

Flight Control Command Tells of Downward Trend of Plane Accidents

Recent months have seen a number of incidents in which alert Observers have rendered invaluable assistance in the case of airplane accidents—sometimes to the point of making possible the saving of lives by prompt reporting.

It's safe to assume that all Ground Observers and Information and Filter Center Workers, by the very nature of their work, are interested in airplanes, in such subjects as flying safety. With this in mind we are reprinting the following from the Safety Education Section of the Army Air Forces Flight Control Command:

"The chances are better than 20 to 1 that if you're a pilot or a member of the flight crew, you'll go through the next 12 months without an airplane accident of any kind—not even a sprained ankle or barked shin.

"This prediction is based on figures prepared by Colonel Sam R. Harris, Commanding Officer of the Flight Control Command, after an exhaustive survey of AAF accidents and their causes during the past year.

"Other figures show the downward trend in the rate of all Army airplane accidents as well as of fatal accidents during the 8-month period from July 1942 through February 1943, indicating that the safety campaign which was begun last year has produced results. And this has been accomplished despite a great increase in flying and comparatively inexperienced personnel.

"Pilots in the Army Air Forces flew almost a billion and a half miles within the continental limits of the United States during the first 9 months of 1942—equal to 57,000 trips around the world or 7½ round trips to the sun. This is more than twice the distance flown by the Army during the ten years ending 1939!

"During that same 9-month period in 1942, there was only one fatal accident in every 1,750,000 miles flown, averaging only one fatality for every 850,000 miles flown!

"Averaging the same nine months in 1942, it was found that there were 75 accidents of all types for every 100,000 hours flown by the AAF within the United States of which only 8 were fatal accidents, resulting in 17 fatalities.

"These facts, together with others revealed in the survey, indicate that the AAF is making rapid strides both in its material and in the training of personnel, toward a safer future for flying.

"Significantly though, it was revealed that almost three-fourths of all accidents could be traced to carelessness, negligence, or error on the part of pilots and flight crews, of which a great percentage is preventable. Pilots and their crews, therefore, can do more to make safe flying a reality than any other factor for the future of aviation in the United States and to insure the success of the Army Air Forces in this war."

New Post Dedicated Atop Atlanta Building



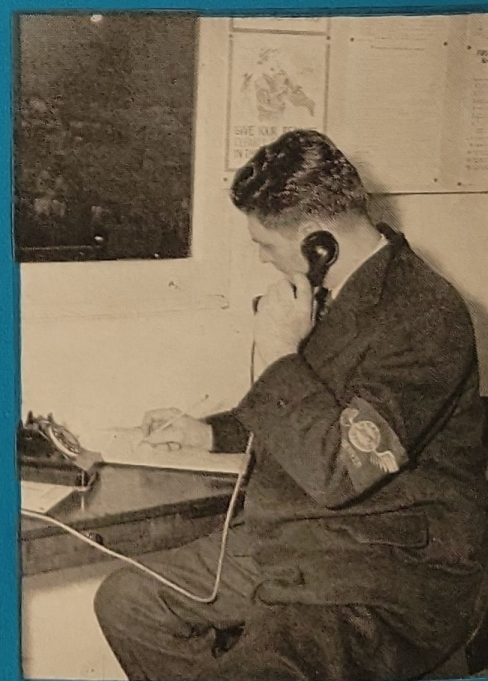
Lieut. Colonel Brundage speaking at the dedication ceremonies.

Lieut. Col. Keene N. Brundage, Commanding Officer, Charleston Air Defense Region; Lieut. Lloyd A. Williamson, Filter Area Ground Observer Officer; and the Rev. Raminondo de Ovies, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Phillip, were the principal speakers at the recent dedication of a new octagon-shaped Observation Post atop one of the largest buildings in the downtown section of Atlanta, Georgia.

A congratulatory message from Governor Arnall was read by Chief Observer Luther Alverson, local attorney.



The new Atlanta Post.



Assistant Chief Observer Davis "in action."