

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 5200.30

8
Sg-FI 457-HI
15 Aug-45
30 Nov-45.
X

HISTORY

457TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, SE
506TH FIGHTER GROUP, SE

P.R.C.

15 AUGUST 1945
thru
30 NOVEMBER 1945

00060602

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 5200.30

[REDACTED]

MICROFILMED
X

7967-22

P.R.C.

H I S T O R Y

457TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, SE
506TH FIGHTER GROUP, SE

VII FIGHTER COMMAND, ARMY AIR FORCES
PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS & TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

15 AUGUST 1945

THRU

30 NOVEMBER 1945

HAROLD R. GILBERT
S/Sgt., Air Corps
Historical Clerk

DAVID A. THOMAS
Captain, Air Corps
Historical Officer

00060602

A slight deviation from the normal procedure of presenting the Squadron History will be followed in this issue. The History is a continuous narrative containing all the events of importance from the date of Japanese surrender, 15 August 1945, to the date the Squadron is ready for shipment to the United States, 30 November 1945.

The latter part of August found the men in this Squadron anxiously awaiting the news of the actual signing of the Peace - waiting and wondering what effect it would have upon them as individuals - what their status would be. In the meantime the Squadron functioned "business as usual" with the exception of performing VLR missions to the Empire. There was more time off for the personnel and an interesting, competitive athletic program was instituted throughout the whole 506th Group in which the Squadron avidly participated. There were softball games, baseball, volleyball, etc. to keep the men occupied and they were met with much enthusiasm on all sides.

On 22 August 1945 announcement was made of the promotion of 1st Lt. Alan J. Kinvig to the rank of Captain (1).

Other announcements on that date included the following named officers who were all promoted to the rank of 1st Lt. (2):

2nd Lt. Walter J. Cawley	2nd Lt. James E. Hinkle
2nd Lt. Warren A. Clayton	2nd Lt. Jackie M. Horner
2nd Lt. Lawrence P. Dolan	2nd Lt. Chester M. Jatozak
2nd Lt. George C. Donnelly	2nd Lt. Fred W. Johnson
2nd Lt. Ralph S. Gardner	2nd Lt. William T. Moore
2nd Lt. Lawrence P. Grennan	2nd Lt. Clement S. Ross
2nd Lt. Warren E. Griffo	2nd Lt. Robert M. Strain
2nd Lt. George L. Harville	2nd Lt. Glen Knisley
2nd Lt. William S. Hetland	2nd Lt. Curtis R. Worthen

- (1) S.O. #38, Hq. 20th A.F.
- (2) Ibid

31 August 1945 brought the last combat VLR mission to the Japanese Empire. Twenty of our aircraft engaged in this mission which was a "Display of Power" over the Tokyo area. One plane piloted by 1st Lt. William S. Hetland was forced to land at Atsugi AAFld. due to engine trouble. The pilot was safe and returned to Iwo Jima via C-46.

With the beginning of September came many changes in the command personnel of the 457th Fighter Squadron. Several pilots who were on leave for rest and recreation on Oahu were relieved of their assignment to the Squadron and were assigned to a casual depot there.

Two more promotions were in order on 5 September 1945. 1st Lt. Thomas W. Carroll was promoted to Captain (3) and 2nd Lt. William S. Goodhand, Jr. achieved the rank of 1st Lt. (4).

Captain Jack H. Folsom assumed command of the Squadron 10 September 1945 succeeding Major Daun G. Anthony who was assigned to Hq. 506th Fighter Group.

Many of the pilots began to leave for the States starting 10 September 1945. Also high-point enlisted men began their homeward journey through WPBC at Saipan. 1st Sgt. Dayton C. Boram was one of these men who left and he was succeeded by 1st Sgt. Ernest S. Williams 18 September 1945. Due to the personnel going home there came a shuffle of

(3) S.O. #48, Hq. 20th A.F.

(4) Ibid

men throughout the whole VII Fighter Command. Our former Adjutant, Captain Donald H. Reese, was among these and was transferred to the 21st Fighter Group 20 September 1945. 1st Lt. James N. McDonough took his place as adjutant of the Squadron. Several of the Squadron's Staff officers were transferred to the 506th Fighter Group to fill vacancies there. Included in this transfer were 1st Lt. Lawrence E. Brennen (Squadron Supply), Captain Daniel P. Murphy (Squadron Engineering) and new officers were assigned this squadron to fill their respective places. Captain Max S. Weill assumed command of the Squadron upon the departure of Captain Folsom to WPBC 29 September 1945.

In October half workdays were in order and more stress was laid on the increased athletic program. The Squadron's personnel were still being shifted as men were coming and going. Captain Weill received orders for returning to the States 18 October 1945 and 1st Lt. Chauncey A. Newcomb assumed command with 1st Lt. George C. Donnelly as his Operations Officer.

Notice of promotion of forty-one enlisted men was posted on 5 October 1945 and again on 24 October 1945 twenty-one enlisted men received promotion. Also during the month there were several replacements among the enlisted ranks made up of men from the Bomber Groups on Saipan.

One particularly outstanding event took place 27 October 1945. The Squadron's enlisted men's Club was opened to inaugurate the First anniversary of the forming of the

Squadron. The club itself was beautifully decorated through the efforts of several enlisted men who exercised their talents in the lines of murals and furniture making. The beer and coke were free and as the crowning gesture the entire troupe of the USO Shoe "Spotlight" was there to entertain. Conviviality reigned supreme and morale took a skyward leap.

During the latter part of October and through the beginning of November Pre-separation lectures were given under the supervision of 1st Lt. David A. Thomas who became the Squadron S-2 Officer 24 September 1945. Pamphlets prepared by him were distributed to the men for Post-separation reference including such matters as GI Insurance, GI Bill of Rights, etc. It was favorably received by all officers and enlisted men due to the fact that it cleared up many questions pertaining to these matters.

On November 8, 1945 verbal orders were received stating that the Group would be inactivated and shipment to the States would ensue. Packing of all Squadron equipment commenced. Personnel turned in all field equipment and the decks had started to clear for action on 14 November 1945. A full work day was again in order to facilitate maintenance and inspection of aircraft prior to shipping them to the 81st Air Service Group. The planes were flown to Guam and the first of these flights was completed on 15 November 1945.

The Squadron received news that 1st Lt. Joseph H. Morrison, Jr. was missing in a plane crash while on a flight from Iwo Jima to Saipan 16 October, 1945. Lt. Morrison had been relieved from his assignment to the Squadron and was on his way back to the States.

Promotions for the month of November included 1st Lt. David A. Thomas who was authorized his twin silver bars on 8 November 1945 (5). 1st Lt. Chauncey A. Newcomb, commanding officer, attained the rank of Captain as of 13 November 1945 (6).

During the month several changes of 1st Sgts. took place. T/Sgt. Thomas C. Amrine., formerly a classification clerk, relieved 1st Sgt. Ernest S. Williams and when T/Sgt Amrine was sent back to the States T/Sgt Bartley C. Seymour took the post and was later promoted to 1st Sgt.

The month proved a hectic one for the men in the Squadron. Numerous directives were received on the disposition of the personnel. Counter-directives were received and there was general turmoil as to what was to be done. Word came that all enlisted men with a score of 49 points or less would be transferred to the 444th Fighter Group and all enlisted men with 52 points and over would remain in the Group. Men with 51 and 52 points were put on orders for various units on Iwo Jima. Then on 26 November 1945 came a counter order saying that the Group would be screened not at 52 but instead at 55. The balance of men

(5) S.O. #109, Hq. 20th A.F.

(6) S.O. #119, Hq. 20th A.F.

with 52 thru 54 points were then put on orders to go with the 21st Fighter Group, scheduled for Shipment to Saipan 1 December 1945.

28 November 1945 marked the date of a Squadron dinner held in the mess hall. All credit for the affair goes to Sgt. Harry Savage through whose efforts was made possible this lavish party. He transformed an ordinary GI mess hall into a dinning room comparable to that of any fine hotel. The tables were complete with table cloths, flowers, candles and printed souvenir menus. The mess hall was decorated with various flags and tinsel and while an eleven piece orchestra played in the background, the men gorged themselves on the plentiful fried chicken and all the trimmin's. After the dinner the beer ration was served and a spirit of goodfellowship prevailed throughout the evening. The expression "what a party" was echoed everywhere and it served as a fitting way to close the last chapter of the 457th Fighter Squadron which will fade into the oblivion of the archives of historical reference but will never fade in the hearts of the men who made possible the fine organization it was.