

Vol. 4—No. 2

U. S. NAVY PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL, CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

Wednesday, October 3, 1945

**The Round-Up**

## More Than 20,000 In Training Here Since May of '42

For the past three years and four months, training has been the business of this Pre-Flight School, intense and concentrated training as needed in the winning of an intense and global war.

Upwards of 20,000 cadets and officers, of the U. S. Navy and of the French Navy, have here been moved along the road that led to final victory. Large numbers of these have gone on to win combat honors in battle theatres everywhere.

Now that the last trainee has departed, a glance at the final box score shows:

- A total of 18,700 cadets were received for training, starting with arrival of the First Battalion on May 28, 1942, and ending with the 75th Battalion which arrived in mid-September, 1945.

- 1,220 officers, mostly military and physical training instructors, were indoctrinated in nine classes at Chapel Hill, the first starting in August, 1942, and the last ending in September, 1943. The first four indoctrination classes for V-5 officers were held at the Naval Academy in the spring and early summer of 1942.

- 360 French cadets were trained since May, 1944, when the first group arrived for instruction approximating that given the American cadets.

- 78 French officers were trained during the summer of 1945.

- 82 Navy and Coast Guard officers from stations throughout the country received a special two-week course of instruction in survival practices in the summer of 1944.

- 49 photographic interpretation officers from naval air stations at Quonset Point, R. I., and Anacostia, D. C., were given a special course of instruction in the latter part of 1943.

To aid in accomplishing this training mission 768 officers and 715 enlisted personnel at one time or another were assigned to this Pre-Flight School on a duty basis.

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U. S. NAVY PRE FLIGHT SCHOOL  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

**TO ALL HANDS**

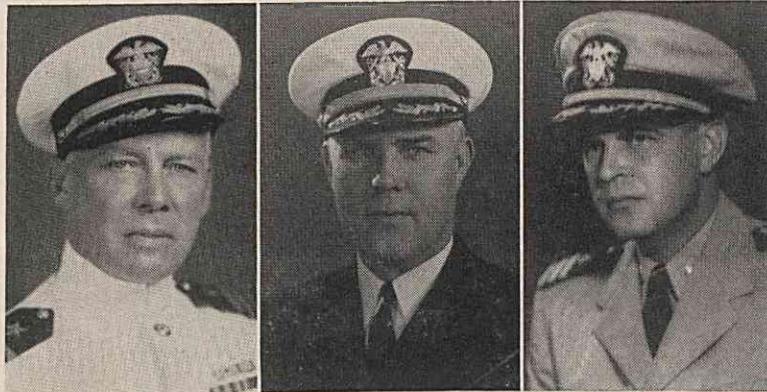
Our work here has ended—our mission has been fulfilled and the time has come for saying our goodbyes as we decommission the Pre-Flight School and fit ourselves to the new pattern of living which lies before us in a world no longer at war.

On behalf of the Ship's Company I extend congratulations to all the young men who have trained here. Your purposefulness in training has been our inspiration and your valorous record in combat has been our pride. Those of you who are now in training measure up in every respect to your predecessors, and yours will be a vital contribution to the continuing greatness of Naval Aviation. You have chosen a career of usefulness and honor.

I wish to express to all hands, Naval and civilian, my appreciation for the fine spirit of cooperation and devotion to duty which has earned high praise for us throughout the Naval Service. It has been a distinct privilege to serve with you and I shall always cherish the pleasure of having been your shipmate.

*James P. Raugh*  
JAMES P. RAUGH,  
Commander, USNR,  
Commanding Officer.

## Pre-Flight School Has Had Three Commanding Officers



Comdr. Kessing

Comdr. Graff

Comdr. Raugh

Three commanding officers have been at the helm of this Pre-Flight School since it was commissioned in May, 1942.

For the task of setting the Annapolis-like pattern that the Pre-Flight School was to follow, the Navy Department selected Comdr. O. O. Kessing, USN, (now Commodore), a Navy career officer with a record of 32 years of service, including 22 years of sea duty.

He was a logical selection for the task of organizing the Pre-Flight School at Chapel Hill, since he was closely identified with the Pre-Flight idea from the start and, along with several other officers, had inspected more than 60 colleges and universities before the final selections of sites were made.

During his more than three

decades of Naval experience Comdr. Kessing had served in every sea of the world. He held medals for the Mexican campaign in 1914, the first World War, the Haitian Campaign and for China Service.

He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1914, right into the Mexican War and duty aboard the *Maryland*. With the outbreak of the World War, he was assigned to the *Huntington* on convoy duty, and volunteered as a kite balloon pilot. His Naval career continued with brief heavier-than-air training at Pensacola and several years of destroyer duty in the Mediterranean and Adriatic.

**Enthusiasm for Athletics**

In 1926 Comdr. Kessing became the first graduate manager  
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## All Cadets Go, Officers, Crew Follow Soon

The Pre-Flight area ceased to exist last Friday when for the first time since May, 1942, station restrictions were lifted and that part of the University campus occupied by Pre-Flight for more than three years became open territory for university students and the local community.

The "No Admittance Except on Official Business" signs were relegated to the wood pile, along with sentry huts, and barriers, as Navy Pre-Flight's evacuation program moved ahead.

Last of the cadets were transferred over the week-end, leaving behind only a steadily diminishing staff of officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees.

Officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees will move on in increasing numbers until all are gone shortly after official decommissioning in the middle of this month.

**Farewell Honors**

Farewell honors were paid the Pre-Flight School by the University of North Carolina in a special program held in Memorial Hall last Thursday evening and attended by Pre-Flight personnel, NROTC and V-12 trainees, university students and faculty, and townspeople.

Official farewell from the university was spoken by President Frank P. Graham. Final messages in tribute to the Pre-Flight training program also were delivered by Lt. Gov. L. Y. Ballentine, representing North Carolina Governor R. Gregg Cherry; Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy during the first World War and now editor of the *Raleigh News & Observer*; and Capt. E. E. Hazlett, commandant of the NROTC and V-12 units here and Senior Officer Present.

A letter of farewell from J. Melville Broughton, Carolina governor when the Pre-Flight School was established, was read by University Chancellor Robert B. House, who presided over the meeting.

Comdr. James P. Raugh, commanding officer, responded for the Pre-Flight School.