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DOD Dir. 5200.30

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Jan 45

P.R.C.

HISTORY

458TH FIGHTER SQUADRON SE

506TH FIGHTER GROUP SE

1 JANUARY 1945 - 31 JANUARY 1945

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DOD Dir. 5200.30



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H I S T O R Y

458TH FIGHTER SQUADRON SE

506TH FIGHTER GROUP SE

1 JANUARY 1945 - 31 JANUARY 1945


GORDEN C. ROBSCH
Capt, Air Corps
Historical Officer

P.R.C.

HENRY G. KISSEL, S/Sgt
Historical Clerk

90909000

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H I S T O R Y

458th Fighter Squadron

During the month of January the 458th Fighter Squadron entered the final phase of training for it's ultimate purpose, duty overseas. One of the most important accomplishments was the completion of flying training for pilots and the required classes for enlisted men.

During the first two weeks of the month the course of ground training for the enlisted men of the 458th was repeated because many of the men had received only partial training due to furloughs or absence from previously held classes for reasons of maintenance. These sessions were consolidated for the three Squadrons and given by the Group. Then, as there were still a few men who had still not completed the requirements due to transfers, further sessions were held in the Squadron Ready Room until the weekly report submitted to Headquarters showed practically no deficiencies. Classes continued, however, in Chemical Warfare, Orientation and Physical Training throughout the month and were expected to continue for the rest of the time remaining. The usefulness of some portions of the training program was brought home to the members of the Squadron when the entire Group left Lakeland Army Air Field for 36 hours on a bivouac problem during the last week in January. Starting out on the

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morning of the 26th with full field equipment and weapons, the men marched approximately nine miles to the rifle range. Immediately upon their arrival at the chosen site the men started by erecting their shelter halves, and then camouflaging and ditching them for the intended overnight stay. This was done satisfactorily within a short time and most of the rest of the stay was spent at the firing butts, for it was necessary to "zero in" the modified sight that had been fitted on the carbines. That evening the pilots who had been drawing flying clothing at Hunter Field, Ga., joined the rest of the Squadron at the bivouac area in time for the evening meal. Men who had not fired their weapons on the first day did so on the following morning and the camp was broken up in the early afternoon of the 27th and the whole Squadron returned to the Field.

There were two inspections of the Squadron by higher headquarters during January, the first by the III Fighter Command and the other by the AAF POM team during the third week. Certain deficiencies in the program were brought to light during the POM inspection, first echelon maintenance in the motor pool and the lack of knowledge of the proper treatment for immersion. Inside of three days, However, both of these deficiencies had been corrected.

The last half of the month some time was spent inspecting clothing and equipment, exchanging worn for new, and the issuance of clothing for overseas use so that all

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would have no clothing problems for several months while on the way to the final destination. At about the same time a detail of men were selected to go to work packing the equipment of the Squadron for shipment overseas. Besides this there were many items of personal equipment that would be both useful and unobtainable in any combat theater and these items were turned in so that the packing detail could include them in the shipment.

The month of January was also the time for the granting of leaves and furloughs to those Officers and men who had not had them since joining the Squadron.

During the time covered in this history there were a few changes in the personnel of the unit, mainly to bring the Squadron to T/O strength. 2nd Lt Henry J. Seegers, pilot, joined the 458th on 7 January 1945,/1, on the 8th 1st Lt Robert K. Price, Ordnance Officer, transferred to Headquarters 506th Fighter Group,/2, and 2nd Lt Taylor C. Green, Asst Engineering Officer, transferred to the 457th Fighter Squadron,/3. On the 13th, 1st Lt Irving Brein, Adjutant, transferred to Bartow Army Air Field,/4, and on the 18th 1st Lt Frank L. Mekus left the 458th for Headquarters, 506th Fighter Group,/5, for duty as the Asst Air Inspector.

- /1/ Par 3, SO #4, 506th Ftr Gp, dtd 7 Jan 45.
- /2/ Par 3, Personnel Memo, 506th Ftr Gp, dtd 8 Jan 45.
- /3/ Par 3, Personnel Memo, 506th Ftr Gp, dtd 8 Jan 45.
- /4/ Par 1, SO #13, Lakeland AAF, dtd 13 Jan 45.
- /5/ Par 1, Personnel Memo, 506th Ftr Gp, dtd 18 Jan 45.

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As of the last day of January the Squadron's strength was 321, of which 64 were Officers and 257 enlisted men. The key personnel was as follows:

Major Harrison E. Shipman.....Commanding
 Capt Earle F. Gray, Jr.....Executive Officer
 Capt Peter Nowick.....Operations
 Capt Gordon C. Roesch.....Intelligence
 Capt J. B. Baker....."A" Flt Comdr
 Capt Francis C. Carmody....."B" Flt Comdr
 Capt Kenneth J. Wheeling.....Flight Surgeon
 1st Lt Goldie Marcott....."C" Flt Comdr
 1st Lt Nolen C. Johnson....."D" Flt Comdr
 1st Lt Edward H. Connor III.....Gunnery
 1st Lt Robert M. Grant.....Communications
 1st Lt Clifford F. Tilton.....Ordnance
 2nd Lt Clifford C. Blue.....Sq Supply
 2nd Lt Francis N. Hines.....Maintenance
 2nd Lt Miles J. Jorgensen.....Armament
 2nd Lt James H. Roman.....Tech Supply
 2nd Lt William B. Shortley.....Personal Equipment
 2nd Lt George J. Wilson, Jr.....Asst Intelligence
 2nd Lt Stanley Zavis.....Adjutant

DOCUMENTATION

Exhibit #1 - SO #4, 506th Ftr Gp dtd 7 Jan 45. /1/
 Exhibit #2 - Personnel Memo, 506th Ftr Gp dtd 8 Jan 45. /2/& /3/
 Exhibit #3 - SO #13, Lakeland AAF dtd 13 Jan 45. /4/
 Exhibit #4 - Personnel Memo, 506th Ftr Gp dtd 18 Jan 45. /5/

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REF ID: A66557
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HEADQUARTERS
 506th Fighter Group SE
 Lakeland Army Air Field

SPECIAL ORDERS)

Lakeland, Florida,

NUMBER 4)

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

7 January 1945.

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3. Having been asgd this orgn per par 9 SO 4 Hq Bartow AAFld
 Bartow Fla dtd 4 Jan 45 the fol named Officers AC are asgd to Squadrons
 indicated 506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla. EDCMR 7 Jan 1945.

457th Ftr Sq

2D LT 1055 ROBERT H GRIFFITH	O 829 979
2D LT 1055 ROBERT M STRAIN	O 830 574

458th Ftr Sq

2D LT 1055 HENRY J SEEGER JR	O 829 765
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462nd Ftr Sq

2D LT 1055 LEONARD A DIETZ	O 829 952
2D LT 1055 WILLIAM G EBERSOLE	O 829 666
2D LT 1055 ALLEN F COLLEY	O 829 938
2D LT 1055 JAMES R. BERCAW	O 829 924

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By order of Colonel HARRER:

ALFRED T. BISHOP JR.,
 Captain, Air Corps
 Actg Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Alfred T Bishop Jr.

/t/ ALFRED T BISHOP JR.,
 Captain, Air Corps
 Actg Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:

G. Roesch

GORDEN C. ROESCH
 Capt, Air Corps

EXHIBIT # 1

REF ID: A66557
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HEADQUARTERS
506th Fighter Group SE
Lakeland, Army Air Field

Lakeland, Florida,
8 January 1945.

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM:

* * * * *

3. The fol named Officers AC unless otherwise indicated Squadrons indicated 506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla are reld fr asgmt thereto and are asgd to orgns indicated 506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla. EDCMR 9 January 1945.

				<u>RELD FR</u>	<u>ASGD TO</u>
1ST LT 4823	PHILLIP G DIETER JR	O 859 583		457th Ftr Sq	452d Ftr Sq
1ST LT 4823	TAYLOR C GREEN	O 868 877		458th Ftr Sq	457th Ftr Sq
1ST LT 4532	ROBERT K PRICE	O1 554 612	Ord	458th Ftr Sq	Headquarters

By order of Colonel HARPER:

/s/ Alfred T. Bishop Jr.

/t/ ALFRED T. BISHOP JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Actg Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:

[Signature]

ERDEN C. ROESCH
Capt, Air Corps

EXHIBIT # 2

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HEADQUARTERS LAKELAND ARMY AIR FIELD
Office of the Commanding Officer

SPECIAL ORDERS)

Lakeland, Florida
13 January 1945

NUMBER 13)

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

1. 1ST LT 2110 IRVING BREIN, 0581441, AC (White), 458th Ftr Sq, 506th Ftr Gp SE (Third Air Force), this sta is rel'd from further asgmt and dy therefore and trfd to Bartow AAFld, Bartow, Florida. WP from this sta o/a 14 Jan 1945 thereto, reporting upon arrival to the CO thereat for dy. EDOMR 15 Jan 1945.

TDN. TOT. TPA. PCS. 501-31 P 431 01 02 03 07 08 A 212/50425/
Auth: TWX 3FCCP 0444, Hq, III Ftr Comd, dated 11 Jan 1945.

* * * * *

BY ORDER OF LT COLONEL MC BRIDE:

JOHN F O'DONNELL
Capt, Air Corps
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ John F. O'Donnell

/t/ JOHN F. O'DONNELL
Capt., Air Corps
Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:


GORDEN C. ROESCH
Capt, Air Corps

EXHIBIT # 3

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HEADQUARTERS
506th Fighter Group SE
Lakeland Army Air Field

Lakeland, Florida,
18 January 1945.

PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM:

1. 1ST LT 1055 FRANK H MEKUS O 794 274 AC 458th Ftr Sq
506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld Lakeland Fla is reld fr asgmt
thereto and is asgd to Hq 506th Ftr Gp SE Lakeland AAFld
Lakeland Fla. EDCMR 19 January 1945.

By order of Colonel HARPER:

/s/ Alfred T. Bishop Jr.

/t/ ALFRED T. BISHOP JR.
Captain, Air Corps
Actg Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:



GORDEN C. ROESCH
Capt, Air Corps.

EXHIBIT # 4

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