

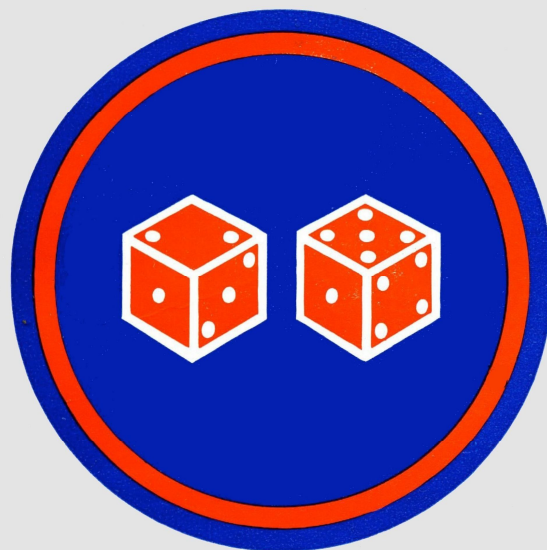
90TH
BOMB
SQUADRON

HISTORY

3RD
BOMB
GROUP

LIGHT

JANUARY 1945



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Jan 1945

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DESIGNATION SHEET

AIR FORCE FIFTH AIR FORCE
COMMAND V BOMBER COMMAND
WING 310TH BOMB WING
GROUP 3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP
SQUADRON 90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

PERIOD January 1945

The security classification has been checked.

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF

DJM/DW/heh

APO 321,
22 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 710. (Atten: Historical Officer).

1. In accordance with AR 345-105 and AAF Regulation No. 20-8, submit herewith the history of this organization for the month of January 1945, which has been inspected and verified by the undersigned.

2. The material submitted was prepared by Captain Donald Macomber, Jr., O-856200, Air Corps. Facts and observations included in the narrative and not otherwise credited are based on the personal knowledge and opinions of Captain Macomber.

Donald J. McCellan
DONALD J. McCELLAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON * 3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP

JANUARY HISTORY

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SECTION I

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

AWARDS

ADMINISTRATIVE NARRATIVE

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FFO 26E-4. This squadron's first mission from Mindoro, P.I. was a road network search in support of ground troops from San Fernando to Tobang. Nine A-20s took off at 1500/I on the 26th of January and made a negative search of the road network so the airplanes bombed and strafed the secondary target, Carabao Island, dropping 15 x 100 lb and .50 caliber ammunition. 5 x 100 lb parademos overshot and exploded in the water. The warehouse on the pier was partially damaged and an oil fire was started with smoke to 2500 feet. Slight, heavy A/A fire came from Corregidor Island, holing one airplane. 3 x 100 lb incendiaries and 7 x 250 lb parademos failed to release over the target and were salvaged.

FFO 27E-1. The second mission of the month was flown on the morning of 27 January to Tuguegarao Airdrome, Central Luzon, which was the secondary target. The primary target, Aparri Airdrome, Gattaran and Guising Villages, were not attacked because of bad weather. Three airplanes made three passes from East to West over the target dropping 80 x 23 lb parafrags and 5 x 100 lb parademos between the south end of the strip and the barracks area, starting three small fires. 80 x 23 lb parafrags hit in the area between the strip and the creek. One shack was destroyed and the operations tower was set on fire by strafing. 5,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition was expended in strafing. One airplane was holed by machine gun fire. Seven A-20s returned due to lack of communication with the element leader who had to return due to engine trouble. 40 x 23 lb parafrags were returned.

FFO 28E-1. On the 28th of January, this squadron was again given Aparri Airdrome and Gattaran Village as the primary target with Tuguegarao as the secondary. Ten A-20s took off at 0620/I, but only four reached the primary target because two A-20s returned to base due to mechanical trouble and four A-20s returned because they failed to make rendezvous with the squadron leader. A four-plane pass was made over Aparri Airdrome and Gattaran Village dropping 180 x 23 lb parafrags with unobserved results. 24 x 23 lb parafrags were dropped on the secondary target, Tuguegarao Airdrome, with results unobserved. Both targets were strafed with 5,250 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. One airplane was holed by machine gun fire, and one airplane was lost due to lack of fuel after being forced off course by bad weather. The pilot and gunner were later rescued and returned, without injury, by help of Filipino Guerrillas. The three remaining A-20s landed at Lingayen, Luzon, to refuel and returned to base at 1300/I. 1256 x 23 lb parafrags and 5 x 100 lb 4-5 second delay fused demolition bombs were returned.

Fragmentary Field Orders covering the above operations will be found in Appendix starting on page 11.

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FFO 29E-7. There were five possible targets for 29 January with landing support at San Felipe and San Miguel as the primary. A definite target was to be designated by the ground station "Wabash", but "Wabash" had no target. The airplanes were ordered to land at Manaog Strip and were given a target. One A-20 had to salvo its bombs and crash land after the left engine went out on the approach to the strip. The crew was saved with slight injury to the gunner. One A-20 burned its brakes out while landing and had to be left on Manaog Strip. Six A-20s took off from Manaog to attack Talavera and made five bombing and strafing runs over the town dropping 12 x 100 lb 4 to 5 second delay fused demolition bombs and 60 x 100 lb parademos. Three large buildings were destroyed and nine fires were started including one large oil fire. One A-20 remained at Manaog to check up on the crashed airplane and then took off for the return trip to base bombing Carabao Island (the 5th target) on the return. 2 x 100 lb 4 to 5 second delay fused bombs and 10 x 100 lb parademos were dropped on the pier on the East side of the island with unobserved results. 12,300 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition were expended by all seven airplanes.

FFO 31A-2. The concluding mission for the month was flown on 31 January and was a ground support mission to Nasugbu, Luzon. Nine airplanes took off at 0732/I and searched the Nasugbu area for targets. Failing to locate a suitable target, all airplanes returned to base with all their bombs and ammunition.

Fragmentary Field Orders covering the above operations will be found in Appendix starting on pagell.

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Awards were made to the following officer and enlisted men during the month of January 1945.

First Lieutenant Leonard J. Duval, O-806242, was awarded a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second award of the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on Dutch New Guinea, 16 July 1944. On General Order No. 4, VBC, dated 14 January 1945.

Thirty-three enlisted men were awarded the Good Conduct Medal on General Order No. 1, 3BG, dated 20 January 1945.

General Order No. 4, VBC, page 13
General Order No. 1, 3BG, page 27

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Page 3

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The changes in assigned Personnel for the month of January, 1945, are summarized as follows: (1)

	Officers	Enlisted	Total
Personnel strength 1 January 1945	41	220	261
Add: Assigned & transferred	7	12	19
	48	232	280
Less: Returned to US		6	6
Missing in Action	1	1	2
Transferred		1	1
Evacuated		2	2
Personnel strength, 31 January 1945	47	222	269

Among the officers, Capt. S.D.Kline, Commanding, was promoted to Major and 2nd Lt. J.W.Fletcher, 2nd Lt. J.D.McFall, 2nd Lt. R.W.Vandeford, were promoted to First Lieutenants. Sgt. R.H.Cross was promoted to S/Sgt. and Pfc L.R.Garcia was promoted to Cpl. Sgt. C.L.Schaefer was promoted to S/Sgt. (2)

T/Sgt C.E.Gresham left for 30 days T/D in the United States. (3)

2nd Lt. J.R.Bartholomew was appointed Squadron Tech Supply Officer and 1st Lt. J.D.McFall was relieved as Squadron Assistant Engineering Officer. (4)

Capt. D.W.Gilliam, per WOCO, Headquarters, 3rd Bomb Group, was placed on D/S with the 360th Service Group, APO 713-1. (5)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| (1) See Personnel Report - | Page 9 |
| (2) Par. 1, SO No. 357, USAFFE - | Page 14 |
| Par. 1, SO No. 350, USAFFE - | Page 15 |
| Par. 4, SO No. 117, 3rd B. Gp. - | Page 16 |
| Par. 6, SO No. 6, 3rd B. Gp. - | Page 17 |
| (3) Par. 5, SO No. 12, VEC - | Page 18 |
| (4) Par. 1 & 2, SO No. 1, 90th B.S. - | Page 19 |

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SECTION II

LOCAL INTEREST

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The first week of January was spent in establishing the squadron area consisting of such chores as erecting the pre-fabricated building which was our mess hall, laying pipe lines for showers, digging latrines and making our quarters liveable. The area was located in a rice paddy, with not a tree in sight, and about one half mile from San Jose. There was a railroad running from the town to Blue Beach. True, it was only a narrow gauge line, but it was the first railroad anyone had seen for nearly three years and was a definite mark of civilization.

Until the 7th January, when they abruptly ceased, the nightly raids continued with increasing fury and the squadron personnel lost so much sleep that a "sack" period had to be proclaimed in order to restore the old pep and ginger to the outfit. On the 2nd January, the Nips had a field day over the area in-as-much-as our batteries put on a negligible show of anti-aircraft fire. While one son of "Heaven" did lazy eights at about five thousand feet above us a second plane would make a strafing pass across the area on its run toward the strip which is in a direct line with the camp. Several anti-personnel bombs were dropped in these attacks and several men of the squadron became "believers". A sudden demand was made of the squadron supply, in the middle of the night, for shovels and many slit trenches were dug while others were made deeper. That night and the following night were spent in the slit trenches with short breathing spells above ground to stretch the legs.

During the period of the heaviest raids, there were seven enemy planes shot down, one of which was a "Sonia" dive-bomber. This plane, in particular, is of interest to the squadron because Captain Macomber, Intelligence Officer, hopped into his jeep and dashed to the scene of the crash. Not a few GI souvenir hunters were peeved on being relieved of their booty, but after an explanation as to the value of captured equipment they readily turned in their profits. One man was very happy when he was allowed to keep a Jap flag, scarf and saber. A few hours after breakfast, Captain Macomber returned laden down with generators, ammunition cans, map cases, maps, papers and books. All these he turned over to the proper intelligence authorities and to Air Technical Intelligence. One of the books, on translation, was found to be a new radio code which proved to be of great value.

After the landing at Lingayen, Luzon January 9th, the Japs left us strictly alone and life became routine once more. You may talk of your old yankee traders, but they had nothing on us. Lumber, of all types and sizes, was brought in and frame tents popped up all over the camp area. It isn't necessary to describe how lumber was procured; all that matters is that we got it.

After the first two weeks of January, the squadron area took on a first class appearance; a credit to any organization.

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Finally on January 25th, after a rough trip by way of Biak, Morotai and Leyte, all our A-20s arrived none the worse for wear. The pilots and gunners were all eager to fly combat again and they weren't disappointed as on the 26th the squadron hit Carabao Island near Corregidor. This was the first mission the squadron had flown in the Philippine Islands since its liberation. Exactly two years, nine months and fourteen days previous to this date the squadron, consisting of six B-25s, had bombed Cebu from Darwin Australia; Staging from a secret air field near Valencia on Mindanao Island.

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SECTION III

APPENDIX

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) MF

RRF/DJM/dev

AFO 321,
12 March 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Aircraft Status.

TO : Historical Officer, 90th Bombardment Squadron (L) AFO 321.

1. In compliance with your request, the following report on aircraft status for the month of January 1945 is submitted.

DATE	AIRCRAFT COMMISSIONED		REMARKS
	IN	OUT	
Jan. 1	14	3	
2	14	3	
3	15	2	
4	15	2	
5	15	2	
6	17	0	
7	17	0	
8	17	0	
9	17	0	
10	17	0	
11	16	1	
12	15	2	
13	14	3	
14	15	2	
15	17	0	
16	15	2	
17	16	1	
18	17	0	
19	17	0	
20	13	4	
21	16	1	
22	16	1	
23	17	0	
24	17	0	
25	8	9	
26	15	2	
27	14	3	
28	15	2	
29	17	0	
30	13	2	43-21312, 43-9471 Crashed.
31	13	2	

Robert R. Fitch
ROBERT R. FITCH
Captain, Air Corps,
Engineering Officer.

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF

JBF/heh

APO 321,
12 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Ammunition Expenditure.

TO : Historical Officer, 90th Bombardment Squadron (L).

1. In compliance with your request, the following report on ammunition and bomb expenditure during the month of January is submitted.

2. Bombs.

A. Type.

- 1. 100 lb demos
- 23 lb fragmentation

Number

90

272

2. Ammunition.

A. Type.

- 1. .50 caliber

21,150

James B. Peterson
JAMES B. PETERSON,
Captain, Air Corps,
Armament Officer.

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90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (1)
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (1)

FM/ tab

WFO 321,
1 February, 1945.

SUBJECT: Monthly Personnel Report, January, 1945.

TO : Historical Officer, 90th Bombardment Squadron (1), WFO 321.

1. In compliance with your request, the monthly personnel report for January, 1945, is submitted.

2. The assigned personnel strength at the beginning and at the end of the month were:

(a) 1 January, 1945:	
Officers	41
Enlisted Men	220
	261

(b) 31 January, 1945:	
Officers	47
Enlisted Men	223
	270

3. The following named officers and enlisted men were assigned and transferred to this organization:

Capt L.N. Pabst	AC	Pilot
1st Lt R.W. Cordes	AC	Pilot
1st Lt C.F. Downey	AC	Pilot
2nd Lt C.F. Newton	AC	Pilot
2nd Lt T.V. Wright	AC	Pilot
2nd Lt F. Gini	AC	Pilot
Pvt C.M. Lawrence	AC	Pilot
S/Sgt W.J. Carothers	AC	AF Armorer
S/Sgt C.L. Chappell	AC	AF Tech Gunner
S/Sgt J.P. Ponce	AC	AF Tech Gunner
Cpl L.F. Bennett	AC	AF Arm Gunner
Cpl W.F. Glasgow	AC	AF Arm Gunner
Cpl J.P. Murphy	AC	AF Arm Gunner
Cpl F.L. Powers	AC	AF Tech Gunner
Cpl J.L. Schaub	AC	AF Arm Gunner
Cpl G.F. Szwedka	AC	AF Arm Gunner
Cpl L.L. Tandy	AC	AF Arm Gunner
Cpl T. Dr	AC	AF Arm Gunner
Cpl E. Later	AC	AF Tech Gunner

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4. C/Sgt G.L. DeWain, AC, AMO Gunner Instructor was transferred from this organization to No. 3, 3rd Bomb Gr, per WCO, 3rd Bomb Gr.

5. The following named enlisted men were transferred from this organization for return to the United States:

C/Sgt W.F. Hays	AC	Photo Lab Tech
C/Sgt J.T. Barford	AC	W/ Paint Tech
C/Sgt J.J. Goodwin	AC	W/ Paint Tech
C/Sgt E.L. Gordon	AC	W/ Paint Tech
C/Sgt R.W. Cross	AC	Auto Equip Tech
Cpl J.W. Ledbetter	Ord	W/ Armor

6. The following named officer and enlisted men were lost from this organization:

1st Lt G.F. Newton	AC	Pilot	U.S.A.
C/Sgt J.W. Shuler	AC	W/ Armor Gunner	U.S.A.
Cpl V.L. Russell	AC	W/ In.	Truncated
Cpl J. Smith	AC	Duty Soldier	Truncated

By order of the Squadron Commander:

Fredrick M. Hume
1st Lt, USAF
Capt., Air Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS, 110TH BOMB WING (M)
APO 321

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 19, 19 January 1945.

3. F. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1). Strike CALABASAN - MORGARAY AWA targets of opportunity using one (1) squadron A-20's.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER NUMBER 19, 19 January 1945.

3. G. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1) Conduct strike on SALAMAGUE HARBOR and shipping sweep North Coast to Northwest tip LUZON with one (1) squadron A-20's.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 20, 20 January 1945.

3. e. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1) Strike villages of TAYUKI TO UMINGAN with one (1) Sq. A-20's.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 22, 22 January 1945.

3. e. One squadron A-20's DOUBLING will bomb and strafe LOOBAC and CALABASAN with 100# Napalms or 250# para-demos, depending on test.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 23, 23 January 1945.

3. e. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1). Provide two (2) Squadrons A-20's bomb and strafe APARRI Airbase and road net south through CAGAYAN VALLEY.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 24, 24 January 1945.

3. e. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1) Conduct strike on ISOAG AIRBASE and road net south to VIGAN and shipping in SALAMAGUE BAY with one (1) squadron A-20's.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER NUMBER 25, 25 January 1945.

3. e. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1) Two (2) Squadrons A-20's DOUBLING one (1) hour readiness for ground support. Second: IPO DAM area and road net south. Third: Road nets and Coastal Guns SUBIC BAY area, CARABAO ISLAND, GRANDE ISLAND. Bombload: Wing racks: 100# napalms, Bomb bay 250# parademos.

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FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 26, 26 January 1945.

3. a. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1) Two (2) Squadrons A-20's DOUBLING ONE AND TWO will strike Primary: TIGUECARAO A/D and road nets in the CAGAYAN VALLEY through KIINTE PASS. Second: Sweep road nets North of MANTIA to SAN FERNANDO. Bombload: Maximum number of 100# paradisos.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 27, 27 January 1945.

3. e. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1) Two (2) Sq. A-20's DOUBLING ONE AND TWO will attack Primary: APARRI AIRFIELD and road net south. Secondary: TIGUECARAO and road net south. Tertiary: East BATAAN road nets, and CARABAO ISLAND. Bomb load: One (1) Sq Parafrags, One (1) Sq 250# paradisos.
- (4) Two (2) Sq A-20's DOUBLING 3,4. Primary: Ground Support, Alert 0700/L. Secondary: CALABASAN-ICOBAC road nets. Tertiary: ICOBAC NS along LAGUNA DE BEY road net. Bombload: Wing racks 100# napalms, bombay 250#paradisos.

FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDER, NUMBER 28, 28 January 1945.

3. e. The 3rd Attack Group will:

- (1) Strike APARRI A/D with two (2) Squadrons A-20's.
- (2) Strike SouthESCHAQUE with two (2) squadrons A-20's.
- (3) Strike CARRANGLAN -RIZAL road nets with four (4) A-20's.

Frag Field Orders 29, 30 and 31 not available. Bomber Command has taken over the combat plan and hasn't put out a formal Field Order.

A. G. THOMPSON,
Major, Air Corps,
i.c. of S., A-3.

OFFICIAL:

s/t/ W. H. KENNEDY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't A-3.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Clinton W. Phillips
CLINTON W. PHILLIPS,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer.

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OFFICE OF THE
JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

14 January 1945

OFFICIAL RECORDS)

NO.....()

	Section
Awards of the Purple Heart	I
Awards of the Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the Purple Heart	II

II. AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF THE PURPLE HEART

William J. Jones, #10027, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army, was awarded in action as Dutch Boy Soldier on 16 July 1944.
Home address: Mrs. Alice M. Jones (Mother), 115 Federal Ave., Morgan City, La.

By command of Brigadier General QUINN:

William J. Jones,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

W. J. QUINN,
Major, A. C. G.,
Adjutant General.

THIS IS A TRUE SIGNATURE:

Edward Macomber
Edward Macomber, Jr.,
Captain, Air Corps.

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UNITED STATES ARMY PAGES IN THE AIR DIST

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NO..... 357)

WFO 501
28 December 1944.

- EXTRACT -

1. Announcement is made of the temp promotion of the following named off to the gr indicated in the AUC with rank from date of this order:

* * * * *
STANLEY D. FLIVE 0675235 AC

GAET IN MAJ

By command of General MacARTHUR:

RICHARD A. LADDEN,
Major General, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ J.N. DONNELLY,
t/ J.N. DONNELLY,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

" A TRUE EXTRACT COPY "

Fred M. Mead
FRED M. MEAD,
Captain, Air Corps,

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RESTRICTED

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

SPECIAL ORDERS)
No..... 350)

A.F.O. 501
17 December 1944

- EXTRACT -

1. Announcement is made of the term promotion of the following-named off to the gr indicated in the AFS with rank from date of this order:

* * * * *

2d LT TO 1ST LT

JACK W. FLETCHER 0750641 AC
JAMES D. McFALL, Jr. 0755984 AC
ROBERT E. VANDEFORD 0755464 AC

* * * * *

By command of General MacARTHUR:

RICHARD J. MARSHALL,
Major General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/S.W. DONNELL,
t/S.W. DONNELL,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

" A TRUE EXTRACT COPY"

Frederic M. Mead
FREDERIC M. MEAD,
Captain, Air Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS
30 DEPARTMENT ROAD, GPO, AIR

170 72,
21 December 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 117)

- EXTRACT -

* * * * *
4. Under the prov of A1 615-5 and upon the recommendation of his
orgn comdr, Sgt RODNEY W. JONES, 17024096, 90th P oab S, Lt aptd
Staff Sergeant (Temporary).
* * * * *

By order of Colonel HENRY:

OFFICIAL:

COL R. JONES,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

s/COL R. JONES,
t/COL R. JONES,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

" A TRUE EXTRACT COPY "

Frederic M. Meier
Frederic M. Meier,
Captain, Air Corps.

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