TAKE OFF

Squadron 3

317 CTD DEC. 43
Sunday for the Colors
TO SQUADRON 3:

You have done more than your part to carry on the traditions of the 317th CTD. You have been eager, on the ball and have made good progress on your road to finished pilots, navigators and bombardiers. I am sure you are ready to continue your training. That you can’t do it here is one of those things. Keep on proving you are worthy of those wings you desire so much and good luck will be with you. May all your landings, in airplanes or not, be good ones.

GEORGE E. HEIKES, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding
CAPT. VICTOR E. SCHEMBER
Adjutant

1ST LT. GEEDIE L. SIMMONS
Commandant of Students
TO SQUADRON 3:

The primary objective of any war is to defeat the enemy. To accomplish this, we must have highly trained personnel on the ground and in the air. You have chosen the air. Use every minute of your training period, whether it is in the military, physical, or academic, to equip yourself for your role in this war. Continue to use the spirit, originality, initiative, and ability to learn that you have shown so well during your stay here, and when the time comes for you to enter the combat, you will be ready.

Here's to you.

LT. GEORGE B. RADULOVICH
TO SQUADRON 3:

You are now part of an incomparable Air Force, undaunted by its climax­
ing victories in every theater of war; unprecedented in the sense that no nation
can even parallel much less cope with its indispensable assistance that has
so victoriously proved itself through the fighting and courageous efforts of
the American youth who comprise it. Victory through Air Power may not
solely be responsible for the inevitable triumph which we will eventually
experience but it is in my estimation—the most instrumental factor to warrant
an assurance of victory. This is your Air Force— your war—your responsibility
and your country. The future of democracy and the fate of your posterity now
rests in your hands. It is up to you to protect, preserve, and perpetuate ever­
lasting peace. "Do with it what thou will!!"

Sergeant Gibbons

THANKS, SGT. GIBBONS:

You have given us something to think about. We’ll do our best. We want
to thank you for your patience, kindness, and copious humor which was dis­
played each day by the D. I. S. We consider our squadron as being very
fortunate in having you as our tactical sergeant.

Squadron Three
Dedication

On the 14th and 15th of October of 1943, the various replacement centers sent to this campus the men who were to be welded into the dynamic Squadron 3. After the first few days of meetings, red-tape, and placement tests, this group began to pick up speed. On their first Sunday afternoon parade, they marched off with the colors for the best squadron on parade for that day. This nonchalant spirit has followed them throughout their stay here. We didn't win all the time, but we made the other squadrons know that Squadron 3 was there.

This group of men stamped themselves from the very beginning as a zealous group. Wherever there is something going on, the men of Squadron 3 will be found actively engaged. Their variety show "On the Air" was given the distinction of being the finest entertainment ever put on by a squadron at the 317th C.T.D. They have left a mark for the others who follow to shoot at.

The academics were very bewildering and confusing to the aviation students at first. Many felt that they had completed their freshman year in college at the end of the first two weeks. Math, being a basis for these future air crew members, was labored at with all the fire and zest that any "eager beaver" ever gave out with. "Hup, two, three, four. By the right flank, march." This language was our theme song during our free (?) period. During gym classes we began to get a very clear picture of what was meant by coordination—mostly bruises and strained muscles.

Geography helped us to plot our course from place to place. Most fellows found this to be very useful on open post when looking for something in Missoula, or a luscious co-ed at a sorority house. English taught us to articulate like future officers. "Teacher, I forgot my theme." More than one poor student uttered this lament when he had had a fast stepping weekend date. In history we found out what we were fighting about and why. Some fellows were fighting to go home to their parents, wives, or sweethearts. On Friday nights, most of the fellows were fighting for a chance to get to the phone booth to get a date with one of those gorgeous creatures of feminine pulchritude called Montana Co-eds. Physics, lest we forget (how could anyone ever forget those three long hours in a row?), was where we were supposed to learn the basic principles of why we fly. Most fellows were flying all right—sound asleep.

That first open post was one of the high spots of our stay here. We now realize what Sgt. Gibbons meant when he said: "Men, open post is a privilege." Yes, we understand now, since we spent most of the night before open post scouring the black marks off our floors and halls.

Montana State University and Missoula will long be remembered by the men of Squadron 3 as the "Shangri-la" of beautiful, delectable, delightful co-eds and girls. The hospitality of the people of Missoula is the glowing spot in the hearts of the men of Squadron 3. We will never forget you, we hope you will remember us. We would like to come back some day and see your sons and daughters, whose places we tried to fill in your hearts while they were away.

This annual has endeavored to catch a panoramic view of the various phases of our enjoyable stay here. We dedicate this book to help remember and reminisce over our school life and those wonderful open posts we had here at the 317th C.T.D.
"Who took my drawing pencil?" A/S Robert Weisberg has handled two positions in molding this composite book. He has served as the editor-in-chief while at the same time doing all of the splendid art work. He has proved his worth by his untiring efforts which resulted in this annual.

"How many extra copies would you like?" Serving in dual capacity also, A/S Edward W. Solomon worked efficiently as assistant editor and as business manager. The handling of all the literary composition of the annual was done by Mr. Solomon.

"Hold still, please. Click. Thank you." A/S William Boone had the difficult task of doing all the photography editing. Working under adverse weather conditions nearly all of the time, he accomplished much when others would have been glad to quit. He was always endeavoring to get some shot of the indomitable Squadron 3 in action.

The able assistant of photography was A/S Claude L. Smith. He spent most of his time in the dark room—developing pictures. To the other members of the staff he was known as "Our Man Friday."

The staff wishes to express their thanks to A/S Kemper Beasley, A/S Bobby-Lee Payne, and A/S John Lawrence for their many efforts in helping put this book out.
A/S James "Orson Welles" McCormick, who is from Wichita Falls, Texas, has proven that he is a capable leader in helping direct the resourceful Squadron 3. In justification of his splendid leadership, he has been appointed "Group Adjutant." We know he will do an excellent job.

A/S Erskin "Rommie" Kemper is from Dallas, Texas. He served efficiently and diligently as Squadron 3's adjutant, and has been rewarded for his services by rightly being appointed as the new Squadron Commander.

A/S Gib "Cactus" Reid hails from Fort Worth, Texas. He received the post of Squadron adjutant when Mr. Kemper moved up. He is rapidly adjusting to his new duties. Mr. Reid was formerly flight lieutenant of Flight P.

A/S Vernon "Old Sarge" Hartman claims Scotia, New York as his home town. He has capably handled all the paperwork of filling out daily reports, "gig" sheets, and "detail" lists. Many a night the typewriter has been heard in the late hours when he has been snowed under with extra work.
FLIGHT L
KENNETH C. "Moose" MASSEY
Sulphur Springs, Texas

ROBERT L. "Rocky" MARBLE
Washington, Iowa

REX M. "Cam" McCAMMON
Americus, Kansas

PERRY D. "Pedie" GATHRIGHT, JR.
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

KEITH N. "Casey" MEADOR
Wichita, Kansas

JOHN W. "Flash" PALMER
Santa Ana, California

BOBBY-LEE "Hill-Billy" PAYNE
Louisville, Kentucky

ELMER B. "Al" RICHARDS
Simms, Minnesota

On the Ball
JOHN A. "Sandy" SANDUSKY
St. Joseph, Missouri

MELVIN E. "Mel" S C H L E F F
St. Louis, Missouri

LEWIS W. "Hat" S C H N A B E L
Kansas City, Kansas

STANLEY L. "Buggs" S M I T H
Louisville, Kentucky

CLAUDE L. "Bear" S M I T H, J R.
Lamoni, Iowa

STANLEY L. "Buggs" S M I T H
Louisville, Kentucky

JAMES O. "Jim" S T A T H A M
Fairfield, Texas

Flight L
CLARENCE A. "Cassie" STRAKBEIN
San Jose, California

VIVIAN L. "Kansas" SUTTON
Lawrence, Kansas

CLARE V. "Stash" SWARD
Alliance, Nebraska

ROBERT "W. R. W." WEISBERG
New York, New York

LEO F. "Lion" WRIGHT
Flint, Michigan

GEORGE B. "Aggie" MURPHY
San Antonio, Texas

ELMER V. "Tommy" THOMAS, JR.
Springfield, Missouri

Gigless
Flight
Flight M
Flight M
JOE D. "Longhorn" LEWIS
Cherokee, Texas

JOHN H. "Joker" LUMPKIN
Tulsa, Oklahoma

RICHARD L. "Dicic" McGILLIS
Salt Lake City, Utah

JOHN F. "Echo" CARNEY
Akron, Ohio
Flight Sergeant

JAMES W. "Orson Welles" McCORMICK
Dallas, Texas

BYRD T. "Bird" MILLER, JR.
Chicago, Illinois

JERRY A. "The Kid" MOHR
Metamore, Ohio

RANSOM J. "Joey" MOORE
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

Sharp
DONALD G. "Speed" MARQUETTE
Minneapolis, Minnesota

ROBERT A. "Muddy" MURPHY
O'Joe, California

WALTER E. "Rosey" PALM
Red Wing, Minnesota

LLOYD C. "Whity" SANDGREN
Minneapolis, Minnesota

DELBERT H. "Hoofer" SANDHOEFNER
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota

IRVIN T. "Bojangles" SCHARFENBERGER
Norwood, Ohio

JOHN W. "Johnny" SMITH
St. Joseph, Missouri

PAUL B. "Kaintuck" STARGILL
Lexington, Kentucky

Flight M
SAMUEL R. "Quiet" THOMPSON  
St. Paul, Minnesota

JACK D. "Long John" VAN NATTA  
Hutchinson, Kansas

WINSTON N. "Woogie" WADE  
Winfield, Kansas

HERBERT B. "Goin on 20" WILDER  
Lawrence, Kansas

Slick

DUANE E. "Slug" WRIGHT  
Aurora, Nebraska

WILLIS A. "Aces" GROSS  
Walla Walla, Washington