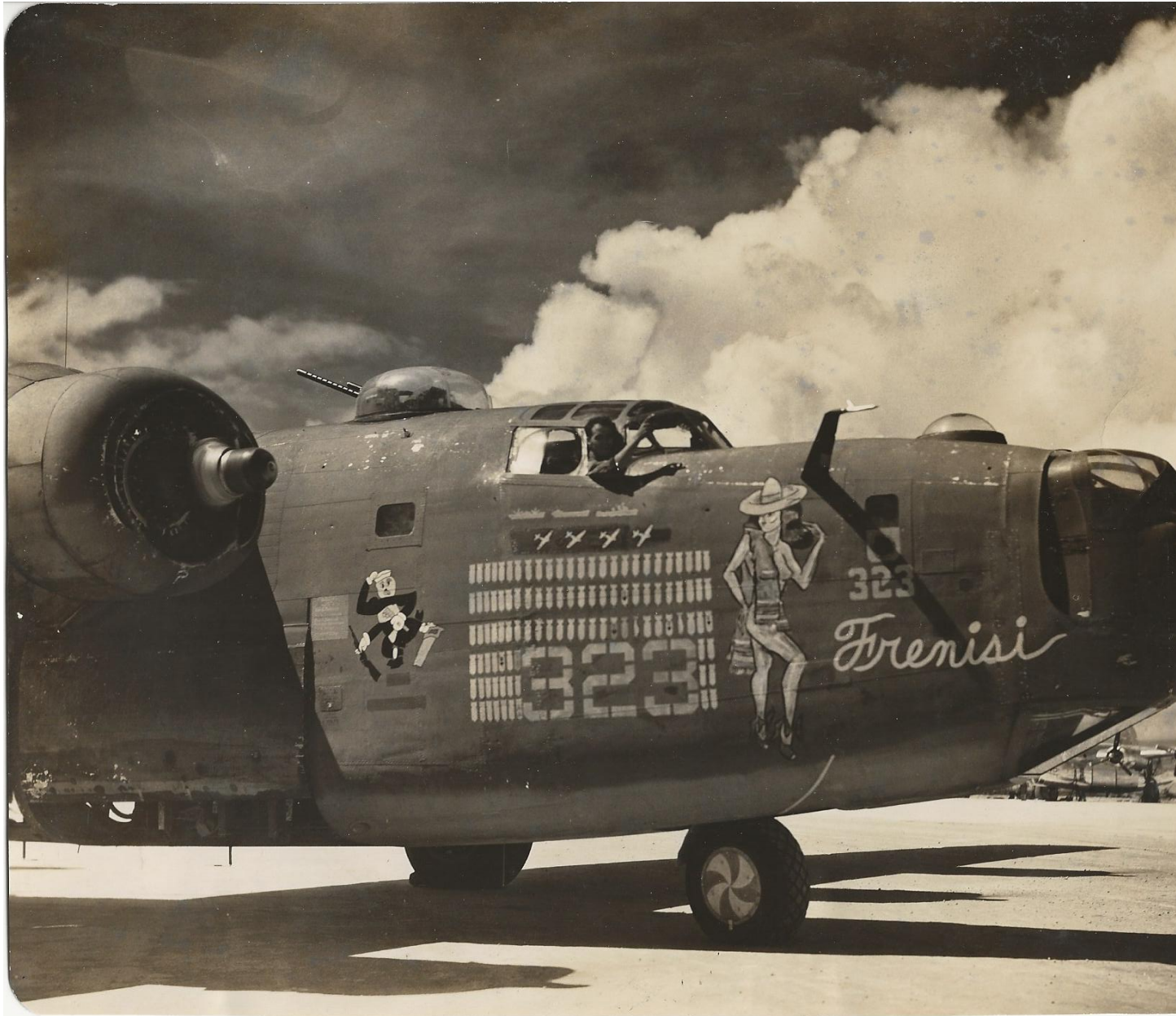


1942 - 1945



RAYMOND W EICKEMEYER 36318878





The **Thirteenth Air Force (Air Forces Pacific) (13 AF)** was a numbered air force of the United States Air Force Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). It was last headquartered at Hickam Air Force Base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

Established on 14 December 1942 at Plaine Des Gaiacs Airfield, on New Caledonia, 13 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat air force deployed to the Pacific Theater of World War II. It engaged in operations primarily in the South Pacific, attacking enemy forces in the Solomon Islands, Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaigns; Mariana and Palau Islands campaigns and the Philippines campaign (1944–45).

Formed as a heavy bombardment group in January 1942, trained in the Pacific Northwest under Second Air Force, with B-17 Flying Fortresses. Reassigned to Seventh Air Force in Hawaii, November 1942 and performed performing search and rescue and antisubmarine patrols until January 1943 while transitioning to long-range B-24 Liberator heavy bombers.

Deployed to Central Pacific from Hawaii throughout 1943 for long-range combat bombardment operations against Japanese forces in the Central Pacific; New Guinea; Northern Solomon Islands and Eastern Mandates campaigns. Deployed to the New Hebrides in Melanesia and operated from numerous temporary jungle airfields, engaging in long-range bombardment operations during the Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon and Southern Philippines campaigns until the end of the war in August 1945. Assigned to Clark Field, Philippines after the war ended, demobilized with personnel returning to the United States, unit inactivated as paper unit in January 1946 in California.

#### **World War II squadron emblem 13<sup>th</sup> Airforce, 371 bomb group**



## WACO CG-4A "HADRIAN"

The CG-4A was the most widely used U.S. troop/cargo glider of WW II. Flight-testing began in 1942 and eventually more than 12,000 CG-4As were procured. Fifteen companies manufactured CG-4As, with 1,074 built by the Waco Aircraft Company of Troy, Ohio.

The CG-4A was constructed of fabric-covered wood and metal and was crewed by a pilot and copilot. It could carry 13 troops and their equipment or either a jeep, a quarter-ton truck, or a 75mm howitzer loaded through the upward-hinged nose section. C-46s and C-47s usually were used as tow aircraft.

CG-4As went into operation in July 1943 during the Allied invasion of Sicily. They participated in the D-Day assault on France on June 6, 1944, and in other important airborne operations in Europe and in the China-Burma-India Theater. Until late in the war, gliders were generally considered expendable in combat and were abandoned or destroyed after landing.

### SPECIFICATIONS

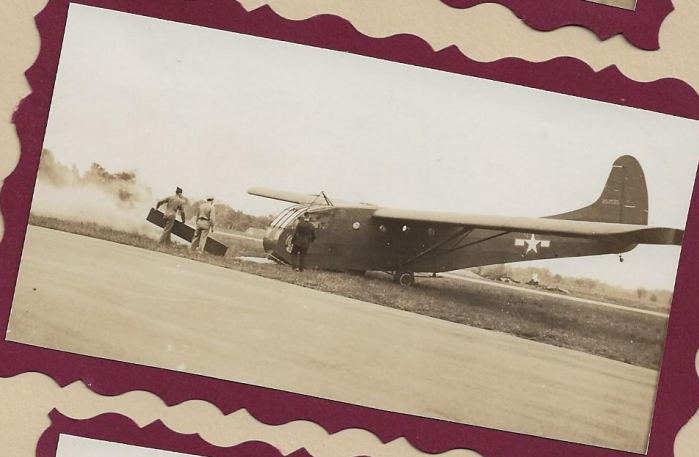
Span: 83 ft. 8 in.  
Length: 48 ft. 4 in.  
Height: 12 ft. 7 in.  
Weight: 7,500 lbs. loaded  
Armament: None  
Engine: None  
Cost: \$24,000  
Serial number: 45-27948

### PERFORMANCE

Maximum towed speed: 150 mph.



Text copied from  
[http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/air\\_power/ap26.htm](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/air_power/ap26.htm)





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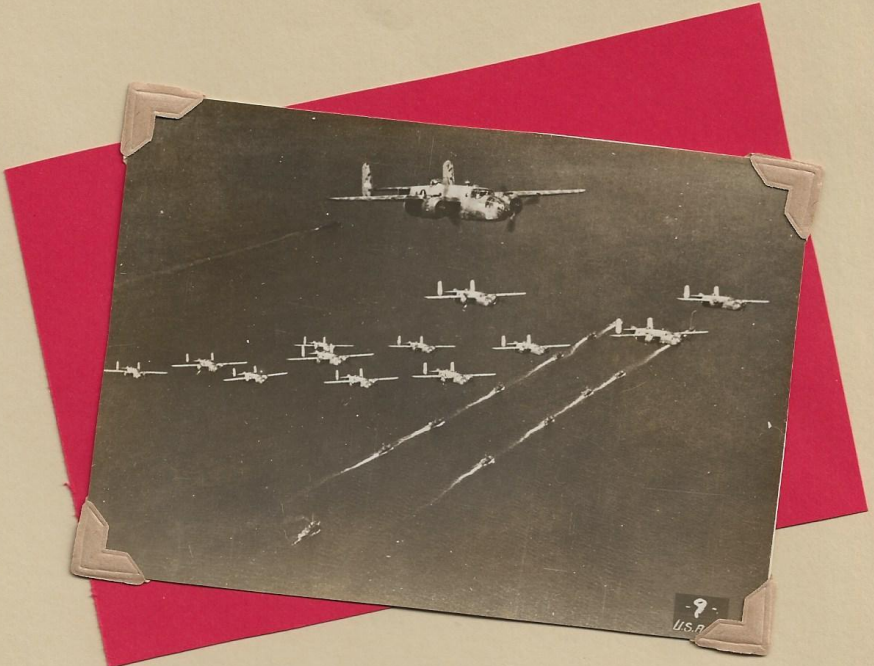
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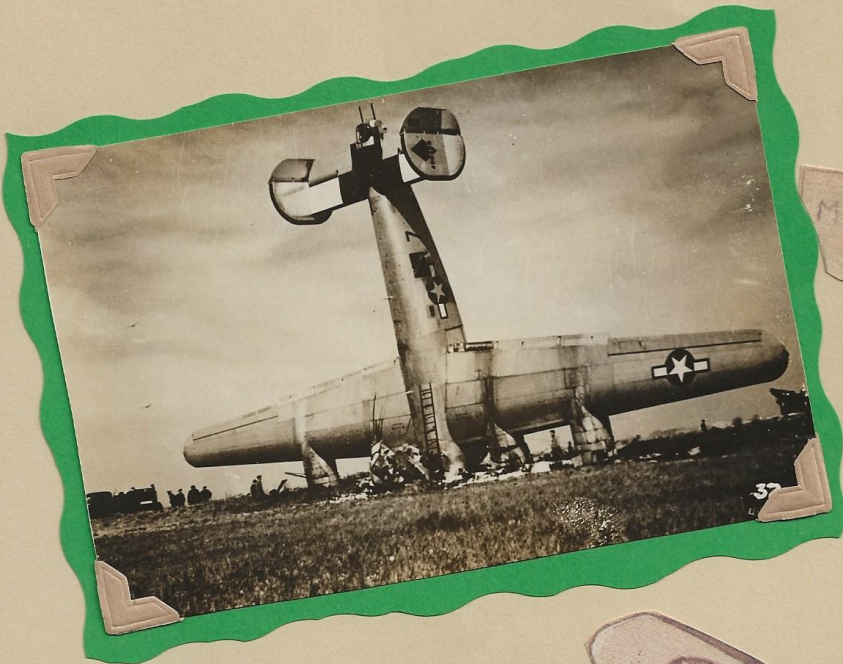




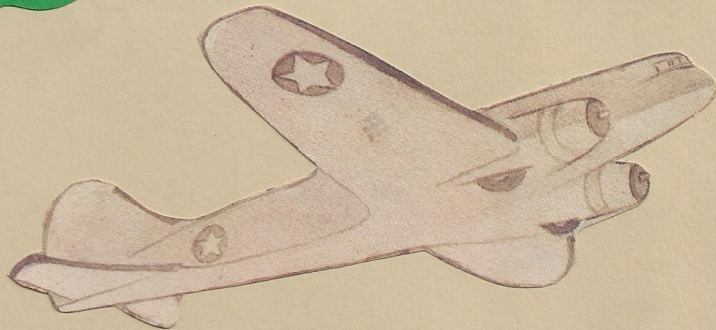
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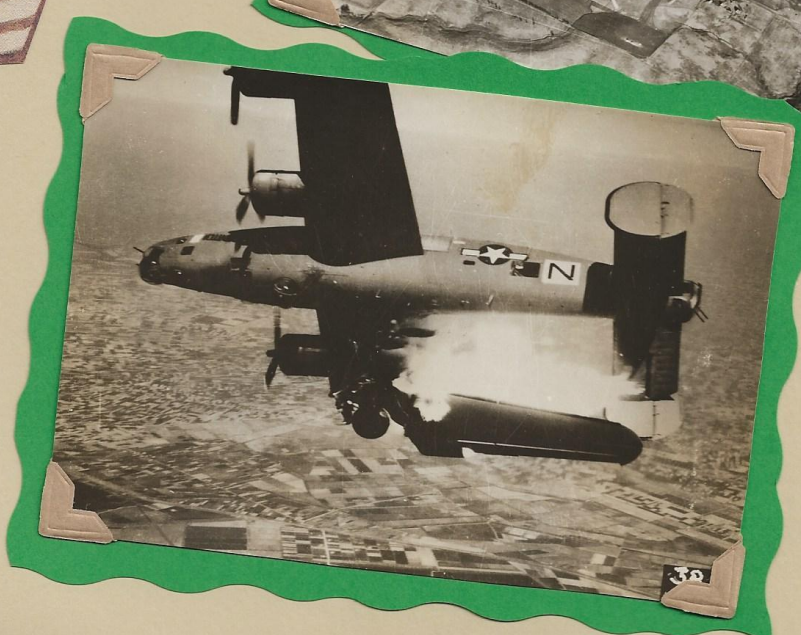
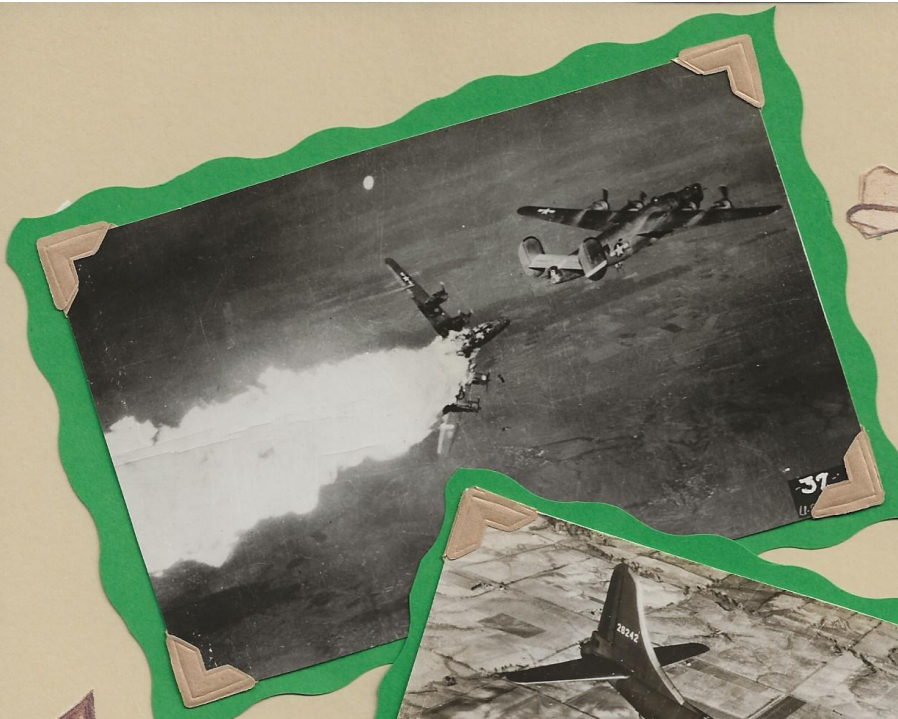
10



MILITARY POLICE  
CALLED

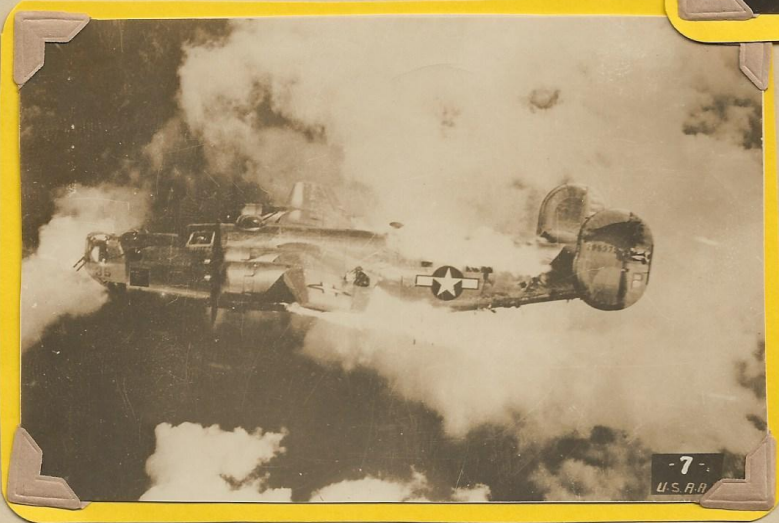




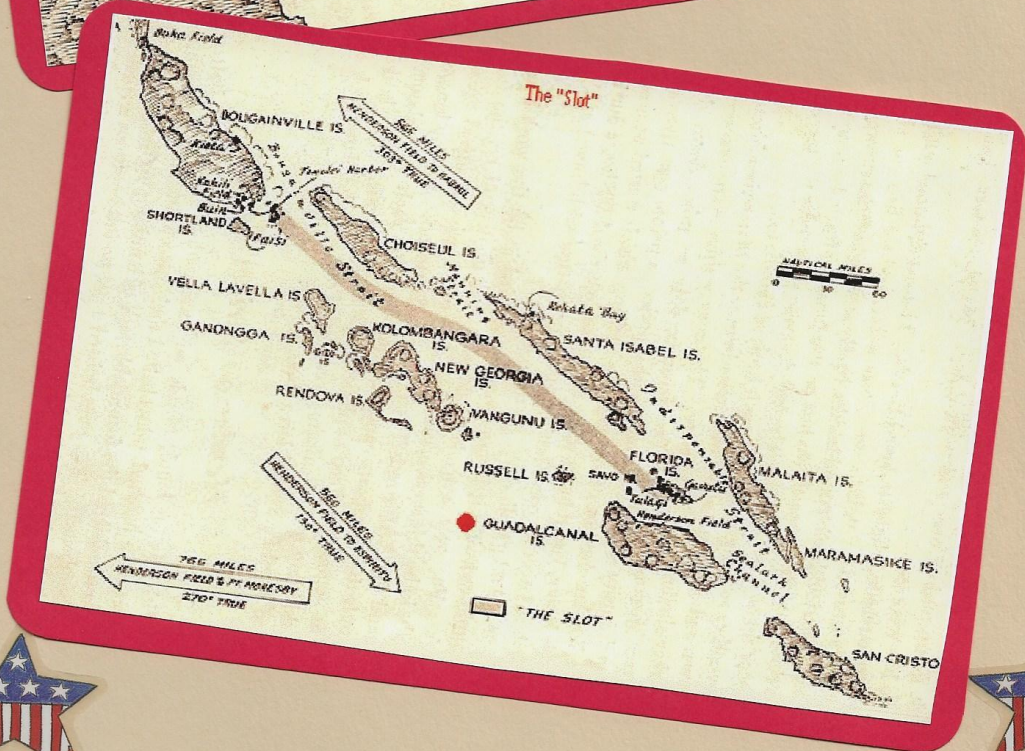
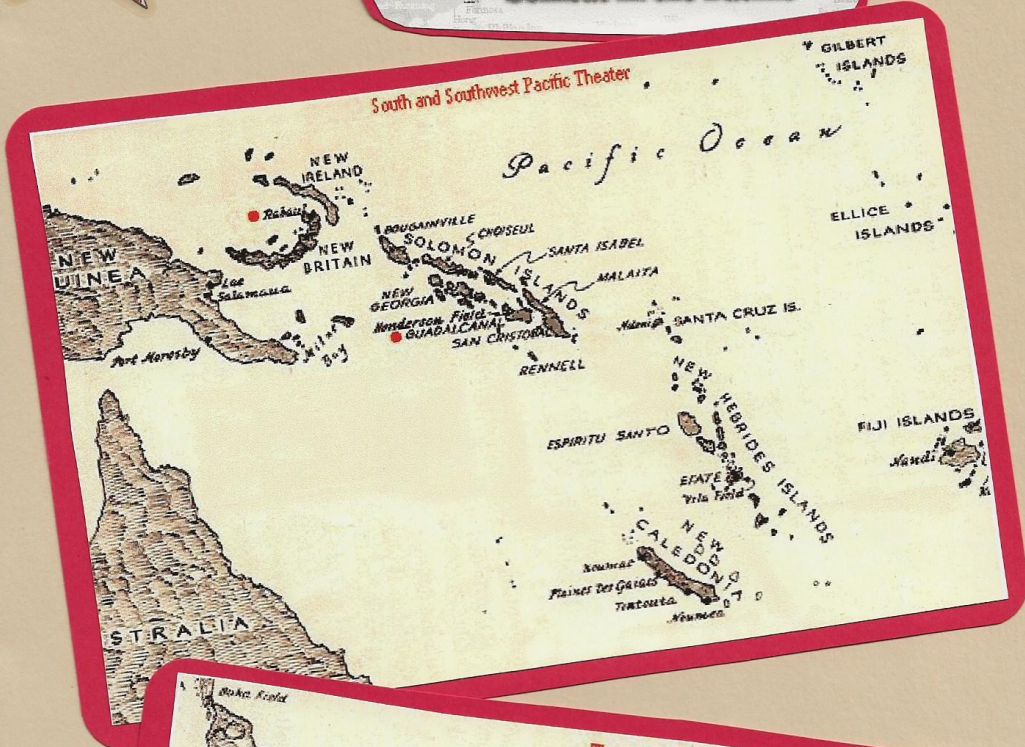




DRAFT QUOTAS CUT  
SERVICES TO DROP  
5,500,000 IN 18  
MONTHS







## New Guinea 1943-1944

### Victory in New Guinea



B-17 (S/N 41-24540) after crash landing in the jungle.

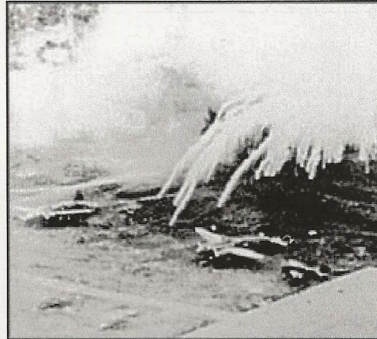
While the Allies were seizing the [Gilberts and Marshalls](#), the 13th AF "jumped" to the Admiralty Islands from New Guinea to join the 7th AF and Navy in neutralizing the Caroline Islands which were scheduled to be bypassed.

Meanwhile, General MacArthur's forces in the Southwest Pacific moved westward along the north New Guinea coast. Rabaul on New Britain still remained a threat to Allied operations and in Oct. 1943, the Allies began a stepped-up air offensive as 5th and 13th AF planes almost daily dropped record bomb loads. The pre-invasion bombing of Cape Gloucester, New Britain was so intense that the term "Gloucesterizing" served in 5th AF circles to describe the complete destruction of a target.

By the summer of 1944, the Allies had completed their advance along the northern New Guinea coast either seizing or neutralizing enemy strongholds at Wewak, Hollandia, Biak, and Noemfoor. Thousands of Japanese troops remained behind in the Solomons, on New Guinea, and elsewhere. Completely isolated with no chance for resupply by sea or air, they were left to wither away in the jungle in their grim struggle merely to survive.



B-25's in action over Gloucester, Dec. 1943.



Phosphorus bombs are dropped on an airfield at Rabaul. Visible are two Japanese "Betty" bombers and a "Zeké" fighter, Nov. 2, 1943.

[Johnny Got a Zero](#) - John D. Foley

[Combat Pacific](#)

## Central Pacific 1941-1943

### Island Hopping

---



In the central Pacific, the role of the Hawaii-based 7th Air Force had been primarily a defensive one and after the Battle of Midway, the enemy had made no serious effort to advance in that theater. But, by late 1943 as growing U.S. naval strength permitted a more aggressive strategy in the central Pacific, the 7th's aircraft regularly were sent to "soften up" those islands scheduled for amphibious assault or to neutralize enemy forces on those islands of little strategic value which were to be bypassed by Allied forces island-hopping through the Gilbert and Marshall islands. Missions often were flown against targets more than a thousand miles away and operational difficulties proved more of a hazard than enemy opposition. When bases and targets were mere pinpoints in a vast ocean, any appreciable error in navigation meant ditching at sea with a good chance of never being rescued.



A 7th AF B-24 heads for home after a strike against facilities on Nauru in the Gilberts in Aug. 1943.



A B-24 landing at Nanumea in the Ellice Islands in Dec. 1943. The field was a refueling stop for 7th AF bombers flying long range missions against the Gilberts. Additional B-24s are dispersed in revetments along the runway.

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[Gilbert and Marshall Islands](#) - Eastern Mandates 1944

[Combat Pacific](#)

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The B-24 could fly higher, faster, farther, and take more punishment than any other plane in World War II.

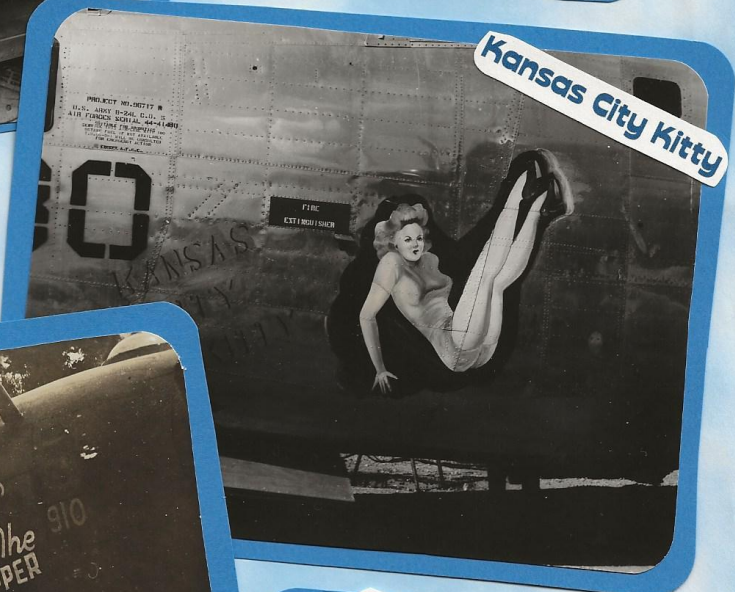
Janie



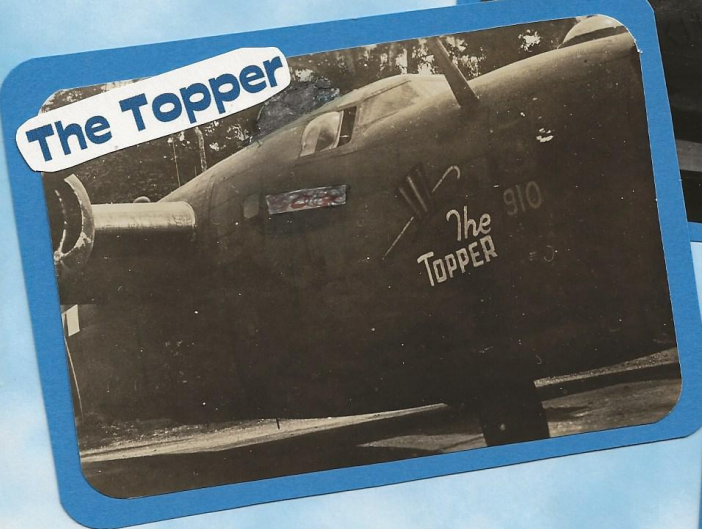
Old Mother Hubbard



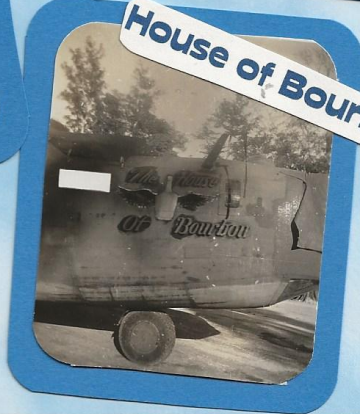
Kansas City Kitty



The Topper



House of Bourbon



The most common bomb-load was ten 500 pound bombs or five 1,000 pounders. It's operating environment against heavily defended targets in the European Theater was from 18,000 to 28,000 feet, although many missions (particularly in the Pacific) were flown at much lower altitudes. The planes were not pressurized or heated; crewmen wore oxygen masks on high altitude missions and were exposed to temperatures that reached -30 degrees farenheit and below







**Thirteenth Air Force:** Constituted as Thirteenth AF on Dec. 14, 1942, activated in New Caledonia on Jan. 13, 1943.

Bomber Command: XIII Bomber 1943-1946

Philippines.

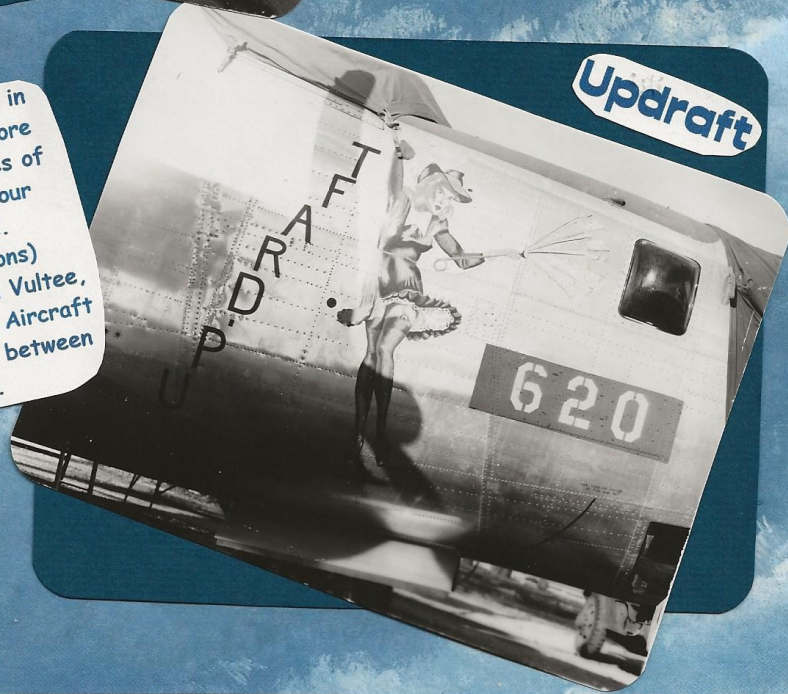
Mission: Served in the South Pacific and, later, Southwest Pacific, participating in the Allied drive north and west from the Solomons to the

**Rose Marie**



The B-24 Liberator was produced in greater quantities and flown in more theaters of war by the air forces of more countries than any other four engine bomber in World War II. 19,256 planes (in several versions) were produced by Consolidated Vultee, Ford Motor Company, Douglas Aircraft and North American Aircraft between the years of 1939 and 1945.

**Updraft**



## THE B-24, the Liberator

The B-24's cramped interior housed a crew of 10. The bombardier normally manned the forward guns, but the navigator behind him could take over in an emergency. The flight engineer worked the top-turret guns over the radio operator's desk. The belly gunner occupied a retractable ball turret amidships. He could not get out without assistance.



## Medals awarded to R.W. Eickemeyer



### The Asia-Pacific Theater Medal.

#### Criteria:

a. The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was awarded to personnel for service within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 under any of the following conditions:

- (1) On permanent assignment.
- (2) In a passenger status or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 days not consecutive.
- (3) In active combat against the enemy and was awarded a combat decoration or furnished a certificate by the commanding general of a corps, higher unit, or independent force that he actually participated in combat.

b. The eastern boundary of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater is from the North Pole, south along the 141st meridian west longitude to the east boundary of Alaska, then south and southeast along the Alaska boundary to the Pacific Ocean, then south along the 130th meridian to its intersection with the 30th parallel north latitude, southeast to the intersection of the Equator and the 100th meridian west longitude, then to the South Pole.

The western boundary of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater is from the North Pole south along the 60th meridian east longitude to its intersection with the east boundary of Iran, then south along the Iran boundary to the Gulf of Oman and the intersection of the 60th meridian east longitude, then south along the 60th meridian east longitude to the South Pole.

The Asiatic-Pacific Theater included Alaska, Hawaii, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, and all of Asia.



front

Back

## Medals awarded to R.W. Eickemeyer



WWII Victory Medal

Criteria: The WW II Victory Medal was awarded to all military personnel for service between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946.



The Good Conduct Medal

Criteria: The Good Conduct Medal is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active Federal Military service. It is awarded on a selective basis to each soldier who distinguishes himself from among his/her fellow soldiers by their exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity throughout a specified period of continuous enlisted active Federal military service. Qualifying periods of service include each three years completed after 27 August 1940 or, for first award only, upon completion of at least one year upon termination of service if separated prior to three years. The immediate commander must approve the award and the award must be announced in permanent orders.



## Medals awarded to R.W. Eickemeyer



### American Campaign Medal

#### Criteria:

a. The American Campaign Medal was awarded to personnel for service within the American Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 under any of the following conditions.

- (1) On permanent assignment outside the continental limits of the United States.
- (2) Permanently assigned as a member of a crew of a vessel sailing ocean waters or a period of 30 days or 60 non-consecutive days.
- (3) Permanently assigned as a member of an operating crew of an airplane actually making regular and frequent flights over ocean waters for a period of 30 days.
- (4) Outside the continental limits of the United States in a passenger status or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 days not consecutive.
- (5) In active combat against the enemy and was awarded a combat decoration or furnished a certificate by the commanding general of a corps, higher unit, or independent force that he actually participated in combat.
- (6) Within the continental limits of the United States for an aggregate period of one year.

b. The eastern boundary of the American Theater is from the North Pole, south along the 75<sup>th</sup> meridian west longitude to the 77<sup>th</sup> parallel north latitude, then southeast through Davis Strait to the intersection of the 40<sup>th</sup> parallel north latitude and the 35<sup>th</sup> meridian west longitude, then south along the meridian to the 10<sup>th</sup> parallel north latitude, then southeast to the intersection of the Equator and the 20<sup>th</sup> meridian west longitude, then south along the 20<sup>th</sup> meridian west longitude to the South Pole. The western boundary is from the North Pole, south along the 141<sup>st</sup> meridian west longitude to the east boundary of Alaska, then south and southeast along the Alaska boundary to the Pacific Ocean, then south along the 130<sup>th</sup> meridian to its intersection with the 30<sup>th</sup> parallel north latitude, then southeast to the intersection of the Equator and the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian west longitude to the South Pole. The American Theater included North America (excluding Alaska) and South America.



FRENISI'S  
CREW





PURPLE HEARTS - TIMES SHIP HIT  
BY ENEMY FIRE.

TWO ENGINES - CAME BACK ON  
TWO ENGINES

SHIPS - MERCHANT - TANKER - DESTROYER

FIGHTERS - ZERO'S SHOT DOWN

TWO FISH - RESTRICTED

100 MISSIONS

GROUND MEN  
Aug 24, 1945  
KURT E. PATZLAFF  
RAY W. EICKEMEYER  
BILL S. DENNISON  
ADOLPH D. LAMACCO  
BOB E. SNYDER  
A.P.O. 324



## Bowman Field May 25 1945

During World War II Bowman Field was the busiest airport in the country, following an investment of one million dollars for construction of barracks and other facilities on the site, including nine mess halls. At that time, thousands of members of the military called Bowman Field and Louisville their temporary home while undergoing combat readiness training.

The already cramped airfield added more troops in 1943, when Glider Pilot Combat Training opened. The gliders, which carried 15 troops each into combat, were a familiar sight in the Louisville skies during the last two years of the war.

The facility became known as "Air Base City" when a bomber squadron moved in, and more than 1600 recruits underwent basic training in a three-month period. During the war years, a large variety of Air Force and Navy aircraft could be seen passing through Bowman Field. At least two captured German Messerschmitt Bf-109s and a Focke-Wulf Fw-109 were also known to visit the field!

Bowman Field also was home to the Army Air Force School of flight surgeons, medical technicians and flight nurses. Those attending the school learned how to treat and evacuate the wounded by air, and just as important, acquired the necessary skills to help ensure survival in combat zones. Graduates of the school were responsible for evacuating and treating a half-million sick and wounded from war zones around the world by the end of 1944.



## Base Headquarters

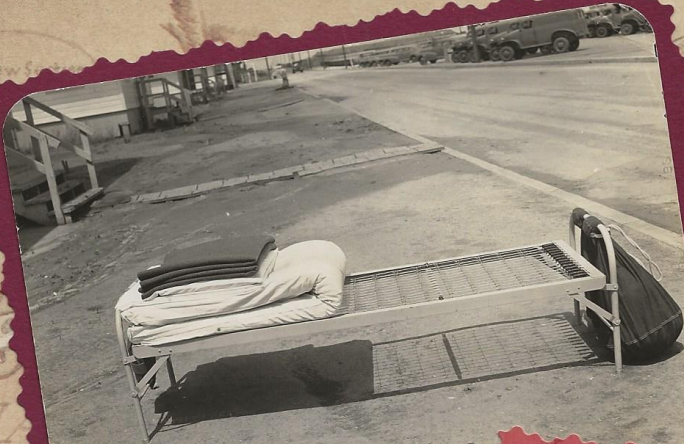
MAY 25 1945



## Entrance to Hospital







4/17/42

Everything making  
**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH**  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
MATTRESS  
Blanket  
Sheets  
comforter  
blankets

This is THE WAY stack on the end of  
BEDS MUST BE MADE  
FOR SUMMER.  
bed nearest the aisle  
killed edges to the aisle  
end of bed.

NOTE:  
MATTRESS THICKNESS  
THATS WHAT I SLEEP ON. WANTA  
TRY ITS

Inside Barracks  
5/14/23



Churchill, Prime Minister

U.S. BOND  
THUR HOPES  
BETTER WORLD  
for a World  
tolerance

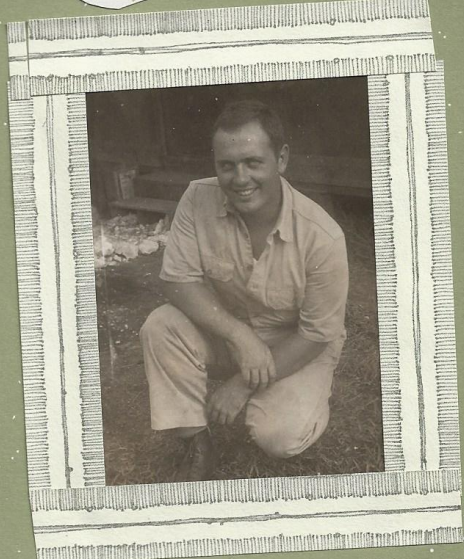
Splendid allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,  
and with liberty and justice for all.



RAYMOND EICKEMEYER  
36318878 - 371 Bona Sq.  
APO 708 90 PM.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.  
"IKE" - HAWAII - 1943



R.W.  
EICKEMEYER  
APO 36318878



Taken 4/24/42  
The air coveralls after  
a days work. They  
may look sloppy but  
they are comfortable.  
One of my weaker  
moments. Improved.



ERICH MEYER - R.W. SGT.  
ASST CREW CHIEF  
OF  
TRENISI

JULY 1944

Consolidated Aircraft Corporation  
**Certificate of Completion**

This is to certify that PVT. RAYMOND W. EICKEMEYER  
has completed the B-24 D Familiarization  
course for Air Forces personnel in  
First and Second Echelon  
Airplane and Engine Maintenance

For the District Supervisor

*J. M. Lyons*  
Captain U. S. A. F.  
Commanding Officer, Camp Consair

Date: SEPT 26, 1942

**GOD  
BLESS  
AMERICA**



page4.pdf



August 8  
1942



### Group 7 Sheppard Field Texas August-2-1942

Sheppard has always been in the training business since it was officially opened as an active Army Air Corps base in October 1941.

Sheppard Field was first conceived November 29, 1940, when Maj. Gen. Rush B. Lincoln, commandant of U.S. Army Air Corps Technical Schools, surveyed sites around the city of Wichita Falls for a proposed training school.

J.S. Bridwell, a Wichita Falls cattleman, offered 300 acres just south of Kell Field to the government for one dollar. The Army Air Corps officially approved the school plans in February 1941.

Thus Sheppard Field began as a World War II Army Air Corps training center when representatives of the War Department and the city of Wichita Falls entered into a lease agreement. The lease gave the government the right to build and operate a military installation adjacent to the Wichita Falls Municipal Airport, and granted the government the right to full use of the airport's land, runways, and facilities.

Official dedication of the field was October 17, 1941, following the arrival of the first military members June 14. The field was named for the late Senator Morris E. Sheppard, former chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. Facilities were completed sufficiently to allow the first class of 22 aviation mechanics to enter training that October; the class graduated February 23, 1942.

During World War II, Sheppard conducted basic training, and it also trained glider mechanics, technical and flying training instructors and B-29 engineers. In addition to the basic flying training, the base also provided advanced pilot training for ground officers, and helicopter pilot training.

The Field reached its peak strength of 46,340 people while serving as a separation center for troops being discharged following World War II from September through November 1945.

United States Army



Air Corps Technical School

*Be it known that*

Private Raymond W. Eickemeyer, 36318878,

Air Corps, Unassigned,  
*has satisfactorily completed the course for*

**Airplane Mechanics**

*as prescribed by the Air Corps Technical School and Given at*

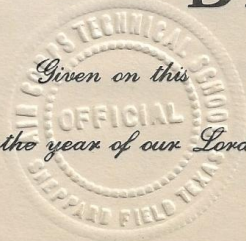
**Sheppard Field, Texas**

*In testimony whereof and by virtue of vested authority I*

*do confer upon him this*

**DIPLOMA**

*Given on this* twentieth *day of* August  
*in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-two*



*Raymond E. Holt*

**Lieut. Colonel, Air Corps,**

Assistant Commandant  
Air Corps Technical School