

First folder--Not labeled

This folder has the most important stuff. First are the spreadsheets that I worked on. The first one is the redeployment chart organized by mission number. The blank ones are ones that I did not have a report for on confirmation of their arrival in the U.S. The next one is the missions listed by date of arrival, then by time. On the last page are all the ones with no reports.

Further back in the folder will be a page that gives my educated estimate on when they arrived. The third sheet is the list of when the units closed, arranged by date of closing. The ones below the 502 Avn are ones that, because I am missing reports of movements, was not able to determine with certainty when they closed. Next is the movement summaries. These do not include the ones that said "in the past 24 hours" because those didn't help since they were at different times and had too many discrepancies. This chart does not exactly match all total given on all messages, but is within a percent or two the entire way. The last one is the daily troop movements. The numbers in the confirmed column are one that had reports. The probable others are based on my estimates of when the others arrived. Therefore, the estimated total should be about how many men returned each day. The bar graph shows the flow and the decline in the end. At this point I should mention that all of the times are Texas time--6 hours behind Z time. The next should be a notebook piece of paper. It is my best estimate on when the other flights would have arrived at their destination and how many people were on the flights.

The first number is the mission number. The number after the dash is the estimated number of passengers. An estimate breakdown of officers and enlisted men would be about 2 officers on the 52 person flights, 3 on the 60 person flights, and 4 on the 75 person flights. The next sheet is about the same thing. It was the list I had compiled for Eric if he was going to go back and look for the missing few. The problem with finding some of the mission was, in my opinion, that each one appeared on two different messages. One was about a day or two before the mission and estimated the number of men on the flight and when it was leaving Germany. The one that I had to use was the later one, that actually detailed how many came off the plane and when once it arrived in the U.S. The next printout is the list of media coverage that I was using.

The NYT, Newsweek, Time, and US News have all been copied and are in the press coverage folder. The Wash. Post has not been searched yet, but I noted how I suggest it be done. I included notes in the military publications, but none of them have been copied yet. I also included instructions on how to locate them. Last is an acknowledgment that I wrote. I got the impression, and Chris (the catcher) said it was his, too, that you planned on writing the rest of the report and then putting my name on it. I cannot express enough how much I appreciate that and that you are willing to do so--considering I was just hoping to contribute, let alone get my name in the Archives. Therefore I thought it appropriate that I include an acknowledgment because without the people named I would not have had this chance. I once again want to thank you for putting your trust in me and my ability to do this project.

Second folder--Acquired resources/references

These are miscellaneous things that I got along the way that helped to make connections throughout the research. The first few are about the closing out of Big Lift. Of major note, something that definitely should be used, is message 152145. The bottom paragraph is highlighted, and the Texas time for this document is Nov. 22 at 3:50 AM. This is something I feel should be included in the report. Also in this folder is the chart which shows which units were in which return missions, followed by the breakdown of the total personnel redeployed. Next is the coding document and is followed by the copy of the time zones.

Third folder--Press coverage

This contains copies of all of the press coverage that I had copied as explained in the printout of the media coverage. Unfortunately, not all of the copiers at the Library of Congress show the technology that our country now possesses, but I tried to make them as readable as possible.

Fourth folder--Redeployment messages

These are all of the helpful redeployment messages about the troops returning home. As stated above, each mission was on two messages. These were the confirmation ones which were actually helpful. Behind them in the folder are the summaries which I used for the summary chart.

Fifth folder--Troop list

This includes the list of all the troops involved that I could find. However, for all purposes I suggest simply using the one on the unit closing chart. Next is a copy from the directory of troops, which shows the units in the 2d and notes that it is involved in Big Lift. The rest in this folder is just some misc. materials I picked up at the Dept. of Military History.

Sixth folder--Troop cards

These are all of the troop cards I copied at the D of MH. Unfortunately, they do not have the exact arrival times back in the U.S.

Seventh folder--"Peripheral" info

This is info that I accumulated but is not directly helpful in the exact purpose of the research paper. First are the summaries that were "in the last 24 hours." Next are the messages sent a day or two before the missions to say the estimated time of departure and personnel on board. Last are all the messages that are reports of missions to Germany in October.

The stuff on top of the folder are copies of the messages that I received on Thursday.

All of my computer work is on the network drive "e:" The report is a WordPerfect document with the file name "biglift". The media summary is saved as "media" and the acknowledgment is "ack". The spreadsheets are an excel file called "biglift" They are all on the same book, the first five sheets.

Once again I'd like to thank you for this opportunity and all of the help. It is something that I will always remember and be proud of accomplishing. Unfortunately, I was not able to complete it 100%, but I hope my work was helpful in the overall scope.

If there are any questions, you are more than welcome to contact me in any of the following ways:

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