

10-POP-F80

Felbinger

SELECTED SCENES 39th PURSUIT SQUADRON IN GUNNERY PRACTICE
Selfridge/Field, Mich.

- Line of Army-P39's lined up at Selfridge Field--these are the new Airacobra pursuit ships...pilots lined up.
- Pilots lined up before ships.
- Pilots get into ships.
- Moving shot along line of ships.
- Ships take-off for Camp Steel gunnery practice in northern Michigan.
- Shots of ground crew loading ammunition into guns at Camp Steel.
- Shots of targets on range as ships zoom over.
- Different angles of ships shooting as they zoom over targets.
- Firing with tracers at targets.
- Shots of targets as Airacobras zoom over and fire tracers.
- Cut-in shots of loading ammunition into planes.
- CU's of pilot in ship for cut-ins, etc.

The first gunnery practice in P-39's of the 39th squadron of the 31st Pursuit Group was held at Camp Steel July 21, 22, and 23. Six planes were used for most of the firing, which included the 30 and 50 caliber machine guns and the 37 millimeter cannon.

The ships were P-39's "Airacobras" manufactured by the Bell Aircraft Corporation. It was the first time the 39th squadron ever had assembled six such planes for gunnery practice and it was the first time a 37-millimeter cannon ever had been fired from an airplane during routine gunnery practice.