

18th WEATHER SQUADRON – DETACHMENT #107
303rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
MOLESWORTH, ENGLAND
Assigned 30 June 1942

Weather Station Narrative - January, February, March 1945

During this three month period several changes occurred in the status of station personnel. On 9 January 1945, Sgt **Israel Cantor** (Forecaster) was placed on temporary detached service at AAF Station 117 for a period of seven days. T/Sgt **Richard E. Nichols** (Forecaster) reported at this station on 21 January and assumed the duties of forecaster and NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge). 2Lt **Cameron L. Self** was sent to the 1st Air Division Weather Office to study Upper Air Analysis for a two week period of detached service departing on 22 January. On the same day, Sgt Cantor was sent to AAF Station 117 for two weeks detached service; simultaneously S/Sgt **Fred L. Browne** from AAF Station 117 came to assume the duties of enlisted forecaster during Sgt Cantor's absence. Sgt **Beecher Crampton** reported for duty on 10 February. On 28 February, M/Sgt **Robert L. Lutz** returned from four weeks of temporary detached service at AAF Stations 117 and 106, and T/Sgt **Irving B. Roberts** (32207460) returned to his home AAF Station 106, after two weeks temporary detached service at Molesworth. 2Lt **Cameron L. Self** was promoted to 1Lt, AUS, on 1 March 1945, and on 11 March was sent on six days detached service in London to study the Army's Information Education program.

As shown in the personnel roster, M/Sgt **Robert E. Lutz** and Sgt **Israel Cantor** are rated as flying weather observers. They receive instructions from 1st Air Division Weather Office and take turns at flying over a certain route, investigating weather phenomena several hours prior to a combat mission. The past policy has been to rotate these observers at successive four week intervals to each of the three airfields in the 41st Combat Wing.

For the betterment of our performance, we have acquired another new edition aeronautical map, scale 1:500,000. A set of book-ends have been constructed to make the book shelf more tidy. We also have another clock and a message center, issued without complaint, strangely enough, by the local Ordnance Organization.

Our basketball team, "The Underdogs," has made fabulous gains in reputation and success. We have lamented the necessity for employing other players when shortages existed because of military responsibilities. However, in spite of these vicissitudes, the team has easily dispatched all previously difficult opponents, placing us in the enviable position as the number one rival for the base championship.

With an alert eye for the summer, we have dug out the baseball equipment and are secretly developing a staff of pitchers. By this means the Weather Detachment will undoubtedly play a highly successful part in summer athletics. All of the dilapidated bicycles have been repaired and the usual short evening pub runs will soon go into effect.

Morale of Weather Detachment personnel seems satisfactory. Perhaps it has been stimulated by the availability of three-day passes. Also, we have recently been receiving some excellent special service reading material. The men seem to favor historical novels and western stories, characterized by rapid action, keen literary quality, and amorous adventure.

Generally speaking, the health of Weather Detachment personnel has been good. Several times the Enlisted Men became infested with scabies, but luckily enough this condition has been eliminated. Booster shots for tetanus and typhoid were administered. Early in February all Enlisted Men were given physicals to determine eligibility for Infantry duty, and the result showed T/Sgt **Richard E. Nichols** temporarily physically disqualified with Sgts **Ellis E. Rumsey** and **Keith E. Yandon** being over age. All others were found to be physically fit.

Several innovations in our actual operations are noteworthy. Being a Wing station, we have been responsible for gathering the weather interrogations from the outstations after each mission. These reports are summarized and the resulting data is telephoned to the 1st Air Division Weather Office within four hours after the landing of the first mission participating aircraft.

A plexiglass overlay has been hung in the main office for recording of latest forecasts of winds, temperatures, etc. This attractive display is useful in distributing weather information, particularly when several air crews come in simultaneously to get the forecasts.

We broadcast by telephone a morning weather forecast at 0645 hours to all Squadron operations. This forecast is supplemented and corrected at 1200 and 1800 hours successively and whenever else deemed necessary.

Our instrument shelter, that was unfortunately damaged by an accidental pyrotechnic discharge, has been repaired and painted. New equipment has been installed. During this period, Captain **W.W. Berning**, from Division Weather, came to inspect our methods of interrogation of airmen after each combat mission.

18th Weather Squadron – Detachment #107 Personnel Roster

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DUTY (MOS)</u>
Saucier, Walter J.	1Lt	0-873339	Station Weather Officer (8219)
Self, Cameron L.	1Lt	0-874456	Weather Officer (8219)
Lutz, Robert E.	M/Sgt	16029059	*Weather Forecaster (787)
Nichols, Richard E.	T/Sgt	1044722	Weather Forecaster (787) (NCOIC)
Cantor, Israel	Sgt	12033740	*Weather Forecaster (787)
Crampton, Beecher	Sgt	39082678	Weather Observer (784)
Montgomery, Howard L.	Sgt	32446929	Weather Observer, Clerk (784)
Najvar, Felix J.	Sgt	18103518	Weather Observer (784)
Rumsey, Ellis E.	Sgt	17129058	Weather Observer (784)
Yandon, Keith E.	Sgt	17110938	Weather Observer (784)
Soloric, Randolph	Cpl	33255498	Weather Observer (784)

* Also on flying status as observers of weather

Attached Personnel

Dee, John B. Jr.	Capt	0-887020	Staff Weather Officer (HQ 303rd BG)
Smitherman, Thomas B.	1Lt	0-880635	Weather Officer (Hq 41 stCBW)
Arnold, Carlyle C.	Cpl	6533243	Clerk (HQ 303rd BG)

Weather Personnel from 3rd Station Complement Roster

Van Holdt, Richard E.	Capt	0-436903	Group Weather Officer (8219)
Bunker, Andrew F.	1Lt		Weather Officer (8219)
Fleischer, Herbert L.	1Lt	0-568149	Weather Officer (8219)
Johnson, Orville E.	2Lt	0-164629	Weather Officer (8219)
Johnson, Samuel D.	2Lt	0-437771	Weather Officer (8219)
Johnson, Robert D.	2Lt	0-857642	Weather Officer (8219)
Hahn, Simon	T/Sgt	36342355	Weather Forecaster (787)
Hanson, Hans A.	T/3	37116429	Weather Forecaster (787)
Barnes, Nelson B.	T/4	39240113	Weather Forecaster (787)
Figlioli, Leo A.	PFC	31139408	Weather Forecaster (787)