

AAF STATION 109
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
APO 557

(M-A-5)

6 August 1944

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Events Occurring During July 1944 (Primarily) and Involving the
Medical Department of the 92nd Bombardment Group

Capt. Joseph W. Messey, Cpl. Charles E. Brokschmidt, and Pfc. Howard F. Sinks, Medical Department personnel assigned to the 32nd Station Complement Squadron at AAF Station 109 and working with the 92nd Bomb Group Medical Personnel were sent out on US as a surgical team from 15 May 1944 to 30 June 1944; they were assigned to LST #50 during the invasion period and helped evacuate four (4) LST loads of casualties from Normandy to England. Their experiences were very interesting. (See Capt. Messey's separate report on this).

On 5 July 1944, S/Sgt. Sherman M. Silver was riding his bicycle on a highway near AAF Station 109 about the middle of the afternoon. He was struck by a jeep and received injuries that resulted in his death at the 49th Station Hospital on 7 July 1944. S/Sgt. Silver had just completed his tour of operational missions. Bicycle accidents among all personnel continue to be numerous.

During the last part of June and first part of July the Medical Department received training in nomenclature, field stripping, and actual firing of small arms - information well worth knowing even if the Medics are still not issued arms.

An expansion to the ward at S.S.Q. was constructed during May and June and opened for use during the first part of July; this accommodates an extra six (6) beds.

At about 1615 hours on 7 July an American glider crashed seven (7) miles west of Northampton and one-half (½) mile south of Beyford in Northamptonshire. The occupants were P/O Lloyd C. Bean, T-607784, and P/O R. E. Horr, T-124231, both members of the 7th Troop Carrier Squadron, 434th Troop Carrier Group. Their home station was Aldermaston, Berkshire and they were on a practice flight. Both were killed; they were picked up by 92nd Bomb Group Medical Personnel and brought to the mortuary at S.S.Q. at AAF Station 109. Members of their organization flew up and picked up the bodies on 8 July 1944.

On 15 July some of the 92nd Bomb Group planes went on an afternoon practice mission; on the return on of the 326th Squadron's planes piloted by Lt. John A. Alford was brought down so that the wheels struck the runway and was then immediately made airborne again - one wing burst into flames at this time. Lt. Alford climbed to about nine hundred (900) feet and leveled off and gave the order for the crew to bail out; the plane crashed and burned about six (6) miles south of AAF Station 109 in Bedfordshire. There were six (6) occupants on board:-

1st Lt. John A. Alford O-698004 P - Parachuted out safely, no injury.

2nd Lt. Robert E. Williams O-817315 CP- Parachuted out safely, no injury.

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Cont'd.

2nd Lt. Stanley Nadel	O-716517	N -	Went down with the plane and was killed.
T/Sgt. Thomas J. Madden	32099407	E -	Parachuted out safely, received a small laceration on right shin.
T/Sgt. Paul E. Horton	11116376	R -	Went down with plane and was killed.
Sgt. Bruce C. Baker Jr	18227205	B.T.	-Parachuted out but chute streamed down and failed to canopy out; was killed immediately on impact with the ground.

Lt. Alford, Lt. Williams, and T/Sgt. Madden left the plane through the nose hatch; Sgt. Baker left the plane through the waist door; Lt. Nadel and T/Sgt. Horton were riding in the nose of the plane - it is not known whether or not they had their parachutes handy for immediate use. All bodies were identified.

On 21 July Mobile Detachment A, Central Dental Laboratory No. 1 set up at S.S.C. at AAF Station 109 and remained for nine (9) days; personnel of this unit were one Dental Officer - Capt. Michael J. Driscoll - and five (5) Dental Technicians. They took impressions for dental bridgework on twenty-seven (27) personnel.

The venereal disease rate showed a marked increase in June and July. Many of the contacts at this time were evacuees from London because of the flying bombs who were sent to the district near AAF Station 109.

A sharp rise in sore throats in personnel occurred soon after the middle of July. All eating and drinking establishments on the base were closely checked as well as outside sources but no cause for it was found. All personnel were informed of the increase and prompt treatment was given to those affected and the increase lasted only about ten (10) days.

J. R. MERRY
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