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HISTORICAL DATA

HEADQUARTERS HISTORY
362ND FIGHTER GROUP

NOVEMBER 1944

HISTORICAL OFFICER
RECORER
TYPIST

LT. "TILLIAN S. BLAGEN
S/Sgt. CLARENCE A. GLASRUD
PFC. WILBERT A. ARTHUR

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HISTORICAL REPORT
1 November to 30 November 1944

Information contained herein, is written in compliance with Ninth
Fighter Command Memorandum Number 20-4, dated 22 December 1943. It is a
resume of the activities of the 368th Fighter Group Headquarters, for the
month of November 1 to 30, 1944.

1. ORGANIZATION

No change.

2. STRENGTH AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 1944

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Personnel</th>
<th>Authorized Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers ---------220</td>
<td>Officers ---------189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlisted Men ------822</td>
<td>Enlisted Men ------826</td>
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</tbody>
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3. LOSSES IN ACTION:

None (for Group Headquarters)

4. AVALANCE DECORATIONS:

Award of Purple Heart:
   Capt. Carlos V. Talbott

First Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart:
November 1944

The rumors were true; we started out the new month with a new Group Commander--Lt. Col. Frank S. Perego. Colonel Meyers went up to IX TAC as Senior Tactical Officer in charge of Combat Operations for the Tactical Air Command. With him went the 397th Squadron Commander, Major Randall Hendricks, who became Duty Officer in IX TAC Combat Ops.

No group ever received a new C.O. any more enthusiastically than we received Lt. Col. Perego. We knew him very well as Operations Officer and deputy commander, and we liked and respected him. We knew that the high reputation of the group would be safe in his hands.

Lt. Col. Perego spent his first two years in the Air corps in the Caribbean area. After receiving his commission on Sept. 26, 1941, he went to Porto Rico, then to Trinidad, from there to St. Lucia, Curacao, and Dutch Guiana, back to Trinidad, and finally to the United States again in the summer of 1943. During these two years he was first a pilot, later a detachment commander, and then a squadron commander.

On Sept. 8, 1943, Lt. Col. Perego, who was then a captain, came to the 368th Group as Operations Officer. He became a major on December 4, 1943, was elevated to Deputy Commander of the 368th on March 30, 1944, and became a lieutenant colonel on May 11, 1944. While we were still operating from England and flying nearly all group missions, Lt. Col. Perego led many of the missions. Since that time his duties have necessarily kept him more and more on the ground. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two Silver Oak Leaf Clusters.

November 1944

A group mission of 36 planes went after a railroad bridge near Cologne, this afternoon; 26 P-47s carried a pair of 500-pounders each, 6 carried leaflet bombs, and 6 other flew top cover. Since the target area was completely covered by the group, the group was vectored to the Koblenz area and instructed to drop their bombs. No results could be observed. The leaflet bombs were returned to Strip 84 on the controller's orders, so the Wehrmacht remained un-enlightened and uninformed.

Our base PX opened for business today, and business was brisk. We bought 7 packs of cigarettes (or cigars or Union Leader), four bars of candy, razor blades, combs, writing tablets, and soap. The waiting lines were long, and for the first time since we hit the continent we used ration slips.

November 1944

We got off on two group missions of 35 planes each today. The first, in the morning, was an attack on a fuel storage dump near Muren. Forty-six 500-pounders were dropped on the target area, scoring good hits and starting fires. The P-47's also strafed during the bomb run. But we paid a high price for the damage. 2nd Lt. William A. Preston was killed when he tried to bring his flak-ridden plane home; he bailed out at insufficient altitude and his parachute failed to open.
3 November 1944 (cont’d)

Thirty-five planes started out on the afternoon’s group mission to dive-bomb a power plant at F-342635. After encountering an overcast at 2500 feet over Aachen, the group leader brought the planes back to Strip 84. All bombs were returned to the base.

Group officers began moving into new barracks today, and back in our operating area a building was being put up to house our snack bar. It is not a very handsome structure, but it is likely to prove popular enough in spite of that. We acquired a Group Armament and Chemical Officer today: 1st Lt. Warren F. Ferrie, formerly Armament Officer of the 36th Squad. He has been with the group since August 1, 1943.

Special Orders #132, Supporting Document #1.

4 November 1944

Beginning at 1200 we got off 5 squadron missions today. On the first the 395th bombed and strafed a smoke-marked point in the bitterly contested town of Schmidt. The results were generally excellent, with buildings demolished and fires started. One H/T and 4 armored vehicles were also destroyed by strafing.

The 396th followed with almost an exact duplicate of the first mission. They followed up with an armed recce and strafed the town of Harscheidt. "goodshow" reported the ground forces.

The 397th also went to work on Schmidt and dropped their 500-pounders on 15-plus tanks. At least one was destroyed and 2 damaged, but the results were generally difficult to measure. As the weather grew steadily worse, the 395th on their second mission finally dropped their 100 bombs east of Schmidt, after having been vectored to several targets and finding them all closed in. The second 396th mission went much the same way, with the overcast blotting out one target after the other. Fourteen 500-pounders were finally dropped on barracks near Schleiden.

"we received re-inforcements today—nine new pilots who were assigned to the 395th and 397th squadrons.

Special Orders #133, Supporting Document #2.

5 November 1944

"we went back to group missions today and sent out 71 planes after rail lines and bridges of the "green system". On the first mission 23 planes carried 2-1000 pounders each, with 12 planes flying ton cover. The group was finally vectored to an unknown target, believed to be near Vuren, and released their 48 bombs at 10,000 feet. As usual, no results could be observed. The 396th also strafed a train for good measure.

On the second mission our 36 planes concentrated on the town of Horff, their bombs starting oil fires and cutting the railroad line. While the 396th squadron flew top cover, the 397th strafed 15-20 box cars near Horff and the 395th bombed a railroad fill and embankment near Turnich, cutting the rails in at least one place.

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6 November 1944

The two group missions today followed the same general pattern: lines A and D of the Green System were hit by 94 500-pounders. The results were fair and the railroads were cut in several places. A total of 71 planes took part in the two attacks, with one squadron of 12 planes flying to cover each mission. On the first mission, Lt. Nolan of the 395th landed at Strip 92 because of flak damage.

There was heat in our new barracks this evening, and our rooms suddenly became a pleasant place to come home to. Actually, many of us were surprised that the central heating really worked, and it was a pleasant shock to get out of bed in a warm room.

7 November 1944

Two planes of the 397th flew a weather rescue to the Liege-Aachen-Voelklingen area in the morning; the mission was generally uneventful.

For variety, we went after a supply dump instead of railroads today. A group mission released 43 bombs on warehouses and an ammunition dump near Truex. With some strafing added for good measure, black smoke, fires, and explosions testified that results were good. Strafing destroyed two locomotives and 10 freight cars, one near in the town of Truex, and a hilltop radio station. But we lost one pilot who is listed WIA and Lt. Russell J. Grosjean of the 397th was last seen as he went into his bomb run, and it is believed that his F-47 crashed into one of the steep hills which flanked the target.

8 November 1944

The group went back to rail-cutting today; 34 planes had good results, though they had to resort to targets of opportunity when the primary targets were covered by a solid overcast. The 395th pretty completely clobbered the marshalling yards at Neutersheim, cutting the rail lines in three places with direct hits and destroying a locomotive. A strafing attack took care of a second locomotive south of the town. The 396th gave the same kind of treatment to a small marshalling yard at Echternach and cut the railroad in at least 8 places. The 397th flew top cover on the mission.

The first few flakes of snow fell here today, though it melted before it hit the ground, and you had to look carefully to see it all.

9 November 1944

We were assigned to attack gun positions today, but the weatherman cancelled operations. Seven consecutive days of flying at this time of year is a pretty remarkable record, however.

10 November 1944

One rainy weather rescue saved us from a white-machine today. Two planes of the 396th flew to the Rhine in the vicinity of Voelklingen and found snow falling. That discouraged us for the day.

Put up in the new area, our plumbing was in working order today, and we began to feel that we were living in the lap of luxury again—almost.
10 November 1944 (cont'd)

Though he had been at headquarters for about a week and we all knew he was our new Deputy Commander, "T. Col. Paul P. Douglas, Jr., was officially appointed to that position today. He has been Squadron commander of the 396th since the 368th Group was formed, and his magnificent flying record is well known to all of us.

Special Orders #136, Supporting Document #3.

11 November 1944

Two planes of the 397th took on a weather recce today, but they couldn't resist strafing and damaging a locomotive near Zulpich as a sideline. We got at that gun position assigned today; but when we reached the area, the primary targets were blotted out by overcast. Selecting targets of opportunity, 21 planes of the 396th and 397th squadrons dropped 42 bombs on railroad tracks north of Russkirchen, cutting the tracks in 2 or 3 places but reporting generally poor bombing results. The 395th flew top cover. 2nd Lt. Joe P. Burney of the 397th is listed WIA, although we do not know what happened to him. His P47 was hit by flak and was seen smoking. Sweeptakes reported that they lost contact with him 5 miles east of Aachen when the pilot said he would bail out.

Generally speaking, we failed to notice that this was Armistice Day, though France and Belgium celebrated it as a holiday. Some of our men got in on one of these events through the medium of a soccer game. The game was scheduled by the 218th Medical Dispersal Unit, against the little town of Beloeil; and the medics called for re-inforcements when they discovered that most of their "team" had never played the game. Capt. Quinnan, Capt. Bowlin and the 395th, Sgt. Raposa, and Pvt. Hutchinsons all distinguished themselves in the game, and Capt. Ciardella did even better on the bench. The Belgians made quite a ceremony of the game; not only did the entire populace of Beloeil turn out, but they presented the visiting team with a bouquet of flowers before the battle. The handsome Corporal was made custodian of the posies, and promptly distinguished himself by presenting them to the prettiest girl he could find—thus making her "queen-of-the-day," he claims. But the pay-off came when "our" team lost the soccer game 7-5, and at the end were presented with a trophy—presumably the prize for the runners-up. The hosts didn't stop there; they feted our boys at a banquet after the game. Before the day was over, Capt. Quinnan scheduled a return game with Beloeil to be played on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23. He has another game lined up for Sunday, Nov. 19, and will try to put an all-368th team on the field.

Our coal supply ran out today, and there were ugly rumors that we had already used up our ration for the month. Some of us had cold offices, while the rest of us starved ourselves and scraped the last dust off the ground. It burned, "we were issued overshoes today—an ominous sign perhaps, but we appreciated the galoshes.

12 November 1944

"We lost two captains today—and acquired a pair of majors. Capt. Leo H. East, Group S-2 Officer, and Capt. Joe B. Sparks, S-4 Officer, both appear wearing bright new golden leaves today, though their promotions are dated as of November 1.

Capt. East joined the 368th back at strip #3 on Aug 20, succeeding Major Walton in Ten Eyck. Although most of Major East's experience had been gained with a
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12 November 1944 (cont'd)

W-17 outfit back in the States and a photo recon unit in England, he was no stranger to the Y Air Force. In the pre-invasion weeks last spring, when he was in the VIII Air Force, Major East had been sent to ITAG on detached service for special work on models of the invasion coast, the work which made successful paratroop and glider landings possible.

Our new S-2 didn't get to see much of Normandy, for we pulled up stakes and moved to Chartres on Jun 23; and Major East was in the advance party. As a matter of fact, his first couple of months with the 366th was a series of moves, for Chartres was quickly evacuated for Leau, and Leau for Châteaudun. Those moves presented their problems to a group which must operate while moving; and operate we did, with never a day or even an hour lost because our base of operations shifted a hundred miles or more nearer the advancing front. Perhaps the most interesting and also the most trying job along the line was tossed into Major East's lap during our few weeks at Chartres. Those were the stirring days of the liberation of Paris, when it turned out that not only the great French capital, but also its surrounding area, had been freed from the German... and the Russians—who had been hidden by the Vaucouleurs Germans—had escaped from the Germans on their own. Since no provision had been made for setting these men back to Great Britain, they were merely told in Paris to "go to Chartres." They went to Chartres, and since they were Air Corps men they came to our field, hoping that we could get them back to England by air. On our biggest day we had 72 such visitors, and a few days later we had a group commander of a medium bomber unit. It was Major East's unenviable task to explain that we were a fighter outfit just setting up our own base, and that we had no possible means of sending them back to the U.K. "We did what we could for them, fed them, sometimes housed them for the night, listened to their many unbelievable stories—and tried to keep the whole thing from interfering with our work. But Major East found it especially difficult while he was trying to get acquainted with a new job and a new unit.

Major Sparks came to the 366th just two months before Major East, and he shared many of the same experiences. But since he was a member of the 302nd Airdrome Squadron back at Chilbolton and had come over to England in the same convoy as the 366th, he was no stranger when he became our Group S-2 Officer on June 20.

In his army career the Major has been a mechanic (as an enlisted man) and an engineering officer for two years, but there were many new duties to learn. As Group S-2, succeeding Major Womijan. He got little chance to get acquainted with those duties in England; for on June 23 he flew to Normandy, where the advance echelon was already set up at Strip 3. Our tour of France—and Belgium—proved interesting enough for Major Sparks, though no pleasure trip. Packing and transporting our own supplies was difficult enough, though it could be done and was done efficiently, but those supplies were only the bare essentials; if that: we could do our work better and live better if we could find and adapt for our own use as much abandoned German equipment as possible. That's why Major Sparks was always with, or ahead of, the advance echelon. He found plenty of German materials and we used them: food, gasoline, bamboo poles, stoves... But then we'd move again and much of our "booty" had to be abandoned; we could only hope that we would be equally fortunate on our next stop along the road to Berlin. We were, but that was no accident. Major Sparks usually had a hand in the matter. To top it off, he says he likes his job!
13 November 1944

The law of averages seems to be catching up with us after our long string of flying days the first part of the month. We were rained out again today.

Four more new pilots joined our group today and were assigned to the three squadrons, the 395th getting two in the "distribution".

Special Orders #137, Supporting Document #4.

14 November 1944

Again we were grounded by the weatherman, and we accomplished nothing which contributed directly to the prosecution of the war.

Put the enlisted men got together in the new clubrooms they have fixed up in the basement of their new barracks. For over a week now some of the boys have been working on the rooms each night. Stoves were put up, a bar built, furniture brought in and painted, and murals in the shape of luscious ladies are appearing on the walls. A good deal more work was done tonight, and the first meeting of the "club" was held. They elected the only really necessary official-a treasurer. /sign/.

Reese was the man they saw fit to trust with their funds. Other administrative matters will be taken care of by the "secret six"-the department heads of the various headquarters sections—Thieme, Reese, Cliver, Palenske, Pullens, and /allcase/.

15 November 1944

The weather again shut us out, but we did hold a briefing. It was held for 5 pilots who were returning to the United States. Included in the group were Capt. Clarence "Tathon of Combat Ops, Capt. David C. Parrish of the 396th, Capt. Russell A. O'Connell and 1st Lt. Harry C. Bogan of the 397th, and 1st Lt. Albert F. Klein-klau of the 395th.

Beer made its appearance in the EM Club today. Bartender Cliver reports that 4 cases were sold that first night—and that light beer was more popular than the dark.

Poscoo & Co. and his troupe appeared at the Special Services theater this evening and put on a highly popular performance. The theater is not tent or hangar this time, but a real theater, with a balcony. The new theater is in Chievres, in back of the Red Cross Club, and it was evidently fixed up for us by the Heinies.

"TTAC Special Order #190, Supporting Document #5.

16 November 1944

The Big Push got underway today—after it had been held up by the weather for a week. All along the line from the North Sea to Switzerland the Allied armies attacked, and we were briefed for our part in the show. Our assignment is to support the First Infantry Division—which had done us the honor of specifically asking for our group. Unfortunately, the weather was nearly impossible at Strip 81, though it opened up at times over the front. "We finally got one squadron off, 16 planes of the 395th Squadron. Two of them aborted soon after take-off, but
3 escort planes and all five-bombers reached the target area despite very bad weather all the way. Booty instructed the squadron to bomb a communication center and run positions at the south edge of Heisten, and marked the target with red smoke. The 395th released their 22-pounders; the results were estimated to be fair, though the weather made it very difficult to estimate the damage. Strafing was impossible—also because of the weather.

17 November 1944
The reports came in of advances all along the line as the Big Push went into its second day—but at Chievres it rained hard all day and we were left out of it.

We received corrections today on the status of two of our pilots which we had listed as MIA. Lt. Rudolph L. Parko of the 397th, who was reported MIA on August 1, is now listed "killed in action." Capt. Joseph Farina of the 397th, MIA on July 11, is a German prisoner of war. He is the group's third POW; the others are Lt. Robert J. Rothbold of the 396th who went down on June 14, and Lt. Hall R. Jasper, also of the 396th, who was MIA on June 22. Our first MIA, Capt. James. McQuaid of the 395th, missing since April 22, has been reported a POW, but the group has never been officially notified on any change in his status.

For the third time in two weeks we were "re-inforced" by a group of new pilots. There were 11 this time, and they were assigned to the three squadrons.

Special Orders #439, Supporting Document #6.

18 November 1944
Sixty-eight planes got into the air today on six missions. It seemed almost like old times, and we felt confident that we could get the war rolling again.

We went back to our assignment of supporting the First Infantry, hitting specific smoke-marked targets ahead of that division and conducting armed recces to Duren and the Rhine. The 396th got off first with 16 planes, lead by their new squadron commanding officer, Capt. Crisp. They dropped their 25-500 pounders on the edge of a woods near Heisten as directed by Booty; the results were good. The squadron strafed the town of Heisten, a castle and tower near by (which were left burning), and six yellow buildings which may have been barracks or supply houses. Their recce was uneventful.

Major Carbine, new 397th C.O., led 16 planes of his squadron in an attack on crossroads, artillery, and troops east of Stolberg. The results were good, with one direct hit on a crossroads. Again the recce from Duren to Edelweiss was uneventful. The 395th went back to Heisten, with Capt. Bowlin leading a 12-plane attack. Twelve direct hits were scored on a smoke-marked target. On their armed recce, the squadron strafed and destroyed 4 H/T's and one jeep, and one plane strafed an area southeast of Heisten in support of tanks.

Capt. Reer lead the second mission of the 396th, and the 12 F-47's dropped 24-500 pounders on another smoke-marked target area near Heisten. Booty reported
18 November 1944 (cont'd)

a good job of bombing. A pair of Tiger tanks were strafed in the Stolberg-Duren area, but results were difficult to judge. "Gods were also strafed in the same area, as requested by Rooty. 2nd Lt. John R. Enns was last seen pulling up from a strafing attack, but he did not return to the base and is listed MIA. On the last mission, Capt. Carlson lead 12 planes of the 397th Squadron, and they dropped 23-500 pounders NE of Heistern, again on smoke-marked targets. The results were good, with all the bombs in the target area. No activity was observed on the recce from Aachen to Eschweiler.

But we had one more mission. Our "alert flight", 4 planes of the 395th led by Capt. Yasur, was scrambled into the air at 1224. They flew to a point near the Meuse River, where they were ordered by Sweepstakes to return to the base. That was all.

Another one of our sections got some deserved recognition today—our stat control men, lst t. Joseph B. Brumfield Jr., Sgt. Ferrell P. Willsman, and Cpl. Joe Pecoyar. Lt. Brumfield received a letter of commendation from Col. E.T. Hamel of the 26th Statistical Control Unit, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force. In a more personal letter from JXTAC, lst t. Brumfield was assured "that all the Fighter Groups in the Ninth Air Force your F-47's were the best." The letter of commendation will be found in Supporting Document #7.


19 November 1944

Seventy-six planes flew missions in support of the First Infantry today, certainly our best day's work in a long while. Each squadron flew two missions of 12 planes each, and our alert flight of 4 planes of the 396th Squadron was called out at 1127 to bomb Duren by control of the 584th PADAR. F-47's #1 instructed the 4 F-47's to drop their 8 500 pounders west of a railroad at Duren, and the bombing results were very good. Capt. Baer lead the flight.

Capt. Carlson lead the 397th on the first mission of the day. Six of the P47's dropped their 12 frag bombs on smoke-marked woods north of Heistern, and the other 6 released a dozen 500 pounders on a road from Heistern to Langerwehe. Bombing results were excellent. Sweepstakes then vectored the squadron to trains northeast of Duren, and the 397th obliged by strafing them and destroying 2 locomotives. On their recce east of Duren 3 1/2 miles were strafed and destroyed.

The 395th ran into some bandits on their mission and eliminated a few of them. But first they took care of their assignment from Rooty: dropping 12 frags and 12 more 500 pounders on smoke northwest of Heistern and strafing that town. Then 2 plus 390's jumped our P47's over the target area. Lt. Diman nailed one bandit, and the Focke-Wulf exploded in mid-air. Lt. Williams hit one Heine, which promptly crash-landed, and then went on to destroy a second plane. Lt. Reistin is credited with one Fw190 destroyed, when the enemy planes started smoling and heading straight down. Lt. Caldwell destroyed one
19 November 1944 (cont'd)

Jerry plane and damaged another, over Eschweiler. An unusual aspect of the encounter was that the Gernans kept shooting flak at our planes all during the dogfight. 2nd Lt. Charles P. Earls is listed MIA as a result of the encounter. During the flight a F47 was seen being fired upon by a bandit and later start smoking and go downwards. A parachute was seen in the air about the same time, and the 395th pilots believe that this may have been Lt. Earls.

On the return to Strip 24, Lt. Fortney landed at Strip 93 due to an oil line break resulting from battle damage.

The 396th scored 6 direct hits out of 18 bombs on an area near Heizern, supposedly containing tanks. They followed up by strafing in the same area, at the request of Booty. A three-steepled castle was one of the strafing targets, and Booty reported good work. Six leaflet bombs were delivered at Treiborn, Morsbach, and Watten. On the 397th's second mission Booty marked 20 gun positions by smoke; the squadron dropped their 500 pounds on buildings and their frags on woods. Though all the bombs fell on the target area, no results could be observed. The squadron also strafed the streets of Verden as requested by Booty and dropped 6 leaflet bombs south of Schleiden and north of Julich. Nothing was observed on a recce in the Foeln area.

The 395th released 12 frags and 12-500 pounders on Langerwehe, as assigned by boot and reported a good dispersal of bombs. They followed up by strafing artillery positions near Eiseleimer and a rocket-launching position southeast of the town. On the last mission of the day, the 396th had excellent results with 500 pounders and frags, again on targets assigned by Booty. Good hits were scored just east of Eiseleimer on houses containing 8-10 artillery positions, and at Langerwehe on tanks and buildings.

For a change, the weather was generally good.

20 November 1944

"we were rained out again and the day was pretty uneventful, but there was another sign of winter; the C.C.'s tent was blown and was generally weather-proofed. While the work went on, a temporary headquarters was set up for our biggest wheeled in a pyramidal tent behind the permanent site.

The 36th scored another "first" today. Ted Malone, radio correspondent for the Blue Network, made a "piggy-back" combat flight over the Aachen area in a P-47 piloted by Major "Jock" Sparks. That was the first flight ever made over a battle area by a war correspondent in a P-47. The full story will be found in a supporting document.


21 November 1944

The weather wasn't exactly CAVU today, but we did get one squadron of 11 planes off in support of the First Infantry. Sixteen 500 pounders and 6 frag bombs were dropped on the town of Binsfeld as directed by Disco #1. Flames and smoke were observed after the bombing. Major Carbine, who led his 397th F-47's on the mission, then conducted an armed recce from Eschweiler to Duren and north of Duren, as requested by Booty, but nothing was observed because of the heavy cloud coverage.
21 November 1944 (cont'd)

In a very unfortunate accident today in Chievres Sgt. Terrill C. Holmes of the 397th was killed and S/Sgt Leslie W. Angle of the same squadron was seriously injured. The men, who were riding in a weapons carrier, were struck by an iron bar projecting from the near of a passing truck.

The weather grounded our group today and no missions were flown.

Special Orders HAC, Supporting Document #?

22 November 1944

Our group football squad began practice today, after the first organization meeting held last night. A good-sized squad representing various units in the 368th turned out, including a number of very good prospects. Besides Capt. Minlan, who is player-manager-coach, T/Sgt McConnell, Capt. Lonien, and trainer Anderson represent group headquarters. The first scrimmage is set for No. 27, and the opening game is to be held in 4th on Sunday, Dec 3, with the 404th Fighter Group furnishing the opposition.

No missions were flown today.

23 November 1944

The weatherman decided to give us all day to concentrate on Thanksgiving and digest our turkey. We even sent a little rain to make sure that we could't operate...and our mess staff came through with a real Thanksgiving dinner: roast turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, peas and carrots, peach and pineapple sauce, cranberries, and cake—and hard candy. "We bullied somewhat when we came out of the messhall, and most of us agreed that it was our best meal since we hit the continent.

"Three headquarters "— Hubchin, Raposa, and Glasrud— with S/Sgt Philip Marchese of the 397th and two men from the 368th Group went to Reloell in the afternoon to bolster the 218th 'Vendes in a return soccer game with the town of Reoell. This time the 72's won 2-7, but perhaps more important than the game itself were the trimmings. "There was coffee (ersatz) and cognac between halves, and flowers, beer, and cognac after the game. Our boys also got in on a second turkey dinner and blueberry pie, with the 218th as hosts.

The group officers had a big party at their club tonight, with plenty of wine, women, and song. The orchestra came from Brussels, as did some of the girls, and probably the hard likker, too. The party sort of broke up about midnight.

But the happiest man in the 368th Group today was S/Sgt Leo Farp, who received his orders to go back to the States under the army rotation plan. Sgt. Farp has been in the ETO since October 1942, and this was his third Thanksgiving on the wrong side of the Atlantic. Now he expects to spend Christmas in Brooklyn. He will leave Monday, November 27.
26 November 1944

"We flew no missions today, the weatherman conspiring against us again. Again we received a group of new pilots, the fourth and largest group of the month. The twelve officers, all 2nd lieutenants this time, were divided among the squadron, with the 397th getting 7 new pilots.

"We finally managed to get some recognition for our two AIC clerk-drivers. Pfts. Robert C. Lampe and Sydney R. Jacques were awarded "Good Conduct Medals."

Special Orders 4411, Supporting Document 470.

25 November 1944

To show the First Infantry that we hadn't forgotten them, we sent 72 F47's out to support the doughboys today and took care of the targets they assigned. Our dive-bombers also found time to clobber a few vehicles; 2 locomotives were destroyed and 6 freight cars probably wrecked; 1 half-track was ruined; and 20 75's were destroyed and 3 more damaged.

The 395th lead off by bombing and strafing the town of Geich as assigned by Booty, and the target obliterately exploded and produced some very satisfactory flames. Four planes of the squadron also distributed 12 leaflet bombs (containing the latest issue of Front Post) between Gemund and Wulpich. The 396th went after some more artillery positions at Langerwehe and a castle to the southeast, scoring good hits with 500 pounders and 260 pound frag bombs. The dive-bombers also strafed the town during their bomb run and the north bank of the road and railroad from Schlich to Langerwehe.

The 397th went after moving targets. Booty asked the squadron to bomb a train, and the 397th bombed and strafed, destroying the locomotive and probably wrecking the 6 carloads of cranes or FR guns. Then the F47's went on to clobber an assortment of 75's east of Duren, and when a cluster of haystacks looked suspicious, they gave the hay a few squirts, too. Men were seen running out of the stacks and tracks were observed leading into them, so the squadron assumed that it wasn't hay—but more probably tanks.

On their second mission the 395th dropped all they had—500 pounders and frags—an buildings, including warehouses and a church at Schlich. A number of buildings were hit and fires started; and Booty, who assigned the target, reported excellent results. The squadron also strafed the town of Echta and the road north out of the town. The 396th bombed and strafed a variety of targets. Booty asked the squadron to bomb artillery positions and a division C.P. at Morken and the 396th promptly delivered both 500-pounders and frags, with good results (or bad, from the German viewpoint). Then, a halftrack and a locomotive were destroyed, and a concentration of German troops worked over. The results on the Heinzels could not be observed, but the strafing probably did them no good. The 397th had a similar mission. Booty's first assignment was an artillery position in Stammeln, and 6 bombs hit this target. A fuel dump came next and 8 bombs found this target, with black smoke resulting. One bomb, plus some strafing, took care of a munitions dump at Echta; an explosion followed. Then another troop concentration came in for some attention; 8 frag bombs were dropped and the troops strafed—with very good results.
26 November 1944

Five missions were flown today, a total of 58 planes getting into the air to support the First Infantry. Our orders again were to get our targets from bootlego and following the bombing to conduct an armed reconn between the First Infantry front and the Rheine River. Thirty-eight planes carried 500-pounders, and 20 loaded 260-pound frags.

The 396th lead off and dropped their bombs with fair results on a smoke-marked target near Langerwehe—RR. The town of Juchem was strafed on Booty's request. The 395th dropped all their bombs on a smoke-marked target between Schlich and Purn and also strafe the target, probably gun positions. Booty reported excellent results. The 397th dropped their frags on gun positions northeast of Schlich (RR) and their 500-pounders on a troop concentration just west of Langerwehe, this time getting excellent results with all the bombs right on the smoke-marked target. Nothing was observed on recce northeast of Duren and on to Cologne.

The 396th's second mission started out like all the others. Bombs were dropped on buildings southwest of Langerwehe, on a factory and other structures south of the town, and more bombs right in Langerwehe. Booty marked the target with smoke, and the 396th got excellent results, scoring a number of direct hits. Then the fun started. Three P-47's were seen NW of Duren, apparently attacking another group of P-47's. The 396th chased the bandits but could not catch them and made no claims.

2nd Lt. Boyd E. Johnson was seen to belly land his plane between Eschel-schel and Aachen, in American-held territory. Three of our soldiers were at the plane and the canopy was open when the squadron left the area, confident that the pilot would soon be back at Strikers. His plane may have been damaged by encounter with eins or flak. The second 395th mission was routine again. Booty wanted a destroying point in the town of Jungen-dorf bombed, and the squadron dropped all their bombs on the smoke—with excellent results. The recce to Cologne and south was uneventful.

27 November 1944

Though our total of planes dispatched dropped again today, 36 of our P-47's got out to the Langerwehe area in support of the First Infantry. Nothing exactly spectacular happened, but each squadron got in one good crack at the Heinkies and really made their bombing and strafing count.

The 397th flew the first mission, with Major Leary leading the squadron. Sixteen 500-pounders were dropped on Ceich, and all the bombs found their target. The town was smoking when the planes left. Booty's next target was artillery positions in a town northwest of Duren, and the squadron released their frag bombs. Again the bombing results were excellent, with hits being closely concentrated on artillery positions clustered around the Smith... "... their bombs gone, the squadron really went to work on the German rolling stock. Cap. Krause's flight strafed 4 trains, each containing from 20 to 50 cars. In each case the locomotives were destroyed or badly damaged, and the cars thoroughly worked over. The flight then strafed and damaged gun positions northwest of Duren. The rest of the squadron did equally well, adding 4 more locomotives and many freight cars to their destroyed or damaged toll, besides 20-25 assorted vehicles. Two planes worked over 4 more gun positions while two others strafed a couple of towns in the area southwest of Dusseldorf. Major Leary's plane was hit by flak as he strafed the gun positions, and he turned his plane westward in an attempt to get back to our lines. He first called Sweepstakes that he would bail out, but finally managed to belly-
27 November 1944

land his plane about 7 miles east of Maastricht. Later we received a message that he was unhurt and would return to Strip 84 in a couple of days.

The 395th gave the town of Gesich another beating, dropping all their frag bombs there and strafing as they bombed. Two fires were started. Booty smoke-marked a factory and other buildings between Langerwehe and Gesich, and the squadron's 500 pounders scored 9 direct hits, starting a number of fires. A recce to the Rhine was uneventful. The 396th also dropped their 500-pounders on a factory and railroad close to the Rhine River south of Cologne. The factory was probably destroyed by several good hits, and other bombs landed close to the railroad. A locomotive and 40 cars on the RD came in for some of the damage, with about 10 of these believed destroyed. The squadron dropped their frag bombs on the town of Merken.

In a big presentation ceremony held here today, General Nogawa awarded a total of 52 assorted medals. It should have been 52, but Major Leary couldn't make it back in time to receive his Bronze Star. He was up at the front lines after he had been forced to belly-land his flak-damaged plane. But 25 Bronze Stars were awarded, (mostly to crew chiefs), 6 Purple Hearts and one Oak Leaf Cluster to a Purple Heart, 18 Air Medals, and one Soldiers Medal.

28 November 1944

Our total sorties dropped again today, but we were still flying and sent out 23 planes to support the First Infantry Division. The first mission flown by the 395th, went back to Langerwehe, and 16 500 pounders were dropped on a factory and troop concentration in the northeastern part of the town. With booting marking the target with smoke, 5-6 direct hits were scored and the results were generally excellent. The squadron then dropped their 8 frags and strafed a little farther to the northeast. The frags were dropped on another troop concentration and the area strafed was supposed to contain 5 tanks, but no results could be observed in either case.

Booty assigned the town of Luchem to the 396th. Eight P-47's dropped their 500-pounders on the north part of the town, and the controller reported a good job. The other three planes planted their frags in the southern part of the town, with fair results. On a recce over the highway to Duren, an armored car was strafed and damaged. Three planes were damaged by flak, and 1st Lt. John H. Loeb was forced to belly his plane in west of Aachen. He was only slightly injured and with the help of a little first aid was soon back at Strip 84.

29 November 1944

"We turned bomber escorts on our first mission today, but our P-47's turned back into dive-bombers before they returned to the base. Twelve planes of the 397th were vectored by Farnese to St. Vith, where they contacted 12 B-26's who were on their way back from bombing. The squadron escorted the bombers for about 10 minutes, then contacted Farnese I, and were directed to Euskirchen, where they dropped all their bombs through the overcast. Major Carbine then lead his squadron on a fighter sweep to the east and south. A 12-car train, minus a locomotive, was strafed and damaged.
29 November 1944 (cont'd)

Having started with this type of work on this morning's mission, the group went back to more escort work in the afternoon, sending out 36 more F-47's as fighter escorts for medium bombers. The 395th conducted 36 B-26's to their target—Limburg—and back as far as Chivray. On a similar mission, the 397th met 36 more B-26's at Nancy, escorting them to their bombing target—between Farlarue and Maden, and stayed with the medium until they got back to Nancy. The 396th drew 35 A-20's instead of Marauders, the rendezvous was Sedan, and the target—again near Limburg. All three missions were completely uneventful: no enemy aircraft were encountered and there was no damage from flak.

30 November 1944

The last day of the month started out badly. First T/Sgt Fox was conked on the noggin by a large section of plaster which fell from the mess hall ceiling and not only completely spoiled his dehydrated eggs and oatmeal but cut his head slightly. Then we discovered that the PX would not open for business as usual, though this was Thursday. But things brightened somewhat when we drew our pay (in the snack area, it, 'ard officiating). Furthermore, Old Man Fox showed up as usual near the head of the pay line, with only a couple of scratches on his brow; and the comforting rumor went around that the PX would have cigarettes for us on Saturday. That was certainly good news, for the boys were already rolling their own, taking up pipe smoking, and talking wildly of smoking English cigarettes.

But the brightest spot of all at the end of the month was our operations record. The 364th group dispatched 72 F-47's on dive-bombing in support of the First Infantry Division. All the planes carried bombs, 8 out of each squadron loading 2 x 500-lb bombs each and the other 4 planes 2 x 250-lb frag bombs each.

Footy smoke-marked gun emplacements in a gravel pit and a little town west of Duren; the 396th dropped all their bombs on this target. Hits were seen in the town and near the pit. The squadron then strafed the area between a road and railroad running parallel towards Duren. The 397th dropped their bombs on a smoke-marked target in Dhorn and got all their bombs in the target area. On their armed recce the squadron strafed and damaged 7 armored vehicles, strafed and destroyed a locomotive, and strafed the general area from Dhorn to Duren—NRW. But the 395th had even better results—or more spectacular at least. Their frag bombs destroyed a gun position, and the 500-pounders were dropped on a train with 20 plus Tiger tanks sitting on flat cars. Three bombs hit the train and the others were near misses, but the squadron wasn't satisfied with that and added to the wreckage by strafing the train. The estimated damage is: 10 cars and tanks destroyed, 10 more cars and tanks damaged, 2 locomotives and one armored vehicle destroyed, another armored vehicle damaged, and 6 more freight cars destroyed.

On their second mission the 396th dropped their 500-pounders on a well-camouflaged gun emplacement at Oberzier, north of Duren, and followed up by strafing the target. Footy marked a target by smoke east of Schlich, and the squadron's frag bombs were dropped on 150 soldiers and 20/41's, following up by strafing. The results were excellent with the 20/41's destroyed and the soldiers dispersed, probably with heavy casualties. The 397th dropped 4 500-pounders on a command post at Hoven with good results, and the rest of their bombs on Rheinbach. Their 500-pounders hit the mars-
30 November 1944 (cont'd)

Shelling yard and factories, and the frags were released on the town. The squadron strafed while they bombèd. One P-47 dropped a pair of 500-pounders SE of Verken. Organ assigned the 395th to the town of Gey, where the squadron dropped their 16 500-pounders on artillery positions with good results. Then Ballad sent them to Egersheim, where the 8 frags were released on more artillery positions. Though the squadron strafed as they bombèd, the 395th got only fair to poor results on this second bombing, due to the overcast.

One of our new pilots was killed in a training flight today: 2nd Lt. George K. Hickman crashed near Pommerœul, Belgium, and was killed instantly. The cause of the accident could not be ascertained.

Our flying record for November was better than the preceding month's in some ways. The group put planes into the air 19 days out of 30, and we flew a total of 336 sorties. Better yet, we had a good string of consecutive flying days still running at the end of the month, promising to get the new month off to a good start. There was even hope that the new offensive we were supporting might yet end the war this year—or this winter; but most of us were not that optimistic.
SPECIAL ORDERS (-----)

NUMBER 192

1. Pursuant to auth contained in 3rd Ind fr Ninth Air Force, 21 Apr 1944 to Ltr, Hq US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 20 Mar 1944, file 215.8 x 354.7, subj: "Auth for Mont Air at Air Force Rest Home," the following named officers are placed on temp dy, will proceed fr Hq 368th Ftr Gp to Eynsham Hall, AAF Sta 567 UK, c/o 3 Nov 1944 for a period of seven (7) days, exclusive of travel time, for the purpose of carrying out the instructions of the CG, Ninth Air Force. Upon completion of this temp dy, they will ret to proper orgn and sta. TN by MT, mil acft or rail.

Where auth qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs are not to exceed 4.00 dollars per day and prqm $25 dollars in liou of subs is atad while in a travel status, in accordance w/Par 2, Cr 63, Hq European. T of Cnps USA, 5 June 1944. 60-105 D 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 D 432-02 A 212/50425.

For prqm $25 dollars in liou of subs is atad in accordance with Par 4, Us Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Reg No 90-3, 29 Sept 1944. 60-196 D 410-01 A 212/50290.

Capt RUSSELL L. O'CONNELL 0732326 AC
1st Lt HENRY B. HAMILTON 0805617 AC

2. Capt HAROLD J. KESSLER, 0561410, AC, is appointed Investigating Officer to investigate Parts-Material charges against Pvt Robert B. Dunlap, 13009110, 397th Ftr Sqdn. Complete report of investigation on WD Form No 120 will be submitted to this Hq in triplicate.

3. The following named 0 are placed on TD for a period of approximately five (5) days, will proceed fr this sta c/o 3 Nov 1944 to IX TAC reporting to Information Desk, IX TAC by 1600 hours, 5 Nov 1944 for the purpose of attending an indoctrination course. Each 0 will bring beddng roll and suitable clothing for field trips. Upon completion of this TD, 0 will ret to proper orgn and sta. TN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-105 D 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: TWX IX TAC M47J.

Lt Col PAUL D. DOUGLAS JR 0438187 AC
Capt MARTHALL B. MELANIE 0732315 AC
Capt CARLOS M. PHIBBT 025797 AC

4. Having been asgd this orgn per par 5, SO 180, Hq IX TAC, dated 1 Nov 1944, 1st Lt (4822) THOMAS G. MCHLISH, 0584118, AC, is further asgd 396th Ftr Sq.

5. So much of par 3, SO 190, this Hq, cs, as pertains to lst Lt DAVID M. SHAH, 0880092, AC, is deleted. (Pertains to operational leave for officers)
SO 132, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, dtd 3 Nov 1944, Cont’d.

6. The VQO 368th Ftr Gp of 31 Oct 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record. The following named officers are appointed to witness and verify the cash balance of Major JOHN F. VONZIA, 0311390, FD, Accountable Disbursing Officer, as of the close of business, 31 Oct 1944:

   Capt GEORGE E. MYERS  0368380  AC
   1st Lt ROBERT J. NASHBA  0367537  AC*  

7. 1st Lt MERVIN E. WARD, 0865713, AC, is appointed Gp Ammunition and Chemical Officer, prime duty.

8. So much of par 2, SO 131, this HA, es, as pertains to 1st Lt WILLIAM J. GAREY, 0678556, AC, is deleted. (Pertains to operational leave for officers).

   (Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, STOUSA, 25 May 1944).

By order of Lt Col PEEDCO:

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

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

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 -

RESTRICTED
SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBR: 133

1. The following named officers are granted two (2) days operational leave, will proceed fr this sta o/a 5 November 1944 to Paris, France, reporting upon arrival to Ninth Air Force Liaison Office, American Express Building, Amherst and Scribe. Upon completion of this leave O's will ret to proper orgn and sta. TN by MT. 60-105 F H32-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 F H32-02 A 212/50425.


1st Lt WALTER G. LOUGHRAN 0809218 AC (In charge)
2d Lt BOYD E. JOHNSON 0766544 AC
2d Lt ROBERT M. PAGE 0770124 AC
2d Lt HAROLD D. HAMPTON 0770258 AC

2. Cpl (2/3) Joe Zolin, 9397432, 397th Ftr Sq, is placed on TD for a period of approximately five (5) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 5 Nov 1944 for the purpose of driving officers to Hq IX Tac. Upon completion of this TD, EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. TN by MT. 60-105 F H32-02 A 212/50425.

AUTH: TAC IX Tac 0473.

3. 1st Lt JOHN M. LEE, 0881694, AC, is placed on TD for approximately three (3) days, will proceed from this sta o/a 6 Nov 1944 to Shinn Rocket Range on matters pertaining to this command. TN by MT. Upon completion of this TD 0 will ret to proper orgn and sta. 60-105 F H32-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 F H32-02 A 212/50425.

AUTH: VOCC, 77th Fighter Wing.

4. Having been ssgd this orgn per par 11, SO 18, Hq 134th Rpl En, dtd 2 Nov 1944, the following named officers are further ssgd to Sq as indicated;

395th Figher Squadron

Capt (1055) VIRGIL NORDA 0401093 AC
2d Lt (1055) CARL E. HOPPER 0561304 AC
2d Lt (1055) WALTER W. SCOTT 0830338 AC

397th Figher Squadron

2d Lt (1055) BILL B. AUSTIN 071923 AC
2d Lt (1055) LEONARD M. KOSTRECH 0830336 AC
2d Lt (1055) JACK L. CONANT 0719147 AC
2d Lt (1055) CYRIL S. KOWSINSKI 0830351 AC
2d Lt (1055) LESLIE R. LEAVOY 0830302 AC
1st Lt (1055) DALLAS J. CLARY 0816798 AC
RESTRICTED

S0 133, Hq 368th Ftr Cp, dtd 5 Nov 1944, Cont'd.

5. Par 2, S0 113, this Hq, as, pertaining to appointment of Special Courts-Martial, is rescinded.

6. A Special Courts-Martial is aptd to meet at such time and place as may be designated by the President thereof, for the trial of such persons as may be properly brought before it.

DETAIL FOR THE COURT

Major JAMES R. VERNIL 0386976 AC
Capt. ERNEST R. PENDLETON 01638240 AC
Capt. STANLEY C. JOHNSON JR 0583430 AC
Capt. ROBERT G. BURGAM 0567236 AC
Capt. LEONARD L. KNIGHT 0578724 QMC
Capt. RICHARD R. WEISS 0570712 AC
Capt. MAURICE D. PERRY 0650448 AC (Trial Judge Advocate)
1st Lt. SAMUEL KUSHNER 0836369 AC (Defense Counsel)

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European T of Ops USL, 24 May 1944)

By order of Lt Col FERGEO:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

HQ 595, U.S. Army
11 November 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 136

1. Sgt Watos W. Hampton, 340246414, 1293rd Military Police Co (Arm), is placed on temp dy for a period of approximately one (1) day, will proceed fr this sta o/s 11 Nov 1944 to pick up Pvt Robert R. Dunlap, 13009110, 397th Frt Sq, now confined at the Ninth Air Force Continental Stockade, AXO 696. Upon completion of this TD, EM will return to proper sta and orgn. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/5042 and 60-111 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: V200, IX TAC.

2. Lt Col FAY P. DOUGLAS, JR, 04312187, AC, is appointed Deputy Command, vice Lt Col FRANK S. PERSICO, 0426522, AC, rcd.

3. Sgt (555) Joseph C. Carroll, 247094855, 385th Frt Sq, is placed on temp dy for a period of approximately six (6) weeks, will proceed fr this sta o/s 13 Nov 1944 to No 8 School of Technical Training, Warton, Lancashire, for the purpose of attending a course of instruction in Sheet Metal. Advance F/A rations are authorized. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by ME, nil a/cft or rail. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/5042 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: Ltr, HQ IX TAC, file 352, subj: Assignment of Personnel to Training Schools, dtd 7 Nov 1944.

4. Having been assd this orgn per par 6, SO 183, HQ IX TAC, dtd 4 Nov 1944. Cpl (555) HARVEY D. CARROLL, 335050453, is further assd to 397th Frt Sq.

5. Having been assd this orgn per par 8, SO 185, HQ IX TAC, dtd 7 Nov 1944. Major (1055) ANTHONY A. ROZSA, 0421653, AC, is further assd to 397th Frt Sq.

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, HQ European T of Ops UC 24 May 1944.)

By order of Lt Col PERSICO:

OFFICIAL:

HIGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

R & T R I E F
SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 137

1. The following named EM's Hq 368th Ftr Gp are placed on temp dy for a period of three (3) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 13 November 1944 to the 2nd, 7th and 16th Air Depots for the purpose of procuring aircraft supplies. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. TN by MT: 60-105 P 432-02 & 212/5045 and 60-114 P 432-02 & 212/5045. AUTH: VOGG IX TAC.

T/Sgt (826) Delmar C. Eicher 15066875
T/Sgt (911) Seldon D. Fox 626626

2. Capt ROBERT C. BERGMAN, 0567292, AC, is placed on temp dy for a period of approximately three (3) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 14 November 1944 to Hq IX TAC for the purpose of attending a photographic meeting. Upon completion of this temp dy, he will ret to proper orgn and sta. TN by MT: 60-105 P 432-02 & 212/5045. AUTH: TWX IX TAC.

3. Having been used this orgn per par 1, 30 21, Hq 134th Rpl Bn (AAF) dated 5 Nov 1944, the following named officers are further used to Sq as indicated:

395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
2d Lt (1055) JOSEPH T. SPRINGS 0827532 40
P/c (1055) JOHN W. ROUSSELL T62605 40

396TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
2d Lt (1055) EDWIN J. SCHULZLUND 0707747 40

397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
2d Lt (1055) CARL W. UTERHART 0826806 40

(Travel directed is pursuant to such contained in Ltr, Hq European T of Opns USA, 24 May 1944)

By order of Lt Col PERNOS:

OFFICIAL:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

RESTRIC TED
SPECIAL ORDERS) 

EXTRACT

NUMBER......190)

1. Pursuant to the auth contained in Par 2b, Secret Ltr, Hq US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Subj: "Combat Crew Rehabilitation Policy", dated 2 August 1944, and Secret TFC Ninth Air Force (Rese) 29442, dated 19 September 1944, the following named O are reld fr amgt w/orgns indicated, atd, to 127th Repl Control Bn, sta 591 to await transportation to the 27. TEN by LT, all acft or rail. 60-105 P 431-02 & 212/50145.

CAPT RUSSELL A O'CONNELL 0732326 AC 36th Fighter Gp
CAPT DAVID C. PARISH 0678912 AC 36th Fighter Gp
CAPT CLARENCE STATION 0678967 AC 36th Fighter Gp
1ST LT WILLIAM E BYERS 0735870 AC 474th Fighter Gp
1ST LT OLIVER S HURSON JR 0756596 AC 474th Fighter Gp
1ST LT ALBERT H. KLEINRULIS 0745421 AC 36th Fighter Gp
1ST LT HAROLD J. LENTZ 0755979 AC 474th Fighter Gp
1ST LT RALPH V MORAND 0755996 AC 474th Fighter Gp
1ST LT HARRY C ROGAL 0681705 AC 36th Fighter Gp

*(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European T of Ops USA, 24 May 1944)*

By command of Major General CUESADA:

A.C. KINGAID, 
Vrig Gen, USA, 
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ A. S. Petterson, 
A. E. PETERSON, 
Capt, Air Corps, 
Asst Adj General

(This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, 50 USC 31 and 32 as amended. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law)

SECRET

- 1 -
RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP
APO 595, U. S. Army
17 November 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 139

1. Capt WILLIAM E. QUINLAN, 0566474, AC, is placed on temp dy for a period
   of approximately three (3) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 18 Nov 1944 to Hq
   Ninth Air Forces and to the Army Pictorial Service, Paris, France, for the purpose
   of obtaining athletic equipment. Upon completion of this temp dy, he will ret to
   proper orgn and sta. TDN by MT. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02
   A 212/50425. AUTH: VOGG IX TAC.

2. Capt VADIS P. IVAND, 0505551, CO, 1293rd Military Police Co (AW) is
   placed on temp dy for a period of approximately six (6) days, will proceed fr this
   sta o/a 20 Nov 1944 to Chorbunc, France for the purpose of appearing as a witness
   in a General Courts-Martial. Upon completion of this temp dy, C will ret to proper
   orgn and sta. TDN by MT. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/
   50425. AUTH: VOGG Normandy Base Section.

3. A Special Courts-Martial is optd to meet at such time and place as may
   be designated by the senior member thereof, for the trial of such persons as may
   be properly brought before it.

DETAIL FOR THE COURT

Major JAMES R. WERNLI 0386276 AC
Capt ERNEST R. PENDLETON 0162240 AC
Capt STANLEY C. JOHNSON JR 0589430 AC
Capt ROBERT G. BEIGHTON 0567286 AC
Capt LEONARD L. KRESSER 01576712 AC
Capt RICHARD R. WEESS 0570712 AC
Capt WILLIAM T. MCGANN 01035940 GWS (Trial Judge Advocate)
Capt FRANKLIN A. DICK 0565197 AC (Defense Counsel)

4. Under the provisions of AR 95-10 and in accordance with authority con-
   tained in Articles of War 10, Lt Col LEWIS R. CORRELL, 0415495, AC, is appointed
   Summary Court, vice Capt MAURICE D. FOWELL, 0650448, AC, fdl.

5. Under the provisions of Par 1 2 (4) (c), AR 345-415, as amended by Changes
   #4, 1st Lt SAMUEL H. SCHOFIELD, 0582942, AC, is appointed Investigating Officer to
   investigate and report upon all the circumstances connected with the incurrence of
   injuries of 1st Lt FRED E. TRASH, 14081785, o/a 30 August 1944, and to determine
   whether injuries were incurred in line of duty or as a result of his own misconduct.
   Complete Report of Investigation on HD 450 Form 51 will be submitted in
   quintuplicate.

- 1 -
6. Having been a awarded this award per par 1 SO 303, Hq 128th Ppl BN (AAF) dated 12 Nov 1944, the following named officers are further a awarded to SQ as indicated:

1st Lt (1055) JAMES L. RENTER 0661697 AC 395th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt (1055) JOHN L. JONES 0660216 AC 396th Fighter Squadron

7. Having been a awarded this award per par 11, SO 26, Hq 124th Ppl BN (AAF) dated 12 Nov 1944, the following named officers are further a awarded to SQ as indicated:

1st Lt (1055) WILLIAM S. LEE 0792063 AC 397th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt (1055) HENRY J. TANAKA 0602608 AC 397th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) JAMES E. HUTCHISON 0829997 AC 397th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) GEORGE W. BURGESS 0716206 AC 396th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) ROBERT H. HERN 0829946 AC 396th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) DONALD D. CAMPBELL 0824864 AC 396th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) WILLIAM J. HILDEBURG 0829990 AC 396th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) HERBERT W. JEFFERSON 0830001 AC 397th Fighter Squadron
2d Lt (1055) THOMAS P. ROWE 0829991 AC 397th Fighter Squadron

8. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1944, and upon the recommendation of their Cgrn and Sq, the following named EM, 395th Ftr Sq, are reduced to the gr of Pvt for misconduct:

Cpl (405) EDWARD G. FEATHER 1219244
Cpl (801) JOSEPH R. HABAN 3177594

9. The VCOO 368th Ftr CP of 10 Nov 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

Lt COL PAUL L. DOUGLAS, JR 0412187 AC, is appointed Gp Air Inspector vice Lt COL FRANK S. BRESCH, 0423422, AC, reld.

10. The VCOO 368th Ftr CP of 10 Nov 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record:

Lt COL JOHN D. HANES, 0412193 AC, is appointed Gp Tactical Inspector vice Lt COL FRANK S. BRESCH, 0423422, AC, reld.

11. Pvt SIDNEY R. JACOBS, 3774318, is placed on temp dy for a period of approximately three (3) days, will proceed fr this sta o/n 18 Nov 1944 to Branch Office of the JROTC, Hq ETOSHA, 0166877 for the purpose of appearing for an interview. Upon completion of this term dy, EM will return to proper org and sta. TAW by MA. 80-105 P 432-22 A 212/504/25 and 80-114 P 432-22 A 212/504/25. AUTH Ltr Hq BONJO, subj, "Assignment of Enlisted Men", file 220-3, dated 13 Nov 1944.

12. Pursuant to the auth contained in 3rd Ind fr Hq Ninth Air Force, 21 April 1944 to Stx, Hq US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 20 March 1944, file 2859-3 x 2547-7, subj, "Awards for Unt Act at Air Force Base Norfolk," the following named officers are placed on temp dy, will proceed fr Hq 368th Ftr Cp to AAF Sta 524, o/n 18 Nov 1944 for a period of seven (7) days, exclusive of travel time, for the purpose of carrying out the instructions of the Cgrn, Ninth Air Force. Upon completion of this term dy, they will return to proper org and sta. TAW by MA, nil act or rail.
1139, Hq 368th Ftr Gr, detd 17 Nov 1944
par Lt Comdr

Where Govt qrs and subs are not available in the UK, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs not to exceed $4.00 per day and per diem $1.25 in lieu of subs is stnd while in a travel status, in accordance w/ter 2, Cir 62, Hq European T of Ops, USA, 5 June 1944. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

Air Force Combat crew personal on temporary duty as patients in Rest Homes are authorized reimbursement for additional cost of subsistence at the rate of $1.25 per day for officers and $2.25 per day for enlisted men, irrespective of whether adequate Government mess facilities are available, in accordance w/ter 4, United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe Reg No 30-39, 29 September 1944.

1st Lt WALTER C. LOUGHRAN 0802321 AC
2nd Lt LOUIS D. HAMILTON 0745699 AC

13. The following named EM, Sq indicated, are placed on temp dy for a period of approximately seven (7) days, will proceed fr this sta c/a 16 Nov 1944 to Hq, Con Zone reporting prior to 1000 hours, 19 Nov 1944 to Capt Wever, Office of the Signal Officer, 26 Ave Kleber, Paris, for the purpose of attending a course in radio. Gas masks and blankets will be taken. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will return to proper org and sta. TDY by M/S, nil acct or sell, 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TIX IX TAC N597.

W/Sgt (898) Thomas W. Smith 1506691 Hq 368th Fighter Group
W/Sgt (542) Edward A. Longe 33459637 355th Fighter Squadron

14. The following named EM, Sq indicated, are placed on temp dy for a period of approximately eight (8) days, will proceed fr this sta c/a 16 Nov 1944 to Hq, 70th Fighter Wing reporting prior to 1000 hours, 19 Nov 1944, reporting there to the Squadron Commander, for the purpose of attending wire chiefs school. Cots and blankets will be taken. EM will be attached to Hq & Sq 70th Fighter Wing for rotations and quarters. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will return to proper org and sta. TDY by M/S, nil acct or sell, 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOGG 70th Fighter Wing.

Sgt (236) Robert G. East 36712824 355th Fighter Squadron
Cpl (590) Charles M. Hicks 18182276 Hq 368th Fighter Group

15. Sgt Yates L. Hampton, 3103414, 1273rd Military Police Co (arm) is placed on temp dy for a period of approximately one (1) day, will proceed fr this sta c/a 19 Nov 1944 to pick up 1st Lieut Joseph A. Tiper, 1102105, 29th MGR Sq (Less Det A) now confined at the Ninth Air Force Continental Stockade, AFO 696. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will return to proper org and sta. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. TDY by M/S. AUTH: VOGG IX TAC.

16. 2Lt ROLAND C. POTTER, 0695939, AC, is placed on temp dy for a period of three (3) days, will proceed fr this sta c/a 20 Nov 1944 to Shiny Rocket range on matters pertaining to this command. TDY by M/S. Upon completion of this TDY, EM will return to proper org and sta. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOGG 70th Fighter Wing.
17. Under the provisions of AR 600-68, the following named EM, 297th Pgr Sq, having completed the required amount of serv in the Army of the United States and having demonstrated fidelity through faithful and exact performances of duty, efficiency through capacity to produce desired results, and whose behavior has been such as to deserve emulation, are awarded Good Conduct Medals for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity:

Sgt Charles W. Wood 16054828
Sgt Walter J. Lewis 32230056
Sgt Frederick L. Nelson 35121725
Sgt Charles J. Stoner 55797156
Cpl Raymond E. Barrett 85497592
Cpl Albert J. Calvessi 31356667
Cpl James R. Burg 12453181
Cpl Walter J. Gatzi 12393099
Cpl William D. Gilchrist 37676679
Cpl Edwin Goodwin 35266661
Cpl Manuel Guerra 34557556
Cpl Calvin M. Houselaker 35604022
Cpl William H. Hepburn 33597443
Cpl Frank S. Stowell 39191277
Cpl John Fasanuzzi 33391533
Cpl Herman C. Haus 36430623

(Travel directed in pursuance to auth contained in Ltr, Bg European T of Ops USA, 28 May 1944)

By order of Lt Col Penno:

HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps, Adjutant

HUGH L. RICE
Major, Air Corps, Adjutant
In reply refer to:

SUBJECT: OPREP (USAF Form 34A)

THROUGH: Commanding General, IX Tactical Air Command, APO 595, US Army.

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

1. This unit desires to acknowledge the superior manner in which subject reports have been prepared and submitted by your organization. Each OPREP is a model of completeness, accuracy, and promptness of submission.

2. It is believed that these reports are an important measure of administrative excellence, and one in which your group may well take pride.

EDWARD G. NAMOL
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

371.1
1st Ind. I-I-11
HEADQUARTERS, IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 595, U S ARMY, 15 November 1944.

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

This Command wishes to acknowledge the excellent manner in which the OPREP's for your group have been prepared, and takes this opportunity to express its appreciation.

By command of Major General CUESADA:

J. J. CLARK, SR.,
Major, A. G. B.,
Adjutant General.
RADIO CORRESPONDENT MAKES FIRST COMBAT FLIGHT "PIGGY-BACK" IN THUNDERBOLT

NINTH AIR FORCE HQ., FRANCE, Nov. 20—"for a fat man like me it was a pretty tight fit."

Thus commented Ted Malone, radio correspondent for the Blue Network, after making a "piggy-back" combat flight over the Aachen area in a P-47 Thunderbolt piloted by Maj. Harold Sparks of Frankfort, Ky.

Malone's ride, the first to be made over a battle area by a war correspondent in a P-47, came when the squadron of Thunderbolts was giving close support to the U.S. Ninth Army.

"It was a clear day and the sun was very bright," said Malone. "We were flying as wingman to Lt. Col. Paul Douglas of Paragould, Ark. Ground liaison officers directed us to our targets by radio, laying pre-determined colored smoke on our objective."

In the midst of the bombing Malone said about 20 ME-109's jumped the American formation. Four Jerrys were shot down.

Malone said the flak was very heavy, adding that one Thunderbolt came back with a hole in the tail "big enough to accommodate a good-sized microphone."

Malone's home is at 6 Herston Terrace, Bronxville, New York.

1430 hours.
SPECIAL ORDERS

1. The following named EN, Sq indicated, are placed on temp by, for a period of approximately three (3) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 21 Nov 1944 to HQ IX TAC, for the purpose of appearing as a witness in a General Courts-Martial. Upon completion of this temp by, EM will ret to proper sta end orgn. TDN by MT. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG IX TAC.

  1st Sgt (502) Salvatore A. Caldarro, 395th Fighter Sq
  Sgt (566) John H. Mays, 395th Fighter Sq

2. The following named EN, Sq indicated, are placed on temp by, for a period of five (5) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 21 Nov 1944 to A-42 for the purpose of attending a course in armament. Plackets will be taken. Upon completion of this temp by, EM will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDN by MT. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-111 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG IX TAC.

  S/Sgt (911) Michael V. Rosiwicky, 396th Fighter Sq
  Sgt (911) Robert C. Hoffman, 395th Fighter Sq
  T/Sgt (911) William Holms, 397th Fighter Sq

3. Maj JAMES R. WENSLD, AG, 035675, is appointed investigating officer to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accidental death of Sgt Merrill C. Holmes, 1103522, 397th Ftr Sq, which occurred on 21 November 1944. Complete Report of Investigation on WD 730 Form 51 will be submitted to this headquarters in quintuplicate.

4. Maj JAMES R. WENSLD, AG, 035675, is appointed investigating officer to investigate the circumstances surrounding the injuries incurred by Sgt Leslie H. Angle, 17176013, 397th Ftr Sq, incurred on 21 November 1944. Complete Report of Investigation on WD 730 Form 51 will be submitted to this headquarters in quintuplicate.

5. S/Sgt Joseph G. Ellis (014) 33506751, 64th Airrorn Sq, is placed on temp by for a period of approximately ten (10) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 23 Nov 1944 to 370th Ftr Gp, reporting upon arrival to Lt Col Joyce, TDN by MT. Upon completion of this TD, EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: VOOG IX TAC.

6. Pursuant to stuff contained in IX TAC Memo 125-7, dtd 20 Nov 1944, Capt ROBERT G. ERRION, AG, 0567266, is appointed Group Graves Registration Officer in addition to his other duties.
SO 140, Hq 360th Ftr Gp, std 21 Nov 1944 (Cont'd)

7. The Td O and EM are placed on a period of temp dy for a period of approx two (2) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 24 Nov 1944 to Army Pictorial Serv., Paris, France, and Hq Ninth AF, for the purpose of procuring Spec Serv Equipment. Upon comp of this temp dy O and EM will ret to proper sta and orgn TON by MT.

Wong Albert H. Silvers

Capt Henry S. Kornacki

8. Pursuant to the auth contained in 3rd Ind fr Hq Ninth AF 21 April 1944 to Ltr, Hq US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 23 Mar 1944, filed 245.8 x 354-7, subj: "Auth for Hotel Allow at Air Force Rest "cases"; the following named officers are placed on temp dy, will proceed fr Hq 360th Ftr Gp to A/F Sta 52, o/a 25 Nov 1944 for a period of seven (7) days, exclusive of travel time, for the purpose of carrying out the instructions of the CG, Ninth Air Force. Upon completion of this temp dy, they will ret to proper sta and orgn TON by MT, mil advt or rail,

Where Govt qrs and subs are not available in the UK, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs not to exceed $4.00 per day and per diem $3.25 in-lieu of subs is atsd while in a travel status, in accordance w/Par 2, Cir 63, Hq European T of Ops, USA, 5 June 1944. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425

Air Force Combat crew personnel on temp dy as patients in Rest "cases" are atsd reimbursement for additional cost of subs at the rate of $1.25 per day for officers and $2.25 per day for EM, irrespective of whether adequate Govt messing facilities are available, in accordance w/Par 4, US Strategic AF in Europe Reg No. 30-3B, 29 Sept 1944.

Capt Roy D. Carlson  0676030  AC
2d Lt John A. Heilberg  0815332  AC

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq European T of Ops, USA, 24 May 1944.)

By order of Lt Colonel PERGOD

Hugh L. Altos
Major, Air Corps, Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

[Signature]
Hugh L. Altos
Major, Air Corps, Adjutant
SPECIAL ORDERS

2d Lt HERBERT F. KONIG 0832231  AC 335th Fighter Sq
2d Lt LAFANCE P. MARSH 0832691  AC 335th Fighter Sq
2d Lt STEPHEN L. HAPKIN 0710102  AC 336th Fighter Sq
2d Lt CHARLES R. LEHAN 0830202  AC 336th Fighter Sq
2d Lt AUGIE R. HUFF 0835995  AC 336th Fighter Sq
2d Lt CHARLES J. HUCKE 0710688  AC 337th Fighter Sq
2d Lt LENN S. HUNT 0707525  AC 337th Fighter Sq
2d Lt BENJAMIN J. POOLEN 0716285  AC 337th Fighter Sq
2d Lt GEORGE K. HICKMAN 0729332  AC 337th Fighter Sq
2d Lt JOHN E. KELL, Jr. 0710713  AC 337th Fighter Sq
2d Lt JAMES M. POOLEN 0716284  AC 337th Fighter Sq
2d Lt RALPH L. HOPKINS 0712280  AC 337th Fighter Sq

2. 2d Lt CHARLES E. HERR, 0887235, AC, is placed on temp dy for an indefinite period, will proceed fr HQ 335th Ftr Grp to 3rd Central Medical Establishment, HQ Ninth Air Force, APO 666, for the purpose of receiving medical examination. Upon completion of this temp dy he will return to proper org and sta. 

3. Sgt Yates M. HAMPTON, 3603644, 123rd Engineering Batallion (En), is placed on temp dy for a period of approx one (1) day, will proceed fr this sta on 25 Nov 1944 to pick up Pvt Joseph A. PIPER, 11021095, 23rd MBR Sq (Loss Det 4), now confined at the Ninth Air Continental Stockade, APO 666. Upon completion of this temp dy, EM will return to proper org and sta. 

4. The following named officers, orgs indicated are placed on temp dy for an indefinite period, will proceed fr this sta on 25 Nov 1944 to HQ IX Tactical Air Command, APO 666. Upon comp of this temp dy, 0's will return to proper org and sta. 

5. 1st Lt Robert E. LAMBE 1261429
Pvt Sydney E. Jacques 33748138

HEADQUARTERS
335TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 666, U.S. Army,
24 November 1944.

2d Lt HERR, E. F., 0887235, AC, is placed on temp dy for an indefinite period, will proceed fr HQ 335th Ftr Grp to 3rd Central Medical Establishment, HQ Ninth Air Force, APO 666, for the purpose of receiving medical examination. Upon completion of this temp dy 0 will return to proper org and sta.

TIN by MT or mil acct. 60-105 P 432-03 1219/BD/03 and 60-114 P 433-03 1219/BD/03, AUTH: Lttr. 915, file 322, subject "Central Medical Establishment," dated 29 Oct 1944.

The following named officers, orgs indicated are placed on temp dy for an indefinite period, will proceed fr this sta on 25 Nov 1944 to HQ IX Tactical Air Command, APO 666. Upon comp of this temp dy, 0's will return to proper org and sta.

TIN by MT or mil acct. 60-105 P 432-03 1219/BD/03 and 60-114 P 433-03 1219/BD/03. AUTH: V000 IX TAC.

Pvt Robert E. LAMBE 1261429
Pvt Sydney E. Jacques 33748138

RESTRICTED
BESTRICTED

S I G, Rq 358th Ftr Cp, atd 24 Nov 1944 (Cont'd)

6. 2d Lt CHARLES R. ROLFS, 0199535, AC, is placed on temp dy for a pd of three (3) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 25 Nov 1944 to Salinas Rocket Range on matters pertaining to this command. TN by Mt. Upon com of this Temp dy, J will ret to proper orgn and sta. 60-105 F. 433-02 & 212/50425 and 60-114 F 332-02 & 212/50425. J thn 70th Ftr Wing.

By order of Lt Colonel PERECA:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION "A"