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Fourth Antiaircraft Command Brigadere
Pictorial Edition, August 1945



★ THE FOURTH ANTIAIRCRAFT COMMAND BRIGADERE ★

FOURTH ANTIAIRCRAFT COMMAND



PICTORIAL EDITION OF THE BRIGADERE • AUGUST 1945

FOREWORD: No pretense is made on these pages to present a chronological history of the 4th AA Command. Rather, it is a pictorial presentation of life within the Command. Photographs are from the files of the Brigadere and are of necessity limited to the existence of the Brigadere as the official newspaper of the 37th AAA Brigade (December 1943—April 1945) and the period in which the Brigadere represented the entire 4th AA Command (April 1945—June 1945).

Although most of the photographs are from the southern California area of the 4th AA Command, the activities pictured are as much a part of the complex life of antiaircraft troops in San Francisco as in San Diego, of Seattle as of Los Angeles. Maneuvers photographed at Muroc were repeated at Yakima, Estrella, Irwin.

Condensed into these pages is a record of the training, living conditions, pleasures, duties and missions of all who served in the 4th AA Command during World War II from Seattle, Washington, to San Diego, California. Localities, names and dates are secondary to events, for the events occurred interchangeably in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego. Only personnel, organizations and time changed.

The 4th AA Command was organized in December, 1941. Its mission was to provide antiaircraft protection for the vital war industries in and around Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. The defense was coordinated with that of the 4th Interceptor Command to produce complete air and antiaircraft protection. Later the Los Angeles Fighter Wing replaced the 4th Interceptor Command, which became the Headquarters of the Fourth Air Force to which the 4th AA Command was assigned in May, 1944. Further coordination with troops of the 4th Army and the Western Defense Command as well as with the Naval District produced a combined defense against attack from air, sea and land.

In addition to its defense mission, the 4th AA Command was charged with training units and individuals for overseas service and with furnishing AAA cadres in the activation of new units.

Extensive on-site training produced an effective defense against attack of initial areas while off-site training in mobile defense and combined training with the Fourth Air Force produced units and individuals which have proved in action overseas the soundness of their preparation by the 4th AA Command.

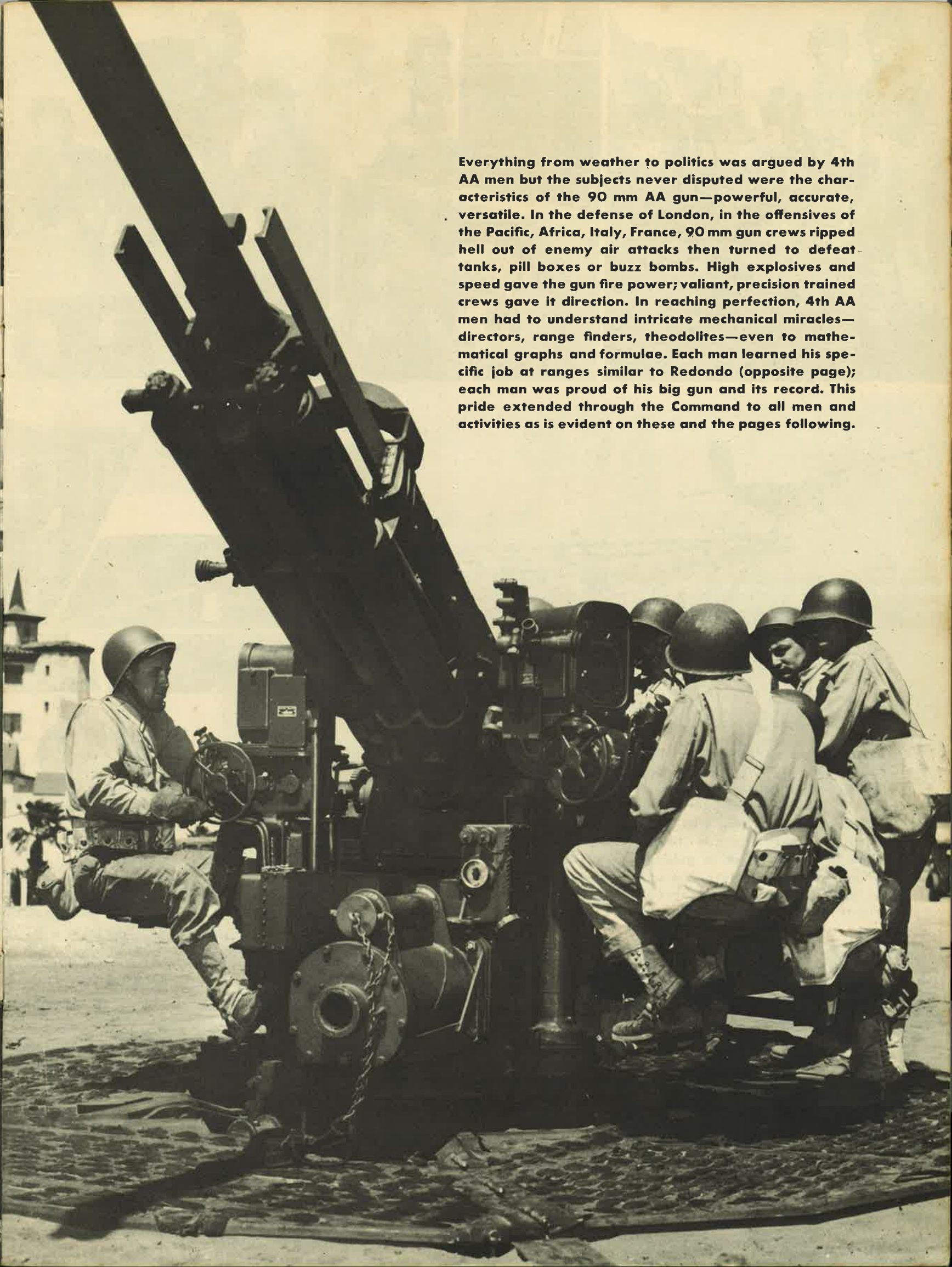


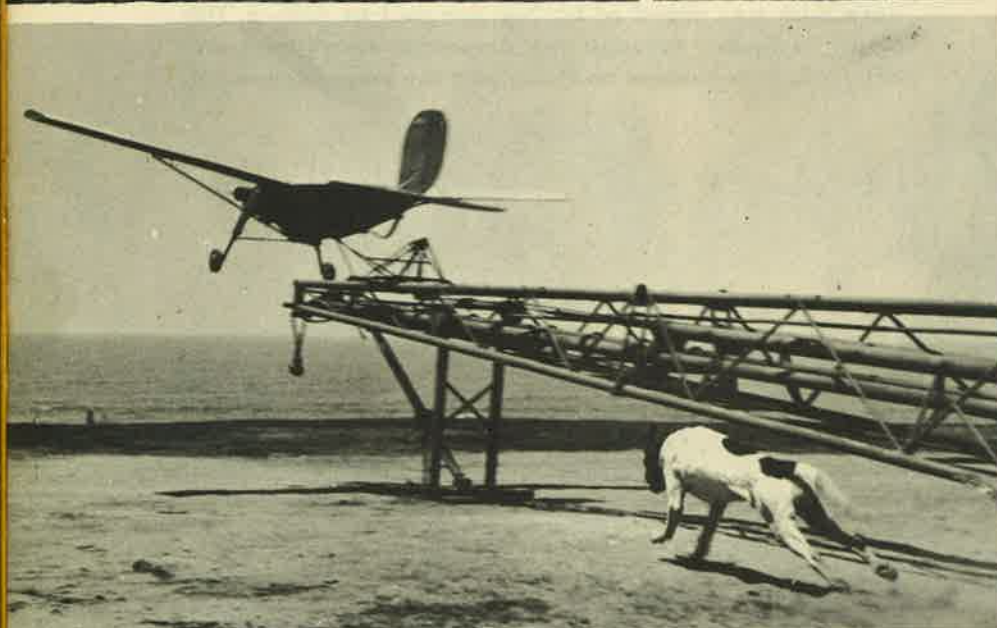
Designed and edited by the staff of The Brigadere, official publication, 4th Antiaircraft Command (FAF), Brigadier General Paul W. Rutledge, Commanding General. Staff: Editorial—Capt. George Waldner, S*Sgt. Gene Gear; Art—T*4 Godfrey J. Gaumburg; Photos—T*4 Michael Hack, T*5 J. C. Baker; Reporters—T*5 Russell Logue, T*5 A. I. Presalsky. Unit editors—Seattle, T*4 Arthur Seger; Los Angeles, T*5 George Main; San Diego, T*5 Jack Lahr. Published at 4th AA Command headquarters, San Francisco, California.



Random scenes in a day's work at Redondo firing range. Top left, the flag is up, "commence fire." Top, long arms of range finder gauge the distance to target. Center left, bursts are plotted on graphs, hits and misses determined. Right center, a director crew is on target. Lower left, hits and misses are plotted from BC 'scope data. Lower right, a theodolite photographically gathers firing data for the plotting room experts.

Everything from weather to politics was argued by 4th AA men but the subjects never disputed were the characteristics of the 90 mm AA gun—powerful, accurate, versatile. In the defense of London, in the offensives of the Pacific, Africa, Italy, France, 90 mm gun crews ripped hell out of enemy air attacks then turned to defeat tanks, pill boxes or buzz bombs. High explosives and speed gave the gun fire power; valiant, precision trained crews gave it direction. In reaching perfection, 4th AA men had to understand intricate mechanical miracles—directors, range finders, theodolites—even to mathematical graphs and formulae. Each man learned his specific job at ranges similar to Redondo (opposite page); each man was proud of his big gun and its record. This pride extended through the Command to all men and activities as is evident on these and the pages following.





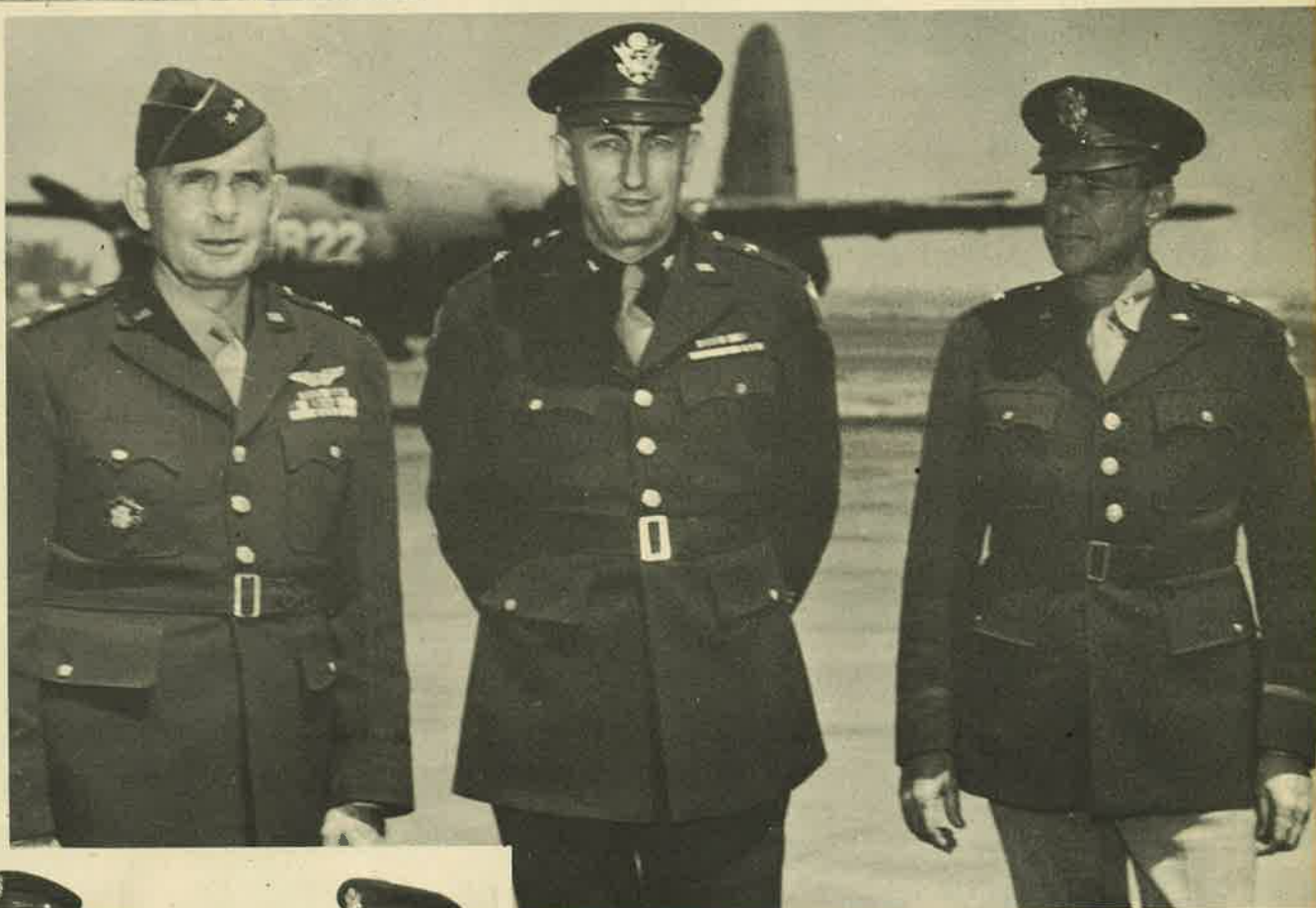
Top row: fuze setter and breech block of 90 mm gun; center, power plant for 90; right, viewing mechanism for theodolite film. Directly opposite is rear view of 90 as a round is loaded into breech. Above left, miniature target plane takes off from catapult. Ingenious training aids were being developed constantly by soldiers: above right, a GI-designed water-borne target for training 90 mm crews in indirect fire methods where a land range was not available; below, an electrical device, GI-invented, for teaching BC 'scope observers to judge "over and short," "rights and lefts," lights on board representing bursts.

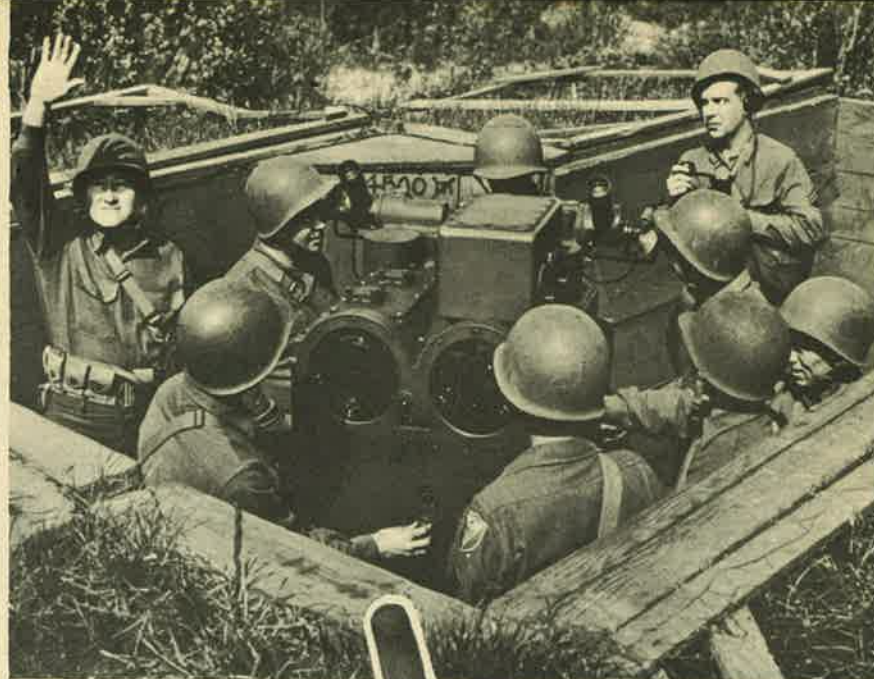




Officers charged with supervision of antiaircraft training and missions spent much time in the field. At left, Brig. Gen. Paul W. Rutledge, CG 4th AA Command, discusses inspection details with Brig. Gen. James G. Devine, CG 37th AAA Brigade. Col. H. H. Newman, CO 603rd Group, and Lt. Col. R. A. Anderson, CO 891st Gun Bn, make mental note. Below, Major Gen. Homer R. Oldfield, antiaircraft officer of Army Air Corps staff, joins Generals Rutledge and Devine for one of his frequent inspections. Dry runs (lower right) were observed as carefully as actual firing, for the degree of knowledge and ability displayed by a handful of men often indicated the level of training reached by an entire battalion.

No details escaped the intent interest of inspecting officers. Concentrating in lower left photo (left to right) are Col. Henry C. Davis, Exec. Officer, 37th Brigade; Major Gen. William E. Lynd, CG 4th AF; Brig. Gen. F. P. Hardaway, CG 37th Brigade; Maj. Gen. Oldfield; Maj. Gen. John L. Homer, CG 4th AA. At rear are Brig. Gen. Harold R. Jackson, CG 57th Brigade; and Major Gomer Lewis, CO LA Fighter Wing.





Early in the war the enemy approached dangerously close to the northwest corner of the United States with the vital Seattle area as a major continental objective. Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Puget Sound and Seattle became AA advance posts to meet this imminently expected enemy air attack. Here, too, was the key location in the logistic problem of holding and supplying Alaska. Every hour AA personnel were prepared to meet impending emergencies.



Luxuriant growths of alder, willows and brush aided in camouflaging positions in the Seattle area but many gun sites had to be blended into surroundings of wharves, warehouses and factories. Here are a few typical northern positions. Lower right, a Seattle operations detachment plots the course of an unidentified plane, relays the information to guns and lights.



Familiarization with small arms was basic training for AA soldiers and they became proficient with the M1 rifle, carbine and sub-machine guns. Many sharpshooter and expert ratings were earned on Command rifle ranges but only after tedious hours of field stripping, dry runs, and pulling targets in the butts. The pay-off came in keen eyes and steady hands on the firing line; later in combat.

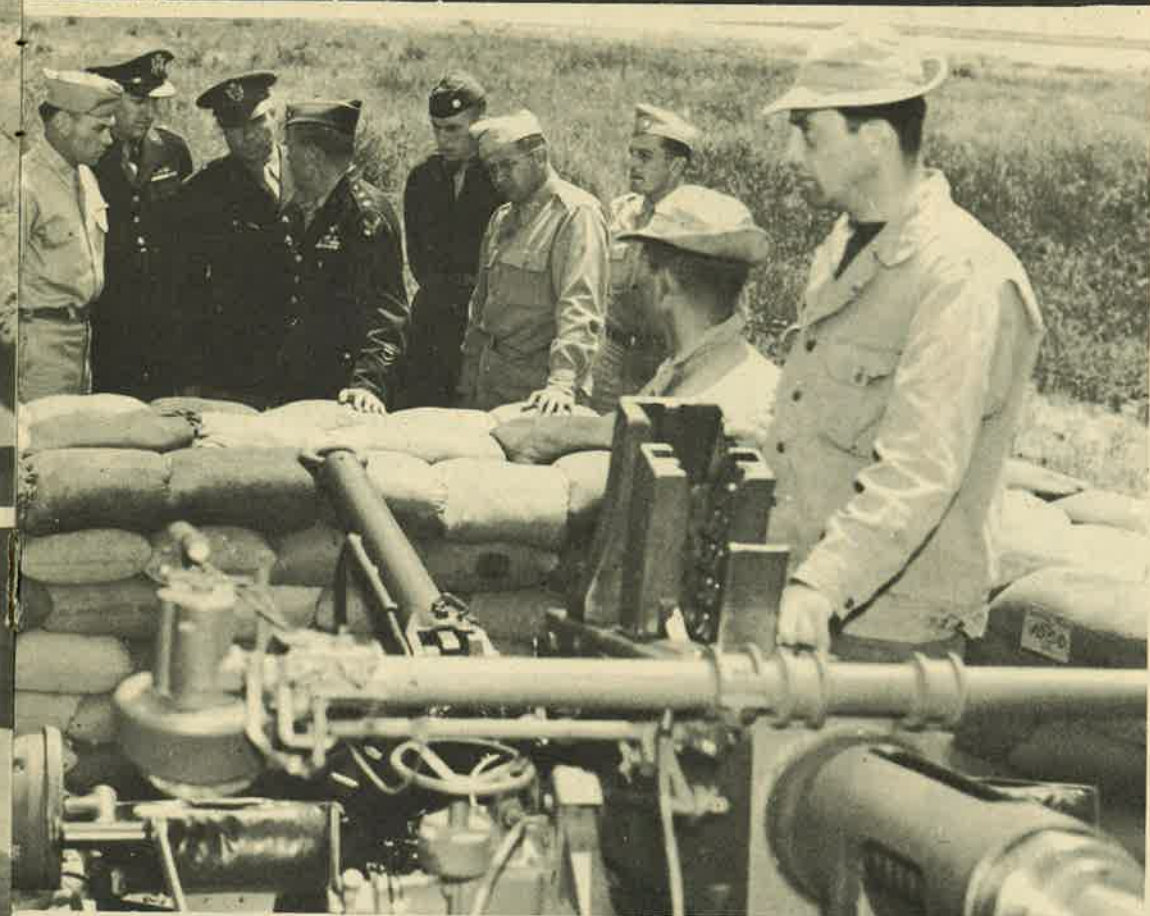


Physical fitness was stressed and in addition to regular conditioning programs, courses in "Commando" training were conducted. All the "tricks of the trade" were taught in these courses and Command men became proficient in deadly in-fighting. On this and the next two pages are dramatically portrayed the graphic evidence of individual combat training. The disarming of a knife armed enemy, scaling a debarkation net while carrying full field equipment, classes in swimming, tumbling, hand to hand fighting, general calisthenics and forced marches were all included in the "Commando" courses.







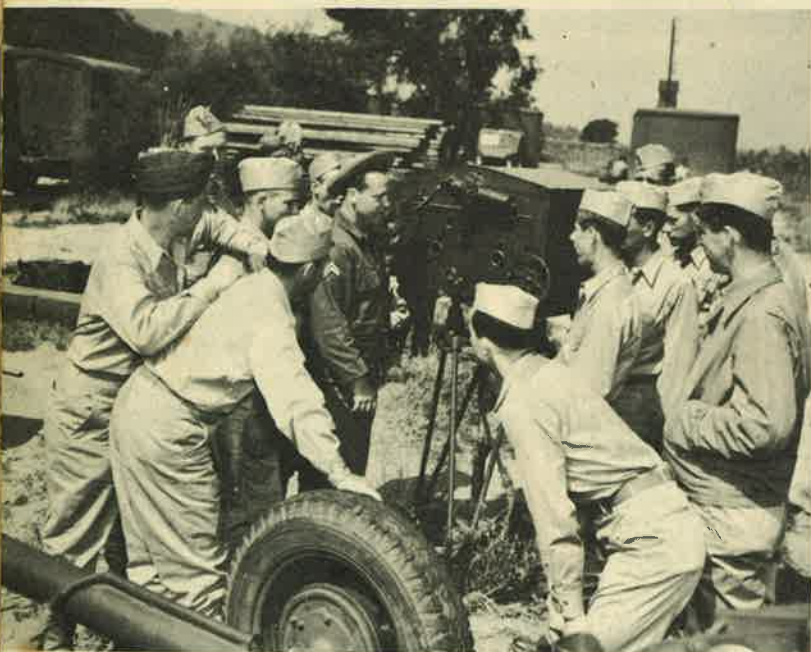


Top ranks maintained a comprehensive knowledge of the needs and progress of men in the field by frequent inspections. "Spit and polish" meant little to inspecting officers who searched mainly for flaws in alertness, understanding of duties, and living conditions. Inspections here are being conducted by Major Generals Homer R. Oldfield, Army Air Corps staff; Wm. E. Lynd, CG 4th AF; John L. Homer, CG 4th AA; and Brigadier Generals Paul W. Rutledge, CG 4th AA; F. P. Hardaway, CG 37th Brigade; James G. Devine, CG 37th Brigade.





STU at Griffith Park near Burbank was a special training unit where men relearned forgotten class room subjects and learned to apply the knowledge to wartime needs. In addition, it was charged with providing AA basic training to recruits who arrived at intervals to replace men who had shipped to active combat zones. *Bottom photo depicts STU men in formal retreat ceremony. Top photos on following page show two phases of instruction. At left, men attend a class in orientation. At right, the art of camouflage is demonstrated. Just below, left, a 40 MM. gun class is in session.*





Point Montara firing range, near San Francisco, was operated by the Navy but Army AA practiced there. Its long line of concrete emplacements parallels the beach for 1000 yards, the longest firing line in the U. S. Batteries from the 543rd AW Bn are on location here, improving their skill.

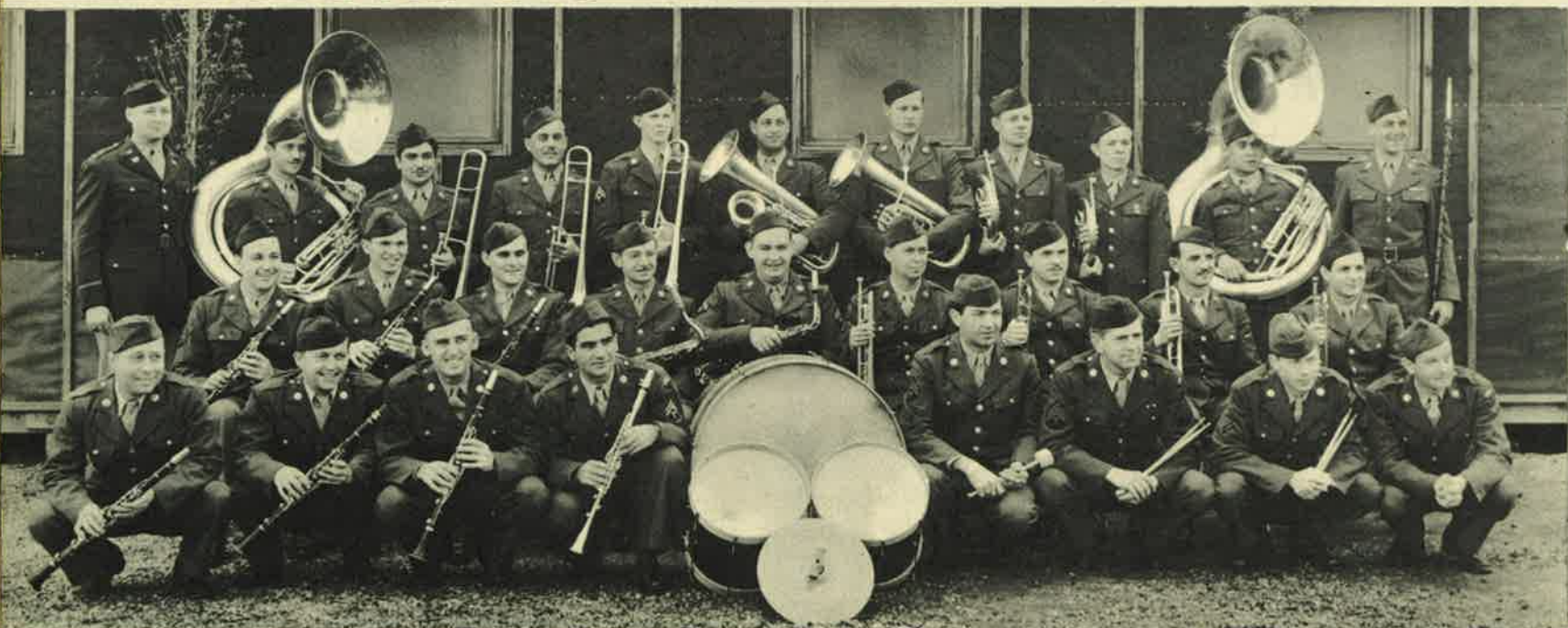
Above, the Navy spots AA hits. Top right, a Navy "rocker" trainer is the background for an Army AW. Center, Army and Navy guns of many sizes fired from this range. Lower left, a Navy gunner's mate teaches machine guns to AA men. Lower right, machine gun operator is pleased by his line of tracers.

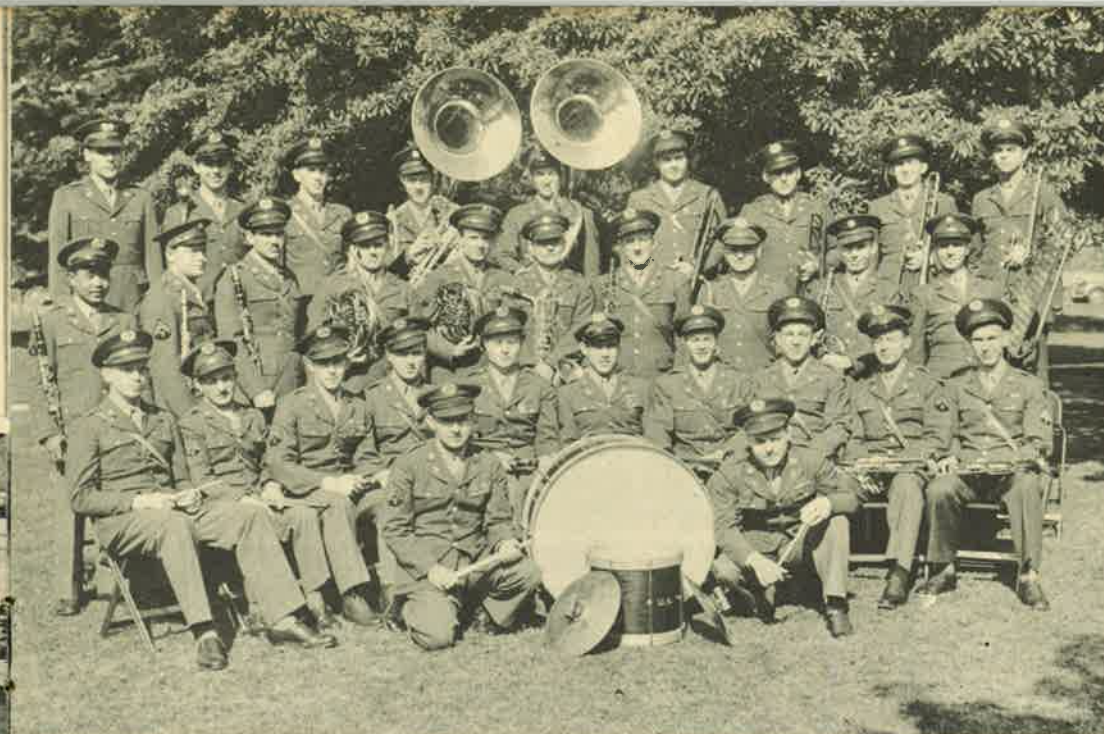


Gingerly men learned to handle and transport explosives. Instructions in the use of explosives, fuses and detonators were held in the wide open spaces where GIs learned how to dig a gun pit quickly in sandstone or rip a bridge timber in two with a well placed demolition charge. Classes and explosions here are in the Hansen, Dam area.



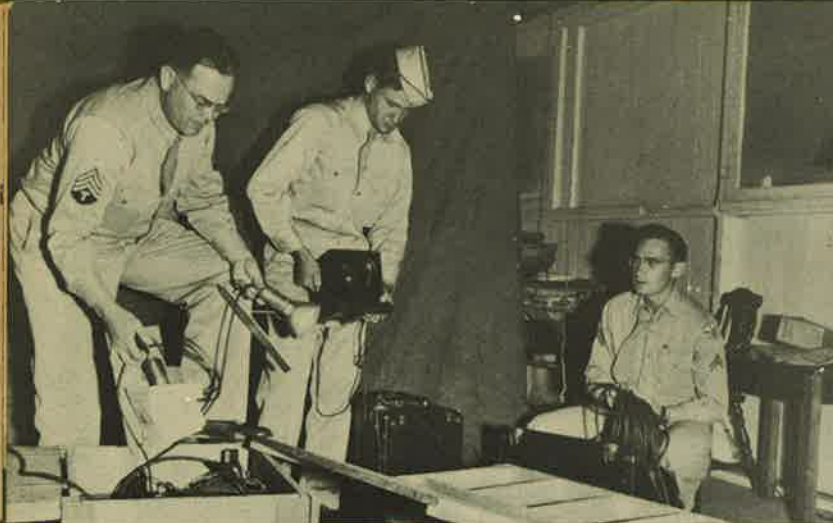
★ Music soothed the GI brow more than any other of the muses—from juke box jive to sedate symphony. The best loved music was that produced in GI style with artist and novice expressing themselves on instruments available. Hundreds of homespun groups established themselves in the Command, such as the typical group at upper left. Skilled musicians organized many hot dance bands, right center, to entertain off duty. The 265th Army Band, below, was favorite of both Army and Navy installations. At Camp Irwin, the best liked recreation was escape from desert heat, top right. At San Diego, neat day rooms provided needed quiet and rest.





A variety of recreational features was available to men in Fourth AA. In the earlier days of the war, the 262nd Army band furnished martial music for parades and concerts. As an example of changing personnel, the 262nd band was originally a National Guard band from Olympia, Washington, with all its members from that area. When the photo on this page was taken in February 1944, only one of the original members remained. Other means of relaxation pictured here are swimming and dancing at San Francisco; solid comfort before a massive GI built fireplace in a Seattle day room; checkers and harmonizing in Southern California day rooms.





Brigade Special Services, upper left, prepares equipment for a battery show. Upper right, gals and GI's enjoy San Francisco beach. Left center, San Diego position welcomes invitation from industrial employes across fence. Right center, Seattle officers club is made ready for the party. This rustic log cabin was unique in army buildings. Center strip, S. F. men and girls frolic in Berkeley hills. Bottom left, Burbank gives dance for GI's. Bottom right, fabulous Pickfair is scene of Los Angeles GI festivities.





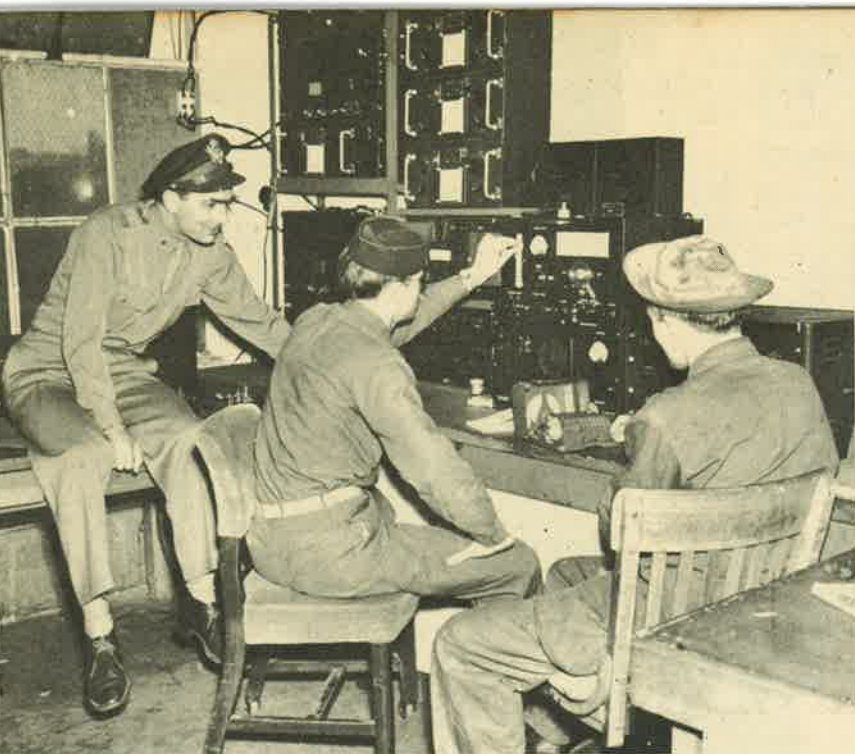
Chemical warfare was learned in the field from manuals and by direct application. Men found the odor of geraniums, new-mown hay, apple blossoms or garlic could mean death in the vaporous form of Lewisite, phosgene, chloracetophenone or mustard gas and that speed of recognition and use of gas masks meant the difference between the quick and the dead. Frequent drills, in gas tents and in the open, taught personal and tactical protection.





Rugged tests of men and transportation were the motor obstacle courses. Carved out of hillsides, the courses offered the roughest type of terrain as a test to men and motors. This was the Burbank obstacle course featuring a straight climb of over one hundred yards with a "roller coaster" finish down the top ridge.





Vital hubs of the Command were the communications sections. Here is a cross section of the many duties of the men at switchboards, teletypes, radio stations and other communication installations. Laying wire, climbing poles and sending and receiving messages were all in a day's work for the men of these AA sections.





Headquarters in the Command were housed in a variety of buildings. At Seattle GI buildings were used but there was nothing GI in the appearance of 4th AAC Hqrs. at Aquatic Park shown above. San Diego's Group Hqrs. lived and worked in Spanish Village at Balboa Park (left center and bottom). While at Brigade, offices, mess, quarters, recreation rooms and a PX were contained in a downtown Los Angeles office building (right center).



Flower St L.A.

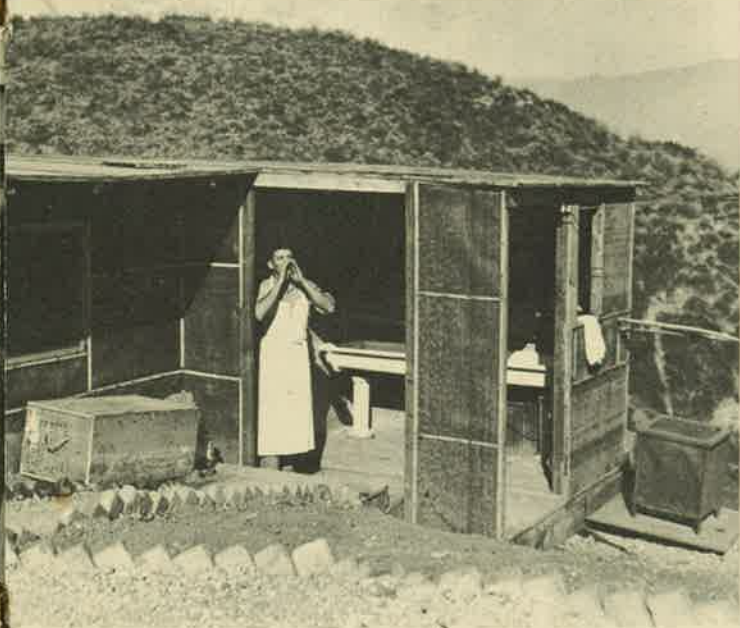
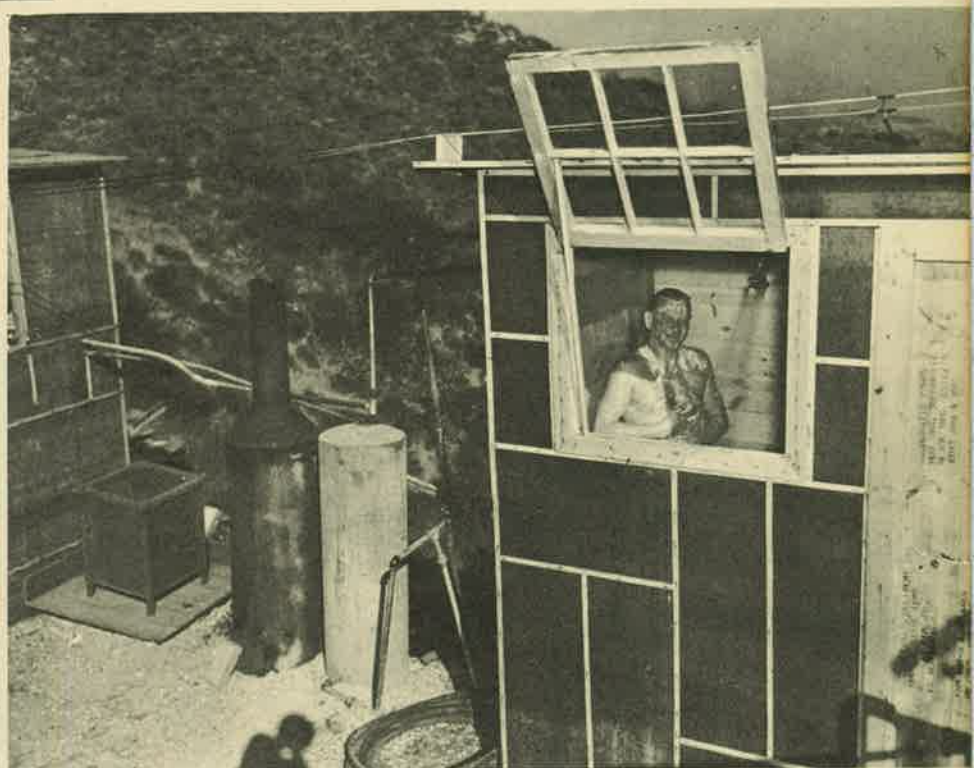
Stg 24 x AAA
S/L Bn

T.H. Crigler
capt
1st Bn

Balboa Park
Indian Village

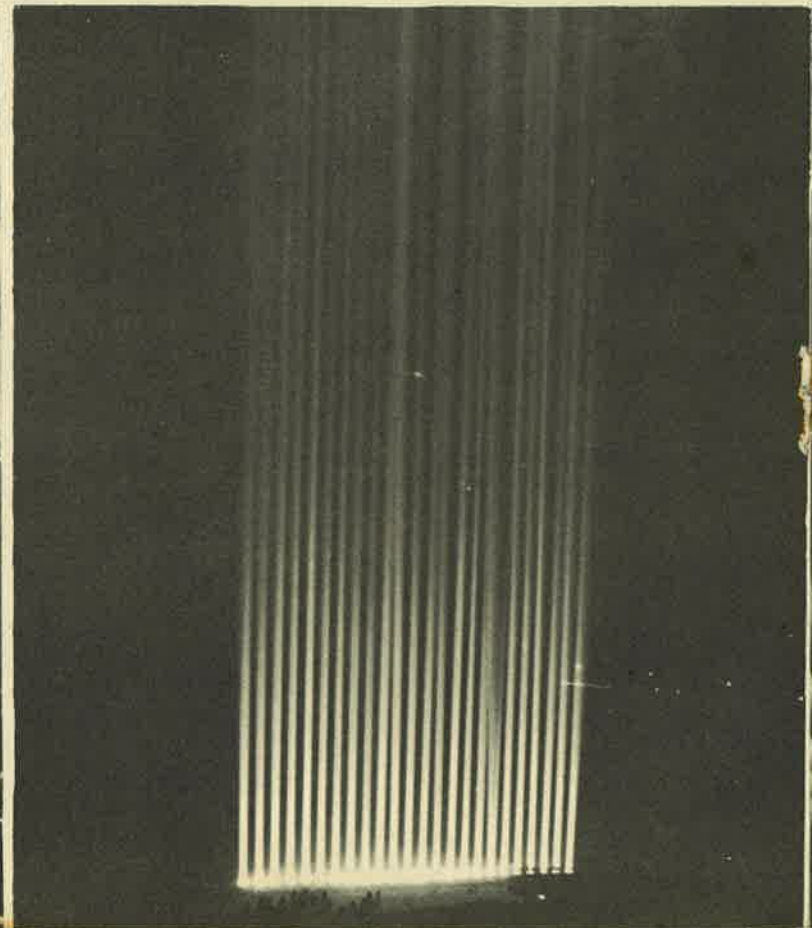


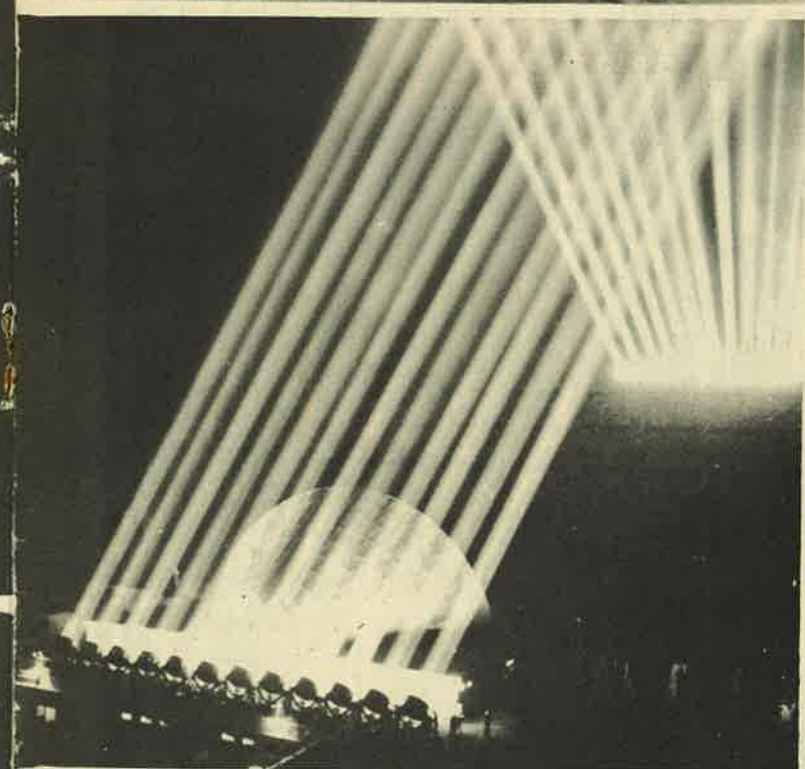
Antiaircraft men worked and waited; improvised and improved; fought boredom and lonesomeness in army homes on remote hilltops or at positions separated from the activities of war industries only by a few strands of barbed wire. By their own energy they made themselves comfortable and met taxing conditions of long sustained alert periods.



★

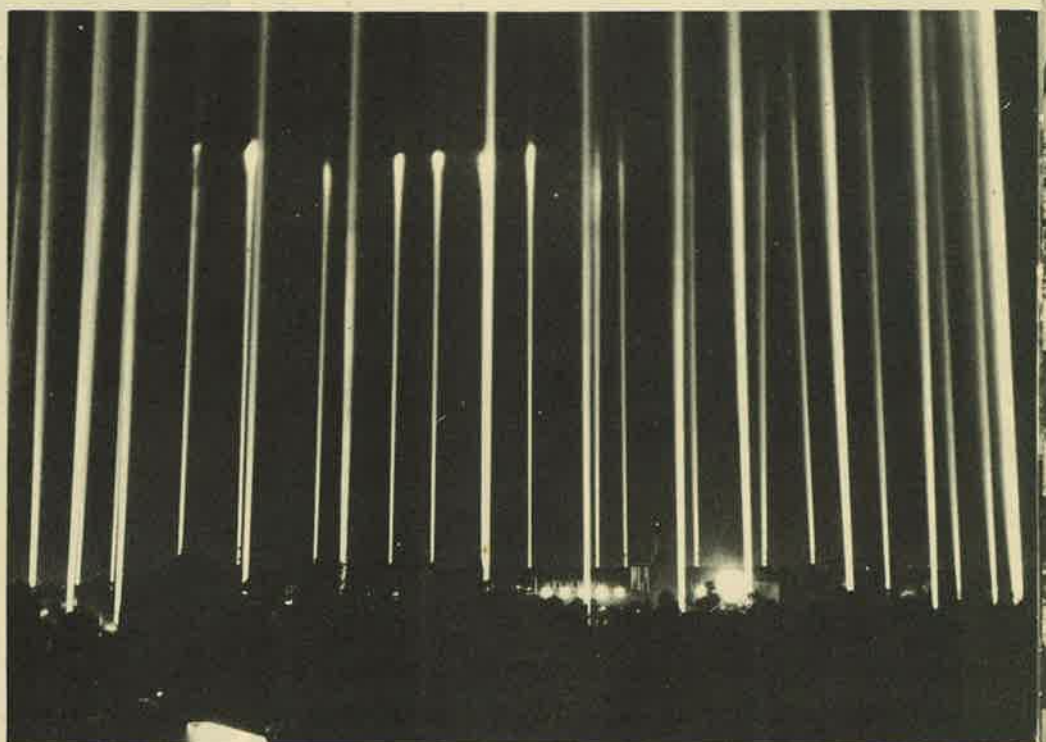
Night after night, roving fingers of light pierced the skies above war industries of the west. Most often they followed the course of planes in practice; yet frequently they held unidentified planes as brilliant moths against black backgrounds—sharp targets for AA guns if proved to be enemy. Skill of searchlight crews was demonstrated in spectacular fashion at War Department bond rallies when massed lights formed precision designs against the backdrop of night. Just below is a broad fan which begins deep in Hollywood Bowl and ends high against a cloud ceiling; Hollywood and Santa Monica city lights dot the background while Lake Hollywood reflects the beams in the foreground. Searchlights surround the L.A. Coliseum at bottom left. Other sky patterns pictured originated at Hollywood Bowl.







Above, men prepare their lights for night displays. Left center, Altadena War Bond rally; right center, returning generals are welcomed at Los Angeles Coliseum. Bottom strip, Los Angeles and distant Long Beach lie beneath the searchlight cone at Hollywood Bowl in U. S. Treasury Department bond show.





Use of modern splints and first aid devices were studied in all units under supervision of Medics.



Medics at Camp Irwin learn to move wounded men with speed and comfort. First aid classes were conducted constantly in the Command. Below, San Francisco men race to keep their bodies fit.

Civilian organizations supplemented GI clothing with warm hand-knit woolens for bitter desert winter training.



Sad Sack, Ilon mascot held by the first man in the group at left, encouraged men to give blood for plasma. Thousands of blood donations were made regularly in the Command and this group, all named Smith, incidentally, is preparing to donate a pint of blood each at the Red Cross Blood Bank.

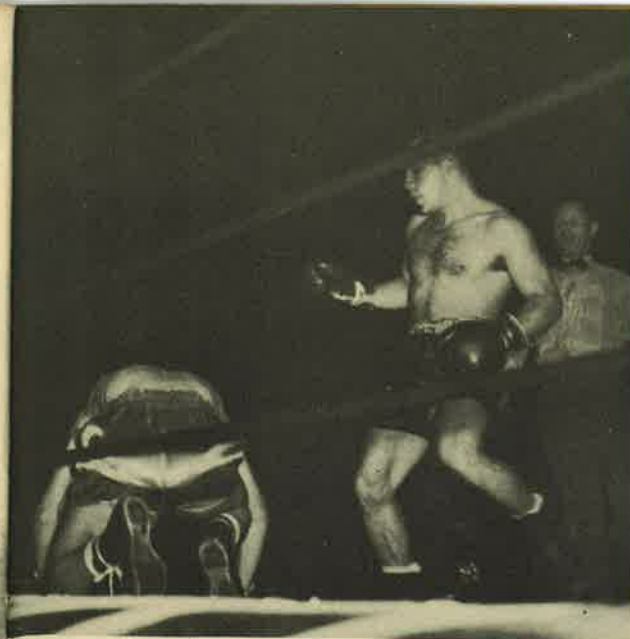
Health and confidence were promoted in swimming classes, too, and here a group of Medics learn swimming fundamentals.





★ Athletics played an important role in Command activities. Softball, baseball and basketball topped the list with practically every sport from ping-pong to ice hockey getting a whirl. Command men proved above average in any sport they participated in and many trophies were the result of their efforts. Command received national sports recognition during the Golden Gloves boxing tournament when a Command GI battled his way to the national finals. Softball headed the sporting scene at San Francisco with lower right photo excellent evidence of the vigor they put into the game. Typical of trophies won by Command men is Seattle's display at lower left.







When a spring flood cut off commercial power in the San Fernando Valley, 245th Slt. Bn. moved its men and mobile power plants into the area to operate milking machines and hatchery equipment. For five days soldiers were farm hands and saved huge quantities of perishable food. They also aided in rescue work and had the distinction of rescuing an isolated Coast Guard crew.



Naming the new and official newspaper of the 37th AAA Brigade was the choice of Brigade GI's. Of the many names submitted, "Brigadere" won top honors with prizes awarded by lot to each man submitting the name.



News, features and photos in the Brigadere soon gained a definite place in the life of antiaircraft personnel. Its weekly editions also followed outgoing units and gave pleasure as indicated below.



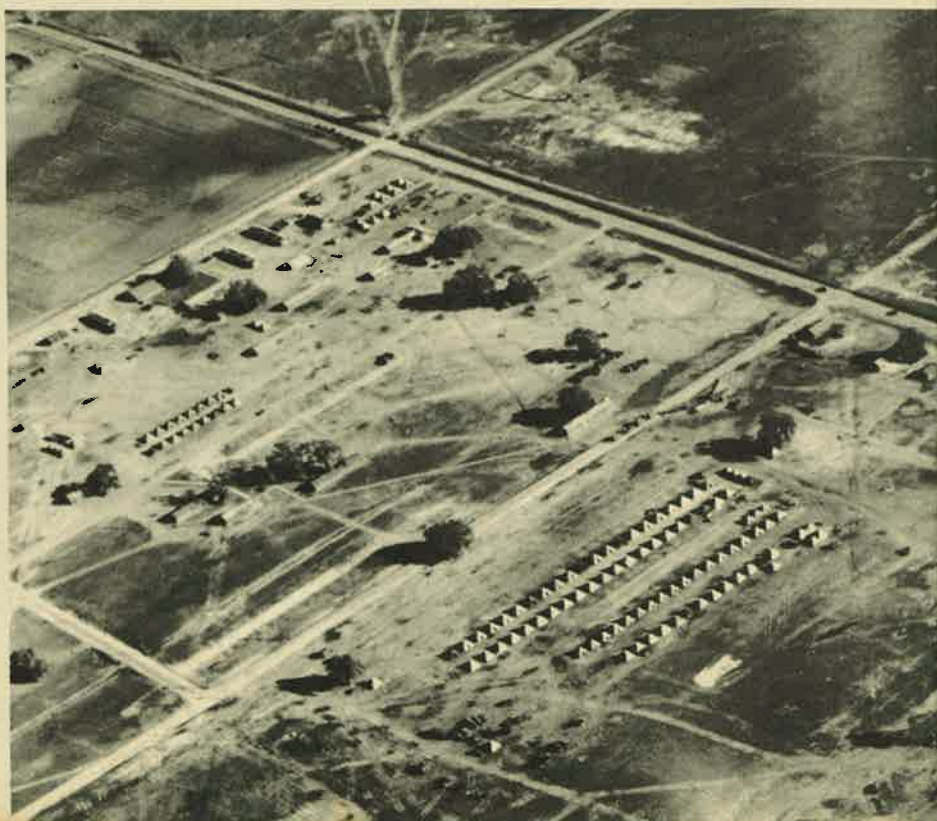


Proficiency was required with the ever-present machine gun and the hours spent in learning mechanism and operation have paid off well in combat zones. All types of .50 caliber guns were used—multiple mounts, special mounts, air cooled, water cooled. Below, men watch a flame-thrower demonstration.



★

Men went out on desert maneuvers griping as only American soldiers can. They returned weeks later to previous positions, their griping turned to boasting. Healthier, far more rugged, the men had reason to boast for they had lived and thrived through uncompromising intense heat or bitter cold under the most rigid field conditions and knew they were capable and ready to meet the enemy when and where necessary. They also knew their chance of survival against an enemy had been immeasurably increased. In Washington, Yakima's wild landscape often resounded to simulated warfare in which northern AA troops participated. California AA troops had Muroc, Estrella and Camp Irwin where huge areas were used in combined maneuvers with AA and Air Corps participating. AA men dug in, sweltered or froze in foxholes, loaded and unloaded their equipment in frequent convoy movements and passed through all the phases of warfare except meeting the enemy. Combined operations were planned and directed as if actual enemies were about to attack. *Directly below, Maj. Gen. Homer R. Oldfield and Brig. Gen. Paul W. Rutledge study a maneuver map with staff officers. Bottom right is air photo of Estrella. Bottom photo on following page, depicts Muroc area. The following several pages also show a few of the activities in maneuver areas.*









Moving, firing, tracking and filling sand bags were all in a day's work during desert maneuvers. Changing positions provided the greatest test of stamina for Command men for it meant the moving of all equipment and digging of new gun emplacements as well as fox holes for men and sand barricades for men and guns. Photo at upper left shows convoy "ready to roll." Right center finds communications men preparing a ditch for wire. Proof of desert cold is positive in photo at top of preceding page. Here a 90 mm gun crew, huddled in overcoats and wool scarfs, fires on the range at Camp Irwin. Right center, a searchlight crew "digs in."





With appetites sharpened by hard work and brisk desert weather, Command cooks had few worries when it came to leftovers. Many cooks worked under field conditions for the first time and they came through with flying colors. The excellence with which kitchen personnel took advantage of natural desert camouflage in erecting their kitchens won them much praise. Typical desert kitchen is depicted at bottom right on the following page. At upper right a GI gives his buddy a cold water shave. *Directly below* communications men use grain stubble to help camouflage a radio station.







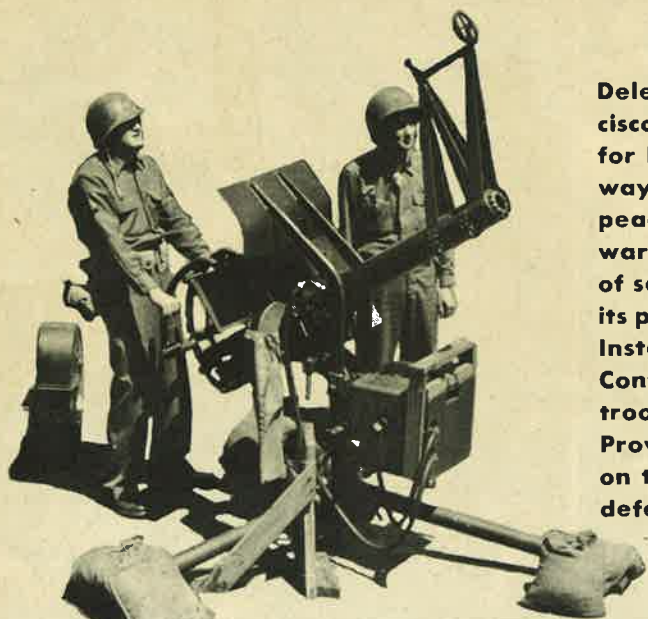
Defense against aerial attack was stressed in desert maneuvers. In two top photos planes come in low on a strafing run over AA positions. Left center, the boys who fly the planes talk to AA men and learn how they thwart strafing attacks. Bottom photo, 40 mm AA gun crews prepare for move to Irwin firing range.



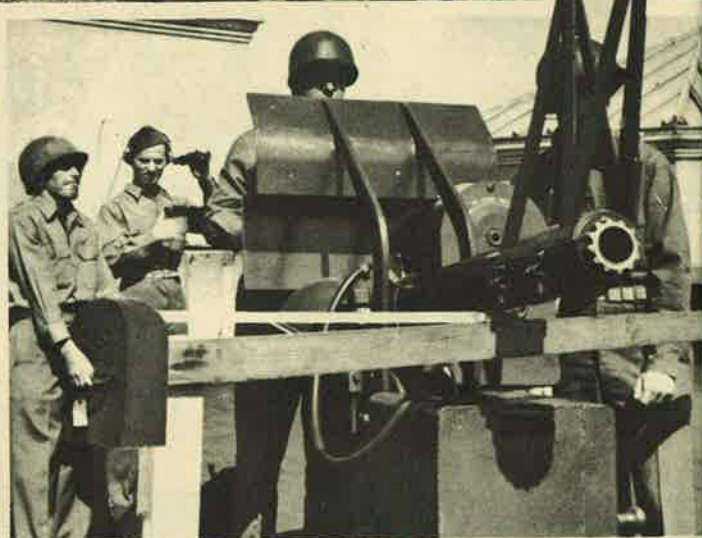


On duty in densely populated areas, 4th AA was called with other military units to join in many public events. At top left, officials welcome Dr. Wei Tao-Ming, China's ambassador to U. S. Left to right: Brig. Gen. Hardaway; Maj. Gen. Huang Ping-Hung, attache to ambassador; Rear Admiral Ralston F. Holmes; Dr. Wei; Fletcher Bowron, mayor of Los Angeles. Parades, firing squads and government shows also called for AA men and equipment.





Delegates from forty-six nations of the world arrived in San Francisco late in April 1945 to attend the United Nations Conference for International Organization. The City of the Golden Gate, midway between two great war zones, seemed a city of comparative peace with its people busy in the production and transportation of war personnel and materiel yet safe from enemy attack by virtue of separating distances. But the War Department did not predicate its protection of the Conference and its world leaders on conjecture. Instead, the defense of San Francisco during the world Peace Conference became a major mission of Pacific coast anti-aircraft troops. Units from all parts of the Command participated under a Provisional Group organized for the purpose at 4th AAC. Pictured on this and two following pages are some of the highlights of AA defense for the ten weeks of the Peace Conference.





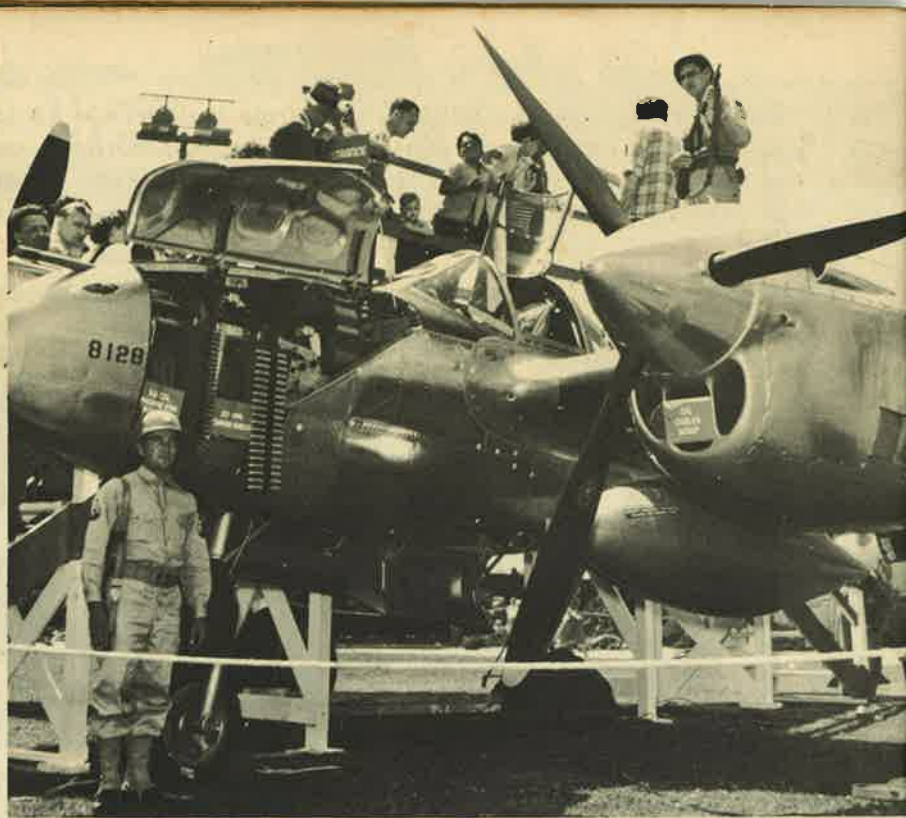


Residents of San Francisco did not know of the heavy concentration of antiaircraft protection in their city during the Peace Conference. Skyscraper roofs became machine gun positions, city parks became gun parks and residential sections became bivouac areas. A corner of the city's most plush cocktail lounge became a mess hall for two machine gun sections. 90 mm guns, searchlights and AWs, spread over the bay area, sustained a continuous alert until the Nation's guests had completed their work, signed the Peace Charter, and returned to their homes.



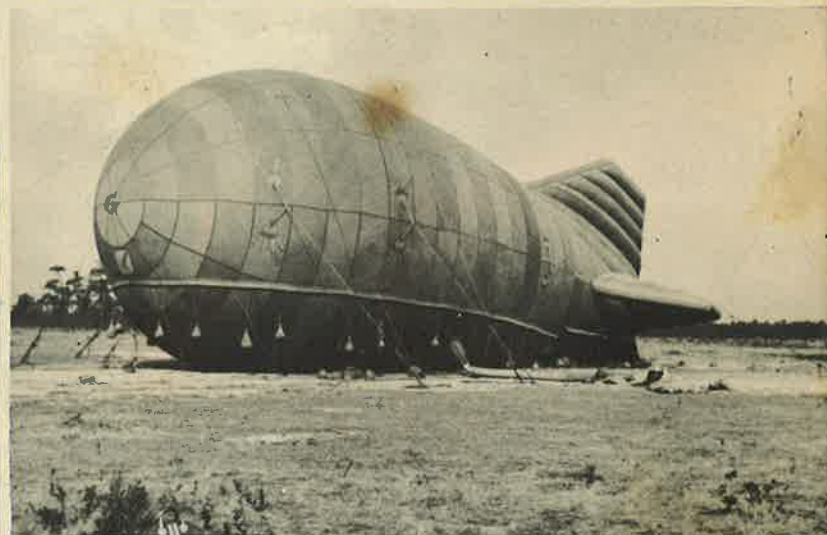
Pets were never listed officially as morale builders but AA soldiers gave them top priority. Dogs there were in abundance—tiny pups to huge mastiffs; cockers, terriers, collies, St. Bernards—all were favorites. Breed, sex or size made no difference. Lion cubs, lambs, chickens, rabbits, ducks were favored by some in the miscellany of privileged characters. Pets became unofficial non-coms; were made or busted according to their behavior.





Miscellaneous events and activities fill these last three pages. *Top left*, 800-million cp. searchlights light a community bond rally. *Top right*, AA men guard P-38 during public inspection. *Left below*: replacements are checked in; religious services in the field; quick lunch enroute. *Right below*: Civil Air Patrol planes were available for many details—transportation between cities and maneuver areas; delivery of Brigaderes to isolated units; and, most important, towing sleeve targets and flying tracking missions at night for searchlights.





Top and left, Washington's landscape at Yakima Training Center was as bleak as California's Muroc but the north had winter snows which required a variety of shelters. Gun picture was taken during a 10-minute break on the Mojave. Left above, mail call. Right above, a moored barrage balloon, part of a huge barrage operated by 4th AAC units until 1943. Lower left, "policing the area" often included residential streets. Lower right, hundreds of gallons of AA blood annually traveled the plasma path to combat areas.





Top right, an "alert" sounds. Top left, woolens were welcome in Mojave winter temperatures. Left center, searchlights blaze for returning Generals Patton and Doolittle. Right center, a late M-4 tractor for moving 90 mm guns and crews. Lower left, victory gardens provided supplemental vitamins. Lower right—confident, alert, an AA machine gunner faces the unknown; set solidly on the good earth, his eyes and mind traverse the heavens ready for peace or battle. Through this unknown AA soldier, representative of all men who served in the command, the Brigadere brings its service to a close with a "Good luck. We're proud to have been with you."

