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321 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

FEB 1945

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FEB 1945

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

FIFTH AIR FORCE

V BOMBER COMMAND

NINETEETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

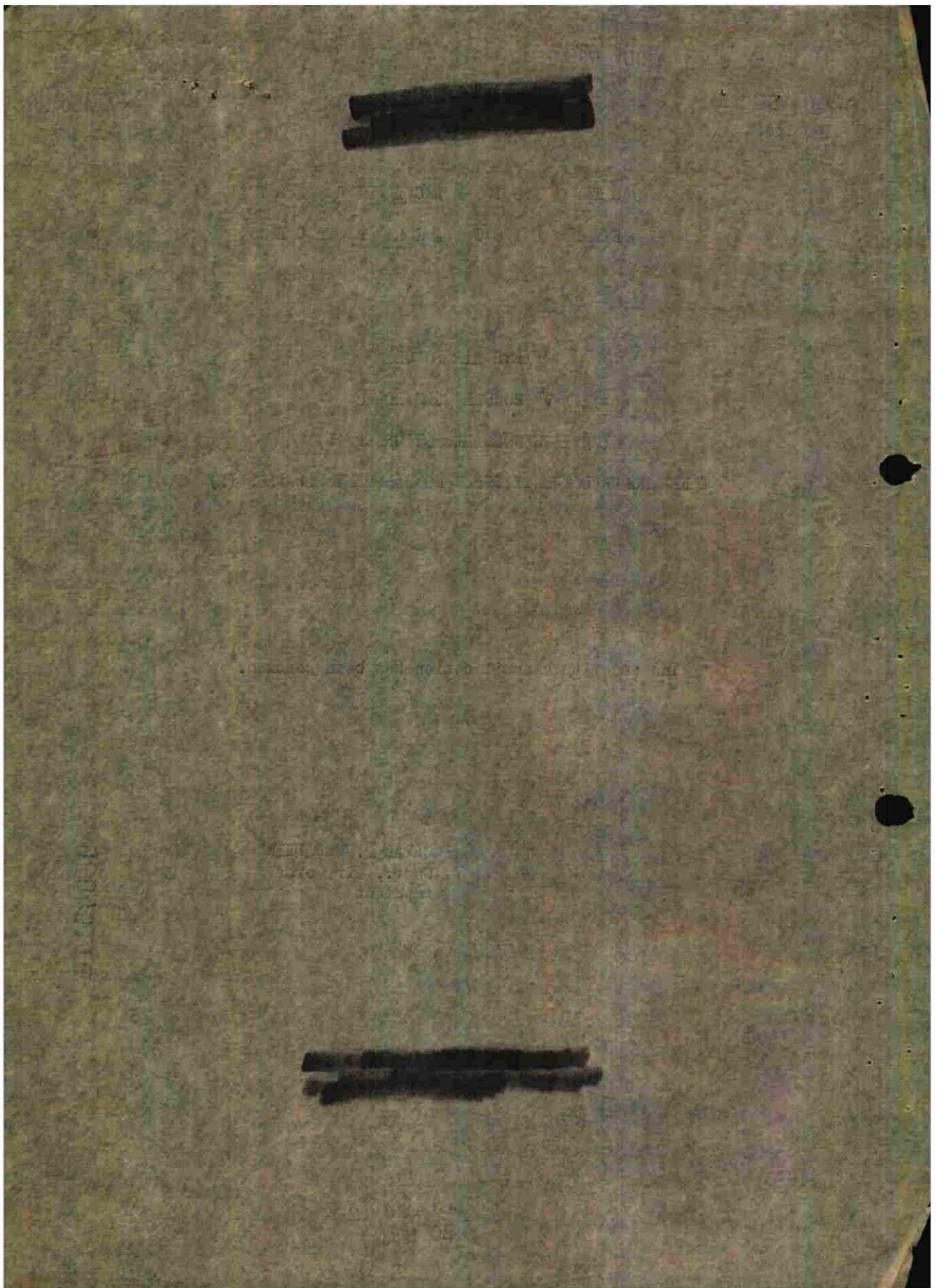
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The security classification has been checked.

Orval P. McFadyen
ORVAL P. MCFADYEN
Capt., Air Corps
adjutant

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THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
NINETEETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
APO 321

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SQUADRON HISTORY
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1945

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SQUADRON COMMANDER
SQUADRON EXECUTIVE
SQUADRON ADJUTANT

MAJOR STANLEY P. ROBECK
CAPTAIN SAMUEL M. BASSELL
CAPTAIN LEE R. LEFFLER

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
NINETTEETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
AFO 321

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SQUADRON HISTORY
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1945

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Narrative
2. Operational Statistics
3. Personnel Status
4. Aircraft Status
5. Personnel Replacements Received
6. Summary of Grades and Ratings
7. Bibliography
8. Photographs of Operational Missions

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
 NINETEENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
 APO 321

NARRATIVE

February, shortest month of the year, was the busiest in the history of the 321st as the squadron set a new record for itself with 152 sorties in 23 missions during the month's 28 days.

Operating at full strength after its late January Mindoro arrival, the squadron flew all types of missions, striking the air and industrial centers of distant Formosa, supporting ground forces on neighboring Luzon, hitting shipping and executing ship-ping searches, weather recos and night harassing raids.

Top strike of the month was on the next to last day when the group hit the warehouse district of Takao, one of Formosa's ranking industrial cities. Favored by unusually clear weather, the organization turned in some of its best bombing, destroying and damaging an estimated 600 buildings.

Ack-ack on all the numerous raids on the Takao area was highly accurate. It was exception rather than rule when planes returned unholed.

In support of the Luzon ground operations many "double-header" strikes were flown. To soften resistance prior to land-ings, squadron planes flew twice a day to bomb Mariveles, Batan peninsula and Corregidor island. They flew double-headers two

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) 2AF
 NINETEENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
 APO 321

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days in a row to blast out Jap troops dug in west of Fort Stotsenberg near Clark field.

Two attempted bombings, one with nine planes, the other with eight, were made on an enemy task force moving up the Indo-China coast. On both missions bad weather prevented attacks although the area in which the convoy was reported was well-reconnaissanced.

Three H2X (radar) missions were flown during the period, shadowing the task force until it finally steamed out of range.

The night harassing raids were also performed by H2X planes as they hit the Takao and Taihoku areas on Formosa.

On the ground, February was a month of continued setting up. When it became apparent that the move to Luzon was not in the immediate future the group's boat in the harbor was unloaded and the squadron established itself nearly as completely as it had at any previous station.

To the lumber carried up by boat ^{were} ~~was~~ added truckloads picked up by "tracking parties" which drove off in the night to negotiate one way or another with men in charge of engineering dumps.. By day the unit's circular saw kept apace and squadron carpenters worked long hours in the hot Philippine sun.

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY- FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
 NINETEENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
 APO 321

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With Intelligence already operating in a canvas-topped portable structure airborne, the orderly room, communications and operations sections now followed suit, continuing together under a mutual top as they had in January's crowded hospital ward tent. Supply, ordnance, mess hall, dispensary, transportation, shower facilities and a PX squadron PX completed the official building picture.

Taking the cue to build, campers went out seeking lumber for floors and frames for their tents. With material scarcer than at any previous station, many tents were floored with the four-foot-long sides of wooden bomb crates.

The mess hall kitchen was given a concrete floor as usual but the dining room, combining officers' with enlisted men's, got a covering of gravel. Outside, a huge deepage pit was dug and steam boiler and mess kit washers were installed.

Job best done was the showers which, spacious and partitioned, were for both officers and enlisted men whose areas were divided by a narrow court, where the facilities were installed. Shower water came from a deep well beside the installation. A gasoline-driven pump boosted it to a big tank overhead.

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
 NINETEETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
 APO 321

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Wells, incidentally, were dug throughout the area by individual campers. The sandy ground was cut through easily and abundant water lay only four to five feet down. The site was just a little higher than the neighboring sea.

A new member to join the regular family of squadron ~~installations~~ installations was a PX building. Group PX facilities long had proven inadequate to service the whole organization and, with supplies promising to become more plentiful, the group PX elected to let each squadron service itself.

While supplies at once were neither plentiful nor particularly attractive the prospects for the future were good. Even so, the lines to the window counter ran long and men at the end of them were an hour and two in reaching the counter. What particularly slowed the lines was the lack of small change in Philippine currency. Buyers were having to fill out their purchases with additional items to make even pesos, pondering extra minutes over the stock.

A real disappointment of the month came to the lower bracket of enlisted men when official dissatisfaction was expressed over the handling of food in the mess hall serving line by the Filipino KPs taken on the previous month. Back to kitchen

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 NINETEENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
 APO 321

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police went the last four graders with the appeasing promise that the Filipinos would be retained to do the "unpleasant" work, mainly the washing of pots and pans. Sometimes they did it and sometimes they didn't. Sometimes they just stood by and watched the Americans.

The mess hall during the month, apparently by shrewd rationing, managed to keep stocked in coffee and sugar while the other squadrons were running short. One squadron columnist in the group's weekly Buccaneer even commented on it, wondering "how come?"

But otherwise the caw continued listless and campers stepped up their trading with Filipino pedlars, getting chickens from them now in quantity. Beside many tents appeared coops enclosing poultry families. Roosters and hens were going into frying pans while chicks were being fed for the eventual kill.

It got to the point where the call of the camp was a rooster's call. Frequently the male birds broke out into crowing in the middle of the night, one starting it and the others joining him from their scattered stations. It was no rare event when some camper, shorn of sleep, rummaged out of bed and over to his chicken coop to put an end to either the rooster's unseasonal bugling or the bird himself.

THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
 NINETEENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
 APO 321

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Business with the Filipinos involved also laundry but some of the men now were doing their washing themselves again since the native launderers were considerably boosting their rates. And many weren't satisfied with mere pesos. They wanted blankets, clothes, mattress covers.

Unquestionably sympathetic with a people who could obtain no dry goods during the three-year Japanese occupation, yet the campers themselves had little to offer. With most of them, such goods were basic necessities the army had issued them. In fact, barter with such goods was ~~illegal~~ a violation of regulations. Many men lost their feeling for the little brown people when they couldn't do business with pesos alone.

But the Filipino had become very much a part of the camp picture. More and more tents took on native houseboys who performed what chores there were in keeping orderly a pyramidal tent. Houseboys were privileged to eat at the mess hall and with their dangling mess kits took their places in the cnow line.

Anxious to do as the Americans, they took to boxing when one camper produced a set of gloves from his barracks bags. Any time during the day matches were apt to break out in an

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 NINETEENTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
 APO 321

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imaginary ring between tents as other houseboys and campers, clustered around, cheered the contestants ~~was~~ on.

On the squadron's baseball diamond in the court between officers' and enlisted men's ~~diamond~~ areas Filipinos provided more entertainment when native gals, more apt at the game than the average American girl, played several games with squadron men. While they were not serious contest for the campers they did at times make them hustle. Numerous situations brought laughs from the sideliners who turned out in number for the novelty competition.

Official entertainment came through movies now showing again. Group had set up its projector and screen in a flat, open space in low woods near the area, but billings were a repetition of the Biak schedule. A fresh movie was a rarity.

The mail situation picked up gratifyingly during the month as both letters and packages began arriving in quantity from the alleged stockpiles at the local APO. Out-going mail drew a criticism, however. The enlisted men were disgruntled over censors frequently discussing their letters at the orderly room censoring table, now and then reading "choice bits" to each other.

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APO 521

8.

The Articles of War had their semi-annual reading near month's end. Presented in the mess hall by Capt. Lee R. Leffler, they were kept interesting as the adjutant read only the most applicable ones and flavored them with appropriate comments.

Capt. Leffler, liked by the squadron's men for his quiet, business-like administration methods, a few days later was relieved of his duties for transfer to the 38th bombardment group where he would fill a similar assignment. He was succeeded by younger Capt. Orval P. McFadyen who actually was returning to the post. With the squadron since its activation in America, he had left the adjutancy at Wakde for hospitalization and ~~was~~ on his return performed various administrative functions.

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THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
NINETIETH BOMBARDMENT GROUPAPO 321
1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Combat Activities Report.

TO : Stat Control Officer, 90th Bomb Group (H) AAF, APO 321.

1. In compliance with letter, Fifth Bomber Command, dated 7 May 1944, the following information is submitted;

a. Total combat sorties dispatched	152
b. Total combat sorties incomplete	21
c. Total tonnage of bombs dropped on target by type (jettisons excluded)	
1000 G. P.	254.5
500 G. P.	37.5
500 Frags	84.0
500 Incendiaries	18.0
260 Frags	119.6
d. Total tonnage of bombs dropped on target (jettisons excluded)	513.6
e. Total combat hours	1176.2
f. Enemy aircraft destroyed in air during month of February	0
g. Leading Gunner: T Sgt. EDMUND K. BRZEZINSKI ASN 32679366	1
h. Number and estimated tonnage of enemy shipping sunk during month of February	0

Orval P. McFadyen
ORVAL P. McFADYEN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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NINETIETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 321

PERSONNEL STATUS

FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1945

	BEGINNING OF MONTH	END OF MONTH
COMBAT OFFICERS	121	103
COMBAT ENLISTED MEN	153	155
GROUND OFFICERS	17	13
GROUND ENLISTED MEN	284	285

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NINETIETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO # 321

PERSONNEL REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1945

<u>JOB SPECIALTY</u>	<u>SPECIFICATION</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>	<u>MEN RECEIVED</u>
Pilot - 1092		1092	1
Pilot (Twin Engine)		1051	1
Bombardier		1031	1
Aerial Gunner		611	2
Armorer Gunner		611	1
Engineer		748	1
Radar Mech Nav.		853	4
Prop Spec		687	1

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NINETIETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO # 321

SUMMARY OF GRADES AND RATINGS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1945

	BEGINNING OF MONTH	END OF MONTH
GENERAL		
COLONEL		
LT. COLONEL		
MAJOR	1	1
CAPTAIN	10	9
FIRST LIEUTENANT	14	19
SECOND LIEUTENANT	78	73
FLIGHT OFFICER	20	14
MASTER SERGEANT	19	19
TECHNICAL SERGEANT	42	44
STAFF SERGEANT	84	132
SERGEANT	140	118
CORPORAL	117	96
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS	27	24
PRIVATE	7	7

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

NARRATIVE

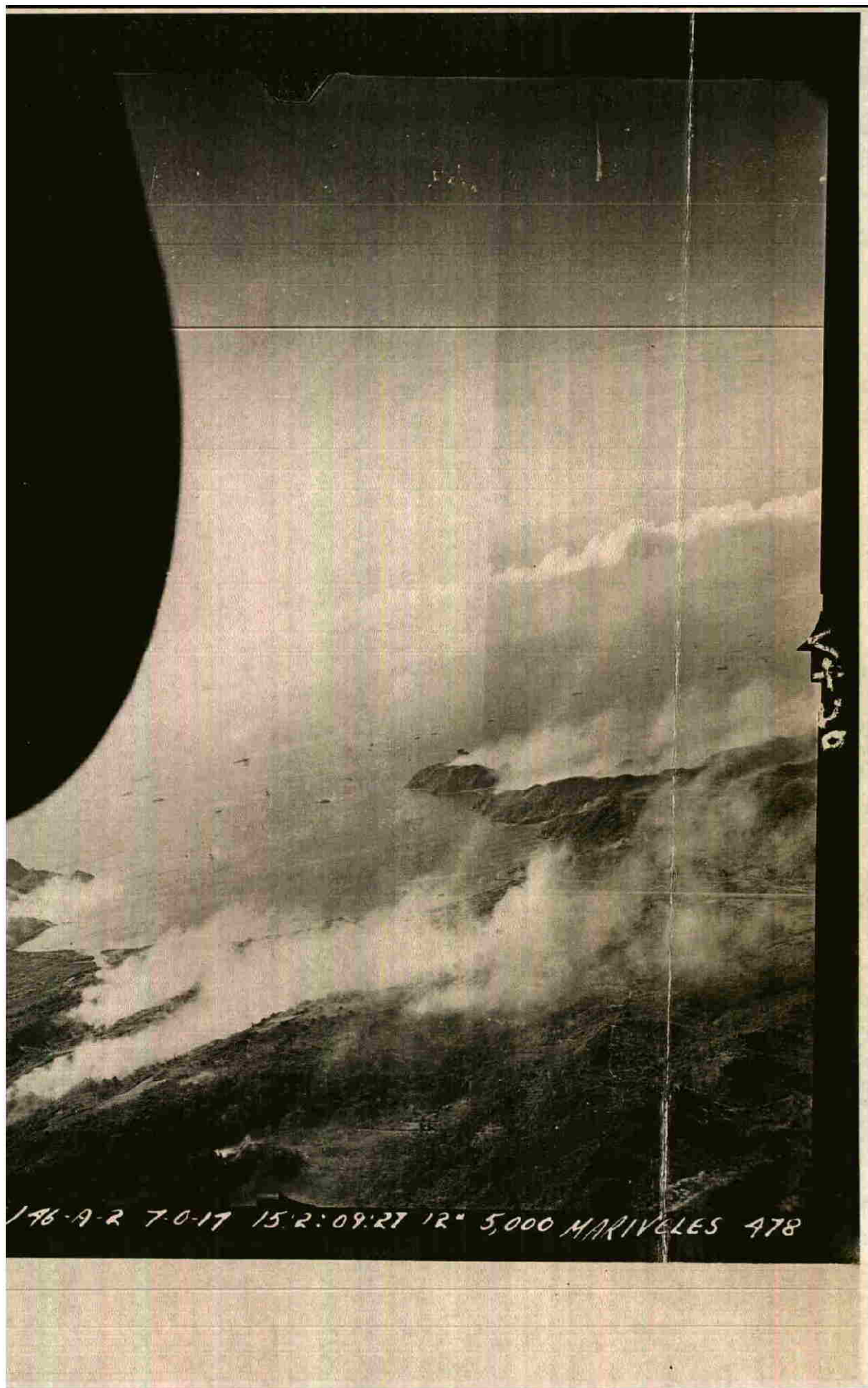
Air	-	-	-	-	Intelligence summary
Ground	-	-	-	-	Morning report, interviews with section heads, stat section records, historian's personal observations

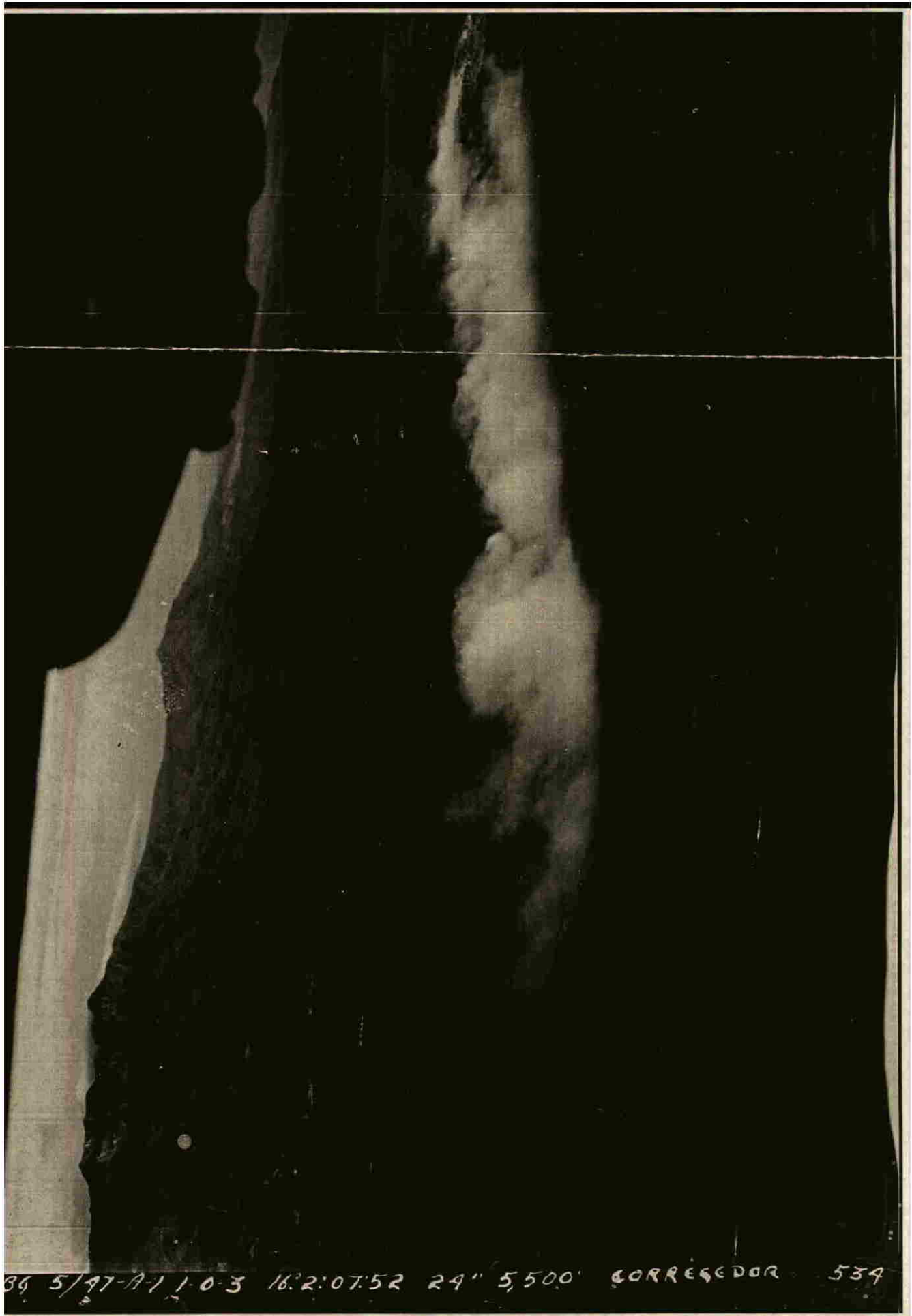
STATISTICS

Personnel	-	-	-	-	Morning report
Aircraft	-	-	-	-	Engineering section
Operations	-	-	-	-	Form 32 tri-monthly report

PICTURES

Target photos	-	-	-	-	Group photo section
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