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P.R.C.

MAY 1942

50-BOMB-381/HI
MAY-Sept-42

381 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

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381ST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON - 310 B.G.

HISTORY

P.R.C.

In May, 1942, the 310th Bombardment Group was activated at Meridian, Miss., the 309th Bombardment Group being the parent organization. This also marks the beginning of the 381st Bombardment Squadron, one of the four squadrons making up the Group. Lt. Williams was our first Squadron Commander. In June the organization moved to the Army Air Base at Columbia, S. C. While at Columbia, Lt. Ivan L. Ferguson took command of the Squadron. Still acting in this capacity, he was recently promoted to the rank of Captain. During the month of July, while still at this Base, the Squadron got its first planes, eight B-25's. During the ten weeks at Columbia the Squadron was engaged in vigorous O. T. U. training.

The only casualty of note during this period was the crash of a B-25 which took the lives of Captain Plant and his crew. During this training stage Lt. Colonel Hunter assumed command of the Group. On August 14th, this Squadron was transferred to Walterboro, S. C. for its final combat training, which found the personnel working night and day in order to train themselves, and at the same time to overcome the problems of setting up a new Base.

The Air Echelon left Walterboro for Fort Dix, N. J. with 1st Lt. R. Pemberton in command of the detachment. While at Fort Dix, the Officers and men received clothing issues, equipment and final instructions necessary for over-seas duty. On Sept. 4th the detachment left Fort Dix for the port of embarkation and the following day sailed on the Queen Mary. After a very pleasant and uneventful trip, despite crowded conditions, the large liner arrived at Gourock, Scotland on Sept. 12th. After moving from the ship to the shore in Lighters we boarded the train. On the 13th of Sept. our train arrived at Harleston England, where we were met by an R.A.F. welcoming party and hustled to the R.A.F. Station at Hardwick, now known as the Hardwick Army Air Base. The Officers who accompanied this unit were as follows:

1st Lt. Robert (NMI) Pemberton
 1st Lt. Adam A. Kindar
 2nd Lt. William F. Wigger
 2nd Lt. Charles G. Dauley
 2nd Lt. James L. Durgan
 2nd Lt. Robert W. Stecher
 2nd Lt. Donald D. Horrocks
 2nd Lt. Norman E. Cawse-Morgan
 2nd Lt. John J. Mason, Jr.
 2nd Lt. Richard K. Ruhe

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DONALD D. HORROCKS,
 2nd Lt., Air Corps,
 Commanding.