



The above photo from Don Olson

READY TO LEAVE THE BLISTER HANGAR AND RETURN TO THE HARD STAND AFTER A 100 HOUR INSPECTION

This is a good example as to how our aircraft were moved about the flight line by the ground crews. The heavy little tug attached to the aircraft with a triangular tow bar. Note the 357th checkered red and yellow design on the heavy metal grill of the tug. The grill had large holes to permit air to flow through and cool the engine radiator. The holes appear as dots in the photo.

We are using this 364th Fighter Squadron photo at this time for a specific reason.

The man on the tug is Randall "Tex" Crawford. He was crew chief of this P-51 named "Marie" and coded C5-Y. The pilot was Nick Frederick who flew 67 missions of which the last 40 missions were flown in this aircraft. Nick tells us he never had to abort a mission of his own accord for his aircraft functioned fine, guns always fired properly and his aircraft radio never failed him.

You will note by the fatigue uniform that "Tex" is wearing, that we did have some nice warm sunny days at Leiston and you can even see shadows. Most of the men on the flight line were issued and wore the one piece cover-all type fatigues. "Tex" was one of the few who had been issued two piece fatigues and with his back turned to us, he is topless.

"Tex" was a very serious and conscientious crew chief however when not giving C5-Y his attention, he was a young fellow full