

Sheet No. 34 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy
(Station)

Month of January, 1944. Prepared by William H. Blackwell,
Capt., AC, S-2

DAY

EVENTS

17 One mission was flown today, a bombing mission assigned to bomb the town of TARQUINIA and then fly cover for a flight of B-25's bombing in the same area. Led by Capt. Schuyler, the flight bombed the town and same was well covered with hits. After coming off the target and making a 360° circle a flight of B-25's were seen coming off a target further inland. No radio contact was made. This was Capt. Schuyler's 80th mission.

Capt. Dean H. Schuyler, of Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y., is the fourth pilot in the 525th Squadron to complete a combat tour of 80 missions. He has served as Flight Leader, Assistant Operations, and Operations Officer in the squadron. Having completed his tour, Capt. Schuyler will probably be returned to the United States for reassignment.

18 The first mission of the day was made up of pilots of both the 525th and 526th, and was led by Capt. Anton. The town of PIGNATARO was the target with several hits secured on buildings and roads in the town. One building exploded with clouds of yellow smoke. One large flash was observed, and believed to be a small gasoline dump just E. of the town.

The second mission was led by Maj. Gunnison, and was assigned to cover the road between AUSONIA and MINTURNO. Only 2 vehicles were seen however, and the entire flight bombed the road junction at M-765946. More than half the bombs landed on the road and 4 - 5 buildings along the road were blown up, all showing flashes of flame. This was the 80th sortie for 1st Lt. Swithin C. Shortlidge, thus completing his combat tour.

The last mission of the day was an armed reconnaissance led by Maj. Bland. 10 scattered motor trucks were observed on the S. MARTINO road which was the primary target, but none were concentrated enough for bombing. A road junction in the town of CEPRANO was bombed with the following results: 1 explosion with large fire and black smoke in the town; 1 direct hit on bridge in town; 1 staff car completely destroyed. 6 vessels, believed to be destroyers, were observed in the Gulf of Gaeta. 5 FW-190's were seen but no contact made.

Sheet No. 35 War Diary, 524th FIGHTING BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy
(Station)

Month of January, 1944. Prepared by William H. Blackwell

Capt., AC, S-2

DAY

EVENTS

19 Lt. Kasun led the first mission today, which was assigned to bomb the LITTORIA railroad station. Hits were fairly well bunched in and around the station with one direct hit or very near miss on a nearby overpass. All buildings were strafed in the dives. 3 motor trucks and 1 staff car were destroyed by strafing.

The second mission of 12 ships was led by Lt. Dolny and the target was a convoy of 60 motor trucks, reported between the towns of ITRI and FONDI. The road was covered but no convoy seen, and the formation proceeded to the last resort target, the town of FONDI. Bomb hits were well bunched in the town, with two direct hits on an intersection, where a large explosion was seen, sending up flames and columns of smoke seen as far away as the coast. It was believed to have been a gasoline storage dump. 1 motor truck was strafed and destroyed on the road.

Lt. James L. Griswold departed the squadron today. He will go to the States for reassignment.

1st Lt. Hugh P. Davison, one of the few remaining pilots who came overseas with the squadron, also left today, and it is expected that he will be sent to the States for rest and reassignment.

20 One mission was flown today, a 12 ship formation, led by Lt. Kasun. The assignment was to bomb communications in the town of VITERBO, and to strafe shipping and coastal defenses on the way back. Several hits were seen on railroad tracks and the road intersection, causing considerable damage. A large explosion was seen with red flames and columns of black smoke rising as high as 3,000 feet. After dropping their bombs, the formation broke into three flights and strafed, with the following results: 6 motor trucks and 1 staff car destroyed; 3 motor trucks, 2 electric locomotives and 5 cars badly damaged. A Radar station at CIAMPINO S. A/D and a small power station were strafed and damaged. The town of FURBARA was strafed with unobserved results.

It has just been announced that Lt. Edward Fischer has been awarded the SILVER STAR for gallantry in action when he was wounded while on a mission from GELA, SICILY, on 1 August 1943. A 20mm shell exploded in the cockpit of his plane, but in spite of his serious wounds, he landed his ship safely at a neighboring airfield. Lt. Fischer returned to the States in October.

Pfc. Lee A. First left the squadron today, the first man to return under the rotation plan. Pfc. First was in the Armed Forces during World War I.

Sheet No. 36 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy
(Station)

North of January, 1944. Prepared by William H. Blackwell,
Capt., AC, S-2.

DAY EVENTS

21 Capt. Anton led the first mission, of 6 ships, which bombed communications in the town of AVEZZANO. It is believed that several good hits were secured but observation was hindered due to dust and smoke over the road. All planes strafed in the dive.

The second mission consisted of 12 ships, and was led by Lt. Kasun to bomb a Radar station. One large explosion was seen, followed by sheets of clear flame as high as 300 feet, and was believed to have been a powder explosion. 2 smaller explosions were seen in the same vicinity and hits were well bunched in the target area.

22 The first and only mission of the day was led by Lt. Weigle, and consisted of 12 ships. The bombing target was communications in the town of VETRALLA, and to cover the roads East of ROME on the return. Several good bomb hits were secured on the roads and a road junction in VETRALLA. 10 motor trucks were strafed and destroyed at scattered points North and Northeast of ROME. 20 motor trucks were strafed between ROME and VALMONTONE, with approximately 10 damaged and possibly destroyed. A train of 10 cars was strafed and damaged in a station. 1 small automobile and 1 command car were also destroyed.

Lt. Munn did not return from the mission, and it is not known whether he bailed out or landed his plane safely. He was last seen by Lt. Watson, after 2 Spitfires had apparently made a pass and fired at him. His plane had already been hit by flak, it is believed.

Today's missions were flown in support of the ANZIO-NETTUNO invasion. News comes that the landings were made with very little opposition. Our part in the support of the invasion will be to cover all lines of communication leading to and from the beachhead and the 5th Army front, and also to prevent reinforcements from coming in over the highways and railroads from the North.

23 Lt. Kasun led the first and only mission of the day. The assignment was to bomb the town of VALLECORSIA and to strafe the road to FORMIA on the return. Bomb hits were well bunched in the town and a large column of smoke was seen. 3 motor trucks moving south in town were probably damaged. Direct hits on a road intersection at FONDI caused large columns of smoke and buildings along the road were seen to collapse onto the road.

Sheet No. 37 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy
(Station)

Month of January, 1944. Prepared by William H. Blackwell

Capt., AC, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

24 The first mission, an armed reconnaissance of 4 ships, took off at 11:25 and after going as far as the Garigliano River, was forced to turn back due to adverse weather conditions. Capt. Richard J. Anton completed his 80th sortie on this mission.

The second mission of 8 ships, led by Lt. Weigle, was assigned to bomb a German Headquarters building southeast of the town of FRASCATI, and to cover roads from the town to the sea. 2 bomb hits were secured on the building with 8 near misses well bunched around the target. 2 motor trucks were strafed and destroyed and 5 more were damaged. 1 20mm gun emplacement was strafed and destroyed, and 4 additional gun emplacements were silenced.

Capt. Dean H. Schuyler, Jamaica, L. I., and 1st Lt. Swithin C. Shortlidge, of West Grove, Pa. left the squadron today for the United States, for rest and reassignment after having completed their combat tour.

25 The only mission of the day was an armed reconnaissance of 8 ships, led by Lt. Kasun. 6 direct hits were secured on an engine and 5 cars in CECCONA railroad yards, and 4 hits or near misses on a section of 3 cars on a siding. A large explosion with flames as high as 300 feet was observed in the 5 car section and was believed to have been a gasoline dump. The 3 car section was destroyed but no fire was seen. A large explosion, believed to have been an ammunition dump, was observed about 1/4 mile from the track. 1 jeep was also strafed and destroyed.

26 Only one mission was flown today, an 8 ship formation led by Lt. Dolny. The target was a highway bridge, and although no direct hits were observed on the bridge itself, 3 direct hits were seen on the highway north of it, as well as several near misses. Further observation was hindered due to dust and smoke over and around the target area.

27 Lt. Jackson led a mission of 8 ships, to bomb a road junction at CAPISTRELLO, on the first mission today. 4 direct hits were secured on the road junction and 6 more on the road leading into the town. The towns of AVEZZANO and CELANO were strafed and three cars in the CELANO railroad station were also strafed, all with unobserved results.

Sheet No. 39 War Diary (85th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy
(Station))

Month of January 1944 Prepared by William H. Blackwell,
Capt., AC, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

28 (Cont'd.) 1st Lt. Nicholas Kasun was today appointed Squadron Operations Officer, and 1st Lt. John R. Dolny, Assistant Operations Officer.

Saddening news was received that Lt. Mumm had been found by Fifth Army somewhere in the invasion beachhead. He had apparently been killed while trying to crash land his aircraft. He was buried by Fifth Army troops.

29 The first and only mission today was led by Lt. Weigle, to bomb communications in the town of FRASCATI. A road junction in the town was strafed and bombed with excellent coverage. 1 direct hit was seen on the intersection with others being well bunched nearby; causing considerable damage. A gun position was strafed and damaged, and 2 motor trucks were destroyed and 2 more damaged and possibly destroyed by strafing.

30 Only one mission was scheduled during the day. A 12 ship formation led by Lt. Jackson took off at 09:25, but after going as far as the PONZIANE ISLANDS, the flight circled S. FELICE CIRCEO and returned to base because of bad weather. This was Lt. Jackson's 80th mission.

31 Two flights, of 8 ships each, took off at 1600 hours this evening, both being armed reconnaissance missions. The formation led by Lt. Dolny bombed the town of FONDI. 1 direct hit was seen on a road in the town but further results are unknown. Lt. Drew bailed out over the town and his parachute was seen to open at about 300 feet and was also seen to collapse as he hit the ground. The cause of his bailing out is unknown. His plane spun in and did not burn.

Lt. Weigle led the remaining flight which bombed the town of PRIVERNO with good coverage. Explosions were observed in the town and two very near misses were seen near a road junction. A steam locomotive and 3 freight cars were strafed and damaged. This was Lt. Duvall's 80th mission.

At the end of this month, the Squadron has a total of 2553 sorties and 3941.10 combat hours.

- 1 MAR 1944

[REDACTED]

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525th Ftr. Bmr. Sq.

Outline History Feb 44

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

525th Ftr. Bmr. Sq.

Initials

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON
APO 374

AG 314.7

4 March 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

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

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Bomber Squadron for the period 1 February 1944 to 1 March 1944:

a. Present Designation: 525th Fighter Bomber Squadron, 66th Fighter Bomber Group, XII ASC.

b. Changes in organization.

(4) McMurray, James D., Capt., O-551611, appointed Squadron Adjutant 10 February 1944, vice Capt. Alexander Louis, O-556024, relieved. Louis, Alexander, Capt., O-556024, appointed Squadron Supply and Squadron Transportation Officer, vice 1st Lt. Joe M. Clark, O-856432, relieved.

Clark, Joe M., 1st Lt., O-856432, appointed Personal Equipment Officer (Prin duty) and Assistant Engineering Officer (Add'l duty).

Brinley, Finley C., 2nd Lt., O-796074, assigned to this squadron 14 February 1944, pilot.

Anderson, Donald W., Capt., MC, O-423649, transferred to 310th Bomb Group as of 31 January 1944, departed 20 February 1944.

Purdum, III, Lemuel A., 1st Lt., O-797901,

Veatch, Francis M. Jr., 1st Lt., O-445253,

Vukovich, Milan (NMI), 2nd Lt., O-754700, assigned to this squadron 18 February 1944.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.

(1) Month of February, 1944.

(a) At beginning: 38 officers; 220 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase: 0 officers; 2 enlisted men.

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[REDACTED]

(c) Net decrease: Nil.

(d) At end: 38 officers and 222 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

(1) Pomigliano A/D, Pomigliano B/Arcore, Italy, during the entire month of February 1944.

e. Movements.

(1) Nil.

f. Campaigns.

(1) Sicilian; Italian.

(2) Duration: latter still in progress.

g. Operations.

(1) Italian Campaign.

(2) Bombing and strafing enemy positions, guns, harbors, roads, railroads, trains, tanks.

(3) 30 missions and 249 sorties for month of February.

(4) Results of most important missions.

3 Feb 44: On this day, 6 two ship rhuabards were flown, a total of 24 sorties, covering roads and railroads South of W/E. Following is account of the days operations:

The first two ship rhuabarb was flown by Maj. Bone and Lt. Horrihan. The road net from ITRI to PRIVERNO was covered with the following strafing results; 6 motor trucks, and 1 command car destroyed, and 5 motor trucks, 1 armored car, 1 command car and 1 jeep damaged.

Lts. Kasun and Oldham next covered the roads from ITRI to LITTONIA. 8 motor trucks were destroyed and 2 damaged. 1 Fiat was also destroyed.

The third mission was also composed of two ships flown by Lts. Neifla and Duncan. The roads from ITRI to PRIVERNO were covered and 8 motor trucks were destroyed, another believed destroyed and 2 damaged.

Lts. Dickison and O'Neil took their turn next and also secured good results. 1 command car was destroyed and 11 railroad cars were damaged. 3 20mm gun emplacements were also silenced and probably destroyed.





Lts. Wood and Myer flew the 1st mission and covered roads from 7000 to 8000 and 9000. 3 motor trucks, 1 command car and 1 jeep were destroyed and 3 motor trucks and a command car damaged. Lt. Myer was forced to bail out over enemy territory on this mission. It is believed that his plane was hit by heavy machine gun fire. His log for this cruise began at about 1,500 feet and followed a route to 200 feet, and it is believed that he landed safely.

1/18 Infall and Lt. Vatter flew the 2nd mission and covered roads from 8000 to 9000. They covered the roads from 8000 to 9000 and destroyed a score of motor trucks destroyed and 2 command cars.

From the standpoint of enemy equipment destroyed on this date, the activity for the day brought very good results. 20 motor trucks and 3 command cars were destroyed and 17 motor trucks, 11 command cars, 1 jeep and 1 armored car were damaged. 1 jeep and 1 military automobile were also destroyed and another jeep damaged.

17 Feb 44: A 12 ship mission, led by 1st Lt. [redacted], bombed the famous monastery at CASTLE this date. Our pilots were firing 75mm, received for the interim until our aircraft could be obtained. The monastery was the target for heavy and medium bombers on the previous day. It appeared to be in ruins, and at least a direct bomb hit was secured, with several very near misses on either side. All aircraft strafed the target in the fire, and small arms and machine gun fire was encountered over the target.

27 Feb 44: Lt. Dolny led the only mission to bomb the 17700A airfield near [redacted]. Wood bomb coverage was secured all along the hangar area, and one large hangar at the southeast side of the field exploded, due to a direct bomb hit. Huge flames and large columns of smoke resulted, and it is believed to have been a gasoline storage dump. Two aircraft, one P-52 and one P-42 on the field, both possibly serviceable, were destroyed by bomb hits. The motor truck was destroyed and two motor trucks and one large truck and trailer were damaged.

- h. Commanding Officers in important missions.
 - (1) See accounts of missions above, wherein leaders are named.

i. Losses in action.

- (1) Two ships combat mission over road net 7000 - 8000A -

PRIVACY.

(c) Missing.

- 1. Lambert de Myer, 1st Lt., CW-2923
5909, Elliott St.,
Dallas, Texas.





in action:

1. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves

- (1) William H. Devoll, 1st Lt., O-662898, 5th AIG, Farmville, Va.
- (2) Swinton L. Shortridge, 1st Lt., O-649233, 5th AIG, West Grove, Pennsylvania.
- (3) Robert L. Drew, 2nd Lt., O-72580, 4th AIG, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.
- (4) John H. Dolny, 1st Lt., O-72779, 4th AIG, Minneapolis, Minn.
- (5) James H. Jaines, 2nd Lt., O-671521, 4th AIG, Athens, Texas.
- (6) Richard H. King, 2nd Lt., O-737135, 4th AIG, Minneapolis, Minn.
- (7) Herschel H. Lattus, 2nd Lt., O-796000, 4th AIG, Pittsburg, Pa.
- (8) Edward H. Ryan, 2nd Lt., O-799200, 4th AIG, Pittsburg, Pa.
- (9) Joe J. McGill, F. O., T-60799, 4th AIG, Ravenna, Ohio.
- (10) Bertil H. Liljeborg, 2nd Lt., O-633747, 4th AIG, Chicago, Ill.

(2) Inclosed in our diary, 325th Ptr. Hqr. Sq., for the period 1 February 1944 to 1 March 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

M. J. Mackell
 MAJ. T. J. MACKELL,
 Capt., Air Corps,
 Intelligence Officer.

Incl: our Diary





Sheet No. 40 War Diary. 50th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

1 No missions today due to bad weather.

2 Maj. Home and Lt. Palmer flew a weather mission and road reconnaissance at 8:25 and destroyed 5 motor trucks and 1 motorcycle. No other traffic was seen.

The second mission consisted of 12 ships and was led by Lt. Kasun to bomb the town of FABRICA di ROMA, and to cover the AVEZZANO-SORA roads. A road junction was bombed and one direct hit was observed, all other bombs having 1-24 hour delay fuses. 2 motor trucks on the intersection were destroyed by bombing and strafing. One other motor truck was destroyed and another damaged.

The third mission was led by Lt. DeIny and the target was a concentration of troops and motor trucks, but due to bad weather, the entire flight was forced to return to the base.

3 The first of six 2 ship rhubarbs was flown by Maj. Home and Lt. Horrigan. The road net from ITRI to PRIVERNO was covered with the following strafing results: 6 motor trucks, and 1 command car destroyed, and 5 motor trucks, 1 armored car, 1 command car, and 1 jeep damaged.

Lts. Kasun and Oldham next covered the roads from ITRI to LITTORIA. 3 motor trucks were destroyed and 2 damaged. 1 Fiat was also destroyed.

The third mission was also composed of 2 ships flown by Lts. Weigle and Duncan. The roads from ITRI to PRIVERNO were covered and 8 motor trucks were destroyed, another believed destroyed and 2 more damaged.

Lts. Dickison and O'Neil took their turn next and also secured good results. 1 command car was destroyed and 11 railroad cars were damaged. Three 20mm gun emplacements were also silenced and probably destroyed.

Lts. Wood and Guyer flew the fifth mission and covered roads from ITRI to POSTENA and VALMONTONE to PRIVERNO. 3 motor trucks, 1 command car and 1 jeep were destroyed and 5 motor trucks and a command car damaged. Lt. Guyer was forced to bail out over enemy territory on this mission. It is believed that his plane was hit by heavy machine gun fire. Lt. Wood saw his chute open at about 1,000 feet and followed it down to 200 feet, and it is believed that he landed safely.



Sheet No. 41 War Diary, Fifth FIGHTER BOMBING SQUAD, Pomigliano, Italy

Month of February, 1944, prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL

Capt., Air Corps, S-2

3 (Cont'd) F/O Angell and Lt. Mattes flew the sixth and last mission of the day. They covered the roads from CEPRANO to ITRI and brought back a score of 1 motor truck destroyed and 7 damaged.

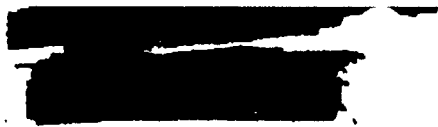
From the standpoint of enemy equipment destroyed and damaged, the activity for the day brought very good results. 26 motor trucks and 3 command cars were destroyed and 17 motor trucks, 11 railroad cars, 1 command car and 1 armored car were damaged. 1 jeep and 1 Fiat automobile were also destroyed and another jeep damaged.

5 The first mission today, consisted of 8 ships and was led by Lt. Dolny. 1 instantaneous bomb went off on an intersection in the town of VELLETRI and 12 more were scattered over the town. The flight strafed roads on the way back and 3 motor trucks were destroyed, one carrying personnel. 6 additional motor trucks, 1 jeep, 1 motorcycle and 1 sedan were also damaged. 1 sedan was also destroyed. A battery of 4 guns was strafed, and 1 gun probably destroyed.

A 12 ship mission was flown this afternoon, led by Lt. Kasun. The target was a road near CISTERNA di LITTORIA and complete results were unobserved, due to the fact that most of the bombs were equipped with delayed action fuses. A locomotive and 7 cars were strafed and a motorcycle in the town was strafed and destroyed.

6 One mission, 12 aircraft, was flown today. It was led by Lt. Dolny, and the target was the communication system at SAN STEFANO, a long way up the Italian coast. Bombs were dropped on roads and four on 3 power barges in the harbor. Hits were observed on the road and near misses on the barges. Two radio towers were strafed.

7 Only one mission was flown today, one of 8 ships, led by Lt. Weigle. A string of about 40 railroad cars was the target and considerable damage was done by both strafing and bombing. Red flight glide bombed and White flight dive bombed the target and several direct hits were secured in the middle of the string of cars. A large red flash was seen when the first bomb hit. One hit was seen on a building in the south end of the yards, and the remainder were on or near the cars. 2 motor trucks and 1 large truck and trailer were destroyed and 6 motor trucks were damaged by additional strafing.



Sheet No. 42 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2

7 (Cont'd) It was learned today that this squadron would receive P-40's and our A-36's would be divided between the remaining two squadrons of this group, and the 111th Rcn Sqdn. The P-40's formerly belonged to the 33rd Fighter Group. There was much gloom around the squadron when this news came out, both among pilots and maintenance personnel. Lts. Horrigan and Nelson are the only pilots with P-40 experience. They, along with a detachment of ground crew men from the 33rd Group will assist in getting the squadron ready to operate with the P-40's.

8 - 15 Period taken up with getting P-40's into good condition and checking out all pilots.

14 Finley C. Brinley assigned to the squadron. Lt. Brinley was formerly in the 526th Squadron, and had flown 38 sorties there, before being transferred to the 525th.

16 The town of FONDI was the target for the first mission, and the 12 ship formation was led by Lt. Kasun. 10 bomb hits were observed in the town itself; and 1 hit on a building just south of town. 10 aircraft strafed in the dive and very little flak was received from a hill just north of town. Columns of gray smoke as high as 3,000 feet were seen as the flight was returning, past Gaeta Point.

Lt. Doiny led the second mission, also of 12 ships, which bombed the town of ROCCA SECCA. 2 or 3 direct hits were seen in the town and 2 or 3 more in CASTRELLO, a town on the ridge overlooking ROCCA SECCA, and about a half mile away. The rest of the bombs were dropped on roads on either side of the town. One small explosion, followed by smoke and flames was seen in ROCCA SECCA and was believed to have been a building which exploded after a direct bomb hit. Further results were unobserved.

The last mission today was led by Lt. Kasun and was assigned to bomb the town of PONTECORVO, but after going as far as SPERLONGA, rain and complete cloud coverage over the target area, forced the flight to return to the base with their bombs.

Cpts. Blackwell and Louis left today with Capt. W. R. Cutler on a B-25 for a trip to Africa.



