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.2974TH FINANCE DETACHMENT (CLASS B) PROVISIONAL
AAF STATION 118, APO 558.

Unit History, 2974th Finance Detachment, (Class B) Provisional, 392nd Bombardment Group (H), 14th Combat Wing, 2nd Bombardment Division, AAF Station 118, APO 558, Postmaster, New York, New York.

Period: 1 July to 31 July 1944.

I

There were no changes in personnel of the 2974th Finance Detachment (Class B) Provisional during the month of July 1944.

However, on 30 July 1944, on authority from Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, The MOS number of Cpl. Lee J. Welton, 19167098, was changed from 624 to 623.⁽¹⁾

II

The organizations paid by the 2974th Finance Detachment for this month included:

2974th Finance Detachment (Class B) Provisional
586th Army Postal Unit
2101st Engineer Fire-Fighting Platoon (Avn)
1217th QM Co. (Avn) (RS)
806th Chemical Co. (Avn) Det. "A"
1825th Ordnance S & M Co., Det. "A"
1287th MP Co. (Avn) Det. "A"
Group Hq., 392nd Bombardment Group (H)
10th Station Complement Squadron
465th Sub-Depot, Class 1
576th Bomb Squadron, 392nd Bomb Group (H)
577th Bomb Squadron, 392nd Bomb Group (H)
578th Bomb Squadron, 392nd Bomb Group (H)
579th Bomb Squadron, 392nd Bomb Group (H)
1220th QM Service Co., (Avn) Det. "B"
1077th Signal Co., Service Group, Det. "B"
1787th Ordnance S & M Co., (Avn) Det. "B"
1139th MP Co., Det. "A"
1st Gunnery and Tow Target Flight (Sp)
Air Division Gunnery School

1. Par 4, SO 147, Hq, 392nd Bomb Group, AAF 118, APO 558, dated 30 July 1944.

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A summary of the monthly operations for July 1944 shows:

1. Total Number of Troops Paid.....3,688
 - a. Enlisted Men.....3,126
 - b. Officers..... 562
2. Total Number of Vouchers Paid..... 611
3. Total Amount Disbursed.....\$281,252.89

Total amount disbursed was about \$31,000.00 less than was disbursed during the month of June 1944.

An analysis of the ultimate destinations of funds accruing to personnel of Commands paid by the 2974th Finance Detachment during July 1944 reveals the following:

SOLDIERS' SAVINGS REPORT

TOTAL DUE TO SOLDIERS IN ALL FORMS.....\$512,004.61

Less vouchers other than pay vouchers and
voucher collections...\$14,007.59

TOTAL DUE TO SOLDIERS ON PAY VOUCHERS ONLY.....\$497,997.02

Officers' Allotments.....\$ 84,849.42

Enlisted Men's Allotments.....133,525.99

Total Allotments..... \$218,371.41

Soldiers' Deposits..... 5,970.31

War Bonds (Cash Purchase) 768.75

Personal Transfers 153,106.78

Other Cash Collections 376.99

Total Miscellaneous Savings..... \$160,222.83

TOTAL SAVINGS.....\$378,594.24

TOTAL RETAINED IN THEATER.....\$119,402.78

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These figures indicate that of the total pay due the 3,688 officers and enlisted men paid by this office during the month of July, only 23.97% of this is retained within the Theater for personal expenditure. Of total payments made to military personnel, including travel pay, reimbursements, etc., as well as regular pay, only 23.32% remains within the Theater for personal expenditures. In other words, fully seventy-five percent of the money available to military personnel is withdrawn, in one form or another, from circulation in the United Kingdom. The dangerous inflationary effect of this money, had it not been withdrawn from circulation, is easy to see.

III

During the period 29 July - 2 September 1944 this Finance Office will be participating in the Eighth Air Force War Bond campaign. Cooperation is being established among all Commands to achieve maximum results, and to this end the Special Service Office, the Personnel Office and the Finance Office at AAF Station 118 are integrating their efforts. Bond sales have been decentralized. During the period of the campaign it will be possible to purchase bonds, not only through the Special Service Office and the Finance Office, but also at the Post Office, the Red Cross Club, the Squadron Orderly Rooms. No officer or enlisted man should be able to move half-dozen feet on the drome without being reminded in some fashion that he should be spending his money on War Bonds. The quota assigned to AAF Station 118 is the sale of \$89,700.00 worth of War Bonds. The 2974th Finance Detachment has been set a quota of \$250.00

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IV

During the month of July 1944, the social life of the 2974th Finance Detachment improved immeasurably. As a result of long drawn-out negotiations between this Detachment and the 586th Army Postal Unit, located at AAF Station 118, it was decided that certain vital social needs of the two units (Total combined personnel: 23 good men and stalwart...albeit slightly aged around the edges!) had, in the past, been ignored. It was suggested that this distressing lack could be remedied by a party. A meeting of all personnel of both units was called in the Finance Office, and details were arranged as to the nature, scope, emphasis, and expenses of such an ambitious affair. The necessary committees were appointed and the date set.

The dance was held on a Friday evening, the 14th of July. Women were obtained from the Government Post Office in Dereham (through the professional activities of the Army Postal Unit) and additional females were borrowed from Barclay's Bank (contact having been made through the financial activities of the 2974th Finance Detachment.) In addition to the personnel of the Postal Unit and the Finance Detachment, there were a few members of other squadrons and female staff of the Red Cross Club to provide a broad representation, and the two Base Chaplains to provide (but not necessarily promote) dignity. Total women present: 21; total men: 26.

Knowing that man does not live by dancing alone, arrangements were made to feed the "inner man". 27 gallons of ale in kegs, bolstered by sandwiches and cake provided by the mess hall, grapefruit juice for the tee-totalers, and miscellaneous other refreshments calculated to put all the company in merry mood, were

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obtained. Cpl. Morris D. Glickfeld of the Finance Detachment did the honors as bartender, and all later admitted that he acquitted himself with discretion, efficiency and great dignity in the tradition of that ancient profession. Music was provided by a radio-phonograph combination furnished, complete with records ranging from sweet to hot, by Chaplain Clark. The dance itself was held in the Finance Detachment barracks which, for the occasion, had been stripped of clothes and equipment and was suitably decorated.

Without question, the party was a great social success. The achievement was hailed as such by authorities as widely separated as (1) the men who attended, (2) the women who attended, and (3) the Chaplains who attended.

Plans are already under way for a repetition of this magnificent success.

One thing must be pointed out: that the success of this affair has a deeper significance than merely that of social success itself. To the dance came young women of a class rarely seen or met by the American soldiery in the course of their normal operations in the neighborhood. As a result of this party it can confidently be said that Anglo-American relations have been established satisfactorily on a new level and with a new group, and the implications for the future are no less than profound.

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