MAY 27, 1986

SMSGT LLOYD W. HUGHES USAF RET.

HOUSTON, PA. 15342

CHERYL HERTEL
ARCHIVIST, OFFICE OF HISTORY
6510 AIR BASE GROUP / HO
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE
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Dear Miss Hertel,

I want to thank you for the pictures you sent me May 13, 1986. I certainly appreciate them. While I was looking at the pictures many thoughts came into my mine about the time I was stationed at Muroc A.A.F. early 1944 training for combat. You may be interested to hear about some.

We spent many hours flying the B-24 bomber shooting at a tow target being towed by a B-26. I was a waist gunner and fired the 50 cal. machine gun more than the rest of the gunners due to their turrets usually breaking down and becoming inoperative. To get credit for firing all ammunition on board the aircraft

they would carry their ammution to the waist gun positions and I would fire theirs as well as my own.

During bomb drops I would be taking pictures of dummy bomb hits in a circle marked out on the ground. Siting on the floor by a open hatch with a large camera in my hands, with the aircraft bouncing around, got pretty hairy at times.

The aircraft were flown constantly day and night. I use to think that the engines never had time to cool off.

There were some accidents, but I always thought we did very well considering how inexperience we were at the time. I was very fortunate to be a member in a very good bomber crew. I was to appreciate it more

so a few months later overseas.

For time off we got a pass every ten days. I would hick like into Los Angles and Hollywood. The people everywhere were always very nice to us.

I have 42 years of aircraft experience in maintenance and flying, of which 38 1/2 years was with the military. The military was very good to me and I always did my best for the military. All those years was very rewarding.

I have read in the Air Force Magazine that some bases have printed a historical monograph covering certain years of their base. If one exist of Murac A.A.F. for World War II I would certainly appreciate one.

Again, thank you for the pictures.

Sincerely

Lloyd W. Hughes S.M. Sgt.
USAF Ret.