

**25. Douglas A-20G-40-DO serial #43-21979 *Libby***  
**389th Bombardment Squadron, 312th Bombardment Group**



*Libby* was named by 389th Squadron Commanding Officer, Major Melmon Wells, after his first wife, who died of cancer after the war. *Libby* was actually Wells' second assigned A-20G, his first named which was transferred to 1/Lt Donald Dyer in May 1944. *Libby* was assigned into the Squadron at Gusap in June 1944. Wells flew *Libby* throughout the war, past his promotion to Group Commander in late April 1945, finishing the war with 144 missions, most in this aircraft. The 'W' on the rudder represented Wells' surname, and the aircraft is portrayed as it appeared at Gusap in April 1944. The style of calligraphy typified many 389th BS A-20Gs decorated at Gusap by Squadron artist Sgt Joe DiLorenzo. Wells' first gunner, Sgt Jack Bachelder, returned home around November 1944, but Sgt William Gallo remained *Libby*'s crew chief throughout the war. The single Japanese 'kill' marking denotes Wells' only aerial victory, a 7th Sentai Ki-49 bound for Cape Merkus, New Britain, which Wells claimed on 2 January 1944 whilst briefly attached to the 49th Fighter Group.

Wells stayed in the U.S Air Force after the war, and later became a General in Strategic Air Command (SAC), one of his duties being the surprise inspection of SAC bases. He then worked in real estate in California, where he eventually retired to a ranch in Santa Barbara, not far from the country residence of former U.S president Ronald Regan.