

Lt Helbert had the mission and Ladd, Burch and Rowland made this mission with him... nil observations on either mission.....

July 28- A barge mission... crews were up at 3:30 AM and had breakfast at 4 AM... delicious scrambled eggs and toast and coffee..... The mission was a search of the barge hideouts on the North Coast of New Britain..... Borgen Bay, Rottock Bay, and Rein Bay and areas to be searched... the crews that made this mission were:

318	Henebry	Col Coleman(22nd Gr)	Soffer(N)	Moore	Dietz	Humphries
727	Helbert	Ladd	Kunze	Piper		
692	McCoun	Smith	Adams	Baumgardner		
946	MacLellan	Shoop	Atkins	Manovich		
700	Lockhart	Prince	Parsons	Spies		
515	Pancher	Gerry	McDermott	Bowling		
793	Hosbach	Ruse	Patterson	Casarino		
316	McKee	Baucom	Schwab	Rowland		
443	Seeberg	Phelps	Clark	Pecosky		
278	Fisher	Burgess	Maroney	Haught		
442	Wonderly	Meding	Maupin	Valent(turned back		

with engine trouble)

The coast of New Britain was reached near Arawe and the flights, with 8 P-38s above, flew to Rottock Bay on the treetops... several barge hideouts were discovered and for 30 minutes a round robin began,.... Maj Henebry and Lt Helbert came upon some japs vacating a barge on the beach and let them have a few squirts of lead... suddenly 15 Zeros appeared... the first that we knew of them was seeing 4 dive on a P-38 who managed to get on their tails... as the 90th hurriedly assembled in a protective formation and streaked homewards, three Zeros were observed to fall into the sea in flames or out of control. Lt McCoun, who was last to join formation, was trailed by 6 Zeros who never came within the range of Pvt Adams' guns..... When home

base was reached the P-38s called us and let us know that they shot down 6 Zeros for sure and were claiming several more as probables....

The task had not been completed at New Britian so a new mission was hurriedly arranged by Group..... Group did the briefing also... 16 B-25s from the 3d Group with 24 P-38s top cover..... The 90th would send but 7 ships... all that were in commission..... Col Hall would lead.... rumors that a Nip convoy was enrouté along the North Coast of New Britain in the vicinity of Cape Gloucester... those of the 90th scheduled were:

318	Henebry	Ladd	Moore	Dietz
793	Wonderly	Meding	Sucker	Taber
727	Jones	Shull	Epperson	Valent
316	Hawkins	Neuman	Sampson	Butler Williamson(Intel)
946	MacLellan	Shoop	Covington	Malicki
443	Fisher	Burgess	Clark	Pecosky
808	Gunn	Helbert	Powers	Strom

This mission which was to hit the south coast of New Britain and then proceed due North around Cape Gloucester, ran into poor weather and the P-38s turned back..... In the vicinity of Cape Gloucester two Japanese destroyers were discovered..... Immediately all planes got in an echelon of elements, waited their turn, and went in.... A/A was intense but inaccurate as to altitude... the planes, equipped for a barge mission (100 pound bombs) could not do too much with this load... but numerous direct hits were scored and the destroyers were stopped and crippled and left in a burning condition..... Col Gunn poured 35 rounds of 75 mm into the larger of the two destroyers, which looked like a light cruiser with its one funnel..... Henebry, Hawkins and MacLellan scored several direct hits..... En route home, which was in scattered formation, Zeros which had been buzzing

around the destroyers but had not attempted interception, disappeared ... at Cape Gloucester, Henebry observed a Jap twin-tailed bomber (first believed a transport), going in to land on the strip... He gave it several squirts with his, .50s... Col Gunn and several other planes followed suit..... "Pappy" said he put a 75 mm shell between a bunch of Nips running from the plane (this was after it had landed, obviously)..... the A/A fire from the runway was severe... the plane was definitely put out of commission and it was burning..... An excellent record for the 90th books..... Today: 8 barges destroyed, 2 destroyers damaged and one bomber destroyed.....

Pfc Marvin H. Sable joined the Squadron today..... Lt Ransom was transferred to Group Operations.....

Sgt Covington, it was discovered, shot down a Zero this afternoon... it came in close and Covington let him have it..... Sgt Malicki observed it smoking and then falling into the water... so this makes the record even better..... 8 barges, 2 destroyers, one bomber, and one pursuit.....

"China Girl" with Gene Tierney at night... excellent.. a veritable deluge came during the show and continued throughout the night... everyone suffered by this rainstorm to some extent... camp flooded... very cool.....

July 29- barge mission... 8 B-26s, 16 B-25s of the 3d, with 16 P-38s..... Col Hall leading..... 3 ships from the 90th made this...

They were:

316	Hosbach	Ruse	Burch	Rowland
442	Seebery	Gerry	Maupin	Thompson
692	McCoun	Smith	Adams	Baumgardner
808	Gunn	Jones	Powers	Strom

One stranded destroyer was discovered off Cape Gloucester and all planes forgot about the barge mission and went in for the attack... A/A from the crippled and beached destroyer was intense and accurate at first... then it died out... all the 90th ships scored direct hits..... McCoun's plane suffered two hits by anti-aircraft fire... Pvt Adams and Sgt Baumgardner had narrow escapes when scrapnel entered the side and missed them by inches... McCoun's plane suffered turret riddled and one gun put out of commission... the destroyer was left as a landmark... that is all it will ever be good for... the superstructure was wiped off and the ship broke in half just as the 3d left the area... big explosions and dense, black smoke was observed..... The barge mission search was never continued and all planes immediately returned to home base..... This constituted another success for the 90th.....

"Pride of the Yankees" at night... another violent rainstorm.. and the first thunder and lightening we have seen in a long time... When it rains around here it is no half matter... tents are soaked thru and nothing seems to keep some amount of water seeping through somewhere.....

The mail situation is excellent these days... its remarkable how one can get a letter from the East Coast in 10 days... It must be flown to Frisco and then to Australia, then to New Guinea at Port Moresby and finally to Dobordura... But still, 10 days is fast... Outgoing mail does not travel quite as fast..... "V Mail" is encouraged, but most people use the air mail letters... one can write more and it