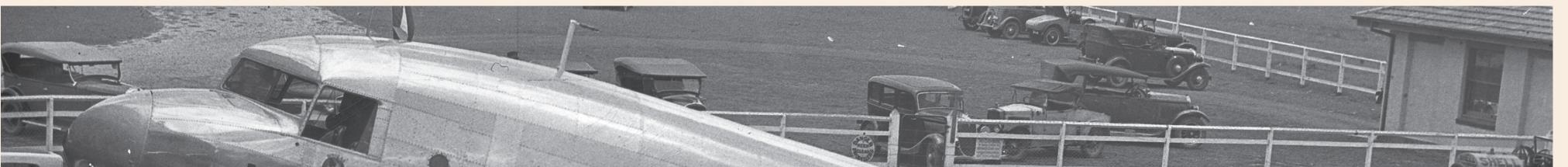


ARCHERFIELD AT WAR





Boeing B-17D Flying Fortress (foreground) at Archerfield 1941 Image courtesy of Roger Marks and Peter Dunn



A large crowd gathers around the KNILM aircraft. Archerfield played a major role during WWII for the Dutch community from the Netherlands East Indies (NEI - now Indonesia). The entire NEI administration evacuated to Brisbane upon the Japanese occupation of the territory. Image ca. 1940 John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland Image no 7708-0001-0090

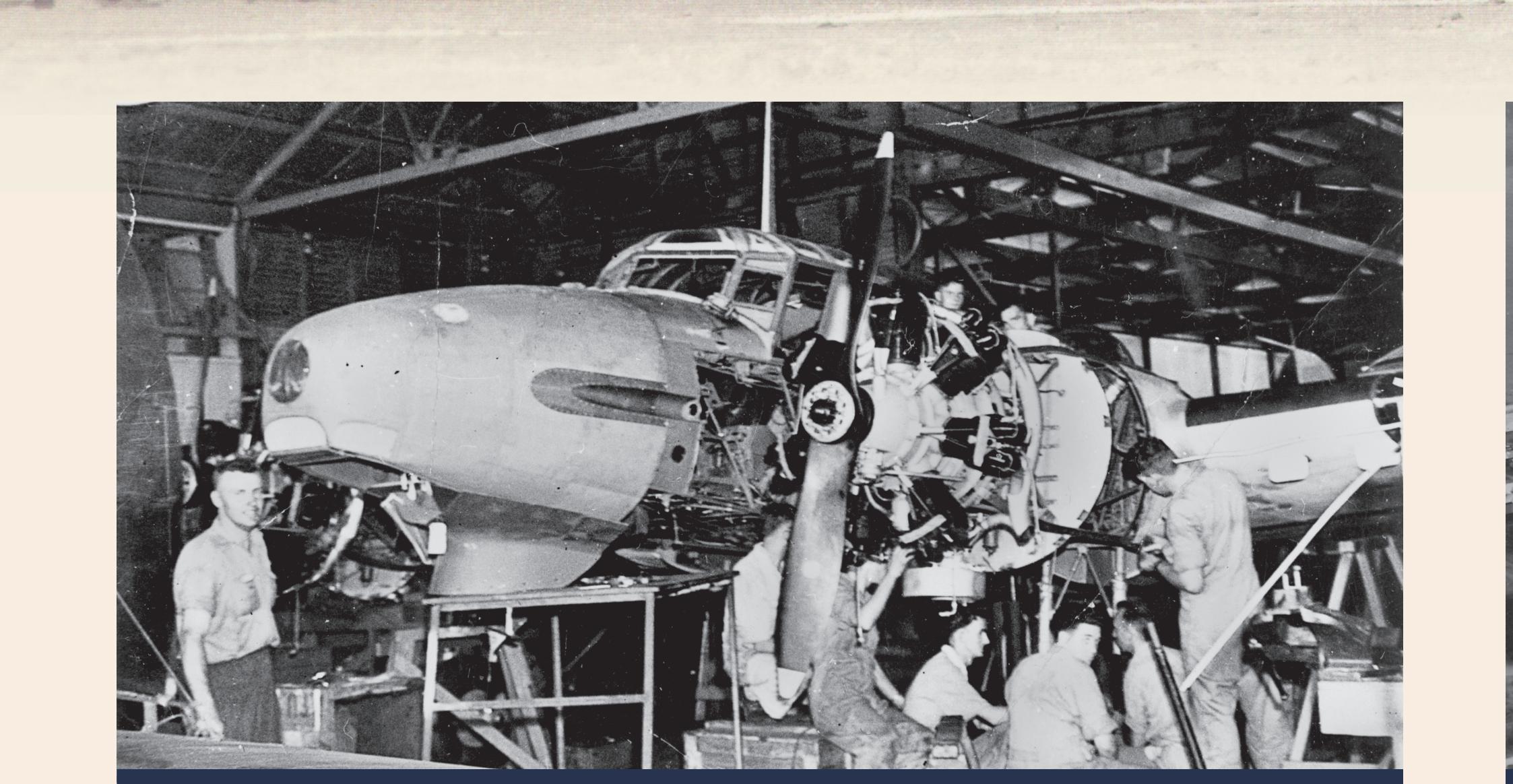
On 3rd September 1939, Australia declared war on Germany and Archerfield Aerodrome became a hive of activity of a different kind. As well as being home to RAAF No. 23 Squadron from 1939-1942, it was also a Pacific airbase for the United States Army 5th Air Force. During the conflict, Archerfield also played host to the Royal Netherlands Air Force and the Royal Navy Fleet Air American personnel. All 23 personnel lost their lives in the accident.

When the Japanese entered the war on 8 Dec 1941, Archerfield was put on 'war alert' – with slit trenches dug, air raid shelters constructed, buildings camouflaged, and aircraft dispersed into surrounding bushland to minimise damage.

Arm. Planes based here by the US Air Force included B-17 Flying Fortresses, B-24 Liberators, P-40 Kittyhawks, DC-3 Dakotas and B-26 Marauders.

Many tragic wartime incidents are recorded; here we honour just one of them. On Saturday 27 March 1943, Douglas DC3 (C-47) VH-CTB, A30-16 (A65-2) of 36 RAAF Squadron, Townsville, was involved in a fatal accident at Archerfield. The crew of four were killed as were all passengers consisting of 17 Australian and 2 By 20th July 1942, General Douglas MacArthur had moved his South-West Pacific Area headquarters from Melbourne to Brisbane, and Archerfield Airfield was taken over by units of the US Army Air Force (USAAF). The Americans established `Camp Muckley/Buckley' next to Archerfield to house service personnel. They referred to the airfield as Archer Field.

After the cessation of hostilities, both RAAF and British Naval air units maintained a presence at Archerfield until 1946.



Aircraft mechanics working on a British-designed Avro Anson Mk1 plane ca. 1942 John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland Neg no 2293



Aerial photograph, showing the intersection of Mortimer and Beatty roads, where the United States Airforce Unit 39Th Airlift Squadron was resident at Archerfield ca. 1943