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LAPMIA

HISTORICAL SECTION
SEVENTH AIR FORCE

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[REDACTED]

47TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AAF
A.P.O. NO. 959

[REDACTED]

11 May 1944

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Organizational History, 47th Fighter Squadron, AAF.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Air Force, APO No. 959.
Attention Assistant Chief of Staff, A-2, Historical
Section. (Thru Channels).

In compliance with paragraph 2, a (2), Seventh Air Force Memo
Number 44-24, dated 9 April 1944, the enclosed report is submitted
for the month of April 1944.

Thomas W. Mackey
THOMAS W. MACKEY,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

1 Incl:
Organizational History Report fr
1 April 1944 to 30 April 1944

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Incl(s)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
47TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AAF
A.P.O. NO. 959

11 May 1944

Organizational History, 47th Fighter Squadron, VII Fighter
Command, Seventh Air Force.

1 April 1944 - 30 April 1944

1. ORGANIZATION:

- a. Change of Table of Organization and Table of Equipment.
- b. Change of Commanding Officer.

2. STRENGTH:

55 Officers.
270 Enlisted Men.

3. DATE OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THIS THEATER:

Negative.

4. LOSSES:

James V. Shoulder, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, killed in aircraft accident.

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Negative.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. ORGANIZATION:

a. (1) Effective 19 March 1944 this Squadron ceased operating under T/O 1-27, dated 1 July 1942, and subsequent changes. The Squadron now is operating under T/O and E 1-27, dated 22 December 1943, and change 1, dated 26 February 1944.

(2) Under the new T/O the number of flights in the Squadron has been increased from three to six; D, E, and F flights having been added (E and F flights are composed of personnel authorized under the combat section of the T/O). This increase in the number of flights plus the provision of a Captaincy for the assistant operations officer allows four more captaincies among the flying officers. The additional three flights also increased the number of flying first lieutenants from seven to twelve.

(3) Provision has been made under the new T/O for a captain rather than a first lieutenant as Engineering Officer. In view of the responsibility and importance of this position, this was a welcome change in the T/O.

(4) In the Communications section, the Radio S officer, a first lieutenantcy, has been eliminated. As the Squadron communication section has been operating all but three months without such an officer, the loss of that position was not felt. Provision was made for a master sergeant section chief in this section.

(5) Other sections of the Squadron were not seriously affected by the new T/O.

(6) The assistant operations officer, Frank J. Gromada, first lieutenant, believes that the T/O affects the flying operations of the squadron as follows:

"The new T/O, allowing for the creation of six flights rather than three, has a definite advantage in conducting the flying operations of the squadron. Under the six flight system, members of the same flight fly together practically all of the time. This allows the development of well coordinated flights since the respective leaders get to know the capabilities of their flight and can concentrate their instruction on the same group of pilots. Also, having the same group of men fly together produces an excellent spirit of teamwork within the flights and competition among the flights".

b. (1) On 16 April 1944 Major Thomas W. Mackey assumed command of the Squadron relieving Lieutenant Colonel Norval K. Heath. Colonel Heath had been Commanding Officer of the 47th Fighter Squadron since the 6 March 1943.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Organizational History, 47th Ftr Sq,
AAF, dd 11 May 44, contd

(2) Major Mackey was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry Reserve in 1937. As a First Lieutenant he received his pilots training and graduated from Moore Field, Mission, Texas, on 5 August 1942. He entered the Hawaiian Department on 12 September 1942 and two days later he was assigned to the 47th Fighter Squadron. As Captain and Operations officer of the Squadron, he was transferred to Group Headquarters in October 1943 as Group Operations Officer and Air Inspector. He remained in that position until his assignment as Commanding Officer of the 47th Fighter Squadron.

2. STRENGTH:
55 Officers.
270 Enlisted Men.
3. DATE OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THIS THEATER:
Negative.
4. LOSSES:
Second Lieutenant James V. Shoulder, 0818447, was killed in an airplane crash at sea at 0710 on 26 April 1944.

Lieutenant Shoulder was flying a P-47 airplane on Second Lieutenant Frank Ayres' wing about four miles west of Kaena Point at 10,000 feet. Lieutenant Ayres ordered Lieutenant Shoulder to fly in loose string formation, Lieutenant Ayres rolled and Lieutenant Shoulder apparently followed with the same maneuver.

On the top of the roll Lieutenant Ayres saw Lieutenant Shoulder's airplane inverted diving through the clouds 2,000 feet below. Lieutenant Ayres followed the diving airplane through the clouds but upon emerging at the cloud base, 6,000 feet, he saw no sign of the other plane.

Lieutenant Ayres returned to his base, Mokuleia Field, and notified Lieutenant Frank J. Gromada, Assistant Operations Officer, of the accident.

Search planes and search boat were dispatched to the area of the crash and recovered the oxygen tank from Lieutenant Shoulder's airplane. Neither Lieutenant Shoulder's body nor the rest of his aircraft was recovered.

5. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:
Negative.

This report was prepared by Russell A. Gair, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, Assistant Intelligence Officer.

APPROVED: *Thomas W. Mackey*
THOMAS W. MACKEY,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS 15TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF

APO # 959
14 April 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

E X T R A C T

Following changes in asgmts and duties are directed:

* * * * *

Eff 16 Apr 44 the following changes in asgmts and duties are directed:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELD FR</u>	<u>ASGD TO</u>
* * *	* * *	* * *
MAJ THOMAS W MACKEY 0350121 AC	Hq 15th Fighter Gp AAF	47th Fighter Sq AAF

By order of Lieutenant Colonel BECKWITH:

HERBERT C WARD
Maj AC
Adj

OFFICIAL:

HERBERT C WARD
Maj AC
Adj