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World War II Air Force Cadets at Saint John's as documented in The Record: WIL-CO

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The Record

Z-341

Official Newspaper of St. John's University and Organ of the Alumni

Volume 56

Collegeville, Minnesota, Thursday, February 11, 1943

Number 3

Army Will Use Campus Facilities

Air Crew Residence



St. Benet Hall

**WIL-CO:
World War II
Air Force
Cadets at Saint
John's as
documented in
*The Record***

Seeks Center For Training Of Air Cadets

St. John's university has been placed on a list of educational institutions to be used for specialized military training, according to an announcement made last Saturday by a joint committee of the war department, navy department and war manpower commission.

The authorities at St. John's have already expressed their willingness to accept the government offer. Although no formal contract has yet been signed, the present arrangements call for one contingent of 150 air cadets to move into St. John's March 1, with a second group of 150 coming April 1.

In accepting the offer of the armed forces, St. John's emphasizes the fact that all present courses will be continued including those in liberal arts. It is planned that the first group of cadets will move into the upper floors of St. Benet's hall and that the regular students now occupying these rooms will move over to St. Gregory's hall.

p. 1 of the [February 11, 1943](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29580) issue of *The Record*,
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29580>
Benet photo from [1943-10-14](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29573)
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29573>

Campus Says

"WELCOME CADETS!"

Hello, soldier! This is St. John's University. How do you like it?

You're about to begin five months of life here. Five months of what we understand is going to be pretty rigid life—the kind of life needed to turn out Army Air Corps pilots. But what we're concerned with now is that you will get that training at St. John's. We'd like to tell you a little about the university so that you might understand what it means to us, and come to like it better yourself. What we think about it cannot really be put into words. It's something that has to be felt, or experienced, something that can only be called Johnny Spirit.

In 1857, a group of Benedictine missionaries will be much honored, but make no mistake St. John's is one of the first schools in the state. Since that time it has grown and outgrown the place, and we're sure you won't be able to escape experiencing a little of what generations of Johnny who-to-remember-forever-the-experience-here-have-called-Fighting-Johnny-of-their-days-at-St.-John's. This Spirit. With a year to be won soon, morning so the school was preparing you, with 750 other Fighting Johnny to receive you, a Johnny about to 1943 will be able to see that spirit.

The Record

Z-341

Official Newspaper of St. John's University and Organ of the Alumni

Volume 56

Collegeville, Minnesota, Thursday, February 25, 1943

Number 5

Father Abbot Greet's Lt. Casey



PRESIDENT ALCUIN DEUTSCH AND LT. RALPH CASEY, Chief of Staff for the Army Air Corps Cadets stationed at St. John's, exchange official greetings. Also observing this welcome are Father Walter and Father Dunham. (Cut courtesy St. Cloud Times.)

Much of the February 25, 1943 issue's front page concerned the arrival of the soldiers-in-training

the everyday happenings of what we like to think of as family relationships.

Since World War II things have changed a lot on the campus. We've had to get away for a while the things that in quieter times mean more to a college student's life. But even the war has contributed in a way toward the building of a substantial spirit among the men of St. John's. You will find listed over 100 college classes in the service of the country. To realize of the names on that list have been school girls' names.

With your arrival, education will be turned to work that will be entirely new to these old stones. It will seem strange for a while to see new uniforms in the halls that have been accustomed to the Benedictine habit and the rosary and chains of students. With collegiate students gone,

Trumpet Trio

The reorganized St. John's university band under the direction of Mr. John Fiala will present the first concert of the season next Wednesday evening in the university gymnasium, featuring the trumpet trio—William Macaskill, Robert Heinke, and Peter Kittberger.

The program for the evening: The Star Spangled Banner

1. Homberto.....Fiala
 2. King Lear Overture.....Heinke
 3. La Folia.....Kittberger
 4. Military March.....Fiala
- Soloists—Trumpet trio: William Macaskill, Robert Heinke, Peter Kittberger.
5. Harmony Queen Overture.....Coble
 6. Hummel Polka.....Hewer-Kentel
 - Glenn-Wynn 24th.....Coble

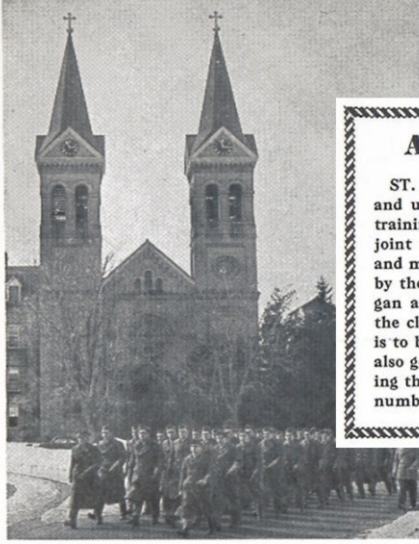
St. John's Equips For Cadet Vanguard Students Surrender Benet Hall Quarters To 150 Pre-flighters

Conditionals

Conditional examinations for those receiving a grade of F in any subject will be held

February 25, 1943 [front page](#)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29516>

Twin Towers Welcome Air Crew

OUT FOR A BRISK WALK in the chilly northland weather, the newly enrolled Air Crew students pass in review of the watchful eyes of the Twin Towers. The Towers, serving as St. John's conventional landmark for many years, apparently approves of the khaki clad warriors.
(Cut courtesy St. Cloud Times.)

March 11, 1943, p.1

ARMY CADETS ARRIVING

ST. JOHN'S HAS BEEN PLACED on the list of 281 colleges and universities which will be used for specialized military training. The three weeks-old announcement made by a joint committee of the war department, navy department, and manpower commission has been greatly elaborated upon by the army since then. Army officers and enlisted men began arriving last week and have laid down the outline for the classes, subjects, and activities of the cadets. The school is to be used for the training of army air cadets who will also get 10 hours of flying time at the St. Cloud airport during their five-months stay here. The first group of cadets will number 150, arriving here before March 1.

[page 1](#) of the March 11, 1943 issue

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29545>

Servicemen alumni also featured prominently in that issue's four-page [Alumni Supplement](#), which also had this announcement.

A Soldier Student



LOOKS AT ST. JOHN'S



By Pvt. Charles Woodruff

To every soldier at St. John's an impression is given of something worthwhile, something new. To us this is an unusually valuable opportunity. Many have never attended a college or university. These men, who from lack of money, chance, or by quirk of circumstances were barred from the essentially important experience of going to college, appreciate keenly the chance to be "Johnnies." They feel already that which many have felt before—the closeness men feel when they are studying, working, living together—the so-called college atmosphere.

These soldiers will listen more intently and spend more time over their textbooks striving to narrow the gap between themselves and those who were more favored.

The men who have attended college before appreciate St. John's in a different way. The fact that our instructors are all highly educated, the best that can be found, means a great deal. We will not be listening to "second best" or earnest graduate assistants. We will have access not only to the best that American education can offer, but also the teachings of the great universities of Europe. For many of our teachers have studied not only here in the United States, but also abroad. This is something new to all of us.

St. John's university is complete in every way. An essential part of any college or university is a library. The Johnnies boast of a 70,000 volume library which includes modern, up-to-the-minute reference books, newspapers, magazines, reading and study rooms which, if used, will play an important part in any soldier's life here.

The 2,800 acre campus has everything necessary to make St. John's a complete unit in itself. We have been told that communication with the rest of the world could be shut off for one month—and we would not suffer for it. Light and water systems, farm and dairy; these are but a few of the units belonging to the school. Sports of every kind are available—hockey, skiing, tobogganing, and all other winter sports. In the summer there is swimming, boating, and any of the things we ex-Californians enjoyed with the exception of swimming

in the ocean. A complete sports calendar is a feature of St. John's.

Already athletic competition has arisen between the army and St. John's. A basketball team has been organized among the soldiers, and games with the Johnnies have been scheduled. Both groups are beginning to realize the value of this opportunity for practice, conditioning, and fun. Friendships are starting between these West Coast boys and the St. John's students.

In the few days we have spent at St. John's, we have already been given things to remember for the rest of our lives. Looking from our high windows out over the vastness of the campus, we feel something wholesome and worthwhile. We are literally on top of the world—our world for quite some time to come. Chimes that signal the quarter hour, that tell us the time, are music to our ears and will be heard long after we leave St. John's. We are beginning to feel the friendliness and the spirit of this school. To many soldiers, St. John's will be an alma mater—and we all want to add to our inherent traditions of the Army Air Corps the Johnny traditions and the Johnny spirit. We will be the richer by acquiring them. Also, we would like to leave some traditions of our own—traditions of fellowship and earnest endeavor. We want to be remembered as the first and finest.

St. John's, with its air of quiet culture and sincere endeavor, gives each soldier a goal toward which he will strive. Our scope of life, our understanding of our fellow men, is being broadened for both now and for the future. All things have become more pleasant in every way. "Chow" is no longer a somewhat unpleasant but thrice daily must, it's a real pleasure! One soldier was told at the infirmary, "my Johnnies aren't supposed to get hurt after sick call." A little thing perhaps, but quite different from the usual G.I. opinion of sprained ankles.

We look forward to the things we will experience and have during our stay. Our classes under the black robed Fathers will be pleasantly valuable opportunities. Many soldiers will pledge the ancient and honorable fraternity specializing in bull sessions. There is no danger of our becoming ivory towerists, narrow in thought and in soul. We are impressed even now with gratitude for St. John's.

Page 4 of the
same issue,
March 11, 1943

[page 4](#) of the March 11, 1943 issue

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29548>

The March 25, 1943 issue, page 3:

College War Service News

The U.S. Marines will call their reservists about July 1, 1943, to active duty as privates in the Marine Corps Reserve. They will then be assigned to an active duty status and will continue their studies at colleges selected by the Navy.

College freshmen and sophomores will be required to qualify for additional study through a general intelligence test. Scholastic standing in college, probable aptitudes, and recommendations of the college authorities will be given consideration in the selection.

Students who have one term or less to complete for a degree may remain on inactive status in the colleges they are now attending, unless they are required earlier for military training, or the students request active duty and assignment to a college.

Assignment of Marine students will be based upon economy in the use of transportation facilities and the course of study now being pursued.

Army Reserves

The U.S. Army ERC reservists in pre-medical, pre-dental, and engineering courses are expected to be called to active duty about June 1, 1943.

It seems that pre-medical and pre-dental students will not be required to interrupt their schooling for basic military training. Students will be selected for these

flight training. Selected high school graduates will be sent to college for two terms as apprentice seamen before being assigned to aviation training.

V-7 students who have more than one term to complete for a degree will be placed on active duty and ordered to colleges under contract to the navy. Those V-7 students who have one term or less to complete for a degree may remain on inactive duty in the college they are now attending, or may request active duty assignment to a college selected by the navy.

In all instances, students in any navy program who do not, in any term, make the average required for graduation will be assigned to other duty, probably at sea. The army and the Marine services likewise will call their reservists to active duty in another status if these do not maintain the average (C at St. John's) required for graduation.

Army Air Corps

Aviation cadet training in the U.S. army air force is now open to men between the ages of 18 and 26 who can qualify for assignment to air crew training as pilots, navigators, or bombardiers.

Those who qualify will be given a letter to the commanding officer of the induction center showing their

[1943-03-25 http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29567](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29567)

March 25, 1943: *The Record* devoted all of the last page to the cadets:

"This Is The Army"

VOLUME 1

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1943

NUMBER 1

To Build Substantially And Grow Naturally-We Experiment

In keeping with our experimental status and our tradition of being first, we hereby inaugurate this page. No other corresponding air crew group has, to our knowledge, a column, page, paper, or news outlet of any kind. We are starting in a humble way, wishing to build substantially and grow naturally. It is our hope that we may continue to grow and that our efforts will be appreciated and continued by each succeeding group of air crew students stationed at St. John's University.

Our standards will be these: to publish that material which is of greatest interest to the enlisted men here; to be informative and beneficial, to be accurate in news reporting, and strive for perfection in writing. This is our paper, its purpose is to serve you!

This next page is no really very much an experiment and the work of a hastily gathered staff. There will be errors, we know. It is hoped that they will be forgiven, and we assure all writers everywhere that any plagiarism is purely unintentional.

The reasons for starting this journalistic venture are many and varied. Every man here wants the detachment at St. John's to be the finest of its kind in America. This is understood by all of us. We want to be outstanding and first in everything. "First and finest" shall be our slogan in all that we do, either singly or as a group. Therefore it is only fitting that we, and not our followers, inaugurate this paper.

Our parents, curious though it may seem, worry about us. They are interested in our every activity. Our letters are too often hastily written and skimpy. It is hard to know the things that are of interest to them—they're usually the little things that we accept as too commonplace to write about and soon forget. Moreover, we're too busy and too active to sit down and write a long comforting letter home. We want to compile in our news all the general duties and activities of Private Joe Donkes and his buddies in order to enlighten both Private Joe and his parents.

You can now see our reasons for this venture. Probably you can think of some other reasons that have not been mentioned. There are many possibilities for a page of this kind we may have missed, so tell us about them. In the meantime we will try to keep Private Joe amused, informed, and interested.

Army Voices Appreciation

In behalf of the enlisted men at this post we wish to thank Father Durstan and Record co-editors Bill Durkin and Francis Culhane for their splendid cooperation. Without it this page would never have been possible.

We wish to thank Lt. Greenwood and Lt. Miller for their time, effort, and encouragement.

Basketball Begins Recreational Activities For Air Crew Men

Inter-flight basketball is being forced off the floor by 10 intramural teams. The play-offs are scheduled to start Monday evening, March 22, and if all happens as we foresee, the proverbial three-ringed circus will have nothing on these hoopsters, for two games are to be played simultaneously on the short end courts. The results should be very interesting.

The roster of players indicates a very evenly divided strength, so competition should be keen and the games close. This marks the first well organized recreation, and we hope it is but the first of the many possible recreation programs to be organized. It should be interesting to know

From The West Coast

- "Zoot Suits" Go To Court
- Montgomery Buys Olives
- "Oscars" Given Again

The "zoot suits" and "duck-tail" haircuts frequently seen in Los Angeles and nearby towns seem to be on the way out. Montebello's Justice of the Peace E. P. Woods started the ball rolling. When faced by two of the "characters," he gave

them the alternative of changing their style of clothes and spending 90 days in the clinic. The defendants decided on new garb and haircuts.

Film actor George Montgomery is a much wiser man as the result of a recent purchase. It seems that Montgomery paid one Joseph C. Palmero \$1375 for an olive grove near Bakersfield. The purchase was undoubtedly a bargain, but there was a catch—Palmero had never owned the olive grove.

Incidentally, maybe you haven't heard who won the coveted "Oscars" awarded by the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences. The presentations are determined by the best performance of an actor and an actress for the year. The actor, James Cagney for "Yankee Doodle Dandy," the actress, Greer Garson, for "Mrs. Miniver."

Dodging here and there we find: Ex-Superior Court Judge Guy F. Bush is going to marry for the fifth time.

[1943-03-25](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29567)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29567>

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[1943-03-25](#)

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[1943-03-25](#)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29567>

"This Is The Army"

VOLUME 1

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1943

NUMBER 1

ATTENTION PLEASE

"This is the army" is definitely not an appropriate name for this page. We borrowed the temporary title from Irving Berlin's show of the same name. This page is yours, and it's your job to name it. If the experiment is successful, if you like it, there is the possibility of enlargement. We welcome any and all suggestions for improvement.

But first we must have a name for our page—we can best judge your approval of our efforts by the number of names turned in. If we get 150 names we'll know that you want to have a page, and perhaps a paper of your own. If the response is

light, we'll know that you don't particularly care and will abandon the idea. So it's up to you! Leave your suggestions for a name for our page in rooms 401 and 243, just anywhere at any time. Print your suggestion, your full name, and your room number on the paper.

At the present time there are only three men on the staff. There are openings for a news editor, a sports editor, a feature editor, columnists, and writers of all kinds. A business manager is also needed. If you have had experience in these lines or are interested, contact Pvt. Chuck Woodruff, room 401, or Pvt. Jack Webb, room 243.

[1943-03-25](#)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29567>

By the next issue, April 8, 1943, the back page had been renamed to



...and this, at the bottom of the page (repeated in the September 30, 1943 issue), was offered by way of explanation

Wil-Co - - The Winnah!!

"B for Benny twenty-nine to tower, B for Benny twenty-nine to tower. Asking permission to take-off. Over."

"Tower to B for Benny twenty-nine, tower to B for Benny twenty-nine. Permission granted. Prepare to take-off."

"B for Benny twenty-nine, WIL-CO. Over."

Such might be the two-way conversation between a plane and the radio tower. Radio has become an essential factor in flying, and along with it has come radio's own jargon. Messages must be short, clipped, and readily understood under the most trying conditions. So it is from this cant that the name for the post paper is derived. Private Richard Wahl of Flight B submitted the winning name. In the words of Private Wahl, "You fellows said that your idea was to put out a paper that would comply with our wishes: to carry news to those at home and to bring us news of the campus. In other words, you will comply, or wil-co."

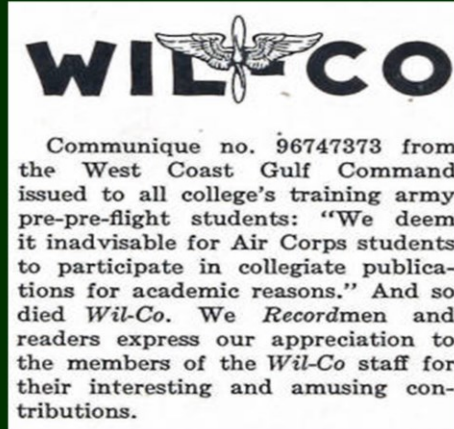
Lieutenant Greenwood, Tactical Officer, rewarded Private Wahl with a carton of cigarettes. The editors of the newly named "Wil-co" express their gratitude to Private Wahl for an excellent and appropriate title. We thank the men of the Detachment for the large number of names that were sent in and their splendid spirit of cooperation.

April 8, 1943 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29578>

September 30, 1943

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29540>

However, the next issue, May 6, 1943, p. 1,
noted the demise of the WIL-CO:



[May 6, 1943, p. 1](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29620) <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29620>

Despite the announcement of its demise in May, and for reasons not explained, publication of the "WIL-CO" back page resumed in the first issue in the fall, September 30, 1943. It continued in most, though not every, issue, appearing over a dozen times during its 1943 and 1944 run:

[1943-03-25](#)
[1943-04-08](#)
[1943-09-30](#)
[1943-10-14](#)
[1943-10-28](#)
[1943-11-18](#)
[1943-12-16](#)

[1944-01-20](#)
[1944-02-10](#)
[1944-02-24](#)
[1944-03-16](#)
[1944-04-20](#)
[1944-05-04](#)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1943

Swing Trio Entertains



Pictured above with Captain Casey is the 51th's swing trio who entertained at the annual banquet of the National Aeronautics Association, which met last week in St. Cloud to elect officers. Left to right: A/S Walter Bielski, A/S Earl Blue, A/S Wayne Mahurin, and Captain Casey. (Cut courtesy St. Cloud Times.)

Sept. 30, 1943, p.1

Even when "WIL-CO" wasn't part of a *Record* issue, there was a lot of coverage of Johnnie servicemen.

Service Flag Hung

●A new service flag recently hung on the wall of the passageway between the chapel and the main building reveals the large number of St. John's alumni who are now in the armed forces of the United States army, navy and the marines. At present the total number is 1018 men, of which 629 are in the army, 326 in the navy, 46 in the Marines, 8 in the Coast Guard, 4 in the Merchant Marine, and 2 in the Royal Canadian Air Forces.

Additional statistics show that fifteen Johnnies have already given their lives as a supreme sacrifice in this war.

Fifty-four per cent of all the Johnnies are commissioned officers.

(on band) [1943-12-16](#)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29509>

(on flag) [1943-09-30](#) (p.1)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29540>



(on flag) [1943-09-30](#) (p.1)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29540>

Plaque photos:

On rock: O:\...\Statues and Shrines\War memorialsThurk [Klein '23] Scrapbook p.19.pdf

Color: O:\...\Statues and Shrines\War memorials\War Memorial WWI.jpg

Image of Soldiers & Fr. Walter Reger (?):

<O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Depts&Programs\ROTC> Honor Wall 1955 4-10 1

WILCO



VOLUME 2

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1944

NUMBER 5

Graduation Exercises Held April 10

Father Abbot Gives Address At Special Graduation Exercises

● Graduation exercises were held for the group of men transferring to the army ground or service forces last Sunday evening. The Rt. Rev. Abbot Alcuin Deutsch, president of St. John's University, honored the group by delivering the graduation address, and also presented the certificates of appointment to those student commissioned and non-commissioned officers included.

[1944-04-20](#)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29588>



Father Gilbert Winkelmann, O.S.B., professor of mathematics for the Air Crew at St. John's is shown holding his giant seven-foot slide rule, bought to facilitate classroom instruction in the 87th C.T.D.'s academic program.

[1943-11-18](#)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29499>

A-S Hawley Winds Up Wil-Co

And now that all my other work is done I can see what to do about this so-called gossip column. My position as editor of the *Wil-co* has been only of limited duration, but it was fun while it lasted, even if a little work.

As the 87th swings into the home stretch all the boys seem to be turning over a new leaf, or several leaves. There just isn't

enough dirt to make a decent I guess we of the P.P.'s. F. Zderad tied the apolis this last the example Flight boys we him. And we mention Flo. quietly marr It was too nee so Sgt. W. Jac cigarettes last ceived a tele the birth of proud papa!

But the avia been up to man spent the {day} on the

lake recently, and came back red-faced but with a nice-sized pike to show for his efforts. Others did not have quite so much luck when they tried it, but it was fun anyway. The nice weather last week made the boys a little impatient to try out their water wings, so on a cross country run A-S J. Thayer decided to take a dive. His only difficulty



STAFF

Editor.... A-S R. G. Hawley, Sr.
Reporter..... A-S J. Cole



STAFF

Editor.... A-S R. G. Hawley, Sr.
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with some meaning now. And so for once and for all I wind up the gossip, and along with it *Wil-co*. St. John's has been a lot of fun, along with the hard work, and I'm surely going to miss it. After the war, God granting, I shall return and revisit all the spots. Let's hope the duration is a short one. Good-bye, and thanks for a swell time.

The last "WIL-CO" appeared in the May 4, 1944 issue, with this sign-off

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No Hawley photo!

[p. 4](#) of the May 4, 1944 issue

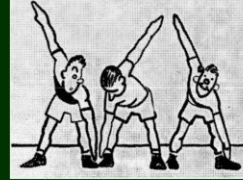
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29638>

Johnny Cadets Say

Thanks In Parting

●As April showers chase each other across the land, and the grass turns green on lawns and fields, the realization comes to us that one of the most pleasant chapters of our lives as air corps cadets is about to come to a close.

When we first arrived at Collegeville, it seemed as if we might have come to the end of the world. However, it was with surprise and a pleasant sense of anticipation that we saw the Johnny bus and the Detachment Band at the station to greet the new arrivals. And subsequent events have more than borne out the promise of that arrival.



A word of thanks must also be given to the Sisters who prepared our meals for us. Even after almost five months here we are still amazed at, but very thankful for, such food.

But as fast as we put on weight from one source, George, Joe, and Gus were busy taking it off with a P. T. program that ranks high in the C.T.D.'s in the nation. We'll miss those runs around the lake, or cross country.

[p. 4](#) of the May 4, 1944 issue

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29638>

Image from 1944 *Sagatagan*

Wil-Co - - The Winnah!!

"B for Benny twenty-nine to tower, B for Benny twenty-nine to tower. Asking permission to take-off. Over."

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Such might be the two-way conversation between a plane and the radio tower. Radio has become an essential factor in flying, and along with it has come radio's own jargon. Messages must be short, clipped, and readily understood under the most trying conditions. So it is from this cant that the name for the post paper is derived. Private Richard Wahl of Flight B submitted the winning name. In the words of Private Wahl, "You fellows said that your idea was to put out a paper that would comply with our wishes: to carry news to those at home and to bring us news of the campus. In other words, you will **comply**, or **wil-co**."

Lieutenant Greenwood, Tactical Officer, rewarded Private Wahl with a carton of cigarettes. The editors of the newly named "Wil-co" express their gratitude to Private Wahl for an excellent and appropriate title. We thank the men of the Detachment for the large number of names that were sent in and their splendid spirit of co-operation.

**Wil-Co =
"Will Comply"**

Acronym explained

[1943-04-08 http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29578](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29578)



WILCO



VOLUME 1

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1943

NUMBER 1

"Roger"

By Pvt. Bob Woolf

By way of introducing this column, it is highly appropriate to explain its uncommon name which is as new as the Air Corps and a very integral part of its language. "Roger" is flying inter-radio jargon for "reception o.k., go ahead!" "Roger" will appear in every issue of the new, all-army "Wil-co", and is destined to present a menu of happenings in the news to fit every khaki esophagus.

Saga Of The Bismarck Sea

Lessons are learned even by the experienced. Last month, Lt. General George C. Kenny, commanding general of America's Australian-based air force, found this to be true when his bombers blasted a valuable Jap military convoy.

The maxim learned: "Start hitting them hard from high up and then finish it completely with plenty of T.N.T. furnished at most high level."

This episode which occurred off the coast of New Guinea, proved the worth of the terrific shocking power of gigantic B24 Liberators and fast A20 Havocs when teamed together.

Late Nipponese News Announcement: "All Japanese soldiers will be taught to swim..."

Pol. Weniger Writes "Ruffles and Flourishes"

We shall bring you, from time to time, news from the army's world of music. Know how the Air Corps Song came to be? At the Cleveland Air Races in 1935, General Westmore botanized the fact that the Air Corps was a grown-up branch of the Service—and song-writer Liberty magazine took up the General's cry by offering \$1,000 to anyone who would write a song acceptable to the Music committee in Washington as the official song of the Corps.

Robert Crawford, now a Captain in charge of ground training for an operational training unit in Florida, didn't think that songs could be written to order that way, but was impressed by the story.

"I was lucky to win, as thousands of songs were presented in the contest," said Robert Crawford, as he received the check when his song was accepted as official. As a trained musician and an expert flyer, Crawford wrote a song that had everything. It has been accepted by flying men as their own and it is rolling on to become most stirring war songs of the day. And of Captain Crawford...he's heart and soul in the Air Corps—doing his job.

"On Brass Old Army Team"

In Cadence---

H'EXERCISE

By Privts. Bob Paul and Arnold Page

Fighting Stops Air Hawks—

The first game of the renovated schedule came off Thursday, April 1, without a hitch. It saw the "Air Hawks" under the guidance of Toser and Woolf go down under Thompson and Pene's supercharged Lightnings to the tune of twenty to fifteen. Bob Wright of the Lightnings was top for both teams in ringing up eight points.

Thunderbolts down Mustangs—

The Thunderbolts of Hostetler and Whitely made themselves the team to beat when they trounced the luckless Mustangs of Westphal and Packard thirty-one to twenty-two. Whitely passed the gang with top score of twelve.

The canna boys of the intramural tournament have got together and decided that due to the steady load the continuance of a ten-team tournament was impractical. The solution to this problem was rapidly reached. The consolidation of the ten teams into five was the answer. The weak teams were combined with the stronger ones, thus giving more uniform strength. Not only has the

inter-flight competition for squadron championships to possible outside contests.

The way to get this program rolling is by everyone getting on the beam and organizing. All men interested in having an active part in developing their favorite sport contact Pvt. Arnold Page, room 419—or leave a note in that room stating name, room number, flight, and sport interest on it so this program can be started.

How About You?

"The burning question is not when will we start to fly, but who flies off with the brooms every morning?" Really, we'd like to know. Do you men take the brooms at nine and keep them in your rooms, or do you arise at the crack of dawn and tip-toe down to the supply closet and thus nip them before the majesty gets up! In either case, there are enough to go around unless some of you have permanently adopted them. Let's try and keep them moving in the mornings so we can all avoid gigs at room inspection.

"yours received"

and contents noted"

By Pvt. Jack Webb

Each week at this same time and place we shall endeavor to answer all your queries regardless what they may be. We have on hand several consulting engineers well acquainted with all the various and sundry fields. Feel free at any time to write us a letter, card, or book on any and all subjects. We sincerely hope that we aren't the cause of too much tea drinking. If this be the

basco Sacon, and those little green Mexican peppers didn't give me a lift, I switched to fire eating. At first you may get over-boosted and you'll have to ignore those nasty blisters on your tongue, but persevere and you'll come out of it with a pair of rosy cheeks and a sun-tanned epiglottis! unquote. We sincerely hope this answers your question and that our "warm" friendship may continue.



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[1943-04-08 http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29578](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29578)

"Wil-Co" is explained again that fall, in the 1943-09-30 Record



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1943

NUMBER 1

What's In A Name

is Trip

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It's to be strictly G. I., nothing S.N.A.F.U., and so we would like to make this plea to any of the men of the detachment who have had any newspaper experience, professional or amateur, to submit articles for publication and to join our staff. Any suggestion about Wil-Co's make-up or contents will be greatly appreciated.

S.N.A.F.U.

●Guard duty proves intriguing, what with the calmness of a starry sky, and riot and disorder on post III. To some of the lucky few who were privileged to see it, Lieutenant Greenwood's famed and here-tofore mythical but ever present Pogo-Stick flashed across the heavens and was seen to vanish, after asking for a clearance to land at Leo's... St. Cloud is tidying up a few spare padded cells in the hope that the combination of Pay Day and Beer Bust will not make everything strictly S.N.A.F.U.; however, we have our doubts, for Mr. Weill has returned, proving that you can't keep a man with lifting power down.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Schubert have dissolved Chow Hounds, Inc., and it's a good thing.

It becomes apparent that it's going to take more than a paper cup to keep those planes at the airport

1943-09-30, The Record p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29543>

...and so is something else:

WIL-CO



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1943-09-30, The Record p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29543>

In the Oct. 14, 1943 issue,
"SNAFU" has become a
regular column:

S.N.A.F.U.

Judging from many of the physics grades, an addition of some of the I.Q.'s would result in something that resembles the score of a good hockey game. Keep it up, Men. With those and a nickel you can get a good cup of coffee at any of the B.T.C.'s.

Likewise In the Oct. 28, 1943 issue:

don Bailey appeared before the par- supper. The regular schedule, for
son to say "I do." Friday will not be changed.

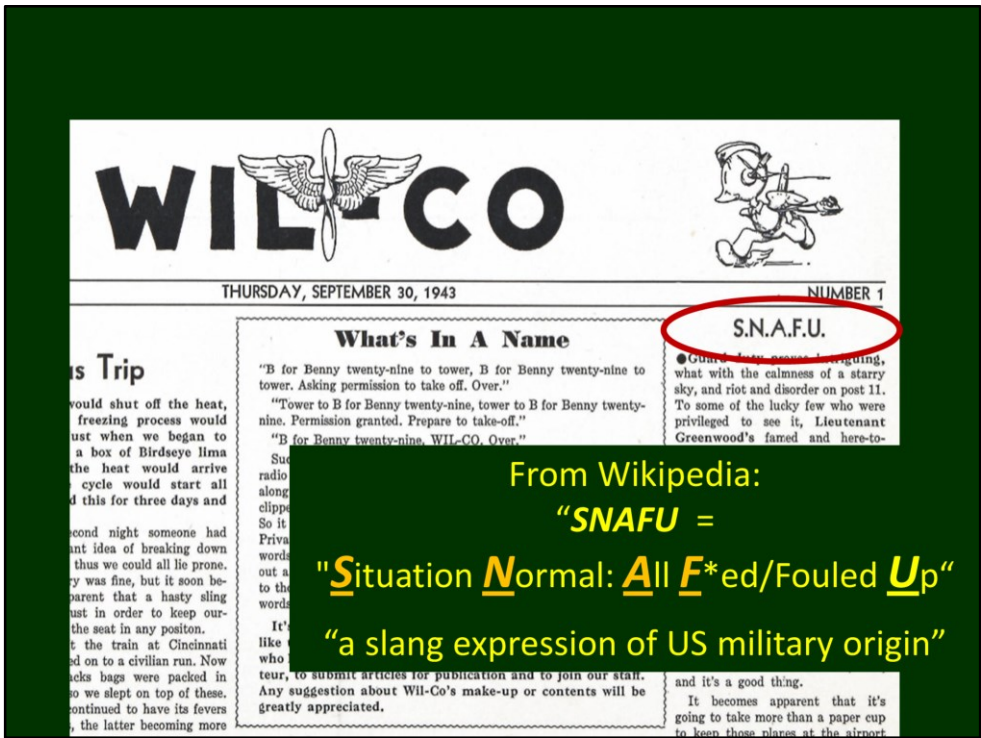
S. N. A. F. U.

"Little Abner" Carter received ciency said, "Bury him." At least
his certificate of merit from the Cesino's mind isn't cluttered up by a
Junior Birdmen of America, but he lot of externals. Those high wire

[1943-10-14](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29573) <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29573>

[1943-10-28](http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29603) <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29603>

"**SNAFU**" ("Situation Normal: All F*ed/Fouled Up"), a slang expression of US military origin" ([Snafu - Wikipedia](#))



1943-09-30, The Record p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29543>

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Much dissension arises in First Aid on the subject of treatment for snake bite. It finally narrows down to Mr. Durenberger defending the incision method, while the class as a whole rather favors the sloe-gin-fizz plan.

and it's a good thing.

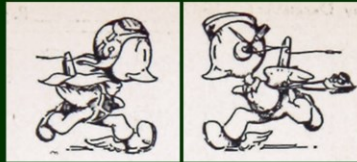
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1943-09-30, The Record p.4

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29543>

Inset from 1943-10-14, The Record

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/29573>



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SJU Archives
by Peggy Landwehr Roske, CSB/SJU Archivist.
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Image: 1944 *Sagatagan*, front cover,

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/18439/rec/24>

Text: 1944 *Sagatagan*, p. 63

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/18470/rec/24>