

CONFIDENTIAL

AIR SUPPORT CONTROL  
APO 464, US ARMY

1 NOVEMBER 1943

GROUND INFORMATION ON MISSION RESULTS

1. WHEN THE BRIDGE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY SOUTH OF MIGNANO (H-005105) WAS DESTROYED LAST FRIDAY, V ARMY INTERCEPTED A MESSAGE FROM THE GERMANS ORDERING THE TROOPS TO USE THE BY-PASS THROUGH MIGNANO PROPER.

2. WHEN THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER AT ROCCAMONFIA (M-985985) WAS DESTROYED LAST FRIDAY, V ARMY INTERCEPTED A MESSAGE FROM THE GERMANS INSTRUCTING THE GERMAN TROOPS TO CONSTRUCT A PONTOON BRIDGE. A LOW CEILING PREVENTED ALLIED RECONNAISSANCE PLANES FROM OBSERVING WHETHER THIS BRIDGE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED.

3. WHEN THE BRIDGE AT MIGNANO (G-987118) WAS DESTROYED, THIS TOGETHER WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGES MENTIONED IN #1 AND #2 RESULTED IN ENTRAPPING THE GERMANS IN A TRIANGULAR POCKET BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS- MIGNANO, ROCCAMONFIA, TEANO, VIRIANO. SHORTLY AFTER THE BOMBING OF THE MIGNANO BRIDGE V ARMY INTERCEPTED A FRANTIC MESSAGE FROM THE GERMAN COMMANDER TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TROOPS WERE TRAPPED WITH NO WAY OF ESCAPE, THAT HE HAD NO REPAIR OR BRIDGING MATERIAL AND TO RUSH SUCH MATERIAL IN A HURRY. ANOTHER MESSAGE WAS ALSO INTERCEPTED ORDERING THE GERMAN TROOPS TO AGAIN OCCUPY THE LINE ROCCAMONFIA, TEANO, VIRIANO FROM WHICH THEY STARTED TO WITHDRAW AND TO HOLD IT AT ALL COSTS TO PERMIT TIME TO PREPARE EVACUATION ROUTES.

4. AS A RESULT OF THE ENTRAPMENT AND THE ORDER TO HOLD THE AFORESAID LINES AT ALL COSTS, ONE AMERICAN REGIMENT ON SATURDAY CAPTURED MORE PRISONERS THAN HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE PRECEDING THREE WEEKS.

5. LT. COLONEL HANSBOROUGH, AMERICAN AIR CONTROL OFFICER AT V. ARMY HQA, STATED YESTERDAY THAT GENERAL CLARK KNEW OF THE SPLENDID WORK BEING DONE BY THE INVADER PLANES, WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED BY THE BOMBING RESULTS OBTAINED AND KNEW THAT IT WAS THE 85TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP WHICH WAS DOING THIS GOOD WORK.

WILLIAM R.C. FORD  
MAJOR, FIELD ARTILLERY,  
AMERICAN AIR CONTROL,  
LIAISON OFFICER.

CONFIDENTIAL

SHEET NO. 1. OUTLINE HISTORY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FTR. BOMBER GP.

DATE NOV. 1, 1943 - NOV. 30, 1943. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,  
527 FTR. BOMBER SQ.

- A. ORIGINAL UNIT: (SEEPERIOD FEB. 10, 1942, SEPT. 30, 1943)
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION: NONE
- C. STRENGTH OF ORGANIZATION:
  - (1) AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD - NOV. 1, 1943 - 53 OFFICERS ASSIGNED  
224 E.M. ASSIGNED.
  - (2) AT END OF PERIOD - NOV. 30, 1943 - 46 OFFICERS ASSIGNED  
220 E.M. ASSIGNED.
- D. STATIONS (PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY) OF UNIT OR PARTS THEREOF:
  - (1) POMIGLIANO D'ARCO AIRPORT, ITALY 1 NOVEMBER 1943  
30 NOVEMBER 1943.
- E. CAMPAIGNS:
  - (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN - SQUADRON CONTINUED MISSIONS IN SUPPORT  
OF GROUND TROOPS DURING NOVEMBER, ACCOMPLISHING 23 MISSIONS.
- F. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS:
  - (1) CHARLES F. CASSIDY, JR. MAJOR, A.C. COMMANDED SQUADRON  
PERIOD NOV 1, 1943 - 30 NOV. 1943.
- G. LOSSES IN ACTION:
  - (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:
    - (A) 2ND LT. JOHN D. HUNTER REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION  
15 AUGUST 1943, REPORTED PRISONER OF AXIS (LETTER  
HQ NORTH AFRICAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS - 3 NOV.  
1943.
- H. MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:
  - (1) SICILIAN CAMPAIGN.
    - (A) JOHN W. HARSH, MAJOR, A.C. FOR EXTRAORDINARY  
ACHIEVEMENT IN AERIAL FLIGHT IN NORTH AFRICAN  
THEATRE OF COMBAT, (INCIDENT CITED IN THE SICILIAN  
CAMPAIGN IN WHICH MAJOR HARSH LED 18 FIGHTER  
BOMBERS AGAINST TROINA, SICILY ON AUG. 4 HASTENING  
ITS OCCUPATION BY 7TH ARMY) AWARDED DFC. 9 NOV.  
1943, BY MAJ. CHARLES F. CASSIDY, SQUADRON COMMANDER.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1943. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,  
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

DAY EVENTS

- 1 TWO MISSIONS TODAY. ON THE FIRST MISSION LED BY LT. JOES, THE FLIGHT PASSED OVER SECRETARY OF TREASURY MORGENTHAU AND OTHER OFFICIALS, AND AT A DESIGNATED PLACE, DIVE BOMBED A PIN POINT TARGET, KNOCKING OUT A RAILROAD BRIDGE AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGING A HIGHWAY BRIDGE.

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- 2 MAJOR HARSH RETURNED FROM CAIRO TODAY BRINGING SOME SCOTCH, AND BOURBON TO REPLENISH THE OFFICERS BAR - AND TALES OF HIS TRIP TO PALESTINE FROM CAIRO. LTS. DOTSON AND WESTFALL WENT TO DS XII AF. OCT. 20, 1942. 1ST LT. WILLIAM WESTFALL ASSIGNED SQUADRON AT TAFAROU, ALGERIA N.A. ON JUNE 14, 1943. BOTH PILOTS HAVE COMPLETED EXCELLENT COMBAT TOURS. LT. D.J. "BUTTON" SMITH LED A SUCCESSFUL MISSION ON PONTOON BRIDGE TODAY (SEE CLIPPING).

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- 3 LT. DUVALL RETURNED TO SQUADRON FROM HOSPITAL. LT. SNIDER RETURNED FROM DS ALGIERS, WHERE HE DID SOME PUBLICITY WORK ON A-36'S AND DIVE BOMBING. CAPT. DUNGAN, AND LTS. EGELHOFF AND KUBLY LEFT FOR REST CAMP TODAY.

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- 4 ORDERS CAME TRANSFERING 1ST LTS YETTER AND PETSICK FROM DS. XII AF (10/27/43) TO ZONE OF INTERIOR. E.M. FORMED A CLUB TODAY ELECTING SGT. LLOYD B. THOMAS, PRES; S/SGT. M. DOIRON, VICE PRES; AND SGT. SID HOWARD, SECY/TREAS. THEY TOOK OVER SEVERAL ROOMS IN BASEMENT OF APARTMENT AND PLAN TO HAVE BAR SET UP, PING PONG TABLES ETC.

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- 5 HAD AN AIR RAID ALERT THIS AM. AND JUST AS ALL CLEAR WAS SOUNDED 2 MINES EXPLODED ON EDGE OF FIELD, EVERYONE JUMPED FOR SLIT TRENCHES. S/SGT. MEREDITH L. SUTTON AND SGT. JOHN PICHNEY RECEIVED LETTERS OF COMMENDATION (COPIES ATTACHED) FROM LT. COL. ROBERT C. PAUL, GROUP COMMANDER, ON EXCELLENT RECORD OF AIRPLANE THEY CREWED. HAD AN HOUR RAID OVER NAPLES TONIGHT, THEN A SECOND ALERT. JERRY'S GETTING TO BE A NUISANCE.

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- 6 1ST LTS. SNIDER AND LYNAM AND 2ND LTS. DUVALL AND HOLLAND WENT TO DS XII AF TODAY. 1ST LT J. MARTIN SNIDER ASSIGNED ORGANIZATION NOV. 27, 1942 AT KEY FIELD. 1ST LT. ROBERT J. LYNAM ASSIGNED OCT. 12, 1942 AT KEY FIELD. BOTH "J. MARTIN" SNIDER AND "CUTTER" LYNAM COMPLETED EXCELLENT TOURS AS COMBAT PILOTS AND FLIGHT LEADERS. 2ND LT. THURMAN O. DUVALL JOINED SQUADRON ON JUNE 25, 1943 AND 2ND LT. DANIEL E. HOLLAND ON JUNE 5, 1942 AT TAFAROU, N.A. "CURLEY" DUVALL, AND "DANNY" HOLLAND LIKEWISE HAVE COMPLETED EXCELLENT COMBAT TOURS.

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- 7 AN EARLY MISSION, KNOCKED OUT OR NEUTRALIZED SOME GUN POSITION. STANDDOWN REST OF DAY. S/SGT. LONARD P. HICKS AND S/SGT. ALBERT F. SCHULTZ RECEIVED LETTERS OF COMMENDATION, (COPIES ATTACHED) FROM LT. COL. PAUL, GROUP COMMANDER, ON EXCELLENT RECORD (112 MISSIONS) OF AIRPLANE THEY CREWED. LT. JACK MADIGAN LOCATED HIS BROTHER S/SGT. THOMAS MADIGAN IN NAPLES TODAY. CHAPLAIN FISCHER HELD SERVICES IN BASEMENT OF APARTMENT THIS EVENING.

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- 8 RAINED MOST OF DAY FORCING STANDDOWN, ANOTHER GREY MONDAY WITH POKER GAMES IN THE BARRACKS, AND BUSINESS AT THE BAR "STEPPED UP". E.M. BAR HAS INITIATED A DRINK CALLED "INVADER" CONSISTING OF A JIGGER OF GIN, JIGGER OF CHERRY BRANDY, 4 JIGGERS OF GRAPE FRUIT JUICE --- VERY POTENT.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1943.

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

DAY EVENTS

- 9 TWO MISSIONS CAPTS. ATCHLEY AND VORIS LEFT ON TRANSPORT FOR TEMPORARY DUTY (REST LEAVE) AT CAIRO. RECEIVED 2 NEW PILOTS IN UNIT TODAY. 2ND LTS. JOHN OLEHOVICK, AND KNIGHT C. TREAT, ASSIGNED FROM XII ASC.

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- 10 RUDELY AWAKENED AT 2 AM BY AIR RAID SIREN - 3/4 HOUR RAID OVER NAPLES. LTS. LYNAM, DUVALL, AND HOLLAND FROM DS XII AF (NOV. 6) TO ZONE OF INTERIOR.

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- 11 LT. WESTFALL FROM DS XII AF (NOV. 2) TO TRANSFERRED ZONE OF INTERIOR. LT. DOTSON FROM DS XII AF (NOV. 2) TO TRANSFERRED TO HQ AND HQ SQ. XII AF. CAPT. DUNGAN, LTS. EGELHOFF, AND KUBLY BACK FROM REST CAMP AT MALFI, LTS. GEE, KASTNER, "SYD" SMITH AND HUMPHRY LEFT FOR REST CAMP. ONE MISSION TODAY, HIT THE JACKPOT - AMMUNITION DUMP -- THE RESULTANT FIREWORKS WERE VERY NICE.

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- 12 SOME HOT AND HEAVY EXCITEMENT TODAY, SEVERAL FOCKE WULFS ATTACKED THE FIELD, JUST AFTER BREAKFAST. THEY DROPPED A FEW "FRAGS" ON END OF RUNWAY AND STRAFED A SMALL AREA DAMAGING A P-38, P-51 AND A CUB. ACK ACK (EOMM) GOT ONE FOCKE WOLF OVER FIELD, AND IT DISINTEGRATED IN THE AIR. A PALL OF BROWN SMOKE WAS ALL THAT REMAINED. LOTS OF MUD ON UNIFORMS, TERRA FIRMA BECAME VERY DEAR FOR A FEW MINUTES - AREA AROUND OPERATIONS LOOKS LIKE A MOLES CONVENTION THIS P.M. -- SLIT TRENCHES BEING MADE IN A HURRY. HAD 3 RHUBARBS NORTH OF HOME TODAY.

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- 13 STARS AND STRIPES, WHICH HAS BEEN GIVING THE GROUP SOME EXCELLENT PUBLICITY HAD A SHORT ARTICLE (ATTACHED) ON COL. TARRANTS STRAFING AMMUNITION DUMP (OCT. 25). ONE MISSION ON GUN EMPLACEMENT, DIRECT HITS ON AT LEAST ONE POSITION. GROUP COMPLETED ITS SOOTH MISSION TODAY (SEE CLIPPING).

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- 14 FORTY-EIGHT HOUR STANDDOWN, OFFICERS AND EM HEADED FOR NAPLES, POMPEII, SERRENTO, ETC, DESPITE RAINY WEATHER. SEA WAS TOO ROUGH FOR TRAFFIC TO CAPRI. 2ND LTS. STANLEY J. CAMPBELL AND ROBERT R. TEEPLE ASSIGNED FROM 325 FTR. GP. HERETO-FORE THEY'VE FLOWN P-40'S AND ARE ANXIOUS TO TRY OUT A-36'S.

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- 15 LETTER FROM HQ. NORTH AFRICA THEATER OF OPERATIONS 11/3/43 "INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM ADJUTANT GENERAL, WASHINGTON, D.C. THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE PRISONERS OF WAR OF THE AXIS:---2ND LT. JOHN D. HUNTER." EVERYONE GLAD TO HEAR THAT HUNTER, MISSING SINCE AUG. 15 (SEE ENTRY), WAS AT LEAST ALIVE - AND PROBABLY FAIRLY WELL TREATED, AS THE GERMANS REPUTEDLY TREAT OUR AIRMEN HUMANELY. LT. JONES TO DS XII AF. 1ST LT. GEORGE D. JONES JOINED SQUADRON FEB. 3, 1943 AT KEY FIELD, "JONESY" COMPLETED 64 COMBAT MISSIONS AND WAS BOTH AN EXCELLENT PILOT AND FLIGHT LEADER.

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- 16 LT. SNIDER FROM DS XII AF (NOV. 6) TO TRANSFERRED TO DEPT. OF PATIENTS, 3RD GENERAL HOSPITAL, NO MISSIONS ---MORE RAIN.

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- 17 ANOTHER RAINY DAY - WITH NO MISSIONS - LT. KUBLY, ARTIST EXTRAORDINARY, IS PAINTING A PICTURE OVER BAR IN OFFICERS CLUB. THE PICTURE - TWO WALT DISNEYISH ELEPHANTS RIDDEN BY A BLOND AND BRUNETTE THAT'D PUT VARGA TO SHAME, AN ELONGATED "RHUBARB" (SQUADRON MASCOT) WITH HALO AND WINGS KEEPS ELEPHANTS IN CHECK. THE CLUB HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY DUBBED THE "FLAK, SNACK AND SACK KLUB."

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- 18 CAPT. VORIS AND ATCHLEY RETURNED FROM CAIRO TODAY WITH SOUVENIRS AND PICTURES OF PYRAMIDS - AND TALES OF SCOTCH AND SODA, MILK SHAKES, AND RICH ORIENTAL DISHES (FOOD).

MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1943. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
1ST LT. AIR CORPS,  
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

DAY	EVENTS
19	ATTEMPTED MISSION BUT TARGET OBLSCURED, RETURNED WITH BOMBS - WEATHER REMAINS BAD.
20	LTS. GEE, HUMPHRY, KASTNER, AND S.G. SMITH RETURNED FROM REST CAMP. REST CAMP CHANGED FROM MALFI TO ISLE OF CAPRI, SO PILOTS SPENT LAST 2 DAYS OF WEEK AT CAPRI. GOOD FOOD AND BEDS, HOT BATHS, AND FREEDOM FROM WORRY, FOR A WEEK DO A GREAT DEAL TOWARD RELIEVING THE PILOTS FATIGUE, TENSION AND STRAIN.
21	STANDDOWN. PGM - RADIO NAPLES, MENTIONED OUR UNIT IN 2 BROADCASTS TODAY (SCRIPTS ATTACHED). CONCERT THIS AFTERNOON AT S. CARLO THEATER, NAPLES, ALSO MOVIE IN POMIGLIANO. RED CROSS HAS NICE E.M.'S CLUB IN TOWN, AND AMG. HAS PUBLISHED LIST OF RESTAURANTS MEETING ARMY SANITATION REQUIREMENTS.
22	LT. JONES FROM DS XII AF (NOV. 15) TO TSFD ZONE OF INTERIOR. LTS. FOWLER, GUBSER, AND HOOD TO DS. REST CAMP. MAJ. CASSIDY LED EXCELLENT MISSION OVER PORT OF CIVITAVECCHIA. (SEE CLIPPING AND GEN. HOUSE'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION).
23	UNFAVORABLE WEATHER - NO MISSIONS.
24	ONE MISSION ON BRIDGES - DAMAGE UNCERTAIN. LT. BANOV TRANSFERRED TO 47TH BOMB GROUP. 1ST LT. ABEL BANOV WAS ASSIGNED UNIT AT KEY FIELD, ON DEC. 2, 1942, SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE ASSUMED DUTIES OF COMMUNICATION O. VICE LT. HILL.
25	A RAINY THANKSGIVING IN ITALY - NO MISSIONS. VICE AIR MARSHALL CONNINGHAM MADE A SPEECH (SEE CONDENSATION) TO 86TH BOMB GP. ON THE LINE THIS A.M. HAD EXCELLENT THANKSGIVING DINNER THIS EVENING COMPLETE WITH APPETIZERS, COCKTAILS, FLOWERS, AND CLEVER MENU (ATTACHED) DESIGNED BY CPL. PROCTY AND SGT. RANDOLPH. AFTER DINNER A NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND MEN ATTENDED OPERA "LA BOHEME" IN NAPLES - FIRST OPERA OF THE SEASON IT WAS RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY A PACKED HOUSE.
26	ONE MISSION ON BRIDGE - RATHER GOOD ARTICLE ON "PILOTS WEATHER IN" (SEE CLIPPING) GLEANED BY STARS AND STRIPES REPORTER DURING STAND-DOWNS THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS.
27	STANDDOWN - THE USUAL TREK TO HOTEL (IN NAPLES) FOR BATH, ETC.
28	2ND LT. STONE RECEIVED ORDERS PROMOTING HIM TO 1ST LT. NOV. 15, 1943. 1ST LT. HARRY A. STONE, PILOT, ASSIGNED SQUADRON. JUNE 25, 1945 AT TAFAROUJ, N.A. NO MISSIONS TODAY.
29	LTS. FOWLER, GUBSER AND HOOD RETURNED FROM REST CAMP. THOROUGHLY SOLD ON ISLE OF CAPRI - THE SCENERY - HOTELS - FOOD - ETC. ATTEMPTED 2 MISSIONS TODAY. BUT WEATHER UNFAVORABLE.
30	WEATHER BAD - NO MISSIONS - 23 MISSIONS, 263 SORTIES DURING MONTH OF NOVEMBER, WITH NO LOSS OF PILOTS OR APPRECIABLE DAMAGE TO PLANES.

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NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE, NOV. 6, 1943 (CHICAGO, ILL.)

INVADER PILOTS NIBBLE GERMAN PONTOON BRIDGE - BY WILLIAM STRAND

How American Dive Bomber Pilots thwarted elaborate German attempts to prevent the destruction of a pontoon bridge over the Garigliano river southeast of Minturno was told today by [redacted] of Green Bay, Wis. Smith led a flight which twice attacked the bridge which was built to replace bombed out structures in that sector.

In the first assault Smith and 11 other pilots flying A-36 invader Dive Bombers rained bombs on the pontoons for close to 10 minutes. The Germans, Smith said, apparently had a spotting system which warned the bridge guards of the approaching bombers. By the time he and his comrades reached the target, several sections had been pulled almost into the shore.

"But that only lined 'em up better for us," Smith continued. "We had a perfect target for strafing and we had little difficulty in laying our bombs right on some sections. If we didn't sink that bridge they've got some patching job."

One pilot, [redacted] of Clores, Ill., saw at the last moment he had overshot his mark. rather than waste his precious bombs, he pulled out of his dive and continued further along the river until he found a railroad trestle upon which he laid his "EGGS".

Later the Army Ground forces requested a second attack on the bridge. Apparently they wanted to make sure it was not used by the German's retreating rear guard during the night. The word was received gleefully by the pilots.

"I've got a couple of those flak gunners spotted. I'll pay a call on them with my machine guns after I drop my bombs," Smith declared. "I wonder whether that guy I saw raddling one of those pontoons is still there," said [redacted] of Holyoke, Mass.

The returning pilots reported the structure again was swung to the sides of the stream. again it had been strafed and bombed successfully. They said they were unable to tell whether it had ever been back in service since their morning visit.

These attacks were part of the Army Strategy to cut off German escape routes and isolate rear guard forces from supplies and reinforcements. Thus they will be left at the mercy of the ground forces.

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HEADQUARTERS 26TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP  
APO 320 U. S. ARMY

5 NOVEMBER 1943.

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION.

THRU : COMMANDING OFFICER, 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, APO 320,  
U. S. ARMY.

TO : STAFF SERGEANT MEREDITH L. SUTTON, 18063127, 527TH FIGHTER  
BOMBER SQUADRON.

1. THE AIRPLANE OF WHICH YOU ARE CREW CHIEF HAS COMPLETED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MISSIONS OF ANY AIRPLANE IN THIS GROUP.
2. SUCH AN ENVIABLE RECORD INDICATES HIGHLY EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE WORK AND AN OUTSTANDING ATTENTION TO DUTY.
3. THE GROUP COMMANDER TAKES PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY COMMENDING SUCH AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY YOU AND YOUR CREW.
4. THIS COMMENDATION WILL BE MADE A PART OF YOUR OFFICIAL FILE.

A TRUE COPY:

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

/S/ ROBERT C. PAUL  
ROBERT C. PAUL,  
LT. COLONEL, AIR CORPS  
COMMANDING.

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP  
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

5 NOVEMBER 1943.

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION.

THRU : COMMANDING OFFICER, 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, APO 520,  
U. S. ARMY.

TO : SERGEANT JOHN PICHNEY, 3219747E, 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER  
SQUADRON.

1. THE AIRPLANE OF WHICH YOU ARE ASSISTANT CREW CHIEF HAS COMPLETED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MISSIONS OF ANY IN THIS GROUP.
2. SUCH AN OUTSTANDING RECORD WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN MADE BY HARD AND EFFICIENT WORK ON YOUR PART.
3. YOU ARE OFFICIALLY COMMENDED FOR YOUR PART IN MAKING THIS RECORD ON YOUR AIRPLANE POSSIBLE.
4. THIS COMMENDATION WILL BE MADE A PART OF YOUR OFFICIAL FILE.

/s/ ROBERT C. PAUL  
ROBERT C. PAUL,  
LT. COLONEL, AIR CORPS,  
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:  
*Donald L. Whitney*  
DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
1ST. LT., AIR CORPS.



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HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF  
APO #520 U. S. ARMY

7 NOVEMBER 1943.

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION

TO : STAFF SERGEANT ALBERT F. SCHULTZ, 17010909, AC, 527TH  
FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP, APO  
520, U.S. ARMY. THRU COMMANDING OFFICER, 527TH FIGHTER  
BOMBER SQUADRON.

1. YOUR AIRPLANE IN COMPLETING OVER 112 COMBAT MISSIONS HAS  
MADE ONE OF THE FINEST RECORDS IN THE GROUP.

2. YOU ARE COMMENDED FOR YOUR HARD AND EFFICIENT WORK THAT MADE  
THIS POSSIBLE.

3. THE GROUP TAKES PRIDE IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGH  
COMBAT EFFICIENCY OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.

4. THIS LETTER WILL BE MADE A PART OF YOUR OFFICIAL RECORD.

/S/ ROBERT C. PAUL  
ROBERT C. PAUL,  
LT. COL., AIR CORPS,  
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:

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

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP AAF  
A.P.O. #520 U. S. ARMY.

7 NOVEMBER 1943.

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION.

TO : STAFF SERGEANT LEONARD P. HICKS, 3415152, A.C., 527TH  
FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP, AAF,  
A.P.O. #20, U. S. ARMY. (THROUGH COMMANDING OFFICER)

- 1. THE AIRPLANE OF WHICH YOU ARE CREW CHIEF HAS COMPLETED MORE THAN 112 COMBAT MISSIONS.
- 2. SUCH A FINE RECORD INDICATES HARD AND EFFICIENT WORK BY YOU AND YOUR CREW.
- 3. THE GROUP TAKES PRIDE IN SUCH AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD WORK AND YOU ARE OFFICIALLY COMMENDED FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGH COMBAT EFFICIENCY OF THE ORGANIZATION.
- 4. THIS COMMENDATION WILL BE MADE A PART OF YOUR OFFICIAL RECORD.

/S/ ROBERT C. PAUL  
ROBERT C. PAUL,  
LT. COL., AIR CORPS,  
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:

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

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

DFC GOES TO PILOT FOR SICILIAN HEROISM

STARS AND STRIPES (13 NOV. 1943)

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS HAS BEEN AWARDED TO MAJ. JOHN W. HARSH OF EL DORADO, ARK., AN A-36 INVADER PILOT NOW AT A FORWARD ITALIAN AIRBASE, FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT IN THE NORTH AFRICAN THEATER.

THE CITATION SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AN INCIDENT DURING THE SICILIAN CAMPAIGN, WHEN MAJ. HARSH DISCOVERED HIS GROUP WAS BOMBING A CANADIAN-HELD TOWN. HE THEREBY BROKE OFF THE 18 PLANE ELEMENT HE WAS LEADING AND LED THEM ON TO TROIINA, THE ASSIGNED TARGET, INFLECTING GREAT DAMAGE ON THE ENEMY THERE AND SPEEDING UP TROIINA'S CAPITULATION TO THE 7TH ARMY.

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STARS AND STRIPES (13 NOV. 1943)

WHEN AN A-36 INVADER STRAFES A FULLY-LOADED AMMUNITION TRAIN, SOMETHING HAPPENS AND LT. COL. YANCEY S. TARRANT, OF BROWNSWOOD, TEXAS, CAN TELL YOU ABOUT IT. HE WAS WINGMAN ON A RECENT "RHUBARB" FLIGHT SOUTH OF ROME. HIS FELLOW PILOT ZOOMED OVER THE TRAIN. "I SAW HIS TRACERS GO IN AND THEN THERE WAS A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION," THE COLONEL RECOUNTS. "WHEN I CAME TO I THOUGHT THE ENTIRE SIDE OF MY COCKPIT WAS GONE. BUT IT WAS ONLY CAVED IN, AND SO WERE SECTIONS OF THE WINGS. THE CANOPY WAS WEDGED AGAINST THE STICK AND THE PLANE STARTED SLIPPING SIDEWAYS." USING A SEVEN PERCENT RIGHT RUDDER AND CROSSED FINGERS, COL. TARRANT BROUGHT HIS PLANE HOME SAFELY.

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TWO NAZIS BAGGED ON SOOTH MISSION

STARS AND STRIPES (15 NOV. 1943)

COMPLETION OF THEIR SOOTH MISSION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE WAS CELEBRATED YESTERDAY BY AN A-36 INVADER GROUP OF THE 12TH AIR SUPPORT COMMAND, LED BY LT. COL. R.C. PAUL OF LAKE CITY, FLA.; WHEN A FOUR-SHIP ELEMENT OF THE GROUP SHOT DOWN TWO JU-88'S IN TWO MINUTES OFF THE COAST OF ROME.

THE GROUP HAS BEEN IN ACTION SINCE LAST JULY 6, WHEN THEY FIRST TOOK OFF FROM A CAPE BON AIRBASE. SINCE THEN THEY HAVE DROPPED ALMOST 1,300 TONS OF BOMBS ON EVERYTHING FROM JERRY TRAINS TO TANKS, AND HAVE SHOT SOME 750,000 ROUNDS OF CALIBER .50 MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION AT SIMILAR TARGETS. THEY HAVE 15 GERMAN AIRCRAFT TO THEIR CREDIT AND HAVE YET TO LOSE A PLANE TO ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

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BLUE NETWORK COMPANY  
BY GEORGE HICKS  
BROADCAST COPY

RADIO SCRIPT  
WEEKLY WAR JOURNAL PGM .

NAPLES, ITALY  
NOV. 21, 1943

WHEN YOU'RE AT THE FRONT, WITH THE FIFTH ARMY - CROUCHING BEHIND A HILL ONE OF THE GREAT PLEASURES OF THE WAR - IS TO SEE AMERICAN FIGHTER-BOMBERS COME IN - TO DIVE BEHIND THE HILL BEYOND - WHERE THE GERMAN ARTILLERY IS STATIONED. ANY FOOT SOLDIER CAN TELL YOU THAT.

YESTERDAY I VISITED AN ADVANCED FIGHTER-BOMBER FIELD - TO SEE ABOUT THIS WORK. THE FIELD WAS ONLY A FEW MINUTES FLYING TIME - FROM THE ITALIAN LINE...AND THERE I FOUND THE FAMOUS A-36 - THE INVADER - THE ARMY FIGHTER AND DIVE, BOMBER.

THE PILOTS WERE IN BUILDINGS NEARBY - SOME OF THEM PARTLY BOMB SHATTERED. TWO MEN WERE PLAYING CHESS - ON A COT. ONE WAS HONING A JACKKNIFE. THEY'D SHAVED AND RESTED, HAD BREAKFAST...WERE QUIET AND RELAXED - YOUNG HEALTHY, FRESH WITH LIFE. RAIN WAS SPLASHING AGAINST THE WALLS...AND NO MISSIONS TOOK OFF WHILE I WAS THERE.

LIEUTENANT G.A. BLACKWELL, FROM NEW ORLEANS - SAID HE WAS ON A MISSION THE DAY BEFORE BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LUCK. THE WEATHER CLOSED IN ON HIM. THEY WENT NORTH OF ROME. THEY DIDN'T SEE FLYING BOATS ON THE LAKES ANYMORE...AND THE GERMAN AIRFIELDS WERE EMPTY. SINCE THE A-36 STARTED BEATING UP THE ROADS, THE GERMANS HAVE TO MOVE ALL THEIR TRAFFIC BY NIGHT. THE WAY THE GERMANS RAIDED NAPLES - A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO - HE SAID, WAS BY FLYING BOMBERS FROM FRANCE, INTO ROME, DURING THE EVENING - RASSING UP, HITTING NAPLES - THEN GETTING OUT TO FRANCE AGAIN - BEFORE DAYLIGHT AND THE A-36S.

HEDGE-HOPPING ON RHUBARBS (LOW-FLYING FOR ANY TARGETS SEEN) IS ABOUT THE TOUGHEST JOB THE A-36S HAVE. THEY SHOOT UP HAYSTACKS - BECAUSE THE GERMANS HIDE PLANES UNDER THEM. LIEUTENANT DON SMITH, OF GREENBAY, WIS., SAYS THE GERMANS HAVE A SORT OF ARTIFICIAL HOUSE MADE OUT OF BEAVERBOARD. WHEN YOU COME OVER THE TOP OF IT, THE ROOF FLIPS OPEN AND THEY THROW ABOUT A CARLOAD FULL OF CAST-IRON AT YOU.

THE PILOTS SEE ALL SORTS OF THINGS WHEN THEY FLY SO LOW. ONE PILOT - RAIDING NORTH OF ROME - NOTICED THAT THE CLOCK IN THE VILLAGE TOWER WAS WRONG. THE MEN SAY HE WORRIED OVER THAT CLOCK BEING WRONG FOR QUITE A WHILE.

CAPTAIN ATCHLEY, FROM CHATTANOOGA, SAID THAT THEY WERE CERTAINLY SATISFIED ABOUT ONE JOB. THE HERMAN GOERING PANZER DIVISION HAS CRACK ANTI-AIRCRAFT CREWS - AND THE A-36S HAD FOUGHT THAT ACK-ACK FROM SICILY, THRU THE BOOT OF ITALY, - TO SALERNO - AND MIGNANO. AT MIGNANO - THE A-36S BLEW ALL THE BRIDGES BEHIND THE TOWN. NO BRIDGE MATERIAL COULD GET THRU, THE HIGH COMMAND TOLD THE GERMANS TO STICK IT OUT, - AND MORE HERMAN GOERINGS SURRENDERED AT MIGNANO - THAN ALL PRISONERS THE FIFTH ARMY HAD TAKEN DURING THE PREVIOUS THREE WEEKS.

ONE OTHER ITEM. AS I LEFT, I SAW, ON THE WET FIELD, 1200 LIVE PENNED TURKEYS - FOR THE MEN OF THIS TWELFTH AIR SUPPORT COMMAND - THIS COMING THURSDAY. THIS IS GEORGE HICKS - BLUE NETWORK, SPECIAL FEATURES REPORTER WITH THE FIFTH ARMY - SPEAKING FROM NAPLES, ITALY. I RETURN YOU TO EDITOR ROY PORTER, IN NEW YORK.

BLUE NETWORK CO.  
BY GEORGE HICKS  
BROADCAST COPY

RADIO SCRIPT  
DAILY NEWS PGM.  
1156 - 1158:30 GMT

NAPLES, ITALY  
NOV. 21, 1943

THIS IS GEORGE HICKS - BLUE NETWORK'S WAR CORRESPONDENT - WITH THE FIFTH ARMY. I'M SPEAKING NOW FROM NAPLES, ITALY.

THE WEATHER HANGS OVER US LIKE A GREAT, GREY, NET PALL. BUT, DESPITE HEAVY WEATHER THE EIGHT ARMY TOOK THE VILLAGE OF ARCHU, - TWO MILES BELOW THE RIVER SANGRO. THE GERMANS TRIED A NEW TRICK - ROUNDING UP, AND DRIVING, MASSES OF ITALIAN CIVILIANS DOWN THE ROADS TOWARD THE EIGHT ARMY TO CLUTTER THEIR ADVANCE. THE FIFTH ARMY, IN THE CENTRAL SECTOR, TOOK CASTEL SAN VINCENZO AND ROCCHETTA. I WAS WITH SCOUTS, LAST WEEK NEAR THIS AREA - AND SAW THE VILLAGES. EACH SITS ON A MOUNTAIN HEIGHT. THE SCOUTS GO IN, THEN THE INFANTRY - THEN THE PACK MULES WITH SUPPLIES. THE ENGINEERS MAKING ROADS FROM FOOTPATHS - OR PATCHING UP DEMOLISHED HIGHWAYS. THE ANOTHER ACCORDION-PLEAT OF BLUE HILLS LIES BEYONS.

YESTERDAY, I WENT TO A FRONT-LINE AIRFIELD. IT IS PERHAPS, FIVE MINUTES, FROM THE FIRING LINE. THE WEATHER WAS SO LOW - NO MISSIONS HAD TAKEN OFF BUT SOME SPITFIRES CAME WINGING IN. I SAW THE ARMY'S FAMOUS A-36 - THE STRAFING DIVE-BOMBER. IT HAD DONE GREAT WORK IN SICILY. ONE SQUADRON OF LESS THAN 25 PLANES, DESTROYED 1,000 TRUCKS. IT IS CREDITED WITH SAVING THE SELE RIVER FRONT AT SALERNO - BY ITS PINPOINT DIVE-BOMBING OF TROOPS, GUN POSITIONS AND TRUCK LINES. THE PILOTS FEEL BADLY BECAUSE THEY HEAR THE ARMY WILL NOT LET THEM DIVE VERTICALLY ANYMORE . . . BY MAKING THE NEW PLANES WITHOUT DIVE-BRAKES - FOR GLIDER BOMBING ONLY. THEY SAY VERTICAL DIVING IS SAFER - ONCE YOU LEARN THE SKILL - BECAUSE YOU ARE A HARDER TARGET TO HIT . . . AND ITS MORE ACCURATE. A PILOT DEVELOPES A GREAT LOVE FOR A PLANE.

WHILE WE LOOKED AT THE FIELD - FROM A RAIN SOAKED TENT - AN AMERICAN-FLOWN SPITFIRE STARTED TO COME IN. SOMEONE SAID, "HAS HE GOT HIS WHEELS DOWN?" "WE'LL KNOW IN A FEW SECONDS," SOMEONE ANSWERED. TENSENESS GREW IMMEDIATELY. THE PLANE SKIMMED VERY LOW, THERE WAS A RASPING - SPARKS FLEW FROM THE STEEL MAT RUNWAY - THE PLANE STOPPED . . . AND THAT WAS THAT.

WHEN I WAS LEAVING, I SAID I HOPED I COULD COME BACK SOMETIME, WHEN THE WEATHER WAS BETTER, TO WATCH THEM TAKE-OFF ON A MISSION AND RETURN AGAIN. THE PILOTS SAID THEY'D ENJOY THAT - ESPECIALLY THE LATTER PART. THERE WAS A QUIET, LITTLE LAUGH ABOUT IT.

THIS IS GEORGE HICKS, BLUE NETWORK'S, SPECIAL FEATURES REPORTER - WITH THE FIFTH ARMY - SPEAKING FROM NAPLES, ITALY. I RETURN YOU TO NEW YORK.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

NAZIS MAKE A TREE BUT FOUL NO ONE

STARS AND STRIPES (20 NOV. 1943)

GERMAN TRUCKS ARE CARRYING LIVE SMALL TREES AS PART OF THEIR CAMOUFLAGE WHILE MOVING ALONG THE ROADS, ACCORDING TO A-36 INVADER PILOTS RETURNING FROM LOW-FLYING STRAFING MISSIONS.

"THEIR CAMOUFLAGE IS EXCELLENT BUT SOMETIMES THEIR OWN LACK OF FAITH IN IT GIVES THEM AWAY," DECLARED LT. JAMES W. SMEDLEY, 22 OF TULSA, OKLA. "WE FLY OVER WHAT APPEARS TO BE INNOCENT COUNTRYSIDE AND THEN WE SEE MEN RUNNING," HE SAID.

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U.S. DIVE BOMBERS SMASH NAZI SHIPS

STARS AND STRIPES (24 NOV. 1943)

DIVE BOMBERS OF THE 12TH AIR SUPPORT COMMAND LAUNCHED AN ATTACK TO SMASH THE DRIBBLE OF ENEMY COASTWISE SHIPPING WHICH IS HELPING TO SUPPLY GERMAN FRONT-LINE TROOPS BY HITTING TO-DAY THE SMALL BUT VITAL PORT OF CIVITAVECCHIA, ABOUT 40 MILES NORTH OF ROME.

TWENTY FOUR INVADERS, LED BY MAJ. CHARLES F. CASSIDY, JR., DENVER, AND LT. PATRICK I. GREER, MERIDAN, MISS., MADE THE SECOND DAY RAID, SCORING HITS ON DOCKS AND RAILROAD YARDS AND A POSSIBLE HIT ON A STEAMER. CIVITAVECCHIA IS ONE OF TWO PORTS SOUTH OF LEGHORN WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BECOME KEY LANDING POINTS IN FIELD MARSHAL KESSELRING'S ATTEMPTS TO BOLSTER HIS HARD-PRESSED SUPPLY LINES.

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PILOTS "WEATHER IN" AFTER DAILY MISSION

STARS AND STRIPES - BY JACK FOISIE (26 NOV. 1943)

THE DIVE-BOMB PILOTS, "WEATHERED IN" FOR THE DAY, WERE LOUNGING AROUND IN THEIR QUARTERS TALKING SHIP.

I ASKED THEM HOW IT FELT TO GO INTO A DIVE--STRAIGHT DOWN-- AT 375 MILES PER HOUR FOR ABOUT 7,000 FEET.

"WHEN I GO INTO MY DIVE I FEEL SAFE," REPLIED LT. JAMES W. HEGEMAN, 23 ANN ARBOR, MICH. "I JUST ROLL 'PROSPICE' ON MY BACK AND LET HER GO. THE WORST PART IS THE FLAK JUST BEFORE YOU GO INTO THE DIVE." THIS EX-REPORTER, WITH 15 MISSIONS TO HIS CREDIT, NAMED HIS A-36 INVADER AFTER THE BROWNING POEM WHICH HAS THE LINE:

"IF I WAS EVER A FIGHTER,  
SO ONE FIGHT MORE . . .

ANOTHER ANSWER CAME FROM LT. JAMES W. SMEDLEY, 22, OF TULSA, OKLA., WHOSE PLANE IS NAMED "BETTY" AFTER THE GIRL BACK HOME. "IF YOU GET YOUR DIVE RIGHT IT IS NOT SO TOUGH." SAID THIS BIG RAW-BONED EX-PIPELINE CLERK, WITH 16 MISSIONS ON HIS FLIGHT BOOK. "WHAT I DON'T LIKE ARE 'RHUBARBS.'" A RHUBARB IS A HEDGE-HOPPING FLIGHT FOR "TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY." "WE FLY SO LOW A DOG STANDING ON ITS HIND LEGS COULD BITE US," DECLARED LT. GEORGE W. KASTNER, OF FRESNO, CALIF. THOUGH EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, THE RHUBARBS ARE MILITARILY

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

PILOTS "WEATHER IN" (CONT'D)

ECONOMIC. ON ONE MISSION THEY SHOT UP A 40-CAR TRAIN OF AMMUNITION. "THAT'S NOT ONLY 40 CARS OF AMMUNITION BUT IT ALSO INFLECTED A STRATEGIC DEFEAT UPON THE ENEMY--HE LEARNED HE COULD NO LONGER AFFORD LARGE-SCALE SHIPMENT OF A SINGLE ITEM. HE MUST BREAK UP HIS SUPPLY INTO MANY SMALL-SCALE SHIPMENTS. MORE TIME WASTED, MORE LABOR CONSUMED MORE CONGESTED RAIL TRAFFIC." THIS THOUGHTFUL EXPLANATION CAME FROM LT. COL. YANCY S. TARRANT, OF BROWNWOOD, TEXAS, THE GROUP EXECUTIVE OFFICER. HE LED THE AMMUNITION TRAIN MISSION AND WAS ALMOST BLOWN OUT OF HIS PLANE BY THE RESULTANT EXPLOSION.

THE BULL SESSION GOT BACK TO THE DIVE. LT. JEARL THOMPSON, 23, OF ALTAMONT, KAN., WAS DESCRIBING THE SURPRISE ENDING TO ONE OF HIS 57 DIVES, THE TIME HE GOT HIS FOCKE-WULF.

"IT WAS OVER SALEPNO. WE WENT DOWN AFTER THE JERRIES AND ABOUT HALF-A-MILE AWAY SOME JERRIES WERE DIVING ON OUR GROUND TROOPS. WE BOTH PULLED OUT OF OUR DIVES AT THE SAME TIME AND I FOUND MYSELF STARING A FOCKE-WULF IN THE FACE." THE LEAD MAN FROM KANSAS EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD PRESSED THE BUTTON, THERE HAD BEEN A 10 SECOND BURST OF FIRE FROM SIX 50-CALIBER MACHINE-GUNS, AND THE LUFTWAFFE HAD LOST ANOTHER PLANE.

A SMALL DARK-HAIRED FLYER, LT. GEORGE L. JONES, OF REBO, NEV. SPOKE UP: "YOU REPORTERS ALWAYS WRITE ABOUT US BLACKING OUT WHEN WE PULL OUT OF A DIVE. NUTS! I BLACK OUT MORE TIMES PUTTING MY WHEELS DOWN. THAT IS, WHEN LANDING."

"BUT YOU DO ALMOST SINK THROUGH YOUR SEAT WHEN YOU LEVEL OFF," INJECTED MAJ. EDWARD BLAND.

JONES, THE SMALL DARK-HAIRED FLYER, ROSE IMPATIENTLY AND LOCKED OUT AT THE WEATHER. IT STILL WAS UNFLYABLE. HE CURSED SOFTLY; IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THIS 22-YEAR OLD SQUADRON LEADER, WITH 64 MISSIONS, WAS ANXIOUS TO GET INTO THE AIR.

THE LONG AND LANKY 60-MISSION LT. JOHN GEE, OF CROPSY, ILL. MAN LAY SILENTLY ON HIS BUNK, CONTENT TO LET THE "YOUNGER" PILOTS TALK. LT. GEE IS 26.

THE TALK, AS IT ALWAYS WILL, GOT AROUND TO GOING HOME. UNDER NEW REGULATIONS A "FIGHTER-BOMBER" PILOTS TOUR OF DUTY IS 80 MISSIONS. IT WAS LESS UNTIL THE POWERS-THAT-BE DECIDED THAT THE INVADERS WERE NEITHER BOMBERS (50 MISSIONS) OR FIGHTERS (ABOUT 120 COMBAT HOURS)

"YET WE DO THE JOB--AND SHARE THE DANGERS--OF BOTH," DECLARED MAJ. JOHN W. HARSH, AN ARKANSAS TRAVELER FROM EL DORADO. HARSH IS GOOD COPY; ONCE HIS FLIGHT, "LOST" OVER SOUTHERN ITALY, DISCOVERED AN UNCHARTED AIRFIELD AND PROMPTLY SHOT DOWN 12 JUNKERS JUST TAKING OFF.

HARSH'S INTUITION--OR PERHAPS IT WAS GOOD MAP READING--LED HIM TO SHEAR AWAY FROM FOLLOWING THE FIRST FLIGHT DOWN ON A TARGET IN SICILY. HE TOOK HIS FLIGHT FURTHER ON AND BOMBED THE CORRECT TARGET, TROINA. FOR THAT FLIGHT HARSH HAS JUST BEEN AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.

OTHER GOOD STORIES WERE UNFOLDED AT THIS "WEATHERED IN" BULL SESSION. OF HOW LT. WILLIAM E. WESTFALL, OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, "SUNK" THE ITALIAN LUXURY LINER CONTE DI SAVOIA. HE HAD REPORTED A HIT ON A "SMALL STEAMER, PERHAPS A PASSENGER VESSEL." BY THE TIME THE STORY REACHED HOME THE VESSEL HAD TAKEN ON "ABOUT 20,000 TONS, SOME DECK

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

PILOTS "WEATHER IN" (CONT'D)

CHAIRS AND A SWIMMING POOL."

LT. DONALD L. WHITNEY, PIERRE, S.D., WHO KEEPS THE GROUP WAR DIARY, JOINED THE CIRCLE TO DESCRIBE HOW LT. T.O. DUVALL, OF DOUGLAS, GA., CAME BACK FROM A MISSION AND REPORTED THAT A FOCKE WULF HAD HAD HIM DEAD TO RIGHTS FOR ONE EXCRUCIATING MOMENT. "BROTHER," CURLEY HAD SAID TO HIMSELF, "YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER CLUSTER ON A GERMAN IRON CROSS." BUT FOR SOME REASON THE F-W FAILED TO FIRE.

CAPT. FIELDING H. ATCHLEY, OF CHATTANOOGA, TENN, ONE OF THE GROUP OFFICERS, SLIPPED IN TO TELL HOW COL. TARRANT AND HIS WINGMAN HAD CHASED A MESSERSCHMITT AROUND A MOUNTAIN. AROUND AND AROUND THEY WENT, WITH THE COLONEL OCCASIONALLY ATTEMPTING TO CORNER THE BOCHE BY GOING OVER THE MOUNTAIN. THEN HE DECIDED TO GET OUT OF THE MERRY-GO-ROUND, TAKE ANOTHER PASS AT THE ENEMY AIRFIELD NEARBY, AND THEN REJOIN THE CHASE. HE DID AND FINALLY THE JERRY WAS CORNERED. FOR THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS CHIVALRY IN WAR.

ONE BIG BAG CAME FOLLOWING THE VICTORY AT SALERNO WHEN THE DEFEATED GERMANS BEGAN WITH-DRAWING NORTHWARD, WITH THEIR CONVOYS MOVING BUMPER-TO-BUMPER.

"THOSE WERE TOUGH DAYS AT SALERNO," COL. TARRANT REMEMBERED. "FOR A WHILE OUR LANDING STRIP WAS IN FRONT OF OUR ARTILLERY AND WE HAD TO DODGE SMALL ARMS FIRE COMING IN." THE SQUADRON FLEW AS MANY AS EIGHT MISSIONS A DAY, MANY OF THEM WITHIN SIGHT OF THEIR OWN GROUND CREWS.

ONCE AGAIN THE WIND SHIFTED, AS THE WIND AT BULL SESSIONS ALWAYS WILL. NOW THE PILOTS SPOKE EAGERLY OF THEIR SHIP, THE INVADER. THESE PILOTS NAMED THE PLANE. THE A-36 CAME OVER-SEAS KNOWN ONLY AS A P-51 MUSTANG WITH DIVE-BRAKES. THE MEN WANTED THEIR PLANE AND ITS JOB TO BECOME KNOWN. THE NAME INVADER WAS SUGGESTED BY LT. ROBERT WALSH, OF FELT, IDAHO, AT A BULL SESSION AT A CAPE BOJ AIRFIELD. THE NAME CAUGHT ON AND IT IS NOW OFFICIAL.

TODAY'S BULL SESSION GREW AND GREW UNTIL IT SEEMED THAT ONLY THE "OLD MAN", LT. COL. ROBERT C. PAUL, THE GROUP COMMANDER, STILL HAD SOMETHING BETTER TO DO. EVEN THE MASCOT, A DACHSHUND NAMED "RHUBARB"--BECAUSE HE CONSISTENTLY OPERATES AT MINIMUM ALTITUDES--PUT IN HIS APPEARANCE.

THE TALK GREW MELLOW. THERE WAS MENTION OF THOSE NO LONGER PRESENT, AND OF REUNIONS AFTER THE WAR.

AND THEN THE CHOW GONG RANG.

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## OUTGOING MESSAGE

24 NOV. 1943

PRIORITY SECRET

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER  
36TH BOMBARDMENT GROUPTO: - COMMANDING OFFICER  
27TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP

8 11 N FROM INFORMATION GAINED BY NATAF THROUGH THEIR INFORMATION CHANNELS THE ATTACK OF OUR FIGHTER BOMBERS ON CIVITEVECCHIA HAVE BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE FOR WHICH I CONGRATULATE BOTH OF YOU AND ALL OF YOUR PERSONNEL FOR THIS SPLENDID WORK

HOUSE

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

*Donald L. Whitney*  
DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,  
ASS'T S-2.



NOVEMBER 25, 1943

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# MEN

Pineapple Juice

ROAST TURKEY with Celery Dressing

Mashed Potatoes - Giblet Gravy

String Beans - Candied Yams

Cranberry Sauce

Bread, Fresh Butter, Jam

Pickles

Radishes

Ripe Olives

Green Olives

Coffee

Cheese

Raisin and Apple Pie

Sheet Cake with Chocolate Icing

Nuts - Apples - Hard Candy

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