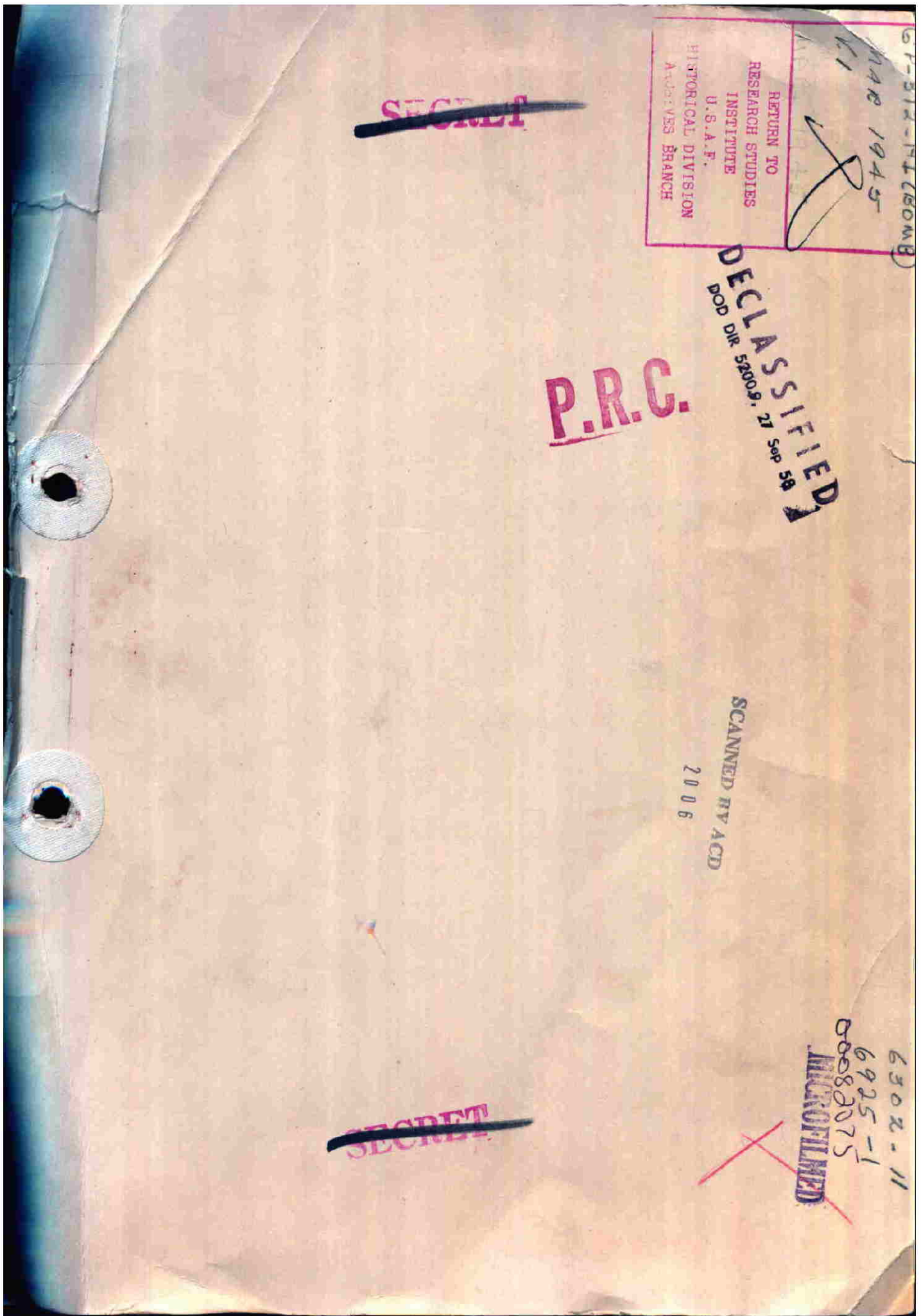




GP-312-Hi/BOMB
MAR 1945

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DESIGNATION SHEET

P.R.C.

AIR FORCE: Fifth Air Force

COMMAND: V Bomber Command

WING: 308th Bomb Wing

GROUP: 312th Bombardment Group (L) AAF

PERIOD: March 1945

The security classification has been checked.

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HISTORY OF THE 312TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP

Period

(1-31 March 1945)

312th Bombardment Group (L)
308th Bomb Wing
V Bomber Command
Fifth Air Force
United States Army

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SECTION I

COMBAT NARRATIVE

Records were again shattered by the Roarin' 20's during March as 190 missions were completed by the group in the 31 day period. It calls for no mathematical genius to compute that an average of better than 6 missions a day was flown by our A-20's. It is not believed that any bomb group, whether it be light, medium or heavy, can match this achievement. And this was accomplished with fewer aircraft than were ever before assigned to this unit.

This was not the only record thus broken, but let us first view the operations themselves before claiming statistical honors.

The job assigned to the 312th Bomb Group was two-fold: (1) to wipe out the enemy strong positions in northern Luzon and (2) to destroy strategic targets in Formosa. This was no easy assignment, since in the ground support operations it was necessary to fly as many as 11 missions in one day, while the Formosa strikes were long range flights that taxed the flying radius of an A-20 to the utmost. These latter missions averaged well over 1,000 miles, necessitating more than 6 hours of continuous flying per mission. The rough waters of the China Sea, a long stretch between northern Luzon and southern Formosa, was a recognized hazard.

Ground support missions flown during this hectic period called for versatility and skill in flying, because flight formations would vary depending upon the terrain features in and about the target. Although the typical A-20 mission is flown at minimum altitude it sometimes became necessary to bomb from medium level at anywhere from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. The mountainous terrain at Baguio and Balete Pass precluded low altitude bombing and strafing. In such cases a B-25 would lead each squadron over the target and the A-20's bombed off the B-25. The effectiveness of these medium level bombings was dependent entirely on the accuracy of the bombardier in the lead B-25. Aerial photos taken during these missions revealed excellent bombing patterns with the target areas well covered.

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These strikes varied in manner of execution. Where close support was being given it was a condition precedent that the ground station first be contacted. The ground station then directed the A-20's into the target. There were many variations of pointing out the exact target and the crews were briefed before each mission as to the particular method to be employed. This direction was often done by the use of panels on the ground indicating the particular target, or by artillery shells fired into the target setting it off in white smoke, or by a cub leading the formation over the area and pin-pointing it with smoke bombs, or even the ground station indicating the target on a map or photo which both the pilots and ground observer used.

On close ground support missions the crews more often than not made several bombing and strafing runs over the target as directed by the ground observer. Dry runs, however, were not made even though requested by the ground forces. An A-20 coming in at a dangerously low level over enemy troop concentrations is always subject to ground fire and a lucky bullet has killed too many a pilot. Dry runs are not permitted since it leaves the crew and aircraft at an obvious and unnecessary disadvantage.

As is usual in attacks of this kind, damage is generally unassessable. However, if the Nips were concentrated in the areas specified by the ground forces in their requests, it is not unreasonable to assume that thousands of enemy lay dead in the wake of these strikes. How many thousands is a matter of conjecture. However, when our troops moved up and took enemy positions as a result of the bombing and strafing by the Roarin' 20's, as so often happened, the effectiveness of their strikes was apparent.

Guerilla forces operating on Luzon were likewise given air support. Their requests were sent to 6th Army Hq., thence to the 308th Bomb Wing and if approved by both these headquarters the mission was set up and promptly executed. There, too, it was sometimes required that contact first be established with their ground station before hitting the target.

The effectiveness of the air support thus rendered is confirmed not merely by hundreds of aerial photographs showing destruction of the assigned targets but also the letters of commendation sent by the ground force commanders. (1)

(1) See Letters of Commendation, Appendix, p. 68-77

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minimum. When the Emperor's birthday arrived our planes carried flares which were dropped over designated enemy concentrations at a signal from the ground station. The reason: this "great" occasion might give rise to banzai attacks by the Nips. The flares were supposed to de-banzai the enemy.

Let us consider now the strategic targets struck by the Roarin' 20's strafers.

On 2 March this group conducted the first A-20 mission ever flown over Formosa. It was designed to make history. The strike, however, fell short of expectations when Kagi A/D, the assigned target was not hit. Instead the newly constructed Mato A/D some 25 miles south was bombed. The disappointment was not in the results of this mission but rather the failure to reach the primary target. The attack caused considerable destruction to the enemy. On 25 March the group again went to Formosa to attack the large sugar and alcohol plant at Kyoshito. Led by Lt. Col. Wells, the new Group Commanding Officer, the strike resulted in the devastation of this important industrial target. The buildings comprising the plant went up in flames and smoke visible for 20 miles after leaving the target area. Although the formation successfully avoided all known A/A concentrations enroute to the target, the enemy sent up moderate to intense fire over the plant that holed 10 out of 18 planes in the group and shot down one. The concentration of gun positions about the target was considerably more intense and more accurate than originally estimated. Withal, the mission was accomplished as ordered. The target was destroyed. Subsequent photo interpretations confirmed the destruction.

An interesting sidelight to this mission was the noteworthy achievement by Lt. Col. Wells who made an heroic attempt to effect rescue of a crew in distress. The plane piloted by Lt. Schultz was hit over the target area. He nevertheless took his crippled plane over the target, remaining in formation until he had dropped his bombs into the sugar plant. With flames streaming out of his left engine he headed north of Takao toward sea to ditch the burning plane. Col. Wells turned over the formation to the next squadron leader and followed the damaged A-20. As it crossed the shoreline the engine fell from the plane causing it to crash about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from shore. Col. Wells made a low pass over the downed aircraft as he and his gunner looked for survivors. They saw none. In the meantime enemy shore batteries were sending a barrage of ack-ack over the crashed ship. Col. Wells contacted the Catalina rescue plane and directed it toward the crash in the hope that there might be survivors. The pilot of the Catalina, seeing the barrage of ack-ack and the proximity of the

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This support was given in areas where the fighting was most bitter. The Nips were well dug in atop the rough and high terrain at Baguio, Balete Pass, San Fernando and Naguilian. The daily poundings of these strong concentrations by our attack bombers enabled our ground troops to move into the important city of San Fernando (1) as well as Naguilian. Ousting well armed and well supplied Nips from these areas is no small feat, since they have been making a determined stand at these points.

A total of 187 separate missions were devoted to supporting our ground troops. In most of these strikes the enemy A/A fire was slight. But the danger of being hit by a stray bullet when flying at minimum altitude can not be overlooked. It happened to Lt. Lopez whose plane was hit by ground fire and was forced to ditch in Solvec Bay. Fortunately, the crew was rescued by a Catalina after making a successful crash landing in the water.

It was a black day when a mid-air collision occurred between 2 A-20's near Lipa Hill on 7 March. The ^{probable} cause: pilot error. 2nd Lt. Dean D. Larson, whose plane collided with that of 1st Lt. Willard C. Mogg, flight leader, was flying his 5th combat mission in an A-20. Pilots are not afforded the opportunity of more than one such error. It is one strike and out. This one strike cost the precious lives of 2 combat crews, something the Nips have not been able to do all March.

Much space has been devoted to these ground support missions because they are not of the spectacular variety and are quickly passed over as insignificant. However, the cumulative effect of 187 "piddling strikes", with hundreds of demolition, parademos, fragmentation and napalm bombs dumped on enemy positions and hundreds of thousands of .50 caliber ammo spraying the enemy with deadly lead, has been a tremendously important factor in this Luzon campaign.

For the first time in its history the 312th Bombardment Group began flying night missions. These consisted of flying over enemy positions from dusk until dawn. Our nightly patrols kept the Nips' artillery and mortars silenced since they feared to reveal their positions to the airborne A-20. Although our patrolling planes carried no bombs the enemy did not know that, and their fire was consequently kept to a

(1) See Photos, p. 26-28

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crashed plane to enemy shores, was reasonably reluctant to land in that vicinity to make further search. He told Col. Wells to get out of the area immediately lest he be hit. Realizing the futility of further search Col. Wells returned to base after having been airborne for 6½ hours. The maximum outside range for an A-20 is 7 hours. This feat is the more outstanding because enemy fighters had been noted previously in the target area and our Group Commander proceeded in his search without escort or fighter cover. Whether it is advisable for a group leader to risk his life under such circumstances is subject to argument. His personal courage and inspiring leadership, however, cannot be gainsaid.

Four days later Major Graber, Group Operations Officer, led a formation of 18 planes over Formosa to strike the Eiko sugar refinery, north of Tainan. Again the target was a scene of complete devastation and destruction as parademos and napalm bombs rendered the plant of no further use to the enemy. Not a single shot was fired at any of the attacking aircraft, the enemy being caught completely unawares. Every plane returned safely. Again photo interpretations showed the plant as being completely destroyed.

The month was topped off on 31 March with an attack on the enemy's military camp at Saiatau, along the western coast of Formosa, 20 miles below Kato. This was the most difficult target to attack at minimum level due to the location of the camp in a narrow ravine, surrounded by rugged mountainous terrain. With surprise as its chief guardian, the formation went into a tight formation and caused widespread damage to enemy installations, barracks and personnel. The camp was left burning fiercely. Not one of our planes was scratched.

The destruction of these sugar and alcohol plants may not, at first blush, appear to be militarily important. But these large plants produce butanol and acetone in addition. Butanol is an important gas adulterant for high octane aviation gas. Acetone is used in the manufacture of certain types of gun powder. Japan depends largely on its production facilities in Formosa and the impairment of these vital industries is of serious concern to the enemy.

A successful mission over Formosa is the mark of superior accomplishment. Thus far, the 312th Bombardment Group is the only A-20 attack group to venture as far north as Formosa. The hazards besetting an A-20 mission to this heavily defended island are manifold. It calls for skilful navigation

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over a 230 mile stretch of the South China Sea from Luzon. The group leader must navigate perfectly despite the strong cross-winds over this lane for otherwise he might reach the shores of Formosa at a powerfully defended position and encounter enemy fire. He must then fly to the target avoiding the many known concentrations of enemy ack-ack enroute and try to escape radar detection. Then with numerous sugar plants congregated in a small area (and they all look alike from the air) he must pick out the target by reason of its surrounding terrain features. The similarity of these features is enough to worry any formation leader looking for a particular plant. Although the approaches to these targets are generally excellent because of the flat terrain, by the same token the aircraft become more vulnerable to enemy A/A due to the absence of defiladed areas. To avoid visual detection the planes must fly on the deck and again this makes target spotting no mean accomplishment.

If a plane is hit and has to ditch it must try to reach the waters off western Formosa. If it crashes on land, escape and evasion becomes extremely difficult. There are no natives or guerillas to attempt rescue of a pilot forced down in Formosa, as there are in New Guinea or in the Philippines. At best the Formosans are not friendly.

Air-sea rescue operations play an important role in this theatre, because many a crippled aircraft has had to be ditched prior to reaching Luzon on its return trip. These rescue operations are not hap-hazard affairs. They are based on pre-arranged signals and careful planning. If a plane is forced to crash-land in the waters surrounding western or southern Formosa he radioes his position by using the tiny island of Ryukyo⁽¹⁾ as a reference point. This island has a code name that changes daily. The pilot in distress calls out his distance from the island, the code name and his bearing. This distress call may be picked up by a Catalina orbiting near the strike, or a submarine orbiting near the reference point or a B-17 "Flying Dutchman" near the reference point. In the waters west of Formosa a Catalina can land and effect rescue because the Pescadores Channel is comparatively smooth. However, below Formosa the rough waters of the China Sea preclude this manner of rescue and hence a submarine is dispatched to pick up survivors or, more recently, a Flying Dutchman drops a boat to the downed crew.

(1) See Map, p. 23

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Needless to say these rescue operations are coordinated with all strikes in the Formosa area and the rescue ships orbit accordingly. These operations do much to increase a pilot's peace of mind during the long and hazardous missions to Formosa.

In Luzon our pilots are briefed to get west of the Cagayan River. The guerillas control most of the flat land in this region and they have saved the life of many a pilot forced down in Luzon. Also there are some 8 or 9 landing strips in northern Luzon where emergency landings may be made. Often these strips change hands over night and the pilots must be briefed accordingly. Off the western and northern coasts of Luzon, too, there are many small craft operating to pick up survivors of crews that are forced down.

That our Air Force devotes so much effort to the rescue of combat crews forced down is a source of surprise and ridicule to the enemy. They have no such pre-arranged operations. Apparently the life of a Japanese pilot is not held too dear after he has been shot down. A quite proper assumption, too.

In the Intelligence Sections every possible precaution is taken to insure the safe return of our combat crews. Every mission, no matter how small, is carefully briefed. The pilots are given the necessary maps and photos that will help them locate and identify the target. Escape kits are part of their required equipment.

Here, crews attend a mass briefing and all personnel are briefed at one time at Group Intelligence. Where the mission is in support of ground troops, the ground situation is given to the crews by the newly assigned G.L.O. Thus our men know not only the disposition of enemy and friendly forces, but also are told the purpose of their strike. By using a large scale map (1:250,000) of Luzon the crews are shown how the particular mission is likely to affect the ground situation.

S-2 then describes in detail the target. Several photos are used to supplement the maps. The terrain surrounding the target area and the check points to observe are thoroughly discussed. Also, escape and evasion as well as friendly emergency landing strips are pointed out. In case of close ground support, bomb lines and the necessity of first contacting the ground station are emphasized to avoid causing

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casualties to our own troops.

The Flakintel officer then discusses the enemy A/A positions, their location and fire power. This up-to-the-minute information is of vital concern to all low flying craft. The flak defenses of Formosa presented a unique problem to our attack bombers. The industrial plants were lucrative targets and not heavily defended, but a veritable "flak belt" in southwest Formosa made hazardous the long approach to the target and the return therefrom. From Koshen, the southern tip of Formosa, to Tainan is a series of important enemy airdromes that provide mutually inclusive defense; and these defenses are powerful. It was therefore essential that a safe corridor of approach be found to avoid these strong positions enroute to the target. Flakintel provided the answer. This enabled us to attack these prize industrial installations without encountering the enemy's defenses. This safe corridor of approach also prevented radar detection due to the mountainous range it bordered, giving our low flying craft the element of surprise so essential to a strike from minimum altitude.

S-3 briefs on all the operational data concerning the mission. The type of formation to fly, the route to the target, the approach, the course of the bomb run, the place of rally -- these and other factors are explained. The successful execution of a strike depends chiefly on how well the crews absorb the facts. They know, too, that their lives depend on it.

Weather is not an inconsiderable phase of any mission. In Luzon it is not of great consequence since the average mission is comparatively short and emergency landing strips many. However, on the long range missions to Formosa, weather information plays a large part. It may well determine the course to a target or affect the decision of a formation leader in doubt as to whether to proceed to the target or turn back. Briefing by the Weather Officer assumes a new importance on these missions.

These well organized briefings are S.O.P. with the Roarin' 20's. Before a mission takes off each member of the combat crews has been given a complete picture of what he is expected to do and how best to do it. The results have been excellent.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

ENGINEERING SECTION

Our Engineering Section was put through the paces this month as the Roarin' 20's aircraft flew a total of 1339 sorties on 191 missions. This is believed to be a record for sorties flown by any A-20 group during any month at any time in the Southwest Pacific. The figure assumes new proportions when compared to the total number of 16,061 sorties flown by the 3 groups of A-20's during the entire year of 1944. ⁽¹⁾

Despite this record-breaking number of airborne craft on combat missions, maintenance continued to be good. The average percentage of available aircraft (including our Fat Cat ship) was 73%, the 388th Bomb Squadron leading with an average of better than 76%. These figures do not truly reflect the excellence of the work by our ground crews. Maintenance was seriously handicapped by a shortage of spare parts in this area, particularly engines. The real "sore spot", however, was the unsatisfactory overhaul work performed by the depots. The overhauled engines failed to stand up under continuous combat flying and U/R's were submitted to V Bomber Command on these failures. Possibly the depot personnel are suffering from non-combat fatigue.

We lost a total of 10 aircraft in March, 7 of them occurring in combat flight. Three were sent to the 93rd Service Squadron for major repairs and are now back in operation. The freak accident of the month was when a pilot landed his plane, damaged a parked A-20 and our C-47 "Fat Cat" in addition to tearing up his own aircraft. The C-47 had been scheduled for a mail run the following day and the resultant moans from officers and enlisted men were pitiful to hear.

The now famous A-20 of Colonel Strauss was prepared for return to the States. Rocket installations that had been placed under each wing were removed and installed on a plane of another group.

(1) Chart "Summary of VBC Operations, 1944"

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ARMAMENT AND ORDNANCE SECTIONS

The Armament and Ordnance Sections reported that the most effective bomb loads for ground support missions were the 100 and 250 pound parademos. Malfunction of 'chutes was eliminated by stretching cables across the top of the bomb bays from which arming wires were strung through holes punched in parachute cans.

For medium altitude missions the 500 pound, composition B, G.P. bomb functioned satisfactorily. When the 500 pound fragmentation clusters were carried it was necessary to construct a small loop adapter, since the standard lugs for this bomb do not fit the bomb shackles of an A-20.

On low altitude missions auxiliary incendiary bombs were carried under each wing. At first, one 100 pound napalm bomb (M-47A-2) was carried on each inboard and outboard rack. When it was found that the use of the outboard rack caused a wing flutter, a 30 gallon M-10 spray tank filled with napalm was carried on the inboard rack only. However, the most successful method of loading proved to be a triple suspension of 100 pound napalms on inboard racks by means of M-12 cluster adapters. Thus our planes are now carrying 6 X 100 pound napalms in addition to the regular bomb load. The effectiveness of these incendiaries was revealed in the aerial combat photos showing extensive fires caused by the napalm bombs.

The parafrag bombs (M 72) so effectively used by our low flying aircraft against airdrome installations were used less frequently because of the type of target attacked this month in this connection. Two malfunctions were reported in the use of the R-1 rack: (1) Propelling springs hanging on the sides of the racks prevented release of the bombs. Hydraulic fluid corroded the cannon plugs, causing electrical failure.

The outstanding accomplishment of the month was the perfection of zero length rocket launchers which were installed on Colonel Strauss' plane. Several tests of rocket firing indicate that they will soon become a valuable addition to the attack armament of the A-20.

A total of 798 tons of bombs was dumped on the Nips while they were simultaneously sprayed with 852,647 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition.

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Despite the handicap of personnel shortage, transportation and uncertain sources of supply, these sections by dint of hard work and long hours enabled every mission to take off as scheduled.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Our radio station "Headstrong" had a busy time this month receiving inflight reports radioed in immediately following the strikes. Guarding the common bomber frequency (6720) and rescue frequency (4475) the station functioned with a minimum of difficulty.

Inflight reports from returning crews were picked up and the information promptly dispatched to S-2 and S-3. Since several missions were often flown over the same target on the same day in relays, this information was a substantial aid to crews waiting on the ground to take off to the same area. The weather, the amount of ack-ack, if any, and important sightings were received by S-2 long before the crews returned from the mission.

This station, aside from handling inflight reports, gives out weather information upon request. Ships from various units called in to find out weather conditions at various bases, or sometimes to relay information to a particular station they were unable to contact. Inflight reports from weather reccos are picked up.

The boys stand by on the rescue frequency ready to intercept any distress call. When recently one of our bombers crash-landed off northern Luzon his call to the rescue plane was intercepted, called in to Wing and to the Air-Sea Rescue Section at V Bomber Command. The importance of this service is obvious. So, too, when a B-24 pilot called our station and stated he had wounded men aboard ship, this call resulted in an ambulance awaiting his arrival at the strip ready to treat the injured personnel.

Should it be necessary to contact a ground station on a mission where we lend air support it is possible for our station to do so. All in all, it serves a mighty important purpose and has definitely become an integral part of all our operations.

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Telephone and teletype communications likewise fall under the jurisdiction of this Section. The telephone switchboard (type BD-96) has operated very satisfactorily. The board maintains 44 circuits, 5 of which are outside trunk lines. Two of these lines service the squadrons working at the air strip while the remaining three provide communication with Bomb Wing and Base Operations. Minor troubles such as broken lines, short circuits, etc. have been repaired promptly and efficiently.

The teletype was a busy instrument this month, reaching a peak of 4,500 outgoing words in one day plus some 9,000 odd incoming words. Fortunately, Wing has been handling the coded traffic (except for 3 days) and our crypto knowledge has not yet been put to the stern test.

With Fifth Air Force and V Bomber Command at Clark Field we are now able to transmit directly to them via the switchboard at Wing. For security purposes all such transmissions must be encoded.

Maintenance on radio, telephone or teletype has presented no problem. The operation of power and light has caused more headaches than the rest of the machines together. Nevertheless, let no man say our generators have failed to render the desired service. These generators (4 of them) maintain a 24 hour current supply, each unit being checked every 6 hours. The toaster, bane of all generators, was the most destructive force to our constant efforts at proper maintenance. Considering the age of these machines (one generator has 2,800 combat hours and is ready to go home) the expert mechanics of the Communications Section may well be commended for their excellent maintenance work.

Securing parts to keep these machines in continuous operation calls for the finest feats of legardemain. To beg, borrow or steal necessary spare parts is no crime. If perchance you should see one of the Communications boys wallowing in a salvage dump, do not be so rash as to condemn him as an ordinary scavenger. Don't forget: "Your light is in his hands," says Major Balasses.

GROUND LIAISON SECTION

This Section, consisting of Capt. William A. Gresham, (sweating out a clerk and a jeep) became attached to the 312th

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Bombardment Group on 18 March and immediately went into action. Capt. Gresham is a member of the Air Liaison Section, G-3, 6th Army Hq. (This latter Section is composed of 28 officers who have been placed on DS with various air units of the Fifth Air Force.)

At all briefings of combat crews on ground support missions the G.L.O. presented the ground situation to the crews.⁽¹⁾ On the other hand any information obtained by the G.L.O. as a result of these missions is forwarded to the ground forces. Each Squadron as well as Group S-2 Section now has posted a large scale situation map of Luzon. Postings are made daily as the situation changes.

Weekly tours to the front lines are already in progress.⁽²⁾ As a result of these trips the Air Forces personnel are being given a first-hand knowledge of the principles of ground attack and the use of artillery. The results of their own strikes are shown to them from a new viewpoint -- the ground. It is felt that the briefings on current ground situation and these weekly treks to watch the ground forces in operation have given the combat crews a better understanding of air-ground cooperation.

MEDICAL SECTION

The Group for the past month has been located in a very desirable portion of the Philippines. The health of the command has been relatively good. The high incidence of skin disease encountered in New Guinea and Leyte has diminished considerably.

Much attention has been focused on the problem of intestinal diseases because of the association with the civilian population who are rampantly infected. Although a complete series of examinations has not been performed, it is felt that 15 to 30% of the command harbor intestinal parasites. A lecture, poster and demonstration campaign has been inaugurated to make all personnel conscious of the problem.

While stationed in New Guinea the men yearned for civilization. In the Philippines they found it. Venereal

(1) See Combat Narrative, p. 7

(2) See Local Interest, p. 2

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disease, the great concomitant of civilization, has raised a new problem for the Medics. Since American troops arrived in these areas, there has been a 700% increase in V.D. Of this menace the men have been made aware and they have co-operated admirably by taking preventative measures. The Pro Station is an active place these nights and our V.D. rate remarkably low.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION

During the month of March, Group Public Relations Section sent out 160 press releases and 251 photographs to a total of 408 newspapers throughout the United States. When published these stories will constitute a total of 11,952 column lines of print. (1)

Each press release mentions the 312th Bombardment Group and its name, the "Roarin' 20's", as well as the commendations received by the 312th for its support of ground troops in the reconquest of Corregidor as well as the liberation of Manila.

These press releases cover all awards, promotions and appointments that take place within the Group as well as feature and human interest stories. Feature stories during the month included a release on Colonel Strauss' A-20 for possible publication in Impact Magazine and a basis for recommendation to Fifth Air Force that the plane be returned to the United States for the purpose of stimulating public interest in activities of the Air Forces in this theatre. The release featured the most outstanding missions -- from the standpoint of news interest -- flown by Colonel Strauss in his plane, as well as brief descriptions of other important strikes. The release also included statistics, i.e. number of combat missions, combat hours, total tonnage of bombs dropped on enemy territory, names of targets bombed and strafed, etc. Pictures of Colonel Strauss, his plane, crew chief and gunner accompanied the release. Acknowledging receipt of the release, V Bomber Command praised Group Public Relations "for its excellent coverage" and said the release has been brought to General Crabb's

(1) February report, low because of change of station, listed the following figures: 80 releases, 7 photos, 50 newspapers, 1,842 lines.

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attention and will be submitted to General Whitehead, CG, Fifth Air Force.

Other features included trips to Manila made by Clatus E. Snyder, Group Chaplain, and Sgt. Harry R. Failing, photographer, which also received a commendation from Bomber Command.

In accordance with Fifth Air Force Memorandums increased importance is being placed on Regional Stories, i.e. several individuals from the same city or state, brothers in the service. In this connection releases have been sent out for Lt. Marion Hershberger (387 Sq) and Lt. Cyrus V. Hershberger (389 Sq), also for the Happy Brothers of the 386th Squadron, and the Zerberonia Brothers of the 388th. A picture and story on all personnel from Charlotte, N. C. and vicinity were released recently.

Maintenance records of outstanding planes in the Group are written up and sent to home town papers of pilot, gunner, armorer and crew chief as well as commercial publications such as Douglas Aircraft Company Newspaper and Curtis-Wright Corporation Newspaper.

The Public Relations Section has now become of age and this month we turned out more press releases than ever before during a similar period. With the addition of a second clerk, this very busy section expects to continue to increase the output of stories concerning personnel and items of interest. The one typewriter it possesses is the only limiting factor.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

For any extraordinary or heroic achievement by a pilot or gunner a letter of recommendation for an award is immediately submitted. The disconcerting note in the determination of these awards is the failure to properly evaluate the services of veteran pilots. We have pilots and squadron leaders who have flown anywhere from 60 to 100 or more missions. In many cases they have performed an outstanding assignment in leadership, skilful navigation and repeated excellent bombings. They flew on long missions and dangerous ones. They flew through ack-ack that varied from meager to intense. The cumulative effect of these missions caused extensive damage to enemy installations and personnel.

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Whereas in other theatres of operation the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded on the basis of number of combat missions or combat hours, here it seems virtually impossible for an A-20 pilot to obtain such an award. Generally speaking, a pilot must have his craft badly damaged by enemy fire and still continue his attack on the target to merit a Distinguished Flying Cross. The others who fly through the fire unscathed and contribute an equal or greater amount of destruction to the enemy, are passed over without mention.

At this date there seems to be no established policy by Far East Air Forces for recognizing superior accomplishments of men who, day in and day out, strike the enemy with destructive force and avoid being hit often by skilful evasive action over the target. These men return to the United States with an Air Medal and possibly an Oak Leaf Cluster attached. They are our undecorated heroes, but true heroes nevertheless.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION SECTION

The Roarin' 20's News became a full fledged daily this month and brought to the men the latest news from all over the globe in the shortest possible time. News picked up on the radio at 0800 from San Francisco was edited, printed and distributed by 1100 the same morning. Probably no other newspaper on Luzon can make this claim. Circulation of this daily has now been extended to include a nearby A/A unit. They supply the additional paper and we supply the news.

PHOTO SECTION

During March the K-24 type camera was substituted for the K-21. This new camera takes a 5" X 5" exposure instead of the 5" X 7" of the K-21. However, the focal lengths are the same and it is believed that the K-24 photos are a bit sharper and show finer detail. This transition required a modification of existing camera mounts and our section designed one specifically for the K-24. Twelve such mounts have been constructed and are now in daily use.

A total of 242 rolls of aerial film was processed in this period and some 18,300 prints distributed to various headquarters. In addition approximately 150 ground negatives

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were made and processed. 2700 prints therefrom were distributed to Public Relations, Historical Section, and personnel in the group.

Perhaps the outstanding event of the month was the recent acquisition of a refrigerator, film processing, photographic, type N-2, which makes an ideal beer cooler.

SPECIAL SERVICE

The Group Softball League was organized again, and with 8 teams in the tournament competition and rivalry has become keen enough to delight the heart of any stalwart Brooklyn fan. Each team has put up 100 pesos and the winning team receives 500 pesos, with 200 pesos and 100 pesos going to the runner-ups.

Coco Cola, that great American drink, again flows. The supply being so limited it is reserved generally for the club parties. This section has arranged for native and G. I. bands as well as floor shows at each party.

"When do we get beer?" is a continuous cry. Unfortunately, the beer rations are too irregular to permit definite answers. At that we didn't stand too short this month as each man received 2 issues of 12 bottles of beer, the equivalent of one case. The entire cost: 4 pesos (\$2.00).

CHAPLAIN

The month of March was a solemn, busy month for the Chaplain. Lent, Passion Week and Holy Week, together with an eight-day Mission for all Catholic personnel and others interested, took up the major portion of the Chaplain's time.

Religious Services were conducted regularly for all faiths. A total of eight Protestant Services were conducted for over 1,000 men by a neighboring Protestant Chaplain who had the compliment returned by having the Chaplain of the 312th conduct Catholic Services in the neighboring Group. Also, it was arranged to have the Jewish personnel present at nearby Jewish Service every Friday and also to be present at the annual Seder Service of great holiness.

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In addition, the Chaplain conducted a total of over 50 Catholic Services, including Holy Mass. Rosary Devotions, Novena Devotions and Memorial Services to a total of over 9,000 men.

The highlight of the month was the Mission conducted by Fathers McSorley and Gordon, O.M.I., who had just been released from three years of Jap internment. The Mission closed on Easter Sunday with the Bishop of the Diocese giving his Episcopal blessing and administering the Sacrament of Confirmation, concluding with Benediction of the most Blessed Sacrament.

Bingo was an important recreational activity conducted by the Chaplain. A usual jackpot of \$1,000.00 every week was supplemented by magnificent prizes of precious jewels purchased in Melbourne and lovely Oriental gifts bought in Manila. Much fun was had at the parties as several hundred fans "sweated out" the gifts and cash prizes. The Chaplain as Bingo King is known as "Spider" Snyder or the "Happy Chappy" and he provides monologue entertainment through the evening.

Many men visited the Chaplain with problems through the month. Sometimes it's sickness at home; or unfaithful sweethearts or wives; or family trouble; or financial difficulty; or spiritual bewilderment; or it may be one of a hundred other things, right down to plain "little-boy home-sickness". A total of 250 interviews and conferences were had by the Chaplain during the month.

Several thousand pesos were given out by the Chaplain during the month to soldiers who had not been paid; or who had an emergency arise. Most of these men pay back what they borrow, though no record is kept and no promises are exacted. The understanding is that it will be returned "if and when able".

There were a few accident cases needing the Chaplain's immediate attention and his administering of the Last Rites. Also hospitals were visited 11 times and a total of 155 men visited. Monthly the Chaplain sends out hundreds of letters of correspondence to relatives of the men in Service.

Innumerable requests are made of a Chaplain that cannot be listed. All keep him as busy as one person could be. In addition, his own personal spiritual duties must be attended to. All of which adds up to: "A soldier's work is from sun to sun; a Chaplain's work is never done".

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LOCAL INTEREST AND PERSONALITIES

The group suffered a great loss this month when Colonel R. H. Strauss, Commanding Officer of the Group since its activation on 19 October 1942, was ordered to return to the States. His reluctance to leave this unit was not feigned. His request to be permitted to remain was flatly rejected by higher headquarters; and so the old "S", perhaps the most famous as well as most feared A-20 in the Far East, now remains idle in its revetment, awaiting shipment to the United States. (1)

Colonel Strauss and his A-20 had seen plenty of action and played much havoc with the Nips. Name any important place in New Guinea and you will find that old "S" carried the Colonel over that area at some time. A total of 120 combat missions were flown by Colonel Strauss in New Guinea, hitting targets at Alexishafen, Madang, Wewak, Hollandia, Babo and -- the list could go on interminably. That "S" on the huge tail of his aircraft loomed up everywhere.

For his brilliant leadership of the famous Hollandia strike of 3 April 1944, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross. But that decoration is really symbolic of his leadership on all of his missions. Hollandia was selected arbitrarily. It might well have been for his destructive attacks on Wewak or Boela or any one of a dozen other places.

When the group moved to the Philippines, Colonel Strauss did little flying. Higher headquarters had demanded he remain on the ground. When the important Clark Field missions were ordered out, however, he personally took command and led the group in two of its greatest strikes in history. So, too, when the paratroops were scheduled to land on Corregidor, he led the formation over that fortress island, coordinating his attack perfectly with the paratroop landing that followed.

This great leader who brought the Roarin' 20's overseas 17 months ago is no longer with us. On 11 March he left for the United States. Before departing he was honored at a Group formation and aerial review when General Crabb awarded him the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air

(1) See History of February for photo of aircraft.

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Medal. (1) It was a memorable occasion. His farewell address was brief:

"I brought the Group overseas and it has been my constant hope for a year and a half that I might be the one to take you back. That is not to be, for I am going home now, but with a sincere feeling that I am also leaving home.

"I shall be ever grateful for the privilege of having been able to live, work, and fight beside you as a member of our Group. Men, there is no limit to my pride and faith in you.

"I will not say goodbye, for until that last plane has landed, my heart will always be with you."

-- Farewell Address of Colonel R. H. STRAUSS

Colonel Strauss is only 33 years of age. He graduated from West Point in the class of 1935. His remarkable overseas record is merely a signpost on the road pointing toward greater achievements to come.

He has been succeeded by Lt. Col. Selmon W. Wells, formerly squadron Commanding Officer of the 389th Bombardment Squadron and more recently the Group Operations officer. No officer in this theatre would be better qualified to step into the shoes of Colonel Strauss. The shoes may be large but it is the popular conviction that Colonel Wells will fill them without alteration. Our new Commanding Officer is a daring pilot and a superior leader of men. He equalled the record of 126 combat missions of Colonel Strauss when he led the group over Formosa on 25 March.

The life in camp continued as usual with native houseboys doing the chores and G.I.'s favoring this arrangement. A few red alerts interrupted the monotony of the cool, quiet evenings, especially when a Nip plane buzzed the camp area unmolsted. The ack-ack boys hung their heads in shame. But the result was nil damage.

The highlight of the month was when M/Sgt. Lee E. Williams and S/Sgt. David C. Jordan went on a bamboo cutting detail and encountered a party of 9 Nips near Manaoag about 10 miles from camp. The enemy were well armed, well clothed and well fed. They were subsequently well liquidated. Our

(1) See Photos, p. 34-37

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two "heroes" rounded up some guerillas, a few Yanks and an amphibious tank. Carbine and M/G bullets sprayed the Nips' hiding place (a large pit) while several hand grenades were accurately tossed into the hole. Sgt. Jordan, lucky devil, saw one of the Japs run out of this hole in an attempt to escape and killed him with a .30 caliber bullet. Shades of the Infantry! This place is getting rough. All 9 Nips were killed without the loss of a single one of our men.

✓ The Air Corps is not content to see action from an aerial viewpoint alone. Hence on 28 March our G.L.O., accompanied by 8 pilots, an Intelligence Officer and 2 enlisted men, made the trek to the fighting front to see the boys in action. A long and perilous trip over the Villa Verde Trail (a mountain goat wouldn't risk it!), and reached Co. G., 128th Infantry, 32nd Division.

Here bitter fighting was (and still is) in progress. The enemy, secure on the higher mountain ranges, are making a determined stand with mortars and artillery to prevent our forces from going through Balete Pass. It was perhaps the most interesting, if not dangerous, point in our front lines on Luzon to visit. From our positions the visiting airmen were able to witness P-38's, P-51's and SBD's dive bombing an adjacent ridge held by the Nips. It was a good show. The show ended on an almost tragic note when 2 SBD's (Marine, not Air Corps) made a wide pattern and came around to strafe us. Foxholes and dug-outs were occupied in record time. We roundly cursed the 2 Marine pilots for their unforgivable error. But when they made a second pass at us, our own pilots were rarin' to take off and give them battle. Two infantrymen were wounded as a consequence of this strafing.

Our pilots learned an important lesson. When rendering close air support never strafe except exactly as briefed. Hitting our own troops not only costs precious lives but can demoralize a unit.

The Roarin' 20's Softball League is still in full swing with the 387th Bomb Sq., 389th Bomb Sq. and 895th Chemical Company teams up there at the top. Next month will tell the story. 500 pesos to the winning team.

With native labor abounding in the area, an officers' club was erected. It is a beautifully constructed bamboo building, the interior being furnished with bamboo chairs and tables. In fact, except for the plywood dance floor and bar, it is strictly a bamboo joint.

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Thus has begun an era of semi-weekly parties with the enlisted men taking over one or two nights a week. These get-togethers have been greatly enriched by the introduction of Manila rum, scotch and gin. Enough said. The parties have brought the new officers of the squadrons closer together in a spirit of comradery. At times the affairs have tended to bring the enlisted men closer together, too -- so close that it sometimes became necessary to separate them.

The movies -- 3 nights a week -- are still the most popular "escape" from reality. It is unfortunate that so many poor films are sent to our theatre. Surely these men, now veterans of 17 months overseas, deserve the best that Hollywood can offer. Let some of our prospective Congressmen back home make "more and better films" a campaign issue, and their election will be assured.

Where the Roarin' 20's will go from here is the chief topic of conversation. No one seems to know. Our next station seems to hinge on the progress of the campaign in northern Luzon. Of only 3 things can we be certain: (1) death, (2) taxes and (3) the "line" at Dagupan.

Selmon W. Wells
 SELMON W. WELLS,
 Lt. Col., AC,
 Commanding.

Nathaniel Rothstein
 NATHANIEL ROTHSTEIN,
 Captain, AC,
 Group Historical Officer.

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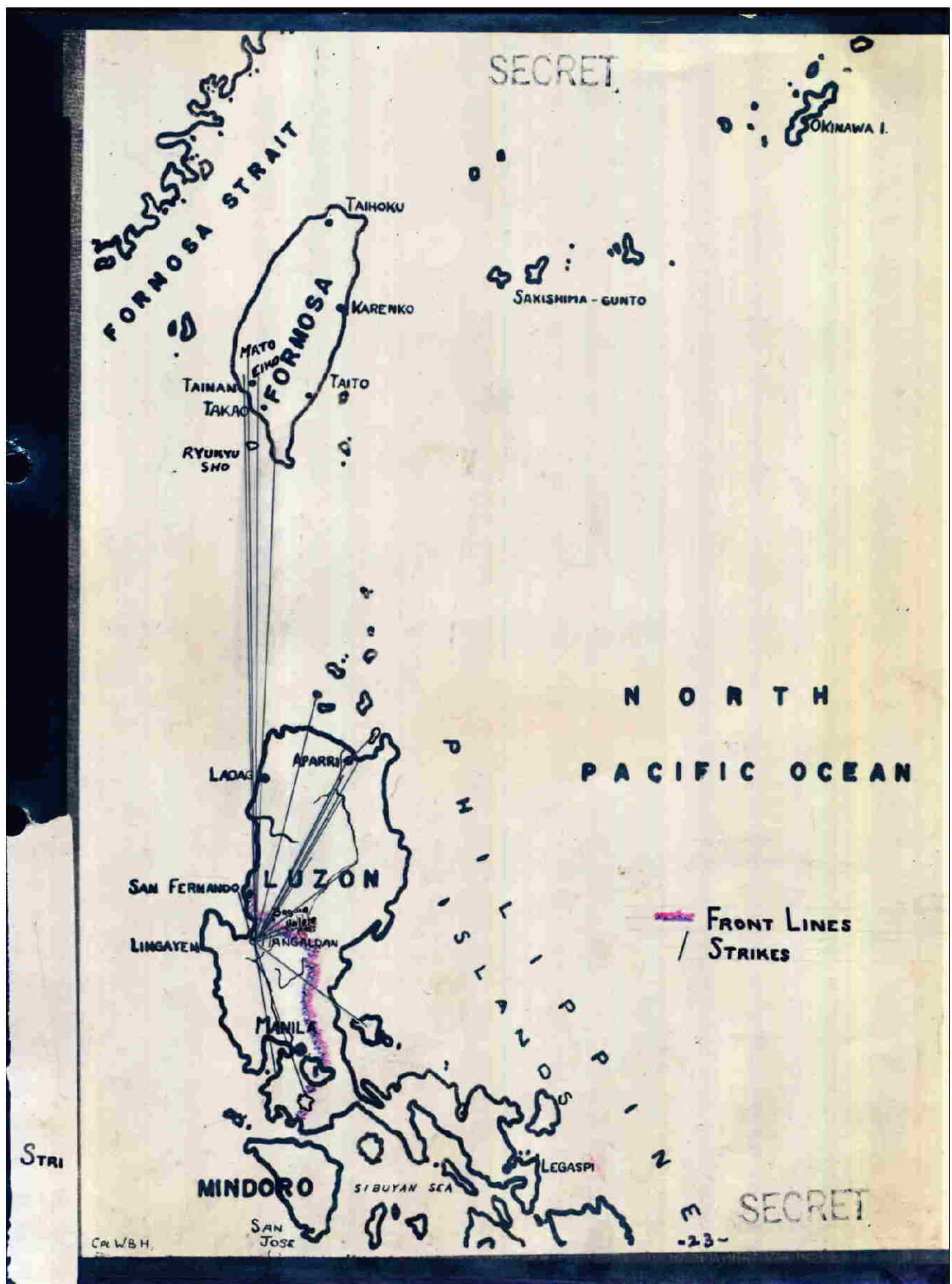
SECTION II

APPENDIX

PART 1 MAP AND PHOTOS
PART 2 MISSIONS FLOWN
PART 3 STATISTICS
PART 4 LETTERS OF COMMENDATION
PART 5 PROMOTIONS
PART 6 TYPICAL MISSION REPORTS
AND SUMMARIES*
PART 7 TYPICAL UNIT PUBLICATIONS*

*Separate enclosures

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(6)-6

5,840 (B) 386P S 312 BG (25 MAR. 1340)

7 MIN. KYOSHITO - 979 RESTR.

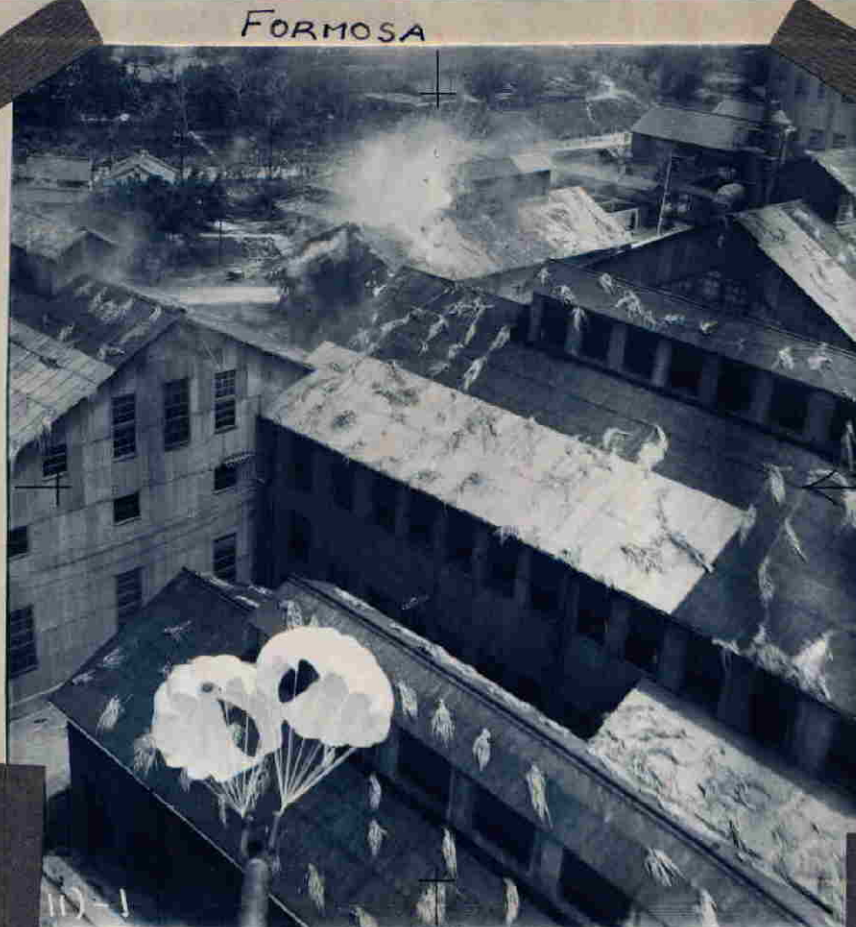


5,840 (B) 386B S 312 BG (25 MAR. 1340) 7 MIN. KYOSHITO - 940 REST

THE 1ST LOW LEVEL ATTACK ON THIS PLANT
AT KYOSHITO

- 24 -

SECRET



5.88-CI-(B)387B.S.312B.G(29MAR1300)7-MIN.
SUGAR PLANT AT EIKO-246 RESTR.

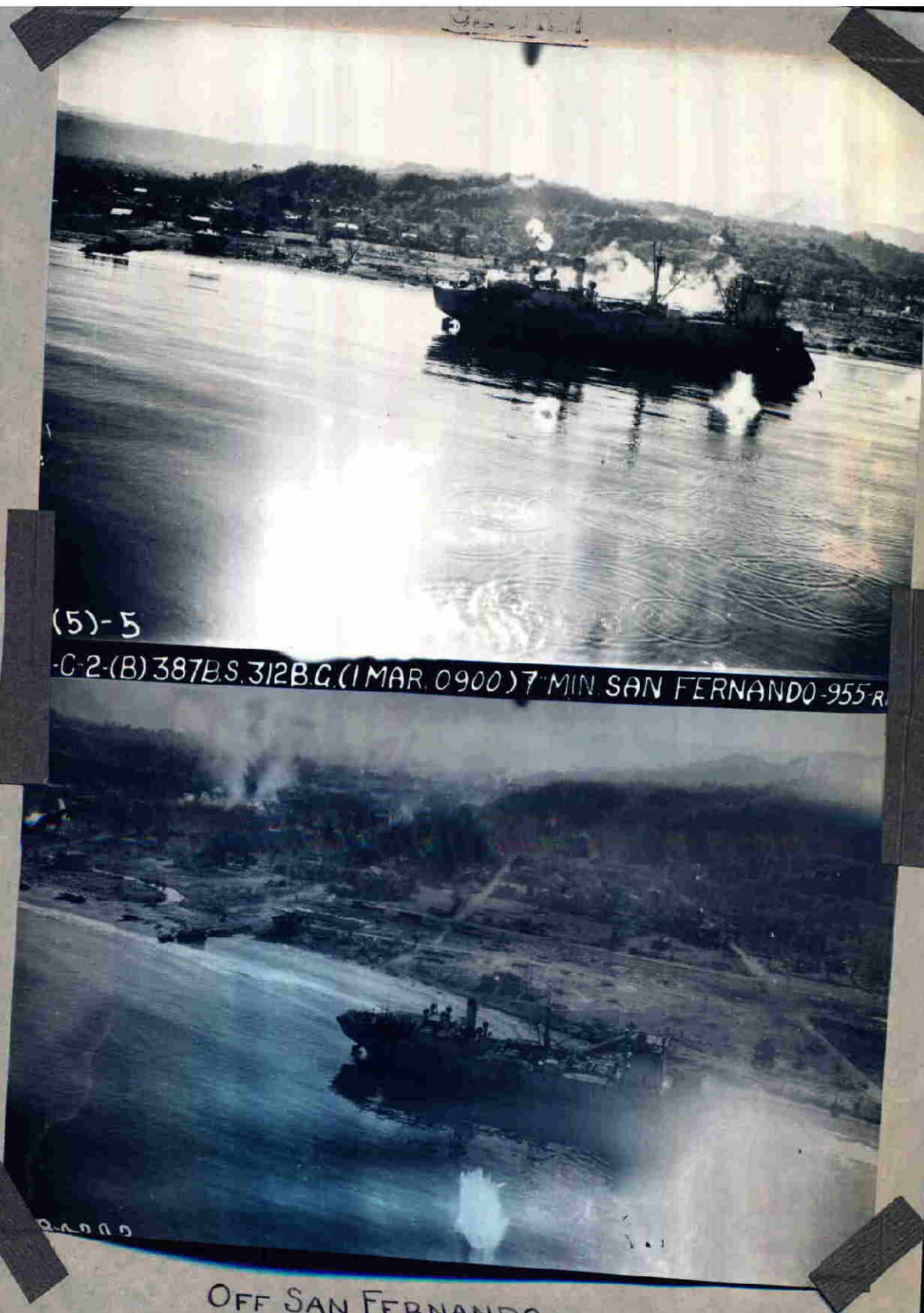


5.88-CI-(B)389B.S.312B.G(29MAR1300)7-MIN.
SUGAR PLANT AT EIKO-956 RESTR.

THE 1ST LOW LEVEL ATTACK ON EIKO

-25-

SECRET



OFF SAN FERNANDO

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(9)-6

66-C-7(B), 387B.S. 312B.G. (7 MAR 1350) 7" MIN. SAN FERNANDO-246 RES



(9)-6

66-C-7(B), 387B.S. 312B.G. (7 MAR 1350) 7" MIN. SAN FERNANDO-246 RES

NOTE AMBANDONED GUN POSITIONS (UPPER FOTO)

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(10)-4

66-C-8(B) 387B.S.312B.G.(7MAR.1645)7"MIN. SAN FERNANDO-955R



(1)-4

7 C-1(B) 386B.S.312B.G.(8MAR.0820)7"MIN. SAN FERNANDO-169

THE RUINS OF SAN FERNANDO. IT WAS
CAPTURED 14 MARCH

SECRET



(7)-1

65-C-3 (B) 389B.S.312B.Q (6 MAR. 1330) 7-MIN. ALAMINOS-956-RESTR



(9)-2

65-C-4 (B) 389B.S.312B.Q (6 MAR. 1600) 7-MIN. PANIMAN - 318 RESTR

BOMBING THE TOWN OF ALAMINOS

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(3)-1

C9 (B) 388B.S. 312B.Q. (12 MAR 0905) 7" MIN. BANGUED 166 REST



(4)-3

C9 (B) 389B.S. 312B.Q. (12 MAR 0905) 7" MIN. BANGUED 318R

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(1) - 4

5,89-G-1(B), 386B.S.312BG(30MAR.0925)7
SOUTH OF BAGUIO-110 RESTR.

EXCELLENT BOMBING PATTERNS MEDIUM ALTITUDE

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"I brought the Group overseas and it has been my constant hope for a year and a half that I might be the one to take you back. That is not to be, for I am going home now, but with a sincere feeling that I am also leaving home.

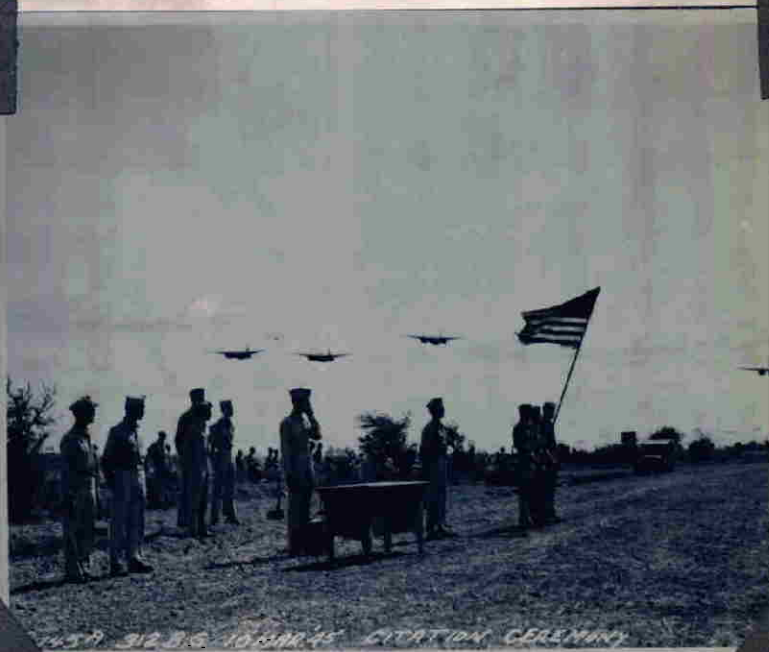
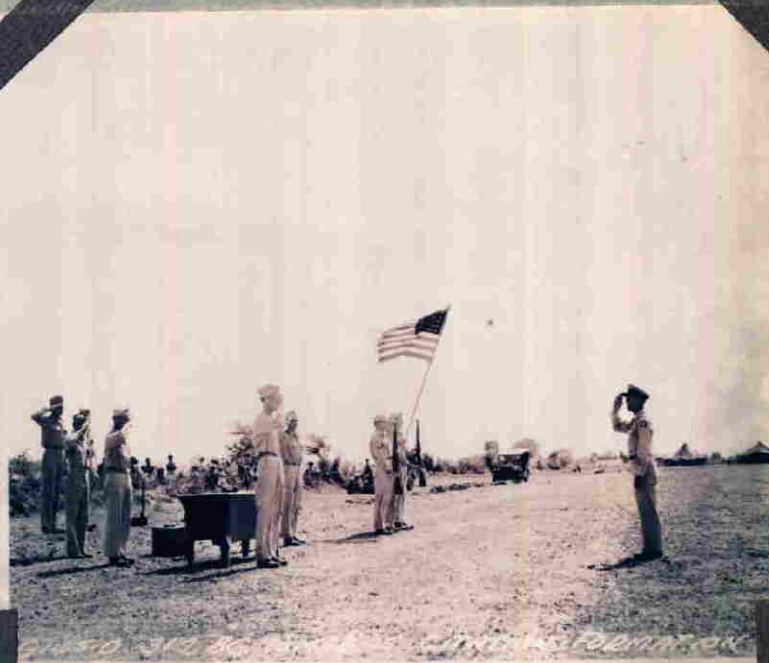
"I shall be ever grateful for the privilege of having been able to live, work, and fight beside you as a member of our Group. Men, there is no limit to my pride and faith in you.

"I will not say goodbye, for until that last plane has landed, my heart will always be with you."

-- Farewell Address of Colonel R. H. STRAUSS.

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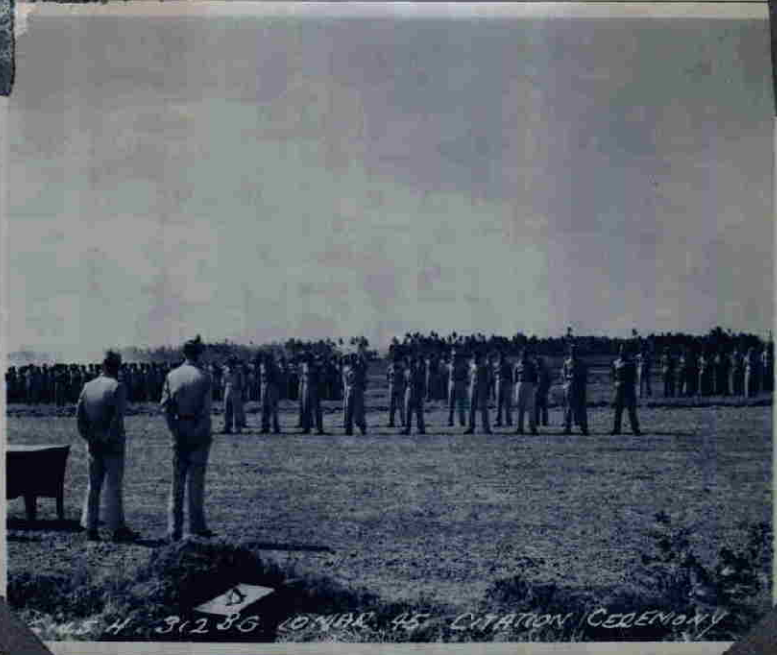
ABOVE: GEN. CRABB PRESENTS ARMS TO COL. STRAUSS
BELOW: COL. STRAUSS DELIVERING HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS

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USN 31286 10MBR 45 CITATION FORMATION



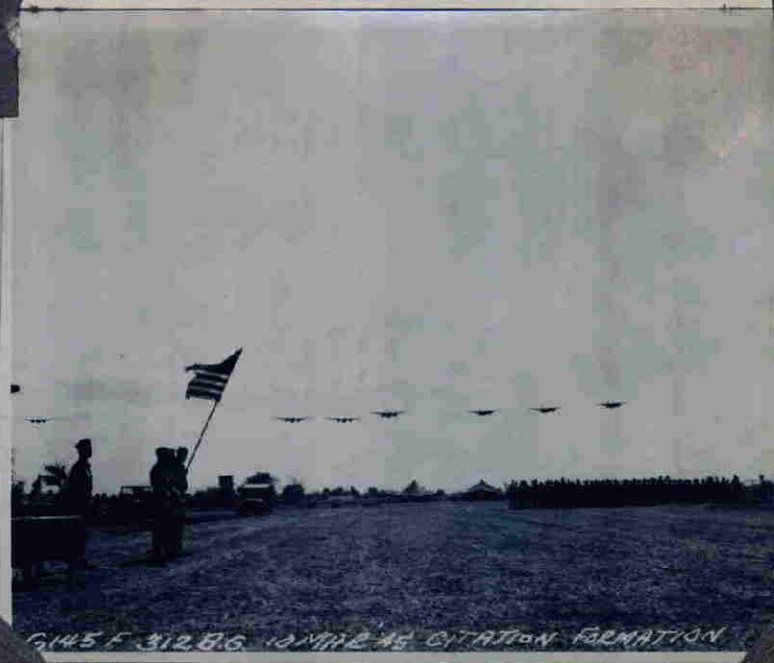
USN 31286 10MBR 45 CITATION CEREMONY

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GIUS E 312 BG 10 MAR 45 CITATION FORMATION



GIUS F 312 BG 10 MAR 45 CITATION FORMATION

AERIAL REVIEW

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G142-1 312 B.G. 10 MAR 45 COL R.H. STRAUSS



G142-10 312 B.G. 10 MAR 45 LT COL SW WELLS

THE OLD AND THE NEW
GENERAL CRABB PRESENTS THE MEDALS TO
COL. R. H. STRAUSS (RETIRING C.O.) & TO
LT. COL. WELLS, HIS SUCCESSOR.

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6142-19 312 B.G. 10 MAR 45 CAPT. J.E. MILLER



6142-15 312 B.G. 10 MAR 45 CAPT. W.P. BARNES

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G142-2 31285. 10 MAR '45 MAT JES. B. BILLYKE



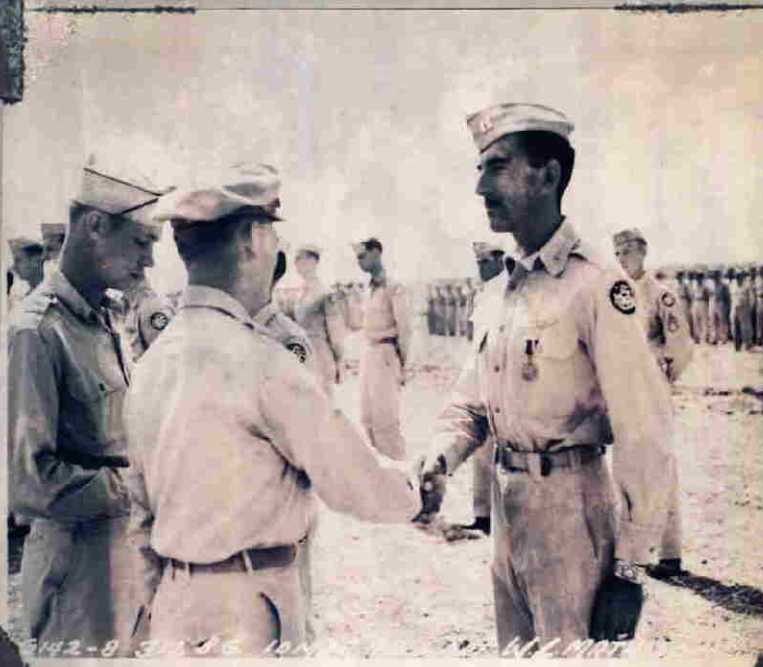
G142-2 31286. 10 MAR '45 MAT R. A. WILSON

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142-16 312 86 10 MAR '45 Capt. J.B. GALLENSTEIN



142-9 311 16 10 MAR '45 Capt. J.B. GALLENSTEIN

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6142-12 312 8.G. 10 MAR. 45 CAPT. E.M. VALENTINE



6142-5 312 8.G. 10 MAR. 45 CAPT. DANIEL J. WHALEN

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6142-13 312 BG. 10 MAR '45 CAPT. E. R. YOUNG



6142-21 312 BG. 10 MAR '45 1ST LT. GORDON W. GARDOL

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GIL2-7 312 B.G. 10 MAR 45 1LT F.T. HART



GIL2-17 312 B.G. 10 MAR 45 1LT G.W. HUEY

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GI42-11 312 P.G. 10 MAR '45 SSGT. W.A. ERNST



GI42-18 312 B.G. 10 MAR '45 SSGT. C.H. FESSLER

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6142-14 312 B.G. 10 MAR '45 S/SGT F.R. KOHLER, JR.



6142-6 312 B.G. 10 MAR '45 PVT. H.D. EYE

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FAREWELL PARTY FOR COL. STRAUSS

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IS EVERYBODY HAPPY?

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CAA-1553 312 BG 10 MAR 45 OFFICERS CLUB PARTY



CAA-155A 312 BG 10 MAR 45 OFFICERS CLUB PARTY

TWO LITTLE FILIPINAS ENTERTAINING.

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UPPER FOTO: GEN. CRABB, OUR HONORED GUEST,
SEATED WITH LT. COL. WELLS,
MAJOR O'CONNELL AND LT. COL. BLACKBURN,
GUERRILLA COMMANDER.

BELOW: ON THE DANCE FLOOR

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G44-1560 31286 31MAR'45 OFFICERS CLUB PARTY



G44-1560 31286 31MAR'45 OFFICERS CLUB PARTY

GEN. CRABB CONGRATULATES "SGT" ALEX
SMALLWOOD AND HIS BOSS, SGT. MUNSTEDT.

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64-1566 31286 31 MAR 45 OFFICERS CLUB PARTY



64-1566 31286 31 MAR 45 OFFICERS CLUB PARTY

A 10 YEAR OLD FILIPINA

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HQ. ENLISTED MEN ROUNDED UP THE
LOCAL BELLES FOR THEIR PARTY

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THE FILIPINAS BROUGHT THEIR
OWN CHAPERONES.

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Part II

MISSIONS FLOWN DURING MARCH 1945

1 March	60-C-1 (B) - 386	M/G and mortars near Ternate
	2 (B) - 387	Trp concentrations, San Fernando
	3 (B) - 388,9	Tangadon
	4 (B) - 389	Tangadon
	5 (B) - 388	Tangadon
	6 (B) - 386	Trp concentrations S. San Fermin
	7 (B) - 387	Trp concentrations, San Jose
2 March	61-C-1 (B) - 387,8,6	Kagi A/D, Formosa (Actually hit Mato A/D)
3 March	62-C-1 (B) - 388,6,9,7	Echague A/D and Town
4 March	63-C-1 (B) - 386	Salamogue
	2,3,4,5,6 (B) - 386,7	San Fernando
	7 (B) - 387	Troops SE of Fugo
	8 (B) - 388	Troops SE of Fugo
	9 (B) - 388,9	Santo Tomas
5 March	64-C-1,2,3,4 (B) - 389	San Fernando
	7,8,9,10 (B) - 388	San Fernando
	5 (B) - 386	San Fernando
	6 (B) - 387	San Fernando
6 March	65-C-1,3 (B) - 389	Alaminos Town
	2 (B) - 389	Cabaong
	4 (B) - 389	Paniman
	5,6,7,8 (B) - 388	San Fernando
	9 - 387	Polillo
	10 (B) - 386	Tangadon
7 March	66-C-1 (B) - 386	So. of Lake Taal
	2 (B) - 386	So. of Cuenca
	3,4 (B) - 386	Lake Taal
	5,6,7,8 - 387	San Fernando
	9 - 388	Solvec Bay
	10 - 389	Lungog to Tangadon
	11 - 389,8	Wawa (Secondary)
8 March	67-C-1,2,3,4 (B) - 386	San Fernando
	5 (B) - 388,9	Lungog to Tangadon
	6 (B) - 387	Lungog to Tangadon (Secondary)
	7 (B) - 387	Lungog to Tangadon (Secondary)
	8 (B) - 387	Solvec Bay area (Primary)

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8 March 67-C-8 (B) Lungog to Tangadon (Secondary)
 9 (B) - 387 Lungog to Tangadon (Secondary)

9 March 68-C-1,2,3,4 (B) - 388 San Fernando
 5,6,7,8 (B) - 389 Lungog to Tangadon
 9 (B) - 386,7 Cauayen
 10 (B) - 387,6 San Fernando

10 March 69-C-1 (B) - 386 San Fernando
 2 (B) - 388 San Fernando
 3 (B) - 387 Lungog to Tangadon (Secondary)

11 March 70-C-1,2 (B) - 388 Bangued (Secondary)
 3,4 (B) - 388 Solvec Bay Area
 5 (B) - 389 Baduto Town
 6,7,8 (B) - 389 San Fernando
 9 (B) - 387,6 Dupax
 10 (B) - 386,7 Indiana

12 March 71-C-1,2,3,4 (B) - 387 Solvec Bay Area
 5,6,7,8 (B) - 386 San Fernando
 9 (B) - 388,9 Bangued
 10 (B) - 389,8 Libag

13 March 72-C-1 - 387 Appari to Palau Is.
 2 - 386,8 Catagman Nuevo
 3,4,5,6 - 389 San Fernando
 7,8,9,10 - 389 Lungog

14 March 73-C-1,2,3,4 (B) - 386 San Fernando
 5,6,7,8 (B) - 387 Solvec Bay area
 9 (B) - 388,9 Dugo
 10 (B) - 388,9 Naguilian

15 March 74-C-1 (B) - 386,7 Baguio
 2 (B) - 387,6 Baguio
 3 (B) - 388,9 Dalupiri Island
 4 (B) - 389,8 Penablanca

16 March 75-C-1 (B) - 386,7,8,9 Baguio
 2 (B) - 386,7,8,9 Baguio

17 March 76-C-1 (B) - 386,7,8,9 Baguio
 2 (B) - 386,7,8,9 Tangadon (Secondary)

18 March 77-C-1 (B) - 386,7,8,9 Incomplete a/c weather (Ipo area)
 3,4,5 - 389 San Fernando

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Part III

STATISTICS

	Pages
a. Summary of Operations.	60
b. Summary of Accidents and Losses.	61-66
c. Status of Aircraft.	67
d. Strength of Command.	67

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Office of Statistical
Control Section, Headquarters
312th Bomb Group.

SECRET

SUBJECT: 312th Bombardment Group (L)
Month of March, 1945

S-E-C-R-E-T

PAGE 1

	386th Bomb Sq	387th Bomb Sq	388th Bomb Sq	389th Bomb Sq	Total
Number of Strikes (March)	62	68	73	71	274
Number of Strikes (February)	30	30	27	27	114
Number of Sorties (March)	330	346	326	337	1339
Number of Sorties (February)	255	251	226	231	963
Number of Ineffective Sorties:					
Plane Destroyed	1	1	3	3	1
Mechanical Failure	3	1	3	1	1
Missed Target	-	-	9	-	9
Spare	-	1	-	-	1
Total Ineffective Sorties	6	2	14	4	26
BOMBS AND AMMUNITION					
Bombs Dropped (by type):					
250xPara Demos	727	779	743	886	3135
23xPara frags	1861	1956	1261	592	5670
500xGeneral Purpose	286	165	152	210	813
500xTrag Clusters	72	142	164	86	464
100xNapalm	311	346	211	318	1186
Number Ineffective Bombs:					
Pilot Errors	135	141	62	15	353
Mechanical Failure	175	61	5	93	334
No Targets	83	2	15	14	114
Rock Malfunction	78	6	1	6	239
Other Causes	6	-	1	11	185
Total Ineffective Bombs	477	210	399	139	1225
Rounds Ammunition Expended	177,522	239,980	185,285	254,045	856,832
Gallons Gasoline Consumed	98,794	114,730	110,290	118,475	442,289
Quarts Oil Consumed	6,460	7,536	5,899	6,186	26,081
Total Combat Mission Time(Mar)	853:10	937:05	665:35	897:40	3553:30
Total Combat Mission Time(Feb)	707:00	775:20	584:10	746:55	2813:25
Number of Planes Lost	3	1	1	-	5
Number of Planes Damaged	7	5	2	-	14
Average Ineffective Planes					
Per Day	2	3.7 (OVER)	2.6	4.03	12.33

-60-

SECRET

	386th Bomb Sq	387th Bomb Sq	388th Bomb Sq	389th Bomb Sq	Total
ed	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	3	1	-	-	3
	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--
D					312.7 tons
					355.50
					506.5
					None
					None

SECRET

19 March	78-C-1,2 (B)	386	San Fernando
	3,4 (B)	387	San Fernando
	5,6 (B)	388	San Fernando
20 March	79-C-1,2 (B)	388	San Fernando
	3,4 (B)	389	San Fernando
	5 (B)	386,7	Kinikao
	6 (B)	386,7	Lal-lo
21 March	80-C-1,2,3,4	386,7,8,9	Dugu area (Secondary)
	5,6,7,8	386,7,8,9	Pattao
22 March	81-C-1 (B)	386,7,8,9	Tangadon (Secondary)
	2 (B)	386,7,8,9	Alcala
23 March	82-C-1 (B)	387,8,9	Dugo
	2 (B)	387,8,9	Balete Pass
	3,4 (B)	387	Balete Pass (1 plane weather recco)
24 March	83-C-1 (B)	386,8,9	Tangadon (Secondary)
	3,4 (B)	389	Balete Pass (Weather recco)
25 March	84-C-1 (B)	386,7	Kyoshito, Formosa (Secondary)
	2 (B)	389	Baguio area
	3 (B)	387,9	Balete Pass (Weather recco)
26 March	85-C-1 (B)	386,7,9	Bacod Area
	2 (B)	386,7,9	Buguey (Secondary)
	3,4 (B)	388	Balete Pass (Weather recco)
	5 (B)	389	Balete Pass (Weather recco)
27 March	86-C-1 (B)	386,7,8,9	Mankayan
	2 (B)	386,7,8,9	Mankayan
	3,4,5	389	Balete Pass (Weather recco)
28 March	87-C-1 (B)	386,7,8	So. of Camp 3
	2 (B)	386,7,8	Ilagan (Secondary)
	3,4,5 (B)	388	Balete Pass (Weather recco)
29 March	88-C-1 (B)	387,8,9	Eiko, Formosa
	2,3,4 (B)	386	Villa Verde Trail (Night harass)
	5,6,7	388	San Fernando
30 March	89-C-1,2 (B)	386,8,9	Baguio
	3,4,5 (B)	387	San Fernando (Night harass)
	6,7,8 (B)	387	Villa Verde Trail
31 March	90-C-1 (B)	387,9,6	Saia tau, Formosa
	2,3,4 (B)	388	Villa Verde Trail
	5,6,7 (B)	388	San Fernando

SECRET

- b -

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENTS AND LOSSES

- 1 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser No. 43-21413
Squadron : 388th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 1 March 1945 - 1405/I
Place : Solvec Bay, Luzon
Nature : Plane hit by A/A
Damage : Complete loss

Crew Data

Pilot : LOPEZ, Eugene M., 2nd Lt.
Gunner : WLAZELEK, Frank J., Sgt.
Injuries : Minor injuries sustained by pilot
and gunner. Crew rescued by PBM.

- 1 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-21429
Squadron : 387th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 2 March 1945 - 1600/I
Place : Mangaldan Strip
Nature : Hydraulic system shot out
Damage : Major damage -- Repaired by Ser. Sq.

Crew Data

Pilot : TEMPLE, James L., 1st Lt.
Gunner : SCHMIDT, Arthur C., Sgt.
Injuries : Nil

- 61 -

- 3 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-21376
Squadron : 387th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 2 March 1945 - 1435/I
Place : 2 miles off coast of Cape Bojeador
Nature : Unable to maintain altitude.
Reason undetermined.
Damage : Complete loss.

Crew Data

Pilot : NOSTRAND, Bruce E., 2nd Lt.
Gunner : THOMPSON, Lyle A., S/Sgt.
Injuries : Crew missing in action.

- 4 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-21427
Squadron : 388th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 2 March 1945 - 1225/I
Place : One mile S. of Kagi, Formosa
Nature : Lost elevator control and
struck tree
Damage : Elevator, Stabilizer and bomb-
bay doors and L. inner wing.

Crew Data

Pilot : VAN HARTESVELDT, Frederick C.,
2nd Lt.
Gunner : VETTER, Charles W., Cpl.
Photo-
grapher : DOLBOW, George H., Pvt.
Injuries : Nil

- 62 -

~~SECRET~~

- 5 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-22171
Squadron : 386th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 7 March 1945 - 1600/I
Place : Between Lipa and Lipa Hill
Nature : Mid-Air collision
Damage : Complete loss

Crew Data

Pilot : LARSON, Dean D., 2nd Lt.
Gunner : JONES, Neal A., Cpl.
Injuries : Pilot and gunner killed in
action.

- 6 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20H, Ser. No. 44-218
Squadron : 386th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 7 March 1945 - 1600/I
Place : Between Lipa and Lipa Hill
Nature : Mid-air collision
Damage : Complete loss

Crew Data

Pilot : MOGG, Willard C., 1st Lt.
Gunner : WALLER, Elmer G., S/Sgt.
Injuries : Pilot and gunner killed in
action.

-63-

~~SECRET~~

- 7 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-22171
Squadron: 389th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 8 March 1945 - 0700/I
Place : Mangaldan Strip
Nature : An SBD from the 24th Marine Air
Group, this station, on take-off
crashed into an A-20G in parking
area.
Damage : Class IV

- 8 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-22149
Squadron: 386th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 16 March 1945 - 1645/I
Place : Mangaldan Strip
Nature : Plane landed with hydraulic
system out. Pilot failed to use
air brakes. Plane crashed into
parked aircraft off end of runway.
Damage : To 43-22149: R and L wings torn off,
nose, windshield, cockpit and canopy
smashed. To 43-22239: Major damage.
To C-47B, 43-16215: Extensive damage
to R side of fuselage and R elevator
change.

Crew Data

Pilot : WEBB, Paul M., 2nd Lt.
Gunner : COBB, Paul G., Cpl.
Injuries: Nil injury to crew.

-64-

~~SECRET~~

- 9 -

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-22175
Squadron : 386th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 16 March 1945 - 1010/I
Place : Mangaldan Strip
Nature : Hit by exhaust stack from
preceding plane.
Damage : Bomb bay doors sprung, props,
hydraulic line cable out.

Crew Data

Pilot : WAETZMAN, Joseph G., 2nd Lt.
Gunner : NEWLIN, Robert G., Sgt.
Injuries : Nil injuries to crew.

-10-

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-21958
Squadron : 386th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 11 March 1945 - 1300/I
Place : Mangaldan Strip
Nature : Pilot error in taxiing too close
to obstructions while parking.
Damage : Leading edge of R wing, repaired.
R wing tip severely damaged.

Crew Data

Pilot : KINSEY, Ernest V., 1st Lt.
Gunner : DOEY, Thomas A., S/Sgt.
Injuries : Nil injuries to crew.

-65-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-11-

Aircraft Data

Model : A-20G, Ser. No. 43-22163
Squadron : 386th Bomb Sq. (L)
Date : 25 March 1945 - 1350/I
Place : 100 yds. offshore, 2 mi. N. of Takao
Nature : Hit by A/A
Damage : Complete loss

Crew Data

Pilot : SCHULTZ, Donald F., 2nd Lt.
Gunner : SANTI, Albert (NMI), Cpl.
Injuries : Pilot and gunner killed in action.

~~SECRET~~

-66-

SECRET

(c. and d.)
STRENGTH OF AIRCRAFT

- a. 1 March 1945 - 48 A-20G's; 5 A-20H's; 1 B-25D; 3 B-25J's;
1 C-47B
- b. Nil losses on ground through enemy action.
- c. 7 planes lost in combat; 3 lost in non-combat accidents
- d. 31 March 1945 - 44 A-20G's; 4 A-20H's; 1 B-25D; 4 B-25J's;
1 C-47B.

STRENGTH OF COMMAND

Headquarters

Sec. 1 CHANGES IN T/O: Nil

Sec. 2 STRENGTH OF COMMAND:

- a. Strength of Command - 1 March 1945
27 Officers 1 W/O 167 EM
- b. Strength of Command - 31 March 1945
25 Officers 0 W/O 171 EM
- c. Net change during month:
-2 Officers -1 W/O 44 EM

Sec. 3 CHANGE OF STATION: Nil

Group

Sec. 1 CHANGE IN T/O: Nil

Sec. 2 STRENGTH OF COMMAND:

- a. Strength of Command: 1 March 1945
201 Officers 7 F/O's 1 W/O 1269 EM
- b. Strength of Command: 31 March 1945
184 Officers 6 F/O's 0 W/O 1235 EM
- c. Net change during month:
-17 Officers -1 F/O -1 W/O -34 EM

Sec. 3 CHANGE OF STATION: Nil

SECRET

Part IV

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, USAFIP, NORTH LUZON.

"RESULT OF BOMBING AND STRAFING 11 MARCH: OVER SOLVEC EXCELLENT.

MORTAR AND MG EMPLACEMENT DIRECTLY HIT".

MARCH 12: "BOMBING AND STRAFING OVER SOLVEC PRODUCED EXCELLENT RESULTS. LINE OF FOXHOLES HIT. ARANIA BURNING UP TO LATE THIS AFTERNOON". (THIS AFTERNOON IS 13 MARCH)

A true copy.

NATHANIEL ROTHSTEIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Group Historical Officer.

-68-

SECRET

SECRET

C. P., 3rd Bn, 121st INFANTRY, P. A.
In the Field

11 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Damage caused by the Air Strikes.

TO : C. O., 121st Infantry, P. A.

1. The C.O., "K" Company reports that after completely occupying all the hills in front of "K" Co. sector, he observed the damaging effects of the air strikes on those hills during the last few days. He observed the littered bodies of Japs and pieces of guns of apparently different calibers blasted to bits. Tunnels and well-built pill boxes were demolished.

2. The air strikes on these hills in no small measure enabled and facilitated the successful reduction of enemy positions on those hills by "K" Co.

For the Commanding Officer

t/ FRANCISCO V. BAUTISTA
s/ FRANCISCO V. BAUTISTA,
1st Lt., Inf., P. A.
S-3.

Copy furnished:

Capt. J. Best, USMC
Capt. W. H. Cohron, USMC

1st Ind.

Hq., 308 Bomb Wing, A-2 Section, APO 70, March 16, 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 312th Bomb Gp, APO 70.

1. For your information.

WILLIAM S. DEAN,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

A true copy.

-69-

NATHANIEL ROTHSTEIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Group Historical Officer

SECRET

SECRET

PRIORITY SECRET

FROM: A-2 308 BOMB WING
 TO: CO 35TH FIGHTER GP ATTN S-2
 CO 49TH FIGHTER GP ATTN S-2
 CO THIRD ACG GP ATTN S-2
 CO MARGROUPS DAGUPAN ATTN S-2
 CO 38TH BOMB GP ATTN S-2
 CO 312TH BOMB GP ATTN S-2
 CO 71ST RECON GP ATTN S-2
 CO 26TH FOTO SQ ATTN S-2
 CO 86TH FIGHTER WING ATTN S-2

R 4154 D

TO: 251047/I

THE FOLLOWING LETTER OF APPRECIATION RECEIVED FROM COLONEL R. W. VOL-
 CKMANN, GENERAL HEADQUARTERS USAFIP NORTH LUZON QUOTE: I WISH TO TAKE
 THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE SPLendid
 SUPPORT AND COOPERATION GIVEN BY YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN IN SUPPORT OF THE
 OPERATIONS OF THIS COMMAND AGAINST THE JAPANESE IN THE SAN FERNANDO LA
 UNION AREA. WITHOUT THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF THE MEN AND PLANES
 UNDER YOUR COMMAND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE OR AT LEAST VERY COSTLY
 TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OUR MISSION OF DRIVING OUT THE ENEMY FROM HIS WELL
 ENTRENCHED POSITION.

A true Copy.

NATHANIEL ROTHSTEIN,
 Captain, AG,
 Group Historical Officer.

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SECRET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 710

AG 201.22

17 March 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : All Fifth Air Force Unit Commanders.

The Commanding General is pleased to announce receipt of the following radio message from Lieutenant General Krueger, Commanding General Sixth Army:

"I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ANNOUNCING TO ALL RANKS OF YOUR COMMAND MY GRATITUDE FOR THEIR FINE COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVE RESULTS OBTAINED IN THE SUPPORT BEING RENDERED BY UNITS OF FIFTH AIR FORCE TO SIXTH ARMY DURING THE VITAL LUZON CAMPAIGN PD IT IS SUPERB AND IS ASSISTING MATERIALLY IN THE TAKING OF OUR OBJECTIVES AND IN HOLDING OUR OWN BATTLE CASUALTIES TO A MINIMUM PD"

O. C. VAN HOESEN
Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General .

A TRUE COPY

NATHANIEL ROTHSTEIN,
Captain, AC,
Group Historical Officer.

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SECRET

SECRET

Part V

PROMOTIONS EM HQ. DETACHMENT

From Sgt to S/Sgt:

James T. Glynn SO 48, Hq., 312th Bomb Gp., 29 Mar. 1945

From Cpl to Sgt:

*Frank D. Berille)
 *James I. McClanahan) SO 35, Hq., 312th Bomb Gp., 1 Mar. 1945

From Pfc to Cpl:

Chester E. Zelinski SO 46, Hq., 312th Bomb Gp., 25 Mar. 1945

From Pvt to Pfc:

Edward J. Erxleben)
 Charles A. Sellon) SO 49, Hq., 312th Bomb Gp., 30 Mar. 1945
 Philip E. Uhrig)

*DS with 5278th Bomber Comm Sq., APO 710.

-72-

SECRET

GP-312-H1
MAR 45

HEADQUARTERS
312th Bombardment Group (L) AAF
APO 74.

Int/NR/ecd

25 April 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History for March 1945.

TO : Historical Officer, Hq., V Bomber Command, APO 710.

1. Find enclosed herewith separate enclosures of Headquarters Detachment History for March 1945 as follows:

- a. Part 6 Typical Mission Reports and Summaries.
- b. Part 7 Typical Unit Publications.

2. These Parts of the history were inadvertently misplaced and not forwarded with the copies of the history.

Nathaniel Rothstein
NATHANIEL ROTHSTEIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Gp. Historical Officer.

6425-1

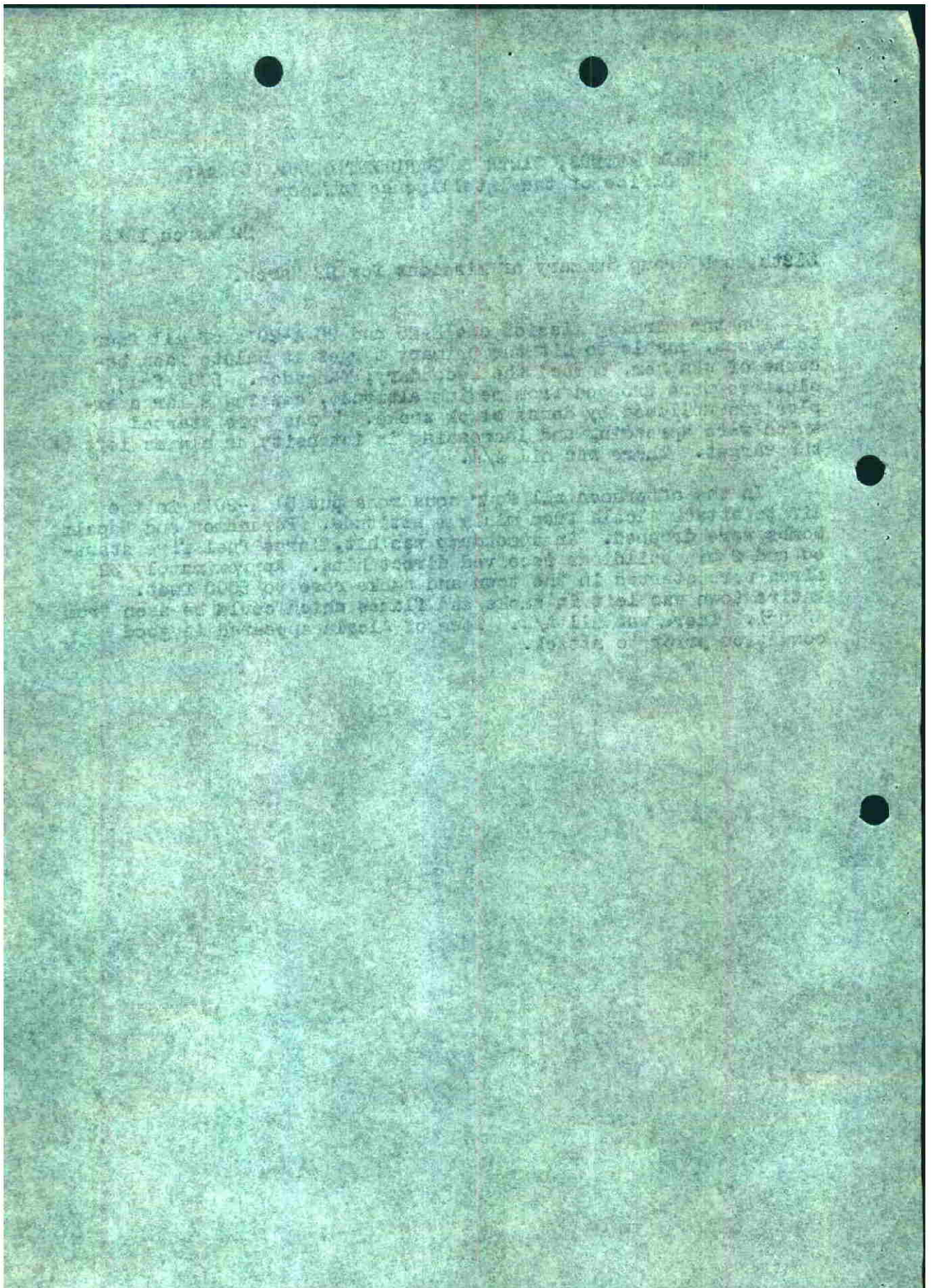
HEADQUARTERS, 312TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

22 March 1945

312th Bomb Group Summary of missions for 22 March.

On the morning mission one B-25 and 28 A-20's of all four Squadrons, unable to hit the primary target at Eglete Pass because of weather, bombed the secondary, Tangadon. 500# frag clusters were dropped from medium altitude, causing 2 large explosions followed by dense black smoke. Fires were started which were spreading and increasing in intensity as planes left the target. There was nil A/A.

In the afternoon all four squadrons put 31 A-20's in the air to attack Alcalá from minimum altitude. Paradenos and Napalm bombs were dropped. An ammo dump was hit, large fuel fire started and 2 big buildings received direct hits. Approximately 32 fires were started in the town and smoke rose to 5000 feet. Entire town was left in smoke and flames which could be seen from Aparri. There was nil A/A. Town of Alcalá appeared in good condition prior to attack.



HEADQUARTERS 312th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

23 March 1945

Summary of Missions for 23 March 1945.

On the morning mission, one B-25 and 22 A-20's of the 387, 388 and 389 Squadrons, bombed enemy troop concentrations at Dugo with 500 lb. frag clusters from medium altitude. Some grass fires were started. Other results unobserved due to cloud cover over target. There was nil A/A.

In the afternoon, one B-25 and 19 A-20's of the 387, 388, and 389 Squadrons hit Baleta Pass with 500 lb. frag clusters from medium altitude. Bombs hit in a pattern beginning at the rest house and extending 1000 yards North along both sides of the highway. Rest house was hit and destroyed. Two vehicles just north of rest house hit. Two fires started on east side of the highway. Foliage and bomb dust prevented further observation of results.

Morning and afternoon weather reconns were flown to Baleta Pass by the 387th.

HEADQUARTERS 312TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

24 March 1945

Summary of Missions for 24 March 1945

One B-25 and 20 A-20's of the 386, 388 and 389 Squadrons hit tertiary target at Tangadon with 500 lb. bombs from 5000 feet altitude. Because of weather neither the primary at Balate Pass nor the secondary, Antamok Mines in the Baguio area, could be reached. At Tangadon a fire was started with smoke to 1500 feet. Other results unobserved due to bomb dust. There was nil A/A or sightings.

Morning and afternoon weather recones to Balate Pass were flown by the 389th Squadron.

HEADQUARTERS 312th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (D) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

25 March 1945

Summary of missions for 25 March 1945

15 A-20's of the 386 and 387 Squadrons attacked targets in Formosa from minimum altitude with parafrags, Napalm bombs and strafing.

Direct hits were scored on the alcohol factory at Kyoshito starting many large fires emitting blue and black smoke. Entire factory area was left engulfed in flames.

A camouflaged power plant in the foothills 3 miles E of Okayama was attacked by the 386th Squadron. Direct bomb hits started large fires.

10 - 12 freight cars on a siding at Kyoshito were damaged. One locomotive N. of Choshu received direct hit by Napalm bombs and was seen to explode. Truck S. of Nanshi definitely destroyed. Several fires started in buildings N. of Nosa.

Moderate, light, medium and heavy, accurate A/A received from vicinity of Okayama.

Moderate, light and medium, accurate A/A from alcohol plant at Kyoshito.

Meager, light and medium A/A from truck convey in vicinity of Riko.

Moderate, light, inaccurate to accurate A/A received from flak tower at Kyoshito.

Moderate, heavy, inaccurate from Okayama A/B.

Light and medium A/A and mortar fire from harbor 4 miles N. of Takao.

One A/C of the 386th Squadron crashed in water N. of Takao. Inflight report from Catalina indicates nil survivors. 3 other A/C of the 386th were holed by A/A. 4 A/C of the 387th were holed by A/A.

6 A-20's and one B-25 of the 386th Squadron hit the Taguio area from medium altitude on a morning mission. Results were generally unobserved. There was nil A/A.

387 and 389 conducted single ship weather recon to Balate Pass.

HEADQUARTERS 312th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

26 March 1945

Summary of Missions for 26 March 1945.

On the morning mission, one B-25 and 27 A-20's of the 386, 387 and 389 Squadrons hit troop concentrations and stores in the Bokod area, dropping 800 pounders from medium altitude. Two large fires started in target area. Other results unobserved. Four vehicles sighted on highway 4 mi. N. of Potapat. Well used trails observed in target area. There was nil A/A.

In the afternoon, 18 A-20's of the 386, 387 and 389 Squadrons, unable to establish radio contact at the primary, Hapid A/D, proceeded to the secondary target at Buguey. Attack was made from minimum altitude with parademos, Napalm bombs and strafing. One large building and 3 smaller buildings destroyed. 2 - 3 large fuel fires started and 12 - 15 other fires left burning throughout the target area. Target appeared in good condition prior to attack. There was nil A/A.

Two single plane weather reccos conducted by 388th Squadron and one by the 389th Squadron.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MEMORANDUM

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)
SUBJECT: [Illegible] (C)
[The following text is mirrored and largely illegible due to the quality of the scan. It appears to be a memorandum detailing an investigation or report.]

HEADQUARTERS 312th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

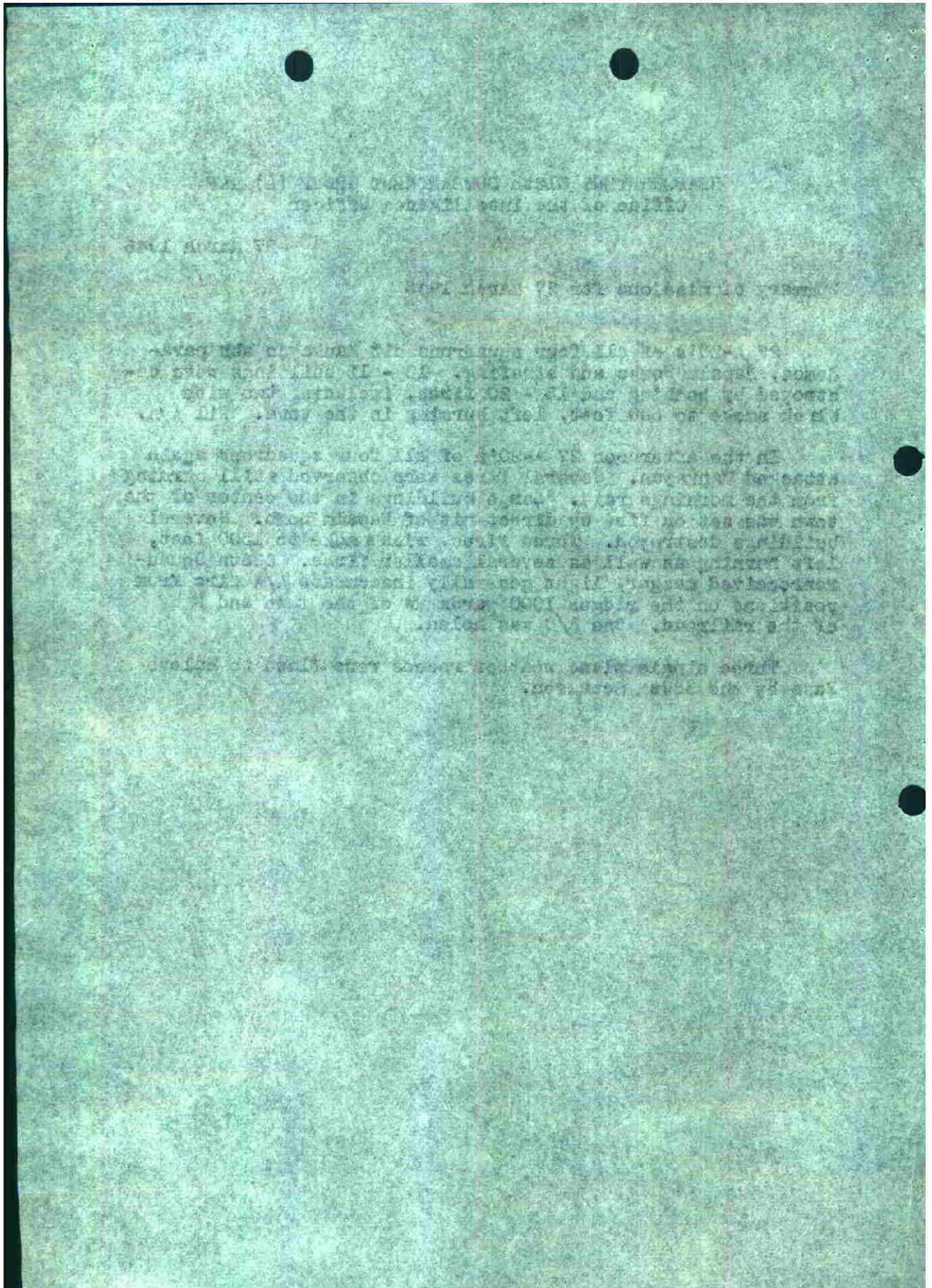
27 March 1945

Summary of missions for 27 March 1945

27 A-20's of all four squadrons hit Mankayan with para-demos, Napalm Bombs and strafing. 10 - 12 buildings were destroyed by bombing and 15 - 20 fires, including two with black smoke to 500 feet, left burning in the town. Nil A/A.

In the afternoon 27 A-20's of all four squadrons again attacked Mankayan. Several fires were observed still burning from the morning's raid. Large building in the center of the town was set on fire by direct hit of Napalm bomb. Several buildings destroyed. Three fires, with smoke to 1500 feet, left burning as well as several smaller fires. 386th Squadron received meager, light generally inaccurate A/A fire from positions on the ridges 1000 yards NW of the town and E of the railroad. One A/C was holed.

Three single plane weather reconns were flown to Balate Pass by the 389th Squadron.



HEADQUARTERS 312TH COMBOMBMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

28 March 1945

Summary of missions for 28 March 1945

One B-25 and 10 A-20's of the 386th, 387th and 388th Squadrons hit troop concentrations S of Camp 5 in the Baguio area from medium altitude 5000' frag clusters were dropped in good pattern with ground radio station reporting all bombs in target area. Moderate, medium and heavy, accurate A/A was received from S and W side of Baguio town, holding 5 A/C. Explosions observed in target area as planes were departing.

One B-25 and 10 A-20's of the 386th, 387th and 388th Squadrons were unable to hit Baguio in the afternoon because of weather. 386th, 387th Squadrons proceeded to the secondary at Ilagan. The 388th Squadron, flying 8 A/C, became separated from the formation and returned with nil attack.

At Ilagan several large fuel fires were started by the 386th and 387th Squadrons with smoke to 2000 feet. Entire W section of town was left ablaze. There was nil A/A.

A landing strip observed just W of Gabagan with one U/I silver-colored plane parked nearby.

HEADQUARTERS 312th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

APG 70,
30 March 1945.

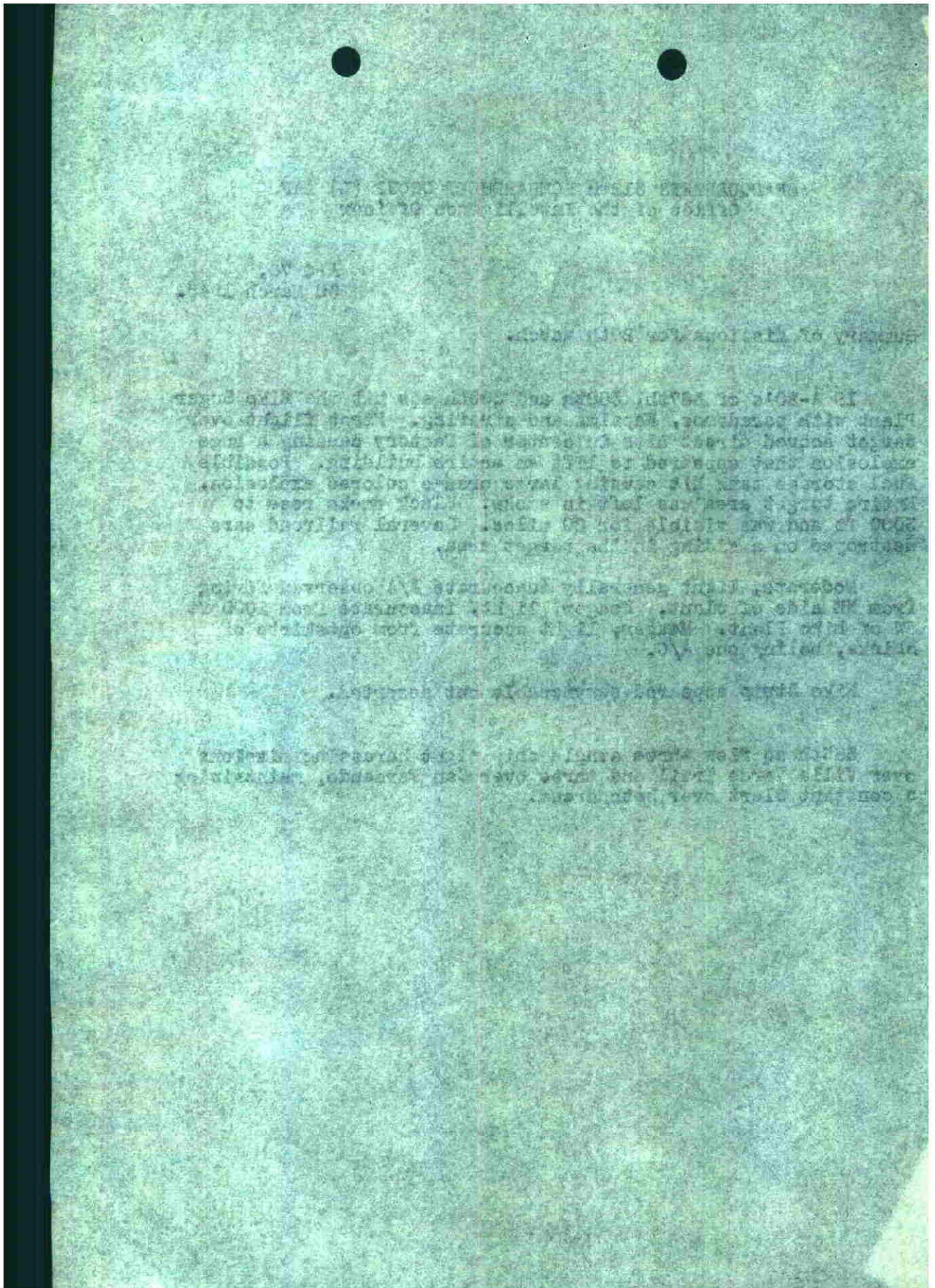
Summary of Missions for 29th March.

18 A-20's of 387th, 388th and 389th sqs hit the Eiko Sugar Plant with parademos, napalms and strafing. First flight over target scored direct hits in center of factory causing a huge explosion that appeared to lift an entire building. Possible fuel storage tank hit causing large orange colored explosion. Entire target area was left in smoke. Black smoke rose to 3000 ft and was visible for 20 miles. Several railroad cars destroyed on a siding in the target area.

Moderate, light generally inaccurate A/A observed firing from NE side of plant. Meager, light, inaccurate from 1000 ft SW of Eiko Plant. Meager, light accurate from outskirts of Shinka, holding one A/C.

Eiko Strip appeared serviceable but deserted.

388th sq flew three single ship night harassing missions over Villa Verde Trail and three over San Fernando, maintaining a constant alert over both areas.



HEADQUARTERS 312TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

APC 70,
30 March 1945.

Summary of Missions for 30 March 1945.

1 B-25 and 27 A-20's of 386th, 388th, and 389th sqs hit troops and supplies in the Baguio area from medium altitude. All bombs in target area causing one large explosion followed by black smoke to 5600 feet. Other results unobserved. Nil A/A.

In the afternoon 1 B-25 and 26 A-20's of the 386th, 388th, and 389th sqs again hit troops and supplies in the Baguio area, dropping 500 pounders from medium altitude. Results were obscured by cloud cover. Nil A/A. P-38 was seen to crash off Aringay Point.

The 387th sq flew 3 single-plane night harassing missions to San Fernando area and 3 to Villa Verde Area.

HEADQUARTERS 312th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer

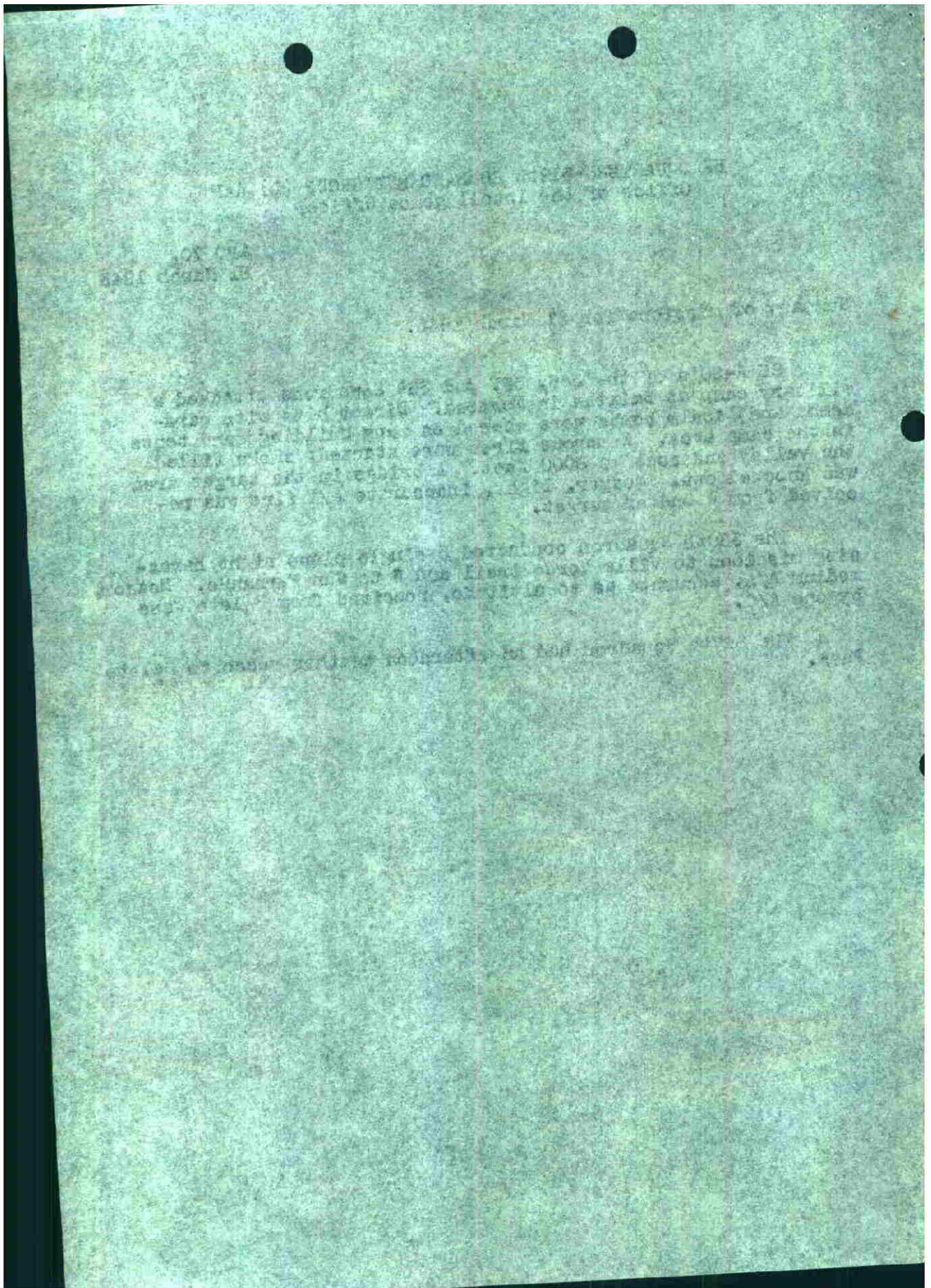
AFPO 70,
31 March 1945

Summary of missions for 31 March 1945.

28 A-20's of the 386, 387 and 388 Squadrons attacked a military camp at Saiatan in Formosa. Direct hits with para-demos and Napalm bombs were scored on many buildings and tents in the camp area. Numerous fires were started; smoke filled the valley and rose to 3000 feet. A bridge in the target area was knocked out. Meager, light, inaccurate A/A fire was received from W and of target.

The 388th Squadron conducted 3 single plane night harassing missions to Villa Verde trail and S to San Fernando. Meager, medium A/A, accurate as to altitude, received from Balete Pass by one A/C.

The 387th Squadron had an afternoon weather recon to Balete Pass.



OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMBOMCOM FIVE

FROM: S-2, 312th Bomb Gp.

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT 72G-3,4,5 & 6 (B)

- A. 312
- B. 389
- C. 12
- D. 12
- E. 12
- F. 0945-1125, 1200-1330, 1430-1545, 1600-1645. Minimum altitude.
- G. 48 x 250# parademons dropped, 24 x 100# Napalm bombs dropped.
22,500 x 50 cal. ammo expended.
- H. Ground support - San Fernando Area.
- I. thru R. Nil.
- S. 4 black smoke and three grass fires started. Ground radio reported excellent coverage of target areas.
- T. Occupied trenches could be seen in target area.

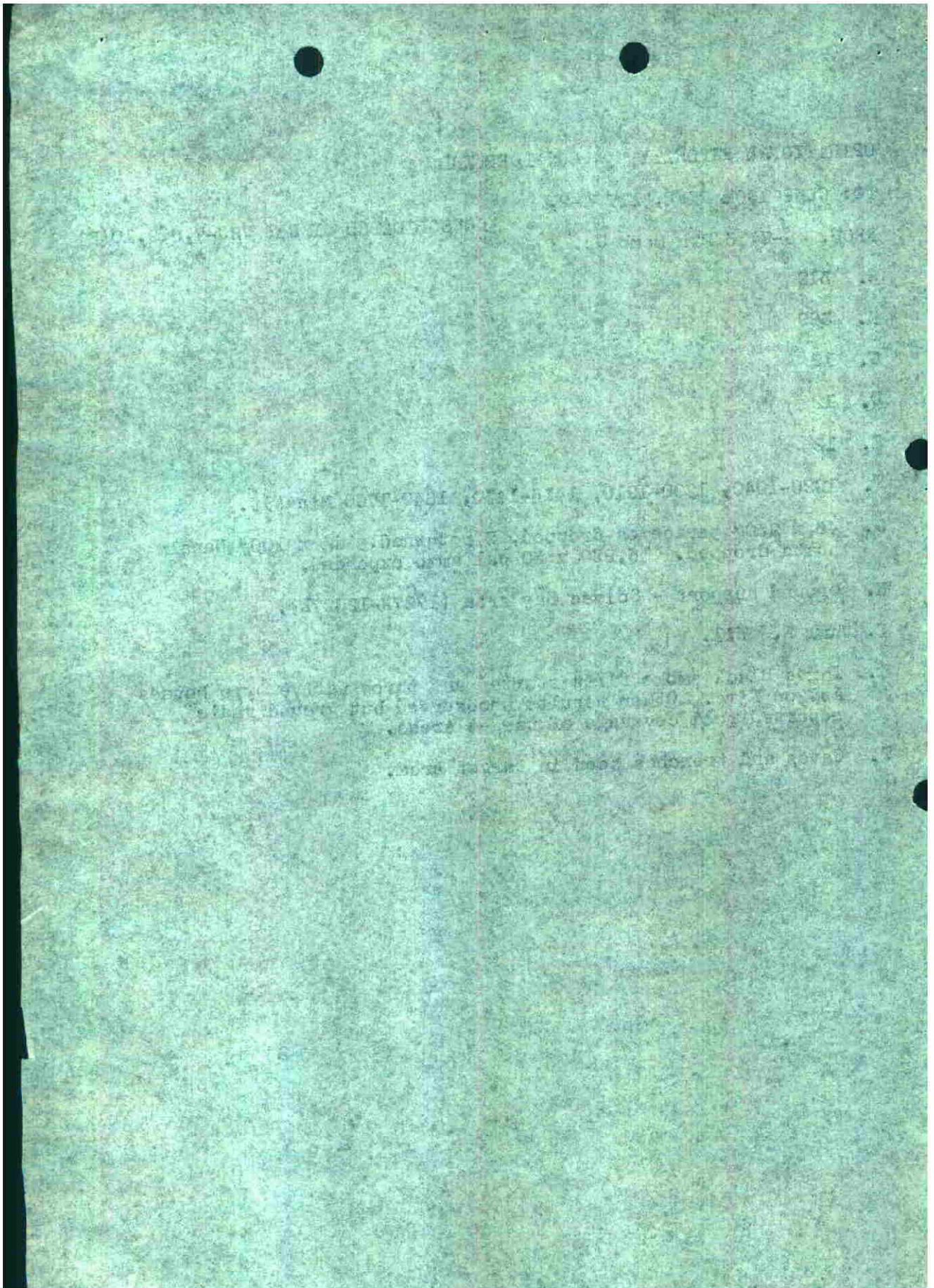
OPERATIONAL PRIORITY * CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMBOMCOM FIVE, ATT A-2,

FROM: S-2, 312th Bomb Gp.

CONSOLIDATED MISREP 72C-7,8,9,10(B)

- A. 312
- B. 389
- C. 12
- D. 12
- E. 12
- F. 1020-1040, 1200-1210, 1415-1430, 1640-1700 Min Alt.
- G. 46 x 250# parademos dropped, 2 returned. 24 x 100# Napalm bombs dropped. 16,980 x 50 cal ammo expended.
- H. Ground support - Solvec Bay area (1727N-12027E).
- I. thru R. Nil.
- S. Three black smoke fires started and three native type houses set on fire. Other results unobserved but ground radio reported good coverage of target areas.
- T. Caves and trenches seen in target area.



OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMMAJFMS GENERAL, V BOMBER COMMAND,
Attention: A-2.

FR: A-2, 312th Bomb Group (L).

MISSION NO. 73-C-1, E, 3, 4 (B)

A. 312

B. 336

C. 12

D. 12

E. 12

F. 0930-1030, 1120-1215, 1336-1445, 1520-1655, n'n, alt.

G. 48 x 250# parademos dropped, 24 x 100# Napalm bombs dropped,
15,500 x .50 cal. Ammunition expended.

H. Ground support - San Fernando Area.

I and J. Nil

K. Weather, light, inaccurate from 082105 (Ref 1:50,000 - 3130 I)

L thru R. Nil

S. Direct hits with Napalm bombs on pill box and gun positions,
Large fires left burning with several heavy explosions, prob-
ably ammunition dumps.

T. No sign of enemy activity.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, V BOMBER COMMAND,
Attention: A-2

FR: S-2, 312th Bomb Group (L).

MISSION NO. 73-C-5, 6, 7, 8 (B).

A. 312.

B. 387.

C. 12.

D. 12

E. 12

F. 1000-1015, 1205-1210, 1345-1400, 1555-1615, min. alt.

G. 44 x 250% parademes dropped, 4 returned. 19,680 x .50 cal. ammo.

H. Ground support - Solvec Bay area.

I and J. Nil.

K. Moderate, light, inaccurate from 210131 (ref 1:50,000 - 3263 III)

L thru R. Nil.

S. Results generally unobserved but ground forces radio report excellent coverage of ~~the~~ targets.

T. Many dugouts and fox holes and signs of recent activity in target area.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, V BOMBER COMMAND,
attention: A-2,

FR: S-2, 312th Bombardment Group (L) ANF.

Mission Number: 73-C-9(B)

- A. 312
- B. 388, 389.
- C. 13.
- D. 12.
- E. 15.
- F. 0940 - 1000, minimum altitude.
- G. 92 x 100# phosphorus bombs dropped. 27 x 100# Napalm bombs dropped, one returned. 1 x 100 x .50 cal. ammunition expended.
- H. Dugo Town. (1816 N - 12141 E)
- I thru H. Nil.
- S. Six large fires started with smoke to 300 feet. One "H" shaped building near the ammunition depot was burning fiercely. One large building on northern edge of town was destroyed.
- T. Nil.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, V BOMBER COMMAND,
Attention: A-2.

FR: S-2, 312th Bomb Group (L)

MISSION NO. 73-C-10(B).

- A. 312.
- B. 338, 369
- C. 12
- D. 12
- E. 12.
- F. 1520 - 1540, minimum altitude.
- G. 48 x 250# parademos dropped. 24 x 100# Napalm bombs dropped.
8950 x .50 cal. ammunition expended.
- H. Naguilian (1702N - 12150E)
- I thru R. Nil.
- S. Entire town left in flames with black smoke rising to 5,000 feet.
- T. Heavy track activity on west bank of Cagayan R. opposite Naguilian.

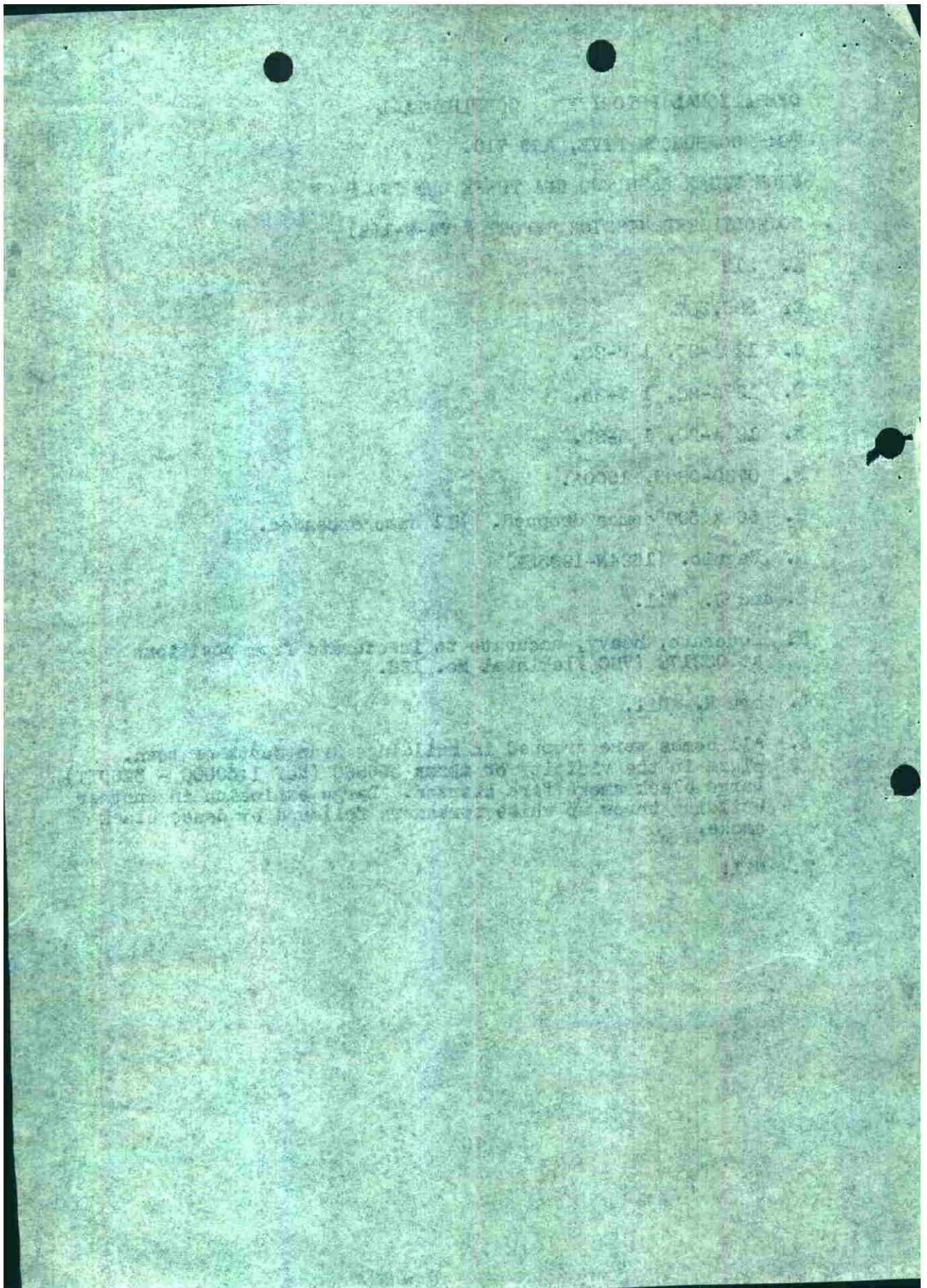
OPERATIONAL PRIORITY CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMBOMCOM FIVE, APO 710.

FROM SUGAR DASH TWO CMA THREE ONE TWO B GF

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT # 74-C-1(B)

- A. 312
- B. 396,387
- C. 12 A-20, 1 B-25.
- D. 12 A-20, 1 B-25.
- E. 12 A-20, 1 B-25.
- F. 0730-0800, 1000Z
- G. 56 x 500 demos dropped. Nil ammo expended.
- H. Baguio. (1624N-12035E)
- I. and J. Nil.
- K. Moderate, heavy, accurate to inaccurate from positions at 032172 (VBC Flakintel No. 128.
- L. thru R. Nil.
- S. All bombs were dropped in buildings area north of town. plaza in the vicinity of ~~thru~~ 356860 (Ref 1:50000 - 326011) Large black smoke fire started. Large explosion in another building threw up white streamers followed by dense black smoke.
- T. Nil.



OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

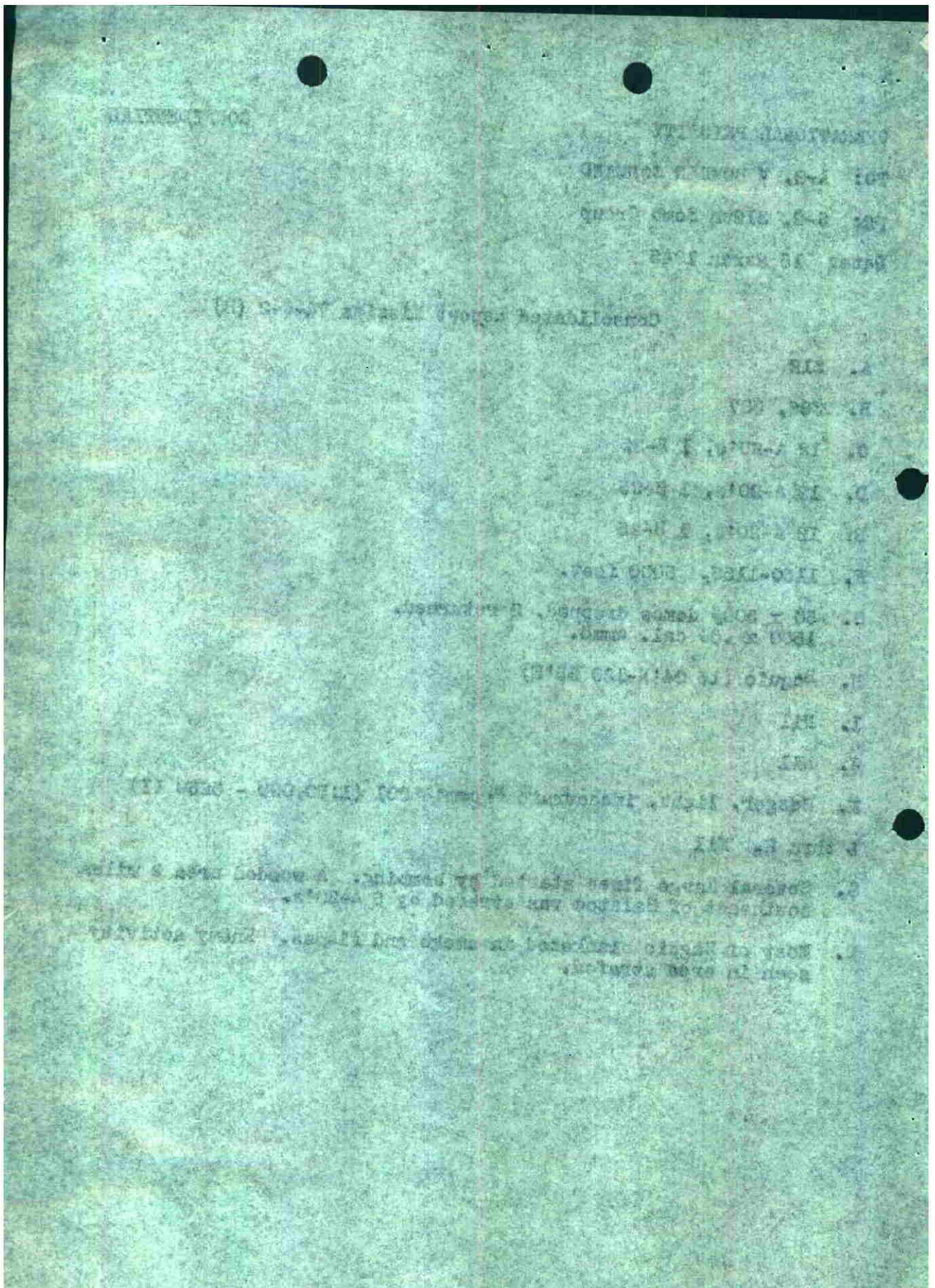
TO: A-2, V BOMBER COMMAND

FR: S-2, 312th Bomb Group

Date: 15 March 1945

Consolidated Report Mission 74-0-2 (B)

- A. 312
- B. 386, 387
- C. 12 A-20's, 1 B-25
- D. 12 A-20's, 1 B-25
- E. 12 A-20's, 1 B-25
- F. 1150-1155, 6000 feet.
- G. 50 x 500# bombs dropped, 2 returned.
1500 x .50 cal. amm.
- H. Baguio (16 24'N-120 55'E)
- I. Nil
- J. Nil
- K. Meager, light, inaccurate from 435001 (1:50,000 - 3260 II)
- L thru R. Nil
- S. Several large fires started by bombing. A wooded area 2 miles southeast of Balatoc was strafed by 6 A-20's.
- T. Most of Baguio blanketed in smoke and flames. Enemy activity seen in area strafed.



OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMBOMCOM FIVE, APO 710

FROM: SUGAR DASH TWO CMA THREE ONE TWO B GF

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT # 74-C-2 (B)

A. 312

B. 388, 389.

C. 12

D. 12

E. 12

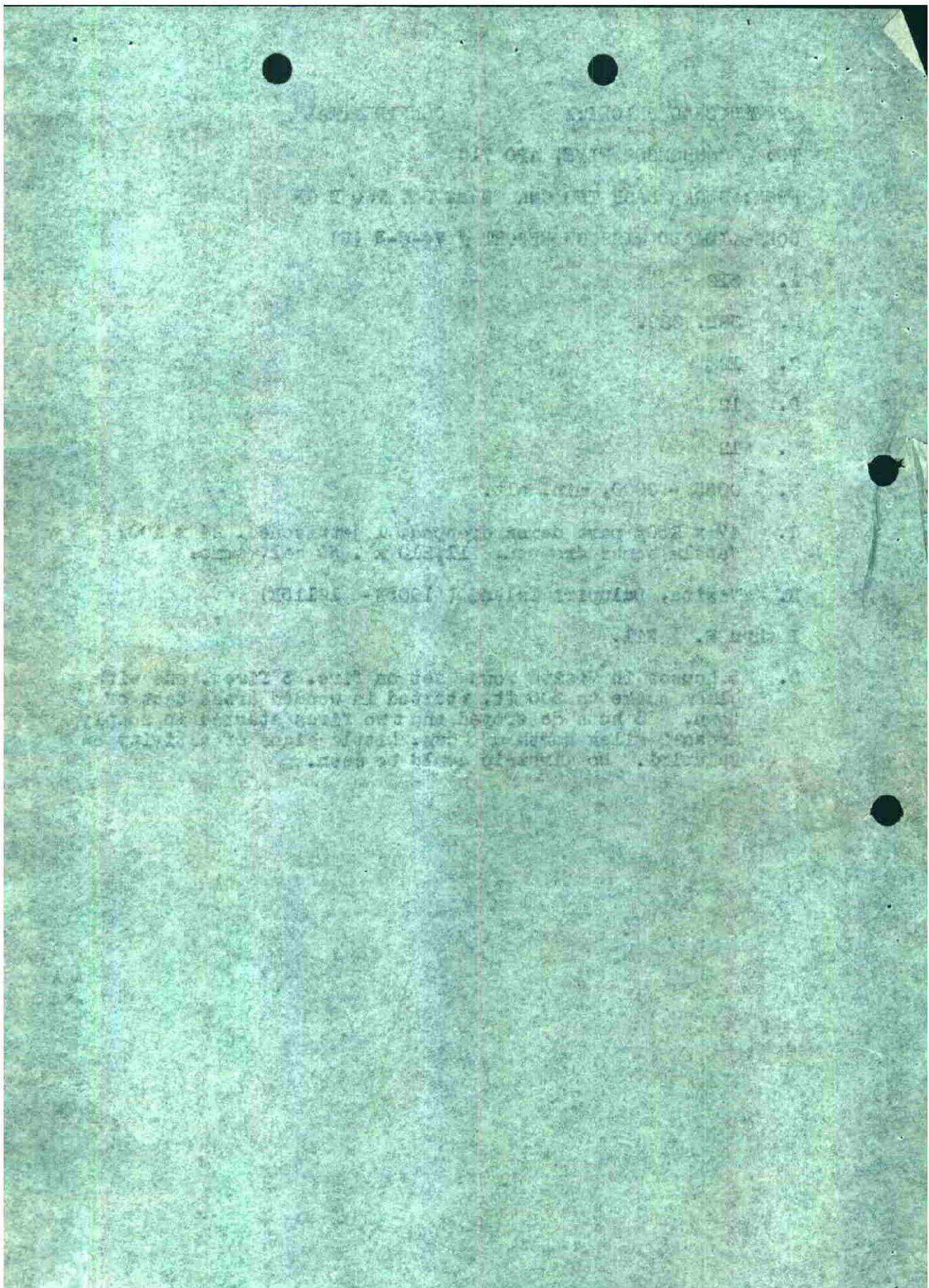
F. 0855 - 0900, min. alt.

G. 47 x 250# para demon dropped, 1 jettisoned. 24 x 100#
Napalm bombs dropped. 12,210 x .50 cal. ammo.

H. Visita, Dalupiri Island (1905N- 12115E)

I thru R. Nil.

S. 5 houses in Visita Town set on fire. 3 fires, one with
black smoke to 300 ft, started in wooded areas East of
town. 3 huts destroyed and two fires started in supply
areas 2 miles North of town. Little signs of activity on
Dalupiri. No airstrip could be seen.



OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

To: A-2, V Bomber Command

Fr: S-2, 312th Bomb Group

Date: 15 March 1945

Consolidated Report Mission 74-C-4 (B)

- A. 312
- B. 388, 389
- C. 12
- D. 12
- E. 12
- F. 1400-1410 Min Alt.
- G. 45 x 250# parademos dropped, 5 returned. 23 x 100# Napalm bombs dropped, 1 returned. 9,580 x .50 cal ammo.
- H. Penablanca (1738N-12147E)
- I. Nil
- J. Nil
- K. Meager, light, inaccurate from 500 yds north of highway at Penablanca
- L. thru R. Nil
- S. Three large oil fires started and entire town covered with smoke to 1500 feet. Direct hits scored on several buildings.
- T. Numerous grass fires throughout Cagayan Valley.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMECONCOM FIVE.

FROM: SUGAR DASH TWO QMA THREE ONE TWO BOMB GROUP.

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT MISSION # 750-2(B).

A. 512

B. 336, 337, 338, 339

C. 25 A-20's, 1 B-25.

D. 25 A-20's, 1 B-25.

E. 25 A-20's, 1 B-25.

F. 1405-1420, 11,000 feet.

G. 104 x 250# bombs dropped. Nil ammo expended.

H. Baguio.

I., J., & K - Nil.

L. One aircraft crash landed due to hydraulic system failure.

M. thru R. - Nil.

S. Three fires started, other results unobserved because of cloud coverage over target.

T. Nine fires observed still burning in town from previous strike.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY CONFIDENTIAL

TO: COMBOMCOM FIVE

FROM: SUGAR DASH TWO, THREE ONE TWO BOMB GROUP.

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT 76-C-1 (B)

- A. 312
- B. 386,387,388,389.
- C. 33 A-20's, 1 B-25.
- D. 33 A-20's, 1 B-25.
- E. 33 A-20's, 1 B-25.
- F. 0745-0757, 10000 feet.
- G. 132 x 250# ~~Exendemos~~ dropped, 4 returned. Nil ammo expended.
- H. Baguio.
- I, J, and K. - Nil.
- L. One plane holed, cause undetermined.
- M. thru R. Nil.
- S. All bombs in wooded area southeast of swimming pool causing several large explosions and three large fires.
- T. One large fire apparently still burning from yesterday's mission.

SECRET

SECTION III

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