

# AALLEBERG, SWEDISH

## Soaring Center

Harald Millgard

*Editor, Flygtidningen, Swedish Aeronautical Magazine*

The accompanying sketch shows one of the best places for soaring in the whole world, Aalleberg, a mountain near the town Falköping in the province Västergötland. Where else can you find a mountain with natural possibilities for an airport on the top such as this one, which is about 1000 meters long and about 500 meters wide? Where such a clean descent with long high fine slopes, and where a soaring mountain with three small lakes (with spring water) on the top, one of which probably will be a refreshing swimming pool? The sketch, designed by the well-known soaring pilot and engineer, Anders Bange, with pet-name, "Air-Emil," who has seen Aalleberg from above in a sailplane, doesn't give a picture of the mountain as it is now. At the present time, there is only one building, a hangar for 16 planes. The picture shows possible future prospects. The head-organization for Swedish civil aeronautics, Kungl Svenska Aeroklubben (The Royal Swedish Aero-Club) has, as mentioned before in this magazine, a fund for that place, to which the most foreseeing part of the Swedes now has given a total of over \$50,000, meant for the erection of the soaring pilots headquarters. There certainly will be more too, for Sweden's "soaring sense" has awakened.

During this summer, from May 19 to September 1, the soaring activity will really get underway. The chief instructor, Mr. Stig Faegerblad, one of the soaring aces of the country, will indeed be busy. Fifteen courses of instruction are to be held, 6 A courses, 6 B courses, and 3 C courses. Furthermore, there will be D courses with advanced training for holders of C licenses. The charge for students is as follows: A and B courses, \$25.00; C course, \$37.00; and D course \$19.00. A subsidy from the government gives every student who passes his course examination and has taken part enough in building gliders an amount of \$12.50 for A or B licenses, \$25.00 for C license. The charge for the course includes acci-



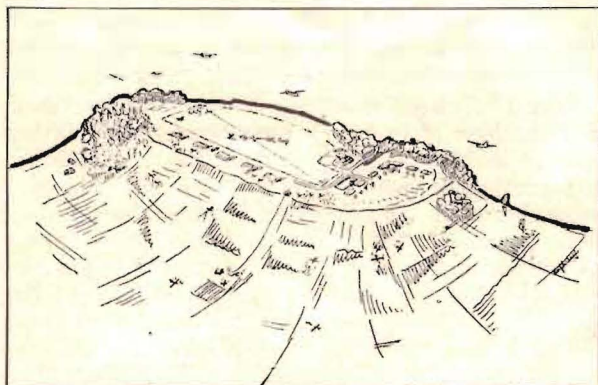
The Author, Harald Millgard.

dent insurance. Every course lasts for three weeks. Bed and board is given in some farms around the mountain. Later, cozy barracks of all sorts will be built on the soaring site. The student has a choice of lodging in a private room (cost with meals, \$28.00 for three weeks), in a double room (cost with meals, \$26.00), or in a room with several beds (cost with meals, \$20.00).

Every student at the Aalleberg Camp must be at least 15 years of age. When you are reading this, American fellows, remember, there are many young boys and girls participating in flying activity at Aalleberg.

The types of craft used at Aalleberg are the primary glider, SG-38, the utility sailplane Grunau Baby IIa, and the high-performance soaring plane Olympia.

In the province, Dalecarlia, there is a flying club, that struggles along to rise over the others in Sweden, Borlänge-Domsjö Flygklubb. On April 22, the instructor, Walle Forslund, made an amazing soaring flight with a Grunau Baby IIa. He was launched by winch from the ice-covered lake Runn, and cut loose at 350 meters. He then climbed on thermal currents to 1,150 meters. The flight lasted for 25 minutes. Walle could have stayed aloft much longer, but he was afraid to drift



Aalleberg, Paradise of Swedish Soaring Pilots.