

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 IV

Change Directive Letters for Transferring the 380th Bomb Group to the Southwest Pacific instead of the European Theatre out of England.

Note that the aircraft for the 380th are handled separately.

Authority MM 740112
WDNARA Date 12/4/62

Continued Routing-Information-Form
Operations, Division

SECRET

3-30/2498

War Department Decimal Classification OPD 370.5 Ans (3-30-43)

- x 091 Ans
- x 091 Gr Brit
- x 321.19 AAF
- x 321.91

mev

**THIS COPY OF ROUTING FORM TO BE
DETACHED ONLY BY OPD RECORD SECTION**

Subject: Diversion of Bombardment Group. Date 3-30-43 Origin AAF

Digest: Memo from CG, AAF, 3-30-43, requests that a directive be issued to divert the 380th Bombardment Group (Heavy) from scheduled movement to United Kingdom in April, 1943 to movement to Australia in May, 1943.

Action:

1. European Section deleting units from directive.
2. D/F to AAF advising of action taken.

SWPA

European Section

- To
- Asiatic
 - European - No. African
Attn. Col. Lee
 - Latin American
 - Middle East - Cen. Africa
 - North American
 - Pacific
 - Southwest Pacific *WED*
 - Troop Movements *OPD*
 - Liaison
 - Troop
 - Materiel
 - Combined Subjects
 - Strategy
 - Current
- RNT*
- Logistics
 - Strategy & Policy

Comments:

Recommendation:

Section Chief *[Signature]* Date 3/30/43
 Group Chief *[Signature]* Date March 31

Concurrence:

- Executive OPD
- Deputy A. C. of Staff
- A. C. of Staff
- Dispatch Desk

FILE OPD
172

Rs 1 1943

Col
throp

Action by Col. Lee
COL. LEE

Signed [Signature] Date March 30, 1943

SECRET

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 O - 517201

Authority NM 7401/2
MDNARA Date 12/4/02



MAR 30 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, OPERATIONS DIVISION,
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF:

Subject: Diversion of Bombardment Group.

1. It is recommended that the following diversion be accomplished:

a. Diversion of the 380th Bombardment Group (Heavy) from scheduled movement to United Kingdom in April, 1943 to movement to Australia in May, 1943.

b. Diversion of the 345th Bombardment Group (Medium) from scheduled movement to United Kingdom in March and April, 1943 to movement to Australia in May, 1943.

2. It is requested that a directive be issued to effect the above diversions.

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:

JOHN B. COOLEY,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Assistant Air Adjutant General.

~~SECRET~~

Am. 370. 29X1 (61)

(172)

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND 730061
 By KS NARA Date 9/2/02

SECRET

Program Branch, CC &
 REK:ej 73085

3/30/43

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, OPERATIONS DIVISION,
 WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF:**

Subject: Diversion of Bombardment Group.

1. It is recommended that the following diversion be accomplished:

a. Diversion of the 380th Bombardment Group (Heavy) from scheduled movement to United Kingdom in April, 1943 to movement to Australia in April, 1943.

b. Diversion of the 345th Bombardment Group (Medium) from scheduled movement to United Kingdom in March and April, 1943 to movement to Australia in April, 1943.

2. It is requested that a directive be issued to effect the above diversions.

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:

Copy
JERRY A. COBBY,
 Colonel, A.C.F.

MEMO FOR RECORD: This action is initiated upon receipt of an R & R from Director of Bombardment to AFROM, Subject: Diversion of Heavy Bombardment Group from UK to Australia, dated 3-29-43, which states that a directive from Joint Chiefs of Staff and also General Arnold requests the diversions of the units. Paragraph 1b. above says "United Kingdom in March and April" because Air Echelon of 345th Bomb Group (M) was scheduled for March and Ground Echelon of the Group was scheduled for April.

RECEIVED

OFFICE SYMBOL	1 AFDPD	2 <i>Plan</i>	3 <i>Allocation</i>	4 <i>Assignment</i>	5	6
SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICER		<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>		
INTERNAL OFFICE COORDINATION	<i>REC [Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>		

SECRET

By *W. W. 140112*
NARA Date *12/5/02*

SECRET

OPD 4521 Case (8-27-43)

Subject: Change in destination of 380th group and resultant change in modifications.

War Organization & Movement, Aircraft Division (Attn: Maj-
Fletcher) THRU A-3, Asst. C of A/S.
Bombardment

Mar. 27, 1943

9/oc/3906 1

1. It is requested that the modification for the 38 airplanes for the 380th b bomb group - heavy - receive modification suitable for the Australian Theatre, instead of the Bolero modification which the airplanes for this group had been scheduled to receive.
2. The change in the destination of this group is in accordance with directive from Major General Stratemayer.
3. It is the understanding of this office that none of the airplanes for this group have as yet been completed and indicated as available for movement from modification center.

E. L. EURANK
Brig. General, U. S. A.

Coordinated by:
OPD - J.E.U.

MAR 28 P.M.



OUT
OPD. WDGS

D-7153
To AAF (Capt Valk, Room 4-E-116)
JMR

Filey

5937

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SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 730061
By US NARA Date 9/2/02

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SECRET

TALL NO.	SECRET
By Authority of	FILE
No. Commanding G.	6/2
of the Army Air Force	
DATE	MAR 31 1943
INITIAL	
DATE	March 30, 1943
A-Z/A	
COMMENT NO.	1
Serial No.	22/cpv/72485
A-S/AS	
Insop/AS	
Sub. Inv.	
A. Def.	
Branch	
Gr. Sup.	
Base S.	
Base S. In-	
Gen. Inv.	
Comm.	
Weather	
Traffic	
Photo. M&C	
Tech. Insp.	
Pub. Rel.	
Dir. Pers.	
Mil. Pers.	
Civ. Pers.	
Supv.	
J. Aff.	
Budg.	
Fisca.	
Mgmt. Con.	
Adj. Geo.	
Org. Pl.	
Stat. Pl.	
Leg. Pl.	
Stat. C.	
A. & C.	
P. C.	

522 group base

SUBJECT: Diversion of 380th Bomb. Group (H)

TO: Materiel Division
FROM: Bombardment Branch, Requirements Division.

1. It is desired to inform your office that subject Group comprising 58 B-24 airplanes, project Number ~~38082~~ ⁹¹²⁸⁵, now at the modification center, Tuscon, Arizona, (Est. date completion, April 18) has been diverted from United Kingdom, Eighth Air Force, to the Australian theater, Fifth Air Force.

2. In view of the above, immediate action must be taken to provide in the airplane the following equipment.

- a. SCR 535 IFF radio equipment.
- b. Two leak proof bomb bay tanks instead of one.

c. SCR 522 VHF is a new requirement for Australia. No doubt, this is installed in most of the subject airplanes. If this assumption is correct, it should remain installed in the airplanes having same. This item is classified as "desirable" for this project in those airplanes which do not now have the SCR 522 installed.

3. The project number of this movement to the Fifth Air Force is 96082; before the change of theater assignment, the number was as is indicated above.

Concurrence:
Communications *Jed-R*
Movement and Operations *GH*

JRSB
WILFRED R. MAXWELL,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Bombardment Branch.

APR 5 43 PM



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CLASSIFIED FILE UNIT
AG-222

SECRET

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