

IN A FORGOTTEN FILE

PHOTO IN A SMALL LIBRARY REVEALS A CONNECTION TO A COMBAT VETERAN FLYING FORTRESS
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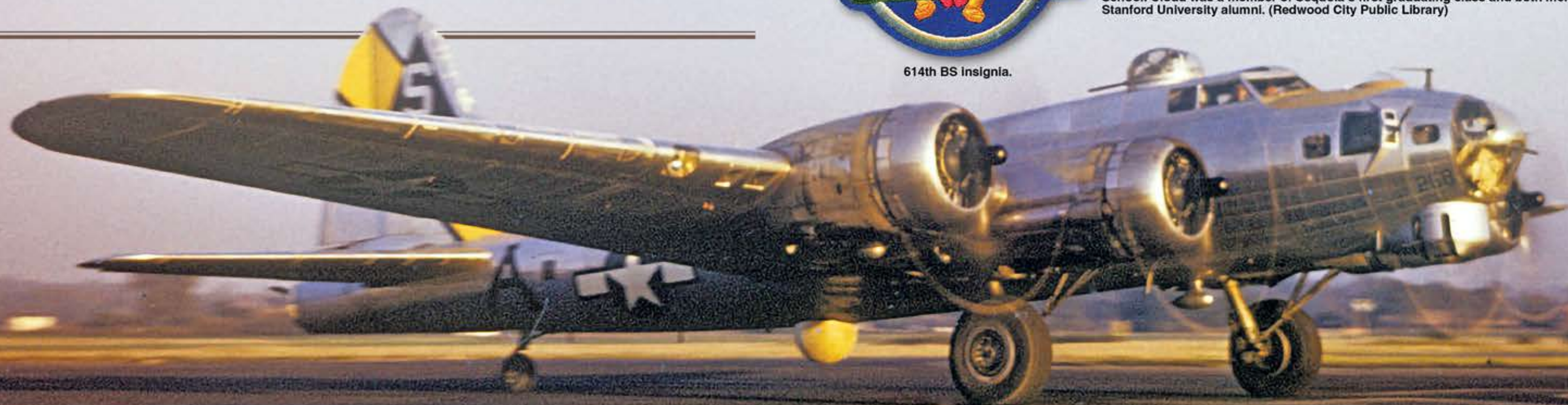
Jacket patch for the 613th Bomb Squadron.



614th BS insignia.



A delegation of business people and civil leaders visited the Lockheed Burbank factory during the war, possibly in advance of another War Bond sales drive. Among the delegation are two notable figures in Redwood City, California, standing, second from left is Roy Cloud, who, at the time was superintendent of schools in San Mateo County, and standing, second from right is Clarence Argo, principal of Sequoia High School. Cloud was a member of Sequoia's first graduating class and both men are Stanford University alumni. (Redwood City Public Library)



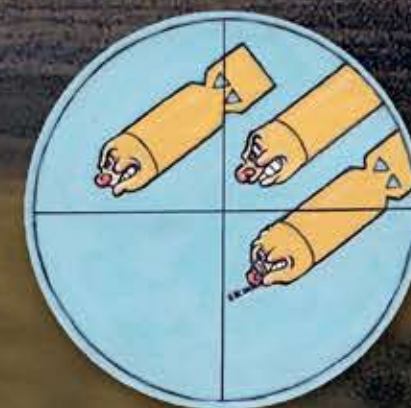
The photographic files in the Local History Room at northern California's Redwood City Public Library are filled with interesting images. As volunteers work to caption many of the vintage photos, one in particular, number 3223, demanded a closer look. This photo shows a

number of well-dressed men in suits, some with hats of the day, standing in front of a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress bomber at the production factory. Unfortunately, there is no information to go along with the image and nothing is written on the back. During World War II, the Boeing

company and its two industry licensing partners, Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach and Lockheed-Vega Aircraft in Burbank, built 12,731 Flying Fortresses. The B-17 and Consolidated Aircraft's B-24 Liberator, both powered by four-engines, were the main strategic bomber taking the fight to

Hitler's Nazi Germany. In the photo, the number 7931 is painted on the bomber's nose near the bombardier's window. Below the number 7931 and under the bombardier's window is a chin turret fitted with two 0.50-caliber machine guns. Only the B-17G variant was built with a chin turret, so a quick glance at the serial numbers for all G-models shows that the bomber in the photo

was constructed at Lockheed-Vega's Burbank factory. The full serial number is 42-97931, which translates to the 97,931st aircraft contracted for in fiscal year 1942. A search of the bomber's Individual Aircraft Record Card obtained from the US Air Force Historical Record Center at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, shows it was delivered to the modification center on 8 April 1944, which puts the delegation of



Insignia for the 615th BS.

Power coming up, B-17G pathfinder of the 401st Bomb Group begins its takeoff roll from Mount Farm. On 11 November 1944, this aircraft received heavy battle damage and made a forced landing at Melsbroek airfield in Belgium. It was then destroyed on the ground by strafing Fw 190 fighters. (R. Astrella)