

Retyped from microfilm by Joan D. Stewart

Group History 1 March thru 31 March 1946

This month found the group settling down to routine duties as ground training paved the way for rated personnel to check out on the B-29s assigned to the group. The flying experience consisted mainly of take offs and landing and short local flights. This familiarization was deemed necessary by the Commanding officers (Col Skaer and Lt Col Schaaf) and the operations officer in line with policies of higher headquarters. Most of our rated personnel had not flown in a B-29 for six or more months.

This month also saw a new group commander take over the guidance of the group.

Col W. K. Skaer who had been group commander from February of 1945 left for Roswell, New Mexico on 18 March 1946 and assignment with the 58 Bombardment Wing in connection with operations "Crossroads", Task Group 1.5. Lt Col Oscar Schaaf was appointed group commander on 21 March 1946. Lt. Col Schaaf is one of the oldest B-29 pilots in the Air Corps and with his wide experience in B-29 operations makes him an ideal group commander.

During the month Lt Col James H. Thompson was appointed group operations officer and immediately set to work on Standard Operating Procedure for group personnel.

The 343rd Bomb Squadron after a short life of a few weeks was deactivated on 27 March 1946. No history was kept for this Squadron as no activities were carried on by them.

Group and Squadron personnel continued to report to Regular Army Officers Screening Board at Fort MacArthur, California for purpose of determining eligibility of a permanent commission in the Regular Army.

The group received two (2) B-29 – 90BW on the 7 March 1946.

In compliance with directives from higher headquarters twelve officers and six enlisted men were sent to Victorville for the purpose of processing B-29 aircraft to be assigned to the 58th Bomb Wing Units.

Eight officers and two enlisted men of the group were on T.D.Y. to Los Angeles Armory for the display of Army equipment and material at the American Legion Air Show, Aviation Post 350, from 27 March thru 1 April 1946, in compliance with TWXZ46 from General Spaatz and General Eaker.

Capt. George E. Roberts was appointed Group Historian on the 1st March 1946.

On Saturday the 2nd March each Sq. had a two hour drill session on the parade ground. Col Skaer made an informal inspection of the troops at this formation. The moral of the 44th Bomb Sqdn. was greatly improved by Col Skaer personally drilling the troops for about a half hour.

After this formation all Gp personnel were assembled in theater #2 where Col Skaer spoke of (a) Possibilities of the Group staying at March Field until mid summer, (b) Housing situation- barracks are being subdivided for temporary housing facilities for families of enlisted and officer personnel.

Lt. Landon C. Tennis (Base Int. Officer) was introduced. He gave a very interesting lecture on the “unification of the Armed Forces”. This lecture took the place of the weekly orientation lecture.

A TWX from General Hale of the 4th AAF was received transferring two B-29’s from Roswell to the 40th Bomb Group. These planes are to be prepared for transfer by maintenance crews sent from the 40th Bomb Gp. On the 7th of March these two B-29-90BW arrived at March Field. Col Skaer was very much disappointed because the airplanes were 8 or 9 months old. Col Skaer had been trying to get new airplanes.

Major Heldt has supplied Group Operations with Transition files. All pilots are encouraged to take full advantage of these files to maintain and establish a high degree of knowledge in the engineering aspects of the various types of aircraft.

The training department has reserved two link trainers daily for use of 40th Gp pilots. Eight pilots are scheduled daily for two hours each and a standard Link Trainer course was established so that a greater degree of proficiency may be realized from the time spent in link trainers. C.N.T.'s are reserved daily for navigators of the 40th Bomb Gp. Two Navigators are scheduled daily for 4 hrs each. A number of celestial problems are given to each navigator, and as soon as he has successfully completed one problem he goes to the next. A great deal of credit must be given to Major Reid (Gp Nav) for getting the C.N.T. into operation at this early date. Practically all C.N.T. operators have been separated from service, making this task all the more difficult.

On the 12 March 1946 at 0930 Col Skaer held a Staff meeting in his office.

All members were present except Lt Morgan and Lt Col White, who were on DS at For MacArthur.

Contents of Col Skaer's staff meeting:

Col Skaer stated that he was leaving to go to Roswell for several days to check on 40th Gp personnel at that station. He appointed Lt Col Schaaf to act as C.O. in his absence.

Col Skaer also stated that we wanted one officer appointed from each Squadron to see that dependents of enlisted personnel who are on DS to Roswell are not suffering any hardships.

On the 15 March 46 the 40th Bomb Gp is to receive two B-29's from Roswell and one from Albuquerque. With these airplanes each Squadron will have a total of two each B-29.

Two of these B-29's are scheduled to be used on Crossroads Project 1.5.

A Board of 3 Officers (who are the most experienced pilots in B-29) are to be appointed in each Squadron by the Squadron C.O. for checking out all rated personnel in B-29. Memorandums are to be published on all B-29 operations and all rated personnel will be required to study these. Col Skaer stated that he wanted this check off system well controlled. All B-29 operation forms are to be filled out and filed with each individuals Form 5. Routine crew procedures for each crew member will be set up on directives.

The last of March the American Legion Aviators Post 350 is having an Exhibit in Los Angeles in connection with a recruiting drive for the 40th Bomb Group, and the 25th Service Group. A number of mock ups of Air Corps Equipment will be set up. 40th Bomb Group officers on TDY for this show were Captains Almy, Arrowsmith, Brandt, Brannon, DeCesare, Leavitt, and Lieutenants Bailey and DeCoster.

All Squadron C.O. stated that they each had enough trained personnel present for duty to take care of three B-29's in each Squadron.

The Group has six full combat crews at the present time. Eight full crew less Radar or CPC operators could be assembled in an emergency. The Group has 11 full crews with the personnel who are on DS to Roswell.

The Base is very slow in moving Base personnel out of quarters and replacing them with Wing and Group personnel.

The 1st of April 1946 was the 5th anniversary of the organization of the 40th Bomb Gp that it be declared a holiday. This was approved by Col Skaer. A big party is to be given by the Group. Col Skaer appointed a board of Lt Col Tatum, Major Minor, and Himself to plan for the occasion. (Date was inter changed to 2 April 1946).

Major Lamb (S-4) is trying to get bins and lockers set up in Bldg. 353 for Flying Equipment. The Base and Group is very short of personal equipment personnel who check out parachutes and issue flying equipment to Air Crew members. (These bins and lockers were secured during the month).

Col Skaer said that he wanted the crews to have their equipment and be ready to go when flights are scheduled.

Col Skaer asked how many gunners are actually B-29 gunners. (Ans.) Two with actual combat experience. Most of the gunners are just out of school. Col Skaer wants each gunner to receive training in scanning. The Eng. Officer asked that the turrets be operated on the ground and in the air to keep them in good condition. Col Skaer stated that each gunner would be checked out on the ground first. On a routine flight the gunner would operated the turret once on the ground first and then after the ship was airborne each gunner was to practice tracking.

The maintenance sections has requested through Win an STOK "Red Ball" shipment on hand tool shortages.

The Air Sea Rescue Squadron on the Base had an L5B extra

and Col Skaer asked Major Weber to check on it. By the end of the month we had not received this aircraft.

Col Skaer was asked about his policy on B-25 flying concerning pilots who had sufficient hours if they could fly without a co-pilot. Col Skaer stated that his policy on B-25 flying would follow AAF Regulations.

Lt Col Tatum suggested that we follow AAF and 4th AF regulations concerning an athletic program. Col Skaer approved and said that each Squadron including Hqs would handle their own athletic program.

Lt Col Tatum also suggested that we request from Wing Accident Cause and Analysis of B-29 accidents, so that this information could be passed on to Group and Squadron personnel.

On March 13 the weekly orientation lecture for Officer and Enlisted personnel was held in theater No. 1 by Capt A.P. DeCesare (Orientation Officer).

Capt DeCesare covered a number of subjects that will be discussed at the weekly Orientation lectures. They are listed as follows.

- (1) Current Events
- (2) Discussions of American Gov. or History.
- (3) Interesting Hobbies
- (4) U.S.A.F.I. Courses
- (5) Army Technical Courses
- (6) I & E Films
- (7) Gripes and Complaints
- (8) Current Novels and Book Review
- (9) Military Courtesy
- (10) Army Intelligence and counter intelligence

(11) Variable Govt. Agency and functions

(12) Public Speaking

Capt DeCesare's plan discussed the latest amendment to the GI Bill of Rights which states that a person could go to school while in service. A number of officers and Enlisted Personnel were much enthused about this. Capt DeCesare has been working with Higher Authority to get University professors to come to March Field to teach, if enough personnel sign up for particular courses. Most likely these courses will be given at night at a time suitable to the majority of the students.

Future orientation lectures for the 40th Bomb Gp will be more on the educational side and aids to education. It is the purpose of the War Dept in Washington D.C. to make our Army the best informed in the world. This can only be done through Information and Education facilities.

By the end of the month of March the I & E Officer reports that a total of 75 Officers and Enlisted Men are attending night classes at the Junior College in Riverside. A total of nine Officers and Enlisted Men are taking college extension courses (U.S.A.F.I.).

Capt Arrowsmith was appointed Record Administrator for the 40th Bomb Group on March 11, and began to process and eliminate old records and filing of current or live records.

Capt Hoffman, Officer in charge of instrument flying is now set up and ready to give instrument checks. All pilots with expired instrument cards were instructed to arrange for their instrument checks. Attention of all pilots is called to the new AAF Regulation 50-5, which has been changed making the requirements higher and more extensive.

Capt D. P. Brandt was assigned as Gp Ordnance Officer during the first week of March.

On or about the 2nd of March, the following officers were sent on TDY to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to witness "A" Bomb handling in connection with the Cross Road Project.

Captain Core, F.J.

Captain Miller, L. W.

Captain Brandt, D. F.

WOJG Jezek, R. F.

1st Lt Barnes, W. C. went on TDY to Roswell, New Mexico to study armament and ordnance activities in connection with Cross Roads Project during the first week of March.

Group aircraft on hand during March were 2 each B-25's, 3 each B-29's, 2 each AT-6's.

Inspections performed during March were:

(1) 100 hr inspection B-25Js 44-31187

(1) 50 hr inspection B-25J 44-31197

The technical inspector has completed an inspection on seven airplanes assigned to 40th Bomb Gp for maintenance.

There is a shortage of clerks for office work and also a shortage of personnel in eng. due to the surplus of men in MOS 750 which is due to reenlistment program.

On the 26 Feb 46 the Group Communications Officer held a conference with Lt Schall (25th Service Gp Comm. Officer) in an effort to secure an understanding whereby the Communication Personnel of the Service Group would start to do some of the

Radio Maintenance work now being performed by the 40th Gp radio operators. Although the 25th does not have sufficient men available to do all of this maintenance, it was decided that the Service Group would take over some of the work in order that the 40th Operators could spend more time training in Gp Ground School. It was agreed that the Service Group would do all 100 hr and 50 hr inspections while the 40th Gp would continue to make all preflight inspections and other 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance.

Major Lamb was instructed to send 3 enlisted personnel and one officer to go to Victorville and check the service records of 71 B-29, at 58th Wing request for purpose of picking out the best B-29 to be assigned to Wing Units.

Col Wilson was scheduled to go to Clovis, N.M. to inspect the “drone” activities of detached 40th group personnel there.

Crews will be picked to man special planes received from San Antonio Air Depot when they arrive at March Field.

Summary of Col Skaer’s Staff Meeting of 15 March follows:

All personnel are to be processed per annex 6 Field Order on “Cross Roads Project” of Crews that will be assigned to “Special B-29’s” that are coming in.

Lt. Col James H. Thompson was appointed Operations Officer on 15 March 1946.

Col Skaer held a meeting to theater No. 2 at 1030 for all 40th Bomb Group personnel on 16 March.

Col Skaer told the 40th Gp Personnel that we have a 50% chance of staying here at March Field. If we do not get to stay here our base has been designated and it is not “out in the sticks”.

Col Skaer did not mention the name of the base because he said he didn't want to get any wild rumors started.

The Col then praised the 40th Bomb Gp personnel at Roswell. We have 9 crew chiefs and 2 flight on the Cross Roads Project. The higher authorities at Roswell said they did not know what they would have done without 40th Bomb Gp personnel. The 40th Group personnel has really been in there pitching.

The 40th Group has 2 B-29 airplanes, two more possibly coming in. The Col has asked for 4 more, which would make a total of 9.

Then Col Skaer closed his meeting by telling us that he has been transferred. He said that it was one of the worst bits of news he had received. He also stated that working with the 40th Bomb Group has been the most interesting and most enjoyable work he has had in his army career.

On 15 March 1946 (Aircraft) Eight B-29 from the Crossroad project stopped at March Field for service. Four B-29 remained over night. Squadron personnel of the 40th Gp performed the daily and preflight inspection of those aircraft.

All Sq had stand by inspection on 16 March.

Col Skaer, William was transferred to Roswell, New Mexico for the purpose of training with the Crossroad project, Task Gp. 1.5(Provisional) on 18 March 1946.

The following named officers and EM proceeded to Clovis, N.M. AAFLD on 18 March for approximately 2 days for the purpose of ferrying personnel:

Capt 1034 Thornburg, Allen L.

Lt Col 1093 White, Joseph D.

Capt 4823 Geckster, John M.

1st Lt 1093 Klaus, William

S/Sgt 611 Gorman, Thomas F. Jr.

On March 25 the 40th Bomb Gp started moving equipment for American Legion Exhibit to be given March 27 through April 1.

Lt Henomichal Group Athletic Officer, went to Victorville for 10 days in connection with processing aircraft. Capt Needleman was placed in charge of the Bowling League (V.O.C.O.)

Group personnel sent to Victorville AAFLD on TDY for approximately 10 days for the purpose of processing aircraft are on Letter Order 46, Hq, 40th Bomb Gp dated 19 March 1946.

Letter Order 47, Hqs, 40th Bomb Gp, dated 20 March placed Major 1093 Ireland, Russell F. on TDY to proceed without delay, for approximately 10 days to CAF, Hq, Washington, D.C. for the purpose of orientation on Crossroad project.

Lt. Col Oscar R. Schaaf assumed command of the 40th Bomb Group per General Orders No 5, Hq, 40th Bomb Group dated 21 March 1946.

The Group Engineering Officer served on a board planning a mobile maintenance plan. A conference was held with all officers in charge of Sections and suggested the necessary equipment that would be needed to maintain forty aircraft for a period of thirty days. This information is now being ascribed and will be submitted on or about 18 March 1945.

On or about the 18 March the 25th, 44th and 45th Sq. began operating as units, scheduling their own airplanes, flights, link trainer and CNTs.

The Group Communication held a conference during the week of the 10th of March with the 58th Wing Communication

Officer to assist in drawing up a new Table of Organization for the Gp, Sq, and Service Group Communications Section. The new Table of Organization is designed to include 1st and 2nd echelon, maintenance as a Group and Sq function.

A conference was held during the same week with the Communications Officer, 25th Services Group in regard to fixing responsibility for Maintenance and outlining the procedures to be used in notifying the Service Group of work to be done. All requests for maintenance will be on work request sheets.

The Communication Section is having considerable difficulty because Squadrons have been assigning men to details, interviews and various Squadron duties without notifying the Communications Section. The School schedule has been disrupted at times to the extent of causing cancellation of classes.

A technical Inspection was made of the 25th Bombardment Squadron on the 11 March 1946.

One 29 Serial No 42-24719 was inspected 12 and 13 March 1946.

A Technical Inspection was made on the 45th Bomb Sq on 13 March 1946.

A Technical Inspection was made on Group Supply and Communications 14 March 1946.

T & E Section was inspected on 11 March 1946.

Public Relations was inspected on 13 March 1946.

The Group Armament Officer has started a school to train C.F.C. Gunners. Armament Section is having difficulty in finding storage space for Armament equipment removed from aircraft.

Major William J. Heldt, M/Sgt Lovern B. Barber and M/Sgt Alexander Shomph from the Technical Inspectors Office are on detached service (VOCO) 18 March 1946 to Victorville, Calif. for the inspection of records on 7 airplanes for the 58th Wing. Men are to return 20 March 1946.

On the 22 and 23 the Technical Inspectors screened all technical orders returned from initial issue by the 25th Bomb Squadron.

The 58th Wing Inspector conducted technical and tactical inspection on the 22 & 23 March 46 of the Group Inspector.

On the 19 March 1946 the office Technical Inspector inspected B-29 No. 45-21720.

On the 23 March 1946 the Office of the Technical Inspector inspected AT-11 42-37389.

The Air Inspector conducted a physical fitness inspection of the 40th Bomb Gp.

The Air Inspector conducted an inspection of the 40th Bomb Group Operations on the 22 March 46.

The 58th Bomb Wing inspectors inspected the Air Inspector Administrative Section on the 21 & 22 March.

Personnel of the 40th Gp that are at Clovis AAF, Clovis, N.M. on the Crossroads Project are thought very highly of by Col Alness, Project Commanding Officer and Major Sergy, Project Engineer Officer for the job they are doing maintaining the project aircraft.

Major Lamb, Eng. Officer, has turned into Col Thompson (Gp Operations Officer) the names of men who are to maintain two (2) special B-29s for the Crossroads Project.

All Squadrons used wheel chocks for B-29 Aircraft. An inspection was conducted

and enough wheel chocks for 40 aircraft were found in the Base Reclamation Yard.

The Communication Officer, 1st Lt. Daniel Reuther with the Radar Office and Radar Section of the 25th Service Group and the Communication Section Chiefs of the 40th Bomb Gp met to determine the procedures for reporting Radar Maintenance work to be done. A system was decided upon that was similar to the system of reporting radio maintenance. A Radar Preflight inspection would be performed after each flight in which Radar equipment was used or would be performed every three days when equipment was not used.

The Service Group has been assigned transportation which should alleviate a lot of trouble that the Service Group has encountered.

Radio Operators have been re-distributed among the various Squadrons in order to give each Squadron proportionate share of the qualified Radio Operator personnel.

The Intelligence Officer, Capt Arrowsmith, reported that XX and XXI Bomber Command Tactical Mission reports are now filed in sequence.

Every pilot now has to have B-29 questionnaire, supervised test, new transition curriculum before being checked out on B-29's.

B-29 Amplified check list for standard crew procedure has been published and is being distributed by Group Operations.

An American Legion exhibit was given in L.A. from 27 to 1st at which the 40th Gp participated. Mock ups were shown

of B-29 engine, oil cooling system, Radar, C1, B-29 turret, radio compass, combat photos, bombs of all types, Personal equipment, chemical warfare, jet engine, CFC and remote control.

1st Lt. 1093 Hutton, Lloyd W. 0-772382 and Pfc 1274 Kilpatrick, Willie P. are to proceed to Presidio of San Francisco, Calif for the purpose of attending Personal Affairs conference for approximately 5 days.

Col Thompson, Group Operation Officer, requested that the Communication Officer make up an amplified radio operators Preflight check list which was complied with.

The Communications Officer of the 58th Wing, 40th Bomb Gp and 25th Service Gp. Held a conference to discuss maintenance procedure. They came to the conclusion that the 40th Bomb Gp assign one or more communication section chiefs (542) to work with the Service Group. Also the 58th Wing Communications Officer suggested that the Gp communication Section should be reorganized. Each Squadron Section Chief is to be assigned a definite job with one section instead of having their separate one, in one GP office. Also reassignments were made.

The 420 AAF Base Unit now has operational an Air Ground Radio Net for the use of the 40th Bombardment Gp aircraft. Information regarding use of the net will be given out to all operators in S.C.I. form.

The Air Inspectors Section had follow up inspection for the week ending 29 March on Unit Personnel, 25th Bomb Sq and Mess Supervision.

The Eng. Sec. received 4 new engines to go on B-29 45-21722. An inspection of engines found that some T.O. were

not complied with. New engines are being built up to T.O. 01-2-EJ-173. B-29 45-21720 was not put out of commission on account of lack engine stands, hoists and other special equipment.

On the 29 March 1946 two (2) AT-6's 44-80957 and 44-80960 were assigned to the Group. Aircraft are out of commission for acceptance checks.

The Armament Section started training flying personnel in bomb bay doors, bomb racks, shackles, and associated equipment and gunners for ring gunners positions.

The 40th Gp at the present time has been participating in Athletics. A soft ball and bowling league has been organized in each Squadron including Headquarters. The results of the league games in bowling and softball will be given in the April History.

Headquarters Officers Bowling league summary for the month follows:

As of the 31 March 1946 the Group League consisted of twelve (12) five (5) man teams. The league meets every Thursday evening at 1900 at which time rank versus brawn and vice-versa. Total prizes awarded to-date have amounted to \$64.00, doled out weekly for the following:

High Team Series (three games)		\$8.00
High Team (single game)		2.00
High Individual Series (three games)		4.00
High Individual (single game)		2.00
Team Standings:	WON	LOST
Strikers	14	6

	WON	LOST
Twenty-Niners	14	6
Groovers	12	8
Timber Wolves	13	8
Dribblers	10	10
Slow Rollers	10	10
Pinbusters	10	10
Sad Sacks	9	11
Rowdies	9	11
Fireballs	8	12
Globsters	6	14
All Outers	5	15

The 40th Gp at present is operating only one consolidated Mess Hall in which the following units are messing together:

25th Bombardment Squadron; 45th Bombardment Squadron; 445h Bombardment Squadron; 40th Bombardment Squadron. At present new tables are being finished and varnished while the dining room is being painted. New equipment was obtained during the month of March and will be installed during the month of April.

By the end of March the 44th Squadron and the 45th Squadron had obtained all equipment for their Messes but were installing it very slowly. With the shortages of cooks and personnel it is not possible at the present time for the Squadrons to operate individual messes.

The Mess Hall is operated cafeteria style. At present it is under the direction of 1st Lt Wallace F. Van Dyke and Master Sgt David Sheppard of the 25th Bombardment Squadron

since the dinning room will eventually belong solely to the 25th Bombardment Squadron. But at present the 40th Bombardment Group mess organization is given as follows:

**Gp Mess Supervisor
Capt Eino E. Jenstrom**

25th Bomb Sq	45th Bomb Sq	44th Bomb Sq
Mess Officer 1st Lt Wallace VanDyke	Mess Officer 2nd Lt Billy Smartt	Mess Officer 2nd Lt. Eugene Saucer
Mess Sergeant M/Sgt David Shepard	Mess Sergeant M/Sgt Earl Wilson	Mess Sergeant T/Sgt Joheim McElroy
No. of Cooks Five (5)	No. of Cooks Three (3)	No. of Cooks Six (6)

Action has been initiated to find out the reason the 40th Membership is not receiving Service Records on Enlisted Personnel from the Base Units.

The Personnel Section Assisted in initiating canceling and changing of allotments and giving information and advise on NSLI.

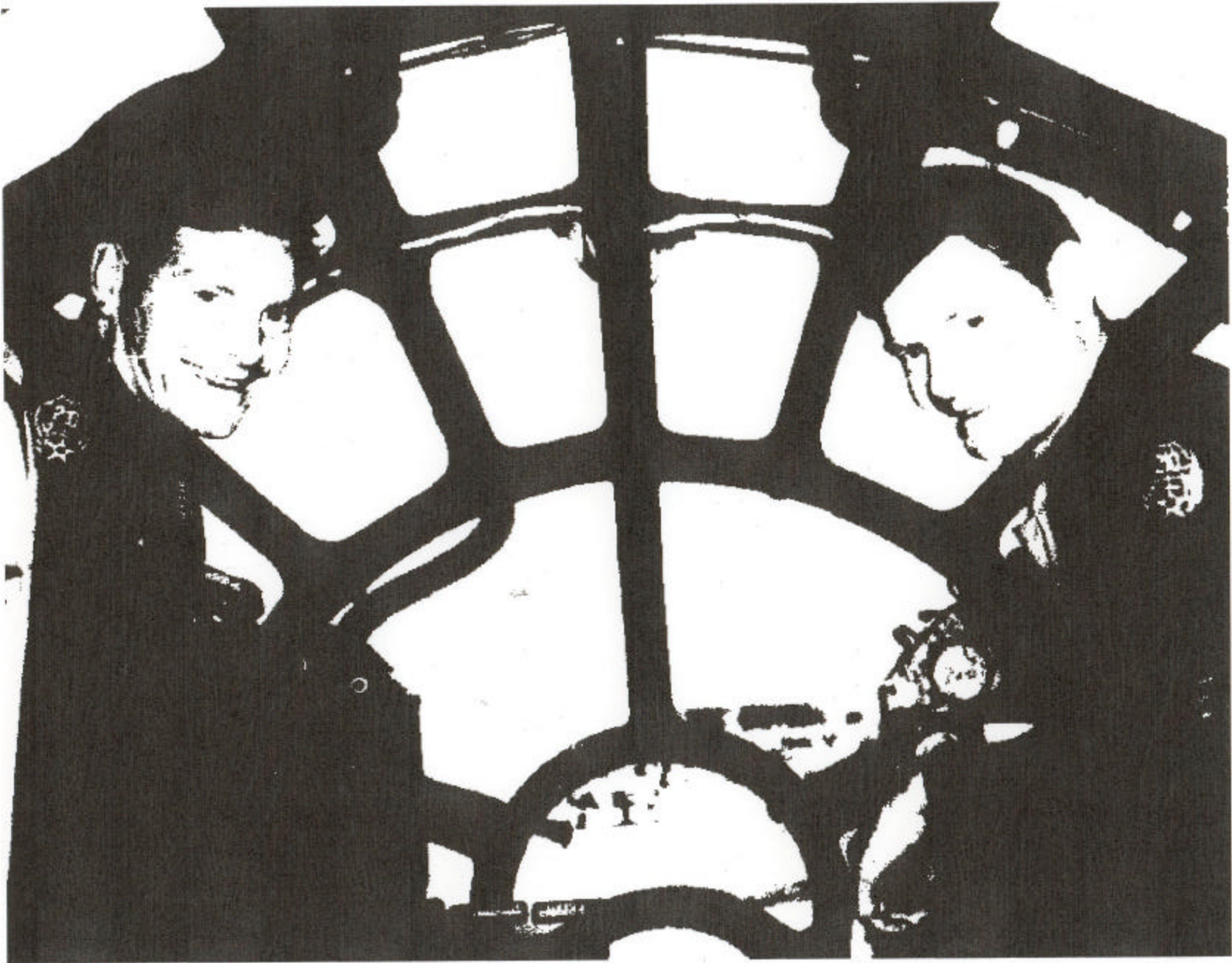
The strength of Group Headquarters as of the first and last day of the month were:

	1 March 1946	31 March 1946
Col	1	1
Lt Col	5	6
Major	20	24
Capt	48	56
1 st Lt	87	90
2 nd Lt	11	9
W/O	3	4
F/O	7	7
M/Sgt	159	167
T/Sgt	66	67
S/Sgt	47	54
Sgt	39	32
Cpl	54	50
PFC	43	41
Pvt	13	9

New key and staff assignments of group personnel during the month of March were:

*Lt. Col	Oscar R. Schaaf	Commanding Officer
Lt. Col	Willard W. Wilson	Commending Officer, 25th Bomb Sqd
Capt	Arthur V. Arrowsmith	Records Administrator
Capt	George F. Roberts	Historical Officer
Capt	Richard A. Gerrity	Personal Equipment Officer

*** General Orders No. 8 dtd 21 March 1946.**



Twins..? Nope, just M/Sgt David F. Clendenen, recently Mr. Clendenen, and formerly Lt. Clendenen B-29 pilot.

The picture above of Lt., correction, Sgt Clendenen taken in the pilots section of a B-29 illustrates that one can be happy in the service, either as an officer or an enlisted man. There is considerable discussion in the 40th Group (to which Sgt Clendenen has been reassigned) as to whether he looked happier as an officer or as an EM. The Sgt, when queried stated only that he is happier in either uniform than in a double breasted pin stripe.

Sgt Clendenen, when asked his reason for reenlisting said, “After three months as a civie I decided that the rank of enlisted wasn’t all its cracked up to be. With strikes, no housing, red tape, high prices, and few good jobs, ...as compared with the advantages of regular army security pay, medical care, retirement benefits, it just seemed the smart thing to do. Also I had opportunity to rejoin my old outfit and renew old friendships here in the 40th”. The sergeant was a member of the 40th Bomb Group before his discharge. He joined this unit after finishing his four engined transition training at Roswell, New Mexico. That was October 1943. When the Group moved overseas in March 44, Sgt Clendenen went with it and was privileged to fly the first B-29 mission of the war against Bangkok, Thailand on June 5, 1944.

The B-29 program expanded so rapidly in this country during the latter part of 1944 that the Flying Training Command could not supply enough experienced B-29 instructor personnel. Sgt Clendenen, then a First Lieutenant, was

returned to the United States to help in this training program.

The Sgt was discharged last November with 90 days to decide whether he would rather reenlist as a Master Sergeant or to remain a civilian. After 89 days, he reenlisted for a full three year hitch, and subsequently reported for duty with the 40th Group at March Field.

M/Sgt Clendenen wears the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Unit Badge with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Asiatic Pacific Theatre Ribbon with four battle stars, the American Theatre Ribbon, and the Victory Medal.

The Sergeant's family, Mrs Clendenen and his daughter, Nancy, are now living with his parents, Mr & Mrs C L Watling at 144 Barnes Ave., Baldwin Park, Los Angeles, California until he can find a place nearby.

H E A D Q U A R T E R S
40TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
March Field, California

13 March 1946

SUBJECT: 40th Bomb Group and 25th Service Group participation in the American Legion Air Show, Los Angeles Armory, 27 March – 31 March 1946.

TO : Commanding Officer, 40th Bomb Group, March Field, Riverside, California.

- 1. The following exhibits have been planned:**
 - (a) Recruiting Booth – Large display of photo blow-ups from combat activities of 40th Group. Preparation under direction of Captains DeCesare & Almy.**
 - (b) Engineering – Cutaway engine with prop. Oil system mock-up, cutaway fuel induction carburetor. Preparation of display under the direction of Capt Geckeler and Lt. Bailey.**
 - (c) Armament & Ordnance – Remote sight, turret, 50 caliber machine gun, incendiary bombs M47A2 & M69, 100, 500, 2000 lb G P bombs, fuses, shackles, rack, and bombsight. Preparation under the direction of Captains Brandt, Brannon, & Core.**
 - (d) Photo – cameras (K-18, 19, 20, 22, & 35), intervalometer, flash bomb, mount, representative prints. Preparation under direction of Capt. Eustis.**
 - (e) Personal Equipment – 7 & 10 man rafts, Mae Wests, flak suits, oxygen mask, survival vest, Gibson Girl, and rescue boat. Preparation under the direction of Capt Gerrity.**
 - (f) Radar & Communications – To be handled by 25th Service Group. Capt Osborn in charge.**
- 2. The Air Show will be open from 1100 hrs to 2300 hrs daily. It is anticipated that minimum personnel necessary to man the exhibits, provide security, effect maintenance and assist in recruiting will be as follows:**

- (a) Captains DeCesare & Almy, Lt Bailey, & one pilot.
- (b) One Crew Chief
- (c) One Armament NCO. Capt Brauman
- (d) One Ordnance NCO. Capt Braudt
- (e) One Photo NCO
- (f) One Personal Equipment NCO
- (g) Captain Arrowsmith, Property Custodian

3. The base will furnish transportation for equipment and personnel to and from Los Angeles. Equipment will be moved to the armory on Monday, 25 March and returned Monday, 1 April 46.

4. The American Legion will furnish carpenter, sign painters and materials for construction of display booths and has arranged for military guards for security of equipment during hours when the armory is closed.

5. 40th Bomb Group displays are being coordinated thru Capt Almy, Group PRO. The program for March Field as a whole is being handled by Lt Palmer of the Base Public Relations Office. Mr Joe Leaming is in charge of Army exhibits for the American Legion.

6. It should be brought to the attention of the Commanding Officer that the American Legion intends to charge a fee for admission to this Air Show.

7. Request is made for approval of program as outlined.

DONALD C ALMY
Captain, Air Corps
Group P R O.

MEMO ON AMERICAN LEGION AIR SHOW
19 March 1946

1. **Air Show to run from 1100 hours to 2300 hours daily, 27 March through 1 April 1946. Preparation from 25 March to 27 March, pack up and return 2 April.**
2. **A minimum of six men will be needed present during the entire twelve (12) hours of each day. It will be necessary for all twelve (12) men of the party be present at the exhibit during the evening rush hours from approximately 1700 hours to 2300 hours daily.**
3. **Personnel suggested to man exhibits: (All men will have ex-officio recruiting duty and will be properly briefed by the base recruiting officer.)**

Property Custodian	Capt Arrowsmith
Recruiting	Capt DeCesare Capt Leavitt Lt DeCoster
Engineering	Lt Bailey *M/Sgt Parks
Armament	*Capt Brannon *T/Sgt Weiss (25th Ser Gp)
Ordnance	*Capt Brandt *T/Sgt Curry, V.K. (25th Ser Gp)
Photo	Capt Almy *M/Sgt Snead

4. **The American Legion will pay six (6) men operating exhibits. Those men marked with asterisk (*) are suggested as operators. Others will be paid by the government. (Per Diem and Travel). Those men receiving government allowance are qualified and will, when necessary, double as operators for the various exhibits.**

HEADQUARTERS, 40TH BOMB GROUP
Office of the Public Relations Officer
March Field, Riverside, California

20 March 1946

MEMO:

No :

AMERICAN LEGION AIR SHOW

In the absence of Lt Palmer of the Base Public Relations Office, Captain Arrowsmith, custodian of all property going to the show from this base, has been appointed Project Officer for the base. Inasmuch as Capt Arrowsmith is familiar with the plans of the 40th Bomb Group, it is suggested that he assume direction of further preparations for this organization. This arrangement will not only avoid duplication of effort, but will free the Public Relations Officer for other duties.

DONALD C ALMY
Captain, Air Corps
Group P.R.O.

TO: MAJ. JAMES K. BRYAN, P.R.O MARCH A.A.F.

SUBJECT: CONFIMATION 1946 AIRCRAFT SHOW.

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BUR D NYK 14 3-15-46

CARL B SQUIER

GENL SPAATZ & GENL EAKER IN AGREEMENT ON VALUE TO AIR FORCE BY EXHIBITS AT LOSA SHOW. MAJ. SOUCEY, ASST TO COL. H W BOWMAN, HAS JUST CALLED ME FROM PENTAGON BLDG STATING THAT THEY HAVE INSTRUCTED MAJ BRYAN OF THE CONTINENTAL AIR FORCE STATIONED AT MARCH FIELD TO ASSIST & PROVIDE WHATEVER EXHIBITS AVAILABLE FOR THE AVIATORS POST #860 AMER. LEGION LOSA. 1946 AIRCRAFT SHOW & HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE LEGION POST GET IN TOUCH IMMED. WITH MAJ. BRYAN AT MARCH FIELD, HOWEVER, THERE ARE THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS & THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND EXPENSES OF THE AAF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE SHOW WILL HAVE TO BE MET BY THE AIRCRAFT SHOW COMMITTEE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE GOVT WILL NOT ALLOW THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED THEIR GENERAL PER DIEM ALLOWANCES & AY XXX ANY COSTS OF TRANSPORTING EXHIBS FROM MARCH FIELD OR OTHER PLACES TO THE SHOW WILL HAVE TO BE MET BY COMMITTEE. BEST

THIS IS A TRUE COPY

**Signed – Joseph H. Leaming
JOSEPH H. LEAMING
1ST LT. A.C. – RES.
0-775940**

MAURICE G. CLEARY 446P

THIS IS A TRUE COPY

**JAMES K. BRYAN
MAJ.**

CO OF FAMED 40TH BOMB GRP

One of the Outstanding Bomb Groups of World War II is now stationed at March Field under the command of the man who led it in combat against the Japanese homeland. Colonel William K. Skaer, Commanding Officer of the 40th Bomb Group, and a native of California, is the man referred to.

Colonel Skaer attended Colorado University for two years before he accepted an appointment to West Point in 1934. Upon graduation from the Academy, he entered Randolph Field, Texas as a flight trainee and earned his wings there. He remained at Randolph as an instructor until the Flying Training Command was split into three units at which time he was transferred to Montgomery, Alabama. After a year at Maxwell Field in Montgomery the Colonel served as director of training at several different primary and basic flying schools until 1943. At that time he took over command of a B-17 Provisional Group. After guiding them through Combat Phase training he directed and participated in their movement from this country to England.

Upon returning from England he was assigned to the operations section of the 20th Bomber Command. When this command was sent overseas with the first B-29 units, the Colonel accompanied them and served with distinction as operations officer for the 58th Wing.

His assignment as Commanding Officer of the 40th Bomb Group came in February, 1946. He has held this position since that time, directing the Group through its last six months of combat operations during which time its second and third distinguished unit citations were received.

Among the many decorations worn by Colonel Skaer, the most important is the Army's fourth highest award—the Legion of Merit, which he won in recognition of his outstanding service as 58th Wing Operations Officer and 40th Group Commander. He also wears the Distinguished Flying Cross with One Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Asiatic Theatre Ribbon with six Battle Participation stars, and the Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

40TH BOMB CO IS TRANSFERRED

Colonel William K. Skaer, Commanding Officer of the 40th Bomb Group announced at a meeting of 40th Group men last Saturday that effective Monday, 18 March 1946, he would no longer be in command. The Colonel brought the news from Roswell, New Mexico, where he had been in conference with Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey, Commanding General of the 58th Bomb Wing and Army Director of the Atom Bomb Projects. The new position to which Col. Skaer was assigned was not announced, nor was his successor identified.

Colonel Skaer told the men of his command, “My work with the 40th has been the most interesting and the most enjoyable of my army career.” The Colonel joined the unit while it was still operating out of India, in February, 1945, and he has guided it through a year of combat, redeployment, and reorganization.

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Under his command the 40th has compiled a splendid record in combat, and since demobilization its speed of reorganization and comprehensive training program has attracted the needed high quality and experience B-29 personnel from many wartime units.

40TH BOMB GROUP'S THIRD DU AWARD

It's becoming a habit with this outfit. What habit? What outfit? The 40th Bomb Group this week received its THIRD Distinguished Unit Citation for extraordinary achievement in the war against the Japanese.

This third award was presented for a series of three combat missions against the Japanese Homeland on June 5, 10 and 14, 1945, in which the Hiro Aircraft Factory was 70% destroyed, the Oshima Oil Storage facilities were 90% destroyed and 9.2 square miles of the industrial district of Nagoya were left smoldering ruins.

Other achievements of this famed group include the longest night mission of the war – a 4000 mile round trip from bases on Ceylon to the Palembang Oil Refinery on the Island of Sumatra. Also a series of 3900-mile missions against Singapore from bases in India.

The 40th Bomb Group participated in the first and the last B-29 missions of the war.

A-BOMB CREW STOPS AT MF

Stopping at March Field for refueling after a long range navigational mission, Major John C. Eigenmann and his crew, all members of the 40th Bomb Group and now on detached services to Roswell, New Mexico, spent their brief stay by looking up friends and acquaintances from whom they had been separated since being assigned to the "Crossroads" project.

Major Eigenmann was CO of the 25th Bombardment Squadron of the 40th Bomb Group two months ago, when he was requested to pick a special crew and report to Roswell to assist in the

A-Bomb project. At present they are engaged in training missions of various types; photo bombing, practice bombing and long range tracking missions.

Expecting to leave for the Marshall Islands about April 1st, the Major stated that his crew would drop instruments to record bomb-blast data, and also record readings on special instruments carried in the plane.

The other members of the crew were 1st Lt. R. F. Johnson, Co-pilot; 1st Lt. E. D. Millen, navigator; 1st Lt. W. D. Hart, bombardier; T/Sgt. G. R. Brown, flight engineer; 1st Lt. W. H. Hill, radar operator; Sgt. E. L. Frazier, gunner; S/Sgt. J. E. Garner, gunner. All of these men are assigned to the 40th Bomb Group on DS to Roswell, New Mexico, unit until the A-Bomb project is completed.

NEW CHAPLAIN JOINS 40TH GR

Assigned to the 40th Bomb Group as Chaplain, Major Roy M. MacLeod, comes to the organization well equipped to cope with the spiritual and personal problems of the men under his guidance.

Pastor of Presbyterian Church in Athens, Texas, for seven years, he became a member of the Reserves before entering on active duty. He served overseas with numerous organizations in the Army Air Forces, and accumulated over 800 flying hours during his tour of duty as supervisor of one of the largest areas in the European Theater of Operations. Major MacLeod returned from overseas in August, 1945.

The Major is a graduate of the University of Montana and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has

also done graduate work at Northwestern and Chicago University.

40TH BOMB GR HAS 85% RA

Although recent figures show an increase of reenlistments in the 40th Bomb Group the authorized strength of the unit is still considerably below its normal level and it is hoped that all ex-B-29 men will take advantage of the opportunity to join this famous pre-war outfit.

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Eighty per cent of the assigned enlisted personnel are Regular Army men, while over fifty per cent of the officers have applied for Regular Army commissions. The Group has no Category V officers left on its roster.