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Q-BOMB - 822-H
Mar 44

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2006

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SQ-BOMB-822-41
 8 March 44

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822ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M), 38TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
 ARMY AIR FORCES

A.P.O. 713, Unit I,
 8 April, 1944.

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SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C. (Thru Channels).

1. There were no changes in organization.

2. Strength:	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
a. 1 March	76	280
b. Net increase	-1	-5
c. 31 March	75	275

P.R.C.

3. The Squadron moved from its area near Durand Strip, Port Moresby, New Guinea, APO 929, on March 8 to an area on the North side of the Markham River Valley at Nadzab, New Guinea, APO 713, Unit I. Its' planes were located in revetments at the Southwest side of Strip Number 1. Personnel and the less bulky items of equipment and supplies were transported direct by the Squadrons own B-25's and by C-47 transport planes of the Air Transport Command. Heavy equipment was sent by boat from Port Moresby to Lae and from there to Nadzab by motor transport.

4. Training:

a. <u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Serviceable</u>		<u>Not Serviceable</u>	
	1 March	31 March	1 March	31 March
B-25-D	3	2	1	2
B-25-G-1	12	15	4	2
B-25-H	1	0	2	0

b. <u>Date</u>	<u>Pilots</u>		<u>Air Crews other than Pilots</u>	
	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained
1 March	44	0	22	0
31 March	38	0	17	0

c. Co-Pilots were trained for first pilots by practicing take-offs and landings. Bombardiers were trained in actual combat missions as bombardiers for second and third flights. Instruction was given to pilots on the operation of a new type of parafrag bomb rack. Practice was given several crews in dropping these bombs from a low altitude with the new racks. Numerous flights were made from Durand Strip, Port Moresby to Nadzab transporting Squadron equipment and these were utilized to train pilots and navigators-bombardiers. 14 Combat missions involving 107 sorties were flown over enemy target areas. Photos were taken of the target on most missions. 485 x 500 pound demolition bombs were dropped, 3375 rounds of .30 calibre and 35,025 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition were expended in strafing. Eleven bundles of Japanese and Native propaganda leaflets were dropped.

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Five courier missions and seven weather reccos were flown by single planes. One supply dropping mission was carried out by four planes. Crews were on the alert at the planes for 6 days without taking off on a mission.

d. The time taken by missions, moving the Squadron and alerts left little time for organized training.

6 and 7. Nil

8. a. The Squadron participated with 3rd Attack Group in sinking a Fox Tare Charlie and in strafing survivors.

b. Nil.

9, 10, 11. Nil.

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12. March was the busiest month so far in 1944. From 6 to 8 March the Squadron moved by plane to a new Station at Nadzab, New Guinea. A small advance echelon had done some work on the Squadron area. A few officers and enlisted men were left at Durand to clean up that area. The entire Squadron was attached to the 405th Squadron for rations for the first 5 days until our own mess hall was completed. Then for about a week, half the personnel of the 823rd Squadron was fed in our mess hall.

1st Lt. R. P. Smith, Intelligence Officer, was transferred to Headquarters, V Bomber Command. 1st Lt. Alvin I. Marshall, was transferred from the 823rd Squadron to take his place. 1st Lt. Karl D. Henze was transferred from A-2 Section, Headquarters, Fifth Air Force to the Squadron and was made Assistant Intelligence and Squadron Historical Officer. 1st Lt. Fuller, pilot, was assigned to Headquarters, V Bomber Command to fly weather reccos. T/Sgt Barr, Sgt. Hoffenstein, Cpl. Keifer and Cpl. Adams were transferred to other units. T/Sgt Kimpel and Sergeant were hospitalized and transferred from the Squadron. Sgt. Bell and Cpl. Griffin were assigned to the Squadron.

1st Lt. Herman Hilsenrod was promoted to Captain and was relieved of the duties of Squadron Navigator being replaced by Lt. Rimar. One T/Sgt was reduced to Private and two S/Sgts to Sgt.

Several men were admitted to and discharged from Station Hospitals for infections, fevers, and injuries. Latrines were dug, and screened, and were scrupulously cleaned each day. Lectures on malaria were given and atabrine as a prevention for malaria was taken under the medical sections' supervision.

Five officers and 14 enlisted men were sent on rest leaves. One enlisted man was sent to propellor school. Sgt. Lawrence left the leave area by plane on 22 March but he is presumed lost as the plane was never again reported.

A B-25 buzzed the area late one afternoon and its prop-wash blew down the transportation tent. A water trailer purloined by some of the renegades of another Squadron was recovered without casualties on our side.

A Group chapel was constructed of poles covered with tarpaulions by the Kanakas and services were well attended. A few movies were shown but unfortunately many had seen some of them at Durand. The others were well attended. Several air raid alarms (red alerts) occurred but no bombs were dropped and no planes appeared to strafe so the new slit trenches went unused.

Lumber obtained by various means enabled most officers and enlisted men to build floors for their tents. Hard work and ingenious use of available materials has made many attractive and convenient tents. A portable building with metal roof was erected and a concrete floor poured for it. Communications, Medics, Intelligence, Operations sections and the Orderly Room were established in it by the end of the month. This was a great relief from the dust and disorder of the temporary offices set up in tents. The completion of a water line and installation of showers by the end of the month was one of the most appreciated accomplishments, as until then, everyone had to drive several miles to the river or to the over crowded showers of established organizations for a bath.

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During this month planes of this Squadron attacked targets in the Admiralty Islands, the Wewak Area, Kairiru Island, Hansa Bay, Alexishafen, Dagua and Tedji Airdromes.

Karl D Henze

KARL D. HENZE,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Squadron Historical Officer.

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