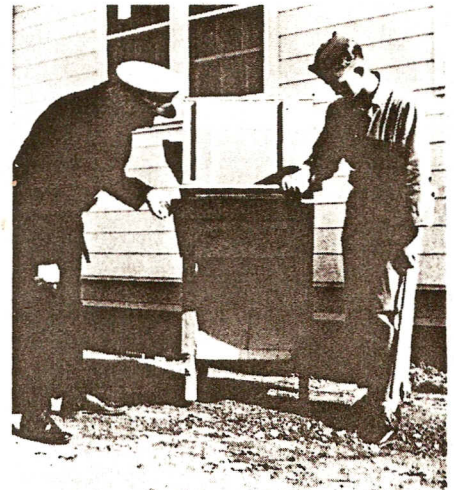


conflagration which might be started with incendiary bombs. The department works three shifts but all men are on call in case of an emergency.



Sand Boxes Are Stationed Throughout the Post

Chief Bouchard and Corporal C. E. Wright are inspecting the hinged door of one of the boxes. When the door catch is released, the sand runs out from the chute-bottomed box. Each box is also equipped with a shovel.

The department has been specially trained in the handling of incendiary bomb fires. All members of the department must pass a physical test and written examination before they are hired. All are trained in first aid work. During a blackout they stand by equipment ready to roll. During an air raid, they move the equipment to designated positions about the post.

A member of the department is assigned as post fire inspector. He checks all equipment and fire extinguishers, has fire hazards eliminated, watches electric line loads and assists the chief in teaching first aid, incendiary bomb fighting and other classes.

The alarm room is the nerve center of the master plan for meeting any emergency and three men are assigned to special duty as fire alarm operators.

ARMY AIR SCHOOL AT STOCKTON WELL PROTECTED AGAINST FIRE

**Efficient Personnel and Equipment
Insures Proper Handling of Fires.**

By Bob Greenock*

WHEN the staccato blasts of the giant siren at the West Air Corps Advanced Flying School, Stockton, Calif., sound their ominous warning of "Air Raid," "Blackout," or "Fire," a co-ordinated organization of emergency squads and departments instantly springs into action, ready to protect life and property from a would-be attacker by land or air against guns, gas, or fire.

Defense from the latter menace is centered around a modernly equipped fire department, manned by civilians to release soldiers for other military duties. Captains R. S. Craig and J. R. Nichols are Fire Marshal and Assistant Fire Marshal, respectively. Chief of the fire department is M. H. Bouchard, formerly with the Stockton Fire Department, rated as one of the most effi-

cient departments in the State of California.

Equipment of the fire department at the field includes a 750-gallon pumper, a 100-series crash truck maintained on the flying line, a hose wagon and an auxiliary hose truck.

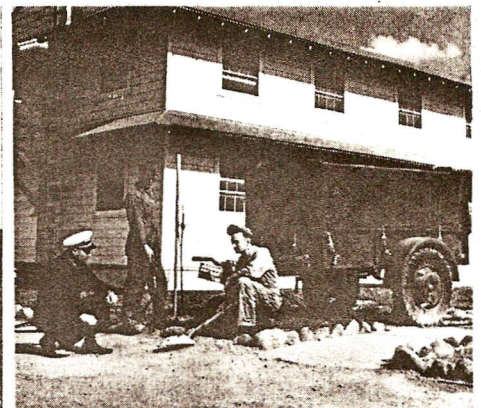
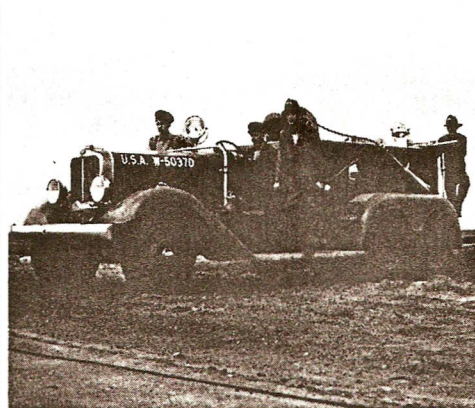
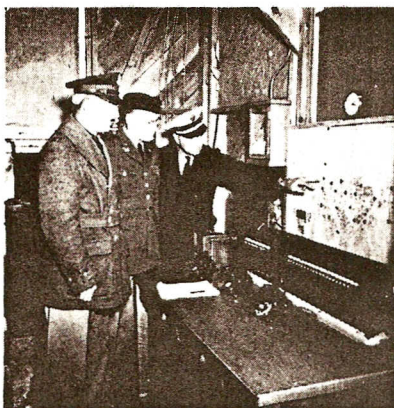
Augmenting this equipment is a large number of auxiliary fire carts spotted throughout the post, specially constructed sand boxes and other apparatus.

The sand boxes are distributed one to a building. They are constructed with a chute bottom and a hinged door. When the door is released, the sand runs out of the box. Each box is equipped with a shovel. Every building on the post has one or more fire extinguishers, depending on the size of the structure.

The auxiliary fire carts are two-wheeled trailers containing sand, shovels, rakes, garden hose with nozzles that will play a fine spray on incendiary bombs.

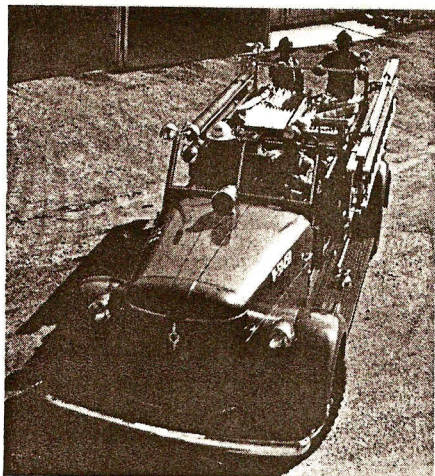
Thus, the department is ready for any

*The above story was written from information compiled with the aid of the Office of the Public Relations at the Air Corps Advanced Flying School, Stockton, Calif. The accompanying photographs were taken for FIRE ENGINEERING by the U. S. Army Air Corps.



Fire Protection Equipment at Army Air School

Left: Nerve center of an alert fire department is the alarm room through which reports of fires, air raids, gas attacks or similar emergencies are relayed to personnel of the Air Corps Advanced Flying School by means of siren signals. Chief M. H. Bouchard checks the alarm system with Captain R. S. Craig, Post Fire Marshal (center) and Captain J. R. Nichols, Assistant Fire Marshal (left). Center: A crash truck, manned by four men, is maintained on the mat at all times during flights. The truck is equipped to handle any emergency and the men assigned to it are trained in emergency first aid. Right: Chief Bouchard is instructing Corporal Adell F. Odom (with hose) and Corporal Arthur J. Mellhone, members of their Squadron Fire Squad, in two methods of combatting incendiary bombs with fine spray of water or dry filtered sand containing no salt. The cart's equipment includes sand, hose, spray nozzle, shovels, rakes and other tools.



Air Field's 750-Gallon Pumper Rolling Out of the Fire House

It is supplemented with a hose truck and an auxiliary hose truck.

Peak efficiency is maintained by regular drills and class work so that any hour of the day or night will find Stockton Field prepared to protect precious training airplanes, equipment and buildings, all vital in the Victory program to blacken the skies with American fighting ships and fighting men.

Stirrup Pumps Go into Production

Contracts are being signed for 2,258,000 stirrup pumps for extinguishing fire bombs, the Office of Civilian Defense stated recently. The pumps, made to governmental specifications, will sell for \$3 to \$4 each. Manufacturers have already been instructed to proceed in their production.

Success in a search for plastics as rubber substitute which could be used for pump hose made it possible to proceed immediately with the manufacture. Allocation of the pumps to target areas will provide an average of four to a city block.

An equal number of pump tank extinguishers to remain the property of the OCD will be distributed as block fire fighting equipment in the same areas.

To make the stirrup pumps available to the public at the lowest possible price level, the contracts for them will be let by the Defense Supplies Corporation, with the unit price fixed by the Office of Price Administration.

Local defense councils will be permitted to buy pumps from the manufacturers at wholesale.

As the pumps can be manufactured quickly, now that materials are available, deliveries should begin soon.

Promotions in New York Fire Department

Deputy Chief Edward G. Conway of the 10th Division, New York City, has been designated as Deputy Chief in Charge, Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens.

Battalion Chiefs Richard Burke of the Third Battalion and Antonio Z. Petronelli of the Forty-Ninth Battalion have been promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief.

STANISLAUS COUNTY, located in the central part of the State of California consists of 1,486 square miles or 951,000 acres of land, seventy-five per cent of which is arable. Sixty per cent of the total acreage is under irrigation.

There are 5734 farms in the county with a total valuation of \$75,119,376. The county produced \$35,000,000 worth of produce in 1941. The assessed valuation of the rural areas is \$66,000,000, which does not include incorporated cities.

There are 105 manufacturing plants in the county, which in 1939 produced \$25,859,109 worth of goods.

Mining in the county in 1941 produced \$1,500,000 worth of gold, magnesite, manganese and quicksilver.

Retail trade in the City of Modesto, which is the county seat, is the largest amount per capita in the United States. The per capita rate is \$1,209. The state average is only 461.

There are twelve rural fire districts in Stanislaus County, with five more in the process of organization at the present time. Three of the five have already presented their petitions to the Board of Supervisors. When these have been legally organized, the county will have seventeen fire districts, which will cover about ninety per cent of the rural area.

Forty-One Pieces of Equipment Available

There are forty-one pieces of first class fire equipment in the county, twenty-eight of which are rural trucks. These twenty-eight pieces have cost the taxpayers in the twelve different districts a total of \$71,900. The county is attempting at the present time to secure an additional twenty-one pieces to be placed in the different sections in charge of the regular trained force. If this additional equipment can be secured, it will bring the county almost up to the standard required by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and would enable its fire service to take care of almost any emergency within its boundaries.

In the mountain or watershed area, 108 miles of fire roads or breaks have been built. A bulldozer and grader with a crew of two men work in this area throughout the dry season. Springs for water supply have been developed and roads built up to them. Until these roads were built, it was necessary to walk a crew of fire fighters as far as ten miles in order to get to a fire. At that time it took as long as six hours to get to a fire. Now fire equipment is stationed back in the mountains and can get to a fire in less than an hour with a crew of ten men. These roads cannot be used by regular equipment, and it was therefore necessary to build special equipment.

Three hundred forty-six regular firemen and 306 auxiliaries comprise the

personnel of the fire service. All have been trained and can be depended upon in an emergency. Sixty-two more auxiliaries are under training.

Civilians Trained

Another program is under way which will be of great help to the fire service of Stanislaus County. The county has been divided into twenty-four sections, each section having one captain. These captains appoint at least five lieutenants and the lieutenants, ten or more men in their respective sections. The men will all be trained to take care of fires in their territories when they start, therefore relieving the regular firemen and equipment for answering calls for fires of greater proportions. This program is under the supervision of the Agricultural Extension Service, but it is up to the fire warden or ranger in each county to train, what is termed, these backyard fire departments.

The county has also put the mutual aid plan into effect, and found that it has worked out one hundred per cent.

Another phase of the program is the training of boys between the ages of sixteen and nineteen years of age in the schools in fire prevention and fire suppression. They are trained thoroughly in the use of all fire tools, fire extinguishers, back-pack pumps, etc. They are taken into the mountain areas and shown what they must contend with in fighting fires in that area. They are shown how to handle the rural fire equipment on imaginary grain and grass fires and also on structural fires. These young men will be of great assistance to the county during the dry season, and will be used in place of the C.C.C. boys.

For the past several years youngsters in the second, third and fourth grades have been brought to the fire house, or the fire equipment brought to the school. They are given a short lecture and allowed to ride on the equipment and to hold the hose while water is pumped through it. Each child is made the fire chief in his or her home. The different fire hazards to be found in the home and on the ranch are explained. Children are asked to go home and look for these hazards and to report them to their teachers when they return to school. As many as 126 hazards have been reported in one week and checked, and the youngsters thanked.

Mrs. Strathearn Dead

Mrs. Anna Brunner Strathearn, wife of Battalion Chief Hobart Strathearn of the Paterson, N. J., Fire Department, died suddenly on September 8. Mrs. Strathearn was known to many in the fire service.