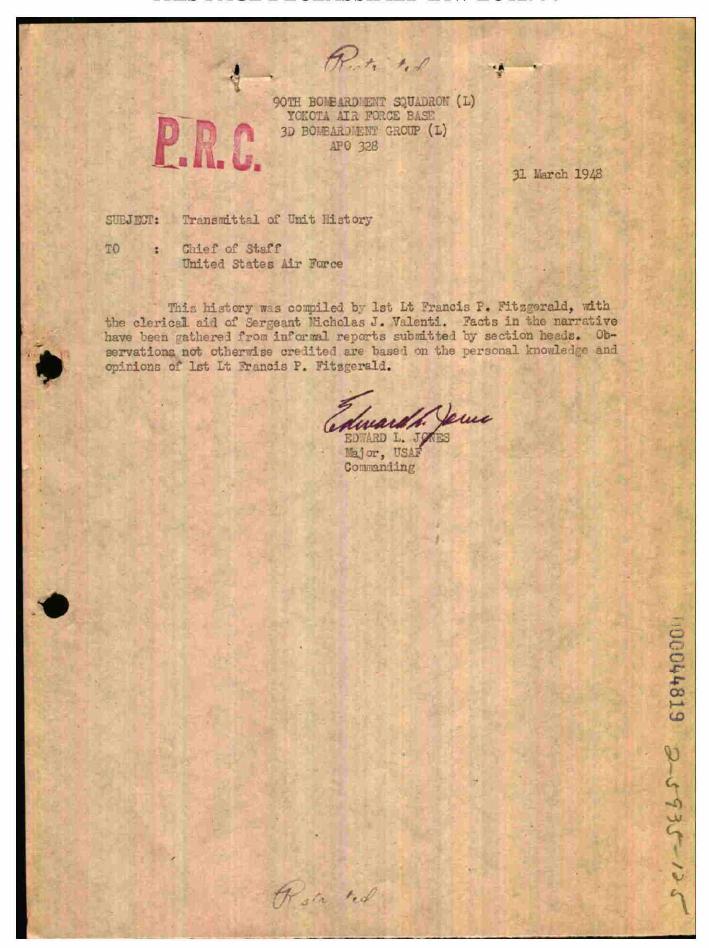
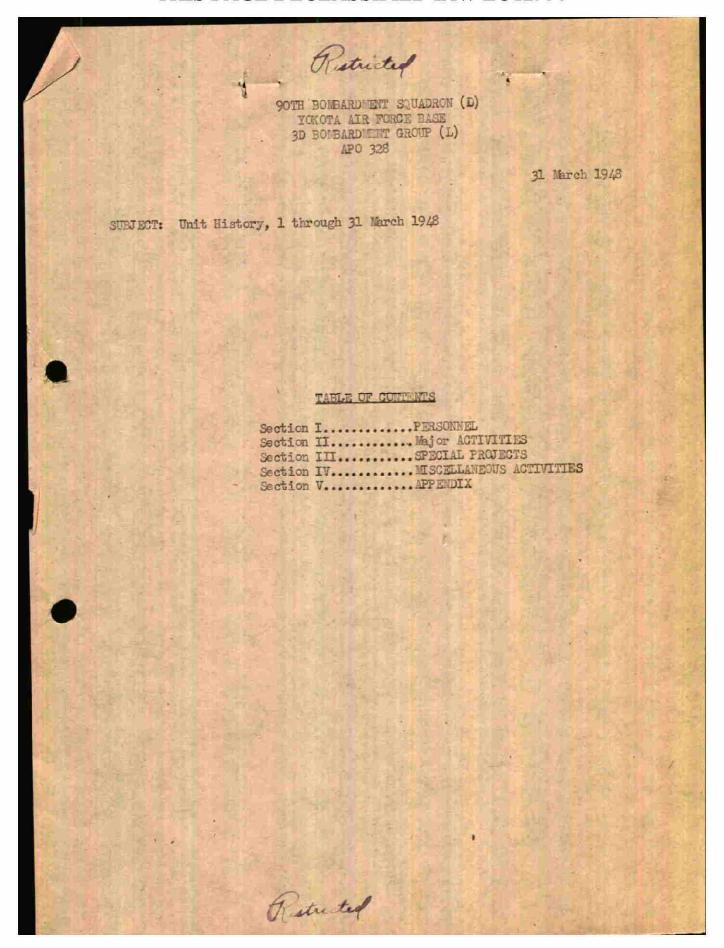


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#### PERSONNEL:

- 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 1st Lt William M. Ratchford Capt Jerome N. Davis Let David A. Jones

Let Lt Francis P. Fitzgerald

Let Lt Milford G. Dunlop

Let Lt Viking H. Lian

F Sgt William D. Scruggs

Supply Officer

Engineering Officer

Armament Officer

Personal Equipment Officer

Communications Officer

First Sergeant

Commanding Officer Adjutant Operations Officer

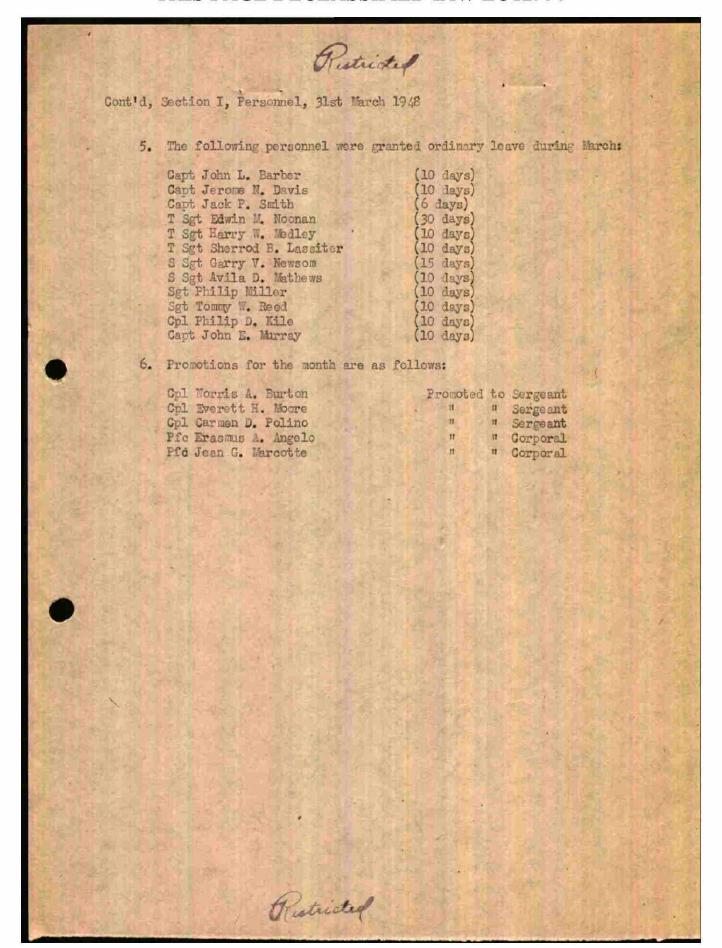
- 3. Captain James W. Nesbitt, Engineering Officer for the past year and a half, was transferred to the office of the Deputy for Training and Operations. 1st Lt David A. Jones, former assistant engineering Officer, was appointed as his successor. This change occurred the first of the month.
- 4. Total Enlisted strength for the squadron on the 31st of Murch was 102, as compared with a total of 105 on the 29th of February. Officer strength increased from 23 on the last day of February to 24 on the 31st of Merch.
  - a. Gains in the squadron for the month are as follows:

1st Lt Chales K. Eisen 1st Lt John C. Beale S Sgt James L. Leap Cpl Andrew C. Ramos Pvt Commodore C. Anderson

b. Losses to the squadron are as follows:

Capt Edward Krafka M Sgt William K. Cole T Sgt Edwin S. Bowers T Sgt Albert N. Smith S Sgt Leroy S. Benedict Pfc Reid B. Jefferson Pfc Lloyd H. Martin

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SECTION II

#### MAJOR ACTIVITIES :

1. With our eyes still clearly focused on the primary objective of improving and maintaining the tactical efficiency of the squadron as a flighting unit, the collective efforts of the 90th Bomb Squadron...and especially the efforts of the engineering section...resulted in a seldom-heard-of total of 820 flying hours for the month, with 16 assigned A-26 aircraft. This figure topped the Group again and gave us the lead in flying time for the eighth consecutive month.

In addition to the usual emphasis placed on minimums required for proficiency in transitional, instrument, night, and formation flying, more stress was placed on such diversified training as skip-bombing, strafing, and rocket firing. The following armament expenditure report for the month is submitted as evidence:

Cal. 50 ball ammo (fixed & turret gunnery)

30,170 rounds
Bombs, 100 lb practice
Bombs, 100 lb G. P. with M112 tail fuze

87 rockets

The 100 lb general-purpose demolition bombs with tail fuzes were dropped at the Onohara Shima range, which the squadron used for the first time on the 10th of March. At that time it was reported by two of the three pilots who flew the mission that it appeared some of the bombs were detonating upon impact, even though fuzed with an 8 to 15 second delay. A subsequent mission with the same type bomb and fuze definitely revealed the same thing. The other two squadrons in the Group were reporting similiar malfunctions; so at the present time the use of bombs of that particular lot number from which the above-mentioned came is temporarily discontinued pending further investigation and recommendations by higher authorities.

- 2. The engineering section, at the close of March, found themselves without the services of six (6) of their good men, lost either because of TDY to technical schools in the vicinity or else through rotation to the States. Despite these setbacks, mostly suffered in the last two weeks, they came through with a banner month insofar as on-the-line maintenance is concerned. The flying-time record of \$20 hours is evidence in itself of their efforts, but not quite so evident on the surface is the work put in on installation of a reinforced nose-wheel cross-beam assembly, a Tech Order Compliance suddenly brought to light and required in the Group
- 3. Oh the 4th of March, Major Edward L. Jones, our C. O., and the 90th led a 40-ship maximum effort Group formation on a simulated combat attack over Itami Air Force Base at Osaka. On the way down, Major Jones took us over Fifth Air Force Headquarters at Nagoya, to prove that when the 3d Bomb Group (L) says it can put up a 40-ship formation it means it in all seriousness. It no doubt impressed the personnel in Headquarters. At any rate we were quite proud of it.

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Cont'd Section II, Major Activities, 31st March 1948

On the morning of Monday, the 29th, the Group again put a 40-ship formation into the air in a simulated low-level attack on Latus-shima Airdrome over on the east coast of Honshu. We furnished 13 of the aircraft and pilots as well as gunners, and were led by Captain Jerome N. Davis, who held our "low squarron" position for us, following the lead of Lt. Col. Crocker and the 13th Squadron. The mission was concluded in good shape and without incident. It was brought out at the post-mission critique, however, that when the Group went down on the "deck" off the coast, the number 4 flight in the "bucket" of the low 90th had its choice of either wallowing around in the prop-wash, moving out into a safe echelon, or putting up its periscopes. Naturally the safer of the three alternatives was chosen.

- 4. The 90th finished another month of flying without an accident. Lt Lian who just became assistant operations of ficer last month inherited the duties of squadron flying safety officer, and conducts weekly flying safety meetings as well as daily safety reminders, so that all the pilots will become more safety conscious rather than slip into an attitude of "it can't happen to me".
- 5. Small arms training in the squadron received a substantial boost the latter part of the month when approximately 60 officers and men fired the cal. 45 automatic pistel and the M-3 machine gun for familiarization and record, as well as completing record-firing on the carbine. It. Ratchford, the military training officer for the squadron is anxious to fire as many men as possible before June, so that during the last month of the fiscal year we won't be caught short on the annual requirements.
- 6. The squadron supply section under Capt JackP. Smith is campaigning for 100% serviceability on Table of Organization and Allowance Equipment. After close checking, it was found that about 70% of the equipment was in the squadron and serviceable. The other 30% is on requisition and Due Out of Base Supply. A special request through channels has been made for priority requisitioning of the equipment not on hand.
- 7. Whenever the "primary mission" of the 90th Bomb Squadron (L) is mentioned, one tends to immediately consider the major activity of flying, and its closely affiliated subjects. Not by any means unimportant however, and especially so here in a foreign land away from home ties and connections, are the problems of moral standards, espri de corps, and consequently, discipline.

As a result of over-all policies sent down by higher headquarters, which we understand originated in the Office of the Chief of Army Chaplains, more import has this month been placed on the moral angle of the Venereal Disease situation.

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Cont'd Section II, Major Activities, 31st March 1948

Major Jones, in addition to giving frequent talks to the effect that though we are thousands of miles away from our homes we nevertheless are obligated morally to our families and loved ones, has indicated his desire to see more of the Squadron personnel in Sunday Church Bervices. He asked that the officers of the squadron set the example in Church attendance. It is felt that regardless of a man's personal beliefs concerning the Christian Religion, the subjects covered and stressed by the base Chaplains will shed a little different light on the V. D. picture in the minds of some individuals who haven't been exposed to Christianity probably as much as would be desired.

Along this same line, the squadron Commander has initiated the policy of contacting the parents of the younger men assigned to the organization by means of a personal letter, telling them of their son's location, duties, recreation and educational facilities available, and inviting them to write to him at any time if problems or questions concerning their son's Army career arise. A sample letter is included as a documentary exhibit in the appendix.

Also included in the appendix is a copy of the SCP set up for the processing of new arrivals in the squadron, which include interviews by the Base Chaplain to acquaint the new comer with the religious facilities available.

Along the sport activities, the Squadron is practicing for the soft-ball league. By one of the tricks of nature which results in rain almost every Saturday, the scheduled practice game between the Officers and the EM has been post-poned. The official league play is due to start the 12th of April. Our squadron bowling team has not been doing so well as far as winning games but are close and trying their best. Due to the limit number of bowling alleys (two for the entire base) the only practice our team gets is the actual official league games.

The morale of the enlisted men in the squadron has not raised any despite the nice spring weather we have been having. All of the surroundings towns and hamlets are placed "Off Limits" to all personnel, military and civilain, of Yokota Air Force Base. The complaint of our enlisted men is that only Yokota Personnel are barred from these towns and for the past two months their enlisted club has been closed. True, the club is being remodeled and is actually larger, nicer and all will benefit from the remodeling but no provisions were made for a temporary club. There was no place on the Base except Wednesday evening when the Top Three Club allowed the enlisted men to enter their club where a can of beer could be bought. This had the tendency to force the mlisted men to go to Tachikawa where in Japanese beer halls, they could get Japanese beer and of course came into contact with Japanese girls and so our V. D. rate rose and Tachikawa and all nearby towns are now "Off Limits".

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#### SECTION III

#### SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. As a result of the acute need for tow-target gunnery to satisfactorily maintain the proficiency of the gunners assigned to this squadron, Captain Jerome N. Davis, the squadron operations officer, suggested an idea for a brace attachment to an 3-1 outboard wing shackle on the A-26 which would enable a tow-target to be pulled off the runway, then when firing is completed, to be released, rope and all, the same as a bomb or tank attached to the outboard wing rack. Captain Davis got the idea from a similiar attachment he had seen used on P-51 aircraft for towing targets.

With the seed of the idea planted be turned the project over to T/Sgt Richard T. Miller, Armament section chief, who started the ball rolling by collecting the necessary rope, tow-targets, weights, and ring attachments. The most important item, the wing attachment brace itself, he had made at the Service Group under his personal supervision. The whole project had the backing of Major Jones, the Squadron Commander.

When the necessary items were finally assembled, permission was obtained from the Director of Training and Operations to try it out. So on the 25th of March, Captain Davis taxied out on to the ranway and the armament men stretched 600 feet of rope with a target attached to it in back of the aircraft, fixed it to the brace-attachment on the wing rack and crossed their fingers as he took off.

The first attempt resulted in failure because as the target skidded down the runway behind the airplane, the proposal pulled it over to one side where it caught on a runway light and broke the rope. The rope was quickly repaired and a second attempt was made. This time Captain Davis stayed to the opposite side of the runway from which the target was drawn. It took to the air in fine shape and was towed around for over an hour: A fine aerial target to test any gumners ability.

The rope and target were successfully released at the side of the runway and Captain Davis came in to land. Uponclose examination of the brace assembly it was found that it had not been sufficiently strong to withstand the pull of the target, and was bent backward into the slipstream. Several of the armorer-gunners got together and a few days later came up with a stronger and more streamline brace assembly that proved ideal for the purpose. The problem of the rope being frayed or broken as it is dragged down the runway will be remedied by the use of cable as soon as it is available.

In the meantime we expect to make full use of the tow-target assembly in maintaining gunner proficiency. Possibley a Group tow-target ship will be available in the near future, but we still have our own attachment that can be put on any of our A-26's in a few minutes time. Credit is due Captain Davis who thought of the idea and to T/Sgt Miller and theother armorer-gunners who worked at perfecting the attachment.

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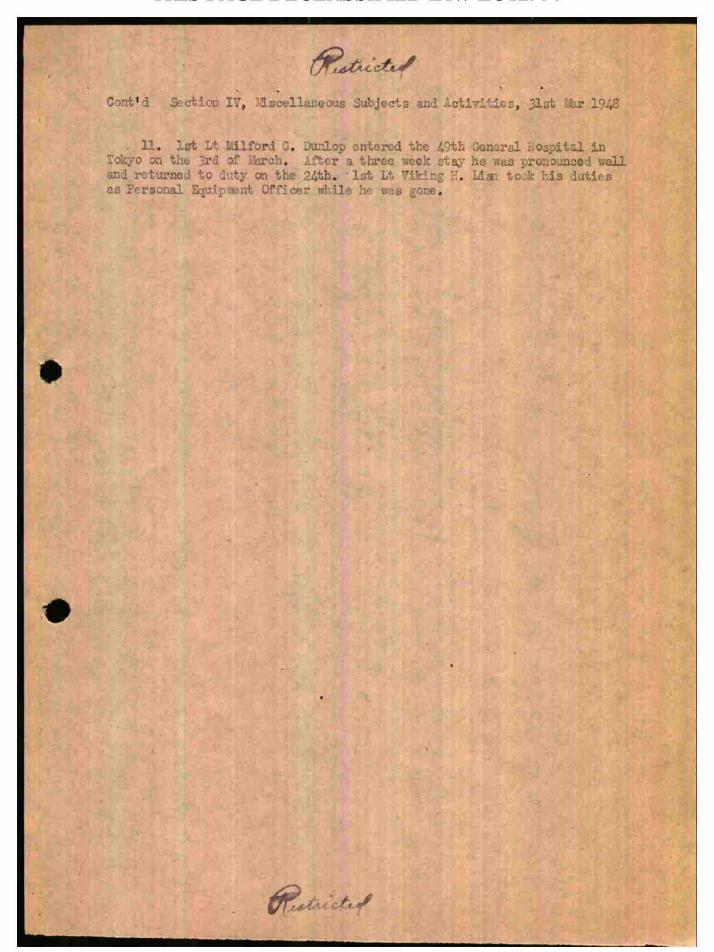
#### SECTION IV

#### MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

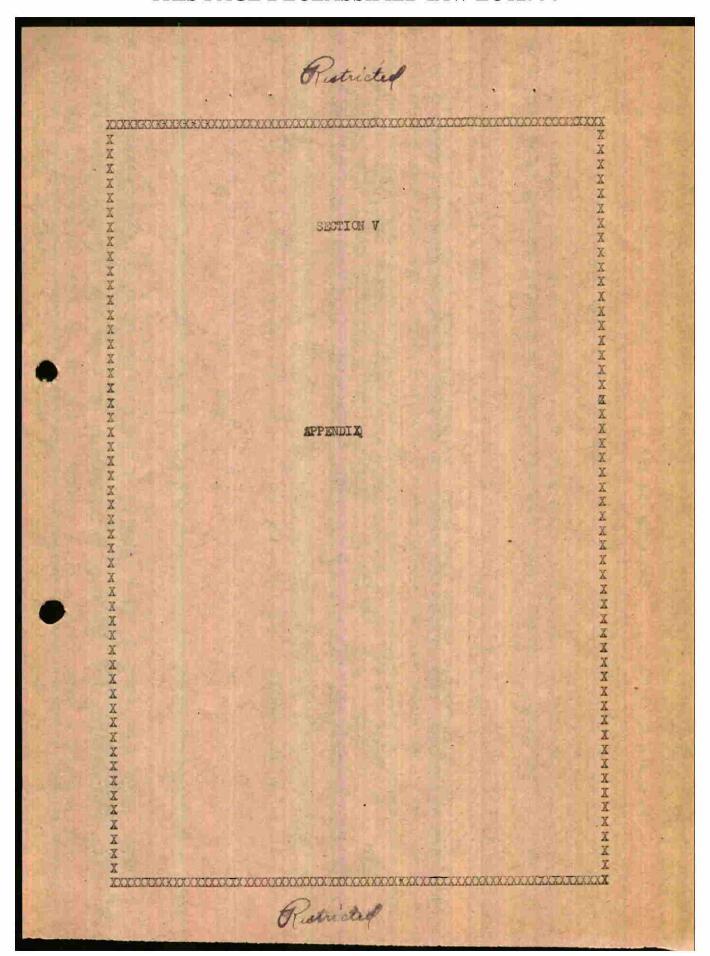
- 1. The squadron feels deeply the loss of the 16 mm. movie projector that S/Sgt Henry S. Daigle, the I and E NCO, had obtained for the Information and Education programs as well as nightly entertainment in the Squadron day room. It seems that the Sth Army I & E people in Yokohama where he had checked it out, couldn't allow us to keep it indefinitely. An effort is being made, however, to obtain another projector from one source or another.
- 2. Colonel James R. Gunn Jr., the Base Gommanding Officer, obtained a limited number of decals for the windshields of automobiles belonging to members of the Air Force Aid Society. The 90th, which obtained a 100% members hip during the drive in February, was issued 22 of the decals for members of the Squadron owning automobiles.
- 3. Captain Herbert C. Engelbrecht and Opl Larry M. Rabon, left the middle of the month in aircraft #5771, a "C" model, for Manila, where they went to excert and navigate a flight of P-51's to Japan. Captain Garland Jones of the 31st Recommaissance Squadron did the navigation. They returned safely near the end of the month.
- 4. Let Lt Frank W. Hayslip departed the first of March for the States where he went to pick up and ferry back a new A-26 for the Group.
- 5. The annual Red Cross drive this year entitled "Accept Your Invitation to Give", got under way the latter part of the month, headed by Lt. William M. Retchford in our squadron.
- 6. 1st Lts. Marvin Greene and Robert Hippert were each awarded a 1083 MOS during the month, having completed the minimum requirements for an 1-26 Pilot.
- 7. Colonel Gumn, the Base Commander, who has been flying with the 90th for the past several months, left us to fly with the 13th Squadron for a period.
- 8. Major E. D. Guthery, assistant Deputy for Training and Operations on the base, joined us for flying duties. He had previously flown with the Sth Squadron.
- 9. The engineering section found it necessary to divide their personnel into two flights this month, doing away the old four-flight system.

  The change was necessary because of loss of personnel.
- 10. The record number of flying hours for the month (820) was accomplished even though airplanes were out of commission for the afore-mentioned nose-wheel cross-beam modification, and even though practically one whole week of flying was lost because of bad weather. The average number of aircraft in commission on flyable days was 10.

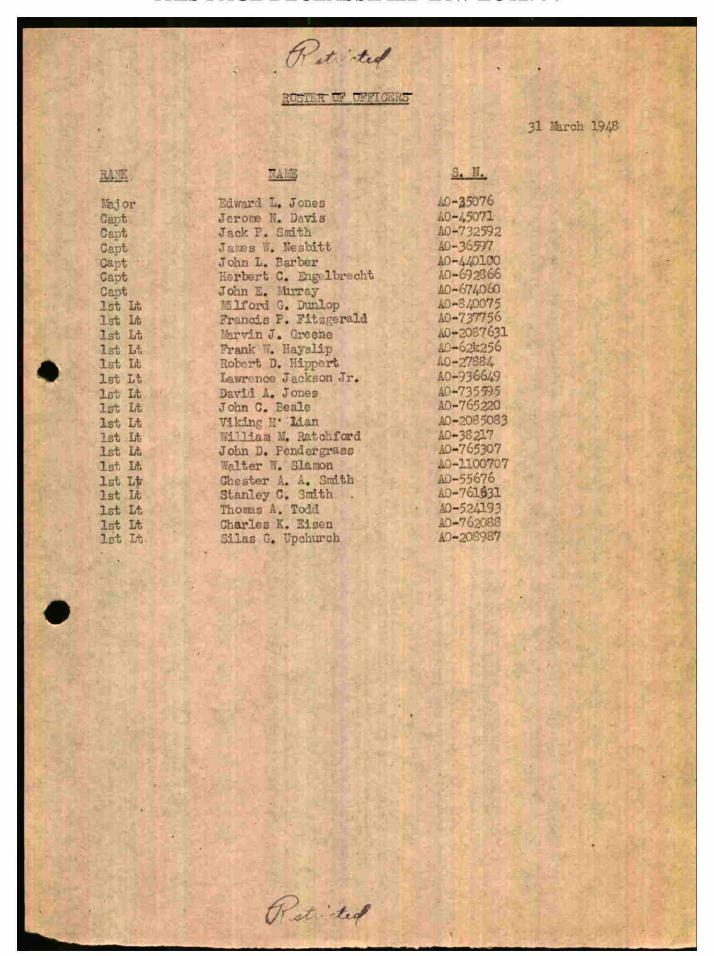
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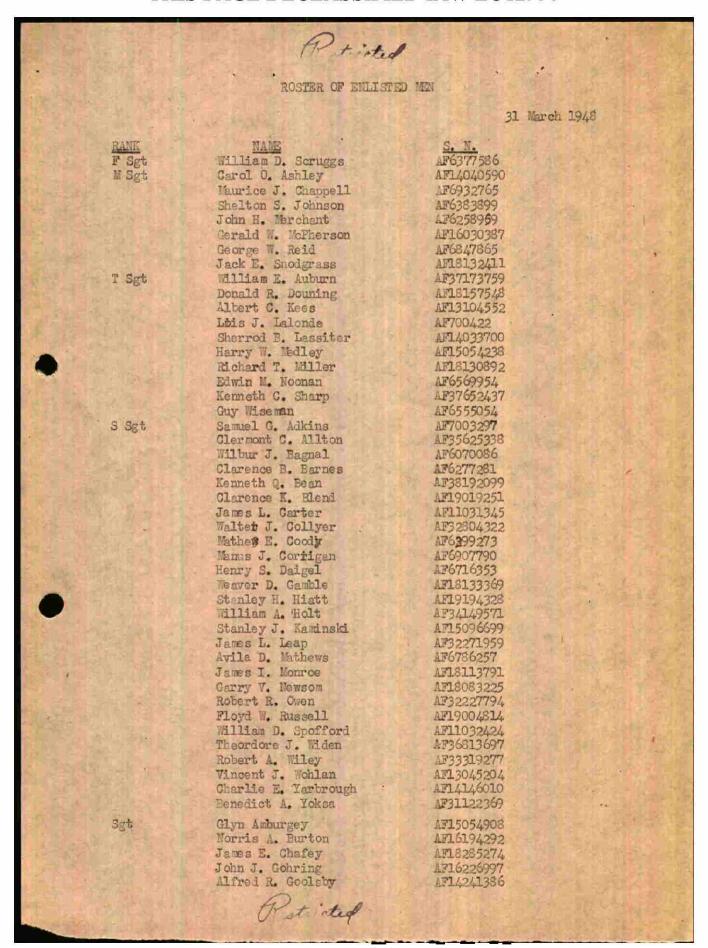
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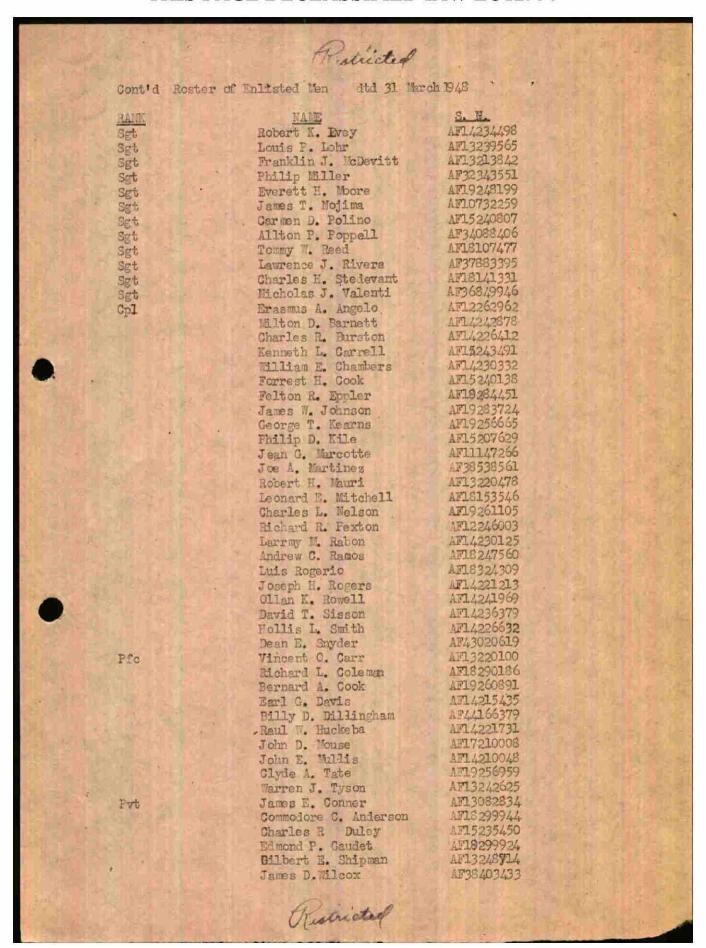
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The attached clippings are from the 90th Column in the "Third Strike", a weekly publication of Yokota Air Force Base Information and Mucation.

THE EYES AND EARS OF THE 90TH BOME STUADRON AS RE-PORTED BY S/SGT HENRY S. DATGEL

Capt. J. W. Nesbitt Who was Engineering Officer for the Sadn, has been released and lat Lt David A. Jones succeeds him in his new job as Engineering Off. Capt Nesbitt's new duties will be with Group Operations. Congratulations Captain. The Armament Shack gave S Set Leroy S. Benedict a farewell party at the NCO Club. Steaks were served around twice and plenty to drink was had. S Sgt Benedict is scheduled to leave here next week. The "Gunners" all presented Benedict with a bethrobe and a silver cigarette case on his departure. M Sgt Snodgrass, who formerly

M Sgt Snodgrass, who formerly worked under Capt Davis in Operations, is working on the line as a crew chief and seems to like it much better.

like it much better.
Chaplain Coburn and Major Powers are very much pleased these days to see the new attendance at Services and wish to see many more new faces.

The man in the sqdn would like to express their gratitude to the less Officer and the Mess Sgt and all the kitchen personnel for the fine food they are serving these days.

T Sgt Albert C. Kees, former crew chief and now working in the Engineering Dept., has given up all his lady loves for the sole purpose of playing golf. The are very sorry to hear that It. Milford G. Dunlop Personal Equipment Officer for the Equadron and outstanding basketball p layer and all around athlete, is confined to the 19th General Hospital in Tokyo. We all wish him God speed, and a fast recovery.

Sgt Tommy Reed, narrowly escaped serious injury when he struck a match to see how much gas was in hisjeep's tank. Needless to say, that tank blew up, but because of quick thinging, only minor damage to the jeep was sustained. Tommy will now carry a flashlight. He says he has learned the hard way.

We are sorry to announce that our basketball team forfeited the game Wednesday n ite, 10 March 1948, to 608 Air Material. Your reporter has been informed by a good source that continued poor participation in the athletic program will soon result in PT for the whole squadron

The campaign for the American Red Cross is gathering steam and is ready to roll. Instead of buying that extra bottle of beer, give those dimes to the Red Cross

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Restricted Cont'd Clippings. THE EYES AND BARS OF THE 90TH BOMB SEDN By S Sgt Honry Daigel There is a certain T Sgt This week, the new announcement that is grooming M Sgt "Mumbles" concerning discharge from the Air Force was announced in the squa-Chappell for a cross country marethon race. The said T Sgt dron dayroom Wednesday morning, says "Mumbles" will no doubt March 10 by Major E. L. Jones and 1st Sgt Scruggs. The Squa-Sgt "ivera of the sqdn had dron has 26 men eligible for early discharge. his 21st birthday on March 1st and had a party at T Sgt ledley's The squadron extends a hearty and a nice time was had by all. welcome to 1st Lt Charles K. Major Edward L. Jones, C.O. was Eisen and 1st Lt John C. Beale, two newly assigned officers to very pleased with the inspection Saturday our squadron. Lt Eisens duties will be Tech Supply Officer for the Squadron and Lt Beale is assigned to duties as assistant motor pool officer. Restricted

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A tricted 90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L) 3D BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) 90/WWR/njv APO 328 1 Merch 1948 SUBJECT: SOP for New Arrivals into Squadron TO: All Concerned F/Sgt 1. Make appointment for interview with Commanding Officer, Adjutant, Medical Officer, Base Chaplain, Section Head, and Barracks Chief. 2. Assign a room and mail box number, inform EM of Mailing Address. 3. Explain current VD policies, Off Limits Areas, Clothing Regulations, Formations, Black Market, and Pass System. B. Adjutant 1. Issue Ration Cards and Class "A" & "B" passes. C. Commanding Officer Personal interview to include general conditions within the theater, mission of the Organization, policies of the Base and of the Organization. Emphasis will be placed on V. D. Control and proper conduct of Air Force personnel in the Occupation. BY ORDER OF MAJOR JONES: WILLIAM M. RATCHFORD 1st Lt., USAF Adjutant

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509TH TRAINING SQUADRON (VH)
MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY SECTION
SAC FLIGHT "A"

10 March 1948

SUBJECT: Appreciation for services rendered

TO:

Commanding Officer SAC Flight "H" Yokota Air Force Base APO 328

- 1. The Meintenance and Supply Section of the 509th Training Squadron takes this opportunity to express the appreciation of all personnel within our organization for the services and cooperation received while we were operating from Yokota Air Force Base.
- 2. Often times it was necessary to borrow special equipment and facilities in the middle of the night and cause station personnel inconveniences ordinarily unnecessary in their line of duty so that we might accomplish our mission. Particularly the Base Ordinance Section, 31st Recon Squadron VLR, 90th Bombardment Squadron (L) of the 3rd Bombardment Group (L), Base Supply, Base Shops, Transient Alert and Base Radio and Radar Maintenance Section. There was no hesitancy at any time to help within the limits of their facilities.

Capt., USAF Engineering Officer

1st Ind. WHC/w 393rd Training Squadron, 509th Bomb Group (VH), Yokota Air Force Base, Japan 10 March 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, Yokota Air Force Base, Japan

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to forward this expression of appreciation to you from our Maintenance section.

VIRGIL M. CLOYD Lt Col, USAF Commanding

Patroted.
90th Bombardment Squadron (L) 3d Bombardment Group (L) APO 328 Yokota Air Force Base Honshu, Japan
Dear Mrs.
I am writing this letter to you to inform you that your son,  , is assigned to my organization, (or has been recently assigned). His mailing address is 90th Bombardment Squadron (L) 3d Bombardment Group (L), APO 328, % Postmaster, San Francisco, California.
First Name is assigned to duty as a EM's duty as taken from personal observation, etc.
At present the Bombardment Squadron is stationed at Yokota Air Force  Base, Honshu, Japan which is approximately thirty miles west of Tokyo, Here on the base the following facilities are available for the recreation and education of all; A large gym equipped with a bowling alley, basketball floor, handball court, and a small work-out room. A motion picture theater, with late released and a snack bar offering hamburgers and ice cream are frequented in the evenings. For the summer months a swimming pool and four tennis courts are situated near the center of the field and handy to all. Forthose who desire to continue or finish their education, an education program offering classes with civilian instructors and mail courses are easily available to all at no cost to the individual.  I have had a personal interview with Name and have told him that I was writing this letter to you. I will be pleased to hear from you and will endeavor to answer any questions you may care to ask.
Sincerely,
Gommanding Officers Signatur e
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