

SOURCE: USAFHRA
RG: Unit Histories
SERIES:
BOX: 247.6506-2
Aug 94
FOLDER: 00157023

DECLASSIFIED
EO 11652

247-663-1
Sep 44

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P.R.C.

HISTORICAL DIVISION
ARCHIVES BRANCH
U.S.A.F.
RESEARCH STUDIES
INSTITUTE

REI

Sept.-Dec. 1944

917.663

247, 511

HISTORICAL DATA
903rd AAF BASE UNIT - SQUADRON I
AAF TACTICAL CENTER
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

September - December 1944

Classification Changed
Per Authority Letter
dated C.G.A.P.C.

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
M. H. Dennis for

James F. Gill, Maj, USAF
Aug. 52

00157029

DECLASSIFIED
EO 11652

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WH-636

3-1413-4

SQUADRON "I" BOMB (SP)
9030 AAF BASE UNIT (BOMBARDMENT)
AAF TACTICAL CENTER
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

SQUADRON HISTORY - NOVEMBER

RADAR TEST AND EVALUATION PROJECTS WERE THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE MISSION OF THIS SQUADRON FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. THESE PROJECTS WERE CARRIED FORWARD FOR THE ARMY AIR FORCES BOARD AND THE PROJECTS REPORTS SENT FORWARD FROM HERE EVENTUALLY WILL FORM STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES IN RADAR FOR THE WHOLE OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES. TO COMPLETE THESE FOR THE MONTH WE ROLLED UP A TOTAL OF 324 FLYING HOURS.

OUR OLDEST PROJECT TITLED "H-3800 - BOMB METHODS" WAS RECEIVED ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1944 AND IS NOW 95% COMPLETE. THE FLYING WAS COMPLETED ON THIS ON 14 NOVEMBER 1944 AND LT. O. JOHN WORKED THE REST OF THE MONTH COMPILING THE INFORMATION THAT HAD BEEN UNCOVERED IN THE PHOTO BOMBING RESULTS. RIGHT NOW THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE FINAL REPORT IS IN THE HANDS OF LT. COL. MARTIN, OF THE AAF BOARD. AND WHEN HIS CORRECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN RENDERED INTO THE FIRST DRAFT THE FINAL REPORT WILL BE DRAWN UP.

A NEW PROJECT FOR SQUADRON I'S RADAR SECTION BEARS THE TITLE "EVALUATION OF AN/APS-15A". THIS WAS RECEIVED FROM THE AAF BOARD ON THE 30 OCTOBER 1944 MARKED FIRST PRIORITY. DURING THE MONTH WE RECEIVED A B-17 AIRCRAFT WITH EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AND FLYING WAS BEGUN ON 23 NOVEMBER. BETWEEN THEN AND 30 NOVEMBER TWO CHECK FLIGHTS WERE MADE TO FAMILIARIZE THE OPERATORS WITH THE EQUIPMENT, BUT THE FIRST ACTUAL PROJECT MISSION WAS INCOMPLETE DUE TO WEATHER.

LT. THOMAS J. CARROLL WAS ASSIGNED ANOTHER NEW PROJECT TITLED "TACTICAL EVALUATION OF AN/APQ-58", ON THE 30TH OF OCTOBER. DURING THE MONTH ONLY TWO FLIGHTS WERE COMPLETED BECAUSE THE SHIP WAS IN THE SUB-DEPOT FOR REPAIRS MOST OF THE MONTH. ON THESE FLIGHTS FIVE BOMBS WERE DROPPED FROM AN ABSOLUTE ALTITUDE OF 10,000 FEET AND THE OBSERVED AVERAGE C. E. WAS 270 FEET. REPORTS INDICATED THAT RESULTS WERE OBTAINED WITH POOR TARGET RETURNS. ONE REASON FOR THIS MAY HAVE BEEN FAULTY AFCE TRAINING OF THE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT.

TO IRON OUT THIS LATTER SITUATION THE APQ-5B TRAINER AT AFSAT WAS USED TO FAMILIARIZE THE OPERATORS WHENEVER IT WAS AVAILABLE WHILE THE SHIP ITSELF WAS BEING REPAIRED.

ON PROJECT NO. 3959--"BLIND APPROACH WITH CORNER REFLECTORS" NO SUCCESS WAS MET IN TRYING TO PICK UP THE REFLECTORS WITH THE EQUIPMENT. THE REFLECTORS WERE TRIED IN SEVERAL POSITIONS - TWO GROUPS OF FIVE (5) EACH 300 YARDS APART; A CIRCLE 100 YARDS IN DIAMETER; IN TRAIL 100 YARDS APART AND ON EITHER SIDE OF A RUNWAY 300 YARDS APART. SOME ALSO WERE SET UP ON THE EDGE OF LAKE APOPKA BUT NONE OF THE EQUIPMENT USED, NEITHER APQ-13 NOR APS-15 AND APS-15A NOR APQ-7 GAVE THE OPERATORS ANY RETURN. THE PROJECTS OFFICER, CAPTAIN JOSEY, CONTINUED TO TRY TO PICK THESE UP AND HE HAD HOPES THAT PERHAPS HE WOULD HAVE SUCCESS IN DECEMBER.

ANOTHER PROJECT ASSIGNED TO SQUADRON "1" WAS ONE ON "FLARE BOMBING - NO. 3978". DURING THE MONTH A SUCCESSFUL MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED TO ELGIN FIELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 1944. DURING THIS MISSION TWO RADAR PASSES WERE MADE AT THE TARGET. ON THE FIRST, THE TARGET WAS LIGHTED BY A STRING OF FLARES SPACED AT 1/5 MILE INTERVALS AND MARKER BOMBS WERE DROPPED VISUALLY BY THE SECOND SHIP. ON THE SECOND AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PLACE A CLUSTER OF FIVE FLARES ON EACH SIDE OF THE TARGET TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DIFFUSED LIGHTING TO ELIMINATE GLARE. A SUCCESSFUL FORMATION WAS FLOWN BY THE USE OF RADAR AND RADAR WAS FOUND TO BE A GREAT AID IN REASSEMBLY. FURTHER WORK ON THIS PROJECT WAS CARRIED ON AT NIGHT OVER Ocala BOMB RANGE. IN THE COURSE OF THIS WORK AN AIMING POINT 15 MILES FROM THE TARGET WAS USED WITH FAIR RESULTS.

THE LAST PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS HISTORY IS NO. 3882 "TACTICAL EVALUATION OF AN/APQ-7". LT. I. T. HODSON REPORTS THAT THE SHIP EQUIPPED WITH APQ-7 HAS BEEN FLYING MISSIONS AT ALL ALTITUDES DOING BOMB DROPS AND CAMERA BOMBING. AFCE TROUBLE AND A 100 HOUR INSPECTION HELD UP PROGRESS DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH. ANTENNA TROUBLE, NECESSITATING THE SHIP BEING SENT TO BOCA RATON FURTHER HELD UP WORK AND THE PROGRESS RATE FELL TO A SLOW JOB ALL DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH.

