

IV a. Administration.

Lt Col Oscar R. Schaaf, Group Commanding Officer called a meeting of all officers and enlisted men in Theater No. 2 at 1300 on 4 April. The first part of the meeting was devoted to NCO's because they were not taking the proper responsibility of their job. Also they were not completing small details such as cleaning the barracks. The second part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of signing pay vouchers by officers without getting in their flying time, and signing a false statement such as occupying government quarters when they did not.

On the 9 April 1946 the Chief of Staff of the 58th Wing, Col Aortisth, called a meeting in the conference room in Wing Headquarters of the following officers, Col Wheelis, Lt Col Schaaf, Lt Col Latun, Capt Arrowsmith and Capt Core. The purpose of the meeting was to study the proposed table of peace time organization for the 40th Bombardment Group. This table of organization is to be sent to Washington, DC, for approval.

On April 10, 1946, Lt Col Oscar R. Schaaf called a staff meeting at 1400. The following items were discussed:

The prisoners of War (who are cooking and doing KP duty in officers club) are leaving on or about April 16, 1946, for return to their homelands. The Colonel asked the Squadron Commanding Officer to call for volunteers to work in Officers club. The additional compensation for those who volunteer will range from \$22.00 to \$60.00. The volunteers will work in two shifts 0700 to 1330 and 1330 to 2000. A total of 36 volunteers will be needed to operate the club.

The Squadron Commanding Officers and Inspectors are to check on airplanes when out of commission over the regular needed time. If the Inspectors find some small discrepancies they are to correct that discrepancy before going on with the inspection.

Lt Col SchAAF asked that the Squadrons start I-C trips on the week-ends. All I-C clearances must be approved by the Squadron Commanding Officer and Operations Officer. Each will monitor all crew members taking the I-C and be sure that the pilot has had a recent instrument check. Group Operations at present is to publish memorandums on this procedure. Each Squadron Intelligence or Operations Officer will brief the crews on these missions. At present no B-29 type airplane will go on any of these I-C.

The Venereal Disease rate is excessive in the 40th Group. Col SchAAF wants this Venereal Disease reduced immediately. He asked that all preventions and precautions be placed at the disposal of the troops within each squadron.

No more night flying will be done until the Group has more airplanes and the pilots have acquired more time in the various assigned aircraft.

A TWI was received by this headquarters from Roswell, New Mexico, on the 10 April 1946, requesting that six Enlisted Men be sent to Roswell to be trained on the maintenance on the APQ 23 for a period of 7 days. The same TWI asked for one officer to be trained on APQ 13 for a period of 30 days. 1

The Colonel then asked all Squadron Commanding Officers to make sure that they notify their operations officers that all flying personnel under their command know how to extract their flying time.

The contents of Lt Col Schaaf's Staff Meeting on 18 April 1946 is as follows:

Lt Col Schaaf wants as a group policy a routine inspection of the barracks every Saturday by the Squadron Commanding Officer, Adjutant, or Deputy Squadron Commanding Officer.

Another Group policy will established calls for 1 1/2 (one and one half) hours of drill every 2nd week. This drill secession will be given at the discession of the Squadron Commanding Officer. All Headquarters personnel will drill with the 25th Squadron.

Nine (9) new B-29 and 2 new B-25 are due in on the first of May. As soon as the new aircrafts arrive the group will transfer all AT-6's and AT-11's.

The Group Commanding Officer asked all Squadron Commanding Officers to approve Cross Country flight plans and to coordinate these plans with Group Operations. No B-29 will go on a Cross Country until future notice.

Combat crews will be set up and organized for future operational and training missions. At the present time the 40th Bomb Group has 13 complete combat crews including personnel on TDY. Operational and patrol training missions will probably start in June. Lt Col Schaaf asked Capt Arrowsmith to check with Major Reid, the Group Navigator, to see if the group has sufficient charts for proposed operations.

Major Harvey, Group Training Officer, was requested to attend all future Staff Meetings.

In the future 10% (ten) of the 40th Group personnel will be on

leave or furlough at all times. A maximum of 30 days leave or furlough can be approved by Group Headquarters. Leaves or furloughs of longer than 30 days must be approved by Wing Headquarters.

Lt Col Schaaf asked the Group Adjutant to balance the Squadron personnel with new personnel reporting for duty.

Lt Col Wilson, Commanding Officer of the 25th Squadron requested permission to use the first three graders on KP due to the fact that the 40th Group is losing a lot of enlisted personnel on or about 1 May. Permission was granted by Lt Col Schaaf.

Lt Col Wisple, Commanding Officer, 44th Squadron, stated that the Army is putting on a drive to get men back into the Army who have critical MOS's.

In the future all inspectors will notify the crew chief when the inspection is completed.

Major Simeral brought up the subject of oil clarifiers. T.O. calls for their use every 25 hours but they can go 50 hours.

Lt Col Schaaf then said to use them every 50 hours and only trained personnel will be employed on clarifiers.

AF-11 no. 079, class 26, will not be signed for by the Group but instead the Group will survey it.

Operations was requested to get combat crew personnel in the jobs which their MOS calls for.

All requests for enlisted men reclassification will go to the 58th Wing board after 30 days of on the job training.

At present there is a shortage of gunners for combat crews. All

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enlisted personnel who dont want to fly will be reclassified and given ground jobs. All departments are allowed 25% overages for on the job training. Lt Col Schaaf and his staff agreed that all enlisted personnel who are assigned to combat crews who do not have the proper MOS should have their MOS changed (by on the Job Training) to agree with the position that they are now holding down.

The asst Operations Officer suggested that all Pilots be required to get so many hours as a mechanic.

The policy on X-C flights as to distance is listed below:

A7-6	500 miles	(3 hours without landing)
A7-11	1500 miles	
B -25	1500 miles	

All members of the promotion board were present at 1400 on 23 April 1946, in Lt Col Schaaf's office for the first meeting of the Promotion Board.

The meeting got under way with Lt Col Schaaf reading AR 615-1 change 5 (five) to the board.

A total of twelve (12) recommendations for promotion were received by the board and are in the process of being reviewed by the board.

The board will advise the appropriate Commanding Officer of all actions and decisions taken on all applications. On all reduction applications the board will take immediate action and will report the recommendation to the Group Commander. All applications for promotion will be reviewed, and a report will be rendered within one

week, by the board to the Commanding Officer.

Major Simeral, Senior Officer of the board, is president by
VOCO.

A quorum of three officers of the board will be present before
a recommendation can be voted upon. (authority VOCO) by the board.

At present Major Simeral is attempting to secure an office in
Headquarters building for the meeting place of the board.

Authority for the board is SO 44, par 5 dated 10 April 1946,²
Headquarters 40th Bomb Group. Regulation 35-2, 58th Wing and AR
615-5 change 1.

Lt Col Schaaf's meeting on Monday 29 April 1946 for the purpose
of setting up policies on flying schedule.

The movement and destination of the Group is not yet definite
or official.

Effective 1 May 1946 (Wednesday) a new working schedule will be
followed by all personnel of this headquarters: 0700 - 1100; 1200 -
1600 hours daily Monday thru Friday. (Friday normally will be 1/2 day
of work.

Meal hours will be changed to conform to new working schedule.

Lt Col Thompson stated that we are losing our AT-6's per IAF
orders and will lose our AT-11's in the very near future.

The 40th Group is short on radio operators at the present time.

The proposed flying time in B-29's will call for a six hour
flight per A/C assigned in commission per day. Take off time for oper-
ations and training missions was tentatively scheduled for 0800 and
ETA 1400 hours. Combat crews are to be set up in two flights "A" and

"B". When "A" flight is flying, "B" flight will be in ground school and so on thru the week. This will give more time for flying and less time for maintenance. This plan is based on the gaining of more B-29's.

Flying lunches for combat crews will be made up by the Squadron Mess (25th) at a cost of \$00.25 per man per lunch for those who are on separate rations.

Personal equipment will offer no problem as we are to secure enough chutes for our combat crew personnel.

A daily inspection of A/C will be made at the end of each flying day and the beginning of each day.

This flying training schedule is tentatively set in operation and begin 6 May 1946.

Briefings for flights will be held at 1500-1600 on the day preceding a flight with the exception of Monday. Briefings for Monday flights will be held at approximately 0600 on Mondays.

It is proposed that 10 each practice bombs will be carried in each bomb bay. On 2 May 1946 the 44th Bomb Squadron is going to have a dry run on loading of bombs in bomb bays by gunners and bombardiers. (This was cancelled due to packing and preparation for moving).

Operations will publish the duties of each combat crew member.

It is anticipated with this flying schedule that an average of 108 hours of flying time will be accumulated by each A/C per month (barring excessive time out for repairs, inspections, parts, etc) on a 4 1/2 day week.

It Col. Schaeff stated that a Model Base maintenance unit is being

set-up at Fort Worth for study of maintenance problems.

Word has been received from 58th Wing T/C committee in Washington, D.C., that there is a good possibility of the old augmented Bomb Squadron being approved and also that the senior tactical commander on the base at which the tactical unit is located, will be base commander.

Lt Col Schaaf recommended that each section draw up a movement plan and figure how much shipping space they will need for any future moves we might have to make.

Lt Col Schaaf, WCOG appointed Lt Col Lucien as Movement Officer for the group and attached units.

Lt Col Schaaf stated that, "On all orders to the Squadron or individuals they must pass over the Adjutants or Commanding Officers desk".

The B-29's that were due 1 May 1946, we are now told, will not arrive until 15 May 1946.

Lt Col Tatum reminded the staff, that the functional charts, due the 30th April 1946, be submitted on time. Functional charts are also to be displayed in all sections.

It was suggested by Lt Col Tatum that the Squadron Commanders attempt to secure title to the furniture now in their possession so that said furniture may be taken with us when we move.

Capt Boulineau, Statistical Officer, wants a report by the end of each month of on the job training. This report is to be submitted by headquarters to 15 Air Force.

Lt Col Wilson, Commanding Officer, 25th Squadron, asked if pay

day would be a holiday for enlisted men. Colonel Schaaf said no.

The 44th Bomb Squadron will have a Squadron party on 10 May 1946 in Riverside, California.

The Group Adjutant asked that Squadron Commanders hold to a minimum the changes of personnel requested on Special Orders for A/C flights.

At a meeting of the Enlisted Men's Promotion and Reduction Board on 30 April 1946, in the conference room of building T-473 at 1000 hours, favorable action and recommendation for promotion of nine enlisted men was taken. These were forwarded to the Group Adjutant.

Three recommendations were not considered favorably due to insufficient time in grade and/or lack of service record data.

Following men were recommended for promotion to Corporal: Conn, McCurdy, Haynes, Biegler, Young and Bradshaw; to Sgt: Eldon, Segal; to S/Sgt: Martin. ³

Board members present were: Major Simeral, President, Major Childs, Major Walsh, and Captain Arrowsmith.

The policy of the Board is to recommend discharges for promotion to next grade.

On 30 April 1946, Lt Col Schaaf called his staff together at 1315 hours. Colonel Quick, Commanding Officer, of the 25th Air Service, was also present.

Lt Col Schaaf opened the meeting with a statement that he had just received a phone call from 58th Wing Headquarters, that the 40th Bomb Group would be transferred to Tucson immediately.

Lt Col Schaaf gave instructions to the Staff that he did not want Post, Camp or Station property moved. Only assigned property was to be

moved, we will take all AT-11's, B-25's, B-17's and B-29's and AT-6's.

The Commanding Officer instructed the Adjutant, Major Minor Jr. to take survey of personnel who wanted to go TPA and cut orders as the personnel desired. Also the Adjutant was to make a survey of those who needed houses.

Lt Col Schaal said that he wanted an advanced party to go to Tucson and set up headquarters so that the rest of the Group can move with the least amount of confusion.

Those appointed, VCCO, for the advanced party were:

Lt Col Tatum	--	(Headquarters) Commander
Capt Beulich	--	25th Squadron
Capt Cooper	--	Supply Officer
Capt Jenstrom	--	mess Officer
Lt Friend	--	Personnel Officer
1st Lt Byerly	--	Engineering
1st Lt Scroggins	--	Communications
Capt Allen	--	Operations Officer

Each Officer will take one or two Selected Personnel to assist him in setting up his particular department.

Major Harvey was placed in charge of a training survey party who will leave on the 1st of May 1946 to make a survey of training equipment. It was left to the discretion of Major Harvey to choose his staff to assist him. This advanced survey party will return on the 2 May 1946.

All department heads will estimate the space needed for cat-

erial to be shipped and turn in a report to the Adjutant as soon as possible. Administrative records will have priority over other equipment and will be shipped by air. All other equipment that can possibly be shipped by air will be done so. The balance of equipment will have to be shipped by rail. Only 30% of all the engineering material needs to be packed for shipment because 70% of it is still in crates.

Lt Col Schaal asked each Squadron Commander and the Group Adjutant to appoint one officer to notify families of the personnel who are on TDY to the "Cross Road Project 1.5" that the 40th Group is moving. The officers who are appointed are to assist the families in any way possible especially in moving and getting a house or an apartment.

Major Lamb was asked by the Commanding Officer to have all 40th Aircraft in commission by noon on the 2nd May 1946.

All reports that are due will be held until the group arrives at its next destination.

(1) Air Inspector.

On the 12 April 1946, the Air Inspectors Department inspected the Public Relations Office.

On the 11 April 1946 an inspection of Information and Education office was conducted.

On the 11 April 1946 an inspection of the Recruiting Office and Special Service was conducted.

On the 9 April 1946 an administrative inspection of the 46th Bombardment Squadron was conducted.

On the 9 April 1946 a tactical inspection on the 45th Bombardment Squadron Operations and the 25th Squadron Engineering Sec-

tion was conducted.

On the 11 April 1946 a tactical inspection of the Group training School was conducted.

From the 6 April to 12 April 1946 a technical inspection of the engine build-ups and processing of surplus technical order files was conducted.

On the 10 and 11 April 1946 a technical inspection on the 44th and 45th Engineering Section was conducted.

On the 15 April 1946 B-29 45-21722 was inspected. Also on this date the above office conducted a tactical inspection of Group Armament and Group Communication.

On the 16 April 1946 Group Technical Supply and Personal Equipment were given a technical inspection. On the same date Unit Personnel and Statistical Sections were given an administrative inspection.

On the 17 April 1946 Colonel Harvey from the 58th Wing gave the 40th Group a Safety inspection. This date a tactical inspection was given to the office of the Group Bombardier.

On the 18 April 1946 the Air Inspector gave AT-11, 42-37530 and B-29, 45-21720 an inspection. Administrative inspections were given to the Adjutants Office, Ground Safety, Intelligence, Security and Records Administration Office. Also a tactical inspection was given to Group Flight Engineering and Group Navigation.

Inspections were given to airplane B-25, J, 44-31184 and AT-11 42-37389 on the 19 April 1946.

M/Sgts Melvin J. Barr, Edward P. Strauser and Reese E.

Phillips are on DS to Air Force School, Orlando Florida.

On April 23, 1946 a Special Subject inspection was made according to AAF letter 121-75. ~~RESTRICTED~~

A Fire and Safety inspection was made on 24 April 1946.

On the 25 April 1946 a Special Subject inspection was made according to AAF letter 121-1.

A Physical Fitness inspection was made on the 26 April 1946.

On 26 April 1946 Lt Col Schaaf called a meeting of all Group Personnel in theater Number 2 at 1300.

Colonel Schaaf's talk:

The 40th Group is in the Strategic Air Force while the base is in the tactical Air force. The Strategic and Tactical Air Force are trying to get March Field. We probably have a greater degree of success of staying at March field than we had before, but just what will precipitate no one knows. But if we do move it will probably be to Fort Worth. Although this has not been approved by higher headquarters yet.

The Colonel then brought up the housing situation.

Lt Col Schaaf then said that he was very much impressed by the improvement in maintenance. Although we had not met our goal of 50 hours a month per airplane. This was due to the engine change on all B-29's. In one Squadron (25th Squadron) the Group has an AT-11 with 85 hours on it.

For the information of all concerned the new Army pay bill has just passed the House and has gone to the Senate. A 50% increase for the lower ranks and a 20% increase for the higher ranks are

features of this bill. The Colonel read the pay increase for the different ranks.

Lt Col Schaaf then asked if there was any questions.

If not he would turn the meeting over to Capt DeCesare. Capt DeCesare then introduced Mr Walker and Mr Nelson of the Arrow Jet Corporation, who gave a very interesting lecture on the jets and rockets.

(2) Mess Supervisor.

On the 3 April 1946 the 40th Group Air Inspector made a monthly inspection of the messes and Group messes, the results of the inspection were excellent.

The Base Mess Supervisor, 1st Lt Robinett, inspected the mess during the week.

New mess equipment, which was obtained last month is being installed in the 25th, 44th and 45th Squadron messes.

M/Sgt David Sheppard (Mess Sergeant) was commended by the Mess supervisor, Capt Jonstros, for the excellent manner in which he managed preparation and serving of the refreshment on Group Organization Day.

2nd Lt Billy Saartt was named ass't Group Mess Supervisor.

Improvements are still being made on existing equipment such as a rack being welded to the garbage can to improve its appearance and utility.

(Week ending April 28, 1946) \$373.25 was turned into the

commissary for the month of April taken in from mess pressing on separate rations.

Promotions for mess personnel during the month of April included one man raised to Staff Sergeant and four men to the grade of corporal.

Sgt Charles H. Brannon, a baker, was married in Riverside on the 10 April 1946.

(3) Personal Affairs.

From April 1, 1946, to April 6, 1946, 1st Lt Lloyd W. Hutton and Pfc Billy J. Kilpatrick attended a Personal Affairs conference at the Presidio, San Francisco, conducted by the representatives of the ASF Personal Affairs School, now inactive.

The greater part of the conference was devoted to separation procedures pertinent to the policies of the ASF. Other classes were devoted to discussions on Government Insurance, allotments and allowances and casualty reporting.

(4) Group Chaplain.

Routine duties have been conducted by this office such as, religious services for all major faiths, hospitals, guardhouse, line visits, conferences and interviews with civilian ministers, YMCA, USO and police authorities.

Special religious pre-easter services were held. Also special Easter Sunday Sunrise and Morning Worship Services were held. 1

(5) Records Administrator.

A schedule for disposition of records was forwarded thru the adjutant, to all sections of Headquarters, squadrons and units attached to this Headquarters, on 18 April 1946.

(6) Awards.

On April 12, 1946, the 40th Bomb Group held a review to award the Army Commendation Ribbon to Major John A. Simeral and Major Russell F. Ireland. The review was also held to honor M/Sgt Charles J. Hertrick and M/Sgt John Schnertmar who were formally retired from active duty after the review.

Major John A. Simeral, at present 40th Group Air Inspector, was commended by Major General James H. Parker for outstanding services performed in Australia in connection with the Commonwealth Government Fourth Victory Loan. 5

Major Ireland was commended by Major General Parker for his efficient effort in expediting the return of 20th Air Force Personnel from the Marianas to the United States. 5

(7) Information and Education, Special Service and Recruiting.

Weekly Information and Education class was held in theater # 1 at 1100 on the 17 April 1946. Capt DeGessare lectured on the American Government.

One Officer applied for two USAFI Correspondence courses. One Enlisted Man was sent to Riverside, JC to take the General Education Development Test for a High School Diploma.

Capt DeGessare, 40th Bomb Group Recruiting Officer, effected one reenlistment, Sgt Sylvester, "Michael S., during the week. The recruiting officer has replied to a veteran in Iowa who desires service with the 40th Bomb Group. A communication was received from two Regular Army Master Sergeants at Chanute Field who desire transfer to the 40th Group.

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(8) Statistical Control Office.

The Statistical Control Officer, Capt Boulineau, has distributed questionnaires to all enlisted men relative to volunteering for Overseas Service. Personnel were given 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of Theater of Operation.

The Personnel Accounting Section, instituted by the 15th Air Force (Manual 15-18-2), was very successful, and no discrepancies were recorded.

Certain Statistical Reports and Morning Reports, dated 23 April 1946, are being transmitted to 15th Air Force Headquarters, Colorado Springs, Colorado, by Courier, this date.

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Colonel Thompson, Group Operations Officer, departed on a 7 day leave.

Lt Hutton and Pfc Kilpatrick returned from Personal Affairs conference at Presidio, San Francisco, California.

On the 16 April 1946, Capt 1036 Max V. Levitt, O-674687, left for Army Information School at Carlisle Barracks, Penn'a, for the purpose of attending a Public Relation Course. Authority Headquarters 40th Bomb Group, Letter Order 78 dated 16 April 1946. ⁶

Major 1093 John C. Eigemann, O-420378, left on the 19 April 1946 for TDY with the Cross Roads Project. Authority Headquarters 40th Bomb Group, Letter Order 83 dated 19 April 1946. ²

The following named enlisted men left on the 19 April 1946, for the purpose of pursuing a 7 days course in Airplane Power Plant Mechanics:

1/Sgt 748 Robert L. Fessenden

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T/Sgt 750 Verden L. Knoll

Authority Headquarters 40th Bomb Group, Letter Order 84 dated 19
April 1946. ⁸

The following named Enlisted Men proceeded on DS to Keeler
Field, Biloxi, Miss., for the purpose of attending Engine Mechanic
School for a period of 7 weeks:

S/Sgt 747 Gordon T. Murray

S/Sgt 750 Donald L. Martin

Sgt 750 Thomas L. Harris

Pfc 521 Alfred Kikoska

Authority Headquarters 40th Bomb Group, Letter Order 84 dated 19 April
1946.

On 22 April 1946 the following named Officers were appointed
as Personnel Management Board for Headquarters 40th Bomb Group: ⁹

Lt Col 2120 Robert T. Tatum O-350251

Lt Col 1093 James H. Thompson O-388892

Major 4823 Chester R. Lamb O-445386

Copies of WD, AGO Forms 66-2 have been sent to the Adjutant
General.

Personal Affairs Section has completed AAF Forms 128 (Files
and allotments and allowances).

Key assignments made during the month were:

1st Lt William E. Friend

Personnel Officer and
Ass't Group Adjutant

Major John A. Sinerai

(Pres.) EM Promotion and
Reduction Board

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Major John E. Child (Member) EM Promotion and Reduction Board

Major Jack J. Booker (Member) EM Promotion and Reduction Board

Major George H. Walsh (Member) EM Promotion and Reduction Board

Capt Arthur V. Arrowsmith (Member) EM Promotion and Reduction Board

1st Lt John A. Bailey Relieved as Billeting Officer
No officer reappointed.

Capt Sidney I. Needlesan Physical Fitness Officer

WO/JG Ralph Carraichael Ass't Air Inspector

Lt Col Robert T. Tatum Personnel Management Board

Lt Col James H. Thompson Personnel Management Board

Major Chester R. Lamb Personnel Management Board

Lt Col Frank L. Luschen Coordination and Compliance Officer

Lt Col Robert F. Goldsworthy Ass't Operations Officer

Strength

	April 1	total 629
	April 30	total 629
	<u>APRIL 1</u>	<u>APRIL 30</u>
Colonels	1	1
Lt Colonels	7	8
Majors	26	24
Captains	56	57
1st Lieutenants	99	99
2nd Lieutenants	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	198	198

	<u>April 1</u>	<u>April 30</u>
Warrant Officers	4	3
Flight Officers ^{RESTRICTED}	7	8
Master Sergeants	167	172
Technical Sergeants	67	69
Staff Sergeants	54	55
Sergeants	32	33
Corporals	50	46
Private First Class	41	36
Privates	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	420	420

c. S-2

The 40th Group Intelligence Officer, Capt Arrowsmith, returned from temporary duty at Los Angeles, with the American Legion exhibit on the 3 April 1946.

Besides the regular routine of destroying classified materials, letters and memorandums the intelligence officer has mailed personal papers to the next of kin of separated, missing and killed personnel of the 40th Bomb Group.

Capt Arrowsmith administrated records of the 44th Bomb Squadron on the 5 April 1946.

The monthly Counter Intelligence Report has been forwarded to AAF Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

The first quarter report on the disposal of records has been forwarded to higher headquarters through the 58th Wing.

On the 9 and 10 April 1946, the Intelligence Officer, Capt

Arrowsmith processed records of the 44th Bomb Squadron.

On the 9 April 1946, Capt Arrowsmith attended a conference in the 58th Wing Conference Room with Lt Col Schaaf and Lt Col Tatum on the proposed T/O for peace time organization.

The 40th Group Intelligence Officer had a personal conference with Major Kirton, Ass't A-2 of the 58th Wing on the 11 April 1946, in reference to the history report. Major Kirton advised him to continue to submit history as he had been doing pending receipt of directives from higher headquarters.

The Intelligence Officer has finished processing records of 25, 44 and 45 Bomb Squadrons and has instructed them how to prepare boxes for shipping non-current records to Record Depot. One box of non-current records has been forwarded to the Record Depot.

A report of the Loss Show has been forwarded to Base Public Relations Office and an information copy sent to Aviators Post 350, American Legion.

On the 11 April 1946, Capt Arrowsmith checked the Safes, filing cabinets, In and Out baskets of headquarters for classified material.

A verbal report was submitted to Base Adjutant and Group Adjutant concerning the lack of Medical cooperation of Base Hospital personnel with 40th Bomb Group personnel.

Master Sgt Watson, Howard R. ASN RA6581144, reported for duty to intelligence section on the 12 April 1946. ²⁸

Capt Arrowsmith, B-2 Officer, received Intelligence Training Reports from 58th Wing Headquarters and made distribution to Staff and Squadrons.

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Authorized by letter, Mr Todd of Rail Transportation, to ship four boxes of non-current records, of 40th Bomb Group to Record Depot at St. Louis, Missouri.

Completed decimizing S-2 files.

On the 17 April 1946 (3) three copies of history for March was forwarded to 58th Wing and one copy to 40th Group Commanding Officer.

A letter on Security and Safety of personnel has been forwarded to Squadron Commanders through the Group Adjutant.

At the close of business on Friday, 19 April 1946, Capt Arrowsmith checked the safes, file cabinets and In and Out baskets of headquarters building. In general, the conditions of the above items was excellent, however some sections of the headquarters had not cleared out material from In and Out baskets. It is recommended that desk tops and In and Out baskets be cleared of all papers at the close of business each day and especially on Fridays.

At a conference with Lt Col Thompson 0845 - 0900 on 30 April 1946 the following items were discussed:

1. War Room at new base.
2. Pictorial History of 40th "cab Group 1941 to present time.
3. Booklet "This is Your Outfit". Highlights of Group History.
4. Briefing on Group level on long flights Panama, Hawaii, etc.

Capt Arrowsmith attended two sessions of Enlisted Men Promotion and Reduction Board on 23 April 1946.

Letters 0005 through 0012, ^{RESTRICTION} Schedule of Record Disposition, have been forwarded to Squadron Commanders and Headquarters Sections on April 24, 1946.

The Intelligence Officer checked for registered document charged to Captain Culpepper in 1944. No record at this Headquarters of the registered document has been found. 1st Ind to AIF, Washington, D.C. has been forwarded with true copies of Disposition of Records of this Headquarters, on 24 April 1946, S-2 registry number 0014.

Section Functional charts has been compiled for forwarding to Group Commander on 25 April 1946.

(1) Public Relations.

The Group Public Relations Officer, Capt Ainy did the initial planning and arranging for the 40th Group participation in the Army Day celebration of March Field.

During the week, the Public Relation Office moved into the office of the Four Five Section.

Capt Levitt was relieved from duty with the Public Relations Office and transferred to the 25th Squadron as a bombardier.

The 40th Bomb Group participated in the Army Day ⁹ ceremonies at March Field on 6 April 1946 by displaying the following mock-ups: Cut away B-29 engine; oil cooling system of B-29; bomb sight and GI auto pilot; radar; bombs; personnel equipment; chemical warfare display. At 1800 the Base Band gave a concert. At 1900

the 412 Fighter Group put on an air show.

During the week 13^(thirteen) news items were released to newspapers.

Preliminary plans have been made and received to participate in the entertainment of 330 civilian guests on May 18, 1946. The 40th Group will provide engineering and gunnery exhibits and a B-29 for outside inspection. Also the Group will mess 100 guests at 1800 hours in the enlisted mess. (Due to the move of the Group we will not be able to participate in this project)

Col Schaaf has ascertained that Base Intelligence has no objection to guests of the 40th Group personnel going through a B-29. It is necessary to get a badge for civilian guests from the Base Operations office before going on the line.

The Public Relation Officer, arranged for Mr Bracker of the New York Times to interview and lunch with Col Schaaf.

Coordinated with Base PRO in supplying speakers for speakers bureau.

A conference with Wing PRO on Proposed "Atom Bomb" radio show was held.

The Public Relations Officer arranged two B-29 flights¹⁰ to photograph P-80's of the 412 Fighter Group. Photos and story of March Field to appear as feature story in the Los Angeles Times. (appeared¹¹ in Los Angeles Times 3 May 1946) The Public Relations Officer was host to Mr Milton Niles of the Los Angeles Times and Mr Howard Filan of the Associated Press.

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Nine stories have been released to media.

Checked copy for first part of "Atom Bomb" radio show, written by Captain Carlton Rogers. No changes or corrections were suggested.

A letter has been sent to all former personnel of the 40th Bomb Group who were POW's to report for a group photo.

Requested and received unification of forces statement from Major MacLeod.

Corporal Frankel, Section Clerk, came up on quota for discharge, and left for Camp Seale, California Separation Center on 2 May 1946.

d. S-3

Group personnel were sent to Supersonic and APQ 23 Instructors Training.

All B-29's have been grounded by 4th AF for engine changes. B-29 1722 is expected to be ready for flying Monday. An L-5 arrived this week for use in gunnery training (Only five Officers will be qualified to fly it).

On Saturday 13 April 1946, all pilots were given an intensive B-29 exam.

Arrangements are being made to equip all Group aircraft with instrument hoods. Pilots will be required to concentrate on instrument proficiency.

All night flying in the 40th Group has been cancelled for the present. Group has been notified that G.C.A. is available for future

training.

A meeting of all check pilots of the Group was called to emphasize flying safety and standard operating procedure for checking out pilots.

Navigation training flights have started for Navigator's and Bombardiers. These flights will include instrument time, pilotage, DR and Celestial training.

Steps are being made to equip airplanes and personnel for high altitude training. Efforts are being made to set up Combat crews, but at present shortage of personnel make it impossible.

Major Simons has been in charge of Group Operations since Lt Col Thompson has been away on leave.

During the week and future weeks to come only two link trainers will be available to 40th Group personnel. Beginning on Monday 22 April 1946 each pilot will be scheduled once for C-1 trainer. Course will consist of one lecture and two hours of demonstration.

Application for cross country forms have been published. Any pilot desiring to make week end cross country flights must submit application at least 48 hours prior to anticipated departure time.

During the week the Group Operations Office was inspected by the Air Inspector.

Lt Col Goldsworthy has made two talks to various clubs in Riverside, about his combat experiences.

Word has been received from higher headquarters that 3 (three) B-17's are ready for transfer. Plans have been made by the

Operations Officer to ferry the B-17's to March Field.

All pilots have read and initialed the poop pertaining to base flying regulations, memorandums and emergency procedure.

Fifteen complete sets of Boeing Field Service News have been received and distributed to Squadron Operation Officers.

During the week a discussion for pilots was held on the B-29 Questionnaire.

The high light of the week was a photo mission that the ¹³ Operations Officer, Colonel Thompson, helped to arrange with the 412 Fighter Group. Two missions were flown and excellent pictures were obtained. Photographs and stories of the flight and March Field will appear in the Sunday edition of the Times. ¹⁴ This will make excellent publicity for the Group and Base.

A new flight Training schedule is being planned by this office. The date when the new training schedule will be effective will be announced by this office. A flying period of 6 hours is planned. One flight will go to ground school and fly the next day. The two flights (A and B will alternate in the schedule.

(1) Photo Section

Photo supplies and equipment are continually coming in for the Photo Laboratory.

The main local work accomplished by this department during the week were pictures of the 40th Group parade.

Instruction of ⁶o-wardiers and Radar Operators in Aerial cameras ended on Friday with an examination. The course was considered

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successful.

RENTAL TIME

During the week of 28 April 1946, a portion of the 40th Group Photo Album covering the Group's activities in India and China was turned over to the Newsphoto Publishing Company, for reproduction. The rest of the album depicting the Group's activities in Tinian will be sent to the publisher shortly.

The gun camera program has had all the kinks ironed out and on the 30 April 1946 the Group gunners will be scheduled for practice. The film will be processed and edited in Building T-711 and shown to the gunners on the following Monday. It is expected that approximately 1800 feet of film per week will be processed.

Supplies are still coming in slowly to the Photo Office but equipment has been received regularly. The Group Photo Officer and Photo Supply Sergeant have received authorization to draw expendable supplies from Air Corps Supply and this should expedite the reception of said supplies. Photographs of P-80's in flight taken from one of 40th Group B-29's flown by Lt Col Thompson, Operations Officer, with AK-20 Camera achieved the most interest this week. ¹⁵

(2) Training Section

A re-organization of the engineering ground school was inaugurated due to the loss of four instructors.

Plans for attendance and proficiency checks were put into effect. This was done in order to establish a closer check on proficiency of all personnel in all subjects.

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Supersonic Training is being assembled for use in
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Training on the APQ-23.

Radar tail guns (APQ-15) has been received from the base for use in gunnery school. At the present date it is impossible to assemble due to the lack of radar personnel.

One (1) AN/MPN-1 (GCA) was assigned to 40th Group. This unit will be assembled by Radar Specialists from San Bernardino.

An L-5 was assigned to the Group for use on manipulation range. A test using the L-5 on the manipulation range will be made on 17 April 1946.

One (1) AN/MPN-1 (GCA) has been assigned to the 40th Group and has been sent to San Bernardino Air Depot for assembly and calibration. This set will be used to train radar operators and pilots.

The test with the L-5 on the manipulation range was completed on the 16 April 1946. Results as a whole were satisfactory.

The athletic program is being reorganized. Captain Needleman, newly appointed Athletic Officer, is organizing a program and coordinating it with the Squadron Athletic Officers. The program will be turned over to the Squadron for records and compliances.

A course has been outlined on administrative duties and is ready for incorporation in the Ground Training program.

Manipulation range schedules are now in effect every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Arrangements for new flight schedules have been made with Group Operations. In the event of 6 hour training flights, ground school will operate with one flight a full day. This will also make

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possible the completion of all classes by 1400 hours, therefore missing the heat of the day.

REB:11

A course in small arms started this week. Next week those who have been instructed this week will be on the range firing.

Arrangements are being made to enable the 40th Group to take training aids from March Field in the event of a move to another base. This necessitates a coordination between Air Forces. It is impossible at this time to determine what aids the 40th Group can take with them in the event of a move.

(3) Form Five Section.

The Form Five Section recorded the following instrument checks:

Lt Col Weaple, Neil W. (Green Card)

Capt Payne, Norman P. (Green Card)

1st Lt Deutschedorf, Henry J. (White Card)

Mistakes in the form one still show that many pilots are still unfamiliar with AA Regulation 15-5 and 60-7 concerning the logging of flying time. All errors and discrepancies were reported to the Group Operations Officer who initiated the action to be taken.

The following named instrument checks were recorded:

Capt Barron, Joseph (White Card)

Capt Maxey, Arthur B. (White Card)

Lt Albright, Leland D. (White Card)

Lt Cannon, Robert T. (White Card)

The following named personnel were given instrument cards during the week ending 21 April 1946:

1st Lt Nelson, Eugene J. (White card)
1st Lt Clay, William T. (White card)
1st Lt Harris, Randall L. (White card)
1st Lt Pipes, Ernest E. (White card)

A new card index file has been initiated for officer and enlisted men.

The following named personnel were given instrument cards during the week ending 23 April 1946:

Capt Baulch, Warren (White card)
Capt Hathaway, Lyle (Green card)
1st Lt Ferguson, James (White card)
1st Lt Wilhelm, Keith (White card)

After a meeting in Lt Col Thompson's office of all Squadron Operations Officers it was decided that the forms files for all Squadrons would be kept in their present location.

(4) Navigation Section.

The navigators received final instruction on Reconnaissance Photography. The course was considered successful.

Additional courses of instruction on bombbay doors, instrument calibration and compass swinging were given.

Lt Baugh has been appointed head of the GI trainer department.

Navigators who were behind on their 3rd GNT mission

are being brought up to date.

Group memoranda^{on} on air speed calibration ranges, instrument calibration procedures and loran operation procedures were prepared and submitted to Group S-3 for approval.

Examinations were given to navigators to determine their proficiency on the flux gate compass during the week of 20 April 1946.

Lt Cannon, (Form 5 Officer) gave a lecture on discrepancies in the Form 5's and other information pertinent to the navigation department.

Films have been shown on the "Battle for Britain" and the "World At War".

The navigation department had its monthly tactical inspection during the week.

(5) Bombing Section.

During the first week of April all bombardiers took and examination in Bombing.

Classes were conducted to familiarize all bombardiers with bombing targets and approaches.

The bomb trainer is in operation 4 hours a day.

Thirty-six hours of time was put on the 7A-3¹ bomb trainer by bombardiers of the 40th Bomb Group.

All Non-B-29 bombardiers have been familiarized with the B-29.

All Bombardiers have been given a 100 item questionnaire on the B-29 to be filled out in their spare time.

A five hour course in photography and camera technique was accomplished by all bombardiers.

Subjects have been assigned to all experienced bombardiers to be outlined.

The Group Air Inspector inspected the Group Bombing Office during the week.

All Bombardiers have been made proficient in the construction and operation of the Seeburg and Mallory Intercometer.

Bombardiers were introduced to a course in celestial navigation, star identification.

Charts and photographs of the bombing ranges have been given to the Squirrels for Squadron Operations.

Bombardiers amplified check list has been published.

(6) Armament Section.

This department was making preparation for training of personnel in use of Small Arms. Requisitions have been turned in for Pistols and .45 ammunition. Preparation is being made to start classes as soon as requisitions are filled.

Gunnecentral and mounts have been drawn for B-29 172 and 722 but have not been mounted, nor has the wiring for installation been done as yet.

Ten shot guns have been drawn for skeet training but no skeet ammunition is available yet.

Ground school for gunnery personnel is still being conducted.

Routine inspections are being conducted and accomplished.

Storage space for aircraft auxiliary equipment is at present a major problem.

WOJG Raymond F. Jeyek has been transferred to the 446th Bomb Group (VE) Merced, California. ¹⁶

Pilots have completed instruction in Pneumatic doors. Test runs have been made on the CFC manipulation trainer. Preparations have been made to conduct firing of the .45 caliber pistol.

Routine aircraft inspection has been accomplished.

Captain Frank J. Core, Armament Officer, left on 7 day emergency leave during week of 28 April 1946.

Lt Snodgrass gave a weeks course of instruction in the Glide Bombing Attachment.

Classes on the .45 Automatic started the 29 April 1946 under the direction of Capt Miller and WOJG Currie.

Regular routine aircraft inspection as applied to this office was accomplished.

(7) Communication Section.

The communication SO I's have been completed after considerable delay due to the lack of office personnel. Copies of the SOI'S are in the process of being prepared for forwarding to all Squadron Operations Officers and will be included in each Radio Operator File.

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The Radio Operators Files are now complete and will be carried by the radio operators ^{RES.} on each flight. The files contain Log Sheets, CCBP-2, Radio Facility Charts, Group SOI and Group Memorandum 100-13.

All headsets and microphones installed in aircraft assigned to the Group have been removed and stored in the Group Personnel Equipment Section.

The Communications Officer, 1st Lt Reuther reported to the training officer, Major Harvey, that a ground control approach net (MPN-1) has arrived on the field for the 40th Bomb Group.

During the week the 58th Wing inspected the Communication Section. Results of the inspection were excellent.

A conference was held by the 58th Wing Communications Officer in regard to establishing a Group Air Ground Station in the 15th Air Force Tactical Air Ground Radio Net. Authority for establishing this station has been received by the Wing Communications Officer during a teletype conference.

The 40th Group SOI's covering the new frequencies and procedures was completed and ready for distribution to radio operators Operations Officers on the 19 April 1946.

During the week the communication ground school was inspected by Lt Col Schaaf and Major Harvey.

A new filing system for keeping records of grades and attendance was inaugurated by the CIC of Communications Training.

A new hour chart is being kept on students and in-

structors attending and teaching the courses offered by the communications school.

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A radio compass "lock-Up" is being constructed to be used in classroom instruction of scheduled classes for Pilots and Radio Operators.

New charts have been made to show the grades of all Personnel who have stood tests on AN/AEC-3, AN/ART-13, operation of 13-29 equipment, and nets and procedures. Other quick reference charts show code and blinker speed and class attendance.

W/SGT 542 John W. Taylor was placed on TDY at the San Bernardino Air Depot for the purpose of training in connection with the (WPN-16) Ground Control Approach System.

Plans have been formulated for teaching courses in Pilots, Navigators, Bombardiers and Radio Operators in Blind Landing Equipment (RC-103) and AN/ARN-5A) and on the emergency Radio (GRT-3).

A conference was held with Communication Instructor personnel to plan better methods in teaching courses in Radio equipment and to plan communication courses to be scheduled during this training period.

Considerable difficulty has been encountered by the Communication Officer in drawing equipment from the Base Signal Supply. Items of common aircraft equipment such as headsets, cords, microphones, antennas, insulators and like equipment are constantly being marked as not in stock.

A survey of radio operators in the Group is as follows:
Nine radio operators are on DE to the "Cross Road Project".
Eight Radio operators are due for discharge on the 1st

May 1946.

Ten Radio operators (Regular Army) for duty after 1 May 1946.

T/Sgt Hoffman, Solomon 6940142 MOS 2756, reported to the 44th Bomb Squadron for duty. T/Sgt Hoffman flew combat in the 42nd Bomb Group in India and China and has considerable B-29 experience.

(8) Athletic Section.

The 44th Squadron played the 45th Squadron in a league Softball game on the 10 April 1946, the score was 10 to 8 in favor of the 44th Squadron.

The Officers bowling leagues in full swing. ¹⁷

The Athletic Officer, Capt Honowichl has encountered considerable difficulty in obtaining athletic equipment. During the week a conference was held with the 58th Wing Special Service Officer, Capt Robinson, concerning this matter. Capt Robinson has forwarded estimates of Athletic equipment to the 4th AF for the years of 46 and 47.

The athletic program has been interrupted because assigned athletic officers and a number of star players have been on TDY to different stations.

The 40th Group has no athletic equipment. At present the 40th Group is using equipment borrowed from the base gymnasium.

The Athletic Officer, Lt Honowichl, of the 40th Bomb Group has held a number of conferences with the Base Athletic Officers for the purpose of correlating the 40th Athletic Program with that of the

Base. The Base Athletic Officers, Captains White and Yarnum, have promised full cooperation.

REMARKS:

Captain, 2520, Sidney I Needleman, O-563907 was appointed Physical Fitness Officer on the 1st April 1946 (SO 49 par 1 Headquarters 40th ¹⁸ Comb Group).

The Group Physical Fitness Officer is in the process of drafting a memorandum outlining the proposed initial program.

Current activities such as bowling and Softball are the main stays of sharp competition.

Projected tournaments for the future are golf, volleyball and tennis.

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On the 3 April 1946 a T&I was received from the 58th Wing grounding all B-29 aircraft until TO 01-20KJ-173 and TO 02-35-18 JA have been complied with. ¹⁹

On the 3rd of April 1946 a conference was called by Capt Livingston of the 58th Wing Statistical Section in reference to making out statistical reports for 2nd Air Force Headquarters. All clerks and Engineering Officers of the 25th, 44th and 45th Squadron were present.

Four new engines (R-3350-57) are built and ready to swing on TB-29 #42-24719. Some of the parts have not arrived but most of the work can be done while waiting for these parts.

Squadrons in the Group had been using Group hanger equipment. Now the Squadrons have received most of their equipment. Squadron colors were placed on all hanger equipment so that it can be separated to permit better maintenance.

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W/Sgts Brittan, Holmes and T/Sgt Mauel were sent on TDI to Oklahoma City for approximately 10 days.

W/Sgt Schneitman left on retirement furlough.

During the week the 25th Squadron lost a TB25A and an AT 6D was assigned a L-5B.

The Group Engineering Officer, Major Lamb, attended the Staff Meeting on 10 April 1946. At that conference the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Schaaf, requested of the engineering section to estimate the period of time it takes to do 25, 50 and 100 hour inspections.

Daily inspection will require 2 hours.

25 hour inspection will require one and one half days.

If the inspection is the first 25 hour inspection after an engine change, it will require more time on account of valve check according to TO 02-1-6.

The 50 hour inspection will require three (3) days. This inspection time will take care of the usual maintenance.

The 100 hour inspection will require about one week with usual maintenance to comply with existing TO's.

The inspection time listed above does not apply for major jobs found on the inspection or time required waiting for parts or supplies for the job.

Conference with all Squadron Engineering Officers in reference to discrepancies on Group inspection report was held. The oil classifiers are to be used according to TO 01-1-213. A personal conference with Major Wolsey of the 39th Engineering Squadron was held in reference to operating these units. A two or three man team was suggested as being necessary for inspecting these units.

The Wing Engineering Officer was present during the discussion on policing of the hanger and oil house. An agreement was reached that each outfit would furnish one man as hanger chief who will be responsible to see that the hanger and oil house are policed. The hanger chief will turn in the names of all personnel who leave oily rags and open pails of oil or gas out with out putting the above named fire hazards in their respective barrels.

All engineering officers have been instructed to call their inspectors and crew chiefs together for the purpose of giving all aircraft a close and supervised inspection. Nothing must be taken for granted and the smallest discrepancy must be corrected.

(1) Group Supply.

Usual supply duties were carried out.

(2) Personal Equipment Section.

A request was forwarded to the Supply Officers of the 25th, 44th and 45th rd Combarment Squadrons instructing these offices to commence drawing equipment, flight equipment, for the individual flying personnel.

Some flight equipment is very hard to get because Air Corps Supply does not have the property on hand. Only ten (10) parachutes were available and have been issued.

On the 17 April 1946 Major Heldt, Group Technical Inspector, conducted an inspection of the above named office. Technical Order 13-1-1 "Protection from Moths and Mildew" was not complied with but twenty four hours later had been complied with.

This month the 40th Bomb Group was assigned to 15th Air Force
with Headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado on General Orders
No 8 dated 8 April 1946. ¹⁹

During the month training continued in the air and on the
ground for rated and ground personnel.

The 40th Bomb Group participated in Army Day celebration at
March Field, California by opening to the public training devices
of the ground school and a display of one B-29. ²⁰

Personnel continued to be in a quandry due to constant rumors
that the group would move from March Field, California. Before the
month was over Lt Col Schaaf announced that the Group would move
to Tucson, Arizona. This announcement quelled the numerous rumors
that had been rampant since the group first set down at March Field,
California.

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On April 2, 1946, the 40th Bomb Group had a party in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the activation of the group at the American Legion hut at Fairmont Park in Riverside, California. ²¹

The party began at 1400 with a softball game between Officers and Enlisted Personnel. The game was interrupted several times by W/O Jegak trying to ride several unbroken horses. The above officer ended up in the mud flat on his back.

By the time supper was served at 1600 all men were in good spirits because the beer was flowing rather freely.

The supper consisted of chicken, salad, ham, potatoes salad, cold cuts, cheese, hot rolls, hot dogs, celery, olives and pickles.

Dancing began at 1700 with music furnished by Del Danford and his orchestra. The highlight of the dance was Lt Markham and his partner showing the troops how the hoola should be done. ²²

Rated Officers and Enlisted Men were cautioned during the month to be sure and have their flying time in before signing their pay vouchers or pay rolls. This was necessitated by the fact that Air Inspectors of Higher Headquarters had found some instances of officers collecting flying pay without accomplishing the required time in the air.

During the month X-C flights were instituted as part of the training program for rated personnel. These flights were taken on week-ends to various areas adjacent to March Field, California, within a safe range for assigned aircraft (B-29's excluded).

Personnel continued to be sent to special schools thru out the

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month with aircraft maintenance and aircraft equipment schools receiving the most attention.

Combat crews were set up in the Squadrons during the month in anticipation of future training flights and/or operational missions.

Lt Col Schaaf set up as a policy that a least (10%) ten percent of assigned personnel will be on leave or furlough at all times.

A little confusion was experienced due to the group being assigned to the control of 15th Air Force, as we continued to receive directive from 4th Air Force and correspondence calling for compliance with 4th Air Force directives after we have passed under the control of 15 Air Force. This no doubt was due to the fact that we were still based on a 4th Air Force field. This situation was cleared up when Group Personnel held conferences with 15th Air Force personnel at Colorado Springs. (per Letter Order 86 par 1 d4 23 April 1946). ²³

Promotions of Enlisted Men continue to be received and processed by the Enlisted Mens Promotion and Reduction Board. Nine enlisted men were promoted during the month of April. ²⁴

Group Operations continued to publish memorandum on training and operation B.O.F. for assigned aircraft. ²⁵

The proposed flying schedule slated to begin the last of April was halted temporarily due to the impending move of the Group. All assigned B-29 Aircraft were slated to ferry personnel and equipment from March field to Davis-Monthan Field, Arizona. The move and plans for the movement will be covered in the May history

Functional charts were prepared and submitted to the Group

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Executive for study in connection with Personnel Management.

The 40th Group Operations Officer, Lt Col Thompson, and Lt Col Weuple (CO of 44th Bomb Squadron) flew one group B-29 to enable reporters from Los Angeles Newspapers to photograph P-80's of the 412 Fighter Group in air action. ²⁶ The "Flying Colonels" really put on a show handling the B-29 and made the P-80's go thru all their paces in order to stay with them. The reporters said they had never seen anything like the way the "Colonels" handled the "Big Bird" when she was surrounded by the hissing P-80 goats. This deal was a cooperative affair arranged for by Lt Col Thompson, Capt Almy (group PRO) and Major Bryan (Base PRO) to give impetus to the World Wide AAF recruiting drive.

A full page spread in the Los Angeles Times appeared in the 3 May 1946 issue. ²⁷

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Maj. Turner New 25th Sq. Ops. Officer

Major Ernest Turner, of the 40th Bomb Group has just returned from two months temporary duty with the "Crossroads" project at Roswell, New Mexico. At Roswell the Major held the job of Director of Ground Training for the A-Bomb Project.

It was his job to train the bombing crews who will actually drop the bombs at Bikini Island in the Marshall Group on July 1st. He also directed the training of the Air Photography crews who will fly in F-13 (converted B-29) photo ships to record for future study the destruction and blast caused by the bomb, the Pressure Instrument Crews who will drop recording instruments and other equipment in and near the site of the explosion, and read the instruments mounted in their B-29's that will give the scientific data necessary for accurate measurement of destruction; and the crews of the C-54 transports who will fly the ground crews, technical crews, scientists and high priority supplies to the proving grounds at Kawajalei and Eniwitok Islands.

Major Turner in commenting on the training done at the Roswell Army Air Base stated, "The bombing crew competition has been very keen with the finest crews from all the veteran B-29 combat Groups taking part. All of the five crews in the final bombing competition are very close in average bombing error, and any one of these crews' bombardiers could be counted on to lay the A-Bomb accurately on the target. The winning crew of the competition will have the honor of dropping the bomb in the test and could well be considered the finest bombing team in the AAF today."

Now back with the 40th Bomb Group here at March Field, Maj. Turner has been assigned as operations officer of the 25th Bomb Squadron.