THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

5-1704-

10004743O

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 5200.30

P.R.C.

SQ-BOMB-489-HS
23 Oct 1947 -
Dec 1948

RETURN TO:
Director
Research Studies Institute
Attn: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

P.R.C.

314 28 October 1948

SUBJECT: Unit History

THRU: Commanding Officer
340th Bomb Gp (L)
Tulsa, Oklahoma

TO: Commanding General
310th Air Division (Bomb)
Tinker AF Base
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Transmitted herewith Unit History in accordance with letter File 314, Hq 310th Air Division (Bomb), Subj: Histories of Reserve T/O&E Air Force Units dated 5 August 1948.

1 Incl:
1-History (4 Cys)

TED BOSWELL JR
Capt., USAFR
Unit Historian

314. 1st Ind AML/RJL/ccm

HEADQUARTERS, 340th B.G.(Lt) P. O. Box 1017, Tulsa, Oklahoma 19 Nov 48.

TO: Commanding General, 310th A.D.(B) Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Forwarded.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
1- History (1 cy W/D)

RAYMOND J LOWE
Lt Col., USAFR
Adjutant.

5-1709-31

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

UNIT HISTORY

489TH BOMB SQUADRON (L)

DAVIS FIELD, MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

23 October 1947 thru 30 June 1948

Captain Ted Boswell Jr.
Unit Historical Officer

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Air Reserve Training for the 489th Bomb Sq. (L) located at Davis Field, Muskogee, Oklahoma was greatly aided with the authorization to purchase aviation fuel and oil given by Major General H. M. Turner, Commanding General of Hq. Tenth Air Force, on 23 October 1947. This was an achievement of the many goals the Air Reservist of Muskogee had before him to overcome. After many letters of offers and counter-offers between the City of Muskogee and Air Defense Command during the summer of 1947, it was finally agreed that the City of Muskogee would rent to the Air Force the large hanger at Davis Field for $1.00 per year. In addition to the fine facialities made available for Air Reserve training, the Muskogee Chamber of Commerce offered and it was accepted to pay $250.00 per fiscal year toward payment of utilities.

Obtaining the Hanger Building supplied approximately 5600 Sq. Ft. of floor space on ground and 2nd floor, south side for classrooms, offices and trainers, remainder of the building and north wing for storage and joint use in support of "off base" flying training by the 177th AF Base Unit(Res Tng). This gave the 489th a home and the necessary aviation

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

fuel for Air Reserve training.

Activated as a "Class C" unit 12 November 1947, by General Order No. 67, Hq. Tenth Air Force, the 489th was in reality only a "Flying Club" with a membership of "Fly Boys". The Muskogee Chapter of the Air Reserve Association began the initial drive to get Air Reserve Officers and Enlistedmen with the necessary qualifications to make the 489th a real living "can DO" organization. A.R.A. members were joined in this drive by regular Air Force personnel, trained by the Air Force in Reserve Training in January 1948.

Training of the 489th personnel, consisted of orientation and training films, supplemented by various speakers from the Regular Air Force assigned to Reserve Training.

With actual flying training available to only those holding Air Force ratings it was a tough job to maintain the interest necessary to build up the Unit. The 489th gradual y began to take on a new look as the enlisted reservist and the administrative reserve officers began to fill in the holes.

With the warm weather and the coming of spring 1948, the 489th really started operations at Davis Field. Flying training schedules became a reality on weekends, and

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Squadron training periods on Wednesday nights began to round out the training program.

In keeping with the desires of Hq., 340th Bomb Gp (L) the 489th picked its key personnel from active Reservists in the area immediately surrounding Davis Field. The problems of operation was similiar to all problems that a squadron faces when it is detached from the Group. Many TO&E positions were unfilled because of small technical differances in a Reservist's MOS. Active Reservists with Civilian experience were assigned to positions with "on the job training" in order to get good personnel.

It was team work that aided the organization of the unit in its early days after activation. On the team were the same type of people who made the Air Force such a great team during World War II. Three Regular Air Force personnel assigned to the unit provided the lines of communication so necessary for a new organization. Air Reservists assigned to key positions began to shoulder responsibilities. The above personnel received the full support of the Muskogee ARA. The Muskogee ARA obtained a room in the Post Office and financed the phone bill for three months, until the Air Force could get funds allocated to take over. This team work

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

was so greatly appreciated by the personnel of the 489th that they personally contributed funds to help offset the added expense to the Muskogee Chapter ARA.

Hardwork began winning new faces at each regular training period. The 489th looked and acted with pride, but there was still an undercurrent that threatned any chance to get enough personnel to "Upgrade" the squadron to a Class B unit. The undercurrent was strong, namely no incentive for Enlisted Reservists. If morale was low this was its lowest ebb, no equipment and no pay. Patrriotism was high and incentive low. The knowledge that the 489th was facing its greates test was apparent.

Entertainment provided the method for building up morale. Obtaining good leadership the 489th started a series of social gatherings designed for everyone to get acquainted. The social meetings were sucessful and provided the necessary push to keep the organization together until the Air Force was again able to provide more aid with training equipment and an Inactive Duty Training Pay Bill.

The first chance the unit had to really show its wings was at the dedication of Davis Field, May 1948, in memory of Major Jack Davis, who was killed in the last days of World

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

War II, leading a formation of Light Bombers against the Japanese. With the 340th Bomb Gp. supplying the necessary aircraft, the 489th was able to put a squadron of ten (10) Aircraft in the air showing thousands of people what was really taking place at Davis Field. The good coverage by the local newspapers added much to the prestage of the unit.

Maintaining communication with Headquarters 177th at Tinker AF Base, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma became an easy matter with the installation of two way voice or CW radio equipment. Regular Air Force personnel and one Training Aircraft became available during the week days with extra Aircraft on the weekends. The operations of the 489th was advancing to a point that personnel and equipment could be utilized any day or night that personnel were available. This was a great advancement to the operation of flight training, which had been hindered due to the many different types of silivian occupations, which offered different off-duty days for its personnel.

Finding itself a growing, living squadron with training charts shwoing the progress of its flying personnel, the ground crews began to function and show results. Working on weekends they serviced the aircraft after each training period. Not satisfied with sitting around between flights

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

several members spent many hours salvaging lumber from wooden crates, that had housed link trainers, bomb trainers and navigation trainers. With one goal in mind several members contributed the necessary tools and hours of work building skeet houses and a skeet range.

As the fiscal year of 1948 was drawing to a close the 489th had enough personnel assigned to request upgrading to a "Class B " unit. Training equipment was received and uncrated. Link Trainers, Bomb Trainer and Navigation Trainers were ready to be set into operation. July 1, 1948 the start of a new fiscal year showed the accomplishment of the first year and presented a challenge for the unit to equal or better in the coming year.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

REFERENCES

1. Letter Headquarters Tenth Air Force, File Z453.7, Subj: Authority for Purchas of Aviation Fuel and oil, dated 23 Oct 47.
2. Letter Headquarters Tenth Air Force, SubJ: Request for Acquisition of Real Estate, dated 29 Sept 47, TO: Commanding General, Air Defense Command.
3. Letter City of Muskogee, to General Turner, Commanding General, Hq., 10th AF, dated 13 May 47.
4. Letter Chamber of Commerce, Muskogee, Oklahoma, TO: Commanding General, Hq., 10th AF, dated 13 May 47.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

314 3 January 1949

SUBJECT: Unit History

THRU: Commanding Officer
340th Bomb Gp (L)
Tulsa, Oklahoma

TO: Commanding General
310th Air Division (Bomb)
Tinker AF Base
Oklahoma City, Okla

Transmitted herewith Unit History in accordance with letter file 314, Hq 310th Air Division (Bomb), SubJ: Histories of Reserve T/O&E Air Force Units dated 5 August 1948.

1 Incl:
1-History (5 Cys)

TED BOSWELL JR
Capt., USAFR
Squadron Historian

314. 1st Ind AML/RJL/ccm

HQ, 340th B.G.(Lt) P. O. Box 1017, Tulsa, Oklahoma 6 Jan 49

TO: Commanding General, 310th Air Division (B) Tinker AFB, Okla City, Okla.

Forwarded.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
History (4 cys)

RAYMOND J LOWE
Lt Col., USAFR
Adjutant

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

UNIT HISTORY

499TH BOMB SQUADRON (L)

DAVIS FIELD, MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

1 July 1948 thru 31 December 1948

Captain Ted Boswell Jr.
Unit Historical Officer

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Starting a new fiscal year on July 1st 1948 the members of the 489th looked to the future with new hopes. The Skeet houses were completed and set into operation, which provided both an added interest and training for Davis Field.

With the aid of personnel from the 2592d the Bomb Trainer and Link trainer were assembled and made ready for use. The trainer rooms took on a new look with a coat of paint on the walls and floors.

In August 1948 the Squadron Personnel was given another boost in moral when they officially became a Class "B" Unit. The roster now showed forty five Officers and forty five Airmen with training periods on alternate Wednesday nights and flying periods available day or night.

To keep the ball rooling the 489th sponsored a very sucessfol dance which was given in the Hanger building. The next few weekends were spent in formation practice by the Squadron pilots. This paid off with an excellant formation flight over the surrounding towns on 19 September 1948.

Close coordination between Squadron Instructors and the Muskogee Chapter Air Reserve Association was again shown when

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

the Air Lift was made available for Muskogee delegates to the Orlando Convention. Muskogee Chapter delegates were able to get some good information on Reserve activities and plans for T/O&E Units, which was passed on to Squadron Personnel at a regular training period.

In keeping with their traditional close cooperation the local newspaper gave almot a full page, which included five large pictures of 489th personnel and a good publicity story on Reserve training in their 24 October 1948, Sunday paper. This gave the initial start for another drive to get new personnel. Like any Reserve Squadron the 489th found it had lost more than a dozen good pilots to active duty. So it became another must to fill the new holes in order to keep up training.

With the passing of Inactive Duty Training Pay bill the trqining periods began to show more than just promises. The shuffling of names and faces began so they would concide wih complete accuracy. Inactive personnel were cleared to give room for more active personnel.

Rumors of inspection snapped the Squadron to attention and the results were posted on progressive charts. November 25, 1948 the 310th Air Division Commander, who was instrumental in locating the 489th at Davis Field, inspected it there. His inspection covered the trainer rooms, the Squadron Headquarters

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

and the progressive flight charts of personnel all located in the Hanger. This inspection trip was given good coverage by the local newspaper which stressed the progress made at Davis Field.

Another successful dance was sponsored by the 489th early in December which provided another round in the drive for new Air Reservists' in the Davis Field Area. Again the Muskogee Chapter of the Air Reserve Association planned as their number one goal a drive by Chapter members in cooperation with all personnel of the 489th. In appreciation of fine work of the Squadron Instructors, the Muskogee Chapter of the Air Reserve Association voted for and sent them a letter of commendation. Copies of this letter signed by chapter members were sent to all levels of command.

With the ending of December came the close of the first half of the fiscal year. Much had been accomplished; but the loss of many active personnel to the Regular Air Force left the Squadron with plenty of work yet to do.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

REFERENCES

1. 489th Operations Files.

2. Newspaper Articles

3. Muskogee Chapter A.R.A. meeting notes

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958