

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (SE)

November 1945

UNIT HISTORY

I. ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

- 1. Organization
 - a. The current T/O of this organization: 1-27 A.C. dated 22 December 1943, with Change 1 dated 26 February 1944 and Change 2 dated 23 November 1944. Total Strength authorized: 30 officers, 70 enlisted men.
- 2. Strength
 - a. For the period of this report: 111 officers, 264 enlisted men.
 - b. Gains and losses for November: Gain: 63 officers, 184 enlisted men. Losses: None.

* Information compiled from the morning report, Hq., 86th Fighter Group.
- 3. Stations
 - a. No change in station. Present station, Schweinfurt, Germany, 26 September 1945.
- 4. Losses in Action: Negative.
- 5. Awards and Decorations:
 - a. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded the following named officers per headquarters, Ninth Air Force, General Order No. 195, Section II, 26 October 1945:

OLUF W. JEFSON, O-704680, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 22 March 1945. Lt JEFSON distinguished himself while leading four aircraft in an armed reconnaissance over Western Germany. Despite haze and smoke that limited visibility, he located an active marshalling yard and without regard for his personal safety in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire he led his flight in a dive-bombing attack which resulted in the destruction of 10 railroad cars, four buildings and severely damaged eight additional cars as well as two oil cars, horse-drawn vehicles and motor transport in subsequent strafing attacks. The aggressiveness and daring displayed by Lt JEFSON on this occasion was indicative of his deep devotion to duty and reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces.

RAFAEL R. MARINO, O-721465, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 24 April 1945. While serving as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft Lt MARINO carried out a mission in close cooperation with the ground forces in Germany. Displaying skilled leadership and daring Lt MARINO courageously

led his formation in a series of brilliantly executed strafing attacks on enemy ME-262's which resulted in the destruction of nineteen and damaged four buildings, motor vehicle and one tractor. The devotion to duty and combat proficiency demonstrated by Lt MARINO on this occasion contributed in large measure to the sustained operations of his group.

MYRON W. WHEAT, O-719482, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations. On 1 April 1945, Lt WHEAT was leading a flight of P-47 type aircraft on an armed reconnaissance over Western Germany. Despite almost solid overcast extending to 13,000 feet, he successfully located two live locomotives and a moving troop train in the vicinity of Schweinfurt. Leading his flight in repeated precision dive-bombing and strafing attacks that destroyed two locomotives and heavily damaged a troop train, Lt WHEAT was instrumental in the outstanding results of this mission, and brought great credit to himself and his organization.

II. NARRATIVE

The month of November saw personnel of the 86th Fighter Group so depleted that the impracticability of retaining operational squadrons was obvious; therefore, all squadron personnel were transferred to Group Headquarters, pending replacements for squadrons, to enable this organization to operate at maximum efficiency. Staff meetings resulted in the issue of a series of orders throughout the month for the purpose of making personnel stationed here military conscious; appearance, bearing and increased efficiency of all departments were the objects. Our football team ended the season undefeated, being tied only once. Transfers of ground officers to the Zone of the Interior has resulted in pilots assuming many of the ground jobs in the organization. Not a few officers were depressed at news of the new discharge system which, apparently, will keep them in service for a longer time. The venereal disease rate climbed to a new high this month and an intensive preventive program is under way. The aforementioned transfer of squadron personnel to Group Headquarters left this headquarters with 111 officers and 264 enlisted men at the end of the month.

III. DIARY

November, 1945.

1. 2nd Lt Clifford J. Harrison joined Headquarters from the 527th Fighter Squadron to take over the duties of I & E in place of Major Kraft, who started for home last month. Seven enlisted men were fortunate enough to appear on orders for that highly coveted trip resulting in civilian attire. A motor-cycle accident last night is possibly responsible for the order prohibiting the use of any non-government vehicles on this airbase; all such vehicles are now to be turned in to the Motor Pool. The enlisted men's council met and are in favor of a Base Enlisted Men's Club; the present club is in Schweinfurt.

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2. The War Department has now dropped the critical score from 70 to 60 points

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making many more of our enlisted men eligible for discharge. A Liberty Run has been established from the Base to Schweinfurt every evening. Twenty-five men of the Advance Party of the XII Tactical Air Command arrived on the field; XII Tactical Air Command will assume command of Ninth Air Force units and will operate from Bad Kissingen, the former Headquarters of the Ninth Air Force.

3. Our firing range is temporarily closed pending more satisfactory safety precautionary measures. The enlisted mens' quarters were inspected this morning and everything proved in order. Officers, more and more, are expressing their unprintable views on the present discharge system which appears to remain almost static insofar as officers are concerned.

4. Sunday, and another day of victory for our "Red Rabbits" eleven who faced the 36th Fighter Group and defeated them by a score of 19-0, the game was played at Kassel, Germany.

5. 2nd Lt. Glen Batten has been given the job of Group Communications Officer in place of Capt. Price who left for home last month. Finally made available to officers, saving them a trip to Bad Kissingen, are laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repair facilities. A barber has also been acquired here.

6. The Base Theater has begun a "Bank Nite" in order to give winning personnel an opportunity to purchase special, critical items.

7. Our usually too liberal soldiers were again reminded in an order today that tipping civilians such as barbers, bootblacks, etc., is forbidden. The current film showing is "Keep Your Powder Dry" with (oomph) Lana Turner.

8. Squadrons in the Group had an inspection and all seemed in order. A Staff Meeting was held and closer cooperation requested between everyone in the Group. The possibility of permitting Germans in the officers club was discussed but no decision reached. Our football team, undefeated this season, is planning another game; this time with the 79th Ftr Gp

9. 1st Lt John F. Carmody has been appointed Group Photo Officer; since the duties of this job are practically nil at this time, Lt Carmody may handle miscellaneous photography jobs. Eleven enlisted men were sent on the first leg toward home; the lowest point man sent had a score of 70. 1st Lt Mowrer, our medical administrative inspector, was also sent on his way to the States.

10. T/Sgt Edwards has been granted a 90-day furlough in Missouri as a result of his reenlistment in the army. Officers may now make application for

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permits to drive a government vehicle on the airbase.

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- 11. Sunday - and Armistice Day. By direction of General Eisenhower, tomorrow, as well as today, will be a legal holiday to army personnel in the European Theater. The much anticipated football game with the 79th Fighter Group was postponed due to weather which prevented the opposing team from reaching our airbase. Fifteen 75-point-officers departed yesterday on their homeward journey.
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- 12. 1st Lt. Donald D. Adams, formerly of the 525th Fighter Squadron, has been appointed as Group Engineering Officer. Lts. Anderson, Blowers and Perez, along with Major Lay, saw their names on a beautiful Special Order --- imagine, "ordering" them to go home!
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- 13. Our "Red Rabbits" football team, champions of the Bavarian League, defeated the 79th Fighter Group at Schweinfurt Stadium; the score was 21-0. The ARC in Bad Kissingen offers Bingo as the attraction tonight with promises of a large variety of prizes.
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- 14. Our Daily Bulletin today printed an ample week's entertainment in Bad Kissingen, covering Jam Sessions, Art Classes, Ping-pong and Bowling Tournaments; this, with the regularly scheduled nightly movie on our own base, an ARC club and a library, permits all soldiers their diversion from routine.
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- 15. Capt. McCormick, Dental Corps, has now left for home. All offices appear to have plenty of work to keep them occupied but this probably due to the state of "not enough", and inexperienced, personnel; the "not enough" will soon be rectified as we plan to put all squadron personnel in Group Headquarters and form a Headquarters detachment in order to have fewer offices and, consequently, more personnel in each office.
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- 16. For economy's sake, no vehicles are to be used for attending the Base Theater or for visiting the ARC club. Recently, there has been trouble with military personnel tearing down parts of the fence surrounding the field; published orders state that, henceforth, violators will be severely punished.
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- 17. Due to personnel unfamiliarity with army correspondence, all officers were given a set of rules to which we are expected to adhere from now on. Squadron personnel flows daily into Group to increase the efficiency of Headquarter's departments by bringing them up to T/O strength.
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25. The day of rest rolled 'round again and another Ground Forces security check of civilians required the restriction of our soldiers to base. No unusual activity to report.

26. The Staff meeting scheduled for tonight was postponed and personnel went to see the show "Arsenic and Old Lace", playing at the Base Theater. It's becoming so cold now that precautions are being taken in an attempt to keep pipes from freezing in the buildings. Officer morale was definitely not bolstered by the news of U. S. vessels having 34,000 more available berths than there are troops scheduled to return home.

27. In an effort to curb the rise of venereal disease cases, plans are being made for more recreation facilities; Information and Education and Special Services can play an important part in the prevention of VD if their aid can be successfully enlisted.

28. Capt Elkin, Medical Corps, who has probably "sweated out" going home more than any other man in the organization, has finally received orders assigning him to a unit which will soon see him on the way. The Staff meeting this evening was devoted mainly to ascertaining the present status of each department, i.e., what they are doing, difficulties encountered, progress made, etc.

29. Due to the increasing number of stray dogs on the base, wandering in and out of buildings at will and interrupting programs at the theater with their barking, the Provost Marshal now has orders to pick up and dispose of all untagged mongrels. In an effort to make our soldiers more "appearance conscious", violators of uniform regulations are now prohibited from attending movies at the Base Theater.

30. A meeting of venereal disease officers was held in order to promote a VD Poster Contest. Prizes have been arranged for with the assistance of the Post Exchange officer who can furnish certain critical items currently sold at the PX. Because of the wet weather now here, personnel have been cautioned to refrain from walking over dirt paths in order to control the spread of mud.

IV. COMBAT OPERATIONS - Negative

V. NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS - Negative

VI. TRAINING

a. Regularly scheduled training is at present negligible due to the

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main task of training inexperienced personnel in all departments for more efficient functioning of the entire organization.

VII. STATISTICS

a. The venereal disease rate has risen to 160.35 per annum per 1000 personnel for November from 65 per annum per 1000 personnel in October.

VIII. STAFF ACTIVITIES AND CONFERENCES

a. It is the policy of this organization to hold one Staff Meeting every week; during the past month, the main topics under discussion were: Venereal Disease Control, Economy of Transportation, Economy of Personnel, Cooperation between Departments, Military Courtesy and The Issue of Warm Clothing for Guard Personnel and Motor Vehicle Operators.

IX. PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Negative.

X. APPENDIX - Negative.

THEODORE W. PETERSON,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

GP-86-171
DEC. 1945

RESTRICTED

HISTORICAL DATA

of

HQ, 86th Fighter Group AAF (SE)

for the period 1 December 1945 thru 31 December 1945

Inoperational Nov. - Dec. 1945	}	525th Fighter Sq.
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HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (SE)

December 1945

UNIT HISTORY

ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

1. Organization

a. The current T/O & E of this organization: 1-12R dated 5 March 1945. Total Strength authorized: 27 officers, 70 enlisted men.

2. Strength

- a. For the period of this report: 118 officers, 207 enlisted men.
- b. Gains and losses for November: Gain: 7 officers
Loss: 57 enlisted men.

*Information compiled from the morning report, Hq., 86th Fighter Group.

Note: Overstrength in Headquarters is due to the fact that our three squadrons are inoperative, all personnel having been transferred to this Headquarters; each squadron has 1 officer and 1 enlisted man assigned to it. Considering Group Headquarters and the three squadrons, this group is understrength 23 officers and 575 enlisted men.

3. Stations

a. No change in station. Present station, Schweinfurt, Germany (WH-74261;2), 26 September 1945.

4. Losses

a. The following named men, while flying in a C-47 type aircraft, were later discovered to have crashed into a mountainside 3 miles south of Gersfeld, Germany; all were killed:

- 1. Mitzner, Robert A., 1st Lt., O-713863, pilot.
- 2. Jones, Donald W., 1st Lt., O-721421.
- 3. Threlkeld, Richard R., S/Sgt., 34823506.

5. Awards and Decorations: Negative.

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D I A R Y

December 1945.

1. The first day of the month was marked by the determination of the Commanding Officer to lower the appalling venereal disease rate which skyrocketed off our graph last month; a VD film was shown today. All personnel were notified that the American Red Cross Club would be open, henceforth, to American personnel only; no displaced persons will be permitted to enter. Major Young, former Deputy CO of the Group, has been assigned to another outfit for return to the Zone of the Interior. 1st Lt. Leonard W. Conrad has been appointed Group Engineering Officer vice Lt. Adams, relieved; 2nd Lt. Charles W. Vandenberg is now Group Armament and Ordnance Officer and 2nd Lt. Perry J. DeStevens has assumed the duties of Group Photo Officer.

2. Today, being Sunday, a good percentage of personnel missed breakfast for the luxury of remaining in the sack. Nothing of undue importance occurred during the day.

3. All German civilians and displaced persons employed here were required, commencing today, to have their passes stamped; this is to be a regular procedure to insure the removal of unauthorized civilians from the base, such as those who might have been recently discharged, and who retained their passes.

4. The weekly staff meeting this evening was held this evening with discussions covering the lack of heat in barracks and economy of transportation; shortage of fuel prevents trucks from being sent for coal. Three enlisted men signed up for the regular army and twenty more, with point scores ranging from 55 to 59 - which means they'll be heading home soon - were assigned to the Group.

5. Daily courier service from the 64th Fighter Wing and the XII Tactical Air Command, permits speedy correspondence between these organizations and our Group. A meeting of all members of the officers' club was held this evening for the purpose of adopting the club constitution and by-laws.

6. A report on the enlisted men's council meeting reveals the following main points as having been under discussion: An attempt to have men who pull guard duty given time off the following day; the desire to have guards accompany truck drivers who make runs off the base; the wish to secure some skiing equipment.

7. Today marks four years since the bombing of Pearl Harbor; the peaceful blanket of snow covering the airbase puts all thoughts of war far in the background. Another meeting was held of venereal disease control officers of all units on the base and the progress of the VD Control Program was discussed.

- 8. A venereal disease film was shown this afternoon to Group personnel; base units were notified and invited to attend. The remainder of the day was marked by inactivity.

- 9. Another dreary Sunday has passed. No unusual activity to report.

- 10. All personnel have been reminded of the wearing of identification tags due to reports from higher headquarters in which individuals involved in accidents could not be identified. The main topics under discussion at the staff meeting this evening were the venereal disease control program, gas shortage, German civilian personnel using the latrines and baths in the officers' barracks. The Communications Section has now begun a cable service to the United States; messages are mailed from here to Paris for transmission. Two more enlisted men reenlisted in the Regular Army.

- 11. Thirty-four enlisted men joined this organization from XII TAC Headquarters; all had points scores ranging from 56 to 59, so we won't have them long. 2nd Lt. Ferrell A. Goodroe was appointed Group Surveying Officer. Supply managed to scrounge rifty light bulbs for use in the Base Theater. One more enlisted man reenlisted today.

- 12. A basketball court is being set up on the airbase -- an added recreational facility which may help in the battle against venereal disease.

- 13. Ten enlisted men joined the outfit from the 10th Recon Co; today. Due to isolated instances of thefts of small arms, an order has been issued that such weapons be turned in to supply and be kept under lock and key until such time as the owner is scheduled to return here; Government issue weapons will also be under guard when not being used for duty purposes. There was another enlisted men's council meeting this evening.

- 14. An air show was held over Bad Kissingen today; pilots met and discussed show upon returning. Jewish services will no longer be held in Schweinfurt, but on the airbase instead.

- 15. Fifty-six enlisted men were promoted; all capable personnel are assured of promotions because of the large amount of T/O vacancies. An inspection was made of the flight line by Capt. Erickson, Administrative Inspector, this morning. In the afternoon a VD film was shown. The Schweinfurt Airbase VD Poster Contest extended its closing date for acceptance of entries from today to next Saturday with the number of prizes raised from one to three.

