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AAF MANUAL 51-127-4

PILOT TRAINING MANUAL

FOR THE THUNDERBOLT

P-47



**CHECK TITLE PAGE FOR
THE DATE OF THIS MANUAL**

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES

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**PILOT
TRAINING
MANUAL
FOR THE
THUNDERBOLT**

P-47N

Hq. Army Air Forces
Washington 25, D. C. 1 Sep 45

The use and authentication of this manual
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BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD



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Additional copies of this manual should be requested from:
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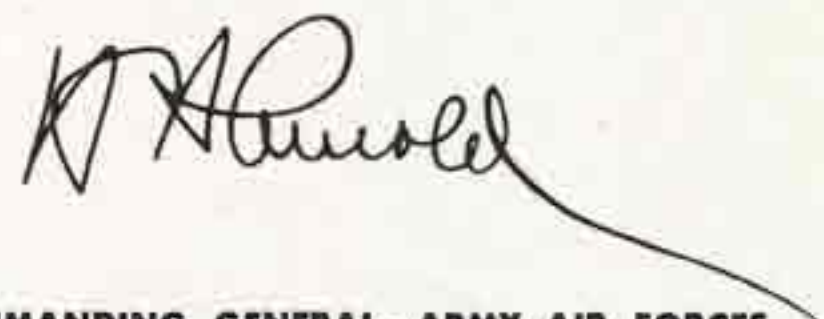
Introduction

This Manual is the text for your training as a P-47N pilot and airplane commander.

The Air Forces' most experienced training and supervisory personnel have collaborated to make it a complete exposition of what your pilot duties are, how each duty will be performed, and why it must be performed in the manner described.

The techniques and procedures described in this book are standard and mandatory. In this respect the manual serves the dual purpose of a training checklist and a working handbook. Use it to make sure that you learn everything described herein. Use it to study and review the essential facts concerning everything taught. Such additional self-study and review will not only advance your training, but will alleviate the burden of your already overburdened instructors.

This training manual does not replace the Technical Orders for the airplane, which will always be your primary source of information concerning the P-47N so long as you fly it. This is essentially the textbook of the P-47N. Used properly, it will enable you to utilize the pertinent Technical Orders to even greater advantage.



COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES

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P-47 N

THUNDERBOLT



This manual deals with the P-47N, a very long range fighter-bomber developed to blast the Japs in the Pacific. Since its birth U. S. bases have crept much closer to the Japanese Islands, so the chances are that few 2000-mile fighter missions will be required.

Nevertheless, the strategic value of such an airplane is enormous. Wherever N's are based, the Japs are in danger of escorted bomber strikes or fighter sweeps over a radius of 1000 miles or more. This takes in quite a lot of territory, even in the broad reaches of the Pacific, and provides a constant headache for the diminishing Japanese air force. The airplane's value as a fighter-bomber is enhanced by the large internal fuel capacity.

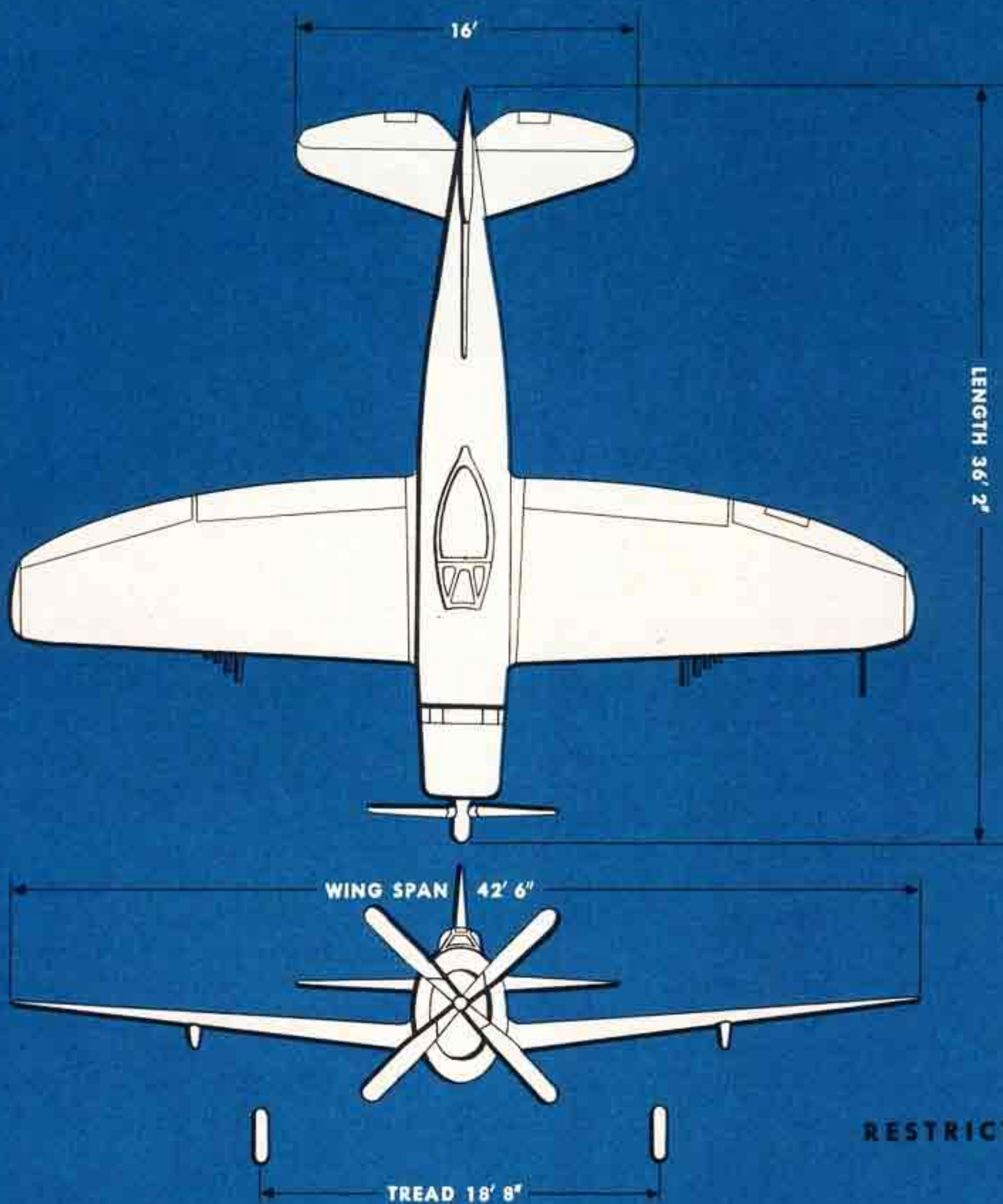
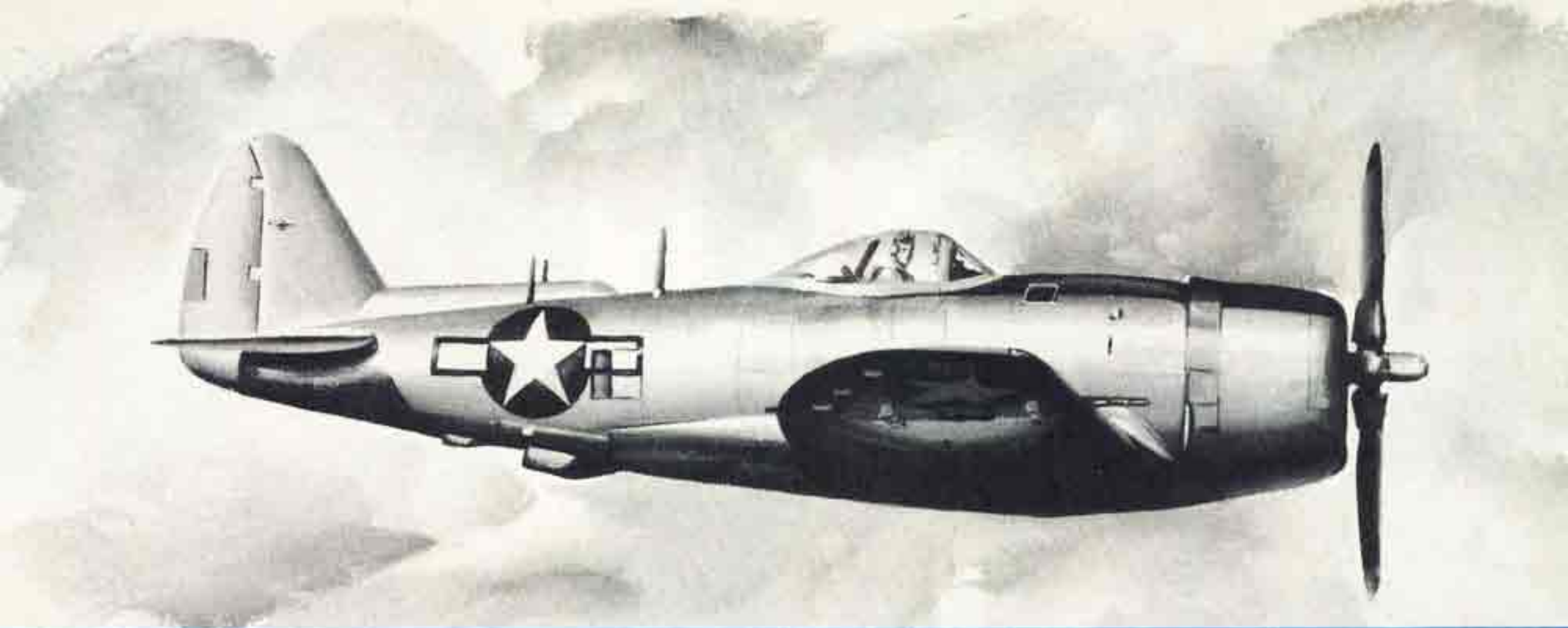
At first glance, the N appears to be merely a P-47D with squared wing tips. With comparable loading, the flight characteristics are similar and much of the equipment is the same, but

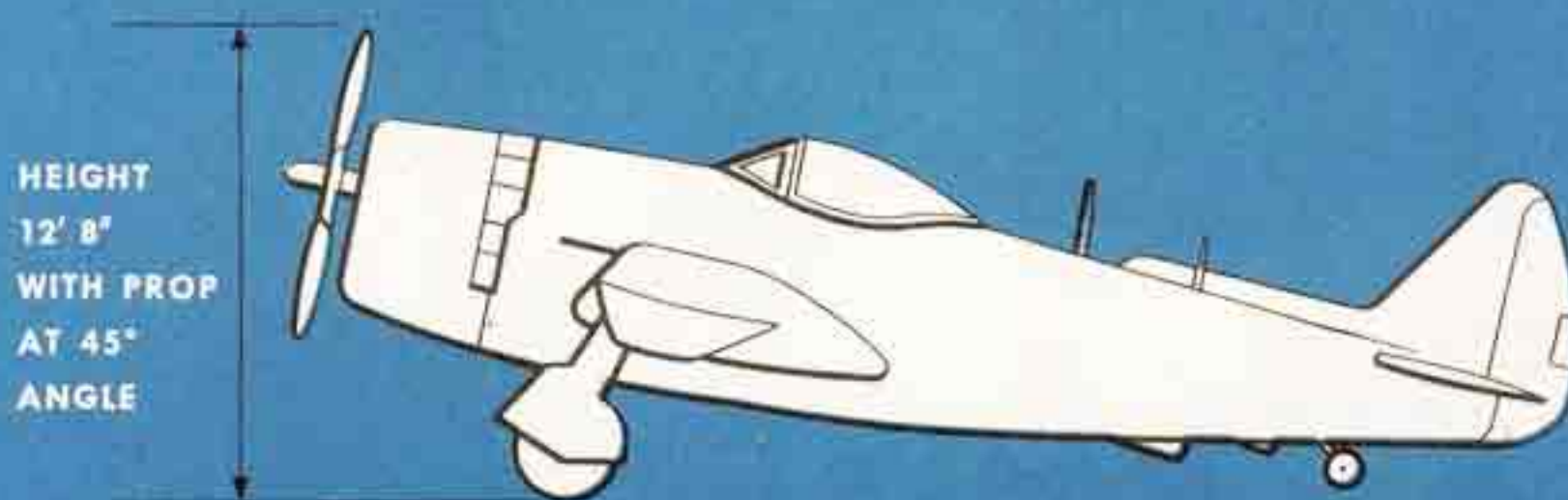
actually the P-47N is a different airplane.

The P-47N has a more powerful engine, internal wing tanks, electrification of many controls, an automatic pilot, homing radio, a tail warning radar, equipment designed to reduce pilot fatigue, and engineering changes demanded by the greater weight.

The N is not difficult to fly, but study is required to get the most out of the plane. It was designed for missions requiring maximum performance. The pilot—you—must also be capable of that type of performance.

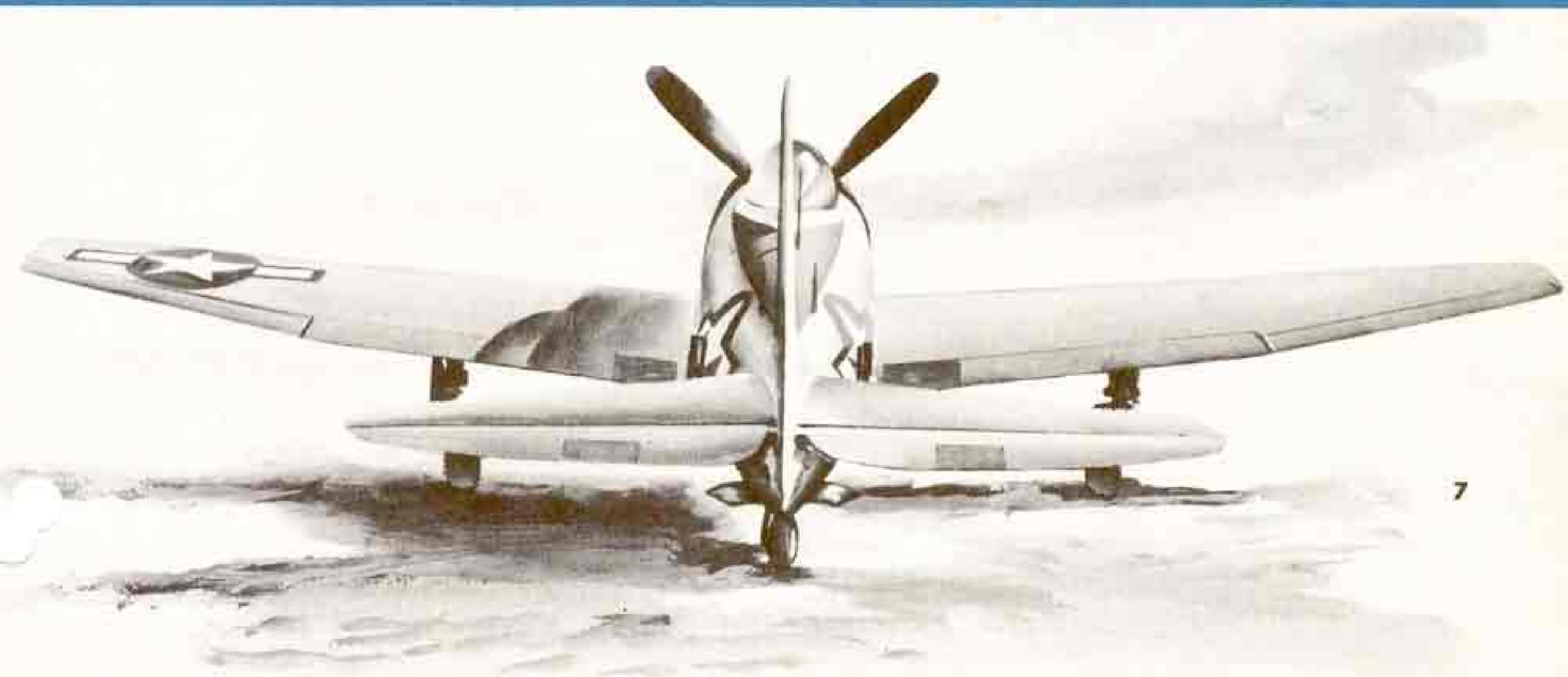
The N is still undergoing development. As bugs or possibilities for improvement show up, subsequent series will be modified. However, most major changes have been incorporated in the P-47N-5. Therefore this manual is based primarily on that series. Master the N-5 and you will have no trouble with any N that comes from the production line or modification center.





WING AREA:	322.2 sq. ft., giving a wing loading of approx. 43 lbs. sq. ft. with normal gross weight 13,854 lbs.
WEIGHT:	Empty—10,998 lbs. Useful load varies from 2,824 to 10,199.9 lbs.
FUEL CAPACITY:	Internal load: approx. 550 gals. External load: approx. 440 gals. Total max. load: approx. 990 gals.
RADIUS OF ACTION:	More than 1000 miles.
ENGINE:	18-cylinder, twin-row, Pratt and Whitney "C series," developing 2100 rated hp., and 2800 hp. with water injection.
STALLING SPEED* (POWER OFF):	Flaps and landing gear up: Approx. 115 IAS. With landing gear extended, flaps retracted: Approx. 117 IAS. With both gear and flaps extended: Approx. 100 IAS.

*Without external load, or with drop tanks attached but empty.



Canopy



You operate the canopy either electrically or manually.

Electric operation is managed by a toggle switch above the propeller control box. When you release the toggle, the canopy remains fixed in the last position.

To operate manually, pull inward on the knobs at the leading edges and slide the canopy to the desired position.

To open the canopy from the outside, pull open the flush mounted lever just below canopy rails on the left side.



To jettison the canopy pull the "T" handle, located on the right side of the forward bow. When jettisoning always lower the seat and duck your head, to avoid being struck by the bow.

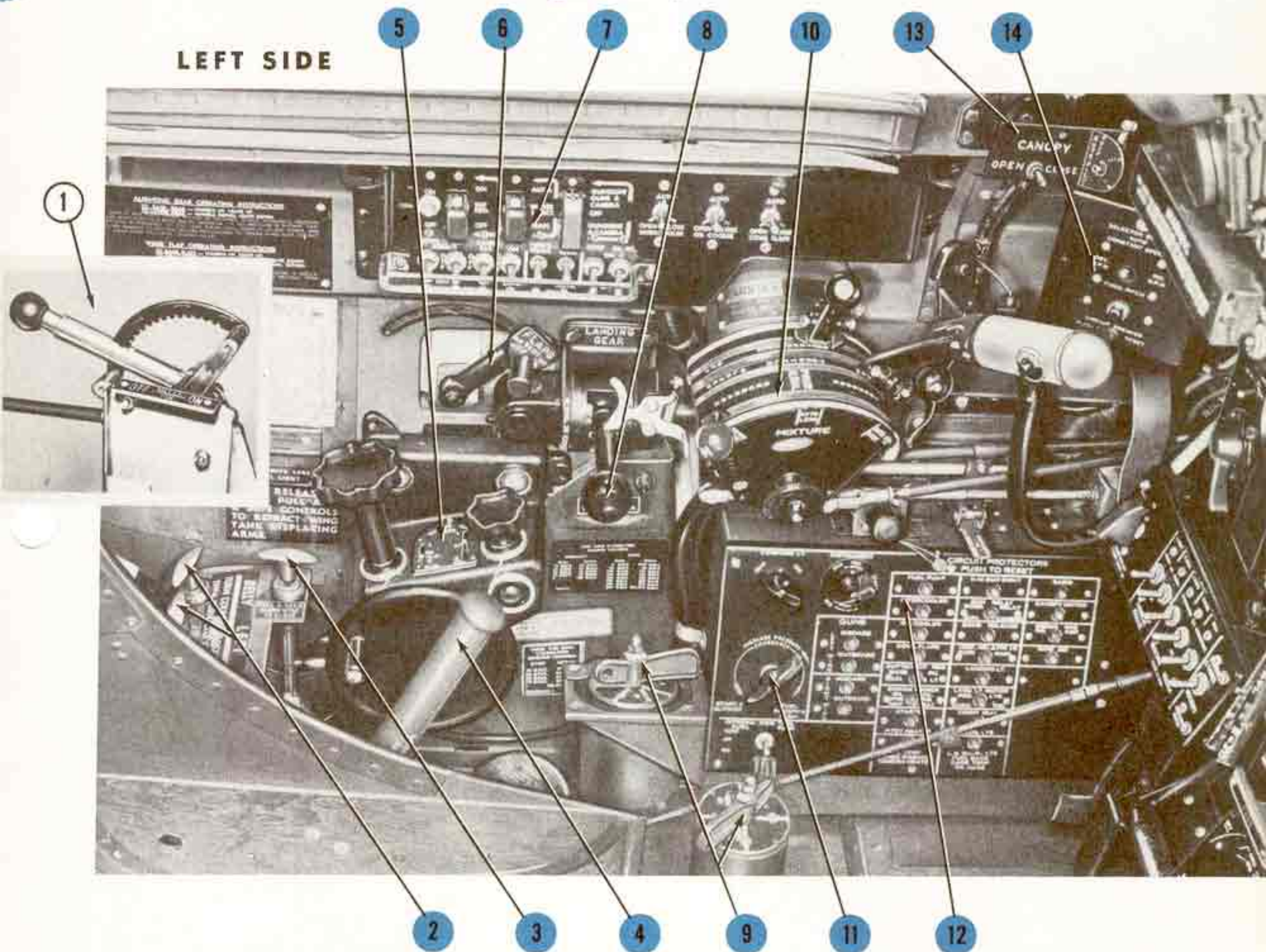
The Cockpit

OF THE P-47N-5

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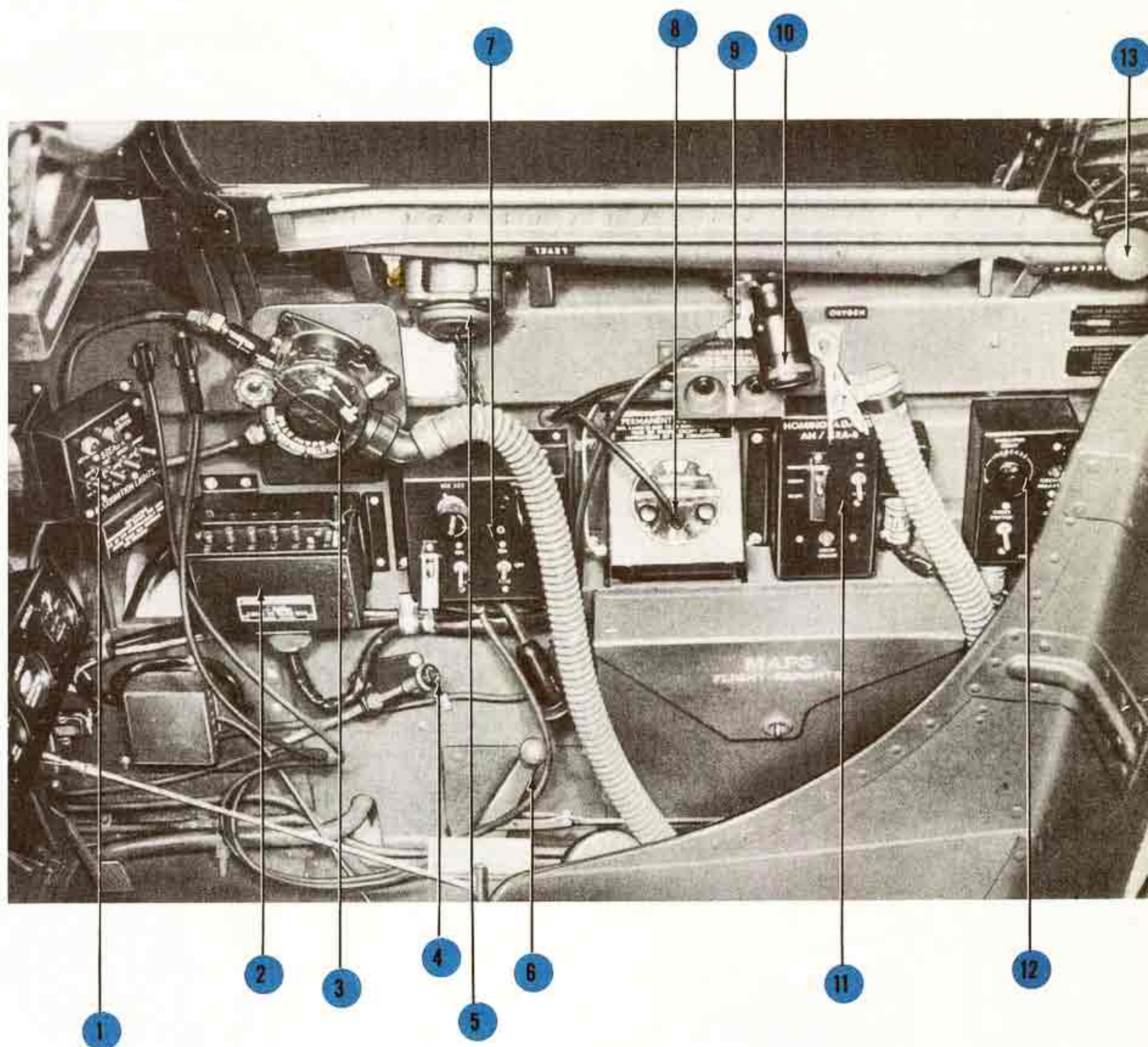
Different series may vary slightly in the type and arrangement of equipment. However, the changes are minor. Where reference is made to a control or gage in the succeeding pages, if it is considered necessary, the number of the item will be given to enable you to check its position in the cockpit.

LEFT SIDE



1. Air filter control.
2. Bomb arming handles.
3. Gunbay heat control.
4. Manual hydraulic pump.
5. Trim tab control unit.
6. Flap control.
7. Main switch panel.

RIGHT SIDE



1. Recognition lights.
2. VHF radio.
3. Oxygen regulator.
4. Cockpit ventilator control.
5. Flare gun adapter.
6. Tailwheel lock.
7. IFF.

8. Detrola radio.
9. Secret equipment detonator.
10. Fluorescent light.
11. VHF homing adapter.
12. Tail warning switch box.
13. Manual canopy handle.

Flight Controls



The flight controls are the conventional rudder-pedal and stick type.

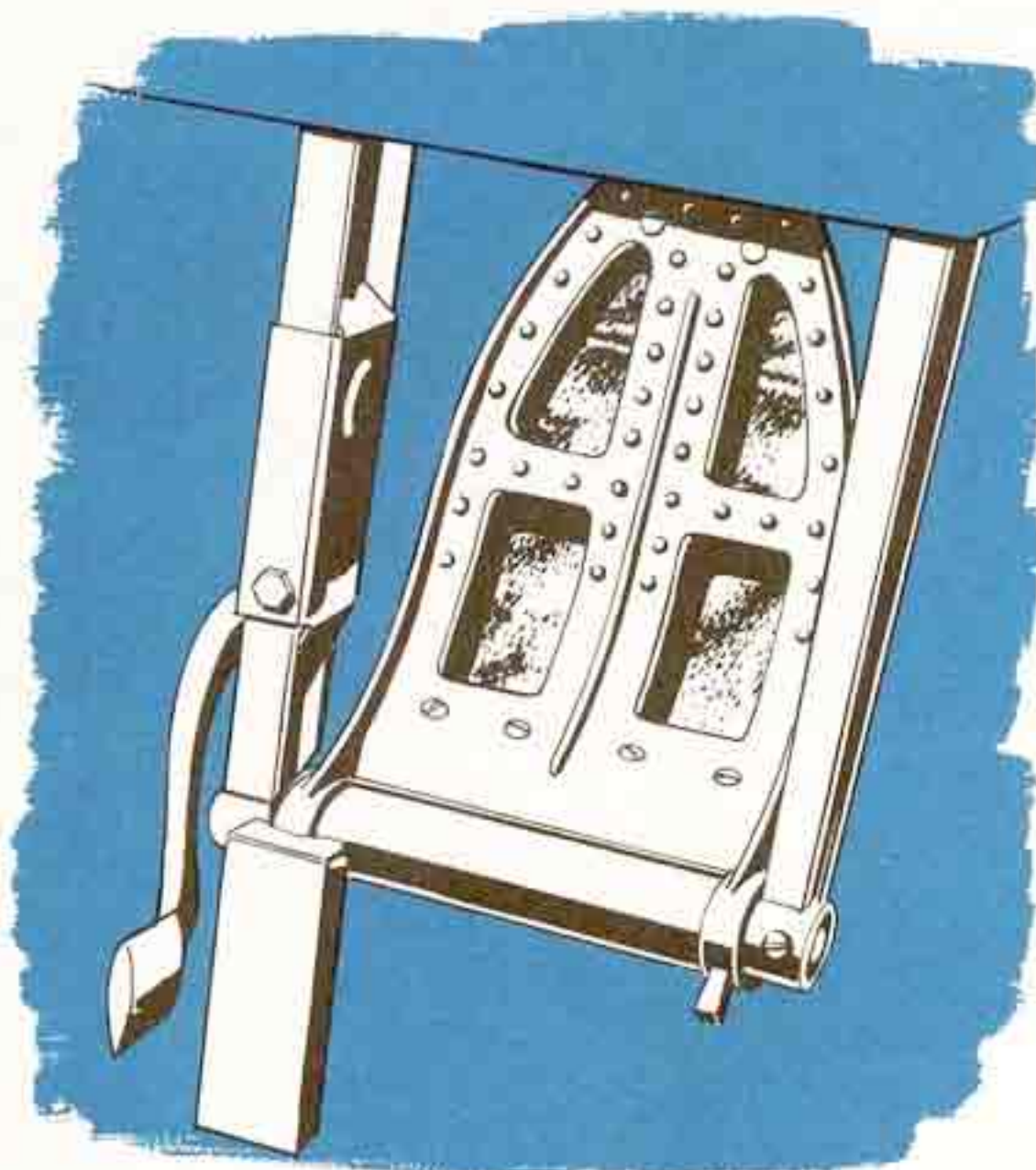
Adjust the pedals for length by pushing aside

feature. You can let them fall back to stretch your legs during long flights. The pedals have special latches for this purpose.



The stick has a pistol grip, with a trigger for the guns, and a button on top used for firing rockets, releasing bombs or dropping gas tanks.

You lock the controls by attaching a strap,



a lever at the base of each. Always get the pedals evened up, or during takeoff you'll throw your plane off course when you instinctively line up your feet.

From the N-5 on, the pedals have a unique



fastened to the bottom of the seat, to a knob at the base of the stick. The rudder pedals are included in the system by means of a rod extending from

Trim Tabs

The trim tab control unit (Left Side, No. 5) has three wheels with accompanying position indicators.

Adjust the controls as follows:

1. Ail. (ailerons). Turn the wheel clockwise to trim the right wing down.
2. Elev. (elevator). Turn the wheel forward to trim the nose down.
3. Rud. (rudder). Turn the wheel clockwise to turn to the right. Note that the indicator has a "TO" (takeoff) position, which is used to offset takeoff torque.

Trim With Care

Use trim with care because the tabs are sensitive. It's hard work to overcome the heavy pressures exerted by improperly adjusted tabs. Get your plane in proper trim for every maneuver or condition of flight. You'll save yourself much labor, and perhaps an unnecessary risk or so.

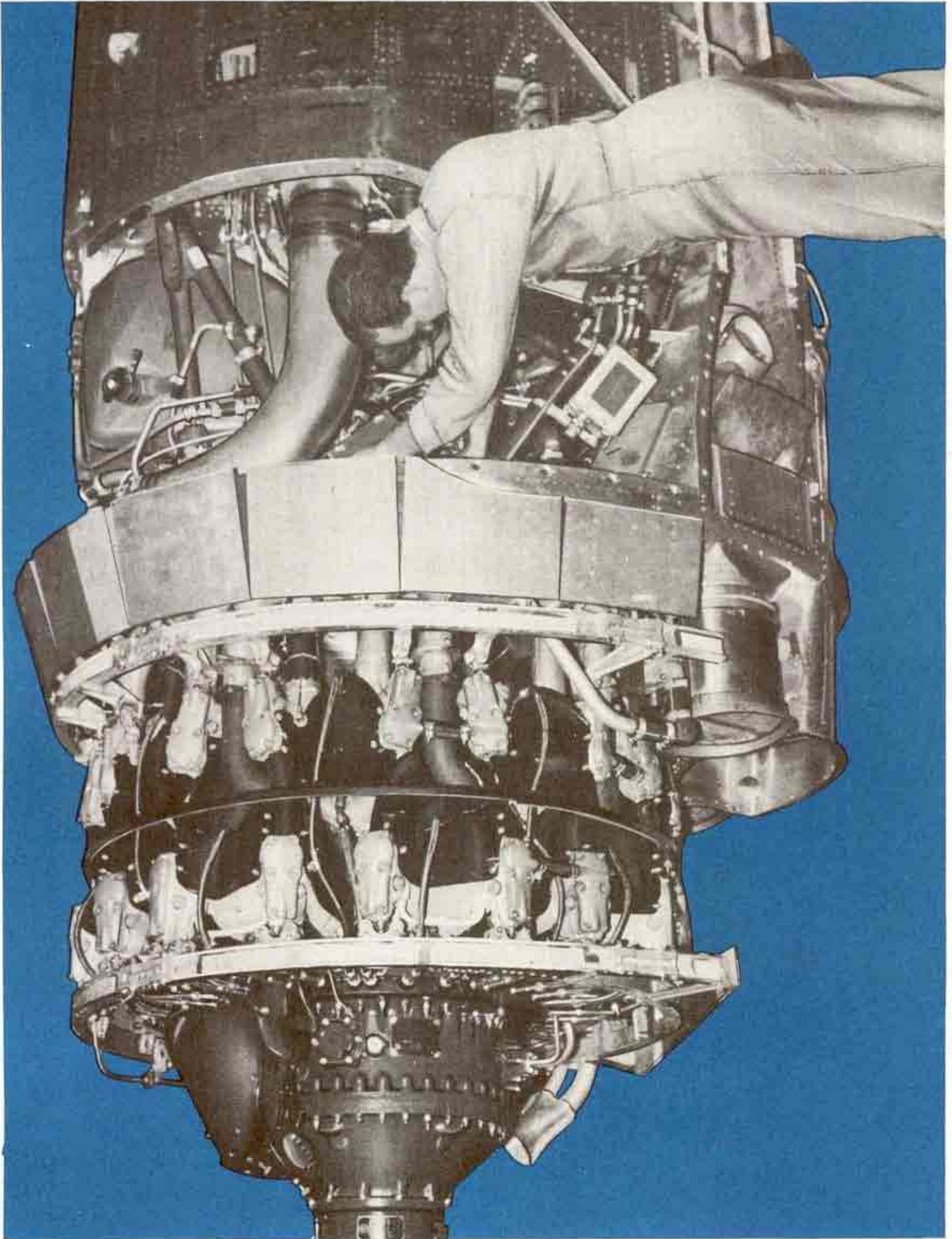


Rudder "Softening"

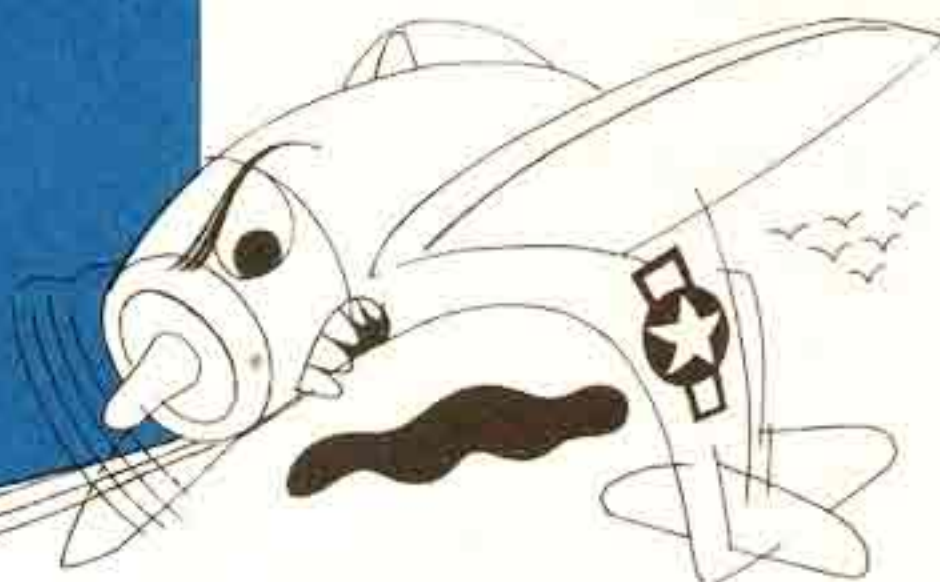
Extreme uncoordinated use of aileron and rudder may cause a decreased and possibly a negative effect on the rudder pedal forces. This is most likely to be encountered at low speeds with high power, due to the twist of the slipstream around the fuselage. The installation of the dorsal fin has reduced the chances of encountering the trouble but hasn't eliminated them altogether.

Recovery is simple:

1. Reduce power.
2. Coordinate the controls as much as possible.
3. Increase air



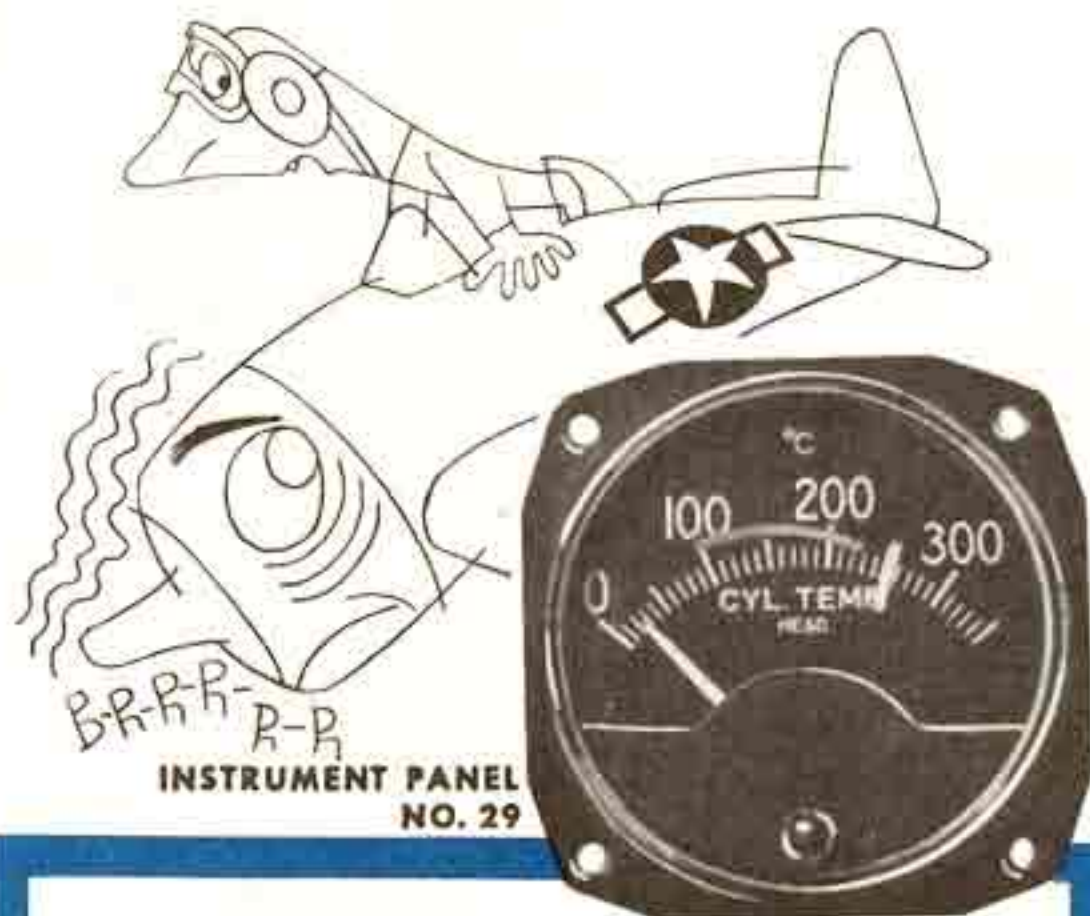
Powerplant



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The Pratt & Whitney Aircraft R-2800 "C" series engine is much the same as the R-2800 "B" series engine which powered Thunderbolts prior to the M and N. Its greater rated power was achieved by small refinements without any increase in weight. Actually, it weighs slightly less. The piston displacement remains 2,804 cubic inches.

The "C" engine has added fin area for cooling. The engine cools very well. In fact, during a let-down it's wise to watch the cylinder-head temperature for excessive cooling.



Maximum allowable temperatures:

260 degrees C When using AUTO RICH

232 degrees C When using AUTO LEAN

Normally your cylinder-head temperatures in the air will range from 145° to 160°C, although a greater

1. Runup to high rpm, then suddenly cut the power without getting rid of the heat at lower speeds. You can hear the harness creak and groan.

2. Tail into the wind when running up before takeoff, allowing little air to be pulled through the engine.

Remember: If you bake the harness often enough, sooner or later you'll have ignition trouble.

The engine has two distributors, pressurized for high altitude performance. The primer is electrically operated, consisting of a toggle switch connected to a solenoid on the carburetor.



INSTRUMENT PANEL NO. 13

Maximum power (with 2800 rpm):

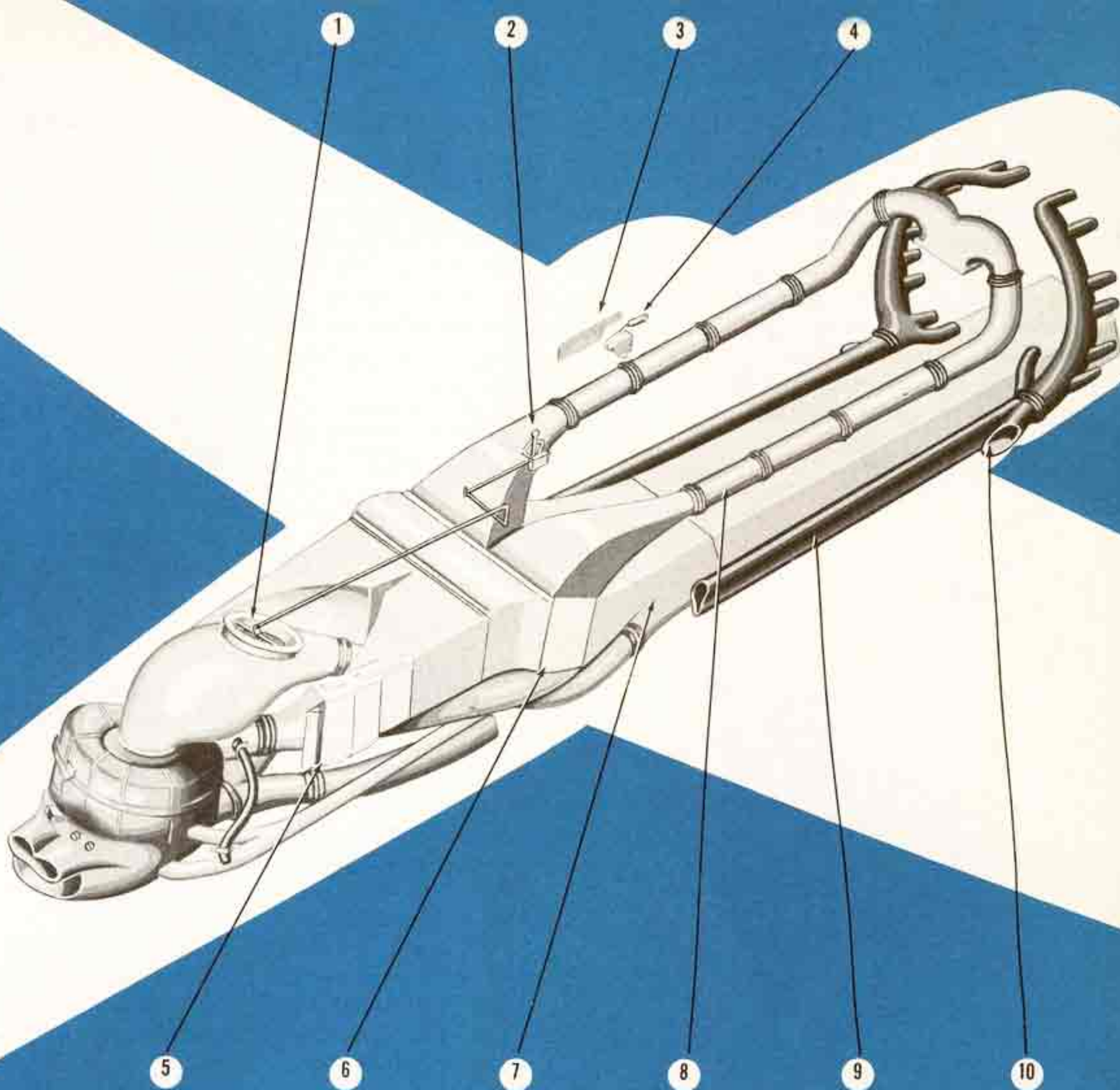
Military power: 54" Hg

War Emergency Power 72" Hg
(With water injection)

By exceeding these limitations, you invite a quick engine failure brought on by detonation.

Induction System

SUPERCHARGER



1. Air Filter
2. Air Filter Control
3. Intercooler Control Switch
4. Engine Control Quadrant
5. Intercooler Door
6. Intercooler
7. Ram Air to Turbo
8. Pressurized Air to Carburetor
9. Exhaust Pressure to Turbo
10. Waste Gate

be necessary to turn the switch OFF on the ground, pull the boost control all the way back,

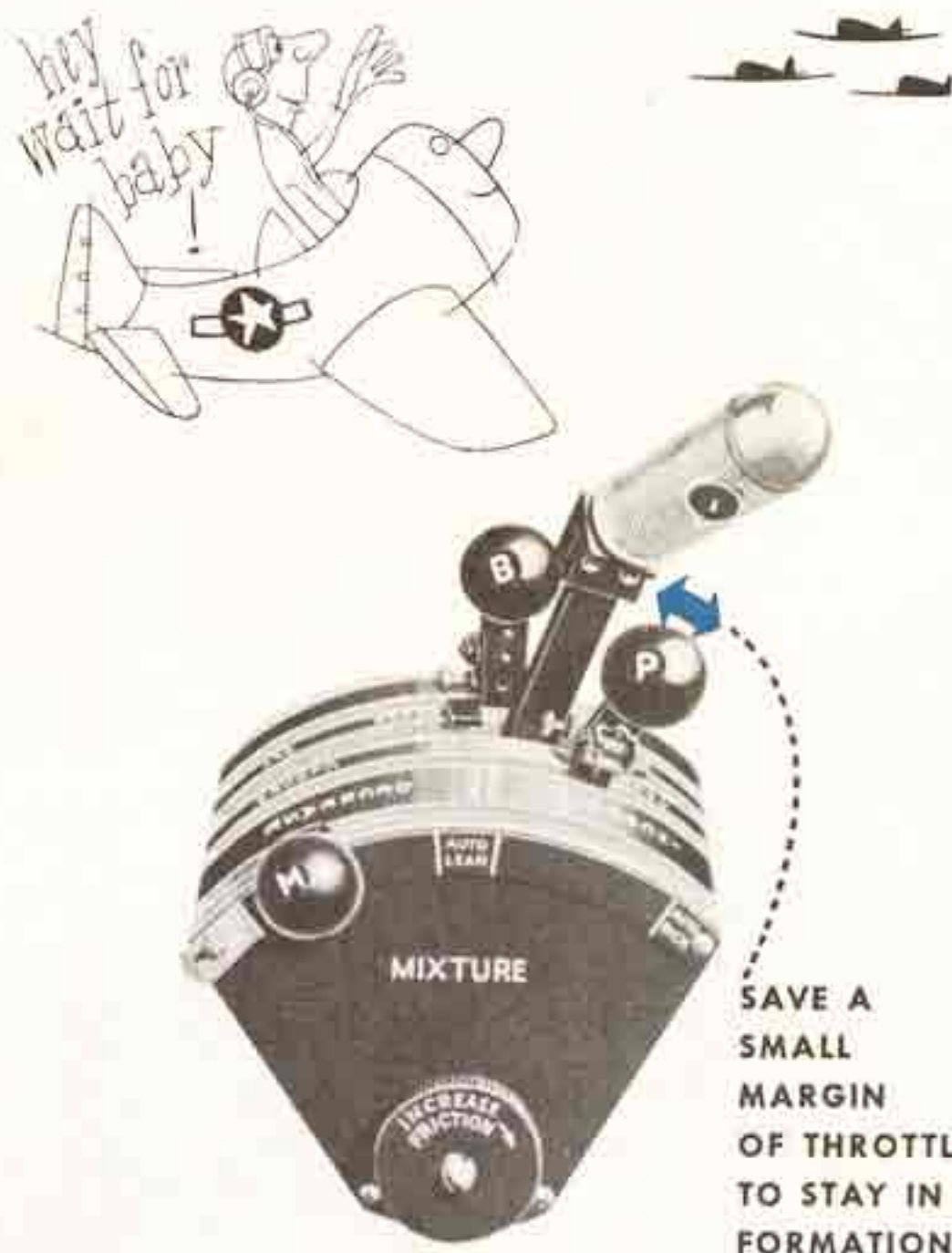
first. This is to make sure you don't leave your waste gates fixed in any but the full open position. Otherwise you might get some turbo pressure you don't want.

During a climb or dive, the regulator will maintain a constant manifold pressure at only one power setting,—approximately 39" Hg. This pressure will be held constant from sea level to the critical altitude for that power. At any higher or lower setting you must make minor power adjustments to keep your manifold pressure steady.

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When you climb with full military power (54" Hg, 2800 rpm), the regulator allows an increase of 1" Hg for each 6000 feet of altitude. Keep pulling back slightly on the power to avoid getting into the water injection range.

The regulator limits your power output to 72" Hg (maximum for the engine) only when your plane is in a climbing attitude. If you pick up speed and greater ram by leveling off or diving, pull back on the power to keep the manifold pressure from going overboard.



You obtain the most stable and economical high-altitude flight by making power adjustments with your boost alone, after your throttle is full forward.

When flying in formation, however, you may find it profitable to vary this technique by leaving yourself a small margin of throttle. Use this bit of throttle range to stay in position. The plane responds more quickly to throttle than to boost.

Turbo Trouble

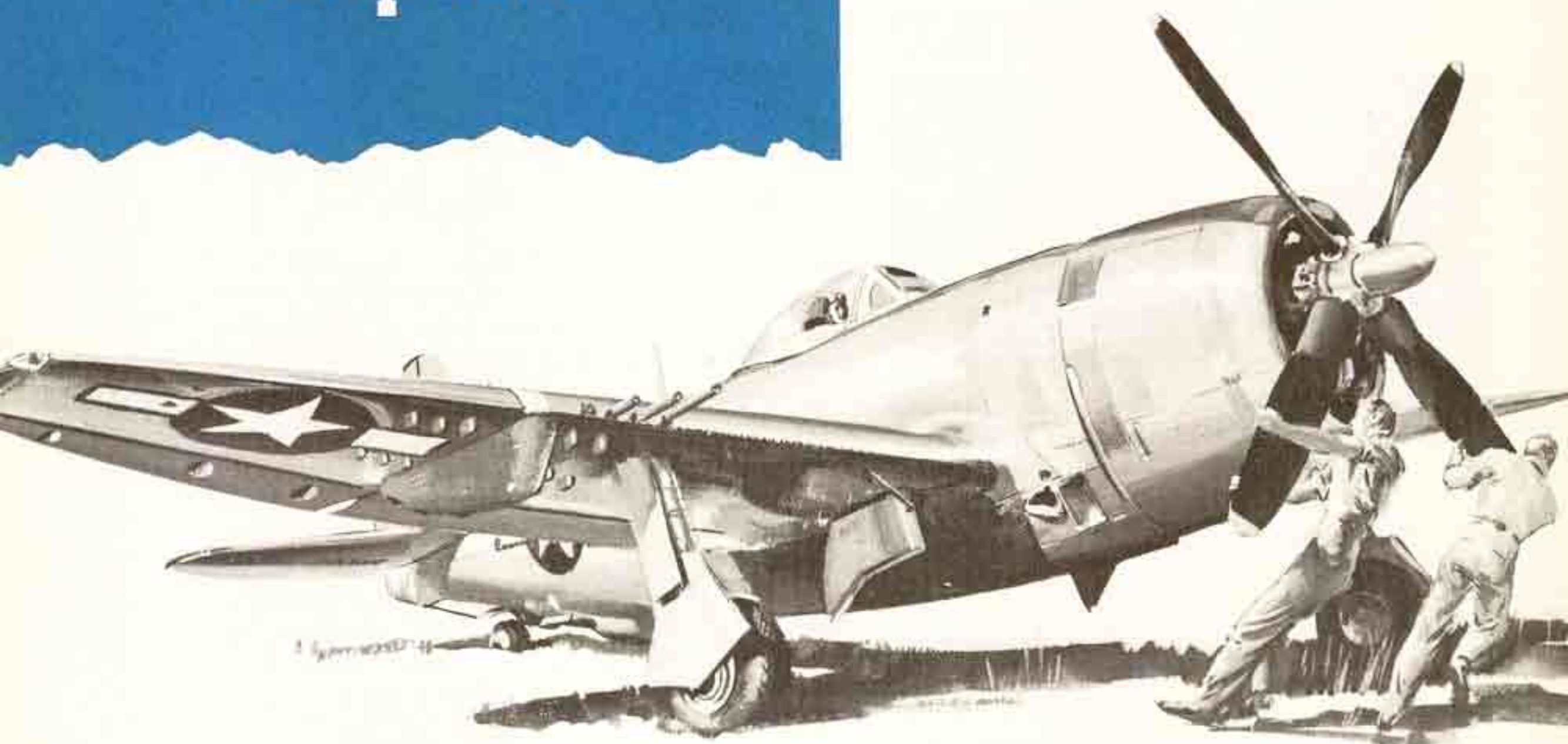
Flying with the boost well forward, you can bring about a collapse of the turbo by retarding the throttle or reducing the rpm. This is not a physical failure but a collapse of pressure.

What happens is that you reduce the exhaust back pressure, preventing the turbine from delivering the required boost. This results in a further loss of power and still less back pressure. In short, a cycle is set up that breaks down the rhythm of the turbo operation.

You recover by nosing down and advancing the throttle and rpm until enough exhaust back pressure is created to set the turbo system in

Propeller

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LEFT SIDE
NO. 14

INSTRUMENT
PANEL NO. 14



These items are involved in the operation of the 4-blade paddle-type Curtiss Electric constant-speed propeller on the P-47N. The blades have a 13-foot diameter, largest on any fighter.

The tachometer is calibrated from 500 to 4000 rpm in increments of 50.

The rpm is adjusted either by the "P" control on the throttle quadrant or by the selector switch on the propeller panel.

Although maximum allowable rpm is 2800, the propeller may be oversped up to 3120 rpm for 30 seconds without damaging the engine. Any time the propeller overspeeds to 3000 rpm, it's important to note on the Form 1-A the rpm and the duration so the engine may be checked.

During normal operations, leave the selector switch in AUTO and adjust the rpm with the "P" control. Push forward to increase and pull back to decrease rpm. The propeller governor holds the rpm you choose.

Note the

To decrease rpm:

Advance the throttle, hold the switch in DEC RPM, and go into a shallow dive. Release the switch and return to level flight.

False "Runaway Prop"

Anytime you believe you have a runaway prop, check your fuel pressure. You may simply be trying to operate your engine on an empty gas tank.

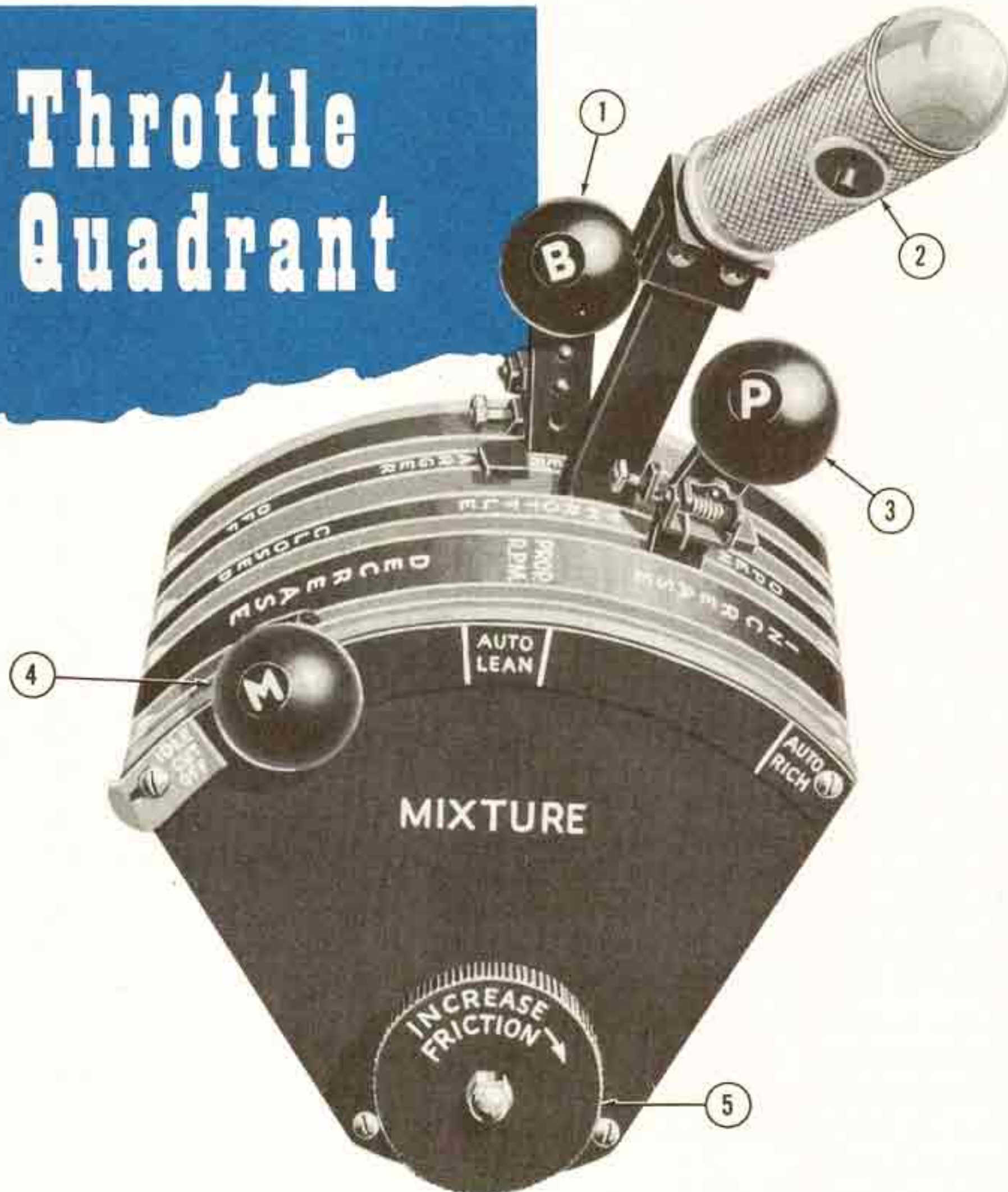
As a gas-starved engine loses power, the

propeller blades decrease pitch in maintaining rpm. If this is the situation, merely switch to a new tank. The rpm will return to normal, probably after a brief period of overspeeding above the selected rpm until the governor takes hold.

Note: While making the check also make certain the propeller selector switch is in AUTO. A propeller inadvertently left in fixed pitch on takeoff usually overspeeds.

When cutting off an engine, always leave the "P" control full forward.

Throttle Quadrant



The boost control has a spring-loaded latch which provides for interconnected operation with the throttle. The propeller control has a similar latch, though with only one claw. The latch is used to keep the prop control ahead of the throttle when advancing power. Always leave the latch on the prop handle extended. The latch on the boost lever will be retracted for normal operation.

The turbo and throttle can be used interconnected from takeoff through all altitudes. A governor on the turbo-supercharger prevents overspeeding at high altitudes. (See section on Turbo-supercharger.)

However, do not use the controls interconnected, except:

When you need a quick response of power,

or

You are making a takeoff with water injection.

The provision for interconnected controls was made for these two purposes.

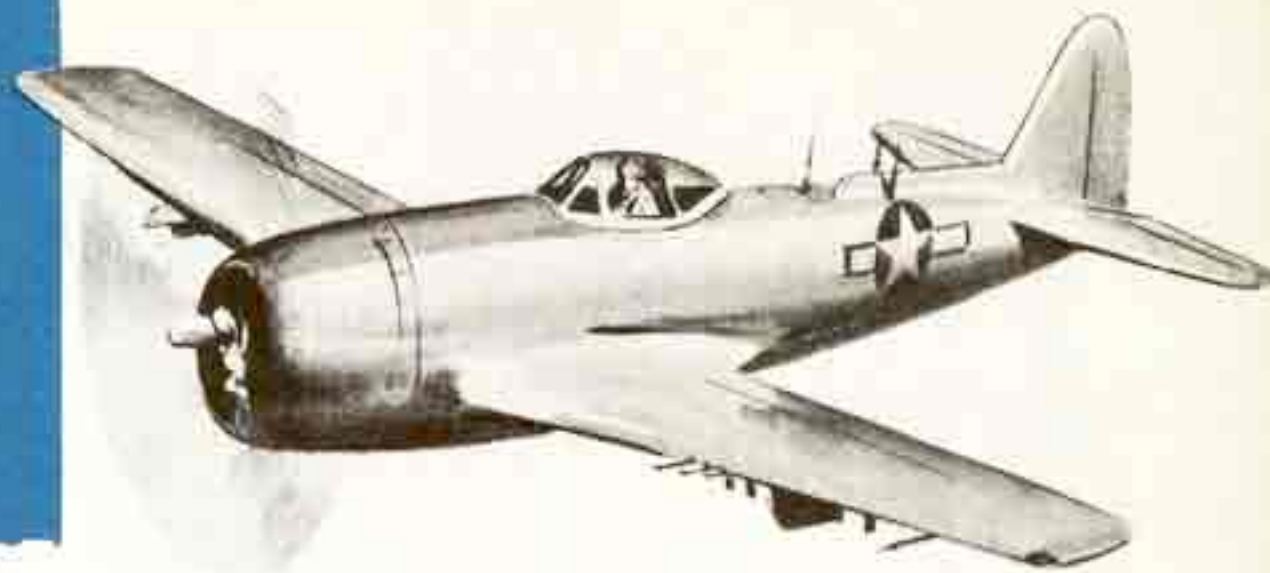
Under ordinary conditions advance your throttle full forward; then afterwards push your boost lever forward to supply the additional manifold pressure required.

There is a sound reason for this procedure. You have an engine-driven impeller as well as the turbo-supercharger. Operation of the impeller costs the engine about 300 hp which otherwise could be delivered to the propeller. Take advantage of this impeller as long as it will deliver the necessary power without penalizing your engine still further by cutting in another supercharger—the turbo.

The mixture control has three positions indicated by painted lines:

IDLE CUT-OFF—for starting and stopping.

Power Settings



A power setting is any combination of manifold pressure and tachometer readings to meet a specific condition.

In selecting a given setting, a number of factors are considered: The power desired or necessary, the operating limits and the life of

the engine, the different requirements for training and combat and so on.

For the purpose of preventing abuse of the engine and avoiding detonation, definite maximums have been established. On the P-47N, these maximums are:

War emergency power	2800 rpm	72" Hg	5 minutes
Takeoff (military power)*	2800 rpm	54" Hg	15 minutes
Maximum continuous (Normal rated power)	2600 rpm	43.5" Hg	Unlimited

*Limited to 5 minutes on takeoff.

Outside of combat, or authorized simulation of combat conditions, there is no necessity for drawing such powers or approaching them. To do so shortens the life of your engine and invariably has you skirting the edge of detonation.

For example, you can get off the ground easily without external load with as little as 35" Hg. Under more adverse conditions, with a full external load, it may be desirable to pull as much as 65" Hg.

The recommended setting for normal training operations with a clean airplane:

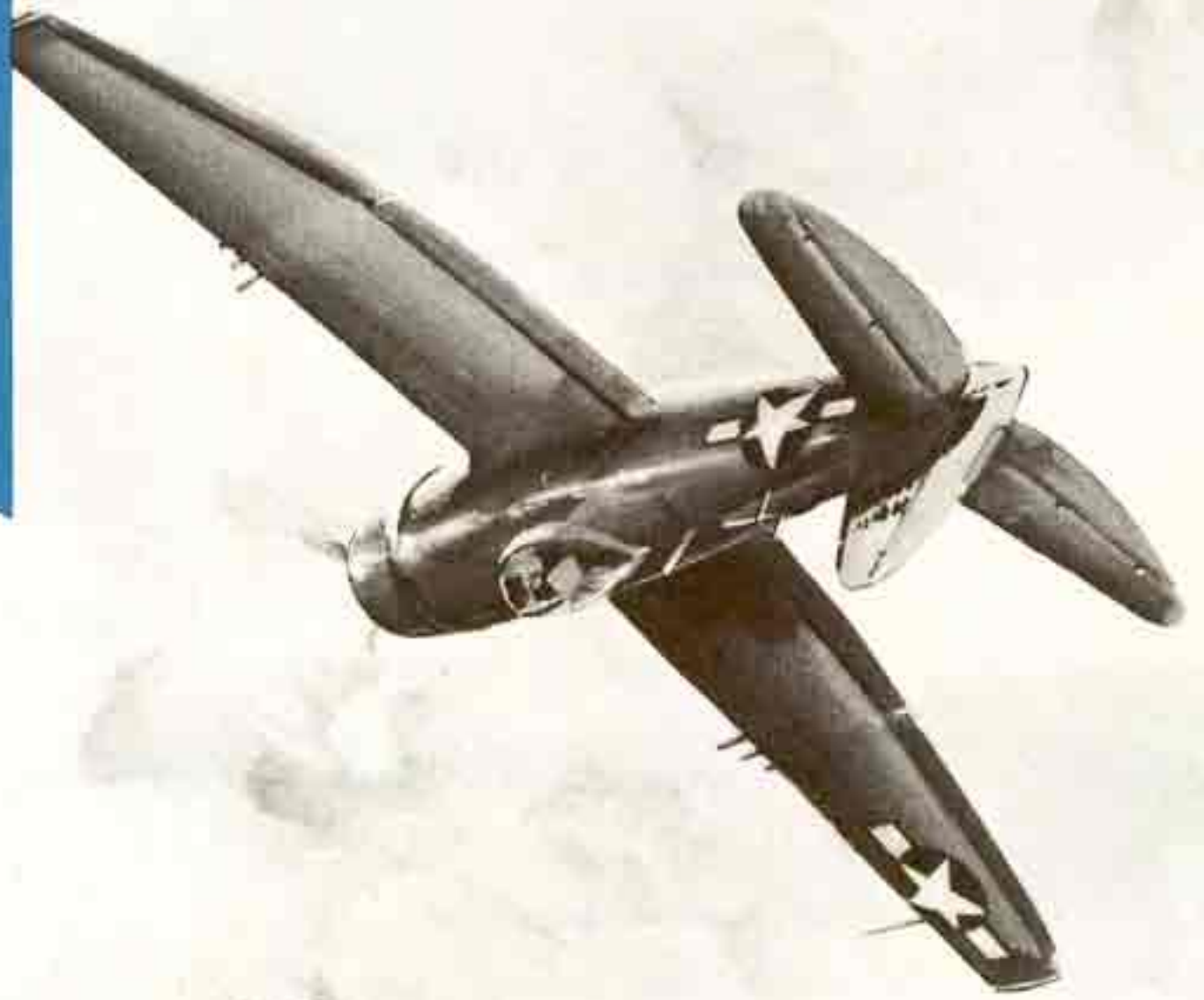
Takeoff	2800 rpm	45" Hg	AR
Climb	2500 rpm	42" Hg	AR
Cruise	2250 rpm	32" Hg	AL

When operating with these settings, you reduce the chance of engine trouble to a minimum. This is not to imply that maximum settings are dangerous. The engine is designed for

them and you should be familiar with them. However, you should **not** abuse your engine needlessly or thoughtlessly.

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Water Injection



When using greater than 54.5" Hg, you must employ water injection to avoid detonation.

Though commonly referred to as water, the solution actually used is a mixture of water and alcohol. The supply tank holds 30 gallons, or enough for 12 to 15 minutes.

When drawing 54.5" Hg, the water consumption is 1.9 gallons per minute; using 72" Hg, the consumption rises to 2.5 gallons per minute.

With the water injection switch in AUTO, the water flow starts automatically when you draw more than 54.5" Hg. A warning light glows if you exceed this power with the water supply exhausted. The warning light has a switch for ground testing.

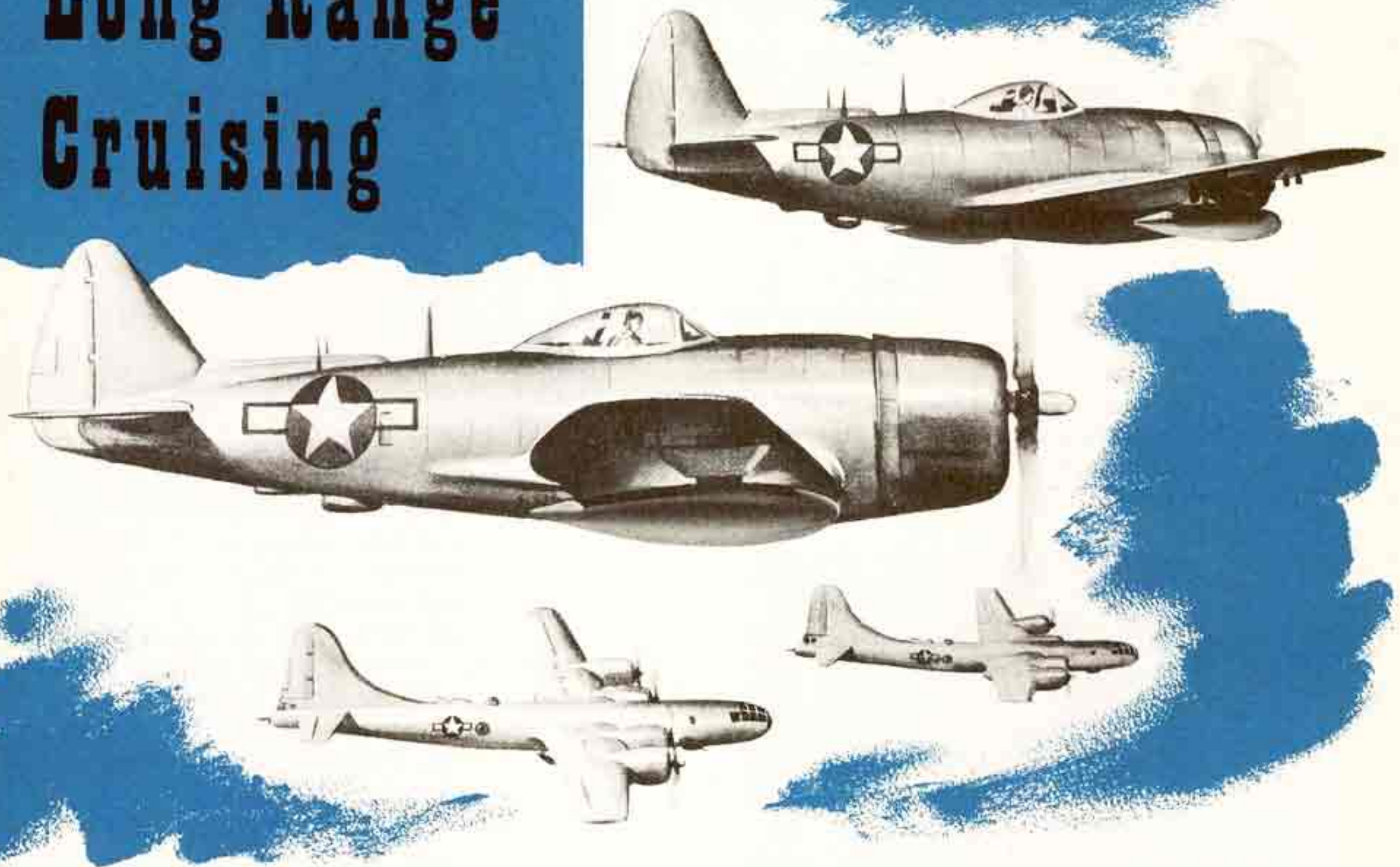
You may turn on the water at any manifold pressure by placing the water switch in MANUAL. Do not turn on the water when pulling less than 30" Hg, or you will drown the carburetor.

It won't often be necessary to make a water injection takeoff. Ordinary power usually is sufficient. An exception, is when you must use your air filter during dusty conditions. Use of the filter may cause carburetor air temperatures that are allowable only when water is employed.

When the water cuts in, the engine coughs and you experience a momentary loss of power. For this reason a definite procedure is employed for a water injection, or War Emergency Power, takeoff. The procedure is explained in the War Emergency Power takeoff section. It involves turning on the water by means of the switch before starting your takeoff run.

When making a normal takeoff without water, do not draw more than 51" Hg, or you might inadvertently get into the water range. Though the regulator is adjusted to turn on at 54.5" Hg, it could be a little off, and you get an

Long Range Cruising



The goal of long range cruising is to get the maximum miles per gallon of gas by regulating power and airspeed. To get the most range from the N, all of the skill and technique that you can acquire will be called into play.

Two facts:

With a clean airplane, your best altitude for range is around 15000 feet.

With external tanks attached, around 5000 feet.

In planning a long range flight, you must consider the following factors:

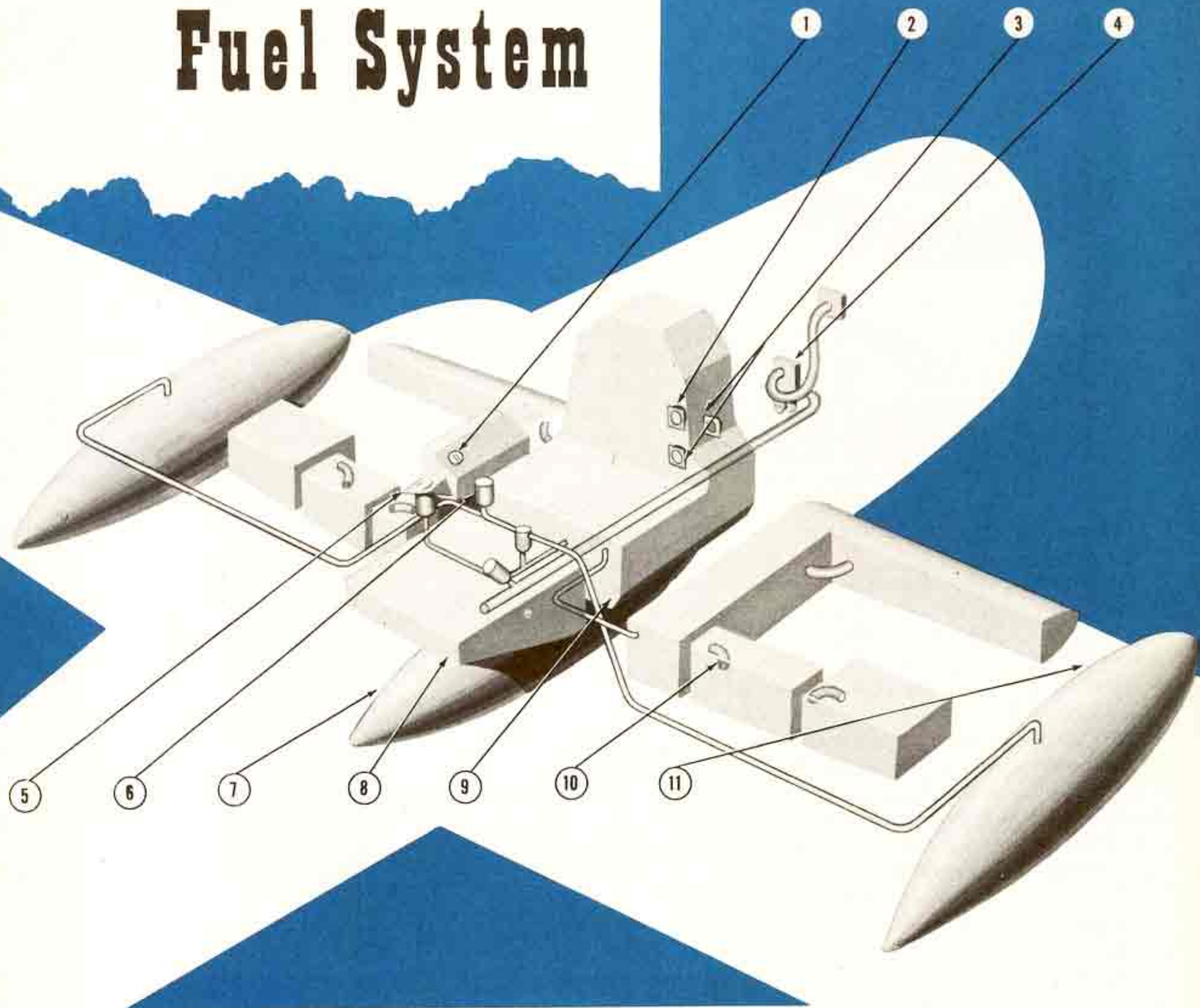
1. Type of climb (power settings and mixture).
2. Fuel to be spent in climb.
3. Fuel allocated for combat at high manifold pressures and rpm.
4. Fuel to be used in warm-up, taxiing, take-off, glide, and landing.

In combat you drop your external tanks after using the gas, thus reducing drag and improving your airspeed. Consequently you get more miles per gallon of fuel. (Obviously, you don't drop tanks in training.)

The normal combination of external tanks is two 165 gallon wing tanks. You also can carry a 110 gallon belly tank for extreme range.

Your best

Fuel System



1. Booster Pump Emergency Switch
2. Fuel Level Gages
3. Fuel Pressure Gage
4. Main Fuel Pump
5. Main Fuel Selector Valve
6. External Fuel Selector Valve
7. Belly Tank
8. Auxiliary Fuel Tank
9. Main Fuel Tank
10. Internal Wing Tanks
11. External Wing Tank

The tanks hold:

	Gallons
Main	270
Auxiliary	100
Internal wing tanks (90 gals. ea. wing)	180
External wing tanks (165 gals. ea.)*	330
Belly tank	110

Total 990 Maximum gasoline load
 *Flights have been conducted with two 300-gal. external wing tanks.

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After jettisoning tanks, pull up the bomb arming handles to retract the tank braces.

If a tank fails to release when jettisoned, yaw your plane until it falls free.

Note: With external tanks full, make no turns below 180 IAS. With the wing external tanks empty, make no turns below 150 IAS.

Remember that a full 165-gallon tank weighs almost as much as a 1,000-lb. bomb.

External wing tanks decrease stability around the vertical axis (yaw).

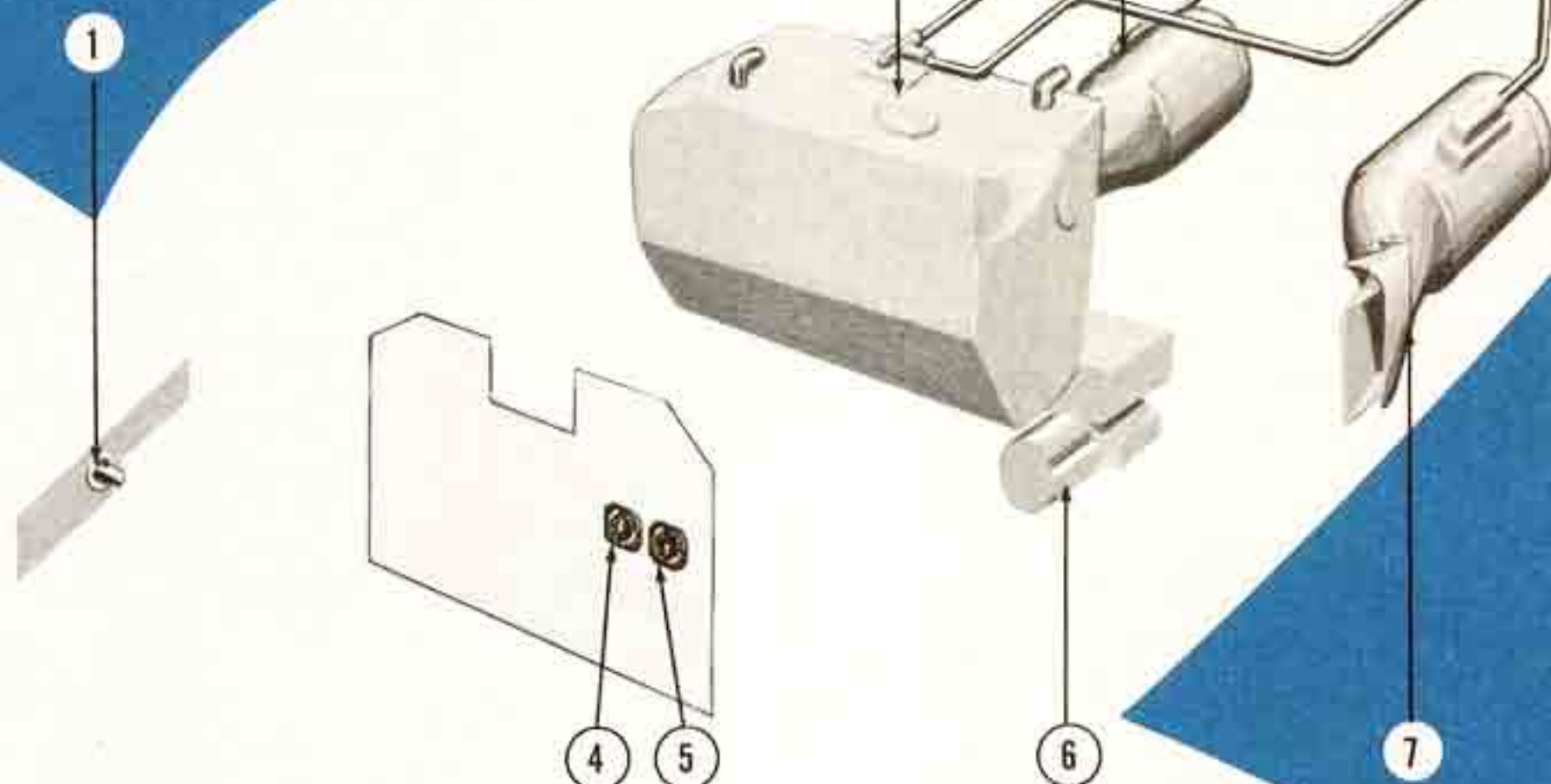
A full auxiliary tank decreases stability around the lateral axis (pitch).

Violent maneuvers, unauthorized practice landings, and high speed dives are prohibited when external loads are carried.

IAS LIMITATIONS WITH EXTERNAL LOAD

INSTALLATION	VERTICAL	
	IAS LIMIT	ACCELERATION LIMIT
75 US—(62.4 Imperial)— gallon belly tank	350 IAS	4.7g
110 US—(92 Imperial)— gallon belly tank	325 IAS	4.00g
110 US—(92 Imperial)— gallon wing tanks	300 IAS	4.00g
165		

Oil System



1. Oil Cooler Control Switch
2. Oil Tank
3. Oil Cooler
4. Pressure and Temperature Gages
5. Oil Quantity Gage
6. Oil Cooler Door Operating Mechanism
7. Oil Cooler Door

The desired oil pressure is 70-90 psi. The desired oil temperature is 40°C-100°C.

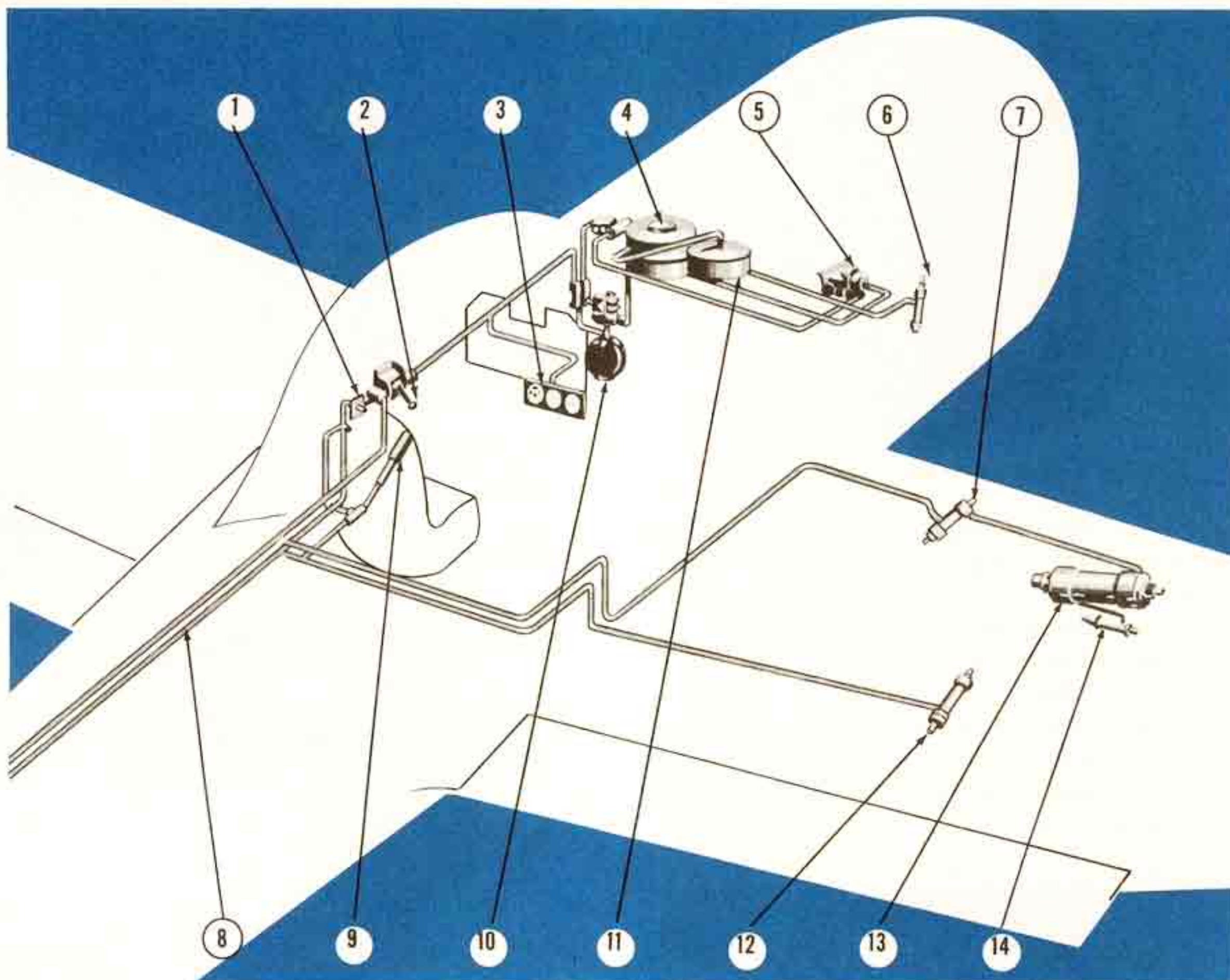
When the oil cooler switch is in AUTO, the cooler doors are governed automatically by thermal units to maintain the oil temperature between 88°C and 90°C.

To adjust the cooler doors manually, hold the switch momentarily in OPEN or CLOSE, then release.

The oil tank has a capacity of 40 gallons. If you fail to run up the engine before shutting down, as many as 8 gallons may remain in the system and engine sumps, giving a false low reading on the level gage.

The level gage is correct in level flight position. The cockpit contains a three-point correction card. Ordinarily you carry around 36 gallons.





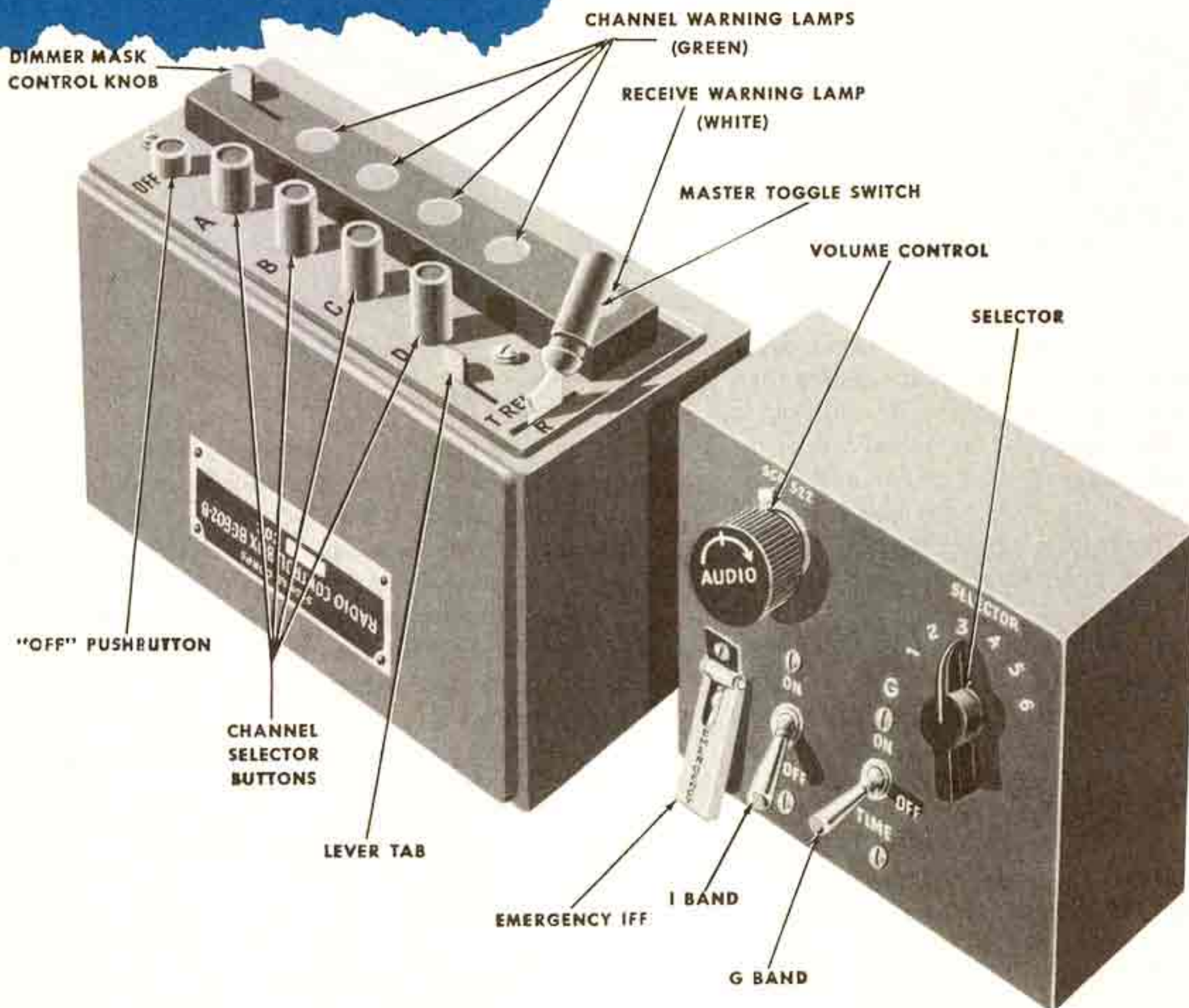
1. Wing Flaps Control
2. Landing Gear Control
3. Hydraulic Pressure Gage
4. Hydraulic Fluid Reservoir
5. Engine Driven Pump
6. Cowl Flap Cylinder
7. Wheel Well Door Cylinder
8. Tail Wheel Cylinder Lines
9. Emergency Hydraulic Hand Pump
10. Pressure Accumulator
11. Hydraulic Fluid Filter
12. Wing Flap Operating Cylinder
13. Main Landing Gear Retracting Cylinder
14. Landing Gear Downlock Cylinder

Landing Gear

Note the two safeguards to prevent inadvertent raising of the gear: the button and the latch.



Radio Equipment



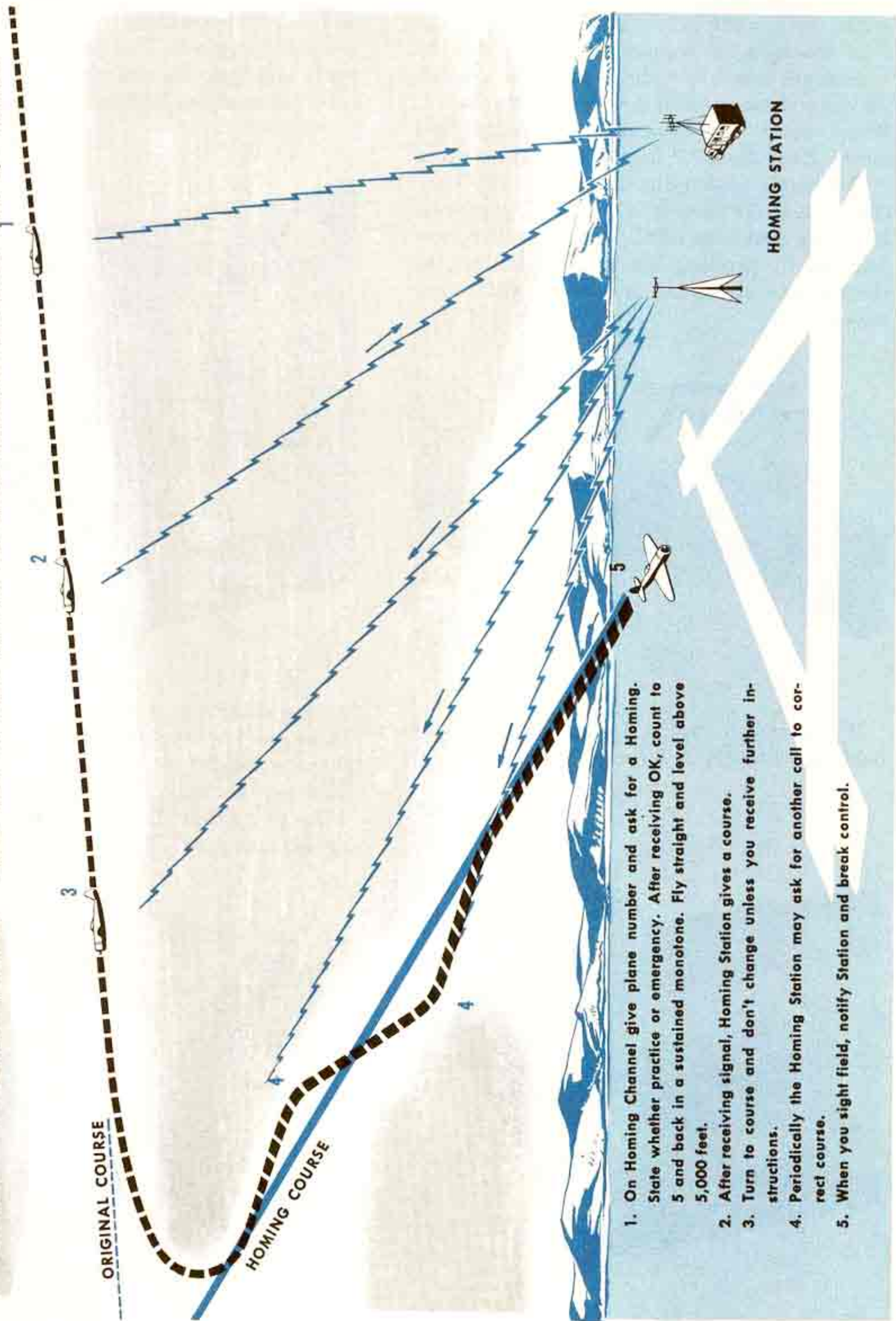
The P-47N has four radio sets: VHF (SCR 522), Detrola (SCR 438), IFF (SCR 695), and a VHF homing adapter (AN/ARA-8).

The VHF (very high frequency) unit is a command set for voice communication only.

The range increases with altitude; for example, 35 miles at 1000 feet, 140 miles at 10,000 feet. Mountains or other obstructions in the line of transmission impede or cut out communication completely.

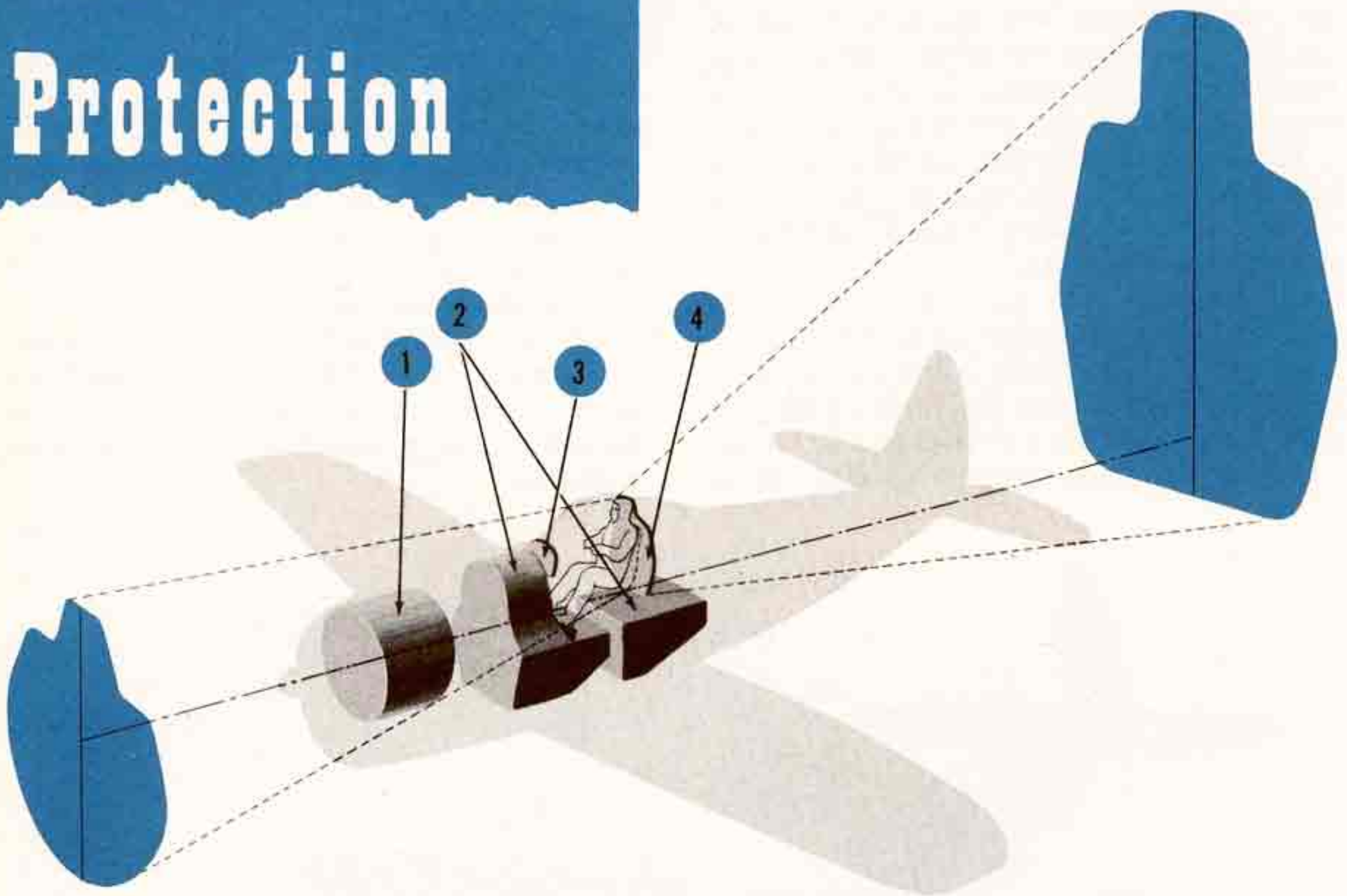
VHF HOMING

ALSO MAY BE USED WITH 2 OR MORE GROUND STATIONS FOR D/F FIXING



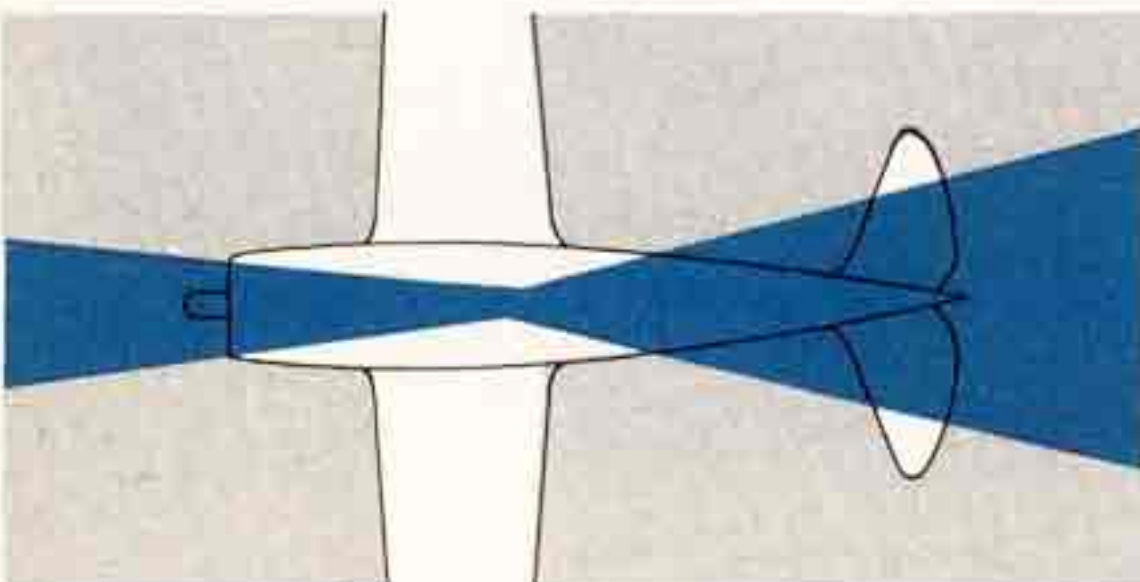
1. On Homing Channel give plane number and ask for a Homing. State whether practice or emergency. After receiving OK, count to 5 and back in a sustained monotone. Fly straight and level above 5,000 feet.
2. After receiving signal, Homing Station gives a course.
3. Turn to course and don't change unless you receive further instructions.
4. Periodically the Homing Station may ask for another call to correct course.
5. When you sight field, notify Station and break control.

Armor Protection



THE ARMOR PROTECTS THE PILOT
FROM FIRE ORIGINATING WITHIN
THIS AREA

1. ENGINE
2. FUEL TANKS—SECONDARY PROTECTION
3. FACE HARDENED $\frac{3}{8}$ " ARMOR PLATE—FRONT
4. FACE HARDENED $\frac{3}{8}$ " ARMOR PLATE—REAR



PLAN VIEW

