

AAF STATION 196
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
ISTRES, FRANCE.

HISTORY OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, 92nd BOMB GROUP (H)
December 1945.

SUBJECT: Current Medical History of 92nd Bomb Group (H) for December 1945.

TO : G.O. 40th Bomb Wing A, APO 633, W.S. Army.

In accordance with the Provisions of circular letter (JL4,7) Headquarters 40th Bomb Wing dated 6 December 1945 and 40th Bomb Wing instruction letter No. 80-1 dated 1 Dec 1945 the following current Medical History of the 92nd Bomb Group is submitted.

1. Operations

a. Personnel this station received Typhus immunizations on the 3rd, 4th, 5th December. A few who failed to receive the immunization at this time were called in from time to time, during the month and immunized.

b. The locality was subjected to a severe cold wind storm (Mistral) on the 6th, 7th, 8th of December, during which a wind velocity of 78 MPH and a temperature of 23 degrees was recorded. The wind and cold caused freezing of all water sources, and subjected the men to moderately severe exposure, since they were housed in inadequately heated, non-winterized, tropical prefabricated huts. The personal hygiene and morale of the troops was grossly and adversely affected due to the lack of water and poor housing. A special sanitary report covering existing conditions was submitted with similar condemnation reports by the Ground Executive, the Fire Marshal and others in an attempt to secure winterizing materials for the housing and an all-weather water facility.

c. On the 10th of December, a spot physical check revealed that a large percentage (12 - 15 %) of the troops were scabietic. After considerable administrative difficulties enough benzene - benzene was secured from the medical depot to treat the necessary number of troops. Aerosol (steam) disinfectant was secured from the Delta Base Section on the 13th, for sterilization of blankets and clothing. Methyl bromide bags and gas for sterilization of flying equipment and leather goods was also obtained. The personnel of each unit received a "Strip-down" Scabies inspection in conjunction with the routine monthly physical inspection on the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st. All personnel found to be scabietic were given a four day treatment with benzenebenzate. In conjunction with the treatment sterilization of all contaminated clothing, blankets and bedding was mandatory and accomplished considerable sterilization of equipment of non scabietic troops, was accomplished at the same time. This program was essentially completed on the 27th of December. Some stragglers away from the station during the program were passing thru a similar exercise at the close of the month. The program was successful in its mission.

d. Staging of approximately 300 Officers and EN for return to the XI, commenced on the 27th of December, and was still in operation at the close of the month. The dispensary was active in completing influenza, small pox, typhus and triple typhoid vaccinations during this period.

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e. Routine, mess, latrine, shower and barracks inspections were accomplished at least once each week during the month. The 326th Bomb Squadron mess hall was given particular attention with resultant improvement.

f. Water chlorination testing of all unit water supplies is a daily procedure. The specimens for water analysis were submitted on the 27 Dec to the 227th Gen. Hospital.

g. The routine cooks and food handlers inspections were accomplished from time to time during the month.

2. Training.

a. Training posters for scabies control were devised and placed in conspicuous places along side the V.D. posters, and on all bulletin boards, on Dec 13th.

b. Medical training of Enlisted Men was informal in nature, and was performed generally thruout the month. Formal training in the form of prescribed lectures at specific times was not deemed worthwhile in view a large percentage were eligible for redeployment in the very near future

3. Administration.

a. Changes in Key personnel.

1. Major F.P. Crabtree, station surgeon, was redeployed to the 21, per orders dated 12th Dec.

2. Capt. Theodore Stepan was redeployed to the 21, per orders dated 12 Dec.

3. Capt. F.H. Davidson was assigned as Group Surgeon and Station Surgeon, per orders dated 3 Dec.

4. Capt. Theodore R. Goldberg D.C. was on the T.M. to the 2 of 1 for a period of 30 days, effective 13 Dec 1945.

5. Sgt. James A. Howden, was promoted to staff sergeant effective 15 Dec 1945 and MOS changed from 409 to 673, administrative specialist. Sgt Howden was made HCO in charge of Station Sick Quarters.

6. Sgt. Alex A. Stivala; MOS changed from 409 to 859 Pharmacy technician on 15 Dec 1945.

7. Corporal Henry Umek was promoted to Sergeant on 15th Dec 1945.

8. Corporal John Hohnsen; MOS changed from 590 to 657 medical aid man.

d. Station Dispensary life.

Improvement of the dispensary, to the extent of building cabinets, and drain boards was accomplished on the 21st. The few materials for the construction of an eye lens for 64 physicals were most difficult to secure and were finally "scrounged" by the C.O. of the 92nd Bomb Group on the 27th. No new medical EM personnel were assigned. Morale of the medics as well as the entire group is very superior considering the environment and lack of a mission for the group. The medical personnel have been unable to participate in Athletics due to the weather and lack of a side free of buildings, for miles around, and within at least 6 feet of the surface of the ground. Social events a side from the HCO and Officers clubs are nil. There are but four red cross girls, and two army hostesses, available for over 900 men, including two medics. Since most of the personnel

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on this station are not as active in their specific functions as are the medical personnel, and are therefore more available to the girls. The medical personnel are facing an uphill task in this regard. Sgt. Howden is holding his own however, despite the handicap.

T.H. DAVIDSON,
Capt., M.C.
Group Surgeon.