

A Camera Trip Through **HAMMER FIELD**



A PICTURE BOOK OF THE FIELD AND ITS ACTIVITIES



Main gate.



Headquarters.

History of Hammer Field

SITUATED in the beautiful California valley of San Joaquin, near Fresno, Hammer Field is an ideal setting for the heavy air traffic that it accommodates. Here various organizations of the Army Air Forces are in training for the missions they are to perform in this war and the field is a beehive of bustling men and roaring planes.

The field was named in honor of Lieutenant Earl M. Hammer, a native of California, who became a member of Squadron 84 of the Royal Flying Corps, the predecessor of the present Royal Air Force of the British Empire. He was the first Californian killed in action in the Air Forces in World War I.

Lieutenant Hammer was shot down March 19, 1918 about five miles behind the German lines in the Argonne area. A few hours afterwards, a German aviator dropped a note over the Allied lines saying Hammer had met his death. However, other members of his squadron believed they had seen him land his ship and it was not until some time after the armistice that it was established definitely that he had been killed.

At the personal request of General John J. Pershing, a search was made for his grave and it was found between those of two German aviators in a small French village. His grave was moved to the Argonne Cemetery.

Twenty three years after young Hammer was shot down, almost to the day, on March 17, 1941, the ground was broken for Hammer Field and it was activated very shortly thereafter.

Although much of the operations naturally can not be disclosed we do attempt to illustrate in this book much of the daily activities and life of a soldier at this Base. It is a busy day at best from early morning till taps at night. Yet there are many facilities to be enjoyed by the boys here. There are comfortable day rooms to relax in where all types of clubroom recreations are available. There is a fine theatre, a good Chapel which is well attended, swimming pools and ample sports fields. Although there's lots of work—the boys' happiness, both spiritually and mentally, is carefully developed.



Lieutenant Earl M. Hammer



A typical scene at Hammer Field.



Hammer Field mascot.



Army Day parade.



Pay day line-up.



Typical dayroom.



Interior of barracks.
Here's where the lesson
of tidiness and orderli-
ness is really practiced
A lesson which mothers
and wives hope will last
through life.



Another view
of a dayroom.



Officers' Club.



Game room—Officers' Club.



Porch — Officers' Club



Lounge—Officers' Club



The sun shines brighter for these good boys.



A view of the altar in our chapels.

This picture attests to the well-attended church services.



A wedding is performed in the bar chapel.





The fire department at Hammer Field operates the finest and latest equipment.



Major Hewitt Wheless, a national hero, cited by President Roosevelt, is greeted at Hammer Field on a recent visit by Col. Kirksey.



Sign posted in the Sub-Depot. It speaks for itself.



An appreciative audience.



The theatre is one of the most popular places on the Base.

One of the enlisted men's mess halls.



These boys fix up their own mess bountifully.



Never any complaints on pies at Hammer Field.



The sergeant cuts a mean chop.



Housewives wish they were "Army equipped" as are these boys on K. P.



Post Exchange.



The traffic in the exchange at night is really terrific.



Day or night the boys crowd in to spend their army pay where the values are extraordinary.



Post Exchange building.

CALISTHENICS



Calisthenics.

Conditioning exercises.



Morning exercises.



Limbering up.





This firing range is where the men from Hammer Field sharpen their eye.



Practice gas attack.



Squaw Valley firing range.



Try this some time with all your clothes on.



Part of the conditioning program.



Skeet shooting is fine practice for marksmanship.



These boys find out how much flying will be done today. They are part of the Base Weather Station.

THE scenes on these pages show part of life at Camp Soquel. This conditioning camp is operated by Hammer Field. The enlisted men and officers go there voluntarily for three day periods for rest and relaxation. There is no drilling or regular army life and the men are encouraged to participate in whatever form of relaxation they most enjoy. Available is wonderful mountain fishing, swimming, hiking, lolling, sun bathing and all forms of athletic sports. The food and quarters are furnished for them and the quantity of food put away there attests to the restorative value of the mountain setting.







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A-29 Lockheed.

B-24 Consolidated Liberator heavy bomber, noted with the B-17 for lifting capacity and range.





P-47 Republic Thunderbolt high-altitude fighters.

Heavy Bomber: B-17 Boeing Flying Fortress, famous four-engine specialist in high altitude, long range attack. Its own heavy defensive armament and its "payload" have won spectacular successes in Europe, Africa and the South Pacific.



WE KEEP



B-25A "Mitchell" Medium Bomber.



B-26 Martin Medium Bomber.

THEM FLYING



A-29 Lockheed.



C-54 Army Transport.



The mechanics work around the clock to keep 'em sweet.



The alert crew lines up to its well earned name.

We keep them flying.





Just about ready for the tune-up.



A couple of "Hot" pursuit ships visit Hammer Field.





Parachute Riggers.



THE parachute riggers have one of the most important jobs on the field.



Interior of Hospital ward.



Physical examination at the hospital for Officers' School Candidate.



One of the many nurses on duty. These girls are Commissioned Officers in the Army and guarantee our boys the world's finest medical attention.

There will be no doctor's bill for this extraction and it couldn't be better done.



This Base School trains men for transmitting messages thru the teletype.

The Hobby Shop at the Field furnishes machines and tools for anyone interested in making things from wood. Some of our best ashtrays on the Base come from these craftsmen.



This fine library is equipped with a fine collection of books and periodicals covering everything from technical tomes to fiction stories. It is a most popular recreation center.



This is a tough part of the obstacle course.



The winner wins the best pitcher.



Time out for another kind of shooting.

A day room get-together.





Players and kibitzers in a Day Room.



Ginny Simms is the popular sweetheart of a U.S.O. dance.

(below) Fresno puts on a street dance for the enlisted men.



The Hammer Field swimming pool for enlisted men is one of the finest at any Base. It is a popular cooling-off spot and can accommodate all the men caring for a swim at any time of the day.



Music Box entertainment.



Officers' Club dance on Saturday nights. This one is sponsored by Chemical Warfare Officers.



Enlisted men put on a dance in a Fresno Hotel.



Amateur theatricals put on by the Hammer Field men.



Many big radio shows come here to entertain us.



Boxing indoors.



This is REAL entertainment for a soldier.



Boxers in the outdoor ring.



Strikes



The tennis courts are a popular new addition.



The C.O. tops a fast one in volley ball.

M. J. Stephens
1944



Prepared and printed in Gravure by The Ullman Company, Brooklyn, N. Y. We acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy and cooperation of the Public Relations Office of Hammer Field and the Photo Section for the pictures supplied.