

**(Retyped by Joan D. Stewart from microfilm records)**

**25<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON**

**40<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP**

**Office of the Historical Officer**

**APO 183, c/o Postmaster**

**San Francisco, California**

**WHJ/geb**

**5 September 1945**

**SQUADRON HISTORY**

**1 August thru 31 August 1945**

On 1 August there were 158 officers assigned to the Squadron of which 142 officers were present for duty, five were on temporary duty, 10 were on detached service, and one was sick. On 31 August there were 159 officers assigned to the Squadron of which 135 were present for duty, 16 were on temporary duty, eight were on detached service and one was sick.

On 1 August there were 547 enlisted men assigned to the Squadron of which 499 were present for duty, six were on temporary duty, 29 were on detached service, and 13 were sick. On 31 August there were 534 enlisted men assigned to the Squadron, 481 were present for duty, 18 were on temporary duty, 29 were on detached service, six were sick and one was confined.

Squadron personnel were quite busy during the first part of the month but after the arrangement of a period of truce between the United States and Japan, consummated during the middle of the month, the flying of bombing missions against the enemy ceased. During the first 14 days of the month the 25<sup>th</sup> Squadron, in accord with the other squadrons of the Group, prepared to fly six combat missions and flew five of them, the sixth having been cancelled. The 25<sup>th</sup> Squadron maintained its usual operational efficiency as is indicated by the following statistics.

1. 56 planes were scheduled for flight.
2. 56 planes were airborne.
3. No plane failed to bomb an enemy target. (Best record in Group)
4. One plane failed to bomb a primary target.
5. 55 planes bombed primary targets. (Highest record in Group)
6. One plane received battle damage.

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## Squadron History, 25<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, APO 183, 5 Sep 45, Cont'd

7. 3.9 combat sorties flown per plane available. (Highest record in Group)
8. 399.25 tons of bomb dropped on primary targets. (Highest record in Group)
9. 405 tons of bombs dropped on all targets. (Highest record in Group)

The following statistics indicate the operational efficiency of the Squadron since it has arrived on Tinian. These statistics are on the basis of 35 scheduled combat missions of which 32 were flown.

1. 362 planes were scheduled for flight.
2. 351 planes were airborne.
3. 327 planes bombed primary targets.
4. 36 planes received battle damage. (Highest record in Group)
5. Three airplanes were lost.
6. 2263.2 tons of bombs were dropped on primary targets.
7. 2328.84 tons of bombs were dropped on all targets. (Highest record in Group)

The following statistics indicate the total Squadron effort from bases in India, China and the Marianas since April 1944.

1. Total sorties of all types. . . . . 608
2. Planes bombing primary targets . . . . . 503
3. Total number of missions flown . . . . . 70

The following is a list of combat crew members who have, during the month, completed 35 combat missions. All of these men have seen duty in India and China.

Capt	Sylvan H. Viner	0 730 676
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt	Julian T. Brice	0 864 858
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt	Robert Hagenbuch	0 748 403
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt	Joseph J. Biersteker	0 696 047
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt	Carl V. Moore	0 861 957

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Three claims for enemy aircraft destroyed were made during the month. These claims were made by Cpls J. C. Dugan, R. L. Zuba and D. F. Cameron, gunners on the crew of Captain Viner. At the time these enemy aircraft were claimed destroyed this crew was stationed at Iwo and was flying navigational missions for fighter planes based there.

The tabulated form on pages 3a and 3b indicate the combat missions flown by the Squadron crews which are designated by the name of the airplane commander. Also shown are the names of the primary targets and the dates the missions were flown.

The following named officers and enlisted men were assigned to the Squadron during the month.

### 1 August

T Sgt	W.E. Driskill	6 272 205
T Sgt	W. J. Joyce	38 150 712
T Sgt	N. T. Bucci	16 021 565

### 3 August

Cpl	M. Lopey	32 087 891
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### 12 August

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	C. A. Beck	0 734 174
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt	R. H. Martinangelr	0 682 065
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt	C. P. Caldren	02 092 785
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt	J. H. Rawley	0 838 284
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt	H. L. Williams	0 835 097
F O	J. J. Amoroso	T 141 249
Sgt	R. M. Bond	13 159 198
Sgt	G. W. Lawhead	15 360 079
Sgt	G. S. Lenox	11 068 909
Cpl	W. F. Myers	15 345 454
Capt	R. A. Saffran	33 558 755

### 13 August

Cpl	L. A. Isaac	37 260 872
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### 14 August

Capt	J. E. Polanski	0 854 282
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt	G. B. Certain Jr	0 682 065
S Sgt	J. H. Goodwin	33 157 391
S Sgt	E. V. Mara	11 009 397

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<b>Lt Col Kingsbury</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>CA</b>		
<b>Major Dale</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Captain Viner</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>Captain Williamson</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Captain Turner</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Captain Robertson</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Captain Bowers</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Captain Oaks</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Captain O'Sullivan</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Captain Child</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Captain Bowers</b>						<b>X</b>
<b>Lt. Ream</b>						<b>X</b>
<b>Lt Palazzi</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>				
<b>Lt Prange</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Lt Borchert</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Lt Hale</b>		<b>X</b>				
<b>Lt Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		

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<b>Lt Pulido</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>GA</b>
<b>Lt Pytko</b>					<b>X</b>	
<b>Lt Paradis</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Lt Geddies</b>		<b>X</b>				
<b>Lt O'Hara</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>TO</b>	
<b>Lt Lange</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Lt Ashcraft</b>						<b>W</b>

**LEGEND**

**CA – Command Pilot**  
**TO – Target of Opportunity**  
**Ga - Ground Abort**  
**A - Air Abort**  
**W – Weather Aircraft**

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## Squadron History, 25<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, APO 183, 5 Sep 45, Cont'd

S Sgt H. W. Thener Jr	37 077 713
S Sgt J. A. Watson	14 072 879
Sgt V. J. Hooker Jr	38 479 870
Sgt M. T. King	36 655 670
Sgt C. H. Morgan	39 270 625
Sgt H. V. Priest	35 276 577
Sgt A. H. Shank	35 471 367
Sgt L. Perretti	12 203 862
Cpl J. R. Duncan	35 243 867
Cpl P. St Lawrence	32 708 938
Cpt W.G. Aston	11 101 767

### 17 August

Cpl C. F. Hoff	13 159 109
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### 20 August

M Sgt O. O. Goodling	20 522 602
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### 21 August

T Sgt R. P. Fagan	32 324 902
Cpl T. J. Banniewicz	36 578 812

### 24 August

Major J. R. Dale Jr	0 412 791
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The following named officers and enlisted men left the Squadron during the month.

### 1 August

T Sgt Klein, H.	6 889 695
T Sgt J. F. Loving	6 915 658
T Sgt J. M. Snelgrove	14 060 347
Sgt L. A. Bursch	33 834 058
Sgt B. L. Stephens	38 553 137
Sgt S. W. Plylor	14 055 848
Cpl W. A. Chase	37 435 295
Cpl R. Mragala	17 143 834
Cpl F. J. Wotus Jr	33 673 341

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## Squadron History, 25<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, APO 183, 5 Sep 45, Cont'd

S Sgt	C. A. Boege	17 110 022
S Sgt	W. C. Cowles	14 166 977
S Sgt	C. W. Cavill	18 216 868
S Sgt	B. B. Gardner	38 506 712
S Sgt	J. C. Hahn	33 625 390
S Sgt	R. B. Holley	34 655 751
S Sgt	F. A. Hunt	18 165 726
S Sgt	A. Romagano	13 176 461
S Sgt	S. S. Watts	34 774 067
S Sgt	E. C. Doerr	32 723 501
S Sgt	R. P. Albert	32 929 567
S Sgt	E. E. Cloud	34 803 005
Sgt	R. L. Etzinger	35 536 012
Sgt	J. C. Griffith	17 166 954
Sgt	D. G. Kucyzinski	35 579 779
Sgt	W. G. Koulas	38 352 790
Sgt	E. H. Vickery	31 136 445
Sgt	O. A. Wester Jr	12 047 795
Pfc	J. H. Brosi	33 707 332
Pfc	T. J. Dolan	6 054 462
Pfc	B. Levy	12 191 597
Pfc	L. F. Miller	16 042 543
Pfc	H. G. Wilkinson	33 536 247
1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt	T. F. Oppedal	37 669 033

The following named man wer demoted during the month, to the grade of Private.

Cpt J. B. West  
Pfc G. P. Flynn

The following named men went to the Stockade during the month.

Sgt	O. G. Riggs	19 143 847	(Burglary)
Cpt	J. B. West	39 559 904	(Charged with being in restricted area. Released from confinement 22 August)
Pfc	G. F. Flynn	34 609 323	(Charged with being in restricted area. Released from confinement 22 August)

The 25<sup>th</sup> Squadron, activated during World War I, now has participated in World War II. Personnel assigned to the Squadron have lived, pioneered, fought, and died in many climates and in many lands as they have brought to a new peak of perfection a new implement of war – the long range bomber. For the avowed maintenance and improvement of the national

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## **Squadron History, 25<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, APO 183, 5 Sep 45, Cont'd**

interests of the United States, 25<sup>th</sup> Squadron personnel have demonstrated a capacity for work, ingenuity, fortitude and courage which has resulted in the writing of a new record in the annals of mankind's eternal combat against itself and the elements of nature. Ruined cities of the enemy are a monument which in time will be erased but which today stand as a mute record of the deeds the men of the Squadron have achieved.

Few people of the United States who have not been closely related to the B-29 program ever can be expected to appreciate fully what the men of the Squadron have done. But the men of the Squadron who have worked together, have experienced the threat of disease in the Orient, have seen their friends crash on enemy soil, have seen their friends depart on a mission and never return, and together have experienced many long months away from home, friends, families, and familiar sights, know the many tasks, problems, heart-aches, and instances of sheer daring which are the elements of the final achievement, the defeat of the enemy.

August 1945 was a momentous month. In a scientific sense, if not also on a military and political sense, the atomic bomb signaled a new period in the affairs of mankind. Russia attacked Japanese possessions on the Asiatic mainland and, by political and military means, announced its injection into Pacific affairs by gaining Pacific ports and bases. Peace, a new period of compromise in world affairs, again became a reality. As the period of combat has ceased and new world conditions have become a reality, personnel of the Squadron have begun to think of their homes and families and the new problems which must be faced. Already some of the Squadron men have been returned to the States and have been discharged. Many more men now are hoping for the same opportunity. Morale, in part, now is rising and falling on this hope. Daily news concerning world and domestic affairs already is beginning to have a greater impact on the thinking of the men.

The assigned mission of the Squadron was that of aiding in the defeat of the enemy. That mission now has been finished. As a second World War ceases, the 25<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron can proudly write in its records the simple but expressive words, "Mission completed."

**WILLIAM H. JAMES**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> Lt, Air Corps**  
**Historical Officer**

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