

The Giddings News

February 12, 1953

**LT. FRANKLIN M. KNIPPA
RECEIVES JET PILOT WINGS**

**WILLIAMS AIR FORCE
BASE, CHANDLER, ARIZO-
NA, Feb. 2.**—The silver wings
of a jet fighter pilot were pre-
sented here today during for-
mal graduation ceremonies to
Lt. Franklin M. Knippa, son of
Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Knippa, Sr.,
Box 133, Lexington.

The graduating class was
composed of pilots from five
NATO countries: Belgium,
Denmark, France, The Nether-
land and the United States.

Brigadier General Charles F.
Born, commanding general of
Luke Air Force Base, Phoenix,
Arizona, was the guest speaker.

Colonel Noel T. Cumbaa,
wing commander, presented the
wings and diplomas. Allied pi-
lots received the USAF wings
and diplomas in addition to
those of their respective air
forces.

NATO pilots are trained in
the States under provisions of
the Mutual Defense Assistance
Program of the North Atlantic
Treaty Organization.

Presentation ceremonies took
place at the Band Shell at 9
o'clock.

Yesterday afternoon at 4
o'clock, flight line ceremonies
were held in honor of the new
pilots. The WAFB aerial dem-
onstration team, four planes
flying as one, demonstrated
the high speed, intricate man-
euverability of the jet fighters.
A 24-ship formation of Lock-
heed T-33's flew by in salute
to the graduates. At the close
of the aerial performance, the
entire Cadet Corps passed in
review.

Following the flight line ac-
tivities, a graduation buffet was
served in the Cadet Dining Hall
at 5:30 o'clock.

Lt. Knippa entered the ser-
viced from Lexington High
vice in Nov. 1951. He was gra-
in 1948 and attended Texas
A&M from 1948 to 1951, ma-
joring in industrial education.
He was class vice-president
and reporter, and a member of
the student council.

