

HEADQUARTERS
49TH BOMBARDMENT WING (H)
APO 520 US ARMY

14 October 1944

SUBJECT: Unauthorized Flying Activities

TO : Commanding Officers,
451st Bombardment Group (H),
461st Bombardment Group (H),
484th Bombardment Group (H), APO 520 U. S. Army

1. It has been brought to my attention that some organizations of this Wing have allowed their personnel to construct or fabricate and operate nondescript airplanes. It is not my intention to suppress initiative or to deprive personnel of this command of appropriate forms of authorized recreation or entertainment, but counseled with the advice of competent engineering and technical personnel, the operation of crudely constructed aircraft of dubious aerodynamic characteristics and possessing questionable engineering features, it would appear that the operations of contrivances of this nature constitutes a hazard to personnel of this command.

2. Mechanical ingenuity and evidenced dexterity of craftsmanship are commendable virtues and should be encouraged, but the operation of mechanical monstrosities that can imperil life and limb, contrived solely for entertainment and while serving no useful purpose, should be emphatically discouraged.

3. The use of critical supplies and consumption of fuel and oil in machines referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 cannot be completely justified. In this respect alone, it would appear that these activities are not in the best interest of the war effort and in order to effect the earliest and most conclusive defeat of the enemy, let us all direct our best and most sincere efforts to the serious job at hand and let us dispense with needless and useless activities which only deter us from our main objectives.

WILLIAM L. LEE
Colonel, Air Corps
Commanding