

# CLOUD BUSTER

Vol. I—No. 4

U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill, N. C.  
Saturday, October 10, 1942

5c a Copy

## As a Villager Sees the Cadets

(The writer of the following article was invited to contribute an editorial for the CLOUDBUSTER presenting the viewpoint of a native Carolinian toward the Pre-Flight School. Mr. Graves was formerly on the staff of the New York Times, and has written articles published in a number of magazines including the Saturday Evening Post and the Atlantic Monthly. He was professor of journalism at the University of North Carolina from 1921 to 1923 when he resigned to establish the Chapel Hill Weekly.—The Editor.)

By LOUIS GRAVES,  
Editor of The Chapel Hill Weekly

I was born in Chapel Hill 59 years ago, and I have seen many changes in the village.

But of all the transformations I have seen in Chapel Hill no other has been so striking as that which has been brought about by the establishment of the Navy Pre-Flight School. One reason for this is the suddenness with which the whole atmosphere of the place changed. It seemed that all these hundreds of young men in uniform appeared among us almost overnight. There was something magical about it, almost as though they had parachuted out of the sky.

I was not surprised to read the other day a dispatch from a Navy flight training base saying that the cadets who had come from Chapel Hill, after completing the 12-week preliminary course, were making a remarkably fine impression upon their instructors. It was what I expected after becoming acquainted with some of the cadets—a fair "sampling" of them—and after observing the determination and spirit with which they go through their tough routine. And of course I am not failing to bear in mind that reports on their good performance are a tribute no more to them than to the Navy officers who planned and are carrying out the Pre-Flight program.

Some of you who read this may be asking the question, "What do the people of Chapel Hill think of having the Pre-Flight School here?" I can give you the answer: We like it. We like it not just a little, but a lot.

If you have run into occasional disagreeable situations, in which persons in Chapel Hill have not treated you in the best manner, do not take that as evidence of community feeling. It is just a bubble on the surface. Where you will find a true reflection of Chapel Hill sentiment is in the activity of the women—several hundred of them, in rotating groups—who welcome the cadets at the Service Center downtown over the week-ends.

There have been 10,000 visits by cadets to the Center since it opened June 19. Seven churches and the Garden Club are the organizations whose members take charge of the Center in rotation, and I learned yesterday that other organizations were asking to join the circle. A committee of women write to the parents of every cadet who registers, telling them about his visit. Many hundreds of replies to these messages have been received, and some of the parents have sent gifts to the Center.

Chapel Hill families have had the pleasure of having cadets as guests in their homes, though, unfortunately, the large number of cadets has made

See VILLAGER, page 2

## Cadets Send 'Vocal Letters' Back Home



'DEAR BETTY' began this vocal letter as 7th Battalion's Cadet E. J. Sanjaume, of New York, N. Y., took advantage of the opportunity to use the recording device set up in the boxing pavilion last Sunday to send his "love and kisses" via the phonograph to Miss Betty Sherwood of Woodhaven, N. Y.

By CADET C. W. NORDSTROM, JR.

Parents, sweethearts, and friends of many Pre-Flight cadets received a novel treat during the past week in the form of "vocal letters" recorded by some 200 cadets last Sunday.

The recording equipment was set up in the boxing pavilion at Emerson Field by a national beverage company which has been rendering this service without charge at camps around the country and mailing the discs back home to the folks.

Each cadet lucky enough to be up

front on the long waiting line, and thus gain a turn at the "mike," was allowed to transmit from 200 to 300 words which would make a record of approximately one and one-half minutes playing time.

When finished each vocal letter was played back over a loud-speaker so that the cadet might hear his recorded voice.

The same equipment will be available again at the boxing pavilion tomorrow afternoon until 1700 for more free recordings.

## Cruising With Covey

## AlNav 209 Brings Higher Rank to Station Officers

By DAVID Y. COVERSTON, Y2c

Blue Monday! CY Bill Melvin had just returned from an abbreviated jaunt to the land of Peaches and "Sky-crackers," and was attempting to clear away the stack of correspondence that had accumulated during his absence when the deluge broke.

Did I make it? What's this rumor about promotions? Who? Why? When? Where? These were a few of the \$64 teasers popping in the air as officers filled the office trying to get some straight information on AlNav209.

Boiled down, AlNav 209 is a Navy Department Dispatch giving temporary promotions to lieutenants of the Line and Staff whose active duty period preceded May 1, 1941. It elevated (jg)s who had been in service with other than probationary rank prior to April 16, 1942, and gave ensigns the coveted silver bar if they had served continuously since Dec. 19, 1941.

Dr. Edward Hynes gave himself a thorough physical examination, penned the usual, "physically qualified for promotion," and assumed the rank of lieutenant commander. Another medico, Dr. William Steger, moved up a notch also and is now to be addressed as lieutenant.

Other (jg)s advancing to full lieu-

tenant are: Ted Tieken, John Reid, John Ambrose, Roger Walsh, John Abrams, Ellis Goodman, Ed Greene,

See CRUISING, page 4

## Lieut. Borries Tells Cadets of Experiences

Lieut. Fred "Buzz" Borries, Jr., USN, graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy in 1935 and now an outstanding Naval aviator, addressed the regiment of cadets Oct. 7, telling them about his experiences with the Fleet.

As a midshipman at the Academy, Lieut. Borries was an All-American basketball player for two years, and an All-American football player on the 1934 team. He won nine Navy letters, five "N" stars, and the Athletic Sword for being the most outstanding athlete in his class.

Shortly after going out to the Fleet, he transferred to aviation and completed the prescribed course at Pensacola.

Most recently he was attached to a fighting squadron aboard the USS Lexington and participated in the battle of the Coral Sea. He is now in charge of a training group at Jacksonville, Fla.

## Physical Fitness of Cadets Improves 22% During Course

### Good Results Are Shown in Reports Compiled on First Four Battalions

By B. G. LEONARD, JR., Sp.3c

"Before" and "After" comparisons are as American and as undying as the hot dog.

We spent many wistful hours of our youth staring at those pictures in the backs of pulpwood magazines. On the left was always pictured a wretched weakling who was held together only by the necessity of appearing monthly on page 78 of all the cheaper magazines. He was "Before." "After" appeared on the right, the most magnificent mass of muscles in the pre-Superman era, with ballooning biceps, gorilla-chest, and tree-trunk legs. And above them, Charles Goliath, the Muscle Merchant, fixed us with an arresting eye and accusing finger, proclaiming, "I can give YOU muscles like these in 60 days."

We clipped the coupon. We received the 23 letters that finally broke down our resistance. But our bacon-strip muscles did not become cables of steel. Our sunken chest remained as permanently sunken as the Maine. Charles Goliath admitted defeat.

The experience left us a cynic; an under-muscled cynic. We never again believed in those "before" and "after" comparisons—until after studying the statistics handed us by Lt. Comdr. Harvey Harman on the first four battalions to complete the Pre-Flight training here.

Most important of the many carefully-compiled records of the athletic department is the Physical Fitness Index. This index is the criterion of the cadet's physical aptitude for altitude flying, dive bombing, and of his ability to resist the "blackouts" caused by extreme air and water pressure. The index is calculated by the rate at which the heart returns to normal action following a period of stress.

For the First Battalion the lowest initial Physical Fitness score was 18 points, the highest 102, and the average 64.47. The lowest final score, after three months of intensified training, was 56, the highest 104, the average 80.39. Improvement for the First Battalion was 15.92 points, or 25%.

The Second Battalion's initial low was 24, high 101, average 64.75. Final scores were: low 57, high 105, average 79.35, for a 14.60 gain in points and a percentage gain of 22.6.

Initial scores of the Third Battalion were: low 27, high 104, and an average of 68.21, as compared with final tests which showed a low of 62, high 114, average 84.40 for a numerical gain of 16.17 points, or 23.8%.

The Fourth Battalion scored on initial tests a low of 28, high of 94, an average of 69.39. Final scores for this battalion were: low 60, high 99, average 82.15; the gain was 12.76 points, a percentage boost of 18.4.

In cold figures, the average cadet from the first four battalions is 22.7% more physically fit than he was at the time of entrance to the Pre-Flight School!

This increase in physical fitness is evidenced by the pronounced improvement of the cadets in athletic events. Considering the efforts of the cadets of all four battalions, it is discovered that the weakest cadet huffed-and-puffed his way through 3.75 push-ups on the first test; the strongest registered 44.5, with the average reaching 20.04. Lowest average on the final tests was 13.75, the highest 53.75; and the average was 25.64, a gain of 28%.

In chinning himself, the average cadet boosted his maximum number of

pull-ups from 6.54 to 8.00, a percentage gain of 22.3.

Every cadet of the first four battalions passed the required "B" test in swimming events. The Fourth Battalion proved itself strikingly superior in this sport. Of its 157 members, only 8 failed to pass the "A" test, which is not required, and 37 met the requirements of the "A-plus" test.

In Speed Agility, the average cadet gained 2.5 points, or 7.4%. The Third Battalion demonstrated the most marked improvement in this department with a boost of 13.1%.

Most of the cadets yielded civilian rights and "Zoot Suits" simultaneously to the guardianship of moth-balls. The cadets' figures have changed measurably.

The average cadet entered the Pre-Flight program 69.525 inches tall. At the end of his training period he measured 69.9 inches, a growth of .375 of an inch. Correct posture, drilling, and exercise is credited with this stretching.

During the three-month period, the average cadet gained 1.27 pounds. He reported weighing 155.70, and departed at a figure of 156.97. These are the "average" figures; behind them the imagination is wont to play upon the plight of the "pleasantly-plumps" who woefully sacrificed, steaming pounds off themselves on obstacle courses and long hikes, and upon that of the "bean-pole-boys," on whose frames solid pounds of flesh were padded. The First Battalion, whose program was carried out in the hottest months, showed a loss of .11; the Fourth was the heaviest gainer with an average of 2.23.

The chest measurement of the cadet increased from 35.71 to 36.34, a gain of .63 of an inch. "Chestiest" of the

See FITNESS, page 4

## Coming Events

Oct. 10—Free movie at Pick Theatre, "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Feature begins at 1330, 1450, 1900 and 2020.

Oct. 11—Free movie at Pick Theatre, "Lady in a Jam" with Irene Dunne and Patrick Knowles. Feature begins at 1300 and 1438.

Oct. 14—Smoker at Woollen Gym, starting at 1900.