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92nd Bomb Group History

January 1946

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HISTORY OF THE 92ND BOMB GROUP (L)

for
January 1946

January was a period of vicissitudes for the 92nd Bomb Group. Early in the month, Lt. Col. Chapman, commanding officer of the 304th Bomb Group, called the members of the 92nd together for a meeting in the station theater for the purpose of outlining the future activities on our station. It explained that Col. Rustoe, 40th Bomb Wing Commander, had visited the base, and they had decided:

1. To combine the two groups into a single efficient organization to be known as Istres Army Airbase.
2. That the 304th and 92nd Bomb Groups would move to the East side of the field, where living conditions were more favorable.
3. That the new command was to inaugurate a courier service, sending two aircraft daily to Robins Field, Liberia.
4. To obtain, if possible, B-25's or L-20's to fly the run because of their greater speed.

On January 7, all aircraft of the Group were transferred to the 304th; operations had ceased, and from all indications, the 92nd was once again returning to a "paper" status.

On the 11th day of the month, Lt. Col. Lloyd D. Chapman assumed command of Istres Army Airbase. All subsequent Special Orders, Daily Bulletons and administration functions were to originate from our new station command.

Although the 92nd was theoretically the same organization as before, for all intensive purposes it was the end of the 92nd as a separate and

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independent command. Temporarily, the newly formed Istres Army Airbase Headquarters commenced its operations in the Headquarters Area of the 304th Bomb Group. At the same time, the Headquarters of the 92nd transferred its offices to this latter area.

Throughout the remainder of the month, the various departments operated as a part of their original organization and also as a part of the Istres Army Airbase. The entire set-up was somewhat involved, and there existed many conflicting opinions as to the official status of the 92nd. These days were days or reorganization and intergration of both groups.

During the month, 22 officers and 217 enlisted men were returned to the Zone of Interior. On January 31, 1946, there existed 104 officers (including Flight Officers and Warrant Officers) and 254 enlisted men assigned to the group; however it was only a matter of remaining assigned to the 92nd "on paper", for the offices had already consolidated and soon the 92nd's entire personnel would be absorbed by the newly formed Istres Army Airbase.

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