

HISTORY

of the

484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

1 January 1944 to 31 January 1944

I. ORGANIZATION

Nothing to report

II. FUNCTIONS

No change. See Section VII for details

III. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

On January 19, 1944 Lt Col WILLIAM M. HENDRIX was assigned to the Group and appointed Operations Officer vice Captain BENJAMIN W. MILAM, who was then appointed Assistant Operations Officer (*1)

IV. STATIONS

No change

V. PERSONALITIES

LT. COLONEL WILLIAM M. HENDRIX attended Duke University and Alabama Poly leaving the latter institution in 1937. Having held reserve commission in the CE Colonel Hendrix accepted appointment as Second Lieut. in the Regular Army 1 July 1940. For almost three years he served as a basic flying instructor. From April to October 1943 he was Station Air Inspector at Big Spring, Texas. His last assignment prior to joining the Group was at Boise Field where he commanded a Provisional Group. The Colonel is married and has one child.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

It is the policy of this command that flying training take continual precedence over ground schooling; further that key staff personnel be required to live within short traveling time of the base, so that they will be available for duty almost 24 hours daily.

VII. TRAINING

At the start of the month we had 10 aircraft on hand for the training of our full complement of 76 crews. We continually received aircraft during the month and at the month's end we had some 39 aircraft on the line. Unfortunately, too many of these craft stayed on the line many times the hours they were in the air. If our original 10 were in deplorable condition, the additions were as bad or worse and the parts

problem was still no nearer solution. Group maintenance has steadily improved as the men gained in experience. And chances to get valuable experience were never lacking with the aircraft we were allotted. Sub Depot supply continues to do a fair job, except that in some instances aircraft were grounded due to fuel shortages unrelieved by that agency.

Weather flying conditions have been good and very little time has been lost because of disadvantageous weather.

Gunnery ranges have been used extensively during the month. Crews have expended some 85,000 rounds of ammunition on air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. Approximately 90% of our personnel have completed their requirements in small arms fire.

Only difficulties experienced at the new bombing range is with radio contacts. In many instances ships have been unable to make contact but have usually been able to have another ship on the range act for them.

Maintenance problems as partially stated above have gradually diminished as personnel become more familiar with their jobs. However, we still suffer from lack of parts at critical times.

Ground school and flying schedules have continued on the day about basis with two or three flights daily in each Squadron attending school and flying the following day. All second air force requirements for school are being met and in many instances exceeded. We continue to supply 85% of the instructor personnel for ground classes.

TRAINING ACCOMPLISHED

We completed just under 50% of the flying training required for Second phase training, in January. Some 967 missions were completed by 74 crews in 2870:50 hours flying time. A total of 750 bombs were dropped and 85,000 rounds of ammunition fired.

Ground school training for the month was completed 100%.

ACCIDENT: Disaster stalked us during the first few days of January. 1st Lt. Robert Tippin and his crew ferried our CO

to Colorado Springs on January 6. On the return flight they encountered severe weather conditions and apparently the radio contacts which would have provided emergency help were either difficult or impossible to make. Three members of the 5 man skeleton crew bailed out safely. 2nd Lieut. John A. Ward was killed when his 'chute fouled in the aircraft and Lieut. Tippin was killed in the plane when it crashed out of gas. He had kept the aircraft flying straight and level for the other members of the crew to get out. The tragedy occurred in the early hours of the morning at Hugo, Colorado, east of Colorado Springs. We miss both these fine officers of the 824th Squadron.

VIII. MORALE

As the pressure tightens and the combat days draw nearer, morale among all seems to take a boost. The opposite might be true logically because the men work hard and have more to grouse about, but the spirit of the Group grows with such bounds that it's growth is readily evident. Difficulties still exist, of course. The combat crews frequently gripe about their mess, particularly when they come down from the late flying shift and scramble into the mess for scrambled eggs at 0430. But that one situation is so universally typical, especially with chow hall personnel who've been working the night, it's nothing to lose sleep over. We know that the situation will be solved and it is better with every meal that's eaten.

The town by this time has opened its arms(?) to the men and the officers only to see the better looking girls when the enlisted men are restricted or haven't been able to grab a pass. But the officers still eat Lt. Ziff's fine chow and relax in his ever improving Club and the bi-monthly Saturday night dances still bring a bevy of pretties from the town and we've naught to beef about.

The Group takes special pride in that it sold almost 3000 in War Bonds in cash sales to the Enlisted Men on pay day. Many more men made Bond allotments or increased their previous allotments. Sales of bonds to officers have been very good.

IX. PROMOTIONS

Promotions of enlisted men during January are attached (*2).
Following named officers were promoted:

TO MAJOR

Benjamin W. Milam, Asst Group Operations O 18 January 1944

TO CAPTAIN

Leroy E. Peterson Group Communications O 20 January 1944

William R. Shannon Group Navigator 18 January 1944

William M. Riddle 824th Operations O 18 January 1944

Paul D. Vatterott 824th Flight Surgeon 24 January 1944

TO 1st LIEUTENANT

Raymond J. Pinta Asst Group Statistical O 4 January 1944

William H. Robertson Group Photo Interpreter 27 January 1944

Donald F. Murphy 824th Navigator 4 January 1944

PROMOTIONS (Cont'd)

Orville Dickason 824th Adjutant 19 January 1944

George F. Coleman, Jr. 825th Adjutant 4 January 1944

James L. Bennett 827th Adjutant 4 January 1944

John L. Stebbins 827th Flight Commander 4 January 1944

*1 - SO #19, Hq 484th Bomb Gp (H) dated 19 January 1944

*2 - SO #s 1 and 15, Hq 484th Bomb Gp (H) dated 1 and 15
January 1944

B I B L I O G R A P Y

SPECIAL ORDERS

- *1 - Special Order #19, Paragraph 1, 2 and 3,
Headquarters 484th Bombardment Group, Army
Air Base, Harvard, Nebraska, dated 19
January 1944. (Assignment of Officers).

- *2 - Special Order #1, paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and
13, Headquarters 484th Bombardment Group (H),
Army Air Base, Harvard, Nebraska, dated 1
January 1944 (Promotions of EM).

- Special Order #15, paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7,
Headquarters 484th Bombardment Group, Army
Air Base, Harvard, Nebraska, dated 15 January
1944. (Promotions of EM).