

SECRET

# SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP  
APO 141

STRIP R-42

## HISTORY

MAY 1945

*AP 368 H (C) 1  
MAY, 1945*

GROUP HISTORICAL OFFICER:

CAPT. ROBERT L. CLARK

RECORDERS:

T/SGT. CLARENCE D. REESE  
S/SGT. CLARENCE A. GLASRUD  
S/SGT. RAYMOND NAZZARO

TYPIST:

CCRP. HAROLD McCLELLAN

*1376-172 A*

# SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

# 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 368th 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:

<u>Assigned Personnel</u>		<u>Authorized Personnel</u>	
Officers -----	206	Officers -----	201
Enlisted Men -----	823	Enlisted Men -----	811
	<u>1029</u>		<u>1012</u>

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

Departed ALG Y-73, 4 miles SW of Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, 13 May 1945, for ALG R-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

**SECRET**

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 corraled 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 Buchschwabach, 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 Headquarter 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 readied; 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 Y-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-Ingolstadt-Straubing area. 10/10ths 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 Bushschwabach 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**

SECRET  
PAGE TWO2 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.

3 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 M/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 mens' 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 barrack. 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 "Der Tag" is not too far off.

Supporting Document #3 - Special Order #46.

4 May 1945

Three missions, two by the 396th Squadron and one by the 397th Squadron, were flown in cooperation with units of the XX Corps and on armed recce in the Loiy area. Eight and one-half tons of bombs and strafing results against MTs & MYs resulted in claims of 77-40 MTs & vehicles, 4-0 locos, 15-3 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 lugers they could get their hands on; sure would have been a flock of souvenirs 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.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE THREE

5 May 45 (Cont'd)

The Surrender of German Army Group "G" 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 45'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 effected by the surrender of the German Army Group "G" 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 "BBI 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.

SECRET

**SECRET**  
PAGE FOUR

8 May 45 (Cont'd)

The Group was non-operational today, but activity was not at a standstill; the Group at R-42 finally got into the celebrating mood at the approach of darkness when guns of all calibre 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 end 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 GMT, today. Three missions totaling 46 sorties were flown as defensive patrol in the Ling-Klatory 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 14 March 1944 - 9 May 1945:

FLIGHT RECORD FOR PERIOD

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

CLAIMS FOR PERIOD

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probably Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Enemy aircraft:			
In air -----	135	20	59
On ground -----	98	15	125

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tanks -----	499	602	1101
Motor trucks & vehicles --	7858	2943	10801
Locomotives -----	700	213	913
Railroad cars -----	3236	4241	7477
Bridges -----	33	46	79
Factories & buildings ----	792	248	1040
Railroad cuts -----	---	---	475
RR marshalling yd.attks. -	---	---	260
Airfields attached -----	---	---	50
Gun emplacements -----	187	59	246
Sup, fuel & amm. dumps ---	64	32	96
Vessels and barges -----	31	115	146

**SECRET**

CONFIDENTIAL

# SECRET

PAGE FIVE

9 May 45 (Cont'd)

### OTHER INTERESTING FIGURES

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Rounds of 50 Calibre ammunition expended ---- on combat missions	4,570,892
Pounds of bombs dropped on target -----	10,860,000
Teletype and radio messages handled by ---- Communications	21,128
Outgoing and incoming telephone calls ---- handled by Communications	400,000
Miles of wire laid by Communications -----	250
Hours flown on combat missions -----	45,390
Aircraft assigned to the Group -----	2,000,000

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 -----	38
KIA -----	24
POW -----	8
WIA -----	11
IIA -----	14
RMC -----	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:

# SECRET

SECRET  
PAGE SIX

10 May 1945 (Cont'd)

1. Service credit - Number of months in army since 16 Sept. 1940.
2. Oversea 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 Messian matting 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 Frankfurt, 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 Furnberg 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 Wehrmacht 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's 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 EM 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 runway was about ready for planes today. The I&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 (Soc) Glasrud, former recorder of the Group History and member of the S-2 section was transferred to I&E today. His background, education, and former teaching experience (plus his ability as a scrounger) 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 Gapielo of Hq. First US Army attached to Group Hq. since last January and a clerk in the G.I.O. section was made a permanent member of Hq. per S.O. #47/Supporting Document #5. PFC Gapielo is assigned to S-1, and is first ass't. to S/Sgt. Trudel in the payroll section.

Supporting Document #5 - special Order #47

SECRET

## SECRET

PAGE SEVEN

12 May 1945

This Group rendezvoused with other Fighter Groups of XIX TAC over Y-73 at 6500 feet, and flew uneventful demonstrative missions over the Frankfurt-Viesbaden-Narmstadt area.

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

The I&E Staff had a tentative curriculum drawn up today and began cleaning their new building. That proved to be a man-sized job: Cpl. Pey's 6-man detail recruited from the squadrons had to clear out 15 deer (a long time dead), many bails 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 Heinnie Iink 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 Heinnie-hunting became tame 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 0930 hours. Col. Perego flew "The Slick Chick" to the new base, and Captains' Ivey and Longbary 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 I&E 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.

15 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

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

**SECRET**  
PAGE EIGHT

15 May 1945 (cont'd)

on relative merits, features, and aspects of the point system. Those that "got em" are sure fire for it. "Them that ain'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 army of Occupation, we're going direct to the GBI, 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 W/Sgt Stanley W. 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 slackening 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 Pfc on 7-day leave or furlough. Capt. Steers also leaves for XIX TAG to teach a course in Educational Adviseement (Supporting Document #8). Supporting Document #7 "War Bond Baby" / Supp. Doc. #8, SO #49.

SECRET

PAGE NINE

19 May 1945

Information & Education hung out their shingle today when they put up the FORTRESS SCHOOL sign. They also set out on another scrounging 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-3, 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 Clivers' 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 1515, and 397th at 1615 hours -- to distribute catalogues, schedules, and registration blanks outlining the I & E program. The Principal (Lt Pegan) and his right hand man (Sgt Glasrud) explained the activities, studies, classes etc. of the Fortress School (Supporting Document #10). All personnel interested in participation in the education program were instructed to fill out the registration blank, and secure 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 --planes 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. Cleary gave a lecture on Sex morality.

Supporting Document #11, Class Schedule, Reg. Blank & List of Courses.

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. Net results included six desks, three drawing tables, four chairs, and many other supplies. The school is coming along fine.

Allied cooperation became an actual reality today. 48 Belgium Army Air Police "Liberated" the 1293 AF Detachment. Consisting of 1 officer, 47 enlisted men, including three corporals. They are to assume the duties of interior guard re-

SECRET

**SECRET**

PAGE TEN

22 May 45 (cont'd)

lieving the 1293 MP 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 Loughery and Captain 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 PM left in the C-47 for 7 days furlough at the Riviera. Hq personnel consisted of Majors, Hugh I. Rice, Leo W. East, Russell H. Marks, William E. 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. Would 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" Glasrud, 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 H. 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, formerly of the 397th Squadron had been in his present capacity since Dec 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-

**SECRET**

**SECRET**  
PAGE ELEVEN25 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. Mainenshein 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 nonfraternization are frequently discussed. Some men deny that it has any merits, but most of us will patiently await the word from Gen. "Ike" 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. Tchirkow in charge, the weather good, and hopes high they got under way. Nurnberg 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 Dambe. 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.

**SECRET**

SECRET  
PAGE TWELVE

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 -- Manner in which tardiness or absence will be avoided -- No hookey (Supporting Document #13). A directive on "Absence and Tardiness at classes" reminded us that however scholarly or collegiate we may become under the I&E 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 Sad 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.

Supporting Document # 13 - Directive on attendance.

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. Kellian 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 Liezen to Inabruck and return. No bandits, no strafing, no dive bombing, no nothing.

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET  
PAGE THIRTEEN

30 May 45 (cont'd)

First issue of the de lux 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 XIX TAC boys today to the score of 13-1. Hqs. is represented by Pfc "General" Ahonen, Cpl. Joe O'Dowd and T/Sgt John Mainenshein. "General" Ahonen pitching for the Group somehow slipped up and allowed TAC 7 hits. Previous wins:

448 Sig. Bat. 9-1 Demcheck 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 passes 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 368th 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

SECRET

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.

UNITED STATES ARMY



COLONEL FRANK S. FEREGO  
COMMANDING



LT. COLONEL LEMUEL R. GORRELL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



SNACK BAR

Left to right—Colonel Perego, Lt. Colonel Sparks, Lt. Col. Carbine, Major Crisp, Major Mumaw



SNACK BAR INSIDE

Left to right—Pvt. Morelo, Pfc Ahonen, Pfc McNew, Cpl. New, Cpl. Frank, S/Sgt. Mazzaro, Cpl. Baker, Pvt. Dubbin. Background, Pvt. Stark, and pouring the coffee is the owner Sgt. Spahn

SECRET



S-1

Left to right-Capt. Powell, S/Sgt. Trudel, Major Rice, Cpl. Beare, PFC Carski, Sgt. Richards, M/Sgt. Thieme



S-2

Left to right-Major East, S/Sgt. Glasrud, Capt. Clark, S/Sgt. Nazzaro, Lt. Plagen, PFC Ahonen, PFC Anderson, Sgt. Lonien, Capt. Reinthal, T/Sgt. Reese

SECRET



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

Left to right (standing): Lt. Hibbets, Cpl. Pederson, Sgt. Newsome, Cpl. Frank, S/Sgt. Oliver, Cpl. Bryant, Cpl. Young, Cpl. Baker, Sgt. Anger, Sgt. Best, Lt. Goldknoff. (sitting): Pfc Hudson, Pvt. Glichinski, Cpl. McCarter, Cpl. Curcio, Sgt. Kornatoski. Members of Dept. not shown: Major Marks, M/Sgt. Smith, S/Sgt. Pleiss, S/Sgt. Plante, Cpl. Hicks.



S-4

Left to right-S/Sgt. Michalak, Sgt. Lange, S/Sgt. Sherman, Pvt. Weill, PFC Horning, Capt. Ward, WO (Jg) Blivers, Major Sparks, T/Sgt. Mainenshein.



Inspections

Standing left to right-M/Sgt. Shea, T/Sgt. McConnell, Cpl. Vince, (hidden from camera), T/Sgt. Fox, M/Sgt. Klosowski, T/Sgt. Mance, (sitting left to right), M/Sgt. Moore, S/Sgt. Radomski, Lt. Conder, M/Sgt. Wallace.



GROUP SURGEON  
MAJOR DONALD A. DAVIS



DISPENSARY  
Pvt. Isaac S. Hutchins

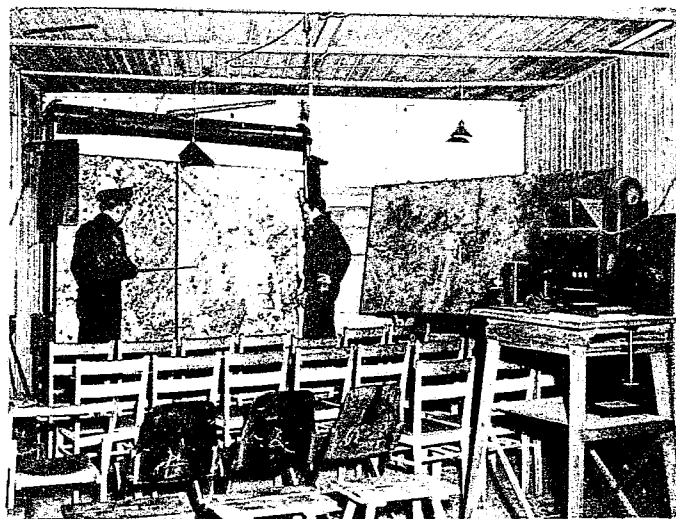
UNITED STATES ARMY



Front Row: Pfc Hutchens, Capt. Haag

Rear Row: Cpl. Kreuger, Sgt. Cramer, Pfc Cardman,  
Sgt. Wentzel, T/Sgt. Mullens

Members of Dept. not shown: Cpl. Cowie, Cpl. Ciadella,  
Sgt. Rapozza, Pvt. Castle, Pfc Hosteller



BRIEFING ROOM FROM THE ROOM  
Left to right-Major East, Major Krause



MAIN BRIEFING MAP  
Left to right-Major East, Lt. Col. Carbine, Major Krause, Col. Peregó



Closeup of Main Briefing Map



Pilots Assembled in Briefing Room

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH ENGINEER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army  
1 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 45 )

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43 and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, fol named EM, 395th Ptr Sq, are promoted to gr as indicated:

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (405) Richard J. Mosser 15354766  
Cpl (747) Silas Thompson 34444788

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (405) Edward G. Fountain 12190244  
Pfc (275) Charles G. Neuber 13080881  
Pfc (060) Jose C. De Los Reyes 38353646  
Pfc (901) William G. Baker 33554923  
Pfc (405) Harold Bell 16081288

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (060) Robert E. L. Wood 38274683  
Pvt (890) Pellerino J. Liberatore 33804946  
Pvt (747) Francis Reading 7025375

2. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43 and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, fol named EM, 396th Ptr Sq, are promoted to gr as indicated:

TO BE MASTER SERGEANT (TEMP)

T Sgt (747) Jim Ledbetter 14032181

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (911) Howard D. Carter 3944054  
Pfc (911) Elmer Evans 13116723

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (911) John D. Corzoletes 39935496  
Pvt (750) Ernest E. Gibson Jr 15016947  
Pvt (590) Aaron Jaffee 33187283  
Pvt (901) Frank E. Koblinski 15376023  
Pvt (590) Ethridge E. Washburn 34732868  
Pvt (901) Robert E. Mead 18213986  
Pvt (901) George R. Michelson 37666729

3. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 Jun 43 and upon the recommendation of his Orgn Comdr, Pfc (555) Evan W. Mannigan, 3654927, 397th Ptr Sq, is promoted to the grade of Corporal (temp).

RESTRICTED

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

4. The VOCC 368th 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, SO 41, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, cs, as reads, "1st Lt DALLAS D. ALSUP, 01577050, QMC, 2499th QM Trk Co Avn Det A," is amended to read, "1st Lt MILFORD BLONSKY, 01591599, QMC, 2499th QM Trk Co Avn Det A," (Pertains to aptmt of Class "A" Agent Fin Officers.)

5. The VOCC 368th Ftr Gp, 29 Apr 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

"Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 116, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (A4F), 26 Apr 45, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated, EDCMR 29 Apr 45.

2d Lt (1055) JAMES A. BRYANT	0834115 AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) RANDOLPH GOULDING	0834165 AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) CURTIS B. DRYDEN	0821421 AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) MAHLON A. PETTIBONE	02063873 AC	396th Ftr Sq

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

J 6 5 1

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army  
3 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 46 )

1. Having been asgd this orgn per par 4, SO 111, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 3 May 45, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated. EDCMR 6 May 45.

1st Lt (1055)	HAROLD S. REYNOLDS	0564120	AC	396th Ftr Sq
1st Lt (1055)	LOUIS SPALANG	0658510	AC	397th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	HERMAN C. BALDWIN	02063954	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	WALTER E. COPPINGER	02062993	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	JOHN H. BAGLESTON	0723025	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	DONALD O. CARLSON	0757491	AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	HARVEY L. COCK	02057555	AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	VAUN L. JOHANSEN	02062820	AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	CLEVE P. MALONE	02064096	AC	396th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	JAMES E. COONG	02063983	AC	397th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	RALEPH N. COSTILOR	02039233	AC	397th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	JOHN D. GAITHER III	02063944	AC	397th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	WILLIAM F. HIGBY	0769324	AC	397th Ftr Sq

2. The WOOD 35007 Ftr Sq of 1 May 45, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, was hereby confirmed and made of record:  
Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 118, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 28 Apr 45, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated. EDCMR 1 May 45.

2d Lt (1055)	EUGENE G. SIMON	0834220	AC	396th Ftr Sq
Flt O (1055)	ROBERT M. MARTIN	083248	AC	397th Ftr Sq

3. Pfc (283) LaMont H. Ryan, 19080132, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 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. Upon compl of this TDY EM will ret to proper orgn. TDY by ME, mil acft or rail. 60 115 P 433-02 A 212/50425.

4. Sgt Paul W. Buckholz, 35799164, 1293rd M P Co (Avn), is placed on TDY, WP Paris, Fr, for a period of five (5) days, reporting to Hq Commandant, J&GD, 36 Avenue Kleber, Room 408, on 6 May 45, for the purpose of being interviewed. Upon compl of this TDY EM will ret to proper orgn. TDY by ME, mil acft or rail. 60 115 P 433-02 A 212/50425.

5. Pfc (677) Charles D. Gonzalez, 35230129, 1293rd M P Co (Avn), 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 Buckholz. Upon compl of this TDY EM will ret to proper orgn. TDY by ME. 60 115 P 433-02 A 212/50425.

R E S T R I C T E D

RECEIVED

SO 46, Hq 368th Ftr Gp. 3 May 45. Cont'd.

6. Fol 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 USRRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat they will report to CO, USRRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, Hq ETUSA, file AG 354.1, subj: "United States Riviera Recreational Area," 8 Jan 45:

Capt EDWARD W. DAME	0745512	AC	(In charge)
Capt IRVING OSTWY	0680065	AC	
1st Lt JOSEPH D. GLANETTI	0818367	AC	
2d Lt ROBERT D. ANDRUS	02063773	AC	
2d Lt FRANK F. CITRO, JR	0832575	AC	
2d Lt JOSEPH A. KNELL, JR	02064073	AC	
2d Lt CHEFFORD J. PRICE	0830070	AC	
2d Lt WILLIAM A. SHEPARD	0830342	AC	

7. Fol named officers and 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 USRRA Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat they will report to CO, USRRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave and furlough, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VCCG, XIX Tactical Air Comd.

1st Lt ALBERT F. BRIZENDINE	0620454	AC	(In charge)
1st Lt ROBERT R. WAGGONER	0702869	AC	
1st Lt ARTHUR B. HOLIMAN JR	0770283	AC	
2d Lt WILLIS E. DUFF	0831331	AC	
2d Lt DONALD F. KLUMPP	0830480	AC	
M Sgt Charles V. Hicks	18065144		395th Ftr Sq
M Sgt Jim Ledbetter	14033181		396th Ftr Sq

8. Having been asgd this orgn per par 24. SO 116, Hq Ninth Air Force, 26 Apr 45, Pvt (953) Abraham Garstein, 3224443, is further asgd 396th Ftr Sq. EDCMR 4 May 45.

9. Having been asgd this orgn per par 9. SO 111, Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 3 May 45, Cpl (747) Samuel Statson, 12021093, is further asgd 395th Ftr Sq. EDCMR 6 May 45.

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

*Maurice D. Powell*  
 MAURICE D. POWELL  
 Capt., Air Corps  
 Assistant Adjutant

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

DISTRIBUTION:  
 "A"

RECEIVED

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

NO. 4

COPIES OF COMMENDATIONS

- (1) Teletype, Maj.Gen.Guessada - 8 June 1944
- (2) Teletype, Maj.Gen.Guessada -12 Aug. 1944
- (3) Letter, IX Inf.Div., R.M.Howell, Brig.Gen. - 11 Oct. 1944  
& accompanying indorsements
- (4) Hq.Ninth Air Force, Gen.Order No.14 - 22 Jan. 1945
- (5) Letter, Hq.XIX TAC, Brig.Gen.O.P.Weyland - 24 Jan.1945
- (6) Extract, XIX TAC Daily Int. Summ. - 15 Feb. 1945
- (7) Letter, Hq.XIX TAC, Maj.Gen. Weyland - 27 Feb. 1945
- (8) Memo. XII U.S. Corps, 5th Div. - 3 March 1945
- (9) Teletype, XIX TAC, Maj.Gen. Weyland, - 18 Mar. 1945
- (10) Letter, Hq.12th Army Group, Lt.Gen.Bradley - 27 Mar.1945
- (11) Letter, Hq. 9th Air Force, Maj.Gen.Vandenberg-30 Mar.1945  
1st Ind. XIX TAC, Maj.Gen.Weyland - 16 Apr. 1945
- (12) Gen.Order No. 34, Hq. XIX TAC - 9 May 1945

COPY

1.

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

FROM : OI IX FIGHTER COMMAND  
CG, LX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND  
CG, 71ST FTR WING  
CO, 84TH FTR WING  
CO, 100TH FTR WING  
CO, 303RD FTR WING  
CO'S, 371, 48, 366, 368, 365, 367, 370, 363, 354,  
362, 358, 36, 373, 406, 50, 484, 474 AND 405 ftr/B  
GROUPS

ROUTINE

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

ADV HQ IX FIGHTER COMMAND  
APO 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 GPS. 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 BRERETON" UNQUOTE.

----- QUESADA \* \* -----

BT .

AUTO/BURGESS.

TOD..... 2237/8

AS FOR K WITH R .

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

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

2.

C O P Y

FROM HEADQUARTERS, XIX TACTICAL COMMAND

12 AUGUST 1944

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER 368TH FIGHTER GROUP

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GOOD DAY'S WORK! YOU AND YOUR BOYS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO WHAT MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END. I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT YOU AND YOUR BOYS HAVE TURNED IN TODAY AND I AM MORE GRATEFUL THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS. PLEASE EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO YOUR STAFF AND CREW AND I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT YOUR SERVICE TEAM, COOKS, ARMOURERS, GUN CHIEFS, ELECTRICIANS AND ALL OF YOUR MEN ARE DOING. TODAY WAS A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION.

C U E S A R A

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.M. Howell  
R.M. 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. WATSON  
Capt., Air Corps,  
A.S.P.O., 9th Inf Div

C O P Y

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

C O P Y

201.22

4th Ind.

C-K-2

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. KINCAID

Brig Gen. USA  
Chief of Staff

A TRUE COPY:

HUGH L. RICE  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant

COPY

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCEAFC 696, U S Army  
22 January 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 14)

BATTLE HONORS

1. Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular Number 333, WD, 1943, 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 Mons. 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 Services."

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

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

OFFICIAL:

G. V. Seebach  
C M SEEBACH  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

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

RESTRICTED

C O P Y

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 effect 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. WEYLAND  
Brig. Gen., USA  
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS 368TH FIGHTER GROUP, AFO 141, U S ARMY, 31 Jan 1945

1st Ind.

A-P-1

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. Perago  
FRANK S. PERAGO  
Lt Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding



6.

C O P Y

10 February 1945

XIX TAC DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Cont'd)

\*\*\*\*\*

6. General Information

Orchids to the 368th Group's 395th Squadron. Photographic interpretation reveals that its attack of 10 Feb on the BULLAY Bridge over the MOSELLE has knocked down one span and left another hanging. This bears out the pilots' claims that their 500-lb bombs hit the bridge, "knocking it into the water." 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  
AC of S, A-2

HEADQUARTERS (GROUP)  
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

7.

APO 141, US Army  
27 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

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

1. In operations ranging from the immediate front of the Third US Army to beyond the RHINE, fighter-bombers of this Command on 23 February dealt the most destructive blows they have yet inflicted upon the enemy's armor and rail transport, thus directly affecting his ability to resist the allied offensive toward the 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 RR cars, 12 field guns and many other installations or items of heavy equipment. An attack on an enemy fuel dump caused numerous explosions and fires, and in aerial combat your pilots shot down three German fighters, also probably destroying one and damaging another.

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

O. P. Weyland /s/  
O. P. WEYLAND,  
Maj. Gen., Air Corps,  
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

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

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

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

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

Frank S. Perego, /s/  
FRANK S. PEREGO,  
Lt Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding/

C O P Y

Through the G-3 Air, XII US Corps, the 5th Division sends the following report to the 368th Fighter Group: The last three flights assigned for the day (3rd March) consisting of 397 Blue, 396 Green, and 396 Yellow, did an outstanding job of cooperating with the Division troops. The flights attacked a woods at L-2057 today when our troops were but 200 yards away. Before the attack the division (10th Infantry) had received three artillery concentrations of 100 rounds, 40 rounds, and 30 rounds. After the aircraft attacked the woods no more fire was received. The weather was 7/10 cover with 1500 feet ceiling at the time. Two tanks were observed burning after the attack. BADEM L-1956 was strafed by the aircraft at the request of the Division whereby three AA positions were silenced. Our troops were 150 yards away from the target disposed in a 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

18 March 1945

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

9.

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

W E Y L A N D

C O P Y

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 Bombardment 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.

/s/ O.N. Bradley  
/t/ O.N. BRADLEY  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

11.

C O P Y

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, XXIX 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/ HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

1 Incl: Ltr Hq 12 Army Gp  
dtd 27 Mar 45

COPY

1ST IND.

HEADQUARTERS, XIX 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\*<sup>XIX</sup> 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. Weyland  
O. P. WEYLAND,  
Major General, USA,  
Commanding.

1 Incl: n/c

A TRUE COPY:

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

HEADQUARTERS  
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APC 141, U S Army,  
9 May 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)  
:  
NUMBER ..... 34)

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN  
OF 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 smash an aggressor nation.

To each of you, this is a personal victory, for the efforts of every officer and man have 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 beaten the enemy at every turn.

Through the fortunes of war and the aggressiveness of our great comrade-at-arms, 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 Hun 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 beaten foe and escorting his once-warlike pilots to our bases in abject surrender.

Upon the successful conclusion of our mission, I want to express my heartfelt 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.

*C. P. Weyland*  
U. P. WEYLAND,  
Major General, USA,  
Commanding.

DISTRIBUTION "C"

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFO 141, U. S. Army  
11 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 47 )

1. 1st Lt PAUL M. BORGES, 01581039, QMC, is aptd Group Post Exchange Officer, for units assigned and attached to 368th Fighter Group, vice 2d Lt RALPH C. KRALL, 0581971, AC, reld.

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 10, SO 129, Hq First United States Army, 11 May 1945, Pvt (405) George A. Capielo, 32989663, is further asgd Hq 368th Ftr Gp. EDCMR 13 May 45.

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 4, SO 131, Hq 134th Reinforcement Bn (AAF), 11 May 45, Pvt (256) Donald C. Ferrell, 15117285, is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq. EDCMR 14 May 45.

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

DISTRIBUTION:  
"A"

- 1 -

R E S T R I C T E D

5  
J 6 7 0

(COPY)

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 141, U S Army  
11 May 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....36)

AWARDS OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec II Bulletin 3, WD, 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 W 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 WEYLAND:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

DISTRIBUTION: "D"

CAN  
YOU USE  
\$ 25:00 ??

# WAR BOND BABY

THEN  
NAME THIS  
PAPER!

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1945

"SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY"

VOL. 1, NUMBER 1

## Group School Ready

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 continuance 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)

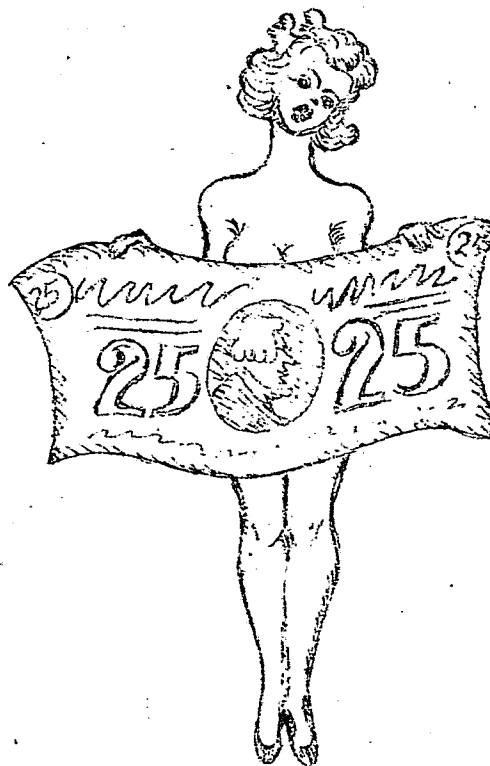
### A GOOD WORD FROM THE COLONEL

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 time and the desire to contribute any particular talents you may possess.

Good Luck.

Colonel Frank S. Perego



Here she is boys - neat ship, eh? Lot the gal - we mean that \$25:00 War Bond that is protecting her interests. You can win this bond.

### ATHLETIC PROGRAM TO START MON- DAY 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)

### NAME YOUR NEWSPAPER. WIN WAR BOND

A \$25 War Bond, donated by the Officers Club, will be awarded to the member of the 368th Fighter Group or a member of an attached unit who submits the winning entry in the Name Your Newspaper contest.

#### RULES:

1. Any member of the 368 Fighter Group or an attached unit is eligible to enter the contest.  
(Turn to Page 4)

## WAR BOND BABY

Somewhere in Germany

Vol. 1, No. 1, Friday, May 18, 1945

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

S/Sgt R.C. Tomack, Sgt P. Greenspan, Sgt J.W. Alequin, M/Cpt J.W. Yellam, Cpl J. Oliver, Sgt P. Nowland, T/Sgt M.M. Klein, Sgt P.W. Woods, Cpl J.M. Weidberger, Pvt R. Weill.

Officer Advisor: Lt. David Goldknopf

### A GROUP NEWSPAPER

This paper is being published mainly for the entertainment and amusement 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 loving causes to promote.

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

Your 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 now and then, a bit of information here and there that possibly you had not picked up otherwise—and one of these days should we hear some of you refer to these four pages as "our" newspaper, then we will feel that our efforts have been successful.

### CHURCH SERVICES - 368TH GROUP QUARTERS

Friday, May 18	
Jewish Chaplain Feldheim	1630.
Sunday, May 20	
Catholic Chaplain Cleary	0930
	1100
Protestant Chaplain Miller	1300

### RED CROSS - SOCIAL CALENDAR

Friday, May 18	
Recorded Jam Session	2030
Sunday, May 20	
Recorded Classical Concert	2030
Monday, May 21	
Opening Bing Bong Tournament	
Tuesday, May 22	
Bridge	2030
Wednesday, May 23	
"Strafers Group Jazz Band	2030



Old Timer

Yellam

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

### Letters to the Editor

(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 T.S. to England 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 discharge—what can I do?

M.P.

Dear Editor:

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

J.P.K.

## 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 muddle  
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 "civvics" swore  
When faced with points and such  
For I am swearing, 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.P.I. 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.")

## SQUADRON NEWS

### 395th - "Panzer Dusters"

by Cpl. Louis M. Heidelberg  
Cpl. Harold F. Farley of Taylor, Tex recently returned to the "Panzer Dusters" after a long stay in Army hospitals. He had suffered facial injuries when a German mine exploded at our last base in France.

Farley 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 Farley. "It was the first time in three months I had been permitted to go out. Those old milk and bitters sure tasted good, and the girls were better looking this time."

Asked how he felt to be back with the outfit Farley replied: "Well, at first they told me I'd go back to the states and naturally I was looking forward to seeing my wife. When 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 Bums"

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 Nudas, 396th Arm., was a still operator. He didn't have to worry about the "revenor" 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 Marston sleeping in the field, John Owens being escorted to bed by "Murphy" & friends, the mass singing of the Army Air Corps song, and Stan Peltz with that "dark brown taste."

...It is generally agreed by the 1st Sgt that the following men have qualified for their degree in F.S.E. (Field Sanitation Engineer.) Wyatt, Redford, Martin of Arm. Oliver, Engle, and Edwards, 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 Brains."

(Continued on Page 4)

Squadron News (Continued from Page 3)  
397th JAGO ANGELS  
By: T/Cgt 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 Smyth, of the Kentucky Smyths, cooking for us. As an added attraction we have Sgt. Louis Horst on the eggs. Both are unbeatable and invite competition!

"Fanny" Cooligan" Filler is wearing that "over a hundred points smile", 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 Barnyards, Skinny 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 radios to us and we will make them talk English—for further information see the "lizard".

These days the Armament shack looks like Macy's Dept. store at Xmas time with everyone wrapping packages to mail out!

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

We all mourn the departure of "Omar" Tirantino, "Blackjack" Fard, "Lucky" Pantrell, and "Supro" Jarvis.

\*\*\*\*\*Old Story of the week\*\*\*\*\*

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

- WIN THE AR BOARD (Continued from Page 1)
1. With the exception of the newspaper staff.
  2. Write your entry on any piece of paper, sign with full name, rank and organization and submit to your unit reporter or "Group Newspaper" at Group Hq. (P.R.O. office).
  3. Name must be representative of the whole Group, rather than that of any component.
  4. Decision of the judges will be final.
  5. Closing date is 5:00 Pm, May 25.

### Call For Stage Talent

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

GROUP SCHOOL (Continued from Page 1)

each other in school house building 5, headquarter site. The classes will commence on Monday, May 28, and are to run four hours a day, from 0700 to 1200 hours Monday through Saturday. The maximum classes any man may attend each day are three, and each class will meet three days 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 in 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 of the continent. One seven week course in the unit school will be comparable to one fourth credit 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 enrolling 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 lucrative undertaking to the individual, but will require real work to keep up satisfactory grades.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Continued from Pg. 1)

participation of individuals; here in Germany upon cessation of hostilities, in mass games and athletic competition.

"Calisthenics are not a part of the program," he added.

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

A baseball tournament will be held and officers and enlisted men from the 84th Service Group, 368th Co., three squadron teams, and anti-aircraft will participate. Games will be played on leisure time. There will also be games played in a competitive tournament with teams from other units in the 9th Air Force.

Captain Quinlan has revealed that work 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 horseshoe sites.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army  
18 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS )  
:  
NUMBER 49 )

1. Capt FRANK D. LAMONTE, 0649508, AC, 9th Flying Control Sq (P), Det F, is placed on TDY, WP 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 compl of this TDY, O will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWX M-384-E Hq 9th Flying Control Sq (P).

2. Capt NEWTON I. STEERS JR, 0865646, AC, is placed on TDY, WP Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, o/a 19 May 45, for a period of seven (7) days, for the purpose of teaching a course in Educational Advisement. Upon compl of this TDY, O will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWX M-214-G Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd.

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

Lt Col LEMUEL R. GORRELL	0415495	AC	President
Major DONALD A. DAVIS	0477249	MC	Vice-President
Capt HAROLD J. KESSLER	0561410	AC	
Capt CARL H. GUNDLACH	0571886	AC	
1st Lt SAMUEL R. SCHOFIELD	0582942	AC	Recorder

4. Fol named officers are granted seven (7) days leave of absence, WP Nice, Fr, o/a 21 May 45. Upon arriving at Nice Strip, officers will report to USRRA, Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, wher they will report to CO, USRRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft 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 HUGH L. RICE	0379295	AC	(In Charge)
Major LEO H. EAST	0913617	AC	
Major RUSSELL R. MARKS	0578511	AC	
Major ERNEST R. FENDLETON	01638240	AC	
Major JAMES R. WERNLI	0386975	AC	
Major WILLIAM E. DAVIS	0372896	INF	
1st Lt EDGAR R. BAKER	0763829	AC	
1st Lt VERNON D. FEIN	0767237	AC	
1st Lt EARL L. KIELGASS	0766555	AC	
1st Lt JAMES S. MITCHELL	0824535	AC	
2d Lt MAURICE J. SHEA	0830340	AC	
Flt O DONALD M. HARRIMAN	0126586	AC	
1st Lt ROBERT M. STRONACH	0858020	AC	

R E S T R I C T E D

SO 49, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 18 May 45, Cont'd.

5. Fol named EM, Sq indicated, are placed on TDY, WP USRA, o/a 21 May 45, reporting upon arrival to CO, ATSCC, Leave Hotels, Advanced Detachment, APO 772, for the purpose of being granted seven (7) days furlough. Upon compl of this TDY, EM will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 & 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, subj: Leaves, Passes and Furloughs, file AG 210.711 x 220.711, 12 May 45.

M Sgt Joe E. Dennis	7002606	397th Ftr Sq (In Charge)
M Sgt Paul J. Miller	6238502	395th Ftr Sq
T Sgt Walter F. Szymozewski	33390580	397th Ftr Sq
Sgt Joe D. Meroney	18202554	396th Ftr Sq
Sgt Ernest S. Stephens	35350893	1293rd M P Co
Pfc Howard R. Sweet Jr	34608714	Hq 368th Ftr Gp

6. Capt WILLIAM E. QUINLAN, 0566474, AC, is placed on TDY, WP Hq XIX Tactical Air Comd, 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 ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 & 212/50425. AUTH: TWX XIX Tactical Air Comd M-1118-C.

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

- "A"

- 2 -

R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army  
20 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 50 )

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

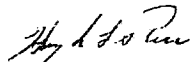
1st Lt (1055)	ROBERT L. STEPHENS	0519425	AC	397th Ftr Sq
1st Lt (1055)	JACK F. SMYRE	0766743	AC	396th Ftr Sq
1st Lt (1055)	HAROLD O. POWERS	0812137	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	MAURICE W. ANDERSON	0715430	AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055)	LYNN R. HAGEMEISTER	0766502	AC	395th Ftr Sq

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, 33086464, 21st Weather Sq, Det R." (Pertains to TDY to US Riviera Recreational Area)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

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

OFFICIAL:



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

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

(C O P Y)

R E S T R I C T E D

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 (Sec II Bulletin 3, WD, 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, 14097927, 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.

DISTRIBUTION: "D"

R E S T R I C T E D

## 368TH FIGHTER GROUP

## Class Time and Room Schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (M W F) (Numeral indicates Room No.)

0800-0845: Elementary Bookkeeping 3, Advanced Bookkeeping 2, Trigonometry 4.  
 0900-0945: Signmanship 11, Shorthand 10, HS Algebra 4, Elem Bookkeeping 3.  
 1000-1045: Small Business 11, Plane Geometry 4, Journalism 9.

1300-1345: Commercial Arithmetic 4, English Lit. 11, Mech. Drawing 3.  
 1400-1445: German 12, Physical Science 10, Music Apprec.-Red Cross, American Govt. 11.

1500-1545: French 11, Basic Math Review 4, Geography 12.  
 1600-1645: French 11, Vocal Music & Glee Club-Officers' Club, Physics I, 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.  
 1000-1045: Commercial Law 3, First Yr College English 12, HS English Review 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.  
 1600-1645: Photography 3, Family Relations 10, Latin American Hist. 11.

## REGISTRATION BLANK

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name (last name first) Rank Serial No.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization Dept. Job  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Years of School \_\_\_\_\_ Majors (or chief interest) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Civilian occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Type of training desired \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Courses	Hours	Rooms
Example-Eng. Hist.	1500-T Th S	11
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		
6. _____		

## SUBSTITUTE COURSES

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Course desired that is not  
 listed \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT SCHOOL COURSES AND INSTRUCTORS

Commercial Courses

- FUNDAMENTAL BOOKKEEPING & ACCOUNTING--  
 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.  
 S/sgt. Dale Shedenhelm  
 Sgt. Thomas Ahearn
- ADVANCED BOOKKEEPING--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.  
 Lt. Joseph L. Brunfield  
 Lt. Sidney Horowitz
- SALES--Covers all the principal points in making business sales.  
 T/sgt. Donald A. Macka  
 Capt. Robert Clark
- THE SMALL BUSINESS--Course contains valuable knowledge for one wishing to go into business, including problems and responsibilities of independent business man.  
 Capt. Robert Clark  
 T/sgt. Donald A. Macka
- SHORTHAND--Beginners' course in the Gregg shorthand system.  
 S/sgt. John E. Massie  
 S/Sgt. Sigmund Nowynia
- TYPIING--Elementary course in the touch system of typing.  
 Sgt. Philip Marchese  
 PFC Gilbert Ahonen
- COMMERCIAL LAW--Covers most of the legal aspects of commercial paper, such as contracts, sales, negotiable instruments, etc.  
 Lt. Sidney Horowitz  
 S/sgt. Herbert Levesque  
 Sgt. Thomas Ahearn
- Mathematics
- COMMERCIAL MATHEMATICS--Largely high school level--arithmetic needed in business computations.  
 Capt. Harold J. Kessler  
 Lt. William Blagen
- BASIC MATH. LEVEL--Review material, largely high school level, of arithmetic, algebra, plane geom.  
 S/sgt. Robert Serbian  
 Cpl. Gaspar Barnes
- ALGEBRA--Fundamentals of algebra through quadratic equations.  
 Capt. Robert Bergman  
 Lt. Aid and Tibbets  
 Cpl. Edward Foster

Selected courses (cont.)

GEOMETRY--fundamental constructions, proof, triangles, parallelograms, and circles. Some understanding of algebra needed.

Cpl. ~~Alma~~ Milgendorf  
Lt. William S. Blagen

ALGEBRA--use of the slide rule in all essential computations.

Capt. Robert G. Duquette  
Major Leo H. East  
Major James H. Wornli  
Lt. William S. Blagen  
Lt. Cecil Duncan

NAVIGATION--fourth year high school first yr college. Deals with navigation, map-making, surveying, some engineering.

Lt. William S. Blagen  
Lt. Robert L. Stronach  
Pvt. L. L. Murray  
Lt. Cecil Duncan

Language and Literature

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH LEVEL--fundamentals of grammar, sentence structure, paragraph structure & writing.

T/Sgt. Samuel Pratt  
Capt. David S. Reintal

FIRST YEAR COLLEGE ENGLISH--Review of correct sentence structure, vocabulary & some writing of themes.

Cpl. Frank Stovell  
S/Sgt. Clarence A. Glasrud

BUSINESS ENGLISH, SPEAKING & WRITING--review training in the above.

Cpl. Archibald Deane  
Lt. Austin Carr

IB & COLLEGE ENGLISH--study of great writers & periods in Eng. lit. Extensive rather than intensive treatment of the field. Special work will be assigned if college credit is desired.

Capt. David S. Reintal  
Lt. Austin Carr

ENGLISH--great writers, their backgrounds and their works. High School or college credit can be earned, depending on the amount of work the student wants to do.

S/Sgt. Clarence A. Glasrud  
Lt. David Goldmopf

JOURNALISM--training in news writing fundamentals, with Group paper as a study project

S/Sgt. Eugene Womack  
S/Sgt. Clarence A. Glasrud  
T/Sgt. Donald Wacka

FRANGLISH--emphasis on conversational French and reading of simple prose

S/Sgt. Herbert Levesque  
Capt. Donald L. Gleary  
Cpl. Cassius Barnes

PHILOSOPHY--will cover the important philosophers and main systems of philosophy.

Capt. Norton J. Magnus  
Lt. David Goldmopf



list of courses (cont.)

PERSONAL PROBLEMS--Personal and family problems.	Capt. Donald M. Cleary Lt. Woodrow D'Allo
PSYCHOLOGY AND ETHICS--Elementary course in problems of behavior, personality and adjustment.	Lt. David Goldmopf Lt. John A. Regan
GENERAL LAND RECORDS--Cops, farming crops in rotation, farm records and marketing.	Cpl. Albert Davis S/Sgt. Mansel Edinson
MUSIC RECREATION--Classical music using phonograph records.	Miss Lorraine Joy -
GEOGRAPHY--Basic study of physical geography, development of national boundaries, resources and land systems of the world.	S/Sgt. Clarence Siesrud Cpl. Frank Strell

TECHNICAL SCHOOL

1. RECREATION MUSIC (Theory and Practice--2 credit Course), 6 hrs. per week. (Mon. Wed. Fri. 1-3, 3-5 p.m.). Instructors--Lt. Cecil Duncan, Sgt. George Messler.  
Course will include study of static electricity, electric current, Ohm's Law, inductance, capacitance, resonant circuits, receiver, transmitter and power supply design; antennas, wave propagation.
2. INTERNAL COMBUSTION--(Mon. Wed. Fri. time later.) Instructors--  
(3 hours per week.) L/Sgt. John  
Course will include fuel, hydraulic, lubrication, induction, electrical, carburetor, ignition, systems.--theory of timing and combustion; propellers, power plant (general); instruments; airplane (general).
3. INTERNAL COMBUSTION--(Mon. Wed. Fri. time later.) Instructors--  
(3 hours per week.) L/Sgt. Ernie L. Owens, S/Sgt. Willis L. Hamilton, S/Sgt. John Murphy, Sgt. David Palma.  
Course will include fuel system and carburetor, lubrication, ignition and electrical system, transmission, differential, power plant (general), body (general) cooling system.

All tech. classes held in Tech. School building.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUPAPO 141, U. S. Army  
23 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS.)

NUMBER 51 )

1. Having been asgd this orgn per par 6, SO 124, Hq XIX Tactical Air Cmd  
20 May 45, fol named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated. EDCMR 23 May  
45:

Major (1055) ALBERT J. FREUND	0428489 AC	397th Ftr Sq
Capt (1055) FREDERICK E. MILES	0398665 AC	396th Ftr Sq
Capt (1055) MELVIN RIKE	0728734 AC	395th Ftr Sq

2. Fol named off and EM are placed on TDY, WP B-56 c/a 24 May 45 reporting  
to the senior flying control off thereat for a period of five (5) days for the  
purpose of disposing of material. Upon compl of this TDY they will ret to proper  
orgn. TDN by AT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

1st Lt GRADY P. GRIFFITH	01642129 AC	
Sgt Frederick Futhhoff	17059803	Det F, 9 F Control Sq

3. Lt Col THOMAS J. CARBINE, 0392748, AC, is aptd Deputy Commander vice  
Lt Col HAROLD P. SPARKS, 0432726, AC, trfd. (Princ duty)

4. Major DENNIS CRISP, 0427531, AC, is aptd Gp Operations officer vice Lt  
Col THOMAS J. CARBINE, 0392748, AC, reld. (Princ duty)

5. Capt ROBERT MILLER, 0680143, AC, is aptd Gp Air Inspector vice Capt  
WAYNE H. DRISCOLL, 0745323, AC, trfd. (Princ duty)

6. Capt WALTER G. LOUGHARY, 0802321, AC, and Capt OLIVER S. RYERSON, 0680085,  
AC, are aptd Gp Asst Operations Off, princ duty.

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

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

*Maurice Powell*MAURICE D. POWELL,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Asst. Adjutant.MAURICE D. POWELL,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Asst. Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

1  
R E S T R I C T E D

12

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUPAPO 141, U. S. Army  
29 May 1945SPECIAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 54 )

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

2d Lt (1055) HARRY KNOWLES JR	0835356 AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) GEORGE W. RABE JR	02066712 AC	395th Ftr Sq
2d Lt (1055) EDWARD B. LOCKEY	02067859 AC	396th Ftr Sq

2. M Sgt Jack B. Kellam, 18057859, 21st Weather Sq, Det R, having been granted a fur in the UK, for a period of seven (7) days, eff o/a 30 May 1945, is auth to proceed from this hq to UK, reporting upon arrival thereat 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 msg form Y101, Hq Ninth AF, file 220.711, 5 May 1945.

3. Capt 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 par 4b, AR 35-1100, 12 May 45, fol named officers are aptd to witness and verify the cash balance of major ALAN M. LANARD, 0382291, FD, Accountable Disbursing officer as of 0800 hours, 31 May 1945:

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

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. Upon 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	0567286 AC	
T Sgt Choron A. Grimsley	6920880	395th Ftr Sq

6. 1st Lt PAUL F. LUDWIG, 01554423, ORD, 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 MPM, 22 Nov 44)

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

*Maurice Powell*

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

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

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

- 2 -  
R E S T R I C T E D

ICE UNIT SCHOOL

Directive on Attendance:

25 May 1945

SUBJECT: Absence and Tardiness at Classes.

TO : All Personnel Attending Group School.

1. A scheduled class, either academic or technical, is considered 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 COLONEL MILGO.

MARCEL D. POMERAI,  
Capt, AC,  
Asst. Adjutant.

13

# Memorial Day May 1945

## THE FORTRESS FEATURE

Wednesday, May 30, 1945

„Somewhere in Germany“

Vol. 1, Number 2

### 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 84th 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 Sea Voyage ending in the picturesque harbor of Greenock, Scotland. Here the Group was split five ways and sent to an equal number of destinations. However, after months of comparative idleness for the Group with the exception of the 382nd Air Service Squadron which had been servicing 8th Air Force light bombers, General Brereton arrived in England with his 9th Air Force 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 Leland W. Richardson, was composed of the 382nd Service Squadron, 1814th Ordnance Supply & Maintenance Co. with detachments of the 1221st Quartermaster Company, 1074th Signal Company, 29th Mobile Reclamation and Repair Squadron and 2499th Quartermaster Truck Company.

Service Team Joins 368th

Still, it wasn't until the 9th of February 1944 that the Team was blessed with a tactical group to service. With the arrival of Colonel Myers and his 368th Fighter Group, the

### 9 MIA Pilots Reported as Safe

Reports have reached the group that seven pilots who were Missing in Action were liberated from Prisoner of War camps and hospitals. Some are reported to be back in the States.

The seven men are: Major Richard E. Leary, 1st Lt. Robert D. Cassidy, 2nd Lts. Ruben G. Bork; Joe Burney, Charles J. Hucke, Joseph F. McMillan, and Robert M. Pace.

Two other MIAs, 1st Lt. William T. Wright and 2nd Lt. Alfred W. Anderson, are officially reported to be in American field hospitals.

### 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 Profile Serial Card on this method of classification.

Redeployment of individuals will be based on PULHES findings, 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 theaters as well as the continental

## 626 STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR I & E SCHOOL COURSES



HIGH FLIGHT

### Registration Far Exceeds Expectation

Exceeding all expectations 626 students registered for the 41 academic and 3 technical courses offered by the Fortress school on registration day Wednesday, May 23. From morning 0800 until 1700 the school library looked like a polling place on election day. By 1000 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 Photography proved to be the most popular, with 124 students enrolling. French was next with 112, followed by Slide Rule with 87, and five business courses next in line: Small Business 78, Typing 70, Salesmanship and Elementary Bookkeeping 44 each, and Commercial Law 45.

Out of 626 that enrolled in the school 155 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. Duncan.

On the other hand four other courses had to be dropped from the original schedule for lack of students:

The seven men are: Major Richard E. Leary, 1st Lt. Robert D. Cassidy, 2nd Lt. Ruben G. Bork, Joe Bartley, Charles I. Hacke, Joseph F. McMillan, and Robert M. Pace.

Two other MIAs, 1st Lt. William T. Wright and 2nd Lt. Alfred W. Anderson, are officially reported to be in American field hospitals.

### 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 Profile Serial Card on this method of classification.

Redeployment of individuals will be based on PULHES findings, 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 theaters as well as the continental USA and is not an indication of any particular destination of an individual or unit.

The Physical Profile Serial is a permanent record and is entered in the individual's personnel records. 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 Strafers", the group and service team band, has been offered an engagement in the Riviera. The band, under the leadership of Lt. Campbell, has practiced since January, and has performed at the officer's club dances, enlisted men's dances and at the Red Cross jam sessions.

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 McDaniel, trombone, from the group. S/Sgt William, guitar, Sgt Deck, trumpet and Capt Glassburg, sax, are the service team men. George Sommers, vocalist, is also from team B.

Lt. Campbell was with a radio group in New York City. Pic Sommers sang in a Chicago night club. MacDaniels, from Amarillo, Texas, had his own orchestra in high school, and played in the dance band at University of Missouri for two years. After graduation, he joined the music union of the Music Corporation of America and traveled around the Southwest part of the States in various bands. Sommers was taking art training at a school in Chicago, when offered a job at the Silver Cloud, a night club there. While in the army in England, he worked on several stage shows for special service, and has been in this group since Chilton.

### Group Memorial Services To Be Held In Nurnberg

Chaplain Cleary is conducting Memorial Day services for the Group at the Nurnberg cemetery. The service is for all men fallen in the war, but particularly for our own men. One of our pilots is known to be buried in this cemetery, and it is planned to hold the service over his grave. The group will send a convoy, and representatives from each squadron will be asked to attend.

Chaplain Cleary said, "This Memorial Day should mean more to our men than any Memorial Day before, because many men we have known personally have given up their lives, and are buried in cemeteries in France, Belgium and Germany."



### HIGH FLIGHT

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Flou'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air—  
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,  
Where never lark, or even eagle, flew;  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee, Jr., in N.Y. Herald Tribune.

(The author, aged 19, an American volunteer with the Royal Canadian Air Force was killed in action December 11, 1941)

### Musical Comedy Still Needs Local Talent

"Two Down and Here We Go," a musical comedy portraying the 368th Fighter Group history, is to be presented in one month at the new Group Theater. The cast is being drawn entirely from Group personnel, and casting, a slow and arduous procedure, is not complete. The few parts left open will be chosen from men interested, at four p. m. each day in the officers club.

The Comedy will review the history of the Group with the aid of an octet, comedy sketches and a dancing chorus. Writing and directing have been under the expert amateur hand of Capt. Dick, Chaplain Cleary and T/Sgt. Facka. The musical end is handed by Lt. Campbell. The dancing routines are going to be taken over by a professional from Special Service, for no one here seems qualified to accept the job. Any applications?

### T/Sgt Thompson Names Paper -- Wins Bond

T/Sgt Thompson of the 395th is one twenty-five dollar bond richer for having picked out the name of THE FORTRESS FEATURE for this paper.

Out of the hundred or more names submitted there were many excellent suggestions and it was a difficult job for the staff to come to a final decision.

The staff appreciates the interest shown in the name contest. We are only sorry that it is not possible to award a bond for every entry—and we hope that THE FORTRESS FEATURE can continue to hold the interest of the 368th Fighter Group and all attached units.

### Registration Far Exceeds Expectation

Exceeding all expectations 622 students registered for the 41 academic and 3 technical courses offered by the Fortress school on registration day Wednesday, May 23. From morning (8:00) until 1700 the school library looked like a polling place on election day. By 1000 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 Photography proved to be the most popular, with 124 students enrolling. French was next with 112, followed by Slide Rule with 87, and five business courses next in line: Small Business 78, Typing 70, Salesmanship and Elementary Bookkeeping 44 each, and Commercial Law 45.

Out of 626 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 men enrolled in the Elementary Radio course. This course, Mathematics Essential to Radio, will be taught by Lt. Duncan.

On the other hand four other courses had to be dropped from the original schedule for lack of students: Physical Science, Latin American History, English History, and Biology.

As originally planned the Photography course was divided 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 Rule course; the Mechanical Drawing increased from one to three classes, Typing 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 on subjects which 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 influence the educational program away from the business angle and to promote farming.

It is hoped that the necessary books might 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 an 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 last few days will agree that we now have one of the best such set-ups that we've enjoyed since leaving the States.

An inclining seating arrangement has been made by installing platforms—making for a good view of the screen without the inclusion of a G. I.'s head.

An excellent stage has been built and the seating capacity is much larger than in the old site. The new theater is located in building 20-2, directly across the street from the Fortress School.

## THE FORTRESS FEATURE

Somewhere in Germany

Vol. 1, No. 2, Wed. May 30, 1945

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

### STAFF

S/Sgt E. S. Womack, Sgt R. Greenspan, Sgt J. E. Alequia, M/Sgt J. B. Kellam, Cpl W. Oliver, Sgt R. Nowland, T/Sgt M. M. Klein, Sgt R. W. Woods, Cpl L. M. Heidelberg, Pvt W. Weill, S/Sgt Bill Schuler, S/Sgt C. W. Wood, Pic W. G. Jacobson.

Publication Advisors:  
Lt. David Godknopf  
T/Sgt Don A Facka

## IN MEMORIUM



The Peace of God to those who, killed and forever missing, gave their lives to gain peace for us on 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" were 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 seven 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" 88 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 Randall W. Hendricks, former CO of the 397th, received the DSC, the nation's second highest combat award, for his action on June 12, 1944. On that day he led his flight to attack 15 enemy fighters who were flying to dive-bomb Allied ground troops. The flight of Thunderbolts broke up the enemy attack. Major Hendricks destroyed four enemy airplanes, and damaged a fifth.

Major Carlos M. Talbott was decorated with the DSC for singly attacking 15 enemy fighter planes preparing to bounce an already outnumbered squadron of P-47s engaged in combat. Major Talbott broke up the attack and destroyed two of the enemy planes before he was forced to bail out of his burning Thunderbolt.

General H. H. Arnold decorated Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas, Captain William G. Garry, and 1st Lt. William J. Wayland, with the DSC in ceremonies at Luxembourg.

Col. Douglas led seven P-47s to attack 20 enemy fighter-bombers near American lines. They shot down seven of the enemy as Col. Douglas, without support accounted for three, then escaped under attack to fly his burning plane back to base.

When 30 plus enemy fighter planes attacked a squadron of Thunderbolts of the "Panzer Dusters" squadron, Capt. Garry fought alone with eight of the enemy at one time, shooting down two. He then destroyed two more in protecting his fellow pilots.

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

## SQUADRON NEWS

### 397th JABO ANGELS

Air Corps—Infantry

What does the Infantry think of the Air Corps?? Well I'll tell you! Your reporter looked up a nearby infantry regiment and selected a doughboy for questioning. He was PFC Walter Bear of New York. PFC Bear has seen action with the Famous Fourth Infantry Division which the 366th supported at Cherbourg and various other engagements through France, Luxembourg and into Germany.

"Don't let anyone fool you", he said. "We sure looked for those planes when things got rough, and thanked God when they appeared. As for the ground crew—they do their job and keep the planes flying, that's what counts. We won didn't we?"

I quote some further remarks from our conversation: "It's difficult to describe the feeling of happiness in combat, but the nearest thing to it is the sight of friendly planes diving-bombing the 88's that formally pinned you down—seeing your buddies wave and laugh when but a few moments before they were close to death, and then that forward surge, knowing you are fully supported, both on the ground and in the air—Why should we be sore at Air Corps ground crewmen when they are part of such support—that's all Comm Zone talk!"

### 395th PANZER DUSTERS

By: Sgt. Robt. G. Nowland

In all sincerity, our sympathy is with Cpl. Willie DeCristoforo who, last week, received word of his father's death. Mass was said for Mr. DeCristoforo last Tuesday by Father Cleary. Many of Cpl. DeCristoforo's friends attended.

S/Sgt Teets leads the squadron with 128 points toward being discharged from the army. Others are T/Sgt Oney with 125; S/Sgt Halzok with 124, M/Sgt P. J. Miller, S/Sgt E. D. Jones and Cpl Eral Baily with 117 points each. Booby prize goes to Pvt. Pete Liberatore with 30 points and Pvt. "Medic" Smith with 44 points.—It was either work or school for Cpl. Jim McDermod. He went to school.—To had Pvt. Floyd Nelson couldn't make that trip to Munich with the Sqn. The "G. I. Blues" had him that day. Sgt. R. C. Hoffman has found little to do since the Sqn. lost its rocket ships. If you notice, his ping-pong game has improved.

### 396th THUNDER BUMS

INFORMATION DESIRED—Has anyone an extra roll of film on hand? M/Sgt Urbanc 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 1074th. He won't quit till he runs out of hair. It is rumored that Joe Calvert has requisitioned the new WD pamphlet, "So You Have a Furlough". Is he trying to be funny?

Hubbard of the 2499th tore his hair out for two days looking for a latrine screen and finally found a G. I. in his own tent was sleeping on it.

It was rather embarrassing for T/Sgt Atkinson to explain the two bandaged thumbs—Unless it was a German Peanut can you don't stand a chance getting the Purple Heart

A hot one from bowl 3—It has been observed that a certain Fighter squadron in the 368th is undergoing vigorous training so as to be able to change an engine by 1947.

You haven't seen anything until you've seen Bruce Kirkbride after how much Champagne—Hut Two—3—Four—What the Hell! What the Hell!

The careful Jeep driving mail clerk, Cpl. Fuller of the 29th MR & R, approached the railroad crossing near Metz. He stopped, looked and listened. All he heard was the Jeep behind him crashing into his rear end!

Pfc. Austin, the little Electron, from the 1074th worked out some phase & the Service Team now enjoys music while they loaf.

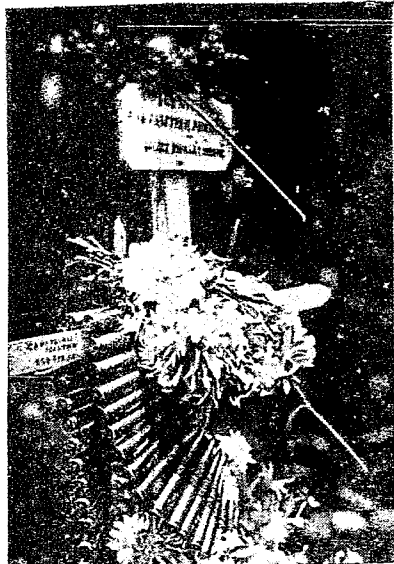
### 368th Hq. NEWS

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

Announcement of a more liberal pass policy to Brussels and Paris has brought fond memories of the former to many Hq. EM. According to reliable reports a petition has been sent to "Finnegan", promising 100% attendance.

Now that censorship of outgoing mail is no longer with us, you can expect the following "Nicknames" to creep into Hq. EM letters: "Smilin' Jack" — "Sad Sam" "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 incidental.)

INFORMATION  
and EDUCATION NOTES



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

### 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 these things even approach paying the debt of those lives, or answer that question of WHY that keeps on repeating itself in the hearts of many?

We won't attempt to answer— for a satisfying answer can't be given— a fulfilling memorial will never be written nor sufficient monument ever built of stone.

If those men, who have died, could speak— would some of them ask all of civilization the same question: Would they want 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 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 the living are resolved to do about it.

What type of memorial would they prefer. Surely not glorying 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 who are left will earnestly and conscientiously strive for a civilization that is worthy of its existence—a civilization whose continuance doesn't depend on conflict of arms among its young men every generation.

Our dead will not be forgotten— not by their families and we who knew them. But that is far too small a tribute— we owe much 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 lives to the expansion of "justice and the maintenance of peace to cover the whole earth."

Major Randall W. Hendricks, former CO of the 397th, received the DSC, the nation's second highest combat award, for his action on June 12, 1944. On that day he led his flight to attack 15 enemy fighters who were flying to dive-bomb Allied ground troops. The flight of Thunderbolts broke up the enemy attack. Major Hendricks destroyed four enemy airplanes, and damaged a fifth.

Major Carlos M. Talbott was decorated with the DSC for singly attacking 15 enemy fighter planes preparing to bounce an already outnumbered squadron of P-47s engaged in combat. Major Talbott broke up the attack and destroyed two of the enemy planes before he was forced to bail out of his burning Thunderbolt.

General H. H. Arnold decorated Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas, Captain William G. Garry, and 1st Lt. William J. Wayland, with the DSC in ceremonies at Luxembourg.

Col. Douglas led seven P-47s to attack 20 enemy fighter-bombers near American lines. They shot down seven of the enemy as Col. Douglas, without support accounted for three, then escaped under attack to fly his burning plane back to base.

When 30 plus enemy fighter planes attacked a squadron of Thunderbolts of the "Panzer Dusters" squadron. Capt. Garry fought alone with eight of the enemy at one time, shooting down two. He then destroyed two more in protecting his fellow pilots.

Lt. Wayland shot down two enemy planes attacking members of his squadron, and after running out of ammunition continued to press his attacks at close range. He clipped the wing off a third enemy plane in a mid-air collision.

Typical of the "gallantry in action" displayed by the seventeen pilots who were decorated with the Silver Star is the action of Major Richard E. Leary. "Major Leary fearlessly executed numerous minimum altitude strafing attacks upon enemy armor in the face of a withering barrage of anti-aircraft fire which seriously damaged his plane." His attacks halted, temporarily, a strong enemy column in the Belgian breakthrough, enabling reinforcements to reach American ground troops.

Other recipients of the Silver Star are: Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas, Major Dennis Crisp, Major John W. Baer, Capt. Alfred E. Benton, Capt. Clifford L. Gamble, Capt. William J. Garry.

Capt. Meredith W. Henry (Posthumous), Capt. Frank S. Kerchner, Capt. Joseph I. McLachlan, Capt. David C. Parrish, Capt. Jerry B. Tullis.

1st Lt. Robert D. Dicks, 1st Lt. Joseph D. Gianetti, 1st Lt. Hugh P. Matthews, 1st Lt. Eugene R. Smith, and 1st Lt. George L. Sutcliffe.

The Croix de Guerre was awarded by the French government for "services exceptionnels de Guerre rendus au cours des operations de liberation de la France", to: Colonel Gilbert L. Meyers, Colonel Frank S. Perera, Lt. Col. John D. W. Haesler, Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas, Lt. Col. Henry R. Oumby, Lt. Col. Harold P. Sparks, and Major Randall W. Hendricks.

Four Bronze Star Medals were awarded to pilots for their work as air controllers with the ground forces. The men who received them are: Major Richard E. Leary, Capt. Joseph S. Nolan, 1st Lt. Forrest D. Midlam, and 2nd Lt. Charles E. Rife.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LINE

A large amount of credit for the combat efficiency of the group during the fourteen months of operations goes to the men on the line. It was the efficiency of the men on the line of all sections that kept the planes in excellent condition despite handicaps of dust, mud, rain, snow and extreme cold.

Working more than 20 hours a day the first week of the Normandy invasion with "Bean-Belly" Rogers of the 396th moving his bedding out to his airplane.

The armorers struggling in the wee hours of the morning of D plus I with bomb clusters.

The three 47 year old men on the line, Simon and Stanfield of the 397th, and Wepper of the 396th. They stuck it out all the way through, asking no special considerations.

continued pg. 4

### 395th PANZER DUSTERS

By: Sgt. Robt. G. Nowland

In all sincerity, our sympathy is with Cpl. Willie DeCristoforo who, last week, received word of his father's death. Mass was said for Mr. DeCristoforo last Tuesday by Father Cleary. Many of Cpl. DeCristoforo's friends attended.

S/Sgt Teets leads the squadron with 128 points toward being discharged from the army. Others are T/Sgt Oney with 125; S/Sgt Halzuk with 124, M/Sgt P. J. Miller, S/Sgt E. D. Jones and Cpl. Eral Baily with 117 points each. Booby prize goes to Pvt. Pete Liberatore with 30 points and Pvt. "Medic" Smith with 44 points.— It was either work or school for Cpl. Jim McDermod. He went to school.— To bad Pvt. Floyd Nelson couldn't make that trip to Munich with the Sqdn. The "G. I. Blues" had him that day. Sgt. R. C. Hoffman has found little to do since the Sqdn. lost its rocket ships. If you notice, his ping-pong game has improved.

### 396th THUNDER BUMS

By: Cpl. Walter Oliver

We've just discovered that Sgt. Peters of Arm. is doing exactly the same type of work that was his job previous to entering the service. It seems that he worked in the capacity of an Armament Specialist for one of the numerous aircraft plants in the States. The change in working conditions and the pay scale must have been rough to get used to.

A list of names and home addresses are being made up into a directory, a copy of which will be given to each member of the squadron. It seems like an excellent way to locate friends (or enemies) after our return (?) to civvies.

Does anyone know of a State named "West-by-God-Virginia"? That's where Whistler Wyatt claims he hails from.

Our Mess Hall is at present being graced by some notable K. P.'s namely some of our Staffs and Techs. It brings to mind a saying, "Oh, how the mighty have fallen."

Poor Meroney sweats out a plane which is to take him on his leave to the Riviera; then the plane goes the other way. Tsk, Tsk, Tsk!

It looks like school days are here again for some of us with the Educational plan getting underway. Oh Well, they always say that you're never too old to learn.

### 84th SERVICE CROUP NEWS

By: S/Sgt Bill Schuier

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

Who is the man that was kind enough to loan a Fraulein his pup tent and forgot that his name, rank & serial number were stenciled on the tent?

The 2499th must have found some potent beer to make Swafford walk in circles!

Famous last words from Lt. D. W. Wenger at Chilbolton, "They are just nigh fighters men." Psssssss! Boom! Boom!

After the false gas alarm at Strip 3, Doc Swint found out he wasn't a casualty, he just forgot to remove the waterproofing from his gas mask.

One of the 1221st boys was out on a "Night Operation" in Winchester with a woman a good deal beyond the "Productive State." One of his buddies approached him quite audibly, "Your's lucky Floyd, to have your mother here in th ETO".

Joe Crede gives a clue to all— Do not jump ditches when you have a case of the G. I.'s.

For instructions on the best way to get out of a sleeping bag during Air Attacks see Thomas Tucker of the 2499th. He didn't do so good at Frankfort but learned since.

### 368th Hq. NEWS

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

Announcement of a more liberal pass pool to Brussels and Paris has brought fond memories of the former to many Hq. EM. According to reliable reports a petition has been sent to "Finnegan", promising 100% attendance.

Now that censorship of outgoing mail is no longer with us, you can expect the following "Nicknames" to creep into Hq. EM letters: "Smilin' Jack" — "Sad Sam" — "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 incidental.)

### INFORMATION and EDUCATION NOTES

By: Cpl. L. M. Heidelberger

Staff Sergeant Clarence A. Glasrud is one of the key men in our school program. His assistance has been of great value to Captain Steers and Lieutenant Regan in getting the school set up, the courses and instructors lined up, and in mapping out the whole schedule.

Sgt. Glasrud is instructing in the following subjects: American Literature, German, World Politics and Geography. He is the tall, lanky, light-haired, blue eyed Norwegian, commonly known as "Soc", formerly a map man in group S-2.

"Soc" comes from Detroit Lakes, Minn. His teaching background extends to when he was 17 years of age and started teaching the three "R's" in grammar school. But he only taught for one year as he went to the Moorehead Teachers College where he majored in English and History to graduate with the B. E. degree in 1933. He continued his teaching career teaching history and geography in junior high school during the 1935-36 season. From there he upped himself to English Department head of a high school, teaching Speech, American and English literature and Journalism.

Sgt. Glasrud became director of publications at the Mankato High School, Mankato, Minn., and taught Journalism until he got the call from Uncle Sam to enter the service in 1942.

Because of his knowledge of the Norwegian language he was enrolled in the ASTP where he studied the language, history, geography and administration of Germany.

Exactly one year ago today he embarked for overseas service and joined the 368th Fighter Group at Chilbolton, England.

Corporal Frank Stowell has also been very instrumental in getting things started at the school. He teaches First year college English, English History, and Geography. Frank will also be in charge of the library.

Cpl. Stowell was born at Ellensburg, Wa. He graduated from the Whitman College in 1930 with an A. B., and in 1932 he received an A. M. degree at the University of Oregon. Following that Cpl. Stowell did 1 1/2 years of post-graduate work while teaching at the University of Washington.

Frank has four solid years of teaching experience behind him. Those he gained in teaching English literature and composition at the University of Oregon and University of Washington. After that he went into publications work for five years, and at one time was associate editor of trade publications for the Pacific Building and Engineering Corporation of Seattle, Washington.

Students attending Cpl. Stowell's classes will find that he has a very dry sense of humor, and is very easy man to get along with.

# 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 faced expectant pilots: "Men, the time we have been preparing for is here."

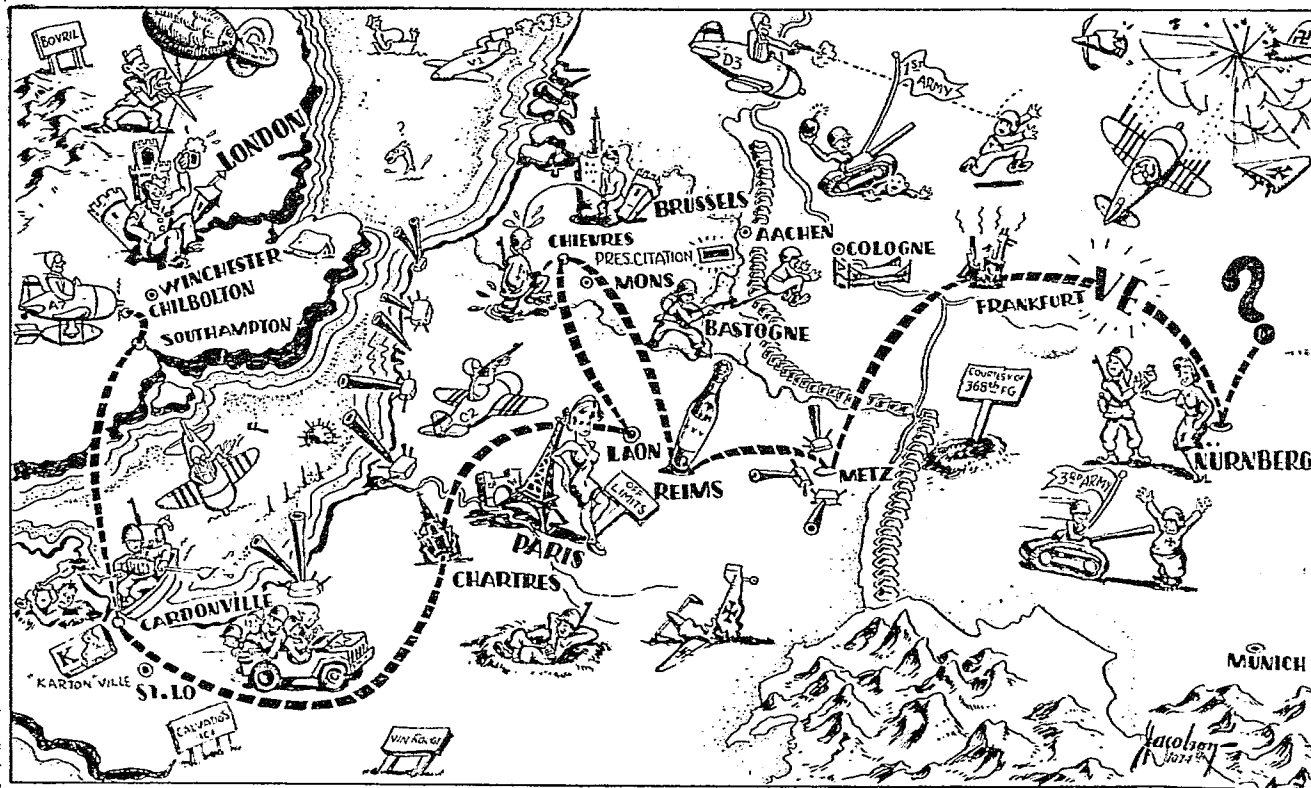
Continuing, Colonel Gilbert L. Meyers told the pilots of the 368th Fighter Group what their role would be in an historic day—D day, June 6, 1944. Intelligence officers took up the briefing—presenting the details of a vast operation. Mechanics going out to preflight the planes, pilots aroused at 2 a. 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 by wing lights.

### Back at Westover Field

"The time we have preparing for—" thoughts of many flashed back to Westover Field, Mass., where a year before the 368th Fighter Group had been activated with Lt. Col. Gilbert L. Meyers commanding. A large number of the personnel of his previous command, an OTU group, came to the group with him. After months of training a cadre in Florida, Crosscountry, instrument, night flying, gunnery practice and frequent inspections, the 368th Group disembarked for overseas on December 29th, 1943, with the reputation as the "best-trained group turned out by the First Air Force."

From Greenock, Scotland, they proceeded to their base at Greenham Common, southwest of London, January 13, 1944, where the 382nd Service Squadron had the base prepared. Finding they were assigned to the Ninth Air Force, the group began a



### The Naval Guns Flashed

In the morning coolness of June 6, Lt. Col. Perego led the 395th Squadron Lack from Normandy, buzzing the field.

"The Naval guns were flashing as they laid on their barrage. We saw gliders on the peninsula. Bunches of

hit by flak as their bombs knock ed down two bridges.

possible if not probable that fighter bomber efforts were in a large part responsible for the Allied attacks on this beachhead continuing."

General Oueseda added: "History may show that you saved the day." Crews preflighted 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 Downs were summoned out of

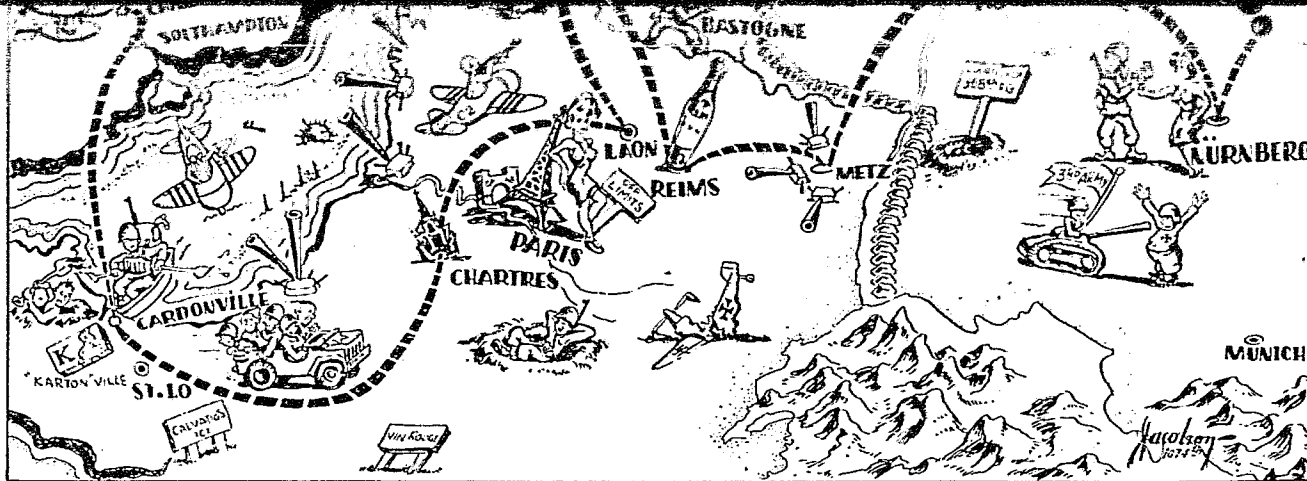
Support. June 29 Major Harold P. Sparks led the 396th to dive-bomb a fort in Cherbourg harbor, stubbornly resisting for two days after the city fell. As doughboys watched from the docks, the squadron scored direct hits and near misses—the enemy troops ran up a white flag.

July 2 Lieutenant General Lewis H. Brereton visited the base, pinned DFCs on Lt. Cols. Perego, Quimby, Haesler, Douglas and Captain Thomas

Tiger tanks holding up a column of American armor. Dive bombing, they scored only near misses. Not expecting to do much damage, they strided the Tigers, sluttling 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 Contances. Lt. Col. Haesler commented: "German vehicles

...the first aerial encounter on May 15, 1944, flares suddenly appeared over the field. Enemy bombers came over, damaging ten of the groups aircraft. Air raid warnings became nightly, officers and men got up to look at the long red beads of ack-ack tracers above Southampton, target of Luftwaffe attacks. May 27 the group destroyed 27 locomotives in France. Colonel Meyers is about "buzz bombing" and fighter-bomber tactics in a CBS broadcast from London. May 29 the group flew the longest mission on its records—to Hannover, Germany.

Then came the attacks on the Seine river bridges. Lt. Col. Frank S. Perego led a mission May 30 which destroyed two and put a third out of commission at Elbeuf ant Pont de L'Arche. June 3th the group attacked an ammunition and fuel dump at Domfront—Lt. Clarence L. Staton coming back with pieces of rail ties in his cowling and engine. June 4th crews received orders to paint the planes with black and white stripes on wings and tail. That afternoon Col. Meyers led the group to Rouen where his plane was



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

#### Back at Westover Field

"The time we have preparing for—" thoughts of many flashed back to Westover Field, Mass., where a year before the 368th Fighter Group had been activated with Lt. Col. Gilbert L. Meyers commanding. A large number of the personnel of his previous command, an OTU group, came to the group with him. After months of training a cadre in Florida. Crosscountry, instrument, night flying, gunnery practice and frequent inspections, the 368th Group disembarked over seas, on December 29th, 1943, with the reputation as the "best-trained group turned out by the First Air Force."

From Greenock, Scotland, they proceeded to their base at Greenham Common, southwest of London, January 13, 1944, where the 382nd Service Squadron had the base prepared. Finding they were assigned to the Ninth Air Force, the group began a tactical training program—"Hank" Mazur bailed out in a snow storm, officers and enlisted men got passes to London. Some pilots went to Italy, some flew with the 56th Fighter Group, some trained in Scotland.

March 14, 1944, saw the first combat mission, an uneventful fighter sweep over the French coast. Next day the group moved to Chilbolton, twelve miles above Winchester, a former RAF base in the "Battle of Britain".

Early operations included fighter sweeps, escort, dive-bombing, and strafing missions to targets in France and Belgium, the "rocket coast" at Pas de Calais.

#### Meet the Luftwaffe

The first aerial encounter on May 15, 1944, resulted in claims of 3 destroyed, 1 probable and 5 damaged. As the days lengthened crews worked long hours, the group flew two missions sometimes three a day. Objectives at Somain, Turcoing, Ahoive, Pas de Calais, St. Gislain, Arras, Cambrai, Tournai, Namur, were dive-bombing targets early in May. Major General E. R. Quesada visited the field to decorate 44 pilots with the Air Medal and Colonel Gil Meyers, promoted the day before, with the DFC.

On the night of May 15, 1944, flares suddenly appeared over the field. Enemy bombers came over, damaging ten of the groups aircraft. Air raid warnings became nightly, officers and men got up to look at the long red beads of ack-ack tracers above Southampton, target of Luftwaffe attacks. May 27 the group destroyed 27 locomotives in France. Colonel Meyers is about "buzz bombing" and fighter-bomber tactics in a CBS broadcast from London. May 29 the group flew the longest mission on its records—to Hannover, Germany.

Then came the attacks on the Seine river bridges. Lt. Col. Frank S. Perego led a mission May 30 which destroyed two and put a third out of commission at Elbeuf ant Pont de L'Arche. June 3th the group attacked an ammunition and fuel dump at Domfront—Lt. Clarence L. Staton coming back with pieces of rail ties in his cowling and engine. June 4th crews received orders to paint the planes with black and white stripes on wings and tail. That afternoon Col. Meyers led the group to Rouen where his plane was

hit by flak as their bombs knock ed down two bridges.

#### The Naval Guns Flashed

In the morning coolness of June 6, Lt. Col. Perego led the 395th Squadron Lack from Normandy, buzzing the field.

"The Naval guns were flashing as they laid on their barrage. We saw gliders on the peninsula. Bunches of LST's and boats are crossing like flocks of sheep", he commented.

That afternoon Col. Meyers received a call from General Quesada. Omaha beachhead was under severe fire from enemy guns. The armorers loaded frag bombs as the pilots were briefed to attack by gun flashes. That evening they reported a dozen or more gun positions bombed, some silenced, showers of ground fire indicating enemy strength. Next day the squadrons took off at dawn in relays to bomb and strafe everything they could see at low level—the situation on Omaha beachhead was critical.

Eleven missions were flown between 4 a. m. and midnight June 7, with pilots, armorers, mechanics, and clerks consumed with an intense anxiety and determination as they eagerly sought news of the fighting which at times was scarcely 100 yards from the beach. Battle damage from light flak and small arms fire was heavy. Sgt. "Lanky" Peers counted 28 holes in his plane, Col. Meyers flew back with more than 20 bullet holes—admitted being scared. The 368th Group incurred half the battle damage in Ninth Air Force that day—the 395th could muster only 11 planes for their last mission. Mechanics covered bullet holes with fabric, let the small ones go until a later date. The Service team worked nights putting planes back in shape.

#### "We've had a big day—"

Landing after his third mission and eight hours flying that day, Major Paul P. Douglas said: "Where we found more enemy convoys and vehicles than we could hit this morning, we could find none on the roads tonight. If we hadn't been out there hitting their troop concentrations, straffing their convoys, I'm convinced the roads would have been jammed tonight and our troops faced with much more mechanized equipment and troops that ever got up to the beachhead today. Instead of them, our toys are moving up."

The group flew 289 sorties the first two days of invasion, claimed 398 mechanized vehicles destroyed or damaged. A few days later Colonel Meyers received a commendation on behalf of General Montgomery, Allied Commander on the Beachhead. "It is

possible if not probable that fighter-bomber efforts were in a large part responsible for the Allied attacks on this beachhead continuing."

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

Crews preflighted 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 Downs were summoned out of bed by Flight Chief Griffiths exactly five minutes after they had hit the sack—many others went without sleep to keep their planes in shape.

June 12 Major Randall W. Hendricks led the 397th behind the lines to strafe, bounced fifteen Fw190s and shot down four himself. Next day Captain Romine of the 396th got two, Captain Parrish, Lt. Larsen and Olson scored a day later. The evening of June 13 Lt. Col. Perego led the 397th in landing on a newly completed strip on the beachhead to rearm and refuel for the first operational landing by American planes in France.

#### Off to France

The advanced echelon, headed by "Rice's Raiders", left for Southampton June 12, crossing the channel in LST's to disembark during an air raid at 2 a. m. June 13. Squadrons took off from England in the morning, operated from the new strip in France, and returned at night for several days. Col. Meyers, flying to the new base, dropped belly tanks containing his field equipment and other supplies in the Channel. Robombs began to hit England, one not far from our base.

June 19 the planes landed at Strip No. 3 at Cardonville, the first group to be based on the continent. Everyone busied himself in sparetime in foxhole improvements. Nightly the throbbing engines of enemy planes could be heard above the din of ack-ack. Enemy bombs were wide of the mark. Red chains of ack-ack tracers laced the night sky. From the front lines, at times less than 10 miles away, the booming thunder of artillery roared back, night and day. Stories of snipers, counter-attacks, and rumors became ridiculous. Drv runs on field defense were held. A wild gas alarm, arising from fumes drifting in from the beachhead, disturbed the guards, awakened the camp, sent soldiers scurrying for masks, caused Col. Meyers to instruct OD's to restore order. K rations and 10-in-1 were the regular diet.

#### Bomb Cherbourg Forts

Pilots were briefed for targets four minutes from base, dive-bombed with 1000 pounders to help reduce the fortified hills around Cherbourg. Yank magazine reported work of the group with the 79th and 4th division in the Cherbourg campaign as typical Air

Support. June 29 Major Harold P. Sparks led the 396th to dive-bomb a fort in Cherbourg harbor, stubbornly resisting for two days after the city fell. As doughboys watched from the docks, the squadron scored direct hits and near misses—the enemy troops ran up a white flag.

July 2 Lieutenant General Lewis H. Brereton visited the base, pinned DFCs on Lt. Col. Perego, Quimby, Haesler, Douglas and Captain Thomas N. Montag. In the next few weeks the squadron supported ground force drives for La Haye du Puits and St. Lo. Major General Collins, VII corp., sent his commendations for excellent close support bombing at "Hill 131."

The rear ground echelon arrived July 3, dug bigger and better fox holes, listened to stories of air raids, four-hour ack-ack barrages, cider and calvados, sufficiently embellished by members of the advance party.

Otto Plessner of Life spent several days on the base painting typical scenes. The squadrons played softball in the warm summer evenings, pilots scrounged dilapidated cars and baby tanks. Spitfires pursued ME109's among the clouds over the base one afternoon. Channel fog rolled in, to the desperation of Ops officers. A long parade of RAF bombers flew over one evening, turning among the black bursts of flak in sight of the base, coming back 300 feet overhead.

#### Bombers at St. Lo

July 25 Colonel Meyers briefed the pilots on a concentrated attack west of St. Lo. The 368th group was chosen to team with tanks in spearheading a break-through. At noontime officers and men watched the formations of heavy and medium bombers, winging over in endless hundreds, saw winging in their bomb-run, saw some plunge down in trails of smoke. Later the squadrons took off to dive-bomb targets in the area, reported long columns of massed American tanks and armor with cerise panels.

Next day, taking off in flights of four to provide armored column cover, pilots found the tank columns moving cautiously, threading through the gap in enemy lines. As tank columns snaked forward on the roads, Lt. Col. Haesler radioed a tank commander: "Come on, get those iron buggies rolling. I'll take care of anything that's ahead of you." The fighter bombers flew low, bombed and strafed everything they could, as the tank columns speeded up, reached Canisy, pushed on.

July 27 the armored columns were on the move, they asked fighter-bombers to hit enemy tanks and guns, to strafe the roads and scout the hedgerows. Captain J. J. McLachlan and Captain John W. Baer found two

Tiger tanks holding up a column of American armor. Dive bombing, they scored only near misses. Not expecting to do much damage, they strated the Tigers, shutting 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 Coutances. Lt. Col. Haesler commented: "German vehicles are scrambling south. When we go down to strafe, they stop, jump out, and run like hell for the ditches. They're all snafoo."

#### Taming the Tigers

In two days with the armored columns the group damaged and destroyed 107 enemy tanks and 155 MTs. The flak was intense, the low-level attacks were costly, several veteran pilots failed to return. A day or so later Captain McLachlan bailed out between the lines, hid for six hours, and was picked up by an American patrol.

The planes and tanks were welded into a smooth combat team, Major Hendricks led a "perfect mission"—five targets were hit with sixteen bombs, sometimes only 300 yards ahead of the rolling tanks.

Lt. Col. Henry R. Quimby belly-landed his flak-damaged plane near Domfront August 3 and was hidden by French civilians as American patrols came up and took him to a hospital. A few days later word was received that Captain Leary was hospitalized as a result of having his jeep hit by an "88" near Mortain; both were evacuated to England. Major Walton B. Ten Eycke went home, a veteran of two wars.

#### "Poodle caling Thunderbolts—"

Teamed with the Third Armored division of the U. S. First Army, the Squadrons bombed and strafed in the Falaise encirclement. On August 12 the group destroyed 160 tanks, armored cars and trucks, damaged many more. General Quesada sent a message: "You and your men are contributing to what may be the beginning of the end."

Flying had been steadily at the rate of 30 to 40 missions a day, flak was the most dangerous pilots had encountered. The Service team worked long hours. Mechanics of the 395th converted the first "piggy back." Major Sparks was named commander of the 395th. A day later Captain Montag was killed in action: everyone felt grimly the loss of "a pilot's pilot."

Attacking on the Seine to trap more of the enemy—the group bombed barges and bridges, sank vessels, strafed retreating forces, as the advanced echelon moved to Chartres just as Paris was liberated.

# Paris, Brussels - Ooh la la - -

Flying from Chartres for the first time August 28, the squadrons found the Third Armored at Meaux on the Marne east of Paris, flew on ahead to destroy retreating enemy convoys. The 396th bagged 130 MT's on one mission, the 397th 100 on another, the 395th beat down gun positions and armored resistance at the Marne. The Thunderbolt-tank combat teams swept on to Soissons, Reims, Laon.

Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas declared "The enemy is belatedly trying to move out important storages of war material. We have never before caught such heavy trucks and trailers loaded with ammunition and fuel this close to the lines."

"The enemy is apparently trying to disengage our ground forces and retreat ahead of the fighter-bomber attacks", Col. Meyers surmised.

## Ah, Paree—Gay Paree

September 1, enlisted men and officers were given passes to Paris, returned to regale their less fortunate fellows, with glowing accounts: Beautiful girls, perfume, wine, cognac, thousands of bicycles— "You, just say 'Bon Jour' and they stop and talk with you, then a whole crowd gathers. You can't imagine, it's the most wonderful, the most marvelous— what a place, girls on bicycles."

Lt. Col. Haesler was named Group operations officer, Major Hendricks became commander of the 397th. The Chaplain held services in Chartres Cathedral. The advanced echelon left for Laon-Athies September 7.

Flying in advance of the Third Armored Division on September 3, the 397th squadron discovered a huge concentration of enemy vehicles at Maubeuge and Mons. Enemy tanks, vehicles, and horse-drawn artillery retreating from Northern France, lined the roads for miles. The Squadrons mowed down horses, set trucks and armored cars on fire, sent enemy troops scattering.

At the end of the day the 368th had destroyed 204 trucks and 230 horse-

attacks in close coordination with the VII Corps. Rain was frequent, days grew shorter, the group was moved into barracks for winter quarters. Buzz bombs were seen going over at night.

Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Ninth Air Force Commander, visited the base, awarded DFCs to eleven pilots.

November 2 Lt. Col. Perego became Group Commander as Col. Meyers was made Ops officer at IX TAC. Lt. Col. Douglas was appointed deputy-group commander, Major Hendricks went to IX TAC operations, Major Thomas J. Carbine was appointed CO of the 397th, Major Dennis Crisp CO of 396th. Lt. Col. Quimby visited the group before departing for the U.S.A. Major "Dick" Leary returned for combat flying and was assigned to 397th as operations officer. Ted Malone and William Randolph Hearst Jr. visited the base, became the first radio and newspaper correspondents to make combat flights with P-47 Thunderbolts, which they described in Blue Network radio broadcasts and special articles in the Hearst papers.

Enemy planes were encountered over the Aachen-Duren sector attempting to ward off fighter-bomber attacks on ground troops. "Some of those Jerries are old timers— plenty good," Captain "Hank" Mazur said about enemy pilots. Several of our pilots did not return from encounters.

Rail-cutting, building-busting, and rocket-firing missions in close coordination with ground forces were usual operations. Pilots reported blowing up trains of ammunition and tanks, hitting gun positions and blowing the gun crews washing sky high, bombing Eschweiler, Stolberg, Julich, Duren. Flying weather was bad, missions had to be off by 2:30 to be back by dark. Many spent a day off in Brussels. Lt. Col. Douglas went home on leave.

Pilots were aroused early one morning in mid-December, hurried to the briefing room to incredulously listen

Garry getting four. At one point Lt. Wayland radioed to a squadron mate: "Come on up here, I've got three of 'em cornered." Coming in to give him a hand, pilots found Lt. Wayland firing at one plane with two others "cornered" on his tail. All three were shot down.

Christmas and New Years found the group setting up in the rain and snow on a windswept flying field. Service Team truck convoys were strafed by enemy planes enroute. The rear echelon reached Juvincourt airdrome near Reims, just before the advanced party proceeded to Metz.

Lt. Col. Lemuel K. Gorrel and other personnel were at the Metz airdrome when thirty ME109's made a daylight strafing attack. At Metz, the German street names, the former German barracks, the cold weather, snow covered ground, almost bare streets, unsmiling civilians were in grim contrast to the friendly atmosphere of Belgium.

## The Official Score Board

March 14, 1944 to May 9, 1945

Missions:	1406	Sorties:	17,455
		des prob dam	
Enemy Aircraft (Air)	144	13	59
Enemy Planes (Gr)	98	15	125
Tanks	499	Des	602
Armored Veh	280	"	32
Motor Transp	6865	"	2747
Horse Veh	683	"	99
Locomotives	700	"	213
Freight Cars	3174	"	4271
Railcuts	475		

Battle damage was heavy the first weeks of January, crews had trouble starting engines on the coldest mornings. Several crewmen were injured by a mine. Enemy planes were being encountered over the Saar, airborne alert flights patrolled above the field. Atacked by 50 to 50 enemy planes.

396th Squadron, the 397th knocked out an enemy command post in a castle where "advanced echelon personnel were killed at work."

March 14 Lt. Col. Douglas led the 395th to Frankfurt, intercepted 50 enemy fighter-bombers headed for the Remagen bridgehead. Joined by the 397th, they shot down 10 without loss, as Col. Douglas claimed three. Thus, as Col. Douglas celebrated the first anniversary in combat operations with a party at a Metz hotel.

## Cracking the Saar

The ground crews worked at top speed refueling and rearming planes taking off to cover the Third Army advance to Koblenz, then to Bad Kreuznach. The 396th crews claimed their planes were taking off again five minutes after landing. Pilots were getting in more flying time than ever. On March 23 the 397th set new squadron records for destruction of enemy vehicles and armor as the Third and Seventh Armies closed the Saar encirclement. March 25, as the Third leaped the Rhine and sped to Frankfurt, the squadrons added 45 tanks, 243 MT's and 148 freight cars to the score board. March 24th had set a record of 184 sorties flown by the group. The 397th had missions destroying more than 100 enemy vehicles for 11 consecutive days. Some pilots got in 100 hours combat time in March. Major Mazur left for the States, Major Marsia! E. Mumaw took command of the 395th.

On April 2 Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas left for IX TAC to take command of the 36th Fighter group. Lt. Col. Sparks was appointed deputy commander. Major Talbot became operations officer. Missions were longer, the 397th flew one of 5 hours 8 minutes. Expected moves to Wiesbaden and Worms were cancelled.

## Move to Germany

The advanced echelon moved to Frankfurt April 9 to establish base at Rhein-Main airdrome. Colonel Perego received his "Eagles" April 11th attacking

## 368th Hq. EM Hold Lead In Softball Tourney

The sharp crack of hickory and the dull thud of cowhide on leather resounded over the four softball diamonds, opposite the 397th dispersal area, as the Group Softball Tournament began on Friday May 18th, 1945.

Although rained interfered with the schedule of sixteen games, eleven games were played up to Wednesday of last week. The 397th won a forfeit from the 1221st Quartermaster for not appearing on the day schedule.

The 368th H. Q. enlisted men blasted the 397th Officers' Team 13-7 and trimmed the Group Officers' Team to put them in first place. The 38th Service Squadron shut out the 399 E. M. 3-0, while the Firefighters, 29th MR&R, 84th Headquarters E. M. won one victory apiece from the 1814th Ordnance Co. 5-4, the 84th Team B Officers 18-7, and the 396th Officers 15-4 respectively.

The 859 Chemical Co. lost a heart-breaking one-hitter to the 395th "Panzer Dusters" by a score of 1-0 but eked out a 4-3 decision from the 368th H. Q. Officers' team, when in the latter half of the 5th inning two singles and a double brought in what prove to be the winning run. The 397th Officers scored six runs in the first inning to blast the 395th Officers 11-6. The 396th E. M. bunched twelve hits to beat out the 1814th Ordnance by a score of 4-3.

## STANDING OF THE TEAMS

TEAM	W
368th E. M.	2-0
397th E. M.	1-0
382nd Service Squadron	1-0
Firefighters	1-0
29th MR&R	1-0
84th H. Q. E. M.	1-1
397th Officers	1-1
396th E. M.	1-1
859 Chemical Co.	1-0
395th E. M.	0-1
395th Officers	0-1
1221st Quartermaster	0-1
395th Officers	0-1
84th Team B Officers	0-2
368th H. Q. Officers	0-2
1814 Ordnance	0-2
Sgt. J. E. Alequin	

Continued from pg. 2

### Ab. Paree - Gay Paree

September 1, enlisted men and officers were given passes to Paris, returned to relate their less fortunate fellows, with glowing accounts: Beautiful girls, perfume, wine, cognac, thousands of bicycles— "You, just say 'That Paris' and they stop and talk with you, then a whole crowd gathers. You can't imagine, it's the most wonderful, the most marvelous— what a place, girls on bicycles."

Lt. Col. Haesler was named Group operations officer, Major Hendricks became commander of the 397th. The Chaplain held services in Chartres Cathedral. The advanced echelon left for Laon-Abies September 7.

Flying in advance of the Third Armored Division on September 3, the 397th squadron discovered a huge concentration of enemy vehicles at Maubeuge and Mons. Enemy tanks, vehicles, and horse-drawn artillery retreating from Northern France, lined the roads for miles. The Squadrons mowed down horses, set trucks and armored cars on fire, sent enemy troops scattering.

At the end of the day the 368th destroyed 294 trucks and 230 horse-drawn vehicles to lead the Ninth Air Force groups. Total claims for IX TAC were 919 trucks, 757 horse-drawn vehicles, 59 armored cars. The Third Armored Division rounded up 20,000 prisoners cut off from retreat.

Later the Group was to receive the Distinguished Unit Citation for its performance that day.

September 8 the group flew to Brest to dive bomb enemy guns and forts. Near Liege September 10 a flight of the 396th squadron led by Captain Charles W. Romine attacked a concentration of 500 enemy troops and killed or wounded 300 to 400. On September 11 the 397th was attacked by 35 enemy planes east of Verviers, near the German border. Captain Talbot attacked 15 alone, shot down two of them before his plane was set on fire and he parachuted into a Belgian town.

### Escort Tanks into Germany

From Laon the squadrons attacked with the Third Armored as they crossed the German border and captured the first German town to come into Allied hands south of Aachen. All the rear echelon had not reached Laon before the advanced echelon left for Le Culot, Belgium. Captured German food supplies were received at Laon for rations. A gasoline supply left at the airbase was used for motor vehicles. Eleven enemy troops had been captured in the woods after the first group personnel arrived. Some enlisted men joined the PFI in searching nearby woods for enemy troops. Natives told of the German garrison moving out fourteen hours ahead of the American tanks, just a few days before the 368th group began moving in.

October 2 the move to Chievres, Belgium, was made. The Service team and group trucks had been shuttling for a month on these moves. October 6 the 396th attacked Brietscheid airbase, across the Rhine. Chaims were 22 planes destroyed, 9 probable, and 4 damaged on the ground.

Passes to Brussels began October 01. "Just like Paris, night clubs, good beer, ice cream, perfume, lots of people speak English," the first visitors reported.

### "That's a flying bomb"

The group dive-bombed targets at Aachen, received a commendation for

the 396th. Lt. Col. Haesler visited the group before departing for the U. S. Major "Dick" Leary returned for combat flying and was assigned to 397th as operations officer. Ted Malone and William Randolph Hearst Jr. visited the base, became the first radio and newspaper correspondents to make combat flights with P-47 Thunderbolts, which they described in Blue Network radio broadcasts and special articles in the Hearst papers.

Enemy planes were encountered over the Aachen-Duren sector attempting to ward off fighter-bomber attacks on ground troops. "Some of those Jerries are old timers— plenty good," Captain "Frank" Mazur said about enemy pilots. Several of our pilots did not return from encounters.

Rail-cutting, building-busting, and rocket-firing missions in close coordination with ground forces were usual operations. Pilots reported blowing up trains of ammunition and tanks, hitting gun positions and blowing the gun crews washing sky high, bombing Eschweiler, Stolberg, Juch, Duren. Flying weather was bad, missions had to be off by 2:30 to be back by dark. Many spent a day off in Brussels. Lt. Col. Douglas went home on leave.

Pilots were aroused early one morning in mid-December, hurried to the briefing room to incredulously listen to reports of an enemy breakthrough. Weather limited operations. Passes and days off were cancelled, guards doubled. Missions taking off to attack enemy spearheads were bounced by enemy fighters. Eleven planes were shot down December 17, Captain William M. Kerr shot down four, damaged a fifth. The afternoon of Dec. 17th the 397th destroyed 119 tanks and MT's on one mission at St. Vith.

### Leary Stops Column

"If you can stop that column we may be able to hold the town all night," the beleaguered ground controller had radioed from St. Vith. Major Dick Leary in a gallant one-man aerial attack made eight passes through the flak, destroyed several tanks and a dozen or more vehicles. St. Vith held out for five days.

The afternoon of December 18 the squadrons were dispatched on urgent missions despite impossible flying weather. Threading through the clouds Major Dennis Crisp led the 396th on instruments as a controller plotted his course. Through a break in the clouds he saw two serman armored combat teams of thirty tanks and armored vehicles each.

The "Thunder Bums" destroyed 12 tanks, damaged and immobilized 18 more, shot up a score of armored vehicles and mobile flak guns. Next day they learned they had helped to stop the enemy column at Stavelot, cutting off a thrust northward toward Liege behind the U. S. First Army. The example stands in records as a classic of tactical air-power halting an armored ground force.

Fog and rain bound the planes to the ground day after day. Enemy planes strafed the field and the highway running alongside. The dull thunder of artillery fire could now be heard night and day. The group was placed under the XIX Tactical Air Command, ordered to move to France. The advanced echelon left for Reims.

### A Record Day in Air

Taking off the morning of December 23 the 396th led by Major John Baer encountered enemy planes attacking American bombers, claimed 13 shot down. In the afternoon the 395th, led by Captain James M. "Poison" Iver, was bounced by 18 enemy planes, then boxed by 16 more. The battle resulted in claims of 17 enemy planes shot down— Lt. William J.

...strating attack. At Metz, the German street names, the former German barracks, the cold weather, snow-covered ground, almost bare streets, unwilling civilians were in grim contrast to the friendly atmosphere of Belgium.

## The Official Score Board

March 14, 1944 to May 9, 1945

Missions:	1406	Sorties:	17,455
		des prob dam	
Enemy Aircraft (Air)	144	13	59
Enemy Planes (Gr)	98	15	125
Tanks	499	Des	602 dam
Armored Veh	280	"	32 "
Motor Transp	6865	"	2747 "
Horse Veh	683	"	99 "
Locomotives	700	"	213 "
Freight Cars	3174	"	4271 "
Railcuts	475		

Battle damage was heavy the first weeks of January, crews had trouble starting engines on the coldest mornings. Several crewmen were injured by a mine. Enemy planes were being encountered over the Saar, airborne alert flights patrolled above the field. Attacked by 50 to 60 enemy planes, January 14 over Germany, the 397th squadron reported six pilots missing in action. Major Harold P. Sparks went home on leave, Major Henry J. Mazur became commander of the 395th squadron.

### Buldge Cleaned Up

On January 22nd the squadrons attacked the retreating enemy columns in the Prum-Vianden area as the Ardennes salient collapsed, shooting up 597 enemy armored vehicles and trucks, to lead the heavy destruction by Ninth Air Force tactical groups. Next day, 159 more vehicles were added to the score. On February 1, letters were received from General Patton commending the work in the reduction of the Ardennes salient.

Passes to Paris were something "to look forward to." A gymnasium was found in Metz by special service; a basketball tournament arranged, dances on Sunday nights were scheduled. Civilians became more numerous and more friendly, cafes opened, the beer was watery, wine scarce, schnapps hot. The curfew advanced from 8 p.m. to 9 then 10, and 11. Group personnel took showers at a Metz swimming pool. Furloughs to England were drawn by lottery.

February 10 the 395th squadron destroyed the Bullay bridge, which bombers had aimed at for months. February 23, supporting the Third Army attack on the Moselle river, the group, raced by the 397th, destroyed or damaged 128 tanks, 416 MT's and 6 locomotives, next day added 45 tanks, 243 MT's and 148 freight cars. The air attacks helped crack the Wehrmacht, General Patton's famed 4th Armored Division broke through. Major General O. P. Weyland sent commendations.

### "Have Another—"

March 1, a ground controller offered to buy Major Crisp a drink three different times for the 396th's work in smashing an enemy armored concentration preparing to counter attack at Sefferwich above Bitburg.

March 3, attacks in the Trier sector in support of the Third Army brought commendations from the corps commanders and General Patton for excellent air cooperation. The VIII Corps commended the 395th squadron for an attack at Murlenbach, the Fifth Infantry division sent a teletype to the

...their planes were taking off again the minutes after landing. Pilots were getting in more flying time than ever. On March 23 the 397th set new squadron records for destruction of enemy vehicles and armor as the Third and Seventh Armies closed the Saar encirclement. March 25, as the Third leaped the Rhine and sped to Frankfurt, the squadrons added 45 tanks, 243 MT's and 148 freight cars to the scorecard. March 24th had set a record of 184 sorties flown by the group. The 397th had missions destroying more than 100 enemy vehicles for 11 consecutive days. Some pilots got in 100 hours combat time in March. Major Mazur left for the States, Major Marshal E. Mumaw took command of the 395th.

On April 2 Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas left for IX TAC to take command of the 36th Fighter group. Lt. Col. Sparks was appointed deputy commander, Major Talbot became operations officer. Missions were longer, the 397th flew one of 5 hours 8 minutes. Expected moves to Wiesbaden and Worms were cancelled.

### Move to Germany

The advanced echelon moved to Frankfurt April 9 to establish base at Rhein-Main airbase. Colonel Perego received his "Eagles" April 11th. April 15th, pilots began attacking enemy transportation in Czechoslovakia. "They're getting fighter-bomber paralysis" Lt. Col. Carbine commented. April 16 they shot up 57 enemy planes on the ground, got two "let jobs" in the air. April 17th the squadrons destroyed 71 locomotives, damaged 20 more for a new record in one day.

A large share of the group was quartered in houses and apartments of Zeppelinhelm—a village at the field. A bevy of automobiles showed up at the base, noon time around the mess tents "looked like a baseball game." Suddenly they disappeared. GI's scrounged wine, some hunted boar and deer in the woods. Officers collected models of the Graf Zeppelin. A Focke-Wulf 190 flew in to surrender, An Me 109 came over and strafed.

Pilots attacked forts and enemy guns as the armies crossed the Danube. The squadrons were soon flying their limit to keep up with the Third Army spearheads in Austria. Captain Oliver S. Ryerson led the 396th in attacking an underground plant near Munich. The explosion blew debris into clouds 7,000 feet above. "must've been V-2 propellant, or something like that", pilots said.

### On to Bavaria

The scheduled moves to Furth, then Roth were cancelled, then the advanced echelon left for Buchschwabach below Nurnberg. Major Talbot went home. Lt. Col. Carbine was named group operations officer. Major John L. Tuitt became commander of the 397th. Major General Weyland visited the base, presented Silver Stars, DFCs, Air Medals and Bronze Star Medals.

The squadrons flew reces in Czechoslovakia as V-E day arrived—flew defensive patrols over the area the next day. On May 12 they participated in a victory parade of XIX TAC groups, were ready for a grand parade of Ninth Air Force air power which didn't materialize. After all personnel arrived at the new base in Bavaria, Colonel Perego directed Special service to go ahead with a Victory party—barrels of wine appeared, a GI show, the Group band, and more than a thousand men indulged in victory comradeship. Points were added up, bets were made on the C.B. against the U. S. A.

...The 397th set new records for destruction of enemy vehicles and armor as the Third and Seventh Armies closed the Saar encirclement. March 25, as the Third leaped the Rhine and sped to Frankfurt, the squadrons added 45 tanks, 243 MT's and 148 freight cars to the scorecard. March 24th had set a record of 184 sorties flown by the group. The 397th had missions destroying more than 100 enemy vehicles for 11 consecutive days. Some pilots got in 100 hours combat time in March. Major Mazur left for the States, Major Marshal E. Mumaw took command of the 395th.

On April 2 Lt. Col. Paul P. Douglas left for IX TAC to take command of the 36th Fighter group. Lt. Col. Sparks was appointed deputy commander, Major Talbot became operations officer. Missions were longer, the 397th flew one of 5 hours 8 minutes. Expected moves to Wiesbaden and Worms were cancelled.

STANDING OF THE TEAMS	
TEAM	W
368th E. M.	2-4
397th E. M.	1-0
382nd Service Squadron	1-0
Firefighters	1-0
29th MR&R	1-0
84th H. Q. E. M.	1-0
397th Officers	1-1
396th E. M.	1-1
859 Chemical Co.	1-1
395th E. M.	1-0
395th Officers	0-1
1221 Quartermaster	0-1
395th Officers	0-1
84th Team B Officers	0-1
368th H. Q. Officers	0-2
1814 Ordnance	0-2

Sgt. J. E. Alequin

Continued from pg. 2

... Fixing telephone lines after they had been chewed on by cows in the pastures at Normandy.

... Consecutive missions without abortions. ... S/Sgt Larson of the 397th with 261 followed by Cuppini of the same squadron with 259. ... Mohr leads the 395th with 242. ... Smith leads the 396th with 225.

"Shorty" Baird, Joe Duffy, and "Nose" Galczynski refueling unit operators of the 396th who fought fires on gas trucks which might have blown them all to hell, or heaven, as the case may be.

... The seven hour engine change at Strip 3 by T/Sgt Marsh, and Staffs Embury, Massie, Rogocki, and Stanfield all of the "Jabo Angels" ... and the 48 minute spark plug change by T/Sgt Watson, Peers, Swanson, ster, and Sgt. Hernandez of the 396th squadron.

... The "Thunder Bums" men on the line who prepared flights of four planes in five to ten minutes. at the beginning of March.

... T/Sgt Thompson's and Strauser's "Panzer Dusters" electrical arming unit for P-47 bomb shackles. They had to "borrow" an arming solenoid from a damaged B-26 to prove their theory.

... The hour prop change during which time the prop had to be de-crated, assembled, and then rushed over from the service team on a cleat-track hoist by M/Sgt Owens and Staffs Rogocki, Lagrone, Larson, and Clancy worked on together with Owens.

... 396th "Manpower" Shelton's pneumatic prop grease gun which cut the greasing time for greases from 2 hours to five minutes.

... Group's M/Sgt. Smith's amplifier for Army field phones.

... 396th Armament's M/Sgt. Williams bomb loader which enabled less men to load bombs in less time. ... The automatic carburetor air filter control by 1st Lt. Condor and M/Sgt. Wallace both of Group Inspection.

... "The Kid"—That's what Stars & Stripes, Dec. 31, 1944, dubbed young Potter of the 396th who joined the Army when he was 15. ... "Hashmark" Potter has reached the ripe old age of 19.

... The shortest and jolliest man on the line ... S/Sgt. Willie Aro of the 397th ... He's a 30 year man, and has about 23 under his belt.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army  
26 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 53 )

1. Par 6, SO 42, this Hq, 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. CARBINE	0392748	AC	President
Major DENNIS CRISP	0427531	AC	Aircraft Accident Off
1st Lt WILLIAM T. CONDER	0886390	AC	Member
Major MARSHALL E. MUMAW	0732315	AC	Alternate member
Capt ROBERT MILLER	0680143	AC	Alternate member
2d Lt JOE M. WALKER	01999387	AC	Alternate member
Major DONALD A. DAVIS	0477249	MC	Ex-officio non-voting member
Major LEO H. EAST	0913617	AC	Ex-officio non-voting member
Capt NEWTON I. STEERS JR	0865546	AC	Ex-officio non-voting member

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

Capt DAVID F. REINTHAL	0573097	AC	Hq 368th Fighter Group
1st Lt SAMUEL R. SCHOFIELD	0582942	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
Capt OTIS J. FOSTER	0456639	AC	396th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL	0863973	AC	397th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt ROBERT L. STABUCK	01108342	CE	2137th Engr Avn F/F Platoon
Capt DAVID F. REINTHAL	0573097	AC	9th Flying Control Sq (P) Det F
1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL	0863973	AC	21st Weather Sq Det R
1st Lt GEORGE E. GILL	0863973	AC	40th Mobile Com Sq Det R
1st Lt SAMUEL KUSHNER	0856309	AC	Hq & Hq Sq, Team "B"
1st Lt JAMES W. WOODS	01636849	SC	1074th Signal Co Det A
1st Lt JOHN S. DRISCOLL	01593547	QMC	382nd Air Service Squadron
1st Lt GRADY L. McMURTRY	01574983	ORD	1814th Ord S&M Co Avn
1st Lt PAUL M. BORGES	01581039	QMC	1221st QM Co Det A
1st Lt DALLAS D. ALSUP	01577050	QMC	2499th QM Trk Co Avn 1st A
Capt WALTER J. DINESEN	01635782	SC	29th MR&R Sq (H), Det A
Capt RAYMOND G. MERCREADY	01036296	C7S	859th Cml Co 40 Det A
Capt RAYMOND G. MERCREADY	01036296	C7S	859th Cml Co 40 Less Det A

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PEREGO:

OFFICIAL:

*Maurice Powell*  
MAURICE D. POWELL,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Asst Adjutant.

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

DISTRIBUTION:  
HAF

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

16

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 141, U. S. Army  
31 May 1945

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 55)

1. Fol 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 USRRA, Operations Tent for transportation to Cannes, Fr, whereat they will report to CO, USRRA, Martinez Hotel. Upon compl of this leave, they will ret to proper orgn. TDN by MT, mil acft 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	0582669	AC	(In charge)
Capt ROY D. CARLSON	0678830	AC	
Capt OSWALD DORIA	01640399	AC	
Capt MARVIN E. WARD	0863713	AC	
1st Lt AUSTIN H. CARR	0582669	AC	

2. Fol named EM, Sq indicated, having been granted a fur for a period of seven (7) days, o/a 1 June 1945, are auth to proceed from this Hq to the Riviera Recreational Area, reporting thereat to CO, MTSCE, Leave Hotels, Advanced Det, APO 772, in accordance w/Ltr, Hq, Ninth AF, Subj: "Leaves in US Riviera Recreational Area", 25 Apr 45. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-115 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

M Sgt Jay W. Jones	39167264	397th Ftr Sq
M Sgt Edward A. Long	35453637	395th Ftr Sq
M Sgt Claude L. Williams	39082232	396th Ftr Sq
T Sgt Ralph J. Petro	36444219	396th Ftr Sq
S Sgt Alfred Stecklein	170.0975	Hq 368th Ftr Gp

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

BY ORDER OF COLONEL [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL:

*Maurice D. Powell*

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

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

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

- 1 -

R E S T R I C T E D

17