

**2097th FIRE FIGHTING PLATOON**  
**303RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)**  
**MOLESWORTH, ENGLAND**  
**1942-1945**



*RAF Fire Equipment School (photo taken 17 January 1943)*

Under command of 1Lt Arnold E. Dreager, the 2097th was responsible for all base fire fighting activities. The firemen extinguished fires on burning Fortresses, haystacks in fields near the base, dispersal tents, Nissen huts and all other base buildings. Several Forts were saved when their quick action extinguished the fire and prevented what could have been disastrous explosions.

Perhaps the biggest job was when a Fort loaded for a mission caught fire in the wing tanks. With the burning high-octane gas dripping on to the ground, the firefighters had a battle for nearly two hours before the blaze was brought under control. So successful were their efforts, however, that the plane was in the air again in a few days. The platoon can be credited with saving the Air Force a valuable bomber and preventing what might have been a disastrous explosion on the field.



*2097th Fire Fighters at work.*

### ***2097th FIRE-FIGHTING PLATOON PERSONNEL***

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>RANK</u></b>	<b><u>SERIAL #</u></b>	<b><u>JOB DESCRIPTION</u></b>
Breouillette, Wesley	Sgt	37126131	Firefighter
Ciampi, Fudie L	T/5	32973277	Firefighter
Dennis, Levi	Pvt	34373425	Firefighter
Dreager, Arnold E	1Lt		Engineering Officer
Dulik, Eugene F	Pvt	33691661	Firefighter
Ezzo, Dominic	T/5	32385417	Truck Driver, Light
Giuliani, Armando J	T/5	32973327	Truck Driver, Light
Kirk, Merwin G	T/5	32846517	Firefighter
La Marco, Anthony	T/5	32972373	Firefighter
Liles, Ruel J	Pfc	38198204	Firefighter
Lynches, Andrew	S/Sgt	13130499	Firefighter
Mahoney, William J	T/5	37373305	Firefighter
Matarazzo, Victor J	T/5	32774437	Firefighter
Meredith, Alfred W	Pvt	32144457	Firefighter
Minderhout, Earl W	T/5	38162837	Firefighter
O'donnell, Francis E	Pfc	11009607	Administrative Clerk/typist
Peters, George A	T/4	31300258	Automotive Mechanic
Roberts, Aubrey	Sgt	33360398	Firefighter
Wellbaum, Harold W	T/5	39165750	Firefighter