

UNIT HISTORY

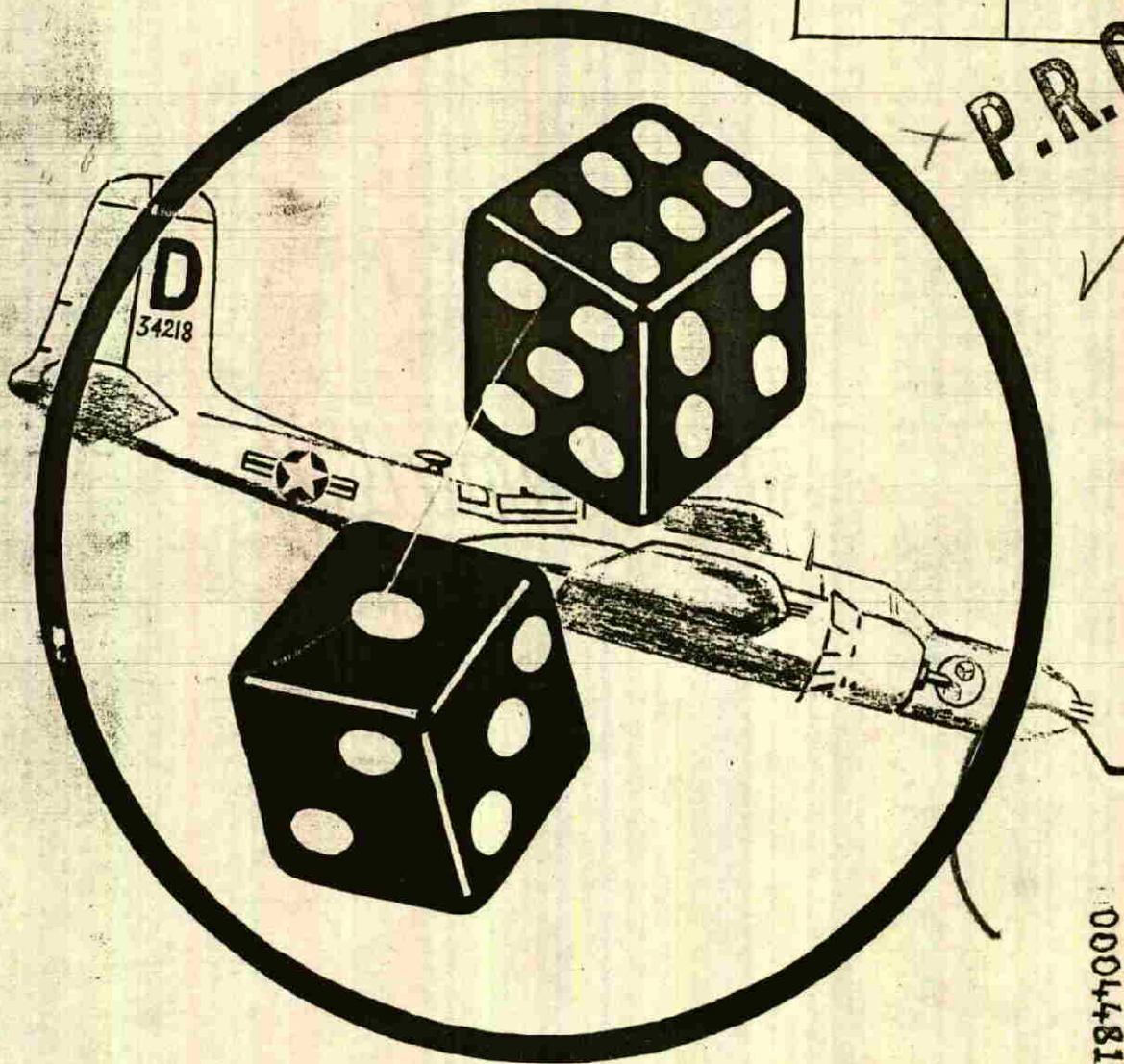
FEB 1948

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Sq-Bomb-90-HI
Feb 1948

P.R.C.



3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
314 TH COMPOSITE WING
5TH AIR FORCE

00044818

2-5935-124

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

29 February 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 with the clerical aid of Sergeant Nicholas J. Valenti. Facts in the narrative have been gathered from reports submitted by section heads. Observations not otherwise credited are based on the personal knowledge and opinions of 1st Lt Francis P. Fitzgerald.

Edward L. Jones
EDWARD L. JONES
Major, USAF
Commanding

8184000
2-5935-104
401-5862

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

SUBJECT: Unit History, 1 through 29 February 1948

1. The mission of the 90th 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 as a squadron, in all phases in which the A-26 aircraft is considered a combat weapon. This squadron, as a part of the 3rd Bombardment Group (L), Fifth Air Force, will be one of the first units to strike back in the event of unfriendly attack.

2. Personnel

a. 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
Capt James W. Nesbitt	Engineering Officer
1st Lt Francis P. Fitzgerald	Armament Officer
1st Lt Milford G. Dunlop	Personal Equipment Officer
1st Lt Viking H. Lian	Communications Officer
F-Sgt William D. Scruggs	First Sergeant

b. Captain Edward Krafka was relieved from duties as Sqdn Adjutant and 1st Lt William M. Ratchford, former ass't Adjutant and Training Officer took his place.

c. Our total enlisted strength on 29 February 48 was 105, as compared with 103 on the last day of January 48. Officer strength went from 24 in January to 23 on the last day of February. 1st Lt Eugene A. Klingler left for the Zone Of Interior for return to inactive status.

d. Enlisted personnel gains and losses for the month are as follows:

Assigned during month:

S-Sgt Vincent J. Wohlan
 Sgt Alton P. Poppell
 Sgt James T. Nojima
 Pfc Paul W. Huckeba
 Pvt Edmond T. Gaudet

Transferred to other organizations on this base:

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Sgt Edward Sedlacek
Sgt Bill Graddick
Pfc Edward Petrosky
Pfc Dresden Westenhoefer

e. S/Sgt Manus J. Corrigan of the Armament section left for the Zone of Interior on an emergency furlough.

3. The Para-dice Squadron continues to be one of the three squadrons comprising the 3rd Bombardment Group (L) stationed at Yokota Air Force Base, Honshu, Japan.

4. The Table of Organization and Equipment for the squadron, T. O. and E. 1-137R, was changed during the month. The new one calls for 24 officers and 104 enlisted men as follows: *

<u>Officers</u>		<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	
Lieutenant Colonel	1	Master Sergeant	7
Major	1	Technical Sgt	17
Captain	7	Staff Sgt.	28
Lieutenant	<u>15</u>	Sergeant	18
Total	24	Corporal	21
		Private	<u>13</u>
		Total	104

5. Major Activities

a. The collective efforts of the 90th Bomb Sqdn (L) this month were again aimed at the primary objective of improving and maintaining the tactical efficiency of the squadron as a fighting unit. The total flying time for the month, with 16 assigned A-26 aircraft, was 713 hours, which was tops in the Group for the seventh consecutive month.

Emphasis was placed on proficiency in transition flying, instrument flying, night flying, and formation flying, as well as skip-bombing, strafing, and rocket firing. In other words we are not just going aloft to "bore a hole in the blue". Our diversified flying keeps everyone interested, and, more important, furthers our efforts toward combat readiness. At the end of February there were twenty one (21) assigned pilots, and thirteen (13) pilots attached for flying only.

The continuous drive for safety in flying has continued. February is our eighth consecutive month without a flying accident. At briefing each morning a special topic of safety is covered. On Saturday's, an hour of flying safety information and procedures are discussed and all pilots are giving periodic exams stressing application of their knowledge of flying safety.

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b. The new schedule for aircraft inspections recently inaugurated by PLM has been paying us off in increased numbers of aircraft available daily for flying. Near the first of the month the engineering section established the policy of taking aircraft out of commission to pull 25-hour inspections. Previously they were completed in afternoons after second period flights landed. By holding them out of commission for a day, or even longer if necessary, a more thorough 25-hour inspection is possible, and will obviously result in a higher standard of on-the-line maintenance in the future.

Assigned aircraft include the following:

A-26B	13	
A-26C	3	
B-25	1	(non tactical)

One of the "C" models has a modified six-gun nose; that is, the plexiglass bombardier nose has been removed and the solid nose with guns is installed. The two other "C" models still have the plexiglass nose, but we expect them to be modified by PLM in the near future.

c. Two air-to-ground firing ranges are now available for skip-bombing, strafing, etc. Mito Range, just re-opened this month, provides strafing, skip-bombing, and rocket targets with observers and control personnel on the ground to score. Onohara-Shima, a distance of about 90 miles south of the coast on Sagami Wan (bay), consists of several large rocks jutting out of the ocean, and is available for demolition bombing, five-inch rocket-firing, and strafing. A five-inch rocket mission to the latter range was prepared the last part of the month but had to be cancelled at the last minute. We expect to make use of Onohara-Shima next month.

A definite need is felt at the present time for tow-target gunnery to train assigned turret gunners. Splash gunnery such as they have to do now is not enough to keep up their proficiency. A tow-target airplane for the Group is being outfitted but to date has not been put into use.

d. On the 12th and 13th of February the 90th participated in a Group search mission in northern Honshu. A P-51 was lost in that vicinity. We sent out two formations a day, along with the other Squadrons, but the P-51 was never sighted in our search area.

e. Extensive preparations were made for Group Maneuvers in conjunction with a naval task force off southwestern Honshu. The Group was to have operated out of Itazuke AFB, and the 90th had crews and aircraft all ready to depart on the 26th of the month, but the whole mission was cancelled for reasons unknown to us.

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f. On the 28th of February the squadron participated, along with the Group, in a show formation with 314th Wing units from Johnson AFB. The aerial review was staged for members of an inspection from Air Force Headquarters in Washington.

The next morning we put 11 airplanes into a Group formation which passed in review over our field while a Saturday morning ground review was in progress. The Group was led by Lt Col Crocker of the 13th Squadron. Our squadron was led by our Commanding Officer, Major Jones.

g. Hand in hand with our primary objective this month of improving and maintaining the tactical efficiency of the squadron, is the emphasis placed on attaining and maintaining high disciplinary, moral, mental, and physical standards as set forth by our Commanding Officer, Major Edward L. Jones, who in turn of course, receives over-all policies from higher commands.

By way of improving standards of discipline wherein minor but nevertheless inexcusable...offenses are concerned, the Squadron Commander has announced a policy whereby the first offense, if not serious, such as missing Bed Check, Reveille, etc., will bring a reprimand. The second, if of the same nature, will incur a personal admonishment and reprimand from Major Jones. The third similar offense will be dealt with by court martial if it is deemed necessary.

With a view to improving the standards of the Troop Information and Education program in the squadron, normally carried out on Saturday mornings, our I & E NCO, S/Sgt Henry S. Daigel, has obtained a 16 mm. movie projector and screens a film or two in conjunction with I & E lectures. The films are chosen for their informational and educational value as well as for interest. Such films as various "March of Times", War Department films on current world topics, and even an occasional cartoon, with or without a message, all prove to be popular with the men.

6. Miscellaneous Activities

a. Captain Edward Krafka departed the latter part of the month on TDY to Stateside. He is going to pick up a new A-26 in California and ferry it to the Group. Captain Richard Grey, Group Navigator, attached to us for flying, also went along.

b. The pilots' lounge and briefing room in operations took on the appearance of "a home away from home" this month. With fine furniture, drapes, rugs, ash trays, and even a wood-work stain job, it is undoubtedly one of the most comfortable operations building on the field. The furniture was paid for and contributed by the assigned and attached pilots, and the work was shared by the same group but with the operations personnel under Captain Davis carrying the big load of it.

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The place not only looks nice but serves a purpose as well: Pilots are starting to spend their spare time in the comfortable chairs, and inadvertently or otherwise pick up a Flying Safety Bulletin, a flying SOP or regulation, or something of that nature, and unconsciously (probably) improve their flying mind. Maybe there is a method to Capt Davis's madness.

c. S/Sgt Daigel has initiated a nightly movie program in the squadron day room with his 16 mm. projector. It draws up to 25 and 30 percent of the men each evening, and is certainly a fine thing in the way of providing entertainment for the spare time in the evenings. He draws the reels for his cinema along with his regular I & E films. We hope he can continue with the project indefinitely.

d. At a recent staff meeting, Colonel James R. Gunn Jr., the base Commanding Officer commended the 90th Squadron for having 100% of the enlisted men in the organization paid for the month of January.

e. 1st Lt Stanley C. Smith, former Assistant Operations Officer, has been placed on TDY at FEAMCOM for an indefinite period. He is working with tech representatives from Pratt-Whitney and Curtiss Wright on an engine build-up team which will tour FEAF bases giving instructions, help, advice, etc., on those two radial engines. Lt Smith's previous experience as an engineering officer qualified him for the assignment. Lt Lian has taken his place as assistant operations officer.

f. The 90th Bomb Sqdn (L) rang the publicity gong this month in connection with the Air Force Aid Society drive. We were one of two squadrons on the base to attain a one hundred per cent membership. (see appendix)

APPENDIX

ROSTER OF ENLISTED MEN

29 February 48

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>S. N.</u>
P-Sgt	William D. Scruggs	AF6377586
M-Sgt	Carol O. Ashley	AF14040590
M-Sgt	Maurice J. Chappell	AF6932765
M-Sgt	William K. Cole	AF17076859
M-Sgt	Shelton S. Johnson	AF6383899
M-Sgt	Gerald W. McPherson	AF16030387
M-Sgt	John H. Merchant	AF6258949
M-Sgt	George W. Reid	AF6847865
M-Sgt	Jack E. Snodgrass	AF18132411
T-Sgt	William E. Auburn	AF37173759
T-Sgt	Edwin Bowers	AF12115147
T-Sgt	Donald R. Douning	AF18157548
T-Sgt	Albert C. Kees	AF13104552
T-Sgt	Lois J. Lalonde	AF7000422
T-Sgt	Sherrod E. Lassiter	AF14033700
T-Sgt	Harry W. Madley	AF15054238
T-Sgt	Richard T. Miller	AF18130892
T-Sgt	Edwin M. Noonan	AF6569954
T-Sgt	Albert N. Smith	AF13018814
T-Sgt	Kenneth C. Sharp	AF37652437
T-Sgt	Guy Wiseman	AF6555054
S-Sgt	Samuel G. Adkins	AF7003297
S-Sgt	Clermont C. Allton	AF35625332
S-Sgt	Wilbur J. Bagnol	AF6070086
S-Sgt	Clarence B. Barnes	AF6277281
S-Sgt	Kenneth Q. Bean	AF38192099
S-Sgt	Leroy S. Benedict	AF19041021
S-Sgt	Clarence K. Elend	AF19019251
S-Sgt	James L. Carter	AF11031345
S-Sgt	Walter J. Collyer	AF32804322
S-Sgt	Manus J. Corrigan	AF6907790
S-Sgt	Mathew E. Coody	AF6399273
S-Sgt	Henry S. Daigel	AF6716353
S-Sgt	Weaver D. Gamble	AF18133369
S-Sgt	Stanley H. Hiatt	AF19194328
S-Sgt	William A. Holt	AF34149571
S-Sgt	Stanley J. Kaminski	AF15096699
S-Sgt	Alva D. Mathews	AF6786257
S-Sgt	James I. Monroe	AF18113791
S-Sgt	Garry V. Newsom	AF18083225
S-Sgt	Robert R. Owen	AF32227794
S-Sgt	Floyd W. Russell	AF19004814
S-Sgt	William D. Spofford	AF11032424
S-Sgt	Theodore J. Widen	AF36813697
S-Sgt	Robert A. Wiley	AF33319277
S-Sgt	Vincent J. Wohlan	AF13045204
S-Sgt	Charlie E. Yarbrough	AF14146010
S-Sgt	Benedict A. Yoksa	AF31122369

Cont'd Roster of Enlisted Men

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>S. N.</u>
Sgt	Glyn Amburgey	AF15054908
Sgt	James E. Chafey	AF18285274
Sgt	Alfred R. Goolsby	AF14241386
Sgt	John J. Gohring	AF16226997
Sgt	Robert K. Ivey	AF14234498
Sgt	Louis P. Lohr	A F13239665
Sgt	Franklin J. McDevitt	AF13213842
Sgt	Phillip Miller	AF32343551
Sgt	James T. Nojima	AF10732259
Sgt	Alton P. Poppell	AF34088406
Sgt	Tommy W. Reed	AF18107477
Sgt	Lawrence J. Rivera	AF37883395
Sgt	Charles H. Stedevant	AF18141331
Sgt	Nicholas J. Valenti	AF36849946
Cpl	Milton D. Barnett	AF14242878
Cpl	Charles R. Burston	AF14226412
Cpl	Norris A. Burton	AF16194292
Cpl	Kenneth L. Carrell	AF15243491
Cpl	William E. Chambers	AF14230332
Cpl	Forrest H. Cook	AF15240138
Cpl	Felton R. Eppler	AF18284451
Cpl	James W. Johnson	AF19203724
Cpl	George T. Kearns	AF19256065
Cpl	Phillip D. Kiles	AF15207629
Cpl	Joe A. Martinez	AF38538561
Cpl	Robert R. Mauri	AF13220478
Cpl	Leonard E. Mitchell	AF18153546
Cpl	Everett H. Moore	AF19248199
Cpl	Charles L. Nelson	AF19261105
Cpl	Richard R. Pexton	AF12246003
Cpl	Carmen D. Polino	AF15240807
Cpl	Larry M. Rabon	AF14230125
Cpl	Luis Rogerio	AF18324309
Cpl	Joseph H. Rogers	AF14221213
Cpl	Ollan K. Rowell	AF14241969
Cpl	David T. Sisson	AF14236379
Cpl	Hollis L. Smith	AF14226632
Cpl	Dean E. Snyder	AF43020619
Pfc	Erasmus A. Angelo	AF12262962
Pfc	Vincent O. Carr	AF13220100
Pfc	Richard L. Coleman	AF18290186
Pfc	Bernard A. Cook	AF19260891
Pfc	Earl G. Davis	AF14215435
Pfc	Billy D. Dillingham	AF44166379
Pfc	Paul W. Huckeba	AF14221731

Cont'd Roster of Enlisted Men

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>S. N.</u>
Pfc	Jean G. Marcotte	AF11147266
Pfc	Lloyd H. Martin	AF18247676
Pfc	John D. Mouse	AF17210008
Pfc	John E. Mullis	AF14210048
Pfc	Warren J. Tyson	AF13242625
Pfc	Clyde A. Tate	AF19256959
Pvt	James E. Conner	AF13082834
Pvt	Charles R. Duley	AF15235450
Pvt	Edmond P. Gaudet	AF18299924
Pvt	Gilbert E. Shipman	AF13248714
Pvt	James D. Wilcox	AF38403433

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

29 February 1948

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>S. N.</u>
Major	Edward L. Jones	AO-35076
Capt	Jerome N. Davis	AO-45071
Capt	Edward Krafka	AO-52754
Capt	Jack P. Smith	AO-732592
Capt	James W. Nesbitt	AO-36597
Capt	John L. Barber	AO-440100
Capt	Herbert C. Engelbrecht	AO-692866
Capt	John E. Murray	AO-674060
1st Lt	Milford G. Dunlop	AO-840075
1st Lt	Francis P. Fitzgerald	AO-737756
1st Lt	Marvin J. Greene	AO-2087631
1st Lt	Frank W. Hayslip	AO-691256
1st Lt	Robert D. Hippert	AO-27884
1st Lt	Lawrence Jackson Jr.	AO-936649
1st Lt	David A. Jones	AO-735595
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-1100707
1st Lt	Chester A. A. Smith	AO-55676
1st Lt	Stanley C. Smith	AO-761631
1st Lt	Thomas A. Todd	AO-524193
1st Lt	Silas G. Upchurch	AO-208987

Yokota Aid Society Drive Nets \$2520

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan. — Putting forth an all-out effort the personnel of Yokota Air Base donated \$2520 for the Air Force Aid Society drive which recently ended here.

Spurred by the active participation of Col. James R. Gunn, Jr., of Jacksonville, Fla., base commander, and under the direct supervision of Capt. Dale N. Goodermote, from Monodovi, Wis., two squadrons on the base went overboard with 100 per cent membership. Other squadrons trailed closely with high percentages.

Clipping from Air Force Times dated 14 Feb 48. The 90th is one of the two squadrons mentioned.

THE EYES AND EARS OF THE 90th BOMB AS REPORTED BY S/Sgt. Henry S. Daigle.

This week the sqdn is happy to see the road being repaired in front of the barracks. The C.O. and me wish to thank those responsible for the job being completed.

Major Edward L. Jones, C.O., has complimented Cpl Robon, who is the cre chief on ship 771, as having the neatest and cleanest ship on the line for SOT Inspection. Sgt. Ivey, who is crew chief on 293, was runner-up. Major Jones was pleased with the inspection.

The sqdn wishes to announce it has daily movies in the sqdn dayroom, and is open to anyone desiring to see training films free of charge. The time will be 6:30 pm.

Pvt. James Connors, who recently worked at the Base Motor Pool, is now working at the sqdn orderly room, and is also mail clerk.

Clipping from Yokota Air Force Base "Third Strike" for last week of February 48