

**SUMMARIES OF EVENTS**

**8TH SQUADRON**

EIGHTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
THIRD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 328

1 May 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 8th Bombardment Sq (L)

TO : Historical Officer  
Yokota AAB  
3rd Bombardment Group (L)  
APO 328

1. In compliance with 314th Composite Wing Regulation 45-1, dated 2 Dec 1946 and 45-1A, dated 13 Jan 1947, the following summary of events for the 8th Bombardment Sq (L) is submitted for the month of April 1947.

2. The 8th Sq. has been stationed at Yokota AAB, Honshu, Japan during the month of April performing its assigned mission as part of the occupation air forces. At the end of April fifteen A-26 and one B-25 aircraft were assigned, of which three A-26 and one B-25 were assigned to 600th Air Engineer Sq for engine changes and other repairs. Twenty-seven assigned and attached pilots flew 521,30 hours during the period on scheduled missions. Six surveillance missions as scheduled by higher headquarters were flown to various points on the island of Honshu, and several other missions were canceled due to inclement weather. Remaining time and aircraft have been utilized to give pilots maximum training towards meeting minimum annual flying requirements. One minor aircraft accident was recorded this month when a pilot being checked out in the A-26 landed too far down the runway and nicked a propeller in a gravel pile on the opposite end of the runway while attempting to turn off.

3. Key personnel are assigned as follows:

Major John J. Ruetters	Commanding Officer
Capt. Riker S. Van Arsdall	Adjutant
Capt. Elan P. Dysart	Engineering Officer
Capt. David J. Harrigan	Supply Officer
1st Lt. John P. Younger	Operations Officer
1st Lt. Dwight E. Turner	Armament Officer
1st Lt. William S. Neighbors	Personnel Equip. Officer
2nd Lt. George A. Rolby	Communications Officer

During the month of April five officers and eight enlisted men were transferred to Zone of the Interior. Three officers were transferred to other organizations on the base and to JAMA (Japan Air Material Area). Seventeen enlisted men were assigned to the squadron during the month.

M/Sgt Jones is back with the 8th Sq for the second time, having served previously with the organization at Barksdale Field, La. and Savannah, Ga. prior to World War II. His wide experience with armament work will be very valuable to the squadron and to his section. The last of the A-1S enlisted personnel were returned to the U. S. for separation during the month, which leaves the squadron with all Regular Army enlisted men. Many of the men coming in during the month have considerable previous service and experience in their various specialties.

a. Two officers, Capt. Hodgkinson and Lt Britt, are on TDY to the U. S. for the purpose of ferrying A-26 aircraft to this theatre. One enlisted man is on TDY at Mito gunnery and bombing range, three men are on TDY to the base interior guard squadron, and three men are on TDY to various technical schools which are being operated in Japan.

b. The following table reflects the changes in squadron strength during the past month:

Rank	30 April	31 March
Major	1	1
Captain	4	5
1st Lt.	9	15
2nd Lt.	2	3
	16	24
		totals
M/Sgt	7	6
T/Sgt	7	5
S/Sgt	10	8
Sgt	9	6
Cpl	23	21
Pfc	44	44
Pvt	5	6
	105	96
		totals

c. The following promotions were made during the month:

3 Privates	to	Private First Class
4 Privates First Class	to	Corporal


4. A severe shortage of up-to-date technical orders and replacement parts for the airplanes is still hampering the performance of the assigned mission. Improvement of the supply situation is being seen though since Lt Willson has been transferred to JAMA to act as liaison officer in expediting the flow of supplies to this base. Maintenance is improving with the assignment of more experienced mechanics fresh from the States, who are bringing with them the knowledge of the latest maintenance procedures and technical orders applying to the A-26. Several aircraft are becoming due for engine changes but time out of commission has been cut sharply since engineering section has begun to change the engines with squadron facilities and personnel. A momentary interruption of work occurred

April 29 when a heavy wind storm blew part of the roof off of the engineering section hanger, dropping debris through the top of a nearby tent in which several armorers were working.

5. The flying and ground training program is proceeding as scheduled. An all out effort has been made this month to have all pilots complete their minimum annual flying requirements. Other flying has been held to a minimum except for an aerial review over Tokyo and Yokohama on Army Day and another aerial review for Lieut. General Whitehead when he visited Yokota AAF on an inspection tour. On the ground pilots, navigators, bombardiers have been attending Loran, Link, and bombsight trainer classes, the skeet and small arms ranges are being kept in constant use, and all personnel are attending various scheduled lectures and classes.

6. The number one gripe of all married personnel still is about the housing shortage and the uncertainty as to when their dependents will be able to join them. Lack of authentic information on the situation is breeding many rumors and is causing many of the married men to think about requesting return to the U. S. Palmy spring weather is bringing everyone out of hibernation though, and the long awaited softball league is finally getting in motion. The 8th Sq is being represented by an enlisted and an officers team and is out to maintain its' reputation. A squadron party held in the Enlisted Men's Club April 13 helped to get people acquainted and give everyone concerned some enjoyable relaxation. Along with the other officers on the base the 8th Sq officers were given a rude shock on the morning of April 22 when a fire siren acted as an alarm clock to awaken them in time to watch the burning of the very fine officers club. At present their style is somewhat cramped by having to walk four blocks to a mess hall and still further for a glass of cold beer at a temporary club which has been set up. Several 8th Sq men were among a picked crew of mechanics which was on duty to service the "Reynolds Bombshell", a converted A-26 Invader, when it stopped at Yokota on its round-the-world record flight.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER

  
Dwight E. Turner  
1st Lt, Air Corps  
Historical Officer

8TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
ROSTER OF ASSIGNED PERSONNEL

30 April 1947

Major John J. Ruetters  
Capt Blam P. Dysart  
Capt David J. Harrigan  
Capt Alfred E. Hodgkinson  
Capt Riker S. VanArsdall  
1st Lt Norman H. Britt  
1st Lt Robert L. Galloway  
1st Lt Bill R. Hablinski  
1st Lt Archie Hart, Jr.  
1st Lt William S. Neighbors  
1st Lt Dwight E. Turner  
1st Lt Ralph J. Smith  
1st Lt Paul L. Wyatt  
1st Lt John P. Younger  
2d Lt George A. Rolby  
2d Lt Sidney B. Ressler  
  
F/Sgt Robert L. Moak  
M/Sgt Archie A. Atherton  
M/Sgt Joseph S. Golden  
M/Sgt Ernest E. Harrison  
M/Sgt Kenneth S. Harrison  
M/Sgt Jerome Helub  
M/Sgt Robert N. Jones  
T/Sgt Edward H. Burton  
T/Sgt Barney Johnson  
T/Sgt Everett W. Livingston  
T/Sgt John L. Lynch  
T/Sgt Robert M. McCollum  
T/Sgt Harvey B. Parkhill  
T/Sgt Noble C. Tharp  
S/Sgt John R. Anderson  
S/Sgt Roger Blaser  
S/Sgt Robert D. Catone  
S/Sgt Donald St. C. Farnsworth  
S/Sgt Joseph F. Kassay  
S/Sgt John D. Loesch  
S/Sgt Thomas E. McMenamin  
S/Sgt Harry D. Powers  
S/Sgt Paul Matthews  
S/Sgt Richard Wilson  
Sgt Kelsie R. Calhoun  
Sgt Amos Caskey  
Sgt Walter H. Coddington  
Sgt Joe W. Creech  
Sgt Bill Graddick  
Sgt David M. Jones  
Sgt Manuel C. Lapera

Sgt Carl R. Nilson  
Sgt William H. Richards  
Cpl Kenneth M. Afuso  
Cpl Robert M. Berntson  
Cpl Douglas E. Clevenger  
Cpl Hugh A. Conner  
Cpl Louis Darienzo, Jr.  
Cpl Ralph Delk  
Cpl Herbert V. Donahue  
Cpl Richard H. Ellis  
Cpl Frank Grisanti  
Cpl Milton J. Jacobs  
Cpl John F. Kolb  
Cpl Edwin T. Malady  
Cpl Frank Martino  
Cpl Raymond L. Midkiff  
Cpl Edward N. Mills  
Cpl William A. Ness  
Cpl George J. Reese  
Cpl Daniel Radanovic  
Cpl Ralph H. Runge  
Cpl Kenneth R. Shrader  
Cpl Donald E. Stewart  
Cpl Herbert B. Stimmel  
Cpl James Stuart  
Pfc William M. Aiken  
Pfc Harry W. Allen  
Pfc David W. Baker  
Pfc Richard E. Baker  
Pfc James T. Bartlow  
Pfc Carl A. Battersby  
Pfc Ralph A. Birdsell  
Pfc John L. Bourque  
Pfc Clarence D. Boyer  
Pfc Harold J. Burke  
Pfc Robert M. Burns  
Pfc Floyd K. Clark  
Pfc Arthur G. Cochran  
Pfc Henry A. Day  
Pfc Walter I. Everage  
Pfc Donald E. Finney  
Pfc Glenn Goodlet  
Pfc Edward G. Harris  
Pfc Kenneth V. Harris  
Pfc Marshall E. Hirvela  
Pfc Walter F. Howe  
Pfc Joseph B. Irwin  
Pfc Ralph J. King

8TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L) PERSONNEL ROSTER (Cont'd)

Pfc Clarence C. Ross  
Pfc Udell G. Segal  
Pfc James R. Shubert  
Pfc Charles C. Spiker  
Pfc Lee F. Switter  
Pfc Joseph V. Kendall  
Pfc Owen Masiogale  
Pfc Oral T. Bartoe  
Pfc Eugene I. Taylor  
Pfc Forrest H. Umbenhauer  
Pfc Francisco A. Vasquez  
Pfc Junior W. Watson  
Pfc Howard J. Weller  
Pvt Vernon M. Bobbitt  
Pvt Frank R. Gonzalez  
Pvt James E. Kerns  
Pvt Fred W. Meyer  
Pvt Walter L. Rickman

8TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AC  
APO 328

30 April 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 8th Bombardment Squadron Personnel Section

TO : Historical Officer  
Yokota AAB  
3rd Bombardment Group (L)  
APO 328

1. In compliance with 314th Composite Wing Regulation 45-1, dated 2 December 1946, and 45-1A, dated 13 January 1947, the following summary of events for the Personnel Section is submitted for the month of April 1947.

2. At the close of the month the personnel of this section are:

Major John J. Ruettgers.....	Commanding Officer
Captain Riker S. VanArsdall.....	Adjutant
1st Lt Bill R. Hablinski.....	Asst Adjutant
F/Sgt Robert L. Moak.....	1st Sergeant
Pfc Udell G. Segal.....	Chief Clerk
Pfc Donald E. Finney.....	Clerk Typist

3. The following changes occurred in the squadron this month: Capt Maughan was asgd to Hq, 3rd Bomb Gp; Lt Wilson, to JAMA as Liason Officer; and Lt Rockwell, to 65th Air Engineering Squadron. Cpls Cobb and Casteel, S/Sgt Cipriano, and Pfc Maxwell, Bailey, Berry, Kindred, and Fairfield were all redeployed to the Zone of Interior. Lts Nall, Gabel, McArthur, Butters, and Lambert were all redeployed to the Zone of Interior for release from active duty.

4. The long awaited Squadron Party finally came off about the middle of the month. It was a fine party indeed. Considering the amount of beer consumed, no one's stability was too greatly impaired. Major Ruettgers finally managed to tear himself away from his duties and took a much needed Rest Leave; in the interim, Captain Harrigan took over as Commanding Officer. Last, but not least, another dependent joined us (S/Sgt Blaser's wife, that is).

5. The 8th Squadron maintained its usual status as regards VD.

6. Only one minor accident occurred this month. A pilot being checked out tried to turn with a little too much speed, causing the props to chew up a pile of gravel.

7. The Morning Report showed a loss of eight officers and a net gain of nine Enlisted Men. Armament was particularly enriched this month with a gain of seven experienced men and a loss of only two men; and although the same section lost its officer in charge, he (Lt Lambert) was replaced by an equally fine officer, Lt Turner.

*Riker S. Van Arsdall*

RIKER S. VAN ARSDALL  
Captain, Air Corps  
Adjutant



**EIGHTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
THIRD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 328**

30 April 1947

**SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, Eighth Squadron  
Operations Section**

**TO: Historical Officer,  
Third Bombardment Group (L)  
APO 328**

1. In compliance with 314th Composite Wing Regulation 45-1, dated 2 December 1946, and 45-1A, dated 13 January 1947, the following summary of events for the Eighth Squadron Operations Section is submitted for the month of April 1947.

a. Personnel assigned to the Eighth Squadron Operations Section are as follows:

1st Lt. John P. Younger	Operations Officer
1st Lt. Ralph J. Smith	Ass't Operations Officer
Pfc Joseph B. Irwin	Operations Clerk

b. The number of rated personnel assigned to the Eighth Squadron is as follows:

11 Pilots  
4 Navigator-Bombardiers  
1 Navigator  
6 Gunners

c. The number of rated personnel attached to the Eighth Squadron for flying is as follows:

16 Pilots  
1 Bombardier  
1 Gunnery Officer

d. The following rated personnel were transferred out of the Eighth Squadron:

Capt	Weston Maughan	to Hq Third Bombardment Group
1st Lt	Raymond Butters	to 4th Replacement Depot

1st Lt	Wilfred Gabel	to 4th Replacement Depot
1st Lt	Oliver J. Lambert	to 4th Replacement Depot
1st Lt	Alton McArthur	to 4th Replacement Depot
1st Lt	Robert Nail	to 4th Replacement Depot
1st Lt	Harry Willson	to JAMA
2nd Lt	Donald Rockwell	to 65th AES
S/Sgt	Victor Cipriano	to 4th Replacement Depot
Cpl	Arnold Casteel	to 4th Replacement Depot

e. The following gunner was transferred into the Eighth Squadron:

Sgt Carl Nilsen

2. At the beginning of the month, directives from higher headquarters decreed that every effort would be made to enable all pilots to meet the minimum requirements as set forth in AAF Reg 50-2. All flying that did not aid in meeting these requirements has been held to a minimum. The greatest stress has been placed on instrument and night flying. Flying was conducted every night during the week, Monday through Friday, all month, weather permitting. The pilots who have been flying regularly with the Eighth Squadron were pretty well up on their requirements, but five new pilots - four from the Seventh Air Service Group and one from the Sixth Photo Tech Squadron - were attached to this Squadron for flying. For the most part these pilots were in need of nearly all their night and instrument time and over half of their first pilot time. The Eighth Squadron is rising admirably to the occasion and these pilots should experience very little difficulty in checking out in the A-26 type aircraft and meeting all their minimum requirements. The notable exceptions to the above policy of concentrating on minimum requirements were the aerial reviews presented by the Third Bombardment Group over Tokyo and Yokohama on Army Day, 7 April, and over Yokota Army Air Base on Saturday, 12 April. The Eighth Squadron provided planes and crews for both reviews. The ground training is continuing. Pilots are being scheduled for the Leran course in accordance with PACUSA Reg 50-8, and all pilots are receiving two hours per month on the Link Trainer. Navigators and Bombardiers are continuing in refresher courses and Bombardiers are being scheduled for a minimum of four hours per month on the A-6 Bombing Trainer. Lack of personnel due to men going home and lack of transportation continue to hamper the skeet program.

3. There was one aircraft accident during the month. 1st Lt Lowell Bowman of the 6th Photo Tech Squadron, recently attached to this Squadron for flying, was scheduled for a transition ride with Lt Louis D. Holland as instructor. On the landing Lt Bowman used a little extra airspeed to clear Japanese laborers on the overrun, and used all the runway for his roll. He attempted to turn off at the south end of the runway, while still rolling too fast, and ran his left propeller into a mound of dirt just off the taxiway.

4. A total of 521:30 hours was flown in A-26 type aircraft of the Eighth Squadron during the month of April.

*Ralph J. Smith*  
RALPH J. SMITH  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Ass't Operations Officer.

8TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
ROSTER OF ASSIGNED PERSONNEL  
APO 328

30 April 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 8th Squadron  
Engineering Section

TO : Historical Officer, 3rd  
Bombardment Group (L),  
APO 328

1. In compliance with 314th Composite Wing  
Regulation 45-1, dated 2 December 1946, and 47-1A, dated  
13 January 1947, the following summary of events for the  
Engineering section is submitted for the month of April  
1947.

2. During the month of April all aircraft of the  
8th Bombardment Squadron remained at Yokota Army Air Base  
as part of the occupational Air Forces in Japan. Security  
missions were flown each day weather was permissible.  
In compliance with present policies extensive night flying  
was engaged in.

3. The key personnel is listed as follows:

8th Sqdn. Eng. Officer	Captain B.F. Dysart
Armament Officer	1st Lt. D. Turner
Tech Supply Officer	1st Lt. R. Galloway
Line Chief	M/Sgt. E.E. Harrison

4. During the month of April the following changes  
in key personnel occurred. 1st Lt. D. Turner replaced 1st  
Lt. O. Lambert as Armament Officer. 1st Lt. R. Galloway  
replaced 1st Lt. A. McArthur as Tech Supply Officer. 1st  
Lt. W.V. Gabel departed for the 21 leaving a vacancy in  
the position of Line Maintenance Supervisor.

5. One A-26B was received from the 600th Air  
Engineers where it had been sent for engine change. As a  
time saving means the 8th Squadron has been performing its  
own engine changes with appreciable results.

*Blair P. Dysart Jr.*  
BLAIR P. DYSART JR.  
Captain, Air Corps  
Engineering Officer

8TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
ROSTER OF ASSIGNED PERSONNEL  
APO 328

29 April 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 8th. Bombardment Squadron Supply.

TO : Historical Officer,  
3rd. Bombardment Group (L),  
APO 328.

1. In compliance with 31st. Composite Wing Regulation 45-1 dated 2 December 1946, and 45-1A dated 13 January 1947. the following summary of events for 8th. Bombardment Squadron supply section is submitted for the month of April 1947.

2. The following personnel are now assigned to supply:

a. David J. Harrigan. Capt AC.	Supply Officer
b. Archie Hart. 1st Lt. AC	Asst Supply Officer
c. Richard E. Baker Pfc.	Supply Clerk

3. All property and equipment for 8th. Bombardment Squadron supply and Headquarter Detachment, 3rd. Bombardment Group is now signed over to the new supply officer David J. Harrigan Capt. Air Corps. O-677730. The account number for property and equipment is M-10.

4. Supply section is in need of transportation, salvage of clothing can not go in for lack of transportation. There is Quartermaster and Air Corps equipment to turn in and pick up 3 times a week, lack of transportation has not permitted supply to do so.

*David J. Harrigan*  
DAVID J. HARRIGAN  
Capt, Air Corps  
Supply Officer.

8TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L) AAF  
APO 328

30 April 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 8th Squadron Communications  
Section

TO : Historical Officer  
3rd Bombardment Group (L)  
APO 328

1. In compliance with 314th Composite Wing Regulation 45-1, dated 2 December 1946, and 45-1a, dated 13 January 1947, the following summary of events for the 8th Squadron Communications Section is submitted for the month of April, 1947.

2. During the month of April there were no changes in personnel in the Communications Section.

3. At the close of the month the personnel in the Communications section were.

2nd Lt. George A. Rolby.....Communications Officer  
Pfc. Everette J. Kindred.....Communications Technician

4. No unusual occurrences or difficulties were encountered during the month of April. All routine inspections and 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance were satisfactorily accomplished, and no aircraft were grounded because of radio maintenance.

5. The present strength is as follows;
1. One (1) 2nd Lt.
  2. One (1) Pfc.

*George A. Rolby*

GEORGE A. ROLBY  
2nd Lt., Air Corps  
Communications Officer

EIGHTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
THIRD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 328

30 April 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 3th Squadron  
Armament Section

TO : Historical Officer  
3rd Bombardment Group (L)  
APO 328

1. In compliance with 312th Composite Wing Regulation 45-1, dated 2 December 1946, and 45-1A, dated 13 January 1947, the following summary of events for the Eighth Squadron Armament Section is submitted for the month of April 1947.

2. Key personnel are listed as follows:

1st Lt Dwight E. Turner	Armament Officer
M/Sgt Robert N. Jones	Section Chief

3. Armament Section has the following assigned personnel:

Officers . . . . .	1
Enlisted men . . . . .	15

(a) Armorer gunners on flying status . . . 6  
(1) 4 gunners in phase I (combat ready)  
2 gunners in phase III (basic)

4. During the month Lt Lambert was relieved for return to the United States, and two gunners were lost to the section by reason of being returned to Zone of Interior for discharge. However seven enlisted men were transferred into the section during the month, bringing the strength nearly up to Table of Organization. The section has been fortunate in the assignment this month of M/Sgt Jones who has had wide experience as a section chief and as an armament maintenance technician.

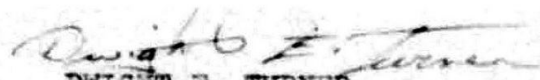
5. During the month the rated gunners have flown a total of 42:05 on training flights and reconnaissance missions.

6. No bombs or ammunition have been expended this month due to the fact that all training has been directed towards pilots meeting minimum annual flying requirements.

7. The lighter than average work load during the month has enabled the section to spend the time in getting records and equipment up to date, and to start on a program of reharmonization of the guns in all aircraft. Also all cal. .50 machine gun barrels are being replaced by an improved type of "Stellite" barrel, which it is hoped, will increase the time between gun barrel replacement and ease the maintenance load.

8. At the end of the month four men are undergoing instruction in various phases of the Base Armament School in preparation for complete checkout as combat ready armorer-gunners. Personnel are also getting on the job training under the supervision of section and flight chiefs by doing practical work on the equipment being used.

9. With the coming of warmer weather and consequent improvement of working conditions, and the assignment of more personnel, maintenance is improving. The worst difficulty at this time is in the almost complete lack of up to date technical orders and the shortage of replacement parts. Items have been ordered and reordered through supply channels but are being received very slowly.



DWIGHT E. TURNER  
1st Lt, AC  
Armament Officer



EIGHTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
THIRD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 328

1 May 1947

SUBJECT: Monthly Summary of Events, 8th Squadron  
Personal Equipment Section

TO : Historical Officer, 3rd Bombardment Group (1)

1. In compliance with 314th Composite Wing Regulation 45-1, dated 2 December 1946, and 45-1A, dated 13 January 1947, the following summary of events for the 8th Bombardment Squadron Personal Equipment Section is submitted for the month of April 1947.

2. The following personnel are now assigned to the Personal Equipment Sections:

- a. William S. Neighbors, 1st Lt., AC  
Personal Equipment Officer
- b. Herbert V. Donahue, Cpl.  
Parachute Rigger
- c. Junior W. Watson, Pvt 1st.  
Personal Equipment Tech.

3. All winter flying clothing has been called in for storage. Training in Personal Equipment was accomplished during the weekly Pilot's Safety Meeting. All normal functions in Personal Equipment Section were accomplished.

4. Requisitions have been in for summer flying suits, sun glasses, and summer flying caps for several months, but no action to date.

*William S. Neighbors*

William S. Neighbors  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Personal Equipment Officer