

# Highlights of the Past Year



at this U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School. Across the top are shown views of the Hon. Josephus Daniels, who was Secretary of the Navy during the last war, and the closing of the School last May 23, and Cadet Regimental Commander F. B. Harman, USN, the first Commanding Officer, in the lower center. Comdr. Kessing, USN, before leaving for duty afloat. Pictured in the inset, left to right, Lt. Comdr. James P. Raugh, USNR, Executive Officer; Lt. Comdr. L. Hamilton, USNR, Head of the Academic Department, and Lt. Comdr.

USN (Ret.), who was a shipmate of Capt. Kessing when they both served in the destroyer U.S.S. Reuben James twenty odd years ago.

Comdr. Graff has figured prominently in the growth of the Pre-Flight School from its inception. He was the first line officer to arrive here and directed much of the organizational work involved in establishing the new Naval Station. As the School's first Executive Officer, he was responsible for administering the policies set forth by Capt. Kessing, and he took over command of the station last November when Capt. Kessing left for duty afloat.

When Comdr. Graff took over

command, the Regimental Commander, Lieut. James P. Raugh, USNR, a graduate of the Naval Academy, was promoted to the position of Executive Officer. He has since been made a Lieutenant Commander, and is still serving in that capacity.

About the Pre-Flight program itself.

It is designed to turn out not only fliers but fighters; not only officers but real leaders who can think in a flash and decide correctly; men who not only can take punishment but who are schooled to win. It is the ultimate in physical and mental conditioning.

It's tough.

Training for the cadet is divid-

ed into academic, athletic and military courses. In the classroom he takes the following subjects: Mathematics and principles of flight, Essentials of Naval Service, aerology, and recognition of ships and aircraft.

"We begin with fundamentals," says Lieut. Comdr. Howard Hamilton, USNR, head of the Academic Department. "You might call it a refresher course, but we take nothing for granted. You'd be surprised at the things these boys don't know that they should know."

"In teaching American history we are anything but objective. We're inspirational. We have no patience with the recent debunking trend which has been so destructive of national ideals. History as we teach it is an anecdotal record of the gallant exploits of such heroes as John Paul Jones, Stephen Decatur and other famous naval heroes. Through their example the cadet is reminded of what is expected of him in the moments of his future battles."

Essentials of Naval Service aims to indoctrinate the cadet in Navy law, traditions, regulations. This course teaches him how to be an officer; it is training for leadership. He gets history of naval aviation, organization afloat and ashore, enemy organization and methods. Important is the study of ideologies of Germany and Japan, the issues of the war, the essentials to victory, the moral values and the need for winning both the war and the peace.

"In mathematics we start at the beginning," continued Lt. Comdr. Hamilton, "simple arithmetic, fractions and decimals, and then building up to algebra, plane geometry and trigonometry."

"Aerology takes the practical view of weather problems. It is non-scientific; we have weather scientists on the ground who do all the theoretical work for us. The pilot, however, must have certain principles to guide his decisions and there are special problems such as icing conditions, fog and so on which he must understand."

Recognition of ships and aircraft develops the skill of the eye, and there is no more serious problem than this. Eleven weeks of a cadet's time is spent on this course. He must learn to know in an instant whether a sighted plane or ship is friend or foe.

The school is officered with the finest of teachers, men who would do credit to any university faculty. Although there are 10 PhD's

## Mail It Home

The detailed anniversary story appearing in this issue of the CLOUDBUSTER will be of particular interest to the folks back home, since it traces the development of the Pre-Flight training program and also describes the various phases of training here. Why not mail them a copy of this issue?

on the staff, any one of them can mix it up on the athletic field with the cadets. They are about as far away from the cartoonist's idea of a college professor as can be imagined. Chosen for their force of character and ability to present a subject, each had a thorough knowledge of his field.

The athletic course is divided into two sections: (1) the training department in which activity is concentrated in those sports which have the highest carry-over for military usefulness; (2) competitive, combative sports, designed to sharpen the will to win.

There is a preliminary testing period in which cadets are tried out for strength, speed and agility, physical fitness and swimming. At the end of the training period, cadets show an average increase of 16 percent in strength, a gain of 22 percent in physical fitness, an average gain of 1/2 inch in height, a gain of 2 inches around the chest and a loss of 2 1/2 inches in the waistline.

Posture deviations are automatically corrected. Weight shows a variance of 8 to 22 pounds. The fat ones lose and the thin ones gain.

"They get training table food here," declares Lt. Comdr. Harvey Harman, USNR, in charge of athletics.

Activity is divided among 10 sports: swimming, boxing, wrestling, hand-to-hand combat, basketball, football, soccer, gym and tumbling, military track, and labor engineering. Participation in each is preceded by a 20-minute tune-up every day. In the huge University of North Carolina gymnasium is a large amount of equipment, much of it with a nautical twist, and it is all used.

As a cadet participates in these sports and shows a preference for certain of them, he is assigned to competitive teams. In this the cadet's wishes count about half and the other factor is designed to be corrective. For instance, a lad of retiring temperament will be assigned boxing whether he

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