

**RESTRICTED**

**HEADQUARTERS 40<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)**  
Army Air Field  
Pratt, Kansas

**HISTORY**  
**FOR PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 1943 TO 31 OCTOBER 1943**

The Group has continued with it's training during this month--- Ground Schools are conducted from 0700 to 2200 daily except Sunday, by Group Headquarters and by squadrons; practical maintenance schools are conducted by squadrons. The schools in progress are:

Familiarization Course B-29'ers	Bombing (Navigators and Bombardiers)
Flight Instruction	Gunnery (Gunnery)
Bombing Training (Pilots)	Intelligence
Navigation Training (Pilots)	Ordnance
Communication Training	Aero-Medical
Meteorology	Athletics
Radar	Photographic
Gunnery	Practical Maintenance
Navigation (Navigators and Bombardiers)	

The following crew members are attending the above classes:

Pilots	Radar Operators
Navigator-Bombardier	Senior Gunner
Flight Engineer	Rt, Lft, & TI Gunner
Radio Operator	

During the month of October approximately fifty bombing missions were flown in YB-29 and B-17F at a maximum altitude of 10,000 feet; a total of five hundred 100 lb practice bombs were dropped with the M-9 bombsight. The Group is using the Kanopolis Bombing Range at Salina, Kansas for these missions. Approximately one hundred seventeen releases have been made through the C-1 Automatic Pilot, the scores were excellent and show a great improvement over other methods.

The Bombardier Trainer Stands are being used for the training of all officers flying personnel in the technique of bombing, pilots and copilots are required to spend four hours per month on the trainer, Bombardiers and Navigators must spend six hours.

The C-1 Automatic Pilot Mockup has been completed; pilots, co-pilots, bombardiers and navigators are required to spend four hours per month in its operation.

History, 40<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (H), 1 Oct 43 to 31 Oct 43, cont'd

During the month the Group was directed by TMX Nr Y683, Hq 58<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wg (H), 13 Oct 43 (Incl #1) to transfer its enlisted bombardiers to the 18<sup>th</sup> Replacement Wing, Utah, since YB-29 Crews call for a commissioned bombardier. They were recommended for and received aeronautical ratings as Observers and were transferred per Special Order #188, Hq Army Air Field, Pratt, Kan, 19 Oct 43: (Incl #2)

T/Sgt George B. Farrar, 16016356	S/Sgt William N. Lessin, 6980210
S/Sgt Robert A. Thomas, 14054148	S/Sgt Otto Pipek, Jr., 6979747
S/Sgt George E. Kumm, 6994629	S/Sgt Richard L. Webster, 6151735
S/Sgt Victor H. Estes, 18041921	M/Sgt James E. Dosier, 6151735
S/Sgt Stewart E. Hansen, 6580419	S/Sgt Phillip E. Heffron, 7021547
Sgt Guy e. Cole, 6958663	S/Sgt Ralph C. Holms, 36121095
T/Sgt Huggins M. Lackey, 6387479	S/Sgt Douglas H. Clelland, 18042009
T/Sgt William J. Hostead, 6994899	S/Sgt Wiley H. Robinson, Jr., 6998489
T/Sgt Irby C. Stout, Jr., 6899367	S/Sgt Linn R. While, 6947142

On 21 October 43 Lt. Col. LEO I. HERMAN, AND WOJG LOUIS GREENBERG, from 58<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (H), made an Administrative Inspection of the Group records and files. The intensive work and long hours put in on these records earned a rating of "Excellent" for all squadrons. The gravest faults found were these that could not be readily corrected such as lack of Articles of War, Sex Morality Lectures, WD AGO Forms 66-2 for officers, and uncorrectable entries in service records. All suggestions and comments made by the inspectors have been or will be carried out.

The Group continues to send students to various schools; the following are the number sent from squadrons during the month:

Wright Aeronautical Engine Corp Paterson NJ for course in R-3350 engines.	5 enlisted men
AFTRC US Rubber Co Detroit, Mich for course in self sealing fuel tanks	8 enlisted men
Automatic Pilots Instrument Refresher course Minneapolis Honeywell Corporation	2 enlisted men
AAF Intelligence School Harrisburg, Pa.	1 officer

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt DAVID M. FEFERMAN, 0574572 was assigned to the Group on 26 October 1943 and was detailed as Group Special Service Officer.

At 1500 24 October 1943 the officers and enlisted men of the Group were given an inspection in ranks by Lt. Col. LOUIS E. COIRA, Deputy Group Commander, and Major JOHN W. HOPE, Group Executive Officer. Their comment was that the troops looked "Excellent". Immediately after the squadrons were inspected they were marched to the Dispensary where they all received the first of the Typhus and Cholera inoculations. On 31 October 1943 they all were given the second shot in the series.

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**History, 40<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (H), 1 Oct 43 to 31 Oct 43, cont'd**

During the month five classification specialists were assigned the Group by 58<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wg; due to the diligent efforts and hard work of these men, all of our classification records were rated as being in excellent condition after the recent inspection by the Wing Inspectors.

During October Captain PAUL L. FREY, Captain FORRESSET G. WOOD, JR., of Group Headquarters and five officers from squadrons completed an eight weeks course at AAF Air Intelligence School, at Harrisburg, Pa., and returned to the Group. All Intelligence Officers in the Group now are graduates of that school. Lts. SCHOOLMAN and CAHILL, Intelligence Officers, from 58<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wg were detailed on temporary duty with the Group and are working in squadron Intelligence offices.

During the month the "War Room" was completed by Group Headquarters---this room has the latest in wall size maps with developments in the Combat Theatres kept up to date daily. The room is used in connection with orientation lectures and is of great interest to everyone in the Group. The lectures are given by various individuals and are supervised by the Intelligence Officer Captain FREY and Special Service Officer Lt. FEFERMAN. Some of the more recent guest speakers and the subject of their talks appear below:

"European People and the War" given by Miss Harriet Barnes, a world traveler who left Germany one month after they declared war.

"Experiences of the Memphis Belle" given by Major ROBERT K. MORGAN, 395<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H), former pilot of that famous Flying fortress.

"Operation of the IX Air Force in Africa" given by Lt. JOHN BOCK, and officer at home in Pratt, Kansas on leave from that organization.

See pictures of "War Room", inclosure #3.

During October the Post Gymnasium was opened for use; this gym is equipped with the latest in all types of indoor athletic equipment, boxing, volleyball, badminton, basketball, etc. The physical training program in the Group is progressing and is in full operation. The gym will be used during the winter months for supervised athletics and calisthenics. A program and schedule has been prepared so as to accommodate all personnel on the field. The gym is open from 0800 until 2200 seven days a week, with classes in supervised athletics or calisthenics starting on the hour all day long. A basketball tournament for the field has been organized and each squadron will furnish a team---games are being scheduled for the remaining portion of the year and the first part of next year. The members of the winning team will be given some sort of athletic decoration. The star players taken from all the teams on the field will be selected for a team to be called the "Pratt Army Air Field Team", they will play the surrounding fields. (See Rules & Regulations to Physical Fitness Program Incl #4, and Schedule for Gym Incl. #5).

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**History, 40<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (H), 1 Oct 43 to 31 Oct 43, cont'd.**

**The strength of this Group as of 31 October 1943 was as follows:**

<b>Hq., 40<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp.</b>	<b>Officers: 35</b>	<b>EM: 55</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.</b>	<b>Officers: 93</b>	<b>EM: 320</b>
<b>44<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.</b>	<b>Officers: 90</b>	<b>EM: 300</b>
<b>45<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.</b>	<b>Officers: 85</b>	<b>EM: 305</b>
<b>395<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.</b>	<b>Officers: 84</b>	<b>EM: 313</b>

**ROBERT J. PETERSON**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps**  
**Gp Historical Officer**

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