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SA-BOMB-13-41
Jul 1948

P.R.C.

13th Bomb. Squadron
1-31 July 1948

00043597

2-5413-11

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
APO 328

3 August 1948

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

TO : Commanding General
United States Air Force

P.R.C.

This history was compiled by 1st Lt. Jerry J. Hunt with the clerical aid of S/Sgt William F. Shawler. Facts included in the narrative have been compiled from reports submitted by Section Heads. Observations not otherwise credited are based on the personal knowledge and opinions of 1st Lt. Jerry J. Hunt.

Jerry J. Hunt
JERRY J. HUNT
1st Lt., USAF
Squadron Historian.

00043597

2-5913-77

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
APO 328

UNIT HISTORY

1 July thru the 31st July 1948.

The mission of the 13th Bombardment Squadron (L) continues to be that of occupational duties in Japan, as well as operational training and surveillance. Our objective is to become 100% combat ready, both individually and collectively in all phases in which the B-26* is considered a combat weapon.

PERSONNEL:

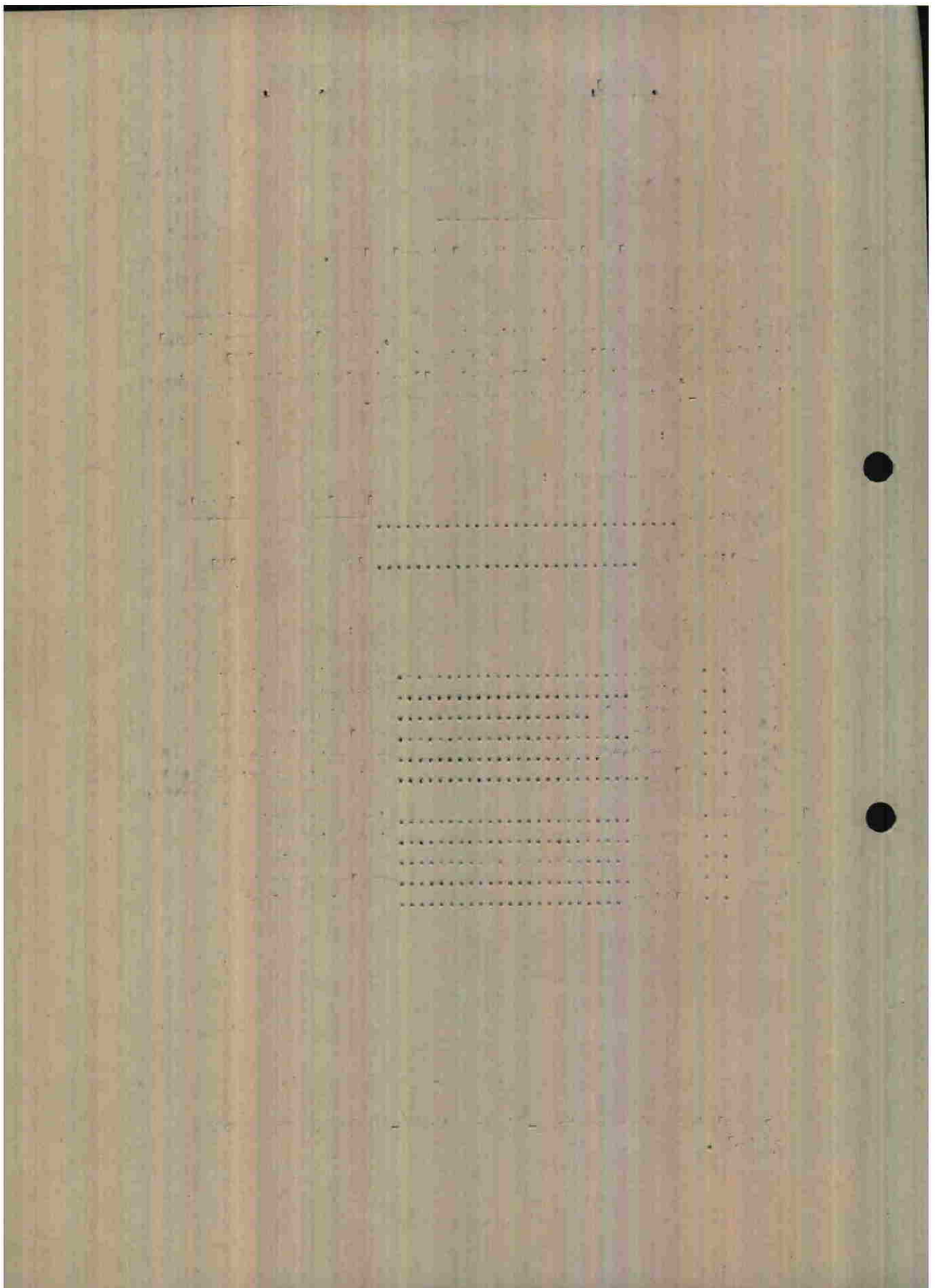
Morning report status:

	1 July	31 July
Officers.....	28	30
Enlisted Men.....	107	121

KEY PERSONNEL FOR THE SQUADRON AS FOLLOWS:

Major	C.H. Gross.....	Commanding Officer
Capt	D.E. Godbey.....	Adjutant
Capt	C.L. Martindale.....	Operations Officer
Capt	E.E. Jahnke.....	Supply Officer
Capt	G.K. Hannaford.....	Armament Officer
Capt	R.M. Elam.....	Engineering Officer
1 Sgt	T.J. McCann.....	First Sergeant
M Sgt	L.W. Garner.....	Line Chief
T Sgt	E.J. Jackson.....	Armament Chief
T Sgt	C.H. Keaton.....	Supply Sergeant
Sgt	M.L. Altiery.....	Operations Clerk

* Nomenclature changed to B-26 from the A-26 during the month of July.



OPERATIONS SECTION:

During the month of July there has been a continual struggle to get the 20 required flying hours for each of the rated officers. At the beginning of the month weather was primarily the thing that hindered operations. At the latter part of July maintenance of aircraft hindered flying. The 90th Bombardment Squadron were given first priority at PLM for maintenance of their aircraft since they were scheduled for field maneuvers. After the 90th planes left PLM they accepted 9 planes of the 13th for maintenance. At PLM it was discovered that 3 of the airplanes required extra work on the engines and engine fire walls because of corrosion.

Another incident happened at the air to ground gunnery target at Mito on 27 July 1948 when the plane 1st Lt. Ichenhour was flying was hit by a stray 50 cal bullet that ricocheted off the target and knocked a hole in the canopy. This is the second incident of this nature in the 13th Bombardment Squadron.

The entire squadron was deeply concerned and shocked when they heard the news of the deaths of two of the 13th Squadron men. They were Capt Herman and Sgt Klar. They were killed while flying on a routine simulated combat mission (strike on four Navy ships). The cause of the accident has not been determined. Another officer, 1st Lt. Roberts, bombardier, was also killed in this accident. He was attached to the 13th Squadron for flying purposes from the Hq. 3rd Bombardment group.

The Base Commander has set forth rigid instruction for the three Bombardment squadrons of the 3rd Bombardment Group concerning the traffic pattern to be flown by the B-26 airplane. The traffic pattern to be flown is described in a Base Regulation, but a few pilots have not been complying with this SOP; therefore, the Base Commander feels the need for additional emphasis along this phase.

YOKOTA SELECTS 13th BOMBARDMENT MAN
FOR
SOLDIER OF THE MONTH.



T/Sgt Frank Eidikaitis

T/Sgt Frank Eidikaitis of the 13th Bombardment Squadron was selected by a board of officers this month as outstanding Soldier of the Month for the entire Yokota Base. Each Squadron on the base submitted their recommendation for the soldier of the month to this board of officers. As an award for Being the best soldier of Yokota for July 1948 T/Sgt Eidikaitis is entitled to receive the following:

\$10.00 merchandise from the PX
7 days rest leave
Letter of commendation from the
Base Commander at a formal review.

CONGRATULATIONS T/Sgt Eidikaitis !!!

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:

Two Enlisted Men of the squadron have made application to West Point and are in Yokahama taking examinations. They are Sgt Alderdice and PFC Ricks.

Capt Elam and 1 Lt. Ted Smith and Corporal Terry left on the 4th of July 1948 on a mission to accompany P-51 aircraft from Japan to the Philippines. Reports have it that they have been detained at Itazuke awaiting good weather and maintenance on the P-51 planes. They are expected to return on or about the 31st of July.

1st Lt. Knowlton, Sgt Piercy and S/Sgt Austin attended a chemical school at Chitose during the month of July. In the near future it is expected that the squadrons on the field will renew ~~xxx~~ their efforts in chemical training. This will mean breaking out the old gas mask and probably going through the gas chamber.

The Squadron has 10 men attending anti-aircraft school on base at the present time. The purpose of this school is to prepare gun crews for unit defense plan. EM attending this school are as follows:

S/Sgt H.C. Swanson	Pfc J.J. Frain
Sgt H.P. Bullock	Pfc G.L. Little
Sgt A.E. Massey	Pfc J. Powell
Cpl L.R. Ellis	Pfc A.C. Schlink
Cpl T.R. Wood	Pvt J.H. Wilson

A General Base Alert was held 13 July 1948 at 0500 hours. This is the second practice alert held by the base in the past two months. As a whole the alert ran much smoother this last alert than before. This was caused primarily because the Unit S.O.P. had been rewritten and all personnel of the 13th were aware of their duties during the alert. The all clear signal was sounded at around noon the same day. In conjunction with the alert two flying missions were scheduled during the day. Pictures are included in this history of preparation and the actual second mission.

Enlisted Men who left for the Zone of Interior this month are as follows:

T/Sgt Fred Wood Jr.
S/Sgt Tony T. Garbiso

APPENDIX - Unit History

July 1948..

13th Bombardment Squadron

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING OFFICER
 13th Bombardment Squadron (L)
 Yokota Air Force Base
 APO 328

28 July 1948

SUBJECT: Monthly summary of events, 13th Bombardment Squadron (L),
 Engineering Section.

TO : Historical Officer
 13th Bombardment Squadron
 APO 328

1. In compliance with Yokota Air Force Base Regulation 45-1, dtd 22 April 1947, the following summary of events for the engineering section 13th Bomb Sq (L), is submitted for the month of July 1948.

2. The key personnel of the section are as follows:

Engineering Officer	Capt. Rhodes M Elam
Ass. Engineering Officer	Lt. Harry A Brown Jr
Communications Officer	Lt. Robert D Knowlton
Supply Officer	Lt. William F Harris
Line Chief	M/Sgt Lloyd W Garner
Sq Tech Inspector	M/Sgt Paul E Buntin

3. The present strength of this section is as follows:

Officers: 4
 Enlisted Men: 60
 Total: 64

a. Twenty nine (29) men are on loan to "PLM" compared to as authorized strength of sixty (60), this section is up to full strength.

b. T/Sgt. Fred Wood Jr, one of our flight chiefs has been relieved from duty and is awaiting assignment to the Zone of Interior.

4. Number and type of aircraft assigned to this Squadron are as follows:

B-26B: 11
 B-26C: 3
 TB-25-J: 1
 15

a. Classification of aircraft changed from A-26 to B-26 per authority contained in Fifth Air Force radio cite SCU 2697, dtd 7/13/48.

5. Up to date, this Squadron has flown a total of Five Hundred fourteen hours and twenty minutes (514:20) with B-26 type aircraft and twenty seven hours and thirty five minutes (27:35) with the TB-25J type aircraft. Consumption of more flying time was held up due to adverse weather conditions.

/s/ Harry A. Brown Jr.
/t/ HARRY A. BROWN JR.
1st Lt., USAF
Ass't Engineering Officer

TRUE COPY:
Jerry J. Hunt.
JERRY J. HUNT
1st Lt., USAF.

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
APO 328

AG 314.7

31 July 1948

SUBJECT: Monthly summary of events, Personal Equipment Section.

TO: Historical Officer
3rd Bombardment Group (L)
Yokota Air Force Base
APO 328

1. In compliance with regulation 45-1, Yokota Air Force Base, dtd 22 April 1947, the following summary of events for the Personal Equipment Section is submitted for the month of July 1948.

2. The Personnel for the Personal Equipment Section for the month of July was as follows:

1st Lt. Ted W. Smith	Personal Equipment Officer
Sgt. William E. Smith	Inspector and Clerk

3. There is a critical shortage of Back Type Parachutes in this Squadron. There are no replacements in sight this month as Base Supply can not fill our requisition.

4. Inspections of Parachutes, Life Vests, Life Rafts, and First Aid Kits have been made. All these inspections are complete and up to date.

/s/ Ted W. Smith
/t/ TED W. SMITH
1st Lt. USAF
Personal Equipment
Officer

TRUE COPY

Jerry J. Hunt
JERRY J. HUNT
1st Lt., USAF

The following pictures with the exception of the Soldier of the month were taken prior to and during a mission of rocket firing and bombing on the Onahara Shima range on the 13 July 1948. These pictures were taken by Sgt Bronson of the Cost Accounting Office here at Yokota. He was flying with 1 Lt. John Last. The Squadron is grateful to Sgt Bronson for the time and effort spent by him in affording these pictures for the Unit History.



Here comes a load of "Blue Devils" to be loaded for the mission. Shown in the weapons carrier left to right; S/Sgt Spry, S/Sgt Kritzer, driver, and Sgt Finny with back to camera.



Sgt Bronson shown looking toward the camera.



Rocket Loading prior to mission.



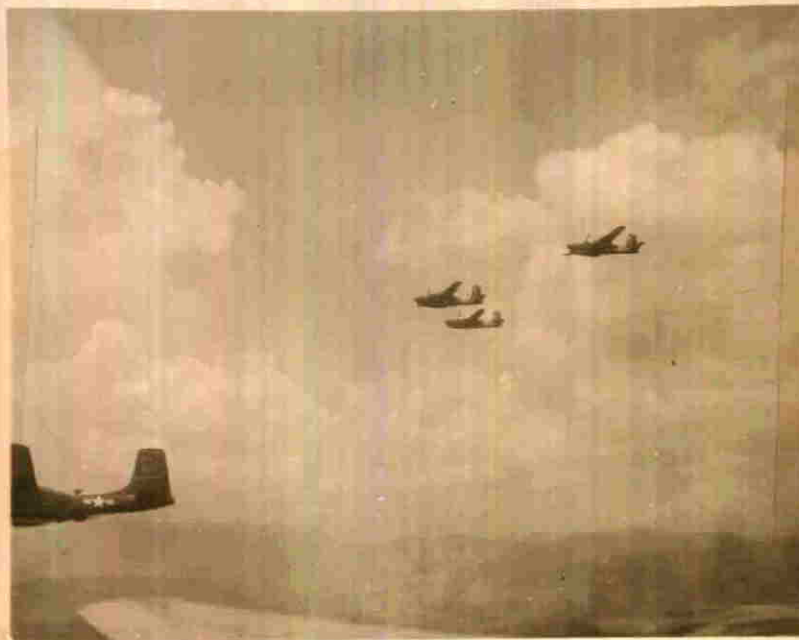
Left to right: S/Sgt Moore, S/Sgt Kritzer, S/Sgt Smiley, T/Sgt Jackson, S/Sgt Klar, killed in an aircraft crash on 26 July 1948, and Pfc Wirick.



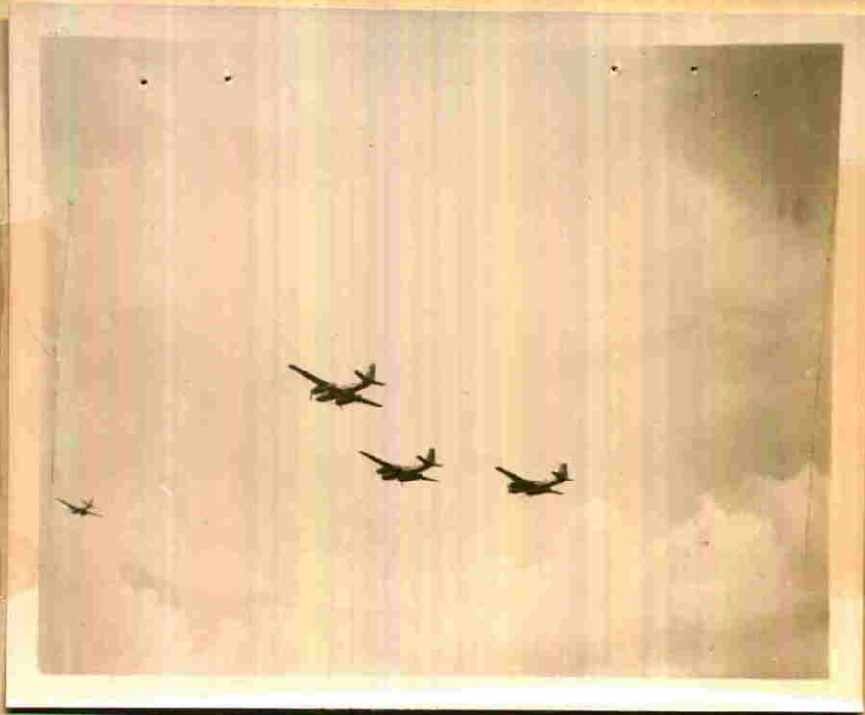
Left to right; Pfc Wirick, S/Sgt Klar, and T/Sgt Jackson. Person in cockpit unidentified. This airplane was lost in crash on 26 July 1948.



Loading another aircraft with rockets are; S/Sgt Spry, Pfc Wirick, S/Sgt Smiley, S/Sgt McCreedy, 1 Lt. Hunt, and S/Sgt King.



Flights of three.



High Flight



"Y" Flown by Capt Godbey.





Low Flight was led by Capt Godbey



Bombs Away!!!