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R

SO. FI-397-11
MAY 1945

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.....
* HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON *
*
* INSTALLMENT XVI (Covering the month of May 45) *
*.....

.....
* HISTORICAL OFFICER *
* LT RICHARD H. BLICKENSDERFER *
*.....

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Installation XVI

HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section A

1. ORGANIZATION(e.g. changes effected by the transfer of the unit or by new TO's

NEGATIVE

2. STRENGTH ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH:

Unit strength as of the 31 May 1945:

Officers Assigned ---- 59
E M Assigned -----246
Officers attached ---- 0
E M Attached ----- 1

3. ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THE ETO:

Squadron departed from ALG Y73(Frankfort-on-Main, Germany); arrived at ALG R 42(Nuremburg, Germany), o/a 5 May 1945. Move of a/c, equipment, advance and rear echelons accomplished in approximately 11 days.

4. LOSSES IN ACTION:

NEGATIVE

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THIS SQUADRON:

1st Lt George L. Bauer -- DFC
S/Sgt Henry A. Kraul ---- Bronze Star
Sgt Sam J. Simon----- Bronze Star

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installment XVI

HISTORY OF THE 357th FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section B

MAY 1 -- The month opened with a day of operational inactivity. Our long spell of good weather has changed abruptly and violent rain and gusts of wind are prevalent today.

Pfc Evan W. Flannigan of this squadron is promoted to the grade of Corporal. (Special Orders No. 45, Hqs 368th Ftr Gp, 1 May 1945)

MAY 2 -- Bad weather continued to ground our planes all day today. We have learned that another move for the Group is imminent. Our new field will be R-42, a few miles south west of Nurnberg. Preliminary reports from personnel who have visited the location are not very optimistic. It seems that it is an unimproved sod field with no runways or hardstands, and that it has a distinct tendency to bog down during spells of rainy weather such as the present. There are no buildings for operations and only a few former German barracks for living quarters, which will be taken over by the officers.

Rumors of peace have been coming over the radio recently. Hitler is reported to be dead and Admiral Doenitz is said to have taken his place.

MAY 3 -- The weather cleared up today permitting two missions to be flown in the small area left to us eastern Austria and northerwestern Czechoslovakia. The first mission found very few targets and succeeded in destroying only seven railroad cars and three buildings. Lane, Moore, Knocshuizen, Leubaugh, Yandel, Arrington, Kostlach, Handlin, Sharp, McWilliams, Shea and Johnston.

The second mission bombed the W/V at Schuttenkofen where a train of flat cars loaded with motor vehicles was well clobbered. 30 vehicles and 15 flat cars were damaged. A rail bridge was also destroyed. Hogan, Watterud, Patrick, Barco, Fein, Chancellor, Brayton, Shepard, Lewis, Duncan, LeGrand, and Price flew.

MAY 4 -- An armed peace was flown today into eastern Austria. 4 W/V's were destroyed by bombing and 20 by strafing. Brayton, Shepard, Barco, Handlin, Balin, Moore, Morowitz, and LeGrand were the pilots.

"A" party left today for Nurnberg to set-up the base for future operations.

MAY 5 -- Our weather closed in again today with cold rain and gusts of wind all day long.

The German armies in the north have surrendered to the British and those in Italy and western Austria have also thrown in the towel. Now we are all sure that the end is only a matter of a few days. Tonight a false report of a complete German surrender set off a premature celebration in the living area which was marked by considerable gun fire. Disciplinary action followed immediately. Fortunately our enlisted men were not involved as they are living on the field and did not indulge in this illegal method of expressing their enthusiasm.

MAY 6 -- Another day of rain and cold. Rumors of peace continue to circulate despite official denials by Prime Minister Churchill and President Truman. The radio in our pilots ready room is a popular spot for both men and officers "every hour on the hour".

The joint claim of Lts Uterhart and Hogan to one FW 190 destroyed near Jena on 8 April 1945 has been confirmed. (Report No. 58, XIX TAC Victory Credits Board, 6 May 1945)

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Installation XVI HISTORY OF THE 387TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section B

SECRET

At last the news for which we have all been waiting for has come through. It was officially announced over the radio that all hostilities would end with the unconditional surrender of Germany to Allies at 2301 hours May 8.

1st Lt George L. Bauer, now MIA, has been awarded the DFC for skill in combat against a superior force of enemy A/C on 17 December 1944. Lt Col Carbine, our former CO, also received the DFC for destroying one E/A in the air and four on the ground on 6 October 1944. (General Orders No. 65, Hq 9th Air Force, 7 May 1945.)

MAY 8 -- Prime Minister Churchill and President Truman made their official announcement of Victory this afternoon over the radio. A Group celebration took place tonight with 300 gallons of wine and many kegs of beer being provided. There will be no operations tomorrow!! Down at Nurnberg, "A" Party did equally well in "scrourging" many gallons of wine from an old storehouse at Wurzburg. Major Johnson seems to have a nose for the stuff.

Major Tuite's claim to one FW 190 destroyed near Gern on 11 April 1945 has been confirmed. (Report No. 70, Victory Credits Board, XIX TAC, 8 May 1945.)

MAY 9th -- Much to the surprise and dismay of nearly all personnel, we were routed out of bed sometime before five in the morning for an early mission. Finally sixteen pilots were scraped together and sufficient ground personnel all suffering from the last night's festivities, and the mission got off at 7:22. It was a completely uneventful patrol to Kletouy, Linz and back. Tuite, Wenk, Thornton, Yandel, Arrington, Kostrach, Moore, Sharp, Watterud, Pauley, Knodhutzen, Lewis, McWilliams, Brayton, and Johnson flew on the mission.

MAY 10 -- Now that combat operations are definitely ended, a long period of training will start. Major Tuite has inaugurated a new policy in the squadron whereby a pilot will be assigned to each department in the squadron as assistant officer in charge. The object of this program is to teach these pilots more about the ground departments so that they will be better equipped to take over positions of command at future dates. The first group to receive this training consists of Lt Duncan, in Transportation; Lt Clary, in Operations; Lt Thornton, in Armament; Lt Arledge, in Engineering; Lt Barco, in Tech Supply; Lt Moore as Assistant Adjutant; Lt Sharp, in AM Supply; Lt Brayton as Physical Training Officer; Lt Kalen as Special Service Officer and Lt Buck as Mess Officer. (Orders No. 13, 387th Ftr Sqdn, 10 May 1945.)

MAY 11 -- Group has received a projected plan for a mass demonstration flight over several large centers of population in Europe. There will be sixteen planes from each squadron participating. The course has not been set definitely as yet, nor is it known whether the show will actually come off. One projected course will take our planes to Amsterdam, London, Paris, Rheims, and home. There will be practice flights for the next few days to enable our boys to brush up on their formations and to choose which pilots will participate in the mission.

Pvt Donald C. Ferrell is assigned to this squadron. (Special Orders No. 47, Hq 368th Ftr Op, 11 May 1945.)

MAY 12 -- More training took place today in preparation for the demonstration mission.

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MAY 13 -- Four of our enlisted men were placed on temporary duty for an indefinite period for the purpose of going to strip Y-91 to make modifications in a C-47.

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Installation XVI HISTORY OF THE 397TH FIGHTER SQUADRON Section B

They were S/Sgt L.B. McDaniels, Sgt Anthony F. Lewicki, Sgt Robert I. Bernard and Cpl John W. Barnard. (Special Order No. 48, Hqs 368th Ftr Gp, 13 May 45.)

MAY 14 -- The field at Nurnberg was rendered unusable by the result of heavy rains that we have had and "E" Party and the pilots are "sweating out" their moving day until the field is serviceable.

MAY 15 -- 1st Lt Dale C. Olmstead is appointed Assistant Awards and Decorations Officer and Capt John G. Howard replaces 1st Lt Wynn L. Dixon as Information and Education Officer. (Orders No. 14, Hq 397th Ftr Sqdn, 15 May 45.)

MAY 16 -- The field at Nuremberg had dried out sufficiently to permit our planes to land there, so today "E" Party closed operations at Frankfurt and took off for Nuremberg. The route took us through several large German cities where there was ample opportunity to admire the fruits of Hitler's attempt at a new order. Very few undamaged buildings are seen except in very small towns. The cities uniformly consist of disorderly heaps of rubble through which streets have been ploughed.

MAY 17 -- News was received today that Lt Col Haesler was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm on 29 Jan 1945. Lt Col Haesler was commanding officer of the 397th until Major Hendricks took over from him last summer. Major Hendricks (now Lt Col) was also decorated by the French army with the Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Brill.

MAY 18 -- Work has gotten under way on the Information and Education program which Group is organizing. It will be under the direction of 1st Lt John E. Regan. A large number of rooms in a barracks building has been allotted for the school and what with the texts and other materials drawn from army sources combined with materials gathered by local "scoundrels" the school should be fairly well equipped. Capt John G. Howard, 397th Ftr Sqdn Engineering Officer was put in charge of all of the technical schools.

Under a new policy which provides leaves to the Riviera every week for a group of officers from this organization, Lts Baker, Shea, and Stronach leave today for a week in sunny southern France (SO No. 49, 368th Ftr Gp, 18 May 45)

MAY 19 -- A preliminary survey was held today to determine what courses should be offered in the school by popular request of all men in the squadron. A tentative program calls for over forty subjects ranging from elementary school through second year college. Enrollment will be entirely voluntary as well as the services of various Group members in a teaching capacity.

MAY 20 -- Major Johnson, our Executive received a letter from 2nd Lt Joe E. Burney whose plane was hit by flak east of Aachen on 11 Nov 44. He bailed out and was captured by the enemy. One of his feet was badly mangled and had to be amputated. He was sent to a PW hospital near our present station, Nuremberg, whence he was released during the conquest of Germany. He has been returned to the USA and is now at McClosky General Hospital, Temple, Texas.

A letter was also received from 1st Lt Robert D. Cassidy, who was hit by flak during the Ardennes breakthrough on 22 Jan, and was forced to belly in. He suffered burns about the face and arms and was confined by the enemy at the same PW hospital, until his release by our troops. At the time of writing, he was at the 21st General Hospital, in Paris, but he has probably been evacuated to the US by now.

1st Lt Robert L. Stephens was today assigned to this squadron (SO No. 50, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 20 May 45.)

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Installation XVI

HISTORY OF THE 37TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section "B"

MAY 21 -- A more liberal policy on leaves and furloughs has been inaugurated in this command much to the joy of all concerned. Five officers and fifteen enlisted men go to Paris or Brussels every other day for a 72 hour leave. This is accomplished through the use of our C 47, which makes it a much more pleasant trip than the long train ride from Metz used to be. We also have heard that this policy may become more liberal at a later date, permitting leaves and furloughs to the UK.

The claim of 1st Lt Vernon G. Fein to an ME 262 destroyed near Prague on 16 April has been confirmed. (Report No. 73, Victory Credits Board, Hq XIX TAC, 21 May 45)

MAY 22 -- This group still hasn't been informed as to what its future status will be - home, occupational or OBI. Rumors are frequent and varied and we know that most of them are without foundation. However, the general feeling is that we are to be occupational. In the mean time we are all adding up our points and hoping. The news that the Battle of Germany may be divided into three campaigns thru adding ten points to our scores, is very encouraging to those who cannot quite top the critical 85 with their present totals.

The claim of 1st Lt Henry A. Yandel to an ME 262 destroyed near Prague on 16 April 1945 has been confirmed.

MAY 23 -- Today was registration day at the group I and E school. It became apparent early in the day that registration would top even the highest estimate made by those in charge. When the final tally was made at the close of the day it was found that 639 men had registered for 48 subjects, ranging from elementary school to second year college. The 397th is well represented both in the student body and on the faculty.

Maj Joe Albert J. Freund was today assigned to this squadron. (Special Orders No. 51, Hq 368th Ftr Gp, 23 May 1945.)

MAY 24 -- During this interim period while we are waiting to hear what our future status will be, the pilots are having an easy training schedule. They fly for about an hour either in the morning or the afternoon. Occasionally there are navigational training missions which take them out for several hours at a time. Our grass field is such that a heavy rainstorm makes it too soft for the planes to operate for several days so that the pilots have plenty of free time on their hands.

MAY 25 -- A number of our older pilots are being sent home. They are the ones who have nearly completed a tour and would have gone home after a few more operational missions anyway. Today we said goodbye to Lts Fauley, Weinstein, and Strick all of whom rank high in hours and missions.

MAY 26 -- A newspaper clipping from the "Portland Oregonian" was received today. It relates in detail a mission by the Jabo Angles during the withdrawal from the Ardennes bulge. Lts Fauley, who comes from Portland is prominently mentioned as well as Capt Krause, who led the mission.

Six pilots in the squadron received promotions this month. They were Capt Krause to Major, 1st Lt Hogan to Captain, and 2nd Lts Price, Shea, Keil, and Hord to 1st Lt. (Special Orders 136, Hq Ninth AF, 16 May 1945.)

MAY 27 -- Today is Sunday, a day of rest for everyone. The I and E school ran a tour to Rethenburg, about forty miles to the south west of here. The city is of the medieval walled fortress type, but most of the architecture dates from the 17th century. Unfortunately it was about 40% destroyed by an air attack, but there was enough left to give a very good idea of its original appearance and atmosphere.

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Installment XVI

HISTORY OF THE 307TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Section B

MAY 28 -- Classes started today in the E and I school. The equipment and organization is remarkable considering the immense problem involved. Highest credit is due to Capt Regan, S/Sgt Glassrud, Cpl Stowell and Cpl Heidelberger for the superb job of organization they have done, as well as to the many additional officers and men who have given liberally of their time and talents.

MAY 29 -- A letter from F/O Vickerman from Le Havre, where he is waiting to be shipped home, caused much excitement in the squadron tonight. He writes of having seen many of our pilots, who have been MIA for months, and who were rescued either by the Russians or by our troops. It was with great joy and relief that we read that Murphy, Evans, Bender, and Olden were alive and comparatively well. He also wrote that Lt Olden had seen Lt Stoll who is also alive and well after a narrow escape when his PW camp was bombed. F/O Vickerman also hints that others of our boys may be all right, but he was unable to give any further names or details. We are all greatly surprised and overjoyed that so many of our MIA pilots, some of which had been given up for lost, have managed to pull through.

MAY 30 -- Today the first issue of the Group newspaper the "Fortress Feature" was published. It is under the editorship of Lt Goldknopf with 1/Sgt Becka as his assistant. The first issue was a very adequate job. It is printed at a regular newspaper plant in Nuremberg and is thoroughly professional in appearance. This first issue gave a complete history of the Group as well as numerous articles on the activities of the various squadrons and personnel.

Our squadron flew a long navigational training mission today into southern Germany and Austria. It was completely uneventful.

This afternoon, our post was deluged by a hail and rain storm of great proportions which will certainly eliminate flying for several days. Hailstones ranging from the size of large marbles to golf balls and covered the ground with a layer of ice.

MAY 31 -- The month ended with a day of cold wind and rain, and there was very little activity of any sort.

The first of a series of orientation programs sponsored by ETO headquarters took place today. They are in the form of an "Information Please" program, with a team of "experts" from each squadron and Group Headquarters competing for a bottle of gin. Capt Dick did a very adequate job as Master of Ceremonies today. The subject was "The GI Bill of Rights." It proved an excellent method of imparting information both through the questions and answers and the discussion which followed.

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R E S T R I C T E D
397th FIGHTER SQUADRON
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

AFG 141, US Army
21 May 1945

SUBJECT: Fighter-Bomber Ground Claims.

TO : Intelligence Officer, 368th Fighter Group, AFG 141, US Army.

The following report is herewith submitted in compliance with, Ltr Ninth Air Force, subject: Fighter-Bomber Claims:

FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUND CLAIMS
Covering the period, 1 May through 31 May 45

LEADING PILOT: 1st Lt HARRY K. BARCO, O-80182D -- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 4 MT, 2 RR Cars, and 1 RR Bridge

DAMAGED : 3 MT, 2 RR Cars

SECOND PILOT: 1st Lt JAMES P. HOGAN, O-767237 --- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 4 MT and 2 RR Cars

DAMAGED : 3 MT and 2 RR Cars

THIRD PILOT: 1st Lt Whitney W. BRAYTON, O-798086 --- Status: Operational

DESTROYED: 4 MT and 2 RR Cars

DAMAGED : 3 MT and 2 RR Cars

Morton H. Magnus
MORTON H. MAGNUS
Capt, Air Corps
397th S-2 Officer

R E S T R I C T E D

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REPORT NO. 74

HEADQUARTERS
AIR TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, U S Army

22 May 1945

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board" as appointed by Par 11, SO 111, this Headquarters dated 4 Oct 1944, confirms Victory Credit claims to the following officers this Command.

NAME	GROUP SQUADRON	DATE	VICTORY CLAIM		CONFIRMED VICTORY		TYPE	PLACE	REMARKS
			1945						
1st Lt Henry A. Yandel	368 397	16 Apr	1	0 0	1	0 0	MS 862	Prague	None

APPROVED: By command of Major General
WEYLAND:

FRANCIS M. WHITLOCK, JR
Major, AGC
Adj Gen

LEO F. JOHNSON
Lt Col, Air Corps
President of Board

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Borton H. Magnus
BORTON H. MAGNUS
Capt, AG
397th Ftr Sqdn 3-2 Officer

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REPORT NO. 73

HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, US Army

31 May 48

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board" as appointed by Par No. 11, SO No. 111, this Headquarters dated 4 Oct 1944, confirms Victory Credit Claims to the following officers this command.

NAME	GROUP SIGN	DATE 1945	VICTORY CONFIRMED		UNCONFIRMED				TYPE S/A								
			CLAIM	VICTORY	VICTORY												
XXXXXXXXXXXX 1st Lt Vernon C. Fein	368 397	18 Apr	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	AS 262

PLACE : Prague

APPROVED:

By command of Major General
SEYLAND:FRANCIS W. BRITLOUGH, JR.
Major, AGC
Adj GenLEO F. JOHNSON
Lt Col, AGC
Pres of Board

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Milton H. Magnus
MILTON H. MAGNUS
Capt AGC
357th G-2 Officer

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History

REPORT NO. 70

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, US ARMY

8 May 1945

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS 2 - 112

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board" as appointed by War No. 11, 30 Dec. 1944, this Headquarters, dated 4 Oct 1944, confirms Victory Credit claims to the following officers this command.

NAME	GRADE	DATE	TYPE	VICTORY CREDITS		CONFIRMED		TOTAL	GRADE	STATUS			
				CLAIMED	VERIFIED	CONFIRMED	REMOVED						
Maj Jesse S. Ruite, Jr	368	297	11 Apr 1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	100	Capt	711

APPROVED:

By command of Major General WYLAND:

s/ Francis A. Whitlock, Jr
 Lt Colonel, USA
 Major, USA
 Adjutant General

s/ Lee P. Johnson
 SAC P. JOHNSON
 Lt Col, USA
 President of Board

"A TRUE COPY"

Morton H. Magnus
 Major, USA
 Capt, Air Corps
 Sign 2-2

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REPORT NO. 68HEADQUARTERS
XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
APO 141, U S ARMY

6 May 1945

CONFIRMATION OF VICTORY CREDITS BOARD - AIR

The "Confirmation of Victory Credits Board" as appointed by Par No. 11, SO No. 111, this Headquarters dated 4 Oct 1944, confirms Victory Credit claims to the following officers this command:

NAME	GROUP	S-DN	1945 DATE	VICTORY CLAIM			CONFIRMED VICTORY			UNCONFIRMED VICTORY			TYPE E/A	PLACE	REMARKS
				D	P	DM	D	P	DM	D	P	DM			
Capt Irving Ostuw	368	396	7 Apr	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Fi-156's Jena	Nil
1st Lt James P Hogan, Jr	368	397	8 Apr	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Fw-190 Jena	Shared with Lt Uterhart.
1st Lt Carl W. Uterhart	368	397	8 Apr	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Fw-190 Jena	Shared with Lt Hogan

Ref: Ninth Air Force Memo 55-9, 24 April 1945

APPROVED:

By command of Major General WEYLAND:

s/ Francis M. Whitlock, Jr
FRANCIS M. WHITLOCK, JR
Major, AGD,
Adjutant Generals/ Leo H. Johnson
LEO H. JOHNSON
Lt Col, Air Corps
President of Board

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Morton H. Magnus
MORTON H. MAGNUS
Capt, Air Corps,
Squad S-2

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227th B-2 out on an Armed recon and Dive Bombing mission - 3 May 1945 - sq miss No. 228

- A. Opns 011. Miss No. 029-4 - miss for day one - 3 May 1945
- B. Armed recon and dive bombing in area of Strakonice, Hudejovice and Lina -
- C. 35800 - 35700 - 12 A/C disp - no aborts
- D. Up 0700 - b/l in 0800 - tot 0850 - b/l out 0900 - down 1000
- E. ~~7 x 2 x 200lb frage~~ *7 x 2 x 200lb frage* - instant-delayed - 14 bombs in tgt area - 3 w/c used as escort
 Gunpost acted as controller. 10 bombs were dropped on a w/y at Pribran, 4 5000. 20 cars and a loco in steam headed north were in the yard. Follow flight end at Leubaugh des 5 cars and 2 buildings. 4 bombs were dropped at Birkenburg 4 5050. 1st was a factory, but it was not hit. Capt Lane des a large house. 2 bombs failed to explode. Capt Lane des the loco at Pribran and an oil at 4 5150. At Moore des 2 cars in the w/y. All by strafing.
- F. Nil
- G. No traffic was seen in the tg area or for forty miles to the south.
- H. 2 layers each of 10/10 with breaks at 10,000' and 14,000' - large hole over tgt area. vis poor - 5 miles
- I. No sq code
- J. Ground control very good
- K. No rt jamming

Source: DASH MISS RECONSTRUCTION (NO SOURCE) (SOURCE) 5/11/45
 128000 AIRBORNE ABSTRACT 128000
 Source: 0700 0800 0900 1000

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Report of Divebombers and A/A Missions: ^{9 May} 49; ^{9 May} 49; ^{9 May} 49; ^{9 May} 49.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. 029-4 Miss No. for day ^{9 May} 49.
 Armed force base to Strakonice, Hudejovice, Linz, Strakonice, to base.
 Dive bombing.
- B - 200 FB, 577 FB. 12 a/c (12). No aborts.
- C - up 1/30, 30 in 1900, 101 1920, 80 out 1940, Down 2052.
- D - Nil
- E - Six RB30 Frags inst non-delay. 16 bombs in tgt area. 4 a/c escort.
 Our planes controlled by 601001. Selected own tgt. A w/i at Schuttenhofen,
 Q2106, a point just beyond the 80. Because of time limitation, they had
 to return immediately after the bombing and could not undertake the assigned
 A/A. In the w/i there were 72 flat cars and some goods cars. The flat cars
 were loaded with RTs and halftracks, mostly RTs. There were two vehicles
 per flat car. All 16 bombs fell in the w/i area. Results: 30 RTs and 19
 flat cars dest, 25 RTs and 12 flat cars daz, 1 w/d bridge over a stream dest,
 good explosions and 1 fire. Lts Fein and Berco did excellent work in the
 bombing. The latter dest the bridge.
 No strafing.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Aschaffenburg area: a wall of clouds from deck to 15,000 ft.
 Beyond Aschaffenburg: Scattered cumulus - vis above 2000 ft good.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No A/I jamming.

Bombs: Hagen, Katterud, Patrick, Savco.
 Bombs: Fein, Chancellor, Brayton, Shepard.
 No Robert Lewis, Duncan, Courand, Rice.

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of BR and A/A Mission: 4 April 45; Sgdn Miss No. 550.

- A - Ops Ord No. _____ Miss No. 1A4-1 Miss OIR for Day. 4 May 45
 A/A Close Support for XX Corps (GUMHAFAS), 07516, and A/A to 07516,
 A3260, A8A99, Linz.
- B - 368 PG, 397 PG. 3 a/c disp. No aborts.
- C - Up 0718 or 8L in 0640, 1st 0920, 8L out 0940, Down 1119.
- D - Nil
- E - 3x2000 1/10, 1/40. 4x2x260 frage, inst, non-delayed. 14 bombs in
 tgt area. 1 a/c used as escort.
 Sgdn could not contact GUMHAFAS. AIRCOW 2 was controller. 8 frage
 were dropped on a convoy of 30 mixed AIs and RVV's headed E from Strasswalchen
 at V1548. 4 AIs were dest. 5 bombs failed to explode. 6 GP bombs
 were dropped on a few AIs at 18324. All failed to explode. A convoy of 20
 AIs SW of Strasswalchen at V1143 was strafed by fellow flight and all were
 dest. Convoy was headed NE and was heavily loaded.
- F - Nil
- G - Large numbers of our troops were seen approaching Salzburg in area of 18331.
 2 A/Ws near Salzburg contained the following planes: 8 single engine and 4
 twin engine on one, and 24 single engine on the other.
- H - 10/10 haze and stratus cloud base 6000 ft in tgt area, diminishing towards
 base. Vis good in tgt area, decreasing to 1 mile toward base.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No A/I jamming.

Ops: Brayton, Shepard, Barco (escort), Handlin.
 Frage: Aisen, Moore, Horowitz, Leonard.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C o n f i d e n t i a l

Report of Patrol Mission: 9 May 1949: Bgdn Mission No. 361.

- A - Ops Ord No. ___ Miss No. J29-5 Miss for Day: OMS 9 May 49.
Patrol to Elstov, to Linz, to Base.
- B - 368 PB, 597 PB. 15 a/c disp. No shorts.
- C - Up 0722, Down, 1010.
- D - Nil
- E - SUSPECT was controller. Assigned area covered without incident.
- F - Nil
- G - Nil
- H - Base upsun, visibility 10 to 15 miles.
- I - Code not used.
- J - Ground control good.
- K - No w/ jamming.

Tuite, Wenk, Thornton.
Landel, Arrington, Kostrach, Moore.
Sharp, Watterud, Pauley, Snoohuizen.
Lewis, Williams, Brayton, Johnston.

C o n f i d e n t i a l

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

397th Ftr Sqdn S-2 Rpt on a Demonstration Mission - 12 May 1945 - 3d Miss No. 562

- A. Opus O No. 286, 19 TAG -- Miss No. _____, Miss for day ONE - 12 May 45
Demonstration Mission from base to Frankfurt to Weisbaden, to Darmstadt to base
- B. 368th FG - 397th FG - 16 a/c disp. - no aborts
- C. up 1439 - down 1618
- D. Nil
- E. Our planes established a rendez-vous over base at 1456. Assigned mission was flown without incident.

PILOTS: COL SPARKS YANDEL WEINSTEIN FAULEY
BARKER LEWIS KALEN ARLEDGE
CLARY HOROWITZ FEIN SHARP
HOGAN THORNTON PATRICK LEAVY

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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397th Ftr Sqdn B-2 Rpt on a Navigation Patrol Mission -- 565 Sqdn Mission - 30 May 45

- A. Opns No. _____, Field Order No. 196 - Mission No. _____, Mission No. for day 1
May 30 1945
Navigation Patrol - base - to Gunden V 5243 to Liezen V 5206 to Badstadt A 3882 to
Innsbruck to base
- B. 368th FG - 597 FG - 12 a/c disp - Lts Buck and Stasano returned early. The former's
Oxygen mask was out and the latter escorted him home.
- C. up 1301 down 1517
- D. Nil
- E. Our planes were south of the course on the way out, but in general followed the
assigned route fairly closely. Ripsaw was called on A Channel and communication
with him on this channel was very difficult. He was then called on B Channel, but
could not be contacted on this channel. Then our planes contacted him on C Channel
and he said that he would stand by on A Channel. Our planes were unable to contact
him on A Channel, and after this did not communicate with him at all. Then our
planes contacted Arebboy, as they had been instructed to do. Arebboy knew nothing
about the mission.
- F. Nil
- G. Many trains were seen in the area of A 9970
- H. Clouds over most of mountain area. They were building up quite heavily to the west.
Elsewhere there were scattered alto-cumulus clouds of three tenths to 4/10 coverage.-
Vis good.
- I. No sqdn code
- J. Ground control was poor - seen E above
- K. No RT jamming

PILOTS: KRAMER WENE BORD MOORE
LEACH McWILLIAMS STIANO (RETURNED EARLY) BOCK (RETURNED EARLY)
~~SMITH~~ SHINE KEIL LEWIS
KOSTRACH

0408