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SO-BONB-647-H1
Dec-44

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647TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)
410TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

5 January 1945

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I. STRENGTH.

The strength of the 647th Bombardment Squadron (L) as of 31 December 1944 consisted of 81 officers and 326 enlisted men. The first of the month found an increase of 15 officers and 15 enlisted men.

Major CHESLEY I. SWANN, O-400715

Captain ROBERT M. CAMPION, JR., O-724200

Captain JOSEPH E. NESTOR, O-798858

1st Lt. WARREN R. WEBSTER, O-807545

1st Lt. RALPH F. BUNK, O-746981

1st Lt. JOHN J. KEOWN, O-700629

1st Lt. ROY A. RIEMAN, O-695282

1st Lt. LEONARD W. HERMAN, O-734797

1st Lt. JOSEPH G. HOLLMEYER, O-467519

2nd Lt. ROBERT K. PATEE, O-715308

2nd Lt. ALVA K. DUCKWALL, JR., O-744976

2nd Lt. ROWLAND D. WOLFE, O-816388

2nd Lt. MARVIN H. HUGHEY, O-405836

2nd Lt. NORMAN M. PALMER, O-715305

F/O FRED (nmi) QUINTAL, T-5034

T/Sgt. Joseph T. Russell, 33477709

T/Sgt. Charles M. Simpson, 18083559

T/Sgt. Wilbert C. Norman, 6917130

T/Sgt. James B. Geley, 17032761

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T/Sgt. Allen F. Meaux, 16046364
 T/Sgt. Garvin T. Starks, 15086682
 T/Sgt. Fredric G. Reetz, 37195451
 S/Sgt. Steven G. Zserdin, 36382468
 S/Sgt. John E. Anglin, 33310508
 S/Sgt. John Taylor, Jr., 16168793
 S/Sgt. Lee E. Gelecki, 20302185
 S/Sgt. Joseph A. Pelletier, 12121643
 S/Sgt. Conrad D. Hornback, 32661285
 S/Sgt. Frank E. Meyers, 34199433
 Sgt. Alvin H. Schneider, 18190771

On 2nd December Sgt. John Varassi joined the squadron followed on the 4th by 1st Lt. OWEN C. HOWE, JR., O-685619. On the 12th of December the following officers and enlisted men joined us:

2nd Lt. NORMAN T. CAPSAY, O-2063156
 2nd Lt. RUSSELL J. BAILEY, O-759653
 2nd Lt. JOHN B. RATHBONE, O-831273
 2nd Lt. THEODORE FINCKE, JR., O-72378
 F/O FRANK A. GRAHAM, T-126413
 Sgt. Sherer J. Ward, 16098070
 Cpl. Richard B. Hackett, 32952820
 Cpl. Horace L. Himbert, 33786496

Again on the 17th the squadron was enlarged by two more officers, 2nd Lt. EDWARD A. BONACCORSI, O-760153 and 2nd Lt. EUGENE C. FRANCES, O-722649.

On the 4th of December we lost one of the squadron original cadre pilot officers, 1st Lt. CLARENCE J. BREEN, O-671633, who was transferred to

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Hq. and Hq. Sq., IX AF Advance Depot Area Command, per paragraph 11, SO #327, Hq., 9th AF Service Command. This was loss to the squadron for Lt. Breen was not only well like but one of our best pilots with a good record of combat missions to his credit.

On the 5th, 1st Lt. WILLIAM L. SCOTT, O-689379 was assigned DS to the 8th AF, United Kingdom for the purpose to serve as a Test Pilot. On the 23rd, Captain JOSEPH E. NESTOR, O-798858, S/Sgt Steven G. Zserden, 36382468 and Sgt. John Verrassi, 13108556 transferred to 387 Bombardment Group (M).

II. LOSSES IN ACTION

The 647th Bomb Sq (L) suffered its first casualties in several months when on a combat mission in Germany, on the 1st of December, 2nd Lt. CHARLES W. PALMER, O-765306 and Sgt. George E. Beauchamp, 17064620, were shot down over the target by German anti-aircraft. They are missing in action.

III. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

A total of seven (7) officers and twelve (12) enlisted men rewarded Air-Medals in recognition of Meritorious achievement while participating in arial flights in the European Theatre of Operations. Those who received Air-Medals are to wit:

2nd Lt. JOHN W. FRANCIS, O-755313
 2nd Lt. WILLIAM D. KINCAID, O-754516
 2nd Lt. HENRY J. KLOCKSIN
 2nd Lt. MARVAL F. DAVIS
 2nd Lt. MAURICE C. LANGFORD
 2nd Lt. EDWARD A. BONACCORSI
 Sgt. Joseph P. Hume

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Sgt. Robert E. White
 Sgt. John M. Aydelotte
 Sgt. William A. Thayer
 Sgt. John P. Donnally
 Sgt. John P. Gardner
 Sgt. Jack A. Gilbert
 Sgt. Robert R. Blain
 Sgt. Chester F. Miklasz
 Sgt. Michael R. Milich
 Sgt. James F. Price
 Sgt. John Varassi

One Distinguished Unit Badge, while a member of the 9th Troop Carrier Command organization, was cited on General Order #212, Hq., 9th AF, 1st Lt. OWEN G. HOWE, O-685619. Lt. HOWE recently joined our squadron after finishing a tour with the above mentioned.

IV. PROMOTIONS.

Some well earned promotions come through in time to serve as Christmas presents to the following officers and enlisted men:

2nd Lts. to 1st Lts. -- WILLIAM T. STRANGER, O-765137 and MARVIN H. HUGHEY, O-405836.

1st. Lt. to Captain -- JIM W. SOWELL, O-576345. Captain SOWELL is one of the squadron's Intelligence Officers, serving as Base Security Officer.

Pfc to Cpls. -- George E. Beauchamp, 17064620, Sidney Brandwene, 32793620, Richard L. Griffith, 33629118, and Harvey. O. Schwoyer, 33596858. The above named enlisted men are serial gunners.

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V. WAR EFFORT.

Operating from their new squadron area, planes of the 647th Bombardment Squadron successfully bombed Marshalling Yards, Road Junctions and Communication Centers. On every mission the squadron had its share of planes and crews into the air, besides loaning spare planes to other squadrons of the Group; and together with the other three squadrons of the 410th Bombardment Group delivered to Hitler and his Legions, Christmas presents that were certainly not to their liking.

VI. SPECIAL INTEREST SUBJECTS.

1st Lts. MAURICE E. LANGFORD, O-753530, JOHN L. MINECH,, O-749039, and EDGAR E. NUSCHKE, O-750441 were on DS to United Kingdom for a well deserved Flax Leave, together with their gunners, S/Sgts. Lois Christensen, Harold D. Fosbenner and Fred D. Bartlett.

Our first Combat Team composed of Captain RICHARD B. WILLIS, O-25922 and his two gunners, S/Sgts Harry D. Squibb and Thomas Becivar went on DS to the Front Line as observers, assigned while on DS to XXIX Tactical Air Command and 9th Army, Per paragraph 4, SO #74, Hq., 9th Bomber Division. They left on the 11th and returned the 17th full of admiration and respect for our ground forces.

S/Sgt Joseph Kozienksi who became AWOL as of 1530, 9 December 1944 was quite a blow to the many friends who knew him; all who knew him swore that he had met with foul play.

After several weeks of no development, a letter was received by the Squadron from the 4318 US Army Hospital Plant stating that S/Sgt. Kozienksi had been hit by a truck and was in a serious condition but was improving nicely. This was a very happy ending for all of his friends.

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On December 15, 1st Lts. RAYMOND J. KIRCHOFF, O-581952, HENRY S. ROBINSON, O-753740 and M/Sgt Justin G. Dring while driving back from a distant airfield on very icy roads, in pitch dark, turned their jeep over and seriously hurting themselves. The jeep is Class 26. At the time of writing all are improving nicely and are expected back on the job soon.

The last but not least the returning home of our first combat aerial gunners. Topping the list and the only one to have completed his 65 mission, S/Sgt Harry D. Squibb. S/Sgt Squibb not only was the first in the Squadron to complete 65 missions, but had a record of never being grounded or being on Sickcall. S/Sgt Squibb was accompanied home by the following S/Sgts. who also had completed over 51 missions: Clifford F. Shutte, Joseph W. Czob, John J. Richards, Charles C. Bradley, Seymour E. Farber, Armando J. Mansi, Carl R. Waller, William G. Pysden and Harold W. McIntyre. All of the above enlisted men were first transferred to Casual Pool, 127th Rep. Bn. AAF, Station 591 per paragraph #1, SO #88, Hq, 9th Bomber Division, dated 23 December 1944. This was a Christmas present none of them ever expected. The Squadron regretted to see them leave, but all were happy to see them go after serving so faithful, a well earned rest for them all.