

WE WENT TO WAR

Part X: Why We Were There

*The Background of Our Service,
Why We Were in the Southwest Pacific Area:
A Review*

380th Bomb Group - World War II



Theodore J. Williams

Barbara J. Gotham

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX II

General H.H. Arnold's letter to General Kenney confirming new Heavy Bomb Group and other additional planes and personnel – Note how these letters are prepared for the General's signature

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By: KS NARA Date: 9/2/02

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
SECRET
ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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NO.	
FILE NO.	

SUBJECT: **Allied Air Forces - Southwest Pacific Area**

TO: **General Stratemeyer**

DATE **March**, 1943

FROM: **Operational Plans, Air Staff**

COMMENT NO. 3
JLL/ME 72445

1. Herewith suggested reply to General Kenney's letter.
2. This letter incorporates the information that General Stratemeyer by R & R dated March 27, 1943, subject: "Commitments made to General Kenney," directed be included in a letter to General Kenney.
3. The paragraph of this letter regarding modification of airplanes has been coordinated with General Meyers.

O. K. Anderson
O. K. ANDERSON
Brigadier General, U. S. A.
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Plans

Incls:
Ltr fr Gen Kenney (n/c)
Ltr to Gen Kenney (added)
4 Charts withdrawn by Gen. Arnold

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PAGE _____

3-1109 A. F.

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 Wtn: 3/29/43

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MAR 30 1943

Lt. General George C. Kenney *X 201-0*
 Commanding General, Allied Air Force
 c/o Postmaster
 San Francisco, California

Dear George,

I appreciate your letter of January 23rd and the information and data contained therein.

In view of the fact that you have personally been in Washington and have had the opportunity of presenting all of your problems and proposals to the planners here, I will not attempt to answer your letter in great detail.

A long range Heavy Bomb Group is now in China and as soon as it gets into action it should divert some of the Japanese air strength now concentrated against you.

Your figures on the Japanese production of combat aircraft are considerably at variance with the G-2 figures available here and the most recent figures submitted by General MacArthur. Our latest G-2 figure Japanese aircraft production is 750 planes per month.

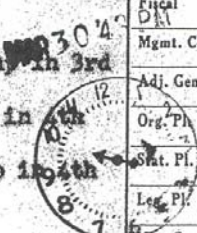
The figures you submit on possible Japanese air reinforcements in your area are also at variance with our G-2 figures. March 6, 1943, G-2 figures show that, within thirty days, not to exceed 1152 airplanes can be brought to bear by the Japanese in opposition to you and the South Pacific people.

A recent Joint Chiefs of Staff decision gives you the following additional air units over those presently in your area or en route thereto:

- Heavy Bomb Groups - 1 in 3rd quarter, 1943
- Medium Bomb Groups - 1/2 Group in 2nd quarter; 1 Group in 3rd quarter, 1943.
- Light and Dive Bomb Groups - 1 Group in 3rd quarter; 1 Group in 4th quarter, 1943
- Fighter Groups (Day) - 2 Groups in 3rd quarter; 1 Group in 4th quarter, 1943

A-1/AS
A-2/AS
Intel. S.
A-3/AS
A-4/AS
Plans/AS
Insp/AS
Mil. Req.
A. Def.
Bomb.
Gr. Sup.
Base S.
War O&M
Tr.
Tech. S.
Comm.
Weather
Traffic
Photo. M&C
Int. Insp.
Pub. Rel.
Dir. Pers.
Mil. Pers.
J. Advoc.
Budget
Phys. Dir.
Mgmt. Con.
Adj. Gen.
Org. Ph.
Stat. Pl.
Leg. Pl.
Mat. C.
F. C.

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 F. C.

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- Fighter Squadrons - 2 Squadrons in 2nd quarter, 1943
(Night)
- T/O Groups - 1-1/2 Groups in 2nd quarter; 1 Group in 3rd quarter, 1943
- Photo - Present unit to be built to 1 Group in 3rd quarter, 1943
- Observation Groups - 1 Group in 3rd quarter, 1943

All Heavy Bomb Groups to be at new T/O strength. The additional Group to depart U. S. in May, 1943.

All other units to be at reduced T/O strength until availability of planes and personnel makes it possible to increase units in all theaters to new T/O strength.

It is planned to furnish a 25% reserve of airplanes for all units as soon as availability of airplanes will permit, and reserve airplanes received by you are to be used as reserve and not under any circumstances to be used to increase strengths of existing Groups or to equip proposed new units.

If losses justify, attrition airplanes and crews will be furnished at the rate of 20% and 15% per month, respectively.

The Medium Bombardment units allotted you by the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be dispatched to your theater as soon after May as is practicable. The airplanes in these units, together with all future replacement airplanes sent to you, will be of the B-25 type.

The additional Fighter Groups allotted to you will be shipped one (1) in May, the remaining two (2) in early priority with, if possible, one (1) in June and the remaining one (1) in August.

All B-24, B-25, and A-20 airplanes dispatched to your theater, unless otherwise directed by you, will leave without having been modified, as per your agreement with the Materiel Command. Required modification parts and necessary drawings will be shipped in all cases where modifications are not made.

An analysis of your requirements and the enemy opposition (as stated by you and as figured by G-2), compared with the additional forces you are now scheduled to receive, make it appear that you are no longer the forgotten man.

This Headquarters will in the future keep you advised, at least one month in advance, of the replacement crews you are scheduled to receive.

A-1/AS
A-2/AS
Intel. S.
A-3/AS
A-4/AS
Plans/AS
Insp/AS
Mil. Req.
A. Def.
Bomb.
Gr. Sup.
Base S.
War O&M
Int. Tr.
Ad. S.
Comm.
Weather
Traffic
Photo. M&C
Tech. Insp.
Pub. Rel.
Dir. Pers.
Mil. Pers.
Civ. Pers.
J. Advoc.
Budget
Fiscal
Con.
Adj. Gen.
Org. Pl.
Stat. Pl.
Leg. Pl.
Mat. C.
A. S. C.
F. C.

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By KS NARA Date 9/2/02

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- 3 -

I sincerely hope that the outstanding performance of your Air Force in the recent Bismarck Sea engagement will have slowed down the Japs at least until your new units arrive in the theater.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely yours,

Sgd. H. H. Arnold

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

Dispatched
MAR 30 1943
AAG

A-1/AS
A-2/AS
Intcl. S.
A-3/AS
A-4/AS
Plans/AS
Insp/AS
Mil. Req.
A. Def.
Bomb.
Gr. Sup.
Base S.
War O&M
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A. S. C.
F. C.

SECRET