

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Unit Commanders: Among the trends which assure the continuity of the Patrol is the acquisition by local units of equipment and facilities. Thus each unit is becoming a center of activity. Despite the turnover in personnel, as key men enter the armed forces, there will always be good men coming up through the ranks to replace those who have gone and train still others at CAP fields and classrooms.

CAP AIRPORT--The Michigan Wing is about to open an airport of its own, Wings Field, for the exclusive use of CAP. This is a non-commercial project which does not compete with other airports in the State. With generous donations of funds and materials, it has been possible to develop the project largely by volunteer CAP labor from Squadrons throughout Michigan. At this site, practice coastal patrol missions will be flown over the Great Lakes, with equipment and procedures identical to those in use on the CAP coastal patrol bases. By spending 2 weeks at Wings Field or by coming on week-ends, Michigan members can prepare themselves for active duty.

Other practice work will include simulated bombing, dropping of messages and supplies, crash procedure, protection against gas, and other required subjects. This intensive practice will make the trainees ready for courier and forest missions as well as for coastal patrol.

The Missouri Wing also has been simulating coastal patrol operations at Ellsville Airport and a practice coastal patrol base is planned in the St. Louis area. Forest patrol also is being practiced with active assignments in prospect.

AIR SUPPORT--Simulating air support for the training of ground units of the National Guard and the Regular Army has been an important summer activity for CAP in many areas. Since the air units of the National Guard were taken out of the States more than a year ago for national service, CAP is the only aerial home guard in most localities. Almost every State that had reorganized an air unit prior to CAP has merged its air activities with the Patrol or has discontinued such work in favor of the State Wing of CAP. Simultaneously with its national duties, each of the 48 Wings of the Patrol has the obligation of serving for the security of its State.

In Iowa, CAP has been cooperating with the State Guard in simulated attack on ground troops maneuvering at Ft. Dodge. Quarter-pound flour bags were used for bombing. Low flying and power dives produced a fine simulation of strafing.

The Georgia Wing held a 2-day meeting near Atlanta, camping on Army cots at the airport. In cooperation with the State Guard, on Army request, flights were made from several points, command posts established, messages dropped, and signal panels read from the air. Each plane covered 300 to 500 miles cross country.

Cooperation goes both ways. Some of the finest Squadrons in the Patrol have been developed through instruction by National Guard officers and drill sergeants.

ANOTHER NEWSLETTER--Add still another Wing newsletter, the "Ute Patrol", to be published by the Utah Wing. We are looking forward to the first issue now on the press. More than half the Wings have their own regular bulletins.

MEMBERSHIP GAINS--In the month of August, 2,730 membership applications were received at National Headquarters. The total to August 31 is 58,554. Allowing for those who have gone into the armed services and other branches of aviation, it is believed that the net gain in membership is several hundred per month.

OFFICER APPOINTMENTS--Applications for the appointment of CAP officers are now being received in big batches from all over the country and formal appointments are being issued as fast as they can be prepared. Appointments are also issued for Flight Officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates who have completed their 81 hours of basic training and are so certified on a new form which has gone to the Wings.

BOARD CAMPAIGNS--Many a CAP plane is flying these days to keep the public reminded of the home front aid that everyone can render to the men who are piloting big planes over the battle lines. War bond rallies and parades often are led off by putting CAP Squadrons in the air. Recently at Lawrenceburg, Ind., five planes from Squadron 5111-1, Cincinnati, went out of their own State to help put on a show for the folks across the river. Defense officials find the CAP comes out when called.

SCRAP HUNTS--In the first nation-wide scrap hunt early in the year, Wings of the Civil Air Patrol conducted State-wide searches for automobile graveyards, abandoned farm machinery, and other little presents for Hirohito. Now that the search has become more intensive than ever, as the speed of production outstrips the available supplies of raw materials, CAP pilots and observers are having a second look and are finding plenty more.

In Owyhee County, Idaho, a large piece of machinery was found and junked. The proceeds went to the Squadron fund. Around Youngstown, Ohio, 12 planes have carefully mapped the territory, and have found plenty of old tractors and autos, piles of milk cans, and rolls of old wire rusting in the weeds. An old mine with materials lying around its mouth was found near Canfield.

Near Oakland, Iowa, a CAP plane dropped a message appealing for scrap. A farmer, who was just emerging from the barn, ran to the cornfield where the message fell, forgetting that he had a bucket of milk in each hand, with results you can easily imagine.

SERVICING ARMY PLANES--Squadron 315-10, Pittsburgh, Pa., is training to render volunteer duty in servicing Army planes which land in the area. Army personnel is adequate for usual requirements but if any unusual number of ships should come in, delays might be encountered in getting them on their way. Squadron Commander Wilbur Caster proposed to Army authorities that CAP members be permitted to serve as helpers to learn all the routine and be ready to act in emergencies.

CONVOY BOARDED--Part of the practice work of the Tennessee Wing has been the spotting of motor convoys. The 3rd Nashville Squadron turned out to find panel messages locating a convoy composed of police radio cars, ambulances, and autos which they located and "bombed".

MINIATURE CITY BLITZED--In a demonstration at Scott Stadium at Toledo, a miniature city was erected. CAP planes dropped flares and simulated bombing of the "city" to destruction. In a "hotel" incendiary bombs burned their way through successive floors as in a real air raid.

SURPRISE RAID--Units at Atlanta mustered 125 members called out of bed at 4:30 in the morning for a surprise maneuver. As the alarm sounded, crews found their way to their ships, using only dim lights. The only casualty was one bump on the head when a pilot collided with a wing tip while running to his ship in the dark.

LABOR UNION HAS FLYING CLUB--The Penguin Flying Club, formed by employes of Brewster Aircraft in New Jersey under sponsorship of Aircraft Local 365, a CIO union, has close to 1,000 members. The 75 pilot members have enlisted in CAP. In addition to CAP training, the club is giving flight instruction and special courses in blue print reading and other aviation subjects. The club maintains its own library with hundreds of aviation magazines and texts. Union officials are seeking to interest other plants in forming similar clubs.

COURIER SERVICE--Here is one example of how the CAP Courier Station at York, Pa., is saving war industries precious time. A truckload of castings on the way from the South was delayed in transit. The truck was intercepted in Virginia by a CAP plane and the 700-pound load flown in, saving two full work days.