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SP-92-Hi (Book)
OCT, 1945

October found the 92nd out of a job, the "Green Project" was a thing of the past, the "Blue Project" had folded, and everybody was wondering. What was next? A new transport job, were B-29's coming here, and if so, how soon? When was the next shipment of high-pointers to be and how many points did one need to become a pointer?

The weather was getting colder, and the days shorter, and there was still dust. Low pointers were resigning themselves to a winter at Istres and speculating as to what new discomforts this could bring about. There were enough rumors for everyone, and nearly all were conflicting.

In a teletype from USAFE Headquarters on Monday, October first, 1945, a new critical score and policy for redeployment was announced. Quotas for the month of October were to be filled by enlisted personnel whose V-J ASR scores of 70 points or higher, and by officer personnel with a V-J ASR of 75 points or more. All personnel falling in this category were automatically classed as non-essential and eligable for release.

The teletype further stated that quotas would be filled by personnel in the descending order of their ASR scores. Under no circumstances would any officer with less than 75 points or any enlisted man with less

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than 70 points be used to fill a quota. In the event that this station should lack sufficient personnel to fill a quota, this fact was to be reported to higher headquarters immediately. The inference was that the unused portion of the quota would be filled by eligable personnel from other outfits. Of course, the 92nd was to profit in the same way by the inability of other organizations to meet their quotas.

It was also announced that enlisted men to wished to remain in this theatre for an additional period of six months (Class II Volunteers) would have the following entry made in their service records which they were to sign:

"Regardless of the relationship of my A S R score and such changes as may be made in the future, I elect to remain in the army as a 'Class II Volunteer'".

Officers, who desired to remain in the army could also volunteer if they were needed, but for no longer than six months.

On 10 October another teletype was received, which stated that Enlisted Men with 60 or more points and Officers with 75 or more points as of V-J scores were to be shipped to England to join units which were scheduled to leave for the Z of I. By the 15th the shipment was completed, and more than 600 men had left the station. Enough ships were sent to carry 125 men daily.

It became evident since so few men remained that some sort of consolidation was necessary in order that maximum efficiency be maintained. The Group was broken down into three squadrons; the 325th, the 326th and 92nd Headquarters, thus eliminating the 407th and the 327th squadrons. EX-327th personnel now in either the 325th or the 326th will, with a few exception, remain in these squadrons. All 407th

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personnel, whether assigned or attached, have been transferred into one of the three remaining squadrons and moved into these areas respectively. The 407th consolidated its squadrons and now operates as a single unit.

The 40th Bomb Wing (H) announced on 13 October that Lt. Col. James A. Smyrl, the oldest member of the group, had been appointed group commander, relieving Lt. Col. Albert L. Cox, Jr. who returned to the United States on points.

Col. Smyrl joined the Group on the 3rd of September 1943 as a 2nd Lieutenant. He led the group on many of its most historic missions against the industrial, aerial, and transportation centers of Nazi Europe.

Five (5) days later Col. Smyrl was relieved of his command and appointed Air Executive Officer of the 40th Bomb Wing (H), with Major Victor A. Cherbak, Jr. becoming commanding officer of "Fames Favored Few". Maj. Cherbak , who was commanding officer of the 326th squadron prior to his appointment as Group Commander,is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Lt. Col. Lloyd D. Chapman, left "Fames Favored Few" to assume command of the 384th Bombardment Group (H). Col. Chapman was the commanding officer of the 407th Squadron.

Coffee and do-nuts consumption at the Aero Club dropped during October as a result of the large decrease in personnel, with the average about 125 gallons of coffee and 4,500 do-nuts daily. Weekly bingo games continued to lure capacity crowds to the snack bar with their promise of cigarette prizes.

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The departure of Miss Betty Boyd, popular Club Director, cut the Red Cross staff to three girls with Miss Doris Mann in charge. Two new arrivals, Miss Lorna Olin and Miss Betty Withington, joined the staff in the middle of the month, thus increasing the total to five. Miss Olin is from Minnesotta and Miss Withington from South Carolina, both having been overseas a little more than a month.

The Post Exchange topped the $12,000 mark selling the usual items plus perfume, costume jewelry, and silk from German parachutes. Even with fewer men and cooler weather coke sales were normal since they are now on sale all afternoon instead of for two hours as previously.

The Enlisted Men's club continues to be an extremely popular gathering place for 92nd personnel. Each night the bar is crowded as the men clamor for the scarce American Whiskey and Gin. Beer is now not only plentiful, but since it is purchased with liquor profits, it is free.

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