

MSgt Leo W Bloschock
403rd Bomb Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group

The first item is a great photo of the *Argentina* as she is leaving New York City enroute to the Pacific – note the Statue of Liberty in the background near the stern of the ship

Next is a one page personal diary or log kept by my father, MSgt Leo Bloschock, while enroute to the Pacific Theater on the *Argentina*.

Next are the first and last editions of the 'Twin - Oceans Gazette', an onboard newspaper published while on the *Argentina*.

There follow three photos where my Dad is clearly identifiable - two are photos with two and three other men respectively, all from the 403rd Squadron's Engineer/Instrument Section. These are followed by a large group photo of the entire 403rd Squadron Engineer/Instrument Section.

The final six pages are an assembly of various photos belonging to my father. They are a compilation of men, machines and sights experienced by him during his time with the 43rd Bomb Group.



Sunday Jan. 18, 1942--Left Bangor Air Base at 7 PM.

Monday Jan. 19, --Arrived Camp Dix, N. J. 10 AM.

Tuesday Jan. 20 --Left Camp Dix at 1:30 AM. Arrived Brooklyn, Ny.Y. at 6:30 AM. Boarded transport immediately. Stayed on boat Argentina until Friday morning.

Friday Jan. 23, --Embarked from New York at 4 AM.

Sunday Jan. 25, --Sailing south. weather warm. 7 troop transports, 8 to 12 destroyers escort. dirigible escort first day out, 4 planes escorting now.

Tuesday Jan. 27, --Saw Florida coast of Miami. Beautiful sun set. K. P. today.

Wednesday Jan. 28, --Saw coast of Key West, Florida. K. P.

Saturday Jan. 31, --Entered Panama Canal 8 AM after anchor in harbor evernight. Finished going through locks 5 PM. Docked in Canal Zone overnight.

Sunday Feb. 1, --Left Canal Zone 10 AM.

Wednesday Feb. 4, --Somewhere in Pacific sailing west and southwest. Learned today going to Australia.

Sunday Feb. 8, --Today buried soldier at sea. Flag at half mast.

Thursday Feb. 12, --Rained today first time on voyage.

Saturday Feb. 14, --Saw some islands this morning in distance. High mountains. Three troop transports joined us today. Makes total of 9 transports, 2 freighter, and 4 or 5 destroyers.

Saturday Feb. 22, --Weather cooler last three days. Crossed International Date Line, so skipped Friday Feb. 20.

Sunday Feb. 22, --Convoy which formally joined us left and went to Brisbane.

Tuesday Feb. 24, --Very rough seas, lot of sea sickness.

Wednesday Feb. 25, --Sea still rough. Saw land today.

Thursday Feb. 26, --Arrived in harbor of Port Melbourne 8:30 AM Anchored all day in harbor. Docked at 6:30PM. Smallboats came out in harbor to meet us. Land looked good.

Friday Feb. 27, --Left ship 11:00 AM Boarded train and arrived Camp Darley at 2:00PM. Everyone sick first night from the food.
(On ship 41 days)

DEEP SEA NEWSPAPER IS ALL FOR SOLDIERS

The Twin-Ocean Gazette is a daily newspaper (on calm days) printed solely for the enjoyment of the soldiers on board the S. S. Censored. It is not printed for the officers, though they may read it. Nor is it printed for the nurses, but they may read it too. The last-mentioned may not object to any of its contents. The former with sufficient rank may do so. Lastly it is not printed for Ye Editor but he is hereby authorized to enjoy putting it together.

Your Gazette holds to no particular religious views. The management is for them all. Politically it is independent in the classic sense of that harrassed word. That is, we believe there are two parties of importance, our party and the wrong one. In a military way we have an estimated 362 bosses. It is comforting to note here, however that not all of them could make this boat. Many of them being over-age for task force work. If the Gazette suddenly disappears that will indicate:

1. One of the 362 was offended.
2. We ran out of paper.
3. Ye editor is seasick or dead.

Your Gazette has two major needs as it blows about the decks, warmly wrapped in its swaddling clothes. It needs items of interest to the whole ship's company. These should be delivered to Room 58. The other pressing need is more paper of about this size. If we are to be able to continue our excellent service, we must have paper. Search message centers, latrines, headquarters and so forth for paper. It is all that holds us back. Deliver same to same room.

Official notices will be held to a minimum. When they do appear they will be of the utmost importance to all and should be carefully noted and obeyed. With 4000 assorted humans crowded in a small space, everything Joe Soldat does on D Deck affects the rest of the team.

No suits for libel will be accepted. We have no property, no overhead and practically no hope. Likewise it will be assumed that all errors are intentional and were made for purposes of humor. There is no desire to hurt anyone's feelings. All those who may be so injured can call at the office and will receive small crescent moons to stick in their button-holes.

OFFICIAL:

SERVICES — Catholic masses will be held at 6, 9 and 11:30 today. Protestant services at 11 o'clock. Place, promenade deck, forward.

CONCERTS — There will be band concerts each day, weather permitting. At 10 A. M. the doughboy band will entertain aft on B deck and at 1 o'clock the cannoners will play at the same place.

TEN CENTS A DECK ! ! ! ! WOW !

Until the Canteen reduces its cigarette price the Gazette will continue to refuse to carry its advertising.

Flashes

WITH U. S. PHILIPPINE FORCES — The United States and the Philippine forces have smashed Japan's hopes of winning a lightning victory in the Philippine campaign and they have completed digging in for a long fight on the Batan Peninsula. Men, guns and supplies have been concentrated on the peninsula from all over the islands. They are reported under constant attack from Jap planes which hold overwhelming air superiority, however, General MacArthur has concentrated his army with only moderate casualties. The Jap hold on Manila is practically useless to them as long as General MacArthur holds Corregidor island off the tip of Batan.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA — Australia sent outlying defense forces into action and appealed urgently today for American and British reinforcements against Japanese invaders striking in force at strategic Melanesian islands northeast of the continent. Seeking control of vital allied supply lines in the Southwest Pacific and a base for an invasion of Australia, the Japanese sent big naval and air fleets into the New Guinea and Solomon island areas commanding the approaches to the whole East Indies defense front.

MOSCOW — The Red army has driven 65 miles in the last 10 days of fierce fighting on the North Central front, killing 17,000 Germans and recapturing 250 miles Northeast of Moscow, according to a special communique today. The report said the Nazis were still being driven back on all fronts, leaving vast numbers of dead and wounded. The Russians advanced to within 100 miles of the old Latvian border. Russian warships sank three German transports yesterday and her bombers accounted for two supply ships.

WASHINGTON — A Navy spokesman indicated today that some enemy subs have been sunk in U. S. Atlantic territorial waters. He said, "Some of the recent visitors to our waters will never enjoy the return portion of their voyage." The number of undersea craft destroyed remains a naval secret.

RANGOON, BURMA — American volunteer fliers were reported today to have shot down 21 Japanese airplanes and damaged many others in lightning raids on Rangoon.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

It is good to have the women with us. We need them always and we love them. For purposes of harmony on shipboard it is respectfully suggested that the soldiers will keep their language up if the ladies will keep their skirts down.

NOTABLES COMMENT

General Lewis W. Sinclair, of New York, joined the nation's great and near great today in acclaiming the first edition of the Twin-Ocean Gazette. "It is a splendid contribution to journalism. If it survives I will be surprised," he said.

Gazette platform—Fill the pool.

TREMENDOUS FLOTILLA GREET'S THE UNKNOWN

Early on Friday morning last the latest huge U. S. Task Force quietly put out to sea. Moving with grim precision through the murk of New York harbor, the great flotilla disappeared into the Atlantic. No bands played, no lights showed except in the eyes of the thousands of soldiers behind the grey hulls. This was what they had been waiting and training for, a shot at those vague, tyrant enemies on the other side of a mixed up world.

There were no heroics. The time for that had passed. The girl-strutting and the maneuver jokes seemed stale. None felt like a hero or at best a sad hero for the trip promised to be a long one. There was a job to be done, a nasty job and the opinion of all was, "Let's get on with it."

Those hours have now drifted far astern of us. They seem so far away that they almost might never have been. We are on the high seas, guarded by the cream of the United States Navy. We're a picked and honored pioneer crew in which every man, seasick or not, has his important job to do. It must be done cheerfully and on time with a snap of military pride. Everybody functions in this man's army and especially when the going is the toughest.

Some 25 years ago more or less many of the fathers of soldiers on this ship set out on a similar job. It was a dirty job too, and they left in the night as we did. But they came back when the work was cleaned up and then the lights were flashing and the bands were playing just as they will for us when we close up shop 'over there' and roll back home again. That is, the bands will play for us if we do our job as well as those old timers expect. We can't afford to let them down this time. They cleaned up for us before and so we could grow up in the sun. It's our turn now.

These thousands move out to prove once again that carefree, rough-talking Americans can dish it out and can take it too.

As one PFC explained to a recruit on deck yesterday, "We'll get the bastards, whatever color they happen to come in."

WHAT TO DO IN AN AIR RAID

The Gazette is proud to offer its readers what it honestly believes to be the finest air raid instruction service yet devised. Having spent two years lost in Copley Square subway the writer appears qualified. This feature will be continued from day to day.

1. As soon as the bombs start dropping, run like hell. It doesn't matter much where, as long as you run like hell. Wear track shoes if possible—if the people in front of you are slow, you won't have any trouble getting over them.

2. Take full advantage of opportunities offered when the warning is sounded, for example:

A. If in a bakery, grab some pie and run like hell.

B. If in a tavern, grab a bottle and run like hell.

C. If in a movie, grab a blonde -and let the rest run like hell.

For further instructions read your Gazette tomorrow. . .

FAMED GAZETTE SUSPENDS PUBLICATION

LATE NEWS FLASHES

WASHINGTON.—From Bataan peninsula comes a story of the bloodiest battle of the Philippines in which half naked Igorot tribesmen, sons of savage head hunters, rode atop thundering U. S. tanks and "completely annihilated" a Japanese infantry regiment. A War Department communique at the start of the twelfth week of the war in the Pacific told of MacArthur's account of the battle to his assembled officers on Bataan peninsula and concluded, "gentlemen, when you tell that story stand in tribute to those gallant Igorotes." The Igorotes came from northern Luzon and long abandoned their head hunting although they still fight with primitive savagery.

In the words of MacArthur himself is the account, "Bataan has seen many wild mornings, but nothing equal to this. No quarter was asked and none was given. Always above the din of the battle rose the fierce shouts of the Igorotes as they rode the tanks and fired their pistols. No gun, no obstacles, only death itself could stop that mad rush. Of all the bloody spots on the peninsula, that proved to be the bloodiest. When the attack was over the remnants of the tanks and Igorotes were still there, but the 20th Japanese infantry regiment was completely annihilated."

SYDNEY.—Australia is so imperiled by the Japanese invasion of Timor that it may be impossible to send any more of this country's already depleted resources to the defense of Java, authorities said today. By invading Timor, commentators pointed out, the Japanese straddled the eastern route for Australian-American reinforcements to Java, threatened to drive a wedge between the Australian and the Allied forces in Java and New Guinea, and moved a step toward the isolation of Australia by securing new bases from which planes warships would dominate the northwestern approaches of the commonwealth.

BATAVIA.—Japanese blitzkrieg forces, pushing their pincer movement involving Java and Sumatra, were stopped in their tracks today by combined U. S. and Dutch forces, according to Aneta, Dutch news agency. The pincer movement, the agency said, was slowed almost to a stop, making only slight progress in Bali.

WASHINGTON.—A report of "excellent" performance by the rapid firing Garand rifle under actual combat conditions on the Bataan peninsula has been received from General MacArthur. He told War Department officials that fighting men found that the weapon operated with no mechanical defects and did not develop stoppages from dust or dirt when used in fox holes.

CANBERRA, Australia.—The British government is "sympathetic" to the request of Australian fighter and bomber pilots who want to return home and fight the Japanese. Prime Minister John Curtin said he had been in communication with the Australian high commissioner in London and that release of some of the Royal Australian Air Force units at their own request had been discussed.

IN SALUTE!

THE NAVY BUILDS A BRIDGE

An old man going a lone highway
Came in the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast, that was deep and wide,
Through which there flowed a sullen
tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him.
But he stopped when safe on the other
side

And built a bridge to span the tide.

"You are wasting your strength in building here,

Good friend," said the fellow pilgrim
near.

"Your journey will end with the passing day,

You never again will pass this way."

"Good friend, in the path I have come,"
he said,

"There followeth after me today

A youth whose feet must pass this way.

He, too, must pass in the twilight dim,

Good friend, I am building that bridge
for him."

Penultimate

As the sand runs out on the life of this little paper with whatever contribution it may have made to the pleasure of everyone on the voyage, it is proper to thank those men without whose efforts it could not have been published. More than 50,000 copies have been set and printed. Coach and mentor of the operation has been Barnes Brookfield, ship's printer; chief typesetter was Sgt. V. D. Taylor. Assistants in the print shop were J. O. Edmunds and O. W. Clinton. Last but not least is the indomitable Casey, business manager.

We are indebted to Col. Agnew for moral support at the outset; to Chaplain Brock for trying against fearful odds to keep out the hells and damns; to the radio crews for our news flashes and to the gallant nurses aboard for serving as flints for our editorial steel.

If we have made any friends, that is good; and if we have made any enemies, that is splendid for they will stay with us always. This is, then, good luck and God speed to both.

RANGOON.—The Japanese push toward the Rangoon-Lashio railway moved in slower tempo today in the wake of a violent aerial attack by American and British flyers coupled with counter attacks by British Imperial and Chinese troops along the eastern Burmese front. Despite the sharp blows dealt the invader, authorities indicated that the British Imperials soon may have to withdraw from the Bilin 20 miles to the Sittang river where they would have a stronger though longer line to defend.

STORY OF CHECKERED CAREER RECALLED

Soldiers Mourn Passing

As it must to all men and their institutions death comes today to the Twin-Ocean Gazette. And although its going leaves a vacant place against the sky, the principles it fought for will live on in the hearts of men and ladies.

Founded many, many miles ago, the history of its turbulent and checkered career is the history of this strange hegira. Always battling for the underdog, this potent journal can number among its accomplishments: deck sleeping for the men; deck sleeping for the nurses (different decks); and faster messlines for the soldiers. In its brief flash across the sun, it filled the swimming pool, took O.D. slacks off nurses and the gum out of their mouths. It suitably chastised the Navy for leaving Peg Hammer behind and will in all probability succeed in returning her to this force on arrival at our destination. Much of our success in these things was due to our speed in demanding what was about to be done anyway.

The last word in tribute was aptly framed by one of the most beloved of this ship's company who prefers to remain anonymous, when he said simply, "The Gazette was many times outsmarted but never out-fought."

NOTABLES' COMMENT

On the subject of the Gazette's demise, when interviewed yesterday, General Gustav S. Bloome stated, "Its existence has always baffled me. I'd much rather have pictures with my funnies." Other comments were equally praiseworthy.

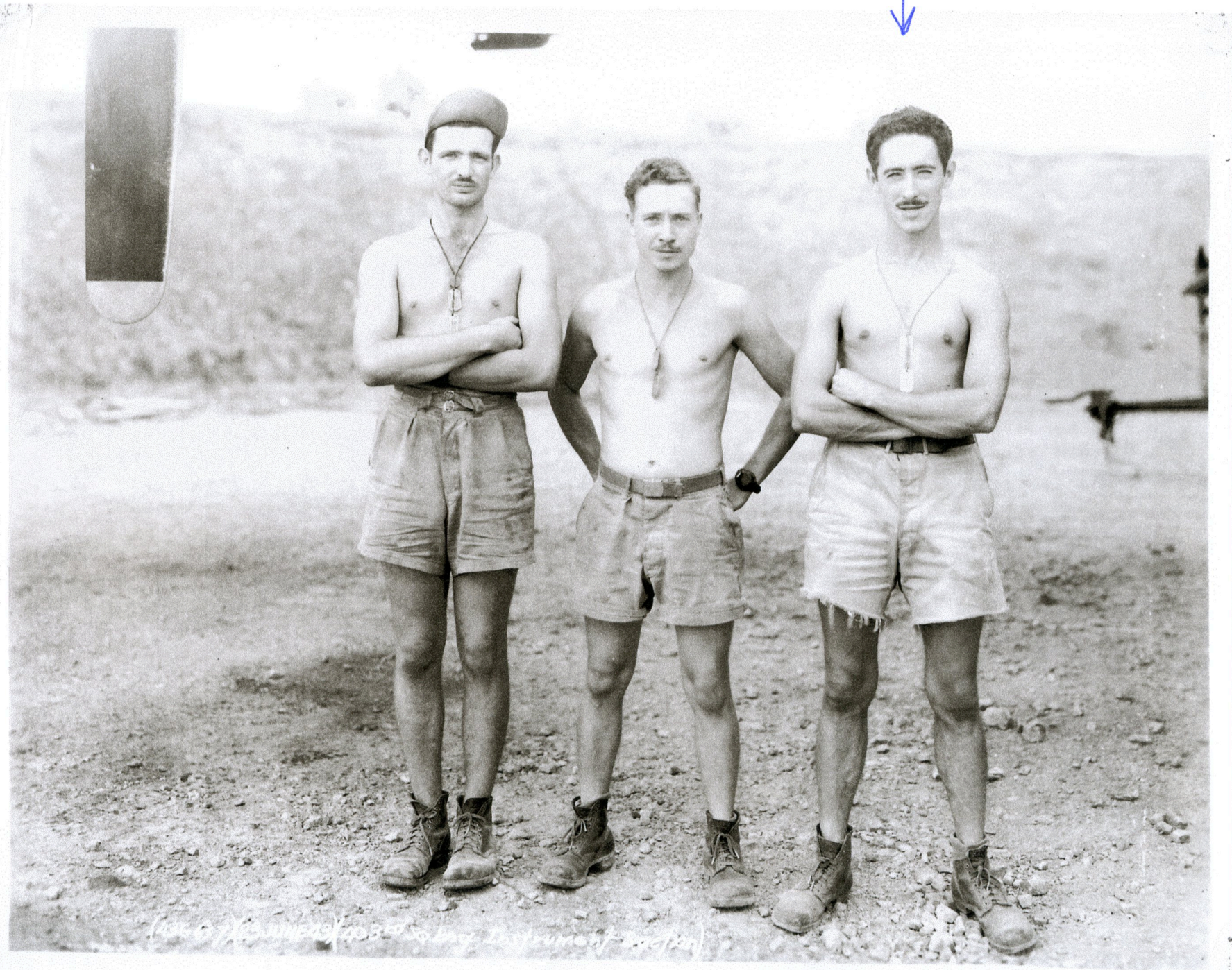
BLESSED EVENT—Quintuplets were born on board our good ship on the Friday that wasn't there. The lying-in hospital was atop a case of Ballantine's beer. The mother, Tillie, the ship's cat.

LAST LETTER TO BETTY

I hope you're writing often,
There is no shooting yet,
But when miles are scored in thousands
It's easy to forget.
Have I forgotten you?
I do not think so, dear,
It's just before I sleep at night
That you seem to appear.
Then when the band on A deck plays
An old last Winter's song,
No matter what I do, for days
I take the tune along.
And sometimes in a crowded place
Someone so resembles you
My heart within me skips a beat
Then starts to break in two . . .

403RD Bomb Squadron
ENGINEERING/INSTRUMENT SECTION

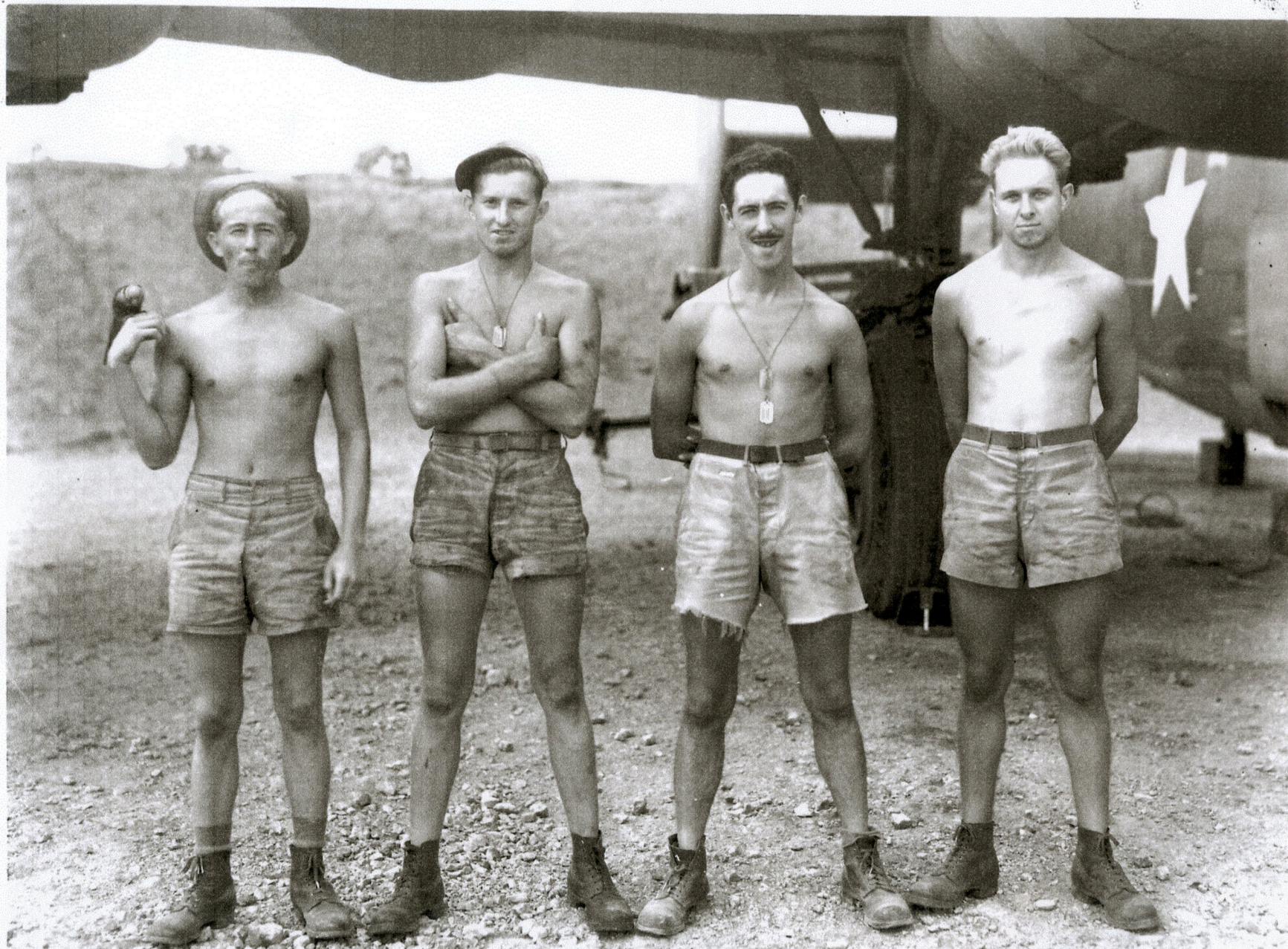
MSGT. LEO WILLIAM
BLOCHOCK



(403RD Bomb Squadron Engineering/Instrument Section)

403RD Bomb SQUADRON
ENGINEERING/INSTRUMENT
SECTION

↓ M/SGT. LEO WILLIAM
BLOSCOCK



1945-1946

403RD BOMB SQUADRON (H); ENGINEERING SECTION - 43RD BOMB GROUP (H) 03 JUN 1943
ARROW POINTS TO M/SGT. LEO WILLIAM BLOSCHOCK



403RD BOMB SQUADRON (H) ENGINEERING SECTION - 43RD BOMB GROUP (H)

