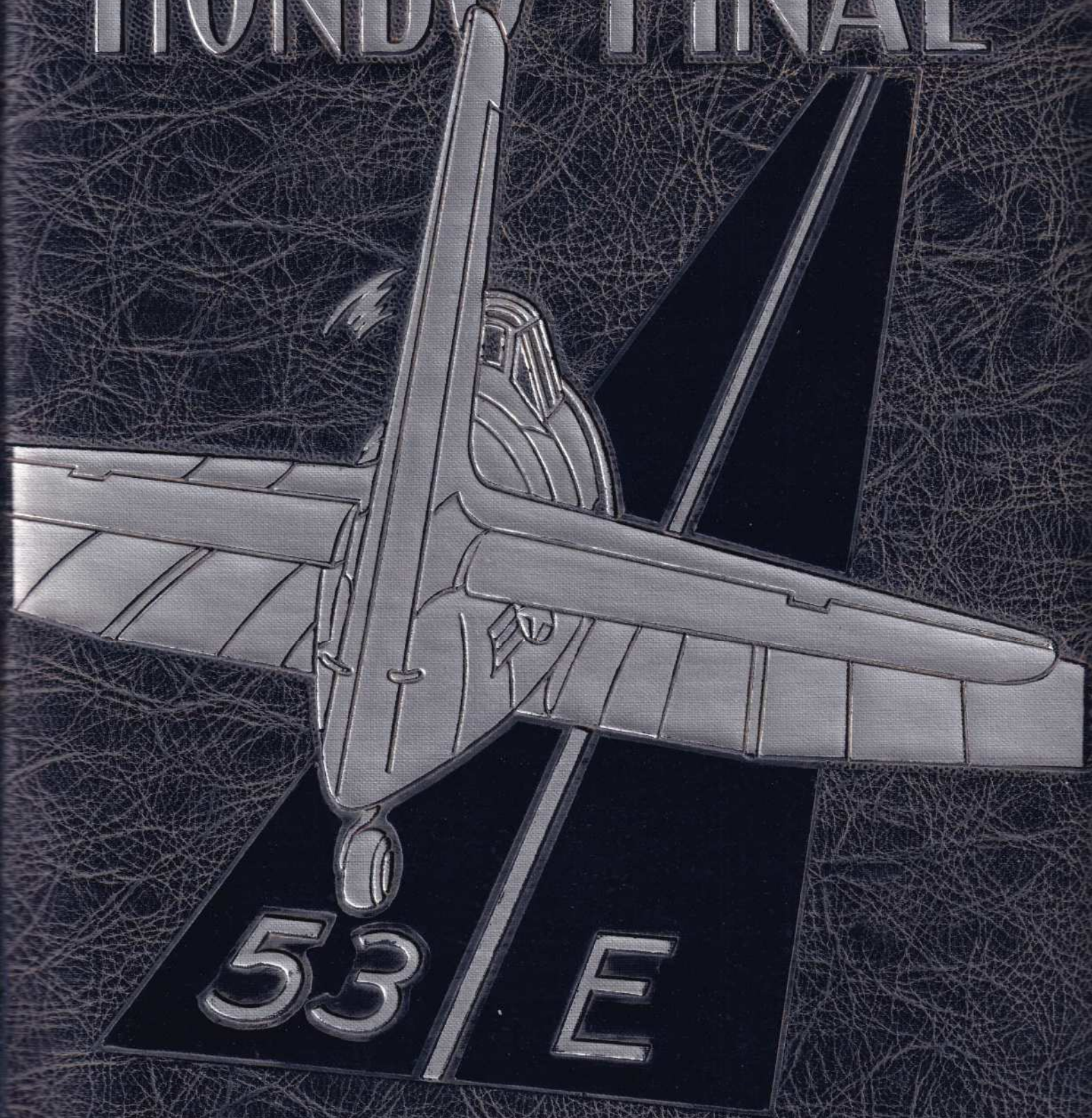


HONDO FINAL



Thomas J. McElung
THOMAS J. McELUNG
Class 53-E

Dear Mr. Chung
How about making
a few a little different
than this (✓). No kidding.
I sure did enjoy working
with you. Keep up the good
work.

Oliver C. Koenig

Best of luck to a grand
future.

J. M. Sedberry

DEDICATION

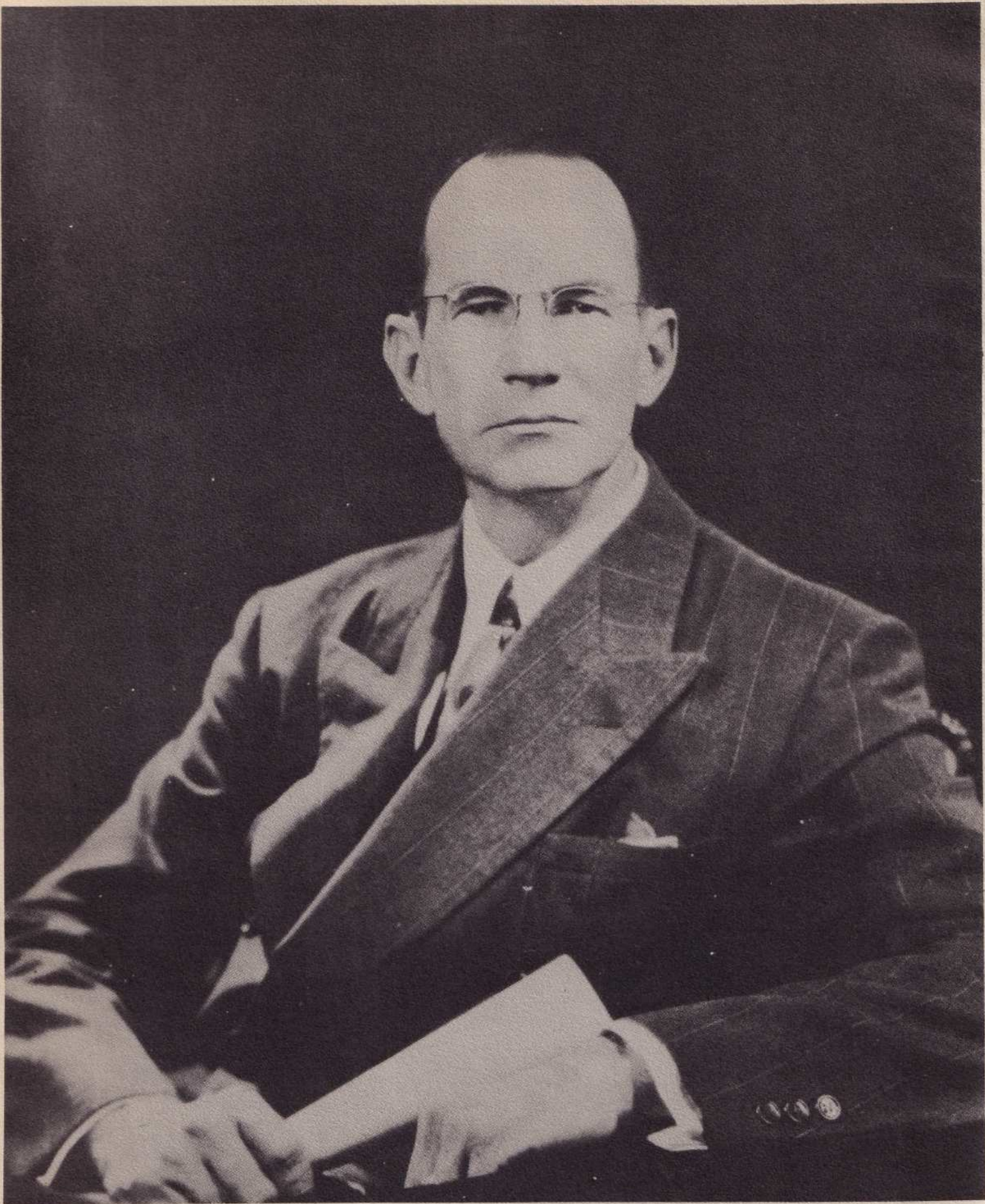
These men gave their lives to protect the peace
and security we all know.

The student, 2nd Lt. E.F. GREER, JR., the
instructor, MR. W.D. SCHOENSEE.

One was teaching and one was learning one way
of preserving the America we love.

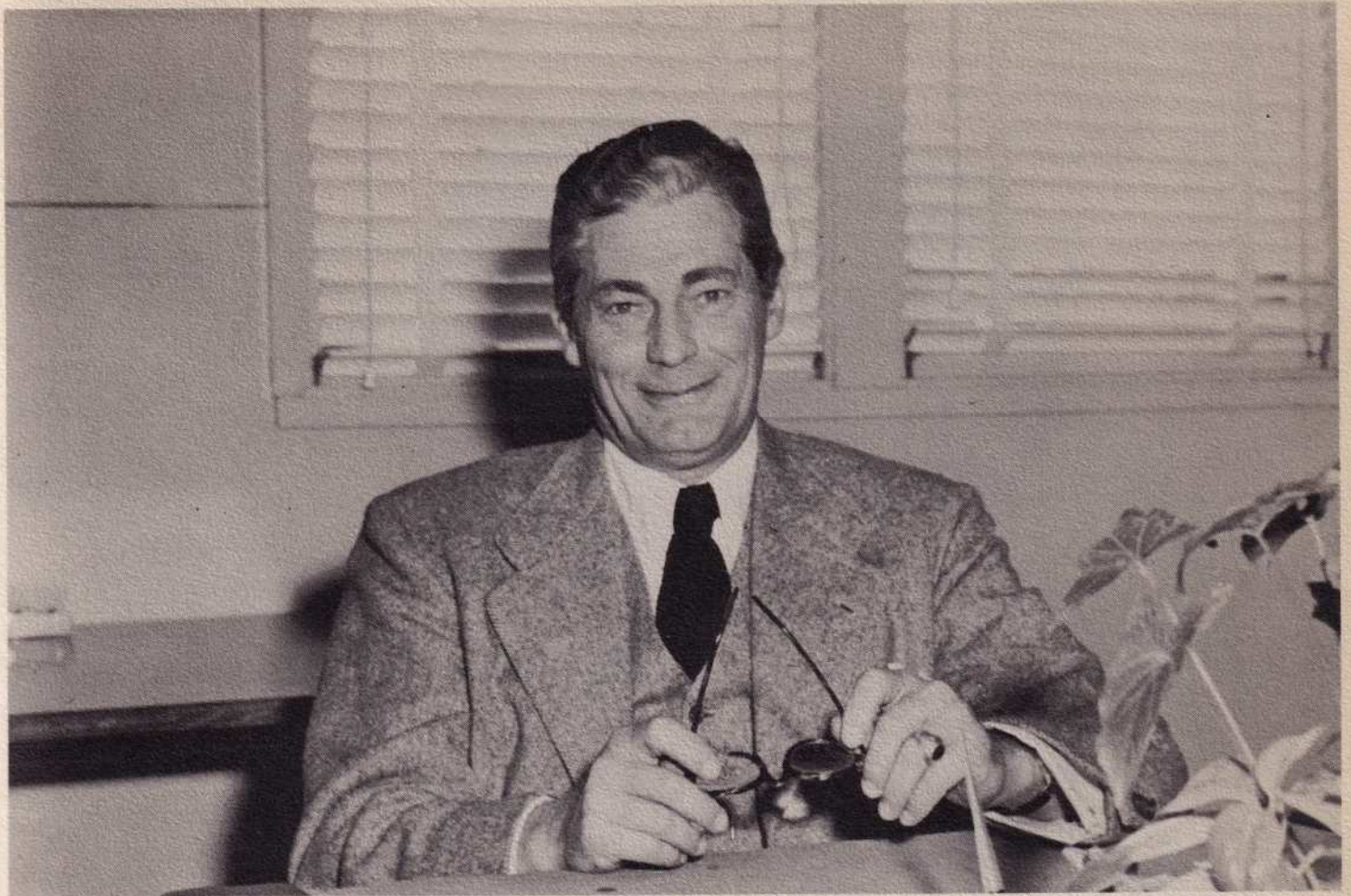
To these men this book is dedicated.

CLASS OF



President Texas Aviation Industries
MR. H. B. ZACHRY

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT T. A. I.

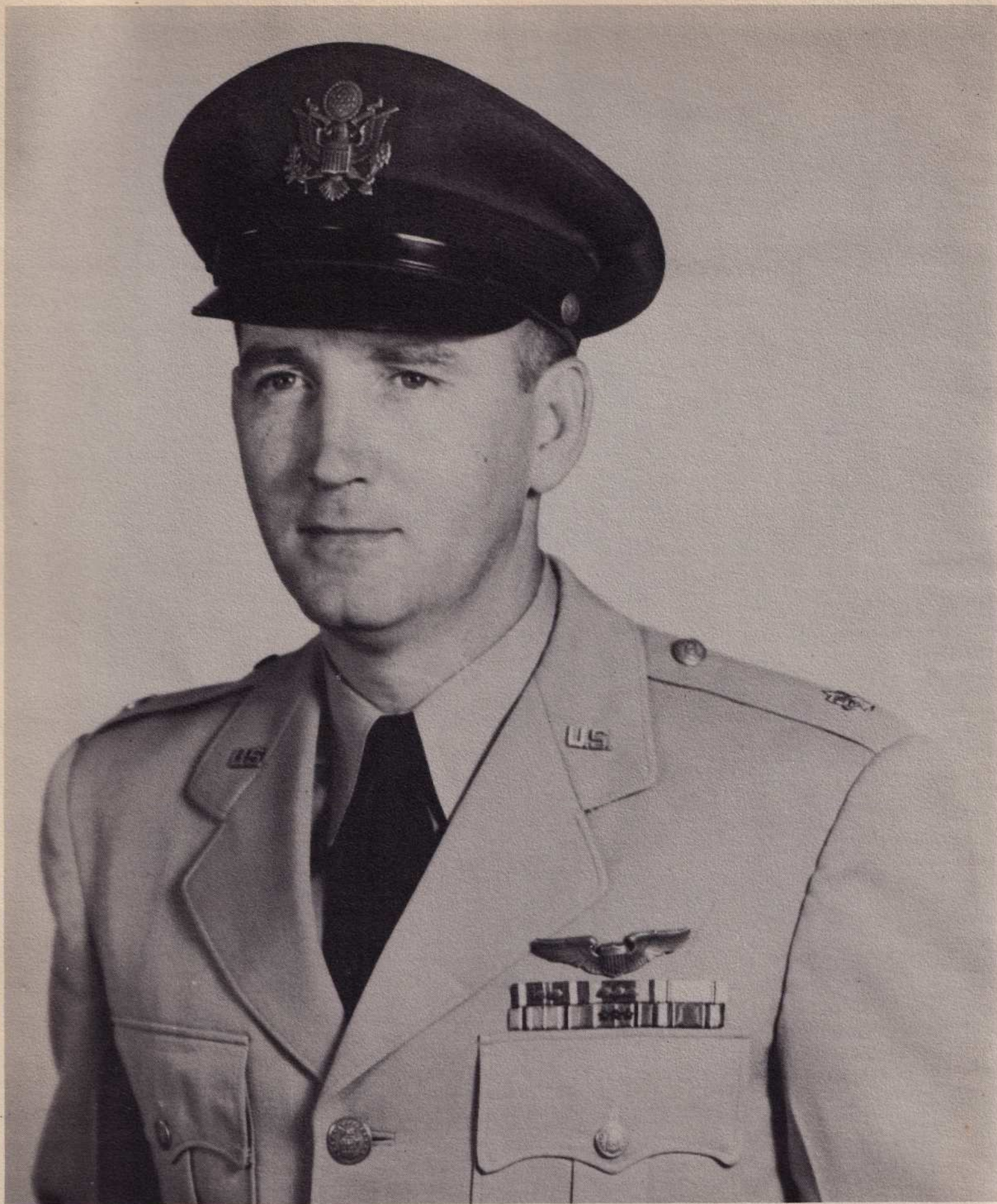


Texas Aviation Industries, Inc., is very happy to have been chosen by the U. S. Air Force to conduct Basic Flying Training for its personnel. The school here at Hondo was activated on 5 June 51 and received its first class of aviation students on 9 July 51. The training conducted here is the same in scope and objective as that formerly conducted at Randolph Field. In fact, we are fortunate in the heritage of Randolph's role in Texas, rich in tradition.

The Air Force has adopted this the contract Basic Flight School because the economy of operation by civilian specialists of extensive experience, gives more for the dollar than any other training principle evolved. Our staff of flying instructors, mechanics, supply, and administrative personnel are all civilian, all highly selected and especially skilled in their respective fields. It is our privilege to thus serve our country and our pleasure to assist these outstanding young men of America and our allied nations in attaining the goal of their ambition, Air Force Wings.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Luther S. Smith".

LUTHER S. SMITH
General, USAF (Ret.)



LT. COL. JOHN D. IRVIN

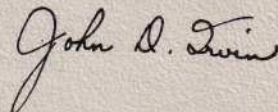
HEADQUARTERS
HONDO AIR BASE
HONDO, TEXAS

To Class 53-E:

The long months of your basic flying training at Hondo Air Base are culminated in a sense of achievement and successful graduation. From among many fine young men, some of whom have necessarily dropped by the way - side, you have, through your known abilities, have been selected as the best. Forewarned of complacency, your best efforts will be required in the more advanced stages of your flying training, to ultimately realize that goal toward which you are striving.

It makes little difference what may be our peaceful aspirations because we may not much longer be masters of our own destinies as individuals and a nation, unless our efforts are converged upon the creation of forces capable of countering the threat which faces the world. To live in a future with freedom intact, we individually and collectively, owe concentrated personal services and energies to the defense of our basic doctrine of free society.

Personnel of Texas Aviation Industries, Inc. and the 3304th Training Squadron (Contract Flying) join in congratulating you upon your successful graduation, and wish you success in your future training and flying careers.



JOHN D. IRVIN
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Commanding

983—UPPER!

PLEASE MAY I
COME DOWN?

925 — ROGER IN
THE GREEN!

NUMBER FOUR
ON FINAL —
TAKE IT AROUND !!

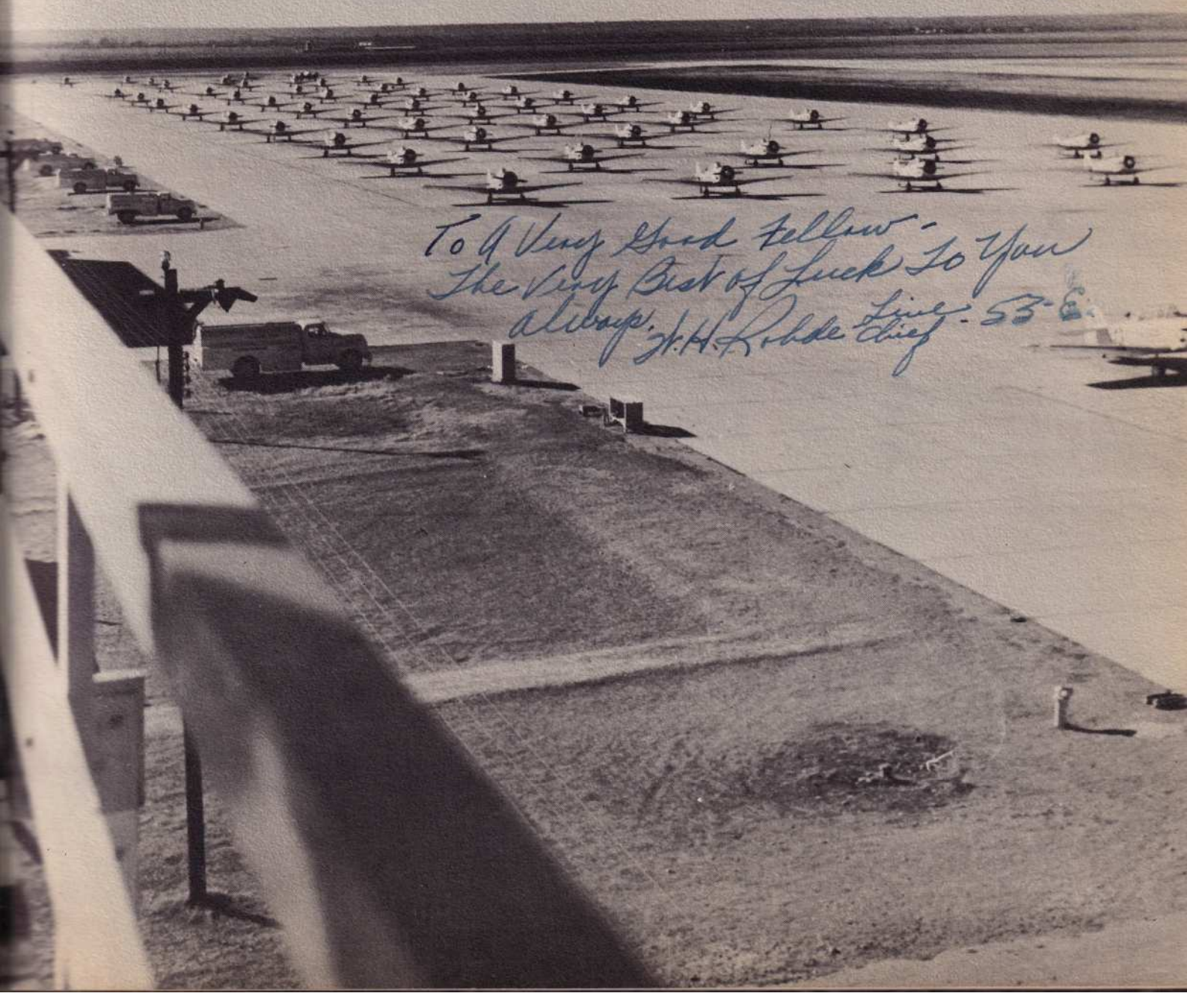
GET THAT PLANE'S
NUMBER!

KNOCK OFF THAT
CHATTER!

THE YAWN PATROL

Flying Training

To A Very Good Fellow -
The Very Best of Luck To You
Always. J. H. Rohde Chief - 53-E



T. A. I. SUPERVISORS



MILAN O. HASKINS
Director of Flying



JOE RAY
Flying Safety Officer



HAL S. BROWNING
Group Commander



WAYNE SCHLESSENGER
Group Commander



MR. W.B. SIMPSON
Asst. Squadron Commander
E-1

W.B. Simpson



MR. W.B. HEDGE
Squadron Commander
E-1

W.B. Hedge



MR. L.W. SMITH
Senior Pilot
E-1

Let's go to movie

L.W. Smith



MR. E. ROBINSON
Squadron Commander
E-2



MR. E.W. PARISH
Asst. Squadron Commander
E-2



MR. MULLEN
Senior Pilot
E-2



FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS E-1

SEATED: J.C. Davis, I. Jones, J. Cook, O.A. Koenig, W.N. Vreeland, W.B. Simpson.

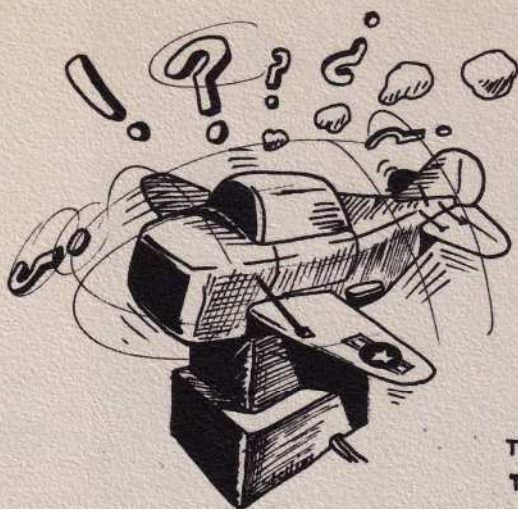
STANDING: D. Lambert, L.W. Smith, A. Barros, R.A. Mitchell, J.L. Gardner, H. Kayser, M.L. Eichblat, A. Dean.



FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS E-2

FRONT: E. Siers, L.H. Winans, B.N. Conrade, R.G. Shurley, E.R. Sweeten.

BACK: C.H. Soape, J.E. Campbell, W.L. Craggs, J.M. Ilfrey, A.C. Strickland, W.R. Page, F.H. Atkinson.



... AS PICTURED
BY THE STUDENT...

THE LINK TRAINER IS USED TO
TEACH THE PROCEDURES OF IN-
STRUMENT FLYING AND DOES NOT
NECESSARILY HANDLE LIKE AN
ACTUAL AIRCRAFT...

LINK TRAINING



BACK ROW: Left to Right: C. Pimm, J.R. Vandenburg, J.F. Coleson, H.C. Coleson, J.L. Stidman, D.L. Bowles, J.S. Gross. FRONT ROW: J.H. Culp, M.L. Fly, C.C. Care Jr., R.R. Fields, W.A. Briedenbach, A.E. Burns, B. Allen.



MAJOR ROSS D. WHITE

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

Members of Class 53-E:

These last six months you have come a long way in your goal for Air Force Wings. You have soloed, passed your check rides, and learned the fundamentals of flying.

Jets and multi-engine come next. Study diligently, work hard, and apply the principles you learned here in any type of flying.

Congratulations and Best Wishes.

ROSS D. WHITE
Major, USAF

MILITARY CHECK PILOTS



MAJ. DERRILL L. LATHAM



CAPT. PHILLIP P. PLOTKIN



CAPT. RALPH W.E. WEBB



CAPT. CAMERON P. WILEY



CAPTAIN ELDRED N. STEIN



W.P. PARKER
Director of Academics

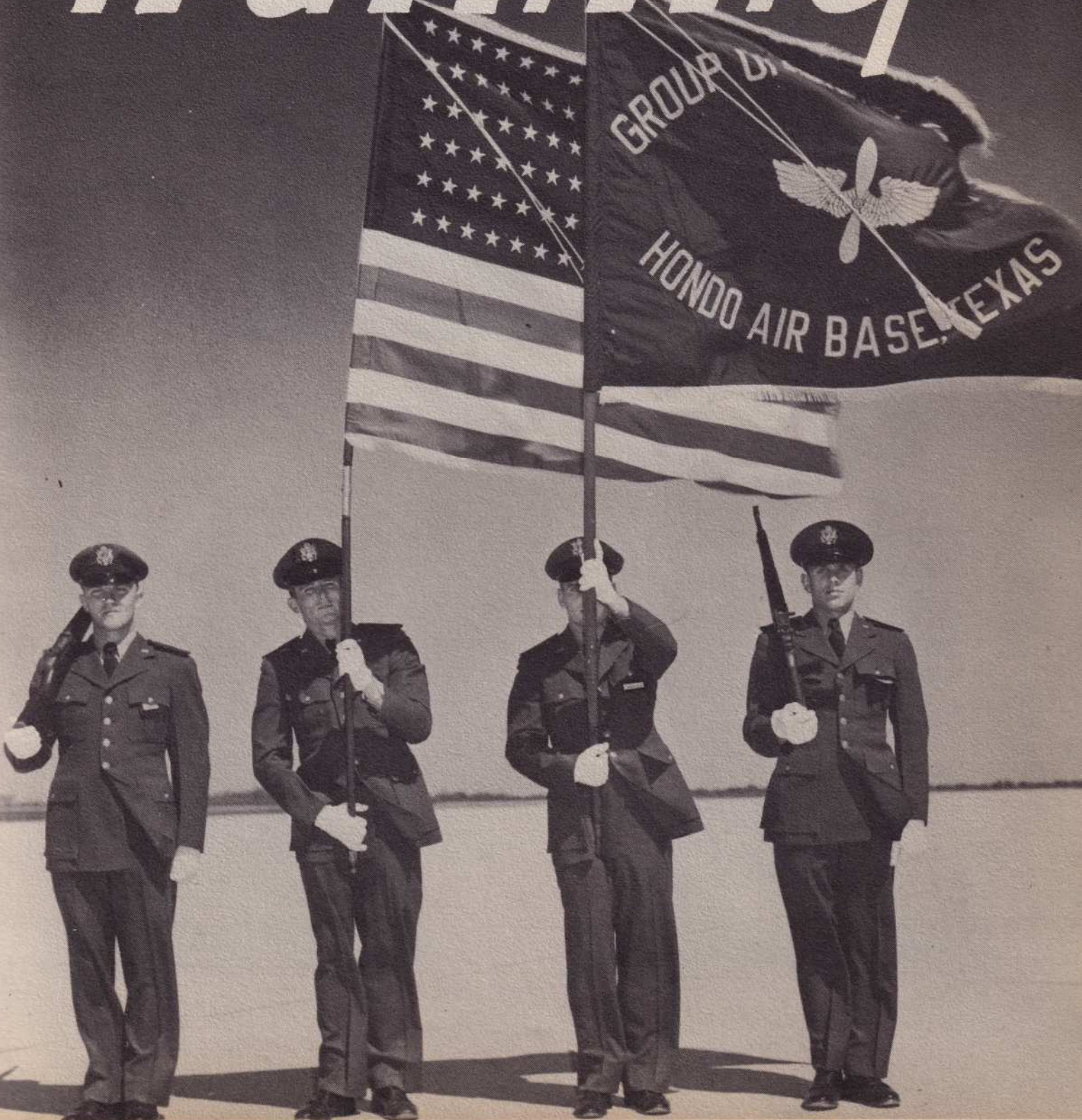


ACADEMIC INSTRUCTORS

SEATED: J. W. Terrell, W.P. Parker, W.C. Shockley, T.V. James, J. Bates, J. T. Gore.

STANDING: P.E. Holcomb, W.A. Taylor, J. Burnett, J.T. Ryan, M.S. Shelton, T.O. Cummings, J.F. Combs, R.E. Newman.

Military Training





MAJ. WARREN G. BELL
Commandant of Students



CAPT. WALTER A. ERDMAN
OIC Pre-Flight



CAPT. ROBERT B. ARNOLD
OIC Student Officers



2nd LT. JAMES E. POOLE
First Squadron



2nd LT. WILLIAM T. LUCKETT
Second Squadron



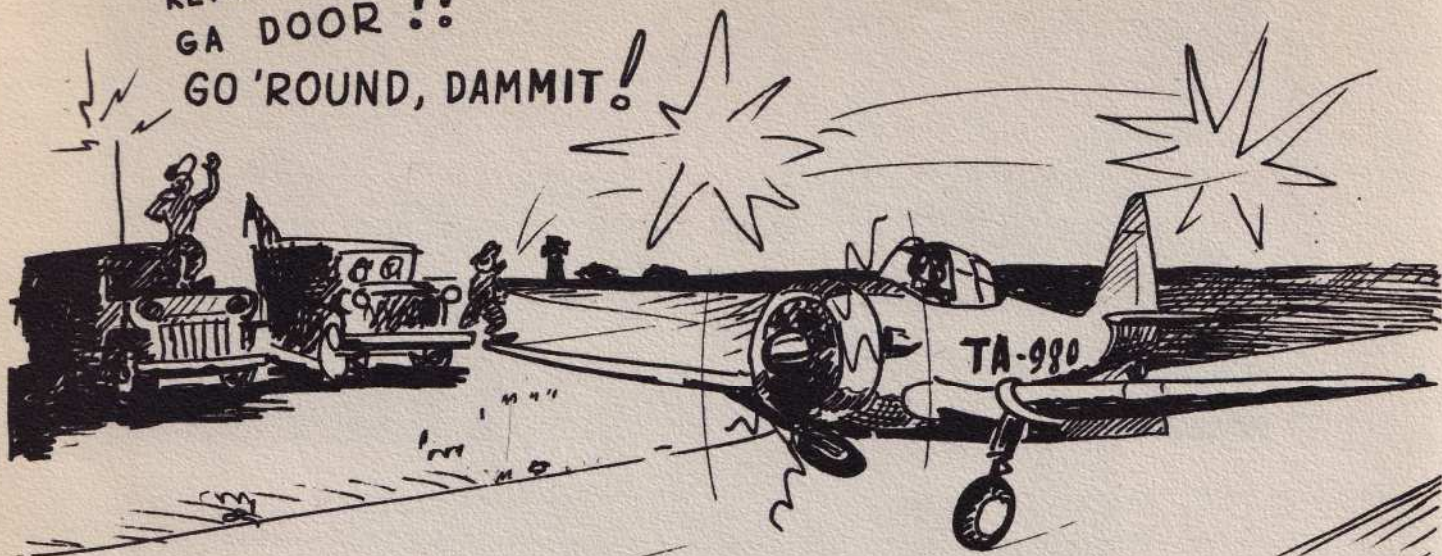
2nd LT. ALBERT K. FERRIS
Third Squadron



2nd LT. ROBERT A. HARRISON
Fourth Squadron

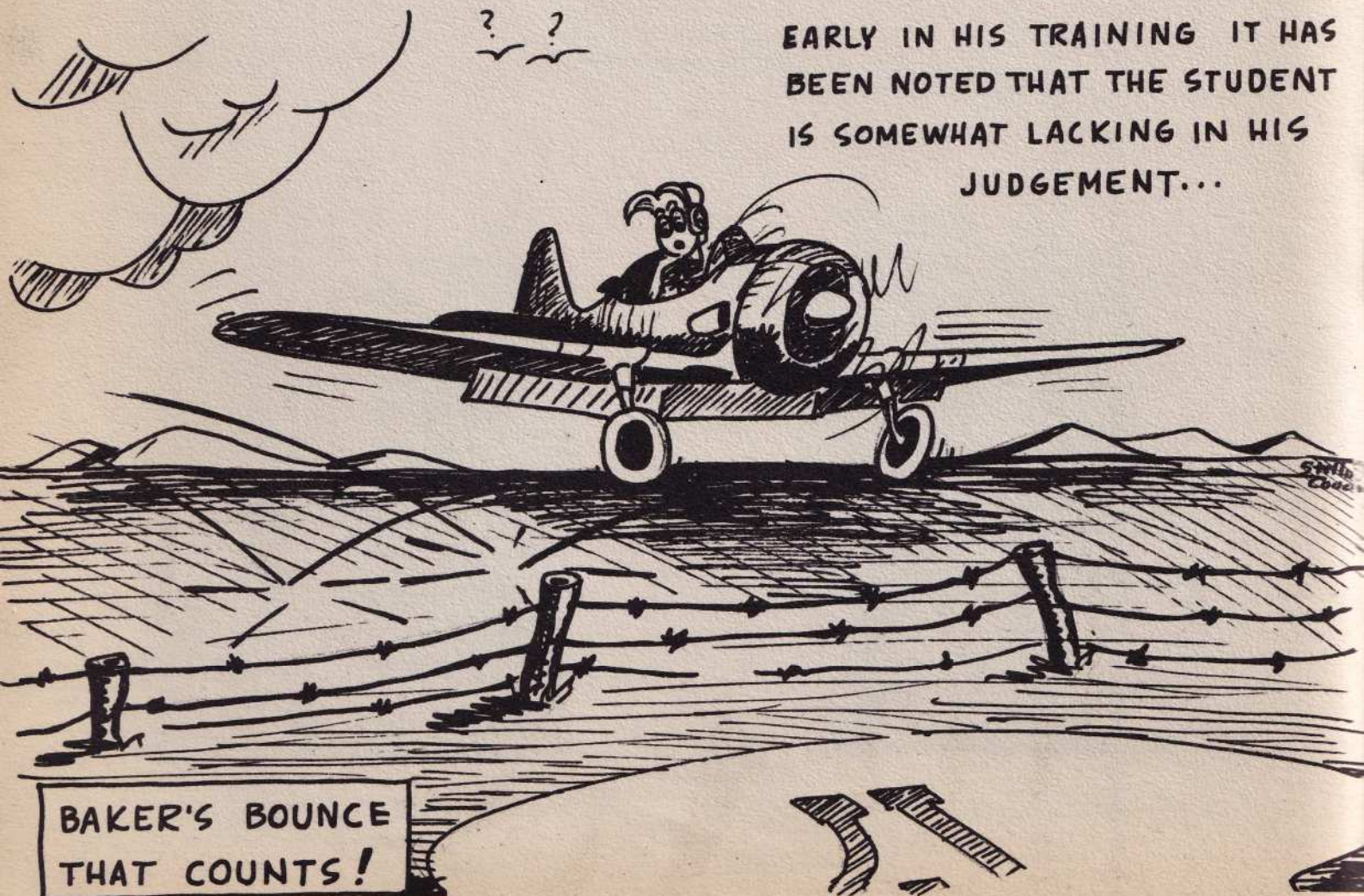
980 - GÅ RUNDT!
REMETTEZ LAGOMME!
GA DOOR !!
GO 'ROUND, DAMMIT!

HUN-DO KUN-TRAU, OB4,
BASIC LEG-SOLO-LIGHTS
SHIN-INK!!



ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A LARGE
NUMBER OF NATIONS REPRESENTED
AMONG THE STUDENT BODY AT HONDO,
THE LANGUAGE BARRIER CAUSED ONLY
A MINOR HANDICAP TO TRAINING...

EARLY IN HIS TRAINING IT HAS
BEEN NOTED THAT THE STUDENT
IS SOMEWHAT LACKING IN HIS
JUDGEMENT...



BAKER'S BOUNCE
THAT COUNTS!

Cadets



GROUP STAFF



Wesley J. Cook, Group Adjutant; Raymond G. Wolf, Group Major;
Thomas H. Rhodes, Group Supply Officer.

SQUADRON COMMANDERS



Henry L. Maxwell, Robert G. Kotcher, Gail C. Anderson, William
E. Mulloy.

HONOR COUNCIL



Martin D. Leonard, Henry L. Maxwell, Raymond G. Wolf, Glennis C. Kirk.

BOARD OF GOVENORS



SEATED: T.D. Pratt, W.J. Cook, R.G. Wolf, T.H. Rhodes, D.E. Bray.

STANDING: G.C. Anderson, W.J. Brennan, S.E. Wilcox, E.W. Marvel, J.D. Maley, R.G. Kotcher, H.L. Maxwell, H.M. Auber, W.E. Mulloy, D.E. Thomas.



"SLIGHT CROSSWIND
BUT WE'LL SHOOT
THE STAGE"

THE FEATHERED FIRST

Migration was terminated around the 10th of July, 1952 at our newly found "Capistrano"-to the proud Texan 'twas better known as Hondo.

From the myriads came those gallant few who were soon to play an integral part in FTAF'S spirited operation, "Every man a tiger" and our invincible Squadron One" Men like those who had already allowed their curious minds to ascend from the firm and perhaps terra while casually thinking of it as a place where occasionally the birds came for a drink...like those whose avid curiosity could be solaced only by an agenda somewhat similar to the eagle's.

And it came to pass that we were at last assembled under the eyes and wings of Captain Erdman in Pre-Flight. This consisted of an indoctrination of the Cadet Program and the Texan. One month later, after having absorbed this invaluable Pre-Flight knowledge, we slowly began to realize our long-sought dreams-FLYING. But naturally, the transition was not so natural! Interesting things happened-some old and expected and some which made their debut in Echo Class and were slightly unexpected: like the day that the slight cross wind existed and Henry "Regulation Happy" Hartsell, after landing, called the tower and came out with this bright statement: "This is 933 in the grass, what'll I do?"... The very next day, while flying the traffic pattern, Henry "CS" Maxwell tried to look under the wings to see if his landing gear was down, losing his headset and cap!... Then came the first ground acrobatics to Echo Class when Bill "Hate A Checkride" Cobb forgot to get the stick ALL THE WAY BACK!... we are still trying to figure out how Kimberlee "B-47" Bradford made his T-6 literally back off the runway on both wing tips???? That same day Alden "The Big Swede" Larson checked the oil and placed the cap in the baggage compartment. Larson claims it only took fifteen minutes to clean it up!... A few days went by without incident before Pierre "No Compree" Grossi requested a steer-and was on final!.. Must be true that Texas doesn't look much like the States or France!... It soon became apparent to the link instructors that William "Louisiana" Russell wasn't getting much sleep because several times he was observed catching "forty winks" in the link!... Sam "Bandera" Wilcox never did reveal his reasons for flying traffic patterns over the "Flying L", a local dude ranch??? We now know that Hal "Heavy" Hauber, a sincere patron of the Gunter Hotel-lobby, that is, regretfully gave up the idea of finding a pair of iron pants to foil his flight instructor... Stuart "Military Mac" McCombs, who never saw any sense in saluting, even generals, has finally seen the light... Usually, there's one in every squadron like Ronald "Slow-Rolling Draper, who'd go rabbit hunting on every cross-country!..... Francois "Do You Understand Me" Le Sollic was the most sought-after man in the squadron during the latter part of the month. He was the French Bank for the American Cadets!... Jean "RRRRRoooooggeer" Combier didn't think that it was necessary to fill out the Form I on a Military Check-ride. Now, he knows better!... Runway Control still hasn't forgiven Joe "Pandora" Schreurs for stopping all traffic while he made a touch-and-go landing!... Charlie "Open-Post" Harris still holds the world's speed record from Hondo to Bandera!... Ernie "Cork Room" Meyer is a man with a prolific mind-designing a flight suit with freezer pocket and can opener!

We'll say again that the transition to flying was not a natural one, but now these gallants, who are distinguished only physically from the eagles, have proved again that "it's not really for the birds"... ALONE!

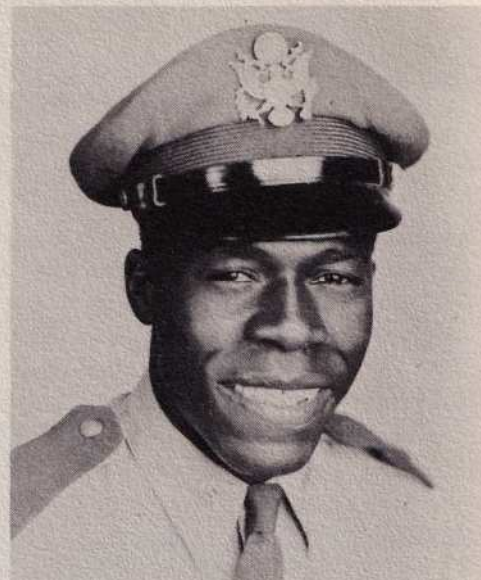
HAL HAUBER
BILL COBB, JR.

KIMBERLEE J. BRADFORD
Willimantic, Connecticut
Soloed: 22 Sept. '52



JEAN J. COMBIER
Lyon, France
Soloed: 21 Oct. '52

WILLIAM H. COBB, JR.
Pascaquola, Mississippi
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



*Best Work in the
Future, or see you to
Williams - Pierre F. Grossi*
PIERRE F. GROSSI
Bastia (Corse), France
Soloed: 2 Oct. '52



RONALD E. DRAPER
Murphysboro, Illinois
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



CHARLES W. HARRIS
Van Buren, Arkansas
Soloed: 10 Sept. '52

*Best of Everything
Charles W. Harris*



HENRY F. HARTSELL
Charlotte, North Carolina
Soloed: 29 Sept. '52



*Best of Luck to you
Alden C. Larson*

ALDEN C. LARSON
Hixton, Wisconsin
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52



HALSEY M. HAUBER
Bloomfield, New Jersey
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52

*The best of luck
Hal Hauber*



HENRY L. MAXWELL
Biggsville, Illinois
Soloed: 16 Sept. '52

FRANCOIS P. LE SOLLIEC
Le Croisty, France
Soloed: 17 Sept. '52



STUART C. McCOMBS
Detroit, Michigan
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52

*Best of luck to you
Stu*

Lots of luck
Bill Turner

For a fine
West Point
Ensign



ERNEST H. MEYER
Indianapolis, Indiana
Soloed: 24 Sept. '52



WILLIAM T. RUSSELL
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Soloed: 19 Sept. '52



JOSEPH SCHREURS
Nijmegen, Netherlands
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52

Lots of luck.
Best wishes
It is swell to know you
hope to see you again
Joe Schreurs

SAMUEL E. WILCOX
Selma, Alabama
Soloed: 17 Sept. '52

Top line with best
of luck.
Sam Wilcox

THE FEARLESS SECOND

Yes, this is Squadron II, drawn to Hondo on the 10th day of July, 1952 by the magnetism of FTAF. French and Dutch students along with the American students combined to build a spirit and feeling of unity and cooperation which will long be remembered. We take great pride in this spirit. It has enabled Squadron II to win more than its share of parades, and take first place several times in that marathon of athletic prowess, the famed Hondo Olympics. Perhaps we can attribute the growth of such a spirit to the efforts of Captain Erdmann, who guided us through that period in which the Cadet is considered the lowest of low-Pre-Flight. We can also consider the efforts of Captain Boudreau, who inspected with the finess of a Sherlock Holmes. Squadron II can also look to the efforts of Lieutenant Luckett in his position of Second Squadron Tactical Officer. At any rate, we have the individuals of Squadron II themselves, who although different from another in many ways, are as close as any group could get. Introducing.....

Dick "Calm, Cool, and Collected" Billings-Hastings, Nebraska's gift to the Cadet Program-Tops in basketball-favorite subject-sleep-19:00 lights out.....Walt "Jet" Brennan-the California Kid-finds straight and level flight one of the unusual positions-tough on fourth classmen.....Bob "Neat and Natty" Kotcher-an ex-Dog man indoctrinated in the lore of Easy Class-This boy is real sharp-Bob can ask more questions-Hails from St. Clair, Michigan...Elton "Never Again" Schwinger-tallest man in Easy-this fellow has real humor-known as "Uncle Elt" to close friends-Did some say it's payday? Inseparable friend of John Phipps....Mike "The Postman's Nightmare" Shiroma-when Mike writes a letter it's more like a short story-never stops talking about Hawaii-Cocktails at the Gunter....Gerry "The Flying Dutchman" Walhout-a member of that symphonic group, the Cadet Band-section marcher extraordinaire....Earl "Strong and Silent Peay-shuns formation flying-resides in Squadron II's rest home, barracks 2309-Doubletime specialist-California flash....Charlie "Little Watasha" Wallace-believes the end of the world will come at 5:45-Hillbilly music addict-Squadron "Librarian"-Lexington, Tennessee...Dan "Nap" Napoli-navigation major-Tennis fan-"That link is just like a pinball machine"- "Anybody here from Chanute"-Chicago Heights boy....Ed "Philadelphia Just Can't Be Beat" Marvel-Ed believed Rector is a Russian possession-Principal cause of A. J. Dean's ulcers-Melrose Park, Pennsylvania.....Ray "Around The Field "Heavy" Wolf-Sech a bizness- Group Commander-Auger's English instructor-"Yacht" and "Angler" field-Red Bank here I come!...Jacque "Set My Own Cadence" Delarue-Believes himself to be the Commander in Chief of "The French Occupation" troops....Christian "Chris" Auger-French Ambassador-chess expert-Wolf's French instructor-P-51 advocate-"roommate"....Lucien "I'm So Tired" Lavigne yearns to become a French P. T. instructor-fully Americanized-takes a particular interest in radio ranges....John "San Antonio" Phipps-Baltimore, Maryland-"P. T. has got to go!"-Called "Chocks" at one time.....Ken "Slow and Easy" Grooms-"Golly"-Ken, just won't get excited-has a southern drawl that really drawls-down from Nashville, Tennessee.....Wayne "Vertigo" La Velle-first in Easy Class to solo-member of Peay, La Velle, Grooms, and Napoli Inc. -Who said it rains in California?...Ed "Silent" Hudgens-Tulsa, Oklahoma-rumored to be the southwestern representative of Studebaker Corp. -A&E expert-"Let's go Mike". John "They Ought to Burn All Form I's" Loehr-John thought he was taking a course in the short story-"Little John"- "What will cook Say?"

Yes, this is Squadron II, You may call it what ever you wish. We call it SPIRIT!

ED MARVEL, JR.

CHRISTIAN AUGER
Loir Et Cher., France
Soloed: 17 Sept. '52



*Best of luck
Safe to see you again
Come!
Christian*



*The best always was. It's
been more than a pleasure
working & flying with you. We're
hoping we meet again soon.*
Walter Brennan
WALTER J. BRENNAN
San Mateo, California
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52

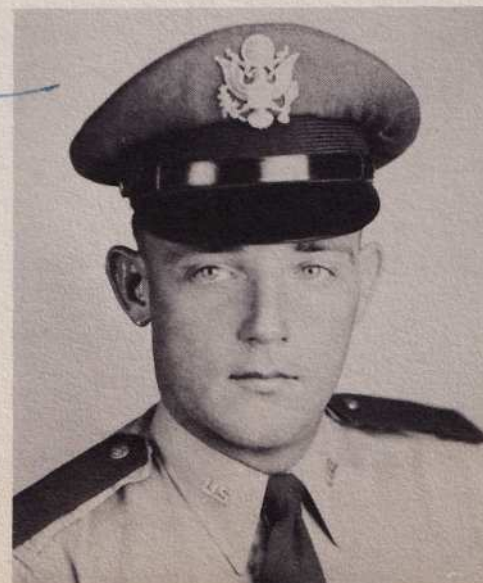
RICHARD D. BILLINGS
Hastings, Nebraska
Soloed: 22 Sept. '52

*I surely have appreciated
the opportunity to work
with you Tom. Lots of
luck to a good officer, &
I hope I will be able to
serve with you again...*
Dick Billings



*Best of luck, always
Kenneth L. Groomes*

KENNETH L. GROOMES
Nashville, Tennessee
Soloed: 18 Sept. '52



JACQUES DELARUE
Paris, France
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52

EDWARD M. HUDGENS
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52

*Best of luck
Edward M. Hudgens*

ROBERT G. KOTCHER
St. Clair, Michigan
Soloed 14 Sept. '52



*See you at Begg
Spring Lieutenant.
Good luck and
best wishes.
"Kotch"*



WAYNE F. LAVELLE
Walnut Creek, California
Soloed: 8 Sept. '52

*Hope to see you again
Good Luck
Wayne F. Lavelle*

LUCIEN LAVIGNE
St. Vivien, Dordogne, France
Soloed: 3 Oct. '52



*Best of Luck
Hope to meet
again "Hep"*



JOHN L. LOEHR
Rochester, New York
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52

*Best of luck Lt. - here's
hoping we like the
stovepipes John Loehr*



EDWARD W. MARVEL, JR.
Melrose Park, Pa.
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52

*"Lots of Luck Lt.
Williams a Big thing
you'll make out along it
Ed Marvel Jr."*



DAVID L. NAPOLI
Chicago Heights, Illinois
Soloed: 17 Sept. '52

*Avec toute ma
reconnaissance et mon
meilleur souvenir.*

EARL A. PEAY
Upland, California
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



ELTON C. SCHWINGER
Niagara Falls, New York
Soloed: 3 Oct. '52

JOHN R. PHIPPS
Baltimore, Maryland
Soloed: 4 Oct. '52



MICHAEL M. SHIROMA
Honolulu, Hawaii
Soloed: 3 Oct. '52



CHARLES T. WALLACE
Lexington, Tennessee
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52

*Good luck until we
meet again.
Charlie T. Wallace*

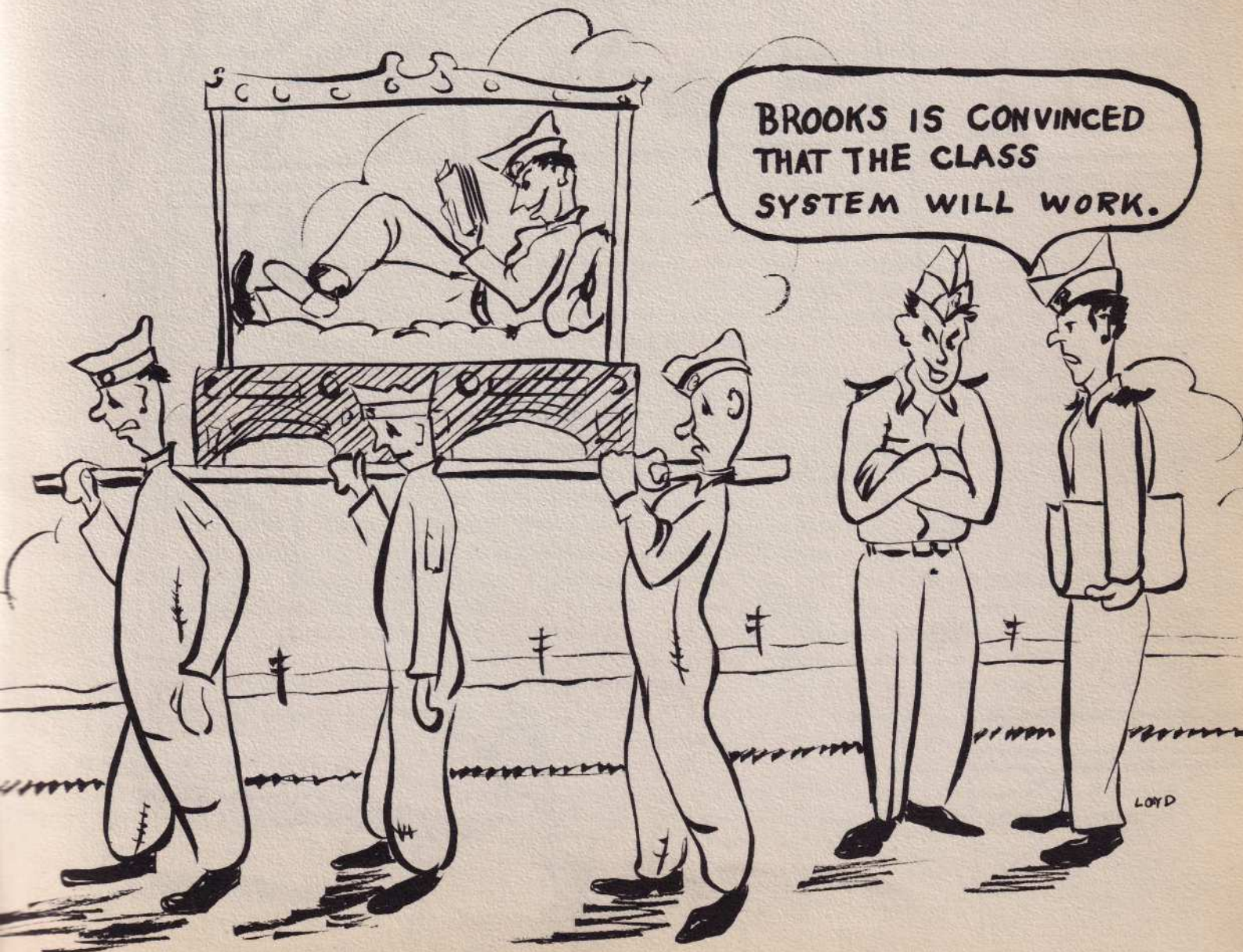
GERRIT J. WALHOUT
Eindhoven, Holland
Soloed: 24 Sept. '52

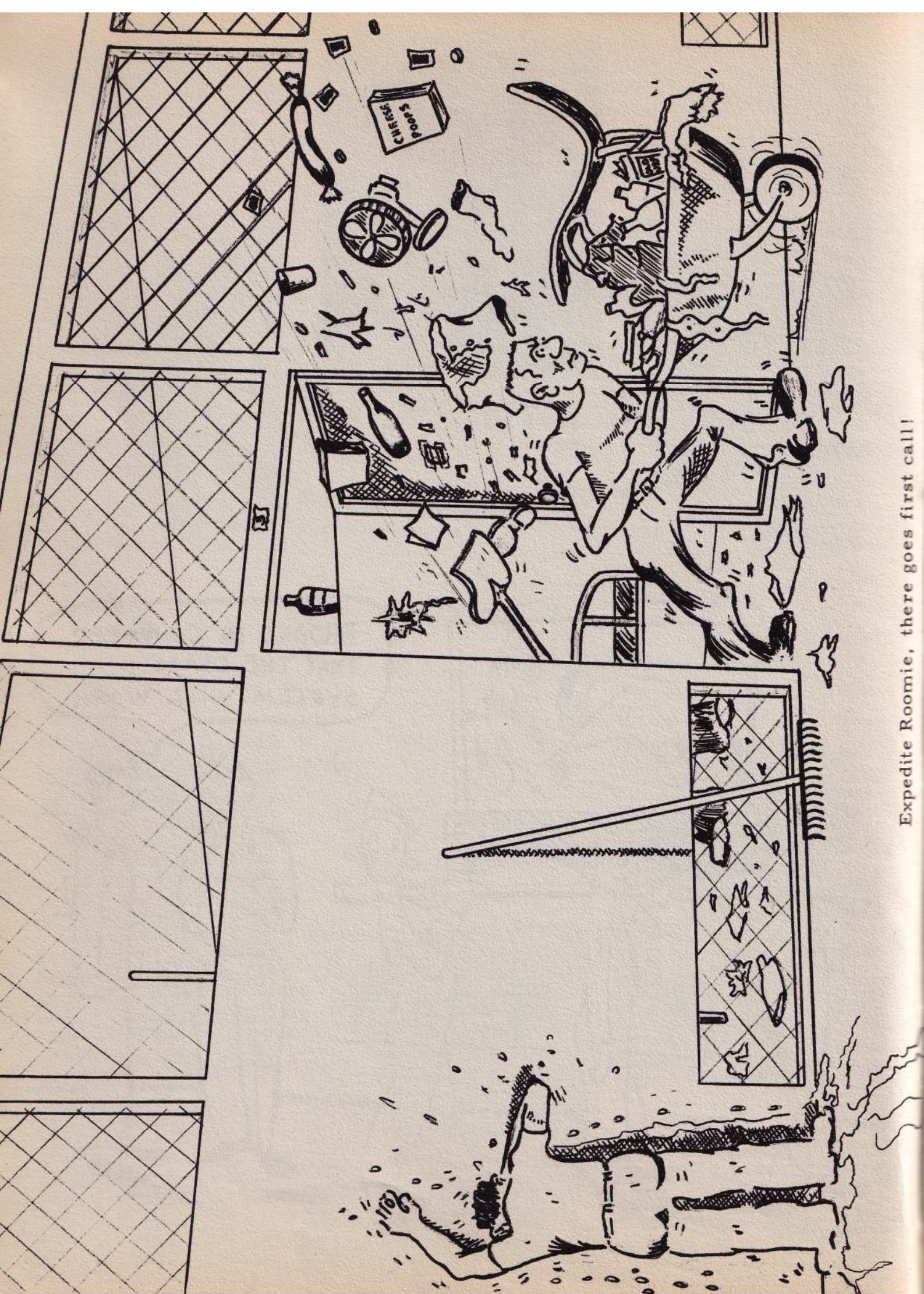
*Lot of luck and
meet you
will be a
great*



RAYMOND G. WOLF
Fair Haven, New Jersey
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52

*I guess Gen. Spiran is right
Good luck in the stove pipes
Ray Wolf.*





Expedite Roomie, there goes first call!

" THE THUNDERING THIRD"

Harken all ye men of good faith and aviation cadets also. Gabriel has sounded his fatal trumpet and the day of reckoning is upon us. The third squadron of class 53-E will step forward to be judged. Be there a spokesman amongst ye, let him come forth and speak in your behalf.

Sir:

It all began on the tenth day of July in the year of our Lord 1952, when we arrived at the "Awful Acres" of Hondo Air Base, and were led to the Pre-Flight area and placed in the hands of Warden "Erdmann the Birdman". Once settled down in our cells, our "Now in the old Air Force" Shaw of the clan Zebra, immediately set forth to strike fear and anxiety into the heart of the clan Feather Merchant, and particularly that of "Moose" Liethen-who was ever-willing to listen to a war story. But the day came all too soon that the clan Zebra was merged into the obscurity of the clan Aviation Cadet, and all were made equal in the eyes of our Great White Father in FLYTAF. Among the first to remove their stripes was "too many G's" Yount, who shed many a sad tear for each of his four stripes. The day finally arrived when we were set free to roam the broad expanses of Texas (as far as San Antonio, that is) on a twelve hour Open Post. Here fate struck its first cruel blow and "Group Board" Chandler received his first of three awards for hilarious conduct. After four weeks of the tortuous Pre-Flight, we ascended into the horrors of fourth class. It was here that our first "birdman" was born in the form of "The Feet" Lesser. He soared into the blue with an empty rear cockpit much to everyone's surprise, including his own. The rest followed in short order, until that black day when "Bugs" Bray wrestled his instructor and one of the "Yellow Monsters" into denting a wing tip at the dust bowl, sometimes called "Rector Field". But he was not to have all the glory for himself as "I thought this was Bandera" Crowell duplicated the feat a short time later with equal success and without the aid of his instructor, who watched from a safe spot on the ground. But all the "Boo Boos" were not committed on the ground, to which fact, "Mike Hammer" Cook can well attest. Due to his discovery that a "Terrible Six" will execute a much safer recovery from a simulated forced landing with the fuel selector ON rather than OFF. "Sirloin" Zoerlein also discovered after three attempts and many harsh words from the rear cockpit, that the gear should be UP and not DOWN on forced landings. On the other hand, much to the dismay of "Tires" Marionneaux the gear should be DOWN and not UP on normal landings. We must also mention in passing the antics of "Flight Five" McNay who failed to realize the functions of his radio on his first solo cross-country; and had our friends Mssrs. D. F. Homers, seven in number, up in arms for a short period. To venture away from the realm of flying for a moment, there was "I won't buy a new razor" Brinkman, who made a nine hour trek from Bandera to Hondo, pushing his covered wagon, and "I'm completely disorientated" Thomas who was attacked by a cigarette machine at the Cadet Club and nearly crippled for life. We cannot forget "Hot Rod" Gordon and his Studebaker with the paint suffering from the use of a corrosive solution, nor "I didn't do nothin' wrong" Kirk and his feminine barber in San Antonio. Then there was "Three Cushion" Le Boucher, the pride of the French Foreign Legion, and "The South will rise again" Williamson representing the Confederate Air Force. "Ground Control Approach" Anderson was the man who kept the Sons of Herman going with his three steaks per day on weekends and "Not So Close" Halliday who had the runway moved out from under him and landed on 36 instead of 35. In our glorious reign as third classmen "I'm a Dog Man" king came to join us. Last but not least is "Hokay, boys?" Stratemans, our Belgian comedian.

This, then, is the beginning of our story. Do not judge us too harshly because, you see, we were working under a large handicap-we were human-but that did not last too long, as you can plainly see; for we are now "Hero Pilots" which places us above and beyond all trivial human things.

So be it that you are judged the "Hottest" class to survive Hondo, and are passed on to "Cadet Heaven" (Basic Flight Training), where 53-Easy will continue to show how this flying game is played.

JAH

GAIL C. ANDERSON
Jefferson City, Missouri
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



DANIEL E. BRAY, JR.
Richmond, Virginia
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52

JAMES E. BRINKMAN
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



DAVID C. CHANDLER
Riverside, California
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52



WESLEY J. COOK
El Monte, California
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



HENRY F. CROWELL
Westford, Massachusetts
Soloed: 8 Oct. '52

CARL L. GORDON
Greeley, Colorado
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



OLIVER F. KING
Grant City, Missouri
Soloed: 2 Oct. '52

JAMES A. HALLIDAY
New Port, Rhode Island
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52



JOSEPH LE BOUCHER
Plourivo, France
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



GLENNIS C. KIRK
Charleston, West Virginia
Soloed: 4 Oct. '52



DAVID A. LESSER
New York City, New York
Soloed: 22 Sept. '52

MARK N. LIETHEN
Appleton, Wisconsin
Soloed: 2 Oct. '52



RALPH H. MARIONNEAUX
Monroe, Louisiana
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



ARTHUR W. McNAY
San Carlos, California
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



LOUIS J. STRATEMANS
Molenbeersel, Belgium
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52



LEON R. SHAW, JR.
Gardner, Maine
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52



DONALD E. THOMAS
Gettysburg, South Dakota
Soloed: 24 Sept. '52

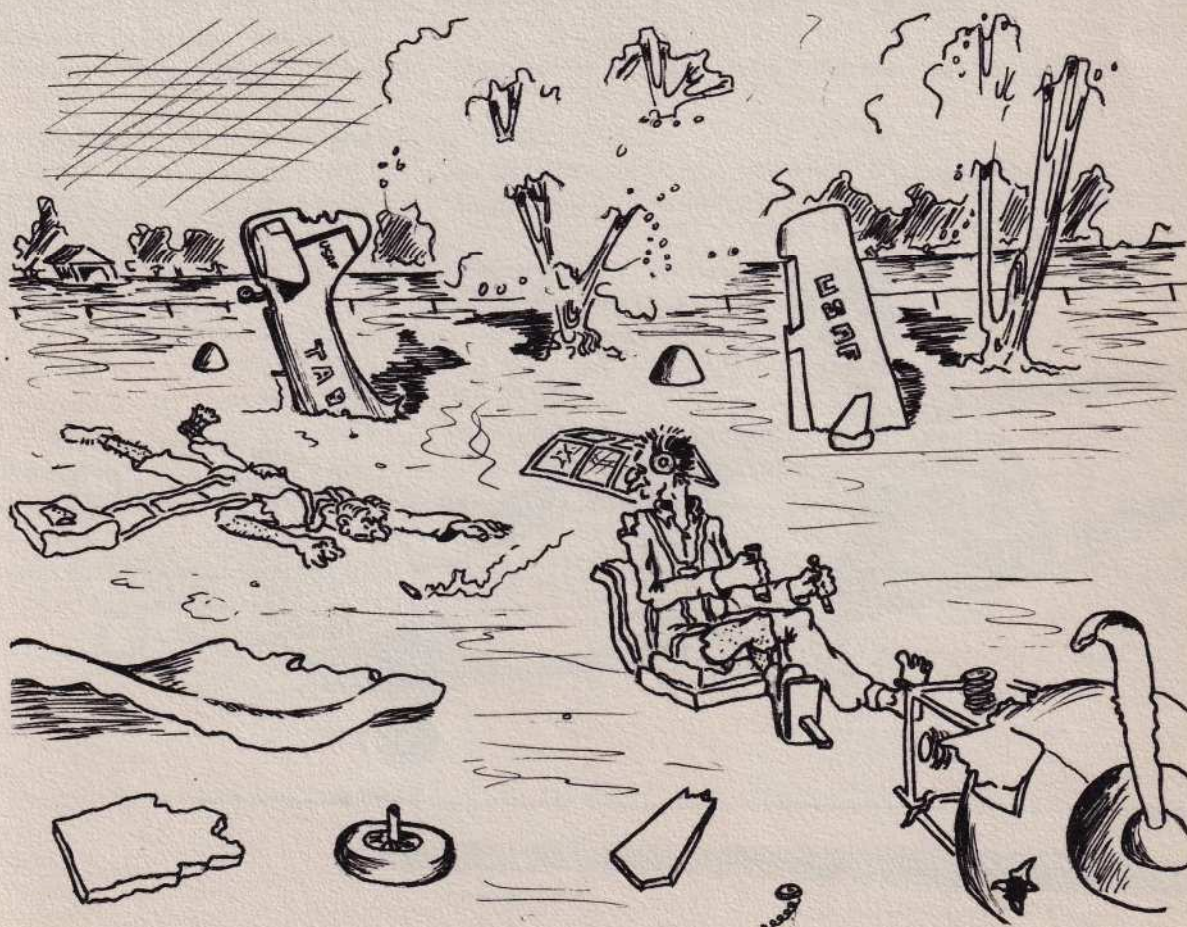




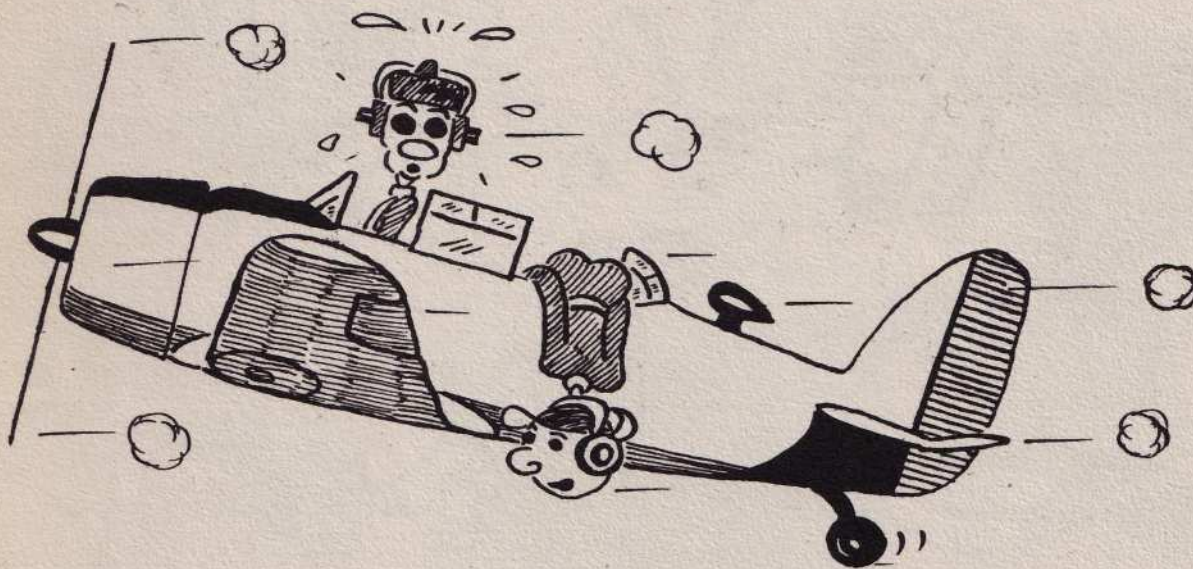
CURTIS L. WILLIAMSON, JR.
Conway, South Carolina
Soloed: 16 Oct. '52



RALPH W. ZOERLEIN
Dearborn, Michigan
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52



Does this mean.....a pink slip, sir?



Ah! Mr. Marionneaux, you get a pinkie today.

"FRACTURED FOURTH"

What follows is the history, the adventures, and the life of Easy Four here at Hondo. It was on July 10 that 25 of us began this adventure into flying. Even the weather was cooperating to make our arrival a pleasant one --- it was raining. In the five weeks that followed came shots, lectures, and as usual a lot of waiting. This was pre-flight, and we didn't realize that we had it so good.

August 10 life really began for us. It was that fateful day we moved to the squadron area and into fourth class. In the six weeks that followed, it really got rough. During this period we saw our ranks slowly diminish; but as time would have it, we finally made third class. The big bird, gigs, and a lot of other things were finally making sense; second class followed and we found ourselves fifteen strong.

Here let us stop and look at these fifteen men and why we will remember them.

To begin with there was "Dad", the oldest member of our illustrious flight. We'll all remember "Dad" Rhodes.

Then there was "oh--, well--" Leonard, who loved to have his Winnebago Gazette read to him.

In the field of acrobatics we had "Barrel Roll" Worst, who wanted to log acrobatic time during his cross-countries; and "Best Flight" Mulloy, who didn't believe in using his safety belt in a slow roll; however, leave us not forget "Black Out" Martin in his immelmans.

Our world traveller was "Bandera (Tex)" Baker. He never went to Mexico, he said, but he never learned Mexican from the natives.

The civilian of the flight "Feather Merchant" Maley, who lost his flap handle on the 180 degree stage.

"Hard Luck" Hayes, the toughest guy of the flight.

Oh, yes, the man who carried his own hole to walk in, our boy "Stump" Pratt.

Our allied cadets numbered four. "Hopalong Hotspur" Merveille, who gave us a definite style of marching.

"Minneapolis" Luck, our American-Frenchman, sometimes known as "Wheels".

"Quiet Boy" Touzart, who never said much, but then "still waters run deep."

"Fourth Supervised Solo" Bague, our Belgium cadet, and a darn good one.

To finish our class were a couple of ex-Dog men, Bennett and Jorgensen. They joined us as Dog men, but they became a part of Easy.

Three who almost made it with Easy and who, though not graduating, will be remembered by us all; "Highly Motivated" Browne, Linden "Heavy" Gill, and Guiles "Crocodile" Maxwell.

And last but not least to be mentioned is our Tac Officer, Lieutenant Harrison. We found him to be fair and square.

This was Easy Four before they broke out the adhesive tape... a good flight and a good group of men. Our comradeship and friendship with one another will be a lasting one.

"Go Get'um Tigers"

JDM

DION A. BAGUE
Ronse, Belgium
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52



PAUL R. BAKER
Carson, Iowa
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52

JAMES R. BENNETT
Junction City, Kansas
Soloed: 11 Aug. '52



MICHAEL J. HAYES
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Soloed: 3 Oct. '52

MARTIN D. LEONARD
Winnebago, Illinois
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



KNUDVALDEMAR JOREGENSEN
Sonderborg, Denmark
Soloed: 5 Aug. '52.

PAUL LUCK
Strasbourg, France
Soloed: 21 Sept. '52



JOHN DAVID MALEY
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52

HUBERT R. MARTIN
North Vernon, Indiana
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52



REGIS C. MERVEILLE
Lambersart (Nord), France
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52

WILLIAM E. MULLOY
Nashville, Tennessee
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



THOMAS D. PRATT
Sacramento, California
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52



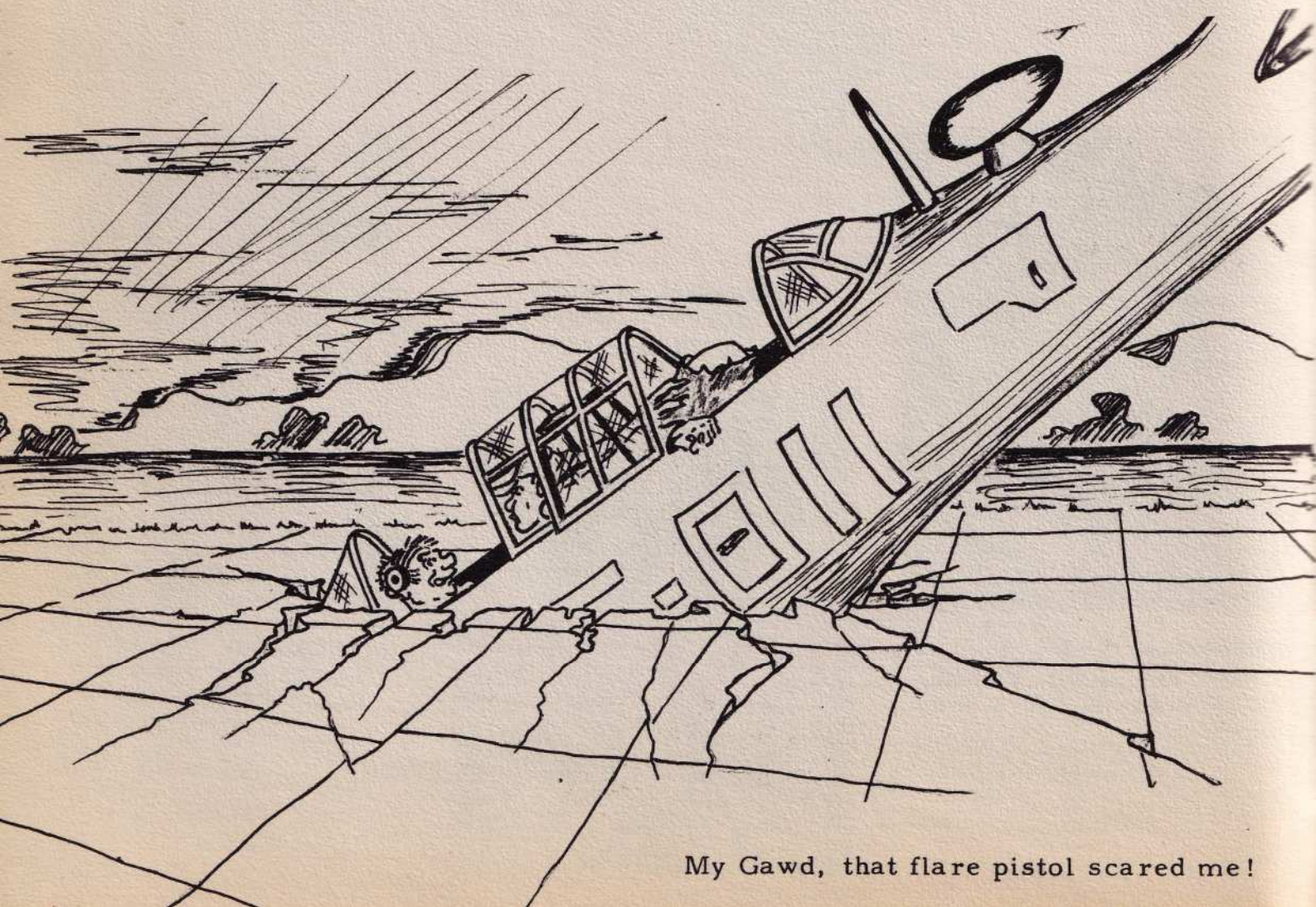
THOMAS H. RHODES, JR.
Los Angeles, California
Soloed: 29 Sept. '52



PHILIPPE TOUZART
Mericourt-Sous-Lens, France
Soloed: 29 Sept. '52

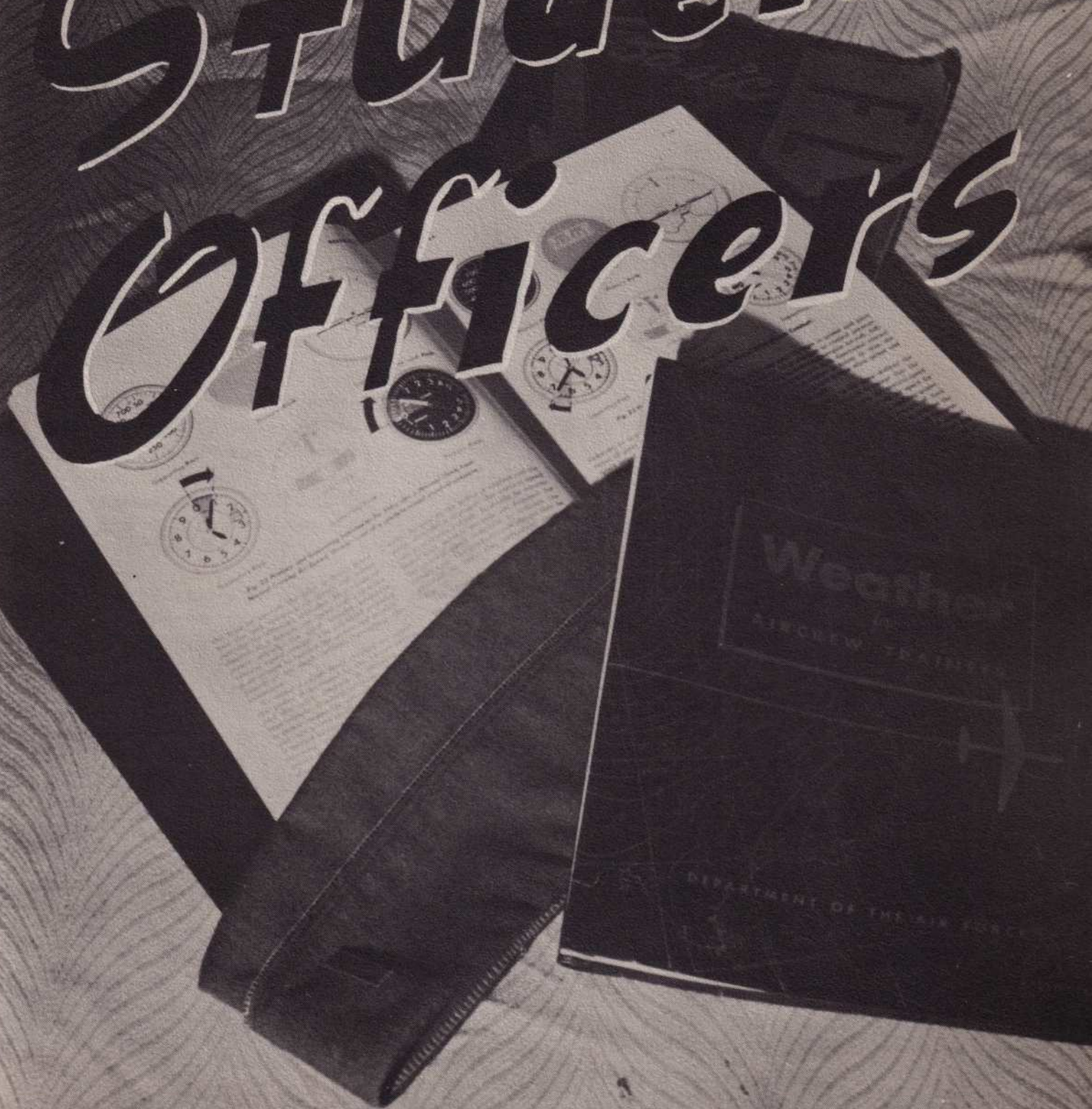


JAMES L. WORST
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



My Gawd, that flare pistol scared me!

Student Officers



".....AND YOU SHOULD BE TOO!"

As we drive through the gates of Hondo Air Base for the last time and wave a fond farewell to the six old men holding down the guard house, it is well that we pause and reflect on the six months we have spent here. There is joy in our hearts and a feeling of accomplishment in our breasts, and well there should be, for we are justly proud. Have we not justified the tax payers with our spirit, our grim determination to win at all odds coupled with the sense of fair play? Yes, we have played the game well, Volleyball, that is. And if the Fields of Harrow gave England Wellington, what breed of men will rise from the dusty plains of Hondo?

Yet, if we did lack for the rudiments of a P.E. program, we do know that there is one place where Hondo excels. The Line. Where is the man who can say that our superiors, both civilian and military, were not, to a man, fair but firm? Was the dispatcher not our friend? What if he did give us 071 day after day when we were trying to solo. The maintenance was, of course, superb and we shall never see the like again (if our ex-mechanic Cadet buddies are any indication of what we shall meet in the future). Yet, in all fairness, we must admit that 999 eluded their best efforts. And will we ever forget our instructors, those bold men who risked life and limb to fly with us and their reputations when they said, "O. K. Lieutenant, it's all yours."

To them we owe what skill we own. They are our ideal, if only slightly tarnished by the knowledge that it was fear, and only fear which prompted them to say, "You got it" on the black November night and then scurry off to the warmth and shelter of the stage house to smoke a cigarette and swap tall yarns with their cronies.

And what of behind the line? Who, while trying to sleep on the mud floor of a tent or in the bowels of a B-29 will not think with yearning on the BOQ, with its cheerful disorder and the feel of red sawdust on bare feet? Who, while stepping up to receive his DFC, will not remember the snap and precision of our big parade? And who, while he sips his rationed pint in an icebound Quonset, will not dream of O'Neills; or the Club where the drunks would stumble over the obstacle course left by the thundering herd?

Yes, as we drive down the complex of one-way streets and race our last train to the crossing, we leave Hondo feeling happy and satisfied and with but one question unanswered: "Who the Hell is the bonehead who kept cutting me out of the traffic pattern?" (Turn the page for 26 possible answers).

GBB

MARK O. ABBOTT, 2/LT.
Bakersfield, California
Soloed: 27 Sept. '52



CHARLES R. ABEL, 1/LT.
Alma, Arkansas
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52

Charles R. Abel
Project 15

GEORGE B. BERKE, 2/LT.
Westfield, New Jersey
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52



Best wishes for the future
Ian C. Forrester

IAN C. FORRESTER, 2/LT.
Kinross, Scotland U.K.
Soloed: 22 Sept. '52



ROBERT G. BELL, 2/LT.
Houston, Texas
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



ROBERT F. FREEMAN, 2/LT.
Charlestown, Indiana
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52

Best of luck et all
Best Freeman

ROBERT A. GAY, 2/LT.
Prescott, Arizona
Soloed: 15 Sept. '52



R. F. GIRARD, JR., 2/LT.
Plymouth, Massachusetts
Soloed: 1 Sept. '52

FLOYD M. HECK, 2/LT.
Elgin, Nebraska
Soloed: 3 Oct. '52



*Best wishes
Girard*

FRANCIS Y. KEILT, 2/LT.
East Meadow, New York
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52



DALLAS N. HOUSE, 2/LT.
Winder, Georgia
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



J. G. KUBAL, 2/LT.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52



WILLIAM L. LINKENHOGER
2/LT.
Fort Worth, Texas
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52



THOMAS J. McCLUNG, 2/LT.
Tacoma, Washington
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



C.S. LUTHER, 2/LT.
Austin, Texas
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52



DWIGHT E. PAYNE, 2/LT.
Dodge City, Kansas
Soloed: 2 Oct. '52



RAYMOND F. NORTON, 2/LT.
Los Angeles, California
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52

DALE A. RACE, 2/LT.
Elyria, Ohio
Soloed: 24 Sept. '52

Sack Rat Ray

"A Low Altitude Race"

GEORGE L. RULE, 2/LT.
Pasadena, California
Soloed: 30 Sept. '52



DONALD F. SLY, 2/LT.
Bath, Somerset, England
Soloed: 23 Sept. '52

*All best wishes
See you in England
sometime.*

Donald F. Sly.



JAMES H. SMITH, 2/LT.
Kenmare, North Dakota
Soloed: 26 Sept. '52

*See you in
Willy! Vousavez
une grande queue!
Lots o' luck and
see ya' at Willy!
George L. Rule Jr.*

*See you out there
where we can get
together for a beer
Tom*

THOMAS J. STOLLE, 2/LT.
Lytle, Texas
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52



GEORGE STEWART, 2/LT.
Carrickfergus, Ireland
Soloed: 22 Sept. '52

*Best luck
Waggy Paddy
Hunt.*



HENRY M. WEST, 2/LT.
Garden City, New York
Soloed: 1 Oct. '52



FRANKLIN M. WHITE, 2/LT.
Salemberg, North Carolina
Soloed: 25 Sept. '52

ROBERT F.C. WINGER, 2/LT.
Kansas City, Missouri
Soloed: 3 Oct. '52



*Don't get your head
up and backed -
Best of luck, son.
Bob Winger*



IN ADDITION TO CADETS THE
A.F. ALSO TRAINS OFFICERS TO
FLY... STUDENT OFFICERS
ARE GENERALLY QUICK TO
GRASP NEW KNOWLEDGE AND,
THEREFORE, ARE GIVEN
MORE FREE TIME...

At every military installation there are a certain few people who help to ease the induced tensions brought about by this new way of life. To these people this page is dedicated.



CHAPLAIN WADE K. TOMME

Grateful thanks to Father H. J. Ehlinger and Father A. J. Costantino, Civilian Auxiliary Chaplains, who made it possible for the Catholic personnel on the base to offer Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.



"MOM" COLEMAN



"MOM" BAILEY

THE HONDO FINAL STAFF

In behalf of our associates and ourselves, we would like to express our appreciation to all who made this book possible. It would be impossible to list all of the persons that made this book possible. Most of them can be found in the pages of our class-book. It is, therefore, with a deep sense of gratitude that we extend thanks to all of the personnel of Hondo Air Base. Thanks also to Lt. Ferris and Lt. Luckett, who acted in the former's absence, for giving us the freedom of movement required by a project of this nature.

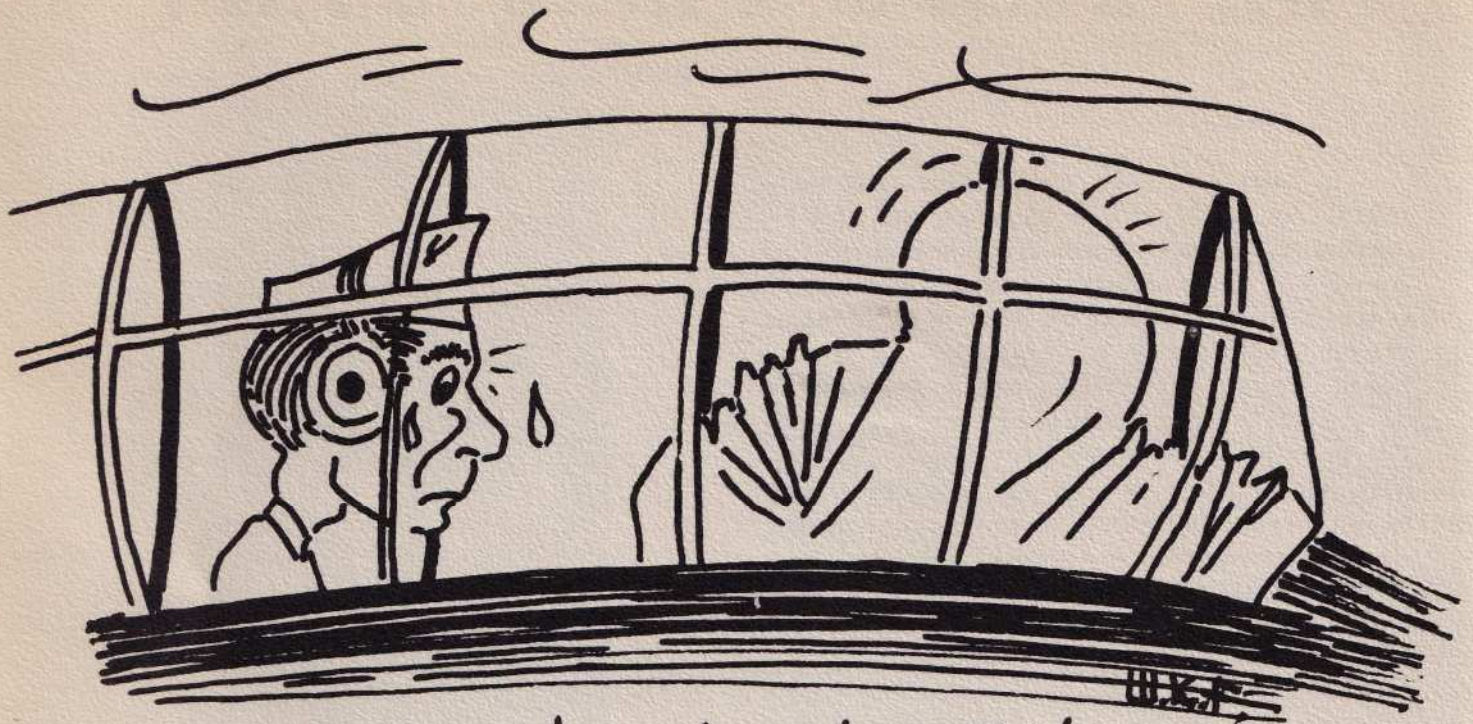
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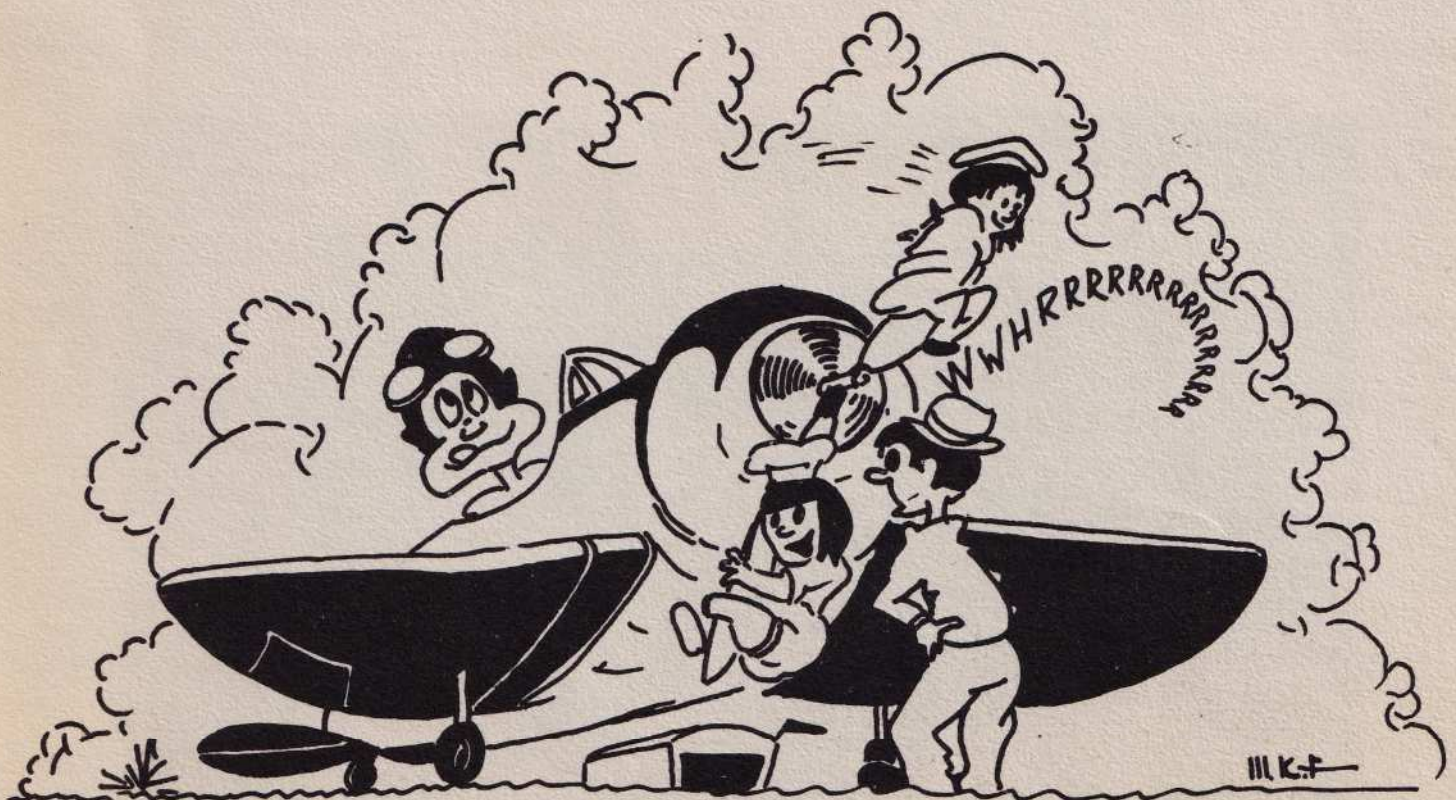
EDITOR
RALPH W. ZOERLEIN



SEATED: W.H. Cobb, J.D. Maley, A.C. Larson, H.L. Maxwell.
STANDING: W.J. Cook, E.W. Marvel, H.M. Hauber, C.W. Harris, S.E. Wilcox. MISSING: J.A. Halliday, J.E. Brinkman.



BUT SIR! THA'R AINT A STICK'
HERE 'EITHER'!



"CLEAR"

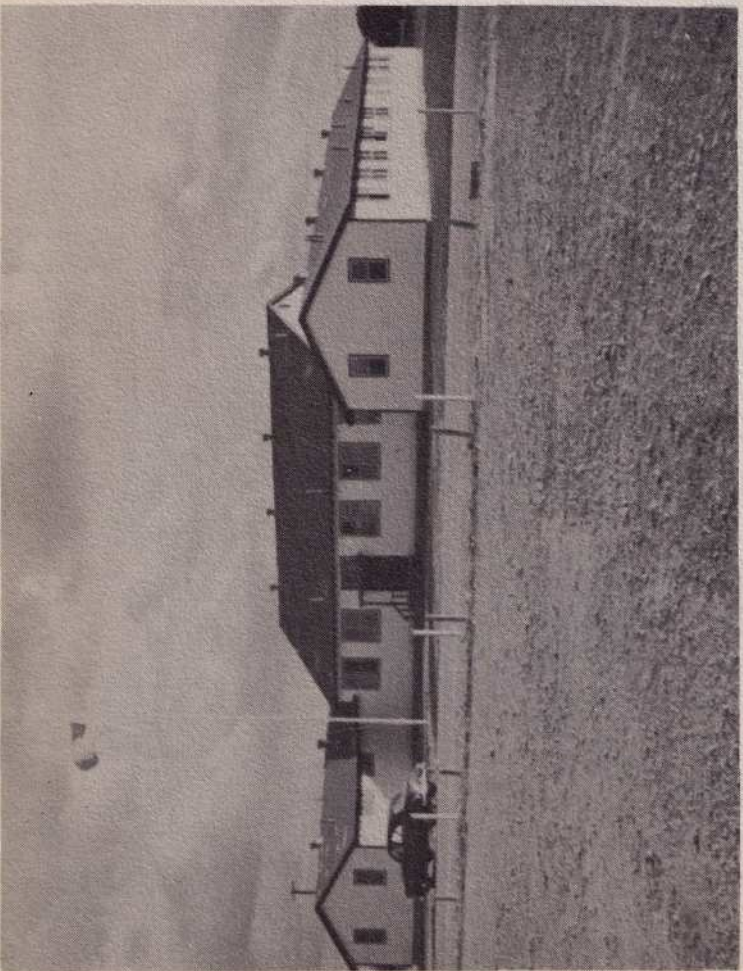
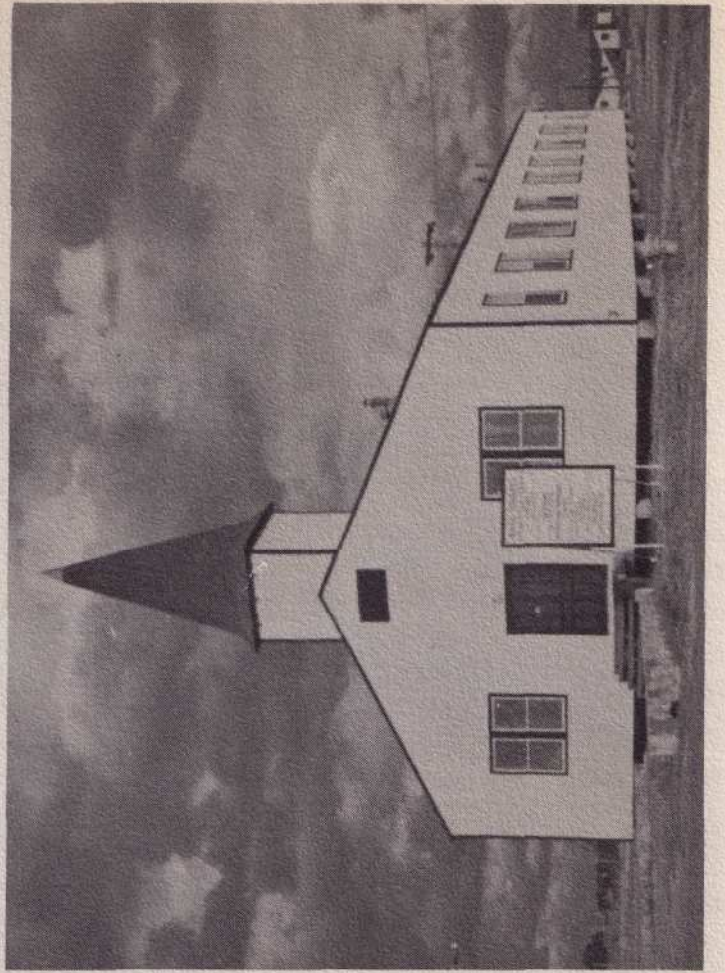


HONDO



TEXAS

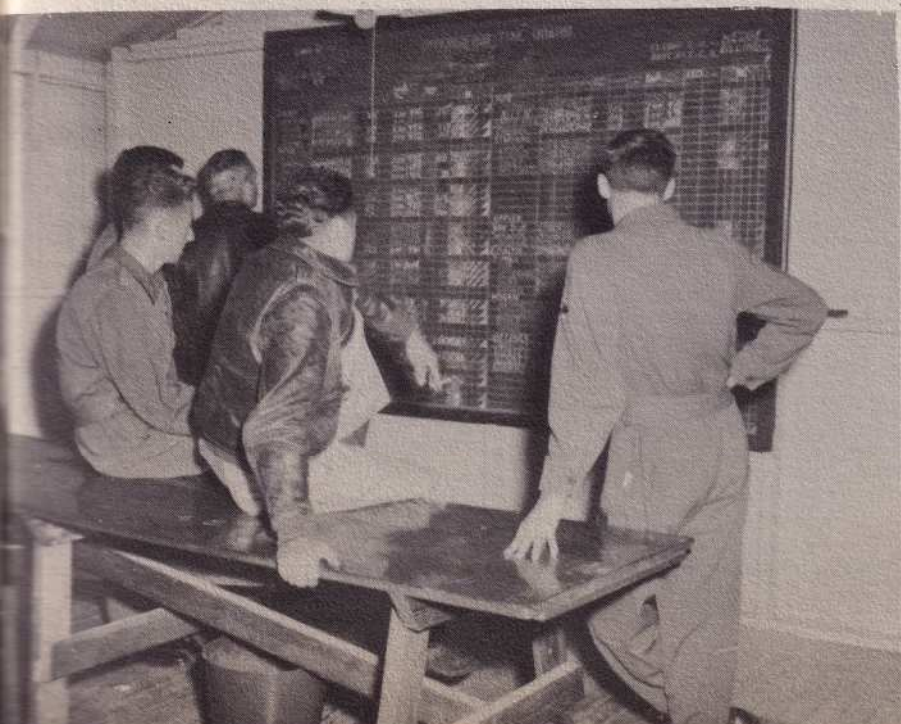






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