

Ace of Aces...

In keeping with the history of Misawa Air Base, probably the name Richard Bong Theater will come to your mind. The name taken from the greatest fighter ace during World War II, a former member of the 49th Fighter Group stationed here. Major Richard Ira Bong, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, was officially credited with forty enemy aircraft destroyed in aerial combat. Major Bong was killed in a jet aircraft accident in



of Aces
Major Richard Ira Bong

the United States August 6th, 1945.

History of Misawa Air Base
Misawa Was Built By The Navy
And Also Destroyed By The Navy

By A/C William E. Black

Construction first began on Misawa Air Base back in 1937, just a few miles from where Clyde Pangborn took off on his non-stop flight across the Pacific in 1931. Misawa was built initially for the purpose of defending the northern half of the island of Honshu, Japan, during the existing war with China, and also to base long range bombers which could be launched toward Alaska in event of a war with the United States. The Japanese Imperial Navy began the construction.

Misawa before an alarm could be sounded. As a result of that day's raid, Misawa lost her Aircraft Repair Center, located where the BOQ's now stand. The ten 13 mm anti-aircraft guns near the hangars and by the runways failed to down a single Grumman, mostly because their facilities had not been constructed soon enough in advance, and their plans were not well enough known to successfully defend the base.

When World War II was started, Misawa was almost finished, with runways completed and capable of handling large four-engined aircraft, but at that time, was used for Navy trainer and fighter planes.

A few days later, July 31st, the Japanese personnel of Misawa got their first sight of the B-29s, but for an unexplained reason, were not bombed... a week later they came back. This raid was more successful, and they bombed Misawa severely, causing them so much damage that they were practically crippled.

The 22nd Fighter Wing, a part of the combined Japanese Fleet and the Genzan Flying Corps was brought here under command of Rear Admiral Matsunaga Zyoichi. At that time, because of the over-confidence of the Japanese forces, very few precautions were taken in the building of air raid shelters and warning systems.

On August 8th, and 9th, the Navy Grummans came back in a formation of thirty. Their raid crippled Misawa completely, destroying all the communications, and knocking out all of the 45 aircraft that never left the ground. This was the last raid on Misawa.

In April, 1945, just a few months before the war was ended, the Yokosuka Flying Corps took over and began tests on new aircraft designs. Improvements were made on the Zero and Raider Fighter planes.

When the Emperor issued his message to surrender, following the raid by the Grummans, the officers and enlisted ranks alike were in blind and blank state caused by the shock of losing the war... they were overrun immediately by the townspeople surrounding the base, who came in to salvage what was left after the bombing.

Two months later, at the first part of July, 1945, a B-29 sabotage training program was started, using wooden dummies of the B-29's. The Japanese were bitterly afraid of the superforts, and they were making plans to sabotage them, no matter what the risk, so the Japanese pilots and crewmen were taught how to destroy them; their plans were to follow them to their home bases and wait for them to land. During the darkness, they were to land their own planes and make their way to the superforts. The Japanese knew the effective plans for sabotage of the superforts, but their plan never developed because the war ended too soon.

Captain Stark and his famous "Wild Cat Troops" were the first Americans to occupy the base. They came in September of 1945 and took over the base until it was rebuilt by the 32nd Engineers... After reconstruction of the base was completed, it was turned over to the 49th Fighter Group who occupied it until the latter part of 1951.

Still in July, only one month before the war was over, the United States Navy Grumman fighters bombed and strafed

Since the end of the war, only five organizations have occupied Misawa. In order the "Wild Cat Troops," 32nd Engineers, 49th Fighter Wing, 116th Fighter Bomber Wing, and presently, the 6016th Air Base wing, have occupied the base. The latter, 6016th Air Base Wing, was not a member of the chain of occupation, but responsible for the Defense of Northern Japan, under the Japan Air Defense Force.

Defense Leaders Praise Services
in 4th Air Force Day

Washington (AFPS)—In observance of the fourth annual Armed Forces Day, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson joined the Secretary of the Air Force in issuing the following statements:

The Secretary of Defense, Charles E. Wilson: "Armed Forces Day is a day dedicated to honor to the united men and women of our nation, at home and abroad, who proudly wear the uniforms of the Army, Navy, the Air Force and the Marine Corps.

On this fourth observance of Armed Forces Day, it is a privilege for me to greet warmly men and women in uniform, all of those others who have contributed so much toward being in their hands the spiritual and material strength that makes them the balanced positive force for peace they are

today. To the men in Korea who are fighting so nobly and ably for the ideals we cherish, I send particular greetings, confident of their ultimate victory"

The Secretary of the Air Force, Harold Talbott: "The Department of the Air Force, together with the Army and Navy, will observe this fourth annual Armed Forces Day fully aware of its responsibility in the joint effort to preserve world peace and to insure our national security. 'Power for Peace' means that a strong America can be a peaceful America. As our strength increases, the Air Force will keep in mind the need for teamwork in the Armed Forces and for coordinated effort among all our citizens. In this way we can best protect our heritage of freedom."

6016th Leads
Raffle Ticket
Sales, FSS Next

After the first week of sales, the Headquarters Squadron, 6016th Air Base Wing is leading the Carnival raffle contest for the prize of \$150. They have sold 59 tickets. Food Service follows with 56 sold.

Also selling tickets for the first week, were: 49th Medical Group, 48; AP Squadron, 36; Motor Vehicle 34; AIO, 33; Supply, 25; Communications, 25; Postal, 10. The Officers and NCO Wives Clubs have sold 115 in the PX.

No reports were from the Maintenance, Air Rescue, AACs, 20-20 Weather, 1st RSM, and Postal squadrons, the 511th AC&W Group, the Northern AAA Group, and the 39th Air Division.

Two booths will be set up on the grounds, and will be sold the first three days. The drawing will be at eight o'clock the last day of the carnival.

508th Commander Gives
"Thank You" Party To
O'Misawa Town Officials

Colonel Cy Wilson, commander of the 508th Strategic Fighter Wing (SAC) and wing staff officers gave a 'thank you' party last week to officials of the village of O'Misawa who have "contributed so much to the wing's enjoyable stay in Japan."

Among those attending Colonel Wilson's party were Mr. Tomio Kohirumaki, Mayor of O'Misawa, Mr. Osari Yuzo, Chief of Police, Mr. Kichijuro Kubo, Chairman of the Town Assembly, Dr. Keiichi Igarashi, Director of the Misawa Center Hospital, and Dr. Sachiro Kojika, also a representative of the hospital.

Colonel Wilson will depart for the ZI soon after having been stationed here as commander of the rotational SAC Fighter Wing.

Air Force Education Center
Group Study Classes

Start Monday, May 18.

Monday & Wednesday

Course	Instructor	Room	Time
Basic Math	S/Sgt. Trollet	8	1800-1945
Algebra (HS)	S/Sgt. Trollet	8	2000-2145
English (HS)	Miss Rachal	3	2000-2145
Typing	Miss Rachal	2	1800-1945
English (Col)	Pvt Chamberlin	2	2000-2145
French I (Col)	Father Gaudry	3	1800-1945
Mil Correspondence	T/Sgt. Ellison	2	1000-1200

Tuesday & Thursday

Course	Instructor	Room	Time
American History	Mr. Fry	3	2000-2145
Typing	Miss Chaboudy	2	2000-2145
American Literature	Mr. Fry	3	1800-1945
Business Law	Miss Chaboudy	2	1800-1945
Photography	S/Sgt. Sheppard	5	1800-1945
Music Appreciation	Pvt. Riddle	8	2000-2145
Japanese I	Mr. Ishi	5	2000-2145
Japanese II	Mr. Ishi	8	1800-1945
Radio II	A/IC Jackson	Hobby Shop	2000-2145