

SECRET

1st Lt. John V. Jordan	3 September 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. John C. Jenkins	4 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. H. A. Porter, Jr.	11 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Harold P. Bannister	21 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Lee D. Hursey	3 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Croft Grantman, Jr.	9 August 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Marion L. Green	11 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. William F. Leahy	11 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Victor T. Kather, Jr.	15 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Thomas A. Lockes	15 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Donald F. Chamber	3 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. William M. Wilson	14 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. A. J. Kochowitz	25 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Glenn E. Marsh	11 September 44	Air Medal

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 1st Air Bn, for the period 1 October 44 to 1 November 44.



For the Commanding Officer:

*William H. Blachell*  
WILLIAM H. BLACHELL,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Unit Historian.

Encl: War Diary.

Report No. 115 War Diary, 524th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Date of October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

FAI

EVENTS

1 Four missions, a total of nineteen sorties, were flown today. Lt. Davis led a seven plane anti flak diversion attack on the town of Piacenza, Lt. Finlayson led a four plane armed recce, and the last two, which were both Rover Joe missions, were led by Lts. Anderson and Borello. Lt. Leahy was forced to land at Pisa to refuel, before coming back to Grosseto after the first mission.

The formation led by Lt. Borello achieved the best results of the day. After bombing the town of Borgo, twenty five plus railroad cars were strafed, at least five destroyed, and six or eight damaged.

Total results of damage on the other three missions consisted of ten 88mm guns destroyed or damaged by Lt. Baranek, a building completely demolished by a direct bomb hit, and three Fullman cars strafed.

2 No missions were flown today due to rainy weather.

An inspection of guns was held this morning, and as a result, quite a few of the enlisted men have found themselves restricted for the period of one week.

3 Four missions, twenty four sorties in all, were flown today. Capts. Oldham, Simmons, Purdum and Colgan were the leaders in that order.

Capt. Oldham did not return from the first mission. After strafing the Villafranca A/D, he called the flight, and said that his plane was damaged badly. Before he could get altitude, the engine stopped and his plane stalled and crashed. Lts. Mart and Karrels, who circled the spot, said that it was impossible for him to get out.

Both Capt. Oldham and Lt. Mart destroyed one grounded single engine aircraft each on Villafranca A/D on the first mission. Two motor trucks were destroyed and three damaged; two 20mm gun positions, a gasoline dump, and a supply dump were all strafed, and several buildings left in flames, on the other three missions.

4 Nineteen sorties were flown today, made up of three four plane missions led by Capts. Purdum and Simmons and Lt. Anderson, and one seven plane formation led by Capt. Colgan. The target for this latter mission was a cluster of buildings, and Lt. Baranek scored direct hits with his two bombs. The entire group of buildings was in flames when the flight left the area.

PX rations were sold in the dayroom this evening.

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S E C R E T

Report No. 116 War Diary, 505th Fighter Squadron, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Month of October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

5 Today's flying schedule had to be cancelled because of rainy weather. The beer ration, eleven bottles per man, was sold in the dayroom this afternoon and evening.

6 The mission schedule was cancelled early this morning, when rainy weather again made flying impossible. A standdown was ordered for the whole day.

7 A total of twenty seven sorties were flown today in six missions. Capt. Purdum led an eight plane formation, and Lt. Brown, Capt. Colgan, Lt. Borello, Lt. Anderson, and Capt. Simmons led four planes each. One motor truck was damaged, three gun positions were damaged by bombing and strafing, and a large number of buildings were fired or damaged at several different points.

2nd Lts. Glenn C. Moore, Bennie G. Flake and George J. Frey were promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 3 October 1944.

8 A steady rain during the entire day caused a standdown to be called shortly after noon.

9 Two missions were flown today totaling twelve sorties. Lt. Borello led an eight plane armed recce, and Lt. Anderson led one of four planes. Railroad tracks were bombed and gun positions were strafed.

Lt. Lochowitz' plane was hit and badly damaged by flak over the target. He was able to get back as far as Pisa, where he made an emergency landing. The plane crashed upon landing, and Lt. Lochowitz was critically injured. He is at present in the 64th General Hospital at Ieghorn.

10 Lt. Borello led an eight plane formation again today, and Lt. Anderson led one of three ships. A railroad bridge was bombed and a cluster of buildings was strafed.

11 Five missions, a total of twenty seven sorties were flown today. Leaders of the missions were Capts. Simmons and Purdum, and Lts. Brown, Borello and Anderson. Gun positions and groups of buildings were the targets designated by Rover Joe, and several buildings were destroyed and burned.

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S E C R E T

Report No. 117 War Diary, 425th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Date of October, 1941. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBURN,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

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EVENTS

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12 Thirty three sorties were flown today. They were divided into eight missions led by Capt. Simmons, Covington, and Purdum, who led two of them, and Lts. Borello, Davis, Brown and Anderson. They were all Rover Joe targets and the most successful one of the day, the four plane formation led by Lt. Brown, brought back a score of two engines and from fifteen to twenty cars destroyed and approximately a hundred cars damaged.

News was received in the squadron today of the death of Lt. A. J. Lochowitz, whose airplane crashed on an emergency landing at Pisa a few days ago.

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13 Thirty one sorties was the total of the five missions flown today. Capts. Covington and Purdum, and Lts. Brown, Anderson and Borello were the leaders.

Lt. Anderson did not return from the mission he was leading. Just above Genoa, where a solid overcast was encountered, his airplane was seen to make a sharp left turn and go into a spiral downward. Lt. Anderson called Capt. Simmons, leader of white flight, and told him he was all mixed up. It is not known whether he bailed out or crashed, and subsequent calls brought no answer. Lt. Anderson was one of the veteran pilots of the squadron and has been a flight leader since shortly after joining the squadron. He had flown 83 sorties against the enemy.

Several groups of buildings were bombed and strafed, and gun positions at several different points. Exact results could not be determined.

A military funeral was held for the late 2nd Lt. A. J. Lochowitz this afternoon. The rifle squad was composed of eight enlisted men of the squadron with S/Sgt Hollis Vieau in charge.

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14 Three missions led by Capts. Colgan and Simmons and Lt. Borello, were flown today, making a total of eleven sorties. On the first two missions, a bridge and a wooded area believed to be occupied by enemy troops, were bombed and strafed. The third mission, led by Capt. Colgan, was the most successful. Besides cutting railroad tracks in several places, the formation destroyed nine engines, ten railroad cars and two motor trucks, and damaged five railroad cars.

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15 Two missions, a total of only seven sorties, were flown today. Weather made bombing difficult, but the three planes led by Capt. Covington, bombed through a hole in the clouds, with no results observed, and the other four

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 118 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Month of October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

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DATE

EVENTS

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15 (cont'd) planes led by Lt. Brown, found a train of twenty cars, moving east toward Verona. All the cars were hospital cars and were not molested, but the tracks in front of the train were bombed and broken and the engine was heavily strafed and destroyed.

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16 No missions were flown until afternoon. Pilots were briefed this morning on a special fire bomb mission on a hill a few hundred yards in front of our troops. Ran two missions of eight ships each on this target, first led by Capt. Colgan, and second led by Capt. Furdun. A report received from ground forces said first four missions run by this Group, including one of our missions, were executed "beautifully".

There is considerable talk about moving, and rumor has it we will move to Pisa before the end of the month.

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17 No missions today with the exception of a weather recce by Lts. Davis and Finlayson. Stood down all afternoon.

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18 One mission today, an eight plane formation led by Lt. Conner. A solid overcast was encountered around Bologna, and the bombs had to be dropped through the clouds. No results were observed.

1st Lt. Graydon S. Brown, a flight leader, learned today of his promotion to the rank of captain, effective 14 October 1944, and 2nd Lts. Clifford A. Karrels and John V. Conner were promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective the same date.

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19 Twenty seven sorties was today's total. Leaders of the five missions were Lts. Brinley, Finlayson, Borello, Brown, and Capt. Simmons. All the missions were Armed recces or Rover Jobs and weather made observation of results very difficult. Fire bombs were carried on the last two missions and several fires were started. The formation led by Capt. Simmons was congratulated by Rover Joe and Army observers for their accurate bombing.

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20 Five missions were flown today, four of which dropped fire bombs on their targets. Cpts. Covington and Simmons and Lts. Davis and Borello each led four plane formations, and Lt. Finlayson led one of five, totaling

Report No. 119 War Diary, 325th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

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

DATE

EVENTS

20 (cont'd) twenty one sorties for the day.

S/Sgt Gerald R. Krell left the squadron today to return to the States on rotation.

21 One four plane formation, led by Capt. Colgan was flown this morning, and rain forced a standdown for the remainder of the day. Three barges were destroyed by fire bombs, and two locomotives and five cars, loaded with supplies were destroyed, and twenty cars were damaged.

2nd Lt. Royce L. Brandon, Assistant Engineering Officer was promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 17 October 1944.

22 Rain caused a standdown for the entire day.

First Sergeant R. O. Tidwell left today to return to the States for a thirty day furlough.

Eight enlisted men were transferred to the 325th Fighter Control Squadron, and left this squadron today. They were S/Sgt James P. Allen, Sgts. Levesque, Neely, Weitzel, Hardin and Timmerman, Cpl. Weingartner and Pvt. Jarrett.

23 Three missions, a total of thirteen sorties, were flown today. Capt. Covington and Lt. Borello led four plane Rover Joe missions and Capt. Colgan led a five plane armed recce. The latter was a very successful mission, as nine engines, sixty four cars and nine motor trucks were destroyed, and four engines, more than thirty cars and twenty one motor trucks were damaged. The four planes led by Capt. Covington destroyed a locomotive, fifteen railroad cars and three trucks and damaged twenty cars, two locomotives and a motor truck.

"A" party left today for Pisa, where they will set up the line area, and get the squadron quarters ready for the remainder of the men. Everyone is anxious to learn whether we are to live in buildings or tents, and as is always the case, rumors have it both ways.

24 Six missions, comprising a total of twenty six sorties, were flown today. Capt. Simmons led the first, a formation of eight planes, dropping fire bombs on a fuel dump. Two large fires were started in the target area and a large building was hit and burned.

S E C R E T

Form 120 War Diary, 12th Fighter Squadron, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

October 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. MASSELL  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

24 (cont'd) Capt. Brown led four planes on the most successful mission of the day, an armed recce in the Turin-Milan area. Seven steam locomotives, seventeen railroad cars, and one He-111 were destroyed.

Lts. Borello and Davis led formations dropping fire bombs and left several buildings in their respective target areas burning.

Direct bomb hits by Capt. Covington's formation destroyed one or two buildings, and the three planes led by Lt. Finlayson were forced to turn back after trying to get below extremely bad weather over their objectives.

2nd Lt. Carl F. Hernandez learned today of his promotion to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 20 October 1944.

Capt. James D. McMurray returned to the squadron today to resume his duties as Squadron Executive Officer. He has been in the hospital for more than a month.

25 One four plane mission was flown today, led by Capt. Colgan. Nine locomotives, one electric engine, and nine railroad cars were destroyed, and thirty eight railroad cars, two motor trucks and two switch engines were damaged.

A part of the remaining squadron personnel left Grosseto today, bound for Pisa, but encountered difficulties in the form of swollen rivers and washed out bridges, caused by the recent heavy rains. Some of the trucks had passed the bridge at Cecina before it gave way, and proceeded on to Pisa, but most of the trucks and men had to return to Grosseto and await further developments.

26 No missions were flown today because of continued rains. More of the squadron personnel left today, and after several detours, arrived at Pisa.

27 Rain again caused the cancellation of the flying schedule.

28 Lt. Davis led the only mission today, a four plane armed recce of the Turin - Alessandria area. Three steam locomotives and a highway bridge were destroyed and four railroad cars were damaged or destroyed.

29 No missions flown today. Only a few men are left at Grosseto and are awaiting the movement of the planes before moving the rest of the equipment.

## S E C R E T

Form No. 121 War Diary, 48th Fighter Squadron, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Date of October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, F-2.

## EVENTS

30 One eight plane mission, led by Capt. Covington dropped fire bombs on a town, after encountering bad weather over the primary target. Six bombs were seen to explode in the town, but results could not be observed.

Promotions to the rank of 1st Lt. were received in the squadron today for 2nd Lts. Baranek, Dieber, Burkey, Jenkins, Jordan, Joslin, O'Rourke, Stewart and Wozniak. All were effective 21 October 1944.

31 Still flying from Grosseto Airfield, two missions led by Capts. Colgan and Simmons were flown today.

Bad weather was encountered by both formations, but a highway bridge was bombed and damaged by Capt. Simmons' formation, and results of the bombing by Capt. Colgan's formation could not be observed.

2nd Lt. John E. Brink was promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 26 October 1944.

During the month of October, 361 sorties, totaling 688:30 operational hours were flown by the squadron.



S E C R E T

525th Fighter Sq.

Outline History November 44

S E C R E T

By Auth CO

525th Ftr Sq

5 Dec 44

Initials YCSHEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
APO 650G/NHB/rfd  
5 December 44

AG 314.7

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XXII Tactical Air Command, APO 650.

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Squadron for the period  
1 November 1944 to 1 December 1944.

a. Present designation: 525th Ftr Sq, 86th Ftr Gp, XXII TAC.

b. Changes in organization.

(1) Changes in designation, assignment or attachment.

(a) Changes in designation: None

(b) Changes in assignment: None

(c) Changes in attachment: None

(2) Subordinate units: None

(3) Changes in Commanding Officers: None

(4) Changes in Staff Officers:

(a) Capt. James C. Covington, O-660552, aptd Sq  
Operations Officer, 5 November 44, vice Capt. Lemuel W. Gurdum, III, O-797907,  
returned to Zone of Interior, auth Sq. O. 30, dtd 31 October 1944.

(b) Capt. William H. Slackwell, O-564823, aptd Unit  
Historian, auth Sq. O. 31, dtd 4 November 1944.

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2.

(c) 1st Lt. John B. Harpster, O-677267, apt asc't Sq Operations Officer, auth Sq. G. 31, dtd 4 November 1944, vice Capt. Howard G. Decker, Jr., O-424659, returned to Zone of Interior.

(5) Change in T/O: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of November 1944.

(a) At beginning: 53 officers; 238 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase: 5 officers; 0 enlisted men.

(c) Net decrease: 0 officers; 1 enlisted men.

(d) At end : 58 officers; 237 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

(1) Pisa, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 23 October 1944 ("A" party);  
28 October 1944 ("B" party).

(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; Southern France, 15 August 44 to 28 August 44; Italian, 18 August 43 to date, still in progress.

g. Operations.

(1) Campaigns: Italian.

(2) Nature of operations: Bombing and strafing attacks on enemy rails, roads, locomotives, rolling stock, stations, motor transport; attacks on enemy positions, occupied areas and strongpoints, using G/P and fuel tank incendiary type bombs; strafing attacks on A/D's, escort and anti-flak diversion missions.

(3) Number of missions and sorties for month of November 44:  
72 missions and 392 sorties.

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3.

(4) Results of the most important missions.

(a) On 1 November 44, Major W. B. Colgan, Squadron Commander, led a four plane recce in the northern Po valley, attacking rail and motor transport. There was a solid overcast en route to the target, and the target area was covered with 3/10 scattered clouds, Maj. Colgan led his formation to Verona, and ranged back and forth in the area, strafing trains, trucks, and enemy flak batteries. A total of nine locomotives and three motor transport were destroyed, with two locomotives, four railroad cars and nine motor transport damaged. In addition, four 20mm batteries were heavily strafed, a number of personnel killed, and it is believed at least two of the gun batteries were put out of business. One aircraft was damaged by flak, but all returned.

(b) On 1 November 44, 1st Lt. John S. Harpster, led an eight plane formation ordered to make rail cuts in the middle Po valley. Though considerable cloud cover rendered observation and navigation very difficult, Lt. Harpster led his formation in bombing a twenty car train, and afterwards executing a profitable recce. Bombing cut the tracks and destroyed one locomotive, while bombing and strafing destroyed an additional locomotive and five cars and damaged two locomotives and twenty two cars. One aircraft was damaged by flak but returned safely to base.

(c) On 1 November 44, 1st Lt. John V. Conner, led the third in a days very successful attacks on enemy communications lines when he, with a formation of twelve aircraft, again flew through very cloudy weather to create two rail cuts, and destroy by strafing attacks, four locomotives and five motor transport, and damaged eight motor transport, ten fuel cars and four 20mm gun positions. In addition, fifty railroad cars were strafed with results being unobserved. One aircraft was damaged by flak, but all returned safely.

(d) On 10 November 44, 1st Lt. F. J. Brinley led a bombing and strafing attack on Villafranca Airdrome, Italy. Fourteen bombs were dropped on the airdrome and some near misses observed on a JU-88 and two ME-109's, but no claims were made. Though very intense flak was encountered, damaging five of the seven aircraft in the formation, a strafing attack after bombing destroyed one JU-88 and three ME-109's and probably destroyed a fourth ME-109. Lt. Walter E. Rieber personally accounted for the three ME-109's destroyed. All ships returned safely.

(e) On 18 November 44, Major W. B. Colgan led an eight plane P-47 formation in an outstanding attack upon enemy communications lines in Northern Italy. With heavy cloud cover en route to target area, and visibility there reduced by haze to one mile, Maj. Colgan led a series of attacks that resulted in three rail cuts, thirty one motor transport and six railroad cars destroyed, and twenty five railroad cars, seventeen motor transport, and five twin engine unidentified aircraft on Ghedi airdrome, damaged. Lt. Brinks aircraft was seriously damaged when he flew through a tree while strafing, but all aircraft returned safely.

h.

(f) On 22 November 44, 1st Lt. John V. Conner led a formation of eight aircraft ordered to cut the rail line between Verona and Vicenza, Italy. Leading the flight to the target area where heavy and light flak was encountered, Lt. Conner led a bombing attack, following by low level strafing attacks, that resulted in four rail cuts, eighteen railroad cars, eleven motor transport, two power units and a tractor destroyed; twenty railroad cars and four motor transport damaged, and seven flak guns silenced. One aircraft was damaged by flak, but all returned safely.

(g) On 30 November 44, Major J. P. Colan led an eight plane formation in a rail recon in the area of Brescia, Italy. Through heavy cloud cover en route, the formation reached the target area and bombed and strafed a large string of railroad box cars, destroying five of them and damaging five, most of these being loaded cars. After bombing, strafing attacks accounted for three locomotives and four motor transport destroyed, six motor transports damaged, and three gun positions silenced. One aircraft was damaged by flak, but all returned safely.

(5) Unit was subjected to enemy action: None except pilots on missions subjected to enemy AA fire.

h. Commanding officers in important missions.

(1) Named above in mission accounts.

i. Losses in action:

(1) Rail cutting (bombing) mission near Ostiglia, Italy, on 5 November 44, led by 1st Lt. Richard A. Davis.

(c) Missing

1. 1st Lt. Clifford A. Farrels, C-706413.  
Little Chute, Wisconsin.

(2) Bombing and strafing mission near Brescia, Italy, on 18 November 44, led by 1st Lt. Richard P. Moyle. Lt. Joslin was last seen strafing over Ghedi Airfield, Italy.

(c) Missing.

1. 1st Lt. James B. Joslin, C-706522.  
1811 Wildwood Rd., Toledo, Ohio.

(3) Bombing and strafing mission near Mt. Grande, Italy, (close support mission), on 20 November 44, led by 1st Lt. Filey E. Stewart.

(c) Missing.

1. 1st Lt. (then 2nd Lt.) Glenn E. Parsh, C-711489.  
Huntington, West Virginia.

SECRET

5.

1. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

Name	Date of Act	Award
Major Nicholas J. Masun	9 August 44	1st OLC to DFC
1st Lt. John E. Scrello	18 September 44	DFC
1st Lt. James E. Henderson	30 June 44	DFC
1st Lt. Robert H. Nelson	25 May 44	DFC
Capt. Felix F. Simmons	4 October 44	5th OLC
1st Lt. Robert L. Anderson	12 October 44	3rd OLC
1st Lt. Richard A. Davis	25 September 44	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Richard E. Woyle	4 September 44	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Riley E. Stewart	4 September 44	2nd OLC
Capt. James C. Covington	19 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Henry Aegerter, Jr.	27 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Harold F. Bannister	26 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Carl C. Baranek	1 October 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. William M. Rieber	18 October 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. James P. Potten	19 October 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. John E. Brink	9 August 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. John V. Conner	18 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. William F. Curtin	3 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Richard A. Davis	14 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Hennie G. Flake	5 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. George J. Frey	13 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Marion L. Green	27 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. John C. Jenkins	30 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. John V. Jordan	27 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. James B. Joslin	27 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Clifford A. Karrels	19 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Glenn E. Marsh	27 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Glen C. Moore	4 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Richard E. Woyle	30 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Robert D. O'Rourke	16 September 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. Riley E. Stewart	5 August 44	1st OLC
1st Lt. William A. Wozniak	30 September 44	1st OLC

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 525 Ftr Sq, for the period 1 November 44 to 1 December 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

*William H. Riachnell*  
 WILLIAM H. RIACHNELL  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Unit Historian

Incl: War Diary

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 122 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa A/D, Italy  
(Station)

Month of <sup>Nov</sup> October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

1 The planes were flown from Grosseto to Pisa Airdrome today, and three missions flown from here. Lt. Conner led a twelve plane formation, Lt. Harpster led one of eight, and Capt. Colgan led four. Total strafing results were fifteen locomotives, five cars, and eight motor trucks destroyed, and four locomotives, thirty six cars, and seventeen trucks damaged. An additional fifty railroad cars were strafed.

The buildings that are being used for living quarters are former University of Pisa classrooms and dormitories, and seem to be very well liked by the men. There are two theatres in town at which movies are shown, and although the field is quite a distance from the living quarters, the setup seems to be quite satisfactory for everyone.

2 Rain forced a standdown for the whole day. The inactivity was welcomed by the enlisted men and most of them were busy boarding up broken windows and installing stoves in their rooms.

Capt. Lemuel W. Furdum, Squadron Operations Officer left today for the States, after flying a hundred sorties with the squadron.

3 The rains continued all night and by midafternoon the Arno river was overflowing its banks on both sides, and water was rising in the streets of Pisa. The airplanes of the squadron were flown to the field at Grosseto when the overflowing water threatened to reach the field here.

4 The squadron woke up this morning to find the water at the very doors of the living quarters. Not until this afternoon did the rains slacken, and by this evening the water had begun to recede.

Capt. Covington was today appointed Squadron Operations Officer, succeeding Capt. Furdum, who has gone home after completing his tour of duty.

5 By this morning the water had gone down quite a lot, and although large areas in and around town are still flooded, most roads are again passable. Six missions totaling twenty nine sorties were flown today. Leaders of the formations were Capts. Simmons, Relyea and Colgan, and Lts. Davis, Curtin and Finlayson. Two formations carried fire bombs, and two locomotives and a motor truck were destroyed and fifteen railroad cars damaged by the other four flights.

## S E C R E T

Report No. 123 War Diary, 425th FIGHTER SQUADRON. Pisa A/D, Italy  
(Station)

Month of <sup>NOV</sup> October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM E. BLACKBELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

5 (cont'd) Lt. Karrels did not return from a mission today. His aircraft was apparently hit by flak, and he was seen to bail out and reach the ground safely, although behind enemy lines.

6 Another busy day, with five missions, a total of twenty six sorties. Leaders of the formations were Lts. Finlayson, Jenkins, Botten, Curtin, and Borello. Three formations carried fire bombs and two railroad cars were destroyed and a steam locomotive and eight cars damaged.

7 Four missions led by Lts. Davis, Curtin, Finlayson and Capt. Simmons, were flown today. Lt. Curtin had a hung fire bomb and after circling the field several times came in for a landing with it still on his plane. It came off as he hit the runway, leaving a trail of fire for several hundred yards. The airplane was not damaged.

On one of the missions today, Lt. Leahy, while over the target, was hit in the right leg by a piece of flak and seriously injured, but managed to bring his plane back and land it safely. He was immediately taken to the hospital in Leghorn.

8 Bad weather caused an all day standdown.

9 A weather recce was flown by Lts. Frey and Mart this morning, but the mission schedule was again cancelled.

10 Five missions, four of which were with fire bombs, were flown today. The seven plane formation led by Lt. Brinley bombed and strafed parked aircraft on Villafranca A/D near Verona, destroying four Me-109's and one Ju-88.

11 Four missions, all with fire bombs were flown today. The leaders were Lt. Finlayson, who led a twelve plane formation, Lt. Davis, Lt. Borello and Capt. Simmons, and several fires were started in groups of buildings at various points.

124 ... Pisa A/D, Italy

NOV  
October

WILLIAM F. ...

Captain, Air Group, 8-2.

DATE

EVENT

12 Two fire bomb missions were led by Lts. Moyle and Curtin today. Occupied towns were the targets, and several fires started in both.

13 Two missions were flown today, one of which had to turn back because of bad weather after reaching the bomb line. The other, a twelve plane formation led by Capt. Covington, escorted a medium bomber formation.

2nd Lt. Croft Grantham, Jr., was today promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.

Capt. Brown left the squadron today for a thirty day furlough in the states.

14 One five ship mission was flown today, led by Lt. Frey. The mission was a search for enemy aircraft reported near Bologna, but none were sighted.

Capt. Howard G. Becker, Jr., Assistant Operations Officer, left today to return to the states, after flying 81 sorties with this squadron.

15 Rainy weather and high winds forced a standdown for the whole day. Late in the afternoon Col. Bates and Capt. Covington flew a two plane bombing mission, bombing a railroad bridge. Ten cars were strafed in a station.

16 Four missions, led by Lts. Davis, Curtin, Frey and Botten were flown today. Fire bombs were carried by two of the formations. The eight planes led by Lt. Frey destroyed twelve railroad cars, a steam locomotive and a motor truck, and damaged twelve cars, one locomotive, and a Fiat, besides creating four cuts in the tracks.

17 Capt. Colgan led two of the five missions flown today, and his second, a formation of three ships, destroyed two steam locomotives and eight motor trucks, and damaged an electric locomotive, three trucks and one railroad car. Capt. Covington and Lts. Moyle and Conner were the other leaders.

Lt. O'Rourke was slightly wounded on one of the missions today, when hit by a piece of flak over the target. He brought his plane back and landed it safely.



Sheet No. 125 War Diary, 425th FIGHTER SQUADRON. Pisa A/D, Italy  
(Station)

Month of <sup>NOV</sup> October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

18 Five missions was today's total. The eight plane mission led by Capt. Colgan was the most successful, destroying twenty nine motor trucks, six railroad cars, two Fiats and a motorcycle, and damaging twenty nine cars, fifteen trucks, two Fiats and five twin-engine aircraft parked on Ghedi A/D.

Lt. James B. Joslin did not return from a strafing mission over Ghedi A/D. He was last seen over the airdrome, and was heard on the radio a few minutes later. It is not known whether he bailed out or crashed.

1st Lt. John S. Harpster was appointed Assistant Operations Officer today, replacing Capt. Decker who has returned to the states after completing his tour of duty.

19 Four missions, attacking rail lines and gun positions were flown today. Lts. Conner, Moyle, Harpster and Frey led the formations.

PX rations were sold this evening. Other than the usual amount of candy, eight bottles of beer and two cokes were sold to each man.

20 Lts. Stewart and Botten led today's two missions. Lt. Marsh did not return from the first mission. He was last seen over Ferrara, where intense flak was encountered. Lt. Wozniak tried unsuccessfully to contact him by radio, and it is not known whether or not he was able to bail out.

21 Three missions, led by Lts. Moyle, Frey and Bieber, all carried fire bombs. Fires were started among several groups of buildings at different points.

Five new pilots were assigned and joined the squadron today. They are 1st Lt. Ralph F. Grossman and 2nd Lts. Harold H. Loucke, Maurice Moran, Paul C. Allen, Jr., and Diamond P. Mitchell.

22 Four missions were flown today, and two, led by Lt. Conner and Lt. Harpster proved to be very successful ones. The eight planes led by Lt. Conner destroyed eighteen railroad cars, eleven motor trucks, two power units on flat cars, and a tractor, and damaged twenty railroad cars, seven flak guns, three trucks and a Fiat. Lt. Harpster's eight plane formation destroyed two staff cars, three trucks and a trailer and one electric engine, and damaged two railroad cars.

Capt. William B. Colgan, Squadron Commander, was today promoted to the rank of Major.

Report No. 126 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa A/D, Italy  
 (Station)

Month of <sup>NOV</sup> October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

23 Rainy weather forced a standdown to be called early in the day. The Thanksgiving dinner, with plenty of turkey, was served at two o'clock this afternoon, and greatly enjoyed by all the men.

Lt. Leahy returned from the hospital this morning but will be unable to fly for quite some time yet.

24 Continued rains made flying impossible again today.

25 A standdown because of bad weather was called for the third straight day.

26 No flying today because of rain.

27 Rain again forced a standdown for the whole day. The basketball league being conducted by the 86th Group, and including twelve teams stationed in the Pisa area, was started this afternoon. The squadron enlisted men's team led off with a win today and the squadron officers' team, made up mostly of pilots, will make its initial appearance at a later date.

Capt. Simmons, Lt. Davis and Lt. Borello left today to return to the states, after completing their tour of duty. Capt. Simmons had flown 102 sorties, Lt. Davis 101, and Lt. Borello 99.

28 Six missions were flown today, most of them attacking railroad tracks and highways. Lt. Grantham led eight planes attacking an occupied town, and results of their bombing and strafing attacks were one locomotive and three trucks destroyed and two locomotives, five cars and three trucks damaged.

Promotions to the rank of 1st Lt. were received today for 2nd Lts. Henry Aegerter, Jr., William F. Leahy, Victor T. Mather, Jr., Francis X. Mauk, Thomas A. McClees and Donald F. McEmber.

29 Rail cuts and occupied towns were targets for today's three missions. Five bombs were dropped on a town by the eight planes led by Major Colgan, and several fires started in the town and among anti-aircraft gun positions nearby.

Report No. 127 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON. Pisa A/D, Italy  
(Station)

Month of <sup>NOV</sup> October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

30 Two very successful missions were flown today, led by Major Colgan and Lt. Harpster. Three locomotives, nine box cars, six motor trucks and two Flats were destroyed, and one locomotive, eight box cars, and eight trucks were damaged by the two eight plane formations.

- During the month of October, 392 sorties, totaling 622:30 operational hours were flown by the squadron.

SECRET

525 Fighter Sq.

Outline History December 44

SECRET

By Auth CO

525 Ftr Sq

5 Jan 45

Initials *WBC*

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
AFC 650

G/AMB/hrd  
5 January 45

AS 314.7

SUBJECT : Historical records.

TO : Commanding General, XXII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 650.

1. Outline history of the 525 Fighter Squadron for the period 1 December 1944 to 1 January 1945.

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

b. Changes in organization.

(1) Changes in designation, assignment or attachment: None

(2) Subordinate units: None

(3) Changes in Commanding Officers: None

(4) Changes in Staff Officers:

(a) Major Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., O-660066, previously on DS to 62nd Ftr Wg, trfd to Hq 62nd Ftr Wg, auth Special Order 320, Hq XXII TAC, 4 Dec 44.

(b) Captain William H. Blackwell, O-564823, aptd Top Secret Control Officer, auth Sq Order 35, P. 1, 13 December 44.

(c) Captain Dale L. Carstensen, O-85b250, aptd Ass't Top Secret Control Officer, auth Sq Order 35, P. 1, 13 December 44.

(d) 1st Lt. John E. Dwyer, O-562913, aptd Sq Information and Education Officer, auth Sq Order 35, P. 2, 13 December 44.

## S E C R E T

2.

(5) Changes in T/O: None

## c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted:

(1) Month of December 1944

(a) At beginning: 58 officers; 240 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase: 7 officers; 8 enlisted men.

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

(d) At end : 65 officers; 248 enlisted men.

## d. Stations.

(1) Pisa, Italy.

(a) Date of Arrival: 23 October 44 ("A" Party);  
23 October 44 ("B" Party).

(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; Southern France, 15 August 44 to 28 August 44; Italian, 18 August 43 to date, still in progress.

## g. Operations.

(1) Campaign: Italian.

(2) Nature of Operations: Bombing and strafing attacks on enemy rails, roads, locomotives, rolling stock, stations, motor transport; attacks on enemy positions, occupied areas and strongpoints, using G/P and fuel tank incendiary type bombs; strafing attacks on A/D's, escort and anti-flak diversion missions.(3) Number of missions and sorties for month of December 44:  
91 missions and 506 sorties.

(4) Results of the most important missions.

S E C R E T

## S E C R E T

3.

(a) On 1 December 1944, 1st Lt. Richard B. Moyle led an eight plane mission to bomb the railroad intersection two miles above Rovato, Italy. After a successful bombing attack, Lt. Moyle and 2nd Lt. Donald L. Westfall strafed moving vehicles near Verona, Italy, destroying eleven motor vehicles. Meanwhile, 1st Lt. Croft Grantham, Jr., was leading his flight in a very successful strafing sweep, aided a great deal, by the work of 1st Lts. Glenn C. Moore and Wiley E. Stewart. This flight destroyed two locomotives, eight motor vehicles, five railroad cars and two ox carts, and damaged three locomotives, five railroad cars, and six motor vehicles.

(b) On 1 December 1944, 1st Lt. John W. Botten led an eight plane armed reconnaissance of the area around Brescia, Italy. Despite a very bad ground haze, and scattered clouds on the mountain tops, Lt. Botten led his flight unerringly to the target, where rail activity was observed. The combined bombing and strafing attack resulted in the destruction of one locomotive, eleven railroad cars, and ten motor vehicles, and the damaging of two locomotives, ten railroad cars, and three motor vehicles.

(c) On 15 December 1944, 1st Lt. Croft Grantham, Jr., led a very successful bombing and strafing mission. The four plane flight was ordered to carry out a Forward Fighter Control mission, but very inclement weather made it necessary for them to proceed to the town of Parma, Italy, where reconnaissance planes had observed rail activity. Upon reaching the town, they saw locomotives in the train shed. Lt. Grantham and 1st Lts. Ralph F. Grossman, Wiley E. Stewart and Victor T. Mather, bombed and strafed with telling accuracy, destroying five locomotives, and damaging two locomotives and six motor vehicles. One plane was damaged by flak.

(d) On 20 December 1944, 1st Lt. John E. Brink led an eight plane mission to carry out an armed reconnaissance of the Italian Western Po Valley area. A solid overcast at 7,000' covered the entire area, so Lt. Brink went through the overcast himself to see if it were possible to make an attack. Breaking clear at 4,000' he was immediately attacked by twenty or more heavy and light anti-aircraft guns. He then went up through the overcast and brought his flight back through the overcast and bombed these heavily concentrated guns. Their strafing and bombing attack destroyed more than half the guns. Lt. Brink then led his flight on a strafing sweep, while 1st Lts. Glenn C. Moore and Wiley E. Stewart were bombing and strafing rail lines and rail activity in Voghera, Italy. The combined totals on this very successful mission, in which three planes were damaged by flak, showed destruction of twelve locomotives, at least ten anti-aircraft guns and twenty one motor vehicles, and damage to four locomotives, one Tiger tank, one oil tank car, machinery repairing a bridge, two railroad cars, one boat, and ten motor vehicles.

(e) On 21 December 1944, 1st Lt. John V. Conner led a four plane armed reconnaissance of the Italian western Po Valley. Despite a very low overcast, Lt. Conner and his flight went under the clouds and bombed and strafed with outstanding results. After bombing gun positions successfully on 14 Spezia, they destroyed eleven locomotives and two motor