

Radar Photographs

These are photographs from the personal photograph album of Second Lieutenant John E. "Jack" Voisin. Jack was stationed at the Yuma Army Air Field in Yuma, Arizona from June 10 until November 11, 1945. Jack was previously trained as a navigator and bombardier. During a ten-week training course in radar observation bombardment, Jack studied the H2X radar system.

Just as Jack entered the service in the fall of 1943, the British debuted the H2S radar, nicknamed *Home Sweet Home*. This technology was a means for bombardiers to find their targets at night or through overcast clouds. Up until that point, bombardiers generally had to see their targets to hit them. The United States developed its own version of the radar, named H2X. It was nicknamed "Mickey" for Mickey Mouse, which was not intended to belittle it.¹

Although radar had been invented, it was still a crude and mistrusted technology early in the war. H2X radar would have been the latest modern technology and Jack was probably being trained in its use for an invasion of Japan. Japan was seemingly always cloudy and H2X was used to supplement the Norden bombsight. In early 1945, B-29 bomber aircrews were not well trained in the use of H2X radar.² In actuality H2X was not very precise. It was better suited to area bombing than to precision bombing.³

Jack trained aboard a TB-25J bomber, which was a B-25J converted for use as a trainer. He flew training missions around Yuma, Arizona and into southern California.



This is me in front of the radar set in a B-25. My left hand is on the controls of the "computer box" of the set. The scope and main control box are to the left of it.



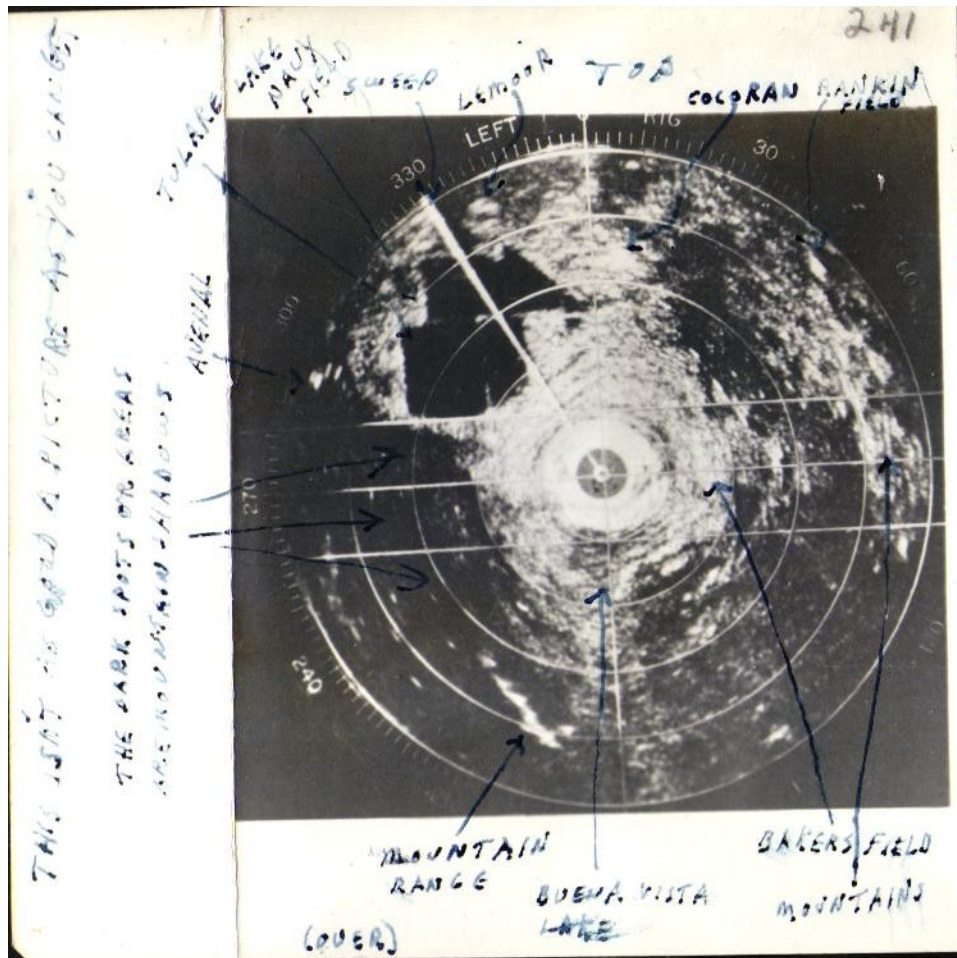
Radar Set in B-25

Part of Jack's training involved taking pictures of the radar screen. He took the following three pictures and annotated them. They were probably taken in October 1945.

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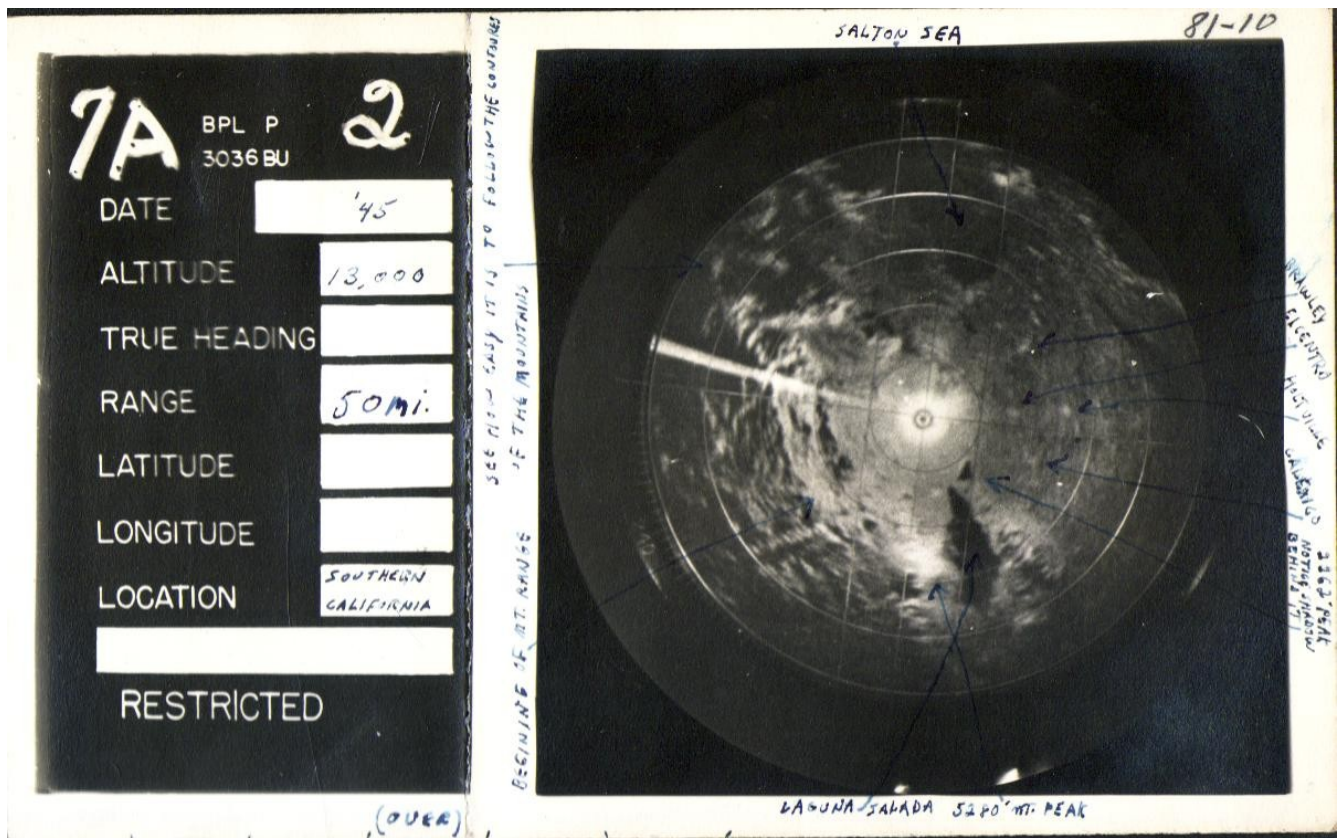
Tulare Lake—Navy Field—Sweep—Lemoor TOP Cocoran—Rankin Field

This isn't as good a picture as you can get
The dark spots or areas are mountain shadows
Avenal



Mountain Range—Buena Vista Lake—Bakersfield—Mountains
(over)

[Written on the back:] [Tulare] Lake is a "man made" lake and they can flood different parts of it. That is why it [doesn't] look exactly like it [does] on the map.



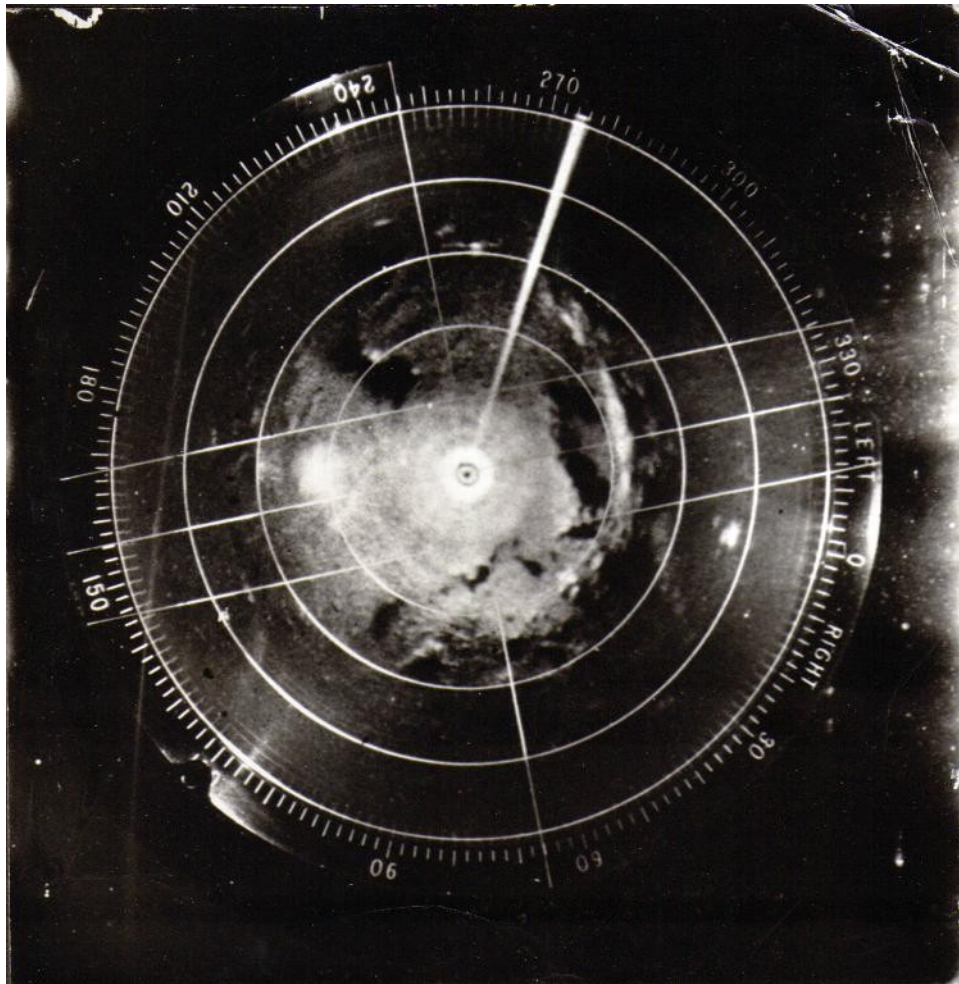
This was taken on the 50 mi range and is a pretty good picture except for one thing--the "revr gain" wasn't high enough. That is why the towns don't show up very big.

Salton Sea 81-10

Beginning of mt. range--See how easy it is to follow the contours of the mountains.

Brawley--El Centro--Holtville--Calexico--2262' peak noting shadow behind it

Laguna--Salada--5280' mt. peak



This is on the 20 mi. range so the distance between each circle is 4 miles. This picture was taken about 65 mi. north of L. A.

Bearing	Range	
210	8 mi.	Rogers Dry Lake. Muroc Army Air Field [now known as Edwards Air Force Base] is under the 2nd. range circle on the west edge of the lake.
110	10	Dry Lake. (Harper Lake)
350	7	Notice shadow behind mountain
260	12	Mojave Navy Field

- ¹ Geoffrey Perret, *Winged Victory: The Army Air Forces in World War II*. New York: Random House, 1993, p. 273.
- ² Geoffrey Perret, *Winged Victory: The Army Air Forces in World War II*. New York: Random House, 1993, p. 452.
- ³ Geoffrey Perret, *Winged Victory: The Army Air Forces in World War II*. New York: Random House, 1993, p. 292.