

# **22<sup>nd</sup> COLLEGE TRAINING DETACHMENT (AIR CREW)**

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

Canisius College, Buffalo, N. Y.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

1Lt James B. Foran

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Our Air Force is growing stronger each day, as planes roll out of factories in mass production and airmen graduate from training schools in constantly increasing numbers. Assisting both the land and naval forces, the Air Force is playing a vital part in bringing the war to a victorious finish for the Allied Nations. This isn't being accomplished by luck. The strength of our Air Force depends on the number of trained men it has, men who thoroughly know the job they have to do.

To become a Pilot, Bombardier, or Navigator in the United States Army Air Corps, one must go through several different phases of training, all of which are so closely related that none could be

eliminated without impairing the efficiency of the entire program. Basic training, college training, classification, preflight, and flight training are all parts of a pattern that was designed with one thought, to train men to become the world's best airmen. Although flight training is the final objective, of almost equal importance is the physical, mental, moral, and military training.

The College Training Detachment, which is the second step in the Aviation Cadet Program, is where the fundamentals of groundwork, air traffic regulations, and flight training are taught to the Aviation Student. Here, also, he learns the rigid code of honor of the Aviation Cadet. His academic studies consist of courses in mathematics, physics, history, navigation, medical aid, English, and physical training. Under the supervision of the Plans and Training Officer, he studies military drill and courtesy, and leadership. Five days a week are spent in academic courses at school and study hall at his barracks, while the greater portion of Saturday is taken up by inspection and drill.

For relaxation and recreation, open post is granted each weekend. This schedule is followed during the first four months spent in the College Training Detachments by the Aviation Student. The fifth month is spent at a government contracted airport learning to fly small training planes under the supervision of the Civil Aeronautics Association. He gets dual instruction and while no solo flying is done, he becomes familiar with the controls of a plane, and future flying is thereby made easier. The College Training Detachment might be called the proving ground for the Aviation Student, as it is here that he lays the foundation for a successful military career.

Established in March, 1943, the 22nd under the expert guidance of its officers, has accomplished much in the year of its existence. The aim of this, the 22nd College Training Detachment Winter Publication, is to illustrate pictorially the life of an Aviation Student during the five months that he undergoes training at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

The Aviation Students of the 22nd College Training Detachment receive their class instruction at Canisius College. Classes convene at nine o'clock in the morning and continue throughout the day. The academic course meets all requirements as specified by the Army Air Forces Flying Training Command. Courses, applying to aviation, are taught to the Student by Priests of Canisius College and by civilian instructors. There is much knowledge gained in these classes that will help the Aviation Student at a future date.

Besides school classes, there is a stiff physical training program in progress all through the day. Every Student must attend, unless he is excused for medical purposes, P.T. classes consist of three school days devoted to gym class exercises and two days to the three-mile run.

A student takes this ship off! It looks easy from the ground, but there is a lot more to it than just getting in and taking off.

After four months of academic studies and military drills the Aviation Student moves to the airport where he receives ten hours of flight instruction and thirty hours of ground instruction.

Flight instruction begins with a familiarization of the airplane. The student is taught to make a line inspection, and is given a flight book with lessons to be studied. How well he does on each

lesson depends to a great extent on the knowledge gained through ground school. Ground school is divided into two phases. Twenty hours are spent in learning the regulations of the Civil Aeronautics Association. Meteorology, and celestial navigation are also part of the course. Ten hours are spent with the Chief Pilot, discussing the different phases of each day's flight. It is here that any difficulties in flying are discussed, and a preview of the next day's lesson is given to the Aviation Student.

Military Discipline is maintained throughout the program. Inspections and a physical training program with a cross country run are included in the Aviation Student's daily curriculum.

His flying time finished, the Aviation Student returns with the firm determination that some day in the future he will once again be "up there." He feels now what the final goal is—that pair of silver wings—that chance to fly.

World War II drained the student population from colleges and universities across the country. Selective Service enrollment had begun in 1940 in anticipation of United States involvement in the War in Europe. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 7, 1941, draft calls began and increased steadily over time as enrollment in the reserves rose in 1941 and 1942. In May 1943, 79 men from Canisius reported for duty at Fort Niagara and Camp Upton, New York, the largest number of Canisius College inductees up to that time.

By the last years of the war, a skeleton staff of faculty and administrators was serving a very small student body. Offsetting this financial drain, Canisius received federal funding for an Army air cadet training program and later for a nurse training program. Both contracts enabled the college to stay open during these lean years.

In 1939, a federal law was passed allowing the War Department to send servicemen to colleges and universities for academic and flight training. For this purpose, Canisius College was inspected in January 1943 by the Army Air Force 24. In March 1943 Canisius joined 56 other schools across the nation participating in the Army Air Cadet Training Program. Canisius provided general education courses and housing for this five month program. The Army designation for this training program at Canisius was the 22nd College Training Detachment.

The cadets came from all over the United States to Canisius. The first 200 arrived March 1, 1943 and April 1st of the same year another 150 cadets arrived to begin their training. The first four months of cadet training consisted of academic classes which included the required courses of English, Geography, Mathematics, History, Physics, Medical Aid and Physical Training. The fifth month of training was conducted at the Clarence Airfield where cadets were taught to fly small aircraft under the supervision of the Civil Aeronautics Association.

Canisius professors taught extra classes to prepare the airmen for graduation, as well as assist civilian students in completing their education in three years, as a three year degree program was instituted to aid students in completion of their college education prior to reaching draft age. Professors worked double hours, with no time off and no transition as each new class of cadets

came in on the heels of the previous class. In addition to the teaching schedule the professors also proctored study hours for the Cadets.

The commanding officer of the 22nd College Training Detachment was 1st Lieutenant James J. Foran.

He had a staff of three officers: the Adjutant, 1st Lieutenant William Christopher; the Plans and Training Officer, 1st Lieutenant Thomas Christoff; and the Tactical and Supply Officer, 2nd Lieutenant Murray Asch.

Along with a three-man military staff, a civilian physician, Dr. Kerin Lyons, was hired by the Army to serve as the 22nd College Detachment's surgeon. Dr. Lyons' military medical staff consisted of Sergeant Ezio Agresta, Corporal Arthur Herman and Private 1st Class Frank Davidson, seen in the photograph below, along with the rest of First Lieutenant Foran's staff.

Fr. Fay was also a professor of History at Canisius College. He was known as "Father Duffy" of the 22nd, according to Lt. Col. Samuel L. Biank, Jr., a past Military Science professor at Canisius, in his "History of Military Training at Canisius College".

"Dr. Reiner made a hit with everybody the first Sunday he appeared at the Consistory. He is well liked by all because of the friendly manner in which he conveys to us the principles that we are fighting for."{"Chandelle" caption}

#### CAPTAIN HAROLD A. DUNKELBERGER

Coordinating Chaplain of the New York and New England Area, Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command.

The cadets were housed in what was then known as the Masonic Consistory (.pdf) which was leased by Canisius College from the Buffalo City Council. This building, now Canisius High School, is located on Delaware Avenue in Buffalo, N.Y. A popular venue for many of Buffalo's social events prior to 1943, the Consistory's large main ballroom was converted into barracks for the Cadets. According to the March, 1943 issue of The Griffin student newspaper, the two large glass chandeliers hanging in the barracks were all that remained of the Consistory's former elegance after the transformation.

On any given weekday the Canisius students were regaled with the sounds of the Air Cadets' singing as they marched to the Consistory some 6-7 blocks away, to their class or Drill at the Canisius College Campus and back at night. The football field behind Old Main served as the drill field and obstacle course for the Cadets.

Daily life for a cadet consisted of classes and study hall Monday through Friday, drill and inspection on Saturday and Saturday night and Sunday were left for relaxation. As the Cadets came to Buffalo from all over the country, a home cooked meal was a rarity. Many Buffalo families invited the cadets into their homes for dinner. Other forms of entertainment were

sightseeing, going to the theatre, or getting together after class with friends in a local bar or restaurant.

Although the Cadets were a class unto themselves given their military affiliation, in the short time they were at Canisius they involved themselves in college life as much as their rigorous schedule allowed. In April 1943, the Cadets initiated their own column, "On The Beam," in the school newspaper, The Griffin. This column was a compilation of mostly humorous news of the Cadets as well as engagements and marriages. They also found time to form a basketball and a baseball team, competing against other military units in the area.

As each cadet class graduated, a Graduation Ball would be held in the Consistory. The May 14, 1943 issue of The Griffin states that "the Consistory once again acquired its pre-war color as Buffalo's showplace, the occasion being the graduation of the first class to pre-flight school." [8]

The Air Cadet Training Program was terminated in May 1944 as the War Department realized that fewer pilots would be needed in the coming months. In an interview in 1991 with Rev. James M. Demske, S.J., Rev. J. Clayton Murray, S.J., a philosophy professor at the time of the war, stated that the closing of the 22nd Detachment "...caused quite a bit of turmoil among our cadets as they had hoped to go on to become pilots." Dr. Charles Brady, former professor of English at Canisius, states in his history, "Canisius College: the First 100 Years", "These would-be pilots were diverted to Infantry boot camp."

Although shortlived, this program changed the face of Canisius for a time and helped keep Canisius' doors open during this difficult time. The Army Air Corps Cadet training program trained approximately 1000 men in the 15 months prior to its abrupt end. The final Graduation ceremony for the Air Cadets occurred in May, 1944.

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Sources