

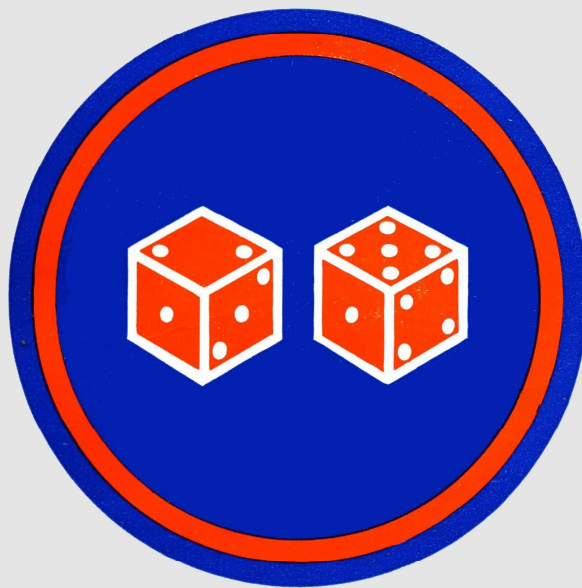
90TH  
BOMB  
SQUADRON

HISTORY

LIGHT

3RD  
BOMB  
GROUP

FEBRUARY 1944



SQ. BOMB-90-H1  
1 Feb 44

90TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, Unit 1

*wrl*  
KER/WTR/wfm

17 March, 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 713, Unit 1.  
(THRU: .C.O., 3rd Bombardment Group (L)).

1. In compliance with Memorandum, V Bomber Command, dated 29 Feb., 1944, Subject: Unit History, the following is submitted for the period 1 - 29 February, 1944.

a. Designation: 90th Bombardment Squadron (L).  
Table of Organization: 1-127, dated 26 March, 1943.

b. Unit strength: Feb. 1/44: Commissioned 42  
Enlisted 269  
Feb. 29/44: Commissioned 46  
Net increase of four.  
Enlisted 257  
Net decrease of twelve.

c. Station: APO 503 from Feb. 1 - 4, 1944.  
APO 713, Unit 1 from Feb. 5th to present date.

d. Training:

Aircraft:

Type: A20-G-20  
During the month of February, this organization changed from A20-G type aircraft to the A20-G-20 type aircraft with a built-in Martin turret. On Feb. 29th there were only 9 A20-G-20 aircraft assigned to this organization. Of these, 8 were serviceable and 1 was unserviceable. Aircraft numbers as of 29 February are as follows:

- 42-86736            42-86768
- 42-86747            42-86766
- 42-86745            42-86781
- 42-86889            42-86726
- 42-86778

Combat Crews:

	PILOTS	NAV'ORS	BOMBS	GUNNERS	PHOTOS	CREWS
Feb 1/44	27	2	1	50	2	25
Feb 29/44	27	2	1	47	2	25

Training of Combat Crews:

Pilots: 1. Navigators course and familiarization with terrain and weather conditions.

Pg. 2, Unit History, 90th Bomb. Sq., Feb. 1-29/44 cont'd.

- d. Training of Combat Crews cont'd.
2. Flight Operations Instruction book is studied and understood by all pilots.
  3. Instruction of the firing of guns and releasing of bombs.
  4. Cockpit check.
  5. Transition and formation flying, including the releasing of 18 practice bombs and the firing of 3000 rounds of ammunition on practice target.
  6. Familiarization by all pilots with the Pilots Information File.

Gunners:

1. All new gunners are assigned to ships with experienced gunners.
2. Instruction on turret guns and their operation and maintenance.
3. Firing of turret on practice target.
4. Aircraft identification program is presented to all combat crews.
5. All new gunners work in the Armament Section for one month prior to assignment to a permanent combat crew.

e. Squadron Commanding Officer.

- (1) January 1, 1944, Major Richard H. Ellis was in command. On 11 February, 1944, Major Ellis was relieved of command and transferred to Hq. 3rd Bomb. Gp., where he was appointed Air Ground Support Officer. Capt. Kenneth E. Rosebush assumed command 11 February, 1944, per SO #16, Hq. 3rd Bombardment Group (L). Capt. Rosebush was given the command because of his outstanding combat record and executive ability.

f. Outstanding Missions:

- (1) (a) Target: Enemy Barge Building Yard and Installations, Marienberg Village, N.G.
- (b) Campaign or Battle: Supporting New Guinea Campaign. ign.
- (c) Date: February 5, 1944.
- (d) Number & type of aircraft: 11 A20-G-20 acft.
- (e) Bombs dropped and munition expended: 42 x 500lb bombs and 33 x 300lb bombs were dropped in target area. 17,950 rounds of .50 cal. ammo was expended on 5 strafing runs. A herd of cattle was also shot up. There were no bombs dropped outside of the target area. There were 5 x 500lb bombs and 2 x 300lb bombs returned due to mechanical failure. 1
- (f) Interception: Nil.
- (g) Heavy damage was caused to warehouses, stores and slip-ways. Many fires were started and the entire target was almost completely destroyed.

f. Outstanding Missions cont'd.

- (2) (a) Target: Enemy Shipping at Kavieng, N.I.  
(b) Date: 15 February, 1944.  
(c) Number & type of aircraft: 11 A20-G-20.  
(d) Bombs dropped and munition expended.  
42 x 500lb bombs and 6 x 300lb bombs dropped on target. 19,500 rounds of .50cal ammo was expended. 15 x 500lb bombs and 1 x 300 lb. bombs were returned due to mechanical failure.  
(e) Interception: Nil.  
(f) Results: Direct hit made on large lugger. Stores and warehouses on East shore of Musa Island were bombed causing large fires. A second Lugger was hit and blown up, leaving a burning oil slick. A third Lugger was thoroughly strafed and left in a burning condition. Bombs were dropped on Float Plane base starting several fires. 7 type Pete Float Planes and 1 type Jake Float Plane were damaged by strafing. Several houses were damaged on East side of Musalik Island by bombs and strafing.
- (3) (a) Target: But Airdrome, Newat, N.G.  
(b) Supporting New Guinea campaign.  
(c) Date: 25 February, 1944.  
(d) Number & type of aircraft: 8 A20-G-20.  
(e) Bombs dropped and munition expended:  
40 x 500lb bombs were dropped on target. 10,500 rounds of ammo were expended. One 500lb bomb was returned due to mechanical failure.  
(f) Interception: Nil.  
(g) Results: 11 x 500lb bombs were dropped on Stores at But Village starting several fires. 20 x 500lb bombs were dropped on dispersal areas. 1 type Lilly light bomber was set on fire. A possible oil fire was set near center of strip. 2 x 500lb bombs were dropped South of the dispersal area. 4 light bombers were strafed and set on fire at North-east end of strip. One serviceable B2F was strafed and damaged. Three B2F and two light bombers were strafed in South dispersal area and damaged. 8 to 10 type A barges situated near the jetty were thoroughly strafed. One large barge filled with Jap soldiers was strafed and damaged. The Japs took to the water.

Pg. 4, Unit History, 90th Bomb. Sq., Feb 1-29/44 cont'd.

g. Enemy Aircraft and Shipping Destroyed and Damaged.

(1) Shipping Destroyed:

2 Corvettes  
1 Luggar  
8 barges  
1 Small Freighter

Shipping Damaged:

1 Corvette  
3 Luggars  
6 Barges  
2 Small Freighters

Aircraft Destroyed:

6 Lillys  
2 Potes  
1 Nell

Aircraft Damaged:

9 Lillys  
1 Tony

h. Losses in Action; Officers, Enlisted Men & Aircraft.

(1) There were no personnel losses during the month of February, 1944.

(a) A20-G-20 #42-86722 badly shot up by A/A fire and ground fire at Newak, N.G. Crash landed at Sidor; total wash-out. Feb. 6, 1944.

(b) A20-G-20 #42-86733 badly shot up by A/A fire and ground fire at Newak, N.G. on Feb. 6, 1944. Aircraft crash landed at Sidor; total wash-out.

(c) A20-G-20 #42-86760 was crash landed at Ramu Valley near Mt. Hagen on Feb. 6, 1944, after participating in strike on Newak, N.G. Total wash-out.

(d) A20-G-20 #42-86742 crash landed and completely washed out at Nadzab after returning from mission at Kavieng, New Ireland, Feb. 15/44. Hydraulic system completely shot out by A/A fire.

(e) A20-G-20 #43-9117 wash washed out on crash landing at Nadzab, after participating in strike on But Airdrome, Newak, N.G. The plane was badly shot up by ground and A/A fire.

Pg. 5, Unit History, 90th Bomb. Sq. Feb. 1 - 29, 1944 cont'd.

h. Losses of Aircraft continued.

- (f) A20-G-20 43-9116 was washed out on crash landing at Nadsab, N.G. after participating in mission on But Airbase, N.G., February 25, 1944. Plane badly damaged by ground and A/A fire.

i. Members of Org. who Distinguished Themselves in Action.

- (1) (a) Enemy shipping at Kavieng, N.I., Feb. 19/44.  
(b) S/Sgt Alfred J. Gates, Photographer.  
(c) S/Sgt Gates was photographer on aircraft which sank Corvette at Kavieng. Pictures taken by Sgt Gates confirmed the sinking.  
(d) Recommended for Air Medal.
- (2) (a) Enemy Shipping at Kavieng, N.I., Feb. 19/44.  
(b) 1st Lt. Franklin C. Pilgrim, Pilot.  
(c) Lt. Pilgrim scored two direct hits on Jap Corvette, sinking same.  
(d) Recommended for D.F.C.
- (3) (a) Enemy Shipping at Kavieng, N.I., Feb. 19, 1944.  
(b) S/Sgt David B. Johnson, Aerial Gunner.  
(c) S/Sgt Johnson was member of crew of A20-G-20 which sank enemy Corvette by scoring direct hits with 2 x 500lb bombs.  
(d) Recommended for Air Medal.
- (4) (a) Enemy shipping at Kavieng, N.I., Feb. 19, 1944.  
(b) 1st Lt. John J. Dean, Pilot.  
(c) Lt. Dean was Squadron Leader on raid on enemy shipping at Kavieng. Lt. Dean scored direct hits on enemy Corvette which was subsequently sunk.  
(d) Recommended for D.F.C.

2. During the month of February, 1944 this Organization lost 6 aircraft in crash landings. By skillful handling of the planes there was no loss of life in any of the crash landings. The fine record of this Squadron during the past month clearly demonstrates the versatility of the A20-G-20.

For the Squadron Commander:

*William T. Robinson*  
WILLIAM T. ROBINSON,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.