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BegDate: May 1 1947 12:00AM **EndDate:** May 31 1947
 12:00AM **PubDate:**
Author:
Title Extension:
Title Added Entries:
Class: UNCLASSIFIED LNFT: 0 **AudioRec:** **MajCom:**
Subject:
Abstract: PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION BIG TOWN, A MASS
 DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT OVER NEW YORK CITY, NY 16 MAY
 47. PREPARING FOR TRAINING FLIGHT AND GOODWILL TOUR
 TO ENGLAND AND GERMANY.
DateRcvd: **IRISRef:** B0196
Admin: No Administrative Markings Listed
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HISTORY

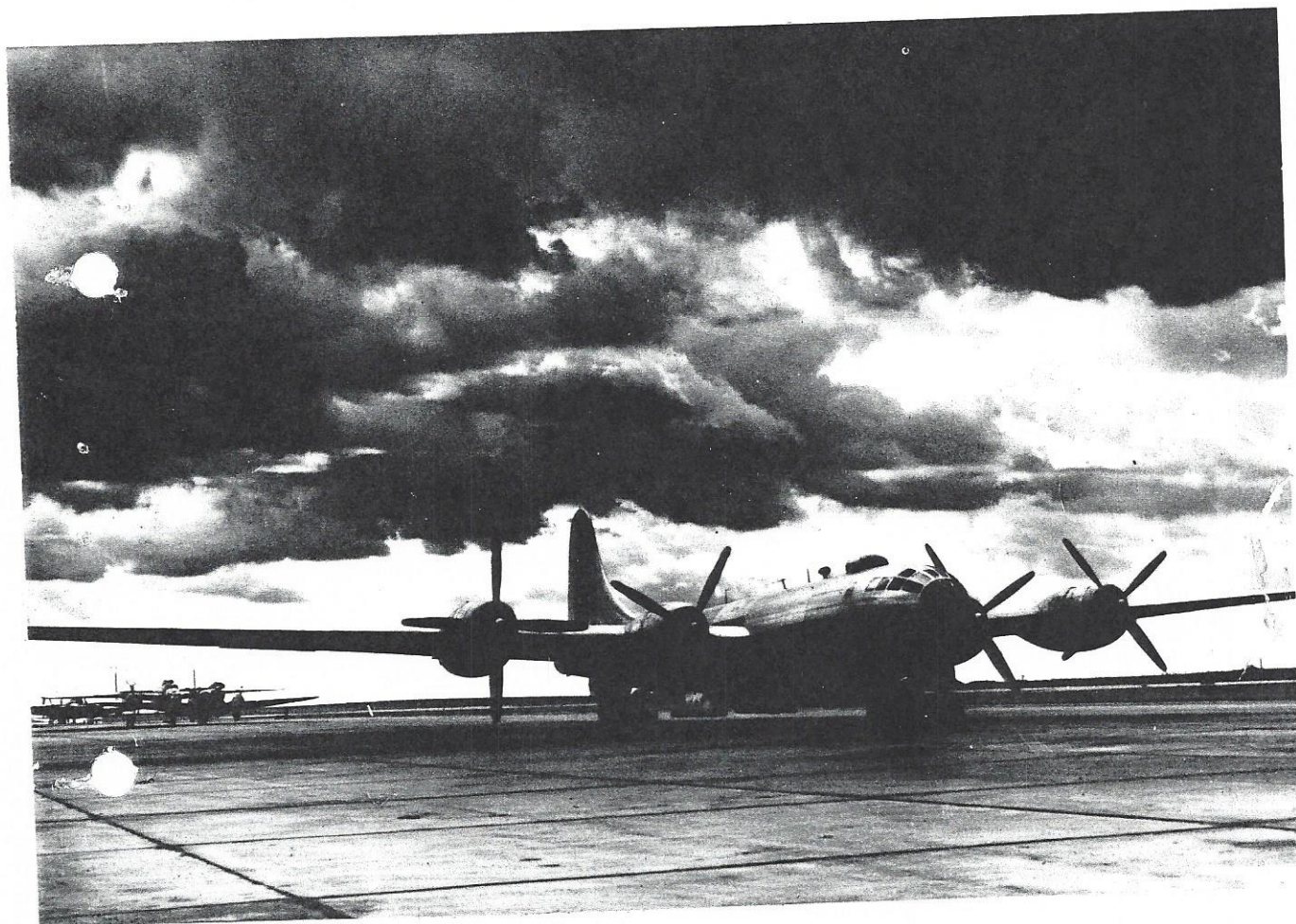
97TH

BOMBARDMENT GROUP (VH)

MAY 1947



P.R.C.



RC716537

SMOKY HILL ARMY AIR FIELD

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CHAPTER III

TRAINING

There was considerable training carried on by the 97th Bombardment Group during the month of May. The crews who were to participate in a flight to Germany had to receive thorough and intensive training prior to their departure on this flight. Long range missions were flown and new instrument cards were secured for these crews.

Nineteen (19) bombing missions were accomplished in which a total of one hundred twenty-six (126) bombs were dropped. Of these bombing missions, the 340th flew three (3); the 341st flew two (2); and the 342nd flew fourteen (14).

Grid navigation missions for the month totaled twelve (12). Several air shows were flown, the largest being "Operation Big Town". 6/ Twenty-eight (28) B-29's left SHAAF at 0250 on the 16th of May to participate in a large practice bombing mission on New York City. 7/ B-29's from this group and others made up a total of one hundred thirty-eight (138) aircraft on this mission.

These B-29's rendezvoused with split-second timing over Cape May, New Jersey at 1056 and then proceeded on a straight course of one hundred thirty miles to New York City for a full dress training review of the nation's heavy bombers.

6/ "Operation Big Town", 16 May 1947.

7/ TWX A3 104, New York City Formation Flight.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Busy New York City was hushed momentarily under the compounded roar of engines as millions of persons gaped skyward through a slight haze. The B-29's roared overhead in stacked formation from about three thousand five hundred (3500) feet to four thousand five hundred (4500) feet altitude and covering a sky area about two (2) miles long and one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) miles wide.

General George C. Kenny, Commander of the Strategic Air Command, led the formation which carried out "Operation Pacific".

After flying over Manhattan's skyscrapers, the flight flew over Brewster, New York; Newbury, New York; and Trenton, New Jersey. The formation also flew over Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D. C. before it broke up and the various groups returned to their home stations.

During the month of May five (5) Group Training Memorandums were published. 8/ A letter was published dated 5 May 1947 entitled, "Project Bomb Crew Training Directive". The purpose was to establish a special training program for project bombing crews. 9/

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- 8/
1. Training Memorandum #14, Hq 97th Bomb Group, 1 May 1947.
 2. Training Memorandum #15, Hq 97th Bomb Group, 8 May 1947.
 3. Training Memorandum #16, Hq 97th Bomb Group, 15 May 1947.
 4. Training Memorandum #17, Hq 97th Bomb Group, 22 May 1947.
 5. Training Memorandum #18, Hq 97th Bomb Group, 29 May 1947.

9/ Ltr., Hq 97th BG, Subject: Project Bomb Crew Training, 5 May 1947.