



This Month in 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base History February 2015



World War II was the crucible in which the U.S. Air Force and modern Japan were formed. Likewise, the era witnessed the origins of the 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base, Japan. Here are a few of the important World War II anniversaries in February for the 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base:

February 1, 1940: The 35th Fighter Group activated at Moffett Field, California, and trained pilots in P-35, P-36, and P-40 aircraft. The 35th Fighter Group was the U.S. Army Air Force predecessor of the 35th Fighter Wing.

February 10, 1942: The Japanese Imperial Navy completed construction of Misawa Air Base and established the Misawa Air Group under the command of the Ominato Naval Defense Base.

February 25, 1942: The 39th Fighter Squadron of the 35th Fighter Group arrived at Brisbane, Australia, from San Francisco, California, after a 25-day voyage aboard the *USS Ancon*. The unit historian recorded "the squadron disembarked and was quartered by the Australian Army at the Ascot Race Track." The *Ancon* also carried the squadron's disassembled P-39 Airacobras.

February 6, 1943: The 35th Fighter Group scored 17 aerial victories, the highest number of aerial victories scored in a single day by the 35th Fighter Group or the 35th Fighter Wing. The group repeated this feat on April 12, 1943.



Left: 2d Lt Edwin A. Schneider scored three aerial victories on February 6, 1943.

Center: 1st Lt William F. McDonough scored two aerial victories on February 6, 1943.

Right: 1st Lt William F. McDonough scored two aerial victories on February 6, 1943.

Twelve of the 17 aerial victories scored on February 6 were to the credit of the 40th Fighter Squadron. The unit historian wrote:

February 6 will live long in the memories of the 40th [Fighter Squadron], for on that day while flying cover for transports to Wau, enemy aircraft consisting of approximately twenty five "Zekes" and six "Sally" type bombers were intercepted. The enemy planes were immediately engaged in combat. Proceeding to live up to the best traditions of the fighting 40th, our planes shot down a total of twelve "Nips." Due to superior speed of our planes we were able to attack the



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lower "Zekes" first. Our flights stayed in elements for the first pass after which dog fights started all over the sky. Enemy planes were painted a mustard green on top and were silver color underneath. Red circles were painted on both wings and on some of the fuselages.... The amazing part of this accomplishment was that not a single casualty was suffered by the 40th. It was indeed a feat of which the "Red Devils" could be proud.

Here is a list of aerial victories for those days:

February 6, 1943			April 12, 1943		
Name	Unit	Score	Name	Unit	Score
1st Lt Walter O. Bean, Jr.	39 FS	1	1st Lt Harvey C. Clymer	39 FS	1
2d Lt Robert N. Boucher	41 FS	1	1st Lt Richard S. Culton	41 FS	1
2d Lt Eugene C. Deboer	40 FS	1	Capt William J. Davitt	40 FS	2
1st Lt Francis E. Dubisher	41 FS	1	Capt Charles S. Gallup	39 FS	1
1st Lt William F. McDonough	40 FS	2	1st Lt Eugene M. Heinz	40 FS	1
2d Lt Lewis D. Raines	40 FS	1	2d Lt Charles A. Klein	40 FS	1
2d Lt Edwin A. Schneider	40 FS	3	1st Lt Roy Lawhorn	41 FS	1
1st Lt Robert W. Shick	40 FS	2	1st Lt Louis J. Nagy	40 FS	1
2d Lt Lee R. Taylor	40 FS	1	1st Lt James M. Palmer	41 FS	1
Capt Fred E. Thompson	41 FS	1	2d Lt Llyod W. Rosser	41 FS	1
Capt Thomas H. Winburn	40 FS	2	Capt Albert W. Schinz	41 FS	1
1st Lt Dugan V. Woodring	41 FS	1	1st Lt Richard E. Smith	39 FS	1
			1st Lt Richard C. Suehr	39 FS	1
			Capt Charles P. Sullivan	39 FS	1
			1st Lt Houser C. Wilson	40 FS	1
			1st Lt Dugan V. Woodring	41 FS	1

February 1944: The 14th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, later the 14th Fighter Squadron, was the first unit to fly with the Army's new pressure-breathing systems that allowed flights to 50,000 feet. These flights took place over Berlin in British Spitfires.

Additional anniversaries for February include:

February 1, 1983: The Japan Air Self-Defense Force made their 10,000th scramble from Misawa Air Base when two F-1s armed with Sidewinder missiles intercepted an unknown aircraft over the Sea of Japan.



The original emblem of the 14th Fighter Squadron/14th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron featured Bugs Bunny.



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February 28, 1989: The Government of Japan completed construction and delivered the first 6 of 48 hardened aircraft shelters to the 432d Tactical Fighter Wing.

February 9, 1996: The 35th Operations Support Squadron hosted the first U.S. Pacific Command sponsored, joint Suppression of Enemy Air Defense conference at Misawa Air Base. The need



for SEAD developed during the Vietnam War, and the Air Force responded by creating the Wild Weasel platform, a series of dedicated SEAD fighter aircraft. Today, the 35th Fighter Wing is Pacific Air Force's premier SEAD unit and home of the "World's Greatest Wild Weasels."

Left: The High speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) Targeting Pod (HTS) enables F-16 Block 50 pilots to engage targets when tasked with Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) missions.

February 26, 1998: Famed members of the Tuskegee Airmen, Lt Col Herbert Carter and Maj Carrol Woods, visited Misawa Air Base as part of the African-American Heritage month celebration.

February 23, 2002: The new 30,000 square-foot Mutsu Officers' Club opened for business.