

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH 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 397th Bombardment Group (M), APO 140, U.S. Army)

1. In the spring of 1943, the 596th Bombardment Squadron (M) of the 397th 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 313th Bombardment Squadron, 21st 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 21st 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, 397th 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 22nd 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 17th, 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 98th 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 596th Bomb Squadron to USSTAF.

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

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

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

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

{SIGNED}
JOHN R. NEALE,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Squadron Historian

596 Bombardment Squadron
397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

31st October, 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of October.

TO : Historical Officer, 397th 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 12th 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 McDill 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 31st 1943 was Officers
and enlisted men.

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

John R. Neale
1st Lt. Air Corps.
Asst. Intelligence Officer

596 Bombardment Squadron
397th Bombardment Group (M) Hunter Field, Georgia.

30 November 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of November.

TO : Historical Officer, 397th 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 22nd 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 29th November, 1943.

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

The strength on 30th November was Officers and enlisted men.

John R. Neale
1st Lt. Air Corps.
Asst. Intelligence Officer

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

31 December 1943

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of December.

TO : Historical Officer, 397th 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 31st December 1943 was 65 Officers and 331 enlisted men.

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

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

John R. Neale
1st Lt. Air Corps.
Asst. Intell. Officer