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HISTORY

462ND FIGHTER SQUADRON (SE)

506TH FIGHTER GROUP (SE)

LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

31 DECEMBER 1944

TO

31 JANUARY 1945

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MICROFILMET

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462ND FIGHTER SQUADRON (SE)

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LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

31 DECEMBER 1944

TO

31 JANUARY 1945

George H. Olson.
GEORGE H. OLSON
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Historical Officer

00060657

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

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

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M I S S I O N

This month finds the Squadron accomplishing phase IV of the training directive 50-100. As expected most of the deficiencies and difficulties have been ironed out. No longer do shortages hamper our normal functioning. All the sections have caught up with their training schedules. In flying, the Squadron achieved a net superiority over the other Squadrons. Bringing our schedules up to date and the flying training completed up to 90%. All the minds are concentrated on the preparations that will follow before our departure to the staging area. The last 10% of our flying time will be dedicated to flying Squadron missions and allowing the pilots who have been on leave to complete their training. The line and operations are getting ready to ground the planes which must be turned into the 4501st Base Unit.

Personnel requirements are up to regulation and ~~issue~~ of overseas equipment is also ready.

P E R S O N N E L

During the month of January the turnover of personnel has been reduced to a change of flying officers only (Ex. 1), however, there has been some additions to the regular duties of some Officers. Major De Jarnette has been appointed to the Unit Board to determine the suitability of Flight Officers to become 2nd Lts (Ex. 2). Lt. Alexander, Quartermaster Supply Officer, has been appointed Ground Safety Officer and Lt. Johnson, Ordnance Officer, has been given the additional duties of Transportation Officer (Ex. 3).

The Air Inspector from III Fighter Command conducted a personal conference hour to attend to suggestions, opinions, and also complaints of the

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Enlisted personnel (Ex.4)

Also during this month a general order arrived from III Fighter Command introducing a modification in the supply of personnel and the strenght of the unit, however, this order has not affected the Squadron. The T/O remains as ordered (Ex.5). Our actual strenght is 64 Officers and 256 Enlisted Men.

OPERATIONS

The authorized strenght of this section is up to par and the key personnel has remained the same. There has been no changes as far as the pilots are concerned with the authorized number attained.

There has been no problem as far as supply is concerned but office equipment is still hard to get.

Ninety (90) to Ninty-five (95) percent of all training has been completed and all paper work is up to date.

This section has been working efficiently and the morale is very high.

Four accidents took place this month. Three were due to materiel failure and the one due to pilot error. Two of the accidents were major. Preparing to take off on a long-range cross-country trip, two pilots experienced the same difficulty, that of having the engine cut out on take-off. Both were forced to make a crash landing. Sparkplugs and/or carburetor trouble was the cause.

The flying time attained this month was 1863 hours. Due to pilots on leave the minimum requirements were attained by approximately 90% of the pilots.

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E N G I N E E R I N G

This section is up to strength as far as commissioned and enlisted personnel is concerned.

Supply and Equipment problems have been ironed out and to date operations are progressing very satisfactorily. Maintenance is excellent and the training program is progressing as per schedule.

This department has passed P.O.M. and the III Fighter Command inspections with a rating of "excellent."

The morale is very high and on the whole the section has operated normally for the month.

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

Personnel has not been a problem to this section and to date it is up to authorized strength.

Supply has ceased to be a problem and the section is operating normally.

Morale of the section is very high and the training program is progressing as scheduled.

The section has received a rating of excellent from both the P.O.M. and the III Fighter Command inspections.

A R M A M E N T

Personnel is up to authorized strength in this section.

As far as supply is concerned, oil and cleaning solvent were hard to get. No maintenance problems were encountered.

The training schedule is completed to date and the morale is very high. Both P.O.M. and III Fighter Command inspections gave the section a rating of "excellent."

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ORDNANCE

This section is also up to strength and the only problem which presented itself was the procuring of oil and solvent. Ammunition was sufficient to cover all phases of training.

The training schedule was adhered to and has been progressing normally.

This section also received an rating of excellent from the P.O.M. and the III Fighter Command inspections.

INTELLIGENCE

This section has completed ground school for both pilots and enlisted personnel during the first part of January. The Intelligence section continued to function normally and at no time were any problems encountered which could not be coped with. Briefing and interrogation plus classes during inclement weather filled the schedule which was handled efficiently by the Intelligence Officers.

During the latter part of the month the activities tapered off and routine duties fulfilled the schedule. All paper work was brought up to date and articles of equipment, which were drawn from the base unit were turned in.

At this time the strenght of this section is up to the requirements of the table of organization. The section now consists of two Officers (9301) and three enlisted men, two 631's and one 070.

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A P P E N D I X

EXHIBIT I - Paragraph 3, S.O. #4, 7 January 1945, Hq. 506 Ptr. Group.

EXHIBIT II - Paragraph 8, S.O. #10, 15 January 1945, Hq. 506 Ptr. Group.

EXHIBIT III- Paragraph 1, Daily Bulletin #25, 25 January 1945, Hq. 506 Ptr. Group.

EXHIBIT IV - Paragraph 1, G.O. #3, 22 January 1945, Hq. III Ptr. Command.

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

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Ex. 1

— HEADQUARTERS
506th Fighter Group SE
Lakeland Army Air Field.

Special Orders)

Lakeland, Florida.

Number 4)

7 January 1945.

EXTRACT

3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 9 SO 4 Hq Bartow AAFld Bartow Florida dtd 4 Jan 45 the fol named Officers AC are asgd to Squadrons indicated 506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla.
EDCMR 7 January 1945

462d Ftr Sq

2D LT 1055 LEONARD A DIETZ	0829952
2D LT 1055 WILLIAM G EBERSOLE	0829666
2D LT 1055 ALLEN F COLLEY	0829938
2D Lt 1055 James R Bercaw	0829924

By order of Colonel HARPER

ALFRED T. BISHOP JR,
Captain Air Corps,
Actg Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:

George H. Allen
2nd Lt. A.C.

EXHIBIT "1"

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Ex. 2

HEADQUARTERS
506th Fighter Group SE
Lakeland Army Air Field

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 10)

Lakeland, Florida,
15 January 1945.

E X T R A C T

8. A Board of Officers is aptd to meet at the call of the Senior Member thereof, for the purpose of determining the suitability of Flight Officer's to be aptd 2d Lt's in the AJS in accordance with WD Memorandum No W605-10-43 dtd 1 March 1943

LT COL	2166	HARVER J SCANDRETT	O 399	564 AC	Headquarters
MAJOR	2161	HARLEY BROWN	O 420	573 AC	Headquarters
MAJOR	2161	MALCOLM C WATERS	O 432	241 AC	457th Ftr Sq
MAJOR	2161	HARRISON E SHIPMAN	O 432	296 AC	458th Ftr Sq
MAJOR	2554	THOMAS D DE JARNETTE	O 429	769 AC	462nd Ftr Sq

By order of Colonel HARPER:

ALFRED T. BISHOP JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Actg Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

A True Copy:

George H. Olson
2nd Lt., A.C.

EXHIBIT 2

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Ex. 3

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

Lakeland, Florida,
4 December 1944.

ORDER)
NUMBER 11)

1. The fol dy asgmts are directed;

NAMEASGD TO

BENJAMIN G ALEXANDER, O 584 771
2d Lt, AC, 4000

Asst Ground Safety O)
(add dy)

CARL E JOHNSON, O1 549 742
1st Lt, Ord Dept, 4512

Transp O (add dy)

Thomas D. De Jarnette
THOMAS D. DE JARNETTE
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

A TRUE COPY:

George E. Olson.
2nd Lt. A.C.

EXHIBIT "3"

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HEADQUARTERS LAKE LAND ARMY AIR FIELD
Officer of the Commanding Officer

DAILY BULLETIN)

Lakeland, Florida.

NUMBER 25)

OFFICIAL SECTION

25 January 1945.

GG:SS

OFFICER OF THE DAY - DETAILED FOR THE DAY

BASE O.D. Lt. Claude D. King, Sq "A", 352d AAF Base Unit, Telf 106.

MEDICAL O.D. Captain Geffer, Sq "F", 352d AAF Base Unit, Telf 173.

- I. PERSONAL CONFERENCE HOUR - The air inspector will conduct a personal conference hour for all military personnel of this command at the Chaplains Office in the base chapel at 1900 E.W.T. Friday 26 January 1945, in accordance with AAF letter 35-156. Facts, opinions and attitudes disclosed during the conference will be held in confidence.
- II. SMALL ARMS AND FIXED GUNS RANGE SCHEDULE - The following is a schedule of small arms and fixed gun ranges 26 January.
- III. Cigarettes for sale at post Exchange - Effective 27 January 1945 NO ONE will be able to purchase cigarettes at the Post Exchange without turning in an empty cigarette package at the time of purchase.
This is a temporary measure taken to assure equitable distribution of cigarettes to all military personnel on the field.

By order of LIEUTENANT COLONEL MCBRIDE:

A True Copy:

George H. Olson.
2nd Lt. A.C.

JOHN F. O'DONNELL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

EXHIBIT "4"

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GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 3)

HEADQUARTERS III FIGHTER COMMAND
Office of the Commanding General
Drew Field, Florida
22 January 1945

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in letter AG 322 (15 Jan 45) OE-I-AFRPG-M, 17 January 1945, subject: "Reorganization of Certain Fighter Units," the following units will be reorganized as indicated not later than 27 January 1945 by the Commanding Officer, 506th Fighter Group.

Unit	Reorganize in accordance with T/O & E	Authorized Strength		
		Off	WO	EM
Hq 506th Fighter Group (SE)	1-12, 29 Dec 43 C-1, 26 Feb 44 C-2, 23 Nov 44	29	1	70
457th Fighter Sq, (SE)	1-27, 22 Dec 43	63	0	249
458th Fighter Sq, (SE)	C-1, 26 Feb 44			
462nd Fighter Sq, (SE)	C-2, 1 Dec 44 plus 2 x Col 37			

2. Personnel shortages will be requisitioned from this Headquarters.

3. Equipment is authorized in accordance with appropriate Tables of Organization and Equipment referred to above.

4. Dates of reorganization will be reported by letter direct to The Adjutant General and copies furnished this headquarters, the Service Command concerned, and the Engineer Central Stock Control Agency, Boatmen's Bank Building, 314 North Broadway, St Louis 2, Missouri, without delay.

5. The appropriate allotments published in Section II, Circular 245, WD, 1944, may be obligated to the extent necessary.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BLACKBURN:

JAMES B LEAGUE JR
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Acting Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/James P Humphries
JAMES P HUMPHRIES
Captain, Adjutant General's Department
Assistant Adjutant General

A TRUE COPY:

Alfred T. Bishop, Jr.
ALFRED T. BISHOP, JR.,
Capt., Air Corps,
Acting Adjutant.

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- 1 -

EXHIBIT "5"

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