

SUMMARIES OF EVENTS

90TH SQUADRON

90th Bombardment Squadron (L)
3rd Bombardment Group (L)
APO 328

RRS/wcb

AG 314.7

31 March 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 90th Bombardment Squadron (L)

TO: Historical Officer, Yokota AAB, 3rd Bomb Gp (L)

1. In compliance with 314th Composite Wing Regulation 45-1, dated 2 December 1946, and 45-1A, date 13 January 1947, the following summary of events for the 90th Bombardment Squadron (L) is submitted for the month of March 1947.

2. Personnel

a. During the month of March key personnel were:

Major Lewis B. Weigold	Commanding
1st Lt Frank W. Hayslip	Adjutant
Capt Donald D. Doyle	Operations Officer
Capt James W. Nesbitt	Engineering Officer
Capt Jack P. Smith	Supply Officer
1st Lt James A. Lovat	Armament Officer
1st Lt Viking H. Lian	Communications
1st Lt Milford G. Dunlop	Personal Equipment
F/Sgt William D. Scruggs	First Sergeant

b. No changes in key personnel occurred during the month; however, there was a large turnover in enlisted personnel. Engineering profited by the shift while Armament hit a new low.

c. Numerically Engineering had strengthened; operationally it also had vivified. Losses for the month in the section were five (5) men, all MOS 747, all semi-skilled airplane mechanics. Gained were eleven (11) men, six (6) of which were MOS 750, the six (6) including three (3) master sergeants, two (2) technical sergeants, and one (1) staff sergeant. The remainder of the men assigned were Privates and Pfc's, all MOS 521, but some were graduates of the local aircraft mechanics school and promised to develop fairly rapidly.

Continued: Monthly Summary of Events, 90th Bomb Sqdn

d. Armament lost two (2) more skilled armorergunners during the month, bringing the section's strength down to eight (8) enlisted men assigned, one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of T/O strength. Of these eight (8) men but four (4) were qualified, skilled 612's, and the burden of the entire unit's flying, gunnery, loading bombs, loading ammunition, maintaining guns and turrets was shouldered by them. Atlas held up a BB by comparison. Of the other four (4) men assigned, one (1) was not on flying status, three (3) were attending school.

e. Also lost during the month were three (3) men from transportation and, low blow, a clerk-typist. Two (2) 521's also left.

f. Other personnel gains for the squadron at large for the month were two officers, 1st Lt Francis P. Fitzgerald (1062) and 2nd Lt Joseph Horne (1035); a long-awaited, welcome assignment, a First Sergeant; and two (2) additional 521's, both put to work understudying as clerks in operations and in engineering, though neither were trained or had experience. Moving in behind the long-vacant First Sergeant's desk was F/Sgt William D. Scruggs; by month's end the unit was already showing marked signs of improvement with an experienced, capable pair of hands on the enlisted reins.

g. Personnel prospects for the future were not too appalling, considering what had taken place in previous months: Very few big losses were expected from the ranks immediately; however, April would bid goodbye to three (3) officers, all Category II, which would drop officer strength to ten (10) below T/O allotment and leave some important jobs to be refilled. It would also leave the squadron with but one (1) bombardier-navigator assigned. However, it seemed reasonable to expect officer replacements, and these undoubtedly would be Category I or Regular Army personnel who could be counted to learn a job and hold it over a long period of time. Enlisted personnel attrition was expected to settle into a slower, more predictable process, with losses by redeployment averaging five (5) men per month during the following five (5) months. Judged by the trend in type and calibre of replacements recently received, these losses would be more than compensated, provided a number of armorergunners (612) and clerk-typists (405 & 502) were received.

h. The approach of the vernal equinox saw, of eleven (11) clerks authorized, but three (3) assigned. Vacancies existed in the orderly room, operations, supply

Continued: Monthly Summary of Events, 90th Bomb Sqdn

and engineering; in these sections correspondence, reports and records were kept current only through a few officers' limbering up stiff fingers over a typewriter keyboard and doubling as clerks, working nights and time normally considered off-duty in order to get the work out and still meet their already crammed schedules. Though realizing the need and cheerfully cooperating, these officers could not be expected to maintain the pace indefinitely.

1. At the end of the month the box score, as compared with the previous month, read:

<u>28 February</u>	<u>31 March</u>
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Officers</u>
1 Major	1 Major
3 Captain	3 Captain
14 1st Lt	16 1st Lt
6 2nd Lt	6 2nd Lt
<u>24 Total</u>	<u>26 Total</u>
<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
3 M/Sgt	6 M/Sgt
3 T/Sgt	5 T/Sgt
9 S/Sgt	9 S/Sgt
3 Sgt	2 Sgt
16 Cpl	18 Cpl
39 Pfc	34 Pfc
10 Pvt	11 Pvt
<u>83 Total</u>	<u>85 Total</u>

3. Training and Activities

a. 1 March being Saturday, the month began with the usual Saturday morning area police, standby inspection, VD lecture, and, more out-of-the-ordinary, the Squadron heard Major Weigold discuss the reorganization of Yokota Army Air Base, showing the 90th's place in the new set up.

b. Early in the month the Squadron's navigators completed swinging all the compasses in assigned aircraft. Plans were under way to put all instrument calibration up to date and to keep it current as soon as necessary equipment, such as C-1 Test Sets, was made available. Operating as March still was swaddled was an A-26 bomb trainer, and bombardiers brushed up on their toggle technique.

c. Interior guard was organized on the base as a combined training-security measure. The 90th furnished one (1) NCO and four (4) privates of the Guard nightly.

Continued: Monthly Summary of Events, 90th Bomb Sqdn

d. A series of show down inspections were held on successive Saturdays to check on clothing and equipment shortages. By the end of the month all shortages had either been filled or the necessary supplies to fill them had been requisitioned.

e. On 10 March the 90th was surprised by the universal conversion of occupation script (PX money). Notified of the change at 1000 hours, by 2000 officers in charge had received, issued receipts, separated into denominations, exchanged at finance and reissued nearly four thousand dollars (\$4000.00).

f. Alarmed by frequency of small pox cases among the native population, medics, at mid-month, administered an extra, on-the-house small pox vaccination to all personnel. No cases had appeared in the 90th's "Separate Air Force" as the month greyed, and likewise the troops had been spared infection by scarlet fever, which had struck nearby.

g. As the dates on desk pads came of age the Base Air Inspectors report of the last inspection was returned to the unit for indorsement. All sections inspected came off with ratings of Very Satisfactory. Immediate steps were taken to correct discrepancies noted and to prevent recurrence. A campaign was launched to move the ratings up into the Excellent class on subsequent inspections.

h. On 22 March the squadron participated in the review held for Brigadier General Thatcher and aircraft mechanic school commencement. Later, General Thatcher spoke to officers in the base theatre, clarifying the Air Corps' position in regard to unification of command.

i. On the following night, Sunday, 23 March, the season's social event - as far as the "Separate Air Force" was concerned - the 90th Squadron party was held. The EM club abounded with festive troops who were entertained by an orchestra, dancing, a floor show, free drinks and sandwiches and the boisterous selection of a squadron queen. Failure of enthusiastic supporters to out-bellow each other led to a dead heat and the choosing of co-queens, Irene Kitch, Pennsylvania, and Elizabeth Smith, New Jersey. The party was highly successful and very well planned and organized. It was the two R-2800's

Continued: Monthly Summary of Events, 90th Bomb Sqdn


which powered morale as its rate of climb went over against the stop. Common question: "When we gonna have another one?" (See Incl. #1)

j. Flying training during the month emphasized instrument and night flying as pilots' requirements in these phases were brought up to date. Several maximum effort Group missions were flown, in which the 90th furnished more than its share of aircraft and crews. Instrument check rides were given to as many pilots who did not hold valid instrument cards as possible. Also flown were reconnaissance, transition, formation, low level navigation, bombing and strafing and simulated combat missions for a total of approximately five hundred and twenty five (525) A-26 hours.

k. Pilots attended Loran classes and filled Link trainer time requirements. Navigators dusted off sextants for the refresher course in celestial navigation, while bombardiers renewed acquaintance with the innards of the Norden bomb sight.

4. Morale was higher than it had been in many months. Contributing directly to this desirable condition were: the anticipation and the realization of the squadron party; the prospect of rest leaves, even though deducted from leave credit, for men whose efficiency suffered from continued long, hard hours without adequate relaxation; overnight passes to Tokyo to two or three men per weekend with accommodations at the Meiji Hotel, arranged by Special Services; the elimination from the ranks of all draftees, the squadron being composed entirely of volunteer, Regular Army (enlisted) personnel. The "To hell with it; I'm going home" attitude had left for the 4th Replacement Depot. A constructive period of long range planning could be and had been initiated whereby men would have time to work on the job after learning it. Operational effectiveness rose with morale. Already results were apparent in engineering. If the "3-year-plan" could be extended to armament, where the number of combat ready crews was determined by the number, or lack of, assigned armorer-gunners, the 90th would be well on its way toward fielding a real team.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:


RUSSELL R. STANBRO
1st Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

1 Incl:
Photographs