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GP-368-HI (FTR)
MAR - 1945

HISTORICAL DATA

HEADQUARTERS HISTORY
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

MARCH
~~APRIL~~ 1945

HISTORICAL OFFICER
RECORDER
TYPIST

CAPT. ROBERT L. CLARK
S/SGT. CLARENCE A. GLASRU
PFC. WILBERT R. AHONAN

MICROFILMED

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HISTORICAL REPORT
1 MARCH to 31 MARCH 1945

Information contained herein, is written in compliance with Ninth Fighter Command Memorandum Number 20-4, dated 22 December 1943. It is a resume of the activities of the 368th Fighter Group Headquarters, for the month of MARCH 1 to 31, 1945.

1. ORGANIZATION

No Change.

2. STRENGTH AS OF 31 MARCH 1945

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

<u>Assigned Personnel</u>	<u>Authorized Personnel</u>
Officers -----215	Officers -----201
Enlisted Men -----822	Enlisted Men -----811

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

No Change.

4. LOSSES IN ACTION:

Nil (for Group Headquarters)

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Award of CROIX de GUERRE

Colonel Gilbert I. Meyers
Lt. Col. Paul F. Douglas, Jr.
Lt. Col. John P. W. Haesler
Lt. Col. Frank S. Perego
Lt. Col. Henry R. Quimby
Lt. Col. Harold P. Sparks
Major Randall W. Hendricks

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RECORD OF EVENTS
PAGE ONE1 March 1945

This month was started out right in many ways. Our armies were definitely on the move on the Western Front and the enemy seemed more interested in getting across the Rhine than in making a stand. We flew 94 sorties today, the 395th dispatching 30 on 2 squadron missions to dive bomb the Langenselbold fuel dump, east of Frankfurt; the 396th sent out 28 planes to support units of the XII Corps; the 397th had 32 A/C working with the VIII Corps and 4 more P-47's distributing leaflets. The 395th destroyed 3 Fw190's and one ME109 and damaged another Fw190; the other claims were 9-18 on tanks, 24-22 on M/T's, and 18-0 on freight cars.

The first 395th mission to Langenselbold was just starting to bomb when 15 E/A attacked. Lt. Hugh I. Matthews' flight had just made their bomb run when 4 Fw190's bounced them; Lt. Matthews' plane caught fire and went down through the overcast. The pilot called over the R/T that he was bailing out. He is listed MIA. The other P-47's jettisoned their bombs and went after the bandits. 2nd Lt. Glen Bergman shot down the ME109; Capt Ivey, 1st Lts. Diman and Wieck each got a Fw190, and 2nd Lt. Robert Andrus damaged another Fw190. Another feature of the mission was that Capt. Carry, who was scheduled to lead the squadron, crashed on takeoff. He was uninjured but the plane went to the Service Team. The 395th ran into weather trouble on their second mission and dropped their bombs on the W/Y at Gr. Cerau, south of Frankfurt. The bombing was good: tracks were cut in 4 places, 2 fires were started, 3 buildings were destroyed, and a choke point destroyed.

Besides 4 planes which distributed leaflets at Murlenbach, Gerelstein, Rudesheim, and Stadtkyll, the 397th dispatched 32 P-47's on 7 squadron missions to cooperate with the VIII Corps. Several of the flights dropped their bombs on vehicles, but others bombed and strafed several W/V's with both good and poor results, hit an ammo dump, and got some good hits above and around 2 tunnel entrances. And the controller Junkbox reported excellent results on several blind bombing missions which we had to report NFO.

The 396th dispatched 28 P-47's on 7 squadron missions to work with units of the VII Corps. Five flights were very rough on the towns of Sefferweich (leveled), Walberweich, Balesfeld, Erdord, and Yyllburg, generally going after vehicle concentrations at these places but also beating up the towns in the same process. Two later flights were NFO, one dropping bombs on a wooded area and another bombing through the overcast, controlled by Junkbox.

That's about all, except that Hallad, the controller on the first 396th mission said he would buy drinks all around for the good job done. Remind us to remember that.

The Special Orders for the first day of the month indicated an Ops change: Lt. Col. Harold T. Sparks is appointed Group S-3, vice Lt. Col. Haesler, and Major Carlos W. Talbott is appointed Acting Group S-3 (Lt. Col. Sparks is now in the U.S.)

Supporting Document #1, Special Order #20.

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2 March 1945

Today's missions followed the same general pattern. Flying a total of 111 sorties, the 397th sent out 30 planes on 2 missions to attack special targets, the 395th "took over" the VIII Corps, and the 396th again supported units of the VII Corps. Toward the end of the day we flew our 1000th mission, though we won't celebrate the completion of a year in combat until later in the month.

On their first mission the 397th sent out 14 planes for another shot at the Langenselbold fuel storage depot. The bombing was excellent, with 12 hits on the targets causing an explosion and considerable damage to the fuel dump. The second 16-plane mission attacked the Mainz M/T repair shops, but results were hard to judge after the bombing. But 16 bombs dropped on 4 oil tanks in the woods nearby started a large fire, 3 tanks being damaged and 1 destroyed.

The first 4-plane flight of the 395th got off at 0716. Like most of the succeeding missions, most of the bombs were dropped on concentrations of tanks and M/T's, but a number of small towns were clobbered in the process. Claims were 5-4 on tanks, 23-7 on M/T's; and there were the usual quota of houses destroyed, road and rail cuts, and at least 5 horse-drawn guns and a gun position destroyed. Fires were started in a number of places, some German personnel blasted and a radio tower destroyed near Daun. And as usual there were some M/C missions, but on one of them we were assured that the results were satisfactory. Smoke-marked troops and supplies in the town of Bassen were bombed, and the controller (fieldfare) reported "mighty fine job".

Thirty-nine planes of the 396th on similar missions had the same kind of results. They claimed no tanks but 37-23 on M/T's and 5-5 on freight cars. Good hits were scored on Badem in 2 attacks on the town. A small M/V at St. Thomas was well clobbered and a large fire started. A direct hit left a large hole in the highway bridge over the Moselle at Piesport. The controller "Smallshack" reported good bombing on the towns of Dudledord, Bailingen, and Vetterich, the targets requested by the controller and the latter 2 marked by smoke. The 396th tried a 4-plane toss-bombing mission also, but the weather prevented an attack on the primary target. Their bombs were released (or Tossed) near Saarbrucken, where they cut tracks and damaged an overpass.

Headquarters FM lectured by Major Donald Davis on the growing WD rate --and "Doc" followed up his little talk with a physical examination.

3 March 1945

Each squadron "adopted" a corps of the Third Army today - the 395th working with the VIII Corps, the 396th with the XII Corps, and the 397th with the XX Corps. A total of 128 P-47's were dispatched on 33 missions, and the Third Army was highly satisfied with our work. At least three commendations came in from Patton's Trooped Forces on our work. At least the text of one will be included in a supporting document and 2 others will be quoted later. And the XIX TAC daily Intelligence Summary for the period ending Sunrise, 4 March 1945, in describing the Third Army situation says: "Farther north the Fifth Infantry Division crossed the Kyll River and captured Badem with what Third Army described as "excellent assistance from 36th Group."

The day's claims were 7-14 on tanks, 74-102 on M/T's, 4-0 on locos, and 18-81 on freight cars, but that was only a small part of the story. The most important

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3 March 1945 (cont'd)

contributions today were in knocking out obstacles in the path of the Third Army. Working with the VIII Corps the 395th bombed Kronenburg, which fieldfare marked with smoke, bombed Bischleick and another town (probably Birresborn), and bombed and strafed vehicles of army types, eliminating a few Jerries as a sideline. Then the weather forced a couple of Junkbox 584 radio-controlled blind-bombing at Fohren - NRO, and another controlled by Sawmill. The last couple of missions were good, but we'll let the VIII Corps hand out the "orchids".

1. With the fullest cooperation from "Rip 2" and with fighter-bombers of the 395th Squadron, 368th Group, dodging snow showers and hunting holes in the cloud cover, a number of good air strikes were made 3 March.

2. A strike by "Flapper Purple" at 1700 hours is of interest. After being vectored to MURLENBACH the flight leader found enemy vehicles on all roads moving east. The intelligence which he developed while making the strike caused interdicting artillery fire to be brought to bear on these roads. The road blocks, which the flight leader effected through the destruction of enemy equipment, created a most favorable situation for this fire. This added further to the very profitable attack by "Flapper Purple".

The 396th, "cooperating with units of the XII Corps", scored with their first flight, when they hit Badem. They came back to report NRO, but the following telegram from the 5th Infantry corrected that estimate: "Fighter-bomber close cooperation furnished 5th Infantry Division on 3 Mar 45 was of superior performance and accuracy, aiding materially in establishing division bridgehead across Kyll River. The bombing against enemy artillery positions between I-225565 and I-229548 completely silenced four plus enemy batteries that had been putting heavy concentrations on the rear bank of the bridgehead." And the 5th Division told us that our "results unobserved" on 2 bombs dropped on Badem on that first mission should be changed to 2 tanks and 3 flak guns destroyed and several enemy soldiers killed. The squadron worked over enemy towns and field positions in the Badem area all day, and after the statement of the people they worked for, a detailed account should be unnecessary. It was considerably better than good. Through C-3 Air, XII Corps, the 5th Division expressed their appreciation to the 368th for an outstanding job of cooperation with the Division troops (see Supporting Document).

Even 4-plane flights of the 397th turned in similar performances in support of the XV Corps at the southern end of the Third Army front. The first mission bombed and strafed Greimerath, strafed some German troops and a rocket launcher woods nearby. Except for a lot of houses beaten up, the results were generally hard to judge— but the Nebelwerfer launcher was definitely destroyed. The next 4 missions worked on tanks, rail traffic, and M/T's - with some good results and some not so good, because of a strong wind. Then Kell, Bekond, and Kievenich were bombed and Losheim bombed and strafed - with many houses reduced to rubble. Then after a couple more vehicle attacks, the towns of Dreiss and Thalfang were attacked- with more rubble resulting. Other squadron claims were a number of barracks clobbered and radio tower damaged.

Supporting Document #2, 5th Div report to 368th Gp.

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4 March 1945

A 2-plane weather recce flown by the 396th prevented a white-washing in operations today. Lt. Olson reported 10/10 at 2000 ft., and poor visibility - so that was our "all" for the day.

Major Richardson's Service Team photographers came up today with A Speed Graphic and some flash bulbs and took pictures by departments - in our natural habitats.

5 March 1945

We flew 2 weather recce today, the 397th sending out one in the morning and the 395th another in the afternoon. The first reported 10/10, the second 3 to 8/10, with scatter rain - and again we had to let it go at that.

The photo men came back for more pictures, the XIX TAC basketball tournament got underway, and Capt. Haag pulled off a dental survey for Group headquarters this afternoon.

Lt. Colonel Perego expressed his appreciation to the pilots for their fine performance on 23 February by endorsing a letter of commendation received from XIX TAC on to the Squadrons (supporting document).

Supporting Document #3, Ltr., Commendation, 27/2/45, XIX TAC.

6 March 1945

Our first contingent leaving for England on furloughs took off today, going first to Paris where they may be forced to spend a day. Leaving from Group Hq. were Lt. Blagen, T/Sgt. McConnell, S/Sgt. Gadomski, and Sgt. Spahn, The rest of us were all exposed to a compulsory VD film - "Pickup".

Our 368th Group Thunder Bums played their first XIX TAC tournament game tonight and won 43-32, defeating the 354th Group Pioneers in the first overtime period-- after trailing throughout the contest and finally tying the score on Heath's field goal in the last 10 seconds. Barrett's winning field goal dropped through the hoop in the last 5 seconds of the overtime period. Heath lead the 368th scorers with 12 points. Michalak, the only Hq representative on the squad, scored 5 points when he was in the lineup. The starters, all from the 397th, were Jones, Heath, Lanahan, Barrett, and Katz. The Thunder Bums squad now includes Major Tuite and Capt. Johnson, both of the 397th.

7 March 1945

We were still kept on the ground by the weather, but our briefing room began undergoing major repairs-- or rather spring renovations. The walls were being painted a pale robins-egg blue, the "furniture" a bright fire-truck red, and new light fixtures are being installed. It must be moving time!

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8 March 1945

Again we were grounded, but our Ground Forces were going all right. We learned that the First Army had captured a Rhine bridge at Remagen and already had sizeable forces across the river. And "our" Third Army armor had stabbed to the Rhine at Andernach, north of Koblenz, near the First Army's bridgehead.

Our 368th Group "Thunderbums" moved into the semi-finals of the XIX TAC Cage tourney tonight by massacring the 932nd Signal Bn. "Firemen" 40-18. In the first half, Harry Heath, star "Bum" center, scored 19 points to put the 368th ahead 21-14. Heath, who was taken out in the third quarter, had 24 points for the night. Michalak of Headquarters scored 6 points in the 2 quarters he played.

9 March 1945

After a 3-day layoff our planes got into operation again today - but the weather definitely wasn't flying weather. The holes through the overcast were scarce as hen's teeth, and the first 2 flights sent out had to give it up as a bad job and jettison their bombs. But 33 planes in all were dispatched, and the last 3 8-plane missions were able to get in some work. Like the first 2, these missions were to provide armored column cover for the 4th Armored Division. The 397th dropped 12 bombs on Limburg, when they found a hole in the clouds. An accurate estimate of the damage was impossible, but some warehouses were hit and fires started. "Junk-box" vectored the 395th to Wittlich, which 7 planes bombed through the overcast-NRO. Eight planes of the 396th, each carrying one bomb, released their 500-pounders on a locomotive and 50 cars near Zollan. The bombing didn't seem to be very good, but the train stopped and much smoke was seen. No claims could be made, however.

To round out the day Lt. Col. Perego flew out to look over the situation (technically a weather recce) and came back to report plenty of weather—all bad.

Our Thunderbums bowed out of the XIX TAC basketball tournament tonight, losing to the 10th Photo Group Gander's 33-32 in the semi-finals. The lead changed 6 times during the battle. Anderson of the 10th was high-scorer with 19 points; Heath was again top man for the 368th with 9 points, followed by Narther, who played an outstanding game, with 8 points. Michalak of Group Ha., who played 2 quarters, again turned in a good performance. The Ganders, who won their 26th consecutive game tonight, will meet the 368th Group entry tomorrow night in the finals of the tourney.

10 March 1945

Ordinarily, this wouldn't be considered much of a day; but at the end of the kind of week we have had, the 51 planes dispatched today didn't do too badly. The 397th got off first, 2 minutes before noon and dropped their 24 bombs on the supply depot at Vogelback, near Homburg, all the bombs falling in the target area. Some fires were started but smoke obscured the results, which were probably good. Strafing destroyed a radio station at Dilsberg, fired stoarge tanks in the same town, destroyed 3 M/Ts and damaged one, and worked over a warehouse - NRO. A later 397th mission dropped 24 bombs on Weiskirche, 15-20 miles SE of Trier, but was a 584 blind bombing job. Another NRO.

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10 March 1945 (cont'd)

The 395th and 396th got together on a 23-plane armed recce to the Koblenz-Limburg area. They dropped 44 bombs on Kamberg with fair results, at least 3 fires and much smoke being observed. Hits were seen on an active refinery-like factory and a road in the center of the town. To round out the day, the 395th sent out 4 planes which distributed leaflets over Reinfeld, Heingenburg, Bausendorf, Reinkastel, and Cochem.

11 March 1945

Our planes were forced to stay on the ground today, the weatherman again snafu'ng operations. But we all saw a training film - Subject: "Germany", which probably indicates what is in store for us. There is a good deal of moving talk going around, and we are looking over prospective fields in Germany. The airdrome near Laacher Lake has been the one most talked-of - and is reported captured in good condition.

12 March 1945

Once more the weatherman grounded us, and we are getting pretty touchy on that subject. Since 3 March we have accomplished practically nothing--thanks to the weather.

A Paris contingent came back today with a really sad tale. Someone ranked them off the regular train coming back - and they spent 28 hours in 3rd Class Frnech cars--without heat, food, or water, they reported. However, there were no casualties from hunger, thirst, or exposure.

13 March 1945

Our planes got back into the war today, dispatching 83 planes after bad weather over the target area gave us a late start. In fact, 2 4-plane alert flights were the only A/C to take off before noon; the first 4 planes got off in 11 minutes from the time we were warned of enemy jet aircraft in the vicinity. The alert flights were completely uneventful, but 5 succeeding missions ran up some respectable destroyed-damaged totals: 67-10 on M/T's, 1-0 on locos, and 88-91 on freight cars. In addition the Wiesbaden supply dump was bombed, with beaucoup smoke resulting; and the bombing of the Friedburg M/T shops started fires.

Today also marked the end of our first year in operation. Checking back over the records, we find that we have been able to get planes into the air 233 days out of 365, about 2 days out of 3. In that time 13,418 sorties were flown (on 1057 missions), 4249 tons of bombs were dropped, and the following claims were run up: 483-551 on tanks, 5457-1813 on M/T's and other vehicles, 224-51 on locos, 1678-1594 on freight cars, and 114-18-52 on enemy planes.

We received EM reinforcements today, a T/4 (who was immediately made a sergeant), a Pfc, and 5 privates - some of them ex-combat men -- and they were assigned to the squadrons.

Supporting Document #4, Special Orders #24.

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14 March 1945

While our pilots shot down 10 German planes today (for no losses) to start out our second year of operations; the celebrations played up the past year's accomplishments. We all received Lt. Col. Perego's "Letter of Appreciation", (listed as a Supporting Document), and there were a couple of parties this evening. Both the EM and officers saw a USO Show (which was not too good), and both had dances scheduled. The officers party and dance was a real success, Lt. Col. Perego making a short speech, Capt. Cleary summarizing our Group history, and our own 368th Orchestra providing the music. But the EM were not so fortunate: the orchestra Special Services had arranged for did not show up, and the men thought the party was a little dry and uneventful--so they went home.

Lt. Col. Douglas, flying with the 395th, got the lion's share of bandits today, shooting down 3 Fw190's when the squadron bounced 50 ME109's and Fw190's at Frankfurt. The encounter was made without loss and claims other than Lt. Col. Douglas's were: Lt. Jewkes--1 ME109 destroyed, 1 ME109 damaged.

Later in the day the 397th Squadron encountered 40-50 ME109's in the Mainz area and in the engagement with these aggressive aircraft came off with claims of 6-1-0 for no loss; those submitting claims were: Lt. Barker- 2 ME109's destroyed, Lt. Chancellor- 2 ME109's destroyed, Lt. Fein- 1 ME109 destroyed, and Lt. LeGrand- 1 ME109 destroyed and 1 ME109 probably destroyed.

Ground claims resulting from the 10 missions- 106 sorties - in which 2 tons of RPX, 19 tons of incendiaries and 28 leaflet bombs rained down on German installations and supply dumps were: 5 locos, 12 RR cars, 2 barges and 12 buildings destroyed or damaged.

Lt. Col. Shore, Public Relations Officer, XIX TAC, and Pat Mitchell, correspondent for Stars & Stripes, were present for some of the critiques and later attended the officer's party.

Our second and perhaps last contingent of men leaving for England on furlough left today. The two headquarters men who accompanied the 21-man contingent were S/Sgt. Clarence A. Glasrud and T/Sgt. Donald A. Facka (Supporting Document).

Supporting Document #5, Letter of Appreciation, 14/3/45.

15 March 1945

For the third successive day weather favorable to operations permitted a total of 11 missions - 122 sorties - in which 47.75 tons of GP and M-76's were dropped on targets--all with good results. The 396th Squadron strafed the Limburg airfield and came away with claims of 3-0-3. Other strafing and bombing claims for the day were: 4 locos, 11 RR cars, and one bridge destroyed or damaged plus 8 rail cuts.

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15 March 45 (cont'd)

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Four Flight Officers and five 2nd Lieuts. arrived from a Reinforcement Bn. and were assigned to Squadrons today per Special Orders #25.

Warm weather permitted the boys to play a volley-ball game in the evening. The attendance was limited when a second attempt was made toward the EW dance tonight.

Supporting Document #4, Special Order #25.

16 March 1945

Continued good weather gave the pilots a chance to strike another blow at German supply and communication facilities today. Ever mindful of the fact that the Germans consider themselves a cultured and well read people, and fearing that their supply of reading matter was running low, we dropped 28 leaflet bombs; moreover, being practical minded and aware that some of the German soldiers would not be inclined toward reading, we gave them something else to occupy their minds--38.75 tons of GP's were dumped in their midst resulting in the following claims: tanks 4-15, 'Ts and vehicles 58-20, locos 12-1, freight cars 34-73, 1 bridge, 1 workshop, and 7 buildings destroyed or damaged.

The 396th Squadrons' primary target, an MT repair shop at Mainz, received many direct hits and was left burning. The bridge at Fassel, hit by the 397th, was left unserviceable. These claims were the result of 14 missions totalling 138 sorties.

A single long-nosed Focke Wolve attacked the 396th Squadron while it was strafing north of Wiesbaden; had it kept its long-nose out of our business it would not have been chased and shot down. A claim was made by Lt. Dixon.

17 March 1945

The pilots were unable to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the manner in which they would have preferred; no missions, other than one simulated strafing mission by 4 planes of the 397th squadron, were flown due to low clouds and overcast in the target area to which we were assigned for the day. Attacks were to have been made on BULKMARSEN Rail Bridge, on a rail bridge at C-925944 and on the BUTZBACH Ordnance Depot.

Distinguished Flying Crosses have been awarded to five officers, now missing in action. General Order #39, dated 28 Feb 45, Ninth AF, listed awards of James H. Gamblin, 1st Lt; 2nd Lt. Rupert B. Maxwell, 2nd Lt. Roland C. Potter; 2nd Lt. Bryce A. Ralston. Also listed for awards, and later MIA, was 1st Lt. William C. Olden. The performance of these officers reflects credit upon their outfit and their absence is regretted.

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18 March 1945

A general withdrawal by enemy troops across the Rhine has started and after a one day pause, due to unfavorable weather, operations were resumed today. Bombing and strafing results were good and the following claims were made: destroyed or damaged 130-175 MTs and vehicles, 0-3 on tanks, 4-2 on locos, 40-2 on RR cars; 2 oil storage tanks, 16 buildings, 1 CP, 6 rail cuts, 43 horses, and 85 enemy personnel.

An attack, described by XIX TAC as "highly successful", was made by the 395th Squadron on the Rutzbach Ordnance Depot. The 396th Squadron got 6-8 direct hits on the Volksmarsen RR bridge (reported to be down) and the 397th Squadron got cuts on a RR bridge west of Kassel. A total of six attacks on special targets, five armed reces, and a leaflet mission were flown - 146 sorties - during which 43 tons of CP, incendiary and leaflet bombs were dropped.

One P-47 of the 395th Squadron was lost to flak but the pilot returned safely.

Activity in the S-2 section reminded us of the days when we were rushing across France and making new maps on a mass production scale; it also brought to mind the rapid advance of ground forces. A new and larger 250,000 map was installed and the 100,000 briefing map was moved approx 1 degree (30 miles) to the right.

A meeting of HQ EM's was called by Lt. Col. Gorrell to clarify pass privileges and other EM gripes that were likely to lead to misunderstandings.

In recognition of the Group's performance today a TTX was received from Major General Weyland congratulating us on the day's accomplishment (Supporting Document).

Supporting Document #7, TTX XIX TAC (ADW) R182250.

19 March 1945

Operations proceeded in high gear today, the 368th Group flying 12 missions - 128 sorties - of which four missions were armed reces in the Worms-Mainz area, seven were on special targets and one was a leaflet mission. An bombing attack by the 395th on the Wehrheim military installation set the entire target area aflame; the 396th Squadron attack on the Wiesbaden Stores Depot sent dense black smoke to 5,000 and good results were observed from attacks on Ebenhausen Fuel Storage Depot, and the Frankfurt, Urberech and Grossauheim Supply Depots. A total of 51.75 tons of bombs were dropped and resulted in claims of: 23-17 MTs and vehicles, 20-4 on locos, 24-76 on RR cars and 41-21 on buildings destroyed or damaged.

Special Order #27, dated 19 Mar 45, announces a change in Group administration policy when Lt. Col. Lemuel R. Gorrell, Group Exec. Officer, became Det. Commander of HQ Det, vice Major Hugh I. Rice, adjutant. Major Rice had been Det. Commander since shortly after the organization was activated at Westover Field, Massachusetts. The same special Order announces the arrival and assignment to HQ's of Pvt. Robert F. Foos, MD.

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19 March 45 (cont'd)

Time out while we pat ourselves on the back! A letter was received today from XIX TAC commending us on the February installment of our Group history. S/Sgt. Glasrud to whom much of the credit is due for the interest shown in the Headquarters portion, is at present on furlough in London. For his sake and in the interest of satisfactory work during the latter half of this month, it is to be hoped that we will reach the goal line without fumbling the ball.

Supporting Document #8, Special Order #27.

20 March 1945

Armed recce flown along and beyond the Rhine assisted the Third Army in its drive into the area between the Rhine and the Saar and into the city of Worms. These gains were made with the aid of what Third Army describes as "superb air-cooperation." Nine missions totaling 130 sorties were flown on armed recce in the Koblenz-Warburg-Manau-Frankfurt-Mainz area and in attacks on pre-selected special targets; bomb hits were observed over the entire area of the Frankfurt repair depot (photos show one storage type building destroyed and two damaged). Two attacks were made on a supply depot at Dietesheim; results being obscured by smoke. Seven out of eight buildings in the Aschaffenburg armored vehicle depot were destroyed or damaged; all buildings were destroyed by bombing of the Wehrheim MT Depot (M-6088) and bombing of the Warburg Ordnance Depot resulted in the destruction of 5 buildings, damage to 2 buildings and large explosion. Other claims were: 6-9 MT and vehicles, 4-2 locos, and 33-26 RR cars. 59 tons of bombs were dropped during the day.

20 March 1945

The Third and Seventh Armies, after linking up, were in the process of tearing the Saar pocket to pieces and preparations were being made to cross the Rhine. Meantime, in order to prevent reinforcement of battered German forces and replenishment of supplies in the Rhine-Saar area, XIX TAC performed armed recce and rail interdiction East of the Rhine. In spite of only slightly favorable weather the group was able to perform 8 missions totaling 120 sorties on rail cutting. The 49.25 tons of bombs dropped resulted in 15 rail cuts and the destruction or damage of 10-6 MT's, 7-25 locos, 30-75 RR cars, 1 highway overpass and 2 buildings. Two ME109's were damaged in an attack on 1 ME262 and 15 ME109's by the 396th Squadron in the Mannheim area. Major Crisp and Lt. Ohlman each claim 1 ME109 destroyed. One P-47 was lost to flak.

XIX TAC indorsed and enlarged upon a commendation received from Third Army for the work done recently. (supporting document #8).

Special Order #28, dated 21 March 1945, confirmed the WOCO 368th Fighter Gp of 20 March 1945 assigning S/Sgt Cris L. Davis, 6255883, to Headquarters. S/Sgt Davis will serve as link-trainer instructor. This SO (supporting-document) also places Cpl. Frank S. Stowell, 39199927, assigned to I&E, on TDY for a period of 7 days to attend an instructor training course.

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22 March 1945

Rail cutting continued to be our primary role in cooperation with the Third Army in its hot pursuit of the routed enemy. Nine missions - 133 sorties - were flown and 38 tons of bombs were dropped on German rail transportation; 4 missions were on rail cutting, 3 were on armed recon against rail targets and 2 ATR missions were against RR bridges at Fulda. While on a rail cutting mission the 397th Squadron strafed a supply depot at H-1111 (west of Fulda) with excellent results - one building exploded violently; sheets of flame went to 1,000 feet, smoke to 6,000 feet and concussions were felt at 10,000 feet. Strafing and bombing resulted in claims of 11-58 Mts and vehicles, 15-8 locos, 112-159 RR cars, 1 bridge and 8 buildings destroyed or damaged. 7-4 rail cuts were effected.

23 March 1945

During the night of 22 March elements of XII Corps' 5th Infantry Division crossed the Rhine in strength and during the day ideal flying weather has permitted good air-ground cooperation. Nine missions - 3 as area cover for the XII Corps and 6 on armed recon in the Aschagenburg-Wurzburg-Weidelberg-Neustadt-Darmstadt-Manau areas - totaling 140 sorties were flown by this group. 184 frags (32.4 tons) plus strafing resulted in claims of 31-38 Mts and vehicles, 21-10 locos, 107-286 RR cars, 5 gun positions, 11 barges, 1 hangar, 19 buildings, 1 switch tower, 1 radio station and an oil storage warehouse destroyed or damaged.

Attacks were made on 10 marshalling yards, 3 airfields and a town. In an encounter with 2 F190s south of Oppenheim, Captain Jensen and Lt. Snyder of the 395th Squadron each claim an aircraft destroyed. Ground claims of 0-0-3 were made by the 396th Squadron after they strafed the Hbilis airfield and the 397th Squadron claimed 2-0-3 at Wurzburg.

Special Order #30, this headquarters, dated 23 March 1945, assigns Pfc. Howard W. Sweets Jr., to Headquarters. Pfc. Sweets was further assigned to Group C-3; the section welcomes his assignment for it brings the enlisted quota back to strength. The Order (supporting document) also appointed four officers to serve as a Board of Officers for the purpose of re-classification of enlisted personnel.

Supporting Regiment #11, Special Order #30.

24 March 1945

Results for today are somewhat intangible but it is conceivable that the role played by this group made possible the rapid progress shown by General Patton's Third Army drive into the valley leading to Frankfurt. During the previous day attacks were made by German aircraft on the bridge crossing the Rhine below Mainz; today, however, by assigning this group as area cover, security of the bridges was maintained. The fact that pilots were not permitted to go down on targets until they had completed their patrol, prevented their running up any high ground claims--but they did break a Group record: 23 eight-plane missions totaling 184 sorties were flown; previous to today the highest number of sorties flown in one day had been 159 sorties, flown on 7 June 44 from Chilbolton, England.

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PAGE TWELVE

24 March 45 (cont'd)

The first mission took off at 0546 hours and most of the day was spent in performing uneventful patrols. Late in the afternoon the Squadron carried 2 1/2 tons of bombs on one mission. The resulting attack plus strafing results for the day accounted for claims of 8-0 M/T's and vehicles, 7-3 locos, 1-40 RR cars destroyed or damaged.

25 March 1945

Nine missions totaling 124 sorties, during which 38.3 tons of GP and frags, were released on German targets resulted in claims of 0-1 tanks, 174-68 M/T's and vehicles, 18-5 locos, 35-172 RR cars, 1 gun position, 2 barges, and 6 buildings, 2 radio antennas and 3 artillery sites destroyed or damaged. AIFR missions on the RR bridge at N-331582 (ICHR-Germany), is believed to have made the bridge unserviceable; cuts were also made in its approaches. Four marshalling yards were attacked and 4 cuts were seen. Strafing attacks on the Siebelstadt airdrome resulted in claims of 1-0-1 F390's and 1-0-2 on M260's.

During a temporary leave of absence, Lt. Col. Frank S. Berens, Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas, Jr. has assumed command of the 362nd Group. Lt. Col. Berens has gone to the Riviera Recreation Area for a period of seven days (supporting document #12)

Supporting Document #12, General Order #1, 25/3/45.

26 March 1945

Bad weather in the target area resulted in the recall of all squadrons on their first mission of the day--bombs were jettisoned. By 1321 hours the first of three squadrons in 12 and 16 plane missions were able to return for a second attempt. 10.3 tons of frags were dropped resulting in claims of 0-1 on tanks, 11-0 on M/T's and vehicles, 4-0 on locos, 13-18 on RR cars, buildings, 1 switch-house, 3 fuel tanks, 2 water storage tanks, 1 boiler house destroyed or damaged. Two rail cuts were made in attacks on 2 marshalling yards. One town was hit. A total of 6 missions - 86 sorties - were flown today. We had a non-battle casualty today when 2nd Lt. George A. Myers cracked during a training flight. That's the worst way to lose a pilot.

Potential baseball "stars" in the group met at special service in the evening to toss the ball around and make plans for recruiting a team; the group team will play other teams in XIX TAC and Ninth Air Force.

Special Order #31 placed Pfc. Lloyd L. Hostetler on TDY to Paris for a period of 4 days to pick-up Red Cross supplies. Lucky guy! (Supporting Document #13)

Supporting Document #13, Special Order #31.

27 March 1945

Third Army again reported excellent air cooperation. It's VIII and XII Corps expanded and joined bridgeheads southeast of Koblenz; today's missions were flown in cooperation with the VIII Corps and in armed reconnaissance in the Giessen-Fulda area. Three missions totaling 44 sorties resulted in claims of

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PAGE THIRTEEN

27 March 45 (cont'd)

1-0 on tanks, 126-35 on M/T's and vehicles, 2-1 locos, 30-30 RR cars, 4 buildings and a gun position. Attacks on a town and marshalling yard gave claims of 75 German soldiers killed. The best mission of the day was performed by the 397th Squadron in the Frankfurt area - they destroyed or damaged 97 M/T's, 2 locos, 1 flak gun, 2 barracks, 15 passenger cars and killed 75 enemy troops. One Red Cross vehicle mixed with other M/T's exploded violently when strafed.

A group memorandum, dated 27 March 45 announces the transfer of Major Marshall T. Mumaw, from Hq 368th to the 395th Squadron. Major Mumaw has been Asst Group S-3 Officer since his return from the states on 11 February 1945.

The same memorandum announces a shift in S-2 officers. Capt. Robert I. Clark, formerly S-2 Officer for the 395th Fighter Squadron is transferred to Group S-2 vice Lt. William S. Plegen to 395th Fighter Squadron. (Supporting Document #13).

A softball meeting was called for tonight but rain kept everyone away. It is known that a Group League is planned for all squadrons and attached units; four diamonds are ready for operation.

Supporting Document #14, Memo, Hq 368thFG, 27/3/45.

28 March 1945

In spite of an approaching warm front which gave us unfavorable flying weather the Group flew 6 missions totalling 92 sorties today; 3 were uneventful escort missions with IX Bombardment Division in their attack on the Erbach fuel dump and 3 were armed reces in the Marburg-Homburg-Fulda areas. Strafing results were 17-62 M/T's and vehicles, 1-0 locos, 4 buildings, 1 88mm gun destroyed, and 25 Germans. No bombs were carried. One accomplishment for the day was the location of "hot " targets.

Two pilots were report MIA. 1st Lt. George I. Bauer of the 397th was seen to hit a hill at G-955655 and 2nd Lt. Thomas F. Layden of the 395th disappeared during a strafing pass between G-8523 and H-2050.

Special Order #32 announces the arrival and assignment of S/Sgt Loveless to Headquarters. He is further attached to the 397th Squadron.

Supporting Document #15, Special Order #32.

29 March 1945

Rain and low clouds throughout the day resulted in the grounding of all Ninth Air Force fighter bombers and mediums. This Group was scheduled to perform a bomber escort mission.

Major General Jones, Air Inspector General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C., arrived at this field along with Major General Weyland, Commanding General,

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PAGE FOURTEEN

29 March 45 (cont'd)

IX Tactical Air Command, Brigadier General Saunders, Commanding General 100th Fighter Wing and a staff of several high ranking officers to conduct an administrative inspection.

30 March 1945

Rain and low clouds prevented morning operations. By 1400 hours the weather had cleared sufficiently to permit 3 missions, 48 sorties, escort of the IX Bombardment Division mediums attacking a fuel storage depot at Ebenhausen. The 395th Squadron escorted 36 A-26's and B-26's. At one point the bombers were momentarily lost in overcast but controller informed Squadron that the bombers had turned back; contact was re-established and then back to Jod Kruznach. The 396th Squadron had similar trouble while escorting 24 B-26's near Darmstadt but soon picked them up. The 397th escorted 36 B-26's uneventfully. Bombing results were unobserved due to overcast and haze.

31 March 1945

Today was pay-day in many respects. In addition to 120 successful sorties and a welcome pay call, we received a lecture by Captain Dunlap of Ninth Air Force on "Behavior in Germany". Capt. Dunlap cautioned us that we were not to construe his lecture as being indicative of a pending move; but it takes less than a lecture to start a rumor and what had prior to his arrival been a faint whispered suggestion of things to come became a rumbling rumor of "a field in Germany".

The other developments might better be termed a pay-off; it seems that Easter Sunday is a great day for the French of flock to Paris and as a result the train reservations held by the Group for men who were going on pass were cancelled or commendeered by the French. Fortunately, before the day ended new arrangements had been and the men got on their way - late, but nevertheless headed for Paris.

In the evening both the officers and the enlisted men held dances. In both cases the "quantity and quality" of the female element was found to be insufficient to meet the demand.

The 368th Fighter Group in its operations with the Ground Forces today flew 8 missions totaling 120 sorties, dropped 9 tons of bombs, and accounted for 0-4 tanks, 95-5 W/T's and vehicles, 19-3 locos, 20-12 RR cars, 5-5 buildings and 2 German soldiers destroyed, damaged or killed.

Operations for the month of March set some records. The Group flew 2,362 sorties, as compared with our previous high of 1751 in June 1944. This was done despite the fact that the weather was generally very bad during the first half of the month (we were grounded for a week straight), and even though the war nearly got out of our range during the last week of the month. On these sorties our pilots dropped 676.5 tons of bombs and fired 778,700 rounds of 50 cal. ammunition. For this expenditure our destroyed-damaged results were: tanks 27-55, W/T's and other vehicles 1130-652, locos 147-66, freight cars 732-1167, enemy aircraft 11-7-4 (in the air) and 13-0-12 (on -

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31 Mar 45 (cont'd)

the ground). There may be some more records in those monthly totals, but we'll let it go at that. But a complete story of our activities cannot be expressed in claims like these or figures of any kind. The enormous damage to German ground installations - strong point, fuel and ammo dumps, bridges, W/V's, buildings, guns and gun positions - can scarcely be measured. And our record day for sorties - 184 on March 24 - had almost no claims, for we were providing General Patton's forces with an air umbrella as they crossed the Rhine on their amazing drive into Germany. That the Luftwaffe didn't come out to argue the point was not our fault. Or maybe they had heard that the 368th was "holding the bridge"!!

Special Order #33 announces the arrival of four new officers for the Group and appoints Capt. Robert L. Clark Asst. Group S-2; the order further appoints Capt Clark Group Counter Intelligence Officer, Group Historian, and Group Censor, vice Lt. Blagen transferred (Supporting Document #16).

During the month decisions were received awarding Croix de Guerre to seven (7) officers of the 368th Fighter Group. Awards were made on 29 January 1945 for services rendered during the liberation of France. Officers chosen for this distinction were Lt. Col. Perego, Lt. Col. Douglas and Lt. Col. Sparks (then Major) - all at present assigned to Headquarters; Lt. Col. Haesler and Lt. Col. Quimby, both of whom have returned to the States, and Col. Meyers (then Commanding Officer of the 368th FG) and Major Hendricks. Col. Meyers and Major Hendricks have both transferred to IX TAC.

Rest of all, the month ended with the Allies deep into Germany. Advance elements of the Third U.S. Army were approaching the cities of Kassel (C 2304), Fulda (H 3818), Gelnhausen (N 0379). The 21st Army Group continued to encounter resistance along the Rhine-Werne Canal with leading elements of 2nd British Army advanced to vicinity (A 5879). The U.S. Ninth Army drove the enemy from the north bank of Rhine-Werne Canal and cleared Polsem (A-5236), and Ruer (A 5231); the 8th U.S. Armored Division advanced to A-902578. In the First US Army zone leading elements were reported near Paderborn (B 7045). Seventh U.S. Army elements were near Wurzburg, while in the vicinity of Aschaffenburg stubborn resistance is being met from fortified positions. The French 1st Army has crossed the Rhine on a 10 mile front and the American 15th Army has gone into action--where, we don't know as yet.

Forces in the Kassel-Eisenach sector have come up against a natural bottleneck formed by the Fulda-Werra Rivers. This terrain is favorable to the defender but once they break out into the unobstructed Elbe Basin to the East, advances may be rapid. It is with this though in mind that we prophesy an early advance through the heart of Germany with Berlin as a possible objective. "Stormy - Joe" be kind to us! With the aid of a little good weather we should establish some new records in air-ground cooperation during the coming month--if the war lasts long enough. And if it doesn't, we can stand the disappointment!

- Supporting Document #16, Special Orders #33
- Supporting Document #17, French Gov't Decision #340(extract)
- Supporting Document #18, French Gov't Decision #341(extract)
- Supporting Document #19, French Gov't Decision #343(extract)

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R E S T R I C T E D

**HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP**

**APO 141, U. S. Army
1 March 1945**

**(SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 20)**

1. Sgt (747) Richard Greenspan, 12035870, 396th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY, WP Hq & Hq Sq, Ninth Air Force, thence Public Relations Office, Hotel Scribe, Paris, o/a 1 March 45, for a period of five (5) days, for the purpose of attending a Public Relations Orientation Course. Upon Compl of this TDY, he will ret to proper orgn. TIN by MT, mil acft or rail, 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425, AUTH: Letter, Hq Ninth Air Force, subj: "Public Relations Orientation for Enlisted Personnel," file 000.7, 21 December 1944.
2. 2d Lt RALPH C. KROLL, 0681971, AC, is aptd Group Post Exchange Officer for units assigned and attached to 368th Fighter Group, vice 1st Lt MILTON LEON, 0663631, AC, trfd.
3. Pvt (345) Cecil R. Hubbard, 18089084, 397th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY, WP Hq European Civil Affairs Div, APO 658, o/a 2 March 45, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of driving officer thereto. Upon compl of this TDY, EM will ret to proper orgn. TIN by MT, 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.
4. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 56, Hq 134th Repl Bn, 25 Feb 45, the following named officers are further-asgd 395th Ftr Sq:

2d Lt (1055) ROBERT L. LAGASSEY	0809162 AC
2d Lt (1055) THOMAS J. SHELLEM	0810581 AC
5. Under the provisions of letter file 726.1, subj: "Venereal Disease Control" Hq Ninth Air Force, 5 Jan 45 and letter file 710, subj: "Ninth Air Force Safety Program" Hq Ninth Air Force, 13 Feb 45, 1st Lt JOHN F. REGAN, 0569887, AC, is aptd Gp Venereal Disease Control Advisor, in addition to his other duties.
6. Lt Col HAROLD P. SPARKS, 0432726, AC, is aptd Group S-3 vice Lt Col JOHN D. W. HAESLER, 0432193, AC, trfd.
7. Major CARLOS M. TALBOTT, 025797, AC, is aptd Acting Group S-3.
8. Officers of 21st Weather Sq, Det "R", are attached to Hq 368th Ftr Gp for duty only.
9. EM of 21st Weather Sq, Det "R", and 40th Mobile Com Sq, Ft "R", are attached 368th Ftr Sq for administration only.

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R E S T R I C T E D

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R E S T R I C T E D

SO 20, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 1 March 1945, Cont'd.

10. The WCO 368th Ftr Gp of 28 Feb 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

*Under the provisions of Par 4b, AR 35-1100, 12 May 1942, the fol named officers are aptd to witness and verify the cash balance of Major JOHN P. VOLIVA, #311398, FD, Accountable Disbursing Officer at the close of business, 28 Feb 45.

Major LEONARD L. KREMEN 01578724 QMC
Capt WILLIAM T. MCGANN 01035940 CWS^H

11. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, S/Sgt (750) John P. Koehler, 13002950, 396th Ftr Sq, is reduced to the gr of Pvt for misconduct.

12. 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 STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (747) Robert B. Olson 18018123
Sgt (747) Irvin Golub 32320062

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (747) Delos E. McHitt 37303109
Pfc (911) Guido A. Ninno 32433507

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (861) Joseph H. Daniel 34727907
Pvt (405) Edward G. Fountain 12190244
Pvt (275) Charles G. Neuber 13080881

13. 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 the grade of Corporal (Temp):

Pfc (911) Paul Dilaney 32757935
Pfc (687) Lester T. Fletcher 35594913

14. 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 SERGEANT (TEMP)

Opl (754) George L. Kessler 32627712

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (911) Jesse L. Castro 39267813
Pfc (911) Henry T. Rosamond 34829102

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (911) Louie S. Allen 32378615
Pvt (590) Benjamin Milrod 32783648
Pvt (911) Eugene R. Sibilski 42029098
Pvt (590) Robert F. Talamante 39281120

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R E S T R I C T E D

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SO 20, Hq 358th Ftr Gp, 1 March 45, Cont'd.

15. The VOCC 358th Ftr Gp of 15 Feb 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:
"Under the provisions of AR 35-1480, October 10, 1942, and AAF Regulations 35-29, July 20, 1942, as amended by AAF Regulation 35-29A, 9 March 1943, the following named enlisted men who are required to participate in regular and frequent aerial flights are placed on flying status for the period of 15 Feb 45 to 31 March 45.

S Sgt L. B. McDaniels	34343459	Aerial Engineer
Sgt Anthony F. Lewicki	32804194	Aerial Engineer (Asst)
Sgt Robert L. Barnard	13144503	Radio Operator & Mechanic
Cpl John R. Barnard	37451374	Radio Operator & Mechanic (Asst)"

16. Having been asgd this orgn per par 3, SO 54, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 27 Feb 45, 1st Lt (1055) HARRY W. BARCO, 0301530, AC, is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq.

By order of Lt Col FEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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"COPY"

Through the G-3 Air, XII US Corps. The 5th Division sends the following report to the 368th Fighter Group: The last three flights assigned for the day (3rd-March) consisting of 397 Blue, 396 Green, and 396 Yellow, did an outstanding job of cooperating with the Division troops. The flights attacked a woods at L-2057 today when our troops were but 200 yards away. Before the attack the division (10th Infantry) had received three artillery concentrations of 100 rounds, 40 rounds, and 30 rounds. After the aircraft attacked the woods no more fire was received. The weather was 7/10 cover with 1500 feet ceiling at the time. Two tanks were observed burning after the attack. BADEM L-1956 was strafed by the aircraft at the request of the Division whereby three AA positions were silenced. Our troops were 150 yards away from the target disposed in a horse-shoe pattern, complicating the safety factor for the fighter-bombers. As a result of the assistance of the bombing and strafing the troops moved into the town with very little resistance after the attack. A division artillery observer in a cub plane stated that the work of the aircraft was magnificent. Some nebelwerfer installations were knocked out in the attack.

A TRUE COPY:

Leo H. East
LEO H. EAST
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2

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THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS (ADVANCED)
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 141, U S Army
27 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Group, APO 141, U S Army.

1. In operations ranging from the immediate front of the Third US Army to beyond the RHINE, fighter-bombers of this Command on 23 February dealt the most destructive blows they have yet inflicted upon the enemy's armor and rail transport, thus directly affecting his ability to resist the Allied offensive toward the Rhineland.

2. Your Group played an outstanding and brilliant part in the achievements of that decisive day, destroying or damaging 210 tanks or other armored vehicles, 331 motor transport, 70 RR cars, 12 field guns and many other installations or items of heavy equipment. An attack on an enemy fuel dump caused numerous explosions and fires, and in aerial combat your pilots shot down three German fighters, also probably destroying one and damaging another.

3. For these achievements I take pleasure in commending highly the entire personnel of your Group, and I do so with full confidence that the 368th Fighter Group will continue to carry the battle to the enemy with every resource at its command until the final victory is won.

O. F. Feyland /s/
O. F. FEYLAND,
Maj. Gen., Air Corps,
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

Maurice Powell
MAURICE D. POWELL,
Captain, Air Corps.

1st Ind. 4-1
HEADQUARTERS 368TH FIGHTER GROUP, APO 141, U S Army, 5 Mar 1945.

To: Commanding Officers, all Squadrons 368th Fighter Group.

Well, fellows, you have done it again!! I can't begin to tell you how much pride it gives me to receive letters like this from the Commanding General in recognition of your abilities. However, I realize I'm prejudiced, because I already know that you're the best damn Group in the whole Army Air Forces.

Frank S. Pereggo
FRANK S. PEREGGO,
Lt Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding. 3

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
13 March 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 24)

1. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 50, Hq 128th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 20 Mar 45, the fol named EM are further asgd to Sq as indicated:

Tec 4 James R. Graham	6890272	(747)	395th Ftr Sq
Pvt Pellerino J. Liberatore	33804946	(521)	395th Ftr Sq
Pvt Robert E. Wood	38274683	(060)	395th Ftr Sq
Pvt Joseph B. Settle	39209363	(521)	396th Ftr Sq
Pfc Andrew J. Guinn	34495041	(521)	396th Ftr Sq
Pvt Irvin F. Mirkle	36884519	(521)	397th Ftr Sq

2. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 43, and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, Tec 4 James R. Graham, 6890272, 395th Ftr Sq, is promoted to the gr of Sergeant (Temp).

3. Fol named EM, 396th Ftr Sq, are placed on TDY, WP Ord Depot Co, Charleroi, Belgium, o/a 14 Mar 45, for a period of three (3) days, for the purpose of picking up BST Trailer. Upon compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

S Sgt Ted Goldman 38445508
Pvt John D. Corcoleotes 39035496

4. Having been asgd this orgn per par 14, SO 64, Hq 70th Reinforcement Depot (AAF), 5 Mar 45, Pvt Irving Schulman 12189337 (756), is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq.

5. Pfc George H. Harris 36451663, 396th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY, WP Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, o/a 14 Mar 45, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of picking up officers asgd this orgn. Upon compl of this TDY, EM will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

6. So much of par 2, SO 23, this Hq, cs, as reads, "Pvt Anthony Christy 12017664, 396th Ftr Sq," is amended to read, "Pvt Anthony Garisti, 12017664, 396th Ftr Sq."

(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 MPM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

A-1

AM 141, U S Army,
14 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation.

TO: All Personnel, Assigned and Attached Units, 368th Fighter Group.

1. One year ago today the 368th Fighter Group flew its first operational mission, and while that mission, in itself, was completely uneventful, it marked the first step toward a great record. Today every member of this Group and all its attached units may look at this record with a very complete sense of pride, because you are the people who have built that record.
2. This record is not a product of our collective imaginations. It stands in black and white for all to see. Tactically our record may be found in the monthly summaries of the Ninth Air Force and the XIX Tactical Air Command. Administratively and technically the inspection reports show that the Group has never been rated below "Excellent" in any inspection conducted by our higher headquarters. In addition, a more than ample file of commendations from higher headquarters covering tactical, technical and administrative phases of our work further substantiates the record.
3. Considerable responsibility must be accorded Col Gilbert L. Meyers, the first Group Commander, who so carefully picked and trained the original cadre.
4. The work of the combat pilots of the Group has been conscientious and unswerving and is widely recognized throughout this theater, and also at home in the States. However, these pilots have not forgotten that it takes the complete cooperation of every member of the Group and all attached units to build this record. They all thank you!
5. As the present Commanding Officer, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for the cooperation and help of every member of the 368th Fighter Group, Team B of the 84th Service Group, the 1293rd Military Police Company (Avn) Less Det A, the 2137th Engr Fire Fighting Platoon, Det F 9th Flying Control Squadron (Prov), Det R 21st Weather Squadron, Det R 40th Mobile Communications Squadron, and the 45th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad. Congratulations on the great record you have all helped to build!

Frank S. FREGO
FRANK S. FREGO,
Lt Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFPO 141, U. S. Army
15 March 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 25)

1. Fol named EM are placed on TDY, WP Reims, France, o/a 16 Mar 45, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of picking up rations. Upon compl of this TDY EM will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

Cpl Cyril F. Fey	35685284	Hq 368th Ftr Gp
Pfc William E. Newton	16093320	395th Ftr Sq

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 10, SO 69, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 10 Mar 45, fol named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated:

2d Lt (1055)	JOSEPH A. KNELL JR	02064073	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	WILLIAM R. PONTON	02059827	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	LEO F. SCANLON	0767395	AC	395th Ftr Sq
Flt O (1055)	JOHN S. BRYAN JR	TL27249	AC	395th Ftr Sq
Flt O (1055)	RIDGLEY B. MERRITT	TL26700	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	EDWARD D. STROMS	0721555	AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	MILTON B. NICHOLS	0825250	AC	396th Ftr Sq
Flt O (1055)	HAROLD M. HANSEN	TL27264	AC	396th Ftr Sq
Flt O (1055)	DONALD M. HARRIMAN	TL26586	AC	396th Ftr Sq

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 8, SO 62, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 7 Mar 45, Pfc John J. Costello, 32751169 (256), is further asgd 395th Ftr Sq.

4. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 43, and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, T Sgt Herbert D. Gray, 12065488 (542), 397th Ftr Sq, is promoted to the grade of Master Sergeant (Temp).

5. Fol named O and EM are placed on TDY, WP Liege, Belgium, o/a 17 Mar 45, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of picking up supplies. Upon compl of this TDY they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

Maj ERNEST R. PENDLETON	01638240 AC	
Pfc Earl E. Bailey	17034247	395th Ftr Sq

(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 MPM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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FROM CG XIX TAC (ADV) R 182250 S E C R E T

TO: CO 368TH FIGHTER GROUP

MY HEARTLEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AIR AND GROUND PERSONNEL OF YOUR ORGANIZATION WHOSE TEAMWORK, COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THE DEVASTATING BLOW TODAY STRUCK BY XIX TAC UNITS AGAINST A CONFUSED AND BEATEN ENEMY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR SPLENDID ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE DECISIVELY AFFECTED THE ABILITY OF THE ENEMY TO PROLONG A USELESS STRUGGLE AND THAT THE ULTIMATE VICTORY IS NEARER BECAUSE OF YOUR EFFORTS.

W E Y L A N D

A TRUE COPY:

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

A TRUE COPY:

Leo H. East
LEO H. EAST
Major, Air Corps

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SECRET

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFC 141, U. S. Army
19 March 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 27)

1. Fol named off and EM are placed on TDY, WP A-97 o/a 20 Mar 45 for a period of four (4) days, for the purpose of assisting in movement. Upon compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDM by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG XIX Tactical Air Comd (Rear).

1st Lt HAROLD W. CRUICKSHANK	0567799	AC	
Cpl (345) Charles W. Race	33760928		395th Ftr Sq
Pfc (345) William E. Newton	16093320		395th Ftr Sq
Pfc (345) Clifford I. Stubinger	36642616		395th Ftr Sq
Cpl (345) Rene A. Doyon	31119005		396th Ftr Sq
Pfc (345) Edward J. Neary	33666551		397th Ftr Sq

✓ 2. Lt Col LEMUEL R. GORRELL, 0415495, AC, is aptd Det Commander of Hq Det 368th Ftr Gp, add dy, vice Major HUGH L. RICE, 0379295, AC, reld.

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 2, SO 69, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 14 Mar 45, S Sgt Joseph A Cavola, 32217083, (345), Inf, is further asgd Hq 368th Ftr Gp and atchd 397th Ftr Sq for dy, rat and qrs.

✓ 4. Having been asgd this orgn per par 2, SO 54, Hq 128th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 14 Mar 45, Pvt Robert F. Foos 15121808, (657), MD, is further asgd Hq 368th Ftr Gp.

✓ 5. Under the provisions of WD Cir 487, 1944, 1st Lt JOHN F. REGAN, 0569887, AC, is aptd Soldier Voting Officer for Hq Det 368th Ftr Gp, add dy.

✓ 6. Pfc Lamont H. Rutan, 19080132, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, is placed on TDY, WP A-82 o/a 21 Mar 45, for a period of one (1) day, for the purpose of attending a Special Service Conference, reporting thereat prior to 1000 hours, 21 Mar 45. Upon compl of this TDY EM will ret to proper orgn. TDM by MT, mil acft or rail. AUTH: TFX XIX Tactical Air Comd (R) RL77X.

7. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43, and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, Cpl (911) George F. Slayton 33362468, 395th Ftr Sq is reduced to the gr of Pvt for misconduct.

(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 MPM, 22 Nov 1944)

By order of Lt Col PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
Office of the Commanding General
APO 453

21 March 1945

My Dear Weyland:

The XIX Tactical Air Command and the 3rd Army have again been committing treason in reverse as we did so happily in August and September.

By this I mean that instead of giving aid and comfort to the enemy, we have been giving him pain and discomfort, and doing it in a big way.

Let us keep it up!

Most sincerely,

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.
G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Major General Otto F. Weyland
Headquarters XIX Tactical Air Command
APO 141
U. S. Army.

1st Wrepper Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (APO), APO 141, US Army, 21 March 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 350th Fighter Group, APO 141, U. S. Army.

1. With apologies to Patrick Henry I say, if this be treason, let us make the most of it.

2. XIX TAC-Third Army again is showing the world that a perfectly coordinated fighting air-ground team can do. I knew that you would be with me to a man when I assured General Patton that we would "keep it up" with the Third Army.

A TRUE COPY:

H. L. Rice
HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps.

O. F. Weyland /s/
O. F. WEYLAND,
Major General, USA,
Commanding.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
36TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. ARMY
21 March 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 23)

1. Pol named Off and EM are placed on TDY, WF Verviers, Belgium, thence to Exposition Bldg, Brussels, Belgium, c/a 21 Mar 45, for a period of five (5) days, for the purpose of picking up rations. Upon compl of this TDY they will ret to proper orgn. TDY by MF, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG XIX Tactical Air Comd.

1st Lt JOHN F. REGAN 0569307 AC
Cpl (56) Lonnie E. Dempsey 11150774 2499th QM Trk Co

2. Pol named Off and EM are placed on TDY, WF Hq Ninth Air Force, Scribe Hotel, Paris, Fr, c/a 21 Mar 45, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of attending a press conference. Upon compl of this TDY they will ret to proper orgn. TDY by MF, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG XIX Tactical Air Comd.

1st Lt WALTER R. JOHNSON 0314696 AC
Sgt Richard Greenspan 12035070 396th Ptr Sq

3. So much of par 3, SO 27, this Hq, cs, as reads, "and atchd 397th Ptr Sq for dy, rat and grs." is amended to read, "and atchd 397th Ptr Sq for dy, rat, grs and adm." (Pertains to S Sgt Joseph A. Cavola 32217013 (345))

✓ 4. Cpl Frank S. Stowell, 39199927, Hq 360th Ptr Gp, is placed on TDY, WF Hq Ninth Air Force, reporting thereto to Information-Education Officer, by 1500 hours, 25 Mar 45, for a period of seven (7) days, to attend instructor training course. Pcdroll will accompany EM. Upon compl of this TDY he will ret to proper orgn. TDY by MF, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TRX R266, XIX Tactical Air Comd, 20 Mar 45.

✓ 5. The VOOG 360th Ptr Gp of 20 Mar 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record. *Having been asgd this orgn per par 1 SO 71, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 16 Mar 45, S Sgt Cris L. Davis, 6255003 (650) is further asgd Hq 360th Ptr Gp.

(Travel Air 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 *Parigo*:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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R E S T R I C T E DHEADQUARTERS
365TH FIGHTER GROUPAFO 141, U. S. ARMY
23 March 1945SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 30)

1. Fol named EM are placed on TDY, WF Hq 9th Flying Control Sq (Prov), o/a 23 Mar 45, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of delivering off baggage. TDN by MP, nil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

Cpl Frank Ciancio Jr 12163177
Cpl Howard H. Huff 36565335

2. Fol named officers are granted seven (7) days leave, WF o/a 25 Mar 45 to Nice, Fr. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to United States Riviera Recreational Area Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, where at they will report to CO, USRRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MP, nil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/-50425. AUTH: Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, file AG 354.1 OPGA, Subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 1945.

Lt Col FRANK S. PEREGO	0426422	AC (In charge)
Lt Col THOMAS J. CARBINE	0392743	AC
1st Lt DALE L. JEWKES	0317957	AC
2d Lt VERNON M. JETTY	0330001	AC
2d Lt IRVEN F. MILLER	0320546	AC
2d Lt DAVID J. BOSS	0769700	AC
2d Lt SIDNEY HOROWITZ	0769030	AC
2d Lt LESLIE R. LEAVOY	0330020	AC

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 75, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 20 Mar 45, Pfc Howard R. Sweet Jr 34603714 (405) is further asgd Hq 365th Ftr Gp.

4. Par 2, SO 123, this Hq, 17 October 1944, pertaining to Reclassification Board, is revoked.

5. Fol named officers are appointed Board of Officers for purpose of reclassification of enlisted personnel, 365th Ftr Gp:

Capt MAURICE D. POWELL	0650443	AC (President)
Capt HAROLD J. KESSLER	0561410	AC (Recorder)
1st Lt CARL H. GUNDLACH	0571006	AC
1st Lt SAMUEL H. SCHOFIELD	0502942	AC

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

By order of Lt col PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Nice
HUGH L. NICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

A-1

AFM 141, U S Army,
25 March 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 1)

The undersigned hereby assumes command of the 368th Fighter Group,
vice Lt Colonel Frank S. Perego, 0426422, leave of absence.

Paul P. Douglas, Jr.
PAUL P. DOUGLAS, JR.,
Lt Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

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1 ea Squadron
1 ea O's 201 file
1 CG XIX TAC
1 CG 100th Ftr Wing
1 CG Ninth AF
1 file

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
26 March 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 31)

1. Pfc Lloyd L. Hostetler (196) 33292894, MC, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, is placed on TDY, WP Paris, Fr, o/a 27 Mar 45, for a period of four (4) days, for the purpose of obtaining Red Cross Supplies. Upon compl of this TDY EM will return to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.
2. Cpl Charles W. Race (345) 33760928, 395th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY, WP A-44 o/a 28 Mar 45, for a period of two (2) days, for the purpose of delivering personnel thereto. Upon compl of this TDY EM will return to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.
3. So much of par 3, SO 22, this Hq, cs, as reads, "Lt Col PAUL P. DOUGLAS JR, 0432187, AC, President," is amended to read, "Lt Col HAROLD P. SPARKS, 0432726, AC, President." (Pertains to Aircraft Accident Investigating Board)
4. So much of par 1, SO 29, this Hq, cs, as reads, "for the pmt of officers and EM P/R for the month of March 1945," is amended to read, "for the pmt of officers and EM regular and supplemental P/R for the month of March 1945."
5. 1st Lt THEODORE F. SKALKO, 0582418, AC, is placed on TDY, WP Cite Universitaire, 9 Boulevard Jourdan, Paris, reporting thereat to Registrar by 1600 hours, 1 April 45, for a period of nine (9) days, to attend Instructor Training Officer Course. Bedroll will accompany Off. Upon compl of this TDY Off will return to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft, or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.
6. Under the provisions of Par 4b, AR 35-1100, 12 May 1942, the fol named officers are aptd to witness and verify the cash balance of Major ALAN M. LANARD, 0382291, FD, Accountable Disbursing Officer as of 0800 hours, 31 Mar 45:

Capt WALTER J. DINESEN 01635782 SC
1st Lt JAMES W. WOODS 01636849 SC

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

By order of Lt Col DOUGLAS:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

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C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

C-2

APO 141, U. S. ARMY
27 March 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Commanding Officer, 395th Fighter Squadron, APO 141, U. S. Army.

1. Major MARSHALL E. LUNAN, 0732315, AG, HQ 368th Ftr Gp, is transferred to 395th Fighter Squadron.
2. Capt ROBERT T. GLENN, 0251450, AG, 395th Fighter Squadron, is transferred to HQ 368th Fighter Group.
3. 1st Lt WILLIAM S. BLAGEN, 0364603, AG, HQ 368th Fighter Group is transferred to 395th Fighter Squadron.

By order of 1st Col DOUGLAS:

A TRUE COPY:

LEO H. EAST
Major, Air Corps,

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

C O P Y

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUPAPO 141, U. S. Army
29 March 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 32)

1. So much of par 1, SO 29, this Hq, cs, as reads, "1st Lt JAMES B. PHILBRICK, 0691287, AC, 396th Fighter Squadron," is amended to read, "2d Lt FRANK F. CIERO JR, 0832575, AC, 396th Fighter Squadron."

2. Major JAMES R. VERELLI, 0386976, AC, is aptd Investigating Off to investigate Courts-Martial charges against Pfc Jesse W. Roberts. 3472444L, 1293rd L P Co (Avn). Complete report of investigation on TD AGC Form 120 will be submitted to this Hq in triplicate.

3. 1st Lt WILBUR H. LUKER, 01554424, AC, is detailed to conduct the monthly inventory of the Group Post Exchange on 31 Mar 45.

4. Fol named officers are granted seven (7) days leave, TP o/a 1 April 45 to Nice, Fr. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to USRAA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr. whereat they will report to CO, USRAA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn, TDF by air, rail or car, 60-114 P 432-02 + 212/EC425. A TH: Ltr, Hq DEWUSA, file 22 354.1, Subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45.

Capt WILLIAM A. KEER	0662136 AC	(In charge)
Capt JERRY B. TULLIS	0652638 AC	
2d Lt HALPTON T. HAYS	0770265 AC	
2d Lt DALE G. FORNEY	0785467 AC	
2d Lt WILLIAM G. DEKOR	0703367 AC	
2d Lt THEODORE O. TAUBERT	0708850 AC	
2d Lt LEONARD H. KOSTRACH	0830016 AC	
2d Lt WILLIAM T. TRIGHT JR	0770073 AC	

5. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 82, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 27 Mar 45, Pfc Willis E. Harrison 34374001 (521), is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq, EDCR 29 Mar 45.

6. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 82, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 27 Mar 45, S Sgt Gilbert C. Loveless 35191271 (932), is further asgd Hq 368th Ftr Gp and atchd 397th Ftr Sq for dy, rat, qrs and admin. EDCR 29 Mar 45.

By order of Lt Col DOUGLAS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army
31 March 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 33)

1. Having been asgd this orgn per par 13, SO 84, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 25 Mar 45, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated EDCMR 31 Mar 45.

1st Lt (1055) RAYMOND A. DARLING	0815486 AC	39 5th Ftr Sq
1st Lt (1055) HAROLD E. BYRICH	0698984 AC	39 5th Ftr Sq
1st Lt (1055) JAMES S. MITCHELL	0824535 AC	39 6th Ftr Sq
1st Lt (1055) JACKIE N. MOORE	0811852 AC	39 7th Ftr Sq

2. Fol named off and EM are placed on TDY, TP Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd (R), o/a 1 April 45, for a period of four (4) days, for the purpose of assisting in movement. Upon compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOGG XIX Tactical Air Comd (R)

1st Lt DALE C. OLMSEAD	01593766 AC	
Cpl Chester E. Urie	36199366	39 5th Ftr Sq
Pfc Edmund L. DeForge	31291898	39 5th Ftr Sq
Pvt Anthony Caristi	12017664	39 6th Ftr Sq
Cpl Ralph R. May	34624963	39 7th Ftr Sq

3. Par 2, SO 14, this Hq, cs, is amended by adding, "There Govt qrs and subs are not available within the UK, exclusive of London, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs, not to exceed \$4.00 per day and per diem of \$1.25 in lieu of subs, are authorized, in accordance with Par 2c, Cir 63, Hq, ETOUSA, 5 June 1944". (Pertains to officers on TDY at Burtonwood UK)

4. So much of par 2, SO 32, this Hq, cs, as reads, "Major JAMES R. VERLIL, 0386976, AC," is amended to read, "Major JAMES R. VERLIL, 0386975, AC."

5. Under the provisions of AR 600-68, the following named EM, 39 7th 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:

Cpl Ben B. Barber	35389169
Cpl Leonard F. Dabey	36318250
Cpl Henry T. Rosamond	34829102
Cpl Grover C. McDaniel Jr	18122421
Pfc Eugene R. Sibilski	42029098

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R E S T R I C T E D

SO 33, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 31 March 45, Cont'd.

6. Capt ROBERT L. CLARK, O361450, AC, is aptd Asst Gp S-2, pdy, and further aptd Gp Counter Intelligence Off, Gp Historical Off, Gp Censor, add dy, vice 1st Lt WILLIAM S. BLAGEN, O364603, AC, trfd.

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

By order of Lt Col DOUGLAS:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

D I S T R I B U T I O N :

"A"

R E S T R I C T E D

SECRET

DECISION NO 340

EXTRACT

Le President du Gouvernement Provisoire de la Republique
Francaise, Chef des Armees, cite:

LE L'ORDRE DU CORPS D'ARMEE

* pour services exceptionnels de Guerre rendus au cours des *
* operations de liberation de la France *
* * *

* * *
Col. Paul P. DOUGLAS, Jr. 0432187 AC, 9th Air Force
* * *

Les Presentes Citations comportent l'attribution de
la Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Vermeil.

PARIS, le 29 Jan 1945

Le General De Gaulle, President du
GPRF

Par ordre, LE GENERAL D'ARMEE JUL.
Chef d'Etat-Major General
de la Defense Nationale

P.A. Le Colonel MISSONIER
Directeur de Cabinet de l'E.M.G.D.N.

Signe : JUL.

/s/ MISSONIER

A TRUE COPY:

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

/s/ John J. Sheehan
JUL. J. SHEEHAN.
major, Air Corps

Leo H. East
LEO H. EAST
Major, Air Corps

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S E C R E T

DECISION No. 341

E X T R A C T

Le President du Gouvernement Provisoire de la Republique Francaise,
Chef des Armees, cite :

A L'ORDRE DU CORPS D'ARMEE

* Pour services exceptionnels de Guerre rendus au cours des operations *
* de liberation de la France *
* *

*	*	*
Major Randall W. HENDRICKS	0441804	9th AF
*	*	*
Major Harold P. SPARKS	0432726	70th Fighter Wing

Les Presentes Citations comportent l'attribution de la
Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Verneil

PARIS, le 29 Janvier 1945
Le General de Gaulle, President du GP.

Par Ordre, Le General d'Armee JUIN
Chef d'Etat-- Major General
de la Defense Nationale

P. A. Le Colonel MISSIONIER
Directeur de Cabinet de l'E.M.G.D.N.

Signe : J U I N

/s/ MISSIONIER

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

A TRUE COPY:
Leo H. East
Major, Air Corps

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

D E C I S I O N No. 343

E X T R A C T

Le President du Gouvernement Provisoire de la Republique Francaise.

Chef des Armees, cite :

A L'ORDRE DE L'ARMEE

* Pour services exceptionnels de Guerre rednus au cours des operations *
* de liberation de la France *
* * * * *

*	*	*
Lt Col John D. W. HAESLER	0432193	368th Ftr Gp
*	*	*
Col Gilbert I. MEYERS	022843	368th Ftr Gp
*	*	*
Lt Col Henry R. CUMBY	0429168	395th Ftr Sqdn
*	*	*
Lt.Col Frank S. PEREGO	0426422	368th Ftr Gp
*	*	*

Les Presentes Citations comportent l'attribution de la Croix de Guerre avec Palme.

FAIT A PARIS, le 29 Jan 1945.

Signe : de GAULLE

P.A. le Colonel MISSONIER
Directeur de Cabinet de l'E.M.G.D.N.

/a/ MISSONIER

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

A TRUE COPY:

Leo H. East
LEO H. EAST
Major, Air Corps

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