

(Typed from microfilm be Sparky Corradina)

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HEADQUARTERS 40TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Army Air Field, Pratt, Kansas

20 Aug 43 to 30 Sep 43

HISTORY

All Officers and Enlisted Men of the 25th Bombardment and 395th Bombardment Squadrons were transferred from the 40th Bombardment Group to the 462nd Bombardment Group (H), Walker Army Air Field, Victoria, Kansas per Special Orders Number 50, this Headquarters dated 24 August 43. (Incl. #1) Also included in the transfer, same authority, was approximately 50% of the Headquarters, 40th Bomb Group (H) Officer and Enlisted personnel. The movement was accomplished by truck convoy on August 27th and 28th.

On August 30th, approximately 50% of the 45th Bombardment Squadron personnel was transferred to the 395th Bombardment Squadron, per paragraph 3 and 4, Assignment Memo Number 65, the Headquarters dated 24 August 43. (Incl. #2) The 44th Bombardment Squadron was split in like manner, per paragraph 1 and 2, same assignment memo, to form the new 25th Bombardment Squadron. Major Walter Y. Lucas assumed command of the new 395th Bombardment Squadron and Major Warren S. Wilkinson assumed command of the new 25th Bombardment Squadron.

Immediately after the "split", Officers and Enlisted personnel began to arrive from the 58th Bombardment Wing (H) aimed toward bringing the 40th Bombardment Group (H) up to authorized strength. The new personnel for the most part are coming from schools where they were specially trained for the B-29 Project. The men are well trained in the theory of the new B-29 plane and it is the job of the Group to give them practical training.

The Group training program is underway and the following is a resume of the activities of the various sections:

Navigation School: Group Navigator conducting DR and celestial school for 35 Bombardiers. Approximately 60% trained. DR air missions accomplished in B-26's and B-17's. Celestial theory already covered but celestial air missions not yet begun. It is estimated this school will be completed within three weeks.

Bombing School: Group Bombardier conducting school for 12 navigators all of who are ready to drop bombs. Approximately 70% trained.

Communications: Curriculum drawn up, code table equipment on hand but no building available at present to house the school.

Gunnery: Central fire control station being organized by two officers in the Group. Lieutenants

RESTRICTED

Redler and Nichols in charge with eight Enlisted Men to assist as instructors. Program is being delayed at present by lack of turrets. It is estimated that training will start within ten days. It is planned that squadron armament personnel will attend this course of instruction. A curriculum is already drawn up, space is available for classrooms, trainers and mock-ups but details on actual processing of students have not been worked out.

Radar: Group radar officer (Capt Hilt) at present conducting a radar school on IFF (B-29) for all radio operators in the Group. Capt Hilt is organizing a course of instructions on absolute altimeter, bombing through overcast equipment, blind landing equipment for navigators, bombardiers, and pilots. Radio operators will also receive this instruction. Mock-up sets on all equipment.

Intelligence: Group Intelligence Officer through squadron intelligence officers conducting first phase intelligence training in the squadrons at a minimum of two hours weekly. This includes occasional film strips on pertinent subjects.

Physical Training: Each officer and each enlisted man of all squadrons take a minimum of three hours exercise per week under supervision of squadron athletic officers.

Military Courtesy: Conducted by squadrons – not given first priority.

Weather: Group Weather Officer (Capt Carroll) has prepared a course of instruction for all flying personnel. This is to incorporate in the Group training program to be published about October 5th.

General:

- (1) Six link trainers in operation.
- (2) Two CNT trainers in operation.
- (3) Two Jam Handy trainers to be in operation within a few days.
- (4) Group radio station in operation – air to ground net.
- (5) Radio range in operation.
- (6) War building being finished off with maps of appropriate world sectors for any briefing.

On 18 September 43 the following named men were awarded the Air Medal or Oak-Leaf Cluster, pursuant to Direction of the President and Executive Order No. 9158, 11 May 1943 (Bulletin #25 WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order #9242-A, 11 September 42 (Bulletin No. 49, WD, 1942): (Incl #3)

AIR MEDAL

1st Lt Robert A. Tisserat
2nd Lt Dorsey B. Thomas
M/Sgt Thomas G. Holmes
S/Sgt DeWitt W. Chance
S/Sgt Clyde C. Nelson
Cpl John F. Porter

RESTRICTED

OAK-LEAF CLUSTER

1st Lt Donald G. Starkey
S/Sgt John U. Gaugnan
Cpl Howard C. Barnett

Brigadier General Kenneth B. Wolfe made the presentation. Lt. Col Louis E. Coira Jr was the Commanding Officer of Troops. The entire Group was present at the regimental review. Music was furnished by the regimental band of Army Air Field, Great Bend, Kansas.

The 40th bombardment Group made a very favorable showing in the nation wide 3rd War Bond Drive. During the month of September the personnel of the 40th Bombardment Group purchased more than \$15,000.00 worth of Bonds.

The strength of the 40th Bombardment Group as of September 30, 1943 was as follows:

	OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
Headquarters	35	46
25 th Bomb Sq (H)	63	263
44 th Bomb Sq (H)	64	255
45 th Bomb Sq (H)	64	267
395 th Bomb Sq (H)	61	256

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HEADQUARTERS SIXTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

6AF-210.5

G-10
A.P.O. No. 825,
c/o, Postmaster, New Orleans, La.,

23 June, 1943

SUBJECT: Award of Air Medals and Oak-Leaf Clusters

TO: Commanding Officer, Army Air Base, Pratt, Kansas

1. By direction of the president, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, 11 May, 1942 (Bulletin No. 25, War Department, 1942,) as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, 11 September, 1942 (Bulletin No. 49, War Department, 1942), Air Medals and Oak-Leaf Clusters were on 11 June, 1943 awarded to the Following Officers and Enlisted Men:

AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL

1st Lt. Robert A. Tisserat
2nd Lt. Dorsey B. Thomas
M/Sgt. Charles A. Bennett
M/Sgt. Thomas G. Holmes
S/Sgt. DeWitt W. Chance
S/Sgt. Clyde C. nelson
Cpl. Howard C. Barnett
Cpl. John F. Porter

AWARD OF OAK*LEAF CLUSTER

1st Lt. Donald G. Starkey
S/Sgt. John U. Gaugnan

2. The above personnel were transferred to your command by Panama Canal Department, Troop Movement Order No. 9, dated 1 June, 1943, as amended 14 June, 1943.

3. As the Air Medal will not be manufactured until after the war, inclosed herewith is an Air Medal ribbon with bar and an Oak-Leaf Cluster to be presented to each individual with appropriate ceremony.

4. Request that as soon as the awards have been presented, a report showing date, place and manner of presentation, also officer presenting award be made to this headquarters.

For the Commanding General

3 Incl. #1 – G.O. 6AF 6/11/43 (15Cys)
#2 – Air Ribbon w/bar (8)
#3 – Oak-Leaf Cluster (4)

IRVING B. BLACK
Captain, A.G.D.,
Assist. Adjutant General