

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF DECEMBER,
1945.

I ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

377. 1. ORGANIZATION; 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, 64TH FIGHTER WING, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, T/O & E 1-67, 4 SEPTEMBER 1944; CHANGE 1, 14 DECEMBER 1944.
2. STRENGTH: 31 DECEMBER 1945 - 35 OFFICERS, 7 FLIGHT OFFICERS, 64 E.M. SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WD AGO FORM NO. 1.
3. STATION:
- A. PRESENT STATION KASSEL/ ROTHWESTERN, GERMANY.
- B. NO CHANGE OF STATION OCCURRED DURING THE MONTH.
4. LOSSES IN ACTION; NEGATIVE.
5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS; NEGATIVE.



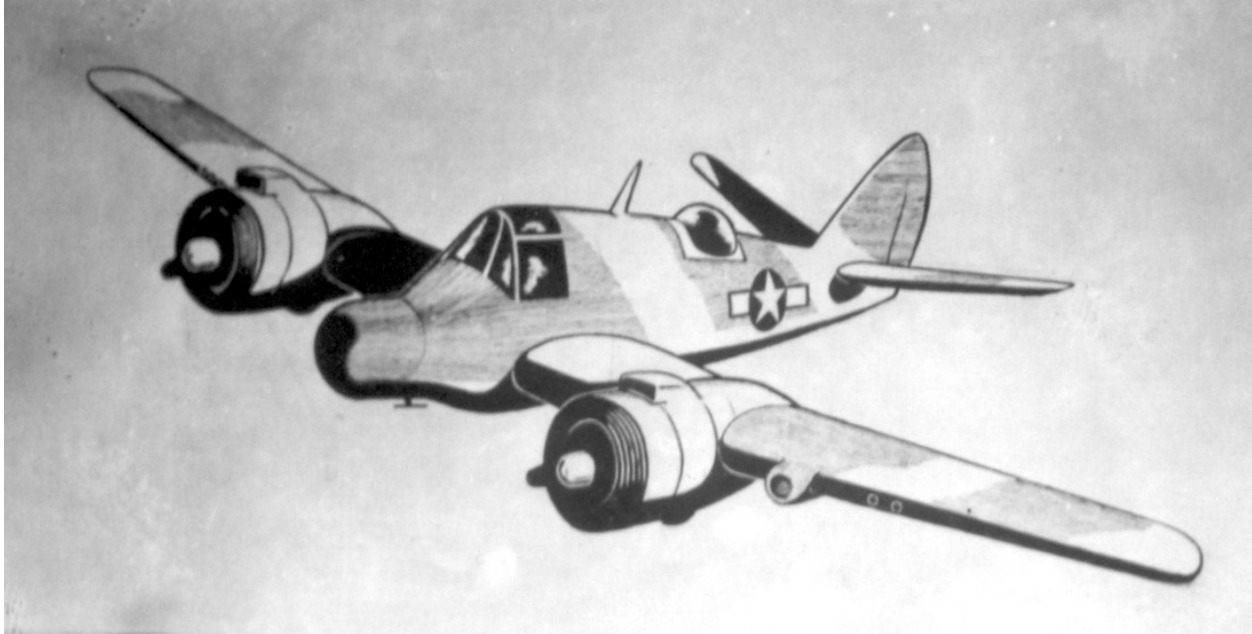
Lovely young girl in Kassel

II NARRATIVE

1. THE MONTH OF DECEMBER SHOWED VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY OTHER THAN USUAL SQUADRON DUTIES. DUE TO EXTREMELY POOR WEATHER AND MAINTENANCE HANDICAPS, VERY LITTLE FLYING WAS ACCOMPLISHED. LEAVES TO ENGLAND, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND WERE CARRIED OUT, ALTHOUGH TRANSPORTATION WAS LIMITED BY SNOW, FOG AND RAIN. REDEPLOYMENT HOMEWARD CONTINUED ON SCHEDULE AT TIMES TAKING WITH IT KEY PERSONNEL; HOWEVER REPLACEMENTS ALMOST MADE UP FOR THESE.
2. THE THREE WOMEN TYPISTS ARE HELPING OUT A GREAT DEAL ON THE TYPING, AND THEY HAVE MASTERED DETAILS ON MILITARY LETTERS.
3. THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OF GROUND PERSONNEL HAS PROGRESSED SATISFACTORILY ALTHOUGH WEATHER HAS BEEN DETRIMENTAL.
4. THE SQUADRON MOVED TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE AIRFIELD AND ARE NOW CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH THE 36TH FIGHTER GROUP.
5. ON THE WHOLE THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WAS VERY UNEVENTFUL.

III DIARY

378. DEC 3. LT ANDERSON RETURNED TODAY FROM TDY AT CANNES, FRANCE.
379. DEC 5. TEN MEN, ALL CORPORALS, JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY, WE CAN CERTAINLY USE THESE ADDITIONS AND WELCOME THEM.
380. DEC 6. MOVED TO EAST SIDE OF THE FIELD TODAY.
381. DEC 7. LT MULL TRANSFERRED TO 10 RECON. GROUP TODAY.
382. DEC 9. SGT ANDREW AND HESSMAN TRANSFERRED TODAY TO 331ST STATION COMPLEMENT SQUADRON - THE FIRST LAP OF A HOMEWARD JOURNEY.
383. DEC 10. FOUR MORE E.M ADDITIONS JOINED US TODAY - OUT STRENGTH IS COMING BACK UP.



Beaufighter Drawing by Noel Howard in the O-Club at Rothwesten/Kassel, Germany.

384. DEC 12. LT MERCER, F/O GRAHAM, AND CPL JAFFIE LEFT TODAY FOR A TEN DAY LEAVE TO ENGLAND. 16 MORE E.M. JOINED US TODAY - SO OUR COMEBACK CONTINUES.

385. DEC 14. CAPT DEAKYNE AND LT PERKINS LEFT TODAY FOR TD IN ENGLAND.

386. DEC 15. 2ND LT ANDERSON WAS PROMOTED TO 1ST LT TODAY. F/O LA BOSCO TRANSFERRED TO THE 344TH BOMB GROUP. THIRTEEN OFFICERS ON D.S. AT MANNHEIM RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON TODAY.

387. DEC 18. CAPT DEAKYNE AND LT PERKINS RETURNED FROM TD IN ENGLAND.

388. DEC 20. FIVE OF OUR OFFICERS AND SIX ENLISTED MEN TRANSFERRED TO FRITZLAR TODAY - ON THEIR WAY HOME.

389. DEC 21. F/O'S DIEHL AND GRONBERG LEFT FOR A LEAVE IN SWITZERLAND TOGETHER WITH SGTS ROHREND AND STONER.

390. DEC 24. LT TEMM LEFT FOR THREE DAYS ON TD AT GOPPINGEN TODAY.

391. DEC 25. CHRISTMAS - TURKEY DINNER.

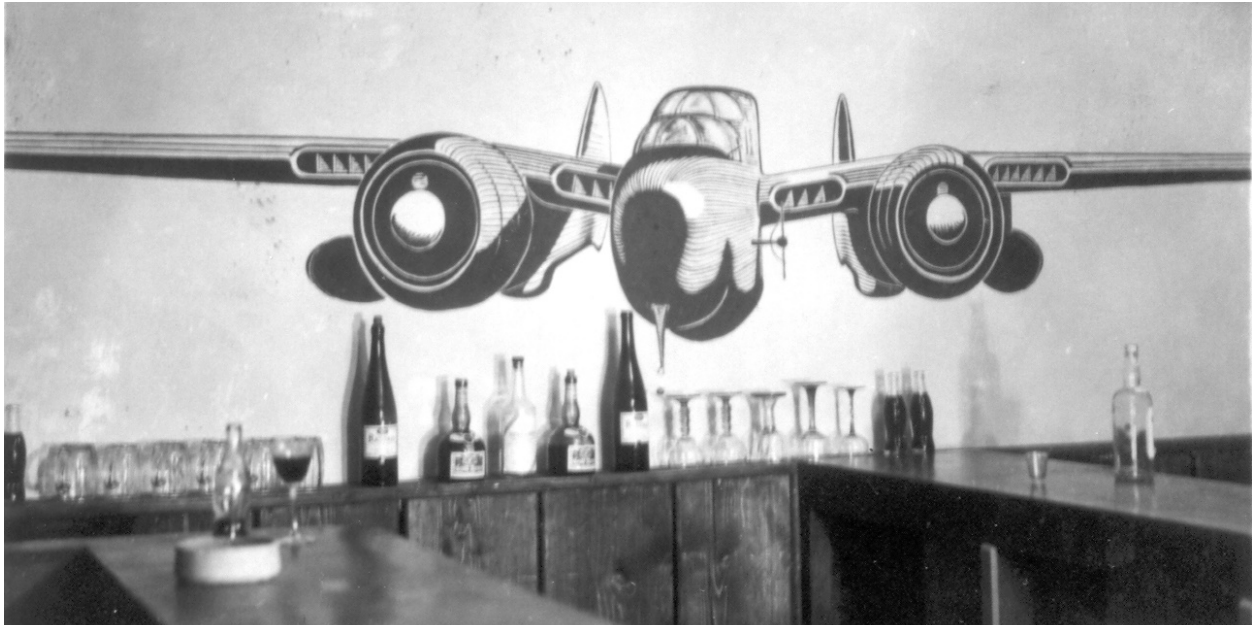
392. DEC 26. ABUNDANT E.M. PROMOTIONS CAME THROUGH TODAY: THREE SGT TO S/SGT; TWO FROM CPL TO SGT; THREE FROM PFC TO CPL; AND SEVEN TO PFC.

393. DEC 27. LT TEMM RETURNED FROM GOPPINGEN. THREE NEW OFFICERS ARRIVED: LT'S GUNN, KLODZINSKI, AND WALTER - ALL THREE ARE BOMBARDIERS.

IV COMBAT OPERATIONS; NEGATIVE

V NON COMBAT OPERATIONS

394. 1. LOCAL NAVIGATION CONTRIBUTED TO PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE NON-COMBAT FLYING FOR THE MONTH. IN ADDITION THERE WERE BUT A FEW HOURS OF ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS, BAD WEATHER ONCE AGAIN WAS THE CHIEF CAUSE OF THE SQUADRON NOT ENGAGED IN MUCH FLYING.
2. THE B-25 AND THE AT-6 HAVE NOT SEEN SERVICE ALL MONTH, BOTH BEING IN AN UNSERVICEABLE CONDITION BECAUSE OF TACHOMETERS. ABOUT ONE HALF OF ALL TRAINING TIME WAS FLOWN WITH THE L-5 WHILE THE REST



P-61 Drawing by Noel Howard in the O-Club at Rothwesten/Kassel, Germany. Noel's artistic ability and knowledge of aircraft was used in the July 1945 display of all military aircraft beneath the Eiffel Tower for the AAF Exposition in Paris.

WAS FLOWN WITH THE P-61'S.

VI TRAINING

1. GROUND TRAINING FOR THE PERIOD JULY-DECEMBER CAME TO A CLOSE WITH ABOUT 80% OF THE PROGRAM COMPLETED. MOST OF THE TRAINING DURING THE MONTH CONSISTED OF TWO HOURS OF ORIENTATION AND ONE HOUR OF CLOSE ORDER DRILL BEING GIVEN EACH WEEK. ONE HOUR OF FLYING REGULATIONS AND FLYING SAFETY HAVE BEEN GIVEN ALL AIRCREW AT THE WEEKLY PILOTS' MEETING.
2. OUR FLYING TRAINING PROGRAM ALSO CAME TO A CLOSE FOR THE PERIOD JULY-DECEMBER WITH BUT 24% OF THE PROGRAM BEING COMPLETED. EVEN THOUGH AIRCREW ENGAGED IN LOCAL NAVIGATIONAL FLIGHTS, NO CREDIT COULD BE GIVEN THEM ON THE TRAINING PROGRAM AS EACH AIRCREW MEMBER HAD ALREADY PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED THE REQUIRED 12 HOURS. IN ADDITION TO DAY NAVIGATION THERE WERE A NUMBER TRANSITION HOURS IN THE L-5. THE SQUADRON DID NOT ENGAGE IN ANY NIGHT FLYING. HOWEVER, AS SOON AS WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMIT, THERE WILL BE NIGHT FLYING.



Noel Howard designed and drew the Broom Stick and Crystal Ball logo used by the 417th NFS after transitioning to the P-61s.

VII STATISTICS

1. THIS UNIT HAS NO STATISTICAL CONTROL OFFICER.

VIII STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCES

1. STAFF MEETINGS WERE HELD AS SCHEDULED AT 1300 HOURS EVERY TUESDAY. THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD FOR OPEN DISCUSSION OF CHANGES AND IDEAS OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

IX PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS; NEGATIVE.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF JANUARY 1946.

I ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

395. 1. ORGANIZATION: 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, 64TH FIGHTER WING, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, T/O 6 E 1-67, 4 SEPTEMBER 1944; CHANGE 1, 14 DECEMBER 1944.
2. STRENGTH: 31 JANUARY 1946 - 28 OFFICERS, 5 FLIGHT OFFICERS, 61 E. M. SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WD AGO FORM NO. 1.
3. STATION:
- A. PRESENT STATION: KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN, GERMANY.
- B. NO CHANGE OF STATION OCCURRED DURING THE MONTH.
4. LOSSES IN ACTION: NEGATIVE.
5. AWARDS AND DECO-RATIONS: NEGA-TIVE.

II NARRATIVE

1. THE MONTH OF JANUARY SHOWED VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY OTHER THAN THE USUAL SQUADRON DUTIES. DUE TO EXTREMELY POOR WEATHER AND PERSONNEL HANDICAPS IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, VERY LITTLE FLYING WAS ACCOMPLISHED, LEAVES TO ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND SWITZERLAND WERE CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE USUAL METHODS OF RAIL AND MOTOR TRANSPORTATION.



Madeline Kern, "Scrapie" Rosier, James Williams, Murt Shields, and Ed Witte during the final days of enjoying the great job the Red Cross has done to make their day.

2. GERMAN P.W.'S AND MANY OF OUR DISPLACED PERSONS ARE GIVING THEIR ALL FOR THE RUNNING OF THE DEPARTMENTS. IN SOME CASES IT WORKS OUT VERY WELL.
3. THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OF GROUND PERSONNEL HAS PROGRESSED SATISFACTORILY ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER HAS BEEN NON-CONDUCTIVE FOR SUCH.
4. THE "CHOW" SINKS TO A NEW LOW AT TIMES.

5. REDEPLOYMENT HOMEWARD CONTINUED ON SCHEDULE THOUGH NOT AS EXTENSIVELY AS PREVIOUSLY IN ITS REMOVAL OF KEY PERSONNEL. FIVE OF OUR OFFICERS WERE LOST THROUGH TRANSFER AND EMERGENCY LEAVES, WHILE TWO WERE REDEPLOYED.
6. ON THE WHOLE, THE MONTH OF JANUARY WAS VERY UNEVENTFUL.
7. RECREATION PROVED ITS USUAL PROBLEM, AND OCCASIONAL PARTIES AND NIGHTLY MOVIES MAKE UP THE BRUNT. SKIS AND SKATES ARE READY IN LIMITED AMOUNT, BUT WHERE IS THE ICE AND SNOW? PING-PONG SEEMS TO PROVIDE THE EXERCISE AND MENTAL STIMULANT IN MAXIMUM.

III COMBAT OPERATIONS; NEGATIVE

IV NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS.

396. 1. LOCAL NAVIGATION CONTRIBUTED TO PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE NON-COMBAT FLYING FOR THE MONTH. IN ADDITION THERE WERE BUT A FEW HOURS OF ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS. BAD WEATHER AND LACK OF MANPOWER IN MAINTENANCE WERE ONCE AGAIN THE CHIEF CAUSES OF THE SQUADRON'S NOT ENGAGING IN MUCH FLYING.
2. THE B-25 AND THE AT-6 ARE NOW GENERALLY SEEING SERVICE AFTER LONG LAY-OFFS. MOST OF ALL TRAINING TIME WAS FLOWN IN P-61'S FOR JANUARY, WHILE ABOUT ONE THIRD WAS DONE IN THE L-5.



P-61 Radar repairs, Bolinski & Fields on top of plane, Rich Ziebart below radar while at Fritzlar, Germany.

V TRAINING

1. GROUND TRAINING FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - JUNE STARTED WITH APPROXIMATELY 14% OF THE ENTIRE PROGRAM COMPLETED AS OF 31 JANUARY. MOST OF THE TRAINING THIS MONTH CONSISTED OF ORIENTATION, AIRCRAFT RECOGNITION, PHYSICAL TRAINING, AND CLOSE ORDER DRILL, WHILE TWO MEDICAL LECTURES WERE ALSO INCLUDED. ONE HOUR OF FLYING REGULATIONS AND FLYING SAFETY HAVE BEEN GIVEN ALL AIRCREW AT THE WEEKLY PILOTS' MEETINGS.
2. OUR FLYING TRAINING PROGRAM HAS ALSO BEGUN WITH 8% OF THE TOTAL JANUARY-JUNE BEING COMPLETED. THE SQUADRON DID NOT ENGAGE IN ANY NIGHT FLYING. IN ADDITION, TO DAY NAVIGATION, A NUMBER OF TRANSITION HOURS WERE ALSO PUT IN. 9% OF REQUIRED DAY NAVIGATION WAS COMPLETED.

VI STATISTICS

1. THIS UNIT HAS NO STATISTICAL OFFICER.

VII STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCES

1. STAFF MEETINGS WERE HELD AS SCHEDULED AT 1300 HOURS EVERY TUES-

DAY. THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD FOR OPEN DISCUSSION OF CHANGES AND IDEAS OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

VIII PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS NEGATIVE.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1946.

397. I ORGANIZATION

A. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:

- 1) MODIFICATION OF T/O & E 1-67, DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1944, TWO CHANGES, 6 FEBRUARY, 1946.
- 2) TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION CHANGE: INCREASE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT THROUGH ASSIGNMENT OF 36TH FIGHTER GROUP PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON. 36TH FIGHTER GROUP WAS TRANSFERRED TO Z OF I. MINUS PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FOR DEACTIVATION.

- B. STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION: AS OF LAST DAY ON MONTH, 167 OFFICERS AND 346 ENLISTED MEN (INCLUDING 36TH FIGHTER GROUP, DEACTIVATED, PERSONNEL; SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WDAGO FORM NO. 1).
- C. NAME AND DATE OF ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED SINCE THE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THIS HISTORY: NEGATIVE.
- D. LOSSES THROUGH ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS, WITH NAMES, DATES, AND CIRCUMSTANCES: NEGATIVE.
- E. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE.

II NARRATIVE.

THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY BROUGHT FORTH A MAZE OF PROBLEMS, BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE AND FUNCTIONAL, AS THE 36TH FIGHTER GROUP WAS DEACTIVATED AND THE 417TH ABSORBED THEIR PERSONNEL AND MUCH EQUIPMENT. THE STATUS OF BEING ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST SQUADRONS WILL BE ONLY TEMPORARY, HOWEVER, AS THE DAY FIGHTER PERSONNEL ARE WORKING TO CLOSE OUT THEIR RECORDS AND EQUIPMENT AND WILL MOVE TO A NEW LOCALE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHERE THEY WILL BE ABSORBED INTO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. THE 417TH IS NOW CONFRONTED WITH TWO ORDERLY ROOMS AND MAINTAINING MOST DEPARTMENTS IN DUPLICATE.

WEATHER CONTINUED TO HINDER FLYING, AND THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY BROUGHT MUCH SNOW AND RAIN TO THE KASSEL AREA. SO IT'S BEEN A ROUGH FIGHT FOR FLYING PAY.

MOVIES, PING-PONG, AND OCCASIONAL DANCES CONTINUE TO MAKE UP THE GREATER PART OF RECREATION AND SOCIAL LIFE, WITH WOMEN, BEING IMPORTED FROM UNRAA COMMUNITIES. A "BITTER PILL" TO THE TROOPS IS THE DISCONTINUING OF NAAFI LIQUOR RATIONS PLUS THE DIMINISHED FRENCH COGNAC SALES. THE MORALE SEEMS TO HOLD UP, HOWEVER, AND THE FOOD FLUCTUATES WILDLY IN QUALITY.

OUR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT RECORD WAS MARRED BY THE FORCED LANDING AND CRUMPLING OF OUR L-5; NO INJURY TO PERSONNEL, HOWEVER, IT WAS OUR FIRST ACCIDENT IN EIGHT MONTHS.

IN ALL FEBRUARY WAS A BUSY MONTH, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS CONFINED MOSTLY TO WORK ON THE GROUND.



Paul Peyron in B-25



P-61B-6-NO, #42-39515 in Flight, similar to most of the P-61s in the 417th NFS, Northrop photo.

398. I ORGANIZATION

A. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:

1. MODIFICATION OF T/O & E 1-67, DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1944. TWO CHANGES 6 FEBRUARY 1946.
2. TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION CHANGE: INCREASE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT THROUGH ASSIGNMENT OF 36TH FIGHTER GROUP (DEACTIVATED) PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON.

B. STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION AS OF LAST DAY OF MONTH: (INCLUDING 36TH FIGHTER GROUP, DEACTIVATED PERSONNEL) 199 OFFICERS AND 479 ENLISTED MEN, SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WDAGO FORM NO. 1.

C. NAME AND DATE OF ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED SINCE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THIS HISTORY: NEGATIVE.

D. LOSSES THROUGH ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS, WITH NAMES, DATES, AND CIRCUMSTANCES: NEGATIVE.

E. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE.

II NARRATIVE

THE MONTH OF MARCH CONTINUED TO PRESENT THE PROBLEMS OF ABSORBING PERSONNEL OF THE FORMER 36TH FIGHTER GROUP IN TO THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON WITH ADMINISTRATIVE HEADACHES, AND NEW PROBLEMS AND WORK WAS CONFRONTED WITH THE PROCESS OF CLOSING OUT ROTHWESTERN AIR BASE. BY EARLY APRIL THE 417TH WILL BE LOCATED AT FRITZLAR AIRBASE AND THE STRANDED DAY FIGHTERS OF THE OLD 36TH WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO VARIOUS FIGHTER GROUPS THROUGHOUT GERMANY. THUS A CHANGE OF STATION IS IN THE PROCESS, BUT WILL BE RECORDED IN APRIL'S HISTORY AFTER THE 417TH IS IN ITS NEW HOME IN FRITZLAR.



Reconnaissance P-38 "Early Mission" at Rothwestern, Germany, with G Marks, Bob Lee, and Harry Saleba. Pilots name on aircraft is Capt. A.E. Schroeder.

THE WEATHER FINALLY BROKE AT THE END OF MARCH AND THE FIRST CLEAR SUNNY DAYS SINCE SUMMER WERE IDEAL FOR FLYING. HOWEVER WITH ALL THE WORK TO BE DONE, PLUS NECESSITY FOR GETTING AIRCRAFT IN SHAPE FOR THE COMING MOVE, A MINIMUM OF FLIGHTS CONTINUED.

SOCIAL LIFE ON THE BASE SEEMED TO REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME WITH WEEKLY DANCES AND INTERMITTENT PARTIES, AND RECREATION WAS AUGMENTED WITH SPRING WEATHER'S DRAWING OUT BASEBALLS AND GLOVES. MARCH HAS BEEN A MONTH OF HARD WORK "ON THE GROUND", BUT SPRING IS HERE AND MORALE IS GETTING BETTER ALSO.

399. I ORGANIZATION.

A. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:

1. MODIFICATION OF T/O & E 1-67, DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1944. TWO CHANGES 6 FEBRUARY 1946.
2. TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION CHANGES:
INCREASE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT THROUGH ASSIGNMENT OF 36TH FIGHTER GROUP (DEACTIVATED) PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON.

B. STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION AS OF LAST DAY OF MONTH (INCLUDING 36TH FIGHTER GROUP, (DEACTIVATED PERSONNEL) 58 OFFICERS AND 248 ENLISTED MEN, SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WDAGO FORM NO. 1.

C. NAME AND DATE OF ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED SINCE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THIS HISTORY: DEPARTED KASSEL AIR BASE 10 APRIL 1946, ARRIVED FRITZLAR AIR BASE 10 APRIL 1946

D. LOSSES THROUGH ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS, WITH NAMES, DATES, AND CIRCUMSTANCES: NEGATIVE.

E. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE.

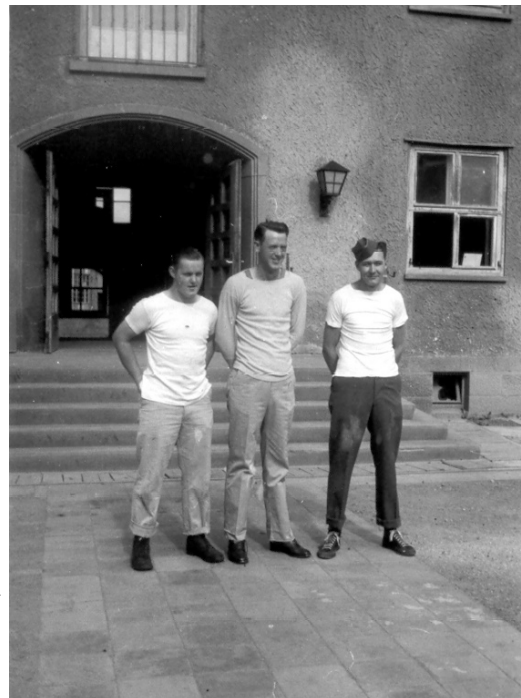
II NARRATIVE.

THE MONTH OF APRIL PRESENTED THE PROBLEM OF MOVING FROM KASSEL TO FRITZLAR AIR BASE, AS WELL AS THE CONTINUED DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT OF THE DISBANDED 36TH FIGHTER GROUP. A CLOSE OUT FORCE OF A SECTION OF THE 417TH STAYED AT KASSEL AIR BASE TO FINISH CLOSING OUT THE FIELD, WHILE THE MAIN FORCE OF THE 417TH WAS SETTING UP HOUSE KEEPING HERE AT FRITZLAR AIR BASE.

MOST OF THE PERSONNEL SEEMED DISCOURAGED ABOUT THE NEW SET UP HERE AT FRITZLAR, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE FINE LIVING CONDITIONS AT KASSEL. THE BILLETTS ARE THE MAJOR CAUSE OF DISCONTENT OF THE MEN. THE FOOD OF THE E.M.'S IS DEPLORABLE AND UNEXCUSABLY LOATHSOME. THE MEN ARE SLOWLY LOSING ALL THE WEIGHT THAT THEY BUILT UP AT KASSEL AIR BASE.

THE FLYING FOR APRIL WAS VERY LOW DUE TO THE CONCENTRATION OF WORK ON AIRCRAFT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXHIBITION OF PLANES AND EQUIPMENT TO THE SWISS DELEGATION AT WIESBADEN.

SOCIAL LIFE HERE AT FRITZLAR IS NOT TOO BAD, BUT NOTHING LIKE THE SOCIAL LIFE AT KASSEL.



Bob Whitby, Mason Hall, Mike Lambrean (L-R) in front of our Barracks at Fritzlar

400. I ORGANIZATION.

A. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:

1. MODIFICATION OF T/O & E 1-67, DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1944. TWO CHANGES 6 FEBRUARY 1946.

2. TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION CHANGE: NEGATIVE.
- B. STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION AS OF LAST DAY OF MONTH:
26 OFFICERS, 4 FLIGHT OFFICERS AND 109 ENLISTED MEN, SOURCE,
MORNING REPORT, WDAGO FORM NO. 1.
- C. NAME AND DATE OF ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCU-
PIED SINCE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THIS HISTORY: NEGATIVE.
- D. LOSSES THROUGH ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS, WITH NAMES, DATES, AND CIR-
CUMSTANCES: NEGATIVE.
- E. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE.

II NARRATIVE.

THE MONTH OF MAY SAW THE SQUADRON AGAIN GETTING BACK TO NORMAL FUNC-
TION AFTER THE MOVE IN APRIL. WITH
THE SECTIONS ONCE AGAIN STRAIGHTENED
OUT AND MOST OF THE AIRCRAFT FLY-
ABLE, THE MEN ARE STARTING TO TAKE
THE LEAVES TO SWITZERLAND AND TO THE
U.K. ONCE MORE. DURING THE MONTH LT
WATT RETURNED TO THE Z OF I ON R &
R.

THE MONTH OF MAY ALSO SAW A CHANGE
OF COMMAND IN THE SQUADRON CAPT
THEODORE A DEAKYNE STARTED ON HIS
WAY HOME AND THE SQDN WAS TAKEN OVER
BY MAJOR JOHN M. KONOSKY. ALSO DUR-
ING THE MONTH THE SQDN BECAME PART
OF THE 366TH FIGHTER GROUP.

WITH SO MANY OF THE PERSONNEL GOING
HOME VERY FEW OF THE ORIGINAL 417TH
PERSONNEL ARE LEFT OVER HERE. MOST
OF THE OFFICERS ARE FROM THE OLD
415TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQDN. AND THE E.
M. ARE MOSTLY ALL FRESH FROM THE
STATES.

THE SOCIAL LIFE HERE AT FRITZLAR HAS
IMPROVED NOW THAT MOST OF THE MEN
HAVE GOTTEN THEMSELVES ACQUAINTED
HERE. THE PARTY NIGHT HAS BEEN
CHANGED FROM FRIDAY NIGHT AS IT HAS
BEEN IN THE PAST, TO SATURDAY NIGHT.

THE MORALE OF THE ENLISTED MEN HAS IMPROVED A GREAT DEAL SINCE THE MESS
HALL HAS BEEN PUTTING OUT BETTER CHOW. WHILE ON THEIR OFF HOURS THE
ENLISTED MEN HAVE BEEN FIXING UP THEIR DAY ROOM MAKING IT VERY COMFORT-
ABLE AND ONE OF THE NICEST THEY HAVE HAD OVER SEAS.

FLYING FOR THIS MONTH HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST FOR SOME TIME WITH MOST
OF THE MEN GETTING IN AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE FROM THIS FIELD BEFORE
THE NIGHT FLYING STARTS. ALL IN ALL THE MONTH OF MAY HAS BEEN A GREAT
IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS AS FAR AS FLYING IS CONCERNED.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF JUNE, 1946.

401. I ORGANIZATION.



Mess Hall at Fritzlar. Displaced Person (DP)
"Mitzi", "Scrappy" Rosier, and another DP.
DPs did Kitchen Police (KP) and served food.

- A. ORGANIZATION CHANGES: NEGATIVE.
- B. STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION AS OF LAST DAY OF MONTH: 20 OFFICERS, 1 FLIGHT OFFICER AND 119 ENLISTED MEN, SOURCE, MORNING REPORT WDAGO FORM NO. 1.
- C. NAME AND DATE OF ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED SINCE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THIS HISTORY: NEGATIVE.
- D. LOSSES THROUGH ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS, WITH NAMES, DATES, AND CIRCUMSTANCES: NEGATIVE.

II NARRATIVE.

THE MONTH OF JUNE FOUND SEVERAL CHANGES WITH THE SQUADRON, BOTH IN PERSONNEL AND IN OPERATING EFFICIENCY. FOURTEEN CAT V OFFICERS LEFT THE SQUADRON FOR HOME AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH, LEAVING THE SQUADRON VERY SHORT HANDED. THE SITUATION RELIEVED DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH BY THE ARRIVAL OF FOUR OFFICERS FROM THE STATES. DURING THE MONTH LT MOORE LEFT FOR THE Z OF I ON R AND R.

ENLISTED MEN'S MORALE ROSE CONSIDERABLY DURING THE MONTH, DUE TO IMPROVED SOCIAL CONDITIONS, BETTER FOOD, AND ENTERTAINMENT. WORKING EFFICIENCY ALSO ROSE DUE TO THE LOSS OF MOST OF THE ENLISTED PERSONNEL WHO WANTED TO GO HOME. THE MAJORITY OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL WITH THE SQUADRON NOW ARE REGULAR ARMY MEN, WHO ARE TAKING MORE INTEREST IN THEIR WORK, RESULTING IN A BETTER JOB DONE.

JUNE ALSO SAW A FLUX IN GROUND TRAINING, MOSTLY A GATHERING OF THE FISCAL YEARS REMNANTS.

FLYING FOR THE MONTH TOOK A SLIGHT DIP, DUE TO A LACK OF FLYING PERSONNEL AND PROPER OIL FOR THE PLANES. FLYING DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH WAS ON THE UPGRADE AND CONSIDERING THE SMALLER NUMBER OF PILOTS AVAILABLE THERE IS SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS MONTHS.

THE MONTH SAW A SHAPING UP OF THE SQUADRON INTO A MORE EFFICIENT WORKING MACHINE BY THE SQUADRON COMMANDER MAJOR JOHN M. KONOSKY, WHICH SHOULD BRING GOOD RESULTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.



417th NFS CO Major John M. Konosky, Fritzlar 1946

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF JULY, 1946

402. I ORGANIZATION.

- A. ORGANIZATION CHANGES: NEGATIVE.
- B. STRENGTH OF THE ORGANIZATION AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTHS
17 OFFICERS AND 132 ENLISTED MEN, SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WDAGO FORM NO. 1.

- C. NAME AND DATE OF ARRIVAL AT, AND DEPARTURE FROM, BACH STATION OCCUPIED SINCE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THIS HISTORY: NEGATIVE.
- D. LOSSES THROUGH ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS, WITH NAMES, DATE, AND CIRCUMSTANCES : NEGATIVE.
- E. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE.

II NARRATIVE.

THE MONTH OF JULY SAW THE SQUADRON GAINING MOMENTUM UNDER THE ABLE DIRECTION OF THE SQUADRON COMMANDER, MAJOR KONOSKY. ON THE 2 JULY, 1946 THE SQUADRON WAS HONORED WITH A SHORT INSPECTION TOUR BY GENERAL SPAATZ.



Had to "pull-through" the props on the P-61s big R-2800s every morning, before flight. "Murt" Shields at work.

THE SQUADRON STRENGTH IS INCREASING AGAIN, INSTEAD OF DECREASING AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN PAST MONTHS. THE ENLISTED MEN SAY THAT THEIR CHOW IS THE BEST THEY HAVE HAD FOR MONTHS. THEIR MORALE SEEMS TO BE HIGHER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME, AND THE ONLY THING THEY ARE GRIPING ABOUT IS THE LOSS OF THE RED CROSS ON THE FIELD AND THE HOURS DURING WHICH THEY CAN VISIT THE SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB.

GROUND TRAINING IS ON SCHEDULE, BUT IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT IT IS TAKING MEN FROM THEIR JOBS WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED THERE.

THE SQUADRON WAS INSPECTED BY THE 64TH WING GROUP COMMANDERS ON THE 14TH OF JULY AND ALL THE COMMENTS WERE FAVORABLE.

FLYING FOR THE MONTH JUMPED TO A NEW HIGH OVER THE PAST MONTHS, MORE OF THE PLANES HAVE BEEN IN COMMISSION THIS MONTH THAN THERE HAVE BEEN FOR AN EIGHT MONTH PERIOD, AND A LOT OF FLYING TIME HAS BEEN LOGGED ON THE AIR SHOWS IN WHICH THE SQUADRON PARTICIPATED, NIGHT FLYING WAS OFFICIALLY STARTED DURING

JULY, AND SEVERAL OF THE NEW PILOTS HAVE BEEN BUSY RENEWING THEIR INSTRUMENT CARDS. ALL IN ALL IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE SQUADRON COMMANDERS POLICIES ARE MAKING A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN THE SQUADRON.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF AUGUST, 1946.

403. I ORGANIZATION.

CHANGES IN THE T/O. NEGATIVE.

II SQUADRON STRENGTH.

23 OFFICERS, 137 ENLISTED MEN. AUTHORITY, WDAGO FORM NO. 1, AUGUST 1946.

III CHANGES OF STATION DURING MONTH OF AUGUST.

A. FROM FRITZLAR ARMY AIR BASE TO SCHWEINFURT ARMY AIR BASE 20 AUGUST, 1946.

IV LOSSES IN ACTION. NEGATIVE.

V AWARDS AND DECORATIONS. NEGATIVE.

VI NARRATIVE.

THE FIRST PART OF AUGUST FOUND THE 417TH CONTEMPLATING A BOOM MONTH IN FLYING AND WORKING EFFICIENCY. THE DEPARTMENTS WERE GETTING DOWN TO A ROUTINE UNDER MAJOR KONOSKY'S INSTRUCTION AND ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENTS WERE FAIRLY NEW TO MOST OF THE OFFICERS THINGS WERE RUNNING WITH A MINIMUM OF FRICTION. LT CRAIG JOINED THE SQUADRON ON THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, AND LT WATT RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON FROM THE STATES SHORTLY AFTER.

THE MOVE FROM FRITZLAR, TOOK THE BETTER PART OF THE MONTH TO ACCOMPLISH SINCE ALL OUR PLANES ARE GROUNDED FOR PROPS AND ELEVATORS, AND A RELEASE HAS TO BE OBTAINED FROM HIGHER HEADQUARTERS FOR THE FLIGHT DOWN. THE SQUADRON IS GETTING PRETTY WELL SET UP NOW AT OUR NEW BASE, AND WE HOPE TO HAVE OUR PLANES BACK IN WORKING CONDITION SHORTLY.

THE ENLISTED MEN SEEM TO LIKE THEIR NEW HOME, AND THEY SAY THAT THEIR CHOW IS MUCH BETTER THAN AT FRITZLAR. THERE ARE A LOT OF NEW MEN IN THE SQUADRON NOW, SWELLING THE SQUADRON TO T/O STRENGTH, HOWEVER, ABOUT SIXTY OF THE TOTAL WILL BE GOING HOME SHORTLY.



John Roberson, Dave Logan with wing tanks made into a pontoon boat, Schweinfurt

FLYING FOR THE MONTH WAS ALL DONE IN THE FIRST WEEK. IT GOT OFF TO A GOOD START WITH THE FIRST NIGHT FLIGHTS THAT THE SQUADRON HAS FLOWN IN OVER A YEAR. AROUND THE TENTH THE PLANES WERE GROUNDED FOR PROPS AND ELEVATORS AND FROM THAT TIME TO THE END OF THE MONTH THEY WERE GROUNDED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FLIGHT OF SIX PLANES TO SCHWEINFURT.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1946.

404. I ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES.

II SQUADRON STRENGTH.

III CHANGE OF STATION. NEGATIVE.

IV LOSSES BY ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS. NEGATIVE

V AWARDS AND DECORATIONS DURING THE MONTH. NEGATIVE

VI NARRATIVE.

SEPTEMBER FOUND THE 417TH WELL SETTLED AT THE NEW BASE. THE ENLISTED

MEN SAY THAT THE RED CROSS, BOTH ON THE FIELD AND IN SCHWEINFURT, IS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER OUR OLD BASE. MANY OF THE ENLISTED MEN HAVE GONE OUT FOR THE FOOTBALL SQUAD AND QUITE A NUMBER HAVE MADE IT. ALL IN ALL THEY SEEM TO LIKE THEIR NEW HOME AND THEIR CHOW.

THERE ARE FOUR FAMILIES OF DEPENDENTS IN THE SQUADRON WITH SEVERAL MORE EXPECTED

SHORTLY. MOST OF THE HOMES ARE ONLY NOW BEING SET UP, AND MOST OF THE THEM ARE LACKING MOST OF THE FURNITURE AS YET.

THE SQUADRON ENLARGED SOMEWHAT ON OFFICER PERSONNEL, AND GAINED SEVERAL RADAR OBSERVERS. MOST OF THE PILOTS GAINED ARE NOT CHECKED OUT IN THE P-61, BUT ONE A-26, ONE



P-61 after the guys took the wing tanks off, Schweinfurt.

C-45, AND ONE AT-6 WERE ADDED TO THE SQUADRON DURING THE MONTH, AS MOST TO THE NEW PILOTS HAVE BEEN FLYING THE NEW PLANES. FLYING FOR THE MONTH STARTED DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF MONTH WHEN THE FIRST OF THE P-61'S PROPS CAME BACK FROM THE SERVICE SQUADRON, AND THE PLANES BEGAN TO COME INTO FLYING COMMISSION. SINCE THEN MOST OF THE PLANES HAVE BEEN IN FLYING COMMISSION, AND QUITE A LOT OF FLYING TRAINING MISSIONS HAVE BEEN FLOWN, INCLUDING ONE NIGHT MISSION. SEVERAL OF THE NEW PILOTS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING CHECKED OUT IN THE P-61 SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE QUALIFIED P-61 PILOTS. WE ALSO HOPE TO HAVE MORE OF OUR PLANES RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON FROM FRITZLAR DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

VII APPENDICES. NEGATIVE.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1946.

405. I ORGANIZATION.

A. LAST DATA

1. ORIGINAL DESIGNATION OF UNIT WITH SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN NAME.
 - a. 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON.
 - b. 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, ALL WEATHER GROUP (PROV)
2. DATE AND PLACE OF ACTIVATION OF ORGANIZATION, TOGETHER WITH AUTHORITY.
3. SOURCE OF ORIGINAL PERSONNEL.

- a. AIR CORPS.
- B. PRESENT DATA
 - 1. FULL NAME OF ORGANIZATION.
 - a. 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, ALL WEATHER GROUP (PROV)
 - 2. COMMANDING OFFICER.
 - a. JOHN M. KONOSKY, MAJOR, AIR CORPS.
 - 3. KEY STAFF OFFICERS.
 - a. EXECUTIVE OFFICER; KENNETH LA BARRE, MAJOR, AIR CORPS.
 - b. OPERATIONS OFFICER; JACK K. CAMBLE, CAPTAIN AIR CORPS.
 - c. ADJUTANT; EARL F. JACOBSEN, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS.
 - 4. PRESENT STATION.
 - a. SCHWEINFURT ARMY AIR BASE.
 - 5. APO NUMBER.
 - a. 62

II TROOP STRENGTH.

<u>AUTHORIZED</u>		<u>ACTUAL</u>	
EM	OF	EM	OF



P-61B-15 "Li'l Abner" #42-39606, with gun turret, undergoing maintenance by Paul Bubash, ____ Smith, "Pete" Fox, Ed Witte, Mort Shields, at Schweinfurt.

BEGINNING:	180	38	173	34
MONTH				
END OF				
MONTH	180	38	134	31

406. III CHANGE OF STATION.

A. NEGATIVE.

IV LOSSES BY ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS DURING MONTH.

A. NEGATIVE.

V AWARDS AND DECORATIONS DURING MONTH.

A. NEGATIVE.

VI NARRATIVE.

OCTOBER FOUND THE 417TH IN A SHUFFLE OF PERSONNEL AND AIRPLANES. THE ENLISTED MEN ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THEIR HOME AS THEY HAVE BEEN, SINCE THE AES HAS TAKEN OVER THE RED CROSS ON THE FIELD, AND THE CHOW OF THE ENLISTED MENS IS OF AM INFERIOR QUALITY, IN COMPARISON TO FORMER MONTHS. ONE NEW FAMILY OF DEPENDENTS ARRIVED DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. HOUSING CONDITIONS FOR DEPENDENTS ARE RAPIDLY BECOMING BETTER, AND SHOULD BE EXCELLENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE SQUADRON LOST QUITE A FEW ENLISTED PERSONNEL ALONG WITH SEVERAL OFFICERS, EITHER TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SQUADRONS, OR TO THE ZONE OF INTERIOR. ALL CATEGORY THREE MEM AND OFFICERS LEFT FOR THE STATES ON THE TWENTIETH OF THE MONTH.



P-61B from the rear, framing Roy Fields, Frank Bolinski, & Mike Lamoreau when at Fritzlar.

THE LARGEST CHANGES IN THE SQUADRON DURING THE MONTH CAME WITH THE START OF A PRODUCTION LINE MAINTENANCE ON THE BASE FOR AIRCRAFT, AND THE SHUFFLE OF AIRPLANES WHICH GAVE TO THE 417TH ALL OF THE P-61'S IN THE ETO. WITH THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLANES CAME THE PROBLEM OF MAINTENANCE, SINCE THE PLM TOOK A LARGE SHARE OF THE AVAILABLE MECHANICS FROM THE BEGINNING. MAINTENANCE WILL

UNDOUBTEDLY BECOME BETTER AFTER THE PLM STARTS TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY. THE SQUADRON IS BEGINNING TO GATHER THE P-61'S FROM OTHER FIELDS WHERE THEY HAVE EITHER BEEN IN STORAGE OR AWAITING PARTS. NIGHT FLIGHTS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE FREQUENT ALTHOUGH A LARGE PORTION OF THE SQUADRON'S PILOTS ARE STILL NOT CHECKED OUT IN THE P-61. SEVERAL PILOTS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING CHECKED OUT AND TWO COMPLETED THEIR TRANSITION DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

GROUND TRAINING IS BECOMING MORE RIGID WITH THE BASE TAKING CARE OF THE PILOTS TRAINING AND THE SQUADRONS TAKING CARE OF THE GROUND PERSONNEL TRAINING.

ALL IN ALL THE SQUADRON HAS BECOME A MORE EFFICIENT MACHINE DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, WITH MORE REGARD TO GOOD SOLDIERING.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1946.

407. I ORGANIZATION.

- A. PAST DATA
 - 1. ORIGINAL DESIGNATION OF UNIT WITH SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN NAME.
 - a. 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON.
 - b. 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, ALL WEATHER GROUP (PROV)
 - 2. DATE AND PLACE OF ACTIVATION OF ORGANIZATION, TOGETHER WITH AUTHORITY.
 - a. 20 FEBRUARY 1943. KISSIMMEE AAB, ORLANDO, FLORIDA.
 - 3. SOURCE OF ORIGINAL PERSONNEL.
 - a. AIR CORPS.
- B. PRESENT DATA.
 - 1. FULL NAME OF ORGANIZATION.
 - a. 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, ALL WEATHER GROUP (PROV)
 - 2. COMMANDING OFFICER.
 - a. JOHN M. KONOSKY, MAJOR, AIR CORPS.
 - 3. KEY STAFF OFFICERS.
 - a. ADJUTANT; ALVIN G. MOORE, 2ND LT AIR CORPS.
 - b. OPERATIONS; JACK K. GAMBLE, CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS.
 - c. EXECUTIVE OFFICER; KENNETH LA BARRE, MAJOR, AIR CORPS.
 - 4. PRESENT STATION.
 - a. SCHWEINFURT ARMY AIR BASE.
 - 5. APO NUMBER.
 - a. 62

III TROOP STRENGTH.

	AUTHORIZED		ACTUAL	
	EM	OF	EM	OF
BEGINNING OF MONTH	180	38	134	31

END OF
PERIOD

180

38

131

31

III CHANGE OF STATION.

- A. FROM SCHWEINFURT ARMY AIR BASE, ETO, TO WASHINGTON MINUS PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. (SPECIAL ORDER NO. 29 64TH FIGHTER WING DATED NOVEMBER 1946.

IV LOSSES BY ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS DURING MONTH.

- A. NEGATIVE.

V AWARDS AND DECORATIONS DURING MONTH.

- A. NEGATIVE.

VI NARRATIVE.

NOVEMBER 1ST BROUGHT THE RUMOR THAT THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON WAS TO BE DEACTIVATED, AND RETURNED TO THE ZONE OF INTERIOR. THE RUMOR BECAME REALITY ON THE 9 NOVEMBER WHEN A SPECIAL ORDER RETURNING THE UNIT TO THE DEACTIVATION FILES IN WASHINGTON DC MINUS PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.

ON THE 4 OF NOVEMBER THE SQUADRON HELD A PARTY IN A NEAR BY VILLAGE AT WHICH BOTH, THE ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS WERE PRESENT. THE PARTY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS,

AND THE MORALE COULD ALMOST BE SEEN ON THE UPGRADE. LITTLE DID EVERYONE KNOW THAT THEY WERE SEEING THE LAST PARTY TO BE HELD IN THE ETO BY THE OLD 417TH NIGHT FIGHTERS.

THE REST OF THE PERIOD BEFORE THE DEACTIVATION WAS ROUTINE FLYING AND MAINTENANCE, ALONG WITH CLEANING THE GROUNDS FOR A TRIANNUAL INSPECTION BY XII TAC.

AND SO WE SAY GOOD BYE TO THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON. WE ARE ALL PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND WE ARE ALL GOING TO MISS THE DISTINCTION THAT THE TITLE NIGHT FIGHTER AFFORDED.

VII APPENDICES.

- A. NONE.

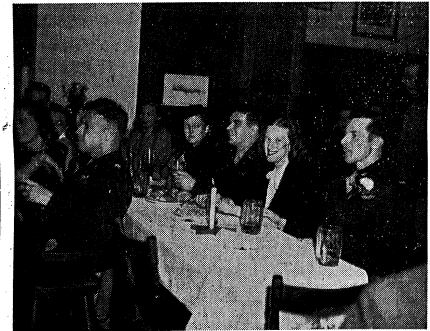


Program cover for 417th NFS Inactivation Party, November 4, 1946.



Scrapping 417th P-61s at Schweinfurt, August 1947. P-61B-15-NO #42-39606, "Li'l ABNER" has lost its turret and is coming apart.

Time out 417 Party



The news of the deactivation of the 417th Night Fighter Squadron had not descended like a bolt out of the blue. The members of the outfit still looked to a long time ahead with their squadron when they threw one of the most successful Blow-Outs Schweinfurt has seen last Tuesday at Mainberg. For four solid hours they teased that they would soon change the name of their outfit as they sang, danced, and drank toasts of good cognac to the fly-by-night squadron. The party began promptly at Seven O'clock in the evening when the first of the trucks arrived. The long flights of very steep steps were viewed suspiciously by the night-fliers and comments as to a faster descent than ascent were popular among those that would indulge

of beverages more powerful than coke.

The 417th party was laid out on paper some weeks ago after a suggestion by M/Sgt. Joslyn. A Committee was organized to arrange the details. This committee consisted of such men as T/Sgt. Poggi, acting 1st Sgt. for the 417th. Sgt. Keen who helped out with the photographers during the evening, Pfc. Neville, Pfc. Smith, and Pvt. Voss. Maj. Labarre was the recipient of much praise for the job he did in the procurement of the very good beverages.

The Floor Show, one of the main attractions of the evening proved to be one of the best that has been seen in this vicinity for a long time. The actors were pleasingly saucy to the Americans with such remarks as: "As you Americans draw with a candy bar, I shall draw with a chalk", brought the spirits of everyone soaring.

The music, played by a dance band from Bad Kissingen was another feature of the party that was better than the average.



Scrapping P-61s, M/Sgt Ray Adams head EM of Engineering.



Scrapping P-61s at Gieblstadt, George Aveill Engineering Section Officer in Charge.