

653 AIR MATERIEL SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

653 Air Materiel Squadron
Activated, 15 Apr 1945

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

403 Air Service Group

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Late in the evening of 15 April 1945 a meeting of the service unit commanders on the station was called by Lt Col Wall, formerly commanding officer of 465th Sub Depot. Lt Col Wall announced that in accordance with Secret VIII Air Force, GO #52, dated 12 April 1945, the 10th

station Complement Squadron, 465th Sub Depot, 1825th Ord S&M Co (Avn), 264th Med Disp (Avn), 208th Finance Section, 1217th QM Co, 1287th M.P. Co (Avn) and 2101st Eng F.F. Platoon, were disbanded as of 2359 hours 14th April 1945. In accordance with the same General Orders a new organization, the 403rd Air Service Group was activated, consisting of three squadrons: 403rd HQ & Base Services Sq, 829th Air Engineering Sq and the 653rd Air Materiel Sq.

The 653rd Squadron was, at the beginning of the month, fast swinging into a smooth functioning organization. Only fifteen days had elapsed since its activation and for such a short time, remarkable progress had been achieved.

The first week in May was spent anticipating the announcement that the Germans had surrendered, an act that was expected from hour to hour. When on the 7th of May the long awaited news flash was received there seemed little excitement. Work carried on as usual, no holiday for us. Our group had been off of operations for approximately ten days prior to Victory in Europe Day so what work there was during the early part of the month was of a less pressing nature.

On May 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th, the bomb group ran trolley missions over Germany. This was for the benefit of the ground personnel, to give them a birds' eye view of the results of strategic bombing. A majority of the 653rd's personnel took advantage of this opportunity and all expressed their delight and appreciation.

A training program was soon established following the war's end. Lectures on military courtesy, discipline and drill movements were given. The ground work was laid for a proposed education program.

The 15th of May the 653rd Squadron was alerted along with the other Service Group Squadrons and the Bomb Group for return to the Zone of Interior. This one order was the one we've worked and waited for two long years. The joy was unanimous.

Everyone was now in a fever. One meeting followed another, one teletype changed or rescinded the previous one. The men now worked both day and night crating and packing supplies and equipment. Hangar #1 was set up as a central place for preparing material for shipment. A space was allocated to each squadron as a work area, a power saw was placed in the center of the hangar for the use of all squadrons. A supply room was set up for the issue of redeployment materials.

1st Lt James Gough, Sgt Thomas J. McDonnell, Sgt Victor W. Orf, Cpl John E. Moran, Cpl Eugene Humphreys, and Cpl Leo Morrissey were transferred from the squadron. They were to remain behind and become part of the holding party.

1st Lt Albert F. Ferguson was transferred into the squadron to replace Lt Gough.

All reparable supplies and equipment were domestically packed and shipped to 3rd SAD.

Items common to ground and Air Force were also domestically packed and shipped by truck and rail to the depots common to the respective branch of supplies.

Serviceable Air Corps equipment was overseas packed and shipped to a BADA holding depot.

Serviceable Air Corps supplies were domestically packed and shipped to BADA holding depot.

By the end of the month all warehouses were cleared of all but the empty bins. Everything was packed and final paper work was prepared.

On the 31st of May, we were paid in good old American greenbacks. All British currency was converted to U.S. currency. We were all happy.

During the month five men were transferred out of the organization for the purposes of discharge. They all being more than 42 years of age. TSgt Blair, Sgt Chase, PFC Sabatino, Sgt Alwin, and PFC Busher were the fortunate ones.

By the 4th of June all preparations for movement had been completed. Supplies had been disposed of, TAT equipment was boxed, files disposed of, show down of clothing completed and shortages filled. We were then just "Sweating it out".

Little time was available this month for pleasure. Only one party was held and that was on the 26th. From noon till midnight, the Enlisted Men partook of frolic. This party was a base activity, both in celebration of victory in Europe and also for completion of 386 missions.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 16 Jun 2020

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.