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14 Mar 45

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Headquarters ____ Squadron
APO # 374 January 1945.

By AUTH: C.O.
Headquarters ____ Squadron
31 January 1945.
[redacted] INITIALS

Hq ____ Squadron
320th Bomb Group (M)
APO # 374

10 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, 1st Tactical Air Force
"Through Channels" - ATTN: [redacted]

1. Outline History of the Headquarters ____ Squadron for the period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945

a. Present Designation:
Headquarters Squadron, 320th Bomb Group, 42nd Bomb Wing, [redacted] 1st Tactical Air Force (Provisional).

b. Changes in Organization:
(1) Changes in Designation: Relieved from control of 12th TAC (except for Court Martials) per GO #19, Hq, 1st TACAF.
(2) Echelons or Units:
(a) Transferred: None.

(b) On DS or TD: None.

(c) Attached to other Hqs for operational control:
None.

(3) Change of Commanding Officers: None.
None.

(4) Changes of Staff Officers (not applicable to Gp or Sq):
None.
(5) Changes in T/O: None.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted, for the month of January 1945.

	Off	W.O	W/O	Enl	TOTAL
a. At Beginning	29	-	1	59	89
b. Net Increase	3	-	-	2	5
c. Net Decrease	-	-	-	-	-
d. At End	32	-	1	61	94

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d. Stations of Units or Echelons:
   1. Name of Station - Dijon A/D & Longecourt, France.
      a. Date of Arrival - 11 November 1944.
      b. Date of Departure - Presently Here.

e. Movements of Unit or Echelons:
   (1) From _____ to None.
      a. Purpose
      b. Dates
      c. Means of Transportation -
      d. Conditions of road conveyances and weather:

f. Campaigns:
   (1) Name - German.
   (2) Duration - From 1 January 145 to 31 January 1945.

g. Operations:
   (1) Campaign - German
   (2) Nature of operations - Precision bombing of Communications, Defense Areas and Supply Depots.
   (3) Number of Missions and Sorties for period -
   11 Missions comprising 206 Sorties.
   (4) Results of the most important missions:
   Marshalling Yards, Barracks Areas and Communication Lines opposing the 7th U.S. Army were successfully attacked. Bad weather materially hampered operations.

h. Command Officers in important missions -
   Lt. Col. A.E. Woolridge; Maj. L.J. Hayward.

i. Losses in Action; Officers and Enlisted Men:
   (1) Mission and Dates:

   a. Killed: None.

   b. Wounded: None.

   c. Missing: None.

   d. Taken Prisoner: None.

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j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in actions:

NAME	RANK	AWARD	REASONS

No Major Awards this month.

k. Photographs being submitted:

None.

2. Inclosed is the War Diary of the Headquarters Squadron for the period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:-

MURRAY SHERMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Group Historian.

1 Incls
X War Diary
Special Accounts (if any)
Supporting Documents (if any)
Photographs (if any)

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SHEET NO. 1 WAR DIARY Headquarters Squadron 320th Bomb Group

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by HENRY SHERRILL, Captain, Air Corps.

DAY EVENTS

1. At the New Year 1945 opened, all personnel are looking forward with anticipation that this year will see the end of the European War. The probability of Russia waging a winter offensive looms imminent and it is generally felt it will coincide with an offensive on the Western front.

It would be opportune at this time to point to some statistics regarding the 320th Bomb Group. Total Operations from 22 April 1943 to 1 January 1945: Missions: 438. Sorties: 10291. Early Returns: 426. A/C Bombing: 8323. Tonnage Dropped: 14170.46 tons. Losses, Flak: 35. E/A: 17. Other: 21. Damaged, Flak: 799. E/A: 36. E/A destroyed in Air: 84. Probables: 37. E/A Damaged: 52. E/A Destroyed on Ground: 183. Damaged on Ground: 52. Weather L/S: 98.

It is worth noting that the 320th has dropped a greater tonnage of bombs than any of the other Groups in the 42nd Wing.

There were 3 missions flown today by the 320th to inaugrate the New Year. Annweiler, Germany received a good concentration of bombs by a formation of 6 A/C which acted as a flak decoy. The 2 other formations of 36 A/C dropped excellent concentrations of bombs across Kaiserlautern Barracks and Kaiserlautern Stores and Work Shops, Germany. Several A/C were damaged by flak and all returned safely to this base.

2. Today was a very active day for the Group. One formation attacked the Nunschwiler Supply Dump and wove an excellent pattern across the target. The second formation scored a good concentration of bombs across the Oos Barracks, Germany. The third formation likewise bombed Oos Barracks with good results. The fourth formation attaked Gun Positions in the Nunschwiler Area. The assigned target was missed but it is believed that other guns were hit.

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SHEET NO. 2 WAR DIARY Headquarters Squadron 326th Bomb Group (M)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by MURRAY SHEDLIN, Captain, Air Corps.

6. Weather has hampered operations these past few days. There's been a good deal of snow as the temperature dropped and at times, heavy fog covered all areas. Nevertheless, Briefings take place regularly and the missions are cancelled when definite word is received that bombing will be impossible.

10. A rotation of Officers and Men is taking place between personnel of the 7th Army and those of the 42nd Wing. Every week several of our Group will leave for a seven day stay with the Infantry and likewise, Officers and Men from the Infantry are spending seven days with various squadrons in our Gp. It is felt that this will result in giving the respective branches of the service a better understanding of the trials and tribulations that each undergoes. This should bring about a better relationship and sense of respect for each other's problems.

15. This has been one of the longest stretches in Group History of non-operational days due to weather. Most of the time the missions were cancelled just after Briefing. In some instances, crews went down to the line and in the ships ready for take-off before the mission was cancelled. And then again when there was really no prospect whatsoever of taking off the missions were scrubbed right after Pre-Briefing and before the main Briefing started.

The weather has really been bad with hardly a day passing without snowfall. It is reported to be the worst winter in this part of France in several years.

Listening to the radio, reading, letter writing, movies, and trips to town to the American Red Cross Club, the Allied Officers Club, GI Joe's Rendezvous and the various movie houses continue to be the main source of recreation. Possibly there should be added thereto sack time which would come pretty well towards the top as diversion on non-operational days.

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16. At long last, the formations took off today. The assigned target was Speyer RR and Road Bridge but due to weather, Rastatt RR Bridge and Rastatt M/Y were bombed instead. There were good concentrations of bombs across both targets and all our aircraft returned safely.

18. Officers and EM have recently left for Marseilles where the 42nd Wing has set up a bombing training center. Due to better climate in Southern France there will be greater opportunity for practice bombing.

19. Two Gp formations took off today to bomb Achern M/Y, Germany. The formations were in the target area but due to weather, were forced to return without dropping their bombs. The 441st lost one A/C and its crew about 50 miles from the base when it developed engine trouble. The A/C was piloted by Lt Mc Curdy.

26. Another stretch of bad weather has kept our A/C grounded these past seven days. It's been snow and ice and fog and with that, on occasions strong winds.

29. After a long stretch of briefings, the mission took off today to bomb Neustadt M/Y, Germany. Due to weather, the formation could not bomb the primary and dropped their bombs on Bundenthal M/Y instead. No results were observed due to cloud cover.

31. As the month came to an end, the records show that a total of 328.80 tons of bombs were dropped. It will stand out as a month where weather played a dominant role in hampering operations of our Group.

Personnel of this Group have been leaving regularly for three day trips to Paris. Returning, they all rave about its beauty in more ways than one. The new policy is to send 10 Officers and EM every eight days from each squadron.

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31-Cont Excitement is running high in the Group about the spectacular success of the Russian offensive. Now that the Ardenne salient has been completely cleaned up, the war picture has taken a turn for the better. Eagerly the advance to Berlin is being watched and eagerly the men are hoping for better weather here so that the job of defeating the enemy can be completed.

F I N I S

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