

# SECRET

44TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
40TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP

APO Number 631  
5 April 1945

## SQUADRON HISTORY

1 March thru 31 March 1945

Despite the fact that a majority of the ground echelon of the Squadron had left for parts unknown, to set up a new base for operations, the air echelon of the squadron plus remnants of ground personnel carried on to pull a number of combat and photo missions.

The shortage of personnel necessitated that every man put his shoulder to the wheel to keep things rolling and this they did. There was no lack of cooperation on the part of anyone. It was this cooperation that made it possible to run 6 combat missions during the month of March.

The XXIst Bomber Command had taken over the task of smashing the Japs in their homeland. The XXth Bomber Command having temporarily been taken out of reach of the homeland were given the job of cracking down on Burma, French - Indo China & Malaya and this they did admirably.

The first mission of the month was run on 2 March, 1945. At that time in accordance with XI Bomber Command Field Order #11, dated 26 February 1945 the group dispatched 12 aircraft to attack the York Sho area at the Singapore Naval Base, Singapore, Malaya.

A total of 11 aircraft bombed the assigned primary target from 19,000 to 21,500 feet, either as individual aircraft or in formations as large as 4 aircraft. Weather ranged from CAWU to 3/10's cloud cover. A total of 50 #500 GP - M-64 type bombs with 4 sec delay fuse & ball fuse were dropped with reported results ranging from good to unobserved. Strike photos, however indicated that approximately 50% of the bombs hit in the water north of the target.

Anti-aircraft fire at the primary target was intense and accurate due to the presence of a substantial number of naval craft in Johore Strait north of the naval yard and 6 aircraft out of the 11 over the primary target, sustained varying degrees of that damage. The crew of aircraft 732 flown by Capt Bob Hisevert accomplished a few bursts of continuous pointed fire about 3 1/2 minutes before "bombs away". But the aircraft was not hit. Aircraft 54 which led a formation over the target, encountered intense and accurate tracking bursts which began about 2 minutes before "bombs away". Naval vessels were observed to launch 2's & 4's & 6's. One of which struck Lt William G. Parsons, Lt, Co-Pilot, and wounded him. 15 arrows were awarded but service record at this writing is completely reported.

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March 12 History, 11th Bomb Squadron, APO 631, (Cont'd)

Fighter opposition was weak to moderate. A total of 15 to 20 enemy aircraft were reported in the area but most attacks were not closely pressed. Aircraft #462 was attacked twice by single aircraft and then coordinated attacks were made by 5 Jap fighters. Out of the 5 planes attacking, gunners on #462 damaged 1 Oscar which dived away smoking badly and leaving a trail of debris that appeared to be parts of the wing.

The enemy had a smoke screen at the Primary target which was not too effective due to a fairly strong wind from the northeast which dissipated the screen sufficiently to make visual bombing possible. An additional smoke screen was reported over the empire dock area to the south west of the city of Singapore.

With the exception of 2 aircraft from other squadrons landing at emergency fields all aircraft returned safely to home base.

The following planes and crews from the Squadron participated in this mission.

## Aircraft #752

Capt	R.A. Fisserat
1st Lt	R.W. Reger
Capt	R.L. Swanson
Capt	J.L. Ohr
F/O	C.H. Bradley
S/S	A.H. Carrigan
T/S	S.C. Sill
S/S	F.M. Erenon
S/S	J. Cohen
S/S	J.B. Hicknell
T/S	P.F. Hoffman

## Aircraft #462

1st Lt	R.H. Govey
1st Lt	E.E. Mappes
1st Lt	P.K. Johnson
1st Lt	B. McIntire
F/O	S. Landon
T/S	G.T. Price
S/S	J.F. Laycak
S/S	A.G. Beck
T/S	A.P. Pollack
T/S	C.H. Westberg
T/S	B.R. Houghton

## Aircraft #511

Capt	G.C. Lowry
1st Lt	W.C. Furrows
1st Lt	B.F. Kotipka
1st Lt	J.S. Franklin
1st Lt	J.A. Bailey
S/S	R.V. Larsen
S/S	J.F. Burton
S/S	I. Penn
S/S	D.W. Grof
S/S	C.A. Knight
S/S	T.H. Frederick

## Aircraft #512

Capt	R.M. Moore
1st Lt	A. McLaren
1st Lt	J.M. Dunsmore
1st Lt	W.B. Smith
2nd Lt	E.E. Deiser
S/Sgt	J. Zima
S/Sgt	K.S. Yonkers
T/Sgt	H.M. Hartman
S/Sgt	E.P. Beach
T/Sgt	H.H. Swires
Sgt	P. Catino

On Mar 12, the group dispatched 15 Aircraft to the Singapore area. This time to bomb oil storage tanks on Samboc Island, about 15 miles south of Singapore & other groups were to hit storage tanks on Bukun and Sobarak Islands in the same area. These 3 Island tank farms accommodated about 2,500,000 bbls of oil and the object was to destroy these tanks and force enemy tankers, who would ordinarily load up at these islands to go into Singapore, thus congesting the Singapore Harbor and making enemy shipping vulnerable to attack while at Singapore.

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March 15 History, 14th Bomb Squadron, 1 thru 31 Mar, 45 (Cont'd)

Of the 15 aircraft dispatched by the group only 11 aircraft bombed the primary target. 3 of the other 4 aircraft were ground aborts and 1 aircraft was forced to abort shortly after take-off.

The 11 that did bomb released a total of 65 #500 M-64 and 22 #500 M-76 type bombs from 22,000 feet through 8/10 to 10/10 cloud cover. Bombing was "blind" and no reliable observation of bombing was possible. A few crew members reported catching momentary glimpse of bomb flashes on the island, but no estimate of results was possible without reconnaissance photography. Aircraft bombed in two formations of 3 aircraft, one formation of 4 aircraft and 1 aircraft bombed individually.

No aircraft fire was encountered and although some enemy aircraft were sighted in the target area, no fighter opposition was forthcoming.

All aircraft returned to base without incident with 1 aircraft stopping at Cox's Bazaar for additional fuel.

Aircraft and crews from the Squadron participating on this mission were:

Aircraft #752

Capt R.A. Misserat  
1st Lt R.W. Heger  
Capt R.L. Swanson  
Capt J.L. Ohr  
F/O C.H. Bradley  
S/Sgt A.M. Carrigan  
T/Sgt S.C. Sill  
S/Sgt P.N. Bremen  
S/Sgt J. Cohen  
S/Sgt J.B. Hicknell  
T/Sgt P.F. Hoffman

Aircraft #685

Capt C.F. Gray  
2nd Lt R.M. Hurley  
1st Lt E.H. Lossing  
1st Lt C.G. Herstrom  
1st Lt T.E. Bartlett  
S/Sgt L.G. Moulton  
S/Sgt W.R. Gannon  
S/Sgt A.A. Helling  
S/Sgt J.M. Bosley  
T/Sgt A.A. Urbanic  
S/Sgt A.A. Reichert

Aircraft #729

1st Lt E.E. Kappes  
Lt Col H.P. Luna  
2nd Lt C. Dowse  
2nd Lt D.W. Beck  
T/Sgt D.H. Brady  
Cpl V.X. Matter  
S/Sgt F.E. Jones  
Cpl J.C. Hulce  
Cpl A.P. Paleckis  
Cpl E.M. Grant  
Pvt C.A. Lorne

On March 17th the group once again dispatched 15 aircraft, this time for a return engagement at Rangoon. The target was dump "B". This was simply a continuation of the systematic pounding that the B-29's were giving supply points set up by the Japs to aid their forces in Burma. Previously our planes had hit dump "F". The Japs had concentrated 75% of all supplies in Burma in the Rangoon area with 50% in the three dumps "A", "B" & "F". By knocking out these dumps, the 29's were hastening the day when allied forces would enter Rangoon and end the tyranny of the Japs in Burma.

All the aircraft were airborne but 2 were forced to jettison bombs in the Bay of Bengal due to mechanical failure. One of these aircraft was #685 flown by 1st Lt Fount Brown, which after jettisoning its bombs, returned safely to base.

The remaining 13 aircraft bombed the assigned primary target from 23,000' Pressure Altitude with a total of 69 type M-61 fragmentation bombs with instantaneous timing, obtaining very good to unobserved results. Cloud cover varied from 2/10 to 6/10. There was no fighter opposition and aircraft life was generally longer and inaccurate.

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March 15 History, 14th Bomb Squadron, 1 thru 31 Mar, 45 (Cont'd)

RCM picked up definite evidence of gun laying radar equipment in the target area and one aircraft which bombed approximately half an hour later with aircraft of another group reported antiaircraft fire as moderate and generally accurate.

None of the groups aircraft sustained any battle damage and all planes returned safely to base without incident.

The following planes and crews from the squadron participated in this mission:

### Aircraft #328

Maj R A Harte  
1st Lt J D Haddow  
Capt W T Walters  
1st Lt G P Amignani  
1st Lt H O Reed  
S/Sgt E A Gisburne  
S/Sgt A Matulis  
S/Sgt D L Johnson  
S/Sgt R G Hurlburt  
T/Sgt H Shack  
S/Sgt L Y McGehee

### Aircraft #529

1st Lt A L McLaren  
Maj J D White  
2nd Lt H E Albright  
2nd Lt C W Ellis  
Sgt F A McDowell  
Sgt E L Moenen  
Col W L Winder  
Col R Hink  
Col J P Volk  
Col R E Washburn  
Col G H Walter

### Aircraft #512

Maj J C Eigerman  
2nd Lt T W Hoopus  
2nd Lt T C Lewis  
2nd Lt J C Walsh  
2nd Lt J C Hardin  
S/Sgt L Thompson  
Cpl C H Satchin  
Cpl J P Blain  
Cpl W J Chase  
Pvt W H McLean  
Col C M Banfield

### Aircraft #659

1st Lt P L Brown  
2nd Lt O Burchett  
1st Lt L Jellis  
2nd Lt R R Balton  
1st Lt L A Morris  
S/Sgt J Underhilt  
Sgt P Catino  
S/Sgt D J Halley  
S/Sgt R L Tepper  
T/Sgt H E Moore  
S/Sgt R L Hall

### Aircraft #752

Capt W A Tisserat  
1st Lt R W Reger  
Capt R L Swanson  
Capt J L Ohr  
P/O C H Bradley  
S/Sgt A M Carrigan  
T/Sgt S C Sill  
S/Sgt F H Hemen  
S/Sgt J Cohen  
S/Sgt J B Hicknell  
T/Sgt P F Hoffman

On the 22nd of March crews again returned to Rangoon. This time to hit Dump "C" & "E", the 2 remaining supply dumps that were still aiding the Japs to resist allied forces now moving determinedly Southward from Mandalay to Rangoon.

12 aircraft were alerted and 21 aircraft bombed the primary target from an altitude of 12,000 feet. Results were good in that 10 of the 12 aircraft returned, one B-29 Superfortress did not drop a single bomb.

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March 15 History, 14th Bomb Squadron, 1 thru 31 Mar, 1945 (Cont'd)

No fighter opposition was encountered. And AA was reported as moderate in intensity but generally low.

All aircraft returned safely to base.

Following are crews and aircraft from the Squadron who participated in the mission:

## Aircraft #269

Capt G L Kleiler  
1st Lt G M Winegar  
1st Lt S B Finlay  
2nd Lt G B Hanson  
F/O R Driesbaugh  
Sgt J J Dybell  
2nd Lt P E Pellicchie  
S/Sgt H F Coleman  
S/Sgt V J Molley  
S/Sgt H H Glassman  
T/Sgt B B Davis

## Aircraft #328

Maj C M Weber  
1st Lt L L Dover  
1st Lt P A Dumas  
1st Lt J M Alford  
1st Lt J L Bean  
1st Lt M F Behrens  
Sgt C W Lamb  
Sgt F B Kramer  
Sgt C M Wairn  
Sgt S J Anthony  
Sgt H J Hanson

## Aircraft #462

1st Lt R H Covey  
2nd Lt J DeLaRosa  
1st Lt E K Johnson  
1st Lt B A McIntire  
F/O S Landon  
T/Sgt G T Price  
S/Sgt J F Laycak  
S/Sgt A G Beck  
T/Sgt C H Westberg  
T/Sgt A P Pawluk  
T/Sgt B R Houghton

## Aircraft #620

Maj A A Harle  
2nd Lt G W Hagnus  
2nd Lt G C Lewis  
2nd Lt J C Walsh  
2nd Lt J C Hardin  
S/Sgt L Thompson  
Cpl C Sutphin  
Cpl J O Blain  
Cpl C M Banfield  
Cpl W J Chase  
Pvt W H McBean

## Aircraft #659

1st Lt A L McLaren  
Maj N W Wemple  
2nd Lt E F Saucer  
2nd Lt M E Albright  
2nd Lt C W Willis  
Sgt F A McDowell  
Sgt G W Meenan  
Cpl R E Hink  
Cpl R E Washburn  
Cpl J P Volk  
CPL G H Walter  
Cpl W L Zinder

## Aircraft #685

Capt C F Gray  
2nd Lt R M Hurley  
1st Lt E M Lossing  
1st Lt C G Berstrom  
1st Lt T E Bartlett  
S/Sgt L C Moulton  
S/Sgt W R Garmon  
S/Sgt A A Salling  
S/Sgt J M Dealy  
T/Sgt A A Urbaniak  
S/Sgt A A Reichert

## Aircraft #729

Col H R Sullivan  
1st Lt F L Brown  
2nd Lt H E Smith  
1st Lt R L Brush  
1st Lt F Tanch  
1st Lt A W Hunt  
S/Sgt L E McGhee  
S/Sgt L Laba  
S/Sgt J Henry  
S/Sgt G Reed  
S/Sgt F Haskel  
S/Sgt G McGinn

## Aircraft #752

Capt R M Moore  
2nd Lt V L Richards  
1st Lt V Watson  
1st Lt W D Smith  
2nd Lt E E Deiser  
S/Sgt E Zink  
S/Sgt E S Yonkers  
S/Sgt M Hartman  
S/P Tech  
S/P Tech  
S/P Tech

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March 15 history, 14th Bomb Squadron, 1 thru 31 Mar, 15 (Cont'd)

The group dispatched 15 aircraft. 14 were airborne in 21 minutes. One aircraft started to take off but was forced to cut engines on the roll due to a drop in manifold pressure and takeoff for the remaining planes was delayed about 5 minutes.

Of the 14 aircraft airborne, one was forced to jettison bombs in the Bay of Bengal and return to base due to mechanical failure.

13 aircraft bombed the assigned primary target from 5,000' pressure altitude, dropping a total of 115 M-6h fused .1 sec. nose, non-delay tail and 21 M-76 fused non-delay nose and tail. Observed bombing results were excellent and it was felt that very considerable damage was accomplished.

No fighter opposition was encountered and only meager and inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was reported.

This was a notable mission for 2 reasons - First, takeoffs were made during the heat of the day with airplane weights at 134,000 lbs; secondly this was the first bombing mission in which the group had employed such low altitude levels and the results were very gratifying.

All aircraft returned safely to base without incident.

The following planes and crews took part:

Aircraft #462

Maj. N W Weemple  
1st Lt R H Concy  
1st Lt E K Johnson  
1st Lt B A McIntyre  
F/O S Landan  
T/Sgt G T Price  
S/Sgt J F Laycak  
T/Sgt A P Pawlak  
T/Sgt C H Westberg  
S/Sgt A G Beck  
T/Sgt B R Houghton

Aircraft #659

1st Lt F L Brown  
2nd Lt O W Burchett  
1st Lt L Julius  
2nd Lt R P Batton  
1st Lt L A Morris  
S/Sgt C Underhill  
Sgt P Catino  
T/Sgt H E Moore  
S/Sgt R L Pepper  
S/Sgt R L Hall  
S/Sgt H J Cyr

Aircraft #521

1st Lt ES Kannes  
2nd Lt J DeLarama  
2nd Lt C Douese  
2nd Lt B W Beck  
T/Sgt IM Brady  
Cpl BV Miller  
S/Sgt FE Jones  
Cpl HC Kala  
Cpl AE Polackie  
Cpl EM Grant  
Cpl CP Lorne

Aircraft #269

Maj R A Harte  
1st Lt J D Haddock  
Capt W V Walters  
1st Lt G P Appignani  
1st Lt H O Reed  
S/Sgt B A Gasburne  
S/Sgt A Marulis  
S/Sgt D L Johnson  
S/Sgt E G Haribart  
T/Sgt H Spack  
S/Sgt L Y McShane

Aircraft #685

Maj C H Weber  
1st Lt L E Duser  
1st Lt P A Dubois  
1st Lt J H Alford  
1st Lt J L Bean  
1st Lt M E Beirons  
Sgt C W Lamb  
Sgt F S Kramer  
Sgt H J Hanson  
Sgt C H Kain  
Sgt B J Anthony

# SECRET

March 1945 History, 10th Bomb Squadron, 1 thru 31 Mar, 1945 (Cont'd)

## PERSONNEL:

On 3 March 1945 - 2nd Lt Patrick E. Pellechia and 2nd Lt Chester C. Britt were assigned to and joined the Squadron.

On 4 March 1945 - 1st Lt's Thomas J. Connelly and Melvin B. Briggs were appointed Captains as of 1 March 1945.

On 7 March 1945 - Capt Donald A. Harte was appointed Major as of 5 March 1945.

On 9 March 1945 the following officers joined the squadron; 2nd Lt Thomas McCasker, 2nd Lt Gordon D. Tempas, 2nd Lt Donald E. Fischer, 2nd Lt John T. Whitaker. These officers were to be Co-pilots on B-29's, tho they had never been in a B-29 prior to joining this organization.

On 17 March 1945 - Captains Donald L. Stumpff and Frank J. Redler were transferred out of the organization. The former to Headquarters 10th Bomb Group and the latter to Headquarters 50th Wing.

On 20 March 2 crews from the squadron departed from this station on D.S. to the 21st Bomber Command. Their duties - to train lead Crews of the 21st.

The following crews were selected:

Capt	George E. Lowry	1st Lt	Kansel R. Clark
1st Lt	William G. Bulrams	1st Lt	Don B. Punnett
1st Lt	John A. Bailey	1st Lt	Maxine B. Montgomery
1st Lt	Barney Watipka	2nd Lt	Owen P. Donohue
1st Lt	John R. Franklin	P/O	Elmo W. Gray
S/Sgt	Ira Penn Jr.	Col	William L. Douglas
S/Sgt	Robert V. Larson	Sgt	James P. Harton
S/Sgt	Clay A. Knight	S/Sgt	Frank E. Rutledge
M/Sgt	Marvin E. Carmichael	S/Sgt	Earl O. Rogers
S/Sgt	John F. Harton Jr.	S/Sgt	Samuel Polansky
S/Sgt	Thomas M. Frederick	S/Sgt	Rowell L. Davis
S/Sgt	David W. Grof	M/Sgt	Elgie L. Robertson
S/Sgt	James L. Jones	T/Sgt	Richard B. Haynes

## TRAINING:

During March a new practice was introduced to the flight training schedule - night bombing of Halliday Island, with varying degrees of success. During the month also there were practice missions run off in which the crews participating were largely those who last arrived. The squadron had a total of 33 hours of formation flying, 3 hours of instrument flying, 17 hours of night flying, 68 instrument takeoffs, 6 long range navigation missions, 14 localiser approaches, 38 camera bombing runs, and dropped 531 practice bombs as a result of its flying devoted to training for the month. There was also some night transition for all pilots and day transition for pilots and co-pilots who joined the squadron recently.

In ground school the schedule was somewhat lighter. However several aircraft identification classes were conducted by Capt [redacted] and as a rule at least two classes for each crew member were conducted during

March 15 History, 14th Bomb Squadron, 1 thru 31 Mar, 15 (Cont'd)

Early in the month classes in use of the one man life raft were conducted by Lt Lester who had had a personal experience of an over water bailout. Near the end of the month crews started going to the Matsila swimming pool for practice in the use of the Mae West & one man raft.

MORALE:

Generally, Morale in the Squadron was good but men were getting restless and anxious to be on their way to the new station. One mission a week was hardly enough to keep their minds busy and to take up time, they made ice-cream, played tennis and went swimming. Perhaps next month it would be different.

SQUADRON STRENGTH

March 1 -- Officers 124      Enlisted Men 538

March 31 - Officers 117      Enlisted Men 524

*Irving L. Stille*  
IRVING L. STILLE  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Historical Officer.