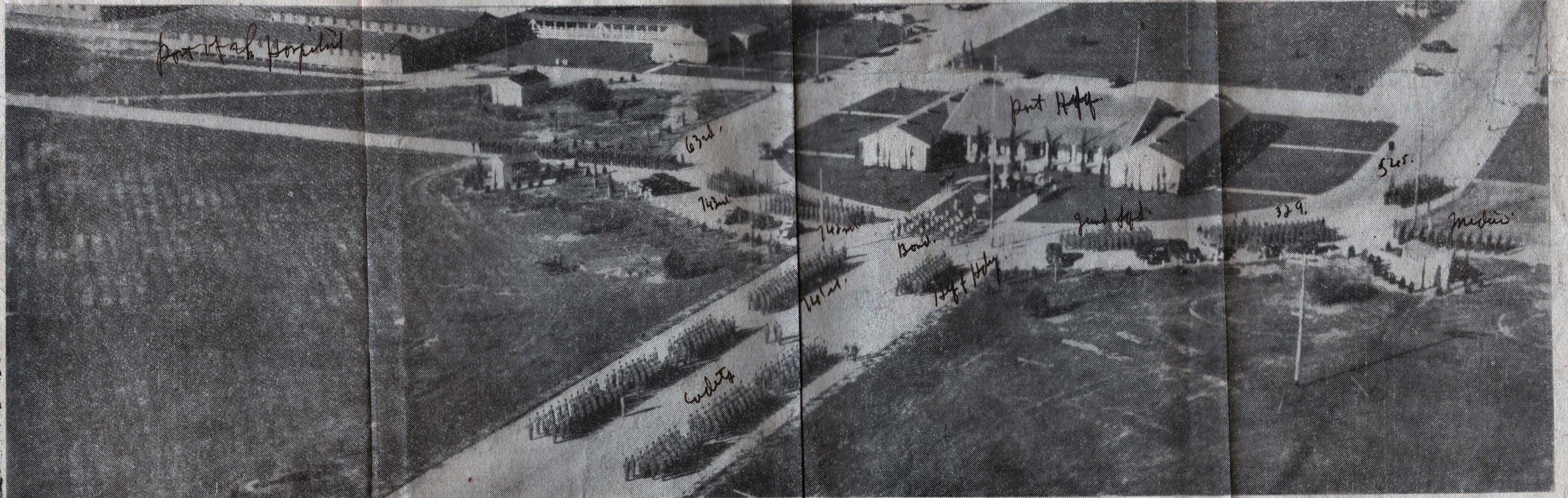


# GARDNER FIELD



RETREAT—To those unfamiliar with military parlance the word "Retreat" might signify rout or forced march to the rear. For the service man the above picture has a different meaning. This air view of Retreat at Gardner Field was taken at the close of a working day, just before the evening meal. The entire Field enlisted personnel and a number of aviation cadets march up the paved streets to

stand with officers in front of the Headquarters building in formal Retreat. The 43rd Air Force Band leads the parade of squadrons to positions facing the flag, and plays the national anthem as the flag is lowered. The impressive ceremony takes only five minutes, after which the men march back to their squadrons, to mess, and their evening plans.

Old timers on the West Side have cause to marvel at this picture as it contrasts with what an air camera shot of this same location might have caught less than two years ago. In some pre-historic time the "Digger" Indians may have speared their fish from Buena Vista Lake and cooked them on fires kindled on these selfsame grounds. On more re-

cent years herds of sheep may have grazed this spot. But the imagination of the men who pioneered the great Midway-Sunset oil fields could hardly have seen it when a great training school of the United States Air Forces would spring up on the sagebrush wilds of copa flats.