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SA-BOMB-647-H1
Jan. 45

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SG-BOMB-647-H1
Jan 45
Feb 45

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UNIT HISTORY

647TH BOMBARDMENT SQDN (L)

APO 140

UNITED STATES ARMY

COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JAN. '45 TO 31 JAN. '45

* ~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~ *

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I. ORGANIZATION:

The month of January was quite an active month for it was fully used in intense Ground training and practice flight experiences, both for day and night bombing. New methods of operations were worked out for the dual job of round-the-clock bombing.

Along with the training program, there were the regular tactical day missions in which we played a very important part in driving the enemy back. The organization is functioning smoothly. In spite of the extra duties and extreme coldness, morale is in good condition.

Lt. Jesse B. Little 0773176 was transferred to the 173rd Liaison Squadron, per par #7, SO #27, Hq 9th Air Force, on 27 January 1945.

Captain Richard B. Johnson O-803630, was transferred to the 97th Wing on 18 January 1945.

1st Lt. Percy M. Haug, O-747795, who was the first Officer in the Squadron to complete 65 missions, was transferred to the 70th Replacement Depot, Station #59, in the U.K., for that well-earned trip back home.

II. PROMOTIONS:

1st Lts John L. Minech O-749039 and Donald W. McLain are sporting Captains bars, congratulations are very much in order for both are of the original cadre and are nearing completion of their first Tour of Duty.

The following Enlisted Men were promoted to S/Sgt:

Sgts Jackson L. Henderson, 36559695,
Michael R. Milich 33668052,
Donald D. Reese 19055189

The following Enlisted Men were promoted to Sgt:

Cpls Donald F. Brown, 34823104,
Cecil M. Heathcock 34608762,
Martin J. Ball, 36852235,
Joseph K. Edwards 37347666
William E. Parker, 34726821,
William F. Wiesner, 33681751,
Antonio W. D'Amba 11111319,
Tommie J. Taylor 34823136

The following Enlisted Man was promoted to Cpl:

Pfc George E. Gorne 37557692.

All of the Enlisted Men listed above are Aerial Gunners.

III. STRENGTH:

As of 31 January 1945, there were 77 Officers and 319 Enlisted Men assigned to the 647th Bombardment Squadron (L).

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IV. LOSSES IN ACTION:

With all the Tactical Targets attacked together with low-level missions over very strongly defended territory, our losses totaled, one Combat Crew, (Missing in Action):

1st Lt. Benjamin L. Smith
S/Sgt Leo Kirschner
S/Sgt Wilfred A. Cornwall.

V. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Eighteen members of the Organization received Air Medals. Two received Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

VI. MISSIONS:

All of the targets for the month were of a tactical nature and concentrated on stopping the flow of material to the enemy and in close co-ordination with Ground forces in driving the retreating elements of the German Army in the Bulge Area.

Stienbruck Railroad Bridge was destroyed, cutting off rail transportation. Targets at Clervaux, Mayen - communication centers, direct hits were scored on highways and marshalling yards with excellent results. A road junction at Gerolstein was bombed with good results, under adverse conditions - and again at Stadtkyll and Haleschieb, both road junctions, were destroyed, steadily closing all avenue of escape before the retreating Germans.

The Squadron can well be proud of its part in stopping the forward movement of the Germans in the Bulge Area and trapping and destroying him in retreat.

VII. STATION LIFE:

The month of January was one of the hardest for our Squadron, with plenty of snow and ice - the shortage of fuel made life miserable. But the hardships were all laughed at, in good spirit.

Movies were shown weekly in our Mess-Hall, and our nightly passes continued. Day passes into Paris were still in order together with 48 hour passes, also to Paris.

In a near-by town of fair size, a Hotel was rented to alleviate the crowded conditions in Paris, and 48 hour passes were also given, this was at no expense to the personnel - government rations were served.

The Officers had their weekly Dance and Party at their Club and the Enlisted Men held a Champagne Party in theirs'. We are still hearing of the details.

Each night the War News is broadcasted to the Squadron over our P.A. system. A service of the Intelligence Section. Cpl Marshall is to be complimented for his work. A daily Situation Map was kept posted for

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VII. STATION LIFE, cont'd:

all interested. Close-order drill is carried on for one hour each week, just for the knack of keeping in condition.

Red Alerts were nearly the order of the day, but we were visited only once by night intruders, but no damage was done.

The combat team of Captain James K. Dozier, Pilot 1st Lt Elmer C. Hessdorfer, B/N S/Sgts Wilbur C. Borecky and Theodore G. Muller, had the pleasure to visit the front and Captain Thomas E. Pickering of our Intelligence Section made the fourth of another combat team, to visit the front.

Captain Pickering on arriving back gave two lectures, to all personnel and brought home visual pictures of the jobs the Air Forces were playing and the close co-ordination we were giving the ground forces.

VIII. SPECIAL INTEREST:

On a moments notice and out of the blue, came orders for Corporal Flavous J. Van Dyke, 34501642, to be ready for a trip back home, Van was hurriedly bundled off loaded down with addresses and telephone numbers of friends and relatives of the men in the Squadron to call and see.

And so ends another month's History of "The Fightiness" Light Bombardment Squadron in the ETO.