

From a post at the WW2Aircraft.net forum. See "Glider" at <http://www.ww2aircraft.net/forum/aviation/time-train-us-fighter-pilot-32636.html>

USAAF training had four phases:-

- Primary Flying School
- Basic Flying School
- Advanced Flying School
- Transition Training

Primary Flying School

The Primary Flying schools were civilian operated under contract for the USAAF. These civilian schools used Stearman, Ryan and Fairchild trainers owned by the USAAF, but their flight instructors were civilian employees. Each cadet received 60 hours of flight training in nine weeks.

Basic Flying School

Here the aircraft were changed to BT-9 or Bt-13. Cadets were learned how to fly at night, by instruments, information and cross-country from one point to another. Also, for the first time, he operated a plane equipped with a two-way radio and a two-pitch propeller. This training took 9 weeks and involved about 70 hours in the air. It should be noted that the schools were now under USAAF control and apart from the additional complexity of the training and machinery, there was also the cultural shock as discipline was more rigorous.

Advanced Flying School

Again we have a change in aircraft to the AT-6 for future fighter pilots. The time in training was nine weeks and took about 70 hours flying time. The emphasis was on learning aerial gunnery as well as combat manoeuvres and increasing their skills in navigation, formation and instrument flying.

Transition Training

This is where the cadet was introduced to the aircraft to be used in combat. For a fighter pilot this took two months and about 50 hours, but was more for multi engine pilots.

Other Items

Personally I was surprised by the lack of time allocated by the USAAF to this vital period. I think that the impact was reduced as most trainees were sent to units in the USA giving them a period of training and adjustment before being thrown into battle. If anyone has more information on this I would appreciate it. One other item of note was that each level of training Primary, Basic, Advanced and Transition was undertaken at different bases.

Summary

USAAF Flight Training covered 29 weeks with approximately 260 hours.

The main source I used is as follows

[Factsheets : AAF Training During WWII](#) (se below)

This should also be read carefully

http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=1675

Time train a US fighter pilot | Factsheets: AAF Training D...

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AAF TRAINING DURING WWII

Posted 2/8/2011 Printable Fact Sheet


One of the greatest accomplishments of the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II was the training of hundreds of thousands of flying and ground personnel for its air armada. Coming from all walks of life, they were molded into the most formidable Air Force the world had ever seen. Before the war, few of them knew much about aviation, but by the time Japan surrendered in 1945, they had become experts in their fields. In March 1944 their numbers reached a maximum of 2,411,294 -- approximately 31 percent of the total strength of the U.S. Army.

For additional information on aviation training during WWII, click on one of the following links.

Cadet Program
 Into the Sky: Primary Flying School
 Crossroads: Basic Flying School
 Winning Their Wings: Advanced Flying School
 Forging Combat Pilots: Transition Training
 Shooting the Sun: Navigators
 Link Trainer

Click here to return to the World War II Gallery.

Photos



DAYTON, Ohio -- AAF Training During WWII exhibit in the World War II Gallery at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

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Related Links

- USAF Historical Study No. 2: Initial Selection of Candidates for Training (Provided by AFHRA)

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http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=1675