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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP
APO 141
STRIP Y-73
RHEIN-MAIN

HISTORY

APRIL 1945

RECORDER:
S/Sgt. Clarence A. Glasrud

TYPIST:
Pfc. Wilbert R. Ahonen

GROUP HISTORICAL OFFICER:

Captain ROBERT. L. CLARK

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HISTORICAL REPORT
1 April to 30 April 1945

Information contained herein, is written in compliance with XIX Tactical Air Command Memorandum Number 20-1, dated 5 February 1944. It is a resume of the activities of the 36th Fighter Group Headquarters, for the month of April 1 to 30, 1945.

1. ORGANIZATION

No Change.

2. STRENGTH AS OF 30 APRIL 1945

Figures shown below are total strength for Group Headquarters and assigned squadrons:

<u>Assigned Personnel</u>		<u>Authorized Personnel</u>	
Officers	-----214	Officers	-----201
Enlisted Men	-----825	Enlisted Men	-----811
	<u>1039</u>		<u>1012</u>

3. DATE OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION IN ETC:

Departed AIG V-34, 1 1/2 miles SE of Metz, France, 15 April 1945, for AIG V-73, 4 miles S of Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, arriving 15 April 1945.

4. ISSUES IN ACTION:

Nil (for Group Headquarters)

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Silver Star

Capt. Frank S. Werchner

Bronze Star

Capt. David F. Reinthal

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1 April 45 (cont'd)

And Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley sent a letter of congratulation, which came on to us with forwarding endorsements from Generals Vandenberg and Taylor (Subject: Recent Records Established by Units of Ninth Air Force-- 373.11 (90) W. 12th Army Group, 27 March 1945).

Supporting Document #1, Special Orders #3A.

2 April 1945

We were non-operational today, but the war was definitely going our way. The Ruhr was encircled and 10 German divisions cut off, the Russians were nearing Vienna, and the new U.S. Tenth Army invaded the Ryukyu Islands 325 miles from Japan proper.

Group Stat Control has received notification of a change in status of 3 pilots previously listed MIA and now officially KIA: 2nd Lt. James W. Gamblin (went down on 22 June 1944, 2nd Lt. John P. Stewart Jr. (28 Aug 44), and 2nd Lt. Charles B. Werks (12 Nov 1944).

The new popular pastime--scavenging trips to beat-up Saarbrücken--continued unabated, with the loot piling up: family photo albums, Weenie stamps and paper money, shooting irons, mattresses, vehicles of various descriptions--and plenty of good red wine in bottles, jugs, and jerrycans!

3 April 1945

Today's operations were uneventful, though we sent 47 planes on 3 squadron armed recon missions deep into Germany--to Weimar, Nordhausen, and Veldtung in the Thuringian Forest. The mere fact that our planes could fly so far into Germany was something of a feat in itself; an almost solid cloud coverage prevented any strafing attacks--and no bombs were carried. The only targets our planes found to attack were a pair of F190's which played hide-and-seek with the 396th over the Walle airfield. One got away completely in the clouds but Capt. Astun, Lt. Poss, and Lt. Soderlund each got in good hits on the other. He was an experienced pilot and made the most of the clouds--so they only share a probable on him.

We received word from the First General Hospital in Paris that Major Leary was there, undergoing some plastic surgery because of severe burns about the face and head. His condition is reported good, and a "detachment" will fly to Paris to see him tomorrow.

4 April 1945

Again today a very generous cloud coverage made work difficult for our P-47's--but 104 planes were dispatched on 5 armed recon and 2 medium bomber escort missions. The 32 Thunderbolts flying escort for the A-20's and A-26's had completely uneventful missions, the weather hiding the targets bombed. Claims made by the armed recon planes were 23-0 on M/T's, 4-1 on locoms, 27-51 on freight cars, besides a railroad cut and 4 oil tanks damaged.

Lt. Col. Teragg, Major Davis, Capt. Cleary, Capt. Carry, and Cpl. Burns visited Major Leary in the First General Hospital in Paris today and learned more of his story. We had broken clear of the uneven battle with the German aircraft back on January 14, but went to the aid of another pilot who had several Weenies on his tail. Lt. Huckle confirms his claims of 3 possible German planes shot down, when a

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4 April 45 (cont'd)

70-degree deflection shot finally got Leary's plane. The explosion of a 250 lb. shell set the P-47 on fire and he bailed out with slight wounds in the arm and shoulder and had burns about the face, neck, and head. He was taken prisoner and ended up in the hospital at Weptenheim run by the sadistic Nazi doctor. His eyesight was saved when he was attended by a fine civilian doctor at Weidellberg, and when his wounds healed he went to a PW camp, though his burns were still in bad condition. However, he took care of 4 American privates who were too undernourished to get out of bed, feeding and bathing them. Then in late March the PW camp was overrun by fast moving American forces, and Major Leary was taken to the Paris hospital. Besides seeing Lt. Mucke, the Major reported that he had seen names of Lt. Alden, Potter, and Bender on the rosters of the PW camp, though these pilots were evidently removed to some other place before the camp was overrun. Though disfigured by his burns, Major Leary is expected to recover soon; following some plastic surgery, he will retain 20-20 vision in both eyes--and will at last be sent to the U.S.

5 April 1945

Each squadron dispatched one 16-plane mission on an armed recon to the Bamberg-Waalsfeld-Neunberg area. Again no bombs were carried, but strafing claims were 1-1 on tanks, 112-59 on PW's, 2-0 on locos, and 0-12 on freight cars--besides 15 German troops destroyed.

Twelve pilots were acquired--and assigned to the squadrons; 4 enlisted men of the squadrons were placed on flying status (in connection with the flights of our P-47); and out of 3 new PW assigned to the 368th Group, Headquarters acquired Pvt. Robert W. Watson, who was assigned to G-4.

Twenty foreign workers--from nearly every nation of Europe (except Germany) were being checked today by GIC with a view to securing some kitchen help for the squadrons. The move is very popular with all eligible PW's.

And with the 271st already beginning their move to Frankfurt, we are wondering how long we will have to wait. Most of us had expected to take off before this, and it seems pretty definite that our group will move to another field near Frankfurt. But with spring well on the way, most of us are none too anxious to leave Metz for Germany--and non-fraternization. Metz seems a very different place than a sun-soaked, childy-society city we came to early in January.

Supporting Document - 2, Special Orders - 35.

6 April 1945

Thirty-two planes took off today on four 8-plane missions in support of the VIII Corps. But, although the P-47's carried bombs, the weather made things very tough--and the results generally unspectacular. Half of the bombs had to be jettisoned, but others destroyed an ammo dump and a building, cut tracks in 3 places, and destroyed 20 freight cars in a PW near Marktstargast.

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6 April 1945 (cont'd)

We got the feeling of being left behind by the war even more keenly today when we discovered that our postoffice had moved and we would get no more mail until we moved on to catch up with it. And the Frankfurt move became definite today with the announcement that we would be moving from April 10-16. Small advance groups will leave even before that.

7 April 1945

Seventy-two planes were dispatched to cooperate with the VIII Corps today in the Sealfeld area. Thirty-five tons of bombs accounted for at least a dozen rail and 4 road cuts, 4 large fires, 74 buildings destroyed, a gun position cluttered, besides unestimated damage to towns holding up the advance of Third Army troops. Vehicle claims were 13-6 on W's, 6-1 on Locos, and 113-50 on freight cars. To round out the day, Capt. Oetzel of the 396th destroyed a pair of storch "dubs", which was a little like shooting sitting ducks but accounts for 2 more W/A, anyway.

Today we were rather belatedly officially authorized our third battle star, for the Battle of France! Of more immediate interest to all concerned was the French USO show put on tonight at our "Mountaintop" gym. Except for a GI 12, the show was all French, featuring a variety show-orchestra, girl chorus, singers, dancers, and a trick bike rider. It was good—and a sellout.

8 April 1945

While 87 planes again supported the VIII Corps in the same general area, south of Frankfurt, 16 P-47's of the 397th squadron escorted a Group of 1-26's on a bombing mission to Rossneck. The other 11 missions dropped 43 tons of bombs, getting generally good results on targets assigned by the controllers or, failing that, targets of opportunity. Sometimes the damage on these controller-assigned targets could not be assessed beyond "town hit" or "barbed woods". But 2 large fires were noted in different places, at 30 buildings were seen destroyed, tracks were cut in 8 places, at least 2 guns were destroyed and a number of other gun positions well bombed, a road block damaged and 10 soldiers destroyed. The vehicle score was: W's 25-7, Locos 2-0, and freight cars 41-12. And a lone P-190 got in the way of the 397th near Jens; Lt. Uterhart and Hogan shot it down in flames and share the bill.

There was another sign of things to come: Sgt. Louis Weidelberger of the 395th and Pvt. Ralph Werke of the 396th, both Gurn-born, were called up to NIX SAC for three days to attend a language instructor course."

The weather turned sunny again, and the regular evening volleyball games became more popular than ever. Tonight a Group HQ team lost to the 397th in a play-off to pick a team to represent the 36th in a "King Volleyball" tournament; but with spring fever on, the tourney is likely to be postponed indefinitely. We may be playing the game again in the Netherlands, but we're not likely to find another de luxe court like the concrete building floor (minus the building) next to our Metz barracks.

Still more popular was our "Goodbye-to-Metz" W dance at the gym tonight. The boys figured this would be their last dance for quite a while and made the most of it.

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2 April 45 (cont'd)

And an advance spearhead left for our new strip X-73 at Frankfurt.

Sup outline Document 73, Special Orders 736.

9 April 1945

A total of 120 sorties were flown by the Group today. While the 397th sent 43 planes out to fly close support for the VIII Corps, the other 2 squadrons were assigned armed recon today. The 395th worked on the Hulle-Weissenfels area and the 396th in the vicinity of Naesfeld, concentrating on the Luecher-Perastorf fuel dump. Again 40 and 3/4 tons of bombs were dropped and results were similar to those of the last 2 days: at least 10 large fires started, 43 buildings destroyed or damaged, 11 rail cuts made, 3 oil tanks and 12 ammo sheds destroyed, 2 guns and gun positions obliterated, and 5 troops killed. In vehicles the score was: tanks 0-2, M1's 22-5, buses 11-0, and freight cars 24-21. Besides that, 2 missions reported NCO because of weather, though the bombs were dropped on their target.

Thirteen of our pilots were able to do what we would all like to do: drop bombs on their own home today. All of them were familiar with the area, and the names of the towns are: 395th--Capt. Wynn, 1st Lt. [unclear], 1st Lt. [unclear]; 396th--Capt. [unclear], 1st Lt. [unclear], 1st Lt. [unclear]; 397th--Capt. [unclear], 1st Lt. [unclear], 1st Lt. [unclear].

At least 10 of our planes were already at Frankfurt, the first contingent of our advance spearhead ready to take off for the new field early tomorrow AM.

10 April 1945

In 3 types of missions flown today, 114 M1's were dispatched and 4 1/2 tons of bombs dropped: the 396th worked with the VIII Corps in the Coburg-Naesfeld area and the other 2 squadrons first did some rail-cutting around Sonneberg and then performed armed recon around [unclear] and [unclear]. Besides a choke point in a [unclear] bridge, rails were cut in at least 23 places, 30 buildings destroyed, a town [unclear], 2 discs started, 2 barges destroyed, and some artillery positions bombed with very good results. Vehicle claims were: M1's 22-0, buses 4-1, freight cars 117-102. We [unclear] planes challenged our M1's in the air, but Capt. Krause of the 397th destroyed 3 and damaged 4 assorted [unclear] by strafing at the [unclear]; and 1st Lt. Lewis of the 396th strafed and damaged 4 more near Coburg.

We received word today that 1st Lt. James T. Glover, missing since 4 December 1944 on a P-51 over [unclear], is now listed MIA.

At Frankfurt, at our new strip X-73 our advance party was doing some occupying. When the decision was made that the civilians in the little model village of Lepzendorf in front of the field were too close to our base of operations, they were evicted today--some of our boys being assigned the task of evicting them. The story is that they had been ordered out some time previously but had ignored the order. Today they were given only 2 hours to pick up the belongings they could take with them, and leave. The reactions of the civilians varied, though they left reluctantly enough; and many of our men did not care much about their

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10 April 45 (cont'd)

new task of driving out women and children. The women who had children to take care of and no men to help them got the help they needed, and the job was done. The fine modern houses, fully equipped was something new to us, and we moved in rather gingerly at first, as though we were trespassing. But we found the new quarters unbelievably comfortable and could almost convince ourselves that we were civilians again. Group officers moved into individual homes, two officers sharing each bedrooms or living room, and one to each dining room. Group enlisted men moved into an apartment building 7 men being assigned to each small apartment. Things promised to get a little crowded later on; but while there were only a few of us at the new base and only 2 men to each apartment, we were really fat. And of course the men back at Metz didn't believe any of the stories that came floating back. When the stories came back about living in apartments with bathrooms, radios, and electric stoves, they were pretty sure that the move to Germany would mean fox-holes again, or at least pyramidal tents.

Wittke's autobains did pay off, for the trucks which had left for Frankfurt this morning were unloaded and back at Metz this evening. On the main air echelon, which was expected to leave on April 11, loaded their trucks tonight and got ready to leave in the morning.

11 April 1945

Each squadron drew an armed recon area today, the 395th going to Eber and Karlsbad, the 396th to Chemnitz and Saalfeld, and the 397th to Jena and Leipzig. In 3 missions 168 sorties were flown and 34 tons of bombs dropped. Air fields and towns got most of the attention today, with frag bombs and strafing leaving plenty of wreckage in the wake of our P-47's. Major Tuite of the 397th spotted a P-109 on the deck and shot it down, the pilot bailing out. This was our only claim in the air, and on the ground our pilots destroyed 11 assorted German planes, with a possible 2 more destroyed and 2 damaged. "Fire" reports ranged from a huge explosion and fire, a large fire and explosion (a different one), a whole town on fire, and many small fires--each of these report by a different mission. Then there were 4 rail cuts, a warehouse destroyed and 2 factories hit, a hangar and a supply dump damaged, 3 more buildings destroyed and 2 damaged, 10 personnel and 16 horses killed. Lastly, vehicle claims were 24-16 on P-47's, 29-0 on 100s, and 131-194 on freight cars.

Sgt Lt. Philip W. Holstine of the 395th is listed MIA after his squadron was bounced by 4 P-109's over the tributary A/D. Lt. Holstine was seen to bail out and land near some woods. Lt. Grossheit's plane was also damaged and he had to land at Mainz, but there was some evidence that both planes may have been damaged by ground fire. No claims were made after the 10-minute dogfight.

Our Frankfurt bridgehead over the Rhine was becoming more secure. Things were up for the Snack Bar and T & I (which even got a floor out of the plentiful new German lumber); the headquarters building was being rapidly repaired by "C" "Pappy" Silvers and his able chief "Doc" Glasrud, and others; and of course the latrines were ready. We ate at the Snack Bar and Sgt. Spahn made his 3-rations taste pretty good. There was even a little mail, now that we had caught up without a postoffice again, and fairly fresh Sters and Stripes. The unpleasant side of the picture, besides plenty of hard work, was that we drew guard duty at our headquarters building, while one man had to sleep each night at the de luxe

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11 April 1945 (cont'd)

chicken farm to guard our un-armed medics. The elaborate "farmhouse" nearly a half mile through the pine forest from the field, was to be our new dispensary. And in the woods near the farm we found the prison camp; it was empty now but there was enough of it remaining (including the smell) to remind us that the Nazis were not nice people.

S-2 received a new man today to fill its quota. He is Cpl. Harold McClellan and from all appearances he promises to be a capable and welcome addition to the Section.

Supporting Document 4, Special Orders (37).

12 April 1945

Today's operations were not as successful as the past few days, due chiefly to the weather. Though 72 planes took off on 6 squadron missions, 4 of those missions were bomber escort missions for A-20's, however, and reported that the mediums did a good job of bombing. These missions almost got us into real trouble, too, for they took our planes into southwestern Germany, almost to the Swiss border. On the other 2 missions, the 325th flew an a/r to Chemnitz, destroyed 2 W/T's and killed 50 troops, and the 327th had an a/r to Wger, damaged 2 tanks, destroyed 7 and damaged 8 W/T's, and started 3 fires.

At our new strip we found a new job in clearing the headquarters area. We pulled out stumps and strips of narrow-gauge track in clearing out a parking lot. By this evening the headquarters building was ready for occupancy; and though there was still work to be done on it, some of the offices were already getting set up to operate. After our little affair in taking over Zeppelinheim, we have seen little of the Germans, but in attempting to get some electric power for the dispensary, we had some dealings in the town of Waldorf, about a mile or so past the farm. So far the people have proven to be very polite, cooperative, and even anxious to be friendly. They are not Nazis, of course, there was no Volksturm in Waldorf, and so many of the people have relatives in the U.S.:

13 April 1945

We learned this morning that President Roosevelt had died yesterday, and that made Friday the Thirteenth a black Friday for all of us.

Only 35 planes were dispatched on 3 missions because of the weather, and 2 of those missions were fighter sweeps to Dresden and Prux. Entirely uneventful. That is, they were uneventful, except for the weather which was so bad that we lost one plane and a pilot--though only temporarily, we found later. Lt. McCrone got caught in a bad storm cloud and had to bail out of his plane; but this happened in friendly territory and he returned to us in a couple of days--with a sprained ankle. The 326th, flying to Walle on an armed recce, turned in an average good mission. Two tons of frag bombs, plus strafing, got 17-26 on W/T's, 4-0 on boxes, and 30-0 on freight cars, besides 4 large fires in the Wehrmacht. Lt. Wilcox is credited with an enemy plane under rather unusual cir-

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13 April 1945 (cont'd)

circumstances. We bounced the unknown observation plane to check its identity. The V-1 promptly bellied into a field and burned after strafing. Two men ran from the plane into nearby woods.

At Strip V-73 "captured" German equipment began to come in and be put to use. There were cars and radios, the items generally considered most worthy of capture (outlets of luxuries and ITC's, which are gone when the air corps arrives, of course); but at our Frankfurt field the offices began to blossom out with really superior furniture, German telephones and typewriter, and even a globe, an adding machine, a clock, and a barometer!

The Squad Bar gave up being a mess hall and became only a Squad Bar again, complete with situation maps which needed constant changing. We are eating temporarily at the 397th mess hall.

Back at Metz the packing was really getting into high gear, for many planes are expected to help the moving tomorrow--and the planes are due to move the following day.

14 April 1945

Today's operations were almost a total loss. Only the 397th flew at all--an armed recon and a fighter sweep to Trier--and their 2 missions (24 sorties) were uneventful. Two tons of frag bombs were dropped on the Russian V-1 through a hole in the clouds--WFO.

The promotion all of us have been "sweating out" for a long time came through today, and we again have a full colonel for a commanding officer. Col. Berge's orders are dated 11 April 1945 (Special Orders 105 War. 14 - 10 AFHQ).

Frankfurt was heavily reinforced today when a large number of personnel and such spare equipment made the jump by B-47 and F-17. The pleasant surprise on this move was that no more details were needed to pack or unpack the Red Cross equipment. Just before leaving Metz the Red Cross added 7 foreign workers to their staff. These young men, who include 2 Italians, 2 Rumanians, a Russian, a Hungarian and a Polish-Frenchman (or French-Pole), are likely to make the Red Cross a much more popular organization! They were to have been used as "ifs" back at Metz but our move to Frankfurt made it necessary for us to disperse with the services of female French help at the Red Cross Club.

15 April 1945

This was moving day for our planes and after the first set of missions the planes landed at Strip V-73. The move was nearly all that was accomplished today, too. Three squadron missions of 12 planes each escorted A-20's and B-26's to southwestern Germany; and though the mediums dropped their bombs the results were WFO because of the weather. Landing at our new Frankfurt field after these missions, each squadron took off again on armed recon--2 for the Dresden-Pfizer area and the other to Schanau and Filsen. Both the 395th and 397th had to abort because of the weather which was so bad that two 397th planes had a mid-air collision north of Schweinfurt. Both pilots, 1st Lt. William T. Wright and 2nd Lt. Richard

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15 April 1945 (cont'd)

G. Elliot are listed MIA, though one man was seen to bail out and was later observed on the ground waving his arms. Lt. Wright has since been reported in a hospital, but Lt. Elliot is presumed to have been killed. The 396th finally got in a good strafing mission, 10 planes working over fuel storage tanks and assorted vehicles in and around Wendisch; one locomotive was damaged and 44 M/Ts destroyed and 46 damaged, besides 2 horses killed.

Our new strip is now in full operations, and the rest of the men and equipment at Metz was expected to come in within 2 days. Headquarters was again eating at the 395th mess hall, and our small Zeppelinheim apartments were getting more crowded. The people we had ousted were coming back, too, wanting to get things from their apartments or ex-homes. Escorted by MP's they were allowed to take out potatoes and other food - and sometimes to search for their ration books! We had no desire to keep them away from any food they had left behind, in fact we were anxious to see them take the food, but we were a little bored and entirely unconvinced when their representative tried to make us believe there had been no Nazi sympathizers in Zeppelenheim, for all of the houses and apartments housed a plentiful supply of pictures and other material which indicated past allegiance with the Nazi party.

16 April 1945

Operations got into high gear again to-day, with 104 sorties being flown on 9 armed recce missions to the Prague area. The fact that our planes were flying all of the way across South Germany to attack airdromes and rail and road traffic in Czechoslovakia indicated that we wouldn't be able to enjoy our Zeppelinheim "homes" very long. Our only hope was that the war might end while we were still here, for if any resistance continues it is inevitable that we would move again to keep up with Patton's fast moving columns, now turning south. The 396th and 397th each accounted for planes on the ground and in the air to-day. Some E/A attempted to take off as our P-47s attacked their A/Ds; Lts. Yandel and Fein of the 397th each destroyed an ME262 in this way and Lt. Col. Carbine damaged a JU-52; and on 2 396thmissions Lt. Dumber got a ME109 and Lt Mitchell a ME108. Ground claims were varied as the two squadrons worked over nearly every type of A/C in the Luftwaffe on the Prague airfields. Total claims for the day were 22 destroyed and 35 damaged. Other claims for the day were equally impressive, especially on locomotives. The totals are: tanks 0-1, M/T's 201-77, locos 36-31, and freight cars 18-97. In addition, 2 guns and a building were destroyed, a town left burning, and 46 troops killed. The rear echelon continues to come in to-day, along with the rumor that we would move to Gotha (in Thuringia) as soon as they were all here. But we continued to set up more substantially than ever before, with the help of our seemingly inexhaustible supply of German furniture.

17 April 1945

Eight more armed recce missions to Prague, Pilsen, and Dresden were flown to-day, a total of 94 sorties. This time our total of aircraft clobbered on the ground dropped to only 1 destroyed and 7 damaged. Again 1 tank was damaged, 86 M/Ts destroyed and 88 damaged, and 12 freight cars destroyed and 43 damaged. Other claims were in proportion: 1 steamshovel, 1 roundhouse, 2 buildings, and 3 guns destroyed, 4 fires started, 6 gas tanks damaged, and 30 troops killed. The last of the rear echelon came in from Metz today and we are reunited once more.

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18 April 1945

In addition to 6 more armed recces to the Prague area, we drew 2 special missions to drop 15 tons of Napalm on a reported concentration of 100 tanks northwest of Regensburg. They never located the tanks and attacked targets of opportunity. The 90 planes dispatched made the following claims: tanks 3-3, M/Ts 84-21, locos 19-1, and freight cars 15-45. Lts Dixon and Taubert of the 396th found and destroyed 3 JU-52's on a small airfield northeast of Prague. In addition, they killed 20 Germans in one area and an unestimated number in another place, killed 2 horses, started 4 fires, destroyed a bridge, and damaged a gun and 4 buildings.

Tonight the first movie was shown on our new field. The theater, too, is "de Luxe" here; the seats have backs on them!

It was evident today that the long awaited Russian drive on Berlin was finally underway, and we confidently watched the advance which most of us expected to be the "crusher".

19 April 1945

After 16 days of uninterrupted flying our record string of flights was broken today - intentionally. We were released for maintenance work.

We were really getting well settled at Strip Y-73; the PX opened for business (even though there were only 3 packs of cigarettes and tropical chocolate) and negotiations were completed to have our laundry done by a civilian laundry in Darmstadt (U.S. Military Government approved).

At roll call this morning Major Rice read the regulations on our conduct in Germany for the second time, for the benefit of those who were not here to hear it the first time.

At about 1900 hours this evening we had our most exciting incident in some time. An FW190 came over the field as if it were about to land, pulled up again, and then came in the second time. This time the ack-ack opened up, but the plane landed safely. The pilot was interrogated by the 362nd Fighter Group and told the following story: he had been based on the Finow A/D, northeast of Berlin, but was acquainted with the Frankfurt field since he had been based here previously; when his CO told him that the ground crews would be transferred to the Infantry after the day's operations because there was no more gasoline, the pilot (the equivalent of a flying sergeant) decided he had had enough.

Supporting Document #5, Copy, "Results of Interrogation of GAF Pilot Who Landed at Y-73.

Supporting Document #6, General Order #3.

Supporting Document #7, Memorandum #11

20 April 1945

Operational again today we dispatched 106 P-47's on 9 armed recces to the Beroun-Klatovy-Strauving area, and on the last mission of the day the 396th destroyed 5 and damaged 6 enemy planes on the A/D at Ganacker. Lts Dunbar, Gennoy, Boss and Soderlund worked over the ME109's, FW190's and ME262's. Other claims for the day are: tanks 0-6, M/T's 88-10, locos 25-6 and freight cars 12-150. One gun and 4 horses were destroyed, one building destroyed and 9 damaged, fires were started and no claims were made on a single strafing pass on the Pilsen A/D. That airfield at Ganacker was spotted by Lt. Col Sparks, deputy CG, who flew along with the 396th on the

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last mission with Major East, Group S- 2, riding "piggy-back". Major East is ready to dit again "after a while", but he said the 3 hour ride in a cramped position was plenty rough.

From XIX TAC came several reports of battle casualties today. 2nd Lt. Clarence B. Palmer, MIA on 12 June 1944, is now KIA; 2nd Lt. Robert M. Pace, MIA on 17 December 1944, is now SIA (in the 9th Field Hospital with burns about the head, eyelids, and hands; 2nd Lt. Walter W. Scptt, SIA on 8 March 1945 to EUS (evacuated to the U.S.); and 2nd Lt. Charles J. Hucke, MIA 14 January 1945, LIA.

21 April 1945

Again today our missions followed the same pattern: 72 planes were dispatched on 6 armed recce missions to the Beroun-Klatovy-Straubing area. And results, too, were similar: M/T's 103-88, locos 23-4, freight cars 20-10, and E/A 6-0-1. The 397th found the enemy planes at the Cheb A/D, again as assorted lot of planes-bombers, fighter, and trainers. Further claims were 70 troops killed; 14 fires started; 3 guns, 3 houses, and 4 searchlights destroyed and a radio shack and tower damaged.

There was a 3 way shift in command today: Major Talbott went back to the States for a 45 day leave, Lt. Col. Carbine became Group Operations Officer, and Major Tuite took over as CO of the 397th Squadron.

Moving rumors took on a really definite turn today. Our new base is supposed to be Nuremberg, just liberated by the Seventh Army. The payoff is that this is supposed to be our permanent base, for we are reputedly earmarked for the Army of Occupation.

Six new pilots joined the 368th Group today and were dividdd equally among the squadrons.

Capt. Cleary went to the Riviera today to perform the first American marrigae at Cannes. Miss Lorretta Stanley, USO entertainer, and Capt. Woodrow Giordano, 4145 QM, will be married 24 April 1945.

Supporting Document #8, Special Orders #39.

22 April 1945

Though bad weather cut short operations and we were released early today, each squadron got in a mission -30 sorties being flown. The 397th drew area cover near Nurnberg and reported nothing happened except that the weather was bad. The other two squadrons, on armed recce to the Prague area, got 65-20 on M/T's 10-3 on locos, and 0-70 on freight cars. The 395th got in some target practice too. An old Fokker bi-plane, evidently used for observation, was strafed in the air and forced to land. Then, after the pilot had limped away, the planes was strafed on the ground until it exploded. Lt Eyrich got in most of the hits and is credited with 1 E/A shot down!

There was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth among the officers today: All civilian cars were grounded! The case is being appealed.

Three pilots were acquired today and assigned to the 396th and 397th Squadrons.

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22 April 1945 (cont'd)

The Headquarters softball season got off to a flying start tonight when the enlisted men finally nosed out the officers 12-11, after tracking 11-5 late in the game.

Supporting Document #9, Special Order #40.

23 April 1945

Again today operations were something less than spectacular; 30 sorties were flown, each squadron going out on one mission. The 395th flew area cover around Bayreuth and had nothing to report. The 397th went out to look for road and rail movement in the Prague-Pilsen area and destroyed 8 M/Ts with their 16 frags (260 lbs) bombs. The 396th worked with the III Corps. They dropped their 12 frags on a pair of M/T's; a warehouse was set on fire in one and the results could not be measured in the other. Later 8 more M/T's were destroyed by strafing and 2 locos were destroyed and 15 more damaged.

Capt. Quinlan was forced to return to Paris to attend an athletic school for 7 days; days off started again, and we acquired a bus to make the regular runs from Zeppelinheim, to chow, to the headquarters area and theater.

But the highlight of the day was the visit of Major General Weyland, XIX TAC, CG, who presented 3 Silver Stars, 14 Distinguished Flying Crosses (and two Oak Leaf Clusters), 22 Bronze Stars, and 27 Air Medals. From the Group Headquarters Capt. Frank S Kerchner of S-3 received the Silver Star and Capt. David F. Reinthal of S-2 the Bronze Star.

The 368th Group baseball team played and won their opening game, beating the 840th Engineers 10-3. Members of the squad from Gp. Hq. are coach-catcher Rutan, Pitchers Ahonen and Maiensheim, and second baseman O'Dowd. Hq. enlisted men and officers both won their softball games tonight, the EM beating the 1221QM 4-1 and the officers turning back the 395th pilots 5-4.

24 April 1945

Operations picked up again today, with 96 sorties flown and 11,75 tons of frag bombs dropped. The 395 drew the Area Cover mission over Bayreuth today and had "uneventful" reports to turn in. The 396th flew 3 armed reces against rail and road traffic in the Ingolstadt-Munich area and the 397th drew similar assignments to Prague. These missions accounted for a town flattened, big explosions as an ammo dump blew up, 10 revetments destroyed, 1 boiler and 4 guns destroyed, 18 buildings destroyed or damaged, 100 troops killed (or damaged!) and tracks and roads cut in several places. The vehicle count was: M/T's 106-62, locos 14-1, and freight cars 30-82. The 396th also strafed an A/D near Manching and reported the enemy aircraft in the woods well clobbered; but the only claim submitted was for one HELL damaged.

The most spectacular results of the day also cost us a pilot. The 396th attacked underground installations at Baar and Ebenhausen and got by far the largest explosion the pilots have ever seen, dust and debris coming up to 7,000 feet. 2nd. Lt. Jack H. Sharp was caught by these explosions and his plane crashed and his plane crashed and exploded after being blasted straight up a thousand feet. He is listed MIA.

The Group officers won their second softball game today, getting a forfeit from the 397th pilots and then defeating a pickup team from the same squadron 11-8.

TOP SECRET

SECRET

25 April 1945

Locomotives and planes on the ground again came in for plenty of attention today, as 112 sorties were flown and 15 3/4 tons of frags were dropped. This time the 397th drew 5 area cover missions to Bayreuth and Wurzburg, still entirely uneventful. The other two Squadrons flew armed recces to Munich and Wasserburg, to cooperate with the III Corps. Each of the squadrons worked over an airfield; the 395th destroyed 2 twin-engined E/A and damaged another with frags and destroyed an HE111 by strafing at the Erding A/D; and the 396th, dropping frags on the Eferding A/D, estimate that 6 single-engined E/A were destroyed and 12 damaged. Vehicle claims were: M/T's 63-15, locos 14-0, and freight cars 15-15. Other damage for the day included 7 soldiers killed, 7 flak positions destroyed, road cuts in 3 places, and 54 buildings destroyed. Two 395th pilots were lost today and are listed MIA; 2nd Lt. Russel L. Grubbs, on his first mission, bailed out of his flak ridden P-47 over the Erding A/D; and 2nd Lt. Thomas H. Moore, failed to recover from his bomb run at Ingolstadt and went straight in with his bombs.

26 April 1945

Continued good weather permitted the performance of 10 missions totalling 98 sorties - six missions on armed recce in the Munich-Staueling and Geisenfeld-Munich areas, three missions on airfield patrol in the Bayreuth-Wurzburg area and one PW mission. Fifteen and three-quarters tons of bombs and 64 rockets were dropped or launched against targets on airfields and in towns resulting in claims of: 0-3 tanks, 37-9 M/T's and vehicles, 8-2 locomotives, 15-49 RR cars, (1-0-0air)(0-0-4Ground) aircraft, 15-20 buildings and 1 hangar destroyed or damaged. Four rail cuts were effected and several fires started. While on armed recce in the Munich area and support of III Corps units railways and towns were hit hard. Ground Controller Hopcraft assigned the towns of Mavern and Gaden as targets for the 396th when they were on their 3rd mission - results of the bombing were excellent with the destruction of many buildings and 29 German soldiers. The 395th dropped PW leaflet bombs on designated areas and flew uneventful Area Cover over A/Ds in the Bayreuth area. Armed recce in the Markt area by the 397th resulted in several fires and the destruction of damage of 35 buildings and 1 hangar.

Special Order #42 announced the appointment of Capt. Wayne H. Driscoll as Hq. Group Air Inspector with Capt. James M. Ivey as Assistant Group Air Inspector. Three Captains arrived from XIX TAG and were assigned by the same order to Squadrons: Capt. William O. Ross to the 395th, Capt. Ross Smith Jr. to the 396th, and Capt. William H. Nelson to the 397th Squadrons. It also announced the assignment of 1st Lt. Oran L. Higgins to the 396th Squadron.

Supporting Document # 12, Special Order #42.

27 April 1945

Operations took a slump today due to low clouds, haze, and thundershowers in the target area and at the base. Three missions totalling 36 sorties were flown in the Sudomer, Traun and Linz areas. The 397th Squadron carried 16 rockets and 1 3/4 tons of bombs; claims resulting from the mission were: 17-25 RR cars, 3-0 buildings destroyed or damaged and 4 rail cuts. The 396th claimed 3-0-13 aircraft and 0-3 hangars destroyed or damaged after bombing and strafing the Horsching A/F. 16 rockets and 2 tons of bombs were carried on the mission. The 395th Squadron with 8 rockets and 2 tons of bombs came away with claims of 10 aircraft damaged, 2 hangars

SECRET

PAGE FOURTEEN

27 April 1945 (cont'd)

destroyed and 4 fires started. Lt. Hays was reported IIA after his plane nosed over on landing.

Boys from XIX TAC came down tonight and put on a fairly good "All GI" show for us. Most of the boys got a belly-full of laughs and considered the evening well spent. They should drop around again some time.

28 April 1945

Rain and low clouds prevented operations today but news from the Third Army front was so good that we could still feel reasonable well about the situation. Elements of the Third Army were reported advancing into Austria and Czechoslovakia with one spearhead 25 miles from Munich. BBC had announced the link-up of Russian and American forces at Torgau and read statements by President Truman, Marshal Stalin and Mr. Churchill. Mussolini and Grazioni were also reported captured by Italian patriots. Not even rain could dampen our spirits when the radio was putting forth such good news.

Hqs. Officers beat the EM 9-5 in an evening game. Some said that the umpire was afraid of rank! Under other circumstances it could have led to bloodshed but all differences were soon settled and bets were being made that the next time, etc!

We had a French show tonight. A five piece band made an attempt to play the hit tunes but didn't come up to par with the American jive-bands. But the girls were pretty! They danced well and the audience roared and wanted more.

The only depressing news arrived in the form of a rumor that our new field will have no barracks and after having lived a couple of weeks in the solid comforts of apartments and houses none of us are in any mood to move into tents again. The only consoling thought lies in the fact that our move brings us near the Nazi's last hangout.

Special Order #43 confirms the assignment of Capt. Otis J. Foster to the 396th Squadron.

Supporting Document #13, Special Order #43.

29 April 1945

A slight improvement in the weather permitted the Group to perform 3 missions totaling 34 sorties, dropping 11½ tons of GP's and RDX bombs and lauched 24 with resultant claims of 12-10 M/T's and vehicles, 13-4 locos, 29-94 RR cars and 6 buildings destroyed or damaged plus 5 troops killed, 5 rail cuts effected and 2 fires started in a M/Y. All missions were on armed recce--the 395th and 396th Squadrons in the Strakonice Pisek area and the 397th in the Landshut area.

It became increasingly evident today that the Nazi war machine is about to crack wide open. BBC announced that President Truman denied any foundation to the report that the United Nations had accepted a German unconditional surrender to all three major powers. Continued reports of an impending collapse of the German army has brought about no change in our plans to move. The first party, two enlisted men, departed for Nurnburg today.

Soooooo-----Nurnberg here we come!!!!

TOP SECRET

PAGE 1
SECRET

30 April 1945

Operations continued on a small scale today due to unfavorable weather in the recce area. Three 12-plant missions were flown on armed recces -- the 396th and 397th Squadrons in the Pisek-Linz areas and the 395th in the Wassenburg area. Eleven tons of bombs and 28 rockets used in attacks on M/Y's led to strafing and bombing claims of: 7-8 tanks, 64-7 M/T's and vehicles, 11-0 locos, 58-128 RR cars, 2-8 buildings destroyed or damaged and 5 RR cuts effected. The 396th Squadron flew a P/W mission but they reported they believed Allied troops were at some of the places where leaflet bombs dropped.

The weather during the past 10 days has been surprising and rather unpleasant. The first few days at this base were warm and we all felt that Spring was here to stay, but a cold, rainy spell put an end to all such thoughts.

Section V, General Order #28, XIX TAC, authorizes nine lead combat pilots of this Group to wear 1/8th inch gold border around blue patch now authorized by the War Department for combat flying personnel. Of those nine officers three are assigned to Headquarters. They are: Col. Frank S. Perego, Lt. Col. Harold P. Sparks and Major Carlos M. Talbott. Special Order #44 gives Capt. Cleary an extension on his TDY noted on 21 April 1945.

Peace rumors continued to mount in intensity. The Swedish Count Bernadotte is reported to have conveyed the surrender offer to Britain and America from Himmler. The Third Army is continuing its advance beyond the Danube -- but against stiff opposition. One of the best news reports is on the release of many thousands of Allied prisoners. US troops are reported one mile from the Dachau concentration camp. Recently an agreement was reached between Germany and the United States whereby the Germany will leave prisoners of war in camps about to be overrun by Allied troops; the Allies are obligated not to return the men to combat duty in this theater. Good news is pouring in from all fronts as we bring this month to a close. In our section the Third Army is encountering stiff to moderate resistance -- except in the central position near Plattiny where the enemy is more disorganized. The month of May should show the end of all organized resistance.

A glance at the following Summary of Operations for the month of April will assist one in determining one of the reasons why the German is due to go into retirement soon -- for good we hope!

Summary of Operations for month of April

Sorties flown	1,847
Tons of bombs dropped	304.75
Rockets launched	172
Rounds of 50 cal ammo. fired	853,851

Target Claims for month of April

	Destroyed	Damaged
Tanks	10	31
M/T's and Vehicles	1,340	609
Locos	322	94
Freight Cars	841	1,420
Buildings	250	80

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30 April 1945 (cont'd)

Target Claims for month of April (Cont'd)

	Destroyed	Damaged
Gunpositions - - - - -	23	0
Ammunition Sheds - - - - -	13	0
Gas and Oil Tanks - - - - -	6	4
Hangars - - - - -	4	3
Factories - - - - -	3	1
Radio Shack and Tower - - - - -	1	0
Searchlights - - - - -	4	0
Roundhouse - - - - -	1	0
Steamshovel - - - - -	1	0
Rail Cuts Effected - - - - -	75	
Road Cuts Effected - - - - -	9	
Enemy Troops Killed or Wounded - - - - -	399	
Horses Killed or Wounded - - - - -	34	
Fires Started in Factories, Warehouses, Buildings, M/Y's, etc., resulting in explosions and/or damage. - - - - -	58	
Towns Flattened - - - - -	2	

Aircraft Claims for month of April

	Destroyed	Probable	Damaged
Air - - - - -	6	6	4
Ground - - - - -	62	3	100

Supporting Document #14, General Order #28
Supporting Document #15, Special Order #44

SECRET

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
1 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 34)

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 43, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 395th Ftr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)
Sgt (686) Samuel J. Valenza 12162350

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)
Cpl (620) Ralph Soll 33072834
Cpl (809) John T. Connolly 31230431
Cpl (911) Robert A. Brown 33580921

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)
Pfc (932) Thomas F. Lynch 37329021
Pfc (911) Earl E. Bailey 17034247
Pfc (861) Joseph H. Daniel 34727907

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)
Pvt (932) Harry J. Jackson 33289026
Pvt (060) Jose O. De Los Reyes 38363646

2. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 43, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 396th Ftr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)
Sgt (911) Clarence N. Fowler 14133389
Sgt (750) Raymond Stamber 35448086
Sgt (747) John A. Upham 31066351
Sgt (911) John C. Wood Jr 14053200

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)
Cpl (555) William E. Maurer 19087611

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)
Pvt (901) Adolph H. Benke 36291452
Pvt (911) Kenneth A. Haley 13148948
Pvt (911) Ian H. McEwan 11115517

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R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

SO 34, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 1 April 45. Cont'd.

3. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 43, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 397th Ftr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)
Cpl (747) Stanley Berkowitz 12148575

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)
Pfc (932) John E. Ramsdell 31084018

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)
Pvt (555) Ivan W. Flannigan 36644927
Pvt (901) Lewis J. Hodge 33529600
Pvt (345) Cecil R. Hubbard 15089084

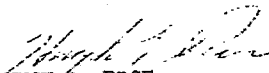
4. Lt Col HAROLD P. SPARKS, 0432726, AC, is aptd Deputy Commander vice Lt Col PAUL P. DOUGLAS JR, 0432187, AC, reld, eff 3 April 45.

5. Major CARLOS M. TALBOTT, 025797, AC, is aptd Gp S-3, vice Lt Col HAROLD P. SPARKS, 0432726, AC, reld, eff 3 April 45.

6. Capt WAYNE H. DRISCOLL, 0745323, AC, is aptd Asst Gp S-3, princ dy, eff 3 April 45.

BY ORDER OF LT COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:


HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

C-1

APC 111, U.S. Army
5 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 35

1. Pvt (59C) Elmer G. Metzler, 33055028, 396th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY, from this sta o/a 5 Apr 1945 to Reims, France, for a period of approximately two (2) days, for the purpose of procuring and checking on American Red Cross supplies. Upon completion of this TDY EV will return to proper sta and orgn. TDM by MT. 60-114F 432-02 A 212/50425.

2. Having been asgd this orgn per Par 1 SC 90 Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), dtd 31 Mar 1945, the following named officers are further asgd to SCS as indicated. EDGMR 5 Apr 45:

2d Lt (1055) DONALD R. FALING	0831649 AC	395th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) RUSSELL I. GRUBBS	02063823 AC	395th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) JOE C. HIGGS	0831895 AC	395th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) THOMAS M. MILLS	0808175 AC	395th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) WARREN G. AUSTIN	0707608 AC	396th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) GEORGE D. SCHOLBERG	02063882 AC	396th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) JACK H. SHARP	0834309 AC	396th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) ROBERT R. SHARP	0834310 AC	396th Fighter Sq
1st Lt (1055) CLIFFORD H. HANDLIN	0766510 AC	397th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) ROBERT V. ARFINGTON	02063775 AC	397th Fighter Sq
2d Lt (1055) JOHN H. BRYCE, III	20263779 AC	397th Fighter Sq

3. The following named officers are placed on TDY, from this sta o/a 6 Apr 1945, for a period of approx two (2) days, to Hq Ninth AF (Adv), reporting upon arrival to Col Millard, for the purpose of presentation of awards. Upon completion of this TDY O's will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDM by MT. 60-114 F 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: WCCG XIX Tactical Air Comd.

Capt. WILLIAM J. GARRY	0679856 AC
1st Lt WILLIAM J. WYLAND, JR.	0818470 AC

4. Capt JOHN G. HOWARD, 0860192, AC, is placed on TDY for a period of approximately nine (9) days, will proceed from this sta o/a 6 Apr 1945, to Cite Universitaire, 9 Boulevard Jourdan, Paris, for the purpose of attending Information Education Staff School. Upon completion of this TDY O will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDM by MT or rail. 60-114F 432-02 A 212/50425.

5. The WCCG, 368th Ftr Gp, of 25 Mar 1945, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:
Having been asgd this orgn per Par 8 SC 84 Hq Ninth AF dtd 25 Mar 45, 2d Lt (1055) JOHN W. RUSSELL, 02009521, AC, is further asgd 395th Ftr Sq.

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SO 35, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 3 Apr 1945, Cont'd.

6. The WOCO 368th Ftr Gp of 1 Apr 1945 under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"Under the provisions of AR 351480, 10 Oct 42, and AAF Regulations 35-29, 20 Jul 42, as ~~am~~ amended by AAF Regulations 35-29A, 9 Mar 43, the following named enlisted men who are required to participate in regular and frequent aerial flights are placed on flying status for the period 1 Apr 1945 to 30 Apr 1945:

S Sgt I. P. McDaniels	34343459	Aerial Engineer
Sgt Anthony F. Lewicki	32504194	Aerial Engineer (Asst)
Sgt Robert I. Barnard	13144503	Radio Operator and Mech
Cpl John P. Barnard	37451374	Radio Operator and Mech (asst)

7. Under the provisions of AR 615-5 the following named enlisted man, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, is apt Private First Class, effective this date: Pvt Edward J. Smith, 31306467, MC.

8. The following named officers are granted seven (7) days leave of absence P o/a 8 Apr 1945 to Nice, France. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to CC, USRPA, Martinez Hotel. Upon completion of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by ~~W~~, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Hq ETCUSA, file AG 354.1, subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45.

Capt GEORGE W. MITCHELL	0668355	AC (In Charge)
1st Lt. BOB W. BARKER	0763463	AC
1st Lt. GEORGE I. WAGNER	0895348	AC
2d Lt ROBERT B. DICKS	0369758	AC
2d Lt ROBERT J. WILKINSON	0829991	AC
2d Lt CECIL E. WHELF	0829995	AC
2d Lt EMM S. HUNT	0707626	AC
2d Lt CARL T. WOOD	0561306	AC

9. The WOCO 368th Ftr Gp of 3 Apr 1945, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of adv orders are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"Having been asgd this orgn per Par I SO 86 Hq Tactical Air Comd dtd 2 Apr 1945, the EN EN are further asgd to orgns as indicated: ETCUSA 3 Apr 45:

Pfc (657) Vinal J. Smith	39827592	Hq 368th Ftr Gp
Pvt Robert R. Watson (835)	19083191	Hq 368th Ftr Gp
Pvt Leo S. Gray (060)	35509539	396th Ftr Sq

By order of Lt. Colonel FERREGO:

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice /s/
HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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- HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
8 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 36)

1. 2d Lt GLEN W. BERGMAN, 0769678, AC, is granted seven (7) days leave of absence, TP o/a 8 Apr 1945 to Nice, Fr. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, Off will report to USRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat he will report to CO, USRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, he will ret to proper orgn. TIN by MT, mil acft or rail, 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr Hq ETOUSA, file AG 354.1, subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45.

2. So much of par 8, SO 35, this Hq, cs, as reads "2d Lt ROBERT D. DICKS, 0369758, AC," is deleted.

3. Ebl named EM, Sq indicated, are placed on TDY, TP XIX Tactical Air Comd (R), reporting to Sgt Lawrence, A-1 Section on 10 April 45, for a period of three (3) days, to attend a language instructor course. Mess kit and bedding will accompany EM. Upon compl of this TDY EM will ret to proper orgn. TIN by MT, mil acft or rail, 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TTX XIX TAG R-63-C.

Cpl Louis M. Heidelberger	33594778	395th Ftr Sq
Pvt Adolph H. Benke	36291452	396th Ftr Sq

BY ORDER OF LT COL FRESCO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFPO 141, U. S. Army
11 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 37)

1. Fol named EM, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, are placed on TDY, WF Reims, France, o/a 12 Apr 1945, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of procuring supplies. Upon compl of this TDY, EM will ret to proper orgn, TIN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425

Cpl Cyril F. Fey 35685284

Cpl Frank S. Stowell 39199927

2. Sgt Merlin J. Diekvoss, 36817894, 397th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY, WF Ninth Air Force Continental Stockade, o/a 16 Apr 1945, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of picking up Pvt Charles L. Idleman, 15334583 and returning him to this station. TIN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

3. Fol named officers are granted seven (7) days leave, o/a 16 Apr 1945 to Nice, France. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to USERRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, France, whereat they will report to CO, USERRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn, TIN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, Hq AFMUSA, file AG 354.1, subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 1945:

1st Lt WILLIAM S. LEWIS 0793003 AC (In charge)

1st Lt CARL W. UTERHART 0826806 AC

2d Lt ALBERT F. BRIZENDINE 0820454 AC

2d Lt STEPHEN L. HALPIN 0710102 AC

2d Lt HAROLD D. HAMMETT 0770258 AC

2d Lt THOMAS F. HOADE 0829991 AC

2d Lt JOSEPH T. SPRINGS 0827532 AC

2d Lt ROBERT S. WINCHESTER 0832760 AC

The VOCO, 368th Ftr Gp, of 4 Apr 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 86, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, dated 2 April 1945, Cpl Harold McClillm, 17122313 (301), is further asgd Hq 368th Ftr Gp, EDGMR 4 Apr 45.

The VOCO, 368th Ftr Gp, of 4 Apr 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record. Having been asgd this orgn per par 2, SO 85, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, dated 2 March 45, Cpl Joseph C. Simpson, 38370700 (921), is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq, EDGMR 4 Apr 45.

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R E S T R I C T E D

SO 37, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 11 Apr 45, Cont'd.

6. The VOCC, 368th Ftr Gp, of 10 Apr 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 91, XIX Tactical Air Comd, dated 7 Apr 45, the fol named EM are further asgd to Sq as indicated.

Pvt George B. Speers Jr (620)	32292376	395th Ftr Sq
Pvt Wilfred F. White Jr (932)	31161581	397th Ftr Sq

EDCMR 10 Apr 45."

7. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43 and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 397th Ftr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE TECHNICAL SERGEANT (TEMP)

S Sgt (E05) Walter F. Szymczewski 33390550

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (O14) Harry W. Heath Jr 35577230

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MPM, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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QUARTERS 362ND FIGHTER GROUP
Office of the Intelligence Officer

APO 141, 1st Army
21 April 1945

RESULTS OF INTERROGATION OF GAF PILOT WHO LANDED AT Y-73

Unter-Offiziere Gerhardt Kuerschner, born 10-3-1920, with four years service in the German Army and the holder of the Iron Cross first class and another decoration comparable to our D.F.C., was a member of the 4th Staffel of Stabgeschwader No 3.

This Gruppe had been based at Finow A/D, located at coordinate V-0470, twenty-six miles north-northeast of Berlin, since 7 Feb 45 where the entire Gruppe was based together with A Fighter Gruppe consisting of about 20 Me109's. This A/D came under the jurisdiction of the Berlin area. The Gruppe Commander was Hauptmann Himlich, and the Geschwader Commander was Major Hamster. The aircraft PW was flying was an FW-190 F-8 marked with a yellow number 14 and a yellow rectangle; the Staffel or Squadron marking was yellow, which would correspond with our 379 Squadron.

At the time of interrogation the PW stated that there were about 7 or 8 aircraft per Staffel with six serviceable. In the Gruppe there were 30 to 33 aircraft of which about 25 were serviceable. In each Staffel there were 10 pilots, of whom seven were on duty and in the Gruppe there were 35 to 36 pilots, of whom 28 were on duty.

On the 19th of April, after running three close support missions on the Eastern Front against the Russian ground forces, the fourth mission for the day was laid on. This mission was as follows: several Gruppe were to dive-bomb ack ack positions East of the Oder River bridgehead at Cross Nurdorf near Kuerträn and the PW Gruppe was to attack the bridge itself. For this mission PW's plane was loaded with AR500SD1 (containing 1 Kg bombs). The unit took off from Finow A/D at 1745 hours and PW jettisoned his bombs and deserted with his aircraft, landing at Y-73 at 1900 hours.

PW stated that at the time of this mission there were only 60,000 liters of gasoline left for his Gruppe and that when this was finished there would be no more. He also stated that all members of the command had been told this before the mission, with the additional information that when the gasoline was gone the ground crews would be transferred to the Infantry. His Commanding Officer, Oberleutnant Muller, made this statement.

Further information from PW indicated that on the mission mentioned above the bombers were escorted by 8-12 fighters.

In PW's opinion Russian fighters are superior to FW-190 F-8 and F-9 and the Me109, but the bombers of the Russians are not up to scratch in their formations.

Some of the pilot replacements for this unit had been obtained from SQ 151 which was located in the vicinity of Nurnberg.

James C. Keesling, Jr /s/
JAMES C. KEESLING, JR.
Major, Air Corps
Group S-2

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
17 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 3)

RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THIS
ORGANIZATION AND INHABITANTS OF GERMANY

All personnel of this organization will be informed as to the contents of Ninth Air Force General Orders No. 238, dated 10 October 1944 and Annex "A" attached thereto.

Policies and principles as outlined therein, will be followed and enforced. Continuous inspections will be made by unit commanders or authorized representatives to insure compliance.

Personnel of this organization will not fraternize with inhabitants of Germany. The definition of "Non-Fraternization" as given by Annex "A" to General Orders No. 238, Ninth Air Force, dated 10 October 1944 is as follows:

"Non-fraternization" is the avoidance of mingling with Germans upon terms of friendliness, familiarity or intimacy, whether individually or in groups, in official or unofficial dealings. However, non-fraternization does not demand rough, undignified or aggressive conduct, nor the insolent overbearance which has characterized Nazi leadership.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

C-2

APO 141, U. S. Army
18 April 1945

MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 11)

I - USE OF H₂O

Water that has not been properly chlorinated locally, or obtained from an approved Army water point, will not be used for drinking, cooking, or brushing of teeth.

II - LOOTING AND PILLAGING

Your attention is directed to Sec III, Memo No. 21, this Hq, dated 24 June 44 and to XIX Tactical Air Comd Memorandum, dated 12 April 45, which is hereby quoted for your information and strict compliance.

1. With the movement of units of this Command into Germany some individuals are inclined to disregard the provisions of FM 27-10, "Rules of Land Warfare", which specifically denounce looting and pillaging. Instances of the looting and pillaging of private homes, billets, and buildings of furnishings and contents by U. S. Army units have been reported. We have come into this country as conquerors and not as vandals, huns or looters.

2. All personnel of this Command are cautioned that such conduct as mentioned above will not be tolerated, and constitutes a violation of the articles of War.

3. Prompt and vigorous corrective measures, where indicated, will be instituted by commanders of all echelons, and offenders will be made the subject of appropriate disciplinary action.

4. The provisions of this letter will be brought to the attention of all personnel under your command."

III - VOTING BY PERSONNEL
OF THE ARMED FORCES IN ELECTIONS IN 1945

Your attention is directed to ETO Letter, subject as above, file 014.35, dated 7 March 45.

Contents of subject directive will be disseminated to all personnel.

Voting Officers will be appointed on the basis of ability and will where ever possible be the same officer that was appointed for 1944.

IV - CASUALTY REPORTING

USSTAF Regulations No. 80-15 is hereby quoted for your information and strict compliance:

1. Recent War Department cables indicate that there is a general lack of attention being paid the preparation of letters of condolence. Members of Congress and families are forwarding letters to the War Department which are merely form letters of sympathy, containing little or no information concerning the death or burial of the soldier. In many instances the brevity is being excused by "Security Regulations". Immediate action will be taken by all commanders concerned to insure that this type of letter receives the attention that is warranted.

Memo No 11, Hq 368th Fighter Gp. 13 April 45.
Sec IV Cont'd.

2. Attention is directed to Circular 104, Hq. European T of Opns, USA, 1944, as amended, with particular reference to paragraph 13b (1) (d). The mention of security regulations will not be incorporated in letters of condolence.

3. The Commanding General, European T of Opns, USA, is issuing a new circular on casualty reporting to authorize reference to specific places of burial, except where the burial is in a temporary grave - for instance, "battle field burials", in which case a general area location only, such as Normandy, France, will be given. The new circular authorizes the release of all available information which does not specifically violate security regulations."

V -- MAINTENANCE OF SERVICE RECORDS

Your attention is directed to letter, Ninth Air Force, subject as above, file 201.36, dated 29 March 1945.

All personnel concerned with maintenance of service records will familiarize themselves with subject letter.

VI -- SABOTAGE

The following extract from Ninth Air Force directive, dated 27 March 1945, is quoted for your information and compliance:

1. Recent information received indicates that the Germans are using clams, naked high explosive, and oxygen cylinders similar to those normally used in acetylene gas torches but filled with high explosive, in electricity generating stations in Germany. These bombs have been found and were to be initiated by stay-behind agents.

2. It is recommended that public utilities, including electricity stations, coal-gas generating stations and water pumping plants should be carefully examined for such material after occupation. Any suspicious object not required for the functioning of the plant should be checked by a Bomb Disposal Officer and removed to a safe place.

3. Interrogation of German saboteurs recently captured indicate the Germans either are contemplating preparing, or have prepared poisoned Nescafe, sugar, German cigarettes and German chocolate. The German brand of chocolate SAROTTI was specially mentioned.

The above information in general terms has been reported in the press with regard to the Russian Front and should be given the widest publicity within the Allied Armed Forces. It is further advised that the eating of German food or the smoking of German cigarettes should be completely prohibited."

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
335TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 142, U. S. Army
21 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 29)

1. Fol named officers are granted seven (7) days leave of absence, WP Nice, Fr, o/a 22 Apr 45. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to USRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat they will report to CO, USRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn, TDN by MT, mil acct or rail. 60-115 P 432 02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, Hq ETCUSA, file 4G 354.1, Subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45.

Major DENNIS CRISP	0427531 AC	(In charge)
1st Lt JAMES E. FAULEY	0767174 AC	
1st Lt EDGAR M. McCRONE	0887234 AC	
2d Lt LEON H. COUGHERY	0829823 AC	
2d Lt DONALD D. CAMPBELL	0714864 AC	
2d Lt CHARLES E. LeGRAND	0830023 AC	
2d Lt JOHN W. RUSSELL	02009520 AC	
1st Lt HAROLD M. HANSEN	7127264 AC	

2. Capt DONALD M. CEBARY, 0510621, Ch C, is placed on TDY, WP Nice, Fr, o/a 22 Apr 45, for approximately three (3) days, for the purpose of performing a marriage ceremony. Upon compl of this TDY, off will ret to proper orgn, T1W by MT, mil acct or rail. 60-115 P 432 02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOCG XIX Tactical Air Comd.

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1 SO 107, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 17 Apr 45, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated, EDCMR 21 Apr 45.

1st Lt (1055) CECIL E. DESSAN	0730413 AC	397th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) GEORGE H. MATHEWAMS	02067864 AC	397th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) ROBERT J. NOBLE	02037554 AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) EUGENE STOLGROB	0831606 AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) THOMAS H. MOORE	02057374 AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) FRANK C. GILKES	0924469 AC	395th Ftr Sq

4. Fol named off and EM are placed on TDY, WP Exposition Bldg, Brussels Belgium, o/a 22 Apr 45, for a period of four (4) days, for the purpose of picking up rations. Upon compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acct or rail. 60-115 P 432 02 A 212/50425

1st Lt JOHN P. REGAN	0559887 AC	
Pfc Julius Layson	34718540	2499th QM Trk Co

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SO 39, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 21 Apr 45, Cont'd.

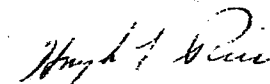
5. Lt Col THOMAS J. CARBINE, 0392748, AC, is aptd Gp S-3 Officer vice Major CARLOS M. TALBOTT, 025797, AC, reld.

6. Major CARLOS M. TALBOTT, 025797, AC, is aptd Asst Gp S-3 Officer.

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MFM, 22 Nov 1944)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:



HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFPO 141, U. S. Army
22 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 40)

1. 1st Lt DAVID W. WENGER, OEO 5761, AC, is granted seven (7) days leave of absence, WP Nice, Fr o/a 22 Apr 45. Upon arriving at Nice Strip he will report to USRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat he will report to CO, USRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, he will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 & 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, file IG 354.1, Subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45.

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 108, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (44F), 18 Apr 45, the following named officers are further asgd Sq as indicated: EDCMR 23 Apr 45.

1st Lt (1055) LLOYD GARDER	0425617 AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) WILLIAM A. WATTERUD	0821573 AC	397th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) KENNETH G. WENK	0834231 AC	397th Ftr Sq

3. Fol named EM, 397th Ftr Sq, are placed on TDY, WP Ninth Air Force Continental Stockade, o/a 24 Apr 45, for a period of four (4) days, for the purpose of bringing back Pvt Thomas L. Miller, 18134458, confined thereat. Upon compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 & 212/50425.

Opl Walter J. Gatz	12193899	Driver
Pfc Edward F. Neary	33666561	Asst Driver

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MPM, 23 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

C-2

APO 141, U. S. Army
20 April 1945

MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER 12)

I - RESCISSION OF LETTERS AND UNNUMBERED MEMORANDA

Letters and unnumbered memoranda, this Hq, are rescinded as follows:

Letter	5 Sept 44	subj: "368th Ftr Gp Policy for Return of Combat Personnel to the Z of I for Reassignment."
Letter	19 Dec 44	subj: "Carrying of Weapons"
Letter	10 Jan 45	subj: "Bath Facilities"
Letter	Not dated	subj: "Civilians at Officers' Club"
Letter	19 Mar 45	subj: "Passes to Nancy"
Letter	20 Mar 45	subj: "Transportation to Nancy"
Letter	20 Mar 45	subj: "Leaves to Paris"
Letter	1 Apr 45	subj: "Transportation Schedule to Paris"
Memo randum	15 Nov 44	subj: "Day Off Policy"
Memorandum	10 Dec 44	subj: "Passes to Lille, France"
Memorandum	11 Dec 44	subj: "Cafes in Mons Off Limits"
Memorandum	18 Dec 44	subj: "Day Off Policy"
Memo randum	5 Feb 45	subj: "Overnight Accomodations"
Memorandum	15 Feb 45	subj: "Pro Stations"
Memorandum	24 Feb 45	subj: "Structural Fires"
Memorandum	18 Mar 45	subj: "Days Off"
Memorandum	9 Feb 45	subj: "Coal Ration"

II - DAYS OFF

Effective 23 April 45 personnel of this organization and attached units are authorized one day off each week. No more than one-seventh of duty strength will be absent from duty at any one time.

Personnel absent from duty on a day off will not be issued a pass and will not leave the confines of the Base.

III - WEARING OF GAS MASK, HELMET AND WEAPON

Effective this date, the gas mask and steel helmet need not be worn while on the Base. Steel helmet will be worn off the Base.

All officers are authorized to wear the .45 automatic revolver.

Weapons will be worn to work, to mess hall, and from work.

While at place of duty weapons may be placed in racks, so long as they are immediately available.

Memo No. 12, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 20 Apr 45, Cont'd.

IV - PROMOTION OF OFFICERS

Effective 1 May 45, officers' promotions will be submitted 2nd and 15th of each month, dated 1st and 14th respectively.
Promotions may be submitted on other dates only for exceptional cases.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
23 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 41)

1. Under the provisions of par 3a, AR 35-320, 17 Jun 43, the fol named officers are aptd Class "A" Agent Fin Officers, for orgn indicated, to Maj ALAN M. LANARD, 0382291, FD, Accountable Disbursing Off, for the pmt of officers and EM regular and supplemental P/R for the month of April 1945:

Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN	0557286 AC	Hq 368th Fighter Group
1st Lt SAMUEL R. SCHOFIELD	0582942 AC	395th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt JAMES B. PHILBRICK	0691287 AC	396th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL	0863973 AC	397th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt LEO N. CULVIN	01595448 CMP	1293rd M F Co (Avn) Less Det A
1st Lt ROBERT L. STARBUCK	01108342 CE	2137th Engr Avn B/F Platoon
Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN	0557286 AC	9th Flying Control Sq Prov Det F
1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL	0863973 AC	21st Weather Sq Det R
1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL	0863973 AC	40th Mobile Com Sq Det R
Capt WALTER J. NINSEN	01635782 SC	Hq & Hq Sq, Team "B"
1st Lt JAMES W. WOODS	01636849 SC	1074th Signal Co Det A
1st Lt JOHN S. DRISCOLL	01593547 QMC	382nd Air Service Squadron
1st Lt JOHN P. BANYON	01555340 ORD	1814th Ord S&M Co (Avn)
1st Lt PAUL M. BORGES	01591039 QMC	1221st QM Co Det A
1st Lt DALLAS D. ALSUP	01577080 QMC	2499th QM Trk Co Avn Det A
1st Lt SAMUEL KUSHNER	0855309 AC	29th MR&R Sq Det A
Capt RAYMOND G. MORGHEADY	01036296 C/S	859th Cml Co 40 Det A
Capt RAYMOND G. MORGHEADY	01036296 C/S	859th Cml Co 40 Less Det A

2. Fol named off and EM are placed on TDY, 7F Hq Ninth Air Force, for a period of seven (7) days, reporting to Madison Sq Arena prior to 1400 hours, 29 Apr 45, for the purpose of attending Athletic School. Upon compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil airt or mail, 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, subj: "School for Athletic Officers," dated 25 Mar 45.

Capt WILLIAM E. QUINLAN 0556474 AC
Cpl Earl New 1533963 (Driver) Hq 368th Ftr Gp

3. Par 5, SO 147, this Hq, dated 13 Dec 44, pertaining to Special Courts-Martial, is rescinded.

4. Par 1, SO 18, this Hq, es, pertaining to Special Courts-Martial, is rescinded.

- 1 -

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SO 41, Hq 366th Ftr Gp, 23 Apr 45, Cont'd

5. A Special Courts Martial is aptd to meet at such time and place as may be designated by the senior member thereof, for the trial of such persons as may be properly brought before it.

DETAIL FOR THE COURT

Major JAMES R. WERNLI	0386976	AC	
Capt WILLIAM E. MCGANN	01038940	C7S	
Capt HAROLD J. KESSLER	0561410	AC	
Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN	0567286	AC	
Capt NEWTON I. STEERS JR	0865646	AC	
Capt CARL H. GUNDRACH	0571886	AC	
1st Lt SAMUEL R. SCHOFIELD	0582942	AC	
1st Lt JOHN P. BANYON	01555340	ORD	
Capt MAURICE D. POWELL	06ED448	AC	(Trial Judge Advocate)
1st Lt SAMUEL KUSHNER	0856309	AC	(Defense Counsel)

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr. Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MFM, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
399TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFPO 141, U. S. Army
26 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 42)

1. Under the provisions of Par 4b, AR 35-1100, 12 May 42, fol named officers are aptd to witness and verify the cash balance of Major ALAN M. LANARD, 0382291, ED, Accountable Disbursing Officer as of 0800 hours, 30 Apr 45:

1st Lt MILFORD BLOWSKY 01591599 QMC
1st Lt EDWIN R. HARVEY 01589882 QMC

2. 1st Lt RALPH C. HUBBERT JR, 0860845, AC, is detailed to conduct the monthly inventory of the Group Post Exchange on 30 Apr 45.

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 5, SO 103, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 23 Apr 45, the following named officers (now DS w/ Hq, XIX Tactical Air Comd) are further asgd to Sq as indicated, EDCMR 26 Apr 45.

Capt WILLIAM O. ROSS 0900744 AC 395th Ftr Sq
Capt ROSS SMITH JR 0873346 AC 396th Ftr Sq

4. Having been asgd this orgn per par 6, SO 103, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 23 Apr 45, Capt WILLIAM H. NELSON, 0413262, AC, (now DS w/ Hq Sq, XIX Tactical Air Comd) is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq, EDCMR 26 Apr 45.

5. Par 3, SO 22, this Hq, cs, pertaining to Aircraft Accident Investigating Board, is rescinded.

6. Under the provisions of Part IV, USSTAF Reg 62-1, 20 Feb 45, an Aircraft Accident Investigating Board is established with members as follows:

Lt Col HAROLD P. SPARKS 0432726 AC President
Lt Col THOMAS J. CARBINE 0392748 AC Aircraft Accident Off
1st Lt WILLIAM E. CONDER 0886390 AC Member
Major DENNIS CRISP 0427531 AC Alternate member
Capt WAYNE H. DRISCOLL 0745323 AC Alternate member
2d Lt JOE M. WALKER 01999387 AC Alternate member
Major DONALD A. DAVIS 0477249 HQ Ex-officio non-voting member
Major BROOKS EAST 0913517 AC Ex-officio non-voting member
Capt NEWTON L. STEERS JR 0865646 AC Ex-officio non-voting member

7. Capt WAYNE H. DRISCOLL, 0745323, AC, is aptd Gp Air Inspector, princ dy.
1st Lt Col PAUL R. DOUGLAS JR, 0432287, AC, trfd.

8. Capt JAMES M. IVEY JR, 0665803, AC, is aptd Asst Gp Air Inspector, princ

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SO 42, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 26 Apr 45, Cont'd.

9. Having been asgd this orgn per par 17, SO 114, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 24 Apr 45, 1st Lt (1055) ORAN L. HIGGINS, 0812090, AC, is further asgd 396th Ftr Sq, EDCMR 27 Apr 45.

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MFM, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFG 141, U. S. Army
23 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 43)

1. The VOCO 368th Ftr Gp. of 27 Apr 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:
"Having been asgd this opsn per par 3, SO 105 Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd. 26 Apr 45, Capt (1055) OTIS J FOSTER, O446639, AG, is further asgd 396th Ftr Sq EDCMR 27 Apr 45."

2. So much of par 1, SO 41, this Hq. as reads, "Capt RAYMOND G. MERCEREADY, O1036296, CWS, 859th Cml Co AC Det A," and "Capt RAYMOND G. MERCEREADY O1036296, CWS, 859th Cml Co AC Less Det A," is amended to read, "1st Lt WESLEY E. HUGHES, O1036274, CWS, 859th Cml Co AC Det A," and "1st Lt WESLEY E. HUGHES, O1036274, CWS, 859th Cml Co AC Less Det A." (Pertains to aptmt of Class "A" Agent Fin Officers.)

3. Fol named officers are granted seven (7) days leave, TP o/a 29 Apr 45 to Nice, Fr. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to USRRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr. whereat they will report to CO, USRRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn TDN by MT, mil acct or mil. 60-115 P 432 02 & 212/50425. AUTH Ltr, Hq STUSA, file AG 354.1, subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45:

1st Lt LAWRENCE P. MARSH	0830269 AC (In charge)
2d Lt HELMUT F. ONUSCHKEIT	0827262 AC
2d Lt ROBERT D. SHEEDY	0830341 AC
2d Lt JOSEPH H. HUNT	0829996 AC
2d Lt GEROLD E. BLEWER	076049 AC
2d Lt EUGENE F. BUCK	0832732 AC
2d Lt NEWELL B. FOLWORTH	0830605 AC
2d Lt JOHN R. KELL JR	0710713 AC

4. So much of par 4, SO 37, this Hq. as pertaining to 1st Lt JOHN F. EDGEM. 0569887, AG on TDY at Brussels, Belgium as reads, "for a period of four (4) days," is amended to read, "for a period of five (5) days."

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European TO USA, file 300.4 MPM, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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HEAD WINTERS
 THE TOWER & AIR COMMAND

120141, U.S. Army
 14 April 1945.

CLASSIFICATION:
 MARK:25)

E X T R A C T

SECTION V

5. In accordance with AD Memo #600-15-43, 27 February 1943, the following named officers, lead crew combat pilots of organizations indicated, are authorized to wear a 1/16th inch gold border around blue patch now authorized by the War Department for combat flying personnel:

368TH FIGHTER GROUP

Headquarters

1ST PILOT	FRANK B. SWANSON	AC	0126122
2ND PILOT	MARCEL E. BUCKS	AC	0438736
3RD PILOT	DAVID W. CROFT	AC	025777

325th Fighter Squadron

PILOT	MARCEL E. BUCKS	AC	0230315
PILOT	ROY W. CROFT	AC	0374830

326TH Fighter Squadron

PILOT	WILLIAM D. DUNN	AC	0127731
PILOT	JOHN W. BAER	AC	025664

327th Fighter Squadron

1ST PILOT	STANLEY F. CARROLL	AC	0232746
2ND PILOT	WYATT F. BRUNN	AC	0732275

By command of Major General WINTERS:

J. F. THORNTON, JR.,
 Colonel, Air Corps,
 Deputy Chief of Staff.

WINTERS: J. F. Dunn /s/
 J. F. DUNN
 1st Lt, AFM,
 1st Lt, AFM.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFPO 141, U. S. Army
30 April 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 44)

1. Fol named off and EM, 21st Wea Sq, Det "R", are placed on TDY, WP Liege, Charleroi, Belgium, and Cambrai, France, o/a 2 May 45, for a period of three (3) days, for the purpose of picking up equipment. Upon compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mll acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 & 212/50425.

1st Lt NORBERT H. BRUSKY	0873663 AC
Sgt James L. Hendrix	19188491

2. Under the provisions of AR 35-1480, 10 Oct 42, and AAF Regulations 25-29, 20 Jul 42, as amended by AAF Regulations 35-29A, 9 Mar 43, fol named EM are required to participate in regular and frequent aerial flights are placed on flying status for the period 1 May 45 to 31 May 45.

S Sgt L. B. McDaniels	34343459	Aerial Engineer
Sgt Anthony F. Lewicki	32504194	Aerial Engineer (Asst)
Sgt Robert L. Barnard	13144503	Radio Operator and Mech
Cpl John R. Barnard	37451374	Radio Operator and Mech (Asst)

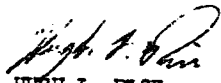
3. So much of par 2, SO 39, this Hq. cs, pertaining to TDY of Capt DONALD M. CLEARY, OS10621, Ch C, as reads, "for approximately three (3) days," is amended to read, "for a period of seven (7) days."

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European TC, USA, file 300.4 MPN, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.


HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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