ABSTRACT:
This is a scrapbook of Class 1939D of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:
Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Poplawski came from Worcester and entered the WPI Class of 1939. As a Freshman, he was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity, and was on the football and basketball teams, Freshman Track and Interfraternity Swimming. He was unable to continue at WPI after his freshman year for financial reasons, but he was involved in his class's alumni events in later years.

Lt. Col. Poplawski enlisted in the Air Corps in 1936, after leaving WPI, and became an instructor of instrument flying. In 1939, he became a pilot, graduating in the Army Air Corps Class of 1939D. After the U.S. entered World War II, he spent 13 months in Africa as a Pan-American Africa Airways Captain, checkout pilot, and VIP pilot. He became a captain in the Air Corps in October 1942. He flew Army VIPs, troops and equipment throughout Africa, the Middle East, India and the Far East.

At the end of the war, Lt. Col. Poplawski went back to college, at USC-California, and then worked for the Martin Co. as an aeronautical engineer. He was a reserve captain during the Korean War, and became a major and director of the Guided Missile School at Lowry AFB, Colorado in 1953. In 1966, he retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel, after 20 years of active duty.


SCOPE AND CONTENT:
The U.S. Army Air Corps Class of 1939D History, compiled by Henry R. Poplawski, is the document in this manuscript collection. The history is 196 numbered pages, with a few additional photocopied documents and photographs. The table of contents divides the book into the following sections: Introduction, U.S. Air Corps Flying Cadet, Class Reunions, Biographic Briefs, and Epilogue.

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