MONTHET UNIT HISTORY

JULY 1244

99TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)

3RD BOLBARDILATT GROUP (L)

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SECTION I

CHACHOLOGICAL KARRATIVE

CUMBAT UPBRATIUNS

### Characterial mandarive Combar orestations JULY 1944

During the month of July 1944 thirty six sorties were flown, with 40,215 rounds of 50-calibre ammunition expended in strafing, and 11.9 tons of bombs dropped. This is a decrease of 203,565 rounds of ammunition and 99.7 tons of bombs from the figures for June. This is accounted for by the fact that the Squadron was called on for only three missions before the Boela raid of 14 July, and for only one mission after that date. Sixteen type A-20G-20s, G-30s, and G-40s were assigned to the Squadron on 1 July, and sixteen of the same types were in commission on 31 July.

The first mission flown during the month was a nine-plane raid on the area immediately south of Kamiri Drome. This mission was flown on 1 July with a total of 35 incendiary clusters dropped on the target. No fires were seen due to the speed of the planes. (1)

On 3 July three A-200s were called on for a smoke-laying mission along hamiri Strip, covering the landing of Allied para-troops. Timing was perfect, with the smoke laid thirty seconds before the first para-troopers jumped. (2)

Sagan Drome was the target on 6 July, when six planes took off with para-denolition bombs. Forty-nine bombs were dropped on the target, but damage could not be assessed due to the slow fall of the bombs. No plane was holed by the ack-ack encountered over the target or on the return trip.

The big raid of the month was that on Boela Township, on Ceram Island. It was the first time that a-20s had been used in this theatre to hit an industrial target. The assigned targets included a power station, certain buildings, oil storage tanks, and oil derricks. The plan of attack was extremely complicated, and each crew member was briefed on the precise location of his target. Twelve planes took off, and each hit the target assigned, dropping a total of 120 para-demos on the target. Despite heavy smoke hanging over the target when the Squarron approached, two direct hits were scored on the power station, two buildings were destroyed and others damaged, one oil storage tank was blown open, and several fires were started. All crews were jubilant over the success of the mission. No plane was holed, and all landed safely at Biak Island, from where they were staged for the attack. (4)

<sup>(1)</sup> FFO # 183-E-3, 310th Bomb Mg. (2) FFO # 185-E-5, 310th Bomb Mg.

<sup>(3)</sup> FFC # 198-E-6, 310th Bomb ag. (4) FFC # 196-C-2, 310th Bomb ag.

Combat Operations, July, cont'd.

The only other mission flown during the month of July was a six-plane mission that took off on 27 July to bomb and strafe a bivouac area west of Babo Drome. The planes were turned back by weather, "10/10ths covered right down to the ground", when only thrity-five miles from the target. (1)

No further missions were flown during the month.

(1) FFO 1 209-E-1, 310th Bomb Wg.

PRIMISTAVIION CHRONCICOLORE NARATIVE

SECTION

#### CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE ADMINISTRATION JULY 1944

The 89th Bombardment Squadron (L) was stationed at APO 565 during the month of July.

1st Lieut Avril Foreman was transferred to the 4th Replacement Depot, APO 928 for transportation to the United States on the 1st. (1)

On the 5th or July Lieut Waters (Pilot) was granted leave to Sydney for seven days. (2)

Corporals Merchant, Shields, Salmi and Smith, W.R. were granted 10 days furloughs to Mackay on the 6th or this month. (3) (4)-

1st Lieut Suor (Pilot) appointed Captain July 10th. Major Dow was transferred to 3rd Bomb Group Headquarters. Sergeants Bracey and Vincente were granted furloughs to Mackay for ten days. Captain Heyer appointed Commanding Officer of the squadron. (5)

On 11th of July, 1st Lieut Field and 1st Lieut Marshall were granted 7 days leaves to Sydney. Capt Conner, Squadron Surgeon, on DS at APO 928. (6)

Technical Sergeants Higinbotham and Leonard appointed Master Sergeants; Staff Sergeants Campbell, Chaloux, Cleveland, DeSerio, Gourrer, Morin, Rice, and Spatharos appointed Technical Sergeants; and Sergeants Maberry, Morrett and Corporal Leavell appointed Starr Sergeants. (7)

Second Lieut Messerlie was granted a leave to Sydney on the 13th. Staff Sergeants Morris, Phillips, Shallenberger and Yaniga were granted furloughs to Sydney.

Captain Conner was transferred to School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Texas on the 19th or July. (8)

On the 25th of this month, 1st Lieut McEvoy and 2nd Lieut King were granted leaves to Sydney. Corporals Pourciau, McConnell, Foley and Private Beardall were granted 10 days furloughs to Mackay. (9)

<sup>(1)</sup> SO # 179, V Bomber Command (2) SO # 74, 3rd Bomb Group (3) SO # 71, 3rd Bomb Group (4) SO # 75, 3rd Bomb Group (5) SO # 76, 3rd Bomb Group (6) SO # 77, 3rd Bomb Group (7) Letter, USAFFE, 4 July 44

<sup>(8)</sup> SO # 76, 3rd Bomb Group

SO # 82, 3rd Bomb Group

Staff Sergeants Foreman, Grigus and Zahn were granted furloughs to Sydney on the 26th. (10)

On the 28th of this month Pvt lcl Johnson, F. H. and Pvt Goodman was assigned to the squadron from Bomber Command. (11)

1st Lieut Waters promoted Captain on the 29th of July. (12)

Staff Sergeant Bocchino, Gunner, was relieved from assignment and transferred to the 266th Replacement Company, APO 322 on the 31st. The Gunner is on his way to Brooklyn. (13)

The personnel strength during the month or July: Officers.

|      |                            | Flying | Ground |
|------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| (a)  | At beginning of Period     | 24     | 12     |
| (b)  | Net increase during period |        |        |
| (c)  | Net decrease during period | 1      | 2      |
| (d)  | At end of period           | 23     | 10     |
| Enli | isted Men.                 |        |        |
| (a)  | At beginning of period     | 35     | 222    |
| (b)  | Net Increase during period |        |        |
| (b)  | Net decrease during period | 1      | 10     |
| (a)  | At end of period           | 34     | 212    |
|      |                            |        |        |

SO # 81, 3rd Bomb Group SO # 32, 91st Replacement Depot SO # 41, FEAF SO # 210, Fifth Air Force

SEGNET

SECTION II

LOCAL INTEREST

### LUCAL INTAREST

On Independence Day, 4 July, 1944, Lieutenant William A. Fowler took an A-20G up for a test hop. He was slow-timing the plane, and carried two wing tanks each full of CS, or "smoke". A Chemical Marfare Service officer, Captain Frank A. Hamel, and a Frivat First Class, Everett G. Cundiff of the same Service, went along to watch the test of the chemical tanks. Captain Hamel was riding on the shelf behind the pilot, while Ffc. Cundiff rode in the tail. Lieutenant Fowler later claimed that it was the shortest flight ever made by a plane of the 89th Bomb Squadron. He claimed, too, that it was probably the only time anyone who had an A-20 engine cut out on takeoff, had lived to tell about it. For the plane was only 50 feet off the ground when the right engine cut out. Lt. Fowler warned the man riding in the tail to be ready to crash-land, shouted to the officer to hang on, jettisoned his escape hatch, braced himself, ducked his head in case Captain Hamel should slide forward across him, and set the plane down on the surface of Lake Sentani. Both officers then splashed around getting Pfc. Cundiff out before the plane should sink, which it did in about twenty seconds. The pilot was dazed, so Captain Hamel inflated both "Mae Wests" and then held the enlisted man afloat while they waited for rescue. The liquid chemical had flowed out in the fresh water of the lake as the plane sank, and this chemical irritated and burned the skin of the men until fifteen minutes later, when a part; of infantrymen pulled out to them in an assault boat. Both officers suffered bruises and minor cuts, and the enlisted man was bruised but otherwise uninjured. The plane sank out of sight, and Lieutenant Fowler returned to the Quadron where he submitted his form one, showing one minute and forty seconds flying time.

SEGNET

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DECCRATIONS

### AHARDS AND DECUNATIONS

On Independence Day, 4 July, Lieutenant Horace B. Monroe was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received when the aircraft he was piloting was hit by heavy ack-ack fire over Kamiri Drome on 6 June, resulting in a crashlanding in the ocean off Biak Island. Lieutenant Thomas J. Reading received the Purple Heart and Staff Sergeant Burke L. Cock, the Cak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart for wounds resulting from a crash landing near Annenberg on their return from the strike against Newak Drome, 3 May. This same order awarded Captain James L. Folse the Cak Leaf Cluster in lieu of his second Purple Heart for injuries received as a result of a crash-landing on his return from the Kokas mission of 16 June. (1)

One hundred hours of combat flying earned the award of an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal for Staff Sergeants Caesar F. Bocchino and Faul M. willock on the 8th of this Month. (2)

Lieutenant Leland H. Maters, Jr., received his Cak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal on 10 July for his successful completion of 100 hours of combat flying. (3)

16 July made Captain George R. Conner and Ffc. Russell H. Akerman recipients of the Soldier's Medal. These awards were both earned for their heroic efforts, which resulted in saving the lives of two combat crew members, when an A-20 crashed on take-off on 14 June. (4)

(3) GO 61, Hq FEAF. (4) GO 69, Hq FEAF.

GO 26, Hq V BC.
 GO 57, Hq FEAF.

STORET

SECTION III

AFPENDIX

89 TH BOMB/RIMMET SQUADROM (I) JRD BOMBARDHERT GROUP (L)

MAC/two

16 August, 1944.

SUBJECT: Operations Report.

- : Historical Officer, 59th Bomberdment Squedron (L).
- 1. The following information is hereby submitted for the Squedron History for the month of July, 1914:
  - a. Strength, sirplenes:
    - (1) At beginning of period: 16 A-20-31s.
      (2) Net increase during period: 1 A-20-G.
      (3) No. lost through combat: None.
      (4) No. lost on ground through enemy action: None.
      (5) No. lost through transfer: 1 A-20-G.
      (6) At end of period: 17 A-20-Gis.

- b. The Squadron flew 36 combet sortios during the month of July, 1944.
- c. The Squedron flew 255:15 combat hours during the month of July,

For the Squadron Commender:

Mason a Capilana MASON A. COPELAND,

1st. Lt., Alr Corps, Adjutent.