

SECRET

g. Operations:

- (1) Campaign: German. Ended 9 May 1945.
- (2) Nature of operations: Combat missions by flights of P-47 type aircraft, on dive-bombing, strafing and escort, particularly in attacking enemy communications, and principally of dive-bombing and strafing type.
- (3) Number of missions and sorties for period: (1 May to 10 May 1945).
 - (a) Missions: 10.
 - (b) Sorties: 96.
- (4) Results of important missions:
 - (a) No important missions flown.

h. Commanding Officer and important missions:

- (1) Commanding Officer: Captain CLYDE H. BAILES, (Acting).
- (2) Important missions: None to report.

i. Losses in action. None.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves.

WALTER C. TAYLOR, JR., Capt.	SILVER STAR
BUSHNELL W. WELCH, Capt.	FIRST CLC TC DFC
JAMES C. KUNL, Capt.	DFC
JOHN H. KUPPERS, 1st Lt.	DFC
JOHN W. LEPRY, 1st Lt.	DFC
WALLACE A. HEFNER, Capt.	FIRST CLC TC DFC
JAMES R. GLOCKLER, 1st Lt.	DFC
ALFRED E. REHARD, 1st Lt.	DFC
ALVIN W. JONES, 1st Lt.	DFC
JOHN W. LOVETT, JR.	DFC
BERRIGER A. ANDERSON, 2nd Lt.	DFC
THOMAS J. HUSS, Flight Officer	DFC
ROBERT L. GOFF, S/Sgt.	Bronze Star
JACK (M1) HART, S/Sgt.	Bronze Star

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, APC 374, New York, N. Y., for period 1 May 1945 to 1 June 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

- 4 Incls: 1. War Diary.
- 2. General Order # 112, First TAF
- 3. General Order # 61, XII TAC.
- 4. General Order # 70, XII TAC.

Howard C. Wolf
 HOWARD C. WOLF,
 1st Lt., Air Corps,
 Unit Historian

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 374, US Army
31 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 61)

E X T R A C T

SECTION III - AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (DLA)

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the First Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officer, now missing in action, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and next of kin as indicated:

BUSHNELL N. WELCH, O-759135, Captain, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 9 March 1945, Captain WELCH led a flight of P-47's in an attack on enemy railroads north of Achern, Germany. He skillfully maneuvered below low overcast and bombed a 35-car train, destroying fifteen cars loaded with heavy guns and damaged the others carrying motor vehicles and equipment. In the face of intense accurate anti-aircraft fire, he made repeated strafing attacks on another equipment loaded train, setting two cars afire before his aircraft was crippled by a shell fragment. Displaying resolute courage, he flew his aircraft to friendly territory before bailing out. The outstanding professional skill and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: James E. Welch (Father), 12 Pine Ridge Road, Wellesley Hills, Mass.

SECTION IV - AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JAMES C. KUHL, O-661226, Captain, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp., For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 23 December 1944, Captain KUHL flew in a formation attacking enemy rail and motor transport targets in the Central Po Valley, Italy. Displaying exceptional flying skill in adverse weather conditions, he participated in a series of low level strafing attacks which resulted in destruction or damage of three steam locomotives, forty-three railroad cars, a railroad wrecker, and one motor transport. Captain KUHL's resolute courage in the face of enemy fire, his outstanding proficiency, and his steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

R E S T R I C T E D

GO # 61, Hq XII TAO, 31 Mar 45, cont'd.....

JOHN H. KUPPERS, O-823093, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 10 January 1945, Lt. KUPPERS led a flight in a formation attacking an enemy oil depot at Milan, Italy. Undaunted by adverse weather, he skillfully maintained his flight in formation and diving in precision attack bombed the target with devastating effect. Reforming his flight, he led it in strafing targets of opportunity, destroying or damaging two steam locomotives, one motor transport, and thirty-four railroad cars, six of which burned and three of which exploded with terrific impact blowing out the railroad bed for a length of forty feet. His outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Lakeland, Fla.

JOHN W. LEFRY, O-822208, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 19 March 1945, Lt. LEFRY flew as element leader in a formation of P-47's attacking railroad rolling stock northeast of Pforzheim, Germany. Undaunted by intense anti-aircraft fire, he skillfully bombed a locomotive, scoring direct hits, and returning in the face of enemy fire made repeated strafing passes on other targets of opportunity. He accounted, with his flight, for the destruction or damage of eleven locomotives, three motor transports, and sixteen railroad cars. His outstanding professional skill and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Apponaug, R. I.

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

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 500-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Proy), the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

WALLACE A. WOFFMEYER, O-704347, Captain, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 9 March 1945, Captain WOFFMEYER led a formation of P-47 type aircraft in an attack upon a train loaded with heavy guns, motor transports and other equipment, near Achern, Germany. Despite low overcasts and in the face of intense accurate anti-aircraft fire, he executed a run on the objective enabling his flight to cover the train with bomb hits, destroying fifteen flat cars and blowing out 150 feet of the rail line. In strafing attacks he started fires among the vehicles and equipment on the remaining cars and silenced five light guns in the target area. His outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Coatsburg, Wis.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BARCUS:

R E S T R I C T E D

CO # 61, Hq, XII TAC, 31 Mar 45 (Cont'd).....

GEORGE L. HART, JR.,
Colonel, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

FRANCIS T. EGAN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
AFC 374

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 112)

11 May 1945

E X T R A C T

I. AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, the following named officers are awarded the SILVER STAR:

WALTER C. TAYLOR, JR., O-821561, Captain, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 18 March 1945, Captain TAYLOR led a nine-plane formation of fighter-bombers in an attack upon enemy motor transports and tanks near Homburg, Germany, while friendly ground troops assaulted positions in the Siegfried Line. Although exposed to great danger from antiaircraft fire, he led his formation beneath a low cloud cover to bomb with devastating effect four concentrations of vehicles. Then in the face of continuing enemy fire he returned to make ten strafing passes, breaking off only after he had exhausted his supply of ammunition. This bombing and strafing attack left forty-six motor vehicles and two tanks a mass of twisted and burning wreckage and greatly aided American ground troops in overcoming the enemy in the Siegfried Line. Captain TAYLOR's gallant courage and intrepid leadership are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Newark, N. J.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEBSTER:

C. E. CRUMBINE,
Col., Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

T. J. BEOGAN,
Col., AGD,
Adjutant General.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't S-2 Officer.

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 70)

AFD 374, US ARMY
8 May 1945

E X T R A C T

SECTION I - AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JAMES R. GLOECKLER, O-774117, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 31 March 1945, leading a flight of P-47 type aircraft, Lt. GLOECKLER destroyed a large convoy of enemy transport withdrawing from the battle area near Bad Mergentheim, Germany. Undaunted by the enemy fighters in the area, he courageously led his flight in bombing and strafing equipment packed vehicles, destroying a tank which fired at his formation and returning to make numerous low-level strafing attacks. His ammunition exhausted, he returned to base, leaving behind more than sixty enemy motor transports burning or severely damaged. The outstanding courage and professional skill displayed by Lt. GLOECKLER reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Turlock, Calif.

ALFRED E. IRELAND, JR., O-774168, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 4 April 1945, Lt. IRELAND led a formation of P-47 fighter-bombers attacking defended railroad trains loaded with motor vehicles near Orsilsheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding leadership and great courage as he pressed his attack at low-level, he made repeated strafing passes on these trains, silencing the gunners and destroying or damaging the locomotives and the vehicles. He strafed targets of opportunity in the area, until his ammunition almost completely exhausted, he broke off the attacks and returned to base, having accounted with his flight for destruction or damage of eighty-two motor vehicles, two locomotives, fifty-one railroad cars, and three horse-drawn vehicles, besides causing untold casualties among enemy personnel. Lt. IRELAND's gallant leadership and professional skill reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Long Beach, Calif.

LAWRENCE W. JONES, O-487458, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 24 March 1945, Lt. JONES flew on a fighter-bomber mission attacking enemy rail, highway and river traffic south of Mannheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding flying ability, he dive bombed and wrecked a twelve car railroad train, strafed and destroyed four motor

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
APC 374

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 112)

11 May 1945

E X T R A C T

I. AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, the following named officers are awarded the SILVER STAR:

WALTER C. TAYLOR, JR., O-821561, Captain, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 18 March 1945, Captain TAYLOR led a nine-plane formation of fighter-bombers in an attack upon enemy motor transports and tanks near Homburg, Germany, while friendly ground troops assaulted positions in the Siegfried Line. Although exposed to great danger from antiaircraft fire, he led his formation beneath a low cloud cover to bomb with devastating effect four concentrations of vehicles. Then in the face of continuing enemy fire he returned to make ten strafing passes, breaking off only after he had exhausted his supply of ammunition. This bombing and strafing attack left forty-six motor vehicles and two tanks a mass of twisted and burning wreckage and greatly aided American ground troops in overcoming the enemy in the Siegfried Line. Captain TAYLOR's gallant courage and intrepid leadership are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Newark, N. J.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEBSTER:

C. E. CRUMBINE,
Col., Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

T. J. BROGAN,
Col., AGD,
Adjutant General.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't S-2 Officer.

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

GENERAL ORDERS)
 1
NUMBER 70)

APO 374, 1st ARMY
8 May 1945

E X T R A C T

SECTION I - AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JAMES R. GLOECKLER, O-774117, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 31 March 1945, leading a flight of P-47 type aircraft, Lt. GLOECKLER destroyed a large convoy of enemy transport withdrawing from the battle area near Bad Mergentheim, Germany. Undaunted by the enemy fighters in the area, he courageously led his flight in bombing and strafing equipment packed vehicles, destroying a tank which fired at his formation and returning to make numerous low-level strafing attacks. His ammunition exhausted, he returned to base, leaving behind more than sixty enemy motor transports burning or severely damaged. The outstanding courage and professional skill displayed by Lt. GLOECKLER reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Turlock, Calif.

ALFRED E. IRELAND, JR., O-774168, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 4 April 1945, Lt. IRELAND led a formation of P-47 fighter-bombers attacking defended railroad trains loaded with motor vehicles near Oralsheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding leadership and great courage as he pressed his attack at low-level, he made repeated strafing passes on these trains, silencing the gunners and destroying or damaging the locomotives and the vehicles. He strafed targets of opportunity in the area, until his ammunition almost completely exhausted, he broke off the attacks and returned to base, having accounted with his flight for destruction or damage of eighty-two motor vehicles, two locomotives, fifty-one railroad cars, and three horse-drawn vehicles, besides causing untold casualties among enemy personnel. Lt. IRELAND's gallant leadership and professional skill reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Long Beach, Calif.

ALVIN W. JONES, O-487458, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 24 March 1945, Lt. JONES flew on a fighter-bomber mission attacking enemy rail, highway and river traffic south of Mannheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding flying ability, he dive bombed and wrecked a twelve car railroad train, strafed and destroyed four motor

R E S T R I C T E D

GO # 70, Hq., XII TAC, 8 May 45 (cont'd)

transports, and then pressed a vigorous strafing attack against a concentration of motor launches in the Rhine River. Three direct hits by enemy anti-aircraft set fire to his plane, damaged the horizontal stabilizer and elevator, knocked out his air speed indicator and hydraulic system. By sheer courage, exposing himself to the danger of gasoline explosion, he remained in his crippled aircraft and skillfully piloted it back for a perfect crash landing at his base. Lt. JONES' resolute courage and exceptional skill reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Portland, Ore.

JOHN W. LOWITT, JR., O-720886, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations. On 5 April 1945, Lt. LOWITT was a flight leader of a P-47 mission to bomb and strafe enemy railroad trains between Orailsheim and Ansbach, Germany. Displaying great courage and determined leadership as he maneuvered through intense anti-aircraft fire to strike at the enemy, he personally accounted for five locomotives and twenty-five railroad cars out of thirteen locomotives and fifty-five cars destroyed or damaged by his formation. Lt. LOWITT's outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Detroit, Mich.

PERCIVAL A. AMERSON, O-777974, Second Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 9 April 1945, Lt. AMERSON, flew as element leader in an attack upon three enemy gun positions obstructing the path of friendly ground troops near Niederstetten, Germany. He skillfully dive-bombed his objective, then circled above to provide cover for other members of the formation. Sighting four Me-109's on the deck, he pressed a vigorous attack against two of the enemy fighters until they exploded in flame and crashed. The outstanding professional skill and aggressiveness displayed by Lt. AMERSON reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. San Francisco, Calif.

THOMAS J. HUSS, T-126696, Flight Officer, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 20 April 1945, Flight Officer HUSS distinguished himself through superior leadership and resolute courage leading a formation of P-47 fighter-bombers in an attack upon a heavily defended airdrome at Ingolstadt, Germany. Undaunted by intense accurate anti-aircraft fire, he skillfully led his flight in bombing and repeatedly strafing the airdrome, destroying or damaging twenty-six enemy aircraft and demolishing two ammunition dumps which exploded with terrific impact sending smoke and debris up to 10,000 feet. The outstanding courage and professional skill displayed by Flight Officer HUSS reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Des Moines, Iowa.

BY ORDER AND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BARCUS:

R E S T R I C T E D

GP # 70. Eq. XII TAC, 8 May 45 (Cont'd)

GEORGE L. BENT, JR.,
Colonel, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

W. N. RENDE,
Major, A. S. C.,
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 154. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APC 374, N. Y.

Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

- 1 The big event of the day was Command assigning the Group a special mission. Thirty-six planes from the Group were to go to the Munich area, pick up some enemy fighters and escort them back to the field, where the enemy planes would land. Some arrangements had been made with the enemy but bad weather prevented the show from taking place. All the pilots were excited and rumors ran high as to whether or not this was the end of the war.
- 2 Stand-down for maintenance. The Stars and Stripes and the German radio reports Hitler dead. That is indeed good news, if true. The German Army in Italy surrendered today.
- 3 A telegram from Hap Arnold arrived today. The contents of it made fresh rumors fly and speculation ran high. According to the telegram experienced units will return to the States for training. The question seems to be, are we an experienced unit or less experienced than some others in the Theater? Two years overseas for most of the enlisted men should qualify it as an experienced Group.
- 4 Rain and cloudy skies kept the Squadron grounded for the day. Hoffiezer and Lepry, two pilots who have finished their tour of duty, left today for Nancy, France, where they will wait for their papers to come through. The War news continues good and as each day goes by the missions get longer. No bombs are carried now and finding a target is a complicated job.
- 5 Stand-down for maintenance. Rumor has it that the outfit will soon be leaving for Stuttgart. The unconditional surrender of Northern Germany and Holland was welcome news. It seems, from all accounts, that this War has just about had it.
- 6 According to the radio the announcement that V-E Day is here can be expected at any hour. Churchill will announce it from London and at the same time it will be announced in Russia and Washington. Rumors still persist in floating around and whether we will go home or where we will go remains a high point of speculation. Two missions flown today and no bombing or strafing targets could be found. The advance echelon is supposed to leave for Stuttgart 8 May.
- 7 The schedule has been tapered off the last few days and today we only have three missions. The news looks better and better and a telegram was received by Group today stating that the Germans had surrendered unconditionally and that it would go into effect at 0001 hours, 9 May. It looks as though the long awaited day is in sight and the question now arises as to what will become of the Group. Will we go back to the States or to CBI or are we occupation Army, three good questions for which we would like to know the answers.
- 8 Today is V-E Day. Churchill will announce to the world at three PM that the war in Europe is over. From all indications the day will be well celebrated by all and some of the officers already have a good start for tonight.
- 9 This morning a memorial service will be held for all the pilots who are missing in action or have been killed in action. A Six-plane formation will fly over

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 155. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gr., APO 374, I. I.

Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

the Services and will fly in such a formation that it will appear as though one of the planes is missing. Everyone will attend and the Group Commander will speak. Everyone is still wondering where we are going and whether or not we will move to Stuttgart. Some of the boys who went down there on the advanced scrounging party are still down there and are wondering whether to come back here or stay down there. From all reports there are barracks for enlisted men and officers down there. Our Commanding Officer, Major Taylor, has been transferred to Group and at present Captain Hailes is our Acting Commanding Officer. Captain Wood while flying a small German trainer hit an aerial on the field and crashed injuring the crew chief quite seriously and shaking himself up quite badly besides knocking out several teeth and fracturing a rib. Mike Brown, the crew chief, was sent back to the States via C-54.

- 10 Celebrations in the enlisted men's area are a nightly occurrence and continue well into the wee hours of the morning. Shortly after arriving at this base someone discovered a large brewery close to Worms that seemed to have an unlimited stock of wine and champagne and for several days the fellows kept hauling it in until nearly everyone had at least one case. White wine and champagne seemed to be the favorite but a large quantity of red champagne and wine could also be found. Regardless of color it produced the desired effect complete with hangovers. Poker and drinking are the only diversions for the men stationed in Germany and they are both entered into whole heartedly. The area resembles a cooperative farm in many respects. Some of the fellows have a couple of pigs, others chickens and geese and the savory odor of roast fowl and barbecued meat fill the air every evening. The Squadron was stood down for the day. The present plan calls for one squadron a day standing by and two stood down. The pilots are already starting to bitch about so little flying. The enlisted men receive a paper today and they are to put down whether they want to go to GBI or go to CBI. Not much of a choice, however most of them would rather go to CBI than stick around Germany.
- 11 A forty-eight plane mission was flown by the Group today in preparation for an Air Show over Paris in the near future. After they landed the runway was closed and flying suspended for the day. Still no definite report as to where we'll move and when.
- 12 The Squadron received about fifteen new pilots today. These pilots were C-47 pilots who came overseas and then when the crossing of the Rhine was made were thrown into gliders and C-47's. Now they are assigned to fighters and will start transition flying as soon as possible.
- 13 The main topic of the day seems to be points. All the enlisted men are running around trying to figure out how many points they have and how soon they can get out of the Army. There seems to be a little confusion as to how many battle stars we have and some of the men who are just on the border line are sweating out at least one more star.
- 14 The new pilots are getting indoctrination now and cockpit time in the P-47. They are anxious to start flying and to try their hand at something a

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 156. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

little bit better than the old C-47 they are used to flying. The point system is still the most discussed subject of the day and all the enlisted men are trying to convince themselves they are not essential. At the present time it seems that the desire of most of the men is to get out of the Army.

- 15 Routine training again today. Rumors still persist that we are going to move but where or when no one seems to know. However we all are hoping for the best.
- 16 The new pilots checked out today. All of them did pretty well and they all got a big thrill out of the P-47. They all claim that at least they have a plane that doesn't fly like a truck.
- 17 One of the pilots on a routine flight flew a little low today and came back with part of a tree in the plane. The plane was a complete wreck and the pilot may be in serious trouble for flying too low.
- 18 Routine training with very few of the veteran pilots flying more than is required to draw their flying pay. After a hard month or two when the big push was on a vacation seems to be in order. A number of bicycles have made their appearance in the Squadron and cycling and photography take up most of the leisure time. The open-air theater presents a show every other night and while a number of them are of ancient vintage the size of the crowd seems to increase every night. Some training films have been shown and among them the old V.D. picture, seen by everyone when they were inducted and dozens of times since much to everyone's disgust. A group of thirty men from the Squadron were sent to Innsbruck on detached service to guard some captured technical equipment. Two enlisted men a week are allowed to go to England and from all reports they have a wonderful time. Those who have been to both Paris and London say that London is much the best. Other rest camps in France are quite popular with both officers and enlisted men. Morale of the men is as high as it has ever been since coming overseas as all of them have hopes of getting to the States soon.
- 23 Unit censorship of mail has finally stopped. We are allowed to tell where we are and the details of the trip across the pond. In fact nearly anything can be mentioned except information regarding our war with Japan. This was greeted with enthusiasm by both officers and enlisted men, the men because they can now say anything they wish and the officers because they are relieved of the job of censoring mail.
- 24 Training continues as usual. The recent change of battle stars for Germany has caused much speculation and the men have started to refigure their points, trying to squeeze another five or ten out of what they read in the Stars and Stripes.
- 25 The picture "Two Down and One to Go" will be shown today and attendance is compulsory. This picture deals with redeployment and discharge of troops

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 157. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.
 Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

and should be of interest to all concerned.

- 26 Twelve of our pilots put on an air show over Stuttgart. Usual training and usual rumors prevailed. Captain HAILLES left for a five day rest leave at Nancy. The men are still counting up their points and wondering when they are going home.
- 27 Bad weather prevented the usual training program. Most of the pilots made a bee-line for the Club and late last night the sounds of revelry resounded throughout the town. Chow doesn't seem quite up to par lately but the mail seems to be coming through pretty good. Still no official word as to what we are going to do and we are all sweating it out.
- 28 A presentation was held today and some of the pilots received back awards due them. Lt. FRSYTHE was killed today when his plane crashed and exploded on a practice bombing run. Captain Louis is hard at work organizing a Group newspaper.
- 29 Lt. FRSYTHE will be buried this morning. No one seems to know what caused the plane to crash but the general explanation is that the plane did a high speed stall and snapped. Rumors still persist and the latest one is that by 2 June we will have our orders to go home. That I'll have to see.
- 30 Memorial Day services will be held on the field this morning with the 415th Night Fighters and the 319 Service Group participating. Word was received from the 525th Sq. that Lt. Huff's grave had been found in Italy. Lt. Huff's plane was hit by flak while flying a mission in Northern Italy and he did not have enough altitude to bail out. There are still several other pilots we lost in Italy of which we have received no word. In the very near future the Squadron will send some officers to Italy in search of information about the missing pilots.
- 31 Payday today but it means very little to us as there is nothing on which to spend money. The Group received twelve new airplanes today from the 50th Group and we are supposed to get more. This caused a new outbreak of rumors as to why they gave the planes to us and what the 50th Group is going to do. Captain Hailles returned from rest leave in Nancy and from all reports really had himself a time. Lt. Leader promoted to Captain.

S E C R E T

RESTRICTED

SR - FI - 526 - 41
JUNE 1945HEADQUARTERS, 526TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
86TH FIGHTER GROUP, APO 374, N. Y.

AG 314.7

30 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

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

1. Outline History of the 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, for the period 1 June to 1 July 1945.

a. Present designation: 526th Fighter Squadron, SE., 86th Fighter Group, SE.

b. Changes in organization:

- (1) Changes in designation: None.
- (2) Disposition of echelons and subordinate units: None.
- (3) Changes in Commanding Officers: Special Order # 84, Hq. 86th Gp. 12 June 1945. Captain CLYDE H. HAILES, O-820407, from Acting Sq. Commander to Sq. Commander.
- (4) Changes in Staff Officers: Sq. O. # 14, 9 June 1945. Capt. DOUGLAS W. LEADER, O-829102, is in addition to his other duties appointed Operations Officer (Prim duty) vice Capt. GEORGE E. WOOD, O-820385, relieved.

Sq. O. # 16, 21 June 1945. First Lt. HOWARD C. WOLF, O-1059108, is in addition to his other duties appointed Intelligence Officer (Prim duty) vice Captain ALEXANDER (NMI) LOUIS, O-566024, transferred.

Sq. O. # 89, 86th Gp., 8 June 1945. First Lt. EUGENE W. KROLL, O-561451, is in addition to his other duties appointed Assistant Intelligence Officer (Prim duty) vice 1st Lt. HOWARD C. WOLF, O-1059108, relieved.

Sq. O. # 111, XII TAC, 15 June 1945. Captain PHILLIP COX, O-407311, is in addition to his other duties appointed Flight Surgeon (Prim duty) vice FRANCIS C. MURPHY, O-420513 transferred.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted men:

(1) Month of June 1945.

- (a) At beginning: 67 officers; 242 E.M. assigned.
- (b) Net increase: 13 officers; None.
- (c) Net decrease: None ; 12 E.M.
- (d) At end : 80 officers; 230 E.M. assigned.

d. Stations: Strip Y-72. Braunscherdt, Germany.

e. Movements: None.

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- f. Campaigns: Sicilian - 7 July -- 18 August 1943.
 Naples Foggia - 18 August 1943 -- 21 January 1944.
 Southern France - 15 August 1944 -- 26 September 1944.
 Rome Arno - 22 January 1944 -- 21 February 1945.
 German 23 February 1945 -- 9 May 1945.

g. Operations:

(1) Nature of operations: Operations consisted entirely of training flights of P-47 type aircraft in local area.

h. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves:

DEAN L. KENNEDY, 1st Lt.	BRONZE STAR
EDWARD D. JETTE, 1st Lt.	BRONZE STAR
JOHN J. SULLIVAN, S/Sgt.	BRONZE STAR
WENDELL E. PETERSON, Sgt.	BRONZE STAR
AUSTIN J. FOX, S/Sgt.	BRONZE STAR
GILBERT W. KNECHT, 1st/Sgt.	BRONZE STAR

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, APO 374, New York, N. Y., for period 1 June 1945 to 1 July 1945.

For the Commanding Officers

Howard C. Wolf
 HOWARD O. WOLF,
 1st Lt., Air Corps,
 Unit Historian.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 158. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 1 A dance will be held at the Officers' Club tonight. Fifteen nurses have been invited and if things turn out as planned it will be a weakly affair. A dance is a pretty hard affair to put on in Germany due to the lack of females. However most of the officers manage to find themselves a woman somewhere and somehow turn up with a good supply of whiskey.
- 2 The dance last night turned out to be quite an affair or at least a noisy one. All night long the yells of the participants could be heard throughout the streets. Good whiskey went on sale at 2100 hours and by 2200 hours it was all gone and after that came the substitutes. Today is the day, which according to rumor, our orders to prepare for movement to the States should come out. Everyone is sweating it out but so far it is just a rumor.
- 3 Latest development seems to be that the 86th Group will be a "Repple Depple". However no one seems to know the official score yet but we will probably find out in due time. Most of the boys and especially those with high points are really sweating it out.
- 4 Today marks the start of our physical training program. Classes will be held from 1300 hours to 1500 hours and from 1530 hours to 1730 hours. There will be four teams and all types of sports, swimming, baseball, track, volley ball, etc., will be indulged in. Most of the men would probably rather indulge in this type of exercise than in drill but if no cooperation is shown for the present plan it will be necessary to resort to the old Army custom of drilling. Lt. Brown has been assigned to some school where he will learn something about the Me-262. After completing this course he will fly one of them to England.
- 5 Opl. Cervini was seriously hurt today when a torch he was working on exploded. From all reports he has a broken leg, possible internal injuries and loss of sight in one and probably both eyes is probable. The PT program got off to a bang-up start yesterday and most of the fellows are of the opinion that they would rather have the present program than one consisting of drill.
- 6 One year ago the Allies landed in France. Today a holiday is being observed throughout the European Theater. Most of the pilots are recovering from a party of the night before. Our Group Commander was promoted to Colonel and the drinks were all on him. From the appearance of most of the officers this morning, it must have been a costly affair.
- 7 Stand-down today. Most of the men can be seen carrying cameras around and whenever a formation is held appearances would indicate that a camera is part of a class A uniform.
- 8 Captain Wood, better known as "Whiskey" leaves today for Paris on his first leg of the journey to the States. Sgts. Peterson and Sullivan have been awarded the Bronze Star. Still no indication of what the outfit will do and lately rumors have slowed down.
- 9 Captain Brown of the 525th Sq. was killed last night. A guard shot him when

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 159. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gr., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

when he failed to halt. Our weekly newspaper "Sortie" comes out today and most of the men are looking forward to their copy. Routine flying again today with PT classes in the afternoon.

- 10 Rumors today as usual. The men who are down at Innsbruck will soon be returning as trucks to pick them up are scheduled to leave tomorrow. All types of planes, both American and British, flew over Frankfurt today putting on an air show. We have now had pancakes about eight days straight. All the chickens in Germany must have gone on strike.
- 11 Classes under the I & E program start today. The class in photography had a good attendance and most of those who attended were well satisfied. Stand-down for the day, cold weather and rain. The physical training program seems to be popular. Most of the fellows enjoy the softball, football and swimming and outside of the creaking and cracking of old bones, the program makes good progress.
- 12 Heavy rain all day kept flying and physical training at a minimum. Trucks were sent to pick up the men who are at Innsbruck. Captain Hailes assumed command of the Squadron after serving as acting Squadron Commander for some time.
- 13 Flying for the first time in several days. Some of the officers are seeking students for a class in business law. Most of the classes being held are well attended.
- 14 Stand-down for the day. Captain Murphy, our flight surgeon, is leaving us to go to the 358th. "Doc" has always done a good job and he will be sorely missed.
- 15 Good flying weather and the usual training prevailed. The new pilots are shaping up fast and before long should finish up their training. The ground was still too wet from recent rains to hold physical training. Captain Louis, Intelligence Officer, is going to command for fifteen days on temporary duty. The Squadron officers will hold a dance tonight at the officers' club and thirty or more nurses are expected.
- 16 A dance will be held at the enlisted men's club and from all indications it should be a big success. Several truck loads of girls are brought in from neighboring DP camps and while they are not very adept at the American way of dancing they seem to be willing to learn. The dance at the officers' club was well attended and the liquor held out till about one o'clock in the morning. Captain Murphy left today and from all reports the group he joined is slated for shipment back to the States. Usual routine flying.
- 17 The whole Command was stood down today and no flying. The dance at the enlisted men's club was a huge success with beaucoup of women present. Lts. Ezell and Fenner left today for Cannes, France. Sgt. Peterson who just returned from England reports the UK a good place to spend a leave.
- 18 Routine flying in the morning and physical training in the afternoon. A big

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Sheet No. 160. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

swimming party is planned for the Fourth of July and from all indications it should be quite an affair. The rumors of our fate seem to have slowed down considerably and now everyone seems to think we'll be occupational.

19 Two of the pilots found Lt. Kuppers' plane and grave today. Lt. Kuppers was lost when the Squadron was operating from France. Usual routine flying with the new pilots looking better every day. Orders come out today clamping down on officers driving vehicles.

20 Captain "Doc" Cox our new Flight Surgeon, replacing Captain Murphy who was transferred, is well set up now and is already getting well known by the men. The library which was established in a trailer near Group Hq. is a big success and many of the men are making use of it. The outdoor theater continues to attract a large crowd.

21 Stand-down for the day. Captain Hailes and Leader went for a short trip to Nancy, France, in the UC-64. No late rumors seem to be floating around and that is really strange. Most of the men seem to think we'll be here anywhere from three to six months and perhaps longer. However we are still all hoping that we'll be back in the States before too long.

22 A big storm last night with plenty of rain stopped all chances for PT today. However no one seems especially moved about it. A hot rumor just made the rounds and according to it the outfit will be Army of Occupation for the next six months. However, so far it is still in the rumor stage. Major Taylor, our former CO, paid us a visit last night. He is stationed at Oslo, Norway, and from all accounts has a pretty fair job.

23 Usual routine flying and physical training. Work on the day room in the enlisted men's area seems to be at a standstill. Plenty of lumber but a shortage of manpower somewhere. Chow remains about the same, very poor, with pancakes four mornings out of five. Grumblings on that score continue to grow as with the intensive training program plus compulsory athletics the men are expending more physical effort than during our heaviest operational period of the war. The cut in rations leaves everyone hungry after each meal and requests for packages from home have increased considerably.

24 Stand-down for the day. Most of the educational classes seem to be getting along fairly well with photography proving the most popular. Rest leaves have been increased with men going to Paris, Cannes and the UK. According to official reports we are slated for an Occupational Air Force for the present at least.

25 The softball team of our Squadron played the 527th Sq. and drubbed them to the tune of 11 to 3. The hardball team lost their game. Usual flying and physical training. Word was received that we would soon be receiving more leaves to rest camps.

26 The "on the job" training classes are getting along very well. Efforts are being made to have Group discussions on topics of interest to the enlisted

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 161. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

men. Lt. Kroll, our new Intelligence Officer, has been made advisor to the Group newspaper.

- 27 Heavy rains prevented any flying or physical training. The EM's Club had a USO stage show last night. All the players were French but they gave a pretty fair show. Some of the men are starting to show a great interest in attending college while overseas. The radio and the Stars and Stripes announce that the 9th Air Force will go to the Pacific. This announcement, as expected, started another flock of rumors.
- 28 A new training program will start next Monday. Pilots will be required to fly 150 hours in the next six months. Besides this they will all be required to attend ground school. Ground personnel will attend school which will be made up of basic subjects such as close order drill, military courtesy, etc. As usual the complaints have already started.
- 29 A Group discussion will be held in the open air theater this morning. Educational opportunities is the topic and all the men will be encouraged to ask questions. Another gloomy day and it looks as though it will rain. On Thursdays, our stand-down day, many of the men are touring the surrounding country and report many interesting sights.
- 30 Pay-day today. The day room is nearly completed now and work is being rushed to finish it up as over the week end a large crowd will gather there to indulge in the various games of chance with hopes of at least doubling their pay. The new training program goes into effect next week and most of the men are wondering how they are going to find time to do all the things planned for them. If everything is carried out as planned there won't be time for anything but work and more flying will be accomplished than during our heaviest operational period of the war.

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**HEAD QUARTERS 326TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
326TH FIGHTER GROUP, 120 574, N. Y.**

OS 314.7

31 July 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command, 120 574, N. Y.

1. Outline History of the 326th Fighter Squadron, 326th Fighter Group, for the period 1 July to 1 August 1945.

a. Present designation: 326th Fighter Squadron, XII, 326th Fighter Group, XII.

b. Changes in organization:

- (1) Changes in designation: None.
- (2) Disposition of echelons and subordinate units: None.
- (3) Changes in Commanding Officers: None.
- (4) Changes in Staff Officers: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted men:

(1) Month of July 1945.

- (a) At beginning: 30 officers; 230 E.M. assigned.
- (b) Net increase: None ; None.
- (c) Net decrease: 30 officers; 5 E.M.
- (d) At end : 50 officers; 225 E.M. assigned.

d. Stations: Strip Y-72. Braunschweig, Germany.

e. Movements: None.

f. Campaigns: Sicilian - 7 July -- 13 August 1945.
 Naples Poggio - 13 August 1945 -- 21 January 1946.
 Rome Arno - 22 January 1946 -- 11 February 1946.
 Southern France - 15 August 1945 -- 26 September 1945.
 North of the Apennines - 5 September 1945 -- 4 April 1946.
 German - 2, February 1945 -- 9 May 1945.

g. Operations:

(1) Nature of operations: Operations consisted entirely of training flights of P-47 type aircraft in local area.

h. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves:

ROY W. BROOK Jr., 1st Lt. DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

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THEODORE E. DELIC, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(Encl.) PAUL J. DOMESTADIER, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
JOHN W. BIEHL, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
ROBERT L. FIELDS, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
JAMES B. HUNT, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
PAUL (KEN) MOODY, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
JOHN C. WEBER, 1st Lt.	1st OAC to DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 36th Fighter Squadron, 36th Fighter Group, APO 974, New York, N. Y., for period: July 1945 to August 1945.

For Commanding Officers:

Howard C Wolf

HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

2 Incls: 1. War Diary

2. Extract GO No. 101 D-12

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Sheet No. 162. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Op., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of July 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 1 The start of another month overseas and all the men still asking the same question, "When do we go home?" The new training program starts tomorrow, complete with physical training, lectures, etc, all which goes to remind the men of their basic training days. The Squadron will fly two days and stand down one; Sundays off and regular inspections on Saturday mornings. Captain Setencich, Lt. Weiner and Lt. Kliment are going home and are supposed to leave sometime tomorrow.
- 2 The first day of the new training program with rain in the morning discouraging all attempts at physical training. Under the new program all men will be required to attend and any missed lectures or classes will be made up. The photography class seems to be the most popular and the best attended.
- 3 Today is a cold, dreary day. The big 4th of July swimming meet is scheduled for tomorrow but if the weather stays like it is, it will be called off. Plans have been made for a big day. Swimming, boxing, softball and plenty of nurses have been invited. If the weather permits it should be a day to remember but from the looks of the sky most of it will be called off.
- 4 The swimming meet and all the other activities were called off. A dance was held at the Officers' Club and a wild time was had by all. The day room has been completed and many of the men spend their spare time there.
- 5 Everyone got over the July 4th celebration in good shape. Last night the Officers and Enlisted Men had a big time at their respective clubs where there were women, music, and dancing as well as something to tickle the throat. While flying this PM, one of our pilots, Lt. Kanoff, discovered that a P-47 had made a forced landing at Grailsheim. This was reported immediately to Group Operations.
- 6 The Squadron had classes today. Lt. Kroll gave an orientation lecture on the Pacific situation. An interesting chemical warfare lecture was given by Lt. Bird. He stated that because of their desire to die for their Emperor, the Japs in all probability will use gas when we invade their main islands. It is more likely, under present circumstances, that we will use gas against Japan first. We have everything to gain by such a move and would hardly be censured for it by the world because there is evidence that the Japs have used it against our Ally, China. Furthermore, we have never signed any agreement with anyone not to use gas. Lt. Wolf, Intelligence Officer, left for Paris where he will attend I & E school for seven days.
- 7 Inclement weather prevented the scheduled close order drill and area inspection. Some flying in the afternoon as the weather broke about noon.
- 8 Sunday is the official day off under the new program. The first clear day for some time and the area was practically deserted. A GI stage show was held at the E.M.'s Club.

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Sheet No. 163. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of July 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 9 Stand-down for the Squadron. Twenty-one of our old combat pilots were ordered to be ready to leave tomorrow for the States. The new pilots will continue the present training program.
- 10 Good flying weather with heavy operational activity. The pilots being transferred to the States were all clamoring for planes in which to get their required flying time in. According to the present plans they will leave tomorrow. Current rumors have us moving near Nurnburg between the first and the fifteenth of August but so far nothing official. It seems the Group has been turned into an MP outfit as we are posting guards on posts formerly taken care of by MP's. Belgian soldiers were posted on these posts for one day and must have proved unsatisfactory.
- 11 Heavy rains throughout the night and continuing into the day have brought operations to a standstill. A meeting at the EI's club for the purpose of electing officers resulted in a complete change with John Pierson of Hq. as President and Richard Kesner of the 526th Squadron as Vice President. Great things are promised.
- 12 Ground school, no flying. Lt. Kroll delivered a short resume of the situation in the Pacific followed by a history of the Nazi Party. Chow has improved and for the last several days it has been comparable to that which we had during combat. This has brought the grumbling about the chow situation back to normal with the U.S. political situation enjoying first place in the nightly bull sessions.
- 13 A bright clear day with flying as scheduled under the present training set-up. Rumors have sprung up concerning our moving into winter quarters and also that a large quota of men will leave for the U. S. on the point system. No authority for either one so, like many rumors of the past, these will eventually die out. S/Sgt. Bugosh and S/Sgt. Day left for the U. K. to attend school.
- 14 The Group passed in review before Group Officers. Bronze Star medals were presented to T/Sgt. Fred Wilson, S/Sgt. Jack Hart and S/Sgt. Goff. We have been authorized a cluster to our Presidential Citation which will be formally presented in the near future. Four planes were detailed to escort a C-54 carrying representatives to the Big Three conference to Berlin.
- 15 Sunday, a beautiful day. The headlines in the paper stated that the non-fraternization policy has been relaxed. Good news to most of the fellows who immediately left in search of fraulians. Morale of the men improved considerably with this news. Lt. Huss is accused of buzzing the field at Berlin, dropping his belly tank in a congested area, and several other breaches of regulations. It is believed he will be court-martialed.
- 16 Inclement weather curtailed flying and PT was postponed. Payroll was

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