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13th Bombardment Squadron
3rd Bombardment Group
314th Composite Wing
Fifth AIR FORCE

RECORD TO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	Feb 1948
SQ-BOMB-13-HI	

1st February 1948
to
29th February 1948

P.T.C.

UNIT HISTORY



60043592

"GRIM REAPERS"

2-5913-72

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L) JPC/wfs
YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
APO 328

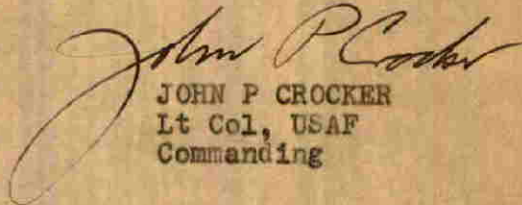
5 March 1948

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

P.R.C.

TO: Commanding General
United States Air Force

This history was compiled by 1st Lt Robert J. Temple with the clerical aid of Sgt. William F. Shawler. Facts included in the narrative have been compiled from reports submitted by Section Heads. Observations not otherwise credited are based on the personal knowledge and opinions of 1st Lt Robert J. Temple.


JOHN P CROCKER
Lt Col, USAF
Commanding

00043592

2-5913-72

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
APO 328

Unit History, 1 thru 29 February 1948

1. The mission of the 13th Bombardment Squadron (L) continues to be that of occupational duties in Japan, as well as operational training and surveillance. Our objective is to become 100% combat ready, both individually and as a Squadron in all phases in which the A-26 is considered a combat weapon. The 13th Bombardment Squadron (L) as a part of the 3rd Bombardment Group (L) and the Air Force will be one of the first units to fight back in the event of unfriendly attack.

2. Personnel

- a. Our total enlisted strength on 28 February 1947 was 77, and officer strength 25; as compared to 29 February 1948, enlisted strength of 101 and officer strength of 26.
- b. This is a net increase of 24 enlisted men and one officer over a year ago.
- c. The key personnel for the squadron are:

Lt Col John P Crocker	Commanding Officer
Major Clarence H Gross	Deputy C.O.
Capt Allen Warfield Jr	Operations Off.
Capt Richard G Mendrop	Adjutant
Capt Stanley R Thomas	Supply Officer
Capt Parry L Thomas	Engineering Off.
Capt Ernst E Jahnke	Armament Officer
T Sgt Robert F Coughlin	First Sergeant
M Sgt Lloyd W Garner	Line Chief
M Sgt Thomas J McCann	Operations Spec.
T Sgt Edward J Jackson	Armament Chief
T Sgt Charles H Keaten	Supply Sergeant

3. The 13th Bombardment Squadron has been stationed at Yokota Air Force Base since 31 August 1946. This has been a permanent station assignment.

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Feb 1948

4. The Grim Reaper Squadron is one of three squadrons comprising the 3rd Bombardment Group (L).

5. The Table of Organization and Equipment for the Squadron, T.O. & E. 1-137R, has been changed somewhat during the month. The T.O. & E. now calls for 24 Officers and 104 Enlisted Men as follows:

Officers	Enlisted Men
Lieutenant Colonel 1	Master Sergeants 7
Major 1	Tech Sergeants 17
Captain 7	Staff Sergeants 28
First Lieutenants 6	Sergeants 18
Second Lieutenants 9	Corporals 21
	Privates, 1st Cl. 13
	Privates 0

6. Major activities.

- a. The primary objective right now is to improve and maintain the tactical efficiency of the Squadron as a fighting unit. The 13th Squadron also has as a primary objective, not only to set high standards for the officers and men, but to hold to them. These standards are moral, mental and physical and are set forth by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col John P Crocker.
- b. The overall governing policies are set forth by the Fifth Air Force Commander and are disseminated through intermediate channels to this organization. The Squadron Commander carries out these policies.
- c. The personnel of the Squadron have been divided into flights of four or five enlisted men to each assigned officer. This was done for the purpose of taking a more personal interest in the men and becoming better acquainted with them, with the overall idea of creating and maintaining higher morale within the Squadron, thus making better soldiers and consequently, a better Air Force.

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Lt Col John P Crocker is personally interviewing all enlisted men in the 13th Squadron with the view of getting personally acquainted with them, to advise and help them in their army lives, and to aid them with their personal problems.

7. The Grim Reaper Squadron has established a new pressing room within the squadron barracks. This room has two "Steam-o-matic" Irons and two pressing boards. There are also four shoe-shine racks and shoe-shining equipment is furnished squadron personnel. The cost of the equipment was borne by the Unit Fund.

8. The entire 3rd Bomb Group was alerted for a joint Air Force-Navy Maneuvers Plan which was expected to begin 26 February 1948 and last for a period of four to six days. The maneuvers were called off the day before we planned to depart. Itazuke Air Force Base was supposed to be the operational base for the 3rd Bomb Group during the maneuvers. Each of the three squadrons were to furnish eight A-26's and crews. Flying time was held to a minimum on the aircraft from the time the maneuvers were announced, in order to have the aircraft in the best possible flying condition. The aircraft were to have approximately 30 hours remaining to be flown before the next 50-hour inspection.

9. At approximately 1345, 11 February 1948, the 3rd Bomb Group received a call from the 314th Composite Wing to conduct a search mission for a missing P-51. The 13th Bomb Squadron dispatched five A-26's and the 8th Bomb Squadron also sent five A-26's. Takeoff was at 1430 and the mission was led by Capt Ernst E Jahnke of this organization. The area searched was north of Sendai, Honshu, Japan to Misawa at 500' above the terrain. The mission was four hours long, the last hour being night time. No aircraft were sighted.

On 12 February 1948, the three Bomb Squadrons continued on another search mission for the same aircraft. Takeoff was at 0800. The 13th Squadron put up 8 aircraft which were led by Lt Col John P Crocker. The area assigned the 13th for search was northwest of Sendai, a strip along the west coast inland to approximately 30 miles up to the north coast. The mission was four and one half hours long,

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the squadron departing and returning in formation. No aircraft were sighted. The following day, the search was given up after three days of all-out effort.

10. Operations. Emphasis has been placed on flying proficiency during the month, which includes instrument flying, night flying, and formation flying, as well as bombing and strafing. A total of 688 hours and 40 minutes flying time was accomplished in A-26 aircraft during the month, and 13 hours and 15 minutes was flown in the B-25. Two aircraft were received from third echelon maintenance this month which brings the 13th Bomb Squadron up to T.O. strength of 16 with one over. We now have the following aircraft:

A-26B's	14
A-26C's	3
B-25	1

Three attached pilots were released to other airfields for flying; Capt Edward E Gillespie, 1st Lt Charles P Bounds, and 1st Lt Robert M Loeffler. Our pilot strength is now 21 assigned and 13 attached, with two assigned navigators.

We have a new gunnery range, which is south of Oshima at Onehara-Shima. Mito Range has been reopened and will be used for skip-bombing and strafing only. This will prove to be popular with both the combat ready pilots and those in training because Mito Range can score all hits, whereas Onehara-Shima does not have the facilities.

Capt Ernst E Jahnke, 1st Lt Claude D Phillips, 1st Lt Ted W Smith, and Pvt William B Terry have been placed on temporary duty. Their mission is to navigate a flight of P-51's back to Japan from Manila, P. I. An A-26 from this squadron, #44-35388 was used for the trip, departing the 22 Feb 48. They are expected to return the first part of March.

1st Lt Herman L Crim is the acting Armament Section Head in the absence of Capt Jahnke.

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The Communications Section is running smoothly under the guidance of Capt Clarence L Martindale. The maintenance is performed by the Service Group and considerable improvement has been noted in the last month. No appreciable flying time was lost during the month due to defective communications equipment.

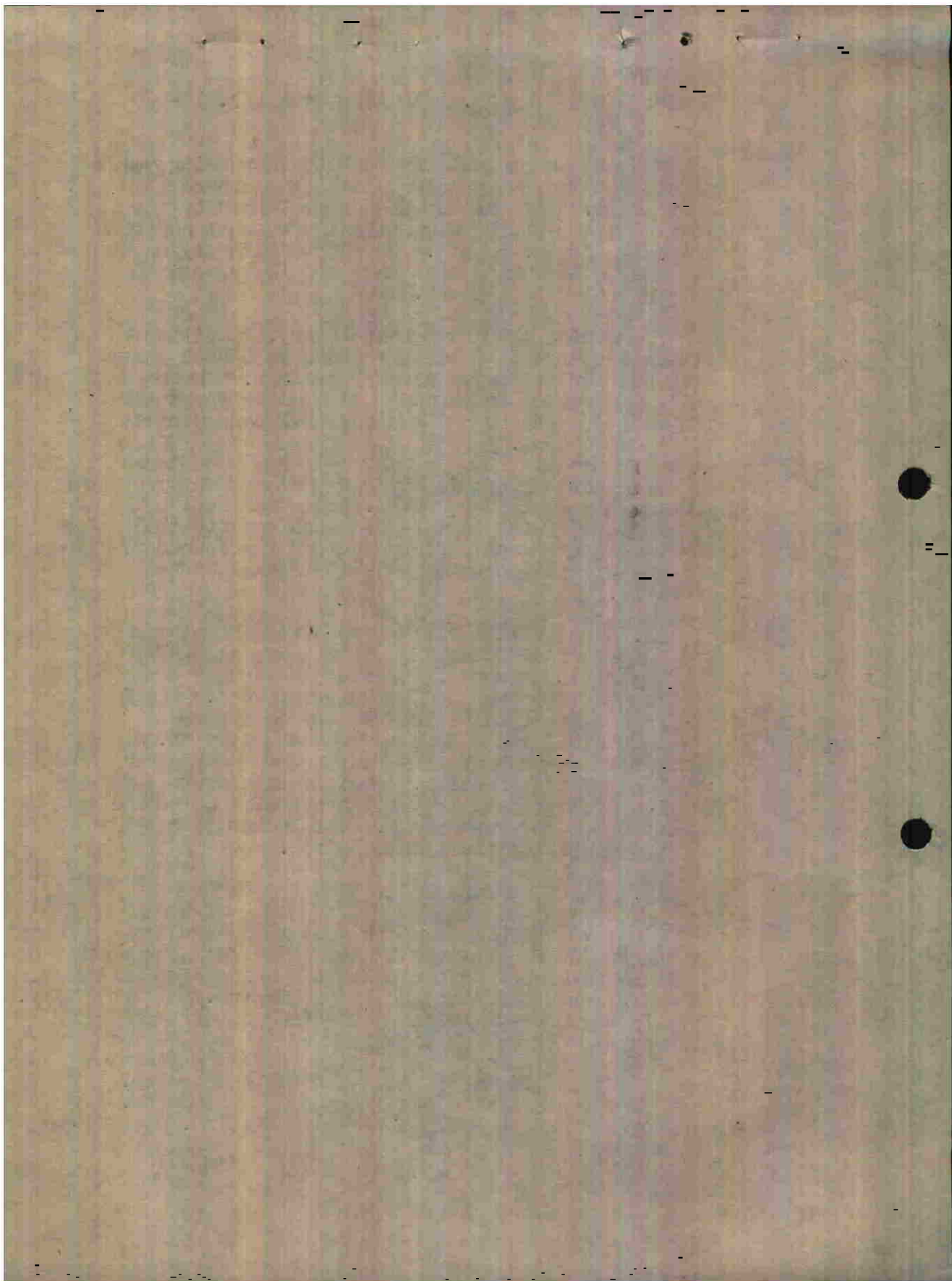
During the month of February, a written Standard Operating Procedure was established for each section regarding Fire Evacuation. These SOP's are posted on the Bulletin Boards for their respective sections and one copy has been sent to the Fire Marshal.

11. More effort is being expended toward Public Information in this squadron. The Base Public Information Office is very cooperative with the activities and problems confronting the squadron, and is eager and willing to help in all ways possible.

12. The overall ratings received from the Base Air Inspector's Office this month were EXCELLENT for all sections except Supply. The Supply Section received an UNSATISFACTORY report. One big reason for this rating was the departure of S Sgt Donald E Lucas for the Zone of Interior. Inexperienced help greatly hampered the efficient function of this section. That particular problem has been relieved by the assignment of T Sgt Charles H Keaten to Squadron Supply. Sgt Keaten is a newly arrived member of the 13th Squadron.

13. Miscellaneous Activities

a. The Grim Reapers rang the bell in Washington on 28 Feb 1948 by being the only squadron whose barracks was inspected by the inspection party from Air Force Headquarters in Washington. It was totally unexpected and was conducted while the Grim Reapers were preparing to fly an aerial review for the inspection party. The review formation was led by Capt William J Horton of the 8th Squadron. Capt Clarence L Martindale led the 13th Squadron. Good formation was flown the entire mission.



Basic: Unit History, 13th Bomb Sq (L), 1 - 29 Feb 1948

b. The following morning, an aerial review was flown for the troops at Yokota while the ground review was being conducted. This mission was led by Lt Col John P Crocker with nine aircraft from the 13th Squadron followed by nine from the 8th Squadron and ten from the 90th Squadron. Although the visibility was poor, the formation looked very good.

c. The members of the 13th Squadron are very active in the athletic and recreation activities on the base, having a basketball team comprised of both enlisted men and officers in the Inter-Squadron League. We also have two volleyball teams, one enlisted men and one officer. The enlisted men's standing is won 4 and lost 4. The officers have won 8 straight games and lost none. The officer team is expected to win the base championship and journey to Itazuke for the Fifth Air Force Tournament.

d. The new Army Education Program schools are opening 1 March 1948 and the 13th Bomb Squadron has about thirty enrollees for the various courses. The advantages of the program have been explained to the officers and men and more are expected to enroll as new classes begin.

e. F Sgt James T Honsaker left this organization on 25 February 1948 to return to the States. F Sgt Honsaker has been with the 13th Squadron for approximately three months. His duties as first sergeant have been taken over by T Sgt Robert F Coughlin who has been transferred from the Engineering Section of the 13th Squadron.

T Sgt Robert F Coughlin received a commendation from Lt Col John P Crocker, Commanding Officer of this squadron, for having all pertinent forms in EXCELLENT order for his aircraft, #44-34301, as reported by the Base Air Inspector. A copy of this commendation has been placed in T Sgt Coughlin's 201 file.

A P P E N D I X

UNIT HISTORY

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
314TH COMPOSITE WING
FIFTH AIR FORCE

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE
3rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
APO 328

2 March 1948

Roster of Personnel

Officers

Rank	Name	ASN
Lt Col	Crocker, John P	AO-33144
Major	Gross, Clarence H	AO-33417
Capt	Bushue, Bernard J	AO-35744
"	Godbey, Donald E	AO-48262
"	Herman, Christopher J	AO-748979
"	Jahnke, Ernst E	AO-735592
"	Martindale, Clarence L	AO-663061
"	Mendrop, Richard G	AO-660781
"	Thomas, Parry L	AO-54045
"	Thomas, Stanley R	AO-49726
"	Warfield, Allen Jr	AO-48128
"	Weaver, Lester C	AO-42126
1st Lt	Ballard, John B	AO-2070925
" "	Bates, Thomas L	AO-41186
" "	Berry, George R	AO-39438
" "	Crim, Herman L	AO-747753
" "	Hutchinson, William G	AO-38215
" "	Last, John F	A AO-683031
" "	Muller, Harry H Jr	AO-667334
" "	Olson, Warren H	AO-2079959
" "	Peter, Reed T	AO-888904
" "	Phillips, Claude D	AO-712030
" "	Rutan, James H	AO-504198
" "	Smith, Ted W	AO-2094056
" "	Sorenson, Echester W	AO-714208
" "	Temple, Robert J	AO-56683

Enlisted Men

M Sgt	Barksdale, Ronald W	AF-6394708
"	Bigby, Leon	AF-6366977
"	Garner, Lloyd W	AF-14033283
"	Gerold, Edward G	AF-6264946
"	Jenkins, Buster	AF-6241399
"	McCann, Thomas J	AF-15010050
"	Van Dever, Alonzo E	AF-6972431
T Sgt	Bell, Claud R	AF-14022587
"	Bosquez, Rudolfo	AF-18048892
"	Bunten, Paul E	AF-35354590
"	Coughlin, Robert F	AF-11011864

(Roster of personnel Cont, 2 March 1948)

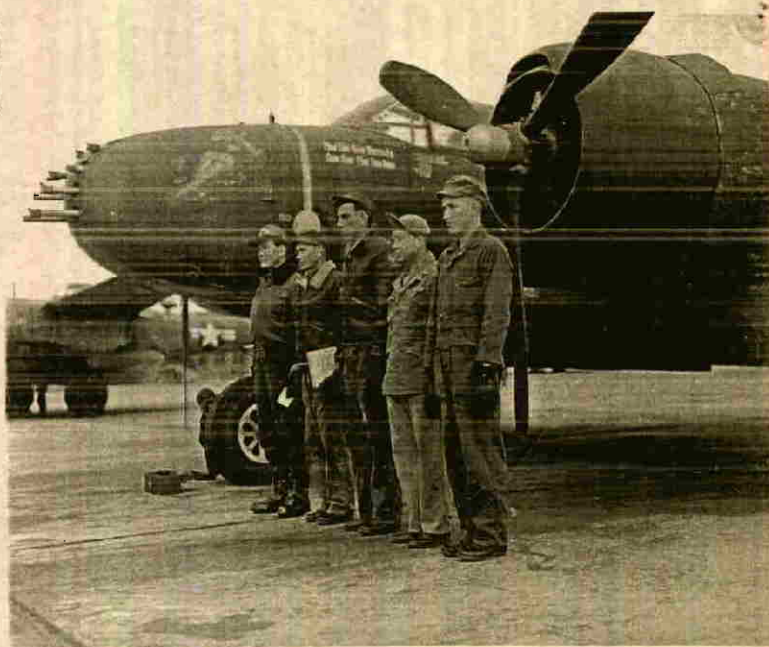
T Sgt	Ellisott, Paul L	AF-18031777
"	Hays, Carl J Jr	AF-6277311
"	Hill, Frank J	AF-18061006
"	Jackson, Edward J	AF-32462972
"	Jahnson, James D	AF-6652501
"	Keaten, Charles H	AF-6971758
"	Martin, Charles F	AF-19055621
"	McLeron, William A	AF-6708616
"	Robinson, Wendall	AF-14031382
"	Rodgers, Frank H	AF-6257128
"	Sturgeon, Charles W	AF-15069001
"	Wood, Fred Jr	AF-18060078
S Sgt	Brown, James A	AF-14146140
"	Caurthen, Ralph H	AF-14200228
"	Cushman, Theodore A	AF-31428910
"	Eidikaitis, Frank	AF-11027436
"	Ellis, Marvin	AF-14045664
"	Garbiso, Tony T	AF-37346887
"	Gatlin, Jack L	AF-18009542
"	Gisin, Glenn J	AF-6937815
"	King, Charles E	AF-16047360
"	Kleinertz, Wayne F	AF-16192274
"	Lagon, Dorris L	AF-14225384
"	Murphy, Vincent J	AF-13114073
"	McCreedy, Robert D	AF-16029169
"	Stallings, Walter C	AF-34258059
"	Sweigert, Luther M	AF-6996144
Sgt	Blomback, Fritz	AF-12252229
"	Carr, Talamadge, C	AF-18185652
"	Drury, Gardner F	AF-31071783
"	Eddleman, James H	AF-14236817
"	Geolsby, Burlin P Jr	AF-11146780
"	Hunt, Francis B	AF-17171012
"	Piercy, Lyndle L	AF-19215485
"	Shawler, William F	AF-15237272
"	Spry, Harold L	AF-19214743
"	Stroud, Joseph R	AF-14221315
"	Walker, Robert V	AF-19235594
"	Williams, Aubery L	AF-18094740
Cpl	Altiery, Mason L	AF-10101983
"	Bullock, Huey P	AF-18323525
"	Bushey, Donald R	AF-12245594
"	Campbell, John D	AF-15210043
"	Davis, Roy E	AF-18211552
"	Ellis, Lea R	AF-19247718
"	Greener, Roy H	AF-38777424
"	Hawkins, Lowell D	AF-18285881
"	Isom, Lyvonis	AF-1422646
"	Johnson, Lloyd	AF-14226640
"	Kozbiel, Edward J Jr	AF-16209015
"	Kruger, Charles F	AF-18252349
"	Loucks, Noble	AF-38788562
"	Massey, Arthue E	AF-14148352
"	Pena, Guadalupe G	AF-18230552
"	Phillips, Merton V	AF-18245393

(Roster of personnel Cont, 2 March 1948)

Cpl	Piga, Joseph A	AF-12251019
"	Pundy, Allyn L	AF-17206526
"	Roberts, Richard H	AF-19284236
"	Smith, William E	AF-12262434
"	Spray, James L	AF-14240040
Pfc	Bostion, Garey K	AF-13139298
"	Belflower, Miles C	AF-19254540
"	Cacile, James S	AF-12049836
"	Choate, Walter A	AF-39759581
"	Clark, Elmer A	AF-19307771
"	Evers, Elwood J Jr	RA-11154477
"	Gay, Edmund E	AF-14253787
"	Horne, William H	AF-15058582
"	Hudnall, Lea R	AF-19256341
"	Mienheartt, Charles E	AF-15246096
"	Osborne, Harold S	AF-15019168
"	Padilla, Lorenzo F	AF-12259784
"	Pierce, Robert E	AF-19145074
"	Ricks, Joseph F	AF-19276973
"	Ward, Thomas	AF-12275021
"	Watson, Charles E	AF-13198606
"	Watson, Donald	AF-15248653
"	Williams, Carroll B Jr	AF-18290141
"	Wirick, Carl B	AF-35238111
Pvt	Brower, Glenn J	AF-19276814
"	Crawford, Charles E	AF-42222033
"	Frain, James J	AF-13251068
"	Hansen, Archie J	AF-39905421
"	Middleton, James E	AF-14236002
"	Schlink, Albert C	AF-11170488
"	Terry, William B	AF-19255812
"	Turbeville, Charlie R	RA14235715
"	Washington, Herbert A	AF-13234131
"	Whitmore, Robert G	RA19246075



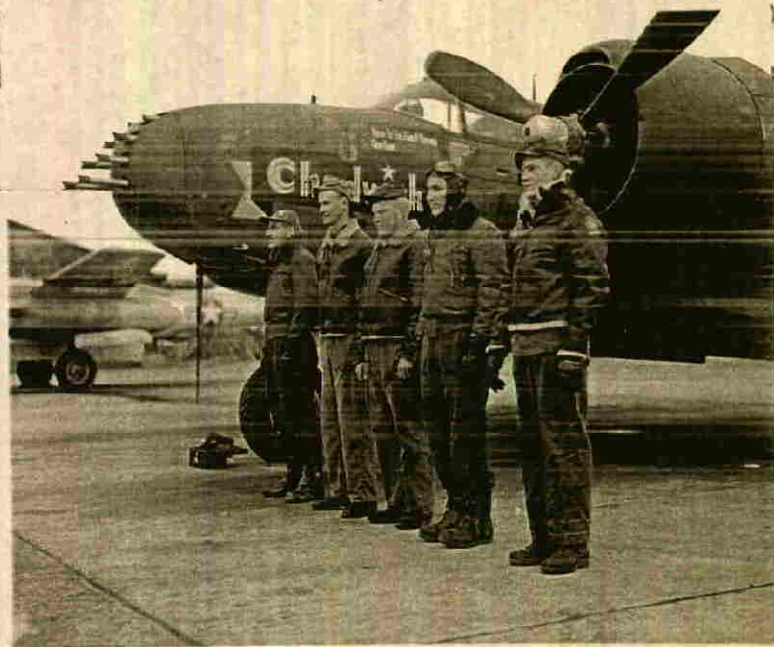
A-26 #380 - Capt B. J. Bushue, S Sgt R. H. Caurthen, Sgt R. V. Walker, Cpl R. H. Roberts and Pfc L. A. Hudnall



A-26 #297 - Capt S. R. Thomas, T Sgt F. Wood, T Sgt F. J. Hill, T Sgt C. H. Keaten and Pfc E. A. Clark.



A-26 #478 - Capt D. E. Godbey, S Sgt W. F. Kleinertz, Sgt. F. B. Hunt, Cpl D. H. Bushey, and Pfc D. Watson



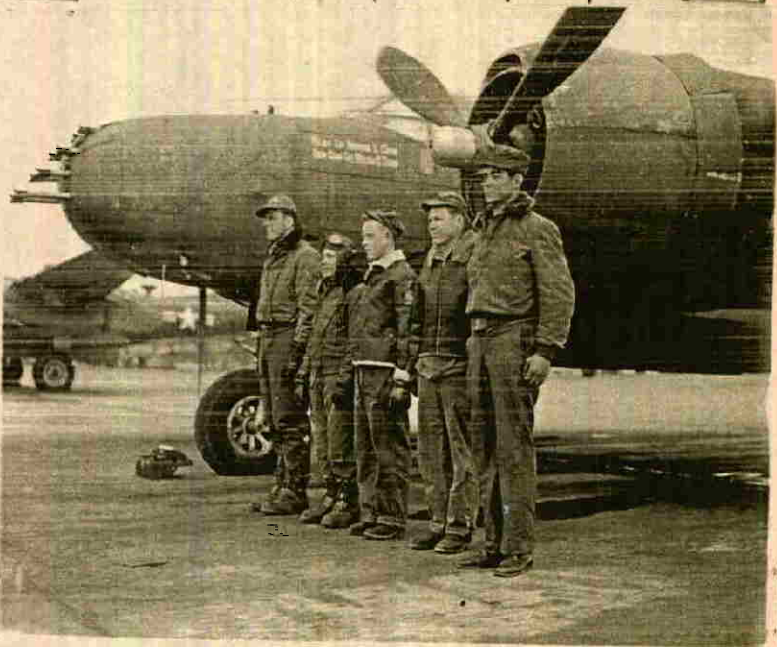
A-26 #405 - Capt C. J. Herman, M Sgt L. Bigby, S Sgt F. Bidikaitis, S Sgt D. L. Ligon, and Cpl J. L. Spray.



A-26 #372 - Capt C. L. Martindale, S Sgt T. T. Garbiso, Sgt L. L. Piercy and Cpl C. F. Kruger



A-26 #580 - 1st Lt J. F. Last, Pfc A. J. Hansen, Cpl L. Isom, Cpl A. E. Massey, and Sgt J. H. Eddleman



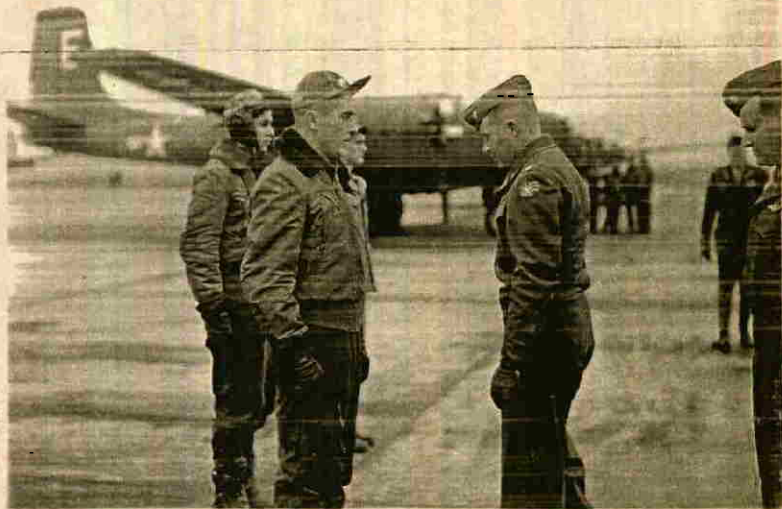
A-26 #298 - 1st Lt H. L. Grim, Pfc. C. B. Wirick,
Cpl L. Johnson, Cpl N. Loucks and Pvt W. B.



A-26 #301 - 1st Lt W. H. Olson, S Sgt V. J.
Murphy, Cpl R. H. Greener and Pfc W. A. Choate.



On-the-Line Inspection by Squadron Staff, Lt Col J. P. Crocker, Maj C. H. Gross, Capt A. Warfield, Capt P. L. Thomas (hidden) and M Sgt L. W. Garner.



Capt C. L. Martindale reporting to Lt Col Crocker (ready for inspection, sir). Maj Gross standing-by.



Saturday Morning Officers' Call at Squadron Operations

Seated (left to right)

Capt B. J. Bushue
 Maj C. H. Gross
 Lt Col J. P. Crocker, Comdg.
 Lt J. B. Ballard
 Capt C. J. Herman
 Lt J. F. Last

Standing

Capt D. E. Godbey
 Lt C. D. Phillips
 Capt R. G. Mendrop
 Capt C. L. Martindale
 Lt W. H. Olson
 Lt H. I. Crim
 Lt T. W. Smith
 Capt A. Warfield
 Lt. R. J. Temple
 Capt P. L. Thomas
 Capt S. R. Thomas



1947 Champions, Yokota Air Force Base
13th Officers' Volleyball Team

Left to Right

Lt C. W. Sorenson
Lt G. R. Berry
Lt C. D. Phillips
Capt E. E. Jahnke
Lt Col J. P. Crocker

Capt A Warfield (Kneeling)
Lt J. B. Ballard
Lt H. E. Muller (Kneeling)
Capt B. J. Bushue
Capt R. G. Mendrop



The first and last photo of James T Honsaker,
First Sergeant of the 13th Bombardment Squadron (L)
from November 1947 to February 1948.

Sgt Honsaker has just recently returned to the
United States for further reassignment.