

Unit History - 463rd Sub Depot



389th Bombardment Group

by Kelsey McMillan

Behind the men who kept 'em droppin' were the men who kept 'em flyin', laboring with hundreds of skills and one purpose. Their initiative and inventiveness led them to design new tools, make their own equipment, develop new methods, and creatively solve problems. Their efficiency and productivity in the workshops ensured our bombers stayed out of the hangars and in the air. They worked with less acclaim and fewer medals. Yet, for every man who flew the heavies, a dozen men on the ground were needed to get them to the target and safely home again. Their contribution toward achieving victory was indispensable.



463rd Electrical and Radio Shop. Back row L to R: Orion W. Baumgardner; William G. Stetson, Jr.; William E. Cast; Ralph R. Lutz; Wallace R. Riggins; and Samuel C. Edsall. Front row L to R: Doyle O. Bigsby; Alfred Stempien; Robert A. Kimball; Noble L. Palmer (NCOIC); and Francis P. Doyle.

The **Electrical and Radio Sections** of this organization were combined, because the large volume of electrical equipment maintenance and repair work created a manpower shortage in the Electrical Department, while there was a scarcity of work in the Radio Department. The Electrical Department performed all maintenance, modifications and repairs on starters, generators, solenoids, voltage regulators, dynamotors, etc. In addition to their work on aircraft accessories, they repaired electrical systems damaged in battle. Other work performed by this group including wiring of buildings, machinery, and installing field lighting systems. William Stetson was an Airplane Electrical Mechanic and is a member of our 389th remembrance group. The personnel of this shop were no slouches at being inventors either. They designed and built two test stands that are worthy of mention. One was a generator and starter test stand that was built and equipped to test most of the electrical accessories on the airplanes. It was powered with a gasoline engine, which made it ideal for field use. The second test stand was a

mock-up of the electronic supercharger regulator system, complete with a vacuum chamber. It was used to test all the individual parts of the Electronic Regulator system and was considered one of the best test stands in the ETO. In addition to working with the Electrical Department the radio personnel repaired all aircraft radio systems damaged in battle.

The personnel of the Electrical and Radio Sections received a commendation from the station surgeon for the excellent emergency lighting system they installed in the station hospital.