HOSPITAL HISTORY

STATION HOSPITAL, ARMY AIR FIELD, MUROC, CALIFORNIA

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

1. Prior to the activation of Army Air Base, Muroc, California, as a separate Air Base on July 23, 1942, medical treatment was provided by a dispensary operated by the "Medical Detachment, Muroc Lake Bomb Range", under the command of Captain Henrik S. Graeser, MC.

2. Cases requiring hospitalization were transferred to the Station Hospital, March Field, California.

3. Subsequent to activation of Army Air Base, Muroc, California, as a separate Air Base, cases requiring hospitalization were transferred to the Station Hospital, Victorville Army Flying School, Victorville, Calif., by instructions of the Surgeon, Headquarters, Fourth Air Force.

SECTION II ACTIVATION AND SOURCE OF CADRE

1. Pursuant to Paragraph 15, Special Orders 166, Air Base Headquarters, March Field, California, dated June 15, 1942, 48 Enlisted Men, Medical Department, were transferred from the Detachment, Medical Department, Station Hospital, March Field, California, to the "Medical Detachment, Muroc Lake, California", under command of Captain Henrik S. Graeser, MC.

SECTION III STRENGTH

1. Enlisted strength June 1942, as authorized by letter, The Adjutant General's Office, May 1, 1942, subject: "Allotment of Grades and Strengths, Medical Department with the Air Corps":

	Authorized	Actual
Medical Detachment, Muroc Lake Bomb Range:	15	12
Medical Detachment, Muroc Lake	110	48
Veterinary Detachment	3	2

a. Officers: 1 (on DS from March Field, Calif.)

2. Strength as of July 1, 1942: No changes.

3. Strength as of August 1, 1942:

a. Enlisted:

	Authorized	Actual
Medical Detachment, Muroc Lake Bomb Range	15	12
Medical Detachment, Muroc Lake	110	65
Veterinary Detachment	3	2

b. Officers: 2

HEADQUARTERS
7TH AAF B & G RNG SQDN
ARMY AIR BASE
Muroc, California

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

DESIGNATION

7TH AAF BOMBING & GUNNERY RANGE SQUADRON

DATE OF ACTIVATION

December 20, 1942, by authority of HQ 4th AF, G.O. # 149.*

DATE OF ORGANIZATION

December 27, 1942, by authority of S.O. # 206 AAB, Muroc, Calif.*

PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Army Air Base, Muroc, California

AUTHORITY FOR ORGANIZATION

Restricted Letter AG 320.2 (12-11-42) OB-I-AF-M, W.D., A.G.O., December 11, 1942, subject: "Redesignation and Reorganization of Certain Army Air Force Units".

SOURCES FROM WHICH PERSONNEL WERE OBTAINED

Bombing and Gunnery Range Detachment, Muroc, California, previously attached to 323rd Base Headquarters and Air Base Sq., this station. Fourth Air Force Replacement Depot, Hammer Field, Fresno, California.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Maintainance of all bombing, air to ground gunnery, rifle, land borne target, skeet and turret ranges. On January 26, 1943 the ranges constructed and being maintained can be listed as follows: Five practice day bomb targets, Five practice night bomb targets, one high explosive target, four air ground gunnery ranges, one pistol range, one rifle range, one chemical range, one ground pattern target and one land borne target. Four bombing targets are complete with steal observation towers.

* All authorities can be refered to in the rear of this document.

H I S T O R I C A L R E C O R D

Following is a complete history of the 7th AAF Bombing and Gunnery Range Squadron, Army Air Base, Muroc, California:

The 7th AAF Bombing and Gunnery Range Squadron was activated December 20, 1942. 60 Enlisted Men were assigned. The key men of the squadron were assigned the 323rd Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron, Army Air Base, Muroc, California. The rest of the sixty were basics and were used in general range maintenance. Captain Beeson, attached from 323rd Base Hq and Air Base Squadron was placed in command.

This squadron was activated to take over the duties of the former Bomb and Gunnery Detachment that had operated on this Base even before there was a Base. The detachment was activated in June 1941 and maintained the ranges until August 1942 at such time it was discontinued. The duties of the squadron are to maintain all bombing, air to ground gunnery, rifle ranges, land borne targets, skeet ranges and turret ranges.

January 15th

Captain Beeson was relieved as Squadron Commander and Captain Gillespie was attached from 323rd Base Hq and Air Base Squadron, acting as Commanding Officer. No other events of importance to the squadron except the assignment of thirty (30) Enlisted Men. These men were assigned from 950th Guard Squadron and 323rd Base Hq and Air Base Squadron, both squadrons of this base. The squadron strength on January 31st was 90 men.

No gains during the month of February. Three (3) men were discharged per Section 2, War Dept. Circular # 397, 1942, thus bringing the

March 28th

Captain Gillespie was relieved from attachment and Captain James W. McCullough was assigned and joined as Commanding Officer. Squadron moved from 323rd Base Hq and Air Base Squadron area to the north end of the field, in the 300 area, formerly occupied by the Medics. By March 31st the strength had dropped to eighty-two (82) Enlisted Men due to more over-age discharges. The Officer strength remained as it always had been, one (1) Officer.

April 1st

The month of April inaugurated an extensive program of rebuilding old and building new ranges and redecorating and beautifying the Squadron area which rapidly became one of the nicest on the Base. The outstanding rise from mediocrety to one of the most essential squadrons on the base was largely acomplished by the dogged, never-say-die determination and thorough understanding of men of our Commanding Officer, Capt. James W. McCullough. The squadron was relieved of attachement to the 323rd Base Hq and Air Base Squadron for rations and attached to the 950th Guard Squadron for same. Rapidly materializing plans were made for the setting up of a squadron mess of our own. Cpl Hodge and Pfc Matthews were assigned to the organization from the 323rd making the total strength eighty-four (84) at the end of April. Both EM were radio mechanics.

May 3rd

Seven (7) Enlisted Men were assigned from FAFRD, Hammer Field, Fresno Calif. On May 7th, twenty-three (23) others were assigned from 323rd Base Hq and Air Base Squadron. The squadron fired on the rifle range from May 18th to May 21st, inclusive. Sixty-six (66) men qualified. T/Sgt John Jusco qualified as Expert; T/Sgt Arthur R. Henderson, S/Sgts Otto R.

Pietzsch were transferred to Hammond General to await discharge.

September 14th

Pvt Bue was assigned and joined from Det # 4, FAFRD, Muroc, Calif. Sgt Pieczkolon and Pfcs Shanley and Simonds received CDD discharges. Capt. Davies and M/Sgt Jusco went on DS to attend School of Small Arms Marksmanship at Hammer Field. On the 17th we lost two more men by CDD discharges; Pvts Fosdick and K. Miller. Pfc Haas was transferred to Hammond General Hospital on the above date also. Total strength is now 169.

September 20th

Pfc Scott received an honorable discharge and S/Sgt Bolding and Sgt Geueke were transferred to the 37th Fighter Control Squadron, LAFW, Los Angeles, California, having completed their course in War Dog Training. On the 25th of September our steady loss of manpower continued with the transfer of Pfc Caterinicchio and Pvt Papa to the FAFRD (Red Group) Muroc, California.

October 1st

This month inaugurated an extensive basic training program to take in all the squadrons of the Base. Base Officers were appointed as instructors and classes were held daily at the periods, 0700-0900 and 1900-2000. The schedule of training was extensive and varied and covermany subjects never beforecovered in previous basic training. The majority of the time however, these classes conflicted with the schedule of the men who maintained the ranges and lit the various bombing targets, plotting, spotting, etc. For weeks at a time 24 hour bombing practise took place at Muroc and our range crews were compelled to adhere to the schedules of the Fighter and Bomb Groups more so than to the training schedules. As a whole, however, much benifit was derived from the program. Cpl Brock was transferred to FAFRD (Green Group), Muroc, California reducing the total strength to 163 EM. The 3rd of October was a day to remember in that Lt.

Hq and Air Base Squadron for duty in the Service Club. T/Sgt Harrity, S/Sgt Kountz and Sgt Grant were reduced to grade Pvt for inefficiency. Pfc Robertson, a case of missassignment was transferred to 367th Fighter Group at Santa Rosa, California. This man had had training and was classified as an Airplane Mechanic. On the 31st of December the total strength of the organization was 146 Enlisted Men and 2 Officers. On that day orders were issued reorganizing certain station complements at Muroc Army Air Field, Muroc, California. The 7th AAF Bomb and Gunnery Range Squadron was absorbed by the 323rd Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron and became a part of Detachment A of that organization. What once was the 7th AAF Bombing & Gunnery Range Squadron is now known as merely the "Range Section" in Detachment A.

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