

S E C R E T

SQUADRON HISTORY
395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
July 1945

1. ORGANIZATION: Nil

2. STRENGTH:

Beginning of month		
OFFICERS -----	55	
ENLISTED MEN -----	241	
Net Increase		
OFFICERS -----	0	
ENLISTED MEN -----	1	
Net Decrease		
OFFICERS -----	16	
ENLISTED MEN -----	0	
End of Period		
OFFICERS -----	39	
ENLISTED MEN -----	242	

3. MOVEMENT: Nil

4. LOSSES IN ACTION: Nil

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

In accordance with letter, Subject: Battle participation awards -- Ardennes Campaign (No 3)., Hq. European Theatre of Operations, United States Army, dtd 30 June 1945, this unit was awarded battle credit for participation in the campaign "Ardennes" (copy of ltr attached).

In accordance with ltr. Subject: Battle participation awards, file # AG 200.6 OFGA, Hq, USFEP, dtd, 6 July 1945, this unit was awarded battle credit for participation in the campaign "Central Europe"

In accordance with GO # 111 Nqs Ninth AF, Dtd 23 June 1945 the following awards were made. (copy attached)

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
1st Lt HAMPTON W HAYS
1st Lt THOMAS F HOADE
2nd Lt VERNON M JETTY
1st Lt JOSEPH T SPRINGS

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS CLUSTER
1st Lt WILLIAM J. WAYLAND

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5. (con't)

In accordance with GO # 105 Hqs, Ninth AF, dtd
19 June 1945 the following awards were made, (copy at-
tached).

DISTINGULSHED FLYING CROSS
Major HENRY J MAZUR
2nd LT CECIL R HUFF
2nd LT HELMUT F ONUSSEIT

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

T/Sgt RICHARD B NARTKER
T/Sgt JOHN S SILVA
T/Sgt ROBERT G VERVALIN
T/Sgt ERNEST C WILKINSON

In accordance with GO # 129 Hqs XII TAC, dtd
12 July 1945.

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Month of J U L Y

1. Sunday - a day of rest and peace. There wasn't any planned activity of any sort today and all were left to their own resources. Of late, fishing as an activity has been taken up by enlisted men and officers and little fishes are being brought back as testimony of the skill involved.

In the afternoon trucks took our men into Nurnberg to hear Glenn Miller's band play at the Stadium. In the evening the men turned to movies, the Clubs, the tents and barracks to their own thoughts and activities. This then was Sunday and the beginning of another month overseas. The evening also saw "beaucoup" mail -- the first mail in weeks (that is in abundance) and the new mail room is certainly being broken in the right way -- plenty of business. The Brussels bunch returned amid the cloud layers and some were really sore for having to return so early -- a few more hours and the weather would have been so that at least another 3 or 4 days, if not more, could have been spent in Brussels for the entire group would have been weathered in there.

2. Brrr -- it is cold today. Never think it is the 2nd of July especially when people go around here in overcoats. What is this anyway -- rain, cold as the dickens and no signs of any let-up. It rains, drizzles, the sun shines, it rains some more -- and the only explanation that weather can give is that a cold front from England has descended upon us.

A new training program has been introduced, the old one thrown out the window, and one can see this just by looking upon the Operations" wall and seeing the new charts there. So far, the wheels haven't begun to turn into this new "set-up" and I personally expect many revisions before we get into it deeply. Oops, the phone just rang now and I was informed that we scratch the Tuesday to Saturday 1000 and 1600 hour FT classes and instill the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (same hour classes) with an addition of quitting work at 1150 on Saturdays, standing formation at 1300 - FT till 1400 and from 1400 to 1600 -- games of all natures. Hope this holds water for a while -- maybe get some baseball under my belt and get off some of this excess baggage I've been carrying around.

3. Today brought nothing but rain showers plus a cold wave

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that had everyone chilled to the bone. The most unusual weather I've run into in my entire life. Believe its been raining for 8 or nine days straight and this cold wave hasn't let up any. The days for those who have nothing to do just drag out endlessly and there are many who have nothing to do -- that's for sure. Hope that this move comes about soon for it will at least get the multitude into action constructing -- moving -- and setting things up for our occupational stay in the ETO. All look forward to this move to Straubing with high hopes that it comes very soon.

LTS HOADE, HELLWIG, MARSCH, and SPRINGS have been very happy today for they received their orders to go home. Believe they are waiting around for a little while to get a few more training hours in -- and are they sweating out this weather. Sure hope it lifts for their benefit. Sorry to see them go -- good men and real pilots -- this bunch -- but we're all happy for them in that they will get a chance at home and the States in the near future. What could be better -- I ask you????

The day was quite uneventful -- nothing ever seems to happen anymore. A snack-bar (annex to the administration building) has had its finishing touches today in the way of lights, stoves, shelf-paper and it should be ready to go tomorrow. Bet it'll do a lot of business at that too for it's open to enlisted men too. Look out "Percy" you'll need four sets of hands and 2 sets of legs when things start perculating.

We heard today (from very unreliable sources) that tomorrow being the Fourth of July -- all in the Squadron would take-off and see the carnival and other entertainment that has been provided in the Group Area for just this occasion. No one seems to know anything definite -- but there's sure to be a fire where there's smoke, so we hope to be able to celebrate this national holiday in the usual fashion.

The day ended very uneventfully with much rain and cold weather; and no one was too interested in anything in particular outside of the movie. Spencer Tracy and Kathrine Hepburn in "Without Love" was absorbed in proper fashion.

4. The holiday of holidays in the States turned up without a

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bang -- very much on the quiet side, because it is still raining. Fuddles all over the place now and the tents are beginning to reek with dampness. Better get our stoves in soon or we'll be having sniffles all over the Squadron. Seems that the air around here is purer or something for very few have contracted colds even in this sort of weather. If this were England, there'd be a line a mile long on sick call each of these mornings. Maybe it's the altitude.

The entire Squadron has the afternoon off today and nothing is scheduled until 5 o'clock, at which time the Carnival will take over near the premises of the Red Cross Club. I believe many other things were planned but the weather surely fizzed things out. This carnival may prove just the thing -- all we can do is wait and see. Surely hope some fireworks have been procured -- that in itself will immediately set the entire day on the right foot.

The Snack-bar opened officially this morning with the men waiting "four-deep" to get coffee and doughnuts. That's all that is available at present but with the EM's chipping in each month I think that Percy will be able to use his influences somewhere and add a lot to the menu. Hope so!

Letters have been seeping thru and during the past few days we've been lucky on that score. Evening finds many in tents, at the Red Cross, and in our Clubhouse answering mail for that's about the only thing left to do that isn't boring by now. Its too wet to go off the post -- too cold to stay away long if you do go -- so most men either write, play cards, read, or hit the sack early.

And that's the way this Group of men have been carrying on for many a day -- little work, little school, little movie, reading, or playing of cards and then to bed.....

The evening saw the Red Cross filled at the Carnival which was a home-made affair of dart-throwing, wheel spinning, roulette and bingo with prizes mostly in dolls to send home to that certain someone.... The orchestra was there and so was the glee-club all making for a good time with community singing, swing numbers and plenty on the musical side indeed. All wound up well -- everyone enjoyed themselves without the conventional fireworks and bustle and tussle that the Fourth usually brings in the way of travelling and crowds back in the States. But something tells me -- all would have gladly welcomed the traditional Fourth back in the States -- very much so...

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5. Today is the first day we have seen sun -- it actually came out and brought forth warmth and things are beginning to dry out from the tent-tops down. Believe it will take days before all the water is absorbed from the field but no one seems particularly interested -- plenty time for that -- no hurry at all -- we have all the time in the world. The runways pretty soggy yet -- hence -- no flying. The C-47 takes off to Brussels and lands, then takes off to Paris and lands in almost all kinds of weather. Our C-47 has had its crew picked -- S/Sgts Tucker and Sgt Smith of the Communications Section are now radio operators, and S/Sgt Coonley (previous experience as a crew-member) and S/Sgt Bastroli of the Engineering section as crew-chiefs. The selection is good -- no doubt about it -- and the men will earn the usual 50 per cent.

Nothing unusual developed during the day -- no flying with little schooling and an inspection by MAJOR RICE who recently became the Executive Officer and Inspecting Officer of the 368th Fighter Group.

Hold tight now -- we've added another rumor -- the best one of them all and that is -- we will go to the States as a Group in the very near future. Some claim its 6 weeks, some say that they got it straight and that its 3 months -- some even go further than that and extend it to 6 months. Whichever channel this Group will finally end up in -- nobody seems to know for sure. One thing is definite -- we're all going back as a Group (says the rumor). They seem pretty positive of it too. S-2's job sometimes is to track down rumors -- rumors that are of damaging nature to the morale of the organization -- but this one does not come under this heading -- they can keep telling me all they want to -- especially if it has anything to do with going home -- I'll not complain -- I assure you.

So off we go on some more rumor chasing -- tomorrow will probably dig up a few honey's -- never can tell -- especially at this stage of the game.

6. It started raining last evening and hasn't let-up any this morning -- the ground is saturated with water -- puddles all over and this makes for mud which all by now here have grown to hate. No flying today -- that's for sure.

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Today is a very important day in my life -- was born 28 years ago. My -- time has flown -- hasn't it? This war hasn't helped me as far as settling down and acquiring a family is concerned but it sure has made up my mind for me -- been raring to go for a long time and when I acquire my civilian suit and the "Mr" before my name -- I'll probably blow a fuse in trying to do everything at one time.... Come on points -- do your stuff.

The food situation at the mess hall has noticeably improved -- whether its the quality or the amount of time in preparation is pretty hard to decide but I'm inclined to believe the latter. We now boast 3 chefs on each shift and they have been taking extra pains in preparing each meal. When one walks into the mess-tent -- a crew of 10 or more hits the eye and everyone has noticed the change in the food -- especially the "old-timers." Keep up the good work -- sometimes a good meal is the only thing we have to look forward to here in the Occupational Group.

"Percey's" doughnut and-stand is doing a great business and today saw a few signs added. Things like "Pre-flight and take-off time - 10 minutes - make room for the other Guy." Another is "This is a Snack-Bar and not a Chat-Bar" certainly make for the good old GI feeling and we feel that everyone now feels that that "home-touch" has been added.

7. Inspection day is around again and it was given a "once-over" today as far as the living area is concerned and last evening saw everyone polishing up for it. The new boys are getting into the swing of things, just the way this outfit runs etc., and from all indications -- the 368th Fighter Group sticks pretty much to circulars, bulletins, and WD orders. When we receive an order to instigate an Educational Program -- an Educational Program is instigated I can assure you. Regulations are kept to the letter so to speak and evidence of that seems to be coming from the new men here who originally came from 3 or 4 Fighter Groups. You can rest assured no letters appear in the Stars and Stripes in the "B-Bag -- blow it out here" column about not having an educational program set up. The Army has a word for it "hot-rock."

Today opened with the usual rain -- been that way for 10 or 11 days already -- but the sun did come out once this afternoon and brought forth a little heat along with the sunshine but one half hour later -- it clouded up again -- and so it goes. When finally the clear weather comes -- we'll all kneel down upon the ground

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and start worshipping the Sun-God for everythings pretty muddy around here -- we could use some sun to dry things out.

Everyone is looking forward to tomorrow (day-off) and fishing seems to have taken hold in this particular Squadron. Many men are making up poles from all sorts of material. Better watch out Communications, someone will probably try to use your antenna for a rod (just about the right thickness too).

Nothing much in the way of flying has been accomplished for the sod-runway is very soft and a few take-offs and landings would probably put the strip into such condition that it couldn't be repaired again. The movies is doing a big business these days and yesterday's "Meet Me in St Louis" saw a line that filled the house and then some. Mail has been very good these last few days and I hope it continues along these lines from here on in.

Very little to add in the way of activity for the weather prohibits all ball-playing and outdoor activity. Outside of the usual routine one runs into daily -- everythings just about nil on the active side. Wonder how the "buzz-boys" are taking it. Leading a pretty active life -- "beaucoup" excitement as a cadet, OTU training, Combat and now this "Occupational" life. It surely is a very unbalanced schedule -- the change is definitely too abrupt and one can readily understand why some have volunteered for the CBI -- if not to get into combat -- just merely to be able to be doing something at least. And so ends another dull day in the ETO. Hope tomorrow is fair -- if it is -- I'll venture off the post and see what the natives around here look like.

8. This is our day-off, we are allowed to spend our time as we see fit, and a great majority of us spent most of the morning in the "sack." The late morning brought about many anglers with all sorts of fishing tackle -- anything from a twig up to an elaborate casting rod with eyelets and all. Most of the equipment floating around here is homemade -- and I can understand the sudden rush for equipment of this nature -- for one evening saw an angler with 5 large trout, the kind that would be the envy of all in any fishing club.

Today can be put down as the first day with any warmth at all and the sun did shine all day long. It brought forth

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More activity on the outside and bicycling was another sport that a number of men participated in. Yours truly peddled about 30 miles yesterday in the space of 6 hours. The air and the countryside was good to see and that's all it turned out to be -- just a long bicycle ride. The Germans still use the highways as they did before -- on foot, and buggies and various push-carts in moving their personal belongings -- but everything seems more or less settled now. You can still find the German Soldats -- the defeated German Soldats -- making it home on foot and truck. Imagine this will be going on for some time to come yet.

Nothing in the way of flying for the runways in very soft condition but the C-47 does take-off everytime it can to deliver its human cargo in Brussels or Paris and pick up the unlucky human cargo who have to return. No new rumors have come out of any importance in the last few days -- I think that the last rumor (about us all going home inside of two months) must have hit a "high-note" in the rumor factory and the strain snapped the machinery. And so ended another Sunday quite on the active side as far as participation in fishing, bicycling and 2½-ton motor trips to Wurzburg are concerned.

9. Today turned out to be something like a summer day we have experienced somewhere's in the states -- remember that place? The sun shined all day and gave forth with some heat. This started to dry the wet spots around here of which there is "beaucoup" of. Very little flying was accomplished though 2 yellow-noses (396th Fighter Squadron) were seen buzzing the field on two or three occasions. Our pilots in the past few evenings have been getting in some stick time in some of these captured "cubs" that can be seen around the field. Some men are about ready to go hom -- and all that is required is "four-hours" -- the only thing between them and the states. So up go the "cubs" and they have been playing an active part as far as flying goes. Three hours and 10 landings in the "cub" are equivalent to 4 hours and with First Lt's Hoade, Hellwig, Marsch and Springs on their way home officially tomorrow - plus 11 more pilots in the persons of Captain McCrone, F/O Bryan, 2nd Lt Paeper, Rabe, Russell, Long, Higgs Scanlon plus F/O Merritt and First Lt Wayland -- that "cub-time" will really be put in around here. The runway is still in poor condition and continued Peter Four Seven landings would not only cause great damage to the runway but also endanger the pilots' life and also the plane.

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Indirectly but materially -- the German Luftwaffe is aiding us in combating the Japs by leaving such planes for our disposal and training. I'm sure the experience some of our pilots have picked up here will enable these boys to cope with the Japs wherever they may find them.

The ending of day saw F/T on the other side of the runway -- actually it turned out to be volleyball, fencing, boxing, and weight lifting. A work-out like that is darned good and all that's left to make it a perfect evening is to shower (hope it works) and receive some mail -- plus a good meal. That should bring about a clean-shaven lot of men tonight answering letters -- reading, and another group off to the movie. And so it goes in the '95 in the ETC.

10. Today brought about the same procedure as far as routine matters go and they were sorted away in proper fashion in a short period of time. With four pilots leaving today at 9 o'clock -- their itinerary should read as follows: Boarded C-47 at 0850 -- took-off R42 at 0900 -- landed in Paris airdrome near the 134 Pilots' Redeployment Center where eventually passage to the States will be chartered via boat or plane. In all probability -- a week or more will be spent in Paris and then off to HOME SWEET HOME. Good luck fellows, it sure was a pleasure to serve our country together -- we may not meet again -- but then again we may for today the world is a small place indeed -- no one knows better than you who have covered vast distances in the air.

The orientation classes still hold with good attendance and this Tuesday's topic was about "Hitler and his Party" which turned out to be quite an interesting topic. All flying on F-47's has been stopped and evening still sees "cub-time" being acquired. Flying lessons for ground personnel has been going on and I understand that many in the "learner-brackets" have also been adopting themselves to the joy-stick association.

With these eleven other pilots leaving -- looks like the T/O for the occupational Air Force is being pushed ahead. This Squadron has undergone many changes in the last few weeks -- a few more changes like this and you'll have the 368th Fighter Group in name only. As it is, I don't know half the personnel already -- what's to be????

The day closed with no unusual activity of any kind -- just another dull day here in the ETO with a very dull outlook as far as going home in the near future is concerned.

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Who wants to go home anyway -- no steaks -- not a drop of liquor - no tires or gas -- no cigarettes (but I'll take it anyway).

11 Today began with a slight drizzle which didn't let up all day. Knew it was too good to last - imagine having the sun out for 2 solid days around here - kind of unusual I'd say.

Everyone seems to be taking things in an easy stride these days and a movie "On to Tokyo" was shown at 08:30 and at 1300. F/T was held at 1100 and 1400 respectively. Just when your about set to do some work and have reached a good stride you have to break off and leave for one of these appointed hours and it all goes to organizing your day here.

No new rumors as yet -- but the next few days (especially at this stage of the game) will surely bring about a few "killer-dillers." Many evenings see fishing parties go off the post. Some fish are brought back as evidence - some claim that they throw their's back -- and one case came out that a nine (9) inch gold-fish was caught in a wild stream. Could be, but I didn't know that the Germans went in for goldfish -- I thought that goldfish was a Jap speciality -- but they are brothers-in-arms.

In trying to gather some vital statistics on this Squadron's activities as far as number of combat missions, tons of bombs and ammunition expended, aircraft we have had, number damaged thru the process of war, etc., all these have caused much file digging on everyone's part and hair-pulling is quite a self-practiced item around here now.

It's 4:55 or 1655 now and the drizzle has come again -- sure looks like a dull evening. This rain will keep the boys in (those who wanted to venture off-post tonight) and much "letter-riting" will be accomplished. Wonder whether we'll get much mail tonight -- wonder how "chow" will be???

This just about closes another day in the ETO -- very dull indeed, practically no activity at all. Ho hum -- tomorrow's another day.....

12. Today brought about much flying activity for the first time ever since this rain and cold spell had descended upon us. The planes roared in the early-morning pre-flight and at 0800 hours there was a flight of four up already and another flight was preparing to go up. It consisted mainly of local

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flying but some did go on low-level navigation flights that started about 18 miles NW of this base and covered a good deal of distance westwards. Throughout the day -- take-offs and landings kept the control-tower pretty busy and the radio hummed on thru the day. All pretty eager now -- must get some flying hours in before it starts raining again -- never can tell especially here in Germany. Yes, this not only looks like the "Old Air Force" but practically is now. Pilots are sweating out flying time for the month -- the T/O has been brought down to 28 and there's a hint that we will lose a good number of pilots in the next few days. With a decrease of EM's (127 under the new T/O) and Ground Officers that should bring about an "Occupational Squadron" mainly something similar to the "peace-time" Air Corps. How the changes will come about no one really knows but 127 from 228 as far as the EM's are concerned is really a pretty good-sized shift -- so we all look forward to many changes yet before this particular Group will settle down and fly cover for the Ground and Service forces here in Germany.

Routine still goes on but activities in the Squadron now are very limited with various lectures -- today's was all about "Air and Ground Defense of the Air Strip in case of attack." Another lecture was scheduled at the Group Theatre in the form of a debate. All this goes up in making the day in the '95.

13. What a day to begin with -- I do walk under ladders, cross black cats' paths, break mirrors -- but Friday the thirteenth to me is one day to be careful. In civilian life, one Friday the thirteenth saw me go off a cliff in an automobile -- survived the episode without a scratch practically but from there on in -- each 13th that fell on Friday was handled with caution.

An incident of an engine cutting out on take-off was about the only incident that happened yesterday. The pilot somehow landed the plane off the runway without any damage and taxied back much to everyone's amazement. Maybe this day isn't unlucky at all.

The days warm up gradually as the day wears on but it's still cool during the evenings -- coolest evenings I've ever experienced anywhere's at this time of the year. An 8 o'clock morning take-off of four training ships on local training hops have been taking off pretty regularly the last few days. The training flights comprise of low-altitude, navigation, formation, close and tactical, individual combat and acrobatics. In the afternoon - eight ships, those of our surplus pool, saw a transfer to Bayreuth at R-26. Couple more transfers of this nature will bring the

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number of planes down to "Occupational" strength.

The clubhouse now sells cognac -- five tumblers per man an evening -- and has it got a kick. Enough potency to spin you in for the evening. Real good beer has been coming in now -- German definitely -- but it seems to come pretty close to the kind we have at home. The clubhouse is getting a lot of wear and tear and evenings finds it packed to capacity -- tables filled with card-playing, checker-palying, letter writing and discussion groups with 4 to 5 deep around the bar. The Officer's Club, likewise, has been doing a bang-up business and between the two -- the Red Cross is losing out on the active side. About the only thing that goes on there are bingo games and an occasional visit from our Group orchestra.

CAPTAIN BUCHMAN is in "merry-old-England" having a "jolly old time" of it I'm sure. CAPTAIN FESTING and Lt PONTON are at the Riviera absorbing the sun, the sights and some H₂O in both forms.

14. The summer weather is here to stay from the looks of it and I believe it's about time. This sort of weather makes for "beaucoup" flying and another shipment of Peter Four Sevens left for Bayreuth today taking almost all the surplus planes we have. This place looked like a depot instead of a Squadron dispersal area and the number of guards used daily ran into pretty high figures making the guard-trick come around very often -- more often than desirable.

The passes in the Squadron keep the C-47's working all the time -- a new bunch leaves -- the old one comes back -- and trips to Paris, Brussels, and the Riviera are rotated. "Smithy" and "Tuck" our Radio Operators, have really gone in for the mapline recently and can plot a course to any spot on the continent or Egnland on the set of maps they have. Sure would like to take a trip around the Alps and to the very colorful region south of Munchen. It's "verboten" totally "verboten" up to day but I will keep my eye peeled to the future. If a trip can be arranged -- the Squadron History will get an eye-witnessed account of said flight.

Saturday afternoon saw a one o'clock formation of all personnel in drill formation and this sort of stuff was carried on for more than an hour. Calisthenics was participated in the rest of the afternoon plus games of volley-ball, baseball and other group games. This ended our "peace-time" or shall we say "traditional Saturday" in the ETC. Seems as if Saturday morning's inspections and Saturday afternoons group activities on the field are here to stay...

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15. A day of grace -- our day-off also -- and it found the biggest number of us in the "sack" in the morning. Fishing parties are quite prominent almost every evening -- but on Sundays they really go out in force. We have one stream about 3 miles off the post that used to boast of a number of trout -- but yours truly paid the place a visit last Saturday evening and out of the party of four -- only one of us received a nibble. Probably all the trout from this end of the stream on to Nurnberg are fished out by now because the stream seems to be doing a pretty big business every evening.

A truck ran into Nurnberg to visit the newly opened Red Cross there. And from all reports -- the place is magnificent, a large pool, place for snack-bar with an orchestra pit -- many civilians giving that home-like touch and a helping hand to the five (5) yes, I said five American Red Cross employees who have seemed to have gotten an excellent start in these surroundings. If things go good -- I imagine that a truck will be dispatched each evening for Nurnberg's Red Cross.

The afternoon saw a number of men off the post wandering around in almost every nook for about as far as five miles off the post. Walking and bicycling are about the most forms of transportation around here but some were seen on motorcycles and a few dispatched (authorized) jeep-trips were seen. As things go -- this Sunday turned out to be a pretty good one for non-fraternization has been lifted to a certain extent -- and the Air Corps (being in a position where restrictions can effectively be enforced) are out to make up for lost time. The greatest difficulty is the inability to speak German -- but "where there's smoke there's a fire or where there's a will -- there's a way." Each applies in this particular case. So this ended the third Sunday of July in the American Occupation Zone of the ETO.

16. This day turned out to be quiet warm and any amount of exercise would bring forth perspiration upon one's brow. The morning saw local flights and as the day went on numerous one-ship take-offs to Weisbaden - Kassel, Frankfurt and the neighboring fields came about. Otherwise -- it was quite uneventful outside routine P/T and the official beginning of Ground School.

CAPTAIN SKALKO is in Belgium somewhere's in or around Brussels and one week of this civilian life so to speak will do wonders. The impossible had happened today -- we finally received five

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points for the participation in the Ardennes area. That gives us 5 battlestars and has boasted many a men right over the "hump!" We are expecting another star for Central Europe and that will push most of the Squadron here over the critical score line. We are pretty sure of the Central Europe star but it seems that orders take some time to get here for we are a surplus group so to speak. The Groups at the marshalling areas to my knowledge have already procured their 10 points and 85'ers and above are being pulled out by the numbers. This should bring about another big shuffle in personnel for these CBI-going Groups must be filled from somewhere's.

Nothing much to add to today's activities -- and it started to rain last evening -- didn't let up until morning.

17. The rain last evening wet the runway good and proper so an early morning take-off wasn't scheduled. Routine matters came up in the early morning and along with an 8 o'clock ground school lecture and movie on Chemical Warfare at the Group Theatre and a one o'clock class on same. Seems that ground school is here to stay and so is Drill and Physical Training. The fact that we received another 5 points for the campaign in the Ardennes has nothing to do with Ground School. Rumor has it that the 362 and other outfits in the Marshalling areas have received both stars -- leads us to believe that our second should come thru any day now. That will just about put everyone over the critical score in this Squadron. This also strengthens that rumor that this Group will go back as a whole. Some little birdee whispered that May of 46 is a pretty good month to see the States -- sure is far off -- maybe too far off -- but I'd wish they'd come out and tell us definitely so most of us could unpack once and for all. This packing and unpacking is surely getting on everyone's nerves.

The sun finally came out in the afternoon and it brought forth heat. The neighboring farmers (including farmerettes) have been allowed on the post to harvest their crops and this morning found me sticking my head under the flaps of of the tent to check upon the weather -- was still pretty groggy -- had just awoken -- and what do you know -- a pretty blonde is out there in a red blouse no less---just about floored me -- hmmmnnnnn sure wish this were home -- Yip!!!

18. This morning began just like any other morning here -- except that it was cool -- and that isn't unusual here. Brrr. Flying started at 0750 with a flight of training ships hitting the blue. All turned out to be local flights and nothing unusual in the way of training or flying. Another group should be leaving for the Riviera very shortly and the old

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group returning. That should give out with some information in the Squadron History, but definitely.

Swimming hasn't been a part of this organization for some time but yesterday afternoon saw LT BLAGEN out on a detail of getting us daily admission in one of the local pools at Schwabach or Nuremberg. From all indications -- we did all right and that can have only one answer -- we will go swimming -- that is all who want to participate evenings will board a truck between the hours of 1730 and 1800 and take-off for a dip. "Good-deal -- shore nuff."

Now that we have lost all those "depot-airplanes" we again look like a Squadron here in the ETO. We should move to permanent quarters soon -- down on the Danube and from all indications -- it will happen soon. The move will give everyone something to do for a time being and I believe it is looked forward to by all now. Training movies were shown yesterday breaking up the Squadron for one showing in the morning and another in the afternoon. Tomorrow will bring about another one of these GI movies and another block in the training program will be scratched off.

All in all - today was very uneventful -- specifically -- a very dull day here -- no doubt about it. Wonder how long this sort of thing will go on???

19. Thursday and another dull day here in the ETO and is it getting warm. Looks like summer weather has finally descended upon us -- but good. Very little activity in the Squadron but all sorts of painting around here is going on. Paintings on cowlings -- paintings on Score-boards -- etc., probably will be a lot more of this sort of work once we get situated in our final resting spot in the ETO (vicinity of Straubing and the Danube.) At this time of the year -- man's at his best -- usually comes out with a poem or a new song -- something constructive -- that Danube River should bring out a great deal of this sort of thing in this Squadron. Time will only tell.

A high-altitude navigation mission (first in some while) took place today with MAJOR MUMAW leading the 8 ships. This all took place from 10 to 15 thousand feet and the courses and headings were supposed to have been followed out just as in a combat mission. All turned out well and this unusual long mission (5 hours and 30 minutes) saw CAVU throughout

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its flight and landed as scheduled -- without event. Imagine a lot more of these missions will be coming thru from here-on-in.

That extra 5 points came thru officially today -- we're still sweating out one more -- let's go there paper-workers -- let's be getting that other five points on paper -- pappa wants to go home sometime -- and nothing will get him home faster than those campaign stars. Tally now is 5 down and one more to go.

And so another dull day ended -- sure hope that Brussels pass comes around soon -- that should keep me on the quiet side for about a week after I come back.

20. It rained this Friday morning and from all indications -- the runways too soft to allow any flying today. No one seems to be at the line -- even the mechanics are hard to find these days. The rain did bring a little cool wind -- but one of these days it's really going to get warm -- as it is -- its around the 88 mark now (or feels like it). Maybe tent-life in the wooded areas of Germany aren't too bad for its certainly cool evenings after the sun goes down.

Right now there's very little to do around here -- the rumor factory hasn't been putting out too much stuff lately -- but I imagine that one of these days it will see many rumors floating around. All it needs is a spark -- and that happens frequently -- especially at this stage of the game where the critical score is still uncertain -- and many men here still possess pretty low scores -- even below the 70 mark. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if one of these days saw this bunch of men leave for other parts.

The evening ended very uneventfully -- all in all -- a very dull day indeed.

21. This is inspection day and everything was sparkling in the living area this morning. Ground School in the way of a lecture on "Defense of the airfield" was given by our Adjutant and he really did a good job. This defense plan by all rights should have been thoroughly indulged in by all on Strip Three when we had just come upon the continent -- not now -- but LT TCHIRKOW and his wit put the subject over in good order. We were told that an alert would be held in the afternoon probably during our Physical Training period when we were out on the ball park and it sure did. Just about started to warm up in a game of volley-ball when the siren sounded -- all assembled at designated places (everyone had a particular task assigned) with guns, clips, helmets and liners, plus web-belt, canteen and first aid pack. If the first line of

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of defense had ever been penetrated -- a real hot reception would have been encountered by the penetrating forces for all over the field all one could see were men -- armed -- and ready to go. The main purpose is to protect government equipment and the strip so that the planes could take-off to some designated rear-area spot. Our motor pool had practically a guard per vehicle -- the pilots were fully geared to jump into the cock-pit and into the blue. Team B and Team D were organized in units and ready at moments notice to form up with the Ack-Ack in the first line of defense -- each department was geared to perform their duty in getting the planes airborne -- destroy any valuable information they may have and be ready to get out at a moments notice if and when this time arouse. We even have a spot to assemble at in case of excitement a few men get lost somewhere's. Sure is a thorough plan -- but I still insist -- it should have been so when we first hit France and when the Germans started on a small-scale offensive right towards our field.

When the all-clear was sounded -- everyone went back to the ball-park and an evening meal with no mail just about closed the day. Sunday is looked forward to around here these days especially since the fraternization ban had been lifted. The outside world is appealing to many and finds them walking -- cycling -- thumming along the roads. Some convoys are organized in the way of swimming and fishing parties and we had been informed that things everywhere have been tightening up -- now we will wear weapons, liners, dog-tags (around the neck) pay-bbok, plus a pass. Always had been this way but life on an airstrip does not necessitate a liner and weapon at all times -- but this is the Army -- isn't it??

22. A day of rest for most of us -- all but a skelton crew on the line and in the departments and the day turned out to be quiet a warm one. The rumor factory is in full swing again and I really heard a few tall ones today. Starting from the few substantial ones -- then we'll go into the fantastic. Everyone here had received 5 points for the Ardennes sector -- if you managed to pull 75 and over -- you'll still be a part of this organization -- if you possess 74 and under -- you will be on your marry way very shortly. Number two - we will receive another campaign star for Central Europe within a week. Seems logical to me -- all we want is to see it on orders here in this Group. Number three -- this Group will soon go back -- all little happenings (it says here) seem to lead everyone to believe that the 368th personnel will leave the ETO for the good old U.S.A. (PS -- this is the kind of rumor I like to hear -- tell me more). Number four, someone in Paris overheard another GI in a bar (he's stationed in Rheims) say that he was in the 368th Field Artillery --

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his outfit arrived in Rheims for redeployment but much to their regret found out that the orders in Rheims Headquarters called for the 368th Fighter Group -- not the 368th Field Artillery. This is getting good now, isn't it???? Number Four (no, not finished yet) embarkation and debarkation orders have arrived (or supposed to have arrived) giving all particulars on how an airforce unit of this nature should prepare itself for a trip back over the Atlantic. As I said before, all that is required around here is a spark -- and the rumor machinery really knocks off a few good ones. And so it is here now -- very little constructive work being accomplished generally, the food's excellent now (ice-creams' superb) don't think the civilians get the same back home now-a-days -- and as I go to bed tonight -- I'll pray that the last of these rumors are true and not just idle chatter.....

- 23. Today starts off another week in the American sector of the Occupational Forces and the 595th Fighter Squadron is holding it's own in the way of sorting away routine matters that come up every so often. An inspection is under way here by XII TAC (first one by these people for we have just come under their jurisdiction) and if other inspections mean anything - I think XII TAC will discover that the 368th Fighter Air Force is really a "hot-rock" outfit after all. The inspection boasted an Inspecting General in the way of a Colonel and one of those "come in and tell me all" -- I'll listen" meetings was held during the evening. Routine flying predominated the days activities and we really have been having the weather these days. Summer is here (about time) and if gas were plentiful -- I believe we could really put on one air show after another. As it is -- I believe the program set-up now just about keeps the pilots in trim -- but that's about all. Many here, if they ever see combat again, will find it hard to get up for 3 or 4 o'clock morning briefings - take-off at 5 or 6 -- fly a 3 hour combat mission dodging flak and perhaps enemy aircraft (that is if the Japs still have any when they get there) come back to base, be interrogated -- eat -- rebrief again for another mission and take-off in the late afternoon and repeat said performance. Yes, it will seem like no small task after tasting this sort of life in the occupational forces... The funny part about it is -- once, we were really "eager beavers" in this business of waging war from the skies. You wouldn't think so from the looks of things around here now -- but we really were -- once.

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24. This Tuesday morning brought forth sunshine which emitted with plenty of heat. Believe today has been the hottest we've experienced yet this summer. Any movement caused perspiration - everyone did very little moving, I can assure you. With all this altitude (930 feet above sea level) the wooded regions to absorb moisture from the air and kill the direct rays of the sun -- it still proved to be an exceptionally warm day and it made me think of places like New York's street pavements where at this time of the year -- things are really on the hot-side. One could fry eggs -- and its been proven many a times. I did a tour of soldiering in New York at the New York Air Defense Wing -- stayed at the McApplin and at the New Yorker -- really roughing out the first part of the war with all those civilians.

Training flights took-off and landed and just like the other routine matters of day -- they were sorted away in proper fashion and evening saw quite a large number of our men and officers turn to an evening out (just like back home) for Bob Hope and Jerry Calonna plus Gail Robbins who were at XII TAC in Erlangen. Yours truly attended and reports that Hope and troupe (girl accordianist, dancer pretty brunette and a dark blonde, plus a brunette, an pianist, and a good natured pot-bellied, balh-headed fellow from Dallas, all did wonders in providing more than 2 hours of humor, wit, plus laughs tied in with music. Done in the Hope and Calonna manner. This has been the best entertainment we've had up to date -- sure hope more of this type of entertainment comes thru in the near future -- we need it. Whoever started this stream of entertainment from the USA certainly knew what he was doing for it brings back many old memory and sort of eases the time along.

CAPTAIN BUCHMAN will be leaving us for the XII TAC Tech Inspection section there -- isn't too far off -- an occasional visit will certainly keep us informed. So far we've lost MAJOR PENDLETON and CAPTAIN BUCHMAN to the XII TAC -- and this may just be another beginning of a big shift. Maybe the pasture is greener on the other side and then again -- maybe it isn't -- time will only tell.

25. The day began as usual around here -- not too much on the constructive side---but enough routine to keep one busy without being able to accomplish any personal items or duties until very late afternoon. Flying was at a minimum and the Squadron attended IF at the ball-diamond at 1100 and 1600 hours respectively.

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The Clubhouse yesterday for the first time in a number of days, boasted of ice-beer in this hot weather. It sure hit the spot. Cognac and Liqueur in the form of Benedictine (the original -- made in Fe Camp -- a little place on the Coast and all remember its location for it was always a source of a landmark -- used for land-fall-in and land-fall-out. A story is attached to this Benedictine -- the monks during the dark ages harbored one of the family who had the formula for this liqueur and it has remained in this order ever since -- used as a form of revenue even to this day -- and it has a distinct flavor of its own. Yes, our bar boasts this drink, straight, with coke, or anyway you may want it dispensed -- you name it -- we'll serve it. Kind of odd to see a bottle of spirits cosigned by any religious organization (that usually isn't the case back in the States) but this is the continent you know -- and anything is apt to pop up.

Evenings sees many off swimming -- at the Group movie or at the Clubhouse -- and some still manage to venture off-post for a walk or a bicycle ride. There really isn't too much activity of any kind -- little rumors pop up once in a while but all right now are sweating out the extra and last five points and that ride back home -- sure hope both come thru soon....

26. Thursday -- another summer day in the ETO and from looks of things -- it was quite a dull day. Another training program (one of those CAPTAIN CARLSON'S specials -- "beaucoup" miles -- 678 to be exact) with legs at Loan, Verdun, Nancy, and Stuttgart being the main check-points. We now use a drift gadget, figure out the windage drift, actual speeds at various altitudes and the distance covered -- all of this on a navigational computer. We sure strive to get them there and back.

LT BLAGEN hasn't been playing an active part in way of sorting away routine away here on the base -- he's somewhere's in the vicinity of Paris with his newly-acquired better-half. Nice work if you can find it -- and if there wasn't an ocean plus many miles -- maybe I'd be finding myself a better-half too -- in fact, I know I would.

Everything is all set-up for the scheduled flight tomorrow morning -- arrangements have been made with weather to have a weather report ready for us at 0700 in the morning as to direction of the winds -- speed and the temperature at various altitudes. We don't expect very good weather tomorrow -- lot of little storm areas that might up-set "CAPTAIN CARLSON'S super-special" training-recy area" but time will only tell.

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The day closed very uneventfully -- trucks left for the pools in Nurnberg at 1800 sharp -- a few turned to letter-writing, majority went to the movies or to our Club to enjoy a good cold glass of beer.

Two evenings ago saw me behind the bar -- really getting back into my old civilian stride -- used to dispense malt suspended in H₂O and stronger stuff for my Dad a while back -- and it sort² of brought back many old memories. Another dull day is over -- lets hope its one day less in this country and the time isn't too long when this Squadron History will be brought to a finis by yours truly.

27. We arrived bright and early -- received the weather report on time and the training flight was grounded right then and there. Visibility one to two miles at one to two thousand feet and some of the mountain ridges that have to be crossed are over two thousand feet. That means no flying of any sort -- not for a while anyway. A drizzle set in before eight in the morning and it should ast all day long. Flying was called off till noon but started promptly at one in the afternoon. It had cleared up enough and the late afternoon saw many flights in the air. Nothing on the constructive side---a rumor it out that 74 pointers and below will be leaving this organization pronto!!! There's a real "killer-diller" out that says this organization will be out of the ETO so fast that if all knew the exact date -- probably throw a fit with joy. As a rumor outfit -- I believe this one takes the cake for it seems to thrive on rumors. If there isn't a big fat rumor out making the rounds in every corner -- things aren't buzzing around here. As it is -- it had been quite an active organization in combat -- now drill, the ball-diamond and rumors have taken the place that once used to be occuppied by the various activities in the process of waging war. An analyst once had said, "A GI must blow off his steam by griping -- its a safety valve that keeps all in the forces stable -- mentally." I agree -- definitely but would like to add that the 3rd Ech, in addition, has also supplemented the rumor factory.

The day ended quite uneventfully -- an 1600 hour trip to the ball-diamond -- volley-ball, soft-ball, and the various other activities in the way of fencing, weight-lifting, horse-shoe pitching sort of ended the day officially. The evening saw many at the Clubhouse and another day in the ETO has been set aside.

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28. The day opened up with very unflyable weather -- looked like rain all day -- it didn't rain though until late afternoon. Some flights took-off on locals while the living area's were given an Saturday morning inspection. The bulletin board told us that the stride we had hit up to date in keeping ourselves and the living area was certainly one to attain in any man's army and to keep it at that level. So much on this.

Very little activity to note today -- all are looking forward to the close of the week and tomorrow - the day of rest for most of us. The ball-diamond just started to buzz with activity after the usual one-hour drill formation and it started to rain cats and dogs -- soaking most of the area-running personnel.

And this ended another Saturday under peace-time conditions in the ETO of the Occupational Air Forces.

29. Sunday morning broke with a noted change in the weather -- quite chilly. Everyone slept late -- few arrived at the mess hall for their portion of "pan-cakes" but after the noon meal - a great majority of the men started on an "Off-Post" pass which ends at 2200 hours. Trucks left for Stein and then to the Nurnberg's Red Cross Club while the remaining men wrote letters, played cards, listened to the radio or generally busied themselves with odds and ends around the area. Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer in "Together Again" was on at the Group movie and everyone thought it was an exceptional picture for it appealed to all. In the way of entertainment -- its pretty hard to please various tastes and aspects as to the type of entertainment. This movie in it's background, appealed to the city-bred and to the small-towner -- just the right amount of sophistication, glamour, comedy and the plot was so constructed that the story was told simply -- no complicated trends to follow -- really an hour and a half of good wholesome movie for all.

LT BLAGEN is due to return today after visiting Paris and spending some time with Mrs. CAPTAIN BUCHMAN left for XII TAC and all are sorry to see him leave. Nothing else of importance today -- at evening it turned much colder and everyone piled on overcoats and extra blankets for the nights rest.

30. The early morning saw that 4000 foot -- that 675 mile Special training mission with take-offs in elements every 10 minutes. Navigation was done by the number 2 man of each element on the way to Loan -- on the way back, the number one man took over. Weather was procured and drift and true air speeds computed. As things worked out -- everything ran smoothly

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and nothing else developed in the way of flying activity.

Our C-47, the one that has made many a GI a happy-go-lucky individual in Paris, Brussels and the Riviera plus England, will be taken away from us tomorrow. No reasons were given but all assume that this "no ferry-plane status" will just be temporary and that it will be replaced with a B-26 or even a B-17. If we procure a B-26 as all believe -- we will not run into any difficulty in procuring someone to manipulate the controls of the two engines -- but a four engine plane (especially a Fort) may lead to some difficulty in this Fighter Bomber Group.

Officially, we have been informed that the move will start to Straubing on the second of August with 25 men leaving in the advance echelon and as the first week of August wears on -- more and more personnel will leave to set up at the new field which in all probability will be our permanent station here in the Occupational Forces. From all reports -- everything as far as the living area, offices, recreation facilities is concerned -- all of this will be compact -- the field is only 2 to 4 blocks away from the living area. All are looking forward to this move -- tent-life may be alright for a short time -- but it certainly can get awfully cold around these parts in the winter and I'm all for buildings. I don't want to stay around till winter comes (and I'm sure everybody else here agrees with me on this point) but just to play on the safe side -- we'll take the buildings -- just in case. They tell me that snow really falls here.

The evening saw MAJOR ELLIOTT with his CO from the 362nd and from all indications -- they are on a man-hunt trip. Seems that all that is left is Glider personnel to fill up the T/O in the 362 which lacks many 405's, 502's and personnel found galore in the Fighter Bomber Groups. Me -- I'm a 070 -- no worry there.

Nothing else to add -- same area routine night in and night out and that just about covered the activity for today.

31. A day everyone looks forward to in the Army -- no doubt. Pay-day and the end of the month. The next month may bring about many changes that will bring about a brighter outlook on the entire situation here on the continent -- may even tell

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when home will again be seen -- and the extra marks in one's pocket may prove to be a good investment in some friendly game -- (can't spend it anywhere's around here) and even though I haven't gambled before in the Army -- here's hoping it at least pays that down payment of the engagement ring. Ahem.

The day was quite uneventful in the way of flying -- a few headings were figured out on the navigational computer -- a take-off here and there on a training mission -- and that covered the routine flights today. Word was sent down -- courses plotted for the Air Show and that will be participated in tomorrow -- the Anniversary of the Air Force. Air activity will be displayed all over the continent -- maybe as sort of a reminder -- and then again as well co-ordinated team that had definitely made history in the ETC and throughout the world. This is our day -- and I hope nothing spoils the show fellows.... (Weather could, you know).

Another month in the ETC at Nurnberg -- the seat of Nazism but now its altogether different. The Opera House that somehow escaped total destruction in Nurnberg now houses GI's who come in to see American plays, the pool at the Red Cross and the Red Cross itself (very suitable surroundings) if I say so myself, is doing a bang-up business and the Sportzpalace that once heard the echo's of Heil's and that stiff-arm salute, now is open for meets of all kinds. Yes, time has changed a lot of things around Nurnberg and this month's Squadron History is being put to bed with hopes that time will also alleviate this temporary life we are leading here on the continent and send us home where we belong.

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