

75th SUPPLY GROUP, DEPOT

MISSION

LINEAGE

75th Supply Group, Depot

STATIONS

Kelly AFB, TX, 7 Jan 1952-5 Dec 1952
Chinhae, Korea

ASSIGNMENTS

75th Air Depot Wing

COMMANDERS



Col Lee V. Wiseman

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Organized officially in January 1952, Headquarters Squadron grew into a well-trained, well-disciplined military subordinate of the 75th Supply Group, a part of the 75th Air Depot Wing. Our capable Commanding Officer since our activation has been Captain Delmar T. Bartlett, and under his supervision the Airmen learned the "do's" and "don'ts" he demanded as a squadron Commander.

A few of us were fresh out of Tech Schools, and others were "old salts" in this game of supply and logistics. The young and inexperienced, along with the older ranking NCOs, lived and worked together, and formed the organization we now honor with this publication.

An OJT training program was set up by the 2899th Depot Training Group at Kelly Air Force Base, and under the Supply Directorate of SAAMA our airmen and officers trained for their future jobs and responsibilities in setting up a directorate at an overseas location.

The feeling of good fellowship, which became prevalent as time went on, has been a major factor in the morale of the squadron personnel, and served to better their relationship with each other.

For eleven months we lived and worked together at Kelly. Then the big day came, with movement orders and duffel bags we boarded buses at 2:00 AM on 5 December 1952, for the first leg of our long journey which was to end in South Korea.

A bus ride to Corpus Christi, Texas, ended at 6:00 AM the same morning, and we got our first view of the hulk of steel, in which we were to spend the next twenty-nine days, the U.S.N.S. General William H. Gordon. Billeted in Compartment 3-C, we made a temporary headquarters and a little orderly room was set up by our First Sergeant, M/Sgt Aubrey C. Pike, and his staff of "Remington Raiders."

At 3:00 PM on 5 December 1952, we left Corpus Christi, and as per usual, the 75th set a precedent by being the first contingent of military personnel ever to leave the South Texas port, normally used for industrial shipping.

Out in the Gulf of Mexico some of the "landlubbers" had a taste of the open sea, which proved later to be only a mere sample of what was to come in the broad expanse of the Pacific we were soon to cross.

Of course the military must function, and in its function, such seemingly unnecessary things as "detail" must be given, and we of the squadron caught our share of it. From latrine guard around the clock to bay orderly for our Compartment, and of course C.Q. for the first three grades as well as junior O.D. for the Master Sergeants. These duties were accomplished as is always true of the military, with a minimal of gripes.

A memorable occasion was our first fire and boat drill, the first day out at sea. These never to be forgotten words came over the ship's loud speaker, "Now hear these; now hear these; this is a fire and boat drill; do not duag your nozzle acuoss the deck." We got our laughs, but took it in a serious manner during the drill.

At 9:20 AM the morning of 9 December we entered the locks of the Panama Canal, and until 5:00 PM that afternoon, the Gordon made its way through the famous canal. Six PM found us docked at Coco-Solito, Canal Zone, with a few hours shore leave at the Naval base for a sandwich and beer.

On the morning of 10 December, we pulled out of Coco-Solito and moved onto the endless waters of the Pacific.

The 180° Meridian or International Date Line was crossed on 23 December, therefore we missed the 24th, the normal Christmas Eve.

Christmas for 1952 was spent on the high seas. We were given presents, contributed by the American Red Cross, in our compartment by Captain Bartlett and Captain Kemp. They were small things, but at least something that reminded us of the human kindness in the world, and it made us feel that someone must have been thinking of us and were thus showing their appreciation of the servicemen.

"Land Ho" was a cry uttered about 1:30 PM, 29 December and the first sign of land appeared in the West. The coast of Japan was our first welcome to the Far East, and with a nine hour shore leave at Yokohama, many of us saw a bit of Japan for the first time. The brief hours of leave ended and we were once more on the Gordon ready for one more hop which was to bring us to a major port in South Korea.

A portion of our Officers and Airmen were left at Yokohama. to be assigned to duty temporarily in Japan and were later to join us. And so at about 1:00 PM on 30 December we left Japan for South

Korea, and closer to our final destination.

On 2 January 1953 at 5:30 AM we docked in South Korea, got off the Gordon and on to LST's which took us to our base, where we were to spend our Far Fast tour.

The landing by LST was not as colorful and romantic as one might think. It was a cold, uneventful landing, and after the LSTs were emptied, we were taken to our temporary quarters, in what are now the BOQ.

The first operation we encountered was the setting up of stoves in the quarters, and we went to work installing them and finding fuel to warm the dismal rooms. Cots and blankets were issued as everyone made ready to find as much comfort as possible during our first night in Korea. At midnight, or thereabout, the 75th Food Service Squadron offered us a delightful repast of scrambled eggs, which at that time seemed to be a feast fit for a king.

The next morning, and for a few days to follow, we were engaged in getting our quarters fixed up. Even though we knew they were only temporary, the necessity of living in a better environment encouraged us to make every possible improvement to the quarters.

A week or so later, we were moved to our permanent quarters and then began our full operation.

By this time the supply account number was assigned to the 75th Air Depot Wing, Colonel Lee V. Wiseman assumed the position of Director of Supply. The Officers and Airmen of our squadron then put to use the knowledge and experience gained at SAAMA and other bases, and our mission was under way.

A rotation policy was put into effect which caused a portion of the airmen who arrived in Korea to be reassigned to Japan, and replacements with varying MOT dates sent in. This was of course a very obvious necessity in that the entire squadron had the same MOT date. Under this plan many of the familiar faces which we knew since the early days at Kelly were sent to Japan and new personnel came into the squadron.

These new men were welcomed, and after a personal interview with our Squadron Commander, Captain Bartlett, were assigned to jobs in the Directorate of Supply, and a smooth operation has continued during the months of our tour.

And so with a job to do, we did it, and now it's done, and the time has come, as the poet put it, "For good friends to part". We will go on to other assignments and in other squadrons, but certainly we will always bear in mind and heart a fond remembrance of the old outfit, and for all the boys.

So we will look back in the years to come, and as we look through these pages, recall to mind some of the events that gave us a laugh, or maybe a frown, but nonetheless, it's our squadron, and it is what we made it. Headquarters Squadron, 75th Supply Group, will no doubt be active for

many years to come, and in those years, many of us will leave the Air Force, others may go on as career men, but which ever path you my take, let this book serve as a memento of your days in Headquarters Squadron, 75th Supply Group.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Headquarters Squadron, 75th Supply Group*. Nd.