## 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

380<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group - World War II



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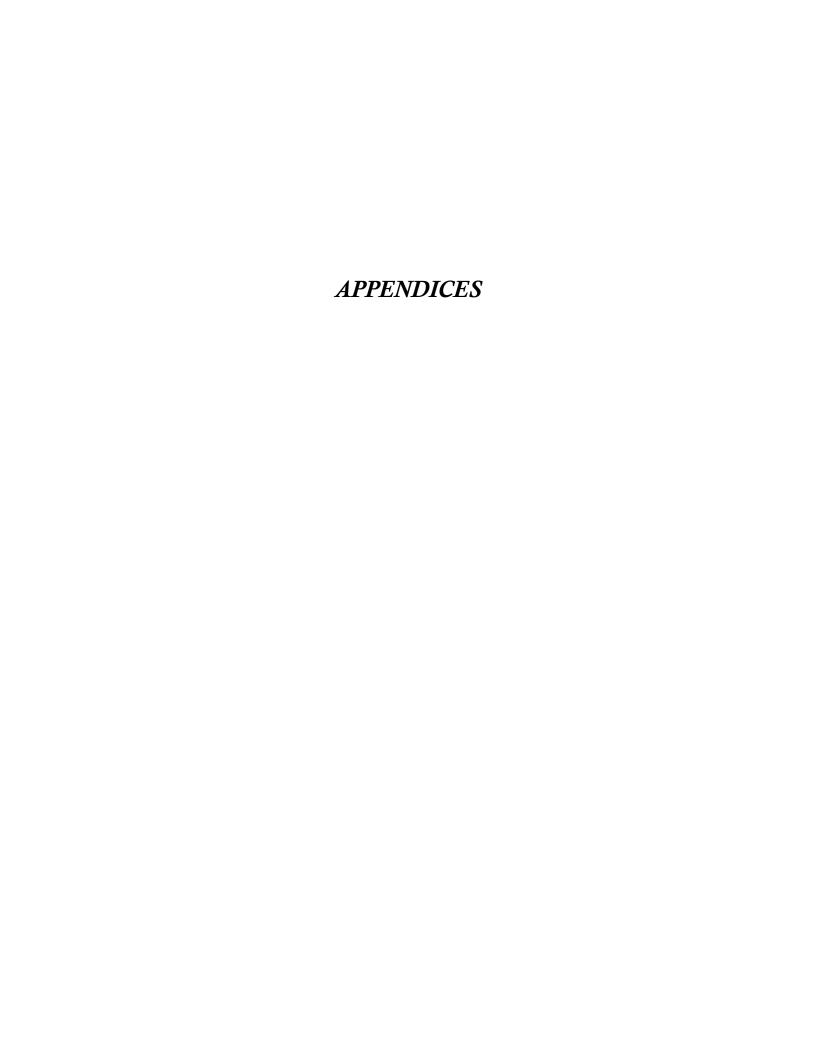
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## APPENDIX XI

General Kenney's Early Assessment of the 380<sup>th</sup> Performance

Authority NMD 740112

By MARA Date 12|5|02

Report from Gen. Kenney on the 5th Air Force

A-2 IN TURN: General Kuter

General Ciles

General Arnold General Harper

6/29/43

1.

The following is extracted from a letter which I have just received from General Kenney:

"The new 380th Heavy Group is beginning to get into action. Nearly every one of the crews has been out on missions with the 90th Group and over half of them have made one or more sorties on their own. They are not so good on bombing and they tend to stray during bad weather and at night but their gumars have been either fairly good or lucky and the ships of are coming home. On the night of April 11th/12th Thate sent one squadron of seven of them to bomb Vunakanau airdrome. Two made it, four turned back on account of weather and one, after bombing Goodenough Island. ogs. a owner 350 miles south of the target, has not shown up yet. Fourteen planes from the 90th Group took off on the NANGE same mission, eleven made it, two had motor trouble and one came back on account of the weather. However, MATION on its first mission the 90th Group lost three out of twelve airplanes, and after one had reached the target the remaining nine landed on six different sirdromes Exited from Milne Bay to Townsville. On the night of April 1hth/15th five planes of the 380th Group took officebomb Lakunai sirdroms. They all got there, did a good bombing job and then on the way back two of them the property in broad daylight about fifty miles east of Moresby where they decided to practice formation flying Practice rammed each other. Both planes were lost, eight me were saved from one and the crew of the other is listed as missing. They may have bailed out eye jungle."

Prepare suggested reply for me to make to him.

H. H. A.

SEGRET

Rdy