

# 7th Station Complement Squadron War Diary

## 7th STATION COMPLEMENT SQUADRON

### Unit History 1943

Note: This summary is from the end of the 7th SCS diary, but is included here context.

The 7th Station Comp Sqd is essentially to so-called 'House Keeping Unit' of AAF #167. Under its jurisdiction and responsibilities, come such duties as to pertain to the care, maintenance, operation and security of a base from whence fly heavy bombers, which have made so definite a contribution to the downfall of Germany.

Personnel of the squadron keep a constant vigilance for the possibilities of enemy action against the station, maintenance of gun pits and manning of them in alerts, the constant drilling and practicing of these important features of defense, are the obligations of the squadron. This work was of great importance back in the days when the Luftwaffe were more potent, and attack on our bases was more imminent. But even today care must be taken that a last ditch attempt to disable our runways by frantically fanatic Nazi fighters is not possible of success.

It is impossible to operate a large bomber base without a complete and coordinated traffic control, both in the air and on the ground. This is the function of the control tower section, which is composed of men and officers of this squadron. Their duties include the control, maintenance and supervision of the runways, planning and scheduling of the take offs and landings of the planes, instruction of fliers in the rules and regulations governing flying over the UK and the continent, administration work regarding flights and traffic, maintenance of flare paths and every necessary movement pertaining to the orderly disposition of air traffic on and over the base.

Officers and men of the squadron also comprise the permanent staff of the Station Utilities Section. This section is responsible for the complete maintenance of the station from repairing runways to fixing a stove pipe. All problems concerning the station's maintenance as a conditioned base from which planes can fly and in which men can live, are their immediate concern.

Transportation is another very important items to which the Station Complement Squadron personnel contributes heavily. Trucks to haul supplies and personnel in and out of the base, hauling the heavily clothed fliers from their quarters to their planes and back again, vehicles to meet the outgoing and incoming trains; the famed liberty run convoys to nearby towns and transportation for all special purposes is a vital operation in maintaining the station. In addition there is the repair and maintenance of those vehicles and the proper and orderly dispatch and supervision of them.

Communication, which is so essential to an air base, is operated in a great measure by the personnel of this squadron, who run the great switchboard, the teletype room, integral unit whereby the telephone system is controlled, while others are operators of the RF-DF station, whereby radio contact is held with the planes and other bases.

Other members of the squadron are occupied with almost every activity on the station. Most of the staff of the Post Exchange are squadron men, including the NCO in charge; members of the Information-Education section of the base; the personnel section; cooks in the consolidated and officers mess are from this squadron.

The C.O. Major Morton D. Joyce is an Air Inspector for the base, a most important position for it is his function to see that everything is in perfect and operative condition at all times. Like most squadrons, the 7th Station Complement Sqd, is a self containing unit, maintaining its own administration, supply and operation sections.

THE 7th Station Complement Squadron activated on April 1943  
as per Par 1 SO #32 HQ Third Air Force.

April 1943

- 15. Cadre of 6 EM (Enlisted Men) arrived Jacksonville, from 3AF RD (Replacement Depot), Tampa, Fla.
- 17. Chemical Officer, 2nd Lt John V. Gaughan, assigned, joined and assumed command.
- 20. Capt Arthur H. Baldwin, assigned and took over command. Capt Bendix L. Peterson, 1st Lts Robert McCue, Arthur E. Cole, Lyle H. Webb, V. McQueen, Chester Vaughan and 2nd Lt M. Schubach, assigned.
- 21. 2nd Lt G.W. Emmett assigned.

May

- 1. Squadron brought up to full strength. Entire went to rifle range at Camp Blanding, Fla., to record. Bivouaced overnight.
- 9. Squadron went on ten mile training hike with full field pack .
- 10. 1st Lt Vaughan transferred to Greenville AAB.
- 11. Capt Peterson, 1st Lts McCue, Cole and McQueen relieved from assignment and transferred to 97th Base HQ & Air Base Squadron .
- 25. Entire squadron departed from Jacksonville, Fla., for Camp Kilmer, NJ.
- 27. Squadron arrived Camp Kilmer, NJ.
- 31. Squadron departed Camp Kilmer for New York Port of Embarcation.

June

- 1. Squadron sailed on Queen Mary for England.
- 7. Landed at Firth of Clyde, Scotland. Departed by train for Station AAF #167.
- 8. Arrived AAF #167, Ridgewell, near Halstead, Essex County, England.
- 25. 1st Lt Richard W. Edwards assigned squadron.
- 29. Sgt Robert Anderson accidentally killed in line of duty, but not by his own misconduct.

July

1-31. Usual garrison duties.

August

- 1-16. Usual garrison duties.
- 17. 2nd Lt J. B. Truxal assigned.
- 18-31. Usual garrison duties.

## September

8. 1st Lt R. W. Edwards (Flying Control) promoted captain.
9. S/Sgt Tolbert transferred as gunner to 535th Bomb Sq.
23. T/Sgt Holms transferred as gunner to 535th BS.
- 24-30. Usual garrison duties.

## October

1. 2nd Lt John V. Gaughan promoted 1st Lt.
2. 2-17- Usual garrison duties.
18. 2nd Lt Leon Wagner assigned for Flying Control.
24. 1st Lt Herman S. Bendall (CE) and 28 EM attached for rations and quarters -Fire Fighting Platoon.
31. 2nd Lt Don Hope assigned for Flying Control.

## November

2. 2nd Lt G. W. Emmett to ASR School (14 days). Cpl William J. Linnane to CWS School (12) .
4. Cpl Refugio (Rudi) Ramirez to CWS School (12); Cpl Victor Trejbel to Sperry Ball Turret School (30).
12. Capt James G. Brown assigned as Chaplain.
16. 10 EM (.521 classification) assigned from AAF 594 8AF RD, Jefferson Hall, Stone, Staffordshire.
17. Sgt Walter E. Hardman transferred to Department of Patients, 121st Station Hospital (White Courts, Braintree, Essex) .
19. Cpl Harrington and Pvt Helminiak transferred in group to 448th Sub Depot.
20. S/Sgt Davis transferred to 82nd Service Group cadre; 13 EM ( 82nd Service Group cadre attached for rations, quarters and administration; 25 EM assigned from HQ & HQ Sq 82nd Service Group; 16 EM assigned from 330th Service Group.

The following were assigned from 82nd Service Group:

Capt Rodney L. Wright as Station Defense Officer. Capt Morton D. Joyce as Assistant Administration Officer, Capt George J. Pease as Medical Officer; 1st Lt John J. Connors as Station Chemical Officer; 1st Lt Francis X. Mulherin as Station Transport Officer; 1st Lt Glen E. McCleary as Post Exchange Officer; 1st Lt Joseph V. Fick as Medical Administration Officer; 1st Lt William W. Ham assigned from 330th Service Group as SD Station HQ.

Cpl Carroll F. Campbell transferred to 532nd BS; Pvt Forrest V. Stansbury transferred to 533rd BS. Pfc Andres H. Joerger transferred to 534th BS; Cpl Frank A. Boroviak assigned from 532nd BS; Pfc William E. Berrells assigned from 533rd BS and Cpl August Psikal assigned from 534th BS.

## December

2. S/Sgt Louis G. Alley assigned from 30th Combat Wing.
6. Pfc William L. Cossey transferred to Dept/Patients, 121st Station Hospital, Braintree.
14. Sgt Julius A. Kovacs assigned from 534th BS; Pfc Oscar P. Frazee assigned from 535th BS; Pvt Julius De Los Olives assigned from 533rd BS and Sgt Henry H. Thomas assigned from 381st BG.
22. Pfc Oscar P. Frazee DS to #3 Signal School at RAF Compton Bassett (7 weeks); Lt Col Ralph G. La Rue assigned from

448th Sub Depot as Admin Inspector.

26. Sgt Henry L. Fournier transferred to Dept. Patients 298th General Hospital, APO 508.

## 7th STATION COMPLEMENT SQUADRON

### Unit History 1944

#### **January 1944**

9. Cpl Louis Martin assigned from 12th RCD.

13. Lt Col La Rue and Capt Wright transferred to AAF 117, Kimbolton, Hunts.

15. Capt Morton D. Joyce appointed Station Admin. Officer. Lt Lyle H. Webb appointed Station Defense Officer,

21. Cpl Ralph R. Holcomb attended 8th BC Gunnery School, AAF. 172, Snettisham, Norfolk.

24. Lt Don Hope transferred to 41st Sta Comp Sq., AAF 102, Alconbury.

26. George C. Baker sentenced three months hard labor by Special Court Martial. Lt Glen McLeary and Pfc George Kiesel, DS for two weeks at RAF Anti-Gas School; Ranzey D. Pierce transferred to 535th BS.

30. Squadron increased by 28 EM assigned from AAF 167.

#### **February**

1. Cpl Burns and Pvt Stafford, DS to RAF Technical Training School (Electricians) for two weeks.

6. Lt Francis X. Mulherin released from station detail and assigned Station Detail Officer; Lt William W. Ham assigned Station Transport Officer.

11. Capt James G. Brown assigned 381st HQ as Chaplain, Capt Martin Collett also assigned as Chaplain; Lt Fred. W. Nudell assigned from 532nd BS as Station Technical Inspector.

14. Lt G. W. Emmett transferred to 532nd BS; Capt Arthur W. Baldwin, Commanding Officer, transferred to 384th BG, AAF #106, Grafton Underwood.

15. Capt Morton D. Joyce assumed command; Lt John V. Gaughan transferred to AAF #594, Jefferson Hall, Stone, Staffordshire.

16. Cpl Ralph R. Holcomb transferred to 532nd BS; Pvt John D. Osborne to 535th; Cpls Gillette, Becker and Helms, and Pfc Lilley assigned from 532nd; Pvt Rupe assigned from 533rd and Pvt Woolf from 534th.

18. All Officers and EM took physical fitness test, but the results were not as satisfactory as could be.

22. Cpl John B. Lloyd assigned from 532nd BS and S/Sgt Henry B. Fournier from 12th RCD.

25. Capt George J. Pease DS to 303rd Station Hospital.

26. Pfc Carl Gross transferred to 532nd BS. Cpl Lester B. Ankepan assigned from 532nd BS.

#### **March**

8. Harvey Cooper assigned from 1st Bomb Division; William L. Cossey assigned from 12th RCD., Sgt Anthony Baptist attended 12 day course at RAF Anti-Gas School.

11. Lyle H. Webb promoted captain, effective March 1.

12. John Divito transferred to 5th CCRC.

14. 1st Lt John J. Connors transferred to 9th Air Service Command.
19. Peter M. Nicolaef transferred to Det 5, ASC, USSTAF.
20. John V. Callaghan assigned from 1st Bomb Division.
22. Capt O. L. Dannenbrink assigned from AAF .594, Jefferson Hall, Stone, Staffordshire.
23. All officers and EM required to take at least two hour of close order drill every week.
24. S/Sgts Anderson and Maxwell promoted to T/Sgt.
25. Richard M. Bazan and Arthur Trabits assigned from 1775th Ordnance Company; 2nd Lt Gene S. Sarli assigned from 8AF Composite Command.
26. M/Sgt James K. Hatton assigned from 381st BG HQ.
27. Capt O. L. Dannenbrink transferred to 1st Station Comp Sqd. AAF 121, Bassingbourn.
28. 1st Lt Loren C. Gray, service changed from AC to CE.
31. Henry L. Stills assigned from 381st Bomb Group; 2nd Lt Joseph Solis assigned from 1st Bomb Division.

## **April**

2. Cpl William A. Becker assigned from AAF 594, Jefferson Hall, Stone, Staffordshire .
7. Pvt Leonard W. Boothe assigned from 1st Air Division.
21. Pfc Charles E. Naab and Pvt Ernest E. Dahl transferred to 352nd Service Group, AAF #179, Harrington, Northants .
24. Cpl Clarence A. Tharp and Pvt Gordon V. Graham, sent on DS to AAF #572 Melchbourne, Bedford, Drivers School, (7 days) .
26. Pvt Edward C. Draig and Sgt Charles R. Jerabek transferred to 352nd Station Complement Sqd, AAF 131, Nuthampstead, Herts.
27. Pfc Stephen A. Callegari and Pvt Ansley E. Horrell assigned from 352nd Station Complement Sqd, AAF 131, Nuthampstead, Herts.
29. Sgt John A. Furrer assigned from 1st Bomb Division HQ Sqd.

## **May**

1. Pvt G. Skellington assigned from 89th Sta. Comp Sqd; Cpl W..D. Funk transferred to 1st Photo Lab School, AAF #465, Chalgrove, Oxford.
3. Cpl J. E. Stewart and Pfc A. D. Cimino, DS at AAF Gunner School, AAF #639.
4. S/Sgt D. F. Rigo, DS to 1st Bomb Division (Tire Maintenance course).
10. Pvt D. H. Rupe transferred to HQ & HQ Sqd, ASC USSTAF; 1st Lt W. W. Ham, DS to Armament School Center (12 days); Capt M. J. Collett (chaplain) transferred to 89th Station Complement Sqd.
11. Capt S. J. O'Connor (chaplain) assigned from HQ ASC USSTAF. All officers and EM took physical fitness test.
13. Nine EM and two officers released from duty, to 1142nd MP Co. for special duty.
15. Sgt R. K. Murkin transferred to 532nd BS; 2nd Lt Robert M. Schubach promoted to 1st Lt; six EM on DS to 2021st Engineers as fire fighters .
21. Pvt K. Trabits transferred to 1245th QMC Service Group (Avn) .
24. S/Sgt Rigo and Pvt Kaufman to DS at AAF 158, Sudbury, Derbyshire.
26. Pfc A. Pyne transferred to Dept. of Patients at 96th General Hospital.

## **June**

1. 2nd Lt Truxal promoted 1st Lt and Lt Nudell promoted to captain.
3. S/Sgt Burns transferred to HQ & HQ Sqd 2nd Bomb Division; Cpls Fox, Wilson and Burns DS to Airfield Control School, for three weeks.
6. Capt C. L. Stavincha, DC, attended this organisation.
9. Pvt Stille transferred to 9th Troop Carrier Command; Cpl McNally transferred to 381st BG, Pvt Giordano to 532nd and Pfc Malyak to 535th BS .
10. T/Sgt A. A. Albright assigned from 381st BG; Cpl W. H. Jordan, Pfc Callegari, Pvts Skellington, Chenault and Hubbard transferred to 1775th Ordnance Co .
11. First Sgt Stelzriede reduced to private and re-classified from 585 to 40.5.
13. Pvt Stelzriede transferred to 91st BG, Bassingbourn.
14. Sgt Shown, Pfc Murray, Pvts Gardella, Booth, Braun and Gould, transferred to 1207th QMC Service Group.
15. Pvt Nathaniel D. Olive assigned from 381st BG; 2nd Lt Solis, arm of service changed from SC to AC .
20. All officers and EM required to take physical exam.
21. 1st Lt Phil B. Kilmer assigned from 1st Bomb Division; 1st Lt Mulherin arm of service changed from AC to FD. 23- 2nd Lt Solis transferred to 9th AF Defense Command; Cpl Fry, DS to Airfield Controllers School {3 wks}.
25. Cpl McGreevey transferred to 532nd BS .
28. 1st Lt L. J. Lisnow DC, attached this organisation.

## **July**

4. Pvt E. D. Geeslin transferred to 1142nd MP Co.
5. 1st Lt Mulherin transferred to 204th Finance Section Accts.
12. 2nd Lt Gene S. Sarli attended 132 day Anti-Gas course.
13. S/Sgt Walter M. Hevron promoted T/Sgt and made acting First Sgt .
17. Pvt L. C. De Maria attended Drivers Maintenance School, AAF #572, Melchbourne, Bedford.
20. Pvt W. E. Wright sentenced six months hard labor by Special Court Martial.
27. 1st Lt E. F. Troy assigned for Flying Control.

## **August**

3. Sgt V. Kleepie attended Teletype Maintenance School for six days and passed OK.
12. Capt C. E. Stavincha released from this organisation; Cpl R. W. Otto on DS to Southern England as guard to return AWOL soldier back to this organisation.
15. Walter E. Hevron promoted First Sgt; Capt R .W .Edwards promoted major .
21. Six EM transferred to 2021st Eng. Avn. Battn., as Fire Fighting Platoon .
25. 1st Lt Joe Fick and 12 EM, all in Medical Dept., transferred to 381st BG.
31. Capt G. J. Pease to 8AF Rest Home for seven days; Four EM transferred to 17th RCD; first EM to be sent back to two on one {?} on VHS program.

## **September**

6. Pvt Marcos Ortiz, given DD and transferred to 2912th Disciplinary Training Center.
24. Cpl E. C. Clark transferred to 70th Replacement Depot (to two of one bound). (?)
27. Squadron re-organised under T/O and #1-4975 dated 23/4/44. Authorised #359 1st Bomb Division dated 24/9/44.

29. 2nd Lt Leon Wagner transferred to 533rd BS.

30. 1st Lt W. W. Ham transferred to 8AF HQ (Adjutant General's section); 1st Lt J. B. Truxal transferred to 32nd Station Complement Sqd. as F/O Officer; Capt G. J. Pease released assignment and appointed C.O. of 242nd Medical Dispensary (Avn); 13 EM of 242nd Med. Desp., attached for rations, quarters and administration.

### **October**

1. Capt Morton D. Joyce, C.O., promoted major.

2. 1st Lt L. C. Gray appointed Station Defense Officer – his principal duty; Capt L. H. Webb released Station Defense Officer, appointed Station Transport Officer; Pfc W. P. Mitchell transferred to 381st BG HQ.

3. Capt G. J. Pease transferred to 242nd Med. Disp. As C.O.; Pvt T. V. Bowden transferred to 70th Replacement Depot and thence to Zone of Interior; 2nd Lt G. S. Sarli transferred to 881st Chemical Co.; 1st Lt J. O. Renalds assigned from 881st Chemical Co. as Station Chemical Officer.

6. Capt W. F. Orton and seven EM – Station Finance Section, attached for rations and quarters.

15. Pvt R. E. Woolf transferred to 2912th Disciplinary Training Center.

17. Pfc J. M. Roberts and Pvt C. E. Fyles on DS seven days at Drivers Maintenance School. Passed OK with 90%.

23. Sgt G. A. Huston transferred to 70th Replacement Depot, thence to Zone of Interior.

### **November**

17. Capt L. H. Webb transferred to Casual Pool, thence to Zone of Interior.

Balance of month – Usual garrison duties.

### **December**

12. Sgt Ben W. Bailey attended Mine & Booby Trap School at RAF West Kirby, Cheshire. Passed OK.

14. 1st Lt Renals transferred to 881st Chemical Co.; 2nd Lt Alley assigned from 881st Chemical Co.

28. Pvt E. J. Daneri transferred to 535th BS.

## 7th STATION COMPLEMENT SQUADRON

### Unit History 1945

### **January 1945**

1. Pvts Bullard, Cape, De Maria, Fyles, Gaskill, Graham, Hamminger, Jacobson, Kaufman, Olive, Rizzolo and Swafford promoted to Pfc.

3. 2nd Lt Roy L. Alley transferred to 535th BS.

9. Sgt Arthur Gordon and Pvt Charles R. Russell transferred to 2021st Eng Avn Fire Fighting Platoon.

11. 1st Lt E. E. Davies and 16 EM, 1761st Ordnance S & M Co (Avn) and 14 EM HQ and HQ Sqd .333 Service Group attached for rations, quarters and to work for Utilities Dept at this station, from AAF#342, Atcham, Shropshire .

19. Cpl J. E. Stewart transferred 1142nd MP Company (Avn); T/5 C .C. Cottrell assigned from 1142nd MP Co (Avn).

24. 1st Lt E. E. Davies released from attachment.

25. 1st Lt W. K. Callagy, on DS from AAF #342, Atcham, Shropshire, attached for rations and quarters.

27. 1st Lt Leon Wagner assigned from 533rd BS .

30. Pfc Grossman, Pvts Baker and Schudt transferred to 12 Maintenance Depot, Reinforcement Command.

### **February**

3. Cpl C. A. Tharpe and Pfc Louis C. De Maria on DS to Station A-84 for approx. seven days. Departed with trucks to haul supplies needed at the front.

4. Pfc A. B. Smith to 121st Station Hospital, Braintree. Submitted to the use of different types of sulfa drugs in combating a very high fever. Quite successful.

7. John V. Callaghan transferred to 381st BG.

12. Sgt A. Baptist, Cpl Otho W. Wheet and Pvt Herman E. Hoffman transferred to 881st Chemical Co; Pfc Tom W. Sawyers to Drivers Maintenance School at AAF #572, Melchbourne, Bedford.

18. 1st Lt Leon Wagner, DS to Wide Wing Area, UK Base School for officers and to be used for Information and Education program being set up .

20. T/4 Leon S. Rosenthal assigned from 128th Reinforcement Depot.

23. Pfcs Lohmann Gardiner, Billy Sneed and Pvt Louis De Vone transferred to 12th Reinforcement Command as Infantry reinforcements.

### **March**

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During this month, members of the squadron continued at their routine duties and in addition carried out a number of extra-curricular activities. Personnel co-operated in improving the squadron area, re-siting stones along the walks and tidying up the roads after ravages of winter months. The orderly room was repainted and several of the Quonset (Nissen) huts were given interior decoration. New chains were furnished for the day rooms and the squadron barber shop was made more attractive. The supply room was moved to more commodious quarters.

The members of the squadron and all sections co-operated in the campaign to achieve 100 days without a ground accident and so far the record is perfect. The new squadron insignia patch arrived and were distributed to the personnel. These patches are recognizable by the huge octopus surmounting the field. In its various tentacles are the symbols of the diverse activities of the squadron.

The information-education section held weekly meetings at which various subjects of interest and information were discussed. One meeting was held for the purpose of acquainting the squadron with the intricacies of the GI Bill of Rights. At two others, forums were held on the information-education program itself. The education survey blanks were distributed by the base section, and a complete 100% return, a good indication that the men are intending to better themselves on their return to civilian life.

Towards the end of the month all hands turned out to congratulate the squadron's popular First Sgt, Walter M. Hevron, whose English wife gave birth to a baby boy.

## **April**

1-14. Usual Garrison Duties.

15. 7th Station Complement Squadron was disbanded, as per Section 2, GO #52 HQ 8AF, dated 15/4/45. The personnel to be absorbed by new squadrons being formed.