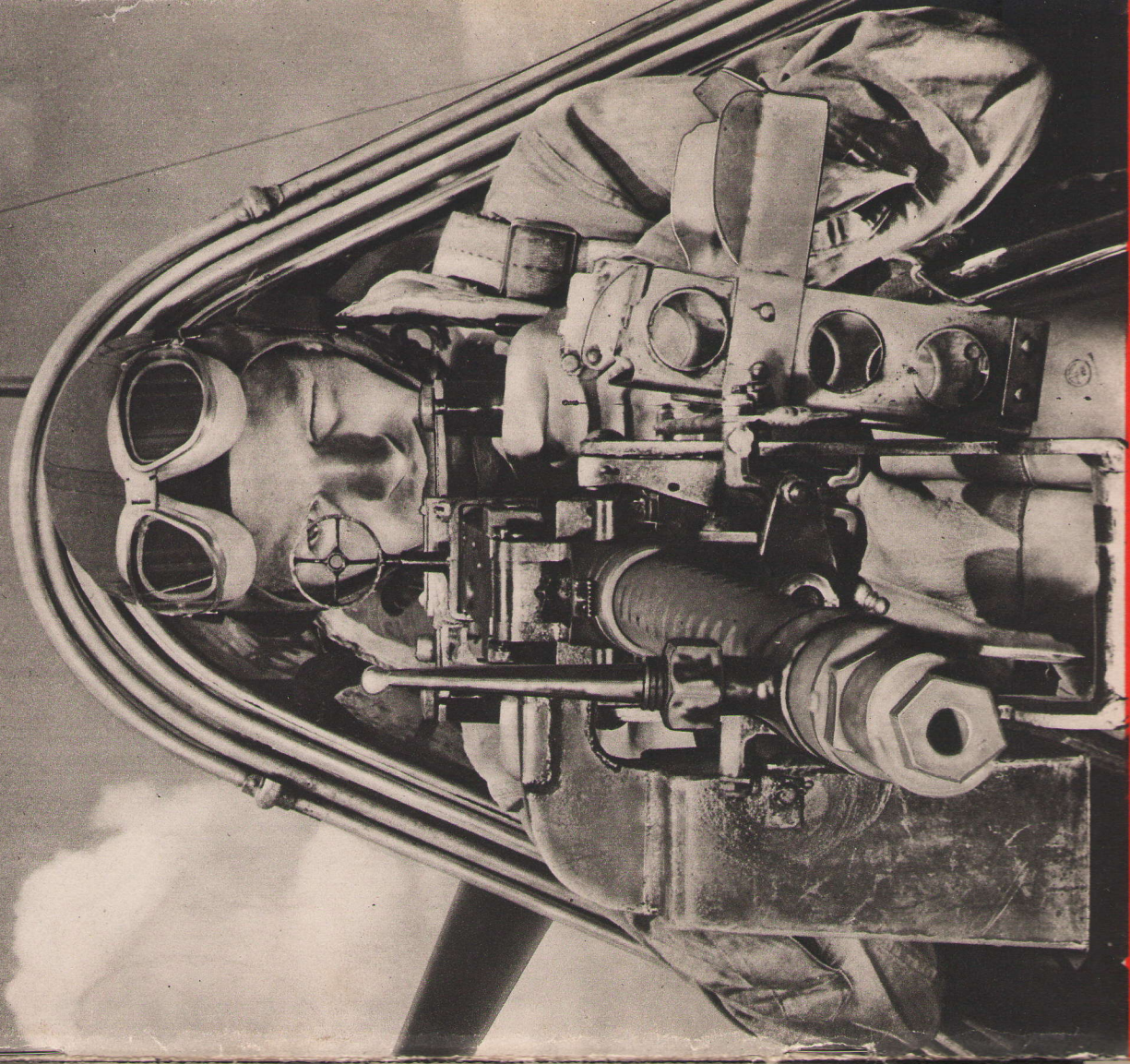
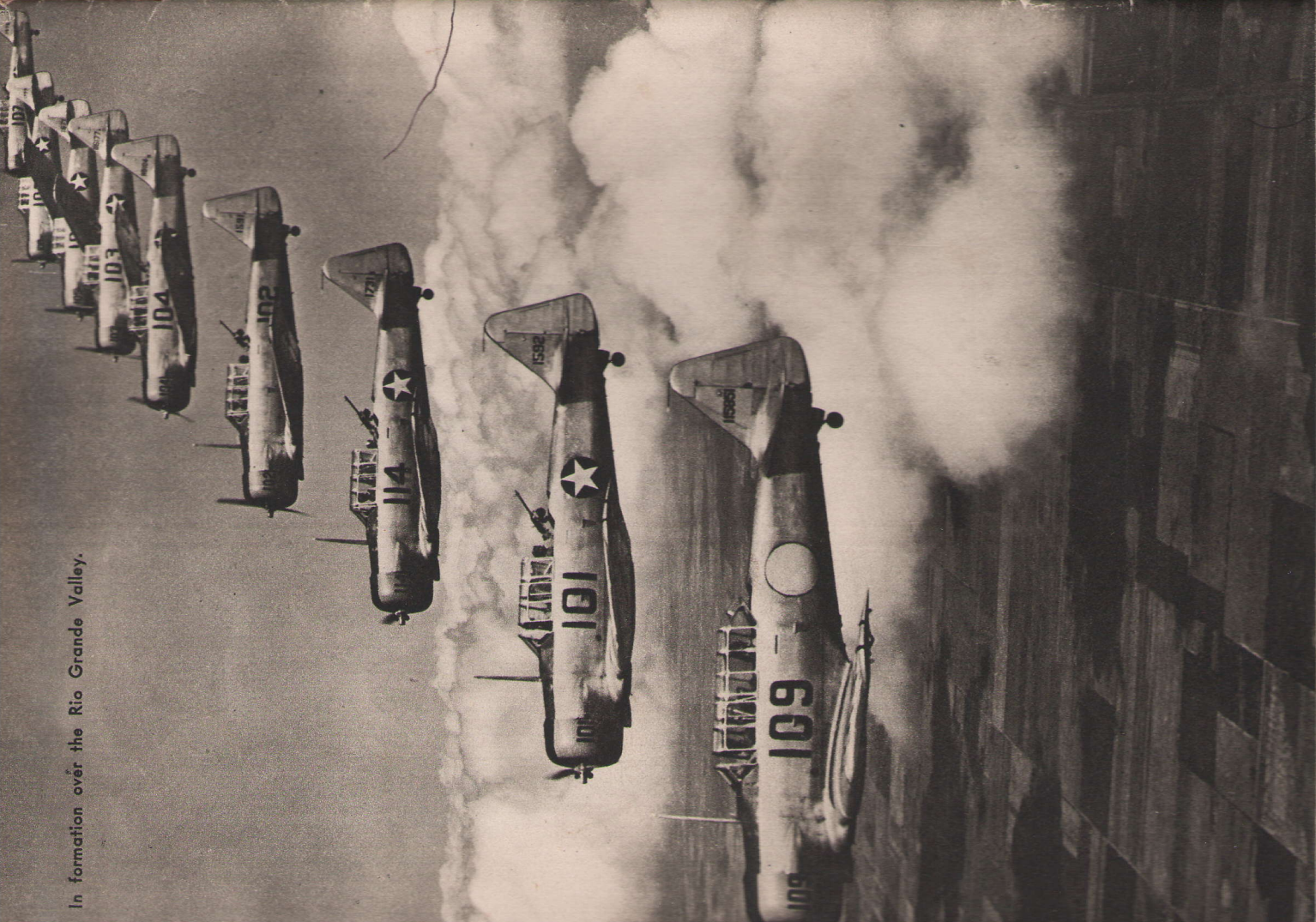


**A CAMERA TRIP THROUGH "HAGS"
HARLINGEN ARMY GUNNERY SCHOOL**

In formation over the Rio Grande Valley.



THE "MEN BEHIND THE TRIGGERS" OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES

ARMY AIR FORCE SOLDIERS here are training to live in glass houses and still throw stuff more dangerous than stones.

At this school in the near-tropical Rio Grande Valley, where a Gulf breeze mixes orange blossom scents with powder smells, soldiers learn to sit in plexiglass bomber blisters and keep would-be attackers at arm's length while pilots and bombardiers do their jobs undisturbed.

The brand of shooting taught here is known as "flexible gunnery." That means the gunner swings his barrels around in any direction from which the enemy approaches. In the bomber the guns are purely for defense. Interceptor planes generally have their guns mounted in the fuselage or wings. Their business is to attack and the pilot points the whole plane to make that attack.

The gunner's role in aerial combat was described in a speech by General H. H. Arnold in August, 1942: "In the bombers it's the combat crew that counts. The navigator gets them to the target; it's the bombardier who drops the bombs and determines the hits or misses made. It's the gunner who sits in the turret all cramped and tense with his eyes peeled in all directions watching for the enemy diving out of the sun.

"It's the gunner sitting back in the tail who takes it on the chin when the Zeros come in.

"It's the gunner, who may double in brass as an engineer or radioman, who dishes it out — dishes it out in a manner designed to keep the other fellow at a respectful distance. They are all members of a team. For a time only the pilot wore wings. Then wings were authorized for bombardiers and navigators. Now wings — air crew wings — are authorized for the other men of that combat team. Now the gunner has something to wear on his chest to proclaim he's a first-rate fighting man. He always has been appreciated by the Army Air Forces as such; now we are giving the man himself something to wear that will identify him as a "Gunner" — a man to be honored and respected by all."

This book attempts to tell part of the story of each man's activities here; the comfortable living quarters, the soldierly routine, the recreational facilities, the opportunities for church going, good libraries for enlisted men and Officers and of course, the vital story of training to make the world's best aviators and to keep them aloft.



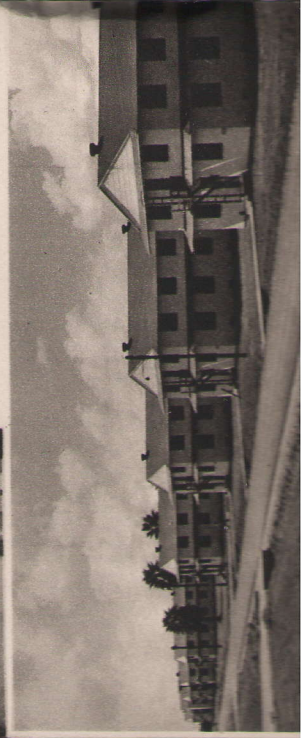
Palm trees guard the approach to the post.



Post Headquarters—HAGS nerve-center.



Neat, trim barracks house HAGS students.



Looking down the hall at Training Headquarters.

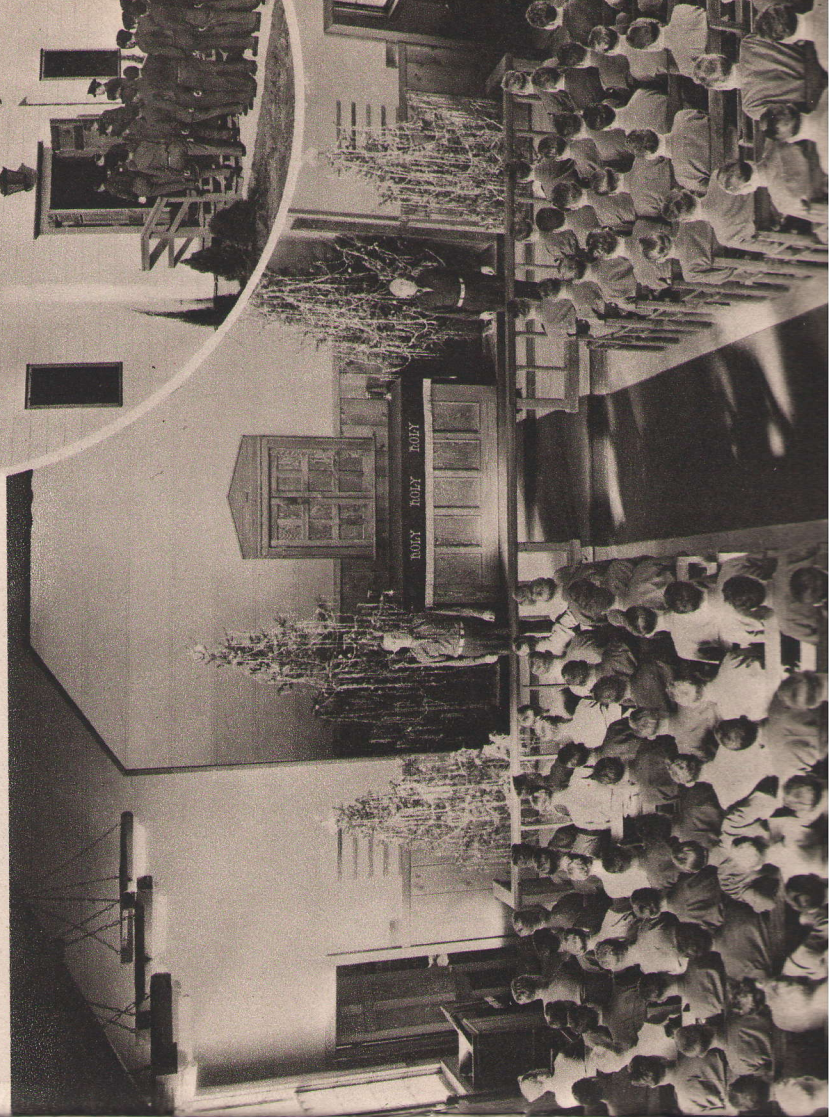


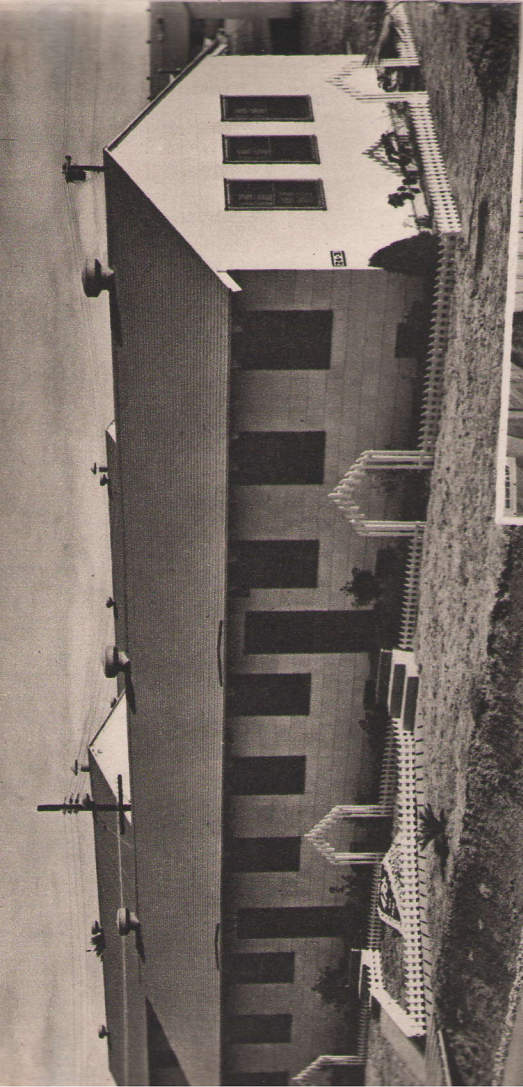
Sunday morning at the Post Chapel.



An arch of machine guns for the wedding party.

Christmas services at the Post Chapel.





With inside and out, squadron day rooms are attractive.

Relaxation in a squadron day room.

Sweet or hot? Selecting phonograph records at a day room.



A billiard ball view of a cozy day room.



For reading or studying—the library.



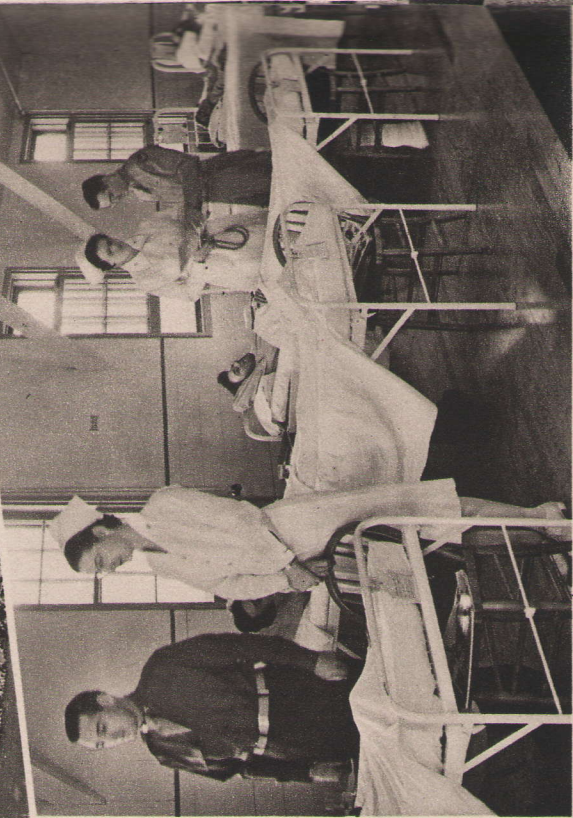
Sewing on covered chevrons.

An interior view of a barracks.





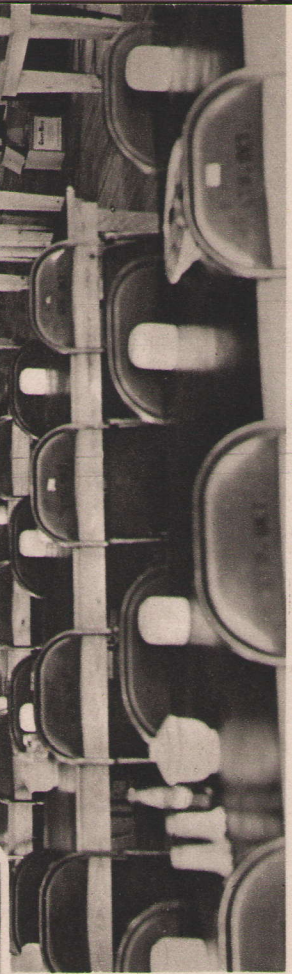
view of the HAGS sta-
on hospital.



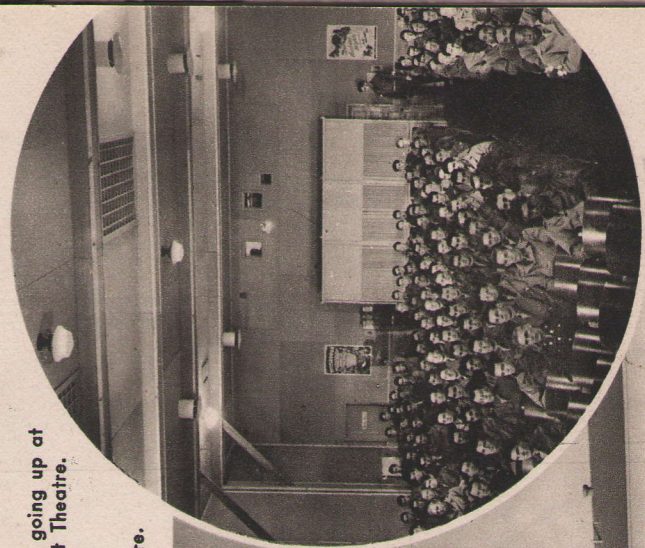
A ward at the station
hospital.



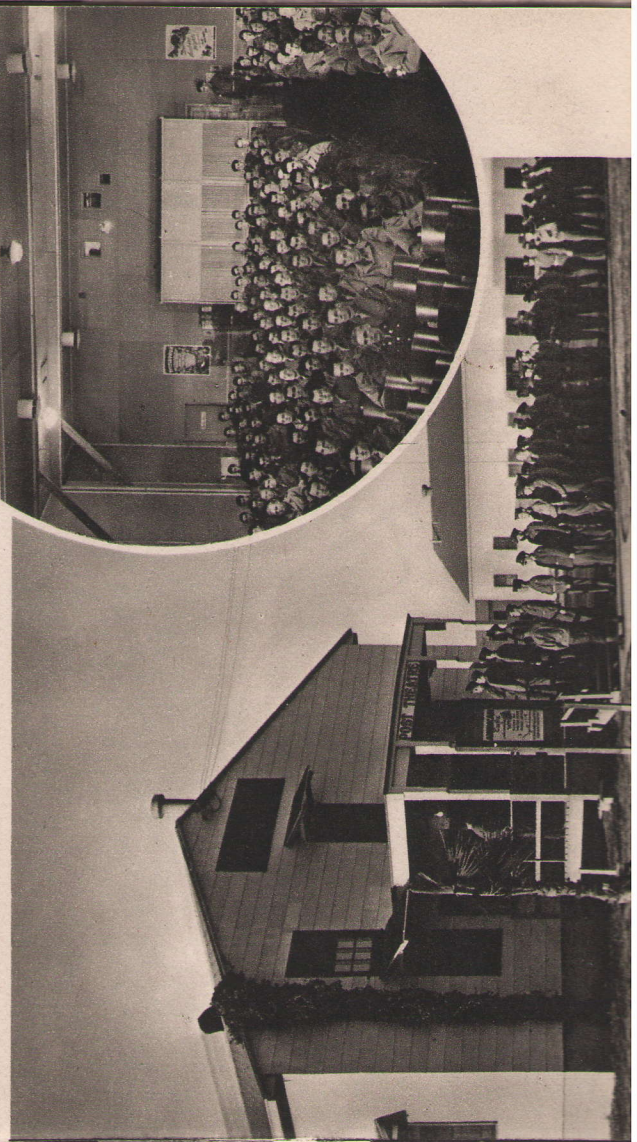
Potatoes must be peeled.



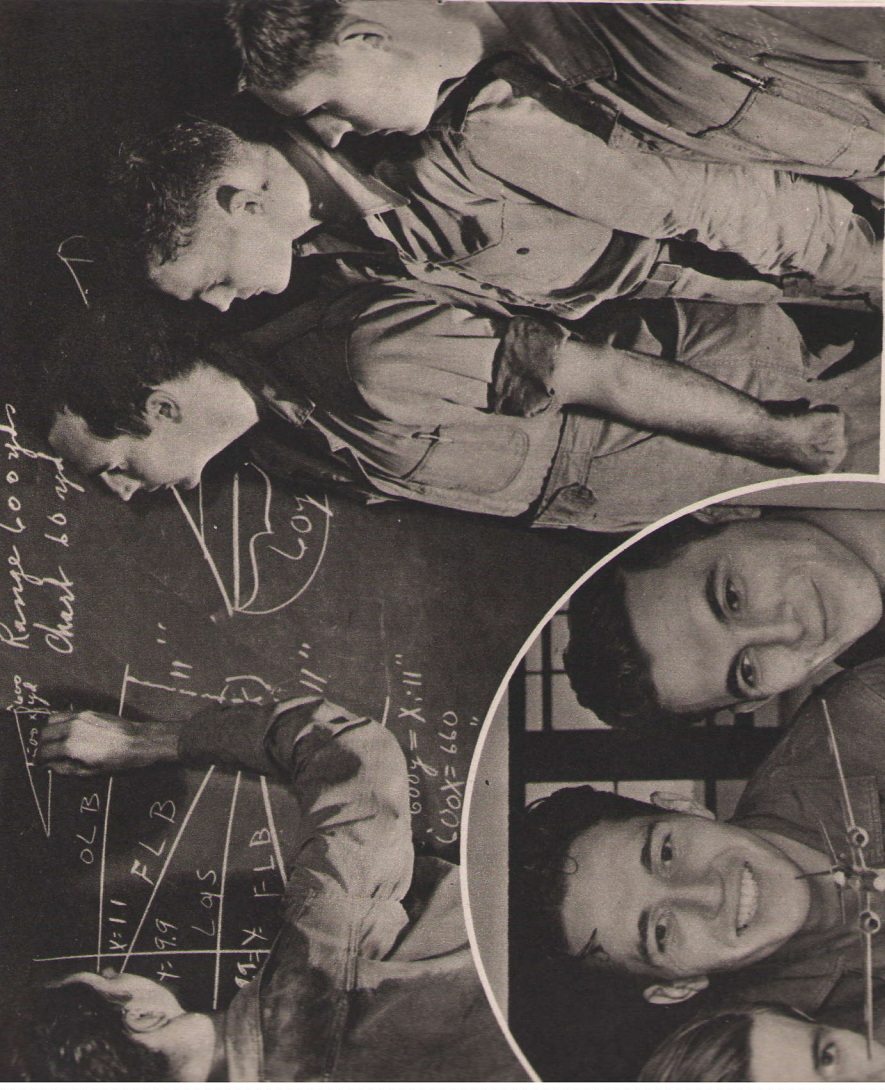
Ready for chow inside a mess hall.



Curtain going up at
the Post Theatre.



Awaiting the opening of the box office at the Post Theatre.



A gunnery school has its blackboards.

This device teaches a student to estimate distance.



Model planes are used to teach aircraft identification.



A conference on classroom work.

"Electric eye" firing helps the beginner.



Is it up there? The man has the answer.

**TOUGH • STRONG • RUGGED
CALISTHENICS ARE A MUST!**

Officers loosen those
kinks in a physi-
cal training class.



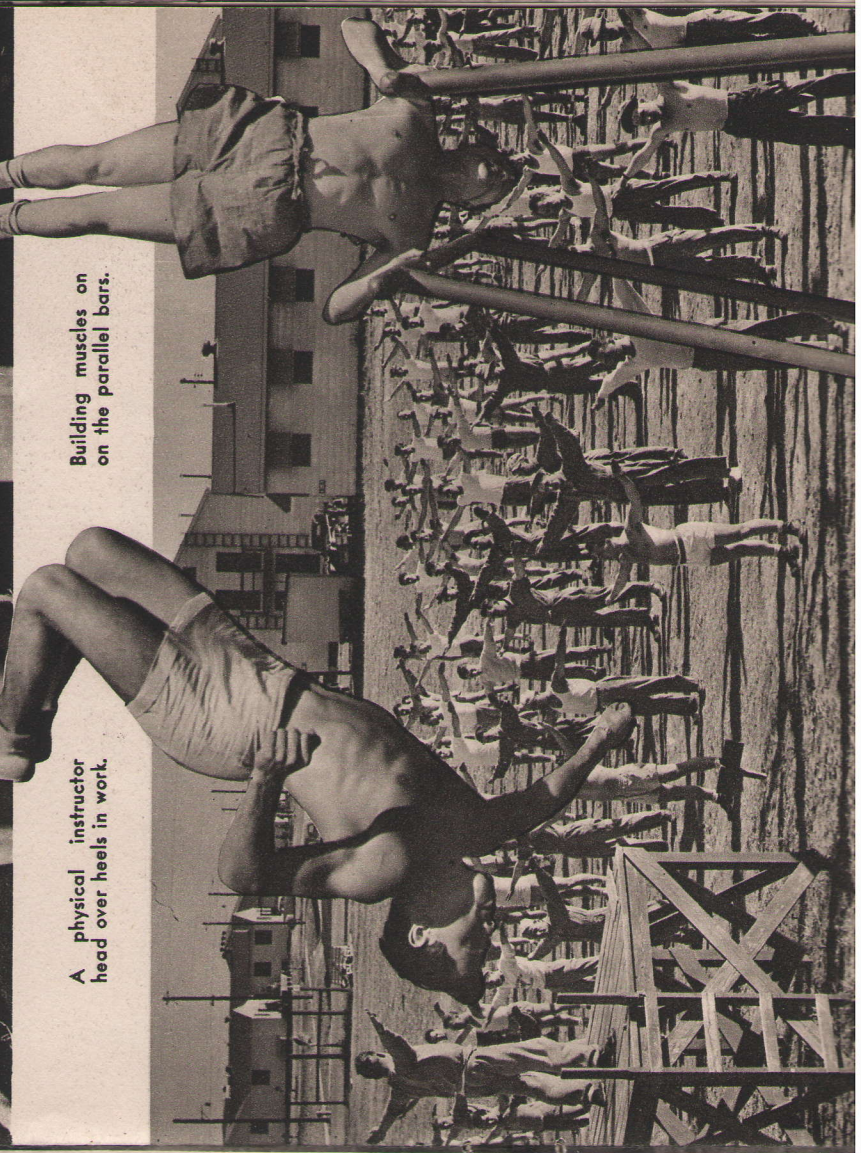
Blindfolded, a student
tears down and re-
assembles a machine
gun.



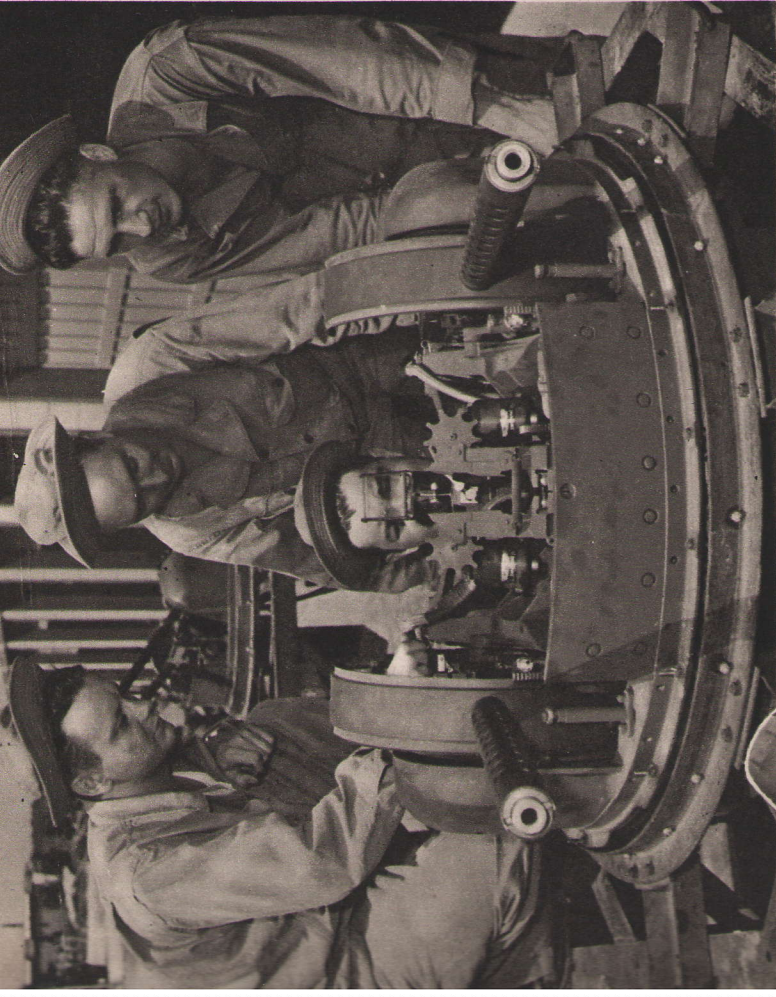
HAGS students get
first-hand information
from a gunner back
from the front.



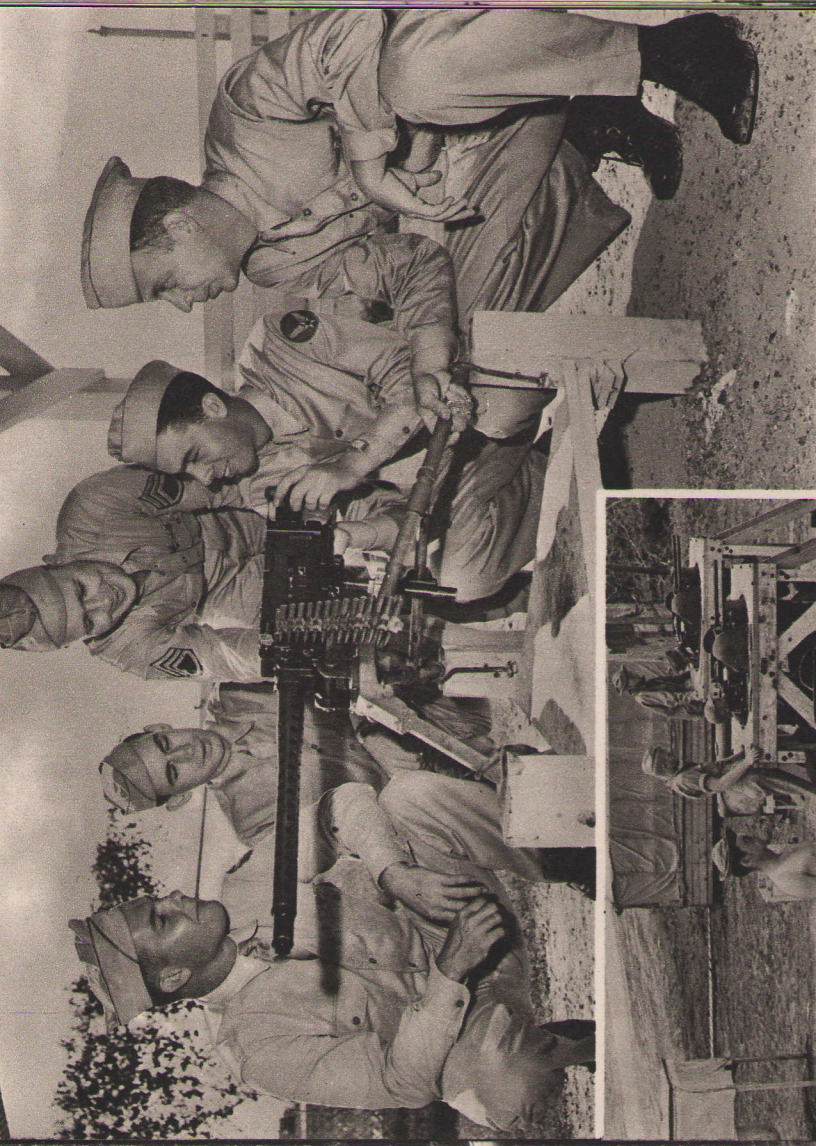
A physical instructor
head over heels in work.



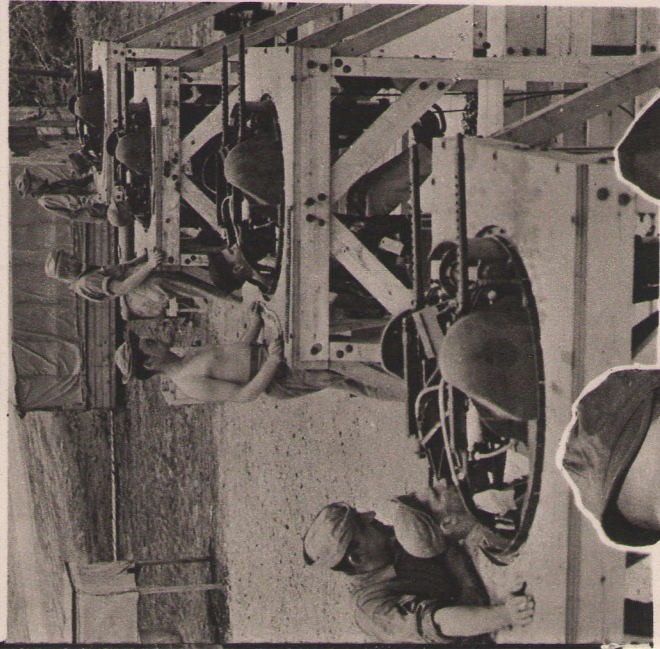
Building muscles on
the parallel bars.



He'll be in one of these turrets in a bomber soon.



A five-man diagnosis on the malfunction range.



These HAGS students are getting the feel of power turrets.



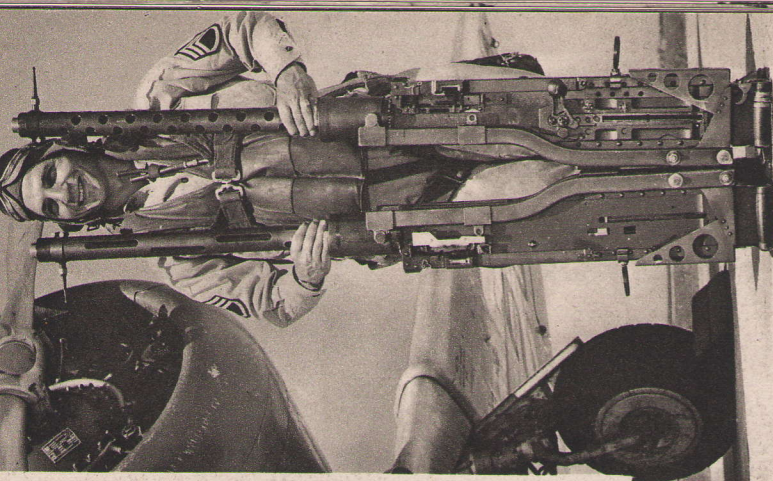
Drawing a bead at the ground range.



Good skeet shooters make



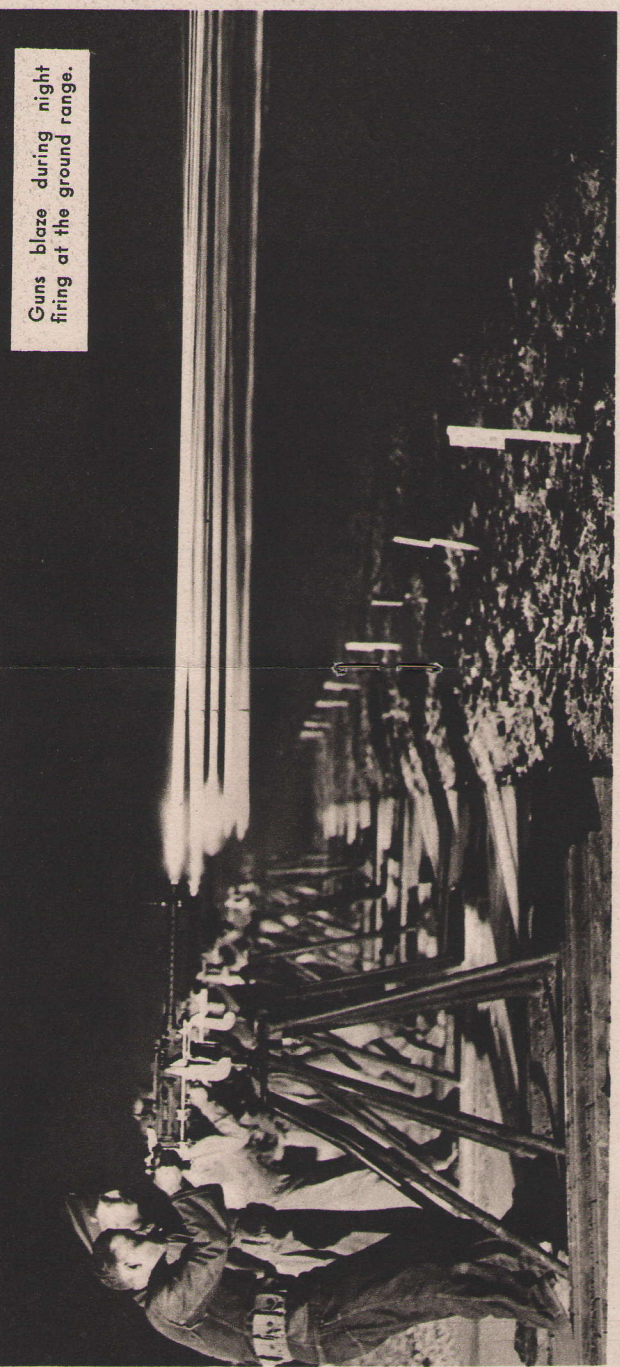
A foursome at work on the malfunction range.



Those machine guns make him as big as anyone.



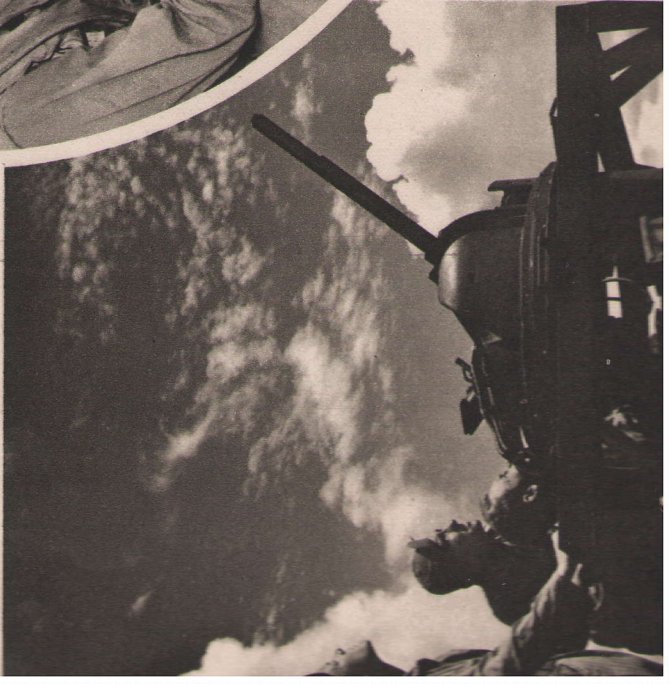
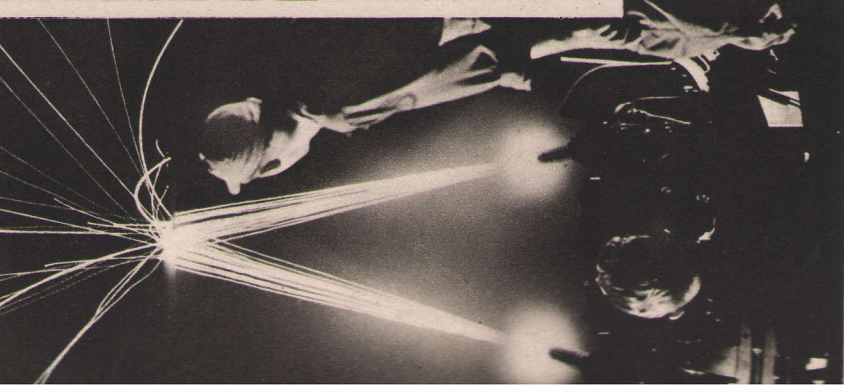
Checking a weapon before going aloft.



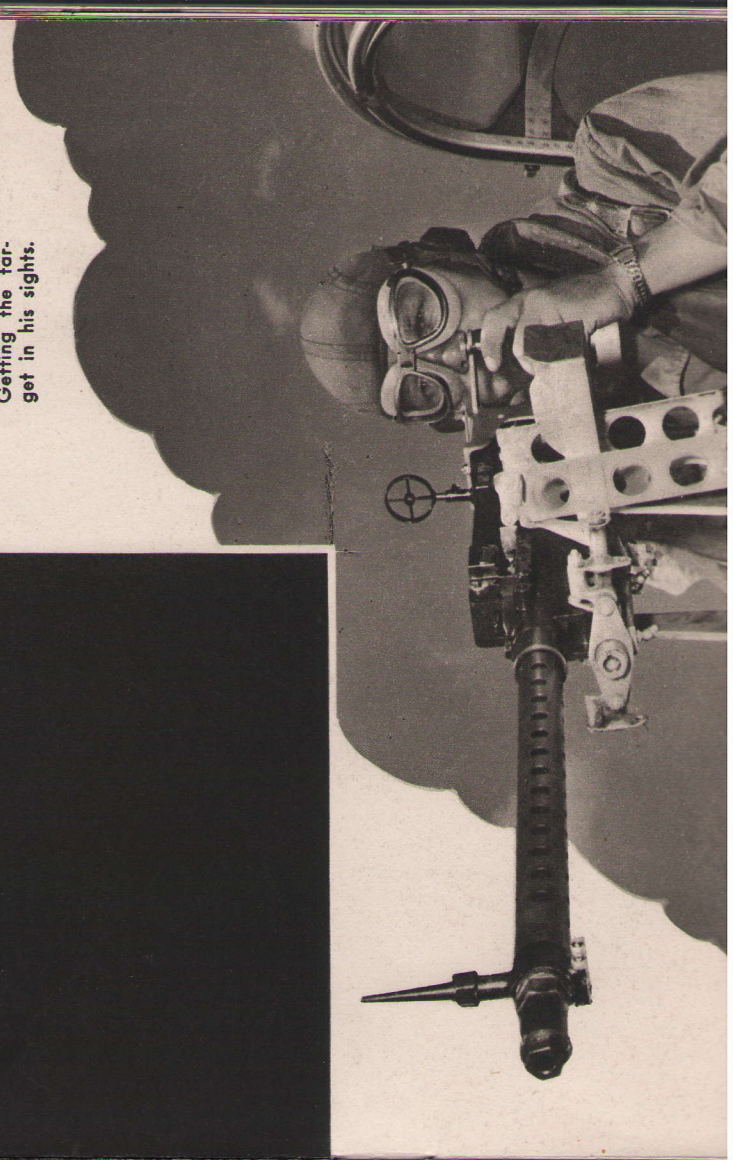
Guns blaze during night firing at the ground range.



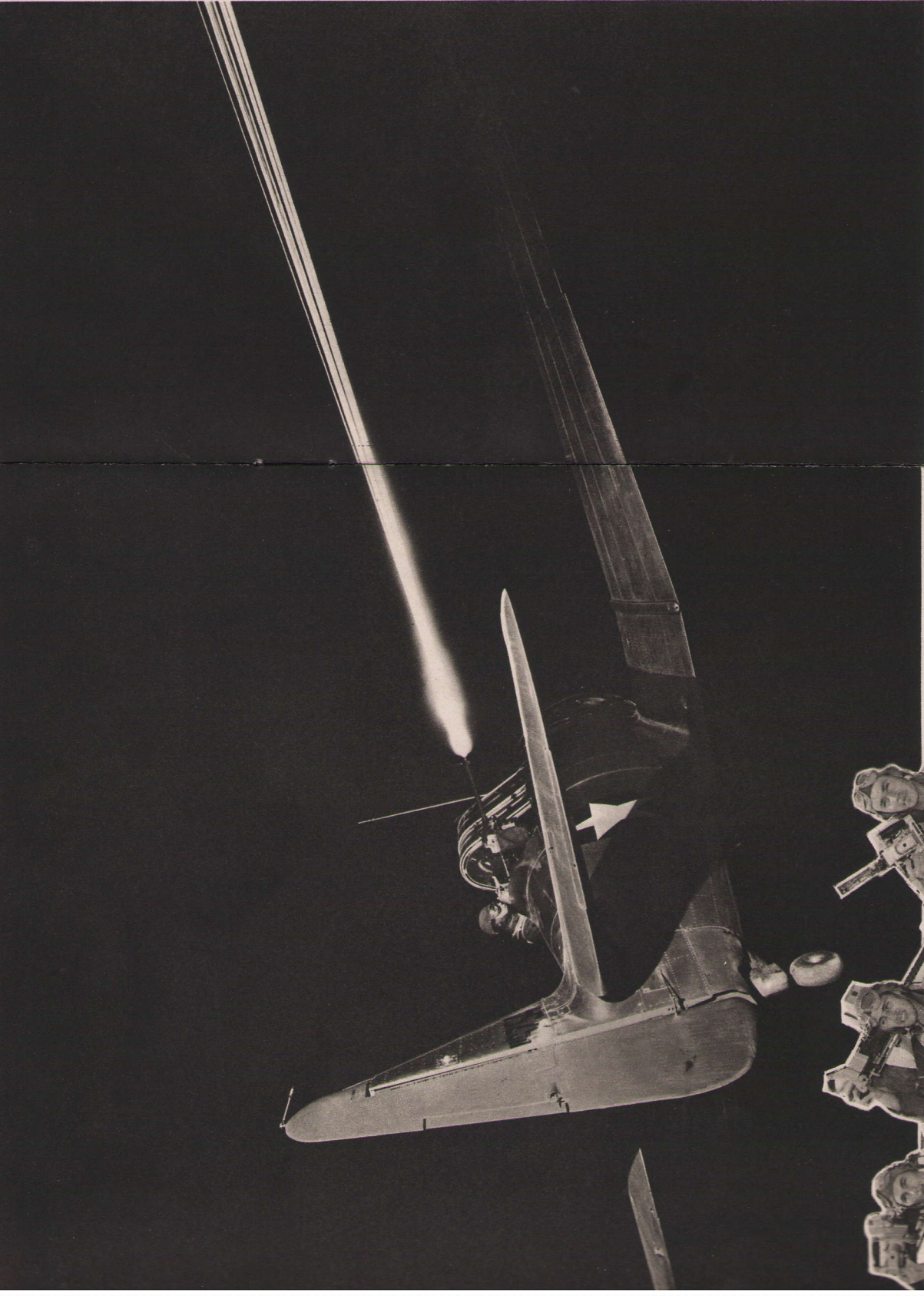
Tracer bullets provide night fireworks.



Getting the target in his sights.

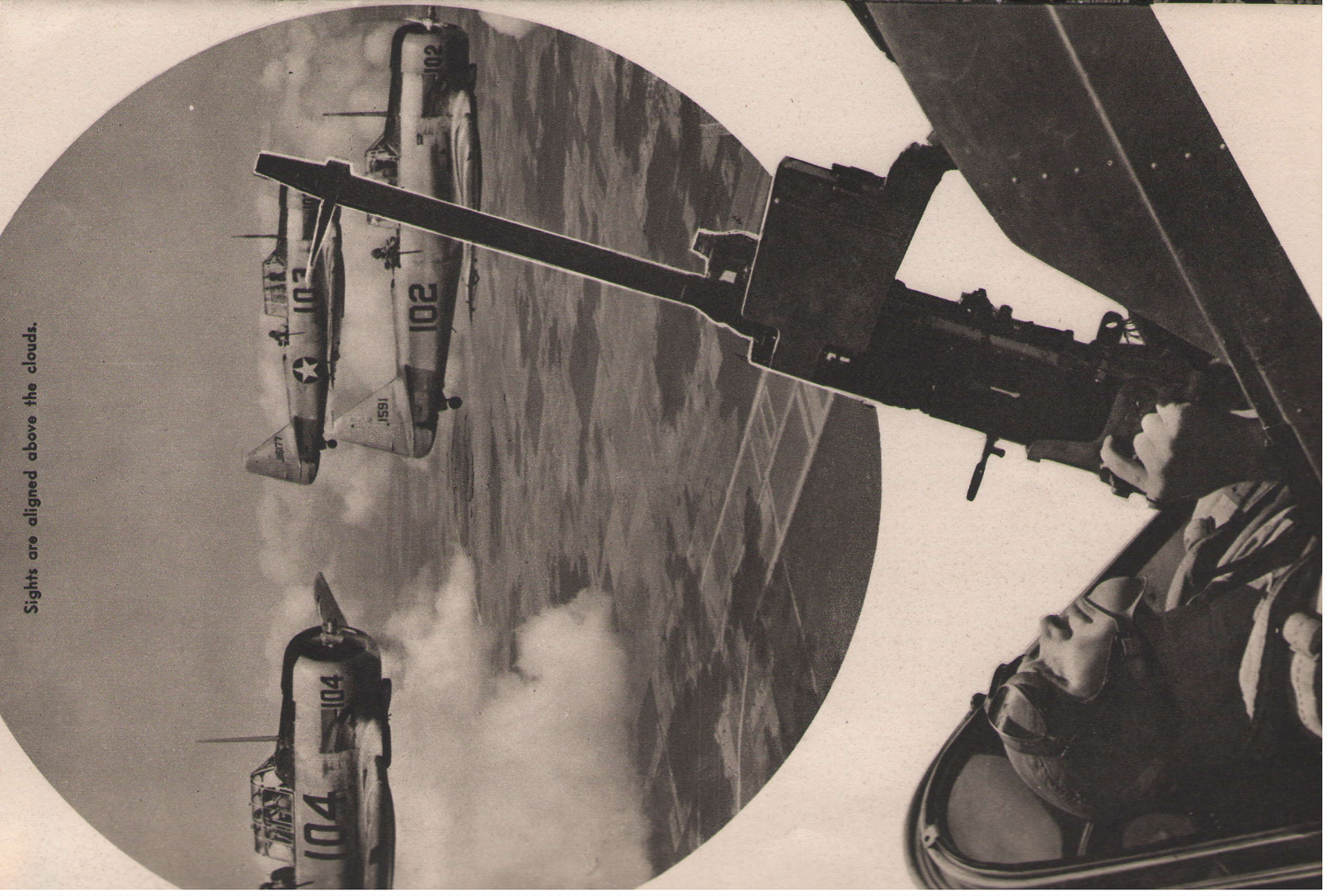


Dealing lead from a training plane.



Back home from the range.

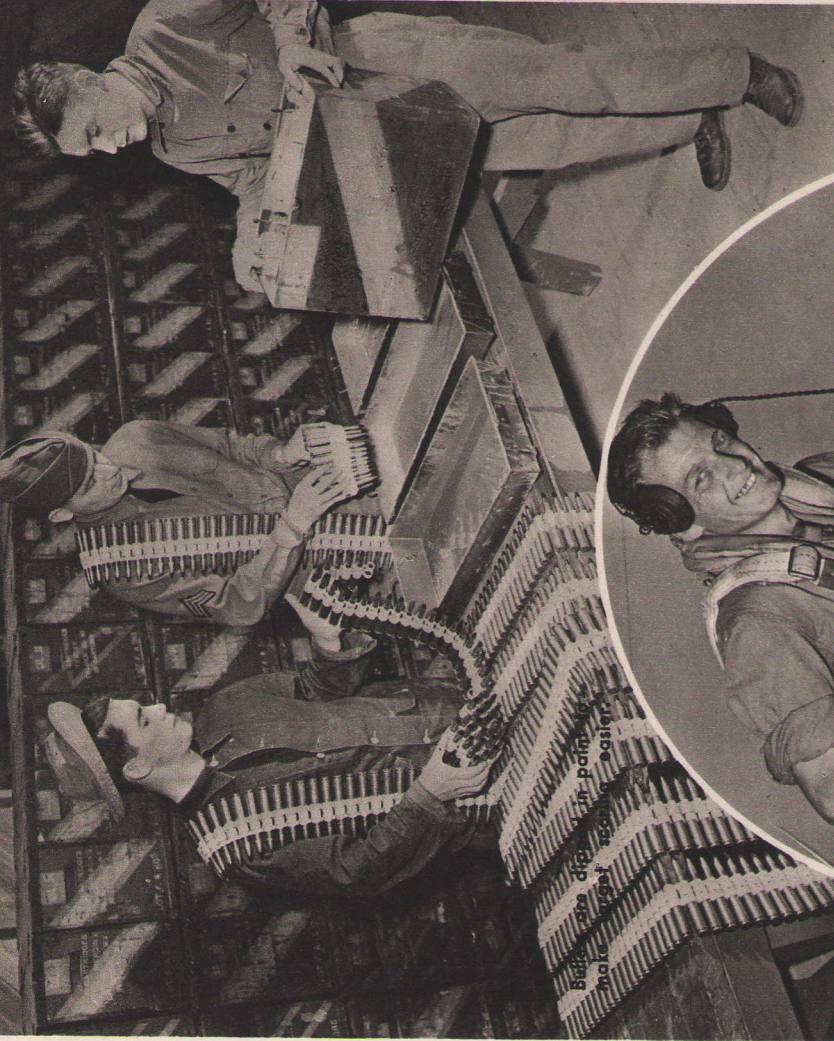




Sights are aligned above the clouds.



Ammunition boxes are filled.



Boxes are filled in pairs to make getting easier.



Tow targets are loaded into a plane.

Gunners preparing to riddle the tow targets.



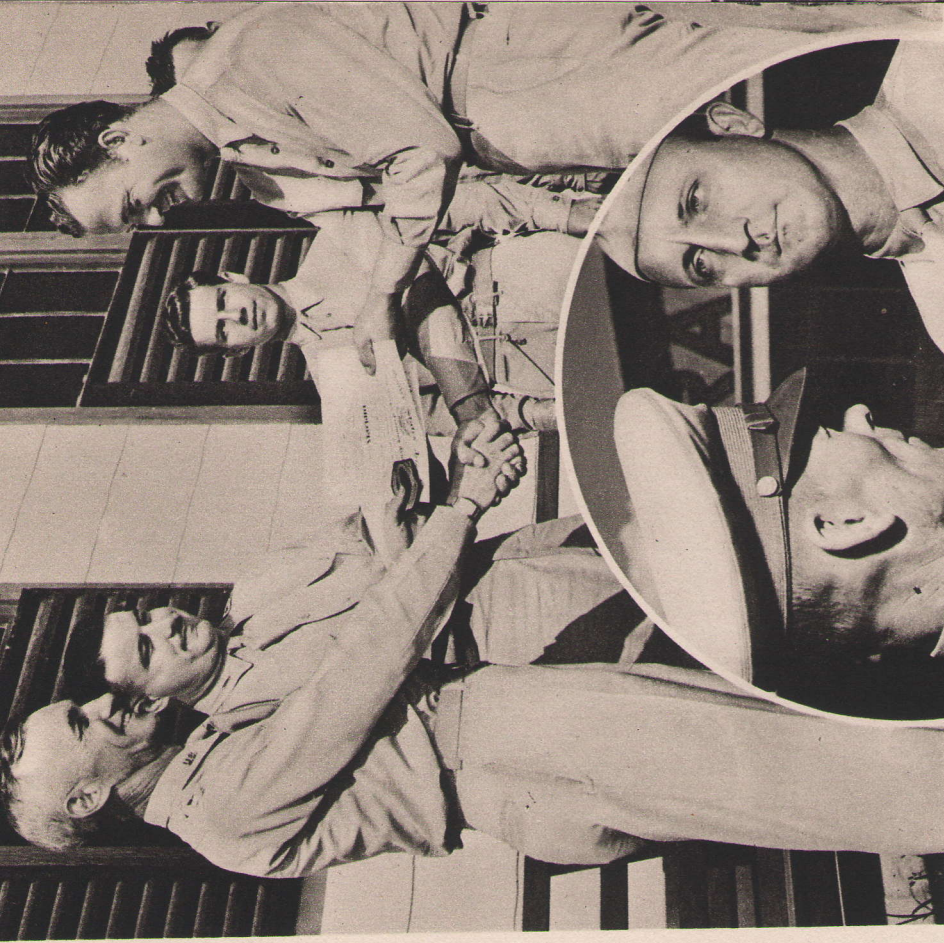


Off to work we go.

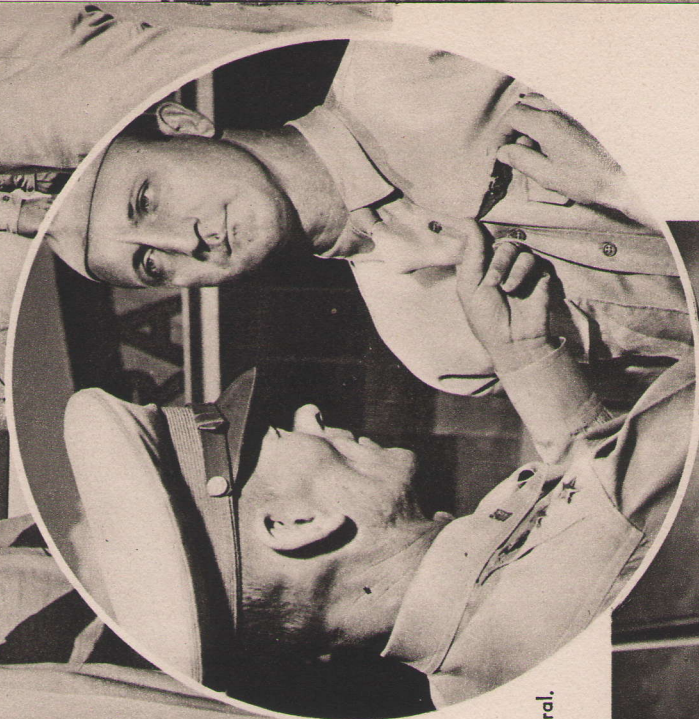


A training plane's wing provides a shady spot.

Tracers create weird patterns of light.



Wings, stripes, diploma—the gunnery student's goal.

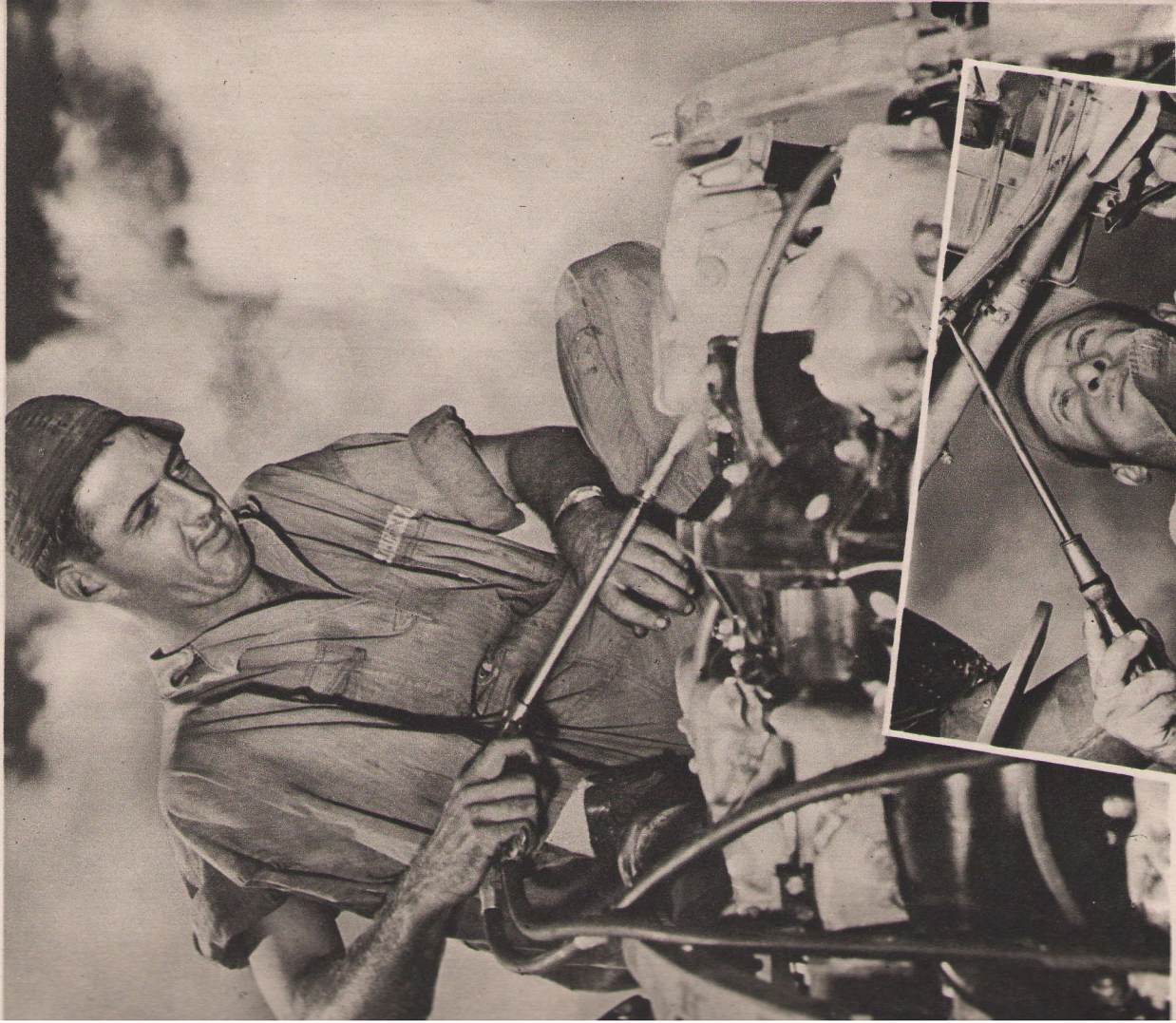


Gunnery Wings from a General.



Gunnery Wings — something to admire.

WE KEEP THEM FLYING



motor on a train-
plane gets a bath.



The "waterline check" man.

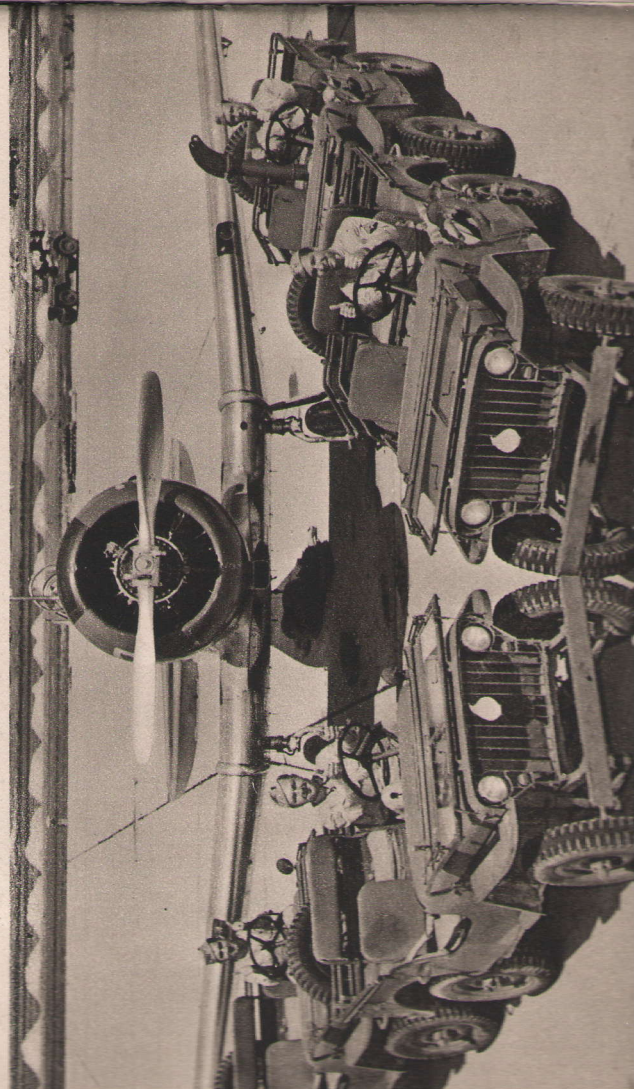
Radios, too, must be kept in condition.





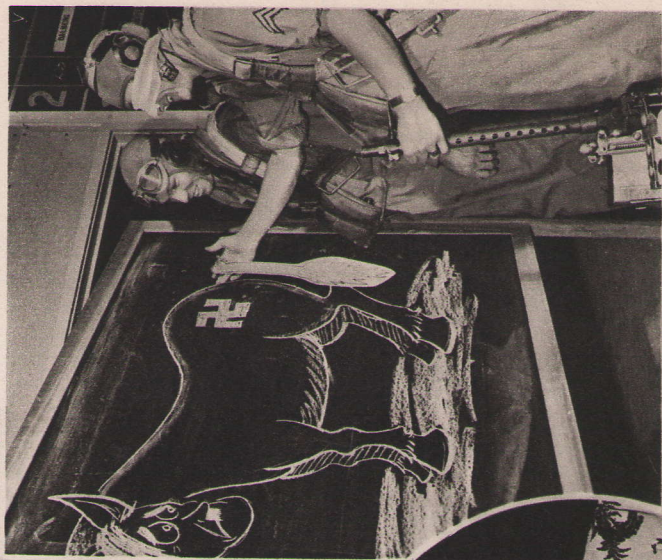
Meet the mechanic—the man who keeps 'em flying.

Jeeps on parade—and a "V" for Victory.



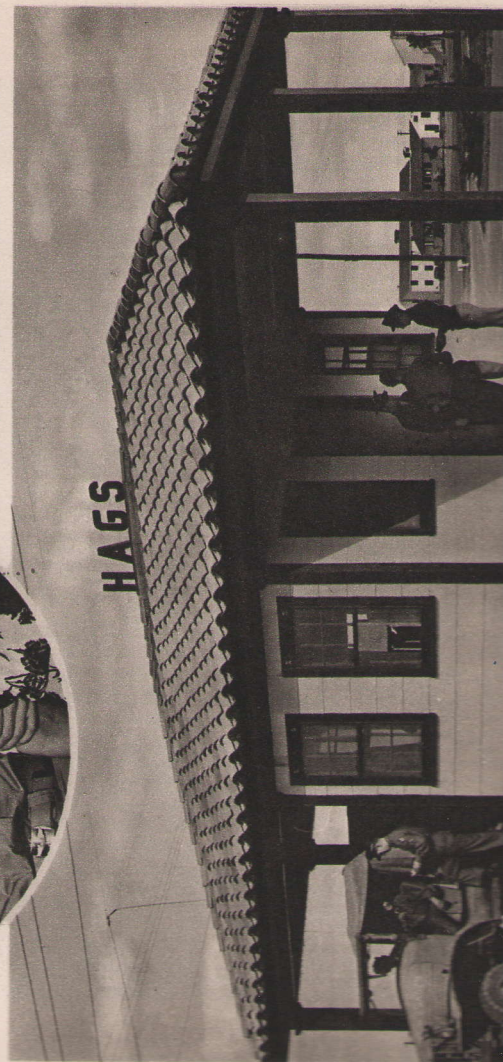
Men who work "upstairs" need heavy clothing.

A bit of horseplay.



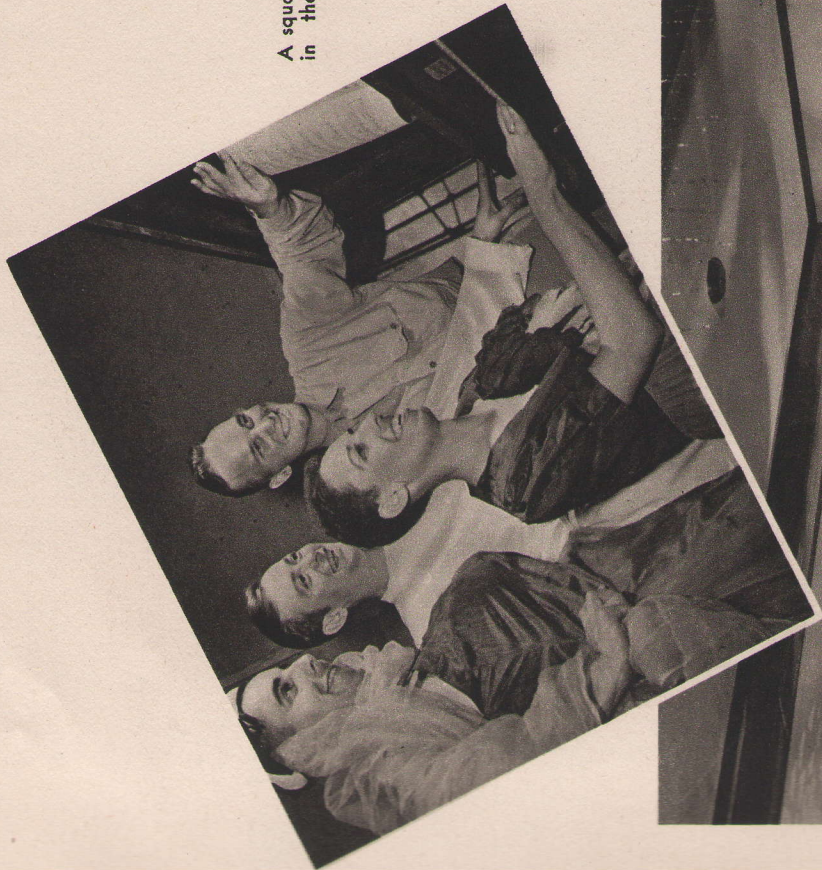
Mother pays a visit.

The main gate to the Harlingen Army Gunnery School.



FUN, FROLICS AND

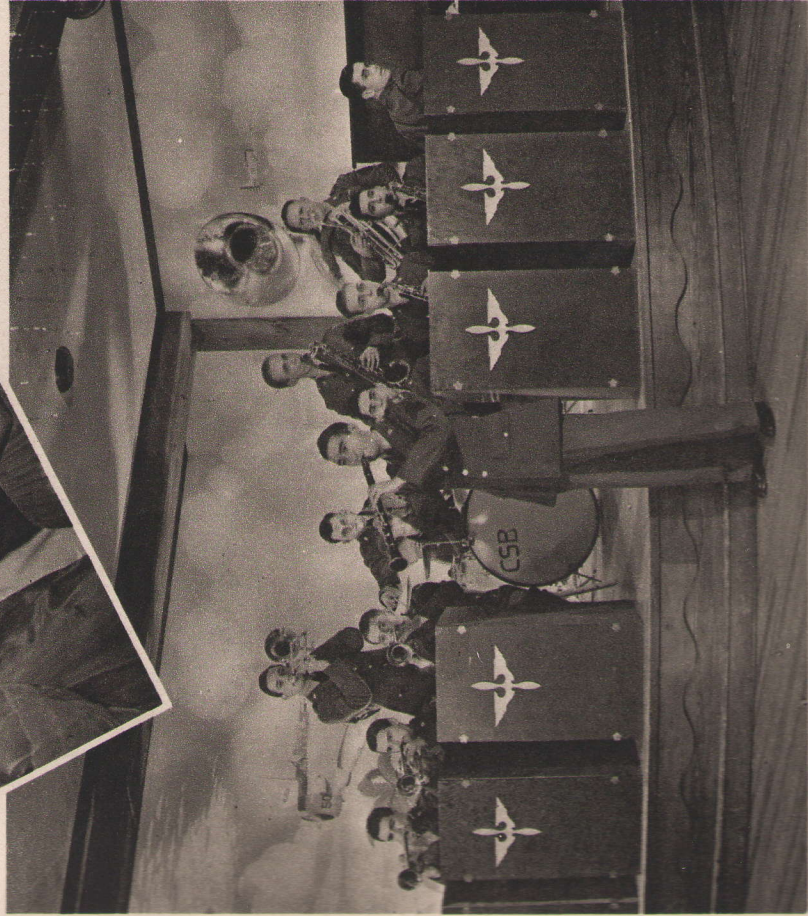
SPORTS AT HAGS



A squadron show
in the making.



Poised for a fast ball
down the middle.



Music for dancing by the Post Orchestra.



The National Anthem at the baseball field.