



13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)

MARCH 1944

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

FEM/RLG

AFG 713-1,
1 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit History, 13th Bomb Squadron, month of March.

TO : Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 713-1.

1. No change.
2. Strength:
 - (a) March 1, 1944: Officers 47; Enlisted Men, 255.
 - (b) Net change: Officers, decrease of 6; Enlisted Men, increase of 2.
 - (c) March 31, 1944: Officers, 41; Enlisted Men, 257.
3. No change.
4. Training.
 - (a) March 1, 1944, 15 A20Gs, (10 in, 5 out).
March 31, 1944, 13 A20Gs, (11 in, 2 out).
 - (b) Trained combat pilots March 1, 1944, 29; March 31, 25.
Trained combat gunners and photographers, March 1, 1944,
45; March 31, 47.
 - (c) New crew members are assigned to old crew members, (pilot
to pilot, gunner to gunner, etc.), trained and checked out
for combat by them.
 - (d) Nil.
5. Not applicable.
6. Squadron Commanding Officer;
 - (a) Albert E. Baucom, Captain, Air Corps.
 - (b) From 90th bomb Squadron.
 - (c) Experienced combat leader.
 - (d) Par. 7, SO #27, Hqs. 3rd Bomb Group, dated 6 March 1944.
 - (e) Nadzab, APO 713-1, 8 March 1944.
 - (f) Not applicable.
 - (g) Not applicable.
 - (h) Not applicable.
7. Nil.
8. Enemy aircraft and shipping.
 - (a) Helped sink one Fox Tare Charlie; nil aircraft on ground
definite.
 - (b) Nil probable shipping; two enemy aircraft probably destroyed.

Unit History, 13th Bomb Squadron, March, 1944, Cont'd.

9. Missing in action at Newak, New Guinea, 12 March 1944 by reasons unknown: 1st Lt. James L. Scarlott, O-738478, S/Sgt. George D. Henderson, 39826078, S/Sgt. Daniel G. O'Connell, 33286603, 2nd Lt. Vernal J. Bird, O-738478, S/Sgt. Roy F. Davis, 31068835. Two A20G aircraft carrying above crews were lost over Newak, New Guinea, 12 March 1944.

10. Nil.

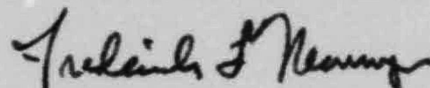
11. Nil.

12. See attached sheet.

Unit History, 13th Bomb Squadron, March 1944, Cont'd.

12. Narrative Report.

After a period of transition, living at a new base and flying new aircraft in February, the 13th settled down to a month of hard, resultful combat flying in March. Sixteen combat missions were chalked up, none especially spectacular, but all well flown and bearing considerable compounded weight. During the first week of March, the squadron flew to Los Negros in the admiralties to give close support to our landing troops around Momote airdrome. Each time, the ground post radioced its satisfaction with our work. Most of the remainder of the month was spent pounding down the Nips at Wewak. The Japs there must have become tired of seeing the red-tailed A20s with the Oscar on the nose, bombing and shooting up their base. Dozens of fires were started around Boram runway, in Brandi Plantation, on Cape Moem and Muschu Island. At the end of the month Wewak was only a shell of its former self. Practically no ack-ack was reported on our last mission there on the last day of the month.



FREDERICK L. NEUMEYER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

MARCH 1944

- 2 March - 62J: Nine A-20s were briefed to attack enemy ground positions of Los Negros Island. Eight aircraft reached the target and were directed by radio to attack a new target. Area southwest of Morote airstrip was thoroughly strafed and bombed with 9,200 x 50 calibre ammunition and 28 x 500 lb. bombs. Results other than bomb bursts in the target area were unobserved and all aircraft returned safely.
- 3 March - 63B: Nine A-20s bombed and strafed the north peninsula of Hyane Harbor, Los Negros Island. 15 x 250 lb. and 9 x 500 lb. bombs were dropped in the Harbor area and positions north. 3600 x .50 calibre ammunition expended. All planes returned safely.
- 4 March - 64H: Ten A-20s bombed and strafed enemy positions on Los Negros Island in four bombing and strafing runs, 36 bombs were dropped and 17,500 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended. Bombs dropped: 36 x 500 lb.
- 8 March - 683: Eleven A-20s briefed to attack Dagua airdrome. Upon arrival at the target they were unable to attack due to cloud cover. All planes returned to base with no expenditures of bombs or ammunition.
- 11 March - 71C: Twelve A-20s of the 13th Squadron bombed and strafed supply and dispersal areas, Boram Airdrome, New Guinea. All aircraft reached the target and made one pass, thoroughly covering dispersal areas north and south of strip with 41 x 500 lb. bombs. Same area was heavily and accurately strafed. One small fuel dump at the middle of the north side of the strip was set afire. One possible serviceable Tony in the same area was probably destroyed. One machine gun position was silenced by four bombs which straddled it. The entire area was over hung with smoke and dust due to previous attacks. 44 x 500 lb. bombs and 14,500 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended. All planes returned safely.

- 15 March - 75B: Five A-20s attacked enemy personnel at Kairiru Mission, Kairiru Island. All bombs were dropped on target with results unobserved. Strafing was difficult due to hills surrounding target and was not considered accurate or effective. 14 x 250 lb. bombs dropped and 1,350 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended.
- 17 March - 77D: Nine A-20s hit stores and personnel at Cape Moem, Newak. 33 x 500 lb. bombs were dropped with no extensive results. Entire eastern half of peninsula was heavily strafed. 10,500 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended. All planes returned safely.
- 17 March - 79L: Four A-20s bombed a Fox Tare Charlie and a gunboat. At least one bomb made a direct hit and the vessel began to smoke and burn badly. Small cabin boat was also strafed. 9 x 500 lb. bombs were dropped and 2,200 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended.
- 21 March - 81D: Nine A-20s bombed stores and personnel at Brandi Plantation. Three bombs hit among camouflaged stores and started large fires. One native hut was completely destroyed and one ammunition dump exploded. The entire area was strafed with unobserved results. 41 x 500 lb. bombs and 9,400 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended.
- 26 March - 86A: Ten A-20s bombed stores and personnel areas at Aitape, New Guinea and searched for enemy shipping. Several barges and luggers near Paup hamlets were strafed, results were unobserved. One bomb scored a direct hit on a large two story European type building and completely demolished it. The entire area was covered with bomb bursts, smoke, and flying debris. 50 x 500 lb. bombs were dropped and 7,750 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended.
- 29 March - 89H: Seven A-20s searched for enemy barges at Muschu Island. Nine barges were bombed and results were unobserved. Four small villages were bombed and strafed. 37 x 500 lb. bombs and 7,750 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended.

31 March - 91A: Nine A-20s struck personnel areas in the Cape Barabar section. Three huts in the reported camp area were destroyed and the entire area was heavily strafed. Many small fires were started. Results were unobserved. 80 x 100 lb. bombs and 7,200 x .50 calibre ammunition was expended. (19) (20)

During the month of March 1944, the 13th Squadron flew a total of 11 missions and 103 sorties. A total of 78 tons of bombs and 91,600 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition were expended on the enemy.

- (19) All the information from January 1, 1943 to April 1, 1944 was taken from the final mission reports in the 13th Squadron Intelligence files.
- (20) A review of the history of the history of the 13th Squadron prior to January 1942 is submitted in the introduction of the Chronological Narrative.