

# 5<sup>th</sup> ENGINE OVERHAUL SQUADRON

## LINEAGE

## STATIONS

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

Cpt M. E. Punzak, #1945

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM

## EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

*The Fifth Engine Overhaul Squadron, then designated as the 32nd Depot Repair Squadron, was activated at Hill Field, Utah, in January of 1942. It was not until the following August that the first officers and enlisted personnel were assigned to the unit. While stationed at Hill Field the Squadron underwent rigid military and technical training. Alerted for overseas duty in April of 1943 they departed from the United States on the 20th of June. The following month the Squadron disembarked at Sydney, Australia, and camped at Warwick Farm, a former race track*

*which had been appropriated by the United States Army as a military post. While stationed there the entire personnel of the Squadron worked three shifts around the clock unloading incoming supplies. This activity was necessitated by the shortage of manpower in Australia. Not all their time was spent in unloading boats, as the men were allowed time to participate in the recreational facilities the City of Sydney had to offer. It was there that they became acquainted with the Australian people, and learned that in many ways Australia is very much like the United States. The Australians made the Squadron's stay a pleasant one, and will be remembered by the men for many years to come. On the 20th of August the men found themselves in completely different surroundings, for it was on that eventful day that they first set foot on the muddy shores of "bomb happy" Port Moresby. That night they experienced their first enemy air raid. Assigned to the 27th Air Depot Group, the officers and enlisted men were placed in all sections of the Depot, and soon proved themselves competent in handling the tasks to which they were assigned. In April of 1944 the unit, then known as the 32nd Depot Repair Squadron, was disbanded and reorganized as the Fifth Engine Overhaul Squadron. Their camp at Port Moresby was named in honor of S/Sgt. Junior E. Stapleton and Pvt. George Tyrer, who lost their lives in the line of duty less than a week after the Squadron's arrival at the base.*

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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.