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1945

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6TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON
SEVENTH AIR FORCE
ARMY AIR FORCES, PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
APO 244.

UNIT HISTORY

FEBRUARY, 1945.

1. Date of arrival at and departure from each station occupied in this theater: Negative.

2. Losses in action: Negative.

3. Awards and decorations of members of this unit:

Air Medal - per Sec. II, G.O.#28, Hq. Seventh Air Force, 22 Feb. 1945:

Capt. Mark E. Martin, Lt. W. L. Reynolds, Cpl. Raymond L. Golden.

Bronze Star Medal - per Sec.V, G.O.#21, Hq. Seventh Air Force, 7 Feb.1945:

Lt. Jay Watts, S/Sgt. Frank Antkowiak.

First Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal - per Sec. IV, G.O.#28, Hq. Seventh Air Force, 22 Feb. 1945:

Lt. J. P. Acre, Lt. D. F. Haberman, Lt. Ernest R. Thomas, Lt. R. P. Mooney.

Third Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal - per Sec. XII, G.O.#28, Hq. Seventh Air Force, 22 Feb. 1945:

Lt. J. C. Eaton, Lt. J. E. Ketchum.

These decorations were presented by Major General Douglass, Commanding General, Seventh Air Force, in a ceremony at Kagman Point Field on 23 Feb. 1945.

Absent were Capt. Martin, Lt. Reynolds, Lt. Haberman and Lt. Watts; the former two had already received their decorations, and the latter two were on DS in the U.S.A.

4. Organization:

Transferred to Det. 6th Night Fighter Squadron, APO 959:

3 Feb. Lt. D. R. Laney, T/Sgt. D. Brennan.

24 Feb. Pfc Orville J. Iott.

Transferred from Det. 6th Night Fighter Squadron, APO 959:

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8 Feb. T/Sgt. M. F. Colby, Pfc. A. J. Fernandes

23 Feb. Pfc. Earl Palmason (en route to join).

Miscellaneous:

7 Feb. Lt. Jay Watts, DS, Tech Inspector School, U. S. A.

19 Feb. 8 officers, 26 enlisted men, 548th Night Fighter Squadron, relieved from attached for duty, quarters, rations and administration, to join organization, now at APO 244.

8 Feb. 8 enlisted men assigned from 13th Replacement Depot, did not join - en route to join.

Promotions:

21 Feb. Sgts. Bernice E. Arthur, Herman J. Phillip, William F. Schneider, James G. Smith, Jr., to S/Sgt. (Temp).

22 Feb. T/Sgt. Robert H. Greever to M/Sgt. (Temp) effective 21 Feb.

24 Feb. Pvts. Morris Azar (Ord), Beryl L. Council (Med), Fred J. Fishwick, and John E. McCartney, to Pfc.

5. Strength, personnel:

1 Feb. 30 officers assigned, 10 officers attached, 37 present for duty.
104 enlisted men assigned, 26 enlisted men attached, 118 present for duty.

28 Feb. 29 officers assigned, 18 officers attached, 20 officers present for duty.
113 enlisted men assigned, 0 attached, 96 present for duty.

6. Strength, airplanes:

1 Feb. 8 P-61A's.

28 Feb. 8 P-61a's.

7. Losses, airplane by types: Negative.

Operations during the month were comparatively quiet. No combat sorties were dispatched, 143 CAP sorties were dispatched, and 360 hours flown. As there were no night raids by enemy aircraft, no miniature Jap flags were added to the planes, nor to the record over the bar in the officers club. The record of twelve confirmed victories, and three probables, remained in status quo. Primary mission remained

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to defend Saipan and its B-29 Superfortresses, which were beginning to hit Japan's homeland with such devastating effect, from night attack. At least one plane was constantly in the air during moonlight hours, and at least two planes and crews were ready at all times to be scrambled from the ground in case of an alert. Several others were immediately available in case of necessity. As preparations for the Iwo Jima strike on the 19th began to climax, the air echelons of the 15th and 21st Fighter Groups began to arrive at Kagman Point Field, with their new P-51D's, the first in this theater. Several former members of the squadron, among them Capt. Betner, Lt. Brown, Lt. Baldwin, Lt. Brunette and Lt. Bile, were welcomed with open arms. Soon thereafter the air echelons of the 548th and 549th Night Fighter Squadrons began arriving at Kobler Field, and several former members of this organization were welcomed to the facilities of the outfit, including the officers club and its refreshments. Among the officers were Lt. McGaffic, Lt. Nagle, Lt. Merriam, F/O Brask and F/O DeLaquilla. Capt. Martin, the commanding officer, announced to our officers that eight crews would be placed on DS with the 548th, and go in on Iwo Jima with that outfit. In return, eight crews from the 548th would be on DS here, both periods of service to be about three weeks or a month. The request for members of the 6th to make the initial Iwo appearance of army air force night fighters, was at the personal request and order of the navy admiral in overall command of the operation, and was a graphic tribute to the record hung up by this squadron. Capt. Roe, Intelligence Officer, was also ordered to Iwo as Liaison Officer. While there was considerable disappointment that the squadron as a whole could not make the strike, congratulations were extended to the lucky seventeen. Before the eight crews moved to Kobler Field to await departure day, unofficial poop had made the temporary shift of personnel a permanent assignment, and back again, but when orders were finally cut, the move was revealed as only temporary, much to everyone's happiness and relief. Those going stored their excess belongings in the Officers Supply Tent, and joined

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the 548th at Kobler, while the eight crews from that outfit took their places in our quonsets, on the flying schedules and at the bar. Prior to their departure, intensive briefings were held on Iwo Jima, and the latest intelligence and operational information was given to the crews. Pre-strike photos were obtained and studied, and after D-Day, photo coverage was carefully studied and appraised. All sources were combed for charts, maps, air-sea rescue kerchiefs, and any other useful and helpful material, and these articles were distributed. During the waiting period which then ensued, the roads between Kobler and Kagman Point Fields were kept hot, and the showers and officers club bar in our area were kept busy most of the day and night. ✓

Outstanding event of the month for the enlisted men was the arrival and installation of a reefer box, which at last made possible better and different food, cold water, and most important of all - cold beer. The reefer formerly earmarked and dispatched for the use of the squadron, several months previously, had been shanghaied before ever reaching the area, and meanwhile the men had bitched, waited and hoped. The weekly beer ration of six bottles assumed immediately much greater importance, now that it could be had cold instead of au natural. The already excellent mess enjoyed by the men became even better, and in the opinion of many is the outstanding army mess on the Island.

In the main, the usual routine of the squadron went on. The Dispensary managed to get in the usual shots, and some no one else ever heard of before. A load of lumber was obtained, and sides of the enlisted men's tents were boarded up part way, and some of them were screened. Recreation consisted mainly of listening to the news, especially during the Iwo Jima strike, the local radio station's offering of music old and new, the making of shell jewelry, baseball tossing, sweating out the mail call with assorted comments on the postal service according to the day's returns, and the nightly movie. There is a choice of two movies nightly in the immediate

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vicinity, at the 364th and the 318th, and the offering from the 364th is usually shown later at the pilot shack on the line for the crews on alert and such enlisted men whose duties keep them on the line at night. Quality of the movies varied; some late shows were enjoyed, and some were undeniably ancient. Yet the outdoor theaters were always filled, rain or calm. In the line of chow, ice cream was enjoyed several times, and one occasion brought forth a magnificent turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings. More time continued to be logged in the sack than anywhere else, by overwhelming proportions. In brief, life for the month progressed more and more toward a garrison existence, but not yet to the extent of neckties, nor interference unduly with sack time. A

John H. Roe
JOHN H. ROE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Unit Historical Officer.

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EDCMR - Effective date of change on morning report.
 FAGAT - First available Government Air Transportation.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE
 APO #244

SPECIAL ORDERS)
 :
 NO. 49)

20 February 1945

E X T R A C T

11. Following named O AC 548th Nt Ftr Sq AAF APO 244 placed on DS with 6th Nt Ftr Sq AAF APO 244. O will ret asgd orgn and sta upon compl of DS:

1ST LT (1058) Robert O. BERTRAM 0755849	2D LT (1058) EDWARD F JONES 0770099
2D LT (0520) MELVIN H LIEBERMAN 0871752	2D LT (1058) ROBERT B CLOW 0770180
2D LT (1058) JAMES W DAVIS 0763517	2D LT (1058) EDGAR W GATES 0763839
2D LT (0520) PHILIP B WHITFORD 0870622	2D LT (0520) ROBERT E ROUSE 0870618
2D LT (1058) GERALD H BRISKO 0770158	2D LT (0520) ERNEST D BEDFORD 0871737
2D LT (1058) THOMAS W. SCHULTZ 0767401	2D LT (0520) HERBERT B JONES 0554989
2D LT (1058) HERBERT R MCGAFFIC 0753696	FO (0520) PLOYER P. HILL T180301
2D LT (0520) GEORGE W FAIRWEATHER 0551243	FO (0520) ROBERT V CONKLE T180283

12. Following named O AC 6th Nt Ftr Sq AAF APO 244 placed on DS with 548th Nt Ftr Sq AAF APO 244. O will ret asgd orgn and sta upon compl of DS:

2D LT (1058) DONALD T EVANS 0743434	2D LT (0520) NICHOLAS R DEVITA 02054105
2D LT (1058) ROBERT L. FERGUSON 0747243	2D LT (0520) CHARLES A WARD 0553802
2D LT (1058) WILFRED C ROBBENOLT 0750690	2D LT (1058) PETER LESCHAK 0763663
2D LT (1058) ROBERT R PHILLIPS 0762400	2D LT (1058) MYRLE W MCCUMBER 0763819
FO (0520) RICHARD D PHILLIPS T192931	FO (0520) THOMAS J BOYLE T180243
FO (0520) JOHN PAGE JR T180247	FO (0520) DANIEL L HINZ T180199
FO (1058) JOHN J SZPILA T2161	FO (0520) ALFRED BORGES JR T180242

By command of Major General DOUGLASS:

WILLIAM J. FLOOD,
 Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
 Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

R. J. Erickson
 R. J. ERICKSON,
 Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
 Adjutant General.

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A true copy:

John H. Roe
 JOHN H. ROE,
 Captain, Air Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE
APO #244

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:)
NO. 50)

21 February 1945

E X T R A C T

3. Following named O AC 6th Nt Ftr Sq AAF APO 244 placed on DS with 548th Nt Ftr Sq AAF APO 244. O will ret asgd orgn and sta upon compl of DS:

1ST LT (1058) ERNEST R THOMAS 0703190 1ST LT (0520) JOHN P ACRE 02054049

By command of Major General DOUGLASS:

WILLIAM J. FLOOD,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

R. J. Erickson,
R. J. ERICKSON,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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A true copy:

John H. Roe
JOHN H. ROE,
Captain, Air Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE
APO #244

SPECIAL ORDERS)
 :
NO. 52)

23 February 1945

E X T R A C T

10. Following named O AC orgn shown placed on DS with Hq 15th Ftr Gp APO #86 (dy as Liaison O). O will ret asgd orgn and sta upon compl of DS. WP FAGAT or orgn acft:

LT COL (1013) CHARLES L MUSGRAVE 0326680 364th Air Serv Gp APO 244
CAPT (9301) JOHN H ROE 0917610 6th Nt Ftr Sq APO 244

By command of Major General DOUGLASS:

WILLIAM J. FLOOD,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

R. J. Erickson
R. J. ERICKSON,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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JOHN H. ROE,
Captain, Air Corps.

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