## 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 beenive 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.

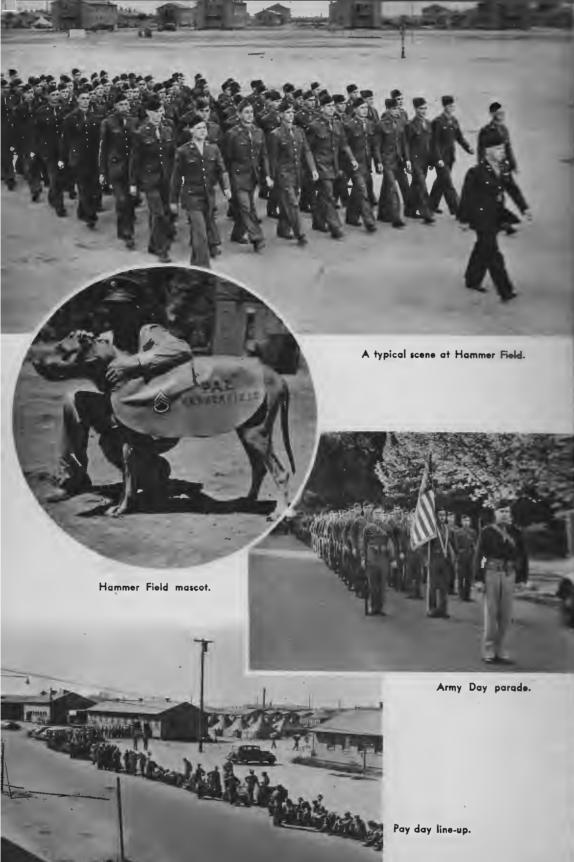
Twenty three years after young Hammer was shot down, almost to the day, on March 17, 1941, the ground was broken for Hammer Field and it was activated very shortly thereafter.

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











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.









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.











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: 8-17 Boeing Flying Fortress, famous four-engine specialist in high altitude, long range ottack. 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.



## THEM FLYING



A-29 Lockheed.









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





Parachute Riggers.











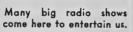


Officers' Club dance on Saturday nights. This one is sponsored by Chemical Warfare Officers.



Enlisted men put on a dance in a Fresno Hotel.

Amateur theatricals put on by the Hammer Field men.







The tennis courts are a popular new addition.

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



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