

50-FI-72-41

MAY 1944

~~SECRET~~

RESTRICTED

~~SECRET~~

R

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, 318TH

HISTORICAL RECORD
SEVENTH AIR FORCE

FIGHTER GROUP, AAF, VII FIGHTER

COMMAND, AAF, SEVENTH AIR FORCE, AAF

P.R.C.

SUPPLEMENT NUMBER TWO

1 MAY - 31 MAY 1944

1. ORGANIZATION:

Negative

2. STRENGTH:

Fifty (50) Officers
Two Hundred Thirty-eight (238) Enlisted Men.

3. DATE OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THIS THEATER:

See Appendix # 3

4. LOSSES:

Lieut. HENRY N. PAYNE -- Killed in line of duty, 7 May 1944

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

See Appendix # 4

00057219

5115-12

RESTRICTED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

SECRET

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFNARRATIVE

The first twenty-six days of May were noteworthy more for the feeling of excitement which permeated through the squadron than for anything tangible. For it now became generally known, and later officially announced that the "Great Adventure" lay just ahead -- the long awaited move into combat. With virtually no exceptions, spirits soared. Those twenty-six days, then, were ones of preparation, with packing cases suddenly piling up all over the area, new equipment coming in to facilitate combat operation, the men working long hours to get all the planes in shape -- and on the side getting their hair cropped short by way of ultimate preparation! Personal belongings were shipped home, strict censorship went into effect, and all knew that the move was not far off.

The plan called for the entire 318th Fighter Group to move out and operate together, the 73rd and 19th Squadrons to leave first, the 333rd to follow shortly afterwards. On May 16th a complete inspection lineup of the 73rd and 19th planes was held. Thirty-seven planes of each squadron were carefully lined up facing each other on the Bellows Field Fighter Scramble Strip; pilots and crew chiefs stood at attention before their respective planes at Lt. Col. SANDERS (Group C.O.) with

SECRET

SECRET

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

(Organizational History, 73rd Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

the Squadron Commanders went down the line and approved all he saw. Pictures were taken; it was a highly impressive display. Later that morning Col. SANDERS spoke informally to each Squadron concerning the imminent move.

The plan was as follows: An original "Assault Echelon" of specially chosen ground forces (chiefly engineers, armorers and radio man) was to go out first, ultimately to move into our new home-to-be as quickly as possible after its capture from the Japs and prepare for the arrival and operation of the planes. This force, consisting of 31 enlisted men and 4 Officers (See Appendix # 3, Paragraph A), was to go with a slightly larger group from the 19th, a small section of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron and a nucleus of the Group Headquarters personnel. Loading and unloading and general troop movement were to be under the supervision of the 19th Fighter Squadron. The pilots and planes were to come separately via Carrier. The remainder of the ground personnel, this time with the 73rd supervising the movement, were to follow as soon as practicable in what was to be known as the "First Echelon". It was generally known that the entire move was part of an invasion into Jap-held territory.

On May 27th the exodus began. Eighty-four Enlisted Men and one Officer -- Capt. SHAUER, who was acting C.O. of the 73RD Assault Detachment -- boarded the U.S.S. La Salle (AP) via small boat in Pearl Harbor. (See Appendix # 3, Paragraph A). M/Sgt. Hammer was the senior

S E C R E T

- 2 -

S E C R E T

SECRETSECRET

(Organizational History, 73rd Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

N.C.O. in charge. At the same time Capt. STEWART, Lt. WILKINSON and C.W.O. HURL boarded the U.S.S. John Land (AP). The convoy, and a large one it was, did not pull out until the morning of the 29th; on the 28th most of the men were given liberty to go to Ford Island, while the officers could go ashore. Meanwhile on the 28th, the other seven Enlisted Men of the 73rd (with S/Sgt Wood as N.C.O. in charge) (See Appendix # 3, Paragraph B) and some of the 19th personnel boarded the U.S.S. Jupiter (AK), which was carrying the priority equipment for the move. The convoy consisted of about 20 transports, LSD's, etc., with a similar number of Destroyers and two Carriers. Destination, as then was officially disclosed, the Island of Saipan in the Marianas. Personnel, chiefly, Marines of the 2nd and 4th Divisions who were to conquer it.

Back at Bellows, meanwhile, the finishing touches were put on the packing and loading of the remainder (and the greatest bulk) of the equipment, and the last once over on the planes. At the month's end all was in readiness -- Pilots and ground personnel awaited only the order to move out. For the pilots this came on May 31st, and at 0900, 37 pilots and 37 planes made their last take-off from Bellows Field, going to Ford Island (Pearl Harbor) where the planes were to be loaded onto the Escort Carrier Manila Bay. With forty pilots in the Squadron, it was necessary for Lts. FURGE, MILLER and RILEY to remain behind with the Ground Echelon.

The first of the month had witnessed the promotion of Capt. RUSSEY

SECRETSECRET

S E C R E TS E C R E T

(Organizational History, 73rd Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

to the rank of Major. Other promotions which came through at the same time were 1st Lts. FLYNN and TOUHEY to the rank of Captain and 2nd Lts. HARBOUR and SNYDER to the rank of 1st Lt.

One note of tragedy was a pilot fatality on May 7th. While on a Gunnery mission that morning, 2nd Lt. HENRY N. PAYNE attempted an emergency landing at Kaneohe Naval Airfield, failed to reach the runway and crashed into the sea. Both plane and pilot were later recovered. A military funeral was held at Schofield Barracks on May 9th.

There were a few last minute transfers of personnel to bring the Squadron to peak fighting condition. Officer transfers follow:

May 2nd, 2nd Lt. ROBERT J. THOMAS, recently arrived from the States, joined us via the 47th Fighter Squadron.

May 5th, Capt. JOHN B. STEWART, Flight Surgeon, came to us from Hq., Hickam Field, to relieve Capt. A. JAY GANTZ. Capt. GANTZ, who had been with the Squadron since Midway, went to Hq., Wheeler Field.

May 10th, 2nd Lt. ROBERT B. MILLER came to us from the 78th Fighter Squadron.

May 26th, due to a knee injury, it was necessary to transfer out W/O WIECKOWICZ. He went to the 21st Fighter Group.

May 27th, because of a kidney ailment which would bar his leaving with the other pilots it became necessary to transfer 2nd Lt. SPILLMAN to the 333rd Fighter Squadron, and 2nd Lt. JACK SHOEMAKER of that Squadron joined our outfit instead.

The Squadron strength in Enlisted Men fell off somewhat as men either physically or temperamentally unfit for combat were transferred out, with insufficient replacements available to level off the figure at top strength.

Recreationally, things were much as normal -- movies and softball. The Barfly softball League ran almost up to the last day with almost every

S E C R E T

- 4 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E TS E C R E T

(Organizational History, 73rd Fighter Squadron, AAF, Continued)

team having a mathematical chance to win the title. It finally ended, amid much excitement, with a tie for first place between the two Engineering teams, the Lions and Tigers, with eight wins and six losses each. During several of these late afternoon wind-up games, a combination Beer and Hot Dog Party was held for the men along the side-lines. As always, free beer was received with high glee.

At the end of the month, then, the picture was one of eager excitement in anticipation of the Squadron's first actual participation in combat, with 91 men and four Officers already at sea, pilots and planes ready to board their Carrier and the rest of the Squadron standing by for the word to embark. The 73rd was Red Hot and Barin' to go!

S E C R E T

- 5 -

S E C R E T

TOP SECRET

APPENDIX #1

HQ AGF, APO 244
5 MAY 1944 0900SECRETAUTH: CG, AGF, APO 244
INITIALS: _____ PBS, G-3
DATE: 5 MAY 1944

FO 4

THE FOLLOWING UNITS IN ASSAULT ECHELON ARE ATTACHED COM GEN FIFTH PHIB CORPS FOR OPERATIONAL CONTROL EFF UPON RECEIPT OF THIS ORDER. UNITS REVERT TO CONTROL OF CG, AGF, APO 244, UPON RELEASE BY COM GEN FIFTH PHIB CORPS.

BTRY A & B 751 AAA GUN BN (LESS REAR ECHELON)
804 ENGR AVN BN
19TH FI SQ
73RD FI SQ
6TH FI SQ, NITE (2 FLIGHTS)
DET 864 AAA AW BN
1ST PLAT 726TH SIG AW CO
DET 680TH SIG AW CO
DET 763D SIG AW CO

JARMON
MAJOR GENERAL

OFFICIAL:

STINESS
G-3

DISTRIBUTION:

COM GEN FIFTH PHIB CORPS	4
COM FIFTH FORCE	1
BTRY A & B 751 AAA GUN BN	2
804 ENG AVN BN	1
19TH FI SQ	1
73RD FI SQ	1
6TH FI SQ, NITE, 2 FLIGHTS	1
864TH AAA AW BN	1
726TH SIG AW CO	1
680TH SIG AW CO	1
763D SIG AW CO	1
G-3 AGF APO #244	1
G-4 AGF APO #244	1
FILE	1

TOP SECRET

A TRUE COPY:

G. A. SEMO,
CAPT., AC.

SECRET**SECRET**

APPENDIX #2

AUTH: COMGENTPAC
INITIALS: AG.
DATE: 17 MAY 1944HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO # 958

AG 370.5/1908

17 MAY 1944.

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT ORDERS, SHIPMENT NUMBERS 94945, 94946, 94948, 94949, 94936, 94950, 94960.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY GARRISON FORCE, APO 244.
COMMANDING GENERAL, SEVENTH AIR FORCE.
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY PORT AND SERVICE COMMAND.

1. YOU WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION FOR WHICH YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE MOVEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATIONS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 TO A NEW DESTINATION.

2. EACH ORGANIZATION IN THIS MOVEMENT IS ASSIGNED A DIFFERENT SHIPMENT NUMBER, AS SHOWN BELOW. THIS NUMBER WILL BE USED IN LIEU OF ANY UNIT DESIGNATION OR DESTINATION AND FOR THE MARKING OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.

SHIPMENT NUMBER	ORGANIZATION	STRENGTH			T/O & E
		OFF	WO	EM	
*****	*****	*****			*****
94948	73RD FIGHTER SQ.	51	247		1-27 (22 DEC 43) W/C-1 SPEC LTR, 28 FEB 44
*****	*****	*****			*****

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARDSON:

O.N. THOMPSON,
COLONEL, AGD,
ADJUTANT GENERAL.**SECRET****SECRET**

SECRETORGANIZATIONAL HISTORYSECRET73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFAPPENDIX # 3A. PASSENGER LIST FOR THE U.S.S. LA SALLE

CAPTAIN ALAN B. SINAUER

M/SGT GERALD L. FRYE

RAY D. HAMMER

T/SGT WARREN R. PIKE

DALE E. RIGNEY

DONALD STOBACH

WILLIAM A. TURLEY

S/SGT HAROLD E. BARGER

FRANK G. BUCHLE

ARTHUR F. CHAUVAUX

J. E. CHISHOLM

FRANK B. CIENSKI

JOHN A. DIEFENBACH

ANTHONY E. DUSZYNSKI

EMMET L. GILMER

ASBURY D. HOKE

STANLEY A. JAMROS

FRANK W. KUSH

JOHN G. KUSHNER

GLENN A. LESHER

JAMES F. MCGINN

ORRIN A. MADSEN

EDWARD C. MARS

CHARLES D. MELTON

GERALD E. MOONEY

FLOYD P. NESTLERODE

VINCENT PALOMBO

KENNETH L. ROWELL

FRANK M. RICKER JR.

VERNON C. RUBENKING

JOSEPH E. STATTERY

WILLIAM J. SOYAK

OTTO W. STARKEY

JULES A. STELLY, JR.

CHARLES P. SWEET

JOSEPH E. TURCZYN

PAUL E. WEEDON

FERDINAND J. WEIDNER

EDWARD M. WHITE

RUDOLPH WOODSHANK

SGT TEMPLE A.F. ALLEN

GEORGE H. BIGGIO

CHESTER L. BURKE

SGT JOSEPH CHIERA

GEORGE W. DEADWILEY

MARVIN D. HAGEMAN

HERBERT E. HANDY

GERARDO F. IORI

FRANCIS L. KELLY

JONAH KLEINBERG

JOHN P. LENDO

VICTOR T. MASON

RAYMOND E. MURPHY

JACKSON L. OLLIS

CARL J. RATZ

CLAUDE W. RHODES

SAM S. RIZZUTO

ERNEST E. ROBERTS

ANDREW G. SOLENSKY

LUCAS J. WALTER

JOSEPH C. WHITEHEAD

FRANK R. WILLIAMS

RAYMOND F. WILSON

CPL ANDREW J. BEDNAR

NEIL G. CAMPBELL

FRANK DEMARCO

DENNIS FRALEY

RICHARD L. HAMLYN

SIDNEY W. HARWOOD

WELDEN L. HAYWARD

ROSS C. JOLIVETTE

GEORGE A. LAWRENCE

FRANK MEDITZ

ARMAND F. MORRISSETTE

THADDEUS J. O'CONNOR

ANDREW E. OFFNER

LEONARD P. OWENS

EDWARD F. PARRISH

RICHARD S. ROCHER

GENE A. SILICANI

EDWARD J. SOLENSKY

HENRY A. SUTTON

PFC LEO W. DALLAIRE

JOHN S. DENEEN

RICHARD M. DUBICK

SECRET

-1-

SECRET

S E C R E T

(ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, APO #951,
APPENDIX # 3, CONT'D)

B. PASSENGER LIST FOR THE U.S.S. JUPITER

S/SGT RANDOLPH C. WOOD
SGT FRANK HESS, JR.
CPL JOSEPH F. CULLINAN
CPL SIDNEY B. HART
CPL ALEXANDER E. KULINSKI
CPL ANTHONY MARZILLI
CPL FLOYD E. MEACHAM

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF
A.P.O. # 951

APPENDIX #4

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 51)

26 May 1944

1. Following O apth 61 "A" Agent O of designated Fin O for purpose of making pat to troops for reg partial & suppl P/R for orgns indicated for mo of May 1944:

1st Lt Leo W. Ehlert 6577451 AG

73rd Ftr Sq AAF

Auth: AR 35-320

2. Following Co AG (W/Os AUS & RN orgns indicated entitled to credit for battle participation in the Hawaiian Islands on 7 Dec 41 and are auth to wear one bronze service star on the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon for this engagement:

73RD FIGHTER SQ. AAF

MAJ JOHN J HUSKEY JR 0429415	S Sgt Stanley A Jamron 16012937 (750)
CWO JOSEPH M NURL W2110743	S Sgt Glenn A Lasher 6949640 (620)
CWO RAYMOND WIEKOWITZ W2104588	S Sgt Douglas F Little 6394384 (144)
1st Sgt Samuel R Steele 6634529 (585)	S Sgt James F McGinn 11007226 (911)
M Sgt Gerald L Frye 6913396 (750)	S Sgt Gerald E Mooney 16016767 (911)
M Sgt Ray D Hammer 6539971 (750)	S Sgt Floyd P Nestlarode 13030090 (911)
M Sgt Harold S Heiser 6281940 (750)	S Sgt Vincent Falombo 12028297 (754)
M Sgt Dee T Peyton 6799500 (750)	S Sgt Kenneth L Powell 16008078 (750)
T Sgt John A Bishop 6897628 (750)	S Sgt Frank M Ricker Jr 6997958 (750)
T Sgt Frederick A Braun 16008009 (014)	S Sgt Benjamin Rothschild 6981139 (750)
T Sgt Orlo G Burdick 6977801 (750)	S Sgt Vernon O Rubacking 16017458 (750)
T Sgt Francis Charpentier 11019635 (502)	S Sgt Phil A Rudd 6668320 (911)
T Sgt Ollie E Day 6997117 (821)	S Sgt Philip V Shaker 11011069 (754)
T Sgt Robert J Harris 6991114 (826)	S Sgt Anthony Spiritoanto 7020950 (754)
T Sgt James B McLaughlin 6999296 (750)	S Sgt Charles F Sweet 16050423 (750)
T Sgt Warren R Pike 16003272 (750)	S Sgt Carmela Tascia 11017128 (750)
T Sgt Dale E Rigney 16013043 (911)	S Sgt Paul E Weedon 39150238 (911)
T Sgt Adolph F Sugent 16007676 (824)	S Sgt Ferdinand J Weidner 16003139 (750)
T Sgt William A Turley 16017450 (750)	S Sgt Edward M White 16012623 (911)
T Sgt Martin O Wisecup 6985388 (911)	S Sgt Willard Wright 6987728 (911)
S Sgt Samuel H Atkinson Jr 6971389 (835)	Sgt Sarel K Bishop 6981944 (932)
S Sgt Frank G Buchle 7026821 (750)	Sgt Donald J Daubney 16013083 (835)
S Sgt Arthur F Chauvaux 13010794 (750)	Sgt Richard Kemp 12028928 (237)
S Sgt John A Diefenbach 6914248 (750)	Sgt Bernhard J Lehmann 11019002 (750)
S Sgt John E Dartman 16012954 (750)	Sgt George M Nichols 6993922 (835)
S Sgt Anthony B Duszynski 6982031 (750)	Sgt Jacob A Shideler 15012700 (911)
S Sgt Earl E Dyson 6399060 (750)	Sgt Stephen Wargo 6998137 (060)
S Sgt Leonard T Egan 16013061 (502)	Sgt Joseph C Whitehead 7003601 (835)
S Sgt Virgil L Hayes 16040993 (911)	Cpl Edward L McFadden 11021651 (911)
S Sgt Ashbury D Hoke 14037493 (911)	Pvt Walter B Duncan 6965156 (911)
S Sgt William S Bishop 16008008 (502)	

Auth: Par 7b WD Cir 62 Par 12 AR 260-10.

1