

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

31 January 1944

SUBJECT: Summary of Squadron History for Month of January.

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

1. January 1944

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN R. NEALE
1st Lt., Air Corps.
Asst. Intelligence Officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN R. NEALE,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer.

SECRET

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England

10 June 1944

SUBJECT: April Installment (1944) of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MISSION NO.8. 28/4/44 TARGET-Mantes-Gassicourt (MY) Weather 10/10ths.

Major McLeod and crew led first box. Captain Boyar and Captain Evans and Lts. Jordan, Flowers, King, Hayes, Colahan, Roberts, Parker, White, Brown and crews flew in first box.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECRET

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) Station 168, England

15 June 1944

SUBJECT: May Installment (1944) of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MISSION NO.12. 2/5/44 TARGET-Busigny (MY) Results- Excellent.

Col. Coiner led 2nd Box, with crew from 596th. Capt. Rhodes and crew flew deputy lead.

MISSION NO.13. 4/5/44 TARGET-Etaples (GUN POSITION) Results-Poor.

Capt. Gibson and 596th crew led 2nd Box. Capts. Evans, Boyar, Lts. Hayes, Parker, Freeman, Roberts, Broan, Illanes, Flowers, Wegman, King and crews flew in 2nd Box.

MISSION NO.14. 8/5/44 TARGET-Oissel (RR BRIDGE) Results-Fair.

Major McLeod and crew led 2nd Box. Capts. Weltzin, Rhodes, Lts. Freeman, Jordan, Flowers, White, Goodnow, Colahan, Hoch, Illanes, Cannop and crews flew in 2nd Box. (See narrative – Lt. Freeman down over occupied territory).

MISSION NO.15. 9/5/44 TARGET-Le Grismont (NOBALL) Results-Poor.

Capt. Evans, Lts. Roberts, Wegman, Broan, Goodnow, Hoch, and crews flew in 1st Box. Lts. King, Colahan, Illanes, Parker, Flowers, White and crews flew in 2nd Box.

MISSION NO.16. 10/5/44 TARGET-Creil (MY) Results-Good-Excellent.

Lts. Jordan and Broan flew "window ships" for this mission.

MISSION NO.17. 11/5/44 TARGET-Beaumont Le Roger (AF) Results-Good.

Lts. White, Roberts, Illanes and crews flew "window ships" for this mission.

MISSION NO.18. 12/5/44 TARGET-Etaples (GUN POSITION) Results-Poor.

Major McLeod and crew led 1st Box. Capts. Boyar and Hughes (Group Officer but 596th crew), Lts. Hayes, Roberts, Estes, in 1st Box. Col. Coiner with 596th crew led 3rd Box. Capt. Weltzin, Lts. Wegman, Nunally, Julius, Colahan and crews flew in 3rd Box.

MISSION NO.19. 13/5/44 TARGET-Gravelines (COASTAL BATTERY) Results-Fair.

Capt. Rhodes, Weltzin, Boyar, Evans, Hughes (Group Officer but 596th crew), Lts. Parker, Estes, Broan, Hoch, Colahan, Cannop, Goodnow and crews flew in 3rd Box.

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

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

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

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

MISSION NO.24. 22/5/44 TARGET-St. Marie Aubosc (Coast Defense) Results-Good.

No. 596th aircraft or crews on mission (Comm. from Gen. Anderson, dated 23/5/44 on mission).

MISSION NO.25. 24/5/44 TARGET- St. Marie Aubosc (Coast Defense) Results-Poor. (Pathfinder mission)

Major McLeod and crew led 1st Box. Capts. Weltzin, Rhodes, Lts. White, Brown, Colahan, Cannop, King, Broan, Goodnow and crews flew in 1st Box.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Capt. Weltzin, Boyar, Lts. Roberts, Estes, Kessel, Jordan, Hayes and crews flew in "B" Flight (1st Box).

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

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

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

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

MISSION NO.14. 8/5/44 TARGET-Oissel (Railway Bridge) (98th CBW F.O. 45-302) On operational mission over enemy territory occupied France B-26B55 Airplane No. 42096143 peeled out of formation with both engines smoking. Probably hit by flak. Last seen headed on course 270 degrees 2 miles N.W. Aboncurt, France, losing altitude. Spitfire escort reports six chutes from this aircraft landing in a woods.

The following crew members reported missing in action:

Pilot – Elmer C. Freeman, 2nd Lt. – O-805432

Co-Pilot – Harry E. Walter, 2nd Lt. – O-805539

Bombardier – George A. Hoffman, 2nd Lt. – O-741310

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

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

Gunner – Marion (NMI) Rose, Sgt. 35623274

There were no men killed or wounded during the month.

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

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

Conrad N. Jordan – O429423, AC – 1st Lt. to Capt.

Carl R. Cannop – O747737, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Kyran A. Colahan – O805401, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Warren J. Dale – O796964, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

William F. Demmitt – O741544, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Arthur E. Goodnow – O687581, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Franklin F. Hill – O674769, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Sterling P. Hoch – O684331, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Winfred E. Humphries – O741180, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Alfred Iuvara – O741181, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Norbert P. Kanka – O741533, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Henry J. Parker – O797058, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

Jack Rosenthal – O739505, AC – 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt.

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

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

Robert M. McLeod – Major

Robert R. Evans – Capt.

William M. Marovich – Capt.

Robert A. Broan – 1st Lt.

William V. Flowers – 1st Lt.

Claude R. Hayes – 1st Lt.

Conrad N. Jordan – 1st Lt.

Adolphe J. Mathes, Jr. – 1st Lt.

Leo P. Roberts – 1st Lt.

Carl R. Cannop – 2nd Lt.

Warren J. Dale – 2nd Lt.

Bradford W. Boyar – Capt.

Lewis M. Domke – Capt.

Richard F. Weltzin – Capt.

Francis E. Brown – 1st Lt.

John F. Hannigan – 1st Lt.

Walter J. Joos – 1st Lt.

Frederick M. King – 1st Lt.

George W. Parker – 1st Lt.

Lloyd E. Yeast – 1st Lt.

Donald C. Clark – 2nd Lt.

Paul E. Elliott Jr. – 2nd Lt.

Franklin F. Hill – 2nd Lt.
Alfred Iuvara – 2nd Lt.
Lonnie R. Moore – 2nd Lt.
Thomas H. Pullan – 2nd Lt.
Ernest F. Ross – 2nd Lt.
Fred L. Williams, Jr. – 2nd Lt.
Richard A. Ganther – Flight Officer
Malcolm Bamford – S/Sgt.
Peter Dabkowski – S/Sgt.
James G. Dever – S/Sgt.
Monte D. Gray – S/Sgt.
Floyd Miller, Jr. – S/Sgt.
Robert J. Prospal – S/Sgt.
Ernest L. Slaten – S/Sgt.
Carl W. Berg – Sgt.
Artie C. Cotner, Jr. – Sgt.
William E. Epps – Sgt.
Milton J. Liberko – Sgt.
Henry W. Meaker – Sgt.
Robert N. Mink – Sgt.
James P. Negri – Sgt.
William L. Spears – Sgt.
John J. Vitty – Sgt.
Gino Alpenté – Cpl.
Anthony J. Galte – Sgt.
Charles W. Estes – 1st Lt.
Francisco Bautista – 2nd Lt.
Kyran A. Colahan – 2nd Lt.
Merlin E. Garton – 2nd Lt.
Sterling P. Hoch – 2nd Lt.
Norbert P. Kanka – 2nd Lt.
Jack Rosenthal – 2nd Lt.
Harry E. Walter – 2nd Lt.
Edward Hammack – S/Sgt.
John P. Tierney – S/Sgt.
Ralph E. Wright – Sgt.
Martin E. Strawn – Cpl.
Lewis E. Hammond – 2nd Lt.
Loy L. Julius – 2nd Lt.
Hilary C. Sconzert – S/Sgt.
Bob Karup – Sgt.
Elmer E. Salvég – S/Sgt.
Scott W. Carl – S/Sgt.
Henry J. Hodulik – S/Sgt.

George A. Hofmann – 2nd Lt.
Robert P. Jones – 2nd Lt.
Henry J. Parker – 2nd Lt.
Albert R. Ridenour – 2nd Lt.
Willard H. White – 2nd Lt.
Lawrence C. Yeardley – 2nd Lt.
Samuel Vanderjagt – T/Sgt.
Don W. Billings – S/Sgt.
Urbane M. D'Agnessa – S/Sgt.
Lee P. Duncan – S/Sgt.
Joseph J. Longtin – S/Sgt.
Hubert R. Pensinger – S/Sgt.
Alfred Simoncelli – S/Sgt.
Edwin L. Barney – Sgt.
John Buscheri – Sgt.
Thomas R. Dyas – Sgt.
Arthur L. Harris – Sgt.
Kenneth E. McCann – Sgt.
Jerome J. Miller – Sgt.
Hershel S. Nation – Sgt.
Anthony D. Ragard, Jr. – Sgt.
Glenn A. Spencer – Sgt.
Martin J. Willse – Sgt.
Richard J. Atkinson – Cpl.
Joseph A. Sullivan, Jr. – Cpl.
Gregory H. Illanes, II – 1st Lt.
William D. Collins – 2nd Lt.
William F. Demmitt – 2nd Lt.
Arthur E. Goodnow – 2nd Lt.
Winfred E. Humphries – 2nd Lt.
Ross M. Lumsden – 2nd Lt.
Donald R. Von Gal – 2nd Lt.
Forrest L. Maddox – T/Sgt.
Alva W. Poirier – S/Sgt.
Linden B. Coffman – Sgt.
George Kapitan, Jr. – Cpl.
Richard B. Halloran – 2nd Lt.
Robert H. Hanlon – 2nd Lt.
Eugene G. Wegman – 2nd Lt.
John T. Brewer – Sgt.
John S. Pazaropoulos – Sgt.
J.H. Detweiller – Sgt.
Elmer C. Freeman – 2nd Lt.

Our mission in the war to date has been one of tactical bombing of bridges, marshalling yards, gun emplacements, no-ball targets in France, Belgium and Holland in order to soften the West Wall of Europe for the coming invasion.

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

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

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

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), Station 168, England

15 July 1944

SUBJECT: June 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

Second Lieutenants Brownlee, McClellan, and Cartmill and crews.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lt. Illanes and crew only 596th ship on this mission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MISSION NO. 55. 18/6/44. Target-Bachimont (Noball). PPF.

Major McLeod and crew led second box. Cpts. Rhodes, Boyar, Lts. Colahan, Goodnow, Brownlee flew in second box. Cpts. Weltzin and Jordan flew window ships.

MISSION NO. 56. 21/6/44. Target-Gorenflos (Noball). Recall-Weather.

Capt. Weltzin and crew led second box. Cpts. Evans and King, Lts. Hayes, Brendle, Broan, Hausman, Cannop, Brown and crews flew in second box.

MISSION NO. 57. 22/6/44. Target-0-090218 (Defended Area) PPF.

Major McLeod and crew led first box. Cpts. Roberts, Jordan, Lts. White, Brownlee, Estes, and crews flew in first box. Capt. Boyar and Lt. Goodnow flew window ship.

MISSION NO. 58. 23/6/44. Target-Lambus (Noball). PPF.

Cpts Rhodes, Lt. Parker, Hayes, Illanes, Brown, Broan and crews flew in first box.

MISSION NO. 59. 24/6/44. Target-Maisson LaFitte RR Bridge. Results-Excellent.

Cpts. Boyar, Roberts, Evans, Lts. Brownlee, Kessel, Illanes, Estes, Goodnow, Colahan, and crews flew in second box. Lt. Barcroft flew in window ship.

MISSION NO. 60. 30/6/44. Target-Thury Harcourt. Results-Did not Bomb 10/10ths cloud cover.

Major Dempster and enlisted crew of 596th. Cpts Rhodes, Weltzin, Boyar, Lts. Colahan, White, Barcroft, Brownlee and Estes.

MISSION NO. 61. 30/6/44. Target-Conde sur Noireau. PPF

Major McLeod and crew led first box. Cpts. Rhodes, King, Evans, Lts. Hayes, Brown and crew flew in first box.

3. The following men were promoted on the following orders:

Capt. Acton to Major, per par 1, SO 153, Hq ETOUSA, 6/1/44.

2nd Lts. Cannop, Colahan, Dale and Demmitt to 1st Lt. per par 3, SO 153, Hq ETOUSA, 6/1/44. Per par 4, of the same Special Order, 2nd Lts. Goodnow, Hill, Hoch, Humphries, Iuvara and Kanka were promoted to 1st Lt. Per par 5, of the same order, Lts. Parker, Rosenthal, White, W.H. and White, T.E. were promoted to 1st Lt.

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

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

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

GO 149, Ninth Air Force Sect 8-Air Medals

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

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

GO 99, “ “ “ “ 5, Air Medals

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

GO 105, “ “ “ “ 1, “ “ “ “ “ “

GO 111, “ “ “ “ 6, “ “ “ “ “ “

GO 114, “ “ “ “ 3, Oak Leaf Clusters.

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

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

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

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

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

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, England

15 August 1944

SUBJECT: July 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1st Lts Hannigan and Illanes to Captain per par 4, SO 207, Hq 9 AF, dtd 7/25/44.

2nd Lts. Brownlee, Cartmill, Glock, McLellan to 1st Lt w rank fr 7/25/44 per par 4, SO 207, Hq 9AF, Dtd 7/25/44. F/O Ganther from F/O to 2nd Lt 15 July 1944, and F/O Stout to 2nd Lt 30 July 1944, 2nd Lts Barcroft, Brendle, Clarke, M.L., Ewing, Hausman, Jaquez, Kessel, Rieman, Shoemaker, Vogel, Zachary to 1st Lt (AUS) w

rank fr 7/17/44 per par 19, SO 199, Hq 9 AF dtd 7/17/44. 2nd Lts Von Gal, Wegman, Williams, F.L., and Yeardley to 1st Lt M/R of 7/2/44 with rank fr 6/24/44, per par 3 SO 176, Hq ETOUSA dtd 6/24/44.

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

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

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

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

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

“ “ “ 133, “ VI, dtd 22 “ “, “ “ “ “.

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

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

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

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

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 September 1944

SUBJECT: August 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

2. The following replacements were assigned to our Squadron:
Per SO No 164, par 2, 397th Bomb Gp, dated 8/1/44:
Second Lieutenants Donnell, Clopton and Sergeants Garza, Harcom and Corporal Meskocek.

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

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

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

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

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

Mission No. 83. 1/8/44. Target-Les Ponts de Ce (Railroad bridge) Results-Excellent.
Lt. Col McLeod and crew led this formation. Capts. Roberts, Jordan, Boyar, Lts. Hayes, Colahan, Goodnow, Barcroft, Hoch and crews flew on the mission. The Group received citation from Gen. Anderson on results of the mission.

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

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

Mission No. 86. 4/8/44. Target-Epernon (Railroad bridge) Results-Fair to Good.
Capts. Rhodes, Roberts, Lts. Broan, Ganther, Yeardley, Wegman, Hayes, Pullan, Elliott and crews flew on this mission.

Mission No. 87. 7/8/44. Target-Neuvy Sur Loire (Railroad bridge) Results-Good.
Capts. King, Boyar, Evans, Lts. Goodnow, Colahan, Hoch, Parker, Estes, Ridenour and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mission No. 99. 15/8/44. Target-St. Malo (Gun defense) Results-Excellent.

Capt. Roberts, Evans, Illanes, Lts. Hoch, Goodnow, Estes, Julius, Hayes, Yeardeley and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

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

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

Mission No. 102. 17/8/44. Target-Brionne (road bridge) Results-PFF.

Major Weltzin led the 2nd box of this formation. Capts. Evans, Jordan, Lts. Ganther, White, Brownlee, Wegman, Hayes, Broan, Julius, Kessel and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

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

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

Mission No. 105. 25/8/44. Target-Kerdrein (Gun Emplacement) Results-Poor.

Capt. Boyar, Jordan, Lts. Colahan, Hoch, Ganther, Estes, Hayes, Parker, Wegman and crews flew on this mission. Lt. Goodnow flew window plane on this mission.

Mission No. 106. 26/8/44. Target-Compeigne (Fuel dump) Results-Excellent.

Major Weltzin, Capt. King, Lts. Clopton, Julius, Broan, Hoch, Yeardley, White, Colahan and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

Mission No. 108. 28/8/44. Target-Barisis (Fuel tanks) Results-Fair.

Capt. King, Illanes, Evans, Lts. Yeardley, Colahan, Broan, Brownlee, Hoch, and crews flew on this mission.

4. There were no promotions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: September 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Capt. W.G. Longworth, 2nd Lts. A.J. LeSauiviers, B.R. McBride, L.A. Metherington, S.F. Shaw, P.A. MacQueen. Capt. W.G. Wilson, 2nd Lts. O.R. Lewis, E.F. Kearty.

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

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

5. There no promotions during the month.

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

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

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

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: October 1944, Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

289, Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 15 Oct 1944. 2nd Lts Clopton and Donnell promoted 1st Lt per par 12 SO 275, Hq Ninth Air Force dtd 1 Oct 1944.

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

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

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, FRANCE

20 December 1944

SUBJECT: November 1944 Installment of Squadron History.

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

1. The Squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month of November 1944.
2. The following missions in which our Squadron participated were flown during the month:
 - Mission No. 124. 4-11-44. Target–Baumholder Stores Depot. Result PFF. Major Weltzin, Capt. Evans, Lts. Clopton, Brendle, Parker, Brownlee, Cannop, and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 125. 5-11-44. Target–Homburg Ord. Depot. Results PFF. Capts. Roberts, King, Jordan, Lts. Colahan, White, Broan, Kessel, Hausman and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 126. 9-11-44. Target–Landau Ammo. Dump. Results Weather did not bomb. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Evans, Lts. Colahan, Broan, Hoch, Julius, White, Wegman and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 127. 9-11-44. Target–Landau Ammo. Dump. Results no attack. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Lts. Colahan, Broan, Hoch, Julius and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 128. 10-11-44. Target–Landau Ammo. Dump. Results PFF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Longworth, King, Lts. Clopton, Hayes, Moore, Pullan, Cannop, Brownlee, and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 129. 11-11-44. Target–Mayen RR Bridge, Results. PFF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Longworth, Evans, Lts. Kessel, Broan, Hausman, Wegman, Brendle and crews flew on this mission.
 - Recall. 16-11-44. Target–Duren Def. Area #9. Results Recall. Lt. Col. McLeod, Major Weltzin, Capts. Jordan, Roberts, Boyar, Lts. Hoch, White, Goodnow, Julius, Pullan, Kessel, Broan and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 130. 18-11-44. Target–Reichenbach Ammo. Dump. Results. Fair. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, King, Lts. White, Parker, Goodnow, Hoch, Kessel, Julius, and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 131. 19-11-44. Target–Mariaweiler Def. Area (Duren Area). Results. Area Bombing. Lt. Col. McLeod, Capts. Jordan, King, Lts. Hoch, Estes, Pullan, Julius, Goodnow, Yeardeley and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 132. 19-11-44. Target–Pirmasens. Results. Undetermined. Lt. Col. McLeod, Capts. Jordan, King, Lts. Hoch, Estes, Pullan, Ganther, Colahan, Hayes, and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 133. 21-11-44. Target–Bergstein Def. Area. Results PFF. Major Weltzin, Capts. Shimmin, Longworth, Lts. Ganther, Yeardeley, Hayes, Elliott and crews flew on this mission.
 - Mission No. 134. 29-11-44. Target–Elsdorf Def. Town. Results. PFF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Lt. Parker and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. There were no promotions during the month.

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

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

{SIGNED}

John R. Neale,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Squadron Historian

596TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), APO 140, France.

20 January 1944.

SUBJECT: December 1944 Installment of Squadron History.

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

1. The Squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month of December.
2. The following missions in which our Squadron participated were flown during the month:
 - No. 137. 1-12-44: Saarlautern Defended Area. No attack. PPF Failure. Maj. Weltzin, Capts. Jordan, Boyar, Lts. Colahan, Broan, Wegman, Goodnow, Julius, Kessel and crews flew in second box of this formation.
 - No. 138. 2-12-44: Saarlautern Defended Area. Poor PPF. No 596th Aircraft took off on this mission.
 - No. 139. 5-12-44: Hochem Defended Village. Fair PPF. Col. McLeod, Capts Boyar, Evans, Lts Colahan, Cordell, Brownlee, Wegman, Brendle, Cannop and crews flew on this mission.
 - No. 140. 6-12-44: Nideggen Defended Town. Poor PPF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, Roberts, Lts Colahan, Hayes, Ganther, Elliott, Hicks, White, Kessel flew in this formation.
 - No. 141. 9-12-44: Losheim Defended Town. Undetermined PPF. Capts. Boyar, Jordan, King, Lts. Brendle, White, Cannop, Hoch, Wegman, Ganther and crews flew on this mission.
 - No. 142. 9-12-44: Weisbach Defended Town. Undetermined PPF. Capts. Boyar, Illanes, Jordan, Shimmin, Lts. Colahan, Brownlee, Estes, Hicks, Ridenour, Kessel and crews flew on this mission.
 - No. 143. 12-12-44: Gemund Defended Town. Undetermined PPF. Maj. Weltzin, Capts. Rhodes, Boyar, Jordan, Lts. White, Garton and crews flew on this mission.
 - No. 144. 13-12-44: Hellenthal Defended Area. Undetermined PPF. Lt. Col. McLeod, Capts. Boyar, Illanes, Lts. Hicks, Ganther, Hoch, Elliott, Broan, Hausman and crews flew on this mission.
 - No. 145. 15-12-44. Ruthen Oil Depot. Undetermined PPF. Capts. King, Evans, Jordan, Lts. Kessel, Estes, Cannop, Ridenour, Wegman, Colahan and crews flew on this mission.
 - No. 146. 23-12-45. Eller RR Bridge. Undetermined. Maj. Weltzin, Capt Roberts, Lts. White, Estes, Colahan, Brendle, Ganther and crews flew on this mission. The formation was attacked by fighters and Lt. Estes and crew in Aircraft No. 144 were shot down by flak, and are missing in action—the crew consisted of 1st Lt. Charles W. Estes, 1st Lt. William D. Collins, 1st Lt. Craig E. Lewis, S/Sgt. J.P. Negri, T/Sgt W.E. Epps, Sgt B.T. Daskiewicz, and Pfc A.J. Kern.
 - No. 147. 24-12-44. Nideggen Road Junction. Excellent. Maj. Weltzin, Capts. Evans, Jordan, Illanes, Lts. Kessel, Cannop, Hicks, Brownlee, Parker and crews flew on this mission.
 - No. 148. 25-12-44. Vianden Road Junction. Excellent.

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

No. 149. 25-12-44. Ahrdorf Defended Village. Undetermined.

Cpts. Rhodes, Illanes, Roberts, Lts. Hausman, Cannop, Brendle, Hicks, Hoch, Garton, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 150. 27-12-44. Kall Railhead. Excellent.

Maj. Weltzin, Cpts. Jordan, Evans, Lts. Kessel, White, Brendle, Ridenour, Ganther, Hicks and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. The following Officer Promotions took place during the month:

F/O's E.B. Fitzgerald, J.W. Hicks, G.M. Nock were promoted to 2nd Lt. with date of rank from 24 December 1944. Asgd and jd 24 Decemeber.

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

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

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

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

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