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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON
318TH FIGHTER GROUP
EIGHTH AIR FORCE
APO # 245

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY
SUPPLEMENT NUMBER NINETEEN
1 OCTOBER 1945 - 31 OCTOBER 1945

P.R.C.

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

Negative

2. LOSSES IN ACTION (KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING).

1st Lieut FREDERICK H. BIRD, JR., missing, 29 October 1945

3. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Staff Sergeant LE ROY G. LARSON was awarded Soldier's Medal with appropriate ceremony, 7 October 1945, for his participation in the rescue of the survivors of a B-25 which crashed off the end of Birch Strip.

4. ORGANIZATION:

Negative

5. STRENGTH, PERSONNEL:

Seven (7) Officers.
Sixty-nine (69) enlisted men.

6. STRENGTH, AIRPLANES:

1 October - Twenty-seven (27) P-47N's.
31 October - No (0) Airplanes.

7. LOSSES, AIRPLANES:

Twenty-seven (27) airplanes transferred to 507th Fighter Group, AAF, APO #245.

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72RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
Office of the Squadron Commander
APO 245 c/o PM San Francisco, California

1 November 1945

NARRATIVE

The mission for the Squadron this month consisted of getting the flying time in for the various members on routine training missions. This included three new officers who joined the Squadron on the second. With so many enlisted men leaving for the states, operations on the line practically ceased.

Major Cronican took over Major Nelson's position as Squadron Commander when the latter left for the zone of the interior. He only held that position for a few weeks however when he was transferred to the 413th Group as Group Operations Officer. At that time Captain Whittle took over the reins. Most of the officers were transferred on TD to the other two fighter groups in the Wing. This being done in preparation for the de-activation movement back to the States. Eight officers remained to clean up the affairs of the Squadron.

On the twenty-ninth of the month, Lt. Frederick H. Bird was reported missing when he didn't show up after flying a routine training mission in the vicinity of Okinawa and Ie Shima. The following day however word was recieved that he had been picked up by a ship heading for Japan. The rescue was supposed to have been made, according to word recieved, five miles north of Okinawa.

On the 7th of October the entire Wing participated in an inspection and review down Birch Strip honoring the visit of two generals. Air Medals and Soldier's Medals were given out during the ceremonies. S/Sgt Leroy G. Larson of this Squadron was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his participation in the rescue of the survivors of a B25 which crashed off the end of Birch Strip.

The biggest news this month was the typhoon which hit the island on the nineteenth and twentieth. It just about leveled every building and tent on Ie Shima and Okinawa. The hanger on the line blew down and practically all of the tents in the living areas were destroyed. Only one plane was damaged however, this being a minor damage. It took the whole Squadron a week to clean up after this storm. The Squadron went on a full seven day work week. Food became a critical item and the troops went without fresh bread for almost two weeks awaiting the rebuilding of the island bakery.

Beer was distributed to the enlisted man on three different occasions during the month. Twelve bottles in all were given each man. The mail situation was still very poor, this and the lack of good supplies was very detrimental to the moral of the whole Squadron.

CHRONOLOGY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

2 October: The following new officers asgd to sq fr 301st Ftr Wg.

Major	FRANK A. GRONICAN	0-421899
Captain	LOUIS GRILLO	0-792018
1st Lt	ROBERT A. WRIDE	0-667898

3 October: The following EM asgd fr 318th Ftr Gp.

1st Sgt	EUGENE W. CHURCHILL	16040411
Cpl	ARNOLD E. MC DONALD	37601520

16 Officers and 61 EM reld fr atchd to 11th POA Prov Pers Center, APO 331, and reasgd to org.

4 October: Maj LEWIS A. NELSON, CO, reld fr asgmt & dy and asgd to 318th Ftr Gp. Maj FRANK A. GRONICAN aptd CO.

5 October: 1st Sgt EUGENE W. CHURCHILL promoted to M/Sgt. 11 Officers & 9 EM deptd for Camp Stoneman, Calif, for further movement to Separation Center.

8 October: 4 Officers and 10EM deptd for Camp Stoneman, Calif, for further movement to Separation Center.

14 October: The following promotions made:

To be T/Sgt (Temp)	WILLIAM J. KUTHEIS AARON S. RABALAIS
To be S/Sgt (Tem)	ROBERT J. BARTELL BURNIE E. SYLVESTER
To be Sgt (Temp)	ELWOOD L. ALERIGHT RALPH A. ASHER JOHN T. CHESNEY EDWARD G. CORLISS ROBERT A. DOTZ WILLIAM F. EPSTEIN BOB E. DRAKE RICHARD J. HOYT CLARENCE L. MC KEAN ALAN J. NEVENS MILFORD F. MERRELL HARRY J. PHIBIPS KENNETH N. VAN HORN
To be Cpl (Temp)	LESTER T. CAMPBELL EDWIN F. RIPPLE HAROLD K. THOMPSON

14 October: To be PFC (Temp) EMMETT P. GOOCH
WILLIAM H. MOFFET
EDWARD B. POWELL
SHIRLEY E. ROBERTS

15 October: The following EM deptd for PC CPBC for Separation.

S/Sgt KENNETH M. WOODSIDE
Sgt WILLIAM L. GATTON

17 October: 1 Off and 1 EM deptd for Cont US for emerg lv.

1st Lt WILLIAM S. HARRIS
T/Sgt MARVIN K. NEEDHAM

19 October: S/Sgt KENNETH M. WOODSIDE & Sgt WILLIAM L. GATTON rept missing in an a/c accident off Iwo Jima. EM were enroute to Pers Center at CPBC for separation fr service. Following EM asgd & jd fr Hq 318th Ftr Gp - T/Sgt JAMES E. JACKSON, 34085814. 35 EM deptd for APO 196 for movement to Cont US for further movement to separation center.

20 October: Following EM trfd to 413th Ftr Gp, AAF, APO #245, in gr.

S/Sgt FRED R. LANDFORD
LLOYD G. ROBSAMEN
Cpl ROBERT D. JUSTICE
Pfc JOHN E.A. SHEPARD
GORDON E. NICHOLSON
VINCENT H. URSINI

Following EM trfd in gr to 507th FTR Gp, AAF, APO #245.

Sgt LOUIS A. KELLER
Cpl HOWARD S. COINS
Pfc EMMETT P. GOOCH
WILLIAM H. MOFFET
EDWARD B. POWELL

Following EM trfd in gr to 337th Air Sv Gp, APO #245

Cpl ANTHONY FERRUCCI

Following EM trfd in gr to 557th Air Sv Gp, APO #245.

Sgt STANLEY J.C. MILLER
CHARLES B. PATERSON
Pfc SHIRLEY E. ROBERTS
Pvt EDGAR J. HARRIS

22 October: Maj FRANK A. CRONICAN reld fr asgmt and dy and trfd to 413th Ftr Gp, APO #245. Capt ERNEST J. WHITTLE, JR., asmd command.

22 October: 2d Lt GERALD A. SCHOEN reld fr asgmt and dy and trfd to 301st Ftr Wg.

16 Officers placed on temp dy w/413th Ftr Gp, APO #245.

14 Officers placed on temp dy 2/507th Ftr Gp, APO #245.

24 October: The following officer placed on temp dy 2/413th Ftr Gp.

1st Lieut FREDERICK L. HUETTENMOSER

29 October: 1st Lt FREDERICK H. BIRD, JR., missing on routine flight.

Movies have been shown every other night during the month.
Lack of food supplies has been very detrimental to morale of troops.
The 70 point men were processed.