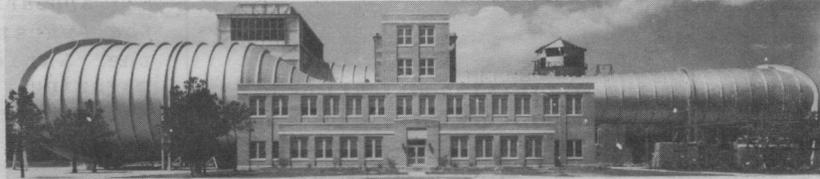
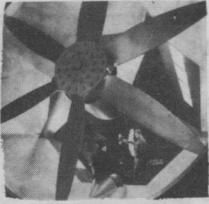


# LMAL BULLETIN



## LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

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Langley Field, Virginia, September 23-29, 1944

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### COURSE IN GERMAN TO BE OFFERED

Some members of the Laboratory staff have indicated a desire to participate in a course in beginners technical German. Such a course can probably be offered through the University of Virginia Extension Program provided satisfactory enrollment can be secured.

Such a course would be taught by Mr. Paul Kuhn of Structures Research and no prerequisites will necessarily be required. Mr. Kuhn points out that this course is not intended for advanced students and that although it will deal with technical German it will begin at a low enough level to accommodate students who have not previously studied German. Employees interested in this course are requested to contact the Training Division, phone 300, not later than Tuesday, September 26, at 4:00 p.m.

### LAB HAS ONE NURSE NIGHTLY

Due to the shortage of nurses, only one will be on duty during the night shift hours. She will be located in the West Area Dispensary, telephone 375, and all accidents occurring during that time, should be reported to her.

## BOMBER DITCHED IN RIVER AS PART OF LABORATORY TEST

Major Julian A. Harvey and Col. Carl F. Greene ditched a modified B-24 in the James River last Wednesday afternoon at 12:30 as part of a series of tests aimed at saving lives of air crew members forced down at sea, which are being carried on by the NACA at the request of the Army and Navy.

The full-scale ditching (the emergency landing of a land based airplane on water) was necessitated in order to obtain definite proof of the relationship between the model tests which have been conducted in Tank No. 2 and the Open Water Research Section for the past year and a half.

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## SOFTBALL DANCE TICKETS ON SALE

The combined men's and women's softball leagues are sponsoring a dance at the Hampton Armory on Saturday night, September 30, from 10 until 1.

A new Laboratory orchestra, the Modernaires, featuring the vocals of Johnny Maro, will make its initial appearance at the dance. Tickets are \$1.75 and may be purchased from the captains of the softball teams. Proceeds from the dance will be used to buy equipment for the leagues next year.

A program is being planned for intermission, at which time the winners of the leagues will be presented with prizes.

From a non-technical, eyewitness viewpoint, the airplane, which had been painted a vivid yellow, headed over the James River at a low altitude, coming from the direction of the Newport News-Hilton Road. Its course was parallel to the bridge and about a half-mile north. At a point a little more than a mile from the east bank, with flying speed a little above 100 mph, its tail settled in the water. It gave a momentary skip; the tail hit the water again; the belly of the ship settled; and the nose plowed under in a sheet of spray which hid everything from view for an instant. The nose bobbed up immediately and about a minute later the pilot, Major Harvey, came up through the escape hatch which had been installed in place of the top gun turret. He was closely followed by Colonel Greene. A rescue boat was on the scene and the two

(Continued on page 4)

# DITCHING

Continued from page 1

flyers went aboard while members of the rescue party secured buoys under the wings.

As far as outward damage was concerned, a large crack appeared in the underside of the fuselage under the leading edge of the wing, the lower half of the vertical rudders bent upward, and the two port propellers were broken off.

The Army Air Forces made three B-24's available for the test. All were classed as "war weary", or no good for further combat flying. The one that was used on Wednesday was the "Ellie Mae", veteran of many combat hours with two enemy submarines to her credit.

For the ditching, material structural changes were made in the airplane, and other safety precautions were taken for the two man crew. A large number of instruments were placed aboard for the purpose of recording precise data as to the deceleration and water pressure imposed by landing. These instruments were mounted in watertight containers painted bright red as a precaution against their destruction in case of fire. They had also been made buoyant in order to keep them on the surface should they become detached.

A spokesman from the Air Technical Service Command said that when these tests are completed, the data, which for the present is

classified military information, will undoubtedly eventually be made available to all aircraft companies and operating agencies.

The entire program, which was under the supervision of Bill Ebert and Capt. Donald Eastman of the Liaison Office, went off "without a hitch." The actual ditching was delayed one hour due to poor visibility conditions. A slight fog hung over the river, and the pilot said that visibility was poor at a half-mile.

Major Harvey said that he enjoyed the entire flight. He said that he suffered no injury whatsoever.

# USO NEWS

This week's program at the Hampton Industrial USO will open on Sunday, September 24, with open house. On Monday, September 25, at 6 p.m. the Anne Wythe Archery Class will meet; at 7:30, the Anne Wythe Social Club; and the Athletic Club; and at 8 p.m., the bridge club. The American Legion will meet at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, and on Wednesday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m., USO Mimes rehearsal; at 8 p.m. chess class; and at 9 p.m. a sing and informal dancing. On Thursday, September 28, at 6 p.m., Anne Wythe Archery Class; at 7 p.m. calisthenics; and at 8:30 p.m. the movie, "Flesh and Fantasy." Both the Friday, September 29, and the Saturday, September 30, calendars will be featured with open house.

# LABORATORY WAR

Continued from page 2

Navy. But behind these experts is the Federal Government's aeronautical research organization, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics..."

"...There is not an American military airplane in production today that is not based fundamentally and, in many cases, in specific detail, upon the research results and recommendations of the NACA.

"The work of the NACA and its value to the nation in the winning of the war cannot be publicized in detail because the problems assigned by the Army Air Forces and by the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics are 'classified' for security reasons...it must be content to let the results speak for themselves through the relative performance of American airplanes in combat."

"...Underwriting America's future in the aerial age, and underwriting preparedness for such air power as will effectively preclude attack, is America's organization for scientific research in aeronautics. America's aeronautical research policy is in effect an insurance policy on the life of the nation."

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WANTED: Second hand studio couch or sofa. Contact June Heckman, 345.

FOUND: Pedigree form on Boston Terrier named "Patsy". Owner may claim at Bulletin Office.

## NACA WAR BOND RECORD IN AUGUST

	Washington	Langley	Ames	Cleveland	Total
Number of employees	118	2,965	601	2,295	5,970
Number participating	108	2,826	566	2,238	5,738
Percentage participating	91.53%	95.60%	94.17%	97.51%	96.11%
Monthly pay roll	\$27,030.19	\$627,711.25	\$139,529.51	\$525,128.14	\$1,319,399.09
Amount subscribed	\$3,072.66	\$80,678.27	\$14,468.24	\$55,732.53	\$153,951.70
Percentage subscribed	11.37%	12.85%	10.36%	10.61%	11.00%
Average subscription	\$28.45	\$28.55	\$25.56	\$25.34	\$26.83