

JULY 1943

22 - 2025B, General: One plane of the 89th reconed Komiatun to Goodview Junction. Six B-25s of the 8th on a mission to Komiatun expended 11,700 pounds of bombs and 6800 x .50 cal.

23 - 203AA, COAEE: Four B-25s of the 8th and five of the 13th made a bombing and strafing attack on Mololo. A large building was destroyed. This was our first mission where the 75MM cannon mounted on a plane was used. One B-25 of the 90th weather reconed at Lae, Salamaua, and Cape Ward Hunt. Nine B-25s of the 90th made a barge sweep along the north coast of New Guinea destroying 16 barges. One 89th plane was sent to search for aircraft survivors 10 miles north of Lasage Island. Three more missions to the same area were flown on the 24, 25, and 26 for the same purpose.

24 - 204AWEE: Two B-25s of the 8th Squadron flew a Radar tracking mission to Kiriwina Island. Seven B-25s of the 90th struck the Cape Busching area destroying one barge. Results of other bombs dropped among barges and in villages unobserved.

25 - Verbal Orders First Air Task Force: One B-25 of the 13th Squadron carried out a weather recon between Kalanzoo and Salamaua.

26 - 206A⁺: One plane of the 90th made a weather recon to Salamaua, Wau and Bulolo.

27 - 207AA ABB: One plane of the 90th Squadron flew a weather recon to Salamaua, Wau and Bulolo. Four B-25s of the 13th attacked barge hideouts along the coast from Pomeron Bay south to Pineshafen Harbor. **Three** barges were destroyed and three others probably destroyed.

28 - 208UB, CC, ADD: Eleven B-25s of the 90th on a barge search on the north coast of New Britain destroyed three barges, two launches and a fuel dump. The 90th furnished six B-25s to attack surface craft off Cape Gloucester the same day. One Nell was destroyed with all passengers. Fourteen direct hits were scored on one destroyer and another was hit and left burning and listing heavily. One Zero was shot down. One B-25 of the 8th made a weather recon in the Lae-Salamaua area. Three B-25s of the 13th bombed a barge one mile up the river at Busching Point and strafed aircraft on Cape Gloucester strip and bombed a large destroyer. Two direct hits were scored on the destroyer causing explosions, flame and black smoke. One aircraft was definitely destroyed on Cape Gloucester airbase. Another small destroyer or gunboat was hit by three bombs.

JULY 1943

29 - 2094439: Four B-25s of the 13th and three of the 90th Squadron attacked a two stack destroyer four to five miles north-west of Cape Gloucester airbase. Thirteen direct hits were scored with 350 pounders and the ship was left beached and burning. Seven B-25s of the 8th also took part in this attack finishing off the destroyer with direct hits.

30 - 2014438: Nine 89th planes attacked twelve barges at Cape Erharde, Langenak Bay, Finschhafen Harbor, and Marien Harbor. Two barges were sunk. A weather recon with one 8th Squadron B-25 was made off Finschhafen.

31 - 2114438: Nine B-25s of the 8th Squadron struck barge hideouts at Langenak Bay, Marisch Harbor, Finschhafen, Sic and Marien Harbor. One wooden building was destroyed. Four barges were bombed and the mission, wharf and plantation areas at Finschhafen Harbor were thoroughly strafed and bombed. Seven planes of the 89th hit 7 barges at Ulanina, destroying two of them. Seven B-25s of the 90th made a large sweep from Cape Busching to Borren Bay. Seven barges were completely destroyed and three were probably destroyed.

SUMMARY: 300 Sorties flown; 168 tons bombs dropped; 61,450 x .50 cal, and 258,450 x .50, 450 x20mm and 54x75mm expended.

TO: CO ATTACK GROUP THREE

FM: COMBOMCON FIVE/S/ GENERAL RAMEY

CONGRATULATION ON SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON DESTROYERS.

T.O.O. 281220/K

T.O.R. 291408/K

D.W.A.

A 179
W/T

