

CLOUD BUSTER

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U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Saturday, April 10, 1943

Synthetic Devices Building Opens Sunday

Officers, Cadets Overcome Fire At Local Airport

Pre-Flight School personnel, well trained for emergencies, turned fire fighters last Monday evening and in short order extinguished forest flames that threatened to destroy University owned property in the vicinity of Horace Williams Airport.

What might have developed into a destructive blaze of major proportions was nipped early by Pre-Flight officers, cadets and enlisted men who responded promptly to the emergency.

Word that there was a forest fire near the Chapel Hill Airport was received by Comdr. John P. Graff, USN (Ret.), Commanding Officer, from the Officer of the Day, Lieut. J. R. Kimbriel, USNR, at approximately 2045.

Proceeding to the scene, Comdr. Graff noted that the forest and brush fire had spread over an area of about one and one-half square miles, and was seriously threatening University of North Carolina property in which valuable equipment is stored. There were two farm houses within a quarter mile of the fire, and due to a moderate wind, there was a possibility of the airport hangars being endangered.

Phoning from the airport, Comdr. Graff ordered the duty battalion, the 18th, out to fight the fire. This was at 2110.

Lieut. (jg) Warren H. Chivers, USNR, Head of Labor Engineering, was designated as officer-in-charge of the fire fighting battalion, and he and Lieut. James P. Moran, USNR, took the first two busloads of cadets, equipped with shovels, rakes, and axes, to the scene of the fire. A third busload of cadets, together with trucks, station wagons and ambulance, followed in 15 minutes.

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Former Senator Lee Speaks in Memorial Hall Tonight

Former Senator Josh Lee of Oklahoma, now a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, will speak tonight at 2030 from the stage of Memorial Hall, as part of the University's Institute of Human Relations program.

The meeting is open to the public without charge, and Pre-Flight School personnel have been particularly invited to attend.

Mr. Lee figured prominently in aviation legislation during his term in the Senate, and as a supporter of aviation believes that the increased use of airplanes holds for the future "the greatest age of commerce and travel ever yet dreamed."

Visual Aids for Pilot Training On Display for Pre-Flight Personnel

A remodeled building located behind Caldwell Hall and arranged to house the Synthetic Devices of this station is being opened to the Cadets and personnel of this station for the first time this Sunday, it was announced Thursday by Comdr. John P. Graff, USN (Ret.), Commanding Officer.

Broadly, Synthetic Devices include all of the visual aids used in the teaching of the vast variety of

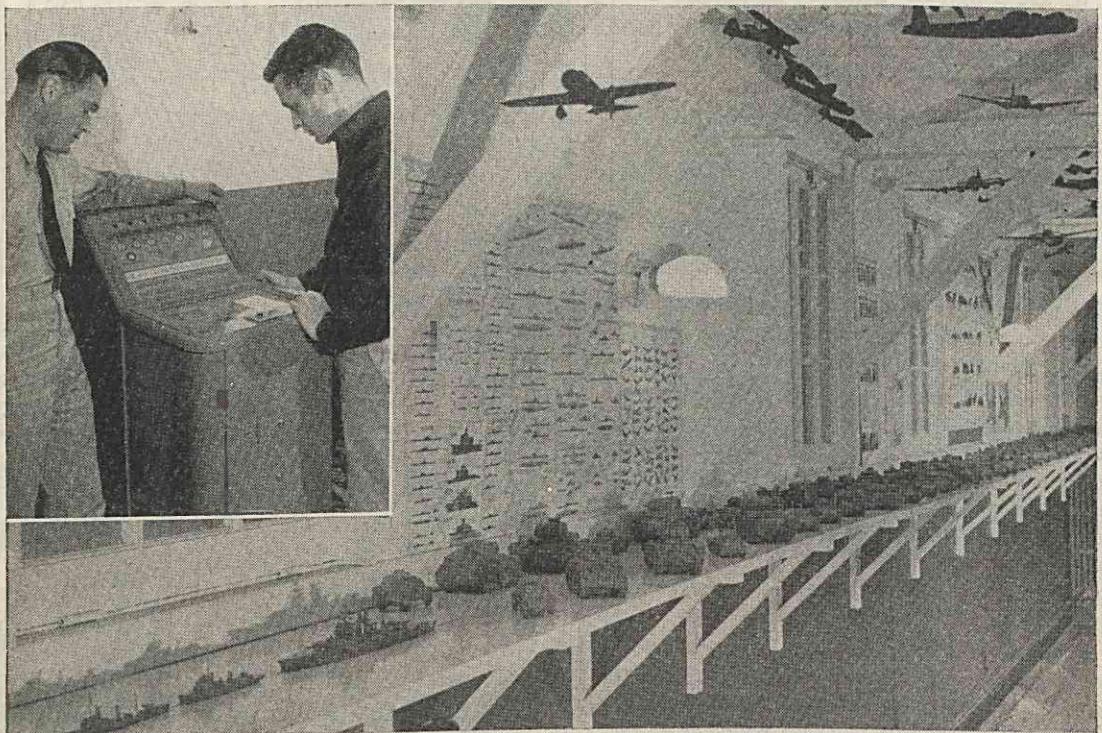
subject matter taught by the military services. Specifically, they consist of models, mock-ups, turrets, maps, cards, globes, motion picture and slide film material and a variety of gadgets to facilitate the teaching of gunnery, recognition, radio, navigation, aerology, celestial navigation, blind flying, communications and seamanship.

Some of the devices cost more than a modern combat aircraft.

The design, construction, distribution and sometimes even invention of these devices for all of the American military services are handled by the Navy's Synthetic Devices Department in Washington.

As different subjects are taught at different naval stations, different devices are used. No station has all of the hundreds of devices,

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SHIPS, PLANES AND TANKS that line a wall of the new Synthetic Devices Building are shown in the main picture above. In the inset on the left, Lieut. Richard King, USNR, officer in charge of the building, explains the workings of one of the new training devices—a super slot machine known as the Automatic Rater, which visitors to the building will enjoy.