

# **7<sup>th</sup> ARMY AIR FORCE FLYING TRAINING DETACHMENT (PRIMARY)**



## **LINEAGE**

7 AAF Flying Training Detachment (Primary)

## **STATIONS**

Oxnard Municipal Airport, CA

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS**

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES**

## **UNIT COLORS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## CALL SIGN

## OPERATIONS

Mira Loma Flight Academy

**Polaris Flight Academy Chosen as Basic Training Base For United States Army Air Cadets**  
LANCASTER - 1942 - At the request of the West Coast Air Force Training Center, Polaris War Eagle Flight Academy at Lancaster will become a basic training school for cadets of the United States Army Air Force, commencing about August 10th, according to an announcement made public Tuesday of this week by Frank Lowe of the Cal-Aero Schools, speaking for Major C. C. Moseley, president. Mr. Howe stated that no more cadets would be received at War Eagle Academy at Lancaster, but that those now in training will remain there until they have completed their courses, which will be about January 2, 1943, when the last class graduates. In making the announcement public, Mr. Howe stated that Major Moseley, head of the Cal Aero Schools, made this statement: There will be no change of personnel at War Eagle Academy. The same instructors and other personnel now training British cadets will handle the training of US fliers. The Cal-Aero School in Ontario will drop basic training as a part of its courses, and with Mira Loma Flight Academy at Oxnard, will devote its entire time to primary training only. All basic training will be handled at War Eagle Flight Academy at Lancaster, the only civilian school in the United States to handle basic training of Army pilots. Every four and one-half weeks a new group of US pilots will arrive at Lancaster to commence their basic training. After completing their course here, they will be sent to Army Advance Training posts where upon completion of their advance course, they will receive their wings and commission. In contemplation of greatly increased demands on the War Eagle Flight Academy, construction work has already started to double the base in size. Barracks to accommodate twice the number of cadets now housed there under its British training contract will be built as well as other construction to expand the facilities.

Here is a present day view of the old War Eagle Field. War Eagle, now known as Mira Loma, is owned by LA County and is used as an INS detention facility; it was a former LA County jail. Note the two still intact hangars that are still in use. The Mira Loma facilities are located near 60th Street West and Avenue I, in Lancaster. Although the facility is surrounded by barbed wire, a passer by can still make out the old W.W.II era buildings and reminisce about those bygone years when the roar of Vultee BT-13's filled the air.

There were two other auxiliary landing fields associated with War Eagle, namely: Liberty and Victory. Liberty Field was started before the war by a local resident, Mr. Mallicoat, as a private training school for military pilots. In the 1950's the US Rubber company removed part of the landing strip at Liberty Field and installed a tire testing track in its place. To this day the faint outline of the runways at Liberty and Victory Field can still be seen.

As a result of the heavy training, the area has seen its share of airplane wrecks. During the 40's at least 20 or more planes crashed in the Antelope Valley and the surrounding area. Many of these planes were BT13's (BT for Basic Trainer), but numerous other wrecks of P38's and bombers can

be found as well. Many of the P38's that flew the skies of the Antelope Valley during W.W.II practiced aerial combat maneuvers. Many flew in from Metropolitan Airport (present day Van Nuys). Unfortunately, on some occasions a pilot lost control and his airplane plummeted from the sky. Sometimes the pilot was fortunate enough to bail out to be rescued later, but in some instances the pilot didn't have a chance and flew his plane into the ground.

431102	BT-15	41-10224	MACO	Gardner, Robert L	4 mi E of Saticoy, CA
431109	PT-13B	40-1562	LACGC	Renterie, Joseph	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431109	PT-13B	40-1658	LACGC	Roth, Jerome M	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431110	PT-13B	41-833	LACGL	Gamble, Robert M	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431116	PT-13B	40-1614	LACGL	Dawson, Everett D	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431120	PT-13B	40-1693	LACNU	Allen, Samuel V., Jr	Aux Fld #1, Oxnard, CA
431120	PT-13B	40-1602	LACGL	Hamilton, Arthur C	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431122	PT-13B	40-1718	LACGL	Eckols, James L	Aux Fld #2, Oxnard, CA
431122	PT-13B	42-1619	LACGL	McNeal, James F	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431128	PT-13B	40-1722	LACGL	Dirks, John M	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431130	PT-13B	41-820	LACGL	Tabor, Charles L	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431130	PT-13B	41-815	LACGL	Agnew, Louis F., Jr	Aux Fld #4, Oxnard, CA

431201	PT-13B	40-1595	LACGL	Miller, John C	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431204	PT-13B	40-1619	LACGL	Mayer, Norbert J	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431206	PT-13B	40-1728	LACGL	Tepper, Murray	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
431214	PT-13B	40-1578	LACGL	Jones, Frank E Jr	Ventura County Apt, Oxnard, CA
431215	PT-13B	40-1634	LACMF	Tepper, Murray	Aux Fid #2, Oxnard, CA
431228	PT-13B	40-1571	FLSFNO	Sobelman, Phillip	1.5 mi SW of Aux Fid #1, Oxnard, CA
420713	PT-13B	40-1611	LACGL	Park, Harry G	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
420714	PT-18	40-2003	LACGL	Klussendorf, Ralph A	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
420720	PT-18	40-1989	LACMF	Archambeault, Robert W	Aux Fid #3, Oxnard, CA
420721	PT-13B	40-1629	LACSSP	Hartman, Kermit W	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
420723	PT-18	40-1896	LACNU	MacMullin, Robert J	Aux Fid #2, Oxnard, CA
420810	PT-13B	41-850	LACGL	Larimore, Kenneth S	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
420813	PT-13B	40-1646	LAC	Weinstein, Sam J	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
420827	PT-13B	41-818	LACGL	Ashby, Joseph T	Aux Fid #1, Oxnard, CA

420911	PT-13B	40-1598	LACGL	Hjelm, Rex P	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
421004	BT-15	41-10224	TAC	Breeden, John R	3AAFFTD, King City, CA
421016	PT-18	40-1989	KCRGC	Bowman, Andrew E	Oxnard, CA
421024	PT-18	40-1923	LACGL	Rued, Paul E	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
421104	PT-13B	40-1708	LACGC	Schlueter, Edward A	Oxnard, CA
421104	PT-13B	40-1577	LACGC	Withrow, Robert J	Oxnard, CA
421104	PT-18	40-1921	LACNU	Schuten, John G	Aux Fld #1, Oxnard, CA
421112	PT-13B	40-1648	LACGL	Smith, John W	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
421113	PT-13B	40-1681	LAC	Crooker, Edmund P	Santa Paula Airport, CA
421120	PT-13B	41-852	LACNU	Sweeney, Francis J	Oxnard, CA
421121	PT-13B	40-1623	LAC	Stoullil, Donald W	Aux Fld #3, Oxnard, CA
421207	PT-13B	40-1597	LACGC	Higgs, Richard E	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
421207	PT-13	40-3828	LACGC	Katz, Leo	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard, CA
421207	PT-18	40-1960	LACSSP	Woodruff, Joseph G Jr	Aux Fld #2, Oxnard, CA
421209	PT-13B	40-1571	LAC	Fallon, Eugene C	Oxnard, CA
421211	PT-13B	40-1622	LACGL	Evans, Charles R	Oxnard, CA
421226	PT-13	41-802	LACGL	Struhl, Joseph	Ventura County Airport, Oxnard,

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440117	PT-17	42-16277	GLLAC	Coe, Thompson J.	Camden, SC
440117	PT-27	42-15806	GLLAC	Bayley, William F.	6th AAFFTD, Glendale, AZ

450614 R-6A 43-45377 LACSF Duray, Robert L. Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA  
450615 P-47D 44-90482 LACGL Faulkner, Luther F. Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA  
450615 AT-6A 41-204 GLLAC Coe, Thompson J. Aux Field No 1, Oxnard, CA  
450615 AT-6A 41-311 LACSF Duray, Robert L. Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA  
450615 C-47A 41-30681 LACGL Faulkner, Luther F. Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA  
450615 P-47N 44-88820 GLLAC Bayley, William F. Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA  
450614 AT-6A 41-16936 LACGL Hoffman, Cecil H Aux Field 4, Oxnard, CA

450514	P-63A	42-69912	TACGC	No pilot	Aux Field No 2, Oxnard, CA
450514	AT-6A	41-16045	TACGC	Swinney, Mc Irwin	Aux Field No 2, Oxnard, CA
450514	B-24J	44-28084	LACGL	Peck, Matt R	Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450514	AT-6D	42-85965	TAC	Zoldi, Irving J	Aux Field No 2, Oxnard, CA
450514	AT-6D	42-85577	LACGL	Merrill, David K	Aux Field #2, Oxnard, CA
450514	P-38L	44-25512	LACGL	Swinney, Mc Irwin	Ventury Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450514	P-38L	44-25203	LACGL	Meadow, Edward L	Aux Field No 2, Oxnard, CA
450514	AT-6D	42-85948	LACGL	May, Chester L	Aux Field No 2, Oxnard, CA
450514	B-17F	42-30917	LACGL	Frattini, Walter	Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450515	B-29A	44-70090	LACGL	Douglas, Charles	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6A	41-16125	TACGC	No Pilot	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6A	41-16634	TACGC	Roark, Walter L Jr	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA

450515	P-51B	43-12373	MACTO	Luczynski, Edward	Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6D	42-84504	MACTO	Walters, Richard M	Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6A	41-16152	LAC	Jorlett, Stephen W	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6A	41-235	LACGL	Szabo, GAbriel S Jr	Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-11	42-37207	LACGL	Lindley, Byron K	Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-11	41-9450	LACGL	Schwartz, Robert S	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6A	41-17011	LACGL	Clarey, James P	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6D	42-85832	LAC	Firestone, Gerald	Aux Field 1, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6A	41-16163	LACGL	Cannon, Marvie R	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450515	AT-6A	42-44465	KCRGC	Sellers, Chester P	1 Qtr Mi S Ventura, CA
450515	PT-13D	40-1635	LAC	Printz, George E	Aux Field #2, Oxnard, CA
450515	P-40N	44-7630	LACGL	Zimmerman, James F	Ventura County Arpt, CA

450424	B-17E	41-2629W	LACGL	Bowen, John E	Aux Field #2, 29 Palms, CA
450424	C-54D	42-72503	LAC	Carlson, John P	Aux Field 1, CA
450424	B-24M	44-50970	LAC	Wells, Lewis F	Aux Field #1, 29 Palms, CA
450424	B-24G	42-78285	LACGL	Connor, Bernard V	Ventura Co Arpt, CA
450424	B-24G	42-78446	LACGL	Gibbons, William L	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450425	P-63C	43-11203	LAC	Vleghels, Andrew J	Aux Field 2, Oxnard, CA
450425	P-38L	44-26608	LAC	Soare, Arthur W	Aux Field 1, Oxnard, CA
450425	P-38L	44-26834	LACGL	Carb, Meredith R Jr	Aux Field 3, Oxnard, CA

450425	L-4B	43-977	LACGL	Thomas, Jack C	Ventura Co Arpt, CA
450425	C-64A	43-5179	LACGL	Carmack, George N	Aux Field 3, Oxnard, CA
450426	UC-64A	43-35393	LACGL	Reilly, Robert P	Ventura Co Arpt, Oxnard, CA
450426	C-47	42-32846	LACGL	McBratney, Harry D	Oxnard Flt Strip, CA
450427	B-25J	44-31082	LACGL	Swearingen, James	Oxnard Flight Strip, CA
450427	B-29	44-69812	LACGL	Flint, Robert J	Aux Field 1, Oxnard, CA
450427	C-46A	42-96740	LACGL	Johnson, Carl E	Ventura County Arpt, CA
450427	LB-30	AL586	LACGL	Van Dam, Jay L	Ventura County Arpt
450427	C-47A	42-93672	LACGL	Mandzak, Michael	Ventura County Arpt
450428	C-54B	44-72378	MAC	Barnes, Fred H	Oxnard Aux Field #1, CA
450428	P-38L	44-24425	MAC	Catlin, Samuel T	Oxnard Aux Field #1, CA
450428	C-109	42-48890	KCRSSP	Davis, Wilton R	Oxnard, CA
450429	PT-19	40-2664	BOSSP	Coryell, Robert C	9 Mi SE Oxnard, CA
450429	C-109	42-51810	LACGL	Thomas, Charles R	Oxnard, CA
450429	B-24M	44-51002	LACGL	Walton, Bobbie G	Oxnard, CA
450429	UC-64	44-70268	TACMF	Escobar, Agapito R	Oxnard, CA
450429	UC-78	43-31777	LAC	Wardrobe, James E	Oxnard, CA
450430	C-47B	43-48600	TACMF	Karahadian, Alfred R	Oxnard, CA
450430	C-46	42-3648	LACGL	Smith, Billy J	Oxnard, CA
450430	C-87	44-52982	KMACOB	Taylor, William M	2 Mi W Saugus, CA
450430	C-47	43-15740	BOMF	Millikin, Samuel T	13 Mi NE Oxnard, CA



450501	B-29	44-70031	LACGL	Clark, Eugene T	Ventura Co Arpt
450501	B-29	42-24710	LAC	Ruo, Joseph C	Aux Field No 1, Oxnard, CA
450501	P-47D	42-74876	LACGL	Sheehan, Robert H	Aux Field No 1
450501	B-24J	42-50995	LAC	O'Neil, Eugene E	Ventura Co Airport, Oxnard, CA
450501	L-4A	42-36483	LACGL	Olin, Donald P	Auxiliary Field No 3, Oxnard, CA
450501	AT-6D	42-84760	LAC	Fisher, Samuel N	Ventura Co Airport, Oxnard, CA
450501	P-40N	44-7328	TAC	Fox, Dexter S	Ventura Co Arpt, Exnard, CA
450501	PT-13D	42-17604	LAC	Curry, William W	Ventura Co Arpt, CA





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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.