

90 TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

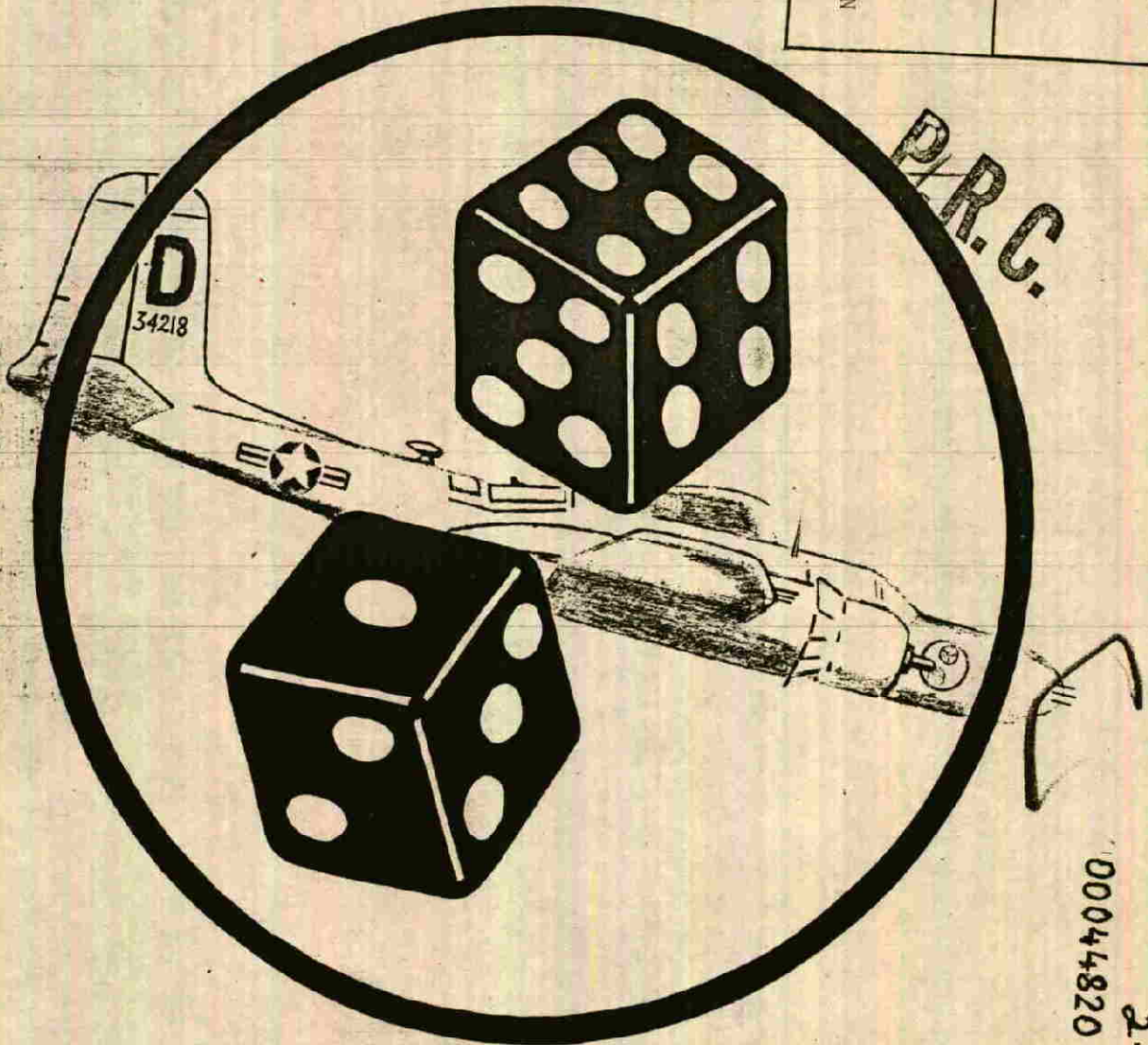
UNIT HISTORY

APR 1948

CATALOGED

RETURN TO  
RESEARCH STUDIES  
INSTITUTE  
U.S.A.F.  
HISTORICAL DIVISION  
RETIRES BRANCH

SQ-BOMB-90-HI  
APR 1948



3 RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

314 TH COMPOSITE WING

5 TH AIR FORCE

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2-5935-126

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3D BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE  
APO 328

90th/FPF/TMR/njv

30 April 1948

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Unit History

TO : Chief of Staff  
United States Air Force

**P.R.C.**

This history was compiled by 1st Lt Francis P. Fitzgerald and 1st Lt William M. Ratchford, with the clerical aid of Sergeant Nicholas J. Valenti. Facts in the narrative have been gathered from informal reports submitted by section heads. Observations not otherwise credited are based on the personal knowledge and opinions of 1st Lt Francis P. Fitzgerald and 1st Lt William M. Ratchford.

*Jerome N. Davis*  
JEROME N. DAVIS  
Capt., USAF  
Commanding

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*Restricted*

90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3D BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE  
APO 328

30 April 1948

SUBJECT: Unit History, 1 through 30 April 1948

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*Restricted*SECTION IPERSONNEL:

1. The 90th Bombardment Squadron (L) continues to be one of the three squadrons comprising the 3d Bombardment Group (L), stationed at Yokota Air Force Base, Honshu, Japan.

2. Key personnel for the month include:

Major Edward L. Jones	Commanding Officer
1st Lt William M. Ratchford	Adjutant
Capt Jerome N. Davis	Operations Officer
Capt Jack P. Smith	Supply Officer
1st Lt David A. Jones	Engineering Officer
1st Lt Francis P. Fitzgerald	Armament Officer
1st Lt Viking H. Lian	Communications and Personal Equipment Officer
F Sgt William D. Scruggs	First Sergeant

1st Lt Milford G. Dunlop transferred to the Zone of Interior in the middle of the month. 1st Lt Viking H. Lian took over his duties as Personal Equipment Officer.

3. The total Enlisted strength on the 30th of April was 98, as compared with 102 on the last day of March.

4. Total Officer strength on the 30th of April was 21 officers, as compared with 24 on the last day of March.

Captain Herbert C. Engbrecht and 1st Lt Stanley C. Smith were officially taken off the morning report on the 29th of April, but actually had not departed from Japan for the Z. I. where they are being transferred, having each completed a full tour overseas.

5. Total gains in the Squadron for the month are as follows:

1st Lt George R. Berry  
1st Lt Harold E. Bright

S Sgt Paul G. Lester  
S Sgt Norman L. Browning  
S Sgt Michail J. Saj  
Cpl Rual R. Garcia  
Sgt Oscar M. Byrd  
Cpl Raymond B. Glidden  
Cpl Wade A. Hilliard  
Pfc Don E. McCarthy  
Pfc Dennis Wigodinski  
Pfc James A. Wilcox  
Pvt John A. Dickens  
Pvt Harold F. Leep

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Cont'd Section I, Personnel

Total losses to the squadron are as follows:

1st Lt Robert D. Hippert  
Captain Herbert C. Engelbrecht  
1st Lt Stanley C. Smith  
1st Lt Milford G. Dunlop

T Sgt Kenneth C. Sharp  
S Sgt James L. Carter  
S Sgt Mathew E. Coody  
S Sgt Manus J. Corrigan  
S Sgt Henry S. Daigel  
Sgt Louis P. Lohr  
Sgt Oscar M. Byrd  
Sgt Lawrence J. Rivera  
Sgt Carmen D. Polino  
Cpl Milton D. Barnett  
Cpl Ollan K. Rowell  
Cpl Rual R. Garcia  
Pfc Vincent C. Carr  
Pvt Charles R. Duley  
Pvt John J. Dickens

6. Promotions during the month were as follows:

Cpl Joseph H. Rogers

Promoted to Sergeant

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*Restricted*SECTION IIREJOR ACTIVITIES:

1. Inclement weather, combined with maintenance problems during the month of April, served to reduce the total flying time with the sixteen assigned A-26 aircraft as compared with the record set last month. However, maximum use was made of the available flying hours and aircraft in commission to substantially increase the number of combat-ready pilots, thereby improving the tactical efficiency of the 90th Bombardment Squadron as a fighting unit. This still remains the primary objective of our collective efforts.

The total of 549 hours on the flyable A-26's was divided among the 17 assigned and 18 attached pilots.

2. Part of the afore-mentioned maintenance problems were due to the shortage of personnel in the engineering section. Six men were lost during the month, three to specialist schools in the vicinity and three permanent losses to the Zone of Interior. There were no gains in personnel for the engineering section throughout April.

One aircraft, #44-34279 was AOGP for the entire month for want of nose-wheel cross-beam assembly. Another, #44-4281 was grounded for 20 days because pilots were continually reporting a "Cutting-Out" condition of the right engine. Thorough checks would be made, both on the ignition and fuel systems, the aircraft would be test-hopped and declared OK, then a flight or two later the same condition would appear again. After this happened several times the assistance of a Pratt-Whitney Technical Representative at JAMA was asked. After the installation of a new fuel feed valve from the carburetor the engine checked out OK and to this date is still "purring" like a new one.

3. Despite the lack of flyable days, as far as weather was concerned, when the minimum requirements on instruments and night flying were completed, a concentrated effort was made on the firing of 2.25 inch practice rockets; especially during the last week of the month. The expenditure report indicates that more rockets were fired at Mito Range during April than any month so far this year.

4. The latest brain-child of the 90th Bomb Sqdn, i. e. the tow-target attachment attachable to any A-26 wing bomb-rack, was fully tested and tried during the month. Various types of passes, as suggested by the TM on tow-target gunnery, were made on each of three different days, covering three-hour periods, in an effort to find the most efficient firing patterns which will give the gunners a maximum of training. The Group gunnery office will, in the near future, put out an SOP adaptable to our particular water range. The other two squadrons in the Group, incidentally, have both obtained tow-target attachments from the PLM workshop, patterned after the one designed by our armorer-gunners. Until such time as a regular tow-target ship with a reel installment in the gunners compartment is available to the group this attachment will serve the purpose very well, the only disadvantage being the necessity for pulling the target off the runway as compared to the advantage of being able to reel a target in and out of a regular tow-target ship.

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## Cont'd Section II, Major Activities

5. On the 6th of the month, "Army Day" for the Ground Forces, the Group put a 36 ship formation in aerial review over Tokyo, participating in the Army Day ceremonies there. The formation was led by Colonel James R. Gunn Jr., the Base Commanding Officer. The 12 airplanes from the 90th were led by our Squadron C. O. Major Jones. The formation made two passes at 1000 ft. over the greater Tokyo area, going north and south.

On 20 April a tactical Group mission was called for. It was necessary for each aircraft to climb from takeoff through an 800 ft. ceiling and form on top. It was accomplished without any difficulty as the overcast was only a few hundred feet thick. However, on course to the target some rain and light snow was encountered, causing the high flight of the 90th to lose contact with the rest of the formation. The leader brought the flight back to the home base when he was unable to rejoin the formation.

6. The Squadron C. O., on the 2nd of the month, requested that section heads start making notes and preparing for extended squadron maneuvers. Nothing definite was known at the time, except that one squadron of the Group was to go out at a time for an indefinite period, operating individually from a specified airstrip under simulated combat conditions. The 13th Squadron was the first to go out on about the 18th of the month. They remained for a period of ten days. In the meantime our sections were preparing for a similar move in the undetermined future.

Along the same line, but not actually for the same purpose, the squadron, on the 10th of the month was placed on an alert status. All personnel of the unit were restricted to the base, and combat crews, which included Pilot, Gunner, and Engineer, were ordered to be prepared to get off the ground within 30 minutes from time of notice, should the word come for any reason at any time. Combat crews took all field-equipment and personal effects to the line, available for immediate loading, small arms were taken to the line for immediate issue in a moments notice, and luggage racks were loaded into the bombays of flyable aircraft. The alert took effect on a Saturday morning. By the time Monday came around no word to go had been received, and by the middle of the week the alert status was modified to allow more freedom of movement. Eventually the alert was completely called off. If nothing else, however, the situation showed each section what it lacked in the way of flexibility in the event something similar should occur in the future.

7. On the 20th of the month the 90th furnished three aircraft to participate in a bombing demonstration with 500 lb and 100 lb general purpose demolition bombs. The skip-bombing was carried out at the Onohara Shima range with ordnance personnel from the group, 314th Composite Wing, 5th Air Force, and Far Eastern Air Forces, observing. The purpose was to check reports that some of the bombs that had been used for training were giving low order detonation upon impact, an obviously dangerous thing in low altitude bombing. From a total of 12 500 lb bombs and 32 100 lb bombs dropped individually, the ordnance observers saw 2 that definitely exploded upon impact. As a temporary safety measure the lot numbers on the bombs used were suspended from further issue, and a full report is being sent to Aberdeen Maryland for their recommendations.



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## Cont'd Section II, Major Activities

8. In possible connection with the alert status imposed on several of the tactical organizations on the base, was the order by the Commanding officer, Colonel Gunn, that immediate steps be taken to bring up the efficiency of unit anti-aircraft defense, thereby increasing the base anti-aircraft defense. As an immediate step, this organization appointed a gun crew to be familiarized with the M-2 cal. 50 ground machine gun, of which we now have five. They were taken to the small arms firing range and fired at stationary targets until a fair degree of skill was attained by each assigned gunner. As part of the long range base defense plan a school has been set up which will thoroughly train the gunners by covering everything from the stripping of the guns to actual firing at moving targets at Mito water Range. T Sgt William E. Auburn of our Armament Section was placed TDY with the base school to assist in setting up the course, and to instruct the ground phase of the training.

9. The squadron supply section this month completed a physical inventory of all T. O. & E. property in the organization. The job was a rush order and required a great deal of work on the part of supply personnel. Cpl Johnson of the Orderly Room and Sgt Burton of Operations were assigned to supply for two weeks to help with the project. The midnight oil was pretty well used up before the job was done, but the required report was rendered in adequate time to meet the suspense date.

With the prospect of maneuvers in the near future there has been a great deal of planning from the supply section. Both the pre-planning and preparations will undoubtedly pay dividends once the move into the field is made.

10. Major General White, C. G. of 5th Air Force was on the base the last day of the month, conducting an informal inspection. 5th Air Force Maintenance Inspector, Lt. Colonel Enchson, a member of his inspection party, checked our engineering section and was evidently quite pleased as he made no recommendations at the time. He is, incidentally, a former member of the 90th Bomb Squadron.

11. The month was completed with another clean slate as far as accidents are concerned. Daily flying safety reminders as well as weekly meetings continue to keep pilots safety-conscious.

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*Restricted*SECTION IIIMISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES AND SUBJECTS:

1. Lt Stanley C. Smith, back from TDY at FEAMCOM, left on the 11th for Mito Range, where he took over the job of ground control officer for a period of one week.

2. The officers' softball team lost thier first game of the season to the 3d Emergency Rescue Squadron on the 29th. It was the first game of the season however, so possibly with some more practicing and playing together a few wins can be expected in the future.

The EM softball team lost two of their league games during the month. The box scores of our ball games do not look to good but without trying to feel sorry for ourselves it was definitely just bad breaks and because of the inexperience of our players. Daily practice and more supervision by the experienced players showed improvement, and should improve our record.

3. The ground training of the squadron for the fiscal year is almost completed, a few members of the squadron have not qualified on the small arms range but a date has been set for the remainder of the Sqdn to fire for record.

4. The morale of the enlisted men is about the same, pretty low. Even with the coming of spring or because of the coming of spring with the surrounding towns "Off Limits", makes the morale problem a hard one. As almost everyone owns a camera and wants some pictures of the quaint Japanese villages, it still is not worth a D. R. to try and get a few pictures for souvenirs to show their families and friends back home.

The only bright light on the dim outlook was the re-opening of the E. M. Club on the post which keeps quite a few of the EM on the post in the evenings. The club looks good and creates a good atmosphere to all who frequent the club.

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SECTION IV

APPENDIX

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*Restricted*ROSTER OF ENLISTED MEN

30 April 1948

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>S. N.</u>
F Sgt	William D. Scruggs	AF6377586
M Sgt	Carol O. Ashley	AF14040590
"	Maurice J. Chappell	AF6932765
	Shelton S. Johnson	AF6383899
	John H. Merchant	AF6258959
	Gerald W. McPherson	AF16030387
	George W. Reid	AF6847865
	Jack E. Snodgrass	AF18132411
T Sgt	William E. Auburn	AF37173759
	Donald R. Downing	AF1815548
	Albert C. Kees	AF13104552
	Lois J. Lalonde	AF7000422
	Sherrod B. Lassiter	AF14033700
	Harry W. Medley	AF15054238
	Richard T. Miller	AF18130892
	Edwin M. Noonan	AF6569954
	Guy Wiseman	AF6555054
S Sgt	Samuel G. Adkins	AF7003297
	Clermont C. Allton	AF35625388
	Glyn Amburgey	AF15054908
	Wilbur J. Bagnal	AF6070086
	Clarence B. Barnes	AF6277281
	Kenneth Q. Bean	AF38192099
	Clarence K. Blend	AF19019251
	Norman L. Browning	AF38117689
	Walter J. Collyer	AF32804322
	Weaver D. Gamble	AF18133369
	Stanley H. Hiatt	AF19194328
	William A. Holt	AF34149571
	Stanley J. Kaminski	AF15096699
	James L. Leap	AF32271959
	Paul G. Lester	AF13065442
	Avila D. Mathews	AF6786257
	James I. Monroe	AF18113791
	Garry V. Newsom	AF18083225
	Robert O. Owen	AF32227794
	Floyd W. Russell	AF19004814
	Michael J. Saj	AF36508926
	William D. Spofford	AF11032424
	Theodore J. Widen	AF36813697
	Robert A. Wiley	AF33319276
	Vincent J. Wohlan	AF13045204
	Charlie E. Yarbrough	AF14146010
	Benedict A. Yoksa	AF31122369
Sgt	Norris A. Burton	AF16194292
	James E. Chafey	AF18285274
	John J. Gohring	AF16226997
	Alfred R. Goolsby	AF14241386
	Robert K. Ivey	AF14234498
	Franklin J. McDevitt	AF13213842

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<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>S. N.</u>
Sgt	Philip Miller	AF32343551
	Everett H. Moore	AF19248199
	James T. Mojima	AF10732259
	Allton P. Poppell	AF34088406
	Tommy W. Reed	AF18107477
	Joseph H. Rogers	AF14221213
	Charles R. Stedevant	AF18141331
	Nicholas J. Valenti	AF36849946
	Dean E. Snyder	AF43020619
	Erasmus A. Anglo	AF12262962
Cpl	Charles R. Burston	AF14226422
	Kenneth L. Carrell	AF15243491
	William E. Chambers	AF14230332
	Forrest H. Gook	AF15240138
	Felton R. Eppler	AF18284451
	Raymond B. Glidden	AF11148767
	James W. Johnson	AF19283724
	George T. Kearns	AF19256065
	Philip D. Kile	AF15207629
	George C. Marcotte	AF11147266
Pfc	Larry M. Rabon	AF14230125
	Richard R. Pexton	AF12246003
	Joe A. Martinez	AF38538561
	Robert R. Mauri	AF13220478
	Charles L. Nelson	AF19261105
	Andrew C. Ramos	AF18247560
	Luis Rogerio	A F18324309
	David T. Sisson	AF14236379
	Hollis L. Smith	AF14226632
	Richard L. Coleman	AF18290186
Pvt	Bernard A. Cook	AF19260891
	Earl C. Davis	AF14215435
	Billy D. Dillingham	AF44166379
	Rual W. Huckeba	AF14221731
	Don E. McCarthy	AF17224742
	John D. Mouse	AF17210008
	John E. Millis	AF14210048
	Glyde A. Tate	AF19256959
	Warren J. Tyson	AF13242625
	Dennis Wigodinski	AF13242286
Pvt	James A. Wilcox	AF19142670
	Commodore C. Anderson	AF18299944
	James E. Conner	AF13082834
	Edmond P. Gaudet	AF18299924
	Harold F. Leep	AF17230416
	Gilbert E. Shipman	AF13243714
	James D. Wilcox	AF38403433

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*Restricted*ROSTER OF OFFICERS

30 April 1948

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>S. N.</u>
Major	Edward L. Jones	AO-35076
Capt	Jerome N. Davis	AO-45071
Capt	Jack P. Smith	AO-732592
Capt	James W. Nesbitt	AO-36597
Capt	John L. Barber	AO-440100
Capt	John E. Murray	AO-1674060
1st Lt	George R. Berry	AO-39438
1st Lt	Francis P. Fitzgerald	AO-737756
1st Lt	Marvin J. Greene	AO-2087631
1st Lt	Frank W. Hayslip	AO-691256
1st Lt	Lawrence J. Jackson Jr.	AO-936649
1st Lt	David A. Jones	AO-735595
1st Lt	John C. Beale	AO-765220
1st Lt	Viking H. Lian	AO-2085083
1st Lt	William M. Ratchford	AO-38217
1st Lt	John D. Pendergrass	AO-765307
1st Lt	Walter W. Slamon	AO- <del>208737</del> 100707
1st Lt	Chester A. A. Smith	AO-55676
1st Lt	Thomas A. Todd	AO-524193
1st Lt	Charles K. Eisen	AO-762088
1st Lt	Silas G. Upchurch	AO-208987

*Restricted*



## MOVIE SCENE

\*\* CAPTAIN BOYCOTT  
feudal times . . . and of his  
(Family)

\* MEET ME AT DAWN  
ld of honor . . . master sword  
(c)

h GREEN DOLPHIN STREET  
haz from every night. If

anyone is interested I'll  
guarantee that he is a very  
competent instructor. (He  
should be after fifteen  
months practice). By the  
way Guy, he said to unpack.

It seems that we have a  
magical 46 Chevrolet in  
the squadron. It seems that  
three of our M.C.O.'s can  
walk out to it, climb in  
and utter the magic word  
and the car will carry them  
to their destination with-  
out anyone at the controls.  
We are glad to back  
1st Lt. S.G. Smith back  
in Engineering. Lt. Smith  
has been with the 90th for  
the last 25 months and his  
sorrow is due to leave  
in a couple of weeks.

We would like to take  
this opportunity to welcome  
Lt. Todd, Sgt. Merchant,  
Sgt. Noonan and Sgt.  
Newson's families to Japan.  
At the present they are  
residing at rest hotels  
but the boys have great  
hopes of obtaining quarters  
on the base in the near  
future. We are glad to  
hear that Sgt. McPherson  
has recovered from the  
mumps and is back on the  
job again. We are sorry  
to hear that Pvt. Wilcox  
is in the hospital with a  
stomach ailment.

From anonymous reports, YAFB "THIRD  
it seems that Sgt. Rivera  
learned the name of a cer-  
tain Mountain the hard way.  
Would you explain please  
Sgt.?

Sgt. Wiley says that  
trees over here are very  
athletic: he claims that  
one jumped out in the road  
in front of his jeep the  
other night. (It looked

arter \* CRIME DOCTOR'S GA  
of the Crime Doctor's latest  
stakes against the background

ndell \*\* NIGHTMARE  
a harsh brutal tale of carniva  
ruthlessly sacrifices all for

aft \*\*\* INTRIG  
ing melodrama of black market

keefe \*\*\* T MA  
itory story comes from the of  
d shows how revenue agents tre

Erwin \*\* HEADING FOR  
rtaining comedy of a real esta  
is past mistakes. Two stars.

### 21's Club

U. Smith to Chicago Friday,  
Ill., and 1st Lt. C.A.A.  
Smith, who is returning to  
Memphis, Tennessee.

T/Sgt. Miller has ex-  
tended his enlistment to  
Five Years. ("You never  
had it so good, Richard.")

1st Lt. Dunlop has been  
reassigned to the Z.I. due  
to his health. We're sure  
sorry to see him go.

Cpl. Angele has completed  
an Engine Specialist Course  
and is now back on the job.

Regret to hear that Cpl.  
Kearns is confined to the  
hospital due to a throat  
ailment.

Now for some news "AROUND  
THE SQUADRON."

I heard "Frog" cussing  
the other day; investigated  
and found him with a nest  
in his ship. "Remember

Frog," the Major warned you  
about those sparrows.  
question! Why hasn't Capt.  
Davis been golfing lately?"  
Could it be a shortage of  
balls? Famous quotation:  
"Now I wonder what caused  
that?" (Contributed by  
1st Lt. D. A. Jones.) The  
line chief claims the F/Sgt  
used under hand methods to  
obtain use of the 47 Chev-  
rolet Saturday. Says the



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 THE SWEET

MAIN STREET

of a small town is exploded  
 ne is a mind reader. Three

SECRET BEYOND THE D

rama full of suspense and in

CASS TIMBERLA

r romance of a judge who mar  
 g time life . . . and got it

\* SUMMER HOLID

frican musical with an all st  
 he play "In Wilderness." Th

CRIME DOCTOR'S GAM

can catch up on their pot  
 shooting.

One of the Junior members  
 of the squadron had a  
 birthday this week. Master  
 Shelton S. Johnson Jr., was  
 honored on his seventh  
 birthday by a party given  
 by his parents, M/Sgt. and  
 Mrs. Johnson. When inter-  
 viewed, Master Johnson  
 said, "I like 365 birthdays  
 a year."

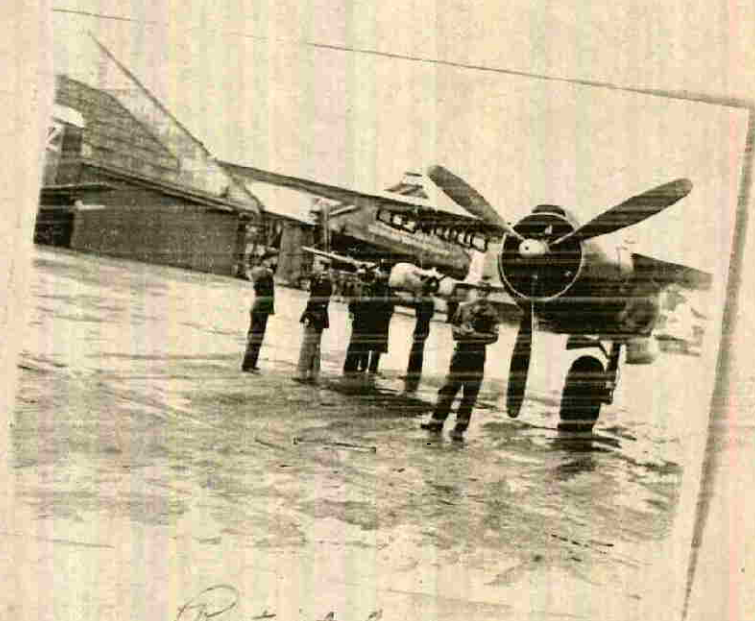
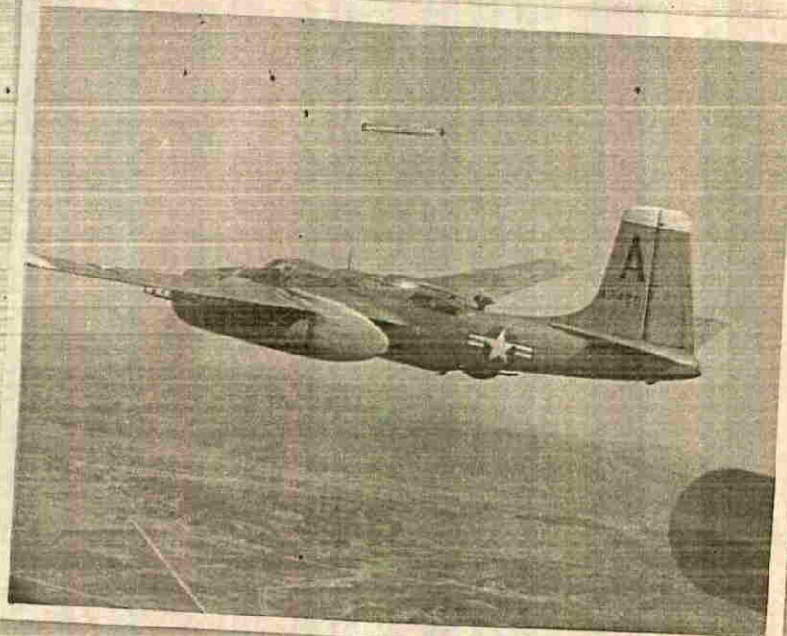
Now for a few items that  
 I picked up "AROUND THE  
 SQUADRON." Glad to see Pvt.  
 Wilcox back with us, also  
 I heard T/Sgt. Medley is  
 suffering from Paper Fa-  
 tigue. The Major has re-  
 leased the Black Demon for  
 further flight. I imagine  
 "Barney Burston" is very  
 happy.

Don't worry, Sgt. Polino,  
 you will get home -- some  
 time. T/Sgt. Wooman says  
 that T/Sgt. Wiseman will be  
 the only man in "The Old  
 Soldiers' Home" with a new  
 Buick. I wonder what  
 happened to that Tow Tar-  
 get? I heard a rumor that  
 three gunners with initials  
 of R.A.W., T.Q.B. and S.J.K.  
 hired someone to haul it  
 off in order to save face.  
 What is the matter, Guy,  
 can't you find her?

Goolaby has just re-  
 from day fur



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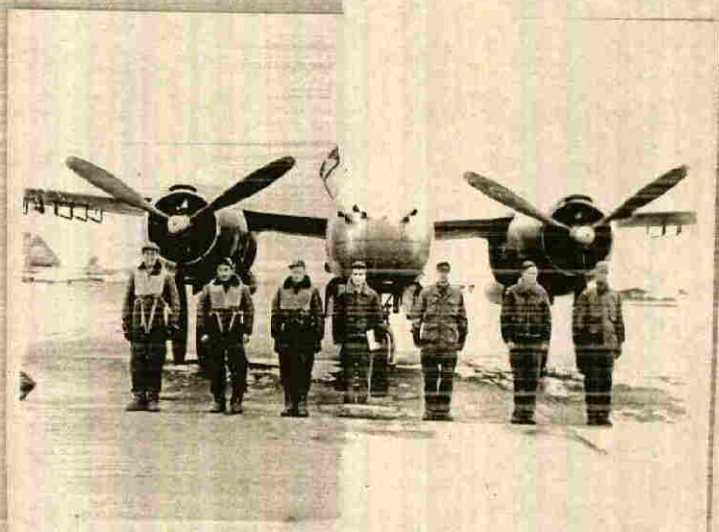
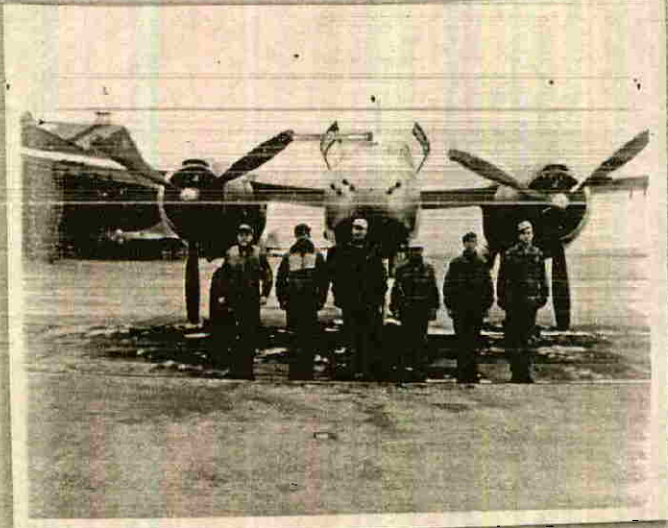
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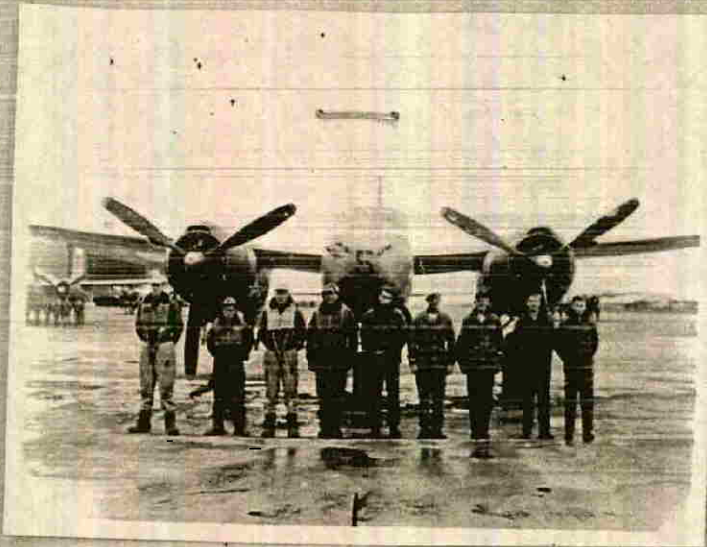
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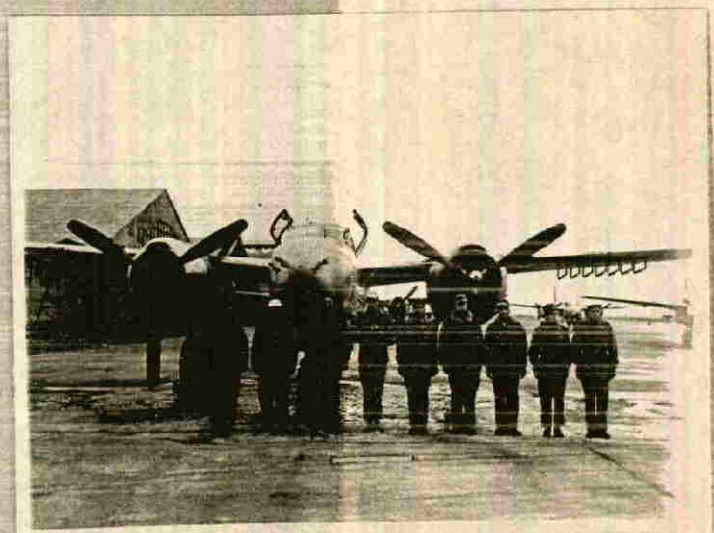
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