

S E C R E T

443rd Bombardment Squadron
OUTLINE HISTORY May, 1945

S E C R E T

BY AUTH: C.O.

443rd Bombardment Squadron
31 May, 1945.

P.B. INITIALS

Hq 443rd Bombardment Sqdn.
320th Bomb Group (M)
APO # 374

4 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Historical Records.
TO : Commanding General, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 9th Air Force Service Command
"Through Channels" - ATTENTION: HISTORIAN

1. Outline History of the 443rd Bombardment Squadron
for the period 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945.

a. Present Designation:

443rd Bombardment Squadron: 320th Bomb Group;
~~XX~~
9th Air Force Service Command

b. Changes in Organization:

- (1) Changes in Designation: From 42nd Bomb Wing, 1st TAF(Prov.) to 9th Air Force Service Command.
- (2) Echelons or Units:
 - (a) Transferred: None
 - (b) On DS or TD: None
 - (c) Attached to other Hqs for operational control: None

(3) Change of Commanding Officers: Capt. Frank Bennett, vice Maj. A. B. West, Jr., per S.O. 96, Par. 2, Hqtrs 320th Bomb Group, 30 May, 1945.

(4) Changes of Staff Officers (not applicable to Gp or Sq.): None

(5) Changes in T/O: None

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted: for the month of May 1945.

	<u>Off</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>W/O</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
a. At Beginning	97	16	-	382	495
b. Net Increase	-	-	-	-	-
c. Net Decrease	18	-	-	25	43
d. At End	79	16	-	357	452

S E C R E T

- d. Stations of Units or Echelons:
1. Name of Stations - Dole - Tavaux A/D, France
 - a. Date of Arrival - 2 April 1945
 - b. Date of Departure - Presently Here
- e. Movements of Unit or Echelons: None
- (1) From _____ to _____
 - a. Purpose
 - b. Dates
 - c. Means of Transportation
 - d. Conditions of roads, conveyances and weather:
- f. Campaigns
- (1) Name - Germany
 - (2) Duration - From 1 May 1945 to 8 May
- g. Operations
- (1) Campaigns - Germany
 - (2) Nature of Operations - Precision bombing of enemy defense positions
 - (3) Number of Missions & Sorties for period - 1 missions, 17 sorties
 - (4) Results of the most important missions: Bombs not dropped on only mission the squadron flew this month.
- h. Command Officers in important missions - Lts. Halbert, Holland, Lowrey Prigmore, Townsend; F/O Kaplan
- i. Losses in Action: Officers and Enlisted Men:
- (1) Mission and Dates:
 - a. Killed: None
 - b. Wounded: None
 - c. Missing: None
 - d. Taken Prisoner: None

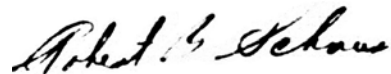
j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in Action:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AWARD</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Brainerd	Capt.	D F C	
Howe	"	"	
Peterson	"	"	For extraordinary
Sherwood	"	"	
Watson	"	"	achievement while
Lokan	"	"	
Mosby	Lt.	"	participating in
Murray	"	"	
Purvis	"	"	aerial flight.
Selzer	"	"	

k. Photographs being submitted: Four; showing interior shots of squadron headquarters.

2. Inclosed are the War Diary and Monthly Narrative of the 443rd Bombardment Squadron for the period 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945.

For the Commanding Officer: -



ROBERT B. SCHNUR,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Squadron Historian.

- 3 Incls
X War Diary
X Monthly Narrative
X Photographs

S E C R E T

MONTHLY NARRATIVE

443rd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May, 1945

Prepared By R B. SCHNUR, 1st Lt, Air Corps.

The highlight of this month, and probably the most important since the Group's activation, was V-E Day, toward which everyone had been looking since 7 December, 1941. It marked the half-way point in the greatest conflict that the world has ever experienced.

Matters affecting the squadron particularly, other than the cessation of hostilities and the consequent non-operational status on which the squadron was placed, were: the announcement of the point system by which E. M. would be discharged, the departure for the States of combat men with the highest number of missions, the inauguration of an all-inclusive Educational, Athletic and Technical training program, and the announcement, at the end of the month, that all flying personnel would leave the squadron, after which it would function as part of the 9th Air Force Service Command, and be located, in the near future, within Germany for the purpose of helping to disarm the GAF.

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 1

WAR DIARY

443rd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

Month of May, 1945.

Prepared by R. B. SCHNUR, 1st Lt, Air Corps

Day Events

1. The month started out by 17 Squadron planes leading the Group to a target on the Gronde Estuary, which leads to ^Frances large west coast part of Bordeaux. Apparently the ^Allies want this German pocket cleaned out, not so much t to open the port to incoming shipments of supplies but as a P.O.E. for troops moving out of Europe after V.E. day, which at this point, cant be far off. After three runs on the target, during which ~~it~~ was continually covered by clouds, the Flight Commander had to order the formation to go to Cognac for refueling. Due to delay in gassing up the planes, all the crews had to remain there over night. Wonder if the boys imbibed in any of the world famed local product while visiting there.

2. Today's mission was cancelled due to weather and an advancing bomb line. Most of the Squadron was still either at or returning from Cognac where they landed to refuel after yesterday's mission and where the spent the night. Some of the boys slept in farmhouses and a few, it is rumored, were billited in, of all places, a house of ill fame.

The news continues to be good and everything points to an early end to "fini la guerre". B.B.C. has announced the unconditional surrender of all German troops in Italy and Western Austria totally about one million men.

3. For the first time in many months, perhaps since this Group became oper-ational no mission was scheduled, a "coconut" mission being the only activity on the program and even that did not materialize.

"The flame of the Barbary Coast" starring John Wayne and ^Ann Dvorak played last night and tonight at the Squadron Theater.

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 2 WAR DIARY

443rd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

Month of May, 1945

Prepared by R. B. SCHNUR, 1st Lt, Air Corps

Day Events

4. Again no mission. There couldent have been one anyway as it poured rain all day long. Most of the day was spent in the sack or whiled away with various games of chance. The news of another one million German troops surrendering in the North West Germany, Holland and Denmark highlighted the day's news. "Murder My Sweet", starring Dick Powell, Claire Trevor and Anne Shirely played to packed houses at our local cinema.

5. Another rainy day ands so no mission. However, with the surrender of all German forces opposing the 6th Army Group it is unlikely that these would have been one in any event. It begins to look as though missions in the future in this theater will be few and far between if any at all.

Steps are being taken to arrange for classrooms in which the Army's I-E education program can be held.

Captain MacDonald, our operations Officer, is leaving our Squadron to become C.O. of the 444th Squadron, succeeding Major Cahan, who is to be Group Operations Officer.

6. It is now evident that the Group will no longer be in operation in this theater. Practive missions are being scheduled daily. Those not so occupied are already complaining about time hanging heavy on their hands.

7. With the announcement of the German unconditional surrender to all of the Allies the day everyone has been waiting for, for nearly three and one half years has finally arrived. V.E. day will be formally proclaimed such tomorrow. With the exception of a few flares sent up the firing of postols in the tent area (quickly stopped by the O.D.) and the imbibing of available alcoholic beverages by some, the news caused little or no excitement, probably due its being a sort of anticlimax after the starling

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 3

WAR DIARY

443rd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

Month of May, 1945

Prepared by R. B. SCHNUR, 1st Lt, Air Corp

Day Events

Events of the past week. A number of Squadron Officers and enlisted men were notified to prepare to return tomorrow to the zone of the interior (USA) under blanket ruling that all with 60 or more missions were to be given that privilege.

8. Members of the Squadron could be found at 1500 hours today gathered around radios to hear Mr Churchill officially proclaim today as V-E day. A few of the younger element of the local population had a dummy of Hitler hanging in effigy on a truck which moved up and down the main street of the village as American, French and British flags were displayed from every house. Otherwise there was no great excitement attendant upon "fini la guere."

9. The Squadron Officer's soft ball team and that of the 441st battled to a 9-9 tie in a game called in the 9th inning because of darkness tonight. This free scoring contest was marred by a number of clashes of personality on the part of certain players. Weingart and Zierk were the opposing pitchers.

10. The Squadron Officers' soft ball team defeated the 444th's team tonight 5-1. The score was tied at 1-1 until the 7th inning when McDonald, former Squadron Operations Officer, now the 444th C.O. and pitcher weakened and allowed the hits which decided the contest.

A dog picture "My Pal Wolf" played to a full house at 2 performances tonight at our local cinema.

The Squadron went through the gas chamber today.

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 4

WAR DIARY

443rd Bomb Squadron

320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May, 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps

Day	Events
1	
11.	Many of those with 60 or more missions left for home tonight. The Squadron ball team again defeated the 444th tonight, score 4-0. The "S.R.O." sign was hung out early tonight at the movie. The reason, the picture "Winged Victory". All personnel who wish to become part of the Army of Occupation were today given the opportunity to volunteer for the same. The main topic of conversation today was the point system for demobilization just announced.
12.	A meeting of all personnel was held today at which Major West announced the plans for the future in the squadron. Among other such plans which caused arched eyebrows and not a few scowls were reveille at the unheard of hour of 06:50 each morning followed by a formation by Flights at which roll will be called. Other features were drill, athletics, P.T. etc.
13.	A quiet day, and not too much to do in the fair village of Damparis, and thats just about what everyone did--- nothin, guess energy is being conserved to meet the Athletic, Recreation program, and these pre 7 A.M. formations that start tomorrow.
14.	The first week of peace in the E.T.O. began with no little confusion in the 443rd Squadron, at 6:40 everyone fell out on the street n front of the school, and there was plenty of stumbling around. Roll call was finally taken, then a beeline was made for the Mess Hall. The rest of the day was spent in some indulging in mild forms of athletics and logging "sack time."
15	A lovely day, and by noon the sun was really beating down, sending the temperature up to the 80's. A large number of men headed for the Squadron

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 5

WAR DIARY

443rd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May, 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps

Day	Events
15.	swimming hole which is an abandoned quarry, 3/4th filled by water from a spring. Plans call for a raft to be built by Sergeant DeBold, the squadron carpenter. Other personnel were scheduled to fly, this being one of the two days per week assigned to the squadron for flying.
16.	Word has come through that General Doyle wants the 42nd Bomb Wing I-E, A & R, and technical program in full swing by Monday of next week. Oooh, what a headache the next few days will bring!!! Between now and then instructors will have to be trained during a 2 1/2 day course to teach I-E classes, registration of all personnel must take place, and schedule made out. The mere thought tires the Squadron historian! Several Officers and Enlisted Men have volunteered their services as teachers, but there's still some question as to what courses can be offered. The E.T.D. policy was supposedly to start this program 30 days after VE day, not ten days. C'est la paix.
17.	Some half a dozen men went down to group at 0800 hours to begin the 2 1/2 day course on how to become a teacher ----in easy lessons. Immediately after lunch, Sgt. Waldorn, from Group explained the I-E program to the squadron assembled, and all were told that choosing courses was purely voluntary. A list on the blackboard showed the courses which will be available Monday, and each man was asked to pick courses up to not more than 3, or none if he so preferred. It might be noted here, that a tabulation later on in the afternoon showed a helluva large percent of the men signed for courses that included Advertising, Algebra, Accounting, Basic Math, Blueprint

S E C R E T

SHEET NO 6

WAR DIARY

443rd Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bomb Gp.

Month of May 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

Day	Events
17.	Reading, Business Arithmetic, Company Management, Drafting, English Composition, Livestock Production, Photography, Psychology, Speech and Trigonometry.
18.	Another flying day for some, free time for others, and more headaches for still others. A directive came down from Group that all men will take 4 1/2 hours of athletics per week. Pilots, Co-pilots and Navigators will take 2 hours of Meteorology and Bombardiers 2 hours of "BAT" or Norden theory, all gunners 3 hours of Aircraft Recognition and everyone 1 hour of Military Justice---- ---all per week, starting Monday. Instead of too much free time, we may find ourselves with just the opposite.
19.	The scheduling of activities for each individual went on apace today. Orders are that no one will have anything to do Saturday afternoon and Sundays, but the rest of the week is goin' to be mighty full. The 443rd's program now stands: I-E, A & R and Technical Training courses on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; flying on Tuesdays and Fridays. Inspections, and/or parades Saturday mornings, and that's all. (That's enough, too!!)
20.	Schedules were posted today so that everyone will know what his supposed duty is, when he's to be doing it, and when -----starting tomorrow. A meeting at Group was held, and it was decided that a few planes from each squadron, on the flying days, will be permitted to make "Cooks Tours". One will be over the targets we've hit since coming up from Corsica; another will be up the Rhine to the Ruhr area and return, a third will take in Lake Constance, Salzburg, Berteschgaden, Munich and Stuttgart; and the fourth will be base to Munich to Bertchesgaden, the Brenner Pass to Italy Milan, over the Riviers and North to Dole. All personnel are eligible to

S E C R E T

SHEET NO 7

WAR DIARY

443rd Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

Day	Event
20.	make the trip and the quotas for rest camps has been increased.
21.	School started off with a bang----and some confusion----- this morning, but with it all, and the technical and athletic program, no one should complain about not having anything to do. There were some conflicts, but in time this should be straightened out. The present set-up is particularly hard on the typists and the paper supply. Hugh long lists of names, and of course, four copies are made of everything.
22.	The first of the "Cooks Tours" were flown today and those that made them report the idea a fine thing-----800 miles of scenic beauty, with demolished towns as an added attraction. A couple of calls were posted on the bulletin board. One was that all caliber .45 pistols be turned in immediately. The other was for more instructors for the I-E program. Looks like a definite swing toward La paix.
23.	Another school days, carried on in spite of intermittent showers that cancelled the athletic activities for the day. Captain Young gave his first lecture on "Military Justice.". The Officers will spend 8 hours on this course and the Enlisted Men four hours. A notice was posted that On-The-Job Training programs would be started next week. Classes will be held Mondays and Thursday Mornings only from 08:15 till 12:00 at the 304th Service Squadron --- and the courses include Airplane Mechanics Machine Shop welding Carpentry, Instrument repair, Parachute Rigging, Sign Painting, Auto Mechanics, Electricity, Radio Repair. Each course is limited to 6 men, but they will only last three or four weeks.

S E C R E T

SHEET NO 8

WAR DIARY

443rd Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

Day Events

24. Another class day and another day of rain. Not too much activity was evident and the highlights were that Captain Blutman called in all gas masks, and the related items, to everyones satisfaction. The more we turn in the less we have to carry when it comes time to move. In the afternoon T/Sgt. Butler gave the first of a series of four lectures covering the history of the Group, since it's activation, back in 1942. 'Twas a most interesting account and covered the period up to the groups landing in Africa and it's entrance into combat.
25. Overcast weather somewhat hampered today's semi-weekly flying schedule, although local flying was permitted. Another on the job training course was offered, this to be given by the R.T.O. detachment at Dole. Men signing up for the classes will go to the station in town Monday and Thursdays and be taught the fundamentals of Traffic Control and Management ---starting a week from Monday. In the evening a compulsory movie "Two Down And One to Go" was attended by all personnel. It explained briefly but thoroughly redeployment to the Pacific and discharges from the Army under the point system. Very enlightening, but not very hopeful for the Air Corps.
26. An inspection of the squadron was made by Captain Newton in the absence of Major West, who took a plane of men to Brussels to spend the week-end. Following the morning activity, interviews were held of all men who have a high school education or better. The lucky men chosen from this interview will attend the University of Dijon for a five-day-a-week, eight weeks course. The subjects offered include the Arts and Sciences, and upon successful completion, a diploma will be given by the University.

S E C R E T

SHEET NO 9

WAR DIARY

443rd Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May, 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Aur Corps.

Day Events

26. School will start 4 June, 1945 and the men will be on D.S. to the 17th Bomb Group. In the evening the Enlisted Men held another of their locally renowned dances at the squadron club.
27. A quiet day, bright and sunny, gave many men a chance to do as they pleased. Only two things marred the peaceful scene. A retreat formation was held at 16:00 hours and short it was, but still it was annoying inasmuch as personnel were led to believe that Saturday afternoons and Sundays would be free of all duties and formations. The other was the nasty rumor that the Group is to break up in the very near future--- and not necessarily return to the States!!! Other details were lacking. The evening's cinema offering was "Greenwich Village" a technicolor number in which Don Ameche naturally wins his lady fair.
28. The 2nd week of school, etc., and 0800 hours, some 40 men hopped on trucks to attend their first classes in "on-the-job-training". These will be intense courses, 4 hours each Monday and Thursday for three weeks, and all through the courtesy and cooperation of the 304th Service Squadron. Throughout the day Lt. Otto conducted Physical Fitness tests for all squadron personnel. A record will be kept of how many chin-ups, sit-ups, etc a man can do, and later on, re. in several months time a man is supposed to have improved his physical well being. Come 1900 hours, the assembled crowd at the Squadron theater was offered a two star number, "Between Two Women", The title was better than the picture.
29. Another flying day, and several "Cooks Tours" were flown to Bertschegaden,

S E C R E T

SHEET NO 10

WAR DIARY

443rd Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May, 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

Day Events

29. Three Ordnance Officers from an outfit in Gray were passengers and they really enjoyed themselves. Perhaps the squadron could work out some sort of lend-lease program with them to turn our battered vehicles over to them, fly their personnel on semi-weekly tours of the E.T.O., and receive back, in exchange reconditioned jeeps, 6 X 6's etc. Mmmm, wishful thinking ! Major West on orders to return to the States in the near future, was relieved of his command as Squadron Commander. To take his place, Captain Frank C. Bennett, Assistant Group Operations Officer was assigned. Good luck AB and welcome to the 443rd again Frank.
30. Today being an official holiday, an "Air Parade" was scheduled to take place at 10:00 hours but low clouds and rain forced cancellation of the review, and in it's place the bigwigs of the squadrons and Group had a meeting at which it was announced 16 full crews and planes from each squadron would transfer to the 379th Bomb Group tomorrow. This information given to squadron personnel immediately after lunch, also carried with it confirmation that combat men with the lowest number of missions would make up the roster of crews being transferred to the 9th Air Force. Other combat men would return to the States very soon, and the ground personnel would be sent to Germany for four to six months to help demilitarize an area near Nurenberg. What confusion, particularly at the Orderly Room and Operations, as they began to prepare records for transfer.
31. Amidst much running around, money being paid as partial pay, shots given at the Dispensary, Squadron clearance being filled out, etc.,-----plus the inevitable packing of baggage---fourteen crews took off for their new assignment with the

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 11

WAR DIARY 443rd Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bomb Gp(M)AAF

Month of May, 1945

Prepared by R.B.SCHNUR, 1st Lt. Air Corps.

Day Events

31. 397th Bomb Group, and it can be truthfully stated that the departing crews "buzzed" this village of Damparis as its never been buzzed before. Each plane pulled at least one, and there must have been a majority of repeat performances. Two more crews will have to leave tomorrow, then the old-timers of combat will be next to leave. Everyone has an inward feeling of a sense of loss. It's like a team that's been together a long time being split up. All Officers and Enlisted Men, ground and flying men have been through both good and bad as a unit, and now it's the beginning of the end.

S E C R E T
Photographs

Month of May, 1945

443rd Bomb Squadron, 320th Bomb Group (M)
Prepared by R.B. Schnur, 1st Lt., Air Corps



Interior photographs of Headquarters, 443rd Bomb Squadron