Washington Digest

U. S. Office of Air Safety Guards Cadets in Training



Accident Statistics Prove Value of Regional Safety Officers' Work; Program Has Three Main Divisions.

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WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

The army air force has been around the world 134,078 times! That is what air miles add up to—three billion, three hundred and fifty-two million in the fiscal year 1943.

Just how safe is the job of a pilot?

Not the job where you have to count on the enemy fighters and the ack-ack, but the job of learning to be a pilot.

"Ninety-five out of every hundred army air force cadets are going through their flight training program with no personal injury of any kind," says Col. Sam Harris, chief, army air force office of flying safety.

The office of air safety is the institution which has built safety into training programs as a highly emphasized part of the whole regime. It has three main principles.

Initial Phase

The first is "prevention and investigation," and the keynote here is experience. The 54 officers who take care of this end of the work have a total air experience of 33 years, 318 days in the air. These men, known as regional safety officers (RSOs) are assigned to each air force and command in the United States.

Here is an example of how the RSO works. He goes to a certain field. He meets some cadets who say they haven't had any breakfast. He puts that down in his notes. He looks the place over, notes a ditch parallel to a runway. He orders the ditch filled, talks with the mess officer and has breakfast served earlier. Then he tackles the boys themselves. He gives them a talk on the importance of instruments. Three separate moves and the accidents are cut down there.

The second principle is "flight control." Here is where the flight control officer, traffic cop of the air, comes in. For traffic control is as important in the air as on the street. The men of this force offer a Pilot's Advisory Counsel. This service leads pilots through or around dangerous traffic or weather conditions.

Suppose the flight control officer in the Seattle center knows Lieutenant Smith is headed in that direction. He also knows that a "cold front" is moving across his path. So he radios Smith, tells him to make for an alternate airport.

No. 3 on the list of safeties is "safety education."

Safety Education

Most of the accidents in training in the United States are due to personnel error—the fault of the human being, not the weather or the machine. This education comes through special movies, through manuals, through cartoons and posters.

Here are some of the slogans that help:

"Hitler and Hirohito cheer . . . when you forget your maps . . . when you pay no attention to telephone wires . . . when you jam on your brakes . . . when you don't check your gas . . ."

Other points are driven home with a little sardonic humor such as "when a pilot thinks he's pretty hot, he's usually close to burning." "To grow old in the natural way, a pilot has to use his luck sparingly . . ."

The first six months of 1943 compared with all of 1942, show these percentages of reduction of accidents:

In primary schools	2.3%
In basic schools	5.5%
In advanced schools	11%

And just see the table for accidents as miles flown go up!

1921-30—Miles flown, 155,818,000—accident rate, 2.11.

1943—Miles flown, 3,351,940,000—accident rate, .716.

That's how America is learning safety in the skyways.

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War Brings Recognition To Psychiatry

There will be so many changes after the war that a lot of words will not even have the same meanings. New things and new thinking will appear and people will have to learn the new words in order to think the new thoughts.

Already the war has caused psychiatry to be "adequately recognized," according to Dr. Richard Hutchings, who is the author of "A Psychiatric Word Book" published by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene and now in its seventh edition.

This is not a book for laymen but it is exceedingly interesting to scan its pages just to see how ordinary words can achieve new meanings as new thoughts about new things develop. The word book is invaluable to the doctor and many others who will be more and more concerned with this important study of interpersonal relations—psychiatry.

Let's take a layman's look at the pages of the little pocket volume.

Starting at the beginning with "a-a . . . Not the simple articles they look. The definition is not new in this case but shows the special meaning the person who reads psychiatry must know. The definition reads:

"Prefixes derived from the Greek and having the same meaning as the prefix un- or the suffix -less. Without; absence of; not. Cf. amentia, anosmia."

That takes us to amentia which means (1) absence of intellect; (2) a state of mind bordering on stupor; (3) feeblemindedness.

You have heard of behavior but what is behaviorism? It is "the psychological theory which holds that correct conclusions in psychology must rest upon objective study and interpretation of behavior."

You have also heard of conversion. Here is the psychiatrist's meaning of it. "The process by which an emotional trauma (that is an emotional 'wound') after repression becomes converted into a physical symptom in hysteria."

Practical Application

If you think that sounds too high brow, just recall the remark: "He's had that squint ever since he saw that terrible accident."

There are a lot more interesting new meanings clear over to the last word "zoopsia" which you know all about if you ever saw "Ten Nights in a Barroom," the great prohibition play. "Zoopsia" is what we (incorrectly) call "D.T.'s." The definition is "a visual hallucination of animals or insects."

The little book also has an appendix in which there are careful and more detailed descriptions of the emotions—anxiety, fear, pride, vanity, etc., which we now know are as dangerous to our mental health when they get out of control as a flock of flu germs are to our bodily welfare.

I'll give you a definition of the one emotion which is highly important because when it gets the upper hand in politics, it can do as much harm to a form of government as to an individual.

"Egoism and egotism are not synonyms. Egoism is a self-seeking desire to gain advantages at the expense of the rights, convenience or possessions of others. It is essentially antisocial. Egotism is overvaluation of self, one's opinions, ability or cleverness and corresponding undervaluation of others."

Now, just apply that definition of egoism to blocs, political parties, nations and you'll see why psychiatry is important in the new world. The more people who understand it, the more people will understand each other.

The words in "A Psychiatric Word Book" are important words.

($1 postpaid from the Hospitals Press, Mental Hygiene Department, State of New York, Utica, N. Y.)

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Popular Questions

Here are answers to three questions I was asked most frequently on a recent trip to the Middle West:

(1) When will the war be over?

I don't know. I wouldn't be surprised if Germany cracked inside this winter. At least another year to clean up Japan.

(2) What about international cooperation afterward?

I don't know. The feeling I get in Washington is that there will be an honest attempt to form an international league, just as it is suggested in the Moscow conference.

(3) Will President Roosevelt run for a Fourth Term?

I doubt if even he knows that either. He probably will unless the war is done and over.

BRIEFS . . . *by Baukhage*

About 90 per cent of Maine's potatoes are grown in a single county—Aroostook—in the northernmost part of the state.

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When Maxwell Anderson's play, "The Eve of St. Mark," opened in Stockholm recently, it received the best Swedish reviews for years, according to an article in the Aftonbladet, as reported to the OWI.

The A. F. Davis Welding Library has been established at Ohio State university, Columbus, Ohio.

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One of the favorite jokes of Germans in oft-bombed regions is: "During last night's raid on western Germany, 69 bombers were shot down. One of our fighters failed to return. One of our towns is missing."

SOCIAL NEWS OF INTEREST AT MILLINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McWilliams of Harrington spent several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wyatt.

Mr. J. C. Parvis of Houston, Del. was a Sunday visitor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parvis.

The December meeting of the P.T.A. will be held Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 3 p.m. in the School House. The following committees have been appointed to serve for the ensuing year: Hospitality—Mrs. Charles Hague, Mrs. Harry Higman, Membership—Mrs. Wm. Skinner and Mrs. R. M. Logan. Help and Summer Roundup—Mrs. Edw. Vansant, Mrs. Clarence Melvin, Nutrition, Hot Lunches, Mrs. Helen Sutton, Mrs. Harry Rasin. Student Aid— Miss Caulk and Mrs. Joiner. Schoolground Improvement—Mrs. N. A. Wallen, Mrs. C. S. Church.

Mr. and Mrs. James Reynolds, and daughter, Shirley Ann of Cambridge were guests last week of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wyatt.

Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Wallen, Rev. and Mrs. D. T. Pritchard, Mrs. Mary Smith and Mrs. Shmmuel Everett attended the Districe Conference in Wilmington, Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Massey spent Monday in Wilmington.

Mrs. and Mrs. Leroy Moore were Sunday gusets of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sharpley of Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. John Higman, Mrs. R. J. Taylor, Mrs. Harry Higman, Miss Clara Bryan and Mrs. Jonathan Jones spent Sunday in Wilmington.

Mrs. Sidney Miller and daughter, Patty of Richmond are spending sometime with Mrs. A. W. Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Melvin and Miss Florence Melvin of Queenstown were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Melvin.

Miss Peggy Pritchard of Elkton spent the weekend with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. D. T. Pritchard.

The regular monthly meeting of the Homemakers Club was held Wednesday at the home of Mrs. C. S. Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Needles and daughter, Betty Jean of Chesapeake City were Wednesday visitors of friends in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sharpley and daughter, Phyllis and son, William of Wilmington, were Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Moore.

Mrs. Frances Sanner and Mrs. Thomas Rowan of Wilmington were Wednesday guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shehan.

Miss Caroline Massey of Wilmington spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Massey.

The W.S.C.S. of Asbury Church held their regular monthly meeting last Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Leo Gale.

Mr. Raymond Eldridge of Wilwood, N. J. was a week-end guest of Mrs. Alice Moore.

Mrs. Annie Barnhart of Wilmington was a Saturday visitor of Mrs. Lena Duling.

The regular monthly meeting of the W.C.T.U. was held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. N. A. Wallen.

Mrs. Frank Dixon, Mrs. Herman Wallace, Mrs. Craighton, and Carol Phillips, of Wilmington, were Sunday visitors of Mrs. Mattie Neal.

MASSEY

Mrs. Agnes Redgrove has returned home after a pleasant visit with Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Starr at Galena.

Gene Newnam, Junior O'Grady and Toby Price of the U. S. Navy, stationed at Bainbridge, Md., are spending furloughs with their respective parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Scott entertained on Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. William Jarrell and son Billy, of Wilmington, Mr. and Mrs. Niels Hamson, of Newport, Del., and Miss Louise Rowan, of Massey.

Mr. A. A Woodal, had a tumor removed from his han d at the Kent General Hospital, Dover, last Thursday. He is getting along splendid.

Master Andy Cummerford of Newark, Del., spent several days last week with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cummerford.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Freeman entertained at a dinner last Thursday in honor of her father Mr. Andrew LeSage on his 78th birthday. Guests included his childred.

Miss Gertrude Nickerson of Baltimore visited with friends in town last week.

Rudolph Ovecka, of the U. S. Navy in Norfolk, Va., spent four days last week with his wife and little daughter at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. George Churey.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pwell and children spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Willam Bramble of Galena.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Sanner and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs Edward Brown were week-end guests of their mother Mrs. Thomas F. Newnam.

Miss Lelia N. Ware suffered a heart attack at her home "Wayside Inn" Smyrna, Del., last week. We were sorry to hear of her illness and wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Docker, of Philadeljhia, spent the week-end at their home here.

Mr. and Mrs. William Cooper, sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ross of Chestertown, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Cooper.

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