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HISTORICAL REPORT

1 October to 31 October 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 October 1 to 31, 1944.

1. ORGANIZATION

No Change.

2. STRENGTH AS OF 31ST OCTOBER 1944

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

<u>Assigned Personnel</u>	<u>Authorized Personnel</u>
Officers -----200	Officers -----181
Enlisted Men ----824	Enlisted Men -----826
1024	1007

DATE OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION IN ETO:

Departed ALG 69, 4 miles east of Laon, France, 2 October, for ALG 84, 1 mile south of Chievres, Belgium, arriving 2 October 1944.

4. LOSSES IN ACTION:

Nil (for Group Headquarters)

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Award of Purple Heart:
Major Richard E. Leary

Award of Bronze Star:
Major Richard E. Leary

Distinguished Flying Cross:
Capt. Clarence E. Staton
Capt. Carlos M. Talbott

SECRET

SECRET

1 October 1944

At the beginning of a new month we were in the midst of moving--but the war wasn't moving fast enough to satisfy us. However, we were expecting another big drive which might well end the war, and we hoped that our move to Belgium would put us in a better position for the Big Push into Festung Deutschland. And although we were sharing our new Strip 84 with the 365th Fighter Group, it was a beautiful field, far the best we had found so far.

Our last small detachment evacuated Le Culot today and made the jump to Chievres.

The trip was rapid and generally uneventful, except that we saw the city of Brussels in the middle of Brussels and the boys stopped long enough to eat ice cream with the most beautiful girl in Belgium (they said). She had red hair.

The middle echelon moved a large share of our equipment from Laon to Chievres today, and the new base was getting ready for action. Over half of the tents were up already.

We were still operational at Laon, but the weatherman stopped us on the line of scrimmage. So we settled down to sweat out the tight American League race and pulled an all-St. Louis World Series out of the bag.

2 October 1944

Two group missions were flown today. On the first our 36 planes found a solid overcast over the target area and after orbiting for 30 minutes proceeded to another area. Here they clobbered a double track railroad supplying the German Westwall. The bombing results were very good, and the rail line was cut in 8 places. The flak was very heavy, but fortunately inaccurate.

In the day's second group mission 35 P-47's, all carrying bombs, went out to cut other rail lines and succeeded with a vengeance. They cut the strategic lines assigned to them in 17 places. One squadron also found a pair of locomotives and converted them into scrap iron. One a/c was damaged by flak. The second mission took off from Strip 69 and landed at Strip 84, our new Belgian base. At Laon they had been briefed for the mission by Capt. Reinthal of Group S-2; on landing at Chievres they were mildly surprised to find the Captain waiting to hold the critique. He had flown, too, by C-78. At Laon we took down the briefing tent, packed it into the S-2 trailer, and sent them on. Now that we were no longer operational at Strip 69, our break-camp operations really got into high gear--and Strip 84 took over.

3 October 1944

Twelve planes of the 395th took off at 0723 on an armed recce mission toward Dusseldorf in support of the 7th Armored Division. But the flight was called back shortly after takeoff because of the weather, and we were grounded for the rest of the day.

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE TWO3 October 1944 (Cont'd)

At Laon we kept taking down tents and loading trucks. Our moving was speeded up with the aid of C-47's which kept flying equipment to our new base despite the rain. We discovered that the coming of colder weather made breaking camp a bigger job. By the time we got moving orders, nearly all of our personnel tents had pretty fair floors; and removing all those floors was no small job. The last night the C-47's and the C-3's went to Belgium. By evening our headquarters were being lit by candlelight.

4 October 1944

We bucked the weather on two missions today, but it was pretty rough going. On our first mission 24 planes cut a railroad system east of the Ruhr in 3 places, but the weather closed in to prevent even more damage to Cpl. Hitler's railroads. Later in the day a group mission of 38 planes went out on another rail-cutting foray. Two planes aborted because of the weather, and the remaining planes found the weather impossible over the target area. They finally resorted to high-level bombing from 12,500 on alternate targets in the vicinity of Limburg and Vitznberg. Forty bombs were dropped, but no results could be observed. The worst aspect of the mission was that the bad visibility caused the loss of two pilots. Because of the dense weather, Capt. William R. Gibson and Lt. Odell V. Dustin, both of the 397th, collided in mid-air. Both planes immediately nosed downward, and the pilots are listed as MIA.

Our rear echelon moved to Chievres, after working hard until noon completing the evacuation of Strip 69. The medics' tent was taken down, and Lt. Col. Gorrell's trailer pulled out. When the rear echelon left about 1230 only one tent was left standing, with Capt. Bergman, T/Sgt Maienshein, and S/Sgt Stecklein staying as a rear-rear echelon.

At Strip 84 we found a well-organized camp set-up - and plenty of small towns nearby. In fact, our headquarters area was practically "in" Brugelette.

5 October 1944

Though completely shut-out by the weatherman on the operation's side, today is a Big Day never-the-less. We were paid. The Belgian currency was a real problem. First we discovered that we got less francs this month, because Belgian francs are worth more than the French variety. Then we found that the Belgian notes are printed in two languages and have two values; for example, 100 francs or 20 belgas. We decided to forget the belgas: the francs sound like more money. But we're putting in plenty of time studying conversion tables, and those of us who had any French francs left, converted them into Belgian money. French francs are not very popular up here; in fact, they won't accept some of their own currency.

The last truck from Laon came in today, and we were re-united again. In a Combat Ops change, Capt. Meredith Henry was transferred to the 396th Squadron, Capt. Carlos M. Talbott of the 397th was transferred to Group, and Capt. Clifford L. Gamble of the 395th attached to Group for duty.

Memorandum, Supporting Document #1.

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE THREE

6 October 1944

This evening Lt. Col. Perego congratulated our pilots on "the biggest day the 368th Group has ever had:" our 35 P-47's destroyed 24 enemy planes, probably got 9 more, and damaged 4. Here's the story:

Our day's work was two fighter sweeps, both group missions, over the Duren-Dusseldorf area. The first mission was uneventful: 33 planes flew their patrol area at 15-20,000 feet and returned, having seen only one FW190 after their gas

But the second mission was another matter. While our 35 P-47's were flying over the same patrol area, the controller called in bogies east of Bonn and vectored our planes to the area. The 397th found some bandits in the air, Lt. "Go" shot down one ME-109 and Major Garbine said Lt. Carlson got another. Then Lt. Col. Douglas, who was leading the mission, spotted 50 plus ME-109's and FW190's on an airfield near Breitscheid. The 396th promptly went to work on the planes and racked up their total of 22-9-4. Though his guns jammed on his first two strafing passes, Lt. Col. Douglas got 6 planes and 2 probables. The other scores were Lt. Krauss 2-1-0, Lt. Petrie 4-2-0, Lt. Pace 2-1-0, Lt. Hamilton 3-1-0, Lt. Johnson 2-1-0, Lt. Quilty 0-1-2, Lt. Horlacher 1-0-0, Capt. Krause 0-0-1, Lt. Carlson 2-0-0, and Major Garbine 0-0-1.

Capt. Charles M. Talbott was appointed Assistant Group Operations Officer today, and 1st Lt. J.E. Brumfield Jr. Group Awards and Decorations Officer.

Special Order #119, Supporting Document #2.

7 October 1944

Seventy planes got into the air today, bombing targets picked for them by the VII Corps. The day was generally uneventful, for everything went off according to plan. The ground troops marked the targets they wanted bombed by red smoke; our P-47's bombed the smoke, and the ground forces reported that the results were excellent. In all, 35 tons of bombs were dropped on German defensive positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles.

The first mission of the day, flown in the morning, was a group mission. Thirty-five planes dive-bombed strong points southeast of Aachen and south of Duren. All targets were marked by smoke, and all bombs hit the area marked by the smoke. Since no results could be observed, we have to take the ground forces word for it: they said the bombing was OK, and they ordered it!

In the afternoon 35 more P-47's took the air on three separate squadron missions. The planes dive-bombed targets in the same general area as the morning's mission. Again the bombing could better be observed by the ground troops, and they reported the results to be excellent. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the days work was the weather: it was generally CAVU.

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE FOUR7 October 1944 (Cont'd)

The 9th Division and the VII Army Corps were so well pleased with the support we gave them today that they sent us a letter of special commendation. Though the letter came through channels and didn't reach us until some time later, mention of it should be included in today's record of events...and the letter itself will be found in Supporting Document #4.

Letter from Hq 9th Infantry Division Artillery-Subject: Performance of 368th Group, Supporting Document #3.

For the third day in a row (that's become a fact now) our planes got into the air for a spot at the enemy defensive positions. The weather was generally bad today, but again our planes bombed targets picked by the Seventh Corps controller and marked by smoke. The targets were small towns northeast of Aachen, and our P-47's blasted them with 48--500 pounders. The pilots reported that one of the towns, very near Aachen itself, was almost leveled.

On the first mission Lt. Caldwell of the 395th Squadron spotted an FW190 and an ME109 at 15,000 over Stelberg. He attacked the pair and exhausted his ammunition in scoring many strikes on the right wing of the ME109. With his ammunition gone after six minutes of combat, Caldwell had to shake the Pecke-Welfe off his tail and take off. He left the Messerschmidt smoking and probably destroyed.

The 397th Squadron conducted a fighter sweep east of Bonn and Cologne after their bombing. They were searching for bogies and airfields but had to settle for a train. Our strafing attack destroyed the locomotive and damaged a dozen cars.

9 October 1944

Our missions for the day again assigned us to the VII Corps and gave us more enemy strong points, supply depots, guns, and road junctions to hit. But the weatherman stepped in to give us a day of enforced rest instead.

That left us to our usual spare-time activities: trying to keep warm and dry, cussing the situation map which didn't move fast enough, and wondering if we would get passes...to Brussels right now. And the passes finally came through. The first trucks to Brussels leave at 0800 tomorrow. Enlisted men return the same evening; officers get 24 hour passes.

We lost nine of our best pilots today, but we lost them in the best possible way: they were going home. In accordance with the USSAF "Combat Crew Rehabilitation Policy", the 9 captains and first lieutenants were briefed yesterday and started on their way to England and the U.S.A. today. Later we got a report that Maj. Gen. Quesada got them home by C-54--in two (2) days! To the rest of us it doesn't seem possible, but it makes that fabulous place, HOME, seem closer to all of us. The names of the pilots will be found in Supporting Document #4.

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE FIVE

9 October 1944 (Cont'd)

This was election day for the 368th Fighter Group. Of course, many of us had already voted, and others are still sweating out our state absentee voters ballots; but GI's from the 20 states which authorize the use of the federal ballot had their chance to vote here today. Lt. Regan, who was designated Group Voting Officer, had charge of the voting, and the postal tent was taken over as a polling place. There were no signs of any campaigning and no ballyhoo...though the presidential elections are less than a month off. But although there has been little talk of the approaching elections, a large share of both officers and men have taken the trouble to apply for and carefully fill out their absentee voters ballots or showed up today to cast their ballots for the next President of the United States...in a pyramidal tent in Belgium.

IX TAC Special Order #153, Supporting Document #4.
Ninth Air Force Letter (Subject: Voting - 26 Sept 1944), Supporting Document #5.

Special Order #116, Supporting Document #6.

10 October 1944

Forty-eight pilots of the 368th Fighter Group were awarded the Air Medal today by Brig. General J.W. McCauley, Commanding General of the 70th Fighter Wing. With almost as many officers from the 365th receiving the award, nearly a hundred medals were presented in the ceremony held inside a hangar in the 365th area because the rain prevented an open-air presentation. Actually, many of the pilots had earned their medals before D-day, but the Ninth Air Force has been so busy these last six months that this was the first such ceremony to be held since May 9th!

Passes to Brussels started this morning, and that, with the awards' ceremony, was about all we accomplished because it rained steadily all day and we were grounded.

The rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the Brussels contingent, however. The trucks left our area at 0800 and reached the Hotel Metropole at about 0930. We found Brussels a more modern city than most European capitals, a sort of "Little Paris", though it has nearly a million inhabitants. We also found the British there in great numbers, for United Kingdom troops had liberated the city and it is still in the 12th Army Group area. Our first problem was to get our money changed. In an effort to straighten out the mess which the Germans made of the country's currency and get it back on a firm basis, the Belgian government has issued new money. We found a good share of Brussels lined up outside the "official bank", but being privileged characters we didn't have to wait in line.

Then, with legal tender in our possession, we set out to see the town. Belgian lace, along with the inevitable Paris perfume, took care of the francs...which didn't go for various assorted beverages. We also consumed sizeable quantities of the local ice cream, which wasn't ice cream but a reasonably accurate facsimile. The Belgian beer wasn't bad, though pretty weak. And the streetcars were modern, fast, and efficiently operated by conductorettes who let us ride the "trams" without paying fares.

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE SIX

10 October 1944 (Cont'd)

But we all came back to the Hotel Metropole for the ride home much earlier than the 2100 deadline. The hotel itself was a fascinating place--a sort of Grand Hotel, swarming just now with war correspondents and ladies of ill repute. The ride back home in the truck was cold and generally uncomfortable, but we can't have everything and this is war!

A great pow-wow was held by the Wheels today, to draw up plans for the defense of the base. Lt. Carlos Hemler of the 365th Group and Lt. William Biagen of the 368th were designated Base Security Officers and promptly went into action to tighten up our security regulations...especially in regard to civilians on the base.

11 October 1944

We bombed Aachen today. A group mission was assigned a series of road junction and main buildings, and our dive-bombers dropped 17 tons of bombs on the Siegfried Line bastion as directed...despite flak which was rated "heavy, intense, and accurate".

The 395th made the first bombing run, strafing as they went in. They dropped their 500 pounders on a road junction and scored direct hits on three buildings. Black smoke promptly started pouring out of one of them. "Booty", a VII Corps controller, reported that German soldiers began coming in to surrender after the dive-bombing.

The 396th made a similar bombing run and also observed hits on buildings and roads. The controller said, "Damn good bombing!" In fact, Booty reported that he was going to enter the town soon.

Booty was also well satisfied by the 397th's bombing. The P47's strafed as they bombed, and the pilots reported that the whole target area was hit. Many houses were demolished and some were seen burning.

The group acquired two new captains today, when 1st Lt. Maurice D. Powell and 1st Lt. Maurice King received their promotions. Their captaincies took effect 1 October 1944, when Special Order #275, originating at Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, was issued.

Capt. Powell, who has been with the Group since August 1943, has a variety of titles and functions: Group Statistical Officer (in charge of personnel), Assistant Group Adjutant, Group Courts and Boards Officer, and Trial Judge Advocate for Summary Courts Martial.

As Group Courts and Boards Officer and Trial Judge Advocate, Captain Powell's record is particularly impressive. Several commendations have been received from the Commanding General of IX TAC on the speed and thoroughness of the 368th Group in conducting investigations and handling trials. While a lapse of 20 days is permitted between the time charges are preferred and the case is disposed of, the average for the 368th is 6 days, the lowest in the Command. Papers are carefully checked for correctness in compliance with ETO directives and the Manual for Courts Martial. No case is tried until a thorough investigation is made, either formally as required by the Articles of War or informally...to determine whether an offense has been committed and what disposition

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE SEVEN11 October 1944 (Cont'd)

SHOULD BE MADE OF THE CASE. In this work Capt. Powell has had the able assistance of S/Sgt Leo Karp, an attorney in civilian life, and an expert on military law, who serves the group as Court Clerk and Special Courts Martial Reporter. The group has had all of its judgements sustained by higher command, with none altered, modified, or reversed. The 368th's "criminal record" is generally good also. There have been no rape cases, and a total of about 60 Courts Martial cases in 18 months. There have been about a dozen Summary Court cases and the rest Special Court cases...with 5 General Court cases sent up to higher command. The most serious offenses were sleeping on post. All of those cases come at one time back in Normandy. When air raid alarms were sounded, the guard would jump into a foxhole...and sometimes fall asleep! The most common cases have been AWOL, especially during the months when we were restricted to our camps.

Capt. Maurice King, Group Armament Officer, has been a very busy man since we started our tour of France in the wake of the armor and infantry. Each of the fields which we have taken over from the Luftwaffe has been loaded with bombs, and one of the Captain's duties is to supervise the work of the Bomb Disposal unit. A very thorough job has been done, and all Heinie bombs on or near our bases have been taken care of promptly, as well as our own duds. And of course there have been the souvenir hunters, who think German munitions make nice keep-

Even more important has been the task of keeping our planes supplied with bombs. That is not Capt. King's job; but the speed of our Blitzkrieg in France broke down the automatic supply system, and sometimes our bomb supply ran very low—especially while we were moving and operating at the same time. Experiments with frag bombs, the problem of rough, soft runways, and the installation of newer and better bomb shackles all helped to make life interesting for our armament men.

The newest and perhaps the biggest task which has faced Capt. King was the addition of rockets to the armament of our P47's. Only one P47 squadron, the 513th of XIX TAC, has used rockets so far, and the 368th Group is the first outfit in IX TAC to use them. Since there has been almost no technical advice available, a great deal of experimental work has been necessary. First we sent some planes to England to have rocket launchers installed; now the rest of the planes can be similarly equipped on the Continent. Then, in cooperation with the 365th Group, we began building a rocket range at Lake Virelles, with a 6 by 6 cone-shaped floating targets. Finally, the shortage of rockets has been critical, and each pilot must fire 28 rounds in practice before going into combat with the new weapon.

In this work, Capt. Crabtree and Lt. Criego, who have had a great deal of experience with rockets, have played important roles; but no small part of the job has been left in Capt. King's hands.

12 October 1944

BBC News 0800 12 October 1944, quote: "The assault on Aachen has been resumed following the expiration of the Allied ultimatum. Two hundred American big guns were last night shelling the city. Earlier over 300 planes had dive-bombed and machine-gunned Aachen. The German relief attempt has been smashed and enemy troops and vehicles have been seen trying to get out of the burning city."

That was our work yesterday....well, partly ours.

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE EIGHT

12 October 1944 (Cont'd)

Today we really went to work on Aachen and the neighboring town of Euskirchen, again in support of the VII Corps. We dispatched 83 planes on seven squadron missions; 56 carried 2-500 pounders each, 21 planes flew as escort and top cover, and 6 carried 2 leaflet bombs each...another "enlightenment" campaign.

The weather was generally CAVU, and we showed our appreciation by having a field day at Hitler's expense. Our first 12 planes bombed and strafed a couple of marshalling yards, destroying 7 and damaging 2 more locomotives, destroying 23 and damaging 5 freight cars. For good measure a couple of P47's bombed and strafed Euskirchen.

The second flight bombed a concentration of 15 to 20 tanks and cross-roads, as requested by the ground forces...who reported that the results were excellent. The squadron then added 3 locomotives and 50 freight cars to their bag.

After the third squadron had dropped their 500 pounders on a wooded area, as assigned by the ground forces, the fourth group of 12 planes bombed another concentration of 20-40 tanks and flew an armed recce from Eschweiler to Aldenhoven.

The fifth flight ran into bad weather and could not locate their assigned target. As a substitute they blasted a small marshalling yard, believed to be Dulkan. The 395th Squadron, flying the sixth mission of the day, provided real excitement. Hastily jettisoning their 16-500 pounders and 8 leaflet bombs on the German of the bomblines when they saw a flight of P38's in trouble, the 395th Squadron tangled with 22 plus ME109's who seemed to be looking for a fight. They got it. Capt. Mazur and Lts. Garry and Wayland each shot down a bandit, Capt. Mazur got 2 damaged and Lts. Jewkes and Wayland each one. A little comedy was furnished by a slow old JU87, the once dreaded Stuka. The pilots found this old crate trying to fly formation with their P47's and almost turned their planes inside out trying to shoot him down. Lt. Jewkes, who finally had to leave the Stuka when he ran out of ammunition, was credited with a probable: the German plane had large pieces blown off its tail and wing and was smoking badly.

We had one loss in the action. Lt. Clarence E. Allen disappeared during the dogfight and is listed MIA. A P47 was seen to crash in the vicinity of the battle, but the plane was not identified.

On our seventh and last mission the 397th bombed the center of Aachen, adding a couple of leaflet bombs to the 500 pounders.

We had our second awards ceremony in two days--and this time we rated a major general. The Commanding General of the Ninth Air Force, Maj. Gen. Vandenberg, decorated 11 pilots of the 368th Fighter Group for the part they played in the great Allied drive through France--"for heroism in attacking, destroying, and dispersing enemy planes, and for outstanding performance and leadership in tactical air support of ground support of ground forces." The individual citations will be found in Supporting Document #7.

Lt. John F. Regan, recently appointed Group Information and Education Officer, today won the title of "The Luckiest Man in the 368th Fighter Group". He will

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE NINE

12 October 1944 (Cont'd)

leave for Paris on October 14 to attend Staff School at the University of Paris--for an indefinite period! It is reported that the "period" is only a week, but a week in Paris is a week in Paris, "N'est ce pas?"

Teletype Copy, Supporting Document #7.

Special Order #121, Supporting Document #8.

13 October 1944

No, we are not superstitious. But Friday the 13th was Black Friday for us. We sustained our most serious losses in one day, when we lost Capt. Schulte and Lts. Elliot and McMillan of the 395th in a dogfight over Geilenkirchen. Capt. Schulte was seen to bail out in enemy territory, but nothing more was seen of the other pilots after the beginning of the encounter.

The bandits attacked our flight of 9 planes from 10,000 feet while our P47's were carrying bombs and looking for targets. The bombs were jettisoned east of the bombline when the FW190's and ME109's attacked. Capt. Mazur shot down one FW190 and damaged an ME109.

That was the day's second mission. On a group mission 34 planes took off at 0728 to attack pillboxes and strong points in support of the V Corps in the Aachen area. Prevented from attacking their assigned targets by a 1000 foot overcast, the planes bombed and set on fire three marshalling yards, destroyed or damaged 30 freight cars, (with resulting explosions indicating that the cars contained fuel or ammunition), scored hits on another moving train, cut rail-lines, hit a bridge and an overpass--and generally made their bombs count as much as possible. Thirteen P47's were forced to refuel at Reims before returning to A84.

On the third mission the 397th bombed and strafed gun positions but jettisoned most of their bombs (in Germany) when the controller called in enemy aircraft.

The fourth mission, assigned to the 396th, also called for the bombing of gun positions. This time the desired targets were marked by red smoke, and the bombing results were excellent.

14 October 1944

The 368th took on a job usually assigned to heavy bombers today: leveling a town. Our assignment was to support the V Corps SE of Aachen, and the ground forces asked us to bomb the town of Udenbreth. A new technique was used and worked very well: the ground forces first laid down an artillery barrage to keep the flak down and then marked the target with red smoke. Our planes dropped their 30-500 pounders right on the button; almost every building in the town was destroyed or damaged. The planes then conducted an uneventful fighter sweep from Dusseldorf to Cologne to Bonn and returned. Twenty-three planes flew on the only mission of the day, 15 carrying bombs and 8 flying top cover.

SECRET

SECRET
PAGE TEN

15 October 1944

We got 3 squadrons of 12 planes into the battle of the Westwall this morning, despite the weather. The assigned targets, in support of the 28th Infantry, were SE of Aachen; enemy bunkers, trench systems, supply dumps, command posts, and reserve troops. The weather blotted out those targets, and our P47's dropped their bombs on the towns of Gemund and Scheiden in the same general area. Forty-eight 500 pounders were dumped on the German towns, and good hits were observed. The missions were generally uneventful, but 4 planes of the 397th stayed over the Rhineland so long that they were forced to land for refueling at Cambrai before returning to A-84.

This was our fifth consecutive day of flying for the 368th, but the rain started pouring down this afternoon and it looks as if we are due to be washed out for a few days.

16 October 1944

We were briefed for a dive-bombing attack on four German airfields--at Bonn, Breitscheid, Wahn, and Ostheim; but we were washed out when the overcast liquidated about noon. By early afternoon we were released until daybreak.

~~So we settled down to grouse over our ill-luck. A teletype came in from 11 AF this morning declaring Brussels off limits. That was especially hard to take because of yesterday's promise of 24-hour passes for EM as well as officers. There are rumors that other cities--from Charleroi to Antwerp--will be substituted; but for the time being we will receive 15 hour passes to Mons.~~

The Germans reported today that Field Marshall Rommel had died of "injuries received in Normandy when his car was shot up by Allied aircraft." We really should put in a claim for him, for he could easily have been in one of the staff cars our P47's strafed in the Canisy area about the time the "Desert Fox" was reported killed--on or around August 1.

17 October 1944

Again our mission was to hit the airfields at Bonn and Breitscheid today; and again we were washed out.

The first liberty run to Mons began today, though the town was no stranger to most of us. We came through it on the way from Laon; and since it was only about 15 miles away, some of the boys had spent evening there while others had made "business" trips.

A small city of only about 25,000 it is no rival for Brussels as an entertainment center. We found it a pretty good shopping town, however, and some of us found friends who took us into their homes. There was beer and ice cream, but the night life was not what some of the boys would have liked. So the talk on the way home was of Brussels--and what an injustice it was to declare it off limits!

A few of us visited our RAF neighbors in Chievres this evening. The entertainment was a combination Anglo-American local talent show, featured by an excellent Welsh choir. The RAF QM unit were excellent hosts and supplied most of the program. Capt. Quinland of Special Services arranged three American acts and secured our invitations to the program.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE ELEVEN

18 October 1944

The rains came again today and cancelled our operations for the third straight day. For the third day, too, we were scheduled to bomb the Bonn and Breitscheid airfields. But we had a more urgent mission on which we also had to default: fighter escort for B-26's. The Heinies launched a determined counter-attack south of Aachen and our ground troops needed our help. But the weatherman refused to cooperate.

The only bright spot on the rainy day was the "re-opening" of Brussels. Passes to the Belgian capital begin again tomorrow morning, but they are not overnight passes.

19 October 1944

Hamm, the great rail center east of the Ruhr, was our target for today. We were assigned 9 rail bridges in the morning and 10 more for the afternoon, in the vicinity of Hamm and Lippstadt. The first group mission got underway, but they were forced to turn back at Aachen because of the weather. All bombs were

20 October 1944

Major Leary came back to the group today--and brought us luck. For we sent out 70 planes against the Jerries. Major Leary--who was then Capt. Leary, Group Operations Officer--left us back at Strip 3 on August 2 to work with the 3rd Armored Division. He was severely wounded in the fighting around Mortain on August 8, and was removed to the 24th Evacuation Hospital near Percy with shrapnel in the chest and leg. On August 13 he was taken to Bayeaux and sent by C47 to the 68th General Hospital at Halston Hall near Oswestry, Shropshire, England. There he recovered, received the Purple Heart, and became well acquainted with a lot of infantry officers and enlisted men, he says: but he didn't care much for the lift of an invalid. On October 14 he "escaped" and began hitch-hiking back to the 368th. He went by train to Southampton, by boat to Cherbourg, and by air to Paris, Brussels, and finally Strip 94. On arriving today he found that orders had come through for another decoration, the Bronze Star, awarded for his work with the Armored Division. (Authority: IX TAC General Order #72, Sec. I, p.2).

Our 6 squadron missions today were in support of the 9th Infantry Division of the VII Corps. We were assigned 13 targets: enemy strong points, road junctions, and supplies.

On the first mission the 395th bombed smoke-marked targets, supposedly tanks and dug-in gun positions. Then they strafed the town of Vossenack and red panels in that vicinity, by request of the Ground Forces. The squadron reported excellent bomb concentration on the target. The 396th bombed targets west of Euskirchen. Ground Forces cubs said that the results were good. One plane was damaged by heavy flak. The 397th bombed targets in the same area, marked by red and violet smoke--with excellent results. The squadron strafed in the area between the bomblines and the Koln-Koblenz stretch of the Rhine. Three locomotives were destroyed; 30 cars loaded with trucks and heavy guns were strafed and at least half of them destroyed; and two roundhouses containing about 100 cars were strafed and much general damage done. 2nd Lt. Gerald B. Kelly was last seen while attacking one of the marshalling yards, and his plane was believed hit by flak. He is listed MIA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE TWELVE

20 October 1944 (Cont'd)

To start off the afternoon's missions the 395th bombed and strafed again in the Euskirchen area, setting some fires but getting no direct hits on the assigned targets. They followed up by strafing the town of Hurtgen and a radar station in the same general area. The 396th bombed a target marked by red smoke and strafed the town of Bergstein as requested by the Ground Forces. At 1500 the squadron ran into 20 plus FW190's at 12,000 feet. The Heinies dropped their belly tanks and bombs, acting as if they wanted a fight. They got it. Lt. Col. Douglas shot down three and damaged another, Lt. Kennedy got one and damaged another, Lt. Howie got one destroyed and one probable, and Lt. Olson shot one FW190 down and destroyed an ME109 on the ground. We had no losses in the air battle, but we had one MIA due to flak. 2nd Lt. Rupert B. Maxwell was seen to bail out of his burning P47 over Mayen.

The 397th jettisoned their bombs safe over the battlelines west of Euskirchen when enemy planes were called in. They saw plenty of bandits--40 ME109's and two groups of about 12 FW190's each--but the bandits didn't want to fight and were lost in the overcast, heading east. Our P47's finally got some bandits but the Heinies ran too fast and our planes made no claims.

Special Order #125, Supporting Document #10

21 October 1944

Seventy-one P47's got into the air today on an armed reconnaissance assignment to Heinsberg, Dusseldorf, Hitdorf, Aachen, and back to Heinsberg. Six squadron missions were flown, with 8 planes carrying bombs and 4 flying top cover on each mission.

The 396th took off first in the morning and bombed gun and mortar emplacements north of Geilenkirchen, the target being requested by the Ground Forces and marked with red smoke. The bombing results were very good. The 397th bombed a large factory which seemed to be a very busy place--but it was a very sad wreck when our P47's left. One pilot nailed a locomotive pulling cars south of Euskirchen. The 395th bombed and strafed a couple of trains near Duren, but the damage was difficult to judge.

Again leading off in the afternoon, the 396th first tried to bomb gun positions for the Ground Forces but were unable to see the smoke used in marking the target. They finally settled for a couple of factories and a warehouse which were thoroughly blasted by good hits. Though our planes were looking for Jerry a/c all day, only the 397th found any--on their afternoon mission. They jettisoned their bombs on Munchen-Gladback when they saw 20 plus FW190's preparing to attack P38's. The bandits tried to evade combat, but Lts. Murphy and Stoll are credited with one probably destroyed. Lt. Vernon is listed MIA after he bailed out of his plane over the battle line north of Aachen. His P47 was believed hit by friendly flak.

The 395th had difficulty in getting together with the Ground Forces as they tried to bomb a target marked by red smoke. The rest of the bombs were dropped, with good effect, on a factory and a gun position.

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PAGE THIRTEEN

22 October 1944

Lt. Cols. Douglas and Gorrell flew to South Cernay, England, in our C-78 today and brought back Lt. Col. Quimby whom we last saw when he took off from Strip #3 on August 4. He carried his arm in a sling today and didn't look his old self--but back on August 4 most of us didn't ever expect to see him again after his squadron returned with an account of his crash.

Lt. Col. Quimby--then 395th Squadron CO-- was forced to belly-land his plane in a field near the battle lines in the Mortain area on October 4, when his P47 was badly clobbered by flak on a bombing and strafing run. He first tried to bail out at 1500-2000 feet, but his plane went into a spin and he had to climb back into the cockpit and straighten the plane out. Since it was then too low to jump, he brought his P47 down in a field, aiming it at what looked like an opening in the hedgerow. But the plane hit a tree, and Col. Quimby was very nearly killed. He was semi-conscious, suffering from a cerebral concussion, multiple lacerations of the scalp and both legs, and his right arm was broken and burned. French civilians took him out of the burning plane, put him on a bed for him--and filled him with cognac! Capt. Leary found him at this point but had to leave when his tank column moved on. Col. Quimby was taken to an evacuation hospital right behind the front lines; he was unconscious for 24 hours.

Lt. Cols. Perego and Gorrell and Major Davis found him at the hospital the following day, just after he had been operated on. Engineers were still clearing mines from the fields and snipers were being rounded up, but the hospital had 450 patients--including Col. Quimby. Several days later he was flown to England, to the 11th General Hospital at South Cernay, about 40 miles from Bristol. On October 22 Lt. Cols. Douglas and Gorrell flew to South Cernay in our C-78 and brought Lt. Col. Quimby back to the group; he had a 2-day pass to London!

Our mission looked good today -- a fighter sweep from Eupen to Bonn to Siegen to Giessen to Limburg to Bonn, but we never got off the ground.

The group lost a familiar figure today when Major Kroencke, First Army Liaison Officer who has been with us since last April, left for Gosselies to take up new duties with the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Group.

23 October 1944

We were briefed to cut rails today, but the heavy fog and solid overcast stopped that.

With no chance to do anything, we decided to tell the world about some of the things we have been doing recently. So the group sent Lt. Col. Douglas, Major Sparks, and Lt. Olson to SHAEF Press Headquarters in Paris, in the tender care of T/Sgt Don Facka, Group Public Relations man. During the next two days the pilots will tell of our encounters with the Luftwaffe; Lt. Col. Douglas and Lt. Olson will describe their hair-raising experiences of the 21st. Major Sparks is to speak of our tactical missions on the First Army front, especially our rail-cutting experiences. Besides appearing before press conference, the three pilots are scheduled for radio broadcasts to the U.S.

Special Order #126, Supporting Document #11.

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PAGE FOURTEEN

24 October 1944

We got the same rail-cutting mission back today, and again the weather kept us on the ground.

Today we get a preview of what the future holds in store for us. Though our progress has been agonizingly slow in recent weeks, the High Command doesn't seem to be particularly worried about the final outcome. A memorandum dated October 21 reads: "All personnel of squadrons and attached units will attend lectures on Conduct in Occupied Germany by Capt. J. Luria, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, on October 24, 1944". We got the idea that our social life would have to be drastically curtailed in the Fatherland, that everything and everywhere would be off-limits, that it will be safer to travel in platoons--or at least squads, and that we would have to get used to packing guns, be quick on the draw, and shoot straight. Oh, well, the place will probably look like one big junk pile when we get there anyway.

IX TAC headquarters today, when a Belgian civilian car drove out in front of them from a side road. Lt. Doris was sent to the hospital for about a week with lacerations and concussion of the head, and Lt. Gonder has several stitches taken in a cut on the head. The jeep suffered, too.

We welcomed one of our "charter members" back to the group today. When the 368th Fighter Group was organized back at Westover Field on June 3, 1943, Lt. Hugh P. Matthews was a pilot in the 396th Squadron. But just before the 368th left for the ETO, Lt. Matthews was transferred to the 320th Fighter Squadron at Mitchell Field. Later he became a member of the Air Base Unit--a gunnery school for P47 pilots--at Suffolk Army Air Base. But when Col. Meyers sent a letter requesting Matthews for his group, the Lieutenant put the letter through channels and was soon on his way to join us. On October 1 he arrived in Scotland and today came back to his old group. He has been assigned to the 395th Squadron (and he got into combat within a week!).

25 October 1944

The same rail-cutting mission came back to use, and we did just as well as we did yesterday--nothing.

Back home we can tell that winter is coming when the farmers bank up their houses and put on the storm windows. We can't use that weather gauge here, but each day these last couple of weeks another tent or two has acquired a door. Even the shower tent has one now, and many of the personnel tents. Hauling coal from Charleroi has become another of the less pleasant duties which the cold weather has brought on. With a good coal fire going, we can keep pretty comfortable, however--if the wind isn't blowing too hard. Now if we could invent an automatic stoker so we can keep a fire going all night without getting up, we might have less trouble getting up on these cold mornings.

We acquired a new ALO today, Capt. William E. Davis, formerly with the 370th Group. His experiences include being on field duty at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

SECRET

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PAGE FIFTEEN

26 October 1944

This is getting monotonous, but we were assigned to our same old mission for the fourth straight day--and we were shut out by the weatherman for the fourth straight time.

In the meantime our representatives were doing very well in Paris. Lt. Col. Douglas and Major Sparks gave the representatives of the world press a real picture of the "development, use, and tactics of fighter-bombers." Lt. Col. Douglas broadcast to the U.S. on the Blue Network Coca Cola program, telling of his October 20th encounter with the Jerries when he shot down 3 bandits and damaged another--and brought his plane back to Strip 84, although there was enough things wrong with it to fill a T.O. volume! Lt. Olson also appeared on the Coca-Cola program with an account of his exploits on the same day when he destroyed an ME109 on the ground, shot down an FW190, and when he ran out of gas while eluding 4 Jerries on his way home, bellied his plane into a ploughed field and returned unharmed. All three pilots made recordings for their home

The Ninth Air Force was "most pleased" with the performance, which reflects "great credit upon the Ninth Air Force and is deserving of highest praise". They also add that "special commendation is due to 1/Sgt DON FACKS who...was of invaluable assistance." So we are good!

Our new ALO Capt. Davis, found us a rather rough outfit. In our second jeep accident of the week, he suffered a broken wrist and was taken to an RAF hospital at Ghent where he will remain for a few days. The other occupants of the jeep, Its. Courtright and Blagen, got off with severe bruises--but the jeep wasn't so lucky.

IX AF Letter--Subject: Report on Public Relations Activities (26 Oct 44), Supporting Document #14.

27 October 1944

We didn't even hold a briefing today--but it was the same old rail-cutting mission anyway.

Our chief accomplishment was setting up a Base PX for units assigned and attached to the 368th Fighter Group--another sign that we are settling down to sweat it out here...maybe all winter! Because of his new job as Education and Information Officer, Lt. Regan was relieved of his duties as Post Exchange Officer; he has been replaced by 2nd Lt. Milton Leon. A large tent was set up in the Group Headquarters area for a PX. Now is they can fill it with merchandise, we won't have any francs left to spend in Brussels or Mons.

Special Orders #128, Supporting Document #15.

28 October 1944

At long last, just a week after we first got the assignment, we finally went to work on that rail-cutting mission. Our first group mission dive-bombed the tracks and bridges of the "Green System" in the vicinity of Duren, our 18 tons of bombs cutting the tracks in 5 places and destroying a factory. Then we sandwiched in a 7-plane radar calibration mission to Koln before sending 36 more planes to work on the vital Duren rail line. The targets must be vital:

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PAGE SIXTEEN28 October 1944 (Cont'd)

AFTER SEVEN DAYS WHEN FLYING WAS IMPOSSIBLE, WE STILL GOT THE SAME TARGETS TO work on when we did get back into the air! And the tremendous flak concentration along the railroad indicates that the Wehrmacht also considered the line important. Our second group mission dropped only 12 tons of bombs on the rail system, for we had some leaflet bombs to "circulate". But we cut the tracks again and hit a bridge with our 500-pounders. This time the flak took its toll: F/O M.H. Hardy of the 397th failed to return after making his dive-bombing run and is listed MIA.

The 368th pilots began their training in the use of rockets today. Under the direction of Major Leary, 4-plane flights will continue to take their practice shots at the Lake Virelles rocket range, while the work of equipping all of our P47's to carry rockets continues. While this does not mean that our planes will no longer carry bombs, the rockets will be used against the smaller, more important targets such as tanks. Thus, our group will have three weapons: 500-pounders for accuracy but less explosive force is required, and finally strafing by the P47's .50 caliber machine guns for lesser targets.

Lt. Col. Quimby finally got back to his hospital in England today--4 days. The weather had closed in and kept all aircraft on the ground at Strip 8, just after he arrived, so the Colonel had 6 days with his old group instead of 2. Lt. Col. Haesler took him back to South Cernay in the C-78; Major Davis went along to try to get Lt. Col. Quimby back to the U.S. He reports that papers were started today.

Capt. M.D. Powell acquired a new job today: he was appointed Group Claims Officer. Special Order #129, Supporting Document #16.

29 October 1944

Today's mission looked rather uneventful on the Oprep Summary. But the figures, though not spectacular, indicate that the Duren--Cologne area wasn't much improved by the day's work. Seventy-two P47's dropped 144--500 pounders on railroads, bridges, and tunnels of "Line F" in the vicinity of Bruck; good hits were observed on all targets.

30 October 1944

The weather closed in again today and cut out latest string of flying days at 2. Our assignment was a group recce mission in the Cologne area; and although we held an early briefing, it never came off. We had an even more interesting, highly secret mission on tap--but we didn't even reach the briefing stage with that one.

But we weren't entirely unhappy today. Some of our boys caught a detail: it turned out that their job was to clean out barracks for us to occupy. They report that we will have very good stone buildings, central heating, plumbing (indoors!!), and double-decker BEDS! Of course, we'll have well over a mile walk to our headquarters area, but right now the prospect of living in buildings again over shadows any insignificant drawback like that.

I wonder if we'll know how to act???

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SECRET

PAGE SEVENTEEN

31 October 1944

We were grounded on the last day of the month, and our percentage of flying days was forced below 500. We got into the air 15 days out of 31--which really isn't bad for this part of the year and this part of the world. Our hopes of being home by Christmas were pretty completely shattered, though Aachen had been taken and we knew that the pressure on Germany was continuing on all fronts. We were getting pretty well winterized and getting ready to take over buildings for living quarters; thus, on several counts, we seemed certain to be here for a while, perhaps for the whole winter. And most of us were facing the prospect more cheerfully than anyone would have predicted a couple of months ago.

Since the Luftwaffe decided to come out and fight, we nearly doubled our totals of enemy planes destroyed or damaged during the past month. On October 1 the score read 41-5-24; on October 31 it was 77-17-38;

But at the end of the month the rumors persisted that our group commander Col. ~~Walter J. ...~~ had become semi-official--and not only Col. Meyers but Major Randall Hendricks, 397th CO, is also due to go up to TAG.

SECRET

copy
HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army,
5 October 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Commanding Officer, Headquarters Detachment, APO 595, U.S. Army
395th Fitr Sq
396th Fitr Sq
397th Fitr Sq

1. Capt MEREDITH W. HENRY, 0786688, AC. Hq 368th Fighter Gp, is transferred to the 396th Fitr Sq.

2. Capt CARLOS M. TALBOTT, 025797, AC. 397th Fitr Sq, is transferred to Hq 368th Fitr Gp.

3. Capt CLIFFORD L. GAMBLE, 0676776, AC. 395th Fitr Sq, is attached to Hq 368th Fitr Gp for duty only.

By order of Colonel MILLERS:

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

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army
6 October 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBR 119)

1. The following named officers are placed on TD for a period of approx ten (10) days, will proceed from this sta o/a 6 October 1944 to 3rd Armored Division reporting to Major Brody on matters pertaining to this command. Upon completion of this TD, they will ret to proper sta and orgn. TDM by MP, mil acct or rail.
Auth: TVX IX TAC 0148C.

1st Lt NORMAN H. FRISBIE 026336 AC

~~2. Pvt (900) George Sivetz, 320/2025, 395th ITR Sq, is placed on DS for an indefinite period with 555th Sig A W Bn, will proceed fr this sta o/a 6 Oct 1944 to HQ IX TAC reporting upon arrival to Capt Hudson at Command Signal Office. Upon completion of this temp dy EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDM by MP. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: VCOG, IX TAC.~~

3. Pvt (900) George Sivetz, 320/2025, 395th ITR Sq, is placed on DS for an indefinite period with 555th Sig A W Bn, will proceed fr this sta o/a 6 Oct 1944 to HQ IX TAC reporting upon arrival to Capt Hudson at Command Signal Office. Upon completion of this temp dy EM will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDM by MP. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: VCOG, IX TAC.

4. The following named officers are granted five (5) days operational leave will proceed from this station to Station 519 UK so as to arrive thereat o/a 8 Oct 1944 reporting to the Regulating Station for registration upon arrival. Period of leave will commence upon arrival at Station 519 and terminate upon return to that station for return transportation to their proper orgn. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: Ltr, HQ IX TAC, file 210,711, dtd 21 July 1944, subj: "Operational Leave Policy." TDM by mil acct or rail.

1st Lt HOWARD W. JENSEN 0805630 AC
1st Lt EUGENE L. KESTING 0805638 AC
1st Lt ALEXANDER E. LECLOUE 0805642 AC
2d Lt KENNETH H. SNEYDER 0597061 AC
2d Lt JAMES E. STOVER 0722052 AC

5. The following named officers are granted five (5) days operational leave will proceed from this station to Station 519 UK so as to arrive thereat o/a 8 October 1944 reporting to the Regulating Station for registration upon arrival. Period of leave will commence upon arrival at Station 519 and terminate upon return to that station for return transportation to their proper orgn. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: Ltr, HQ IX TAC file 210,711, dtd 21 July 1944, subj: "Operational Leave Policy." TDM by mil acct, MP, or rail.

RESTRICTED

SO 119, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, dtd 6 Oct 1944
Par 5 Cont'd.

1st Lt	HENRY L. OLSON	0815376	AC
2d Lt	HAROLD E. GLAZIER	0815682	AC
2d Lt	IRVEN F. MILLER	0820546	AC
2d Lt	CURTIS H. STEVENS	0701192	AC
2d Lt	KENNETH L. WILCOX	0887225	AC
1st Lt	ROY D. CARLSON	0678830	AC
2d Lt	EDGAR R. BAKER	0763829	AC
2d Lt	ROBERT D. CASSADY	0887230	AC
2d Lt	FREDERICK C. STOLL JR	0615417	AC
2d Lt	KENNETH E. KALEN	0770302	AC
2d Lt	WILLIAM M. PRESTON	0695202	AC
1st Lt	WALTER E. SWIRSKI	0752454	AC

6. Capt (1055) CARLOS M. TALBOTT, 025797, AC, is aptd Asst Gp Operations Officer, princ duty.

7. 1st Lt (KAC) JOSEPH E. BAUMFIELD, 0650369, AC, is aptd as awards and decorations officer, (AD).

8. The 2137th Engr Avn Bn F/F Platoon is relieved of duty for rations by 397th Ftr Sq.

9. The 2137th Engr Avn Bn F/F Platoon is atchd to 397th Ftr Sq for rations only.

10. So much of par 5, SO 118, this Hq, as reads "for a period of approx ten (10) days" is amended to read "for an indefinite period."

11. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 117, Hq 70th Ftr Gp, dtd 27 Sept 1944, Cpl (2756) John R. Bernard, 37451374, is further asgd 397th Ftr Sq.

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

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

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

DISTRIBUTION 44

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO #9, US 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 own 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

3 3

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, USA
Commanding

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, VII CORPS, APO 307, U.S. ARMY, 20 OCT 1944

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

THRU: Commanding General, IX Tactical Air 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

CONFIDENTIAL

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. G. Kincaid
Brig Gen, USA
Chief of Staff

TRUE COPY:

HUGH I. RICE
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
IX FORTION, AIR CORPUS

COPY

SECRET
Dist: OC IN TIC
Date: 3 Oct 44
Dist:

AFC 595, U S Army
2 October 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER153)

EXTRACT

1. Pursuant to the auth contained in Par 2b, Secret Itr, HQ United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Subj: "Combat Crew Rehabilitation Policy", dated 2 August 1944, and Secret TTX Ninth Air Force (rear) S3940, dated 19 September 1944, OCL AMINUR G. SALISBURY, O5F3598 AC, is reld fr asgmt 2/ HQ IX Tac Air Comd, asgd, WF 12th Repl Control Depot, Sta 591 to await transportation to the 21 by air. EDM by RT, all asgt or rail. 60-105 P 431-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 431-02 A 212/50425.

ALPategic Air Forces in Europe, Subj: "Combat Crew Rehabilitation Policy"

367th Fighter Group

368th Fighter Group

CAPT CLIFFORD L GAMBLE	0670776 AC	CAPT LEE R. STANDIFER JR	0428428 AC
CAPT JOSEPH J McLACHLAN	0668244 AC	CAPT CHARLES A. ROMINE	0665447 AC
CAPT JOHN H LOUGER	0798317 AC	1ST LT RICHARD KIM JR	0715414 AC
1ST LT ALBERT I LARSEN	067706A AC	1ST LT MARVIN S ROSSJORD	0880085 AC
		1ST LT GEORGE I SUTSLIFFE	0641739 AC

370th Fighter Group

474th Fighter Group

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Itr HQ European T of Opns USA, 24 May 1944)

By command of Major General QUESADA:

A C. KIRCAID,
Brig Gen, USA,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/ A.S. Fetterman
A.S. FETTERMAN
Capt, Air Corps,
Asst Adj General

SECRET

4

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

N-SK

AFC 696, US Army
26 September 1944.

014.55

SUBJECT: Voting--The Federal Ballot

TO : Commanding General, All Commands, Ninth Air Force
Commanding Officer, All Separate Units, Ninth Air Force

1. Commanding officers are reminded that it is their responsibility to give all military personnel and attached civilians in their command, who are qualified and who desire to vote the Federal Ballot, adequate assistance and opportunity, and to keep the necessary record and make the necessary reports. This opportunity to vote must be afforded if the individual is able to prepare, send, and receive personal mail.

It is not the responsibility of the Army to determine an individual's eligibility to vote. However, the responsibility for notifying the Federal Ballot is the responsibility of the voting officer. The voter must be a citizen (21 years of age by 7 November 1944, Georgia--eighteen (18) years).

b. The voter must have applied for a State Absentee Ballot by 1 September 1944, and have failed to receive said absentee ballot by 1 October 1944.

c. The voter must be from one of the twenty (20) states which authorize the use of the Federal Ballot.

3. Procedure.

a. A date or dates will be fixed by all company and similar unit commanders between 2 October 1944, and 15 October 1944, on which personnel will be given an opportunity to vote. It is suggested that 9 October 1944, be fixed by all responsible commanders for the purpose of uniformity. Adequate notification of the chosen date or dates will be given by a notice published on the bulletin board and other publications.

b. Personnel will not be marched to the voting place.

c. Facilities to vote in secret will be provided.

d. No one will be forced or urged to vote.

e. Opportunity to vote subsequent to the designated date or dates and prior to 7 November 1944, will be given to all personnel unable to vote on the designated date or dates.

4. Records--Company and similar unit commanders will maintain the following records:

a. The number of Federal Balloting Units received.

b. The number of Federal Balloting Units distributed by the voting officer, with the name of each individual receiving such ballot and date of receipt.

5 5

c. The number of Federal Ballots executed by Personnel within their respective jurisdictions.

d. The number of Federal Ballots transmitted to the Army Postal Officer.

e. The number of executed Federal Balloting Units destroyed.

f. The number of unused Federal Balloting Units destroyed.

5. Reports.

a. Action by Soldier Voting Officer. The Soldier Voting Officer, after receiving the executed ballots from voters, will separate them alphabetically by state of address and turn them over to the APO serving his unit.

b. The Federal Ballot will not be opened or subjected to any type of unit or base censorship.

Agencies at this Headquarters will report to this Headquarters the information mentioned in 4, above.

7. Voting materiel and directives. During past several months, many directives on voting have been distributed. These are to be assimilated by the voting officer. Particular attention, however, is directed to the following for guidance:

a. WD Pamphlet Number 21-11, dated 5 June 1944, Subject: Manual for Soldier Voting;

b. Circular Number 238, WD, 13 June 1944;

c. Letter, AG 014.35 XGA, European Theater of Operations, USA, dated 14 July 1944, Subject: Soldier Voting in November General Election....;

d. Letter, 014,35, HQ, Ninth Air Force, dtd, 5 Sept 44, War Ballot Information;

e. Circular Number 302, WD, 17 July 1944.

8. Commanding officers will immediately, upon receipt of this publication, disseminate same to their voting officers.

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

s/ Harry E. Koch
HARRY E. KOCH
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant Adj General

1 Incl - Model Form, Record
of Federal Balloting Units

DISTRIBUTION: "C"

SO 116, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, dtd 27 Sept 1944, par 3 cont'd.

Capt	CHARLES W. ROHLING	0665447	AC
1st Lt	IRVING OSTW	0680065	AC
1st Lt	JOHN M. LOEB	0681684	AC
1st Lt	JERRY B. TULLIS	0668668	AC
1st Lt	GEORGE R. DAVIS	0679837	AC
2d Lt	LESLIE G. HANSEN	0887226	AC
2d Lt	WILLIAM G. DIXON	0706367	AC
2d Lt	GEORGE L. MYERS	0770103	AC

4. The following named officers are granted five (5) days operational leave will proceed from this station to Station 519 UK so as to arrive thereat o/a 30 Sept 1944 reporting to the Regulating Station for registration upon arrival. Period of leave will commence upon arrival at Station 519 and terminate upon return to this station. This information is being furnished to the appropriate authorities for their information and 60-136 432-02 A 212, 50425. Auth: Ltr. Hq 368th Ftr Gp, file 210, 711, dtd 21 July 1944.

2d Lt	JOHN A. HELLIESEN	0215332	AC
2d Lt	GEORGE L. BAUER	0704660	AC
2d Lt	JACK F. BLAGINI	0615641	AC

5. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, and upon the recommendation of their organization commander, the following named enlisted men, 396th Ftr Sq, are reduced to the grade of private, for misconduct:

S Sgt (911)	Clarence N. Fowler	1413389
S Sgt (911)	John C. Wood Jr	14053200
Cpl (060)	Robert E. Sanderson	34357229

6. 1st Lt JOHN F. HEGAN, 0569887, AC, is held as Asst Special Services Officer, princ duty.

7. In compliance with Ltr WD TAG Office, file AG 320.3, dtd 24 Aug 1944, subj: "Information - Education Personnel in Table of Organization and Equipment Units," 1st Lt JOHN F. HEGAN, 0569887, AC, is aptd Gp Information and Education Officer, princ duty.

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

Maurice D. Powell
MAURICE D. POWELL,
1st Lieut, Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

MAURICE D. POWELL,
1st Lieut, Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

- 2 -

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AIR MEDAL AWARDS

The following roster is compiled from a number of Ninth Air Force General Orders listing 365th Fighter Group pilots who have been awarded the Air Medal:

395th Fighter Squadron

1st. Lt. Marion W. L. Elliott	1st. Lt. James M. Ivey
2nd. Lt. Marcus L. Aldridge	2nd. Lt. Charles R. Earls
2nd. Lt. Charles R. Foltz	2nd. Lt. Joseph D. Gianetti
2nd. Lt. Dale I. Jenkes	2nd. Lt. Walter R. Johnson
2nd. Lt. Nealy C. Rieman	2nd. Lt. Eugene R. Smith
2nd. Lt. Kenneth R. Sander	2nd. Lt. Louis L. Wieck
2nd. Lt. Robert L. Wagoner	
2nd. Lt. Leslie G. Hansen	2nd. Lt. Boyd E. Johnson
2nd. Lt. John R. Knause	2nd. Lt. Earl L. Kielgass
2nd. Lt. Rupert B. Maxwell	2nd. Lt. Irvin F. Miller
2nd. Lt. George P. Ohlman	2nd. Lt. Albert A. Schnedler
2nd. Lt. Curtis H. Stevens	2nd. Lt. Theodore O. Taubert
2nd. Lt. George L. Waegener	2nd. Lt. Kenneth L. Wilcox
2nd. Lt. Joseph S. Busenbark	2nd. Lt. Robert L. Wagoner

397th Fighter Squadron

1st. Lt. Nerman H. Frisbie	2nd. Lt. Edgar R. Baker
2nd. Lt. Eob V. Barker	2nd. Lt. George L. Bauer
2nd. Lt. Milton S. Bender	2nd. Lt. Robert D. Cassady
2nd. Lt. James E. Fauley	2nd. Lt. Roland C. Potter
2nd. Lt. William A. Preston	2nd. Lt. Milton A. Weinstein
2nd. Lt. Jack F. Biagini	2nd. Lt. Vernon O. Fein
2nd. Lt. James P. Hogan	F/O John C. Bauer
F/O Michael T. Hardy	

17

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. ARMY
12 October 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 121)

1. 1st Lt JOHN F. REGAN, 0569807, AC, is placed on TD for an indefinite period, will proceed fr this sta o/a 14 Oct 1944 to Paris, France, to attend Information Education Officer Staff School at University of Paris. Upon completion of this TD, O will ret to prop orgn and sta. TDN by mil acft or rail. 60-105 P 432-02 A

The following named officers are placed on TD for a period of nine (9) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 13 Sept 1944 to Burtonwood, UK, on matters pertaining to this command. Upon completion of this temp dy, they will ret to prop orgn and sta. TDN by mil acft.

Where Govt qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs are not to exceed 4.00 dollars per day and per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd while in travel status, in accordance w/par 2, Cir 63, Hq European T of Opns USA, 5 June 1944. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

Per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd in accordance with par 4, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Reg No 30-3, 29 June 1944. 60-136 p 410-01 A 212/50200.

Capt MARSHALL E. MUMAW	0732315	AC
Capt NORMAN E. SCHULTE	0574075	AC
1st Lt DONALD H. HUFF	0681673	AC
1st Lt EUGENE L. KESTING	0805698	AC
1st Lt RICHARD KIK JR	0745414	AC
1st Lt WILLIAM J. GERRY	0679356	AC
2d Lt CLARENCE E. ALLEN	0693095	AC
2d Lt LOUIS L. VIERK	0752156	AC
2d Lt HOLER E. HAYS	0815351	AC

3. The VOCO 368th Ftr Gp of 13 Sept 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record;

The following named officers are placed on TD for a period of nine (9) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 13 Sept 1944 to Burtonwood, UK, on matters pertaining to this command. Upon completion of this temp dy, they will ret to prop orgn and sta. TDN by mil acft.

Where Govt qrs and subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of qrs are not exceed 4.00 dollars per day and per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd while in a travel status, in accordance w/par 2, Cir 63, Hq European T of Opns USA, 5 June 1944. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

SO 121, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, dtd 12 Oct 1944
Par 3 Cont'd.

Per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd in accordance with Par 4, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Reg No 30-3, 29 June 1944. 60-136 P 410-01 A 212/50200.

Major	THOMAS J. ANDREWS	0885121	AC
1st Lt	WALTER G. LOUGHARY	0802321	AC
1st Lt	OLIVER S. RYERSON	0680685	AC
2d Lt	LOUIS D. HAMILTON	0745369	AC
2d Lt	ROBERT H. HOWIE	0697202	AC
2d Lt	BOYD E. JOHNSON	0766544	AC
2d Lt	ALBERT A. SCHNEIDLER	0702845	AC
2d Lt	JOHN W. STRICKLAND	0697063	AC

4. The WOCO 368th Ftr Gp of 16 Sept 1944, under exigencies which prevented the following named officers are placed on TD for a period of one (1) day.

Per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd while in 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 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

Per diem of 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd in accordance with Par 4, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Reg No 30-3, 29 June 1944. 60-136 P 410-01 A 212/50200.

Capt	JOHN H. LOUGHE	0798317	AC
1st Lt	HENRY B. HAMILTON	0805617	AC
1st Lt	JOHN F. FOLTZ	0745337	AC
1st Lt	MARVIN J. ROYVOLD	0680683	AC
2d Lt	ROBERT D. CASSADY	0887230	AC
2d Lt	GEORGE L. LAUER	0704660	AC
2d Lt	MANUEL K. SOO	0815497	AC
2d Lt	VERNON B. MURPHY	0697223	AC

5. Major FERNANDO J. FERNANDEZ, 0416291, AC, is placed on TD for an indefinite period, will proceed fr this sta o/a 14 Oct 1944 to Hq Ninth Air Force reporting upon arrival to Col Moise, A-1, for purpose of interview. Upon completion of this TD, O will ret to prop orgn and sta. TSN by mil acft, MT or rail. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425, and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: WOXI 70th Ftr Wing.

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth cont ined in Ltr Hq ETOUSA, 24 May 1944).

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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12 October 1944.

TELETYPE COPY

GENERAL VANDENBERG TODAY DECORATED THE FOLLOWING PILOTS OF THE GROUP COMMANDED BY COLONEL GILBERT L. MEYERS:

MAJOR RANDALL W. HENDRICKS, YOUNGSTOWN OHIO, DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS FOR HEROISM ON JUNE 12 WHEN HE LED FOUR PLANE ATTACK ON FIFTEEN ENEMY PLANES ATTEMPTING TO BOMB BRITISH GROUND TROOPS NEAR CAEN. ATTACK DISPERSED ENEMY FORMATION BEFORE REACHING TARGET AND IN ENSUING ENCOUNTER MAJOR HENDRICKS SHOT DOWN FOUR ENEMY PLANES AND DAMAGED A FIFTH. DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS FOR LEADERSHIP OF TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT OF GROUND FORCES IN FRANCE IN SUCH MANNER AS TO INFLICT MAXIMUM DAMAGE UPON ENEMY.

CAPTAIN ALFRED E. BENTON, 1700 EUCLID AVENUE, SAN MARINO, CALIF SILVER STAR FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION ON 7 AUGUST 1944 IN WHICH HE LED FLIGHT OF FOUR PLANES IN SUPPORT OF THIRTY PLANES SEEKING TO DIVE BOMB AMERICAN POSITIONS DURING DISPERSING ATTACK, DESTROYING ONE ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

OTHER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSSES WERE AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE TO MAJOR HAROLD P. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], KENTUCKY, CAPTAIN ROY. L. BOWLIN 33 NORTHUMBERLAND ROAD, ROCKFORD, ILL., CAPTAIN MARSHAL E. MUMFORD, JOHNSTOWN, PA., CAPTAIN NORMAN E. SCHULTE, DAFUR, MINN., CAPTAIN CLARENCE E. STATON, PETERSBURG, ILL., CAPTAIN CARLOS TALBOTT, CHARLESTON, ILL. FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT E. CALDWELL, ROSEVILLE, CALIF, FIRST LIEUTENANT WAYNE H. DRISCOLL, 710 EAST GANSON ST., JACKSON, MICH., FIRST LIEUTENANT DAVID M. SHARP, 106 NORTH WEBBER ST. URBANA, ILL.

99

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army
21 October 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 125)

1. The following named officers are granted two (2) days operational leave, will proceed fr this sta c/a 22 October 1944 to Paris, France, reporting upon arrival to American Red Cross Club (Rainbow Corner), 8 Boulevard de la Madeleine. Upon completion of this leave O's will ret to proper orgn and sta, EDDN by MT. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

AUTH: Ltr, 9AF, file 220,711, subj: "Rest and Recuperation Leaves for Combat Crew Personnel," dated 10 Oct 1944, and teletype IX TAC, 0303C, dtd 10 Oct 1944:

Capt HENRY J. MAZUR	025703	AC	(In Charge)
1st Lt JOSEPH L. WILLIAMS	0676655	AC	
2d Lt JOSEPH D. GIANETTI	0818367	AC	
2d Lt CHARLES E. RIFE	0837235	AC	
2d Lt WILLIAM J. WAYLAND	0818470	AC	
1st Lt WALTER G. LOUGHARY	0802321	AC	
1st Lt GEORGE W. PERRIE	0668355	AC	
2d Lt LOUIS D. HAMILTON	0745369	AC	
2d Lt JOHN W. STRICKLAND	0697063	AC	
2d Lt BOYD E. JOHNSON	0766544	AC	
2d Lt ROBERT M. PACE	0770112	AC	
1st Lt EDWARD W. DAME	0745312	AC	
1st Lt HENRY B. HAMILTON	0805617	AC	
1st Lt WILLIAM C. OLDEN	0796316	AC	
2d Lt JAMES F. HOGAN	0767237	AC	

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 7, SO 168, Hq IX TAC, dated 19 Oct 1944, 2d Lt (4823) JAMES E. PHILBRICK, 0691287, AC, is further asgd 396th Ftr Sq.

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 13, SO 292, Hq 9AF, dated 18 Oct 1944, Major (2161) RICHARD E. LEARY, 0900694, AC, is further asgd Hq 368th Ftr Gp and aptd Asst Gp Operations Officer, princ duty.

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, 24 May 1944).

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army
23 October 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 126)

1. The following named officers are placed on TD for two (2) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 23 October 1944 to Paris, France, reporting to Colonel Knuckles, 9 AF Public Relations Office, Scribe Hotel, on matters pertaining to this command. Upon completion of this TD, O's will ret to prop orgn and sta, TDN by RT, mil acct or rail. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: VCCG, Ninth Air Force.

Lt Col PAUL R. DOUGLAS JR	0432187	AC
Major HAROLD F. STARKS	0432726	AC
1st Lt HENRY L. OLSON	0815376	AC

2. The following named officers are granted two (2) days operational leave, will proceed fr this sta o/a 24 October 1944 to Paris, France, reporting upon arrival to American Red Cross Club (Rainbow Corner), 8 Boulevard de la Madeleine. Upon completion of this leave O's will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDN by RT, 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

AUTH: Ltr, 9 AF, file 220.711, subj: "Rest and Recuperation Leaves for Combat Crew Personnel," dated 10 Oct 1944, and teletype IX TAC, 0903C dtd 10 Oct 1944:

Capt RUSSELL A. O'CONNELL	0732326	AC	(In charge)
1st Lt HARRY C. ROGAL	0681725	AC	
2d Lt GEORGE L. LUDER	0704660	AC	
2d Lt JOHN A. HELLGREN	0815372	AC	
2d Lt JACK F. BLAGINI	0815641	AC	
2d Lt JOE R. BURNBY	0745238	AC	
1st Lt JAMES W. EARLY	0745226	AC	
1st Lt FERREST D. MIDLAM	0681585	AC	
2d Lt DALE L. JEWERS	0817957	AC	
2d Lt CHARLES R. FOLTZ	01995935	AC	
2d Lt KENNETH D. FASTER	0770380	AC	
2d Lt ROBERT H. HOWLE	0697202	AC	
2d Lt RICHARD J. FOX	0615679	AC	
2d Lt RICHARD C. COX	0702770	AC	

3. Capt STANLEY C. JOHNSON JR, 0563430, AC, is appointed Investigating Officer to investigate Courts-Martial charges against Pvt Elwatta M. Manley, 34536252, 345th Ftr Sq. Complete report of investigation on WD AGC Form 120 will be submitted to this Hq in triplicate.

SO 126, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, dtd 23 Oct 1944, Cont'd.

4. T/Sgt (274) Donald A. Facka, 37444287, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, is placed on TD for two (2) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 23 October 1944 to Paris, France, reporting to Colonel Knuckles, 9 AF Public Relations Office, Scribe Hotel, on matters pertaining to this command. Upon completion of this TD, EM will ret to prop orgn and sta. TDN by ME, mil acft or rail. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: VCOG, Ninth Air Force.

5. So much of par 1, SO 125, this Hq, cs, as pertains to Capt HENRY J. MAZUR, 025703, AC, 2d Lt JOSEPH D. GLANETTI, 0818367, AC, 1st Lt GEORGE W. PETRIE, 0668355, AC, 2d Lt LOUIS L. HAMILTON, 0745369, AC, and 2d Lt JOHN W. STRICKLAND, 0697063, AC, is deleted.

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq EPOUSA, 24 May 1944).

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

D-M-3

AFC 595, US Army
21 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Indoctrination on Conduct in Occupied Germany.

TO : Commanding Officers, 395th, 396th, 397th Fighter Squadrons.

1. All personnel of Squadrons and attached units will attend lecture on Conduct in Occupied Germany by Capt. J. Luria, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force on 24 October 1944. The hours of the lectures are as follows:

- a. 395th Fighter Squadron 1230 to 1400 hours.
- b. 396th Fighter Squadron 1400 to 1530 hours.
- c. 397th Fighter Squadron 1530 to 1700 hours.

2. The place where lectures will be held will be given at a later date.

3. Squadron personnel who cannot be relieved of duty for the assigned Squadron period will attend one of the other periods.

4. Squadrons will advise attached units of the time and place of lecture.

5. Group Headquarters personnel will attend one of the above lectures.

HERBERT L. MEYERS
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding

12

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army
24 October 1944

~~SPECIAL ORDERS~~

NUMBER. 127)

1. Pursuant to auth contained in 3rd Ind fr Ninth Air Force, 21 Apr 1944 to Ltr, Hq U S Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 20 Mar 1944, file 245.8 x 354.7, subj: "Auth for Mont Alws at Air Force Rest Homes," the following named officers are placed on temp dy, will proceed fr Hq 368th Ftr Gp to Eynsham Hall, AF Sta 567 UK, o/a 24 Oct 1944 for a period of seven (7) days, exclusive of travel time. Upon completion of this temp dy, they will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDN by MF mil

When subs are not available, reimbursement for actual cost of QTS are not to exceed 4.00 dollars per day and per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd while in a travel status, in accordance w/Par 2, Cir 63, Hq European T of Opns USA, 5 June 1944. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

Per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is atzd in accordance with Par 4, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Reg No 30-3, 29 Sept 1944. 60-136 P 410-01 A 212/50200.

1st Lt ROBERT E. CALDWELL 3745289 AC
2d Lt HOMER E. HAYES 0815931 AC

2. The following named O and EM are placed on TD for a period of five (5) days, will proceed fr this sta o/a 25 Oct 1944 to Paris, France, reporting at 0900 hours, 26 Oct 1944 to Capt Johnson, Room 321, Communications Zone, Paris, on matters pertaining to this command. Upon completion of this TD, they will ret to prop orgn and sta. TDN by MF, 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425. Auth: VCCG, IX TAC.

WO(JG) ALBERT R. SILVERS W2128703 AC
Pvt (345) Dominick J. Lima 36720963 2499th QM Trk Co
Cpl (345) Chester E. Urie 36199366 395th Ftr Sq

3. The following named officers are granted two (2) days operational leave, will proceed fr this sta o/a 26 Oct 1944 to Paris, France, reporting upon arrival to American Red Cross Club (Rainbow Corner), 8 Boulevard de La Madeleine. Upon completion of this leave O's will ret to proper orgn and sta. TDN by MF, 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

SO 127, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, dtd 24 Oct 1944.
par 3 Cont'd.

AUTH: Ltr, 9 AF, file 220.711, subj: "Rest and Recuperation Leaves for
Combat Crew Personnel," dated 10 Oct 1944, and teletype IX TAC, 0303C dtd 10 Oct
1944:

1st Lt DONALD H. HUFF	0681673	AC (In charge)
2d Lt EUGENE R. SMITH	0708767	AC
2d Lt GEORGE W. MYERS	0770108	AC
2d Lt LESLIE G. HANSEN	0887226	AC
2d Lt FREDERICK C. STOLL	0815417	AC
2d Lt EDGAR H. BAKER	0763829	AC
2d Lt KENNETH E. KALEN	0770302	AC

Having been assigned to this command, 1st Lt (1055) HUGH L. RICE, 0796716, AC, is further asgd
395th Ftr Sq.

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, 24 May 1944).

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE
Public Relations Office

APO 696, US Army
26 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Public Relations Activities.

TO : Col. Gilbert I. Meyers, Commanding Officer, 368th Fighter Group,
APO 595, U.S. Army.

1. On 23 October 1944, this office requested that Lt. Col. Paul Douglas, Major Harold P. Sparks and First Lieutenant Henry I. Olsen, all of your command, be placed on temporary duty in Paris for the purpose of executing public relations activities.

Jobs were completed:

a. Col. Douglas spoke at the 23 October SHAEF conference. His speech was also broadcast to the U.S. on the Blue Network Coca-Cola program, describing his recent encounter with the Luftwaffe, and made a recording for his home-town radio station as well as being interviewed by Stars & Stripes.

b. Major Sparks discussed fighter-bomber tactics against German railroads at the SHAEF press conference and evoked much favorable comment in the world press on Ninth Air Force rail-cutting, bombing and strafing. He also made a recording for his home-town radio station and was interviewed personally by several news men.

c. Lt. Olsen broadcast to the U.S. on the Blue Network Coca-Cola program, describing his recent spectacular crash, made a recording for his home-town radio station and assisted in the preparation of several special features.

3. This office is most pleased with the results achieved in explaining through the medium of eye-witnesses what the fighter-bombers of the Ninth Air Force are doing. It can truthfully be said that the informed and earnest manner in which these three officers presented their stories reflects great credit upon the Ninth Air Force and is deserving of highest praise.

4. Special commendation is due to Technical Sergeant Don Faka of your public relations office who accompanied these officers to Paris and was of invaluable assistance in executing the above projects.

For the Public Relations Officer:

s/ Reavis O'Neal, Jr.,
REAVIS O'NEAL, JR.,
Major, Air Corps
Assistant P.R.O.

DIST:

1 each Officer
1 T/Sgt Faka

141

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army
26 October 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 128)

1. 2d Lt MILTON LEON, AC, 0669631, is appointed Base Post Exchange Officer for units assigned and attached to 368th Fighter Group.

2. 1st Lt JOHN F. REGAN, AC, 0569887, is relieved from further duty as Post

3. The following named officers are granted (2) days operational leave and will proceed for this station on 26 October 1944 to Paris, France, reporting upon arrival to Ninth Air Force Liaison Officer, American Express Building, Auber and ~~Santh~~ ~~by MT. 60-105 P 432-02 A 212/50425 and 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.~~
AUTH: Ltr, 9 AF, file 220.711, subj: "Rest and Recuperation Leaves for Combat Crew Personnel," dated 10 Oct 1944, and teletype IX TAG, 0809C dated 26 Oct 1944.

1st Lt ALEXANDER E. LELOUE	0805642	AC (In charge)
2d Lt KENNETH R. SNYDER	0697061	AC
2d Lt JAMES E. STOVER	0712052	AC
2d Lt GLEN M. BERGMAN	0769678	AC
2d Lt CHARLES R. EARLS	0676169	AC
2d Lt KENNETH L. WILCOX	0887225	AC
2d Lt IRVEN F. MILLER	0820546	AC
1st Lt WAYNE H. DRISCOLL	0745323	AC
1st Lt HENRY F. ARPS	0677934	AC
1st Lt WILLIAM M. KERR	0662136	AC
1st Lt DAVID M. SHARP	0680093	AC
2d Lt ROBERT D. CASSADY	0887230	AC

4. So much of par 2, 3 and 4, SO 121, this Hq, es, pertaining to TD of officers to Burtonwood, UK, as reads "Per diem 1.25 dollars in lieu of subs is stzd in accordance with Par 4, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Reg No 30-3, 29 June 1944. 60-136 P 410-01 A 212/50200" is deleted.

(Travel directed is pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, 24 May 1944).

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

AFPO 595, U. S. ARMY
28 October 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 129)

1. The following named officers are appointed Class "A" Finance Agents to Major JOHN P. VOLIVA, FD, for Officers' Vouchers and enlisted men's payroll for the month of October for units as indicated:

1st Lt DAVID GOLDKNOFF	0860836	AC	Hq 368th Fighter Group
Capt JOHN R. ELLIOTT	0905637	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt CARL E. WALKER	0571000	AC	395th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt CARL E. RAMSAY	0874008	AC	397th Fighter Squadron
1st Lt CARL E. RAMSAY	0874008	AC	Det "B" 21st Weather Sq
1st Lt CARL E. RAMSAY	0874008	AC	Det "B" 40th Mobile Com Sq
1st Lt CARL E. RAMSAY	01595448	CAF	1233rd M.B. Co. (Avn) Less Det "A"
1st Lt CARL E. RAMSAY	01557615	ORD	15th Air Base Depot Sq (Sep)
2d Lt ROBERT L. STARBUCK	01108342	CE	2137 Engr (Avn) F/F Platoon
1st Lt MICHAEL R. DANIELS	02047615	MAC	218th Medical Dispensary (Avn)
CWO JAMES C. WEARLEY	W2104932	USA	Hq & Hq Sq, 84th Service Group
Capt ROBERT S. GRUHN	01634830	SC	1074th Signal Co (Less Det A & B)
Capt CHARLES D. HEIDLER	0422540	AC	29th MR&R Sq (Less Det A)
Capt DONALD C. HARPOLE	01576089	AC	382nd Service Squadron
1st Lt JAMES W. WOODS	01636849	SC	1074th Signal Co (Det B)
1st Lt JOHN P. BANYON	01555340	ORD	1814th Ord S&M Co (Avn)
1st Lt PAUL L. BORGES	01581039	QMC	1221st QM Co Sv Gp (Avn) Det A
1st Lt DALLAS D. ALSUP	01577050	QMC	2499th QM Trk Co Avn (Det A)
1st Lt SAMUEL KUSHNER	0856309	AC	29th MR&R Sq (Det A)
Capt CHARLES M. JOHNSON	0299543	CAC	784th AAA Auto Wpns Bn

2. Pursuant to auth contained in Ltr, Hq IX TAC, file 210.1, subj: "Appointment of Claims Officer," dated 26 Oct 1944, Capt MAURICE D. POWELL, 0650448, AC, is aptd Group Claims Officer, (AD).

3. So much of par 3, SO 128, this Hq cs, as pertains to 1st Lt WILLIAM M. KERR, 0662136, AC, is deleted. (Pertains to Operational Leaves for officers)

By order of Colonel MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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