



Fire a Burst Of Six

LIKE THE steady zoom of training planes, and the cadenced tread of marching feet, the staccato bark of a .30 cal. machine gun has now become a part of the regular pattern of Maxwell Field's noises. Firing the machine gun, as well as several other ground weapons, has recently become a new and valuable addition to the cadet's Pre-Flight training.

The reason for a course in ground weapons at Maxwell is an extremely practical one. Many American pilots find themselves forced down over enemy territory during combat, eventually reach the safety of their own lines. Some do not. Those who have returned agree that their ability to use the ordinary infantry weapons aided their safe return. As one put it, "How would you like to be behind a machine gun with an enemy patrol bearing

down on you, and then find you couldn't work the gun?" To prevent this, ground weapons was made a part of every cadet's training.

At gunnery class, the cadet not only learns to sight and fire the .45 cal. automatic pistol, the .30 cal. rifle, the Thompson sub-machine gun, and the .30 cal. machine gun, but he learns to field strip the weapons as well. Field strip, in plain every day civilian talk, means to take them apart to see what makes them tick.

Stance and correct breathing are stressed on the firing range. Slowly the cadets fire each shot. Their hands are steady, their faces determined, for the target they are firing at today might easily be a Jap Zero tomorrow.

A 'C M. William Jacobs.