

90 TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)

UNIT - HISTORY

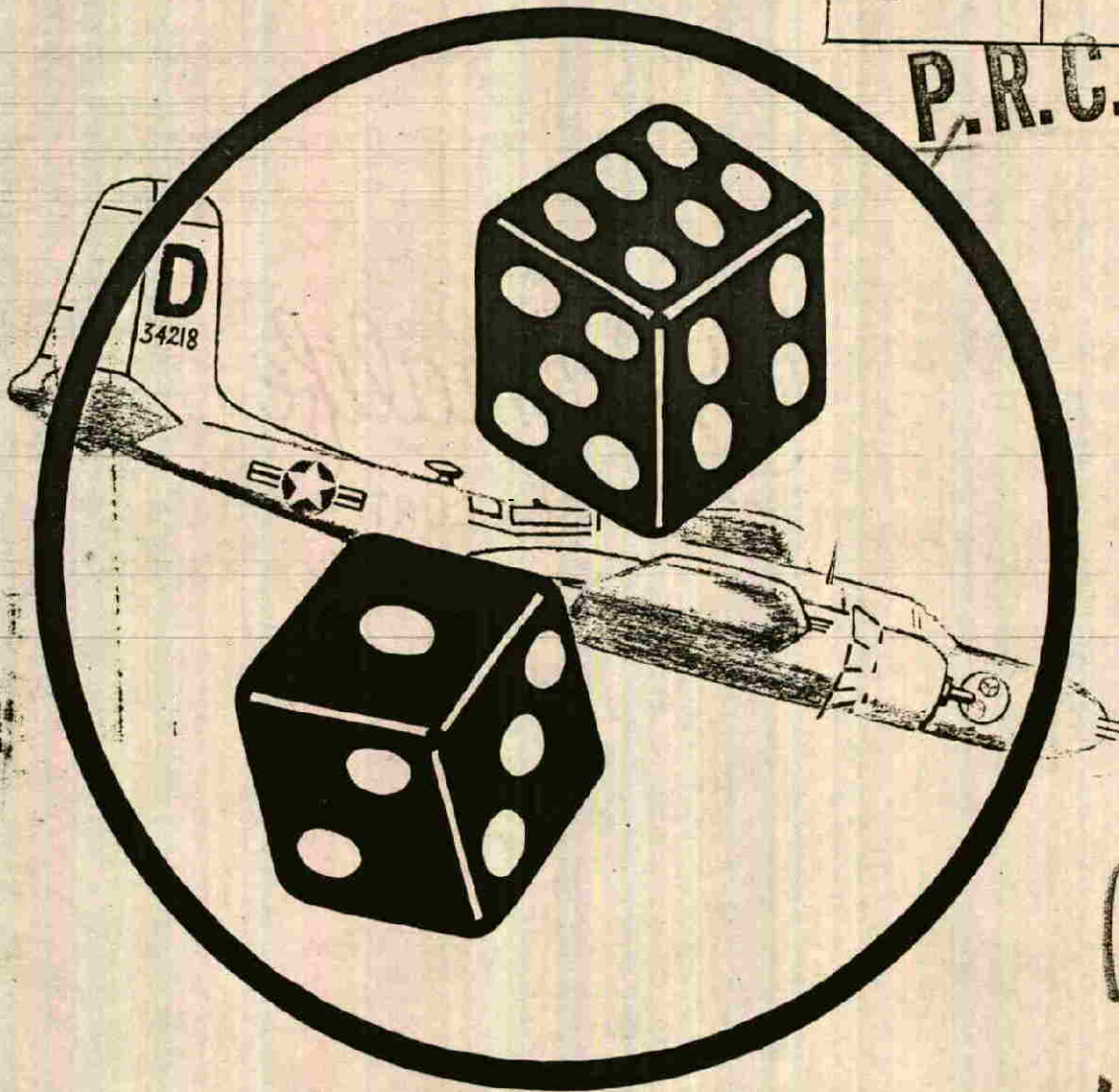
Oct. 48

CATALOGED

RETURN TO
RESEARCH STUDIES
INSTITUTE
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HISTORICAL DIVISION
ARCHIVES BRANCH

SG-BOMB-90-HZ
Oct 1948

P.R.C.



3 RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

314 TH COMPOSITE WING

5 TH AIR FORCE

3RD BW A-2645

00044826

a-5935-132

RESTRICTED

90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT WING (L)
APO 328

31 October 1948

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Unit History

TO : Chief of Staff
United States Air Force

P.R.C.

1. This history was compiled by 1st Lt. Francis P. Fitzgerald, with the clerical aid of S/Sgt. George A. Cook. 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.

Stanley D. Kline
STANLEY D. KLINE
Major., USAF
Commanding

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT WING (L)
APO 328

31 October 1948

SUBJECT: Unit History, 1 through 31 October 1948

The 90th Bombardment Squadron (L) continues to be one of the three Squadrons comprising the 3rd Bombardment Group (L), stationed at Yokota Air Force Base, APO 328, Honshu, Japan.

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SECTION IPERSONNEL

1. KEY PERSONNEL FOR THE MONTH:

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Major | Stanley D. Kline | Commanding Officer |
| Captain | Jerome N. Davis | Operations Officer |
| 1st Lt. | David A. Jones | Engineering Officer |
| 1st Lt. | John C. Beale | Adjutant |
| 1st Lt. | Marvin J. Greene | Supply Officer |
| M/Sgt. | Kermit A. Hall | First Sergeant |
| M/Sgt. | Shelton S. Johnson | Line Chief |

2. TOTAL OFFICER STRENGTH on 31 October was 25, as compared with 18 on the 30th of September.

3. TOTAL ENLISTED STRENGTH at the end of October was 120, compared with the total of 106 at the end of September.

4. PERSONNEL GAINS DURING THE MONTH:

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1st Lt. | Frank J. Kappler |
| 1st Lt. | Billy G. Turner |
| 1st Lt. | John R. Masen |
| 1st Lt. | Robert P. Bright |
| 1st Lt. | Fred R. Cunha |
| 1st Lt. | Walter H. Shamen |
| 1st Lt. | George V. Main |
| 2nd Lt. | Richard A. Detsen |
| S/Sgt. | Glenn E. Whitleck |
| Sgt. | Richard Donovan |
| Pfc. | Howard D. Carpenter |
| Pfc. | Lawrence A. Petsche |

5. PERSONNEL LOSSES DURING THE MONTH:

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| M/Sgt. | William R. Rogers |
| T/Sgt. | William E. Auburn |
| T/Sgt. | Harry M. Medley |
| S/Sgt. | Theodore Widen Jr. |
| S/Sgt. | Glyn Amburgey |
| Sgt. | Dean E. Snider |
| Sgt. | Cledas H. Darnell |
| Cpl. | Conley E. Ash |
| Cpl. | Phillip D. Kile |
| Cpl. | Jack W. Lewis |

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Section I (continued)

6. LEAVES AND FURLONGHS:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| Major | Stanley D. Kline..... | 10 days |
| Captain | John L. Barber..... | 10 days |
| Captain | Herman C. Mitchell..... | 15 days |
| Captain | Jack P. Smith..... | 10 days |
| 1st Lt. | Andrew R. Curtis..... | 15 days |
| 1st Lt. | Francis P. Fitzgerald..... | 10 days |

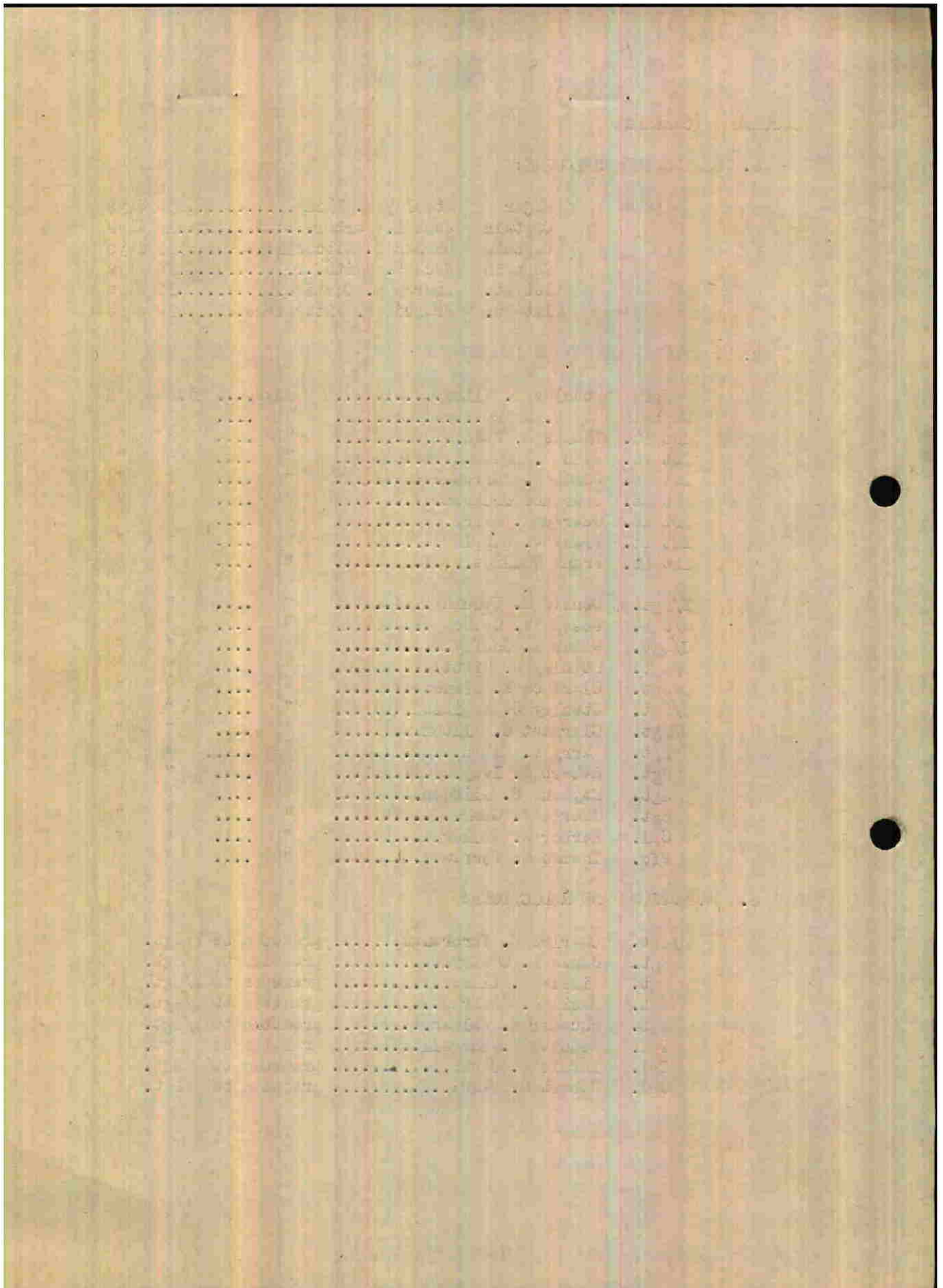
7. PERSONNEL ON TDY DURING MONTH

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Major | Stanley D. Kline..... | 7 days.... | Misawa AFB |
| Captain | Ray C. Sharp..... | " | " |
| 1st Lt. | Thomas A. Todd..... | " | " |
| 1st Lt. | John R. Masen..... | " | " |
| 1st Lt. | James H. Morrow..... | " | " |
| 1st Lt. | Lawrence Jackson..... | " | " |
| 1st Lt. | George R. Berry..... | " | " |
| 1st Lt. | Frank J. Kappler..... | " | " |
| 1st Lt. | Frank Bullias..... | " | " |
| T/Sgt. | Donald R. Deuning..... | " | " |
| S/Sgt. | Joseph V. Colhepp..... | " | " |
| S/Sgt. | James E. Chafey..... | " | " |
| S/Sgt. | Stanley H. Hiatt..... | " | " |
| S/Sgt. | Clarence K. Blend..... | " | " |
| S/Sgt. | Stanley J. Kaminski..... | " | " |
| S/Sgt. | Clerment C. Allten..... | " | " |
| Sgt. | Larry M. Rabon..... | " | " |
| Sgt. | Robert K. Ivey..... | " | " |
| Sgt. | Raymond B. Glidden..... | " | " |
| Sgt. | George A. Cook..... | " | " |
| Cpl. | Herber H. Walker..... | " | " |
| Pfc. | Thomas D. Ferrow..... | " | " |

8. PROMOTIONS AND REDUCTIONS:

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| S/Sgt. | Charles E. Yarbrough..... | promoted to T/Sgt. |
| Sgt. | James E. Chafey..... | promoted to S/Sgt. |
| Sgt. | Willie E. Liles..... | promoted to S/Sgt. |
| Sgt. | Basil J. Squires..... | promoted to S/Sgt. |
| Sgt. | Buchner H. Walker..... | promoted to S/Sgt. |
| Cpl. | Kenneth L. Carrell..... | promoted to Sgt. |
| Cpl. | Larnie H. Jones..... | promoted to Sgt. |
| Cpl. | Robert H. Mauri..... | promoted to Sgt. |

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SECTION IIMAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. THE CRITICAL NOSE STRUT SITUATION which left the squadron with only two flyable B-26 aircraft during September was considerably relieved by the arrival of fourteen new struts on the 11th of October. Within three days after their arrival the fourteen grounded aircraft were back in commission and normal flying operations were resumed. The total of 566 flying hours for the month enabled better than 95% of the rated personnel to complete 60-2 requirements for October, and at the same time lost last month.

The emphasis of course was placed on instrument and night flying, but a substantial number of skip-bombing and rocket firing missions were scheduled for Mito and Onohara Shima bombing ranges, thereby maintaining combat proficiency in these particular activities.

One six-ship formation was loaded with 5-inch HVAR's (Rockets) which were expended on the Onohara Shima range. This particular rocket has been suspended from use for the last six months pending Air Force investigation of premature explosions. The result of the investigation is the suspension only of lot numbers from which the bad rockets came. All other lot numbers are released for further use.

2. ON FRIDAY, THE 22ND OF OCTOBER, the 90th dispatched six airplanes with complete crews to Misawa Air Force Base for a 7 day period. Major Kline our commanding officer, headed the mission. The detachment operated from Misawa under classified orders.

3. ON THURSDAY, THE 28TH, the squadron participated in a tactical operation which involved practically all flying units of the 314th Air Division. Each squadron of the 3rd Bombardment Group furnished 9 B-26 aircraft for simulated attacks on targets in southern Honshu. The marshalling yards of the city of Hiroshima was designated as the 90th's target. Briefing was held in the 90th Operations building at 0900. The weather was reported as unfavorable by the weather office, with ceilings ranging from 2000 ft. to 3500 ft. in rain showers over the entire area. The pilots expected the mission to be scrubbed at the last minute, but 314th A.D. assumed the "I think you can make it" attitude, so the 90th departed with nine B-26's as scheduled. The route from base to target was via airways to Nagoya....direct from Nagoya to Oki Gunto thence direct from Oki Gunto south to the target. The ceilings from Nagoya ranged from 700 ft. to 2000 ft. with rain showers. After turning south toward the target the ceilings ranged from 1000 ft. to zero, with continuous rain. The formation led by Captain Jerome Davis, did a 180 turn and returned to base via the same route, without reaching the target. The mission was of 5 hours and fifteen minutes duration. No sightings were made during the trip. The landing time at Yokota was 1415 hours.

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Section II (continued)

4. A MINOR TAXI ACCIDENT on the 18th Of October blemished the flying safety record of the squadron. It occurred when the parking brakes were accidentally released while the pilot was occupied with closing the canopy with the engines running. The aircraft rolled into the tail assembly of the B-26 parked in front of it on the taxi strip, causing minor damage.

The 90th has flown a little better than 9000 hours during the past fifteen months without a single accident....minor or major. We are thankful that our record was blemished with a minor rather than a major.

5. FROM THE ENGINEERING SECTION comes the information that the Squadron has completed about 90% of the T.O. compliances applicable to the B-26 aircraft in this unit. The uncompleted ones are either awaiting the arrival of compliance kits or will remain uncompleted by verbal order of the Wing Commanding General.

Since last month, when the responsibility for compliances was shifted from centralized maintenance to the squadron, great strides have been made in complying with the applicable T.O.'s.

Fourteen (14) nacelle fuel cells were recently received by the engineering section from base supply, as part of the program to comply with re-lining cells with sponge rubber as required by T.O. 01-40AJ-114. After receipt of the cells it was found that their condition was so deteriorated that they could not be used in an airplane and require condemnation. It was believed that improper storage and lack of inspection by supply personnel was the reason for the condition. The squadron Tech Inspector found that the cells had not received an official inspection since 1945.

As usual the engineering personnel worked considerably overtime during the entire month in order to keep the aircraft in commission. The fact that most of the airplanes had been grounded for over a month made the extra work necessary to keep oil and fuel leaks to a minimum.

1st Lt. David A. Jones, the present engineering officer for the "Fair-a-dice Squadron" made the remark to this historical officer....and it is considered to be worthy of mention... that the engineering personnel seemed to be going at their work during October with a renewed vigor that was good to observe. The probable reason is that with all the aircraft back in flying condition, due to the receipt of the nose struts, the mechanics are able to work on something that they know is going to fly when they finish. The situation brought about by the grounding of the aircraft for such a long period, awaiting arrival of parts through supply channels, is definitely detrimental to the morale of those who work on the airplanes, not to mention that of those who fly them.

6. WORD WAS RECEIVED on the 28th of the month that the 90th would again participate in field maneuvers under simulated combat conditions. The tentative departure date was set as 8 November 1948. The base for operations and the length of stay is unknown at this writing.

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Section II (continued)

7. SQUADRON COMMUNICATIONS maintenance at the present time is being accomplished by a consolidated Group communications shop. This system will continue to function until such time as the squadrons have set up their individual sections and T.O.&E. equipment now on requisition arrives.

One of the greatest difficulties concerning communications maintenance right now is the lack of IFF equipment and the testing instruments needed for the equipment on hand.

8.

8. A DRIVE WAS BEGUN during October on Athletic and Recreational activities with the intent of having every officer and airman in the Squadron engaging in some sport or recreational activity. The aim is toward one hundred per cent participation. Competition is growing between the squadrons, with leagues organized in football, volleyball, and basketball for fall and winter seasons. There are also teams at both squadron and base level in bowling, handball, weights, boxing, photography, handicrafts, golf, skeet, etc. To date approximately fifty percent of the 90th personnel are engaging actively in some form of recreation. We look forward with confidence to 100% participation by the end of November.

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APPENDIX

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
3RD BOMBARDMENT WING (L)
APO 328

31 October 1948

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Major | Stanley D. Kline |
| Capt. | Jerome N. Davis |
| Capt. | Herman C. Mitchell |
| Capt. | Jack P. Smith |
| 1st Lt. | John C. Beale |
| 1st Lt. | George R. Berry |
| 1st Lt. | Robert P. Bright |
| 1st Lt. | Frank Bullias |
| 1st Lt. | Fred Cunha |
| 1st Lt. | Francis P. Fitzgerald |
| 1st Lt. | Ernest M. Herod |
| 1st Lt. | Lawrence Jackson Jr. |
| 1st Lt. | David A. Jones |
| 1st Lt. | Frank Kappler Jr. |
| 1st Lt. | Viking H. Lian |
| 1st Lt. | John R. Mason |
| 1st Lt. | Clarence T. Matlock |
| 1st Lt. | George V. Main |
| 1st Lt. | James H. Morrow |
| 1st Lt. | Walter W. Slamon |
| 1st Lt. | Thomas A. Todd |
| 1st Lt. | Billy G. Turner |
| 2nd Lt. | Andrew R. Curtis Jr. |
| 2nd Lt. | Richard A. Dotson |
| 2nd Lt. | John G. Reid |

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
3RD BOMBARDMENT WING (L)
APO 328

31 October 1948

ROSTER OF ENLISTED MEN

| RANK | NAME |
|--------|----------------------|
| M/Sgt. | Carol O. Ashley |
| M/Sgt. | Kermit A. Hall |
| M/Sgt. | Shelton S. Johnson |
| M/Sgt. | John H. Merchant |
| M/Sgt. | Jack E. Snodgrass |
| T/Sgt. | James L. Boyd |
| T/Sgt. | Donald R. Downing |
| T/Sgt. | Albert C. Kees |
| T/Sgt. | Richard T. Miller |
| T/Sgt. | John R. Oliver |
| T/Sgt. | Edwin M. Noonan |
| T/Sgt. | Charlie E. Yarbrough |
| S/Sgt. | Clermont C. Allton |
| S/Sgt. | Clarence K. Blend |
| S/Sgt. | Norman L. Browning |
| S/Sgt. | James V. Buchanan |
| S/Sgt. | James E. Chafey |
| S/Sgt. | Joseph V. Colhepp |
| S/Sgt. | Walter J. Collyer |
| S/Sgt. | George A. Cook |
| S/Sgt. | Joe R. Cross |
| S/Sgt. | Hugh M. Foster |
| S/Sgt. | Weaver D. Gamble |
| S/Sgt. | Richard L. Gates |
| S/Sgt. | Stanley H. Hiatt |
| S/Sgt. | James H. Hill |
| S/Sgt. | Stanley J. Kaminski |
| S/Sgt. | Paul G. Lester |
| S/Sgt. | Willie E. Liles |
| S/Sgt. | Garry V. Newsom |
| S/Sgt. | Roy F. Rittenhouse |
| S/Sgt. | Floyd W. Russell |

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ROSTER OF ENLISTED MEN CONTINUED

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| S/Sgt. | Michael J. Saj |
| S/Sgt. | Basil J. Squires |
| S/Sgt. | Buckner H. Walker |
| S/Sgt. | Ernest T. Whalen |
| S/Sgt. | Glenn E. Whitlock |
| S/Sgt. | Robert A. Wiley |
| S/Sgt. | Vincent J. Wohlan |
| S/Sgt. | Whittemore A. Yates |
| S/Sgt. | Benedict A. Yoksa |
| Sgt. | Robert J. Berkes |
| Sgt. | Norris A. Burton |
| Sgt. | William E. Chambers |
| Sgt. | Kenneth L. Carrell |
| Sgt. | Forrest H. Cook |
| Sgt. | Richard Donavan |
| Sgt. | Frank Feysa |
| Sgt. | Alfred R. Goolsby |
| Sgt. | John J. Gohring |
| Sgt. | Raymond B. Glidden |
| Sgt. | Kenneth S. Hamblin |
| Sgt. | Robert K. Ivey |
| Sgt. | Larnie H. Jones |
| Sgt. | George T. Kearns |
| Sgt. | Robert E. Mack |
| Sgt. | Robert H. Mauri |
| Sgt. | Franklin J. McDevitt |
| Sgt. | Tauno Mehto |
| Sgt. | Everett H. Moore |
| Sgt. | Charles L. Nelson |
| Sgt. | John E. Peairs |
| Sgt. | Richard R. Pexton |
| Sgt. | James C. Phillips |
| Sgt. | Larry M. Rabon |
| Sgt. | George Rallis |
| Sgt. | Tommy W. Reed |
| Sgt. | Joseph H. Rogers |
| Sgt. | Robert F. Schnelle |
| Sgt. | David T. Sisson |
| Sgt. | John F. Tierney |
| Sgt. | Erasmus A. Angelo |
| Cpl. | Evaristo Baca |
| Cpl. | Wade A. Hilliard |
| Cpl. | Charles H. Burston |
| Cpl. | Joe Galileo |
| Cpl. | James H. Holden |

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ROSTER OF ENLISTED MEN CONTINUED

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| Cpl. | Otha C. Hudson |
| Cpl. | Lowell Kelly |
| Cpl. | Linwood A. Landers |
| Cpl. | Thomas J. Lessik |
| Cpl. | Joe A. Martinez |
| Cpl. | Jean G. Marcotte |
| Cpl. | Billy G. Maloney |
| Cpl. | Don E. McCarthy |
| Cpl. | John L. Robinson |
| Cpl. | Marlin A. Robinson |
| Cpl. | Hollis L. Smith |
| Cpl. | Clyde A. Tate |
| Cpl. | Herbert H. Walker |
| Cpl. | James M. Wert |
| Cpl. | James A. Wilcox |
| Cpl. | Herman White |
| | |
| Pfc. | Gilbert G. Amancio |
| Pfc. | James R. Barfield |
| Pfc. | James D. Broyles |
| Pfc. | Howard D. Carpenter |
| Pfc. | Richard L. Coleman |
| Pfc. | Bernard A. Cook |
| Pfc. | Harvey W. Cox |
| Pfc. | Jack D. Culpepper |
| Pfc. | Harold F. Leep |
| Pfc. | John P. Mahoney |
| Pfc. | James C. Moore |
| Pfc. | James E. Millis |
| Pfc. | Thomas D. Perrow |
| Pfc. | Lawrence A. Petsche |
| Pfc. | Vito Frano |
| Pfc. | Vincent G. Reed |
| Pfc. | Warren J. Tyson |
| Pfc. | Milfford C. Zoubek |
| Pfc. | James E. Conner |
| | |
| Pvt. | Edmond P. Gaudet |
| Pvt. | James V. Johnson |
| Pvt. | Bob G. Kelly |
| Pvt. | Henry J. Olszowy |
| Pvt. | Donald L. Rollyson |
| Pvt. | James D. Wilcox |

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
3RD BOMBARDMENT WING (L)
APO 328

31 October 1948

ROSTER OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FOR FLYINGPILOTS

Major W. D. Harris
Major R. V. Hench
Major G. Prodonivich
Major A. E. Shook
Major R. E. Wade

Capt. G. D. Alber
Capt. E. Krafka
Capt. R. E. Maggart
Capt. J. W. Nesbitt
Capt. S. W. Peace
Capt. J. F. Reilly
Capt. R. C. Sharp

1st Lt. J. F. Yelton
1st Lt. J. B. Brown
1st Lt. S. C. Frost
1st Lt. J. S. McWilliams
1st Lt. L. L. Hampton
1st Lt. F. W. Hayslip
1st Lt. R. A. Rolin
1st Lt. N. R. Smith
1st Lt. G. M. Heschele
1st Lt. W. L. Whalley

NAVIGATORS AND BOMBARDIERS

1st Lt. E. N. Phillips
2nd Lt. S. Roskin

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