

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England.

10 June, 1944.

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History Until Arrival in ETO.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. In the spring of 1943, the 596<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (M) of the 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) AAF, was activated at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla., by General Order Number 28, Paragraphs 1 through 5, AAB, MacDill Field, Fla., as of April 20, 1943. On May 10, 1943, the newly created Squadron received its first member when a cadre was transferred from the 313<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 21<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M) MacDill Field, Florida, by Special Order Number 126, Paragraphs 6 and 10 dated May 6, 1943.

2. The majority of our filler personnel was obtained from the 21<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group MacDill Field, Florida, and the First Minimum Altitude Bombardment and Torpedo Unit, Eglin Field, Florida.

3. This filler personnel was assigned under the following Special Orders during the year 1943:

Hq. Third Bomber Command:

- a. S.O. 165, par 8, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- b. S.O. 123, par 5, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- c. S.O. 139, par 5, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- d. S.O. 161, par 1, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- e. S.O. 163, par 1, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- f. S.O. 172, pars 18&19, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- g. S.O. 174, par 1, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- h. S.O. 178, par 3, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- i. S.O. 177, par 2, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- j. S.O. 188, par 3, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- k. S.O. 195, pars 3&4, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- l. S.O. 197, par 9, Hq III B.C., MacDill Field, Fla.
- m. S.O. 253, par 9, Hq AAF Pilots School, Stuttgart, Arkansas.
- n. S.O. 238, par 8, Hq Freeman AAF, Seymour, Indiana.
- o. S.O. 312, par 16, Hq AAB, Barksdale Field, La.
- p. S.O. 314, par 8, Hq AAF, Lake Charles, La.

Hq. Air Base Area Command, MacDill Fld, Fla:

- a. S.O. 129, par 47, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- b. S.O. 139, pars 1&5, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- c. S.O. 170, par 170, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- d. S.O. 184, par 26, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.

- e. S.O. 187, par 15, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- f. S.O. 210, par 5, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- g. S.O. 228, par 2, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- h. S.O. 308, par11, Hq ABAC, Hq MacDill Field, Fla.
- i. S.O. 293, par 25, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- j. S.O. 294, par 17, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- k. S.O. 243, par 13, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- l. S.O. 253, par 9, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- m. S.O. 284, pars 10, 13 and 17 Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.
- n. S.O. 287, par 34, Hq ABAC, MacDill Field, Fla.

4. a. The Squadron was located and trained at MacDill Field, Florida from the time of activation until October 12, 1943 when they moved to Avon Park Bombing Range, Avon Park, Florida, by Special Order Number 137 pars 7 and 8, Hq, 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, dated October 11, 1943. During its location at MacDill Field, however, the Squadron spent six weeks on maneuvers at AAFSAT, Orlando, Florida.

b. The Squadron remained at Avon Park until November 1, 1943 when it was moved to Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia by Special Order Number 155, pars 1 through 5 dated October 29, 1943, where it continued its training. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> our Combat Crews left for maneuvers to train with amphibious landing craft and search missions at Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida until November 29, 1943.

c. Training missions were continued at Hunter Field through the month of December, 1943. On the first of January, 1944, the Squadron, with the exception of the flying crews, entrained for maneuvers at Atterbury Army Air Base, Columbus, Indiana, arriving January 3, 1944, the flying crews arriving January 5, 1944. With these maneuvers completed, we arrived back at Hunter Field on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1944 and the flying crews arrived January 16, 1944.

d. We completed our training in February and our flying crews departed from Hunter Field to Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Florida on February 24, 1944, on the first leg of their flight to our overseas destination, authorized by Special Order Number 53, par 14, Third Air Force Staging Wing, Hunter Field, dated February 22, 1944. They left Morrison Field, February 25, 1944 and proceeded by the prescribed Southern Route through South America, Ascension, North Africa, to Southwestern England to final destination at Station 154, Gosfield, arriving there on March 8-9-11, 1944. The order authorizing movement was by Hq Station 11, Caribbean Wing, Air Transport Command, dated February 25, 1944 (Operation Order 605) for shipment #5254 from Morrison Field. Meanwhile, our ground crew and personnel that did not fly remained at Hunter Field until March 12, 1944. We arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for staging on March 14, 1944 under authority of Special Order 67, par1, Third Air Force Staging Wing, Hunter Field, dated March 7, 1944.

e. We completed our staging at Camp Kilmer and arrived at Port of Embarkation, Brooklyn, New York on March 22, 1944 and embarked March 23, 1944 for overseas under authority Secret Letter O, ASF, NYPE, Brooklyn, N.Y.,

March 19, 1944, file SPTAA-GM (EC) 370.5 (#5102) and letter 3/20/44 A.S.F. Camp Kilmer, New Jersey (Subject- Movement of Troops) assigning us to ETOUSA.

f. We arrived at Gourock, Scotland, in the Firth of Clyde on April 3, 1944 and entrained for Halstead, Essex, England, arriving on April 5, 1944, at Station 154, Gosfield, Essex, England, where we were joined by our flying crews.

The following orders cover assignments from ETOUSA through assignment to 98<sup>th</sup> Combat Wing at Gosfield, England:

a. ETOUSA Letter Order AG 322 OPGC dated March 31, 1944 (Subject Troop Assignment #43, par 1 (a) – which assigned the 596<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron to USSTAF.

b. USSTAF Letter Order (322) dated April 4, 1944 (Subject Assignment of Units #38) assigned the 596<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron to Ninth Air Force.

c. Ninth Air Force Letter Order (370.5) dated March 22, 1944 (Subject Arriving Unit) assigned the 596<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron to the Ninth Bomber Command.

d. Ninth Bomber Command (General Order 62, par 1, assigned the 596<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron to the 98<sup>th</sup> Combat Wing.

The strength of the organization on arrival in the United Kingdom was 63 officers and 307 enlisted men.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian

596<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron  
397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

31st October, 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of October.

TO : Historical Officer, 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

1. October

The month of October was a month of activity for the Squadron. On the fifth of the month a review was held at 1700 in which all four squadrons of the group participated. The troops were reviewed by General Parker, Commanding General III Bomber Command. On October 12<sup>th</sup> the entire group moved to Avon Park Bombing Range, Avon Park, Florida. This movement was made by truck and convoy. The convoy consisted of 30 trucks and 10 trailers and covered a distance of 122 miles from MacDill Field to Avon Park.

The following personnel changes were made in key personnel:

The following co-pilots were added to this organization:

The strength of this organization on October 31<sup>st</sup> 1943 was      Officers  
and      enlisted men.

Tactical training was continued throughout this month which consisted of low-level and skip bombing.

John R. Neale  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Air Corps.  
Asst. Intelligence Officer

596 Bombardment Squadron  
397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

30 November 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of November.

TO : Historical Officer, 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

1. November

November was a month filled with events and activities. On the first of the month, the Squadron left Avon Park, Bombing Range for Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia, a permanent change of station. The flying personnel left by plane at 0800 and the remainder of the Squadron proceeded by rail, leaving at 2000 and arriving at Hunter Field the next day. At Hunter Field, the Squadron progressed along its regular training program getting prepared for its eventual overseas movement, for which we all looked forward to with anticipation.

As new men were assigned the squadron now became close to full strength. There were numerous special courses for all personnel to attend in preparation for field conditions and several days were spent on the rifle range to qualify the personnel in small arms firing. A two day course in basic sanitation and first aid for use in the field was given by the medical department led by Capt. Kennard and Capt. Sherry.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November, all combat crews of our squadron led by Major McLeod, Squadron C. O., left on maneuvers to Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida for training and coordination with amphibious landing craft and to train in search missions. They returned from this mission on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1943.

The following personnel changes were made in key personnel during the month.

The strength on 30<sup>th</sup> November was      Officers and      enlisted men.

John R. Neale  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Air Corps.  
Asst. Intelligence Officer

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

31 December 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of December.

TO : Historical Officer, 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

1. December

During the month of December, the Squadron continued its regular tactical training program with many flights scheduled, the balance of the time being used by attending ground school courses particularly relative to B-26 operations and activities in combat zones.

From December 15th through 25th a series of missions organized by the Wing and coordinated with other Groups were flown, and our Squadron participated in all of these missions in addition to the regular scheduled flying.

We received additional personnel during the month to bring the Squadron to full strength and the strength of the organization as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 1943 was 65 Officers and 331 enlisted men.

In this month 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Wm. J. Rhodes and Robert R. Evans, flight commanders, were promoted to Captains, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Wm. V. Flowers was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Since 26<sup>th</sup> December, we have been busy preparing to leave on two weeks' maneuvers on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1944 to Atterbury Army Air Field, Atterbury Indiana.

John R. Neale  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Air Corps.  
Asst. Intell. Officer

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

31 January 1944

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of January.

TO : Historical Officer, 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Ga.

1. January 1944

On the first of January 1944, the Squadron, with the exception of the flying crews, entrained for maneuvers at Atterbury Army Air Field, Columbus, Indiana. We arrived early in the morning on the third of January, but, due to bad weather, the flying personnel did not arrive until the fifth of January. After they arrived, the squadron actively joined in the maneuvers supporting attacking ground troops maneuvering in Tennessee around Lebanon, Nashville and Manchester. The intensified training was carried out by all sections of the squadron, and were very beneficial to all participating. We returned to Hunter Army Air Field, leaving Atterbury on the evening of the fifteenth of January and arriving at Hunter on the seventeenth of January. The flying echelon left Atterbury on the afternoon of the fifteenth of January, and proceeded to Hunter Field by way of Barksdale Field, Louisiana, arriving at Hunter the sixteenth of January.

On our return, routine training was carried out until the twentieth of January at which time an inspection prior to our POM inspection was conducted by the III Bomber Command through the twenty-fourth of January. As a result of the inspection and recommendations by the inspecting department, the balance of the month was spent in catching up on deficiencies in training and in our records, which were brought out by this inspection.

Captain Kennard, our Medical Officer, and Captain Erskine, our Intelligence Officer, started work on a photographic history of the Squadron during this month.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Byron Eells, our Supply Officer, received his promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

The strength of the squadron on the thirty-first of January was 66 Officers and 338 Enlisted Men.

JOHN R. NEALE  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps.  
Asst. Intelligence Officer

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

Historical Report of the 596<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (M)  
397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) AAF for the Period of February, 1944.

During the month of February our squadron completed its final phase training and made the necessary preparation to pass the final POM final inspection which took place about the middle of the month.

After that inspection, we were assigned our new airplanes and the pilots, co-pilots, navigators, radio operators, line chiefs, and flight chiefs, together with the Engineering Officer and Communications Officer were staged, and took off on the first leg of their journey overseas, under command of Major Robert M. McLeod, our Commanding Officer. The balance of the squadron prepared themselves for departure to the POE, under command of Captain Forrest W. Acton, our Executive Officer.

The squadron takes pride in the ability of its pilots and the Engineering Section in that we were able to complete our training periods without the loss of any planes or personnel by flying accidents.

The squadron lost by transfer 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John A. Haupt, who was transferred to Group. His place was taken by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. T.E. White, Ordnance Officer. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Goodbody was transferred from Group to the squadron as Gunnery Officer.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Walter J. Joos was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. on February 22, 1944.

The strength of the squadron at the end of the month was 315 enlisted men and 64 Officers.

JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Historical Officer.



596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England

10 June 1944

SUBJECT: April Installment (1944) of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. The first several weeks in the ETO were spent by both ground crews and air crews with familiarization courses and study to prepare for combat in this theatre. We were ordered to leave Station 154, Gosfield, Essex, England and proceed to new base at Station 168, Rivenhall, Essex, England, on April 15, 1944. This was by authority of Letter Order (370.5) Movement Troops, dated April 12, 1944, effective April 15, 1944.

We flew our first combat missions starting April 20, 1944 and flew missions regularly during the month, a summary of which follows:

MISSION NO.1. 20/4/44 TARGET-Le Plouy Ferme (Noball) RESULTS-Poor (Cloud).  
The following crews of the 596<sup>th</sup> participated in mission:

Col. Coiner, CO of the 397<sup>th</sup> Group. Capt. Marovich, Armament Officer, and enlisted crews of the 596<sup>th</sup> Squadron flew as gunners. Major McLeod flew as deputy leader. Lts Broan, Hayes, Roberts, Parker, King, Estes, Brown and crews flew in first box formation.

MISSION NO.2. 21/4/44 TARGET-Fruges-Bois de Coupelle (Noball) RESULTS-Good.  
Col. Coiner led this mission. Capt. Marovich and enlisted crews of the 596<sup>th</sup> flew as gunners. Major McLeod was deputy leader. Lts Broan, Hayes, Roberts, Estes, Parker, King, Brown and crews flew in first Box.

MISSION NO.3. 22/4/44 TARGET-Vacqueriette (Noball) RESULTS-Poor.  
Col. Coiner led this mission. Capt. Marovich and enlisted crews of the 596<sup>th</sup> flew as gunners. Lt Broan and crews flew as spare ship on this mission.

MISSION NO.4. 23/4/44 TARGET-Benerville (Gun Positions) RESULTS-Good.  
COL. Coiner led this mission. Capt. Marovich and enlisted crews of the 596<sup>th</sup> flew as gunners. Capt. Boyar and Capt. Evans and Lts Jordan, Colahan, Flowers, Hoch and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO.5. 25/4/44 TARGET-Bois Cequerel (Noball) RESULTS-Poor (Visib)  
Col. Coiner led this mission. Capt. Marovich and enlisted crews of the 596<sup>th</sup> flew as gunners. Major McLeod, Lts Illanes, Hayes and crews flew window ships for the formation.

MISSION NO.6. 26/4/44 TARGET-Ghislain (MY) RESULTS-Poor.  
Captains Rhodes, Evans, Boyar, Lts. Hoch, Flowers, Brown, Parker, King, Jordan, Roberts, White and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO.7. 27/4/44 TARGET-Ouistreham-Caen (Defense Wks) RESULTS-Very Good.

Major McLeod and crew led the second Box. Captains Weltzin, Evans and Lts. Flowers, White, Illanes, Estes, Roberts, Colahan, Broan, Parker, Brown and crews flew in the second box. Captain Boyar and crew flew spare ship.

MISSION NO.8. 28/4/44 TARGET-Mantes-Gassicourt (MY) Weather 10/10ths. Major McLeod and crew led first box. Captain Boyar and Captain Evans and Lts. Jordan, Flowers, King, Hayes, Colahan, Roberts, Parker, White, Brown and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO.9. 29/4/44 TARGET-Mantes-Gassicourt (MY) Recall-Weather. Col. Coiner and crew of the 596<sup>th</sup> led the second box. Captains Weltzin, Rhodes, Evans and Lts. Hayes, King, Jordan, White, Parker, Broan, Roberts, Brown and crews flew in the second box.

MISSION NO.10. 30/4/44 TARGET-Lettinghem (Noball) RESULTS-Good. Lt. Col. Winingham led second box with 596<sup>th</sup> crew. Captains Rhodes, Boyar, Evans, Weltzin and Lts. Hoch, Hayes, Jordan, Estes, Brown, Parker, Broan, Goodnow, Cannop and crews flew in the second box.

2. During this month, we received copy of G.O. 75, par1, dated March 27, 1944, Hq Ninth Air Force, increasing Combat Crews per Squadron from 15 to 21 crews. In keeping with this order, the following crews joined the squadron:

Lt. Walter, and crew, Lt. Wegman and crew, and Lt. Julius and crew. These crews were assigned per par 1, S.O. 107, Hq AAF, Station 236, APO 639, dated 19 April 1944.

3. There were no losses in action from our Squadron, no killed ~~or~~ wounded. There were no awards or decorations to members of the unit. The strength of the unit as of April 30, 1944 was 77 Officers and 318 enlisted men. Sgt. John T. Brewer wounded 30 April 1944 on Mission No. 10 (Lettinghem).

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England

15 June 1944

SUBJECT: May Installment (1944) of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. In May, 1944 the Squadron T.O. was changed by IX Air Force General Order 129, Paragraph 1, dated 10 May 1944 which authorized the increase of the Squadron strength from 21 crews to 24 crews. During the month we remained at Station 168, Rivenhall, England.

Lt. Hausman, Kassel and crews transferred from Hq, AAF Station 236, APO 639, dated 20 May 1944. Lt. Brendle, Barcroft and crews transferred for Hq. AAF Station 236, APO 639, per paragraph 1, S.O. 147 dated 29 May 1944 to 596<sup>th</sup> Sq.

The following missions were flown by the Group during May and our Squadron participated:

MISSION NO.11. 1/5/44 TARGET-Mantes-Gassicourt (MY & BRIDGE) Results-Good.

Major McLeod, Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Jordan, Estes, Flowers, Colahan and crews flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Lts. King, Roberts, Illanes, Goodnow, Hayes, Hoch and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.12. 2/5/44 TARGET-Busigny (MY) Results- Excellent.  
Col. Coiner led 2<sup>nd</sup> Box, with crew from 596<sup>th</sup>. Capt. Rhodes and crew flew deputy lead.

MISSION NO.13. 4/5/44 TARGET-Etaples (GUN POSITION) Results-Poor.  
Capt. Gibson and 596<sup>th</sup> crew led 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Capts. Evans, Boyar, Lts. Hayes, Parker, Freeman, Roberts, Broan, Illanes, Flowers, Wegman, King and crews flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.14. 8/5/44 TARGET-Oissel (RR BRIDGE) Results-Fair.  
Major McLeod and crew led 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Capts. Weltzin, Rhodes, Lts. Freeman, Jordan, Flowers, White, Goodnow, Colahan, Hoch, Illanes, Cannop and crews flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. (See narrative – Lt. Freeman down over occupied territory).

MISSION NO.15. 9/5/44 TARGET-Le Grismont (NOBALL) Results-Poor.  
Capt. Evans, Lts. Roberts, Wegman, Broan, Goodnow, Hoch, and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Lts. King, Colahan, Illanes, Parker, Flowers, White and crews flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.16. 10/5/44 TARGET-Creil (MY) Results-Good-Excellent.  
Lts. Jordan and Broan flew "window ships" for this mission.

MISSION NO.17. 11/5/44 TARGET-Beaumont Le Roger (AF) Results-Good.  
Lts. White, Roberts, Illanes and crews flew "window ships" for this mission.

MISSION NO.18. 12/5/44 TARGET-Etaples (GUN POSITION) Results-Poor.  
Major McLeod and crew led 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Capts. Boyar and Hughes (Group Officer but 596<sup>th</sup> crew), Lts. Hayes, Roberts, Estes, in 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Col. Coiner with 596<sup>th</sup> crew led 3<sup>rd</sup> Box. Capt. Weltzin, Lts. Wegman, Nunally, Julius, Colahan and crews flew in 3<sup>rd</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.19. 13/5/44 TARGET-Gravelines (COASTAL BATTERY) Results-Fair. Capts. Rhodes, Weltzin, Boyar, Evans, Hughes (Group Officer but 596<sup>th</sup> crew), Lts. Parker, Estes, Broan, Hoch, Colahan, Cannop, Goodnow and crews flew in 3<sup>rd</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.20. 15/5/44 TARGET-Denain-Prouvy (AF) Results-Weather, 10/10th. Major McLeod and crew led 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Capts. Boyar, Rhodes, Lts. Estes, Hoch, King, Illanes, Roberts, Nunally, Julius, Jordan, Broan, Wegman flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.21. 19/5/44 TARGET-St. Cecily (Gun Emplacement) Results-Fair. Major McLeod and crew led 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Capts. Rhodes, Gibson, Lts. Nunally, Roberts, Brown, Estes, Illanes, King, White, Colahan, Hoch flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.22. 20/5/44 TARGET-St. Marie Aubosc (Gun Position) Results-Poor. Capt. Rhodes and crew led 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Major McLeod, Capt. Gibson, Lts. Nunally, Estes, King, Brown, Jordan, Colahan, Illanes, White, Hayes and crew flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.23. 20/5/44 TARGET-Varengewille Sur Mer (G.P.) Results-Excellent. Major McLeod and crew led 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Capt. Gibson, Rhodes, Evans, Lts. Brown, Estes and crews flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Capt. Boyar, Lts. Flowers, Broan, White, Hoch, Jordan and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.24. 22/5/44 TARGET-St. Marie Aubosc (Coast Defense) Results-Good. No. 596<sup>th</sup> aircraft or crews on mission (Comm. from Gen. Anderson, dated 23/5/44 on mission).

MISSION NO.25. 24/5/44 TARGET- St. Marie Aubosc (Coast Defense) Results-Poor. (Pathfinder mission)  
Major McLeod and crew led 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Capts. Weltzin, Rhodes, Lts. White, Brown, Colahan, Cannop, King, Broan, Goodnow and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.26. 24/5/44 TARGET-Dieppe (Port Area) Results-Good. Major McLeod and crew led 3<sup>rd</sup> Box. Capts. Weltzin, Evans, Lts. Broan, Roberts, Parker, Brown, Jordan, Cannop, Flowers, Illanes, Goodnow and crews flew in 3<sup>rd</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.27. 25/5/44 TARGET-Liege (RR Bridge) Results-Good. Col. Coiner and 596<sup>th</sup> crew led 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Capt. Weltzin, Lts. White, Goodnow, Parker, Broan, Estes, King, Brown, Flowers, Colahan, Jordan, Cannop and crews flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.29. 27/5/44 TARGET-Le Manoir (RR Bridge) Results-Excellent. Major McLeod and crew led 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Capt. Hughes (Group Officer and 596<sup>th</sup> crew), Capt. Boyar, Lts. Colahan, Hayes, King, Goodnow, Broan, Illanes, Cannop, Jordan and Capt. Evans and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.28. 26/5/44 TARGET-Chartres (A/D) Results-Poor. No 596<sup>th</sup> crews or aircraft on this mission.

MISSION NO.30. 27/5/44 TARGET-Orival (RR Bridge) Results-Good. Major McLeod and crew led the 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Capt. Evans, Capt. Hughes (Group Officer but 596<sup>th</sup> crew), Lts. Hoch, Roberts, Brown and crews flew in 2<sup>nd</sup> Box. Capt. Weltzin, Lts. Estes, Colahan, Parker, King, Illanes and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.31. 28/5/44 TARGET-Liege (RR Bridge) Results-Excellent. Major McLeod and crew led the 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Capt. Weltzin, Evans, Rhodes, Boyar, Lts. Estes, Hayes, Broan, Parker, Cannop, Colahan, Hoch and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.32. 28/5/44 TARGET-Maissons/Lafitte (RR Bridge) Results-Good to Excellent.

Cpts. Weltzin, Boyar, Lts. Roberts, Estes, Kessel, Jordan, Hayes and crews flew in "B" Flight (1<sup>st</sup> Box).

MISSION NO.33. 29/5/44 TARGET-Conflains (RR Bridge) Results-Fair to Good. No 596<sup>th</sup> crews on this mission.

MISSION NO.34. 29/5/44 TARGET-Beauvoir (Noball) Results-Fair. Capt. Weltzin, Lts. King, Broan and crews flew "window ship" in this mission.

MISSION NO.35. 30/5/44 TARGET-Meulan (Highway Bridge) Results-Excellent. No 596<sup>th</sup> crews flew on this mission.

MISSION NO.36. 31/5/44 TARGET-Rouen (Highway Bridge) Results-Excellent. Major McLeod and crew led 1<sup>st</sup> Box. Capt. Rhodes, Boyar, Evans, Lts. White, Illanes, Hoch, Kessel, Roberts, Hayes, Jordan, Hausman and crews flew in 1<sup>st</sup> Box.

MISSION NO.14. 8/5/44 TARGET-Oissel (Railway Bridge) (98<sup>th</sup> CBW F.O. 45-302)

On operational mission over enemy territory occupied France B-26B55 Airplane No. 42096143 peeled out of formation with both engines smoking. Probably hit by flak. Last seen headed on course 270 degrees 2 miles N.W. Aboncurt, France, losing altitude. Spitfire escort reports six chutes from this aircraft landing in a woods.

The following crew members reported missing in action:

Pilot – Elmer C. Freeman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. – O-805432

Co-Pilot – Harry E. Walter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. – O-805539

Bombardier – George A. Hoffman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. – O-741310

Engineer Gunner – Oscar E. Young, Sgt. – 39852035

Radio Gunner – Henry J. Hoderlik, S/Sgt. – 3276661

Gunner – Marion (NMI) Rose, Sgt. 35623274

There were no men killed or wounded during the month.

The following men were promoted by Pars. 1 through 5, S.O. 153, Hq. ETOUSA, dated 1 June 1944:

Forest W. Acton – O297344, AC – Capt. to Major.

Conrad N. Jordan – O429423, AC – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. to Capt.

Carl R. Cannop – O747737, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Kyran A. Colahan – O805401, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Warren J. Dale – O796964, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

William F. Demmitt – O741544, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Arthur E. Goodnow – O687581, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Franklin F. Hill – O674769, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Sterling P. Hoch – O684331, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Winfred E. Humphries – O741180, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Alfred Iuvara – O741181, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Norbert P. Kanka – O741533, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Henry J. Parker – O797058, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Jack Rosenthal – O739505, AC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

By General Order 75, IX Bomber Command, dated 8 May 1944, paragraph, Sgt. John T. Brewer, awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained on mission number 10, Lettinghem (Noball) dated 30 April 1944.

By General Orders No. 141 Section V, dated 18 May 1944 and No. 146, dated 23 May 1944 the following men were awarded Air Medals for meritorious achievement while participating in required number of operation sorties against the enemy:

Robert M. McLeod – Major  
Robert R. Evans – Capt.  
William M. Marovich – Capt.  
Robert A. Broan – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
William V. Flowers – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Claude R. Hayes – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Conrad N. Jordan – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Adolphe J. Mathes, Jr. – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Leo P. Roberts – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Carl R. Cannop – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Warren J. Dale – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Franklin F. Hill – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Alfred Iuvara – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Lonnie R. Moore – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Thomas H. Pullan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Ernest F. Ross – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Fred L. Williams, Jr. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Richard A. Ganther – Flight Officer  
Malcolm Bamford – S/Sgt.  
Peter Dabkowski – S/Sgt.  
James G. Dever – S/Sgt.  
Monte D. Gray – S/Sgt.  
Floyd Miller, Jr. – S/Sgt.  
Robert J. Prospal – S/Sgt.  
Ernest L. Slaten – S/Sgt.  
Carl W. Berg – Sgt.  
Artie C. Cotner, Jr. – Sgt.  
William E. Epps – Sgt.  
Milton J. Liberko – Sgt.  
Henry W. Meaker – Sgt.  
Robert N. Mink – Sgt.  
James P. Negri – Sgt.  
William L. Spears – Sgt.  
John J. Vitty – Sgt.  
Gino Alponete – Cpl.  
Anthony J. Galte – Sgt.  
Charles W. Estes – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Francisco Bautista – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Kyran A. Colahan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Merlin E. Garton – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Sterling P. Hoch – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Norbert P. Kanka – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Bradford W. Boyar – Capt.  
Lewis M. Domke – Capt.  
Richard F. Weltzin – Capt.  
Francis E. Brown – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
John F. Hannigan – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Walter J. Joos – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Frederick M. King – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
George W. Parker – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Lloyd E. Yeast – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Donald C. Clark – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Paul E. Elliott Jr. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
George A. Hofmann – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Robert P. Jones – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Henry J. Parker – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Albert R. Ridenour – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Willard H. White – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Lawrence C. Yeardley – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Samuel Vanderjagt – T/Sgt.  
Don W. Billings – S/Sgt.  
Urbane M. D'Agnessa – S/Sgt.  
Lee P. Duncan – S/Sgt.  
Joseph J. Longtin – S/Sgt.  
Hubert R. Pensinger – S/Sgt.  
Alfred Simoncelli – S/Sgt.  
Edwin L. Barney – Sgt.  
John Buscheri – Sgt.  
Thomas R. Dyas – Sgt.  
Arthur L. Harris – Sgt.  
Kenneth E. McCann – Sgt.  
Jerome J. Miller – Sgt.  
Hershel S. Nation – Sgt.  
Anthony D. Ragard, Jr. – Sgt.  
Glenn A. Spencer – Sgt.  
Martin J. Willse – Sgt.  
Richard J. Atkinson – Cpl.  
Joseph A. Sullivan, Jr. – Cpl.  
Gregory H. Illanes, II – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
William D. Collins – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
William F. Demmitt – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Arthur E. Goodnow – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Winfred E. Humphries – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Ross M. Lumsden – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Jack Rosenthal – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Harry E. Walter – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Edward Hammack – S/Sgt.  
John P. Tierney – S/Sgt.  
Ralph E. Wright – Sgt.  
Martin E. Strawn – Cpl.  
Lewis E. Hammond – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Loy L. Julius – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Hilary C. Sconzert – S/Sgt.  
Bob Karup – Sgt.  
Elmer E. Salvag – S/Sgt.  
Scott W. Carl – S/Sgt.  
Henry J. Hodulik – S/Sgt.

Donald R. Von Gal – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Forrest L. Maddox – T/Sgt.  
Alva W. Poirier – S/Sgt.  
Linden B. Coffman – Sgt.  
George Kapitan, Jr. – Cpl.  
Richard B. Halloran – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Robert H. Hanlon – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Eugene G. Wegman – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
John T. Brewer – Sgt.  
John S. Pazaropoulos – Sgt.  
J.H. Detweiller – Sgt.  
Elmer C. Freeman – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Our mission in the war to date has been one of tactical bombing of bridges, marshalling yards, gun emplacements, noball targets in France, Belgium and Holland in order to soften the West Wall of Europe for the coming invasion.

First Sergeant Alvin L. Migura was commended by 98<sup>th</sup> Wing Inspectors for general demeanor and conduct in administration of Squadron and for condition of Squadron area when their inspection was made.

The strength of the Squadron as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 1944 was 73 Officers, 318 Enlisted Men.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), Station 168, England

15 July 1944

SUBJECT: June 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. In June 1944, the Squadron remained at its present base, at Station 168, Rivenhall, England. The following replacement crews were assigned to our organization:

Per SO No. 147, par 1, Hq AAF Sta 236 and SO No. 116, par 5, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dtd 6/1/44:

Second Lieutenants George R. Brendle, R.B. Barcroft, C.F. Glock, E.J. Zachary, Rieman, R.A., P.A. Vogel, and crews.

Per SO No. 120, par 1, and SO. No. 152 par 1, AAF Sta 236, and Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dtd 6/6/44:

Second Lieutenants Brownlee, McClellan, and Cartmill and crews.

Captain Francis D. Meinke was assigned, not joined, DS with 1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder (Prov) from 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, per par 1, SO 123, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp dtd 6/12/44.

2. The following missions were flown by the Group during June and our Squadron participated:

MISSION NO. 37. 1/6/44. Target-Octeville Sur Mer (Gun Emplacements), Results-Good.

Major McLeod and crew led the second box. Capt. Rhodes, Boyar, Lts. Roberts, Hoch, Parker, Illanes, Hausman, Brown, White and crews flew in the second Box.

MISSION NO. 38. 2/6/44. Target-Camiers (Gun Position), Results-Poor.

Capt. Rhodes and crew led the second box. Capt. Boyar, Lts. Hayes, Roberts, Colahan, King, Brown, Hausman, Illanes, White, Parker, Kessel, Hoch and crews flew in the second Box.

MISSION NO. 39. 3/6/44. Target-Octeville Sur Mer (C/D), Results-Poor.

Capt. Weltzin, Lts. White and Colahan flew "Window Ships" for this mission.

MISSION NO. 41. 6/6/44 (D Day). Target-Les Dunes de Verreville, Madeleine, Beau Guillot, Results-Good.

Major McLeod first box and mission on D Day. Capts. Rhodes, Evans, Boyar, Lts. Hayes, Illanes, Hoch, Estes, Parker, Brown, Goodnow, Cannop, Roberts, Broan, and crews flew in first box and attacked Les Dunes de Verreville.

MISSION NO. 41 (A). 6/6/44. Target-Trouville (C/D). Results-Excellent.

Capt. Weltzin and crew led the second box. Lts. Colahan, White, Goodnow, Jordan, Hausman, Hayes, King, Kessel, Cannop and crews flew in the second box.

MISSION NO. 42. 7/6/44. Target-Le Mans RR Bridge. Results-Fair.



Cpts. Weltzin, Rhodes, Evans, Boyar, Lts. Broan, Brown, White, Parker, Jordan and crews flew in the second box.

MISSION NO. 43. 7/6/44. Target-Flers (M/Y), Results-Excellent.

Major McLeod and crew led the second box. Capt. Weltzin, Lts. Colahan, Illanes, Goodnow, Estes, White, Roberts, Jordan, Hausman and crews flew in second Box.

MISSION NO. 44. 8/6/44. Target-Rennes (Road over Bridge). Results-Fair to Good.

Cpts. Rhodes, Evans, Weltzin, Boyar, Lts. Brown, Hayes, Parker, Broan, Cannop and crews flew in second box. Lts. Roberts, Estes, Colahan and crews flew window ship for this formation. Major Allen led the mission and commended Lt. Colahan in window ship for descent through undercast and rendering valuable weather report as to conditions in target area. Flights picked casual targets to bomb due to undercast at target.

MISSION NO. 45. 8/6/44. Target-Grimbosq (Fuel and ammo dump). Recall-Weather.

Lt. Illanes and crew only 596<sup>th</sup> ship on this mission.

MISSION NO. 46. 10/6/44. Target-Quinneville (C/D), Results-Good to Excellent.

Cpts. Rhodes, Evans, Weltzin, Lts. King, Broan, Hausman, Cannop, Hoch, Hayes and crews flew in first Box.

MISSION NO. 47. 11/6/44. Target-St. Lo Road junction and highway Bridge. Did not bomb-Weather 10/10ths.

Cpts. Rhodes, Evans, Lts. Hayes, Brendle, Hoch, Hausman, Cannop, King, Jordan, and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 48. 12/6/44. Target-St. Lo rd junct and Hwy Bridge. Results-Excellent.

Cpts. Weltzin, Boyar, Lts. Goodnow, Colahan, Roberts, Parker, Kessel, Illanes, Barcroft and crews flew in second box. (See narrative for commendation.)

MISSION NO. 49. 13/6/44. Target-Foret D'Andaine Fuel Dump. Results-Good.

Major McLeod and crew led first box. Capt Rhodes, Lts Hoch, Hayes, Broan, King, Brown, Brendle, Hausman, and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 50. 14/6/44. Target-Chartres RR Bridge. Results-Fair to Good.

Lts. Brendle, Goodnow, Kessel, White, Roberts, Parker, Estes, Illanes, Colahan, and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 51. 14/6/44. Target-St. Hilaire Hwy Bridge. Results-Good.

Major McLeod and crew led second box. Cpts. Rhodes, Evans, Lts. Hoch, Broan, Illanes, King, Cannop, Brendle, and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 52. 15/6/44. Target-Coltainville Bridge. Results-Poor.

Lts. Illanes, Parker, Barcroft, Brown, Roberts, White, Colahan, Jordan, Goodnow, and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 53. 17/6/44. Target- Coltainville Bridge. Results-Poor.

Cpts. Weltzin, King, Evans, Lts. Hoch, Cannop, Illanes, Broan, Hayes, Hausman, flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 54. 18/6/44. Target-Mezidon M/Y. Results-Weather 10/10ths.

Major McLeod and crew led second box. Cpts. Rhodes, Jordan, Boyar, Lts. White, Colahan, Barcroft, Goodnow, Brownlee and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 55. 18/6/44. Target-Bachimont (Noball). PPF.  
 Major McLeod and crew led second box. Capts. Rhodes, Boyar, Lts. Colahan, Goodnow, Brownlee flew in second box. Capts. Weltzin and Jordan flew window ships.

MISSION NO. 56. 21/6/44. Target-Gorenflos (Noball). Recall-Weather.  
 Capt. Weltzin and crew led second box. Capts. Evans and King, Lts. Hayes, Brendle, Broan, Hausman, Cannop, Brown and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 57. 22/6/44. Target-0-090218 (Defended Area) PPF.  
 Major McLeod and crew led first box. Capts. Roberts, Jordan, Lts. White, Brownlee, Estes, and crews flew in first box. Capt. Boyar and Lt. Goodnow flew window ship.

MISSION NO. 58. 23/6/44. Target-Lambus (Noball). PPF.  
 Capts Rhodes, Lt. Parker, Hayes, Illanes, Brown, Broan and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 59. 24/6/44. Target-Maisson LaFitte RR Bridge. Results-Excellent.  
 Capts. Boyar, Roberts, Evans, Lts. Brownlee, Kessel, Illanes, Estes, Goodnow, Colahan, and crews flew in second box. Lt. Barcroft flew in window ship.

MISSION NO. 60. 30/6/44. Target-Thury Harcourt. Results-Did not Bomb 10/10ths cloud cover.  
 Major Dempster and enlisted crew of 596<sup>th</sup>. Capts Rhodes, Weltzin, Boyar, Lts. Colahan, White, Barcroft, Brownlee and Estes.

MISSION NO. 61. 30/6/44. Target-Conde sur Noireau. PPF  
 Major McLeod and crew led first box. Capts. Rhodes, King, Evans, Lts. Hayes, Brown and crew flew in first box.

3. The following men were promoted on the following orders:  
 Capt. Acton to Major, per par1, SO 153, Hq ETOUSA, 6/1/44.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Cannop, Colahan, Dale and Demmitt to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. per par 3, SO 153, Hq ETOUSA, 6/1/44. Per par 4, of the same Special Order, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Goodnow, Hill, Hoch, Humphries, Iuvara and Kanka were promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Per par 5, of the same order, Lts. Parker, Rosenthal, White, W.H. and White, T.E. were promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jordan to Capt par 2, SO 153	Hq ETOUSA dtd 15 June 1944
Capt. Weltzin to Maj par 5, SO 167	“ “ “ 15 “ “
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Roberts to Capt par 6, SO 167	“ “ “ “ “ “
Maj McLeod to Lt Col par 8, SO 161	“ “ “ 9 “ “
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt King to Capt “ “ “ “ “ “	“ “ “ “ “ “
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Yeast to Capt “ “ “ “ “ “	“ “ “ “ “ “

2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Bautista, Clark, Collins, Elliott to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt per par 1, SO 176 Hq ETOUSA, dtd 24 June 1944. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts Garton, Halloran, Hammond, Jones, Julius, Laney, Lumsden, McFarland, Moore, Pullan, Ridenour, Ross to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. per par 2, of the same Special Order. And per par 3 of the same Order 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. VonGal, Wegman, Williams and Yeardeley were promoted to first Lt.

4. The following General Orders awarded combat crews of our Squadron decorations:

GO 149, Ninth Air Force Sect 8-Air Medals

GO 156, " " " " 9-Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters

GO 95, Ninth Bomber Command Sect 7, Oak Leaf Clusters

GO 99, " " " " 5, Air Medals

GO 101, " " " " 2, Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters

GO 105, " " " " 1, " " " " " "

GO 111, " " " " 6, " " " " " "

GO 114, " " " " 3, Oak Leaf Clusters.

The Purple Heart was awarded to Lt. W.E. Humphries per par N, Sect 1, GO 118, Ninth Bomber Command, dtd 7/3/44.

5. During the month of June our Group continued operations against coastal defense guns, rail and highway bridges, marshalling yards and Noballs. In addition we attacked fuel and ammunition dumps, troop concentrations in close support of our ground troops on the continent of Europe.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> the Group received a special commendation from General Anderson Commanding the Ninth Bomber Command for superior mission of June 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Lo in France. On June 16<sup>th</sup> we received a general commendation from Hqs USSAF, which went to all AAF Units for support to ground units. Our Squadron effectively led the mission on D Day against coastal defenses.

The strength of the Squadron on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1944 was 83 Officers and 330 enlisted men.

JOHN R. NEALE  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, England

15 August 1944

SUBJECT: July 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. In July 1944, the Squadron remained at its ~~present~~ base, at Station 168, Rivenhall, England. The following replacement crews were assigned to our organization:

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stephen B. Weatherby, assigned per par 1, SO 152, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), dtd 7/17/44, and Sgts. Egeland, Kasarjian, Liebig, Mitchell, and Czyz, per par 1, SO 157, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), dtd 7/24/44.

2. The following missions were flown by the Group during July and our Squadron participated:

MISSION NO. 61. 6/7/44. Target-Dol to Rennes, RR Bridge and Embankment, Results-Good.

Captain Evans, Lts Hayes and Hausman and crews flew in first Box. Captain King, Lts Broan, Hoch, Illanes, Goodnow and crews flew in the second Box.

MISSION NO. 62. 6/7/44. Target-Foret de Conches Fuel Dump, Results-Good.

Lt. Col. McLeod and crew led this formation, Lts. Julius, White and crews flew in this box. Major Weltzin and crew led the second box, Captain Jordan, Lts Colahan, Kessel and Parker flew in this box.

MISSION NO. 63. 7/7/44. Target-Ussy Motor Transport Area, Results-Fair.

Captains Rhodes, Boyar, Evans, Lts Hausman, Parker, Illanes, Cannop, Brendle, Kessel and crews flew in second box of this formation. (2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Cartmill received slight wounds on this mission).

MISSION NO. 64. 8/7/44. Target-Saumur RR Bridge, Results-Fair.

Captains Roberts, Jordan, King, Lts Ganther, Goodnow, Colahan, Estes, Kessel, Brownlee flew in the first box of this formation. (T/Sgt. Pensinger flying in A/C #42961864 with Captain King was wounded by flak in right knee on this mission over Saumur, France).

MISSION NO. 65. 8/7/44. Target-Saumur RR Bridge, Results-Fair.

Captains Evans, Boyar, Lts Hausman, Broan, Julius, Kessel and crews flew in first box. Captain Rhodes and crew led second box, Lts Colahan, Estes and crew flew in second box. Lt. Brendle and crew flew window ship.

MISSION NO. 66. 9/7/44. Target-Nogent le Roi RR Bridge. 10/10ths Weather.

Capt King, Roberts, Jordan, Lts Brownlee, White, Brendle, Hausman, Barcroft, Illanes and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 67. 11/7/44. Target-Chateau de Tertu Fuel Dump. Results-Good.

Major Weltzin, Capts Roberts, King, Lts Hayes, Illanes, Estes, Colahan and crews flew in second box of this formation.

MISSION NO. 68. 12/7/44. Target-Foret d'Ecouvès. PPF.

Major Weltzin, Capts Boyar, Evans, Lts Broan, Goodnow, Barcroft and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 69. 16/7/44. Target-Boisse Le Londe RR Embankment. PPF.

Capt Roberts, Evans, Boyar, Lts Broan, White, Hayes, Julius, Parker, Kessel and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 70. 16/7/44. Target-Nantes RR Bridge. Results-Fair.

Capt King, Roberts, Boyar, Lts Ganther, Illanes, Parker, Brendle, Estes, Hoch and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 71. 17/7/44. Demouville 'D' Area. Primary Not Bombed.

Capt King, Evans, Lts Colahan, White, Wegman, Brownlee, Hayes, Goodnow, Barcroft and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 72. 18/7/44. Target-Cherisy RR Bridge and Embankment. Results-Good.

Capt Evans, Jordan, Lts Brendle, Hoch, Kessel, Estes and crews flew in first box. Lts Parker, Cannop, Barcroft, crews in second box. Sgt. Edward L. Price was wounded on this mission.

MISSION NO. 73. 19/7/44. Target-La Possonniere RR Viaduct. Results-Good to Excellent.

Capt King, Jordan, Lts Hayes, White, Brownlee, Hoch and crews flew in first box. Lts Estes, Colahan, Broan and crews in second.

MISSION NO. 74. 23/7/44. Argentan RR Bridge and Emb. PPF.

Capt Rhodes, Jordan, King, Lts Estes, Kessel, Brownlee, Julius and crew flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 75. 24/7/44. Livarot Forest Fuel Dump. PPF.

Major McLeod and crew led this formation. Capt Evans, Lts Broan, Wegman, White, Hayes, Illanes, Hoch, and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 76. 25/7/44. St. Lo Defended Area. Area Bombing.

Major Weltzin and crew led second box. Capts Roberts, Jordan, Lts Parker, Goodnow, Ganther, Brownlee, Kessel, Ridenour and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 77. 25/7/44. Cloyes RR Bridge. Results-Excellent.

Col. McLeod and crew led this formation, Capts Rhodes, Evans, Lts White, Julius, Illanes, Broan, Barcroft, Brendle and crew flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 78. 26/7/44. Epernon RR Bridge and Emb. Results-Fair to Good.

Capt. Boyar, Roberts, King, Lts Wegman, White, Brendle, Brownlee, Parker, Goodnow, flew in first box of this formation.

MISSION NO. 79. 28/7/44. Courcelles RR Bridge. PPF.

Maj Weltzin led second box. Capt Evans, Lts Ridenour, Goodnow, Kessel, Broan, Estes, Brownlee and crew flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 80. 30/7/44. Caumont Defended Area. PPF.

Col McLeod and crew led this formation, with Captains Roberts and Jordan, Lts Parker, Estes, Cannop and crews flew in the first Box.

MISSION NO. 81. 30/7/44. Caumont Defended Area B. PPF.

Cpts Evans, Boyar, Rhodes, Lts Colahan, Hoch, Hayes, Julius, Ganther, Goodnow, and crew flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 82. 31/7/44. Mayonne RR Bridge. PPF.

Major Weltzin and crew led 2<sup>nd</sup> box. Lts Broan, Estes, Ganther, Julius and crews flew in second box. Lt. Cannop and crew flew in first box.

3. The following men were promoted on the following Special Orders:

1<sup>st</sup> Lts Hannigan and Illanes to Captain per par 4, SO 207, Hq 9 AF, dtd 7/25/44.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Brownlee, Cartmill, Glock, McLellan to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt w rank fr 7/25/44 per par 4, SO 207, Hq 9AF, Dtd 7/25/44. F/O Ganther from F/O to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt 15 July 1944, and F/O Stout to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt 30 July 1944, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts Barcroft, Brendle, Clarke, M.L., Ewing, Hausman, Jaquez, Kessel, Rieman, Shoemaker, Vogel, Zachary to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt (AUS) w rank fr 7/17/44 per par 19, SO 199, Hq 9 AF dtd 7/17/44. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts Von Gal, Wegman, Williams, F.L., and Yeardley to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt M/R of 7/2/44 with rank fr 6/24/44, per par 3 SO 176, Hq ETOUSA dtd 6/24/44.

4. The following General Orders awarded combat crews and ground personnel of our Squadron decorations:

IX BC GO 120, Sec III, dtd 6 July 1944, Oak Leaf Clusters and Air Medals.

IX BC GO 122, Sec II, dtd 9 July 1944, Oak Leaf Clusters and Air Medals.

IX BC GO 127, Sec I, dtd 14 July 1944, Purple Heart to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Cartmill and T/Sgt Herbert Pensinger.

IX BC GO 131, Sec IV, dtd 20 July 1944, Oak Leaf Clusters.

“ “ “ 133, “ VI, dtd 22 “ “ “ “ “ .

“ “ “ 137, “ IV, “ 26 “ “ , Purple Heart to Sgt. Edward L. Price.

5. During the month of July our Group continued operations against coastal defense guns, rail and highway bridges, marshalling yards and Noballs. In addition, we attacked fuel and ammunition dumps, troop concentrations in close support of our ground troops on the continent of Europe.

6. The strength of the Squadron on July 31, was 335 enlisted men and 82 officers.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 September 1944

SUBJECT: August 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. On 4 August 1944, the Squadron moved with the 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group from Station 168, Rivenhall to Station 492 Hurn, England by authority Movement Order No. 1, IX Bomber Command, 12 July 1944 and TWX IX Bomber Command, X3618. On 10 August 1944, the Squadron together with the 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group moved from Station 492 Hurn, England to Strip Number A-26 (Gorges) France, in order to continue operations in support of forward troops against the Germans in Germany and Holland, movement by Authority, Letter IX Bomber Command 370.5, 16 August 1944.

2. The following replacements were assigned to our Squadron:

Per SO No 164, par 2, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dated 8/1/44:  
Second Lieutenants Donnell, Clopton and Sergeants Garza, Harcom and Corporal Meskocek.

Per SO No 159, par 3, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dated 8/7/44:  
Sergeants Henry and DeDora.

Per SO No 170, par 1, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dated 8/9/44:  
Staff Sergeant Younginer.

Per SO No 172, par 1, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dated 8/11/44:  
Private First Class Nance.

Per SO No 180, par 4, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dated 8/24/44:  
Captain Shimmin.

3. The following missions were flown by the group during August and our squadron participated:

Mission No. 83. 1/8/44. Target-Les Ponts de Ce (Railroad bridge) Results-Excellent.

Lt. Col McLeod and crew led this formation. Capts. Roberts, Jordan, Boyar, Lts. Hayes, Colahan, Goodnow, Barcroft, Hoch and crews flew on the mission. The Group received citation from Gen. Anderson on results of the mission.

Mission No. 84. 2/8/44. Target-Cinq Mars (Railroad bridge) Results-Good.  
Major Weltzin, Capts. Rhodes, Lts. White, Hayes, Broan, Brendle, Estes, Julius, Cannop and crews flew in the first box on this mission.

Mission No. 85. 3/8/44. Target-Courtelain (Railroad bridge) Results-No attack.  
Capts. Roberts, Boyar, Rhodes, Illanes, Lts. Hoch, Ganther, Moore, Brownlee, Estes and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 86. 4/8/44. Target-Epernon (Railroad bridge) Results-Fair to Good.

Capt. Rhodes, Roberts, Lts. Broan, Ganther, Yeardley, Wegman, Hayes, Pullan, Elliott and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 87. 7/8/44. Target-Neuvy Sur Loire (Railroad bridge) Results-Good.

Capt. King, Boyar, Evans, Lts. Goodnow, Colahan, Hoch, Parker, Estes, Ridenour and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 88. 7/8/44. Target-Foret de Blois (ammunition dump) Results-Good.

Lt. Col. McLeod and crew led this formation. Capt. Rhodes, Jordan, Lts. Hayes, Barcroft, Broan, Kessel, Clopton, Brownlee and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 89. 8/8/44. Target-Mantes-Gassicourt (Railroad bridge) Results-Fair to Good.

Capt. Roberts, Illanes, Evans, Boyar, Lts. Moore, Estes, Parker, Cannop, Hoch, and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 90. 8/8/44. Target-St. Malo-St. Servan (Coast Defense Battery) Results-Good.

Capt. Roberts, Jordan, King, Lts. Hoch, Ganther, Hayes, Pullan and crews flew on this mission. Lt. Col. McLeod, Lts. Yeardley and crews flew windows ships.

Mission No. 91. 9/8/44. Target-Pontoise (Railroad bridge) Results-Good to Excellent.

Capt. King, Evans, Boyar, Illanes, Lts. Goodnow, Parker, Ridenour, Estes, Wegman and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 92. 9/8/44. Target-Beaugency/Orleans (Ammunition Dump) Results-No Attack Weather.

Capt. Roberts, Boyar, Jordan, Lts. Hayes, Barcroft, Brendle, Brownlee, Kessel and crews flew in this mission.

Mission No. 93. 10/8/44. Target-Nogent (Railroad bridge) Results-Excellent.

Lt. Col. McLeod and crew led this formation. Capt. Evans, Illanes, Lts. Moore, Colahan, Julius, Estes, Hayes, Parker and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 94. 11/8/44. Target-Oissel (Railroad bridge) Results-PFF.

Lt. Col. McLeod and crew flew window on this mission, also Lt. Pullan and crew. Capt. Rhodes, Boyar, Jordan, Lts. Elliott, Clopton, Hoch, Yeardley, Ganther and crews flew on this mission. Capt. J.F. Hannigan and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.J. Joos were wounded on this mission.

Mission No. 95. 13/8/44. Target-Lisieux (Area Road Junctions) Results-Fair.

Capt. Evans, Illanes, King, Lts. Estes, Hayes, Broan, Clopton, White, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 96. 13/8/44. Target-Corbeil (Marshalling Yard) Results-Excellent.

Major Weltzin, Capt. Boyar, Jordan, Lts. Hoch, Cannop, Broan, Kessel, Colahan, White and crews flew in this mission. Lt. Brownlee flew window ship.

Mission No. 97. 14/8/44. Target-Notre Dame De Courson (Highway bridge) Results-Good.

Major Weltzin, Capt. Roberts, Lts. Barcroft, Brendle, Clopton, Hoch, Hayes, Estes, Ridenour and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 98. 14/8/44. Target-St. Martin de la Viers (Highway bridge) Results-Good.

Lt. Col. McLeod led this formation. Capt. Boyar, Jordan, Illanes, Lts. Broan, Colahan, Pullan, Elliott, White and crews flew on this mission.



Mission No. 99. 15/8/44. Target-St. Malo (Gun defense) Results-Excellent.  
Capts. Roberts, Evans, Illanes, Lts. Hoch, Goodnow, Estes, Julius, Hayes,  
Yeardley and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 100. 16/8/44. Target-Neuvy (Railroad bridge) Results-Weather  
10/10s.

Major Weltzin, Capts. Illanes, King, Lts. White, Cannop, Kessel, Broan,  
Colahan, and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 101. 16/8/44. Target-Brionne, Pont Authou (Highway bridge)  
Results-PFF.

Lt. Col. McLeod and crew led this formation, Capts. Roberts, Boyar, Illanes,  
Rhodes, Lts. Hayes, Estes, Moore and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 102. 17/8/44. Target-Brionne (road bridge) Results-PFF.  
Major Weltzin led the 2<sup>nd</sup> box of this formation. Capts. Evans, Jordan, Lts.  
Ganther, White, Brownlee, Wegman, Hayes, Broan, Julius, Kessel and crews flew  
on this mission.

Mission No. 103. 17/8/44. Target-La Rabellerie (Railroad bridge) Results-  
PFF.

Capt. Roberts, King, Lts. Hoch, Wegman, Hayes, Broan, Julius, Kessel and  
crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 104. 20/8/44. Target-Foret De La Fonde (Troop concentration)  
Results-PFF.

Major Weltzin led the second box of this formation. Capts. Evans, Jordan, Lts.  
Moore, Barcroft, Colahan, Elliott, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 105. 25/8/44. Target-Kerdrein (Gun Emplacement) Results-Poor.  
Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Lts. Colahan, Hoch, Ganther, Estes, Hayes, Parker,  
Wegman and crews flew on this mission. Lt. Goodnow flew window plane on this  
mission.

Mission No. 106. 26/8/44. Target-Compiègne (Fuel dump) Results-Excellent.  
Major Weltzin, Capt. King, Lts. Clopton, Julius, Broan, Hoch, Yeardley, White,  
Colahan and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 107. 26/8/44. Target-Rouen (Transports and vehicle convoy)  
Results-Fair to good.

Capt. Jordan, Roberts, Lts. Hayes, Cannop, Barcroft, Estes, Kessel, Julius  
and crews flew on this mission. Lt. Clopton flew window plane on mission.

Mission No. 108. 28/8/44. Target-Barisis (Fuel tanks) Results-Fair.  
Capts. King, Illanes, Evans, Lts. Yeardley, Colahan, Broan, Brownlee, Hoch,  
and crews flew on this mission.

4. There were no promotions.

5. The following General Orders awarded combat crews and personnel  
decorations in our Squadron:

GO 128, Ninth Air Force, 1 August 1944; Bronze Star Medals.

GO 148, Ninth Bomber Command, 4 August 1944, Section II; Clusters to Air Medal.

GO 150, Ninth Bomber Command, 30 August 1944, Section III; Purple Heart Medals  
to Capt. J.F. Hannigan and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Walter J. Joos.

GO 206, Ninth Air Force, 17 August 1944; Bronze Star Medal.

6. During the month our Group continued operations against railroad bridges, highway and fuel dumps, but concentrated in assisting to wipe out enemy troop concentrations trying to escape across the Seine and pockets of resistance in Normandy and Brittany peninsulas of France. In order to continue operations behind our advancing troops we had to move the entire organization twice during the month to keep the enemy within range. This was accomplished and we lost only 48 hours operational time of these moves.

7. The strength of the Squadron on August 31<sup>st</sup> was 341 enlisted men and 84 officers.

JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: September 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. During the early part of September, the Squadron remained at A-26, and on September 25<sup>th</sup>, the air echelon moved to its new base at A-41, followed by the ground echelon the following day.

2. The following missions in which our squadron participated were flown during the month:

Mission No. 109. 1/9/44. Brest Defended Area. No Attack-Weather. Capts. Boyar and Jordan, Lts. Wegman, Ganther, Pullan, Estes, Ridenour, Clopton, White and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 110. 5/9/44. Brest Defended Area. Results-Good to Excellent. Lt. Col. McLeod led this mission. Captains King and Illanes, Lts. Broan, Ridenour, Parker, Hayes, Colahan, Elliott, Hoch and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 111. 6/9/44. Brest Defended Area. Results-Fair. Major Weltzin, Captains Roberts, Jordan, Lts. Hoch, White, Parker, Estes, Cannop, Kessel and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 112. 6/9/44. Brest Defended Area. Results-Not observed. Lt. Col. McLeod led this formation. Captains King, Illanes, Lts. Hayes, Colahan, Cannop, Broan, Brownlee, Yeardeley and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 113. 19/9/44. Bitburg M/Y. Results-Good. Captains Shimmin, Evans, King, Lts. Hoch, Broan, Ridenour, Hayes, Goodnow, Estes and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 114. 20/9/44. Trier M/Y. Results-Excellent. Captains Boyar, Roberts, Jordan, Lts. White, Brendle, Colahan, Parker, Cannop, Hoch, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 115. 21/9/44. Germalstein M/Y. Results-Excellent. Captains Roberts, King, Shimmin, Illanes, Lts. Hayes, Broan, Estes, Goodnow, Ganther and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 116. 27/9/44. Foret de Parroy (Troop Concentration). No attack-Weather. Major Weltzin, Captains Roberts, King, Lts. Goodnow, Hayes, Kessel, Ganther, Parker and Yeardeley flew on this mission.

Mission No. 117. 28/9/44. Foret de Parroy. No attack-Weather. Captains Evans, Shimmin, Illanes, Boyar, Lts. Hoch, Brownlee, White, Colahan, Wegman and crews flew in this mission.

Mission No. 118. 29/9/44. Julich (Warehouses). Results-Fair to Good. Lt. Col. McLeod led this formation. Capts Evans, Illanes, Boyar, Lts. White, Colahan, Hoch, Parker, Ganther, Elliott flew on this mission.

Mission No. 119. 29/9/44. Bitburg (Troop Concentration). Results-Excellent. Captains King, Roberts, Lts. Kessel, Barcroft, Hayes, Parker, Ridenour, Estes, Moore and crews flew on this mission. S/Sgt L.B. Coffman (16156767) and T/Sgt H.C. Sconzert (16166767) were wounded on this mission while flying in Aircraft # B 26 B-42-96149

3. The following replacement crews were assigned and joined per par 2, SO #205. Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gr. dtd 28 September 1944 from Casual Pool Hq 70<sup>th</sup> Repl Depot APO 635:

Capt. W.G. Longworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. A.J. LeSauviers, B.R. McBride, L.A. Hetherington, S.F. Shaw, P.A. MacQueen. Capt. W.G. Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. O.R. Lewis, E.F. Kearty.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Hammond par M/R of 21 Sept 1944 was detached from the Squadron, and from DC 9 AF Central ped estab. Sta 472 to trfd 13 Repl Control be ot sta 433, 18 August 1944.

4. Oak Leaf Clusters were awarded members of the Squadron per GO 174 Hq IX Bomber Command, 6 September 1944. Bronze Stars were awarded per GO 188 Hq IX Bomber Command, 22 September 1944.

5. There no promotions during the month.

6. The strength of the Squadron on September 30, 1944 was 349 enlisted men and 92 officers.

7. Inclement weather prevented us from flying more than eleven missions during the month. Those missions accomplished were in close support of the ground troops, and against bridges, marshalling yards and troop concentrations in keeping with the tasks assigned to our type of aircraft.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: October 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. The Squadron, together with the Group moved from Air Strip #41 to Air Strip #72 (Mons en Chaussee) on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

2. The following missions in which our Squadron participated, were flown during the month:

Mission No. 120. 2/10/44. Target—Herbach Defended Area. Results-No attack. Captains Boyar and King, Lts Estes, Clopton, Hayes, Hoch, Yeardley, Ridenour, Kessel and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 121. 12/10/44. Target—Ahrweiler RR Bridge. Results-Good to Excellent. Lt. Col. McLeod and crew led window on this mission. Capt Boyar, Lts. Yeardley, Broan, Wegman, Hayes, Barcroft, Clopton, Kessel, Brownlee and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 122. 20/10/44. Target—Geertruidenberg Hwy Bridge. PPF. Captains Roberts, King, Jordan, Lts Hoch, Colahan, White and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 123. 29/10/44. Euskirchen RR Bridge. PPF. Lt. Col. McLeod, Lt. Yeardley and crews flew on this mission.

3. The following replacement crews were assigned and joined:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Donald P. Stubbart, F/O Ralph E. Trostel, F/O W.R. McGillicudy, per M/R Oct 15, asgd and jd per par 6, SO 218, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dtd 14 Oct 1944. F/O Joseph W. Hicks and F/O G.R. Nock asgd and jd per par 1, SO 225, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp dtd 28 Oct 44. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt C.R. Minor, Jr was asgd and jd per par 1, SO 225, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dtd 28 Oct 1944.

4. The following General Orders awarded decorations to members of the Squadron:

GO 7, Hq Ninth Bomb Div (M), dtd 1 Oct 1944. Section II: Air Medals, Clusters (Bronze and Silver).

GO 12, Hq Ninth Bomb Div (M), dtd 9 Oct 1944. Section VI: Clusters (Bronze and Silver).

GO 19, 39<sup>th</sup> Field Hosp, 1 Oct 1944, awarded Purple Hearts to S/Sgt Coffman and T/Sgt Sconzert.

5. The following officer promotions were made during the month:  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Morton promoted Captain 1 Oct 1944, per par 12, SO 275 Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 1 Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts Ganther and Weatherby promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt per par 12 and 14, SO 289, Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 15 Oct 1944. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts Clopton and Donnell promoted 1<sup>st</sup> Lt per par 12 SO 275, Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 1 Oct 1944.

6. The strength of the Squadron on October 31, 1944 was 100 Officers and 353 Enlisted men. Bad weather prevented us from flying more missions during the month, although missions were planned on practically every day of the month. The missions flown were attacks on bridges and defended areas.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 December 1944

SUBJECT: November 1944 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. The Squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month of November 1944.
2. The following missions in which our Squadron participated were flown during the month:
  - Mission No. 124. 4-11-44. Target–Baumholder Stores Depot. Results PFF. Major Weltzin, Capt. Evans, Lts. Clopton, Brendle, Parker, Brownlee, Cannop, and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 125. 5-11-44. Target–Homburg Ord. Depot. Results PFF. Capts. Roberts, King, Jordan, Lts. Colahan, White, Broan, Kessel, Hausman and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 126. 9-11-44. Target–Landau Ammo. Dump. Results Weather did not bomb.  
Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Evans, Lts. Colahan, Broan, Hoch, Julius, White, Wegman and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 127. 9-11-44. Target–Landau Ammo. Dump. Results no attack.  
Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Lts. Colahan, Broan, Hoch, Julius and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 128. 10-11-44. Target–Landau Ammo. Dump. Results PFF.  
Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Longworth, King, Lts. Clopton, Hayes, Moore, Pullan, Cannop, Brownlee, and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 129. 11-11-44. Target–Mayen RR Bridge, Results PFF.  
Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Longworth, Evans, Lts. Kessel, Broan, Hausman, Wegman, Brendle and crews flew on this mission.
  - Recall. 16-11-44. Target–Duren Def. Area #9. Results Recall.  
Lt. Col. McLeod, Major Weltzin, Capts. Jordan, Roberts, Boyar, Lts. Hoch, White, Goodnow, Julius, Pullan, Kessel, Broan and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 130. 18-11-44. Target–Reichenbach Ammo. Dump. Results Fair.  
Capts. Boyar, Jordan, King, Lts. White, Parker, Goodnow, Hoch, Kessel, Julius, and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 131. 19-11-44. Target–Mariaweiler Def. Area (Duren Area). Results Area Bombing.  
Lt. Col. McLeod, Capts. Jordan, King, Lts. Hoch, Estes, Pullan, Julius, Goodnow, Yeardeley and crews flew on this mission.
  - Mission No. 132. 19-11-44. Target–Pirmasens. Results Undetermined.

Lt. Col McLeod, Capts. Jordan, King, Lts. Hoch, Estes, Pullan, Ganther, Colahan, Hayes, and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 133. 21-11-44. Target–Bergstein Def. Area. Results PFF. Major Weltzin, Capts. Shimmin, Longworth, Lts. Ganther, Yeardley, Hayes, Elliott and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 134. 29-11-44. Target–Elsdorf Def. Town. Results PFF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Lt. Parker and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 135. 6-10-44. Target–Hengelo M/Y. Results. No Attack. Capts. Jordan, Boyar, Lts. Elliott, Estes, Cannop, Hayes, Clopton, Pullan and crews flew on this mission. This mission originally listed as a recall and later decided that it was to be credited as a mission.

Mission No. 136. 30-11-44. Target–Stockheim Def. Town. Results PFF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Rhodes, Evans, Lts. Yeardley, Brownlee, Brendle, Cannop, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

Lt. Clopton crash landed at Beauraing, Belgium (PO170). Engine failure due to some object from plane ahead hitting, cockpit, propeller and was driven into left engine. Losing altitude the pilot ordered crew to jump. All jumped except Lt. Clopton, who rode plane down successfully after salvoing bombs. T/Sgt John Meshechek Serial No. 36101856, was killed in jump when chute opened too late to break fall completely. All others safe.

T/Sgt Meshechek was the first man killed in action since 596<sup>th</sup> Sqdn. commenced operation.

3. The following replacement crews were assigned and joined:  
F/O Hartan J. Joy, T-1939 asgd and jd fr. 410 Bomb Gp (1) per par 3, SO 226, Hq. 397 Bomb Gp asgd 1 Nov 44. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stanley R. Czark, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joseph W. Cykosky, F/O Elwood B. Fitzgerald, Cpl Angus F. Carter, Cpl. Everett F. Hayes, Cpl. John H. Hays. asgd and jd fr 70 Repl Depot (AAF) per par. 1. SO 227 Hq 397 Bomb Gp. asgd 4 Nov 44. Pfc. Abraham J. Korn, asgd and jd fr 171 st Repl Co (AAF) per par 1. SO 234 Hq 397 Bomb Gp asgd 17 Nov 44.

Several of our original Combat crews completed their tour of duty and were sent home on leave.

4. The following General orders 9<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Div. awarded decorations to members of the Squadron:

GO 31. Hqs 9<sup>th</sup> B.D. dated 17-11-44 oak leaf and silver clusters.

GO 33. 9<sup>th</sup> B.D. dated 22-11-44 Air Medals and Clusters (Bronze and Silver).

GO 36. Hqs 9<sup>th</sup> B.D. dated 28-11-44 air Medals and Clusters. (Bronze and Silver).

5. There were no promotions during the month.

6. The strength of the Squadron on November 30 was 102 Officers and 350 Enlisted Men.



Bad weather continued to curtail our operations and missions flown were principally against supply Depots and in close support of troops. Missions were flown and set up practically every day to the month.

{SIGNED}

John R. Neale,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, France.

20 January 1944.

SUBJECT: December 1944 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The Squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month of December.
2. The following missions in which our Squadron participated were flown during the month:
  - No. 137. 1-12-44: Saarlautern Defended Area. No attack. PPF Failure. Maj. Weltzin, Capts. Jordan, Boyar, Lts. Colahan, Broan, Wegman, Goodnow, Julius, Kessel and crews flew in second box of this formation.
  - No. 138. 2-12-44: Saarlautern Defended Area. Poor PPF. No 596<sup>th</sup> Aircraft took off on this mission.
  - No. 139. 5-12-44: Hochem Defended Village. Fair PPF. Col. McLeod, Capts Boyar, Evans, Lts Colahan, Cordell, Brownlee, Wegman, Brendle, Cannop and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 140. 6-12-44: Nideggen Defended Town. Poor PPF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Roberts, Lts Colahan, Hayes, Ganther, Elliott, Hicks, White, Kessel flew in this formation.
  - No. 141. 9-12-44: Losheim Defended Town. Undetermined PPF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, King, Lts. Brendle, White, Cannop, Hoch, Wegman, Ganther and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 142. 9-12-44: Weisbach Defended Town. Undetermined PPF. Capts. Boyar, Illanes, Jordan, Shimmin, Lts. Colahan, Brownlee, Estes, Hicks, Ridenour, Kessel and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 143. 12-12-44: Gemund Defended Town. Undetermined PPF. Maj. Weltzin, Capts. Rhodes, Boyar, Jordan, Lts. White, Garton and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 144. 13-12-44: Hellenthal Defended Area. Undetermined PPF. Lt. Col. McLeod, Capts. Boyar, Illanes, Lts. Hicks, Ganther, Hoch, Elliott, Broan, Hausman and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 145. 15-12-44. Ruthen Oil Depot. Undetermined PPF. Capts. King, Evans, Jordan, Lts. Kessel, Estes, Cannop, Ridenour, Wegman, Colahan and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 146. 23-12-45. Eller RR Bridge. Undetermined. Maj. Weltzin, Capt Roberts, Lts. White, Estes, Colahan, Brendle, Ganther and crews flew on this mission. The formation was attacked by fighters and Lt. Estes and crew in Aircraft No. 144 were shot down by flak, and are missing in action—the crew consisted of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles W. Estes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William D. Collins, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Craig E. Lewis, S/Sgt. J.P. Negri, T/Sgt W.E. Epps, Sgt B.T. Daszkiewicz, and Pfc A.J. Korn.

No. 147. 24-12-44. Nideggen Road Junction. Excellent.  
Maj. Weltzin, Capts. Evans, Jordan, Illanes, Lts. Kessel, Cannop, Hicks, Brownlee, Parker and crews flew on this mission.

No. 148. 25-12-44. Vianden Road Junction. Excellent.  
Capts. King, Shimmin, Jordan, Lts. White, Barcroft, Ridenour, Hoch, Hayes, Colahan and crews flew in this formation. Lt. Colahan in air craft No. 204, after having been hit by flak, brought the plane back to the base. Losing altitude, he ordered the crew to bail out, and he rode the plane down to a crash landing, since it was too low for him to bail out.

No. 149. 25-12-44. Ahrdorf Defended Village. Undetermined.  
Capts. Rhodes, Illanes, Roberts, Lts. Hausman, Cannop, Brendle, Hicks, Hoch, Garton, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 150. 27-12-44. Kall Railhead. Excellent.  
Maj. Weltzin, Capts. Jordan, Evans, Lts. Kessel, White, Brendle, Ridenour, Ganther, Hicks and crews flew on this mission.

The Ninth Bombardment Division Committee on claims advised that the following credits had been allowed to members of the squadron: Sgt. R.J. Brennan and Sgt. A.F. Carter, Jr. one FW-190-damaged. S/Sgt Bob Karup on FW-190-damaged. S/Sgt. C.W. Berg one FW-190-damaged. T/Sgt. B.F. Younginer one FW-190-probably destroyed. S/Sgt. T.R. Dyas one FW-190-damaged. S/Sgt G.A. Spencer one ME-109-damaged. Carl Reib one FW-190-probably destroyed. Charles Stiles-one FW-190-damaged. John O'Connor one FW 190-damaged.

3. There were no new crews assigned during the month.

4. The following General orders of the 9<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Division awarded decorations to members of the Squadron:

GO 283, Hqs 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, dtd 6 Dec. 1944, DFC to Lt. Col. McLeod.

GO 46, Hqs 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div, dtd 22 Dec. 1944, Air Medals and Clusters.

GO 47, Hqs 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div, dtd 24 Dec. 1944, Air Medals and Clusters.

5. The following Officer Promotions took place during the month:  
F/O's E.B. Fitzgerald, J.W. Hicks, G.M. Nock were promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. with date of rank from 24 December 1944. Asgd and jd 24 December.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. A.J. DeSaulniers (now MIA), Craig M. Lewis (now MIA), D.P. Stubbart, G.F. Stout to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, with date of rank, 8 December 1944.

F/O H.J. Joy and R.E. Trostel to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. with date of rank from 31 Dec—asgd and jd 31 Dec 1944.

6. The strength of the squadron on 31 December 1944 was 91 Officers and 325 Enlisted Men.

Missions flown during the month were principally close-support missions against defended localities, while bad weather continued to curtail our operations against the enemy

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, France.

20 February 1945.

SUBJECT: January 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month.

2. The squadron participated in the following missions flown by the Group during the month:

No. 151. 1-1-45: Bullay Railroad Bridge. No attack.

Captains Roberts, Rhodes, Lts. Kessel, Cannop, White, Colahan, Jones, Hayes, Hicks, Brendle, Ridenour and crews flew on this mission.

No. 152. 5-1-45: Treis Vierges Road Junction. No attack.

Captains Roberts, Shimmin, Lts. Kessel, Cannop, White, Colahan, Ridenour, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 153. 11-1-45: Clervaux Communication Center. No attack.

Captains King, Evans, Illanes, Shimmin, Lts. Clopton, Kessel, Hayes, Brownlee, Cannop, Wegman, Hicks, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 154. 13-1-45: Dasburg Railroad Bridge. PPF Undetermined.

Lts. Brendle and crews flew on this mission. The runway was blocked, and the other aircraft scheduled to fly were unable to take off

No. 155. 14-1-45: Ahrweiler Railroad Bridge. Results-Fair.

Major Weltzin, Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Brownlee, Colahan, White, Hoch, Julius, Ridenour, Garton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 156. 16-1-45: Erkelenz Railway Siding. Results-Excellent to Superior.

Captains Roberts and Illanes, Lts. White, Colahan, Hayes, Cannop, Kessel, Ganther, Clopton, Parker and crews flew on this mission.

No. 157. 22-1-45: Bullay Railroad Bridge. Results-Fair.

Captains Rhodes, Illanes, Roberts, Lts. Kessel, Hoch, Parker, Clopton, Clark and crews flew on this mission.

No. 158. 25-1-45: Eller Railroad Bridge. Results-Good to Excellent.

Lt. Col. McLeod, Lts. Wegman, Colahan, Brownlee, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 159. 29-1-45: Engers Railroad Bridge. Primary not bombed. Wittlich "G" Target.

Captain King, Lts. Brendle, Hausman, Kessel, Clopton, Parker, Clark, Cannop and crews flew on this mission.

No. 160. 29-1-45: Rinnthal Railroad Bridge. Undetermined.

Lts. Brownlee, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

3. The following new members of Combat Crews were assigned and joined the Squadron: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Kenneth L. Henkel, Albert E. Krug, A.R. Peebles, A.B. Jessee,

Manny Mark, Irvin R. Bernstein, per par 1, SO 5, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dtd 9 Jan. 1945. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Flavil R. Edgin, Wilhelm B. Dahl and F/O Charles H. Beek per par 1, SO 7, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lts George R. Davis, Thomas H. Sharp and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Paul H. Hladiak per par 5, SO 8, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. T.P. Ratigan, Martin Schwartz, Jr., Robert R. Smith per par 1, SO 3, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts Robert K. Young, V.R. Hebbing, W.W. Metcalf, F/O's P.R. Chappell, Joseph E. Kurwith, and Francis T. Madden, per par 1, SO 13, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb GP. F/O's J.B. Pollack, T.A. MacMillan and Thomas H. Sneed per par 2, SO 15, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Herbert Hartson was assigned and joined as Assistant S-2 Officer per par 3, SO 12.

The following Officers and Enlisted Men were missing in action, while on DS to Pathfinder: Capt. Longworth, Capt. Wilson, T/Sgt Winston, S/Sgt Alay, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Vogel and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. DeSaulniers. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sharp and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Hladiak were on DS to Pathfinder per par 1, SO 21, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div.

4. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald R. Von Gal (O-693436) was awarded the DFC per GO 3, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, dtd 5 Jan 1945. On the same General Order 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. A.R. Ridenour was awarded the DFC. The Bronze Star was awarded T/Sgt Bill T. Hayhurst per GO 5, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div, dtd 12 January 1945. Oak Leaf Clusters were awarded per GO 10, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div, dtd 17 Jan 1945.

5. The following Officer Promotions took place during the month: F/O Wm. R. McGillicuddy to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George W. Parker to Captain. CWO E.D. Walker to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. F.E. Brown to Capt with date of rank from 23 June. Under the Air Liaison Program at IX TAC and 1<sup>st</sup> Army, the following crews spent a week at the front: Lt. Col. McLeod, Captains Domke, Yeast and crew from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. Maj. Weltzin, Lts. Brendle, Hill, Joy and crews from Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Captain Roberts R. Evans went on DS to XIX TAC for six weeks as Air-Ground Liaison Officer.

6. In order to better understand the problems and operations of other branches of service, we have been sending crews to the front and they have been sending men to our base. During January we had 3 Officers and 3 Enlisted Men from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Group. They were shown our Operations, Intelligence, etc., and flew on several missions.

Recently a shower was built in the squadron area, through the ingenuity of the enlisted men in the squadron, and is being enjoyed by all.

During the month, an inspection of the squadron was made by Bombardment Division Inspector General's Office. At this time, there were no administrative difficulties in the squadron.

7. The strength of the Squadron as of January was 103 Officers and 340 Enlisted Men. Bad weather continued to curtail our operations for the month, however the missions flown were in keeping with our "bridge busting" idea, and the majority of the targets was bridges.

JOHN R. NEALE,

1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, France.

20 March 1945.

SUBJECT: February 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The Squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month.
2. The Squadron participated in the following missions flown by the Group during the month:
  - No. 161. 1-2-45: Engers RR Bridge. Undet PPF. One box on this mission, no squadron personnel flew.
  - No. 162. 2-2-45: Rosbach RR Bridge. P.N.B.  
Capts Rhodes, King, Lts. Cannop, Kessel, Von Gal, Clopton, Brownlee, Hoch and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 163. 3-2-45: Ahrweiler RR Bridge. Undet PPF.  
Lt. Hicks and crew participated in this mission.
  - No. 164. 6-2-45: Sotenich Defended Town. Undet PPF.  
Capt. Roberts, Lts. Clark, Hoch, Brendle, Czark, Stubbart, Hayes, Wegman, Barcroft, Clopton, White and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 165. 8-2-45: Materborn Defended Town. Undet.  
Capt Roberts, Lt. Brendle and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 166. 9-2-45: Viersen Road Junctions. PPF Undet.  
Capts. Rhodes, Shimmin, Parker, Lts. Barcroft, Clark, Hicks, Clopton, White and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 167. 10-2-45: Berg-Gladbach M/T Center. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Roberts, Lts. Stubbart, Kessel, Hoch, Brendle, Hayes, Hausman, Cannop and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 168. 11-2-45: Modrath M/Yds. Results-Poor.  
Captains Shimmin, Parker, Lts. Cannop, Czark, Barcroft, Kessel, Clopton, Clark, Hicks and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 169. 13-2-45: Schwelm M/T Park. PPF Undet.  
Lts. Brendle, Clark, Clopton, Barcroft, Cannop, Brownlee, Stubbart, Czark and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 170. 14-2-45: Mayen RR Bridge. P.N.B. and Poor.  
Capts. Parker and Illanes, Lts. Hausman, Cannop, Julius, Hicks, Henkle, White, Hibbing, Stuart and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 171. 14-2-45: Grevenbroich Communications Center. P.N.B.  
Col. McLeod, Capt. Parker, Lts. Kessel, Czark, Brownlee, Hibbing, Julius and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 172. 15-2-45: Mayen RR Bridge. PPF.  
Capt. Illanes, Lts. Stubbart, Johnson, Hibbing and crews flew on this mission.



No. 173. 19-2-45: Irlich RR Bridge. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Rhodes, Parker, Lts. Hicks, Czark, Barcroft, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 174. 21-2-45: Herford RR Bridge. Superior.  
Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Young, Czark, Hausman, Brownlee, Hibbing, Edgin, Julius and crews flew on this mission. Lt. Hausman and crew in A/C 67989 crashed and exploded when ran out of gas at VJ 460070, SE Binche, Belgium. Entire crew bailed out. Tail gunner sprained ankle and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. R.A. Hausman broke leg after jumping.

No. 175. 22-2-45: Neunbecken RR Viaduct, Scherfede Underpass, Rheda RR Bridge—Bombing and Strafing Mission. Good to Superior.  
Col. McLeod led the mission which was part of interdiction program before big drive to the Rhine on the Western Front. Capts. Rhodes, Shimmin, Hayes, Lts. Shoemaker, Henkle, Hicks, Wegman, Edgin, Young, Julius, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 176 and 177. 23-2-45: Elsdorf Defended Town and Jackerath Defended Town. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Parker and crew flew on Elsdorf mission. Capts. Shimmin, Illanes, Lts. Shoemaker, Julius, Young, Kessel, Clopton, Edgin, Brendle and crews flew on this mission.

No. 178. 24-2-45: Irlich RR Bridge. "Gee" Undet.  
Capts Rhodes, Lts. Shoemaker, Czark, Hicks, Stubbart, Julius, Hibbing and crews flew on this mission.

No. 179. 25-2-45: Grevenbroich Defended Town. Excellent to Superior.  
Capt. Parker, Lts. Young, Shoemaker, Kessel, Clopton, Brownlee, Edgin, Julius and crews flew on this mission.

No. 180. 26-2-45: Kenten Rd Junctions. "Gee" Undet.  
Col. McLeod, Lts. Brownlee, Hibbing, Hicks, Brendle, Barcroft, Stubbart and crews flew on this mission.

No. 181. 27-2-45: Ahrweiler RR Bridge. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Parker, Lts. Clopton, Julius, Shoemaker, Hicks, Edgin, Henkel, Kessel, Barcroft, Young and crews flew on this mission.

No. 182. 28-2-45: Mayen RR Bridge. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Illanes, Lts. Hibbing, Brendle, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

3. The following new members of Combat Crews were assigned and joined the Squadron: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. L.J. Thorpe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. J.E. Brandt, F/O J.F. Sutcliffe, from 70<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot (AAF), per par 9, SO 20, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb GP. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. H.E. Holder, R.E. Anderson, F/O J.F. Morrissey per par 2, SO 31, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. C.D. Kirk, J.C. Hart, F/O H. W. Cladouhos, per par 4, SO 34, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. M.E. Krug, L.J. Guillery, F/O W.J. Bouffard per par 2, SO 35, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp.

4. In keeping with the Air-Ground Liaison Program, and in order to further the mutual understanding of both Forces' problems, the following crews were placed on temporary duty to the Commands named: Capt. King, Lt. McLallam, Lts. Iuvara,

Halloran to G-3 Air, at TAC. Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Shaw, Jaquez, Kanka to XIX TAX, Comd G-3, Hq 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Army.

5. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Claude R. Hayes was promoted to Captain, per par 30, SO 40, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF, 9 Feb 1945. During the month Maj. Richard F. Weltzin was transferred to Combat Wing, and Captain William J. Rhodes succeeded him as Squadron Operations Officer.

6. The following General Orders awards decorations to members of the squadron: GO 1, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div dtd 1 Feb 1945 awarded the Purple Heart to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. K.A. Colahan, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald H. McBride. Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters were awarded per GO 20, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> BD, 9 Feb 45. GO 23, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> BD, 14 Feb 45. GO 25, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> BD, 21 Feb 45.

7. During the month, the squadron received an administrative inspection made by 9<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Division.

8. The strength of the squadron as of the end of the month was 102 officers and 332 enlisted men. Inclement weather, typical of this season of the year continued to hamper our operations against the enemy, however, whenever possible our aircraft took to the air, in order to press home the attack in keeping with the plan of interdiction. Too, some of our targets were of a tactical nature, and areas and localities which were direct obstacles to the progress of our Ground Forces were attacked.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Historical Officer.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, France.

20 April 1945.

SUBJECT: March 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month.

2. The squadron participated in the following missions flown by the Group during the month:

No. 183. 1-Mar-45: Pulheim Rd Jcts. Results-Undetermined.

Lts. Hibbing, Brownlee, Shoemaker, Czark, Hicks, Henkle, Pollock, Brendle, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 184. 2-Mar-45: Eller RR Bridge. No attack on Primary.

Lt. Col. McLeod, Capt. Illanes, Lts. Hibbing, Czark, Kessel, Stubbart, Shoemaker, Thorpe, Barcroft and crew flew on this mission.

No. 185. 2-Mar-45: Sinzig RR Bridge. PPF.

Capt. Parker, Lts. Stubbart, Hibbing, Henkle, Hicks, Clopton, Young and crews flew on this mission.

No. 186. 4-Mar-45: Bruhl Rd Jcts. PPF-Undetermined.

Lts. Brendle, Shoemaker, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 187. 5-Mar-45: Unna Ord. Depot. PPF-Undetermined.

Capt. Illanes, Lts. Brendle, Edgin, Young, Brownlee, Thorpe, Hibbing and crews flew on this mission.

No. 188. 5-Mar-45: Bingen M/Y. Gee Not Observed.

Capt. Illanes, Lts. Hibbing, Kessel, Pollock, Thorpe, Hicks, Czark, Edgin and crews flew on this mission.

No. 189. 6-Mar-45: Siegburg M/Y. PPF-Undet.

Lt. Col. McLeod and Capt. Illanes, Lts. Brendle, Czark, Young, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 190. 8-Mar-45: Wulfrath M/T Depot. PPF Undetermined.

Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Hicks, Brownlee, Czark, Pollock, Thorpe and crews flew on this mission.

No. 191. 9-Mar-45: Weisbaden M/Y. PPF Undetermined.

Capt. Illanes, Lts. Thorpe, Edgin, White, Clopton, Young, Hicks, Jessee, Henkel and crews flew on this mission.

No. 192. 9-Mar-45: Dortmund/Lunen M/Y. Gee Not Observed.

Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Edgin, Hicks, Czark, Young, Illanes, Stubbart, Holder, Clopton, Shoemaker and crews flew on this mission.

No. 193. 10-Mar-45: Altenkirchen Communications Center. PPF Undet.

Colonel Coiner and 596<sup>th</sup> crew led this mission. Lts. Shoemaker, Stubbart, Brendle, Jessee, Edgin, Thorpe and Czark flew. Lt. Pollack in Plane # 197 crash landed on take-off. Entire crew safe. Excellent job done by pilot in landing the plane in field.

No. 194. 11-Mar-45: Breitscheid A/F. No attack on primary.

Lt. Shoemaker, Lts. Brownlee, Stubbart, Young, White, Clopton, Illanes, Edgin and crews flew on this mission.

No. 195. 11-Mar-45: Weyerbusch Comm. Center. PPF Undet.

Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Pollack, Hicks, Hibbing, White, Clark, Stubbart, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 196. 12-Mar-45: Arnsberg M/Y. PPF Undet.

Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Thorpe, Shoemaker, Edgin, Hicks, Czark, Henkle, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 197. 12-Mar-45: Synthen Ammo Filling Plant. PPF Undet.

Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Stubbart, Shoemaker, Edgin, Pollack, Young, Hicks, Jessee, King and crews flew on this mission.

No. 198. 13-Mar-45: Westerburg M/Y. PPF Undet.

Lts. White, Clopton, Thorpe, Hibbing, Holder, King, Brendle, Henkle, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 199. 13-Mar-45: Frankfurt/Rhein-Main A/F. Excellent to Superior.

Lts. Hicks, Brownlee, Barcroft, Stubbart, Jessee, Edgin, Henkle, Capt. Shimmin and crews flew on this mission.

No. 200. 14-Mar-45: Nieder-Marberg RR BR. Excellent.

Lts. Brendle, Pollock, Clopton, Hibbing, Thorpe, Stubbart and crews flew on this mission. The squadron participated in this, the 200<sup>th</sup> mission of the Group, which claims a record for B-26's. We completed this number of missions in ten months and twenty-four days. During that time the 596<sup>th</sup> Squadron has lost only two planes in enemy territory. Lt. Freeman's crew are Prisoners of War, and Lt. Estes crew are MIA. The Squadron, since activation on Apr 20, 1943, to date, has not lost a combat crew in a training flight. Such a safety record reflects a high standard of pilotage and maximum efficiency of our ground crews in maintenance of planes. We believe this to be a record for medium bombers.

No. 201. 15-Mar-45: Pirmasens Communication cent. Excellent to Superior.

Lts. Hicks, Barcroft, Holder, Edgin, Henkle, Clopton and crews flew this mission.

No. 202. 16-Mar-45: Niederscheld RR Br. Undet.

Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Holder, Young, Henkle, Hibbing, Barcroft, Edgin and crews flew on this mission.

No. 203. 17-Mar-45: Siegen M/Y. PPF Undet.

Lt. Col. McLeod, Lts. Stubbart, Henkle, Brownlee, Kirk, Young, Hibbing, Thorpe, Jessee and crews flew on this mission.

No. 204. 17-Mar-45: Giessen Ord. Depot. Gee Undet.

Capt. White, Lts. Brownlee, Thorpe, Jessee, Czark, Edgin, Holder, King, Kirk and crews flew on this mission.

No. 205. 18-Mar-45: Worms M/Y. Excellent.

Lts. Brownlee, Barcroft, Young, Hibbing, Czark, King and crews flew this mission.

No. 206. 19-Mar-45: Engelskirchen M/Y. Undet to Poor.

Lts. Hicks, Henkle, Jessee, Edgin, Thorpe, Kirk, Hibbing, Barcroft, Holder, Young and crews.

No. 207. 19-Mar-45: Barmen M/Y. Undet to Excell.

Col. Coiner and air crew led. Lts. Czark, Clopton, Hicks, Jessee, King, Stubbart, Holder, McSorley and crews flew on this mission.

No. 208. 20-Mar-45: Geisecke M/Y. Excellent.

Lts. Stubbart, Hibbing, Kirk, Young, Kessel, King, Czark, Edgin, Pollack and crews.

No. 209. 21-Mar-45: Goesfeld Comm Center. Undet to Excellent.

Lts. Brendle, Pollock, Young, Hibbing, Henkel, Kirk, Edgin, Barcroft, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 210. 21-Mar-45: Haltern Comm Center. Undet to Superior.

Lts. Brownlee, Young, Holder, Hibbing, King, McSorley, Czark and crews flew.

No. 211. 22-Mar-45: Ahaus Comm Center. Excellent to Superior.

Capt. White, Lts. Clopton, Jessee, Edgin, Young, Holder, Hibbing, Kirk, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 212. 22-Mar-45: Haltern Comm Center. Excellent to Superior.

Lts. McSorley, Johnson, Kessel, Clopton, Barcroft, Edgin, Jessee, King and crews.

No. 213. 23-Mar-45: Berken Comm Center. Excellent to Superior.

Lt. Col. McLeod and crew led, Lts. Holder, Clopton, Kicks, Pollock, Kirk, Henkel, Czark, King and crews flew on this mission.

No. 214. 23-Mar-45: Schermbeck Comm Center. Undet to Good.

Lts. Brendle, McSorley, Henkle, Edgin, Young, Kirk and crews flew on mission.

No. 215. 24-Mar-45: Becholt Flak Positions. Excellent to Superior.

Lts. Brownlee, King, Barcroft, Stubbart, Clopton, Jessee, Hicks, Czark, Thorpe, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 216. 24-Mar-45: Vlotho RR Bridge. Excellent to Superior.

Lts. Edgin, Johnson, McSorley, Clopton, Thorpe and crews flew on this mission.

No. 217. 25-Mar-45: Limburg M/Y. Superior.

Lts. Stubbart, Pollack, Johnson, Kessel, Jessee, Young, Henkel, King, Czark, and crews.

No. 218. 25-Mar-45: Friedburg M/Y. Superior.

Lts. Brendle, Holder, Barcroft, Hicks, Kirk, Clopton, Henkel, Thorpe, McSorley and crews flew on this mission.

No. 219. 26-Mar-45: Flieden M/Y. Excellent.

Lts. Stubbart, Johnson, Holder, Edgin, Kirk, Barcroft, Czark, King, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 220. 28-Mar-45: Ebrach Oil Depot. Gee Undet.

Lts. Brownlee, Jesse, Hicks, McSorley, Thorpe, Stubbart, Young, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 231. 30-Mar-45: Ebenhausen Oil Depot. Gee Undet.

Lts. Hibbing, King, Jessee, Stubbart, Barcroft, Thorpe, Henkel, Kirk, Holder and crews flew on this mission.

3. The following new members of combat crews were assigned and joined the squadron under Special Orders mentioned: Sgts. L.W. Thackery, P.L. DuRapau, H.L. Hartley, M.C. Cecil per par 4, SO 41, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. T/Sgt A.W. Pearson, per

par 2, SO 45, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. F.M. Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. W.H. Boudreu, H.H. Hieronymous, J.W. Briery, T.E. Nicol. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. E.C. McSorley, Jr. S/Sgt L.G. Bagliere, Cpls J.F. Burch, R.W. Benner, J.A. Cessira, Alexander Malovich, Jr., A.J. Frankowski, from 70<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement Depot per par 1, SO 47, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. W.C. Musgrove, R.H. Thorpe, B.B. Robinson, L.W. Snowden, W.P. Newdome. F/O's R.C. Palmer, J.D. Hoyle, L.R. Young, Cpls H.M. Murphy, B.C. Tidwell, E.R. Terella, Roger Haskell, J.M. Pindale, Gordon Parker, C.D. Eldridge, per par 7, SO 50 Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. S/Sgt's W.J. Kershaw, A.N. Sheer, P.J. Scudder, L.R. Ritchey, K.E. Bennett per par 7, SO 54, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. Capt. James H. Doolittle per par 6, SO 54, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp.

4. The following promotions of officers became effective during the month: From 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, per par 3, SO 60, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF: I.R. Bernstein, K.L. Henkel, A.D. Jessee, A.E. Krug, Manny Mark, A.R. Peebles, T.P. Ratigan, R.L. Smith, Martin Schwartz, Jr. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Willard H. White to Captain per par 2, SO 82, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force. Capt W.J. Rhodes to Major per par 2 SO 82, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF. F/O's P.R. Chappell and J.E. Kureth were commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts per 9<sup>th</sup> AF teletype R-424-C.

5. In keeping with the Air-Ground Liaison Program, the following personnel were placed on Temporary Duty: Maj. Rhodes, Lt. Dennel, Lt. Parker, Lt. Joos, T/Sgt Younginer, S/Sgt Wolf, T/Sgt Carter, to XXIX TAC, for approximately ten days. Captain G.W. Parker departed to XIX TAC for approximately six weeks.

6. Capt. Hannigan departed on TD to ZI through 70<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement Depot, for rest and rehabilitation for approximately 30 days.

7. The following General Orders awarded decorations to members of the Squadron: Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters per GO 31, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> BD, 2 March 1945, per GO 35, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> BD, 8 March 1945, and per GO 39, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> BD, 16 March 1945.

Bronze Star Medals were awarded T/Sgt. William G. McIntosh and T/Sgt Charles O. Tuggle per GO 45, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> BD, 27 Mar 45.

Captain Claude R. Hayes was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and Captain John F. Hannigan and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Walter J. Joos were awarded the Silver Star per GO 42, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, dated 5 March 1945.

8. The strength of the squadron as of 31 March 1945 was 344 enlisted men and 102 Officers.

9. On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of the month we received a monthly Technical Inspection by the 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, and on the 29<sup>th</sup> an inspection was made by the Group, which was our Monthly Administrative Inspection.

10. By this time, our original crews had all returned to the ZI, in keeping with the rotation policy for Combat Crews. However our Squadron Commander, Operations Officer, and Squadron Navigator were still with us.

11. Training, for the month consisted of indoctrination of new crews, for the most part. However, quite a number of “refresher” courses were given, along with current training. Air training along similar lines continued, with most of the time devoted to new crews. Practice bombing was given top priority, whenever weather permitted. Ninety Aircraft were dispatched for a total of one hundred eighty training hours.

12. The Squadron Ball Diamond was begun, and plans laid for having inter-departmental baseball games. Development of the Squadron Area continued, with the construction of the new day-room begun. Plans were made, and ground work begun on the Information and Education Program.

13. Every member of the squadron took pride in the important part the Group played, in the campaign for “the beginning of the end” of the Nazis—and it was with a feeling of pleasure that we received news of the success of our bombings of Marshalling Yards, Communication Centers, Bridges and other tactical targets.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historical Officer.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, Germany

20 May 1945

SUBJECT: April 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The following information is submitted, with reference to the history of this Squadron for the month of April:

(a). Station was changed, from A-72, France, to Y-55, Holland on 25 April, 1945.

(b). The strength of the unit, as of the last day of the month was 109 Officers and 346 Enlisted Men.

(c). Departure from A-72, Peronne, France was on 24 April 1945, and arrival at Y-55, Venlo, Holland was on 25 April 1945.

(d). On 6 April 1945, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stephen D. Weatherby, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Lonzo A. Hetherington and S/Sgt Joseph Gragish were killed in an aircraft accident, 5 miles SW of Peronne. During a routine training flight, they had just taken off, when their engine cut out, causing their aircraft to crash and burn. All three were believed to have been instantly killed.

(e). Awards and decorations received by personnel of the Squadron during the month were as follows:

Silver Star to T/Sgt A.F. Carter, Jr., per GO 57, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force 24 April 1945, and Distinguished Flying Cross to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kyran A. Colahan, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alfred Iuvara, Captain Lewis M. Domke, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jack Rosenthal.

Distinguished Flying Cross, per GO 56, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF, 24 April 1945 to Captains Robert R. Evans, Frederick M. King, Leo P. Roberts, and Lloyd E. Yeast.

Air Medals and Clusters per GO 52, HQ 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div, 3 April 1945.

Bronze Star Medals per GO 55, HQ 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div, 12 April 1945 to S/Sgt Michael Prendergast, and Purple Heart to S/Sgt Scott W. Carl.

2. The following missions in which the Squadron participated, were flown during the month:

No. 222. 3 April 1945: Kezmindahl M/Y. Results-Undet. PPF. Capt. Doolittle, Lts. Edgin, McSorley, Czark, Hibbing, Clopton, Stubbart, Barcroft, Holder and crews flew on this mission.

No. 223. 4 April 1945: Nbrach Oil Storage. Undet. PPF. Capt. Brendle, Lts. Thorpe, Johnson, Edgin, Kirk, King, Clopton and crews.

No. 224. 7 Apr 1945: Northeim M/Y. Excellent to Superior. Lts. Hicks, Czark, Musgrove, Hibbing, McSorley, Newdome, Stubbart, Thorpe, Clopton, King and crews.

No. 225. 8 Apr 1945: Nienhagen Oil Refinery. Undet. Lts. Henkel, Young, Czark, McSorley, King and crews flew on this mission.



No. 226. 9 Apr 1945: Bad Berka Oil Storage Depot. Excel to Super.  
Capt. Doolittle, Lts. Hibbing, Pollack, Hicks, McSorley, Clopton, Henkel, King and crews flew on this mission.

No. 227. 9 Apr 1945: Jega M/Y. Results-Excellent.  
Capt. Brendle, Lts. Kirk, Young, Kessel, Holder, Young, Stubbart, Clopton, Newdome and crews flew on this mission.

No. 228. 10 Apr 1945: Rudelstadt Ord. Depot. Excellent to Superior.  
Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Jessee, King, Hibbing, Snowden, Musgrove, Hicks, Thorpe, Pollack and crews flew on this mission.

No. 229. 11 Apr 1945: Aschersleben M/Y. Excell. to Superior.  
Lts. Johnson, Clopton, Newdome and crews flew on this mission.

No. 230. 11 Apr 1945: Bamberg M/T Assembly Plant. Excel to Superior.  
Capt. Doolittle, Lts. Stubbart, Hibbing, King, Thorpe, Pollack, Czark, McSorley, Snowden and crews flew on this mission.

No. 231. 12 Apr 1945: Kempton Ord. Depot. Undet to Excell.  
Capt. Brendle, Lt. Czark and crews flew on this mission.

No. 232. 15 Apr 1945: Gunsberg M/Y. Results-Undet.  
Lt. Col. McLeod, Lts. Clopton, McSorley, King, Thorpe, Hibbing, Kirk, Jessee, Johnson, Pollack, Snowden and crews flew on this mission.

No. 233. 16 Apr 1945: Guzenhausen M/Y. Excel to Superior.  
Lts. Brownlee, Czark, Holder, Edgin, Clopton, Newdome, Musgrove, Young, Pollack and crews flew on this mission.

No. 234. 16 Apr 1945: Kempton Ord. Depot. Excel to Super.  
Lts. Hicks, Jessee, King, Thorpe, Johnson, Kirk, Pollack, McSorley, Snowden, Musgrove and crews flew on this mission.

No. 235. 17 Apr 1945: Magdeburg Defended Town. Excel to Super.  
Capt. Brendle, Lts. Edgin, Newdome, Young, Czark, Clopton, Johnson, Holder, Thorpe, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 236. 19 Apr 1945: Ulm M/Y. Excel to Superior.  
Lts. Hibbing, Clopton, Thorpe, Hicks, King, Kessel, Musgrove, Pollack, Newdome and crews flew on this mission.

No. 237. 19 Apr 1945: Gunsberg M/Y. Excellent.  
Lts. Brownlee, Clopton, Johnson, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 238. 20 Apr 1945: Menningen M/Y. Excellent to Superior.  
Capt. Doolittle, Lts. Edgin, Young, Czark, Newdome, Holder, Thorpe, Henkle, Jessee, Snowden and crews flew on this mission.

No. 239. 20 Apr 1945: Nordlingen M/Y. Excel to Superior.  
Lts. Hibbing, King, Young, McSorley, Holder, Thorpe, Edgin, Clopton, Pollack and crews flew on this mission.

3. Under par 9, SO 59, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dtd 5 Apr 1945, the following new members of Combat Crews were assigned and joined the Squadron: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph W. Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bill O. Simmons, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harold H. Ham, and Cpls. J.W. Lyons, Floyd Berkey, Don O. Nordin.

4. In keeping with the Rehabilitation and Rest program for members of Combat Crews, and having completed their tour of duty, the following men were relieved from assignment and assigned to the 70<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot: Per par 7, SO 106, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF: Maj. Wm. J. Rhodes. Per par 3, SO 96, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. R.B. Barcroft and S/Sgt. H.J. Liebig, Jr, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Russel R. McLellan. Per par 2, SO 89, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. R.M. Lumsden, Robert E. Goodbody, Arthur A. Jaquez, and T/Sgts J.J. O'Conner, Jerome J. Miller, F.A. Naas, and S/Sgt Scott W. Carl. Per par 16, SO 93, Capt. Willard M. White.

5. In keeping with the Air-Ground Liaison Program, the following Officers and Enlisted Men went on TD to 29<sup>th</sup> TAC for approx ten days: 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. L.W. Kessel, T.R. Bernstein, Benjamin Sirabaum, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. P.R. Chappell, Capt. J.W. Kennard, T/Sgt J.L. Huber, and S/Sgts John W. Miller and Mandy Plaknik..

6. The following promotions of Officers were announced during the month: Per par 14, SO 99 Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George R. Brendle to Captain, Per par 17 SO 99, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts F.R. Edgin, V.E. Hibbing, Wilbur W. Metcalf, Robert K. Young to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Per par 1, SO 105 Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF, 1<sup>st</sup> LT. John R. Neale was promoted to Captain. Per par 19, SO 113 Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gordon L. Brownlee and L. W. Kessel, Jr. were promoted to Captain. F/O W.J. Bouffard was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt on the same Special Order

7. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, Lt. Col. McLeod was transferred to Group Headquarters and Captain Robert R. Evans assumed command of the Squadron.

8. After our change of station, our old base was inspected by higher authorities, and we were informed that we had left our area in excellent condition. Work had already begun, at our new base, to improve the area—a ball diamond was begun, as well as a day room for both officers and enlisted men.

9. The Squadron received its regular monthly technical and tactical inspection by the Group, as well as an Administrative Inspection.

10. Training for the month continued along lines of indoctrination of new crews, and refresher courses were still given to all members of the Combat Crews. Our Indoctrination and Education program got under way, with the first lecture sessions being held.

11. With the feeling of impending victory in Europe, we felt that our continued results in bombing might soon pay the dividends that we all hoped for. We looked forward eagerly to the continuation of pressing home the attacks against the enemy, leading to the knock-out blow.

{SIGNED}  
JOHN R. NEALE,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Squadron Historical Officer.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, Germany

20 June 1945

SUBJECT: May 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The following information is submitted, with reference to the history of this squadron for the month of May.

(a). Station was changed from Y55, Venlo, Holland, to A72, Peronne, France on 30 May 1945.

(b). The Strength of the unit, as of the last day of the month was 126 Officers and 365 Enlisted Men.

(c). Departure from Y-55, Venlo, Holland, was on 30 May, and arrival at A-72, Peronne, France was on 30 May.

(d). Negative.

(e). Awards and decorations received by personnel of the squadron during the month were as follows:

Silver Star to T/Sgt. Robert J. Brennan, per G.O. 70, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF, 12 May 1945, and Distinguished Flying Cross to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William F. Demmitt, Lt. Donald C. Clark, Lt. Robert F. Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Walter G. Joos, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Loy L. Julius.

Air Medals and Clusters per GO 5, Hq. 9<sup>th</sup> Air Div., 14 May 1945.

Bronze Star Medals to S/Sgt Robert N. Weir, per GO 1, Hq. 9<sup>th</sup> Air Div., 10 May 1945, and to T/Sgt Dave R. DeLaCruz per GO 14, Hq. 9<sup>th</sup> Air Div., 26 May 1945.

2. The following promotions of Officers were announced during the month:  
Per par 1, SO 136 9<sup>th</sup> AF: Capt. R.R. Evans to Major, per par 19 SO 113 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. G.L. Brownlee, T.U. Russell to Capt, per par 20 SO 127 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. W.J. Joos, R.J. Parker, to Capt. per par 11 SO 136 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. R.G. Glittie, T.P. Gordter to Capt. per par 21 SO 113 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. W.B. Dahl to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. per par 14 SO 136 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. W.G. Fitzgerald, J.J. Hicks, P.J. Joy, W.R. McGuillicuddy, and R.R Nock to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. per par 14 SO 136 9<sup>th</sup> AF: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. A.D. Anthony, W.B. Rensel, C.R. Corvall, R.N. Morris, F.J. O'Rourke, to 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Tel. P-2914-C 9<sup>th</sup> AD: F.O. W.J. Boufford to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tel P-503-C 9<sup>th</sup> AD: F.O. C.H. Book to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

3. The Squadron received its regular monthly technical and tactical inspection by the Group, as well as an Administrative Inspection.

4. The Squadron Commander, Captain Robert R. Evans was promoted to Major on 16 May 1945.

5. With the close of the war operational flying came to an end in this theatre. With the readjustment and move from Germany back to France some confusion was encountered and training was somewhat retarded. However, some simulated missions were flown along with regular transition and formation flying for a total of 510 aircraft hours. A full planned schedule has been established and an excellent training program is now in effect.

{SIGNED}

H. J. Hartson

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Air Corps,

Sqdn. Historical Officer.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 July 1945

SUBJECT: June 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The following information is submitted, with reference to the history of this squadron for the month of June:

- (a). Squadron remained at station A 72, Peronne, France.
- (b). Strength of the unit as of the last day of the month was 149 Officers and 384 Enlisted Men.
- (c). Negative.
- (d). Negative.
- (e). Awards and decorations received by personnel of the squadron during the month were as follows:

Per GO 118, Hq Ninth Air Force, dtd 28 June 1945-DFC was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. G.B. Davis (O-792533), and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. T.H. Sharp (O-664831).

Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters were awarded, per GO 30, Hq Ninth Air Division, dtd 14 June 1945.

2. The following promotions of Officers were announced during the month: per par 1, SO 152 Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W.J. Dale to Captain; per par 3 SO 152 Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. L.W. Snowden to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt; per par 2 SO 152 Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. M.E. King, C.D. Kirk, W.C. Musgrove, R.B. Trostel, L.J. Thorpe to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt; per VOCC 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, F/O's J.D. Hoyle, L.R. Young, J.T. Hedger, A.J. Kanienecki, J.R. Erickson, P.M. Gerger, J.A. Blackerly, Jr., E.C. Brieshke, H.M Crawford, R.L. Dietrich, J.H. Rice were commissioned Second Lieutenants.

3. In keeping with the Rehabilitation and Rest program, the following Officers departed this station for the Zone of Interior: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. D.P. Stubbart per par 19, SO 146, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF and Capt. H.J. Parker per par 22, SO 14, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Division. Per par 2, SO 27, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt J.W. Hicks, Jr., also departed for ZI. In keeping with the re-deployment program, the following changes in our personnel occurred during the month: 48 Officers asgd and jd fr 320<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (M), per par 1, SO 85, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M). 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt A.S. Rouffa asgd and jd fr 9<sup>th</sup> Air Division per par 1, SO 88, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. J.H. Penix asgd and jd fr 410<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, per par 1, SO 90, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. F.N. Fitting asgd and jd fr Hq 397 Bomb Gp per par 7, SO 92, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Rouffa was subsequently relieved from assignment and joined 598<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq. per par 8, SO 92, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. Per par 9, SO 98, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, the following assignments were made: 5 Officers trfd to 597<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, 4 Officers to 598<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, and 3 Officers to 599<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.

Per par 8, SO 98, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, the following transfers into the Squadron were affected: 5 Officers from the 597<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, 4 Officers from the 598<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, and 3 Officers from the 599<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank L. Devine was relieved from assignment and assigned to the 391<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp, per par 7, SO 96, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp.

4. The Squadron received its regular monthly technical and tactical inspection during the month, as well as an administrative inspection.

5. The development of the squadron area continued, with wonderful improvement in the general living site: well laid-out paths, and betterment of the tents themselves made conditions much more pleasant. The enlisted men's club and day-room were completed, as were the Officers' day-room and mess-hall. An excellent athletic field was constructed, and "intra-Squadron" competition in baseball is very heated, as is the "inter-Squadron tourney, within the Group itself.

6. A training program for all personnel was begun during the month, and in addition, the conversion to make ours a Shoran Squadron was started. Even though this necessitated a complete readjustment, of equipment, personnel and training devices, the end of June found the 596<sup>th</sup> well along the way. The ground training was extensive and interesting. Aircraft training hours totaled 772 for the month.

{SIGNED}

H. J. Hartson,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Sq. Historical Officer.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 August 1945

SUBJECT: July 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The following information is submitted, with reference to the history of this squadron for the month of July:

- (a). Squadron remained at station A 72, Peronne, France.
- (b). Strength of the unit as of the last day of the month was 109 Officers and 405 enlisted men.
- (c). Negative.
- (d). Negative.
- (e). Awards and decorations received by personnel of the squadron during the month were as follows:  
Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal, per GO 41, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AD, dated 3 July 1945.

2. The following promotions of Officers were announced during the month:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Anthony R. Zack (O-0705513) to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., per par 2, SO 197, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, with date of ranking of 16 July 1945.

3. In keeping with the Rehabilitation and Rest program, and having completed the required number of missions the following officers departed this station for the Zone of Interior: Capt. Dale, Lt. Halloran, Lt. Joos, Lt. Nock, as well as Lt. Hladiak, Lt. McGuillicudy and Lt. McGriffin.

4. In order to continue our work as a Shoran squadron, two new Radar Officers were assigned and joined the squadron:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Albert M. VanBlaroom (O-269113), and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James R. Rahab (O-869439).

5. During this month, the squadron received its IG Inspection, by the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Division, as well as its usual monthly tactical, technical and administrative inspection by the Group.

6. Improvements in the squadron area continued, and new radar equipment was installed in the newly completed Radar Building—a Link Trainer was installed, to further along our Shoran Training, and the Class Room was completed. The men were occupied on Saturday mornings with a regular Saturday morning personnel and area inspection, and our required one hour of close-order drill was made a bit more bearable, by breaking it down into ten-minute periods, each morning after

Reveille Formation. Physical training periods for each man became the rule, rather than the exception, and a very small number of our personnel was enabled to participate in the I and E program, by attending Schools. However, it is the consensus of opinion that the program is failing in its goal - to keep the men occupied, and simultaneously, to further their education - because of the minute percentage of men who are able to participate in the Program.

7. With the re-deployment program beginning to swing into step, the Squadron began to take on the appearance of a replacement pool. Our original personnel were leaving for new units, and other men were arriving daily, to re-place them. Dances were held for both the officers, and for the enlisted men at regular intervals during the month.

8. Flying training continued during the month, with emphasis placed on practice bombing, and instrument flying. Transition flights continued, and several cross country, 398 mile navigational flights were flown.

{SIGNED}  
HERBERT J. HARTSON,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Sq. Historical Officer.



596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 140, U. S. ARMY  
20 September 1945

SUBJECT: August 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Commanding General, 98<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.), Att. Historical Officer.

1. The following information is submitted, with reference to the history of this squadron for the month of August:

(a). Squadron remained at station A 72, Peronne, France.

(b). Strength of the unit as of the last day of the month was 123 officers and 392 enlisted men.

(c). Negative.

(d). Negative.

(e). Awards and decorations received by personnel of the squadron during the month were as follows: Bronze Star Medals per GO #56, Hq 9 AD, dd 10 August '45, to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert E. Donnell, M/Sgt Eugene B. Blalock, T/Sgt Grady Rockett, and S/Sgt Orville Keaton. Bronze Star Medals per GO #60, Hq 9 AD, dd 10 August '45, to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Edward D. Walker, M/Sgt Dominick Mazza, M/Sgt Walter C. Holloway, and to Sgt Herschel Katzman.

2. The following promotions of officers were made during the month:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. James R. Wahab (0-0869439), Raymond W. Pigman (0-0830912), William P. Newdome (0-0720089) to 1<sup>st</sup> Lts., per par 3, SO 228, Hq 9 AF, with date of rank as of 16 August 1945.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John B. Cartmill (0-07598960) was Promoted to Captain per par 2, SO 228, Hq 9 AF, with date of rank as of 16 August 1945.

3. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Martin Swartz, Jr. AC. (0-0813605) was released from assignment and assigned to Hq. 9<sup>th</sup> Air Division per par 8, SO 81, 9 AD.

4. The Squadron received its regular monthly technical and tactical inspection during the month, as well as an administrative inspection.

5. The day to day activities of the Squadron were modified and interrupted as men and officers were leaving in rapid succession to return to the Zone of the

Interior. Replacements are expected shortly to once again round out the Squadrons personnel.

6. Several parties and dances were held at regular intervals throughout the month as men and officers bid fond farewells to the men still remaining in expectations of following them home shortly. The I and E program, in addition to failing in its purpose of keeping men interested and profitably occupied because of the minute percentage of men permitted to participate, further suffers from the unwillingness of high-point men to apply for admission into a program of study and perhaps lose their chance of an early return home.

7. Early in the month a squadron-wide meeting was held to discuss suggestions ranging from improved living conditions to what is considered a too slow and limited turnover of promotions. Pledges of remedial steps being taken where possible were given by the Squadron officers. The discussion was well received and appreciated by the enlisted men.

8. Flying training continued during the month, with emphasis placed on practice bombing and instrument flying. Transition flights continued, and several cross country, 500-mile navigational flights were flown.

{SIGNED}  
HERBERT J. HARTSON,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Sq. Historical Officer.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 140, US Army  
20 October 1945

SUBJECT: September 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The following information is submitted, with reference to the history of this squadron for the month of September:
  - (a). Squadron remained at station A-72, Peronne, France.
  - (b). Strength of the unit as of the last day of the month was 81 Officers and 153 enlisted men.
  - (c). Negative.
  - (d). Negative.
  - (e). Negative.
  
2. The following promotions of Officers were awarded during the month:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Albert M. Baker III, O-2057078,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Norman E. Buihner, O-2059969,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Albert M. Van Blaroom, O-869113,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Vincent J. Tabacco, O-2064451,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John D. Way, O-833925,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Louis J. Lekus, Jr., O-59549,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Edward O. Leach, O-832037,Above 7 Officers promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lts., AUS, per par 1, SO 244, Hq., 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, with date of rank as of 1 September 1945.
  
3. Gordon L. Brownlee, A.C., O-690182, Capt., assumed command 23 September 1945, as Robert R. Evans, Major, A.C., O-24908, departed 23 September 1945 to join 4020 AAF Base Unit, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.
  
4. This organization was released from tactical assignment to Hq, 9<sup>th</sup> Air Div. effective 15 September 1945 and assigned to 98<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (M) per Ltr Order 370.5, dated 15 September 1945.
  
5. James A. Richards, Pfc, 39167111 was killed on 9 September 1945 in a vehicle accident in Peronne, France.
  
6. Several parties and dances were held as men continued to depart for eventual return to the Zone of the Interior.

{SIGNED}  
HERBERT J. HARTSON,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Sq. Historical Officer.

596<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
397<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 140, U.S. ARMY  
20 November 1945

SUBJECT: October 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

TO : Historical Section, IX Bombardment Division, APO 140, U.S. Army.  
(through 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (M), APO 140, U.S. Army.)

1. The following information is submitted with reference to the history of this squadron for the month of September:

- (a). Squadron remained at station A-72, Peronne, France.
- (b). Strength of the unit as of the last day of the month was 69 Officers and 126

Enlisted Men.

- (c). Negative.
- (d). Negative.
- (e). Negative.

2. The following promotions of Enlisted Men were awarded per Special Order 177, dated 1 October 1945, Headquarters 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Gp. (M) AAF, APO 140, U.S. Army

S/Sgt. Jose M. Galdiane 18 119 507

S/Sgt. Walter L. Wright 38 540 016

S/Sgt. William A. Spencer 35 627 981

S/Sgt. Charles Azzalina 32 465 418

S/Sgt. Troy E. Riddle 36 427 339

S/Sgt. Billy H. Hall 37 672 611

S/Sgt. Fred H. Lock 33 607 517

S/Sgt. Anton E. Sitko 36 432 808

Above 8 Enlisted Men were promoted to Technical Sergeants as of 1 October 1945.

Sgt. Robert E. Wayte 31 326 114

Sgt. Alfred J. Frankewski 42 006 337

Sgt. Roger Haskell 34 841 064

Sgt. Richard Sharkey 12 078 564

Sgt. Edward J. Wojthewicz 32 949 487

Above 5 Enlisted Men were promoted to Staff Sergeants as of 1 October 1945.

S/Sgt. Edward J. Wojthewicz 32 949 487

Above Enlisted Man was promoted to Technical Sergeant per Par. 2, SO 179, dated 4 October 1945.

S/Sgt. James S. Featherstone 14 171 809

S/Sgt. John E. Neal 34 808 516

S/Sgt. Kenneth E. Bennett 35 144 584

S/Sgt. Charles E. Bowie 14 148 161

S/Sgt. Homer G. Crist 37 530 750

S/Sgt. Samuel R. Neira 38 554 586

S/Sgt. Joseph J. Lasek 10 600 630

S/Sgt. William C. Alverson 14 063 968

Above 8 Enlisted Men were promoted to Technical Sergeants as of 11 October 1945 per Par. 8 SO 184.

Sgt. Orvel W. Sherril 38 570 497

Sgt. Ronule Cervantes, Jr. 18 102 455

Sgt. Forrest E. Hamilton 37 663 708

Sgt. Frank H. Frazier 14 192 754

Cpl. Frank S. Derbyshire 15 071 801

Above Enlisted Men were promoted to Staff Sergeants as of 11 October 1945 per Par. 8, SO 184.

Pfc. Byron K. Travis 17 134 219

Pfc. Delores M. Esquivel 38 457 650

Pfc. Carl B. Hyder, Jr. 34 772 341

Above Enlisted Men were promoted to Corporal as of 11 October 1945 per Par 8, SO 184.

S/Sgt. Arthur A. Alborano 32 881 605

Above Enlisted Man was promoted to Technical Sergeant as of 11 October 1945 per Par. 9, SO 184.

Sgt. Charles N. DeForde 36 432 501

Above Enlisted Man was promoted to Staff Sergeant as of 11 October 1945 per Par. 9, SO 184.

Pfc. Blaze J. Svihra 42 000 622

Above Enlisted Man was promoted to Corporal as of 11 October 1945 per Par. 9, SO 184.

3. Norman E. Lamar 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. AC, O-2073518 assumed the duty of Squadron Ordinance Officer vice Thomas E. White 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. AC O-1555154, transferred.

Cyrus D. Kirk 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. AC, O-718509 assumed the duty of Squadron Training Officer vice Fred M. Johnson 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. AC O-529221, relieved.

Wilson L. F. Pierce 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. AC O-2066708 assumed the duty of Squadron Intelligence Staff Officer and Squadron Historical Officer vice James F. Sutcliffe 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. AC O-2015445, Transferred.

4. This organization was released from the 98<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (M) and placed on movement orders, Shipment RE 7421 per LTR. Hdqs. USFET (rear) AG 370.5 GCT-AGO(265) dated 11 October 1945.

5. The Squadron has been preparing for movement to the Zone of the Interior therefore no new developments have occurred.

6. Several parties and dances were held for men departing to the Zone of Interior.

{SIGNED}  
WILSON L. F. PIERCE,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Sq. Historical Officer.