

AAF STATION NO. 1
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
ISTRES FRANCE

(H-4-1)

AFG 557
18 August 1945

SUBJECT: Medical Department History from 1 January 1945 to 15 August 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 40th Bomb Wing (H), APO 557, U. S. Army.

1. In accordance with Eighth Air Force Memorandum 25-1, dated 20 April 1945 and 40th Bomb Wing TFX A-153-H, the following medical history of the 92nd Bomb Group for the period, from 1 January 1945 to 15 August 1945 is submitted:

Medical Department activities at AAF Station No. 109 and AAF Station No. 1 during the past six months varied from rendering medical service to personnel at a Station out of which a heavy bombardment Group (B-17) was carrying on Strategic Bombing Missions to rendering medical service after hostilities had ceased on the continent. After V-E Day plans were made to transfer the 92nd Bomb Group to AAF Station No. 1, Istres, France for the purpose of transporting personnel from Southern France to North Africa. The initial movement of the 92nd Bomb Group began on 3 June 1945.

On 4 January 1945 Major Rechenbrenner, MC, ear, nose, and throat specialist visited this station to examine personnel having difficulty in keeping their ears cleared while flying. Nine (9) patients were examined and treated with radium. Eleven (11) patients were examined but did not receive radium treatment.

Capt. Owen T. Dullaghan, MC, was relieved from assignment to 379th Bomb Gp and assigned to the 92nd Bomb Gp on 4 January 45. 1st Lt. Glenn L. Heath, MAC, transferred from 1st Bomb Division and assigned to 92nd Bomb Gp on 4 January 45. Pvt (657) Carrol S. Eastman, 31108183, was transferred from 325th Station Complement Sq and assigned to 92nd Bomb Gp on 8 January 1945. Capt. Harry A. Luak, MC, was relieved from assignment with Medical Pool at Large AAC, USSAFB, AAF 379 and assigned to 92nd Bomb Gp on 12 January 1945, as Surgeon for 326th Bomb Sq.

On 12 January 1945 the prophylactic administration of sulfadiazine to ground personnel as well as flying personnel, for the prevention of upper respiratory infections was instituted - one (1) tablet ($\frac{1}{2}$ gram) daily being given per person; this is given out daily at roll call and taken at that time.

Capt. Joseph W. Messer, MC, 245th Med Disp Avn was placed on TDY for approximately thirty (30) days at Hq Seine Base Section for duty with Forward Area Tent Hospital and left this station on 19 January 1945. Pvt (409) Francis Beach, 245th Med Disp Avn was transferred to 12th Reinforcement Depot, APO 551 for duty with Infantry, 27 January 1945.

During the month eighty-three (83) Infantry Physical Examinations were given to enlisted men at this station who are assigned to non-combat units and have not passed their 31st birthday. Non-combat personnel having a military specialty number considered to be critically short in the Air Force are initially exempt. Thirty-six (36) enlisted men were transferred from this station on 27 January 1945.

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to fill our initial quota of Infantry Reinforcements.

During the month of February 1945 Infantry physical examinations were given to 345 non-combatant Enlisted Men at this Station. Sixty-seven (67) were reexamined in accordance with the lowering of physical standard for vision. Forty-four Enlisted Men were transferred from this Station on 27 February 1945 to fill the second quota of Infantry Reinforcements.

On 7 February 1945 Captain Owen T. Dullaghan, DC, went to the Eighth Air Force Rest Home at Fyflis Court, AAF Station 194 and spent a weeks tour of duty as Dental Officer of that Station. Captain Cletus T. Kearney, MC, Surgeon, 407th Bomb Squadron went to Eighth Air Force Rest Home, Ebrington Manor, AAF Station 498, and spent a weeks tour of duty as Medical Officer of that Station. On 16 February 1945 Captain Joseph C. Donohue, DC, went to the Eighth Air Force Rest Home, Stanbridge Earls, AAF Station 503 and spent a weeks tour of duty as Dental Officer of that Station. On 21 February 1945 Captain Harry A. Lusk, MC, went to the Eighth Air Force Rest Home, Stanbridge Earls, AAF Station 503 to spend a weeks tour of duty as Medical Officer of that Station. On 26 February Captain Albert H. Gleason, MC, went to the Eighth Air Force Rest Home, Furzedon House, AAF Station 563 to spend a weeks tour of duty as Medical Officer of that Station. On 27 February 1945 Captain Albert H. Gleason, MC, attended a Venereal Disease Control meeting at the Surgeon's Office, No Eighth Air Force.

Special medical training was given to six (6) new combat crews on 6 Feb., 1945 and to four (4) new crews on 4 February 1945.

On 19 February 1945, Lt. John E. Deegan, 326th Bomb Sq and crew abandoned their ship near Honeybourne, Worcestershire, England, at the start of an operation mission when the No. 4 engine caught fire. Three members of the crew received minor injuries but were not hospitalized.

On February 1945, Sgt. Bobbie F. Morris, Engineer, 325th Bomb Squadron received a fracture of the mandible, which was incurred in the traffic pattern prior to landing following an operational mission. He was checking the landing gear and the lever kicked back and hit Soldier's jaw. Patient was treated at Station Sick Quarters and transferred to the 49th Station Hospital.

On 27 February 1945, Sgt. Bertel A. Bertelson, Engineer, 326th Bomb Squadron was killed at landing following an operation mission. While removing guns the top turret turned and caught the soldier between the turret and side of ship crushing his head and neck and causing death by asphyxiation.

The rate of venereal disease for the month of January 1945 equalled 59.66 per 1000 per annum. The rate of venereal disease for the month of February 1945 equalled 41.84 per 1000 per annum.

On 9 March 1945 S/Sgt George D. Jenkins was discharged from the Army of the United States to accept a commission as 2nd Lt., MAC, AUS.

During the month two (2) Medical Department enlisted men who had been serving on the Western Front were assigned to the 245th Med Disp Avn to perform

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duties in a limited capacity. T/4 Carl R. Weintraub joined the organization 21 March 1945.

On 20 March 1945, Capt. John T. Owens, DC, and Cpl Robert D. Moses, Med Dept, 245th Med Disp Avn were placed on TDY at Central Dental Laboratory, No. 1, for a period of four (4) days. On 27 March 1945, Maj. Joseph R. Henry, MC, went to Eighth Air Force Rest Home, Fursedown House, AAF Station 563 and spent a week's tour of duty as Medical Officer at that station.

On 28 March 1945 Capt William E. Furniss, MC, and S/Sgt Edward J. Braxinski departed on TDY, Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (Rear) for an indefinite period. The purpose of this duty was to explore and visit German developments along Aero-medical, aircraft, and engine lines. Among places visited were Marburg, Kassel, Gottingen, Wordhamson, Halle, Dessau, Aschersleben, Berseberg, Leipzig, Merseberg, Erla, Jena, etc. In Gottingen, his team of six uncovered Col Strughold (Surgeon of the GAF) and his records. There were also important men in Aerodynamic Research and Chemistry. It was felt that the unit accomplished a useful purpose and were very successful. Upon completion of tour, they returned to station.

The MTC Blood Team No. 2, composed of one (1) Medical Officer and eight (8) Med Dept enlisted men were at this Station on 24, 25, 26, 27 and part of 28 March. A total of 803 pints of blood was collected from Type "O" non-combat personnel. The response to the call for blood donors was indeed remarkable on this station. This blood was sent to the Blood Team, Headquarters in England where it is retyped, checked for syphilis and bacterial contamination. The blood is then sent to the Western Front for battle casualties.

A fire occurred in Station Sick Quarters at this Station at about 0550 hours on 8 April 1945. It apparently began from a field steriliser with two (2) alcohol burners that were being used in the pharmacy to sterilize syringes used in giving penicillin injections. Although one Med Dept Soldier was in the adjoining room and three other soldiers were just across the hallway, they were unable to get the fire out; it spread rapidly in the treatment room, the pharmacy, both offices and the waiting room, some damage was done to both dental clinics, the drug storage room, and two hallways. Most of the medical and dental records were saved. The destruction of equipment was not great - the loss of the building being the main item.

Lt. Col. Smaller, MC, 1st Air Division Surgeon, and Maj Coppage, Eng, C. Engineers Office, 1st Air Division came to Station Sick Quarters at this Station on 9 April 1945, to inspect damage done by fire. Capt. Garner, Eng, C. Aero Engineer, U.K. Base Office, and Mr. Clinch, Air Ministry came by Station Sick Quarters on inspection tour 13 April 1945. It was decided that the repair of the building would be done by the Air Ministry.

Maj. J. R. Henry, MC, attended a Group Surgeons meeting at 1st Air Division 6 April 1945. Pfc. James A. Rowden, and Pvt Milan V. Evans, Medical Detachment soldiers were assigned to the 245th Medical Disp Avn (R.S.) on 10 April 1945. Both have previously been assigned to ground units on the continent and are limited service personnel. Capt. Harry A. Lusk, MC, departed for TDY with

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511th Air Evacuation Squadron, Station 519, for a period of four (4) days effective 15 April 1945. Capt. Joseph W. Messay, MC, departed 17 April 1945 to spend seven (7) days tour of duty as Medical Officer at Spetchley Park. Pvt Alton Vickers, MD transferred to 12th Reinforcement Depot, for Combat Infantry Reinforcement training 18 April 1945. 2nd Lt. George D. Jenkins, MAC relieved from assignment to Hq, 92nd Bomb Gp and transferred to 351st Bomb Group 21 April 1945. 2nd Lt John D. Conaghan, MAC assigned to 409th Hq & Base Service Sq., Air Serv Gp, from Hq, 303rd Bomb Gp, arriving on 21 April 1945. Major Joseph R. Henry, MC, placed on TDY with Hq, 34th U. S. Army to observe evacuations of patients for a period of approximately seven (7) days on 26 April, 1945.

Special Medical training was given to eighteen (18) new combat crews during the month.

On 11 April 1945, during a daylight operation mission the left tire of a B-17 piloted by 1st Lt. Reginald L. Hammond, blew out when plane was about 1500 yards down runway taking off with a heavy gas and bomb load. Air speed was sufficient that the plane was made airborne and switch was hit to retract landing gear to assist in gaining altitude - prop wash was hit and plane lost altitude and hit runway; landing gear collapsed resulting in a belly landing with the plane catching fire. The Medical Officer (Major Joseph R. Henry), MC, and ambulance driver went to the scene of the crash to assure that all the crew had gotten out safely.

The rate of venereal disease for the month of April was 20.84 per 1000 per annum. Instruction in venereal disease control measures and sex hygiene was given to many personnel at AAF Station 109 during the month of April 1945 and to all of the personnel who had not had a sex hygiene lecture during the past three months.

Medical Supplies were obtained from the near by Medical Supply Depot; and arrived in good condition and as a whole, they are adequate in quantity and quality.

Major J. R. Henry, MC, attended a three (3) day course on Medical Problems of Redeployment in London on - 7 to 9 May inclusive. Sgt. William O. Martin, Medical Department Soldier an X-Ray Technician was placed on TDY for approximately thirty (30) days with Hq, USSTAF (Rear on 6 May 1945. Lt. Heath, MAC, and S/Sgt George F. Vernay and Cpl Edward B. Bodnett, Medical Department soldiers attended a two (2) day course of instruction in "Packing and Crating Medical Department Equipment", at AAF Station 547, 10 and 11 May 1945. T/Sgt James L. Sale, was assigned to Hq, 92nd Bomb Gp on 9 May 1945. Orders relative to this transfer have not reached this office at time of transfer.

Capt. Harry A. Lusk, 326th Bomb Sq, Surgeon, was transferred to Surgeons Office, 1st Air Division on 17 May 1945, to be assistant Division Surgeon.

A physical examination was completed on all personnel at AAF Station 109 during the week of 18 May 1945. New WD AAF Form 206's and WD AGO Form 5-117

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were completed for personnel of the Station.

Capt. Robert F. Kelly, MC, F.S., was transferred to 92nd Bomb Group from the 398th Bomb Group arriving on 24 May 1945; he was assigned to the 327th Bomb Group. Capt. Cletus T. Kearney was transferred from the 92nd Bomb Group to the 398th Bomb Group. Capt. Albert H. Gleason, MC, F.S., 325th Bomb Squadron Surgeon was transferred to the 457th Bomb Group, departing on 25 May 1945. Capt. Theodore R. Stepmann, MC, F.S. was transferred to the 92nd Bomb Group assigned to the 326th Bomb Squadron, arriving on 24 May 1945. Capt. John T. Owens, MC, departed from AAF Station 109 on 25 May 1945 as part of the advance echelon of the 327th Bomb Squadron. S/Sgt. Orville J. Wanser, Medical Department Soldier from 92nd Bomb Group was transferred to 40th Combat Wing, departing on 17 May 1945. Capt. William E. Furniss, MC, F. S. and S/Sgt. Edward J. Branzinski, Medical Department Soldier, returned from indefinite TDY on the Continent on 23 May 1945; they had departed from AAF Station 109 on 4 April 1945. They had an enjoyable and profitable trip.

During the month of May the physical profiles were made on all personnel and submitted to personnel for recording on records.

The first part of June was a very busy time for the Medical Department of Station 109. Two (2) motor convoys left our station for Istres, France and were accompanied by four (4) ambulances with Medical personnel. All the Medical Supplies were packed and shipped to our location in Southern France by three B-17 airplanes. They departed from Station 109 on 4 June 1945.

Capt. Walter W. Crawford, MC was relieved from duty with the 457th Bomb Group and assigned to the 92nd Bomb Group as Surgeon 325th Bomb Sq. Major Longworth, MC, 40th Combat Wing Surgeon, visited this station to discuss medical problems concerning the location of the 92nd Bomb Group in Istres, France. On Wednesday, 13 June 1945 Major Joseph R. Henry, MC, departed for the continent to take charge of building a sick quarters site at Istres, France.

Work was started on 15 June building the 326th Sq Messhall. This building was completed on the 3 July. The 326th shower building was completed on the 5 July. Buildings were rapidly completed for mess halls and shower baths. Conversion of barracks from squad tents to prefabricated buildings was started on 6 July. Capt. George Beamer replaced Major Joseph R. Henry as Group Surgeon on 10 July. Station sick quarters was completed on 13 July. The building, a double prefabricated structure, 96 ft x 20 ft was located across the street from Group Headquarters behind the officers club. Rooms were partitioned off to house a ward of ten (10) beds, ward office, linen room, foot clinic, O.D. room, dental clinic, drug room, laboratory room, dispensary room, waiting room, records office and group surgeons office. At a meeting held at the office of Major Longworth, 40th Bomb Wing Surgeon on 12 July, a policy of evacuation of patients was set forth. All patients evacuated from quarters of this station are sent to the 14th Field Hospital, about five (5) miles distance for a holding period of fourteen (14) days. They are sent by triage from the 14th Field Hospital to 3rd General Hospital near Aix, France. Prisoners of War are treated only in an emergency and are evacuated to 7428th General Hospital at Marseille. All civilian personnel are treated for emergency only and evacuated to the

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civilian hospital at Salon.

Col. Mustoe, C.O., 40th Combat Wing and Col. Wilson, C.O., this station inspected the station sick quarters on 12 July. First sick call was held at 0800 hours on 13 July in the new prefabricated buildings.

Enlisted Men's rest home at Sausset and the engine plant at Port de Bouc were inspected by Capt. Stepmann, station sanitary officer and Capt. Beecher on 15 July and an Informal Sanitary Report covering these locations was submitted to the 40th Bomb Wing Surgeon.

Col. Falbot, VIII Fighter Command Surgeon and Major Longworth, 40th Bomb Wing Surgeon visited this station 25 July.

Building of barracks, mess halls and latrines continued throughout the month of July. Sanitary inspection by two (2) medical officers was made every ten (10) days and an informal report submitted to the C. O. this station after completion of each inspection.

A Formal Sanitary Inspection of this station was made by Major Longworth, 40th Bomb Wing Surgeon and Major Kepner, 40th Bomb Wing Air Inspector on 2 August. This inspection included the enlisted men's rest home at Sausset on 6 August and Port de Bouc Engine Plant on 7 August.

Every effort was made during July and August to promote the building of houses over latrines and fly-proofing of latrines and mess halls. D.D.T. spray was used twice weekly on all latrines and once monthly in mess halls and barracks.

Thirteen (13) enlisted medical personnel departed this station on 11 August to be replaced by other such personnel from bases in England.

Capt. Donaldson and Capt. Pullaghan departed this station 13 August and were replaced by Capt. Geary on the 15 August.

There has been a sharp rise in the venereal rate since opening this station from 17.5 per 1000 during June to 75.9 per 1000 during July.

Sex morality lectures were given to the personnel of all squadrons of this station during week of August 11 to 18. Capt. Childers and Capt. Gallagher, participated with this station surgeon.

Statistics on a few of the activities contributed by the Medical Department of AAF Station 1, during the past seven months of 1945 are included in table A.

1 Incl:

Statistical Table A.

George Beamer
GEORGE BEAMER,
Capt., Medical Corps,
Station Surgeon.