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GP-368-14
Feb 45

CLARENCE A. GLASRU
FEB, 1945

HISTORICAL DATA
HEADQUARTERS HISTORY
368TH FIGHTER GROUP
FEBRUARY 1945

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ship 200

HISTORICAL OFFICER
RECORDER
TYPIST

LT. WILLIAM S. BLAGEN
S/SGT. CLARENCE A. GLASRU
PFC. WILBERT R. AHONAN

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HISTORICAL REPORT
1 FEBRUARY to 28 FEBRUARY 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 368th Fighter Group Headquarters, for the month of February 1 to 28, 1945.

1. ORGANIZATION

No Change.

2. STRENGTH AS OF 28 FEBRUARY 1945

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

<u>Assigned Personnel</u>	<u>Authorized Personnel</u>
Officers -----209	Officers -----181
Enlisted Men--815	Enlisted Men -----826
1024	1007

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

No Change.

4. INCIDENTS IN ACTION:

Nil (for Group Headquarters)

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Distinguished Service Cross
Lt. Col. Paul F. Douglas Jr.
Major Carlos W. Talbott

Silver Star
Lt. Col. Paul F. Douglas Jr.
Capt. Clifford T. Gamble

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RECORD OF EVENTS
PAGE ONE

1 February 1945

Our planes could not get into the air today to start the month the way we would have liked. But the weather had taken a sharp turn for the better, and our snow was fast disappearing today. It seemed a little early for spring, but the weather was definitely springlike.

Though our ground forces were making progress at various points, there were no signs of any full-scale offensive on the Western Front yet. The Russians were booming along, however, with Zhukov 40 miles from Berlin, Konev building up a bridgehead over the Oder near Breslau, and the northern armies cutting off Koenigsberg. In The CBI, our forces were 25 miles from Manila and the British about that distance from Mandalay.

But the best news for most of us was that the mail bottleneck had somehow opened up and today we were swamped with piles of Christmas packages and stacks of letters dating back to November and December. But mail is mail, and there were some more recent letters, too.

Since we don't like to start out the new month with any chest-thumping, we'll just mention in passing that Gen. Patton liked our work in helping to wipe out the Ardennes Salient, and insert his letter as a supporting document, along with forwarding letters from Maj. Gen. Vandenberg and Brig. Gen. Weyland.

Supporting Document #1, Letter (copy) from Hq Third US Army.

2 February 1945

Though our planes couldn't get off the first day of the month, they did the next best thing: 64 planes got into the air today on one group and three squadron missions. Subtracting 4 aborts, 60 F-47's got into action on armed reces over the Wittlich, Koblenz, and Frankfurt areas, with instructions to attack rail traffic and cut rail lines between the front lines and the Rhine.

The 3 squadron missions reported no spectacular results, though hits were scored on a pair of M/V's, tracks were cut in at least a half dozen places, and one locomotive and 34 cars were damaged. The 396th went looking for 30 M/T's called in by Ripsaw V. When they couldn't find them, the planes attacked a concrete road bridge; but the bombing was poor and bridge was still intact when our planes left.

The group mission had better results. Again 2 M/V's were hit, the yard at Metgler catching 56 bombs which destroyed cars, cut tracks, hit and damaged a choke point, hit storage tanks and a roundhouse, and started fires. Though one locomotive and 17 cars were seen to be destroyed and at least 3 more locomotives and many cars were destroyed or damaged, exact results could not be observed. Two planes were damaged by flak, but no E/A were encountered.

Two men left on temporary duty assignments to the Paris area today and two more are due to go in few days. Lt. Blagen and T/Sgt Reese of S-2 took off for Chantilly to pursue a Counter Intelligence Course for a 9-day period at Ninth AF Headquarters. Chantilly is only close to Paris, but Lt. Hamilton (397th) and T/Sgt. Packer are going directly to Paris on Feb 5 to the Scribe Hotel appro-

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2 February 1945 (cont'd)

privately, since they are on a Public Relations "Mission". Then Sgt. Packa will also go on to Chantilly for more of the same.

Major Harold P. Sparks, former 395th CO now in the U.S., has been appointed Asst. Gp S-3. And Pvt. Victor J. Rabideau is promoted to the grade of Private First Class. Temporary grade, of course!

The Ground Hog, as he came along to the ETO, had no trouble seeing his shadow today, so he probably crawled back into his foxhole.

Supporting Document #2, SO #10. Supporting Document #3, SO #11.

3 February 1945

Our planes were grounded again today, but the sterling characters of numerous of the 368th Group received official recognition - through the medium of Good Conduct Medals. Seventeen of them thus honored will be found in Supporting Document #4.

There was a hopeful sign today, a sort of left-handed hint that the war might some day come to an end (when the E&I Program will really swing into high gear). Cpl. Stowell was officially placed on temporary duty for 4 days to Hq. 100th Fighter Wing, in order to attend an indoctrination course at the hands of the Wing Information-Education Officer. The fly-in-the-ointment as far as Cpl. Stowell is concerned is that the 100th Wing is located at Metz and he can commute!

After beating the 1074th Signal Co. team 26-21 on Jan 31, the Group Hq. EM basketball team lost tonight 24-22 to the 1221st EM cagers. On the Hq. squad are Baker, F. Cliver, Newsome, Stecklein, O'Dows, Michalak, Ionien, Lampe, Ciradella, and Castle.

Supporting Document #4, Special Orders #12.

4 February 1945

Again we were grounded today. But the deeds of our Deputy Group Commander, Lt. Col. Paul F. Douglas Jr., were recalled to us, though he has been gone for 2 months on a leave in the U.S. General Orders #13 of Headquarters USSAF, dated 4 February 1945, announce the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lt. Col. Douglas "for extra-ordinary heroism in action against the enemy, 2 October 1944." Most of us recall that day, when the Colonel attacked a formation of 20 Jerry planes with only 5 F-47's which were low on gas; and after destroying three and damaging a fourth enemy plane, he brought back his own plane to Strip A-84, even though he was wounded and his aircraft was little more than a flying mass of wreckage. The presentation was to be made in Paris next week, but Lt. Col. Douglas is still in the U.S.

This should be as good a time as any to catch up on a couple of other awards won by pilots assigned to Group Headquarters. Capt. Carlos M. Talbott also won the DSC "for extra-ordinary heroism in action against the enemy, 11 September 1944". Capt. Talbott shot down 2 enemy planes in breaking up an attack by a number of B/A that day; when his own F-47 caught fire, the Captain bailed out but was only

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slightly injured and returned safely to our base. Lt. Gen. Spaatz presented the medal at Paris on 22 December 1944.

But both Lt. Col. Douglas and Capt. Clifford L. Gamble were in the U.S. when the Ninth Air Force General Orders came out awarding them the Silver Star. The medals may have been presented in the states.

Supporting Document #5, General Orders #13 (1945) Hq. USSAF (extract)
Supporting Document #6, General Orders #37 (1944) Hq. USSAF (extract)
Supporting Document #7, General Orders #289 (1944) Hq. Ninth AF (extract)

5 February 1945

We were grounded today, and there were moving rumors again. Though there seemed to be no foundation for any of the stories, they seemed to be based on the fact that the 365th went back to IX TAC and the 406th, after only a week here, moved to Strip V-32 at Asch, Belgium, near the Dutch border, to work under XXII TAC.

We were officially informed today of the change in the status of 2 pilots who are now known to be German prisoners of war. They are 2nd Lt. Odell V. Dustin (MIA - Oct 4) and 2nd Lt. Rupert R. Maxwell (MIA Oct. 20).

We will do some moving in a day or two - but only a short distance. Headquarters enlisted men are moving out of the barracks they have shared with the 395th and take over another structure which has so far been used only to store barracks bags belonging to the 5th Infantry Division. The bags are being moved to another building, but a few warehouse guards of the 5th will continue to occupy one room of the EX barracks.

The Pa officers tonight drubbed the 1074th Signal cagers after losing their opener to the 1221st CW team on Jan 31. Captained by Lt. Col. Gorrell, the team includes Berco, Sparks, Driscoll, Doria, Haag, Quinlan, Pegan, Ward, and Conder.

6 February 1945

We got back into the air today, barely. Three planes of the 395th flew a "continuous patrol" mission over the field from 1019 to 1220 hours which was completely uneventful. But then 33 F-47's flew a group mission to attack the Giebelstadt Airfield near Mursburg, each plane carrying 12 90# frag bombs. When radio trouble forced them to return to Strip V-34 early, 4 planes dropped 48 frags on a RR bridge east of Bad Kreuznach and 3 planes dropped 36 more on a road intersection near Neunkirchen, both targets coded by Ripsaw. The other 26 planes dropped their frags on the Giebelstadt A/P with generally good results, getting hits on runways and hangars. Rose-colored flames were observed after the bombing. Sixty plus well-dispersed E/A of many types were observed on and around the field. One flight strafed and damaged 2 ME 110's and a flak position on top of a hangar.

7 February 1945

We were non-operational again, and it looks as if we can't get in 2 days work in a row. But Capt. Talbott and Lt. Ward went to Strip A-82 (Verdun-Etain) for the purpose of attending conference on "Airfield Defense". Capt. Powell and Lt. Doria were relieved as group war bond officer and assistant, respectively--but Lt. Doria

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was immediately appointed Group Savings Officer, indicating that our money still need not be wasted on French wine, women, and high jinks!

Supporting Document #8, Special Orders #13.

8 February 1945

Today's assignment sounded like old times; we were to cooperate with units of the XII Corps, dispatching squadrons at one hour intervals. If no targets were available from the Ground Controller, our squadrons were to conduct armed recce along the Corps front. On that assignment we dispatched 5L P-47's with varied results.

The 395th dropped 16 bombs in the area of Hattlingen, near Wittburg; one fire was started in the town but results on a bridge were NRC because of the weather. The 396th released 20 bombs on the bridge and town at Treis, SE of Koblenz, with fair results. Again a fire was started in the town and the western approach to the bridge was damaged by 2 direct hits. The 397th dropped 16 bombs on the Bad Neuenahr W/V near Sinzig, damaging 10 cars, starting a fire in buildings, and damaging a roundhouse. Strafing and rockets destroyed 5 RR cars and a building at Wendig, near Koblenz.

To start the second round of missions, the 395th bombed and strafed in the vicinity of Mayen. The damage score was 26-16 on W/T's, 0-2 on locomotives, big oil fires were started, and a road bridge and 2 buildings were destroyed. Another 395th mission, working in the area between Trum and Wittburg, got 19-21 on W/T's, destroyed a very large tank, started a large fire (probably oil, following an explosion), and did assorted damage to towns and roads. The 397th, working about 15 miles north-east of Trum, released 16 bombs on 22 large white vehicles--NRC because of cloud cover. But strafing and rockets got definite results: 18-52 on W/T's, 1-2 on guns, 3-15 on freight cars, 15-0 on half-tracks, 5-19 on tanks, 0-15 on houses besides a rail shed destroyed and rails cut in 2 places. A little farther north 25 more cars were strafed in a W/V--NRC. The 395th, flying the day's last mission, had trouble with the weather and even more difficulties when the squadron leader's radio went out. Eight bombs were dropped on a 3-span road bridge northeast of Cochem, but the bombing was poor with hits on the embankment but no damage to the bridge. A big fire was started in a nearby town, however. Eight bombs were dropped on the A/V southeast of Laacher Lake--NRC. But the hardest blow was losing 2 P-47's which were taking off from the field; the E/A just disappeared while our P-47's were trying to dodge the flak and get in a crack at them.

The HQ Officers basketball team defeated the 395th Officers tonight, to rack up the second victory.

9 February 1945

Though our planes ran into 10/10 cumulus from 2000 to 18000 feet, each squadron did fly one mission today. The 396th went out after a rail-bridge--or a marshaling yard. Ripsaw V cancelled both missions because of the weather and sent the squadrons on their armed recce. Twenty-four bombs were released through a break in the clouds on the town of Weidenroben. The town was well clobbered and left smoking and 2 weapons carrier destroyed; the town was then strafed for good measure.

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The 397th was also to attack a rail bridge--or a M/Y, and again Ripsaw cancelled the target because of the weather. On their fighter sweep the squadron spotted the town of Dellfeld, dropped 24 bombs, and destroyed 16 houses, cut a track and a road, and hit a crossroad. One house was strafed and left burning.

The 395th was assigned an armed recce over Cochem, Adenau, Sinzig, and Koblenz. Eight bombs dropped on a factory (in full operation) at Dreisen all scored direct hits - but the damage done could not be judged. Six bombs on a train near Siegen destroyed the loco and 2 cars. One 4-plane flight, which landed at A-78 when they ran short of gas, brought their bombs back.

The Paris pass situation improved considerably today, when 60-hour passes were authorized, the men leaving in the evening and getting 3 full days and 2 nights in Paris.

Maybe it's a sign of spring, but everyone seemed to be taking off today. Capt. Driscoll of Combat Ops flew to Paris to have a new camera installed in a P-47; Capt. Kennedy lead a group of 4 pilots to England to pick up 4 new P-47's; and our Red Cross Club Director, Florence E. Reed, left for Paris for "an indefinite period". The story is that she will then be sent to the Riviera for a period of rest and recuperation.

We also acquired 6 new pilots, 4 being sent to the 397th and 2 to the 395th.

Supporting Document #9, Special Orders #14.

10 February 1945

Though we didn't claim a single M/T or freight car today, we did blast a target which caused considerable excitement at various higher headquarters. In fact, they seemed unwilling to believe that our P-47's had really knocked out the Pullay Bridge, since Ninth Air Force Mediums had been after it for some time and could do no better than damage it. But aerial photographs finally confirmed our claims and we got full credit for doing what we knew we had done all the time. The job was such a good one that Maj. Gen. Weyland of XIX TAC couldn't resist letting us know about it--and letting Maj. Gen. Anderson of Ninth Air Force Bomber Command know, too - as Supporting Document #10 will show.

Thirty-four planes got off today on 3 squadron missions. The 397th went out to dive-bomb a rail bridge near Dusseldorf; but when heavy clouds prevented them from attacking it, they clobbered a road bridge over a RR southeast of Laveling, in the same area. Two direct hits destroyed the west end of the bridge, tracks were cut in one place and a nearby road in 2 places. Two bombs were dropped on the secondary target, a M/Y north of Duren - NRC.

The 396th also were to hit a RR bridge and M/Y near Dusseldorf, but also ran into cloud trouble. Two sets of 5 planes each finally had a shot at a pair of bridges, making their bomb-runs through the clouds; but the results were generally poor, no hits being observed on the bridges, though several houses were hit in the town of Merikum. The 395th, which took off without a bridge target, spotted several on their armed recce over Cochem, Adenau, Sinzig, and Koblenz. Eight bombs scored 2 direct hits which damaged the center span of a concrete road bridge at Treis. Four bombs dropped on a RR bridge at Eller scored 2 direct hits, got 2 cuts in the RR

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at the NE end of the bridge, and destroyed the north end of the bridge. Four bombs were released on the town of Eller - NRC. Then 8 bombs were released on the Bullay RR bridge (about halfway from Trier to Koblenz). The bridge was destroyed, with 2 direct hits on the center span and tracks cut in 2 places.

Supporting document #10, Personal Letters from Gen. Weyland to Gen. Anderson and Lt. Col. Perego (copy); and accompanying aerial photo.

11 February 1945

The 397th flew 2 squadron missions to attack the same Neuss RR bridge that we have been assigned for the last 3 days. There were still too many clouds over the elusive bridge when the first 12 planes arrived, and the squadron went after other targets. Eight bombs on the M/V at Stoman cut the tracks in 2 places and destroyed 2 buildings. Eight more 500's dropped on buildings at Heisteden destroyed a wing of a castle-like building. In both cases the bombing was good. But the last 8 bombs dropped on a small RR bridge just west of Cologne failed to hit the bridge, though hits were scored on the road nearby. Finally getting a chance at the Neuss Bridge, the second 397th Mission released 20 bombs through a hole in the clouds and scored 2-4 direct hits on the bridge. Though the bridge was not destroyed, the bombs caused a large hole on the north end of the bridge, severely damaging it. Rails were cut at the south end of the bridge and hits were seen on the road directly below the bridge. Four more bombs on a RR bridge over the road nearby also scored 2 direct hits, but the condition of the bridge could not be judged.

The 395th and 396th squadrons flew missions in support of the VIII Corps units-- or to conduct armed reces to Prum, Adenau, Cochen, and Bitburg. In attacks on a variety of targets near Andernach and Koblenz, the 395th cut tracks in 7 places (including choke points), hit the town of Neiveid and the A/D south of Laacher Lake, and destroyed 6 freight cars besides damaging 9 more and a loco. Lt. Garry made a strafing pass at a pair of FW190's which were landing at the A/D and damaged one of the enemy planes. The 396th, working just south of Bonn, released 6 100-gal. tanks of Napalm on a factory at Stadt Mechenheim, which was hit and seen burning--and fires also started in the town. Eight bombs missed an overpass nearby, but 8 more destroyed 3 and damaged 8 M/T's.

The February promotion list arrived today, and group Officers did all right. It is now Major Talbott, Captains Steers and Doria, and 1st Lt. Conder. It is also Lt. Col. Sparks; although the ex-395th CO is in the U.S., he has been assigned to Group Hq. officer, the 395th Ex. Officer, was also promoted; it is now Major Penleton. And Major Mumaw of the 395th got back from the States today and is attached to Group Operations.

The R & I interviews, which began 2 days ago, were pretty well completed today. Visible results so far are 134 EM signed up for USAFI Correspondence Courses, 28 for University Extension Courses, and 123 for individual self-teaching instruction with USAFI texts. Previously 40 officers had signed up for Extension or Correspondence Courses. This does not account for a large number of other men who are "improving their minds" with various texts made available by the Education and Information office.

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12 February 1945

The weatherman would not let us operate today, our pilots heard a talk by an evader (pretty dull and long-winded), and we caught up on our publicity. The Time magazine issue of January 15 with Maj. Gen. Vanderberg's picture on the cover and a lengthy article on the use of strategic air power had aroused much interest in the group -- and nearly started a civil war. In giving the P-47's much credit for stopping the German thrust through the Ardennes, the Time writer had mentioned "IX TAC's Hellcat and Panzer Duster Groups." The 396th Thunderbombs thought that was unfair and wanted to write to Time about the matter, though they were assured that newsmen often pick on a trick name and use it rather loosely. Our PRO reported that Lt. Hamilton had made direct broadcast to the U.S. on the Blue Network's Soldiers With Wings broadcast from Paris on Feb. 10. He was billed as the "20-year old veteran pilot of the 368th Group" and told of our group's outstanding feats: Mons, (and the award of the Presidential Citation), the Ardennes Bulge, and the Jan. 22 Vianden vehicle massacre. Lt. Hamilton was interviewed by a number of correspondents at SHAEF, and we were "promised" an article in the April issue of Air Force magazine, playing us up as the Jabo Angels (that's us) and reviewing our history since we became operational. We also got word that Capt. Henry's recording on the 600 bag (vehicle), made here on Jan. 23, was heard in Philadelphia on January 28.

Today's 368th Group special Orders had a variety of interesting news: 4 pilots are going back to England tomorrow to pick up new planes, Lt. Blagen is appointed Group Counter Intelligence Officer, Lt. Ward replaces Capt. Bergman as Group Photo Officer, and Capt. Powell is appointed Group Court of Inquiry Officer, which seems to have something to do with "Alleged Violations of the Geneva Convention".

Both Hq. cage squads turned in victories tonight, the officers beating the 11's and the 11's outlasting the 395th officers 36-31.

Supporting Document #11, Special Orders #15.

13 February 1945

Our Oprep report today says that 42 P-47's were dispatched - but the results were something less than spectacular, mostly on account of the weather. In fact, if Lt. Col. Perego hadn't decided to have a look at the much-debated Bullay Bridge and knocked off 5 M/T's and damaged another strafing on the way back and if our weather recce hadn't decided to get in a few licks, the days results would have been almost a total loss.

Capt. Krause and Lt. Yandel flew the weather recce to Lux and Trier, taking off at 0805 hours. Northeast of Trier they strafed a train, destroying the locomotive and a flak car, and damaged another flak car and 2 freight cars. Then the two pilots returned to fly the first squadron mission, Capt. Krause leading the 397th back to Lux where they picked up Ripsaw III. But they had no luck finding targets through the undercast, though they were vectored by a number of controllers. They finally released 16 500-pounders and 4 Napalm bombs when they spotted some small towns through a small break in the clouds about 50 miles northeast of Cologne.

Four planes of the 395th escorted a lone C-47 to a spot between St. Vith and Prum. When they had brought the transport back the P-47's dropped their 8 Napalm bombs on a M/T near Saarbrücken, hitting the RR station. The yards had been pretty well worked-over and burned-out before. Then 8 planes of the 395th escorted 75 more

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C-47's who delivered their parachute-freight to the same place. Herding all the stragglers to the DE and back took all the squadron's flying time and they jettisoned their bombs safe NE of Prum. Four planes of the 396th distributed leaflet bombs at Trier and several small towns nearby, returning to the base without any other results. The weather was 8 to 10/10 from 2,000 to 4,000 feet. Twelve planes of the 396th went after a rail bridge at Neuss (near Dusseldorf) but could not locate the target because of the undercast. The squadron then released 16 bombs on a railroad north of Cologne, cutting one double-track and one single-track RR and damaging a bridge approach. Eight more bombs dropped on a factory and town nearby produced "beaucoup" black smoke, and cut a heavy intersection.

That was the day's work; though the results were not impressive, the weather was so bad our planes could have been kept on the ground on that account. Our mail continued to come in well, and today we got 2-weeks delivery on airmail from the U.S. We also acquired new neighbors, the air echelon of the 371st coming in this afternoon from the Nancy area. The 365th, who had been here a few days when we arrived, left for Strip 78 at Florennes late in January; and the 406th, who followed them, stayed only a week and then went on to Strip V-32 at Asch, Belgium.

14 February 1945

Shades of Strip 3, of 5 minutes to the bomblines, and of 16-hour flying days: We dispatched 103 planes today on 9 squadron missions, and our P-47's dropped 205 500-pound bombs on a variety of targets in Germany. The totals for the day were: M/T's 23-4, locomotives 5-4, freight cars 10-12, and enemy planes 1-C-5; but that was far from the whole story because bridges and marshalling yards have become our preferred targets in recent weeks.

Shades of Strip-delete- So important were a couple of rail bridges in the Dusseldorf area considered that 4 squadron missions were dispatched to attack them. The 395th had only fair bombing results on their 12-plane mission, and the Geistenbeck remained undamaged, though the tracks were cut in 2 places. But the second mission got at least 3 direct hits, damaging though not destroying the bridge. Each mission destroyed buildings (including a factory), and fires started. The 396th worked on the Neuss rail bridge. On the first mission the 12 P-47's scored 8 hits on the bridge proper, cutting tracks at both ends of the bridge. But the bridge was still standing. So 12 more 396th P-47's hit it again, leaving the tracks completely severed at both ends of the bridge and half of the SE approach to the bridge destroyed. The bridge was still standing, but a hole was seen through the north end of the structure.

The 397th caught something different on their first mission. They escorted 102 C-47's, flying in three waves, the R/Y point being Houffalize and the delivery point just west of Prum. As far as we were able to learn, the transports were being used to supply our forward ground units by parachute because roads were practically impossible, or non-existent. When their escort patrol was completed, our P-47's bombed the towns of Hirterweiler and Protzboom and the M/Y at Rengen; many buildings were destroyed in the 2 towns, and 4 freight cars were damaged in the M/Y. Another 397th mission went after road and rail traffic but had trouble finding targets in their recce area (Trier-Koblenz-Bitburg). The 10 planes dropped 20 bombs on the M/T depot at Ahrweiler with fair results, destroying 2 buildings by bombing and another by strafing.

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The other two squadrons then went after similar targets, and the 396th released 24 bombs on another M/T concentration at Hargesheim; half a block of the town was destroyed and 4 M/T's. Strafing then destroyed 6 M/T's, 5 horse-drawn vehicles, 10 horses and some German personnel in the same area. The 395th dropped 6 bombs on 15 enemy veh planes on the Hargerdest A/D, 3 M110's being damaged. Sixteen more bombs were dropped on a M/Y just southeast of Frankfurt, cutting tracks and damaging warehouses. An overpass was damaged in the same area, 3 locomotives and 10 cars destroyed, and 2 more locomotives damaged. Strafing then clobbered more M/T's and rolling stock; at the Darmstadt A/D strafing destroyed one M110 and damaged one M110 and one M109.

The last mission of the day took off at 1631 hours, which was another indication that spring has come. The 397th dropped 19 500-pound bombs on the Neunkirchen m/y, causing widespread damage to the yard and surrounding territory. Much activity was seen at the M/Y when our I-47's arrived, but there was only smoke and flames to be seen after the bombing. At Exweiler, just NW of Neunkirchen, 3 houses were destroyed by a bomb and three others strafed and left burning.

Three visiting intelligence "wheels" looked us over in the midst of all this activity. They were Lt. Cols. Walleit (XIX SAC A-2), Allen (Third Army Ass't A-2), and Hardman (100th Wing A-2).

15 February 1945

Though the fog kept our planes grounded until noon, we did our best to catch up after our planes did take off. And 48 I-47's turned in a pretty good day's work for us.

The 397th flew 2 squadron missions in support of XX Corps units. The first, led by Capt. Krause was given a target by "stowaway", but that 94th Infantry controller was so weak that the squadron could not locate the target and went on their recce (Merzig-Saarburg-IEbach). They hit a pair of M/Y's, with good bombing results. Eight bombs hit the Nonweiler M/Y, cutting the tracks and destroying or damaging a dozen cars. flashes and sparks that resulted indicated that transformer or ammunition cars were hit. Six more bombs hit the Muhlfield M/Y, damaging 5 cars. The second 397th mission, led by Major Carbine, had better luck with the XXth Corps controllers, and got an excellent concentration of bombs on Stowaway's target, the woods east of Sina. But their results, except that the 16 bombs landed in the area marked by 2 puffs of white smoke, were NFO. Eight more bombs were dropped on a smoke-marked target in Oberluken, and again the bombing was good. The 12 planes then strafed in and around the towns of Kollsluken, Trassem, Fisch, Kiri, and Bilzingen. No claims were made, though these villages, which not far back of the German lines in the Luxembourg-Germany-France corner, were seen to contain troops, M/T's ammunition dumps, and gun emplacements. To finish its day's work, 4 planes of the 397th delivered leaflet bombs to Ritburg, Murlenbach, Sarresdorf, and Wittlich. The Front Post this time told the Heinies of the Russian Steamroller in the east, while the others warned that the things might begin to pop in the West any time. The leaflets continued to expound the advantages of becoming a POW, and briefed the Heinies on the proper way to say "I surrender" ("Ei Soerrender").

The 395th and 396th each flew armed recces to Worms, Darmstadt, Semunden, Furzburg, and Osterburen. The 396th, led by Lt. Tullis, dropped 12 bombs on 70 railroad

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cars at Ebenburg. The results were very good, with direct hits on the M/Y and 6 made-up trains. At least 20 cars were destroyed and the trucks were cut in 4 places. Twelve more bombs on 2 M/Ys at Bad Munster and Bad Kreuznach destroyed 30 more cars, cut the rails in 8 to 10 places, and damaged some buildings. The 395th had trouble with a RR bridge over a road NE of Kaiserslautern: 4 bombs cut the rails at both ends of the bridge but the bridge itself was left standing. Four bombs were dropped on a town between Frankfurt and Mannheim - NRO. Then the squadron gave chase to an ME-410 which was on the deck going east. The E/A led our planes over the Darmstadt A/D and could not be caught, though Capt. Jenson, who lead the mission, damaged the Jerry plane. Six bombs on a RR north of Worms destroyed a locomotive and 6 cars, with 6 more cars damaged. Ten more bombs cut tracks in an M/Y NE of Mannheim, about 30 miles beyond the Rhine.

There was good news on the Paris passes again; the squadrons now send 3 EM each time instead of one, and the officers quota was also raised. One last word on the Bullay Bridge: the following excerpt is taken from today's XIX TAC Intelligence Summary. "Orchids to the 368th Groups 395th Squadron! Photographic interpretation reveals that its attack of 10 Feb. on the Bullay Bridge over the Moselle has knocked down one span and left another hanging. This bears out the pilots' claims that their 500-lb. bombs hit the bridge, 'knocking it into the water.' Fuch bombed by mediums and also by fighter-bombers, this bridge had borne a charmed life until the 395th Squadron's highly successful attack."

The hot Hq. Officers turned in their 4th straight cage victory tonight by defeating the 29th MR&R team.

16 February 1945

Sixty-six planes were dispatched today on 2 types of missions - 42 planes (4-missions) assigned to support the VIII Corps and 24 (2 squadrons) of 12 planes each) to "fly interference" (or knock out flak positions) for medium bombers on a mission to the Ruhr region. We never got that last job done, but the 24 planes got in some work in the Ruhr area on their own.

On the first mission of the day 4 planes of the 397th carried frag bombs and 6 planes had 500 pounders; the 120 500's and 48 frags were dumped on a M/Y near Pelm; 4 or 5 buildings around the M/Y were well hit. The squadron strafed the town of Geroldstein and many tanks, armored vehicles, and M/T's in the Prum area. Claims were 8-7 on tanks, 0-14 on armored vehicles, and 7-0 on M/T's. The second 397th mission (8 planes) worked over the same general area, but since most of their bombs were dropped in wooded areas the results were difficult to judge. Two buildings and 10 cars were destroyed in the Kjellburg M/Y, and 4 M/T's destroyed nearby. Twenty-seven M/T's were destroyed by strafing. The 396's bombed the Densbarn M/Y, and the 24 GP bombs cut the tracks in 4 places and started 3 fires. Strafing then destroyed 30 cars and damaged 20 others in the M/Y. The 395th also hit the Densbarn M/Y with 24 bombs, claiming 21 cars destroyed and 7 damaged, tracks cut in 3 places, and a long, factory-like building destroyed. The bombing was very good and the squadron strafed during their bomb-run. This attack was costly, however, for 1st Lt. Donald H. Huff went down in flames north of Luxembourg City. He is MIA.

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16 February 1945 (cont'd)

The 395th and 396th were "to provide close support to 2 Groups of B-26's attacking the ordnance depot at Unna," (east of Dortmund). The field order further said, "Five minutes before reaching target bombers will say 'Complete your mission', or fire green flares which will be a signal for squadrons to dive-bomb heavy flak positions--" That was a tricky assignment, but the R/V with the bombers went wrong. While our planes were in the Ruhr area they did get in some work, however. The 395th dropped 12 500-pounders and 42 frags on 2 large water tanks at Munchen-Gladbach, destroying them with 3 direct hits. The 396th bombed and strafed a pair of trains south of Hamm: 2 locos and 2 cars were destroyed, 2 more cars damaged, and a trestle bridge damaged.

Seven new pilots (all 2nd Lts.) were added to our roster today, 4 being assigned to the 395th and 3 to the 397th.

There was talk of furloughs to England today. They have evidently been authorized by Ninth Air Force; but as far as the 368th is concerned, nothing definite has been decided yet. The chief problem seems to be transportation to and from the UK.

The Hq. FM basketball team lost a game to the 1293rd MP's 26-16 tonight.

17 February 1945

Today the fog failed to lift and we were released early, without getting any planes off the ground. But to make future operations run more smoothly, some of the "Ripraaw" boys (Ninth Air Force controllers) came over for a lengthy session with our squadron and flight leaders, plus S-2 and S-3 officers.

18 February 1945

The overcast never cleared off today, though it seemed to promise flying weather several times. It finally decided to rain in the afternoon and we were released--without any planes getting off the ground.

Some of the boys were alarmed when we were given a little target practice today, worried that the infantry might have some scouts out to pick out the sharpshooters. But all Capt. King required was that we shoot our 30 rounds through an open barn door (not too far off). It was the first time most of us had fired our weapons since we left for Normandy last June, and the Captain explained that he merely wanted to see if our weapons still worked. Perhaps he also wanted to make sure that our weapons got a thorough cleaning again!

19 February 1945

Our Group changed tactics somewhat today, sending out 8 planes on squadron missions instead of the usual 12 planes. The assignment (except for one 4-plane leaflet dropping job) was support for the XIIIth and VIIIth Corps. Since the planes will be near the front lines and there will always be enough fighter-bombers in the area to discourage the Luftwaffe, the new system should be safe enough. And in close support work the smaller flights are judged far more efficient and effective.

Thirty-six F-47's were dispatched to support the XII Corps. On the first mission the targets assigned by the controller were covered by overcast and 7 planes (396th) released their 500 pounders by 584 radar control on a target near the Moselle River, NE of Trier - NRO. The second mission (397th) turned into an armed recce over the Trier-Wittlich area. Eight bombs practically wiped out the town

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19 February 1945 (cont'd)

of Schuld, the 15 to 20 buildings in the town being destroyed. Results were difficult to judge on the rest of the bombing, when 8 bombs were dropped on a RR bridge and 15 cars on the tracks nearby: the bridge was probably hit 2-3 times and the tracks were cut. The controller "Brandy" sent the next 8 planes (396th) to attack a CP of the 53rd Panzer Corps at Wissmansdorf. Again smoke obscured the results but the bombing was excellent, with all 16 bombs in the target area. Then a 4-plane flight (397th) dropped all 8 bombs on a CP at Niehl, all the 500's hitting buildings - NRO.

Strafing in the same area was also NRO. The last 8 planes (396th) released 16 bombs on a smoke-marked target at Bettingen; the bombing was probably good, with smoke rising to 2000 feet. The squadron strafed M/T's near Bitburg, destroying 3 and damaging 10. Lt. Tullis' plane was damaged by flak and his wing caught fire; but he landed uninjured at Strip A-97(Luxembourg).

Besides delivering 28 leaflet bombs to some small towns north of Trier, the 395th flew 2 missions in support of the VIII Corps. When Summerfrock's target was covered by overcast, the first 8 planes dropped 15 bombs on the Munstereifel M/Y, cutting tracks in 2-3 places, damaging 20 cars, and causing large fires (possibly ammunition) with 4 hits on the town. A large castle in the town was also hit. On the second 8-plane mission 12 bombs dropped on a smoke-marked town, destroyed 10 buildings and damaged 10. Strafing, plus 4 more bombs, destroyed a heavy tank and 38 M/T's and damaged 4 more M/T's. Two planes were damaged by small arms fire on today's missions.

We acquired a Group Rubber Co-ordinator today - Lt. Jonder, and his assistant, W/Sgt. Wallace.

Supporting Document #13, Special Orders #17.

20 February 1945

Each squadron dispatched 16 planes today; the 395th and 397th each flew one 16-plane armed recce mission and the 396th flew two 8-plane missions in support of the XII Corps. The vehicle claims of the close support missions were 6-3 on tanks, 56-29 on M/T's, and 2-0 on German personnel, but that was not all the damage. The first 8 planes planted 16 bombs on the smoke-marked target in Mulbach - evidently a CP, which was destroyed along with 6 other buildings. The second 8 planes dropped their bombs on a tank and M/T concentration at Oberweis, with the results already listed.

The 397th armed recce mission clobbered the dock area with 31 bombs at Gernsheim (on the Rhine, NW of Worms), destroying 11 barges and damaging 5 others, and destroying 2 or 3 locks. One bomb on the M/Y north of Kaiserlautern cut the tracks in one place and destroyed 4 cars. Strafing them damaged 25 more RR cars. The 395th released 24 bombs on the Worms M/Y; very good bombing destroyed 4 RR cars, 4 warehouses, and a choke point. Two locos were damaged, and tracks cut in many places. But 8 more bombs dropped on a RR bridge nearby were less accurate, the bridge being missed although an oil barge was destroyed.

The Gc. officers blasted the 397th officers tonight to rack up their 5th cage win in 6 starts. And the squad which will represent the Group in the Ninth AF tourney was announced by Pvt. Lamont Ruten, who will coach the team. Cpl. Raymond E. Parrett of the 397th will captain the team, with Sgt. Francis I. Lanahan of the

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20 February 1945 (cont'd)

397th and S/Sgt. Frank S. Michalak of Group Hq. as co-captains. Completing the team are Sgt. Ralph F. Jones, Sgt. Harry W. Heath Jr., Sgt. James H. Nelson, Sgt. Walter J. Lewis, and Cpl. Stanley H. Katz, all of the 397th, T/Sgt. Michael Spigut of the 396th, and T/Sgt. Richard B. Nartker of the 395th. Capt. Quinlan will be officer in charge of the team, which is to be known as the "Thunderbums". The team will be one of 12 which will take part in the XIX TAC tournament, to be played here from March 5-10 at the Opera House, 21 Avenue Foch. Pvt. Rutan will manage the tourney, which will pick a team to play in a Ninth Air Force tournament later.

21 February 1945

One hundred forty (repeat 140) P-47's got into the air today from our group, and though that didn't scratch our "all-time" high of 158 on 28 July 1944 when 35 missions were flown, it was pretty tall flying for February! The total missions flown today was 28, but that included two 16-plane missions which were long ones, the 396th flying armed recces to Koblenz, Limburg and points east and south. The first of those 16-plane missions bombed and strafed rolling stock in the area between Koblenz and Mannheim, getting 3-0 on locos and 23-10 on freight cars, besides 2-0 on M/T's. Good use was made of all 32 bombs, a small M/Y being hit, RR tracks cut, and buildings clobbered. The second 16-plane mission blasted the primary target, all 32 bombs landing in the vicinity of the Ehrenbreitstein ammo dump--across the Rhine from Koblenz. Strafing claims were 1-5 on tanks, 4-0 on M/T's, and 0-14 on freight cars. But the mission spread heavy gloom over Group Headquarters, for it cost the life of Capt. Meredith W. Henry, who lead the squadron. His plane was hit by flak and caught on fire, but Capt. Henry tried to bring his plane back to the base. He evidently tried to bail out when the plane became unsafe, for his body was found clear of the plane with the chute unopened but intact. It is thought that he did bail out but was struck by the plane as he did so. For six months, from Chilbolton to Laon, Capt. Henry was Group Operations Officer--or assistant under Major Leary. During that time many Hq officers and EM learned to know him well, and to like and respect him. His unbounded energy and good humor seemed to be contagious, and we missed Capt. Henry when he moved back to his old squadron, the 396th, and got his chance to fly every day again. But we still saw him often - and worried about him, for he always showed a fine disregard for flak and enemy aircraft. In fact, his plane was the first in the Group to sustain battle damage: at Chilbolton he brought back a 20 mm. shell behind his cockpit - unexploded!

Twenty-six more missions were flown today--25 4-plane flights and one 8-plane - all called armed recces, though 56 supported the XIIth Corps (Trier-Cochem-Wittlich) and 48 worked for the VIIIth Corps (Bitburg-Blankenheim-Dorsel). The vehicle claims for the day were: tanks 6-13, M/T's 57-34, locos 4-0, and freight cars 29-43, but again the day's best results were "assorted damage to a variety of targets." Counting the damage by flights sounds something like this: mission #1 - leaflets; 2- roundhouse destroyed; 3- castle bombed, 15 Germans killed; 4- M/Y hit, flak position destroyed; 5- M/Y hit, fires started, 2 flak guns destroyed; 6- town of Buecht hit, much grayish smoke and large explosions (ammo-dump?); 7- middle of Mittendorf bombed (20 tanks reported there), with excellent results, 2 guns and 1 German destroyed; 8- tracks cut in 3 places; 9- no target, bombs returned; 10- castle at Markeshausen destroyed; 11- RR bridge over Moselle hit, one span believed destroyed; 12- Fullburg bombed and (M/T claims); 13- town

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21 February 1945 (cont'd)

of Weiserich bombed and strafed, destroying 6 buildings and damaging 2 concrete mixers; 14- Niehl hit, with many guns, buildings, and M/T's destroyed (again hit on missions 17 and 19); 15 - road cut; 16- Lichtenbarn and near by gun positions bombed and strafed (NRO); 18 - Lichtenbarn ditto; 20- Sinspelt destroyed; 21- Buecht hit again (NRO); 22- 2 warehouses hit, tracks cut in 2 places; 23 & 24- Poldsdorf M/V hit twice, tracks cut, flak guns destroyed by strafing; 25- Ronstert bombed, whole town on fire and 20 plus buildings destroyed; 26- Fullburg bombed and destroyed, supplies, destroyed, much smoke.

22 February 1945

After yesterday's 140 sorties, today's 64 seem small stuff. We had a new type of assignment, also: we were to escorting mediums and attack small bridges, flak positions, and rail targets of opportunity. This was our part of today's all-out air attack on the transportation system of Western Germany. The 395th dispatched 2 12-plane missions, the 396th 2 8-plane missions, and the 397th one 12-plane mission on this assignment, with a P/V over Metz with A-20's and A-26's of the 499th and 410th Groups. The general location of the targets attacked (bridges, M/V's, supply dumps) was the area between Bad Kreuznach and Worms. The bombing was good on the whole, though it was difficult to separate our claims from the damage done by the mediums. The bridges proved difficult to destroy; but the damage was very great - many tracks being cut, approaches blown away, and a large number of buildings destroyed. Miscellaneous assorted damage include 2 small locos destroyed and a sawmill strafed (NRO). All of these missions were flown in the afternoon, and we had time for only one mission of our "regular type". Twelve planes of the 396th took off at 1640 to support the VIII Corps south of Prum, and their dive-bombing was very good (weather CAVU). Twenty-four bombs, plus strafing, got 3-3 on tanks, 13-10 on M/T's, destroyed a house and cut a road.

Lt. Col. Maesler flew to Paris to bring our Deputy Commander back to us: Lt. Col. Douglas went back to the states on leave last Dec. 7, and will be back with the Group tomorrow. But we lost a veteran pilot, who returned to the U.S. today - Capt. Charles "Pap" Kennedy of the 396th.

Lt. Regan and S/Sgt. Levesque were appointed Group Safety Officer and assistant, respectively, and Capt. Bergman was appointed Graves Registration and Personal Effects Officer.

Supporting Document #14, Special Orders #18.

23 February 1945

Two squadrons went back to 4-plane missions today in support of the VIII (397th) and XII (396th) Corps of the Third Army, but the 395th flew 2 long 16-plane missions to attack a pair of fuel dumps at Mannheim. On the first of these two missions the main fuel tank was missed, but hits on a warehouse and other installations north of the target caused explosions and fires and more hits to the south of it started oil fires.

Others' fires may have been started by hits in coal piles nearby, and five locos were damaged by strafing. The second attack was better: 12 direct hits on the primary target destroying all 4 oil tanks and 4 buildings, the tanks blowing up with much smoke and fire. Strafing destroyed a loco, 70 cars, and 60 heavy motor

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23 February 1945 (cont'd)

trucks; the trucks were loaded on the train and seemed to contain ammunition, for the whole train burned fiercely after the strafing. To round out the mission, the squadron, was bounced by 25 plus long-nosed FW 190's and 5 ME 109's which came out of the sun and a hazy overcast. Except for the squadron leaders the German pilots seemed inexperienced, but our P-47's were low on gas and ammo and the battle lasted only 5 minutes, going from 10,000 feet to the deck. The E/ A gradually left the area and our planes returned to the base. Lt. Dicks shot down one ME109 and one FW190, Lt Jewkes got an FW190, while Lt. Anderson got an FW190 probably destroyed and Lt. Matthers another damaged. The 395th lost Capt. Virgil Noriega, who was hit by an F190 and last seen going down on fire at 3000 feet. He is listed MIA. Lt. Dicks had to belly-land his plane at Strip 4-94 due to flak damage but was not injured. Three other planes were damaged during the encounter with the enemy.

A total of 125 planes were dispatched today. The claims, excluding those already listed, are 55-73 on tanks (take another look at those figures: 55 tanks destroyed, 73 damaged!) and 307-109 on M/T's and other vehicles! Those figures are spectacular enough, but there were also at least 11 guns and some gun positions destroyed; countless houses destroyed or damaged as the ground controllers sent our planes down on towns in the path of their advances; an ammo dump, a fuel dump, and a supply dump destroyed; troops bombed and strafed; and several missions that had to report - MRO (no results observed) when the targets were in wooded areas, or flak and weather made "observing difficult". We even found time to drop propaganda leaflets on one mission. The 4-plane missions also cost us a pilot. 2nd Lt. Richard T. Schindling of the 396th bailed out of his P-47 when the plane started burning after its bomb-run. The pilot was seen to come down on the German side of the bombline and is listed MIA.

The 397th EM cagers, generally conceded the best in the Group, defeated the Group Headquarters officers tonight 33-27.

24 February 1945

Again today the 397th sent out 4-plane flights to support the VIII Corps of the Third Army, the 396th did the same for the XII Corps, and again the 395th sent out 32 P-47's on a "high-priority" target, this time the Salmrohr rail bridge. But the weather wasn't as good today, and only 94 planes were dispatched, including a 2-plane weather recce. The 2 bridge-bombing missions had fairly good results, the bombs falling in a good pattern and 4 hits seen on the bridge. But the bridge was still standing, though the structure was certainly damaged, and the tracks cut in 5 places. Overcast shut out the armed recces.

Today's totals on the results of the 4-plane of close-support missions were also correspondingly modest, though they were certainly nothing to be ashamed of. Seventeen tanks were destroyed and 17 damaged, 72 M/T's destroyed and 47 damaged- and 63 freight cars damaged. Other damages, besides the usual quota of buildings (or towns), guns, and personnel, today included a Weenie command post destroyed. Lt. Ohlman of the 396th had to belly-land his plane south of Vianden (behind our lines); he was not injured and returned to Metz safely.

Capt. Dick went to Paris for 9 days at the Information-Education Staff School, and Lt. Wenger of the 382nd Service Team, with Lt. Col. Haesler as co-pilot "hauled" the first quota of 2 pilots to Nice in our C-47, from whence they will go to Cannes for 7 days leave. Supporting Document #15, 30 #19.

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PAGE SIXTEEN25 February 1945

We got back into high gear today, dispatching 123 planes: the 396th flew 36 sorties on close support for the VIII Corps, the 395th sent out 40 P-47's to work with the VII Corps, and the 397th dispatched 47 aircraft on 3 squadron missions which again went after the Salmrohr bridge. This time the bridge was definitely not serviceable after the first 2 missions, and the third went after targets of opportunity.

The day's total score was 20-25 on tanks (what! Only 45 tanks?), 210-33 on M/T's, 1-0 on locos, and 34-11 1/2 on freight cars. A supply dump was clobbered, a pair of 82's damaged, 2 tunnels closed (one at both ends, with a loco inside!), and tracks cut in several places. But at least equally important today were the results which are hard to assess: countless buildings destroyed or damaged, a number of towns hit. As an example, the 396th bombed Rittersdorf and reported only MPO. But a little later our troops moved into the town! Again today a 396th flight leader had to belly-land his plane: Lt. Glazier landed in friendly territory west of Trier.

26 February 1945

Lt. Col. John W.S. Maesler received his orders to return to the U.S. this afternoon, and the First Citizen of Loup City, Nebraska, announced that he was ready to leave immediately. But since he will fly to England on the first leg of his journey home, he'll have to wait for flying weather. Group Operations officer since 1 September 1944, Lt. Col. Maesler was previously CO of the 397th Squadron. As Capt. Maesler back in June, 1943, when the 368th Group was organized, he was one of the original squadron commanders.

"Col. John" has been in the Army since December 1939, when the national guard unit at Kearney (Febr.) State Teachers College was mobilized. Pfc. Maesler moved on to Fort Robinson (Ark.) in December 1940, and in April 1940 became an Air Cadet. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant at Foster Field, Texas, on Dec. 12, 1941. During the following year Lt. Maesler flew many different planes: P-35's and P-36's with the 56th Group at Charleston, S.C., and Wilmington, N.C., and P-30's, and P-32's, P-40, and the second P-47 in the Air Corps at Newark, N.J., with the 80th Group. From then on it was all P-47's, as he moved on to Bradley Field and the 326th Group - "parent" of the 368th. A captain when this Group was formed at Westover Field in June 1943, he became a major in November of that year. The title became Lt. Col. John W.S. Maesler in July 1944 when we were operating from our beachhead strip. While in Normandy Lt. Col. Maesler also met his old CO from Nebraska (now of the First Army), Lt. Col. Herman "Swede" Mattson--and the 50-year-old colonel contrived to find a car and a jeep for his ex-Pfc., who in 5 years had caught up to him in rank!

This is the way we like to "lose" our pilots, but Col. John will leave a big hole here when he leaves. Gets that kind of an officer -- a big, breezy, easy-going guy who is highly popular with officers and EM. He says he won't be back to our outfit but doesn't give a damn where the Army sends him next, and that includes the GDI!

The weathermen put us on the sidelines today, getting a lot of warm fronts and cold front all screwed up. Anyway, it was not flying weather "as any fool could plainly see!"

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27 February 1945

We tried hard enough to get our planes into the air today, and late into the afternoon a couple of flights almost made it - but not quite. The weatherman finally had the last word and our P-47's stayed on the ground.

Capt. Doria gave all the PM some sound financial advice today, giving out all the hot poop on Soldiers Deposits, which pay 4% interest on money invested. The fatherly advice was evidently intended to prevent a bonus march on Washington in 1950, or thereabouts. Or maybe the wheels of Washington have heard the GI Jingle:

Golden Gate in '48 --
Deadline in - '49!

The first half of the 368th Group (plus attached units) basketball tournament came to a close last night, with the 397th PM in undisputed possession of first place. Playing off a disputed game, they turned back their closest rivals, the 366th A.A. outfit 32-19. Sixteen teams participated in the first half of the tourney, each team playing 8 games. The second half of the tournament will begin March 11, following the XIX TAC tourney which runs from March 5 to 10. Runners-up in the first half were the 396th officers, with the Group Hq. officers in third place. Tonight, as a warm-up for the coming XIX TAC tourney, the 368th Group team drubbed the 354th group 39-25.

28 February 1945

We got in a day's work today to end the month right, although the weatherman didn't let our first plane get off until one minute after 3 pm. Thirty-six planes got into the air in support of the VIII and XII Corps (Third Army) drives to the Rhine River. The vehicle claims of the 9 4-plane flights were not impressive 2-2 on tanks and 10-20 on M/T's. But the towns of Pader, Erdorf, Mohr, Werdel, Junkerath, Butzweiler, and Wilsicker were well worked over by bombing and strafing - leaving 30 plus buildings destroyed. In these towns and the same general area 6 flak guns were destroyed, one other gun and a second gun position knocked out, a bridge hit, 4 roads cut, oil fires started, a supply dump destroyed, and a vehicle and troop concentration very well bombed - though trees made results hard to judge. Our planes worked with a number of controllers -- Clenchhand, Lamphood, Razorblade, Organ, Sailship, Pygone, and, of course, Pipsaw. Several targets were marked by smoke, and the controlling was generally very good today. Lt. Arledge of the 397th was forced to belly-land his flak-damaged plane behind our lines but was unhurt and returned this evening.

Lt. Col. Maesler finally got started on his way home today, flying to England in our C-47. Our pilots heard a very good talk by an interrogator of GAF prisoners of war, a Lt. Mayo, sent out by XIX TAC.

In another practice game the Group Cagers beat the 100th Wing 31-25 tonight. And we were paid.

Again the snack-bar talk-and betting - was on the end of the war. With our planes getting in some very effective work and the First, Third, and Ninth Armies driving through the Siegfried Line toward the Rhine, things were looking up again - even though the Russians had finally slowed down. The First Canadian Army had actually reached The River, the Ninth was directly threatening the Ruhr, and the First was shelling Cologne. The Third had tougher terrain and farther to go, but they also had the 36th Fighter Group supporting them!

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HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 403

26 January, 1945

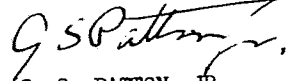
My dear General Weyland:

Please accept for yourself and pass on to the officers and men of your command the sincere appreciation and admiration of myself, and the officers and men of the 3rd Army, for your magnificent cooperation in the reduction of the Ardennes salient.

As usual, we feel that the great successes achieved are the result of the unselfish cooperation and comradeship existing between the Air and Ground troops.

We look forward to bigger and better victories in the immediate future.

Most sincerely,



G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Commanding General XIX Tactical Air Command
THRU Commanding General 9th Air Force
APO 696
U. S. Army

CONFIDENTIAL

Ltr, Hq, THIRD U S Army, Commendation of XIX Tac Air Comd, 26 Jan '45.

201.22 1st Ind A-v
HEADQUARTERS, NINTH AIR FORCE ADVANCED, APO 696, U.S. ARMY, 27 January 1945

TO: Commanding General XIX Tactical Air Command, APO 141, U S Army.

1. In forwarding General Patton's letter regarding the XIX Tactical Air Command's participation in the reduction of the Ardennes Salient, I should like to add my congratulations.
2. The Air-Ground cooperation demonstrated during the Ardennes action marked a new high in welding together the combined power of the Armed Forces of the United States. In due time this combined power will destroy the enemy.

Hoyt S. Vandenberg
 HOYT S. VANDENBERG
 Major General, USA
 Commanding

1 Incl:
 Ltr of Commendation fr CG,
 THIRD U S Army, 26 Jan 45.

201.22 2nd Ind.
 HEADQUARTERS, XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (ADV), APO 141, US ARMY, 29 January 1945.

TO: Officers and Men, XIX Tactical Air Command.

1. As the Commanding General of the XIX Tactical Air Command, I have received this commendation with pride. As your Commander, I pass it on to you; the planners, the controllers, the pilots, the mechanics, the cooks, and to every other man of this Command whose combined efforts made this great victory possible.
2. Your ability to rapidly switch from the Saar Basin to the Ardennes salient in coordinated attack with a determined army defeated a cunning and desperate enemy. All this accomplished under the adverse conditions of a severe and bitter winter.
3. It is the slashing flexibility of the air power of this Command integrated with the might of the attacking Third Army that will lead us to bigger and better victories.

O. P. Weyland
 O. P. WEYLAND
 Brigadier General, USA
 Commanding.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APC 141, U. S. Army
31 January 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 10)

1. So much of par 5, SO 8, this Hq. cs, as reads "1st Lt HAROLD W. CRUICKSHANK, 0567799, AC," is amended to read "1st Lt DALE C. CLAYSTEAD, 01593766, AC." (pertains to inventory of PX)
2. 1st Lt JOHN F. REGAN, 0569887, AC, is reld as Gp Soldier Voting Officer.
3. Under the provisions of par 4b, 35-1100, 12 May 1942, the fol named officers are aptd to witness and verify the cash balance of Major JOHN F. VOLIVA, FD, Accountable Disbursing Officer at the close of business, 31 Jan 1945.

Major ROBERT M. KAISER	0376754	AC
Capt BUTLER N. KELLY	01533195	ORD

4. The following named officers are placed on TDY for an indefinite period, WP fr this sta c/a 2 Feb 1945 to AAF Station 597, UK, for the purpose of delivering two seater P-47 aircraft for stress analysis. Upon completion of this TDY, O's will return to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acct or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWK XIX TAC (P) J36AF, dtd 28 Jan 1945.

1st Lt HENRY L. OLSON	0315376	AC
2d Lt ALBERT F. BRIZENDINE	0320454	AC

5. The following named O and EM are placed on TDY for a period of nine (9) days, WP fr this sta c/a 2 Feb 1945 to Hq Ninth Air Force (Main), APO 696, U S Army, reporting upon arrival to the Counter Intelligence Branch, for the purpose of pursuing course in counter intelligence. Upon completion of this TDY, they will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acct or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: 1st Ind, JG XIX TAC to Ltr Hq Ninth Air Force, subj: "Counter Intelligence course," dtd 21 Dec 1944.

1st Lt WILLIAM S. BLAGEN	0364503	AC
T. Sgt (31) Clarence D. Reese	15082295	Hq 368th Ftr Gp

6. 1st Lt HENRY B. HAMILTON, 0305617, AC, is placed on TDY for a period of six (6) days, WP fr this sta c/a 5 Feb 1945 to Scribe Hotel, Paris, reporting to Major CRUICKSHANK, on matters pertaining to Public Relations, 9AF. Upon completion of this TDY, O will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acct or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOCC Ninth Air Force.

R E S T R I C T E D

SO 10, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 31 Jan 45, cont'd.

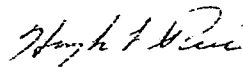
7. Sgt (805) Carl E. Newsome, 34539185, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, is placed on TDY for a period of five (5) days, WP fr this sta o/a 5 Feb 1945 to Hq 100th Ftr WG for the purpose of training in code room. Upon completion of this TDY, EM will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 F.432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWX XIX TAC F1232J.

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, Hq U S Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 1944, to Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MPM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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



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

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- 2 -
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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFPO 141, U. S. Army
1 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 11)

1. Major HAROLD P. SPARKS, 0432726, AC, is aptd Assistant Group S-3.

2. The following named O and EM are placed on TDY for a period of three (3) days, WP fr this sta o/a 3 Feb 1945 to 16th ADG, Reims, France, for the purpose of obtaining Signal Corps Parts. Upon completion of this TDY, they will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MF, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.
AUTH: VOOG XIX TAC.

2d Lt WILLIAM T. CONDER	0386390 AC	
T/Sgt (326) Delmar C. Eicher	15063175	Hq 368th Ftr Gp
Pfc (345) Richard C. Maiberger	15102297	1221st QM Co (Avn)

3. T/Sgt (274) Donald A. Facka, 37444287, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, is placed on TDY for a period of two (2) days, WP fr this sta o/a 4 Feb 1945 to Scribe Hotel, Paris, reporting to Major O'Neale, on matters pertaining to Public Relations, 9AF. Upon completion of this TDY, EM will proceed to Hq Ninth Air Force. TDN by MF, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG Ninth Air Force.

4. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, T/Sgt (750) Ernest E. Gibson, 15016947, 396th Ftr Sq, is reduced to the gr of Pvt for misconduct.

5. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, Pvt (345) Victor J. Rabideau, 12170446, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, is promoted to gr of Private First Class (Temp).

6. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, 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 (747) Joseph Bosavage 33458375

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (747) William F. Hutcheson 19059359
Cpl (747) Robert C. Heller 32872662

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (911) William Okrenuk 33598433
Pfc (809) Sidney Grossman 32495450
Pfc (747) Herbert N. Carp 12145495
Pfc (060) Joannie J. Wood 33221244

R E S T R I C T E D

SO 11, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 1 Feb 45,
par 6 cont'd.

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (932) Thomas F. Lynch 37329021
 Pvt (345) William E. Newton 16093320
 Pvt (590) Marlin V. Guthrie 38231848
 Pvt (590) Virgel H. Crawford 33327492
 Pvt (590) John M. Henry 36649137

7. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 396th Ftr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE TECHNICAL SERGEANT (TEMP)

S/Sgt (750) Andrew D. Martin 34037257

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (911) William C. Edwards 37526452

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (590) Alfonso N. Catrillo 32467790
 Pvt (405) John C. Owens 19030499

8. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 397th Ftr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (747) Cecil F. Clancy 36507748
 Sgt (747) John A. Irish 32479280

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (747) Stanley Berkowitz 12148575
 Pfc (405) Charles H. O'Donnel 32712184

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (650) Joseph Greenspan 32826669

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, Hq US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 1944, to Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MEM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
365TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFO 141, U. S. Army
3 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 12)

1. CPL (405) Frank S. Stovall, 39199927, HQ 365th Ftr Grp, is placed on TDY for a period of four (4) days, up fr this sta o/a 3 Feb 1945 to HQ 100th Ftr Wg, reporting thereat to Wing Information Education Officer for the purpose of attending an indoctrination course. Upon completion of this TDY, EM will ret to proper sta and cr gr. TDY by HQ Mail acft cr rail, 6C-114 P 432-02 A 212/54425.
AUTH: TWX XIX TAC (R) J334.

2. Under the provisions of AR 600-60, the following named EM, 395th Ftr Sq, having completed the required amount of serv in the Army of the United States and having demonstrated fidelity through faithful and exact performances of duty, efficiency through capacity to produce desired results, and whose behavior has been such as to deserve emulation are awarded good Conduct Medals for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity:

T/Sgt Oscar D. Oney	6251207	S/Sgt Robert Griffith	33373026
T/Sgt Robert G. Wervalin	15065492	S/Sgt Joseph J. Hansen	32424763
T/Sgt John G. Silva	34254892	S/Sgt John H. Hollahan Jr	31226462
T/Sgt Joseph H. Sweeney	33839195	S/Sgt Harry L. Marshall	6253304
S/Sgt Lewis B. Brasell	34055350	S/Sgt Charles R. Mathews	13072923
S/Sgt Donald I. Carpenter	12022332	S/Sgt Daniel H. Mohr	33366203
S/Sgt Harold D. Conaley	1404436	S/Sgt Allen M. Olson	3726602
S/Sgt Dominic A. Galli	12009448	S/Sgt Donald E. Reilly	12136585
S/Sgt Peter Getrich	20849296	S/Sgt Charles H. Richards	32535614
S/Sgt Floyd D. Teets	694236	S/Sgt Edmund L. Spalding	35496279
S/Sgt Andrew Vanta	15049222	S/Sgt Joseph E. Surat	32409111
S/Sgt William Detchuk	32500271	S/Sgt Stanley Grube	36634427
S/Sgt Joseph L. DiFierno	12042310	S/Sgt Raymond W. Tucker	14162387
S/Sgt Clifford F. Dolan	32434647	S/Sgt Richard W. Weaver	35421192
S/Sgt John A. Dorlos	35514777	S/Sgt Donald Metz	35303362
S/Sgt Sidney Goldstein	31130734	S/Sgt William E. R. Goulet	11003401
Sgt William E. Bowers	15065395	Sgt Edward P. Kearns	6000052
Sgt Wilbur L. Faith	15064407	Sgt Earl M. Adelson	19073009
Sgt Percy L. Barley	39271311	Sgt Thomas H. Barron	32066055
Sgt Joseph Rosavage	33450375	Sgt Roy A. Cook Jr	33320900
Sgt Frank C. Darling	32192159	Sgt Fernin H. Galloway	19060250
Sgt Irwin Golub	39320062	Sgt John H. Green	39556736
Sgt Robert G. Hoffman	16119003	Sgt Albert H. Kaese	32796649
Sgt Raymond J. Lavoie	31061933	Sgt Vincent J. Mastromatteo	15374303
Sgt Robert E. Massier	11035068	Sgt Conrad J. Miller	39030054
Sgt Gustav G. Mitterholzer	35672464	Sgt Robert G. Newland	16150905
Sgt Harry E. Ostrosky	13061803	Sgt David M. Palla	39297507
Sgt R. C. Fool	33223388	Sgt Ralph J. Rozanski	16110149

R E S T R I C T E D

SO 12, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 3 Feb 45,
 Par 2 Cont'd.

Sgt Theodore D. Ruggiero	32781699	Sgt Dux H. Schneider	14173825
Sgt Milton A. Schwab	35666628	Sgt Samuel J. Valenza	12162350
Sgt Omer E. Vardner	31173291	Sgt John C. Welch Jr	36740002
Sgt James E. Welsh Jr	11106307	Sgt Carl E. Wooding Jr	35602763
Sgt Gilbert E. Stehlin	35800525	Cpl Cassius B. Barnes	14192023
Cpl Alva J. Goker	14109197	Cpl John Furman	12083258
Cpl Charles A. Hotetz	32729549	Cpl Donald L. Huntley	35631600
Cpl William H. Meyer	32519970	Cpl Richard J. Mosser	15354766
Cpl Charles D. Muhly Jr	33748758	Cpl Walter S. Plummer Jr	31130115
Cpl Charles W. Race	33745928	Cpl Leslie G. Rutledge	32765854
Cpl Michael Strong	32474153	Cpl Chester E. Urie	36199366
Pfc William G. Baker	33564923	Pfc Alejandro A. Cortez	39546833
Pfc Edmund L. DeForge	31291898	Pfc Carmine De Rita	31328670
Pfc John Furbonis	32588005	Pfc David J. Goldstein	33592756
Pfc Wallace G. Nelson	31176970	Pfc Angel H. Crawford	38327492
Pvt John M. Henry	36649137		

3. Under the provisions of Par 1 2 (4) (c), AR 345-415, as amended, Capt ERNEST R. PENNINGTON, O1638240, AC, is appointed Investigating Officer to investigate and report upon all the circumstances connected with the incurrence of injuries of 2d Lt Jack E. Mass, O830043, AC, o/a 3 Feb 1945, and to determine whether injuries were incurred in line of duty or as a result of his own misconduct. Complete report of investigation on WD AGO Form 51 will be submitted in quintuplicate.

4. Under the provisions of AR 600-68, the following named EM, 396th Ftr Sq, having completed the required amount of serv in the Army of the United States and having demonstrated fidelity through faithful and exact performances of duty, efficiency through capacity to produce desired results, and whose behavior has been such as to deserve emulation, are awarded Good Conduct Medals for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity:

T/Sgt Joseph O. Emmer	34150163	S/Sgt Arnold R. Bumpers	34473653
S/Sgt Luigi Caputo	32058755	S/Sgt Frank J. Dallara	32500885
S/Sgt Dennis W. Dolvin	35265891	S/Sgt Tod Goldman	38445508
S/Sgt John P. Kochler	13008050	S/Sgt Charles E. Metzler	32474098
S/Sgt Vincent J. Olesby	34055042	S/Sgt Lewis H. Ripple	34117719
S/Sgt Allan J. Robinson	35738889	S/Sgt Joseph F. Salvo Jr	31076891
S/Sgt Elmo R. Schmid	37456172	S/Sgt Thomas J. Sikorski	32691824
S/Sgt Robert M. Wade Jr	14061228	Sgt Henry R. Pettin	36232792
Sgt Charles L. Brimmer	36401599	Sgt Willis Cornett	6943866
Sgt Robert J. Duffy	12187068	Sgt Robert T. Dunn	31202149
Sgt Everett L. Easterly	16162304	Sgt Frederick W. Edwards	35514082
Sgt William D. Gherardi	32695316	Sgt William C. Hunter	31105652
Sgt Ward W. Kennedy	17050758	Sgt Andrew Mollichella	31159114
Sgt Richard H. Pottberg	12157803	Sgt Edward A. Velpel	36434636
Sgt Francis M. Wrenn	11093889	Sgt Fred C. Seibert	15070414
Cpl Raymond Y. Allen	13123512	Cpl Charles F. Banks	12173539
Cpl Lloyd L. Baughman	17105704	Cpl Ross H. Bedford	39557569

R E S T R I C T E D

SO 12, Hq 360th Ptr Gp, 3 Feb 1945,
 par 4 cont'd.

Cpl Frank P. Bruggor	33357251	Cpl Jerome M. Chojnacki	36555484
Cpl Sam Curcio	32309031	Cpl Charlie J. Dameron	15033305
Cpl Russell K. Dennis	32319861	Cpl Russell C. Froeze	17152390
Cpl Edward G. Frita	35051205	Cpl John G. Gradert	17112403
Cpl Thomas T. Griffin	32632968	Cpl Paul J. Hastings	11114564
Cpl Arthur A. Jaine	39745722	Cpl Joseph C. Lawrence	35540011
Cpl Edward Mazzeo	33590829	Cpl Garretton J. McGarter	31310179
Cpl Wayford E. McGaha	30123034	Cpl Jerome J. Meyers	12183568
Cpl Joseph J. Povernik	32715309	Cpl John C. Toppfer	33332740
Cpl Jerome Beitlin	31170087	Cpl Louis Zrinski	32467214
Pfc William T. Bartley	34070077	Pfc Cyril E. Brown	15341193
Pfc Paul Dulaney	32715305	Pfc Walter F. Fletcher	35694913
Pvt Aaron Jaffee	33170009	Pvt Alvin E. Mashburn	34732068
Pfc Jack W. Walters	34240009	(Atch'd fr Hq 360th Ptr Gp)	

5. Under the provisions of AR 600-60, the following named E1, Hq 360th Ptr Gp, having completed the required amount of serv in the Army of the United States and having demonstrated fidelity through faithful and exact performances of duty, efficiency through capacity to produce desired results, and whose behavior has been such as to deserve emulation, are awarded Good Conduct Medals for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity:

T/Sgt Donald A. Pacha	37444227	S/Sgt Gerald E. Trudel	31125933
Sgt Henry S. Karnateski	13075098	Sgt Lawrence J. Lange	30733170
Sgt Carl E. Newsome	34536135	Cpl Robert J. Baker	33296057
Cpl Leo D. Bryant Jr	30240427	Cpl Cyril F. Ray	35085204
Cpl Charles K. Hicks	10142276	Cpl Edward E. Vince	35417259
Pfc Wilbert R. Ahonen	14102300	Pfc Erasmo Garza	30230265
Pfc Donald L. Norling	33757225	Pfc Herbert J. Marcelo	14071072
Pfc Henry L. Stark	37329174	Pvt Florian Glischinski	36027273
Pvt George A. Capicelo	32909663	(Atch'd fr Hq 360th Ptr Gp)	

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in let ind, Hq US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 1944, to Ltr, Hq European FC, USA, File 300.4 MEI, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col HARRIS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES
IN EUROPE
Office of the Commanding General

11 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. 97)

AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

* * * * *

CARLOS M. TALBOTT, O-25797, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy, 11 September 1944. On this date, while furnishing direct support for ground units advancing towards the German border, his squadron was attacked by a large fighter formation. Supported by only one other airplane, Captain Talbott attacked a second enemy fighter formation which was attempting to reinforce the main fighter attack. Then, after his wingman was forced to abandon his position under heavy fire, he continued single-handedly to engage the enemy, nullifying their attack upon his squadron and destroying two of them before his own plane caught fire and had to be abandoned. The outstanding heroism, perseverance, and skill displayed by Captain Talbott on this occasion reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Illinois.

* * * * *

By command of Lieutenant General SPAATZ:

E. F. CURTIS,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Harris F. Scherer,
HARRIS F. SCHERER,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, US Army
10 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER289)

SECTION I: AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

* * * * *

PAUL P. DOUGLAS, JR., O-432187, Lieutenant Colonel, AC, 368th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action, 6 October 1944, Lt Col DOUGLAS demonstrated outstanding leadership on a group attack on a large number of hostile planes camouflaged in a field near Cologne, Germany. Despite intense, accurate anti-aircraft fire he skilfully directed his men to the attack, and, although his own aircraft sustained serious battle damage he accounted personally for the destruction of six of the grounded aircraft. Lt Col DOUGLAS'S calm judgment and spirited leadership on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Arkansas.

CLIFFORD L. GAMBLE, O-576776, Captain, AC, 368th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action. Capt GAMBLE led the 395th Fighter Group on an armed reconnaissance mission over enemy positions in Holland on 15 September 1944. With steadfast courage and unswerving aerial skill he led his men down through extremely intense fire from a large number of artillery installations to attack ten hostile tanks, and, although anti-aircraft shells tore off the canopy and one wing tip he valiantly continued the attack, accounting personally for the destruction of three tanks. Capt GAMBLE'S outstanding courage and leadership reflect a devotion to duty exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Indiana.

* * * * *

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

W W MILLAND
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ C. M. Seebach
C. M. SEEBACH
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFC 141, U. S. Army
5 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 13)

1. The following named officers are placed on TDY for a period of approx one (1) day, WP fr this sta o/a 12 Feb 1945 to 13 Feb 1945 for the purpose of attending conference on Airfield Defense. Upon completion of this TDY, officers will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDY by MT. 6C-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VCCG XIX TAC.

Capt CARLOS M. WALPOLE 055787 AC
1st Lt MARVIN S. WARD 0942713 AC

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 21, HQ XIX TAC, dtd 23 Jan 45, Pvt (932) Marvin K. Rowell, 3209414 is further asgd 395th Fighter Squadron.

3. 1st Lt JOHN F. REGAN, 0569087, AC, is placed on TDY for a period of one (1) day, WP fr this sta o/a 12 Feb 1945 to HQ XIX TAC (R) reporting prior to 1000 hours for the purpose of attending an Information - Education Conference. Upon comp of this TDY, C will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDY by MT. 6C-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWA XIX TAC (R) 15.

4. Capt MAURICE D. POWELL, 0650448, AC, is relieved as Gp War Bond officer and Gp Insurance officer.

5. 1st Lt OSWALD DORLA, 0164039, AC, is relieved as 1st Gp War Bond officer.

6. Under the provisions of Ltr HQ Ninth Air Force, Subj: "Soldiers' Savings Program," file 123, dtd 27 Jan 1945, 1st Lt OSWALD DORLA, 0164039, AC, is aptd Gp Savings Officer (AD).

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, HQ U S Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 1944, to Ltr, HQ European TO, USA, file 300.4 NEM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col LEBEGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFO 141, U. S. Army
9 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 14)

1. Capt WAYNE H. DRISCOLL, 0745923, AC, is placed on TDY for a period of approximately seven (7) days, WF fr this sta o/a 9 Feb 1945 to A-42 thence to Paris, France, reporting upon arrival thereat to Col George W. Toddard, 122 Champs Elysses, for the purpose of having camera installed in P-47 type aircraft. Upon completion of this TDY, C will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG XIX TAC.

2. The following named officers are placed on TDY for an indefinite period WF fr this sta o/a 9 Feb 1945 to Burtonwood, UK, for the purpose of picking up P-47 type aircraft. Upon completion of this TDY, O's will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG XIX TAC.

- Capt CHARLES J. KENNEDY 0305635 AC
- 1st Lt DALE L. JEWKES 0317957 AC
- 1st Lt GEORGE W. PETRIE 0663355 AC
- 2d Lt WILLIAM T. WRIGHT 0770073 AC

3. Florence L. Reed, ARC Club Director, is placed on TDY for an indefinite period, WF fr this sta o/a 9 Feb 1945 to Paris, France, reporting on arrival to Mr Don Wynne, American Red Cross Field Supervisor, on matters pertaining to the American Red Cross. Upon completion of this TDY, Miss Reed will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. AUTH: VOOG 9AF.

4. Sgt (677) Yates M. Hampton, 34036414, 1293rd M P Co (Avn), is placed on TDY for a period of two (2) days, WF fr this sta o/a 10 Feb 1945 to Ninth Air Force Continental Stockade, APO 696, for the purpose of delivering Pvt Edward J. McQueary, 29th MP Sq, for confinement thereat. Upon completion of this TDY, Guard will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MT. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

5. Having been asgd this orgn per par 2, SO 37, HQ 134th Refl Bn (AS) dtd 6 Feb 1945, the following named officers are further asgd to S4 as indicated.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----|------------------------|
| 1st Lt (1055) WHITNEY W. BRAYTON | 0793036 | AC | 397th Fighter Squadron |
| 2d Lt (1055) JAMES W. CHANCELLOR | 0322129 | AC | 397th Fighter Squadron |
| 2d Lt (1055) MARION L. DEFUY | 0317902 | AC | 397th Fighter Squadron |
| 2d Lt (1055) RICHARD G. ELLIOTT | 0324443 | AC | 397th Fighter Squadron |
| 2d Lt (1055) ROBERT D. ANDRUS | 02063773 | AC | 395th Fighter Squadron |
| 2d Lt (1055) WILLIS H. DUFF | 0331391 | AC | 395th Fighter Squadron |

R E S T R I C T E D

9

TOP SECRET

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SO J4, Hq 363th Ftr Grp, 9 Feb 1945, cont'd.

6. The following named O & E are placed on TDY for a period of two (2) days, effective from this date 12 Feb 1945 to Hq XIX TAC (ADV) reporting to the Signal Officer prior to 1400 hours, 13 Feb 1945 for the purpose of attending communications meeting. Upon completion of this TDY, they will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MF. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWX XIX TAC (ADV) 31070J.

Capt RUSSELL H. MARKS	0578511	AC	
1st Lt RALPH C. HUEBERT	0860045	AC	
M/Sgt (542) Thomas G. Smith	15056991		Hq 363th Fighter Group
M/Sgt (542) Edward A. Long	35453637		395th Fighter Squadron

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, Hq US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 1944, to Ltr, Hq European FC, USA, file 300-4 MEM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col WER350:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

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THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

16 February 1945

Dear Sam:

Here's the newest picture of that Bullay Bridge you were interested in for some time.

Any time you find some little job that's too tough for your mediums, just call on us for a few of our P-47 heavy bombers.

Insultingly Yours,

O. P. WEYLAND,
Major General, USA.

Major General S. E. Anderson,
Ninth Bombardment Division,
APO 140, U.S. Army.

Col Perego:

For your information -- I attached a photo of this bridge taken after the 368th Gp had dropped a span in the water by excellent bombing. Photo was marked "Bullay Bridge"Span destroyed by 368 FG".

I indulged myself in this small insult because the mediums tried for a month to get the bridge. (as a matter of fact they did damage it).

O. P. W.

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

NINTH AF 2ND PHASE INTERPRETATION REPORT US10/D 717

14 Feb 45

(A) LOCALITY: BILLY HALL & ROAD BRIDGE

(B) REFERENCE: (GSA 4416/71 - 1/555615)

(C) DATE: 18/4151 - 5031-25

SCALE: 7,000

(D) DATE: Feb 26, 1945

F.I. 6"

ANTICIPATED PRINT: 5000

(E) SUMMARY: This report covers coverage from 14104 hours on 1.2.45 to

(F) NOTES: The target is covered by prints of good quality which are partially obscured.

(G) DETAILS: The second span from the west bank of the river has collapsed into the

river blocking the rail and road traffic via this bridge.

(H) ADDITIONAL: Aerial coverage of 12.45 shows two wagons on the through line to

the east and this coverage shows their positions unchanged indicating that this

is the target in area. Is active.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
12 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 15)

1. The VO60 368th Ftr Gp of 11 Dec 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record; "under the provisions of Par 4, AAF Regulation 35-16, dtd 20 Oct 1944, 2d Lt Jack F. Biagini, O315641, AC, is suspended from flying status."

2. The following named officers are placed on TDY for an indefinite period, WP fr this sta o/a 13 Feb 1945 to Burtonwood, UK, for the purpose of picking up P-47 type aircraft. Upon completion of this TDY, O's will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VO63 XIX TAC.

1st Lt WALTER R. JOHNSON	0314696 AC
1st Lt GEORGE P. GILMAN	0697055 AC
1st Lt ROBERT D. SHARP	0770438 AC
2d Lt ALBERT A. SCHNEEDLER	0702345 AC

3. Capt WILLIAM E. QUINLAN, 0566474, AC, is placed on TDY for a period of two (2) days, WP fr this sta o/a 13 Feb 1945 to Hq 362nd Ftr Gp, reporting thereat prior to 1000 hours, 13 Feb 1945, for the purpose of attending a Special Services conference. Upon completion of this TDY, O will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWX XIX TAC (R) F-30-X.

4. Par 1, SO 15, this Hq, cs, pertaining to suspension of flying status on 2d Lt Jack F. Biagini, O315641, AC, is rescinded.

5. The VO60 368th Ftr Gp of 16 Dec 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record; "under the provisions of Par 4, AAF Regulation 35-16, dtd 20 Oct 1944, 2d Lt Jack F. Biagini, O315641, AC, is suspended from flying status."

6. 1st Lt DAVID W. WENNER, 0505761, AC, 382nd Air Service Sq, is placed on TDY for a period of approximately seven (7) days, WP fr this sta o/a 14 Feb 1945 to Aldernaston, UK, for the purpose of picking up pilots rations. Upon comp of this TDY, O will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acft, or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VO63 XIX TAC.

7. The VO60 368th Ftr Gp of 1 Aug 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record; "1st Lt WILLIAM S. BLAGEN, O364503, AC, is aptd gp counter intelligence officer, (AD)."

- 1 -
R E S T R I C T E D

SO 15, Hq 368th Ftr. Gp, 12 Feb 1945, cont'd.

8. Under the provisions of Ltr HQ XII TAC, subj: "Alleged violations of the Geneva Convention," dtd 3 Feb 1945, Capt MAURICE D. POWELL, 0650448, AC, is aptd Gp Court of Inquiry Officer, (AD).

9. 1st Lt MARVIN E. WARD, 0869713, AC, is aptd Gp Photo Officer, (AD), vice Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN, 0567236, AC, reld.

10. Under the provisions of AR 600-68, the following named EM, 397th Ftr Sq, having completed the required amount of serv in the Army of the United States and having demonstrated fidelity through faithful and exact performances of duty, efficiency through capacity to produce desired results, and whose behavior has been such as to deserve emulation, are awarded Good Conduct Medals for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity:

S/Sgt James N. McKenzie	14151950	Cpl Irvin E. Beiner	33565630
S/Sgt Vernon D. Saunders	39185553	Cpl Bernard Bronheim	12159187
Sgt Merlin J. Diekvoss	36817894	Cpl Charles De Gill	15017335
Sgt Raymond C. Hofknecht	32073263	Cpl August J. Monkens	31295500
Sgt William D. Murray	32549000	Pfc Joseph D. Maria	33631067
Sgt George W. Savage	11131241	Pfc William T. McCoy	34768122
Cpl Charles W. Bardsley	39206631	Pfc Michael Signe	31311230
		Pfc Daniel E. White	39411062

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, HQ US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 1944, to Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 3004 MFM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col FEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
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
16 february 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 16)

1. Pfc (566) Lamont H. Rutan, 19030132, HQ 368th Ftr GP, is placed on TDY for a period of approximately three (3) days, WP fr this sta o/a 16 Feb 1945 to HQ Ninth Air Force, APO 696, for the purpose of returning football equipment. Upon comp of this TDY, EM will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MF, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr 9AF, Subj: "return of football Equipment," file 418, dtd 11 Jan 1945.

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 20, SO 41, HQ 134th Repl Bn (AAF), dtd 10 Feb 1945, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated:

2d Lt (1055) PHILLIP M. HOLSTINE	0031432	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) DONALD F. KLUMPP	0030400	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) THOMAS F. LAYDEN	0034257	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) GEORGE A. LONG JR	0031445	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) DUNCAN A. JOHNSTON	0716150	AC	397th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) CHARLES E. KNOOIRUIZEN	0032030	AC	397th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) JACK D. LAUBAUGH	0034256	AC	397th Fighter Squadron

3. Sgt (239) Jack W. Wilhite, 20443592, 396th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY for a period of approximately seven (7) days, WP fr this sta o/a 20 Feb 1945 to 932nd Signal Bn, Co A, reporting thereat prior to 1500 hours, 21 Feb 1945, for the purpose of attending a teletype school. cot, blankets, mess kit and gas mask will be taken. Upon comp of this TDY, EM will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MF, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VCCG 100th Ftr Wg.

(travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, HQ U S Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 1944, to Ltr, HQ European TO, USA, file 300.4 MFM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col FERREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFO 141, U. S. Army
19 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 17)

1. 2d Lt WILLIAM G. DIXON, 0706367, AC, is placed on TDY for a period of approximately five (5) days, WP fr this sta o/a 19 Feb 1945 to Bovington, UK, for the purpose of making installations on P-47 type aircraft. Upon comp of this TDY, O will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by mil acct. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VCGG XIX TAC.

2. The following named O and EM are placed on TDY for a period of approx three (3) days, WP fr this sta o/a 20 Feb 1945 to Exposition Bldg, Brussels, Belgium, for the purpose of picking up rations. Upon comp of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDN by MF. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VCGG XIX TAC.

1st Lt JOHN F. HEGAN 0569037 AC
Sgt (345) Edward W. Nieman 16037001 Hq 368th Ftr GP
Pfc (590) Michael Signe 31311230 397th Ftr Sq

3. Cpl (345) Raymond Turner, 35494386, 397th Fighter Squadron, is placed on TDY for a period of approx two (2) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 20 Feb 1945 to Ninth AF continental Stockade, AFO 696, for the purpose of picking up Pvt Robert B. Dunlap, 13009110, and returning him to the commanding officer, 397th Fighter Sq. TDN by MF. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VCGG XIX TAC.

4. Having been asgd this orgn per par 2, SO 43, Hq XIX TAC, dtd 16 Feb 1945, S/Sgt (756) Thomas I. Barton, 12037418, is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq.

5. Under the provisions of Sec II, Ninth Air Force Memo 65-25, 26 Jan 45, 1st Lt WILLIAM T. CONDER, 03000000, AC, is aptd GP Rubber Coordinator, with M/Sgt William A. Wallace, 14097900, Hq 368th Ftr GP, as Asst GP Rubber Coordinator.

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, Hq. US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 44, to Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MFM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt col FEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
360TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. ARMY
22 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 18)

1. 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 |
| Major LEONARD L. KREMEN | 01578724 | QMC |
| Capt STANLEY C. JOHNSON JR | 0563430 | AC |
| Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN | 0567236 | AC |
| Capt WILLIAM J. VALLAZZA | 01550079 | ORD |
| Capt NEWTON I. STEERS JR | 0365646 | AC |
| 1st Lt SAMUEL R. SCHOFIELD | 0582942 | AC |
| | | |
| Capt MAURICE D. POWELL | 0650448 | AC (Trial Judge Advocate) |
| 1st Lt SAMUEL KUSHNER | 0356309 | AC (Defense Counsel) |

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 4, SO 45, Hq XIX TAC, dtd 18 Feb 1945, the following-named EM are further asgd 397th ptr Sq:

- Pfc (901) Emile Martinez 34155394
- Pvt (911) Albert K. Barker 17060168
- Pvt (747) Rudy J. Kavanaugh 13118824

3. Par 1, SO 17, this Hq, cs, pertaining to 2d Lt WILLIAM G. DIXON, 0706367, AC, is revoked.

4. Under the provisions of Ltr, Hq Ninth Air Force, subj: "Ninth Air Force Safety Program," file 710, dtd 13 Feb 1945, 1st Lt JOHN F. HEGAN, 0569837, AC, is aptd Gp Safety officer, with S/Sgt Herbert W. Levesque, 31031218, Hq 360th ptr Gp, as Assistant.

5. Par 6, SO 140, this Hq, dtd 21 Nov 1944, pertaining to Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN, 0567236, AC, is revoked.

6. Under the provisions of Sec II, Ninth Air Force Memo 125-3, dtd 12 Feb 1945, Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN, 0567236, AC, is aptd Gp Graves Registration and Personal Effects officer. (AD).

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SO 18, HQ 368th Ftr. Grp, 22 Feb 45, Cont'd.

7. 1st Lt HAROLD W. CRUICKSHANK, 0567799, AC, is detailed to conduct the monthly inventory of the group Post Exchange on 23 Feb 1945.

8. Under the provisions of Par 3a, AR 35-320, 17 June 43, the fol named officers are aptd class "A" Agent Fin Officers, for orgn indicated, to Major JOHN P. VOLIVA, 0311398, FD, Accountable Disbursing Off, 84th Service Group, for the pmt of officers and EM P/R for the month of February 1945.

1st Lt EDGAR G. TCHIRKOW	01544056	MAC	Hq 368th Fighter Group
1st Lt SAMUEL R. SCHOFIELD	0582942	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt AUSTIN H. CARR JR	0582669	AC	396th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL	0363973	AC	397th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt WILLIAM R. RAMSAY	0374008	AC	21st Weather Sq Det "R"
1st Lt WILLIAM R. RAMSAY	0374008	AC	40th Mobile Com Sq Det "R"
1st Lt LEO N. CULKIN	01595448	CMF	1293rd M F Co (Avn) Less Det "A"
1st Lt HIRAM D. BLACK	01553233	ORD	45th Ord Bomb Disposal Sq
1st Lt ROBERT L. STARBUCK	01103342	CE	2137th Engr (Avn) T/F Platoon
Capt WALTER J. DINESEN	01635732	SC	Hq & Hq Sq, 84th Serv Gr Det "B"
1st Lt JAMES W. WOODS	01636349	SC	1074th Signal Co Det "A"
1st Lt JOHN S. DRISCOLL	01593547	QMC	382nd Air Service Squadron
1st Lt GRADY L. MCMURTRY	01574983	ORD	1814th Ord S&M Co (Avn)
1st Lt PAUL M. BORGES	01581039	QMC	1221st QM Co Det "A"
1st Lt DALLIS D. ALSUP	01577050	QMC	2499th QM Trk Co Avn Det "A"
1st Lt GEORGE L. TIMBERLAKE	0360770	AC	29th MF&R Sq Det "A"
Capt RAYMOND G. MERCREADY	01036296	CWS	359th Cml Co AO & Det "A"

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, Hq, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 44, to Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MFM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col FERREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

HUGH L. RICE,
 Major, Air Corps,
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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFO 141, U. S. ARMY
23 February 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 19)

1. The following named officers are granted seven (7) days leave, WF fr this sta o/a 24 Feb 1945 to Nice, France. Upon arriving at Nice strip, O's will report to United States Riviera Recreational Area Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, France, whereat they will report to Commanding Officer, United States Riviera Recreational Area, Martinez Hotel. Upon comp of this leave, O's will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acct or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr. Hq EPOUSA, file AG 354.1 OPGA, Subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," dtd 8 Jan 1945.

Capt JAMES W. EARLY	0745326	AC (In charge)
1st Lt WALTER R. JOHNSON	0814696	AC
1st Lt WILLIAM J. WAYLAND JR	0818470	AC
1st Lt JOHN M. LOEB	0681604	AC
1st Lt FRANK S. KERCHNER	0805697	AC
1st Lt GEORGE L. BAUER	0704660	AC
2d Lt RICHARD C. COX	0702770	AC
2d Lt MILTON A. WEINSTEIN	0818498	AC

2. Capt FRANKLIN A. DICK, 0565197, AC, is placed on TDY for a period of approx nine (9) days, WF fr this sta to cite universitaire, 9 Boulevard Jourdan, Paris, Fr, o/a 24 Feb 1945, reporting to the registrar thereat prior to 1500 hours, 25 Feb 1945, for the purpose of attending Information-Education Staff School. Upon comp of this TDY, O will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MP, mil acct or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWX XIX TAC (R) F-299.

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 1st Ind, Hq, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 2 Dec 44, to Ltr, Hq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MEM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col FERREGO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
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