

# ANNIVERSARY

(Continued from page one)

advocate the establishment of a physical training program—designed to make men out of boys, to build fliers who would be in superb physical condition—but more than that, to develop in the embryo pilots that all important spirit—the will to win. Without this characteristic a flier can be of little value when the going gets rough. He may be the best pilot in the world, and he may be flying the finest plane, but if he veers away from the fight, instead of into it, he will be of little value to the cause.

It was natural that Capt. Radford should turn to his fellow officers when formulating his plans, and upon the wisdom of his choice of an executive might depend the success or failure of the entire program. On all sides there was one man recommended above all others. He was the man whom Capt. Radford himself wanted. He was Comdr. Thomas J. Hamilton, USN.

At the time Comdr. Hamilton was Operations Officer at the Naval Air Station at Anacostia. Prior to that he had established a record which indicated beyond any shadow of a doubt that he was the man for the task at hand. At the Naval Academy he had been a three sports star—football, baseball, and basketball. He was an excellent student, a splendid leader, and the permanent President of his class.

It was Comdr. Hamilton who kicked the ball through the up-rights in the closing minutes of play in that epic struggle in Chicago in 1926 to give his Navy team a 21-21 tie with the Army. More than 106,000 fans saw the game that day (the largest crowd that has ever witnessed a football game in America) and all of them came away talking about the exploits of young Tom Hamilton. Yet, it was not a fan but one of the officials, Sports

Writer Walter Eckersall, who predicted that if we were ever in another war Tom Hamilton would be heard from, for, the late Mr. Eckersall wrote, "I do not know how far off another war may be, or if there will be one, but should it come to pass that we must fight again for our rights, I nominate Tom Hamilton, whatever his status may be in the Navy when war darkens our scene, to hold an important post. He will be sure to come through when the blue chips are piled high."

Now, that prophecy, made 17 years ago, has come to pass. Comdr. Hamilton was assigned one of the most important positions in the war effort, and there has been nothing but commendation for his work.

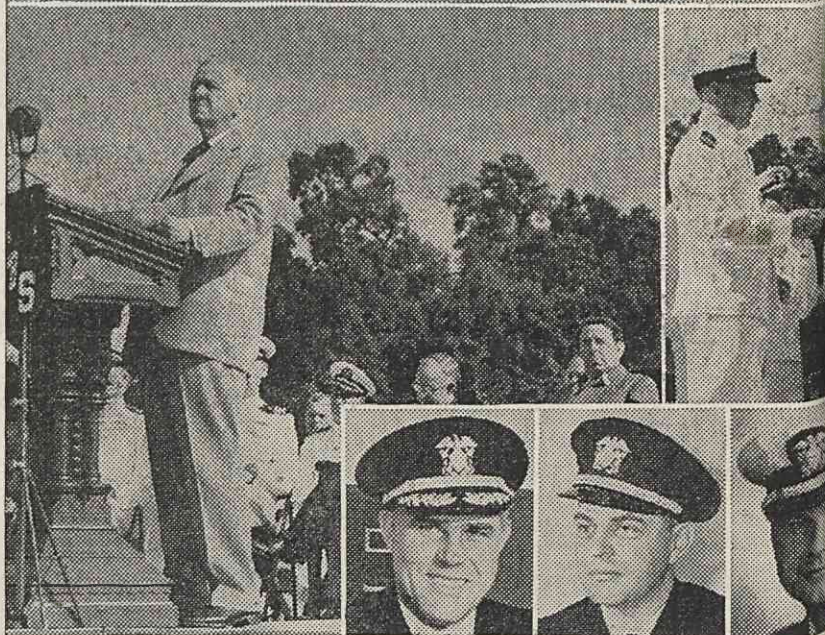
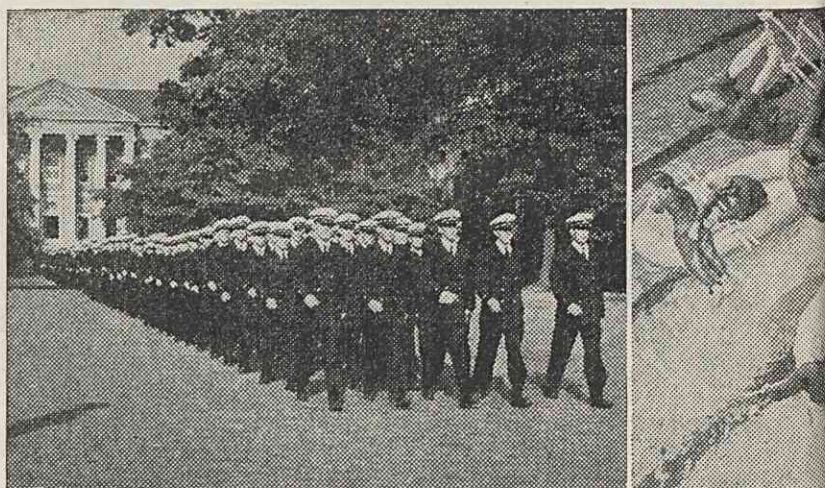
Comdr. Hamilton tackled his new job with the same determination for which he had long been known. Along with Comdr. O. O. Kessing, USN, (the first Commanding Officer at the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School at Chapel Hill who is now a Captain and serving at sea) and several other Naval officers he visited dozens of colleges and universities in order to select four schools where Pre-Flight training would be conducted. The schools selected were located at Chapel Hill, N. C., Athens, Ga., Iowa City, Ia., and St. Mary's, Cal. A fifth at Del Monte, Cal., was added last January.

Now, a year later, Comdr. Hamilton's work has had an opportunity to prove its worth. What are the comments?

A Memphis, Tenn., scribe commented "these Pre-Flight School alumni have been lauded to the sky for their physical condition—and they should be. Yet, if those whom we saw yesterday at the Memphis Reserve Air Base may be taken as any criterion, they are also ready mentally for the fight. They really have the right attitude—and they want to get into the thick of things right away."

James S. Kearns of the Chicago Sun wrote, "This is the Navy's

## Pre-Flight Views Showing



PICTURED ABOVE ARE SOME of the highlights of the past year's activities of the three phases of Pre-Flight training: Military, Athletic, and Academic. The man in the lower left hand corner is shown in the lower left hand corner as he spoke at the formal commissioning ceremony, representing the First Battalion, receives his diploma from Comdr. O. O. Kessing is shown again in the lower right making his farewell address last year. The three men in the lower right are present leaders of the School: Comdr. John P. Graff, USN (Ret.), Comdr. Harvey J. Harman, USNR, Director of Athletics; Lt. Comdr. Howard Lloyd R. Sauer, USNR, Regimental Commander.

Pre-Flight School, its activity begging a detailed description, but leaving the unmistakable impressions of efficiency and strength and determination on anyone who comes to see the work. That man there, that quiet, deadly serious, intense man is Comdr. Tom Hamilton. He had the vision of this training program that will feed the finest conditioned young men, I think, America has ever seen, into the fighters and bombers and the patrol planes of the Navy across all the months to come."

The first Commanding Officer at the Pre-Flight School at Chapel Hill was Comdr. O. O. Kessing, USN, who served from the time the school was commissioned on

May 23, 1942 until he was ordered afloat on November 26. No one could possibly have been better fitted for the position. He had a service record of 32 years in the Navy, including 22 years of sea duty. He had also received medals for the Mexican campaign in 1914, the World War, and the Haitian campaign, and for China service.

In 1926 when Annapolis inaugurated the system of having a Graduate Manager of Athletics, it was Lt. Comdr. O. O. Kessing who first held that position, and it was through his efforts that the Army-Navy game was brought to Soldiers Field in Chicago.

The present Commanding Officer is Comdr. John P. Graff,

### Anniversary Greeting

20 May 1943

On the occasion of the First Anniversary of the Commissioning of the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill, the Commanding Officer extends his thanks to the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees for their parts in a splendid job well done. By their unselfish and united efforts they have performed a very vital duty in the over-all war effort.

The ever-changing Regiment of Cadets is a distinct credit to the Naval Service.

JOHN P. GRAFF