

S E C R E T

Ltr: 372nd Bomb Sq (H), APO #324, sub: Historical Record, dtd 1 June 1944

A total of four hundred nine thousand three hundred pounds of ~~demolition and fragmentation bombs were carried over enemy targets during~~ the month. Out of this total, three hundred forty eight thousand pounds fell on assigned targets. Included in this latter total are thirty nine thousand pounds of bombs which are believed to have landed in the target area. These totals cannot be determined accurately as human error, faulty observation, etc, prohibit to the pound calculation. Bomb Plot charts and maps of targets bombed are made a part of this report and enclosed as Incl # 1.

h. Captain JOHN R PENINGTON, 025154, commanded the organization until 13 May. At that time, Captain FRANK H CALDWELL, 0663845, took command of the Squadron. Previous to that time, Captain Caldwell had occupied the position of Squadron Operations Officer. Captain Penington was reassigned to Hq, 307th Bombardment Group, Los Negros, Admiralty Islands, and detailed as Group Operations Officer.

i. Four Officers and seven enlisted men were killed in action on 27 May. Taking off from Mokerang Airfield, Los Negros, Admiralty Islands. The B-24J in which they were riding crashed into the water and exploded. There were no survivors. Second Lieutenants CHARLES R SHAFFER, 0693415, PAUL D BURSON, 0760990, ROLAND E RISING, 0699246, PAUL D FLANAGAN, 0702030, Staff Sergeants JOSEPH KRYAK, 32607516, JAMES E BAILEY, 36578708, Sergeants STANLEY BAGDON, 35514719, ROBERT L BOLTON, 18225966, STAFFORD F NARVAEZ, 19088550, OTTO M SMITH, 18232151, RICHARD R ROBERTS, 19117027, were the crew members killed.

j. Individual commendations from Lt Col ROBERT F BURNHAM, Commanding Officer of the 307th Bombardment Group (H), were received by members of the Squadron who comprised the advance echelon on the move from New Georgia to the present base. A copy of this commendation is enclosed as Incl # 2.. No awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medals, etc, were made during the month. Group Headquarters has adopted the policy of having Group presentations at regular intervals. Several men have qualified for these awards but to date have not received them.

k. None

Frank H Caldwell

FRANK H CALDWELL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Bomb Plot Charts and Maps
Incl 2 - Commendation by Lt Col Burnham

SECRET: Auth, 13th AF Reg 80-7