



89TH ATTACK SQUADRON

JUNE 1944

# DESIGNATION SHEET

FIFTH AIR FORCE

V BOMBER COMMAND

310TH BOMBARDMENT WING (L)

3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

89TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)

HOLLANDIA - APO 565

**MONTHLY UNIT HISTORY**

**JUNE 1944**

**89TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)**

**3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)**

## **CONTENTS**

### **SECTION 1:**

#### **CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE**

**A. Combat Operations**

(with 3 plates)

**B. Administrative**

### **SECTION II:**

**Local Interest**

**Awards and Decorations**

### **SECTION III**

**Apendix**

**SECTION 1:**

**CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE**

**COMBAT OPERATIONS**

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE  
COMBAT OPERATIONS  
JUNE 1944

During the month of June 22 missions were flown by the 89th Squadron totaling 195 sorties, with 243,780 rounds of 50-calibre ammunition expended in strafing, and 111.6 tons of bombs dropped. (1) This is an increase of 3,700 rounds of ammunition and a decrease of 13 tons of bombs over the figures for May. The increase in ammunition expended is accounted for by the fact that the Squadron was called on for so few missions during May, and that greatly increased activity followed the Squadron's move to Hollandia late in the month. The decrease in tonnage of bombs dropped is due to the difference in size of the individual bombs, as required by the type of target. Sixteen type A-20G-20s, G-30s, and G-40s were assigned to the Squadron on 1 June, and sixteen of the same types were in commission on 30 June. (2) A total of 2 planes were lost during combat operations; one pilot was reported missing, and 1 pilot and 2 gunners are known dead.

The first mission, that of twelve planes assigned to attack Moemi Drome on 2 June, was recalled by wireless only a few minutes after takeoff, when weather reports became increasingly unfavorable. (3)

On 3 June twelve planes took off for Dansiki Drome, where grounded aircraft were assigned as the principal target. All planes reached the target, where they encountered heavy ack-ack fire as well as machine-gun and small arms fire. One plane was holed, but no one was wounded. A total of 120 parademolition bombs, each weighing 100 pounds, and nineteen 250 pound demolition bombs were dropped, with three planes known destroyed and three more possibly destroyed. Stores and buildings and motor trucks were bombed and burned and ack-ack positions were silenced by strafing. Jubilant crews reported extensive damage to installations resulting from the combined attack of all squadrons in the Group. (4)

On 4 June, nine planes took off on a mission to hit small coastal vessels in the vicinity of Lanokwari. Direct hits by bombs and strafing were scored on a Sugar Charlie and on a lugger, while barges were sunk and fires were started on shore among stores and at fuel dumps. Heavy ack-ack and machine-gun fire holed two planes, but again no crew member was wounded. (5)

On 5 June twelve planes took off for Sabo, where 100 100/ parademolition bombs were dropped on the targets assigned. The roof was blown off of a barracks, a direct hit was scored on a grounded fighter plane which exploded, holes were blown in the runways, and a part of a large warehouse was wrecked. One plane was holed by the moderate machine-gun and light ack-ack fire encountered over the target, but no crew member was wounded. Photographs showed the excellent results of the attack. (See Plate I.) (6)

(1) See CRI rpt, Appendix page . (A)  
(2) See CRI rpt, Appendix page . (I)  
(3) FPO # 154-a, 310 serial no.

(4) FPO # 155-a, 310 serial no.  
(5) FPO # 156-B, 310 serial no.  
(6) FPO # 157-a, 310 serial no.





Combat Operations, June 1944, cont'd.

On 6 June ten planes took off to bomb and strafe stores, supplies, and personnel at Lamire Drone, on Koen'or Island. Twenty 250# demolition bombs and 95 100# parademolition bombs were dropped on the target, with resulting blasts showing debris and stores, and large fuel fires and explosions following the attack. Heavy ack-ack, extremely accurate, was received from east of the strip, with the result that one plane was forced to crash-land at sea. The Catalina rescue-aircraft picked up the pilot, but the gunner and a Group photographer were both lost. Three planes were severely damaged and had to be left at Makde Island for repairs. In addition five planes were holed. (1)

On 11 June two A-20s-20s were sent on a barge sweep at the Schouten Islands, with the secondary target to be assigned by the ground station on disk. No barges were seen, so parademolition bombs were dropped at the target assigned on the south side of Borokoe Drone. Damage was unassessed due to lack of sightings. (2)

Nine planes took off on 12 June to bomb and strafe Mansiki Drone. Fourteen 250# demolition bombs and 61 100# parademolition bombs were dropped in the target area, with damage generally unobserved but believed slight. Intense medium-calibre ack-ack fire and a moderate amount of inaccurate machine-gun fire was received, but no plane was holed. (3)

Ten planes were assigned to hit gun and mortar positions north of Borokoe Strip on 13 June. The target was marked with smoke shells from friendly artillery, and the entire area was blanketed with bombs and covered with strafing. Following the attack the ground station said, "Well done." (4)

On 14 June ten planes were assigned to hit Babo Drone and village. One plane crashed on take-off, due to clouds of dust on Hollandia drone having obscured the pilot's vision. Both crew members were gravely injured. Seven planes reached the target and dropped demolition bombs and parademolition bombs on the target. Extensive damage to a group of warehouses was caused, but damage in other parts of the target was believed slight. Inaccurate medium and heavy calibre ack-ack fire was received; no plane was holed. (5)

Eleven planes took off on 15 June to hit shipping in the Lanokwari area. Parademolition bombs were dropped on two luggers and two barges. Following the attack, only one lugger was still afloat, and that was damaged. (See plate 11) at another spot a lugger was set afire and a Sugar Charlie damaged. Intense and inaccurate heavy ack-ack fire was received from shore positions, but no plane was holed. (6)

Kokas Harbor shipping was assigned as the target for 16 June, and twelve planes took off on the mission. Eight planes reached the target, and direct hits were scored on a Sugar Charlie and two barges. All shipping targets were heavily strafed, with damage believed to have been very heavy. Two direct hits were scored on buildings in Kokas village. Inaccurate medium-calibre ack-ack fire was received over the target, but no plane was holed.

(1) F8C # 158-1, 310 Bomb sq.  
(2) F8C # 163-a-5, 310 Bomb sq.  
(3) F8C # 164-a-5, 310 Bomb sq.

(4) F8C # 165-b-4, 310 Bomb sq.  
(5) F8C # 166-a-5, 310 Bomb sq.  
(6) F8A # 167-a-6, 310 Bomb sq.



Combat Operations, June 1944, cont'd.

Nine planes took off on 27 June and hit stores and personnel areas at Warem Drome. Paradenos and 250# bombs were dropped. One bomb fell in a medium- or heavy-calibre ack-ack position, completely destroying it. Three fires were started, too, but damage was otherwise unassessed. Moderate amounts of generally inaccurate machine-gun and heavy-calibre ack-ack fire were seen, and one plane was holed. (1)

Nine planes took off on 29 June to hit villages in the Sarmi area. One plane crashed immediately after takeoff, killing Lieutenant Lockwood and Staff Sergeant Mattoon. Cause of the crash was undetermined. Four or five native huts in each of two villages were set afire by strafing, and bombs were dropped without visible damage. (2)

The last mission of the month was flown on 30 June, when six planes took off to bomb and strafe Jap positions at Kamire Drome. Because of a heavy pall of smoke hanging over the target as a result of previous attacks, the damage from this raid could not be assessed. (3)

-----

(1) FFO # 179-E-7, 310 Bomb Sq.

(2) FFO # 181-E-2, 310 Bomb Sq.

(3) FFO # 182-E-3, 310 Bomb Sq.

Combat Operations, June 1944, cont'd.

Mechanical failure resulted in one plane crash-landing at base, with slight injuries to the pilot resulting. (1)

Twelve planes took off on 17 June to hit Bagan, Otawire, and Babo Dromes and Babo Village. All targets were bombed and strafed, with a large fire and three small fires in addition to a burning building, resulting from the attack on Babo Drome. Slight inaccurate machine-gun and heavy-calibre fire was received at the targets, but no plane was holed. (2)

Eleven planes took off on 19 June to hit Kamiri Drome. One hundred parademolition bombs and 15 250/ demolition bombs were dropped on the target with two small fires resulting, but damage otherwise unassessed. Intense and accurate machine-gun and medium-calibre ack-ack fire was received at the target, with the result that Lieutenant Burke's plane caught fire and crashed at sea, 1/2 mile from Jap positions. One survivor was seen swimming after the crash, but whether it was Lieutenant Burke or his gunner, Staff Sergeant Clements, could not be determined. Both have been reported as missing. (3)

On 21 June six planes took off to search for Japs in native villages along the Idenburg River. Not only could no Japs be found, but no villages could be found. (4)

Nine planes took off for a mission on 22 June, but were turned back by weather over Japen Island, and were given a target by the ground station at Wakde. Following the attack on Kemporewa village and Sawar Drome, one hut was burning but other damage was unassessed. The ground station said, "Well done", however. (5)

Weather turned back a nine plane formation headed for Kamiri Drome on 23 June. Again the ground station assigned a target, this time at Foe Laoe Plantation. Two native-type huts were destroyed by bombs and one small fire was started. Lack of sightings was reported to the ground station. (6)

On 25 June nine planes took off to bomb and strafe Japs who were reported to be living in native villages along the Tor River. Fifty-two 250/ parademolition bombs were dropped at villages, but because of the poor maps covering this territory, the villages could not be identified. (7)

Eight planes took off on 26 June to hit Kamiri Drome. Seven of them hit the assigned target, with damage unassessed due to the dense foliage surrounding the target. Intense machine-gun fire was received, and one plane was holed. One plane hit a target assigned by the ground station at Wakde, with damage unassessed due to lack of sightings. (8)

-----

# 168-E-6, 310 Bomb wg.	(5)	FFO # 174-E-7, 310 Bomb wg.
# 169-E-7, 310 Bomb wg.	(6)	FFO # 175-E-7, 310 Bomb wg.
# 171-E-5, 310 Bomb wg.	(7)	FFO # 177-E-6, 310 Bomb wg.
# 173-E-7, 310 Bomb wg.	(8)	FFO # 178-E-6, 310 Bomb wg.



**CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE  
ADMINISTRATION  
JUNE 1944

The 57th Bombardment Squadron was stationed at APO 507 during the month of June.

The following named men have received promotions on the 1st of June, Sgt. Larson to 1st Sgt, T/Sgt. Moss, to M/Sgt, Staff Sergeants Epps, Fox and Winklemann to T/Sgt's. Privates Gesnel, Jensen, G.W, Luchansky, McIlvoy and Nolle to Privates First Class. (1)——

On the 2nd of June 2nd Lt. Reading and S/Sgt. Cock left the hospital at Gosup and returned to the Squadron.

Pvt. Roy assigned to the Squadron on the 3rd of June. 1st Lt. Lamborn on DS to APO 715 unit 1. (2)

On the 6th of June, S/Sgt. Snaska promoted to T/Sgt and Cpl Manzello was promoted to S/Sgt. 1st Lt. Suor, T/Sgt. Hawkins and S/Sgt. Geigus on DS to APO 715 Unit 1. The following named officers were relieved from assignment and transferred to the 90th Squadron, 1st Lt. Gilliam, 1st Lt. Lortus and 1st Lt. Marshall, T.J.

S/Sgt. Hunter killed in action about 2 miles south of Hiak Island, (Dutch New Guinea) on the 7th of June.

On the 9th of June the following named men were promoted to Staff Sergeants, Sergeants Bowen, Lindsay and Shackelford. Sgt. Maberry, Sgt. Page, Cpl. Gillespie and Pfc. Kadingo were granted 10 day furloughs. (3) (4)

Major. Dow, Capt. Vorel and 2nd Lt. Ammon were granted leaves to Sydney on the 10th of June. (5)

On the 11th of June T/Sgt. Binkely, T/Sgt. Neal, Sgt. Flanjak, Cpl. Austin, Cpl. Herrernan and Cpl. Joy were granted convalescent furloughs to APO 725 for 15 days. S/Sgt. Sarkisian was accidentally killed by a dynamite explosion on Lake Sentani.

- 
- (1) SO # 00 par 14, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.
  - (2) SO # 122 par 7, Hq. 91st Repl Bn.
  - (3) SO # 04 par 3, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.
  - (4) SO # 02 par 1, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.
  - (5) SO # 03 par 3, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.

1st Lt. Fones, 1st Lt. Fowler, 1st Lt. Soloc and 2nd Lt. Hickam were granted leaves to Sydney. (1)

Cpl. Cunningham, was promoted to S/Sgt on the 14th of June. (2)

On the 19th of June 1st Lt. Burke and S/Sgt. Clements were shot down on Kamira Drome between Japan and Manokwari, both men were reported missing.

S/Sgt. Fizzano, S/Sgt. Prochnicki, S/Sgt. Pelo and S/Sgt. Taylor were granted 7 day furloughs on the 22nd of June to Sydney. (3)

On the 23rd of June, Sgt. Bracey, Sgt. Vicente and Cpl. Silcox were granted furloughs of 10 days to APO 922. Pic. Chamberland reported on SK to the 9th Post Hospital APO 907. (4)

On the 29th of June, 2nd Lt. Lockwood and S/Sgt. Mattoon were killed in an airplane crash near Hollandia Air Drome, APO 907.

The personnel strength during the month of June:

Officers.

	<u>Flying</u>	<u>Ground</u>
(a) At beginning of Period	29	15
(b) Net increase during period		
(c) Net decrease during period	5	1
(d) At end of period	24	14

Enlisted Me.

(a) At beginning of period	38	217
(b) Net increase during period		5
(c) Net decrease during period	5	
(d) At end of period	33	222

- 
- (1) SO # 07 par 1, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.
  - (2) SO # 00 par 2, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.
  - (3) SO # 00 par 2, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.
  - (4) SO # 07 par 2, Hq. 3rd Bomb Gp.



## SECTION II

## **LOCAL INTEREST**

### LOCAL INTEREST

When on 19 June Lieutenant Albert G. Burke's plane caught fire from ack-ack and crashed at sea a half-mile from Kamiri Drome, it was the first time in twenty-two months of New Guinea combat that the 89th Bombardment Squadron had lost a pilot over a target. As had all the other units in this theatre, the Squadron had lost pilots and gunners and photographers and planes on takeoff, enroute to targets, returning from targets, and on landing...but from August 1942 until June 1944 there was no pilot lost over a target. Even now, there is the question of the survivor: Was it Burke? Was it Sergeant Adolphus T. Clements? Was he captured? Evacuated by the Japs? Or is he in hiding on the island, awaiting release by our troops still fighting there?

Of Sergeant Leo G. Sarkisian, killed on Lake Sentani on 11 June, there is unfortunately no such question. Fishing with other men of the squadron, Sergeant Sarkisian was killed by the explosion of a hand grenade which he was planning to use to kill fish. Sergeant Paul E. Willock, and Corporals Mack Cunningham and Michael F. Lynch were gravely injured at the same time.

Then on 14 June Lieutenant Dix Rutland, with Sergeant George L. Johnson as gunner, crashed at the end of Hollandia strip, when his vision was obscured by dust and rain-drops on the windshield. Lieutenant Rutland lost his left eye, and suffered other painful injuries, and has since been returned to the States for medical attention and plastic surgery. Sergeant Johnson is making slow but steady recovery and is expected to return to the Squadron in a few weeks.

On 29 June Lieutenant George C. Lockwood Jr., crashed into the hills at the south shore of Lake Sentani, immediately following takeoff. No one knows what caused the accident, which was seen by six or seven crew members of other planes. His gunner, Sergeant Clair E. Mattoon, was killed instantly, as was Lieutenant Lockwood.

So ended the month. The large number of successful missions was balanced by our losses. We turned to July in hopes of a more favorable score.

**AWARDS AND  
DECORATIONS**

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

The first decorations for this month were the Purple Hearts awarded 2 June to Lieutenant Edmund C. Suor and Staff Sergeant Harold I. Pelo. The award was granted to Lieutenant Suor for wounds received over Boiken Plantation on 14 May. Sergeant Pelo was awarded his medal for injuries received from machine gun fire over Wewak on 13 May. (1)

On 14 June the successful completion of 25 operational combat missions earned Lieutenant Thomas A. Gormely the award of the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal. (2)

Lieutenant Rix Rutland and Staff Sergeant George L. Johnson were awarded Purple Hearts on 21 June. Their injuries resulted when their airplane crashed on take-off for a mission to Babo, 14 June. (3)

Lieutenant Rutland was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross on 26 June for his extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight over Rabaul, 2 November, 1943. (4)

For his meritorious achievement over Rabaul on 2 November, 1943, Lieutenant Jack B. Craig was awarded the Air Medal, 27 June. (5)

Three gunners received Air Medal on 29 June for 100 hours of combat flying. They were Staff Sergeants George S. Morris, Frank L. Phillips, and Clark B. Challenberger. (6) (7)

Staff Sergeant Joseph F. Sibilis was awarded his Air Medal on 30 June for completion of his 100 hours of combat flying. (8)

-----

- (1) GO 23, Hq V BC.
- (2) GO 370, Hq 5 AF.
- (3) GO 5, Hq 233 Sta. Hosp.
- (4) GO 30, Hq F&AF.

- (5) GO 31, Hq F&AF.
- (6) GO 36, Hq F&AF.
- (7) GO 37, Hq F&AF.
- (8) GO 39, Hq F&AF.

### **SECTION III**

## APPENDIX

89TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
A. F. O. # 565

MAC/twc

16 August, 1944.

SUBJECT: Operations Report.

TO : Historical Officer, 89th Bombardment Squadron (L).

1. The following information is hereby submitted for the Squadron History for the month of June, 1944:

a. Strength, airplanes.

- (1) At beginning of period: 16 - A-20-G's.
- (2) Net increase during period: None.
- (3) No. lost through combat: 2 - A-20-G's.
- (4) No. lost on ground through enemy action: None.
- (5) No. lost through transfer: 5 - A-20-G's.
- (6) At end of period: 16 - A-20-G's.

b. The Squadron flew 195 combat sorties during the month of June, 1944.

c. The Squadron flew 958:05 combat hours during the month of June, 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

*Mason A. Copeland*  
MASON A. COPELAND,  
1st. Lt., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.



89TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
A. F. O. # 565

JSD/jo'b

23 August, 1944.

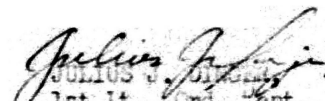
SUBJECT: Ammunition Report.

TO : Historical Officer, 89th Bombardment Squadron (L).

1. The following information is hereby submitted for the Squadron History for the month of June, 1944:

111.6 Tons of bombs dropped during month.  
243,780 Rounds of .50 calibre ammunition expended in strafing during the month.

For the Squadron Commander:

  
JULIUS J. DIXON, JR.  
1st Lt., Ord. Dept.,  
Ordnance Officer.