

WINGS ALOFT

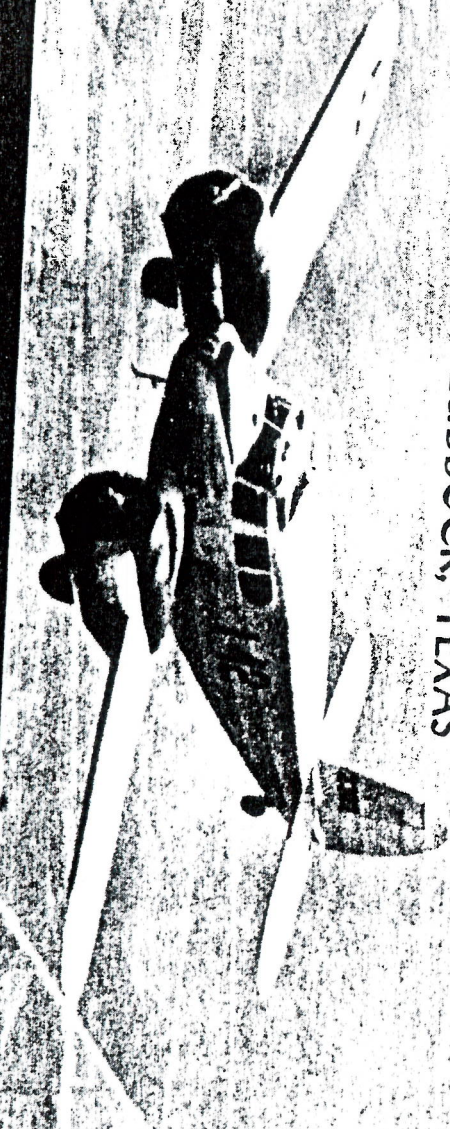
PUBLISHED BY

THE CLASS OF

43-H



ADVANCED TWIN ENGINE FLYING SCHOOL
LUBBOCK ARMY AIR FIELD
LUBBOCK, TEXAS





BRIG. GEN. LUTHER S. SMITH

Commanding General of 33rd Flying Training Wing with Headquarters at Blackland Army Flying School, Waco, Texas.

HISTORY OF LAAF

Where roving bands of Comanche and Kiowa Indians once hunted buffalo by the thousands, where Texas Rangers under Colonel Sul Ross and Army Scouts under Gen. R. S. Mackenzie of old Fort Concho intercepted the savages in the 1870's, and where trail herds from West Texas ranches once rolled along the chain of small lakes which formed the Yellowhouse Canyon Trail to markets in the Rocky Mountains region—here the United States Army Air Forces now train hundreds of young aviators to fly twin-engine airplanes and do battle against the modern enemies of civilization, the Nazis and the Japs.

Taking its name from the nearby city of 40,000 people, Lubbock Army Air Field is the second oldest twin-engine flying school of the Army Air Forces Gulf Coast Training Center. Construction of the base was begun in the late summer of 1941 and just before the year passed into history, the first troops arrived. Three commissioned officers, nine con-coms and 48 privates from Brooks Field made up the first security detachment.

Col. Thomas L. Gilbert, a native of Arkansas, who received his pre-flight training at the University of Texas and his flying training in France during World War I, was sent from his post as sub-depot commander at Ellington Field, Texas, to be first Commanding Officer of LAAF.

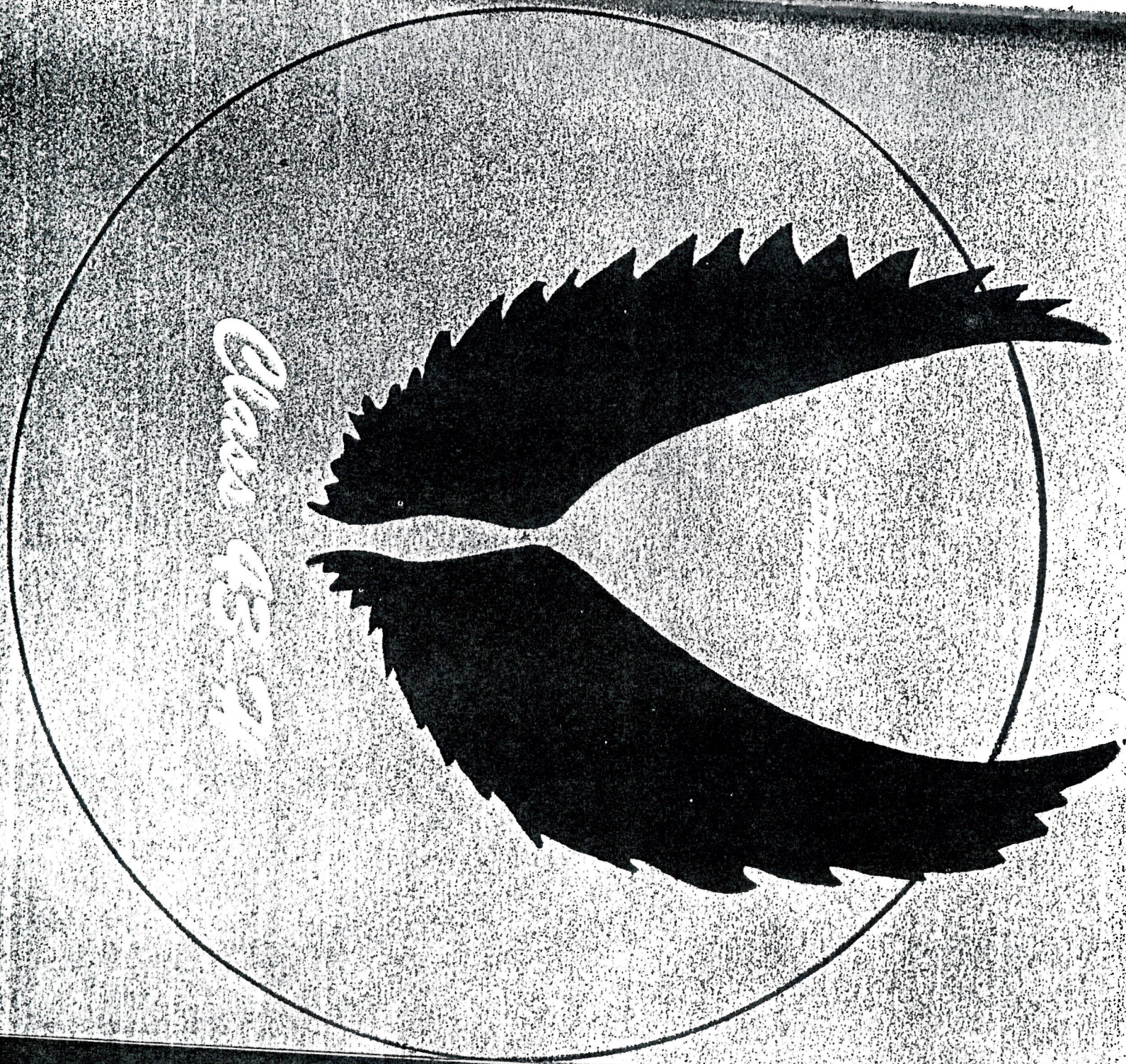
The first class of aviation cadets and students graduated April 29, 1942, when Colonel Gilbert presided at the new post chapel and Durwood H. Bradley, Lubbock attorney and World War I veteran, delivered the graduation address. Although single engine AT-6 North Americans were the first training planes used in teaching the advanced cadets, these soon were replaced with twin-engine AT-17's and AT-9's, which are the types in use today.

During 1942 the muddy post streets gave way to pavement and the squadrons planted grass, shrubs, and trees in their plowed-up areas to vastly improve the field's appearance. Then, on June 21, Major General Harmon, acting Commanding General of the Gulf Coast Training Center, came to Lubbock to officially dedicate the field before a cheering throng of 35,000 South Plainsmen and soldiers.

On March 17, 1943, Colonel Gilbert was ordered to another duty and was succeeded as Commanding Officer by Colonel Ralph E. Holmes, who had been serving in the supply division of the Gulf Coast Training Center. Other important events of the year include changing the name of the school from Lubbock Army Flying School to Lubbock Army Air Field and the arrival of the first detachment of members of the Women's Army Corps for duty.

Lubbock Army Air Field has played a leading part in turning out highly competent personnel so necessary for victory in the air, and the record of achievement of its graduates has helped to inspire every officer, soldier, and civilian on the field to strive to maintain the lofty traditions of the United States Army Air Forces.





CLASS OF 1951



2nd Lt. George A. Wolf
45 Church Street
Wetherfield, Connecticut
Primary—Ballinger, Texas
Basic—Goodfellow Field, Texas



F/O John C. Baitshoffs
New Woodstock, New York
Primary—Cuero, Texas
Basic—Waco, Texas



F/O Ronald E. Bartley
Underwood, North Dakota
Primary—Cuero, Texas
Basic—Waco, Texas



F/O Charles D. Beard, Jr.
1612 Ala Avenue
Birmingham, Alabama
Primary—Cuero, Texas
Basic—Waco, Texas



F/O Charles J. Bech
Avenue Monterey
Luxembourg, Grand Duchy
of Luxembourg
Primary—Cuero, Texas
Basic—Waco, Texas



F/O John D. Bennett
217 N. Main Street
New Lexington, Ohio
Primary—Cuero, Texas
Basic—Waco, Texas

“CAVU”

Luxembourg Native Gets Silver Wings

*From Dallas Times Herald
31. VII. 43*

LUBBOCK, Tex., Aug. 30—(IN) —Charles Joseph Bech, a native of the Duchy of Luxembourg gobbled up by the Nazis, is scheduled to get his wings and be commissioned as an officer in the Army of the United States today.

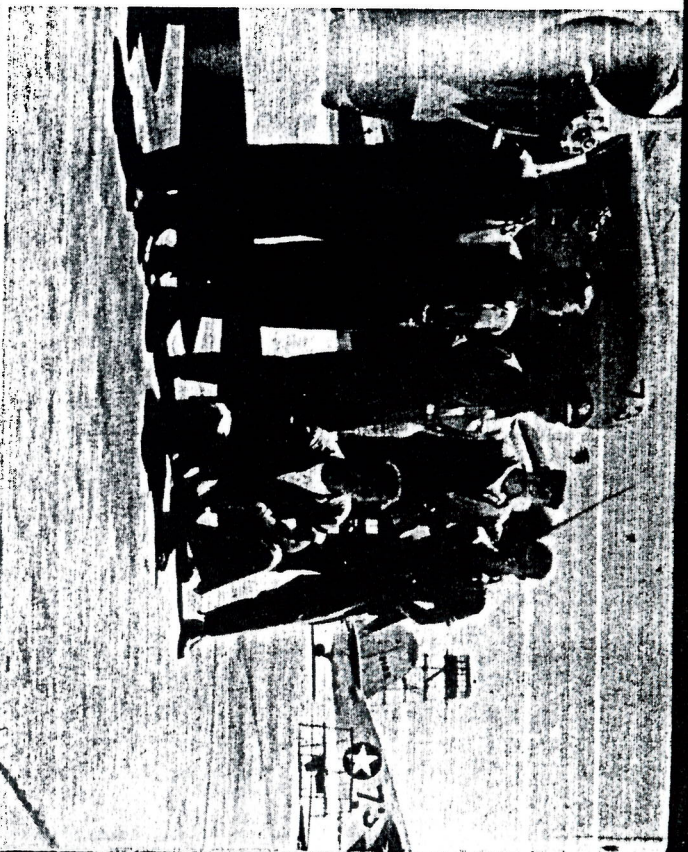
The occasion is the graduation of another class from the AAF Train-

Colorful Class Graduates In LAAF Program Monday

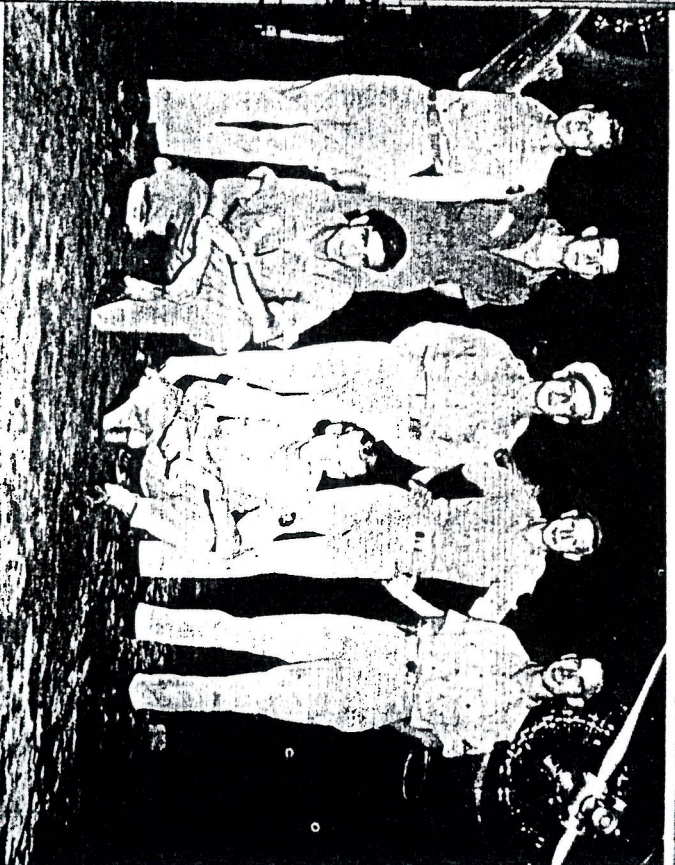
ONE of the most colorful classes of the U. S. Army Air forces. Prominent in public affairs in field's history graduated from the his own country and the League of Nations since World War I. The



(Left to Right)
 H. L. Saunders
 E. W. Schleier
 LT. J. R. HALL
 T. C. Salt
 P. B. Seymour
 (Kneeling)
 J. E. Scroggs

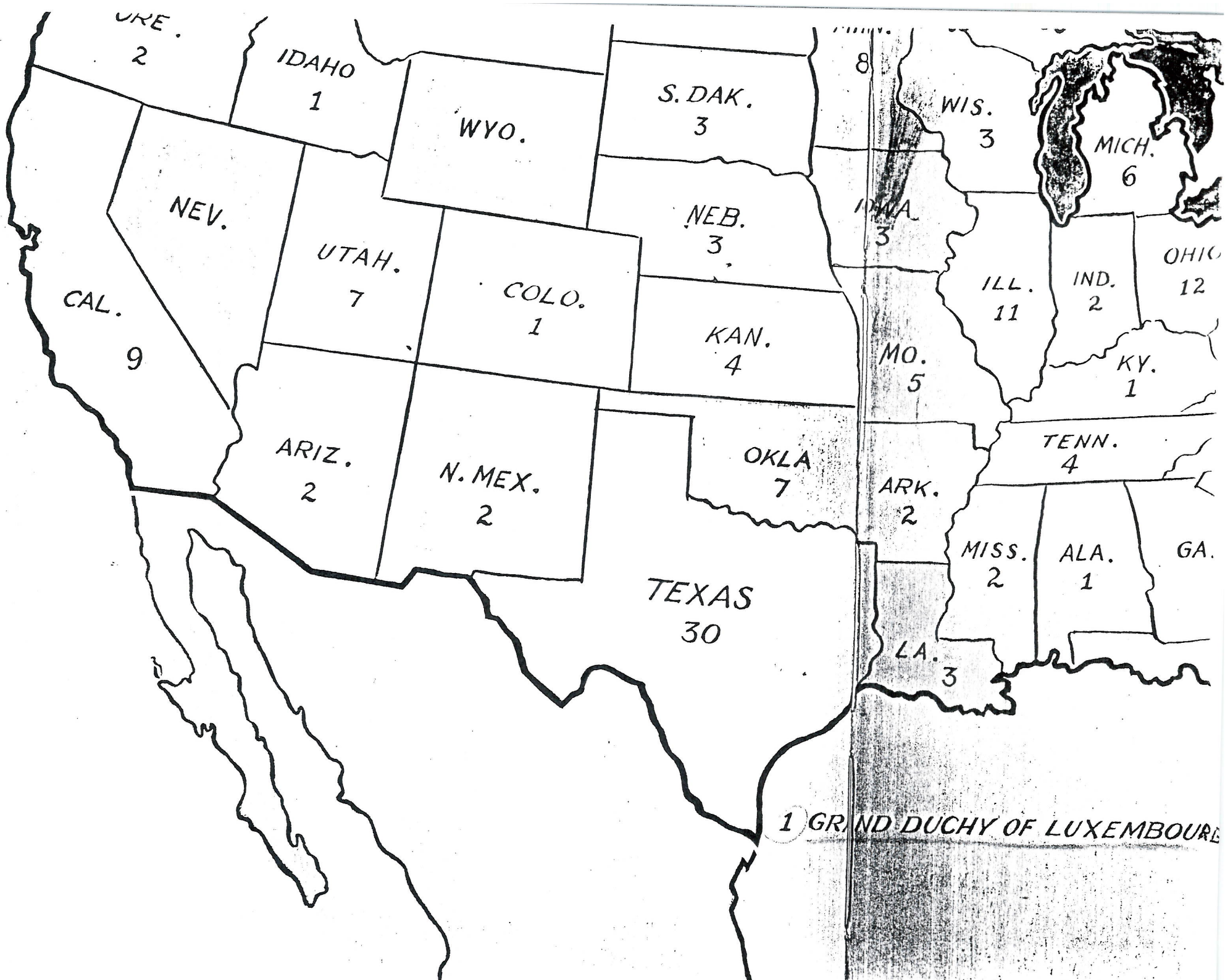


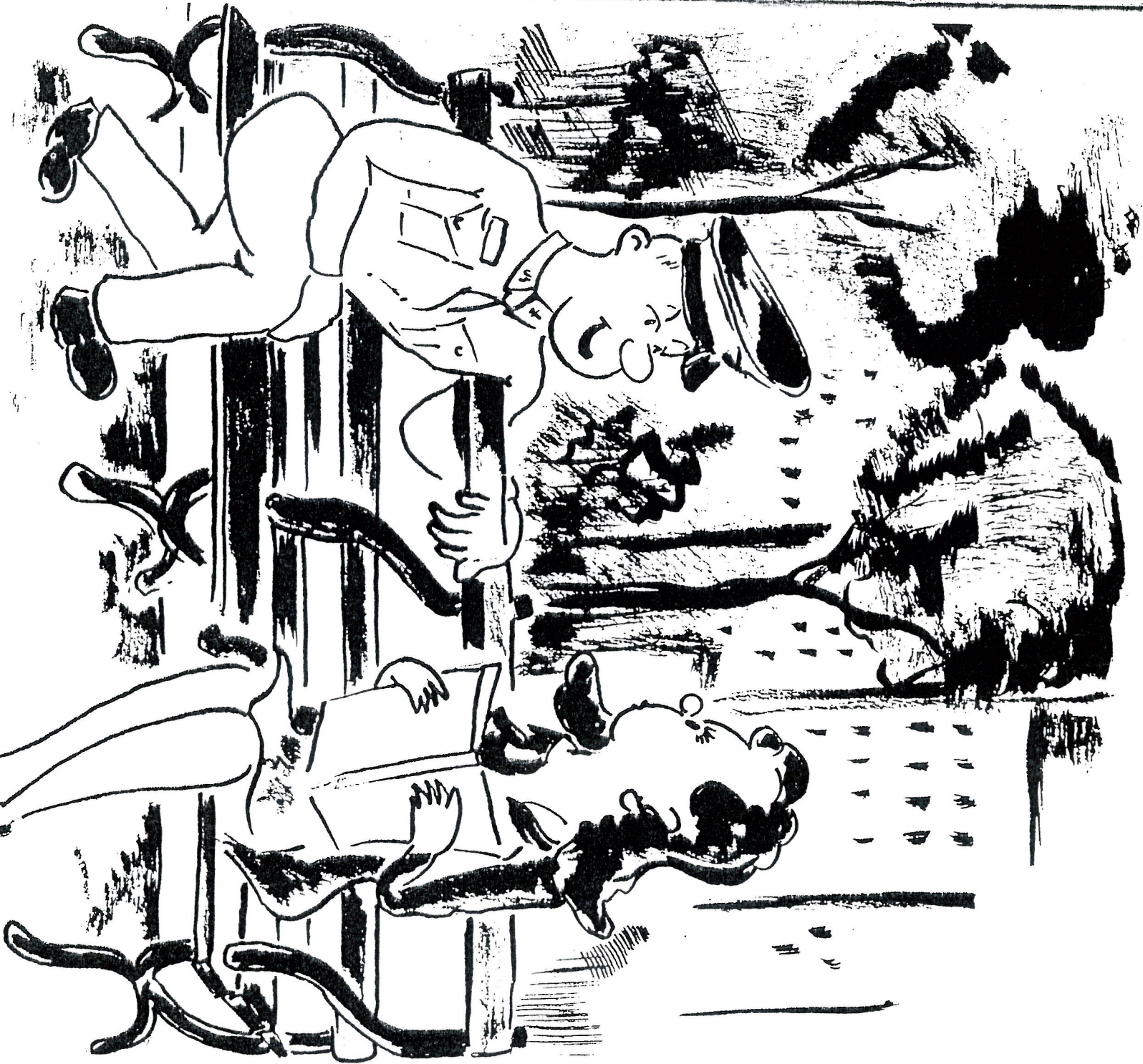
(Left to Right)
 J. E. Enoch
 C. R. Clark
 LT. P. G. CALAME
 A. D. Hamlik
 G. K. Edward
 (Kneeling)
 P. F. Chavez
 R. W. Cassada



(Left to Right)
 C. J. Bech
 B. J. Trice
 LT. J. G. CASSOU
 R. G. Tudor
 D. R. Druschel
 (Kneeling)
 L. O. Hicks
 E. J. Lahaye







"Do you care for the cadet type?"

C. J. BEAH.