

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

20 February 1945.

SUBJECT: January 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. The following new members of Combat Crews were assigned and joined the Squadron: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Kenneth L. Henkel, Albert E. Krug, A.R. Peebles, A.B. Jessee, Manny Mark, Irvin R. Bernstein, per par 1, SO 5, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp, dtd 9 Jan. 1945. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Flavil R. Edgin, Wilhelm B. Dahl and F/O Charles H. Beek per par 1, SO 7, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lts George R. Davis, Thomas H. Sharp and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Paul H. Hladiak per par 5, SO 8, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. T.P. Ratigan, Martin Schwartz, Jr., Robert R. Smith per par 1, SO 3, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts Robert K. Young, V.R. Hebbing, W.W. Metcalf, F/O's P.R. Chappell, Joseph E. Kurwth, and Francis T. Madden, per par 1, SO 13, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb GP. F/O's J.B. Pollack, T.A. MacMillan and Thomas H. Sneed per par 2, SO 15, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Herbert Hartsen was assigned and joined as Assistant S-2 Officer per par 3, SO 12.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 March 1945.

SUBJECT: February 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

No. 161. 1-2-45: Engers RR Bridge. Undet PPF. One box on this mission, no squadron personnel flew.

No. 162. 2-2-45: Rosbach RR Bridge. P.N.B.  
Capts Rhodes, King, Lts. Cannop, Kessel, Von Gal, Clopton, Brownlee, Hoch and crews flew on this mission.

No. 163. 3-2-45: Ahrweiler RR Bridge. Undet PPF.  
Lt. Hicks and crew participated in this mission.

No. 164. 6-2-45: Sotenich Defended Town. Undet PPF.  
Capt. Roberts, Lts. Clark, Hoch, Brendle, Czark, Stubbart, Hayes, Wegman, Barcroft, Clopton, White and crews flew on this mission.

No. 165. 8-2-45: Materborn Defended Town. Undet.  
Capt Roberts, Lt. Brendle and crews flew on this mission.

No. 166. 9-2-45: Viersen Road Junctions. PPF Undet.  
Capts. Rhodes, Shimmin, Parker, Lts. Barcroft, Clark, Hicks, Clopton, White and crews flew on this mission.

No. 167. 10-2-45: Berg-Gladbach M/T Center. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Roberts, Lts. Stubbart, Kessel, Hoch, Brendle, Hayes, Hausman, Cannop and crews flew on this mission.

No. 168. 11-2-45: Modrath M/Yds. Results-Poor.  
Captains Shimmin, Parker, Lts. Cannop, Czark, Barcroft, Kessel, Clopton, Clark, Hicks and crews flew on this mission.

No. 169. 13-2-45: Schwelm M/T Park. PPF Undet.  
Lts. Brendle, Clark, Clopton, Barcroft, Cannop, Brownlee, Stubbart, Czark and crews flew on this mission.

No. 170. 14-2-45: Mayen RR Bridge. P.N.B. and Poor.  
Capts. Parker and Illanes, Lts. Hausman, Cannop, Julius, Hicks, Henkle, White, Hibbing, Stuart and crews flew on this mission.

No. 171. 14-2-45: Grevenbroich Communications Center. P.N.B.  
Col. McLeod, Capt. Parker, Lts. Kessel, Czark, Brownlee, Hibbing, Julius and crews flew on this mission.

No. 172. 15-2-45: Mayen RR Bridge. PPF.  
Capt. Illanes, Lts. Stubbart, Johnson, Hibbing and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

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

No. 176 and 177. 23-2-45: Elsdorf Defended Town and Jackerath Defended Town. PPF Undet.

Capt. Parker and crew flew on Elsdorf mission. Capts. Shimmin, Illanes, Lts. Shoemaker, Julius, Young, Kessel, Clopton, Edgin, Brendle and crews flew on this mission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. In keeping with the Air-Ground Liaison Program, and in order to further the mutual understanding of both Forces' problems, the following crews were placed on temporary duty to the Commands named: Capt. King, Lt. McLallam, Lts. Iuvara, Halloren to G-3 Air, at TAC. Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Shaw, Jaques, Kanka to XIX TAX, Comd G-3, Hq 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Army.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 April 1945.

SUBJECT: March 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

1. The squadron remained at Air Strip 72 during the month.
2. The squadron participated in the following missions flown by the Group during the month:
  - No. 183. 1-Mar-45: Pulheim Rd Jcts. Results-Undetermined.  
Lts. Hibbing, Brownlee, Shoemaker, Czark, Hicks, Henkle, Pollock, Brendle, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 184. 2-Mar-45: Eller RR Bridge. No attack on Primary.  
Lt. Col. McLeod, Capt. Illanes, Lts. Hibbing, Czark, Kessel, Stubbart, Shoemaker, Thorpe, Barcroft and crew flew on this mission.
  - No. 185. 2-Mar-45: Sinzig RR Bridge. PPF.  
Capt. Parker, Lts. Stubbart, Hibbing, Henkle, Hicks, Clopton, Young and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 186. 4-Mar-45: Bruhl Rd Jcts. PPF-Undetermined.  
Lts. Brendle, Shoemaker, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 187. 5-Mar-45: Unna Ord. Depot. PPF-Undetermined.  
Capt. Illanes, Lts. Brendle, Edgin, Young, Brownlee, Thorpe, Hibbing and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 188. 5-Mar-45: Bingen M/Y. Gee Not Observed.  
Capt. Illanes, Lts. Hibbing, Kessel, Pollock, Thorpe, Hicks, Czark, Edgin and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 189. 6-Mar-45: Siegburg M/Y. PPF-Undet.  
Lt. Col. McLeod and Capt. Illanes, Lts. Brendle, Czark, Young, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 190. 8-Mar-45: Wulfrath M/T Depot. PPF Undetermined.  
Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Hicks, Brownlee, Czark, Pollock, Thorpe and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 191. 9-Mar-45: Weisbaden M/Y. PPF Undetermined.  
Capt. Illanes, Lts. Thorpe, Edgin, White, Clopton, Young, Hicks, Jessee, Henkel and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 192. 9-Mar-45: Dortmund/Lunen M/Y. Gee Not Observed.  
Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Edgin, Hicks, Czark, Young, Illanes, Stubbart, Holder, Clopton, Shoemaker and crews flew on this mission.
  - No. 193. 10-Mar-45: Altenkirchen Communications Center. PPF Undet.  
Colonel Coiner and 596<sup>th</sup> crew led this mission. Lts. Shoemaker, Stubbart, Brendle, Jessee, Edgin, Thorpe and Czark flew. Lt. Pollack in Plane # 197 crash landed on take-off. Entire crew safe. Excellent job done by pilot in landing the plane in field.
  - No. 194. 11-Mar-45: Breitscheid A/F. No attack on primary.  
Lt. Shoemaker, Lts. Brownlee, Stubbart, Young, White, Clopton, Illanes, Edgin and crews flew on this mission.

No. 195. 11-Mar-45: Weyerbusch Comm. Center. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Pollack, Hicks, Hibbing, White, Clark, Stubbart, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 196. 12-Mar-45: Arnsberg M/Y. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Thorpe, Shoemaker, Edgin, Hicks, Czark, Henkle, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 197. 12-Mar-45: Synthen Ammo Filling Plant. PPF Undet.  
Capt. Shimmin, Lts. Stubbart, Shoemaker, Edgin, Pollack, Young, Hicks, Jessee, King and crews flew on this mission.

No. 198. 13-Mar-45: Westerburg M/Y. PPF Undet.  
Lts. White, Clopton, Thorpe, Hibbing, Holder, King, Brendle, Henkel, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 199. 13-Mar-45: Frankfurt/Rhein-Main A/F. Excellent to Superior.  
Lts. Hicks, Brownlee, Barcroft, Stubbart, Jessee, Edgin, Henkle, Capt. Shimmin and crews flew on this mission.

No. 200. 14-Mar-45: Nieder-Marberg RR BR. Excellent.  
Lts. Brendle, Pollock, Clopton, Hibbing, Thorpe, Stubbart and crews flew on this mission. The squadron participated in this, the 200<sup>th</sup> mission of the Group, which claims a record for B-26's. We completed this number of missions in ten months and twenty-four days. During that time the 596<sup>th</sup> Squadron has lost only two planes in enemy territory. Lt. Freeman's crew are Prisoners of War, and Lt. Estes crew are MIA. The Squadron, since activation on Apr 20, 1943, to date, has not lost a combat crew in a training flight. Such a safety record reflects a high standard of pilotage and maximum efficiency of our ground crews in maintenance of planes. We believe this to be a record for medium bombers.

No. 201. 15-Mar-45: Pirmasens Communication cent. Excellent to Superior.  
Lts. Hicks, Barcroft, Holder, Edgin, Henkle, Clopton and crews flew this mission.

No. 202. 16-Mar-45: Niederscheld RR Br. Undet.  
Capt. Rhodes, Lts. Holder, Young, Henkle, Hibbing, Barcroft, Edgin and crews flew on this mission.

No. 203. 17-Mar-45: Siegen M/Y. PPF Undet.  
Lt. Col. McLeod, Lts. Stubbart, Henkle, Brownlee, Kirk, Young, Hibbing, Thorpe, Jessee and crews flew on this mission.

No. 204. 17-Mar-45: Giessen Ord. Depot. Gee Undet.  
Capt. White, Lts. Brownlee, Thorpe, Jessee, Czark, Edgin, Holder, King, Kirk and crews flew on this mission.

No. 205. 18-Mar-45: Worms M/Y. Excellent.  
Lts. Brownlee, Barcroft, Young, Hibbing, Czark, King and crews flew this mission.

No. 206. 19-Mar-45: Engelskirchen M/Y. Undet to Poor.  
Lts. Hicks, Henkle, Jessee, Edgin, Thorpe, Kirk, Hibbing, Barcroft, Holder, Young and crews.

No. 207. 19-Mar-45: Barmen M/Y. Undet to Excell.  
Col. Coiner and air crew led. Lts. Czark, Clopton, Hicks, Jessee, King, Stubbart, Holder, McSorley and crews flew on this mission.

No. 208. 20-Mar-45: Geisecke M/Y. Excellent.  
Lts. Stubbart, Hibbing, Kirk, Young, Kessel, King, Czark, Edgin, Pollack and crews.

No. 209. 21-Mar-45: Goesfeld Comm Center. Undet to Excellent.  
Lts. Brendle, Pollock, Young, Hibbing, Henkel, Kirk, Edgin, Barcroft, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 210. 21-Mar-45: Haltern Comm Center. Undet to Superior.  
Lts. Brownlee, Young, Holder, Hibbing, King, McSorley, Czark and crews flew.

No. 211. 22-Mar-45: Ahausse Comm Center. Excellent to Superior.  
Capt. White, Lts. Clopton, Jessee, Edgin, Young, Holder, Hibbing, Kirk, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 212. 22-Mar-45: Haltern Comm Center. Excellent to Superior.  
Lts. McSorley, Johnson, Kessel, Clopton, Barcroft, Edgin, Jessee, King and crews.

No. 213. 23-Mar-45: Berken Comm Center. Excellent to Superior.  
Lt. Col. McLeod and crew led, Lts. Holder, Clopton, Kicks, Pollock, Kirk, Henkel, Czark, King and crews flew on this mission.

No. 214. 23-Mar-45: Schermbeck Comm Center. Undet to Good.  
Lts. Brendle, McSorley, Henkle, Edgin, Young, Kirk and crews flew on mission.

No. 215. 24-Mar-45: Becholt Flak Positions. Excellent to Superior.  
Lts. Brownlee, King, Barcroft, Stubbart, Clopton, Jessee, Hicks, Czark, Thorpe, and crews flew on this mission.

No. 216. 24-Mar-45: Vlotho RR Bridge. Excellent to Superior.  
Lts. Edgin, Johnson, McSorley, Clopton, Thorpe and crews flew on this mission.

No. 217. 25-Mar-45: Limburg M/Y. Superior.  
Lts. Stubbart, Pollack, Johnson, Kessel, Jessee, Young, Henkel, King, Czark, and crews.

No. 218. 25-Mar-45: Friedburg M/Y. Superior.  
Lts. Brendle, Holder, Barcroft, Hicks, Kirk, Clopton, Henkel, Thorpe, McSorley and crews flew on this mission.

No. 219. 26-Mar-45: Flieden M/Y. Excellent.  
Lts. Stubbart, Johnson, Holder, Edgin, Kirk, Barcroft, Czark, King, Clopton and crews flew on this mission.

No. 220. 28-Mar-45: Ebrach Oil Depot. Gee Undet.  
Lts. Brownlee, Jesse, Hicks, McSorley, Thorpe, Stubbart, Young, Barcroft and crews flew on this mission.

No. 231. 30-Mar-45: Ebenhausen Oil Depot. Gee Undet.  
Lts. Hibbing, King, Jessee, Stubbart, Barcroft, Thorpe, Henkel, Kirk, Holder and crews flew on this mission.

3. The following new members of combat crews were assigned and joined the squadron under Special Orders mentioned: Sgts. L.W. Thackery, P.L. DuRapau, H.L. Hartley, M.C. Cecil per par 4, SO 41, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. T/Sgt A.W. Pearson, per par 2, SO 45, 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. F.M. Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. W.H. Boudreau, H.H. Hieronymous, J.W. Briery, T.E. Nicol. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. E.C. McSorley, Jr. S/Sgt L.G. Bagliere, Cpls J.F. Burch, R.W. Benner, J.A. Cessira, Alexander Malovich, Jr., A.J. Frankowski, from 70<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement Depot per par 1, SO 47, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. W.C. Musgrove, R.H. Thorpe, B.B. Robinson, L.W. Snowden, W.P. Newdome. F/O's R.C. Palmer, J.D. Hoyle, L.R. Young, Cpls H.M. Murphy, B.C. Tidwell, E.R. Terella, Roger Haskell, J.M. Pindale, Gordon Parker, C.D. Eldridge, per par 7, SO 50 Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. S/Sgt's W.J. Kershaw, A.N. Sheer, P.J. Scudder, L.R. Ritchey, K.E. Bennett per par 7, SO 54, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp. Capt. James H. Doolittle per par 6, SO 54, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp.

4. The following promotions of officers became effective during the month:  
From 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, per par 3, SO 60, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF: I.R. Bernstein, K.L. Henkel, A.D. Jessee, A.E. Krug, Manny Mark, A.R. Peebles, T.P. Ratigan, R.L. Smith, Martin Schwartz, Jr. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Willard H. White to Captain per par 2, SO 82, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

Capt W.J. Rhodes to Major per par 2 SO 82, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF. F/O's P.R. Chappell and J.E. Kureth were commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts per 9<sup>th</sup> AF teletype R-424-C.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

{SIGNED}

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

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

20 May 1945

SUBJECT: April 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. In keeping with the Rehabilitation and Rest program for members of Combat Crews, and having completed their tour of duty, the following men were relieved from assignment and assigned to the 70<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot: Per par 7, SO 106, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AF: Maj. Wm. J. Rhodes. Per par 3, SO 96, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. R.B. Barcroft and S/Sgt. H.J. Liebig, Jr, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Russel R. McLellan. Per par 2, SO 89, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb Div: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. R.M. Lumsden, Robert E. Goodbody, Arthur A. Jaquez,

and T/Sgts J.J. O'Conner, Jerome J. Miller, F.A. Naas, and S/Sgt Scott W. Carl. Per par 16, SO 93, Capt. Willard M. White.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 June 1945

SUBJECT: May 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

(d). Negative.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

{SIGNED}

H. J. Hartson

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

Sqdn. Historical Officer.

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

20 July 1945

SUBJECT: June 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

assignment and assigned to the 391<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp, per par 7, SO 96, Hq 397<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp..

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

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

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

{SIGNED}

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

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

20 August 1945

SUBJECT: July 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

- (a). Squadron remained at station A 72, Peronne, France.
- (b). Strength of the unit as of the last day of the month was 109 Officers and 405 enlisted men.
- (c). Negative.
- (d). Negative.
- (e). Awards and decorations received by personnel of the squadron during the month were as follows:

Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal, per GO 41, Hq 9<sup>th</sup> AD, dated 3 July 1945.

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

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

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

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

6. Improvements in the squadron area continued, and new radar equipment was installed in the newly completed Radar Building—a Link Trainer was installed, to further along our Shoran Training, and the Class Room was completed. The men were occupied on Saturday mornings with a regular Saturday morning personnel and area inspection, and our required one hour of close-order drill was made a bit more bearable, by breaking it down into ten-minute periods, each morning after Reveille Formation. Physical training periods for each man became the rule, rather than the exception, and a very small number of our personnel was enabled to participate in the I and E program, by attending Schools. However, it is the

consensus of opinion that the program is failing in its goal—to keep the men occupied, and simultaneously, to further their education—because of the minute percentage of men who are able to participate in the Program.

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

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

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

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

APO 140, US Army  
20 October 1945

SUBJECT: September 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

APO 140, U.S. ARMY  
20 November 1945

SUBJECT: October 1945 Installment of Squadron History.

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

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

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

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

S/Sgt. Jose M. Galdiane 18 119 507  
S/Sgt. Walter L. Wright 38 540 016  
S/Sgt. William A. Spencer 35 627 981  
S/Sgt. Charles Azzalina 32 465 418  
S/Sgt. Troy E. Riddle 36 427 339  
S/Sgt. Billy H. Hall 37 672 611  
S/Sgt. Fred H. Lock 33 607 517  
S/Sgt. Anton E. Sitko 36 432 808

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

Sgt. Robert E. Wayte 31 326 114  
Sgt. Alfred J. Frankewski 42 006 337  
Sgt. Roger Haskell 34 841 064  
Sgt. Richard Sharkey 12 078 564  
Sgt. Edward J. Wojthewicz 32 949 487

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

S/Sgt. Edward J. Wojthewicz 32 949 487

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

S/Sgt. James S. Featherstone 14 171 809  
S/Sgt. John E. Neal 34 808 516  
S/Sgt. Kenneth E. Bennett 35 144 584  
S/Sgt. Charles E. Bowie 14 148 161  
S/Sgt. Homer G. Crist 37 530 750  
S/Sgt. Samuel R. Neira 38 554 586

S/Sgt. Joseph J. Lasek 10 600 630  
S/Sgt. William C. Alverson 14 063 968  
Above 8 Enlisted Men were promoted to Technical Sergeants as of 11  
October 1945 per Par. 8 SO 184.  
Sgt. Orvel W. Sherril 38 570 497  
Sgt. Ronule Cervantes, Jr. 18 102 455  
Sgt. Forrest E. Hamilton 37 663 708  
Sgt. Frank H. Frazier 14 192 754  
Cpl. Frank S. Derbyshire 15 071 801  
Above Enlisted Men were promoted to Staff Sergeants as of 11 October  
1945 per Par. 8, SO 184.  
Pfc. Byron K. Travis 17 134 219  
Pfc. Delores M. Esquivel 38 457 650  
Pfc. Carl B. Hyder, Jr. 34 772 341  
Above Enlisted Men were promoted to Corporal as of 11 October 1945 per  
Par 8, SO 184.  
S/Sgt. Arthur A. Alborano 32 881 605  
Above Enlisted Man was promoted to Technical Sergeant as of 11  
October 1945 per Par. 9, SO 184.  
Sgt. Charles N. DeForde 36 432 501  
Above Enlisted Man was promoted to Staff Sergeant as of 11 October  
1945 per Par. 9, SO 184.  
Pfc. Blaze J. Svihra 42 000 622  
Above Enlisted Man was promoted to Corporal as of 11 October 1945 per  
Par. 9, SO 184.

3. Norman E. Lamar 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. AC, O-2073518 assumed the duty of Squadron  
Ordinance Officer vice Thomas E. White 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. AC O-1555154, transferred.  
Cyrus D. Kirk 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. AC, O-718509 assumed the duty of Squadron  
Training Officer vice Fred M. Johnson 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. AC O-529221, relieved  
Wilson L. F. Pierce 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. AC O-2066708 assumed the duty of Squadron  
Intelligence Staff Officer and Squadron Historical Officer vice James F. Sutcliffe 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Lt. AC O-2015445, Transferred.

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

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

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

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