

HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)
APO 690 % POSTMASTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

JLG/jrb

10 July 1944

SUBJECT: Organization History Report for Period from Date of
Activation to 30 June 1944

TO : Intelligence Section, Attention Historical Officer,
Headquarters Army Air Forces, India Burma Sector,
APO 671 (Thru: Intelligence Channels)

On 27 December 1943, the organization was redesignated from 829th Chemical Co AO to 771st Chemical Depot Co (Avn), with a strength of seventy men and four officers. Four days later, the number of EM was increased to seventy-eight, as eight replacements joined the unit at Herbert Smart Airport, Macon, Georgia. Without change, the strength has existed at this increased number to the present date.

At the beginning of the new year, an accelerated program of training in depot operations was undertaken, with special emphasis being placed on malaria control and discipline, as well as the storage of chemicals and incendiaries. Theory and subject matter taught in the class room were then put into practice when the organization took leave of Herbert Smart Airport, Macon, Georgia, for a bivouac at Camp Sibert, Alabama on 31 January 1944. While in the field, the Company worked until 10 February 1944, carrying out the duties of a depot under simulated combat conditions.

Through the month of February promotions were received by both officers and enlisted men. On 14 February, Lt. Charles C. Cates, Jr., incendiary and supply officer, was promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., and on 22 February, the commanding officer, Lt Joseph L. Gramling, and the transportation officer, Lt. Chester N. Stupp, were both elevated to the ranks of Captain and 1st Lt., respectively.

Weeks of preparation for overseas movement were finally brought to a close, as twenty-five EM of the organization departed from Herbert Smart Airport, Macon, Georgia, on 6 March 1944, acting as advanced party, air echelon, for overseas shipment. On the ensuing week, 14 March 1944, the organization's main body, consisting of three officers and fifty-two EM likewise departed from Herbert Smart Airport, Macon, Georgia for Port of Embarkation. Meanwhile, Lt. Charles C. Cates, Jr. and Cpl. Dwight T. Helvis remained to accompany the organization's equipment to overseas destination.

After arriving at an Eastern coast staging area, on 16 March 1944, the organization's three officers and fifty-two EM were immediately processed for overseas shipment. However, the Company remained at this station for an entire month, during which time all EM desiring three day passes were issued same by 8 April 1944.

At 1800 hours, 11 April 1944, the organization boarded the SS

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William Graham, sailing for foreign service and entering the American Theater of Operations on 15 April 1944. Through the two and one-half succeeding weeks the convoy continued across the Atlantic, arriving in the European Theater of War on 22 April 1944.

Seventeen days passed at sea before the SS William Graham entered the harbor at Oran, Algeria, 30 April 1944. That evening, at 2200 hours, the organization's three officers and fifty-two enlisted men disembarked and moved to staging area #2. While at this station, the organization was attached to NA20USA. At the same time, all enlisted men were given opportunities to visit the city of Oran.

The temporary stay amid strange North African surroundings was terminated at 1000 hours, 12 May 1944, when the Company took leave of NA20USA and boarded the British transport, HMS Orduna, to continue to its ultimate destination via the Mediterranean route. There were three air alarms sounded when enemy planes were sighted overhead, but no attack was made, and on 20 May 1944, the convoy arrived safely at Port Said, Egypt. The organization, thereupon, was transferred to the HMS Strathmore, and moved on into the Suez Canal at 0800 hours the following morning.

Occasionally land was sighted at various points along the Red Sea, and for a day the HMS Strathmore put in at Aden, but not until 1 June 1944 did the convoy arrive at Bombay, India, port of debarkation for the 771st Chemical Depot Co (Avn). At early morning, 3 June 1944, the Company entrained for APO 690.

The organization detrained at APO 690 at 1800 hours, 6 June 1944, and was immediately joined by the advanced party, air echelon, which, during a period of approximately two months, was attached to the 816th Chemical Co AC. Allowing themselves adequate time to become situated in the company area, the 771st Chemical Depot Co (Avn) began depot operations on 12 June 1944.

In two weeks' time the first crate of equipment arrived from the States, under the guidance of Lt. Charles C. Gates, Jr. and Opl. Dwight T. Helvie. By the month's end, however, a number of pieces are as yet unaccounted for.

JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Capt., CMS
Historical Officer

JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Capt., CMS
Commanding

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JUL 1944

HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)
APO 690 % POSTMASTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

JLG/jnb

5 August 1944

SUBJECT: Organization History Report for Period 1 July 1944 to 31 July 1944

TO : Intelligence Section, Attention Historical Officer, Headquarters Army Air Forces, India Burma Sector, APO 671 (Thru Intelligence Channels)

The introductory chapter of overseas depot operations reveals the gigantic size of the task ahead, as well as the heavy amount of work necessary to carry out the operations as rapidly and as efficiently as possible.

Capt Joseph L. Gramling, Commanding Officer, appointed Lt Herbert M. Theissen and Lt Chester H. Stupp as officers in charge of the CWS depot, with Lt Theissen ranking officer. Immediately repair work began in the warehouses; leakers were removed from the revetments; drainage facilities, impaired through the monsoons, were greatly improved; and construction projects were undertaken to facilitate depot transportation. In every section men labored in preparation for the forthcoming storage of gas shipments destined for front line use.

Coolie labor relieved much of the burden from the enlisted personnel. Native crews were put to work building gravel roads within the area and digging holes, into which were placed a diminishing number of leakers. The month of July saw a forty-three per cent decrease in number of these mustard bombs sent to the grave yard for burial. Nevertheless, the difficulty persisted, and in an effort to reduce the amount even further, an experiment was attempted under the direction of S/Sgt James Messier.

Starting on the supposition that a bomb with a seam leak may still retain an undamaged well, an apparatus was constructed to move the well from one bomb and insert it into another. If successful, the number of well leakers would be lessened. After the first two wells were removed it appeared that the experiment would be a success. But with the following bombs it was discovered that too much sludge (such as rocks in a well recess) made it impossible to transplant a well into a new setting. Also it was learned that wells from old bombs do not always fit into new bombs. Occasionally, as the well is placed within the bomb it is difficult to tighten the nut, thus creating an unrepairable thread leaker. Of the ten bombs used, five were well leakers, and five were leakers of various other types.

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To simplify the removal of potential leakers from revetments to burial ground, racks were built, upon which the leakers would be stored. Consequently, boxes containing leakers could be used for other bombs.

On 12 July 1944, Colonel Kellogg, Chemical Officer for APC 671, visited the area to inspect storage space, warehouses, revetments, and the conditions of the area in general. At the Colonel's suggestion, the 816th Chemical Company AC agreed to furnish an adequate number of men daily to support the 771st's personnel in carrying out duties at the depot.

Throughout the month, shipments were routed to various units, both by air and rail. In one particular shipment of bombs it was necessary to pack, crate, and assemble every bomb, loading four wagons.

At the month's end, the total number of leakers reached two hundred and fifteen, broken down into one hundred and two weld leakers, twenty-six seam leakers, and seventy-seven well leakers. In handling, there were only two cases of vapor burns, and neither were serious.

Joseph L. Gramling
JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Capt., CWS
Commanding

Joseph L. Gramling
JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Capt., CWS
Historical Officer

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AUG 1944

C O N F I D E N T I A LHEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (A)

MICROFILMED

APO 690
5 September 1944

SUBJECT: Organizational History for the Month of August

TO : Intelligence Section, Headquarters, AAF, India Burma Sector, APO
671, ATT: Historical Officer, THRU: Intelligence Channels

Unlike months in the past, the month of August reveals diversified tasks encountered in normal Depot Operations overseas, ordinarily not experienced in previous months. The weather plays a prominent role since the majority of the work recommends favorable weather.

During the month, a number of wagons arrived for unloading, increasing the amount of supplies stored at the depot. While the ever increased amount of CNB was in transit to this station, ramps were being constructed for expectant amount of agent to be stored. All available EM worked on the building of ramps to complete the project as quickly as possible.

Maintenance work on plug venting bombs, painting of ton containers, and M-33 spray tanks and parts, accelerated more during the month than any preceding month. It was necessary to obtain a large amount of OD paint for the repainting of the ton containers. This maintenance work is being done by EM of the 816th Cml Co AO, a small number reporting to the depot for duty.

Ton containers were vented since it was assumed that a pressure was being built up due to the storage in the direct rays of the sun. Upon checking a number, it was determined that a pressure didn't exist, but a vacuum was ascertained in some cases.

A project of plug venting M47A2 bombs H filled, is well under way. Special Equipment and tools are on hand for this work, but difficulty may arise since plugs used to reinsert in the bombs are nearly exhausted until a requisition can be filled to replenish the supply necessary. The fulfillment of the requisition is dependent upon supplies arriving from the states.

Col. Smith, Theater Chemical Officer, and Capt. Schott inspected the Advance Chemical Park and were well pleased with progress made to date.

Fifteen EM from Chemical Sections of Air Depot Groups of APO 884 have been placed on Temporary Duty with this organization. These EM have reported for duty and are being instructed in Depot Operations.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

An increase of 36% leaking bombs were pulled this month over the month of July, due mainly to climatic conditions. A total of 275 bombs were pulled, of this amount 25 were shipped to the 45th Cml Lab. Co., for experimental purposes.

Herbert M. Theissen

HERBERT M. THEISSEN
1st Lt., CWS
Executive Officer

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CML-571-111

SEP 1944

Tested

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)

APO 690
5 Oct., 1944

SUBJECT: Organization History for the Month of September
TO : Intelligence Section, Headquarters, AAF, India Burma Sector,
APO 671, Thru: Intelligence Channels

MICROFILMED

Cool weather reduced the number of defective 100 pound H filled bombs during the past 30 days. On some days, when the temperature was high, a greater number of leaking bombs were found, while the cooler days reduced the number. The weather plays an important part in the life of the M47A2 bomb. Every attempt is made to repair the various type leakers, but in the majority of the cases, it is not possible. All leakers are ordinarily destined to the disposal area after their defectiveness has been discovered. There was a decrease of 25% of total bombs buried during the month of Sept. over the month of August. All total, 207 M47A2 bombs were buried.

Certain Lot numbers of the M47A2 bombs were plug vented to determine whether a great amount of pressure has been built up in these bombs due to climatic conditions. Lot Number RD 1-2, were plug vented; one lot number which has never caused any trouble. A high pressure was encountered in the majority of the cases, causing considerable contamination to the contents of the revetments. Lot Number RD - 122 were also plug vented with very little pressure noticeable. A lot number of this type has a high percentage of defective bombs, 50% alone accounted for the total number buried. All total, 1500 bombs have been plug vented to date. It has been necessary to halt this project since the supply of plugs has been exhausted.

A total of 525 one-ton containers have been painted OD, although the work has been in vain, due to the low grade of paint used that washes off whenever it rains.

The Motor Sergeant and drivers improved the Motor Pool by pouring in a concrete floor for vehicles to park on while being serviced.

A welding shop was erected under the supervision of Tec 4 Rappe, the organization welder. This shop has a complete set of welding tools and equipment to perform any given task.

During the month of September, shipments were sent out to APO 631, 433, and 629. The shipments consisted of 133 Smoke Tanks, Smoke Tank accessories, and ton Containers. Each shipment was accompanied by train guards. Their duties were to deliver the supplies and to act if an emergency arose in transit.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Col. Sledge and Lt. Col. Carroll, the latter from A.C.O. Washington, D.C., inspected the depot, accompanied by Major Lowenthal. The main purpose of their visit was to check the stock on hand. They were well pleased during the tour, and passed several favorable comments. On another occasion, an RAF Chemical Officer, Major Gorfinkle, visited the Bomb Dump to compare ideas of the American and British of the CWS nature.

Twelve train guards were sent to Calcutta, in the middle of the month, to act as train guards for a large amount of bombs to be shipped to this station. Word was received of the expected shipment of 1000lb. and 500 lb. bombs. In the meantime, preparations were being made at the depot for proper storage. This is the largest number of bombs ever to arrive at this station at one time; 1750 bombs, numbering 34 wagons. On the 29th, when the shipment arrived, it was predicted that it would take 5 days for unloading. After the first day of unloading, five days proved to be an accurate prediction.

Two members of this organization were transferred during the month. Cpl Paul A. Bosch was relieved from duty and assignment and returned to the United States for personal problems at home. Pvt James N. Buttrick was transferred in grade, to the First Air Command Sq, APO 690.

Chester N. Stupp
CHESTER N. STUPP,
1st Lt., CWS

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)

JLG/adm

APD 690
5 Dec., 1944

SUBJECT: Organisation History for the Month of November

TO : Intelligence Section, Headquarters, AAF, India-Burma Theater,
APO 671, Thru: Intelligence Channels

1. During the past month, renovations in the Mess Hall have been completed. When this organization assumed responsibility of the Mess in September, the interior and exterior were in great need of redecorating and repair. After six weeks of painting and whitewashing, the interior has improved 100% in appearance and sanitation. This organization now takes great pride in possessing another establishment.
2. The IGD inspected the organization on the 18th in ranks and in quarters. They were well versed in their capacity, over-looking nothing. Later, the following week, company and supply records and the Mess Hall were inspected. Everything was satisfactory while all records received a superior rating.
3. All attached personnel from other organizations have been relieved of duty effective the 13th. During their stay, maximum training and experience was rendered them in the operation of a Chemical Depot Avn.
4. Liquid "H" is being salvaged from M47A2 bombs and poured into 55 gallon drums for storage. Containers are marked as to date filled, by whom, gross, tare, and net figures. With this procedure, the agent can be retained and possibly be used for future needs. The M47A2 casings are being buried, the same as before, since it is impractical for salvage. Sufficient quantities of 55 gallon drums are available for this particular task. The majority are badly in need of repainting due to corrosion and rust, although steps have been taken to prolong their life.
5. Component parts of the AN M-78 and M-79 bomb were shipped to another unit some eight miles from the depot through error, while actually it was supposed to be sent direct to this organization. It was then necessary to transport these items by vehicle to the ACP.
6. One AN M-79 bomb was discovered to be leaking, making it the sixth since arriving at this station. This type leaker can easily be repaired by filling that part with molten lead.
7. For the month of November, a total of 442 M47A2 "H" filled bombs were lost due to leakage or an increase of 56% over the previous month.

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The well leakers predominate with a total of 30% out of the total pulled. At the present rate, the bombs are deteriorating, 30% of this organization is needed daily for maintenance.

JOSEPH L. GRAMLINO
Capt., CWS., Comdg

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HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVH)

JLG/wer

AFPO 690
4 January 1945

SUBJECT: Organization History for the Month of December

TO : Intelligence Section, Headquarters AAF, India-Burma Theater,
APO 671. **THRU:** Intelligence Channels.

Eleven rail wagons of 100# H filled bombs arrived the 6th of December. All available personnel were assigned the unloading task and after six and one half hours of continuous labor, the detail was completed.

Three enlisted men were lost through transfers during the month of December and another assigned. One enlisted man returned to the USA on emergency; one transferred to Northern Area Air Service Command and one to 323rd Service Squadron, this station. The organization is now down to the authorized strength of seventy-four enlisted men and four officers.

Lt. Oates and Capt. Theissen attended CWS Munitions School at APO 492 for one week. This school is being held for CWS officers and terminating after key NCO's have attended.

Hot water showers were installed in the Decontaminating Building at the Advance Chemical Park. All the installation work was carried out by the enlisted men.

Five sky-marker bombs were filled with FS and shipped to the Seventh Bomb Group for a practice mission. A delay of three days in their use caused the glass closure plates to break due to the pressure that built up. At the time the mission was called off and the sky markers were returned, but a week later, on the 17th, seven more were shipped to the same group. Of the seven, one expanded while the remainder were faulty. All sky-marker bombs were then reconditioned, replaced with new wiring, connections repaired and painted wherever signs of corrosion were observed.

Two wagons of component parts of the M70 bomb arrived making it complete. Later, on the 22nd, fifty-eight wagons of one-ton containers, H filled, arrived and of these, twenty-three were spotted on the same day for unloading. These cars were unloaded in seven hours and the remainder were unloaded the next day in nine and one-half hours. This Unit considers the unloading of fifty-eight wagons in sixteen and one-half hours a record breaking achievement.

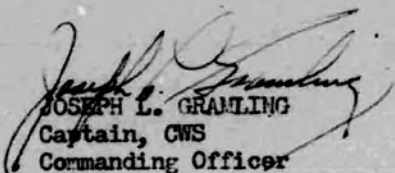
In checking the fifty-five gallon drums of H, formerly the contents of M47 A2 bomb, it was discovered, the bung had deteriorated on three

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barrels. Now these drums are being observed very carefully to determine if the same reaction will affect the entire barrel.

Inventory commenced of all depot property which terminated events for year, 1944.


JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Captain, CWS
Commanding Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)APO 690
1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Organization History for the Month of January, 1945.

TO : Intelligence Section, Headquarters AAF, India-Burma Theater,
APO 671. THRU: Intelligence Channels.

A number of enlisted men were placed on temporary duty for periods of approximately thirty days, including two officers during the month. On the 2nd of January, Capt Theissen and four enlisted men departed for Dhubalia, India, a British installation, to perform duty pertaining to incendiaries. After twenty-four days, their mission complete, they returned to the organization. Also on the 2nd of January, Lt Gates and four enlisted men were placed on temporary duty with the Seventh Bomb Group, APO 690, for duty only, their mission being the same.

Colonel Kellogg, Chemical Officer, Air Service Command, and Capt Duncan from Headquarters, Air Service Command, visited the ACP and were interested in the storage space available at present and the manner in which all items were stored.

Three large shipments of AN-M79 Bombs were received during the month. All wagons that were spotted for unloading, and were unloaded during the normal working hours. One AN-M79 Bomb was discovered to be leaking and every effort is being made to repair the defect; however, if this leak cannot be repaired it will be necessary to expend it.

The first M70 (H) Filled Bomb was discovered to be leaking while in storage and a small hole in the burster well was the cause of the leak. As usual, the liquid (H) was salvaged and the bomb casing buried.

The Commanding Officer and two NCO's attended the Chemical Munition School at 5317th Airdrome Headquarters, APO 492, for approximately one week's instruction and practical demonstration. From all reports, considerable knowledge of CWS can be acquired and more NCO's are scheduled to attend classes in the near future.

On the 16th of January, the Unit moved Company Headquarters, Supply and personnel from Moira Camp to Khandra Camp. There are six barracks assigned to the Organization and five are occupied entirely for quarters, while the sixth building is used for Supply and Orderly Room. Considerable time has been spent to date fixing the area to suit the desires of all concerned. All floors were repaired, screen doors and windows were made wherever required, interior and exterior of the buildings were whitewashed and painted, and construction of walks leading to all barracks and a pole fence to prevent vehicles from driving through the barracks area, are in the process of completion. This new area has

the advantages of being conveniently located near the theatre, Red Cross Club, Chapel, Dispensary and the athletic field. In due time, the area will be superior in appearance to the company area at Moira Camp.

Six enlisted men departed for temporary duty on the 26th of January to Cox's Bazaar, India, for approximately thirty days. These men are also performing an incendiary mission.

Three hundred forty-six (346) M47A2 (H) Filled Bombs that were leaking beyond repair, were buried during the month. Most of the leakers are due to the corrosion of the burster wall, the seam and the casing. As in the past, all liquid agent from these leakers was salvaged and transferred to 45 gallon drums.

JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Captain, CWS
Commanding Officer

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)

AFPO 690
3 April 1945

SUBJECT: Organization History for March, 1945.

TO : Intelligence Section, Attention: Historical Officer, Headquarters, Army Air Forces, India Burma Theater, AFPO 671.
(THRU: Intelligence Channels)

The organization's strength remained unchanged throughout the month of March, 7 1/2 Enlisted Men and 4 Officers assigned, although 10 Enlisted Men were attached on the 29th for duty, quarters, rations and administration from Headquarters, Central India Air Depot, AFPO 884.

Twenty-five Enlisted Men flew to AFPO 671, 1 March 1945 to act as train guards for shipments to this station. It is the first time rail guards were flown to the port to accompany shipments, since it was urgent they report immediately.

The electric generator on requisition was obtained from Ordnance on the 3rd, which will provide electricity and power for the motor pool, carpenter shop and office at the ACP. Ten rail guards also arrived with 43 wagons of AN-M79 non-persistent bombs, however, the unloading didn't commence until the following day. The M47A2 bomb failures increased to a great extent the first three days of the month with a total of 117 bombs pulled for the three days. As an added precaution, it was necessary to plug the burster well before removing the bomb from the revetments to prevent unnecessary contamination.

On 4 March 1945, unloading of the M79 bomb was started and stored in the ground area temporarily due to inadequate facilities in the wooded section. The remaining rail guards returned this date with 42 more wagons of non-persistent bombs. The following day Lt Col Wyss and Capt Greenes of the Chemical Officer, Air Service Command, AFPO 671, made a visit to determine disposition of certain lot numbers of the M47A2 bomb.

A deep well water pump was received from SOS engineers on the 9th to replace an M-4 Decon apparatus used for the purpose of drawing water. Two NCO's left for AF Chemical Munition School at AFPO 492 for a ten day period on the same day. The base engraver commenced engraving an inscription on the monument in Hindustani which had been previously erected in the disposal area. The monument and inscription will serve as a warning to the civilians for the next 25 years that war gases have been disposed of in this locality.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

The task of unloading 85 wagons of M79 non-persistent bombs was completed 10 March 1945 in six and one-half days. In this shipment sixteen bombs were discovered as leakers, however, repairs were made preventing disposal.

Preparations were made to decant six lot numbers of the M47A2 bomb on a large scale and contents to be poured into 45 gallon drums. The six lot numbers designated are faulty and causes constant surveillance and maintenance in storage. Leaking bombs are discovered in large quantities when the temperature increases with badly corroded walls and seams of the casings.

Three wagons of M47A2 bombs arrived from APO 631 for storage at the ACP on the 11th. Due to intense heat, these wagons were unloaded at night, all men wearing protective clothing to keep vapor burns at a minimum due to bombs becoming defective enroute to this station. Twenty-five bombs were leakers in this shipment and were disposed in the usual manner.

The six Enlisted Men on Temporary Duty at Coxs Bazaar, India, returned the 15th. These men experienced an enemy bombing at that installation and are authorized to wear a bronze service star upon the theater ribbon in accordance with existing regulations.

The process of decanting the M47A2 bomb commenced on the 16th. The work schedule was altered to mornings only to meet personal safety and as an added precaution to the men pouring the persistent agent in drums. A number of Enlisted Men received minor burns and three were hospitalized before month's end as a result of this detail. All personnel wear protective clothing and gas masks, though accidents continue to persist.

Eight wagons of tail fins, fuses and bursters were unloaded on the 20th, the majority of the labor accomplished by civilian personnel. Also on this day, one M79 bomb was expended due to leaking valve, which was impossible to repair since the valve was fitted improperly into the bomb casing. The M79 bomb was placed in a large tank of water and the agent released slowly.

It was necessary to requisition 45 gallon steel drums for liquid H to decant M47A2 bombs which arrived on the 22nd. Sufficient drums are on hand to meet the demands of this project.

Ten Unit Gas NCO's from organizations of the 305th Service Group reported for duty for a two day period at the ACP on the 26th to assist personnel of this organization in handling mustard gas in the decanting project and at the same time receiving invaluable training in passing their knowledge to personnel of their respective organizations. The compulsory training of Unit Gas NCO's in practical experience was publicized in a 305th Memorandum effective 26 March 1945 to 12 April 1945.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

A total of 94 leaking M17A2 bombs were removed from revetments on the 27th, the highest number pulled in any one day since the operation of the ACP. The last day of the month, three Enlisted Men departed for Rest Camp, Ranikhet, India, for 15 days.

JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Major, GWS
Historical Officer

APPROVED:

JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Major, GWS
Commanding Officer

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)

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AFPO 690, c/o PM
New York, N. Y.
3 May 1945

SUBJECT : Organization History for April 1945.

TO : Intelligence Section, Attention: Historical Officer, Headquarters,
Army Air Forces, India Burma Theater, APO 671.
(THRU: Intelligence Channels.)

The company's strength increased from 74 to 76 EM assigned during the month of April, one sergeant, 870, and one private, 256, though these two men are pending assignment to another organization. There was no change in officer strength, four officers assigned, one Major, one Captain and two First lieutenants.

A new work schedule for the base was placed in effect 2 April. Work Call was scheduled at 0550 and Recall 1300 hours. This work schedule appears to be excellent, since duty is performed during the coolest hours of the day. One afternoon a week each individual is required to work three hours to maintain a minimum of forty five hours a week. Stationed in India, it is necessary to work during early hours due to extreme heat. Seven one ton containers were noted to be leaking on this date, one requiring a new valve to be replaced.

Excavating equipment was obtained on 3 April for digging large holes to dispose M7A2 bomb casings. Prior to this, coolies were used to dig holes but since the dewatering project is under way, more disposal pits are required and civilian personnel were unable to keep pace. Emptying bombs was halted for a few days due to the fact pits were not available. One wagon was loaded with FS and shipped to APO 487 accompanied by two train guards from this unit.

Two EM departed for APO 492 three days later to attend Chemical Munition School for a period of ten days.

The contents of the warehouses had to be removed for pouring concrete floors. CPWD started this project on the 9th, approximately ten days required to complete the job. Sufficient time had to pass permitting the cement to harden before material could be stored in the warehouses.

On 11 April, Headquarters, India Burma Air Service Command, APO 671 awarded the organization, The Meritorious Service Unit Plaque "for superior performance of duty in the execution of exceptionally difficult tasks and for achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline during the period of 6 June 1944 to 1 March 1945". All personnel of this unit are responsible for the citation resulting from cooperation and devotion to duty.

A large shipment of FS was made to Victoria Mills consisting of four Air Corps trailers on 11 April. It was necessary to make this shipment by motor because the shipping order was urgent.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

The following day the 400 mark had been attained for decanting bombs in one day. The weather was helpful being much cooler and personnel could work in protective clothing easier than while the temperature and humidity was so high. A number of men received burns from working in mustard, some serious enough for hospitalization. Sick call averaged fifteen and twenty men daily for the following two weeks. Working in impregnated suits and gas masks made working conditions nearly unbearable.

Two men were sent to Rest Camp on 13 April to Darjeeling located in the mountains. Additional coolies were obtained from civilian personnel to work the afternoon shift. These coolies were used for general details about the ACP.

A request was made to the Commanding Officer, 305th Air Service Group for additional military personnel, however the request wasn't fulfilled until 16 April when they reported for duty. It was necessary to call for outside assistance because of the number of men burned from vapors. Three days later 30 colored EM and one white officer reported for duty from 769th Chemical Depot Company of the 20th Bomber Command to assist in the project of decanting bombs. Their first day of duty, 510 bombs were emptied. This was a record for decanting project to date, however the following day 637 M17A2's were decanted.

Working nearly the entire month on decanting the M17's, the job terminated on 27 April, approximately 5000 bombs emptied filling nearly 1200 drums. The worse lot numbers were decanted and certain M17A2 bombs will be shipped to APO 671 and thence by boat to the Bay of Bengal for disposal. On the same day approximately 40 of the 80 coolies working at the ACP failed to report for work due to fear of war gases.

An incoming shipment of 33 wagons of M70 bombs arrived on 29 April and two more shipments were expected within the next few days. Preparations were made for 150 wagons of M70's for storage in the revetment area.

Looking back over the month of April, a great deal of work had been accomplished and more is expected for the coming month.

JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Major., GWS
Historical Officer

APPROVED:

JOSEPH L. GRAMLING
Major., GWS
Commanding Officer

Supplement

305TH AIR SERVICE GROUP
AIR SERVICE COMMAND

April 28, 1945

TOXIC TOPICTEERS AWARDED MERITORIOUS SERVICE PLAQUE

The 305th once more received recognition and honor when the Toxic Topic-teers were awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for their excellent work in these parts for the past year. The organization, whose work had not and cannot be commented on because of security measures, has gone about quietly doing their job, one which many of us have either forgotten or did not know existed. The company as a whole will be given the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque and each individual in the outfit will be entitled to wear the insignia representing the award which is a gold wreath on khaki and is worn four inches above the end of the right sleeve.

The General Order, issuing from the India-Burma Air Service Command Headquarters signed by Major General Thomas J. Hanley, Jr., reads in part as follows: "Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 1, War Department Circular 345, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Plaque is awarded the (name of unit), India-Burma Air Service Command, for superior performance of duty in the execution of exceptionally difficult tasks and for achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline during that period..."

The 305th Air Service Group is proud of its member unit's record and the DOODLER wishes to extend its congratulations to the Toxic Topic-teers in its own name and on behalf of the group.

RESTRICTED

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 33)

HEADQUARTERS, INDIA-BURMA
AIR SERVICE COMMAND
A.P.O. 671, 11 April 1945

E X T R A C T

I. AWARD OF THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE. Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 1, War Department Circular 345, 23 August 1944, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded the 771st Chemical Depot Company, (Avn), India-Burma Air Service Command for superior performance of duty in the execution of exceptionally difficult tasks and for achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline during the period 6 June 1944 to 1 March 1945.

/s/T. J. Hanley, Jr
/t/T. J. HANLEY, Jr.,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

RESTRICTED

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Joseph L. Grantling
JOSEPH L. GRANTLING
Major, GWS

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)

CML-771-41
AUG 9 5
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GRR/elk

APO 690
3 Sept 1945

SUBJECT : Organization History Report for August 1945.

TO : Intelligence Section, Attention: Historical Officer,
Headquarters, Army Air Forces, India Burma Theater, APO
671. (Through Intelligence Channels)

The organizations strength commencing for the month of August was four (4) officers and sixty eight (68) Enlisted Men. During the month Capt Royle and Crawford were assigned from Hq Second Air Commando Group and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 51st Air Service Group respectively. Six (6) EM joined the unit, one from Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, 61st Air Service Group, one from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 54th Air Service Group and four (4) assigned from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 11th Air Depot Group. At the close of August the organization's strength was six (6) officers and seventy four (74) Enlisted Men.

Lt Case, a newly assigned officer departed 3 August for a forty five (45) day furlough to the United States.

One officer and four (4) EM of the 45th Chemical Lab Company reported 6 August to test stability of the agent in storage. After three days of experimenting and testing various lot numbers, men of the Lab Company departed for their organization.

The project of nose plugging M 47A2 bombs from the M 70s commenced 13 August. It was estimated two and a half weeks would be required to complete the task.

Immediately following the Japanese acceptance of unconditional surrender, computation of total weight of stock on hand, cube and estimated number of rail cars required to dispose of munitions and chemical agent in storage, was made and reported to the Commanding Officer, 305th Air Service Group.

Lt Col Salry, Acting ASC Chemical Officer and Capt Blair made a visit to the ACP 18 August. A discussion was held with company officers on disposition of chemical munitions and material in storage.

Pressure had been taken on three lot numbers 241-51, 57 and 59 of 1000 # bombs as directed by ASC headquarters. A report of the findings on non persistent bombs was forwarded to ASC Chemical Officer.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Verbal authority was received on disposal of smoke grenades, pots, CN in pots, FS in drums and CNB in drums. All drums were to be salvaged and retained for future requirements. In four days all available CNB, FS smoke, grenades and pots were burned.

The two auto mechanics were detailed to work at base motor pool 21 August. All vehicles assigned to the organization are pooled and serviced by base motor pool. On 24 August Capt Royle was appointed Acting Commanding Officer.

Shipments of 1000# CK bombs were received on 22 and 27 August totaling 18 wagons from Shamsbernagar. On 31 August 26 wagons of M 78 and M 79 bombs arrived this station and were unloaded during normal working hours.

In closing for the month of August, all authorized Chemical Warfare items had either been destroyed or salvaged, and the company is now marking time awaiting further orders.

Marshall F. Crawford
MARSHALL F CRAWFORD
Capt, CWS
Historical Officer

APPROVED:

George R. Royle
GEORGE R ROYLE
Capt, CWS
Acting Commanding

CML-771-H2
SEPT-DEC 1945
Pg 2

**HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)**

305-1611

**AFPO 690
31 December 1945**

SUBJECT: Organizational History Report for September, October, November and December 1945.

**TO : Intelligence Section, Attention: Historical Officer,
Headquarters, Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, APO 671
(Thru Intelligence Channels).**

Beginning the month of September 1945, the 771st Chemical Depot Company (Avn) was composed of six (6) officers and seventy-four (74) enlisted men. During the month there was almost a complete turnover of men. Captain Theissen was relieved as Commanding Officer, transferred to the 900th Chemical Company (AO), and succeeded by Captain George R Royle. Also at the same time fifty-eight (58) enlisted men were transferred to the 900th while this organization received thirty-eight enlisted men from that company.

The month of September was used in preparing details for the clearance of the Advanced Chemical Park. During this time heavy lift equipment and vehicles were checked to insure their serviceability when the need arose.

The 305th Air Service Group was consulted innumerable times since their cooperation was needed to provide the necessary manpower and equipment for the operation.

On the 21st of September 1945, an accident occurred at the Park during the burial of approximately fifteen thousand M47A2 mustard filled bombs. One of the bombs burst and sprayed mustard on seven men, three being contaminated heavily and the other four moderately. The excellent and efficient first-aid treatment of the casualties by other men present at the scene of the accident, undoubtedly saved the sight and possibly the lives of the three heavily contaminated men. For this deed the rescuers were recommended for the Soldier's Medal.

Since all Chemical munitions were to be disposed of in the near future, outlying sub-depots shipped their stocks of chemicals to the Advanced Chemical Park in order to centralize all of the munitions as much as possible.

The 900th Chemical Co, having been declared a Category IV unit suspended operations at the ACP. In its place the 816th Chemical Co (AO) was designated to assist this organization in the coming evacuation of Chemical munitions.

At the end of September 1945, all necessary preparations, as could be accomplished up to that time, for the clearing of the ACP were completed and the organization was awaiting the orders to start the project. The majority of the men were anxious to get the job done.

During the month of October, in order to further insure the safe disposal of the chemicals, a laboratory was set up at the ACP under the direction of 1st Lt David Dalton. The purpose of the laboratory was testing CK bombs as to the acidity content, residue and general deterioration of the agent. Pressures on the bombs were also taken to make certain none would have too high a pressure and burst during transportation.

Burial of all M47A2 mustard filled bombs was completed 12 October. These bombs had been buried because of badly deteriorated casings and it was decided not to risk shipping this type of bomb for disposal at sea because of probable leakage enroute. With the M47A2 bomb gone the possibility of accident had been lessened a great deal since this type bomb had caused the most trouble all the time the ACP had been in operation.

October saw some changes in officer personnel in this unit. Major Greenling, who had been on TDY in the USA, was relieved of assignment with this organization. From Replacement Depot #2 came Lt's Holloway and Suter and from the 51st Air Service Group came Capt. Brubaker to assist in the operation movement.

Lt Col Salby, Chemical Officer, India-Burma Theater, visited the Chemical Park to check the preparations taken for the movement. He seemed to be well satisfied and assured the organization that it would not be much longer before orders would be received to start evacuating.

On 19 October word was received from AAF-IBT Headquarters that the movement of the Chemical munitions would begin within the following week. Immediately the 305th Air Service Group sent seventy-eight enlisted men on special duty with this organization. First-aid treatment, which would be helpful in the case of an accident, was given over and over to these men as they were inexperienced in the handling of chemicals.

A few days before the first train was to arrive a heavy rain fell and almost washed out the road that lead to the siding where the trains were to be loaded. It was necessary to construct a road of steel matting along the siding to make certain rain would not hold up the movement.

927-5707

Evacuation of Chemical munitions stored at the Advanced Chemical Park began 27 October 1945. A total of seventy-six assigned men, supplemented by eighty-four enlisted men, supplied by various organizations of the 305th Air Service Group, performing special duty with this organization, carried out the evacuation movement. An average of fifty-eight (58) rail cars were loaded per day. All munitions were transported by truck to Ukhra siding, Ondal, India and were loaded on rail cars for transshipment to King George Docks, APO 465 and thence to ships for disposal at sea. All trains leaving Ukhra siding for the docks were accompanied by train guards with proper and adequate decontamination equipment to insure safety in transportation. Proper first-aid attention and supplies were available at all points of loading the munitions. By the end of October 1945, one half of the total tonnage of stock on hand had been cleared from the Advanced Chemical Park.

With the beginning of November, unforeseen trouble developed in connection with the evacuation movement. The first ship was unable to carry all munitions planned and thus a hold-up of a few days occurred since the docks were unable to hold all the loaded cars. The interval was well utilized since the heavy lift equipment had been causing trouble and now time could be taken to repair the faulty equipment. This also gave the men, who had been working steadily, the chance to get in a well deserved "rest period".

After two days the evacuation started anew. In the first phase of the operation all ton containers, both Lewisite and Mustard, plus all M70 mustard filled bombs were evacuated. All that remained were the five hundred pound and thousand pound Phosgene and Cyanogen Chloride bombs - numbering approximately fifteen thousand in all. By means of two hook chains, which had been prepared in advance, two bombs instead of one, could be loaded at the same time thus cutting loading time in half. The final train was loaded 11 November and nothing remained at the ACP but a minimum of component parts of bombs which were to be disposed of at a later date.

Thus the middle of November found the 771st Chemical Depot Co (Avn) almost completed with its primary mission - the operation of the Ondal Advanced Chemical Park. All bursters for the chemical bombs were destroyed upon receipt of orders from Chemical Officer, Headquarters, AAF-IBT, while all tail fins and fuses were shipped to proper supply agencies.

The last items to be taken from the Park were the trucks and equipment which had been thoroughly overhauled before turning in to proper stations. All expendable items of CNS at the ACP, such as impregnated clothing, protective ointment and rubber boots were destroyed by burning. Company supply began turning in all items which became surplus to administration of the company.

During the latter part of the month some of our high point men departed for the United States. This was the first men of the company to leave since the middle part of September.

In the early part of December, with the Army discharge score lowered and also changed to include service, more officers and enlisted men of the company became eligible for discharge. The enlisted men had a fairly good idea when they would be leaving the company but the officers left on very short notice, some only knowing one day in advance. The other officers not eligible for discharge, with the exception of Capt Royle, the commanding officer, were transferred to an Ordnance outfit at Kanhrapara.

In order to use up the company fund and also to show appreciation to the men who helped in the evacuation of the ACP, a party was given. The meal consisted of roast chicken and French-fried potatoes with plenty other dishes to round out the feast. In addition there was beer for everyone. The party was considered a huge success by all who attended.

About the 10th of December word was received that this organization was to be inactivated. Steps were taken to turn in all property and equipment so that the property books would have a zero balance when the inspection was made to determine the date of inactivation. All property and equipment which was needed for the efficient functioning of the company were drawn out again on M/R.

On the 13th of December the 771st Chemical Co (Avn) was relieved from attachment with the 305th Air Service Group and assignment to Headquarters AAF-IBT and assigned to the 305th Air Service Group.

Not much time was wasted in transferring some of the men from the organization. Two clerks were sent to Hq Sq AAF-IBT at APO 671. Eight men were shipped to Pantagarh to the East India Air Depot while fourteen men with SSN of 786 (Toxic Gas Handler) and one cook were being transferred to Hastings Air Base Detachment.

By Christmas time all property books and unit funds had been audited by the Base Finance Officer, but as yet the Inspector General's team had not come thus the date of inactivation was still unknown.

At the height of its strength the company had occupied five barracks in the Khandra Camp Area, but now with the personnel cut it only has but two. The other barracks are being used or will be used by personnel of other organizations who are moving from Sledge Camp to Khandra.

The latest drop in points and service made ten of the enlisted men eligible for discharge. These men left between the 27th and 30th of December. Many a man still remaining in the unit was caught one point shy of the required 50.

At the present time the personnel of the outfit have little work or duties to perform. The ACP has been closed for the past three

weeks. The only duties which amount to anything are the regular company details. A few times during the past couple of weeks this organization has furnished men to other outfits on this base.

There has been a consolidation of messes on the field because of the shortage of cooks. The 771st Chemical Mess is now feeding, in addition to its own men, the men of the 816th Chemical Co, 1036th Signal Co and all enlisted transients on the base.

As the year 1945 came to an end the main topics of discussion were "Where will we be transferred?" and "When are they going to drop the points again?". If and when the point system is lowered to 45 twenty-two of the thirty-three men assigned will become eligible to leave the India-Burma Theater and be discharged.

George R. Royle
GEORGE R ROYLE
Captain, GNS
Historical Officer

APPROVED:

George R. Royle
GEORGE R ROYLE
Captain, GNS
Commanding

CAL-281-41
1 JAN 1946
- 10 JAN 1946
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HEADQUARTERS
771ST CHEMICAL DEPOT COMPANY (AVN)

305-1601

APO 690
10 January 1946

SUBJECT: Organizational History Report for 1 January to 10 January
1946 (Final Historical Report)

TO : Intelligence Section, Attention: Historical Officer,
Headquarters, Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, APO 671
(Thru Intelligence Channels).

On 10 January 1946 the 771st Chemical Depot Co (Avn) was inactivated
per General Order #10, Hq USF-IBT, APO 385, dated 8 January 1946. All
personnel remaining in the organization were transferred prior to inac-
tivation.

George R. Royle
GEORGE R ROYLE
Captain, CWS
Historical Officer

APPROVED:

George R. Royle
GEORGE R ROYLE
Captain, CWS
Commanding

023-17A