

The 1591st Ordnance Association

formed in the  
European Theater of Operations  
April Tenth 1944

through the  
Friendship and Fellowship  
of the  
members of the  
1591st Ordnance Company of  
The Ninth Army Air Force

## ARTICLES

### I. NAME:

This organization shall be known as "The 1591st Ordnance Association".

### II. PURPOSE:

To unite the 1591st Ordnance Company into an organization which will tend to keep in touch with all its members in civilian life.

To meet about once a year at a company reunion.

### III. MEMBERSHIP:

Shall be composed of Enlisted Men of the 1591st Ordnance Company.

### IV. EXECUTIVES:

The Organization shall have a president, a secretary and a treasurer.

- (a) President: Shall be the leader and will be assisted by the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- (b) Secretary: Shall be responsible for co-operation with the president and the treasurer in maintaining records and correspondence other than that of the treasurer.
- (c) Treasurer: Shall be responsible for collecting fees, keeping treasury records and disbursing of funds upon recommendation of a committee which shall be

### IV. EXECUTIVES

- (c) Treasurer - Continued.  
composed of the present executives.  
The treasurer shall be bonded in the amount of One Thousand dollars. (\$1,000.00).

### V. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVES:

- (a) President: Selected by a nominating committee composed of all present executives and voted upon by a poll of members.
- (b) Secretary and Treasurer: Shall be selected from the same section of the country as the president lives or in approximate vicinity so as to better aid the president in handling affairs.
- (c) In the event of death or resignation of any executive a new one may be appointed by the other two executives for the remainder of the term.
- (d) Election of officers to be held at each company reunion.

### V. DUES:

- (a) A sum of money will be contributed by each member into a fund from which we will benefit in civilian life to put forth the purpose of this organization. Purpose explained in Art. I, mainly as a company reunion about once a year. Meetings to be held in a different section of the country each time for which certain expenses will be paid.



V. DUES - Continued:

- (b) Any non-member wishing to join this organization or attend a reunion may do so by either:
  - (1) pay back dues for that year, or
  - (2) pay all expenses to the reunion plus a fee of Five dollars.
- (d) If a member does not attend a reunion his amount of dues is not forfeited but is added to the next year's fees.
- (e) However if a member does not attend a reunion he will be assessed the amount of Five dollars to cover the cost of overhead and correspondence.
- (f) Dues - \$2.00 per month.

VII. Articles of this constitution may be changed, amended, or modified by discussion and vote at a regular business meeting of a reunion.

(Constitution Amended as of Sep. 1946)

E X T R A C T

Par. 6d, Unit Historical Report, Final:

..... And so it is during the month of June 1945 that the final chapter of the 1591st Ordnance Company, Aviation, is written.

The unit was activated on 4 March 1943 at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma. After a brief two weeks stay in the sands of Oklahoma the unit moved to Barksdale Field, Louisiana, where its primary function was that of training: It was at this station that the unit actually began to "shape up". The unit trained beneath the hot sun of Barksdale while being part of and servicing the 318th Service Group. After earning excellent ratings in the countless number of all types of inspections the unit was deemed ready to embark upon its "MISSION".

On the 14th of September 1943 the unit entrained from Barksdale Field and following three long days of travelling around the United States, arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. At this station the unit underwent final staging area processing and theoretically said, "Goodbye for a while" to the United States.

In the afternoon of 27 September 1943 the unit boarded the S.S. Daniel Chester French for "Destination Unknown". It was a comparative luxury cruise since the only passengers on the Liberty Ship were the men of the 1591st.

Following seventeen days of seasickness, rumors, food and too much ocean we debarked at Newport, England and



Par. 6d, Unit Historical Report, Final, (cont.)

entrained for station 489, Cottesmore. It was at this base that we became assigned to Hq of the 9th Troop Carrier Command.

The next move was to Station 481, Bottesford, England where the unit again functioned as a Base Ordnance Company. While at this station frequent "Liberty Runs" were made available to Oakham, Nottingham, Leicester and Melton Mowbray.

The unit had its first experience with Nissen Huts upon movement to Station 455, Homesly South, England. The convoy of twenty-two vehicles left on the 165 mile trip at 0945 hours of the 19th February 1944 and arrived without any mechanical or physical mishap at 1700 hours of the same day. The stay of the unit at 455 was only long enough to allow for setting up operations. On the 7th of March 1944 the unit moved again but this time it was only a matter of a few miles. The Station was number 414 and the town, Winkton. It was an 'Engineer built strip' of the mesh runway type not far from the busy city of Bournemouth. It was here that the unit was moved into tents. The personnel ate, lived, and worked in the field and under complete field conditions. During the month of March the 404th Fighter Bomber Group moved onto the field and the entire organization then began full scale operations.

After months of training, working, adapting itself to field conditions, the unit prepared for another sea voyage... this one being just across the Channel to France. On 30 June 1944 the unit departed from station 414 en route to France.

Par. 6d, Unit Historical Report, Final, (cont.)

The Marching Party boarded the British Army Transport, George Able, at Southampton 2 July 1944 and disembarked on Omaha Beach 3 July 1944. They bivouaced on the Beach for that night and proceeded to Strip A-5, Chippelle, France the following morning. The Vehicle Party crossed the Channel on a Liberty Ship and arrived at its destination in spasms, the last vehicle arriving at A-5 on the 13th of July 1944.

While at this base the unit witnessed the famed Battle of St. Lo, including a bombing mission of three thousand Eighth Air Force Heavies. Many nights at A-5 were sleepless ones owing to enemy artillery and air action. The time spent at this "Home-made" airstrip will always be remembered by the men as the roughest part of their army careers in the 'Drive to Berlin'.

As the Fifth Army made its drive across France the unit moved. The first of such moves was to Strip A-48, Britigny, France. This base was a short drive from Paris and all of the personnel were given ample opportunity to enjoy the novel offerings of the French Capitol. It was at this base that Capt. John S. Carter was relieved of his command and replaced by Capt. Gottlob W. Zell.

On Sept. 13 1944, the unit headed for strip A-68, Juvincourt, France. This large German airbase brings back only the memories of "C" rations and Champagne for on the 30th of Sept. 1944 an advanced party left for strip A-92, St. Trond, Belgium. The unit's stay at this Belgian station was the longest of any that it had yet experienced. During that time the personnel became acquainted



Par. 6d, Unit Historical Report, Final, (cont.)

with the V-1 Buzzbomb and the V-2 Rocket. It was here too that they had sharp tastes of German air raids which came about the time of the "Bulge". In the latter part of January, amid snow and cold weather, the unit was forced to abandon their living and "tech" sites for defense reasons. The shops were moved into a large foundry in Melvern on the outskirts of St. Trond, while the personnel moved into a schoolhouse in the same vicinity. The busiest months for all sections were experienced in these new quarters.

On the 4th of April 1945 following the ground forces punches through the Rhine defenses, the organization moved to Y-54, Kelz, Germany. After a short stay at this base the unit moved to its present location, strip Y-86, Fritzlar, Germany. It was at this station that the personnel had to accustom themselves to the living conditions that they had known only in the United States. Modern building, electric lights, running water, installed plumbing and up-to-date rooms became part of the normal curriculum. It was at this base that the unit saw and celebrated VE Day.... It was at this base that the Redeployment Program took its toll of personnel.... and it was at this base that the epitaph of the unit was written.... and as the men who made up the 1591st Ordnance Co., Avn. went on to further duty; against Japan, home on discharge or even remained in Germany as the Army of Occupation, they will always have the satisfaction of knowing that they did what they set out to do and can always boast of it in two words, "MISSION COMPLETED".