



PLANES OF THE LOCAL AIR FORCE RESERVE FLY OVER BUFFALO NEAR CENTRAL TERMINAL

WEEK-END *Air Force*

Photostory by James N. Matthews

Men who, during the recent war, flew over Ploesti, Berlin and Vienna in Europe, or Truk, Rabaul or Tokio in the Pacific are now flying over Buffalo and its surroundings with the Air Force Reserve. The 4th Squadron of the 26th Photo Reconnaissance Group, Air Force Reserve, is actively engaged in reserve training and can frequently be seen soaring over the city in their silver planes. The group maintains headquarters in the Old Customs House Building with a permanent Air Force liaison officer and staff of two enlisted men on duty throughout the week. General meetings of the Squadron and Group are held the second Monday of each month and ground training periods in photo interpretation, radio communication,

aircraft maintenance and allied subjects are held every second and fourth Monday nights. Flights are made from the Niagara Falls Airport (because of the heavy commercial air traffic at the Buffalo Airport) the first and third weekends of each month. The Group, commanded by Lt. Col. Robert J. Kirsch, consists of 30 officers and 70 enlisted men while the Squadron is composed of 78 officers and 260 enlisted men. Vacancies in the Squadron and Group are filled from a manpower pool organized as the 169th Composite Squadron. Several vacancies still exist in the latter for enlisted men. Information may be obtained by calling MOhawk 9798. The accompanying photos were made on a recent simulated photo reconnaissance flight over the Buffalo waterfront area.



FIRE GUARD stands by with an extinguisher as Lt. Ollie Champaign prepares to start up the engine. Sgt. Matthew Kawczynski, aerial photographer, sits in the rear cockpit of their AT-6 trainer.

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