

417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON



THIS IS
CORSICA
BRUSH..
...TOPPED PINES..
ARCHED NAR-
ROW PASS-
AGEWAYS
A JAGGED
MOUNTAIN..
PILES OF

OLD TOWNS.....HUNG ON
THE EDGE OF A MOUNTAIN DROP
AN ISLAND WILDERNESS...A TERRACED
GARDEN BLOOMING WITH CALLA LILIES...
ROSES,WISTERIA AND LILACS.....ROADS CLIMB-
ING THROUGH BIG-BRANCHED TIMBER...THE GROUND
SPATTERED WITH CLEAN-WASHED SNOW,ROCKS,FROZEN
ICE WITH CLEAN RUNNING WATER...FOREST HILLS...PLAIN
HILLS...BRUSH HILLS...SOUP SMELLS IN THE TOWNS,BUILD-
INGS,HANGING OVER SINISTER STEEP-STEPPED ALLEYWAYS...
LAND OF THE VENDETTA...VENDETTA KNIVES INSCRIBED
WITH SIMULATED HATE FOR A REAL OR IMAGINED ENEMY...
AND OUT OF THE VENDETTA....THE MODERN CHICAGO GANG-
STER READY TO SELL A LIFE FOR A FEW FRANCS,A BAR-
GAIN IN FLESH AND PAPER...THIS IS CORSICA...BASTIA
... CAP CORSE...EA DE VIE...DIRTY WINE IN DIRTY BRAWL-
ING CAGES...AND OLD DENS,SMOKE HANGING FROM THE ARCHED
CEILINGS...THE SMELL OF CORSICAN SAUSAGE AND RANK
SOUR CHEESE...HEAVY BLACK BREAD AND VIN ROUGE OR BLANC
...DIRTY RAGGED KIDS...SCREAMING BRATS CRYING FOR
CHEWING GUM...BON BONS...WRINKLED HAGS WEIGHED
DOWN WITH BUNDLES OF BRANCHES AND HIGH-PILED
BASKETS...MADEMOISELLES WITH NARROW BROWN
LEGS AND ROUND CHUNKY LEGS...PAINTED LIPS AND
BECKONING BLACK EYES AND HIGH BROAD HIPS...G.I.'S
SWARMING IN BARS LIKE STICKY FLIES AND LAP-
ING UP BASTIS AND CAP CORSE AND BRAWL-
ING IN THE STREETS....G.I.'S SITTING
IN THE PARK AND EYEING THE MA'M'SELLES..
G.I.TRUCKS TEARING DOWN THE HAIR
CURVES OF ROADS...REELING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN
ON THREE WHEELS AND A PRAYER ...
BOMBED BUILDINGS AND GAPING WIDE-
EYED WINDOWS STARING AT A HARBOR SCAT-
TERED WITH THE RUSTY HULLS OF
SUNKEN SHIPS....AND OVER-
HEAD THE BOMBERS WINGING...
OUT AND ZOOMING HOME...
WITH A ROAR...AND..A..
PROMISE.....AND
HOPE IN THEIR
WINGS.....
THIS IS...
CORSICA



(A)	39 OFFICERS,	8 FLT 0'S	215 EM
(B)	1 "	0 "	0 "
(C)	0 "	1 "	10 "
(D)	40 OFFICERS	7 FLT 0'S	205 EM

D. STATIONS:

(1) BORGO A/D CORSICA.

E. NO CHANGE OF STATION.

F. CAMPAIGNS:

(1) INVASIONS OF SOUTH FRANCE.

(2) INVASION STARTED AUG 15 AND WAS STILL IN PROGRESS 31ST AUGUST.

G. OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD CONSISTED OF INTRUDER MISSIONS TO SOUTHERN FRANCE AND NORTHERN ITALY, PATROLS AGAINST THE NIGHTLY RECONNAISSANCE A/C SENT OUT BY THE ENEMY PRECEDING THE INVASION. DURING THE INVASION THE SQUADRON OPERATED AT A HIGH DEGREE OF EFFICIENCY GIVING COVER TO THE INVASION FLEET AND THE BEACH-HEAD AFTER ITS ESTABLISHMENT. DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT, 171 SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

154. AUG. 3RD: LTS WILLIAMSON AND CORDELL, WHILE ON A ROUTINE PATROL, WERE VECTORED ONTO A BANDIT LAST NIGHT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN CLOSING IN SUFFICIENTLY TO IDENTIFY THE BANDIT AS A JU-188. THE BANDIT TURNED INTO THE MOON-PATH MAKING A PERFECT TARGET AND LT. WILLIAMSON FIRED, OBSERVING STRIKES ON JERRY IN THE VICINITY OF THE COCKPIT. THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT CAUGHT FIRE AND VERY SHORTLY AFTERWARDS EXPLODED IN MID-AIR AND CRASHED INTO THE SEA.

155. AUG. 9TH: MAJOR NELSON JUST RETURNED FROM 30 DAY LEAVE, WAS TODAY TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE SQUADRON.

156. AUG. 13TH: LT JEFFREY EXCHANGED HIS GOLD BAR FOR A SILVER ONE TODAY.

157. AUG. 14TH: EIGHT ENLISTED MEN WERE RELIEVED FROM ASSIGNMENT IN THE SQUADRON TODAY AND WERE TRANSFERRED TO A B-29 OUTFIT. THE MEN, M/SGT'S MOORE, AND SWAIN, T/SGT'S BLANKENSHIP, COOK, MOSER, ROBINSON, SARTIN AND S/SGT ZENGE WERE ALL AMONG THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

158. AUG. 24TH: 2ND LT H.J.



Unidentified 417th NFS aircrew member with his "kit", ready to go on patrol.

ALLEN, R.C. ANDERSON AND JACK DEVORE JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY. AFTER COMPLETING A FEW PRACTICE INTERCEPTIONS THEY WILL BECOME OPERAIONAL.

159. AUG. 29TH: CAPT MCCRAY FLEW AN INTRUDER MISSION LAST NIGHT TO NORTHERN ITALY. WHILE RETURNING FROM THE ENEMY AIRDROME HE SHOT AT FOUR M/T'S (MOTOR TRANSPORTS-VEHICLES) HOWEVER, HE WAS UNABLE TO OBSERVE THE RESULTS.

160: GENERAL: DURING THE ENTIRE TIME THAT THE SQUADRON HAS BEEN LOCATED AT



Stan Chmielewske, Doug Herbert & Bob Davis (L-R) with Beaufighter MkVI fitted with the Mark IV AI, on Corsica. Location may be in error as all of the Beaufighters should have been refitted with Mark VIII AI by the time the squadron got to Corsica.

BORGIO A/D IT HAS HAD SEVERAL YUGOSLAV POW'S ASSIGNED TO IT. THESE YUGOSLAWS WERE EMPLOYED IN VARIOUS WAYS SUCH AS MESS HELPERS AND ASSISTING IN THE MOVEMENT OF QUARTERMASTER EQUIPMENT IN SQUADRON SUPPLY. THEY ALSO PERFORMED VARIOUS AND SUNDRY TASKS IN AND ABOUT THE SQUADRON AREA.

161. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417TH NI FTR SQ FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1944.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417 NI FTR SQ, 12 AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NO CHANGE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) SEPTEMBER 1944
 - (A) 40 OFFICERS, 7 FLT O'S 205 EM
 - (B) 10 " 0 " 9 "
 - (C) 0 " 5 " 0 "
 - (D) 50 OFFICERS 2 FLT O'S 214 EM
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) LE VALLON A/D SALON-DE-PROVENCE, FRANCE.

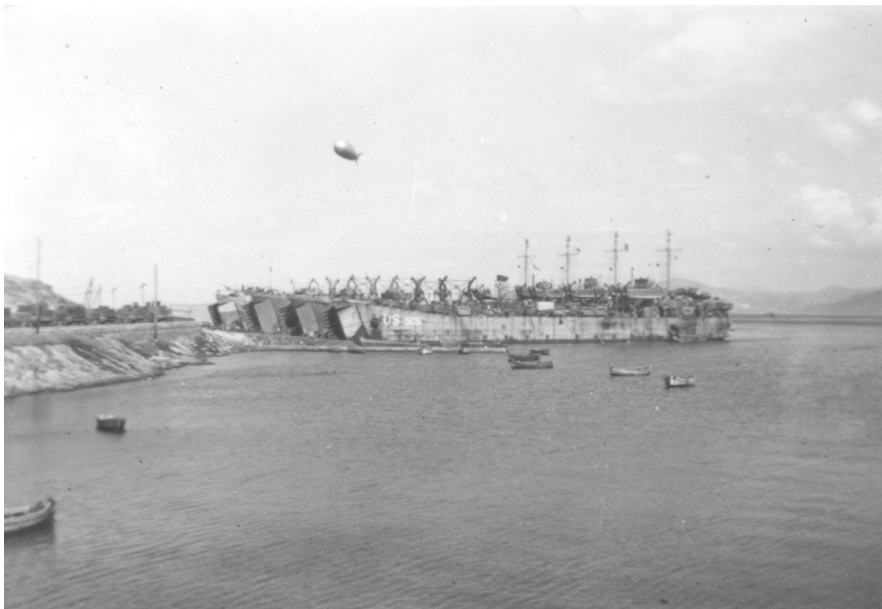
- (A) 12 SEPTEMBER, 1944
- E MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELONS:
- (1) FROM BORGIO A/D, CORSICA TO LE VALLON A/D, FR.
- (A) CHANGE OF STATION
- (B) LEFT BORGIO A/D 7 SEPT/44, ARRIVED AT LE VALLON A/D, 12 SEPT/44.
- (C) TRAVEL WAS BY MOTOR CONVOY & L.S.T.
- (D) WEATHER WAS GOOD THROUGHOUT ENTIRE TRIP AS WERE ROADS USED.
- F. CAMPAIGNS: FRENCH CAMPAIGN.
- G. OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD CONSISTED OF INTRUDER MISSIONS TO SOUTHERN FRANCE AND NORTHERN ITALY PRIOR TO MOVEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION & PATROLS AGAINST NIGHTLY ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT A TOTAL OF 53 SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

INCLOSED IS WAR DIARY, 417TH NI FTR SQ. FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1944.

162. SEPT. 7TH; THE ENTIRE 417TH NI FTR SQ LEFT BORGIO A/D TODAY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW WHO REMAINED BEHIND TO ATTEND TO ANY LAST MINUTE DETAILS. WE PROCEEDED TO LE ROUSSE, CORSICA, BY MOTOR CONVOY WHERE WE BOARDED L.S.T. #494. LOADING OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT UNTIL LATE EVENING BEFORE THEY WERE COMPLETED. THIS DATE MARKS ONE YEAR IN AFRICA FOR THE SQUADRON.

163. SEPT. 8TH: WE SPENT LAST NIGHT AND TODAY ABOARD SHIP IN THE HARBOR. THE DAY PASSED UNEVENTFULLY FOR US WHILE THE OTHER SHIPS CONTINUED TO LOAD ALONGSIDE OF US.

164. SEPT. 9TH: WE LEFT THE HARBOR AT 0010 LAST NIGHT AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THE SEA MADE ITSELF FELT. BOTH THE MEN AND OFFICERS ACCUSTOMED THEMSELVES TO LIVING ABOARD THE SHIP DESPITE THE HEAVY PITCHING AND ROLLING. AT 1300 HRS WE BEACHED AT ST. RAPHAEL AND WAITED FOR AUXILIARY GAS TANKS (SPITFIRE)

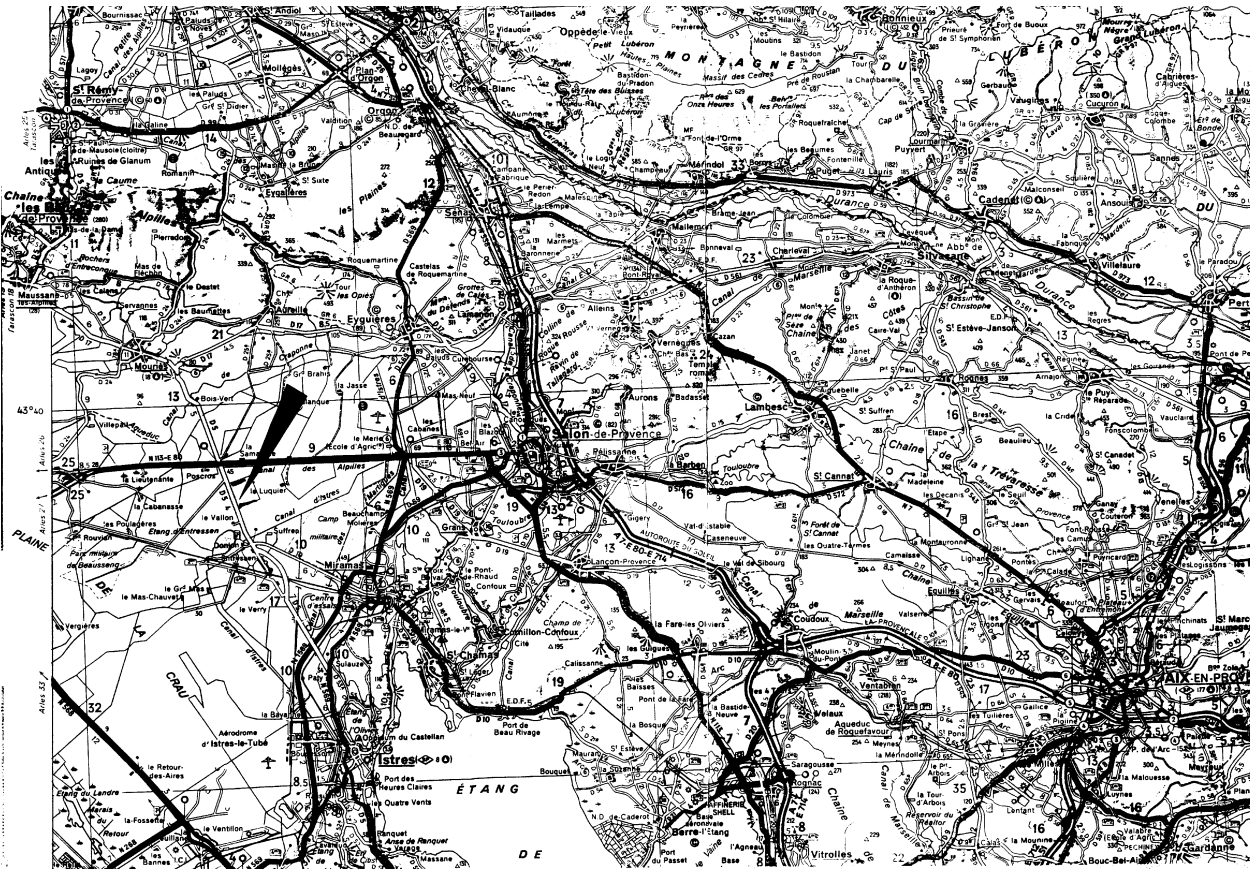


Four LSTs at Il Rousse Corsica loaded for move to France. Note Blimp in air and LST 505 in the foreground.

TO BE UNLOADED SO THAT WE COULD GET AT OUR EQUIPMENT. AS SOON AS THE SPACE UNDER THE ELEVATION WAS CLEARED OUR TRANSPORTATION ON THE TOP DECK WAS UNLOADED AND SENT ON AHEAD TO THE STAGING AREA. THE BALANCE OF THE SQUADRON IS REMAINING ABOARD SHIP TO FINISH UNLOADING.

165. SEPT. 10TH: BREAKFAST WAS SERVED TO THE TROOPS WHILE THE UNLOADING CONTINUED. AFTER ALL THE EQUIPMENT WAS UNLOADED, THE TROOPS WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE RAF-USAAF STAGING AREA WHERE WE PROCEEDED TO SET UP A CAMP. AFTER

DEFINITE PLANS WERE KNOWN THE MEN WERE GIVEN PASSES TO VISIT FREJUS AND ST. RAPHAEL.



Location of Le Vallon Airdrome in Southern France. Cities of Salon-de-Provence and Aix-en-Provence are east of the airfield which was to be the home of the 417th NFS until almost the end of the war.

166. SEPT. 11TH: WE WAITED FOR TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE US TO OUR NEW STATION TODAY BUT NONE SHOWED UP.

167. SEPT. 12TH: WE AWAITED TRANSPORTATION THIS MORNING AND PART OF THE AFTERNOON. FINALLY, AT 1600, WE LEFT THE STAGING AREA. THE HIGHWAYS WE TRAVELLED ON WERE VERY GOOD AS COMPARED TO THOSE WE'D PREVIOUSLY TRAVELLED ON. WE ARRIVED AT OUR NEW AND PRESENT STATION, LE VALLON A/D, SALON-DE-PROVENCE, FRANCE, AT ABOUT 2400 HRS. THE ADVANCE ECHELON THAT HAD PRECEDED US WITH THE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUIPMENT HAD SET UP THE SQUADRON AREA NEXT TO A ROW OF TALL TREES, USING A STRIP COVERED WITH GRASS ABOUT 100 FT WIDE FOR THE COMPANY STREET.

168. SEPT. 13TH: TODAY WAS DEVOTED TO ARRANGING PERSONAL EQUIPMENT AND SETTING UP THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS SO THAT WE CAN GO OPERATIONAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

169. SEPT. 25TH: WHILE ON PATROL LAST NIGHT, CAPT MCQUEEN WAS VECTORED ONTO A RUNAWAY BALLOON. AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO GET A VISUAL ON IT, HE RETURNED TO BASE, QUITE ANNOYED AT LOSING SOME TARGET PRACTICE. THIS MORNING, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT INSTEAD OF LOSING IT, HE HAD RUN INTO ITS CABLE AND TOWED IT FOR A DISTANCE OF SOME FIFTEEN MILES BEFORE IT BROKE LOOSE. THERE WERE STILL SOME 4000' OF CABLE CAUGHT ON HIS WING WHEN HE LANDED. LT GEBLER WHO FLEW

417th NFS Moves to France



Coming into St Raphael, France by LST, Sept 1944.



1st Night in St. Raphael, France. Note Fred Pond's Barracks bag in front.



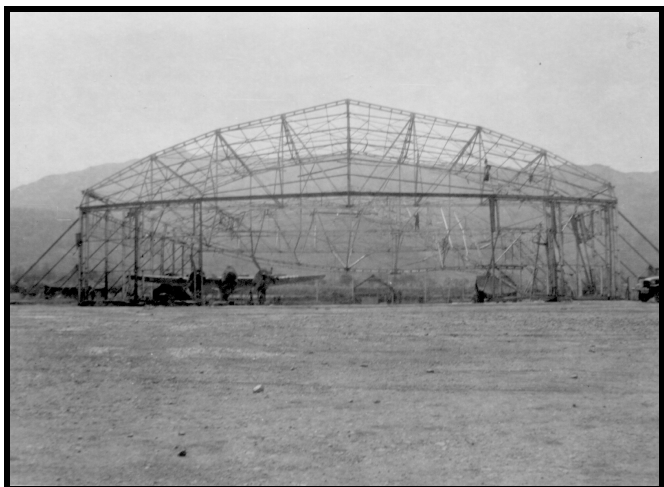
Kitchen area when first landed in St. Raphael, France, Sept 1944.



Camp at Le Vallon (Salon) Southern France, Sept 1944 . The row of trees could function as a wind break for the tents which had been moved so many times, Africa to France.



Volleyball game at LeVallon.



New Hangar under construction, before the Wind.

THE NEXT PATROL FOUND AND SHOT THE BALLOON DOWN.

170. LTS. J.W. GRANGE AND RAYMOND L. RODGERS HAD AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT LAST NIGHT. WHILE ON PATROL, ONE OF THEIR ENGINES FAILED AND BEING UNABLE TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE, THEY WERE FORCED TO DITCH THEIR AIRCRAFT. THEY WERE FORTUNATE, HOWEVER, IN THAT THEY WERE PICKED UP BY A RESCUE CRAFT IN A HALF AN HOUR.

171. SEPT. 30TH: YESTERDAY, WE PACKED ALL OUR EQUIPMENT FOR MOVEMENT TO ITALY. TODAY, THE EARLY PART OF THE MORNING WAS SPENT LOADING THE EQUIPMENT, BREAKING CAMP AND ASSEMBLING PERSONNEL. A SMALL PARTY OF MEN WERE TO HAVE REMAINED BEHIND WITH THE AIRCRAFT IN THE EVENT THAT AN EMERGENCY SHOULD ARISE WHERE NIGHT FIGHTERS WERE NEEDED. AT 1000 HRS, DINNER WAS SERVED AND IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS THE TROOPS WERE LOADED ONTO THE TRUCKS AND DISPATCHED TO MARSEILLE WHERE THEY WERE TO EMBARK. FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE LAST VEHICLE HAD LEFT ORDERS WERE RECEIVED CANCELLING THE MOVE. THE CONVOY WAS OVERHAULED AT AIX AND AS THE TRUCKS CAME IN THEY WERE SENT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS' FORMER PLACE OF OCCUPANCY TO BE UNLOADED AND THE DEPARTMENT SET UP FOR OPERATIONS TONIGHT.

WHILE ON AN ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHT TO ITALY THE FAITHFUL B-25C "STRAWBERRY ROAN" SUFFERED A BLOWN TIRE ON TAKEOFF FROM MARCIANISE, ITALY, AND ENDED UP IN A DITCH. THE PILOTS, SARGENT PAUL PEYRON, AND PASSENGER CHARLIE ENGLAND ALL EXCAPED WITHOUT INJURY. A WEEK OR SO LATER ANOTHER WAR WEARY B-25 (A LATER MODEL) WAS ASSIGNED. IT CAME WITH THE NAME "PIZZONIA", OVER 90 BOMBING MISSIONS AND 800 HOURS ON IT. LIKE "STRAWBERRY ROAN" IT HAD NO DE-ICER BOOTS OR PROP DEICING, AND THE HEATER DID NOT WORK, TAIL NUMBER 443. FLIGHTS REMAINED BELOW THE CLOUDS.

172. GENERAL: THE WEATHER HERE HAS NOT BEEN EXACTLY OF THE BEST. AT FIRST, IT ALTERNATED BETWEEN RAIN AND SUNSHINE FROM DAY TO DAY BUT OF LATE, WE HAVE HAD SUNNY DAYS, HOWEVER, NOT WITHOUT A STRONG WIND. THIS WIND PERSISTS NOT ONLY THROUGHOUT THE DAY BUT ALSO THROUGH THE NIGHT. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THIS IS GENERALLY KNOWN AS A "WINDY" LOCALITY.

173. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417 NI FTR SQ FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31ST OCTOBER, 1944.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417 NI FTR SQ. 12TH AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATIONS: NO CHANGE
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) OCTOBER, 1944
 - (A) 50 OFFICERS, 2 FLT 0'S 214 EM
 - (B) 0 " 0 " 0 "
 - (C) 2 " 1 " 1 "
 - (D) 40 OFFICERS 1 FLT 0'S 215 EM
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) LE VALLON A/D, SALON-DE-PROVENCE, FRANCE.
 - (A) 12 SEPTEMBER, 1944
- E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELONS: NONE
- F. CAMPAIGNS: FRENCH CAMPAIGN.
- G. OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD CONSISTED OF NIGHTLY PATROLS AGAINST ENEMY NIGHT RECONNAISSANCE AIR CRAFT AND SEARCHES AT DAWN AND DUSK FOR HUMAN TORPEDOES AND EXPLOSIVE MOTOR BOATS. DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT A TOTAL OF 94 SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

INCLOSED IS WAR DIARY, 417 NI FTR SQ, FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31ST OCTOBER, 1944.

174. OCT. 1: S/SGT BARNEY APPOINTED T/SGT, CPLS ANDREWS AND STOECKLE APPOINTED SGT, PVT BROWN APPOINTED CPL, AND PVTS DONNER AND MILLER PVTS 1CL. CPL ARENDS, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE 17TH GENERAL HOSPITAL ON THIS DATE ALSO.

175. OCT. 2: 2ND LT DRAPER, HALL, HAMILTON, MOLDREM, RIAL, SPEIER AND WILSON SWAPPED THEIR GOLD BARS FOR SILVER ONES TODAY. LTS. DRAPER, HALL, HAMILTON AND SPEIER FIRST JOINED THE SQUADRON AS ENLISTED MEN, RADIO OBSERVERS.

176. OCT. 10: LTS. GEBLER, HALL, PACKHAM AND ROBLE LEFT THE ORGANIZATION TODAY TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.

177. OCT. 11: CAPT. WM.A. LARSEN, SQUADRON COMMANDER, RECEIVED HIS APPOINTMENT TO MAJOR TODAY AND 1ST LT. KIRWAN WAS APPOINTED CAPTAIN.



Tatum and Gillick with melted aluminum from Beaufighter V8558, crashed on October 16, 1944.



Tatum and Gillick by crashed Beaufighter V8558, October 16, 1944.

178. OCT. 16: WHILE CONDUCTING AN N.F.T. IN BEAUFIGHTER V8558, LT. HOWARD'S PORT ENGINE FAILED & HE MADE FOR BASE TO ATTEMPT A SINGLE ENGINE LANDING. ON HIS FINAL APPROACH, HIS REMAINING ENGINE FAILED WHILE ABOUT 2400 FT FROM THE END OF THE RUNWAY. LUCKILY THE A/C, WHILE IT DROPPED RATHER FAST AND IN A STEEP RIGHT BANK, REMAINED ON AN EVEN KEEL AFTER STRIKING THE GROUND AND BOTH PILOT AND OBSERVER ESCAPED UNINJURED. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, THE A/C CAUGHT FIRE AND WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED.

179. OCT. 17: S/SGT. SHUE WAS TRANSFERRED TO 12TH AIR FORCE THIS DATE.

180. OCT. 18: LT. H.J. ALLEN AND LT W. E. GRINNELL CONTACTED AND PROBABLY DESTROYED A JU-188 NEAR CREMONA, ITALY. "JERRY" WAS LAST OBSERVED IN A VERY STEEP SPIRAL DIVE AND STILL GOING DOWN WHEN HE DISAPPEARED THROUGH THE CLOUDS AT 4,000 FT.



Picnic on October 27, 1944 at Le Vallon; Claude Grappone is in center with arms raised.

181. OCT. 21: CAPT. GARDNER WAS APPOINTED MAJOR TODAY AND 2ND LT. DAVIS RECEIVED HIS APPOINTMENT AS 1ST LT. 2ND LT. S.E. RUSSELL ASSIGNED TO SQUADRON THIS DATE ALSO.

182. OCT. 22: 1ST LT. H. RUDLIN ASSIGNED TO AND JOINED SQUADRON THIS DATE FROM THE 40TH STATION HOSPITAL.



Ted "Deak" Deakyne & Hal Heinecke receive their Air Medals at Le Vallon, Oct 27, 1944.



Lt. Fank "Duff" Campbell congratulating S/MSgt Earl Wetherald after receiving the "Legion of Merit", Le Vallon, France.

183. OCT. 26: F/O E.R. BERRY RECEIVED HIS APPOINTMENT TO 2ND LT. TODAY.

184. OCT. 27: AT A LARGE AND IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY THIS MORNING, OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN OF THIS ORGANIZATION WERE DECORATED WITH THE D.F.C., AIR MEDAL AND LEGION OF MERIT. OF THE OFFICERS, CAPT. C.R. MCCRAY AND 1ST LT R.D. HAMILTON WERE AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS. CAPTS JOHN F. KIRWAN & ALEXANDER L. MACQUEEN, LTS T.A. DEAKYNE, G.F. ALLEN, J.F. DRAPER, R.D. HAMILTON, R.F. PERKINS, A.A. SPEIER AND H.H. HEINECKE WERE AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL. M/SGT EARL A. WEATHERALD WAS AWARDED THE LEGION OF MERIT.

185. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417 NI FTR SQ. FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 30TH NOVEMBER, 1944.

A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417 NI FTR SQ, 12TH AIR FORCE.

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

(1) MAJOR C.R. MCCRAY APPOINTED SQ OPERATIONS OFFICER UPON

DEATH OF CAPT J.S.M. LEE. CAPT A.L. MACQUEEN JR.,
 APPOINTED ASS'T SQ OPERATIONS OFFICER VICE MAJOR MCCRAY.
 (2) T/O #1-67, DTD 24 MAY, 1943 SUPERSEDED BY T/O #1-67, DTD 4
 SEPT.

C. STRENGTH, COMMISSION & ENLISTED:

(1) NOVEMBER 1944
 (A) 48 OFFICERS 1 FLT 0'S 213 EM
 (B) 0 " 2 " 0 "
 (C) 4 " 0 " 8 "
 (D) 44 OFFICERS 3 FLT 0'S 205 "

D. STATIONS:

(1) LE VALLON A/D, SALON-DE-PROVENCE, FRANCE
 (A) NO CHANGE OF STATION DURING PERIOD.

E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELONS: NONE

F. CAMPAIGN: FRENCH CAMPAIGN.

G. OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD CONSISTED OF NIGHTLY PATROLS AND
 INTERCEPTION OF ENEMY NIGHT RECONNAISSANCE A/C. DURING THE
 PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT, A TOTAL OF 84 SORTIES WERE FLOWN.



October 1944 Replacement Crews for the 416 & 417 NFS Pilots Standing, Radar Operators Squatting, Standing- Robert W. Condon, James E. Conlon, Morris N. Dalton, Ellis J. Faubus Jr., Edward C. Graybill, Wisky E. Kangas, Herbert L. King, Joseph F. Skrinan, Dale R. Fuller, George F. Beers, Quenton H. Briton, Squatting-Richard M. Cornwall, George Stroutman, William H. Work, John R. Fryklund, Harvey L. Klein, Jack C. Herhon, Lennox B. Prince, Ramon A. Roubideaux, Dale A. Lander, George A. Boublik, & James R. Boone.

INCLOSED IS WAR DIARY. 417 NI FTR SQ. FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 30TH
 NOVEMBER, 1944.

185. NOV. 1. CAPT. LEE AND 2ND LT. POTTER REJOINED THE ORGANIZATION TODAY

AFTER HAVING HAD LEAVE IN THE UNITED STATES. 2ND LT. SAMUEL E. RUSSELL JR., ASSIGNED TO AND JOINED THE SQUADRON. SGT TOMPKINS, WHO HAD BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL AND EVACUATED TO ITALY BY MISTAKE REPORTED BACK TO DUTY.

186. NOV. 3. 2ND LT HEINECKE IS NOW SPORTING SILVER BARS, HAVING RECEIVED HIS APPOINTMENT AS 1ST LT. TODAY.



Le Vallon Airdrome Control Tower, 1944-1945.



In 1991 the Le Vallon Control Tower is all that is left to mark the field.

187. NOV. 4. LTS HOWARD AND MANGONE AND S/SGT SCHMITT CRASH LANDED IN LYON TODAY. THEY HAD GONE TO DIJON TO SEARCH FOR LTS BERRYHILL AND RODGERS AND S/SGT ANDERTON WHO HAD LEFT HERE THE 2ND, LANDED AT DIJON AND STARTED BACK IN BEAUFIGHTER BT287. NO TRACE WAS FOUND OF THE MISSING AIR CREW AND PASSENGER. THE CRASH LANDING WAS DUE TO BLOWING A PLUG IN LT HOWARD'S STARBOARD ENGINE AND DURING THE FINAL APPROACH HIS REMAINING ENGINE "CONKED OUT" THEREBY NECESSITATING A WHEELS-UP LANDING FOR BEAUFIGHTER ND139. ALL PERSONNEL EMERGED UNINJURED.

188. NOV. 6. A DETACHMENT OF 1 OFFICER AND 6 ENLISTED MEN WAS SENT TO REGHAIA A/F, ALGIERS FOR A THREE WEEK RADAR CONVERSION COURSE TODAY. ANOTHER DETACHMENT IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW AT A LATER DATE.

189. NOV. 7. AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HRS TODAY, CAPT JOHN S.M LEE AND 2ND LT LEONARD R. POTTER, JUST RETURNED FROM THE U.S., SPUN IN AND CRASHED INTO THE SEA OUTSIDE OF MARSEILLE WHILE FLYING BEAUFIGHTER MM839. BOTH WERE APPARENTLY INSTANTLY KILLED. THE MISHAP WAS WITNESSED BY CAPT C.R. MCCRAY WHO AT THE TIME WAS CONDUCTING AN N.F.T. WITH CAPT LEE. IMMEDIATELY CAPT LEE CRASHED, CAPT MCCRAY ORBITED THE SCENE AND CALLED NAVAL VESSELS TO PICK UP ANY POSSIBLE SURVIVORS. THE SEARCH WAS ABANDONED EVENTUALLY DUE TO DARKNESS. BOTH CAPT LEE AND LT POTTER WERE WELL LIKED IN THE ORGANIZATION AND THEIR DEMISE WAS DEEPLY FELT BY ALL PERSONNEL. LATER IN THE EVENING, LTS JOHN W. GRANGE AND JOHN A. SUNYAR



Le Vallon Orderly Room

EXPERIENCED ENGINE TROUBLE IN THE FORM OF COMPLETE FAILURE OF BOTH ENGINES, NECESSITATING THEIR BAILING OUT OVER MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN NORTH OF TOULON. AT THIS WRITING, BOTH ARE STILL MISSING.

190. NOV. 12. 1ST LT KENNETH CAMPBELL RECEIVED HIS APPOINTMENT TO CAPTAIN TODAY. CAPT CAMPBELL IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION, HAVING JOINED AS 2ND LIEUTENANT.

191. NOV. 13. 2ND LT CONDON, CORNWALL, CONLON, STRATMAN, DALTON, WORK, FAUBUS, FRYLUND, GRAYBILL AND KLEIN JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY FROM THE 19TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT. WELCOME!

192. NOV. 14. CAPT ARTHUR J. KATZBERG AND 1ST LT ANTHONY A. SPEIER LEFT THE ORGANIZATION TODAY TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, LT SPEIER FOR TRANSFER TO Z.I. AND CAPT KATZBERG FOR ROTATIONAL PURPOSES. CAPT MARVIN "DOC" WEINBERG IS REPLACING CAPT KATZBERG AS SQUADRON FLIGHT SURGEON.



Jack Devore, J.D. Brown, Sam Rial, Jim Pence, Doc Katzberg and Willie Grinnell at home in Le Vallon Tent City. Devore and Grinnell were killed together on active duty.

193. NOV. 15. CAPT CLARENCE R. MCCRAY WAS APPOINTED MAJOR TODAY AND F/O FRANK S. CAMPBELL 2ND LIEUTENANT.

194. NOV. 16. 1ST LT SAMUEL C. RIAL AND 2ND LT JAMES W. CHELF LEFT THE SQUADRON FOR LEAVE IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY. THE ENLISTED MEN WERE LIKEWISE REPRESENTED IN T/SGT ROBERT L. BECK AND CPL ALBERT LIPKIN, BOTH OF WHOM WERE SENT ON ROTATION. BOTH THE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN EXPECT AND HOPE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS AT HOME. 2ND LTS JACK DEVORE AND WILLIAM E. GRINNELL, WHILE ON THE TAIL OF A JERRY BAILED OUT AT 2110 HRS SOMEWHERE EAST OF NICE (BEAUFIGHTER KW197) FOR CAUSES UNKNOWN. THOUGH THEIR POSITION WHEN BAILING OUT WAS KNOWN AND PATROLLING A/C WERE VECTORED TO THE LOCATION NO TRACE OF THEM HAS BEEN FOUND.

195. NOV. 19. 2ND LT HYRUM J. ALLEN AND FRANK S. CAMPBELL GOT A JU-188 PROBABLE DURING THE NIGHT AND WERE MORE THAN HIGHLY ELATED.

196. NOV. 24. 2ND LT ROBERT E. PERKINS RECEIVED HIS APPOINTMENT AS 1ST LIEUTENANT TODAY AND S/SGT SHUE WAS TRANSFERRED. TO THE 319TH BOMB GROUP.

197. NOV. 26. PVTS 1CL MILLER AND TAYLOR WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE 19TH REPLACEMENT CENTER THIS DATE FOR REASSIGNMENT.

198. NOV. 28. CAPT GEORGE E. NELSON, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON WAS TRANSFERRED TO ZONE OF THE INTERIOR, UNITED STATES, FOR A 30 DAY LEAVE.

199. NOV. 29. AT LAST: 1ST LT THEODORE A DEAKYNE, WHO HAS "SWEATED IT OUT" FOR QUITE SOME TIME FINALLY GOT A JERRY "DESTROYED". A JU-188 NO LESS. LT DEAKYNE HAS NO LITTLE SERVICE IN THIS WAR, HAVING FLOWN BEAUFIGHTERS AND MOSQUITOS WITH THE RAF THEN JOINING THE 417TH NFS AND COMING BACK TO BEAUFIGHTERS AGAIN. THIS HAPPENED WHEN "JERRY" WAS TAKING NIGHT PHOTOS OF MARSEILLES AND TOULON.

200. NOV. 30. 2ND LTS ANDERSON AND WELFLEY WERE "ON THE BALL" LAST NIGHT. "JERRY" LOST ANOTHER OF HIS TAIL-FEATHERS WHEN THIS AIRCREW ATTACKED AND DAMAGED A JU-188 APPROXIMATELY 70 MILES EAST OF NICE.

201. ADD NOTES LTS GRANGE AND SUNYAR, WHO HAD BAILED-OUT (ND288) NORTH OF TOULON BOTH ESCAPED INJURY. LT GRANGE, AFTER LANDING VIA PARACHUTE, MADE HIS WAY TO A MAIN HIGHWAY AND WAS PICKED UP AND BROUGHT BACK TO THE FIELD. LT SUNYAR, HOWEVER, WAS NOT PICKED UP UNTIL A DAY LATER. ALSO WITHOUT INJURY. LT GRANGE WAS THE VICTIM OF THREE BEAUFIGHTER ACCIDENTS IN THREE MONTHS, ALL DUE TO ENGINE FAILURE. TWICE HE MADE SUCCESSFUL WATER LANDINGS, AND THIS TIME THEY BAILED OUT. THE SQUADRON HAS BEEN HAVING A LOT OF ACCIDENTS AS THE BEAUFIGHTERS ARE REALLY WORN OUT.

202. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417TH NI FTR SQ FOR THE PERIODS 1ST TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1944.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATIONS 417 NI FTR SQ, 12 AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATIONS NO CHANGE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTEDS
 - (1) DECEMBER, 1944

(A)	44 OFFICERS	3 FLT 0'S	205 EM
(B)	12 "	2 "	2 "
(C)	0 "	0 "	0 "
(D)	56 OFFICERS	5 FLT 0'S	207 EM
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) LE VALLON A/D, SALON DE PROVENCE, FRANCE
 - (A) NO CHANGE OF STATION DURING PERIOD.
- E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELONS NONE.
- F. CAMPAIGNS: FRENCH CAMPAIGN, COMMENCED 15 AUGUST, 1944, STILL IN PROGRESS.
- G. OPERATIONS :
 - (1) OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF NIGHTLY PATROLS AGAINST ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE A/C WITH ONE A/C REMAINING AT BASE FOR IMMEDIATE SCRAMBLE. A TOTAL OF 72 SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT. THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL KILLED OR WOUNDED IN ACTION.

INCLOSED IS WAR DIARY, 417TH NI FTR SQ. FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31 DECEMBER, 1944.

203. DEC. 5. 1ST LT JOSEPH E. DAVIS RECEIVED VERY SERIOUS BURNS



End of Beaufighter ND296 following test flight on December 5, 1944 at Le Vallon. Lt. Joseph E. Davis suffered severe burns, shock and lacerations. Cockpit broke clear and the rest of the plane burned.

WHEN THE AIRCRAFT (BEAUFIGHTER ND296) WHICH HE WAS "TEST HOPPING" CRASH LANDED AND BURNED TODAY. LT DAVIS HAD DIFFICULTY EXTRICATING HIMSELF FROM THE WRECKAGE AND WHEN HE FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN DOING SO, HAD TO STRUGGLE THROUGH THE BLAZING POOL OF GASOLINE THAT SURROUNDED THE AIRCRAFT. MERCIFULLY, HE HAS NO RECOLLECTION OF HIS ACTIONS AFTER FREEING HIMSELF FROM HIS PARACHUTE HARNESS.

SGT GURA AND CPL COX HAVE FINALLY BEEN LOCATED. THEY HAD LEFT CAMP ON THE MORNING OF THE 28TH NOVEMBER ON A PASS TO VISIT PARIS AND WERE LONG OVERDUE. WORD EVENTUALLY REACHED CAMP THAT THEY HAD HAD AN ACCIDENT ABOUT 125 MILES UP THE RHONE VALLEY AND HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE 180TH STATION HOSPITAL WHERE THEY ARE NOW RECOVERING FROM INJURIES RECEIVED.

204. DEC. 9. 2ND LT E.C. GRAYBILL AND F/O H.L. KLEIN CRASHED AND WERE INSTANTLY KILLED IN AN A/C ACCIDENT APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES N/E OF AIX TODAY. CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT WAS DUE TO LOW-FLYING AND HITTING A POWER LINE.

205. DEC. 10. 2ND LTS MARTEL, STANKO, GRIFFY, HUFFMAN, MEWSHAW, GEISEL AND SPENCER, AND F/O'S PARADO, HARDING AND DOWD JOINED THE ORGANIZATION TODAY FROM THE 19TH REPLACEMENT BATTALION.

206. DEC. 16. MAJ C.R. MCCRAY AND 1ST LT R.D. HAMILTON DAMAGED A JU-188 LAST NIGHT. THIS MAKES A TOTAL OF FIVE ACTUAL CONTACTS THIS AIRCREW HAS HAD WITH "JERRY". 1 DESTROYED, 2 PROBABLE AND 2 DAMAGED. THEY WERE FLYING BEAUFIGHTER V8899.

207. DEC. 17. CAPT J.F. KIRWAM RECEIVED ORDERS ASSIGNING HIM TO THE 7TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT FOR TRANSHIPMENT TO THE U.S. CAPTAIN KIRWAN IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, HE HAVING BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON AT KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA.

208. DEC. 21. T/SGT G.H. REEVES AND CPL O.A. JACKSON TRANSFERRED TO THE 7TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT FOR SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES TODAY. 2ND LT H.J. ALLEN, H.C. ANDERSON, M.D. CAMPBELL, J.W. GRANGE, N. HOWARD AND J.K. PENCE WERE APPOINTED 1ST LTS TODAY. MAJOR LARSEN AND LT. CAMPBELL AND R/O BOB MCCULLEN HAD TAKEN THE B-25 #443



Grave of Ed Graybill, killed when his P-61 hit a power line. Rhona Cemetery at Dragingnann, France, Southwest of Le Vallon (photo, 1996)



417th NFS Mess Hall at Le Vallon decorated for Christmas, 1944.

FROM LEVALLON TO FLORENCE ON THE 15TH THEN ON TO PISA AND MORSEILLES ON THE 19TH BUT WERE FORCED TO LAND AT BORGIO FOR 7 DAYS, REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION. THEY WERE ABLE TO RETURN ON THE 21ST, NOT MISSING!

209. DEC. 22. 1ST LTS G.L. JOHNSON AND G.A. MOESER WERE SENT ON TEMPORARY DUTY TO THE 7TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT FOR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES FOR RECUPERATION AFTER WHICH THEY WILL RETURN TO THE ORGANIZATION.

210. DEC. 24. SNOW: WE'LL HAVE A "WHITE CHRISTMAS" AFTER ALL. THE SNOW COMMENCED FALLING VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING, IN FACT, SOON AFTER MIDNIGHT, 23-24. IT'S ONLY A LIGHT SNOW FALL BUT NEVERTHELESS IT PUT ONE MORE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

211. DEC. 25. THIS MORNING WAS CRISP AND COLD AND CRIES OF "MERRY CHRISTMAS" COULD BE HEARD THROUGHOUT THE AREA. A GREAT MANY OF US HAD SPECIAL CALLS TO MAKE TO CIVILIAN FRIENDS TO DISTRIBUTE "BON-BONS" AND "SHOO-SHOONG-GOOM". THE CHRISTMAS DINNER WAS EXCELLENT IN ITSELF WITH TURKEY AND ALL THE FIXIN'S. THE DINNER WASN'T EATEN SOLELY BY SQUADRON PERSONNEL. MANY WERE THE FRIENDS WHO WERE INVITED TO SHARE DINNER.



The Ju 290 replaced the long-range Fw 200 Condor late in 1943. Only about 65 aircraft were built, and there were never more than about 20 available to the Luftwaffe at any one time, and one less after December 29.

DEC. 28. LT. CAMPBELL AND R/O BOB MCCULLEN FLEW BEAU V8568 ON A 4:40 HOUR PATROL AND SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING A FOUR-ENGINE JU 290 EIGHTY MILES SE OF HYERES ISLANDS THAT WAS CARRYING GOLD AND ART TREASURES FROM GERMANY TO SPAIN. THE 417TH NFS RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION FOR THIS MISSION.

212. DEC. 29. 1ST LT MALCOM D. CAMPBELL AND 2ND LT ROBERT J. MCCULLEN "GOT" "BARCELONA CHARLIE" LAST NIGHT. THIS IS THE AIRCREW'S FIRST VICTORY AND THEY CAN WELL AFFORD TO BE PROUD. THE A/C DESTROYED WAS A JU-290, A COMBINATION TRANSPORT AND LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT THAT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MAKING FREQUENT RUNS TO SPAIN, PRESUMABLY WITH PASSENGERS, ALTHOUGH THIS MORNING, AT THE SCENE OF THE CRASH, A.S.R. AIRCRAFT SIGHTED BROKEN PLANKS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CRATES.

213. DEC. 31. SO ENDS ANOTHER YEAR. THIS MARKS THE SECOND NEW YEAR THAT THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON HAS OBSERVED OVERSEAS. THE FIRST HAVING BEEN OBSERVED WHILE WE WERE AT TAFARAOU A/D, NORTH AFRICA, JUST ABOUT 15 OR 20 MILES SOUTH OF ORAN. THE NEW YEAR WAS USHERED IN NOT ALTOGETHER QUIETLY BUT JUST AS A NEW YEAR SHOULD BE. LIKE AT OTHER SQUADRON GET TOGETHERS, FIRST SARGENT "DOC" HOCKMAN LED THE TROOPS IN SINGING THE 417TH NFS THEME SONG, "YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE". AS USUAL, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE HARMONY, BUT IT WAS PLENTY LOUD!

214. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417TH NI FTR SQ, FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31ST JANUARY, 1945.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417 NI FTR SQ, 12TH AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NO CHANGE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:

(1) JANUARY, 1945

(A)	56	OFFICERS	5	FLT	0'S	207	EM
(B)	0	"	0	"		0	"
(C)	4	"	0	"		0	"

- (D) 52 OFFICERS 5 FLT 0'S 207 EM
- D. STATIONS:
 (1) LE VALLON A/D, SALON DE PROVENCE, FRANCE.
 (A) NO CHANGE OF STATION DURING PERIOD.
- E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT, OR ECHELON:
 (1) A DETACHMENT OF 15 OFFICERS AND 10 ENLISTED MEN (TOGETHER WITH SEVEN AIRCRAFT) DEPARTED THIS STATION BY AIR ON 6 JANUARY, 1945, TO FLORENNES, BELGIUM. PURPOSE OF THE FLIGHT WAS TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL MISSION, HOWEVER, UPON THEIR ARRIVAL THERE, OPERATIONS COULD NOT BE CONDUCTED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS. RETURN OF THE DETACHMENT WAS EFFECTED 22 JANUARY.
- F. CAMPAIGN: FRENCH CAMPAIGN, COMMENCED 15 AUGUST, 1944, STILL IN PROGRESS.
- G. OPERATIONS:
 (1) FRENCH CAMPAIGN.
 (2) NIGHTLY PATROLS AGAINST ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE A/C AND ALSO SCRAMBLES UPON OCCASION.
 (3) DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT A TOTAL OF 11 (ELEVEN) SORTIES WERE FLOWN.
 (4) NIL. NO OPERATIONS CONDUCTED ON MISSION TO NORTHERN FRANCE DUE TO POOR WEATHER.
 (5) NIL.
- H. COMMAND OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
 (1) THE SQUADRON COMMANDER, MAJOR WILLIAM A. LARSEN, LED THE SQUADRON ON IT'S MISSION TO NORTHERN FRANCE AND BELGIUM.
- I. NIL.
- J. NIL.
- K. NIL.

ENCLOSED IS WAR DIARY, 417 NI FTR SQ, FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31ST JANUARY, 1945.

215. JAN. 2. T/SGT'S FACCIOLLA & MAUPIN AND PVT 1CL GARMISE WERE APPOINTED CORPORALS THIS DATE PER SQUADRON ORDERS. CPL GARMISE HAS "SWEATED" HIS OUT SINCE JOINING THE SQUADRON, NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO.

216. JAN. 6. A DETACHMENT OF 15 OFFICERS AND 10 ENLISTED MEN DEPARTED FOR AN AIR FIELD IN BELGIUM TODAY TO CONDUCT SPECIAL OPERATIONS, IN WHAT LATER BECAME KNOWN AS THE "BATTLE OF THE BULGE". MAJOR LARSEN PILOTED THE B-25 AND LED THREE FLIGHTS OF THREE BEAUFIGHTERS FROM LE VALLON TO DIJON, ENROUTE TO A-78 AIRFIELD IN BELGIUM TO ASSIST IN AIR DEFENSE OF ALLIED FORCES WHOSE DAY FIGHTERS WERE GROUNDED BY BAD WEATHER. THEY TOOK ALL OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT WITH THEM AND A DETACHMENT OF RAF AIRCREWS IS EXPECTED TO OPERATE FROM HERE DURING THEIR ABSENCE.

2ND LTS. MEWSHAW, STANKO, SPENCER AND F/O'S DOWD AND PARADO HAVE BEEN SENT ON T.D. TO POMIGLIANO A/F, ITALY. THEY'LL PROBABLY RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN MARK 10 NIGHT FIGHTER AI EQUIPMENT.

217. JAN. 8. EIGHT OFFICERS FROM 256 SQUADRON, RAF, ARRIVED AT OUR ORGANIZATION TODAY. THEY WILL OPERATE FROM THIS FIELD FOR AWHILE WITH THEIR MOSQUITOS WHILE MAJOR LARSEN IS AWAY WITH OUR BEAUFIGHTERS.

218. JAN. 9. GENERAL MEYERS AND HIS STAFF VISITED THE ORGANIZATION AND MADE INSPECTIONS IN AND ABOUT THE SQUADRON. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO STAY FOR A FEW DAYS.



By an L-4 spotter airplane at Dijon, France. (L-R) Mahon, Bosshart, Peters, January 1945. You can really appreciate what the guys on the front lines were experiencing during the Battle of the Bulge.



Snow Birds at Dijon! (Standing L-R beside 417th B-25) Mahon, Bosshart, Baker, Ives. (Kneeling L-R) Peters, Noel, Resnick



Standing in the snow! (L-R) Bosshart, Peters, Mahon. Dijon, France, January 1945



British Catalina snowed-in at Dijon, France. Resnick is kneeling in front of plane, others?



Winter snow scene at Le Vallon, January 1945. Even the French Riviera can see winter!

219. JAN. 10. GENERAL MEYERS PRESENTED AWARDS TO SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON AT AN EARLY FORMATION THIS MORNING. MAJ. C.R. MCCRAY AND 1ST LT. R. D. HAMILTON WERE AWARDED THE D.F.C. CAPTAIN A.L. MACQUEEN. LTS. L.G. MOLDREM AND E.H. BOWMAN WERE AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL. OF THE ENLISTED MEN T/SGT M.B. CROSS WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR.

220. JAN. 14. CAPTAIN ALEXANDER L. MACQUEEN, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION WAS FATALLY SHOT WHILE VISITING NIMES LAST NIGHT. CAPTAIN MACQUEEN AND MAJOR GARDNER WERE BOTH SITTING SIDE BY SIDE IN A CAFE WHEN FOR NO APPARENT REASON WHATSOEVER, CAPTAIN MACQUEEN WAS SHOT THRU THE HEART BY A COLORED AMERICAN SOLDIER. AN INTENSE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN INSTITUTED TO DISCOVER THE GUILTY PARTY OR PARTIES. IT IS PARTICULARLY DISHEARTENING IN THAT CAPT. MACQUEEN HAD FORTY SOME ODD MISSIONS TO HIS CREDIT, HAD RECEIVED THE AIR MEDAL WITH CLUSTER AND HAD TO MEET SUCH AN UNTIMELY END ON THE GROUND.

221. JAN. 16. 2ND LTS. MEWSHAW, STANKO, SPENCER AND F/O'S DOWD AND PARADO RETURNED TO THE ORGANIZATION TODAY FROM POMIGLIANO A/F, ITALY.

222. JAN. 19. WE HAD A RATHER UNUSUAL INCIDENT TODAY WHICH NEARLY TURNED INTO A TRAGEDY. F/O HARDING TOOK OFF ON HIS FIRST FLIGHT BY HIMSELF IN A BEAUFIGHTER (V8716) AND ON THE TAKE-OFF, MUSHED BACK, TWISTING THE STBD LANDING GEAR. OF CONSEQUENCE, WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO RETRACT IT, IT WAS FOUND IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO AND NEITHER COULD THE GEAR BE LOCKED DOWN. EVENTUALLY, ATTEMPTS TO RAISE OR LOCK-DOWN THE LANDING GEAR WERE ABANDONED AND F/O HARDING MADE ALTITUDE TO "BAIL-OUT." A "SUCCESSFUL" EXIT WAS MADE FROM THE A/C, OR AT LEAST IT APPEARED AT THE TIME TO BE SO, AND AT THE TIME HE LEFT THE A/C, SOMETHING "SHINY" WAS SEEN TO LEAVE THE A/C ALSO. WEAPONS CARRIERS, AMBULANCES, AND JEEPS, ALL FOLLOWED F/O HARDING AND WHEN THE AMBULANCE ARRIVED AT HIS LANDING PLACE, HE WAS FOUND TO BE VERY SERIOUSLY INJURED AND UNCONSCIOUS, HAVING A FRACTURED SKULL AND POSSIBLE INTERNAL INJURIES. CAUSE OF THE INJURIES ARE NOT KNOWN AT PRESENT AND HIS CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE FEW. THE A/C CRASHED SCATTERING WIDELY, AND BURNED ABOUT 2 MILES FROM THE FIELD.

ON THIS SAME DAY, A MOSQUITO OF 256 SQUADRON WHICH IS OPERATING WITH US AT PRESENT, WAS MAKING A TAKE-OFF FROM NICE WHEN FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO US AT PRESENT, DIPPED SLIGHTLY ON TAKE-OFF, CRASHED, BURNED AND FATALLY INJURED BOTH THE PILOT AND RADAR OBSERVER.

JAN. 21. MAJOR LARSEN AND HIS DETACHMENT FINALLY GOT CLEARANCE FROM DIJON AND REACHED A-78 AT FLORENNES, BELGIUM, WHERE THE 422ND NFS IS BASED.

223. JAN. 22. THE 15 OFFICERS AND 10 ENLISTED MEN WHO HAD BEEN SENT ON DS TO THE 422 NFS HAVE RETURNED TO DUTY TODAY. CAPTAIN J.D. BROWN, T/SGT R.S. THOMPSON, SGT B.B. MCGHIE, SGT A. PUENTE AND SGT "ROUGH-HOUSE" CRANDALL HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE U.S. FOR "RECUPERATION".

224. JAN. 28. IT'S "CAPTAIN" DRAPER NOW. CAPTAIN JOE P. DRAPER JOINED THE SQUADRON AS AN ENLISTED MAN (CORPORAL) DURING THE DAYS OF THE SQUADRONS FORMING IN KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA. HE IS ONE OF THE FEW ORIGINAL MEMBERS AMONG THE OFFICERS AND IS SENIOR OBSERVER IN ADDITION TO BEING A "ONE-MAN OBSERVER", HAVING BEEN



Joe Draper by the 1937 Ford he Liberated in South France, 1945. At one time the 417th had accumulated some 15 vehicles that operated on high octane aviation gas, until Major Larsen decreed that all be returned.

TEAMED WITH MAJ. W.A. LARSEN, THE SQUADRON COMMANDER, SINCE THE ORGANIZATION FIRST STARTED FLYING AS A UNIT.

RAF 256 SQUADRON DETACHMENT, HAS BEEN RELIEVED FROM DUTY WITH US AND ARE RETURNING TO FOGGIA, ITALY. LT. G.G. WOODS HAS BEEN RETURNED TO THE STATES. LT. WOODS WAS OBSERVER FOR LT. DAVIS, WHO CRASHED AND WAS SERIOUSLY BURNED IN AN A/C ACCIDENT LAST MONTH.

225. JAN. 29. CAPT. T.A. DEAKYNE, LTS. G.F. ALLEN, M.D. CAMPBELL AND H.H. HEIMECKE, AND T/SGT SAM RESNICK RETURNED TO DUTY TODAY VIA B-25. THEY HAD BEEN ON THE SPECIAL MISSION TO BELGIUM AND WERE UNABLE TO RETURN PREVIOUSLY DUE TO THEIR AIRCRAFT BEING U/S.

226. JAN. 31. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT MENTION WAS MADE IN THE NOVEMBER HISTORY OF THIS ORGANIZATION THAT LTS BERRYHILL AND RODGERS AND S/SGT ANDERTON FAILED TO RETURN FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHT WHICH THEY MADE TO DIJON. WORD HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER THAT THEY WERE SEEN TO CRASH AND THAT THEIR BODIES HAD BEEN RECOVERED BY FRENCH CIVILIANS TWO DAYS AFTER THEY CRASHED.

DURING JANUARY THE SQUADRON FLEW ONLY 11 SORTIES, DUE PRIMARILY TO WEATHER, AND HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY.

227. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417 NI FTR SQ, FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEB. TO 28TH FEBRUARY, 1945.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417 NI FTR SQ, 12TH AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NO CHANGE.
- C. STRENGTH. COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) FEBRUARY, 1945:

(A)	52 OFFICERS	5 FLT 0'S	207 EM
(B)	2 "	4 " "	0 "
(C)	0 "	0 " "	2 "
(D)	54 OFFICERS	2 FLT 0'S	205 EM
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) LE VALLON A/D SALON DE PROVENCE, FRANCE
 - (A) NO CHANGE OF STATION DURING PERIOD.
- E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELON: NO MOVEMENTS.
- F. CAMPAIGNS: FRENCH CAMPAIGN, COMMENCED 15 AUGUST, 1944, STILL IN PROGRESS.
- G. OPERATIONS:
 - (1) OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF NIGHTLY PATROLS AGAINST ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE A/C WITH ONE A/C REMAINING ALWAYS AT BASE FOR IMMEDIATE SCRAMBLE. A TOTAL OF 66 SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT. THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL KILLED OR WOUNDED IN ACTION.

INCLOSED IS WAR DIARY, 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, FOR PERIOD 1ST TO 28TH FEBRUARY, 1945.

228. FEB. 3. SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF JANUARY'S WAR DIARY, THE WRITER HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN. (ROBERT E. JACKSON, JR.).

229. FEB. 4. CORPORAL W.M. COX, WHO HAD BEEN IN A JEEP ACCIDENT ON THE 20TH NOVEMBER AND HAS SINCE BEEN ABSENT, HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE 30TH MEDICAL HOSPITAL CENTER FOR TRANSFER TO THE UNITED STATES. SGT. GURA, WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING HIM AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT, RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON A

WEEK OR SO LATER AND HAS SINCE RECOVERED COMPLETELY.

230. FEB. 5. THE 417TH RECEIVED ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO ADD TO THE ROLLS TODAY. FOUR COMPLETE AIRCREWS, JUST FRESH FROM "HOME". THEY ARE: 2ND LTS PERE, LAMBERT, KING AND F/O AUBIL. ALL PILOTS AND 2ND LT HART AND F/O'S DIEHL, CRONBERG AND KIMMEL, RADAR OBSERVERS. WELCOME.

231. FEB. 6. THERE MUST BE SOME CHANGES COMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CIVILIAN TECHNICIAN, J.A. PESLER, ARRIVED AT THE SQUADRON TODAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE INSTALLATION OF THE LATEST RADAR EQUIPMENT. PVT R.S. MELANCON WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO THE HOSPITAL EARLIER IN THE DAY DIED TODAY FROM HAVING MISTAKENLY TAKEN A SWIG OF CARBON TET INSTEAD OF BOOZE BEFORE GETTING OUT OF BED. HE KEPT A BOTTLE CONTAINING CARBON TET THAT HE USED FOR CLEANING. THE ENTIRE SQUADRON CLEANED OUT THEIR BOTTLE COLLECTION THAT DAY. A MEMBER OF THE COOKING SQUAD HE WAS PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN TO ALL FOR HIS MELODIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON THE GUITAR.

232. FEB. 12. 1ST LT H.H. HEINECKE TRANSFERRED TO THE REPLACEMENT DEPOT TODAY FOR SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES ON THE ROTATION POLICY.

233. FEB. 16. AT AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY TODAY, GENERAL MEYERS, OF THE XII AF, AND HIS STAFF, PRESENTED DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES AND AIR MEDALS, WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON. 1ST LT. W.W. CAMPBELL AND 2ND LT. R.C. MCCULLEN WERE AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AND IN ADDITION, THE AIR MEDAL (FOR THEIR SORTIE AGAINST THE JU 290, editor). THE SQUADRON COMMANDER, MAJOR WILLIAM A. LARSEN, RECEIVED THE 2ND AND 3RD CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL; MAJOR C.R. MCCRAY, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL; CAPTAIN J.F. DRAPER, 2ND CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL; 1ST LT R.D.



417th Officers Awards and Decoration Ceremony, Presentations by General Meyers, 12th Air Force, February 16, 1945.



Duff Campbell receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, Le Vallon, France, February 16, 1945

HAMILTON, 2ND, 3RD AND 4TH CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL; 1ST LT R.E. PERKINS, AIR MEDAL AND 2ND CLUSTER; 1ST LT H.J. ALLEN, R.C. ANDERSON, T.L. WELFLEY AND J. W.GRANGE, AIR MEDAL; 1ST LTS R.N. WILSON AND E.R. BARRY, AIR MEDAL AND 1ST

CLUSTER; AND 1ST LTS L.G. MOLDREM AND E.H. BOWMAN, 1ST CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL. INCLUDED IN HIS VISIT WAS A TOUR OF THE AREA IN THE R/O'S POSITION IN ONE OF OUR BEAUFIGHTERS.

234. FEB. 17. 2ND LTS R.W. CONDON AND R.M. CORNWALL PROBABLY DESTROYED AN ME 210/410 A/C TONIGHT. WHILE IT IS BELIEVED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE E/A TO CONTINUE FLYING AFTER THE DAMAGE INFLICTED BY LT. CONDON'S ACCURATE FIRING, CREDIT FOR A POSITIVE DESTROYED CANNOT BE GIVEN INASMUCH AS THIS AIRCREW DID NOT SEE THE A/C CRASH ON THE WATER.

235. FEB. 18. CAPTAIN THEODORE A. DEAKYNE AND 1ST LT G.F. ALLEN LEFT TODAY BY A/C FOR 30 DAY LEAVES IN THE UNITED STATES. CAPTAIN DEAKYNE JOINED THE SQUADRON IN ENGLAND AND LT ALLEN IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON, HAVING BEEN ASSIGNED AS AN ENLISTED MAN AT KISSIMMEE.

236. FEB. 21. 1ST LT L.G. MOLDREM LEFT TODAY FOR ROTATION TO THE UNITED STATES. T/SGT W.E. BARNEY, SGT R. GURA, AND CPLS C.E. BRIGDEN, R.W. COTTRELL AND J.T. HARRAH, ALSO LEFT TODAY FOR TEMPORARY DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES.

237. FEB. 22. THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SQUADRON WAS CELEBRATED TONIGHT. LIQUID REFRESHMENTS WERE PLENTIFUL AND WE WERE NOT LACKING IN ENTERTAINMENT, IT BEING FURNISHED BY FRENCH CIVILIANS. ALONG A MORE EDUCATIONAL VEIN, THE SQUADRON WAS ACTIVATED PER AUTHORITY OF GENERAL ORDER #15, HQ AFSAT, DATED 20TH FEBRUARY 1943, AT ORLANDO ARMY AIR BASE, ORLANDO, FLA. THE FIRST PERSONNEL TO ARRIVE REPORTED TO HQ AAFSAT IN ORLANDO, AND TWO DAYS LATER THEY WERE IN THEIR NEW "TEMPORARY" HOME IN KISSIMMEE, TO WHICH LATER ARRIVALS REPORTED. WE'VE SUFFERED A FEW LOSSES BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED BY THE SQUADRON.

THE NIGHT OF 22 FEBRUARY, MAJ MCCRAY WAS ENTERING THE TRAFFIC PATTERN ON RETURNING FROM PATROL WHEN HE WAS VECTORED AFTER A BOGEY AT ANGELS 24. WITHIN TEN MINUTES HE GOT UP TO ANGELS 22 ALTHOUGH THE SUPERCHARGER WOULD NOT SHIFT INTO HIGH BLOWER. UNFORTUNATELY, DOGLEG REPORTED THAT THE PLOT ON THE BOGEY HAD FADED.

238. FEB. 26. THE 417TH HAS RECEIVED REINFORCEMENTS. THIS TIME THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE AAF. PVTS J.F. FLOOD, R.L. FOSTER, C.E. GRIFFIN, J.C. MOODY, L.E. SMITH FROM THE 19TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT AND SGT J.B. FERONS, FROM THE 62ND TROOP CARRIER GROUP. ALSO, NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN IS CPL T.J. SLATTERY FROM THE 60TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON. WELCOME FELLOW'S.

239. FEB. 28. LATER ARRIVALS ON THIS DATE WERE: S/SGT R.H. LARSEN AND T/4 R. MANUEL, WHO ARE ATTACHED TO SQUADRON AND JOINED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING UP A POINT TO POINT TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING STATION FOR THE XII A.F. HAROLD MENSER HAS RETURNED. 2ND LT J.W. CHELF, WHO HAD BEEN SENT ON TEMPORARY DUTY TO THE UNITED STATES HAS RETURNED AND SHOULD BE READY TO START OPERATIONAL FLYING ANY TIME NOW.

DURING FEBRUARY A TOTAL OF 66 SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

240. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417 NI FTR SQ FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31ST MARCH, 1945.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417 NI FTR SQ, 12TH AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGE IN ORGANIZATION: NO CHANGE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) MARCH, 1945

(A)	54	OFFICERS	9	FLT	0'S	205	EM
(B)	2	"	1	"	"	0	"

- (C) 0 " 0 " " . 1 "
- (D) 62 OFFICERS 10 FLT 0'S 204 EM
- D. STATIONS!
- (1) LE VALLON A/D, SALON DE PROVENCE, FRANCE
- (A) NO CHANGE OF STATION DURING PERIOD.
- E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELON: NO MOVEMENTS.
- F. CAMPAIGNS: FRENCH CAMPAIGN, COMMENCED 15 AUGUST, 1944, STILL PROGRESSING.
- G. OPERATIONS:
- (1) OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF NIGHTLY PATROLS AGAINST ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE A/C WITH ONE A/C REMAINING ALWAYS AT BASE FOR IMMEDIATE SCRAMBLE. THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL KILLED OR WOUNDED IN ACTION.

INCLOSED IS THE WAR DIARY. 417 NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31ST MARCH, 1945.

241. MAR. 2. PROMOTIONS WERE EVIDENTLY IN ORDER TODAY. S/SGT "CHARLIE" POEKERT WAS APPOINTED T/SGT TODAY AND PFC HISSETT AND PVT BELLOW WERE APPOINTED CORPORALS.

242. MAR. 3. CAPTAIN G.E. NELSON, ELECTRONICS OFFICER AND 1ST LT.G.A. MOESER, ORDNANCE OFFICERS, BOTH RETURNED TO DUTY TODAY AFTER 30 DAYS TEMPORARY DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES.

243. MAR. 5. 1ST LT G.L. JOHNSON, SUPPLY OFFICER, RETURNED TO DUTY TODAY AFTER 30 DAYS TEMPORARY DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES. CIVILIAN RADAR TECHNICIAN PESLER WAS RELIEVED FROM ATTACHED TO THE SQUADRON THIS DATE ALSO.

244. MAR. 8. F/O E.G. HARDING, WHO HAD BAILED OUT OF AN A/C ON HIS MAIDEN FLIGHT IN A BEAUFIGHTER BACK ON 19TH JANUARY AND IN DOING SO WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED, WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE SQUADRON TODAY TO THE 4200 U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL PLANT. IT WAS BELIEVED AT FIRST THAT F/O HARDING'S CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WERE VERY SLIM.

245. MAR. 11. THE SQUADRON UNDERWENT A "REORGANIZATION" TODAY UNDER THE NEW T/O WHEREBY THE STRENGTH OF THE ORGANIZATION WILL BE DECREASED.

246. MAR. 14. AT LONG LAST! THE FIRST OF THE LONG AWAITED "BLACK WIDOW" P-61'S (P-61B #42-39420) HAVE ARRIVED IN THE SQUADRON, FLOWN IN BY MAJOR LARSEN WHEN HE RETURNED FROM POMIGLIANO ON MARCH 12. THE BALANCE OF OUR ALLOTTED NUMBER OF A/C ARE EXPECTED TO TRICKLE IN DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE

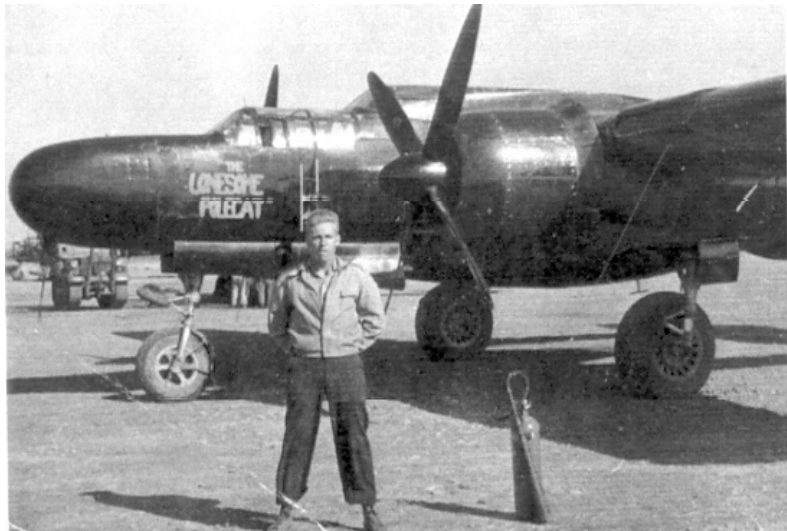


George Aubill & Tom Hart in front of P-61B-1-NO, #42-39420, the first "Black Widow" assigned to the 417th NFS. This airplane became known as the "LONESOME POLECAT".

MONTH.

247. MAR. 16. 1ST SGT C.F. HOCKMAN, ORIGINAL FIRST SERGEANT OF 417 NFS, HAS BEEN PLACED ON TEMPORARY DUTY TO THE U.S. 1ST SGT HOCKMAN IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS FRIENDLINESS WITH HIS "BOYS" PLUS HIS ABILITY TO COMMAND AND MAINTAIN THEIR RESPECT AT ALL TIMES.

THIS EVENING A LAYER OF FOG MOVED IN ON THE BASE HALF AN HOUR BEFORE LT HOWARD WAS DUE TO RETURN FROM PATROL. SECTOR RECALLED HIM, AND MIMIC WAS ABLE TO VECTOR HIM BACK TO BASE. HE COULD SEE THE RUNWAY LIGHTS WHEN DIRECTLY ABOVE, BUT THE FOG WAS TOO THICK TO SEE THE GLIDE PATH LIGHTS OR RUNWAY LIGHTS FROM THE APPROACH ANGLE. BY SHINING VEHICLE LIGHTS DOWN THE RUNWAY FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE APPROACH END AND LIGHTING A SIZABLE BONFIRE AT THE OPPOSITE END, WE GAVE HIM ENOUGH MARKERS SO THAT BY USING PROCEDURE TURNS AND TIMING PLUS ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MIMIC, HE WAS ABLE TO LET DOWN TO MAKE A RAUNCHY BUT HIGHLY SATISFACTORY LANDING. NEITHER THE CREW NOR THE AIRCRAFT WAS DAMAGED.



George Aubill beside P-61 "Lonesome Polecat", believed to be at St. Dizier Airdrome in France.

248. MAR. 17. SIX MORE AIRCREW JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY. 2ND LTS. ALLISON, ANDERSON (H.A.), ANDERSON (T.W.), BRADFORD, CARTMELL, CHRISTENSEN, COOLEY, GAINES, MURDOCH AND TEMM AND F/O'S GRAHAM & WHITE ARRIVED FOR DUTY TODAY.

249. MAR. 18. CPL R.C. MARSH WAS ROTATED TO THE UNITED STATES TODAY. A FORMER MEMBER OF THE 79TH FIGHTER GROUP, CPL MARSH TRANSFERRED TO 417 NFS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE WITH THE NUMEROUS ACQUAINTANCES HE HAD KNOWN IN A FIGHTER GROUP IN PRE-WAR DAYS. IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THESE NUMEROUS ACQUAINTANCES FORMED THE NUCLEUS OF 417 NFS WHEN IT WAS FIRST ACTIVATED.

250. MAR. 19. S/SGT GRACHEN AND CPL LANDY WERE PLACED ON TEMPORARY DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 30 DAYS YESTERDAY. S/SGT T. N. LARSEN AND T/4 R. MANUEL WERE RELIEVED FROM ATTACHED. 2ND LTS BERRY AND BOWMAN WERE APPOINTED 1ST LTS TODAY AND TRANSFERRED-TO THE 7TH REPLACEMENT CENTER TODAY FOR ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER TO THE U.S. ON ROTATION.

MAR. 24. THE 417TH NFS WAS ATTACHED TO 64TH FIGHTER WING, 12TH TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, 1ST TACTICAL AIR FORCE, BUT IS STILL ASSIGNED TO 12TH AIR FORCE FOR ADMINISTRATION.

251. MAR. 25. 1ST LTS R.D. HAMILTON (RADAR OBSERVER) AND G.N. WILSON (PILOT) WERE APPOINTED CAPT'S TODAY. CAPTAIN HAMILTON IS AMONG THE ORIGINAL R.O.'S WHO FIRST JOINED THE SQUADRON AS AN ENLISTED R.O. IN KISSIMMEE, FLA. ATTAINING HIS COMMISSION IN ENGLAND.

252. MAR. 27. DECORATIONS WERE AWARDED TO PERSONNEL OF THE SQUADRON BY BRIGADIER GENERAL MEYERS AT A FORMAL CEREMONY THIS MORNING. CAPTAIN G.E. NELSON, WAS AWARDED THE LEGION OF MERIT AND M/SGT A.M. CHRISTENSEN, THE BRONZE STAR, BOTH FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN MAINTAINING THE PERFORMANCE

OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION. MAJOR C.R. MCCRAY WAS AWARDED THE 6TH CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL, HAVING BEEN AWARDED THE 2ND TO 5TH IN FEBRUARY. CAPTAIN R.D. HAMILTON RECEIVED HIS 5TH CLUSTER AND CAPT. G.N.



417th NFS P-61s at St. Dizier, France, April 1945

WILSON AND 2ND LT T.D. WELFLEY EACH RECEIVED THEIR FIRST CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL. 1ST LTS N. HOWARD, & S.C. RIAL AND 2ND LTS J.W. CHELF, F.S. CAMPBELL, R.P. MANGONE, R.W. CONDON AND R/O R.K. CORNWALL RECEIVED THE AIR MEDAL.

253. MAR. 28. THE SQUADRON WENT OFF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING ON A CONVERSION PROGRAM FROM THE BEAUFIGHTER TYPE A/C TO THE P-61.

254. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417 NI FTR SQ, FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 30 APRIL, 1945.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, 12TH AIR FORCE. (OPERATIONALLY UNDER 1ST TACTICAL AIR FORCE, 12TH TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, 64TH FIGHTER WING).
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NONE EXCEPT AS IN "A". ABOVE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED.
 - (1) APRIL, 1945

(A)	62 OFFICERS	10 FLT O'S	204 EH
(B)	0 "	0 " "	1 "
(C)	0 "	2 " "	0 "
(D)	62 OFFICERS	8 FLT O'S	205 EM
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) LE VALLON A/D, FRANCE.
 - (A) ARRIVED 12 SEPTEMBER, 1944
 - (B) DEPARTED 3 APRIL, 1945
 - (2) ST. DIZIER A/D, FRANCE.
 - (A) ARRIVED 5 APRIL, 1945
 - (B) DEPARTED 24 APRIL, 1945
 - (3) GIEBLESTADT, GERMANY (Y-90)
 - (A) ARRIVED 24 APRIL, 1945.
- E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELONS:
 - (1) FROM LE VALLON A/D FRANCE, TO ST. DIZIER, FRANCE, 10 A/D Y-90.
 - (2)
 - (A) CHANGE OF STATION.
 - (B) LEFT LE VALLON A/D, 3 APRIL, 1945.
 - (C) TRAVEL WAS BY AIR, RAIL AND MOTOR CONVOY.
 - (D) WEATHER WAS FAIR THROUGHOUT ENTIRE MOVEMENT WITH OCCASIONAL SHOWERS ENROUTE. ROAD CONDITIONS WERE GOOD

THROUGH MAJORITY OF JOURNEY.

- F. CAMPAIGNS: GERMAN CAMPAIGN.
(1) FRENCH CAMPAIGN COMMENCED WITH INVASION DATE OF SOUTHERN FRANCE, 15 AUG/44, THROUGHOUT WHICH 417 NI FTR SQ PARTICIPATED FURNISHING AERIAL PROTECTION ON INVASION BEACH-HEAD AND NIGHTLY PATROLS AGAINST ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. THIS CAMPAIGN CEASED 14 SEPTEMBER, 1944, AND 417, WITHOUT CEASING OPERATIONS, LAUNCHED ITSELF INTO THE GERMAN CAMPAIGN, WHICH COMMENCED 14 SEPTEMBER, 1944, AND IS STILL IN PROGRESS.
- G. (1) GERMAN CAMPAIGN.
(2) OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD, 25 APRIL TO 30 APRIL, CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF NIGHTLY PATROLS AGAINST ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE AND INTRUDER AIRCRAFT WITH THE SQUADRON MAINTAINING A VERY HEAVY SCHEDULE, WEATHER PERMITTING. IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD THAT 417 NI FTR SQ INAUGURATED ITS FIRST OPERATIONAL MISSION USING "BLACK WIDOW" P-61'S IN THE GERMAN CAMPAIGN, OPERATING FROM A/D Y-90 IN GERMANY. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE SQUADRON WAS CHARGED WITH PROTECTING THE BRIDGEHEADS OF ULM, DILLINGEN AND DONAUWORTH, THEY BEING THE GROUND FORCES' ONLY MEANS OF RECEIVING MUCH NEEDED SUPPLIES. DURING THIS PERIOD, ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE ENCOUNTERED BUT WERE SUCCESSFULLY ROUTED BEFORE DAMAGE COULD BE INFLICTED ON THE BRIDGEHEADS. 417 NFS SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ONE AIRCREW DURING OPERATIONS. THIS AIRCREW WAS SHOT DOWN BY FRIENDLY AA FIRE.
(3) A TOTAL OF 24 SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING THE PERIOD OF ONE WEEK OPERATIONS, MONTH OF APRIL.
(4) 417 NI FTR SQ BECAME OPERATIONAL UNDER THE 1ST TACTICAL AIR FORCE, 12 TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, 64TH FIGHTER WING, IN COMPLIANCE WITH A TELETYPE MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, 1ST TACAF. THIS OPERATIONAL SWITCH-OVER WAS EFFECTIVE THE 24TH MARCH/45, HOWEVER, 417 NFS IS STILL UNDER 12 AIR FORCE ADMINISTRATIVELY.

INCLOSED IS WAR DIARY, 417 NI FTR SQ, FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 30TH APRIL, 1945.

255. APR. 1. APRIL 1ST AND A NEW MONTH IS WITH US AGAIN. CONVERSION TO THE P-61 AIRCRAFT WITH WHICH WE ARE NOW EQUIPPED IS WELL UNDERWAY.

256. APR. 3. THE SQUADRON IS MOVING AGAIN. LEAVING BEHIND 26 OFFICERS AND 37 EM ON DS AT THIS FIELD, THE BALANCE OF THE SQUADRON WILL LEAVE TONIGHT AND TOMORROW MORNING FOR ST. DIZIER, FRANCE.

257. APR. 4. PART OF THE SQUADRON LEFT SALON, FRANCE BY RAIL AT 2300 HRS LAST NITE AND THIS MORNING AT 0830 HRS, THE MOTOR CONVOY LEFT. THEY TRAVELLED NORTH ALONG THE RHONE RIVER AND STOPPED OVERNIGHT AT A BIVOUAC AREA NORTH OF MACON. THE RAIL TRAVELERS (IN BOX CARS (40 X 8) ARE STILL ENROUTE AND PROBABLY WON'T ARRIVE UNTIL EARLY TOMORROW MORNING AT ST. DIZIER.

258. APR. 5. THE RAIL ECHELON ARRIVED AT 0500 HRS THIS MORNING AND DISEMBARKED AT 0830 HRS. IMMEDIATELY THEY ARRIVED AT CAMP SITE, THEY BEGAN TO SET UP TENTS AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT THE RAIL ECHELON WAS DISEMBARKING, THE MOTOR CONVOY LEFT THEIR OVER-NIGHT STOPPING POINT AND COMMENCED THE BALANCE OF THEIR LONG DRIVE, FINALLY ARRIVING AT ST. DIZIER LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, COLD, TIRED, DUSTY AND HUNGRY BUT READY TO PITCH IN AND GET SETTLED.

APR. 7. THE AIR ECHELON ARRIVED AT ST. DIZIER TODAY.

259. APR. 9. WE HAD A NEAR TRAGEDY TODAY. LT R.P. BRADFORD WAS MAKING A

ROUTINE HOP IN A
 "BLACK WIDOW"
 THIS AFTERNOON
 AND JUST AS HE
 WAS TAKING OFF,
 HAVING GAINED
 NEAR SUFFICIENT
 SPEED, HE PULLED
 HIS WHEELS UP.
 THE AIRCRAFT, NOT
 BEING CLEAR OF
 THE GROUND, NOR
 HAVING QUITE
 SUFFICIENT LIFT,
 DROPPED TO THE
 RUNWAY ON ITS
 BELLY AND SKIDDED
 MADLY ALONG THE
 RUNWAY CATCHING
 FIRE AS IT DID
 SO. LT BRADFORD
 IMMEDIATELY
 STARTED CLIMBING
 OUT AND JUST AS HE CLEARED THE AIRCRAFT, THE ALERT AMBULANCE CAME CLANGING UP
 AND IMMEDIATELY TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.



Lt. Bradford's P-61 at St. Dizier, France, April 9, 1945. Not enough lift on take-off when the gear was retracted resulted in grinding off the props. Note the installation of drop tanks, which were probably what caused the fire.

260. APR. 12. MAJOR W.A. LARSEN AND CAPT J.F. DRAPER LEFT TODAY FOR THE XII AF HQ. IN ITALY.

261. APR. 14. CPL MIKESKA JOINED US TODAY FROM THE 19TH REPLACEMENT BATTALION.

262. APR. 19. CONFIRMATION ORDERS CAME IN TODAY FROM XII AF SENDING MAJOR LARSEN AND CAPT DRAPER TO THE U.S. ON DS FOR 45 DAYS. WITH MAJOR LARSEN'S TEMPORARY DEPARTURE, MAJOR C. RICHARD MCCRAY, FORMER OPERATIONS OFFICER OF THE SQUADRON UP TO THE TIME OF MAJOR LARSEN'S DEPARTURE, ASSUMES COMMAND OF THE SQUADRON. MAJOR MCCRAY HAS A FINE RECORD BEHIND HIM IN DAMAGED, PROBABLY DESTROYED AND DESTROYED ENEMY AIRCRAFT. IN ADDITION, HE IS CONSIDERED A THOROUGH OFFICER AND QUITE CONSCIENTIOUS IN ALL TASKS HE UNDERTAKES.

263. APR. 20. F/O R.M. CORNWALL AND F/O W.H. WORK WERE APPOINTED 2ND LTS TODAY AS OF THE 15TH OF APRIL.

264. APR. 22. CAPT R.E. JACKSON JR., SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND HISTORIAN ALONG WITH SGT O.W. BAKER, CPLS A.R. BATTISTONI, M. STOLLER AND



One night while at St. Dizier a defecting Nazi pilot crash landed his Junkers Ju 88 in the midst of the 417th NFS area. After all of the chases and combats with the Ju 88 it was the first time most of the men and seen one up close.

M. WAYNE WERE PLACED ON DS IN THE U.S. TODAY FOR 45 DAYS.

265. APR. 23. WE MOVE AGAIN. LEAVING A SMALL DETACHMENT OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN BEHIND AGAIN, WE DEPARTED ST. DIZIER A/D BY AIRCRAFT AND CONVOY. WE LEFT THIS MORNING AT ABOUT 0900 HRS, TRAVELLING ALL DAY AND FINALLY REACHING KAISERLAUTERN LATE IN THE EVENING. THERE, WE FOUND A BIVOUAC AREA CROWDED WITH CAVALRY TROOPS WHO WILLING MADE ROOM FOR US TO PULL IN TO AND BIVOUAC.



Chopping wood for heat! L.A. Miller, Perry, Poole, Beene, and Pond, November 1944, Le Vallon.



Cigars from Home



Sam Rial on Rt, James Chelf on left.



417th NFS Beaufighter V8899 from rear, Le Vallon.

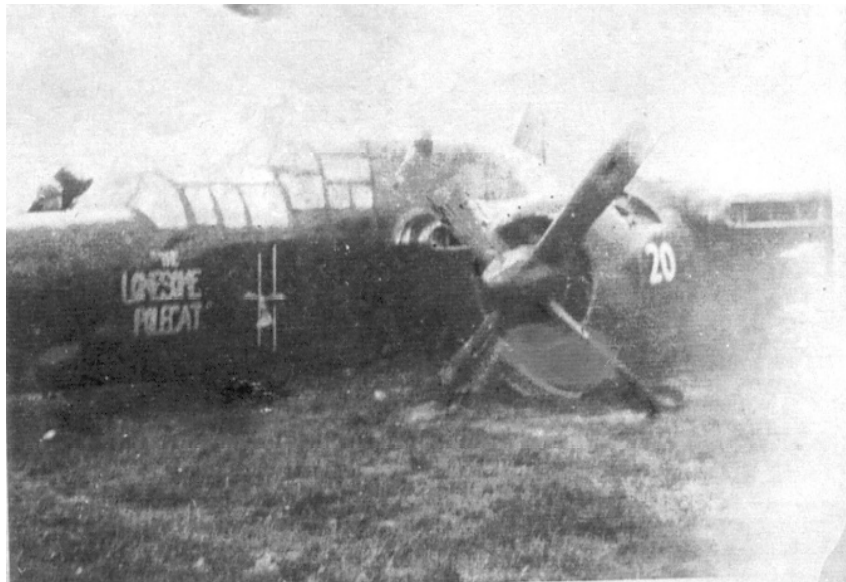
266. APR. 24. WE LEFT KAISERLAUTERN EARLY THIS MORNING. UPON WAKING, OUR BED-CLOTHES WERE STIFF WITH FROST AND THE AIR WAS COLD ENOUGH TO FREEZE BOILING WATER. AT ANY RATE, WE LEFT AT 0730 HRS, STRIKING THE AUTOBAHN AT A POINT ABOUT 10 MILES EAST OF KAISERLAUTERN AND FOLLOWING IT UNTIL WE REACHED MANNHEIM WHERE WE HAD TO DETOUR TO CROSS THE RHINE. THE BALANCE OF THE JOURNEY WAS UNEVENTFUL EXCEPT FOR BEING HELD BACK CONSIDERABLY DUE TO SLOW CONVOYS AND TANK CONVOYS. THE AIR ECHELON TOOK OFF FROM ST. DIZIER AT 9 IN THE MORNING AND REACHED Y-90 (GEILBELSTADT) AT 11. WE HAD HOPED TO BE OPERATIONAL THAT NIGHT, HOWEVER, MAINTENANCE HAD TO BE PERFORMED ON OUR AIRCRAFT SO HAVING NO BILLET AT THE MOMENT, WE SPENT THE NIGHT IN A LARGE OPEN HANGER.



Bob Perkins and Ted "Deak" Deakyne with P-61 at St. Dizier,

267. APR. 25. OPERATIONS COMMENCED TONIGHT WITH OUR ASSIGNMENT BEING THE PROTECTING OF CERTAIN BRIDGEHEADS ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER. OPERATIONS WENT OFF QUITE WELL HOWEVER, NO CONTACTS ON ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE OBTAINED.

268. APR. 26. TONIGHT WAS RATHER DISASTROUS FOR 417 NFS. ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT FAILED TO RETURN, ONE RETURNED WITH AN ENGINE SHOT UP BY FRIENDLY FLAK AND THE THIRD BELLY-LANDED. LTS T.E. CARTMELL AND H.A. ANDERSON, WHILE RETURNING TO BASE WERE SHOT DOWN BY FRIENDLY AA FIRE. LTS.H.J. ALLEN AND F.S. CAMPBELL WERE PATROLLING OUR AREA WHEN THEY RECEIVED FRIENDLY AA FIRE WHICH SHOT UP THEIR LEFT WING AND RENDERED THEIR LEFT ENGINE USELESS. THEY MADE THE TREK BACK TO BASE ON A SINGLE ENGINE AND LANDED WITHOUT MISHAP, HOWEVER, QUITE PUT-OUT AT BEING FIRED ON BY OUR OWN ACK-ACK. THE THIRD A/C WAS AN ERROR ON THE PART OF THE PILOT. THE PILOT, AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SET THE PLANE DOWN, PULLED UP HIS WHEELS AND CAME AROUND AGAIN. THE WHOLE THING WAS BEAUTIFUL, EXCEPT



The "Lonesome Polecat" P-61B-1-NO #42-39420, Didn't last long, becoming a prang-job at Gieblestadt, Germany on April 26. The 417th painted the last two digits of the airplane tail-number on the engine nacelles for quick identification and reference.

THAT HE FORGOT TO PUT HIS WHEELS DOWN AGAIN, RESULTING IN A BELLY-LANDING AND THE LOSS OF THE "Lonesome Polecat", CREWED BY AUBILL AND HART.

269. APR. 30. WORD WAS RECEIVED TODAY THAT A FRIENDLY AA BATTERY HAD FIRED UPON AND DOWNED OUR MISSING AIRCRAFT. THE PLANE CRASHED IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS AND KILLED BOTH MEMBERS OF THE AIRCREW.

270. ADD NOTE TO APR. 30: SGT J.F. BAUBLIS AND CPL J. NEWTON HAD LADY LUCK AS THEIR COMPANION TODAY. AT A LOTTERY, IN WHICH ALL EM IN THE SQUADRON HAD THEIR NAMES DROPPED INTO A BOX, TWO NAMES WERE DRAWN TO SEE WHO WOULD SPEND A WEEK IN LONDON. THEY WERE LUCKY, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS AS THOUGH IT'S RATHER A BAD TIME. JUST BEFORE PAY-DAY.

IN THE SIX DAYS THAT THE SQUADRON WAS OPERATIONAL DURING THE MONTH 24 SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

271. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 31 MAY, 1945.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417TH NI FTR SQ, XI TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, IX AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NO CHANGE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) MAY, 1945
 - (A) 62 OFFICERS 8 FLT 0'S 205 EM
 - (B) 0 " 0 " " 0 "
 - (C) 10 " 0 " " 11 "
 - (D) 52 OFFICERS 8 FLT 0'S 194 EM
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) GIEBELSTADT, GERMANY (Y-90)
 - (A) DEPARTED 21ST MAY, 1945
 - (2) BIBLIS, GERMANY (Y-78)
 - (A) ARRIVED 21 MAY, 1945
- E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELONS:
 - (1) FROM GIEBELSTADT, GERMANY TO BIBLIS, GERMANY
 - (2) (A) CHANGE OF STATION.
 - (B) TRAVEL WAS BY AIR AND MOTOR CONVOY, WEATHER POOR WITH MUCH RAIN. ROADS WERE GOOD, MORALE EXCELLENT.
- F. CAMPAIGNS: CENTRAL EUROPE CAMPAIGN.
- G. OPERATIONS:
 - (1) OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD, 1ST TO 9TH MAY, CONSISTED OF NIGHTLY PATROLS AND INTRUDER MISSIONS AGAINST ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE AND INTRUDER AIRCRAFT WHICH WERE ATTEMPTING TO HARASS SEVENTH ARMY TROOPS AND THEIR BRIDGEHEADS ACROSS THE DANUBE RIVER AT ULM, DILLINGEN AND DONAUWORTH, GERMANY.

ENCLOSED IS THE WAR DIARY, 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO

31ST MAY, 1945.

272. MAY 1. S/SGT HIBNER WAS APPOINTED T/SGT TODAY. THIS MAKES HIM THE ENLISTED DEPARTMENT HEAD OF THE ARMAMENT SECTION. PFC'S CURNUTT, DONNER, HUFFMAN AND NIEDERCORN AND PVTS FOSTER AND WILLIS APPOINTED CORPORALS. PVT HUGHEY APPOINTED PRIVATE FIRST CLASS.

273. MAY 2. T/SGT FOWLKES AND CPL ELIJAH WERE ASSIGNED TO THE SQUADRON AND JOINED TODAY. 2ND LT ROSEN JOINED THE SQUADRON FROM THE 19TH REPLACEMENT BATTALION.

274. MAY 7. CAPTAIN T.A. DEAKYNE AND 1ST LT G.F. ALLEN RETURNED TO DUTY FROM T/D, USA.

MAY 7TH CAME THE WORD WE HAD WAITED TWO YEARS FOR--"PARA ONE PD...ALL FORCES WILL SEASE ACTIVE OPERATIONS AT ZERO ZERO ZERO ONE BAKER HOURS NINE MAY PD PARA TWO PD EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ALL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS BY ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE WILL CEASE AND TROOPS WILL REMAIN IN PRESENT POSITIONS PD ...". **THE WAR IN EUROPE IS OVER!**

275. MAY 10. CPL PUENTE RETURNED TO DUTY TODAY FROM T/D, USA. THREE OTHERS WOULD HAVE ARRIVED ALSO, HOWEVER, AT THE TIME OUR B-25 TOOK OFF FROM THE AIRFIELD, THEY WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE RETURN TRIP FROM ITALY.

276. MAY 11. 2ND LT BRADFORD, WHO CRASHED AND WAS INJURED DURING TAKE-OFF FROM ST. DIZIER AIRFIELD, FRANCE ON APRIL 9, WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE 4190 U.S. ARMY PLANT HOSPITAL.

277. MAY 13. SGT BRECHUN TRANSFERRED TO THE 7TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT. MAJOR GARDNER, 1ST LT FRAZEE, M/SGT CHRISTENSEN AND WETHERALD, ROTATED TO THE U.S. TODAY.

ON THE SAME DAY, THE B-25 FERRIED MAJOR GARDNER, 1ST LT FRAZEE, AND M/SGTS CHRISTENSEN AND WETHERALD TO POMIGLIANO ON THE FIRST LEG OF THEIR JOURNEY TO THE US. THE AIRCREW COULDN'T FIND ANY FACILITY AT POMIGLIANO WHERE THEY COULD GET ANY LUNCH, SO THEY HOPPED OVER TO MARCIANESE. OPERATIONS WANTED TO KNOW THEIR REASON FOR LANDING THERE. SINCE THERE WAS A REPLACEMENT DEPOT NEARBY, THE CREW SAID THEY CAME TO PICK UP PERSONNEL FOR THE 417TH. TO THEIR AMAZEMENT, THEY FOUND THAT SGTS MCGHIE AND FOSTER WERE WAITING FOR TRANSPORTATION TO GIEBELSTADT ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM TDY IN THE US.

278. MAY 14. SGTS CRANDALL AND MCGHIE RETURNED FROM T/D, U.S. TO DUTY TODAY.

279. MAY 15. PVT KRETCHMER TRANSFERRED TO THE HOSPITAL TODAY. HE WAS BURNED ABOUT THE LEGS WHILE CLEANING MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS.

MAY 17. TODAY THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON WAS RELIEVED FROM ASSIGNMENT TO 12TH AIR FORCE AND ASSIGNED TO ET-OUA.

280. MAY 18. 1ST. LT MALCOLM D. CAMPBELL WAS KILLED IN AN AIRCRAFT AT 1900 HRS, 17 MAY.



The Messerschmitt Bf 109 was the most numerous German fighter of WWII. They lost more to takeoff and landing accidents than combat. It could be treacherous, as for Lt. Campbell.

HIS DEATH IS DEEPLY MOURNED BY ALL AND HE, AS A PERSONALITY IS IRREPLACEABLE (KILLED PILSON, CZECHOSLOVAKIA - IN ME 109). T/SGT KOLSKY JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY.

281. MAY 22. 58 OFFICERS AND 182 ENLISTED MEN DEPARTED FROM Y-90 (GIEBELSTADT) TODAY VIA AIR AND MOTOR CONVOY ENROUTE TO Y-78, BIBLIS, IN THE RHINE VALLEY, GERMANY. THE WEATHER WAS POOR AND THERE WAS MUCH RAIN. THE MOVEMENT ARRIVED AT Y-78 AT 1600 HRS. MORALE WAS EXCELLENT.

282. MAY 23. 2ND LTS. CONDON, CONLON, DALTON, GEISEL, GRIFFY, MANGONE AND MARTEL WERE APPOINTED 1ST LTS TODAY ALONG WITH 2ND LTS F.S. CAMPBELL, CHELF, MCCULLEN, AND WELFLEY. CAPTAIN G.N. WILSON LEFT FOR T/D TO THE U.S. AND CAPTAIN R.D. HAMILTON LEFT ON ROTATION TO THE U.S. TODAY. MAJOR GARDNER, CAPT'S DRAPER, JACKSON, KATZBERG, WILSON, 1ST LT FRAZEE, M/SGT'S



Some of the 417th NFS members were quartered in the town of Giebelstadt during the short period of operation from Y-90. The second story window on the right, with the "X", was home for awhile.

CHRISTENSEN AND WETHERALD, 1ST SGT HOCKMAN, T/SGT BARNEY, S/SGT GRACHEN, SGTS BAKER AND GURA, AND CPLS BATTISTONI, BRIGDEN, COTTRELL, HARRAH, LANDY, STOLLER AND WAYNE WHO HAVE BEEN SENT ON T/D TO THE U.S. HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S.

THE SQUADRON HAS ACQUIRED TWO GERMAN TRAINERS, BUCKER 181s. THEY ARE TWO-PLACE SIDE-BY SIDE LOW WING MONOPLANES WITH PLYWOOD FUSELAGES AND 4-CYLINDER IN-LINE AIR-COOLED ENGINES MAKING 105 HORSEPOWER.

283. MAY 30. MAJOR LARSEN, OUR C.O. NOW ON T/D IN THE U.S. HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF COMMAND AND TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. PREVIOUSLY, A REQUEST HAD BEEN SUBMITTED THAT HE BE RETURNED TO RESUME COMMAND OF THE SQUADRON, HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST WAS NOT RECEIVED. MAJOR MCCRAY, WHO ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE SQUADRON ON THE DATE OF MAJOR LARSEN'S DEPARTURE, WILL REMAIN COMMANDING.

284. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR THE PERIOD 1ST TO 30TH JUNE, 1945.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 417TH MI FTR SQ, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, IX AIR FORCE.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NO CHANGE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:

(1) JUNE, 1945

(A)	52 OFFICERS	8 FLT	0'S	194 EM
(B)	0	"	0 " "	0 "
(C)	1	"	0 " "	9 "
(D)	51	"	8 " "	185 EM

- D. STATIONS:

- (1) BIBLIS, GERMANY (Y-78)
 - (A) DEPARTED 26 JUNE, 1945
- (2) DARMSTADT, GERMANY (Y-72)
 - (A) ARRIVED 26 JUNE, 1945

E. MOVEMENT OF UNIT OR ECHELONS:

- (1) FROM BIBLIS TO DARMSTADT, GERMANY
- (2) (A) CHANGE OF STATION.
 - (B) TRAVEL WAS BY AIR AND MOTOR CONVOY WEATHER WAS FINE. ROADS WERE EXCELLENT (AUTOBAHN) AND MORALE WAS EXCELLENT.

F. CAMPAIGNS: NONE

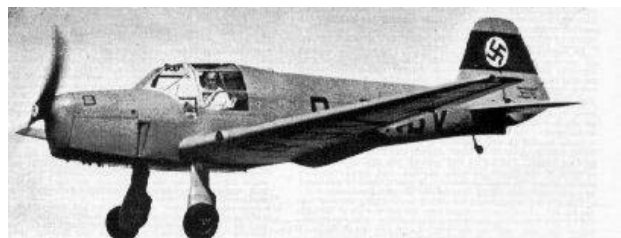
G. OPERATIONS:

- (1) THERE WERE NO OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT. THE GREATER PORTION OF OUR AIRCRAFT WERE GROUNDED AND HELD IN READINESS FOR TRANSFER TO A POOL IN FRANCE. THE BALANCE OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE USED FOR TRAINING, ETC. SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING Y-78, WORD WAS RECEIVED THAT THE 417TH NI FTR SQDN WAS TO BE OCCUPATIONAL.

INCLOSED IS THE WAR DIARY OF THE 417TH NI FTR SQ, DARMSTADT, GERMANY, MONTH OF JUNE, 1945.

285. JUN 1. T/SGT RESNICK WAS APTD M/SGT, S/SGTS JENSEN, SHOW AND STOECKEL APTD T/SGTS, SGTS ENGLEHARDT AND ZUCKERMAN APTD S/SGT, CPL BRENNAN WAS APTD SGT AND PVTS 1CL AILOR AND MOTBRIAND AND PVT FLOOD APTD CPLS. PVTS GRIFFIN, HANCOCK, KRETCHMER, RASBACK, MCCOY, SAMSON AND SMITH WERE APTD PVTS 1CL. THESE PROMOTIONS WERE, IN ADDITION TO PROMOTING THE MEN CONCERNED TO RATINGS THEY DESERVED, IN LINE WITH DIRECTIVES REQUIRING THAT VACANCIES IN RANK BE FILLED FROM WITHIN THE SQUADRON.

WHILE FLYING ONE OF THE BUCAR 181'S ON JUNE 4 WITH LT HOWARD, MAJ MCCRAY EXPERIENCED A ROUGH ENGINE. THERE WAS NO DROP ON EITHER MAG, BUT WHEN THE COWLING STARTED PEELING BACK, IT WAS OBVIOUS THE ENGINE HAD THROWN A CONNECTING ROD. THERE WERE PLENTY OF OPEN FIELDS AVAILABLE, SO LANDING WAS NO PROBLEM. WHILE LT HOWARD HITCHHIKED BACK TO BASE AND RETURNED WITH A 6X6 AND A COUPLE OF HELPERS, MAJ MCCRAY REMOVED THE WINGS. THE ONLY TOOLS NEEDED WERE THE FILE PORTION OF FINGER-NAIL CLIPPERS FOR RELEASING THE DZUS FASTENERS ON THE WING FAIRING AND A 4-INCH CRESCENT WRENCH TO REMOVE THE BOLTS HOLDING THE MAIN AND REAR SPARS. THE AILERON CONTROLS WERE PUSH-RODS WITH BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINTS UNDERNEATH THE WING ROOT FAIRING SO THEY SLID APART AS THE WING WAS REMOVED.



Bucker Bu 181 cabin monoplane similar to those acquired by the 417th

286. JUN 2. S/SGT LEO BRODIE LEFT THE ORGANIZATION TODAY FOR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES FOR DISCHARGE. HE IS THE FIRST OF OUR MEN TO BE DROPPED FOR DISCHARGE BY THE POINT SYSTEM. T/SGT THOMPSON, WHO HAD BEEN ON TD IN THE U.S. RETURNED TODAY AFTER HAVING BEEN HOSPITALIZED IN ITALY.

287. JUN 7. T/SGT RICE, SGTS BEST AND FERONS AND PVT 1CL MESA TRANSFERRED TO THE 70TH REINF DEPOT FOR RETURN TO THE U.S. FOR DISCHARGE.

288. JUN 13. T/SGT MAHON, SGTS MEDVED AND HAFF AND CPL ANDERSON TRANSFERRED TO CASUAL POOL, 127TH REINF BN FOR RETURN TO THE U.S. TODAY. THESE MEN ARE BEING RELEASED FROM THE AIR FORCE UNDER THE PROGRAM PROVIDED FOR UNESSENTIAL MEN OVER 40 YEARS OF AGE. SGT CARL, WHO HAD LEFT THE ORGANIZATION AT LE VAL-LON, FRANCE, DUE TO ILLNESS AND SUBSEQUENT CONFINEMENT IN THE HOSPITAL, RETURNED TO DUTY TODAY.

289. JUN 17. SGT LUKE, WHO JOINED THE ORGANIZATION IN CORSICA AS A CLASSIFICATION SPECIALIST, WAS PROMOTED TO T/SGT TODAY.

JUN 21. THE SQUADRON ADDED A FAIRCHILD UC-61A TO THE AIRCRAFT ROSTER.

290. JUN 26. THE 417TH MOVED AGAIN TODAY. JUST WHEN WE WERE WELL ESTABLISHED IN OUR CAMP AT Y-78, ORDERS WERE RECEIVED MOVING US TO ANOTHER STATION WHICH IS SHARED WITH THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP, NEAR DARMSTADT. OUR NEW CAMP SET-UP IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A PINE FORREST IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE AIRFIELD. THE RUNWAY RUNS ROUGHLY EAST AND WEST AND IS PARALLELED BY A NARROWER STRIP FROM WHICH OUR CUBS AND LIGHT A/C OPERATE. THE OPERATIONAL INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED ABOUT A MILE FROM THE CAMP PROPER WITH THE OFFICERS BILLETED IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF KLEIN GERAU. THERE ARE MOVIES AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT EVERY NIGHT AT THE THEATRE AT GROSS GERAU, WHICH THE 3RD ARMORED HQ COMPANY IS SHARING WITH US.



Fairchild UC-61 utility and liaison aircraft.
(USAFM photo)

ALSO ON 26 JUNE, MAJ MCCRAY AND LT PENCE FLEW A SEIBEL 204D LIGHT TWIN-ENGINE GERMAN TRANSPORT FROM FURSTENFELDBRUK TO BRAUNSHARDT (Y-72) TO ADD TO 417'S ROSTER. THE PLANE IS EQUIPPED WITH ARGUS V-12 ENGINES, CONSTANT-SPEED (ALMOST) PROPELLORS, AUTO-PILOT, FLUX GATE COMPASS WITH REMOTE INDICATORS FOR PILOT AND NAVIGATOR. EVERY WIRE, TUBE, OR HOSE TO THE ENGINE HAD QUICK-CONNECT FITTINGS AT THE FIREWALL AND THE ENGINE MOUNTS WERE BALL AND SOCKET FITTINGS SIMILAR TO A PIPE UNION. WE ESTIMATED THAT A COUPLE OF MECHANICS COULD COMPLETE AN ENGINE CHANGE IN HALF AN HOUR. IT WAS TRULY A GERMAN MULTI-ENGINE A/C IN THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SYNCHRONISE THE ENGINES FOR MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS. A BEAUTIFUL MACHINE TO FLY - ABOUT THE SIZE AND WEIGHT OF AN AT-11.



This is the German Seibel Si 204D liaison aircraft acquired by the 417th NFS after the war. The Squadron was getting quite a collection. This was a real performer, powered by two 600 hp Argus 411 engines, 364 kph.

291. JUN 27. 1ST LT GRANGE,
2ND LT TEMM, M/SGT RESNICK,

T/SGT FOWLKES, S/SGT RODLAND AND SGT JONES SENT ON DS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM TODAY TO ATTEND VARIOUS TECHNICAL COURSES, RANGING FROM PROPELLERS TO POWER TURRETS.

292. JUN 28. TRAGEDY STRUCK THE 417TH TODAY. WHILE FERRYING ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT TO A POINT IN FRANCE, 2ND LT. FRANK W. COOLEY WAS KILLED AT ABOUT 1600 HRS. THE CAUSE OF LT COOLEY'S ACCIDENT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO LT COOLEY'S ACCIDENTALLY FEATHERING THE PROPELLER ON HIS STARBOARD ENGINE WHEN HIS PORT ENGINE LOST ITS OIL SUPPLY. THE AIRCRAFT HIT IN A DENSE, WOODED SECTION AT A SHALLOW ANGLE AND PARTS OF THE WRECKAGE WERE SCATTERED OVER HUNDREDS OF FEET.



George Stanko at Klein Gerou (Y-72) with P-61. Note one German kill mark and crew list: Pilot W. B. Stewart, Nav Lt. Chapman, Crew Chief S/Sgt Gradischer, ACC Sgt. A. N. Davis

293. (CONT'D) CONCLUSIONS FOR THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT WERE DRAWN FROM EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS TRAILING SMOKE FROM ITS PORT ENGINE PRIOR TO CRASHING AND FROM THE FACT THAT OIL WAS FOUND ON THE PORT TAILBOOM AND EMPENNAGE ON THAT SIDE. IN ADDITION, THE THROTTLE QUADRANT AND PROP CONTROLS WAS FOUND AMONG THE WRECKAGE AND THE STARBOARD FEATHERING SWITCH WAS IN THE FEATHERING POSITION. THE STARBOARD ENGINE SHOWED PARTLY FEATHERED PROPS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT LT. COOLEY, FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE, NECESSITATED BY 1000 FT CEILING, AND DISCOVERING THE CONDITION OF HIS PORT ENGINE, PROCEEDED TO FEATHER IT AND CONTINUE ON ONE ENGINE, HOWEVER, HE ACCIDENTALLY FEATHERED THE STARBOARD AND NOT THE PORT ENGINE.

294. JUN 30. CAPT WEINBERG, THE SQUADRON FLIGHT SURGEON, LEFT TODAY TO ATTEND A COURSE AT RAF INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY AND TROPICAL MEDICINE AT WENDOVER, ENGLAND. SGT SHERR ALSO LEFT US ON DS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD TO THE XII TAC FLIGHT STRIP.

WAR DIARY OF THE 417TH NI FTR SQ, DARMSTADT, GERMANY, MONTH OF JULY, 1945.

295. JUL 1. S/SGT DYKSTRA WAS APPOINTED TO T/SGT. SGT MUSICARO TO S/SGT, CPLS HOFFMAN AND MAUPIN TO SGT AND PFC HUGHEY TO CORPORAL.

296. JUL 3. 2ND LTS CHRISTENSEN, GAINES, LAMBERT, PERE & F/O'S KIMMEL & WHITE TRANSFERRED TO THE 425TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON TODAY.



Jim Conlon, Doc Weinberg, George Truthman (L-R), while in Rothwesten, Germany, October 1945.

297. JUL 4. PFC EICHELBERGER AND PVT MANCUSO JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY FROM THE 4 2ND BOMB WING. CPL BURRIER WAS GRANTED HIS LONG AWAITED FURLOUGH OF TEN DAYS COMMENCING TODAY. HE WILL BE THE FIRST OVER-SEAS MARRIAGE OF OUR ENLISTED PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL HAD THE IDEA LONG BEFORE HIM. T/SGTS HIBNER, JENSEN AND S/SGTS ENGLEHARDT AND KNOPP HAVE BEEN PLACED ON TEMPORARY DUTY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ATTENDING THE GENERAL ELECTRIC POWER TURRET SCHOOL IN LANCASHIRE. T/SGTS STOECKEL AND NEEL AND SGT ANDREWS WERE ALSO PLACED ON TEMPORARY DUTY IN THE U.K.

298. JUL 6. LT STANKO TRANSFERRED INTO THE 425TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON TODAY.

299. JUL 8. T/SGT THOMPSON AND SGT CARL RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR DISCHARGE UNDER THE POINT SYSTEM TODAY. T/SGT THOMPSON WAS EXTREMELY FORTUNATE, HAVING RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON VERY RECENTLY AFTER ENJOYING AN EXTENDED FURLOUGH TO THE UNITED STATES.

300. JUL 9. SGT BAUBLIS, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON, HAVING BEEN HOSPITALIZED WITH FOOT TROUBLE, HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO A U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL PLANT FROM WHICH HE IS EXPECTED TO BE SHIPPED HOME.

301. JUL 13. WE HAVE A NEW ARRIVAL IN OUR AIR CREWS. LT MERSEY, FORMERLY OF THE 422ND NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON ARRIVED TODAY. LT MCCULLEN, WHO'S PILOT WAS KILLED WHILE WE WERE AT GIEBELSTADT, TRANSFERRED TO THE IX TAC. IT'S CAPTAIN ALLEN NOW INSTEAD OF 1ST LT. CAPTAIN ALLEN WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION, HAVING JOINED IN ITS' EMBRYONIC STAGES AT KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA, AS AN ENLISTED MAN. AFTER MONTHS OF TRAINING, BOTH IN THE U. S. AND GREAT BRITAIN, CAPTAIN ALLEN WAS APPOINTED FLIGHT OFFICER UPON COMPLETION OF HIS TRAINING WITH THIS SQUADRON IN ENGLAND AND HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE. LT



After the war, and out of uniform. Tom Welfley, Garl Gronberg, Sunyar, George Allen, George Temm, Dave Reihl, Sam Rial, Jimmy Conlon, Gorge Aubill while at Klein Gerou, Germany.

RUSSEL MAY NOW TACK ON THE "1ST" BEFORE HIS NAME. 1ST LT RUSSEL JOINED THE SQUADRON DURING THE "WINDY" DAYS OF SOUTHERN FRANCE. S/SGT DAVIS AND CPL HISSETT LEFT TODAY FOR TEMPORARY DUTY AT WARRINGTON, ENGLAND TO ATTEND A COURSE OF SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION ON AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE.

302. JUL 16. T/SGT POEKERT HAS THUS FAR BEEN THE MORE FORTUNATE OF OUR MEN SENT ON TEMPORARY DUTY IN ENGLAND. HIS FORTUNE LIES IN THE FACT THAT HE WILL BE HAVING HIS MEALS AT AN AAF RATHER THAN AN RAF STATION..

303. JUL 18. LT FAUBUS, WHO JOINED THE SQUADRON IN SOUTHERN FRANCE AND REMAINED WITH US THROUGHOUT THE BALANCE OF THE WAR, TRANSFERRED TO THE 100 FIGHTER WING.

304. JUL 19. S/SGT COLVILLE WAS FURLOUGHED TO NANCY, FRANCE, TODAY TO GET MARRIED. HIS WILL BE THE SECOND OVER-SEAS MARRIAGE AMONG THE ENLISTED MEN THIS SQUADRON HAS HAD. EVERYONE WILL RECALL HIS ANXIETY TO GET HIS PAPERS

SUBMITTED AND HIS "SWEATING IT OUT" WHILE AWAITING THEIR APPROVAL. HE'S A HAPPY MAN NOW!

305. JUL 22. LT HOWARD WAS PLACED ON DS TODAY WITH THE AAF EXPOSITION IN PARIS. IT'S A RETURN HOME FOR LT HOWARD, WHO SPENT HIS BOYHOOD AND COLLEGE DAYS THERE, DEPARTING WHEN THE GERMANS MOVED ACROSS BELGIUM. LT HOWARD WAS SELECTED BECAUSE OF HIS ARTISTIC ABILITY AND HIS WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, THEIR USE AND FURTHER, HIS ABILITY TO ARRANGE AN EXCELLENT LAYOUT FOR THEIR EXHIBITION BENEATH THE EIFFEL TOWER IN PARIS. HIS FLUENT FRENCY DIDN'T HURT EITHER.

FLYING CONTINUES WITH PRACTICE INTERCEPTIONS OF ABOUT ONE HOUR DURATION AND CROSS-COUNTRY NAVIGATION. WEATHER IS FINE, BUT BUMPY ENOUGH AT LOW ALTITUDES SO ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT SHOOK A WING TANK OUT OF ITS SHACKLES ON JULY 22.

306. JUL 23. WE NOW HAVE TWO "TAYLORS". SGT TAYLOR ARRIVED TODAY FOR PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT FROM THE 42ND BOMB WING.

307. JUL 24. S/SGT'S LARRABEE & WILKINSON AND SGT CLARK JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY FROM THE 27TH TRANSPORT GROUP.

308. JUL 25. CPL FOSTER AND LAWVER WERE PLACED ON TEMPORARY DUTY TODAY WITH THE GENERAL ELECTRIC POWER TURRET SCHOOL IN ENGLAND. CPLS BOOSE JOINED TODAY FROM THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP, OUR NEIGHBORS. T/SGT KOLSKY, WHO JOINED THE SQUADRON FAIRLY RECENTLY, WAS PLACED ON DS AT WARRINGTON, ENGLAND, TO ATTEND A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION ON THE PRATT AND WHITNEY R-2800 AIRCRAFT ENGINE.

309. JUL 29. 1ST LTS GEISEL, & PENCE AND S/SGT ATKINSON, SGTS CHMIELEWSKI, GILICK, WASHINGTON AND ZAJONC AND CPL WRAY WERE PLACED ON DS TODAY TO THE HQ & HQ SQ USSTA AF, AT AAF STATION 379 FOR 90 DAYS.

JUL 30. IT WAS LIKE OLD TIMES. ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT WAS SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT A BOGEY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT TURNED OUT TO BE FRIENDLY.

310. JUL 31. ANOTHER NEW ARRIVAL FROM THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP. PFC POPEK THIS TIME. WITH THE RAPID IN-FLOW OF REPLACEMENTS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SQUADRON SHOULD SOON BE UP TO FULL STRENGTH.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF AUGUST, 1945.

I ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

1. ORGANIZATION: 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, 64TH FIGHTER WING, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, IX AIR FORCE. T/O & E 1-67, 4 SEPTEMBER, 1944; CHANGE 1, 14 DECEMBER, 1944.

Night-Fighters Make Entrance to Fritzlar

The 417th Night Fighter Squadron, activated over 3 years ago, in Florida, is the newly arrived organization on our base. During the war this squadron, after receiving training in England, participated in the North African, Corsican and other campaigns under the XIIth Air Force. During this period, while flying English Beaufighters, most of them relics of the Battle of Britain, this unit was awarded the Presidential Citation.

During the last part of the war, the long awaited "Black Widow's" began to arrive. The P-61 employs a two-men crew, namely the pilot and the Radar Observer. Typical missions were night patrol, radar interception, and ground strafing. By far the most interesting is interception. The plane is vectored by G.C.I. (Ground Control Interpreter) and brought close enough to the enemy plane so that the R.O. is enabled to pick it up on the airborne radar set. From here on in the R.O. directs the pilot in until a "visual" is obtained, usually at 1000—1500 ft. range. It is truly the thrill of a lifetime, when an interception is successfully terminated.

The squadron expects to resume night interception and cross-country flights within the next ten weeks.

Newspaper clipping upon arrival at Fritzlar Air Base.

2. STRENGTH: 31 AUGUST, 1945 - 47 OFFICERS, 6 FLIGHT OFFICERS, 234 E.M. SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WD AGO FORM NO. 1.
3. STATIONS:
 - (A) PRESENT STATION: KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN, GERMANY (R-12).
 - (B) PREVIOUS STATION: BRAUNSCHARDT, GERMANY (Y-72).
 - (C) DEPARTED BRAUNSCHARDT ON 9 AUGUST 1945 AND ARRIVED AT KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN ON 9 AUGUST, 1945. AUTHORITY: MESSAGE P-367, 64TH FIGHTER WING.
4. LOSSES IN ACTION: NONE.
5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NONE.

II NARRATIVE

1. AUGUST BEGAN WITH THE USUAL SQUADRON ROUTINE AT BRAUNSCHARDT (Y-72). MUCH SPIRIT WAS DISPLAYED IN THE FOLLOWING OF THE SQUADRON'S BASEBALL TEAM AS THEY ENTERED THE FINALS IN THE XII TAC TOURNAMENT. ON THE 5TH AN ADVANCE PARTY OF 21 E.M. AND ONE OFFICER WENT ON DS TO R-12, KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN TO MAKE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE THE REST OF THE SQUADRON. ALL MEN IN THE GROUND ECHELONS WERE TRUCK CONVOYED TO THE NEW BASE WITH HEADQUARTERS MOVING ON THE 9TH. THE MEN WERE WELL PLEASED WITH THE LIVING QUARTERS OFFERED AT R-12. THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH SAW A GREAT SHIFTING OF PERSONNEL IN AN EFFORT TO FILL THE SQUADRON WITH LOW POINT MEN AND ALLOW THE HIGH POINT MEN TO TRANSFER TO GROUPS SOON HEADING FOR THE U.S.A.

THE END OF THE MONTH FOUND THE OUTFIT JUST SHORT OF A COMPLETE TURNOVER OF PERSONNEL. FLYING WAS HAMPERED DURING THE LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH DUE TO THE CLOSING OF R-12 FOR REPAIRS.

III DIARY

312. AUG 2. THE SQUADRON BASEBALL TEAM REACHED THE FINALS OF THE XII TAC TOURNAMENT. WE LOST IN THE FIRST GAME IN THE BEST TWO OUT OF THREE SERIES WITH THE 27TH FIGHTER GROUP IN THE FINALE OF THE XII TAC TOURNAMENT. SCORE: 16-0.

313. AUG 3. T/SGT LUKE WAS APPOINTED TO 1ST SGT, CPL DONNER TO SGT. LT RIAL, S/SGT ALBERT, CPL GARMISE AND PVT MULLEN LEFT FOR SEVEN-DAY FURLOUGHS IN ENGLAND. THE BASEBALL TEAM EVENED THE PLAY-OFF SCORE WITH A THRILLING 3-2 VICTORY OVER THE 27TH FIGHTER GROUP.

314. AUG 5 AN ADVANCE PARTY OF 21 E.M. AND LT JOHNSON IN CHARGE LEFT ON DS TO R-12, KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN. THE BASEBALL TEAM LOST ITS FINAL GAME AGAINST THE 27TH GROUP BY A SCORE OF 11-4.

315. AUG 8. LTS RUSSELL & FRYKLUND AND SGT HANNA LEFT TO ATTEND A CIVILIAN UNIVERSITY IN GRENOBLE, FRANCE.



The 417th almost always was operating war weary airplanes, the Beaufighters, the administrative B-25s and other utility airplanes, and even some of the P-61s. Here the B-25C "Strawberry Roan" is getting an engine change.

316. AUG 9. SQUADRON HEAD-
QUARTERS MOVED FROM BRAUNSCHARDT
AND ARRIVED AT THE NEW FIELD R-
12, LOCATED AT KASSEL/
ROTHWESTERN.

317. AUG 11. SQUADRON COM-
PLETELY REJOINED AT R-12.

318. AUG 14. S/SGT PEERY LEFT
FOR LEAVE IN SWITZERLAND.

319. AUG 15. T/SGT DYKSTRA
LEFT FOR FURLOUGH IN ENGLAND
WHERE HE PLANNED TO GET MARRIED.

320. AUG 19. LTS RUDLIN &
ANDERSON AND CPL HALCOMB LEFT
FOR LEAVE IN SWITZERLAND.

AUG 21. THE B-25 HAD TO MAKE AN
EMERGENCY LANDING AT RHEIMS
WHILE EN ROUTE TO PARIS.

THE SQUADRON RECEIVED A UC-64
(NOORDUYN NORSEMAN). OUR PILOTS
ARE RECEIVING SINGLE ENGINE
TRANSITION SO THIS AIRCRAFT CAN
PICK UP SOME OF THE ADMINISTRA-
TIVE LOAD WHILE THE B-25 AWAITS
AN ENGINE REPLACEMENT.

321. AUG 23. SHIFTING OF PERSONNEL HAS GREATLY INCREASED. SQUADRON HELD A
FAREWELL PARTY IN EVENING IN HONOR OF THE FIRST REAL BREAKING UP OF THE
ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE OUTFIT.

322. AUG 24. 110 HIGH POINT MEN WERE TRANSFERRED OUT TODAY ON THE FIRST LAP
OF THEIR HOMEWARD JOURNEY.

323. AUG 29. LT GEISEL LISTED AS "MISSING". LAST WORD RECEIVED BY THIS
UNIT WAS THAT HE TOOK OFF FROM NICE, FRANCE IN A P-61 EN ROUTE TO KASSEL/
ROTHWESTEN, BUT FAILED TO ARRIVE.

FLYING DURING THE MONTH WAS
GREATLY REDUCED BY FOUL
WEATHER, SHIFTING OF TRAINED
PERSONNEL, AND, DURING THE
LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH, CLOS-
ING THE RUNWAY FOR REPAIRS.

IV COMBAT OPERATIONS; NONE

V NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS

324. 1. NON-COMBAT OP-
ERATIONS CON-
SISTED OF ROU-
TINE ADMINIS-
TRATIVE FLIGHTS



P-61 "BATTLE AX" was originally assigned to Lt. E. D. Axtell of the 422th NFS. It was the 1st P-61 to destroy an enemy aircraft (Ju 88 on August 7, 1944) when flown by 1st Lt. Raymond A. Anderson, 2nd Lt. John U. Morris, Jr. R/O, of the 422nd NFS. Aircraft was transferred to the 417th NFS in 1945, at Fritzlar. NOTE: the "AX" is mostly missing from the name because when the airplanes were fitted with the longer radomes the name was not re-painted.

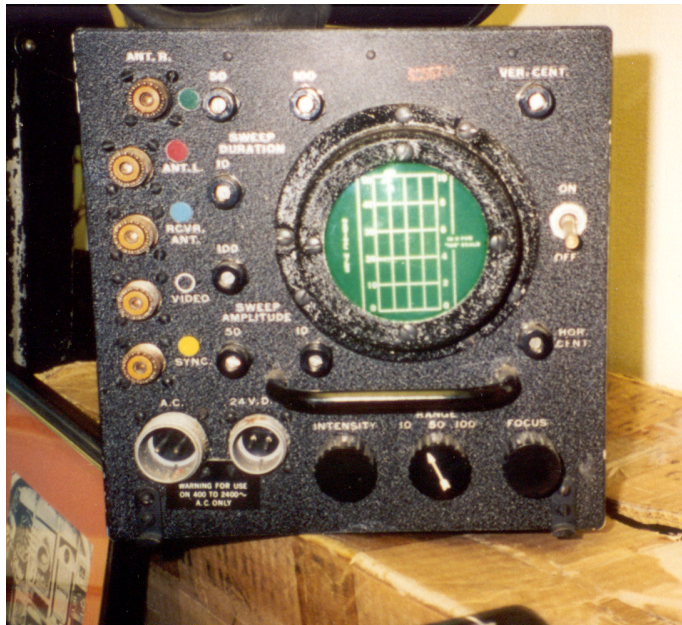


UC-64 "Norseman" was a single-engine, ten place utility aircraft designed for operation in the Canadian bush. Popular band-leader Major Glenn Miller was lost in the English Channel in a UC-64 on December 15, 1944.

PLUS FAMILIARIZATION WITH AMD TESTING OF GERMAN AIRCRAFT WITH THE SQUADRON. ROUTINE LEAVE, PERSONNEL TRANSFER AND OTHER FLIGHTS OF A SQUADRON BUSINESS NATURE WERE MADE TO VARIOUS PARTS OF GERMANY, FRANCE AND ENGLAND IN THE SQUADRON'S B-25, C-64 AND P-61'S. THE B-25 TRANSPORTING PERSONNEL TO WORK AT THE AIR EXHIBITION AT PARIS, EXPERIENCED AN ENGINE FAILURE ON THE 21ST AND WAS FORCED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT RHEIMS, FRANCE. THIS AIRCRAFT IS STILL UNSERVICEABLE AWAITING A NEW ENGINE. THE NEWLY ACQUIRED C-64 THEN TOOK ON THE BRUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LOAD HELPED BY ONE P-61 FLYING FROM Y-96.

325. 2. LT GEISEL ON A RETURN FLIGHT FROM THE RIVIERA; WAS FORCED TO LAND AT LIMOGES, FRANCE AND WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT HIS BASE. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS ABSENCE HE WAS PRESUMED LOST AND REPORTED MISSING. HE FINALLY CONTACTED THE BASE AND WAS PICKED UP BY THE C-64.

326. 3. BESIDE FAMILIARIZING MORE PILOTS WITH THEM, ELEMENTARY FLIGHTS TESTS WERE CONDUCTED ON THE TWO BUCHAR 181 TYPE (GERMAN) AIRCRAFT IN THE ORGANIZATION. PILOTS REPORTED THAT THEY WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE RESULTS. IN ADDITION THE COMMANDING OFFICER MADE A FLIGHT IN THE SIEBEL 204 FERRYING IT TO THIS BASE AND ALSO REPORTED FAVORABLY ON THIS TYPE OF PLANE.



SCR-720 Airborne Intercept radar set used by the R/O in the Black Widow

VI TRAINING

327. 1. THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR AUGUST WAS INTERRUPTED AND SLOWED DOWN IN ALL ITS PHASES SUCCESSIVELY BY THE MOVE FROM Y-72 TO R-12, THE ALMOST COMPLETE TURNOVER IN THE SQUADRON'S ENLISTED PERSONNEL, INCLEMENT WEATHER AND THE CLOSING OF R-12 FOR REPAIRS DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH.
328. 2. DESPITE THESE HANDICAPS HOWEVER, PROGRESS WAS MADE ON AIRCREW GROUND TRAINING AND GROUND PERSONNEL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND BY THE END OF THE MONTH THESE PHASES OF TRAINING HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL.
329. 3. FLIGHT TRAINING WAS REDUCED TO PRACTICALLY NIL DURING THE EARLY MONTH BY INCLEMENT WEATHER, UNSERVICABILITY DUE TO LACK OF PERSONNEL, AND LATER BY CLOSING OF THE FIELD. SOME NAVIGATION TRAINING WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY BOTH PILOTS AND R/O ON ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS. ALSO CERTAIN PILOTS RECEIVED SINGLE EN-

GINE TRANSITION TIME IN THE C-64 WHICH THE UNIT HAS JUST OBTAINED. ALTOGETHER IT WAS A POOR TRAINING MONTH.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1945.

I ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

330. 1. ORGANIZATION: 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, 64TH FIGHTER WING, XII AIR FORCE. T/O & E 1-67, 4 SEPTEMBER 1944; CHANGE 1, 14 DECEMBER 1944.
2. STRENGTH: 30 SEPTEMBER 1945 - 44 OFFICERS, 8 FLIGHT OFFICERS, 64 E.M. SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WD AGO FORM NO. 1.
3. STATIONS: A. PRESENT STATION: KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN, GERMANY, SITE R-12.
- B. NO CHANGE OF STATION OCCURRED DURING THE MONTH.
4. LOSSES IN ACTION: NONE.
5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NONE.

II NARRATIVE

331. 1. IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, THE SQUADRON EXPERIENCED AN ALMOST COMPLETE CHANGE OF PERSONNEL AND BECAUSE OF MEN BEING SENT HOME AND RECEIVING NO REPLACEMENTS, THE SQUADRON EM STRENGTH REACHED THE VERY LOW MARK OF 64 MEN. S/SGT PAUL ZITTEL, OF NEW YORK CITY, WAS PROMOTED TO 1ST SGT AND BECAME THE THIRD 1ST SGT IN THE MONTH. PRACTICALLY ALL THE GROUND OFFICERS HAVE LEFT AND THEIR JOBS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY PILOTS. THIS IS REVERTING TO A PEACE TIME PRACTICE AND IS A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR MOST OF THE PILOTS WHO NOW FIND THEMSELVES WITH EXECUTIVE OR OFFICE JOBS. 2ND LT SIDNEY M. ROSEN, PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT OFFICER, AND 1ST LT JAMES J. SIMPSON, WHO HAS BEEN WITH THE SQUADRON SINCE IT WAS ACTIVATED AND WHO IS NOW EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ARE THE ONLY GROUND OFFICERS LEFT. THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH SAW A CHANGE IN COMMANDING OFFICER. MAJOR C. RICHARD MCCRAY, WHO WAS IN COMMAND FOR SIX MONTHS, WENT HOME AND WAS REPLACED BY CAPT THEODORE A. DEAKYNE, FORMER OPERATIONS OFFICER.
2. THE VERY LOW STRENGTH OF 64 LEAVES MANY DEPARTMENTS VERY SHORT-HANDED. SOME DEPART-



C. R. McCray-Saying Goodbye at Train, back in 1943.

MENTS SUCH AS INTELLIGENCE, QM SUPPLY, TECHNICAL SUPPLY AND ORDNANCE HAVE ONLY ONE ENLISTED MAN. COMMUNICATIONS HAS 3 MEN WITH 2 SWITCHBOARD OPERATORS AND 1 RADIO MECHANIC. CREW CHIEFS FIND THEMSELVES FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF TAKING CARE OF 2 OR 3 AIRPLANES. THE EFFICIENCY OF SOME DEPARTMENTS IS FURTHER IMPAIRED BY THE FACT THAT AM EM HAS A CERTAIN MOS BUT IS DOING A JOB THAT CALLS FOR ANOTHER. 3 GERMAN GIRLS, TYPISTS, WERE HIRED TO ALLEVIATE THE TYPING SITUATION BUT RUMOR HAS IT THAT THEY WILL BE RELIEVED SOON.

3. SEVERAL PROJECTS WERE UNDERTAKEN TO IMPROVE THE SQUADRON AREAS AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN FACILITIES FOR ALL PERSONNEL. SPECIAL SERVICES SET UP AN EM DAY ROOM AND ALSO A BARBER AND TAILOR SHOP OPERATED BY 2 GERMANS. THE OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN OVER AN OFFICER'S CLUB IN KASSEL. PEARCED PLANK WALKS HAVE BEEN LAID ABOUT THE MESS HALL AND CARPENTERS ARE BUSY MAKING OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MESS HALL AREA.

III DIARY

332. SEP 2. LT GEISEL WHO WAS FORCED DOWN AT LIMOGES ON A FLIGHT FROM NICE TO BASE AND REPORTED "MISSING". THE UC-64 WAS DISPATCHED AND RETURNED HIM TO BASE TODAY.

SEP 3. CAPT. ALLEN AND LTS RIAL, ANDERSON, WELFLEY, ALLEN AND CAMPBELL LEFT THE SQUADRON TO GO HOME.

333. SEP 4. WITH 1ST SGT LUKE IN SWITZERLAND AND ACTING 1ST SGT SOBCZAK GOING HOME TODAY, THE SQUADRON IS AGAIN WITHOUT A 1ST SGT. OTHERS TO LEAVE WERE M/SGTS MIDDOUR, PETERS, AND RESNICK AND S/SGTS FILIPOWICZ AND CPL DEITEH.

334. SEP 6. 20 EM WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE 447TH SIG HVY CONS BN TO BE SENT BACK TO THE STATES. THE FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS CAME OUTS SGT ANDREWS TO T/SGT, SGT SCHMITT TO S/SGT, CPLS MIKESKA AND QUINTY TO SGT AND PFCS DICAPRIO AND DOYLE TO CPL.

335. SEP 7. LT JOHNSON, SUPPLY OFFICER, AND LT RUHLIN, INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, LEFT THE SQUADRON TO GO HOME.

336. SEP 9. SQUADRON PERSONNEL CONTINUED TO CHANGE WHEN 20 MORE EM LEFT. THE LOWEST MAN TO GO HAD 89 POINTS.

ON SEPTEMBER 9 ORDERS WERE RECEIVED TO DELIVER OUR GERMAN AIRCRAFT TO FRITZLER TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE FRENCH. DURING THE EVENING, THE 155TH NIGHT PHOTO RECON SQDN, (WHICH CAME OVERSEAS AS THE 423RD NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON) WAS SHARING THE GBASE AT KASSEL/ROTHWESTEN) RELIEVED US OF THE NECESSITY OF PARTING WITH THE SIEBEL 204. ONE OF THEIR SHINY BLACK A-20's BLEW A TIRE ON TAKE-OFF AND PLOWED



Beau KW191 with Sam Rial and James Chelf (L-R) while in France.

INTO THE SIEBEL. THERE WERE NO INJURIES TO PERSONEL, BUT BOTH AIRCRAFT WERE PERMANENTLY DISABLED.

337. SEP 10. THE SQUADRON STRENGTH HIT A NEW LOW TODAY WHEN 35 MORE EM LEFT TO GO HOME. CAPT WEINBERG, MEDICAL OFFICER IS NOW WITHOUT A DEPARTMENT; HIS LAST MEDICS LEFT ON TODAY'S SHIPMENT.

338. SEP 11. CPL DARREL RETURNED FROM THE QM BAKERS AND COOKS SCHOOL. THE MEN OF THE OUTFIT ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO BETTER CHOW FROM NOW ON.

339. SEP 13. S/SGT ZITTEL AND CPL GIFFORD LEFT TO SPEND 5 DAYS IN CHARLEROI, BELGIUM.

340. SEP 14. LT MANGONE, SPECIAL SERVICE OFFICER, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACQUIRING TWO GERMAN BARBERS FOR THE SQUADRON; SPECIAL SERVICES IS ALSO WORKING ON CONVERTING ONE OF THE LIVING QUARTERS INTO A DAY-ROOM FOR THE ENLISTED MEN.

A GCA (GROUND CONTROLLED APPROACH) RADAR HAS BEEN SETUP ON THE BASE AND PILOTS ARE PRACTICING LANDINGS WHEN AIRCRAFT ARE AVAILABLE.

341. SEP 15. 2ND LTS KING, MURDOCH AND STRAUTMAN WERE PROMOTED TO 1ST LT. CHANGE OF PERSONNEL CONTINUED WHEN 80 EM, ALL MEN WHO HAD 70 OR MORE POINTS ON V-E DAY, WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE 27TH FTR GRP.

342. SEP 16. THE FOLLOWING MEN WERE PROMOTED: S/SGT ZITTEL TO 1ST SGT, SGTS GORDON AND MIKESKA TO S/SGT, CPL AILOR TO SGT AND PFC ABICHT TO CPL.

343. SEP 17. SOMETHING NEW WAS ADDED TODAY. A GERMAN GIRL, A TYPIST, APPEARED IN OPERATIONS AND ANOTHER IN THE ORDERLY ROOM.

344. SEP 19. THE SQUADRON ACQUIRED ANOTHER AIRPLANE TODAY; AN AT-6. THIS SHOULD PROVE TO BE AN INTERESTING AND VALUABLE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT.

345. SEP 20. THE ASR SCORES OF ALL EM AND OFFICERS WERE RECOMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF V-J DAY. 2ND LT FRYKLUND WAS PROMOTED TO 1ST LT. A VERY GOOD MOVIE, "GOD IS MY CO-PILOT", WAS SHOWN THIS



The Siebel 204D was to be turned over to the French on Sept 9, 1945, but a shiny black A-20 belonging to the 155th Night Photo Recon Sqdn blew a tire on take-off and plowed into the Siebel, destroying both planes. No one was injured.



North American AT-6 trainer operated by the 417th NFS while at Le Vallon. We got another one while at Y-72.

EVENING AND WAS ENJOYED BY EVERYONE.

346. SEP 21. CAPT BROWN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CAPT NELSON, RADAR OFFICER, AND 1ST LT SMELTZER LEFT FOR THE AAF REINF DEPOT.

347. SGT CARMACK, CPLS BOOSE AND TWILLEY, AND PVT CLARK WERE THE FIRST MEN OVER 35 YEARS OF AGE TO LEAVE THE UNIT AND LEFT TO JOIN THE 324TH FTR. GRP.

348. SEP 24. ANOTHER GERMAN GIRL STARTED WORKING TODAY; SHE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE ENGINEERING SECTION.

349. SEP 27. 19 OFFICERS WERE ASSIGNED TO THIS UNIT FROM THE 155TH PHOTO RECOMN SQD. SGT HANNA RETURNED FROM THE ARMY UNIVERSITY CENTER AT GRENOBLE, FRANCE.

350. SEP 30. MAJOR MCCRAY; COMMANDING OFFICER, CAPT WEINBERG; MEDICAL OFFICER, CAPT CAMPBELL AND LTS GRIFFY, VAN GRAAFEILAND, CORNWALL, AND SUNYAR LEFT THE SQUADRON FOR REDEPLOYMENT.

IV COMBAT OPERATIONS; NONE

V NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS

351. 1. ROUTINE LEAVE, PERSONNEL TRANSFER, AND FLIGHTS OF SQUADRON BUSINESS AGAIN CONTRIBUTED MOST OF THE NON-COMBAT FLYING FOR THE MONTH. THE B-25 BECAME SERVICEABLE AND TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE LOAD FROM THE C-64 ALTHOUGH ONE POSTERIOR TIRING TRIP WAS MADE IN THAT AIRCRAFT TO NICE, FRANCE. ONE TRIP IN A P-61 WAS MADE TO ENGLAND.

352. 2. ALL GERMAN AIRCRAFT WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE SQUADRON AND BOTH BUCHAR 181 AIRCRAFT FERRIED TO Y-86.

353. 3. AN AT-6 WAS FLOWN INTO THE SQUADRON, BUT HAS NOT SEEN OTHER SERVICE AS IT PROVED IN NEED OF A NEW ENGINE.

VI TRAINING

354. 1. THE GROUND TRAINING PROGRAM PRACTICALLY REACHED A STANDSTILL WITH THE LOSS OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL AND OFFICER INSTRUCTORS. NEVERTHELESS THE ORGANIZATION PROGRAM CONTINUED AND A FEW APPROPRIATE LECTURES ON OTHER SUBJECTS WERE GIVEN.

355. 2. FLYING TRAINING WAS ALSO AT A MINIMUM DUE TO LACK OF PERSONNEL FOR MAINTENANCE, LACK OF MEN AND NIGHT FLYING FACILITIES, AND, AS USUAL, INCLEMENT WEATHER. DESPITE THESE HANDICAPS, HOWEVER, THE UNIT MET ITS WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE COMMITMENT; THREE OF THESE MISSIONS BEING FLOWN PER DAY OVER A SEVEN DAY PERIOD. VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD AND BAD WEATHER FLYING WAS AS A RESULT GAINED BY THE AIRCREW CONCERNED. PILOTS CONTINUED TO PRACTICE G.C.A. AND R/O'S WERE BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH "GEE EQUIPMENT". TRANSITION ON THE C-64 ALSO PROGRESSED. UNFORTUNATELY WITH ALL TOTALED, SEPTEMBER PROVED ANOTHER POOR MONTH AS FAR AS TRAINING IS CONCERNED.

VII STATISTICS

356. 1. THIS UNIT HAS NO STATISTICAL CONTROL OFFICER. SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1945.

I ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

357. 1. ORGANIZATION: 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, 64TH FIGHTER WING, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, IX AIR FORCE. T/O 6 E 1-67, 4 SEPTEMBER

BER 1944; CHANGE 1, 14 DECEMBER 1944.

2. STRENGTH: 31 OCTOBER 1945 - 42 OFFICERS, 8 FLIGHT OFFICER, 45 E.M. SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WD AGO FORM NO. 1.

3. STATION:

A. PRESENT STATION: KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN, GERMANY SITE R-12.

B. NO CHANGE OF STATION OCCURRED DURING THE MONTH.

4. LOSSES IN ACTION: NEGATIVE.

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: NEGATIVE.

II NARRATIVE

1. THE MONTH OF OCTOBER SHOWED VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY OTHER THAN THE USUAL SQUADRON DUTIES. THE SQUADRON HIT A VERY NEW LOW IN PERSONNEL DURING THE MONTH, WITH MEN GOING HOME AND NOT GETTING NEW REPLACEMENTS IN, THE OFFICERS HAVE HAD TO TAKE OVER SOME OF THE E.M'S JOBS. SUCH AS IN THE ORDERLY ROOM AND ALSO ON THE SWITCHBOARD.
2. DURING THE MONTH, TWO LATVIANS AND ONE ESTONIAN WOMEN TYPISTS WERE HIRED TO ALLEVIATE THE TYPING SITUATION. THE THREE WOMEN ARE NOW WORKING IN THE ORDERLY ROOM, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS.
3. THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WAS ON A WHOLE VERY UNEVENTFUL.

III DIARY

358. OCT 1. LT HOWARD RETURNED TO THIS UNIT TODAY AFTER BEING ON DS IN PARIS.

359. OCT 3. CAPT DEAKYNE, OUR NEW C.O. CALLED A MEETING TODAY AND GAVE SOME OF THE OFFICERS ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

360. OCT 4. LT HOWARD IS NOW IN CHARGE OF OPERATIONS, LT PERKINS SENIOR RADAR OBSERVER, LT DALTON IS NOW IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATIONS, LT GRANGE IS ENGINEERING OFFICER, F/O PARADA ASST. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, LT FRYKLUND PERSONNEL AFFAIRS OFFICER, LT MEWSHAW RADAR OFFICER, LT HOFFMAN ASST. ENGINEERING OFFICER, LT MURDOCK SUPPLY OFFICER, F/O GRAHAM ASST SUPPLY OFFICER. LT WORK LEFT TODAY TO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY AT EDINBURG, SCOTLAND.

361. OCT 6. SGT MCMINIMMENT, CPL BOCKETT, AND CPL HITE RETURNED TODAY FROM TD IN NICE, FRANCE.

362. OCT 9. LT SIMSON TRANSFERRED TO THE 111TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE GROUP AT HIS OWN REQUEST. LT BERNANDINI IS NOW EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

363. OCT 10. THE FOL-



Bob Perkins at P-61 Radar Operators seat.

LOWING RECEIVED THEIR PROMOTIONS TODAY: T/SGT ANDREWS TO M/SGT., S/SGT ROEHM TO T/SGT., SGT SCOTT TO S/SGT., SGT STEWART TO S/SGT., PFC GREY TO CPL, PFC TIVOLA TO CPL., AND PFC HESSMAN TO CPL. CONGRATULATIONS FELLOWS.

364. OCT 11. F/O AUBILL, LT CODIER, F/O COLLISTER, LT CZUCS2KI, LT DAILY, LT DONAHUE, LT HART, LT JOBS, LT KELLER, LT MORTEN, F/O REWELL, AND LT WILBURN WERE TRANSFERRED TO HQ AND HQ SQUADRON, 64TH FIGHTER WING ON DS TODAY.

365. OCT 14. THE SQUADRON STRENGTH HIT A NEW LOW TODAY WHEN 22 MORE EM LEFT TO GO HOME. LEAVING THE GREAT TOTAL STRENGTH OF 42 OFFICERS, 8 FLIGHT OFFICERS, AND 45 E.M.

366. OCT 17. TWO NEW MEN JOINED OUR HAPPY LITTLE FAMILY TODAY. WELCOME TO THE OUTFIT SGT ROGUCKI AND CPL TUKINS.

367. OCT 23. 2ND LT CLOWES AND 2ND LT PRESLEY LEFT ON A SEVEN DAY PASS TO CANNES, FRANCE TODAY.

368. OCT 25. LT CONDON, LT DALTON AND LT MERCER LEFT FOR LONDON, ENGLAND FOR TWO DAYS. LT MULL, F/O DOWD, SGT KURSAR, SGT NADASKY AND PVT BALDWIN LEFT TODAY ON LEAVE TO GREAT BRITAIN FOR SEVEN DAYS.

369. OCT 26. 1ST LT HOWARD TRANSFERRED TO THE 14TH REINFORCEMENT DEPOT AT THIONVILLE, FRANCE TODAY. LT GRANGE IS NOW OPERATIONS OFFICER AND LT HOFFMAN IS ENGINEERING OFFICER.

370. OCT 28. CPL BURRIER LEFT ON A THREE DAY PASS TO PARIS TODAY.

371. OCT 29. CPL NIEDERCORN AND PFC SALYERS TRANSFERRED TO THE 558TH AAA BN AT SITE R-85 TODAY.

372. OCT 30. LT CONDON, LT DALTON AND LT MERCER RETURNED FROM LONDON, ENGLAND TODAY.

HISTORICAL DATA OF THE 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1945.



Don Olsen & Local Girls in London 1945.

IV COMBAT OPERATIONS; NEGATIVE

V NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS

373. 1. ROUTINE LEAVE, PERSONNEL TRANSFER, AND FLIGHTS OF SQUADRON BUSINESS ONCE AGAIN CONTRIBUTED MOST OF THE NON-COMBAT FLYING FOR THE MONTH. THE B-25 WAS USED ONCE TO TAKE LEAVE PERSONNEL TO ENGLAND. LEAVE PERSONNEL WERE FLOWN TO NICE, FRANCE IN ONE OF OUR P-61'S.
2. AN L-5 WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SQUADRON BUT HAS NOT AS YET SEEN SERVICE. IT IS IN NEED OF MINOR REPAIRS.

VI TRAINING

1. VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE IN OUR GROUND TRAINING AS WE FURTHER ENCOUNTERED A LOSS OF PERSONNEL. THE FEW PERSONNEL LEFT HAVE

BEEN BUSILY ENGAGED OUT ON THE LINE AND IN THE VARIOUS OTHER DEPARTMENTS SO MUCH IN NEED OF HELP. HOWEVER, A FEW LECTURES WERE NEVERTHE-LESS GIVEN ON GROUND SAFETY.

2. ALSO VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE IN OUR FLYING TRAINING DUE TO A STILL FURTHER LACK OF PERSONNEL FOR MAINTENANCE, LACK OF MEN AND NIGHT FLYING FACILITIES, AND ALSO BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER. DURING THE MONTH, HOWEVER, ALL PILOTS AND RADAR OBSERVERS COMPLETED THE NECESSARY 12 HOURS OF DAY NAVIGATION. A NUMBER OF PILOTS CONTINUED PRACTICE IN G.C.A. BECAUSE OF THE HANDICAPS MENTIONED ABOVE, OCTOBER PROVED TO BE OUR WORST MONTH AS FAR AS FLYING TRAINING WAS CONCERNED.



Tommy Hart, Jonnie Dowd, Carl Granberg at Kassel headquarters of the 417th NFS.

VII STATISTICS

1. THIS UNIT HAS NO STATISTICAL CONTROL OFFICER.

VIII STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCE

1. A MEETING WAS CALLED ON THE 2 OCTOBER 1945 BY OUR C.O. TO ASSIGN OFFICERS TO VARIOUS SECONDARY JOBS.

IX PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS; NEGATIVE.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL DATA, MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1945.

I ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

1. ORGANIZATION; 417TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, 64TH FIGHTER WING, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND. IX AIR FORCE. T/O & E 1-67. 4 SEPTEMBER 1944; CHANGE 1, 14 DECEMBER 1944.
2. STRENGTH; 30 NOVEMBER 1945 - 40 OFFICERS, 9 FLIGHT OFFICERS, 42 E.M. SOURCE, MORNING REPORT, WD AGO FORM NO. 1.
3. STATION;
 - A. PRESENT STATION: KASSEL/ROTHWESTERN, GERMANY SITE R-12.
 - B. NO CHANGE OF STATION OCCURRED DURING THE MONTH.
4. LOSSES IN ACTION; NEGATIVE.
5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS; NEGATIVE.

II NARRATIVE

1. THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER SHOWED VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY OTHER THAN USUAL SQUADRON DUTIES. DUE TO BAD WEATHER AND LACK OF PERSONNEL VERY LITTLE FLYING WAS ACCOMPLISHED. THE USUAL LEAVES TO ENG-

LAND, FRANCE, AND SWITZERLAND WERE NOT RUN ON SCHEDULE AND THE PERSONNEL ON LEAVE FOUND THEMSELVES STRANDED DUE TO WEATHER AND TRANSPORTATION. THIS UNIT HAS GOTTEN IN A VERY FEW REPLACEMENTS IN THE LAST MONTH WHICH HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP. OFFICERS AND E. M. ARE STILL LEAVING ON SCHEDULE FOR THE STATES.

2. THE THREE WOMEN TYPISTS ARE HELPING OUT A GREAT DEAL ON THE TYPING SITUATION, BUT DUE TO THEIR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF MILITARY LETTERS WE ARE STILL HANDICAPPED.
3. THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AND FLYING TRAINING IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT DUE LACK OF PERSONNEL AND WEATHER.
4. ON A WHOLE THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER WAS VERY UNEVENTFUL.

III DIARY

375. NOV 3. LT CLOWES AND LT PRESLEY RETURNED TODAY FROM TDY AT CANNES FRANCE. LT CONLON, LT GEISEL, F/O PARADA AND SGT MILLER LEFT TODAY FOR 3 DAYS IN LONDON ENGLAND.

NOV 5. CAPT HOLLOMAN JOINED OUR UNIT TODAY FROM THE 64TH FIGHTER WING.

NOV 7. SGT KURSAR AND SGT NADASKY WERE PROMOTED TO S/SGT ALSO CPL LUKINS WAS PROMOTED TO SGT.

NOV 9. SGT BENNALACK AND PFC ENGLISH JOINED OUR UNIT TODAY FROM THE 64TH FIGHTER WING.

NOV 13. CAPT UNDERBILL, LT MANGONE, S/SGT ADGER, SGT AILOR, CPL HITE AND PFC BEAULIEU LEFT TODAY ON THE FIRST LAP OF THEIR JOURNEY HOME.

NOV 14. LT ANDERSON LEFT TODAY FOR 7 DAYS TDY IN CANNES, FRANCE.

NOV 16. CPL KOSCHMEDER AND PFC BERGER LEFT TODAY FOR 7 DAYS TDY IN LE MANS FRANCE.

NOV 17. LT MULL, F/O DOUD, S/SGT KURSAR, S/SGT NADASKY AND PVT BALDWIN RETURNED TODAY FROM LEAVE IN GREAT BRITAIN. LT CONLON, LT GEISEL, F/O PARADA AND SGT MILLER RETURNED TODAY FROM TDY IN LONDON, ENGLAND. DUE TO THE BAD WEATHER THE 3 DAYS WERE STRETCHED TO 14.

NOV 18. CPL KOSCHMEDER AND PFC BERGER RETURNED TODAY FROM TDY AT LE MANS FRANCE. THREE NEW MEN JOINED THE UNIT TODAY FROM AAF/ET RENF. DEPOT, GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US PFC JUELKE, PFC ROWSE AND PFC MILLER.

NOV 19. PVT LYNCH LEFT FOR TD AT DARNSTADT GERMANY TODAY.

NOV 20. SGT MILLER, SGT WINKLEMAN, CPL DOYAL, CPL ABICHT AND PFC POPEK LEFT TODAY ON THEIR WAY HOME.

NOV 21. LT SPENCER LEFT TODAY ON TDY IN PARIS.



James K. "Jim" Pence and P-61 while at Kassel, Germany.

NOV 29. LT SPENCER RETURNED TODAY FROM TDY IN PARIS FRANCE. F/O LABO-SCO JOINED OUR UNIT TODAY FROM 64TH FIGHTER WING.

IV COMBAT OPERATIONS; NEGATIVE.

V NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS

376. 1. LEAVE, NAVIGATION, TRANSITION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS CONTRIBUTED TO PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE NON-COMBAT FLYING FOR THE MONTH. VERY BAD FLYING CONDITIONS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE WAS THE CAUSE FOR THE SQUADRON HAVING A TOTAL OF BUT 55 FLYING HOURS FOR NOVEMBER. ONE TRIP IN THE B-25 WAS MADE TO ENGLAND TAKING LEAVE PERSONNEL IN THE EARLY PART OF THE MONTH, HOWEVER, NOW, NO LEAVE PERSONNEL ARE BEING TRANSPORTED BY PLANE.
2. THE AT-6 HAS NOT SEEN SERVICE ALL MONTH AS IT IS AWAITING ENGINE CHANGE. FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS THE B-25 HAS ALSO BEEN IN AN UNSERVICEABLE CONDITION AS IT IS AWAITING A CARBURETOR CHANGE. AS SOON AS EITHER OF THESE SHIPS IS IN A SERVICEABLE CONDITION IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE PILOTS INSTRUMENT CHECKS. THE L-4'S (2) WERE TRANSFERRED TO GOPPINGEN, GERMANY THE 23RD OF THIS MONTH LEAVING US WITH ONLY THE L-5.

VI TRAINING

1. GROUND TRAINING EVEN THOUGH BEHIND SCHEDULE HAS PROGRESSED SOMEWHAT WITH TWO HOURS OF ORIENTATION BEING GIVEN EACH WEEK TO BOTH OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. AT THE WEEKLY PILOTS MEETING FLYING REGULATIONS ARE BEING DISCUSSED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR.
2. OUR FLYING TRAINING HAS BEEN AT A STAND STILL DUE TO A NUMBER OF REASONS. BAD WEATHER, LACK OF PERSONNEL FOR MAINTENANCE AND LACK OF MEN AND NIGHT FLYING FACILITIES ONCE AGAIN WERE THE CHIEF CAUSE. TRANSITION FLYING IN THE L-5 AND A FEW HOURS OF P-61 DAY NAVIGATION MADE UP WHAT VERY LITTLE FLYING TRAINING THERE WAS. BY FAR NOVEMBER PROVED TO BE A VERY POOR MONTH AS FAR AS FLYING TRAINING WAS CONCERNED.

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. THE LAST TWO MEETINGS THIS MONTH PERTAINED TO DISCUSSIONS ON THE MOVE THIS UNIT IS ABOUT TO MAKE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FIELD.

IX PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS; NEGATIVE.



P-61B-6-NO, #42-39533 "Markey-Hades Lady" of 417th at Kassel (Fritzlar). Markey was named for Miss Markolita Johnson, before she married Lt. Samuel Cotham Rial.