

The Daily Tar Heel

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CAROLINA PUBLICATIONS UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Published daily except Mondays, Examination periods and the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring holidays.

Entered as second class matter at the post office at Chapel Hill, N. C., under act of March 3, 1879.

1941 Member 1942
Associated Collegiate Press

REPRESENTED FOR NATIONAL ADVERTISING BY
National Advertising Service, Inc.
College Publishers Representative
420 MADISON AVE. NEW YORK, N. Y.
CHICAGO • BOSTON • LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$1.50 One Quarter — \$3.00 One Year

All signed articles and columns are opinions of the writers themselves, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the DAILY TAR HEEL.

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Brief History

Navy's Aviation Training System Will Toughen Future Air Pilots

By Ensign William Sullivan

It was the first week in December when Captain Arthur W. Radford reported in Washington to take over a new position as head of the Aviation Training Division of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics. A few days later came Pearl Harbor.

In the mad maelstrom that was Washington during those first few days of the war, officials of the Bureau of Navigation and the Bureau of Aeronautics worked tirelessly and endlessly to carry out their multifold assignments in launching a vigorous answer in reply to the little yellow men who poured their rotten rain of hate on the unsuspecting residents of Pearl Harbor and its environs.

No officer turned more readily to the task than Capt. Radford. As he worked days without end to make the Navy's Aviation Training system second to none, he constantly thought of a vigorous athletic program, one designed to make the Navy flyers the most perfectly conditioned in the world. He had been at Trinidad, and at Seattle, and he had seen that those who did not exercise could not do their job as well as the flyers who kept in to condition at all times. While at these air bases, he felt that if the day should come when he might have an opportunity to lay down the rules and regulations, that he would advocate the establishment of a physical training course—designed to make men out of boys, to build flyers who would be in superb physical condition—but more than that, to develop in the embryo pilots that all important ingredient—the will to win. Without this characteristic a flyer 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 Captain Radford should turn to his fellow officers when preparing to make a momentous decision. Upon the wisdom of the choice 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 wanted himself. He is Lt. Commander Thomas J. Hamilton, USN.

Lt. Commander Hamilton was Operations Officer at the Navy Air Station at Anacostia. Prior to that he had compiled a record which indicated beyond the shadow of any doubt that he was the man for the task at hand. At the Naval Academy he had been a three sports star, Captain of basketball, and one of the greatest football players of the modern era. Withal he was an excellent student and the most popular man on campus. He was elected permanent class President of his class at the Naval Academy. It was he who kicked the ball through the uprights in the closing minutes of play in that epic struggle to give his Navy team a 21-21 tie with the Army. More than 100,000 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 (member of Walter Camp's All America team, since deceased) who predicted that if we were ever in another war that the Secretary of the Navy might well call upon Tom Hamilton, 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 again fight 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 highly."

Now, that prophecy, made 16 years ago, has come to pass. Lt. Commander Thomas J. Hamilton has been assigned one of the most important positions in the war effort. Between that great day, 16 years ago, and the present, Tom Hamilton's life has been one which has qualified him thoroughly to hold the position which he has today. He has been an outstanding aviator, a great coach, a fighter from the word "go," but, withal, a perfect gentleman. He returned to the Naval Academy in 1934 to coach the football teams representing his alma mater. In his first year as Head Coach, his squad won eight games and lost only one. His team was selected

as the third best in the entire nation, this despite the fact that he was the youngest Head Coach of a major team in the country.

In every endeavor which he has undertaken, Lt. Commander Hamilton has typified the kind of an officer that John Paul Jones described as the ideal to be sought by all Navy men. He has been, and is "a gentleman of liberal education, refined manners, punctilious courtesy, and the nicest sense of personal honor."

He was at Anacostia, Maryland, when Capt. Radford called him over to the Bureau of Aeronautics, explaining to him that the division of Aviation Training wanted to include in its preparatory studies for embryo pilots a thorough-going program of physical training—and that he (Lt. Commander Hamilton) was the man whom the Navy wanted to head the program. Lt. Commander Hamilton assured the Captain that he thought the program was a splendid one, and that it would be of great benefit in preparing the flyers for the great fight—yet, in the same breath he pointed out that he would rather not take the position himself—for he had been trained to fly, and to fight, and to win.

Captain Radford insisted that there was a job to be done and that he felt that Hamilton was the man to do it. A few days later, before accepting the position, Lt. Commander Hamilton suggested that someone should be sent to Detroit to attend the Coaches and Physical Educators Convention, which was being held the last three days of December. Captain Radford issued orders to Lt. Commander Hamilton to make the trip. The rest is history among sports people everywhere.

Lt. Commander Hamilton made a tremendous impression at the convention. With his native ability, plus his enthusiasm for the program, he won leading men in the Nation for the Navy's cause.

When he returned to the Bureau of Aeronautics office he brought with him a list of names, including some of the best-known personalities in the American sports scene. He brought with him, too, the word that he would be happy to pass up going to sea for a few months to try to get the program under way—for he had appealed to the men to make sacrifices in order to aid the Nation, and he felt that he, too, should be willing to pass up his own desires in order to contribute to a great program.

He worked tirelessly to prepare a tentative program for the physical training division—a revolutionary program, yet one which was so sound that it has appealed to leaders in the field of sports and physical education as a plan which appears to be a real answer to the pressing problem of properly conditioning the flyers for the big fight.

Then the organization of the office started to take form. Leaders in various phases of the sports world came in to help in the formation of the physical training division.

A Selection Board was formed, including in its ranks several of the most prominent men in the college athletic world. These men passed on the merits of the men who sought positions in the physical training division.

Commander O. O. Kessing, Lt. Commander Hamilton and several other Naval officers visited dozens of colleges and universities in order to select the four schools where the pre-flight training would be conducted.

More than 20,000 applicants tried to obtain the 1,000 positions that were available in the division. An interviewing committee traveled throughout the nation and talked with the men who wished to enter the program. Commissions were not handed out freely, rather were they given sparingly, and not until the men had proved their worthiness. Indoctrination Schools were set up at the U. S. Naval Academy. The men who had passed the test of the interviewers were then sent to Annapolis, to study and work for a month—to indicate that they could take it, before they should be assigned the positions of handing it out.

The officer personnel at the various schools includes leaders from every walk of life. Not only do we find the top-flight men from the sports world, but also on the list of instructors and officials are the names of great men of the Navy, of the academic and professional life of this Nation.

Thirty thousand cadets a year—that is the total set by the Navy. Thirty thousand Tom Hamiltons annually—that is the dream of Captain Radford.

Thirty thousand real Navy men, true to the great traditions of that fine branch of the service—that is the aim of the men who man the stations at the four pre-flight schools.

They're Here And We Welcome Them

First Naval Cadets Arrive Today

The student body of the University of North Carolina today welcomes the first group of naval cadets for the pre-flight training center.

There will be no time for ostentatious ceremony or demonstration. There is not time now for anything except winning this war. Our welcome will have to be expressed here, proven in the months to come.

We welcome the cadets because we know that ahead of them lie the most rigorous training program and risking their lives in the service. We welcome them because they are to defend us, our University, our way of life against the world-hungry axis. We welcome them because they were once college students themselves, now become Carolina men for the brief three months in which this University is privileged to serve them and the nation.

It was less than two years ago that far-sighted President Frank, Graham, while the rest of the nation and many of its universities were muddying the country's thinking by talk of isolationism, pledged the full facilities of this University to the defense effort. Even before Pearl Harbor, Carolina was making good its promise with the new airport and CAA program, with compulsory physical education, with the Naval ROTC unit, with research in her laboratories, with President Graham performing miracles in labor arbitration.

But December 7 showed the University that it was not doing enough.

Quickly followed more changes—modified and accelerated curriculum, Carolina's Volunteer Training Corps, the Office of Student Civilian Defense. Then the latest and greatest contribution of all—receiving the commission for the eastern pre-flight training unit.

Actually we are both receiving and giving. Receiving the responsibility for helping to train the men who will pilot the planes against Japan and Germany, who are devoting themselves to a cause bigger than us all. Giving the use of the University's facilities that are required for turning out the physically perfect pilots that ultimate victory requires.

We welcome the cadets most of all because essentially they represent the beginning of a new University that will fulfill the highest obligation that any university could have in time of war—that of sacrificing every facility and resource and skill that it possesses to the all-important cause of victory.

We hope sincerely that the cadets will consider themselves a part of Carolina. Their stay will be short, but long enough for them to sense the University's constant effort to serving them and their cause and long enough continually to stimulate the student body to intense preparation for its own part in the struggle.

it happens here . . .

- 10:30—CVTC holds final parade on Emerson field.
- 10:30—Persons interested in working on Carolina meet in Country Club room of YMCA.
- 10:30—Those expecting to receive a degree meet in Memorial hall.
- 2:00—Yackety Yacks distributed in small lounge of Graham Memorial.
- 3:00—Jr.-Sr. softball played on Coed field.
- 4:00—New Graham Memorial Board of Directors meet in Grail room.
- 7:00—Dean F. Bradshaw holds convocation in Memorial hall.
- 7:00—Personnel advisers address undergraduates in Gerrard hall.
- 7:30—Sophomore finance committee meets in 111 Murphey.
- 7:30—Frat house managers meet in Grail room of Memorial hall.
- 7:30—Town boys meet in 103 Bingham.
- 7:30—Playmakers present three one-act plays in Playmaker Theater.
- 8:00—Spanish club holds fiesta in Graham Memorial.

PERSONALITIES . . .

Lt. John Y. Squires graduated from Springfield where he served as freshman swimming coach from 1935-37. Recently he coached swimming and soccer at the University of Connecticut.

Lt. Joseph M. Hewlett was the Intercollegiate champion all-round athlete in 1938 and attended Temple University.

Lt. F. L. Gillespie is a construction engineer from M. I. T. and for several years was well up in the National Intercollegiate championship race in squash and tennis. He was the head tennis coach at Amherst College for seven years.

Lt. Glenn Killinger graduated from West Chester Teachers College and was a big league baseball player with the New York Yankees. He played professional football with the New York Giants and was a former member of Walter Camp's All-American football team.

COMMISSIONING

(Continued from first page)

House introduced the chairman of the day, the Honorable Josephus Daniels. Governor Melville Broughton extended the greetings of the state to the Navy and University President Frank Graham welcomed the unit to the campus. Lt. Commander Thomas J. Hamilton accepted the school for the navy. Captain W. S. Popham ordered the colors to be hoisted and, as the band played the national anthem, Commander O. O. Kessing read his orders and took command. He ordered the watch set by Lt. John P. Graff and then the bos'n played pipe down.

SCHOLARSHIP

(Continued from first page)

outside donations. Deposit boxes will be left at the YMCA, Lenoir Dining Hall and the Library until further notice. Town students are asked to give now instead of waiting for a representative to collect.

A list of the University Club members who have covered the entire campus will be published tomorrow with the results of their efforts.

NAVY ARRIVES

(Continued from first page)

manders Harvey Harmon and Jim Crowley give the go-ahead sign.

This program is designed to turn out 1900 cadets from here every three months. The Pre-Flight Aviation training will be followed by advanced flying work at one of 20 schools throughout the country.

NEWS BRIEFS

(Continued from first page)

German drive through to the rear of Marshal Timeon Timoshenko's forces has failed and Red forces seizing the initiative have seized a river town and killed 2,100 Germans in a sudden sortie 87 miles to the east.

HAMILTON

(Continued from first page)

subject. All classes will be held in Caldwell hall which has been remodeled to allow classrooms large enough to accommodate one platoon of cadets at a time, and to house the departmental offices.

Lt. H. D. Crockford, Lt. Wilmot T. Debell, and several members of the Carolina faculty who have been assigned through the Civil Service Commission, will teach the mathematics and physics courses. Among this group of Carolina instructors are Vinton A. Hoyle, Edward A. Cameron, Nathan Jacobson, Charles L. Carroll, John O. Reynolds, Ralph P. Boas, Jr., and James G. Wall.

The teachers of nomenclature and recognition who were selected from the aviation reserve officers attached to the Pre-Flight school include Lt. R. H. Robinson, Lt. W. P. Patterson, Lt. W. B. Davis, Lt. V. C. Tompkins, Lt. E. W. Goodman, Lt. R. V. Brawley, Lt. G. N. Daniels, Lt. J. C. Reid, Lt. J. Stocker, Lt. Richard King, Lt. Theodore Ticken, and Lt. A. J. Smyth. The staff will be headed by Lt. J. F. Gilday.

Lt. Norman Loader will head the staff teaching the essentials of Naval Service. He will be assisted by Ensign Alan Vrooman and temporarily by several others.

PERFECT MEN

(Continued from first page)

There is also a course covering essentials of Naval service, which will indoctrinate cadets with traditions of the service and American Naval and military history.

In all the Navy's vast and rigid aims, practicality and recognition of the individual is recognized. "The cadets are volunteers in a volunteer service. While discipline will be rigid and work hard, there will be no unenforceable regulations. Cadets will be carefully supervised by young officers of their own calibre, and it will only be one who is incorrigible who will not enter into the spirit of the school to the maximum of his ability."

Cool And Comfortable

Look your prettiest graduation day, with your hair summer-styled in the cool, flattering Feather Bob.




THE VILLAGE BEAUTY SHOP

NAVAL CADETS STUDENTS

Enjoy Special Things To Eat In An Old World Atmosphere With Viennese Waltzes

VIENNESE FROZEN COFFEE



VIENNESE FROZEN CHOCOLATE

Soups — Sandwiches Pastries — Candies Gifts

DANZIGER'S CANDY SHOP and TEA ROOM