

Editor

Sgt. Arthur Snow

"Battle of Salerno Cont'd."

Fal-staff

S/Sgt. Sid Howard

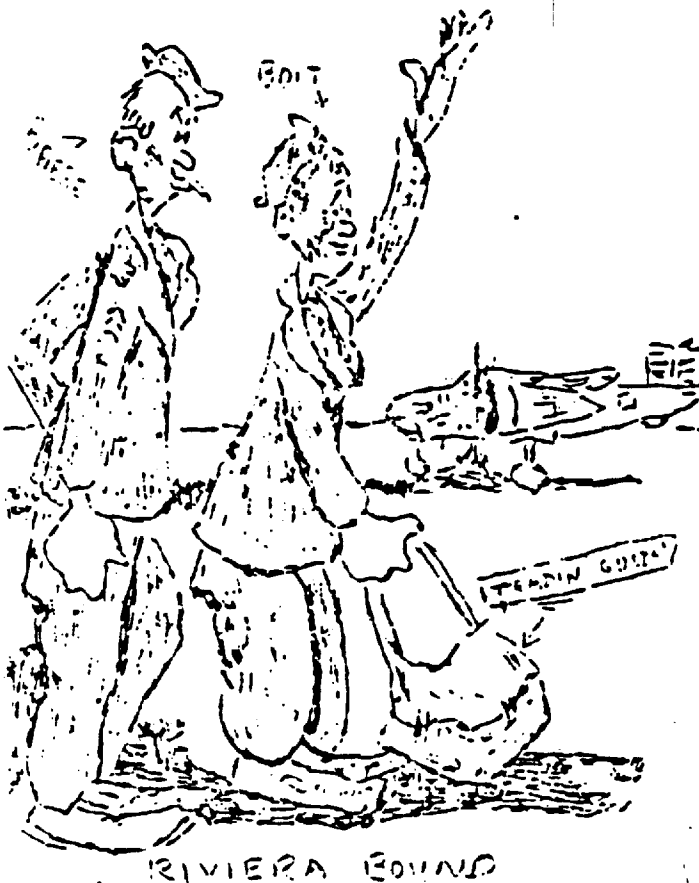
Art Staff

S/Sgt. John Davidson  
Sgt. Horace Bradford

"On the BESS Cont'd."

We shouldn't mention the election we suppose, as we wouldn't want to be classified as another "old you so-fert", so we'll merely breath a silent prayer of thank to the good citizens of Nebraska who vote up to all their righteous wrath to vote down a state-wide prohibition proposal. It is good, indeed, to know that the home front is not asleep in these troublesome times.

... ..



This in regard to the fighter and fighter bombers. The attack was explained in the form of a timetable, and each group commander was told how many of his airplanes would be required, their assigned altitudes, their patrol period and the particular stretch of the beachhead for which they would be held responsible. Lt. Col. Frank A. Hill, commanding officer of a Spitfire group, commented later, "We didn't deviate from that schedule by more than thirty seconds. It was absolutely perfect."

For from two to four days before the invasion, the convoys en route to the assault area were protected by an aerial screen composed of Gracian Command aircraft. At 0505 on September 9 the beachhead air cover schedule went into effect. Four different types of aircraft made up the first aerial umbrella. A-36s and British carrier based Seafires covered from 6,000 to 10,000 feet, and Seafires and Spitfires from 15,000 to 22,000 feet. The A-36s operated with squadrons of eight planes. The Seafires used from six to eight, the Lightnings twelve, and the Spitfires patrolled in two groups of six planes each, with the first element at 15,000 feet and the second from 20,000 to 22,000 feet. Each squadron was given a fifteen-to-twenty mile beach area to cover and reinforcements were arranged so there was always a relief group of planes on the way to the target.

This is how Lieut. William Murphy, P-38 pilot, describes the first mission of his group: "We left after dawn and picked up warships, transports and landing craft just off Salerno. I could see the activity beneath us and it appeared that there wasn't much in the way of opposition. We assumed our position over the beachhead in groups of four in stepped-down (To be Continued Next Issue)

# MENU



THANKSGIVING IN ITALY  
NOVEMBER 23RD, 1944  
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON



"TURKEY-DAY TIDELTS A LA 1944"

By S/Sgt. Sid Howard.

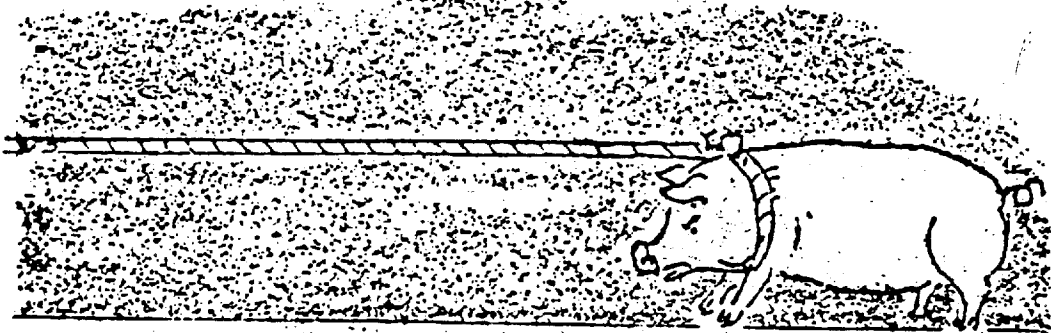
It hardly seems possible, but it's here again- Thanksgiving, that is, the day the gobblers sweat out all year, one of the few days when the boys don't have to bitch at "Chief" about the chow, and the day, (the it is far from unique in this respect), when a large number of the lads imbibe a little too freely of John Barley corn. Who will ever forget Doug Hall's bout with the "Gus E. Downs specials" in our club at "Pcmig" last Thanksgiving? He got five (5) of 'em down alright -- just like he said he could- but that part about him playing the Fathe News Rooster didn't have a damn thing to do with the wager. (Did it Doug?)

This year as all well-informed citizens know we have something new and different, namely a Group E.M. Club. None liked the idea when it was first broached. 'Smatter o' fact some of 'em were damn well ready to fight anyone who said the thing would work. And so our group club got under way with about 2 2/3 strikes on it. Now after a couple of months operation it has been decided that the club should have a name. It will be left up to a vote of the general assembly, but our own nom-ination is "The Arena". We would call it this in recognition of those stalwart young gentlemen who regularly wish to display their prowess at the Marquis of Queensbury sport to the assembled patrons-- and generally wind up taking their departure in a horizontal position. All in all we feel that the club has proved a real success. All of the visiting firemen, including a one-star "buck" general, have praised the joint as one of the finest in Italy, and not a few of the group officials have spoken with something very akin to envy of the place. Certainly the local signorinas enjoyed the place, as they flocked to the bi and tri-weekly dances in ever increasing numbers-- without the inducement of Spem- corn willie sandwiches, or some other such delicacy too. This in itself was a victory worthy of some kind of mention. There are those who say that the girls came out to hear that "smooth" dago orchestra, but we prefer to toss that bouquet right into the collective laps of Blackshaw-Enloe & Co. with their "Sweetest Music This Side of Staten Island".



No, it doesn't seem possible that Thanksgiving has snuck up on us again already, yet when you think back on it, a lot of things have happened. A lot of old familiar faces are gone and a lot of new faces have taken their places; we've been to a lot of places, (which we won't mention because Prouty's probably gonna try and talk the PHS censor into lettin' us send this pamphlet home), and now we're back 'home' again. Yes sir, that's one major accomplishment we can chalk up for the year- not the Presidential Citation- that's not what we're talking about. We're referring to the fact that we lived thru that 'Siege of Corsica' without a single CDD being passed out in the squadron. (In making this statement we fully realize that perhaps a couple of prime prospects were overlooked.) We feel that all good citizens will agree that 'four-star' vino and 'buon giorno's' beat the hell outta a lot of frog gibberish and Eau de Vie. And incidentally, speaking of citizens, wonder how many members of the squadron are gonna apply for their first papers. Latest rumor has it that Premier Bonomi and the Italian government are re-cruiting future dago citizens from the ranks of the G. I.'s.

In winding this little job up, and in so doing not pointing fingers at anyone- (we couldn't very well afford to) - we suppose that the G. I.'s will seize on this day as a good excuse for feasting, frolicing and tippling. This is alright in a way too, we guess. Guys overseas 18 months, (and 25 days), have gotta have some outlet. But as you pull that wishbone apart, let's all make a fervent wish that next Thanksgiving will see us all-- not in Burma or China, not in the Philippines or Texas- but back home in the good old Newnited States of America. We wanta be just like that returning soldier, who, looking up at the Statue of Liberty, said: 'You can put down that terah, honey, I'm home!!!'



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527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
OUTLINE HISTORY  
DECEMBER 1944

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

1 January 1945

AG414.7

Subject: Historical Records.

To : Commanding General, XXII Tactical Air Command, APO 650, U.S. Army.

1. Outline History of the 527th Fighter Squadron for period 1 December to 31 December 1944.

- A. Present Designation: 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command.
- 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:
    - a. 1st Lt. Clayson S. Garber appointed Squadron Intelligence Officer, Vice Capt. Donald L. Whitney, relieved, per Squadron Order #52, 15 December 1944.
  - (5) Changes in T/O: None.
- C. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.
  - (1) Month of December 1944:
    - a. At beginning: 54 Officers, 247 Enlisted men.
    - b. Net Increase: 10 Officers, 4 Enlisted men.
    - c. Net Decrease: None
    - d. At End: 64 Officers, 248 Enlisted men.
- D. Stations:
  - (1) Pisa Airfield, Italy.
    - a. Date of Arrival: 25 October 1944.
    - b. Date of Departure: Present Station.
- E. Movements: None.
- F. Campaigns:
  - (1) Sicilian: 3 July 1943 to 17 August 1943.

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- (2) Southern France: 15 August 1944 to 26 August 1944.  
(26 August 1944 date of last mission flown by 86th Group).
- (3) Italian:
  - a. Naples - Foggia: 9 September 1943 to 21 January 1944.
  - b. Rome - Arno: 21 January 1944 to present date.

## G. Operations:

- (1) Campaign: Rome - Arno.
- (2) Nature of Operations: Continued flying missions in support of campaign, flying 62 direct support missions on strong points, motor transport concentrations, fuel and ammunition storage depots, and gun positions; 29 bombing missions on rail road targets, 11 road reconnaissance missions, 3 escort and area cover missions, 1 anti-flak diversion and 1 weather reconnaissance.
- (3) Number of missions and sorties for period: 107 missions and 577 sorties during month of December 1944.
- (4) Results of the most important missions:
  - a. Mission #2368, 1 December 1944 (8 planes)
    - 1. Bomb road and rail crossing north of Cremona, Italy.
    - 2. Purpose: To deny the enemy the use of his rail and road communications.
    - 3. Results: 4 rail cuts, 21 boxcars destroyed, 6 motor transports destroyed, 5 motor transports damaged, and 1 JU-88 destroyed in combat. (2 aircraft damaged in combat)
  - b. Mission #2425, 10 December 1944. (8 planes)
    - 1. Track breaking mission - Po Valley.
    - 2. Purpose: To deny the enemy the use of rail communications and to strafe rolling stock.
    - 3. Results: 10 direct hits on tracks - 5 rail cuts. Destroyed 4 boxcars by direct bomb hits. Destroyed 1 ME-410 in aerial combat. (No losses).
  - c. Mission #2488, 15 December 1944. (4 planes)
    - 1. Forward Fighter Controller - Attack Tossignano town.
    - 2. Purpose: To destroy the town the enemy was using as an observation post.
    - 3. Results: 6 incendiary fuel tanks in target town. 2 strafing passes made. Controller commended flight on excellent attack. (No losses)
  - d. Mission #2556, 25 December 1944. (2 planes)
    - 1. Special mission - Bomb train and rail cars vicinity Massa, Italy.
    - 2. Purpose: To destroy train making periodic trips into Massa.
    - 3. Results: Destroyed engine with steam up and 3 flat cars loaded with supplies.

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- e. Mission #2639, 30 December 1944. (4 planes)
  - 1. Bomb gun positions near Aullo, Italy.
  - 2. Purpose: To destroy heavy caliber guns harassing the 5th Army's left flank.
  - 3. Results: 6 - 1,000 lb. bombs in target area - guns probably destroyed. 8 rail road cars damaged by strafing. (1 a/c damaged - flak)

- II. Commanding Officers in important missions:
  - (1) Major John R. Dolny commanded squadron 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.
  - (2) Squadron Leaders in important missions:
    - a. 1st Lt. George E. Hill led Mission #2368, 1 December 1944.
    - b. Capt. Jesse R. Core, III, led Mission #2425, 10 December 1944.
    - c. Capt. Boyd B. Chambers, Jr., Led Mission #2639, 15 December 1944, And Mission #2688, 30 December 1944.
    - d. Major John R. Dolny led Mission #2556, 25 December 1944.

- I. Losses in Action:
  - (1) Killed in Action: Boyd B. Chambers, Jr., O-25883, Capt. Failed to return from a bombing mission on a bridge in northern Italy. While strafing, Capt. Chambers' aircraft appeared to strike a high tension wire and crashed immediately.
  - (2) Missing in Action: W. Clifford Adler, O-886220, 1st Lt. Failed to return from a close support mission. Lt. Adler was observed to fly through his own bomb blast and was last seen 500 yards northeast of target area.
  - (3) Missing in Action: John E. Thompson, O-722183, 2nd Lt. Failed to return from a bombing mission on a railroad bridge. Lt. Thompson flew through bomb blast and his plane caught fire. Was last seen on the ground after successfully bailing out of his aircraft.

- J. Former and Present members who have distinguished themselves in action:
  - (1) Newton L. Saunders, O-681709, Captain, (KIA). For gallantry in action. On 13 November 1944, Capt. Saunders led a four ship flight in an attack on vital enemy installations at Tole, Italy. Upon arrival at the target area, his aircraft was heavily damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Despite damage to his aircraft, Capt. Saunders dove to minimum altitude to release his incendiary tanks but was unable to do so. Ordering his flight to remain out of range of the enemy fire, Capt. Saunders dove on the target again, this time releasing his fire tanks and scoring direct hits. His ship was further damaged by flak and flames were enveloping his aircraft as he parachuted. For this action, the Silver Star was awarded per G.O. #262, Hq Twelfth Air Force dated 8 December 1944.



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- (2) George E. Hill, O-451878, 1st Lt. For gallantry in action. On 13 October 1944, Lt. Hill led a four plane flight of fighter bombers on enemy installations near Zula, Italy. After receiving instructions from his controller, he reconnoitered the area making positive identification of his target. At this time, Lt. Hill's aircraft was heavily damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Despite the damage to his aircraft, Lt. Hill maneuvered his flight under the overcast to attack. Forced to make a third bomb run after his bombs failed to release, on the third pass, Lt. Hill dropped his bombs directly on a gun position destroying it. For this action, Lt. Hill was awarded the Silver Star per G.O. #266, Hq. Twelfth Air Force, dated 12 December 1944.
- (3) Jesse R. Core, III, O-665763, Captain, For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. On 10 December 1944, Capt. Core led an 8 ship mission attacking the Brenner rail line. Leading his flight to the target area, Capt. Core executed a precision dive which enabled seven members of his flight to score direct hits destroying four boxcars and scoring five rail cuts. Sighting an ME-410 on the return route to base, Capt. Core took up the chase. Using expert tactics, Capt. Core maneuvered the enemy aircraft into a position so as to obtain strikes. Capt. Core set both engines and the tail section of the enemy aircraft afire before the enemy aircraft crashed. For these and other actions, the Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded per G.O. #275, Hq. Twelfth Air Force, dated 21 December 1944.
- (4) Air Medals and/or Oak Leaf Clusters were awarded on orders indicated to the following pilots for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights:

G.O. #89, Hq. XXII Tactical Air Command,

James W. Hale, 1st Lt. - 1st OLC  
Thomas F. Ellis, 2nd Lt. - 1st OLC

G.O. #92, XXII Tactical Air Command,

James H. Ellis, Capt. - 1st OLC  
Jecil E. Hayes, 1st Lt.- 1st OLC  
James k. Holt, 1st Lt. - 1st OLC  
Allan A. Leventhal, 1st Lt. - 1st OLC  
Leland P. Lewis, 1st Lt.- 1st OLC  
Frederick Marley, 1st Lt- 1st OLC  
John R. Mc Gehee, 1st Lt. 1st OLC  
George W. Ramsey, 1st Lt. 1st OLC  
John A. Robinson, 1st Lt. 1st OLC  
Paul E. Crowell, 2nd Lt. 2nd OLC  
Oluf W. Jefson, 1st Lt. 2nd OLC

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Edmund A. Jung, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 Carlton E. Pierce, 1st Lt. 2nd OLC  
 James C. Watson, Jr., 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 Carl Johnson, Capt. - 4th OLC  
 George W. Wallace, Jr., - 4th OLC and 5th OLC  
 John R. Dolny, Major - 5th OLC

G.O. #94, XXII Tactical Air Command,

Paul Lefkow, 2nd Lt. (MIA) Air Medal  
 Thomas F. Ellis, 2nd Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 James W. Hale, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 George E. Hill, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 James B. Huskisson, 1st Lt. 2nd OLC  
 Allan A. Leventhal, 1st Lt. 2nd OLC  
 Leland P. Lewis, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 Frederick Marley, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 John R. Mc Gahee, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC

G.O. #95, XXII Tactical Air Command,

Cecil E. Hayes, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC

G.O. #96, XXII Tactical Air Command,

Lloyd D. Kinley, 2nd Lt. (MIA) Air Medal  
 George W. Dungan, 1st Lt. - 1st OLC  
 James R. Whiting, 1st Lt. 1st and 3rd OLC  
 W. Clifford Adler, 1st Lt. (MIA) 2nd OLC  
 James H. Ellis, Capt. - 2nd OLC  
 Frederick D. Gates, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 James K. Holt, 1st Lt. 2nd OLC  
 George W. Ramsey, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 John A. Robinson, 1st Lt. - 2nd OLC  
 Boyd B. Chambers, Jr. Capt. - 3rd OLC  
 Paul E. Crowell, 2nd Lt. - 3rd OLC  
 Edmund A. Jung, 1st Lt. - 3rd OLC  
 Blaine F. Nelson, 1st Lt. - 3rd OLC  
 Benjamin Rosman, 1st Lt. - 3rd OLC  
 James E. Schiro, 1st Lt. - 3rd and 4th OLC  
 Glynn E. Taylor, Jr. 1st Lt. 3rd OLC  
 Angelo M. Tolve, 1st Lt. - 3rd OLC

G.O. #98, XXII Tactical Air Command,

Bruce W. Fulton, 2nd Lt. - Air Medal

2. Enclosed are War Diary, 527th Fighter Squadron for period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944, and supporting documents for month of December 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Clayton S. Garber*  
 CLAYTON S. GARBER,  
 1st Lt., Air Corps,  
 527th Fighter Squadron.

Incl: Diary and supporting documents

S E C R E T

Page No. 1 . War Diary 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group.

Month of December 1944. Prepared by: CLAYSON S. GARBER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
527th Fighter Squadron.

- | Day | Events   |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Big day today with the squadron flying 40 sorties. This is the greatest amount of sorties the squadron has flown since we covered the beaches at Salerno. On that date, the squadron flew 62 sorties. 5 missions today of 8 ships each--attacking roads and rails. On the last mission plenty of excitement as Lt. Hill ran a JU-88 into the ground sans ammunition, which by no means is a small feat. After expending all his ammunition, Lt. Hill forced the enemy aircraft, by maneuvering his plane into the ground, but not before the "Jerry's" engine had exploded, causing damage to Lt. Hill's plane. The squadron enlisted men had a sex morality lecture tonight given by Capt. Rider, then Capt. Tilleson read the Articles of War. The "Mercenary Musicians" (Group band) played for the 78th Fighter Control Squadron tonight, and will play again tomorrow and Sunday at the Red Cross Club in Pisa. 2nd Lt. Anderson joined the squadron today from the 19th Replacement Bn. Movie tonight at group theater. The projector is constantly breaking down from normal wear and tear, but the movie came off--late. "Sweet and Low Down" being the title of the opus, with no less a personage than Mr. B. Goodman headlining. Capt. Carl Johnson left the squadron today to return to the United States. Capt. "Johnny" has had an enviable record as flight leader and Operations Officer. He had returned to the "States" for a 30 day leave and rejoined the squadron at Foretta, Corsica. He completed 82 combat missions and 128,00 combat hours. Capt. Johnson joined the squadron in February 1944. |
| 2.  | Four missions today with the third mission running into 18 "Jerries". The "Jerries" attempted a "sneak play", but it failed to work. Pilots kidding Lt. Ellis on the "Jerries" attempt to fly formation with him. Orders came today awarding 1st Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal to Lts. Ellis and Hale. Letter was received today that Lt. Mc Dermott (MIA 13 March 1944) was killed in action.  |
| 3.  | Sunday. Rain and mist and no flying. Pilots didn't come out at all. At noon, a standdown was called. In the late afternoon, the Sun broke through but too late for flying. The appearance of a Link Trainer on the main floor of Base Operations building resulted in a lot of "Ch my back" from the pilots. This is the first Link Trainer the squadron has seen since its departure to an overseas station. Movie tonight in the group theatre. A new projector and sound system has been installed and movies are running smoothly. Chaplain Fischer held services in the 525th mess hall. 1st Sgt. Parker, who has been in various hospitals since the beginning of October, returned to the squadron today. Sgt. "Hcoley" Parker who has a new set of uppers, says he feels much better and is glad to be back in the unit after spending time in "repple depple". Rations today. Although the beer is missing, the rations are good as a whole. 2nd Lts. Leventhal and Huskisson were promoted to 1st Lts. effective 29 November 1944. Word came today that Lt. Lofkow (MIA since 23 September 1944) was a Prisoner of War.  |
| 4.  | Three missions today with the flights having to return to a "socked in" field via homing.  |

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Page No. 2 . War Diary 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group.

Month of December 1944. Prepared by: CLAYSON S. GARBNER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
527th Fighter Squadron.

Day	Events
5.	Weather again. The pilots came down to be briefed and "niente" missions. In the afternoon we finally had two four ship flights. On one of the missions, Major Dolny had the right wing tip of #83 shot off. He says the flak was accurate. "Bono" breakfast this morning with fresh eggs and bacon on the menu. Big pow-wow tonight as Group personnel attended the Group theatre to see, among other things, combat pictures, a sex morality movie and a combat bulletin. Brig. Gen. D'arcy attended and ran the projector.
6.	Another day of bad weather, and only one mission today. Capt. Core led it, and the flight was forced to jettison their bombs in the sea. Big day for rank at the field with Generals Baker, Cannon, Chidlaw and D'Arcy here. A C-47 brought the Generals in, and Col. Bates directed its parking. Movie tonight at Group Theatre. The Group band played at the Officers dance--poor showing.
7.	Wet weather again, and only one mission flown throughout the day. Lts. Jung and Huskisson returned from rest camp. Although rested, they were bored with Capri's quiet and quaint atmosphere. The Arno continues to rise, and dull rumblings sound throughout the day as blastings continue to divert the water. With the resumption of Forward Fighter Controller missions, the Group is again participating in "Rover Joes". This time, the Group has the call sign "Dagwood". There is a new sign in front of the field which reads, "86th Fighter Group, the home of Rover Joe, the GI's friend". Lts. Schiro and Robinson and 2 enlisted men left today for 7 days at Capri.
8.	Another day of wet weather, and no flying. Pilots grumbling at the weather, and the line personnel cannot work in the open. New pilots arrived today and the following were assigned this squadron: Lts. Wheat, Thomas, C.M., Thomas, R.E., Thompson, and Flight Officers, Brown and Beck.
9.	More new Officers continue to arrive making the squadron's roster of Officers the largest it has ever been. New Officers today include the following pilots: Lts. Iavelli, Plowden, Nighswonger, Sauermilch and F/O Brown. Lt. Wolf, who joined the squadron today will act as Ordnance Officer.
10.	A number of missions today and more Generals than missions. Among the Generals present were: Arnold, Cannon, Darcy and Chidlaw. The Brazilian Air Minister arrived on the field to look over the 1st Brazilian Fighter Squadron. Just in the midst of the inspection, an aircraft cracked up on the runway, and the Generals started chewing--and chewing. Finally in the afternoon everything cleared up--the Generals left. In the afternoon, Capt. Core led an 8 ship mission and succeeded in "clobbering" an ME-410, his third. "Jerry" has been rather active lately. They (aircraft) come over at night to attack front line positions.
11.	Rain today, and the pilots come down to be briefed--return to barracks--return to field--return to barracks--standdown. Pilots grumble when they fly too many missions, and complain when there are no missions to fly.

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Page No. 3 . War Diary 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group.

Month of December 1944. Prepared by: CLAYSON S. GARBER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
527th Fighter Squadron.

- | Day | Events   |
|-----|--|
| 11. | (cont'd) Rain all day, and the line personnel are having trouble keeping up with the work that has accumulated. No movie tonight as performance of "Panama Hattie" continues at AFGD #6 Theatre. USO show is on the way to Group Theatre. Orders came today promoting "Jr. Officers" 2nd Lts. Robinson, Ramsey, Hayes, Dungan, Mc Gehee to 1st Lt. Shortage of silver bars in the squadron.  |
| 12. | No flying today--standdown. The field was closed for a few hours to fix a bomb crater on the runway. The bomb crater was a result of our previous bombing. Orders came today awarding Oak Leaf Clusters and Air Medals. (See G.O. #92, Hq. XXII TAC). Word came today that Capt. Donald L. Whitney would be transferred to Group, and Lts. Garber and Voller, of 526th Squadron and Group Headquarters would be Intelligence Officer and Assistant Intelligence Officer respectively. Lt. Harold J. Ingley, present Assistant Intelligence Officer is preparing to go to Florence to appear before the Medical Evaluation Board. New pilots continue to go to ground school. Although the ground school continues--the new pilots haven't flown transition as yet.   |
| 13. | 6 missions today. 28 sorties. Although the squadron flew 6 missions, for the most part, the target wasn't reached and gun positions near La Spezia were selected as the alternates. On one mission (Lt. Hill's) the flight went up to Northern Italy, and when they returned, cries of, "Where's the Munich maps", persisted. However, the flight went only as far as Bolzano. With Christmas but a few days off, S/Sgt. "Chief" Straney is busily assembling facilities for a big dinner. His scouts are out getting information on Turkeys, Chickens, Nuts, and fresh vegetables. Movie tonight at Group Theatre "Casanova Brown". S/Sgt Di Marcantonio and Pvt. Bull who left yesterday for Florence to participate in the try-outs for berths on the Twelfth Air Force team which will vie with the 5th Army's team in the "Spaghetti Bowl" game New Years Day, returned today. Lts. Mauck and Goslin were transferred to AAFSC/ETC.   |
| 14. | 7 missions today and 28 sorties. Most of the missions were of the close support type with the gun positions at La Spezia only being hit once today. Orders came from Twelfth Air Force today awarding the Silver Star to Capt. Newton L. Saunders, (KIA). The "rest campers", Lts. Schiro and Robinson returned today. Lt. Huskisson rode the B-25 down to Pomigliano today and ferried back a new replacement. A P-47D-28A. Lt. Pidcock, flying through bomb blast on the first mission of the day, bailed out 20 miles north of Florence. He was picked up by the English, and in the late afternoon returned to the squadron via a light English aircraft. Said he, "I'm so full of tea, I'm bloated". The new Officers in Intelligence formally took over today, Lts. Garber and Voller. Capt. Whitney, who joined the squadron at Key Field in the latter part of 1942, has been one of the "wheels" in this section. He has inaugurated numerous programs which have helped to make the Intelligence section one of the best in Group. In addition to his other duties, he has acted as Squadron Historian |

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Page No. 4 . War Diary 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group.

Month of December 1944. Prepared by: CLAYSON S. GARBER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
527th Fighter Squadron.

- | Day | Events   |
|-----|--|
| 14. | (Cont'd) and his work has been commented favorably upon, on more than one occasion. Lt. Ingley, the Assistant S-2, joined the squadron at Grossetto. He bailed out of an aircraft on Corsica, and the 'chute failed to open. Lt. Ingley has done an extremely fine job as Assistant S-2 with his knowledge of combat flying. Movie tonight at Group Theatre.   |
| 15. | 6 missions today and 28 sorties. One of the pilots of the 350th Group bailed out today and his aircraft hit about a mile south of the runway. Cpl. "Gremlin" Prouty is now engaged in giving the squadron mess hall and corridors a yuletide effect.   |
| 16. | Only 2 missions today. It seems that "Oranges were sour" (bad weather) up at the front lines, and flying operations had to be cancelled. Lt. W. Clifford "Kip" Adler bailed out on the first mission after his ship had been damaged by bomb blast. This is the second ship that had to be abandoned this week because of bomb blast. Lt. Adler presumably bailed out in enemy territory as he hasn't been heard of as yet. The Congressmen who are touring were to have landed at Pisa—but didn't. There were a dozen sedans to take care of their party, but the transports decided to go on to Florence. 2nd Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal came through today for Lts. Ellis, Hale, Hill, Huskisson, Leventhal, Lewis, Marley, and Mc Gehee. (G.O. #94, XXII TAC). |
| 17. | Again only two missions. Although the squadron was scheduled for 36 sorties, the field was closed in and flying had to be cancelled. Orders came today for furloughs to Sgts. Reagan, Gerard and Larsen. These enlisted men will be returned to the states for 30 days. Lt. Adler, (MIA since 15 December 1944) has not been found as yet, and 5th Army Forward Controller sent message that patrols were out looking for him. Lt. Chambers on the first mission had a narrow escape when flak almost got him. He was flying the Colonel's ship, and flak put a large hole in the stabilizer.  |
| 18. | Two missions today. The squadron was scheduled for 38 sorties, but due to weather, the squadron only had 16 sorties - nothing unusual. Movie tonight at Group Theatre. Our theatre has been renamed the "Thunderbolt" Theatre, and it is shared by the 350th and 86th Groups, and the 1st Brazilian Fighter Squadron. A new sound system that was installed some time ago makes the movies and records before movies sound much better. There has been a noticeable lack of class "A" pictures, with films as old as three years playing at our theatre for the lack of new ones. Orders came today awarding the Silver Star to Lt. George E. Hill.  |
| 19. | Only 1 missions today. For the past week, the squadron has flown 1 or 2 missions only to be stood down for the rest of the day, the weather being bad for flying. 3 enlisted men of the squadron are preparing to go to Florence on the 1st leg of their 30 day furlough in the "States". FX rations tonight with choice items of candy and cookies being sold in Cpl. Susser's supply house. For the past 2 rations there has been no beer, and the lovers of the malt and hops combination miss their brew keenly.   |

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S E C R E T

Page No. 5 . War Diary 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group.

Month of December 1944. Prepared by: CLAYSON S. GABER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
527th Fighter Squadron.

Day	Events
20.	3 missions today. The day was rather mixed up as after the first mission, a standby was called in, and the next mission took off late in the afternoon followed by a 2 ship armed recce by Major Dolny, and Capt. Core. 2 pilots went to rest camp at Capri today and two pilots returned from there. Sgts. Reagan, Gerard and Larsen finally left the squadron today for the "States" and 30 days furlough. A USO "sock" show at the newly named "Thunderbolt" theatre, with the Group band playing a few numbers. The theatre had the largest crowd since both Groups (350th and 86th) took over. New pilots continue to fly their first missions. Today, Lts. Sauermilch and Lavelli flew their number one "job".
21.	Standdown today. This is the first standdown that the Group has had for a week, and pilots and ground crews welcome the chance to catch up on odds and ends. With many planes being "flaked up" the crews will have an opportunity to get their planes in on the "in" status column in squadron operations. A committee of Officers has been appointed to decorate the bar in the Officers area. They include: Lts. Crowell, Marley, Hefner and Anderson. With Lt. Adler MIA, these Officers will have to "scrounge" material to make decorations.
22.	5 missions today. They included 2 missions attacking Tossignano town, 1 anti-flak, 1 area cover for B-25's, and 1 mission attacked Poggio town.
23.	5 missions again today with nothing unusual. The weather has been bad for flying in the Po Valley, and flight leaders have had to select alternate targets. On one flight, the primary, secondary targets were "weathered in" and flight had to drop their bombs on a road. Cold weather today. This has been one of the coldest days overseas the squadron has seen, and even personnel that live in the northern parts of the "States" complain about the cold weather. Packages continue to arrive as Xmas day draws near. At 4 P.M. a 6 x 6 truck laden with packages arrived and Cpl. Kerwin, the mail orderly, who has been in the hospital lately, had to work hard sorting packages and mail. The "gremlin" (Cpl. Prouty) has been working very hard and late hours decorating the enlisted men's area in a festive motif. He has trees, lanterns and painted plywood boards up denoting the Yuletide spirit. The personnel of the squadron drew ration tickets from the Orderly Room today for a ration of whiskey that Officers are donating. Each man will receive approximately 4½ ounces of good American firewater. The enlisted men owe a lot to the Officers who have contributed graciously towards a merrier Christmas than it would have otherwise been.
24.	The day before Christmas. Standdown today except for a special mission by Major Dolny and Lt. Chambers. They attacked a train in the Massa area and "clobbered" it. They both made 10 strafing passes on the engine and cars attached. Preparations are being made for a number of parties tonight, and all through the squadron the spirit of good cheer prevails-- mostly spirit. Officers making preparations for parties tonight.

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S E C R E T

Page No. 6 . War Diary 527th Fighter Squadron, 26th Fighter Group.

Month of December 1944. Prepared by: CLAYSON S. GARBER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
527th Fighter Squadron.

Day	Events
24.	(cont'd) The Enlisted Men's Club did a rushing business today with receipts totaling well over \$750.00, at the end of the days business.
25.	Christmas Day. The day dawned clear and cold and 4 missions. The directive came through from XXII TAC with a Merry Christmas cover--and 4 missions. New pilots continue to log their first mission. Christmas dinner was a fine affair with a few of the personnel bringing guests to dinner. As per usual, S/Sgt "Chief" Straney had a delicious meal prepared and the tables groaned with delicacies. The menu was prepared by Cpl. Prouty (see attached) and the Officers furnished some of the spirits....4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. All personnel agree that the day was one of good cheer, except for a Gostapo Headquarters which one of our flights attacked and destroyed. There was the usual amount of Yuletide tippling, and quite a few of the usually cold-sober enlisted men took a violent spill from the water wagon. During the dinner, Col. Bates entered the mess hall and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in the "States" next year, but cautiously not guaranteeing it. The day will long be remembered in the squadron's annals. Members of the squadron attended services in nearby Churches and Chaplain Fischer held Xmas services. The Armorers in room #45 filled up a box of goodies for poor Italian children and went from house to house despending goodies for the "bambinis". There was a dance at the enlisted men's club, and all day personnel went to and from the club carrying their liquor ration. At the Officer's dinner, hot Tom and Jerry was served before dinner. Lt. Harold J. Ingley left the squadron today for return to the "States". Lt. "Stud" Ingley joined the squadron at Grosseto (see 23 September entry), and acted as Assistant Intelligence Officer. Lt. Ingley's knowledge of of combat flying aided the pilots going on missions immeasurably. He will be much missed.
26.	4 missions today and 28 sorties. Missions were on an occupied area, and two rail diversions in northern Italy. The day after Christmas and heads are a little large as a result of yesterday's tippling but the Medics report no casualties. Orders were received today awarding the Air Medal to Lt. Lloyd D. Kinlet (MIA) (see 31 August 1944 entry), and 2nd Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal to Capt. Ellis and Lts. Adler, Gates, Holt, Ramsey, Robinson; 3rd OLC's to Lts. Chambers, Crowell, Jung, Nelson, Rosman, Schiro, Taylor, Tolve and Whiting. 4th OLC to Lt. Schiro. 1st OLC's to Lts. Dungan and Whiting.
27.	4 missions today. With the Italian Fascist Division attempting a push on the left flank of the 5th Army, missions are directed to this area, and flights are making a very short trip to the target area. Orders came today promoting 1st Lt. Boyd S. Chambers to Captain. Capt. Chambers' primary duty is Squadron Operations Officer and is one of the "wheels" in the squadron. His thorough knowledge of F-47 tactics have made him an authority on combat operations.
28.	1st Lts. Ramsey and Leventhal returned to squadron today after 7 days leave at Capri. The USO show "Art Thou Cooking" will have their enlisted men have chow at our squadron mess hall.

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