



Army Air Base Harvard, NE Winter 1943 published by the base photo Lab. Design credited to Ben Turner.

on exposed brains. However, at Pinecastle, a taste of overseas conditions prevailed. There the men stayed in tents and the food was worse than overseas. Some men went up to complain about the food and were informed that it was in keeping with the training as to what to expect overseas,

Back at Harvard, the cadre began to expand into a full sized squadron. By November 30th the personnel strength had increased to 25 officers and 227 enlisted men, including the assignment and joining of the squadron first Sergeant, Francis J. Gillespie of Pennsylvania.

During the

Mountain Home, a group of key personnel left for fundamental overseas training at the AAF Tactical Center at Orlando and Pine Castle, Florida, and arrived at Harvard, Nebraska on 10 Nov 43 and were joined by 3 officers and 63 enlisted men arriving from Mountain Home on 17 Nov 43. While at Mountain Home, no major accomplishment was made.

The base was situated ten miles from the town which was no more than a railroad stop, it was remembered for the amount of gambling that went on there; the whiskey that was rationed from the liquor store, and which when brought to a bar was resold with a mix for 35 cents a drink.

At the base itself, the outstanding event was the chasing of the jackrabbits through the sagebrush. While part of the cadre chased rabbits in Idaho, the men in Florida fared somewhat better. At Orlando they stayed at the Air Force Tactical Center on the outskirts of town and had access to Jack Hollaway's night club, the entertainment at Phil Berger's, the Orange Trail Inn and when tiring of steaks at the San Juan Hotel, they switched to sea foods at the Spanish Villa.

Classes were of 50 minute duration with 10 minute breaks, and the ice cream man came around at 9 AM and 2 PM. The women were lovely, sociable and friendly, and the weather was ideal with warm days and cool nights. The men who attended will long remember the lectures received there, especially the lecture about battle conditions in which the men were informed as to what to expect. The sturdy and the not-so-sturdy took turns in passing out while being informed on the proper method of driving a nail into the tongue to keep from suffocating and, how to carry one's guts in one's arms, and the proper sprinkling of sulfa drugs



Orderly room, 826 Sq, The sign above 1/ Sgt F J Gillespie's head, says, "Best Administrative Squadron, 484th Bomb Group."