

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)

3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

314TH COMPOSITE WING

FIFTH AIR FORCE

SA-BOMB-13-HI
MAY 1948

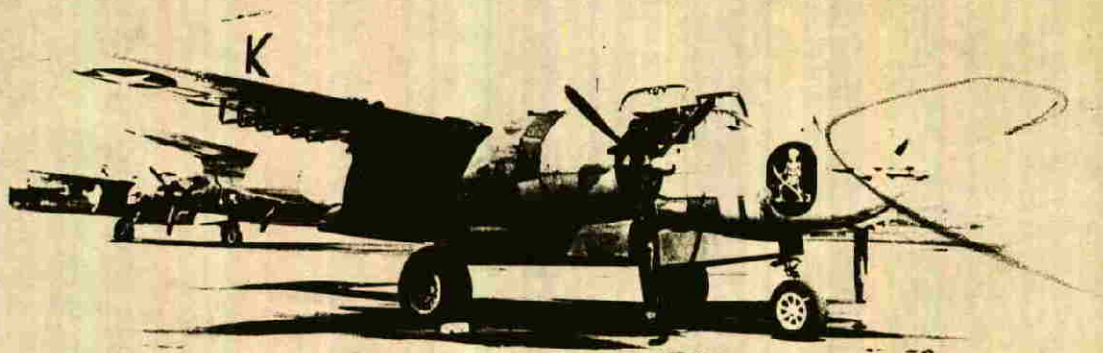
19 JUN 1948
MAY 48

UNIT HISTORY

P.D.C.

DDO 43595

2-5913-75



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

10 June 1948

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

TO: Commanding General
United States Air Force

P.R.C.

1. This history was compiled by 1st Lt Jerry J Hunt 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 Jerry J Hunt.

Jerry J Hunt
JERRY J HUNT
1st Lt, USAF
Squadron Historian

06643595

2-5913-75

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

Unit History, 1 May thru 31 May 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 collectively in all phases in which the A-26 is considered a combat weapon.

2. Personnel:

a. Morning report strength as of 1 May 1948 was 24 Officers and 102 Enlisted Men. As of 31 May 1948, it was 23 Officers and 102 Enlisted Men.

b. Key personnel for squadron:

Lt Col	John P Crocker	Commanding Officer
Capt	Donald E Godbey	Adjutant
Capt	Clarence L Martindale	Operations Officer
Capt	Ernst E Jahnke	Supply Officer
Capt	Rhodes M Elam	Engineering Officer
1st Lt	Warren H Olson	Armament Officer

3. Activities in squadron as reported by section heads:

a. Operations:

Total time for May:

A-26	614:40
B-25	:30

Two group simulated combat missions were staged during the month, the squadron providing six aircraft for each mission. A group mission was flown 29 May for Col. Underhill (former 314th Wing Commander) who is returning to the Zone of Interior. A fourth group mission was flown over Tokyo on Memorial Day.

Basic: Unit History, 1 - 31 May 1948, 13th Bomb Sq (L)
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Ten instrument checks were given during the month. We have a total of 17 gunners combat ready and two in training. Bombing and gunnery practice was held up due to lack of aircraft and concentration on semi-annual requirements. Changes in attached and assigned personnel are as follows:

Lt Col	W A Hardesty	Returned from ZI.
Maj	B West	Returned to ZI.
Capt	R B Fowler	Returned to ZI.
1st Lt	H A Brown	Assigned during month.
1st Lt	J B Ballard	Transferred to Shiroi AFB.
1st Lt	R J Conner	TDY to Johnson AFB.
1st Lt	H L Crim	TDY to JAMA.
1st Lt	D Dotzler	Transferred to 8th Bomb Sq.

b. Supply Section:

Early in the month, Capt E. E. Jahnke assumed responsibilities of the Supply Section. Capt Jahnke has had previous supply experience and should be a great help to the Supply Section. A complete physical inventory was taken of all supply equipment. From this inventory a Consolidated M R was made. The supply underwent a remodeling and moving phase during the month.

c. Engineering Section:

a. Key personnel are as follows:

Capt	R. M. Elam	Engineering Officer
1st Lt	H. A. Brown	Asst Engineering Officer
1st Lt	C. W. Sorenson	Communications Officer
1st Lt	H. L. Crim	Supply Officer
M Sgt	L. W. Garner	Line Chief
T Sgt	P. E. Buntin	Sq Tech Inspector

The present strength of this section as follows:

Officers	4
EM	60
Total	64

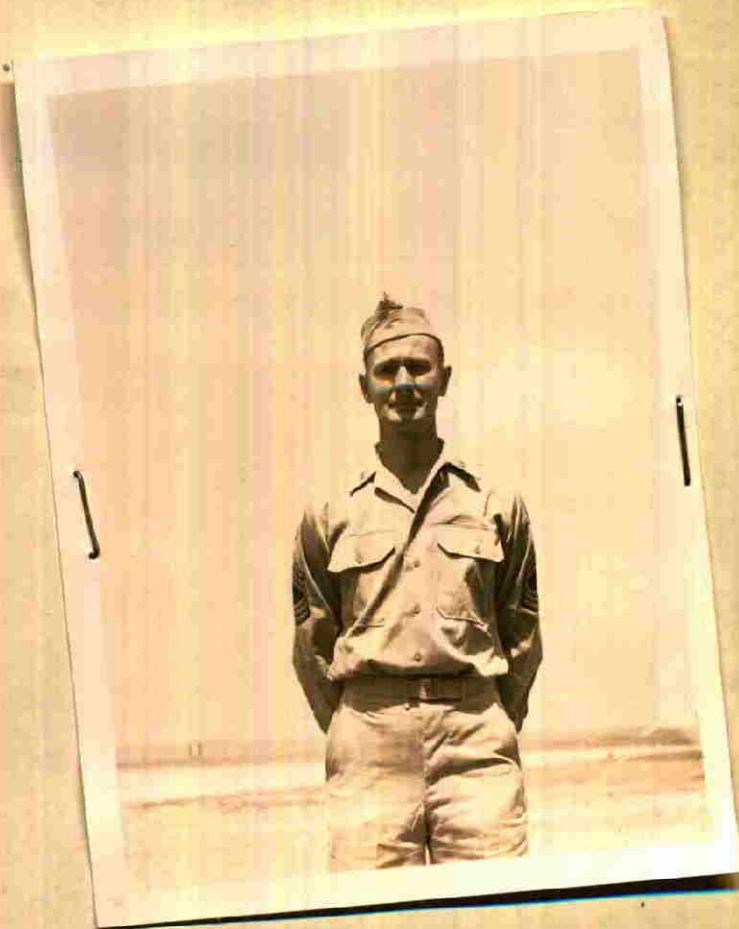
4. The Squadron loaded up in 6 ply trucks and individual cars and drove to Roosevelt Recreation Park for a Squadron Picnic on 22 May 1948. The picnic started at noon and ended about 1800. Entertainment was supervised by Capt Donald E Godbey, which consisted of golf driving, egg pitching, hole-in-one contest, sack race and softball game. Mess was supervised by Lt Hunt with Cpl Johnson and

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Cpl Pena doing the cooking. Food consisted of hot dogs, potato salad, beans and cakes and pies that were made by dependent women.

5. A change in first sergeants was made during May. M Sgt McCann replaced T Sgt Coughlin.

6. M Sgt Bigby was recommended by the 13th Bomb Squadron as Soldier of the Month of Yokota; however, he was not selected by the base board. A picture of M Sgt Bigby is enclosed in this history.



M Sgt Leon Bigby

A P P E N D I X

Unit History

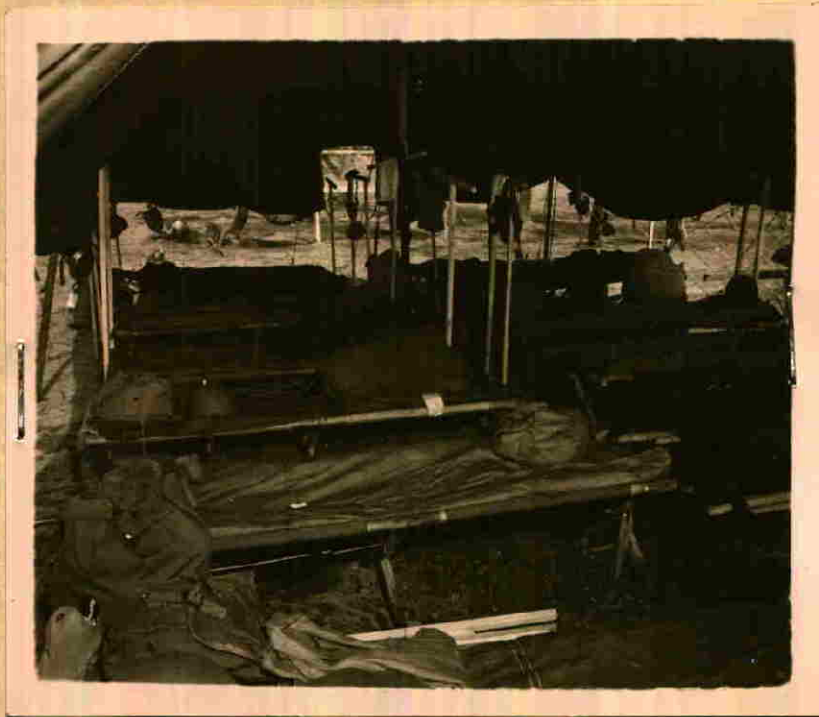
13th Bombardment Squadron (L)

The following photographs were taken while this organization was in the field on Tactical Maneuvers, but due to the fact that they could not be procured in time to be included in the April 1948 Unit History, they are forwarded as part of the May 1948 Unit History.

I. Camp Site and Activities



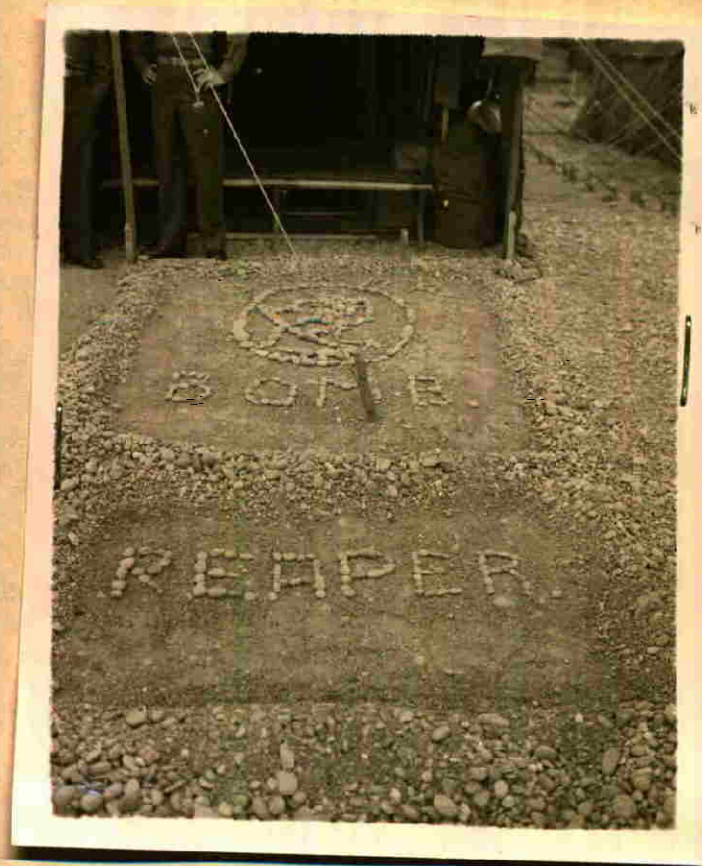
Setting up tents was a great task, but everyone pitched in and got the job done in short time.



Interior of a Squad Tent.



Tent pitching completed.



Entrance to one Squad Tent.



Col Gunn (in flying clothes) inspects camp area
with Lt Col Crocker, Chaplain (Capt) Coburn,
and F Sgt Coughlin



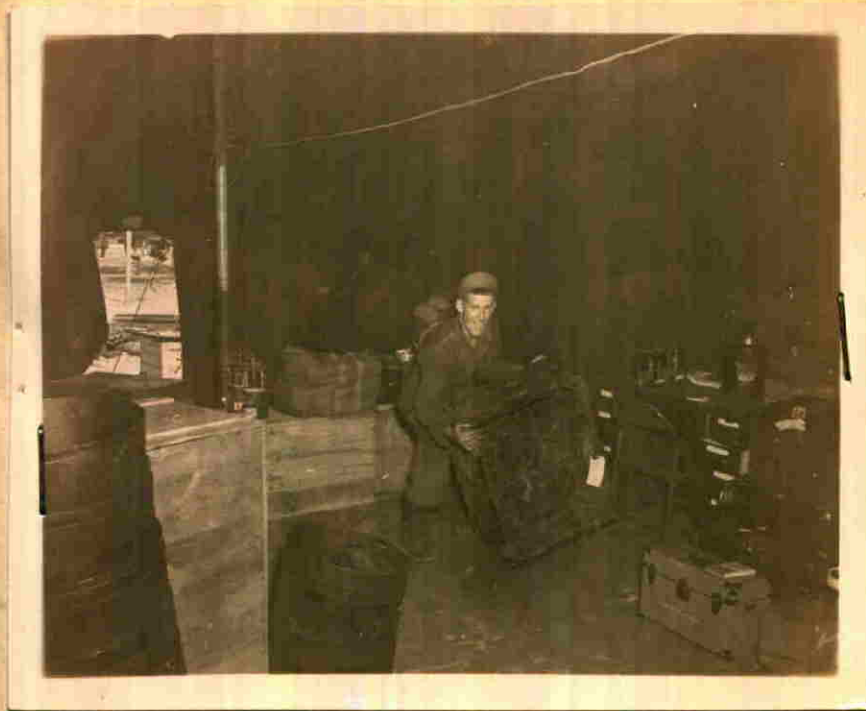
Starting to break camp for return to Yokota.



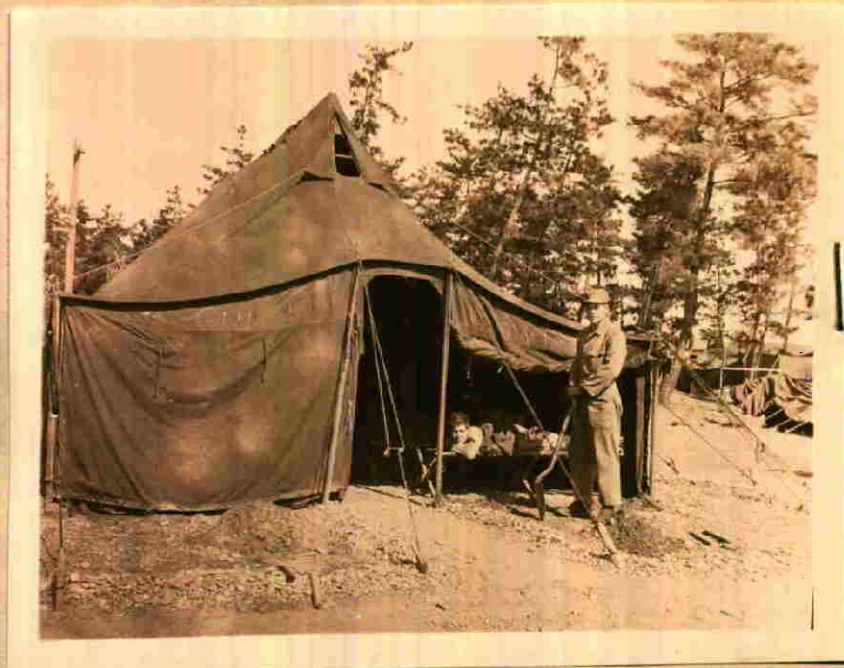
Baggage being loaded on trucks for transporting
to railhead and aircraft for return to Yokota.



Exterior of Supply tent.



Interior of Supply Tent (Pfc Clark shown).



Exterior of Guard Tent.



Orderly Tent and staff. F Sgt Coughlin (Sitting on bunk) and Sgt Shawler (attempting to repair typewriter).



Crypto Tent (Sgt Shawler shown).



Self-explanatory.



Wash racks built by Pfc Watson,
Squadron Carpenter



Water supply was provided by 250-gallon water trailers.



Airing the bedding of personnel.



This was the entrance to the permanent party personnel area. In two of the quonset huts, the squadron had their EM Club, theater, and dispensary. The two men in the foreground must have fallen asleep in the barber chair. They are T Sgt McLeron and T Sgt Bunten. Water tower to the left was our water supply.



Our communications section was a vital link with Yokota and other bases.



Yes, we had barbers.



A little off-duty drinking
in the Club-Theater.



Another shot of the club.



The motor pool area.



The gasoline dump and refueling area.



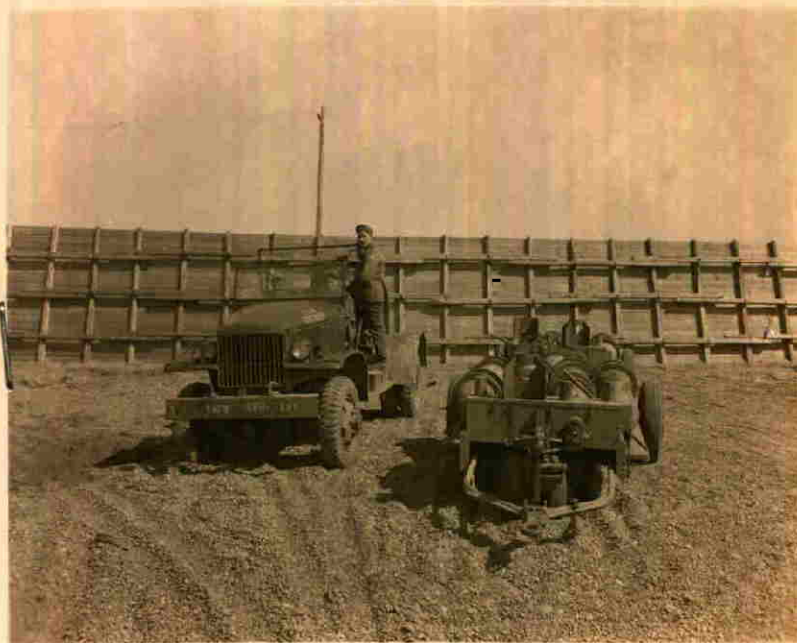
Pumping gasoline from drums into refueling trucks.



The bomb dump at Komatsu.



"Blue Devils" (100 lb. practice bombs) in the Bomb Dump.



500 lb. General Purpose Bombs.

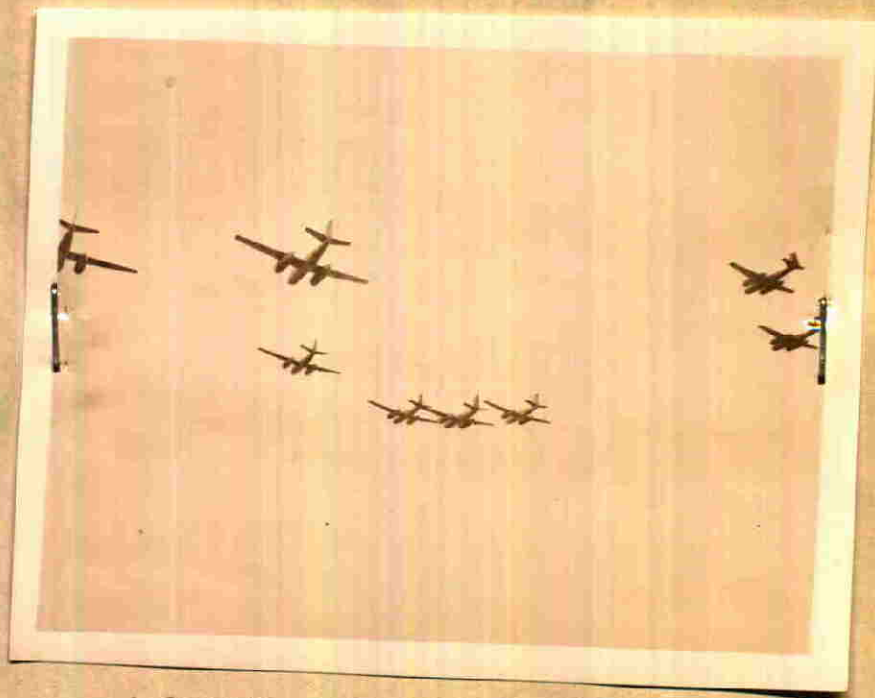


Small-arms ammunition.

II - Flying, Training, Etc.



3rd Rescue Squadron RB-17, our Air-Sea rescue team.



A formation of our A-26 aircraft on a tactical mission.



An A-26 crew, 1st Lt W H Olson, Pilot;
S Sgt V J Murphy, Gunner; and Cpl J D
Campbell, Crew Chief.



1st Lt W H Olson on the wing of his aircraft.



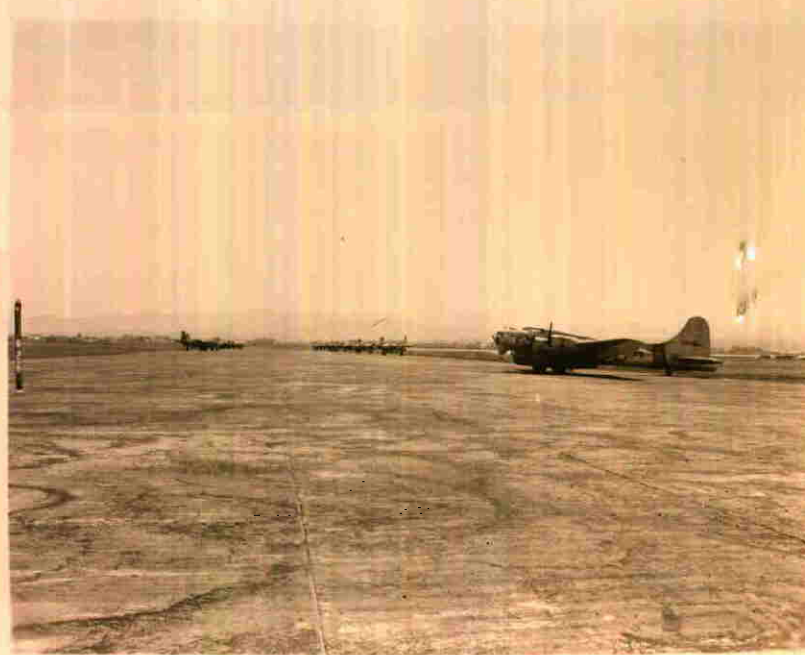
S Sgt Vincent J Murphy, Armorer Gunner on 1st
Lt Warren H Olson's Air Crew.



A view of camp from across the flight strip.



A view of the runway on which the aircraft were parked.



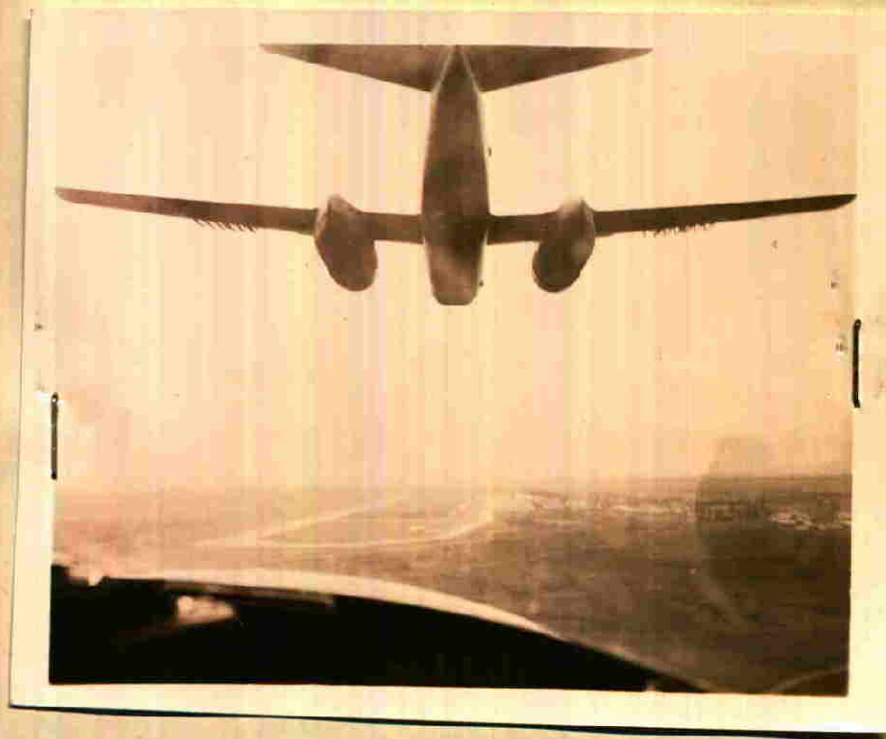
Another view of "Invaders" and rescue plane on the runway.



C-46 Courier takes some of the troops home.



"Invader's Eye" view of Komiatsu.



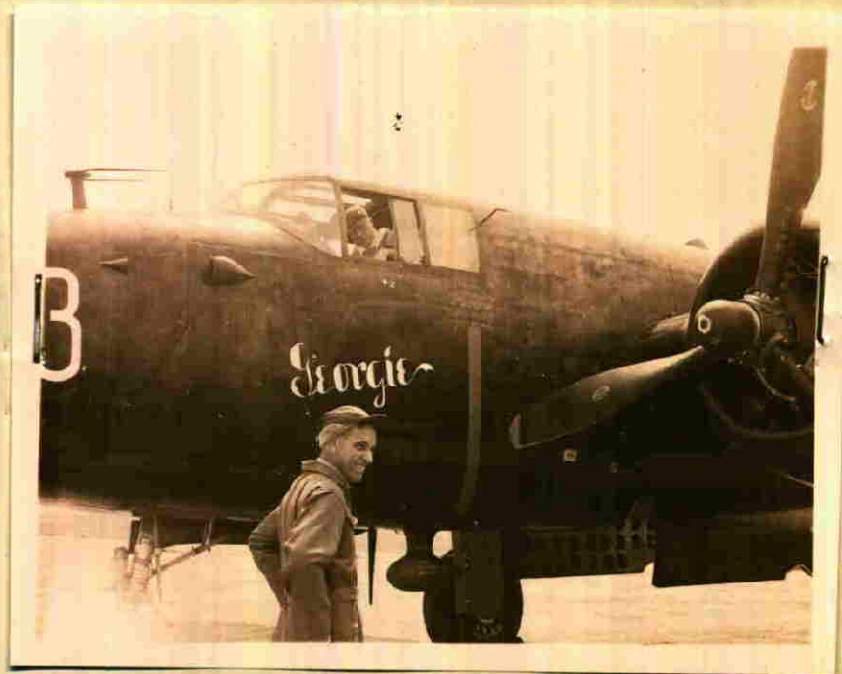
Low pass over Yokota during one of the tactical training missions.



"D" for Dog. This aircraft was lost in mid-air collision.



Flying over Komatsu.



Col Gunn and Col Clifton (in cockpit of B-25) visit.



Another shot of Col Gunn and Col Clifton visiting.

III. - Chaplains' Corner



Chaplain (Capt) Coburn arrives at Komatsu.



Chaplain Coburn and Lt Holland on the wing of the 90th Squadron plane in which they came.



Chaplain Coburn and Lt Holland in the cockpit.



Col Crocker greets Chaplain Coburn



How did that 90th Squadron pilot get down here? Left to right: Lt Smith, Lt Sorenson, Col Crocker, Lt Holland, and Capt Martindale.

IV - Personalities



Officers of 13th Squadron

L. to R. standing: Capt S R Thomas, Capt D E Godbey, Lt J J Hunt, Lt Col J P Crocker, Lt C D Phillips, Lt T L Bates, Lt C W Sorenson, Lt E G Kelly (atchd), Lt W H Olson, Lt H L Crim, Lt L P Hansen (atchd). L. to R. squatting: Lt H H Muller, Capt R M Elam, Capt E E Jahnke, Capt P L Thomas, Maj C H Gross, Lt C R Anderson (atchd) Capt C L Martindale, and Lt T W Smith. "Red Dog", the squadron mascot, is sitting at Lt Smith's feet.



The "wheel", F Sgt Robert F Coughlin.



Operations personnel, Capt Clarence I Martindale and Lt Warren H Olson. Capt Parry L Thomas in background



Lt Kelly, Capt P L Thomas, and Lt W H Olson
at side of Operations building.



Capt Donald E Godbey, Adjutant, at his place
of business.



Lt Col Crocker, Lt Anderson, and Lt Sorenson
in front of the Officers' Tent with Red Dog.



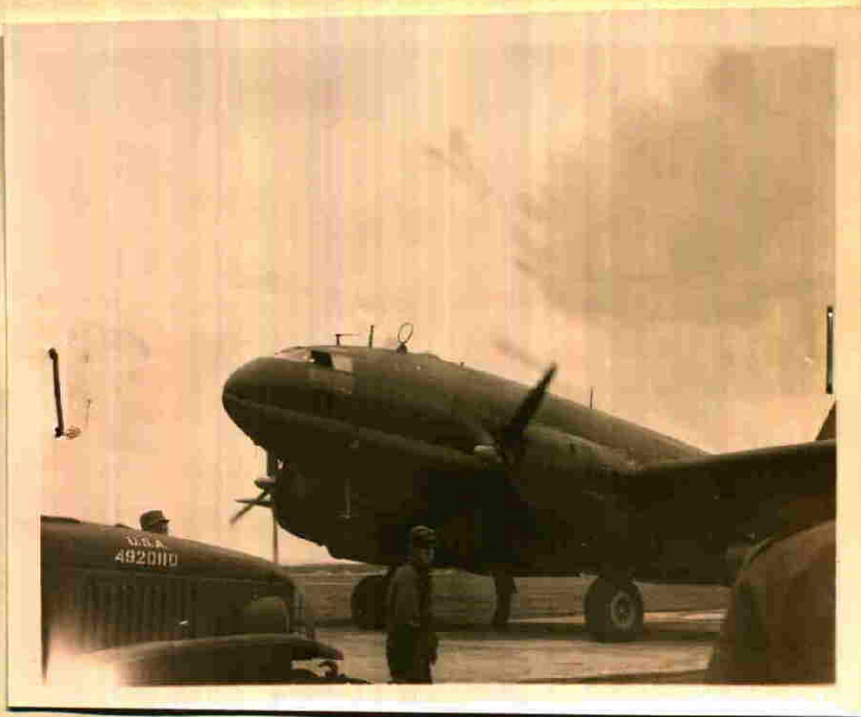
Col Gunn, Lt Col Crocker, Capt Coburn and F Sgt
Coughlin in the area behind the tents and
Operations.



Tour of Inspection. Col Gunn, Col Crocker, Chaplain Coburn and F Sgt Coughlin.



C-46 Courier on way to Komatsu with food supplies.



C-46 Courier arrives -- Fresh meat and vegetables.



Sgt Gammel "butchering" meat.



Mess line -- always popular with the troops



The officers dig in.



As there was not sufficient tent space, tables had to be set up in the open.



Immersion heaters in GI cans were used for cleaning utensils.



Cleaning utensils after a meal.



Another shot of outdoor tables.



KP's and Japanese Nationals cleaning up after a meal.

WT Latrine



Beginning - Sgt J A Piga (in hole) and Cpl J D Campbell digging a latrine.



Completion.



Even "Doc" digs holes for latrine. 1st Lt E P Inglis, Medical Officer.



Dispensary personnel. Cpl E J Evers and Pvt C R Turbeville with a "patient" Cpl L J Lambert.

VII - Engineering Section



M Sgt Lloyd W (Pappy) Garner, Squadron Line Chief.

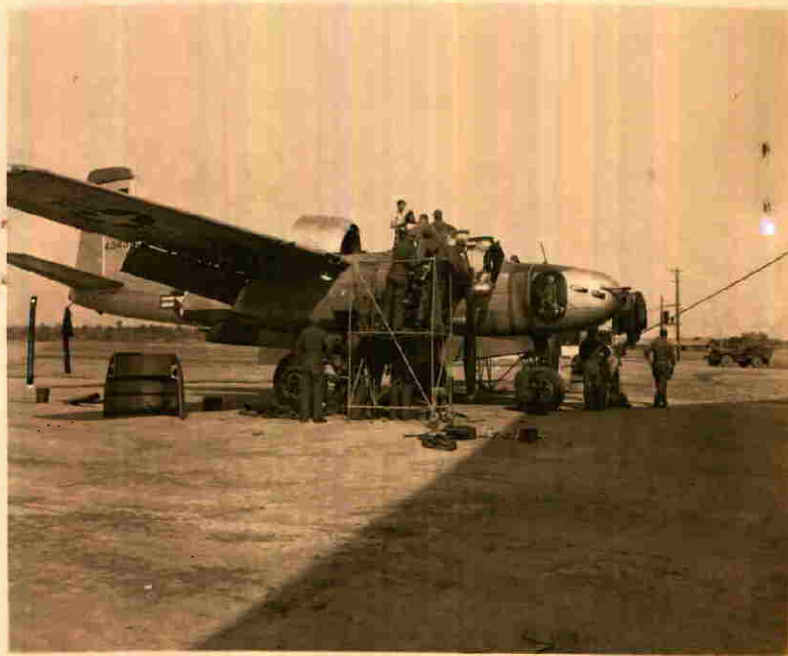


Some more engineering personnel.



Landing gear inspection.

"Huba-huba" aircraft inspections.





A view of the hangar and taxi-strip.

VIII - Gunnery



Fall in for hike.



Each man fired fifty rounds from the Cal..50
machine guns at barrels in the sea.



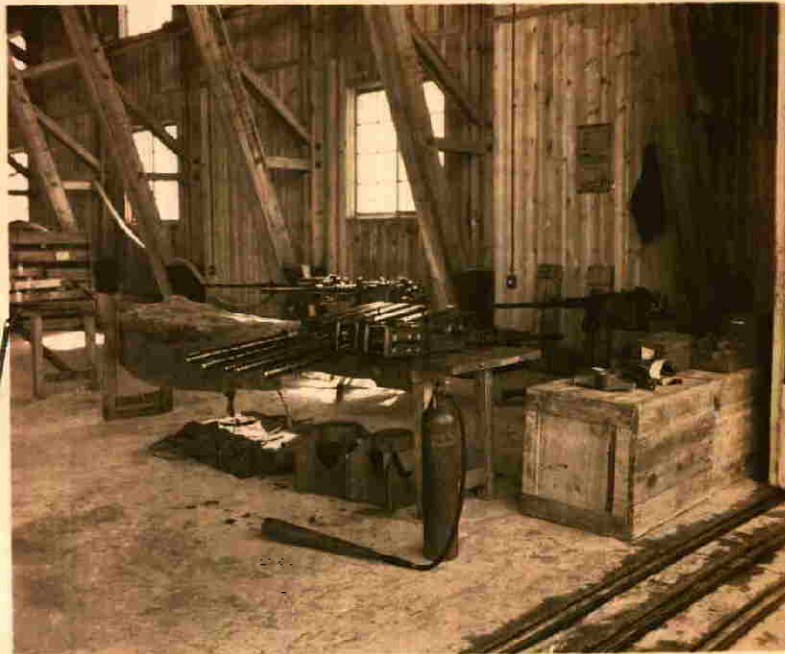
.50 Cal. mounted on weapons carrier being
fired by Pfc C B Wirick.



More firing.

More of the same.





Guns to be cleaned.

IV Inspection



The inspecting party in front of the tent area.
L. to R.: Maj C H Gross, Capt S R Thomas, Capt
E E Jahnke, Capt D E Godbey, and Lt Col J P Crocker

Inspection (Cont'd)





Personnel lined up in front of tents for inspection.



Inspection.

Inspection (Cont'd)





After inspection on outside, a standby beside
bunks was held.



Retreat formation.