

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



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX XI

General Kenney's Early Assessment of the 380th Performance

Auth: NMD 740112
By: NARA Date 12/5/02

SECRET

Report from Gen. Kenney on the 5th Air Force

A-2 IN TURN: General Kuter
General Giles
General Arnold General Harper

6/29/43

1.

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

X 3 2 2
"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 gunners have been either fairly good or lucky and the ships are coming home. On the night of April 11th/12th I sent one squadron of seven of them to bomb Vunakana airdrome. Two made it, four turned back on account of weather and one, after bombing Goodenough Island 350 miles south of the target, has not shown up yet. Fourteen planes from the 90th Group took off on the same mission, eleven made it, two had motor trouble and one came back on account of the weather. However, 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 airdromes from Milne Bay to Townsville. On the night of April 14th/15th five planes of the 380th Group took off to bomb Lakunai airdrome. They all got there, did a good bombing job and then on the way back two of them ran in broad daylight about fifty miles east of Moresby where they decided to practice formation flying. They rammed each other. Both planes were lost, eight men were saved from one and the crew of the other is still listed as missing. They may have bailed out over the jungle."

X 3 2 2 O T U
Prepare suggested reply for me to make to him.

H. H. A.

MAIL & RECORD ROOM
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INFORMATION
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W. COM. AEROPO

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Rafale mace

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