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At the end of the year, the strength of the squadron  
was five officers and 261 enlisted men.<sup>312</sup>

#### Maxwell Field Band

The supervision of the Maxwell Field band in 1942 was vested in the Special Service Division, because of the close association of the band and the music activities of Special Service.<sup>313</sup> Its activities were guided by two objectives. The primary objective was to provide music for parades and ceremonies, and a secondary objective was to furnish music for dances, concerts, and shows.<sup>314</sup> The scope of these activities was not limited to Maxwell Field or even to Montgomery. In the fall of 1942 the band made an extended tour of the Southeastern States. Many Alabama state affairs

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312. Daily Strength Reports (1942), Maxwell Field.

313. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16 letter, from Army Air Forces Headquarters Flying Training Command, Fort Worth, Texas, to Commanding General, Southeast Air Forces Training Center, Maxwell Field, 30 October 1942.

314. Statement of Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch, Maxwell Field Army Air Forces Band Leader, 19 December 1942.

were enlivened by the Maxwell Field Army Air Forces Band.

An authorized band under a civilian leader was active on the Field until the latter part of 1941, when the first Army Air Forces Band was activated, with Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch as leader. Many musicians in the original band became members of the new military unit.

In the spring of 1942, Maxwell Field had a 112 piece band, including the cadres of the Eglin Field, Tyndall Field, Barksdale Field, and Maxwell Field Bands. The first three organizations were on detached service at this station until 1 June 1942 when the Tyndall Field Band and 11 members of the Barksdale Field Band returned to their home stations for permanent

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- 315. General Orders (1941), Headquarters, Maxwell Field (General Order 11, 1 October 1941).
  - 316. Statement of Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch, Maxwell Field Army Air Forces Band Leader, 19 December 1943.
  - 317. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16, 2nd Indorsement from Lieutenant Lewis Miller, Adjutant, 13 April 1942, to letter from Headquarters, Fourth Corps Area, Atlanta, Georgia, to Commanding Officer, Maxwell Field, 8 April 1942.

assignments. A second Maxwell Field Band was activated 12 May 1942 to offset these losses. This new unit was designated the Maxwell Field Band Number 2,<sup>319</sup> and the older organization became Maxwell Field Band Number 1.<sup>320</sup> All the personnel of the Eglin Field Band and eight members of the Barksdale Field band were transferred to the two Maxwell Field Bands, bringing these organizations up to their full strength.<sup>321</sup>

The two bands permanently assigned to Maxwell Field worked as one unit. Since 28 pieces were the maximum allowance for an army band, a 56-piece organization was formed by this merger. A musical unit of such proportions was necessary to meet the growing demands made upon it by the rapid expansion of the Pre-Flight School, creating a heavier schedule of parades

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- 319. General Orders (1942) Headquarters, Maxwell Field (General Order 27, 12 May 1942)
  - 320. General Orders (1942), Headquarters, Maxwell Field (General Orders 31, 28 May 1943).
  - 321. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16 third Indorsement by Captain Thomas DeRamus, Adjutant, 9 July 1942, to letter from Commanding Officer, Army Air Forces Band, Maxwell Field to Commanding Officer, Maxwell Field, 25 June 1942.

and ceremonies.

In August the Adjutant General's Office renamed all the bands in the Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center. The Maxwell Field Bands Number 1 and Number 2 were redesignated the 304th and 305th Army Air Forces Bands.<sup>323</sup>

The bandsmen were housed in the one-story barracks in the cadet area during 1942. These were comfortable and very satisfactory as living quarters, but facilities for rehearsals were not adequate. When first activated the men used a mess hall for rehearsals. Late in 1942, they moved into a supply room - a very flimsy substitution for a rehearsal hall. Repeated attempts to provide a better place failed.<sup>324</sup>

A normal day's schedule included a two-hour band practice in the morning and orchestra rehearsals in the afternoon. During the afternoon rehearsals, the members separated into various small groups or orchestras to practise for special assignments such as dances, shows,

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322. Statement of Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch, Maxwell Field Army Air Forces Band Leader, 19 December 1942.
323. General Order (1942) Headquarters, Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center, Maxwell Field (General Order 93, 15 August 1942.)
324. Statement of Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch, Maxwell Field Army Air Forces Band Leader, 19 December 1942.

or other musical activities required by the Post Commander. In addition, the band played half-hour concerts every day and several nights each week. <sup>325</sup>

Training for band personnel was not limited to music practice. They were required to take courses designated by Army Regulations for all the enlisted men on the Post. These included Chemical Warfare, <sup>326</sup> First Aid, and Military Customs and Courtesies.

Each band was authorized an initial allowance of \$200 a year for the procurement of band music and \$45 each quarters for the maintenance of musical libraries. Generally, the Army buys the music according to bids from various publishing companies, but Warrant Officer Weirauch was authorized to buy the music at his own discretion. <sup>327</sup>

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325. Statement of Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch, Maxwell Field Army Air Forces Band Leader, 19 December 1943.
326. Schools Miscellaneous (1942), Maxwell Field File 352 consolidated report from Non-Commissioned Officers School to Commanding General Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center, Maxwell Field, 1 June 1942.
327. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16 letter from Headquarters, Fourth Corps Area, Atlanta, Georgia, to Commanding Officer, Maxwell Field, 8 April 1942.

Bond rallies, recruiting drives, political events, and numerous other occasions took the entire band or the smaller orchestral groups on trips to most of the large cities in the Southeastern States.

In July 20 bandsmen, accompanied by Warrant Officer Weirauch, were chosen for the Drum and Bugle Corps escort to honor King Peter of Yugoslavia at Smyrna, Tennessee.<sup>328</sup>

During a recruiting drive to enlist airplane mechanics, in October 1942, a group of 42 men were selected from the 304th and the 305th to tour all important large cities in the Southeast Training Command. The trip was made by bus. The men gave performances in 18 different cities during the eight-<sup>329</sup>een days they were traveling.

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328. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16 letter from Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch to Personnel Officer, Maxwell Field, 15 July 1942.
329. Special Orders (1942), Headquarters, Maxwell Field (Special Order 251), 1 October 1942.

A white Drum and Bugle Corps had been established on the Post before the band was activated. The corps' functions were to play at cadet parades and other activities in the Pre-Flight School. It was attached to the band. Members of the corps lived in the same barracks and ate in the mess hall with the bandsmen. Having no allotment of personnel it was composed of men from various school squadrons on this Field. Although the Drum and Bugle Corps had an authorized strength of 40 men, its actual strength was always considerably less. So many of the men comprising it went into cadet training, Officers' Candidate School or felt they had better opportunities in other fields, it became more and more difficult to keep the organization intact. In August 1942 it was finally disbanded.

\* ( A Negro Drum and Bugle Corps was activated in September 1942, to replace the band while on its re-

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330. Statement of Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch, Army Air Forces Band, Maxwell Field, 19 December 1943.

331. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16 letter from Commanding Officer, Pre-Flight School (Pilot) to Commanding Officer, Maxwell Field, 1 September 1942.



cruiting trip and to take the place of the original white Drum and Bugle. The colored Corps was a stable organization with a steady and permanently established personnel and therefore more satisfactory than the original Drum and Bugle Corps. It gave the colored troops an organization in which they could take pride and created very favorable "esprit de corps" among the colored soldiers.<sup>332.</sup>

Replacements for the band were through enlistments until March 1942, when a War Department order stopped all Air Forces Band enlistments. This caused such a serious depletion of personnel that by September the band was struggling to carry on its full program. During the first 17 days of September the organization lost five men to cadet training, two men to Officers Candidate School, and two men to Glider Pilot School. Prior to that time an average of four men were called each month for the various schools. It was necessary to organize musical groups in the Cadet Corps as the loss of personnel had curtailed the band's activities

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332. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16 letter from Commanding Officer, Pre-Flight School (Pilot) to Commanding Officer, Maxwell Field, 25 September 1942.

to such an extent that it could not handle all the  
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required activities.

Until the War Department stopped the enlistments, Warrant Officer Weirauch had contacted the men for replacements by correspondence or in personal interviews. Under the new regulation band replacements came through a higher authority from a pool  
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set up for that purpose.

The band had only three commanding officers during 1942. They were First Lieutenant Lewis N. Miller, who served as Commanding Officer from the activation date until 5 May 1942. He was followed by Major DeWitt Bauer who was appointed in May and  
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succeeded in November by Captain James E. Murphy.

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333. Army Bands (1942), Maxwell Field File 322.16 letter from Headquarters Pre-Flight School (Pilot) to Commanding General, Southeast Army Air Forces Training Center, 18 September 1942.
334. Statement of Warrant Officer Frank Weirauch, Army Air Forces Band Leader, 19 December 1943.
335. Organization Commanders File, Headquarters, Maxwell Field.

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335. Organization Commanders File, Headquarters, Maxwell Field.

Therefore, during the year 1942, the Squadron was not only to furnish men for the various jobs listed above, but also to serve as a reception and training center.

The general high level of musicianship found among the band personnel was duplicated in its leader, Warrant Officer Weirauch, a man well qualified both from musical and military standpoints. He was appointed when the band was activated and was still capably carrying out his duties at the close of 1942.

#### 4th Aviation Squadron

The 4th Aviation Squadron (Sep.) under Captain McBride S. McFadden, had its full quota of 225 enlisted men in December 1941 and was ready to assume its full share of the suddenly increased work. The members of the Squadron were soon to serve as janitors, chauffeurs, truck drivers, foot messengers, drummers, buglers, military policemen, hospital attendants, and mess-hall attendants.<sup>336</sup> On 1 January 1942 the Squadron had a strength of two officers and 249 enlisted men.<sup>337</sup>

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336. Statement of Master Sergeant Roy H. Johnson, First Sergeant of the 4th Aviation Squadron, Maxwell Field, 4 November 1943.
337. Daily Strength Reports (1942), Maxwell Field.