

HISTORY

of the

484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

1 December 1943 to 31 December 1943

I. ORGANIZATION NOTHING TO REPORT.

Nothing to report.

II. FUNCTIONS

Original function is to train this group for combat duty. Progress made in that endeavor is more completely outlined in section VII (Training)

III. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

On 5 December 1943 2nd Lieut. JOHN V. BARBER was assigned to the Group and appointed Group Photographic Officer, (*1)

On December 1 Group strength was 1060 men and officers. This figure had grown to 1546 by the month's end.

IV. STATIONS

Nothing to report.

V. PERSONALITIES

Nothing to report.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

It is the policy of this command that despite possible delays in the training process, no chances will be taken with borderline aircraft. It is the further policy of this command that all flying missions be accomplished above 20,000 feet. Every attempt is being made, too, to complete ground school in the first forty five days of training so that so that when our 'fly-away' aircraft are available, all time may be devoted to flying training.

VI. TRAINING

On 31 December 1943 we had in the Group seven crews who had previously completed three phases of training. These were assigned as Flight Commander crews. Remaining Flight Commander crews were headed by pilots with long experience on anti-submarine patrol or with many hours as instructors in various Army flying schools.

By month's end we had our full complement of 70 crews to be trained, but only 16 aircraft for their training. Of the 16 aircraft, most were in deplorable condition and in some cases they could not be released from Sub Depot for several days due

TRAINING (Cont'd)

to lack of proper equipment. After such release maintenance required to put them in flying condition wasted more valuable time.

Sub Depot supply of necessary parts and equipment has only been fair. This is largely due to the fact that this base formerly serviced B-17 aircraft and arrangements for change over to B-24 aircraft were incomplete or tardy.

Weather flying conditions were almost uniformly excellent throughout the month. At times we suffered from fairly severe cold but the field was only on instruments for a total of 33 hours during the entire month.

Base has provided both air-to-air and air-to-ground gunnery ranges now in use. With our own personnel we have built ranges for pistol, rifle, carbine and sub machine gun. Approximately 50% of our personnel, both air and group echelons have completed their small arms courses.

Group Bombardier during the month supervised the construction of new Bombing targets and in the new range there are now three targets.

As described partially above our maintenance problems have been great. Three factors have contributed to the record. First, the aircraft received were in very poor condition. In one squadron of the first four aircraft received, three had over 1000 hours flying time. Air Corps supply, was fair or worse as indicated above. Finally, most of our engineering personnel with the exception of officers and cadre were green. Consequently our aircraft were continually out of commission from either one or a combination of these causes. In spite of these things we have flown many missions and we have had no accidents.

Ground school and flying time schedules have been arranged so that in each Squadron three flights fly daily while the other three flights attend school. This arrangement is changed day about. Further, on days when crews fly a six hour period, there is another four hour period when they get in link or bomb trainer work and small arms firing. All Second Air Force school requirement minimums are being met and in many cases extra time is allotted where considered necessary.

TRAINING (Cont'd)

We have supplied instructors for 85% of ground school classes taught. Pilots and co-pilots have had an hourly average thru the month of 40 hours. 31 Navigators received 28 hours credit in Celestial Navigation Trainer at the Gowen Field School.

TRAINING ACCOMPLISHED

We completed 50% of the flying time required for the month of December. 16 missions per day were necessary to complete second phase training and only 4 missions and only 4 missions per day were flown. A total of 710 hours and 50 minutes were flown on 139 completed missions. A total of 31 bombs were dropped and 15,000 rounds of ammunition were expended. Each crew flew 2.43 hours formation flight of which time .7 hours were flown over 20,000 feet.

Ground school training for the month was completed 100%.

It is estimated at this time that all training will be completed 5 March 1943.

VIII. MORALE

Most of the factors affecting morale have been covered in previously submitted volumes of this document. However we have just experienced a holiday season in these new quarters. Most vital factor of morale at Christmastime is the handling of mail. Many of the difficulties experienced have been ironed out, tho some few remain. Yet on the whole the base postal personnel did yeomanlike work to get all the mail out to all personnel before Christmas day had ended. They're to be congratulated on a job well done.

Special Services has recently instituted a Birthday Dance on a monthly basis, wherein all men celebrating birthdays, for instance, in the month of December, are invited to attend a dance during that month...thus far the idea has been very favorably received.

A few of the personnel of the Group have found places on the Base basketball team and have invariably scored heavily.

XII PROMOTIONS

Not previously reported was the promotion of 1st Lieut. Milton S. Barrody, Intelligence Officer, 825th Bomb Sq to the grade of Captain, 10 November 1943, War Department Order #314, par 17.

PROMOTIONS (Cont'd)

Promotions of Enlisted Men within the Group for the month of December are attached hereto. (*2)

(*1 - SO#37, par 3, Hq 484th Bombardment Group (H), 5 December

(*2 - SO#37, PARS 1 & 2, Hq 484th Bomb Gp (H), 15 December 1943

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

SPECIAL ORDERS

- *1 - Special Order # 37, paragraph 3, Headquarters 484th Bombardment Group, Army Air Base, Harvard, Nebraska, dated 5 December 1943. (Assignment of Officer)
- *2 - Special Order # 47, paragraphs 1 and 2, Headquarters 484th Bombardment Group (H), Army Air Base, Harvard, Nebraska, dated 15 December 1943. (Promotion of EM)