Information Sheet

R United States. Army Air Forces. Observation Squadron, 14th.
1036 Photographs, 1942.
One folder.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are five black-and-white photographic prints concerning the 14th Observation Squadron (later the 14th Liaison Squadron) and its training base at Rolla in Phelps County, Missouri. There are two aerial views of the camp and training field, a view of the main building, and two views of a “Formal Dance” held at the Rolla USO in August 1942.

According to the Air Force Historical Research Agency, the 14th Observation Squadron (Light) was constituted on 5 February 1942 and activated on 2 March 1942. It was redesignated as the 14th Observation Squadron on 4 July 1942. On 2 April 1943 it was renamed the 14th Liaison Squadron, under which name it saw extensive service in the European Theatre of Operations by flying photo reconnaissance, tactical observation, and mail and supply delivery missions. It was inactivated on 25 March 1949.

The 14th Observation Squadron appears to have been stationed at Rolla for just a short period, from 17 August 1942 until it moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee on 8 September 1942. Its base was a small airfield northeast of Rolla that later became an industrial park. The unit’s commander during its sojourn in Rolla was Maj. Augustus Becker.

The aerial photographs are 8x10 glossy prints that show an improved tent campsite alongside U.S. Highway 66, with the airfield just to the west of the camp. The 5x7 view of the permanent building includes five aircraft. The building’s roof has ROLLA painted on it in large letters. There are two 8x10 views of the formal dance at the Rolla USO. One has a caption, “FORMAL DANCE – U.S.O. – ROLLA, MO. – 14th OBSN. SQ. – AUG [remainder illegible].”

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