

JANUARY INSTALLMENT

UNIT HISTORY OF HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

For The Period 1 January -- 31 January 1945.

1. For the month of January 1945, the 397th Bombardment Group (M) remained at AAF Station A-72, Mons En Chaussee, France. Operational activity for the month was considerably limited due to inclement weather. However, every method was employed to strike at enemy lines of communications, supply depots and other objectives immediately related to the defeat of the German counter offensive in the Ardennes Sector. Two hundred and eighty three (283) aircraft were dispatched on a total of ten (10) missions and one hundred and forty four (144) of those dispatched bombed their objectives with six hundred and seventy six thousand (676,000) pounds of general purpose bombs. Total tonnage dropped by this Group, to include the thirty first (31) of January 1945, totals seven thousand five hundred and forty six (7,546) tons of bombs. Of the ten (10) missions executed for the month of January, five (5) missions employed Pathfinder procedure, two (2) missions on Gee bombing, and the three (3) remaining missions employed visual bombing technique. Our losses were light with only three (3) aircraft crashing in friendly territory and forty one (41) aircraft battle damaged. Inclusive of twenty eight (28) January 1945, the total of missions flown by this group was one hundred and fifty eight (158), with five thousand four hundred and forty two (5,442) operational sorties. Total number of personnel dispatched on operational missions was thirty two thousand four hundred and eighty six (32,486). Total casualties in the Group were two hundred and seventy five (275), or an average of less than two (2) per mission.

Aside from the regular operational activity, the problems of mud and snow control received first priority. The runway and taxi strips necessitated constant upkeep due to ice and snow conditions. Overnight thaws tended to make various sections of these strips unserviceable. Personnel of this station would clear the runway and taxi strips of snow and ice and follow this treatment with sprinklings of ashes, sand or salt. However, aircraft skidding on take off and landings was a constant hazard to the air crews. A few accidents were due to the fact that many new inexperienced flying personnel were coming into the Group to replace more experienced crews that had completed their operational tour of sixty five (65) missions.

2. A summary of missions, No. 151 through No. 160 follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 January – BULLAY Rail Bridge. | 30 A/C did not bomb as PPF did not drop. |
| 5 January – Trois Vierges Road Junction. | 33 A/C failed to bomb after equipment failure in PPF A/C. |

11 January – Clervaux Communications Center.	33 A/C did not attack as PPF A/C did not drop.
13 January – Dasburg Rail Bridge.	22 A/C dropped on primary target by PPF. Results no identified.
14 January – Ahrweiler Rail Bridge.	23 A/C bombed the primary target visually by flights of six. 2 nd Box received excellent to superior results.
16 January – Erkelenz Railway Siding.	26 A/C attacked and bombed primary target by boxes for excellent to superior results.
22 January – Bullay Rail Bridge.	29 A/C attacked and bombed primary target on PPF for fair results.
25 January – Eller Rail Bridge.	17 A/C bombed primary target visually for good to excellent results.
29 January – Engers Rail Bridge.	21 A/C attacked and bombed secondary target on “GEE” as PPF abandoned ops. Results unidentified.
29 January – Rinthal Rail Bridge.	6 A/C bombed on primary target by “GEE” as “C” flight in a box made up of a/c from different groups.

3. The following personnel changes were recorded for the period covered:

9 – January – PFC Max Smith, trfd fr 599th Bomb Sq. to Hq, pp 4, SO #4, this Hq, dtd 6 Jan 45.

21 January – 1st Lt. Herbert J. Hartson, trfd to 596th Bomb Sq, pp 3, SO #12, this Hq, dtd 21 Jan 45.

22 January – Major Raymond P. Steiner & T/4 John P. Hanley, atchd & jd fr Triumph, pp 14, SO #18, Hq 9BD, dtd 18 Jan 45.

29 January – Capt. Charles T. Cervenska (Ord), atchd & jd fr Hq & Hq Sq, 9BD, pp 8, SO #26, Hq, 9BD, dtd 26 Jan 45.

30 January – Pvt Robert S. Isabel, trfd fr 596th Bomb Sq, to asgd & jd Hq, 397BG, pp 5, SO #20, this Hq, dtd 28 Jan 45.

4. The following awards and decorations were given to Headquarters personnel for the month of January:

Capt. Benjamin J. Dontzin, O-871159, awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross per 9AF GO #15, dtd 24 Jan 45.

Col. Richard T. Coiner, Jr. awarded the 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal per GO #10, 9BD, dtd 17 Jan 45.

The Group received the following commendation:

FROM: 98th BOMB WING
TO : COMBOMGP 397

BEAUTIFUL BOMBING ON A DIFFICULT TARGET ON AHRWEILER RAILROAD BRIDGE ON 14 JAN. PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE SHOWS BRIDGE TO BE OUT. MY HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR CREWS.

MACE

5. The following promotions were recorded this month:

22 January – Pvt Bernard P. Vallas to Pfc, pp 3, SO #9, this Hq, dtd 15 Jan 1945.

29 January – CWO Milburn P. Meriwether, commissioned 2nd Lt. AUS, 0001, this date, with date of rank fr 29 Jan 45.

6. The strength of the Headquarters Detachment on 31 January 1945 was thirty-four (34) officers and seventy (70) enlisted men. No casualties for the period covered.

20 February 1945
A-72, Mons En Chaussee, France

Compiled by: {SIGNED}
1st Lt. Tedsan S. Timberlake, Group Historical Officer
Sgt. Charles W. Johnson, Jr.

FEBRUARY INSTALLMENT

UNIT HISTORY FOR HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

For The Period 1 February – 28 February 1945

Despite continued bad flying weather over the battle fronts during February, this group flew 22 missions during the shortened month. Marauders of the 397th were in the air on 20 of the month's 28 days. The majority of the missions employed pathfinders to locate the targets through thick cloud cover. Bridges behind the enemy's hard pressed Western Front headed the list of objectives during the month, and as the Allied push unfolded in the Ninth and First Army sectors defended towns, strong points, and troop and vehicle concentrations were attacked in advance of the land armies.

A summary of the missions flown by the group during the month follows:

<u>Miss. No.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Results</u>
161	1	ENGERS (RR Br.) PFF	Undetermined
162	2	ROSBACH (RR Br.)	P.N.B
163	3	AHRWEILER (RR Br.) PFF	Undetermined
164	6	SOTENICH (Def. Town) PFF	Undetermined
165	8	MATERBORN (Def. Town) On Gee	Undetermined
166	9	VIERSEN (Rd Jcts) PFF	Undetermined
167	10	BERG-GLADBACH (M/T Center) PFF	Undetermined
168	11	MODRATH (M/Y)	Poor and P.N.B.
169	13	SCHWELM (M/T Park) PFF	Undetermined
170	14	MAYEN (RR Br.)	P.N.B.
171	14	GREVENBROICH (Comm Center)	P.N.B.
172	15	MAYEN (RR Br.) PFF	Poor
173	19	IRLICH (RR Br.) PFF	Undetermined
174	21	HERFORD (RR Br.)	Superior-Excellent
175	22	RHEDA (RR and Rd Br.) SCHERFEDE (Pltf and Br.)	P.N.B.-Good Good-Superior. (Also strafed, on first strafing mission of this group)
		NEUBEKEN (RR Via)	Undetermined
176	23	ELSDORF (Def. Town) PFF	Undetermined
177	23	JACKERATH (Def. Town)	Undetermined
178	24	IRLICH (RR Br.) On Gee	Undetermined
179	25	GREVENBROICH (Def. Town)	Excellent-Superior
180	26	BERGHEIM (RR & Rd Jct) Gee	Undetermined

181	27	AHRWEILER (RR Br.)	PFF	Undetermined
182	28	MAYEN (RR Br.)	PFF	Undetermined

Although unfavorable weather prevented visual observation of results of most missions and made the taking of photos impossible by bombers or by photo reconnaissance planes later, the advancing Allied armies are giving interesting reports as to the effectiveness of the work of the B-26's. Each new thrust toward the Rhine in February resulted in the over running of many positions previously assigned as targets for the 397th.

Colonel Coiner participated in missions 175 and 182. Major Hughes participated in missions 169 and 180. Major Bond and Major Udick took part in mission 28, and Captain Murphy flew on missions 180 and 159.

The months' operations were conducted from Station A-72, near Peronne. By the end of February, Headquarters detachment had been quartered in the village on Mons En Chaussee for four months. French classes for personnel of the station were resumed during the month and semi-weekly sessions were conducted at the school in Mons, the Red Cross Aero Club, and the combat crew center. A civilian instructor from St. Quentin conducted the classes.

On 14 February, Headquarters detachment enlisted men sponsored a dance at St. Quentin.

During the month, ground force officers and enlisted men visited the 397th under the current ground-liaison orientation program. Members of the 10th armored division, 94 infantry division, and 3rd Cavalry group were the guests of the base during February. The ground personnel inspected the installations of the base and flew on missions. Major R. P. Steiner, CAC, and T/4 Handley continued their duties in GLO assignment and arranged for programs for visiting ground forces personnel.

Pvt. Raymond I. Hanson, of the 10th Armored Division, flying on the mission of 22 February was listed as missing in action after the bomber he was aboard failed to return from the mission.

Two groups of Eighth Air Force Liberators were diverted to A-72 on 16 February. A total of fifty B-24's of the 44th and 392nd groups landed on this field after fog conditions closed in English bases. The Eighth Air Force men were quartered in the existing accommodations on the field, a number of them staying with in the Headquarters Barracks. Three days after the planes landed, weather conditions improved and the Liberators took off for England.

Lt. Col. Rollin M. Winingham, deputy group commander, became commanding officer of the 323rd Bombardment Group during the month. (Trnfd fr Hqs pp 8, SO 31, HQ IX BD, Dtd 31 Jan 45). Lt. Col. Frank L. Wood, Jr. commanding officer of the 597th

Bombardment Squadron, was transferred to headquarters and subsequently appointed deputy CO. (Rld 597, trfd Hqs, pp 5, SO 25, this Hqs, dtd 2 Feb. 45.)

Lt. Col Kenneth C. Dempster, operations officer of the 397th, was transferred to Hqs 9th Air Force on 10 Feb. (pp 8, SO 41, Hq IX Bomb Div, dtd 10 Feb.). Major George D. Hughes, stepped up from his position as assistant operations officer to become operations officer. Captain John R. Shaffer, group training officer, succeeded him as assistant operations officer. Captain Charles Pinkerton, of the 597th Bombardment Squadron, was appointed group training officer, and Captain George Parker, of the 596th Squadron, was appointed Tactical Inspector and Group Controller.

Other personnel changes in February included the following: S/Sgt Frank W. Bailes was transferred from the 598th Bomb Squadron to Headquarters (pp 10, SO 28, this Hq, dtd 11 Feb 45); 2nd Lt. Milburn P. Meriwether was transferred from Hq to the 598th Bombardment Squadron (pp 6, SO 32, this Hq, dtd 18 Feb 45). Captain John W. Ward, Jr., of Headquarters, was transferred to the 64th Station Complement Squadron (pp 7, SO 54, Hq IX BD, dtd 8 Feb. 45.) Pfc Jessie B. Campbell and Pfc Oscar E. Knudson, were transferred from Headquarters to the 96th Station Complement Unit (pp 12, SO 48, Hq IX BD, Dtd 17 Feb. 45).

No awards or decorations were recorded for Headquarters men during the month. The only promotion was the promotion of Private Robert S. Lindahl to the grade of private first class on 1 February.

There were no casualties during the month and the strength of Headquarters Detachment on 28 February was 30 officers and 68 Enlisted Men.

20 March 1945
A-72, Mons En Chaussee, France

Compiled By:
Major Thomas E. McLeod, acting Group Historical Officer
Sgt. Charles W. Johnson, Jr.

MARCH INSTALLMENT

UNIT HISTORY FOR HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH – 31 MARCH 1945.

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WHEN THE LAST MARAUDER OF THE 397TH BOMB GROUP RETURNED TO A-72 (PERONNE) AFTER BOMBING AN OIL STORAGE DEPOT AT EBENHAUSEN, GERMANY ON 30 MARCH, IT CLOSED THE GROUP'S BUSIEST MONTH IN ELEVEN MONTHS OF COMBAT OPERATIONS.

THE GROUP WAS OVER ENEMY TERRITORY ON ALL BY 4 DAYS IN MARCH, SENDING OUT TWO MISSIONS ON EACH OF 13 DAYS. BY THE MONTH'S END, 39 MISSIONS WERE RECORDED – THE LARGEST TOTAL FOR ANY SINGLE MONTH IN THE GROUP'S HISTORY – REPRESENTING 2002 TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED.

LESS THAN 11 MONTHS AFTER JOINING COMBAT, THE 397TH FLEW ITS 200TH COMBAT MISSION AS IT STRUCK AT THE NIEDER-WARBERG RAILROAD BRIDGE ON 14 MARCH. PILOTS BROUGHT BACK THE 18 B-26'S FROM THE TARGET AREA, BUZZED THE FIELD AND DROPPED FLARES TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION. BUT SUCH HAD BEEN THE TURNOVER IN FLYING PERSONNEL THAT THERE WERE ONLY A FEW AMONG THE AIRCREWS ON THAT DAY WHO HAD BEEN WITH THE GROUP AT THE OUTSTART.

ON THE GROUND, THE INTENSIFIED AIR WAR MEANT ADDED WORK FOR THOSE EMPLOYED IN THE MAINTENANCE, ORDNANCE AND ARMAMENT, AND PLANNING SECTIONS – MEN WHO WERE KEPT ON THE JOB DAY AND NIGHT. PROOF THAT THE QUALITY OF THE WORK DID NOT SUFFER WITH INCREASED QUANTITY WAS TYPIFIED BY A REPORT FROM THE 397TH ENGINEERING SECTION. ALTHOUGH THE GROUP'S MAINTENANCE RECORD WAS LAST IN IX BOMBARDMENT DIVISION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH, BY THE END OF MARCH THE GROUP HAD THE SECOND BEST MAINTENANCE RECORD IN DIVISION.

THE GROUND OFFENSIVE, GENERALLY HERALDED AS THE FINAL DRIVE ON BERLIN, WAS FOLLOWED VICARIOUSLY BY GROUND CREWS AND IN THE AIR BY COMBAT CREWS. FOR THE LATTER, SWEEPING ADVANCES MEANT ADVANCING BOMBLINES AND MORE DISTANT TARGETS. INSTEAD OF ONE OR TWO HOUR SORTIES, MISSIONS TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH CONSUMED THREE HOURS OR MORE FLYING TIME. THERE WAS A CALL FOR MAPS OF THE WESTERN FRONT FROM S-2 AND SPECIAL SERVICE, AND SITUATION MAPS BEGAN TO APPEAR IN ORDERLY ROOMS, OFFICES, AND ON BARRACKS WALLS. FOR MANY, THE MAP OF THE WESTERN FRONT WAS A FAVORITE PIN-UP. INTERESTED GROUPS CLUSTERED AROUND THE NEWS SHEETS CIRCULATED ON THE BASE EVERY MORNING. STARS AND STRIPES HEADLINES WERE SEARCHED AVIDLY EVERY AFTERNOON, AND GENERALLY THERE WERE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE WAY THE WAR WAS MOVING.

THE GROUND LIAISON SECTION WAS THE OBJECT OF NEW INTEREST. COMBAT CREWS AND GROUND PERSONNEL FORMED AN INFORMAL AUDIENCE AS GROUND GAINS WERE POSTED BY THE GLO OFFICER ON THE LARGE WALLMAP IN THE S-2 READING ROOM. FOR FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE WITH TWO SIDES OF THE BATTLE, COMBAT CREWS CONTINUED TO MAKE TRIPS TO THE FRONT, WHILE GROUND FORCES PERSONNEL INSPECTED THE LIFE ON THE AIR BASE. MAJOR STEINER, GLO ON DUTY WITH THE GROUP FROM THE 15TH ARMY, WAS REPLACED BY CAPTAIN JAMES Y. TINDALL FROM 12TH ARMY GROUP. MAJOR STEINER LEFT FOR THE 404TH FIGHTER GROUP. (CAPTAIN TINDALL TRFD FR 12TH ARMY GROUP TO ATCHD AND JD HQ DET PP2 SO 56 THIS HQ DTD 27 MAR 45.) FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF GROUND FORCES PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT DURING THE MONTH, SEE APPENDIX "A".

FIGURING IN THE OFFENSIVE WAS THE 397TH'S BOMBING OF TARGETS AHEAD OF THE ADVANCE. AS IN PREVIOUS MONTHS, THE MAJORITY OF THE TARGETS WERE TRANSPORTATION TARGETS – RAILROAD BRIDGES AND MARSHALLING YARDS USED TO FERRY TROOPS AND SUPPLIES TO THE ENEMY'S LINES. TO HAMSTRING FURTHER THE ENEMY'S EFFORT, OIL AND

ORDANCE DEPOTS WERE BOMBED, AND TWO AIRFIELDS WERE ALSO ON THE TARGET LIST. (FOR A SUMMARY OF MARCH OPERATIONS, SEE APPENDIX "B".)

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN PERSONNEL BROUGHT ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF MANY MEMBERS OF HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT.

FORMER ASSISTANT GROUP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, FIRST LIEUTENANT TEDSAN S. TIMBERLAKE WAS ON 9 MARCH TRANSFERRED FROM HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT TO 9TH REINFORCEMENT DEPOT, GROUND FORCES TRAINING CENTER (P2, SO 64, HQ IX AIR FORCE, DTD 5 MAR 1945.) AS AN ENLISTED MAN, LT. TIMBERLAKE SERVED IN THE COAST ARTILLERY; LATER ATTENDED AIR FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE OCS AND GRADUATED FROM THE AAF INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL AT HARRISBURG, PENN. COMING TO THE 397TH FROM THE 21ST BOMB GROUP, HE WAS ASSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER UP TO THE TIME HE VOLUNTEERED FOR INFANTRY SERVICE.

CAPTAIN JOHN D. SHAFFER, ASSISTANT GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER, RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES IN MARCH TO ATTEND THE AAF ENGINEERING SCHOOL AT WRIGHT FIELD, DAYTON, OHIO. WEST POINT GRADUATE AND FORMER GROUP TRAINING OFFICER, CAPTAIN SHAFFER LEFT THE GROUP ON 9 MARCH, (TRFD TO 70TH REPL DEPOT FOR RETURN TO ZI, PER LTR Q, HQ USTAAF IN EUROPE (MAIN), DTD 10 MARCH 1945.)

THE FIRST HEADQUARTERS MAN TO COMPLETE HIS TOUR OF DUTY IN THIS THEATER, S/SGT ROBERT F. COXEY LEFT THE GROUP FOR RETURN TO THE STATES ON 12 MARCH. S/SGT COXEY FLEW 65 MISSIONS AS AN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHER WITH THE 397TH, AFTER JOINING THE GROUP AT GOSFIELD, ENGLAND. (TRFD TO 70TH REPL DEPOT, FOR RETURN TO ZI, PP 14 SO 39, HQ 9TH BD DTD 6 MAR 45.)

OTHER CHANGES IN PERSONNEL WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1 MARCH – CPL JOSEPH N. GRECCO, TRFD FR 597TH SQ TO HQ (PP 4, SO 38, THIS HQ, DTD 25 FEB 45); SGT JOSEPH L. PETERS TRFD FR 598TH SQ TO HQ (PP 4, SO 38 THIS HQ DTD 25 FEB 45)

8 MARCH – PFC VERNON L. HENDRIX, TRFD TO 323RD BOMB GP (PP 10 SO 63 HQ 9TH BD, DTD 4 MAR 45).

18 MARCH – 2ND LT MILBURN P. MERIWETHER, TRFD TO 596TH SQ FR HQ (PP 6, SO 32, THIS HQ DTD 16 FEB 45).

23 MARCH – CAPT GEORGE S. MURPHY, JR., TRFD 596TH (PP 6, SO 52, THIS HQ, DTD 20 MARCH 1945); CAPT CHARLES K. AGAN, TRFD FR 597TH (PP 6, SO 52 THIS HQ DTD 20 MARCH 45.)

WITH THE DEPARTURE OF LT. COL KENNETH C. DEMPSTER (SEE LAST MONTH'S INSTALLMENT), MAJOR GEORGE D. HUGHES WAS ANNOUNCED AS GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER ON 13 MARCH. ON 11 MARCH, CAPT. ALVIN E. HIXON REJOINED THE GROUP FROM THE 98TH COMBAT WING (PP 3 SO 45 THIS HQ DTD 10 MAR 45) AND ON 20 MARCH WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER.

GROUP ORDNANCE OFFICER, JOHN E. HAUPT, JR., WAS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN (PP 1, SO 74, HQ IX AFX, DTD 15 MARCH 1945). PVT ROBERT S. ISABEL WAS PROMOTED TO PFC (PP1 SO 39 THIS HQ DTD 1 MAR 45), AND CPL JOSEPH N. GRECCO, WAS APPOINTED SGT (SO 49 THIS HQ DTD 15 MAR 45.)

THERE WERE NO AWARDS OR DECORATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT DURING MARCH.

FURLOUGHS TO ENGLAND FOR GROUND PERSONNEL WERE OFFERED IN MARCH. FURLOUGHS LASTED A WEEK. IN ADDITION TWO WEEKS TRAVEL TIME WAS USUALLY NECESSARY. ON 9 MARCH, T/SGT ERNEST E. CLARIDGE AND T/SGT JAMES R. ELLIS LEFT FOR ENGLAND. ON 10 MARCH, M/SGT CHARLES R. ALLISON, JR., AND PFC EARL C. BOEKHOUT, WHO LEFT WITH THE FEBRUARY QUOTA, RETURNED FROM ENGLAND. ON 24 MARCH, MAJ WILLIAM RAFKIND, S/SGT BENTON K. JOHNS, AND CPL HORACE C. JACOBS WENT ON LEAVE.

THE 397TH GROUP BASKETBALL TEAM WON THE 9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION TOURNEY HELD IN MARCH, BUT BOWED OUT IN THE NINTH AIR FORCE TOURNAMENT HELD AT CHANTILLY. AFTER DEFEATING THE 9TH TAC 67-45 IN THE FIRST ROUND, THE BRIDGE BUSTERS LOST A 59-53 GAME TO THE TEAM OF THE NINTH AIR SERVICE COMMAND. ON THE TEAM THAT COMPLETED THE SEASON WITH 17 WINS AND FOUR DEFEATS WERE T/SGT TURNER, LT. MAHLUM, AND PFC MAX SMITH FROM HEADQUARTERS.

THE STRENGTH OF HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT ON 31 MARCH WAS
29 OFFICERS AND 68 ENLISTED MEN.

20 APRIL 1945
A-72 (PERONNE)

MAJ THOMAS E. MCLEOD,
ACTNG GP HISTORIAN
SGT CHARLES W. JOHNSON, JR.

APPENDIX "A"

GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
ON GLO PROGRAM:

MAJOR JAMES C. COTHRAN, MAJOR JOSEPH E. MCDOWELL, T/4 ALVIN H.
BEHN, PFC LIONEL H. ABSHIRE.

(PER LTR O #9, HQ 3RD ARMY DTD 4 MARCH 1945)

1ST LT OIVA R. NISKA, WOJG ROLLAND H. HICKMAN, T/SGT GUY L. STATZER, T/4
JOSE A. SANDFORD, PVT ROBERT J. MITCHELL.

(PER LTR O #29, HQ 3RD ARMY, DTD 11 MARCH 45).

M/SGT HAROLD F. BEALE, T/5 HERMAN B. BOUDREAUX

(PP 2, LTR O. AG 300.4 HQ 3RD US ARMY DTD 18 MAR 45)

CAPT. FRANK KOWAR, 1ST LT GEORGE C. MCARTHUR, S/SGT PERALEY F.
WILSON, CPL JAMES K. MARKWELL, T/5 DIONYSIUS G. RUSHING, PFC JAMES W.
GROSS.

(PER LTR O 300.4/80 HQ 39TH AA BRIGADE, DTD 18 MAR 45)

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APPENDIX "B"

MISSION SUMMARY FOR MARCH

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<u>MARCH</u>	<u>MISS.</u>	<u>IGT</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
	<u>NO.</u>		
1	183	PULHEIM (COMM CENTER)	UNDET (PFF) GEE
2 (AM)	184	ELLER (RR BRIDGE)	N.A.O.
2 (PM)	185	SINZIG (RR BRIDGE)	UNDET (PFF)
3	RECALL	GIESSEN SUPPLY DUMP	NO ATTACK
4	186	BRUHL (RD JCTS)	UNDET (PFF)
5 (AM)	187	UNNA (ORD DEPOT)	UNDET (PFF)
5 (PM)	188	BINGEN (M/Y)	NAO (GEE)
6	189	SIEGBURG (M/Y)	UNDET (PFF)
8	190	WULFRATH (M/T DEPOT)	UNDET (PFF)
9 (AM)	191	WIESBADEN (M/Y)	UNDET (PFF)
9 (PM)	192	DORTMUND/LUNEN (AMMO FILLING PLNT)	UNDET (PFF)
10	193	ALTENKITCHEN (COMM CENTER)	UNDET (PFF)
11 (AM)	194	BREITSCHEID (A/F)	NAO
11 (PM)	195	WEYERBUSCH (COMM CEN)	UNDET (PFF)
12 (AM)	196	ARNSBERG (M/Y)	UNDET (PFF)
12 (PM)	197	SYNTHEN (AMMO FILLING PLANT)	UNDET (PFF)
13 (AM)	198	WESTERBURG (M/Y)	UNDET (PFF)
13 (PM)	199	FRANKFURT/RHEIN-MAIN (A/F)	EXCELL-UNSAT
14	200	NIEDER-MARBERG (RR BR)	SUP-UNSAT
15 (AM)	201	PIRMASENS (COMM CNTR)	EX-SUP
16	202	NIEDERSCHELD (RR BR)	EX-UNSAT
17 (AM)	203	SIEGEN M/Y	UNDET (PFF)

17 (PM)	204	GIESSEN (ORD DEPOT)	UNDET (PFF)
18	205	WORMS (M/Y)	EX
19 (AM)	206	ENGELSKIRCHEN (M/Y)	POOR
19 (PM)	207	BARMEN (M/Y)	EX-UNDET
20 (AM)	208	GEISECKE (M/Y)	PFF (GOOD-EXCELLENT)
21 (AM)	209	GOESFELD (COMM CENT)	UNDET-EX
21 (PM)	210	HALTERN (COMM CENT)	UNSAT,NAO,UNSAT,SUP
22 (AM)	211	AHAUSE (COMM CENT)	EX-GOOD
23 (AM)	212	HALTERN (COMM CENT)	SUP-UNDET
23 (PM)	214	SCHERMBECK (COMM CENT)	GOOD-UNDET
24 (AM)	215	BECHOLT FLAK POS.	NAO
24 (PM)	216	VLOTHO (RR BR)	SUP-POOR
25 (AM)	217	LIMBURG (M/Y)	SUP-UNSAT
25 (PM)	218	FRIEDBURG (M/Y)	SUP-UNDET
26	219	FLIEDEN (M/Y)	EX
28	220	EBRACH OIL DEPOT	UNDET (PFF) NAO
30	221	EBENHAUSEN (OIL STORAGE PLANT)	UNDET

* * *

COLONEL COINER FLEW ON MISSIONS #196, AND 208

MAJOR HUGHES FLEW ON MISSIONS #202 AND 211

CAPT AGAN FLEW ON MISSION #189.

MAJ BOND FLEW ON MISSIONS #193,198,206,208,209,215,217,219, & 221

CAPT HIXON FLEW ON MISSIONS #194,198,201,205,212,215, & 219

MAJ UDICK FLEW ON MISSIONS #193, 208, & 219.

APRIL INSTALLMENT

UNIT HISTORY OF HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT, 397TH BOMBARDMENT GP (M)
FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 1945 – 30 APRIL 1945

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THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION REQUIRED BY PAR 4 (B), IX
BOMBARDMENT DIVISION MEMO 20-3:

- (1) NEGATIVE.
- (2) STRENGTH OF THE ORGANIZATION ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH WAS 31 OFFICERS AND 67 ENLISTED MEN.
- (3) THE UNIT MOVED FROM A-72, PERONNE, FRANCE, TO Y-55, GERMANY, THE MOVEMENT BEING COMPLETED 25 APRIL 1945.
- (4) NEGATIVE.
- (5) COLONEL COINER WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR PER GO 66, IX BD, DTD 1 MAY 1945; MAJOR BOND WAS AWARDED THE DFC PER GO 56, 9TH AF, DTD 24 APR 45; T/SGT CHEEK WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR PER GO 50, IX BD, DTD 4 APR 45.

CAPTAIN NIXON WAS AWARDED THE SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL PER GO 51, IX BD, DTD 2 APR 45 AND THE SIXTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER PER GO 38, IX BD, DTD 21 APR 45; MAJOR HUGHES WAS AWARDED THE EIGHTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER, PER GO 51, IX BD, AND THE NINTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER PER GO 58, IX BD; MAJOR BOND WAS AWARDED THE EIGHTH AND NINTH OAK LEAF CLUSTERS ON THE SAME ORDERS AS ABOVE; CAPTAIN CRESON WAS AWARDED HIS 8TH OAK LEAF CLUSTER PER GO 51, IX BD.

THE UNIT WAS AUTHORIZED THE BRONZE BATTLE STAR – GERMANY PER LTR ETOUSA FILE AG 200.6, OPGA DTD 14 APR 45.

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THE BATTLE OF GERMANY WAS WELL INTO ITS FINAL PHASE AS THE MONTH BEGAN. OPERATING FROM A-72, FRANCE, THE 397TH CONTINUED ITS TACTICAL BOMBING AHEAD OF THE GROUND TROOPS WITH MARSHALLING YARDS COMPOSING THE LARGER SHARE OF THE MONTH'S TARGETS.

ON 25 APRIL, THE GROUP MOVED INTO GERMANY, OCCUPYING THE FORMER LUFTWAFFE AIRDROME NEAR VENLO, HOLLAND, ADVERSE WEATHER PREVENTED THE GROUP FROM CARRYING OUT COMBAT

OPERATIONS FROM THIS FIELD, AND THE GROUP'S MISSION OF 20 APRIL FROM A-72 WAS ITS LAST MISSION IN THE WAR AGAINST GERMANY.

(20 APRIL IS A SIGNIFICANT DATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE 397TH FOR TWO OTHER REASONS. THE GROUP WAS ACTIVATED ON 20 APRIL 1943 AND FLEW ITS FIRST COMBAT MISSION ON 20 APRIL 1944.)

MISSION #222 WAS FLOWN ON 3 APRIL AGAINST HOLZWINDEN MARSHALLING YARD. ON THE 4TH A MISSION WAS CARRIED OUT AGAINST THE OIL STORAGE DEPOT AT EBRACH. ON THE 7TH, THE 397TH STRUCK AT THE NORTHEIM MARSHALLING YARD AND THE NEXT DAY BOMBED THE OIL REFINERY AT NIIMHAGAN.

TWO MISSIONS WERE FLOWN ON 9 APRIL. IN THE MORNING, THE OIL STORAGE DEPOT AT BAD BERKA WAS THE TARGET. IN THE AFTERNOON, THE MARSHALLING YARDS AT JENA WERE HIT. THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE MARAUDERS BOMBED THE RUDELSTADT ORDNANCE DEPOT WITH EXCELLENT TO SUPERIOR RESULTS.

11 APRIL WAS ANOTHER DOUBLE MISSION DAY. THE MARSHALLING YARD AT ASCHERSLEBEN WAS BOMBED IN THE MORNING AND A RAID WAS MADE ON THE BAMBERG MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSEMBLY PLANT LATER IN THE DAY.

THE ORDNANCE DEPOT AT KEMPTEN WAS BOMBED ON THE 12TH, THE MARSHALLING YARD AT GUNZBURG ON THE 15TH, AND ON THE 16TH RAIDS WERE MADE ON THE GUZENHAUSEN M/Y AND THE ORDNANCE DEPOT AT KEMPTEN. THE 397TH WAS ONE OF THE ELEVEN GROUPS THAT BOMBED MAGDEBURG ON 17 APRIL. THE MARSHALLING YARDS AT ULM AND GUNZBURG WERE THE OBJECTIVES FOR 397TH MISSIONS ON 19 APRIL. TWO MORE MARSHALLING YARDS, THOSE AT MEMINGEN AND NORDLINGEN WERE RAIDED ON 20 APRIL. WITH THE RETURN OF THE MISSION AGAINST NORDLINGEN, THE 397TH COMPLETED ITS 239TH MISSION.

IN APRIL, BUILDING ACTIVITIES AT A-72 WERE HALTED AND HEADQUARTERS AND SQUADRONS MADE PREPARATIONS FOR A CHANGE OF STATION. HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT MOVED BY AIR, TRUCK, AND JEEP, AND SOME EQUIPMENT WAS MOVED BY RAIL. THE MOVEMENT WAS AUTHORIZED BY IX BD MOVEMENT ORDER 31, DTD 23 APRIL, AND BY 25 APRIL HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT WAS OCCUPYING A TENT SITE AT STATION Y-55, 2 MILES EAST OF VENLO, HOLLAND. THE FIELD STRADDLED THE DUTCH-GERMAN BORDER, AND TWO SQUADRONS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT TOGETHER WITH GROUP OFFICES WERE LOCATED IN GERMANY. BECAUSE OF THIS IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR SOME MEN IN THE GROUP TO SAY THAT THEY LIVED IN HOLLAND, BUT WORKED IN GERMANY.

THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SPREAD OVER THE BASE ON 13 APRIL. THE FLAG IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SITE AT A-72 WAS LOWERED TO HALF MAST FOR THIRTY DAYS MOURNING. ON 15 APRIL SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICES WERE CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE GROUP HEADQUARTERS BUILDING BY CHAPLAIN COMFORT.

RAIN AND COLD WEATHER FILLED THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH AFTER THE DETACHMENT LEFT FRANCE. AT FIRST, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WERE ALMOST NIL, BUT AFTER A FEW DAYS SPECIAL SERVICE SET UP A MOVIE PROJECTOR IN THE S-2 BRIEFING ROOM WHERE MOVIES WERE SHOWN TWICE NIGHTLY.

THE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT GOT UNDER WAY IN APRIL. CAPTAIN CHARLES H. SMITH WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE 598TH SQUADRON TO HEADQUARTERS AND BECAME GROUP INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICER. (PP7, SO 66, THIS HQS, DTD 13 APR 45). DISCUSSION AND ORIENTATION PERIOD WERE HELD TWICE A WEEK AT A-72, BUT THE PROGRAM WAS TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED BY THE CHANGE OF STATION.

MAJOR WILLIAM H. BOND, GROUP BOMBARDIER, WAS TRANSFERRED FROM HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT TO THE 70TH REINFORCEMENT DEPOT FOR RETURN TO THE Z. OF I., AFTER COMPLETING 65 MISSIONS WITH THIS GROUP. (PP 3, SO 96, HQ 98D, DTD 6 APR 45). HE WAS SUCCEEDED BY CAPTAIN WALTER F. CRESON, TRANSFERRED TO HEADQUARTERS FROM THE 597TH SQUADRON. (PP 4, SO 69, THIS HQ, DTD 4 APR 45.)

FILLING THE VACANCY LEFT BY THE TRANSFER OF LT. TEDSAN S. TIMBERLAKE TO THE INFANTRY, CAPTAIN JOHN R. NEALE, 596TH SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, WAS ASSIGNED TO HEADQUARTERS ATTACHMENT AND APPOINTED ASSISTANT GROUP S-2. (PP 5 SO 71 THIS HQ DTD 19 APR 45). CAPTAIN NEALE WAS LATER APPOINTED GROUP HISTORICAL OFFICER.

CAPTAIN JAMES M. LYNCH, JR., GROUP ASSISTANT ADJUTANT, WAS SELECTED FOR A 9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION PERSONNEL AND AUDIT INSPECTION TEAM, AND WAS PLACED ON 15 DAYS TEMPORARY DUTY WITH 9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION. (PP 20, SO 191, HQ 98D, DTD 12 APR 45.)

PRIVATE STEPHEN PAJOR WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE 598TH BOMB SQUADRON TO HQS PP 5, SO 61, THIS HQ, DTD 6 APR 45. CPL OSCAR ABNER AND PFC SYLVESTER FIOTO WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE 64TH STA COMPL SQ (PP 3, SO 95, HQ 98D, DTD 8 APR 45) AND SUBSEQUENTLY WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE INFANTRY.

SGT GERALD S. SAMET WAS APPOINTED S/SGT PP SO 60, THIS HQS, DTD 4 APR 45.

* * *

20 MAY 1945

Y-55, 2 MI E. OF VENLO, HOLLAND

CAPT. JOHN R. NEALE, GP HISTORICAL O.
Sgt. CHARLES W. JOHNSON, JR.

MAY INSTALLMENT

* * *

Unit History of Headquarters Detachment, 397TH Bombardment Group (M)

For Period 1 May 1945 -- 31 May 1945.

* * *

The following is information required by par 4 (b), IX Bombardment Division memo 20-3:

- (1) Negative.
- (2) Strength of the unit on the 31st day of May was 38 Officers and 66 enlisted men.
- (3) Advance and flight echelons of the unit moved from Y-55 to AAF Station A-72 on the 24th and 31st of May respectively.
- (4) Negative.
- (5) 2nd Lt. Forest H. Stout was awarded the 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal (par Go 5, Hq, 9th Air Division, dtd 4 May 1945.)

* * *

Soaked by continuous spring rains, AAF Station Y-55 at Venlo was cold, wet and uncomfortable from the time the 397th landed there until the day the war ended. The last group mission had been flown from A-72 on 20 April, but after the group moved closer to the swiftly flowing front it met its greatest enemy in the weather. Missions were set up, sometimes air crews were briefed, but in the end every mission was scrubbed and life on the station settled down to waiting for the end that was not far away.

Headquarters Detachment, officers and enlisted men, dwelled in pyramidal tents huddled in a grove of pines. Recreational facilities were limited. There were coffee and doughnuts at the tent that served as the Red Cross Aero Club and movies in the S-2 briefing room. The non-coms club was set up on the field. Headquarters enlisted men imported several kegs of Belgian beer and some of the evenings were passed in congenial drinking under the pines.

The end of hostilities was anti-climatical. Radio Flensburg reports followed by BBC announcements were received on the 7th and preceded official announcements. The news came as no great surprise, although in the backs of the minds of many was a feeling of relief and the most often-heard question was "what now?" Happily, the sun broke through the gloomy skies on the 8th, V-E Day, a holiday, and a day of celebration. Taking advantage of the holiday period, men struck out for Brussels, Paris or into

Germany. In time unit censorship was abolished. Sunday was established as a group holiday. Black-out restrictions were lifted. Headquarters men viewed a showing of the War Department film "Two Down and One to Go", and ninety percent of all bull sessions were devoted to either one of two topics – the point system and where do we go from here – home, the Pacific, or into the army of occupation.

As the war ended, the complete story of the group's participation in the war against Germany could be related, statistically at least. Group Intelligence records showed that in the 239 missions flown by the 397th in its year of combat operations, more than 7,000 planes were over enemy territory, while more than a thousand were battle-damaged by flak and 12 damaged by enemy aircraft. An additional 23 planes crashed in friendly territory because of battle damage or weather. S-2 casualty records listed 49 men killed, 119 men wounded, and 203 men missing. However, with the overrunning of prison camps within the Reich, many of those previously listed as missing in action were found alive.

With the cessation of hostilities rumor was rampant on the airfield. Each day brought a new rumor that was passed from mouth to ear as authentic and unimpeachable. Largely the stories had to do with the disposition of the group. However, such was the changing current of the rumors that the same fate was never in store for the group on two successive days.

Towards the end of the month it became evident that the group was scheduled to move back to France. Finally, 9th Air Division Movement Order Number 11 (dtd 17 May 1945) determined that the group was to move back to its former base at A-72, Peronne. The advanced echelon of Headquarters left on 24 May and was followed a week later by the flight echelon. Headquarters came back to Mons en Chaussee where the enlisted men moved into the same barracks they had occupied in their first stay at the base. However, all staff sections held offices in one block formerly occupied only by S-2 and S-3. As the month ended, the rear echelon of Headquarters Detachment remained at Y-55 scheduled to return to France on 3 June 1945.

* * *

On 2 May, Lt. Col. Robert M. McLeod was transferred to Headquarters from the 596th Bomb Sq. as of the 24th of April. His principal duty was that of acting deputy commander. (PP 1 SO 74 this Hq dtd 24 Apr 45). On the 11th Lt. Col. McLeod was trfd to the 70th Reinforcement Depot for return to the Z.I. (pp 1, SO 124, Hq 9th Bomb Div dtd 5 May 45.) A new medical administrative officer, 2nd Lt. Homer L. Bright, was trfd from the 10th Photo Group Rcn (pp 2 SO 77 Hq 10th Photo Gp dtd 5 May 45). Captain James Tindall, ground-liaison officer, was trfd to 9th Air Force per VOCO 12th Army Gp dtd 11 May 45. On the 15th, 1st Lt. Robert S. Askew was trfd to Headquarters from the 64th Sta Compl Sq (pp 18 SO 128 Hq 9th Bomb Div dtd 9 May 45). Lt. Col. Frank L. Wood, Jr., was trfd to the 70th Reinforcement Depot for return to Z. of I. (pp 19 SO 3, Hq 9th Air Div dtd 12 May 45.) Capt. George W. Parker was trfd to Hqs from the 596th Bomb Sq and became Group Air Inspector (pp 7 SO 80 this Hq dtd 15 May 45.) 2nd Lt

Forrest H. Stout was trfd to Hqs fr 597th Bomb Sq and became group technical inspector (pp 8 SO 80 this Hq dtd 15 May 45.) Capt. John L. Krueger, 1st Lt. Frederick N. Fitting, and 1st Lt. Clifford T. Whidden were trfd to Hqs from the 96th Sta Compl Sq (pp 2 SO 81 this Hq dtd 19 May 45.) Pfc Milten Mintz was trfd to Hqs from the 96th Sta. Compl Sq (pp 2 SO 81 this Hq dtd 19 May 1945.)

Major George D. Hughes was promoted to Lt. Col (pp 11 SO 136 Hq IX AF dtd 16 May 45) and Captain Alvin E. Hixon was promoted to Major (pp 12 SO 136 Hq 9th AF dtd 16 May 45.)

Major Robert L. McCollum, group surgeon, attended an inter-allied conference of war medicine in London, 1st Lt. Arnold Mahlum attended an instructor's training school at Chantilly, and Master Sergeant Fred J. Turner attended an instructor training school at Chantilly during the month.

* * *

Captain John R. Neale,
Group Historical Officer
Sgt. Charles W. Johnson, Jr.

JUNE INSTALLMENT

Unit History of Headquarters Detachment, 397TH Bombardment Group (M) For Period 1 June 1945 -- 30 June 1945.

The following is information required by par 4 (b), IX Bombardment Division memo 20-3:

- (1) Negative.
- (2) Strength of the unit on the 30th day of June was 42 officers (40 assigned & 2 attached) and 157 enlisted men (91 assigned & 66 attached).
- (3) Negative.
- (4) Negative.
- (5) Capt WALTER F. CRESON was awarded the 9th Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal (9AD GO 30, dated 14 June 45). Capt BENJAMIN J. DONTZIN was awarded the 14th Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal (9AD GO 30, dated 14 June 45).

The following enlisted men were awarded the Bronze Star (9AD GO 38, dated 23 June 45):

M/Sgt Fred G. Turner, Operations
M/Sgt Charles H. Allison, Communications
T/Sgt Fincher E. Nork, Supply

The first week of June was devoted to the unpacking of supplies and equipment and general arrangement and locating of departments. Group Headquarters consolidated all departments within one area. This was the site and buildings formerly used by S-2 and S-3. The Medical Department occupied the area previously used by Command, S-1, S-4 and affiliated sections. Two Niessen huts were erected in the administrative area for use of S-2 and the Group Inspection Section.

Upon receipt of 9th Air Division memo 50-11, dated 6 June 1945, all section and squadrons collaborated upon the general outline of the extensive training program as outlined in the memorandum. Approximately two weeks were needed for planning, outlining and preparing the overall program.

The first classes were hold on the 25th of June. This comprised a lecture on Safeguarding Military Information and Instructions in aircraft recognition. The remainder of the month was devoted to similar instructions to all squadrons. One additional subject was added, namely the History of the Nazi Party.

The following listed personnel were assigned during June on the dates indicated:

5 June – 1st Lt PETER R. ROSTOCKY, 2nd Lt FRANK W. KLINGES
11 June – Cpl Maurice E. Bouchard
13 June – 1st Sgt Robert N. Law
18 June – S/Sgt Walter D. Nigham, Pfc Harold E. Puergin and Pvt Anselme
A. Petit.
19 June – Capt ROBERT P. BURNS
20 June – Lt Col JERALD W. BRITT, and Capt CYRIL A. COHEN
21 June – Capt MILTON W. MOORSON and Capt ALVIN J. LOWE
30 June – 1st Lt STANLEY I. L. DOW, T/Sgt William F. Wyatt, T/Sgt Edward
J. Russo, T/Sgt Jack R. Jablonaky, S/Sgt Paul S. Leming, S/Sgt
Harold Goodman, S/Sgt Allan J. Desmond, S/Sgt Herbert W.
Wood, Sgt Leon R. Condran, Cpl Howard W. Calhoun, Cpl William R.
Emory.

The following named men were transferred on the dates indicated:

7 June – M/Sgt Henry C. Seymour, M/Sgt John C. Hardy, T/Sgt Harnet
Womick, Jr.
14 June – Lt Col FRANK L. WOOD, Jr, Lt Col GEORGE S. HUGHES, Capt
GEORGE W. PARKER, Capt WALTER F. CRESON, and Cpl
Paul R. Vramisky.
22 June – 2nd Lt FRANK W. KACINSKY
25 June – Cpl Maurice Bouchard and Pvt Stephen Pajor.
28 June – 1st Lt JOHN P. SPENCER and Pfc Earl C. Hoekout.
29 June – 1st Lt PETER R. ROSTOCKY, Pfc Robert S. Isabel, Pfc Nobert R.
Koppert.
30 June – Sgt Joseph H. Larson.

James R. Calabria was appointed M/Sgt as of 6 June 1945.

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

JULY INSTALLMENT

Unit History of Headquarters Detachment, 397TH Bombardment Group (M) For Period 1 July 1945 -- 31 July 1945.

The following is information required by par 4 (b), IX Bombardment Division memo 20-3:

- (1) Negative.
- (2) Strength of the unit on the 31st day of July was 41 Officers (39 assigned & 2 attached), and 155 enlisted men (90 assigned & 65 attached).
- (3) Negative.
- (4) Negative.
- (5) Lt Col FRANKLIN E. ROWLING, Major KENNETH R. MAJORS, Major WILLIAM RAFKIND, Capt CLAUDE S. FUNDERRAK, and Capt ROBERT S. ASKEW were awarded the Bronze Star (9th AD GO #42 dated 4 July 1945).

The month of July was uneventful. All departments carried out normal duties with emphasis still being placed on the training program. Numerous passes, leaves and furloughs were granted to eligible personnel.

On the 23rd of July Lt Col JIMMIE W. BRITT assumed command of the 397th Bombardment Group (M) vice Col. RICHARD T. COINER, Jr. who was transferred to the ZOI.

The following listed personnel were assigned during the month of July:

Capt FRANK B. WATSON	Capt JOHN A. NOONE
Lt Col RAYMOND J. WAGNER	1 st Lt JOHN R. LEONARD
1 st Lt JOSEPH L. MILLER	2 nd Lt KENNETH N. TERWILLEGER
M/Sgt Ralph N. Brown	T/Sgt Harold F. Kent
S/Sgt Louis C. Mercangeli	Sgt Norbert M. Johnson, Jr.
Cpl Asa A. Faulkner	Pfc Benjamin Agin
Pfc Luther D. Powers	

The following listed personnel were transferred during the month of July:

Col RICHARD T. COINER, Jr.	Major Alvin E. Nixon
Major EARL W. UDICK	Capt ROBERT P. HOLMES
Capt JOSIAH G. CHATEAU	Capt CLARENCE E. COMFORT, Jr.

1st Lt JOHN P. SPACER
S/Sgt Orville L. Floyd
Sgt Charles W. Johnson, Jr.
Cpl Louis Georgecocopoulos
Cpl Ernest A. Swenson
Pfc Edward A. Sweeney
Pfc Milton Mintz
Pfc Charles Greif, Jr.
Pvt Dale M. Niemack

T/Sgt James R. Ellis
S/Sgt William J. Rendall
Sgt Clyde L. Sundguist
Cpl Francis J. Brown
Pfc Michael J. Sistare
Pfc William J. L. Lackett
Pfc James A. Anderson
Pvt Willard E. Garner

There were no promotions during the month of July 1945.

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

HEADQUARTERS
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 140 U. S. ARMY
30 September 1945

SUBJECT: August 1945 installment of Headquarters Detachment, 397TH Bomb. Gp
TO : Commanding General, 98th Bomb. Wing, APO 140, U. S. Army,
Att. Historical Officer.

(1) The following information is submitted with reference required by par 4
(b), 9th Air Division memo 20-3:

(a) Negative.

(b) The strength of the unit on the 31st day of August was 40 officers (38 assigned and 2 attached), and 160 enlisted men (82 assigned and 78 attached).

(c) Negative.

(d) Negative.

(e) Capt John F. Caldwell was awarded the Bronze Star Medal per GO #60, 9 AD dd 21 August '45. 2nd Lt. Kenneth W. Terwilliger was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross per GO #151, 9 AD, dd 4 Aug. '45.

The 397th Bombardment Group received the Presidential Unit Citation for conspicuous action against the enemy on December 23, 1944, per GO #152 9 AF, dd 4 Aug. '45.

The month of August was uneventful. All departments carried out normal duties with emphasis on the training program. Passes, leaves and furloughs were granted to eligible personnel.

There was some turnover in the personnel. 5 new men were assigned to Headquarters and 15 high point men have left for the ZI.

There were no promotions during the month of August 1945.

FRANK B. WATSON,
Capt. Air Corps,
Group Historical Officer.

HEADQUARTERS, NINTH AIR FORCE
APO 696, U. S. Army
4 August 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 152)

EXTRACT

BATTLE HONORS Section
I

I. – BATTLE HONORS – Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following-named units of the Ninth Air Force are cited for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy. The citations read as follows:

* * * * *

“The 397th Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary heroism in armed conflict with the enemy on 23 December 1944. At the height of the German counterattack in the Ardennes sector the 397th Bombardment Group was assigned the hazardous mission of attacking the railway bridge at Eller, Germany which was a vital link in the enemy’s supply line across the Moselle River. In a desperate attempt to ward off the attackers the enemy threw up an intense hail of anti-aircraft fire which exacted a toll of 3 B-26 bombers and damaged many more. Despite the tremendous odds encountered and the lack of protection from fighter escorts, the determined pilots performed their sighting operations with a high degree of accuracy and succeeded in completely severing the bridge. Although the formation was viciously attacked by 25 Messerschmitt aircraft, the airmen of the 397th Bombardment Group met the attack with such vigor and aggressiveness that a total of 4 hostile planes were destroyed, 3 probably destroyed, and 5 were extensively damaged, forcing them to withdraw from the engagement. The intensity of the hostile attacks is evidenced by the fact that only 5 Marauder bombers escaped battle damage from enemy fire. The aerial skill, courage, and esprit de corps displayed by the officers and men of the 397th Bombardment Group in attacking a vital and strongly defended enemy target reflect great distinction upon the 397th Bombardment Group and the Army Air Forces.”

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL KEPMER:

ROBERT M. LEE
Brig Gen, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/ F. H. Monahan
t/ F. H. MONAHAN
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

JAMES M. LYNCH, JR.
Captain, Air Corps.

HEADQUARTERS
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 140 U. S. ARMY
30 October 1945

SUBJECT: September 1945 Installment Unit History of Headquarters Detachment, 397th Bombardment Group (M).

TO : Commanding General, 98th Bomb. Wing (M), APO 140, U. S. Army,
Attn. Historical Officer.

1. The following information is submitted with reference required by par 4 (b), 9th Air Division memo 20-3:

(a) Negative.

(b) Strength of Unit on 30th day September, 352 officers and 194 Enlisted Men.

(c) Negative.

(d) Negative.

(e) There were no awards to Hq. Det. during the month of September.

This group, 397th Bomb Gp (M), located A-72 Reld for Tactical asgn to Hq. 9th Air Division effective 15 Sept 45 and asgn to 98th Bomb Wing (M) per Ltr. Order 370.5 dtd 15 Sept 45.

The month of September was uneventful. All departments carried out normal duties. Passes, leaves and furloughs were granted to eligible personnel. There is an increased interest in the furloughs and leaves to Switzerland but few get to go due to the low quotas. Increased quotas would help out.

There was considerable turn over in personnel. 229 officers were assigned to Hq. Det. and 26 shipped out. A large percentage of those leaving were high point men who are returning to the ZI. For EM 159 were assigned and 81 shipped out. The large percentage of those men also were high point men also returning to the ZI. In reading this one would observe the large amount of men assigned to Hq. Det.. This is due to the fact that Hq. Det, Morning Report absorbed the Casual Pool which has been established here at A-72 for administration. Those men were not assigned to duties on this base. It (Casual Pool) is just a relocation center for both low and high point men.

2. Two promotions came through during the month of September for Capts. Charles A. Agan and John C. Thayer, both were promoted to Major, AUS, effective 1

Sept 45 with date of rank from 1 Sept 45, pp 1 SO 244, Hq. Ninth Air Force dtd 1 Sept 1945. No promotions for enlisted men.

{SIGNED}
FRANK B. WATSON
Capt. Air Corps,
Group Historical Officer.

HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

In reply refer
To: 370.5

APO 696, U S Army
20 September 1945

SUBJECT: Assignment and Attachment Order (No. 114)

TO : Commanding General, IX Air Force Service Command, APO 149, U S Army
Commanding General, 98th Bomb Wing (M), APO 140, U S Army

6. The following units are relieved from assigned to 9th Air Division and are assigned to 98th Bomb Wing (M), effective as of 15 September 1945:

Hq, 344 th Bomb Gp (M)	Hq, 394 th Bomb Gp (M)	Hq, 387 th Bomb Gp (M)
474 th Bomb Sq	584 th Bomb Sq	556 th Bomb Sq
495 th Bomb Sq	585 th Bomb Sq	557 th Bomb Sq
496 th Bomb Sq	586 th Bomb Sq	558 th Bomb Sq
497 th Bomb Sq	587 th Bomb Sq	559 th Bomb Sq
Hq, 397 th Bomb Gp (M)	* Hq, 306 th Bomb Gp (H)	Hq, 305 th Bomb Gp (H)
596 th Bomb Sq	367 th Bomb Sq	364 th Bomb Sq
597 th Bomb Sq	368 th Bomb Sq	365 th Bomb Sq
598 th Bomb Sq	369 th Bomb Sq	366 th Bomb Sq
599 th Bomb Sq	423 rd Bomb Sq	422 nd Bomb Sq

305th and 306th Groups under operations control, Hq Ninth Air Force.

5 th Gunnery & Tow Target Flt (SP)	140 th Army Postal Unit
6 th Gunnery & Tow Target Flt (SP)	580 th Army Postal Unit
7 th Gunnery & Tow Target Flt (SP)	125 th Army Postal Unit
217 th Med Dispensary	739 th AAF Band
1145 th MP Co Avn	399 th Sig Co
305 th Sta Com Sq	342 nd Sig Co Wg

7. The following units are relieved from attached to the 9th Air Division and are attached to the 98th Bomb Wing (M), effective as of 15 September 1945:

Det "DD",	9 th Base Opr Sq (Prov)	Det "CC",	21 st Weather Sq
Det "FF",	9 th Base Opr Sq (Prov)	Det "ZF",	21 st Weather Sq
Det "HH",	9 th Base Opr Sq (Prov)	Det "QQ",	21 st Weather Sq
Det "MM",	9 th Base Opr Sq (Prov)	Det "UU",	21 st Weather Sq
Det "E",	9 th Base Opr Sq (Prov)	Det "ZD",	21 st Weather Sq
Det "II",	9 th Base Opr Sq (Prov)	Det "B",	21 st Weather Sq
		Det "V",	21 st Weather Sq
Det "D",	40 th Mobile Comm Sq		
Det "V",	40 th Mobile Comm Sq	Det "A",	1241 st QM Co Sv Gp
Det "ZD",	40 th Mobile Comm Sq		
Det "ZF",	40 th Mobile Comm Sq		

* Units attached to VIII Fighter Command for administration.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL KEPNER:

{SIGNED}
RITA M. DURAND
1st Lt, A C
Actg Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION: "A"

Plus: 6 cys	TAG (1 cy mrkd attn: Opr Dr); CG, U S Air Forces in Europe; CG, Combined Allied Liquidating Agency, APO 757; CG, Seventh U S Army, CG, Fifteenth Army; CG, Third U S Army
10 cys ea	AAF (attn: Air AG, Publications Dr); CG, Air Tech Sv Area, ASC, U S Air Forces in Europe; CG, IX Air Force Sv Comd (add)
26 cys	CG, U S Forces, European Theater (1 cy mrkd attn: Chief of Supply Service, APO 757)
2 cys	CO, 26 th Statistical Control Unit (Type "H")

HEADQUARTERS
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 140 U. S. ARMY
30 November 1945

SUBJECT: October 1945 Installment of Unit History of Headquarters Detachment 397th
Bombardment Group (M).

TO : Commanding General, 98th Bombardment Wing (M), APO 140, U. S.
Army, Attn. Historical Officer.

1. The following information is submitted with reference required by par 4 (b),
9th Air Division memo 20-3:

- (a) Negative.
- (b) Strength of unit on 31st day of October was, 44 Officers and 187
Enlisted Men.
- (c) Negative.
- (d) Negative.
- (e) Negative.

This group was changed to a Category IV unit per message from USFET
dtd 6 October 1945.

The month of October was uneventful. All departments carried out normal
duties. Passes, leaves and furloughs were granted to eligible personnel. However
during the later part of the month the furloughs and leaves to the Riviera and
Switzerland were withdrawn. This was necessary in order to process the men going
home..

Again this month the same as last month there was a large turnover of
personnel. 3 Officers and 42 Enlisted Men were assigned to Hq. Det. and 138 Officers
and 348 Enlisted Men were shipped out of the unit to other Category IV units. Also an
even percentage of those shipped out were low point men who went to Occupational
units. With the transfer of this large amount of men the Casual Pool which has been
carried under Hq Det was dissolved. The few high point men remaining were
transferred to the Hq Det to continue the processing line that was set up to handle the
change in personnel and prepare the group for shipment to the ZI.

2. 17 Enlisted Men received promotions this month per SO 177, par 12 dtd 1
October 1945 and SO 193, par 4, dtd 21 October 1945. Ratings are as follows, S/Sgt to
T/Sgt 6 men, Sgt to T/Sgt 1 man, Sgt to S/Sgt 3 men, Cpl to Sgt 4 men, and Pfc to Cpl 3
men..

{SIGNED}

GORDON C. HAMILTON
Captain Air Corps
Group Intelligence Officer.

Ltr, Hq, USEAT (Rear), AG 370.5 CCT-AGO (265), subject: Movement Orders,
Shipment RE 7421, dated 11 October 1945.

370.5

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCES IN EUROPE, APO 633, US ARMY.

TO: Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, US Army.
Commanding General, European Air Transport Service (Prov), APO 744, US Army.

1. For necessary action.
2. Personnel who are absent without leave or in desertion on the date of units departure will be transferred in grade to the AAF/ET Reinforcement Depot (Prov) Casual Pool. All personnel in excess of strength authorized by this movement order will be transferred within the command to fill existing shortages, or when this is not feasible, transferred to the AAF/ET Reinforcement Depot (Prov) Casual Pool.
3. The provisions of USAET Regulation 80-10, dated 21 April 1945, insofar as pertains to personnel records to accompany unit, will govern in lieu of those specific instructions on records set out in ETO-PDK-RKD.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CROGAN

{SIGNED}

HEADQUARTERS
US FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATRE

(Rear)-APO 887
11 October 1945

AG 370.5 GCT-AGO (26)

SUBJECT: Movement Orders, Shipment RE7421.

TO: Commanding General, Theater Service Forces, European Theater
Commanding General, US Air Forces in Europe
Commanding General, Oiso Intermediate Section
Commanding General, Delta Base Section
Commanding General, Ground Force Reinforcement Command
Chief of Transportation, US Forces, European Theater

1. Pursuant to authority and instructions contained in War Department cable , WIRX-7101.1, dated 8 October 1945, it is desired you take without delay the action for which you are responsible under the provisions of ETO-POW-??D to prepare for shipment and move to the appropriate port of embarkation for further movement by water transportation to a United States port at which the units will be demobilized in accordance with orders to be issued by the War Department.

Unit	Code Designation Shipment Number	Present Location	Agency Controlling Unit	Approximate Strength Off	WO	EM	TOT	T/O & I	Stat Code
Hq & Hq Sq 71 st Ftr Wg	RE7421-A	Dormstadt WN-7042	CG, Ninth Air Force	80	1	286	367	1-10-1 24 Sep 44 w/1 C	SMU
Hq & Hq Sq 397th Bomb Gp (M)	RE7421-B	Peronne VN-6152	"	48	1	111	160	1-112 29 Jun 44 w/4 C	"
596 th Bomb Sq (M)	RE7421-C	"	"	99		448	547	1-127 18 Aug 44	"
597 th Bomb Sq (M)	RE7421-D	"	"	99		448	547	"	"
598 th Bomb Sq (M)	RE7421-E	"	"	99		448	547	"	"
599 th Bomb Sq (M)	RE7421-F	"	"	99		448	547	"	"
Hq 474 th Ftr Gp (TL)	RE7421-G	Schweinfurt WN-7464	"	44	1	106	150	1-13 29 Dec 43 w/4-O	"
428 th Ftr Sq (TL)	RE7421-H	"	"	58		411	469	1-37 22 Dec 43 w/2-O	"

Unit	Code Designation Shipment Number	Present Location	Agency Controlling Unit	Approximate Strength Off	WO	EM	TOT	T/O & I	Stat Code
429 th Ftr Sq (TL)	RE7421-J	Schweinfurt WN-7464	CG, Ninth Air Force	58		411	469	1-37 22 Dec 43 w/2-O	SMU
430 th Ftr Sq (TL)	RE7421-K	"	"	58		411	469	"	"
Hq & Base Sv Sq 474 th Air Sv Gp	RE7421-L	Industrie-hafen WO-3328	"	36	1	393	430	1-452 T 15 Apr 44 w/4-O	"
892 nd Air Engr Sq	RE7421-M	"	"	12	1	328	341	1-457 T 15 Apr 44 w/4-O	"
716 th Air Material Sq	RE7421-N	"	"	11	1	201	213	1-458 T 15 Apr 44 w/3-O	"
Hq & Base Sv Sq 482 nd Air Sv Gp	RE7421-P	Peronne VN-6152	"	36	1	393	430	1-452 T 15 Apr 44 w/3-O	"
900 th Air Engr Sq	RE7421-R	"	"	12	1	328	341	1-457 T 15 Apr 44 w/4-O	"
724 th Air Material Sq	RE7421-S	"	"	11	1	201	213	1-458 T 15 Apr 44 w/3-O	"
24 th Mobile R&R Sq (H)	RE7421-T	Olastros VN-7838	"	11	1	262	274	1-356 S 6 Apr 44 w/1-O	"
31 st Mobile R&R Sq (H)	RE7421-U	"	"	11	1	262	274	"	"
48 th Mobile R&R Sq (H)	RE7421-V	"	"	11	1	262	274	"	"
807 th Surgical Sq, Air Cos	RE7421-W	Harlou VN-0027	"	6		195	201	3-437 29 Sep 44	"

2. Readiness Date: Units will be processed for overseas movement at home stations and be prepared for such movement on and after 10 November 1945 and will move from temporary or unit stations upon call of Commanding General, Theater Service Forces, European Theater (commanding officer of port concerned).

3. Instructions and details regarding the preparation and movement of the above units are contained in Parts V and IX, ETO-POM-RED, dated 19 Nov 1945, unless modified herein, in which case this order will govern.

4. a. A personnel roster will be prepared by each unit on dual mimeograph stencils in the manner proscribed in paragraph 14a, Readjustment Regulations 1-2. Such roster will provide the personnel data required by paragraph 13b of these regulations and in the form indicated in Enclosure No. 3 hereto. Two (2) copies of the roster (produced from the No. 2 stencils), the No. 1 stencils marked "Advance Copy", and two (2) copies of this directive, together with a certified WD AGO Form 66-2, 66-3 or 66-4 for each officer being returned as a member of a Reception Station group will be furnished by the unit commander to the Commanding General, Theater Service Forces, European Theater (port commander concerned) in such time as will enable dispatch by air mail or air courier at least five (5) days prior to embarkation. One (1) copy of the rosters (produced from the No. 2 stencils), the No. 1 stencil marked "Advance Copy" and one (1) copy of this directive will be forwarded to the port of debarkation commander concerned. The other documents referred to will be forwarded to The Adjutant General, Attention: Officers Branch (PC-A), Washington 25, D. C. A copy of the corrected personnel roster (produced from the No. 2 stencils, corrected as of embarkation), together with additional forms 66-2, 66-3 and 66-4, as necessary, will be furnished to the Commanding General, Theater Service Forces, European Theater (commanding officer of port) for dispatch within twenty-four (24) hours after embarkation by air mail or air courier to The Adjutant General, Attention: Officers Branch (PC-A), Washington 25, D. C. The No. 2 stencils of the personnel rosters and two (2) copies of the roster corrected as of embarkation will be retained by unit commanders and will be corrected aboard ship to agree with the Transport Commander's certified passenger list. The No. 2 stencils will be delivered by the unit commanders to the proper authority at the United States port (disposition center). At the appropriate time, the No. 2 stencils of this directive will be furnished the commanding officer of each unit concerned for delivery to the proper authority at the United States port.

b. Category IV units returned to the United States under the provisions of this directive will be processed under Part V, ETO-POM-RED, 19 May 1945, except as provided herein. All officer and enlisted personnel with ASR scores above the appropriate critical score who do not possess MOS appearing on current War Department lists of critical specialists and who have not volunteered in writing for further service, and all other officer and enlisted personnel being returned for discharge or separation from the service under specific directives other than RR 1-1, except those indicated in Circular 188, War Department, 1945, will be listed on rosters by Separation Center groups in the manner prescribed in paragraph 130b of ETO-POM-RED. All other officer and enlisted personnel will be listed on rosters, by Reception Station groups as prescribed in paragraph 130a of ETO-POM-RED. Reception Station groups of officer and enlisted personnel below appropriate ASR critical score, moving as part of Category IV units, will be formed on basis of address at which individual desires recuperation instead of address to which individual is entitled transportation on separation. Separation Center groups, moving as part of Category IV units, will be formed on basis of address to which individual is entitled transportation on separation in accordance with EX-71043, this headquarters, relative to the return of individuals to new permanent address or place of offered employment. EX-71043 is hereby amended as to substitute "separation center" and "separation center group" for "reception station" and "reception station group" respectively wherever these phrases occur therein. Identical administrative procedures will be followed for both types of groups except that personnel rosters for Separation Center groups will bear a heading similar to: "FOR SEPARATION CENTER NUMBER 26, FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY". For these purposes List A of Appendix M, ETO-POM-RED, as amended, will be used and the appropriate Separation Center code destination will be taken from List B, Appendix M, ETO-POM-RED, as amended. It is essential that Separation Center groups be carefully screened to avoid including low-score personnel and

personnel with critical MOS, since upon arrival in the United States, those groups will proceed directly to Separation Centers.

c. Instructions contained in paragraphs 147 and 155, as amended by ETX-9002, 8 July 1945, ETO-POM-RED, 19 May 1945, are superseded as set forth in Enclosure No. 1 hereto. Model forms for preparation of passenger lists are also attached to Enclosure No. 1. Detailed instructions for preparation of personnel rosters are set forth in Enclosure No. 2.

5. a. Clothing and Equipment:

(1) Organization equipment will accompany units as prescribed in paragraph 125c, less sub-paragraph (3), ETO-POM-RED, 19 May 1945.

(2) Clothing and individual equipment is authorized as prescribed in columns 5 and 6, Enclosure 1c, Appendix I, Change 5 to ETO-POM-RED. Clothing and individual equipment accounts will be adjusted in accordance with the O and E Adjustment Form prescribed in Circular 72, War Department, 1945.

(3) All other clothing and equipment (except individually owned items) will be turned in to collecting points designated in Messageforms RED-206 and RED-207, this headquarters, 6 October 1945.

b. Prior to turn-in, all equipment will be returned to serviceable condition to the extent possible with available maintenance facilities, and prepared for temporary storage.

c. Unit impediments will be packed, tagged and marked as directed in paragraph 127, ETO-POM-RED, 19 May 1945 (sub-paragraphs 35h and 36b are rescinded). Paragraph 127b, ETO-POM-RED, 19 May 1945, is changed to read: "b. The baggage of personnel of the units will be tagged and packed as prescribed in Standard Operating Procedure No. 45 (Baggage), Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, US Army, dated 1 July 1945."

d. Paragraph 126o, ETO-POM-RED, 19 May 1945, is changed to read:

"Five (5) copies of the Report of Equipment Authorized for Return (Appendix J) will be prepared by units returning to the United States for demobilization, copies to be distributed as follows:

(1) One (1) copy to Headquarters, US Forces, European Theater (Rear) (AC of S, G-4), through Staging Area Commander.

(2) One (1) copy to port commander prior to embarkation.

(3) Two (2) copies will be returned to the United States with unit.

(4) One (1) copy to port air officer at port through which equipment is to move.

6. Shipment RE7421 will be under the control of the Commanding General, Army Service Forces, from time of departure from oversea station until released to proper authority in the United States.

7. Mail:

a. Paragraph 135, ETO-POM-RED, dated 19 May 1945, is rescinded. Postal instructions contained in Section V, ETO-SOP No. 17b, subject: "Postal Procedures for Redeployment and Readjustment" dated 9 May 1945, are to be followed.

b. Immediately prior to departure for a staging area the unit commander will prepare a roster in triplicate, in alphabetical order regardless of rank, of personnel transferred from the unit during the proceeding sixty (60) days, showing rank, name, serial number, new unit and new APO number. If no personnel transfers were made during this period, a negative report will be submitted to that effect. One (1) copy of the roster, or negative report, will be forwarded by official air mail to The Adjutant General, the Army Postal Service, Washington 25, D. C. One (1) copy will be sent by official air mail to the commander of the port of debarkation in the United States, Attention: Port Postal Officer. If the port of debarkation is not known, the roster or negative report will be sent to the Commanding General, New York Port of Embarkation, New York, New York, Attention: Port Postal Officer. One (1) copy of the roster or negative report will be delivered to the APO postal officer serving the unit.

8. Movement to the port will be by rail and/or motor transportation, as provided by the Commanding General, Theater Service Forces, European Theater (Chief of Transportation, US Forces, European Theater). Organic transportation will be utilized to the fullest extent practicable.

9. The shipment number and letter (for example RE7421-A) will be used in referring to the movement in lieu of any unit designation or destination and will also be used in the marking of equipment and supplies.

10. The agency responsible for initial movement will, as early as practicable and not later than readiness date, report by teleprinter to this headquarters and the Commanding General, theater Service Forces, European Theater, with information copies to the Commanding General, Delta Base Section; Commanding General, 89th Infantry Division, and Commanding Officer, 16th Port for each Category IV unit.

a. Date of departure of unit from home station.

b. Strength (officer, warrant officer and enlisted men, male and Female) to indicate number of each type personnel by color with ASR scores in groups as follows, with a separate breakdown showing personnel being returned for discharge on over-age basis included in the three lowest ASR score groups:

80 or over
79 – 70
69 – 65
64 – 60
59 – 56
55 – 0, all inclusive.

c. Expected time of arrival at port of embarkation.

11. The commanding officer of the port concerned will prepare and submit the report required by Section 5, Part V, ETO-POM-RED, 19 May 1945.

12. This is a PERMANENT change of station.

13. Direct communication among all concerned is authorized.

14. TDN 60-510 106, 114, 115, 136 P 433-02 A 212/60425.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER:

{SIGNED}
R. E. LEWIS
Major, AGD

Assistant Adjutant General

2 Incls:

Incl 1 – Amendment of paragraphs 147 and 155,
ETO-POM-RED, and Model Forms for
preparation of passenger lists.

Incl 2 – Instructions and Model Forms for
preparation of personnel rosters.

DISTRIBUTION: VI

HEADQUARTERS
US FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATRE

(Rear)-APO 887
19 August 1945

SUBJECT: Enclosure No. 1 to Movement Directives for Category IV Units returning to the United States from the European Theater for Remobilization.

1. ETO-POM-RED, dated 19 May 1945 is amended as indicated below:

“147. PASSENGER LISTS AND FINAL PERSONNEL REPORTS.

Passenger lists are required for embarkation. It is essential that the lists be prepared accurately and be immediately available upon arrival at the port in order to ensure a rapid and orderly embarkation and an accurate record of the personnel departing.

a. As near to the embarkation date as practical (not less than five days), each unit or regularly constituted detachment will prepare passenger list stencils precisely in the form illustrated in attached Model Form No. 1.

b. Deletions from the passenger list stencils will not be made but after copies have been mimeographed personnel transferred from the unit or detachment will be redlined on all copies. Personnel assigned to the unit or detachment after the preparation of the list will be added in red pencil, on all copies.

c. Fifty (50) copies of the list and a recapitulation of the contents showing the unit serial number, officers nurses, civilians, females and enlisted men together with a recapitulation of the total number of enlisted personnel above the critical score will be delivered to the Port Commander upon arrival in the port area.

d. Army Air Force units will prepare seven (7) copies of final report of AAF personnel (WD AAF Form 127) in every detail except for the insertion of the date, immediately prior to departure from the port. Passenger List will be attached to the two final personnel reports. Final personnel reports are to be prepared on each separate coded unit, even though the coded unit be a squadron within a group. These final reports will be taken to the port and delivered at the time of embarkation to the AAF Statistical Control Officer on duty there.

e. All action by AAF units in sub-paragraphs a through d above will be accomplished at the unit station immediately prior to departure for the staging area by AAF units stationed in the United Kingdom and those stationed on the continent which by-pass the Assembly Area.

“155. o. Two copies of passenger lists will be checked and corrected at the gang-plank as personnel embark. One corrected copy will be reserved for the Transport Commander and the other utilized by the Port Commander for the purpose of correcting two additional copies to be distributed with the remaining uncorrected copies as follows:

Port of Embarkation	--	1 (Corrected copy)
AG, MRU, POE	--	1 (Corrected copy)
Transport Commander		
Navy	--	16 (On naval transport)
Army	--	16 (Including two C.O.)
*COT, Washington (Att: Mov. Div)	--	2

*AGO, Washington (Att: E. M. Pr.)	--	1
*Port of Discharge	--	1
US Navy, Overseas Transportation, Paris	--	2
W.S.A., Paris	--	1 (When Mer. Seamen embark)
S/Surgeon, TSFET	--	1 (When patients embark)
TPE, POW Div	--	1 (When POW embark)
HOWT, London	--	1 (When British vessel is used)

* Via Air Courier

f. Each corrected copy of the passenger list will be broken down by sections (I.E.: an index tab on a blank sheet between each organization or category of personnel) and contain index and cover sheets as illustrated in attached Model Form #2. All other copies (uncorrected) will contain only the cover sheet.

HEADQUARTERS
US AIR FORCES IN EUROPE
Office of the Commanding General

APO 633, US Army,
19 November 1945.

AG 322

SUBJECT: Assignment of Units (No 138).

TO : Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, US Army.
Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command, APO 374, US Army.

The following listed units are relieved from assignment to the Ninth Air Force and are assigned to the XII Tactical Air Command, effective 17 Nov 1945. These units will not be further assigned to subordinate units of the XII Tactical Air Command.

Hq,	344 th Bomb Gp	Hq,	394 th Bomb Gp	Hq,	397 th Bomb Gp
	494 th Bomb Sq		584 th Bomb Sq		596 th Bomb Sq
	495 th Bomb Sq		585 th Bomb Sq		597 th Bomb Sq
	496 th Bomb Sq		586 th Bomb Sq		598 th Bomb Sq
	497 th Bomb Sq		587 th Bomb Sq		599 th Bomb Sq
			769 th AAF Band		

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CANNON:

{SIGNED}
THOMAS G. KRONBERG
Major, Air Corps
Actg Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:

TAG (Attn: Opns Branch)
CG, AAF (Attn: Air AG Pub Branch) (10)
CG, US Forces, European Theater (10)
CG, Theater Service Forces, European Theater APO 887 (Attn: OCE Capt Maggi)
CG, US Theater Sig Comm Service, APO 757 (Attn: Misc Comm Branch)
CG, Ninth Air Force (10)
CG, XII Tactical Air Command (10)
CG, IX Air Force Service Command (5)
CO, units concerned (3)
A-1 (5); JA; A-2 (2); A-3; A-4 (2); A-5; A-6; Wea O; Armament O; Engr O; Air Surgeon; Postal O; Stat O (3); Historian; Transp O; QM
AG Misc Sec, US Forces, European Theater
AG Misc Sec, US Air Forces in Europe
AG Central Files

HEADQUARTERS
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO # 140
5 May 1945

SUBJECT: Operation of Group Intelligence Section on the Continent.

TO : Commanding General, 9th Bombardment Division (M), APO #140,
U. S. Army.
ATTENTION:A. C. of S. A-2.

1. After the 397th Bomb Gp (M) arrived on the Continent, the Group Intelligence Section continued to function along the general lines established in final phase training and practiced on maneuvers in the U. S. and later adapted to combat during period April to August 1944 while the Group operated from three different bases in England. Since all of the Group and Squadron officers were graduates of the Air Intelligence School at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and many of the S-2 officers and enlisted men received special training in the U. S. and the United Kingdom for their particular work, the organization and operation of the section followed closely the recommended lines and was further standardized by the supervision of the Wing and Division A-2 personnel. The twelve officers (plus one photo interpretation officer assigned from the Division) and 37 enlisted men (including Group Photo officer and men) were organized for efficient operation into the following sub-sections: Administrative, Mission Planning, Maps and Target Materials, Contact, Security, Photo Interpretation, Public Relations and Photo. A chart showing the sub-division of personnel into the working units and the channels for assignment of duties is attached.

2. Method of Operating and Physical Facilities Available for Intelligence at Various Air Bases on the Continent:

a. When the Group crossed the English Channel in August 1944 and established itself at landing strip A-26, Gorges, France near the small village of Gonfreville, France (T-277781) there were no buildings or other permanent facilities for setting up an S-2 section. It therefore became necessary to make radical changes in the manner of safeguarding the highly classified documents and protecting maps, photos, target illustrations and equipment. In common with other Group and Squadron sections, the S-2 Section operated principally from tents erected on muddy ground while the rains continued. One of the chief difficulties was handling the boxed equipment and supplies unloaded on the pierced plank runways from C-47's; or unloaded from the channel boats on the Normandy Beaches in the rain. The total damage was minor, however, and the section was fortunate in having sufficient tentage to properly shelter materials. A total of seven pyramidal tents and one squad tent, plus the photo trailer and canvas lean-to were used, in addition to one room in the community

school house. One squad tent could have been substituted for several smaller tents. The S-2 tent area was laid out in close proximity to the school and adjacent to the Group Headquarters, Group S-3, Group Communications, and Group Personal Equipment.

The brick school had been damaged by ground fighting and a French family still occupied two or three rooms in it. But the Group Communications Office and Switchboard were set up on the lower floor; and the S-2 Situation was established on the second floor. After a passageway was opened with a bulldozer in the high mounds of earth supporting the hawthorne hedges, the heavy map boxes were carried up the winding stairway to the Situation Room, the maps being removed and toted up separately. (A rope & tackle simplified the job of removing these boxes of maps and photos a few days later, the full containers being lowered through the windows.) Extra materials were kept in a tent near the building.

Target Study and pre-briefing were held in the Situation Room & pilots and lead team personnel were briefed in a squad tent. The pilots in turn briefed their crews after arrival at their planes. A large assembly tent was ordered for briefing but was not delivered until the Group reached the next base. Interrogations were held in the tents, or in the open, weather permitting.

Some of the difficulties encountered are probably typical of the experience of other groups. The lights failed at various times necessitating use of gasoline lanterns, flashlights and candles for preparing and briefing missions, preparing reports and doing routine office work. Water for use of photo lab was a problem. The photo officer collected jettisonable gas tanks for storage of several hundred gallons of water. The Squadrons were widely dispersed, roads were poor, and chow lines were long when messes were first set up, making for loss of an abnormal amount of time from the S-2 work. The small generators for the photo lab and P. I. gave considerable trouble. Crowds of curiosity seeking civilians living in the immediate area posed a new security problem. Notwithstanding these problems the section attempted to keep situation maps posted and to make target information readily available during the two-week stay at this base.

The difficulties noted in this first experience on the Continent stressed the need for: destroying all unnecessary or obsolete supplies, photos and maps and traveling as light as possible; adequate strong containers for maps and photos; portable folding boards for situation maps and flak maps; adequate specialist supplies; ample maps and illustrations to cover anticipated needs. The shortage of chairs or benches was overcome by use of wooden mortar shell boxes or metal bomb fin covers for seats in briefing and training tents. Tables and bulletin boards for display of Intelligence reading materials and news reports received by radio were constructed or improvised from scrap materials found in the area.

b. The Group moved from -26 to A-41 at Dreux, France (VR-313302) for another brief pause. At the new location one of the few brick buildings formerly used by the G.A.F. and not destroyed by Allied bombing or by enemy demolition squads was prepared for S-2, S-3, S-4 and Communications. This was a large garage close to the main highway going south from Dreux and located near the center of the Squadron and Service Group living sites. It was also convenient to the runways, hardstands areas and to the Headquarters area.

One large room was prepared as a S-2 Situation Room. This room & two smaller rooms housed practically all Intelligence activity. The Public Relations office was placed in a small tent house nearby; Photo and P.I. operated from a vacant dwelling one-half mile to the North on highway, utilizing the photo trailer. The large garage room proved ample to store all target materials and maps and provided room for pre-briefing. It was not sufficiently large, however, for all crews to attend briefing. So the system of briefing lead teams and pilots was continued; and pilots took necessary information to crews at the hardstands. The large assembly tent, intended for accommodation of all crews at briefing, arrived but had certain parts missing and could not be used immediately. For the limited period of approximately three weeks at A-41 (September-October 1944) the situation room served as the place for preparation, pre-briefing and briefing of missions.

Experience indicated that it was a handicap to attempt to squeeze too many S-2 functions into a too limited space, especially where proper partitions are not provided between such diverse activities as Security, Administrative and clerical work, crew information room, situation room and maps and target materials work. Had the Group remained at this base it would have definitely been necessary to secure or build other structures or erect and winterize tents for proper discharge of S-2 duties. The location directly on a main highway also proved less desirable from a security standpoint as pedestrian and vehicular traffic was heavy. French civilians attempted to visit the air-base and crowd onto the perimeter track and hardstands in great numbers. M.P's and Intelligence personnel impounded many cameras and did extensive patrolling before the civilians learned to keep away from the planes. FFI guards were employed to aid in patrolling the area.

At A-41 a ta noy system was set up by the Group Communications Section for ready operational contact with Squadron areas. This was used also for daily news broadcasts by Public Relations Personnel, supplementing the news bulletins that were posted in various places. For the first time formal French language classes were scheduled and Public Relations Personnel assisted in instruction work.

c. In October, 1944, the Group moved to A-72 near Peronne, France where the sprawling base used by the Germans engulfed several small towns, most central of which was Mons-En-Chaussee (VN-618521). The S-2

Section was fortunate enough to fall heir to approximately one-half of a large U-shaped permanent brick building with a ground floor space of approximately 5000 square feet which had suffered little damage from the bombing and demolition work which had so completely destroyed most of the other buildings and well camouflaged hangers. Other sections in the same building were Group S-3, Bombardier, Navigator, Gunnery Officer, Weather, Radar & Bombsight Maintenance. While the site was close to one squadron, it was from one to two miles from Group Headquarters, Communications, S-4 and the other three squadron's ground personnel. The flying personnel lived in one combat-crew area two miles away, all of which placed a burden upon transportation for bringing crews to briefing and interrogation. This also slowed down the receipt and dispatch of intelligence mail and teletype messages.

Despite the above disadvantages the working facilities were ideal in many respects for the S-2 Section functioning on a Group basis. Of the four large rooms, approximately 30' X 50', and two smaller rooms, one was utilized for the situation room; one for briefing and training; one for an Intelligence Library and reading room (also housing Security and Ground Liaison Office and as storage for some maps and target materials); one served as photo lab and P.I. office, supplemented by pyramidal storage tent and photo trailer. One squad tent was erected in which to brief gunners. This tent was later replaced by a steel-mesh and roofing-material hut which was much more satisfactory. The Public Relations Office was established in the village Mairie office building and school house.

The water supply system had been wrecked by the retreating enemy and all water for use of Photo Lab had to be hauled in water trailer. The municipal electricity varied greatly and often failed entirely during the first few weeks. This destroyed many light globes, including some opidiascope globes not replaceable for many months. Emergency lights were installed, using small generators and transformers supplied by the Group Communications section; but these sometimes occasioned delays in use. All of these factors interfered with the speed and accuracy with which S-2 work would be done; but with the steam heating unit finally in operation, this proved to be an ideal location for the cold months that the section operated here – October 1944 to April 1945. In some respects facilities were better than any used by the section even in the United Kingdom or the U. S. Because of this there was greater disposition on the part of the S-2 officers and enlisted men to elaborate in the filing and arrangement of operational maps and photos and for a more orderly display of strike attack photos, recognition training and security posters and situation maps of proper scale to depict the day by day changes on war fronts in all theaters.

By direct of the Group Commander, the Group S-2 Officers and Weather Officers gave a daily situation report to the CO, usually attended by members of his staff and the Squadron Commanders, during the severe weather period when operations were somewhat curtailed. After the assignment to the

Group of a Ground Liaison Officer, he took over the primary responsibility for these formal presentations and gave informal presentations daily to small groups of officers and enlisted men.

Several hundred civilian employees were engaged for construction, repair, maintenance work and in various unit activities. This required a great amount of loyalty investigation work by CIC personnel in cooperation with the Group Security Officer. Many individuals were not employed, or were discharged, because of unfavorable findings from these investigations. No known incidents or loss or damage were traceable to sabotage during this period, although many civilians lived and worked in close proximity to planes and base installations.

d. During the last week of April 1945, the Group moved to Y-55, Venlo, Holland (QE-941066). Actually the Group had two squadrons in Holland and two squadrons across the line in Germany. Group headquarters and staff sections were located on the German side of the border. The large base was also shared by the 394th Bomb Group (M) and 1st PFF Squadron, close to 98th Combat Bombardment Wing (M).

Most of the permanent buildings and hangers were destroyed by Allied bombing and by the Germans before leaving area. Several wooden buildings had been erected by the fighter group which preceded the mediums and these were utilized for various purposes. The Group S-2 section again was very fortunate in securing two semi-permanent buildings, 20' X 50', and two other smaller buildings. The former were arranged as Situation Room and briefing room; the latter as Security Office and Public Relations Office. The large assembly tent was erected for gunners' briefing, interrogation and general purposes. A squad tent and two pyramidal tents were erected near the photo trailer for the Photo Lab, P.I. Office and storage. This gave a very compact and convenient arrangement of S-2 sub-sections, all within a stone's throw of Group Headquarters, Communications, Operations, Weather and related offices. All headquarters and most of the squadron officers and men live in tents nearby; and this promises to be one of the most ideal set-ups for S-2 functioning, especially in its relations with other staff sections in mission planning, briefing and interrogating.

3. The group intelligence section has never operated on a squadron basis. All briefings and interrogations have been on a group basis throughout combat operations. After the first ten months of combat, the briefing procedure was changed to comply in general with that recommended in IX Bomber Command letter, subject: Briefing, dated 7 May 1944. This reduced the number of officers participating in the presentation, and shortened the briefing time.

When Group S-2 reports the target designated by Division and Wing, Intelligence officers and non-commissioned assistants draw the proper

photos, illustrations, supplemental information and maps of required series from map and target materials files and assemble in situation room. When route is designated, it is plotted in yarn or grease pencil on six different maps; on one 1:250,000 wallmap in situation room and on some scale flak map; and on some scale map in briefing room. It is then laid out on a 1:500,000 portable map for use in gunners' briefings. Then from I.P. to target on a 1:100,000 (or 1:50,000) for use in opidiascope and on a similar scale map in stationary positions on table for detailed study. The best available photos and all pertinent information are displayed by the S-2 personnel for study. A P.I. Officer makes a final check to see that Areas or Aiming Points assigned are correctly pin-pointed on the briefing maps, and that photos are correctly related to the maps. Mosaics are prepared for photographing when necessary. The Group Photo Officer keeps men on duty at all times, and has been able to duplicate photos for the target folders very speedily. Important points regarding the flak and enemy aircraft situation etc., are given to the operations briefing officer. Thirty minutes is then devoted to pre-briefing, using the opidiascope as an aid.

The Commanding Officer, Operations Officer, Navigator, Bombardier and Weather Officer then brief pilots, co-pilots and bombardiers. The intelligence officer (and gunnery officer, and radar officer as required) brief the gunners in a separate tent or building. Specialists briefings are carried on immediately following.

For interrogation all crews are transported direct from planes to briefing room where all S-2 officers from group and squadrons assemble to interrogate combat men, with the necessary number of non-commissioned S-2 personnel to assist in collecting and summarizing results. The GLO is present to tabulate and forward hot news of ground observations. The photo interpreter interrogates along with the group bombardier or duty officer. The S-2 officers handle other specialist interrogation forms: communications; radar counter measures; navigation; operations. Most of these special forms are completed by box or flight lead; and box lead navigators then trace route flown on overlay for use in preparation of Flak Overlay and report. The preparation and forwarding of opflashes and mission summaries is handled by the Group S-2 or his assistants and several non-commissioned men who rotate the duty, typing reports also for Photo and P.I. Officers, and acting as strike-attack laydown couriers.

4. Filing Target Materials: Tactical target illustrations are filed in folders provided, according to area designation. Industrial targets and airfield materials are filed in folders according to countries, alphabetically as to their locations. Basic cover photos are filed in folders marked with 1:250,000 map sheet designations; and arranged within the folder according to sortie and print numbers. When the photos were originally supplied from higher echelon by area designation, the folders were marked and photos filed accordingly. The Group P.I. officers inked-out the uncovered portions of photo-plots in order to facilitate location of areas actually covered. Second phase, strike attack and recon photos

are marked (if not already labeled) with six-digit grid coordinates and placed in folders marked with appropriate 1:100,000 map sheet. Special photos and mosaics are frequently placed on target study boards, and later filed. Flare-boxes were found to be excellent for filing photos and illustrations, after arrangement within the folders.

5. The Intelligence Training Officer drafts plans for all types of training and coordinates with Group Training Officer. A/C Recognition for flying crews has received more attention than any other single subject. In cooperation with the Group P/W and E & E Officer, and the Group Exec Officer, special talks are given to all incoming new crews. The Intelligence Training Officer is also responsible for arranging details for scheduling attendance at all A-2 lectures by Wing, Division and Air Force speakers; and for arranging special periodic training for S-2 personnel within the group.

The Contact Intelligence Officer and Assistants display Intelligence publications in the Crew Information Room and supervise situation maps kept at orderly rooms of squadrons and other units. He gives talks on the current war news from time to time. The GLO in recent months has covered this field well in the crew information room. He also has scheduled talks to base personnel by visiting ground force men and by air crew members returning from the front lines under the Air-Ground Liaison visits program. Squadron intelligence officers give talks to squadron personnel as directed by Squadron Commanders. Group officers distribute publications to Group Commanding Officer and staff; and to other units on the base, not an integral part of the bomb group. Talks on intelligence matters are given by S-2 officers as a part of the training program of these allied units.

Two Public Relations Officer and assistants assemble radio shows and post daily bulletins throughout the base. In those locations where public address systems were used throughout the base, public relations office personnel made one or more newscasts each day. They also give a summary of the news before each showing of a movie at base theaters. The PRO office is located as a rule in the most convenient place for extensive displays of news clippings, photos and newsmaps on outdoor bulletin boards.

To stimulate the interest of combat crews in the results of their bombing missions, the laydown boards prepared by the Group P.I. section are posted in the Group S-3 Office for a couple of days for men to study the strike attack photos. Strike attack photos, reconnaissance photos and second phase reports illustrating examples of outstanding bombing results by this and other groups. Photo results of the Group's Missions, and commendations by group and higher commanders have sometimes been projected on the screen by use of the opidiascope for combat crews and for ground crews, ordnance and communications men, etc.

6. Suggestions: The wisdom of stressing the importance of keeping mobile has been well demonstrated in the frequent moves experienced by this group. Since the S-2 section is required to be operational at some new locations after having only a single twenty-four hour stand-down period, a useful organization of the entire personnel and division of the supplies is mandatory. A visit by Group S-2 or his assistant to the new base in the reconnaissance party has materially aided in making plans for the movement of the section. The most satisfactory division of personnel is approximately one-fourth of S-2 Officers (including Group S-2 or Assistant, one officer from Situation Room team, and the Security Officer) and one-third of enlisted men in advance echelon. Remaining personnel can well handle mission work up at the time the air echelon moves. One half to two thirds of remaining officer and enlisted personnel then move by air and motor convoy as quickly as possible to new site, leaving small force to see that final equipment and supplies are forwarded and office closed. The division of target materials into advance, air and rear echelons is carefully made on the basis of what is needed last at old site, and first at new site. Assignment of high priority transportation to S-2 along with other sections dealing with mission planning is necessary if group is to be operational with a minimum loss of time. Failure to receive adequate transportation on time can be the most serious single problem in efficient operation. At least one house of some type, rather than a tent, is very important for part of S-2 sections operation, even though most of the section may operate in tents. Every step that can be taken to improve water and lighting facilities, as well as reduce delay in long distance telephone calls, will greatly expedite S-2 work and efficiency at any base.

7. Photos to accompany this report are being sent under separate cover and illustrate lay-out of S-2 section at new site occupied within past week.

THOMAS E. McLEOD
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