

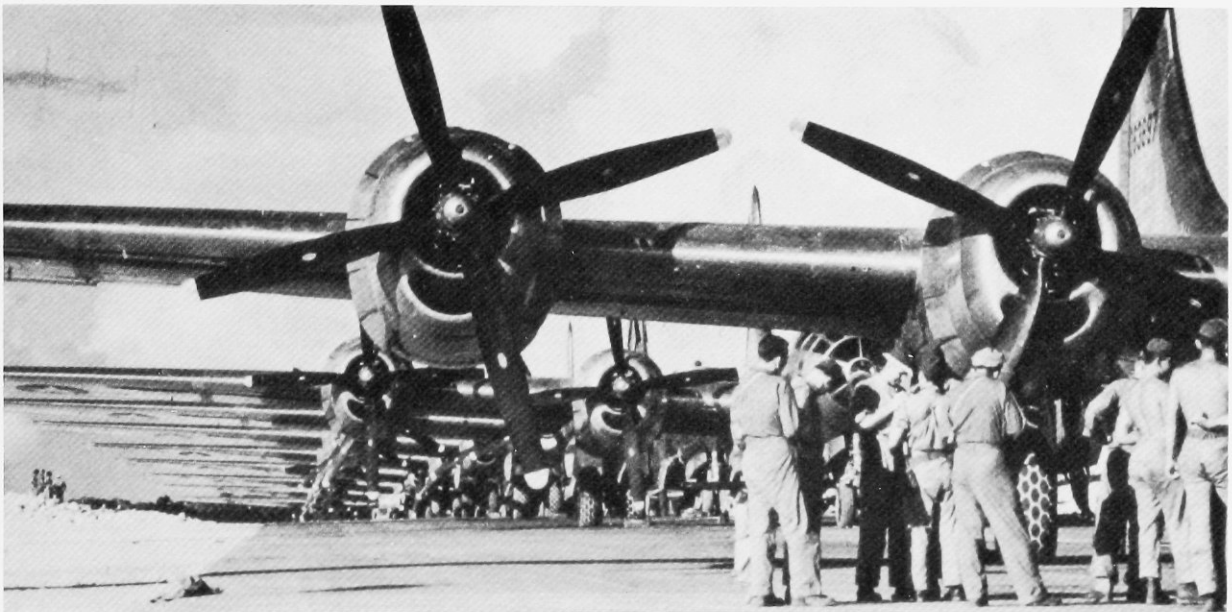
A NEW CHAPTER IN AIR POWER

"I have just reviewed the post-strike photography of your strike on target 1764, the MARUZEN Oil Refinery at SHIMOTSU, the night of 6/7 July. with a half-Wing effort you achieved ninety-five percent destruction, definitely establishing the ability of your crews with the APQ-7 to hit and destroy precision targets, operating at night. This performance is the most successful radar bombing of the Command to date. Congratulations to you and your men."

Curtis E. LeMay
Maj. Gen. USAAF
Commanding General
XXI Bomber Command

"The 315th Wing showed conclusively that it was feasible to destroy selected targets by radar bombing when the target location is well known and the radar returns of the target itself are clear or its location relative to a prominent radar feature is well known. As indicated earlier, B-29s with AN/APQ-7 radar systems might have been used as lead aircraft for daylight selective bombing by formations of the other B-29s. This technique would have permitted employment of the entire force for daylight attack of selected targets even if those targets were obscured by clouds."

Haywood S. Hansell Jr.
Brig. Gen. USAAF
Former Commanding General
XXI Bomber Command



THE 315th BOMB WING (VH) GUAM WWII

"The 315th wrote a new chapter in the history of air power. Things that crews flying today take for granted were unknown then. The 315th had to learn the hard way. High on that priority list was training for the radar operator, since bombing would be conducted mostly by night using the new APQ/7 radar. Crew coordination became even more critical—especially between radar operators and bombardiers. Mission planning was doubly important, so every crew had to spend hours pouring over radar scope reconnaissance photos of the target, and they had to prove they could draw the details of the target from memory. A whole new cult began to emerge—that of bombing by radar. It soon was to dominate strategic bombardment, and the 315th was in the vanguard of that effort. The procedures that were developed by the 315th were carried forward to the present day Strategic Air Command."

James P. Mullins
General, USAF (Ret)
Formerly Commander, AFLC
and the 15th Air Force
(from his speech given at the 315th Reunion, September 1986)

"The bombing accuracy attained by the 315th Bomb Wing (95% accuracy) has never been equaled by any other bombing efforts even today. The 315th with its development of radar bombing procedures and single aircraft bombing (in train) definitely is a forerunner to the present day Strategic Air Command."

Monroe Hatch
Lt. Gen. USAF (Ret)
(from his speech given at the 315th Bomb Wing Reunion,
October, 1985)



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