

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
AFC 650

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 11 )

18 January 1945

SECTION I - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (MIA)

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Hq NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, who are missing in action, citation and next of kin as indicated:

JOHN V. CONNER, JR., O-706355, 1st Lt., 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 21 December 1944, while leading a four plane flight of fighter bombers in an attack upon enemy communication lines in the Po Valley, Italy, Lt. Conner encountered a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire from enemy gun positions near La Spezia. Immediately directing his flight in a vigorous bombing and strafing attack, Lt. Conner silenced three positions and inflicted casualties upon personnel. Continuing his reconnaissance at minimum altitude to escape an almost solid overcast, Lt. Conner sighted a large concentration of rail and motor transport. Determinedly pressing repeated strafing attacks against this objective, Lt. Conner and his comrades destroyed or damaged sixteen locomotives and six motor vehicles before exhaustion of ammunition forced them to break off and return to base. On more than sixty combat missions, his selfless devotion to duty and outstanding proficiency have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Mr. J. Verser Conner, (Father), 400 Mayfair Lane, Louisville, Ky.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. AYERS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

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

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEAD QUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
APO 650

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 11 )

18 January 1945

SECTION I - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (MIA)

Under the provisions of AF 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Hq NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, who are missing in action, citation and next of kin as indicated:

GLENN E. MARSH, O-714489, 1st Lt., 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 20 November 1944, Lt. Marsh flew in a fighter bomber attack upon an enemy supply concentration near Bologna, Italy. Skillfully maneuvering through a heavy overcast upon the approach to the target, Lt. Marsh dived to minimum altitude and released his bombs with devastating effect upon this vital objective. After making several strafing passes against the area, inflicting further damage upon the enemy, Lt. Marsh joined his comrades in search of other targets. Encountering a heavy barrage of enemy ground fire, Lt. Marsh became separated from his flight and failed to return from this mission. His selfless devotion to duty and outstanding proficiency in combat have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Mrs. Ella G. Marsh, (Mother), 2744 Orchard Ave., Huntington, W. Va.

By command of Major General CANON:

CHARLES T. MYERS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William H. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM H. DICK  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General

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

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TENTH AIR FORCE  
AFC 650

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 11 )

18 January 1945

SECTION IV - AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of AG 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, HQ MATC USA, 10 July 1944, the Oak-Leaf Cluster (First Cluster) in lieu of the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

WILLIAM B. COLGAN, O-673993, Major, 525th Fighter Squadron, 85th Fighter Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 14 October 1944, when extremely adverse weather forced the cancellation of further scheduled tactical missions, Major Colgan volunteered to lead a four plane flight of fighter bombers on an armed reconnaissance mission over enemy communication lines in northern Italy. Displaying superior flying ability and determined leadership as he skillfully maneuvered through heavy cloud formations upon the approach to the target area, Major Colgan sighted a railroad line near Asti. Immediately diving to minimum altitude in attack, Major Colgan guided his P-47's on a perfect run over the objective, thereby enabling them to score direct hits cutting the line in two places. Continuing in attack in the face of accurate enemy ground fire which damaged the four fighters, Major Colgan strafed several railroad trains and a motor convoy in the area destroying or damaging nine locomotives, fifteen railroad cars, and two motor vehicles. In more than 165 combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Waycross, Ga.

By command of Major General CAYTON:

CHARLES T. MYERS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William M. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM M. DICK  
Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

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

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
AFO 650

GENERAL ORDERS )

5 January 1945

NUMBER 11 )

SECTION V - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of Act 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 69, Hq MATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

WALTER M. BIEBER, O-815327, 1st Lt., 525th Fighter Squadron, 68th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 10 November 1944, Lt. Bieber led a four plane flight of fighter bombers in an attack upon an enemy airbase at Villafranca di Verona, Italy. Displaying great courage and superior leadership as he pressed a vigorous attack at minimum altitude in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Lt. Bieber enabled his P-47's to score direct hits and near misses, damaging two enemy aircraft. Continuing in attack in the face of accurate enemy ground fire which damaged his P-47 and four other planes in the formation, Lt. Bieber repeatedly strafed the airfield, destroying three Ju-89's, a Ju-87, and probably another Ju-89. On more than fifty-five combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Sunbury, Pa.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. LYONS,  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General

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

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 134 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

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DAY

EVENTS

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1 Two missions, led by Capt. Harpster and Lt. Conner, were flown today. The eight planes led by Lt. Conner accounted for one locomotive, one railroad car, two motor trucks with gas trailers, one Fiat and a motorcycle wagon destroyed and three locomotives, eleven railroad cars and nine switch engines damaged.

Several men of the squadron attended the Spaghetti Bowl game in Florence this afternoon. The game was played by teams representing the Twelfth Air Force and the Fifth Army. Ken who saw the game, won by the Fifth Army team by a score of 20 to 0, reported that there was real football atmosphere; the weather was brisk; there were bands, a drum majorette, and Mac queens.

Because of the large number of men being away, the New Year's Day turkey dinner was postponed until tomorrow.

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2 Five missions were flown today, including a weather recon by Capt. Harpster and Lt. Botten. Leaders of the other four were Capt. Harpster and Lts. Koyle, Bieber, and Grantham. A total of nine motor trucks were destroyed and ten damaged, as well as several Fiats and other vehicles.

PX supplies were sold this evening.

It was learned this evening that the entire enlisted personnel of the Group will be restricted to the area and line for an indefinite time, because of the increase of VD cases in the Group. Many men were browned off at this restriction on the many for the acts of a few. The restriction does not prevent attending the movies or going to the enlisted men's club.

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3 Eight plane missions were led by Lts. Curtin and Brink, Capt. Covington flew with Col. Lee and Capt. Relyea from Group on a three plane mission, and Lt. McClees flew with Col. Bates on a two plane bombing attack on rail lines. A total of thirteen motor trucks, two Fiats, a trailer, two switch engines and two box cars were destroyed by the two eight plane formations.

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4 Five missions were flown today, led by Lts. Conner, Moore, Botten, Jenkins, and Capt. Covington. Lt. Conner's aircraft apparently received a direct flak hit and he made an attempt to belly land near the town of Bergamo. The plane cartwheeled and finally landed on its

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 135 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON Pisa Airbase, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

4 (Cont'd) back, but did not explode or burn. Lt. Conner was not seen to get out of the plane, but there is a possibility that he was not killed.

5 Rain forced a standdown for the entire day.

6 Cloudy weather caused a standdown all morning, but two missions were led by Capt. Covington and Lt. Grantham this afternoon. The three ships led by Capt. Covington, escorted a Walrus picking up a pilot in the water, and the eight planes led by Lt. Grantham made a recce of the coast, strafing shipping and installations.

7 One mission, a coastal recce, was flown today, led by Capt. Covington. A tanker was bombed in Savona harbor with several near misses.

8 One four plane armed recce was led by Lt. Bieber this morning before rain forced a standdown for the rest of the day.

9 Four missions were flown today, led by Major Colgan, Capt. Covington, Lt. Botten and Lt. Curtin. Two were armed recces, and on the other two, an oil storage depot and the Brenner Rail Line were attacked with considerable damage to both targets.  
Four pilots from this squadron flew a mission with the 526th Squadron, attacking the rail line between Cittadella and Vicenza.

10 Today's six missions were led by Col. Lee, Major Colgan and Lts. Moore, Jenkins, Brink and Grantham. Ten motor trucks were destroyed and eleven damaged by the nine planes led by Lt. Brink.

11 Lt. Brink led two eight plane formations, and Lts. Bieber and Frey led one each. On three of these missions, a motor truck and stores depot was attacked, and a total of ten trucks, one armored car, three locomotives, three railroad cars and two Flats were destroyed and a locomotive, four Flats and one motor truck were damaged.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 136 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON Pisa Airbase, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

12 Five missions were flown by the squadron and Lt. Moran flew with Col. Bates on a two plane bombing mission this afternoon. Lts. Botten Jenkins, Frey and Baranek led four planes each and Major Colgan led a formation of eight. Rail lines were attacked and a large number of cars, locomotives and motor vehicles were destroyed and damaged.

Capt. John S. Harpster, Assistant Operations Officer, left today for a replacement depot, from where he will return to the states for rest and reassignment. He has flown a total of 102 sorties over enemy territory, both as a P-47 pilot with this squadron, and prior to that as a B-26 pilot. He has been awarded the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

13 Rain caused a standdown for the entire day.

14 Bad weather and rain again forced the mission schedule to be cancelled.

15 Eight plane missions were led by Lts. Moyle and Bieber and Capt. Covington, and Major Colgan led a four plane formation. The one led by Lt. Bieber was an escort for B-25's, and the others were armed and attacking rail lines and motor transport.

PX rations were sold this evening, including six bottles of beer for each man.

The squadron basketball team, made up of both pilots and enlisted men, travelled to the 33rd General Hospital this evening, and received a 41 to 21 defeat.

16 Bad weather forced a standby until noon and a standdown for the remainder of the day.

17 Three eight plane missions were flown today, led by Lts. Moyle, Moore and Botten. The mission led by Lt. Moore was an area cover for a formation of B-25's, and the other two formations attacked rail lines.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 137 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

18 Five missions today, led by Lts. Koyle, Bieber, Grantham and Brink, and Col. Lee. Rail targets were attacked and several locomotives, railroad cars, and motor trucks were destroyed and damaged.

19 Steady rains all day long forced the mission schedule to be cancelled.

The working restriction which has been in effect since the 3rd of January, was lifted today. Days off, three day passes and furloughs will again be given.

20 Lts. Bieber, Frey and Moore led missions today. Lt. Maurice Moran failed to return from the last mission when his airplane was hit while strafing rail cars near Ghedi A/D. The plane went in and crashed and Lt. Moran did not get out.

21 Two missions were flown today, led by Lts. Grantham and Botten. Railroad bridges were bombed by both formations. Lt. Moore returning from the last mission, was forced to make a belly landing when he couldn't get his wheels down.

This morning, about twelve or fifteen enlisted men from the 8th Indian Division, accompanied by Major Bamber, their commanding officer, were visitors at the Operations and Intelligence sections. They witnessed both a briefing and an interrogation of a returning mission, after which Capt. Blackwell outlined the methods of operating and accompanied them on a tour of the line. In the afternoon another party, this time with Capt. Shaw of the 8th Indian Division, came down and went through the same routine. These men had witnessed some of our F-47's in fire bombing attacks on the enemy during the recent German offensive in the Serchio Valley.

22 Today's four missions were led by Major Colgan and Lts. Moore, Moyle and Baranek. From the first mission, 2nd Lt. Paul T. Jackson failed to return. His airplane was hit while strafing rail cars at Castel Franco. He bailed out a few minutes later and was seen to land safely.

Lt. Nauk flew with Col. Bates and Col. Lee in a three plane formation to bomb a railroad tunnel at Fornova this afternoon.





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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 139 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS.

27 Two missions, led by Lts. Jordan and Moyle were flown today, and Capt. Covington flew with Col. Bates on a two plane armed recce.

28 Four missions were led by Lts. Curtin, Bieber, Botten and Major Colgan. All were armed recces with the exception of Major Colgan's which was a two plane flight, with Capt. Covington flying the second plane. Incendiary bombs were carried and the target was shipping in Genoa harbor.

The first issue of the squadron newspaper, "The Eagle" was published today, and was distributed to all the men in the squadron area at noon. All the work on the paper was done by Capt. Blackwell, S/Sgt Anderson and Sgt Day. The first edition was greatly appreciated by the men of the squadron, and especially the cartoon, depicting high ranking enlisted men going home on thirty day furloughs because of 'troubles at home' while men of lower rank can't seem to find reasons good enough to get one. This first edition of the newspaper was beyond doubt a successful venture, and it is planned to publish it once every two weeks.

29 Six missions were flown today, including two armed recces of only two planes, led by Major Colgan and Lt. Curtin. Lts. Bieber and Baranek led four planes each, and Lts. Frey and Brink led formations of eight each.

F/O Robert S. Bell, failed to return from the last mission. His airplane was hit by flak at Brescia, and he bailed out near the city. He was seen to land safely and wave to the flight.

30 Six missions were flown again today, led by Major Colgan, Capt. Covington and Lts. Botten, who led two, Bieber and Grantham. Rail lines and motor movement was attacked in the western Po Valley.

31 Lts. Bieber and Jenkins led the only two missions flown today. Both were armed recces. 2nd Lt. Harold H. Locke did not return from the last mission. While strafing his plane hit high tension wires, bounced on the ground, and exploded. The plane burned and the pilot was not seen to get out.

During the month of January, 456 sorties, totaling 980:45 operational hours were flown by the squadron.

SECRET

251

525 Fighter Sq.

Outline History February 45

SECRET

By Auth CO

525 Ftr Sq

1 Mar 45

*hnb*

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

G/HHB/hrd

1 Mar 45

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 February 1945 to 1 March 1945.

a. Present designation: 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, XII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organization.

(1) Change in assignment: Reled assgmt XXII TAC, XII AF, 20 Feb 45; assgd XII TAC, 1st TAF (Prov), 20 Feb 45.

(2) Subordinate units: None

(3) Changes in Commanding Officers: None

(4) Changes in staff officers: None

(5) Changes in T/O: None

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of February 1945.

(a) At beginning: 60 officers; 246 enlisted men.

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

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

(d) At end : 59 officers; 246 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

**[REDACTED]**

SECRET

(1) Pisa, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 23 Oct 44 ("A" Party); 28 Oct 44, ("B" Party).

(b) Date of departure: 14 Feb 45 ("A" Party); 23 Feb 45 ("B" Party).

(2) Tantonville, France.

(a) Date of arrival: 20 Feb 45 ("A" Party); 23 Feb 45 ("B" Party).

(b) Date of departure: Present Station.

e. Movements.

(1) From Pisa A/D, Italy to Tantonville A/F, France.

(a) Purpose: Change of station.

(b) Dates: "A" Party: Left Pisa, Italy, boarded LST, Leghorn, Italy 14 Feb 45; arrived Marseilles, France, 17 Feb 45, proceeded by motor convoy and rail to Tantonville, France, arriving 20 Feb 45. "B" Party: Left Pisa, Italy 23 Feb 45, by air transport, arrived Tantonville, France, same date.

(c) All movements above noted were by motor convoy, except that from Leghorn, Italy to Marseilles, France, which latter was by American LST, and movement of "B" Party from Pisa, Italy to Tantonville, France, by American C-47 transport.

(d) Roads were good, conveyances good, weather cloudy but dry.

f. Campaigns.

(1) Sicilian; Naples-Foggia; Rome-Arno; Southern France; German.

(2) Duration: Sicilian, 3 July 43 to 17 Aug 43; Naples-Foggia, 4 Oct 43 to 21 Jan 44; Rome-Arno, 22 Jan 44 to 21 Feb 45; Southern France, 15 Aug 44 to 26 Aug 44; German, 23 Feb 45, still in progress.

g. Operations.

(1) Campaign: Rome-Arno, Italy.

(a) Nature of operations: Bombing and strafing attacks on enemy rails, roads, bridges, 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 area cover missions.

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SECRET

(b) Number of missions and sorties: 45 missions and 249 sorties.

(c) Results of most important missions.

1. On 6 February 1945, 1st Lt. Croft Grantham led a four plane mission ordered to carry out an armed reconnaissance of the Bergamo area, Italy. Despite a bad ground haze, Lt. Grantham selected a vulnerable stretch of track east of Milan, and led a precision directed bomb run which cut the tracks in two places. Continuing with the attack, in the face of enemy ground fire, Lt. Grantham and his flight destroyed two motor vehicles and two oil drums, and damaged eleven motor vehicles, one locomotive, five railroad cars, one trolley car, one oil tank car, one armored tank and twenty barges.

(2) Campaign: German

(a) Nature of operations: Fighter sweeps and armed reconnaissance.

(b) Number of missions and sorties: 4 missions and 55 sorties.

(c) Results of most important missions.

1. On 28 February 1945, 1st Lt. John E. Brink led a twelve plane mission ordered to carry out an armed reconnaissance of the Karlsruhe area in Germany. Despite a very bad overcast which made navigation over a strange country extremely difficult, Lt. Brink found his target and led a bombing run which placed four direct hits in the target area, and then made a second strafing pass on this vital enemy ammunition dump. 1st Lt. Walter M. Bieber and his flight became separated from his formation leader while going through an overcast, so he directed a very successful attack against two moving enemy supply trains, three sets of bombs hitting the trains, with one other set causing a landslide, further immobilizing both trains.

h. Commanding officers in important missions.

(1) Named in above mission accounts.

i. Losses in action.

(1) Strafing mission near Vicenza, Italy on 2 February 45.

(c) Missing.

1. 1st Lt. William P. Leahy, O-714451  
Canton, Ohio

(2) Armed reconnaissance mission in vicinity of Landau, Germany and Bitche, France on 25 February 45.

SECRET

(c) Missing.

1. 1st Lt. RILEY E. Stewart, O-821556  
Minneapolis, Minnesota
2. 1st Lt. Victor T. Mather, Jr., O-714491  
Millard, Mississippi.

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

Name	Date of Act	Award
Capt. Graydon S. Brown	14 Oct 44	Silver Star
Major William B. Colgan	23 Oct 44	2nd OLC to DFC
1st Lt. John P. Eotten	14 Dec 44	DFC
1st Lt. John E. Brink	25 Dec 44	DFC
1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore	20 Dec 44	DFC
1st Lt. RILEY E. Stewart	27 Dec 44	DFC
Major William B. Colgan	25 Dec 44	8th OLC to AM
Major William B. Colgan	6 Dec 44	7th OLC to AM
Capt. John S. Harpster	7 Nov 44	6th OLC to AM
Capt. James C. Covington	6 Dec 44	4th OLC to AM
1st Lt. William P. Leahy	14 Dec 44	2nd OLC to AM
2nd Lt. Maurice Moran	15 Jan 45	1st OLC to AM
F/O Robert S. Bell	29 Jan 45	Air Medal
1st Lt. Ralph F. Grossman	15 Dec 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Paul T. Jackson, Jr.,	22 Jan 45	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Rafael R. Marino	25 Dec 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Maurice Moran	15 Jan 45	Air Medal
2nd Lt. John M. Senneff	21 Dec 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Donald L. Westfall	14 Dec 44	Air Medal

2. Inclosed is war Diary, 525 Ftr Sq, for the period 1 February 45 to 1 March 45.

For the Commanding Officer:

*William H. Blackwell*  
 WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Unit Historian.

Incl: Extract Copies of Orders (6)  
War Diary

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
A. F. O. 650

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 23 )

4 February 1945

SECTION III - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Headquarters, NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JOHN F. BOTTEN, 0820209, 1st Lt, 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 11 December 1944, Lt. Botten led an eight plane formation of fighter-bombers in an attack upon a railroad bridge near Padua, Italy. Displaying superior leadership and determination as he skillfully maneuvered through a solid overcast directly to the target, Lt. Botten's precision run over the objective enabled his P-47's to register direct hits, destroying three spans of this vital bridge and damaging the rail line and a large building nearby. Continuing in a vigorous strafing attack in the face of intense enemy ground fire, Lt. Botten destroyed or damaged three locomotives, twelve railroad cars, four motor vehicles, three barges, and two gun positions before exhaustion of ammunition forced him to break off and return his flight safely to base. On more than seventy combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Cleveland, Ohio.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. MYERS,  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

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

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
A. F. O. 650

GENERAL ORDERS )  
:  
NUMBER 23 )

4 February 1945

SECTION III - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Headquarters, NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JOHN E. BRINK, 080212, 1st Lt, 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 25 December 1944, Lt. Brink led an eight plane formation of fighter-bombers in an attack upon a railroad bridge near Nervesa, Italy. Skillfully maneuvering through heavy cloud formations upon the approach to the target, Lt. Brink's precision-directed run over the objective enabled his P-47's to register direct hits and near misses, heavily damaging the bridge approaches and the railroad tracks. Then leading repeated strafing attacks against other targets in the area in the face of heavy enemy ground fire, Lt. Brink destroyed or damaged eight locomotives, three railroad cars, more than twenty motor vehicles, three tanks, and a number of gun positions. On more than seventy-five combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. MYERS,  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK,  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY

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



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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
APO 650

GENERAL ORDERS )

12 February 1945

NUMBER 29 )

SECTION I - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS OR OAK-LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU THEREOF

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Hq NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross or Oak-Leaf Cluster in lieu thereof, in the categories listed, is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

GLENN C. MOORE, 0704713, 1st Lt, 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 20 December 1944, Lt. Moore led a four plane flight on an armed reconnaissance mission over enemy communication lines in northern Italy. After completing a successful bombing attack upon a rail line in the Po Valley, engine trouble forced two members of his flight to return to base. Continuing with his wingman in search of other targets in the area, Lt. Moore sighted a concentration of rolling stock and motor transports near Voghera. Immediately pressing a vigorous attack in the face of heavy enemy ground fire which damaged his aircraft, Lt. Moore repeatedly strafed the objective destroying or damaging sixteen locomotives, ten motor vehicles, a tank, and a large number of freight cars. On more than seventy-five combat missions, his outstanding proficiency in combat and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Pryor, Oklahoma.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. MYERS  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General

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

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
APO 650

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 36 )

21 February 1945

SECTION III - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS OR OAK-LEAF CLUSTER  
IN LIEU THEREOF

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, NATCUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross or Oak-Leaf Cluster in lieu thereof, in the categories listed, is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

RILEY E. STEWART, 0821556, 1st Lt, 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 27 December 1944, Lt. Stewart flew in a fighter-bomber attack upon a railroad bridge near Nervesa, Italy. Upon the approach to the target, shell fragments from intense anti-aircraft fire damaged his aircraft. Courageously maintaining his crippled plane in perfect formation in the face of this accurate barrage, Lt. Stewart released his bombs with devastating effect upon this vital objective. Continuing in attack, Lt. Stewart strafed other enemy targets in the area destroying or damaging four locomotives and four motor transports and aided in exploding a fuel train before breaking off and returning safely to base. On eighty combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Minneapolis, Minn.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. MYERS  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

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

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
APO 650

GENERAL ORDERS )

1 February 1945

NUMBER 21 )

SECTION I - AWARDS OF SILVER STAR

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Hq NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Silver Star is awarded to the following named personnel Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

GRAYDON S. BROWN, O607252, Capt, 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action. On 14 October 1944, when extremely adverse weather forced the cancellation of all scheduled missions, Capt. Brown volunteered to fly in a four plane flight of fighter-bombers on an armed reconnaissance mission over enemy communication lines in Northern Italy. Skillfully maneuvering through a heavy overcast upon the approach to the target, Capt. Brown dived through an opening in the clouds and released his bombs with precision accuracy on a rail line near Asti, cutting the tracks, thereby blocking a vital link in enemy communication lines. Rejoining his flight, Capt. Brown strafed several railroad trains in the area before shell fragments from intense anti-aircraft fire heavily damaged his airplane. Determinedly maintaining his crippled plane in formation in the face of this accurate barrage, Capt. Brown continued in a vigorous strafing attack against other targets, contributing to the destruction of or damage to nine locomotives, more than fifteen rail cars, and two vehicles before exhaustion of ammunition forced him to break off and return to base. His gallant devotion to duty and outstanding proficiency in combat reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Seneca Falls, N. Y.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. MYERS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

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

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HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
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GENERAL ORDERS )  
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1 February 1945

SECTION IV - AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, HQ NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Oak-Leaf Cluster (second cluster) in lieu of the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officer, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

WILLIAM B. COLGAN, 0673993, Major, 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 23 October 1944, Major Colgan led a six plane formation of fighter-bombers in an attack upon a concentration of rolling stock near Vicenza, Italy. Displaying superior leadership and resourcefulness as he skillfully maneuvered through extremely adverse weather upon the approach to the target, Major Colgan's precision directed run over the objective enabled his P-47's to score direct hits, destroying or damaging more than sixty cars. Despite a heavy barrage of enemy ground fire, Major Colgan quickly reformed his flight and repeatedly strafed the area, destroying or damaging thirteen locomotives, thirty railroad cars, and thirty motor transports before exhaustion of ammunition forced him to break off and return to base. On more than 170 combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Waycross, Ga.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. MYERS  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:  
/s/ William W. Dick  
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

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

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SECRET

Sheet No. 140 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy  
(Station)

Month of February, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM I. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

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DAY

EVENTS

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1 Rain caused a standdown for the entire day.

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2 A two plane weather recce by Lts. Moore and Whyte was the only activity of the day. Continued rains made further flying impossible. The squadron basketball team nosed out the 105th Station Hospital tonite by the score of 34 to 31. Capt. James D. McMurray, squadron executive officer, was promoted to the rank of Major today.

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3 Rain again today and no flying.

The basketball team dropped a loosely played game to the 27th Field Artillery team by a score of 32 to 22 this afternoon. It was the first league defeat against three wins.

A general squadron inspection of quarters was conducted by Major McMurray this morning, and chemical warfare equipment was inspected by Capt. Garstensen.

Major Colgan showed combat films to the enlisted men in the squadron mess hall this evening.

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4 Four missions were flown today, led by Major Colgan, and Lts. Curtin, Wozniak and Jenkins. Rail lines were bombed and recces carried out by the three formations, and the eight planes led by Lt. Curtin went on an anti flak diversion for a formation of B-25's.

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5 Four missions were flown against rail lines and bridges with Major Colgan, Capt. Covington and Lts. Moyle and Botten leading the formations.

1st Lt. William P. Leahy did not return from the first mission. While trying to evade enemy fire, he was apparently hit directly, and the leader of the formation, Lt. Botten, saw the plane crash and explode. He's being carried as MIA, since there is a possibility, slight though it is, that he may have gotten out. Bill Leahy is certainly missed around the squadron; a big likeable Irish fellow, a good athlete, he holds the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 141 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy  
(Station)

Month of February, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

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DAY

EVENTS

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6 Missions were led by Major Colgan, Capt. Covington, Lts. Moyle and Grantham, and a three plane flight was led by Col. Lee. Rail bridges were bombed on all the missions.

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7 The first mission today was made up of two pilots from each of the three squadrons, and was led by Major Colgan. The mission was a photo recce, and strafing sweeps were carried out on motor and rail movement in the central and western Po Valley.

Capt. Covington and Lts. Bieber, Botten and Moyle also led missions against rail movement and bridges.

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8 Lt. Curtin flew with Col. Lee on an armed recce, after dropping fire bombs on gun positions, and in addition, Major Colgan led two missions, and Capt. Covington and Lts. Moore, Curtin, Grantham and Botten one each, attacking occupied towns and areas.

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9 A standdown was called today because of bad weather.

1st Lt. William P. Curtin was today appointed assistant squadron operations officer, replacing Capt. Harpster, who returned to the states recently.

PX rations were issued this evening.

A sex morality lecture was given by Capt. Clinton to the enlisted men this evening in the mess hall.

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10 Four missions were flown today, two of them led by Lt. Moyle, and the others led by Lts. Bieber and Baranek. Fire bombs were carried by Lt. Moyle's twelve planes and dropped on gun positions at La Spezia, the other missions attacked rail and road bridges.

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11 Today was a busy day. In addition to our normal missions, all sections had to pack up equipment to be ready to move in forty eight hours. The outfit is supposed to move to France, and most of us hope the move won't be cancelled this time. Last summer while we were in Corsica, we were scheduled to move to France, but the rapidity of the southern France invasion kept them from needing all the airpower they were supposed to get.

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