

Pilot Ratings

In late 1939, the USAAF ratings for pilots became a three-tier system based on objective standards similar to those of today. The Pilot rating was awarded to those officers who graduated from the Advanced Flying School. This was a one-year, three-phase course with Primary, Basic and Advanced elements, involving around 750 hours flight time.) Ten years of service and 1,800 hours of military flight was required to qualify as Senior Pilot, and either 15 years of service with 3,000 hours, or 20 years service with 2,000 hours was needed to become a Command Pilot.

Navigators at that time had to be rated pilots.

The MACR Section D (Operator's Flying Experience) states that Col. H. H. Upham has a "White" instrument rating, dated (or renewed) on Jan 20 1946.

A "White" rating is the lowest level of instrument proficiency, and generally required to be re-qualified every 6 months. If the 6-months rule was valid for the USAAF in 1946, it is possible that Col. Upham's instrument rating had expired in July. If so, from a Regulations point of view, he was not authorised to fly IFR missions.

Ashleigh Hogg.