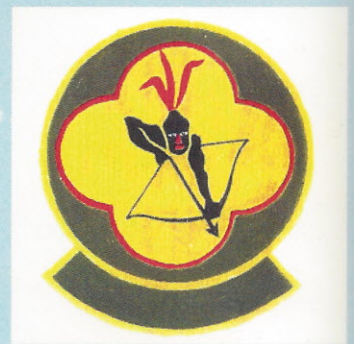


20th Squadron



THE SECOND WAS FIRST

429th Squadron



2nd
Bombardment Group



49th Squadron



96th Squadron





About the Author

Charles Richards, a native of Steubenville, Ohio was inducted into the Army Air Force in February 1942 at Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio. He received basic training and attended the Technical School at Shepard Field, Texas. He then continued his schooling at the B-24 Technical School at Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, California.

Following graduation he was assigned to the 18th Squadron, 34th Bombardment Group, Geiger Field, Spokane, Washington. His next assignment was to a cadre of the 363rd Squadron, 304th Bombardment Group, Ephrata, Washington. It was there that the 304th was redesignated the 2nd Bombardment Group. He then was deployed to North Africa with the Group in April 1943, to Italy in December of 1943 and rotated to the United States in July 1945. He was discharged on the 7th of September, 1945.

He married Jean Hadley, a native of Steubenville. They moved to California in 1952 where he was employed by The Marquardt Company as a manufacturing engineer. Following retirement they moved to Eugene, Oregon where he commenced the research for this book. In 1992 they moved to Sun Lakes, Arizona where they now reside.