



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE HISTORICAL RESEARCH AGENCY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

28 July 2009

AFHRA/RSA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

Mr. John Greenewald
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald,

This is in response for your request received 24 July 2009 (our inquiries reference number 65038) Requesting 22nd Bomb Group May 1944 history, IRIS Number 78223. Since your request was made under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act it has been designated 2009-02418-F.

Please find enclosed a photocopy of the document.

Thank you for your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry L. Spink". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

BARRY L. SPINK
Archivist

Attachment:
GP-22-HI, May 44, V. 2, IRIS Number 78223

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P.R.C.

HISTOR

GP-22-4 (Group) (Unit H) MAY 1944 V.2	RETURN TO:
Director Aerospace Studies Inst AFM: Archives Branch Maxwell AFB, Alabama	

22nd BOMB GROUP (H)

Unit History

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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.8

MAY 1944

SCANNED BY ACD
2006

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P.R.C.

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DESIGNATION SHEET

AIR FORCE: V Air Force

COMMAND: V Bomber Command

WING: _____

GROUP: 22nd Bomb Group and

SQUADRON: 2nd, 19th, 33rd, and 408th Bomb Squadrons

PERIOD: May 1944

Has the security classification of material been checked? Yes.

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HISTORY OF THE
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
FOR THE
MONTH OF MAY, 1944

Walter Taylor
Major AC
Gp Historical Officer

5430-1

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1. There were no changes in organization in the 22nd Bombardment Group (H) for the month of May, 1944.

2. Assigned strength:

	1 May		31 May	
	OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN	OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
Headquarters	28	117	28	111
2nd Squadron	116	381	98	422
19th Squadron	97	419	97	413
33rd Squadron	92	390	91	389
408th Squadron	87	382	97	400
	<u>420</u>	<u>1689</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>1735</u>

Net changes: Loss of 9 Officers, gain of 46 Enlisted Men.

3. Station is still APO 713, Unit 1.

4. Training:

a. Aircraft assigned and serviceable:

	1 May	31 May
2nd Squadron	12	13
19th Squadron	12	13
33rd Squadron	12	14
408th Squadron	12	12

Gain of 4 serviceable aircraft for the month.

b. Total trained combat crews at end of month: 72.

c. No appreciable changes in training were instituted during the month.

5. There was no change in the Group Commanding Officer.

6. The only change in Squadron Commanding Officers was Captain Russell


G. Allen's assuming command of the 2nd Squadron on 1 May.

7. Outstanding Missions:

On 29 May, 1944 eighteen Group ships dropped 45 tons of bombs on the gun positions north of Mokmer Strip, Biak Island. Fifty-five percent of the bombs fell in the target area, starting numerous fires. Heavy smoke rose to 3000 feet. Ointment called to say, "Commanding General is highly pleased with the bombing of Goodo # 2." This communication was received by the 19th Squadron shortly after passing over the target. In spite of the heavy flak and anti-aircraft fire, the bombing was excellent.

8. No enemy shipping or aircraft were destroyed.

9. There was no loss in activity ~~SECRET~~



10. The Group earned the following awards for the month: 43 Air Medals and Clusters and 1 Soldier's Medal.

11. No photographs were available.



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NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE 22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1944

The enlisted men of the 2nd Squadron officially opened their Club with the Group Commanding Officer dropping in. The band lent an atmosphere of "jive" to the opening. Their "Club Marauder" recalls to mind the B-26's that the men flew in the early stages of the war.

The 2nd Squadron also sent home nine happy lads and the remaining ground men are already sweating out the promotions.

On the 22nd of the month, Lt. Flogstad and his 2nd Squadron crew were forced to land at Biak because of a gas shortage. They were acclaimed as heroes when they rejoined their friends. They had souvenirs and a rumor that Commanding Officers up there were offering Sydney Furloughs to the infantry lads in exchange for prisoners - but a decided lack of prisoners still exists.

In the 19th Squadron, Captain Schmidt took over the command while Major Nicholson, Lt. Caster (Adjutant), and Lt. McDonough (Communications Officer) were on leave in Sydney. Captain Schmidt had flown thirty-five Liberator missions in Africa before arriving here from the States.

The officers of the 19th finally convinced Lt. Alper that he was the one who would attend the Jungle School for a course in jungle life. After he had purchased leggings, a belt and canteen, and a lot of other junk, he was told that it was a "mistake". Now he's prowling around trying to stalk down the originator of that legriacogram.

Lt. Erben, 19th Engineering Officer, keeps everybody in the Officer's area awake with his midnight calls, and whenever the bomb-bay tanks are changed again, he screams out his hardships.

The ack-ack battery next to the 19th area chipped in and helped build a crackerjack baseball diamond.

Lt. Gillespie of the 19th left to become a test pilot. Sergeant Markham, combat crew man who had been returned to the States come back to the 19th once more after a brief rest at home. He was eager to get back to this theatre. The Articles of War were read and then re-read at the Group Theatre over the Public Address system. "Red Raider" stationery and jacket insignias were sold out in the first few minutes. The amateur farmers are "sweating out" their crops which will be ready for "harvesting" in a month or so. Will they be here to reap the harvest or not? Captain "Doc" Martin returned from a Sydney leave four days early, claiming "there was just nothing to do." The officers are trying to get the Group Flight Surgeon to take a look at him!

The 33rd celebrated their leading all heavy groups in the Southwest Pacific in area bombing for the first half of the month. Captain Shegberg,

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2ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)
APO 713 Unit 1

HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY 1944

For the Commanding Officer

Olavi M. Hennrickson
OLAVI M. HENNRICKSON

~~SECRET~~

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2ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)
APO 713 Unit 1

HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY 1944

1. Capt. RUSSELL G. ALLEN assumed command of this squadron relieving Major George E. Rath who was transferred to 22nd Group Headquarters. Paragraph 9, Special Order 52, 22nd Bombardment Group (H).

2. Strength:

	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>April 30</u>	<u>May 31</u>
Officers	116	116	98
Enlisted Men	453	381	422
Attached Officers		3	0
Attached Enlisted Men		19	0

There was a noticeable increase in the number of enlisted men in the squadron, bringing the strength to 36 below authorized strength. The increase was 41 over the previous month. Officer strength increased 14 with all attached personnel dropping 22, 3 officers and 19 enlisted men.

3. No change in station.

4. Training:

a. During the month, all trained crews received additional training to help them maintain their high standards of performance. Bombardiers are required to drop 10 practice bombs a month in addition to their combat strikes. On these practice missions, the pilot, co-pilot, navigator, radio operator, engineer and gunners all receive training with the bombardier. In addition, Group Headquarters holds school for radio operators, both for beginners and refreshers for those with time in their duty. Pilots are given talks on subjects of interest to them. These are held from time to time as required. One on VHF (very high frequency) radio was held on the tenth to orient them with the new communication system.

b. New crews are given thorough orientation lectures on arrival by Operations, Intelligence and Communication Sections.

c. Twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays, a resume of the preceding week's news is given in the Enlisted Men's Day Room to supplement the Guinea Gold and other news.

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d. There are 17 complete crews, an increase of one over the previous month.

e. Eleven B-24's were serviceable and two unserviceable on the 31 of the month. This is an increase of two over the previous month.

42-100157	42-100121	42-109978
42-100175	42-100333	42-100220
42-10182	42-109971	44-40365
42-100195	42-109974	

Unserviceable were

42-100318
42-100052

d. The following named officers and enlisted received the award of the AIR MEDAL by General Order 283, 8 May 1944:

1st Lt. Judson L. Hansen	Pilot
1st Lt. Donald Remillard	Co-pilot
1st Lt. William J. Brunderman	Navigator
1st Lt. Claude A. Reulins	Bombardier
S/Sgt. Victor J. Walker	Engineer
S/Sgt. John T. Papsher	Radio Operator
Sgt. Joseph A. Corseaden	Gunner
Sgt. Francis Requin	Gunner
S/Sgt. Jacob Sklute	Engineer-gunner

The award was for meritorious achievement in scoring a direct hit from minimum altitude on an armed merchant ship at Alexishaven on 30 January 1944 which resulted in the sinking of the ship.

e. 13 missions were carried out, dropping 222½ tons of bombs on targets in 70 sorties. There were no losses in action.

f. No enemy shipping or aircraft were destroyed.

g. There was no change in Group Commander.

NARRATIVE REPORT

It was with regret that the Squadron paid its respects to Major Rath who was transferred to Group to be a 'fateat'. But Capt. Allen will adequately replace him. Capt. Allen began his overseas duty on Nov. 1, 1943 and before his transfer to the 2nd had been in the 33rd Squadron acting and performing the duties of pilot, flight leader, and operations officer. He was assigned to the 2nd on 25 March 1944. Morale remained as high under him as under Major Rath.

The prime topic of conversation the first part of the month was the excellent bombing on Sarmi Point last month. The bombing was such a masterpiece that all crew members wanted photos of the bombing for their scrapbooks and albums. Although none were distributed, the copies from the Intelligence disappeared.

This month 12 completed and 1 incomplete missions were carried out. Five were to Sarmi-Wakde Area, six to Biak Island and two ground support missions. One ground support mission was incomplete due to weather. 221½ tons of bombs were dropped over those targets in seventy sorties. Incomplete missions and planes which did not reach were not included. High points were the missions on 17 May and 27 May to Wakde and Biak respectively. Both strikes were successful and all crews were highly elated at being a part of the task forces that made landings at those places. At Wakde the action was well out and observation easier than at Biak, and as a consequence when the chatter turns to landings, someone is sure to say, "Well, at Wakde it was ---". Crews on both strikes felt that they had carried out a worthwhile mission, much more so than if the same bombs had been unloaded at a target somewhere in the bush.

With the landing at Wakde and Biak, the rumor-mongers had the squadron inactive for the next two months until fields were closer to lucrative targets. However, on the 28 May a strike was scheduled for Number Island with other squadrons in the Group scheduled for targets even further away. Weather prevented these long range missions from being carried out.

The Allisted Men's Day Room was opened officially this month. The formal opening had been held up by lack of "christening material," over since the middle of April. The building is a log frame with a native built grass roof. The roof is the only part of the building that was not constructed by the men. The result shows that all efforts expended were the best. The shiny bar is surrounded by split bamboo varnished as is the entire front. A bamboo blind on the right of the bar is raised when the 'PX' is open. Chairs and tables for lounging or cards are numerous and for the crowded nights benches have been built in the corners along the sides. At the end opposite the bar, a small bandstand has been erected. Over the bandstand (as at the bar) a parachute has been stretched to add color to the room. With the supply parachutes that hang from the middle, all this makes a comfortable club.

Lt. Col. Robinson, the Group Commander, Capt. Allen, Major Rath, Capt. Rice, the Medical Officer, Lt. Hafey, Lt. Colloran and others were sent for the occasion. Naturally a band occupied the bandstand giving

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"jive" for the party. The formal opening was a success. Photographs of the opening night are included in the original of this report.

The following Saturday another big party was held. The band, the same dignitaries and the same entertainment. But added was the broadcast, over the Group short wave radio, of the music for the benefit of those who could not be present and had radios. The Officers Club (1/2 mile away) picked up the program and listened.

The day room was named Club Marauder in memory of the B-26s that the enlisted men fly and kept flying. The entire club is on its toes to keep it appearing as if it were on show at all times. They are doing their best to remind all that it is the BEST CLUB ON THE ISLAND.

The 'PX' is located in the Club Marauder and is well stocked with toilet necessities to Coco-Cola, sometimes even carbonated water. It is Patronized by all members of the command.

On the eighth, nine men went home on the "relief from combat area plan". These ground men were very very happy. And the morale of the other ground men soared as they crossed nine men from the top, pushing themselves closer.

On the 22nd, Lt Flogstad and his crew landed at Hollandia on their return from a mission to Blak. He was the first from this squadron to land there. Reason was gas shortage. They spent the night there, refueled, and returned. They were conquering heroes to their friends. They returned loaded with souvenirs and stories. And a rumor. That the CO's were offering the infantry furloughs to Sydney in exchange for prisoners. And still there was a decided lack of POW's.

on the 29th, Lt. Summers and his crew pulled out of formation near Hollandia on the way to Blak and landed there. Reason was not known and he was still there at the end of the month.

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

3 May 1944

General Order(s)

No.283)

E X T R A C T
* * * *

Awards of the Air Medal.....Section III

* * * *

III. Awards of the Air Medal
* * * *

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9153, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

Sergeant FRANCIS BAGUIAO (12183583), Air Corps, United States Army - gunner.
Home address: Mrs. D. Baguiao (Mother), 24-17 24th Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York.

* * * *

The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 30 January 1944. While participating on a strike mission against the Japanese base at Alexishafen, these officers and enlisted men sighted two small armed merchant ships nearby. The pilot immediately descended to the minimum altitude from which their 1000 -lb. bombs could be safely dropped, and made two bombing runs on one of the vessels. In the second attack, a direct hit was scored, causing the vessel to list heavily and rapidly settle in the water. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

* * * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
/t/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

O. H. Hendrickson
O. H. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

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~~SECRET~~
HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

8 May 1944

General Orders)

No.....283)

E X T R A C T

* * * *

Awards of the Air Medal.....Section III.

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III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL

* * * *

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

* * * *

Staff Sergeant JOHN T. REPSHER, (13005410), Air Corps, United States Army - radio-gunner.
Home address: Mrs. Marie Repsher (Mother), 317 Catherine Street, Ashleaves, Pa.

The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 7 January 1944. These crew members of a B-25 were participating in a three-plane search mission when a large Japanese submarine was sighted. Two bombing and strafing runs were made, with near misses being observed, and the vessel submerged, trailing a large oil slick. Almost immediately the submarine, apparently badly damaged, reappeared and this crew made successive strafing attacks for fifteen minutes. The vessel finally sank and its disappearance was followed by four separate oil slicks of such size that its destruction was considered certain. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

* * * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
T/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

O. M. Hendrickson
O. M. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.



~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

8 May 1944

General Orders)
No.....283)

E X T R A C T

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross.....Section I
Awards of the Air Medal..... II
Awards of the Oak-Leaf Cluster (Air Medal)..... III

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III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL

* * * * *

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

Sergeant JOSEPH A. CORSCADEN, (31172790), Air Corps, United States Army-gunner.
Home address: Mrs. Albert Corscadden (Mother) 1 Blaisdell Ave., North Tiverton, Rhode Island.

* * * * *

The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alotshafen, New Guinea, on 7 January 1944. These crew members of a B-25 were participating in a three-plane search mission when a large Japanese submarine was sighted. Two bombing and strafing runs were made, with near misses being observed, and the vessel submerged, trailing a large oil slick. Almost immediately the submarine, apparently badly damaged, reappeared and this crew made successive strafing attacks for fifteen minutes. The vessel finally sank and its disappearance was followed by four separate oil slicks of such size that its destruction was considered certain. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

* * * * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
/t/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

O. M. Hendrickson
O. M. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

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~~HEADQUARTERS~~
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

General Orders)

8 May 1944

No.283)

E X T R A C T

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Awards of the Oak-Leaf Cluster (Air Medal).....Section IV

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IV. AWARDS OF THE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER (AIR MEDAL)

* * * * *

By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded to Staff Sergeant VICTOR J. WALKER by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, as published on page 3, section III, General Orders No. 206, Headquarters, Fifth Air Force, dated 8 April 1944, a Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to him by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W. D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W. D., 1942). The citation is as follows:

Staff Sergeant VICTOR J. WALKER, (12011648), Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 7 January 1944. Sergeant Walker was engineer-gunner of a B-25 which participated in a three-plane search mission. When a large Japanese submarine was sighted, two bombing and strafing runs were made. Near misses were observed and the vessel submerged, trailing a large oil slick. Almost immediately the submarine, apparently badly damaged, reappeared and this bomber made successive strafing attacks for fifteen minutes. The vessel finally sank and its disappearance was followed by four separate oil slicks of such size that its destruction was considered certain. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Walker on this occasion are worthy of commendation. Home address: Mrs. Victoria Walker (Mother), 1285 S Main Street, Lambertville, New Jersey.

* * * * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
T/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

O M Hendrickson
O. M. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.



HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

8 May 1944

General Orders)

No.....283)

E X T R A C T

* * * *

Awards of the Air Medal.....Section III.

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III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL

* * * *

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

* * * *

First Lieutenant CLAUDE A. RAULINS, (0739151), Air Corps, United States Army bombardier.

Home address: Mrs. Mary F. Raulins (Mother), 124 No. Bellevue, Memphis, Tenn.

* * * *

The citation is as follows:

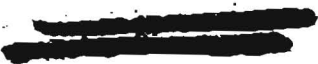
For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 7 January 1944. These crew members of a B-25 were participating in a three-plane search mission when a large Japanese submarine was sighted. Two bombing and strafing runs were made, with near misses being observed, and the vessel submerged, trailing a large oil slick. Almost immediately the submarine, apparently badly damaged, reappeared and this crew made successive strafing attacks for fifteen minutes. The vessel finally sank and its disappearance was followed by four separate oil slicks of such size that its destruction was considered certain. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

* * * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
T/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

O. M. Hendrickson
O. M. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.



HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925



8 May 1944

General Orders;
No.....283}

E X T R A C T
* * *

Awards of the Air Medal.....Section III

III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL
* * *

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

* * *

First Lieutenant WILLIAM J. BRUENDERMAN, (0903136), Air Corps, United States Army - navigator.
Home address: Mr. Joseph A. Bruenderman (Father), 1129 Payne Street, Louisville, Kentucky.

* * *

The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 30 January 1944. While participating on a strike mission against this Japanese base, these officers and enlisted men sighted two small armed merchant ships nearby. The pilot immediately descended to the minimum altitude from which their 1,000-pound bombs could be safely dropped, and made two bombing runs on one of the vessels. In the second attack, a direct hit was scored, causing the vessel to list heavily and rapidly settle in the water. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

* * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
T/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

CERTIFIED
A TRUE COPY:

J. M. Hendrickson
O. K. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.



8 May 1944

General Orders)

No.....283)

E X T R A C T

Awards of the Air Medal.....Section III

III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following officers and enlisted men:

First Lieutenant DONALD W. REMILLARD (0742355), Air Corps, United States Army - co-pilot.

Home address: Mrs. Roberta A. Remillard (Wife), 2636 Darien St., Shreveport, La.

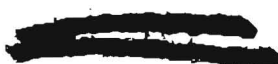
The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 7 January 1944. These crew members of a B-25 were participating in a three-plane search mission when a large Japanese submarine was sighted. Two bombing and strafing runs were made, with near misses being observed, and the vessel submerged, trailing a large oil slick. Almost immediately the submarine, ~~apparently badly damaged~~, reappeared and this crew made successive strafing attacks for fifteen minutes. The vessel finally sank and its disappearance was followed by four separate oil slicks of such size that its destruction was considered certain. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

/s/ George C. Kenney
/T/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

O M. Hendrickson
O. M. HENDRICKSON
2nd Lt., Air Corps.



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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

8 May 1944

General Orders)

No.....283)

E X T R A C T
* * * *

Awards of the Air Medal.....Section III

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III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL

* * * *

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

* * * *

Staff Sergeant JACOB SKLUTE, (32346251), Air Corps, United States Army - engineer-gunner.
Home address: Mrs. Kate Sklute (Mother), 229 Van Sicken Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

* * * *

The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 30 January 1944. While participating on a strike mission against this Japanese base, these officers and enlisted men sighted two small armed merchant ships nearby. The pilot immediately descended to the minimum altitude from which their 1,000-pound bombs could be safely dropped, and made two bombing runs on one of the vessels. In the second attack, a direct hit was scored, causing the vessel to list heavily and rapidly settle in the water. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

* * * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
/ T/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

J. H. Hendrickson
O. M. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.



8 May 1944

General Orders)

No.283

EXTRACT
* * * *

Awards of the Air MedalSection III
* * * *

III. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

* * * *

First Lieutenant JUDSON L. HANSEN, (0720000), Air Corps, United States Army
Home address: Mrs. James H. Hansen (Mother), 2314 So. 31st Street, Omaha, Neb

* * * *

~~The citation is as follows:~~

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Alexishafen, New Guinea, on 7 January 1944. These crew members of a B-25 were participating in a three-plane search mission when a large Japanese submarine was sighted. Two bombing and strafing runs were made, with near misses being observed, and the vessel submerged, trailing a large oil slick. Almost immediately the submarine, apparently badly damaged, reappeared and this crew made successive strafing attacks for fifteen minutes. The vessel finally sank and its disappearance was followed by four separate oil slicks of such size that its destruction was considered certain. The courage and devotion to duty displayed on this occasion are worthy of commendation.

* * * *

/s/ George C. Kenney,
/ T/ GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

O. M. Hendrickson
O. M. HENDRICKSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

9th
Sqd.

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19TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 713 UNIT 1

1 June, 1944.

SUBJECT: 19th Bombardment Squadron (H), History for Month of May, 1944.
TO : Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 713, Unit 1.

1. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:-

During the month of May, 1944, no important changes or additions were made to the Table of Organization for this Organization.

2. STRENGTH:-

May 1, 1944 May 31, 1944

	<u>May 1, 1944</u>	<u>May 31, 1944</u>
Officers:		
Authorized:	126	116
Assigned:	97	87
Enlisted Men:		
Authorized:	458	458
Assigned:	419	413

ATTACHED:-

Officers : 2
Enlisted Men: 3

3. STATION:-

No change.

4. TRAINING:-

a. The policy of this Organization in respect to Training, has essentially remained the same as reported during the previous months. The general policy is the training of every Pilot as a First Pilot and to that extent all Co-Pilots but one have been checked off. This Co-Pilot is being checked out at present.

b. To maintain the high standard of efficiency in the air and on the ground as we have in the past, all crew members have been attending Squadron, Group, and other classes such as: Group Radio Operators Course; Armament and Gunnery classes; Chemical Warfare lectures; Malaria Protection, Suppression, and Prevention; Radar School (1 EM to APO 923); Magneto, Starters, and Ignition Course at Tecnico Ltd, Sydney, Aust. (1 EM); Chemical Warfare Class at APO 503 (1 CWS NJO).

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Ltr, Subj: 19th Bombardment Squadron (H), History for Month of May, 1944, dated 1 June, 1944, to Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 713, Unit 1. (Cont'd):-

c. The armorer gunners have been receiving instructions in care and maintenance of their equipment and emergency procedure in event of mechanical failure.

d. Code classes are still in session at Group Headquarters whereby all radio operators are being checked on code speed.

e. No further instruction has been given to Engineer Gunners this past month with the exception of the fact that they are required to visit the line and help maintain the aircraft in order to gain new experience and knowledge.

(1) AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED:-

On 1 May, 1944, the total strength of serviceable aircraft in use by the Squadron, was: 12

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>
B-24-J	42-100192
B-24-J	42-100325
B-24-J	42-100207
B-24-J	42-100189
B-24-J	42-100197
B-24-J	42-100211
B-24-J	42-100201
B-24-J	42-100200
B-24-J	42-109976
B-24-J	42-109977
B-24-J	42-100204
B-24-J	42-100410

On 31 May, 1944, the total strength of serviceable aircraft in use by the Squadron was: 13

B-24-J	42-100064
B-24-J	42-100385
B-24-J	42-100207
B-24-J	42-100189
B-24-J	42-100197
B-24-J	42-100211
B-24-J	42-100201
B-24-J	42-100410
B-24-J	42-100204
B-24-J	42-100200
B-24-J	42-109976
B-24-J	42-109977
B-24-J	44-40191

Aircraft attached: None.

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Ltr, Subj: 19th Bombardment Squadron (H), History for Month of May, 1944., dated 1 June, 1944, To: Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 713, Unit 1. (Cont'd):-

Airplane B-24-J 42-100192 was transferred.
Airplane B-24-J 44-40191 was added.
Airplane B-24-J 42-100084 was added.

(2) Combat personnel at the end of the month is as follows:

<u>DUTY</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>TRAINED</u>	<u>UNTRAINED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Pilot	35	35		35
CO-Pilot	1	1		1
Bombardier	22	22		22
Navigator	24	24		24
Aer Eng	27	27		27
Ass't Eng	22	22		22
Radio Op	22	22		22
Ass't Rad Op	22	22		22
Armorer Car	44	44		44

- (a) Complete combat crews at end of May, 1944: 20
(b) Complete combat crews trained at end of May 44: 20

f. Remarks:-

On 13 May, 1944, six B-24-J's bombed installations at Sagar, dropping 21 tons of instantaneous demolition bombs in the target area. One bomb dropped hit starting 1200 feet inland, 1000 feet west of Maffin Strip to Nooka River, hitting a building on the west shore of the Nooka River. Moderate fires were started in the target area. Three bombs hit in the central third of Maffin Strip causing considerable damage. Due to weather over the base during takeoff, two planes, 4189 and 4325, lost the squadron formation and proceeded to the target with the 43rd Bomb Group and the 402nd Bomb Squadron, respectively. Their bombing results are incorporated in the total dropped for the squadron.

On 15 May, 1944, six B-24-J's bombed installation at Sarmi, dropping 24 tons of instantaneous demolition bombs from 10,000 and 10,500 feet, hitting in the target area of the primary target. Bombs blanketed the entire SW section of the target starting at the gardens and running thru the building area. Three strings of bombs hit in the building area demolishing a number of buildings. This was reported by an Observer on this mission. The mission was highly successful, the weather was clear and favorable to and from the target. There was no interception and ack-ack was weak and far behind.

On 22 May, 1944, seven B-24-J's bombed installations at Siak, dropping 13 tons of instantaneous demolition bombs between 1140/K and 1141/K from 11,500 feet. The bombs blanketed the entire eastern half of the target

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Ltr, Subj: 19th Bombardment Squadron (B), History for Month of May, 1944.,
1 June, 1944, To: Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 713, Unit 1.,
(Cont'd):-

Area; no observed results were reported other than bomb bursts. One of our aircraft flying this mission with the 33rd Bombardment Squadron started a small fire in the target area covered by that unit. There was no enemy fighter interception. On this mission anti-aircraft fire was of heavy calibre, moderate to intensity. It was accurate for altitude but very inaccurate for tracking, bursting to the right and behind. Medium bursts came from the north of Hokener Strip.

On 29 May, 1944, six type B-24-J's of this squadron conducted a strike against defense area north of 5V at Biak. Take off was at 0800/K and the aircraft appeared over the target at 1104/K. The bombs blanketed the entire target area, causing smoke to rise to 5000 feet visible for 50 miles from 11,000 feet. "Dintment" called to say "Commanding General is highly pleased with the bombing of Goodo #2". This commendation was received by Goodo #2 (19th Bombardment Squadron) shortly after passing over the target. The Commanding General, Advance Echelon, Fifth Air Force, APO 713, Unit 1, also issued an commendation handed down from the CO, Fifth Air Force, APO 926:

"FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PD QUOTE BY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND TO ALL OFFICERS AND MEN OF YOUR COMMAND CONCERNING BRILLIANT SUCCESS SUSTAINED AT WAKOE AND BIAK PD THESE OPERATIONS REFLECTED THE GREATEST CREDIT UPON THE UNITS INVOLVED PD THEIR RESOURCE AND THEIR DETERMINATION AND THEIR COURAGE WERE NOTWITHSTANDING PD MACARTHUR

5. No change in Group Commanding Officer.
6. No change in Squadron Commanding Officer.
7. COMBAT MISSIONS FLOWN:-

During the month of May, 1944, our aircraft flew 14 missions, including 1 food dropping mission; dropping a total of 282 tons of bombs with nil ammunition expended.

8. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OR SHIPS DESTROYED:-

No enemy aircraft or shipping destroyed during the month of May.

9. LOSSES IN ACTION:-

In the month of May, 1944, we sustained no losses in action whatsoever.

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ltr, Subj: 19th Bombardment Squadron (H), History for Month of May, 1944., dated 1 June, 1944, To: Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 718, Unit 1. (Cont'd):-

10. MEN WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:-

The following named Officers and Enlisted Men were awarded decorations announced in General's Orders as indicated:

AWARDED AIR MEDALS AND
OAK-LEAF CLUSTERS

1st Lt. CHRISTOS ALEXION, O-805125, per GO #310, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May, 1944.
1st Lt. SEYMOUR ALPER, O-805126, per GO #310, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May, 1944.
1st Lt. CHARLES J. ELLIS, Jr., O-440922, per GO #311, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May 1944.
1st Lt. HERBERT C. GORE, O-746712, per GO #311, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May 1944.
1st Lt. DOUGLAS W. GREEN, O-747254, per GO #311, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May 1944.
1st Lt. FLOYD J. HALBERT, O-747259, per GO #311, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May 1944.
1st Lt. EDWARD J. HALPER, O-747260, per GO #311, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May 1944.
1st Lt. TAYLOR W. HARRIS, O-665403, per GO #311, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May 1944.
1st Lt. DALE P. HERRING, O-669409, per GO #311, Hq, 5th AF, 17 May 1944.
1st Lt. GREGORY H. NAZARIAN, O-804859, per GO #314, Hq, 5th AF, 18 May 1944.
1st Lt. RAYMOND B. RICKETT, O-805180, per GO #314, Hq, 5th AF, 18 May 1944.
1st Lt. CHARLES L. TRUESDELL, O-568999, per GO #315, Hq, 5th AF, 18 May 1944.
1st Lt. RICHARD W. ZEMERUSKI, O-570066, per GO #315, Hq, 5th AF, 18 May 1944.
T/Sgt JOHN LIKA, 11031999, (2d Cluster) per GO #342, Hq, 5th AF, 31 May 1944.
T/Sgt WILLIAM M. PORTER, Jr., 6980807, (1st Cluster), GO #342, 5th AF, 31 May 1944.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

T/Sgt JOHN A. SAULER, 14160120, per GO #273, Hq, 5th AF, 4 May 1944.

11. Notes:-

None.

12. Narrative reports:-

None.

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19TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 713, UNIT #1

SUMMARY

Part II

This month, Major Nicholson, the Commanding Officer, Lt Castor, the Adjutant, and Lt McDonough, the Communications Officer all went on a well deserved leave to the Sidney area, leaving the Command and administration in the hands of Captain Schmidt, Acting Commanding Officer.

Captain Schmidt is a new arrival in this theatre of war but deserves quite a bit of praise. Captain Schmidt was in the African campaign for some time. He completed thirty-five odd missions in Liberators, then was returned home. After nine months of rest in the states, Captain Schmidt was then sent to this theatre of war.

Speaking of leaves, there was a time when they were frequent, of course that was before New Guinea, however leaves and furloughs have been in the past few and far between. Some ground men have had no opportunity to go on furlough for 18 months. In the past two weeks, more ground men have had an opportunity to go on furlough than have been in the past few months. Figures show that in the month of May 62 officers and men had enjoyed leaves and furloughs in the Sidney and McKay leave areas. This is therefore, definite proof that some change has been made through the aid of Group Headquarters and Higher Headquarters. It is well realized that not every one can have a furlough but every attempt is being made by higher headquarters to provide some relaxation to the men who have been in this not too pleasant and hot environment. In addition to the fact that leaves and furloughs provide a rest period, they are also the main morale factor.

This month Lt Seymour Alper was to have attended a school on a course of Jungle life. He attended it but not without much ado. The story goes that Lt Alper was informed of the course and he, supposedly was the only one to attend, however some practical joker whispered furtively to Lt Nelson that he was also scheduled to attend. Lt Nelson, naive and not wise to Air Force ways, since he was a Cavalry officer prior to becoming a pathfinder, prepared to embark on a truly interesting course. He purchased leggings, belt, canteen and all the accoutrements that go to make up a fine jungle fighter. He strolled about the camp area or as he calls it the camp "area" displaying his equipment and boasting of his prowess. Was he surprised the next morning when he was awakened and told that he couldn't attend! After all these preparations!

Then speaking of characters, we have a certain engineering officer who wakes up the whole camp in the middle of the night by his telephone calls. Not by a long shot are they ordinary. To be specific this is what it sounds like when the telephone rings and with his massive hands he almost smashes the receiver - "J'ellot J'ellot, Y-e-s, this is Lt Erben! Yes E-R-B-E-N, Yes; Yes; change tanks?, But we just did! Change them again, ooch!" Dead faint. Not only that

[REDACTED]

January (cont'd.)

but to have him sit next to you at the movies, is inviting homicide, he becomes so emotionally aroused that he imagines himself to be the star in the screen and when Franchot Tone starts admiring his hands and contemplating strangulation, watch out for Erben. Last night he thought he was Buffalo Bill and if he hadn't shaved off his mustache and goatee he would have been a reasonable facsimile.

In the way of amusement and recreation, we have had several USO shows which were favorably commented upon and which the men like to see. The show which they are awaiting is the Group show which should come off soon and which also promises to be entertaining. This show includes officers, "If they have talent," as Sgt Hamilton of Special Service so ably put it, and enlisted men. Screen action has been quite improved. The picture that we had been seeing were mediocre, Judy Canova, as "Chatterbox" and such stuff. This week we've had all class "A" pictures which were received with enthusiasm. In fact many things are received with wild enthusiasm but the shot that deserves all the credit is the one in which a gentle old woman delivered a speech on Prohibition. Unfortunately no bouquets were wasted on her and all sentiments were identical.

Not to neglect the fact that the baseball diamond built by the enlisted men of our unit and the men of the sock sock outfit next door, the one's that scare the daylight out of us when we're taking an afternoon snooze, has been put to very good use. In fact, the Medics seem to have taken it over. It's all hearsay, but the story's been making the rounds that "Doc" Martin is going to move in that area. But the medics do receive credit, they do requisition medicinal whiskey for combat crews besides performing us with their hooked needles.

A new crew arrived this month, one complete new crew! They arrived at a most opportune moment, we had chicken for supper. Misillusioned and downcast were they when on the next day they sat down to a repast prepared only the finest cuisine of H.Q. - Rally Beef. As a whole, the crew was made most welcome, especially by those men waiting to go home.

Food has been excellent this month; credit going to Major Gayler, Captain Eamon, and others who purchased the fresh meat and feedstuffs in addition to our regular ration. Morale boosting? They certainly are.

Several parties were held, mainly because Captain C. G. Williams, and Lts Ben and Tyler Harris received orders to return to the United States. The happiest of all were those officers that received their promotions after sweating them out. 1st Lt Gore, 1st Lt J. Dolan, Lt G. Nazarian, Lt Galante, and Lt F. Burke all received their 1st Lieutenantcy. Such activity and humors!

Lt L. Gillespie thought he'd take a crack at fighters so he transferred from these mammoth devastators to flying meathis. Incidentally Lt W. Gilbert decided that he should be a test pilot - so he left.

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Summary (cont'd)

Sgt Markham, originally a member of this unit, left us some time ago after he had finished his missions, to return to the United States. This month, after staying in the states for a rest, he returned to his same old unit and surprising, he was anxious to return to this theatre of war.

The Articles of War were read to the men, as per regulations. The following night they were repeated at the show which was not met with great enthusiasm.

We had a big sale of Red Raider insignia and the men are anxiously awaiting their arrival from the manufacturer. Three-hundred and sixty were sold, to top any other number of sales in the Group.

Everyone has been smoking cigars of late. We had two issues plus several issues of cigarettes. Of course, the P.K. has made things better by selling lighters and such. All the comforts of home, cigars, cigarettes, Bull Durham, cokes, lighters, what more can we ask?

An epidemic of gardens has broken as the news. Along with Sgt Basen and Sgt Beardon other men and officers have planted gardens. And they have produced ---- weeds. Seriously, the gardens are making rapid progress and Sgt Basen claims that he'll have tomatoes in a week or so even if he has to use canned tomatoes to prove it. Rumours have it that we won't remain here too long, which fact is worrying Sgt Basen. He doesn't want to leave his tomatoes.

This one is actually for the books. "Doc" Captain Martin arrived from his leave in Sidney 4 days early! He looked worn out; his explanation "Nothing to do".

These have been the occurrences for the past month which led to a very interesting month scratched off the calendar and one month less to sweat out going home.

Leander P. Carline
LEANDER P. CARLINE,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't Historical Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS
ADVANCE EMBELON
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 713 UNIT #1

23 May 1944

AG 201.22

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : All Air Force Units, New Guinea Area.

1. The following radiogram received from the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, is published for the information of all concerned and is to be posted on all command, wing, group and squadron bulletin boards:

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PD QUOTE MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND TO ALL OFFICERS AND MEN OF YOUR COMMAND CONCERNING BRILLIANT SUCCESS ATTAINED AT WAKDE AND BLAK PD THESE OPERATIONS REFLECTED THE GREATEST CREDIT UPON THE UNITS INVOLVED PD THEIR RESOURCE AND THEIR DETERMINATION AND THEIR COURAGE WERE NOTEWORTHY PD MACARTHUR UNQUOTE

2. In addition to the above, the undersigned desires to convey his heartiest congratulations to all ranks for these aggressive attacks against the enemy.

ENNIS C. WHITBREAD,
Major General, United States Army,
Deputy Air Force Commander.

AG 201.22

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS, 7 BOMBER COMMAND, APO 713, Unit #1, 1 June 1944.

To: Commanding Officers, all Organizations, this Command.

This Commendation is noted with pleasure and pride and the undersigned is pleased to add his congratulations to all personnel of this Command.

J. F. CRABB,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 926

17 May 1944

General Orders)

No.....311)

E X E R C I S E

II. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.

First Lieutenant EDWARD J. ELLIS, JR., (0440922), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 23 July 1943 to 2 December 1943.
Home address: Dr. C. C. Ellis (Father), Bryant St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Second Lieutenant HERBERT G. GRIFFIN, (0746712), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 22 July 43 to 22 March 1944.
Home address: Mrs. Florence A. Gore (Mother), P.O. Box 468, Los Palo, California.

First Lieutenant DONALD W. JERNEY, (0747254), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 22 July 1943, to 24 November 1943.
Home address: Mr. Frank A. Green (Father), 321 Stephenson Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

First Lieutenant FLOYD J. HALBERT, (0747289), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 23 July 1943 to 19 December 1943.
Home address: Mrs. Rachel H. Halbert (Wife), 1902 7th St., Lubbock, Texas.

First Lieutenant EDWARD J. HALPER, (0747260), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 22 July 1943 to 11 November 1943.
Home address: Mr. Carl Halper, 6219 South Washburn Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

First Lieutenant TAYLOR W. HARRIS, (0689409), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 21 July 1943 to 14 December 1943.
Home address: Mr. Benjamin W. Harris (Father), RFD #3, Woodstock, Illinois.

First Lieutenant DALE F. HERRING, (0689406), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 22 July 1943 to 8 December 1943.
Home address: Mr. Walter Herring (Father), Higgins, Texas.

GEORGE C. HENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

THIS EXERCISE COPY:

George L. Casior 9th
GEORGE L. CASIOR,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

17 May 1944

General Orders)

No.310)

S U M M A R Y

II. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL

First Lieutenant CHRISTOS ALEXION, (0803125), Air Corps, United States Army,
for operational flight missions from 18 August 1943 to 8 December 1943.
Home address: Mrs. Athena Alexion (Mother), 72 Oxford St., Lawrence, Massachusetts.

First Lieutenant SEYMOUR L. ALPAR, (0803126), Air Corps, United States Army.
For operational flight missions from 21 July 1943 to 5 December 1943.
Home address: Mrs. Rose H. Alpar (Mother), 30-53 35th St., Long Island City,
New York.

GEORGE C. KENNEY,
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

George L. Castor
GEORGE L. CASTOR,
1st Lt., Air Corps,

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 325

13 May 1944

General Orders)
No.....314)

E X T R A C T

I. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.

Second Lieutenant GREGORY H. MAZARIAN, (3804893), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 19 July 1943 to 16 March 1944.
Home address: Mr. Jacob Mazarian (Father), 10 Waltham Road, Woburn, Mass.

First Lieutenant RAYMOND E. RUCKETT, (3803150), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 23 July 1943 to 2 December 1943.
Home address: Evelyn E. Ruckett, 225 Micral Ave., Dayton, Ohio.

GEORGE C. ALBANY,
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.
Commanding.

TRUE EXHIBIT COPY:

George L. Castor
GEORGE L. CASTOR,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
AF 123

30 May 1944

General Orders)

No. 202)

SECRET

VI. AWARDS OF THE BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER (AIR MEDAL)

By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded to Technical Sergeant JOHN LITTA, by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, as published on page 28, section IV, General Orders No. 80, Headquarters, Fifth Air Force, dated 6 May 1944, and to the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster awarded to him by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, as published on page 4, section I, General Orders No. 202, Headquarters, Fifth Air Force, dated 6 April 1944, a second Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded to him by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, under the provisions of Executive Order 9186, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 18, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 48, W.D., 1942).

By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded to Technical Sergeant WILLIAM B. FINLEY, by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, as published on page 4, section I, General Orders No. 203, Headquarters, Fifth Air Force, dated 7 April 1944, a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded to him by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, under the provisions of Executive Order 9186, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 18, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 48, W.D., 1942).

GEORGE C. HENLEY,
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Boyd L. Castor
BOYD L. CASTOR,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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33RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1946

Leland H. Martin
LELAND H. MARTIN
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

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33RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
HABZAB, NEW GUINEA

HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1944

1. There were no changes in Organization during the month of May.

2. Strengths:	<u>May 1</u>	<u>May 31</u>	Net incr. or decr.
<u>Officers</u>			
Authorized	116	116	
Assigned	92	91	-1
<u>Enlisted Men</u>			
Authorized	456	456	
Assigned	390	389	-1
<u>Attached</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	
May 1	0	40	
May 31	0	37	

3. No change in station

4. Training:

a. Two new aircraft were assigned to the squadron during the month of May. The serial numbers of the aircraft assigned on May 1 were 12 B-24-J's numbered:

42-100173	42-100196	42-100204
42-100188	42-100202	42-100291
42-100191	42-100208	42-100313
42-100193	42-100210	42-100321

On May 26th another B-24-J was assigned to the squadron:
42-110119

On May 29th still another B-24-J was assigned to this squadron
42-40366

b. Combat personnel strength at the end of May comprised:

<u>Duty</u>	<u>Trained</u>	<u>Untrained</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pilot	20		20
Co-Pilot	17		17
Bombardier	24		24
Navigator	20		20
Gunner	553		53
Aerial Engineer	47		47
Radio Operator	23		23
	<u>204</u> Total		<u>204</u> Total

Complete crews end of May: 17

Complete trained crews end of May: 17

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5. there were no changes in squadron training policies.

Radio operators of both the ground and air echelon continue to attend the courses held in Group Communications on maintenance and operation of radios used in the B-24's.

Many of the co-pilots were scheduled to undergo intensive traditional training but the program was held up due to bad weather the latter part of May.

6. No change in Group Commanding Officer

6. there was a change in the Squadron Commanding Officer.

On May 1st Capt. ROBERT E. KINIG assumed command of the squadron when Major JOHN H. BISHOP was relieved per 23rd Bomb Group Special Order #82.

7. No enemy shipping or Aircraft were encountered.

8. No losses in action.

9. Combat Missions

During the month of May 13 missions and 81 sorties were flown. Our aircraft dropped 365,000 lbs of bombs and expended 24,780 rounds of 40 caliber ammunition.

While there were no really outstanding missions during the month, the 33rd lead every heavy bomb squadron in the area with 100% hits. The above applies to area targets during the first 15 days of May.

The tabulation of the missions follows:

7 May 1944. Sewer-Sarmi Area--Successful. 7 planes
11 May 1944. Naval guns, Wakke--Successful. 7 planes
13 May 1944. Sewer primary. (ague strip secondary. 4 A/P successfully bombed primary, while 1 A/P bombed secondary with unobserved results. 1 plane turned back with engine trouble. 7 planes
14 May 1944. Kopon Village, Wakke Area--Successful. 7 planes
15 May 1944. BX Haffin Bay Area--Successful. 8 planes
16 May 1944. Defense Area, Wakke--Successful. 8 planes
17 May 1944. Biak SW--Successful. 6 planes
22 May 1944. BX and 4X Biak Island--Successful. 11 planes
27 May 1944. A/A and Personnel Biak Island--Successful. 7 planes
23 May 1944. A/A and Personnel Biak Island-- Mission incomplete due to bad weather. 7 planes

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- 28 May 1944. Dispersal Area Manokwari. Primary and secondary targets closed in. 6 aircraft dropped their bombs on Japan Island with unobserved results. 3 A/P brought their bombs back. 7 planes.
- 29 May 1944. Supply drop New Britain--Contact successfully made. 1 plane.
- 29 May 1944. Bomber drone--successful. 3 planes.

10. Members who distinguished themselves in action.

Rank	Name	Action	Award	Orders
2nd Lt.	Robert W. Blessing	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 310, May 17, 1944
1st Lt.	Tadeusz Blecharczyk	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 310, May 17, 1944
2nd Lt.	Joseph J. Donovan	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 311, May 17, 1944
2nd Lt.	William H. Bounds	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 310, May 17, 1944
1st Lt.	Henry F. Brayton	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 310, May 17, 1944
2nd Lt.	Richard J. Crowley	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 311, May 17, 1944
2nd Lt.	Elwin W. Cummings	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 311, May 17, 1944
2nd Lt.	Allace W. Fazer	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 311, May 17, 1944
2nd Lt.	Carroll L. Johnson	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 311, May 17, 1944
1st Lt.	Francis J. Richter	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 315, May 18, 1944
2nd Lt.	Charles A. Russo	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 315, May 18, 1944
2nd Lt.	Pearl A. Warner	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 314, May 18, 1944
1st Lt.	Dean C. Lanphere	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 314, May 18, 1944
2nd Lt.	Richard W. Michaels	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 314, May 18, 1944
2nd Lt.	George A. Oakley	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 314, May 18, 1944
2nd Lt.	Lars S. Fetter	Combat Missions	SWPA Air Medal	Hq. 5th Air Force GO 314, May 18, 1944

11. No photographs available.

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12. Narrative History for the Month of May.

Our fifth month as a squadron stationed at APO 713 unit pl saw less activity than the previous month. For the first 15 days the 33rd lead every Heavy bomb squadron in the SWPA in area bombing. However, bad weather and lack of targets produced a marked decrease in operational activity by the end of May.

Early in March Capt. George Sheinberg and nine 1st three graders were relieved from duty to await shipment home to the States. Days and even weeks went by and still no orders. They had sweated those orders out until even their supply of blood was low. Finally, in the wee hours of the morning on May 9th a sleepy CO woke them and told them their plane was taking off in three hours. Ten happy men wee off in a cloud of dust. The entire squadron wishes them lots of luck and hopes that many more will follow in their footsteps soon.

The squadron has two new bosses that took over their now jobs in May. Capt. Roger Kindig assumed command of the squadron when Major John Disbro was sent to Group Headquarters. Major Disbro has since gone home. On May 10th, S/Sgt. Frank Congin took over the 1st Sgt.'s job. All officers and men are looking forward to adding new laurels to an already excellent record under their new leadership.

News comes from San Francisco that the very popular pilot from Texas, Capt. Carl Cole, hit US soil on May 22nd. Capt. Cole was really on the ball as the entire trip from here to there took less than three days. He's missed by the squadron and all of us wish him all the luck in the world.

A commendation received on May 17 from the Group Commanding Officer in recognition of the excellent work done by both ground and air echelons during the past two months. Colonel Robinson is not an outspoken man, and the men know that praise from him is richly deserved. Many the night the men have wearily come off the line just before midnight seeing that every last detail on the planes is checked and double-checked.

The food situation in May was much happier than in April. Fresh meat almost every day and did that hit the spot with the men returning from some of those long missions they pulled. A sharp eye can see where some of the boys are gaining a pound or two, and any veteran of New Guinea can tell you that such things are rare up here.

The squadron softball team started off with a bang. Behind the steady pitching of Lt. Gatewood, the 33rd pounded out a 4 to 2 win over the hotshots from the 19th. However, the 408th turned the score around to win a close again by a 4 to 2 margin. Lt. Russo was charged with the loss. Both games were well played contests and the prospects for a very successful season for us on the diamond are bright. ~~Not many promotions.~~

Not many promotions for officers come through during the month, but 16 of the officers are proudly hoarding their newly earned Air Medals to impress the people back home. (that is, if and when they get home) On the enlisted side of the mess hall it's obvious that plenty of promotions for them came through. In fact, 60 stripes were proudly sewed on their arms. That's a lot of stripes, but they were earned the hard way and richly deserved.

Every afternoon if you happen to pass the mess hall, you'll see officers and men alike giving the old college try on the volley ball court. No quarter is asked or given by either side. No one seems to know who's ahead, but are more interested in the game itself. That's the kind of spirit we are like to see in the squadron.

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The necessary spirits finally arrived to properly celebrate the recently acquired railroad tracks of Capt. Melhorne, Henry, and Parraud. It was a great party and a bang-up time was had by all. The only losers were those lost souls who went to bed early to get some sleep. Their efforts were in vain.

During the last few days in May, the squadron welcomed three crews into the organization. They crews started the older combat men talking about the Golden Gate in July and August. Time will tell if they are right or not. Anyway, it's a pleasant thought.

The days are over when we have to take a barracks bag full of dirty clothes down to the creek and scrub our heads off. On May 17th the squadron started using the excellent facilities available at the 19th Squadron three days a week. It's true that the results of the first week were a bit sad. Many a sock has lost its mate forever and other items are just lost. However, the difficulties and defects were quickly remedied, and the second week's work produced excellent results. The need for an inexpensive and efficient laundry has always been urgent in New Guinea, and this is the first real effort on our part to meet that need.

The end of the month finds the squadron with excellent morale, on the ball, and eager to see plenty of action in June.

Leland H. Martin
LELAND H. MARTIN
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer

~~SECRET~~
 HEADQUARTERS
 V BOMBER COMMAND
 Office of the A-5 Officer
 APO 713 Unit #1

18 May, 1944

AG 375.2

SUBJECT: Semi-monthly Report of Combat Bombing Evaluation of Heavy Groups.

TO : Commanding Officers, all groups and Squadrons of this command.

1. The following groups are listed in order of their relative proficiency on Area targets.

a. The squadrons are listed accordingly.

GROUP STANDINGS

Groups	No. of Targets	Complete Coverage	Pct. Coverage
90th Bomb Gp.	26	13	54.8
22nd Bomb Gp.	25	11	72.0
43rd Bomb Gp.	20	9	59.9
VBC AVERAGE	69	33	75.7

SQUADRON STANDINGS

33rd Sq (22nd)	5	5	100.0
65th Sq (43rd)	6	5	94.3
321st Sq (90th)	6	3	50.0
400th Sq (90th)	8	5	66.9
319th Sq (90th)	8	3	35.0
320th Sq (90th)	6	2	73.8
2nd Sq (22nd)	7	2	59.8
64th Sq (43rd)	6	3	59.3
408rd Sq (22nd)	5	2	65.6
9th Sq (22nd)	6	2	59.1
403rd Sq (43rd)	8	1	32.0
VBC AVERAGE	69	33	75.7

A True Copy

Lt. Leland H. Martin
 LT. LELAND H. MARTIN

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HEADQUARTERS
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 713 Unit #1

17 May, 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 33RD BOMB SQ (H), APO 713 Unit #1.

1. During the past two months numerous commendations have been received from higher headquarters concerning our bombing, airplanes in commission, formations, etc. These commendations have been noted with a great deal of pride and forwarded to the Squadrons without comment, as it is realized that we only coordinate and advise while the actual accomplishment of these acts are the result of the Squadrons efforts.

2. Commendations are in order for all the non-combat personnel of the group for their untiring efforts in keeping our group leading other Heavies in all around efficiency. Praises cannot be strong enough written to compensate for the unequalled record of our engineering personnel. We all realize that our pilots are the best because of the faith they have in you men who haven't let them down, and won't.

3. The day and night of the 16th when installation of poor fitting bomb bay tanks became necessary showed the true esprit de corps of our unit when all obstacles were overcome and we were able to put 27 planes in the air on the 17th. The accomplishment of seemingly unnecessary tasks without regard to the hardships involved will enable us to continue hitting the Japs, and hard.

4. Headquarters is proud of your work, and I am not only proud but personally well pleased with all of you. My appreciation is extended to every contributing man in the 22nd Bombardment Group.

(s) Richard W. Robinson,
(t) RICHARD W. ROBINSON,
Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

A True Copy

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Lt. Leland H. Martin

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408TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)
NADZAB, NEW GUINEA

HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1944

Alfred E. Garren
ALFRED E. GARREN
1st Lieutenant, Air Corps
Historical Officer

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408TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
22ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
MADZAB, NEW GUINEA

HISTORY FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1944

1. There were no changes in Organization during the month of May.

2. Strengths:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>May 1</u>	<u>May 31</u>
Authorized	116	116
Assigned	87	97
<u>Enlisted Men</u>		
Authorized	458	458
Assigned	382	400
Attached	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
May 1	2	19
May 31	1	9

During the month of May there was an increase of 10 Officers assigned and an increase of 18 Enlisted Men assigned. There was a decrease of 1 Officer and 10 Enlisted Men of the attached personnel.

3. Stations: No change. Headquarters at Madzab, New Guinea.

4. Trainings:

a. The following B-24-J type aircraft were assigned and serviceable at the beginning of May:

42-100123	42-100174	42-100180
42-100290	42-100310	42-100250
42-100324	42-100328	42-109984
42-109992	42-109995	42-110005

b. At the end of May, the following B-24-J type aircraft were assigned and serviceable:

42-100123	42-100180	42-100250
42-100290	42-100310	42-100324
42-100328	42-109984	42-109992
42-109993	42-110005	44-40132

c. At the end of May, the following B-24-J type aircraft was assigned, but not serviceable:

42-100123

d. The Squadron has 38 trained pilots, and 18 trained combat crews.

5. Group Commanding Officer: No change.

6. Squadron Commanding Officer: No change.

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7. Outstanding Missions: A narrative report of Mission 135-B 14 May, 1944, will accompany this history.

8. No enemy aircraft or shipping destroyed.

9. Losses in Action: None.

10. Awards for MBy:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>ORDERS</u>
2nd Lt	Ambrosini, Dante E.	Missions in SWPA	Air Medal	CO 310 Hq 5th AF 17 May/44.
1st Lt	Clark, John E.	Missions in SWPA	Air Medal	CO 311 Hq 5th AF 17 May/44.
1st Lt	Rehart, Charles B.	Missions in SWPA	Air Medal	CO 311 Hq 5th AF 17 May/44.

11. Photographs: Photographs of Operations, Intelligence and Headquarters are attached to the original and second copies only.

a. A complete map of the 408th Squadron's area is attached to the original, second and third copies only.

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12. Narrative Report:

The month of May was a comparatively quiet one, in the history of the 408th. With the Japs pushed almost out of reach, the air action has been somewhat routine, weather giving the boys more trouble than the little sons of , but, well, you'll find the combat facts in the statistical data preceding this narrative.

There was one unusual incident in the air though, that merits more than just a few words; it happened on the 29th. Lt. Stevens, on his way to the target that day, "lost" two generators on take-off, but he decided to complete the mission. Five minutes later he lost the third and stayed with the formation. Fifteen minutes later, as fantastic as it might sound, the fourth and last generator failed, but Lt Stevens stayed on course, deciding to use his "putt-putt" in an effort to complete the mission. This unit is an auxiliary power unit normally used to keep batteries up while the airplane is being operated on the ground or when your engines are running below 1800 RPM. The fuel that's used to operate a "putt-putt" is a mixture of gas and oil, like the combination that's used in an outboard motor, and the fuel tank has a capacity of one gallon; a gallon will keep the unit going about an hour. Lt Stevens wasn't carrying a reserve of this mixture, but S/Sgt John Tartat, Engineer on the ship, had decided that he could get the right mixture by draining 100 octane gas from an outlet in the bomb bay and getting his oil, (hydraulic fluid) from the hydraulic reservoir. The "putt-putt" kept right on going when this makeshift fluid was tried so Lt Stevens kept right on going, determined to get to the target. He got to a point about 40 miles southeast of Nowak and had two turbos go bad and "thats all, brother"--it was time to go back home. And home to Madzab he went on about four fuel refills of the "putt-putt". Thats the closest thing to flying a "24" on an outboard motor, that this writer has ever heard of.

The enlisted men in this squadron got a "break" when Lt Clark, (Navigator, Intelligence Officer, So- Getter) was assigned the additional duty of Squadron Special Services Officer. He was off to a flying start. He felt that the men needed a club and, well, the boys have a club and it's a "beaut". Clark wasted no time, asked the boys if they'd put some effort into it, if he got the materials--got a loud "yes"--proceeded to get those materials and "Clark does it again".

"Water" played unusual tricks on some of the fellows in this outfit during the month of May. Bomber Command ordered a ship sent to Milne Bay on the / for the purpose of getting two Signal Corps men down there in an effort to pick up some equipment. The 408th got the job and Captain Cole took the ship down figuring that he'd be back that evening or the next day at the very latest. Upon arrival at Milne Bay, we found that the Signal Corps equipment we were looking for was already on it's way to Madzab by boat so we decided to "rack off" a few things for the 408th. Lt Clark was along, by the way, so the trip definitely was not a "dry run". It was too late to start back that evening so we planned on getting off the first thing in the morning. But, it started to rain that night and it was coming down in torrents when morning came. The weather was bad "all the way up", we found on inquiry at the control tower. That day passed (and it was still raining)--so did the next and-- well, to make the story short,

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it rained constantly, a steady downpour, for 5 days and five nights. No change of clothing, (the roads to QM were washed out) no tooth brush—no anything intact. Came the sixth day and the weather cleared, but we forgot to tell you that during the second day after our arrival an engine warm-up revealed the unpleasant information that a supercharger was "out" of commission. We had quite a load including a good number of passengers so the Captain decided not to take off without the supercharger in working order. A message had been sent to the 27th Air Depot at Morosby requesting the part but no action was received. A message to Capt Copey, the Operations Officer of the 408th got results and the part was brought to us on the eight day of the "overnight trip". We got back, dirty, tired, and weary of Milne Bay to find ourselves getting the "ol' prod" about drinking lots of beer, seeing plenty of women and generally having one helluva good time. The boys don't know how good Madzab looked the day we finally got "home".

Water had played a second trick, we found, after two Officers and a couple Enlisted Men had been AWOL for about 24 hours. These adventurers were taking a cruise down the Markham River one day 'long 'bout the middle of the month, when the raft hit a rock and became just plain logs again—on the wrong side of the river. Vain attempts were made to find a way of getting across and while the boys were still desperately attempting to find an answer to their problem, the dark of night halted operations, until the welcome warmth and light of the next morning permitted the boys to continue same. A couple hours of looking for shallow water or a deserted raft or boat and found them still in the same sad plight, so one of the Officers decided to swim the river and find help. He got it in the form of a boat and returned for the rest of the men. It was a rough night they all agreed; it rained all night and it's not too comfortable trying to get sleep under these conditions without a bunk, or even a blanket, or a roof.

Movement rumors had us "buzzin'" this month. Bomber Command "paper-tested" three plans which necessitated collection and transmittal of all the logistical data of the squadron and it really kept the section heads busy. The anticipation of a move spurred the boys into high gear in their efforts to get latrines pre-fabricated and similar necessities ready for the new station. The "move talk" died down, however and it seems as though everything is indefinite again but we can say that this particular rumor was to our advantage. It did put us "on the ball" and we're better prepared now than we would formerly have^{been} in the event of a sudden order to pack up and go.

The Rotation System of returning men to the United States, gave us a quota of nine (9) men for May, but the last day of the month found them still "sweating" the order to "shove off".

We're all anxiously awaiting the return of Capt Groce with the new squadron emblems. We've ordered 180 of them and from the way the sample drew approval, 180 won't last long. Every man in the squadron will want one for his jacket, but some of them will just have to wait til we can get our next order in. Here is an idea of what it looks like:

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May 10 1954
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Saw some good movies during May. Consensus of opinion put these at the top of the lists:

- "Standing Room Only"
- "Lost Angel"
- "In Old Oklahoma"
- "Swing Out The Blues"
- "Phantom Lady"
- "The Lodger"

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

17 May 1944.

General Orders)

E X T R A C T

No.310)

Section

* * * * *

Awards of the Air Medal. II

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II. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 28, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49, W.D., 1942), an Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers:

* * * * *

Second Lieutenant DANTE E. AMBROSINI, (0736059), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 3 September 1943 to 28 March 1944. Home address: Mrs. Frances A. Ambrosini (Wife), 1551 "C" St., Fresno, California.

* * * * *

The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained operational flight missions in the Southwest Pacific area, during which hostile contact was probable and expected. These operations consisted of bombing missions against enemy airdromes and installations and attacks on enemy naval vessels and shipping. The courage and devotion to duty displayed during these flights are worthy of commendation.

George C. Kenney, /s
GEORGE C. KENNEY, /t
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

17 May 1944.

General Orders)

E X T R A C T

No.....3110

Section

* * * * *

Awards of the Air Medal..... II

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II. AWARDS OF THE AIR MEDAL.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9168, 11 May 1942 (Bulletin 25, W.D., 1942), amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bulletin 49 W.D., 1942), and Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, to the following named officers:

* * * * *

First Lieutenant JOHN E. CLARK, (0803138), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 14 October 1943 to 31 December 1943. Home address: Mrs. William D. Clark (Mother), Rockville, Maryland.

First Lieutenant CHARLES B. KEPHART, (0739443), Air Corps, United States Army. For operational flight missions from 7 October 1943 to 29 December 1943. Home address: Mr. Charles B. Kephart (Father), 4007 5th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

* * * * *

The citation is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained operational flight missions in the Southwest Pacific area, during which hostile contact was probable and expected. These operations consisted of bombing missions against enemy airdromes and installations and attacks on enemy naval vessels and shipping. The courage and devotion to duty displayed during these flights are worthy of commendation.

George C. Kenney, /s/
GEORGE C. KENNEY, /t
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Joseph H. Friedman
JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.O. 713, Unit # 1.

7 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT 1

- A. 128-B, 7 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (H), seven B-24-J's.
 - B. Target: S-I, Samsi.
 - C. Time of attack: 1110/X to 1115/X; altitude 9600 to 10000 ft., course 270 to 340°.
 - D. Bombing results: Excellent, "A" flights bombs hit from 50 to 200 ft SW of target, just south of clearing at southern end of target. 23 of "B" flights bombs hit in target 1000 to 1500 ft northwest of clearing 1500 ft northwest of south tip of target. 1 bomb of "B" flight fell free of bomb bay when doors were opened, falling 5000 ft southwest and short of the target.
 - E. to F. Nil.
 - G. A/A heavy, moderate, and inaccurate at altitude from 8000 to 10000 ft, bursting way behind. Four A/A positions seen firing--position S-W was seen firing. One and maybe two positions were reported firing approximately 700 ft due west of Samsi A/D. 1 position was reported firing 500 ft northwest of large building at south east tip of target area. There was one fire sighted approximately 1500 feet southeast of target along coast. Two fires were started in target area by our bombs.
 - H. 3 photos taken over target at 1115/X at altitude of 10000 ft with K-17 cameras.
 - I. Sighted one fire approximately 1500 feet southeast of target along coast, and two fires were started in target area by our bombs. Both northwest approximately 1000 to 1500 feet of clearing on southeast edge of target area. 6/10 coverage.
 - J. Weather: stratocumulus at 5000 feet, 5/10 coverage on trip up. Building up to 8/10 coverage with some high cumulus built up over mountains on way back. 5/10 high cirrus. Over target: scattered cumulus 2/10 coverage, 30 miles visibility.
 - K. Take off at 0723/X to 0730/X; landing 1515/X to 1523/X.
 - L. 48 x 1000 lb inst. demo bombs dropped over target. 8 x 1000 lb. inst. demo bombs were salvaged safe at 04035°E, 143°51'E. All ammunition expended.
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406th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.S. 713, Unit # 1.

11 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 132-B; 11 May, 1944; 406th Sqdn (H), seven B-24's.
 - B. Target: Wake Island (2-W), A/A positions.
 - C. Time of attack: 1049/X to 1055/X; altitude 8000 to 8500; course 275 to 325°.
 - D. Bombing results: Excellent; lead ship bombs in A flight hit in a string approximately 200 feet west and parallel to the target. # 2 ships bombs went through target area; #3 ships bombs hit on west shore of target area beginning 1000 feet from south shore of Peninsula. Seven bombs of the lead ship of B flight hit 100 feet in from the west coast of the peninsula approximately half way up the peninsula. One bomb salvoed safe around and hit at lower edge of dump area south of runway causing a good size explosion and fire. #2 ship of B flight dropped 6 bombs in a string which hit on west side of peninsula starting 50 ft from shore and running north on island. 2 bombs salvoed arced; hit in center of peninsula. One ship turned back due to engine trouble and salvoed their bombs safe in Lake Waiau. Several fires started by the bombing.
 - E. to G. Nil.
 - H. 8 photos taken over target at 1055/X with K-17 cameras; altitude 8500 feet.
 - I. Sightings: numerous fires and explosions seen. Returning crew members reported that on approaching the target it seemed as though the entire island had been completely covered the exception of the runway. The lower western part of the peninsula was covered by small fires with several explosions. At the west corner of the peninsula intersection there were two large fires. Five fires were reported in the dump area south of the runway on the eastern half of the island. In this area there were two very large explosions. One fire was reported at the northeast corner of the island about two-thirds up from the southern edge of the eastern tip.
 - J. Weather enroute: broken cumulus to 10,000 ft. Visibility 20 miles, high cirrus stratus overcast. Target area covered by smoke---cloudless.
 - K. Take off at 0658/X to 0701/X; landing at 1430/X to 1440/X.
 - L. 56 x 1000 pound instantaneous demolition bombs were dropped; all ammunition expended at once.
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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.P.O. 713, Unit # 1.

13 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 134-B, 13 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (H), seven B-24-J's.
 - B. Target: 13-Maffin Airdrome; alternate target: Nagua strip.
 - C. Time of attack: 1017/K to 1027/K; altitude 8500 to 9000 ft; course, 350-355°.
 - D. Bombing results; excellent, 30 bombs hit in target area. "A" flight lead ship on a course of due north bombs strung out from clearing 1500 feet south east of mouth of the Waske river north to within 50 feet from the shore of the river mouth. # 2 ships bombs hit to the east of the lead ships approximately 200 feet, starting 2000 feet southeast of river mouth stringing out for 1000 feet stopping 1000 feet short of the river mouth. # 3 ships bombs hit southwest of the lead ships beginning 1800 feet southeast of the big bend of the Waske River running due north to within 1000 feet of the east shore of the bend. "B" flight lead ships bombs hung up on first run, a second run was made and still the bombs would not release. Due to A/A, a third run was made and the bombardier had to release the bombs with a screw-driver from the catwalk. Exact positions of the hits of the bombs were undetermined. It was approximately three miles inland south of Maffin airdrome at 1032/K from an altitude of 8500 feet. All but the last bomb was dropped unnamed. # 2 ship dropped its bombs on the second run on a course of 305°. 2 bombs hit in target area east of Maffin strip approximately 1000 feet inland and the six remaining bombs hit parallel to the coast in the same string just out of target area. # 3 positions in "B" flight was filled in by a ship of the 19th Bomb Sqdn of the 22nd Bomb Group. Results of this ships bombing undetermined and will be sent in by its own Squadron. The 7th ship of the formation made an individual run and four bombs fell free when bomb bay doors were opened hitting one and one half miles south of the target area. The other 4 bombs hit just on the shore on the east side of the big bend of the Waske River.
One ship turned back due to pilot illness, and bombed the secondary target. All bombs hit in water just off shore of Nagua strip. Stabilizer out.
 - E. to F. Nil.
 - G. A/A encountered was heavy, moderate, and inaccurate, at altitude of 7000 to 13000 feet. A/A positions—numerous A/A positions were reported firing. 3 positions were reported at 900 to 1200 feet inland due south from the mouth of the Waske River. Five positions were reported firing from the large clearing which is about 500' west of Maffin airdrome. 3 positions were reported firing as being in the center of the large clearing and two positions were reported on south edge of the middle of the clearing.
 - H. 7 photos taken over target at 1020/K with K-17 cameras at altitude of 8500 ft.
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- ~~SECRET~~
- I. Sightings: one large fire and explosion was reported at 600 feet south of coast and 500 feet west of clearing. There was heavy smoke over the target near the shore south of the mouth of the Waske River. A large fire was seen on Wakde Island. Average cloud coverage enroute was 6/10. 3 planes in good condition were reported on Samar strip. Type of aircraft not determined.
 - J. Weather enroute: scattered clouds over entire route. 9/10 undercast at 5000 feet in Sepik River area. 2/10 along coast. Built up some on return route home.
 - K. Take off at 0649/K to 0655/K; one ship returned early at 1200/K; the formation landed at 1410/K to 1415/K.
 - L. 56 x 1000 pound instantaneous demolition bombs were dropped in all. Nil ammunition expended.
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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.S. 713, Unit # 1.

14 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 135-B; 14 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (H), 7 B-24-J's.
 - B. Target: Arara Village
 - C. Time of attack: 1025/K-1030/K; altitude 9500-9600 ft., course 270 to 290°.
 - D. Bombing results: Excellent; 3 bombs hit in water. 53 x 1000 lb inst. Some bombs hit in target area. The 3 strings of "A" flight's bombs hit in pattern completely covering Arara village running from 200 yards east of village. 3 bombs of the right wing ship of "B" flight hit in the water 500 feet east of Arara Village. The rest of "B" flight's bombs hit in target area with the lead ship's bombs going through Arara Village proper. "C" flight one ship dropped its bombs through Arara Village with bombs beginning 300 feet east of village and running to the last hut.
 - E. to G. Nil.
 - H. 18 photos taken over target at 1025/K with K-17 cameras, altitude of 8000 feet. 22 photos taken of camouflaged area at 0955/K and 1100/K from 8000 feet altitude.
 - I. Sightings: Fires, one fire on coast mile east of Toon village. One fire reported on coast 200 yards southwest of Toon village. One fire reported on coast 200 yards west of Kebon village. A fire and large explosion was reported 200 feet southwest of Arara village, in target when observed on Waide Island. One at northeast tip of the island and the entire western end of the strip was under bombing and strafing attack. Of special note: On yesterday's mission one of the gunners reported what he thought to be a large camouflaged area west of Hollandia. He was instructed to take special note of the area on today's mission and the report of his sightings is as follows: at 02°33'N, 140°11'E, a large area with numerous European type warehouse buildings were seen. The buildings can only be seen from certain angles and definite camouflage efforts were noted. A large road, described as resembling a highway ran inland to the area from Walchenner Bay. The area is approximately one half mile west of Urine river and near the villages of Benjof and Benjoni. These observations were also noted and reported by the other crew members on today's mission. Numerous photos were taken of the area on the way to and from the target.
 - J. Weather: high cirrus with cumulus over mountains; weather clear, vis. unlimited
 - K. Take off time: 0650/K to 0700/K; landing at 1400-1405/K.
 - L. 56 x 1000 lb inst some bombs dropped in all. Nil ammunition expended.
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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (B)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (B)
A.F.O. 713, Unit # 1.

15 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 136-C; 15 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Squadron (B), 5 B-24-D's.
 - B. Target: Sami-Sewar Area (Buildings at 16-K)
 - C. Time of attack: 1106-1113/E; altitude 10700 to 11600 ft., course 195 to 210 degrees.
 - D. Bombing results: Excellent, 21 of 32 x 1000 lb last day bombs directed at target area hit in target. 2 ships damaged 11 bombs strung out from 1000 southeast of target to area. 2 buildings seen to explode.
 - E. to F. Nil.
 - G. A/A encountered was heavy, accurate, and accurate, bursting at 11000 feet slightly behind and to the side. One position seen firing, approximately 1500 feet west of mouth of Waka River. Other positions thought to be firing but couldn't be observed. Our ship received one small hole from fragments.
 - H. 4 photos taken over target with K-17 camera at 1107/E from 11000 feet.
 - I. Sightings: many fires and smoke on Waka Island; 1/10 overcast cloud coverage enroute.
 - J. Weather enroute: Markham valley clear. 4/10 to 5/10 low broken undercast with tops from 4000 to 5000 feet in Sepik River area. CAVG over target.
 - K. Take off at 0730/E; landing at 1155/E.
 - L. Of 40 x 1000 pound last day bombs taken on mission, 32 were dropped at target area, and 8 were salvaged safe in Kuni grass 15 miles west of Madzab. Ship salvaging bombs turned back due to gas leak dropping bombs from 2500 feet at 0740/E. Nil ammunition expended.
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405th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
2nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.S. 713, Unit 1.

15 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT 1

- A. 136-T; 15 May, 1944; 405th Bomb Sqdn (H), 1 B-24-Y.
- B. Target: Bora strip.
- C. Time of attack: 1150/K; altitude 8500 feet, course 135 degrees.
- D. Bombing results: excellent, 7 bombs exploded in strip, one bomb exploded in brush northwest of strip.
- E. to H. Nil.
- I. Nil sightings; 4/10 coverage average cloud amount.
- J. Weather enroute: Markham valley clear. 4/10 to 6/10 low broken undercast in northern zone. CAVE over target.
- K. Take off at 1045/K; landing at 1526/K. Clouds obscured target on first run; second run was necessary.
- L. 8 x 1000 lb inst 2 second delay bombs were dropped. Nil ammunition expended.

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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.P.O. 713, Eniw / 1.

16 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT 1

- A. 137-C; 16 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (H), seven B-24-J's.
- B. Target: A/a northwest coast of Makda Island.
- C. Time of attack: 1040/Y-1046/X; altitude 8500 to 9000 ft., course, 195-240°.
- D. Bombing results: excellent; 47 x 1000 lb incase bombs in target area completely covering it. 8 bombs of right wing ship of "B" flight in water just off of shore. One bomb fell out after bomb doors were opened hitting in sea short of Makda.
- E. to G. Nil.
- H. 16 photos taken over target with X-17 cameras at an altitude of 8500 to 9000 feet at 1040/X to 1046/X.
- I. Sightings: numerous fires started over the Island with two fires started by our bombing. One fire was reported on Insoamnia Island just south-west of Makda Island.
- J. Weather enroute: clear in Eniw and Marthen. A/c ceilings at 5000 feet, 4/10 coverage from Anakena to target. Built up in places to 10,000 feet on return trip. Clear over the target.
- K. Take off at 0650/X-0705/X; landing at 1402/X-1410/X. 15,000 propaganda leaflets to the natives were dropped between Fowak and Hollandia.
- L. 56 x 1000 lb incase bombs dropped in all. Nil ammunition expended.

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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (S)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.S. 713, Unit # 1.

17 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 138-B; 17 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (H), seven 3-24-J's.
- B. Target: A/A (5-W) Bik Island.
- C. Time of attack: 1128/K; altitude 9800-10000 ft., course 240 to 280 degrees.
- D. Bombing results: unsatisfactory; five ships reached target, and all bombs (30 x 1000 lb inst dem) hit in water starting at shore line. Nil damage.
- E. to F. Nil.
- G. A/A encountered was heavy, slight, and inaccurate; altitude, 12000 feet. One gun reported 1000 feet north of western end of Makmer Drome. One gun reported as 1000 feet north of center of Makmer Drome. One gun reported at southeast tip of Makmer drome. One gun reported 500 feet due north of target 5-W.
- H. 8 photos taken over target with E-17 cameras at altitude of 9800 to 10000 ft.
- I. Sightings: 2 fires on coast east of target, of no intensity.
- J. Weather enroute: cumulus in Markham, 2/10 cumulus towering over entire route going and coming. Air smooth, clear in places. Tops, 11000; base, 5000.
- K. Take off at 0636/K-0643/X; landings at 0745/K, 0915/X, and 1630/K. Two ships returned. The pilot was ill in one, and the other had a gas leak. Both salvaged their bombs in ocean approximately 30 miles southeast of Isu.
- L. 42 x 1000 pound instantaneous demolition bombs were dropped in all. Nil ammunition was expended.

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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (B)
32nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (B)
A.F.O. 713, Unit # 1.

17 May, 1944.

MIAMI MISSION REPORT 1

1. 143-C; 22, May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (B), 18 B-24-D's.
 2. Target: Lt I Suvaia--Nish Island
 3. Time of attack: 1116/X-1122/X; altitude 9500-10000 feet; course 290-340°.
 4. Results of bombing: Excellent; 36 x 1000 lb inst dem bombs in target area. 18 bombs in water. 12 hitting a short distance from shore parallel to the target, six toggled in water on way home 10 miles southwest of Suvaia Island. Altitude 9600 feet; time, 1128/X.
 5. to 8. Nil.
 9. A/A encountered was heavy, moderate and accurate, at 9000 to 11000 feet. One battery was firing from a position 3000 feet due north of the west end of Baker strip.
 10. 16 photos taken over target at 9500 to 10000 feet with E-17 camera at 1120/X.
 11. Sightings: one fuel dump explosion reported in target area. Average cloud coverage enroute was 6/10.
 12. Weather enroute: clear to Suvaia on trip up. Suvaia to target 6/10 broken cumulus, 5000 to 12000 feet. Cumulus built up on return trip to 8/10 coverage from target to Suvaia. Valley from Suvaia bay. 2/10 cov of cumulus.
 13. Take off at 0615/X-0620/X; landing at 1545/X-1611/X. Seven ships bombed on a 408th Squadron formation. 3 ships bombed attached on to a flight of 3 ships from the 3rd Bombardment Squadron of the 32nd Bombardment Group (B).
 14. In all, 60 x 1000 lb instantaneous demolition bombs were dropped. 201 ammunition was expended.
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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.P.O. 713, Unit # 1.

23 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 144-B; 23 May, 1944; 408th Sqdn (H), 7 B-24-36s
- B. Target: Sorido (9-X), on Biak Islands.
- C. Nil.
- D. Bombing results: Mission incomplete due to weather, ships turning back from point just north of Dampa.
- E. to I. Nil.
- J. Weather enroute: scattered stratus layers at 1500 feet over field with broken stratus at 6000 feet, and a high overcast continuing up Markham Valley with cloud coverage increasing at all levels. Zero visibility at 6000'; solid front near Dampa. Average cloud coverage enroute 6/10.
- K. Take off at 0626/X; landing at 0804/X. The # 1 strip tower gave permission to return when base could not be found in overcast.
- L. 42 x 1000 lb inert demo bombs salvaged safe in Markham River, 10 miles west southwest of Madab at 0740/X from 3000 feet. Nil ammunition was expended.

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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.P.O. 713, Unit # 1.

23 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT 1

- A. 144-3; 23 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (H), 1 B-24-J.
 - B. Target: Nil. Search mission for 19th Sqdn ship lost on today's mission.
 - C. to R. Nil.
 - I. Route: from Markham to Dampa over Finisterre by Alexishafen and Madang then west to Ramu River returning down the Ramu covering Hixmarck range and home.
Average cloud coverage enroute, 5/10.
 - J. Weather: cumulus built up in places over entire route, not solid up valley to Dampa but from there on about 8/10 coverage.
 - K. Take off at 1430/H; landing at 1700/H.
 - L. Nil.
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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.P.O. 713, Unit # 1.

27 May, 1944.

- A. 148-C; 27 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqn (H), 11 B-24-J's.
- B. Target : Biak, 14-I.
- C. Time of attack: 1103-1108/K; altitude, 10900; course, 300 degrees.
- D. Bombing results: 24 x 1000 lb inst demo bombs in target area with 18 in area 3 hitting 500 feet north of area and 3 hitting on beach short of target. 12 x 1000 lb inst demo bombs in target concentrated between heavy A/A positions and old bivouac area, while string of 6 fell along coastal road. Results unobserved.
- E. to F. Nil.
- G. A/A encountered heavy, slight, accurate; altitude, 10,500. Guns not seen firing five bursts observed.
- H. 12 x photos taken with K-17 cameras over target at 10300 ft at 1103/K-1108/K.
- I. Sightings: much shipping east of target in vicinity of allied landing. No troops seen in vicinity of target area. Average cloud coverage around was an 8/10 cumulus at 6000 feet.
- J. Weather over field, 7/10 stratocumulus at 17000 feet. Enroute from Gusap to Hollandia, stratocumulus at 4000 ft with 8/10 coverage. 9/10 stratus at 17000 feet. Clear over target.
- K. Take off at 0624/K landing at 1530/K. 7 planes didn't bomb target, 4 salvaging safe. 24 x 1000 bombs at 2°41'S, 138°11'E at 1015/K from 10,000 feet altitude on 100° course, when instructed by V.B.C. not to bomb. One plane turned back at Sepik river with 3 generators out, salvaging 6 x 1000 bombs in Sepik river at 0830/K from 11000 ft. Another plane turned back 25 miles northwest of Duzpu because of bad weather, and malfunction of flight indicator, salvaging 6 x 1000 bombs in Ramu river from 10,500 at 0750/K. 3rd ship to turn back early lost formation in cumulus cloud about 50 miles west of Nadzab. Turned back and salvaged 6 x 1000 inst demo bombs 30 miles west of Nadzab at 5600 ft at 0735/K. One ship slightly holed by A/A fire. Ship # 180 joined the 19th Bomb Sqn (H) formation, bombing results covered in this report.
- L. 24 x 1000 lb inst demo bombs dropped over target. Nil ammunition expended.
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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON ()
32nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.S. 713, Unit # 1.

28 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 149-H; 28 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqn (H), six B-24-J's.
- B. Target: Dispersal area, northeast Kasiri airdrome.
- C. Time of attack: 1225/K; altitude 8300 feet; course, 58 degrees.
- D. Bombing results: 2 ships reaching target, dropped 12 x 1000 lb incase demo bombs strag from northeast end of Kasiri strip through dispersal area, spaced 150 feet apart. Unobserved results.
- E. to H. Nil.
- I. Sightings : one enemy ship thought to be Sugar Charlie of 500 tons about 1000 feet off shore southwest of Kasiri strip. Small fire east of central section of strip. Average cloud coverage enroute: 7/10.
- J. Weather enroute : alto cumulus base at 5000 feet with tops of 15,000 ft. Broken cumulus in target area but clear over target.
- K. Take off at 0645/K; landing at 1815/K. #192 and #230 turned back northwest Hollandia at V.B.O. order when NTA would have exceeded 1830/K, salvaging bombs safe in Bani Mountains. #992 and #924 had fuel trouble and returned approximately 100 miles from base, salvaging bombs safe in Kasu River.
- L. 12 x 1000 lb incase demo bombs dropped in target area.
24 x 1000 lb incase demo bombs salvaged safe.
Nil ammunition expended.

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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.C. 713, Unit # 1.

30 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT :

- A. 151-D; 30 May, 1944; 408th Bomb Sqdn (H), 5 B-24-J's.
 - B. Target : Cape Moen (Buildings in area of searchlight at 44-B)
 - C. Time of attack: 0830/X; altitude, 10,500; course, 90 degrees.
 - D. Bombing results : dropped 6 x 1000 lb inst demo bombs at secondary target with unobserved results.
 - E. to U. Nil.
 - F. Nil sightings: Average cloud coverage enroute: 6/10.
 - G. Weather enroute: overcast, broken cumulus up to 5000-7000 feet. Front building up off Alexishefen. CAWU over target.
 - H. Take off at 0605/X; landing at 1030/X. Plane bombing secondary target turned back because of mechanical failure. This report only covers one plane. Other 4 planes believed to have landed at Hollandia. Supplementary report to follow.
 - I. 6 x 1000 lb inst demo bombs dropped over secondary target. Nil ammunition expended.
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408th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
22nd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.F.S. 713, Unit # 1.

31 May, 1944.

FINAL MISSION REPORT 1

- A. 151-0; 30 May, 1944; 408th Sqdn (H), 5 B-24-J's.
 - B. Target: Siak (guns north of Boroheo dome)
 - C. Time of attack: 1115/W; altitude, 7500 to 8000 ft., course 270 degrees.
 - D. Bombing results: undetermined, due to weather the formation was unable to reach target. Bombed Manawi village four miles east of Serokol on Japan Island. 24 x 1000 lb inst demo bombs fell in and around Manawi Village, demolishing some huts. One ship bombed the alternate target, boom point. Results reported previously.
 - E. to I. Nil.
 - J. Weather enroute: 2/10 cumulus at 6000 ft to Hollandia. Cumulus built up to 16000 in places from Hollandia coast north of Japan. 30 miles west of coast a tropical front had closed in from 0 to about 30,000. 4/10 cumulus over Japan island. From Japan to south coast of Dutch New Guinea up to 20000. Over the Arafura Sea 50 miles south of New Guinea coast, a front had closed in with tops at 35000. From Aru Island to the Idenburg river cumulus had built up to 20000 in places going to 30,000 ft. Idenburg river valley scattered cumulus, tops 4000, 3/10 coverage. Idenburg river to Hollandia, broken cumulus tops 8000, 7/10 coverage. Average cloud coverage enroute, 7/10.
 - K. Take off at 0620-0625/W; landing, 1510-1520/W. Due to the weather north of Japan Island we decided it best to go to Darwin. As the front was so bad in the Arafura Sea, we had to turn and go back to Hollandia and land. Due to fuel shortage, we would have been unable to make the Admiralties after attempting to get through to Darwin.
 - L. 30 x 1000 lb inst demo bombs dropped in all. Nil ammunition expended.
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