

COLORS OF WAR

DELVING INTO THE CHALLENGE HISTORIC ARCHIVES,
WE PRESENT A FURTHER SELECTION OF
WORLD WAR TWO COLOR IMAGES

BY MICHAEL O'LEARY

North American Mitchells operating in the Pacific carried a fantastic selection of art and markings. Assigned to the "Green Dragons" of the 405th Bomb Squadron, this B-25C displays some finely applied nose art to go along with the unit's name. The plane evidences a great deal of overpainting with Olive Drab and Neutral Gray and the entire plexiglass nose area has been over-sprayed. A field modification added four .50-caliber Browning M2 machine guns to the lower nose section and they have been fitted with canvas protective covers. Note how the Pacific heat and humidity has bowed the plexiglass sections in the nose. The photograph was taken at Garbutt Field in Townsville, Australia, and the squadron moved to that location on 30 September 1942. Unfortunately, the serial for the lead aircraft is not known but the aircraft to the right rear is B-25D-1 41-30340. Built as a B-25D-10, the aircraft was converted to a D-1 strafee and assigned to the 499th Bomb Squadron with the name *El Diablo IV/Shifless*. This B-25D flew 60+ combat missions and on 2 December 1944 it was declared war weary and was probably scrapped or used for transport duties. In a joint effort, photographers from the USAAF and *Life* magazine took a series of Kodachrome 4X5 transparencies of activities at Garbutt Field.

