

Air Base Pot Boils Anew; Orphan May Get Home

Four staff officers of the First Air force, Mitchell field, Long Island, N. Y., visited Atterbury Army Air field Wednesday and there were indications today that a decision is near on future use of the local base, which has been something of an orphan for the past several weeks.

Whether the base will be put to more active use or be closed is not known, but it appears unlikely that the field will remain under its curtailed program much longer.

Capt. George B. Ober, commanding officer at the field, said he knew nothing definite concerning future plans for the base, but supported the opinion that a decision on it is near.

High Officers Visit It.

Officers who visited the field Wednesday were Col. J. C. Denniston, plans and training officer for the First Air force; Col. R. T. Nichols, personnel officer for the First Air force; Lt. Col. R. A. Finn, assistant training officer, and Maj. W. R. Muller, assistant supply officer.

At present the local base is a sub-base of Godman field at Fort

Knox, Ky., and is an installation of the Third Air force, which has headquarters at Tampa, Fla.

The visit of the First Air force officers here Wednesday may mean that the local field is to be transferred to that force, but nothing definite is known. Other commands also have recently visited the field with a view toward transferring it to their organizations.

Used by Cub Planes.

Although the base here has remained open, its activity has been curtailed for some time and both civilian and military personnel has been substantially reduced.

Planes on cross-country flights have been landing at the base, along with some planes from Freeman field and the Piper Cub artillery reconnaissance planes stationed with the 106th Infantry division at Camp Atterbury.

The small single-engine reconnaissance planes have been seen over Columbus frequently since arrival of the 106th division at Atterbury. In addition to use for artillery reconnaissance, the little planes also observe camouflages and "bomb" the ground forces with flour sacks.

1944/04/26 Air Base may get new home. 106th using small planes

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