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A HISTORY OF THE  
507TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
INSTALLMENT SIX  
(Covering the Month of July, 1944)

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**Installment VI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section A**

1. ORGANIZATION (e.g., changes effected by the transfer of the unit or by new E/C's).  
N D G A T I V U
2. STRENGTH ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH:  
Strength (Assigned Personnel) on 31 July 1944 --- Two-Hundred and Fifty (250) Enlisted Men -- Fifty-Four (54) Officers  
--- One (1) Attached Enlisted Man.
3. DATE OF ARRIVAL AND INFORMATION RELATING TO ARRIVAL IN THE SQUADRON  
N D G A T I V U
4. LOSSES IN ACTION:  
Captain Eugene H. Potter, O-337465, AIA .. 7 July 1944  
1/c Arlington J. Clever, AIA .. 7 July 1944  
Captain Joseph Marini, O-655857, AIA .. 11 July 1944  
Captain Robert S. Anderson, O-657025, AIA .. 26 July 1944  
2/Lt. John S. Cork, O-732473, AIA.. 27 July 1944
5. AWARDS TO AND DECORATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON:  
  
 Col. Haasler: 2nd Silver Oak leaf cluster to A...  
 11th, 12th and 13th Bronze OLC to A..., and D.F.C.  
 Major Hendricks: 2th Bronze OLC to A..., 2nd Silver  
OLC to A.L.; 11th and 12th Bronze OLC to A.A., and D.F.C.  
 1/Lt. Briscoe: 5th and 7th bronze OLC to A...  
 Capt. Gibson: 7th Bronze OLC to A.D.  
 1/Lt. Poltz: 6th, 7th and 8th Bronze OLC to A...  
 1/Lt. Horlacher: 5th and 7th Bronze OLC to A...  
 2/Lt. Murphy: 2nd and 3rd Bronze OLC to A...  
 Capt. Talbott: 6th, 7th and 8th Bronze OLC to A...  
 1/Lt. Dame: 4th Bronze OLC to A..., 1st Silver OLC  
to A.M., and 6th Bronze OLC to A...  
 2/Lt Hamilton: 6th Bronze OLC to A.M.  
 2/Lt Kogal: 4th Bronze OLC to A..., 1st Silver OLC  
to A...  
 Capt. O'Connell: 5th, 7th and 8th Bronze OLC's to A...  
 3/Lt. Olden: 3rd and 4th Bronze OLC's to A.M.  
 1/Lt. Marks: 6th, 7th and 8th Bronze OLC's to A...  
 2/Lt Helliesen: 2nd and 3rd Bronze OLC's to A...  
 Capt. Lougee: 8th Bronze OLC to A...  
 1/Lt. Sharp: 6th and 7th Bronze OLC's to A.I.  
 2/Lt. Potter: A.M. and 1st 2nd Bronze OLC's to A...  
 2/Lt. Cassidy: 2nd Bronze OLC to A.M.  
 1/Lt. Carlson: 6th Bronze OLC to A.I.  
 1/Lt. Rosvold: 5th, 7th and 8th Bronze OLC's to A...  
 2/Lt. Weston: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bronze OLC's to A...  
 2/Lt. Stoll: 3rd and 4th Bronze OLC's to A.M. & Purple  
Heart.  
 1/Lt Brown: 6th, 7th and 8th Bronze OLC's to A.M.  
 1/Lt. Sutcliffe: 6th and 7th Bronze OLC to A.M.  
 1/Lt. Arps: 6th and 7th Bronze OLC to A.M.

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Installment VI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section A

AWARDS (cont'd.)

2/Lt. Joe: 4th Bronze OLC to A... and 1st Silver OLC to A...  
2/Lt. Burney: 6th OLC to A...

July Awards and Decorations to Personnel now ALA:  
Capt. Anderson: 8th and 9th Bronze OLC's to A...  
Capt. Marinis: 8th and 9th Bronze OLC's to A...  
Capt. Potter: 8th and 9th Bronze OLC's to A...

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Installment #1 - 397th Bombardment Group - Section 3

397TH BOMB GROUP  
SPECIAL DUTIES  
Covering the Month  
of July, 1944  
CONTINUED

And now, 3, continuing. Hence--(July 1) -- a meeting was held aboard all day long at various locations. In the early drizzle inauguration this month early this morning, and by mid-day frequent downpours were curbing operations. At 1100 hours, during all the time since, that the 397th has been here, there was "no normal weather for three days or more."

And now, 3, (July 2) -- Major John Haesler, squadron commander, and Captain Joe McElroy, 1st Lt., received this afternoon at a special ceremony, General Director, Commanding General of the Ninth Air Force, was present and gave the award. General Macmillan, Commanding General of the Ninth Air Force, also visited the base today.

Despite unfavorable weather conditions, however, there was maintained all day an unceasing fire fight, and five interception missions were flown. The first alert flight, Captain McElroy, Lieutenant Royal and Lieutenant, 1st Lt. Officer Cassady, took off at 1000 hours and went to an airfield about five miles west of Caen. They met no opposition -- the lone flight it was engaged by more than 10 ME-109's and FW-190's, necessitating evasive action. Its McElroy and Royal engaged a formation of the attackers, but could not observe their results. They turned left suddenly to their right and spared none of their fire power. It lost one aircraft, expended 800 pounds of ordnance ammunition, and the plane caught fire, but the 3rd Army had already landed on an air strip. After a brief respite, they immediately departed again, unbroken, back to this base and continued mission before the day ended.

The second and third alert flights took off at 1100 hrs, respectively and both returned at 1400 after an uneventful patrol from the coast south of Caen to Normandy. They encountered no air opposition. Captain McElroy and his Carlson, Preston and Murphy comprised the second alert flight, and Capt. Anderson, 1st Lt. Brown, Butcliffe and Sharp flew the third.

The fourth flight, comprised of Capt. Anderson, 1st Lt. Brown, Butcliffe and 1st Lt. Officer Cassady, took off at 1500 and rode against in the vicinity of Caen and between Bayeux and St. Lo. They also encountered no air opposition. Lt. Butcliffe experienced engine failure and had to make an forced landing on a British strip, but he brought it in wheels down without major heavy damage.

Two flights flew the fifth scramble -- Capt. Marini Landin, 1st Lt., Rosvold and Utter and Capt. O'Connell leading, a formation flew from the coast and Bayeux, but it was uneventful.

And No. 3, (July 3) -- John W. Haesler, squadron commander and "Buddy" of the outfit since its activation thirteen months ago, has been promoted from the rank of Major to Lieutenant Colonel, it was revealed today. Colonel Haesler became the organization's C.O. immediately after the 397th was formulated at Westover Field, Mass. He was a Captain at that time and was advanced to Major shortly before the squadron came overseas.

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and we expect, - the Squadron's first aircraft arrived today. This is a liaison organization. The Squadron's operations will consequently, henceforth, be carried out from this base.

A single wave bombing mission comprised today's operational activity thus, the high and medium formation hit the target with 60 of their 20,000 lb. and the low-level formations were only four. The targets, as during the referred portion, had no effect. A flat black smoke shot up from the area when the 200 ft. altitude attempts were more successful - major explosions and st. Harpoon一枚を放つ。A fuel truck on a secondary road, and a pair of tanks were hit, one of which caught fire and exploded. The tanks were unarmored, containing gasoline, and water, according to the Japanese, however, they were armored and mine. The tanks exploded on the ground, and were hit in the rear and side.

Major G. P. Hendrie, USAF, and Major W. J. Hendrie's targets on a flight bombing mission late this afternoon, but the objectives suffered little damage in spite of the 200-300 ft. burst over 1000 ft. in the target areas. Strafeing, however, again saved the aircraft from a strike out -- Major Hendrie and Lt. Warko, Griscom and Helliegen teamed up to strafe up to 1000 ft. to 40 German cavalry horses and at least 15 wagons probably full of supplies. About 27 tanks were also strafed, with unobserver results. During the bombardment formation were: Hendrie, Griscom, Warko, Eliason, Hartung, Ladd, Dohleker, Regal, Lougee, Lt. Ritter, Sharp, and Carson.

and No. 2, (July 6, -- scattered in minor operational activity; routine general activity).

ABN no. 5, (July 1), -- 100 Hive bombing missions completed today's operational activity, resulting in extensive destruction to targets from 10-30 lb. GP's.

His first target was an Army truck going with the column. The Indians emptied their entire belt into it.

The following attack was made by Lt. Foltz. He flew over the target area. The suddenness of the attack gave little opportunity for encounter, but Lt. Foltz scored a damaged.

The squadron put up a stiff fight, although outnumbered, but it was Jerry's day -- two of our pilots had to be listed in the R.I.P. column. Captain Eugene M. Retter, a veteran combat pilot who flew with the best of them as a member of the first American Eagle squadron with the RAF during the early stages of the war, was last seen attacking one of the J/A's head on. Flight Officer

Installment #1 - Model #1 - Operational Report - Section 2

July 6, (July 7 con't.) -- J. A. Clever, a recent addition to our organization, was at 100% F, was attacked and shot down, and missed the target. Both Capt. Clever and Capt. Little had both scored hits on the target a few minutes before.

Captain Little, although only 2½, was the only real combat veteran in the squadron when the outfit became operational last March. He switched to the R.A.F. after the U.S. jumped into the war and joined the 15th in March as assistant operations officer. Little is known about his R.A.F. days -- he was a modest guy and only infrequently could we pull a yarn out of him. One day I asked him what wings he had and he replied that he had "two" -- never a word about his 110+ sorties or his decorations.

Now Mr. Civilian says Little has a Captain's wings and a Distinguished Flying Cross; you, here again, Little is known by his service as a bombardier. He took break down, once in a while and snort a little rum-paste wine, and Little was like all the rest. He did nothing to anyone, except from a strict military point of view. He was good friend to stick to his job, and in his self-sacrificing and his effective tutor to new, less experienced pilots. A man like him, who is so willing to help would be hard to find... though the cell is small, but those who knew him knew that he deserved it. Of course, the last -- a man of attack in never-give-an-inch style was a natural reaction to the "old" R.A.F.

On July 10, 1945, Capt. Clever received his education in Chicago, where he attended the Lewis Institute. He lives at 1100 W. Grand Ave., Chicago.

Major William Clever, the son of Mr. Hazel A. Clever, 32, Ruthminister, Pa., a native, was joined the outfit as an operational recruit only last month. At 100% F, the record of fellow pilots in those days now works by virtue of his ability, in hitting the attack of Soviet Russia, however, with accuracy. He was born on July 10, 1922, and graduated from New Castle High School in 1940, and was an Army Finance Inspector before entering the service on Nov. 4, 1942. He became an aviation cadet in January 1943, and won his wings and appointment as a first officer at Bather Field, Victoria, Texas, in November 1943.

Flying the Anderson Avro Lancaster, Olden, Neveon, Hamilton, Anderson, See, Butcliffe, Ellington, Capt. Carter, Bauer, Colta, Clever.

An enemy gun emplacement was the target of two B-52's second mission and the Anderson hit it with 4x 500 lb. F's to an excellent advantage. In addition to the unusual success, Major Hendricks strafed and destroyed a staff car and a military truck.

Participating were: Hendricks, Neveon, Anderson, Ellington, Clever, Colta, Olden, Neveon, Ellington, Anderson, Hamilton.

On July 8, (July 9) -- enemy radio stations and gun emplacements were the objectives of two dive bombing missions flown by the Anderson outfit. The first mission became a target of opportunity because, after the first one, the target turned out to be an insignificant little village instead of a village. They found a road intersection, an overgrown bridge and four road bridges to hit with what they had left after pasting their assigned targets, and hit them all with effective results.

In the second run: Hendricks, See, Butcliffe, Neveon, Carter, Colta, Hamilton, Olden, Ellington, Anderson, Carlson and Bauer.

At 100% F, an enemy gun emplacement was reported to be surrounded with 22 500 lb. of bombs on the day's second mission. The results were unobserved.

Taking part in the mission were: Hendricks, Preston, Brown, Rogal, O'Connell, Driscoll, Marko, Lougee, Cotter, Sharp, and Cassidy.

... to 6:00 AM, -- the firm bombing missions completed today's operational activity, our replacements being the objectives of both, the afternoon job is. Inasmuch as ours were carried on the first morning, and as, it were hoped to produce the desired results, of the remaining twelve, six were dropped on a tank convoy (Capt. Anderson destroyed one tank, and two more dropped on a ridge to the left). Nine of position was now in our favor, and the planes went, Anderson's gun at Arpal, cultivated acting, and Capt. Ladd's leading.

The destruction of U-boat was the objective of the second mission being the U-boat was located directly on the target. Four bombs hit U-boat and though it exploded it did not sink U-boat. Large oil tanks were ruptured and the U-boat sank about thirty minutes later.

in the field, and the following day, he had made his report.

During 1941 and 1942, the Bureau of Land Management had no control of the areas of energy resources known or suspected to have been located on the public lands of the state.

After the raid, it was learned that the two men -- the experienced hood and the young recruit, with whom he had been working closely -- having left separately, were extremely cautious, going and coming at night in darkness, and that it was difficult to follow them. The guardship was light and inaccurate, but very good, so that it was thought that the young recruit was safe until he came into the city, and that he would surely and easily find his old employer. The man who could not be identified as being either friendly or unfriendly, had incident occurred in the area to the front, but not definitely in enemy territory. His fate at this time has not been determined -- an investigation was ordered immediately. It is not known whether he was picked up by friendly troops or taken prisoner by the Germans, but it was yielded no evidence as yet.

In the mission were: Anderson, Bradwell, Caldwell, and T. C. Morris, Preston, O'Connell, Olden, Farne, Carter, and McElroy.

Inclement weather that closed in after take off converted the day's second mission into a total failure -- the formation current of 1200 ft. per lb. per hour and were enroute to study well unranklin, jaws at cranville but were forced to jettison the entire load, as a swag, and return to mifflinburg return early when the clouds closed in to a 1000 feet.

In the mission were; Mueller, Hamilton, Neervoort, Murphy, Roselli, Foltz, Carlson, Raser, Haddow, et al.

Installment #1 HISTORY OF THE 597TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section 2

AIR NO. 3, July 12, -- The squadron was released from its operational status all day for maintenance and training purposes. A few practice missions comprised the day's only flying activity. Routine business prevailed as usual.

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AIR NO. 3, (July 13) -- Assigned to dive bomb a key railroad bridge just west of Incaur, the squadron returned from their only mission of the day here tonight with no direct hits to report, but with a good strafing story and some hot reconnaissance dogs to overshadow their disappointment. The formation rained their target with 24 500 lb. JP bombs, but all scored near misses that resulted only in the weakening of the bridge through the destruction of leading embankments. In the strafing column, however, Major Headricke destroyed three locomotives near the target and Captain Lougee and Lt. Potter each destroyed one other. A likely target was observed in the form of six military buildings suspected of being an ammunition dump. The buildings were well camouflaged, surrounded with trucks and protected by six flak guns.

Poor weather contributed mostly to the failure of the bombing -- the overcast was solid down to 3,000 feet and the formation attempted a bomb run on two other assigned bridge targets before picking the one west of Incaur.

Participating in the mission were Headricke, Stoll, Brown, Preston, J'onnell, Olden, Marks, Hilleisen, Lougee, Potter, Sharp and Jessady.

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AIR NO. 3, (July 14) -- Receipt of squadron orders today disclosed that 1st Lt. Wayne L. Driscoll has been appointed assistant squadron operations officer, replacing Captain Eugene M. Potter, who is missing in action. The appointment was made per paragraph 2, sqdn orders #14, dated July 3.

Paragraph one of the same order appointed 2nd Lt. Lynn L. Nixon (Q-377376) as squadron tech supply and assistant commanding officer. Lt. Nixon was assigned to the 597th per paragraph 2, special orders #17, iq. 358th Fighter Group.

The squadron received four new planes today, all new P-47 Thunderbolts, model D27. The D27 is Republic's latest, but is similar to the D25, having the same 'bubble' canopy and the same fuselage design.

The squadron flew its 122nd mission today, a dive bombing job #6 on enemy controlled marshalling yards at Chateaudun. Twenty-three 500 lb. JP bombs were dropped on the target with effective results--several cars, oil tanks, goods wagons and like items were hit and many fires and explosions were observed. In addition, two direct hits were scored on the main track.

On the mission were: Col. Massler, Col. Perego, Capts Anderson and Talbott, 1sts Foltz, Sutcliffe, Arps, Nogal, Hamilton, James, Murphy and P/J-Bauer.

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Installment VI HISTORY OF THE 397th FIGHTER SQUADRON Section E

Alg No. 5, (July 15) -- S/Sgt Paul R. Powerozneck, 2d chief of the outfit's pains and pills department, is in an evacuation hospital near here today recovering from a shrapnel wound after leaving the hard way that the Geneva Conference didn't automatically immune medics to shell fire.

Powerozneck was standing right smack in front of the 597th Dispensary here last night when Jerry came over to pay his routine evening respects. The place was adequately marked with regulation Red Crosses, but one small piece of iron that the ack-ack boys threw up apparently lacked a sense of fair play -- and clipped Powerozneck in the shoulder. -- He we will recover.

Volatile inclement weather again held the squadron grounded nearly all day, with but a single break that came in the early evening long enough for one mission. The squadron formation of 12 took off at 1951 and successfully dive bombed an enemy controlled rail bridge at Mantes Jassicourt. The target area was rained with 24 500 lb. GP bombs and the bridge is believed to have been knocked out entirely or at least well damaged. Flak opposition was heavy, intense and accurate at Elbeuf-Louvierville and from the British beach head east to the Seine River. One plane was hit and collected category "A" battle damage.

Flying the mission were: Hendricks, Horlacher, Stoll, Lougee, Potter, Sharp, Cassady, O'Connell, Driscoll, Marko, Olden and Captain Leary, Group Operations Officer.

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Alg No. 5, (July 16) -- Unable to bomb their assigned target because of a solid overcast, the squadron sought targets of opportunity tonight and effectively dive bombed a rail bridge at Pont Artaud and an installation northeast of Believille that was probably an oil or munitions dump. The bridge was destroyed when 13 500 lb. GP bombs landed in the area, despite only one direct hit. The installation near Believille was damaged when seven bombs scattered through the area, three of them direct hits.

On the mission were: Haesler, Gutcliffe, Argus, Goss, Talbott, Hamilton, Rosvold, Murphy, Gibson, Foltz, Carlson, P/C Hauer.

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Alg No. 5, (July 17) -- Ideal flying weather, excepting a light haze up to 10,000 feet, favored Normandy all day, but it was late afternoon before the squadron got off on a mission. Dive bombing and armed reconnaissance in the Argentan area was the day's first assignment, but the designated target was only subjected to four direct hits. Major Hendricks dropped his pair and scored directly on an organization comprised of medium tanks, a staff car, a jeep and about 100 German soldiers. Two more hits were scored on a railroad junction just 40% southwest of Argentan. The remaining 20 500 lb. GP's were said "near misses". Lt Brown and Rogal teamed up and strafed and destroyed two military trucks. Highlight of the mission, however, was ignited by Lt. Marko, who destroyed an Fw 190 in a dog fight southwest of St. Lo. Four planes collected battle damage from flak and bomb frags.

On the mission were: Hendricks, Preston, Brown, Rogal, Potter, O'Connell, Helliesen, Marko, Olden, Lougee, Horlacher and Cassady.

Installment VI - Account of the 1944 Flying Schedule, Section B

Air No. 5, (July 17, cont'd.) -- Miscellaneous patrols, marked by antiaircraft smoke, in support of ground troops, was the objective of the day's second mission. All 22 of the formation's B-17s of bomb load landed in the specified target areas, with Col. Meesler's flight and Scrim. 1st Lt. Capt. Gibson's flight destroying two marked houses and Capt. Anderson's flight destroyed one house and a road section, also several with smoke.

Participating were: Col. Meesler, Driscoll, Ladd, Murphy, Sec., Gibson, Anderson, Cutcliffe, Foltz, Carleton and Arps.

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Air No. 6, (July 18) -- 18 squadrons flew bombing missions and a single flight escort for a bomber-trapping. It comprised the day's operational assignments - giving a foundation for the activity ~~that~~ <sup>of</sup> and evaluation of the recent three days.

The first target, a road bridge, was completely destroyed when the formation let go with their entire load of 2,000 lb. of bombs and scored several direct hits.

Participating were: Hendricks, Preston, Brown, Vogel, Olden, O'Connell, Mann, Stoil, Lougee, Rotter, Bruecker and Cassidy.

A heavy railroad bridge was the target of the day's second mission. Fifteen of the two thousand pound of B-17s were dropped on the structure, but it remained intact despite 10 direct hits. Severe damage, however, was obvious - several explosions were observed and dust and black smoke Richardson the target. Col. Meesler's opinion indicated that 200 pounds are too gentle for the bigger bridges. Flak was encountered at several points and two planes collected category "A" battle damage.

At the mission were: Meesler, Foltz, Driscoll, 1st Lt. Ladd, Sec., Anderson, Cutcliffe, Arps, Bellotti, Hamilton, McCullough, Murphy.

Capt. Gibson's flight provided escort for a B-25 on a propaganda mission for the concluding event of the day. This flight rendezvoused with the Marauder over this base and flew accompaniment to the west coast of the Cherbourg peninsula, where the leaflets were dropped on enemy troops from an altitude of about 5000 feet. That the leaflets were effective is doubtful - they contained instructions for surrendering. Apparently only a few followed the suggestion.

Comprising the escort flight were: Capt. Gibson, 1st. Carlson, Lt. Foltz and P/C Bauer.

1st Lt. Roy D. Carlson, element leader of Capt. Marini's flight, today assumed leadership of the flight. Capt. Marini is AIA.

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Air No. 5, (July 19) -- Operational activity resumed a dull standstill again today when, variable inclement weather with the squadron entirely grounded.

Flies throughout the area were generally quiet during the bulk of the day, but a slight break in the weather occurred in the mid-afternoon and with it numerous curts or ack-ack -- announcing a Luftwaffe lad who had ventured too far from home.

A few Spits happened along simultaneously and effectively dispersed of the ~~few~~ stray Jerry. Then the ack-ack boys (no sharks on A/C ~~heads~~)

Installment VI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section B

ALG No. 5, (July 19, con't.) — Recognition) started disposing of the Spites. When the firing ceased, the provoked Spites circled the field several times in an effort to brush up the AA's identification system. Pilots and ground personnel were observing the whole show from a conspicuous spot near the S-2 and S-3 sites when one of the escaping Spites broke through the clouds and zoomed low overhead ".... it's an ME 109 !!!" someone yelled and converted the observers into sprinters. Everyone ran for the S-2 and S-3 tents — apparently to take cover under the heavy, protective canvas. Scents of SNAFU characterized the whole affair, making a lot of us realize that room for improvement still exists.

Receipt of several recently published special orders from group headquarters today revealed a number of squadron administrative changes occurring during the month of July:

Pvt. (S21) Robert F. Talamante, 39281120, was assigned to the squadron per par. 2, Special Orders No. 69, Hq. 368th Fighter Group, dated July 3rd.

Two new pilots, 2nd Lts (1055) Jessie D. Welch, Jr., O-818497, and Milton A. Weinstein, O-818498, were assigned to the squadron per par. one, special orders number 73, dated July 14th.

Enlisted men and officers of the 2058th Aviation Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon were attached to the organization for rations per par. 4, SO 75, dated July 14th.

2nd Lt. Joe R. Burney, 0745288, injured when he bailed out over the channel last month, was transferred to the 13th ROD Replacement Pool per par. 1, SO 74, dated July 15th. Burney is still hospitalized.

S/Sgt (502) Joe A. Geczi, 15019009, and Cpl (809) John F. Hinck, Jr., 32616491, also hospitalized, were transferred to the same pool per the same order.

Paragraph 3, SO 75, dated July 15, granted the following promotions to EM of the squadron:

To be Staff Sergeants ... Sgts Clingman O'Dell, Cletus E. Floyd, Paul M. Lerman and Walter F. Szymczewski ..... To be Sergeants: Cpls Cecil F. Clancy, Merlin J. Kickvoss, Thomas H. Mucker, Clarence D. Parrish ..... To be Corporals .... PFC's Albert J. Calorossi, Edward M. Conkner, Ralph E. Hume, Peter Loback, August J. Menkene .... To be PFC's Pvts Leonard P. Dabey, William D. Gildchrist, Jessie A. Lewis, John H. Marion, Enrique Mendoza, Leonard R. Nation, John Ramedell, William J. Scoville, Michael Signe

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ALG No. 5, (July 20) — Second Lieutenant Jesse W. Welch, Jr., was killed late this afternoon when the plane that he was flying on a routine training mission crashed and burned as he attempted a difficult landing. Lt. Welch, assigned to the squadron less than a week ago, was completing his OTU training, in preparation for combat flying, and would have commenced participation in squadron operational missions within a few days.

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ALG No. 5, (July 21) — Heavy rain and general inclement weather held the squadron grounded all day. Despite the operational standstill, routine activities prevailed, although on a minimum scale. Personnel were primarily concerned with the salvaging of personal belongings from their inundated make-shift quarters, which, being dug out in drainage ditches along the hedge rows, were generally total losses. By nightfall many found their "homes" covered with as much as five feet of water.

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Installment VI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section B

Air No. 5, (July 22) --- Major Kendall A. Hendricks, squadron operations officer and the outfit's lone combat ace, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by Ninth Air Force commander, General Louie Brereton, at a special presentation formation today at Air No. 2. Major Hendricks' successful leadership of squadron formations through innumerable hazardous missions, coupled with his solo record as an effective gunnery ace, was the basis for the award. He has destroyed five enemy aircraft and an enviable collection of miscellaneous targets, mostly locomotives, since the squadron became operational in March.

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Air No. 5, (July 23) --- Special orders number 55, Headquarters 368th Fighter Group, published and appearing on this date, inclosed in paragraph two the assignment of six new pilots to this squadron. They are: 1st Lt. Norman A. Frisbee, 0-26593; 2nd Lts. Dell V. Dustin, 0-767-150; James A. Igari, 0-767257; James E. Failey, 0-767174 and Vernon W. Fein, 0-767177; and 1/C Michael A. Hardy, 0-2668.

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Air No. 5, (July 24) --- Favored with an advantageous break in the recent series of inclement weather, the squadron resumed its rarely broken operational status today after a comparatively long standstill. A dive bombing and armed reconnaissance mission got off in the early afternoon, followed shortly by a bomber escort job.

A road bridge at Fontenay was the target of the bombing mission. Twenty-four 500 lb. G.C.'s landed on the bridge and in the area of the approaches, but little damage was observed. Participating were: Hendricks, Murphy, Capt. Beary (group operations officer), Horlacher, Talbott, Joo, Hamilton, Dame, Rogal, Anderson, Bender and Arps.

Escort for B-25's enroute to an ammunition dump at Mivaret was the task of the second mission. It was uneventful. Participating were: Haesler, Baker, Sutcliffe, Petter, Carlson, Stoll, Brown, Preston, Gibson, Bork, Foltz, and Cassady.

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Air No. 5, (July 25) --- All was in readiness here this morning when the big offensive plunged into high gear, but it was mid day before the squadron was called to lend its waiting air support. Up at the crack of dawn and anticipating a record day, the outfit disappointingly waited all morning -- and anything but consoled themselves by counting 1,600 heavy allied bombers fly overhead within a few hours.

The awaited opportunity arrived, however, and at 1111 twelve planes got off on a dive bombing mission and dumped 20,000 lb. G.C.'s on about three dozen railroad cars at Jegra. Strafing followed the bombing and three locomotives were damaged; one truck destroyed. On the mission were: Hendricks, Barker, Horlacher, Murphy, Talbott, Hamilton, Dame, Joo, Rogal, Anderson, Bender, and Arps.

Attachment A. Diary of 4th PAFK Flight, 27 July, section 2

AIR DR. 3, (July 27) --- Another dull operational day yet another day's second mission. Twenty-four planes in 24 groups of twos, were dropped at selected junctions with limited success. A section of targets and targets virtually impossible. Two planes crashed from instantaneous to slow or delay. The darkness hampered, also necessitated the landing of several planes at once. Two. 11th Mission: Feltz, Mealer, Lt. Sawyer, Sutcliffe, Potter, Carlson, Stoltz, Brown, Johnson, Gibson, Horn, Feltz, and Murphy.

RECORDED

AIR DR. 3, (July 27) --- Another dull operational day yet still characterized by the dullness of today's activities. But the afternoon saw the status changing to the better. Lieutenant Captain Anderson had flown seven individual flights during the day, flying alone. He was unassisted.

The day's operations, as mentioned previously, were conducted under the direction of Captain Anderson. In our last report Captain Anderson while leading his flight in a dive bombing attack on a bridge crossing or bridge similar in a position opposite south of Army. He had occupied the position and had returned to his flight home when he was an instant ago. It is believed that he was caught in a flak barrage which he lost his flight to aid a friendly plane in distress. The nose, in its official sense, was a major setback for the 4th PAFK - flight to consider if of his combatant capability are at invincible threat to any unit. But his loss to the human cause was even greater. Captain Anderson's realm of friendship is the squadron was far-reaching because he practiced equality - his subordinate received the same concern as his superiors. He made no mystery that he sought for work over into Army.

The seven missions were flown in direct cooperation with our attacking ground forces and specifically in affiliation with the armored AF force. - each plane carried two 500 lb. GP bombs and employed them in combined bombing and strafing attacks on enemy tanks. All the seven flights engaged in today's operations were made up of the following pilots: 1st mission: Lougee, Falor, Norlacher, and Murphy. 2nd mission: Denrich, Barker, Arps, See. 3rd mission: Carlson, Weston, Brown. 4th mission: Mealer, Murphy, Feltz, Dork. 5th Mission: Sutcliffe, Hamilton, Jones, Logal. 6th mission: Anderson, See, Sutcliffe, Falor. 7th mission: Gibson, Horn, Murphy, Norlacher.

RECORDED

AIR DR. 3, (July 27) --- continuation of the individual flight missions in direct coordination with our ground forces comprise today's operational activity. The record-seeming seven missions that were flown yesterday, when the campaign was inaugurated, ~~slightly~~ slipped into a backseat position today when 12 missions were flown during a 14-hour alert.

The missions were of a dual purpose... dive bombing and armed reconnaissance ... with the bombing objectives being varied enemy concentrations of armored vehicles, including motor convoys, tanks and guns in transit, as directed by ground force commanders.

The missions were flown in flights of four, with each plane carrying a pair of 500 lb. general purpose bombs. The assigned targets and a variety of targets of opportunity were strafed following the bombings and a sizeable aggregation of vehicles and miscellaneous targets were claimed.

Installment VI HISTORY OF THE 450TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON Section 3

AIG No. 2, (July 27, cont'd.) --- Second Lieutenant Bern joined the 450th's fourth mission. It is believed that he was hit by enemy machine gun fire from a plane in front of him. He was seen to bail out and is thought to have landed safely. The incident occurred over enemy territory. Lt. Bern joined the squadron as a trainee only a few weeks ago. He had completed his OTU and had been participating regularly in operational missions.

Participation in today's combat activity were the following:  
First Mission: Hendricks, Wilton, Dale, Legal. Second Mission: Jones, Baker, Feltz, Cassidy. Third Mission: Carlson, Weston, Brown, Buckley. Fourth Mission: Bern, Schaefer, Feltz, Bern. Fifth Mission: Hendrix, Stollfie, Beary, Barker. Sixth Mission: Calcott, Hamilton, Bone, Murphy. Seventh Mission: Jones, Janney, Cottier, Baker. Eighth Mission: Hendrick, Weston, Brown, Stoll. Ninth Mission: Jones, Beary, Barker, Schaefer, Feltz, Bern. Tenth Mission: Hendrick, Weston, Brown, Stoll, Feltz, Bern, Weston, Murphy, Jones, Beary, Barker, Schaefer, Cottier, Baker. Eleventh Mission: Hendrick, Weston, Brown, Stoll, Feltz, Bern, Weston, Murphy, Jones, Beary, Barker, Schaefer, Cottier, Baker.

AIG No. 3 (July 28) --- An uneventful mission was flown by the 450th's crews to an area held railroad bridge north of Bruxelles. Today's only operational activity, a full squadron formation, of 16 planes, was flown and the assignment proved fruitless due to weather. A sound overcast prevented any observation of the bombing results. No damage of economic value, and no surface contact was encountered. In the mission were: Hendricks, Hamilton, Bone, Legal, Jones, Baker, Calcott, Carlson, Weston, Brown, Weston, Murphy, Jones, Beary, Barker, Schaefer, Cottier, Baker.

\*\*\*\*\*

AIG No. 3 (July 29) --- Receipt of squadron orders today disclosed the appointment of Capt. Stanley J. ("Bust Em") Jonnison as unit postal officer, to succeed Capt. Dean L. ("Way-oh") Williams, relieved. The change was directed per paragraph one, orders number 1, dated July 21. Paragraph two of the same order appointed Capt. John J. Jones as squadron special service representative to succeed Private Louis E. Allen, relieved. Allen, until recently a staff sergeant, was reduced, given with Spt. Joe Green, for alleged "misconduct".

\*\*\*\*\*

AIG No. 3, (July 30) --- Receipt of group special orders of 450th Night Fighter Squadron today disclosed the granting of operational leaves to five squadron pilots: Capt. Russell A. Connelly, 1st Lt. Eddie M. Mascoli & Rudolph L. Marks and 2nd Lts. John A. Willeman and William C. Olsen. The leaves were for five days, plus travel time, in England. They commenced on July 23 and were authorized per paragraph one of special orders 78, HQ 450th Nighter Group, dated July 21.

\*\*\*\*\*

AIG No. 3, (July 31) --- A report from the "confirmation of Victory Credits Board" received today disclosed the award of "one FE 190 probably destroyed" to Lt. John P. Feltz.

Installment VI. Mission of 1st AF, Strategic Air Command.

And No. 35 (July 21, 1944) was an interesting one. It was an attack on suspected enemy held large concentrations of Japanese troops. The operational activity time late this afternoon.

Twenty-four P-51's were sent up from the 10th AF to bomb targets, but no results other than the destruction of buildings were reported. The areas appeared deserted and indicated probable bombing. A strafing attack followed the bombing, but the results were equally dull. Damage was negligible, probably due to foggy weather observations.

Participating in the mission were: Major Clegg, Major Ross, Lieutenant Murphy, Captain Peckler, Major Tamm, Captain Ladd, Captain Driscoll, and Lieutenant Walliesen.

It was the squadron's 1,07th mission.

Reserve force

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HEADQUARTERS  
368th FIGHTER GROUP

AF0 595, U. S. Army  
29 June 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 68 )

EXTRACT

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

2. The following named officers are appointed to witness and verify the cash balance of Major JOHN P. VOLIVA, FD: 0311398, Accountable Disbursing Officer, as of the close of business, 30 June 1944:

Capt GEORGE E. MYERS 0569530 AC  
CWO GILBERT P. GRIFFIN W2125428 AC

3. Having been asgd this orgr per par 1 SO 173, Hq AAF Sta 342, dtd 22 June 1944, the following named officers are further asgd to sq as indicated:

396th Fighter Squadron

2d Lt RICHARD C. COX	0702770
2d Lt ALBERT A. SCHNEIDER	0702845
2d Lt JOHN B. STEWART JR	0700849
2d Lt THEODORE O. TAUBERT	0700850
2d Lt ROBERT R. WAGGONER	0702869

X 397th Fighter Squadron

2d Lt EDGAR R. BAKER	0763829
2d Lt BOB V. BARKER	0763463
2d Lt GEORGE L. BAUER	0704660
2d Lt MILTON S. BENDER	0763468
2d Lt JACK F. BIAGINI	0815641
2d Lt RUBEN G. BORK	0763473

By O of Col MYERS:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,  
Maj. AC,  
Adj.

*Hugh L. Rice*

HUGH L. RICE,  
Maj. AC,  
Adj.

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R E S T A T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
365th FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U.S. Army  
3 July 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 69 )

1. Having been asgd this crgn per par 1 SC 73, HQ IX TAC, dtd 1 July 1944, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated:

365th Fighter Squadron

2d Lt (1055) EARL L. ANGLASS	0766555	AC
2d Lt (1055) JOHN R. ANGLASS	0820510	AC
2d Lt (1055) RUPERT B. MAXWELL	0766609	AC
F/O (1055) KIRKLAND L. WILCOX	T-2642	AC

2. Having been asgd this crgn per par 1 SC 180, HQ 13th RCD (Avn), dtd 1 July 1944, the following named EN are further asgd to Sq as indicated:

Headquarters Detachment

Cpl (521) Charles M. Hicks	18182276
Ivt (521) Herbert J. Morello	14071072

365th Fighter Squadron

Ivt (521) Alfonso N. Catrillo	32467790
-------------------------------	----------

367th Fighter Squadron

Ivt (521) Robert P. Palomante	39281120
-------------------------------	----------

By C of Sqd HQ:

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

GET WELL:

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

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**R E S T R I C T E D**

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U S Army  
14 July 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 73

1. Having been asgd this orgn per par 4 SO 82, Hq IX TAC,  
dtd 10 July 1944, the following named officers are further asgd  
to Sq as indicated:

2d Lt (1055) WILLIAM J. WAYLAND JR 0818470 AC 395th Fitr Sq  
2d Lt (1055) MILTON A. WEINSTEIN 0818498 AC 397th Fitr Sq  
2d Lt (1055) JESSE D. WELCH JR 0818495 AC 397th Fitr Sq

2. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon  
the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM,  
397th Fitr Sq, are reduced to the gr of Pvt for misconduct:

S/Sgt (911) Louie S. Allen 32378615  
Cpl (911) Joseph Greenspan 32826669

3. The following named EM, 396th Fitr Sq, are attached to  
the 382nd Service Sq for rations only:

Sgt (759) John P. O'Meara 16145017  
Cpl (759) Charles E. Steinchak 35514014  
Cpl (759) Jerome J. Meyers 12183568

4. Officers and enlisted men of the 2068th Engr F/F Platoon  
(Avn) are hereby attached to the 397th Fitr Sq for rations only.

5. Officers and enlisted men of the 74th Bomb Disposal Sq  
are hereby attached to the 396th Fitr Sq for rations only.

By O of Col MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

*Hugh L. Rice*

HUGH L. RICE,  
Majcr, AC,  
Adj.

HUGH L. RICE,  
Major, AC,  
Adj.

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HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U. S. Army  
15 July 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 74 )

1. The VOCO 368th Fitr Gp of 1 July 1944, under exigencies which prevented the issuance of advance orders, are hereby confirmed and made of record.

The following named officers and EM, hospitalized personnel, Sq indicated are trfd to Replacement Pool, 13th RCD, sta 433. Auth: 9 AF R Y-035-C:

1st Lt (1055) PAUL J. QUILTY	0679943 AC	396th Fitr Sq
2nd Lt (1055) JOE R. BURNEY	0745288 AC	397th Fitr Sq

Cpl (911) Maurice R. Walcott	31018255	395th Fitr Sq
Cpl (405) Howard D. Pruitt	39695627	396th Fitr Sq
S/Sgt (502) Joe A. Geczi	15019009	397th Fitr Sq
Cpl (809) John F. Hinck Jr	32616491	397th Fitr Sq

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 2 SC 82, HQ IX TAC, dtd 10 July 1944, 2d Lt (4823) SAMUEL GUSHIN, 0864736, AC, is further asgd HQ 368th Fitr Gp and attached to 396th Fitr Sq for rations, qrs and duty.

3. Officers and enlisted men of the 2151st Engr F/F Platoon (Avn) are hereby attached to the 396th Fitr Sq for rations only.

By order of Col MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

HUGH L. RICE,  
Maj AC  
Adj

*Hugh L. Rice*  
HUGH L. RICE,  
Maj AC  
Adj

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## R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUPAPG 595, U. S. Army  
16 July 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 75 )

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943 and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 395th Fitr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE TECHNICAL SERGEANT (TEMP)

S/Sgt (747) Ernest C. Wilkinson 34240995

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (747) Vendel Fetz	3530362
Sgt (750) Donald A. Reilly	12136585
Sgt (687) Philas E. R. Goulet	11089401
Sgt (405) John J. Murphy	11030874

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (911) Archio A. Bigham	32761258
Cpl (911) Conrad W. Miller	39038054
Cpl (747) Joseph E. Surat	32419111

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (747) John J. Bunock	32608229
Pfc (060) Stewart Farr	12207805
Pfc (060) Herbert L. Reed	6537125

TO BE PRIVATES FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (747) Silas Thompson	34444788
Pvt (345) Clifford L. Stubinger	36642616
Pvt (911) Eugene H. Pralle	37237297

2. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 396th Fitr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)  
Sgt (941) Ellis N. Baseler 32449388

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)  
Cpl (941) Joe L. McCain 38225629

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)  
Pfc (759) Carl L. Wetzel 32544951  
Pfc (756) Harry Zadorozny 33315892

R E S T R I C T E D

SO #75, HQ 368th Fitr Gp, dtd 16 July 1944, Par 2 cont'd,

TO BE PRIVATES FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (911) Russell C. Freeze 17152390

3. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, 30 June 1943, and upon the recommendation of their Orgn Comdr, the following named EM, 397th Fitr Sq, are promoted to grades as indicated:

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)

Sgt (747) Clingman O'Dell	34433182
Sgt (747) Cletus E. Floyd	38108911
Sgt (747) Paul M. Lerman	31116041
Sgt (505) Walter F. Szymczewski	33390550

TO BE SERGEANT (TEMP)

Cpl (747) Cecil F. Clancy	36507746
Cpl (405) Merlin J. Kickvoss	36817894
Cpl (941) Thomas H. Musker	31090880
Cpl (759) Clarence D. Parrish	39827477

TO BE CORPORAL (TEMP)

Pfc (060) Albert J. Caloretti	31336567
Pfc (911) Edward M. Conkner	33668676
Pfc (747) Ralph E. Hume	15354786
Pfc (747) Peter Leback	32332285
Pfc (405) August J. Morkens	31295500
Pfc (747) George W. Savage	11131241

TO BE PRIVATES FIRST CLASS (TEMP)

Pvt (911) Leonard P. Daboy	36318250
Pvt (941) William D. Gilchrist	37676673
Pvt (256) Joose A. Lewis	39455134
Pvt (747) John H. Marmion	15071250
Pvt (521) Enrique Mondosa	38411065
Pvt (590) Leonard R. Nation	34765968
Pvt (932) John Ramsdell	31084018
Pvt (932) William J. Scoville	11036244
Pvt (590) Michael Signo	31311230

4. So much of par 1, SO 74, this HQ cs, as reads "1st Lt (1055) PAUL J. QUINN, 0679943, AC, 396th Fitr Sq" is deleted.

By O of Col MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

*Hugh L. Rice*  
HUGH L. RICE,  
Maj, AC  
Adj

HUGH L. RICE,  
Maj, AC  
Adj

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HEADQUARTERS  
308TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U S Army  
21 July 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER . 78 )

1. 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 23 July 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 ~~oper orgn.~~ 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425. AUTH: TWX IX TAC 731C, 18 July 1944.

395th Fighter Squadron

1st Lt (1055) JAMES W. EARLY	0745326
1st Lt (1055) CLIFFORD L. GAMBLE	0676776
1st Lt (1055) RICHARD KIK, JR	0745414
2nd Lt (1055) CLARENCE E. ALLEN	0695095
2nd Lt (1055) GEORGE A. HUGHES	0680826
2nd Lt (1055) DONALD F. HUFF	0681673

397th Fighter Squadron

Capt (1055) RUSSELL A. O'CONNELL	0732326
1st Lt (1055) WAYNE H. DRISCOLL	0745323
1st Lt (1055) RUDOLPH L. MARKO	0745440
2nd Lt (1055) JOHN A. HELLESSEN	0815332
2nd Lt (1055) WILLIAM C. CLEPPN	0736310

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

By O of Col MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

*Hugh L. Rice*

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

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

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HUGH L. RICE, U.S. AIR CORPS, ADJUTANT

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HEADQUARTERS  
368TH FIGHTER GROUPAPO 595, U. S. Army  
23 July 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 80 )

1. So much of par 1, SO 78, this HQ cs, pertaining to operational leaves for officers as reads "1st Lt (1055) CLIFFORD L. GAMBLE, 0676776" and "2nd Lt (1055) GEORGE A. HUGHES, 0680826" is amended to read "Capt (1055) ROY L. BOWLIN, JR, 025637," and "1st Lt (1055) JOSEPH S. NOLAN, 0802337."

2. Having been asgd this orgn per par 1, SO 200, HQ AAF Sta 342, dtd 20 July 1944, the following named officers are further asgd to Sq as indicated:

395th Fighter Squadron

2d Lt (1055) EUGENE R. SMITH	0708767
2d Lt (1055) JOSEPH M. SULLIVAN JR	0820601
2d Lt (1055) CHARLES R. EARLS	0767163
F/O (1055) CHARLES R. FOLTZ	T-2681

396th Fighter Squadron

2d Lt (1055) BOYD E. JOHNSON	0766544
2d Lt (1055) IRVEN F. MILLER	0820546
2d Lt (1055) ALBERT F. BRIZENDINE	0820454
2d Lt (1055) WILLIAM G. DIXON	0706367
2d Lt (1055) CURTIS H. STEVENS	0701192

397th Fighter Squadron

1st Lt (1055) NORMAN H. FRISBIE	026336
2d Lt (1055) ODELL V. DUSTIN	0767160
2d Lt (1055) JAMES P. HOGAN	0767237
2d Lt (1055) JAMES E. FAULEY	0767174
2d Lt (1055) VERNON O. FEIN	0767175
F/O (1055) MICHAEL H. HARDY	T-2688

By O of Col MEYERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

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

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