SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP
APO 141

STRIP R-42

HISTORY

MAY 1945

GROUP HISTORICAL OFFICER: CAPT. ROBERT L. CLARK

RECORDER:
T/SGT. CLARENCE D. REESE
S/SGT. CLARENCE A. CLASHID
S/SGT. RAYMOND NAZZARO

TYPIST: CORP. HAROLD McCLELLAN
SECRET

HISTORICAL REPORT
1 May to 31 May 1945

Information contained herein, is written in compliance with XIX Tactical Air Command Memorandum Number 20-1, dated 5 February 1944. It is a resume of the activities of the 365th Fighter Group Headquarters, for the month of May 1 to 31, 1945.

1. ORGANIZATION

   No Change.

2. STRENGTH AS OF 31 MAY 1945

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Personnel</th>
<th>Authorized Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlisted Men</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

   Departed ALG Y-73, 4 miles S7 of Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, 13 May 1945, for ALG B-42, Buchschwaback, Germany, 10 miles S of Nurnberg, arriving 13 May 1945.

4. LOSSES IN ACTION:

   Nil (for Group Headquarters)

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

   Bronze Star

   M/Sgt. Stanley W. Oliver
   M/Sgt. William A. Wallace
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RECORD OF EVENTS
PAGE ONE

1 May 1945

We start this month's history with an added feature. We are presenting a series of photographs of all officers and enlisted men of Headquarters Detachment — that is, all who could be corralled at the time the photographs were taken. A few may have slipped by, but we believe the attendance to be almost 100%. As much as possible the pictures were taken within the respective departments of the personnel concerned without any special or fancy preparations made, just plain natural like (Supporting Document #1).

The Group was released for maintenance & training today but, in spite of this, we were in one sense operational, for the advance echelon departed for our new base R-42 at Ruchschwabach, 10 miles southwest of Nurnberg.

The advance echelon arrived at their new field around four o'clock finding that it did not appear to be as bad as it had been rumored to be. There are enough buildings for Headquarters administrative, the dispensary, Red Cross, Theatre, and Officers' Club. The buildings are all set in close together among plenty of trees 700 yards from the airfield. For living and sleeping quarters, however, its back to the tents we go.

The usual amount of work is ahead getting the place ready; today's activities consisting of cleaning out the main building and erecting the snack bar tent.

Special Order #45 announces the arrival of four 2nd Lieutenants — three of whom were assigned to the 396th Squadron, and one to the 395th Squadron (Supporting Document #2).

Supporting Document #1 — Photographs of HQ officers and enlisted men.
Supporting Document #2 — Special Order #45.

2 May 1945

From X-73 the 396th Squadron flew the only two missions flown by this Group today. Two eight plane missions went out on patrols in the Cham-inglstatt-straubing area. 10/10's cloud coverage and bad weather caused both missions to prove uneventful.

A second group of men and equipment were scheduled to have departed for R-42 early today, but the trucks have not yet returned.

The German radio announced last night that Hitler died yesterday in his chancellory in Berlin.

At Ruchschwabach activity went into the usual high gear starting with the long working day that has become the usual day for first echelons since Normandy. Day begins at 0700 and ends at darkness.

A supply of good lumber was found to be available nearby so no time was wasted gathering as much as possible for the different enterprises planned. First was the flooring for all the tents. Next, work was started on the construction of a building to house our portable shower. The building Headquarters was to use
SECRET

2 May 45 (Cont'd)

became a scene of activity, floors being repaired, partitions torn down, others were put up, doorways constructed, etc. Those working indoors were fortunate indeed; outdoors the men had to contend with a dismal rain that continued all day.

2 May 1945

Operations took on a new tempo today in spite of a 9/10ths to 10/10ths cloud coverage in the recce area. Six missions totaling 72 sorties were flown on armed recce in the Tabor-Pilsen area -- each squadron flying two 12 plane missions. 9.5 tons of bombs were dropped on a factory, marshalling yards, and an unknown position under vector by GUNPOST. Claims were: 31-25 H/Ts and vehicles, 3-1 locos, 25-20 RR cars, 1 RR bridge, and several hits on a factory.

At R-42 the second group of men and equipment arrived, and by the end of the day the tents were practically all up, and a new innovation was begun. For the enlisted men's sleeping quarters, squad tents were erected instead of the usual pyramidal tent. Twelve men to a squad tent makes it just comfortable and gives it the semblance of a barracks. The idea was well liked.

Group strength was increased today by the arrival of 15 new officers, two 1st Lieutenants, twelve 2nd Lieutenants & one Flight Officer & two enlisted men (Supporting Document #3).

Feeling seems to be that "Mer Tag" is not too far off.

Supporting Document #3 - Special Order #46.

6 May 1945

Three missions, two by the 396th Squadron and one by the 397th Squadron, were flown in cooperation with units of the IX Corps and on armed recce in the Loiy area. Eight and one-half tons of bombs and strafing results against MTs & MTs resulted in claims of 77-40 MTs & vehicles, 4-0 locos, 13-3 RR cars and one JU 52.

Most of the excitement for the day was caused by a mission which was scrubbed. When we arrived at the office we found that we were scheduled to escort some of the Luftwaffe back to our base. The pilots were to have flown over an airfield in Germany, do a couple of slow rolls, wait for the Luftwaffe pilots to take-off and then escort them back to the Frankfurt-Rhein-Main Airfield. For some reason the mission did not materialize -- too bad -- it might have proven to be interesting if not worthwhile, especially when everyone had figured on rushing out to the runway as they landed and grabbing all the luggers they could get their hands on; sure would have been a flock of souvenir floating around.

5 May 1945

Rain fell at both Y-73 and R-42 today so we were non operational again. Major East took off for R-42 with most of the S-2 equipment and several enlisted men.
5 May 45 (Cont'd)

The Surrender of German Army Group "O" became effective 1200 hours today.

At Nurnberg the general feeling was getting to be that the war will certainly be over before the rest of the group gets here. This situation poses this question: Do we go back there or do they continue on to our new base here?

6 May 1945

Continued rain prevented operations again today, but the day did not pass without some developments in the war situation. Shortly after we had returned to the living area (Y-73) in the evening, the radio came out with premature news that Germany had surrendered. We had waited a long time for such news and some of the boys forgot or chose to ignore the army regulations; they went outside and fired their sidearms — carbines, Thompsons and L5's. Most of the fire came from the squadron areas, but one of the officers thought he had seen someone in Hq. fire; he couldn't identify the man and no one would confess so all of the enlisted men had to go outside and march one hour. The rain and marching took the edge off the good news.

The forward surge of the Third US Army was not affected by the surrender of the German Army Group "O" yesterday.

7 May 1945

The 396th flew the only mission for today; a 16 plane mission in a fighter-sweep in the Passau-Cham area. Such inactivity gave us a chance to listen to all of the news broadcasts on the radio; we waited expectantly for the confirmation of the German surrender. By afternoon, May 8th had been declared VE Day.

American Third Army troops continue to sweep into Czechoslovakia on a wide front; they are reported 7 miles from the capital, and General Patton has liberated Pilsen.

8 May 1945

The long awaited, much anticipated, and eagerly expected has arrived — V-Day in Europe. Official announcement of Germany's unconditional surrender has been blaring forth over the radio all day. Prime Minister Churchill has proclaimed tomorrow V-Day in Europe and further, an additional day for celebrating and rejoicing. To all in the Group, though operations were at a standstill, it seemed just like another day except for the joyous expressions everyone was wearing. Also on most, you could discern the attitude "what now", and "BMI here we come".

Our situation map, long a great point of interest, and lately the center of attraction for all amateur strategists, a spot where someone could always be found looking longingly at the ever moving lines converging to the center of Germany, today stands alone in the bright sunlight with the one terse word "FINI". And like so many other things on this day it is at the end of its long and interesting career.
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8 May 45 (Cont’d)

The Group was non-operational today, but activity was not at a standstill; the Group at P-42 finally got into the celebrating mood at the approach of darkness when guns of all calibres began to go off and flares were seen bursting overhead. A stop was put to the shooting when it was found that some of the shells were landing in nearby AA emplacements. Other sorts of celebrating were also very much in evidence.

Pen and pencil will never do justice to the history made today; its effects will reach into the centuries — we and the best day the Group has ever enjoyed.

9 May 1945

V-E Day (officially) — our last combat operation in Germany. Hostilities officially ceased as of 0001 hours ZST, today. Three missions totaling 46 sorties were flown as defensive patrol in the Lingen-Mistorry area; all missions uneventful.

Today we feel in the mood to submit a few statistics concerning the prominent part we feel this group played in the defeat and destruction of Germany during the period 16 March 1944 - 9 May 1945:

FLIGHT RECORD FOR PERIOD

Missions flown - 1,406
Sorties flown - 17,455

CLAIMS FOR PERIOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enemy Aircraft</th>
<th>Destroyed</th>
<th>Probably Destroyed</th>
<th>Damaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In air</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On ground</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESTRUCTION																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
tanks ----- 499 602 1101
Motor trucks & vehicles ----- 7358 2943 10301
Locomotives ----- 700 213 913
Railroad cars ----- 3236 4241 7477
Bridges ----- 33 46 79
Factories & buildings ----- 792 248 1040
Railroad cuts ----- 475
BP marshaling yd. stks. ----- 260
Airfields attached ----- 50
Gun emplacements ----- 187 59 246
Sup. fuel & amm. dumps ----- 64 32 96
Vessels and barges ----- 31 115 146

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OTHER INTERESTING FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rounds of .50 calibre ammunition expended on combat missions</td>
<td>4,570,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of bombs dropped on target</td>
<td>10,860,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teletype and radio messages handled by Communications</td>
<td>21,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outgoing and incoming telephone calls handled by Communications</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles of wire laid by Communications</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours flown on combat missions</td>
<td>45,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft assigned to the Group</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Group has made a name for itself, first by its reputation it earned as a bridge buster prior to D-Day, and second as a reliable close-support Group for the infantry. Numerous commendations singling out the 368th Fighter Group serve to support such claims (Supporting Document #4).

The above claims have not been established without suffering a considerable loss in pilots to the Group. Status as of 31 May 1945:

- MIA: 36
- KIA: 23
- WIA: 2
- WAC: 11
- 1A: 14
- 21A: 10 (6-11A)

To those who were either killed or severely wounded we pause to offer our regrets and express our gratitude for their splendid efforts, and for the privilege of having known them; to those who were more fortunate, but still no longer with us, we offer our thanks, and to those who are still in the ETO we wish them a speedy return to the USA.

Supporting Document #4 - Copies of Commendations

10 May 1945

At Nurnberg the advance echelon began to recover from the V-E Day state of mind, and began to wonder about our future plans. The point system, announced over the radio this evening, started a series of arguments which will probably go on for months, or until all of us except the 30-year men are out of the army. For at least a week the invariable question when two men meet is likely to be "How many points have you got?". There are four different ways in which points may be accumulated under this system which are as follows:
10 May 1945 (Cont'd)

1. Service credit - Number of months in army since 16 Sept. 1940.
2. Overseas credit - Number of months served overseas since 16 Sept. 1940.
3. Combat credit - Number of decorations and bronze service stars since 16 Sept. 1940.
4. Parenthood credit - Number of children under 18 yrs. old.

The peacetime setting was being laid at Strip R-42 and we remembered at Nurnberg that we were only a part of the Group, that our planes were still at Frankfort, and would probably arrive in a couple of days. And back at Y-73 the rear echelon was beginning to realize that the whole group would soon be moved to the new field at Nurnberg even though the war was over. The prospect of moving from the modern homes and apartments to tents didn't make anyone happy.

11 May 1945

Y-73 saw little activity other than preparations for movement. At Nurnberg we finally lined up a laundry - a setup formerly used by 10,000 Lehrbacht personnel. Our new laundry may find out, however, that 1500 Air Corps men can turn in more clothes each week than his 10,000 Heinies. Like everything else in Nurnberg, the laundry facilities were somewhat disorganized by the recent hostilities in this area; we will probably be lucky to get our "washing" back before Memorial Day, even though we turned it in on May 11.

We had a grim reminder at strip R-42 that the war was not over for us. Instead of just the 0300 roll call, two others have now been scheduled. At 1000 and 1500 hours all E and Officers below the rank of Major are called out to drill for an hour and a half. This soon developed into competition between two squads, the issue to be settled tomorrow - the losers to buy the beer.

The strip R-42 runways was about ready for planes today. The 155 E staff began to shift into high gear in preparation for a unit school. They acquired a building of their own, building No. 5, a short stretch up the hill from the Group Headquarters Building.

They also acquired a new member to add to their growing organization. S/Sgt. Clarence (Doc) Collier, former recorder of the Group History and member of the S-2 section was transferred to Y-1 today. His background, education, and former teaching experience (plus his ability as a soothsayer) will be a valuable asset to the school. Already, numerous items from various departments such as desks, chairs, globes, maps, etc. are finding their way up to the school.

PFC George Capello of HQ. First US Army attached to Group HQ. since last January and a clerk in the G.1.C. section was made a permanent member of HQ. per S.O. #47 (Supporting Document #5). PFC Capello is assigned to S-1, and is first asst. to S/Sgt. Trudel in the payroll section.

Supporting Document #5 = Special Order #47
12 May 1945

This group rendezvoused with other Fighter Groups of IX TAC over Y-73 at 6500 feet, and flew uneventful demonstrative missions over the Frankfurt-Wiesbaden-Darmstadt area.

The rear echelon began moving up to Nurnberg — the planes are due to move tomorrow, weather permitting.

The F & F Staff had a tentative curriculum drawn up today and began cleaning their new building. That proved to be a man-sized job: Capt. Hoy's 6-man detail recruited from the squadrons had to clear out 15 deer (a long time dead), many bales of straw, quantities of chemicals (which had an even more unpleasant affect on the nose than the deer), many boxes of German ammunition, and one wrecked Heinkle 115 trainer. The Luftwaffe had used the building to train pilots; and they were succeeded by our Combat Engineers who camped there a few nights, spreading their cots on the straw and getting in a little deer hunting when Pointe-hunting became too sport. However, they either found the small deer tough eating or had to leave in a hurry. When we got there the deer were of interest only to maggots.

13 May 1945

The planes made the move from Y-73 to R-42 today, the first planes reaching Nurnberg about 0830 hours. Col. Perrigo flew "The Slick Chick" to the new base, and Captains Ivey and Longray were the last to take off from Y-73, taking off about noon. None of the pilots had any difficulty in landing on the newly-laid matting. More of the rear echelon also moved today; a number of men making the jump today by C-47.

The F & F Section continued to clean out their building, haul away, burn, or bury the nauseous debris, and moved their library and equipment from their headquarters room to the new "school", which still looked pretty empty when they had finished moving.

The school continues to be the main center of attraction from a standpoint of work and interest.

14 May 1945

The wheels met today to determine the fate of the projected unit school, and Education Officer Lt. John F. Regan presented his plans. He was informed that only a program of pilot training will have priority over the school. Each pilot is required to fly 30 hours a month, which will mean plenty of work still coming up for plane crews and other maintenance men. The plans for the new Fortress School call for registration of all personnel on Wednesday May 23, and for school to begin two weeks from today, on May 28. That will get us off to a start nearly two weeks before the time set by higher command, which specified that 30 days after V-E Day should see the opening of the unit schools.

16 May 1945

The point system continues to be the subject of practically all conversations, wherever two or more persons are gathered, the discussion is almost sure to be
15 May 1945 (cont'd)

on relative merits, features, and aspects of the point system. Those that "got
en" are sure fire for it. Those that didn't, can't see it at all.

The rumor factories, the Snack Bar and Latrine, have been unusually busy of late;
emerging forth are all sorts of stories: we're any of Occupation, we're going
direct to the CBI, we're going to the States, losing all the 85 point men; getting
more 85 point men etc. So far nothing has happened that would make it appear that
present or future operations are, or will ever be, anything but normal.

16 May 1945

"We hear that F/Sgt Stanley". Oliver, chief clerk in the S-3 section has been
awarded the bronze star medal. Sgt Oliver is the first and only enlisted man in
Hq to receive this award or any other of this nature. This also brings his total
points to 136 — plenty to spare there (Supporting Document #6).

Work continues to be plentiful at R-42. The end of the war has brought no slack-
ening in the amount of administrative duties to be performed; in fact, it seems
to have increased in many instances.

Supporting Document #6, General Order #36.

17 May 1945

The medics started a physical check-up of all enlisted men today to select those
fit to go back to the states and determine those to be jettisoned here. It was
more complete than the check-up we had before coming overseas. They must reason
that anyone could live in the ETO but that it would take a healthy man to stand
up under a furlough in the States. Of course, the medics would give a different
analysis of the situation. Results: all but two are in excellent shape.

18 May 1945

Rumors received a new impetus when all personnel of this group and attached units
attended a compulsory showing of the movie "Two Down and One to Go" or as some of
the boys said later "Two Down & Here We Go". Comments were numerous and varied
but they were all of a kind — "Oh, that's out of date now!" "...did you see what
happened to the Air Corps?" ... "They'll change it a dozen times", etc. But few
said "Now I am sure that I will go home!".

Everyone added up their points today and handed in the results to S-1. Most of us
were caught with our points down; single men wished they were married and had a
child, married men were sorry they had not had twins, and the fortunate few went
around boasting "We'll be discharged!"

The first issue of our newly formed group newspaper came out today. It hasn't
been named yet, but we are glad to see it get under way (Supporting Document #7).
A $25.00 war bond has been offered to the person submitting the best name for the
paper.

The "wheels" are to take off in mass for the Riviera. Special Order #49 sends
four Majors and one FCO on 7-day leave or furlough. Capt. Steers also leaves
for XIX TAC to teach a course in educational advisement (Supporting Document #8).
19 May 1945

Information & Education hung out their shingle today when they put up the FORTRESS SCHOOL sign. They also set out on another scavenging trip resulting in a valuable asset in the form of a memo machine.

Work was started on a new and larger theater building across from the school. Special Service has been showing movies in the Red Cross building. As soon as they move the theater to the new location the Red Cross will expand—it is expected that they will blossom out with some new furniture and rugs.

20 May 1945

Group started a new policy on days off today. With the exception of one man in each section, who is to take the following day, all personnel were given Sunday off. Even so, with training programs coming in, some members of S-1, S-2, and I & E spent part of the day at the office drawing up schedules, etc.

Five new pilots were assigned to Squadrons per Special Order #50.

M/Sgt. William A. Wallace joined M/Sgt. Stanley W. Glavens' distinguished position of having been awarded a Bronze Star Medal (Supporting Document #10).

Supporting Document #9, Special Order #50.
Supporting Document #10, General Order #37.

21 May 1945

Information & Education showed signs of life today when they called a meeting of Hq. and all Squadrons; Hq at 1000, 395th at 1100, 396th at 1315, and 397th at 1615 hours—to distribute catalogues, schedules, and registration blanks outlining the I & E program. The Principal (Lt. Regan) and his right hand man (Sgt. Clasrud) explained the activities, studies, classes etc. of the FORTRESS School (Supporting Document #10). All personnel interested in participation in this education program were instructed to fill out the registration blank, and assure the approval of their department heads. A great deal of administrative work remains to be carried on, and office work holds precedence over the school. Hours and courses were shifted so that offices would never be unattended. The same situation will prevail in the Squadrons once the training program gets under way—places will need maintenance and many departments will have duties to perform. Final registration is scheduled for Wednesday.

At 1400 hours today Capt. Powell read the Articles of War to Hq Enlisted Men, and immediately thereafter Capt. Clasrud gave a lecture on Sex morality.


22 May 1945

I & E borrows some men and are off on another "hunting" trip to the Town Major of Nurnberg where the cooperation has so far been excellent. Not results included six desks, three drawing tables, four chairs, and many other supplies. The school is coming along fine.

Allied cooperation becomes an actual reality today. 48 Belgium Army Air Police "liberated" the 1293 IP Detachment. Consisting of 1 officer, 47 enlisted men, including three corporals. They are to assume the duties of interior guard re-
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22 May 45 (cont'd)

lying the 1293 up Detachment. For them, conspicuous in their British uniforms, the Red Cross Club seems to be the main attraction.

To the enlisted men, today's announcement that censorship of their mail will no longer be required is probably the best liked directive (next to the declaration of V-E Day) they have seen since coming overseas. Immediately following, Headquarters outgoing mail was tripled. The Officers were also overjoyed at being relieved of the responsibility of seeing that certain girls letters were placed in the right envelope.

Radio reports that the entire First Army is already on the move to the Pacific via the good old USA. Everyone in the group, of course, is wondering if the Ninth TAC is also going along. Being former members of the Ninth TAC we're just wondering if we're missing out on anything.

23 May 1945

Changes in Hq personnel finds Lt. Col. Carbine moving from Group Operations Officer to Deputy Commander. Major Crisp, former Commanding Officer of the 396th Squadron, to Group Operations Officer, and Capt. Robert Miller from 395th, Capt. Walter Lowery and Capt. Oliver Ryerson from the 396th to Assistant Group Operations Officers. (Supporting Document #11).

After sweating out three days of bad weather 13 Officers and 6 Enlisted in the C-47 for 7 days furlough at the Riviera. Hq personnel consisted of Majors, Hugh Rice, Leo H. Fast, Russell H. Varke, William F. Davis, and Pfc Howard Sweet. They all expressed the wish that the weather wouldn't interfere with the C-47 arriving on time at the end of the leave. "Could be terrible to be weathered in down there for two or three extra days."

Registrations blanks were finally completed and delivered to the school. "Professors" Draud, Stowell, and the other members of the faculty were up late combining, sorting, counting and arranging the registrations into proper classes.

Supporting Document #12, SP #51.

24 May 1945

Headquarters loses three of its Pilots today. Capt. James H. Ivey, and Capt. Wayne P. Driscoll, Asst Operations Officers, and Lt. Col. Harold P. Sparks Deputy Commander of the group took off today in the C-47 for the 70th Reinforcement Depot for the eventual return to the ZI—a job well done. Lt. Col. Sparks has been our Deputy Commander since March 15 previous to which he served as Group Operations Officer and Commanding Officer of the 395th Squadron. Capt. Driscoll, former of the 397th Squadron had been in his present capacity since Apr 23, Capt. Ivey having come up from the 395th Squadron on April 3.

25 May 1945

Lt. John F. Regan, or Education Officer, is now CAPTAIN John F. Regan — could be that the Principal has been promoted to Supt. of Schools! The promotion was effect-
25 May 45 (cont'd)

ive the 16 of May.

Teachers, instructors, and professors gathered today for the final meeting before the term begins on Monday.

Beginning a new series of leaves and passes Capt. King, T/Sgt. Hainshein and H/Sgt. Moore left on the C-47 for a 3 day stay in Brussels. The C-47 will make regular trips to Paris, Brussels and the Riviera, every three days to Paris & Brussels, and every seven days to the Riviera. The same schedule for leaves and passes drawn up months ago and nearly completed is still in effect assuring within the next few weeks that all personnel will have had at least a 3 day pass.

26 May 45

The formal opening of the new Group Theatre last night saw capacity crowds attending both performances. The theatre, now a complete building, has been in the process of construction and alteration for the past week. Sections were built and elevated toward the rear affording a good view to all—First showing, "A Guest in the House".

The Theatre, the Red Cross, and the baseball diamonds comprise about 75% of the social activities at the base these nights. Quite a change from the nights in France and Belgium we used to know. The merits of nonfraternisation are frequently discussed. Some men deny that it has any merits, but most of us will patiently await the word from Gen. "Jke" Eisenhower.

27 May 45

Today saw the first of a series of tours conducted by I & E to points of interest in and around Germany. They will continue for a period of seven weeks, and will include mid-weekly seminars for discussion of the coming trips and examinations covering historical and geographical data of previous trips.

Today's trip saw 30 EM from Hq. leave at 0800 on two trucks bound for Munich and points in between. Lt. Tchirko in charge, the weather good, and hopes high they got under way. Nuremberg stadium was the first stop, thence to the ruins of Munich with a stop at the famous beer hall. Sixteen miles south of Munich, at Starnberger, they claimed they could see the Alps in the distance. Attention was suddenly directed to some German girls in bathing suits (its all right to look? I guess). Homeward bound, chow was had on the banks of the Danube. Only one flat tire mared the trip. A larger attendance is definitely expected next week. Back at the base the usual skeleton force was in operation. Nuff said for them -- pretty dull day.

28 May 45

Fortress School started today. From early morning to late afternoon students could be seen winding their way towards the school building -- making our main street look like a campus; the Red Cross club taking the place of the campus drug store.
28 May 45 (Cont'd)

Weeks of preparation and a great amount of work has gone into the school. Opening day finds us with 41 courses ranging from general agriculture to philosophy, plus 3 technical courses. Other figures show: total enrollment 519, largest class - photography, largest department - business, number instructors - 80.

Enrolled also are 1 officer and 3 enlisted men from the Belgium Army Air Police, each averaging 21 yrs. of schooling. Two were teachers in civilian life. One is taking an English course and instructing other Belgium soldiers at night, commencing the first Sub-English Department. Pay off for the day - Student who enrolled for complete course of six subjects and then tore name off enrollment slip!

Worst feature of the school - Manne in which tardiness or absence will be avoided - No hockey (Supporting Document #13). A directive on "Absence and Tardiness at Classes" reminded us that however scholarly or collegiate we may become under the IE K program, this is still the army. We are reminded of the days when the Professor began the semester with the announcement that more than three "cuts" would be serious, but it was generally assumed that each student was fully capable of getting himself to class. However, we all realize that an army school can't be run on an "honor" basis because we have too many bad Sacks who are looking for an easy way out. Too bad they can't be eliminated in some manner instead of putting the bee on all of us.


29 May 1945

Word was received to submit the names of 10 men in the Group to higher headquarters for deployment to the U.S. and possible discharge. 3 from each squadron with headquarters represented by M/Sgt. Stanley W. Oliver high scoring man of headquarters with 136 points. This news of the sudden turn of events was received with elation by all the 85'ers in headquarters. It looks like the beginning of things to come.

The officers' club is undergoing further alterations, walls are being torn down and the bar is to be enlarged.

Group S-2 adds another member to its section in the person of Pfc Elmer Anderson. Pfc Anderson, a former member of S-2, returns after a brief stay of 2 months with the 9th Tactical Recce Group (Prov).

Special Order #54 assigns 3 new pilots to squadrons, and sends M/Sgt. Kellan of an attached unit to London on a furlough. For once they can not say that attached units are unfortunate.

Supporting Document #14 - Special Order #54.

30 May 1945

A most unusual thing: we flew four missions; 395th flying two and the 396th & 397th flying one each on navigational patrol. 12 plane missions, they proved uneventful, to say the least. To Liessen to Innsbruck and return. No bandits, no strafing, no dive bombing, no nothing.
30 May 45 (cont'd)

First issue of the de luxe edition of the Fortress Feature is distributed. (Supporting Document #15). Everybody feels the whole staff should be commended on a fine bit of work. Especially liked by all was the cartoon on page 3 and the brief running account of the Group's complete history.

All gas masks were supposed to be turned in today. Like the lifting of the censorship regulations, another burden has been lifted from the back of the G.I. We hope things of a similar nature continue.

The Group baseball team remains undefeated, walloping the XXI TAC boys today to the score of 13-1. Rgs. is represented by Pfc "General" Ahonen, Cpl. Joe O'Dowd and T/5gt John Heinenshain. "General" Ahonen pitching for the Group somehow slipped up and allowed TAC 7 hits. Previous wins:

448 Sig. Bat. 9-1 Demchek pitching
3199 Service Co. 9-0 Check pitching

Supporting Document #15 - The Fortress Feature 30/5/45.

31 May 1945

Only bright spot in this dreary, rainy day was that it was also payday. Capt. Reinthal gets his first assignment as paymaster (Supporting Document #16). Most of the men seem to be holding on to their money just a little bit more so than was the case a few months ago. The expected moves to Paris, Brussels, and the Riviera is no doubt the reason. Some more officers and enlisted men were sent to the Riviera by Special Order #55.

This brings us to the end of a full month — a month that has seen the capitulation of all German forces on land, in the sea, and in the air, and in many ways it has been one of our best months; today completes our second year of existence as a Group. On June 1, 1943, the 366th Fighter Group was organized at Westover Field, Mass.; two years later we stand at the end of our journey. We feel that we can safely and justifiably say "Mission Successful".

Supporting Document #16 — Special Order #53
Supporting Document #17 — Special Order #55
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT
No. 1

SECTION PICTURES
OF
OFFICERS
&
ENLISTED MEN
OF
HQ. 368TH FIGHTER GROUP

Note: Majority of pictures were taken while stationed at Metz, France.
SNACK BAR
Left to right—Colonel Perigo, Lt. Colonel Sparkes, Lt Col. Carbone, Major Crisp, Major Mumaw

SNACK BAR INSIDE
S-1

S-2
S-3

Left to right: S/Sgt. Stecklein, Capt. Loughary, Major Crisp, Capt. Barker, Cpl. Burns
Members of Dept. not shown: Capt. Doris, M/Sgt. Oliver, T/Sgt. Pratt

Communications

S-4


Inspections

GROUP SURGEON
MAJOR DONALD A DAVIS

PVT. ISAAC S. HUTCHINS
Front Row: Pfc Hutchens, Capt. Haag


BRIEFING ROOM FROM THE ROOM
Left to right—Major Fast, Major Frause

MAIN BRIEFING MAP
Left to right—Major Fast, Lt. Col. Carbone, Major Frause, Col. Perego
SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 45

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43 and upon the recommendation of their O.C. 383d Ftr Sq., are promoted to the grade indicated:

   TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)
   Cpl (405) Richard J. Krosser 15354765
   Cpl (747) Elias Thompson 34447288

   TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)
   Pfc (405) Edward O. Fountain 12196204
   Pfc (275) Charles G. Neuber 13090861
   Pfc (505) Jose C. De Los Reyes 38365646
   Pfc (901) William G. Baker 33554923
   Pfc (405) Harold Sell 16041288

   TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)
   Pvt (505) Robert R. Reed 38276883
   Pvt (290) Fellerino J. Liberatoro 33809466
   Pvt (747) Francis W. E. 7624378

2. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43 and upon the recommendation of their O.C. 376th Ftr Sq., are promoted to the grade indicated:

   TO BE MASTER SERGEANT (TEMP)
   T Sgt (747) Jim Dobbert 14032801

   TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)
   Pfc (911) Edward B. Carter 39132654
   Pfc (911) Elmer Evans 15167283

   TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)
   Pvt (911) John D. Cordeletis 39132636
   Pvt (725) Ernest B. Gibson 25005947
   Pvt (505) Aaron Jaffe 33187283
   Pvt (505) Frank E. Martin 15379352
   Pvt (505) Edward H. Lanham 34723266
   Pvt (901) Robert T. Hood 18214386
   Pvt (901) George R. Michigan 37667229

3. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43 and upon the recommendation of his O.C. 376d Ftr Sq., promoted to the grade of Corporal (temp).

RESTRICTED
4. The V000 36th Ftr Gp of 29 Apr 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"So much of par 1, 50 41, Eq 363th Ftr Gp, as, as reads, "1st Lt DALLAS N. ALLE, 01577053, QM, 2499th QM Trk Co Avn Det 4," is amended to read, "1st Lt MILITARY EKON, 0121999, QM, 2499th QM Trk Co Avn Det 4," (Note that ret of Class "A" Agent Fin Officers.)"

5. The V000 36th Ftr Gp, 29 Apr 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"Having been issued this order per par 1, 50 116, Eq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AIF), 29 Apr 45, the following named officers are further issued to Sq as indicated, EOMR 29 Apr 45:

2d Lt (1065) JAMES A. BRYANT 0834115 40 396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1065) RANDOLPH GOULDING 0834165 40 396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1065) CURTIS B. RYDEN 0821421 40 396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1065) MARION A. FETTIPLACE 02053873 40 396th Ftr Sq"

(Travel due is pursuant to forth contained in Ltr, Eq European TO, USA, file 300.4 MFM, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PERSCO:

Hugh L. Rice
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

Hugh L. Rice
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

This

-2-

RESTRICTED
SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 46

1. Having been notified this order per par 4, 80 111, Hq XIX Tactical Air Command, 3 May 45, the following named officers are further as to SQ as indicated. EDCMR 6 May 45.

1st Lt (1055) HAROLD E. KERSHAW 02042 10 AC 356th Ftr Sq
1st Lt (1055) LOUIS M. SLAINE 05502 10 AC 377th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) EDWARD J. BALDWIN 023052 14 AC 360th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) JAMES T. CORRINGER 033629 13 AC 356th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) JOHN H. ZAGLESTINE 07232 13 LC 356th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) EDWARD O. CARLSON 07374 13 AC 356th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) HARVEY L. COX 0104265 13 AC 376th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) VAUGHN L. JOHNSON 033629 14 AC 376th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) CLEVE P. MALCOLM 0354695 13 AC 356th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) JAMES E. COHN 033629 13 AC 376th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) RALPH R. CONKLIN 033629 13 AC 376th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) JOHN R. CARRIONE 033629 13 AC 376th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) WILLIAM J. JENKINS 07374 13 AC 376th Ftr Sq

2. The VCOG 52; as of 17 APR 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, the above confirmed and made of record. Having been notified this order per par 1, 80 111, Hq 346th Reinforcement En (LAP), 28 APR 45, the following named officers are further as to SQ as indicated. EDCMR 1 MAY 45.

2d Lt (1055) EDWARD C. SIMON 0128422 10 AC 336th Ftr Sq
Ft (1055) ROBERT L. MARTIN 033629 13 LC 397th Ftr Sq

3. Pfc (262) LEONARD J. FRAY 13022432; Hq 366th Ftr Sq, is placed on TDY, WP Hq Ninth Air Force, o/a 5 MAY 45 for a period of approximately two (2) days, for the purpose of picking up Officer. JFR8 of this TDY 15 will not to proper org. TDY to MT, mil soft or rail. 65 115 P 428 03 & 152 1/22.023.

4. Sg t. Fred J. Ruckhold, 2152946; 1293rd MP Co (Amn), is placed on TDY, WP Paris, Fr, for a period of five (5) days, reporting to Hq Commandant, JAGD, 36 Avenue Klber. Room 425, o/a 6 MAY 45, for the purpose of being interviewed. Upon completion of this TDY 15 will not to proper org. TDY by MT, mil soft or rail. 65 115 P 428 03 & 152 1/22.023.

5. Pfc (677) CHARLES D. CONNELL 1 523110; 1293rd MP Co (Amn), is placed on TDY, WP Paris, Fr, o/a 5 MAY 45, for a period of approximately five (5) days, for the purpose of acting as driver to Sgt. Ruckhold. Upon completion of this TDY 15 will not to proper org. TDY by MT. 65 115 P 428 03 & 152 1/22.023.
6. Pol named officers are granted seven (7) days leave. WP Nice, Fr, o/a 6 May 45. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to USREA Operations Boat for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat they will report to CQ, USREA. Martin Hotel. Upon comple of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn. TID by MT, all afo or rail 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, HQ USAGUSA, file AS 3546.1, subj: United States Rivers Recreational Area. 8 Jan 45s

Capt EDWARD J. DAMS 07483-12 AC (In charge)
Capt ERWIN OSTW 0830065 AC
1st Lt JOSEPH D. GIAMMETTI 081536 AC
2d Lt ROBERT D. JENKINS 08305773 AC
2d Lt FRANK P. CIRIO, JR 0832575 AC
2d Lt JOSEPH A. KENZ, JR 0234373 AC
2d Lt OLLIFORD J. PRUCE 0830070 AC
2d Lt WILLIAM A. SHEPHERD 0830332 AC

7. Pol named officers & EM are granted seven (7) days leave, and furlough, WP Nice, Fr, o/a 13 May 45. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers & EM will report to USREA Operations Boat for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat they will report to CQ, USREA, Martin Hotel. Upon comple of this leave and furlough, they will ret to proper orgn. TID by MT, all afo or rail 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: YCO3, XII Tactical Air Corp.

1st Lt ALBERT F. BRZEWIEZE 0830244 AC (In charge)
1st Lt ROBERT A. JAGGER 0702863 AC
1st Lt ARTHUR B. KINNAN JR 077063 AC
2d Lt WILLIAM B. DUFF 0832361 AC
2d Lt DONALD P. KILMER 0830420 AC
M Sgt Charles R. Hues 18065144 356th Prr Sq
M Sgt James L. Losbeiter 18065181 356th Prr Sq

8. Having been asgd this orgn per par 21. So 115, Hq Ninth Air Force, 26 Apr 45. Pvt (253) Abraham Carstein, 18224443, is further asgd 396th Prr Sq. EDOM 4 May 45.

9. Having been asgd this orgn per par 9. So 111, Hq XII Tactical Air Corp, 3 May 45, Cpl (74?) Samuel Stasse, 1205293, is further asgd 396th Prr Sq. EDOM 6 May 45.

(Travel air is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, HQ, European TO, USA, file 30Q.4 MPH, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL TREMO.

MAURICE R. POWELL
Capt., Air Corps
Acting Adjutant General

OFFICIAL: Maurice Powell

MAURICE B. POWELL
Capt., Air Corps
Assistant Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: A
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

No. 4

COPIES OF COMMISSIOIONS

1) Teletype, Maj.Gen.Quesada - 8 June 1944
2) Teletype, Maj.Gen.Quesada - 12 Aug. 1944
4) accompanying endorsements
5) HQ, Ninth Air Force, Gen. Order No. 16 - 22 Jan. 1945
9) Memo, XII U.S. Corps, 5th Div. - 3 March 1945
12) 1st Ind, XIX TAC, Maj.Gen. Neyland - 16 Apr. 1945
13) Gen.Order No. 34, HQ, XIX TAC - 9 May 1945
COPY

V UGO NR UGO OPS 33
MUP T 71ST FTR WING

FROM: CO IX FIGHTER COMMAND
CG, LX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
CG, 71ST FTR WING
CG, 84TH FTR WING
CG, 100TH FTR WING
CG, 303RD FTR WING
CO's, 371, 48, 366, 368, 365, 367, 370, 369, 354,
362, 358, 36, 373, 406, 50, 484, 474 AND 405 FTR/B
GROUPS

ROUTINE

CONFIDENTIAL - SEND IN CLEAR * AUTHORITY MAJ.GEN. QUESADA.

ADD HQ IX FIGHTER COMMAND
APQ 638, U.S. ARMY
8 JUNE 1944

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE COMMANDING
GENERAL NINTH AIR FORCE AND APPLIES TO THE 365TH, 366TH AND
368TH FTR/B GFS. THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH THESE GROUPS ACCEPTED
AND PERFORMED THEIR MISSION REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON THEM AND
I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR THEIR EFFORTS. IT IS POSSIBLE IF
NOT PROBABLE THAT THEIR EFFORTS WERE IN A LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ATTACK ON BEACH OMAHA CONTINUING. HISTORY MAY SHOW
THAT THEY SAVED THE DAY. QUOTE "ON SEVENTH JUNE GROUPS OF
YOUR COMMAND FURNISHED CLOSE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT TO THE OMAHA
BEACHHEAD AREA PERIOD THE SITUATION THERE WAS CRITICAL AND THE
EXCELLENT ATTACKS AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT RENDERED BY YOU
RESTORED A DELICATE SITUATION PERIOD PLEASE PASS MY
PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GROUP COMMANDERS CONCERNED
FOR THEIR FINE WORK THEREFORE" UN-QUOTE.

- - - - QUESADA * - - -

BT.

AUTO/URSSELL.

TOD............. 2237/8

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COS

1/3 4 194 90 33..........

CXS R FOR OPS 33.......... 08/23458 JLB  THANK S AR
COPY

FROM HEADQUARTERS, SIX TACTICAL COMMAND

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER 388TH FIGHTER GROUP

12 AUGUST 1944

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GOOD DAY'S WORK! YOU AND YOUR BOYS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THAT MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END. I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT YOU AND YOUR BOYS HAVE TURNED IN TODAY AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL THAT WORKS CAN PROPERLY. PLEASE INCREASE MY APPRECIATION TO YOUR STAFF AND CREW. I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT YOUR SERVICE TODAY, GUNS, ANTI-TANK, OR CHEMICAL, ENGINEERS AND ALL OF YOUR MEN ARE DOING. TODAY WAS A TERRIFIC CONTRIBUTION.

SIGNED

[Signature]
HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY  
APO #9, U.S. Army  

11 October 1944  

SUBJECT: Performance of 368th Group  

TO: Air Support Officer, 9th Infantry Division, APO #9.  

It is my desire to call to your attention the splendid cooperation on the part of those pilots who participated in the dive-bombing of targets for the 9th Division on October 7, 1944.  

In spite of difficult flying conditions, the 368th Group arrived on schedule, identified the artillery red smoke placed on the targets after the first rounds, and dropped their bombs squarely on the smoke markings.  

Our "cub" observer reports that all seven of the targets were precisely hit and the effect was excellent on each.  

It is believed that the exceptional success of this operation could only be the result of a most thorough briefing and careful planning on the part of the entire organization. That this enabled us to conserve precious artillery marking ammunition, of which there is an extreme scarcity at this time, is only one of the benefits derived from the efficiency exhibited by the 368th Group.  

It is suggested that the contents of this letter be brought to the attention of the commanding officer of the 368th Group.  

/s/  
R.H. HOWELL  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Commanding  
1st Ind.  

AIR SUPPORT OFFICER, 9th INF DIV APO # 9, US Army, 11 October 1944  

TO: Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Bomber Group, APO # 595, US Army  

THRU: Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division  

Forwarded.  

/s/  
John W. Watson  
JOHN W. VATSON  
Capt., Air Corps,  
A.S.P.O., 9th Inf Div
COPY

2nd Ind.
HQS 9TH INF DIV APO # 9 US Army, 11 October 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Bomber Group, APO #595, US Army

THRU: Commanding General, VII Corps, APO # 307

It is with pleasure that I indorse this commendation for the pilots and others of the 368th Fighter Bomber Group who participated in the dive-bombing of targets for this division on 7 October 1944. Such fine cooperation and splendid performance are worthy of the highest praise and are a great contribution to successful ground operations.

/s/ Louis A. Craig
LOUIS A. CRAIG
Major General, U.S.A.
Commanding

3rd Ind.

201.22
HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, APO 307, U.S. Army, 20 Oct 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Bomber Group, APO 595, U.S. Army

THRU: Commanding General, IX Air Tactical Command, APO 595, U.S. Army.

I take pleasure in transmitting this tribute to the fine performance of duty by members of the 368th Fighter Bomber Group. Such splendid cooperation adds materially to successful air-ground activities.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins
J. LAWTON COLLINS
Major, General, U.S. Army
Commanding
COPY

20122

4th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 595, U.S. Army, 23 October 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Group, APO 595, U.S. Army.

The Commanding General notes with pride the splendid tribute paid to you and your Group. It is very gratifying to him to learn that the Commanding Generals of the Ground Forces are so appreciative of the fine results you are obtaining, and it is indeed a pleasure to pass on to you this well deserved commendation.

By Command of Major General QUESADA:

/s/ A. C. Kincaid
A. C. KINGAID

Brig Gen. USA
Chief of Staff

A TRUE COPY:

HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant
4.

COPY

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

AFC 694, 63 OP
23 January 1945

GENERAL OFFICE
NUMBER 14

BATTLE HONORS

1. Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 333, WP, 1944, the following named units of the Ninth Air Force are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. The citation reads as follows:

"The 368th Fighter Group. For outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on 3 September 1944 in the execution of an air-ground effort in conjunction with units of the ground forces in the vicinity of Yone. In the face of a withering barrage of antiaircraft and small arms fire, flights of the 368th Fighter Group bombed and strafed enemy targets. The group destroyed 262 motor transport and damaged 30 more. In addition, 230 horse-drawn vehicles were destroyed as well as an undetermined number of enemy personnel in the target areas. The group was further successful in seeking out, strafing and bombing targets of opportunity that impeded the advance of the ground forces. To accomplish their assigned task, eighty-three P-47 aircraft were dispatched on seven missions to strike a devastating blow in disrupting and battering the German defenses. The victorious exploits of the pilots of the 368th Fighter Group who struck a staggering blow to the enemy's supply of armored vehicles and motor transport, exemplify that leadership, teamwork and flying skill which is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service."

By command of Major General Vandenberg:

W. W. MILLARD
Colonel, GSO,
C of S

OFFICIAL:

C. V. Reebach
C. M. SEEBACH
Colonel, AOC
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

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

RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS (ADVANCED)
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
Office of the Commanding General

AFO 141, U.S. Army
24 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

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

1. On 22 January 1945 the operational units of this Command achieved the greatest wholesale destruction of enemy transport since the beginning of our operations. On that day our fighter-bomber formations, attacking viciously despite heavy concentrations of enemy flak, destroyed or damaged 1749 motor transport, tanks and armored vehicles, doubling our previous best day's record of destruction. These tremendous losses by an enemy already pitifully lacking in transport, cannot but materially affect his ability further to resist.

2. The operations of your Group on that day were outstandingly effective. By accomplishing the destruction or damage of 589 motor vehicles, 4 armored vehicles and by killing of 150 enemy troops your units made a major contribution to the successes of the day. I feel sure that, as reported by your pilots, your claims of destruction and damage were very conservative and that undoubtedly many more losses were inflicted on the enemy than the official figures portray.

3. I am very pleased to commend the personnel of your Group highly for their outstanding part in this record day and to express my full confidence that their high devotion to duty, great courage and ability will continue to provide exceptional contributions to our ultimate victory.

O. P. Weyland /s/
O. P. WYLAND
Brig. Gen., USA
Commanding.

1st Ind.
HEADQUARTERS 368TH FIGHTER GROUP, AFO 141, U.S. ARMY, 31 Jan 1945

TO: CO'S, 395th Ftr Sq. 396th Ftr Sq. 397th Ftr Sq. AFO 141, U.S. Army

It is with a great deal of pride that I forward these commendations from General Arnold to you boys. I hope that all of you are as proud of the job you have accomplished, as I am of you as individuals. You fellows led the way in the mass destruction of the retreating Germans. You are all fighting "one hell of a war." Many Thanks.

/s/ Frank S. Perigo
FRANK S. PERIGO
Lt Colonel, Air Corps
Commanding
XIX TAC DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Cont'd)

6. General Information

Orchids to the 368th Group's 395th Squadron. Photographic interpretation reveals that its attack on 10 Feb on the BULLAY Bridge over the ROSELIE has knocked down one span and left another hanging. This bears out the pilots' claims that their 500-lb bombs hit the bridge, "knocking it into the water." Much bombed by mediums and also by fighter-bombers, this bridge had borne a charmed life until the 395th Squadron's highly successful attack.

CHARLES H. HALLETT,
Lt. Col., Air Corps
AG of S, A-2
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 141, US Army
27 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commandation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Group, APO 141, US 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 Phineland.

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 Pe 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. P. Wayland /s/
O. P. TEYLAND,
Maj. Gen., Air Corps,
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

Maurice N. Powell /s/
MAURICE D. FELETI,
Captain, Air Corps

HEAD Quarters 368TH FIGHTER GROUP, APO 141, US 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. Perigo, /s/
FRANK S. PERIGO,
Lt Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding/
Through the C-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-2097 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. BADER 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 horseshoe 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.
COPY

FROM  CG XIX TAC (AJV)  RL82250
TO  CG 368TH FIGHTER GROUP

MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AIR AND GROUND PERSONNEL OF
YOUR CORONATION THOSE 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
STRIKING 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.

V. E. Y. I. A. N. D.
HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH ARMY GROUP
APO 655, U.S. Army
Office of the Commanding General

27 March 1945

373.11 (CG)

SUBJECT: Recent Records Established by Units of Ninth Air Force.

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, APO 696.

1. I have noted the recent reports of the record number of sorties by both IX Bomardment Division and the Tactical Air Commands of the Ninth Air Forces and take this opportunity to forward my heartiest congratulations to you, your unit commanders, and most particularly to your combat crews. On behalf of the fighting men on the ground I would like to convey to all your men fighting in the air our personal admiration for their large part in our jointly sustained attack against the enemy.

2. I feel that the bombardment of bridges, marshalling yards, communications centers, and supply installations by the IX Bombardment Division has had and will continue to have an inestimable effect on the enemy's ability to continue the fight. I also feel that the close cooperation existing between your Tactical Air Commands and my Armies has been a principal feature in driving the forces of our foe back and across the Rhine.

3. Too much credit cannot be given to these men of the 12th Army Group-Ninth Air Force tactical team who are relentlessly battering our foe on the ground and from the air. They beat him on the beachhead, drove him from the occupied nations, crushed him in his own Rhineland, and next will destroy him in the heart of his Fatherland. It is these fighting men who are responsible for our past successes, and it is their indomitable spirit which assures a speedy and crushing victory for our cooperating arms.

/\ O.H. Bradley
/\ O.W. BRADLEY
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.
Commanding
HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE, ADVANCED

APO 696, U.S. ARMY
30 March 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation from Lt. General Bradley.

TO: Commanding General, IX Tactical Air Command, APO 595
    Commanding General, XIX Tactical Air Command, APO 141
    Commanding General, XXXIX Tactical Air Command, APO 151
    Commanding General, 9th Bombardment Division, APO 140

It affords me extreme pleasure to forward a copy of the inclosed letter
from Lt. General Bradley in which he so enthusiastically endorses the close
cooperation and all out efforts of your command in hastening the conclusion
of this war. To this, I add my own appreciation for your splendid operations.
It is my desire that the contents of General Bradley’s letter be brought to
the attention of all personnel of your command.

/s/ Hoyt S. Vandenberg
/t/ HOTT S. VANDEBERG
Major General, USA
Commanding

1 Incl: Ltr Hq 12 Army Gp
dtd 27 Mar 45
HEADQUARTERS, XX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (ADV), APO 141, U.S. ARMY, 16 April 1945.

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

1. It is a pleasure to forward this communication. I add my commendation to those of Generals Bradley and Vandenberg for your outstanding accomplishments in recent operations.

2. The hard work, courage, loyalty and self-sacrifices displayed by all personnel of your organization have played a large part in the destruction of the enemy's means to fight. The Third Army-XXI TAC team continues on the victory march as the best combination in a larger team.

3. Please bring the contents of this communication the attention of all personnel of your organization.

/s/ B. P. "Wyland
C. P. "Eylund,
Major General, USA, Commanding.

1 Inc: n/o

A TRUE COPY:

Hugh P. Rice /s/
HUGH P. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.
To the Officers and Men

VIA THE XIX Tactical Air Command

At one minute past midnight this morning the German enemy's career of crime ended in unconditional surrender to Allied arms, the mightiest concentration of air, land and sea power ever assembled to curb and punish an aggressor nation.

To each of you, this is a personal victory, for the efforts of every officer and every man contributed to the effectiveness of the XIX Tactical Air Command - Third US Army team, which has carried air-ground cooperation to new heights of combat efficiency and overcame the enemy at every turn.

Through the Fates of war and the aggressiveness of our great Commander-in-Chief, the Third Army, this Command has been continually in the forefront of the battle, from Normandy to the heart of the enemy's homeland and on across the borders of Austria and Czechoslovakia. For more than nine months we have had the 'run on the run,' until at last he could run no farther. The day of victory finds us rounding up the last scattered remnants of the enemy for and escorting his once-warlike soldiers to our bases in defeat and surrender.

Upon the successful conclusion of our mission, I want to express my heart-felt admiration and appreciation for all that each of you has done to make possible this victory. Your prowess and devotion are a credit to our country -- and there is no higher praise.

O. P. Weyland
Major General, USA
Commanding

Distribution "C"
SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 47

1. 1st Lt. PAUL H. BORGES, 01581093, QMC, is eq'd Group Post Exchange Officer, for units assigned and attached to 356th Fighter Group, vico 2d Lt. RALPH C. KRALL, 050297, 40, rold.

2. Having been eq'd this org per par 10, SC 129, Hq First United States Army, 11 May 1945, Pvt. (405) GEORGE A. Capello, 32989665, is further eq'd Hq 368th Ftr Sq. SDOMER 13 May 45.

3. Having been eq'd this org per par 4, SC 131, Hq 134th Reinforcement En (AAF), 11 May 45, Pvt. (235) DONALD C. Farrell, 15117225, is further eq'd 397th Ftr Sq. SDOMER 14 May 45.

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PERECP:

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

OFFICIAL

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

DISTRIBUTION

"A"

-1-

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HEADQUARTERS
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, U.S. Army
11 May 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS
NURKER....36

AWARDS OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9119, 4 February 1944 (Sec II Bulletin 3, "D", 1944), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, a BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men in recognition of meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy:

Stanley V. Oliver, 6836491, Master Sergeant, Headquarters, 368th Fighter Group, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 14 March 1944 to 10 April 1945.

By command of Major General REYLAND:

JAMES P. THOMPSON, JR.,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Francis M. Whitlock, Jr.
FRANCIS M. WHITLOCK, JR.,
Major, AD
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION: "D"
Preparations for the unit school under the Army Education plan have progressed to near completion and enrollments are to be taken Wednesday, May 23, for those interested in attending. The courses are open to everyone and are to be as varied as possible, considering the number of students interested and the instructors available.

The unit school is actually 2 schools: five courses applicable to line work, which will be a continuation of the GI tech schools attended in the states, will make up one; and the other will consist of regular academic subjects for high school or college credits. The “on the job” training school conducted by Capt. Howard, 397 Eng. officer, and the academic schools will be run in conjunction with (Cont. P.4)

A GOOD WORD FROM THE COLONEL

Congratulations to all of you people who are responsible for this, the first issue of the Group newspaper. I admire your initiative and interest in organizing this paper, and I’m sure that in the days to come it will be a source of relaxation and amusement for all of us!

I hope that many of you fellows will take an active interest in this and will find both the size and the desire to contribute any particular talents you may possess.

Good luck.

Colonel Frank S. Perego

Here she is boys - neat ship, eh? .Not the gal - we mean that $25.00 War Bond that is protecting her interests. You can win this bond.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM TO START MONDAY, MAY 21ST

The Army Athletic Program, which will take effect Monday, May 21st, was announced by Captain W.E. Quinlan, Group Special Service Officer.

Captain Quinlan disclosed that this program is that part of the Army plan which includes

(Turn to Page 4)
WAR BOND BABY

Vol. 1, No. 1, Friday, May 18, 1944

Published every Friday at its office in 368th Fighter Group Headquarters, for all personnel of the 368th Fighter Group and attached units. Telephone 117

STAFF


Officer Advisor: Lt. David Colknon

This paper is being published mainly for the entertainment and amusment of the personnel of the 368th Fighter Group and attached units.

We will publish as much information concerning things of general interest as army censorship will allow.

We have no axes to grind, no world view to promote.

We invite all criticism of a constructive nature and beg all contributions of any type.

Our continual interest is the only thing that can possibly make this really the 368th Fighter Group newspaper.

If we are able to give you a laugh or two, then a bit of information here and there that possibly you had not heard of or otherwise—and one of these eyes—should hear some of you refer to here our pages as your newspaper, then we will feel that our efforts have been successful.

JUDGEMENT + 368TH GROUP WINTER

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Jewish Chaplain Feldheim

Catholic Chaplain Cleary

Protestant Chaplain Miller

MAY 19 — SOCIAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Recorded Jazz Session

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

"Patriots Group Jazz Band"

Old Timer Bellam

"I got plenty of points, but the old lady thinks Imakin' too much dough to come home.

(Editor's Note—Please make all letters as brief as possible. No anonymous letters will be used. All suggestions of a constructive nature will be forwarded to proper authorities.)

Dear Editor:

I have just been to the orderly room and was informed that I don't have enough points for discharge. I have a wife and three children, all over eighteen years old. I am over thirty-eight and under forty-two. I was on "A." to "F." due and am not eligible for the battle stars of the group. I left the states without a furlough home, and my dear wife insists I get a furlough—what can I do?

Dear Editor:

The athletic program is going great. How about a swimming run? There must be a pool available somewhere in the vicinity, and it looks like cool old summer time is here. How about it?

J.P.Y.
POETS CORNER

POINTS INVADE THE ARMY

Soon after the war was ended
One night while in his bed
A soldier thought, then spoke
And this is what he said:

"I've heard about the points
You had to have for meat
And all the points required
To get enough to eat.

There are points you need
To get your gasoline
And others you must have
For tires on your machine.

The points that made a saddle
Of every civilian's life
Never worried me at all
As they did the poor housewife.

But now it all is different
And I see it very plain
Without points to make the grade
I won't be free again.

Though I didn't care before
It's now another story...
For I get points for overseas
And even points for glory.

So I must add and figure true
All the credits due me
And hope and pray I have enough
To bring a discharge to me.

And now I see why "civvies" wore
When faced with points and such
For I am sweating, too
To escape the Army's clutch.

If I have the right amount
Then soon at home I'll be
But if my points fall short
It's C.E.S. for me.

-- Cpl. Walter Oliver

(If any of you have a bit of poetry
For this column and would care to see
It in print turn it in to your squadron reporter or to P.R.O. for the Group paper. It must have your name and squadron. This column will be a regular feature and will print the best poem of each week. Send in your bit and help get your paper "on the beam.")

395th - "Panzer Busters"

by Cpl. Louis M. Heidelberger

Cpl. Harold F. Varley of Taylor, N.J., recently returned to the "Panzer Busters" after a long stay in Army hospitals. He had suffered facial injuries when a German mine exploded at our last base in France.

Varley was hospitalized in France and England for more than 3 months, prior to his return to the continent he had a furlough in England. "I had a wonderful time on my furlough," said Varley. "It was the first time in three months I had been permitted to go out. Those old milks and bitters sure tasted good, and the girls were better looking this time."

Asked how he felt to be back with the outfit Varley replied: "Well, at first they told me I'd go back to the states and naturally I was looking forward to seeing my wife, but then they told me I couldn't go home I was very disappointed. I'm glad to be back in the old surroundings with my pals."

396th - "Thunder Rums"

by Cpl. Walter Oliver

Talking of unusual occupations we weren't but that is one way to start this. We have discovered that Sgt. Andy Nudes, 396th Arm., was a still operator. He didn't have to worry about the "revencer" however as he was employed in a legal capacity by the General Aniline & Film Corp. of Linden, N.J., where he regulated the steam pressure and operated the "still" which turned out benzine, alcohol, etc.

...The recent party for the group and attached units had little effect on the 396th, unless you count Jack Parson sleeping in the field, John Owens being escorted to bed by "Murphy" & friend, the massed singing of the Army Air Corps song, and Stan Feltz with that "dark brown taste."

...It is generally agreed by the 1st Sgt. that the following men have qualified for their degree in P.S.E. (Field Sanitation Engineer.) Wyatt, Redford, Martin of Arm. Oliver, Fogle, and Edwarda, have completed the course in hole digging. Did you ask what kind?!!!

...Can anyone contest Pvt. Murray's claim that he is one of the few remaining "War Department Kraals."

(Continued on Page 4)
Squadron News (continued from Page 3) 397th LAMPS ANGELS

By: T/Sgt M. V. Klein

Welcome, you lucky people! Well, here we are in sunny Germany, and trying to make the most of it. One thing is certain—we won’t go hungry due to our excellent chefs, we are indeed fortunate in having Sgt. Shelby Smith, of the Pensacola Navy, cooking for us. As an added attraction we have Sgt. Louis Horst on the bar. Both are unbeatable and invite competition.

"Pappy" Oliver’s Killer is wearing that ever a hundred points smile in the bar area and is the envy of the squadron. He anticipates spending July fourth at home. He was recently seen in the orderly room hard at work on the adding machine.

The Flying Fergusons, Kinky and Lonesome Luke, request the men to please refrain from saluting them as their arms are weary from returning highballs.

The policy of our communication dept. is: bring your German radio to us and we will make them talk "enlish" for further information see the "wizard".

These days the canteen shack looks like Fatty’s after store at 5:00 am with everyone wrangling packages to call out 1.

Judging from reports and noises heard during the night, the group party was an overwhelming success.

"We all mourn the departure of "tire" Finntino, "blackjack" Ward, "lucky" Slinkel, and "uppop" Jarvis.

Anecdote of the day:

"She isn’t German, sir, she’s French!"

WIN "FRIDAY" (continued from Page 1) with the exception of the newspaper staff.

1. Write your entry on any piece of paper, sign with full name, rank and organization and submit to your unit newspaper at Group Hq. (P.O. office).
2. Entry must be representative of the whole group, rather than that of any component.
3. Decision of the judges will be final.
4. Closing date is 5:00 Pm, May 25.

Call For Stage Talent

Officers and with talent for entertainment—ringing, dancing, comedy, etc., and who want to take part in stage productions, see Captain Nick, 396th Special Service.

GOCUP SCHOOL (continued from Page 1) each other in school house building 5 of the headquarters site. The classes will commence on Monday, May 28, and are to run four hours a day, from 8:00 to 12:00 on Monday through Saturday. The maximum classes any man may attend each day are three, and each class will meet three times a week. Each course will run a duration of seven weeks, and 20 hours will be accredited for each class enrolled in.

The army education system has made arrangements whereby the credits earned through these courses will be accepted by high schools and colleges in the States, so men wishing to catch up on high school credits, or to gain extra college credits, can make use of the time they are left on the continent. One seven week course in the unit school will be comparable to four credits in a school at home, or a man may take two courses in the same subject to make a half credit for the seven weeks.

No prerequisites are needed to enroll. It is left up to the individual as to the courses he wishes to take. After enrollment in a course, attendance will be compulsory and work will be rigidly supervised. The army duties are to be arranged so the school doesn’t conflict with them.

Each course will be a lucratve undertaking to the individual, but will require real work to keep up satisfactory grades.

ATHLETIC "FRIDAY" (continued from Pg. participation of individuals, here in Germany upon occasion of athletics, and athletic competition.

"Callithetics are not part of the program," he added.

The individual may choose to participate in either the "FRIDAY" or "FRIDAY" Program or both. Each man will take part one hour every other day in organized athletics and "FRIDAY" games.

Baseball tournament will be held on officers and enlisted men from the 396th "FRIDAY" Group, 36th "FRIDAY" Group, three squadrons, and anti-aircraft; all participating teams will be played on a-figures time. There will also be games played in a competitive tournament at least from other units in the 9th Air Force.

Captain Quinnan has revealed that he has been started on an athletic field which will have an equipment house, four softball and one baseball diamond, a large football and soccer field, various tennis and volleyball courts, and some horse-shoe sites.
SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 49

1. Capt. FRANK D. LaMONTE, 06-06-48, AC, 9th Flying Control Sq (P), Det P, is placed on T/O, TP Hq 9th Flying Control Sq (P), o/a 18 May 45, for a period of four (4) days, for the purpose of inspection of administrative records. Upon completion of this T/O, Det P will report to proper orgs. T/O by MT, all a/s or rail, 50-115 P 432-02 4 212/50425. Auth: TWA M-284-E Hq 9th Flying Control Sq (P).

2. Capt. NEWTON L. STEFF Jr, 06-31-46, AC, is placed on T/O, TP Hq XIX Tactical Air Command, o/a 19 May 45, for a period of seven (7) days, for the purpose of teaching a course in educational administration. Upon completion of this T/O, Det P will report to proper orgs. T/O by MT, all a/s or rail, 50-115 P 432-02 4 212/50425. Auth: TWA M-214-0 Hq XIX Tactical Air Command.

3. Under the provisions of Sec III, Ninth Air Force Memo No. 125-1, 23 Apr 45, a Mass Council is apted with members as follows:

Lt Col LEMUEL R. CORTELL 04-14-45 AC President
Major DONALD R. HARRISON 04-77-24 AC Vice-President
Capt HAROLD J. KESSLER 05-12-41 AC
Capt CARL E. GRANBY 05-23-41 AC
1st Lt SAMUEL R. SCHOFIELD 05-22-42 AC Recorder

4. All named officers are granted seven (7) days leave of absence, TP Nise, Fr, o/a 21 May 45. Upon arrival at Nice Strip, officers will report to USRA, Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, where they will report to CQ, USRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon completion of this leave, they will report to proper orgs. T/O by MT, all a/s or rail, 50-115 P 432-02 4 212/50425. Auth: Lt, Hq STUSA file AC 354.1, Subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45.

Major HUGH L. REED 03-72-25 AC (In Charge)
Major LEO H. EAST 09-16-17 AC
Major RUSSELL H. BAKER 05-16-21 AC
Major JAMES R. WERNER 06-19-26 AC
Major WILLIAM E. DAVIS 03-28-26 INF
1st Lt EDGAR R. BAKER 07-36-29 AC
1st Lt VERNON D. FRIN 07-67-23 AC
1st Lt EARL L. HILLMAN 07-66-26 AC
1st Lt JAMES S. MITCHELL 08-24-43 AC
2d Lt MAURICE J. SHERA 08-03-40 AC
1st Lt DONALD M. HARRISON 08-25-26 AC
1st Lt ROBERT K. STERNACH 08-03-40 AC
ESSENTIATED

So 49, Hq 358th Ftr Cp, 16 May 45, cont'd.

5. Personnel named EM, Sq indicated, are placed on TDY, WT USEMA, o/a 21 May 45, reporting upon arrival to Co, ALLC, Leave Rota, Advance Detachment, APO 772, for the purpose of being granted seven (7) days furlough. Upon compl of this TDY, EM will re to proper orgs. TDY by WT, mil acft or rail, 0-115 P 432-03 & 212/50425. WITH: Ltr Hq XIX Tactical Air Cond, subj: Leaves, Passes and Furloughs, file AG 210.x21 x 222, 71, 12 May 45.

M Sgt Joe E. Dennis
M Sgt Paul J. Miller
T Sgt Walter E. Szymanski
Sgt Joe D. Maroney
Sgt Ernest S. Stephens
Pfc Howard R. Sweat Jr

7202806
6238022
3335050
18302354
3530833
3460871
387th Ftr Sq (In Charge)
385th Ftr Sq
387th Ftr Sq
385th Ftr Sq
123rd M P Co
Hq 385th Ftr Cp

6. Capt William E. Quinlan, 0586474, 4C, is placed on TDY, WT Hq XIX Tactical Air Cond, for a period of one (1) day, reporting thereat at 1000 hours, 19 May 45, for the purpose of attending a conference. Upon compl of this TDY, C will return to proper orgs. TDY by WT, mil acft or rail, 0-115 P 432-03 & 212/50425. WITH: Hq XIX Tactical Air Cond M-1112-C.

(Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr Hq European TO, USA, file 30.4 MPM, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PZEMO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. HICE
Major, Air Corps, Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

RESTRICTED
SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 50

1. Having been asgt this orgn per par 12, SO 137, Hq 134th Reinforcement En (AAR), 17 May 1945, the following named officers are further asgt to Sq as indicated. ED012 20 May 45.

   1st Lt (1055) ROBERT L. STEPHENS 0619425 AC 397th Ftr Sq.
   1st Lt (1055) JACK F. SHREY 0766743 AC 396th Ftr Sq
   1st Lt (1055) HAROLD O. FORGES 0812137 AC 395th Ftr Sq
   2d Lt (1055) MAURICE W. ANDERSON 0715430 AC 395th Ftr Sq
   2d Lt (1055) LYNN R. HAGEMEISTER 0766502 AC 395th Ftr Sq

2. So much of par 5, SO 49, this Hq, cs, as reads "Sgt Ernest S. Stephens, 35350893, 1293rd M P Co.," is amended to read, "T Sgt George Brosick, 33026464, 21st Weather Sq, Det R." (Pertains to T Dy to US Riviera Recreational Area)

   BY ORDER OF COLONEL FERGO:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

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HEADQUARTERS
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, U S Army,
17 May 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER......37

SECTION I: AWARDS OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL
SECTION II: AWARDS OF AIR MEDAL
SECTION III: AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL
SECTION IV: AWARDS OF PURPLE HEART

SECTION I

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No 9419, 4 February 1944 (see II Bulletin 3, 10, 1944), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, a BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following named officer and enlisted men in recognition of meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy:

William A Wallace, 1A097927, Master Sergeant, Headquarters, 368th Fighter Group, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 14 March 1944 to 1 April 1945.

By command of Major General Weyland:

ROGER J BROWNE,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL: /s/ Francis M Whitlock, Jr.
FRANCIS M WHITLOCK, JR,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant General.

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RESTRICTED
JOSEPH FIGHTER GROUP

Class Time and Room Schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (E J F) (General indicates Room N6.)
0900-0945: Salesmanship 11, shorthand 10, HS Algebra 4, Elem Bookkeeping 3.
1300-1345: Commercial arithmetic 4, English Lit. 11, Eng. Drawing 3.
1400-1445: German 12, Physical Science 10, Basic App, Red Cross, American Govt. 11.
1500-1545: French 11, Basic Math Review 4, Geography 12.
1600-1845: French 11, Vocal Music & Ski Club-Officers' Club, Physics 1, 10.

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (T Th S)
0800-0845: Typing 2, Slide Rule 4, Biology 10, World Politics 12.
0900-0945: Slide Rule 4, American Literature 12, Business English 11.
1300-1345: Philosophy 11, Meteorology 4, Agriculture 10.
1400-1445: American History 12, Physics III, 10, Psychology & Living 11.
1500-1545: Photography 3, European Hist. 12, English Hist. 11.
1600-1845: Photography 3, Family Relations 10, Latin American Hist. 11.

______________________________
REGISTRATION BLANK

Name (last name first)                           Rank                Serial No.  

__________________________
Organization                      Dept.             Job

__________________________
Years of School (or major interest)______________________

Civilian occupation__________________________Type of training desired__________________

Courses Hours                   Hours
Example-Eng. Hist. 1500-T Th S 11

SUBSTITUTE COURSES

1.______________________________________
2.______________________________________
3.______________________________________

Course desired that is not listed__________________
Comprehensive Course

This course covers the fundamental principles of keeping business records and accounts, including work on types of accounts and double-entry bookkeeping. The student will learn the meaning and use of general and specialized journals and ledgers. The scope of the course will extend up to trial balances.

AVV.IAD--Not very advanced, but a student should understand the meaning and use of debits and credits, assets and liabilities, and proprietorship before beginning this course.

AVV.IAD--Covers all the principal points in making business sales.

AVV.IAD--Course contains valuable knowledge for one wishing to go into business, including problems and responsibilities of independent businessman.

AVV.IAD--Beginners' course in the Gregg shorthand system.

AVV.IAD--Elementary course in the touch system of typing.

AVV.IAD--Covers most of the legal aspects of commercial paper, such as contracts, sales, negotiable instruments, etc.

Mathematics

AVV.IAD--Largely high school level--arithmetic needed in business computation.

AVV.IAD--Review material, largely high school level, of arithmetic, algebra, plane geometry.

AVV.IAD--Fundamentals of algebra through quadratic equations.
Selected courses:

1. Calculus I, II—fundamental constructions, proof, trigonides, parabolas, ellipses, circles, some understanding of algebra needed.


3. Drafting—fourth year 1st year college. Deals with navigation, map-making, surveying, some engineering.

Language and Literature

1. English I—fundamentals of grammar, sentence structure, paragraph structure, writing.

2. English II—comprehensive review of correct sentence structure, vocabulary, and some writing of themes.

3. English III, IV—review training in the above.

4. English V, VI—study of great writers and periods in English literature. Extensive reading and intensive treatment of the whole. Special work will be assigned if college credit is desired.

5. German I—study of great writers, their backgrounds, and the role of German. High school or college credit can be earned, depending on the amount of work the student units to do.

6. French I—training in basic writing, fundamentals, with Group project as a study project.

7. French II—emphasis on conversational French and reading of short prose.

8. Latin—will cover the important philosophies and main systems of philosophy.
1. For users (e.g., electricians) using electrical equipment and circuits in industrial and commercial settings.

2. Course will cover basic electrical principles, circuit analysis, Ohm's law, Kirchhoff's laws, and troubleshooting.

3. Course also includes practical training in wiring, installation, and maintenance of electrical systems.

4. Course duration: 4 weeks (full-time)

5. Course fee: $1000

6. Basic electrical safety regulations and practices will be emphasized throughout the course.

7. Potential career opportunities in electrical engineering, maintenance, and construction.

8. Free copies of course materials and access to electrical equipment for hands-on learning.

9. Course schedule: Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

10. Course location: City College of Industrial Arts

11. Course instructor: Mr. John Smith

12. Course coordinator: Ms. Jane Doe

13. Course enrollment: Limited to 20 students

14. Course prerequisites: Basic math skills and an interest in electrical systems.
SPECIAL ORDERS.

NUMBER 51.

1. Having been asgd this orgn per par 6, SO 124, Hq XIX Tactical Air Cnd
20 May 45, fol named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated. EDCMR 23 may 45:
   Major (1055) ALBERT J. FREUND 0428589 AC 397th Ftr Sq
   Capt (1055) FREDERICK B. MILES 0398545 AC 396th Ftr Sq
   Capt (1055) MEYER Riche 0728724 AC 395th Ftr Sq

2. Fol named off and EM are placed on TDY, WP B-56 24 May 45 reporting
   to the senior flying control off threat for a period of five 15 days for the
   purpose of disposing of material. Upon compl of this TDY they will ret to proper
   orgn. TDN by 115 432-02 A 212/50425.
   1st Lt GRADY P. GRIFFITH 01662129 AC Det F, 9 F Control Sq
   Sgt Frederick Fuethoff 17059803 Det F, 9 F Control Sq

3. Lt Col THOMAS J. CARRINE, 0397248, AC, is aptd Deputy Commander vice
   Lt Col HAROLD P. SPARKS, 0432726, AC, trfd. (Princ duty)

4. Major DENNIS CRISP, 0429731, AC, is aptd Gp Operations officer vice Lt
   Col THOMAS J. CARRINE, 0397248, AC, relvd. (Princ duty)

5. Capt ROBERT MILLER, 0680343, AC, is aptd Gp 5ths Inspector vice Capt
   WAYNE H. DRISCOLL, 0745232, AC, trfd. (Princ duty).

6. Capt WALTER G. LOUGHRY, 0680321, AC, and Capt OLIVER S. RYERSON, 0680385,
   AC, are aptd Gp Asst Operations Off, princ duty.

7. Under the provisions of Binh Air Force memoir 20-9, 11 May 45, Capt
   ROBERT G. HERMAN, 0567286, AC, is aptd Station Custodial Officer, add duty.

(By travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in 14 F, Hq European TO, LSA, file 300.4
AFA, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEPECO:

MAURICE D. POWELL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst., Adjutant.

MAURICE D. POWELL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst., Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

MAURICE D. POWELL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst., Adjutant.
HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, u. s. o. f.
29 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 54

1. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 132, hq XIX Tactical Air Cmd, 28 May 1945, the following officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated. EDCRR 31 May 1945.

   2d Lt (1055) HARRY KNOWLES JR    0835356 AC 395th Ftr Sq
   2d Lt (1055) GEORGE N. RABE JR    02066712 AC 395th Ftr Sq
   2d Lt (1055) EDWARD B. LOCKETT    02067899 AC 396th Ftr Sq

2. M Sgt Jack B. Allam, 18057859, 21st Weather Sq, Det R, having been granted a fur in the UK for a period of seven (7) days, off o/a 30 May 1945, is auth to proceed from this hq to UK, reporting upon arrival threath to London Continental Leave Center, 1 North Audley Street, London. Upon compl of fur, EM will ret to this hq. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail or water. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, Hq, European TO, USA, 23 Jan 45, subj: "Leaves and Furloughs in Great Britain", and asg form Y101, hq ninth AF, file 220, 711, 5 May 1945.

3. Sgt WILLIAM E. QUINLAN, 0566474, AC, is placed on TDY, WP Metz, France, o/a 31 May 1945, for a period of four (4) days, for the purpose of picking up supplies. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. Upon compl of this TDY, off will ret to proper orgn. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

4. Under the provisions of rer 4b, AR 35-1100, 12 May 45, fol named officers are eqd to witness and verify the cash balance of major ALAN M. LAHARD, 0382291, FD, Accountable Disbursing officer as of 0800 hours, 31 May 1945.

   Capt JOSEPH G. GLASSBERG    0495283 DC
   1st Lt JAMES W. WOODS       01636849 SG

5. Fol named Off and EM are placed on TDY, WP Metz, Fr, o/a 31 May 1945, for a period of three (3) days, for the purpose of picking up supplies. Up on compl of this TDY, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

   Capt ROBERT G. BERGMAN     0567285 AC
   T Sgt Choron A. Grimsley    6920880 395th Ftr Sq

6. 1st Lt PAUL F. LUDWIG, 01554423, ORB, is detailed to conduct the monthly inventory of the Group Post Exchange on 31 May 1945.

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

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

SO 54. Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 29 May 45, Cont'd.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEGEO:

MAURICE D. POWNELL,
Capt., Air Corps;
Assistant Adjutant.

OFFICIAL: [Signature]

MAURICE D. POWNELL,
Capt., Air Corps;
Assistant Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"
Directive on Attendance.

SUBJECT: Absenteeism and Tardiness at Classes.

TO: All Personnel Attending Group School.

1. A scheduled class, either academic or technical, is construed to be a military formation. Anyone late or absent will see Capt. Dick in his office at the school between 0845 hours and 1130 hours on either one of the next two school days immediately following. (I.e., late on Friday, see Capt. Dick before 1145 hours on Monday.)

2. Tardiness or absence must be justified by a written excuse from the section head. Failure to see Capt. Dick will result in automatic disciplinary action unless hospitalization or some legitimate reason has been the cause.

By order of COMMANDER.

[Signature]

Capt. AC
Asst. Adjutant.
**Team "B" 84th, First Service Group in France**

The history of the Service Team has its origin in the States where it was an integral part of the 364th Service Group. Under the guidance of Air Service Command at Patterson Field, the Group was on the receiving end of three long months of rigorous training under field conditions in tropical, mid-summer Mississippi. Finally, in early August 1943, came the much anticipated Long-Span Voyage ending in the picturesque harbor of Greenock, Scotland. Here the Group was split into two and sent to an equal number of destinations. However, after months of comparative inactivity for the Group with the exception of the 8th Air Service Squadron which had been servicing 8th Air Force light bombers, General Herchen arrived in England on his 9th Air Force visit and the Group was assigned to it.

With its entry into the 9th Air Force, the Group underwent rather drastic reorganization and emerged as two Service Teams, Team B, under the command of Major LeRoy W. Richardson, was composed of the 362nd Service Squadron, 364th Operations Supply & Maintenance Company, 122nd Ordnance Aviation Company, 104th Signal Company, 29th Mobile Reclamation and Repair Squadron and 349th Quartermaster Truck Company.

Service Team ABC 360th

Still, it wasn't until the 9th of February 1943 that the Team was blessed with a tactical group to service. With the arrival of Colonel Myers and his 360th Fighter Group, the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9 MIA Pilots</th>
<th>Reported as Safe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reports have reached the Group that seven pilots who were missing in action were liberated from prison of war camps and hospitals. Some are reported to be back in the States.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 626 STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR I & E SCHOOL COURSES |

**368th Given Redeployment Physical Exams**

The entire personnel of the 368th Fighter Group and attached units have been examined physically by Major Davis, Captain Haywood, Captain Fox, and Captain Haag in order to classify each man under the new physical classification system known as PULHES. Briefly, under this system, each individual is graded from one through four in six major physical factors and is assigned a Physical Fitness Serial Card on this method of classification.

Redeployment of individuals will be based on PULHES ratings, as well as other factors other than an individual's physical condition. This system is being applied to both officers and enlisted personnel in all branches of the armed forces.

**Registration Far Exceeds Expectation**

Exceeding all expectations, 626 students registered for the 41 academic and technical courses offered by the Fortress school on registration day Wednesday, May 23. From morning 8:00 until 1:00 the school library looked like a polling place on election day. By 10:00 several classes were already filled and later in the afternoon several major changes had to be made in the original class schedules.

The course in Pictorial Photography proved to be the most popular, with 125 students enrolled. French was next with 112, followed by Slide Rule with 87, and five business courses next in line: Small Business 25, Typing 20, Salesmanship and Elementary Bookkeeping 44 each, and Commercial Law 48.

Out of 426 that enrolled in the school 355 chose "on the job" training subjects usually in addition to academic courses.

One course not previously listed was added to the schedule at the request of men enrolled in the Elementary Radio course. This course, Mathematics Essential to Radio, will be taught by Lt. Hamean.

On the other hand four other courses had to be dropped from the original schedule for lack of students.
368th Given
Redeployment
Physical Exams
The entire personnel of the 368th Fighter Group and attached units have been examined physically by Major Davis, Captain Haywood, Captain Ringling, in order to classify each man under the new physical classification system known as PULRIC. Briefly, under this system, each individual is graded through four stages in six major physical factors and is assigned a physical classification.

Redeployment of individuals will be based on PULRIC findings, as well as other factors, other than an individuals physical condition. This system is being applied to both officers and enlisted personnel in all theaters as well as to the Signal Corp. and is not indicative of any particular destination of an individual as a specific unit or unit.

The Physical Profile Serial is a permanent record and is entered in the individuals personal record. Officers and enlisted men are subject to this test in exactly the same manner.

The Physical condition of the personnel examined is extremely good, according to Major Davis, the group surgeon.

Group Band
Offered Job
in Riviera

"The Strangers," the group and service band, is being offered an engagement in the Riviera. The band, under the leadership of Lt. Campbell, has performed since its formation, and has performed at the officers club dances, enlisted men dances and at the Red Cross jamborees.

The band is now seven pieces with a vocalist. Because of recent losses, there are openings, and Lt. Campbell is the man to see if you want to try out.

Players in the band are: S/Sgt "Chopper" Fowler, string bass, and Cpl. McFarland, trombone, from the group. S/Sgt. William, guitar, S/Sgt. Beck, trumpet and Capt. M. is the service team men. George Sommers, vocalist, is also from team B.

Lt. Campbell was with a radio group in New York City. His parents lived in Chicago, where he was born.

The 368th Fighter Group at Nurnberg, Germany, is for all men fallen in the war, but particularly for our own men. One by one they have been buried in this cemetery, and it is planned of every service connected group to send a squad to attend.

Chaplain Cleary said, "This Memorial Day is one of the most important days in our lives, for the 368th Fighter Group. It is a day of remembrance for those who have known personally have given up their lives, and are buried in cemeteries in France, Belgium, and Germany."

Regulation for
Exceeds Expectation
Detachment of Experience
Lt. Col. L.F. Byrd of the 414th
and 368th A.A. and M.I. courses offered
by the Fortresses Valley Day Wednesday, May 1. The course, beginning at 10 a.m., was
scheduled for the 47 officers attending
the Fortresses Valley Day. By midday
the classes were well attended and late
afternoon several major changes had to be
made in the original class schedules.

The course in Photography proved
to be the most popular, with 124
students enrolled. French was next
with 112, followed by Slide Photo
with 92, and for business courses next in line: Small Business 78, Typing 70, Salesmanship and Elementary Bookkeeping 44 each, and Commercial Law 45.

Out of 248 that enrolled in the school 153 chose "on the job" training subjects usually in addition to academic courses.

One course not previously listed was added to the schedule at the request of many students enrolled in the Elementary Radio course. This course Mathematics Examinations to Radio, will be taught by Lt. Duncan.

On the other hand, other courses had to be dropped from the original schedule. Physical Science, Latin American History, English History, and Biology as originally planned were combined into two classes, given on alternate days, but three more classes had to be added, which may still prove to be insufficient, but the instructors for additional classes are not available at present. The French had to be increased from two to four classes, and the same applied for the Slide Photo course. The Business courses increased from one to three classes, trying from one to four, and Small Business from one to two.

The book situation may be acute at first especially in the business courses. The Army has supplied hundreds of books, but some have no value at present. Most of the extra books on hand are on farming and agricultural subjects. It appears that the Army is trying to balance the situation away from the business angle and to promote farming.

It is hoped that the necessary books will be secured in the near future. One reason for the present book shortage is that the school is starting two weeks ahead of schedule. Classes were not scheduled to start until June 9, thirty days after hostilities ceased. On registration day May 9, 1945, on official OK was received from command to go ahead with the program.

NEW THEATER IN OPERATION
All those who have attended the theater during the past week will agree that we have one of the best such set-ups that we've enjoyed since leaving the States.

An inclining seating arrangement has been made around the auditorium making for a good view of the screen without the individual in a 2nd row.

An excellent stage has been built and the seating capacity is much larger than in the old theater. The new theater is located in building 202, directly across the street from the Fortunes School.
THE FORTRESS FEATURE

Somewhere in Germany

Published every Friday at its office in FORTRESS SCHOOL building, for all personnel of the 368th Fighter Group and attached units. Telephone 29.

STAFF

Publication Advisors:
Lt. David Godkofop
T/Sgt Don A Faira

IN MEMORIAM

The Peace of God to those who, killed and forever missing, gave their lives to gain peace for us all earth.

DECORATIONS INCLUDE AWARDS FOR HEROISM

Pilots and Ground Personnel Recognized

For Outstanding Service.

Five Distinguished Service Crosses for "extraordinary heroism in action", and seventeen Silver Stars for "gallantry in action while among the decorations awarded to the pilots of the 368th Fighter Group during fourteen months of combat operations.

In the total of 432 combat decorations several pilots received the Croix de Guerre, 124 received the Distinguished Flying Cross, four received Bronze Star Medals, 249 received Air Medals, and 25 the Order of the Purple Heart. Additional decorations may be awarded.

"For meritorious service in support of military operations" 28 ground officers and enlisted men have been awarded Bronze Star Medals. Six EM received the Order of the Purple Heart. The Group also received the Distinguished Unit Citation.

Major Ronald J. Hendricks, former CO of the 397th, received the DSC, the silverest fighting combat award, for his actions on July 12, 1944. On that day he led his flight to attack 25 enemy fighters over the East Coast of France. Hendricks destroyed four enemy aircraft and damaged a fifth.

Major Carl M. Talbot was decorated with the DSO for single-handed attack on 15 enemy fighter-bombers over American lines. Talbot destroyed two of the enemy planes before he was forced to bail out of his burning Thunderbolt.


Col. Douglas led seven P-47s to attack 20 enemy fighters-nemesis over American lines. They shot down seven of the enemy as Col. Douglas, without support, continued his mission. Then escaped under attack to fly his burning plane back to base.

Wt. Sgt. John V. Thompson of the "Panzer Dusters" squadron, Capt. Garry caught along with eight of the enemy at one time, shooting down four. He then destroyed two more in protecting his fellow pilots.

Lt. Wayland shot down two enemy planes attacking members of his squadron, and after evacuation out of ammunition continued to press.

SQUADRON NEWS

397th JABO ANGELS

What does the Infantry think of the Air Corps? I'll tell you! Your reports locked up a nearby infantry regiment and dictated a doughboy for questioning. He was PFC Walter Heer of New York. PFC Heer has a story of the Famous Fourth Infantry Division which the 368th supported at Cherbourg and various other engagements through France, Luxembourg and Italy into Germany.

"Don't let anyone fool you," he said. "For those planes when things got rough, and thanked God when they appeared. As for the ground crew—they did their job and kept those planes flying. That's what counts. We won't die!"

I quote some further remarks from our conversation: "It's difficult to describe the feeling of happiness in combat, but the most exiting is the sight of friendly planes diving toward us, knowing we are fully supported both on the ground and in the air. — Why should we be so sure? At Air Corps command headquarters, that's a 100 percent true statement—-that's all I'm saying!"

395th PANZER DUSTERS

By: S/Sgt. Robt. G. Nowland

In all sincerity, our sympathy is with Capt. Willie DeCristoforo who, last week, received word of his father's death. Mast was sold for his father's funeral, over the 395th's Panzer Dusters.


The Thunderbolts of the 395th are being used in many ways to support the ground forces. They were either work or school for Capt. John McMillen. He went to school. — The Thunderbolts of the 395th are being used in many ways to support the ground forces.

396th THUNDER BUMS

396th Hq. NEWS

Information Desired:— Has anyone an extra roll of film on hand? M/Sgt. Urban would like to try his hand at photography again. The last 6 rolls came out blank.

The unique haircuts (bald-heads) you see are by the courtesy of the "Mad Barber" of the 394th. He won't quit till he runs out of hair.

It is rumored that Joe Colvert has requisitioned the new WD phosphates. "So you have a phosphorous chemical," he is said to have said.

Hubbard of the 394th tore his hula out for two days looking for a barbee screen and finally found a G. I. in his own tent was doing the trick.

It was rather embarrassing for T/Sgt. Atkinson to explain the two h账ed thumbs—unless it was a German Peacen we can't find a chance getting the Purple Heart

A hot one from Pvt. L. — It has been observed that a certain fighter squadron in the 368th is undergoing vigorous training to be able to change an engine in 30 sec. You haven't seen anything yet until you've seen a 368th Flier change—-Put Two—-Four—-What the Hell! What the Hell?"

The colored Joes driving mail clerks, Capt. Fuller of the 99th MG R. & B. approached the railroad crossing near Metz. He stopped, looked down, raised the hood of the car, and out fell the 368th's mail.

Pic. At the little Frenchmen's from the 394th worked out some phase & the Service Team now enjoys music while they lead.

368th Hq. NEWS

Congratulations are now due M/Sgt. Sidney W. Oliver on his latest achievement of being awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious service, (title now has 134 points).

Announcement of a more liberal pass policy to Brest and Paris has brought many mailboxes of the former to missy Hq. EM. According to reliable reports a petition has been sent in "Timespaces" promising 100% attendance.

Now that censorship of outgoing mail is no longer an "Nickname" to creep into Hq. EM letter-O.s

Sgt. Jack "Sad Sam" Haynes and many other new additions. (Any resemblance of the foregoing to any person living or dead is purely coincidental.)

INFORMATION

and EDUCATION NOTES
MEMORIAL DAY 1945

Through the ages countless thousands of words have been written in memory of those who have died in battle. Many in this Group have lost close friends, have waited in vain for the return of the men who had made their final flight. Many times it is hard for a close friend, or family, to take the highly patriotic, glorified view — some ask WHY?

Great essays will be written, fine tributes will be spoken, beautiful monuments will be built, but do any of those things even approach paying the debt of three lives, or answer that question of WHY that keeps on recurring itself in the hearts of many?

We won't attempt an answer — for a satisfying answer can't be given — for the fulfilling memorial will never be written or sufficient monument ever built of stone. If those men, who did have a debt, could speak — would some of them ask all of civilization to do the same thing? Would they want us to know what is going to be done in partial compensation for all the grief and agony that has been visited upon this earth. Would they want us to know why their families have to bear the anguish and heartaches for the rest of their lives. Possibly they would want to know what we are doing or resolved to do about it. Wishes of memorial would they prefer. Surely not glorifying speeches, sky-reaching monuments and magnificent, unkept promises of a better world. Perhaps they would hope that their families and other families will not have to go through all of this again. They might skeptically hope that we are doing exactly the same thing.

Worse than the memorial would be prefer. Surely not glorifying speeches, sky-reaching monuments and magnificent, unkept promises of a better world. Perhaps they would hope that their families and other families will not have to go through all of this again. They might skeptically hope that we are doing exactly the same thing.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LINE

A large amount of credit for the combat efficiency of the group during the fourteen months of operations was due to the line. It was the efficiency of the men on the line that made the excellent conditions depend, in part, on the cooperation of all crews among the young men grouped together.

Our dead will not be forgotten — not by their families and we who knew them. But that is far too small a tribute — we can do more. A fitting memorial could be established — it might be achieved, if each of us, on our return to civilian life, would dedicate at least a part of our every day to the expansion of justice and the maintenance of peace to cover the entire world.

395th PANZER DUSTERS

By: Sgt. Robert G. Nowland

In all sincerity, our sympathy is with Capt. F. R. Means, 395th, this week, received word of his father's death. Mass was said for him by the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. Many of Capt. DeCristo's friends attended.

S-Sgt. T, Tests leads the squadron with 128 points toward being discharged from the army. Others are S-Sgt. P. J. Miller, S-Sgt. E. D. Jones, and Capt. C. E. Williams with 147 points each.

They have given what they could to the Army and the Air Force.

368th Hq. NEWS

Congratulations are now due Maj. Stanley W. Oliver on his latest achievement of being awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious service. He now has 114 points.

Announcement of a more liberal pay raise to all our GIs has brought high morale and pride of being in the army to many officers. According to reliable reports a petition has been sent to Washington, promising 100% attendance.

Now that censorship of outgoing mail is no longer with us, you can expect the following "Nicklems" to creep into your mailbag:

'Jadgpack' — "Sad Pack" — "Harpo" — "So and So's Brother-in-law" — and many other new additions. (Any resemblance of the foregoing to any person living or dead is purely coincidental.)

INFORMATION and EDUCATION NOTES

By: Capt. L. M. Heidelberg

Staff Sergeant Clarence A. Gladue is one of the key men in our school program. His vast knowledge of aviation history and geography is disseminated to all students. You may find in his classes the very heart of Air Force training.

St. Gladue is instructing in the following subjects: American History, World Politics, and Education. You'll find him in Classroom 7. He is the tall, thin-haired, blue-eyed Norwegian, commonly known as "So," formerly a map man in group 321.

384th SERVICE GROUP NEWS

By: S-Sgt. Bill Schuler

Capt. N. B. Mullers, "Moon" to his friends, claims to be a "Teetotaler" but he's been seen in a Gin Box.

Who is the man that was kind enough to leave me a drink?" he asks.

Aeroplane News contain the story of a new F-100 Super Sabre. It was designed by North American, and is expected to reach the air late next year. It is said to be 400 mph faster than the F-100 and F-86.

The 321st Glider Officers is out on a "Night All-Weather Flight" with a woman and a good deal concerning the "Productive State." One of the officers wrote: "You're mighty Floyd, come and have your mother here.

Joe Creede gives a clue to all — do bump ditches when you have a case of the..."

For instructions on the best way to get out of a jam, let's think for a moment of our very own, "Air" Creede from the 326th. He shooed his way through it. And then we learned about him.

The 395th worked on some plans for the next move, while they fought the battle.
FROM INVASION TO VICTORY IN THE ETO

A Resume of Deeds and Details

We All Remember

By Tech Sgt Don A. Facka

The first light of dawn filtered across the English countryside; it was 3:15 a.m. Beneath the Nissen roof of the briefing room a Colonel looked expectantly at pilots: "Men, the time we have been preparing for is here."

Nineteen hours earlier, Colonel Gilbert L. Myers told the pilots of the 360th Fighter Group what their role would be in an historic day—D Day, June 6, 1944. Intelligence officers took up the briefing—presenting the details of a vast operation. Mechanics went out to preflight the planes, pilots armed at 2 a.m., had seen the long rows of red lights marking the paths of the glider trains to Normandy. Everybody knew: "This is it."

In scarcely an hour the 395th Squadron roared off on the first fighter-bomber mission of the invasion—forming up in wing formations.

Back at Westover Field

"The time we have preparing for..." thought crews of many fighters back to Westover Field, Mass., where a year before the 360th Fighter Group had been activated with Lt. Col. Gilbert L. Myers commanding. A large number of the personnel of its previous command, an OTU group, came to the group with him. After months of training a cadre in Florida, Cross-country, instrument, night flying, gunnery practice and frequent inspections, the 360th Group disembarked for overseas on December 29th, 1943, with the expectation as the "best-trained group turned out by the First Air Force."

From Greencock, Scotland, they proceeded to their base at Greenham Common, southwest of London, January 13, 1944, where the 392nd Service Squadron had the base prepared. Finding they were assigned to the Ninth Air Force, the group began a

Tiger tanks holding up a column of American armor. Five bombings they scored only near misses. Not expecting to do much damage, they strafed the Tigers, shouting back and forth in the road. One burst in to flames from external fuel tanks—the other eventually began to explode, "shooting out red balls like flares and firecrackers.

That evening pilots reported tanks advancing into Caen aires. Lt. Col. Facka commented typical.

The Naval Guns Flashed

In the morning coolness of June 6, Lt. Col. Pirovano led the 393rd Squadron back from Normandy, buzzing the field.

"The Naval guns were flashing as they held on their barrage. We saw pilots on the peninsula. Possibly if not probable that fighter bomber strikes were in a large part responsible for the Allied attacks on this beachhead continuing."

General Georges added: "History may show that you saved the day."

Guns prefired planes at 2 a.m. for beach head patrols which pilots described as "an hour and half of blind flying before the first crack of dawn."

Crewchiefs Richards, Bailey, and Wooten were summoned out
The first aerial encounter on March 15th was with 240 Hurricanes. The Luftwaffe, which had already lost several planes, was forced to retreat. The following day, the 308th Group fought the Battle of Britain with the Royal Air Force, inflicting heavy losses on the Germans. The engagement lasted for several hours and resulted in significant damage to both sides.

The next day, the 308th Group sailed to England and continued to operate against the German forces. On March 18th, they engaged with the Luftwaffe again, destroying several enemy planes. The following day, the group was involved in a large air battle over the English Channel, resulting in the destruction of several more German planes.

The 308th Group continued to operate against the Luftwaffe, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Their efforts were instrumental in the eventual defeat of the German air force. The group's operations and contributions were recognized with several medals and honors.

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Paris, Brussels - Ooh la la -

The sharp crack of rifles and the dull thud of cowhide on leather resounded around the four softball division area, as the 368th Tournament began on Friday May 18th, 1945. Although rain interfered with the schedule of sixteen games, eleven games were played up to Wednesday of last week. The 368th won a forfeit from the 122nd of the third army for not appearing on the day schedule.

The 368th Officers' Team 13-7 and the 368th Officers' Team 12-5 put down in first place. The 368th Service Squad put out the 365th E.M. 5-0, while the Firefighters, 365th M.A.R.D. 368th Headquarters 4-0, won one victory apiece from the 365th Officers' Team 5-4, the 368th Officers' Team 5-4, and the 365th Officers' Team 5-4.

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**The Official Score Board**

**March 14, 1941 to May 9, 1945**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missions: 4385</th>
<th>Sorties: 17,786</th>
<th>Enemy Planes (Gr): 1,925</th>
<th>Enemy Planes (Sp): 95</th>
<th>125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eascaro Aircrew (Air): 144</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enemy Aircraft (Sp): 395</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armored Veh: 690</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Traps: 2650</td>
<td>170</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Veh: 683</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery: 700</td>
<td>218</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight Trains: 3741</td>
<td>479</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railways: 475</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Battle damage** was heavy the first weeks of January. Cruel had trouble over the cold mountainous ridges. Several crews were injured by fire. Enemy planes were hit at 124. Enemy planes were hit at 114. Germany, the 39th squadron reported. Major Ralph P. Dowton went home on leave.

**Leary Stops Column**

If you stop that column we may be able to hold the town all night. After making ground, control was from St. Vitus. Major Dick Leary in a gallant one-man aerial attack made eight possible targets and destroyed one tank. He was hit and went down. The 39th destroyed 119 tanks and MTs on one mission.

**Breaded Hanging**

On January 22nd the squadron attacked the/resting emplacements on the Prum-Vianden area as the Ardenne salient collapsed. The place was chosen at a village at the field. A heavy bomb of automobiles left the town. 159 more vehicles were achieved to be destroyed. A post was hit and went down. General Patton commending the work in the demolition of more vehicles. Pixar was something to look forward to.

**Passes to Paris** were something to look forward to. A gymnast was found in Paris by the 39th, and a 15-man aerospace team landed in Paris. It was 400 miles from the town. The advance 400 miles from St. Vitus. The 10th and 11th. Group personnel cooled their feet. Foulards in 3900 destroyed.

**February 10** the 39th squadron destroyed the Baden bridge, which was 10 miles from the Waal bridge. The advance on Paris, 39th went down. The 39th destroyed 119 tanks and MTs on one mission.

**June 13** the 39th saw several armored columns attack the 39th. The 39th saw several armored columns attack the 39th. On April 13th, the 39th destroyed 119 tanks and MTs on one mission.

**Standing of the Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>E.M.</th>
<th>30th</th>
<th>40th</th>
<th>39th</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>E.M.</td>
<td>30th</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
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<td>E.M.</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>39th</td>
<td>40th</td>
<td>30th</td>
<td>E.M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sgt. J. E. Alewine**

**Flying telephone lines** after they had been destroyed. 35 miles were cut in the pastures at Normandy. 35 miles were cut in the pastures at Normandy.

**Consecutive missions** without rest. 129 miles were cut in the pastures at Normandy. 35 miles were cut in the pastures at Normandy.

**May 26th** 216 followed by Captain W. P. Dowton of the same squadron. The 3rd dusty led the 39th, Dowton Dock, the 39th led the 39th. The 39th led the 39th. The 39th led the 39th. 39th led the 39th.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 53

1. Par 6, so 42, this Eq. cs., pertaining to Aircraft Accident Investigating Board is rescinded.

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

   Lt Col THOMAS J. CABINNE 0392748 AC President
   Major DENNIS CRISP 0427531 AC Aircraft Accident Off
   1st Lt WILLIAM T. CONDEY 0886394 AC Member
   Major MARSHALL B. HINAY 0738215 AC Alternate member
   Capt ROBERT MILLER 0580413 AC Alternate member
   2Lt JOE H. JALKER 01699387 AC Alternate member
   Major DONALD L. DAVIS 0477299 AC Ex-officio non-voting member
   Major LEON H. EAST 0813417 AC Ex-officio non-voting member
   Capt NEWTON L. STEERS JR 0865264 AC Ex-officio non-voting member

   3. Under the provisions of par 3a, AR 35-320, 17 Jun 43, the fol named officers are esp. Class "A" agents in officers, for orgn indicated, to Maj W. L. HUDER, 0362311, FD, Accountable Disbursing Off, for the pay of officers and Em regular and supplemental F/R for the month of May 1945:

   Capt DAVID F. RETHAL 0573027 AC Eq 368th Fighter Group
   1st Lt SAUL D. SCHOFIELD 0565243 AC 395th Fighter Squadron
   Capt OTIS J. PINTER 0456238 AC 365th Fighter Squadron
   1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL 0863973 AC 377th Fighter Squadron
   1st Lt ROBERT L. STARBUCK 01103982 AC 2137th Engr Avn F/F Platoon
   Capt DAVID F. RETHAL 0573027 AC 9th Flying Control Sq (F) Det F
   1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL 0863973 AC 21st Weather Sq Det R
   1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL 0863973 AC 47th Mobile Com Sq Det R
   1st Lt SAMUEL KUSHNER 0685094 AC Hq & Hq Sq, Team "H" 1074th Signal Co Det A
   1st Lt JAMES J. JOHNS 01635882 SC 332d Air Service Squadron
   1st Lt JOHN G. BREGG 01578482 CMC 164th Ord Ssm Co Avn
   1st Lt GRADY L. McGURK 01578482 ORD 1321st QM Co Det A
   1st Lt PAUL W. DORSEY 01578482 CMC 295th QM Trk Co Avn Det A
   Capt WALTER J. NESSEK 01635882 SC 25th MGR Sq (B), Det A
   Capt RAYMOND G. MERHEAD 01603356 CFS 893d Cam Co 40 Det A
   Capt RAYMOND G. MERHEAD 01603356 CFS 893d Cam Co 40 Less Det A

BY ORDER OF COLONEL FERGUSO:

OFFICIAL:  MAURICE D. POWELL

MAURICE D. POWELL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

MAURICE D. POWELL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION: 16
SPECIAL ORDERS

1. All named officers are granted seven (7) days leave of absence, WP Nice, Fr, o/a 1 June 1945. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to USARRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat they will report to CO, USARRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon completion of this leave, they will return to proper orgs. TDN by MT, mil act or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, Hq ETOUSA file AG 354.1, Subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45.

   Major STANLEY C. JOHNSON JR 0529659 AC (In charge)
   Capt ROY B. CARLSON 0673830 AC
   Capt OSWALD DORIA 01640599 AC
   Capt MARVIN E. WARD 0865373 AC
   1Lt AUSTIN R. CARR 0582869 AC

2. All named EM, Sq. indicated, having been granted a further period of seven (7) days, o/a 1 June 1945, are authorized to proceed from this base to the Riviera Recreational Area, reporting thereat to CO, ETOUSA, Leave Hotel, Antibes Jet, APO 772, in accordance with Ltr, Hq, Ninth AF, Subj: "Leaves in US Riviera Recreational Area," 25 Apr 45. TDN by MT, mil act or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

   M Sgt Jay V. Jones 39167254 377th Ftr Sq
   M Sgt Edward A. Long 35453437 355th Ftr Sq
   M Sgt Claude L. Williams 39062232 396th Ftr Sq
   T Sgt Ralph J. Petro 36446210 396th Ftr Sq
   S Sgt Alfred Stocklein 1720553 Hq 368th Ftr Gp

   (Travel dir is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq ETOUSA TO, USA, file 300.4 M94, 22 Nov 44)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL ITOCC:

MAURICE D. POWELL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

MAURICE D. POWELL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

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