

CONFIDENTIAL

Report No. 90 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of \_\_\_\_\_, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLANCHETT,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE EVENTS

12 Lt. Simmons led the only mission flown today. A tank parking area was well covered with bomb hits and thoroughly strafed.

The rear echelon of the squadron personnel spent the entire day in the staging area outside Civitavecchia.

13 The men and equipment in the rear echelon left the staging area and boarded an IST of the American Navy for the trip to Corsica. Everyone is enjoying the Navy food on the ship, and regretting for that reason, that the trip will be a short one.

14 Lt. Brown was the leader of a formation of eight planes today, but after going as far as Fisticia, the flight was forced to return because of unfavorable weather.

The rear echelon landed in Portocorchie, Corsica and made the trip to Foretta Airfield by motor convoy. The squadron area, except for the tents of the men just arriving, and line has been set up, and the location seems to be more isolated from towns and villages than was our bivouac area at Orietello in Italy.

The men arriving this evening found the weekly ration of beer, three bottles per man, awaiting them. Needless to say, it was a welcome surprise, and did more than a little to bolster morale, after the long ride in a convoy.

15 Railroad tracks were bombed by an eight plane formation led by Lt. Decker. Results of bombing could not be observed, and one motor track was destroyed and one damaged by strafing.

The remainder of the squadron equipment and men arrived this evening, and the rest of the pyramidal tents were set up in the area.

X rations were put on sale in the day room this evening.

16 More P-47's were flown over from Italy today, and thus, the last "Invader" squadron in the group has reluctantly given up the A-36's, still the popular favorite with both pilots and crew chiefs. A program of transition flying is scheduled for approximately the next two weeks.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheet No. 91 War Diary, 527th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of July, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY EVENTS

16 (Cont'd). A movie "Her Primitive Man" was shown in the squadron area this evening.

17 Transition flying continues.

18 2nd Lt. John C. Jacoby, recently transferred into the squadron, was killed in a plane crash at Capodichino AFB near Naples, when the airplane he was flying, crashed while taking off. He, along with several other pilots, was there to ferry some of the squadron's new P-47's to this field.

A boxing program sponsored by the 87th Fighter Wing, was attended by several of the men of the squadron this evening. The squadron was represented on the card by 1st Lt. Gene Stevens, who boxed three exhibition rounds with a member of the 527th Squadron. The eight bouts were greatly enjoyed by the rather small crowd present, and more boxing shows are looked forward to in the future.

19 The movie "Uncertain Glory" was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening. Errol Flynn and Paul Lukas played leading roles, and it was generally considered one of the best movies we've had the pleasure of seeing, for quite some time.

20 Lts. Mathis and Oldham returned to the squadron today, after an extended furlough in the states. Lt. Horrigan who left with them, will return to the states again for reassignment, after getting as far as Naples on his way back to the squadron.

21 T/Sgt Austin McIver, a flight chief in the Engineering section, left the squadron today, and was assigned to the Personnel Center for return to the States, under the rotation plan.  
The weekly ration of beer was put on sale in the day room this evening.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheet No. 92 War Diary, 87th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of July, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY EVENTS

22 The finals of the track and field meet, as well as the boxing tournament, conducted by the 87th Fighter Wing were held this afternoon and evening, and the Squadron was well represented in both.

S/Sgt Jim Goff won first place in two events, the high jump and shot put, and as a result of his scoring the highest individual point total, was awarded a third silver cup as the Best All Around Athlete in the meet.

1/c Gene Stevens won the light heavyweight title in the boxing tournament, by scoring a two round knockout over his opponent in the final bout.

The boxing show was a very exciting one, with several close matches, and the team championship was won by the 56th Group team, which was represented by three winners in the five title fights.

The movie "Standing Room Only" was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening.

23 The new pilots of the squadron are keeping up the busy schedule of transition flying. Many of them already have a lot of hours in P-47's and by the time they start flying combat mission, should be completely at home in the new Thunderbolts.

24 Lt. Watson today learned of his promotion to Captain, effective 16 July. A movie "Show Business" starring Eddie Cantor, was shown in the Group Headquarters this evening.

25 The squadron mess hall, moved to the new location on the opposite side of the bivouac area, and the men are now using the new tables and benches in the screened enclosure. It is a vast improvement over the old location and music from a speaker installed in the mess hall is greatly enjoyed during mealtimes.

Lt. Fardum, Operations Officer, today learned of his promotion to the rank of Captain, effective 21 July.

26 The movie "Seven Days Ashore" was shown this evening in the open air 'theatre' behind Headquarters.

CONFIDENTIAL

Serial No. 93 War Diary, 82nd FIGHTER SQUADRON, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of July, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, F-2.

DATE EVENTS

27 The first missions with F-47's were flown today. Capt. Purdum led the first formation of twelve planes, attacking a railroad bridge. Several hits were observed and the bridge is believed to be destroyed.

Lt. Decker led the second, bombing another railway bridge and tracks. Several hits were scored on tracks and factory buildings nearby.

28 Lt. Decker led the first of three missions today. A pontoon bridge was bombed and four motor trucks were destroyed by strafing.

Lt. Anderson led the second mission. A railroad bridge was bombed with good results. Factory buildings nearby were left in flames and considerable damage was done to the tracks leading to and away from the bridge.

Lt. Brown led the last mission which bombed the road northwest of Albenga. The road was cut in four places and buildings nearby were left in flames.

"It Happened Tomorrow", starring Dick Powell, Linda Darnell and Jack Cagney, was the movie shown this evening. It was enjoyed quite a lot by those who saw it.

29 Lt. Brown led the only mission today. A pontoon bridge was bombed and strafing accounted for five motor trucks destroyed and one damaged. An electric locomotive and ten cars were destroyed and twenty more damaged.

A squadron meeting was held this evening, at which time Capt. Blackwell explained the voting system to the enlisted men.

30 Lt. Borello led the only mission today. A highway bridge was knocked out and several more hits on the road damaged it considerably. Four gun pits were strafed and silenced, killing several personnel.

A stand down, for the purpose of covering the runway with steel matting, went into effect at 1500 hours this afternoon.

1st Lt. George F. Armond joined the squadron today and assumed his duties as Squadron Ordnance Officer.

X rations were sold in the day room this evening and later a movie, "And The Angels Sing" was shown in the Group Headquarters area.

At the end of the month of July the squadron has flown 4530 sorties and 7038:10 combat hours.

RESTRICTED

165

100-15-150-112

K

525th Fighter Sq

Outline History August 44

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
APO 650

G/WEB/hrd

AG 314.7

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command, APO 374.

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 August 1944 to 1 September 1944.

a. Present designation: 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, XII TAC.

b. Changes in organization.

1. Changes in designation, assignment or attachment: None

2. Subordinate units: None

3. Changes in Commanding Officers: Capt. Lemuel W. Purdum, III, O-797910, assumed temporary command of this organization (VOCO) during absence of Major Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., (CO), on rest leave.

4. Changes of staff officers:

(a) Capt. Blackwell, William H., O-564823, aptd Legal Assistance Officer (add'l duty) 2 August 44.

(b) Capt. Simmons, Felix F., O-443866, aptd Officers Mess Officer (add'l duty) 2 August 44.

(c) 2nd Lt. Brandon, Royce L., O-867624, aptd Ass't Squadron Engineering Officer and Squadron Tech Supply Officer as of 1 August 44.

(d) 1st Lt. De Armond, George P., O-1554164, aptd Squadron Ordnance and Armament Officer, as of 1 August 44.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

2.

(e) 1st Lt. Simmons, Harold D., O-570251, aptd  
Assistant Squadron Adjutant (add'l duty) 25 August 44.

5. Changes in T/O : None

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

1. Month of July 44.

(a) At beginning : 58 officers; 249 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase : 0 officers; 0 enlisted men.

(c) Net decrease : 0 officers; 18 enlisted men.

(d) At end : 58 officers; 231 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

1. Poretta Airfield, Corsica.

(a) Date of arrival: 12 July 44 (advance echelon);  
15 July 44 (remainder of squadron).

(b) Date of departure: Present station.

e. Movements: None

f. Campaigns.

1. Sicilian; Italian; Southern France.

2. Duration: Sicilian, 3 July 43 to 17 August 43; Italian,  
18 August 43 to date, still in progress; Southern France, 17 August 44 to  
date, still in progress.

g. Operations.

1. Campaigns: Italian and Southern France.

2. Nature of Operations: Bombing and strafing of enemy  
strongpoints, gun positions; bombing roads, railroads and bridges; executing  
armed reconnaissance missions attacking enemy communication lines; patrol  
and escort missions.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

3.

3. Number of missions and sorties for period: 63 missions and 453 sorties during the month of August 1944.

4. Results of most important missions.

a. On 7 August 1944, Capt. L. W. Purdum, III, led an eight ship formation escorting 36 B-25's of the 310th Bomb Group in an attack upon an important railroad bridge in Southern France (S-964853). After the bombers came off the target and headed out to sea, a formation of twelve enemy aircraft was sighted, and eight of the enemy ships dove on the lead bomber formation. Capt. Purdum immediately turned into the attacking planes, firing several bursts at them, damaging one while Lt. Curtin probably destroyed one of the other enemy planes. As a result of their vigilance and quick action, no shots were fired at the bombers by the enemy fighters, who broke and fled.

b. On 9 August 1944, Maj. Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., Squadron Commander, was leader of a twelve ship formation to escort B-26 bombers to Bergamo-Seriate A/D, Italy, and to strafe anti-aircraft positions around the airdrome immediately prior to the bombing run. Covering the entire airfield area, Maj. Kasun directed his formation in strafing and silencing most all of the gun positions, making it safe for the bombers. After coming off, our fighters in further strafing attacks destroyed seven motor trucks, two armored halftracks, four boxcars, and damaged ten motor trucks. They received the thanks and commendation of the bombers for "a hell of a good show". Two of our aircraft were damaged by flak, neither serious.

c. On 16 August 1944, 1st Lt. Graydon S. Brown was leader of a six ship formation attacking enemy communications between Toulon and Avignon, France. Though haze and clouds impaired observation, and anti-aircraft fire was received, a total of twenty four motor trucks were destroyed and eight trucks and a command car damaged. One of our aircraft was damaged by flak, not serious.

5. Unit was subjected to enemy action: None except pilots on combat missions.

a. Major Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., was Squadron Commander during entire month of August 1944. Capt. L. W. Purdum, III, became Acting Squadron Commander on 21 August 1944, in absence of Maj. Kasun, on rest leave. Mission leaders are named in above accounts.

1. Losses in action.

Patrol mission over invasion beaches of Southern France on 22 August 1944.

164

C O N F I D E N T I A L

4.

(a) Killed.

Higginson, Benjamin Albert, Jr., O-824626  
Providence, R. I.

2. Bombing mission on highway near Pistoia, Italy, on  
25 August 1944.

(a) Killed.

Cooper, Donovan J., O-754596  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves  
in action.

Name	Date of Act	Award
Maj. Nicholas J. Kasum, Jr.,	26 May 1944	DFC
1st Lt. Joe J. Angell	25 May 1944	DFC
Capt. Wendell Hook (nmi)	8 May 1944	3rd OLC
Capt. John B. Watson, Jr.,	24 April 1944	3rd OLC
1st Lt. Joe J. Angell	17 April 1944	3rd OLC
1st Lt. George R. Palmer	14 April 1944	3rd OLC
Capt. Wendell Hook (nmi)	6 March 1944	2nd OLC
Capt. John B. Watson, Jr.,	8 April 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Herschel H. Mattes	27 February 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Robert H. Nelson	17 April 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. George R. Palmer	27 February 1944	2nd OLC
Capt. Wendell Hook (nmi)	27 January 1944	1st OLC
Capt. Miles C. Wood, Jr.,	14 January 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Carl E. Correll	5 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Enoch S. Duncan	27 February 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. James E. Henderson	16 May 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. George R. Palmer	19 January 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Carl H. Pierson	2 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Edward H. Ryan	16 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Coleman H. Shaunty	25 October 1943	1st OLC
1st Lt. Walter G. Johnson	2 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Francis M. Veatch	25 May 1944	1st OLC
Capt. Lemuel W. Purdum, III	2 April 1944	Air Medal
Capt. Felix F. Simmons	22 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. Robert L. Anderson	20 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. David S. Baker	17 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. John E. Borallo	25 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. Carl E. Correll	4 April 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. James C. Finlayson	26 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. James E. Henderson	30 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. Francis M. Veatch	6 April 1944	Air Medal

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

5.

1st Lt. John E. Borello	20 May 1944	Purple Heart
1st Lt. Douglas H. Plowden	9 December 1943	Purple Heart
2nd Lt. Carl P. Hernandez	6 July 1944	Purple Heart

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 525th Fighter Squadron, for the period 1 August 44 to 1 September 44.

For the Squadron Commander:

Incl: War Diary (4 copies)

*William H. Blackwell*  
 WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
 Capt., Air Corps,  
 Intelligence Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

Report No. 94 War Diary, 50th Bombardment Squadron, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Date of Report: August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBURN

Captain, Air Corps, USA.

DATE

EVENTS

1 No missions were flown today. Four new pilots were assigned and joined the squadron today. They are 2nd Lts. Henry (nmi) Aegerter, Harold P. Bannister, Benjamin A. Higginson and William A. Wilson.

A movie, "Once Upon A Time", starring Cary Grant and Janet Blair, was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening.

2 The work of laying steel matting on the runway continues, and while it is a rest for the pilots, the mechanics are still busy with engine changes and inspections, getting their planes ready to resume normal operations.

Capt. John B. Watson and 1st Lt. James E. Henderson left today to go to the Personnel Center in Naples. They will return to the states for rest and reassignment.

2nd Lt. Royce L. Brandon joined the squadron today and will begin his duties as Assistant Engineering Officer.

3 No missions were flown today as work on the runway continues.

1st Lt. Miles S. Winder, a Medical Officer, was assigned and joined the squadron today.

The movie "A Chip Off the Old Block", was shown this evening.

4 The work on the runway was completed today, and the field will be opened for flying tomorrow morning.

5 2nd Lt. Harold D. Simmons, Squadron Supply and Transportation Officer, was today promoted to the rank of 1st Lt.

"In Our Time", with Ida Lupino and Paul Henreid, was the name of this evening's movie.

Major Kasun flew with some of the Group pilots on a practice flight late tonight.

6 Lt. Simmons led the first of three missions today. The ten plane formation bombed a highway, getting several hits and near misses, causing

CONFIDENTIAL

95 1st Army, 92nd FIGHTER SQUADRON. Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Week of August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, G-2.

283

EVENTS

6 (Cont'd) considerable damage.

The second mission was to escort B-26's, and was led by Capt. Purdum. There was no enemy contact.

Lt. Decker led twelve planes late this evening, bombing a railroad bridge. A large fire was started in a factory area near the bridge.

PX and beer rations were put on sale in the day room this evening. Having had no beer at all for the past four weeks, the accumulated ration of twelve cans was all sold today.

7 Capt. Purdum led an eight plane escort mission over targets in southern France early this morning. After leaving the target, eight Me-109's were encountered, four of them attacking the bomber formation. Capt. Purdum and Lt. Jordan fired on two of them and Lt. Curtin probably destroyed one, although it was not seen to crash.

Lt. Brown led the second mission, attacking rail yards in Albenga, Italy. Two fires were started, three cars destroyed, eight damaged, and several direct hits scored on the tracks.

The movie "Follow The Boys", with an all star cast, was shown this evening.

8 Capt. Purdum led the only mission flown today. Direct hits were scored on a causeway at Mantua, Italy, several on the north approach and more in the town.

A four plane transition flight was flown late tonite. While taking off, Lt. Anderson, blinded by the cloud of dust that covered the entire field, ran off the side of the runway and crashed. He escaped with slight injuries but the plane burned.

2nd Lt. Donovan J. Cooper, a pilot, was assigned and joined the squadron today.

9 Major Kasun led the only mission today. The assignment was to strafe an airfield near Bergamo, Italy immediately before a formation of B-26's bombed the field. Several gun positions were strafed and silenced and the members of the flight later received a commendation from the leader of the B-26 formation for "the best strafing job they'd ever seen".

CONFIDENTIAL

96 War Diary, 526th Bombardment Squadron, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Date of August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, USAF.

JAC

EVENTS

9 (Cont'd) All the men were busy digging foxholes this afternoon and evening, in compliance with a directive issued by the Base Security Officer. A movie was planned for this evening but rain caused it to be postponed. A dance for enlisted men of the group was held in Bastia this evening. Music was furnished by the "Invaders", 86th Group orchestra, and several men from the squadron attended.

10 One mission was flown today, led by Lt. Oldham. The flight got as far as the coast of Italy, where heavy rains forced it to turn back. The Joe Louis boxing troupe put on a show in the Group Headquarters area this evening. Other than Louis, the troupe included Jackie Wilson and Jimmy Edgar, both well known professional fighters.

11 Lt. Simmons led the first of two missions today, attacking a gun emplacement. No direct hits were reported, but the areas were thoroughly strafed and damaged considerably. Capt. Purdum led a four plane escort mission this evening, flying cover for the 526th and 527th Squadrons. No enemy aircraft were contacted. The movie "City Without Men" was shown this evening near Group Headquarters.

12 Two missions were flown today, both attacking gun positions along the coast of Italy. Lt. Brown led the first, and direct hits knocked out several gun pits which had been putting up very accurate flak at the formation. Lt. Oldham led the second mission, and again direct hits and near misses were scored on gun pits on a hilltop near the coast. PX rations were sold in the day room this evening.

13 A standdown was in effect all day today. The men who had volunteered and were selected to go to the new B-29 outfits, left the squadron this morning. They were T/Sgt Al Krueger,

CONFIDENTIAL

97 1st Army, Fourth Division, 28001. Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

14 August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, USA.

---

EVENTS

---

13 (Cont'd) S/Sgts Richard Dunham, William P. Heaton, Maynard C. Campbell, and Richard G. Gibbs, Sgts Albert Cohen, Jesse Barco, Sterling Crapsier and Walter Miller, and Cpls Pat Valverde, Richard J. Miller, Charles E. Reese, Daniel LeClaire and John S. Myher.

---

14 One mission was flown this morning. Led by Lt. Decker, radar installations on the coast were attacked by the twelve plane formation. Two stations were damaged by several strafing passes on the area.

A meeting of all squadron personnel was held this evening, at which Capt. Blackwell revealed the news of the impending invasion of the southern coast of France. Tomorrow will be a busy day for the squadron, the first mission being scheduled for 0530 hours.

---

15 Starting well before dawn this morning, six four plane missions were flown today, bombing and strafing targets in close support of the invasion forces. Ground haze over most of the target areas made both bombing and observation difficult but several gun positions were knocked out during the day.

1st Lt. Harry P. Mathis, Jr., left for a Personnel Center today. He will be sent back to the states for rest and reassignment.

A movie "Four Jills In A Jeep", was shown this evening.

---

16 Twenty-eight sorties were flown today, with targets in front of the invasion troops landing in southern France. The eight plane formation led by Lt. Finlayson left more than forty-five railroad cars damaged and smoking after strafing passes.

Lt. Borallo's eight plane formation destroyed a total of ten motor trucks and a motorcycle by strafing, and the eight planes led by Lt. Decker reported the damage by strafing of fifteen railroad cars and the destruction of a barge.

The most successful mission of the day was led by Lt. Brown. Twenty-four motor trucks were destroyed and eight motor trucks and a command car were damaged. Lt. Brown alone, accounted for twelve destroyed and three damaged, for the best individual performance of the day.

---

CONFIDENTIAL

98 War Diary, 526th NIGHTER SQUADRON, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of August, 1943. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, 1-2

DAY

EVENTS

17 Three missions were flown today. A rail line near Aubagne was cut by several direct hits, and one motor truck was destroyed, and four damaged. Lt. Davis led the formation.

Lt. Anderson led the second mission, bombing tracks again. A string of thirty railroad cars were bombed and strafed and all were definitely damaged. At another point, fifteen cars were strafed and damaged, and a motor truck and an armored car were destroyed.

Lt. Finlayson led the last eight plane formation. Seven motor vehicles, two single engine aircraft on a landing strip, and eight railroad cars were destroyed, and thirty two railroad cars and seven motor vehicles damaged, all by strafing passes after the bomb run.

Capt. Purdum and Lt. Mank also escorted a Catalina on an air-sea rescue this afternoon.

The movie, "Roger Touhy, Gangster", was shown this evening. It was the first one in quite some time with a story about something other than the war, and was enjoyed for no other reason than that.

18 Two missions were flown today. The first formation was made up of six pilots each from this and the 526th Squadron, escorting a B-25 formation which bombed a bridge near the town of Avignon in France.

Lt. Decker led eight planes attacking a railroad bridge, and although no hits were secured on the bridge, the approach to it was damaged considerably by direct hits.

This mission was forced to land at an airfield on the western side of the island, when a wind, rain, and hail storm made landing here impossible. The storm struck the bivouac area at noon, and at first seemed nothing more than a summer shower. The mess hall, where many of the men were, seemed like a safe place to sweat out the rain, until the wind started and blew the roof off. Keeping in a dry place was soon forgotten, as tents began falling like tumpkins, and before it was over, everyone was wading in water more than ankle deep. Needless to say, the rest of the afternoon was spent in moving and setting up tents and finding what personal belongings had floated away.

1st Lt. John S. Harpster, a former B-26 pilot with 56 missions to his credit, was assigned and joined the squadron today.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Form 99 War Diary, 525th BOMBING SQUADRON, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-4.

241

E V E N T S

19 One escort mission and two armed reces were flown today. Lt. Brown led the twelve plane formation which flew cover for eighteen B-25's to bomb a railroad viaduct in France.

The eight planes led by Lt. Oldham brought back a score of sixteen motor trucks destroyed and three damaged.

The last mission, with Lt. Finlayson leading, destroyed six motor trucks, damaged two, and damaged a locomotive and almost a hundred cars. Lt. Mart became lost from the formation and did not return. It is believed that his plane was hit by flak which was encountered over La Ciotat, France.

The movie, "Follow The Boys", with an all star cast was shown this evening.

1st Lt. Howard G. Decker, Jr., was promoted to Captain as of 15 August.

20 A gun position was knocked out by two bomb hits secured by a five plane formation led by Lt. Anderson on the first mission this morning.

Lt. Moyle led four planes on the second mission and the gun positions assigned to them was silenced by both bombing and strafing.

Lt. Oldham's four plane formation also attacked a gun position and one fire was started in the area. Lt. Oldham also strafed two PT boats in a harbor.

S/Sgt David E. Johnson, a crew chief, accidentally shot himself in the upper left leg this afternoon, while cleaning a .45 calibre pistol. The bone in his leg was shattered, and he was taken to the 35th Station Hospital this evening.

Lt. Mart, who was lost on a mission yesterday, returned to the squadron today. His plane was hit by flak, and he made a belly landing in the water, and was picked up by a destroyer of the U. S. Navy.

The last mission today was led by Lt. Decker. The eight plane formation attacked gun positions in an area in close proximity to the target for a formation of B-26's.

The movie "The More The Merrier", was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening.

21 Two bombing missions were flown today. The first was led by Lt. Brown, and marshalling yards in Alessandria, Italy were damaged considerably.

100

100th Bombardment Squadron, Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August

EVENTS

21 (Cont'd) Three motor trucks and four horse carts were destroyed, and one additional motor truck was damaged by strafing.

The second mission was led by Lt. Simmons and although bad weather prevented the bombing of the primary target, a road bridge on the Centallo-Cuneo highway was bombed and damaged considerably.

A meeting of all enlisted men was held in the mess hall this evening for the purpose of organizing an enlisted men's club. M/Sgt James E. Knight deserves credit for the instigation of this movement, and he was promptly elected as temporary president. Other officers elected were M/Sgt Hoyt L. Smith, vice president, and S/Sgt Tom Malone, secretary-treasurer, as well as a committee of eight men.

1st Lt. Felix F. Simmons learned today of his promotion to the rank of Captain, effective 18 August 1944.

22 The day's flying activity consisted of three patrol missions, led by Col. Bates, Lt. Davis, and Lt. Oldhan. No enemy planes were seen. 2nd Lt. Benjamin A. Higginson, recently transferred into the squadron, was killed when landing from the first mission. His airplane crashed in the swamp near the north end of the field as he was making his final approach.

Major Kasun, Capt. Decker and Lt. Borello left today for a rest camp in Cairo. Capt. Purdum will assume temporary command of the squadron during Major Kasun's absence.

1st Lt. Dale L. Carstensen, Squadron Adjutant, was promoted to the rank of Captain, effective 17 August 1944.

The movie "Summer Storm", was shown this evening. It was a good story and a welcome relief from musicals and comedies, such as we've been seeing.

23 Gun positions were bombed and strafed by a formation led by Lt. Finlayson early this morning. The guns were not firing, but were heavily bombed and strafed.

Capt. Simmons led the second mission. Gun positions were again the target and were bombed and strafed with unobserved results.

Lt. Brown led eight planes on a road recce, cratering the road in several places. Two motor trucks and a hay cart were destroyed by strafing.



101

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August

WILLIAM H. SIMMONS

Captain, Air Corps, USA

EVENTS

23 (Cont'd) The last was a four plane patrol, led by Lt. Anderson. Extremely bad weather was encountered and no enemy planes were seen.  
A film on world events was shown this evening.

24 Lt. Brown led a four plane patrol mission this morning. Except for extremely bad weather, the mission was without incident.

The second mission, led by Lt. Davis, consisted of eight planes. Bad weather was again encountered. The formation bombed a road, and destroyed one motor truck by strafing.

Four pilots of this squadron flew an escort mission with the 526th Squadron late this evening.

The meeting of the members of the newly formed enlisted men's club which was scheduled for this evening, was postponed and will be held tomorrow evening instead.

The movie "Best Foot Forward", was shown this evening.

25 Two missions were flown today. Lt. Finlayson led the first, a twelve plane formation bombing gun positions.

The second was a patholing mission of twelve planes, led by Capt. Simmons. An intense flak barrage over the target made observation impossible. Lt. Cooper did not return from this mission. His plane was hit by flak and the entire right wing was seen to fall off. The plane went into a spin and crashed, and as the canopy of his plane is known to have been closed, it is believed impossible for Lt. Cooper to have gotten out safely.

A meeting of the members of the enlisted men's club was held this evening. Lt. Dwyer accepted the position of officer sponsor to which he had previously been elected, and the constitution of the club, drawn up by Capt. Blackwell, was ratified by the members.

The squadron water truck and trailer were stolen this evening, and if it is not found within a short time, the shortage of water will cause quite a lot of inconvenience, especially for the mess hall.

CONFIDENTIAL

102

Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBURN,

Captain, Air Corps, USAF.

EVENTS

26 Lt. Brown led the first of two missions which were flown today. Weather made bombing difficult, but an effective road block was made at one point.

Lt. Anderson led the second mission, a formation of twelve planes. Extremely good results were secured, at least six road blocks being made, and four direct hits scored on a railroad bridge. One motor truck was destroyed.

A movie "Up In Arms", was shown this evening, and was enjoyed for the many laughs it afforded, both intended and otherwise. For instance, the scenes on the troop transport on an overseas voyage.

The water truck and trailer were found this evening.

27 Lt. Davis led the first formation of eight planes on a mission against an enemy observation post. Very good results were obtained, all bombs except two being direct hits on the target.

Lt. Anderson led the second mission to create road blocks on the Turin - Susa highway. Weather was very unfavorable, but four road blocks were created on the highway.

28 Three missions were flown today. Lt. Oldham led the first, bombing and strafing boats in Monaco harbor. The extent of damage was not observed.

The second mission was to escort B-26's of the 320th Bomb Group. The formation was led by Lt. Davis and no enemy aircraft were seen.

Col. Bates led the last mission of the day, to create road blocks on the Turin - Susa highway. Several hits on the road and the approach to a bridge caused considerable damage. Lt. McClees, flying "Big Stud", one of the squadron's older planes, crashed on the takeoff a short distance from the end of the runway. Lt. McClees was uninjured but the plane burned.

The movie "The Hairy Ape", starring William Bendix was shown this evening.

29 Two eight plane missions were flown today. The first, led by Lt. Finlayson, cratered the road in several places between Cuneo and Argentera, Italy.

Lt. Davis led the second and a bridge on the Turin - Chivasso highway was bombed. Two hits were secured on the approach.

CONFIDENTIAL

103 47th Bomb Squadron, Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August, 1943. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BRADY  
Captain, Air Corps, USA

EVENTS

29 (Cont'd) A group of USO entertainers were here this evening, and a show was given in the Group Headquarters area.

30 Two missions were flown today. Capt. Covington led six planes on an escort mission, flying cover for twelve A-20's of the 47th Bomb Group. No enemy aircraft were seen.

Lt. Oldham led eight planes on a mission bombing the Montecar - San Pietro highway. Just before bombing, two aircraft were sighted, and were then believed to be P-47's. They did not attack the formation, but were later identified as FW-190's.

A movie "The Falcon Out West", was shown this evening.

31 The first mission today was a twelve plane escort for a formation of eighteen B-25's, and was led by Capt. Covington.

Lt. Anderson led eight planes on a mission to bomb a highway and recce roads. Four motor vehicles were destroyed and six damaged. Four streetcars in Bologna were also strafed.

A meeting of members of the enlisted men's club was held in the mess hall this evening.

During the month of August the squadron flew a total of 453 sorties and 1092:45 combat hours.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

525th Fighter Sq.

Outline History September 1944

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
APO 650

G/WHB/hrd  
5 October 1944

AG 314.7

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Fighter Command, APO 650.

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 September 44 to 1 October 44.

a. Present designation: 525th Fighter Squadron, 56th Fighter Group, XII Fighter Command.

b. Changes in organization.

1. Changes in designation, assignment, or attachment.

(a) Changes in designation: None

(b) Changes in assignment: Assgd to 87th Ftr Wing, auth GO 39, Hq. XII TAC, 9 September 44; rlv'd assgd 87th Ftr Wing, and rlv'd assgd XII TAC, assgd XII Ftr Command eff 15 September 44, auth GO 164, Hq. XII Air Force, dtd 11 September 44.

(c) Changes in attachment: None

2. Subordinate units: None

3. Changes in Commanding Officers: Capt. William B. Colgan, O-675993, apt'd Squadron CO, vice Major Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., O-660066, eff 21 Sept 44, auth SO 161, Hq 86 Ftr Gp, dtd 21 Sept 44. Major Kasun from duty to DS 62nd Ftr Wing, eff 22 Sept 44, auth SO 258, Hq XII Ftr Command, dtd 22 September 44. Capt. Felix F. Simmons in temporary command of squadron 3 Sept 44 to 7 Sept 44, in absence of Major Kasun, VOCC.

