

(Retyped from microfilm by Joan D. Stewart)

**25th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
40th BOMBARDMENT GROUP
March Field, Calif.**

1 April 1946

HISTORICAL REPORT

The month of March saw more activity than any time since the squadron re-organization.

The flying program was stepped up so, that it resembled the programs in effect during the war. Prior to March, the Squadron was without aircraft and the handicap resulting from this was evident in the number of hours logged per individual.

March found the squadron with three (3) aircraft in its possession. They were a B-29, B-25, and an AT-11. Having these craft served to cut down red tape and flying because a matter of scheduling crews. It is hoped that the future months will bring in additional ships.

Operations is running smoothly. This is due to the perseverance of the operations officer who is a conscientious, hard-worker. He is Major John E. Child and has been the operations officer since the squadron re-organization. His policy is "keep them flying".

The Commanding Officer throughout the month of March was Lt. Col. Oscar R. Schaaf. The executive ability of Colonel Schaaf can best be illustrated in the fact that he assumed temporary Group Command during a brief leave of absence of Colonel Skaer. His methods are quiet, but efficient. The results speak for themselves.

The adjutant was Captain Helbert B. Hewitt. Captain Hewitt is the squadron veteran among the key personnel. He took over the squadron adjutant duties on about 15 September 1943. He has been relied on and never found lacking under several commanding officers. Always diligent in his work, he gave the appearance of never relaxing. Definitely of the "old army school", he often amazed the individual by quoting from the A.H. verbatim. The 25th Squadron has done well with Captain Hewitt in the background supplying the necessary solutions when called upon.

The squadron's accomplishments may be observed in the attached supporting documents.

The Historical Reports of the various sections, shows that steps are being taken to improve efficiency in the various departments.

(25th Sq Historical report cont)

The set of those reports are as follows:

- (1) The supply records were inspected and studied with purpose of advancing their knowledge and procedure as to the proper method of maintaining the property accounts.**
- (2) Two of the supply personnel (enlisted) left this section for separation and discharge. They were Sgt. Edwin E. Selby and Cpl. Phillip Halb. Also a civilian employee left the supply section.**

And notable progress was observed in the Mess Section. The Mess Section under the supervision of Captain Eino E. Jenstrom had the monthly task of consolidating all the reports of the 58th Wing plus four squadrons of the 40th Bomb Group.

The 25th Mess Section was under the direct supervision of 2nd Lt. Eugene Saucer who had as his Mess Sergeant M. Sgt. David E. Sheppard. Sgt Sheppard replaced Sgt. Welch on 2 March 1946. During March Captain Jenstrom, Lt. Saucer, and Sgt. Sheppard made a trip to Sana Ana Army Air Base where some essential electrical equipment was obtained. Further information on the progress of the Mess Section will be found in the attached report.

The Engineering Section under Captain Leonard A. Klaansek is using competition to spur its personnel to attaining the top position among the Squadrons. Much effort is being made in accomplishing this. The well being of the personnel of that section is a primary consideration of the Officer in charge. Volley ball courts have been constructed to afford the men relaxation during spare time. The courts due to lack of time have not been used in days. Informal meetings for the purpose of discussing problems and promoting camaraderie are held from time to time. A concise report on the sections activities is attached here-on.

Captain Loyd W. Miller the Armament Officer reports: That EM Operations were transferred to the 2nd Service Group. The gunners of the section are attending ground school and no longer report to the section. Captain Miller was assigned TDY to Albuquerque to witness "A" Bomb Handling in connection with the "Crossroads Project". He was gone from March 1 to March 8, 1946. Further elaborations and additional information is attached to this report.

Major John E. Child Squadron Operations Officer reports that the flying time of the squadron totaled more for March than was compiled in February. The total for March was 229 hrs 10 minutes, for February 156.53.

The assignment of three aircraft took place during March. Four Officers were designated as check pilots for the squadron. They were Lt. Oscar Schaaf, Major John E. Child, Captain Thomas Hecht, and Captain T. P. Williamson.

Four skeleton crews (Pilot, Co-Pilot, Engineer and R. & L gunner) were sent to Victorville, Calif for the purpose of checking out B-29 aircraft. These aircraft are to be later transferred elsewhere, flown by ATC crews.

(25th Sq Historical report cont)

The Squadron strength on 1 March, 1945 as shown in the morning report was as follows: 56 officers, 6 flight officers and 170 enlisted men.

On March 31, 1946 the total officer and enlisted personnel was: 53 officers, 4 flight officers, and 164 enlisted men.

The depreciation was 3 officers, 1 flight officer and 10 enlisted men. This a notable when compared with the figures of February 1946.

Orders of transfers and discharges for March are carried on this report.

Sixteen officers traveled to Ft Mac Arthur, California for the purpose of taking the Regular Army Screening Examination.

One officer reported to Chanute Field, Illinois to begin a seven week course on B-29 engineering.

The morale of the squadron is good. The problem of housing the men and their families is still to be contended with. It appears that this situation seems to be easing somewhat, but on the whole it remains as a major problem, for well being of the men. It is hoped that this sore spot will soon be done away with.

The day room provided for the enlisted men is being well used. Pool tables, ping pong, card games as well as reading, provide the men with quiet activity.

In the more aggressive sports, soft ball and bowling teams are in contention.

Lt John Mikulich, as athletic officer, is taking care of the sport program and heads the Officers Bowling and Soft-ball teams.

As yet the soft ball team has not participated in a league game. This is due to the fact that some of the members are on TDY. Bowling teams however compete here regularly during the week.

This completes the Historical Report for the month of March.

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