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GR 92-41 (Bomb)
Nov., 1944**SECRET**

November, by tradition, is one of the bad-weather months in England and Northern Europe; its days are cold and damp and depressingly short; a chill fog blankets the countryside. In consequence, the hazards of operational flying- of take-offs and landings particularly- are considerably increased. November of 1944 proved no exception to this dismal rule. Yet- paradoxically enough- November saw the 92nd Bombardment Group turn in the best operational month of its history. It was not the biggest operational month. But it was the best. Aircraft losses and abortives were at new record lows.

The rain and mud and mist contributed to a slowdown all along the Western Front, where 6 Allied armies hammered steadily at the Siegfried defenses along the 400 miles between the Dutch flatlands and the Belfort Gap. Highlighting the ground offensives were the capture of Gellenkirchen, east of Aachen, by the comb-

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ined US First and Ninth armies and the British Second army, and the enveloping of the famous fortress city of Metz by General Patton's US Third army. The 92nd Bomb Group aided in each of these achievements; the two tactical missions flown during the month were to blast gun emplacements south and east of Metz on November 9, and to attack miscellaneous tactical targets in the Eschweiler area northeast of Aachen on November 16. That the assistance of the 8th Air Force was effective was attested by 3 commendations received during the month from Lt General James Doolittle:

"Artillery forward observer reports many bombs fell on Aisne Group of forts during the attack on morning of November 9 and artillery fire terminated at once. Towns of Purnoy-Le-Grasse, Verny and Goin were also hit effectively. Please express our gratitude. Sgd CG XX Corps.' It is most gratifying to forward such a message. Please convey it to members of your command together with my congratulations. It indicates the high standard of combat efficiency within your respective units."

"On November 16 the 8th Air Force performed one of its most outstanding operations. The force took off under extremely adverse base weather conditions and successfully attacked targets on the immediate front of our ground troops almost exclusively by instrument technique with very good results. Ground commanders were highly pleased and report all bombs on or near the targets, with no injuries to friendly troops. It was a difficult task well done and I commend

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you for the capable and efficient manner in which it was conducted."

"It is a pleasure to forward the following message from the CG 104th Infantry Division: 'Doughboys thank you for a fine job. Certainly appreciated it. Please inform all participants. Sgd Terry Allen.' Such a message typifies the teamwork which is doing so much to knock out our common enemy."

The Group's operational statistics for November made good reading. There were 17 alerts, 14 missions briefed. 13 missions were flown, 11 of which attacked strategic targets. PFF bombing technique was used almost entirely; visual runs were made on targets of opportunity in the Hersfeld and Hunsfeld areas on November 21; GH technique was employed on the two tactical missions of November 9 and November 16. 467 aircraft were dispatched, and 466 attacked. Abortives totalled 5, or about 1% of aircraft dispatched; this figure was a new low. Only 1 plane was lost, to make the phenomenally low figure of 2/10 of 1% of aircraft dispatched. The loss came on the November 30 attack on Merseburg; at that time the Group had completed 21 successive missions without loss, also a record.

Cloud cover on the Continent was consistently dense, varying from 4/10ths to 10/10ths, with the latter condition the more prevalent. That the Group was able to fly as many

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missions and dispatch as many aircraft as it did (13 missions, 467 aircraft dispatched as against 4 missions, 89 aircraft dispatched in November, 1943) was a significant commentary both on the growth of the striking power of the 8th Air Force and the development of instrument bombing technique. Installed in August, PFF equipment and facilities had been drawn from other fields, and radar navigators assigned from Chelveston and Alconbury. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

The Group's fine operational record in November was explainable in several ways. The explanation started at the command level: there was no doubt that morale and spirit had shown a definite improvement since September. Superior maintenance was a major factor in the low abortive rate; good airmanship and good luck were responsible for the low loss rate. It was true that the Luftwaffe stayed pretty closely to the ground in November; it was also true that formations were cleaner and tighter (see PHOTO SUPPLEMENT) and that the augmented training programs, both air and ground, put into effect in October were paying dividends.

Main target of the month was the I.G. Farbenindustrie's mammoth synthetic oil plant at Leuna, 3 miles south of Merseburg. Rated the No. 1 target on the priority list, the plant

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was estimated to produce 10% of the Reich's synthetic oil, 1/3rd of German ammonia, other chemicals. The 92nd Group attacked the plant on November 2, 8, 25 and 30. The first of these missions to Merseburg produced one of the Group's great stories.

Leading the 1st Air Division on that day was an especially selected veteran crew of the 326th Squadron, with Col James W. Wilson, Group CO as Air Division Commander and co-pilot, Major Ernest O. Hardin, Jr, CO of the 326th Squadron, was the pilot, Capt Stanley E. Hall and Capt Erro A. Michelson, Squadron Navigator and Bombardier, respectively, were in those positions, and 1st Lt Frank L. Fabec, Group Radar Navigator, operated the PFF equipment. Other crew members included 1st Lt George J. Knoble, co-navigator; 1st Lt John J. Staples, usually Major Hardin's co-pilot, who flew as tail gunner; T/Sgt Charles M. Few, veteran engineer who had flown on the Group's first mission in the early fall of 1942; T/Sgt Monroe E. Goldstein, radio operator and S/Sgt Robert L. Davidson, waist gunner. Additionally, 2nd Lt Herb Palmer, STARS AND STRIPES correspondent, who had been on the base for ten days to gather a special feature story, flew as waist gunner. The total missions flown by members of this crew was 364. Their collective ex-

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perience was extensive.

The latter factor stood the crew in good stead, for their Fortress, "Satan's Lady," showed an unfortunate predilection toward living up to her name, carrying through a hell of flak bursts over the target, generally regarded as the most heavily defended in the Reich. Just after bombs away, 2 engines were knocked out. Almost simultaneously, 6 members of the crew were injured, although none seriously enough to cause incapacitation. In an effort to maintain flying speed, all jettisonable equipment except guns and ammunition was disposed of; despite this, with 2 engines gone, the aircraft lost altitude steadily and was soon flying alone. The position was unenviable in the extreme; intelligence reports had indicated that 400 enemy fighters were in the vicinity, and it was decided to fly above and in a cloud layer at about 7 to 8000 feet. It was at this point that the airmanship, discipline and experience of the select crew proved most valuable.

Col Wilson and Major Hardin skilfully nursed the ship along. A short distance from the Dutch border, ice began collecting on the wings and controls, and under this additional handicap, "Satan's Lady" staggered on. Suddenly the aircraft went into a spin, first to the right and then to the left.

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During the spin, and in accordance with a previously-discussed plan, Major Hardin ordered a bail-out; Capt Hall, Lt Staples and Lt Knoble parachuted before the two pilots regained control of the aircraft and the order could be rescinded. 2000 feet of altitude had been lost. Over the English Channel at last, guns and ammunition were jettisoned. Circling the airfield at Woodbridge, it was discovered that the undercarriage and flap controls had been knocked out and that a crash landing was necessary. Crew members went to crash stations and Major Hardin "floated" the plane into what the RAF flying control officer at Woodbridge described as the best crash landing he had ever seen. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

Oil refineries at Hamburg were visited twice during the month, on November 4 and November 6. On the second of these raids, the crew of 1st Lt Cyrus Broman of the 327th Squadron had an unique and unpleasant experience. Flak on the way to the target had knocked out 2 engines, and Lt Broman trailed the formation by 20 miles. Bombs away, he turned for home. Several minutes later 4 FW 190's appeared, one of the few times during the month when enemy fighters were seen. For 5 minutes or more, the enemy planes flew along, apparently deliberating a plan of attack, respectfully remaining just outside the range

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of the 50 calibre machine guns which, without firing, tracked their every move. Just as the enemy swung into position for an attack, 10 Mustangs appeared from nowhere. The FW 190's fled. Spine-tingling fact: the 50 calibre's were "dead," jammed by frozen moisture.

On the month's second tactical mission, 48 aircraft dropped fragmentation bombs in the Eschweiler area on November 16, in support of a major ground offensive. Weather conditions over England on their return necessitated a landing at Barford St. John. Capt William H. McKelvy, 325th Squadron Engineering Officer, with a cadre of 28 enlisted men, devoted 36 hours not only in repairing all damaged aircraft but in moving a number of planes which had become almost hopelessly mired. In the face of adverse weather conditions and with a distressing lack of equipment, Capt McKelvy completed his assignment in record time. For his efficiency on this occasion, Capt McKelvy was officially commended by Col James W. Wilson, Group CO. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

On November 26 and again on November 29, aircraft of the Group attacked the oil refineries at Misburg, rated the No. 2 target on the priority list. Leading the formation over the target on the November 26 mission, the aircraft piloted by 1st

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Lt Walter Kirkbride of the 327th Squadron was heavily hit by flak and fell out of the formation with the #4 engine on fire, shortly after bombs away. For a time, the Group's perfect record for the month wavered in the balance, then word was received that Lt Kirkbride had crash-landed in Belgium, 8 miles behind the lines. S/Sgt Arthur E. Wilson, ball turret gunner, was killed instantly by a piece of flak which pierced his heart, S/Sgt William P. Morgan, waist gunner, was slightly injured in the right forearm. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

The month's sole loss came on the very last day, over Merseburg, when the aircraft piloted by 1st Lt Arthur M. Smith of the 326th Squadron fell out of formation at the target after a direct flak burst had started a fire between the #3 and #4 engines. Incomplete eye-witness reports indicated that a gasoline tank exploded and the right wing of the aircraft from the #4 engine out broke away. The plane went into a flat spin, smoking and losing altitude rapidly until lost from view. (See APPENDIX B.)

Awards made during the month included 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 2 Silver Stars, 52 DFC's of which 46 were for completion of missions, 3 Bronze Stars, 1 Soldier's Medal, 5 Purple

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Hearts and 129 Air Medals. Oak Leaf Clusters awarded were: 5 to the DFC, 1 to the Purple Heart, and 408 to the Air Medal.

The DSC, second highest decoration ~~for~~ bravery, was awarded to Capt Charles W. Hodges, a pilot formerly of the 326th Squadron and since evacuated to the US, for extraordinary heroism on a mission to Hamburg, June 18. Leading a squadron over the target, Capt Hodges' aircraft took a terrific flak burst directly in the flight deck. The blast killed the command pilot, Capt Robert J. Crutcher of the 327th Squadron, blew off Capt Hodges left foot and shattered his jaw. The cockpit was reduced to a mass of wreckage, the instrument panel completely destroyed and a majority of the controls rendered inoperative. The dead body of Capt Crutcher was wedged against the control column and the aircraft went into a two mile dive before Capt Hodges, completely disregarding his extraordinarily painful injuries, was able to right the ship at 13000 feet and to assist in bringing it safely home. The award of the DSC to Capt Hodges was the fourth such decoration to be won by members of the Group; previous awards having been made to Col James W. Wilson, Group CO, Lt Col William M. Buck, former Group Air Executive, and S/Sgt Winston M. Toomey of the 327th Squadron.

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The Silver Stars were won by Lt Col Robert P. Riordan, Group Air Executive, and Captain Frederick T. Prasse, formerly Operations Officer of the 325th Squadron, since returned to the US. Col Riordan's decoration was presented by Col Wilson at an awards ceremony during the month. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT). While leading a Combat Wing on an attack on Bernberg, Germany in February of 1944, Col Riordan's initiative, combat tactics and self possession were fully called upon. Just after crossing the Channel, the formation behind turned back and shortly thereafter all escorting fighters disappeared. Alone and unescorted, Col Riordan led his formation to the target, bombed successfully, and withdrew. From the target to the coast, the formation was under continuous but unsuccessful fighter attack.

The presentation to Capt Erro A. Michelson, 326th Squadron Bombardier, of the Purple Heart and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters to the DFC at an awards ceremony during the month highlighted the fact that Capt Michelson, long recognised as one of the 8th Air Force's foremost bombardiers, was very likely its most decorated. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.) Holder of the DFC with 4 Clusters, the Air Medal with 5 Clusters, Capt Michelson was awarded the Purple Heart for a wound sustained on the November 2 mission to Merse-

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burg. As bombardier of the veteran crew commanded by Col Wilson, leading the 1st Air Division, Capt Michelson's skill was evidenced over the target and again on the way home, when his knowledge of German landmarks aided immeasurably in keeping the crippled aircraft on course.

T/Sgt Theodore C. Franklin, radio operator of the 327th Squadron, received the Soldier's Medal for his heroism in saving the life of a fellow crew member, T/Sgt William A. Sanderson, engineer, after a crash-landing in Belgium following the raid on Merseburg on September 13. The aircraft bounced into the air after landing and plunged into a woods out of control. Fire broke out immediately. Sgt Franklin, knocked unconscious, regained his senses to find himself hanging head downward from the flaming wreckage. Bleeding profusely, he freed himself and staggered away from the crash, then turned back when he heard someone struggling within. Despite his injuries and the realization that an explosion was imminent, he crawled back into the plane and extricated Sgt Sanderson. The aircraft exploded when the two men were only a few yards away, spattering them with burning gasoline. British soldiers rushed to their rescue, extinguished their flaming clothing and took them to a hospital.

During November 29 officers and 53 enlisted men finished tours of duty. (See APPENDIX C.) Officer promotions made during the month were: 1 to Colonel, 2 to Lt Colonel, 3 to Major,

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13 to Captain, 26 to 1st Lieutenant. (See APPENDIX D.) Promoted on November 6, Col James W. Wilson, Group CO, celebrated in traditional army style by assuming the bar bills the following evening at both the Officer's Club and the Enlisted Men's Bar. Promoted to Lt Col were Majors James K. McLaughlin and William H. Nelson, Group Operations Officer and CO of the 407th Squadron, respectively. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

A change in duty assignment shifted Capt Mellor W. Stevenson, Training Officer to the 407th Squadron as Ground Executive, succeeding Major William C. List, who returned to the US. 1st Lt Lucian W. Nowlin of the 407th Squadron replaced Capt Stevenson as Training Officer, and 1st Lt William M. Sage became Group Statistical Officer. 1st Lt Charles I. Chambers of the 325th Squadron succeeded Capt Leslie G. Gerds of the 327th Squadron as Signals Supply Officer.

The training program was generally continued at the increased level attained in October. Major John C. Prosch, Group Gunnery Officer, was on detached service for the better part of the month at 8th Air Force Headquarters, and during his absence, was replaced by 1st Lt Vernon E. Koch. An innovation during the month was the establishment of a Combat Intelligence Library: information gathered from combat experience and covering aircraft

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recognition, German Air Force tactics and miscellaneous helpful tips from the various Air Forces. Short lectures were given from time to time in connection with the library material, and it was expected to become a part of the regular training program, inasmuch as winter weather prohibited full use of the Flexible Skeet Range.

During the month, the Link Trainer reached a new high in personnel trained, with 474 men attending classes. At the beginning of the month, operation of the GEE trainer began in the Link building. Originally a part of the Link program, GEE training had been turned over to the Radar section, and, due to space reallocation, reinstalled in November.

The British and American Bombtrainers showed a total of 231 training hours for the month, down from the record of 291 hours set in August. A B-17 plexiglass nose with the bombardier's panel and bomb racks was installed; it was hoped that a better knowledge of the instruments in the nose and bomb bay would result from this development. The 327th Squadron led all other units for the month with a total of 77 hours of bombsight training.

With the use of incendiaries restricted by tactical decisions, CWS activities during the month were routine. November weather turned the bomb-dump into a quagmire which nec-

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essitated a "mud-control" campaign. In furtherance of the "exchange-of-visits" program inaugurated in October, 1st Lts John A. Leuschner and Daniel D. Miller spent several days at a fighter base, studying chemical operations there.

2 notable changes in medical treatment occurred during the month; each of these was instituted primarily for the benefit of flying personnel, but both were used for some of the ground personnel as well. An eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, Major Eschbrenner, MC, was assigned to 1st Bomb Division to visit the various stations to examine personnel who had trouble keeping their ears cleared while flying; equipment was carried on the trip and Radium treatments were administered when examination indicated its necessity. On November 11, the prophylactic administration of sulfadiazine to all flying personnel for the prevention of respiratory infections was instituted. One $\frac{1}{2}$ gram tablet was given daily at roll call, and taken at that time. Neither of these new treatments interfered with operational flying, or necessitated any removal from flying status.

The ETO Blood Team No. 2, composed of Lt Altman, MC, and 8 enlisted men, visited the station November 16, 17 and 18. A total of 488 pints of whole blood was collected; only

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type "O" blood was taken, and only voluntary donors among ground personnel were used. This blood was sent to the Blood Team Headquarters in England, processed (retyped, checked for syphilis, and any bacterial contamination) and then flown to the battlefronts in Germany, France and Holland, delivered and ready for use within 48 hours after being taken from the donor.

1st Lt Milton Corb of HQ Squadron, appointed in October as Information-Education Officer, attended a 7 day course in London on the subject early in the month. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.) Upon his return, the first tentative steps in organizing the vast Army Information and Educational Program were taken; designed to be the major activity of all army units in the interim period following the cessation of hostilities in one theatre and prior to transfer. On November 25, squadron bulletin boards as well as the Tannoy system announced the program, asked for teachers as well as students, listed the courses available. The first phase, expected to actually begin in January, was entirely voluntary; intended mainly to establish a nucleus for the day when hostilities cease and the program in its entirety got underway. At month's end, 20 teachers had volunteered to instruct subjects ranging

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from Trigonometry to Live Stock Raising; over 70 students had enrolled.

A flurry of excitement swept the field the night of November 12, when reports that several escaped German prisoners might be in the vicinity were received. A guard was quickly established at all important points. Several days later, the squadron defense platoons were reorganized.

As it had since his arrival in September, GI attention remained respectfully focussed on the new Group Commanding Officer-- his presence, personality, policies. Nor was such interest unrewarded. Col Wilson continued to eat regularly every second or third day at the EM Consolidated Mess-- on Thanksgiving Day, men fortunate enough to be in the vicinity of his table received cigars. With members of his staff, he led the party of 150 officers and men who attended Thanksgiving Day services at St. Paul's Parish Church in Bedford, where Lt General Doolittle read the Thanksgiving Proclamation.

On November 15, Col Wilson addressed a capacity crowd attending the weekly S-2 lecture in the S-2 Briefing Room, reviewed the war fronts from prepared notes, then spoke extemporaneously about the B-29 and the 20th Air Force. Regular patrons of the Red Cross AeroClub were startled the

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evening of November 1 when they saw Col Wilson and Lt Col Riordan play fast ping-pong matches against the best talent in the club; were not only startled but impressed next morning when they learned that the CO was leading the 1st Air Division through the flak over Merseburg.

The trend toward change, revision and improvement set up in October continued through November. Col Wilson kept up his unannounced visits to unexpected places on the field, a fact that undoubtedly contributed toward much impromptu cleaning and painting. Fences appeared in various sites. Squadron orderly rooms and bulletin boards became nattier; some were repainted entirely. Stretches of roadway throughout the base were filled and paved; notably in front of Headquarters Building.

The most extensive part of the "brighten-up" program was the redecoration during November of the Enlisted Combat Mess and the Junior Officer's Club. Inspired by Col Wilson's dissatisfaction with a color scheme which at best could only be called drably conventional, the new design and decorations were planned and directed by Sgt Sebastian T. Puglisi, Teletype section head, who had had some experience as an amateur decorator. With a view toward providing warm backgrounds in

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a land not especially noted for warmth, Sgt Puglisi chose a variable of Venetian Red and Terra Cotta Brown for the walls of the Combat Mess, contrasted with a Sunshine Yellow ceiling. The combination provided an excellent background for some of S/Sgt Rex Brasher's humorous murals, done in varied hues of tempera. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.) Fantasy was the keynote in the combination given the Junior Officer's Club, with a Rose Pink on the ceiling, neutralized by Royal Blue walls. New lighting systems designed to lend softness and atmosphere to the room were installed, and new accessories and appliances rounded out the plan. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

A program to instill new life into the Officer's Club was inaugurated on November 14 with the election of Major Albert L. Cox, Jr, CO of the 325th Squadron as President, and Major Ernest C. Hardin, Jr, CO of the 326th Squadron, as Vice President. The Board of Governors elected at the same meeting included Major John A. Doughtie, Capt Ignacio Bideganeta, Capt Worthey C. Boden, Capt Cletus T. Kearney, 1st Lt James F. Gorman, 1st Lt Martin R. Hertz and 2nd Lt Oscar D. Whitten.

The revision of the mess hall personnel in October resulted in such an evident improvement in the food in the EM

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Consolidated Mess that on November 22, S/Sgt Harry J. Richard of the 407th Squadron, Mess Sergeant, received a commendation signed by all the First Sergeants on the field, representing the Special Services Enlisted Men's Council, expressing the satisfaction of the men. To this commendation, Col Wilson and Lt Col William H. Nelson, CO of the 407th Squadron, added indorsements. Three days later, the Consolidated Mess tables appeared in a new dress-- discarded dinghy covers, which served their novel purpose admirably. A day later, a loud speaker hook-up provided music in the mess hall.

During November, Chaplain Henry M. Ware prepared a paper on "The Contribution the Christian Race Must Make to the Race Problem," presenting it to the regular monthly meeting of 1st Division Protestant Chaplains. This meeting, the fourth, proved stimulating and enjoyable to all concerned. Chaplain Lewis C. Milgrom of 1st Division conducted two services during the month for Jewish personnel on the base. Through the interest and cooperation of the CO, Line Chapels were installed in the T-8 building, used by Catholic and Protestant combat personnel. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

Pvt Jerry E. Zavattjian of the 407th Squadron, who had sustained injuries as the result of an accident October 31,

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died on November 2. Returning from a pass to visit friends in St. Albans, Pvt Zavatiijan accepted a ride with the driver of a British lorry. Forced off the road, the lorry struck an historic cottage at Elstow, Bedfordshire. The cottage, a tiny dwelling flush on the road, had been the home of John Bunyan from 1649 to 1655, and was a landmark for pilgrims from all over the world. Pvt Zavatiijan's death was ruled to be incurred in line of duty.

On November 27, Capt Ray H. Moneymaker, P/W Officer and S-2 personnel concerned, were commended by A-2 Section, 1st Division, for the excellent record of evasion and escape by members of the 92nd Group; with 133 returned out of 1330 MIA, the 92nd Group had the highest percentage in the ETO. The commendation further mentioned that second place was held by the 384th Group, where Capt Moneymaker had previously been P/W Officer. To this commendation, Col Wilson added his indorsement.

"Fame's Favored Dew" was selected as a descriptive title for the 92nd Group in a contest held late in the month. The prize-winning name, submitted by 1st Lt John A. Marple, Ass't S-2 Officer of the 326th Squadron, was adjudged the best of more than 250 names suggested. Spot polls of 560 voters in

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the mess halls, at an AeroClub dance and at an interrogation, determined the winner. The polls were conducted under the supervision of Capt Albert O. Smith, 327th Squadron S-2 Officer.

Various morale-building signboards were placed at strategic points throughout the base during the latter part of the month, with one larger sign placed at the MP gate at the entrance to the field. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

Socially, the Group enjoyed an active month, with its usual quota of dances and movies. The opening of the 327th Operations Ready Room, upon which work had been in progress for a month, was an event of the nights of November 16-17. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.) Beer and sandwiches were served to 125 officers and men each night. 1st Lt Philip L. Newsom, a bombardier, and S/Sgt Everett J. Wilkins, tail gunner, had prominent roles in the decorating of the room. On the same dates, the 326th Squadron held two parties, one for enlisted men at Hangar #2, the other for officers at the Junior Officer's Mess. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.)

25 officers and men and Miss Eileen Eyre of the Red Cross AeroClub attended a concert given by the Czech Orchestra in Northampton on the afternoon of November 5; a USO show titled "Take It Easy" played to 700 in the Post Theatre on the 19th.

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The Wednesday evening S-2 lectures on the war fronts were continued through the month, with Capt Robert E. Tauscher, Capt Perry H. Burnham and Capt Albert O. Smith, all of S-2, usually on the platform. Augmenting these programs were D. Cushman Coyle of the London branch of OWI, who spoke November 6 at the Post Theatre and again at the Junior Officer's Club, Lt Commander Forrest Williams, USN, who appeared at the Post Theatre November 7 and a retired British Army officer, H.C.N. Stevenson, who discussed his own experiences in the Burma campaign at the Post Theatre on November 27. On November 28, Capt Herb Baumsten, Special Services Officer, began a weekly course in football coaching, emphasizing the finer points of play.

Sgts Richard F. Shaw and John S. Sloan of the 327th Squadron, Cpl Elmus L. Monroe of HQ Squadron and Cpl Abe J. Judson of the 325th Squadron - members of the once-famed undefeated Quiz Team- represented the 92nd Group at the Anglo-American Youth Conference at Northampton, November 25-26. (See PHOTO SUPPLEMENT.) The Conference, held to further cement Anglo-American relations was attended by some 500-odd delegates. The role of the GI's was to lead individual discussion groups, to answer questions about America and, in general, to try to correct youthful impressions formed from the movies.

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Bingo for cigarettes at the Red Cross AeroClub proved more popular than ever before due to the cigarette shortage the last ten days of the month. PX receipts were down to a total of 2732 pounds for the month, a drop attributable mostly to the cigarette and tobacco situation. Coca-Cola receipts were 165 pounds, considerably less than totals during the gala months of the summer. The PX operated during November with 4 girls instead of 5; replacement was not planned until fountain sales improved enough to warrant additional help. For the first time since its inception, the PX sold real American salted crackers. A lucky tobacco shipment offered really choice cigars - Berings and Garcia Perfectos- which the initiates hurriedly snapped up.

At month's end, the 92nd Group's average GI could look back upon an eventful 30 days. Quite a lot had happened. Even though the war progressed with agonizing slowness and the bomb-line in the S-2 office seemed glued rather than tacked, still it was an interesting month. There was an election in the US; a Thanksgiving Day dinner better than ever before; Christmas packages were beginning to arrive. Trying to roll cigarettes was a damned nuisance but it couldn't last.

In the Enlisted Men's Bar and Lounge, the hardy still drank

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their beer night after night in a room made pleasanter by the addition of two large home-made stoves, watching the gamblers at the dice table and the optimists at the slot machines. Eyebrows were raised when, on successive nights, the same man hit two jackpots. Eyebrows were raised even higher when it was discovered that the winner was Cpl Walter C. Ruhland. Cpl Ruhland's job: organist and clerk in the Chaplain's office.

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THE 13TH NOVEMBER PARTY

Well the 92nd has gone and done it again. Socially I mean, this time. They always do something unusual. In the air and on the ground, they set the pace for others to follow. That last party had been a success, a big success. Its only limitation had been lack of space. This time that difficulty was overcome. The dancing was done as usual in the Ground Officers dining room, with the lounge used as a lounge, and the bar (yes, you guessed it) used as a bar (and how). But to give that required space for a buffet too, the Flying Officers Lounge was used for this purpose and had been joined to the bar and dance floor by a specially constructed 150 ft. walk covered with a canopy so the Visiting Fair could trip to eat regardless of the elements.

The party began with the opening of the Bar at 7:30. The guests began to arrive about 8:00. For the next hour truck after truck loaded with Lovelies deposited its precious cargo at our door. At nine everything was in full swing. Only then could one begin to take stock of our visitors. They were all sizes, all shapes, all ages. Chic London evening gowns contrasted with the khaki of our nurses. One adjective however, applied to all of them. They were attractive.

At 9:30 the buffet opened. There was a gentle rush through the long dark corridor, whose sides were pulled up here and there to let in patches of moonlight. Too much light wasn't necessary, and wasn't wanted either. There was a crowd at the buffet. Who wouldn't crowd for chicken, lobster, oysters, and layer cake? Now there was a double line going through the tunnel. New eaters going in, satisfied eaters coming out, for more dancing (and drinking).

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A Lieutenant had a bottle of Bourbon. Drinking this and looking at "Times Square", one was at home again.

Then, before you knew it, it was all over. The music stopped. The Orchestra went home. The Bar was sold out. Add another Perfect Party to the 92nd.

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