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Special Account
SPECIAL OUTLINE SECTION

380th Bomb. Sq

SQ-BOMB-380-SU-PE

" SO THIS IS PHILLIPVILLE "

After many weeks of rumors about moving, the advance echelon got on there way from Menzel Termine via truck convoy on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1943 with Capt. Lambert J. Eichner Jr. Commanding, for our new home near Phillipville.

This move was a welcome one after living in a sea of mud and water for several weeks. With a great deal of difficulty tearing down tents and packing equipment in a down pour of rain we finally got on our way.

T/Sgt. James Maddox, our mess Sergeant, and a couple of cooks went on ahead and set up a portable kitchen at Souk el Arba where the convoy was to stop over night. After riding in the rain and cold all day we finally reached our destination and a good hot meal was a welcome to us all. Some pitched tents to sleep in for the night while others slept on the floor of the trucks. After a nights much needed sleep, we arose at day break and after a good breakfast we got on our way again.

About three o'clock that afternoon we arrived at Phillipville Airdrome, which was to be our new home, and is located about two miles from the city.

Our new home did not look so good to us when we arrived because again we found our tent homes were to be set up again in a lake of mud and water, and were told that it had been raining day and night for the past week. We all worked together and got our homes shaped up the best that we could, and made our minds up to make the best of everything.

Two day's later brought our rear echelon with Capt. Elmer Carlson in command, and found things pretty much in order, the boys working hard on their tent homes, and every one in general trying to speed up there part of the jobs that were to be done.

The next day our fighting 1st. Sergeant James Warman got busy with some constructive ideas that he had on his mind. In no time we saw trucks coming in our Squadron entrance loaded with steel mats and gravel, which was to be laid on the roads in the area, so that it would be more easily to get in and out, and which further improved conditions. The next morning Sgt. Warman was up bright and early again, going out on another hunting expedition, and not for rabbits. At night fall we saw Sgt. Warman coming in the drive, his trucks loaded with three Messon huts, " Quite a good bag for the day, we remarked to him." The next morning construction started on the huts, and it was decided that one would be used for an Officers mess, Enlisted mens mess, and a kitchen.

As time went on every one began to feel more at home, mail started to come in better than ever before, movies were being shown at the hangar most every night, and our food showed a big sign of improvement due to more and better rations. Speaking of food, one meal that will linger in all of our minds was our Thanksgiving dinner, turkey with all the trimmings, which made everyone happy and everyone said a swell Thanksgiving for being in Africa.

Everyone is enjoying the little that the city of Phillipville has to offer, but all admit the Turkish bath's , and shower bath's are very much enjoyed by all, also the fact that one can have there laundry and cleaning taken care of.

We all have missed two of our Officers who have been in the hospital for several weeks, Capt. A.M. Richardson, and Capt. Ross Seeton, and look forward to their speedy recovery and there return soon again to the 380th Bombardment Squadron.

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