
WE WENT TO WAR

Part X: The Background of Our Service, Why We Were in the Southwest Pacific Area – A Preview Theodore J. Williams and Barbara Gotham

Introduction

We took to the Williamsburg Reunion, September 2003, the set of documents we had collected to show that the 380th Bomb Group had been first scheduled to go to England to join the 8th Air Force as soon as we finished combat training at Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado, in April 1943. Instead, the Group's Orders were suddenly changed and we joined the 5th Air Force for our combat duty. These findings document that event.

At the Reunion, Tom Hunt and Jim Wright asked Ted Williams to write an abstract of the full story which will appear in *Part X: The Background of Our Service*, and asked further that it be put in this issue of *THE FLYING CIRCUS*. Here it is.

The Situation Prevailing

The American Air Units that came out of the Philippines and Java Campaigns were woefully inadequate to defend Australia from the expected Japanese onslaught, let alone try to recapture what was lost. In addition, the 7th Bomb Group, also in the Philippines, had been sent to India, leaving only the 19th for the heavy bomber component in Australia at that time. They flew B-17s.

The 43rd, also with B-17s, arrived in Australia in March 1942. The 90th, with B-24s, was sent to Hawaii in September 1942 and on to Australia in October. The 19th returned to the States in December 1942, leaving only the other two as the 5th Air Force complement of heavy bombers then available.

“American air units in Australia and New Guinea were not to be organized into a separate U.S. air force until September 1942, when General Kenney took command. Because the Australians were in a position to furnish the communications and headquarters personnel the Americans lacked, an Allied command incorporating both Australian and American units had seemed appropriate. The American planes were assigned late in May 1942 to the operational control of the commanding general of the land forces of the Northern Territory and to the commander of the New Guinea Force on the understanding that these ground commanders would not interfere with the control exercised by air officers except in the event of an imminent attack.

Except for northeastern Australia, the RAAF assumed responsibility for the defense of the Australian continent and, in addition, full responsibility for reconnaissance and bomber operations flown from the Darwin area against Japanese bases in the Netherlands East Indies. The Fifth Air Force took over the full job in eastern Australia and in Papua on New Guinea. The arrangement, of course, was not intended to be inflexible. RAAF squadrons were attached to the Fifth Air Force and repeatedly participated in hits operations, while the Fifth frequently furnished units to its ally on request.”¹

Until January 1943, this had involved occasional visits by the 19th, 43rd, and 90th Groups for special reconnaissance missions. In January elements of the 400th Squadron of the 90th were at Fenton for reconnaissance. Elements of the 319th Squadron were to relieve them on January 21, but it was decided then that the whole 319th Squadron would move to Fenton semi-permanently. They remained until relieved by the 380th. They returned to Port Moresby on July 7, 1943.

General Kenney's Plan for the Northwest Area Command:²

“To oppose the Jap ring, which stretches from Timor to Rabaul, and leaving the Solomons to South Pacific forces, I can muster from the R.A.A.F. and the 5th Air Force combined about 700 combat aircraft (counting everything that can be used legitimately in a shooting war), which must be spread from Darwin to Horn Island, to Port Moresby, to Milne Bay and around to Dobodura.

With the increased Jap attention to the area between Timor and the west coast of New Guinea I have already found it necessary to station one squadron of B.24's in the Darwin area for reconnaissance and bombing of shipping and aerodromes. I cannot overlook the possibility of Jap attempts to put in a string of aerodromes along the New Guinea west coast and even the seizure of Merauke, where a good dry season aerodrome already exists. I believe such a move is contemplated by the Nips to forestall any attempt by us to work up the coast from Merauke, establish air bases and bomb his installations and shipping along the Tarakan-Wewak line, which are now out of range of a bomber with full load. I'd like to do it if I had the bombers to spare.

Accordingly I have to constantly survey all likely spots from Merauke to the northwest and crack down on any construction that starts. If the Jap occupied Merauke he would be a constant thorn in my side, as he would be right on the Torres Strait shipping lane and could easily raid every aerodrome from Horn Island to Cooktown and around to Port Moresby itself. The place is weakly

WE WENT TO WAR

PART X PREVIEW (continued)

held by a volunteer Dutch company and the Australians do not seem to have any troops to spare to reinforce the garrison.

What is really needed is sufficient heavy bomber strength to keep pounding Jap bases and shipping in the Timor – Ambon – west coast of New Guinea area and at the same time hammer at the same targets in New Britain and New Ireland. One force to keep the enemy from the Darwin area; the other to help us forward in the New Guinea theatre and help Soupac in the Solomons. A seizure of Darwin by the Nip would be bad news. While it may not seem to be a vital point for the defence of Australia, its loss would deprive us of all our advanced bases for the eventual operations toward Timor as well as the area from which a lot of our essential reconnaissance flights are carried out. From Darwin the Jap would dominate the whole north coast of Australia. It would be the devil of a job to oust the Nips if they ever got a foothold there on account of the lack of communications to get at them. I need to maintain a heavy group in the Darwin area all the time with facilities available to throw a second group into the picture at any time from the Moresby area where three groups would be stationed permanently. As soon as we clean up the Lae/Madang/Cape Gloucester (New Britain) area, I want to develop Merauke as a bomber base. Then we would be set to go forward.”

General Kenney's First Trip to Washington

Major General George H. Kenney was given command of the Allied Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area on August 7, 1942, and formed the Fifth Air Force on September 3, 1942. He was commander of both since the Allied Air Force was the 5th Air Force plus the RAAF.

He was called to Washington to report to General Arnold and the Joint Chiefs of Staff on March 4, 1943, and arrived in Washington on March 10. In the meantime the Battle of the Bismarck Sea had occurred on March 2-4. This success obviously had a great influence on the succeeding negotiations.

“The conferees listened to our plan to move west and north along the New Guinea coast, capture Lae, and then continue on, seizing both sides of the vital Vitiaz Straits. When the SOPAC forces had advanced north through the Solomon Islands and had gained control of Bougainville Island, we would then be in position to make a two-pronged attack to capture Rabaul.”³

This was before the strategy of bypassing Japanese strongholds was developed.

“On March 17, I was invited to pay a visit to the White House. I talked for some time with President Roosevelt, who wanted to hear the whole story of the war in our theater in detail as well as a blow-by-blow description of the Bismarck Sea Battle. I found the President surprisingly familiar with the geography of the Pacific, which made it quite easy to talk with him about the war out there. He wanted to know how I was making out on getting airplanes. I told him that so far my chances didn't look very good. When he asked why, I said that among other reasons given me was that he had made so many commitments elsewhere that there were no planes left to give me. The President laughed and said he guessed he'd have to look into the matter and see if a few couldn't be found somewhere that might be sent me. He said that if anybody was a winner, he should be given a chance to keep on winning.”³

Arnold called me to his office on the 22nd and told me he had gone over the whole picture and had squeezed everything dry to give me some help. He said I was to get a new heavy-bombardment group, two and a half medium groups, and three more fighter groups. One of these fighter groups would be equipped with P-47s, which no one else wanted. I said I'd take them. The other fighter group would have to be manned by me. Hap said he would give me P-38s to equip it if I could furnish the pilots and the mechanics. I said to give me the planes and I'd find the men if I had to dissolve my own headquarters staff to get the people to fly them. He also promised me another troop-carrier group of fifty-two C-47s, some depot and service outfits, and other odds and ends to balance the organization. Altogether it looked as though, by the end of 1943, I'd have about five hundred more aircraft than I had when I left Australia.”³

The 380th, as the next B-24 outfit in line, was the one noted. He returned to Australia on April 6, 1943.

In the meantime the bureaucratic machine was turning out the necessary stream of memoranda and orders to send the 380th to England as noted in the attached list (Table I) and accompanying extracts of memos and orders. Note that Shipment 2618 is definitely for the United Kingdom and the European Theatre of Operations.

The necessary stream of memos and orders to reverse this situation is shown next in Table II. It is interesting that the first action taken was to see that the aircraft being prepared for the 380th were properly modified. The actual official notification of our personnel is shown in Table III. I would assume that there was a flurry of rumors before that with so important and unexpected a change.

WE WENT TO WAR

PART X PREVIEW (continued)

After we arrived, the 43rd converted to B-24s in the summer (Northern Hemisphere) of 1943, going active in B-24s completely by September. The 22nd, originally a B-26 outfit, converted to B-24s in the January 1944 period, thus giving the four B-24 groups we are all familiar with.

The first word the 380th had (except rumors) was obviously those orders shown next in Tables III and IV. The order of March 24, 1943, to Second Air Force (Document 1) would have engendered a corresponding order by Second Air Force to Lowery Field and on to the 380th. Copies of the latter orders are not available, but Documents 2 and 3 bear evidence of the existence and execution by the 380th. The Air Detachment Orders are not reproduced here.

Table III shows that the War Department issued the first movement order for the 380th to Australia on April 7, 1943, superseding the one of March 24, 1946, to England. Second Air Force issued their version on April 10, with Lowery issuing final orders on April 16. The air element of the 380th had been officially notified under date of April 14 of this change.

Ted Williams has a great deal of information concerning the actual movement of both elements to Australia which is much too bulky to include here. It will be included in Part X: The Background of Our Service, to the extent possible.

Note the first official mention of the 380th in the dispatches in Document 15. Not too flattering but better than the others as noted there.

We should all consider the fact that the 380th would probably have gone to Ploesti on the low-level raid in August 1943 instead of the Balikpapan as we actually did. We can wonder what affect that would have had on history – ours and the world's.

(Footnotes)

1 Caver and Cate, *The USAAF in World War II*, Volume 5, Solomons to Okinawa.

2 Letter to Lt. Gen. H.H. Arnold, January 23, 1943.

3 Kenney, George H., GENERAL KENNEY REPORTS.

TABLE I
CHRONOLOGY OF THE BUREAUCRATIC MESSAGES

1.	Mid January 1943	380 th First Listed on Deployment Schedule for Shipment to United Kingdom	A copy of this is not available
2.	OPD 370.5 Gr Brit (3-15-43)	Notice of Movement of 380 th to United Kingdom	Copy not available
3.	OPD 370.5 (3-24-43)	Movement Orders, Shipment No. 2618, 380 th and Others to United Kingdom	Document 1
4.		Entrainment of the 380 th Air Element to Topeka, Kansas	Document 2
5.		Other 380 th Actions to Prepare for Deployment	Document 3

TABLE II
CHRONOLOGY OF THE REVERSAL OF THE EUROPEAN SHIPMENT OF THE 380TH TO AN AUSTRALIAN ONE

1.	9/gc/3906 (March 27, 1943)	Change in destination of 380 th group and resultant change in modifications	Document 4
2.	OPD 370.5 Aus (3-30-43)	Movement of Air Force Units to the Southwest Pacific Area	Document 5
3.	OPD 370.5 Gr Brit (3-15-43) Letter 3-30-43	Movement of Units to the UK (Deletion of 380 th and 345 th)	Document 6
4.	Memorandum, Mar. 29, 1943	Diversion of Bombardment Group (Note reference on second page to General Arnold)	Document 7
5.	OPD 370.5 (3-30-43) changing document of (3-05-43)	Movement of Units to the United Kingdom deleted Please note handwritten responses at bottom of the page	Document 8
6.	OPD 370.5 Aus (3-30-43)	Diversion of Bombardment Group	Document 9
7.	Headquarters, Fifth Air Force	Announcement of Allocation of 318 th Bomb Group (sic)	Document 10

Authority END 740112
By 13 NARA Date 12/6/02

①
SECRET

BY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S. G.P.

24 Mar 43
Date _____
Initials _____

OPD 370.5/CT (3/24/43)

OPD
EOD
6391

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Subject: Movement Orders, Shipment No. 2618.

The Chief of Staff directs:

I. That instructions be issued the

Commandant Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics,
C G, Second Air Force,
C G, Third Air Force,
C G, Western Defense Command,
C G, Eastern Defense Command,
C G, Air Service Command,
C G, New York Port of Embarkation,
C G, Boston Port of Embarkation,
C G, New York Air Service Port Area Command, Newark, N.J.,
Chief of Transportation, Army Service Forces,
Chiefs of all Supply Services

by the most expeditious confidential means of communication available
substantially as follows:

1. It is desired that you take without delay the action for which you are responsible to prepare for foreign service and to move the units listed below and equipment accompanying them to the New York Port of Embarkation and to move other equipment and supplies to the New York Port of Embarkation, the Boston Port of Embarkation or New York Air Service Port Area Command (Newark Intransit Depot), (for further movement by water transportation) as directed by the Commanding General, New York Port of Embarkation.

Unit	Code Designation (Shipment No)	Station	Agency to Issue Move- ment Orders	Strength			T/O
				Off	WO	EM	
351st Bomb Gp (H) (less Flight Echelon) (Shipments 2618-F, G, H, I, J) Hq	2618-A	Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho (AAB, Pueblo, Colo. (Temp)	CG, Second Air Force	66	1109	1-112 (7-1-42) (164)(1) (239)	C-1(8-15-42) C-2(9-21-42) C-3(1-25-43)

RETURN TO O. P. D. SHOWING ACTION

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Authority WFO 740112
By WFO NARA Date 12/6/02

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Unit	Code Designation (Shipment No)	Station	Agency to Issue Move- ment Orders	Strength Off WO Civ RM	T/O
508th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-B	Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho (AAB, Pueblo, Colo. (Temp)	C G, Second Air Force		1-117 (7-1-42) C-1(8-8-42) C-2(1-25-43)
509th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-C	"	"		"
510th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-D	"	"		"
511th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-E	"	"		"
379th Bomb Gp (H) (less Flight Ech) (Shipments 2618,P, R,S,T,V) And less Adv. Det. Hq	2618-K	Geiger Field, Spokane, Wash. (Temp. AAB, Sioux City, Ia.)	"	62 7 #1 1133 (162)(1) (215)	
				(4)	1-112, (7-1-42) C-1 (8-15-42) C-2(9-21-42) C-3(1-25-43)
524th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-L	"	"		1-117(7-1-42) C-1 (8-8-42) C-2(1-25-43)
525th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-M	"	"		"
526th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-N	"	"		"
527th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-O	"	"		"
380th Bomb Gp (H) (less Flight Ech) (Shipments 2618-PP, QQ,RR,II,JJ) And Less Adv. Det. Hq	2618-AA	Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz. (Temp. Lowry Field, Denver, Colo.)	"	58 1 1136 (166) (212)	
				(4)	1-112(7-1-42) C-1(8-15-42) C-2(9-21-42) C-3(1-25-43)
528th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-BB	"	"		1-117(7-1-42) C-1 (8-8-42) C-2 (1-25-42)
529th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-CC	"	"		"
530th Bomb Sq (H)	2618-DD	"	"		"
531st Bomb Sq (H)	2618-EE	"	"		"

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II. That you inform the

C G, European Theater of Opns., London,
C G, New York Port of Embarkation,
C G, Boston Port of Embarkation,
Chief of Transportation, Army Service Forces,
Chief, Opns. & Plan. Sec., Censorship Br., G-2,
Chief, Logistics Gp., Opns Div., W.D.C.S.

only, and by separate secret communication as follows:

1. The destination of Shipment 2618 is UNITED KINGDOM, for assignment to the European Theater of Operations.
2. Code designation (Example: 2618-A) will be used in lieu of destination and/or designation of units.
3. The Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, will report to this office when Shipment 2618 has been completed to his command. This is of the utmost importance.
4. The Chief of Transportation, Army Service Forces, will make the necessary transportation available for Shipment 2618 and coordinate with all concerned.
5. The Commanding General, New York Port of Embarkation, and/or Commanding General, Boston Port of Embarkation will take all necessary action to move Shipment 2618 to overseas destination.

III. That you inform the Station Commanders concerned; the Director, Army Postal Service (2 copies); the Commanding General, New York Port of Embarkation; and the Destination Commander only and by secret communication of the A. P. O. number and Postmaster address to be used for personnel of units listed in this order in compliance with paragraph 5, Section I.

IV. That the following be informed of Sections of this directive indicated below:

	SECTIONS		
	I	II	III
Chief of Transportation, A. S. F.	X	X	
C G, Army Air Forces	X		
C G, Army Service Forces	X		
C G, Eastern Defense Command	X		
C G, Western Defense Command	X		
C G, Air Service Command	X		
Commandant Army Air Force School of Applied Tactics	X		
C G, First Air Force			

SECRET

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(2)

HEADQUARTERS
380TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

Lowry Field, Colorado
April 4, 1943

SUBJECT: Troup Movement.

TO : Air Echelon, 380th Bombardment Group (H) AAF

1. Air Echelon will entrain at 1745 on Monday, April 5, 1943. Squadron Commanders will form their Squadrons in front of their respective Orderly Rooms, by crews, at such time as to have roll taken by 1715.
2. Air Echelon will eat supper before 1700.
3. Air Echelon will entrain in Class "A" Uniform with gas masks slung and one piece of hand luggage. All other baggage will be taken to baggage cars and loaded at 1200. This includes organizational equipment and records to be taken by air.
4. 2nd Lt. Henderson, R. A. is appointed baggage officer. Lt. Henderson will supervise loading of baggage at 1200, and will obtain one E. M. from each squadron to serve as baggage car guards.
5. 1st Lt. Philibosian, L. H. is appointed Officer of the Guard, and will appoint such other officers as are necessary to help maintain discipline during the movement. Lt. Philibosian will coordinate his activities with Squadron Commanders.
6. No Officer or E. M. will be allowed off the train during the movement.

[Signature]
Major, A. C.
Train Commander.

HEADQUARTERS 380TH BOMB GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Materiel Officer
Lowry Field, Colorado

(3)
April 6, 1943

SUBJECT: In Connection With Overseas Movement Orders.

TO : Base S-4 Officer, Lowry Field, Colorado.

1. This is to inform you that the 380th Bombardment Group has conducted almost weekly inspections of personal clothing equipment.
2. In compliance with directives in FOM the complete physical show-down inspection of all equipment in all branches of Supply of the 380th Bomb Group was made on Friday and Saturday, April 2nd & 3rd, 1943.
3. The following personnel conducted these inspections for their respective branches of Supply:

Property	528th Sq	529th Sq	530th Sq	531st Sq
Q.M. & ENG.	Lt. Allegri Sgt. Smith	Lt. Lavato Sgt. Kaplan	Lt. Weinberg Cpl. Miller	Lt. Zike Pvt. Intravia
AIR CORPS	Lt. Smith Sgt. Davis	Lt. Donnelly Sgt. Miller	Lt. Duncan Sgt. Childers	Lt. Bush Sgt. Danhart
SIGNAL	Lt. Barter Sgt. Pulcher	Lt. Updike Sgt. Spaid	Lt. Bartley Sgt. Haworth	Lt. Fonseca Sgt. Dunlap
ORDNANCE	Lt. Mowery Sgt. Douling	Lt. VanCheri Sgt. Mathews	Lt. Henderson Sgt. Anderson	Lt. Messard Sgt. Siegel
MEDICAL	Capt. Butts Sgt. Hokes	Capt. Hubbard Sgt. Imm	Capt. Garron Sgt. Coker	Capt. Glass Sgt. Flein
CHEMICAL	Personnel supervised by Lt. Cox, Group Chemical Officer.			

JULES E. SIMON,
1st Lt. Air Corps,
Asst. Group S-4.

Authority NMD 740112
By NARA Linc 12/5/02

QDR SECRET

4

4523 (3-27-43)
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

9/25/3906

1

1. It is requested that the modification for the 38 airplanes for the 380th 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 Stratemeyer.
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. EUBANK
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)
9/12

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

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET
SECRET

TALL NO.	SECRET
BY AUTHORITY OF	<u>6/12</u>
NO. COMMENTS	
OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES	
MAR 31 1943	
DATE	INITIAL

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

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

DATE March 30, 1943

COMMENT NO. 1
22/cpy/72485

1. It is desired to inform your office that subject Group comprising 38 B-24 airplanes, project Number 95082, now at the modification center, Tucson, 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 95082; before the change of theater assignment, the number was as is indicated above.

Concurrence:
Communications Jed-Ber
Movement and Operations GH

ALFRED R. MAXWELL,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Bombardment Branch.

APR 5 43 PM



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A. & C.	
P. C.	

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BY AUTHORITY OF A. COOPER S. OPD
GCL

..... 5506
Date Initials

OPD 370.6 Aus (3-30-43)

March 30, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES,
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY SERVICE FORCES:

Subject: Movement of Air Force Units to
the Southwest Pacific Area.

The Chief of Staff directs:

1. That necessary action be taken to prepare the units listed below for service with the Fifth Air Force (Australia) and to move them to the Port of Embarkation designated by the Commanding General, Army Service Forces at the proper time.

UNITS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
1 Bomb Gp (H)	AAF
1 Bomb Gp (M)	AAF

2. Units will move at T/O strength and with T/BA equipment.

3. Flight echelons of the units listed above will be dispatched to destination by air at the earliest practicable date. Ground echelons will be prepared to leave home stations by April 20, 1943. Dispatch of ground echelons to destination will be by water. Simultaneous arrival at destination of flight and ground echelons of these units is not required.

4. Commanding General, Army Service Forces, will:

- Inform those concerned as to designation of the port.
- Furnish transportation for the movement of the ground echelons.
- Make the overseas movement based on priorities to be furnished separately.

5. The above units are not included in the list of units required for overseas service, projected six months into the future.

✓ OPD 370.6 Gf1

175

Authority NMD 740112
by ANARA Dats 12/5/02

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OPD 370.5 Aus (3-30-43)
Memo to CGs, AAF & ASF, 3-30-43 - Subj: Command of AF Units to the SWPA.

dated February 27, 1943. These units will be included in the new six months projected list to be published in the near future, under the month of April.

THOS. T. HANDY,
Major General,
Assistant Chief of Staff.

J. E. UPSTON
Brigadier General,

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

Deputy Chief, Theater Group, OPD, G.S.

1. This directive implements movement of one Bomb Gp (H) and one Bomb Gp (M) to SWPA in accordance with the approved new deployment of Air Force Units for this Theater.

2. CG, AAF has indicated that the units designated are the 380th Bomb Gp (H) and the 345th Bomb Gp (M); AAF (Captain Talbott - 71790) states that flight echelons of heavy bombardment group are ready to depart now, that flight echelons of medium bombardment group will be ready the latter part of April, that ground echelons of both heavy and medium bomb gps will be ready the latter part of April. AAF (Captain Talbott - 71790) concurs in the readiness date of April 20 for ground echelons; this readiness date assigned in order to take advantage of any additional shipping that might become available late in April. These units are being given highest priority for movement in early May shipping.

cbo

NR30 13 PM



D-7205 AAF (ASF Del by hand (Gy. Chf. Liaison Br)
G-3 D-7206 }
G-4 D-7210 } egr

OUT. BY
OPD WDGS

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Authority NND 740112
By AS NARA Date 12/6/02

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SECRET
OPD
BY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S. OPD
HQS
72969

Date

Initials

OPD 370.5 Gr Brit
(3-18-43)

March 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES,
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY SERVICE FORCES:

Subject: Movement of Units to the United Kingdom.

The Chief of Staff directs:

That memorandum, this office, dated March 18, 1943, above subject, addressed to the Commanding Generals, Army Air Forces and Services of Supply, listing units for movement to the port of embarkation not later than May 1, 1943, be amended as follows:

Delete the following units listed in paragraph 1:

380th Bomb Gp (H)

348th Fighter Gp (H) plus one month's attrition

THOMAS T. RANDY,
Major General,
Assistant Chief of Staff.

NOTE FOR RECORD:

These units have been diverted to another theater.

JS

MAR 31 43 PM



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G-3 D-7236

G-4 D-7234

TAG Del. by hand

C. B. FERENBAUGH,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief European Section,
Theater Group, OPD, GS.

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



Program Branch, OC
REK:ej 73085

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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.

MAR 29 43 PM

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:

Dispatched

MAR 30 1943

AAG

Egdl

JOHN B. COOLEY,
Colonel, A.G.D.,

Assistant Air Adjutant General.

RECEIVED
MAR 30 43 AM

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

RECEIVED
CLASSIFIED FILE UNIT
AAG - AAG

OFFICE SYMBOL	1	2	3	4	5	6
SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICER						
INTERNAL OFFICE COORDINATION						

SECRET

Authority NND 740112
By 45 NARA Date 12/6/02

Combined Routing-Information-Filing Fo
Operations Division

SECRET

War Department Decimal Classification:

OPD 370.5 Gr Brit (3-3-43)

x 32181
x 321.19228
x 321.19258

Subject:

Movement of Units to the United
Kingdom. (Deletion of 345th Bomb Sq.)

Date 3-30-43

Origin

European

Digest:

Action:

Memorandum to the Commanding Generals, AAF and ASF amending memorandum
above subject dated March 3, 1943.

European
Section

To

- ☐ African-Middle Eastern
- ☐ Asiatic
- ☐ European
- ☐ Latin American
- ☐ North American
- ☐ Pacific
- ☐ Southwest Pacific
- ☒ Troop Movements
- ☐ Current
- ☐ Resources & Require.
- ☐ Combined Subjects
- ☐ Future Operations
- ☐ Strategy

Comments:

Noted by Gen. Upston

Recommendation:

Section Chief

Group Chief

Concurrence:

Executive, OPD

Deputy A.C. of Staff

A.C. of Staff

Dispatch Desk

☒ Dispatch
☐ File

Action by Lt Col Chuck

Signed

Date March 30, 1943

MAR 31 1943

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *MM 74011*
NARA Date *12/4/02*

WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
DISPOSITION FORM
OPERATIONS DIVISION

OPD 370.5 Aus (3-30-43)

Division of Bombardment Group.

SECRET

BY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S, OPD

Date *74675* Initials *ML*

March 31, 1943.

MAR 31 43 PM



OPD WDGS

AAF-D-7237
Ex to
ASK. Del by hand
G-4 D-7237
G-3 D-7236

☒ CG ARMY AIR FORCES

☒ Necessary action

1. Diversion of 380th Bomb Gp (H) and 345th Bomb Gp (M) from United Kingdom to Australia as recommended in Memo AAF to OPD, dated March 30, 1943, subject as above, is approved.

2. Memo OPD 370.5 Gr.Brit.(3-15-43) dated March 31, 1943, subject: Movement of units to the United Kingdom, deletes these units from movement directive.

3. Memo OPD 370.5 Aus (3-30-43) dated March 30, 1943, subject: Movement of Air Force Units to Southwest Pacific Area, directs movement of these units to SWPA.

1 Incl.

AAF Memo to OPD 3-30-43.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

MEMO AAF to OPD dtd Mar 30, 1943, subject: Diversion of Bombardment Group, recommends diversion of 380th Bomb Gp (H) and 345th Bomb Gp (M) from UK to SWPA. ~~Now to be accomplished with new JCS deployment.~~

This D/F advises AAF of action taken.

cbs

THOS. T. HANDY,

Major General,

Assistant Chief of Staff.

J. E. UPSTON

Brigadier General,

Deputy Chief, Theater Group, OPD, G.S.

Deputy Chief, Theater Group, OPD, G.S.

SECRET

OPD file Copy

172

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

COPY.

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

(10)

9 April, 1943.

SUBJECT: 318th Bomb Group (H)

TO : Commanding General, Advanced Echelon, Fifth Air Force.
Air Officer Commanding, R.A.A.F. Command, A.A.F.
Commanding General, Air Service Command.
Commanding General, V Bomber Command, APO 929.

1. The 318th Bomb Group (H) has been allocated for assignment to this theater. Information available at this time indicates:

a. This group will be composed of 35 B-24 airplanes with combat crews.

b. Delivery of airplanes and combat crews begins in April at an unknown rate of delivery.

c. The ground echelon of this group is scheduled for shipment in May which indicates that the middle of June is the earliest they could arrive in the Southwest Pacific Area.

d. Combat crews will need orientation and training before entering combat.

2. The following program for installation of this Group will be effected:

a. The permanent station of the 318th Group is Fenton, Darwin Area.

b. The first arrivals of airplanes and crews of the 318th Bomb Group will be despatched by Headquarters Fifth Air Force direct to Fenton, until a total of twentyfour (24) B-24's including those assigned the 319th Bomb Squadron are stationed at Fenton. These airplanes and crews will be attached to the 319th Bomb Squadron now at Fenton.

c. After completing a strength of 24 aircraft at Fenton additional airplanes and crews of the 318th Group arriving will be attached to the 90th Bomb Group until that Group has 36 B-24's in the Moresby Area.

d. After 90th Group has received a quota of 36 B-24's in the Moresby Area additional crews of 318th Group arriving will be attached to the 43rd Bomb Group until that Group has a total of 48 airplanes.

-1-
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10

e. After 43rd Group has received a total of 48 airplanes additional crews of the 318th Group arriving will be attached to Charters Towers pool. From this Pool they will be despatched to maintain the strengths indicated in above paragraphs.

f. The ground echelon of 318th Bomb Group will be immediately despatched to Fenton upon arrival in this theater.

g. After ground echelon of 318th Bomb Group is established at Fenton and one squadron of 318th Group at Fenton is ready for combat then the 319th Squadron will be returned to its permanent station at Port Moresby. After the ground echelon of the 318th has become established, as the remainder of 318th crews become ready for combat they will be moved individually to Fenton by the Commanding General, V Bomber Command.

3. It is desired that the combat crews of the 318th on temporary duty with other organizations retain their identity as members of the 318th Bomb Group.

4. For the purpose of supply and administration the 318th Bomb Group Headquarters will be temporarily assigned to Fifth Air Force upon arrival of the air echelon in this theater. Its permanent assignment will be Fenton. The Headquarters of the individual squadrons of the Group will be picked up upon the arrival of the ground echelon and permanently assigned to Fenton. Therefore, in effect, no squadron organization will exist until arrival of the ground echelon. Until such time as the ground organization arrives administrative channels concerning combat crews attached to 90th or 43rd Bomb Groups for training will be direct from those Bomb Groups to V Bomber Command.

For the Commanding General:

DONALD WILSON,
Brigadier General, A.U.S.
Chief of Staff.

Information copy: Commanding General, USAFFE.

TABLE III
NOTIFICATION OF 380TH OF DIVERSION OF OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT

1.	WD 370.5 (4-7-43) OB-S-E-M	Movement Orders, Shipment 2960, 380 th to Australia	Copy not available
2.	370.5 (E-3) April 10, 1943 Second Air Force	Movement Orders, Shipment 2960 Note statement concerning equipment already sent to New York on second page	Document 11
3.	Special Orders, Topeka AAF, Kansas, April 14, 1943	Shipment 2960, Air Element – First Official Document to Air Crews of 380 th	Copy not available
4.	Special Orders 102, Lowry Field, April 16, 1943	Shipment 2960, Air Element – First Official Document to Ground Element of 380 th Directly	Document 12
5.	Telegram, Fifth Air Force, April 23, 1943	Announcing Arrival of 380 th Aircraft and Correcting Document 10	Document 13
6.	Fifth Air Force, Troop Movement, Directive 32	Transfer from Sydney to Darwin of Ground Element	Document 14
7.	General Arnold distribution of Letter from General Kenney	First notes of 380 th in Dispatches	Document 15

TABLE IV
NOTIFICATION TO AIR DETACHMENT OF 380TH – DEPLOYMENT TO AUSTRALIA

1. Letter of Instruction, Headquarters, Air Transport Command, Washington, D.C., March 2, 1943.
2. PAC Special Order 101, Headquarters, Topeka Army Air Base, Topeka, KS, April 12, 1943.
 Project 96054-R, Shipment 2960-P
 Project 96082-R, Shipment 2960-R
 Report CG, Hawaiian Department, Army Air Forces for further dispatch to destination
3. Operations Order 273, Headquarters, 11th Ferrying Group, Army Air Forces, Air Transport Command, Hamilton Field, CA, April 14, 1943
 TDN 31 P 432-01-02-03-07-08 A 0425-25
 Also
 Par 1, Opns Order 286, April 17, 1943, 11th Ferrying Group
 Par 1, Opns Order 293, April 21, 1943
 Par 1, Opns Order 305, April 24, 1943
 Par 2, Spec Ord 45, Hqs, 19 Ferrying Group, ATC, APO 953, April 26, 1943

IMMEDIATE ACTION

HEADQUARTERS SECOND AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
Fort George Wright, Washington

11

IN REPLY
REFER TO

WAR DEPARTMENT

370.5 (2-3)

April 10, 1943.

SUBJECT: Movement Orders, Shipments 2960-K, L, M, N, and O.

TO : Commanding Officer, Army Air Base, Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado.

1. Pursuant to the authority contained in Confidential War Department letter, file WD 370.5 (4-7-43) OE-S-E-M, subject: "Movement Orders, Shipment 2960", dated April 7, 1943, it is requested that you take the necessary action and/or issue the necessary orders to prepare for foreign service and to move the below listed organization and equipment accompanying it to the SAN FRANCISCO PORT OF EMBARKATION (for further movement by water transportation), so as to arrive at the time, date and place designated by the Commanding General, San Francisco Port of Embarkation. The Commanding General, San Francisco Port of Embarkation has already called for this shipment and the pertinent information reference this call has been relayed to you.

UNIT	CODE DESIGNATION (SHIP. NO.)	PRESENT STATION	STRENGTH			T/O
			OFF	WO	EM	
*380th Bomb Gp (H) **(Less Flt Ech)		AAB, Lowry Fld, Denver, Colo. (Last Perm Sta: AAB, Davis-Monthan Fld, Tucson, Ariz.)	56 (172)	1	1140 (208)	
Hq	2960-K	"				1-112 (7-1-42) C-1 (8-15-42) C-2 (9-21-42) C-3 (1-25-43)
528th Bomb Sq (H)	2960-L	"				1-117 (7-1-42) C-1 (8-8-42) C-2 (1-25-43)
529th Bomb Sq (H)	2960-M	"				"
530th Bomb Sq (H)	2960-N	"				"
531st Bomb Sq (H)	2960-O	"				"

P-23

Q. 34. C. Form 896 (OM Form 482)
Approved December 1, 1922

- 1 -

IMMEDIATE ACTION

3-8424

4/10/43 - Cont'd

(2) To be Obtained at the Port:

- ✓ Headnets (1 per individual)
- ✓ Bars, mosquito (1 per individual)
- ✓ Glasses, sun (1 pair per individual; plus 50% maintenance)
- ✓ T/A heavy tentage
- ✓ Cots, canvas (1 per individual)
- ✓ Protective clothing (see paragraph 10 a (1) below)

a. The following items are not authorized for this movement:

X — Tent stoves

f. To Accompany the Units from Present Station:

(1) Clothing and equipment as prescribed in paragraph 8 above except that the following items will not accompany the units:

Items authorized in paragraph 8 d (2) above
General purpose motor vehicles (as listed in POM)
Heavy tentage as prescribed in T/BA

NOTE: Any organizational equipment shipped by the 380th Bomb Group to the New York or Boston Ports of Embarkation as directed in Movement Orders, Shipment 2618, will not accompany the unit. This equipment is being remarked and shipped to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation under instructions issued separately to the Commanding Generals, New York and Boston Ports of Embarkation.

9. Instructions Reference Shipments to the Port:

a. To be Shipped to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation:

NOTE: Any organizational supplies and equipment shipped by the Chiefs of Supply Services for the 380th Bomb Group as directed in Movement Orders, Shipment 2618, respectively, to the New York and Boston Ports of Embarkation are being remarked and shipped to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. Letter, WD 370.5 (4-3-43) OB-S-E-SPOPT-M, April 5, 1943, Subject: Amendment No. 1 to Movement Orders, Shipment 2618, deleted the 380th Bomb Group from that Movement Order.

(1) The Chiefs of Supply Services will ship the following:

(Based on 90 days' Theater of Operations Maintenance, and 30 days' Zone of Interior Maintenance).

RESTRICTED

12

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 102)

HEADQUARTERS LOWRY FIELD
Denver, Colorado
April 16, 1943.

EXTRACT

32. Under auth of * * Shipment Nos 2960 K-L-M-N-O this sta consisting of O and enlisted personnel (in gr) listed below, with organizational equipment and impedimenta, is trfd (pamchg of sta) to San Francisco POE for foreign service WP by rail * *:

TRAIN COMPLENDERS:

1ST LT STANLEY M WHITCRAFT 0911955 2960-K - Section 2
2ND LT JOHN E LAYLOR 0569041 2960-O - Section 1

2960-K

1ST LT J HOWARD R WILLIAMS 0331143
1ST LT HARRY M KOLAR 0172682
2ND LT DANIEL F CHEMVEERT 0567645
2ND LT MILTON C HALL 0565550
2ND LT HENRY G SCHIEFF 0657098
2ND LT GEORGE E COX 01036922 attached
1ST Sgt Robert M Gagnay 6913905
1ST Sgt Robert W Mulholland 39172944
1ST Sgt Carl M Benjamin 31134021
1ST Sgt Orville G Monzingo 18037736
1ST Sgt Roger W Caputo 16073115
1ST Sgt Donald E Hayward 39182995
1ST Sgt Henry A Sliwinski 32380070
1ST Sgt Neil O Bolstad 37303382
1ST Sgt Charles F Dick 35332705
1ST Sgt Fernando Martinez 19050306
1ST Sgt Eugene J Wirtz 17029794
1ST Sgt Chalmers G Coleman 34494664
1ST Sgt Luis B Gomez 38143494
1ST Sgt Voight C Knight 31129727
1ST Pvt 1st Fred Keys 33527161
1ST Pvt Harold J Henderson 37428944

2960-L

1ST LT WILLIAM S BUTTS 01702368
1ST LT JULES E SIMON 0562052
2ND LT DANIEL ALLEGRI 0565483
2ND LT RALPH W HOLMES 0568666
2ND LT ELWOOD J MOTERY 01551279
2ND LT DARCEL C SMITH 0858550
1ST Sgt Raymond R Birney 39234956
1ST Sgt William L Borzett 31182267
1ST Sgt Thomas L Casey 38069354
1ST Sgt Rollin J Fulcher 18011830

2960-M

1ST LT GEORGE A HUNT 01701392
1ST LT JOE BURNS 0906513
2ND LT ALBES J GOETZ 0563317
2ND LT THOMAS E O'NEILL 0554941
2ND LT HERBY A SHATTUCK JR 0619709
1ST Sgt Thomas J Gamble 39090282
1ST Sgt Remick H Bullinger 31123866
1ST Sgt Russell W Abbott 32523324
1ST Sgt William J Blum 33319115
1ST Sgt Ralph J Finch Jr 31126651
1ST Sgt Wade T Sublett 17052374
1ST Sgt George Zivkovich 33188455
1ST Sgt William C Desmond 35507514
1ST Sgt Edward L Graham 33321105
1ST Sgt Clarence Wiklund 39186547
1ST Sgt Jerry Petrizzo 32536295
1ST Sgt Ben Ervin 35562872
1ST Sgt Robert J Jones 34269105
1ST Sgt Clarence E Tyler 36702282
1ST Pvt 1st James L Ventch 36370851
1ST Pvt Robert H Westmoreland 39305309

1ST LT WILLIAM D SHIPLEY 0565935
1ST LT JOSEPH M SHELLEY 0162775
2ND LT CURTIS W CROWE 0551985
2ND LT THOMAS L HOWARD JR 0572077
2ND LT ROBERT T RUST 0575123
1ST Sgt Pershing J Berthelot 14071357
1ST Sgt William J Brower 39603454
1ST Sgt Leonard A Castor 37059595
1ST Sgt Edward Gaudet 31231057

RESTRICTED

25

SECRET

PRIORITY

x

23 April, 1943.

REB/inf

COMAFADVON FIVE (REPEAT) COMBOMCOM FIVE

INITIAL INCREMENT OF THREE EIGHT ZERO BOMBER PAREN PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO AS
THREE ONE EIGHT GROUP PAREN ARRIVED BRISBANE TWENTYTWO APRIL PD REFERENCE
LETTER SUBJECT THREE ONE EIGHT BOMBER NINE APRIL ADDRESSED TO ADVON AND
BOMCOM CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION OF THIS GROUP PAREN XA PAREN
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENT CONTAINED THEREIN WILL BE ADHERED TO PD
ALL COMBAT AIRCRAFT AND CREWS WILL BE PROCESSED THROUGH BOMBER REPLACEMENT
CENTER CHARTERS TOWERS PD FIRST TWELVE AIRCRAFT WILL BE ASSIGNED FENTON
PD THE GROUP COMMANDER LIEUTENANT COLONEL MILLER WILL PROCEED FENTON
FOR INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT THEN REPORT TO BOMCOM AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE PD
IN FLOW COMBAT AIRCRAFT IS THIRTYFIVE PLANES BETWEEN TWENTYSECOND APRIL
AND FOURTH MAY PD IN ADDITION THREE EXTRA AIRPLANES ASSIGNED THIS GROUP
FOR TOTAL OF THIRTYEIGHT PD GROUND ECHELON AT PORT OF EMBARKATION
DATE OF ARRIVAL UNKNOWN PD HEADQUARTERS THREE EIGHT ZERO BOMBER BEING
ASSIGNED THIS DATE TO BOMCOM WITH PERMANENT STATION FENTON UNDER OPERATIONAL
PD
CONTROL RAAFCAAF IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBJECT LETTER SQUADRON ORGANIZATIONS
WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED UNTIL ARRIVAL OF GROUND ECHELON PD REQUEST NECESSARY

-1-

SECRET

x

PRIORITY

x

23 April, 1943.

REB/inf.

-2-

INSTRUCTIONS FROM BOMCOM TO BOMBER REPLACEMENT CENTER PD COLONEL
MILLER PROCEEDING TO CHARTERS TOWERS WITH COPIES OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS
TWENTYFOUR APRIL

COMAAF

OFFICIAL:

GUY W. SAUNDERS,
Lieut. Colonel, Air Corps,
Acting Adjutant General.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

14

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 925

20 May, 1943.
SECRET
Auth CC
Init ~~CC~~
Date 20 May, 1943.

TROOP MOVEMENT DIRECTIVE)

NUMBER.....32)

1. The 380th Bomb Group (H), (less Air Echelon) is directed to prepare for movement from Sydney, New South Wales, to Fenton, Northern Territory. Immediate preparation for this movement will be inaugurated to insure the proper equiptage and ability of the unit to move on further orders.

2. Initiation of this movement will be effected by a USAFFE Administrative Troop Movement Directive, or by instructions from the Commanding General, Fifth Air Force.

3. Upon receipt of further instructions, the Commanding Officer of the 380th Bomb Group (H), will contact the Commanding General, Base Section 7, for the necessary instructions pertaining to this move.

4. This will be a permanent change of station.

5. Logistical Data, approximate:

Personnel

56 Off
1 W.O.
1140 E.M.

Organizational Equipment

1350 Ship tons
310 Long tons

6. All organizational equipment (except vehicles) and thirty (30) days of supplies will be taken.

7. Transportation will be by water.

8. The Commanding Officer of the 380th Bomb Group (H) will report to this Headquarters, "Attention A-4 Transportation", time and date of departure prior to departure, and time and date of arrival immediately upon arrival at destination.

9. Unit report of change will be submitted to the Second Machine Records Unit (Mobile), Base Section No. 3, APO 923, in accordance with Paragraph 18b, AR 345-800.

- 1 -

SECRET

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

SECRET

(15)

Report from Gen. Kenney on the 5th Air Force

A-2 IN TURN: General Kutar
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 Vunakanau 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 Moraby where they decided to practice formation flying. They rammed each other. Both planes were lost, eight were saved from one and the crew of the other is 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.

SECRET

319.1 Alpha mice.

RLV

CH