

Wing and Group Commanders: Please note that the purpose of this news bulletin is to report each week both on national developments and on interesting activities and ideas developed by units out through the country. We regret that it is impossible to distribute in quantity but hope you have developed a means to get all pertinent information to your members. A good many CAP officers who call in Washington do not know about this publication and inquiries often come in on matters already explained in previous issues. We suggest that each issue be posted on bulletin boards among your Squadrons or otherwise placed so that members will have access to it. All items herein are non-confidential and are available to the press. When you have a report which you think would interest other units, please send it in promptly to the Intelligence Officer at National Headquarters.

TOWING GUNNERY TARGETS--For the first time in the history of the armed forces, aerial targets have been towed by civilian planes and fired upon by Army gunners. The Illinois Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, after performing successful missions to aid the antiaircraft unit at Fort Sheridan in sighting and tracing practice, started last Monday with the target towing mission which was so successful from the first flight that it is being continued every day this week.

The first target to be under fire was towed by a 265 h.p. cabin Waco with Frank Hlavacheck as pilot, accompanied by Jack Vilas, Illinois Wing Commander who demonstrated that the CAP has its front line commanders. The second ship, also a Waco, was piloted by Norman Scott.

Earle L. Johnson, National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol received the following wire from the Commanding Officer at the Fort:

"Your Illinois Wing just completed a most satisfactory towed target mission for antiaircraft machine guns at Fort Sheridan. Missions were excellently flown and precisely on schedule. The Wing personnel is to be highly congratulated on a superior performance."

CAA WAIVERS FOR FLIGHT MISSIONS--Favorable consideration has been given by CAA to the granting of waivers of the air traffic rules covering minimum altitudes and dropping of objects in CAP practice activities. Recently J. Howard Wilcox, Kansas CAP Wing Commander, inquired regarding special permission for bombing practice, message dropping, dropping simulated supplies, courier missions, selection of emergency fields, and searches.

C. I. Stanton, Civil Aeronautics Administrator, replied that he was inclined to give favorable consideration provided written orders for such missions are issued by the Commander of the Squadron; practice missions involving dropping of objects are approved by the local aeronautical inspector or by the airport manager if over the airport, and that written permission is obtained from the owner of the property over which such missions are practiced; and that usual clearance and arrival notices are accomplished in all cases.

With regard to clearing aircraft of the Patrol through its own personnel, Mr. Stanton suggested that if the matter were brought to the attention of the individual airport manager, it should be possible to make satisfactory arrangements whereby each unit could provide for its own Registrar and Clearance Officer at the airport and handle all clearances and arrivals of CAP aircraft for the airport manager.

To iron out any local problem as to Civil Air Regulations, see your CAA inspector.

ICE PATROL--Michigan Wing has made an aerial reconnaissance of the entire Detroit River area from Lake Erie to Lake Huron to determine ice conditions preliminary to opening of the navigation season. Wing Commander Sheldon B. Steers reports that officers of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and several captains of the navigation companies were flown over the area and were enthusiastic as to the results. Plans for continuing Patrol work are in progress.

NEVADA MOUNTED AND RANGE COMMANDS--Because of the lack of natural landing areas in the thinly settled regions, the Nevada Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has established ground units as an important auxiliary to its air squadrons. When a CAP plane locates a suspicious activity or finds a lost airplane in the mountains or badlands, often the place cannot be reached except on foot or horseback.

So the Wing has organized a Mounted Command and a Range Command, in regular Squadrons paralleling the aviation units in the organization chart. The Mounted Command is equipped with stretchers which can be carried between two horses. The Range Command goes afoot and is made up of ranch owners, trappers, and others who know the terrain and are familiar with the location of water holes, possible landing areas, and other strategic points. Ski units are attached to the Range Command. Careful plans are being made for coverage of the State. Caches of supplies and equipment will be placed where needed. Close cooperation is maintained with the Forest Service and with the State Police, it is reported by Carl F. Johnson, Wing Executive Officer.

CAMOUFLAGE PLANS--Group 514 in Cleveland has flown members of the local Camouflage Committee over the city to determine necessary action as to camouflage, blackout, and smokeout precautions, it is reported by Group Commander Dwight P. Joyce.

BLACKOUT TESTS--The Louisiana Wing has flown blackout tests not only for the city of New Orleans but for a Naval Station whose commanding officer commended the CAP fliers for their work.

NAVY OFFICERS INSTRUCT CAP--The Pensacola, Fla., Squadron has been given class instruction in navigation and meteorology by officers from the Naval Air Station.

VISITS TO NEIGHBORING WINGS--Kansas Wing Commander J. Howard Wilcox reports the establishment of cordial relations with the Colorado Wing by flights and joint meetings across the line.

SHERIFF JOINS CAP--Here are some excerpts from the lively Newsletter published each week by Dick Martin, Oklahoma Wing Adjutant:

"Group Nine, Enid, Reporting: Last night's meeting was by far the best of them all ... nearly 100% attendance. We have moved to Enid's convention hall for more room and even then we are crowded. Infantry drill and first aid took up the evening. Not more than a dozen were fined for being tardy.

"The sheriff was there and joined. He recently bought an airplane and is learning to fly. His decision came when CAP pilot George Thurman flew him to McAlester with a prisoner a few weeks ago."

The Newsletter further says: "May we again suggest you all cooperate in the state salvage drive April 8-18 by flying over the farm areas and checking potential sources of scrap metal. Report old metal, such as disabled farm machinery, to the chairman of your local salvage committee. This country needs scrap to keep up the scrap against the Jap."

NEW WING COMMANDERS--The following appointments are announced by National Headquarters:

Arkansas--Rex P. Hayes, Box 2461, Little Rock, Ark., in place of Gilbert Leigh, ordered to active duty, Army.

Colorado--H. H. Anderegg, National Guard Armory, 300 Logan St., Denver, Colo., to be Wing Commander in place of W. W. Agnew, ordered to active duty, Navy.

Kentucky--Carl W. Ulrich, Bowman Field, Louisville, Kys., to be Wing Commander in place of A. H. Bear, ordered to active duty, Army Air Forces.

Ohio--George A. Stone, Wyandotte Building, Columbus, Ohio, to be Wing Commander in place of Earle L. Johnson, ordered to active duty, Army Air Forces, and detailed as National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol.

Wisconsin--James B. King, Room 300, 110 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, in place of Seth W. Pollard, resigned.

CPT OPERATORS AID CAP--J. R. Mendenhall, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Aviation Training Association's 7th Region made the following comment in a letter:

"I have discussed Civil Air Patrol activities with most of the operators in the region and it is their opinion that CPT operators should work with CAP because it is only through this agency that private flying can be continued. The operators are in a position to foster interest and enthusiasm."

HUNT THE JUNK--The Alabama Wing is among the CAP units actively engaged in searching for sources of salvage metal, a good practice exercise, in addition to its immediate wartime value, because it trains observers to locate accurately the points on the ground where auto graveyards and other likely spots are found. Since the junk dealers already are cooperating with the War Production Board, it is not necessary to spot regular junk piles. The job of the CAP is to locate old machinery especially at points which would be unnoticed in ground surveys.

SLOGAN--"No stalls in the Illinois Wing" is the slogan they are using out Chicago way, as reported in the "Illinois Wingover", the snappy newsletter which the Wing Headquarters is issuing each month.

ARMY DAY--In the Army Day parades on April 6, CAP units in a good many cities participated at the request of OCD Director James M. Landis. In Birmingham, leaflets with a message from Governor Frank M. Dixon of Alabama on the importance of building the home front were dropped over the crowd from CAP planes.

SEARCHLIGHT UNIT--One of the most striking features of the Army Day parade in Milwaukee was a detachment from the searchlight unit which is being organized by CAP in Kenosha, Wisc. Two beams, playing on low clouds, illuminated the whole line of march.

HANDLING AIRPORT CROWDS--What CAP discipline means was recently illustrated by the handling of a crowd of 150,000 people who visited a display of Army planes at the Cleveland Airport on Easter. John Berry, Commissioner of Airports, commented as follows:

"I greatly appreciate the work done by the Civil Air Patrol in controlling the thousands of people who visited the airport. They showed their training as a well disciplined and competent group of men. Never in the history of the airport has a crowd been handled as efficiently."

PLANE PARTS FLOWN TO ARMY SCHOOL--Airplane parts urgently needed in Army training operations were flown to the Hawthorne School of Aeronautics in Orangeburg, S. C., now engaged in training flying cadets. According to Beverly Howard, President of the School, the shipments put back in the air several training planes which otherwise might have been grounded for several days. The deliveries were made from the Middletown Air Depot in Pennsylvania where the Patrol has been conducting a 30-day test of courier service for the Army.

Lieut. Robert W. Stivers, Air Corps Supply Officer stationed at Hawthorne Field, stated, "So far the CAP delivery system has helped us out immensely. It is understood now that the system is in the experimental stage. Undoubtedly when it is expanded on a nation-wide basis, it will prove even more valuable to keep 'Em Flying."

GLIDER PATROL--The Illinois Wing is cooperating with the Jay Gee Glider Patrol, a non-profit organization sponsored by the Chicago Association of Commerce, by seeking to locate a good field in the area for operations.

FROM THE PAPERS--News from units in many areas:

"State military funds can be used to finance the Civil Air Patrol if it is called into active duty, Attorney General Smith Troy advised P. E. Hinkley of Spokane, Wing Commander of the Patrol. Money provided by the 1941 legislature for the National Guard could be used for the Patrol if the governor gave it any military duties to perform." Tacoma, Wash., TIMES.

"Civilian pilots of Northern California, grounded since the outbreak of war between Japan and the United States on Dec. 7th today were offered an opportunity to fly again in the service of their government. Officials of the Civil Air Patrol have begun formation of a group for the Sacramento area and the local office of the organization also is headquarters for branches of the Patrol from Merced to the Oregon line....

"It is necessary to have all units trained to the satisfaction of the Army, particularly as to their ability to carry out definite missions of relief, observation or liaison, before units will be permitted to operate in combat zones." Sacramento, Calif., BEE.

"Under orders issued here last night by Ernest Rowlette of Carthage, southwest Missouri Group Commander of the CAP, 10 or more civilian airplanes, with pilots, observers and three Army radio operators from Camp Crowder will take to the air to scout the movements and operations of the two state Guard companies in the vicinity of Mindenmines.

"Under conditions of mock warfare, the CAP airplanes not only will perform patrol, scouting and escorting duty with the ground troops, but during the course of the maneuvers will carry out simulated dives and strafing operations so as to give the troops practice maneuvers in deploying." Joplin, Mo., GLOBE.

"Portsmouth's unit of the Civil Air Patrol had two flights of three planes each in the air at the same time practicing formation flying. Take off was in formation, as was flight in the air, and landings were made singly by the planes participating." Portsmouth, N. H., HERALD.

"Although Georgia several months ago had the smallest number of enlistments in the Civil Air Patrol of any state in the union, under the stimulus of war conditions the state is now well above the average for the country in this phase of the war effort and only two states in the south have better records." Atlanta, Ga., JOURNAL.

"Norris W. Rakestraw, Intelligence Officer of the Rhode Island Wing, Civil Air Patrol, announced today that its fliers have been assigned to the task of locating air markers painted on roofs throughout the state to guide airmen. These markers, of assistance in peacetime, are now distinct liabilities and must be obliterated." Pawtucket, R. I., TIMES.