

۲

P.R.C

31 JANUARY 1945

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 5200.2-R

00161597

NOT RECORDED

4061-22B

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

HISTORY

457TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, SE

506TH FIGHTER GROUP, SE

LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

1 JANUARY 1945

TO

31 JANUARY 1945

P.R.C.

George A. Brownyard
GEORGE A. BROWNYARD
S/Sgt. Air Corps
Historical Clerk

James N. McDonough
JAMES N. MCDONOUGH
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

00060597

RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

UNIT HISTORY

457TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, S.E.

1 January 1945 - 31 January 1945

January 1945, found the 457th Fighter Squadron, SE, completing preparation for overseas movement by meeting the requirements of Phase IV Training of III Fighter Command Regulation Number 50-100. (1)

The chief difficulty in each section was maintaining a full schedule in the face of an abnormal number of leaves and furloughs. The policy of the squadron had been to see that each officer and enlisted man had a leave or furlough since the activation of the squadron, 21 October 1944. (2) In the early formative phase of the squadron, it was deemed best to keep the duty roster at full strength. Thru November and December, 1944, furloughs and leaves were granted at only slightly more than normal rate. By 1 January 1945, about half the squadron had received time off. The problem, then, was whether the squadron could complete its required training and yet give everyone a last leave or furlough. By 31 January 1945, the problem had been solved; training was completed and the the final group was on leave.

Operations solved the situation primarily by having most of its rated personnel complete their training before leave. Some of the officers went on leave before quite completing their requirements, but managed to finish Phase IV upon return by increased flying activity.

(1) III FTR CMD REGULATION NUMBER 50-100, HQ III FTR COMMAND DREW FIELD, FLA, 2 DECEMBER 1944

(2) GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 29-HQS III FTR CMD, 21 OCTOBER 1944

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

Maintenance was slower than usual simply because there were less men than usual available for duty throughout the month. The engineering and Armament sections were especially affected. That less planes were available at any one time than during normal operations was compensated for in part by the shortage of pilots, owing to leaves.

Most section officers now feel that it would have been better to have completed all training and then given everyone a leave or furlough, or if that were not feasible, then the squadron should have started its program sooner and permitted a higher percentage to be off duty in November and December 1944.

During January supply was still somewhat a hindrance, especially in the armament and ordnance sections. It was still difficult to obtain a sufficient amount of oil and preservatives from base ordnance.

The 457th Fighter Squadron, SE, passed a POM inspection early in the month. There was also a group tactical inspection which rated squadron operations excellent.

Very little flying time was lost because of bad weather. A necessary complete change of spark plugs grounded all ships for a day and a half, until new plugs were obtained.

Deficiencies in ground training were eliminated by repeating the training school schedule.

- 2 -
CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

Training was in its most interesting phase during January. Group missions, long range escort missions, interceptions, briefing and interrogation, and mission reports made available to all squadrons made the program a realistic training for assignments to come.

The squadron, with the rest of the group, had a thirty-six hour bivouac on 26 and 27 January 1945. The squadron marched 7 miles to the bivouac area adjacent to the range. Each man had a chance to fire to adjust new carbine sights. Full field conditions, including camouflage technique, were observed. The bivouac was commended by Colonel B.B. Harper, Commanding Officer, 506th Group. The bivouac had an added value in enabling all personnel of the squadron and group to become better acquainted. A cooperative, cheerful spirit was evident at all times.

January saw the adoption of the squadron insignia. A letter from Hq. Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C. (3) approved the aircraft marking. A copy of the insignia is included in the appendix. (4)

There were a few more changes in personnel continued to reach the exact T/O strength. On 1 January 1945, strength was 272 enlisted men and 64 officers. On 31 January 1945 there were 249 enlisted men and 63 officers. (5) Three flying officers were added during the month; 2nd Lt. Robert H. Strain, (6), 2nd Lt. Robert H. Griffith, (7) and 2nd Lt. Thomas O. Messall (8). 2nd Lt. Taylor C. Green was

(3) Ltr. Hq. AAF to GO, 506th Ftr Grp, LAAF, Lakeland, Fla. Exhibit 1

(4) Exhibit 2

(5) General Orders Number 29, Hq. III Ftr Gnd, 21 Oct 1944.

(6) Par. 3, SO 4, Hq. 506th Ftr Grp, SE, LAAF, Lakeland, Fla., 7 Jan 1945.

(7) Ibid

(8) Par. 4, SO 4, Hq. 506th Ftr Grp, SE, LAAF, Lakeland, Fla. 7 Jan 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

assigned to the squadron, taking over the duties of assistant Engineering Officer, (9). Losses of officer personnel included 2nd Lt. Ronald W. Schultz (10), 1st Lt. Philip G. Dieter (11), and 2nd Lt. Norman W. Keay, Jr. (12).

Much of the squadron's material to be sent overseas was crated and packed during the month.

A call was received late in the month for an advance flight echelon to arrive at a staging area designated by 20 February 1945. (13)

On 31 January 1945, the 457th Fighter Squadron looked forward to turning in its equipment and departing its present station on short notice.

- (9) Par 3, Personnel Memo, Hq. 506th Ftr Gp, SE, LAAF, Lakeland, Fla. 8 Jan 45.
- (10) Par 8, SO 4, as amended by Par 6, SO 5, Hq. LAAFld, Lakeland, Fla. 7 Jan 45.
- (11) Par 3, Personnel Memo, Hq. 506th Ftr Grp, SE. LAAF, Lakeland, Fla. 8 Jan 45.
- (12) Par 1, SO 14, Hq LAAFld, Lakeland, Fla. 18 Jan 45.
- (13) Exhibit 3.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX

EXHIBIT 1

Ltr, Hq. AAF to CO, 506th Ftr Gp,
LAAF, Lakeland, Fla 20 Jan 1945

EXHIBIT 2

Drawing 457th Ftr Sq Insignia

EXHIBIT 3

Call TWX

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AAF 421 (457th Fighter Sqdn.)

20 January 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Marking for the 457th Fighter Squadron.

TO : Commanding Officer, 506th 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) OB-S-1, dated 19 December 1942, the following insignia for the marking of aircraft of the 457th Fighter Squadron, Army Air Forces, is approved:

AIRCRAFT MARKING: On a white disc, flecked with irregular red patches, a caricatured, black and green mosquito, wearing yellow aviator's helmet, gloves, and white radio head set and goggles, in flight towards dexter base, holding a very large gray aerial machine gun beneath the body, with high legs, and striking a blow with a red and white hatchet, with brown handle held aloft in right foreleg, while firing a black automatic revolver downward with the left foreleg, all emitting gray speed lines to rear, as per record drawing.

The insignia will face toward the front of the aircraft.

HISTORY: The 457th Fighter Squadron, Single Engine, was constituted and authorized to be activated at Lakeland Army Air Field, Lakeland, Florida, per AG 322 (9-29044) OB-I-ARRPG-M, dated 14 October 1944, activated 21 October, 1944.

By command of General ARNOLD:

TRUE COPY:

James N. McDonough
James N. McDonough
2nd Lt., Air Corps

1 Incl.
Drawing.

C.R. FREDERICK,
LIEUT. COLONEL, Air Corps,
Actg. Chief, Personnel Services Div
Office, Asst Chief of Air
Staff, Personnel

Exhibit 1

CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED

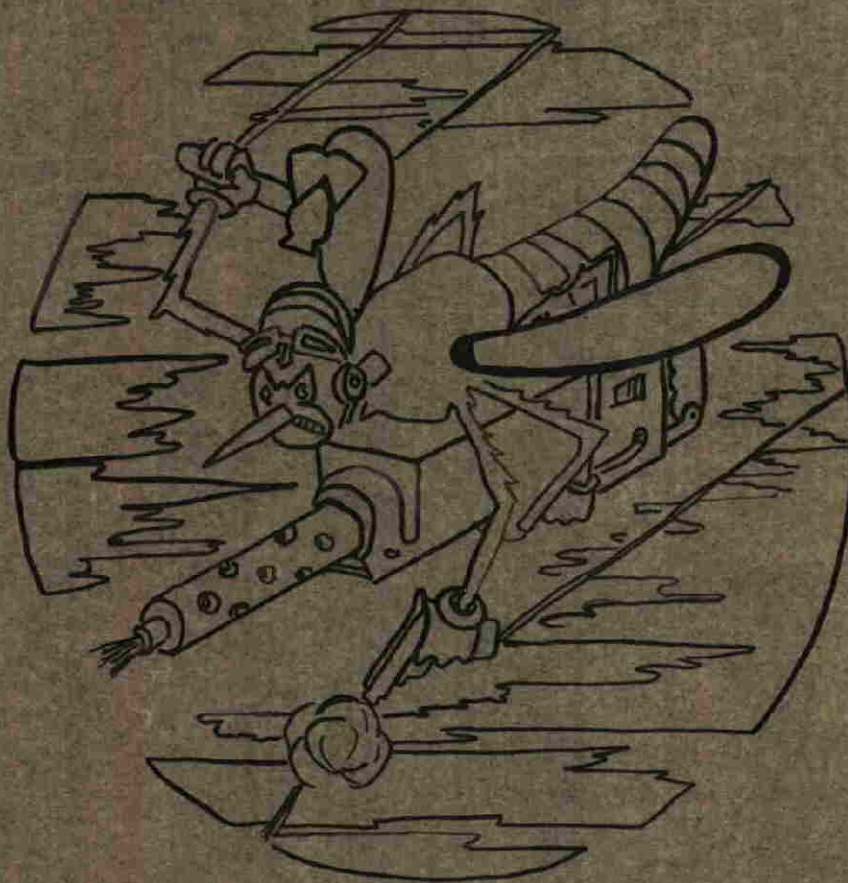


Exhibit 2

CONFIDENTIAL
~~RESTRICTED~~

NL#V-FH NR 41 PP
T-Lakeland Flo
From Hells SFPE FT MASON Valif 222130
To CG Third Air Force Tampa Fla
For INFO CO Lakeland AAF Lakeland Fla

GR NC

~~/Restricted/~~ This is the call defined in Par Four H of POM PD
Order Personnel & Accompanying Equipment of Shipments Eight
Five Four Nine Dash HX CMA JX and KX To Arrive Camp Stoneman
Pittsburg Calif Daylight Hours Twenty February PD Have Supply
Representative to Represent All Units Arrive Fort Mason Four
Days In Advance Paren for Action CG Third Air Force CMA for
Info CO Lakeland AAFld Pass to CO of Units Concerned Paren
Overcoats, CMA Wool Knit Caps & Wool Gloves Not Needed in Staging
Area or for Voyage PD Caution Personnel that They Will Not Be
Permitted to SEE Or Visit Relatives or Friends at Staging Area
or the Port Pd Cite SPTAE 3630TB

2352Z

TRUE COPY:

James N. McDonough
James N. McDonough
2nd Lt., Air Corps

Exhibit 3

CONFIDENTIAL
~~RESTRICTED~~