

829 AIR ENGINEERING SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

829 Air Engineering Squadron

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

403 Air Service Group

COMMANDERS

George L. Griffith

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The historic month of May will long be remembered by men in the ETO and especially by men of the 829th. The 829th, having spent the latter part of April getting activated and organized for war against the enemy in Europe, found itself, during the month of May, doing an about face and preparing for warfare against the enemy in the Pacific.

The end of the war in Europe found the 829th as busy as possible. The limited operations against the enemy in the weeks preceding the end of the war had cut the amount of battle damage to a minimum. However, modifications to aircraft were keeping the hangars and shops going full blast. Nose wheel and main landing gear modification and the installation of ditching stations were the principal modifications accomplished during the early part of the month. Nineteen aircraft were handled during the month.

Shortly after V-E Day, all ground men were given the opportunity of seeing for themselves the destruction that has been inflicted on towns and cities in Germany. All planes on the station were used for this mission, called "Trolley Mission." Ten men, in addition to the crew, were taken on each plane and this enabled every man on station to make the trip within four days. Two routes were used, one over Southern Germany and Belgium and the other over Holland and Northern Germany. The men were all unanimous in their praise of this mission. The brass who planned this mission have earned the praise of the ground personnel.

Of course, after V-E Day, all thoughts turned to home. With the announcement of the demobilization and redeployment procedures, the men started to work figuring their points. Unfortunately, most of the men of the 829th fell short of "Interim Critical Score" of 85. A few of the men did have a critical score of 85 and are looking forward to discharge in the near future.

On the 15th of the month the 829th received the news for which it had been waiting ever since coming overseas. This was the official notification that the 829th was being redeployed to another theater through the States. This means a thirty day furlough at home. This was wonderful news for the men, especially for those who have been overseas for almost three years.

The 829th became a beehive of activity almost immediately. Modifications to aircraft were completed, hangar #2 broke all records in building new engines to insure perfect performance of aircraft redeploying by air.

Packing and uncrating were started at once. All equipment not being used was packed first and other machines and tools packed when their operation needs dictated. Hangar #1 was cleared as soon as all planes were modified and a central packing and crating factory was established. S/Sgt John P. Janezcek, carpenter shop chief, and his crew kept the power saw busy day and night cutting lumber for all organizations.

By the 26th of the month packing was well along. On that date all Quartermaster, Chemical, Engineer and Signal items were shipped out to their respective depots. By the 30th of the month all Air Corps equipment had been loaded on freight cars and was ready for shipment to the depot. By the 1st day of the month all equipment which was to accompany troops was packed and ready, all men were processed, both for clothing, physical exams, records, and the outfit as a whole was ready to go.

Since receiving the movement orders the men have worked both night and day in preparation for the move and have demonstrated the same skill, efficiency and close cooperation which was characteristic during the time when maximum effort was needed to meet operational requirements for the aerial offensive against the Reich.

Another morale booster came on pay day. Instead of being paid in English Sterling, the men were paid in good old American 'cabbage'. From the expression on the men's faces, you could see that besides being glad of just being paid, they were glad to get a pocket full of our own currency.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 29 Jul 2020

Updated:

Sources

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