

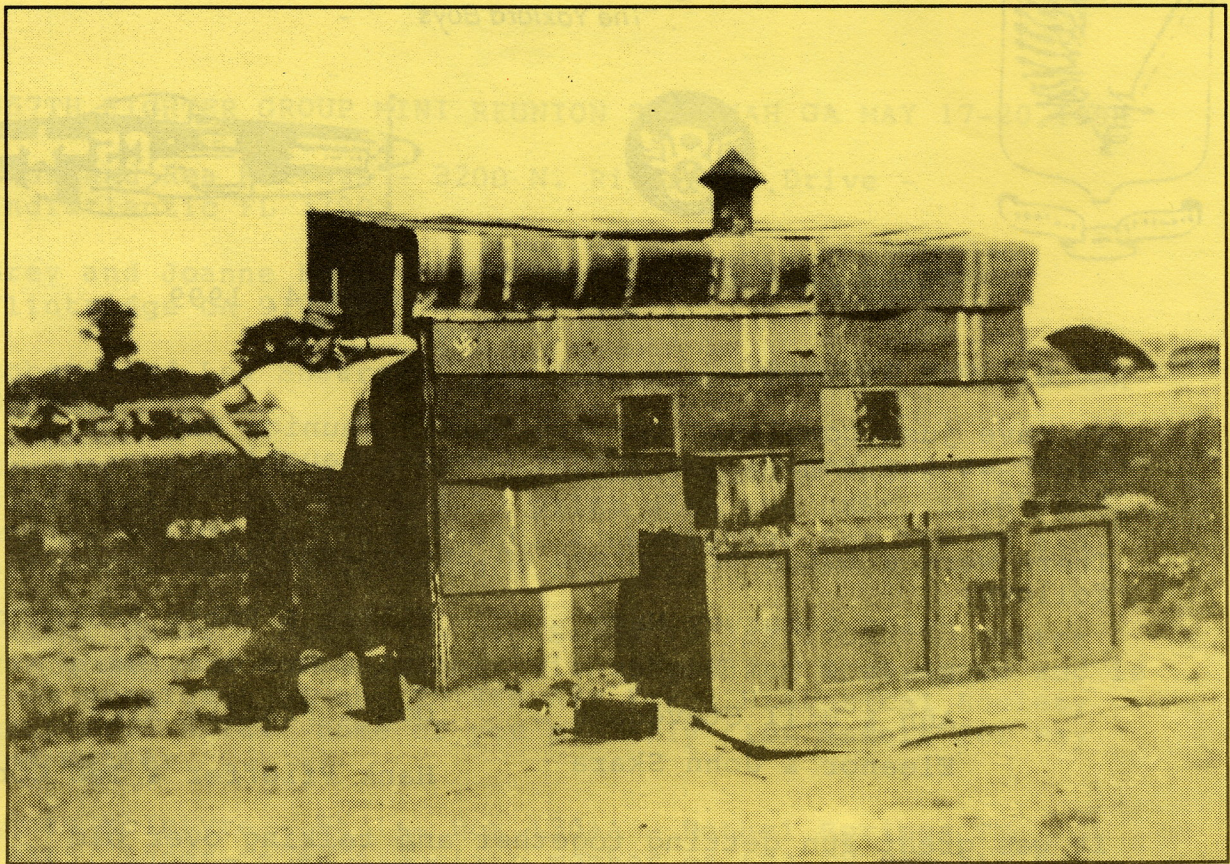
Photo-Gordon Cross Identification-Bob Prante



TONOPAH, NEVADA 1943

Men of the Armament section barracks at the 364th F.S. mess hall. At work detail with rakes and shovels due to being quarantined. Reason being that Bob Pickett had Spinal Meningitis. White signs being held were in fun to indicate their displeasure of being in confinement. Our guess is that the signs say NO FOOD NO WATER.

#1 Claude Cox, #2 Jack Austin, #3 John Merle Fales, #4 Charles Speal, #5 Ralph Botteichor,
 #6 Leon Dewey, #7 Hugh Liston, #8 Louis Romano, #9 Herbert Hoag, #10 John Brady
 #11 Robert Prante, #12 #13 William Stana, #14 #15 Ronald Nelson
 #16 Charles Campbell, #17 James P. Lane, #18 #19 William Lucas
 #20 Kenneth Magoon, #21 Steve Grana.



C O M F O R T

A first class Crew Chief hut on the Leiston Airfield flight line made of emptied 108 gallon drop tank boxes. Note the complete box in front of the shack. The four long side panels from a box were usable. The architect for this hut stripped the wooden battens from the panels and used just the sheet of pressed paper for panels. A separated panel is laying on the ground in front of the empty box. Most of the huts that I ever saw, used the complete panels standing on end which gave the crew chief sufficient height to get in out of the cold, damp weather, frequent rain and even snow. Made a place to keep ones tool box, drinking cup, a new ready set of spark plugs (12 for exhaust sides), some clean rags and maybe some snacks.

This first class hut as photoed has windows, a single panel vertically made a good door. Note the elaborate smoke stack for the stove. Sometime during our tour at Leiston, the higher command forbid the stoves. There were lengthy times of waiting for the crew chief even though the aircraft was scheduled in time as to its return from long escort missions. A shelter was a blessing. It was also a place for seclusion when your pilot did not return.

Old Joe estimates that this hardstand was located in the 363rd flight line area. This is based on the two blister hangars close together in the right of the photo. At the elbow of the crew chief, one can observe a building, possibly #46 on the construction engineers map. Hangars #42 and #40. Hardstand possibly temporary hardstand #9???. Thanks to Arthur Swanson for the photo and enlarged and given to us by you know who, Merle Olmsted.



Who knows the aircraft code of the 357th F.G. aircraft that Lt. Col. John D. Landers flew while he was with the group for about six weeks after Lt. Col. Graham left us at Leiston? Landers served from 11 October 1944 until 2 Dec. 1944 when Col. Irwin H. Dregne returned from a Zone of Interior furlough between tours. Definitely a B6-??, What letter?? He did use the name "Big Beautiful Doll" which he used even later with the 78th Fighter Group. Let's hear from the ground crew who serviced his aircraft. Tell Merle Olmsted or Joe De Shay.



Leiston Airfield nissen hut living quarters at the left in the photo.

Latrine building #46. "Ya gotta go - Ya gotta go" no matter how cold, wind, rain or snow with no heat to take off the chill in the building. A COLD SEAT!!

G. I. blankets on the line to hopefully air them to remove possible dampness.

Photo from Merle Olmsted collection

Memories of Mustangs for Yoxford Boys

AN AMERICAN P-51

Mustang fighter aircraft flew over a Suffolk town in tribute to all the men and women who gave their lives serving at England's most easterly airfield during the Second World War.

The remembrance ceremony held yesterday at the Harrow Lane Memorial, Leiston, drew a large crowd of residents and American veterans who had travelled specially to take part.

Leiston Airfield, or Station 373 as it was more correctly known, had a short but distinguished operational history following its construction in 1943.

During 1944 and 45 it was home to 357th Fighter Group whose young American pilots flew their P-5 Mustangs in support of daylight bombing raids over occupied Europe.

Former pilot Joe Black and Tony Stirpe, a military policeman who served at Leiston, were among those taking part in the ceremony.

"The main thing I remember about the time when I was stationed at Leiston was how

by DAVE LENNARD

friendly the people of East Anglia were. I am pleased to say nothing has changed much as everyone has been so kind to me and my family during this visit," said Mr Black.

Mr Stirpe's granddaughter Natalie Stirpe, and Esther Threadkell, from Leiston ATC laid wreaths at the memorial during a service conducted by the Rev Christine Brooks.

Leiston Royal British Legion Band played both the British and American national anthems.

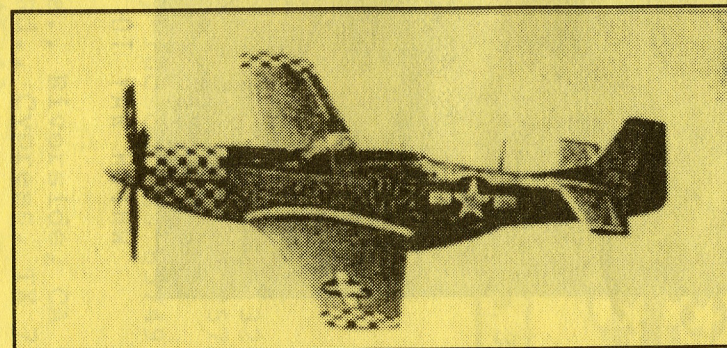
Robert Davies, of Kent, gave a fly past and demonstration of his P-51 Mustang which brought back memories for veterans and many residents at the ceremony organised by the Friends of Leiston Airfield.

The skill and valour of the 357th Fighter Group made a big impact on the German war machine during the war and the group rejoiced at being singled out as The Yoxford Boys by Lord Haw Haw.



TRIBUTES: Tony Stirpe, who served at Leiston, watches as his granddaughter Natalie lays a wreath at the memorial, and right, a Mustang flies over during the service

Photos: JERRY TURNER



from Tony Stirpe

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THE STARS AND STRIPES

1^{Fr}

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

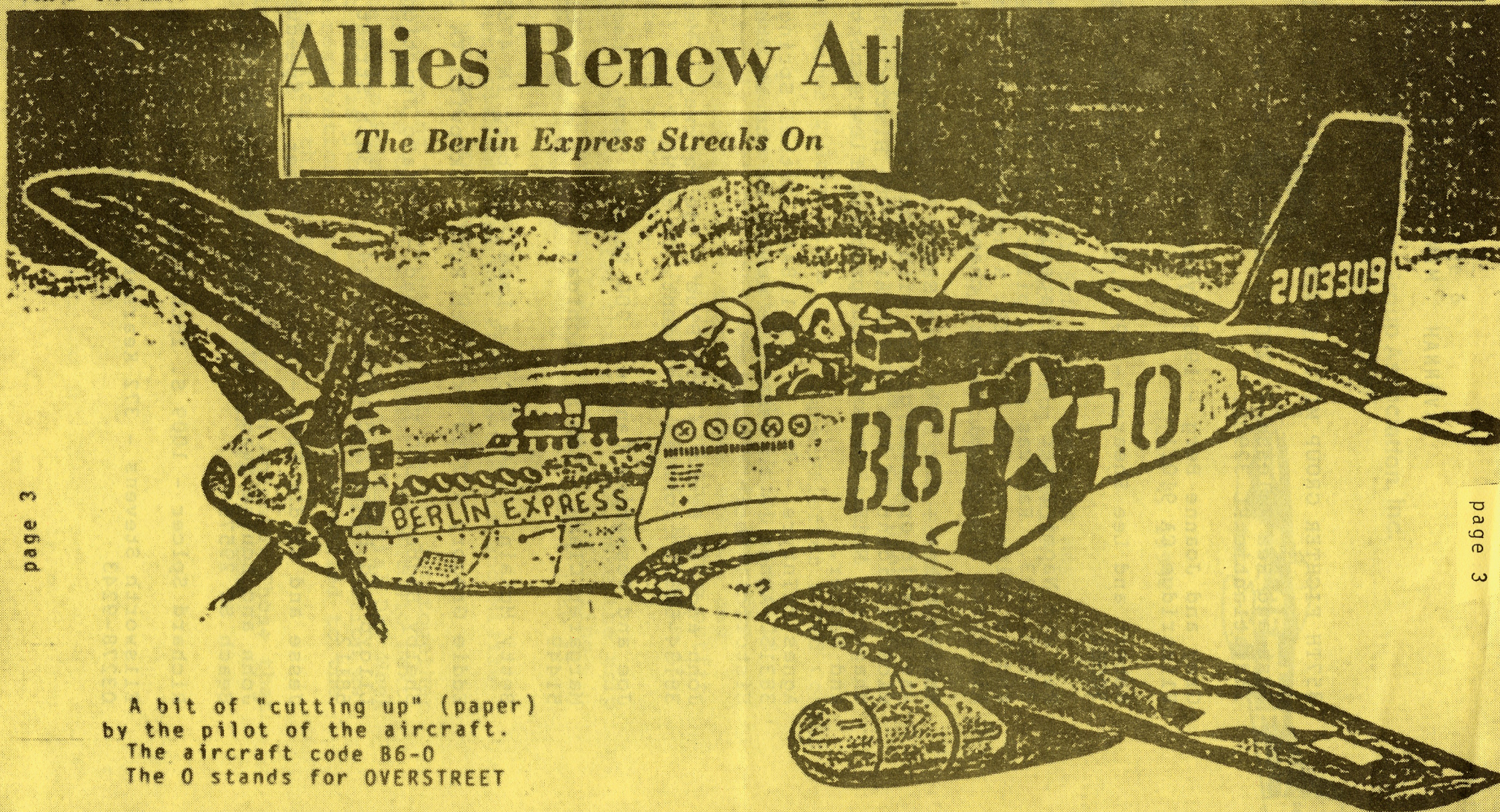
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New York, N.Y.—London, England—France

Wednesday, July 26, 1944

Allies Renew At

The Berlin Express Streaks On



A bit of "cutting up" (paper)
by the pilot of the aircraft.
The aircraft code B6-O
The O stands for OVERSTREET