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A HAZARDOUS TIN ANNIVERSARY

By Dean Kennedy

[Dean's real-life stories are better than any movie/novel/TV show—Ginger Lark-Bauder]

While I was a freshman at the University of Wyoming the Army lowered the two year college requirement for the Aviation Cadet Program to a high school diploma. I had that and learned about the change on December 15, 1942. Forget classes, forget finals. I caught a bus from Laramie to Cheyenne and before the sun set that evening over Fort Francis E. Warren, I was an Army private.

The journey began that day and that place from buck private to "officer and gentleman" ending

May 23rd, 1944, Luke Field, Arizona when a 19 year old proudly pinned on pilot's wings and shiny new second lieutenant's bars.

A decade later, stationed at Wright-Patterson AF Base in Ohio an Air Show to demonstrate new jet aircraft required extra parking space and the old planes had to be flown off the base. Due for some cross country training this offered several days and plenty of time to fly to Oregon and back. The distance was adequate to accomplish the training and the destination gave a young lieutenant who rode along an opportunity to visit his parents. The destination might also **(Continued on Page 6)**



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