PIN-UPS AND PROSTITUTES
Pin-ups (such as Rita Hayworth, at right) were an important part of military culture. This short public service film both lampoons the popularity of pin-ups and underscores the “real” object of soldiers affection.
Another common outlet for military sexuality was the “nose cone” art on airplanes.
A permissive military culture was especially prevalent in settings like Hawai‘i, where soldiers were both one step from battle and far from home, where the military presence was well-established, and where the “May Act” (which regulated red-light districts on the mainland) was not enforced. Honolulu’s “Hotel Street” was a sprawling market of trinkets and liquor and sex designed to capitalize on the infusion of military salaries (in the picture below, sailors are in line for a brothel). It was, as one observer noted the place to “get stewed, screwed, and tattooed.” As the mayor of Honolulu argued at the time: “If the sexual desires of men in this predominantly masculine community are going to be satisfied, certainly not one of us would rather see them satisfied in regulated brothels than by our young girls and women --- whether by rape, seduction, or the encouraging of natural tendencies.”