

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~_____~~

P.R.C. ^R

OR 11-462
1 Feb 45

HISTORY

462ND FIGHTER SQUADRON (SE)
506TH FIGHTER GROUP (SE)
LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD
LAKELAND, FLA.



1 FEBRUARY, 1945
THROUGH
28 FEBRUARY 1945.

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 6006

00060658

MICROFILMED

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

RSI Cont #
C00218

7-261

7015-4

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

P.B.C

H I S T O R Y

462ND FIGHTER SQUADRON (SE)

506TH FIGHTER GROUP (SE)

LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

1 FEBRUARY 1945

THROUGH

28 FEBRUARY 1945

George H. Olson

GEORGE H. OLSON
1st Lt. Air Corps
Historical Officer

00060658

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

RSI Cont No.
00218

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

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

Page

I

Subject

GENERAL

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

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

GENERAL

As the climax of our training approaches, our minds are directed to the day of our departure from this base. All training has been completed and the squadron is busy making all necessary preparations to clear this base.

A permanent detail of men, under the direction of Lt Morin, Personal Equipment Officer, has been working overtime to complete all the packing and crating.

Service and immunization records were rechecked to make sure that their status was correct and up to date. Squadron Quartermaster Supply is making the necessary adjustments in equipment and E. M. are urged to turn in all unnecessary equipment. The Orderly Room is stressing the importance of arranging personal affairs before leaving the States.

Instructions have been given as to the correct procedure of writing mail so it will meet the necessary censorship regulations. Elimination of personal documents, such as drivers licences, etc, was also stressed.

Practically all sections have cleared the line and turned in their equipment. Some are still in the process of clearing the base. All airplanes have been turned over to the base unit, where they will be dispatched to other fields.

Three sections are making a report of survey on the equipment which has been lost in the last three months. Squadron Quartermaster Supply has a report totalling sixty dollars (\$ 60.00); Personal Equipment has a report of sixty dollars (\$ 60.00); and Technical Supply has a report of eighty-seven dollars (\$ 87.00).

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

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

On 10 February 1945, orders were received to send the air detachment forward. Twenty-six (26) Officers and twenty-eight (28) Enlisted Men (Ex 1), were selected to fulfill the order and proceed to the port of embarkation. The air detachment was commanded by the Squadron Commanding Officer, Major De Jarnette. Capt Stuart B. Lumpkins, Operations Officer, assumed command of the Squadron (Ex 2). Before departure of the air detachment a picture was taken of all the flying and ground Officers, (Ex 3).

On 10 February 1945, the Squadron held a party for all Officers and Enlisted Men, which was a complete success. The party was held in the Florida State Guard Armory in Lakeland, Florida.

During this month the Squadron had only one change in key personnel, Lt Delaronde (Ex 4), Squadron Adjutant, was replaced by Lt. Lillard (Ex 5).

The Squadron received official confirmation of its insignia from Headquarters Army Air Forces. The design of the insignia is authorized as follows: On light turquoise blue disc, border yellow, a prancing, black thoroughbred horse with a white face and shanks, reared on a light turquoise blue cloud formation, edged dark blue in front of jagged red lightning flash striking from sinister chief toward dexter base. (Ex 7-8).

The Lakeland A.A.F. " Bombshell " The base newspaper, has constantly promoted the Squadron capabilities by publishing reports of our outstanding pilots. This month our Commanding Officer, Major De Jarnette, and Lt. Willis, one of our pilots, both veterans of several missions in combat theaters, were selected as subjects in articles published on 9th and 15th. (Ex 9-10).

During this month the Squadron promoted several of its Enlisted Men, (Ex 11-12).

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

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

Up to 28 February 1945, the strength of the Squadron was 64 Officers
256 Enlisted Men. The squadron is still over-strength, but it is expected
that normal strength will be reached in the near future.

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

(3)

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

A P P E N D I X

- EXHIBIT I - Headquarters Lakeland Army Air Field. Special Order number 41.
10 February 1945.
- EXHIBIT II- 462ND Ftr Sq, 506th Ftr Gp. Squadron Order number 3. 1 February 1945
- EXHIBIT III- Photograph of flying and ground Officers, 462nd Ftr Sq.
- EXHIBIT IV- Headquarters Lakeland Army Air Field. Special Order number 50.
19 February 1945
- EXHIBIT V - Headquarters, 506th Ftr Gp, Lakeland, Florida. Special Order number 25
19 February 1945
- EXHIBIT VI- 462ND Ftr Sq, 506th Ftr Gp, Squadron Order number 9. 12 February 1945
11 February 1945.
- EXHIBIT VII- Headquarters Army Air Forces, AAF 421. Subject; Aircraft Marking for
the 462nd Ftr, Sq. 12 February 1945
- EXHIBIT VIII- Reproduction of the insignia.
- EXHIBIT IX- "Bombshell" article on Major De Jarnette, dated 9 February 1945.
- EXHIBIT X - "Bombshell" article on Lt Willis, dated 15 February 1945.
- EXHIBIT XI- 462ND Ftr Sq, 506th Ftr Gp, Squadron order number 8. 9 Feb 1945
- EXHIBIT XII- 462ND Ftr Sq, 506th Ftr Gp, Squadron order number 27. 16 Feb 1945

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

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT 1

HEADQUARTERS LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD

Office of the Commanding Officer

SPECIAL ORDERS)

Lakeland, Florida

NUMBER 41)

10 February 1945

EXTRACT

6. Auth Par SO # 353, (Confidential), this Hq, dated 30 December 1944, as amended, and pursuant to instructions contained in teletype SPTAE 363, dated 22 January 1945, from CG SFPE, the following flight detachments and accompanying equipment of the 506th Fighter Group (SE), shipment numbers and/or code designation as indicated, consisting of personnel listed on the attached transfer list which is made a part of this order, are transferred from this station to Camp Stoneman Pittsburg, California, for PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION. Movement will be made by rail from this station at current strength at such time as will insure arrival at Camp Stoneman during daylight hours on 20 February 1945.

Unit	Code Designation (Shipment Number)	Strength			
		OFF	WO	EM	CIV
Flt Det 457th Ftr Sq (SE)	8549 KX	28		30	
Flt Det 458th Ftr Sq (SE)	8549 JX	29		29	
Flt	8549 KX	26		28	

Pertinent instructions relative to Post, Camp & Sta Equip, Mailing Address, Travel of Dependents, EDCMR, etc, As contained in SO quoted as auth above will be complied with.

The following named Officers are detailed to duties indicated incident to this movement;

Lt Col 1055 Harvey J. Scandrett	0399564	AC	Train Commander
2d Lt 4823 Francis N. Hines	0868510	AC	Mess Officer

Kitchen car facilities will be utilized for rationing personnel.

The following named EM, Sq A - 352d AAF BU, this sta, are placed on TDY and will accompany this movement from this station to Camp Stoneman for the specific purpose of assisting in the operation of kitchen facilities on car, and upon completion return to their respective orgn and sta.

S/Sgt 824 Nicholas J. Guerra	32455149	AC
Cpl 060 German G. Rivera	32218161	AC
Pfc 080 Gene Q. Wong	39407184	AC

Above named EM auth a five (5) day delay enroute on return journey Prior to departure TO this sta will issue to the above EM the necessary T/R for the return journey from Camp Stoneman and will determine and issue to the above EM necessary number of meal tickets to cover subsistence for the return

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

Page 2

journey IAW AR 30-2215.

EXHIBIT I

Nineteen meals for each O and EM involved in this movement will be required for the journey to Camp Stoneman. This figure includes additional rations estimated necessary for any unforeseen delay enroute.

Necessary troop train rations for personnel involved in this movement will be ordered by the train Commander and will be furnished by the Sales Officer Drew Field, Tampa, Fla. In accordance with the provisions of WD Cir 400, dated 11 October 1944.

Train Commander will be furnished prior to departure one copy of WD Cir 400, 1944 series and in addition one copy of the troop train Commander's Guide, WD Pamphlet No. 20-7

TT. TOT. PCS. 501-31 P 433 01 02 02 03 04 04 05 07 08 A 212/50425	
509-901 P 470-03 2152409	509-906 P 470-03 2152409
509-902 P 470-03 2152409	509-907 P 470-03 2152409
509-903 P 470-03 2152409	509-908 P 470-03 2152409
509-904 P 470-03 2152409	509-909 P 470-03 2152409
509-905 P 470-03 2152409	509-910 P 470-03 2152409

BY ORDER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MC BRIDE:

JOHN E. O'DONNELL
Capt, Air Corps
Adjutant

A true copy.
George H. Olson
GEORGE H. OLSON.
1st Lt, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT II

Satell

462D FIGHTER SQUADRON
506th Fighter Group
Lakeland Army Air Field

Lakeland, Florida,
1 February 1945.

ORDER)
Number 3)

Under the provisions of paragraph 3, AR 600-20, the undersigned hereby assumes command of 462d Fighter Squadron, 506th Fighter Group SE, Lakeland Army Air Field, Lakeland, Florida effective this date, vice Captain KENSLEY M. MILLER, relieved.

Stuart B. Lumpkins

STUART B. LUMPKINS,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT III

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT IV

HEADQUARTERS LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD
Office of the Commanding Officer

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 50)

Lakeland, Florida
19 February 1945

EXTRACT

7. 1ST LT 2110 THOMAS P DELARONDE, O 565 179 AC (w), 462nd Ftr Sq, 506th Ftr Gp SE (Third AF), this sta is rel'd from further asgmt and dy thereto and asgd to Perry AAFld, Perry, Florida. WP from this sta o/a 22 Feb 1945, reporting upon arrival to the CO thereat for dy. EDCMR:

23 February 1945.

TDN. TOT. TPA. PCS. 501-31 P 431 01 02 03 07 08 A 212/50425.
Auth: TWX 3focp 0771. Hq, III Ftr Comd, dated 16 Feb 1945.

BY ORDER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MC BRIDE:

JOHN F O'DONNELL
Capt., Air Corps
Adjutant

A true copy

George H. Olson
George H. Olson, 1st Lt., AC
Historical Officer

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT V

HEA DQ UARTERS
506th Fighter Group SE
Lakeland Army Air Field

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 25)

Lakeland, Florida.
11 February 1945.

EXTRACT.

2. HRC Par 7 SO 33 Hq Sa rasota AAFld Sarasota Fla dtd 8 Feb 45
2D LT 2110 THOMAS M LILLARD JR O 585 639 AC is aggd to 462d Ftr Sq
506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla. EDCMR 12 February 1945.

BY ORDER OF LT COL SCANDRETT:

JOHN W. CAMERON,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

A true copy
George H. Olson
George H. Olson,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT VI

6

Intell

CONFIDENTIAL

462D FIGHTER SQUADRON
506th Fighter Group
Lakeland Army Air Field

Lakeland, Florida,
12 February 1945.

O R D E R)

Number 9)

1. The following changes of duty assignments are directed:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELD</u>	<u>ASGD</u>
THOMAS P. DELARONDE, 1st Lt., AC, (2110), O 565 179	Adjutant (PDY) Mess O (add dy) Recorder, Unit Fund Council (add dy)	
THOMAS M. LILLARD, JR., 2d Lt., AC, (2110), O 585 639		Adjutant (PDY) Mess O (add dy) Recorder, Unit Fund Council (add dy) Postal O (add dy)
BENJAMIN G. ALEXANDER, 2d Lt., AC, (4313), O 584 771	Postal O (add dy)	Asst Ground Safety O (add dy)

THOMAS D. DE JARNETTE,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

EXHIBIT VII

CONFIDENTIAL
HEADQUARTERS 50TH AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

12 February 1945.

AF 121 (462d Fighter Sqdn.)

SUBJECT: Aircraft Marking for the 462d Fighter Squadron.

TO: Commanding Officer, 50th Fighter Group, Lakeland Army Air Field, Lakeland, Florida.

By authority delegated to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, by AG Letter 400.161 (12-7-42) CG-3-1, dated 29 December 1942, the following insignia for the marking of aircraft of the 462d Fighter Squadron, Army Air Forces, is approved:

AIRCRAFT MARKING: On a light turquoise blue disc, border yellow, a prancing, black thoroughbred horse with white face and shanks, reared up on a light turquoise blue cloud formation, edged dark blue, in base, in front of a jagged, red lightning flash striking from sinister chief toward dexter base, as per record drawing.

The insignia will face toward the front of the aircraft.

HISTORY:

The 462d Fighter Squadron, Single Engines, was constituted and authorized to be activated at Lakeland Army Air Field, Lakeland, Florida, per AG 322 (9-22-44) CG-1-3740-4, dated 5 October 1944, as amended by AG 322 (1-11-44) CG-1-3740-4, dated 11 October 1944, activated 21 October 1944.

The 462d Fighter Squadron, Single Engines, has no other insignia.

By command of General [Signature]

Robert G. Jones
Major General,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Director, Personnel Services Division,
Headquarters, Army Air Forces,
Washington, D. C.

1 Incl.
Pending.

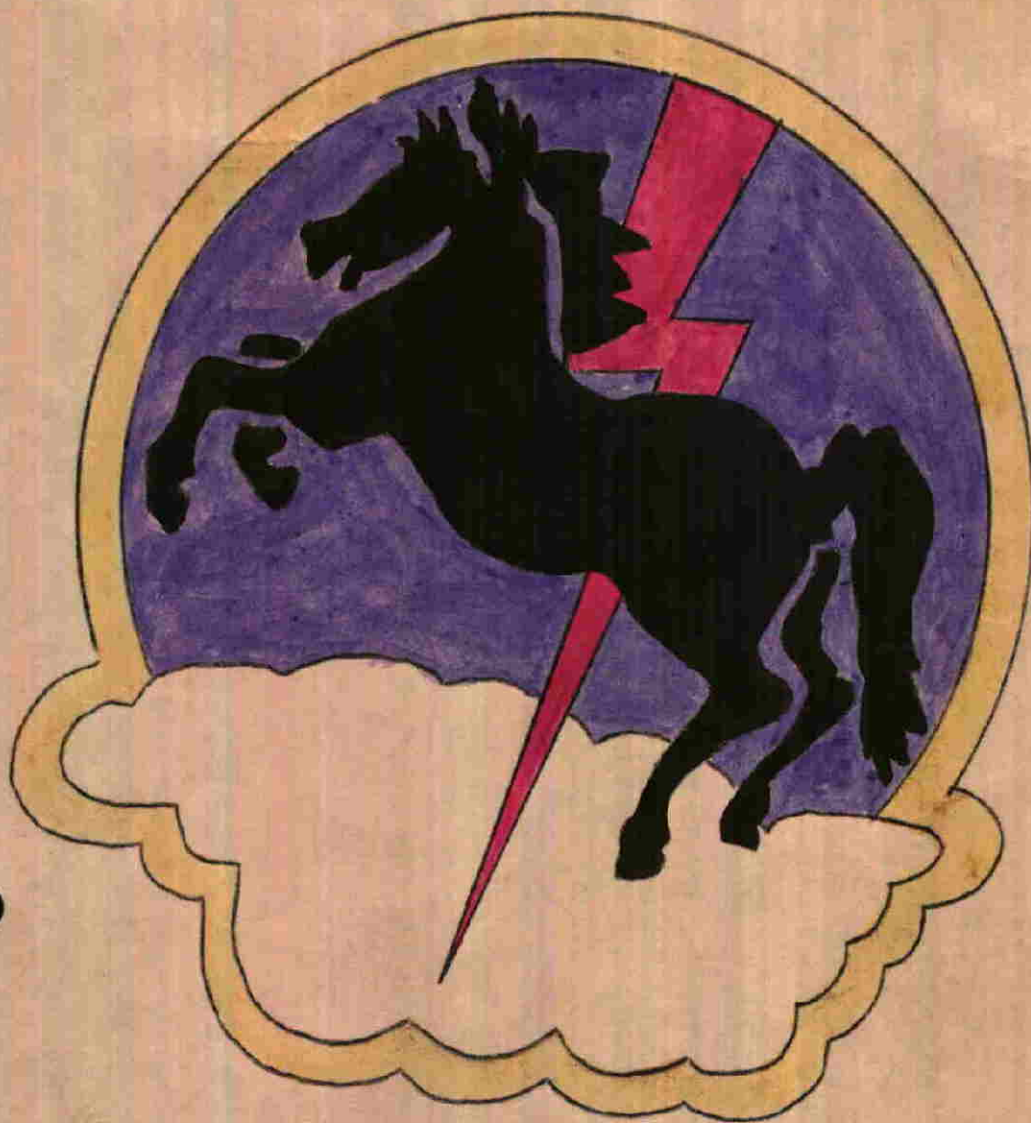
1 Incl. [Signature]
Captain, Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

Address Mail to: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Lakeland, Florida.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT VIII



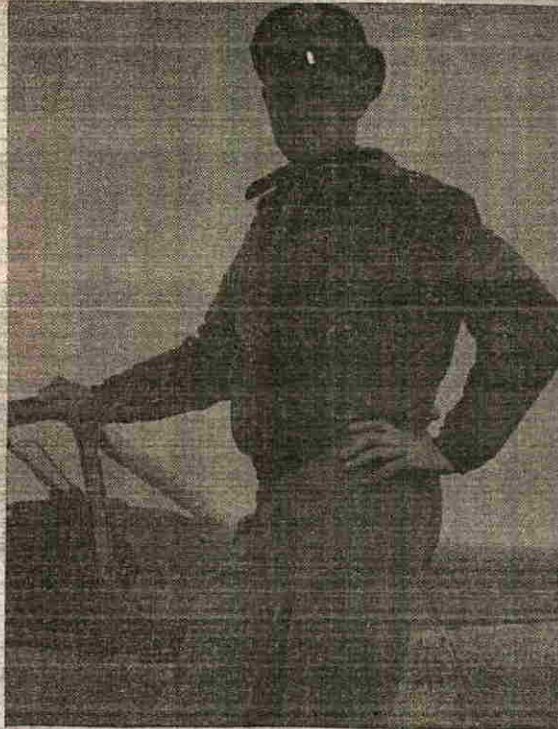
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT IX

Commander Of Fighter Squadron Here Was In Australia At War's Start

Among the first American army air corps men to arrive in Australia following the attack on Pearl Harbor was 26-year-old Major Thomas D. De Jarnette, commanding officer of the 482nd Fighter Squadron. The Major is a veteran of 38 attack missions against the Japanese in the southwest Pacific.



MAJOR T. D. DEJARNETTE

Aboard a troop transport enroute to the Philippines when the news of hostilities was announced, his ship was re-routed and went on to Australia by way of Fiji rather than to its intended destination.

In Australia, practically no facilities were available, nor were any accommodations provided for their arrival. With little more than their ingenuity, everyone went to work—and with a vengeance. Fliers and ground men both, commissioned and enlisted, rolled up their sleeves and pitched in as longshoremen, mechanics, armorers — whatever occupations needed filling. They unloaded their A-24's and P-40s from the hold of the ship, assembled them, and stood by ready to fly in the defense of the Australian mainland.

They didn't stand by very long. As the military situation grew more critical, Major De Jarnette found himself transferred to New Guinea, where he joined a newly arrived, P-39 equipped Fighter Group.

It was the beginning of the famed Buna-Gona - Kokoda campaign in which the Major was involved, and it was his task to fly bombing and strafing attacks against the Jap convoys massing for the attack on Port Moresby.

For six crucial months, Major De Jarnette continued flying the perilous runs out of Port Moresby, helping to buy time with light bombs and gunpowder.

And then came the attempted invasion of Milne Bay. He recalls the 40 MM AA shell that struck his plane as he came in for a strafing run over a cluster of Jap landing barges moving toward their landing on the New Guinea coast. But the wheels of good fortune were spinning with him that day and he came home.

With the wealth of practical combat experience he gained from 18½ months spent overseas, the Major also brought back with him the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and the Presidential Citation.

Major De Jarnette entered the Army nearly four years ago. He is married and makes his home in Los Angeles, California.

CONF

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT X

Flyer Of Eighty Combat Missions In Mediterranean Theater Tells Experiences

While a member of a fighter-bomber outfit based in North Africa, Lt William H. Willis, of the 462nd Fighter Squadron, took part in many thrilling aerial sorties.

He flew an A-36 in 80 combat missions, strafing and dive-bombing military targets in Sicily and Italy when those areas were under daily attack.



LT WILLIAM H. WILLIS

On one occasion, while flying as wing man in an eight-ship flight, whose mission was to knock out four 88 mm guns, he peeled off and bored in for the attack. In the face of heavy enemy fire, he loosed his bombs over the camouflaged target. The attack was successful, with the guns being silenced.

Although badly holed by flak on several occasions, Lt Willis considers his last mission as the most exciting of any he had flown. The target was an area 30 miles square outside of Rome, and orders were to shoot up everything in sight.

"We were over that target for an hour and fifteen minutes," he said, "and the flak was so heavy I expected any minute to be my last. But we did the job and got back without the loss of a single ship. Don't think I wasn't scared when those chunks of flak were flying around."

Lt Willis enlisted in June 1941 and later was graduated from an aviation cadet school as a pilot with a staff sergeant's rating. He was commissioned in October 1943 and was promoted to first lieutenant in January 1944.

He served in the Mediterranean theater from April 1943 to February 1944 and holds the air medal with silver and bronze oak leaf clusters.

He is unmarried and makes his home in San Jose, California.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT XI

462D FIGHTER SQUADRON
506th Fighter Group
Lakeland Army Air Field

Lakeland, Florida,
9 February 1945.

ORDER)
:
Number 8)

1. Order Number 6, cs, is hereby rescinded.

2. UP of C5 AR 615-5 the fol named EM AC 462d Ftr Sq 506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla are prmtd to the grade of Private First Class TEMPORARY.

Pvt 237 Harry Altman	16 169 987
Pvt 911 Bernard Aronowitz	12 094 424
Pvt 911 James T Assemany Jr	36 870 685
Pvt 650 Lester Bertier	31 189 830
Pvt 590 Warren G Coble	34 770 433
Pvt 759 Paul B Cullen	31 140 041
Pvt 911 Robert W Draper	33 450 578
Pvt 590 Jack B Fix	33 128 337
Pvt 911 Sheldon Ginsburg	16 168 374
Pvt 747 Curtis H Gwaltney	38 406 182
Pvt 590 James W Holland	33 125 827
Pvt 070 Walter J Hutengs	31 470 951
Pvt 685 Warren E Huntley Jr	32 945 927
Pvt 941 Robert B Huxford	42 049 198
Pvt 405 Marvin S Kaufman	34 240 902
Pvt 911 Alfred L Koellner	32 471 286
Pvt 901 Leroy Matthews	14 102 429
Pvt 590 Francis T McDade	33 595 713
Pvt 590 William G Minser	33 767 299
Pvt 590 Lester E Nichols	32 854 385
Pvt 911 Ivan J Peterson	37 672 726
Pvt 590 George S Pettid	17 147 430
Pvt 932 Joseph Sak	36 449 299
Pvt 750 Kirby St Romain Jr	38 656 392
Pvt 901 Wilbert F Wallace	35 090 930
Pvt 060 Orvel V Wright	35 493 306

THOMAS D. DE JARNETTE,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT XII

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
506th Fighter Group SE
Lakeland Army Air Field

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 27)

Lakeland, Florida
16 February 1945

E X T R A C T

* * * * *
3. The fol named EM AC unless otherwise indicated orgns indicated 506th
Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla are prmtd to grades indicated TEMPORARY.
* * * * *

462d FTR SQTECHNICAL SERGEANT

S Sgt 750 Ralph V Duke	6 295 603
S Sgt 911 Frank A Sutter Jr	12 051 010

STAFF SERGEANT

Sgt 824 Harold Ashcraft	35 686 754
Sgt 911 Boyd A Bell	33 293 144
Sgt 505 William J Boles	36 100 928 Ord
Sgt 756 John J Hession Jr	32 213 755
Sgt 759 John R Merrifield	37 116 813
Sgt 826 Alan G Perkins	39 032 949
Sgt 911 William J Spada	12 164 586
Sgt 754 Ervin L Vanderhei	36 298 165
Sgt 911 Leon F Yavorsky	32 388 214

SERGEANT

Cpl 014 Charles G Baum	11 040 903
Cpl 911 Weyman T Brown	34 537 229
Cpl 747 James W Cooley	19 148 377
Cpl 747 Walter P Frohlich	32 893 287
Cpl 941 Emerson A Grieve	32 731 331
Cpl 631 James S Hartshorn	18 108 413
Cpl 862 Earl E Heitman	17 169 646
Cpl 747 Dale L Jackson	37 665 841
Cpl 502 Paul J Mills	35 624 469
Cpl 759 Erwin B Nelson	32 715 231
Cpl 911 Calvin D Newton	39 694 601
Cpl 060 Thomas C Williams	34 185 614

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

SO 27 Hq 506th Ptr Gp SE Lakeland AAFLD Lakeiana Fla Dtd 16 Feb 45 (Cont'd).

Par 3 (Con'd)

CORPORAL

Pfc 759 Roger P Gamache	31 311 246
Pfc 060 J W Hallford	34 801 847
Pfc 759 John P King	16 156 923
Pfc 754 John W. Reilly	32 586 356
Pfc 667 Donald L Rombough	32 849 586
Pfc 809 James T Schumaker	35 657 336

BY ORDER OF COLONEL HARPER:

/s/ John W. Cameron
JOHN W. CAMERON
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ John W. Cameron
JOHN W. CAMERON
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant.

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

George H. Olson
GEORGE H. OLSON
1st Lt, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

CONFIDENTIAL