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Headquarters 368th Fighter Group
Station No. 40A
A.P.O. No, 595

368TH. FIGHTER GROUP HISTORICAL REPORT MONTH ENDING 31st. MARCH 1944

Information contained herein, is written in compliance with Ninth Fighter Command Memorandum Number 20-4 Dated 22nd. December 1943. It is a resume of the activities of the 368th. Fighter Group, from 1st. March through the 31st. of March, 1944.

1. ORGANIZATION.

Following is a summary of changes in T/O authorization for the Group Headquarters personnel as per T/O 1-12, dated 29th. December 1943:
MOS ADDITIONS --OFFICERS

Radar Officer, Air	0141	2nd Lt David Goldkhof
Personal Equipment Officer	1042	1st Lt Ernest Pendleton
Fighter Pilot (SE)	1055	Major Frank S. Perego
Mess Supply & Trans Officer	4113	1st Lt Robert G. Bergman
Aircraft Engineering Officer	4823	W/O Albert Silvers
Aerial Photo Interpreters	8503	1st Lt David F. Reinthal
	8503	Captain Donald D. Webster
Security Officer, Crypt Officer	9610	1st Lt Richard S. Hibbets
Tactical Inspector	2166	Captain John Baer
Operations Officer, Air Force	2161	Captain Richard Leary
Medical Supply Officer	4490	(short)
Armament & Chemical Officer	4822	(short)
Tech Supply Officer, AAF	4902	(short)
Statistical Control Officers	6402	1st Lt Maurice D. Powell
	6402	1st Lt Joseph B. Brumfield, Jr.
Tech Inspector, AAF	7536	(short)

MOS DELETIONS -- OFFICERS

Communications Officer, General	0200	1st Lt Richard Hibbets
Public Relations Officer	5401	Captain Donald D. Webster
Intelligence Staff, S-2	9301	1st David F. Reinthal
Supply Officer, General, S-4	4000	Major Lemuel R. Gorrell
Supply & Evacuation Staff Officer S-4	4010	1st Lt Robert G. Bergman
Tech Inspector, AAF	7536	W/O Albert Silvers
Statistical Control Officers	6400	1st Lt Maurice D. Powell
	6400	1st Lt Joseph B. Brumfield, Jr.
Operations & Training Staff Officers	2162	Major Frank Perego
	2162	Captain John Baer
	2162	Captain Henry Mazur
	2162	Captain Richard Leary

CHANGES OF ASSIGNMENTS OF OFFICERS:

Administrative Officer .

2120 Major Lemuel R. Gorrell

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ORGANIZATION (CON'T.)

MOS ADDITIONS - ENLISTED MEN

Mail Clerk	056	Sgt	Sidney C. Richards
Cook	060		(cook)
Draftsman	070	S/Sgt	Raymond Nazzaro
Sanitary Technican	196	Pfc	L.L.Kosteller
X-Ray Technician	264	Cpl	D.L.Cramer
Athletic Instructor	283	Pfc.	A.W.Martinez
Auto Equip Operator	345	Pvt	George H. Lans
Automotive Equip Oper	345	Cpl	Joe Zolin
Clerk Typist	405	Epl	F. P. Wellman
	405	Cpl	J. Pcsolyar
	405	S/Sgt	S. Kowynia
	405	S/Sgt	Leo Karp
	405	Sgt	Chas. Stevens
	405	Cpl	E. E. Vince
	405	Pvt	W. Weill
	405	Sgt	McManigal
	405	Cpl	G. Cowie
	405	Pfc	J.W. Walters
Administrative NCO	502	Sgt	Lewis E. Davis
Medical Technicians	409	Cpl	H. M. Krueger
	409	Pfc	F. B. Freyburger
	409	Cpl	J.H. Cardman
Ammunition NCO	505		(short)
Basic	521		(short)
	521	Pfc	John Burbouis
	521	Pfc	C.H. Weiland
Intelligence NCO	631	T/Sgt	Clarence D. Reese
Armament Chief	663	T/Sgt	S.D. Fox
Message Center Clerk	667	Sgt	Chas. H. Plante
Medical NCO	673	T/Sgt	Edward Mullen, Jr.
Airplane Line Chief	752	M/Sgt	William T. Conder
Crypt Code Compiler	807	Cpl	C.E. Newsome
	807		(short)
Flight Surgeons Asst	857	Cpl	I.S. Hutchins
Pharmacy Technician	859	Pfc	J.P. Ciardella
Surgical Technician	861	Sgt	F.J. Wencel
	861	Pfc	Alvin Castle
	861	Pfc	Edward Wellings
Administrative NCO	502	Sgt	Frank G. Michalak

MOS DELETIONS - ENLISTED MEN

Automotive Equip Mech	014	Cpl	Joe Zolin
Teletype Operator	237	Sgt	Warren Walters
Teletype Mechanic	239		
Administrative NCO	502	T/Sgt	Edward Mullen, Jr.
	502	Sgt	Sidney Richards
	502	Cpl	F.P. Wellman
	502	Cpl	Joseph Pcsolyar
	502	T/Sgt	Clarence Reese
	502	Sgt	Raymond Nazzaro
	502	Sgt	Chas. A. Stevens

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ORGANIZATION - ENLISTED MEN (CON'T.)

Administrative NCO	502	Cpl	E.E. Vince
	502	Sgt	Chas. Plante
	502	Sgt	John McManigal
Airplane Crew Chief	750	M/Sgt	William T. Conder
Personnel NCO	816	S/Sgt	S.F. Kowynia
Supply NCO	821	Sgt	Lewis E. Davis
Automotive Equip Oper	345	Pfc	A.W. Martinez
Tech Supply NCO	826	Sgt	Frank G. Michalak
Surgical Technician	861	Cpl	I.S. Hutchins
Clerk Typist	405	Cpl	C.E. Newsome

2. STRENGTH AS OF 31st, MARCH 1944.

Figures shown below are total strength for Group Headquarters and the Squadrons:

<u>Assigned personnel</u>		<u>Authorized personnel</u>	
Officers -----	141	Officers -----	181
Enlisted Men ----	801	Enlisted Men ----	826
TOTAL	942	TOTAL	1007

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

The first station change for this Group since arrival in the ETO took place on March 14th. when an advance echelon of Officers and Enlisted Men moved out of Station 486, Greenham Common, Berks, to our present location at Station 404, Chilbolten, Hants. By the evening of March 15th all members of our organization had left Greenham Common. During this station change, the Group was fully operational, - having flown our first combat mission on the 14th from Greenham Common, and being fully prepared to carry out another mission on the 15th. from Chilbolten.

4. LOSSES IN ACTION:

Negative

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Negative

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March 1

Movies: Opening night for movies at the Aero Red Cross Club Room. Innaugurates new policy at this Post. Formerly pictures were shown at one of the Mess Halls on a rather indefinite schedule covering two or three nights a week. We now have a full schedule covering six nights each week - alternating every other night at the Mess Hall location. The reception to the change, judging from the "full house" attendance on opening night, was very encouraging. It is quite doubtful, however, if our new quarters will accomodate all personnel wishing to attend. Show: "The Lady had Plans" - starring Paulette Goddard.

March 2

Lt. Col. Meyers, commanding 368th Fitr. Gp., led formation of six P-47 on practice fighter-bomber attack, in conjunction with 3d Armored Division maneuvers. Pilots briefed at 0800 - covering Field Order #3.

Movie: "The Lady had Plans".

Group Paper: "Thor's Hammer distributed (Supporting Document #13).

March 3

Pvt. E. Garza, Hq. 368th Gp., dy to Abs Sk, 1st Gen'l Hosp, London (ID undetermined). Accident occured while Pvt. Garza was "on pass" in afore-mentioned city.

March 4

395th Fighter Squadron dance at Red Cross Aero Club. Tentative plans are now being formulated for a Group party and dance.

Jack Rice, Associated Press War Correspondent, arrived today at Greenham Commons. Mr. Rice will take series of pictures in Group.

Intelligence Training Report (Supporting Document #3).

Movie: "His Butler's Sister" starring Deanne Durbin (same picture on March 3).

March 5

American Trio (musical), on tour, at Aero Red Cross Club in evening. About 100 personnel attended and good time was had by all.

March 6

Lt. I. F. Regan gave "orientation" talk to enlisted personnel of Gp. Hq. in morning. Subject: Command Force fighter arrangement and Anglo-American relationship.

Special Order #17, Hq. 368th (Supporting Document #1). Good Conduct Medal awarded to following EM in Group Hq: Cpl. Richards, Cpl. Wellman, Pfc Sasse.

Special Order #18, Hq. 368th (Supporting Document)#2). 2nd Lt. Steers placed on temp. dy. for three days for the purpose of instruction on weather and will proceed to Halesworth.

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Movie: "Swanee River" - starring Al Jolson.

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March 6 (con't.)

Aero Club meeting. Representing Group were Special Service Officer, Lt. Regan, and Cpl. Pysolar.

March 7

Lt. Kerchner, 396th Fitr. Sqdn., on "power check" mission made forced "belly landing" near Whitechurch. Pilot suffered head injury. Plane, a P-47, did not burn but was badly damaged.

Movie: "Battle of Russia".

March 8

Lt. Col. Meyers led four plane Fighter Sweep mission over South England per Field Order #72. Briefed at 0730 and mission flown according to schedule.

Dance: For all personnel on Field at Aero Red Cross Club. Schedule calls for one dance each week. Music, generally "GI", from nearby Camps.

Movie: "Three Hearts for Julia" - starring Ann Southern.

March 9

Field Order #75 cancelled.

"Movement of Troops" - Secret. (Supporting Document #4)

Movie: "Three Hearts for Julia".

March 10

Movie: "The Fleet's In" - starring D. Lamour.

March 11

Intelligence Training Report, Hq. 368th. (Supporting Document #6)

Special Orders #21, Hq. 368th. 1st. Lt. Hibbets, 368th Gp., placed on temp dy, will proceed o/a 15 March fr sta 486 to sta 449 for approximately 12 days for the purpose of instruction in code and cipher. Upon completion of this temp dy, he will ret to proper organization. (Supporting Document #5)

Movie: "The Fleet's In".

March 12

Field Order #77-scrubbed.

Movie: "The Fleet's In".

March 13

Nothing to report.

March 14

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March 14

After many months of training, beginning from the day our Pilots first volunteered for flying instruction in the U.S. Army Air Corps, our really big day of all days arrived. We had previously been warned that a Field Order might be forthcoming any day, but after waiting so very long it was hard to realize - when 9th Fighter Command Field Order #78 ordered us into enemy territory - that, finally, the "real thing" had arrived. The order came during the night of the 13th for a sweep of the French coast from Goderville to Fontaine Le Duc. Lt. Col. Meyers took 48 P-47's up from Greenham Common at 0755 and brought all back safely at 0950.

The first time over the Channel and into France was an exciting experience for the boys, and all were keyed to high pitch at the critique following interrogation by the Intelligence Officers. The weather and visibility were poor over the continent, however, and no enemy aircraft or flak was observed - much to the displeasure of the Pilots who had hoped to fire their "guns at the Huns". Mission Number One was over - The 368th Group was now the "Fighting 368th" !

Capt. Baer, Hq. 368th., left DS today for R.A.F. Sta., Catfoss, Yorkshire. (Supporting Document #13-February report)

Eight Officers and twenty three EM formed advance party and departed Sta. 486 by motor convoy at 0800 for Sta. 404 (RAF Field) on permanent change of station. Arrived at #404 at 1000. Journey accomplished without incident. Andover, five miles from camp, (one mile from small village of Chilbolten) is nearest point of debarkation for London and other points of interest. (Supporting Document 4)

March 15

Organization of 13 Officers, 1 W.O., 1 A.R.C. Field Director, 1 Tech. Advisor (attached) and 26 EM, departed Sta. 486 at 1000 for Sta. 404 on permanent change of Sta. Arrived at Sta. 404 at 1130 and joined group that left on previous day. Entire trip made without incident. (Supporting Document #4)

March 16

Amid all the confusion of moving into our new Station Mission No. 2 and, incidentally, our first experience with belly tanks, was ordered by Ninth Air Force F.O. #83. Forty eight P-47's took off at 1130 for a sweep in the Lille-Amiens area. Major Perego did not get off the ground (due to engine trouble) and Col. Meyers aborted shortly after take off as oil was flying. Major John Haesler, CO 397th Sqdn., took over the lead. Some trouble was experienced as a result of several planes being unable to drop their belly tanks. Six aborted for this reason and some of the boys went the whole route with tanks still intact. One 396th boy suffered battle damage on this flight (this being the first recorded for any plane in this Group) - two flak holes thru tail of his plane. Flak was reported as medium and accurate over Dieppe. Weather bad, with visibility over the Continent very limited. All planes down at 1426, with exception of one pilot who made emergency landing on way back-at Manston.

Special Order #23 (Secret) T/Sgt. S.D. Fox, Hq 368th., placed on temp duty for approximately seven days for purpose of attending a course of instruction on Spitfire and Typhoon re-servicing, re-arming, and daily pre-flight inspections and will proceed o/a 19 March to RAF Airfield #124, Wexham, then to 15th Recon Sq sta 449, Middle Wollop. (Supporting Document #7)

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March 16 (con't.)

Movie: "Never a dull moment" - starring Eleanor Powell.

March 17

Major Perego, Group Operations Officer, led his first Group mission today, and came back with a battle damaged plane-a flak hole in the right wing. Ninth Fighter F.O. 87 sent 54 P-47's to France to give cover to Marauders bombing the Marshalling Yards at Creil. Excellent results were observed and, while no e/a would come up, the group ran into AA at Le Trepert and Dieppe with concentration of heavy flak north of Creil. Up from our new base at Chilbolten at 1338 - all down at 1631. Successful rendezvous was made with the Marauders at Dungeness at 1410. This was number three for our Group, and, with good visibility over the continent our boys got their first glimpse of Paris. At the critique, shortly after coming home, the boys were all talking at one time and most of them had already picked out their quarters for their coming visit to the old French Capitol.

Movie: "Never a dull moment".

March 18

Major Perego took another one out today. Ninth Fighter F.O. sent us on a Ramrod to France. Fifty two P-47's up 1426 and down at 1716. Route: N. of Cayeux - Doullen - Bravy - Fruges - N. of Abbeville - and same way home. Again, on this fourth mission for our Group, no enemy fighters would come up. The flak was accurate and heavy N. of Abbeville and in the target area - one plane being slightly damaged with flak hole. The bombers were not seen, though the Group patrolled area until limit of endurance. Briefed at 1315.

Movie: "Never a dull moment".

March 19

Lt. Col. Meyers led a Ramrod mission into France to give area and withdrawal support to Marauders. Fifty three P-47's took off at 1646.- one aborted and fifty two came back at 1900. Weather was clear today and the boys got a very good look at Paris and the Eiffel Tower. They edged Le Bourget Field and were very much tempted to do a little strafing (the Colonel spoke sharply about their even thinking about it, in the critique, later in the evening). Route: Dungeness - Le Tourquet - St.Omer - ~~Dunkirk~~ - ~~Gravelines~~ - Gravelines - South Foreland - and home. Flak was moderate to heavy at St.Omer, Dunkirk and Calais. Pilots saw a B-26 and a B-17 go down at St.Inglevert - about eight chutes opening. Briefed at 1445 - to cover Mission #5 and Field Order #91.

M/Sgt Thieme, Gp. Hq., ret to dy from hosp after two day confinement.

Movie: "Girl Crazy" - starring Mickey Rooney.

March 20

Field Order No. 94, Ninth Fighter, sent us out at 0814 today over France to give support to Marauders after some Noball targets at Creil. The route: Hastings-Tocqueville-Froissy-S. of Campiegne-Nanteuil-Nanteuil-Creil-Froissy-Toquerville-Hastings-and home. Good bombing results were observed. Little

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March 20 (con't.)

flak today and no battle damage. Lt.Col.Meyers led 52 P-47's up at 0814 and down at 1051. Briefed at 0630.

Movie: "Girl Crazy".

March 21

No missions today - released for maintenance and training until daybreak, the 22nd. The boys use most of the day for getting settled in their new surroundings.

Special Orders #24, Hq. 368th. 1st. Lt. Reinthal placed on temp dy for one day for purpose of attending a lecture on acft. recognition and will proceed to sta 586 on 22 March. (Supporting Document No. 9)

Special Orders #24 Extract, Hq. 368th. Sgt Stecklein and Cpl Wellman, Hq. 368th, placed on temp dy for approximately five days for the purpose of attending a course of instructions in becoming familiar with processing battle casualty reports and will proceed to sta 449, 22 March. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will ret to proper orgn and sta.

March 22

The boys flew mission No. 7 today being briefed from Ninth Fighter Command F.O. #97 for a Ramrod flight - taking them in to Schokland, Holland, to support withdrawing "heavies". This mission offered something a little different, in that we had to land for refuelling at Bexted, England, on the way out and Manston, England, coming back. The length of the mission necessitated this, though Major Douglas and three others became separated and came on in without the Manston stop. Briefed at 0930 - T/O at 1030. Route: Bexted, The Hague, Schokland, Egmond, Manston. Forty nine P-47's up and all down at 1651. Flak was heavy and accurate and accurate at The Hague and Rotterdam, but no battle damage today and no fights. Saw one bomber going down and two par-chutes. Leading: Lt. Col. Meyers.

Sgt K. Oliver, Hq. 368th., ret to dy from hosp after two day confinement.

March 23

Mission No. 8 was led today by Lt.Col. Meyers. Another withdrawal escort for the "heavies", taking us to a rendezvous near Nijmegen, Holland. Taking off from Chilbolten, our Group made landfall at Schouwen at 1050 - out at the same place at 1130. Fifty three P-47's and all landed safely back home at 1247. Two of the boys were shot at by friends on the way in, and, again, we could not get the Jerries to come up. Flak was heavy and accurate at Flushing, No battle damage to report.

Special Orders #25, Hq. 368th. Roster change for 368th Group, Headquarters. (Supporting Document No. 11)

Movie: "Claudia".

March 24

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March 24

Ninth Fighter Command F.O. 102 got the Intelligence and Operations gang up at 0330 to work hard and fast preparing a bomber escort mission that would have taken the boys a long way toward Berlin. Briefing was held at 0645 and all were set to go, but the show was scrubbed at 0730. This proved to be an early beginning for a long day as another Field Order, #103, came in by teletype about 1000. Another first for our boys, too, as this one sent the Group over to France to dive bomb the ~~St~~/Bernay St. Martin Airdrome at Bernay. Lt. Col. Meyers took 53 P-47's up from Chilbolten at 1444. Thirty five planes carried 250 lb. G.F. bombs - three spares coming back. Four tons, therefore, were dropped on the target. Sixteen planes of the 395th provided top cover. The mission was very successful as all planes came back and sustained no battle damage. Down time was 1645 to climax Mission No. 9.

Movie: "Claudia".

Intelligence Training Report (Supporting Document No. 12).

March 25

Today, we add to our History the story of our first encounter with the German Air Force. Captain Montag's outstanding record of destroying two enemy aircraft - when fighters interrupted our job of escorting Marauders out of France - rated a front page account in the London newspapers. Our Group combat record for the day: three destroyed, one probably destroyed and five damaged - as against 0-0-2 for the German Air Force. Our boys were briefed at 1200 for a target and close withdrawal support for Marauders, whose target was the Marshalling Yards at Hirson, France. The Marauders missed the target on their first run - made a wide turn around to their initial point for a second run. This resulted in a thorough pasting and destruction of the target. On the way out the Jerries had become stirred to the point of coming up to attack -- And thus begins the encounter record of the 368th. The attached teletype copy of our Operational Summary Report for the day tells the story of mission number 10 for the victorious "fighting 368".

The newly organized Headquarters Baseball Team, under the efficient twirling of Pfc. Martinez, breezed thru their initial hit & run test with the "greatest of ease" - trimming the local Service Team to the tune of 20-9.

T/Sgt Karp, 368th Gp., dy to sk in hosp (ID).

Movie: "Princess O'Rourke".

March 26

Ninth Fighter Field Order #105 cancelled, but #106 took fifty of our planes over Freval, France; thereby, chalking up Mission No. 11 on the credit side and No. 2 in our bombing ledger. As on the previous bombing foray, very good results were obtained. Many hits observed on and near the target - two squadrons dropping four tons while another squadron of P-47's formed top cover protection. No enemy planes observed, but AA fairly accurate and quite intense in the target area. Lt. Col. Meyers led the parade again today-up 1515 and down at 1705. No damage to report on any of our planes.

S/Sgt Mance, Hq. 368th., ret dy today from hosp after four day confinement.

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OIAHU V OICNE NR1 OP
C.G. ADVANCED HQ. IX AIR FORCE
C.G. ADVANCED HQ. IX FIGHTER COMMAND
C.G. IX AIR SUPPORT COMMAND
C.G. VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
C.G. 71ST FIGHTER WING

FROM CO, 368TH FIGHTER GROUP 25/0815A
TO C.G. ADVANCED HQ. IX AIR FORCE
C.G. ADVANCED HQ. IX FIGHTER COMMAND
C.G. IX AIR SUPPORT COMMAND
C.G. VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
C.G. 71ST FIGHTER WING
CONFIDENTIAL

CR-- BT

368FGR 107D OPSUM REPORT (DUPLICATE OF COPIES SENT 25/1935)

A. 368 FIGHTER GROUP LT. COL. MEYERS LEADING
B. RAMROD FO 104
C. 53 P-47 UP 1326 DOWN 1644
D. NIL (5 SPARES RETURNED EARLY)
E. NIL
F. BOMBERS HAD DIRECT HITS ON THE MARSHALLING YARDS. SMOKE AND FIRES OBSERVED.
G. NIL
H. 3 - 0 - 6

2 - ME 109 DESTROYED - CAPT. THOMAS MANTAG - 395 SQ.
1 - ME 109 DESTROYED - CAPT. LEON MYERS - 396 SQ.
2 - ME 109 DAMAGED - BRX MAJ. PAUL DOUGLAS - 396 SQ.
1 - FW 190 DAMAGED - 2ND LT. JAMES GAMBLIN - 396 SQ.
1 - FW 190 DAMAGED - 2ND LT. ALBERT LARSEN JR. - 396 SQ.
1 - FW 190 DAMAGED - 1ST. LT. MEREDITH HENRY - 396 SQ.
1 - ME 109 DAMAGED - CAPT. EUGENE POTTER - 397 SQ.

I. ROUTE - BASE - SOUTH OF LE TOUQUET - ST. QUENTIN - HIRSON - SOUTH OF AMIENS - LE TREPORT - BASE

WEATHER - CHANNEL - HAZE

CONTINENT - 3/10 AT 7000 AT COAST COMING IN
6/10 AT 7000 AT COAST COMING OUT

FLAK - INTENSE HEAVY BRX ACCURATE - SE OF ST. QUENTIN NEAR MARLE AT 1700
INTENSE HEAVY AT DOULLENS AT 1700

WHILE RETURNING

WHILE GOING IN AT ST. QUENTIN AT 1420 AT 17000 FEET THE BOMBERS WERE SEEN TO THE SOUTH AND THEY WERE ESCORTED TO THE TARGET. IN THE TARGET AREA ONE B-26 WAS SEEN TO GO DOWN AND FOUR CHUTES WERE OBSERVED. DIRECT HITS WERE OBSERVED ON THE MARSHALLING YARDS. WHILE ACCOMPANYING BOMBERS OUT, ABOUT 25 FW 190 AND ME 109 WERE SEEN IN THE AREA BETWEEN AMIENS AND OISEMONT AT 1515 AT 12000 FEET. CAPT. MANTAG SAW SOME ME 109'S PEEL OFF AFTER ATTACKING THE BOMBERS AND HE DROVE ON THEM FROM 17000 FEET. HE FIRED ON ONE AT 50 YARDS AND SAW MUCH SMOKE AND MANY PIECES COME FROM THE ENEMY PLANE. FOLLOWING ANOTHER ME 109 HE FIRED AND SAW THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT HIT THE GROUND.

C.G. VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
C.G. 71ST FIGHTER WING

FROM CO, 368TH FIGHTER GROUP 25/0815A
TO C.G. ADVANCED HQ, IX AIR FORCE
C.G. ADVANCED HQ, IX FIGHTER COMMAND
C.G. IX AIR SUPPORT COMMAND
C.G. VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
C.G. 71ST FIGHTER WING
CONFIDENTIAL
GR BT

368FGR 107D OPSUM REPORT (DUPLICATE OF COPIES SENT 25/1935)

A. 368 FIGHTER GROUP LT. COL. MEYERS LEADING
B. RAMROD FO 104
C. 53 P-47 UP 1325 DOWN 1644
D. NIL (5 SPARES RETURNED EARLY)
E. NIL
F. BOMBERS HAD DIRECT HITS ON THE MARSHALLING YARD. SMOKE AND FIRES OBSERVED.
G. NIL
H. 3 - 0 - 6
2 - ME 109 DESTROYED - CAPT. THOMAS MANTAG - 395 SQ.
1 - ME 109 DESTROYED - CAPT. LEON MYERS - 396 SQ.
2 - ME 109 DAMAGED - 1ST MAJ. PAUL DOUGLAS - 396 SQ
1 - FW 190 DAMAGED - 2ND LT. JAMES GAMBLIN - 396 SQ
1 - FW 190 DAMAGED - 2ND LT. ALBERT LARSEN JR. - 396 SQ
1 - FW 190 DAMAGED - 1ST LT. MEREDITH HENRY - 396 SQ
1 - ME 109 DAMAGED - CAPT. EUGENE POTTER - 397 SQ

I. ROUTE - BASE - SOUTH OF LE TOUQUET - ST. QUENTIN - HIRSON - SOUTH OF AMIENS - LE TREPORT - BASE

WEATHER - CHANNEL - HAZE

CONTINENT - 3/10 AT 7000 AT COAST COMING IN
6/10 AT 7000 AT COAST COMING OUT

FLAK - INTENSE HEAVY ACCURATE - SE OF ST. QUENTIN NEAR MARLE AT 1700
INTENSE HEAVY AT DOULLENS AT 1700

WHILE ENROUTE

WHILE GOING IN AT ST. QUENTIN AT 1420 AT 17000 FEET THE BOMBERS WERE SEEN TO THE SOUTH AND THEY WERE ESCORTED TO THE TARGET. IN THE TARGET AREA ONE B-26 WAS SEEN TO GO DOWN AND FOUR CRUTEDSSXXXX CRUTES WERE OBSERVED. DIRECT HITS WERE OBSERVED ON THE MARSHALLING YARD. WHILE ACCOMPANYING BOMBERS OUT, ABOUT 25 FW 190 AND ME 109 WERE SEEN IN THE AREA BETWEEN AMIENS AND OISEMONT AT 1515 AT 12000 FEET. CAPT. MANTAG SAW SOME ME 109'S PEEL OFF AFTER ATTACKING THE BOMBERS AND HE DROVE ON THEM FROM 17000 FEET. HE FIRED ON ONE AT 50 YARDS AND SAW MUCH SMOKE AND MANY PIECES COME FROM THE ENEMY PLANE. FOLLOWING ANOTHER ME 109 HE FIRED ANOTHER AND SAW THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT HIT THE GROUND NEAR BERNAVILLE. ONE ENEMY PLANE CUT IN FRONT OF CAPT. MYERS AND HE SCORED DIRECT HITS IN THE COCKPIT AREA. IN THE COURSE OF THE DOGFIGHT, SIX OTHER ENEMY PLANES WERE HIT. CAPT. POTTER SAW STRIKES AT THE WING ROOTS OF ONE PLANE. THE PLANE HIT BY LT. GAMBLIN WAS SMOKING, WHILE THE HITS ON THE OTHER PLANES WERE IN THE FUSELAGE AND THE WINGS.

DAMAGE TO OUR PLANES - 1 - CATEGORY E - BY 20 MM SHELLS - 396 SQ
1 - CATEGORY AC - BY 20 MM SHELLS - 396 SQ

LANDFALL IN - SOUTH OF LE TOUQUET AT 1410 AT 18000

LANDFALL OUT - LE TREPORT AT 1525 AT 16000

NOTE - IN PARAGRAPH RELATING TO DAMAGE TO OUR PLANES, ONE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO CATEGORY E FROM CATEGORY A AS STATED IN ORIGINAL REPORT.

BT XXXX 26/0815A

CC - DIG AT HDG OF MSG SHD BE 26/0815A

CC - IN PARA. RELATING TO FLAK - CHANGE FIRST LINE TO READ:

"INTENSE HEAVY ACCURATE - SE OF ST. QUENTIN NEAR MARLE AT 1700"
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX RPT "---- 1700"

CC - IN WEATHER PARA. - LAST ITEM IN WEATHER PARA. SHD BE:

"VISIBILITY GOOD"

INSERT INTO WEATHER PARA.

NEW K

ALL R*****1010A HC BBBB

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March 26 (con't.)

S/Sgt Mance, Hq. 368th., ret dy from hosp after four day confinement.

Baseball Game: Hq. EM of the 368th pulled one over on the Officers (Hq.)-9-4.

Movie: "Princess O'Rourke".

March 27

Another new experience for our Group today when we were ordered out on a, so-called, "double barrel" job. Field Order # 108 placed 56 P-47's into Southern France for penetration support for the "8th Heavies". Figure mentioned included two relays and six spares. Up at 1154 and back down at 1445 for refueling and rebriefing-to go up again at 1549 for withdrawal support for the same Task force of bombers - finally settling down for the night at 1805. Six hours of flying time - most of our Pilots making both trips. All came back reporting no opposition and very little flak. Col. Meyers leading. A busy day, also, for the Intelligence Officers. After getting their final reports off about 1930 - thinking they were through for the day - twenty three Liberator crews (230 men), who were forced in at our field, had to be interrogated, fed and billeted for the night. The bomber boys were part of the same bunch our pilots had taken in and brought out. They had done a very excellent job on their target, which was a G.A.F. training base on the France-Spain border.

Movie: "The Show Must Go On".

March 28

Ninth Fighter Command Field Order No. 110 "scrubbed".

March 29

"No hits and no runs" today as both Field Orders No.'s 111 and 112 were cancelled.

March 30

Nothing to report

Movie: "Dixie Dugan".

March 31

Field Order No. 116 cancelled.

FLASH : Major Perego appointed Deputy Commanding Officer
Major Gorrell appointed Gp. Executive Officer
Capt. Leary appointed Gp. Operations Officer

Above covered in Supporting Document No. 14.

Details of change will be embodied in April Historical Report.

After several days of "scrubbed" missions, we finally were permitted to go out again for our number 14 - and this one turned out badly. Went over to do a dive bombing job and, because, of an 8/10ths cloud coverage, the boys could not locate the target. This mission will be classified as "abortive". With Lt. Col. Meyers leading, a flight of 51 P-47's (with 250 G.P. bombs on each wing) took off at 0914. The route : Beachy-Le Treport-about 25 miles south of Abbeville-25 miles north of Abbeville-between Berck and Cayeux-Shoreham-Base. Down time was 1113.

The month of March, 1944, was one never to be forgotten for the men of the 368th Group. It marked the real beginning of the battle for them - and the opportunity to fire their guns at the real enemy.

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MISS NO.	DATE	FO	TYPE AND PLACE	ENEMY			BCMBS
				DESTR	PROB	DAM	
1	3-14	78	Sweep--Fecamp & St. Valery				
2	3-16	83	Sweep--Lille & Amiens				
3	3-17	87	Bomber Escort---Criel				
4	3-18	88	Area Patrol---Bruay & Abbeville				
5	3-19	91	Bomber Escort---St. Omer				
6	3-20	94	Bomber Escort---Criel				
7	3-22	97	Bomber Escort---Hague to Egmond				
8	3-23	99A	Bomber Escort---Nijmegen to Schouwen				
9	3-24	103	Dive Bombing--Bernay-St.Martin Airdrome				4 Tons
10	3-25	104	Bomber Escort--Hirson to Treport	3	1	5	
11	3-26	106	Dive Bombing----Freval				4 Tons
12	3-27	108	Bomber Escort--Laval to Nantes				
13	3-27	108	Bomber Escort--Fougeres to Selsey Bill				
14	3-31	115	Dive Bombing---Nobali Target				

RECORD OF COMBAT MISSIONS FLOWN BY 368th. FIGHTER GROUP

(MARCH 1944)

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INDEX OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

<u>DOC. NO.</u>		<u>ORDER NO.</u>	<u>HEADQUARTERS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
<u>1.</u>	Hq. award of Good Conduct Medals.	17	368th Group	March 1, 1944
<u>2.</u>	Lt. Steers T.D. Weather School	18	368th Group	March 3, 1944
<u>3.</u>	Intelligence Training Report		368th Group	March 4, 1944
<u>4.</u>	Movement of Troops to Station 404		LX ASC	March 9, 1944
<u>5.</u>	Lt. Hibbets T.D. Code School	21	368th Group	March 9, 1944
<u>6.</u>	Intelligence Training Report		368th Group	March 11, 1944
<u>7.</u>	T/Sgt Fox T.D. Maintenance School	23	368th Group	March 16, 1944
<u>8.</u>	Intelligence Training Report		368th Group	March 18, 1944
<u>9.</u>	Lt. Reinthal T.D. Acft. Recog. School	24	368th Group	March 21, 1944
<u>10.</u>	Group Hq. E.M. T.D. Casualty School	24	368th Group	March 21, 1944
<u>11.</u>	Roster Change, Hq. 368th Group	25	368th Group	March 23, 1944
<u>12.</u>	Intelligence Training Report		368th Group	March 25, 1944
<u>13.</u>	Thors Hammer - Group paper		368th Group	March 2, 1944
<u>14.</u>	Promotion of Officers, Hq. 368th Gp.	28	368th Group	March 30, 1944

All above documents are included in March 1944 Historical Report of the 368th Fighter Group. (Headquarters only)

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 638, U. S. Army
1 March 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....17)

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943 and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, Sgt Herbert L. Reid, 6597125, 395th Fitr Sq is rd to the gr of Pvt, for misconduct.

2. The following named Officer and EM, orgns indicated are atchd to the 397th Fitr Sq for rat, qrs, and adm:

DET R 21ST WEATHER SQ

2d Lt ANTHONY (NMI) ERRICO	0865943	AG Det CO
T/Sgt Jack B. Kellam	18057859	
S/Sgt Jacob M. Oppenheim	32214316	
Sgt Donald C. Stewart	16030489	
Sgt George F. Stork	33311147	
Sgt William S. Szymanski	36122001	
Cpl James N. Lesparre	36379108	

DET R 40TH MOBILE COMM DET

T/Sgt Edmund R. Baylor	15017668
Sgt Salvatore J. Vitale	32410080
Sgt Devitt A. Frazier	34611343
Cpl Robert L. Condon	33080600
Cpl Dennis W. Forler	33224770
Cpl James L. Hendrix	19188491
Pvt Evan R. Coe	35327753
Pvt Thomas B. Flanagan	15070545
Pvt George A. Marvin	36806886

3. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 1943, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 395th Fitr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (862) Anthony Ardito 12184175

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (911) Maurice R. Walcott 31018255

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

R E S T R I C T E D

SO No 17, Hq 368th Fitr Gp, 1 March 1944 (Cont'd)

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (747)	Herbert B. Cates	37259420
Sgt (754)	William H. Everett	36535933
Sgt (747)	Chester A. Ghizzone	32464122
Sgt (555)	Clarence H. Harvell	14149505
Sgt (747)	Edward P. Morgan	35353579
Sgt (747)	Raymond W. Smith	15335041
Sgt (747)	Richard C. Stage	32139420

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (747)	Almon E. Norris Jr	19135674
Cpl (747)	Joseph L. Barnard Jr	15329712
Cpl (505)	Ted (NMI) Goldman	36445508
Cpl (911)	Daniel T. McInness	31132773
Cpl (911)	Renato E. Mei	30904661
Cpl (747)	Joseph F. Salvo Jr	31076891
Cpl (652)	Frank J. Wencel	16062034
Cpl (747)	Francis M. Wrenn	11090839

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (405)	Thomas J. Griffin	32632968
Pfc (911)	Arthur A. Jaime	39545722
Pfc (932)	Leon J. Fadgett	34545887

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (620)	Robert A. Shaw	13032513
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5. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 1943, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 397th Fitr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (888)	Martin M. Klein	32506469
Sgt (747)	John H. Larson	36376031
Sgt (759)	Samuel Leisey	33240328
Sgt (747)	L. B. McDaniels	34343459
Sgt (747)	Chester R. Ieers	16126124
Sgt (911)	Brian M. Stiller	36354036
Sgt (747)	Warner H. Sparks	32077154
Sgt (747)	Melvin J. Witherspoon	33284444
Sgt (754)	Salvatore Zingale	32318625

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (747)	Francis J. Cavanaugh	32380844
Cpl (747)	Gordon T. Decker	36262676
Cpl (888)	Clifton E. Moon	37322134

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (238)	Leo Espinosa	39906692
Pfc (555)	Evan W. Flannigan	36644927
Pfc (809)	Pasquale F. Mzza	31242979
Pfc (670)	Charles T. Stener	35797256

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (114)	Ralph E. Hume	15354786
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RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

SO No 17, Hq 368th Fitr Gp, 1 March 1944 (Cont'd)

6. Under the provisions of AR 600-63, the following named 1M, Hq 368th Fitr 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:

S/Sgt (502) Leo (EMI) Karp	12056663
Cpl (502) Sidney C. Richards	31160763
Cpl (502) Ferris P. Wellman	15116864
Pfc (501) Melvin W. Sasso	37145477

By O of Lt Col MEYERS:

HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ADJ

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ADJ

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 638, U. S. Army
3 March 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER.....18)

1. Under the provisions of AF 115-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, Sgt Carl L. Wetzell, 32544951, 396th Fitr Sq, is rd to the gr of Pvt, for misconduct.

2. VOCC IX Air Support Comd the following named E1 orgn indicated are placed on temp dy for approximately twelve (12) days for the purpose of attending RAF Anti-Gas School and will proceed o/a 3 March 1944 fr sta 486 to Rolleston Camp, Salisbury. Upon completion of this temp dy they will ret prop orgn and sta. TDN by MP or rail. Where Govt rat & qrs are not avail ble, reimbursement for actual cost of rat & qrs, not to exceed \$2.00 per man per day for rat, and \$2.00 per man per day for qrs, is atzd in accordance w/Par 8c, Policy No. 30-1, Hq USAAF UK 9 Nov 1943. 91-5 P 432-02 A 212/40425.

Cpl Edward A. Volpel 30434636 396th Fitr Sq
Pfc Pasquale F. Mason 31242979 397th Fitr Sq

3. VOCC IX Air Support Comd the following named officers will proceed o/a 3 March 1944 by mil acft fr sta 486 to sta 150 for the purpose of ferrying airplanes fr sta 150 to sta 436. Upon completion of this temp dy they will ret prop orgn and sta. TDN by mil acft. Where Govt qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs, not to exceed \$4.00 per day per officer and alws of \$1.25 per day per officer to cover excess cost of subs is atzd in accordance w/Par 7, Sec II, Policy No. 30-1, Hq USAAF UK 9 Nov 1943. 91-5 P 432-02 A 212/40425.

Capt JOSEPH (NMI) MARINI	0665399 AC	2nd Lt JAMES H. GAMBLIN	0805607 AC
1st Lt DAVID C. MERRISON	0670912 AC	2nd Lt WILLIAM MCCLACHER	0802299 AC
1st Lt NORMAN E. SCHULTE	0674075 AC	2nd Lt CHARLES J. KENNEDY JR	0805635 AC
2nd Lt HENRY F. MARS	0677934 AC	2nd Lt ALBERT L. LARSEN JR	0677064 AC
2nd Lt ROBERT S. FRCKIN	0679988 AC	2nd Lt JOSEPH L. WILLIAMS	0676855 AC
2nd Lt EDWARD L. DANE	0745312 AC	P/O EDGAR E. MCCRONE	T60560 AC

4. VOCC IX Air Support Comd the following named officers will proceed o/a 4 March 1944 by MP fr sta 486 to Andover for the purpose of ferrying airplanes fr Andover to sta 486. Upon completion of this temp dy they will ret proper orgn and sta. TDN by MP. Where Govt qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs, not to exceed \$4.00 per day per officer and alws of \$1.25 per day per officer to cover excess cost of subs is atzd in accordance w/Par 7, Sec II Policy No 30-1 Hq USAAF UK 9 Nov 1943. 91-5 P 432-02 A 212/40425.

1st Lt CLIFFORD L. GAMBLE	0676776 AC	2nd Lt EUGENE L. KESTING	0805638 AC
2nd Lt PAUL R. JASTER	0745244 AC	2nd Lt NORMAN E. LANCHMID	0805641 AC

- 1 -

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- 2 -

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R E S T R I C T E D

SO No 18, Hq 368th Fitr Gp, 3 March 1944 (Cont'd)

5. VCCG IX Air Support Comd the following named officers will proceed o/a 4 March 1944 by rail acft fr sta 486 to sta 150 for the purpose of ferrying airplanes fr sta 150 to sta 486. Upon completion of this temp dy they will ret prop orgn and sta. TDN by rail acft. Where Govt qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs, not to exceed \$4.00 per day per officer and alws of \$1.25 per day per officer to cover excess cost of subs is atzd in accordance w/Par 7, Sec II, Policy No 30-1 Hq USAAF UK 9 Nov 1943. 91-5 P 432-02 A 212/40425.

1st Lt JAMES W. EARLY	0745326	AC
2nd Lt WILLIAM J. GAGNY	0679856	AC
2nd Lt ALBERT H. KLEINKAUS	0745419	AC

6. 2nd Lt NEWTON I. STEERS JR, 08(5646, AC, is placed on temp dy for approx three (3) days for the purpose of instruction on weather and will proceed o/a 6 March 1944 fr sta 486 to Halesworth. Upon completion of this temp dy he will ret proper orgn and sta. TDN by MP or rail. Where Govt qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs not to exceed \$4.00 per day and alws of \$1.25 per day to cover excess cost of subs is atzd in accordance with Par 7, Sec II; Policy No 30-1, Hq USAAF UK 9 Nov 1943. 91-5 P 432-02 A 212/40425.
Auth: VCCG IX Air Support Comd.

By O of Lt Col MEYERS:

HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ARJ

OFFICER:

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ARJ

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- 2 -

R E S T R I C T E D

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

D-R-3

APO 638, U.S. Army
4 March 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Training Report.

TO : AC of S, A-2, 1X Air Support Command, APO 638, U.S. Army.
Atten: Major Parkman.

1. The following Intelligence Training was given to all Pilots of the 368th Fighter Group, during the week of 27 February to 4 March inclusive.

Aircraft Recognition	3 1/2 Hours
Geography	3 Hours
Miscellaneous (Intelligence Subjects)	1 Hour

For the Group Commander:

(signed)

DAVID F. REINTHAL
1st Lt. Air Corps,
Ass't. Group S-2.

SECRET

SECRET
AUTH: CG, IX ASC
DATE: 9 March 44
APO 638, U S Army
9 March 1944

In reply refer
to 37C.5

- SUBJECT: Movement of Troops.
- TO:
- Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Gp, APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, 395th Fighter Sq, APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, 396th Fighter Sq, APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, 397th Fighter Sq, APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, 1228th MP Co (Less Det "A") APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, Det "R" 21 Weather Sq and 40th Mob Com Sq, APO 638
 - Commanding Officer, 2059th Eng CF Platoon, APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, 73rd Station Comp Sq, APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, 12th Tac Ren Sq, APO 638, U S Army.
 - Commanding Officer, 15th Tac Ren Sq, APO 638, U S Army.

1. The following units will move to stations on or about dates as indicated below:

UNIT	STRENGTH	FROM		TO		DATE
		EM	Station	Station	Station	
Hq 368th Fighter Group	22	50	486	404		15 Mar 1944
395th Fighter Sq	39	252	486	404		15 Mar 1944
396th Fighter Sq	39	252	486	404		15 Mar 1944
397th Fighter Sq	39	252	486	404		15 Mar 1944
1228th MP Co (Less Det "A")	2	50	486	404		15 Mar 1944
Det "R", 21 Weather Sq	2	8	486	454		15 Mar 1944
Det "R", 21 Weather Sq	0	9	486	404		15 Mar 1944
2059th Eng CF Platoon	1	28	486	404		15 Mar 1944
73rd Station Comp Sq	11	106	471	404		13 Mar 1944
12th Tac Ren Sq	34	194	404	449		15 Mar 1944
15th Tac Ren Sq	42	194	404	449		15 Mar 1944

2. Movement will be made by motor, air and rail transportation. TDM 91-5, P433-01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, A 212/40425.

3. a. This is a permanent change of station.
 b. All organizational equipment will be taken.
 c. Sufficient class "C" or "K" rations to last the journey will be taken.
 d. Tentage, tent stoves and canvas cots necessary for actual housing purposes at the new station will be drawn by requisition placed on Quartermaster of Service Team (Ninth Aif Force letter, file 424, dated 21 Jan 44, Subj: Return to Depots of Tentage, Tent Stoves and Canvas Cots not in use).

-4-

S E C R E T

Hq, IX Air Support Command, Subj: Movement of Troops, dated 9 Mar 44, file 370.5 (Cont'd)

4. Provisions of par 18, AR 345-800, 1 July 1942, Adm Cir 83, HQ SOS ETOUSA, 10 November 1943; Adm Cir 52, Hq 303 ETOUSA, 17 Aug 1943; Adm Cir 93, Hq ETOUSA 21 December 1943 and letter 370.5, IX Fighter Command, 15 December 1943, subject: Troop movements, policy, will be complied with.

5. Before departing from the old station, the commanding officer will secure a clearance from the Custodial Officer at that station. After arrival at the new station, the commanding officer will, over his signature, transmit a letter to this Headquarters stating that no post, cargo or station property was removed from the old station to the new station, except as allowed in letter 427, Hq Ninth Air Force, dated 23 January 1944. Subj: Transfer with units of Blankets, British and Spanish type, received from RAF sources.

6. The 1228th MP Co will be relieved from assignment to 353th Fighter Group on departure from Station 486 and will be assigned to Hq 474th Fighter Group on arrival at new station for quarters, rations and administration. Assignment orders to follow.

7. In compliance with unnumbered Memo, Hq Ninth Air Force, dated 7 December 1943, the movement will be made with full assumed combat conditions, March tables, entraining and loading schedules will be prepared and forwarded through this Hq by 21 March 1944 to Movement Control Office, Ninth Air Force.

By Command of Brigadier General QUESADA:

Signed:

HENRY L. TAYLOR,

Lt. Col., AGD,

Adjutant General.

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH ENGINEER GROUP

APO 638, U. S. Army
9 March 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER.....21)

1. 1st Lt RICHARD S. HIRETS, 0857621, AC, is placed on temp dy, will proceed o/a 15 March 1944 fr sta 405 to sta 419 for approximately twelve (12) days for the purpose of instruction in code and cipher. Upon completion of this temp dy, he will ret to proper org and sta. TRF by ME or rail. Where Govt qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs not to exceed \$4.00 per day and alws of \$1.25 per day to cover excess cost of subs is atzd in accordance w/Par 7, Sec II, Policy Doc 100-1, Hq USAAF UK 9 Nov 1943. 91-5 P 432-02 A 212/40425. Auth: TRX 9 ASC 85473.

2. Pvt Robert B. Dunlap, 13009110, 397th Fitr Sq, is attached to Hq 368th Fitr Gp, for approximately two (2) weeks, for duty only.

3. 2nd Lt WILLIAM R. RAMSAY, 0874008, AC, is relieved fr attached to Hq 368th Fitr Gp and further attached to 397th Fitr Sq.

By O of Lt Col MEYERS:

MAURICE D. POWELL,
2nd Lt, AC
Asst Adj

OFFICIAL:

Maurice Powell
MAURICE D. POWELL,
2nd Lt, AC
Asst Adj

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

D-R-4

APO 638, U.S. Army
11 March 1944.

SUBJECT : Intelligence Training Report.

TO : AC of S, A-2, IV Air Support Command, APO 638, U.S. Army.
Atten: Major Parkman.

1. The following Intelligence Training was given to all Pilots of the 368th Fighter Group, during the week of 5 March to 11 March, inclusive.

Geography	2 hours
Recognition (Aircraft)	3 hours
Evasion & Escape	1 hour

For the Group Commander:

signed

DAVID F. REINHOLD
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't. Group S-2

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

SECRET
AUTH: LTR. CG. 11450
DATE: 10 March 1944
INIT:

ASO 638, U. S. Army
16 March 1944

OFFICIAL OPINIONS)

MEMORANDUM.....29)

EXTRACT

1. The following named EM are placed on temp dy for approximately seven (7) days for the purpose of attending a course of instruction on Spitfire and Typhoon re-servicing, re-arming, and daily and pre-flight inspections and will proceed o/a 19 March 1944 fr sta 404 to RAF Airfield No 124, Morstan, then to 15th Recon Sq, sta 449, Middle Wallop. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDM by HT, air soft, or rail. Advance PX rations are authorized. If Govt rat & grs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of rat & grs, not to exceed \$2.00 per man per day for rat and \$2.00 per man per day for grs, is attd in accordance w/Par Sq, Policy No. 30-1, Hq USAAF EM 9 Nov 1943, 91-5 P 432-02 A 40425. Auth: Secret Ltr, Hq IX Air Support Comd, file No 353, dated 10 March 1944, subject: "Training Affiliation."

W/Sgt Orbis L. Owens	14026927	397th Fighter Squadron
T/Sgt Eldon D. Fox	6362900	Hq 368th Fighter Group
W/Sgt John D. Shea	12056228	395th Fighter Squadron

2. The following named EM are placed on temp dy for approximately seven (7) days for the purpose of attending a course of instruction on Spitfire and Typhoon re-servicing, re-arming, and daily and pre-flight inspections and will proceed o/a 24 March 1944 fr sta 404 to RAF Airfield No 124, Morstan, then to 15th Recon Sq, sta 449, Middle Wallop. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDM by HT, air soft, or rail. Advance PX rations are authorized. If Govt rat & grs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of rat & grs, not to exceed \$2.00 per man per day for rat and \$2.00 per man per day for grs, is attd in accordance w/Par Sq, Policy No. 30-1, Hq USAAF EM 9 Nov 1943, 91-5 P 432-02 A 40425. Auth: Secret Ltr, Hq IX Air Support Comd, file No 353, dated 10 March 1944, subject: "Training Affiliation."

W/Sgt Claude L. Williams	39082232	396th Fighter Squadron
T/Sgt Carl A. Hansen Jr	15019739	396th Fighter Squadron
T/Sgt William T. Shires Jr	14078554	395th Fighter Squadron

By order of Lieutenant Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

SECRET

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

DAP:1

APO 638, U.S. Army
18 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Intelligence Training Report.

TO : A.C. of S., IX Air Support Command, APO 638, U.S. Army, Atten:
Major Parkman.

1. The following Intelligence Training was given to Pilots of the
368th Fighter Group, during the week of 12 March to 18 March, inclusive:

395th Fighter Squadron

Recognition (Aircraft)	1 hour
Evasion and Escape	1 hour
Miscellaneous	1 hour

396th Fighter Squadron

Recognition (Aircraft)	1 hour
Geography	1 hour
Orientation	1 hour

397th Fighter Squadron

Recognition (Aircraft)	1 hour
Evasion and Escape	1 hour
Dirigby	1 hour

2. Due to movement of Group and operations, complete Intelligence
Training could not be accomplished for the past week.

For the Group Commander:

signed

DAVID F. REINTHAL
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't. Group S-2.

RESTRICTED

145 1011 121
HEADQUARTERS
36371 AIR MOB WING

AFC 488, U. S. Army
21 March 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER.....24)

- 1. Confidential.
- 2. Confidential.

3. 1st Lt DAVID F. NEWELL 0673097, AC, is placed on temp dy for one (1) day for the purpose of attending a lecture on aircraft recognition and will proceed fr sta 404 to sta 508 so as to arrive before 0430 hours, 22 March 1944. Upon completion of this temp dy, he will ret to proper orgn and sta. EDN by rail. 91-5 F 432-02 A 212/LCh2F. Auth: TWA 1223D 71st Fighter Wing.

4. So much of par 3, SO 23, this Hq, as reads "S/Sgt Richard T. Fleiss, 39457252, Hq 368th Fitr Gp" is amended to read, "Cpl William H. Anger, 31135789, 395th Fitr Sq."

(Paragraphs in which travel is directed are pursuant to the authority contained in Ltr Hq EICUSA, 3 Nov 1943.)

By O of Lt Col ~~BYERS~~:

HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ADJ

OFFICER:

Hugh L. Rice

HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ADJ

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MEMORANDUM
368TH FIGHTING GROUP

AEO 63, U. S. Army
21 March 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....24)

E X T R A C T

1. VOCC IX Air Support Comd the following named EM are placed on temp dy for approximately five (5) days for the purpose of attending a course of instructions in becoming familiar with processing battle casualty reports and will proceed fr sta 404 to sta 449 so as to arrive before 1600 hours, 22 March 1944. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDN by air or rail. Where Govt ret & qrs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of ret & qrs, not to exceed \$2.00 per man per day for ret, and \$2.00 per man per day for qrs, is attd in accordance w/Ar 32, Policy No. 30-1, Hq USAAF UK 9 Nov 1943. 91-5 T 432-02 A 212/40425.

Sgt Alfred (RM) Stocklein 17010216 Hq 368th Fitr Gp
Cpl Ferrell L. Bellman 15116804 Hq 368th Fitr Gp

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 8, SO 77, Hq AAF Sta 342, AEO 639, dtd 17 March 1944, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated:

2nd Lt Clarence F. Allen 0694025 AC 395th Fitr Sq
2nd Lt Robert J. Hochstetler 0695097 AC 397th Fitr Sq

(Paragraphs in which travel is directed are pursuant to the authority contained in Ltr Hq AFMUSA, 3 Nov 1943.)

By C of Lt Col FEELES:

HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ACJ

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
ACJ

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIFTH GROUP

AWO 638, U. S. Army
23 March 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER:.....25)

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-200, the following named EM, squadron indicated, are transferred in grade to Hq 368th Fitr Gp:

Sgt Frank J. Wencel	16062034	396th Fitr Sq
Cpl James R. Cardina	3219096	395th Fitr Sq
Cpl Harold M. Arueger	56263634	397th Fitr Sq
Cpl Glen (NMI) Conic	36322990	397th Fitr Sq
Cpl Dixon (NMI) Cramer	36606033	396th Fitr Sq
Pfc Alvin (NMI) Castle	35658021	396th Fitr Sq
Pfc Charles H. Weiland	16047755	396th Fitr Sq
Pfc Frank R. Fryberger	32669910	397th Fitr Sq
Pfc Edward N. Hollings Jr	32869376	395th Fitr Sq
Pfc John (NMI) Furbonis	32588005	395th Fitr Sq
Pfc Joseph P. Ciardella	19119349	397th Fitr Sq
Pfc Lloyd L. Hostetler	33292894	395th Fitr Sq
Tvt George H. Lane	31061558	397th Fitr Sq
Pvt Jack W. Walters	34217349	396th Fitr Sq

2. Under the provisions of AR 615-200, T/Sgt Delmar C. Eicher, 15068175, 396th Fitr Sq, is transferred in grade to Hq 368th Fitr Gp.

3. Under the provisions of AR 615-200, Sgt Warren L. Walters, 20724802, Hq 368th Fitr Gp, is transferred in grade to the 395th Fitr Sq.

4. Under the provisions of AR 615-200, Pvt Walter (NMI) Weill, 12193769, 396th Fitr Sq, is transferred in grade to Hq 368th Fitr Gp.

5. Under the provisions of AR 605-145, 2nd Lt DAVID (NMI) GOLDKNOFF, 0860836 AC, 395th Fitr Sq, is transferred to Hq 368th Fitr Gp.

6. Under the provisions of AR 615-200, Pfc Ilmar O. Honkonen, 31149928, 395th Fitr Sq, is transferred in grade to Hq 368th Fitr Gp.

7. 1st Lt FRANCIS B. DRIGGS, 01549257, ORN, is apptd Gp Transportation Maintenance Officer in accordance with Air Support Comd Memo. No. 145-1, dtd 12 March 1944.

By O of Lt Col MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE
Maj AC
Adj

HUGH L. RICE
Maj AC
Adj

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-11-

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

D-T-2

(12)

APO 638, U.S. Army
25 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Intelligence Training Report.

TO : A.C. of S., A-2, IX Air Support Command, APO 638, U.S. Army.
Attn: Major Parkman.

1. The following Intelligence Training was given to all Pilots of the 368th Fighter Group, during the week of 19 March to 25 March inclusive:

395th Fighter Squadron

Evasion and Escape 1 Hour
Security 1 Hour

396th Fighter Squadron

Geography 3 Hours
Recognition 1 Hour

397th Fighter Squadron

Security 1 Hour
Dinghy 1 Hour

For the Group Commander:

signed

W. B. TEN EYCK
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

"...too long
have I been
the anvil—

THOR'S HAMMER

PATRON 500 OF THE THUNDERBOLT

....now I
shall be
the hammer!"

VOL. I THE 368TH FIGHTER GROUP, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, THURS. MAR. 2, 1944 - NO.

MEN WARNED - "KEEP FIT"

BRITISH GIRLS SAY AMERICAN
G.I.'S ARE GOOD DANCERS,
BAD LOVERS: FOND OF
FLATTERY

In answer to the question
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF AMER-
ICAN SOLDIERS? THOR'S
HAMMER recieved the follow-
ing replies from the Eng-
lish girls who attended a
recent dance at the Aero
Club:

Joan Beikes:

They're O.K. I like to
go out with them and also
like to dance with them
very much. Jitterbugging is
my favorite. Am waiting for
the right American to marry.
Pauline Burgess:

They are very interest-
ing but rather fickle. I
like to go out with them.
They have a good line, but
that's all it amounts to,
because they are really
never serious.

Dot Giles:

Americans are O.K. but
I haven't met the right one
yet...When it comes to mak-
ing love some of them are
all right but some of them
are really poor.

Marion McWilliams:

Americans aren't any
better or any worse than
any other bunch of soldiers.
They are too fond of
flattery.

Phyllis Walters:

I like to go out with
them but don't like to
dance with them. I prefer
the English way. I would
like to marry an American.
June Broadhurst:

I think they are marvel-
ous, but some are too for-
ward. Don't like the
way they dance. Do like
their company very much.
Avis Rose:

Personally I think that
on the whole they are very
nice. They are too roman-
tic. I like their style
of dancing.

BRING UP AN AFFAIR

"MEN NEED IT AND DESERVE
IT" — SAYS 1ST SGT

The 395th will hold a
Squadron Party Sat. Mar. 4
in the Sgts Mess Hall.

A soldier band called
"The Royal Grenadiers"—
consisting of 9 pieces
will provide the music.

Many girls from nearby
towns have consented to
attend the party.

1st Sgt Calderero, who
is arranging the affair
said that almost the en-
tire Squadron fund was
being used to supply
food, light drinks,
cakes, and decorations
for the affair.

WHAT WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE
TO POST-WAR AMERICA?

After the war is over,
what kind of government
do you expect to find; and
what do you plan to con-
tribute to your gov't?

If we want Democracy at
its best, we must plan for
it. To have a strong org-
anization each person
must do his part.

How do you propose
to solve the problems of
Post-War America?

If you have an idea as
to what you want to con-
tribute toward American
Democracy...come to the
AERO CLUB on Fri. Even-
ing and we'll discuss
the matter. Ask for—The
Bull Session Group.

PLEASE RETURN BOOKS TO
THE AERO CLUB

All G.I.'s are asked to
return books borrowed from
the Aero Club Library im-
mediately— if not sooner.
Please do not deprive
others from reading them.

TOUGHEN UP FOR INVASION

"YOU MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE
LATER BY TOUGHENING UP
NOW— Says Physical Ed.
Director.

"In view of the struggle
before us it is necessary
that all men be as phys-
ically fit as possible. In
the battles ahead our bod-
ies will have to meet re-
quirements we have never
known before." Thus spoke
Lt. Quinlan, Group Physi-
cal Training Director in an
interview with THOR'S
HAMMER.

The muscular Lieutenant
said that ultimately how
well a man's body would
withstand the strain de-
pended on what each man
did right now to toughen
himself up.

"Take advantage of the
spare moments during the
day. Most of the times a
G.I. can find some minutes
during each day in which
he can do push-ups, run-
ning, wrestling, and other
things along this line.
Remember that your life
may depend on how well
your body re-acts in a
given situation.

Lt. Quinlan is the org-
anizer of the vigorous
physical training program
the Group is now underg-
oing in preparation for the
coming invasion.

The Lieutenant praised
the efforts of T/Sgt Mike
Sprigot of the 395th, who is
organizing a weight-lift-
ing group on his own ini-
tiative. "Yes," the officer
said, "it becomes the re-
sponsibility not only of
the officers, but the
leading Non-Coms as well
to see that their men are
toughened up.

Athletic equipment is be-
ing distributed to make
the training as interesting
as possible.

THOR'S KAMMER

Established February 1, 1944
A Weekly Magazine
Published Under The auspices
of Group Special Service
In The Interest Of The
ENLISTED MEN Of The
248th Fighter Group

Lt. John F. Rogan - Officer in Charge
Sgt. DICK GREENSPAN, Sgt. Bob Woods
Editor Assoc. Editor
Sgt. GUSTAVUS BASCH - Mgr. Editor
- SQUADRON BUREAU -
395th: Cpl L.M. Heikelberger and Cpl
Anthony Ardito. 395th Cpl Ted Goldman
395th: 3/Sgt. Eugene K. K...
Illustrations by Vera and ...

VOL. I, NO. 4 MARCH 2, 1944

ARE G.I.'S INTELLIGENT?

We are of the opinion that any and every G.I. can sit down and discuss any topic intelligently. We disagree with those who state that many of the men haven't had enough formal education.

Well, in our estimation, anyone who attended courses at regular colleges OR got most of their education going thru the COLLEGE-OF-HARD-KNOCKS is intelligent enough to discuss any topic.

Let's remember that America would never have been founded if it hadn't been for the common people...America never would have been able to rise to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, country in the world if it hadn't been for the common people.

What kind of a country the U.S. gets to be will depend a lot on the opinions millions of G.I.'s reach...But the best thoughts and ideas are reached through organized discussions which aren't allowed to go off on a limb.
(Cont. bottom of next col.)

THE SPIRIT OF A WOMAN

--- FIGHTER-PILOT LITVIK

...A Veteran At 21, she Bagged 7 German Planes, Lested A Nazi Ace In Air Combat

Lt. Lily Litvik, one of the Red Air Force's most brilliant fighter pilots and one of the two women attached to a Soviet Pursuit Squadron, saw her first combat action in the blazing Battle of Stalingrad, an instructor pilot since the age of 17, this determined, small-bodied, fair-haired fighter participated in 66 air battles over Rostov and Stalingrad. Singlehanded she bagged seven German planes and one ace Nazi pilot. On one mission she shot down a German bomber which five other pilots had failed to bring down. She took part in more than 130 operational flights, received numerous decoration, was once wounded in battle.

"Strangely, I encountered some difficulty getting into action," she said in a letter to the Russian War Relief in this country, "for in my country, as in yours, women are not usually assigned to combat duty. But I persisted and was finally attached to a Pursuit Squadron. Bitterly we fought. Once four of us - three men and myself - engaged 12 Nazi planes which were soon joined by seven more. I attacked four Dorniers, two of which I brought down. Then I engaged the Junkers. Although we had been outnumbered nearly five to one, the Germans were forced to flee.

"Shortly afterward I was wounded. Some bombs rained our airplane. From an altitude of 5,000 yards we attacked the enemy formation. As I shot down one plane I felt something sharp hit my leg." It was a shell fragment which had pierced the radiator. Wounded and out of ammunition, she landed her bullet-riddled plane safely.

Luck deserted her, however, on another similar occasion. She was killed in action over Lharkov at the age of 21. But her spirit still flies with the Red Air Force, for, as she wrote shortly before her death: I shall not rest until the enemy has been destroyed.

lowed to go off on a limb.

That's why we urge all those who can to attend the Bull Session this Friday night at 20:00 at the Aero Club.

A thousand mile journey begins with the first step.

76th Gossip

IT'S BEING RUMORED AROUND.

..In case you've been wondering, which is highly improbable, Casper is a gentle man of the first water. Robert good deed was seen at the Aero Club, where he opened the door for Miss Smith--- while she carried two buckets of water thru... Two thousand feet is a long way up, but Nick can identify a plane at that height. He should go out for bombardier. Noticed that strange gleam in Doc Merrell's eyes lately? Must be he has a new supply of aspirin in, and is aspiring to disperse them...A two ton truck may look a bit foreboding to most of us, but when properly "fortified," Bachelor takes 'em on single handed. He was seen tackling one the other night...The same night, Felts, thinking the sleeping barracks much too peaceful, found that by hammering on the stove with a crow-bar, remarkable results could be obtained...Strange, but when Duffy has a date in town (Not the TS Duffy) the six o'clock truck leaves on time, and makes remarkable records in getting to ...That black eye of Baughman's looks incriminating, but he holds to the old door story... "Wonder if it'll burn," comes from Seligman. "Let's see," quoth Charardi. And thereupon a quantity of campkot was placed on the stove. Now that, my friends, is the reason Coma and Enz room was emptied in fifty seconds flat. It did burn and blacked up everyone in sight or hearing...S/Sgt O.K. (Orville Knowlton) asked for a size six and seven eights in a hat the other day. "It's too large," he said. So the obliging GI boys handed him a size seven. "Darned if it don't fit better" muttered the puzzled G.I. and walked out with a fitting hat but a bewildered head.....

FROM THE MESS HALL

...The shower situation couldn't have driven "Shady" Blackwell to walk kerplunk into the little stream by the bridge could it?... "Kentucky" (Daddy) Lyons, it is rumored from completely unreliable sources, intends to settle in New York City after the war... He wasn't sure, but a K.B. swore by everything holy that he saw Charlie Fisher smile at a few K.P.'s the other day. Will wonders never cease?.... "Curly" Stockford says he owes his success to his golden locks. Wonder what he means?.... Many of us have found that the bunks are a little on the hard side, but only Jerry seems to have gone to bat to remedy the situation by sleeping elsewhere. (And before you get the wrong ideas it's not what you think!)

397th Gossip

The most interesting item of the week (if true) is the fact that Cpl Kesta told the writer that the laundry would be back within the next four days. He also said that P/Sgt Fortner is doing fine and should be out of the hospital before long now. As the writer closed the supply door, he heard Col Kesta mumbling "That's about all I've got to say."

There's not a better path to the door of Barracks 15 yet, but Sgt Klein is expecting that to happen any day now. He's heard the one about the "man who builds a better rat trap, etc." He spent some time on building a mousetrap that would have put some of Rube Goldberg's inventions to shame. He's had it set for two nights now--- and so far has caught nothing but air.

Pfc Joe Morris, Tech Supply, believes in Dinner at Eight from now on. While in London on a two day pass he had supper rather late, after a full day of sight-seeing in the British capitol. He finished his meal, paid the check and walked out. Fifteen minutes later the restaurant received a direct hit by one of the Jerry bombers.

Cpl John E. Massie, Engineering, recently spent a two day pass in London. This is the first time he that he has le the next since Vestover. Cpl Joe Hagen says that he can understand the fact that John didn't care anything about going to New York City--- but he can't see how he could pass up Jamaica. Ask Joe sometime how he got the monicker "Jamaica Joe". Some of the armament boys say that they are wondering who was the lucky London girl who led Pfc Bardsley astray--- a couple of ran-coms in Barracks 19 said that it was his "first time around".

Cpl Chestler, another bicycle victim, is out of the hospital now. He put on the front brake when it was the rear brake that he needed.

This field is the ninth for S/Sgt "Chorty" Aro of Engineering. He has been serving with the Air Corps for the past twenty years. He started out working on Dh's at Brock Field, Texas. He was stationed in Cuerto Rico under General Schramm, under General Chennault in Texas, and General Barcus in Trinidad. Sgt. Aro said that his favorite field was Langley Field, Va.... And the man's been to Texas too!!

375TH GOSSIP

...Pvt Manley sure keeps on the mill when it comes to bawling out the boys for using too much hot water. Smitty, and Farr will tell you that two men volunteered for K.P. Will wonders never cease?...If you want to get Sgt Pedersen mad ask him about how he got wet as a result of a booby trap devised by one of his "busom companions." This happened while he was piloting the "clipper"...Sgt Kearns, known to many as "Mother" gained his name as a result of the services to the boys in his quarters. So, if you have any money trouble, love troubles, a cold, or anything that worries you - DON'T see the Chaplain see "Mother" Kearns, he'll fix it.

MINUTE SKETCHES

Cpl Marchese- Constantly chasing Mastromatteo for hid lyde...Pvt Baker--- Thinking up practical jokes on KP and vainly hoping for a transfer to Armament. ...Cpl Case Just vainly hoping...Sgt Weaver--"Where's the poker game, fellers?" Sgt Mays-"Who's the room orderly in this barracks?"...Sgt (Galloping) Gallaway--"How about doing some peeling on these spuds?"...S/Sgt Vernick- "Froying de doying."

INCIDENT: Polling is now sporting not only a fat lip but also a bandaged hand. His assailant the indimitable Herb Carp, who, while gesturing with a knife to emphasize a point accidentally went thru Pollings' hand like a hot knife thru butter.

TRANSPORT TO DESTINY

(Written coming over)

I stand by the rail of a sailing ship,
And gaze into the sea,
"This ship I sail on has her name,
It's "Freedom" I can see."
There's a cargo she carries,
That she treasures like gold,
She'll feed it and bless it,
But it's not to be sold.
It's men with a destiny,
To return to some day,
Who'll find it all there,
In the finest array.

A storm is coming, it's mighty near,
And the crew is all prepared,
To meet this coming thunder,
As they kneel in silent prayer.
This ship is strong from bow to stern,
She's lived thru many a tide,
This storm will soon be over,
And she'll come to port in pride.
For the port she'll reach is "Victory,"
This day is sure to come,
And all good men on deck will stand,
"America" they'll all hum.

By Sgt Frank Szcesuil

AERO CLUB

Fri. March 30th- Bull Session Group in Library

Sunday- March 5- BINGO- 8:00 P.M.

Polka- In Library.

Mon. March 28th- Classroom Music Night

Wed. March 28th- James Winch Fighter Command Team

Thurs. March 9th- Community Singing

Sun. March 12- BINGO

Wed. March 15- Dance

Fri. March 17- Bridge and Checker tournament.

SNACK BAR OPEN 13:30 to 22:30 NIGHTLY

Non-Coms Club: Open 17:00 to 24:00

each night- Refreshments.

MOVIE SCHEDULE:--

Mon.-Wed.-Fri.-at 20:30

Tues.-Thurs.- Sun.- at 19:00

Sgt's Mess Hall

DISCUSSION GROUP:--

Fri. at 20:00 at the Aero Club Library

Chaplain's Corner

Religious Services

PROTESTANT: Sunday- 12:00 Sgt's Mess

Thurs.-19:00 Chaplain Steery's Office

CATHOLIC: Sunday-09:00 Sgt's Mess

Wed.-Rosary and Benediction- 6:30

Confessions heard before Masses and

First Friday in Chaplains office during

week. Devotional Services - Tues. - 19:00

JMISH: Sat. - Trucks leave Aero Club at

09:15. Fri.-Special Services in Base Day Room in evening.

A LETTER FROM A CHAPLAIN

"I can say that every day and night of this battlefield is a constant reminder of Death. Last night for example the town in which we were located was shell-ed from midnight till three o'clock. Each shell came a little closer and each prayer became a little more fervent.

You wonder if you are to be the next called. It is strange feeling, like a man buried alive, I have learned one thing and that is: nothing counts but God, and in this game of life, flip, and sudden death the presence of God is the supreme consolation. The lads have often told me the same thing.

"Yesterday afternoon I said mass atop the hood of a jeep. After Mass a little lad from Colorado we call Benny came up and asked to say Mass in thanksgiving. He had been fixing a wire along a mountain-side. When he finished he moved down the trail. Three minutes later a shell hit right where he moved from. Like so many other lads who face death day and night he finds his greatest protection in the strong arm of the Lord. Thank God for our Faith.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army
30 March 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER.....28)

1. Major FRANK S. PEREGO, 0426422, AC, is appointed Deputy Commanding Officer.
2. Major LEMUEL R. GORNBILL, 0415495, AC, is appointed Gp Executive Officer.
3. Capt RICHARD E. LEARY, 0900694, AC, is appointed Gp Operations Officer, vice Major FRANK S. PEREGO, 0426422, AC, relieved.
4. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, and upon the recommendation of his orgn comdr, Cpl (911) John (NMI) Celeste, 32775904, 395th Fitr Sq, is reduced to the grade of Private for misconduct.

By O of Lt Col MEYERS:

HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
Adj

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Maj AC
Adj

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