



We Keep 'Em Flying



OCCUPYING an area of over thirteen hundred acres and representing an investment in excess of twelve million dollars, The Naval Air Technical Training Center near Norman, Oklahoma was commissioned September 20, 1942. The center was built in record time—four and a half months—thereby earning for the contractors the Army-Navy “E” Award. According to figures released from Washington, the full complement of the Training Center will be over sixteen thousand. This figure includes enlisted men and marines as well as a thousand WAVES.

The Training Center may be said to be composed of three separate schools under one command. In the school for Aviation Machinist’s Mates men learn to repair all makes and types of aircraft engines used by our Naval forces. The Metalsmith School instructs men to repair, rebuild, or replace damaged metal parts. The Ordnancemen’s School trains men to repair and maintain aircraft armament of all kinds, large and small. Housed in separate areas by schools, each area has completely equipped dispensaries, adequate mess halls, recreation buildings, ship’s service facilities and regular classroom buildings.

In its training program the Navy spares nothing. The latest type planes are placed at the disposal of the men so that each may know exactly what he will have to do when he goes into the combat zones. The Navy operates on the theory that men trained on obsolete equipment can not be expected to become proficient in repairing the new types of planes which return from battle with motors damaged and wings torn by bullets.

This Navy activity is a modern and self contained city. As such it must provide the hundreds of necessary facilities for efficient operation. Barber shops, shoe repair and laundry collection services are functions of the Ships Service Stores and the four stores are well stocked with all the necessities and



many of the luxuries appealing to the sailor. Here he may enjoy a refreshing drink from the soda fountain or purchase a gift for the girl back home.

The four Recreation Buildings are completely equipped with facilities for a variety of sports. The range is from table games to badminton and basketball. Modern swimming pools are adjacent to each of these buildings. Late motion pictures free to enlisted personnel are shown several times daily.

The Naval Training Center is equipped with a modern and up to date laundry covering an area of almost one city block. Over 100 people work in full eight hour shifts. A spotless bakery with a daily capacity of 22 thousand loaves of bread keeps the men well supplied with the staff of life. Huge warehouses where as much as 150 tons of vegetables are stored at one time give ample evidence that the Navy feeds well.

The Station Auditorium, one of the largest structures of its kind in the state, will seat over six thousand bluejackets. It is used so that the men may enjoy the large traveling shows as well as actively participate in intermural and other physical activities.

The State of Oklahoma is the focal point of a number of naval activities. In the immediate area of Norman there are three additional commands, the Naval Air Station, the U. S. Naval Hospital and the U. S. Naval Air Gunnery School.

Our men in the air, on the ground and on the sea often work under conditions that offer no opportunity for another chance if equipment fails in an emergency. It must be right—always right! To train the finest technicians possible is the purpose of the Naval Air Technical Training Center.



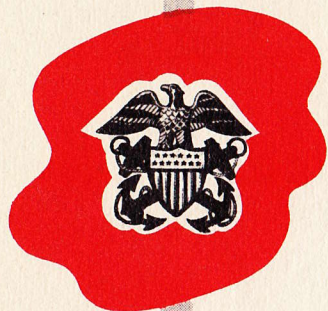
The Commanding Officer

This is a mechanical war. The unprecedented demand for skilled mechanics by the U. S. Navy has led to the establishment of such schools as the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Norman, Oklahoma. Here are being trained the machinist's mates, the ordnancemen, and the metalsmiths who will render such splendid service in keeping our aircraft aloft in fighting condition. Here are being trained many unsung heroes. Here are being trained the men who will render valiant but unspectacular service in the battle zone. Here are being trained the men upon whom the pilot depends for the success of his operations.

We are proud of the station. We are proud of the officers and men who compose its personnel. Out of such stuff wars are won.

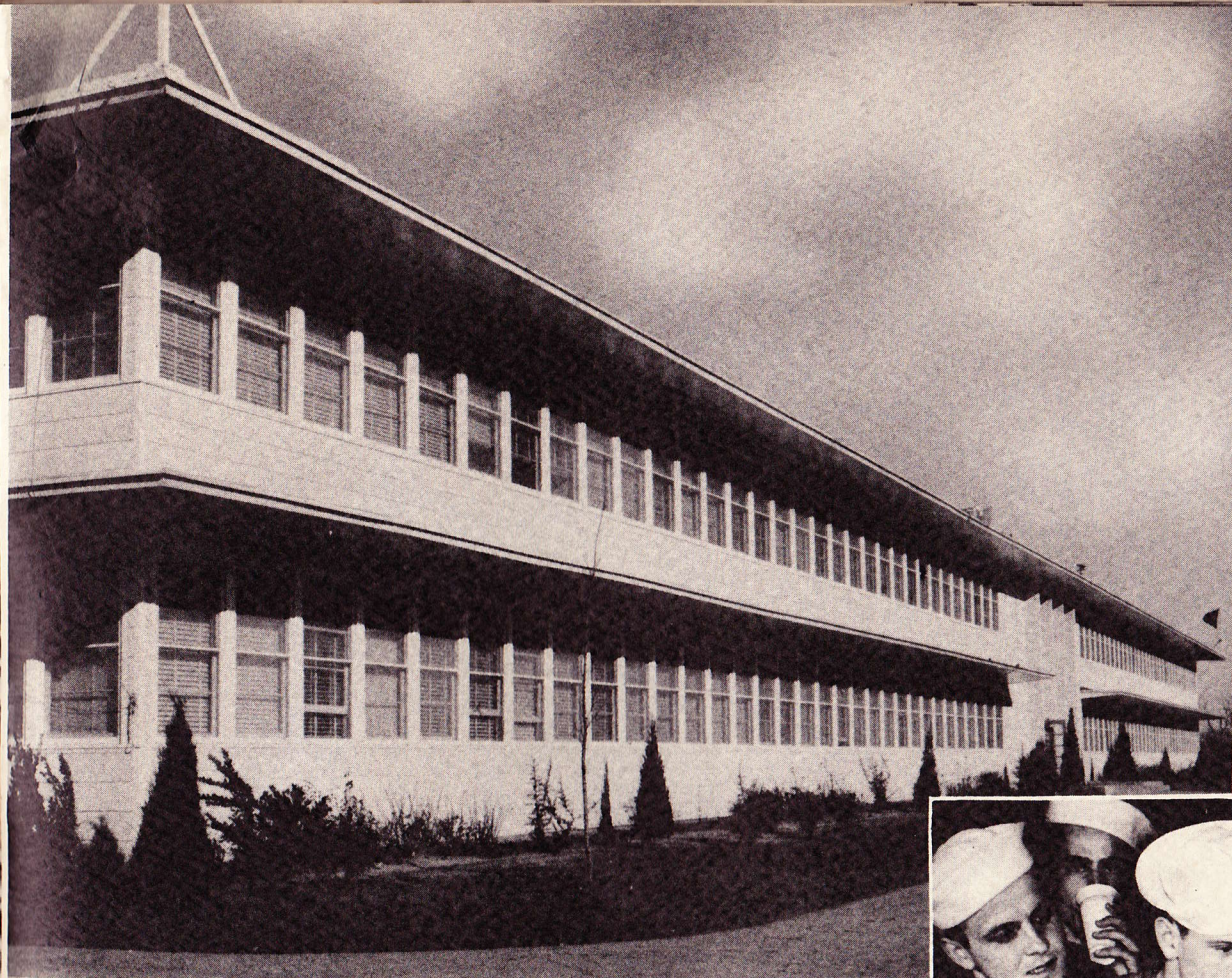
W. Griffin
CAPTAIN, UNITED STATES NAVY





★ **Joined together in a common cause**

LIBERTY, that magic word that means temporary freedom from the stiff studies and chores of the station, an opportunity for recreation and personal affairs. Then there's another liberty, the kind that makes men and women. Sailors, WAVES and marines join arms in the common cause for freedom and the chance to play a vital part in the perpetuation of the liberty we love.



★ **Administration Building**

Majestically modern is this sleek edifice which houses the offices of the Commanding Officer and his competent staff of departmental heads. Here are issued directives governing the training of thousands of students. From morning's "Colors" until evening's sunset this building is a veritable beehive of activity.



★ **Thursday menu**

All hands eagerly anticipate Thursday and their copy of the station weekly, the *Bull Horn*. With a circulation of several thousand, each copy is avidly read for the latest in station scuttlebutt.



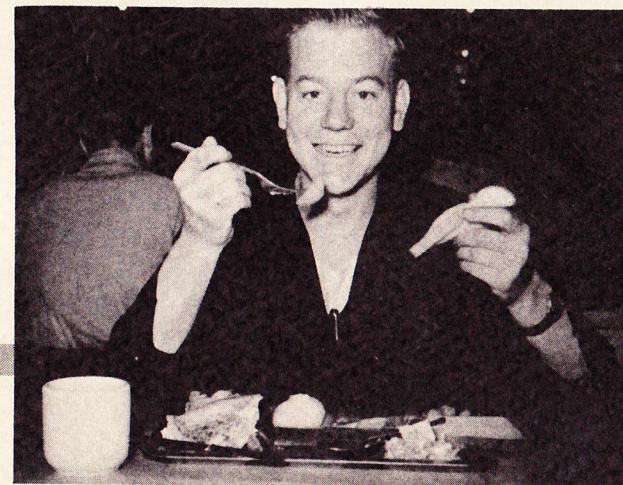
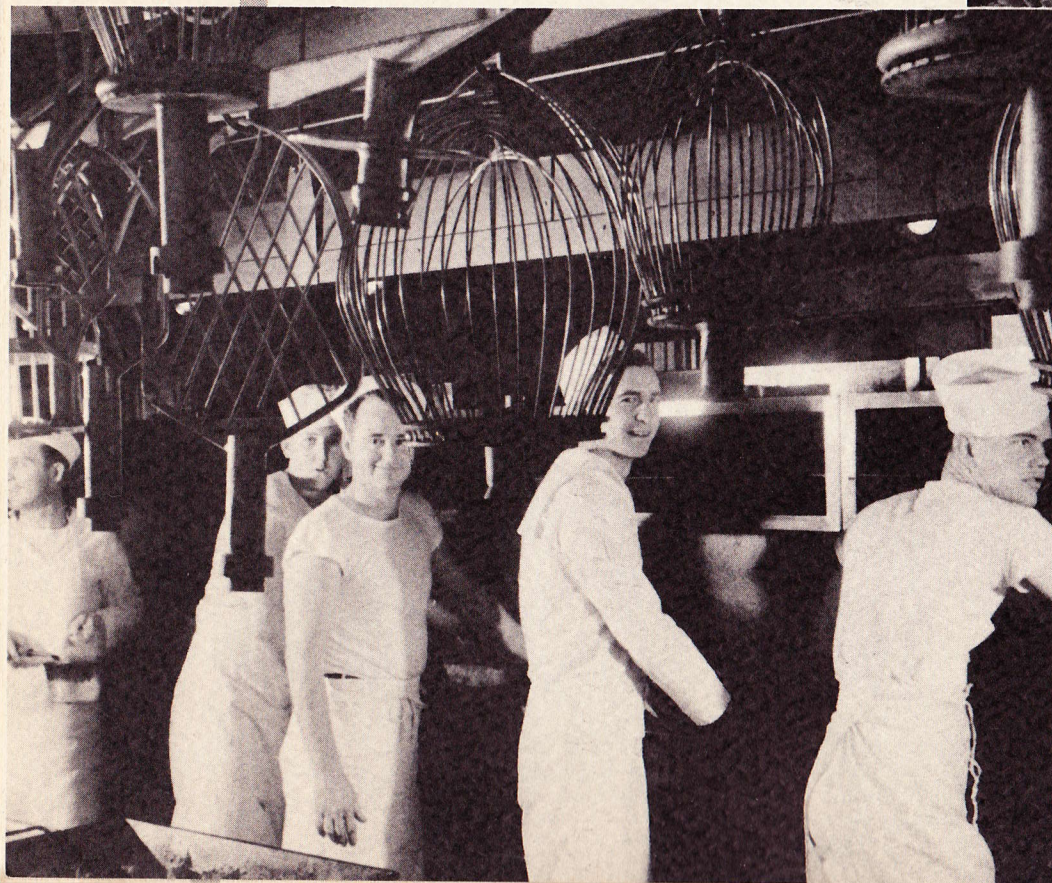
★ **Umm! Umm! Turkey and the trimmin's!**

No special occasion is overlooked by the chefs in preparing the tastiest of meals for the special occasions. This Christmas menu was something to write home about.



★ **They keep 'em frying**

Cooking meat by the tons, potatoes by the carload and baking bread by the thousands of loaves is no small task, but who can work and study on an empty stomach?



★ **Chow!!** The favorite pastime of every man on the station.

★ **Home was never like this**

But who cares? They're doing their part and more too, so that one of these days they can go back home and remember the good old days in Barracks 161.

★ **Time out for love**

And where else is a better meeting place during off-hours than a ship's service store? A snack and a smoke and a little chinmusic with your favorite WAVE.



★ **No points needed here**

Meat from contented cows and lots of it, that's the daily menu for the men at N.A.T.T.C.





★ **Slick up for shore leave**

No phase of military bearing is stressed more than personal hygiene and cleanliness. Clean shaven faces, smart uniforms and neat appearances are **ORDERS** and everyone heeds them.



★ **Oh, how I hate to get up in the morning**

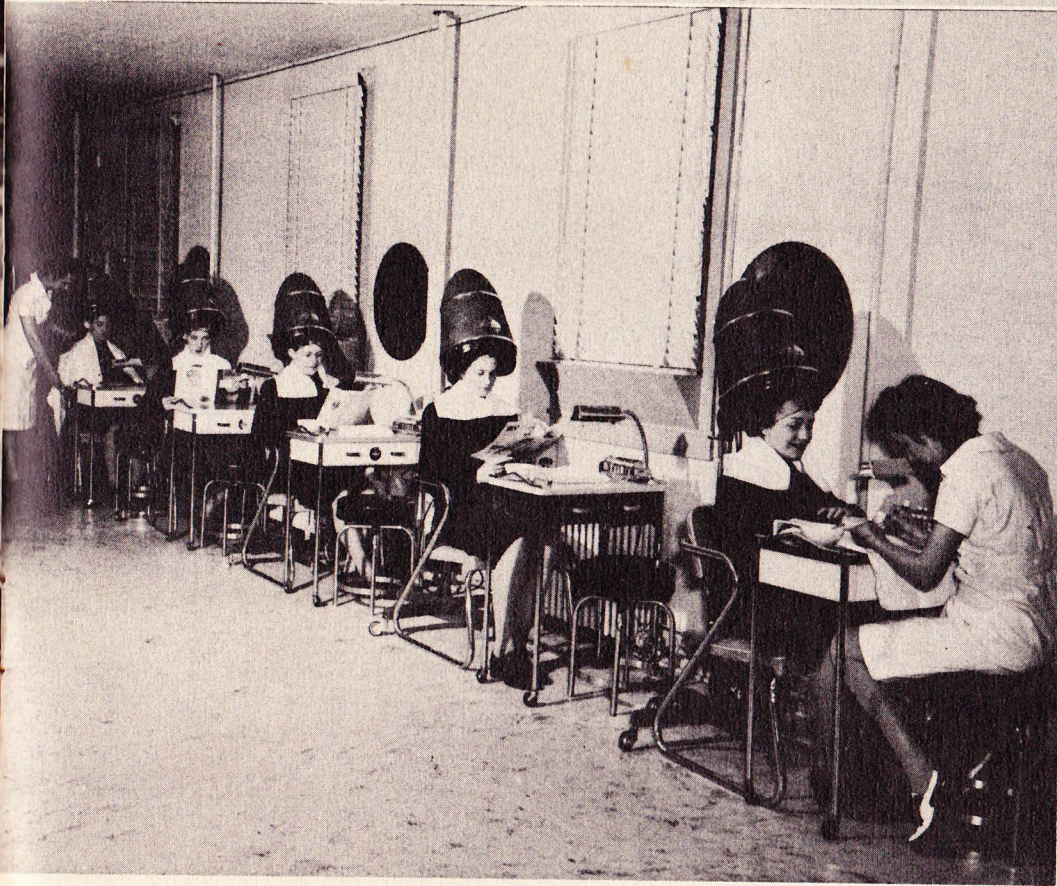
And who doesn't but there's a job to be done and this is the bunch that can do it.





★ **Bargain counter . . . and every one a bargain**

WAVES that would cause any ship to roll. Shopping in their own ship's service store where any girl may find just the shade of lipstick or brand of cold cream desired.



★ **No G. I. haircuts here**

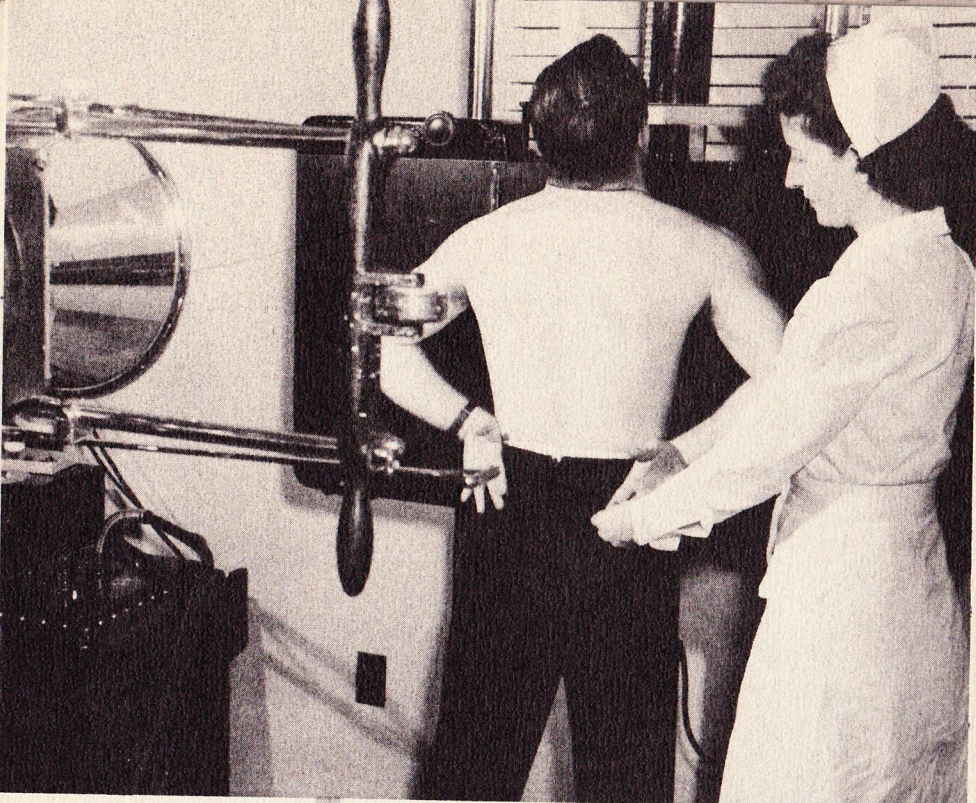
The WAVES at N.A.T.T.C. have one of the most exclusive beauty shops in the world and business is booming in off hours just before liberty.



★ **Captain's inspection Saturday**

All hands bear down on the first Saturday in each month to stand personal inspection by the Captain. Clean uniforms, snappy drill and smart appearances are really in evidence for this occasion.



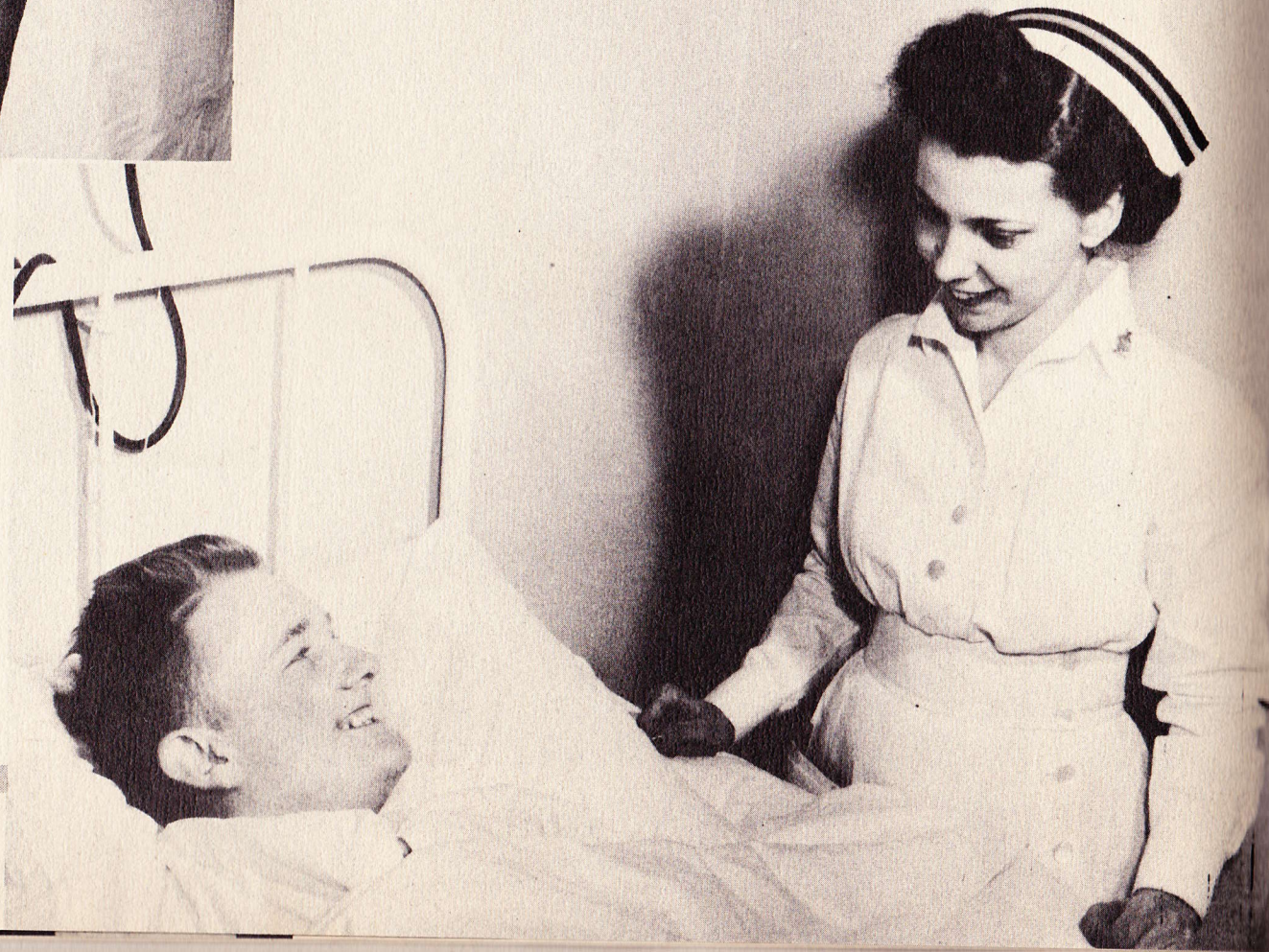


★ **Something to get chesty over**

No group of men could be better cared for from a medical standpoint than these in Norman. Adjacent to the station is the large 600 bed U. S. NAVAL Hospital, well equipped and with a fine array of medical officers.

★ **Say A-h-h-h**

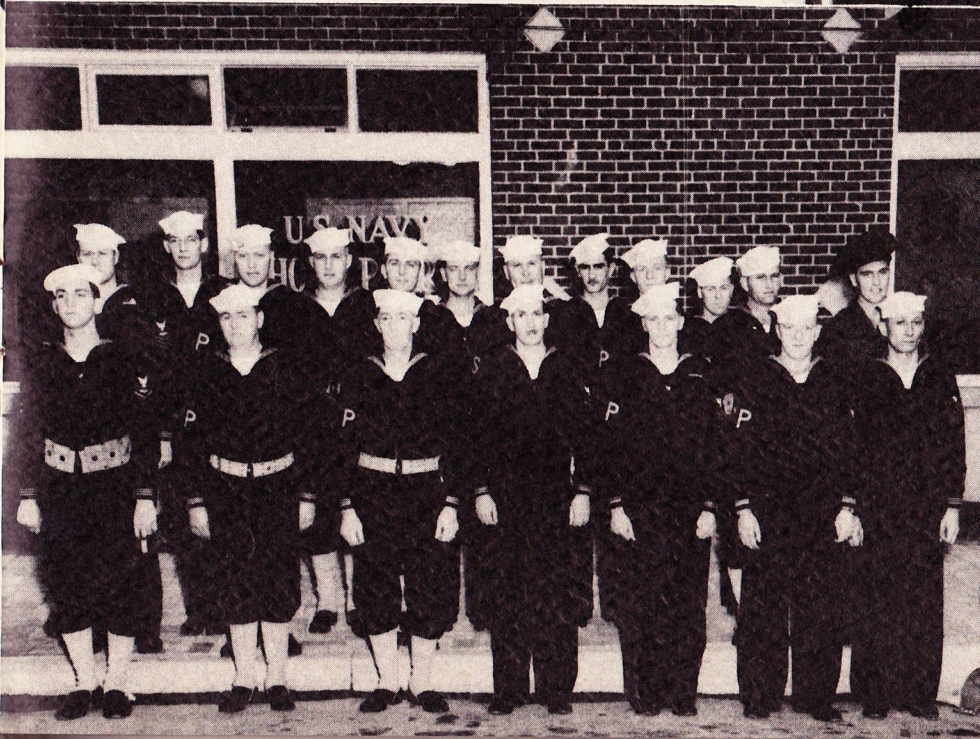
And who wouldn't if they could draw a nurse like this. After all, a few days in sick bay CAN be pleasant.





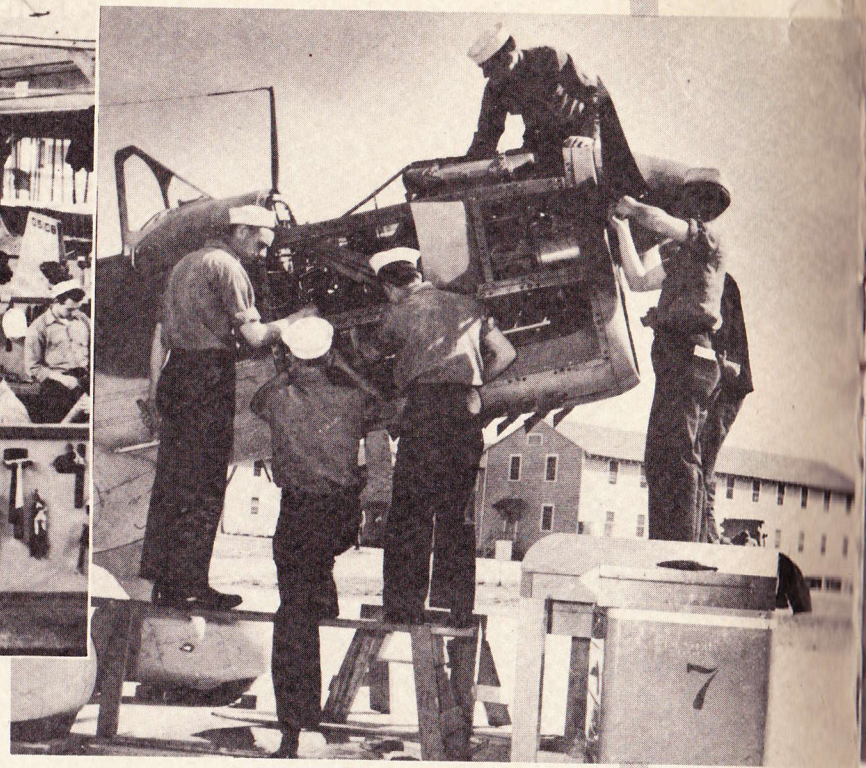
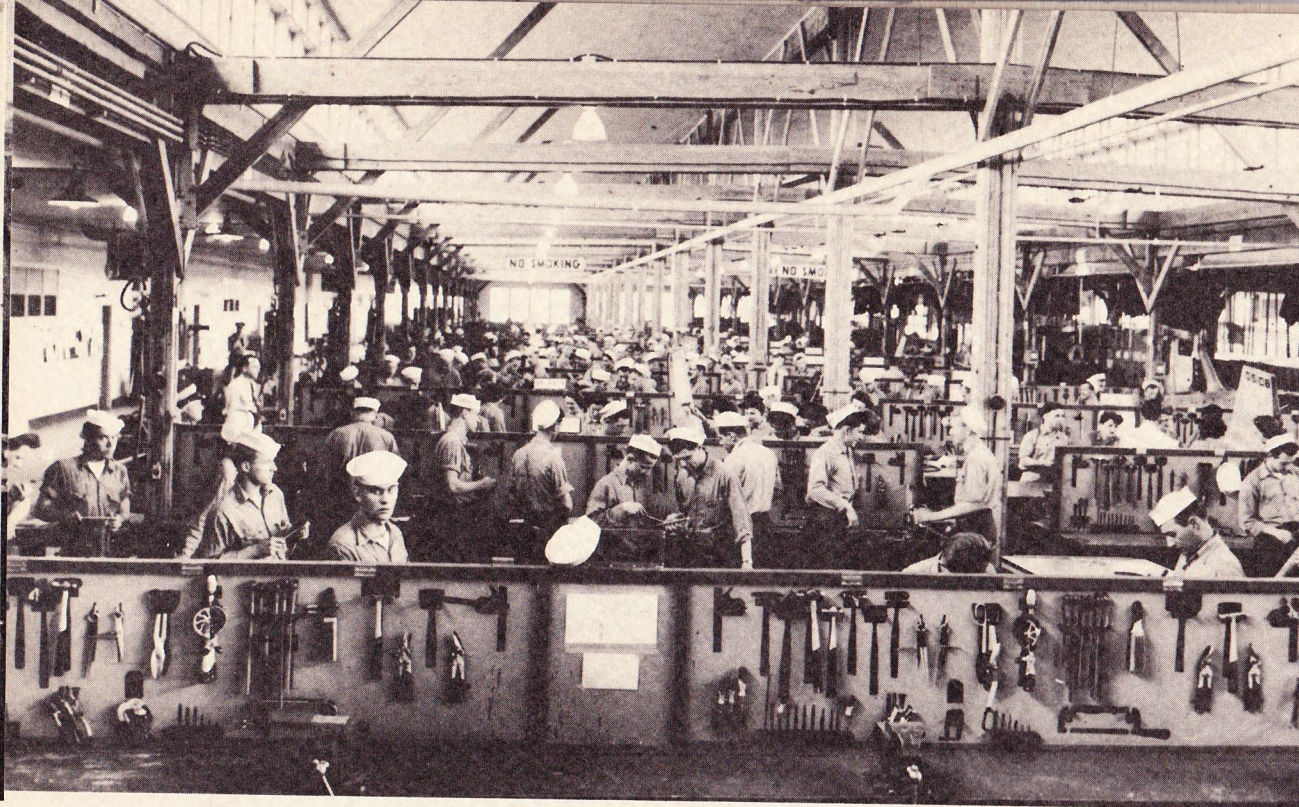
★ **Jiggers, the S. P's**

Probably known by more names than any other branch of the Navy . . . but doing a vital job in maintaining the dignity of the service.



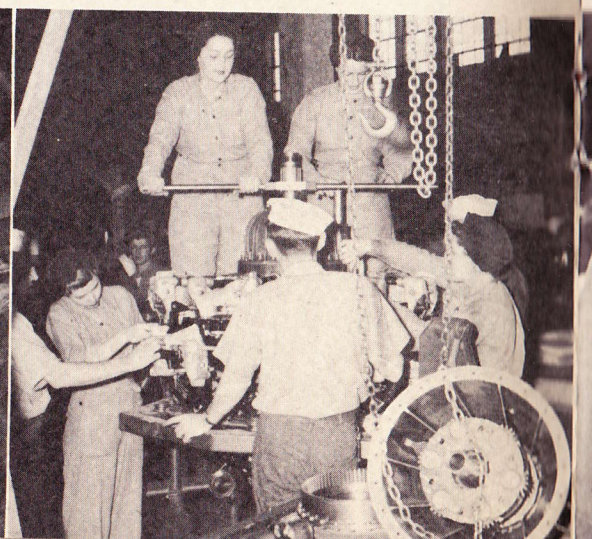
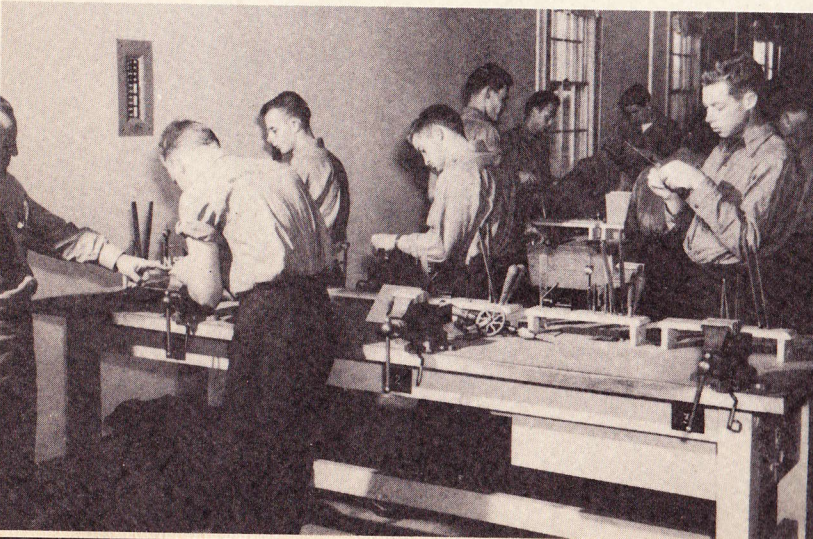
★ **Temporary home for Peck's bad boy**

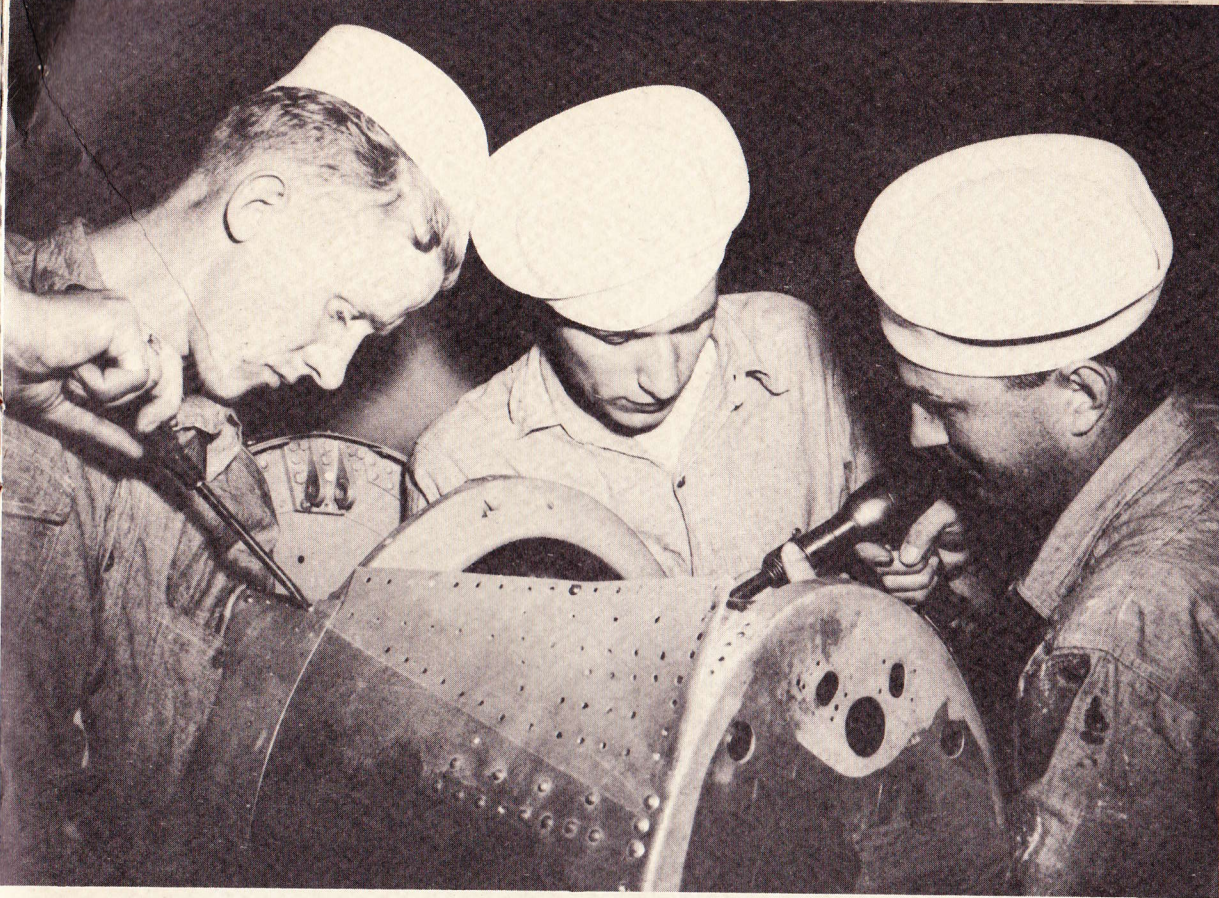




★ **It takes a heap of working on a plane to make it roam**

Dedicating themselves to the difficult task of keeping the planes repaired and in the air are the thousands of students at N.A.T.T.C. Sailors, marines and WAVES alike work long hours, and study into the wee hours learning every phase of how to "Keep 'em Flying."

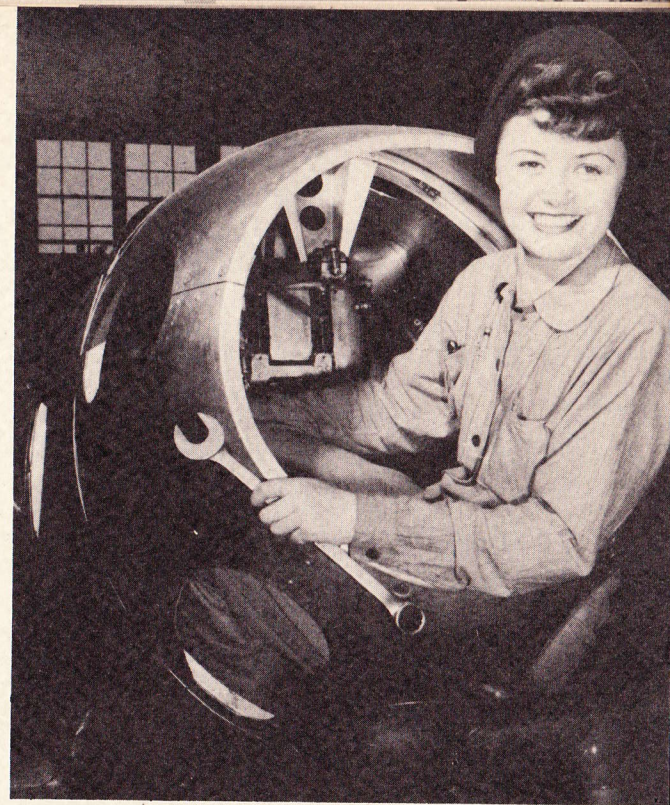




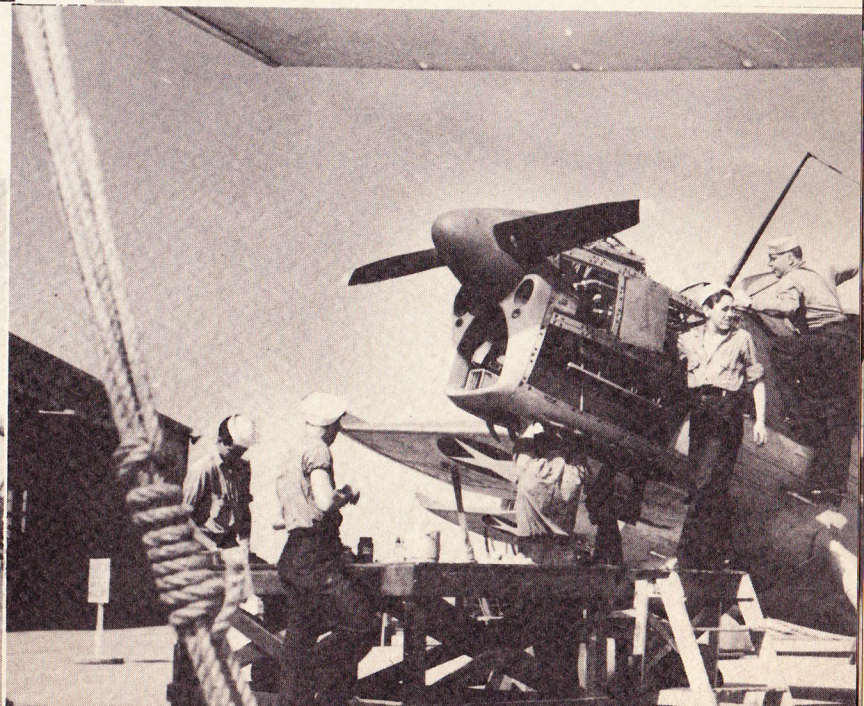
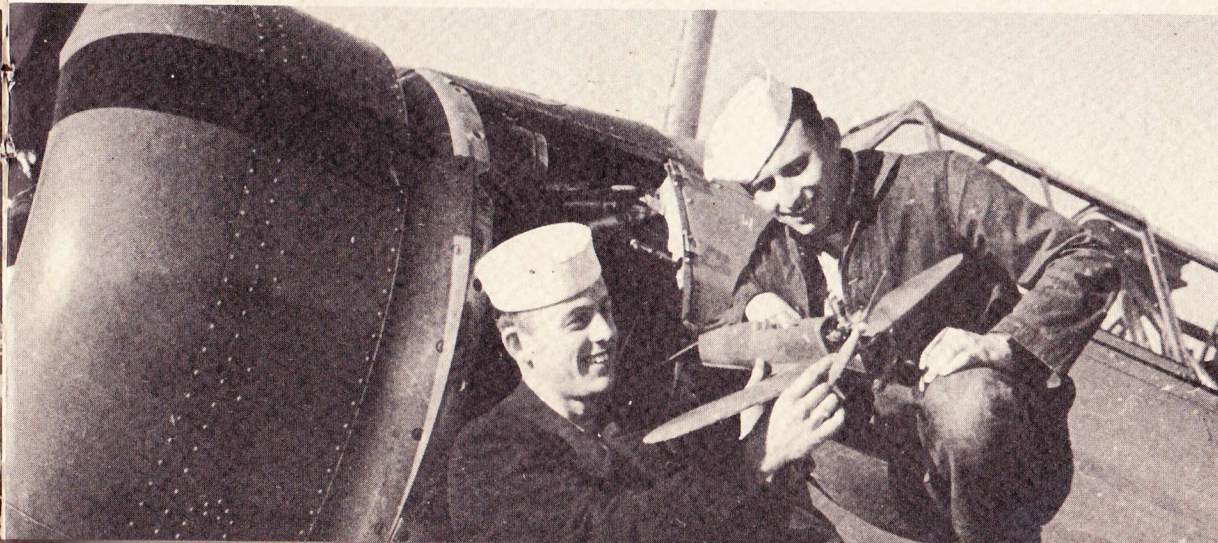
★ Earn while you learn

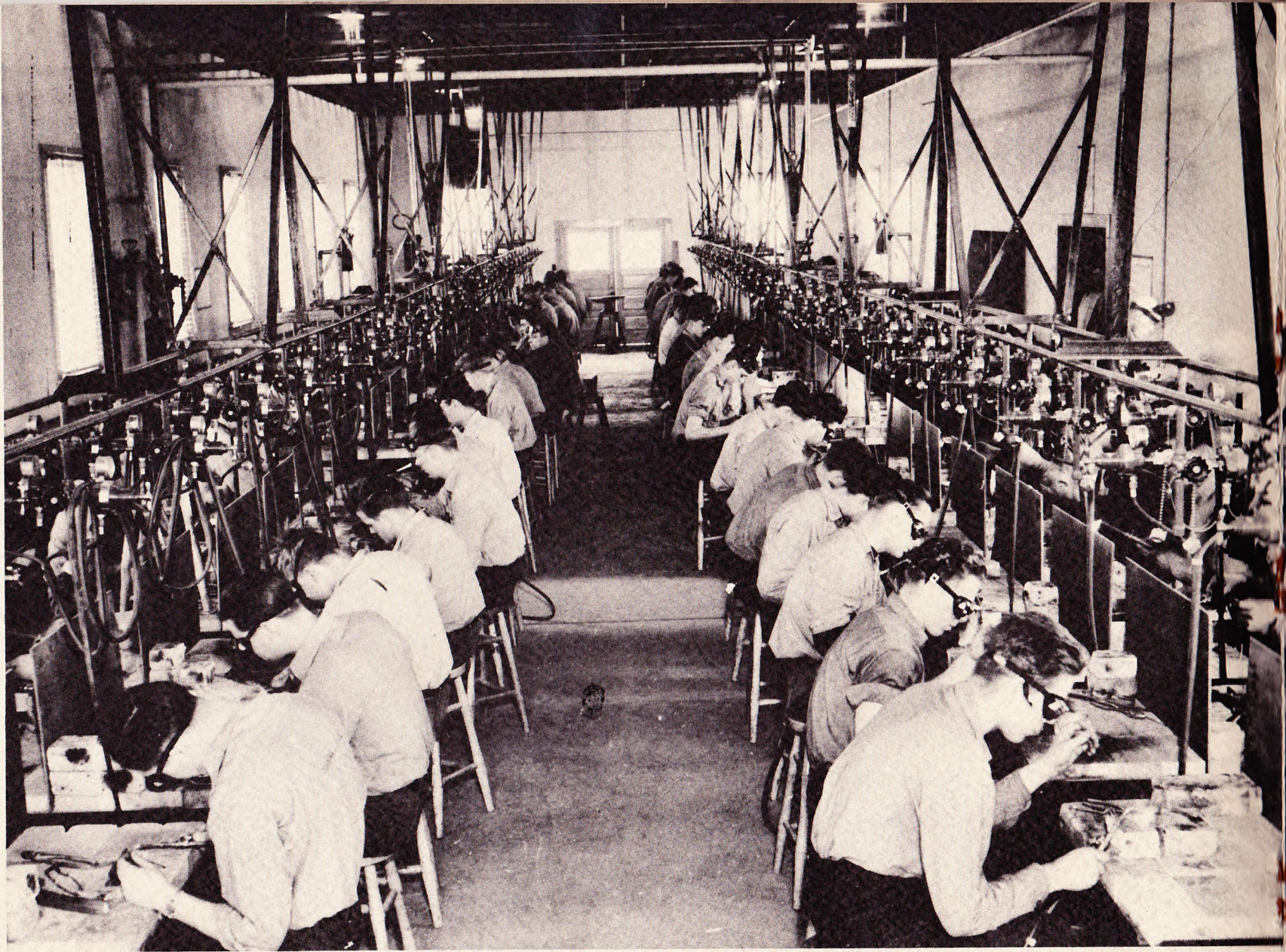
★ Almost right...isn't enough

★ Or a reasonable facsimile



★ Hey sailor! Keep your mind on your work.





★ **Hey, mate, don't blow some my way**

The finest courses with the finest equipment for the finest men in the world, and no course is more important than that in welding. Here in this gigantic room, students learn the intricacies of a straight "bead".

★ **Things look different on the inside**

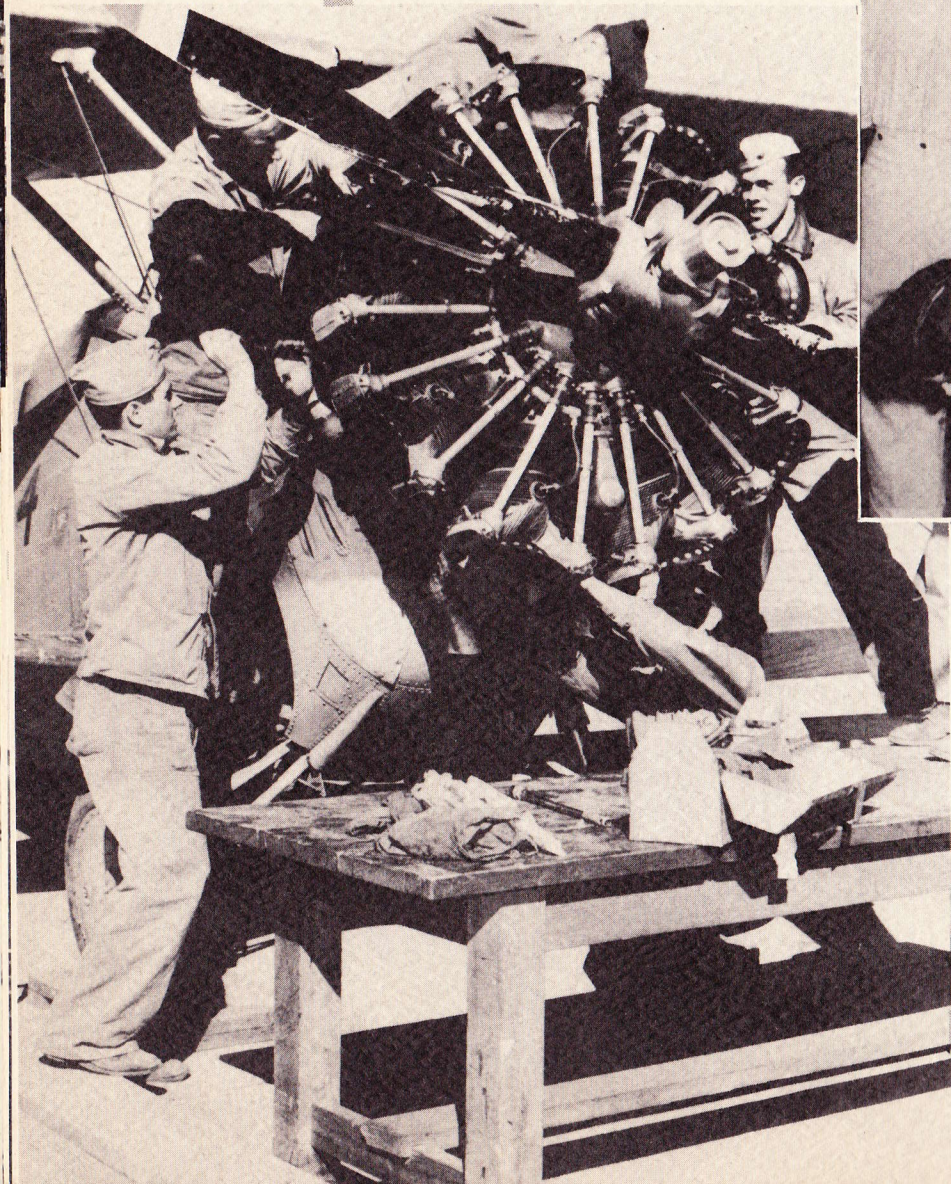
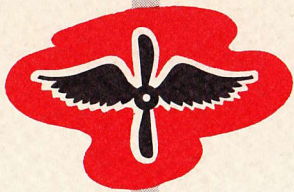
More ribs than Adam had are to be found in this fuselage which the boys are learning to patch up.



★ **Carrying the torch**



★ **Pride of the Navyators . . . The PBY Catalina.**
Did you ever see a dream flying? This one has Tojo in nightmares.



★ **Nuts with bolts . . .**

And lots of them. Complicated motors, but duck soup to these leathernecks after a few months in mech school.



★ **Ordnanceman's strip tease**

Stripping down a .30 or .50 calibre gun is all in the day's work for the men in Ordnance School. After a few short weeks they are as familiar with these intricate guns as a baby is with his rattle.

★ **You ain't seen nothing yet!** But you're a real ordnanceman when you can put this together blindfolded . . . and in three minutes.



★ **A twist of the wrist** and that Tommy Gun is ready to start spitting lead.



★ **All hands abandon ship**

Taking to the landing nets will be nothing new to these lads at N.A.T.T.C. when "abandon ship" drill is sounded. They do it here every day as part of their extensive physical fitness program.



★ **Dive bomber**

They fly through the air with the greatest of ease on the trampolines. Some fun, eh Mate?



★ **Commando tactics**

★ **Birds without feathers**

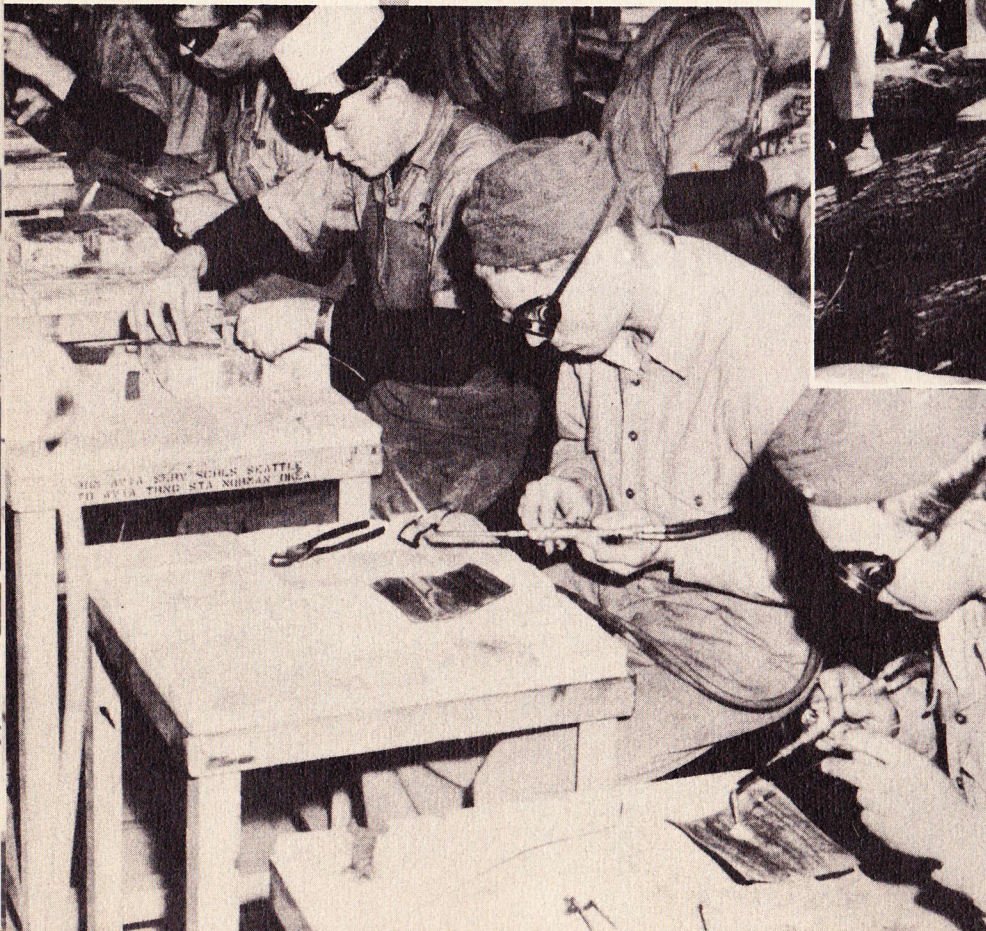


★ **How to shake hands with a Jap**

★ **Pull! . . . Mark!**

★ **Tough as a boot . . . rough as a cob**

That's what the leathernecks are when they complete their training at N.A.T.T.C. Here they are put in tip-top shape physically and mentally for the hard tasks ahead.



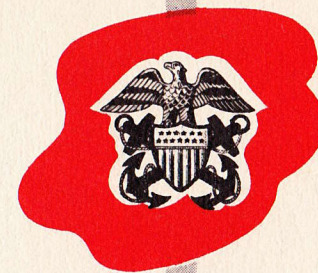
★ **Marines study, too.**



★ **Getting ready for a warm reception**



★ Up and over.



★ **Taskmasters**

Capable men are trained by capable leaders . . . The marine detachment at N.A.T.T.C. can boast of as fine a group of officers as there is in the service.





★ **Good knot tying gets fancy jobs**

Star-studded USO Camp shows are regular features at the station and the traveling chorus cuties fill the hall.



★ **No room to shag here**

A common sight every Friday night in the big auditorium, thousands of sailors, their girl friends and WAVES dancing to the scintillating tunes of a favorite station band.





★ Sweetheart of N.A.T.T.C.

★ Eager ears

Await every performer in the mammoth station auditorium. No audience is more appreciative than that found weekly in the great oaken hall.



★ The eagle screams!



★ Taking it easy.



★ **Divine services**

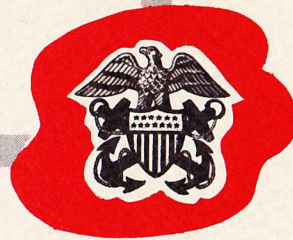
Every religious denomination has ample opportunity to worship. Station Chaplains are ever ready to lend a helping hand to the boys in need.





★ **The Oval of O. U.**

Most of the sailors have found the campus of the University of Oklahoma a suitable one for extra-curricular activities . . . and especially is this so of the famous OVAL.



★ **Norman's great white way**

Not a one-horse town, but definitely a one-street town and what a street!



★ **Steinbeck was wrong.**

This is a metropolis, Oklahoma City and just 18 miles from the station.



★ **Sorry honey, I've got the duty tonight**

Horses, like sailors, stand their regular watches. Attached to the guard unit, they are used daily in patrolling the fences.

★ **You can't make snow men in California**

Will Rogers classic remark "if you don't like Oklahoma's weather, just wait five minutes" the sailors have found to be true. Snow in the springtime was a new sight to many.

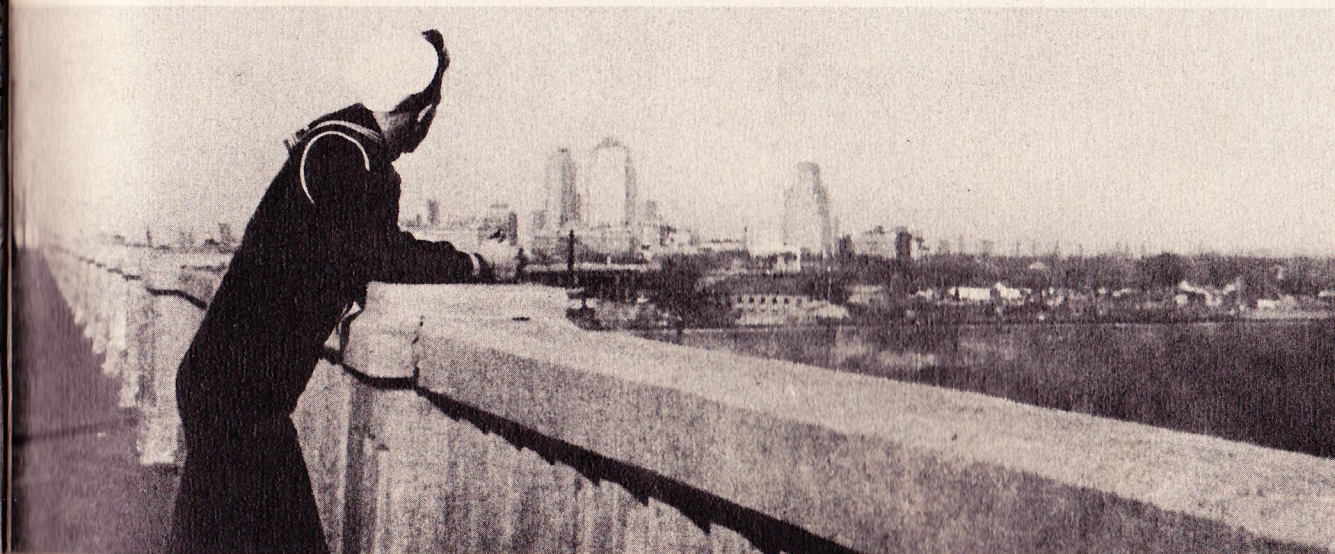


★ **First to the fire is the fire department's canine mascot.**



★ **Who said Oklahoma City was a cow town?**

Boasting one of the richest oil fields in the world right in the city limits, the "City", as it is affectionately called, is the capital of Oklahoma and home of one of the greatest air depots in the world.

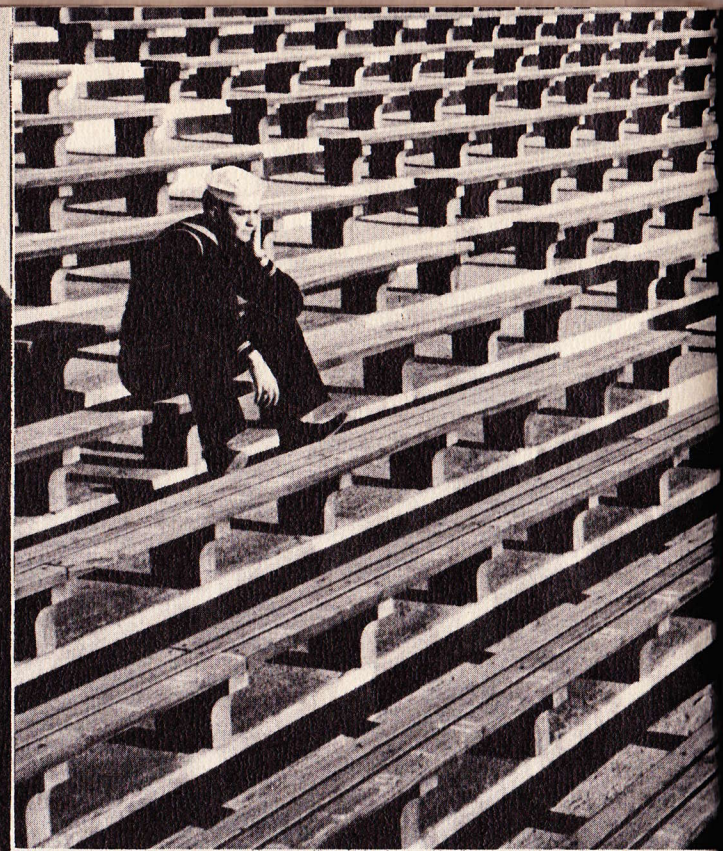


★

DAISY



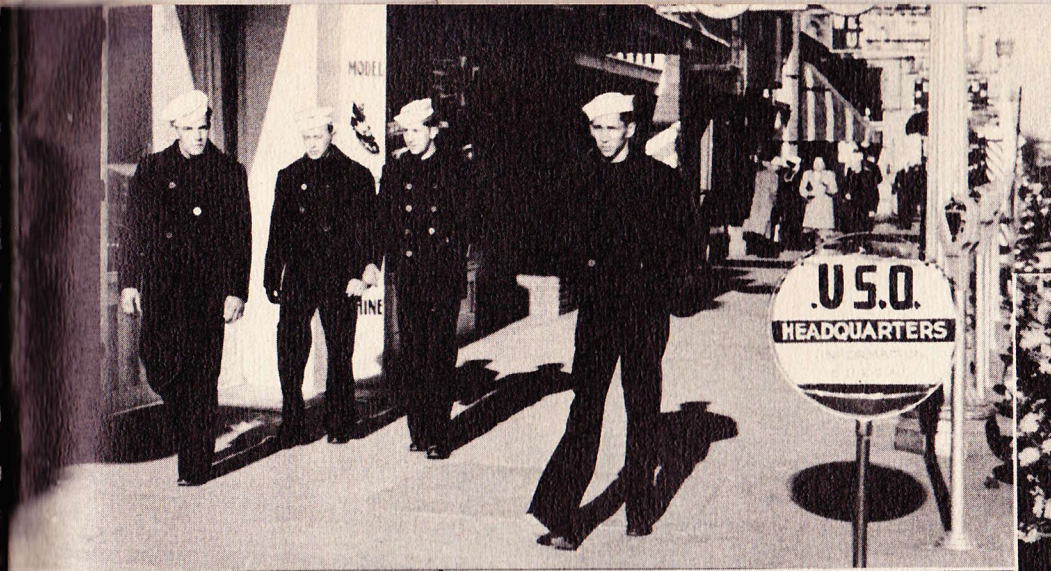
MAE



★ Oklahoma Task Force



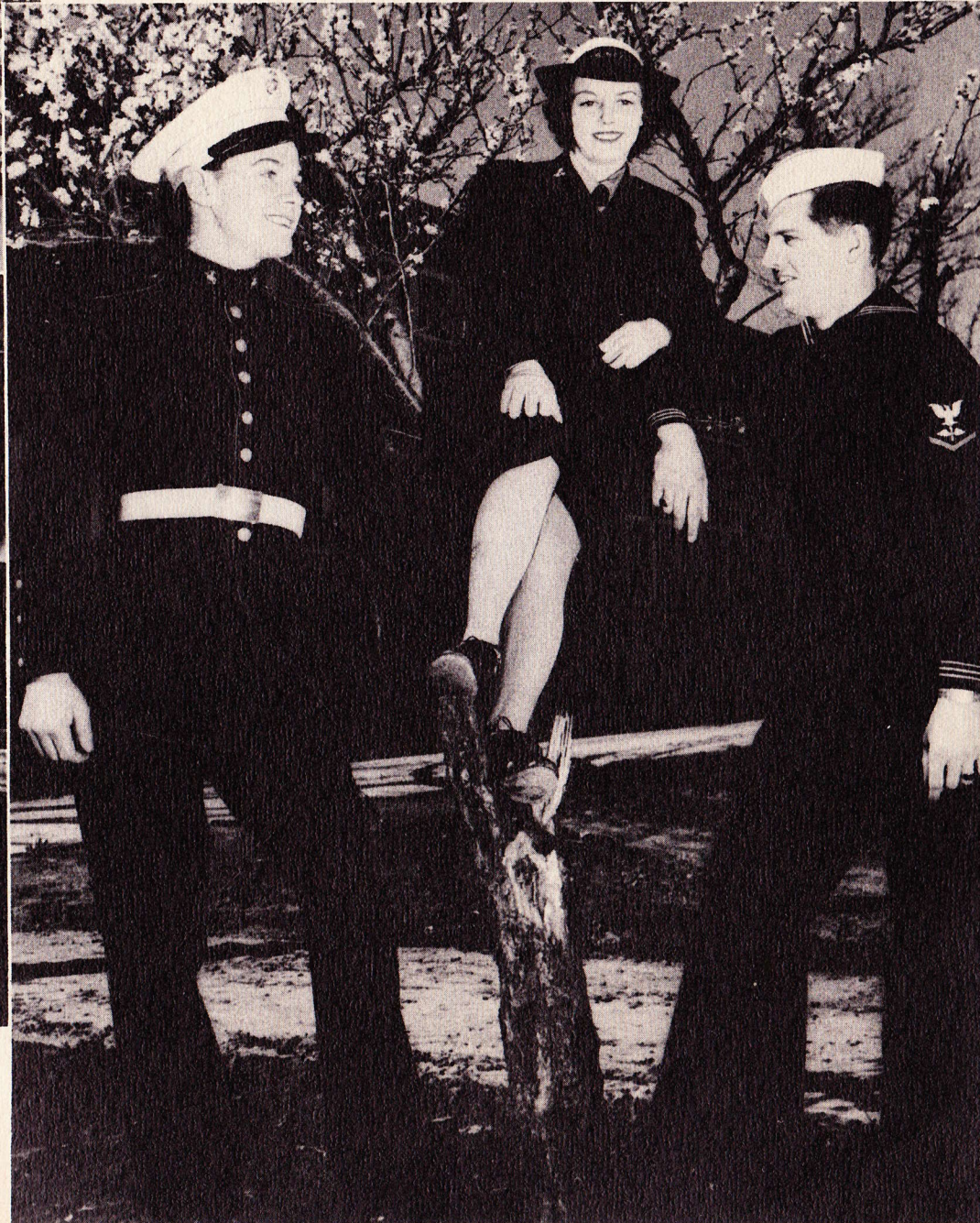
★ Dog Patch, here I come!



★ **Boulevardiers**

★ **Three's a crowd here**

Springtime is blossom time at the station and young romances do blossom into full bloom in a remarkably short time. But the competition is terrific.



★ **The Juke Box Jive**

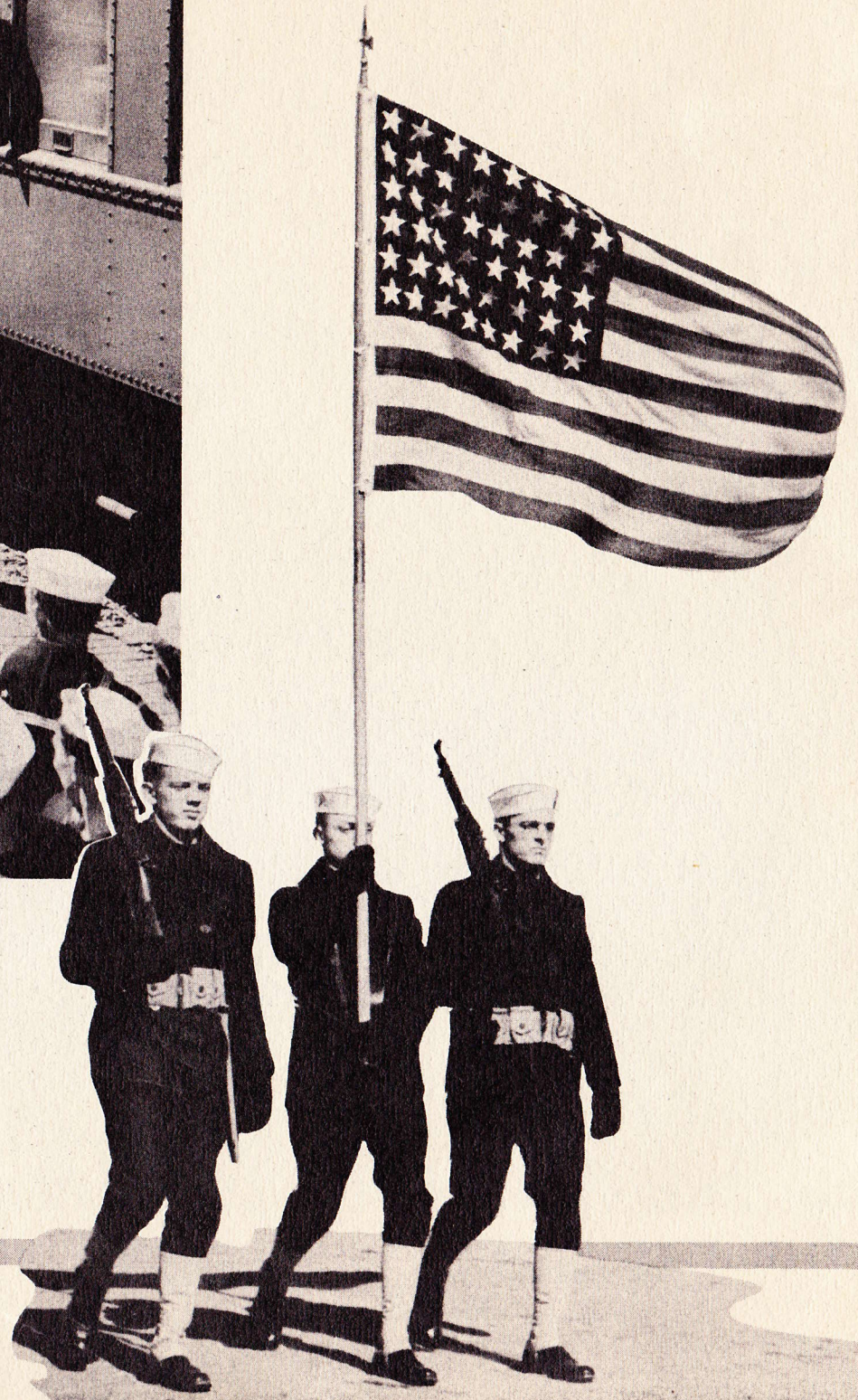
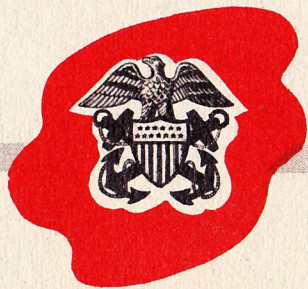
Mechanics, metalsmiths and ordnancemen are also apt pupils of the light fantastic.





★ **Shipping out**

Highlight in every student's life is the time he can graduate, sew on his new rating, fill up his duffel bag and bid adios to Norman, for there are new fields to conquer and work to be done.



Love
Harold

