

(Retyped by Joan D. Stewart from microfilm records)

25TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

40TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP

Office of the Historical Officer

APO 247, c/o Postmaster

San Francisco, California

WHJ/geb

3 July 1945

SQUADRON HISTORY

1 June thru 30 June 1945

On 1 June 1945, there were 140 officers and 562 enlisted men assigned to the Squadron.

Squadron personnel, throughout the month, have been extremely busy. Ten combat missions have been flown to drop bombs on major cities and installations on the Japanese home islands. The general efficiency and effort of combat and maintenance personnel is probably best indicated by the following statistical information.

- 1. 96% of all planes scheduled for combat missions have been airborne.**
- 2. Only 3.7% of all aircraft airborne have not bombed enemy targets.**
- 3. 92% of all planes airborne have bombed the primary target.**
- 4. 14% of the 25th Squadron planes have sustained battle damage through the month. This percentage is almost double the Group record of 7.7% of all planes sustaining battle damage.**
- 5. No. Planes were lost during the month.**
- 6. An average of eight sorties per plane has been flown by each plane available to the Squadron.**
- 7. An average of 5.5 missions per crew has been flown by each crew available to the Squadron for combat duty.**
- 8. The 25th Squadron dropped 660.75 tons of bombs on primary targets during the month. This record is higher than the record for either of the other two Squadrons in the Group.**
- 9. The 25th Squadron dropped 691 tons of bombs on all enemy targets during the month. This record is higher than the record for either of the other two squadrons in the Group.**

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Squadron History, 25th Bomb Sq, APO 247, 3 Jul 45, Cont'd

		<u>Number</u> <u>Mission</u>	<u>Date Missions</u> <u>Completed</u>
S Sgt Robert J. Brophy	36 223 226	36	10 Jun 45
S Sgt Robert B. Starkey	34 539 831	35	20 Jun 45
S Sgt James J. Dransk	35 048 060	35	10 Jun 45
S Sgt Claude D. Alexander	38 326 598	35	22 Jun 45
S Sgt James B. Blausner	13 048 803	35	19 Jun 45
S Sgt George D. Smith	38 490 330	35	28 Jun 45
S Sgt J. E. Jamson	18 149 774	35	17 Jun 45
S Sgt David H. Capsaw	15 383 223	35	22 Jun 45
Sgt Joseph V. Aviner	39 102 197	35	22 Jun 45

Following is the squadron gunnery report supplied by gunnery office Andrew M. LeBlau Jr., WOJG

Gunnery this month shown an increase in accuracy over last month, due to a different technique in briefing. The missions that were run the first part of the month were briefed as usual. The fifth mission to be run this month was briefed suggesting the gunners to open fire at an attacking aircraft immediately after it pointed its nose at the B-29. This tactic requires a slight increase in the expenditure of ammunition but the results are satisfactory in that no enemy aircraft came closer than 500 yards to the formations. No Squadron aircraft were lost due to enemy air opposition this month. Battle damage was slight. Malfunction of guns and CCF equipment showed a decrease over last month in mechanical failures but increased in personnel errors due to the influx of new crews in the Squadron. The number of trained crews decreased this month due to completion of the allowed number of missions by the CBI crews. The effectiveness of B-29 strikes are expected to decrease the month of July pending improved proficiency of the new crews.

Squadron gunners claimed three Zeke damaged, one Mike, one Tony, one Tojo, one Zeke probably destroyed and one Frank damaged. Confirmation is pending on most of the claims.

Training for replacement crews starting this month on aiming level but new crews are still orienteered by the Squadron gunnery officer.

Gunnery in this Squadron has been very successful this month from every standpoint.

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A tabulated form on pages 3a and 3b indicate the combat Missions flown by the 9 gunnery crews which are designated by the name of the airplane commander, also showing the names of the primary targets and the dates the missions were flown.

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Squadron History, 25th Bomb Sq, APO 247, 3 Jul 45, Cont'd

10. Crew members, during June, claimed eight enemy planes destroyed, probably destroyed, or damaged.

11. The Squadron logged 1607:45 hours of combat flying during the month. This record is an increase from 1273:43 hours of combat flying during May. This record also is higher than the records for either of the other two Squadrons in the Group during the month of June.

The above record indicates that the various sections of the Squadron and individuals assigned to the sections have been doing excellent work maintaining and flying the planes.

Following is a list of combat crew members who have, during the month, completed 35 combat missions. The fact should be realized that many of these men came overseas with the Squadron when it was transferred from Pratt, Kansas to Chakulia, India in April 1944. Many of these men have been among the critical pioneer crews who not only faced the hazards entailed in testing under combat conditions a new plane which was the largest bombing plane ever produced, but also they faced the additional hazards of operating in India's hot disease-ridden fetid climate, flying the "Hump," flying from the muddy bases of China, and first meeting and testing Japan's home defenses. Many of these men have participated in events which marked the milestones along mankind's history of warfare if not also history of the progress of the still new science of air travel. These men are heroes. Also, they are the surviving members of many crews composed of men who, though equally brave and equally capable, through the charges and fortunes of war either were injured, killed, or captured.

		<u>Number Missions</u>	<u>Date Missions Completed</u>
Major John H. Sanders	0 412 973	36	10 June 45
Major Charles R. Mallory	0 410 921	35	10 June 45
Capt William R. Schaal	0 432 722	35	19 June 45
Capt Ralph S. Braley Jr	01 699 521	35	26 June 45
Capt Jim Evans	0 662 335	36	10 June 45
1 st Lt Donald E. Chambers	0 771 301	35	28 June 45
1 st Lt Lewis H. Gray	0 743 654	35	10 June 45
1 st Lt Frank E. Kupec	0 747 026	35	19 June 45
1 st Lt. Felix J. Trybyszowski Jr	0 741 114	35	22 June 45
1 st Lt Stephen Panias	0 692 431	35	26 June 45
1 st Lt Rubiney ? Perry	0 673 941	35	15 June 45
1 st Lt Edwin I. Mann	0 663 857	37	10 June 45
1 st Lt Donald J. Kimcau	0 663 863	35	25 June 45
1 st Lt John J. Holocox	0 662 156	35	28 June 45
2 nd Lt Jos H. Brown	0 661 653	37	10 June 45
F/O Robert J. Hehrer	7 192 604	35	19 June 45
T Sgt Ernest O. Skeen	19 039 637	35	17 June 45
T Sgt Harold T. Soper	29 244 243	35	22 June 45
T Sgt Maurice E French	33 032 520	35	17 June 45
T Sgt Anthony J. Yosco	32 346 574	35	26 June 45

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Lt. Col Kingsbury	X											
Major Schindler	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		
Major Mallory	X	X									X	
Major Weschler	X								X			
Major Sanders	X	N	N	N							X	
Capt O'Sullivan	X	X		X	X	GA		X	X	X		
Capt Dale	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	A	
Capt Braley	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X
Capt Child	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	A	X	
Capt Turner	X	X	X		X	X					X	
Capt Schaal			X		X	X	X	X				X
1 ST Lt Ream	X	GA	TO									
1 st Lt. Stevens	X			X	X	X	X	X				
1 st Lt. Briggs					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
1 st Lt. Massey	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	S	X	
1 st Lt. Hagensuch									TO	X	X	
1 st Lt. Borchart								X		X		
1 st Lt Primm								X		X		
1 st Lt. Williamson		GA			X		X	X	A	X		
1 st Lt. Lange							X	A	GA	X	X	
1 st Lt Hale												X

1st Lt Wright				X				X
1ST Lt O'Hara							X	
2nd Lt Palazzi	X	X		X	X			X

LEGEND

X - - Bombed primary target

GA - - Ground Abort

TO - - Bombed target of opportunity

A - - Air Abort

N - - Navigational mission for fighters based on Iwo which served as fighter escort for B-29 aircraft