

Flight Talk—

Guard Pilots' Flights Equal Seven Times Around World During Two-Week Active Duty

20 Pilots Log Up 629 Hours In P-51 Mustangs And A-26 Attack Bombers—Thunderstorm Research Data Is Issued

By ROBERT GRAY

Pilots of the 155th Fighter Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, flew the equivalent of more than seven times around the earth in combat type aircraft during the two weeks of active duty being completed today.

The 20 pilots who participated full-time in the training period logged 629 hours in P-51 Mustang fighters and A-26 attack bombers. Figuring their ground speed at 300 miles an hour, they covered 188,700 miles.

An additional 109 hours were flown in trainer type planes.

During the two weeks, all pilots in the squadron completed requirements for instrument cards, hours of night flying and other minimum proficiency qualifications. There was not a single accident.

Benefits of the training were sharply reflected in the ground gunnery practice. The P-51 pilots fired 35,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition and their record of hits improved over 400 per cent from the first to the last day on the firing range at Camp Robinson, Ark.

A total of 141 officers and enlisted men were on full-time duty with the squadron and, in addition to flying, received training in administrative work, aircraft maintenance, automotive repair, weather observation, radio and armament operation and supply procedures.

The training was declared a success by Lieut. Col. Fred G. Hook Jr., Air Forces instructor and acting commanding officer, in its mission of reaching a high state of combat readiness.

Pilots who took leave from their civilian jobs to participate in the fulltime training were Maj. William Johnson, Capt. James Allen, John McGoldrick, Robert Little and J. T. Layne, Lieuts. Tommy Boston, Pete Hays, Joe Johnson, William Cowan, David Fox, Billy Webb, Thomas Summers, David Feltus, R. M. Saunders, J. F. Gaia, E. L. Barksdaie and Aubrey Mitchell.

THUNDERSTORMS, quite a popular item hereabouts this Summer, are of major concern to pilots—as well as to picnickers and gardeners. For the past two years the Air Force has been conducting a "Thunderstorm Project" at Wilmington, Ohio, to study the reaction of aircraft to the cloud formations that are filled with rain, hail, ice and wind turbulence. A report has just been released revealing minimum and maximum safe speeds through the storms for different type aircraft.

On basis of tests, safe speeds through storms range from 135 to 220 miles an hour for C-47 (or DC-3); 150 to 210 for C-54 (or DC-4); and 165 to 220 for the DC-6.

In course of the study, the P-61 "Black Widow" planes flew 2000 hours through the storms without a major accident or fatality.

RESERVE PERSONNEL of the 21st Air Division at Municipal Airport are ending their current two-week active duty training periods on June 30. That is the end of the fiscal year. Highlight of their training was the B-29 bombing mission from Carswell Air Force Base at Ft. Worth.

Many of the Reserve pilots are of the opinion that continued flying in AT-6 and AT-11 trainer aircraft—the only types assigned to the 21st Division—by personnel qualified to fly combat planes is a waste of time, effort and money.

Top officers are aware of this situation and efforts have been and are being made to obtain tactical aircraft for the Reserves. Meanwhile, training such as the B-29 mission is a partial answer to maintaining morale and combat efficiency among flying personnel.

NEWS AND NOTES: Col. G. D. Albrecht, Municipal Airport man-

ager, is taking a two weeks' sabbatical . . . The airlines using LaGuardia and Idlewild (starting July 1) airports in New York are most unhappy over treatment of their leases by the New York Port Authority, now operating the fields. Unable to file suits directly, they are asking the City of New York to file against the authority for breach of contract . . . Air freight carried by the Nation's 35 established airlines for the first quarter of 1948 totaled 13,800,000 ton miles—an increase of 68.2 per cent over the same period of last year. The net operating loss for the period was \$14,000,000 as compared to \$19,000,000 for the first three months of 1947—a 26 per cent decrease. Which recalls the crack that the airline boys don't have to make a profit to become jubilant—just reduce their loss . . . On the other hand, American Airlines expects June to be one of the biggest months in their history. The month's business is equally bright for most of the other commercial air carriers . . . Col. Robert Burns, senior air instructor of the Tennessee Air National Guard, was an airport visitor Saturday. Ranger talk on the United Airlines DC-6 crash in Pennsylvania surmises that the fast descent may have blacked out the pilot and copilot or that dense smoke in the cockpit may have temporarily blinded them . . . The Mississippi Aeronautics Commission announces its readiness to receive applications for state aircraft registration certificates. A new law requires every aircraft in the state to be registered with the commission each year.

Voice Recital Planned

Voice pupils of Mrs. Lillian C. Martin will be presented in a recital at the Memphis Conservatory of Music, 657 Vance, at 8:15 tomorrow night. Singers are Mary Elizabeth Ryan, Billie June Carr, Ira Perkins, Frances Anderson, Lillian Rosenthal, Chester Radosky, Leona DeMere, Thelma Nichols, Clyde C. Doggett, Ruth Watkins, Edwin A. Baum, Pauline Majors, Leon Ethridge, Eleanor Boywid, Marie Baird, Billy Lanier, Lillian Raggio, Gene Groome and Gloria Batistelli.

Everywhere You Go Take Camera Along

Summer time is camera time. Wherever you go—to the swimming pool, on a picnic, at sports events—you're sure to find plenty of excellent possibilities for good snapshots.

Take your camera along and you may get a picture worth a prize in The Commercial Appeal's Amateur Snapshot Contest.

Print your name and address on the back of each picture and mail them to the Snapshot Contest Editor, The Commercial Appeal, Memphis 1, Tenn.

Your guests will enjoy the wonderfully fine new Cook's Beer. Costly "Krausening" brewing makes it extra good!—Adv.