

161

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO USA

5 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, TWELFTH AIR FORCE.

THRU : COMMANDING GENERAL, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND.

1. I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU THE FIFTH ARMY'S APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION OF THE MAGNIFICENT AIR SUPPORT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF ROME AND THE DESTRUCTION OF SO MUCH OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES AND MATERIAL.

2. FROM MY POINT OF VIEW THIS HAS BEEN A DEMONSTRATION OF AIR SUPPORT TO THE GROUND FORCES APPROACHING PERFECTION. THE XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND AND ALL OTHER UNITS OF YOUR COMMAND WHICH HAVE ENGAGED IN THESE OPERATIONS HAVE AT ALL TIMES GIVEN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO EVERY CALL FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE RESULTS, WHICH HAVE CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY'S SUPPLY LINES AND TROOPS. THE SPLENDID AGGRESSIVE ACTION OF THE SUPPORTING AIR UNITS HAS ENABLED US TO SHOW THE ENEMY HOW IRRESISTIBLE THE AIR-GROUND COMBINATION CAN BECOME.

3. I SHALL BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONVEY MY PERSONAL THANKS AND THOSE OF THE FIFTH ARMY TO ALL ELEMENTS OF YOUR COMMAND WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS VICTORY.

/S/ MARK W. CLARK

MARK W. CLARK,
LIEUTENANT GENERAL USA
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:

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

1ST IND

HEADQUARTERS, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374, U.S. ARMY 5 JUNE 1944

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL TWELFTH AIR FORCE, APO 650, U.S. ARMY

1. THIS EXPRESSION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GROUND-AIR COOPERATION FROM THE GROUND FORCE POINT OF VIEW IS BUT ONE SIDE OF THE PICTURE. THE SPLENDID AND WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION OF THE FIFTH ARMY WITH AIR FORCE PROGRAMS IS, AND HAS BEEN, A MODEL OF PERFECTION AND COMPLETES THE PICTURE.

2. THE GROUND-AIR TEAM, IN A COORDINATED EFFORT, IS A BATTLE-WINNING AND CAMPAIGN-WINNING COMBINATION IN ALL LAND OPERATIONS.

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

A TRUE COPY:

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

HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (ADV)
APO 374

GPS/JEM

11 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM BRIGADIER MAINWARING.
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP, APO 650,
U.S. ARMY.

1. I WAS VERY MUCH PLEASED TO GET A COPY OF THE VERY NICE LETTER YOU RECEIVED FROM BRIGADIER MAINWARING, HEADQUARTERS, AAI, CONCERNING YOUR SUPPLY DROPS.
2. THE WAY THESE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A GREAT AMOUNT OF VERY FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM ALL GROUND COMMANDERS FROM GENERAL ALEXANDER ON DOWN.
3. AS USUAL, THE 86TH DOES THE JOB. MY CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS ON A FINE PIECE OF WORK.

/S/ GORDON P. SAVILLE,
/T/ GORDON P. SAVILLE,
BRIGADIER GENERAL, USA,
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:

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

164

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES
APO 650

19 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION.

TO : LIEUTENANT GENERAL IRA C. EAKER, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES.

1. I HAVE SEEN DURING MY VISIT IN THIS THEATER, ABUNDANT EVIDENCE OF THE MAGNIFICENT WORK OF THE FORCES UNDER YOUR COMMAND. DURING THIS SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GERMANS, THE TWELFTH AND FIFTEENTH AIR FORCES HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION OF OUTSTANDING SIGNIFICANCE AND HAVE EVOKED THE PRAISE AND PRIDE OF US ALL.

2. IN TALKING TO THE SENIOR GROUND COMMANDERS, THEY HAVE UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE MASTERFUL WORK DONE BY YOUR COMMAND. THIS IS MOST REASSURING.

3. PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMENDATION ON YOUR FINE WORK AND EXPRESS TO ALL ELEMENTS OF YOUR COMMAND MY SINCERE APPRECIATION OF THEIR EFFORTS.

/S/ H.H. ARNOLD,
/T/ H.H. ARNOLD,
GENERAL, U.S. ARMY.

A TRUE COPY:

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

165

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, 64TH FIGHTER WING, CG 47TH BOMB GROUP, CO 27TH FTR BOMB GP, CO 86TH FIGHTER BOMB GP, CO 324TH FTR BOMB GP, CO 87TH WING.

FROM: COMMANDING GENERAL XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, SIGNED SAVILLE.

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM TWELFTH AIR FORCE SIGNED CANNON QUOTE AM MUCH GRATIFIED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING SIGNED ARNOLD THROUGH GENERAL EAKER WITH LATER DIRECTIVE THAT IT BE PASSED TO ALL RANKS FOR THEIR ADVISEMENT. PARAPHRASE BEGINS INFORM AIR PERSONNEL YOUR COMMAND OF OUR ADMIRATION OF YOUR AIR FORCES IN THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT THE SUCCESS IN ITALY OF THE ALLIES. THE AIR COMMANDS THROUGH CONTINUING AND DETERMINED EFFORT ISOLATED BY INTERCEPTING ENEMY LINES OF SUPPLIES THE BATTLE AREA THERE. THIS PERMITTED ALLIED GROUND UNITS TO ATTACK WHEN THE ENEMYS POSSIBILITY OF RESISTING WAS REDUCED SO GREATLY THAT ONLY THE ALTERNATIVE LEFT HIM WAS WITHDRAWAL IN THE FACE OF A VIGOROUS OFFENSIVE BY OUR TROOPS. GERMAN LINES OF SUPPLY WERE DEEMED SO MUCH DESTROYED BY 24 MARCH THAT HE COULD PROVIDE HIS TROOPS ONLY WITH AMMUNITION AND FOOD TO BARELY SUFFICE FOR HOLDING HIS GROUND ONLY WHEN NO HEAVY FIGHTING WAS IN PROGRESS. THROUGH CONSTANTLY INCREASING AIR ATTACKS, THIS ALL OUT PREPONDERANCE WAS SUSTAINED WHILE GROUND FORCES PREPARED FOR THEIR DRIVE THE TWELFTH AND FIFTEENTH AIR FORCES FLYING SOME 23000-SORTIES IN THE PERIOD 24 MARCH - 12 MAY, WHEN OUR OFFENSIVE OPENED. YOUR AIR ATTACK UPON ENEMY LINES OF SUPPLY AND ENEMY BATTLE AREA TARGETS REACHING AND EVEN HIGHER PITCH, WERE BOTH DIRECT AND INFLUENTIAL FACTORS PERMITTING THE GROUND FORCES SUCCESSFUL ADVANCES. NEW VISTA OF VICTORIES THROUGH THE OVERWHELMING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE ENEMY FORCES WERE OPENED THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION COMBINED WITH MUTUAL ENDEAVOR OF THE AIR AND GROUND FORCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE. WE EXTEND BOTH OUR THANKS AND COMMENDATION FOR THE MAGNIFICENT WORK AS COMBAT CREWS, MAINTENANCE, AND ADMINISTA-

TIVE ELEMENTS AND TO ALL PERSONNEL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEFEAT IN ITALY OF THE AXIS POWER END OF PARAPHRASE INSPIRED BY SUCH GENEROUS PRAISE I AM CONFIDENT OF CONTINUED SUCCESSES WHICH WILL CROWN YOUR EFFORST IN THE HARD WORK THAT STILL LIES AHEAD END QUOTE.

A TRUE COPY:

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

[Handwritten mark]

UPON RETURNING TO THE BASE AFTER A SHORT STAY IN THE 38TH EVAC. HOSPITAL FOLLOWING A RUNWAY ACCIDENT, LT. MILLER HAD THIS TO SAY, "THERE IS A LITTLE FELLOW AROUND HERE ALL THE PILOTS CALL "QUACK", AND WE HECKLE THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF HIM EVERY TIME WE GET A CHANCE, BUT I WANT THE FELLOWS TO KNOW THAT THE "LITTLE DOC" IS REALLY ON THE JOB. "WHERE HE CAME FROM, I DONT KNOW, BUT HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO REACH THE WRECKAGE WITH THE AMBULANCE, AND WHEN I SAW HIM I WAS COMPLETELY AT EASE AND JUST KNEW EVERY THING WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT." "FELLOWS, FROM NOW ON HE IS "THE DOCTOR" TO ME AND YOU LET ME HEAR YOU MAKE LIKE A DUCK WHEN HE IS AROUND."

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527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
OUTLINE HISTORY JULY 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

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

AG 314.7

1 AUGUST 1944

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS.

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

1. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD
1 JULY 1944 THROUGH 31 JULY 1944.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, ATTACHED TO 87TH FIGHTER WING FOR OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY ONLY.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:
 - (1) CHANGES IN DESIGNATION, ASSIGNMENT OR ATTACHMENT:
 - (A) CHANGES IN DESIGNATION: NONE.
 - (B) CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT: NONE.
 - (C) CHANGES IN ATTACHMENT:
 - 1. ATTACHED TO 87TH FIGHTER WING FOR OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY ONLY, 12 JULY 1944, VOCC XII TAC.
 - (2) SUBORDINATE UNITS: NONE.
 - (3) CHANGES IN COMMANDING OFFICERS: NONE.
 - (4) CHANGES OF STAFF OFFICERS:
 - (A) 1ST LT. CARL (NMI) JOHNSON, APPOINTED OPERATIONS OFFICER, 20 JULY 1944, VICE 1ST LT. WILLIAM M. MORAN, SQUADRON ORDER #33, 20 JULY 1944.
 - (5) CHANGES IN T/O: NONE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) MONTH OF JULY 1944:
 - (A) AT BEGINNING: 30 OFFICERS, 245 ENLISTED MEN.
 - (B) NET INCREASE: 28 OFFICERS.
 - (C) NET DECREASE: NONE.
 - (D) AT END: 58 OFFICERS, 245 ENLISTED MEN.
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY.
 - (A) DATE OF ARRIVAL: 20 JUNE 1944.
 - (B) DATE OF DEPARTURE: (PER VOCC 86TH FIGHTER GROUP)
 - 1. FORWARD ECHELON MOVED FROM ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY TO PORETTA AIRFIELD,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

CORSICA. DEPARTED ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, 7 JULY 1944. ENROUTE 7 JULY - 11 JULY 1944. ARRIVED PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA, 11 JULY 1944.

2. REMAINDER OF SQUADRON MOVED FROM ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, TO PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA. DEPARTED ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, 12 JULY 1944. ENROUTE 12 JULY - 15 JULY 1944. ARRIVED PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA, 15 JULY 1944.

(2) PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA.

- (A) DATE OF ARRIVAL: 15 JULY 1944.
(B) DATE OF DEPARTURE: PRESENT STATION.

E. MOVEMENTS:

(1) FROM ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, TO PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA.

- (A) PURPOSE: CHANGE OF STATION.
(B) DATES: 7 JULY 1944 TO 11 JULY 1944, AND 12 JULY 1944 TO 15 JULY 1944.
(C) MOVE ACCOMPLISHED BY MOTOR CONVOYS AND LST'S.
(D) CONDITION OF ROADS, CONVEYANCES AND WEATHER: ROADS IN FAIR CONDITION, WEATHER GOOD, CONVEYANCES GOOD.

F. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) SICILIAN: ITALIAN.
(2) DURATION: 3 JULY 1943 TO 17 AUGUST 1943 (SICILIAN); ITALIAN, 18 AUGUST 1943, TO DATE, STILL IN PROGRESS.

G. OPERATIONS:

- (1) CAMPAIGN: ITALIAN.
(2) NATURE OF OPERATIONS: CONTINUED MISSIONS AGAINST ENEMY RAIL COMMUNICATIONS, ROADS AND MOTOR TRANSPORTS.
(3) NUMBER OF MISSIONS AND SORTIES FOR PERIOD: 30 MISSIONS AND 322 SORTIES DURING MONTH OF JULY 1944.
(4) RESULTS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
(A) MISSION #1460, 3 JULY 1944. (8 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE RUINING THROUGH CREVALCORE, ITALY.
2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
3. RESULTS: DESTROYED 10 RAILWAY CARS IN CREVALCORE STATION BY DIRECT BOMB HITS, STARTED LARGE FIRES IN STATION, BROKE RAIL LINE IN 3 PLACES, DESTROYED 16 MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND DAMAGED 4 MOTOR TRANSPORTS. NO LOSSES.

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- (B) MISSION #1473, 14 JULY 1944. (12 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE BETWEEN CARPI AND SUZZARA, ITALY.
 2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
 3. RESULTS: GOT THROUGH TO TARGET AND ATTACKED, DESPITE VERY BAD WEATHER; ACCOMPLISHED 2 RAIL BREAKS, STRAFED AND DESTROYED 10 RAILWAY CARS, 4 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, AND SILENCED 3 GUN POSITIONS. NO LOSSES.
- (C) MISSION #1476, 15 JULY 1944. (12 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE BETWEEN MODENA AND SAN FELICE, ITALY.
 2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
 3. RESULTS: BROKE OR BLOCKED RAIL LINE IN 6 PLACES; MADE FOUR DIRECT HITS ON 60 CAR TRAIN LOADED WITH MOTOR TRANSPORTS, DESTROYING ESTIMATED 10 FLAT CARS AND 20 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, AND DAMAGING 10 PLUS BOXCARS; MADE THREE DIRECT HITS ON 100 CAR TRAIN DESTROYING AT LEAST 6 BOXCARS; DESTROYED BY STRAFING 2 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, A HALF TRACK, AND AN UNESTIMATED NUMBER OF BOXCARS. LOSSES - 1 PILOT AND PLANE MISSING.
- (D) MISSION #1500, 23 JULY 1944. (12 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE BETWEEN TURIN AND ASTI, ITALY.
 2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
 3. RESULTS: SQUADRON LEADER CHOSE AN ALTERNATE TARGET WITH CONCENTRATION OF BOXCARS AND TRAIN IN STATION. SQUADRON SCORED 10 OBSERVED HITS ON RAILS AND STATION BUILDINGS TEARING UP RAILS FOR 1/4 MILE; SCORED 2 DIRECT HITS ON 25 CAR TRAIN, DESTROYING 6 CARS; POSTHOLED HIGHWAY IN 4 PLACES; STRAFED AND DESTROYED A LOCOMOTIVE AND A MOTOR TRANSPORT, AND DAMAGED SEVERAL BOXCARS; STRAFED AND DESTROYED AN AMMUNITION WAREHOUSE WHICH EXPLODED VIOLENTLY.
- H. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
- (1) CAPT. JOHN R. DOLNY, COMMANDED SQUADRON 1 JULY 1944 TO 31 JULY 1944.
 - (2) SQUADRON LEADERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
 - (A) 1ST LT. FRANK E. MYRICK LED MISSION #1460, 3 JULY 1944, MISSION #1473, 14 JULY 1944, MISSION #1476, 15 JULY 1944.
 - (B) 1ST LT. NEWTON L. SAUNDERS LED MISSION #1500, 23 JULY 1944.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

- I. LOSSES IN ACTION:
 - (1) MISSING IN ACTION - DOUGLAS B. NEALE, T-1297, F/O, AIR CORPS, 15 JULY 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM AN ATTACK ON ENEMY RAIL LINES. WAS LAST SEEN AS HE ENTERED A 10/10 OVERCAST AT 15,000' NEAR MT. PISANINO, ITALY.
 - (2) MISSING IN ACTION - FRANK E. MYRICK, O-812120, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, 17 JULY 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM AN ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION ON ENEMY ROADS. WAS LAST SEEN WITH PLANE IN FLAMES AT AN ALTITUDE OF FIFTY FEET 4 MILES NORTHWEST OF PISA, ITALY.

- J. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:
 - (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:
 - (A) OLIVER R. SCHULTZ, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, (MIA), O-202356, FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT ON 26 MAY 1944, (LT. SCHULTZ CONTINUED STRAFING TARGET, DISREGARDING HIS BURNING SHIP, AND HAD TO ABANDON HIS SHIP OVER ENEMY WATERS) WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR, PER GO #13, 24 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
 - (B) JOSEPH C. WOOLHOUSE, JR., CAPT. (THEN 1ST LT.), AIR CORPS, O-795678, FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION ON 26 MAY 1944 (LT. WOOLHOUSE LED A MISSION ON A VITAL ROAD BRIDGE NEAR AVEZZANO, ITALY. HE WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND HIS AIRPLANE HEAVILY DAMAGED BY FLAK. DESPITE PAIN AND SHOCK, LT. WOOLHOUSE CONTINUED AND BOMBED THE BRIDGE DESTROYING IT. HE STRAFED TWO MOTOR TRANSPORTS, THEN SKILLFULLY RETURNED HIS AIRCRAFT TO HIS BASE, CRASH LANDING IT) WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR PER GO #103, 24 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
 - (C) LYLE D. HOOD, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, O-2055986, FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL COMBAT ON 13 FEBRUARY 1944 (LT. HOOD LED A DIVE BOMBING MISSION WHICH KNOCKED OUT GUN POSITIONS ONLY 50 YARDS FROM WAITING ALLIED TROOPS, ENABLING THEM TO CAPTURE THE POSITIONS) WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS PER GO 88, 5 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
 - (D) FOR HEROISM DEMONSTRATED IN EXTRICATING A PILOT FROM A CRASHED AIRCRAFT ON 15 MAY 1944, THE FOLLOWING ENLISTED MEN WERE AWARDED THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL PER GO 88, 5 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE:

M/SGT. EUGENE T. BOONE, 17021367.

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M/SGT, HERBERT (NMI) JACOB, 6965329.
T/SGT. WILLIAM F. BARENTINE, 17013483.
T/SGT. JOHN R. HALL, 15966904.
T/SGT. JIMMIE (NMI) KARRANT, 17019559.
S/SGT. HAROLD D. HIGGS, 16051218.
CPL. CARL L. CARTER, 16072423.

- (E) JOHN J. MADIGAN, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, O-202324, FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT ON 18 DECEMBER 1943, WAS AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL PER GO 91, 11 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
- (F) WILLIAM M. MORAN, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, O-812117, FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT ON 15 APRIL 1944, WAS AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL PER GO 91, 11 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.

2. ENCLOSED ARE WAR DIARY, 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1944 TO 31 JULY 1944, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR MONTH OF JULY 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Donald L. Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

INCL:
DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S E C R E T

PAGE NO. 1. WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.

MONTH OF JULY 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 1. | LTS. MADIGAN, WOLFSON, AND CLIHOVIK, HAVING COMPLETED 85, 86 AND 87 MISSIONS RESPECTIVELY, LEFT FOR PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 6, AND THE STATES. GOOD PILOTS AND FLIGHT AND SQUADRON LEADERS, THEY COMPLETED VERY GOOD TOURS, ALL OF THEM BEING RECOMMENDED FOR DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, AS WELL AS AIR MEDAL AND TWO CLUSTERS. UNFORTUNATELY, LT. WOLFSON WAS ONLY ONE AWARDED AIR MEDAL BEFORE HE LEFT, AS ORDERS WEREN'T CUT YET ON OTHER MEDALS. 2ND LT. CAMPBELL ARRIVED TODAY AND ATTACHED TO SQUADRON. THE RED CROSS GIRLS SERVED DOUGHNUTS TO SQUADRON AT NOON SHOW TODAY. GOOD TRACK BREAKING MISSION THIS EVENING WITH 6 BREAKS IN TRACK REPORTED. PERSONNEL PACKING FOR WATER MOVEMENT TO CORSICA. |
| 2. | TRANSITION FLYING, OPERATIONAL STANDDOWN. NINE MORE NEW PILOTS ARRIVED TODAY--COMPLETE WITH CANTEENS, 45'S AND ENTHUSIASM AND WERE ATTACHED TO ORGANIZATION. AT A GROUP FORMATION TODAY, GEN. GORDON P. SAVILLE PRESENTED THE LEGION OF MERIT TO W/SGT. CLARENCE V. HENDERSON, COMMUNICATIONS SECTION CHIEF; FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PERFECTION OF AN INGENIOUS NOISE ELIMINATING DEVICE FOR RADIO USED IN COMBAT PLANES. SGT. RALPH F. DAVIS WAS PRESENTED THE SOLDIERS MEDAL (SEE 6 MAY DIARY ENTRY), AND LT. GLENN L. Mc DONNELL WAS PRESENTED AN AIR MEDAL. (JR. BIRDMAN'S BADGE). MOVIE TONIGHT. |
| 3. | 10 MORE NEW PILOTS MAKING 19 IN ALL ARRIVED TODAY, AND ALL WERE ASSIGNED ORGANIZATION. NEW PILOTS: 1ST LTS. ADLER, CHAMBERS AND HILL, 2ND LTS. CAMPBELL, FULTON, GATES, GOSLIN, JEFSON, JUNG, LEWIS, MAUCK, NELSON, PIERCE, ROSMAN, TAYLOR, TOLVE, WATSON, AND F/O'S CROWELL AND KAPNER. MOST OF NEW PILOTS HAVE HAD TRAINING IN P-47'S, AND RELIEVE THE ACUTE PILOT SHORTAGE. EXCELLENT BOMBING MISSION TONIGHT LED BY LTS. MYRICK AND MORAN. LTS. CALDWELL AND DAVIE, FLYING ELEMENT LEADERS AND WINGMAN DISCOVERED A TRUCK CONCENTRATION AND DESTROYED 16 TRUCKS, SEVERAL OF THEM GAS TRUCKS. LT. CALDWELL SAID DRIVER LEAPED FROM ONE GAS TRUCK, BUT WAS ENVELOPED BY FLAMES IMMEDIATELY. LT. NELSON, NEW PILOT ARRIVING ON 2ND JULY, CRASHED AT CAPODICHINO WHILE TAKING OFF IN ONE OF NEW P-47'S. HE'S IN HOSPITAL WITH MINOR INJURIES. B-25 MADE A TRIP TO NAPLES TODAY AND BROUGHT BACK SOME BEER FOR BARBECUE JULY 5TH. GUARDS PICKED UP SOME SUSPECTED "JERRIES" ON FIELD TONIGHT. MOVIE TONIGHT, "MADAME CURIE". |
| 4. | TRANSITION FLYING CONTINUED. NEW PILOTS RECEIVED ORIENTATION AND OPERATIONS LECTURES AND WERE BRIEFED ON ESCAPE PROCEDURE TODAY. LT. COL. CASSIDY, FORMER SQUADRON COMMANDER, NOW DEPUTY COMMANDER OF 321 BOMB. GP., (M), VISITED SQUADRON TODAY. |
| 5. | LT. NELSON RETURNED TO SQUADRON FROM HOSPITAL, MINUS TWO FRONT TEETH. PILOTS FERRY MORE P-47'S. LT. FULTON HAD A CRACKUP AT CAPODICHINO, AND IS IN THE 17TH GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH A BROKEN WRIST. FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, ALSO CELEBRATION OF END OF YEARS COMBAT TONIGHT. SUPPER INCLUDED BARBECUED BEEF, ROAST CHICKEN, ROAST CORN, COLESLAW, THE BEER, CAKE AND ICE CREAM. THE GROUP BAND PLAYED DURING THE DINNER HOUR, SOUNDED VERY GOOD. IT HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL YEAR...THE GROUP COMPLETING 1462 MISSIONS, AND 13,608 SORTIES, AN AVERAGE OF 3.99 MISSIONS PER DAY. |

S E C R E T

PAGE NO. 2 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 85TH FIGHTER GROUP.

MONTH OF JULY 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

DAY	EVENTS
6.	TRANSITIONAL FLIGHTS AND GROUND SCHOOL CONTINUED TODAY. THE ADVANCED ECHELON SPENT MOST OF THE DAY PACKING THEIR PERSONAL BAGGAGE AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR OPERATIONS, AS ORDERS WERE RECEIVED TODAY THAT ORGANIZATION IS TO MOVE TO CORSICA.
7.	FIVE OFFICERS AND 125 OF THE ENLISTED PERSONNEL PACKED UP AND LOADED ONTO TRUCKS LATE THIS EVENING. ALL THE TRUCKS WERE LINED UP IN THE SQUADRON AREA AND HAD TO WAIT UNTIL 2300 HOURS AT WHICH TIME THEY PULLED OUT FOR THE STAGING AREA AT CIVITAVECCHIA. PILOTS CONTINUE TRANSITION. FIELD REMAINS DUSTY AND WIND BLEW ALL DAY. THE DAILY SWIM HAS BECOME A NECESSITY.
8.	THE PERSONNEL OF THE REAR ECHELON TODAY WERE REALLY GLAD TO SEE NIGHT COME, AS ALL THE NEW PILOTS AND ALL THE NEW PLANES FLEW TRANSITION MOST OF THE DAY, PUTTING A LOAD ON THE REMAINING HALF OF THE SQUADRON. SMILING, LIKEABLE LT. MC ELMURRY LEFT SQUADRON FOR PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 6 TODAY AND RETURN TO THE STATES.
9.	TRANSITION CONTINUES - WIND BLEW ALL DAY. NEW PILOT, CAPT. ELLIS, A FORMER RTU INSTRUCTOR, JOINED SQUADRON LAST NIGHT. THE PLANES FLEW AS MUCH TODAY AS YESTERDAY. THERE WAS A SHOW SCHEDULED TONIGHT BUT IT HAD TO BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF RAIN. WHEN THE FIRST ECHELON LEFT, THEY TOOK MOST OF THE TENTS, LEAVING SOME OF THE PERSONNEL WITHOUT TENTS, SO A LARGE MEDICAL WALL TENT WAS PUT UP TODAY AS IT LOOKED STORMY. THE STORM CAME AT 2000 HOURS AND LASTED FOR AN HOUR, THOUGH A FEW TENTS BLEW DOWN, MOST OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGED TO STAY DRY. THE RAIN WILL SETTLE THE DUST.
10.	AT A GROUP FORMATION TODAY, ATTENDED BY MAJ. GEN. CANNON AND BRIG. GEN. SAVILLE, THE CROIX DE GUERRE WAS PRESENTED TO MAJOR KASUN, C.O. 525TH AND MAJOR WEIGLE C.O. 526TH FOR EXCELLENT FOOD DROPPING MISSIONS. NO FLYING DUE TO WET RUNWAY. THE FORWARDED ECHELON LOADED ON LST'S (GREEK) AND DEPARTED FOR CORSICA.
11.	ONE OF 526'S P-47'S CRACKED UP TODAY, SHEARING OFF 2 TREES AND NARROWLY MISSING GROUP OPERATIONS AND POSTAL TENTS. PILOT WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED, PLANE SALVAGE. A HUGE AMMUNITION DUMP (GERMAN) UP IN THE HILLS ABOUT 4 MILES FROM FIELD BLEW UP TONIGHT, THE CONCUSSION BREAKING WINDOWS AND MIRRORS IN OUR AREA. REAR ECHELON PACKED TO MOVE TOMORROW.
12.	TODAY THE REAR ECHELON MOVED OFF OF ORBETELLO AIRFIELD. THE PERSONNEL WERE KEPT BUSY LOADING TRUCKS WITH EQUIPMENT, AND PREPARING THE AIRPLANES FOR THEIR DEPARTURE AT 1130 HOURS. THE FIRST PART OF THE REAR ECHELON WENT TO THE DOCKS TO UNLOAD 18 TRUCKS. LT. CALDWELL'S SHIP WENT OUT AS THE REST OF THE SQUADRON TOOK OFF FOR THE NEW FIELD THIS A.M. AND HE WAS THE LAST PLANE IN THE SQUADRON TO LEAVE SO HE TRADITIONALLY "BUZZED" THE FIELD. THE SECOND HALF OF B PARTY LEFT FOR THE STAGING AREA AT 2230 HOURS. THE FORWARD ECHELON ARRIVED IN PORTO VECCHIO, CORSICA AND PROCEEDED TO PORETTA AIRFIELD.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

PAGE NO. 3. WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 98TH FIGHTER GROUP.

MONTH OF JULY 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 13. | REAR ECHELON SPENT ALL DAY AT CIVITAVECCHIA STAGING AREA, AS THERE WERE NO LST'S AVAILABLE FOR LOADING. SHELTER HALVES SET UP AND CARD GAMES AND "SACK TIME" THE GENERAL ORDER OF THE DAY. IN THE EVENING A NEIGHBORING OUTFIT HELD A JAM SESSION. FORWARD ECHELON STARTED SETTING UP MESS TENTS, KITCHEN, LATRINES, ETC. IN A GRASSY BIVOUAC AREA. LINE AREA SET UP ON EDGE OF DIRT RUNWAY ABOUT HALF A MILE FROM BIVOUAC AREA. |
| 14. | DAY STARTED WITH A FALSE ALARM. REAR ECHELON WAS SUPPOSED TO PULL OUT AT 0600, BUT IT WAS NOON BEFORE LST 1011 WAS READY TO LOAD. DRIVING DOWN TO DOCK AFFORDED A GOOD VIEW OF UTER DESTRUCTION BROUGHT BY OUR AIR FORCE. OUR WILK RUN TARGET OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY WAS COMPLETELY "LAPPED". THE LST WAS NEW (4 MONTHS) WITH A NEW CREW. ALL EQUIPMENT WAS LOADED AND THE LST HEADED FOR CORSICA AT APPROXIMATELY 1230 HOURS. USUAL "CKIE" SHELTERS ON DECK. AS THE SHIP LEFT PORT "GENERAL QUARTERS" WAS SOUNDED AND EVERYONE WAS TENSE, REALIZING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE LACK OF COVER OF THE DECK OF AN LST. THE ROGIES TURNED OUT TO BE P-39'S. "STANDDOWN", OPERATION'S MASCOT, LOGGED HER THIRD TRAVEL SORTIE, ALONG WITH "ASPIRINA, ATABRINE, LENA," AND A FEW MORE ASTORTED MUTTS. PILOTS FLEW FIRST MISSION FROM CORSICA THIS AFTERNOON. AN EXCELLENT MISSION LED BY LT. MYRICK WITH FLIGHT LEADERS CALDWELL AND MORAN, THE SQUADRON DESTROYED 10 BOXCARS, 4 MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND SILENCED 3 GUN POSITIONS. |
| 15. | REAR ECHELON ARRIVED AT PORTOVECCHIO, CORSICA AT 0800 HOURS. THE MEN APPRECIATED EXCELLENT "CHUCK" THAT THE LST SERVED--PARTICULARLY THE DRY CEREAL AND DELICIOUS BREAD. AFTER DISEMBARKATION THE GROUP ASSEMBLED AT A STAGING AREA AND STARTED FOR PORETTA AIRFIELD. THE 60 MILE TRIP WAS HOT AND DUSTY. 41ST SERVICE GROUP TRUCKS WENT DOWN TO PORTOVECCHIO TO PICK UP THE REST OF THE SQUADRON'S EQUIPMENT. THE WHOLE SQUADRON HAD EVENING CHOW TOGETHER AND THE "A" AND "B" PARTIES KIDDED EACH OTHER ABOUT THE HARDSHIPS OF THE TRIP. BIVOUAC AREA INFESTED WITH MOSQUITOES, MOSQUITO NETTING AND SKAT ARE IMPERATIVE. FAIR MISSION THIS MORNING ON RAILROAD TRACK. ON AFTERNOON MISSION F/O DOUGLAS B. NEALE FAILED TO RETURN FROM HIS SECOND COMBAT MISSION. HE WAS LAST SEEN AT 15,000 FEET ENTERING A COMPLETE OVERCAST NEAR MT. PISANANO, ITALY. THE LOSS OF F/O NEALE OVERSHADOWED AN OTHER 150 EXCELLENT MISSION RESULTING IN THE DESTRUCTION OF AT LEAST 10 BOXCARS IN ONE TRAIN LOADED WITH MOTOR TRANSPORTS, HIT WITH BOMBS AND DESTROYED A NUMBER OF CARS IN 100 CAR TRAIN, DESTROYED 2 MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND A HALF TRACK BY STRAFING. LT. MYRICK WAS SQUADRON LEADER WITH FLIGHT LEADERS WALLACE AND SAUNDERS. |
| 16. | TWO FAIR MISSIONS ON ARNO RIVER BRIDGES TODAY. ALL PERSONNEL EXTREMELY BUSY KEEPING PLANES IN AIR AND SETTING UP BIVOUAC AREA. LARGE SCOFFED-IN MESS FOR ENLISTED MEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION. RATIONS INCLUDING BEER, FOR FIRST TIME ISSUED ENLISTED MEN TONIGHT. THE THREE BOTTLES OF BEER PER WEEK HAVE CAUSED MORE FAVORABLE COMMENT THAN A RAISE IN PAY WOULD, AS MONEY IS OF VERY LITTLE USE HERE IN CORSICA. PRICES ARE EXTREMELY HIGH. |

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

PAGE NO. 4. WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 85TH FIGHTER GROUP.

MONTH OF JULY 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 17. | LT. FRANK E. MYRICK FAILED TO RETURN FROM TONIGHT'S MISSION. HIS PLANE WAS SEEN TO EXPLODE AFTER AN APPARENT DIRECT HIT BY LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE FROM POSITIONS HE WAS STRAFING. ONLY 50 FEET FROM GROUND, THERE'S LITTLE CHANCE OF HIS HAVING ESCAPED THE BURNING PLANE, THOUGH PLANE WAS NOT SEEN TO CRASH. LT. MYRICK HAD ALMOST COMPLETED HIS COMBAT TOUR. BRAVE, DARING, SOMETIMES PECKLESS, LT. MYRICK LED SQUADRON ON MANY EXCELLENT MISSIONS AND WAS LIKED AND RESPECTED BY FELLOW PILOTS AND CREWS. A DAY OF ACCIDENTS--LT. MILLER HIT NIGHT GUIDE LIGHT WITH WING IN TAKING OFF AND HAD TO LAND. F/O KAPNER ON TRANSITIONAL FLIGHT HAD TO DITCH HIS P-47. HE REPORTED THAT THE PLANE SANK IMMEDIATELY, BUT HE ESCAPED WITH TWO FRONT TEETH KNOCKED OUT (HE AND LT. NELSON ARE STARTING A CLUB FOR TOOTHLESS PILOTS). HE WAS PICKED UP ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BY AN AIR SEA RESCUE "WALRUS". 1ST LTS. JOSEPH C. WOOLHOUSE AND GLENN L. MC DONNELL WERE TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER #6 FOR RETURN TO STATES. MOVIE TONIGHT, "HER PRIMITIVE MAN". |
| 18. | DUE TO WEATHER, LATE MISSION DIDN'T GET TO TARGET, SO DROPPED BOMBS ON COASTAL ROAD. ORDERLY ROOM PERSONNEL VERY BUSY ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE ITALIAN MONEY OVER TO FRENCH MONEY. FIVE MEMBERS OF SQUADRON PFC'S BURT, HORTON, LEE, SANTOS, AND SHANK ENTERED SPECIAL SERVICE BOXING TOURNAMENT AND CARRIED AWAY MOST OF THE HONORS, WITH BURT, LEE AND HORTON WINNING THEIR BOUTS. MESSAGES OF COMMENDATION ON RECENT OPERATIONS OF ALL GROUPS IN 87 FIGHTER WING RECEIVED TODAY AND POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS (SEE ATTACHED COPY). |
| 19. | WEATHER BAD, ON STANDBY ALL DAY, STANDING DOWN AT 18:30 HOURS. DIRT FLEW IN THE AREA TODAY AFTER SQUADRON ORDER THAT EACH MAN HAVE A FOX HOLE. SERVICE GROUP HAS INSTALLED EXCELLENT HOT SHOWERS ON RIVER BANK, AND THEY SUPPLEMENT THE RATHER EXTENSIVE SWIMMING. SHOW TONIGHT, "UNCERTAIN GLORY". |
| 20 | WEATHER BAD, ONE MISSION DID GET OFF BUT COULDN'T GET TO TARGET, SO DROPPED BOMBS ON COASTAL HIGHWAY. LT. WATSON CRACKED PLANE UP IN ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OFF. PLANE WAS DESTROYED, BUT "RED" WAS UNINJURED. SQUADRON SUPPLY COLLECTED LAUNDRY TODAY FOR QM LAUNDRY. LAUNDRY PRICES ARE SO HIGH AND FACILITIES SO FEW THAT GI SERVICE IS NECESSARY. |
| 21 | POOR FLYING WEATHER. LT. WALLACE LED GOOD MISSION THIS MORNING KNOCKING OUT A BRIDGE. SQUADRON RECEIVED PROMOTION ORDERS PROMOTING LT. WOOLHOUSE TO CAPTAINCY. HE RECEIVED WORD OF IT AT PERSONNEL CENTER. GENERAL ORDER AWARDED AIR MEDALS TO LTS. MADIGAN AND MORAN RECEIVED TODAY. TWO ENLISTED MEN, SGT. SAMSONI, SQUADRON COOK, AND CPL. FREY OF COMMUNICATIONS TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER TO RETURN TO STATES VIA ROTATION. LT. JOHNSON RETURNED TODAY AFTER 30 DAY LEAVE IN STATES (SEE 28 APRIL '44 DIARY ENTRY). HE BROUGHT BACK A "SAMPLE" OF BOURBON AND ABOUT 10 POUNDS EXTRA WEIGHT TO PROVE THAT ALL'S WELL IN STATES. LT. JOHNSON APPOINTED SQUADRON OPERATIONS OFFICER VICE LT. MORAN, WHO IS APPOINTED FLIGHT LEADER. LT. SAUNDERS REMAINS AS ASS'T OPERATIONS. LT. MORAN HAS DONE A GOOD CONSCIENTIOUS JOB AS OPERATIONS OFFICER. |

S E C R E T

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PAGE NO. 5. WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 26TH FIGHTER GROUP.

MONTH OF JULY 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITLEY, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

DAY	EVENTS
22.	A VERY EARLY WIS FOR THIS MORNING WITH 530 TAKEOFF, DID GOOD JOB BREAKING TRACK. SECOND MISSION MADE GOOD HITS ON RAIL LINE AND WAREHOUSES. LT. WHITING HAD OIL LEAK, SO HE RETURNED WITH WINGMAN, LT. TOLVE, DROPPING BOMBS ON FACTORY IN EDGE OF GENOA. CAPT. ATCHLEY LEFT FOR NAPLES TODAY TO ATTEND SCHOOL FOR "VOTING OFFICERS". "DOC" RIDER HAD A FORMATION TONIGHT AND GAVE TALK ON THE ISLAND'S DISEASES AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES. SHOW AGAIN TONIGHT. COMMUNICATIONS HAS RIGGED A RADIO LOUD SPEAKER IN BIVOUAC AREA AND MUSIC AND NEWS ARE BROADCAST REGULARLY. LIGHT PLANTS FURNISH POWER FOR RADIO AND LIGHTS FOR MAJORITY OF SQUADRON.
23.	MAJ. GENERAL JONES, AN AIR FORCE INSPECTOR GENERAL, INSPECTED LINE AND OPERATIONS AREA TODAY. HAD AN EXCELLENT MISSION TONIGHT LED BY LT. SAUNDERS, IT TORE UP TRACK FOR 1/4 MILE, DESTROYED 6 RAILWAY CARS AND A LOCOMOTIVE. LT. MC PHERSON'S FLIGHT BLEW UP AN AMMUNITION DUMP AND DESTROYED A TRUCK ON THIS SAME MISSION. TODAY'S SECOND MISSION WAS 1500TH FOR 26TH GROUP. AAF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE PUBLISHED A SUMMARY (SEE ATTACHED) OF GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 1500 MISSIONS AND 14,000 SORTIES.
24.	TWO GOOD MISSIONS TODAY. LT. CORN LED SQUADRON FOR FIRST TIME, ACCOMPLISHING SOME GOOD HITS ON RAIL LINES. ROAST CHICKEN FOR SUPPER TONIGHT, BUT RAN OUT BEFORE ALL FED. FOOD AND SUPPLY SOURCES HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD ON CORSICA, EXCEPT FOR LACK OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND EGGS. THE IMPROVED ESC, NEW REST HALL, CLEAN BIVOUAC AREA AND CONTINUED OPERATION HAVE IMPROVED SQUADRON MORALE CONSIDERABLY, AS HAS THE INFUX OF NEW PILOTS AND NEW PLANES.
25.	TWO FAIR MISSIONS TODAY. TWELVE NEW PILOTS (ALL OF WHOM LEFT THE STATES ONLY 16 DAYS AGO) REPORTED TO SQUADRON THIS EVENING ABOUT 1900 HOURS. NEW PILOTS: 2ND LTS. BURNS, DUNGAN, HAYES, HOLT, HUSKINSON, KINLEY, LANDAN, LEFKOW, LEVENTHAL, MALONEY, MARLEY AND MALESZEWSKI. LT. ADLER HAD S-2 JEEP STOLEN FROM HIM TONIGHT WHILE VISITING BASTIA.
26.	CAPT. ATCHLEY RETURNED FROM SCHOOL AT NAPLES AND LT. DAVIE LEFT FOR 11 DAYS REST LEAVE AT CAPRI. TWO GOOD MISSIONS ON RAIL LINES.
27.	ALL SQUADRONS OPERATIONAL NOW, HAVING COMPLETED TRANSITION IN P-47'S AND BEING FULLY EQUIPPED. TWO POOR MISSIONS TODAY. STOLEN JEEP RETURNED BY 47TH COMB GP. WHO FOUND IT PARKED ON ROADSIDE. ORDNANCE INSPECTED ALL FIREARMS TODAY. CPL. CARL CARTER WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED TONIGHT WHILE DYNA MITING FOR FISH. HE IS EXPECTED TO LIVE, BUT HAS LOST HIS RIGHT HAND DUE TO FAULTY FUSE WHICH EXPLODED PREMATURELY.
29.	WEATHER BAD. BOMBED AT A SHIP IN IMPERIA HARBOR, POSSIBLY DAMAGING IT. 1ST LT. ELLIS F. MITCHELL TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER #6 FOR RETURN TO STATES. "MITCH" COMPLETED 95 COMBAT MISSIONS, AND HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR DFC, THE AIR METAL WITH TWO CLUSTERS. THE FELLOWS WILL MISS MITCH'S LIKEABLE SOUTHERN DRAPEL AND METICULOUS EXPLANATIONS. ORDERLY ROOM PERSONNEL SET UP VOLLEY BALL COURT TODAY. DUE TO SHORTAGE OF BARBERS ON ISLAND (SICILY AND ITALY WERE NEVER LIKE THIS), SGTS. SCHEUER (FRENCH) AND HALVERSON ARE KEPT VERY BUSY CUTTING HAIR IN OFF DUTY HOURS. "POAK CHOPS" FOR SUPPER TONIGHT THEN MOVIE, "IT HAPPENED TOMORROW".

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S E C R E T

PAGE NO. 6 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.MONTH OF JULY 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

DAY	EVENTS
29.	SOME EXCELLENT BOMBING TODAY, THOUGH SQUADRON COULDN'T GET THROUGH TO ASSIGNED TARGET. ATTACKED FACTORY, ALL BOMBS HITTING "DEAD CENTER" BUT TWO WHICH HUNG AND DROPPED IN SEA. TONIGHT PHOTO SECTION SHOWED COMBAT FILMS TAKEN FROM OUR PLANES. SO FAR THE PICTURES HAVEN'T BEEN OF MUCH HELP AS IT TAKES SO LONG TO HAVE THEM DEVELOPED, AND THEY DON'T SHOW MUCH AFTER DEVELOPED DUE TO VIBRATION OF CAMERA, FORGETTING TO TURN CAMERA ON, ETC.
30.	1ST LT. JAMES W. HALE ASSIGNED AND JOINED ORGANIZATION TODAY. F/O KAPNER WHO HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL AFTER HIS DITCHING EPISODE RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON TODAY. ONE MISSION--NOTHING SPECTACULAR.
31.	ORGANIZATION WAS PAID TODAY, AND IN VIEW OF HIGH PRICES, THE SQUADRON IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A QUIET PAYDAY NIGHT. COMPLETED 30 MISSIONS, 322 SORTIES THIS MONTH, LOST TWO PILOTS (MIA). RECEIVED A HOST OF NEW PILOTS--(33) ASSIGNED, ENDING MONTH WITH ALL TIME HIGH IN PILOTS AND WITH 30 OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT.

S E C R E T

1201

The Flak Alley Rag.. as played and sung to the
tune "The Red River Valley".

We are going to the Po River Valley
For to blow up some road or some track
But if I had a choice in the matter
I'd still be asleep in the sack.

Come sit by my side at the briefing
Do not hasten to bid me adieu
For we're going to the Po River Valley
And I'm flying number 4 in flight blue.

My left bomb dropped on the take-off
My right bomb hung in the dive
And both gas tanks went dry on the landing
I am damn lucky I am alive.

I went to the Po River Valley
Many wonderful sights did I see
But the one that will live in my memory
Is the flak that they shot up at me.

S-2 says no flak where we're going
S-2 says no flak on the way
There's a black overcast on the target
I'm beginning to doubt what they say.

I dove with my eight guns a blazing
And I shot up the man in the lead
And he chewed me out good after landing
Oh! My God how my conscience did bleed.

Oh! the weather man says there's no ceiling
And the field will be easy to see
But we lost half our ships in the pattern
And the rest landed out in the sea.

Oh! the Mustangs go by like a whirlwind
And the Spitfires go by like a breeze
And the transports with one engine feathered
Made us feel like we're flying P.T.'s.

We can't see the field for the dust clouds
And you can't see the sky for the haze
And I met thirteen ships on the runway
For the tower had us landing both ways

The flak nearly got me this morning
And I nearly flew into the deck
And I clipped off the wing root this evening
And damned near broke my fool neck

We came across the field at 2,000
And pulled back on the throttle and stick
And lost 3,000 feet on the pull up
This plane glides just like a brick

AUTHORS: Lts. McFarland and Schiro, Capt. Wallace.

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527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
OUTLINE HISTORY
SEPTEMBER 1944

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

1 SEPTEMBER 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 SQUADRON FOR PERIOD
1 AUGUST 1944 THROUGH 31 AUGUST 1944.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, ATTACHED TO 87TH FIGHTER WING FOR OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY ONLY.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:
 - (1) CHANGES IN DESIGNATION, ASSIGNMENT, OR ATTACHMENT: NONE.
 - (2) SUBORDINATE UNITS: NONE.
 - (3) CHANGES IN COMMANDING OFFICERS: NONE.
 - (4) CHANGES IN STAFF OFFICERS: NONE.
 - (5) CHANGES IN T/O: NONE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) MONTH OF AUGUST 1944:
 - (A) AT BEGINNING: 58 OFFICERS, 245 ENLISTED MEN.
 - (B) NET INCREASE: NONE.
 - (C) NET DECREASE: 1 OFFICER, 7 ENLISTED MEN.
 - (D) AT END: 57 OFFICERS, 238 ENLISTED MEN.
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA.
 - (A) DATE OF ARRIVAL: 15 JULY 1944.
 - (B) DATE OF DEPARTURE: PRESENT STATION.
- E. MOVEMENTS: NONE.
- F. CAMPAIGNS:
 - (1) SICILIAN: 3 JULY 1943 TO 17 AUGUST 1943.
 - (2) ITALIAN: 18 AUGUST 1943 TO DATE, STILL IN PROGRESS.
 - (3) SOUTHERN FRANCE: 15 AUGUST 1944 TO DATE, STILL IN PROGRESS.
- G. OPERATIONS:
 - (1) CAMPAIGN: ITALIAN.
 - (A) NATURE OF OPERATIONS: CONTINUED FLYING MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF CAMPAIGN, FLYING 4 BOMBING MISSIONS ON RAIL COMMUNICATIONS, 9 BOMBING MISSIONS ON ROAD POSTHOLING OPERATIONS, 5

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