



## *Army Air Forces*

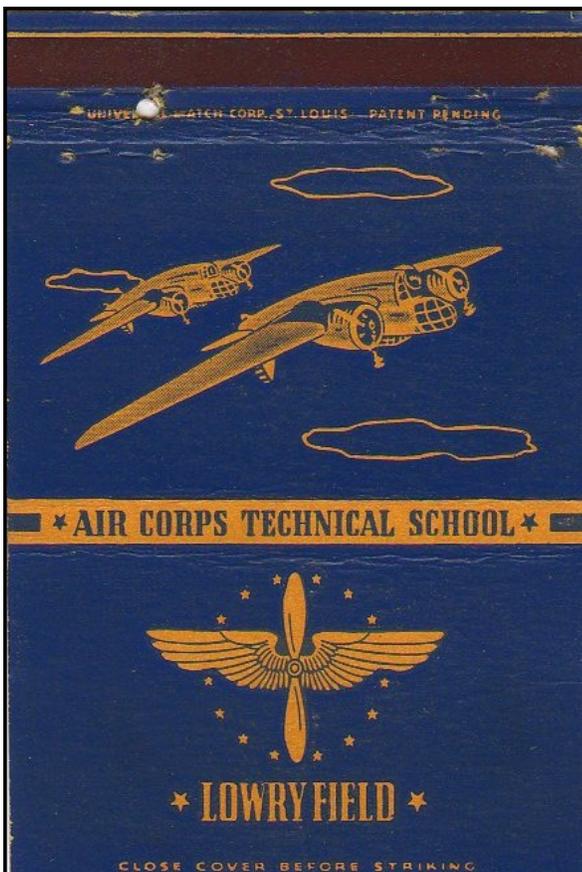
### Lowry Field

#### **Military Corner**

Military training at Montclair, Colorado, began at the future airfield when the 1887 Jarvis Hall Military School opened. Montclair was incorporated into Denver in 1903, and Jarvis Hall burned down in 1904. At the military school site, the Agnes Phipps Memorial Sanatorium was established as a tuberculosis hospital in 1904. The City of Denver purchased the sanatorium for an airfield after a 1935 municipal bond vote. The WPA converted the sanatorium grounds into a Colorado military airfield. In February 1938, the airfield being installed adjacent to Fairmont Cemetery was assigned to the Air Corps Technical School headquartered at Chanute, and "the Denver branch of the Army Air Corps became an Army post of 880 acres."

Lowry Field was named on 11 March 1938, for 2d Lt Francis Lowry, the only Colorado pilot killed in WWI combat; and the paved runway opened on 4 April (1st used by a B-18 Bolo.) The sanatorium's main building became the Army post's headquarters, and the largest single barracks (3,200 men) was completed in mid-1940. Beginning July 16, 1940, the 1st class of the AAF bombardier schools was at Lowry and used the nearby bombing and gunnery range through 14 March 1941 graduating 3 classes of instructors who opened the Barksdale Field bombardier school.

Lowry training for Boeing B-29 Superfortress pilot qualification and for B-29 operational crew



readiness began in 1943, and the base had a July 1943–Jan 1944 clerical school. In 1944, expansion of Lowry's airfield was planned and Lowry gained B-29 Flight Engineer training. In July 1947, formal courses in Intelligence Training were established at Lowry for combat reporting, photographic intelligence, prisoner of war interrogation, and briefing and interrogation of combat crews.

Lowry Air Force Base was designated on 24 June 1948 and on 26 August 1948 established all Lowry training organizations under the 3415th Technical Training Wing. Lowry provided Operation Hayride emergency response for people and livestock threatened by eighteen December 1948-January 1949 snowstorms from Utah to Kansas.

Lowry AFB was designated for closure by BRAC 1991. Most of the base is now the Lowry - Denver, neighborhood with 2 hangars used for the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, the former Building 1499 for the Big Bear Ice Rink, a dormitory for the Logan School for Creative Learning, and base housing for the Stanley British Primary School.