

The men who man the Invaders are not, strictly speaking, fighter pilots. Their job is to get in there and bomb, or strafe and then get out and home again. For they can fight if they have to. During the desperate days at the Salerno beachhead, they rushed the Invaders in from Sicily to fly patrol over our troops. They did such a good job on this unfamiliar assignment that they drew the unstinting praise of American Spitfire pilots to whom combat is an old, familiar story. They shot down a dozen or more of the Luftwaffe's best fighter planes in three days. One fell victim to Capt. Robert M. Dungan of Oregon, Mo., who shot down a Focke-Wulf while carrying a full bomb load. And they didn't lose a single A-36 to the enemy in the air.

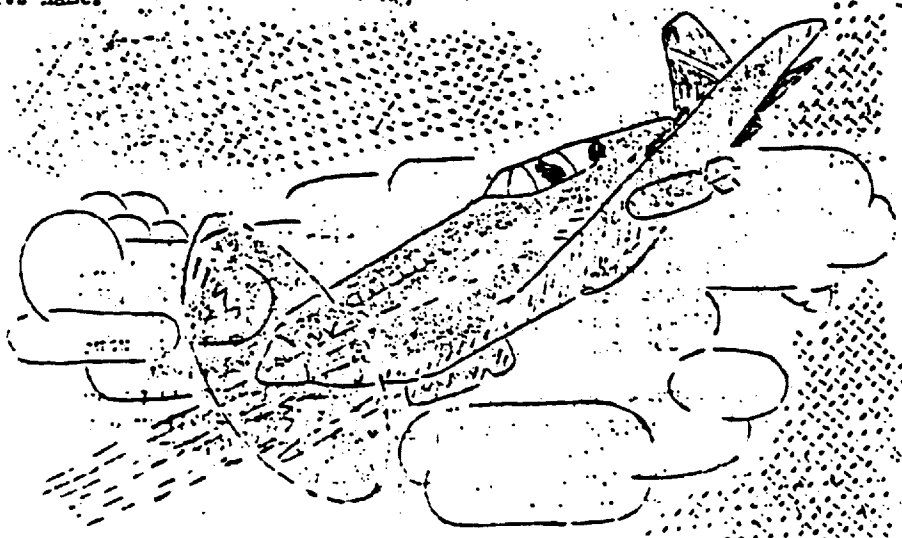
Invader pilots are young—all pilots are. The average age is about 25. They haven't the cockiness of a Spitfire pilot, the suave nonchalance of the P-40 fighter. But they have an esprit de corps that's incomparable. They're intensely proud of the ship they fly and the job they do. Many of them have upwards of sixty missions to their credit. That's a lot of combat and it can't help but age a man. They've been pounding the Germans since they went into combat last June over Pantelleria.

One group, headed by Lt. Col. Robert C. Paul, of Lake City, Fla., has been plugging away at Germany's Hermann Goering division ever since the landing in Sicily. Members of this group know each other intimately by now. The Germans are constantly trying new ruses to conceal their heavy tank guns and bag the A-36s. The Invaders are just as intent on devising new ways of sneaking down on the enemy troops and blasting more of their men and equipment to bits.

The A-36 groups operate close to the front lines. In fact they love to play host to visitors who don't realize this fact. You can stand in front of their Operations tent and watch a flight of the square-winged, square-tailed 36s take off. A few minutes later an officer will hold up a hand for silence. Sure enough, you can hear the thump of their exploding bombs on German territory only a few miles away. A few minutes later they're back on the ground, piling into a jeep headed for interrogation at the Intelligence tent.

The pilots name the A-36s themselves. Probably they're the first flyers to do so. It happened this way.

Back in Africa when they first entered combat, the news releases referred to the planes as Mustangs, or P-51 fighter-bombers. That irked the boys. True their ship is a Mustang converted into a dive-bomber. But they felt their work was such that they were entitled to some distinction from the P-51 fighter pilot. Sitting around a tent on a dusty Cape Bon airfield one day, they were trying to pick a name for their ship. After several failures, Lt. Robert B. Walsh, F-11, Idaho, spoke up. "What's the matter with calling it the Invader? They're using us right now to invade Sicily. Some day not so long from now, we'll be invading Europe." The others agreed. Since then the name has caught on and has received official sanction. The plane has lived up to its name.



CONFIDENTIAL

J.W. RANON

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52-51-507-111
APR 44

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527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON
OUTLINE HISTORY APRIL 1944

SECRET

527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON AAF
86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF
APO 650, U.S. ARMY

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374.

1. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL, TO 30 APRIL 1944.

- A. ORIGINAL UNIT:
 - (1) DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:
 - (1) CAPT. SHELDON W. FARNHAM ASSUMED COMMAND VICE MAJOR ROBERT J. KIRSCH, 17 APRIL 1944.
 - (2) 1ST LT. EUGENE C. WELCH APPOINTED OPERATIONS OFFICER VICE CAPT. GEORGE W. KASTNER, 11 APRIL 1944.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) MONTH OF APRIL 1944,
 - (A) AT BEGINNING: 1 APRIL 1944 - 43 OFFICERS ASSIGNED, 216 ENLISTED MEN.
 - (B) NET INCREASE: 15 ENLISTED MEN.
 - (C) NET DECREASE: 5 OFFICERS
 - (D) AT END: 38 OFFICERS ASSIGNED, 231 ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED.
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) POMIGLIANO D'ARCO AIRPORT, ITALY, 1 APRIL 1944 TO 30 APRIL 1944.
- E. OPERATIONS:
 - (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.
 - (2) SQUADRON FLEW TACTICAL MISSIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS DURING MONTH OF APRIL.
 - (3) SQUADRON COMPLETED 36 MISSIONS AND 332 SORTIES FOR PERIOD; 35 DIVE AND GLIDE BOMBING MISSIONS ON RAIL COMMUNICATIONS NORTH OF ROME, AND 1 STRAFING MISSION ON CANINO L/G SATTELITES.

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(4) RESULTS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS

- (A) MISSION #1013, 1 APRIL 1944
 1. COMMUNICATIONS MISSION, RAILWAY BRIDGE NORTH OF ROME.
 2. PURPOSE OF MISSION - CUT SUPPLY LINE TO ENEMY COMBAT TROOPS.
 3. DAMAGED BRIDGE, SCORED DIRECT HITS ON A 15 CAR TRAIN AS IT PULLED ON THE BRIDGE, FURTHER BLOCKING THE LINE.
 4. BLOCKED RAIL LINE, DAMAGED BRIDGE, DESTROYED 15 CAR TRAIN.

- (B) MISSION #1073, 17 APRIL 1944
 1. COMMUNICATIONS, RAIL LINE ATTIGLIANO TO ORTE.
 2. PURPOSE OF MISSION - CAUSE RAIL BLOCK ON THIS SECONDARY, BUT IMPORTANT GERMAN SUPPLY LINE.
 3. SCORED 2 DIRECT HITS ON RAILWAY TUNNEL, BLOCKING IT. SCORED DIRECT HITS ON 3 CARS EMERGING FROM TUNNEL, DESTROYING THEM. SCORED DIRECT HITS ON APPROACH TO RAILWAY BRIDGE. STRAFED AND BADLY DAMAGED 2 ADDITIONAL 15 CAR TRAINS, AND A LOCOMOTIVE.
 4. TRACK BLOCKED IN 3 PLACES, DAMAGED 30 LOADED CARS AND LOCOMOTIVE.

- (C) MISSION #1104, 24 APRIL 1944
 1. CANINO LANDING GROUNDS.
 2. PURPOSE OF MISSION - STRAFE LANDING GROUNDS MAIN FIGHTER BASE IN CENTRAL ITALY.
 3. STRAFED AND PROBABLY DESTROYED 2 FW-190'S. GAINED VITAL INFORMATION ON ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSES, AND DISPERSAL.

F. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:

- (1) 1ST LT. CARL JOHNSON, JR. LED THE SQUADRON ON MISSION #1013, 1 APRIL 1944 AND MISSION #1104, 24 APRIL 1944.
- (2) 1ST LT. JOSEPH C. WOOLHOUSE, JR. LED THE SQUADRON ON MISSION #1073, 17 APRIL 1944.

G. LOSSES IN ACTION:

- (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:
 - (A) MISSING IN ACTION - KNIGHT C. TREAT, O-736317 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 20 APRIL 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM DIVE-BOMBING MISSION. SHIP APPARENTLY HIT BY 20MM OR SMALL ARMS FIRE ON TARGET. BAILED OUT APPROXIMATELY 1/2 MILE SOUTH OF CASTEL GIULIANO, ITALY.
 - (B) MISSING IN ACTION - CHARLES E. MULNIX, O-754853 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 24 APRIL 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM STRAFING MISSION ON CANINO LANDING GROUNDS. WAS LAST SEEN AT A POINT 2-1/2 MILES SOUTHWEST OF MONTALTO DI CASTRO, ITALY. SHIP APPARENTLY UNDER CONTROL.

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H. MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:
(1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN: NO AWARDS MADE.

2. INCLOSED ARE WAR DIARY, 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 1944, TO 30 APRIL 1944, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Donald L. Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY
1ST LT., AIR CORPS
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

1 INCL:
WAR DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHED.

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PAGE NO 1. WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 26TH FTR. BOMBGR GP.

MONTH OF APRIL 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 1 | EXCELLENT MISSION THIS MORNING LED BY LT. JOHNSON. STARTING OUT TO HIT A RAILWAY BRIDGE ON VITAL RAIL LINE NORTH OF ROSE, THE FLIGHT LEADER DISCOVERED A TRAIN ON THE APPROACH TO THE BRIDGE. TIMING THEIR DIVE PERFECTLY THEY BLEW UP THE TRAIN AS IT STARTED ACROSS THE BRIDGE, BLOCKING THE RAIL LINE, DAMAGING BRIDGE AND DESTROYING THE TRAIN. LT. MILLER'S SHIP WAS BADLY DAMAGED BY FLYING DEBRIS, BUT HE BROUGHT IT HOME SAFELY. (PFO RELEASE--SEE ATTACHED CLIPPINGS). I/SGT. DEWENT TRANSFERRED TO HQ XII A.S.C., I/SGT. JACOBUS SUCCEEDED HIM AS LINE CHIEF. LTS. MORAN AND MYRICK WENT TO CAPRI TODAY. |
| 2 | GOOD MISSION THIS MORNING ON ATTIGLIANO RAILWAY STATION, 6 OBSERVED DIRECT HITS ON BOX CARS AND TRACKS, STARTING LARGE FIRES. THIS WAS LT. HOOD'S FIRST MISSION AFTER RETURNING FROM REST LEAVE. RAIL BREAKING AND POST HOLING (CUTTING HIGHWAYS) SEEM TO BE OUR PRIMARY TARGETS NOW. THOUGH THE PILOTS REALIZE THE NECESSITY OF CUTTING OFF JERRY'S SUPPLIES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET EXCITED OR EVEN ENTHUSED ABOUT PRECISION BOMBING A PAIR OF STEEL RAILS. AS ONE PILOT PUT IT, "WE'LL PROBABLY BE GANDY-DANCIN' NEXT SUMMER, PUTTING THIS LINE BACK AGAIN." |
| 3 | FAIRISH MISSION TODAY WITH CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO MORE TRACK AND BOX CARS. STOOD DOWN THIS AFTERNOON TO GET PLANES REPAIRED. THE BRIGHT WEATHER HERALDS THE APPROACH OF DAWN AND DUSK MISSIONS. FIELD IS GETTING A LITTLE DUSTY, BUT DOESN'T COMPARE WITH THE 6 INCHES OF BLACK SNOW ON SELE AND KOPKA GROUNDS. "THINGS" ARE MOVING ALONG PRETTY HUMDRUM, THE CHOW IS GOOD, THE WEATHER FINE, A LITTLE BASEBALL WARMING UP. LT. SHORT IS ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE A BALL TEAM, AND THE SECTIONS APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO WHIP SOMETHING TOGETHER FOR PES COMPETITION. |
| 4 | FLIGHTS HIT FORVIA DUE TO CLOUDY WEATHER IN TARGET AREA--LET THE INHABITANTS OF FORVIA ALL FOND, TWO ALTERNATE TARGET STATIONS, PRAY FOR CLEAR WEATHER. LONG AWAITED PRODUCTIONS CAME THROUGH TODAY. SILVER BARS FOR LTC. OLICHVIK, MC DENNELL, WOLFSON, AND ORNE. SGTS. KARPANT, KENDRA, AND FREY LEFT FOR CAPRI. |
| 5 | FORVIA AGAIN. LTS. MYRICK AND WATERMAN LEFT FOR REST CAMP. LT. PALMER (MIA MAR. 10) WAS MADE 1ST LT. TODAY. PROBABLY BE SOME LITTLE TIME BEFORE HE HEARNS OF IT. LT. COLLINS, ORDNANCE OFFICER RECEIVED AN UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHETIC EULOGY ON "BIG DOG" DUNGAN (KILLED 14 JAN.) WRITTEN BY GORDON BLACK, WHO KNEW CAPT. DUNGAN RATHER WELL, IT EXPRESSES MUCH OF THE PILOTS ADMIRATION FOR "BIG DOG", AND SOMETHING OF THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PILOTS WHO'VE "HAD IT". (SEE ATTACHED CLIPPING) |
| 6 | GROUP MISSION ON SAPPANICA STATION TODAY. PRETTY GOOD JOB WITH A NUMBER OF OBSERVED HITS. LTS. MYRICK AND MORAN RETURNED FROM CAPRI, THOUGH LT. MYRICK IS STILL OFF FLYING STATUS WITH A MINOR EAR INFECTION. |
| 7 | SQUADRON ENCOUNTERED INTENSE FLAK ON THIS AFTERNOON'S MISSION, DAMAGING LT. SAUNDERS' AND CAPT. DAVIS'S (2TH USAAF) SHIPS. LT. OLICHVIK'S BOMBS HUNG AND HE SALVAGED OVER AN APPARENTLY DESERTED WOODLAND. HE WAS STARTLED BY A LARGE EXPLOSION AND HUGE FIRE, INDICATING A HIT IN AN AMMO OR FUEL DUMP. ASIDE FROM THIS LUCKY HIT, THEY SCORED FOUR DIRECT HITS ON A 15 CAR TRAIN AND LOCOMOTIVE SETTING IT AFIRE. GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES TODAY, AND TONIGHT JEWISH BOYS HELD A SEKAR IN NAPLES WITH OVER 1000 IN ATTENDANCE. |

SECRET

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PAGE NO. 2. WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 9TH FTR. BOMBER GP.

MONTH OF APRIL 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 8 | RAILWAY BRIDGE TARGET FOR THE DAY. BUILT MASSIVELY OF MASONRY BLOCKS AND CONCRETE, IT SHED 500 POUNDS WITH NO APPRECIABLE DAMAGE. ONE OF THE PILOTS SUGGESTED DROPPING A PARATROOPER WITH DEMOLITIONS. AIR MEDALS RESUBMITTED TODAY FOR LTS. OLIOVIAK, WELCH, MADIGAN AND MC DONNELL. SEEMINGLY A TRIVIAL MATTER, THE LACK OF DECORATIONS--BOUNCING OF DFC'S AND AIR MEDALS HAS LOWERED PILOT MORALE NOTICEABLY. THEY COMPARE THEIR UNDECORATED BLOUSES WITH THOSE OF ANOTHER SQUADRON ON THE FIELD, ALL OF WHOSE MEMBERS REPUTEDLY HAVE AIR MEDALS, CLUSTERS, AND D.F.C.'S. THE APPARENT DIFFERENCE IN POLICY ON AWARDS EVEN IN THE SAME THEATER RAISES EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS. |
| 9 | RATHER A CLOUDY EASTER MORNING, BUT SUNRISE SERVICES WERE HELD IN THE 27TH GROUP AREA. ONLY ONE MISSION TODAY, HIT TERRACINA. EXCELLENT DINNER TONIGHT WITH BAKED HAM, PIE, CAKE, ETC. JERRY "TOPPED OFF" THE DAY WITH A SHORT AIR RAID. SGTS. HORNBECK, SLINGLAND, AND HASTINGS WENT TO CAPRI. |
| 10 | COL. LAUGHLIN AND CAPT. DAVIS RETURNED TO 9TH USAF. LT. JOHNSON WENT TO REST CAMP. ONE GOOD MISSION ON RAIL LINE INTO ORVIETO. LT. WOOLHOUSE NOSFD UP WHEN LANDING, BUT WASN'T HURT. NO. 2 MISSION WAS UNSATISFACTORY, CHIEFLY DUE TO 2 CHANGES IN TARGET AFTER SQUADRON BRIEFING. LT. TREAT DID A NICE JOB IN SILENCING SOME GUN POSITIONS. EM GIVEN PARTY TONIGHT BY RED CROSS. ITALIAN ORCHESTRA, GI MASTER OF CEREMONIES, RED CROSS SINGER--COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS. |
| 11 | SNAFU MISSION ON BRIDGE. MORE 9TH AF PILOTS ARRIVED TODAY TO CHECK OUT IN AND FLY A-36'S ON MISSIONS. THESE PILOTS BRING NEW FIGHTER AND FIGHTER BOMBER TACTICS AND PROBLEMS AS WELL AS OBSERVING AND ADOPTING SOME OF OUR TACTICS. A CHANCE OF VISITING SIMILAR UNITS TO OUR OWN BEFORE WE STARTED OPERATION MIGHT HAVE SOLVED MANY OF OUR INITIAL PROBLEMS. |
| 12 | LT. MILLER, PRONOUNCED "MILLUH, SUH," AND LT. MITCHELL CAME BACK FROM CAPRI TODAY. CAPT. KASTNER, "TINK", TRANSFERRED TO REPLACEMENT CENTER #1 FOR RETURN TO UNITED STATES. TINK COMPLETED 83 MISSIONS, AND HAD ACTED SUCCESSIVELY AS ASS'T TO AND SQUADRON OPERATIONS OFF. LT. WELCH WAS APPOINTED NEW OPERATIONS OFFICER. A FEW CHANGES IN PERSONNEL AND POLICY SEEM IN ORDER. |
| 13 | LT. TREAT LED A GOOD MISSION ON RAILWAY BRIDGE THIS MORNING, DAMAGING IT CONSIDERABLY. WEATHERED DOWN THIS AFTERNOON. BASEBALL PRACTICE TONIGHT OUT IN ENGINEER'S AREA. PARTICIPATION IN PES TOURNEY SEEMS OUT OF QUESTION, AS EARLY AND LATE MISSIONS LEAVE LITTLE TIME FOR PRACTICE. "MULTI" PROMOTIONS CAME THROUGH FOR E.M. TODAY, T/SGT. HENDERSON RECEIVING HIS MASTER'S STRIPES, HPSAK AND STEPANICH TO T/SGT.--5 STAFFS, 4 BUCKS, AND 3 CORPOEALS MADE. |
| 14 | NOT MUCH NEWS. GENERAL GORDON P. SAVILLE, AND A GENERAL AND COLONEL FROM 9TH A.F. VISITED GROUP TODAY. RAID ON NAPLES TONIGHT. |
| 15 | F.O. EDMONDS IS MISSING IN ACTION. EDMONDS TRANSFERRED TO SQUADRON MAR. 16 FROM AN A-20 GROUP, WHERE HE'D BEEN AWARDED THE AIRMEDAL AND PURPLE HEART. THIS WAS HIS 12TH COMBAT MISSION IN AN A-36. THE MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL WITH DIRECT HITS ON TRACKS, AND A NUMBER OF TRUCKS AND POWER LINES DAMAGED. MOSQUITO NETS UP TODAY. |

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PAGE NO. 3. WTR LTRV 22TH FTR. 2ND BR. SQ., 20TH FTR. & 1ST GR.

MONTH OF APRIL 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
22TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 16 | END LOCK AGAIN TODAY, THOUGH AGAIN THE MISSION WAS TERMED SUCCESSFUL. LT. COL. BLAND, GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER, FLYING OBSERVATION WAS HIT BY 20. HIS PLANE CAUGHT FIRE AND HE WAS SEEN TO BALE OUT, HIS MIND AN THOUGHT PERHAPS HE WAS INJURED. ON THIS SAME MISSION, CAPT. WRIGHT OF 226TH SQUADRON WAS SEEN TO BAIL OUT. BOTH PILOTS CHUTES OPENED SATISFACTORILY. RECEIVED 9 "BRANNE" PILOTS FROM XII ASO TODAY, 1ST LTS. CALDWELL AND WALLACE, 2ND LTS. BRIGGS, BRADLEY, CORN, GAIN, DAVIE, BLAN AND EVERITT. NO MAIL FOR SEVERAL DAYS. |
| 17 | NEW SQUADRON C.O., NEW GROUP ONS. MAJOR KIRSCH TOOK OVER JOB OF GROUP OPERATIONS AFTER A TRANQUIL, STATUS QUO TERM AS C.O. CAPT. SHELDON W. FARNHAM SUCCEEDS MAJOR KIRSCH AS "OLD MAN". CAPT. FARNHAM JUST JOINED ORGANIZATION MARCH 26 AND THOUGH DOWNTLESS COMPETENT, HE'S NEW TO THE THEATER, THE GROUP, EVEN OUR PLANES. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE AUGUST WHEN LT. CASIDY REORGANIZED THE SQUADRON, THERE'S A NEW REGIME. MAJOR KIRSCH WAS THE LAST OF THE OLD PILOTS THAT CAME WITH THE SQUADRON. THE WHOLE SQUADRON IS TENSE, WAITING, WONDERING IF CHANGES IN TACTICS, PERSONNEL, POLICY ARE IMMINENT. THE BLUFF YOUNG (25) CAPTAIN FROM CONNECTICUTT WILL BE UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION FOR SOME LITTLE TIME. LT. THOMAS TRANSFERRED TO GROUP, AS BASE OPERATIONS OFFICER. LT. THOMAS COMPLETE 29 MISSIONS WITH THE SQUADRON. LT. WOLHOUSE LED AN EXCELLENT MISSION TODAY (PRO RELEASE) HITTING TUNNEL, TWO TRAINS, AND A BRIDGE APPROACH. |
| 18 | STANDEY DUE TO WEATHER. CAPT. ATCHLEY TO APRIL. BASEBALL GAME TONIGHT INFRONT OF EYDIE STADIUM. GAME COMPLETE WITH CATCALLS AND COACHING - LACKEE ONLY POP AND BEER. MOVIE FOLLOWING GAME WAS INTERRUPTED BY AN AIR RAID, FLAPES-BUT NO BOMBS LANDING ON OUR FIELD. HAVE TO GO BACK DORMS TO SEE THE LAST REEL OF "WHAT A NO. AM" |
| 19 | UP AT 4:15 ON THE ALERT ALL DAY--NO MISSIONS. UNHAPPY CREWS TONIGHT, BUT "CES LE GUERRE". |
| 20 | LT. TREAT VIA TODAY. "CASEY" ENTERED KRAUTLAND VIA PARACHUTE, WAS SEEN TO LAND AND STAND UP. TREAT WAS AN ABLE FLIGHT LEADER AND CONFIDENT PILOT. HIS FELLOW PILOTS BELIEVE HIM CAPABLE OF OUTSMARTING, AT LEAST HOLDING HIS OWN WITH JERRY. CAPT. MORIS LEFT FOR CARRI. |
| 21 | 2 MISSIONS TODAY - 75 CRACKERS. COMMUNICATIONS MAP OF ITALY SHOW ALL MAJOR RAIL LINES CUT. THE GERMANS ARE HAVING TO SHUTTLE SUPPLIES VIA MOTOR TRANSPORT DURING NIGHT. TWO HOUR MISSIONS CONTINUE, MUCH MORE TIRING TO PILOT THAN BRIEF SUPPORT MISSIONS WERE. SOME OF OUR PILOTS HAVING 30 OR 40 MISSIONS HAVE NEVER HAD CLOSE SUPPORT TARGETS. METICULOUS BRIEFING AND TACTICAL TRAINING WILL BE NECESSARY IF TYPE OF TARGET CHANGES. CAPT. FARNHAM MADE AN INTRODUCTORY SPEECH TO ENLISTED MEN TONIGHT. SAID HE'D INSTITUTED PLANS FOR SHOWERS, NEW CLUB ROOM, OUTLINED HIS POLICY ON PROMOTIONS, ETC. RECEPTION WAS VERY GOOD. |
| 22 | ANOTHER 4 A.M. REVEILLE - NO MISSION DUE TO WEATHER LTS. SCHULTZ AND REICHE T WENT TO REST CAMP. |

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PAGE NO. 4. WAR DIARY 527TH FTP. BOMBER SQ., 56TH FT. BOMBER GP.

MONTH OF APRIL 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS
527TH FTP. BOMBER SQ.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 23 | 2 GOOD RATEBREAKERS TODAY WITH CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO TRACKS AND ROLLING STOCK. SWEATED OUT F/O MC CLURRY'S RETURN. HE GOT LOST AND JOINED 325TH FORMATION. LATE MISSION DIDN'T GET DOWN UNTIL 19:20. LT. SAUNDERS AND CAPT. ATCHLEY RETURNED FROM CAPRI. LTS. MORAN AND TREAT (MIA 20 APRIL) RECEIVED PROMOTION TO 1ST TODAY. |
| 24 | UP AT 03:15 - SQUADRON OFF AT 0:35 HOURS LED BY LT. JOHNSON. LONG PLANNED STRAFING MISSION ON CASINO LANDING GROUNDS, CHIEF FIGHTER BASE IN CENTRAL ITALY. LT. JOHNSON STRAFED A FW-190 JUST AFTER IT HAD TAKEN OFF CLAIMS A PROBABLY DESTROYED. ANOTHER FW WAS PROBABLY DESTROYED ON GROUND. LT. MULNIX IS MISSING WITH LITTLE CLUE AS TO CAUSE, LT. MULNIX, EAGER DARING PILOT HAD 30 MISSIONS TO HIS CREDIT. BIG RAID ON NAPLES TONIGHT, LOTS OF FLARES AND A GOOD MANY BOMBS WITH AN APPARENT HIT ON AN AMMO OR FUEL DUMP, SKY LIT UP FOR 1-1/2 HOURS. CAPT. VORIS RETURNED FROM CAPRI TODAY. |
| 25 | GOOD NIGHT. LT. GRAVES SQUADRON LEADER. CONCERT TONIGHT AT VARIGLIANO PRECEDING MOVIE, CAPT. RUBENSTEIN, MUSIC DIRECTOR, PLAYED CLASSICAL PIANO SELECTIONS, INCLUDING GREIG'S "TO SPRING", BACHMAN-INOFF'S "PRELUDE IN C SHARP MINOR", ENDED WITH GERSHWIN'S "RHAPSODY IN BLUE". AUDIENCE ENTHUSIASTIC. |
| 26 | COMBAT STANDDOWN. ALL PILOTS RECEIVING INSTRUCTION, AND DEMONSTRATION ON NEW FORMATION--A VARIATION OF CHENNAULTS FIGHTER FORMATION. SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE THAN BOX FORMATION, IT PROVIDES PROTECTION TO AND FROM TARGET WITH NO ESSENTIAL CHANGE IN BOMBING TACTICS. LT. BRUMLEY, NEW PILOT, WAS KILLED IN TRANSITIONAL FLIGHT TODAY. HE GOT TOO LOW ON A PRACTICE LOW LEVEL STRAFING FLIGHT, PLANE CRASHED AND BURNED. THE WAR DEPT. REGRETS THE DEATH OF THIS NEW YORK FARM LAD OF 20 YEARS. |
| 27 | LTS. PEICHERT AND SCHULTZ RETURNED FROM REST CAMP. TRAINING CONTINUES. |
| 28 | LT. JOHNSON ASST. OPERATIONS OFFICER, STARTED TO STATES TODAY ON NEW 30 DAY LEAVE PLAN. HE WILL RETURN TO THE SQUADRON AFTER 30 DAYS AT HOME. |
| 29 | SGTS. MOOREHEAD, SLOTNICK AND CPL. SMITHIES LEFT FOR 4 DAYS AT CAPRI. AFTER A STATEMENT FROM COL. KOFAHL, GP. CO., THAT WE'D PROBABLY REMAIN AT POMIGLIANO UNTIL JULY, COMMAND ISSUED AN ORDER THIS AFTERNOON TO MOVE TOMORROW. PACKING STARTED IMMEDIATELY. COL. KOFAHL ISSUED CONGRATULATORY LETTER ON 1ST YEARS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVERSEAS. (SEE ATTACHED) THE SQUADRON PULLED OUT OF NEW YORK ONE YEAR AGO. OFFICERS CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARY - OPENING AND CLOSING A NEW CLUB. GROUP ORCHESTRA MAESTROED BY SGT. "GABRIEL" ENLOE OF 527TH, AND HAVING A MAJORITY OF 527TH PLAYERS, "GAVE OUT" VERY CREDITABLY FOR THE PARTY. |
| 30 | TRUCKS SHUTTLED SUPPLIES ALL DAY TO MARCIANISE OUR NEW FIELD. THE MOVE FROM BARPACKS TO TENTS AND FROM EXCELLENT POMIGLIANO FIELD TO A SPRINGY STEEL MATTED FIELD BROUGHT MANY MOANS AND GROANS, UNTIL THE EXPLANATION FOR THE SUDDEN MOVE WAS GIVEN. P-47 GROUP EXCHANGING PLACES WITH US WERE UNABLE TO GET OFF RUNWAY AT MARCIANISE WITH THEIR 1000 LB. BOMBS. BIVOUAC AREA EXCELLS ANY PREVIOUS - THAT AT KORBA, GELA, BARCELLONA OR SELE. SQUADRON COMPLETED 36 MISSIONS; 332 SORTIES DURING MONTH. 2 PILOTS MISSING IN ACTION AND ONE KILLED IN TRANSITION. |

S E C R E T

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

537 Ft Bomb Sq
(86 FB Sp)
Supporting Doc
May April
44 (2)

WORCESTER BOMBER GETS TWO NAZI TARGETS WITH ONE "EGG".

WORCESTER TELEGRAM AND EVENING GAZETTE (APRIL 22)

HEADQUARTERS, 12TH ARMY AIR FORCE, ITALY, APRIL 22--A DOUBLE KILL WAS SCORED HERE WHEN LT. JOHN OLIHOVIK, 26, SON OF MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL OLIHOVIK OF 39 LAFAYETTE STREET, WORCESTER, PILOTING AN A-38 INVADER, DESCENDED UPON A ROME-FLORENCE RAILROAD BRIDGE WITH A GROUP OF BOMBERS AND UNLOADED A WEIGHT OF EXPLOSIVES JUST AS A 10-CAR AMMUNITION TRAIN RACED ACROSS.

THE LOCOMOTIVE AND CARS RECEIVED DIRECT HITS; THE EXPLOSIONS WERE SO VIOLENT THAT THE SQUADRON HAD TO EXECUTE SHARP MANEUVERS AS IT PULLED OUT OF ITS DIVE TO AVOID CRASHING INTO DEBRIS THROUGH THREE THOUSAND FEET INTO THE AIR.

OVERSEAS MORE THAN A YEAR AND A HALF, LT. OLIHOVIK HAS TWO BROTHERS IN THE SERVICE, SGT. ALEXANDER OLIHOVIK, 27, WHO NOW IS STATIONED IN ENGLAND, AND PVT. WALTER, 21, WHO IS RECEIVING TRAINING WITH THE HEAVY ARTILLERY.

LT. OLIHOVIK IS A GRADUATE OF CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL, WORCESTER, MASS., AND HAS BEEN IN THE SERVICE ALMOST THREE YEARS.

COLLINGDALE FLIER BLASTS NAZI TRAIN.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

A DELAWARE COUNTY FLIER, ONE OF A GROUP OF AMERICAN PILOTS SENT OUT TO DESTROY A BRIDGE ON THE ROME-FLORENCE LINE EAST OF ARVIETO, WRECKED NOT ONLY THE BRIDGE BUT WRECKED A GERMAN AMMUNITION TRAIN WHICH WAS CROSSING IT, A DISPATCH FROM ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NAPLES DISCLOSED YESTERDAY.

THE PILOT, LIEUTENANT CARL JOHNSON, JR., 26, OF 112 HANSEN TERRACE, COLLINGDALE, IN RELATING HIS EXPLOIT, SAID: "AS WE APPROACHED THE TARGET WE SAW A TRAIN ABOUT TO CROSS IT. EVERYBODY AIMED AT THE TRAIN AND SUDDENLY IT SEEMED TO EXPLODE IN OUR FACES. I SAW DEBRIS FLY 3000 FEET HIGH. THE EXPLOSION KNOCKED OUT THE BRIDGE BETTER THAN ANY BOMB COULD."

LIEUTENANT JOHNSON, WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY A PLUMBING AND HEATING FIRM IN PHILADELPHIA UNTIL HE ENTERED THE ARMY AIR FORCES IN FEBRUARY, 1941, RECEIVED HIS WINGS AND WAS COMMISSIONED A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN MARCH, 1943. BEFORE GOING TO THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF WAR, HE WAS ATTACHED TO A TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON WITH THE SIXTH AIR FORCE IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

HE IS MARRIED AND HIS WIFE LIVES AT THE HANSEN TERRACE ADDRESS. HIS PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. CARL JOHNSON, SR., LIVE AT 217 BLUNSTON AVE., COLLINGDALE.

DES MOINES REGISTER TRIBUNE.

"A SAD DAY IN ITALY"

"WHEN BIG DOG DIED"

DOZENS OF PILOTS REGARD HIM AS THEIR PERSONAL HERO

(THE FOLLOWING STORY WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE REGISTER TRIBUNE'S WAR CORRESPONDENT REACHED NORTH AFRICA RECENTLY)

BY GORDON GAMMACK
DES MOINES REGISTER TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

WITH THE AIR FORCES IN ITALY-IT WAS A SAD DAY WHEN BIG DOG DIDN'T COME BACK.

SIX MORE MISSIONS IN HIS A-36 DIVE-BOMBER AND HE WOULD HAVE GONE BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

ON HIS LAST MISSION, THE SQUADRON TRADITION WOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. ALL CHAIRS AND STOOLS BUT ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE TENT AT THE EDGE OF THE FIELD. ONLY BIG DOG WOULD HAVE HAD A SEAT DURING THE INTERROGATION OF THE PILOTS BUT BIG DOG, CAPT. ROBERT DUNGAN OF OREGON, MO., WAS ROBBED OF THAT.

....

BIG DOG'S LAST DIVE

"HIS PLANE JUST SEEMED TO BREAK IN TWO," SAID A PILOT WHO SAW HIM MAKE HIS LAST DIVE. "THERE WASN'T ANY FLAK. THERE WEREN'T ANY JERRY PLANES AND GOD KNOWS I SAW NO PARACHUTES OPEN."

THERE SEEMED TO BE ONLY ONE EXPLANATION AN ARTILLEPY SHELL-- POSSIBLY AMERICAN, PERHAPS GERMAN, MUST HAVE MADE ONE OF THOSE ONE IN A MILLION HITS AND CUT BIG DOG'S PLANE IN TWO.

WORD SIFTED BACK THAT ITALIAN CIVILIANS HAD FOUND BIG DOG'S BODY AND BURIED HIM.

....

PILOTS' PERSONAL HERO

COMBAT PILOTS ARE CAREFUL NOT TO FORM FRIENDSHIPS WITHIN THE SQUADRON THAT ARE VERY CLOSE. THEY KNOW THEY'RE IN A DANGEROUS BUSINESS, CONSEQUENTLY THEY GUARD AGAINST SHOCK OF LOSING A VERY CLOSE FRIEND IN THIS MANNER.

WITH BIG DOG IT WAS DIFFERENT. DOZENS OF PILOTS REGARDED HIM AS SORT OF A PERSONAL HERO.

"EVERYONE LOVED BIG DOG," SAID MAJ. EDWARD BLAND OF OKLAHOMA, A SQUADRON COMMANDER.

THEY CALLED HIM BIG DOG JUST BECAUSE HE WAS SO TALL--PARTICULARLY FOR A FIGHTER PILOT. HE WAS 6 FEET 4 AND MORE HANDSOME THAN MOST MOVIE STARS; AND HE WAS ALWAYS PLEASANT AND FRIENDLY AND HE WAS ALWAYS SMILING EXCEPT JUST BEFORE A MISSION WHEN HE BECAME A TRIFLE TENSE.

WHEN BIG DOG DIED (CONT'D)

....

I THINK BIG DOG WAS COMPLETELY CONFIDENT IN SURVIVING THE WAR. HE NEVER TALKED ABOUT IT BUT HE KNEW HE WAS A CRACKERJACK FLYER AND HE HAD TREMENDOUS CONFIDENCE IN HIS PLANE.

BUT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE HE DIED, BAD LUCK DOGGED HIM. FIRST HE HAD MALARIA AND THEN YELLOW JAUNDICE. IT WAS TYPICAL OF HIM THAT WHEN HE LEFT THE HOSPITAL, HE RETURNED DAILY WITH ORANGES AND OTHER FRUITS FOR THE FELLOWS HE HAD BEEN SICK WITH, AND HE BROUGHT HIS AIR MATTRESS TO ONE FELLOW.

BIG DOG WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PILOTS I MET IN ITALY AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE TYPIFIED EVERYTHING THAT'S FINE ABOUT A AMERICAN YOUTH. HE WAS MODEST AND HUSKY AND HEALTHY AND ENERGENS AND KIND.

....

THE DAYS AT CAPRI

I SAW QUITE A BIT OF HIM DURING FOUR DAYS AT CAPRI AND BIG DOG HAD ONE OF THOSE SLEEPY INNOCENT MOMENTS. IT WAS WITH ANNA (MARI), THE BLOND GERMAN GIRL WHO HAS THREE BROTHERS IN THE GERMAN ARMY AND WHOSE FATHER HAS AN IMPORTANT POST IN THE NAZI AIR MINISTRY.

BIG DOG THOUGHT IT WAS SORT OF EXCITING DATING A GERMAN GIRL, AND HE WONDERED WITH AMUSEMENT IF SHE MIGHT NOTICE A SPY ALTHOUGH HER ANTI-NAZI-ISM SEEMED GENUINE ENOUGH. SHE WAS HAVING DINNER WITH HIM ONE NIGHT AND ASKED BOB IF THE A-36 MADE AN ABSOLUTELY VERTICAL DIVE. THERE WASN'T ANYTHING SECRETIVE INVOLVED--THE GERMANS HAVE SEEN THOSE SCREAMING DIVE-BOMBERS COME AT THEM ALL NIGHT--BUT BIG DOG HUSHED ME UP QUICKLY.

"TELL YOU LATER," HE SAID. IT WASN'T SURPRISING TO SEE BOB WITH A GERMAN GIRL BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HATE ANYONE REALLY. HE THOUGHT THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HELP THE POOR THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AFTER THE WAR.

"I ONLY HOPE WE DONT TRY TO DO IT TOO FAST BECAUSE IT'S A BIG JOB," HE SAID. WHEN BOB LEFT CAPRI, HE CAREFULLY WENT TO THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE HOTEL WHERE HE STAYED AND THANKED THEM FOR GIVING HIM A GOOD TIME. NO OTHER SOLDIER HAD EVER DONE THAT AND NONE HAVE SINCE.

....

BAD NEWS COMES

A FEW DAYS AFTER WE GOT BACK FROM CAPRI, BIG DOG WAS GOING TO HAVE DINNER WITH US IN NAPLES. THAT AFTERNOON, I CALLED HIS SQUADRON TO MAKE SURE OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING.

"I'VE GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU," SAID A FLIGHT OFFICER--AND HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY ANY MORE--"I'LL BE IN AFTER A WHILE TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT."

IT WAS A TERRIBLE FEELING--BIG DOG GONE--AND I FELT SO SORRY FOR HIS MOTHER, A HOUSE MOTHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. HIS FATHER WAS DEAD. AS HE WAS AN ONLY SON, I FELT SURE HIS MOTHER LOVED HIM WITH EXTRAORDINARY FERVOR.

BUT IT WAS A GOOD DAY FOR THE AIR FORCES THE DAY THAT BIG DOG, AS THE PILOTS SAY, "HAD IT." THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY WHEN A PILOT DIES. "HE HAS HAD IT," THEY SAY AND PACK HIS THINGS AND TRY TO FORGET IT. THAT DAY THE COMMUNIQUE WAS CONCLUDED WITH THIS: "FROM ALL THESE OPERATIONS ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT IS MISSING."



FPO RELEASE--(APRIL 17)

527 For Bomb Sq
(86 FB Sup)
Sup Rec (3) Apr 44

WOOLHOUSE (FLT LDR) "I SAW A TUNNEL AND MADE A 180 AND DIVED DIRECTLY AT THE TUNNEL MOUTH, I SAW TWO BOMBS EXPLODE IN THE END OF THE TUNNEL, AND MY WINGMAN, LT. STERNAN, HIT ON TRACKS JUST OUTSIDE THE TUNNEL. I WISH I'D HAD TWO MORE BOMBS TO SEAL THE OTHER END."

IN THE MEANTIME THE FLIGHT LT. MADIGAN WAS LEADING WAS TAKING CARE OF THE OTHER END OF OF THE TUNNEL FROM WHICH A TRAIN WAS EMERGING. MY TWO BOMBS HIT THE TRAIN SQUARELY IN THE MIDDLE, AND BLEW UP SOME CARS, MY WINGMAN (LT. SCHULTZ) BOMBS WERE RIGHT IN THERE, BUT THERE WAS SO MUCH TRAIN COMING UP, I COULDN'T SEE EXACTLY WHERE THEY HIT." CHANGELLING SHARPLY THEY DID A 360 AND CAME BACK TO STRAFE THE BURNING TRAIN.

BOTH FLIGHTS TOOK A SECOND PASS AT TRAIN, THEN WENT ON TO STRAFE 2 MORE TRAINS. "OOD HUNTING DAY", SAID SQUADRON COMMANDER, CAPT. FARNHAM, WHOSE BOMBS REGISTERED HITS ON A SECOND TRAIN. HIS WINGMAN, LT. MULNIX, LAID HIS EGGS ON 3 BATTERIES OF GUNS THAT WERE PUTTING UP A CURTAIN OF HARASSING FIRE AT THE TRAIN BUSTERS, THEN WENT BACK TO STRAFE THEM. "I SAW AT LEAST TWO CREWS WILT AS I RAKED THE , THEY STOPPED FIRING PRONTO."

ON THE SAME MISSION LT. OLIHOVIK AND LT. MORAN KNOCKED OUT APPROACH TO RAILWAY BRIDGE BEFORE JOINING IN THE FREE FOR ALL ON THE TRAINS.

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF
APO 650 U.S. ARMY

*527 Ftr Bomb Sq
Supporting Document
April 44 (1)*

29 APRIL 1944

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATIONS. (ONE YEAR OVERSEAS).

TO : OFFICERS AND MEN OF 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.

1. TODAY MARKS THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FIRST YEAR OVERSEAS. WE HAVE EXPERIENCED MANY TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS SINCE THE MASTER OF THE GOOD SHIP "JOHN ERICSSON" GAVE THE SIGNAL "FULL SPEED AHEAD". MANY MILES AND MANY COUNTRIES HAVE PASSED UNDER OUR FEET. THROUGHOUT IT ALL THE 86TH, WITH ABIDING FAITH IN OUR CAUSE, HAS GONE FORTH TO MAKE A RECORD THAT WE CAN ALL BE JUSTLY PROUD OF. THE RECORD THUS MADE AND YET TO BE MADE WILL BE A HERITAGE FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW US.

2. THOUGH THE CURTAIN HAS FALLEN ON THE FIRST ACT, THE SHOW IS NOT OVER. THIS STRUGGLE WE ARE IN IS A DRAMA OF MANY ACTS. WITH CONTINUED FAITH IN OUR CAUSE, OUR LEADERS, AND FULLEST CONFIDENCE OF ULTIMATE VICTORY, THE 86TH WILL ASPIRE TO GREATER HEIGHTS. A FINE JOB HAS BEEN DONE; A GREATER TASK LIES AHEAD. THE SAME CHARACTER OF COMPLETE COOPERATION AND FAITH, SO EVIDENT IN THIS ORGANIZATION, WILL HASTEN ULTIMATE VICTORY AND WRITE A GREATER PAGE IN HISTORY FOR THE 86TH.

3. WHILE WE CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF OUR FIRST YEAR OVERSEAS, WE PAUSE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE OF THE 86TH WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO OUR SUCCESS BUT BY HIS CALL HAVE GONE FROM US TO BETTER FIELDS. THE 86TH WILL LIVE TO AVENGE THEIR LOSS AND BRING ADDED GLORY TO THEIR NAME. IN OUR LIFE THEY HAVE NOT LIVED IN VAIN.

4. AS YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER IT HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF GREAT PERSONAL PRIDE AND SATISFACTION TO WITNESS THE MAKING OF SUCH A FINE RECORD. EVERY ENLISTED MAN AND EVERY OFFICER HAVE PLAYED THEIR PART. EACH OF YOU ENJOY MY FULLEST CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT. IT IS A GENUINE PLEASURE ON THIS, OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY OVERSEAS TO CONGRATULATE YOU AND WISH YOU MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY. MAY THE NEXT YEAR SEE THE 86TH CONTRIBUTE ITS PART TO THE FINAL AND COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF OUR FOES AND THE EARLY RETURN OF US ALL TO THE LAND WE LOVE SO WELL.

/S/ HAROLD E. KOFAHL
/T/ HAROLD E. KOFAHL
COLONEL, AIR CORPS,
COMMANDING.

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SECRET

527 Ftr Bomb Sq (86)
Supporting Document (1)
May 44

HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (ADV) W/C

TO: CG XII TAC
FROM: GENERAL LEESE
X PRIORITY

WRS FIA: 18220

REC'D IN CODE ROOM 182037 RECODED BY RJM
FROM METAC EIGHT ARMY TO 12 (12 TAC INFO IAF (DAF 0107 MAY 1900)
PERSONAL TO GENERAL SAVILLE FROM GENERAL LEESE

MY THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO YOURSELF AND TO THE PILOTS
AND AIRCREWS UNDER YOUR COMMAND WHO HAVE HELPED US SO GREATLY TO
ACHIEVE OUR RECENT SUCCESSSES. WE REALIZE THAT SOME OF THE
TARGETS GIVEN YOU IN PARTICULAR THE GUN AREAS WERE DIFFICULT ONES.
BUT YOU DEALT WITH THEM MOST EFFECTIVELY. THE ENEMY IS SHAKEN AND
WE INTEND TO PUSH ON BOLDLY AND KEEP HIM MOVING. IN THE FLUID
FIGHTING WHICH SHALL ENSUE THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF GOOD TARGETS FOR
YOUR POWERFUL FORCE. I KNOW WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOUR UTMOST
COOPERATION AND HELP.

DISTRIBUTION:

- ORIGINAL COPY TO COMMANDING GENERAL, XII TAC.
- COPY TO MATAF
- COPY TO EACH F/B AND LT. BOMBER GROUP
- COPY FOR FILE.

A TRUE COPY:

Donald L. Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

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HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO 306
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

537 Ftr Bomb Sq
86 Ftr Bomb Sq
Supporting Gen (3)
29 MAY 1944
may
44

BRIGADIER GENERAL, GORDON P. SAVILLE
COMMANDING GENERAL, XII AIR SUPPORT COMMAND,
APO-374, U.S. ARMY

DEAR GENERAL SAVILLE:

I DESIRE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE MAGNIFICENT WORK OF THE COMMANDERS AND PILOTS OF THE XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND DURING THE OPERATIONS OF BREAKING OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD BEGINNING MAY 23RD. AS YOU KNOW, BREAKING OUT OF THIS BEACHHEAD HAS PRESENTED A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM. THE STRUGGLE HAS BEEN HARD AND BITTER. FOR MONTHS THE ENEMY HAS PREPARED AND IMPROVED HIS DEFENSES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR SUCCESS IN BREAKING THROUGH THESE DEFENSES DURING THE FIRST 3 DAYS OF OPERATION IS DUE TO IN NO SMALL PART TO THE COMMANDERS AND PILOTS OF THE XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND. IN MY OPINION, TO THOSE GALLANT SOLDIERS AND TO THE GROUND CREWS WHO KEEP THEIR PLANES FLYING IS DUE AT LEAST 50% OF THE CREDIT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION. EVERY OFFICER AND MAN IN THE VI CORPS HAS ADMIRER AND APPRECIATED THEIR VALIANT WORK.

AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE HAD A FEW CASES WHERE OUR GROUND TROOPS HAVE BEEN BOMBED BY OUR OWN AIRCRAFT. I BELIEVE EVERY OFFICER AND MAN REALIZED THAT SUCH MISTAKES WILL OCCUR. THESE INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE SUCH INCIDENTS. I SINCERELY TRUST THAT NO MEMBER OF YOUR COMMAND WILL FEEL THAT, BECAUSE OF SUCH REPORTS, THE MAGNIFICENT WORK YOU HAVE DONE HAS NOT BEEN FULLY AND COMPLETELY APPRECIATED BY THE GROUND FORCES. FOR ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE ANY DOUBT OF THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT YOU HAVE HAD UPON THE ENEMY, I RECOMMEND A TRIP ALONG THE ROAD FROM CORI TO ARTENA, WHERE MORE THAN 220 GERMAN VEHICLES AND GUNS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS LITTER THE ROAD WITH THEIR WRECKAGE.

I AM AN ARDENT ADVOCATE OF THE FORWARD CONTROLLER. I FEEL THAT WITH CONTINUED PRACTICE IN TECHNIQUE WE CAN DEVELOP A TEAM THAT WILL FUNCTION SMOOTHLY AND EFFICIENTLY IN ALL PHASES OF COMBAT. IT HAS REQUIRED MANY YEARS TO DEVELOP OUR INFANTRY-ARTILLERY TEAM. WE LOST MANY LIVES IN THE PROCESS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE HAVE SUFFERED MORE LOSS OF LIFE FROM OUR OWN ARTILLERY FIRE IN THIS OPERATION THAN WE HAVE SUFFERED BOMBING FROM OUR OWN PLANES.

I TRUST THAT YOU WILL EXPRESS TO THE COMMANDERS AND PILOTS OF YOUR COMMAND THE APPRECIATION OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE VI CORPS FOR THEIR MAGNIFICENT WORK IN THIS OPERATION AND OUR HOPE FOR CONTINUED UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

LTR. SAVILLE-LEESE, 29 MAY 1944 (CONT)

SINCERELY,

/S/ L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR.
/T/ L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
COMMANDING.

1ST IND.

HQ. XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374, U.S. ARMY, 31 MAY 1944

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP, XII TAC, APO 374,
U.S. ARMY.

1. IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO FORWARD THE ABOVE LETTER FROM
GENERAL TRUSCOTT TO YOU. THERE IS NOTHING THAT I CAN SAY THAT WOULD
ADD OR DETRACT FROM HIS SENTIMENT.

2. PLEASE EXPRESS GENERAL TRUSCOTT'S AND MY APPRECIATION FOR A
JOB WELL DONE TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUR UNIT.

GORDON P. SAVILLE,
BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:

Donald L. Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

S E C R E T

527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON
OUTLINE HISTORY MAY 1944

527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON AAF
86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF
APO 650, U.S. ARMY

1 JUNE 1944

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374, U.S. ARMY.

1. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD
1 MAY 1944 TO 31 MAY 1944.

A. ORIGINAL UNIT:

(1) DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON,
86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

(1) 1ST LT. WILLIAM W. MORAN APPOINTED OPERATIONS OFFICER VICE
1ST LT. EUGENE C. WELCH, 17 MAY 1944. (SQ. ORDER)

C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED.

(1) MONTH OF MAY 1944,

(A) AT BEGINNING: 1 MAY 1944 - 36 OFFICERS ASSIGNED,
231 ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED.

(B) NET INCREASE: 1 ENLISTED MAN.

(C) NET DECREASE: 9 OFFICERS.

(D) AT END: 29 OFFICERS ASSIGNED, 232 ENLISTED MEN
ASSIGNED.

D. STATIONS:

(1) MOVED FROM POMIGLIANO D'ARCO AIRFIELD, ITALY, TO MARCIANISE
AIRFIELD, ITALY, 30 APRIL 1944, TELEGRAM XII TAC - SECRET -
29 APRIL 1944.

(2) MARCIANISE AIRFIELD, ITALY, 1 MAY 1944, TO 31 MAY 1944.

E. OPERATIONS:

(1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.

(2) SQUADRON FLEW TACTICAL MISSIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
TRANSPORTATION, AND CLOSE SUPPORT MISSIONS.

(3) SQUADRON COMPLETED 68 MISSIONS AND 491 SORTIES FOR PERIOD:
57 DIVE AND GLIDE BOMBING MISSIONS ON ENEMY TRANSPORTATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS, 9 BOMBING MISSIONS ON CLOSE SUPPORT
TARGETS, AND 2 LOW LEVEL STRAFING MISSIONS.

