

45TH BOMB SQUADRON (C-47)

October 1945

The month of October marked the return to the United States of the 40th Group and the 45th Squadron, after over nineteen months of combat and operational duty with the B-29's. During this time the group and a few original members of the Squadron had circled the world in the process of defeating Japan. As may be expected a great change had come about wit in the squadron in that time with regards to attached personnel, since few of the original members were still in the squadron. The 40th Group was divided into two sections for the return to the States. A flying echelon composed of flying personnel and ground personnel who had enough points to fly home. Several members of the squadron went home on airplanes with other squadrons depending upon their point score. Each airplane was manned by eight flyers and carried twelve passengers with their baggage. The squadron dispatched planes starting from Tinian on the 13th of the month. The boat shipment personnel moved out of their tents and into the quarters of the flying personnel while awaiting the arrival of the boat to take them home. Capt. George H. Johnston was appointed acting commanding officer with 1st Lt. Irving Bellor remaining with him as adjutant, 1st Lt. Cor on legs and 1st Lt. John Hallington acted as supply officer and supervised the loading of all supplies and records for the return to Uncle Sugar. The boat shipment left Tinian on the 29th of the month. There were still a few men who were low on points and had arrived into the squadron shortly before the end of the war and these men were transferred to the 313th Wing on Tinian in the interim of the departure of the air and boat shipments.

Morale among personnel varied to a great extent; from the depths of despair to the pinnacle of happiness, and all dependent upon whether the party concerned was to leave at once for the States or to remain for a longer period of time. On the average it was good, since the majority of men were due for return. Both the Officers Club and the Non-Coms Clubs remained open and facilities of both clubs were well used.

The cessation of the war and the movement of the Sunset Project halted operations for both Officers and Enlisted men with the squadron.

The following crews returned to the United States in the ships assigned to them. Most of the flights were of a routine nature. Lt. Kenneth Dobbins and crew were delayed from the 13th till the 19th from leaving Tinian due to prop governor trouble. Capt. Ralph Learn and crew were forced to land at Johnston Island because of fuel pump failure and the consequent shortage of fuel for the engines. Lt. Harry Changnon and crew had the most trouble when they had a fire in the cockpit between Tinian and Kwajaleon which was soon extinguished. They lost an engine between there and Oahu, but made to Oahu where they were delayed for a week on the engine change. And then on the last leg to Wather Field, Sacramento, Calif, the navigation instruments failed, but with the appearance of the California coastline, they found themselves.

Flying personnel were cleared thru Camp Stoneman, Calif. for reception stations near their respective homes while boat personnel were cleared thru the Los Angeles port of embarkation.

October History Continued
45th Squadron

Several problems in maintenance arose due to the constant turnover in men working on the line. Lt. George Lundquist, one of the Engineering officers, returned at the first of the month and this plus the return of most of the old crew chiefs meant assigning one or two experienced men to each aircraft with cooperation from everybody in helping get the work on each plane finished. There were no on line changes here in October since all the planes had been readied for return to the United States the last two weeks in September. All records and equipmt to be returned with the group, were boxed for shipment.

Due to the passage of time and the constant changes in ground and air personnel, only a roster of the men making up the air echelon, which returned to the States is included since they were mostly the only ones who had indicated a desire to remain with the group and the army after the return to the United States.

Harry M. Champion
HARRY M. CHAMPION
1st Lt. Air Corps
Historical Officer

Crews leaving Tinian on Sat. 13th, Oct. and Sun. 14th Oct. for United States.

| | | |
|------------------|------|----|
| Lt. Col. Goodwyn | 1556 | 39 |
| Lt. Hag | 4915 | 33 |
| Lt. Champion | 3859 | 35 |
| Capt. Elliott | 1456 | 50 |
| Lt. Dethage | 4738 | 37 |
| Lt. Sansted | 0085 | 41 |
| Lt. Col. Schaar | 3580 | 28 |
| Major Abbott | 0151 | 47 |
| Lt. Fullerton | 9828 | 30 |
| Capt. Jonstrom | 3555 | 29 |
| Lt. Davis | 5371 | 31 |
| Capt. Barron | 4795 | 32 |
| Lt. Sanford | 4739 | 27 |
| Capt. Learn | 4010 | 34 |
| Capt. Smith | 1329 | 38 |

AIR ECHELON HOSTS

Major Zane L. Abbott
Capt. Joseph R. Barron
" Frank J. Core
" Kimo Jonstrom
" Ralph S. Learn
" John Manta

Capt. John R. Elliott

1st Lts.

Barnes, David L.
Dickens, Louis C.
Billingsley, Fred E.
Changonen, Harry M.
Fullerton, Ronald C.
Madley, Eldred L.
Millard, John E.
Hilton, Thomas L.
Lueck, Wilbur E.
Needham, Robert E.
Redgate, Lee J.
Sevante, Orlan M.
Smith, Allen
Sokal, Joseph P.
Sweeney, Daniel W.
Wiggs, Gordon W.
Wilkinson, Wilmer A.

2nd Lts.

Baugh, John R.
Boers, Eugene W.
Byrant, Earl L.
Debnay, Lloyd R.
Duncan, Byron B.
Novanian, Frank A.
Kocher, Frank
Rollins, Mark L.

Flight Officers

Buck, Benjamin
Dunn, Walter
Leonard, Homer J.
Mock, Francis H.
Valley, Joseph O.

M/3gts.

Rowan, James J.
Wiget, Floyd

T/Sgts.

Maul, John

S/Sgts.

Bracha, Marion F.
De Ruyter, John
Deach, Ralph F.
Goldner, Marvin M.
Garrett, Olan W.
Haly, James C.
Hosar, Phillip F.
La Gasse, Albert J.
Mickerson, Laurence T.
Page, William H.
Palayn, Jack J.
Pritchard, Harold W.
Sally, Glen O.
Sipson, Oscar L.
Spencer, Artie L.

Sgts.

Bull, William L.
Braunig, Victor E.
Butler, Alfred T.
Flores, Ray H.
Helling, Carl V.
Hinkle, Stanley A.
Koppie, John J.
Lawrence, Elmer A.
Manning, Bruce A.
McArdle, Alphonse
Murray, Edward S.
Norain, Maurice H.
Pagul, James F.
Sherman, Earl E.
Sinden, Albert A.
Terry, Raymond T.
Turbyfill, Oscar P.

45TH SQUADRON HISTORY
November 1943

There is no history to be recorded for the month of November since all personnel from the squadron were either on TDY R&A or discharged from the Army.

Harry M. Chanson

HARRY M. CHANSON
1st Lt. Air Corps
Squadron Historian

45TH SQUADRON HISTORY
December 1915

Not much can be written for this month since most of the personnel were TDY R&R or had been discharged. Most of the men who were to have reported back this month were given extensions on their TDY R&R's and didn't return till after the first of the year. For the few officers who did return during the month, few details were assigned and the men assisted in helping to keep the 40th group find storage space for its records and office space for future operations.

Harry W. Duncan
HARRY W. DUNCAN
1st Lt. Air Corps
Squadron Historian

Officers who returned for duty during the month.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Capt. Mamba, John | 4th Dec. |
| 1st Lt. DeCoster, James V. | 11 Dec. |
| Major Abbott, Zane L. | 13 " |
| 1st Lt Hadley, Eldred | 11 " |
| " " Severts, Orian | 11 " |
| " " Sekal, Joseph | 11 " |
| " " Steiner, Floyd | 16 " |
| Capt. Learn, Ralph S. | 13 " |
| 1st Lt. Smith, Allen | 13 " |
| " " Wiggs, Gordon | 13 " |
| 2nd Lt. Bryant, Earl | 13 " |
| F/O Koch, Francis | 13 " |
| 2nd Lt. Duncan, Byron | 17 " |
| Capt. Gere, Frank | 19 " |

45TH SQUADRON HISTORY
January 1946

The month of January marked the return to the squadron of several sergeants who had been on TDY & R&M. Major Abbott appointed several of the men to staff jobs on a temporary basis to form a working nucleus for the squadron. All work naturally tended to bring the squadron records and work up to date, and to help in the assimilation of new sergeants and officers from other groups and wings of the B-29 project; both overseas and the States.

Morale was high due to the return from home and the holidays for all personnel and the fact that work could be done in reorganization. March Field proved to be the wonderful post that it is noted for. The advantages of large metropolitan cities also aided personnel to enjoy themselves while off duty.

In operations, all flying was handled thru the group, and later when most of the men were temporarily assigned to the 25th Squadron, thru that squadron's operations. Flying time made up for the time while on leaves and was obtained in AT-11's and B-25's. The fact that the 38th Wing is also based here at March Field increased the opportunities for flying since personnel from the squadron were used to a large extent in flying Wing personnel to stations in the West and South in regards to the Crossroad Project.

Enlisted Men assigned to the squadron ate in the group mess and found the meals here in the States to be a far cry from the meager chow we had on Tinian and other post overseas.

Housing problems arose as more men moved into the group and squadron and made for personnel hardships in several cases since the base personnel had a lack on permanent field quarters. However this was alleviated somewhat as the month drew to a close when quarters were obtained for the group and were issued out on a seniority basis. Most of the personnel had meanwhile found accommodations of a sort in nearby towns, altho in some cases they have thirty miles to go from the post.

Day rooms were established and offered relaxation there with radios, pool tables, ping pong tables, and comfortable furniture.

There was a more or less constant turnover of personnel throughout the month due to some getting discharges, others being sent to Hawaii for duty with the Crossroads Project, and with the transfer into the organization of officers and Enlisted Men from outside. This may be noted from assigned strength on the 1st and on the 31st of the month. It is interesting to note that there are only three members of the 45th squadron who were with the squadron only two years ago while the group was at Pratt, Kansas preparing for overseas duty with the B-29 project. These men are Capt. Frank Core, 1st Lt. Harry Chapman, and 1st Lt. Elrod Madley. In order to make one really complete operational squadron all the Enlisted Men were transferred to the 25th Squadron, thus leaving the squadron with a personnel complement of only 10 officers at the end of the month.

| Jan 1st | | ASSIGNED STRENGTH | Jan 31st | |
|------------|---------|-------------------|----------|--------------|
| 1 Major | 2 T/Sgt | 2 Majors | | |
| 4 Capt. | 1 S/Sgt | 8 Captains | | |
| 23 1st Lt. | 17 Sgts | 15 1st Lts | | No |
| 8 2nd Lts | 20 Cpls | 6 2nd Lts | | enlisted men |
| 1 P/O | | 1 P/O | | assigned |

Majors

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|------|
| Abbott, Hans L. | O-392491 | 1093 |
| Riley, Lewis R. | O-407022 | 1093 |

Captains

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|------|
| Barron, Joseph R. | O-790516 | 1093 |
| Gerrity, Richard A. | O-792334 | 1093 |
| Jenstrom, Wino S. | O-660063 | 1093 |
| Johnson, Lester V. | O-426566 | 1093 |
| Learn, Ralph G. | O-730210 | 1093 |
| Mewha, John | O-733928 | 1093 |
| Rogers, Carlton G. | O-239557 | 1093 |
| Sawyer, Edward W. | O-792316 | 1093 |

1st Lts.

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|------|
| Barnes, David L. | O-785077 | 0116 |
| Bilingsly, Fred E. | O-746790 | 1035 |
| Byerley, William H. | O-291443 | 0211 |
| Changnon, Harry M. | O-743380 | 1093 |
| Dearborn, Ernest W. | O-762561 | 1093 |
| Fullerton, Ronald C. | O-816100 | 1093 |
| Hasley, Elmer L. | O-362872 | 0212 |
| Hilliard, John K. | O-362231 | 1028 |
| Hitt, Harry W. | O-746739 | 0112 |
| Smith, William F. | O-792592 | 1093 |
| Severts, Brian W. | O-829317 | 1093 |
| Stainer, Floyd D. | O-689681 | 1036 |
| Sweeney, Daniel W. Jr. | O-206012 | 1034 |
| Wilkinson, Walter R. | O-782023 | 1093 |

2nd Lts.

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------|
| Baugh, John R. | O-692361 | 1034 |
| Bryant, Carl L. | O-786889 | 1075 |
| Duncan, Byron B. | O-932062 | 1034 |
| Evankovach, Joseph G. | O-331378 | 1093 |
| Scroggins, James H. | O-586909 | 0200 |
| Scott, Billie H. | O-787558 | 1093 |

Flight Officers

| | | |
|---------------|----------|------|
| Kraus, Walter | T-137751 | 0112 |
|---------------|----------|------|

February 1946

The month of February showed a marked improvement over the previous months for the squadron here at March Field with the assignment of more personnel and assumption of duties for all in the squadron. Work was started on a squadron basis and this meant less dependence upon the 40th Group. Some of the men were assigned on temporary duty to Roswell, New Mexico on the Crossroad's project. The squadron was assigned four barracks and an orderly room and these were occupied during the month, thus increasing productivity of the squadron. Lt. Col. Joseph White returned to the group from Command and General Staff School and assumed command of the 45th Squadron on the 20th of the month, replacing Major Lane L. Abbott who had acted as Squadron C.O. from the last of August 1945 till relieved. Major Ralph Eversberg joined the Squadron and was appointed Squadron Adjutant. More men were assigned all thru the month from other organizations and were assigned to duty in squadron departments.

The morale of the 45th Squadron was high and mainly to the fact that definite policies and work were put forth. The solidification of the squadron brought about the accomplishment of much more work in all departments and this relieved the situation that formerly existed of men not knowing what they were to do or for whom they were working.

In the Engineering department, more 750's were added and bolstered the strength of the department. The squadron still had no assigned planes and the men worked on the maintainance of Group aircraft.

The Squadron still does not have its own mess and the Elixister Men mess with the Group. One of the barracks has been allotted for use as a mess hall and for a recreation room, but no work has yet been done to transform them into use. The Officers mess at the Base Officers Club. Mail for all personnel is issued thru the mail room operated by the 25th Squadron, but will soon be issued thru the mail room now being constructed in the squadron orderly room. Captain Arnold replaced Lt. Changnon as athletic officer but as yet the squadron has done nothing in athletic activities due to the still constant changes in personnel. Several of the men have participated in bowling, basketball, and baseball tournaments sponsored the the March Field Athletic Dept.

In operations Major Abbott has assumed the duties of Operation Officer for the Squadron with W/Sgt. Hansen as his assistant. Flying personnel obtained their flying time as they were assigned to fly by 40th Group Operations. This was done in the B-25's and AT-11's. Flying crews were formed near the close of the month, but are mostly in skeleton form since there is a big shortage of gunners, radio operators, and flight engineers in the squadron. No flying has been done on a crew basis as yet.

A roster of Assigned personnel follows:

Harry D. Mangrove
HARRY D. MANGROVE
1st Lt. Air Corps
Adjutant

45th Bomb Sq. In.

Officers

| NAME | ASN | RANK | MOB | DUY MOB | DUY STATUS | MI YE SH |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|------|---------|---------------|----------------|
| White, Joseph D | O-388890 | Lt. Col. | 1093 | 1093 | Present | 1 |
| Abbot, Hans L. | O-598491 | Major | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Riley, Lewis R | O-407092 | Major | 1093 | 1093 | Hospital | |
| Bavenburg, Ralph H | O-261207 | Major | 2110 | 2110 | " | |
| Wish, George H | O-433798 | Major | 1093 | 1093 | Present | |
| Arnold, Richard T | O-442344 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | Yes |
| Barren, Joseph E | O-782814 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Cook, Edwin J | O-784387 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | Yes |
| Gervity, Richard A | O-782834 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Grogg, Charles R | O-723148 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Hoffman, Bernard H | O-459449 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | Present | |
| Jenstrom, Elmo E | O-440083 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Johnson, Lester V | O-425566 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | Yes |
| Regan, Carter W | O-438587 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Supper, Edward W | O-782814 | Capt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Surogins, James H | O-588909 | 1st. Lt. | 0200 | 0200 | Present | Yes |
| Ashcraft, James A | O-748142 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Billingsley, Eud E | O-748790 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Byrley, William H | O-2084493 | 1st. Lt. | 4823 | 4823 | " | |
| Changman, Harry E | O-748340 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Dearborn, Ernest W | O-782861 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Ferguson, James E | O-748391 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | Yes |
| Hadley, Alfred L | O-440083 | 1st. Lt. | 4823 | 4823 | " | |
| Hillard, John E | O-884334 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Hitt, Harry W | O-748719 | 1st. Lt. | 0142 | 0142 | MI | |
| Kantor, Albert J | O-808488 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | Present | |
| Klans, William | O-738182 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | Yes |
| Klans, Clarence E | O-689822 | 1st. Lt. | 0142 | 0142 | " | |
| Lewis, Jack M | O-78898 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Nichols, Owen H jr. | O-725776 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Nelson, Eugene A | O-728466 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | Yes |
| Rennie, David | O-72846 9 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | Present | Yes |
| Schmidt, William G | O-2083065 | 1st. Lt. | 0142 | 0142 | " | |
| Thornburg, Allan L | O-748378 | Capt. | 1034 | 1034 | " | |
| Smith, William F | O-788892 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | Leave | |
| Siegel, Albert R | O-2069138 | 1st. Lt. | 0142 | 0142 | Present | |
| Smogross, Nibar E | O-878188 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Steiner, Floyd D | O-489881 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Steeney, Daniel W | O-206012 | 1st. Lt. | 1034 | 1034 | " | |
| Wilson, Howard S jr | O-827115 | 1st. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Baugh, John R | O-488361 | 2nd. Lt. | 1034 | 1034 | " | |
| Bryant, Mayl L | O-786889 | 2nd. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | " | |
| Duncan, Byron E | O-928042 | 2nd. Lt. | 1034 | 1034 | " | |
| Evastovach, J.G. | O-931378 | 2nd. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | Leave 30 days | |
| Scott, Billie E | O-787888 | 2nd. Lt. | 1093 | 1093 | Present | Yes |
| Carvin, Wilson P | O-2128272 | WO/JG | 4823 | 4823 | Present | |

ROSTER OF PERSONNEL
 48721 Main Sqdn.
 Enlisted Men

| NAME | NO. | RANK |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Kuttler, Ralph D | 19010798 | 1st Sgt. |
| Akin, Hollis | 19177409 | M/Sgt. |
| Baker, Johnnie | 6589986 | M/Sgt. |
| Hench, Thomas | 6261004 | M/Sgt. |
| Bernhardt, Morris | 6901513 | M/Sgt. |
| Borden, Bernard B | 6752208 | M/Sgt. |
| Bunch, Harrison D | 6579447 | M/Sgt. |
| Covey, Russell D | 19011214 | W/Sgt. |
| Creighton, Charles V | 6901798 | M/Sgt. |
| Crumley, Thomas J | 6203446 | M/Sgt. |
| Cunningham, George F | 6480466 | M/Sgt. |
| Denton, Glen E. | 18010326 | M/Sgt. |
| Drew, Paul E | 6846457 | M/Sgt. |
| Earley, Joseph E | 6753551 | M/Sgt. |
| Ellison, Noble G | 6984265 | M/Sgt. |
| Faust, Carl M | 6444039 | M/Sgt. |
| Fenton, Louis G | 19016904 | M/Sgt. |
| Godfrey, Thomas .. | 8-1485483 | M/Sgt. |
| Hanson, Haldor D | 14100020 | M/Sgt. |
| Henderson, Buford W | 6272535 | M/Sgt. |
| Jackson, Herbert L | 6850146 | M/Sgt. |
| Jones, Otis | 6357656 | M/Sgt. |
| Keyser, Nelson K | 6878964 | M/Sgt. |
| Kramer, Bernard G | 6915598 | M/Sgt. |
| Lavchuck, Peter | 6855648 | M/Sgt. |
| Leonard, Eugene P | 6280545 | M/Sgt. |
| Linn, Otto J | 6718557 | M/Sgt. |
| McCann, Francis L | 6818723 | M/Sgt. |
| McCorkle, Robert A | 17178142 | V/Sgt. |
| McHolland, William | 19098492 | M/Sgt. |
| Wilstead, Elvin E | 6988482 | M/Sgt. |
| Oglesby, William T | 6493888 | M/Sgt. |
| Feylock, Thomas B | 13013882 | M/Sgt. |
| Quinnel, William H | 6580740 | M/Sgt. |
| Randolph, Edward | 6672809 | M/Sgt. |
| Rittenhouse, William J | 6657824 | M/Sgt. |
| Ross, James | 6630380 | M/Sgt. |
| Sarich, Mat J | 39285810 | M/Sgt. |
| Sneed, William E | 18046206 | M/Sgt. |
| Tucker, Ray E | 6810700 | M/Sgt. |
| Vanski, Alexander | 6869357 | M/Sgt. |
| Wilson, Carl | 6766782 | M/Sgt. |
| Anderson, Bill J | 7003266 | T/Sgt. |
| Davis, Melvin G | 69021518 | T/Sgt. |
| Glynn, John V | 6286071 | T/Sgt. |
| Harkey, Jack V | 6906666 | T/Sgt. |
| Holmes, Lynn A | 6548881 | T/Sgt. |
| Hunter, Roy I | 181103881 | T/Sgt. |

| NAME | ASN | RANK |
|---------------------|----------|--------|
| Jones, Arthur E | 17015080 | Capt. |
| Karon, Frank B | 15065000 | T/Sgt. |
| Klusman, Robert V | 02160107 | T/Sgt. |
| Knoll, Warden L | 6899612 | T/Sgt. |
| McKowan, Ralph | 1401470 | T/Sgt. |
| Mooney, Edwin M | 6869054 | T/Sgt. |
| Teague, Donald L | 6898650 | T/Sgt. |
| Williams, Donald H | 19050838 | T/Sgt. |
| Spencer, Milton M | 6903271 | T/Sgt. |
| Phaup, Leon W. | 6295900 | T/Sgt. |
| Alexander, Lewis C | 19038356 | S/Sgt. |
| Beck, Marvin J | 20300507 | O/Sgt. |
| Carpenter, Robert I | 6296510 | S/Sgt. |
| Gorman, Thomas F | 19008068 | T/Sgt. |
| Howe, John | 19021503 | S/Sgt. |
| Koushik, Leo F | 0143486 | T/Sgt. |
| Johnson, Edward J | 05228904 | T/Sgt. |
| Schrum, Robert M | 17086798 | T/Sgt. |
| Odom, Thomas G | 0380700 | Col. |
| DeMartino, John B | 42103868 | Maj. |
| Harrison, Richard M | 10010817 | Sgt. |
| Watkins, Horace L | 18220010 | Pvt. |