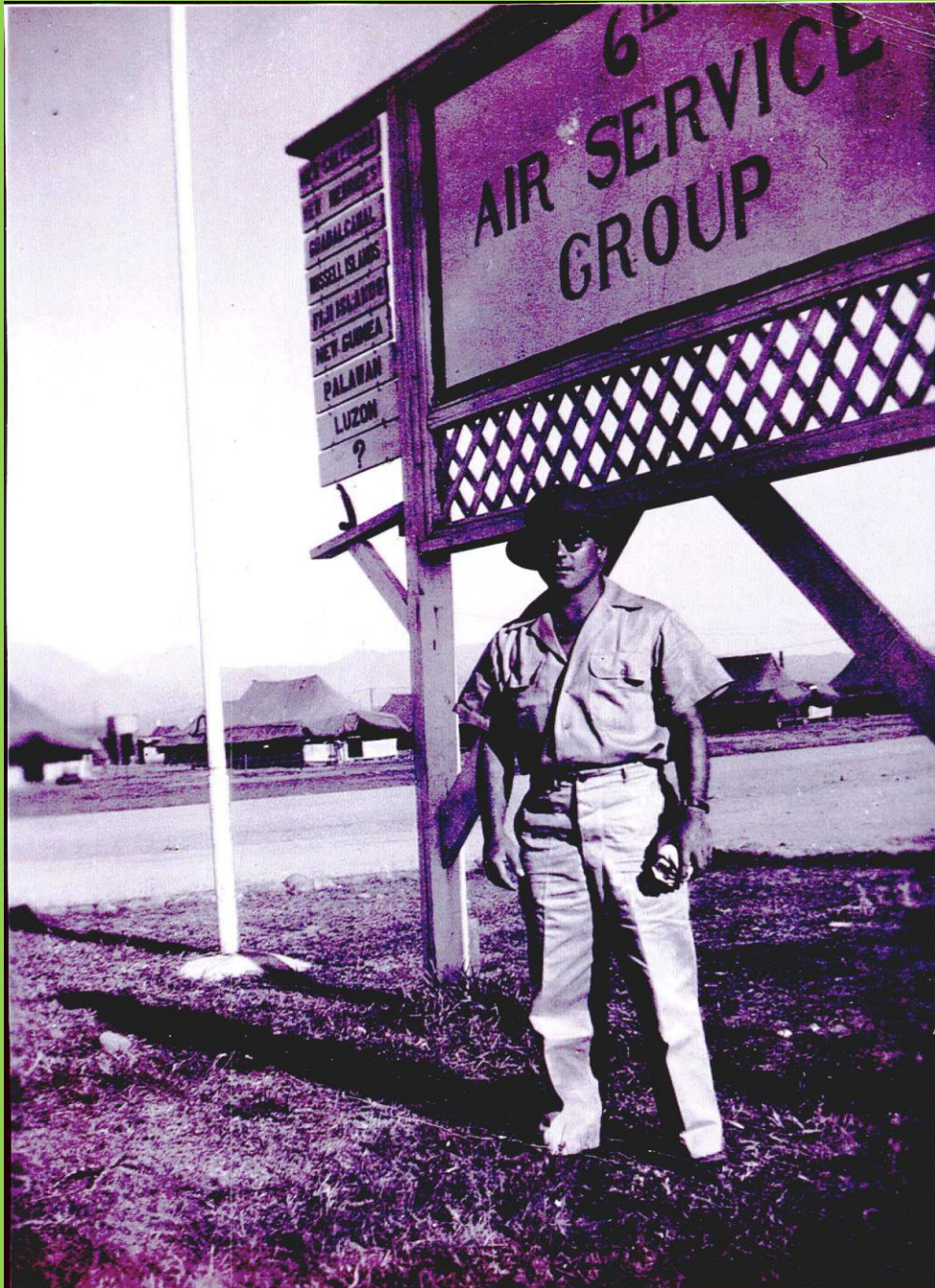
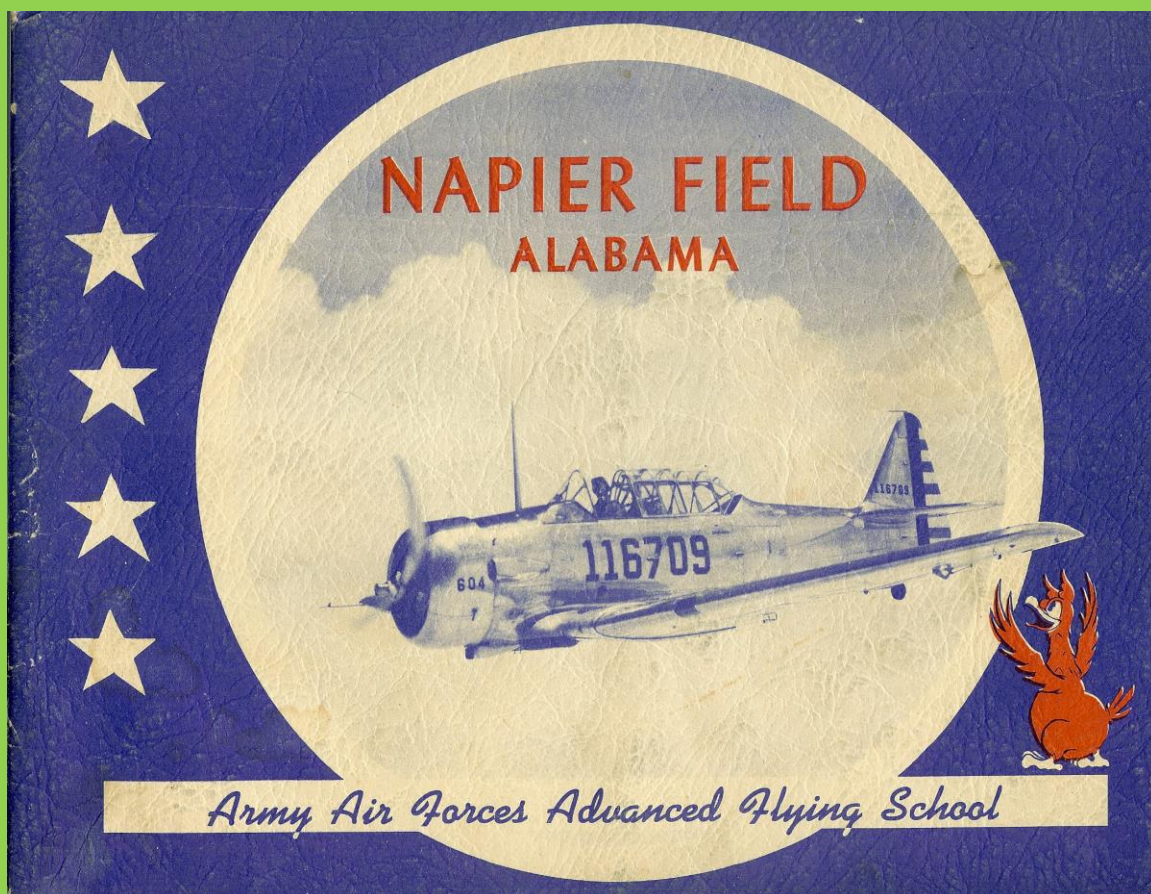


***Keep 'em Flyin' – My Dad's Service in the US Army Air Corp –  
People, Planes & Postcards***

**After Luzon...? My dad (Michael J. Ricciardi) in military dress (Staff Sergeant), note 6<sup>th</sup> Air Services Group (Army Air Forces) tour of duty signage in background (Guadalcanal, etc.). Dad was assigned to the Army Air Core and trained as an airplane mechanic.**



Brochure Cover- Napier Field, Dotham, Alabama – “The purpose of the field is to train cadets in all phases of advanced flying of single-motored planes....night flying, formation flying, blind flying, gunnery practice, navigation, altitude flying. This field marks the final stage of a cadet’s training, and it is here that he is awarded the coveted “wings”. Note “Gruffie”, the Napier Filed mascot, on cover, lower right.





Press Photo found in my dad's Napier Field Guide, note C-54 and "press copy"



Post cards (small sampling of total material) – 1943 - the first is the front side of a card sent to my dad as he was being shipped out (via Colorado to the Philippines), note forwarded address (Second image, top left of card). The second image is of the postmarked side of the same top card. The *second* post card shown (letter side only) was sent by my dad to his sister, Lena, after the war (front side—aerial view of Manila-- not shown here).

# *cooperation*

THIRD NATIONAL BANK  
NASHVILLE, TENN.



REPUBLIC P-47 "THUNDERBOLT"



Prof. D.T. McInness  
U.S. Army Air Force  
Lawry Field  
Colo.

POST CARD

Hi Mike:

We are 1/3 of  
the way and plenty  
tired. We are on  
our last ment ticket  
Give my regards  
to all the Boy's  
hurry up and get  
the B.S.M. these  
jerks kill me  
or drive me crazy  
"Mac"



905th S.E. F.T.S.

Tapier Field  
Dothan  
Ala.

POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

Hi Lee:

The x on the  
photo, is appromiately  
where Helen & Carpi's  
home is located.

Mike

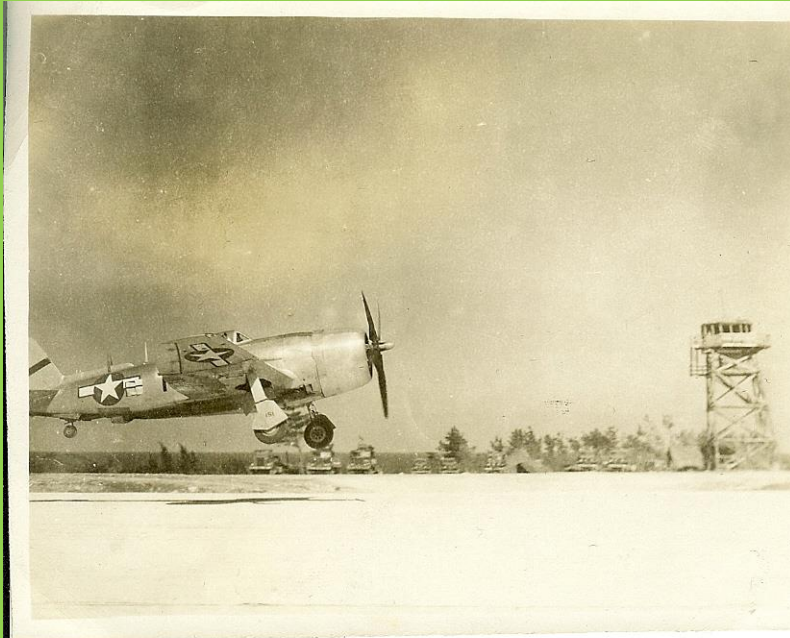


149 Shrewsbury St.  
Worcester,  
Mass

**My Dad (facing camera, cigarette in mouth) having a pow-wow with his crew, possibly over the missing propeller on the covered plane behind them (P-38 or P-41 class ?). Unknown photographer.**



**Runway takeoff (possibly Luzon airfield) of a recently repaired P-47 'Thunderbolt',  
also: a C-54 Bomber, note: "Ginger" mascot on side of fuselage. Photo by M. J.  
Ricciardi**





Repairing P-51's (?), photo series; note hoisted engine in second photo sheet from the top; also note: air tower in distance, and view from the wing, bottom photo sheet. Photos by M. J. Ricciardi

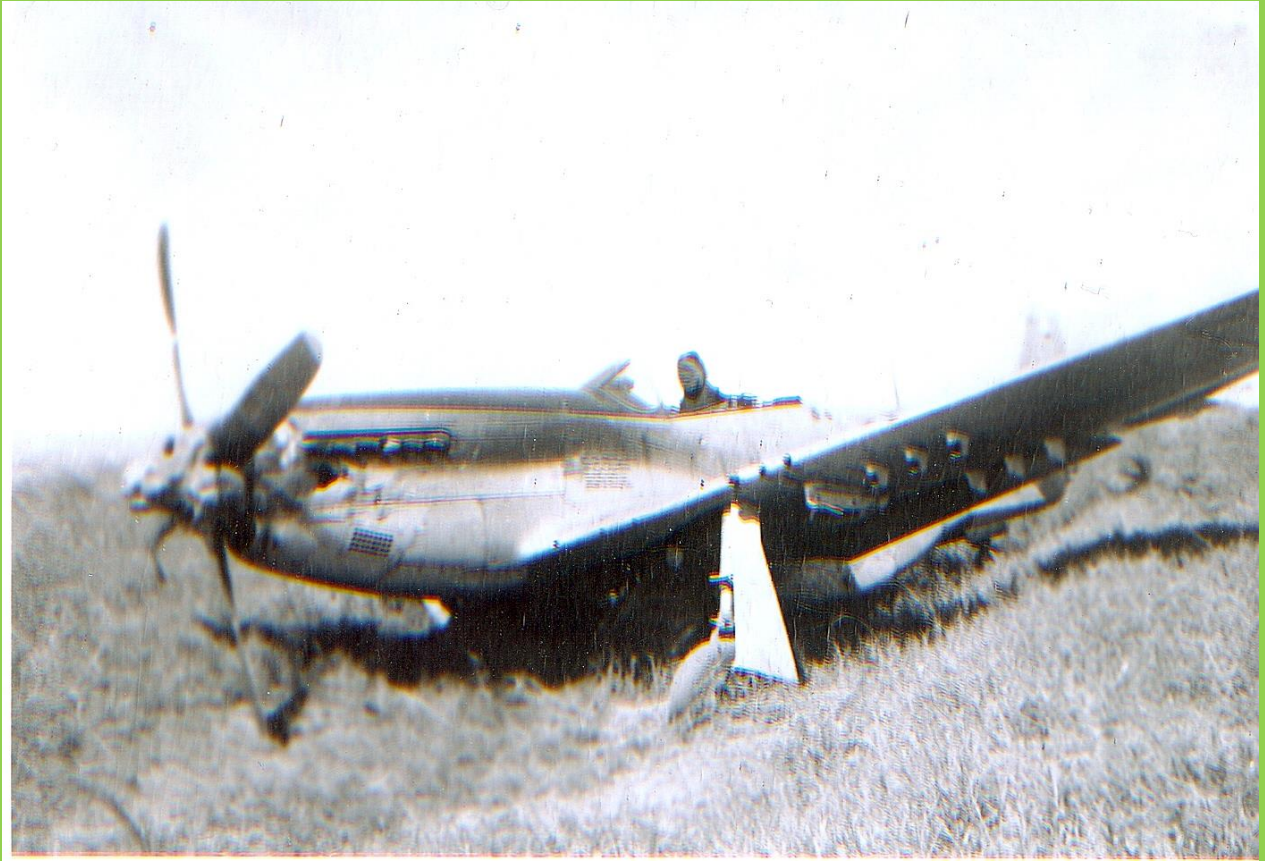




**Overhead twin prop (class/model not identified at this time), Luzon, Philippines,  
1944 or '45.**



A “downed” *zero* fighter with deceased pilot still visible. Photo taken by my dad while on an excursion (unknown location, Philippines, unknown time after crash, 1945).





**The men of the 342<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron (one of several fighter squadrons that my dad was assigned to), location: Philippines, unknown base. My dad, a staff sergeant, is crouching lower left corner.**



Photos curated/annotated by Michael A. Ricciardi, donated courtesy of Louis M. Ricciardi

[Marz62@yahoo.com](mailto:Marz62@yahoo.com)

**More Photos from the war:**



[above] My Dad (M. J. Ricciardi, back, right) with three other officers (all “non-comms”/sergeants?) from his platoon.





[above] Dad posing in uniform probably before being shipped out (?) Note: 'Keesler Field'\* stenciled on side of small boat).

\*Keesler Air Force Base (IATA: BIX, ICAO: KBIX, FAA LID: BIX) is a United States Air Force base located in Biloxi, a city in Harrison County, **Mississippi**, United States. The base is named in honor of aviator 2d Lt Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., a Mississippi native killed in France during the First World War.