

SQUADRON IN MEMPHIS MAY HAVE JET PLANES

General Butler, Others Will
Confer Here Thursday

GUARD PLANS DISCLOSED

Memphis may have the first National Guard Air Squadron in the United States equipped with jet planes.

Maj. Gen. Hilton Butler, adjutant general of Tennessee, made this statement at Nashville yesterday as he announced he will come here Thursday to confer with Joe Boyle, the new Mayor, and Airport officials, accompanied by several others. They will discuss facilities for the 155th Fighter Squadron of the Tennessee National Guard, already allocated to Memphis.

Members of Party

In the party coming here will be Col. Robert W. Burns, senior air instructor for the Tennessee National Guard; Col. Andrew J. Bratton, assistant adjutant general for air; Col. Richard D. Gleaves, former member of the 105th Observation Squadron at Nashville, and Col. Claiborne Kinnard of Franklin, Tenn., European ace, who likely will head the 118th Fighter Group of the Tennessee National Guard.

Colonel Burns was commander of the 351st Bombardment Group in World War II, which numbered among its personnel Maj. Clark Gable, the movie actor.

Meeting with the group from Nashville will be Col. Fred G. Hook, Memphis, World War II pilot, who has been called to active duty as an assistant instructor for the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Located at Memphis in the 155th Squadron and its attached service and maintenance units will be approximately 50 officers and 300 enlisted men. No difficulty is expected in meeting requirements because of the large number of air reserve officers and men now living in Memphis.

Initial Equipment

Later to be selected from the Memphis area will be a squadron commander with the rank of lieutenant colonel and a commander for the service group detachment with the rank of major.

Initially, the squadron will be equipped with P-47 N fighter planes, M-26 light bombardment planes, A-6 trainers and L-5 liaisons. The jet propelled planes may be substituted for the fighters at a later date.

Memphis, said General Butler, is considered by the War Department General Staff a strategic location for important National Guard organizations in the general defense plan for the United States.

The other squadron coming to Tennessee is the famous old 105th Observation Squadron, now redesignated as the 105th Fighter Squadron, to be based at Nashville.