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Sq - BOMB-823-HI
APRIL-44

823RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
38TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
UNIT HISTORY
APRIL 1944

P.R.C.

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

1. NARRATIVE

"A" COMBAT
"B" GENERAL

2. APPENDIX

"A" FRAGMENTARY FIELD ORDERS
"B" TARGET MAPS
"C" AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

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823RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
38TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
ARMY AIR FORCES
S-2 SECTION

A.P.O. 713 UNIT #1,
11 June, 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit History, April, 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.

A. COMBAT NARRATIVE:

1. The situation at the beginning of the month was as follows: Pre-invasion softening-up of the Hollandia and Aitape areas was underway; the enemy was reinforcing his air strength at Hollandia; the Wewak Dromes were almost completely neutralized, being serviceable only at short intervals; the Madang and Alexishafen Strips appeared abandoned, and strips at Awar and Nubia were no longer in use; enemy offensive action was limited to periodic night and early morning attacks on our Saidor installations---all relatively ineffective.

2. Up to 22 April, 1944 this Squadron concentrated its attacks on targets in the Hollandia and Aitape areas to soften them up for Allied landing operations.

3. On 3 April, 1944, the Squadron took part in the all out raid on the Hollandia Dromes. The strafing was begun at the West end of Hollandia Drome and continued over the other two dromes and thence out over Humboldt Bay. The attack leveled everything in the area and called attention to large piles of stores on the shores of Humboldt Bay (see FFO in Appendix "A", also map of target in Appendix "B"). On 5 April, 1944 the Squadron returned to Humboldt Bay and started huge fires among the stores along the shore in a devastating bombing and strafing attack (see FFO in Appendix "A" and map in Appendix "B"). Two more attacks were made on the store areas in Humboldt Bay and in the Airdromes area, on 12 April, and 16 April, 1944.

4. During the same part of the month four similar softening-up missions were flown to the Tadji-Aitape area. Aitape Township and Plantation were bombed and strafed. In the area between Tadji Strip and the Pacific Ocean incendiary bombs were dropped to burn off some of the kunai grass in order to facilitate landing operations (see FFO 92C, 100F, 106H and 112B in Appendix "A", also Target map in Appendix "B").

5. On April 22, 1944 successful landings were effected at Hollandia and Tadji against light ground opposition. Air support for these landings was furnished by U.S. Navy Aircraft Carriers. The day the landings were made the Fifth Air Force operations were confined to an area not North or West of But Drome, so this Squadron bombed Potsdam Plantation (see FFO 113D Appendix "A").

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6. On 28 April, 1944, we started a series of bombing and strafing attacks on Wakde Island (see FFO 119A and 120H Appendix "A").

7. The following statistics on the Squadron's combat record for the month are of interest: Sorties flown -- 117; bomb load -- 81 tons; rounds of .50 cal. ammunition fired -- 69,405; rounds of .30 cal. ammunition fired -- 13,800; bombs in target -- 98.5%.

B. GENERAL NARRATIVE:

1. The Squadron began the month of April with a strength of sixty-six officers assigned and two hundred eighty-three enlisted men assigned. During the month the following officers and enlisted men were promoted:

Captain to Major

WILLMOR L. PAVLICH

1st Lieutenant to Captain

LEONARD W. GEISSEL
JAMES F. SIGEL
SAM (NMI) ZORICH
JOHN A. HAMILTON

Staff Sgt. to Tech. Sgt.

IRVING W. WISER
JOHN J. KRAMER

2nd Lieut. to 1st Lieut.

LAWTON (NMI) HOWELL
DALE W. HOWIESON
ROBERT E. KENNEDY
LELAND P. LUX
EARL J. MCDONALD
PHILIP M. TRAYNOR

Corporal to Sergeant

JOSEPH D. ROSS

Private to Pfc.

HAROLD J. HEBERT
CHARLES R. MARTIN

2. During the month three men were awarded the Air Medal, 1st Lieut. NEWELL J. GARDNER, Technical Sergeant WILLIS K. FULP, and Staff Sergeant REUBEN J. SNYDER. During the same period six men were recommended for the Air Medal on the basis of having flown one hundred combat hours. Two crews participating in an unusually hazardous photo mission were recommended for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. Two crews were recommended for Distinguished Flying Cross for ground support during the Los Negros Island landing.

3. During April, a Squadron library was started and carried on very successfully.

4. At the end of the month the Squadron had a strength of sixty-five officers and two hundred ninety-six enlisted men. One enlisted man was relieved for reassignment to the States.

George H. Puddy
GEORGE H. PUDDY,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

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APPENDIX "A"

MISSIONS, WITH FRAG FIELD ORDER NUMBERS, FLOWN BY 823RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) 38TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) DURING MONTH OF APRIL, 1944

F.F.O. 92-C, 1 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Bombing attack on stores area of Aitape Plantation, strafing attack on Aitape Township, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 94-D, 3 April, 1944:

10 B-25G-1's - Bombing and strafing attack on Hollandia, Sentani and Cyclops Dromes, revetments, supply dumps, etc., in Dutch New Guinea.

F.F.O. 96-E, 5 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 9 B-25G-1's - Bombing and strafing attack on shipping and shore installations along shorelines of Humboldt, Challenger and Imbi Bays in Dutch New Guinea.

F.F.O. 99-E, 8 April, 1944:

9 B-25G-1's - Primary target, stores area at Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea. Because of weather Squadron hit secondary target, Cape Moem, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 100-F, 9 April, 1944:

3 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Bombing and strafing attack on Pro Village, Tadji area, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 102-E, 11 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Bombing attack on personnel areas West of Wewak Drome, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 103-E, 12 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Bombing attack on personnel and stores area in Hollandia Vicinity, Dutch New Guinea.

F.F.O. 106-H, 15 April, 1944:

3 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Bombing, strafing and photo mission, Aitape area, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 107-D, 16 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Bombing attack on stores area near Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea.

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APPENDIX "A" (CONTINUED)

F.F.O., 112-B, 21 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Bombing attack on coastal area off Tadji Airdrome, New Guinea

F.F.O. 113-D, 22 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 6 B-25G-1's - Weather forced Squadron from primary target, (Jap encampment on Mischu Island), to hit secondary target, personnel area South of Potsdam Plantation, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 115-K, 24 April, 1944:

2 B-25D's and 4 B-25G-1's - Personnel and stores area at Ha nsa Bay, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 119-A, 28 April, 1944:

6 B-25G-1's - Bombing and strafing attack on Wakde Island. Staged out of Gusap, New Guinea.

F.F.O. 120-H, 29 April, 1944:

6 B-25G-1's - Bombing, strafing and photo mission to Wakde Island.

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APPENDIX "C"

AWARDS APPROVED DURING MONTH OF APRIL, 1944 FOR MEMBERS OF THE 823RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M), 38TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

1st Lieut. NEWELL J. GARDNER, O-662041 - Awarded Air Medal for participation in 25 combat missions per G.O. 212, Hq. V.A.F., dated 10 April, 1944.

T/Sgt. WILLIS K. FULP, (MIA), 14049341 - Awarded Air Medal for participation in 25 combat missions per G.O. 259, Hq. V.A.F., dated 27 April, 1944.

S/Sgt. REUBEN J. SNYDER, 37159174 - Awarded Air Medal for participation in 100 operational hours per G.O. 265, Hq. V.A.F., dated 29 April, 1944.

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APPENDIX "B"

TARGET MAPS

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