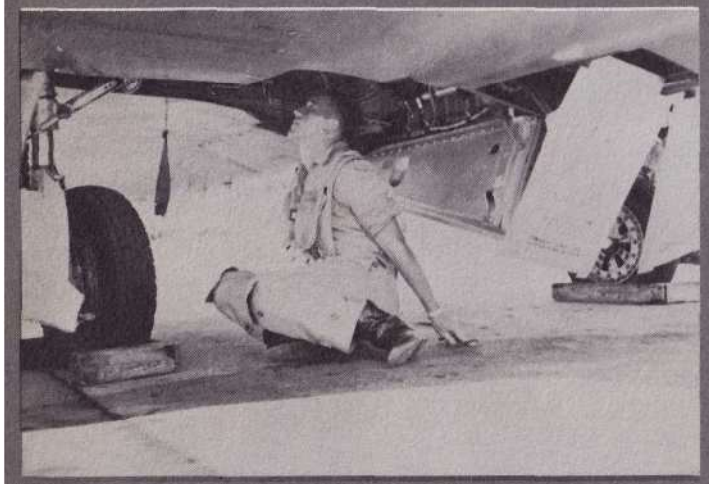

HE SLOWLY RAN HIS HAND DOWN HER THIGH... SHE MASHED HER LIPS TO HIS .... HE KISSED HER PASSIONATLY, SHE SIGHED...
WOLF CALL 790 RADIO CHECK
SEX TALK

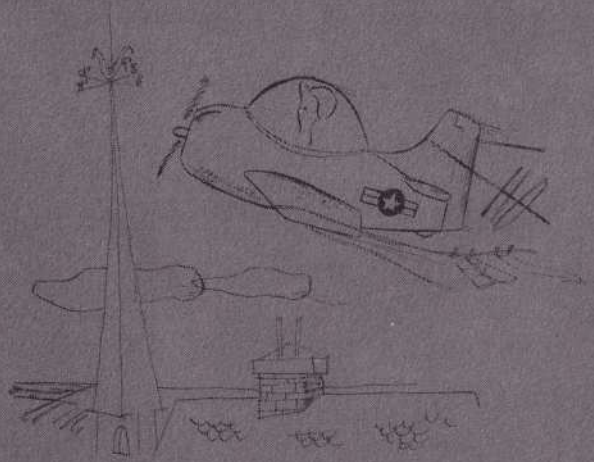






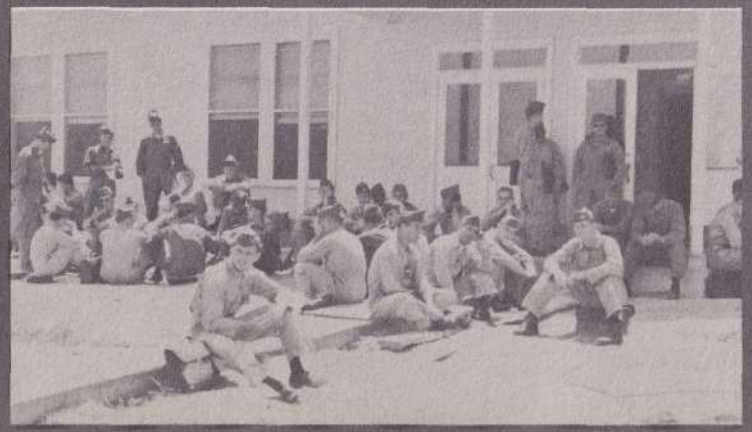




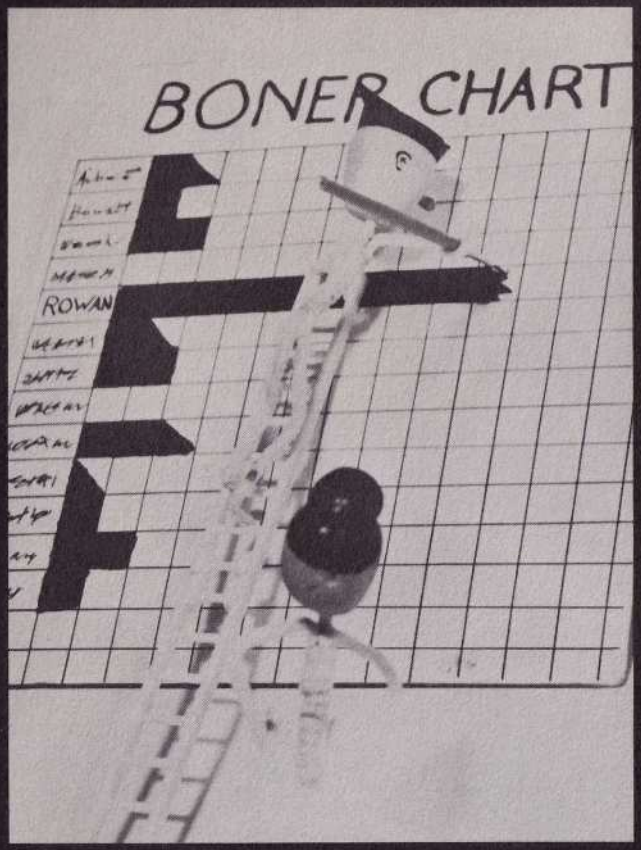


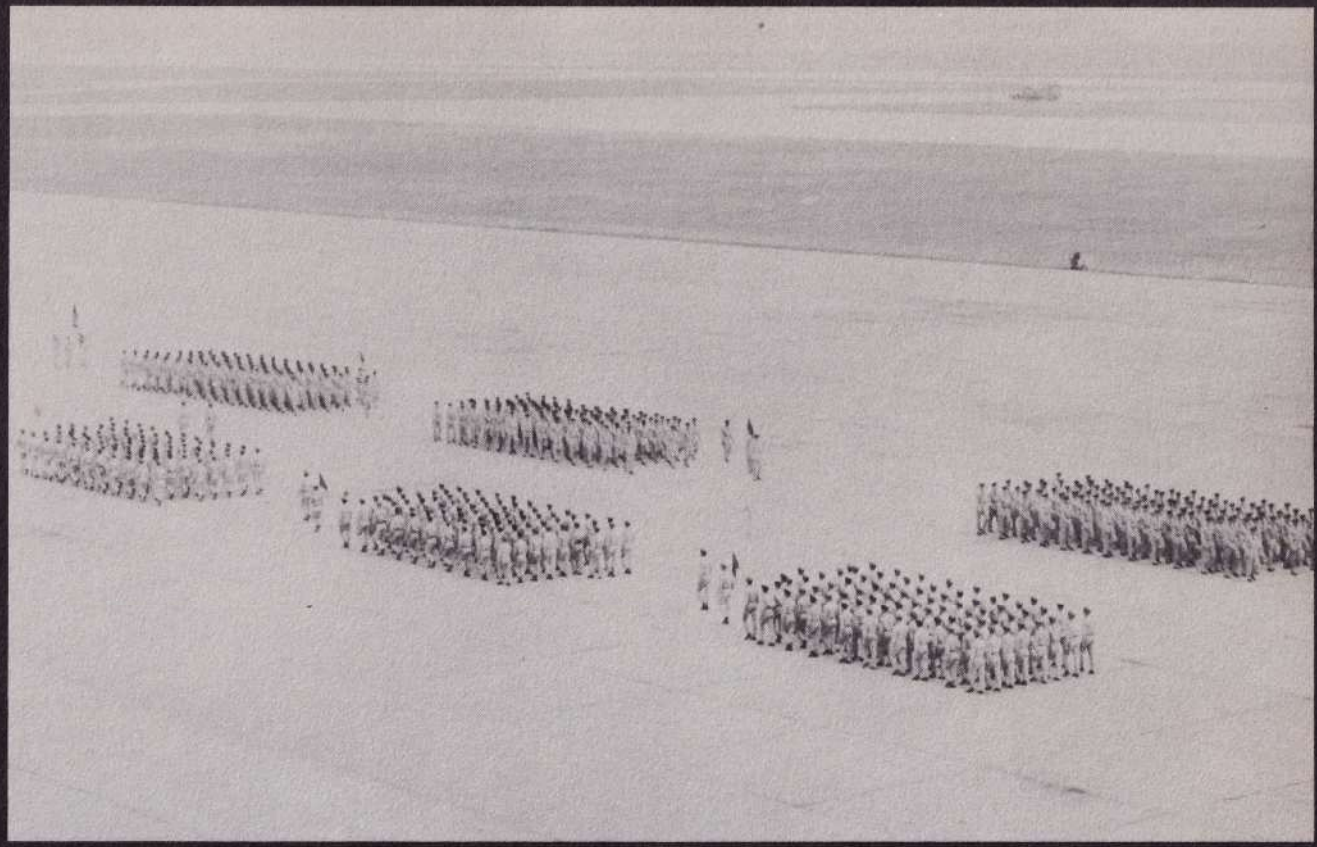










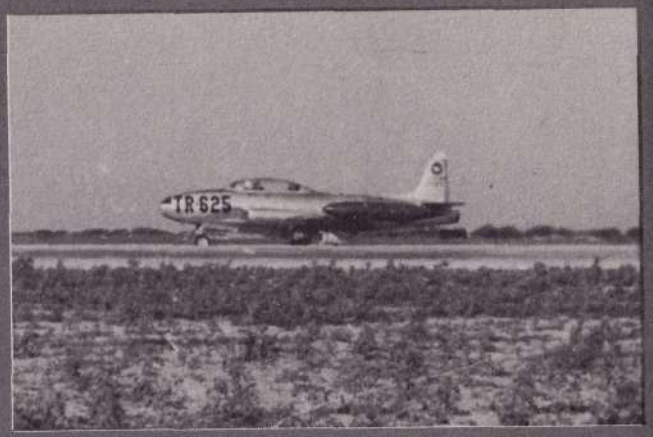


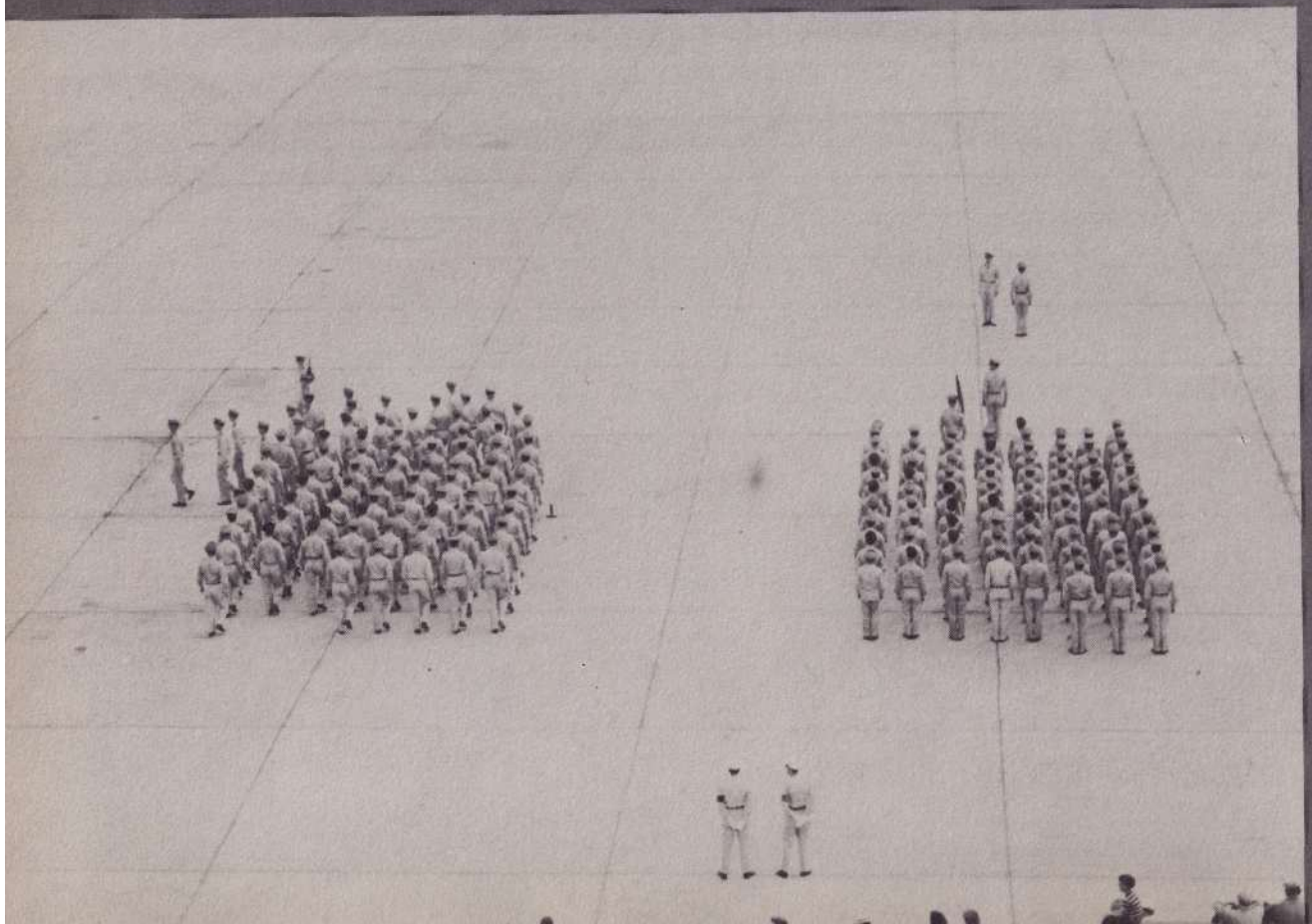


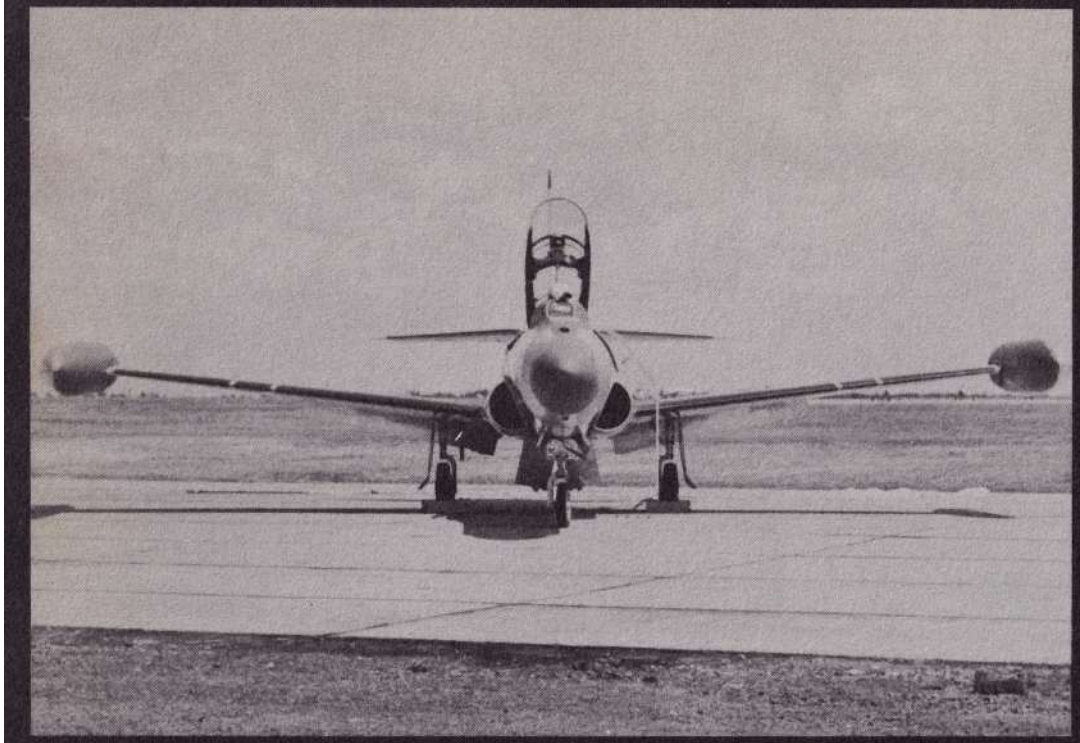


"It isn't supposed to be comfortable."

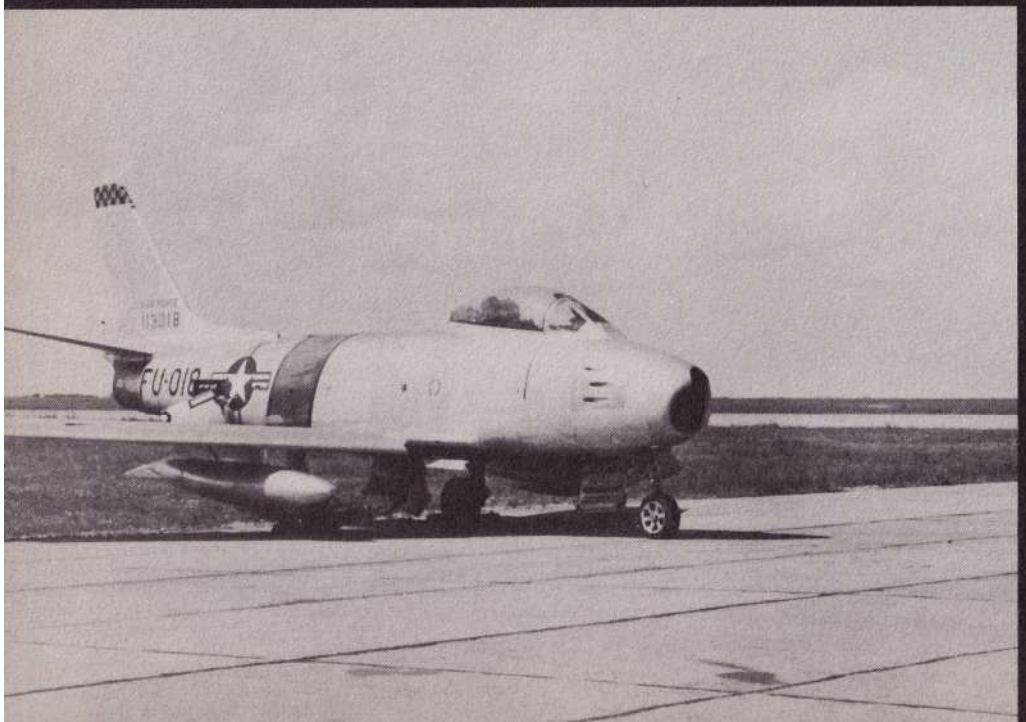

USAF


TR 625

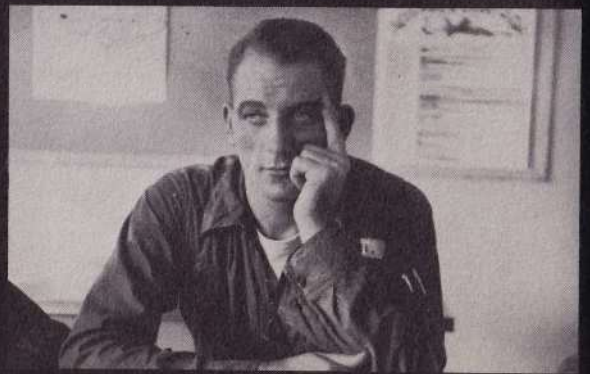


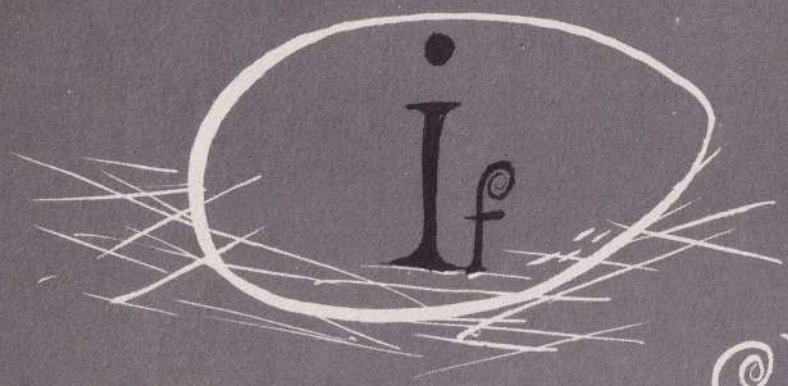





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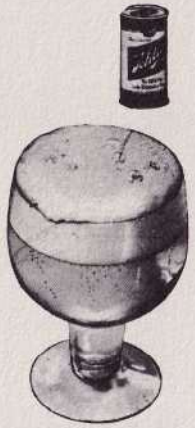
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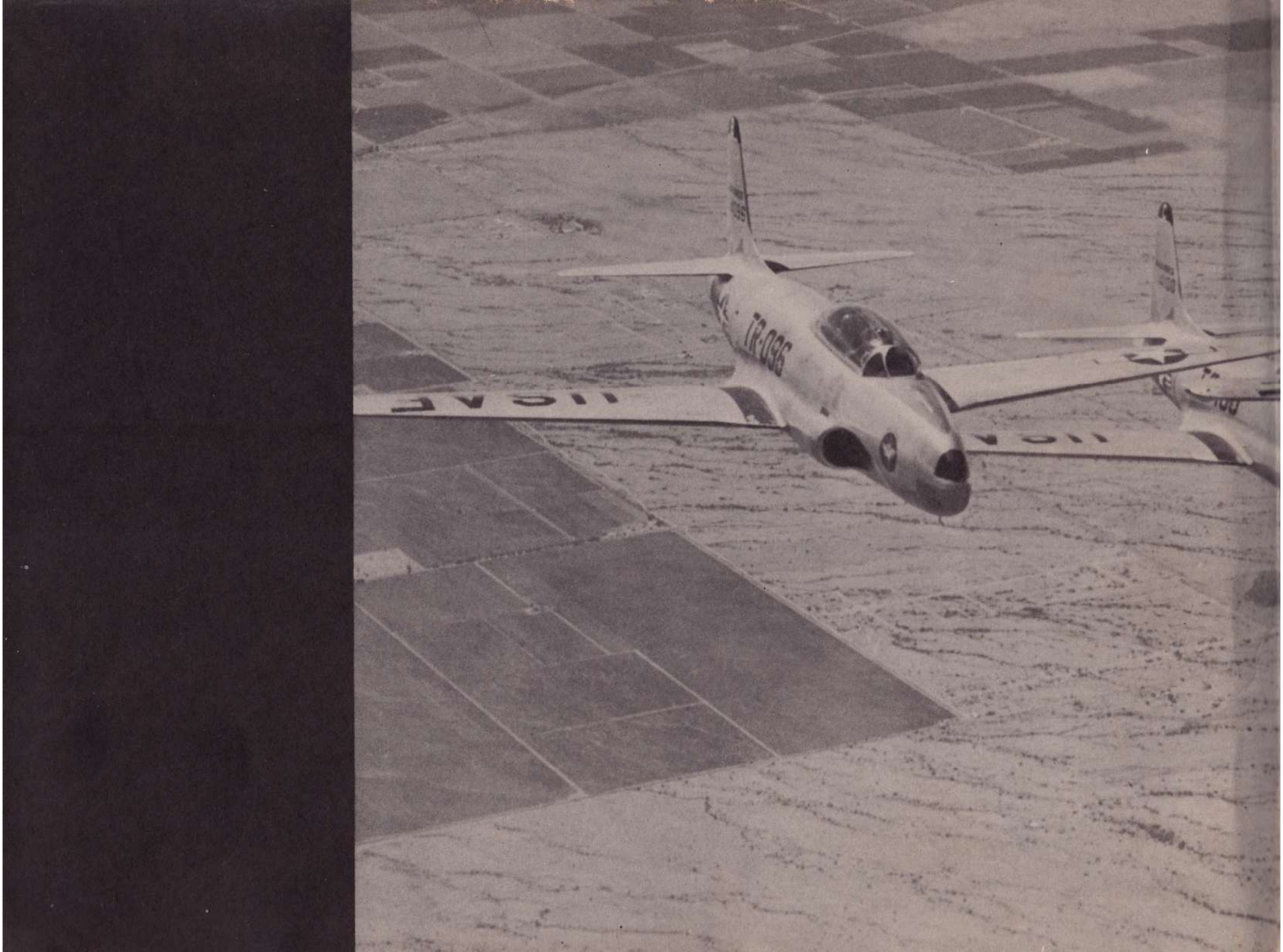
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TR-129

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