

History of the 42d Bombardment Squadron (H). 1940 – 1944.

**42nd Bombardment Squadron (H),
11th Bombardment Group (H), 7th Air Force (1941-January 1943);
13th Air Force (January 1943 -)**

*Air Force Historical Association, IRIS No. 44028.
Mission Reports, 18 July 1942 – 10 August 1943.*

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HISTORY OF THE 42D BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
11TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
SEVENTH AIR FORCE

Compiled April - May 1944 by Lieutenant Edward B. Petersen
42D Bombardment Squadron (H)

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The most accomplished crystal ball gazer would have been hard put to it to predict the significance of the Hawaiian Department General Order # 2 dated 15 January 1940, (Exhibit A attached) which directed the activation of the 11th Bombardment Group (M) and its component squadrons, one of which was the 42D Bombardment Squadron (M). The activation date was designated as 1 February 1940.

To a casual bystander the growth of a newly activated unit must seem a slow process. For instance, the total personnel on 1 February 1940 consisted of 2D Lieutenant Nils O. Ohman, Commanding Officer, and Staff Sergeant Pierce M. Manley. But underlying it all is a definite plan of procedure through which various established units are combed for officers and enlisted men with the necessary qualifications and specification numbers. It was through this processing that the first sizeable contingent of enlisted men arrived on 19 February. They came from the following organizations: Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 5th Bombardment Group; 4th and 50th Reconnaissance Squadrons; 25rd, 51st, and 72nd Bombardment Squadrons; Base Headquarters and 17th Air Base Squadrons.

This was the pre-war army where enlisted men were rated from Sixth to First Class, where a private with a 2d class Air Mechanic's rating drew an additional \$42.00 per month, where a private with a 1st class Air Mechanic's rating drew an additional \$66.00 per month, and where an enlisted man who was married could ration separately from his organization mess. Men drew K.P. for a month at a time and grass cutting and policing details were the rule rather than the exception. Planes had not yet acquired names, but rather carried their squadron colors on engine cowlings.

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The 42D Bombardment Squadron was originally designated as a Medium bombardment unit. Its equipment at that time was the B-18. Considerable time was to elapse before B-17s were brought to this area and the designation of the squadron changed from Medium to Heavy.

On 20 March 1940 the first officer of field grade was assigned, namely Major C.K. Rich. Lieutenant Ohman was thereby relieved of command and appointed Squadron Adjutant. However he was also detailed additional duties, i.e. Technical Supply, Communications, Engineering, Operations, Armament, Athletic and Supply Officer. Apparently the functions of Mess and Transportation did not seem important enough to be listed.

From the date of activation through 16 June 1940, the organization was probably proceeding through the various stages of growing up. From the standpoint of physical equipment at Hickam Field, everything was favorable to the organization. The men were quartered in the "Big Barracks", with the hangars and work areas just across the street.

Presumably there were no unusual occurrences in the development of the squadron during this period judging from the repeated Morning Report entries; "Hickam Field, T.H. Usual garrison duties performed." However, for a considerable period there had occurred a series of incidents in which sabotage was suspected. As a result the 42D, together with other units, was placed on an 'Alert' status. The alert period terminated 21 December 1940.

The growth of the unit during its first six months was not at all phenomenal; its strength as of 31 July 1940 consisted of five assigned and two attached officers and one hundred eighty-one assigned enlisted men, together with an additional twenty-five enlisted men in the squadron on detached service. On 21 October 1940 Captain R.M. Ramey succeeded Major C.K. Rich as

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the Squadron Commanding Officer and in January and February of 1941 the designation of the squadron was changed from Medium to Heavy. However, this would appear to have been an anticipatory move, as B-17s did not make their appearance in this theater until May of 1941. (Orders for this redesignation are not available at this time.) Until then the squadron continued to operate with the B-18s assigned to it. Indications of the expansion of the Air Force appeared in the transfer of men to the mainland as flying cadets.

The assignment of two B-17s was a highly significant event in the development of the organization. With a long background of war talk, the newly-arrived Flying Fortresses seemed to be the answer, the offensive weapon that could do something about the terrific expanses of water to be coped with in this theater. The universal belief in precision bombing made possible through the combination of the Flying Fortress and the secret bomb-sight must have given the organization a feeling of potency and offensive power and the knowledge that it had finally "arrived." But there must also have been a feeling of inadequacy; two B-17s for one squadron, not enough equipment by any calculation. The two B-17s and five B-18s made up the striking force of the squadron from May through November of 1941.

The terse remarks of the Morning Report for 7 December 1941 need no comment: "Hickam Field, T.H. Squadron withstood air attack; moved by marching to area across mat from hangars. Command Post established at head of by-road; twenty-nine casualties." Of the planes, only two - one B-17 and one B-18 - could be repaired and restored to flying status. The other B-17 and four B-18s were destroyed or damaged beyond repair.

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The next entry is 9 Dec 1941: "Squadron moved by marching to Depot area. Command Post established in Air Corps unoccupied building." Actual casualties on 7 December were as follows:

Killed:

Corporal Robert R. Garrett
Private First Class William Coyne Jr.
Private First Class Eugene B. Denson
Private Leland V. Beasley
Private Joseph H. Jencius
Private Hal H. Perry Jr.
Private First Class Robert Kelly
Private First Class Charles L. Hrusecky
Private Carey K. Stockwell

Wounded:

Technical Sergeant Elmer Anderson
Technical Sergeant Robert W. Ray
Sergeant Mathias E. Donart
Corporal Theodore C. Luczyk
Corporal Leith C. Morgan
Private First Class Charles W. Bartlett
Private First Class Henry C. Reitler
Private First Class Vernon W. Evans
Private First Class Albert C. Mc Call
Private First Class Donald Watson
Private Jerry Benoit
Private Paul E. Bowsner Jr.
Private William E. Hudson
Private Kenneth A. Fuller
Private Walter E. Stephanik
Private James F. Jones
Private First Class James F. Williams
Second Lieutenant Bruce E. Barker
Private First Class Charles W. Marchood
Private First Class Charles P. Porterfield
Private John P. Holloway
Private First Class Ivan C. Lewis

On the nineteenth of December 1941, Major Roger M. Pamey was relieved as Squadron Commanding Officer and transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 18th Wing, and Captain Gray assumed command. Two days later, December 21st, Major (now Brigadier General) Truman H. Landon with twenty other

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officers, five air cadets and twenty eight enlisted men were attached to the Squadron from the 38th Reconnaissance Squadron, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Major Landon assumed command the following day. His formation had arrived in the Hawaiian area late in the afternoon of 7 December, well aware that something was seriously wrong with the Hickam radio silent, but not knowing the exact situation there. The B-17s in the formation were ordered to proceed to other landing fields throughout the island. In the course of the next few weeks several of these Fortresses were assigned to the 429.

Major Landon was not to stay long, however, for on the 13th of January 1942 he was relieved from his attached status to the squadron and attached to the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron of the 18th Bombardment Wing. Captain Swenson was attached to the 429, assuming command, and in turn he was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Roland Akre. The latter was relieved of assignment and command on 23 February 1942 and was succeeded by Major Brook E. Allen.

From 7 December 1941 things were "different" within the squadron. The reality of being at war crystalized a great many plans and activities which heretofore had been training activities. The search missions which had been instituted as training exercises for the crews now became serious expeditions; bomb bays no longer were loaded with practice bombs but with live explosives.

The squadron lost a crew on 5 April 1942 when Lt Allen's plane crashed on Keaneakahoe Peak, Oahu, T.H.. The crew comprised the following:

First Lieutenant Charles O. Allen (Pilot)
First Lieutenant Ward Cox Jr.
Second Lieutenant James W. Frushee
Staff Sergeant Edward L. Hokes
Staff Sergeant Mathias E. Donart

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Staff Sergeant Luther L. Perry
Sergeant Wilbur L. Gravit
Corporal John E. Morris
Corporal John E. Luckey

Many officers and enlisted men thought they knew the Japs fairly well as a result of their casual contacts with them in Honolulu. There they were encountered in almost every walk of life as clerks in hotels and banks, in drugstores, bars, grocery and haberdashery stores, as bus drivers, taxi drivers etc. But the effectiveness of the Jap treachery on 7 December 1941 brought to most service men the realization that they really didn't know them and it left an incredible uncertainty as to the time of the next attempt to take the Hawaiian Islands. The determination to forestall any such move inspired every activity from 7 December on.

This was the spirit which marked the crews who were detailed from the 42nd Squadron to detached service at Midway Island where other squadrons and potent naval units had assembled for participation in the epic Battle of Midway. That battle which raged from the 5th through the 6th of June 1942 frustrated what is believed to be Japan's second major attempt to occupy the Islands.

The battle tested crews returned here to find that the squadron had moved on 5 June 1942 to a new station at Aualoa Point, P.H. (Orders covering this move are not available.) On 1 July 1942 Captain Howard succeeded Major Allen as Squadron Commander, and in turn he was succeeded on 8 July by Major Ernest R. Manierre. That same day the squadron again moved to a new station at Mahuku, P.H. (Orders for this move are not available.) This move was only a temporary one, for on 21 July 1942 the squadron embarked at Honolulu aboard the U.S.S. President Tyler for "down under" station which was reached on 11

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August 1942 and proved to be Plaines des Caiacs in New Caledonia. Nine of the squadron's B-17's were flown to the new station, landing there on 22 July 1942.

Now things began to move in earnest. Between 24th of July and 11th of August when the ground personnel arrived, the bomber crews had performed ten search, forty two patrol, one photo reconnaissance and eighteen bombing sorties in the Muacalcanal island area. Although interception had not been severe, three Zeros were shot out of the air. One B-17 had been lost in a water landing off Espiritu Santo Island, from which the entire crew had been rescued. Those sorties were the squadron's contribution to the reconnaissance and softening up of Muacalcanal preparatory to the Larines landing. During these operations the 429 Squadron operated under the direction of the 13th Air Force.

For the balance of the month the squadron performed nineteen search and seven bombing sorties. The latter were pulled against land installations and Jap naval task forces. Due to weather conditions observations were difficult, but one four engine flying boat was destroyed and many near misses scored against a carrier and a number of destroyers. Lieutenant Dunbar was killed in a night crash landing.

September found the squadron pulling twenty nine search and twenty bombing sorties. It was a fruitful and eventful month. Bombing raids were pulled against both ground installations and large Japanese naval task forces. Results were one Jap tanker sunk, three float planes destroyed. During these engagements Private First Class Edwin L. Burns and Sergeant Robert E. Lowrie were injured. Two of our bombers on search missions failed to return. The personnel aboard these airplanes were:

Captain Robert H. Richards, Pilot
First Lieutenant Robert H. McShee

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Second Lieutenant William F.B. Morris (Pilot)
Staff Sergeant Charles E. Boyer
Corporal Yvon L. Bailey
Sergeant Hugh L. King
Corporal Otis C. Black Jr.
Corporal Peter Charuk
Private William Lmaroff

First Lieutenant Charles E. Norton
First Lieutenant Leo L. Lminger (Pilot)
Second Lieutenant Bruce M.S. Barker
Staff Sergeant Fred S. Croyle
Staff Sergeant William L. Rotard
Staff Sergeant Peter F. Novak
Sergeant James A. Mathewson
Sergeant Bruce L. Osborne
Private First Class Edward A. Carroll

In the latter part of 1943, long after the occupation of Guadalcanal, the wreckage of Lieutenant Norton's plane was found in an isolated section of the island. Identification was established through the dog tags of several crew members and a section of the fuselage bearing the plane's name, "Jessie Jap Basher."

During October air activity moved farther north in the Solomons with Reykata Bay and vicinity receiving considerable attention. The squadron tallied three photo reconnaissance, thirty five search and eleven bombing sorties during this period. Several Jap naval task forces were the targets. Many near misses were scored and five type Zeros and one four engine flying boat were shot down. Combat injuries were suffered by Captain Carl E. Huertele, Master Sergeant K. Lawton, Technical Sergeant Shepherd and Sergeant Gordon. The latter, a radio operator, was severely injured over Reykata Bay. After being propped up to his set, Sergeant Gordon continued to operate his set back to the base. His injuries were so serious that it was necessary to amputate his leg after reaching the hospital.

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Two members of the ground personnel met an untimely death during the early part of October when the truck that Corporal Leonard Donafira and Private Peter Fox were riding in left the road and crashed in a ravine.

The pace for October had seemed fast but in November it stepped up to a still higher pitch with forty search and twenty seven bombing sorties daily. Hardly a day went by without a search plane spotting a naval task force. Opportunity seemed available at will. On several occasions the heavy bombers reached the scene after other allied bombers had made their runs with the result that they spotted AEs and destroyers on fire and abandoned and numerous rafts filled with survivors. During this period land targets also came in for their share of attention. All in all the tally for the month showed one cargo vessel sunk, several damaged, eleven type Zeros destroyed and land installations hit hard. The raid of 13 November over the Ruin area resulted in the injury of Corporal Joseph A. Mammara.

Since the action was extending farther and farther to the north, it was often advisable to send the heavies to a forward staging area at Efate and later at Guadalcanal. It was accordingly determined to move the ground echelon to a forward point. On 20 November the transfer to Espiritu Santo was accomplished. (Copies of this order are not available for exhibition.)

December brought to the squadron's bomber crews several brand new experiences, one of which must have made them feel they weren't too completely outflown by the Zeros. The first new experience took tangible form in the use of P-53s as escorts in their raid on Munda Point on 10 December. The second new experience was staging night bombing raids, the first of which was run on 13 December with Kahili Airfield as the target.

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Altogether thirty three search and thirty nine bombing sorties were made during the month. Three type Zeros were destroyed in combat which also resulted in injuries to Sergeant James C. Stephens Jr. One heavy, piloted by Captain Donald L. Hyland, was shot down but successfully negotiated a water landing and the crew rescued the same evening by a PBY. Whether or not the PBY was designated "Dumbo", this was the first "Dumbo" rescue service experienced by this squadron. A second B-17 which was knocked down was not so fortunate and was reported missing in action on 23 December. This crew consisted of the following officers and enlisted men:

First Lieutenant James K. Hoop, Pilot
First Lieutenant Omar D. Thomas
First Lieutenant Thornton H. Lewis
Technical Sergeant Elwood L. Miller
Technical Sergeant Charles Noble
Staff Sergeant Howard L. Krantz
Corporal Sanford S. Caviness
Corporal Walter E. Stephanik
Private First Class Henry Rajeski

The records for January, 1945, are incomplete in that no data is available for the period from the 1st through the 7th. But from the records it would seem that the tempo had fallen, with twenty two search and three bombing sorties conducted during the last three weeks for that month. The sorties were flown over Pouéboville, Guadalcanal and Russell Islands and in addition to their regular reconnaissance task included dropping tons of food to American troops on Guadalcanal. Two type Zeros were shot down. During this month the squadron received a new Commanding Officer in the person of Captain E.O. Hall who succeeded Major Manierre.

February proved the most fatal month during the 42D Bombardment Squadron's operations. On February 1st, three crews were dispatched on a bombing

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mission and failed to return. The crews were made up of the following personnel:

Captain Earl C. Hall, Pilot and Squadron Commander
First Lieutenant Joaquin Castro
Second Lieutenant Frank E. Stern Jr.
Technical Sergeant Paul Adler
Staff Sergeant James C. Stephens Jr.
Staff Sergeant James Y. Hales
Staff Sergeant Francis S. Banasiak
Sergeant Martin T. Grady
Sergeant Jesse M. Olmstead

Captain Harold P. Hensley, Pilot
First Lieutenant Charles L. Bingham
Second Lieutenant John J. Jackson
Staff Sergeant Oreste G. Mattiello
Technical Sergeant Lester L. Audenschwager
Staff Sergeant William J. Tomko
Staff Sergeant John H. Powers
Sergeant Peter R. Fabiano
Staff Sergeant Willott A. Allen

Captain Frank L. Houx, Pilot
First Lieutenant George H. Gammans
Second Lieutenant Martin L. Carper
Second Lieutenant LaVerne P. White
Staff Sergeant Richard K. Wayne
Staff Sergeant Ernest L. Koch
Staff Sergeant Leonard S. Knight
Corporal Ernest Sweigert
Private First Class Joseph A. Carvey

This irreparable loss materially reduced the effectiveness of the squadron. The one remaining crew, piloted by Captain Louis M. Sowers, pulled two photo, one bombing and one search sortie to bring the squadron's combat activities to an end on 7 February 1943. Under authority of USAFISPA Movement Order #1 dated 17 March 1943 (Copy not available for exhibition) the squadron prepared to return to the Hawaiian Islands. Embarking on the United States Army Transport President Folk on 28 March, the squadron arrived at Honolulu, T.H. on 8 April 1943 and proceeded to its new station at Kualoa Point, T.H.

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The first step in the reorganization of the unit was undertaken. All enlisted men were given their choice of a thirty day furlough on the mainland and rejoining the squadron or of being sent back to the States for reassignment. Approximately one third of the men chose the first course.

The duty status of the squadron was defense of the Hawaiian Island area. Its equipment from this point on was to be B-24 Liberators. Combat crews and ground personnel were assigned to the organization to bring it up to table of organization strength. The training of newly assigned combat crews followed a pattern which included shooting strange field landings, practice bombing missions, formation flying and the standard "Y" searches. Major Jack D. Whidden, who had become Squadron Commanding Officer, was succeeded by Captain Earl J. Cooper on 21 May 1943.

One search mission which was detailed on 27 May 1943 to look for a transport plane which had made a water landing somewhere southwest of the Hawaiian Islands had a tragic ending. The details were reconstructed from a Japanese prisoner of war interrogation report captured on Kwajalein on 1 February 1944. Lieutenant Russell A. Phillips and his crew were conducting their search at an altitude of five hundred feet when one of their engines cut out. The engineer proceeded to cut off the gas to the adjoining engine. With only two engines operating and such minimum altitude, a water landing was inevitable. Three crew members survived the crash and succeeded in getting aboard a raft. From details as to civilian schooling and locations of army training fields, the surviving officers were identified as First Lieutenants Louis S. Zamperini and Phillips. The identity of the lone surviving enlisted man could not be established. He died on the thirty third day.

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The raft continued in a westerly direction for forty six days when it was picked up by a Jap patrol boat three miles southwest of Faraa Island of Maloelap Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Whether or not Lieutenants Phillips and Zamperini are still alive, as prisoners of war can only be conjectured.

The other members of the search crew were:

First Lieutenant Charles E. Cuppernell
 First Lieutenant Robert E. Mitchell
 Staff Sergeant Jay S. Hansen
 Staff Sergeant Frank Glassman
 Sergeant Otto Anderson
 Sergeant Francis P. McNamara
 Corporal Michael J. Walsh
 Private Leslie A. Dean

Flights by the Squadron were not limited solely to training. For example on 14 June three bombers piloted by Lieutenants Storm, Scholar and Smith were detailed to fly to Funafuti. The take-off for this mission ended almost disastrously.

The B-24 piloted by Lieutenant George A. Smith was almost air-borne when it suddenly dropped forward at which time the nose wheel collapsed. The plane continued sliding on its nose and landing gear, finally coming to rest on the east boundary of the field, its landing gear in a ditch and the nose extending onto the roadway. It is probably miraculous that the crew survived this crash, but they did as is shown below:

First Lieutenant George A. Smith	Fractured wrist
Second Lieutenant William D. Morrison	Contusions of right hand
Private Hyman Rothenberg	General body contusions
Second Lieutenant Charles P. Pagonis	Fractured arm
Technical Sergeant Thomas W. Wyckoff	No injury
Staff Sergeant Benedict G. Smith	Contusions above knee
Corporal John H. Kefalas	No injury
Staff Sergeant Henry P. Smith	Abrasion above right knee
Staff Sergeant William C. Findle	Abrasion above right knee
Captain William L. Peairs	No injury
First Lieutenant Charles H. Amory	No injury
Sergeant George E. Estee	Abrasions
Private Charles J. Emig	No Injury

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Following the loss of Lieutenant Smith's plane, arrangements were made for a crew on D/S from the 26th Bomb Squadron to proceed to Funafuti to join Lieutenants Storm and Scholar. The plane which was piloted by Lieutenant Houchins took off on 15 June landing at Funafuti on the 17th.

That same afternoon the three bombers took off for a night photo mission of Mille Island while the 98th Squadron bombed Tarawa and the 26th ran a photo mission over Jaluit.

On 22 June the same three planes took off from Canton Island and completed a photo mission over the following Islands in the Gilbert Group: Beru, Nukunau, Taputeola, Onotoa, Tamana and Arora. An especially important color photo was taken of Peru Island.

Following this mission the planes landed at Canton Island. Two days later Lieutenants Scholar and Storm flew a search from there. The following day, 25 June, Lieutenant Stay joined them. The next day Lieutenant Gall arrived. On June 17th, the flight proceeded to Funafuti.

Plans had been drawn for a raid on 27 June on Nauru in conjunction with the 26th, 98th and 431st squadrons. Lieutenant Stay was detailed to fly with the 26th to fill out a three plane formation. It was a disastrous mission, the first and eighth planes to take off crashing into the water just beyond the runway. Lieutenants Gall, Scholar and Storm taxiing into position were advised that the mission had been cancelled and did not take off. Lieutenants Stay and Holland (of the 26th) were the only two to reach the target.

On 8 July Lieutenants Gall, Sands, Storm and Thompson took off for "down under", landing at Funafuti. Their mission, staged on 11 July was to be a photo mission, primary target Jaluit, secondary target Makin and Little Makin. Results were classed as highly successful. Complete photographic

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reconnaissance of Makin and Little Makin was obtained inspite of adverse weather with tropical front almost over primary target. Important colored photos were secured of a large sea plane base at Jaluit Atoll. Lieutenants Gall, Sands and Storm returned to Kauloa on 13 July, Lieutenant Thompson returning the following day*.

Five planes took off on 22 July for Midway Island. From there, four heavies from the 42D¹, one from the 98th and five from the 431st Bombardment Squadrons (H) staged bombing raids on Wake Island on July 24th. Considerable damage was done to ground installations, nine fighters were destroyed, four probably destroyed and three damaged. We lost one bomber which crashed into the ocean after a mid-air collision with an enemy fighter which was falling out of control. Following are listed the personnel of the lost bomber:

First Lieutenant James R. Cason, Pilot
First Lieutenant Loren E. Thompson
Second Lieutenant Robert B. McConnell
Second Lieutenant Ernest W. Moore
Second Lieutenant Louis N. Kane
Technical Sergeant Lee R. Sterner
Staff Sergeant James W. Strobe
Staff Sergeant Lloyd R. Taylor
Staff Sergeant Harlan G. Davis
Sergeant Robert O. Stephens
Corporal Walter F. Kowalski

In addition to the above, Lieutenant Myron W. Jenson and Sergeant Joseph P. Evans were killed and Lieutenant Richard S. Thompson, Technical Sergeant Robert L. Patterson and Staff Sergeant Francis J. Perkins were wounded by ack-ack. Lieutenant Myron W. Jenson and Sergeant Joseph P. Evans were buried at sea off Midway in keeping with Navy regulations in that area. One bomber, "Daisy Mae", was so badly damaged in combat that she was left at Midway for salvage.

* Exhibit "C"

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Six planes took off for "down under" on 15 September, landing at Funafuti. They carried out successful bombing missions on Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, on the 18th and 19th. On the 21st, the day of their return to Kualoa, the squadron lost Flight Officer John M. Van Horn whose A-20 airplane crashed off-shore from the landing strip when his engines failed.

Until November 1st, the 42D Squadron's activities were limited to training flights. On 1 November the ground echelon embarked aboard the S.S. President Tyler, arriving at its destination, Funafuti, on the 9th.* The air echelon arrived on the 12th of November. The Japs were quick to extend them a welcome by sending six or eight bombers over the area at 0030, 13 November. The most important damage done by the raid was the complete destruction of Captain Alf H. Storm's bomber, "Peggy". But it was good training for all personnel, for after that raid there was no question whether every man had a fox hole. They came in very handy for early on the morning of the 15th, twelve more Jap bombers raided the area destroying one bomber, the "Wicked Witch" and badly damaging "Tail Wind" and "Brunehilda".

On their first raid the Jap bombers must have had a particular target in mind, for nine of the Liberators tucked away in the revetments were fully loaded with gas and bombs, ready for an early morning take-off. In one respect they missed their target, for the bomber they did hit was not scheduled to fly that mission.

Our strike got off to an early start and bombed Betio Island in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. On the return to the base, a B-24 piloted by First Lieutenant Charles Friedrich presumably had navigational difficulties and was observed by radar to be passing the home island some fifty miles to the west. Radio contact failed to bring a response. The crew, presumed to be

* Exhibit "D"

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lost at sea, consisted of the following:

First Lieutenant Charles Friedrich Jr., Pilot
Second Lieutenant William D. Morrison Jr.
Second Lieutenant Charles P. Pangonis Jr.
Second Lieutenant Paul R. Byers
Technical Sergeant Niel Putman
Sergeant Otis M. Jordan
Sergeant Norbert O. Finks
Corporal William H. Rutherford
Private Charles W. Walsh

During the balance of the month a seven plane mission was pulled against Jaluit, a four plane mission against Mille and seven plane raid against Nauru. Three men, Lieutenant Benjamin I. Weiss, Technical Sergeant Thomas Wyckoff and Technical Sergeant Arvid Ambur were injured on the Nauru raid.

By this time Tarawa had fallen to the Allies and the tide of battle and conquest was moving northwest. Targets for December were Milli Atoll, Jaluit Atoll, Maloelap Atoll and Taroa Island in particular. Diversions strikes were also carried out against Nauru Island. Such targets naturally raised questions as to where the next Navy task force would strike. It was not until the task force had landed at Kwajalein that the question was answered.

The December raids on Nauru, (eight sorties) on Milli, (thirteen sorties) on Jaluit, (two sorties) on Maloelap (seven sorties) on Taroa, (eight sorties) gave the bomber crews a taste of practically every conceivable obstacle to a bombing mission: heavy tropical fronts, intense anti-aircraft fire, Zeros, shot riddled landing gear, a burned out mess hall, just to name a few. Captains Stay and Storm encountered one of the worst weather fronts and succeeded in reaching their alternate target. Pilots met anti-aircraft fire with evasive action and let it go at that. Gunners had little opportunity to bring Zeros under their sights until the Taroa raid, when Jap

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interceptors were knocked down by Sergeants Anthony R. Kernyat, Otto G. Brannan, Phillip Roth, James F. Ball and Staff Sergeant Henry E. Tanner Jr. The shot out hydraulic system (sustained by Lieutenant Charles F. Pratte's bomber during the Taroa raid) resulted in some first class ingenuity being exercised.* Two crew members in the waist and one in the tail released their parachutes after strapping them to their gun mounts, just as the wheels touched the runway at Tarawa. In this way the landing speed was reduced by an estimated forty miles per hour. When the "Belle of Texas" stopped rolling, she was at the very end of the runway and but a few feet from the ocean. As for the burned out mess hall, K rations under the palm trees served as a substitute.

But the December strikes demanded their price, namely Lieutenant Dechert's and Lieutenant Smith's crews. Lieutenant Dechert's plane was last seen over the target during the December 1st raid on Milli. The weather was very bad and prevented any accurate observation. Whether or not he succeeded in getting away from the target is not known. The personnel of this plane was composed of the following:

Second Lieutenant George R. Dechert, Pilot
Second Lieutenant Robert S. Baker
Second Lieutenant William E. Earwick
Second Lieutenant William G. Roy
Technical Sergeant Eugene L. Snodgrass
Technical Sergeant Ralph J. Walbeck
Staff Sergeant Robert E. Lipe
Staff Sergeant David L. Buckles
Staff Sergeant Carl J. Anderson
Staff Sergeant Willie T. Little

Lieutenant Smith's loss was undoubtedly the result of flak damage received over Taroa on December 20th. Two engines were shot out and a water landing made. Other bombers in the formation circled the crash area and observed at least four crew members climb into a raft. "Dumbo" was called but when she reached the scene nothing could be found. Whether or not the sur-

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vivors were picked up by a Jap patrol boat is not known. The following were members of the crew:

First Lieutenant George W. Smith, Pilot
Second Lieutenant John E. Lowry Jr.
Second Lieutenant Carl A. Mortenson
First Lieutenant Ralph P. Ortiz
Technical Sergeant Clarence T. Sopko
Technical Sergeant Roy T. Gearon
Staff Sergeant Jesse E. Hudmon
Staff Sergeant Arnold J. Paradise
Staff Sergeant Carl M. Dell
Staff Sergeant Earl D. Nielson

The November and December raids were the 42D Squadron's contribution to the softening of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands. Their task accomplished, the squadron embarked on the U.S.T. George W. Julian on 25 December and returned to the Hawaiian Islands, taking up its new station at Lokuleia on 9 January 1944.* From this point on the mission for the squadron was to be two-fold: defense of the Hawaiian Islands and providing an orientation and training program for crews newly arrived from the States.

During the two war years of 1942 and 1943 the squadron's activities had been manifold and important. Considering the cost in lives of combat crewmen it is to be hoped that the squadron's contribution was a vital one. The campaigns in which the squadron participated are: Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, the Gilberts and Midway. The 11th Group of which the 42D Squadron is a component part received the Presidential Citation for outstanding performance from 7/31/42 to 11/30/42 per War Department General Order #4, dated 23 January 1943. (Exhibit "B")

Shortly after arrival at Lokuleia, Captain John J. Deasy assumed command of the squadron, succeeding Major Cooper who returned to the mainland. Almost immediately crews newly arrived from the States were attached to receive the six weeks training course preparatory to going "down under" for combat duty. The

* Exhibit "E"

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program called for three weeks in gunnery school and three weeks of ground work. The latter emphasized formation flying, co-pilot transition, strange field landings, bombing and navigation missions and standard "Y" searches. The classroom subjects stressed water landing procedure, the geography of the Central Pacific, the always important recognition and identification, radar, communications, ordnance and chemical warfare. By the end of March thirty four crews had been put through the course.

On March 19th the unit moved to a new station at Kahuku Point* T.H. It was a familiar spot to many in the squadron who remembered their two week stay at the field during July, 1942. During this month, to be exact on March 26th, Corporal Harold E. Shadbolt, a member of the ground echelon, died as a result of injuries received when he fell from a G.I. truck.

Not all crews assigned to the squadron were present with the squadron. The following pilots and their crews were on D/S "down under": First Lieutenant Warren H. Sands and First Lieutenant Joseph H. Gall were with the 98th Bomb Sq.; Captain Alf H. Storm and First Lieutenant Robert G. Kerr were with the 431st Bomb Sq.; First Lieutenant John Wattich and First Lieutenant Walter C. Schmidt were with the 26th Bomb Sq. Lieutenant Vincent J. Fridrich who had been Lieutenant Schmidt's co-pilot was killed on 6 March 1944 in a plane crash while making a co-pilot transition flight. Lieutenant Gall and his crew returned from D/S for squadron duty during the latter part of March.

* Exhibit "G"

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It is regrettable that, during the various changes of station undergone since the activation of the squadron, certain records have been lost. The awards listed here were made while these men were with the 42D Squadron, and the orders are taken from the best available information.

Majors

- Ernest R. Manierre - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 1, USAFISPA, January 1943).
Earl J. Cooper - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 113, HHD, August 1943).

Captains

- John J. Deasy - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943).
Joseph A. Call - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
Earl O. Hall - Silver Star (G.O. 4, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
Donald M. Hyland - Air Medal (G.O. 8, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
Kermit D. Messerschmitt - Purple Heart (G.O. 3-F, USAFISPA, August 1942.)
Frank J. Puerta Jr. - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 1, USAFISPA, July 1943.)
Warren H. Sands - Air Medal - (G.O.1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
Walter C. Schmidt, - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
Leslie H. Scholar - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
Philip C. Spawls - Purple Heart (G.O. 3-F, USAFISPA, August 1942.)
Air Medal (G.O. 8, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
Jesse E. Stay - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (Award received but authorization unavailable.)*
Alf H. Storm - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 113, HHD, August 1943.)
Carl E. Wuertele - Purple Heart (G.O. 9, USAFISPA, December 1942.)
Silver Star (G.O. 9, USAFISPA, December 1942.)
Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 7, USAFISPA, January 1943.)

First Lieutenants

- Charles M. Amory - Air Medal (G.O. 32, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 53, HHD, May 1943.)
Frank Angel Jr. - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
Bruce B.S. Barker - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
Wendell W. Barnes - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

* Exhibit "H"

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Donald S. Bloch - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)
 Robert L. Brown - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 Ernest H. Carey - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 53, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 53, HHD, May 1943.)
 Lawrence G. De Bor - Air Medal (G.O. 8, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
 Leo M. Eminger - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943)
 Richard E. Gustafson - Air Medal (G.O. 8, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
 Harold P. Hensley - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 147, HHD, September 1943) Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 Robert G. Kerr - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 Harvey Kliener - Air Medal (G.O. 8, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
 Philip H. Kroh - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 Thornton Lewis - Air Medal (G.O. 10, USAFISPA, January 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 17, USAFISPA, January 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 23, USAFISPA, January 1943.) Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 Ralph P. Ortiz - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 53, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 Robert A. Peterson - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 William D. Phelan Jr. - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 Harold K. Pulliam - Air Medal (G.O. 53, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 John R. Schroeder - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)
 James E. Scott - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 Glenn W. Sorensen - Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 James W. Thrasher - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.) Purple Heart (G.O. 3, 7th BC F/E, December 1943.)
 Richard G. Toler - Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 Charles F. Tyrrell - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Second Lieutenants

William H. Baber - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)
 Arthur T. Boone - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)
 Samuel L. Brunson - Air Medal (G.O. 10, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
 George P. Luffington - Air Medal (Received but order not available.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.)
 Sam L. Catanzarite - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)
 Dale C. Chalfant - Air Medal (G.O. 53, HHD, May 1943.)
 James R. Copeland - Air Medal (G.O. 10, USAFISPA, January 1943.) Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)

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Hugh Mahoney - Air Medal (G.O. 10, USAFISPA, January 1943.) Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 Kenneth K. Martin - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 Carl A. Mortenson - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 John E. Lowry - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 113, HHD, August 1943.)
 Arthur J. Platt - Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 Hubert P. Sage - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 147, HHD, September 1943)
 James R. Schrom - Air Medal (G.O. 10, USAFISPA, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 Robert M. Simpson - Air Medal (G.O. 10, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
 George M. Staples - Air Medal (G.O. 10, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
 Richard S. Thompson - Purple Heart (G.O. 4, 147 GH, July 1943.)
 Benjamin I. Weiss - Silver Star (Received but authorization unavailable.)
 Purple Heart (Received but authorization unavailable.)
 Robert C. Gaskell - Silver Star (G.O. 62, 7th BC, July 1942.)
 Gordon Baker - Air Medal (G.O. 14, USAFISPA, January 1943.)

Master Sergeants

Clinton D. Baer - Purple Heart (G.O. 6, 7th BC, February 1942.)
 Luther R. Bowles - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943.)
 Arthur S. Bertenshaw - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122 USAFISPA, May 1943.)
 William G. Hill - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943.)
 Joseph Mack - Soldiers Medal (G.O. 31, 7th AF, August 1943.)
 Albert C. McCall - Purple Heart (G.O. 6, 7th BC, February 1942.)
 Charles W. Mc Cormick - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943.)
 Adolph M. Planeta - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943.)
 Robert W. Ray - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943.)
 Charlie E. Searcy - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943.)
 Vern H. Tyrrell - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 James P. Weaver - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943.)

Technical Sergeants

Joseph A. Allard - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Third Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.)
 Arvid B. Ambur - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.) Purple Heart (G.O. 4, VII BomCom F/E, December 1943.)
 Charles Bogdon - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
 William J. Brewster - Air Medal (G.O. 9, USAFISPA, January 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 22, USAFISPA, June 1943.)
 Thomas J. Chapman - Air Medal (G.O. 9, USAFISPA, January 1943.)

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SECRETTechnical Sergeants (Continued)

John T. Durden - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)

Roy T. Gearon - Silver Star (G.O. 29, VII BomCom, August 1943.)

Clarence W. Haig - Air Medal (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Elgie C. Hastings Jr. - Air Medal (G.O. 1 HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Third Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.)

Kenneth L. Hotz - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Lee R. Isaacs - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Kenneth Lawton - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BomCom, July 1942.)

Elwood E. Miller - Silver Star (G.O. 71, VII BomCom, August 1942.)

Roy D. Moulton - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Irving A. Novick - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)

Howard J. O'Brien, Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)

Robert W. Ogdon - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)

Robert L. Patterson * Purple Heart (G.O. 4, 147 G.H., July 1943.)

Frank P. Pierog - Soldier's Medal (Ltr, A.G., HHD, 201, July 27 1942.)

George W. Price - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Third Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.)

Theodore P. Read Jr. - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Hyman P. Rosenberg - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Philip Roth Jr. - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)

Lester H. Searce - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)

Earl W. Smith - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

Clarence T. Sopko - Silver Star (G.O. 29, VII BomCom, August 1943.)

Rodney M. Stone - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 95, USAFISPA, April 1943.)

Robert L. Wills - Purple Heart (G.O. 6, VII BomCom F/E, December 1943.)
Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

John C. Yankus - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.)

Staff Sergeants

Paul Adler - Air Medal (G.O. 9, USAFISPA, January 1943.)

Loid W. Anderson - Purple Heart (G.O. 117, HQ VII BomCom, March 1942.)

James F. Ball - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

James W. Blackmore - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)

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Staff Sergeants (Continued.)

- Leopold H. Bibeau - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
- Otto G. Brannan - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) First Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
- Earl W. Conley - Air Medal (G.O. 113, HHD, August 1943.)
- Fred S. Croyle - Air Medal (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
- Henry E. Ford - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
- Harold J. Gase - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
- Robert T. Gilleran - Air Medal (G.O. 1, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.)
- Vance E. Gilson - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1942.)
- Lester Gudenschwager - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BomCom, July 1942.)
Air Medal (G.O. 9, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
- Edward W. Hess - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, December 1942.)
- William L. Hotard - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943.)
- Elmer W. Johnson - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Third Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th Air Force, May 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.)
- Raymond V. Johnson - First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.)
- Jacques Joos - Legion Of Merit (G.O. 115, USAFISPA, May 1943.)
- Paul E. Jurgensmier - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, HQ 7th AF, January 1944.) Third Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.) Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, HQ 7th AF, May 1944.)
- Howard L. Krantz - Silver Star (G.O. 71, VII BomCom, August 1942.)
Air Medal (G.O. 9, USAFISPA, January 1944.)
- Robert E. Lipe - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943)
- Delbert W. Miller - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944.)
- Gerald E. Mills - Air Medal (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944.)
- Charles O. Moore - Air Medal (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944.)
- Don F. Morgan - Air Medal (G.O. 195, HHD, December 1942.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943.) Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, Hq VII AF, January 1944.) Silver Star (G.O. 12, VII BC, May 1943.)
- Charles M. Noble - Air Medal (G.O. 9 USAFISPA, January 1943.) First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 17, USAFISPA, January 1943.)

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Staff Sergeants (Continued)

Peter F. Novak - Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Francis J. Perkins - Air Medal (G.O. 113, HHD, August 1943). Purple Heart (G.O. 4, 147 G.H., July 1943).

Nelson V. Rich - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943). First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 84, HHD, May 1943). Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944).

John I. Richards - Air Medal (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944).

Ross E. Rutland - Air Medal (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944).

Edward E. Shaulinski - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943). First Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 5, Hq VII AF, January 1944). Second Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, Hq VII AF May 1944). Third Oak Leaf Cluster (G.O. 59, Hq VII AF May 1944). Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 59, Hq VII AF, May 1944).

Richard R. Streitmatter - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HHD, May 1943).

Henry E. Tanner Jr. - Air Medal (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944).

Sergeants

Willett T. Allen - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943).

William C. Benn - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Wilbur L. Bernard - Legion of Merit (G.O. 122, USAFISPA, May 1943).

Eugene C. Davis - Purple Heart (G.O. 38, USAFISPA, July 1943).

Anthony R. Kernyat - Air Medal (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944).

James R. Lathewson - Air Medal (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943). Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943).

John P. McCorkle - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Orieste G. Natiello - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Harold W. Peel - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).

E. L. Phillips - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943). Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).

John N. Powers - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943). Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).

Mylus O. Sharp Jr. - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Richard G. Snider - Air Medal (G.O. 1, Hq VII AF, January 1944).

James C. Stephens - Air Medal (G.O. 16, USAFISPA, January 1943). Purple Heart (G.O. 9, BS Hq 708, December 1942).

William J. Tomko - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Norman H. Watson - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).

W. E. Lyndley - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).

Corporals

James Y. Bales - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Francis S. Fanasiak - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Sanford S. Craviness - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943). First Oak Leaf Cluster, (G.O. 23, USAFISPA 1943). First Oak Leaf Cluster to Distinguished Flying Cross (G.O. 17, USAFISPA, January 1943). Silver Star (G.O. 17, VII BC, August 1942).

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Corporals (Continued)

Edison Dawson - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 Joseph A. Giamara - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 Martin T. Grady - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943). Silver Star
 (G.O. 71, VII BC, August 1942).
 Fred G. Hoffman - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 R. B. Lowrie - Silver Star (G.O. 4, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 Bruce W. Osborne - Air Medal (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943). Distinguished
 Flying Cross (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 Edwin C. Smith - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).
 Walter E. Stephaniak - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 V. H. Stewart - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).
 James R. Wylie - Air Medal (G.O. 54, HPS, May 1943).
 Eli Wolis - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).

Private First Class

Z. J. Balamut - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).
 Edwin M. Burns - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 Edward A. Carroll - Air Medal (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943). Distin-
 guished Flying Cross, (G.O. 29, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 Robert D. Chapman - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943). Silver Star
 (G.O. 17, VII BC, August 1942).
 Peter R. Fabiano - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).
 W. A. Garrett - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943). Silver Star
 (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).
 F. F. Herman - Silver Star, (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).
 Jesse W. Olmstead - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 J. D. Thompson - Silver Star (G.O. 62, VII BC, July 1942).

Privates

Eugene R. Ferguson - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 John Oregal - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943).
 John A. Tarnesky - Air Medal (G.O. 13, USAFISPA, January 1943)

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GENERAL ORDERS)

HEADQUARTERS HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT
Fort Shafter, T.H., January 15, 1940

NO. 2)

Pursuant to instructions contained in letter, War Department, A.G. 320.2 (11-14-39) M.(Ret) M*C, December 22, 1939, subject: "Constitution and Activation of certain Air Corps Units", the following Air Corps Units are activated in this Department, effective February 1, 1940:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>WHERE ACTIVATED</u>	<u>PERMANENT LOCATION</u>
11th Bombardment Group (M)	Hickam Field, T.H.	No Change
Hq & Hq Sq, 11th Bomb. Gp (M)	"	"
14th. Bomb. Sq. (M)	"	"
42nd Bomb. Sq. (M)	2	"
78th. Pursuit Sq. (Int)	Wheeler Field, T.H.	"
86th Observation Sq. (C&D)	Wheeler Field, T.H.	"

(AG 320.2)

By command of Major General HERRON:

PHILIP HAYES
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Acting Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

R.S. BAMBERGER,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General

A TRUE COPY

Edward B. Petersen
EDWARD B. PETERSEN
2d. Lt. A.C.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.
January 23, 1943.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. 4)

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

VII—Citation of unit in United States Forces in South Pacific. As authorized by Executive Order 9075 (sec III, Bull. 11, W.D., 1942), a citation in the name of the President of the United States, as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction, is awarded to the following-named unit. The citation reads as follows:

The 11TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), United States Army Air Forces in the South Pacific, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action during the period July 31 to November 30, 1942. Opposing the full force of the numerically superior Japanese with all available aircraft, the 11TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) participated continually in attacking the enemy in his efforts to obtain a stronger foothold on strategic territories. Heavy damage was inflicted on Japanese airfields, storage and supply areas, seaplane bases, docks, troop positions and other installations. In addition, the action by this group resulted in the sinking of four enemy ships, the damaging of fifteen and the probable damaging of nine others. Throughout its operations, the group was faced with extremely difficult problems of logistics, airdrome improvement and the necessity for long, hazardous overwater flights to reach to reach enemy objectives, which frequently were located at extreme flying range of its bombardment airplanes. The superior courage and devotion to duty shown by combat crews and ground units of this bombardment group is in the highest traditions of the United States Army and will always be worthy of emulation.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

H. B. LEWIS,
Brigadier General,
Acting The Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Edward B. Petersen
EDWARD B. PETERSEN
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Ass't S-2

SECRET

EXHIBIT "B"

HEADQUARTERS VII BOMBER COMMAND
Office of the Commanding General
APO #953

CC-1
27 July 1943

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 11th Bombardment Group, APO #953.

THRU : Commanding General, Seventh Air Force, APO #953

1. The combat efficiency of the 42nd Bombardment Squadron under its commanding officer, Captain EARL J. COOPER, since its reorganization in this theater cannot pass unnoticed. Since May 1 1943 this Squadron has completed successfully a night photo mission of *****, a day photo mission of ***** and *****, day photo missions of the ***** *****, and a day bombing mission of ****. In each case this squadron arrived over the target with 100% of the airplanes that were able to leave the advanced base. The squadron in carrying out these missions penetrated two fronts on the night mission and one front on the **** mission to arrive over the targets with its formations intact. This squadron has suffered severe combat losses. Yet in spite of the losses this unit's morale is extremely high. Due to the enthusiasm and determination of Captain COOPER and of all the men in his squadron one fact stands out above all else, to give the 42nd Bombardment Squadron a mission is assurance of the complete success of that mission. For that reason Captain COOPER and his officers and men are commended. Their combat efficiency and dependability are a credit to the armed forces of the United States and serve as a high example for all Army Air Force combat units.

T.H. LANDON
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Commanding

A TRUE COPY:

William L. Peairs
WILLIAM L. PEAIRS
Captain, Air Corps

SECRET

SECRET

S E C R E T
 Auth: CG, 7AF
 Initials:
 Date: 11-1-43

Seventh AF
 APO # 953
 1 Nov. 43 0800

FO 1

MAPS: Central and South Pacific Ocean Area charts.

1. Omitted.

2. Omitted.

3. The following units of Seventh Air Force will move to new overseas destinations as indicated below. Movement will be completed prior to 13 November 1943.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>
Advance Hq, Seventh Air Force	HAEMATITE
Advance Hq, VII Air Force Service Command	HAEMATITE
Hq, VII Bomber Command	HAEMATITE
3d Provisional Air Service Support Squadron	HAEMATITE (with dets at PICAROON and PHILISTINE)
Hq, 11th Bomb Group (H)	HAWMATITE
26th Bombardment Squadron (H) (less grnd ech)	MYTHOLOGY
42d Bombardment Squadron (H)	HAEMATITE
98th Bombardment Squadron (H) (plus grnd ech 26th Bomb Sq (H))	PICAROON
431st Bombardment Squadron (H)	HAEMATITE
Hq, 30th Bombardment Group (H)	PHILISTINE
27th Bombardment Squadron (H)	PHILISTINE
38th Bombardment Squadron (H)	PHILISTINE
392nd Bombardment Squadron (H)	MYTHOLOGY

4. See Annex No. 1 to FO 1.

5. Omitted.

By comd Maj Gen HALE:

FLOOD
 Brig Gen
 C of S

OFFICIAL:

ESKRIDGE

Lt Col

A-5

DISTRIBUTION:

1-Each unit concerned.

1-A-3

1-ComGenCentPac

1-ComAirGenPac

3-File

35
SECRET

S E C R E T

ANNEX NO. 1 TO FO 1
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
(Cont'd)

time they will use the APO address of the troops stationed there, promptly advising their correspondents concerning it.

9. The following organizations involved in this movement will be carried on detached service:

- a. 3rd Prov Assron
- b. Det I, 3rd Assron
- c. Det Y, 3rd Assron
- d. Adv Hq, Seventh Air Force
- e. Adv Hq, VII Air Force Service Command.

10. Thirty (30) days after arrival at destination, supply and evacuation functions for the troops comprising this movement pass to the COMGENSAMCA, with the exception of class IV-E aircraft technical supplies, class III-A and class V aircraft, the responsibility for which remains with the Central Pacific Area.

11. The cost of transportation for personnel and equipment is chargeable to 91-18 P435-01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07 and 08, A 0425-24.

By comd Maj Gen HALE:

FLCOD
C of S

OFFICIAL:

/s/ CA KENGLA
/t/ KENGLA
Ass't A-4

A TRUE COPY

Edward B. Petersen
EDWARD B. PETERSEN
2D Lt, Air Corps

SECRET

CORRECTED COPY-DESTROY ALL OTHERS.

SECRETAuth: CG, 7AF
Initials:
Date: 11/1/43Seventh AF
APO #953
1 Nov 43ANNEX NO. 1 TO FO 1
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

1. Movement will be by motor transport or by rail from present station to Port of Embarkation and by water transportation to destination, for the ground echelon.
2. Movement of the Air Echelon of these units will be as designated by the Commanding General, Seventh Air Force.
3. Individual clothing and equipment, as specified in special check list No. 4, in SPOM, 7AF, 15 Sept 43, will be taken.
4. Organizational equipment as prescribed in the following T/E's will be taken by the unit indicated:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>T/E or TO & E</u>	<u>PREPARED BY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Adv Hq Seventh Air Force	Special	Hq 7AF	19 Oct 43
Adv Hq VII Air Force Service Command	Special	Hq 7AF	19 Oct 43
Hq VII Bomber Command	Special	Hq 7AF	3 Aug 43
3rd Prov Assron	Special	Hq 7AF	8 Oct 43
Det I, 3rd Assron	Special	Hq 7AF	8 Oct 43
Det Y, 3rd Assron	Special	Hq 7AF	8 Oct 43
Hq Bomb Gp (H)	1-112	WD	26 Mar 43
Bomb Sq (H)	1-117, CH 1	WD	26 Mar 43

5. Five (5) units of fire for all authorized weapons will be taken, one (1) unit of which will be in the hands of troops.
6. Administrative details covering this movement are prescribed in SPOM, Seventh Air Force, 15 Sept 43.
7. Water transportation will be provided by the Commanding Officer, Army Port and Service Command, or ComSerForPac, who will mess the troops en route.
8. The personnel involved in this movement will continue to have their mail addressed to their present APO until they arrive at their new destination, at which

S E C R E T

SECRET

By Auth : CG VII BC

Initials: s/ R D T

Date : 23 Dec 1943

HQ VII BOMCOM F/E

APO #240

1300 23 Dec 1943

Annex No 2 to FO No. 43-17 F/E

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
Movement of 42d Bomb Sq (H)

1. Ground esh of Bomron 42 will move from present station by water transportation to Oahu.
2. Combat crews of bomron 42 will move from present station by air to Oahu in unit AP's.
3. Except as otherwise dir^d in this order, preparation for movement will be in accordance with provisions of 7AF SPOM, dtd 15 Sept 1943.
4. Ind clothing and equip as prescribed in SPOM will be taken.
5. Bomron 42 will take organizational equipment as prescribed in T/O & E #1-117, dtd 26 March 1943, with the exception of the following listed equipment which will be turned in to appropriate supply agencies of 3rd Asaron at Haematite:
 - a. All special purpose vehicles.
 - b. One (1) Ambulance, 3/4 ton 4 x 4.
 - c. Four (4) Trailers, 250 gal water tank.
 - d. All tentage and cots.
 - e. Ranges, field, M 1937.
 - f. 72-Hour Emergency Engineering Kits (NOTE: These kits to be shipped to Longsuit by AAF Supply at Haematite where they will be used as an emergency supply for B-24's staging through Longsuit.)
6. ComBomron 42 will insure that all personnel are issued one (1) unit of fire for ind wpsn prior to departure from present station.
7. One day issue of type "D" ration will be carried en route.
8. Equipment of Bomron 42 will be marked as follows:

GO COOPER IRON

S E C R E T

9. 3d Assron Cnir will assist unit cmdr upon call with packing of equipment and M/T necessary to effect move of organization.

10. ATS will mess organization aboard ship.

11. Time of loading OEL and hold baggage to be set later.

12. Time of embarkation of personnel to be set later.

13. Organization will assist in loading.

LONDON
Brig Gen. Comdg.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Daniel L. Mc Keever
/t/ McKEEVER
Capt, A-4

A TRUE COPY

Edward B. Petersen
EDWARD B. PETERSEN
2d Lt, Air Corps

Address Reply to
Commanding General, Army Air Forces
Washington, D.C.

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 8, 1944

Major General Willis H. Hale,
Commanding General,
Seventh Air Force.

Dear Hale:

The remarkable landing on Tarawa executed by the pilot and crew of the "Belle of Texas" has come to my attention. Photographs of the exploits are on my desk.

After distinguishing themselves in aerial combat over Maloelap, 1st Lieutenant Pratte and his crew effected a landing on a short fighter strip with a badly riddled airplane. With one engine inoperative and the brakes entirely useless, they had the skill and resourcefulness to employ three parachutes to cut the speed of the airplane and to bring it to a safe stop at the very edge of the runway. This represents an achievement of a high order - unique, as far as I know, in operational history.

I would appreciate your conveying to the men my warm congratulations.

Sincerely,

/s/ H.H. Arnold
/t/ H.H. ARNOLD

General, U. S. Army,
Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

A TRUE COPY:

Edward B. Petersen

EDWARD B. PETERSEN
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Assistant S-2

SECRET
EXHIBIT "F"

S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7th AF
Initials: *[Signature]*
Date: 3-18-44

Seventh AF
APO 953
18 March 44 0800

FO 16R

Maps: Omitted.

1. Omitted.
2. Omitted.

3. a. The CG VII Bomber Command will take such action as is necessary to move without delay the 42nd Bomb Sq (H) from MOKULEIA to KAHUKU.

b. The CG VII ASC will take such action as is necessary to move without delay the 63d Airdrome Sq AAF from MOKULEIA to KAHUKU.

4. None.
5. Omitted.

By comd of Maj Gen HALE:

FLOOD
Brig Gen
C of S

OFFICIAL: *Eskridge*
ESKRIDGE
Colonel
A-3

DISTRIBUTION: A-3 - 1
A-4 - 1
ASC - 3
42d Bomb Sq - 3
63d Airdrome Sq - 3
CG VII BomCom - 3
CO AAB Mokuleia - 3
CO AAB Kahuku - 3
Files - 2
Censor, CPA - 1

FORTY SECOND BOMBARDIER SQUADRON (H)
APO #708., Butts Is.

3 March 1943.

SUBJECT: Report of Lost Aircraft.

TO : Adjutant General, Headquarters Thirteenth Air Force, APO # 708.

1. In compliance to subject letter, Headquarters Thirteenth Air Force, APO # 708., dated March 2, 1943, the following report is submitted.

AIRCRAFT TYPE	AIRCRAFT SERIAL NO.	DATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.
B-17E	41-9221	Lost returning from Search, Made water Landing, 8/6/42.
B-17E	41-2445	12/9/42, Ripped off tail section when Pilot taxied into Bunker. Stripped and Salvaged.
B-17E	41-9155	8/2/42, Wrecked beyond repair when crashed into by plane taking off,. Stripped and Salvaged.
B-17E	41-2403	Lost returning from Cactus due to bad weather, made Water Landing. 1/26/43.
B-17E	41-9151	2/1/43, Shot down by Zeros while on Bombing Mission over Shortland Harbor.
B-17E	41-9071	9/8/42, Believed shot down by Four Engine Flying Boat. Was on Search Mission. Coast Watchers found "Dog Tags" belonging to three members of crew.
B-17E	41-2442	2/1/43, Shot down by Anti-Aircraft while on Bombing Mission over Shortland Harbor. 9/24/42
B-17E	41-2420	Shot down by Anti-Aircraft on Bombing Mission.

FRANK J. PUERTA JR.
Major., Air Corps.
Commanding.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MAY 27, 1943	RUSSELL A. PHILLIPS, 1ST LT. CHARLES H. CUPERNELL, 1ST LT. ROBERT H. MITCHELL, 1ST LT. LOU S. ZAMPERINI, 1ST LT. MICHAEL J. WALSH, CPL. JAY S. HANSEN, S/SGT. FRANK GLASSMAN, S/SGT. LESLIE A. DEANE, PVT. OTTO ANDERSON, SGT. FRANCIS F. McNAMARA, SGT.	DID NOT RETURN FROM SEA SEARCH
JULY 24, 1943	JAMES R. GASON, 1ST LT. LOREN E. THOMPSON, 1ST LT. ROBERT B. McCONNELL, 2ND LT. ERNEST W. MOORE, 2ND LT. LEE R. STERNER, T/SGT. JAMES W. STROFE, S/SGT. LLOYD R. TAYLOR, S/SGT. LOUIS N. KANE, 2ND LT. HARLAN G. DAVIS, S/SGT. ROBERT O. STEPHENS, SGT.	80 MILES FROM WAKE ISLAND
JULY 24, 1943	MYRON W. JENSEN, 2ND LT. JOSEPH P. EVANS, SGT.	KILLED IN ACTION OVER WAKE ISLAND
SEPT. 22, 1943	JOHN N. VAN HORN, P/O	KANEHOE BAY
NOV. 13, 1943	CHARLES FRIEDRICH, JR., 1ST LT. WILLIAM D. MORRISON, JR., 2ND LT. CHARLES F. LANGONIS, JR., 2ND LT. PAUL K. BYERS, 2ND LT. JOHN MAGALASSI, SGT. WILLIAM E. RUTHERFORD, Cpl. CHARLES W. WALSH, PVT. NIEL FULMAN, T/SGT. OTIS M. JORDAN, SGT. NORBERT O. FINKS, SGT.	DID NOT RETURN FROM MISSION OVER TARAWA
DEC. 1, 1943	GEORGE R. DECHERT, 2ND LT. ROBERT S. BAKER, 2ND LT. WILLIAM E. SARWICK, 2ND LT. WILLIAM G. ROY, 2ND LT. EUGENE L. SNOGRASS, T/SGT. RALPH J. WALBECK, T/SGT. ROBERT E. LIFE, S/SGT. DAVID L. BUCKLES, S/SGT. CARL J. ANDERSON, S/SGT. WILLIE T. LITILE, S/SGT.	DID NOT RETURN FROM MISSION OVER MILE
DEC. 20, 1943	GEORGE W. SMITH, 1ST LT. JOHN E. LOWRY JR., 2ND LT. CARL A. MORTENSON, 2ND LT. RALPH F. ORTIZ, 1ST LT. CLARENCE T. SOFKO, T/SGT. JESSE E. HUDMAN, S/SGT. ROY T. GEARON, T/SGT. ARNOLD J. PARADISE, S/SGT. CARL N. DELL, S/SGT. EARL D. NIELSON, S/SGT.	100 MILES FROM MALOEA

SECRET

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
Flagship of the Commander in Chief

In the name of the President of the United States,
the Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet,
takes pleasure in presenting the DISTINGUISHED FLYING
CROSS to

FIRST LIEUTENANT JESSE E. STAY, U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES

for services as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic and extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as leader of a squadron of heavy bombers on 24 July, 1945 over the strongly held enemy base on Wake Island. In the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire and strong enemy fighter opposition, he courageously led his planes over the targets. By his leadership, courage and determination, he was largely responsible for the success of the mission which resulted in great damage to material and personnel. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States".

(signed)
G. W. NIMITZ
ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY

A TRUE COPY:

EDWARD B. PETERSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer,

SECRET

SO-BOMB-42-HI
18 JUL 1942-
10 AUG 1943

Office of the
Director
Alaska

4-4256-31