



CAP Builds Its Own Airport

When U.S. Army orders closed the Baltimore area airports in August 1942, members of the four Baltimore Squadrons comprising the Baltimore Group, Maryland Wing, found themselves apparently “grounded”.

Several members, however, declined to surrender, and an intensive survey was undertaken to locate the nearest available site for the building of a flying field.

They adopted the slogan, “The Group That Won’t Be Grounded,” and on 10 October 1942, a charter was filed incorporating Base 332, Inc., under the laws of the State of Maryland.

The airport site, one mile north of Westminster on Littlestown Road (US 140), was leased on 1 November, 1942, and “Termite Squads” of CAP personnel took off their coats, emptied their pocket books, and went to work for the winter.

The corporation (Base 332, Inc.) purchased a hanger and hauled it from Aberdeen to the 45-acre site, and in December 1942 the first planes landed on the field.

An official opening and dedication was held on 6 Jun 1943, with the Maryland Wing marching before the first national Commander of CAP, COL Earle L. Johnson, USAAF, and the Maryland Wing Commander, LTC Arthur C. Hyde.

The base became one of the most active airports in Maryland, and served as an operational base for missions of the Baltimore Group.

(“Maryland Wing” newspaper, December 1974)