

# SOARING

## TO THE OLD TIMERS

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“The way to train in glider flying is to start with power planes!” Yes, these are the words of an “old timer.” This set us thinking, for the words of an old timer carry weight and these words contradict the personal experience of many of us and the accumulated experience abroad.

What are these remarks based on? We searched for records in our own meagre civilian glider training program of the past decade and found nothing to support this contention. We then turned to the Army Glider Training Program, for there glider training was preceded by power plane training, and checked with what data was available and listened to the testimony of a number of Army glider training instructors and of Army glider pilots.

From oral testimony and from letters one may conclude that the Army method of glider training has not been completely effective in producing qualified Army glider pilots. Unfortunately, because of our war censorship it is not possible to give more than this brief remark. We know that this method was adopted in an attempt to turn out glider pilots in a hurry.

Then why did the old timer say this?

Let's see! These old timers are in their middle thirties. They know how to fly a glider, but have had a long lay-off, flying only occasionally. When the war ends, they want to get into a high performance sail-plane with a minimum of time spent in a refresher course. For them time is limited; they have acquired responsibilities, and a family, and their energy is not unlimited.

Therefore we must conclude they are interpreting a glider program in terms of their own needs. They have forgotten their own youth. They are not considering the 14 year old, the 18 year old, and even the 20 year old, who is starting from scratch. They forget that learning is slow and that the old fashioned way of glider training fits the learning process.

We therefore urge the old timer to consider that a glider training program for him is not the glider training program we envision for our youth.