

HEADQUARTERS
44th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (WH)
40th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (WH)
March Field, Riverside, California

SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of March

Our dim future in the post war air forces was brightened this month by the arrival of our first B-29. This very heavy aircraft arrived with only twenty one hours on it and was the first aircraft to be assigned to the Squadron since October of nineteen forty five. After the acceptance inspections were made, Lt. Col. Temple and Major Butts test hopped the ship. Following the test hop, check pilots Maj Butts, Capt Mason and Capt Sharp checked out the rest of the crew.

The ship flew sixteen and one half hours and was then called out for four new engines. All of our pilots, during the course of the month, were checked out on the B-29 type aircraft. To achieve this, it was necessary to borrow a B-25 from Wing.

The Group Instrument Section used our only A-11 throughout the month and all of our pilots, having expired instrument cards, were checked and issued new ones. Only three complete crews exist in the Squadron, with the main portion of the personnel being made of reservists. The chief function of all our efforts still continues to be that of individual proficiency.

Many of the people on the flight line are B-24 and B-17 maintenance men, and in order to bring all personnel up to date on B-29 maintenance, the engineering section has established and is conducting a ground school. Ground school classes are also being conducted for pilots, who attend engineering, auto and navigation courses. Flight Engineers attend engineering classes; Bombardiers, bomb trainer; Navigators, GWR trainers; and the gunners are taking a course on the GFC system.

On March second, the Group Commander inspected the Squadron area, and full

(Hq. 44th Bomb Sqdn, 40th Bomb Gp, MFC, 10 Apr 46)
(Squadron History cont'd)

Following the inspection we held our first drill. In the future our barracks, inspections and drill periods shall be held on Saturday mornings. March Twenty Sixth, Lt. Col. Sample held a meeting of all personnel in the Day Room. At this time the Squadron policies, procedures, and responsibilities were explained.

The ground floor of Bldg 2-368, which has been designated as the day room, was equipped with furniture, radio, pool table, magazines and a Coca-Cola machine. One corner of the day room is occupied by the mail room and the bulletin board.

Warrant Officer Graham commands the engineering section throughout the month with forty one enlisted men on duty and ten additional men on detached service at Roswell, New Mexico with Project Cross Roads.

Capt. Brazton commands the armament section and through his efforts the Group was able to send a large display of bombing equipment to the annual American Legion Aircraft Show in Los Angeles. Such displays as incendiary bombs, and other types of bombs up to four thousand pounds, were available for public inspection. Other displays included cut-aways of a 20mm cannon, a 37mm cannon, 50 caliber machine guns, and one C-1 auto Pilot complete with bomb sight. Lt. Bailey supervised the exhibition of a B-29 type fuel injection engine at the aircraft show.

Group communications has now taken the place of the individual squadron communication sections. Lt. Hiltke is still with communications and represents squadron interests.

With the improvement of housing conditions and the completion of our re-adjustments, the squadron morale has risen to a very satisfactory level.

Richard L. Krapp
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Squadron History