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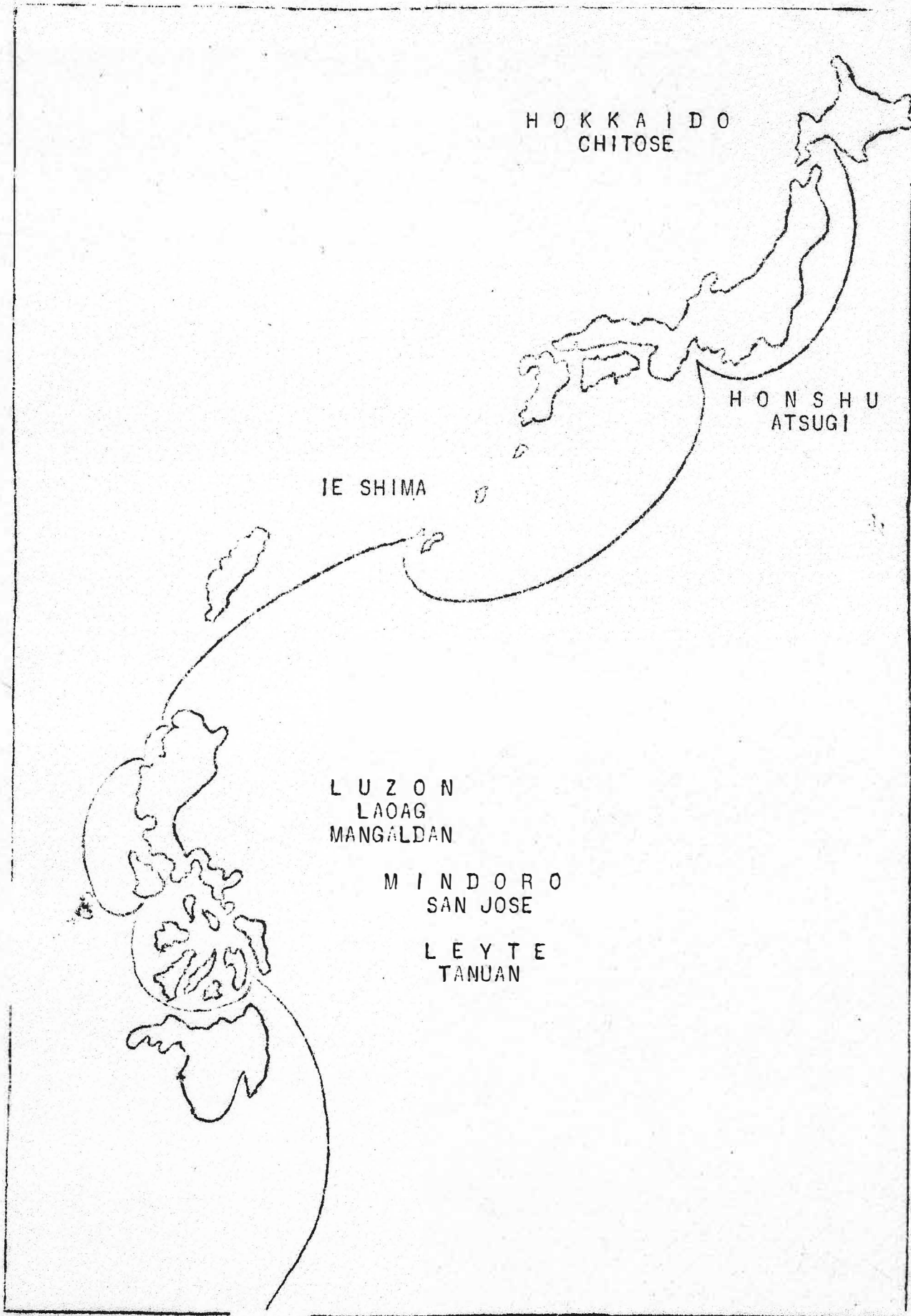
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HISTORY

Of the 343rd Airdrome Squadron

3rd Air Commando Group

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HOKKAIDO  
CHITOSE

HONSHU  
ATSUGI

IE SHIMA

LUZON  
LAOAG  
MANGALDAN

MINDORO  
SAN JOSE

LEYTE  
TANUAN

Heckel

# HISTORY OF THE 343RD AIRDROME SQUADRON

## INTRODUCTION

What follows is the history of the 343rd Airdrome Squadron - a collection of installments written in haste, and often in boredom, to meet the demands of an official regulation. The treatment doesn't really do justice to the subject, but time is short now, and it's the best record we have of what the squadron did in training and overseas.

There are repetitions and omissions, and an almost complete neglect of the many hours each day in which we did not sweat over airplane engines or swear over typewriters. But each chapter does prove, undeniably, that we put our shoulders to the wheel unstintingly and did our best.

And, in the passing, a cited date or a casual phrase may bring back all the things that have not been written about - the RONs from Mackall; those long, hard nights at Fort Wayne; the long, hot days aboard the "General Hershey"; "Noto's" Gabu gals; Art Wise's pay-night table; or the day that Newton flew.

The things we actually have accomplished are pretty faithfully set forth in the ensuing pages. They constitute an official record to be proud of. And they may serve as a sort of index to the other, better things for which we'll always remember the 343rd - the thousand-and-one friendly, funny, comradely incidents which arise when 180 distinct individuals must unite to achieve a goal set by fate (and the draft board).

At any rate, this is our sole slim record of what has been a sad and a wonderful experience for all of us - sad because each man has felt in it the waste of Time we sought, and needed, for private living; wonderful because, despite gripes and groaning, each of us has transcended this private loss and put aside personal objectives to achieve a common victory and a common Peace.

CHITOSE, HOKKAIDO  
3 November 1945