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R E S T R I C T E D

HISTORICAL DATA

SQUADRON HISTORY
395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
368TH FIGHTER GROUP
APO 374
Strip---R68
Month of O C T O B E R

SQUADRON HISTORIAN

William R Ponton,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

R E S T R I C T E D

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SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of O C T O B E R

P R E F A C E

The information contained herein has been written in compliance with XII TAC Memo 80-6, dated 14 August 1945. This history is a resume of the activities of the 395th Fighter Squadron for the month of October.

R E S T R I C T E D

PART I
ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

R E S T R I C T E D

395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
SQUADRON HISTORY MONTH OF OCT '45

I. ORGANIZATION:

The current table of organization under which this unit is operating with change:

TO 1-27 dtd 22 Dec 43, C-1 dtd 26 Feb 44, C-2 dtd 1 Dec 44. Authorized to use Col 37, T/O 1-27 per GO No 64 Hq, Ninth AF, dtd 20 March 44. Authorized augmented Officer strength per GO No 223, Hq, Ninth AF, dtd 14 Sept 44. Increase in PFC grades per Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, AG 220 2MP, dtd 17 Dec 44.

II. STRENGTH: COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED

1. At beginning of Period:		
OFFICERS -----		37
ENLISTED MEN -----		124
2. Net Increase:		
OFFICERS -----		1
ENLISTED MEN -----		16
3. Net Decrease:		
OFFICERS -----		2
ENLISTED MEN -----		90
4. At End of Period		
OFFICERS -----		36
ENLISTED MEN -----		50

III MOVEMENT: Nil.

IV CASUALTIES: Nil.

V AWARDS and DECORATIONS: Nil.

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PART II
NARRATIVE

R E S T R I C T E D

SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of O C T O B E R

N A R R A T I V E

This month the squadron marked time as far as activities are concerned. The weather and the shortage of enlisted personnel all but halted the flying training program. The only thing that went on per usual was the ground training program which consisted of pre-flying and maintenance work on the line.

The squadron strength was reduced to almost nothing, when on the fourth of the month, ninety of our one hundred and twenty odd enlisted men received their orders and were off for the ZI. Although this shortage was relieved slightly during the month, what aircraft we had were dispatched whenever the weather permitted. During the time when the weather was socked in the men had an excellent chance to catch up on their maintenance work.

All the sections in the squadron were consolidated with group this month, the main reason being shortage of personnel. The squadron sections will continue to operate but only as a link with group.

The group received five Mustangs and each squadron was given one. They are having an acceptance check pulled on them right now and in the meantime the pilots have been reading the tech orders and getting the full particulars before checking out.

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PART III

D I A R Y

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SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of O C T O B E R

1. The first day of the month saw but one training mission, due to inclement weather. Maintenance of the ships was, carried on as usual, all eight of them! The rest of the ships have been put into storage and require only a pre-flight every other day. The pilots have been very cooperative as far as this end of maintenance is concerned. There is a great tension in the squadron, both officers and enlisted men. The officers are looking forward to the party that has been planned for weeks on advance. Everyone has pitched in and done a swell job. As far as the enlisted men are concerned it's going home that interests them. The latest rumor is that a new list will be posted in a few days, so all of the remaining high pointers are on edge.
2. Today brought CAVU weather for the first time in over a week and the boys made use of every available ship. Low level navigation, Unit combat, and Instrument training flights were undertaken. The good news came through for the enlisted men today. They are to leave for home on Thursday and there is much excitement around the EM's quarters. And why not!!!

The officer's party was held tonight at the Chateau and it went over with a bang! The nurses were a little late due to transportation difficulties but by the time they arrived everything was in full swing. The 'ork' was very good and nothing can be said that can do justice to the refreshments. Everyone from Colonel Perego down to the lowliest 2nd Lt. had a grand time. Many of the nurses remarked that it was the best Air Corps party that they ever have attended.
3. Weather has started to move in again and the squadron occupied itself with weather recceys's. The pilots are getting their flying time as fast as they can because the big move tomorrow will reduce the engineering section to less than ten men. The enlisted men have been dropping in all day long saying good-bye, for this will be the last chance we'll have to see them. They leave very early in the morning for Furth and home. Good luck fellows and God Speed to you.
4. The squadron's strength was reduced to almost nothing today as the remaining high pointers left. With only thirty men left it is a far cry from the PANZER DUSTERS that wrought havoc with the enemy. Medium and Low level navigation along with Instrument and Formation flights were resumed today. Even with the lack of engineering personnel a great deal of training missions were accomplished.

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SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of O C T O B E R

5. The weather as well as the shortage of maintenance personnel slowed up the progress of the flying training program. Today Low Level and Instrument flights prevailed. Things sure seem different around the squadron and in the group as all the familiar faces have disappeared. With the coming of the football season the officers have formed a football team which looks as tough it can hold it's own with any team.
6. Today brought the usual Saturday morning inspection by Major Mumaw and everything was found to be good order. Guards from The AAA battalion have been temporarily placed in the vacated part of the EM quarters to prevent looting. Saturday afternoon found the fellows leaving the post early to spend an evening in Straubing.
7. Sunday morning brought no activity save for the men going to and from church services. Major Mumaw, Lt. Anderson, and Lt. Hagemeister left for seven days at the Riviera. Don't knock yourselves out men!!!
8. Today brought back memories of the first day at RTU. Lts. Chandler, Standard, and Devore, formerly C-47 pilots, checked out in the most famed and beloved "T-Bolt". From all observation and reports their first flight was a complete success. Congratulations fellows, keep up the good work.
9. Because of the lack of maintenance personnel the squadron has lost four more airplanes. With it practically impossible for those with their flying time completed to fly the 'T-Bolt', the pilots have turned to the Cubs. Anything to get in the blue!!!
10. Same old story----very little flying being done by the older member of the squadron. The new pilots have first priority on the 47's so the old boys will just have to be content with the light planes. Captain Morrison who succeeded Captain Miles as Operations Officer when the latter to the 396th as Commanding Officer, has been running the squadron very smoothly in the absence of Major Mumaw. Lt. Coughty has been doing a swell job in engineering in Lt. Anderson's absence.
11. The weather continues to be good and every advantage is taken of it. Lts. Serino Bell, the remaining C-47 pilots, flew the 'Thunderbolt' today for the first time. They came down with high spirits and smiles. What more can be said!!! Congrats' fellows, and many happy landings.

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SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of O C T O B E R

12. Inclement weather again prevails at this base today and no flying was resumed. Today may be a preview of the many to come this winter.
13. Same as yesterday as far as the weather is concerned. The heat as yet has not been turned on and everyone is just about to freeze. Usual Saturday morning inspection was held and everything was in order.
14. A day of rest for all. It rained most of the day so anything that had been planned was cancelled. So goes another day of occupation in Germany.
15. Today brings no indication of a break in the weather, so it's the same old story--- NO FLYING!
The engineering sections of the squadrons have been consolidated and are now functioning in conjunction with group operations. Due to the shortage of personnel, the other sections are expected to consolidate with group in the near future.
16. Now flying today! 'I've heard that song before!' Pre-fighting the airplanes and working on the line every day helps to break up the monotony of the whole damn thing.
17. Nothing to report today as the weather is still bad. Routine duties were performed and another day was crossed off the books.
18. A small break in the weather permitted the Cubs to fly. A few of the boys took advantage of this as they were in need of flying time for the month.
19. Today finds the weather completely socked in again and the question of flying was settled when three birds were observed walking down the runway. Nothing further to report today.
20. Today is inspection day in the squadron and right after breakfast the 'mop and broom brigade' was hard at work. Colonel Perego, our esteemed Group Commander, left for the ZI. Everyone will sure miss his presence and superb leadership.
21. Sunday. Everyone had off today so there was quite a few late sleepers. Most of the men had an early lunch and were off for an afternoon in Straubing. Incidentally, the dance at the Officer's Club last night was the dance to end all dances--Period!!!
22. The weather broke long enough today to fly a few training missions. High altitude navigation, Instruments and Formation flights were performed. A few new enlisted men were assigned to the group and the 395th received two of them.

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SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of O C T O B E R

22. (Cont.) This is a help as the enlisted peronnel in the suadron is practically nil.
23. The weather prevented andy tactical flying today although there were a few light planes that got airborne. This gives the engineering section a good chance to catch up on its maintainence.
24. The weather cleared enough today for some tactical flying and the pilots made the most of this oppportunity. Flying was accomplished in the form of Low altitude navigation, Individual combat and Transition. One of the new additions to our P.X. is a soda fountain. It has one drawback though: an approximate 30 minute line at all times. Hunting is fast becoming a popular pastime for both officers and enlisted men. From all reports the game is plentiful and the bags have been large.
25. The Group has been preparing for an inspection by Ninth Air Force but did not know when it would be. Today we received a surprised visit by Major General Kepner, Commanding General of the Ninth AirForce. General Kepner had dinner at the Officer's mess and then proceeded to make and inspection of the field.
26. Bad weather curtailed any activity that had been planned for the day. Major Mumaw called a pilot's Meeting to discuss the new changes in the flying training program.
27. Limited flying was resumed today because of a very severe cross-wind. Week-end cross countrys' were called on again and a couple of pilots were able to take advantage of this oppportunity. The usual Saturday morning inspection was conducted by Major Mumaw and a satisfactory report was rendered.
28. For the first time in serveral days we experienced a typical fall day. The sun shown brightly all day with a stiff wind to supplement it. Thus a day of rest was enjoyed by all.
29. The weather was good for flying today but it was only utilized by the boys returning from cross countrys'. The latest 'poOp' from Wing says no more loops until further notice. Flying just isn't what it used to be. A few more enlisted men were added to the squadron and we could use quite a few more, yes, quite a few more.

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SQUADRON HISTORY
Month of O C T O B E R

30. Good flying weather today so naturally all available ships were in the blue. As group ops works with engineering now we get our quota of ships each day now. Getting a ship now is just a matter of getting to operations first in the morning. There hasn't been a good rumor about going home for a couple of weeks. I suppose everybody has all but given up hope.
31. The last day of the month brought us good flying weather so every advantage was made of it. Instruments, Formation and Navigation flights were undertaken. The squadron continues to receive a few new enlisted men each week. No matter how few come in they can be to good use for we are very shorthanded at present. A new promotion list came out today and Lt. Harold O Powers is now Captain Powers. Also on the list were Lts. James A Bryant, Walter T Coppinger, Donald R Failing and William R Ponton. All have been promoted to First Lt. on SO No 289. Congratulations.....

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PART IV
COMBAT OPERATIONS
Month of October

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PART V
NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS

N I L

PART VI
T R A I N I N G

R E S T R I C T E D

395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Operations Officer

APO 374, U. S. Army
31 October 1945

SUMMARY OF FLYING TRAINING, MONTH OF OCTOBER

October 1 -- Navigation
October 2 -- Navigation, Instruments, and Combat
October 3 -- Navigation and formation
October 4 -- Navigation, Instruments and Combat
October 5 -- Navigation, Formation, and Combat
October 7 -- Miscellaneous
October 8 -- Navigation
October 9 -- Instruments and Combat
October 11 - Instruments and Formation
October 12 - Miscellaneous
October 13 - Miscellaneous
October 14 - Miscellaneous
October 15 - Miscellaneous
October 16 - Miscellaneous
October 17 - Miscellaneous
October 18 - Miscellaneous
October 19 - Miscellaneous
October 22 - Navigation, Instruments, and Formation
October 23 - Miscellaneous
October 24 - Navigation, and Combat
October 25 - Navigation
October 27 - Navigation
October 28 - Miscellaneous
October 30 - Navigation and Formation

PILOTS' MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

October 1 -- Preflight
October 3 -- Preflight
October 5 -- Preflight
October 8 -- Preflight
October 10 - Preflight
October 12 - Preflight
October 15 - Preflight
October 17 - Preflight
October 19 - Preflight
October 22 - Preflight
October 24 - Preflight
October 26 - Preflight and Daily
October 29 - Preflight and Daily
October 31 - Preflight and Daily and 25-Hour.

MILNOR B. MORRISON
Captain, Air Corps
Operations Officer.

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PART VII

No Statistical Officer in Squadron
REFERENCE ----- APPENDIX

PART VIII
STAFF ACTIVITY

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395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
OFFICE OF THE TECH SUPPLY OFFICER

31 October 1945

ACTIVITIES OF THE TECH SUPPLY
395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON-MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1945

Tech supply had a comparatively busy month during October, redeployment seems to be effecting all departments even more than was expected.

To start the month off, two of our boys received much deserved promotions- C.L.MILEY to Sgt. and J.J. GLEASON to Cpl.

When the big shipment to the Z.I. left October 10th, we lost S/Sgt Joe Esposito, and though we hated to see him go, we soon found out that Sgt. Miley was more than qualified to fill the job.

Several new and good ideas came from Sgt. Miley and we were just getting a good start on re-vamping Tech Supply when the group began to consolidate engineering and several other departments.

Group evidently figured that we were getting used to losing our men, so they nabbed Sgt. MILEY for the 'Consolidation's' Engineering Clerk. This left only Lt. Hagemeister and Cpl. Gleason holding the fort down, and trying to get Tech Supply partially transferred to the Consolidation, and the other part non-operational.

We hit the jack-pot during the following two weeks, obtaining four men, S/Sgt. James Maskofski and Sgt. Nathan H. Meritz on the 15th, Sgt. Henry Zerbe and Cpl. Norman Vincent on the 22nd.

True to form, we lost Cpl. Vincent to Squadron Ops. right away, but the transfer is only temporary, so he'll be back with us soon, we hope.

At the present time, we are in the process of storing tools, checking in Engineering, Communications, and Armament equipment, and generally preparing for the coming 70th Wing inspection.

Storage and paper work will keep us busy for at least two more months, so even we aren't operating as a Squadron-there is still a 395th Tech Supply.

LYNN R. HAGEMEISTER
1st. Lt., Air Corps
Tech Supply Officer

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395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Operation Officer
APO 374, US Army

31 October 1945

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Training during the month of October in the Squadron continued to move along at the same slow rate, curtailed primarily by a shortage of airplanes; the weather too, having taken a turn for the worse during the month, contributed no small amount to the holding up of the program.

Unable to keep even a minimum number of airplanes in flying condition due to the shortage of crew chiefs and other maintenance specialists, the Squadron engineering section was consolidated, early in the month, with the other two squadron engineering sections, and placed under the command of Group. This setup has proved very satisfactory under the circumstances, since the Squadron has been able to have, on the average, about three ships available for flying every day; assignment of ships is made to us from Group Operations.

A few changes were made in the training program during the month, with 9th Air Force curbing all training missions which were held to be hazardous. Medium and high level navigation missions have been modified, and the low level phase waived from the program completely.

Ground fog was a common sight during the morning hours; and it was seldom that the airplanes got off the ground before noon on most days during the month. But all in all, using the light planes in addition to the P-47's that are available, everyone got a fair amount of flying time during the month; at least no one was cramped in his efforts to participate "regularly and frequently."

The pilots are enthusiastic about the P'51 that was assigned to the Squadron in the latter part of the month; everyone is looking forward to checking out in it.

Training for the month of October was accomplished according to Memo 50-3., Ninth Air Force, dated 21 June 1945

MILNOR B. MORRISON
Captain, Air Corps
Operations Officer.

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395 FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Armament-Ordnance Officer
APO 374 US Army

Armament - Ordnance Activities for the Month of October

With the passing of this month we saw all the remain of our Ordnance personnel leave for the states and a possible discharge. Our Armament department was hit in the same fashion leaving us with only four men. Each of these four men have an ASR of better than 87 points and will soon be on there way to the states and a possible discharge.

T/Sgt. Isenberg, who is now in charge of both departments, seemed to like it over here so well that he wavered his points and asked for an additional six months duty. This was promptly granted and we now have one man that we are sure to have for the next six months.

We also saw the return of two of our much needed personnel who were away attending school. Cpl. Radulvich returned from Biarritz Army University in Biarritz, France where he was taking a fine arts course. S/Sgt. Rose from Shribenhan University in England where he was also taking an art course. They have an ASR of 87 and 92 respectively and are waiting orders to place them on the shipment to leave on that long awaited trip to the states.

Sgt. Mazzucola transferred to us from the 371 Fighter Group and will be with us until he can get orders to place him on that shipment that will take him home.

The usual routine of maintenance on the guns of the ships both in storage and operational has been kept up through the month. This month also saw the Ordnance Department kept busy issuing guns to the men that wished to try their luck-hunting. From the report that we gave good luck was had by all. And so another quiet month has passed the Armament and Ordnance departments of the 395th Fighter Squadron.

William W. Higby
1st. Lt., Air Corps
Armament-Ordnance Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
368TH FIGHTER GROUP
Consolidated Transportation

APO 374, US Army
30 October 1945

SUBJECT: History for October

TO : Commanding Officer, 368th FG, APO 374

1. The month of October showed considerable improvement in our consolidated motor pool. Although there is an extreme lack of Enlisted Personnel other means have been instigated to fill in. We tested all the DP's that S-2 has hired for us and found that the majority of these persons adapt themselves to GI vehicles quite easily and are now pulling the majority of our maintenance with our remaining EM's as supervisors.
2. We have completed the winterization of all vehicles and are now in the process of getting all storage vehicles in top shape.
3. We are firmly convinced that a consolidated motor pool will work regardless of circumstances and hindrances.

JAMES E. COONS
2nd Lt., AC
Gp. Trans. Officer

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395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
PARACHUTE DEPARTMENT
APO 374, U.S. ARMY

31 October 1945

PARACHUTE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF
OCTOBER, 1945

This month has been conspicuous because of its lack of activity in all departments of the Group. The infrequent visits of pilots to parachute lockers has emphasized the situation. 'Chutes are still kept in perfect condition and repack and inspections made on time. The Group Inspector rated the department 'Excellent'.

No personnel changes have occurred this month.

WALTER T. COPPINGER
1st. Lt., Air Corps
Parachute & PEO Officer

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395TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Squadron Adjutant
APO 374, US Army

31-October 1945

ACTIVITIES OF SQUADRON S-1 FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

The shipment of men this month who were ZI'd from the 395th Fighter Squadron included three men from S-1. They were as follows: S/Sgt. Harry Ostrosky, S/Sgt. Roscoe Knight, and Cpl. Rex Haberman. The above shipment depleted S-1 personnel strength to such an extent that the acting first Sgt., Sgt. Samuel A Dougherty, doubling as 1st Sgt. and Finance Clerk. Cpl. Gilmer also had to double up as both mail clerk and file clerk.

The personnel activities of the squadron that were transferred to Unit Personnel, Group Hq., during the month of September were returned to the squadron do to the lack of personnel. When sufficient personnel are available the consolidation of the personnel activities will be accomplished.

Harold O Powers,
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

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