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HISTORICAL DATA
Narrative Summary
Documents
Of
40TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
58th Bombardment Wing
Twentieth Air Force
Period: 1 September thru 30 September 1945

GEO 183

SECRET

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GROUP HISTORY

1 September to September 1945

The month of September has been one of rumors of leaving and finally actual preparation to return to the States as a unit. At first an air show of power display was scheduled for the Wing, but this was called off so we will be redeployed to the State for further orders

Besides the 58th Wing the 73rd Wing from Saipan will be redeployed at the same time. The 40th Bomb Group will be the fifth group to leave of the two wings. The first being the 444th of the 58th Wing.

Other highlights of the month were the power display to Tokyo on V-J Day, awards and decorations and opening of the Officers and Non-commissioned officers clubs.

The biggest problem was in determining who would return to the States by air, who by boat later and who would be transferred out of the Wing.

There was much confusion during the month but at the end everything was set up pretty well. A crew of eight will fly the planes back and 12 passengers per plane. The eight crew members are as follows: pilot, co-pilot, navigator, engineer, radio operation, radar operation and two enlisted scanners.

The following chart shows who will be eligible to return as crew members and who as passengers and who will return by boat.

Air Crew Members

- Officer s - Over critical score, or, field grade officers 80 points, company grade officers 60 points, flight officers and warrant officers 60 points, or 10 crew credit sorties.
- Enlisted Men - Over critical score, or 50 points; If crew credit sorties

Passengers

Over critical score – Officers 75 or more points, enlisted men 70 or more points

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Group History, 40th Bomb Gp, Sep 45, Cont'd

List

Air Crew Officers – Over 75 points or 11 missions

Air Crew enlisted men – Over 60 points or 11 missions

Ground Officers – Over 50 points

Ground Enlisted Men – Over 40 points

At the end of September it is believed that all officers with 39 points or over and all enlisted men with 30 points or over will return as air crew members or passengers.

The morale of the Group was very high this month, mainly because the war was over and everyone knew that most of the personnel would be returning to the States shortly. Quite a few of the gunners and bombardiers with a large number of missions and quite a few points will not be eligible to return as passengers but will have to return by boat. They believe that if they flew missions against the enemy in the B-29's they should be able to return to the States on them. This has been the hardest thing on morale during the month of September

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On 2 September 33 out of the 36 planes that were scheduled were airborne and put on a power display over the Tokyo Area during the signing of the surrender. Briefing for the mission was at 2245Z on 1 September with take offs from 0139 to 0222Z. Beside the crew members many passengers were taken along. Although the trip was long and tiresome, averaging 16:30 hours, it was enjoyed by all. (Photos 1 thru 4)

Due to the conversion to a peace time Army 3 September was observed as a legal holiday because of Labor Day. This was appreciated by the men in the Group and especially to those on the flight the day before.

On 5 September Colonel M. K. Skaer took off for Hawaii to spend a week to procure and transport club supplies for stocking the officers club and the enlisted mens club. With Colonel Skaer was a crew of 16 with

Group History, 40th Bomb Gp, Sep 45, Cont'd

Major J. K. Child as co-pilot, among the passengers was Commander Rudolph T. Taggart, USNR.

Also on 8 September the Group participated in a parade, during which time two men of the Group were decorated with the Soldiers Medal. The two men made explanation of their heroism is as follows:

“Captain Bartholomew A. Adler (Chaplain) for heroism displayed on 14 January 1945. Being present at time of B-29 explosion despite fact of constant explosions with help of a second officer, carried one man from plane to safety, and returning for a second man. Then driving to hospital for the treatment of the two men. His action aided in saving the lives of the two men.

“Pfc Gordon P. Barmeister, in the same accident as above rushed to burning aircraft and rescues two seriously injured crew members from becoming burned in the flaming aircraft. (Photos 5 – 7 are views of parade and these two men being decorated)”

The 10th of September was the first day of a three day period in which Colonel J. E. Miles, acting Commanding Officer, interviewed flying personnel for staff jobs. In the conversion to a peace time army it is desirous to have the Air Corps completed manned by those commissioned as flying officers. These men will relieve the non-flying personnel who will return to the States for reassignment or discharge from the Air Corps.

On 13 September, Lt Col William Kingsbury with a crew of 11, left for Guam from where they would fly to Japan for a non-stop flight from Tokyo to Washington D.C. Lt. Col Kingsbury was the Commanding Officer of the 25th Bomb Squadron. Most of the men accompany him were from the 25th.

It was later learned , upon reaching Guam, that Major General Curtis Lemay and Colonel William F. Blanchard were added to the crew and two enlisted scanners were taken off.

Leaving here besides Lt. Col Kingsbury were 1st Lt. I. J. Potts, co-pilot; Major John Wedding, 468th Group, 3rd pilot; Captain William W. Townes, navigator; 1st Lt. S. T. Jones, navigator; Captain Theodore R. Finder, flight engineer; Sgt. Jerome A. School, radio operator; S/Sgt Frank Klas, Jr., radio operator; Sgt B. T. Freeman and Sgt Richard P. Fisher, Scanners.

Group History, 40th Bomb Gp, Sep 45, Cont'd

On 15 September in a meeting of all personnel, the Group Colonel Miles told of the proposed plan to return to the States as 1 unit and put on a power display over the major United States cities. However to cover the United States by unit of 10 aircraft, landing and showing the civilian population through our aircraft the overpowering engineering ability that they might have.

A large percent of the men who return from the war were eligible for discharge on the point system and also everyone was eligible for an overseas leave. In order to hold the Group together until after the display was over all personnel were asked to allow a statement saying that they would not ask for leave or discharge for 60 days after returning. The officers of the Group responded well to the plan and were with it almost 100 percent.

On the night of 4 September the Group Officers Club was opened for drinking. This was not the official opening however. The main thing was that the Officers were told to restore and get outthe date for the Grand opening was set for 14 September.

On 16 September Colonel William Skaer and crew returned from Hawaii. On questioning members of the crew it is believed everyone had a good time and that quite a bit was accomplished in line of duty and some beyond that line of duty.

On the night of 19 September awards were presented to the Group personnel at the Group Theater. Colonel Skaer and Lt. Col Shaaf presented the awards. A complete list of the awards will appear in the personnel section of the history for the month, but close to "50 awards were more with about 725 of that being Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

The following day, 20 September, a meeting was called for all Group personnel and Col. Skaer told of the change in plans for the Group's return to the states. Their show had been cancelled and besides the crew officers and the high point men would return by plane to the States. There were now definite dates set for the beginning of the return but it was believed it would start the latter part of the month. Another plan still in force was the fact that the 40th Group was still the fifth group in the Air Force to leave.

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Group History, 40th Bomb Gp, Sep 45, Cont'd

As mentioned in the earlier part of the history the Wing took charge of loading of personnel. An eight man crew with 12 high point men making 20 to a plane was devised.

The night of 24 September was a great day for the non-coms as their club was opened. Although the club was not completely finished it was to the extent that there was room for everyone to enjoy the opening. Music was furnished by S Sgt Russ Locandro's Stateside Seven. The Stateside Seven is known as the "Best Little Band on Tinian" and is the original Kagu-Tsuchi Group Band.

In question some of the non-coms it seems to have been a record opening for the first time in a long time there was enough beer and whisky to go around.

Following the opening of the non-coms club the officers had their official opening on the night of 24 September. The 40th Group orchestra was present again with their good music. This band was organized by 1st Lt. A. L Harding III shortly after the war was over. It contains 13 pieces.

Quite a few of the officers were present with dates. This added to the good time that was had by all.

Despite the fact that there is a 70 foot bar it seemed to be crowded all through the evening and usually about three deep. (Photos 10 – 13 are of club opening).

28 September was a date that members of the 40th Bomb Group had been waiting for. Yes, the movement to the States had begun. Fifteen planes from the 444th Bomb Group took off for Kwajalein And thence to Mather Field, ??? with the 40th Bomb Group to leave plus 12, 10 October, awaited by everyone very anxiously.

PAUL D. CAM
1ST Lt, Air Corps
Historical Officer

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Group History, 40th Bomb Gp, Sep 45, Cont'd

ADJUTANT AND PERSONNEL

Unit Personnel Section

Headadjustment and ???: The total of officers and enlisted men to depart for the United States with the 40th Bombardment Group reached an unprecedented 342 during the month of September. This Group, consisting of 61 officers and 281 enlisted men, qualified for return to the mainland because of high point critical scores or over age. Personnel returned via the western Pacific Post Command at Saipan or as passengers on homeward bound B-29 aircraft.

The official victory of Japan announcement brought forth a recomputation of all critical scores as of 2 September. In view of the impending shipment of the 58th Bombardment Wing, rosters were prepared to place all officers and enlisted men in different categories based on their points accrued. This would result in all personnel either being returned to the States by air or water movement, or being transferred to other organizations overseas. High point men were placed on schedules to depart as crew members or as passengers on returning B-29's. Records were screened to ready all men over 35 years of age for return.

The turn of events during the month of September placed the emphasis on processing of records in unit personnel; it is anticipated that this type of work will be continued to an even greater extent until all impending shipments are realized.

Promotions: With the loss of a great number of high ranking men during the month of September, it was possible to make 541 promotions. Many of these men had been in grade for long periods of times. Within Group Headquarters, three officers and 12 enlisted men were promoted.

Significant Changes: The following significant changes, including transfer and new assignments, took place during the month of September:

Colonel Miles was relieved as Group Deputy Commander and was transferred to the 313th Bombardment Wing. He was replaced by Lt Col Schaaf, who was also appointed Group Movement Project Officer. Lt. Col. ??? assumed Lt. Col Shaaf's duties as Group Executive Officer.

Major Miller replaced Major Manfrin as Operations Officer of the Group. Major Rivers was replaced by Lt. Ruether as Group Communications Officer and Major ??? was named as Assistant Group Project Officer. Captain Scow was replaced by Lt. Larson as Personnel Adjutant.

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Group History, 40th Bomb Gp, Sep 45, Cont'd

Rotations: Combat crew rotations ...

Officers:

Strength as of 1 September		Strength as of 30 September	
Colonel	2	Colonel	1
Lt Col	7	Lt Col	2
Major	8	Major	7
Captain	13	Captain	10
1st Lt	11	1st Lt	7
2nd Lt	0	2nd Lt	0
	43		27

Enlisted Men:

Strength as of 1 September		Strength as of 30 September	
1 Sgt	4	1 Sgt	1
T Sgt	5	T Sgt	6
S Sgt	10	S Sgt	14
Sgt	17	Sgt	15
Cpl	15	Cpl	19
Pfc	12	Pfc	7
Pvt	0	Pvt	0
	66		63

Savings: During the month of September 1945, 15 percent of the officers and 18 per cent of the enlisted men purchased War bonds by deductions from pay rolls and pay vouchers.

Soldier's Deposits and PTs continue to be the most regular method of saving to be used by Group Personnel. It is estimated that more than 85 per cent of Headquarters personnel use either of these two methods of savings.

Awards and Decorations: Although recommendations for Awards have ceased to be processed through this Headquarters, there are still many awards and decorations that are pending. Upon receipt of orders in regards to the recommendations submitted by this Headquarters, this phase of work will have been completed.

**F. W. McWalters
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant**

Group History, 40th Bomb Gp, Sep 45, Cont'd

TECHNICAL INSPECTOR

During the month of September, 96 engine changes were made. All acquired with over 200 hours were replaced. Each airplane also received a thorough 100 hour inspection. In order to accomplish all necessary inspections, additional inspectors were called upon to assist in this mass project. Inspection reports were not submitted during this time. However, every crew chief was given a list of discrepancies noted during this inspection for his information and edification. All inspections revealed that the airplanes were still being maintained in a most satisfactory manner, although most of the old crew have already have returned to the States. This is a good testimonial of excellent training by the older men.

The adjutant inspector made 100 hour inspections of all airplanes in preparation for their return to the States. The majority of minor discrepancies, times overloading during ??? operations, were repaired. Technical ?? were complied with as completed, as was ???. All excess equipment was removed from airplanes and turned over to supply. In general, all ships and all airplanes were in excellent condition.

Thorough inspections were made of ??? ... and radar inspections. Only minor discrepancies were ?? corrected by the squadron maintenance personnel. The airplanes newly assigned to this group from either wings were found to be consistently below our maintenance standards.

During the month more Air Force inspectors made inspections of files, forms and records of this office. Powered ground equipment was also inspected by them.

Major Albert E. Evans was assigned to this department as Group Administrative Inspector. Major Evans was previously assigned to the 28th Service Group.

WILLIAM J. HEIGHT
Major, Air Corp
Technical Inspector

**25th Bombardment Group
Office of the Historical Officer
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San Francisco, California**

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1 December 1945

SQUADRON HISTORY

1 September to 30 September 1945

There were 159 officers assigned to the 25th Squadron on the First of September, sixteen officers were on Temporary duty and nine were on detached service. On 30 September there were 141 Officers assigned to the Squadron. Fifteen of these were on temporary duty and seven were on detached service.

There were 530 enlisted men assigned on 1 September – 12 on temporary duty and 29 on detached service. On 30 September there were 420 enlisted men – 11 on temporary duty and eight on detached service.

This has been a pretty quiet month for Squadron personnel. The power display mission over Tokyo on 2 September called 15 airplanes into the air. After that the Squadron settled down to training flights, instrument practice and checks and changing engines in preparation for air movement of the squadron to the United States. On the 30th almost all planes were designated “ready.” The ground crews did a fine job in preparing their planes and should be commended for their efforts.

There has been 109 promotions during the month and many awards have come in. A breakdown of promotions show:

Captain to Major	2
T Sgt to M Sgt	3
S Sgt to T Sgt	15
Sgt to S Sgt	56
Cpl to Sgt	48
Pfc to Cpl	32
Pvt to Pfc	3

There have been no demotions between 1 September and 30 September.

During the month 41 officers and 165 enlisted men were transferred ??. Two officers and four enlisted men have been transferred into the Squadron.

Squadron History , 1 September – 30 Sep. 45, Cont'd

Lt. Col Kingsbury left the Squadron to fly the first step from Tokyo to Washington, he landed in Chicago. When he left the Squadron Lt Col J. D. White took over as squadron commanding officer. Col White left the Squadron on 21 September to return to the States and our present commanding officer, Major J. C. Eigenmann, took over.

To date 1945 has been filled with speech-making events and crowded with excitement and problems of great variety and complexity. The making of war in the pursuit of peace, our emergence as a victorious nation, the sweat and ?? and the constant push of man and machine, the evidence of achievement, the weakening of the enemy, the spectacular destruction of his factories of war – these are a few of the many happenings, which have marked one of the most eventfully periods of our history. These are a few of the things that have been close to the fighting man, a few of the things that have presented problems, provided work, made achievements evident.

Now the ware has drawn to a close, men have relaxed and thanked God for guiding them safely through. They have turned their eyes and hearts, and hopes toward home. They wait as demobilization proceedings,??? rumors, ?? information ??? every source with one thought in mind, why don't they send me home.

In spite of the few hypocritical individuals who are never satisfied, in spite of the everchanging redeployment plans, and in spite of the recent inactivity, the 25th squadron shows much evidence of a high morale.

**G.E. Oaks
Captain, Air Corps
Historical Officer**

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