

Flight Soon at 1,000 Miles an Hour Forecast by Doolittle at M. I. T.

General Tells Graduating Class of 338 That Planes Will Have Supersonic Speed, May Use Atomic Energy

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BOSTON, Feb. 25—Airplanes now under construction will fly soon at speeds approaching 1,000 miles an hour and are expected to teach the lessons necessary to permit efficient military and commercial operations at even higher speeds, Lieut. Gen. James H. Doolittle told the first peacetime graduating class in five years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In disclosing today the construction of piloted, winged craft designed for high speeds, he said: "Pilotless, wingless, gyro-stabilized, rocket-propelled air weapons have already achieved speeds of around 2,500 miles an hour and we may anticipate that the air weapons of the future will also be radio-controlled and radar-directed.

"They will be capable of traveling great distances at supersonic speeds, in the stratosphere, and will probably have an atomic warhead and may even employ atomic energy as propulsive force."

The greatest deterrent to aviation at present, he said, was the inability to predict and combat weather, but he added that "all the known safety devices are not yet in general use."

He called for development and immediate installment in planes of the best equipment available and for the simplification, standardization and installation of radio and radar.

Degrees and Commissions

At its eightieth commencement, M. I. T. awarded 338 degrees to a class, including 179 Navy V-12 men, and seven women.

A total of 195 V-12 midshipmen, the last class to be trained at the institute and the first trainees to be commissioned directly from

such units, were made ensigns in the Naval Reserve.

M. I. T. has supplied 700 engineering officers since the beginning of the unit on July 1, 1943.

The degrees to the seven women covered a wide range of scientific subjects, including: Miss Beverly J. Beane of Fitchburg, in aeronautical engineering; Miss Eleanor P. Collins of Cambridge, in electrical engineering; Miss Cathleen Synge of Toronto, in mathematics; Mrs. Mildred E. Lisk of Newton, in architecture; Miss Marion G. Hogan of Cambridge, in meteorology; Miss Catherine M. Sponable, in chemistry and Miss Mildred H. Marks of Philadelphia, in biology.

Guidance in Character

Dr. Karl T. Compton, president, urged upon the graduates three traits of character, objectiveness in judgment and actions, single-mindedness and religion, which he deemed essential if "we are ever to achieve success and happiness and peace in this world of ours."

"Without advocating communism," he said, "we can appreciate the effectiveness of single-mindedness in Russia" in its technological development. He declared religion the most important trait of all, as it included the others.

"I am not thinking of any particular brand, or creed, or religious doctrine, but rather of an attitude of mind and spirit," he said.

Capt. William H. Buracker, Professor of Naval Science and commander of the naval training schools, administered the oath to the navy men and told them they were in a position to "help bridge a difficult period between war and a secure peace." He asked them to give the Navy every chance before making a decision on their future careers.