

379th Bombardment Squadron

History for the month of May 1945

Section I...Outline of Month's Activities

Prepared by Sgt. Albert Sulman

On 3 May, nine of our aircraft dropped leaflets in northwestern Italy, to inform isolated German units that the War had officially ended in Italy. These nine sorties were our only operational flights during the month. The Germans accepted unconditional surrender terms on 2 May and the remaining German forces in Europe followed suit less than a week later. So came to an end two and a half years of intensive combat operations by the 379th Bombardment Squadron in the Mediterranean Theatre.

During the month of May, many combat crew members and ground personnel left for the United States for furloughs at home and reassignment. The point system was explained to us, and possibly some of us will be discharged from the Armed Forces in the near future, since many of us have more than the critical score of 85 points.

For the personnel still remaining overseas, a program of physical training and education was initiated...courses of study range from Art and Languages to Mechanics and Public Speaking.

Men continued to go to rest camps in Rome, Naples, Cannes, Nice and Ile Rousse in Corsica. We were entertained on the Base by U.S.O. shows and movies. Our softball games aroused great interest and there was always a sizable crowd to jeer and cheer the teams. We received P.X. rations every week, with a generous allowance of canned American beer.



Section II.....

Squadron Diary Day-by-Day

1 No mission. T/Sgt. James F. Harris, T/Sgt. Norman L. Lawrance, T/Sgt. Casper Spiess Jr., T/Sgt. John R. Vollers Jr., were assigned to the 7th Replacement Depot for transshipment to the U.S....

2 No mission. 1st Lt. Walter S. Stoker was appointed Captain. 2nd Lt. John E. Carroll and 2nd Lt. Ralph R. Bedbaw were appointed 1st Lts...

3 Nine of our aircraft participated in Nickeling Missions to various parts of Northern and Northwestern Italy...The leaflets announced to isolated German units that the War in Italy had ended...The Fano Symphony orchestra concert was well attended.

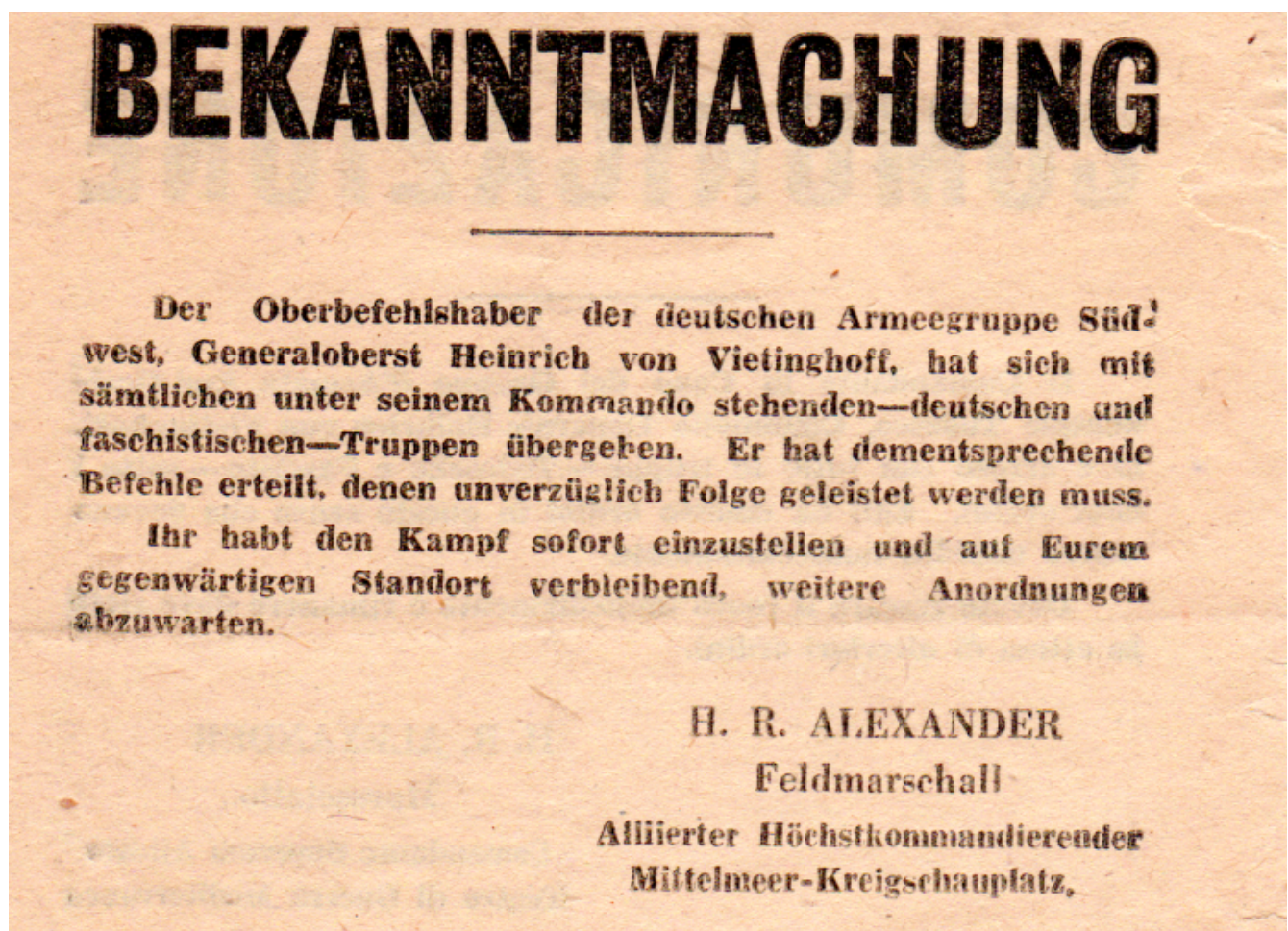


Figure 1: Leaflet informing German troops of the end of the war in Italy

COMUNICAZIONE

Il Comandante in Capo del Gruppo d'Armata Sud Occidentale Tedesco, Colonnello Generale Heinrich von Vietinghoff, si è arreso con tutte le truppe — Tedesche e Fasciste — sotto i suoi ordini. Egli ha emesso ordini in questo senso che devono essere ubbiditi immediatamente.

Dovete cessare il fuoco immediatamente e rimanere dove siete in attesa di ulteriori ordini.

H. R. ALEXANDER
Maresciallo.

Comandante Supremo Alleato
Teatro di Guerra Mediterraneo

Figure 2: Leaflet informing the Italian troops of the end of the war in Italy

4 No mission...Capt. William R. Shelton Jr. was assigned to the 7th Replacement Depot for transshipment to the U.S.

5 Again no mission. Combat operations seem to be about over...Usual Field Duties.

6 Lt. Starr's team played Lt. Johnstone's team in an exciting softball game...the former won by a score of 4 to 2...S/Sgt. Philip M. Allen and S/Sgt. Marvin R. Wedel were promoted to the grade of T/Sgt...Sgt. Joseph Kristof and Sgt. Leo L. Gries were promoted to the grade of S/Sgt...Sgt. Eual C. Wykes, Cpl. Harvey R. Grebe, Cpl. Paul Robles and Pfc Willard A Ballway left to report to the 7th Replacement Depot for transshipment to the U.S. for recovery purposes...No mission.

7 Official announcement was made that the War in Europe may be considered as ended...there was celebration throughout the Group...P.X. rations were sold today...2nd Lt. Joseph E Rademacher and T/Sgt. Carl C. Raisig Jr. returned to the Squadron after spending several months behind enemy lines in Italy. They had bailed out of their stricken aircraft on 11 November, 1944...

8 2nd Lt. Joseph E. Rademacher was promoted to the rank of 1st Lt...Germany accepted unconditional surrender. V-E day was declared a holiday, altho all troops were restricted to the Squadron area for 24 hours.

9 Usual Field Duties...

10 I & E program being planned and will begin to operate soon. S/Sgt. Sewell E. Brown and S/Sgt. Edmund C. Conrow were promoted to the grade of T/Sgt...Sgt. Frank Abbate and Sgt. George P. Moloney were promoted to the grade of S/Sgt...

The following personnel were transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.:

Cpl. Michael J. Korak, Cpl. Walter O. Bennett, Pfc Frederick R. Burkhart, Pfc Ralph E Eseltine, Pfc Roy W Lack, Pfc Jean T Patterson, Pfc Bert J. Riddle, Pfc John Rumancek, Pfc Thomas E Sailer, M/Sgt. Walter B Moeller, T/Sgt. Vernon H. Brooks, T/Sgt. Leonard O. Christianson, T/Sgt. Norvin H. Harris, T/Sgt. Paul S. Hreinson, T/Sgt. Powell Dillehay, T/Sgt. Keith K Krotzer, T/Sgt. Bill J. Rader, S/Sgt. Arnold V. Fort, S/Sgt. William B. Krug, Sgt. Vance B Reed.

11 2nd Lt. Robert G. Dilly and 2nd Lt. Harry R McKenny were appointed 1st Lts...Usual Squadron duties.

12 A physical training program has been started in the Squadron...Also, may classes have started in various courses of study...1st Lt. Walter E. Harrington, 1st Lt. Saul Walsh, T/Sgt. Lewis Gehopolas, 1st Lt. Edward A McCafferty, 1st Lt. Richard W. Wagner, 1st Lt. John M Ford were assigned to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.

13 1st Lt. Joseph E Rademacher, Sgt. Leester W. Edwards, Sgt. Mitchell D. McMillan, and Cpl. Anthony Antonucci were transferred on rotation tot he 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S...F/O Everett S Lewis was appointed 2nd Lt.

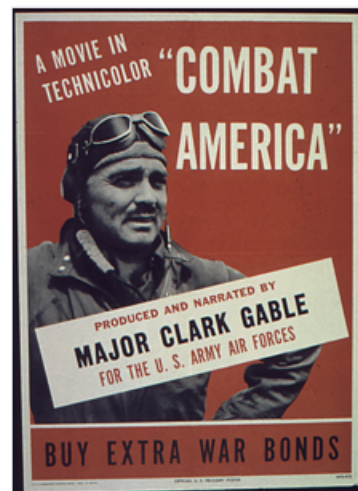
14 T/Sgt. Carl C. Raisig Jr. was assigned to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.

15 Usual Field Duties

16 A film on "Combat America" was seen by all personnel...S/Sgt. Harvey M Bishop, S/Sgt. Orville W Blosser, S/Sgt. Samuel D. Hinkle, S/Sgt. Richard A Kunshier, S/Sgt. Frank H Maynard, and S/Sgt. Hilbert D Sample were promoted to the grade of T/Sgts...Sgt. Edward J. Barndt, Sgt. Haines H Burch, Sgt. James L Joyner, Sgt. John Latushko, Sgt. William Lemler, Sgt Rufus P Rader, Sgt. Raymond R. Stolte and Sgt. Albert Sulman were promoted to the grade of S/Sgt...Pvt. Manuel P Chavez was promoted to the grade of Pfc.

17 Lt. David M. Cohen gave a lecture on Combat Intelligence...

18 We were entertained by a U.S.O. show; a violinist and singer were very good...Capt. John E Jones, 1st Lt. Leslie M Dyson, 1st Lt Charles D. Long, 1st Lt. George P Parry, Jr., 1st Lt William H Poole, 1st Lt. Paul E Sizemore, 1st Lt. Frank E Sullivan Jr., 1st Lt Thomas VanArnham, T/Sgt. Howard L Case,



T/Sgt. Thomas D Hastings, T/Sgt. John J. Koren, T/Sgt. Joseph F Rosenhauer, S/Sgt. John T Greenfield, S/Sgt. Stanley R. Milewsky transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.

19 Physical training in the afternoon, and a softball game in the evening...

20 Sunday, and a day off for all personnel. T/Sgt. Marvin R. Wedel assigned to 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.

21 P.X. rations were sold today...T/5 Benjamin Levenson was promoted to the grade of Corporal...2nd Lt. Lester A Bodden Jr., 2nd Lt. Robert S Crouse, 2nd Lt. Herbert C Gilman, 2nd Lt. Hoyt N Payne Jr., and 2nd Lt. James L Stowell were appointed 1st Lts...Film entitled "Two Down and One to Go," seen by all personnel.

22 F/O Donald D Halter was appointed 2nd Lt...

23 A showdown inspection was held by the Squadron Commander; all excess clothing and equipment was turned in to Supply. Sgt. Morris J. Williamson was transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.

24 Capt. Daniel D Sachs, 1st Lt. John E Carroll, 1st Lt. Eugene N Remes, 1st Lt Wilbur W West, T/Sgt. Frank M Faff, T/Sgt. Rupert R Harrell, S/Sgt. Edward J. Doeberl, S/Sgt. Daniel Feldman were transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S...



Figure 3: A 30-minute documentary directed by Frank Capra

25 All personnel attended a lecture on "Redeployment," given by Capt Glattman, Group Dentist...S/Sgt. James F Manning, Sgt. George D Reeves, Cpl. Matthew P Jagiello were transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S...

26 All clothing is being marked for easy identification...Major William C Hughes was transferred to the 381st Bomb Squadron to assume command of the Squadron...Capt. William G. Davidson was appointed Squadron Operations Officer to replace Major Hughes.

27 Several members of the Squadron made a tourist-trip to San Marino, the tiniest Republic in the World...1st Lt. Wesley W Smith was transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.

28 Usual Field Duties.

29 All personnel attended the showing of Combat Bulletin films as part of the Orientation program...

30 T/Sgt. Cyril Furman, S/Sgt. Raymond R. Stolte, and Pfc Gordon W. Pomeroy left for the States in accordance with theater redeployment directives...

31 Payday...Usual dice and card games!...

Total Officers assigned end of May 1945	112
Total EM assigned end of May 1945	317

Section III.....

Mission Rosters and Mission Reports

Month total sorties:	9
Total forwarded	4378
 Total Sqdn Mission for month	 3
Total Sqdn Missions forwarded	533
 Grand Total	 536

[See the original diary for Rosters and Reports]

Section IV.....

Casualties

No casualties during the month of May

Awards and Decorations

Air Medal



[See original General Orders for award of clusters]

Sutart P Johnson
Robert H Lawburgh
Thomas E Mollot
Stephen H Spargo Jr
Thomas R Emmons
Robert M Gray
Gilbert E Nadeau

Francis W Anderson
Charles Miner
Vincent J. Mihlfried
William F Phillipps
Elmer L Golden

Donald B Ayers
George K Fetzer
Carlyle D Moore
George H Skjoldager
Harold G Geist
Cary V Mabe, Jr

William G Livingston
Stanley J Okerson
William G Ki Peppi
Jack E Harcher
Kenneth Hora
Frank A Lund
Claude D Pearson
Enrico J Marino
Robert W Phillips
William J Quinn
William W Ramsay
George H Ramsay
Alfred R Richardson
Henry Rosen
Arthur Weiner

David M Cohen
Robert B Horn
John L Brezovar
Kenneth C Boone

Thomas O Plummer

Soldier's Medal



[None]

Distinguished Flying Cross



John E Jones
Daniel E Sachs
Leslie M Dyson

Charles D Long
George P Parry, Jr
Paul E Sizemore
Norman A Vance
Thomas Van Arnam
Robert J Clemence, Jr
Wesley W Smith
Ralph R Gedbaw
Walter E Grauman
Gordon M Jacobs
John T Allen
Isaac E Grant

Silver Star



[None]

Bronze Star



[None]

Purple Heart



[None]

