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367TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Army Air Force Station F - 373
A.P.O. 637 U. S. Army

HH/mm

25 December 1943.

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To: Commanding Officer, Army Air Force Station F-373, A.P.O. 637,
U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with Paragraph 5 b, Fighter Command Memo 125-1,
a narrative history of this organization is herewith transmitted.

For the Squadron Commander:

Harvey Hall
HARVEY HALL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Executive.

1st Ind.

TAB/fmg

HQ AAF STATION F-373, APO 637, US Army, 27 Dec 43.

TO: Historian Officer, VIII Fighter Command, APO 637, US Army.
(Thru Channels)

Forwarded.

For the Station Commander:

T. A. Bartnick
T. A. BARTNICK,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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367TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
 Army Air Force Station F - 373
 A.P.O. 637 U. S. Army

HH/mm

25 December 1943.

Narrative History of 367th Fighter Squadron

The 367th Fighter Squadron was activated 1 January 1943 at Richmond Army Air Base, Richmond, Virginia. At this time a cadre of 4 Officers and 57 Enlisted Men formed the nucleus of the organization, one of three Squadrons of the 358th Fighter Group. The original officers were:

1st Lt. DONALD A. YOUNGLAS, Commanding Officer
 1st Lt. FELIX A. FRAZIER, JR., Operations Officer
 1st Lt. ANDREW J. MALATESTA, Supply Officer
 2nd Lt. HARVEY (NMI) HALL, Adjutant

During the period 1 January - 20 April the organization concentrated first on individual ground training, stressing physical fitness, and later on technical proficiency at the assigned jobs. Many men attended various advanced schools during this period; the organization was brought up practically to full strength by this time. An alert detachment was transferred to Bolling Field, Washington, D.C. during this period.

On 20 April, the organization moved to Camp Springs Army Air Base, Washington, D. C., where operational training was continued. At the time this Squadron went to Camp Springs the field was brand new, a station complement having moved on the field only two days previously. The Squadron became a corps of engineers for all practical purposes, working upon the improvement of its area, since the field was not yet operational, and flying personnel were with the alert detachment at Bolling Field. Things developed quickly, and by the time the alert detachment rejoined the organization (7 May, 1943) living and working conditions on the field were excellent.

On 29 May 1943 the 367th Fighter Squadron moved to Millville Army Air Base, Millville, New Jersey, for the purpose of receiving gunnery training, the final phase of Operational Training.

On 6 June a plane crashed on take-off, the Squadron's first crash since the time of activation, and the Squadron's record of hours was broken. The pilot escaped with very minor injuries.

On 16 June this Squadron moved to Philadelphia Army Air Base, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, operational training was completed during the organization's stay at this base.

On 13 August 1943, the organization returned to its home station, Richmond Army Air Base, for processing of supplies, materiel, and personnel preparatory to moving to the staging area. During this period we were inspected by every echelon of command by both administrative and technical staffs. The consensus of opinion seems to have been that we were ready for overseas duty. Physical conditioning was again stressed during this period; several hikes up to 15 miles in length were taken. A field kitchen was set up and a hot noon meal was served. On September 6 - 8 the organization set up a temporary Bivouac at West Point, Virginia. Flights set up tents in four separate areas, messing together in a squadron consolidated mess. Camp was broken on the morning of September 8th in a pouring rain. The morale of the men was high however, and the drenching did more damage to equipment than to spirits.

On 25 September 1943 the organization moved to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, a staging area of the New York Port of Embarkation. We here underwent a series of final inspections.

On 7 October the Squadron proceeded to the port proper and embarked for overseas duty.

On 20 October the organization reached Liverpool, England, and proceeded to Station F 345, where we were stationed temporarily for the purpose of receiving training in matters of specific importance in the theater. The pilots received additional gunnery training.

On 4 December the organization moved to its operational base, Station F 373, where every effort is being made to place the new base on combat status.

On 17 December 1943 the first group mission was scheduled and then cancelled because of weather.

Harvey Hall
 HARVEY HALL,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Historical Officer.

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 367TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
 Army Air Force Station F-157
 APO 638 U. S. Army

Mission No. 1
 December 20, 1943

Field Order No. 204
 Credit 2 sorties

Flights:

White	Lt Col Wells Lt Perry Lt Schilke Lt McCabe	Yellow	Major Younglas Lt Pousette Lt Van Cott Lt Wiersema
Red	Lt Sprietsma Lt Ballinger Lt Ognisty Lt Wilson	Blue	Capt Frazier Lt Voorhees Lt Pedigo Lt Fautt

Spares: Lt Siegel
 Lt Beach

The squadron provided penetration support for the Second Task Force of the BC which was attacking Bremen. Flying as indicated above they took off at 1041. Flying as briefed they made landfall at the center of Tessel Island. R/V with the bombers at 1128 hours and 27,000 feet altitude. They left the bombers at the designated time and left the enemy coast at 1144 hours, just north of Alkmaar. Altitude was about 26,000 feet. Two Me 109s were seen off the east coast of Tessel and approximately four bursts of flak were observed over Tessel Island. On the way home the squadron sighted a B-24 which exploded in vicinity of 52 degrees 28 minutes N - 2 degrees 23 minutes East. No chutes were seen. We had one ship abort because of supercharger failure. There were very thin clouds after leaving the English coast, about 5/10 for fifty miles on set course, it increased to 10/10 on course. Over the continent there were broken clouds, about 4/10 with good visibility. The squadron landed at 1225 hours. Lt Ballinger was the aborter, turning back just past mid-channel.

Incl #3

Mission No. 2
December 21, 1943

Field Order No. 206
Sweep. Credit 1 sortie

Flights:

White	Lt Col Wells Lt Perry Lt Sprietsma Lt Ballinger	Yellow	Capt Frazier Lt Pedigo Lt Peterson Lt Arnold
Red	Major Younglas Lt Voorhees Lt Siegel Lt Fautt	Spare	Lt Pousette

The squadron, flying as indicated above, took off at 1123 hours to provide medium bomber escort into France. Flying close to the English coast most of the way, they then went due east making landfall near Cayeux at 1203 hours about 20,000 feet. This being a general area support, they did not make rendezvous with the bombers, nor were they sighted. They circled around Amiens and then came home. They left the enemy coast near Biville at 1218 hours and altitude about 19,000 feet. They did not use belly tanks on this mission and could not stay in too long. There were 3 Me 109s sighted about 8 miles southwest of Amiens in the sun. The visibility was good and there were low scattered cumulus clouds over the continent, about 3/10. A light haze about 30 miles in. R/T reception was good. The squadron landed at 1317 hours. Lt Voorhees was listed as NYR as he ran low on gas and landed at Halesworth at 1315. He phoned Operations and after gassing up returned to the base.

Mission No. 3
December 22, 1943
Penetration Support

Field Order No. 207
Credit - 2 sorties

Flights:

White	Major Szaniswsi Lt Voorhees Lt Sprietsma Lt Ballinger	Yellow	Major Younglas Lt Waters Lt Van Cott Lt Wiersema
Red	Lt Schilke Lt McCabe Lt Pool Lt Schneider	Blue	Capt Frazier Lt Perry Lt Ognisty Lt Wilson

Spares: Lt Pedigo
Lt Bedford

The squadron, flying as indicated above took off at 1207 to provide penetration support for heavy bombers attacking Munster. Flew course as briefed to vicinity of Egmond, arriving at 1255 hours at 29,000 feet. Bombers could not be seen so squadron continued on course and made a 180 degree turn in the vicinity of Oldebrock, and came out along route to be followed by bombers going to target. No bombers were observed. Landfall out in the vicinity of Egmond at 1320 hours at 27,000 feet. A course of 280 degrees flown back to base. Bombers and fighters were observed to north of squadron on way home over the North Sea between an altitude of 24,000 to 28,000 feet. Streaky patches of cirrus clouds at 20,000 feet. Thin, spotty clouds between 20,000 feet and 25,000 feet. Visibility of the clouds was excellent, both horizontally and vertically. Persistent contrails between 19,000 and 20,000 feet. R/T good. Red Flight bounced a B-24 about 30 miles off English coast at an altitude of 16,000 feet. The squadron landed at 1410 hours. Lt Sprietsma aborted off enemy coast when belly tank failed to release.

Mission No. 4
December 24, 1943

Field Order No. 209
Area Support

Flights:

White	Major Younglas Lt Perry Lt Van Cott Lt Wiersema	Yellow	Major Wertenbaker Lt Peterson Lt Ognisty Lt Wilson
Red	Lt Sprietsma Lt Ballinger Lt Pedigo Lt Rueschhoff	Blue	Capt Frazier Lt Beach Lt Schilke Lt Pool

Spares: Lt Col Wells
Lt McCabe
Lt Arnold

Our squadron took off at 1251, flying the above indicated to provide general area support for medium and large bombers around St Omer. Major Jones, who was leading the Group, had to abort because his radio would not receive. He aborted just before the Group made landfall. Lt Col Wells, who was flying as one of our spares, took over and they made landfall a little south of the set course, going directly over Dunkerque and running into a heavy and accurate barrage of flak. One flight had to take evasive action. The time was 1325 and the altitude about 24,000 feet. The squadron proceeded inland making a sweeping turn to the left, and approached Lille, where AA fire was observed to be of the barrage type and was to the front and low. A turn was executed and the squadron proceeded to St Omer where again barrage type flak was sighted; the planes flew around this. Southeast of St Omer approximately eight bogies were observed patrolling at an altitude of 30,000 feet. The squadron circled around St Omer and then proceeded out of enemy territory making landfall slightly west of Calais at 1422 at an altitude of 23,000 feet. One pilot observed a factory type building to explode in the vicinity of St Omer. Heavy, accurate fire of flak was observed over Calais and appeared to be of the barrage type. One large red burst was seen slightly below and to the left of our formation. The squadron, with the exception of Lt Wiersema, landed at 1455. Lt Wiersema with his gas supply running low landed at Martlesham Heath and after calling had his plane gassed up and returned to base. There were scattered clouds, about 2/10 around 12,000 feet. The visibility was unlimited. R/T reception was very good.

Mission No. 5
December 30, 1943

Field Order No. 210
Penetration Support

Flights:

White	Major Younglas Lt Pousette Lt Perry Lt Arnold	Yellow	Capt Frazier Lt Waters Lt Van Cott Lt Fautt
Red	Lt Sprietsma Lt Ballinger Lt Voorhees Lt Bedford	Blue	Lt Schilke Lt McCabe Lt Pool Lt Schneider

Spares: Lt Peterson
Lt Pedigo

Patrol: Lt Ognisty
Lt Siegel

The squadron took off at 1020 with Major Younglas leading. The target for the heavies today is Ludwigshafen, and we are acting as penetration escort. The squadron made landfall in at Graveslines at 26,000 feet at 1102, and continued on course to Roye. Lt Van Cott had trouble with his belly tank, which failed to release, and Lt Peterson flying as a spare, took over his position. At Roye Major Younglas executed a left turn and continued on the course as briefed to the vicinity of Liart where another left turn was made. The squadron not seeing the bombers turned for home following the course, and making landfall out west of Ostend. R/T reception throughout the mission was good and visibility was excellent. Low stratus clouds were observed over the continent at 15,000 to 20,000 feet, from Lille on in. All planes returned to base landing at 1230. Slight damage was done to Lt Voorhees plane when it was hit by flak in the vicinity of St Omer.

Mission No. 6
December 31, 1943

Field Order No. 211
Penetration, Target, and
Withdrawal Support

Flights:

White	Lt Col Wells Lt Beach Lt Van Cott Lt Siegel	Yellow	Major Younglas Lt Rueschhoff Lt Sprietsma Lt Bedford
Red	Lt Ognisty Lt Wilson Lt Perry Lt Fautt	Blue	Lt Schilke Lt Schneider Lt Pool Lt Pousette

Spares: Lt Voorhees
Lt Arnold

Sixteen planes led by Lt Col Wells took off at 1037 to provide penetration, target and withdrawal support to heavy bombers attacking Paris. Major Younglas led the second section of the squadron. Lt Bedford aborted over the field just prior to the time that the squadron set course, and he was forced to return to base due to oil leaks. The squadron flew as briefed and made landfall in the vicinity of St Valery at 27,000 feet. R/V with bombers was made on schedule in the vicinity of Yerville at 27,000 feet at 1132. The bombers were escorted over Paris where heavy barrage type flak was encountered which was accurate for altitude. One B-17 was observed to be hit by flak and exploded southeast of Paris. Lt Sprietsma on becoming separated from his flight prior to reaching the target escorted a straggling B-17 to the target area where he was forced to withdraw due to low fuel supply, and joined a flight of P-47s led by Major Wertenbaker. The squadron withdrew without encountering e/a, and made landfall out in the vicinity of Ault at about 1250. Planes were scheduled to refuel at Manston, but due to low gasoline supply, nine planes landed at Manston, and the remainder were scattered at various points along the southeast coast. Lt Beach crash landed at Tertenden without injury to himself. Lt Ognisty crash landed at Bexhill and was seriously injured. Lt Fautt crash landed at Gravesend and sustained serious injuries. The squadron with the exceptions of Lts Beach, Ognisty, Fautt and Siegel, who stayed at Manston, landed at Leiston at 1340. Visibility over the channel was approximately three to five miles. Over the continent there were 4/10 clouds, and visibility was good.

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30TH POSTAL REGULATING SECTION
HEADQUARTERS, VIII FIGHTER COMMAND
AAF STATION F-341 A.P.O. 637

AG 314.7.

5 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL REPORT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1943.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, SOS, ETOUSA, APO 887, U.S. ARMY. (ATTENTION:
HISTORICAL OFFICER, POSTAL DIVISION, AGO).

1. The following historical report relative to the history of the services and operation of Army Post Office 637 under this command for the calendar year 1943 is submitted in compliance with letter AG 314.7 (29 Jan 44) Headquarters, Services of Supply, ETOUSA and in accordance with AR 345-105.

2. APC 637 Personnel Roster 1 January, 1943.

Captain WILLIAM T. WHITTLE O-342573 (Postal Officer).

S/Sgt. John E. Connor, 31075278.

Sgt. James E. Lawler, 32316077, (Army Mail Clerk).

Cpl. Edward J. O'Day, 11062094, (Ass't Army Mail Clerk).

Sgt. Cornelius J. Madera, 32258555.

Sgt. Henry Rosenberg, 32224470.

Cpl. Carrell F. Kinsman, 20141668.

Cpl. Nathan Miller, 32259193.

Pfc. Wilfred A. Breare, 32155149.

Pfc. Israel E. Felter, 33133709.

Pvt. John Pietruska, 33157750.

Pvt. Solomon Rosenbleen, 32244276.

3. Summary of Postal Business Transacted at APO 637 Main Office During 1943.

SACKS RECEIVED	SACKS DISPATCHED	INCOMING WEIGHT OF MAIL HANDLED	MONEY ORDERS WRITTEN	TOTAL AMOUNT MONEY ORDERS
15,709	10,187	465,270	3,336	\$162,033.88

STAMP STOCK SOLD	MONEY ORDERS SOLD FOR BOND PURCHASE	REGISTERS DISPATCHED	INSUREDS DISPATCHED
\$19,808.89	\$9,675.00	4,320	834

4. Establishment of APO 637, Unit No. 1. On 5 April, 1943, APO 637 Money Order Unit No. 1 was established as a branch office at AAF Station F-356 to serve a concentration of VIII Fighter Command units in that locality. This branch office was staffed with three (3) EM on DS from APO 637, S/Sgt. John E. Connor, Sgt. Henry Rosenberg, and Pvt. John Pietruska. Additional help was secured from AAF Station F-356. This APO unit operated in the same manner as a regular APO but without a regular postal officer. All correspondence was handled through the postal officer of the parent unit APO 637 located at AAF Station F-341. On 14 July, 1943, eight (8) EM on DS from the 12th R.C.D. were placed on duty with APO 637, Unit No. 1, names as follows:

Cpl. Alexander R. Zachar, 32390925.

Cpl. Michael J. McCormick, 39017804.

Pvt. Donald L. Velts, 32472418.

Pvt. Sam (nmi) Zielke, 18078764.

Pfc. Peter W. Wallace, 35495140.

Pvt. Warren G. VanHorn, 18132524.

Pvt. Glenn G. Walls, 17166541.

Pvt. Calvin W. Waters, 18215510.

These eight (8) EM had no previous postal training so they were brought to the 637 parent unit and given practical training in all phases of APO work.

AG 314.7, 5 Feb., 1944, Continued.

At the end of August 1943 postal business at the APO 637, Unit No. 1 had increased to such an extent that it was necessary to place on DS to the unit two (2) more assistant army mail clerks from the parent unit in addition to five (5) of the eight (8) EM undergoing training.

5. Summary of Postal Business Transacted at APO 637, Unit No. 1 located at AAF Station F-356, from 5 April, 1943 to 7 December, 1943.

SACKS RECEIVED	SACKS DISPATCHED	WEIGHT OF MAIL HANDLED INCOMING	MONEY ORDERS WRITTEN	TOTAL AMOUNT MONEY ORDERS	STAMP STOCK SOLD
16,227	5,647	584,508	7,459	\$317,991.92	\$22,537.97
MONEY ORDERS SOLD FOR BOND PURCHASE		REGISTERS DISPATCHED	INSUREDS DISPATCHED		
\$16,781.25		2,487	1,359		

6. On the 7th December, 1943, APO 637 Money Order Unit No. 1 rejoined the parent unit APO 637 located at AAF Station F-341 after being replaced by APO 546 at AAF Station F-356. The volume of postal business had increased monthly to such an extent to warrant a full size APO. The following table shows the degree of increase by comparison with the first full months operation and the last full months operation:

PERIOD	SACKS RECEIVED	SACKS DISPATCHED	WEIGHT OF MAIL COMING	MONEY ORDERS WRITTEN	TOTAL AMOUNT MONEY ORDERS
Month of May, 1943	493	215	14,790	331	\$22,885.24
Month of Nov., 1943	4,423	1,220	199,035	1714	\$61,512.48
PERIOD	STAMP STOCK SOLD	MONEY ORDERS SOLD FOR BOND PURCHASE	REGISTERS DISPATCHED	INSUREDS DISPATCHED	
Month of May, 1943	\$601.76	\$2,531.25	442	80	
Month of Nov., 1943	\$4,687.97	\$2,287.50	336	246	

7. The 30th Postal Regulating Section was activated at the Headquarters, VIII Fighter Command pursuant to letter, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, file 320.2 dated 4 December, 1943, subject: "Activation of 30th Postal Regulating Unit" and was further assigned to the VIII Fighter Command by letter, Headquarters, USAAFUK, file 320.2 dated 14 December, 1943, subject: "Assignment of Troops (No. 16)". Personnel for the unit were obtained from the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, VIII Fighter Command, and from the permanent APO 637 personnel.

8. The 30th Postal Regulating Section was relieved from assignment to U. S. Army Air Forces and assigned to Headquarters, SOE, ETOUSA, by letter, Headquarters, ETOUSA, file 322 MGC, dated 16 December, 1943, subject: "Troop Assignment (No. 18)". The 30th P.R.S. was attached to U.S. Army Air Forces and further attached to the VIII Fighter Command for administration, rations, quarters, and supply.

9. The following is a roster of all personnel 30th Postal Regulating Section,

AG 314.7, 5 Feb. 1944. Continued.

AGO 617 at the close of the year 1943:

Captain WILLIAM T. WHITTLE, O-342573 Commanding Officer.
1st Lt. EMANUEL L. WILDER, O-570773 Assistant Postal Officer.

S/Sgt. Edward J. O'Day	11062094	Army Mail Clerk.
S/Sgt. James E. Lawler	32316077	Assistant Army Mail Clerk.
S/Sgt. Cornelius J. Madera	32258555.	
S/Sgt. Henry Rosenberg	32224470	Assistant Army Mail Clerk.
Sgt. Wilfred A. Breare	32155149	Assistant Army Mail Clerk.
Sgt. Eohn E. Connor	31075278	Assistant Army Mail Clerk.
Sgt. Carroll F. Kinsman	20141668.	
Sgt. Nathan Miller	32259195.	
Sgt. John Pietruska	33157750.	
Sgt. Solomon Rosenbloom	32244276	Assistant Army Mail Clerk.
Cpl. Israel Felter	33133709.	
Cpl. Frank Goldberg	32412865.	
Cpl. Vivian M. Lee (WAC)	A-302589.	
Cpl. Michael J. McCormick	39017804.	
Cpl. Lyle M. Moffett	12045225.	
Cpl. Donald L. Veltz	32472418.	
Cpl. Peter W. Wallace	35495140.	
Cpl. Alexander R. Zachar	32390925.	
Pfc. Eugene A. Demel	38459134.	
Pfc. Warren G. VanHorn	18132524.	
Pfc. Glenn G. Walls	17166542.	
Pfc. Calvin W. Waters	18215510.	
Pfc. Sam Zielke	18078764.	

William T. Whittle

WILLIAM T. WHITTLE,
Capt., A. G. D.,
Commanding.



