

Title Information

Into the Night

Central California in World War II

by George F. Gruner

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Over 100 Vintage Photographs • Bibliography • Index

Hammer Field was the focal point of Central California's military effort in World War II. Its life was brief, but lived at full throttle. From takeoff only months before Pearl Harbor to flight's end just after VJ Day, the flatland east of Fresno was dedicated to the Army's aerial assault weapons and the men who flew them. With Fresno's two other military posts—Camp Pinedale and the Fresno Fairgrounds—it represented the region's major manifestation of America at war. The peak wartime complement of the three bases nearly doubled the area's peacetime population.

Into the Night records the local military and civilian history of those wartime years, as told by contemporary writers and the men and women who lived through that dynamic period when Fresno changed from a community focused on agriculture to a metropolitan area with global concerns.

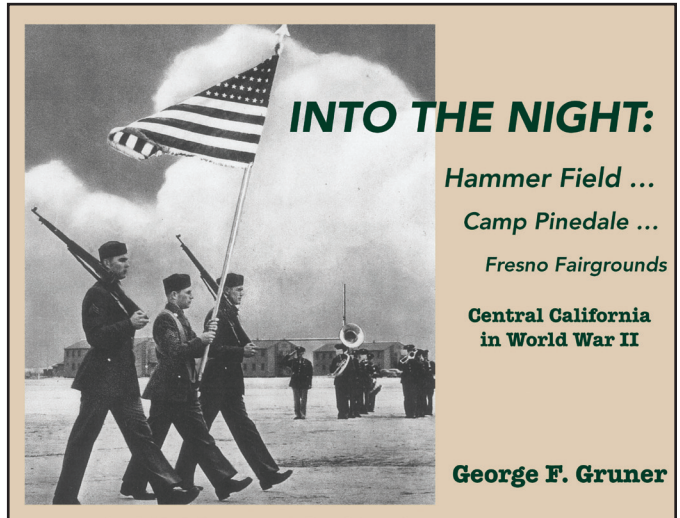
This book is filled with names of the men and women who came to Hammer Field, Camp Pinedale and the Fresno Fairgrounds to train for war—many of whom later came back to stay. It also details those hometown heroes whose contribution to the war effort was to perform civilian duties in a variety of ways.

Illustrated throughout with amazing historic photographs of Fresno's military bases and the men and women who served there, *Into the Night* perfectly captures the mood of defiance, optimism, and patriotism of a nation at war.

Into the Night fills a gap in Central California's history, a chapter brought to life by those who lived it.



About the Author: George F. Gruner is the former executive editor of *The Fresno Bee* and a World War II combat veteran. Gruner saw action in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany during World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge, as a member of the 440th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, first with corps artillery and later attached to the 75th Infantry Division. He returned to Germany in 1952 to serve two years on the civilian staff of *The Stars and Stripes*, the newspaper delivered to Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel stationed at posts from the United Kingdom to North Africa and Turkey. He joined the news staff of *The Fresno Bee* in 1955 and retired as executive editor. *Into the Night* is his third book; his previous books are *Blue Water Beat* and *The White Flyers*.



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