

S E C R E T

(4) RESULTS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS:

(A) MISSION #724, 9 JANUARY 1944:

- 1. ENEMY COUNTER ATTACKING ON SLOPES OF MT. CEDRO, ITALY.
- 2. OUR TROOPS HARD PRESSED, ASKED FOR MISSION ON PIN POINTED GUN POSITIONS AND ENEMY TROOPS.
- 3. PILOTS SAW HITS IN PIN POINT AREA, FIFTH ARMY PHONED CONGRATULATIONS ON HITTING TARGET, HELPING QUELL COUNTER ATTACK.

(B) MISSION #737, 14 JANUARY 1944:

- 1. LOW LEVEL BOMBING MISSION ON STRIP OF ROAD ADJACENT TO GARIGLIANO RIVER, EAST OF MINTURNO, ITALY. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT FOLLOWED BOMBING TO CHECK ON ENEMY STRONG POINTS ON ROAD, ARMY OBSERVERS WATCHED FROM LOOKOUTS ACROSS GARIGLIANO.
- 2. PURPOSE OF MISSION - GAIN INTELLIGENCE FOR ARMY ON ENEMY STRONG POINTS.
- 3. RESULTS - PILOTS OBSERVED HITS ON ENTIRE AREA. MAJOR GENERAL G.W.R. TEMPLER, D.S.O., O.B.E., SENT A MESSAGE OF COMMENDATION (SEE ATTACHED TO DIARY) ON MISSION TO PILOTS PARTICIPATING.

(C) MISSION #771, 21 JANUARY 1944:

- 1. DIVE BOMBING MISSION ON 11TH FLIEGER KORPS HEADQUARTERS AT FRASCATI, ITALY. REQUIRED CAREFUL NAVIGATION TO AVOID AIR SPACE RESERVATION AROUND LAKE ALBANO AND FIND CORRECT VILLA.
- 2. PILOTS POSITIVELY IDENTIFY VILLA FROM PHOTO AND SCORED 4 DIRECT HITS ON THE BUILDINGS, AND 8 HITS IN YARDS, CAUSING LARGE EXPLOSIONS AND FIRES. PILOTS WENT ON TO STRAFE AND DAMAGE AN ESTIMATED 35 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, 2 BARGES AND A BIVOUAC AREA.

(D) MISSION #795, 27 JANUARY 1944:

- 1. NEW TYPE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION ON ROAD NETWORKS CASSINO VALLEY. COORDINATED WITH 2 SHIPS OF 111TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON WHO WENT AHEAD AND BELOW FLIGHT AND CALLED TARGETS IN THE CLEAR.
- 2. RESULTS WERE EXCELLENT, OBSERVERS DREW NO FIRE, PICKED TARGET, AND THEN THE BOMBERS CAME DOWN AND BOMBED, THEN WENT UP AGAIN OUT OF REACH OF SMALL ARMS FIRE COMING DOWN TO STRAFE ON BALANCE OF TARGETS INDICATED, CAUSED ROAD BLOCK VALMONTE AREA, AND DESTROYED 3 MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND DAMAGED SEVERAL MORE.

S E C R E T

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- F. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS.
 - (1) CAPT. ROBERT M. DUNGAN LED SQUADRON ON MISSION #724, 9 JANUARY 1944.
 - (2) CAPT. ROBERT M. DUNGAN LED MISSION #737, 14 JANUARY 1944.
 - (3) 1ST LT. SNIDER LED SQUADRON ON MISSION #771, 21 JANUARY 1944.
 - (4) 1ST LT. ROBERT W. THOMAS LED SQUADRON ON MISSION #795, 27 JANUARY 1944.

- G. LOSSES IN ACTION:
 - (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:
 - (A) KILLED - ROBERT M. DUNGAN, O-663703, CAPT., AIR CORPS, 14 JANUARY 1944. AIRPLANE EXPLODED MID AIR - 3000 FEET NEAR SAN ANGELO IN TE ODICE, ITALY.
 - (B) MISSING IN ACTION - WILLIAM T. KASPERVIK, O-799192 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 14 JANUARY 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM LOW LEVEL BOMBING MISSION NEAR MINTURNO, ITALY.
 - (C) WOUNDED - NORMAN C. GRAVES, O-801328, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 31 JANUARY 1944. WOUNDED BY FLAK ON ARMED RECONNAISSANCE NEAR ANZIO BEACHHEAD.

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

2. INCLOSED ARE WAR DIARY, 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 1944, TO 31 JANUARY 1944, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

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

1 INCL:
 WAR DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHED.

SECRET

PAGE NO. 1 . WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GP.

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

DAY EVENTS

- 1 STANDDOWN FOR NEW YEARS DAY -- COMPARITIVELY QUIET NEW YEARS EVE, THE E.M. BAR AND OFFICERS BAR DID GOOD BUSINESS - SOMEONE LET LOOSE WITH A HAND GRENADE, A TOMMY GUN SPATTERED. A NICE DINNER TODAY, TURKEY AND FIXINGS. CARD GAMES THIS P.M. RAIN - MARCHISH WEATHER.

- 2 THE MILKRUN MISSION ON CIVITAVECCHIA. MORE FIRES IN THAT ALREADY GUTTED HARBOR. A SECOND SUCCESSFUL MISSION - RAILYARDS AT CECCANO.

- 3 ONLY 1 MISSION TODAY ON COLLEFERRO. BEAUTIFUL DAY AFTER ALL THE BAD WEATHER WE HAVE BEEN HAVING. LTS. SIDNEY G. SMITH, AND WILLIAM W. HUMPHRY TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 1 FOR RETURN TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED REPORT FROM V ARMY THAT OUR MISSION ON ATINA ON 30TH DECEMBER BOMBED OUT DIVISIONAL HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE 44TH GERMAN INFANTRY -- 3 CHEERS.

- 4 NO MISSION TODAY ALTHOUGH ON THE ALERT. WEATHER UNFAVORABLE.

- 5 ONE MISSION TODAY, ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER HAS BEEN WET AND STORMY. ORDERS CAME TODAY PROMOTING GEORGE W. KASTNER TO CAPT. AS OF THE 26TH OF DECEMBER, ROBERT W. THOMAS TO 1ST LT. THE SAME DATE. CAPT. KASTNER JOINED ORGANIZATION JUNE 5, 1943, AT LA SENIA, NORTH AFRICA AND ACTED AS ASS'T OPERATIONS OFFICER UNTIL DEC. 5, 1943 WHEN HE BECAME OPERATIONS OFFICER. (LT. RELYEA APPOINTED HIS ASS'T OPERATIONS OFFICER.) LT. THOMAS JOINED ORGANIZATION AUGUST 19, 1943 AT W. GELA, SICILY AND IS NOW A FLIGHT LEADER. 2ND LTS. GUBSER AND FOWLER TO 1ST AS OF THE 22ND OF DECEMBER. GUBSER AND FOWLER JOINED ORGANIZATION ON JUNE 25, 1943 AT TAFAROU, NORTH AFRICA.

- 6 FIRST MISSION ON GUN EMPLACEMENTS WITH MANY HITS OBSERVED. SECOND MISSION WE BOMBED TOWN OF CERVAIO, THIS WAS LT. FOWLER'S BOTH MISSION.

- 7 AN EXTREMELY BUSY DAY 4 MISSIONS. 1 DIRECT GROUND SUPPORT, AND THE OTHER THREE ON ENEMY SUPPLY LINES. THE 3RD MISSION ON A RAILROAD TUNNEL, CAPT. KASTNER'S SHIP HIT BY FLAK ON APPROACHING TARGET, DESPITE DIFFICULTY IN HANDLING DAMAGED PLANE, CAPT. KASTNER WENT ON TO TARGET RELEASED BOMBS, AND BROUGHT HIS LIMPING SHIP HOME. KEPT ALL PLANES IN TRANSMISSION ON GO. MAJOR KIRSCH, CAPT. TILLESON AND LT. LEWIS TO XII ASC REST CAMP. CAPT. DUNGAN AND LTS. HEGEMAN AND KUBLY TO DUTY FROM XII ASC REST CAMP.

- 8 1 RHUBARB ON A RAILWAY TRAIN, AND BARRACKS AREA, AND THE SECOND MISSION ON A UNDER-GROUND MUNITION DUMP, ENTIRE AREA PATTERNED WITH DELAYED ACTION BOMBS. 1ST LTS. BURLYN R. GUBSER AND JEARL C. THOMPSON COMPLETED BOTH MISSION TODAY. LT. GUBSER JOINED SQUADRON JUNE 25, 1943 AT TAFAROU, LT. THOMPSON ("JAY C") JOINED SQUADRON OCTOBER 25, 1942 AT KEY FIELD, MISSISSIPPI.

- 9 1 MISSION ON COUNTERATTACK. 5TH ARMY COMPLAINED THAT THEY'D JUST GOTTEN THE TARGET BRACKETED FOR ARTILLERY FIRE WHEN WE PASTED IT. MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION FROM GEN. HOUSE XII ASC AND COL. KOFAHL. (SEE ATTACHED)

SECRET

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PAGE NO. 2 . WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GP.

MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

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

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 10 | STANDDOWN TO GET PLANES REPAIRED AND "SHIP SHAPE." LOT OF ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT. OPERA IN TOWN, AND "THIS IS THE ARMY" AT MARIGLIANO. LTS. FOWLER AND EGELHOFF TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 1 FOR RETURN TO U.S. LTS. EGELHOFF AND FOWLER JOINED ORGANIZATION JUNE 25, 1943 AT TAFAROU, NORTH AFRICA, EXCELLENT COMBAT PILOTS WE'LL MISS THEM. |
| 11 | A MISSION OVER SORA TODAY - BEAUTIFUL FLAK. HIT 4 OUT OF OUR FORMATION OF 12 BUT THEY ALL RETURNED. LT. LYLE HOOD WAS HIT IN THE HEAD BY FLAK AGAIN. STANDDOWN IN THE AFTERNOON TO REPAIR PLANES. LOVELY SPRING AFTERNOON. VESUVIO BLOWING STEAM RINGS INTO A CLEAR BLUE SKY FOR A CHANGE. |
| 12 | SURPRISE! A MISSION TODAY WITHOUT ANY FLAK. VOLLEY BALL COURT ERECTED IN OPERATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE AREA, WITH EVERYONE USING THE COURT FOR AN EXCUSE AS P.T. CAPT. VERSEPUT, GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER POSTED A NOTICE ON SQUADRON BULLETIN BOARD GIVING US PERMISSION TO WRITE "WITH THE INVADERS IN ITALY" IN OUR LETTERS. LETTER FROM FIELD SERVICE MGR. N.A. AVIATION INC. POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARD (SEE ATTACHED) PRAISING CREWS AND PILOTS OF A-36-- EVERYONE PLEASED. |
| 13 | 2 MISSIONS TODAY. 1 ON FORMIA, STARTING FIRES IN DOCK AREA. IN THE AFTERNOON AN 11 SHIP MISSION ON RR YARDS AT COLLEFFERO. LT. JENSEN FINISHED HIS BOTH TODAY. LT. JENSEN JOINED ORGANIZATION JUNE 25, 1943 AT TAFAROU, NORTH AFRICA. VOLLEY BALL COURT GETTING A LOT OF USE FROM BOTH THE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. LTS. GUBSER AND THOMPSON TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 1 FOR RETURN TO U.S. |
| 14 | CAPT. DUNGAN LED FIRST MISSION, A NEW TYPE "FEELER" JOB, LOW LEVEL BOMBING TO BE FOLLOWED BY RECONNAISSANCE, TO FIND STRENGTH OF ENEMY DEFENSE ON A STRIP OF ROAD ADJACENT TO GARIGLIANO. LT. WILLIAM T. KASPERVIK FAILED TO RETURN FROM THIS MISSION, WAS LAST SEEN WITH PLANE AFLAME STILL FIRING ON THE TARGET. LT KASPERVIK JOINED ORGANIZATION NOV. 22, 1943 HERE AT POMIGLIANO D'ARCO. WE'RE HOPING HE BALED OUT, THOUGH CHANCES ARE SLIM. ON THE 2ND MISSION TODAY, A 6 PLANE MISSION ON GUN POSITIONS, CAPT. DUNGAN FAILED TO RETURN. HIS PLANE WAS SEEN TO EXPLODE IN MID AIR AND THERE'S LITTLE HOPE OF HIS ESCAPING WITH HIS LIFE. "BIG DOG", FRIEND AND FAVORITE OF ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS, SQUADRON AND GROUP, JOINED ORGANIZATION AT KEY FIELD SEPT. 11, 1942. REPORT FROM ARMY THAT BOTH MISSIONS WERE EXTRAORDINARILY HELPFUL DID LITTLE TO SALVE THE DAYS LOSSES. MAJOR KIRSCH, CAPT. TILLESON, AND LT. LEWIS RETURNED FROM REST CAMP TONIGHT. |
| 15 | NO MISSIONS. STANDDOWN IN THE MORNING. ADDITIONAL GUARDS PUT ON PLANES LAST NIGHT. COMMENDATION (TELEPHONE) ON YESTERDAYS MISSIONS. |
| 16 | CONFIRMATION WAS RECEIVED ON CAPT. DUNGAN'S DEATH TODAY THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS. HE WAS BURIED BY ITALIAN CIVILIANS. ONE MISSION - ARMED RECCE. WITH BOMBS DROPPING ON SAN GUISEPPE. |

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PAGE NO: 3 . WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GP.

MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

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

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 17 | 2 MISSIONS TODAY. ONE ON AVEZZANO - ATTEMPTED ROADBLOCK, THE 2ND ON ANZIO HARBOR ON "E" BOATS WHICH WEREN'T THERE, SO THE FLIGHT DUMPED ON THE QUAY. M/SGT. BAHR REASSIGNED TO THE ORGANIZATION FROM 19TH AC REPLACEMENT CENTER. LT. ROY A. JENSEN TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO 1. FOR RETURN TO THE U.S. THE PAYROLL WAS SIGNED TODAY AND THERE WAS A DOUBLE FEATURE TONIGHT AT THE THEATRE. A LIGHT TREMOR WAS FELT AT 2215 HOURS. |
| 18 | TWO 8 SHIP MISSIONS TODAY, BOTH WITH BOMBS. 1 ON AVEZZANO AND THE OTHER ON FONTANA LIRI. AN A-20 CRACKED UP CLOSE TO THE BARRACKS AT 0335 ROUSING ALL EXCEPT A FEW SOUND SLEEPERS, THOUGHT IT WAS AN AIR RAID. LT. PALMER DY TO SICK IN QUARTERS. |
| 19 | 2 ARMED RECCE. TODAY WITH FAIR AMOUNT OF DAMAGE BEING CAUSED. LT. SAMUEL (SAMBO) DELOACH FINISHED HIS 80TH. LT. DELOACH JOINED THE SQUADRON AT LA SENIA, NORTH AFRICA JUNE 5, 1943. THE 27TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP MOVED ON THE FIELD TODAY, EQUIPPED WITH A-36. ALSO, IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'VE OPERATED OFF THE SAME FIELD WITH THEM SINCE THEY LEFT KEY FIELD, MISSISSIPPI. DOUBLE FEATURE AT MOVIE TONIGHT. |
| 20 | AT 0430 HOURS A BEAUFIGHTER CRACKED UP ON THE FIELD DAMAGING FIVE AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO THE 27TH GROUP. 2 MISSIONS TODAY, THE FIRST A ROAD BLOCK AND ARMED RECCE. TO VETRALLA, THE SECOND A BOMBLINE CLOSE SUPPORT MISSION. LT. DONALD J. SMITH, "BUTTON" FINISHED HIS 80TH TODAY. LT. SMITH JOINED THE SQUADRON OCT. 11, 1942 AT KEY FIELD, MISSISSIPPI, AND HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT PILOT AND FLIGHT LEADER. COMMENDATION ON JANUARY 14TH MISSION WAS RECEIVED TODAY FROM GEN. TEMPLER AND COL. DARCY (SEE ATTACHED) INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS RECEIVING COMMENDATION: CAPT. DUNGAN, LTS. PALMER, RELYEA, MADIGAN, THOMAS, STONE, WELCH AND KASPERVIK. RUMOR PERSISTS THERE WILL BE AN INVASION OF ROME. CHICKEN FOR SUPPER. |
| 21 | EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD VISSION ON 11TH FLIEGER CORPS IN TOWN OF FRASCATTI. (SEE CLIPPING) INVASION BRIEFING FOR THE OFFICERS THIS AFTERNOON, AND DOWN IN THE ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB IN THE EVENING. A GI STAGE SHOW AT MARIGLIANO TONIGHT. |
| 22 | "D" DAY. INVASION AROUND ANZIO AND NETTUNO. STRANGE WE HAVE ONLY ONE MISSION. ON THAT MISSION WE BOMBED ESPERIA AND STRAFED A NUMBER OF TRUCKS. BBC COMMENTED ON OUR MISSION OF YESTERDAY WHEN LT. SNIDER'S FLIGHT BOMBED JERRY FLIEGER CORPS. CAPT. RIDER DY TO DS HQ XII AF. (WENT TO FOGGIA TO TAKE REGULAR ARMY EXAMN.) |
| 23 | 2 MISSIONS TODAY. BOTH 12 SHIP. BOTH TIMES WEATHER PREVENTED DROPPING OF BOMBS. CHURCH IN THE EM'S CLUB TONIGHT,--CHOIR. LT. DONALD SMITH TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO 1. FOR RETURN TO THE U.S. |
| 24 | NO MISSIONS TODAY. |
| 25 | UNSUCCESSFUL ARMED RECCE. BOMBS BACK BECAUSE OF WEATHER. VOLLEY BALL COURT KEPT BUSY. MOVIE AT MARIGLIANO. AIR RAID AT 2100 HOURS. VERY SHORT ALERT WITH SEARCHLIGHTS PIERCING SKY. LT. PALMER BACK TO DUTY FROM SK IN QUARTERS. |

S E C R E T

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PAGE NO. 4 . WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GP.

MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

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

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
26	1 MISSION TODAY. FLIGHT WAS BROKEN UP BY SQUALL. 4 SHIPS EACH LANDING AT 2 DIFFERENT FIELDS. SAME BOMBS HAVE BEEN OVER ENEMY TERRITORY 5 TIMES, ORDNANCE SARCASTICALLY SUGGESTS PAINTING PLANE ON BOMBS FOR EACH MISSION FLOWN NOW INSTEAD OF PAINTING BOMBS ON PLANE.
27	NEW TYPE MISSION TODAY - COORDINATING WITH 111TH TACT. SQ. 8 OF OUR SHIPS FOLLOWED 2 SPOTTERS OF 111TH WHO WENT AHEAD AND BELOW OUR PLANES PICKED OUT LIKELY TARGETS AND RADIOED THEM TO OUR SHIPS WHO WENT DOWN AND STRAFED. PRETTY GOOD BAG---
28	2 MISSIONS TODAY. BOTH ARMED RECCE'S. FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL. CAPT. RIDER FROM DS HQ XII AF TO DUTY. LT. CAMPBELL DUTY TO SICK IN QUARTERS.
29	2 MISSIONS TODAY. THE 1ST WAS AN 8 SHIP MISSION DUMPING ON THE TOWN OF FRASCATTI, AND THEN PATROLING THE BEACH HEAD. PILOTS RETURNING FROM THIS MISSION REMARKED HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS TO FIND A LANE TO PATROL IN BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF ALLIED SHIPS. LT. HARRY A. STONE TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER NO 1. FOR RETURN TO U.S. LT. STONE COMPLETED 70 MISSIONS, JOINING THE SQUADRON JUNE 25, 1943 AT TAFAROU, NORTH AFRICA.
30	NO MISSION TODAY. WEATHER HELD THE PILOTS AND PLANES ON THE GROUND.
31	PAY DAY. 1 MISSION TODAY, AN ARMED RECCE. LT. GRAVES WAS HIT IN HEAD BY FLAK, RETURNED TO BKS. AFTER "DOC" PATCHED HIM UP. TOTAL SORTIES TO DATE 2,784, TOTAL COMBAT HOURS TO DATE 4039.25. EIGHT PILOTS COMPLETED 80 MISSIONS THIS MONTH; ONE PILOT KILLED, ONE MISSING, ONE WOUNDED. SQUADRON YEARBOOK ISSUED TO EACH ENLISTED MAN AND OFFICER. (SEE ATTACHED COPY). THE YEARBOOK, CPL. PROUTY'S BRAINCHILD, CONTAINS NAMES, ADDRESSES, CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS OF SQUADRON PLUS CARTONS ETC, IT'LL BE AN INTERESTING AND USEFUL SQUADRON SOUVENIR.

S E C R E T

SQ-FI-527-80

527 Ftr Report &
Supporting Document
Jan 44 (1)

JANUARY 9, 1944.

TO: 86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP
FROM: 12TH A.S.C. ADVANCE CITE4D SIGNED HOUSE

MESSAGE PROPER

THE INCREASED AIR ATTACKS ON THESE LAST DAYS
HAVE BEEN VERY WELL TIMED AND EXECUTED AND I
CONGRATULATE YOU YOUR SQD. COMMANDER AND FLIGHT
OFFICERS FOR YOUR SUPERIOR WORK AND PLEASE CONVEY
OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO OUR LOYAL AND GREAT
ENLISTED MEN WHO KEEP THEM IN THE AIR.

HQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP, APO S20, U.S. ARMY.

TO: ALL SQUADRONS.

A GOOD JOB - WELL DONE - THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS WE
ARE MAKING HISTORY EVERY DAY.

S/ HAROLD E. KOFAHL
T/ HAROLD E. KOFAHL
LT. COL., AIR CORPS,
COMMANDING.

537. Forwards by
Supporting Document
Jan 44 (2)

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP AAF
OFFICE OF THE GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

12 JANUARY 1944.

MEMO:

TO : SQUADRON ENGINEERING SECTIONS AND OPERATIONS SECTIONS.

1. QUOTED HERewith EXCERPTS FROM LETTER DATED 13 DECEMBER 1943 TO MR. GEORGE CARTER FROM MR. FRANK LYONS, FIELD SERVICE MANAGER, NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION INC:

".....A-36 INVADER PILOTS AND GROUND CREWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WAR THEATER ARE AMONG THE VERY BEST IN ALL THE WORLDFIGHTER-BOMBERS WITH 100 TO 150 MISSIONS EACH TO THEIR CREDIT, MANY OF THESE MADE IN THE FACE OF TERRIFIC GROUND FIRE, AND WITH TAKE-OFFS AND LANDINGS ON MAKESHIFT AIRFIELDS THAT CONSTANTLY TAX THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF THE AIR-PLANE.....CONSTITUTE A TEST THAT (YOUR) AIRCRAFT HAVE PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS.

"TO THE YOUNG MEN WHO FLY THESE PLANES, THIS COMPANY AND ITS PERSONNEL EXTEND GRATITUDE AND PRAISE WITHOUT LIMITATION. WHEN THE WHOLE STORY OF THE WAR IS TOLD, THE WORK OF THIS COMPARATIVE HANDFUL OF BRILLIANTLY SKILLFUL INVADER PILOTS WILL CONTINUE TO STAND OUT LIKE A BLAZING TORCH. THEY ARE NOT ONLY DOING EVERYTHING ASKED OF THEM, BUT THEY PERSONALLY PERFECTED A BOMBING TECHNIQUE THAT NO GROUND FORCE ON EARTH CAN WITHSTAND ..."

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION.

FOR THE GROUP COMMANDER:

/S/ PAUL E. VERSEPUT,
/T/ PAUL E. VERSEPUT,
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS,
P.R.O.

527 Ftr Bomb Gp
Supporting 6th ACD
7-44 (S)

17 JANUARY 1944.

U R G E N T

TO: C. G. 64TH FIGHTER WING, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP
FROM: 12TH AIR SUPPORT COMMAND CITE ASD, SIGNED HOUSE

MESSAGE PROPER

BELOW MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE COMMANDER
IN CHIEF 3RD ALGIERS DIVISION QUOTE:

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF 3RD ALGIERS DIVISION THANKS
12TH A. S. C. AND ALL FIGHTER BOMBER AND MEDIUM BOMBER
GROUPS FOR THE ACCURATE SUPPORT GIVEN TO GROUND TROOPS
DURING THE PREVIOUS DAY AND ON THE 12TH AND 13TH OF
JANUARY IN PARTICULAR.

A TRUE COPY:

/S/ PERCY C. FAUSKIN,
/T/ PERCY C. FAUSKIN,
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS,
ADJ., 86TH FTR-BOMB. GP.

527 Ftr Bomb Sq
Supporting Documents
Jan 44 (4)

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

20 January 1944.

SUBJECT: Commendation

- TO :
- Maj. E.A. Bland, 525th Ftr Bomb Sq.
 - Capt. D.E. Schuyler
 - Lt. C.D. Jackson
 - Lt. J.L. Griswold
 - Lt. H.C. Wood
 - Lt. J.G. O'Neil
 - Lt. V. Hook
 - Lt. C.E. Shaurty
 - Capt. R.L. Dungan, 527th Ftr Bomb Sq
 - Lt. R. Palmer
 - Lt. V.K. Reiven
 - Lt. J.J. Madigan
 - Lt. R.W. Thomas
 - Lt. E.A. Stone
 - Lt. E.C. Welch
 - Lt. V.T. Kaspervik

1. Attached hereto are true copies of correspondence from higher headquarters commending this group for outstanding work.
2. While credit for these feats concern and are a matter of great pride to the group as a whole, they should be a source of even greater pride to you.
3. I wish to add my personal commendation to those of Gen. Temple and Col. Darcy, and say "Well done."

Harold E. Korahl
 HAROLD E. KORAHIL
 Lt. Col., Air Corps.
 Commanding.

527 Ftr Bomb Gp
Superiority 1st and 2nd
441 (2)

HEADQUARTERS
XII AIR SUPPORT COMMAND
APO #374

18 January 1944.

MEMO TO: Commanding Officer, 86th Fighter Group.

1. Forwarded herewith is a personal note received by the undersigned from General Templer of the 56th Division. The message refers to two (2) missions executed by your group on January 14th in which you attacked enemy positions near the mouth of the GARIGLIANO RIVER in the area east of LINTURNO.
2. I happened to meet General Templer at a conference on January 15th. He was especially enthusiastic about your show, and in addition to saying everything included in his letter, stated that the pilots had pressed home their attacks in a much more determined manner than he had hoped for.
3. I feel that the attitude expressed in the attached letter is typical of the feeling of front line Army units with respect to air participation in the present campaign. The enthusiastic execution of close support missions has produced an amazing interest and appreciation. In many cases, the interest engendered by your close support work has brought about a fuller realization of the extent to which your efforts well beyond the bombline have influenced the battle.

/s/ Thomas C. Darcy
/t/ THOMAS C. DARCY,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - Personal note from Gen. Templer of 56th Div.

A TRUE COPY

Percy C. Fauskin
PERCY C. FAUSKIN
Captain, Air Corps.
Adj. 86th Ftr Bomb Gp.

527 Ftr Bom b Sq
Supporting Document
} 20 44 (6)

FROM - Maj-Gen G W R TEMPLER, DSO, OBE
Headquarters,
56 (London) Division,
C M F

14 January 1944

Dear Darcy

I am extremely grateful for the missions which your aircraft carried out for me today. I am afraid however, that I had expected the Bosche to give his positions away more than he actually did and I was a bit disappointed that we did not glean more fresh information. However, this was the fault of the Bosche and not yours. It did, however, confirm several previous reports of enemy positions.

I am so sorry that one of your pilots was shot down.

I should be grateful if you would pass this on to the pilots who carried out this operation.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed: G. W. R. Templer

Colonel T C DARCY, CBE,
AASC

Copy to: Lt-Col. The Hon J H HARE, MBE
7 AASC.

A TRUE COPY

Percy C Fauskin
PERCY C FAUSKIN
Captain, Air Corps.
Adjutant, 86th F. B. Gp.

527 Ftr Bomb Sq
Supporting ~~Command~~
Jan 44 (7)

Headquarters,
12th Air Support Command,
APO 374, N.Y., N.Y.
18 January 1944

Major General G.W.R. Tompler, DSO, OBE
G. O. C., 56th Division.

Dear General:-

Thank you very much for your letter of January 14th
reference our fighter-bomber attacks on your front. Your
message has been passed to the 86th Fighter Group which handled
that particular show.

Please be assured that we are most anxious to do every-
thing possible to be of assistance to the front line units.
We are also happy to receive your comments on our efforts and
fully appreciate your personal interest in this regard.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. DARCY
Colonel, Air Corps.
Chief of Staff.

TRUE COPY
Percy C. Fauskin
PERCY C. FAUSKIN
Captain, Air Corps.
Adjutant, 86th Ftr. Bomb. Gp.

59-FI-507-H1

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON
OUTLINE HISTORY FEBRUARY 1944

R

BY AUTHORITY OF
527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON
1 FEBRUARY 1944

SECRET

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

AG 314.7

1 MARCH 1944

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS.

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

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

- A. ORIGINAL UNIT:
 - (1) DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:
 - (1) CHANGE IN T/O. NEW T/O 1-27, 22 DECEMBER 1943, IN PLACE OF OLD T/O 1-27, 1 JULY 1943.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1944
 - (A) AT BEGINNING: 1 FEBRUARY 1944-38 OFFICERS ASSIGNED, 215 ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED.
 - (B) NET INCREASE: 6 OFFICERS, 0 ENLISTED MEN.
 - (C) NET DECREASE: NONE.
 - (D) AT END: 29 FEBRUARY 1944, 44 OFFICERS ASSIGNED, 220 ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED.
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) PAVIGLIANO D'ARCO AIRPORT, ITALY, 1 FEBRUARY 1944 TO 29 FEBRUARY 1944.
- E. OPERATIONS:
 - (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN.
 - (2) SQUADRON CONTINUED MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF GROUND TROOPS DURING FEBRUARY.
 - (3) COMPLETED 41 MISSIONS AND 225 SORTIES FOR PERIOD; 27 DIVE BOMBING MISSIONS ON DIRECT SUPPORT TARGETS

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AND COMMUNICATIONS, 2 WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS, 5 LOW-LEVEL STRAFING MISSIONS, AND 8 ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS ON ROADS AND RAILROADS.

(4)

RESULTS OF MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
(A) MISSION #875 - 13 FEBRUARY 1944.

1. CLOSE SUPPORT MISSION ON SPECIFIC BUILDINGS CAROCETTA FACTORY AREA.
2. OUR COUNTERATTACKING TROOPS HELD LARGE FACTORY BUILDING ASKED AIR FORCE TO WIPE OUT 3 ADJACENT BUILDINGS HOUSING ENEMY TROOPS
3. WERE 11 DIRECT HITS ON 3 BUILDINGS, 8 NEAR MISSES, 1 CLEAR MISS IN ENEMY TERRITORY.

(B) 5 MISSIONS RESULTED IN PILOTS MISSING IN ACTION:

1. MISSION #819 - 2 FEBRUARY 1944 - TARGET - COMMUNICATIONS - SUBIACO TOWN. FLIGHT JUMPED IN DIVE, 2ND LT. GILBERT A. BLACKWELL LAST SEEN DIVING ON TARGET WITH 2 ME-109'S FOLLOWING HIM DOWN.
2. MISSION #828 3 FEBRUARY 1944 - 2 SHIP ARMED RECONNAISSANCE CASSINO - ARCE - SORA. 2ND LT. ROBERT L. MAY FAILED TO RETURN WAS SEEN TO COME OUT OF DIVE ALL RIGHT.
3. MISSION #880 - 15 FEBRUARY 1944 - 4 PLANE LOW LEVEL STRAFING MISSION GAETA - FROSINONE. 2ND LT. JOHN H. HEGEMAN FAILED TO RETURN WAS LAST SEEN VICINITY CARPINETO ROMANO, ITALY - PLANE WAS UNDER CONTROL.
4. MISSION #884 15 FEBRUARY 1944 - 4 PLANE LOW LEVEL STRAFING MISSION GAETA POINT TO CEP-RANO TO SORA. 2ND LT. STANLEY J. CAMPBELL'S PLANE WAS HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE NEAR SORA. HE HEADED FOR COAST BUT WAS FORCED TO ABANDON PLANE CAMPODIMELE, ITALY, VICINITY. HIS CHUTE WAS SEEN TO OPEN.
5. MISSION #885 15 FEBRUARY 1944 - 4 PLANE LOW LEVEL STRAFING MISSION CEP-RANO - FROSINONE. 2ND LT. JAMES W. SMEDLEY'S PLANE WAS HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE OR FLAK NORTH OF POFI, ITALY, AND PLUNGED INTO GROUND FROM HEIGHT OF 300 FEET. PILOT WAS NOT SEEN TO ESCAPE.

F. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:

- (1) 1ST LT. LYLE D. HOOD LED SQUADRON ON MISSION #875, 13 FEBRUARY 1944.

G. LOSSES IN ACTION:

(1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:

- (A) MISSING IN ACTION - GILBERT A. BLACKWELL, O-797942, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 2 FEBRUARY 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM A BOMBING MISSION NEAR BELLEGRA, ITALY. LT. BLACKWELL'S PLANE WAS ATTACKED BY FW-190'S.
- (B) MISSING IN ACTION - ROBERT L. MAY, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 3 FEBRUARY 1944. LT. MAY FAILED

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- (C) MISSING IN ACTION - STANLEY J. CAMPBELL, O-675744, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 15 FEBRUARY 1944. LT. CAMPBELL BALED OUT NEAR FONDI, ITALY. HIS PLANE WAS BADLY HIT BY FLAK. CHUTE WAS SEEN TO OPEN.
- (D) MISSING IN ACTION - JAMES W. SMEDLEY, O-571606, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 15 FEBRUARY 1944. LT. SMEDLEY'S PLANE HIT BY FLAK AND EXPLODED NEAR POFI, ITALY.
- (E) MISSING IN ACTION - JOHN H. HEREMAN, O-571337, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, 15 FEBRUARY, 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM MISSION. WAS LAST SEEN AT VICINITY CARPINETO ROMANO, ITALY.

H. MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

(1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:

- (A) FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT THE FOLLOWING WERE AWARDED DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES, GENERAL ORDER NO. 11, HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1944:

- CHARLES F. CASSIDY, JR. - MAJOR
- IRBY T. PETSICK - CAPT.
- WILLIAM E. WESTFALL - 1ST LT.
- WILLIAM F. YETTER - 1ST LT.
- GEORGE D. JONES - 1ST LT.,
- ED H. HITSON - 1ST LT.

FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT THE FOLLOWING WERE AWARDED DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES, GENERAL ORDER NO. 13, HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE, DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1944:

- JOHN W. GEE - CAPT.
- SIDNEY G. SMITH - 1ST LT.

2. INCLOSED ARE WAR DIARY, 527TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 1944, TO 29 FEBRUARY 1944, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

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

1 INCL:
WAR DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ATTACHED.

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PAGE NO. 1. WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GP.

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

DAY	EVENTS
1	BAD WEATHER DAY. FIRST CALL 5:45. BREAKFAST 6:00-7:00. DOWN TO LINE FOR A 7:30 BRIEFING--NO TARGET--FRONT MOVING IN. PILOTS PLAY BLACK JACK, READ, CUSS WEATHER, SPRAWL ON BOMB FIN STOOLS IN INTELLIGENCE TENT. CREWS WORK ON PLANES OR STANDBY AT PLANES FOR POSSIBLE WEATHER BREAK. UP FOR LUNCH AT 11:30 WITH ONE SQUADRON STANDING BY AT LINE. FOR POSSIBLE WEATHER BREAK. DOWN TO LINE AGAIN. OPERATIONS DECIDES ON WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE AT 13:20, DOWN AT 14:05, SOUPY IMPOSSIBLE WEATHER. PILOTS PACE FLOOR--PLAY MORE CARDS, READ POCKET BOOKS. RAIN. FINALLY 16:00, OPERATIONS SAYS "OK FOR THE DAY" CHOW FROM 17:00-18:00. SHOW AT EYETIE THEATER IN MARIGLIANO. COMMAND CAR GOING IN TO RED CROSS, NAPLES. ENLISTED MEN'S BAR--PING PONG TABLES BUSY.
2	A GLOOMY DAY. LT. BLACKWELL DID NOT RETURN FROM MISSION. FIRST PILOT MISSING IN ACTION DUE TO THE ACTION OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT. SIX SHIP MISSION ON SUBIACO TOWN. OUR FORMATION WAS JUMPED BY FOCKE WULFS AND ME-109'S, WERE THIRTY OF THEM IN TARGET AREA. LT. BLACKWELL'S PLANE WAS LAST SEEN IN A STEEP DIVE WITH TWO ME'S IN HOT PURSUIT. 2ND LT. GILBERT A BLACKWELL JOINED ORGANIZATION 21 OCTOBER 1944 HERE AT POMIGLIANO D'ARCO AIRPORT. 2ND LT. HOOD WAS PROMOTED TO 1ST LT. (SEE 16 SEPT. ENTRY) 1ST LT. SNIDER TO CAPT., AND 2ND LT. LEWIS TO 1ST LT. "J. MARTIN" SNIDER, JOINED ORGANIZATION 27 NOV. 1942 AT KEY FIELD, MISS., AND HAS PERFORMED ADMIRABLY AS A PILOT AND FLIGHT LEADER. 1ST LT. DONALD R. LEWIS JOINED ORGANIZATION 30 MARCH 1943 AT STAGING AREA, CAMP KILMER, N.J. AND HAS ACTED AS SQUADRON ADJUTANT AND MESS OFFICER. CAPT. FIELDING H. ATCHLEY SENT TO HOSPITAL TODAY. (SPECIAL ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED BY PRO ON PROMOTIONS)
3	6-TWO SHIP ARMED RECONNAISSANCES (WRECKIES) TODAY KEPT EVERYONE ON EDGE SWEATING OUT THEIR RETURN. MANY ENEMY TRUCKS AND MUCH EQUIPMENT WAS STRAFED, BUT ON THE DEBIT SIDE OF THE LEDGER WAS LT. OLIHOVIK'S PLANE WITH A 9 INCH SHELL HOLE IN IT, AND A PILOT AND SHIP THAT FAILED TO RETURN. 2ND LT. ROBERT L. MAY DID NOT RETURN. LT. MAY JOINED ORGANIZATION 21 OCT. 1943 AT THE SAME TIME LT. BLACKWELL JOINED. BOYS FEELING PRETTY BLUE TONIGHT.
4	TWO MISSIONS TODAY. WEATHER BAD AND FIELD CLOSED IN, THOUGH WEATHER OVER BOMB LINE WAS FAIR. HAD ANOTHER SCARE TODAY. LT. KUBLY WAS LATE RETURNING, AND WAS GIVEN UP FOR LOST. LT. CAMPBELL FROM SICK IN QUARTERS TO DUTY TODAY. LT. HOOD RECEIVED NICE WRITEUP FROM HOME TOWN PAPER TODAY (SEE ATTACHED).
5	AN EIGHT SHIP MISSION ON TOWN OF LANUVIO WITH DELAYED ACTION BOMBS. SOME SPITS BROKE INTO FORMATION, AND THE BOYS WERE PRETTY IRATE.
6	A MESSED UP MISSION TODAY WITH WHOLE FLIGHT RETURNING EARLY DUE PARTLY TO FAULTY COMMUNICATIONS, MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FLIGHT LEADERS, ETC. OH WELL, DOMANI IS ANOTHER DAY. LTS. SMEDLEY AND WOOLHOUSE WENT EXPLORING WRECKED PLANES TODAY. ENTHUSIASTICALLY EXAMINING WRECKAGE THEY WERE UNAWARE THEY WERE IN DANGER UNTIL THEY CLIMBED BACK OVER FENCE AND SAW SIGN "KEEP OUT, MINED AREA". CAPT. ATCHLEY RETURNED FROM HOSPITAL TODAY.
7	EXCEPTIONALLY LONG MISSION TODAY - 200 MILES FROM BASE. 8 SHIPS BOMBED HARBOR AT SAN STEFANO, ITALY WITH PROBABLE HITS AMONG BARGES AND DOCK INSTALLATIONS.

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PAGE NO. 2. WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.

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

DAY	EVENTS
8	TWO MISSIONS TODAY, 1 PIPEROO, 1 STINKEROO. MOVIE TONIGHT. 525TH SQUADRON GOT P-40'S FROM 33RD GROUP, AND WE RECEIVED THEIR A-36'S. COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE THREE SQUADRONS "ODD MAN-ED" TO SEE WHO'D RECEIVE P-40'S--526 AND 527 WON. PILOTS AND CREWS TICKLED.
9	FOUR MISSIONS TODAY DESPITE THREATENING WEATHER ALL DAY. LAST MISSION RETURNED AT 17:40 AFTER SUNDOWN.
10	ONE MISSION. LT. MC DONNELL LANDED AT EMERGENCY STRIP AT NETTUNO (BEACH HEAD) AS HIS PLANE WAS ICING, MADE TRIP TO BASE WITH NO FURTHER DIFFICULTY. LT. CAMPBELL'S PLANE WAS HIT BY FLAK THOUGH NOT BADLY DAMAGED. LTS. DELOACH AND THOMAS, BOTH 80 MISSION BOYS WENT ON 14 DAY LEAVE TODAY--CAIRO BOUND.
11	ON MISSIONS, STANDBY THIS MORNING, STAND DOWN THIS P.M. ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS ISSUED PERMANENT PASSES TO NAPLES. NOW BOTH E.M. AND OFFICERS VISIT EXCELLENT RED CROSS CLUBS IN NAPLES ON TIME OFF. RED CROSS HAS HOT SHOWERS, SNACK BARS, BARBER SHOPS, ENTERTAINMENT, TOURS OF NAPLES, POMPEII, AND VESUVIUS.
12	FOUR MISSIONS TODAY, TWO EIGHT SHIP AND TWO TWO SHIP. PLASTERED FONDI AGAIN. LT. KNIGHT C. TREAT HIT DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO EYE WHEN FLAK HIT CANOPY OF HIS SHIP, SHATTERING GLASS. HE DID A FINE JOB LANDING HIS SHIP, DESPITE INJURY. FIVE OUT OF EIGHT SHIPS ON ONE MISSION WERE HIT BY FLAK. A TOTAL OF SIX FOR THE DAY. 1ST LT. VINCENT K. RELYEA TRANSFERRED TO GROUP AS ASS'T OPERATIONS OFFICER. CAPT. TILLESON AND LT. SCHNEIDAU WENT ON LEAVE, HOPE TO REACH CAIRO.
13	A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CLOSE SUPPORT MISSION TODAY ON BEACH HEAD TARGET. LT. HOOD'S FIRST MISSION AS A FLIGHT LEADER, HE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB IN LOCATING PIN POINTED TARGETS IN CARROCETA FACTORY AREA, WHERE OUR GROUND FORCES ARE ATTEMPTING TO COUNTER-ATTACK. THREE BRITISH WAR CORRESPONDENTS SAT IN ON BRIEFING AND INTERROGATION.
14	ONLY ONE MISSION TODAY--12 SHIPS ON FURBARA A/D POSSIBLY DESTROYING 4 OPERATIONAL ME-109'S AND DAMAGING FIELD. ORDER RECEIVED AWARDING LTS. GRAVES AND TREAT PURPLE HEART. (SEE 31 JAN., AND 12 FEB. ENTRIES). (SPECIAL ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED BY GROUP PRO ON AWARDS) DOUBLE FEATURE AT MOVIES TONIGHT. YESTERDAYS MISSION ON PINPOINTED TARGETS RATED TWO LINES IN STARS AND STRIPES AND FRONT PAGE AND HEADLINES IN LONDON DAILY HERALD, THANKS TO CORRESPONDENTS (SEE CLIPPINGS ATTACHED).
15	FOUR MISSIONS TODAY, 3 FOUR SHIP STRAFING MISSIONS, AND ONE 12 SHIP MISSION ON MARSHALLING YARDS SOUTH OF ROME. THE STRAFING MISSIONS EACH LOST A PILOT AND PLANE. LTS. SMEDLEY, HEGEMAN, AND CAMPBELL DID NOT RETURN, THOUGH LT. CAMPBELL WAS SEEN TO BALE OUT IN ENEMY TERRITORY AND HIS CHUTE OPENED. LT. HEGEMAN WAS LOST IN MOUNTAINS WITH NO CLUE TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE. LT. SMEDLEY'S PLANE WAS HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE OR LIGHT FLAK WAS SEEN TO DIVE IN FROM 300 FEET WITH LITTLE POSSIBILITY FOR PILOT TO HAVE ESCAPED. 2ND LTS. JOHN H. HEGEMAN AND JAMES W. SMEDLEY JOINED ORGANIZATION 1 OCTOBER 1943, AT SELE L/G, ITALY, AND 2ND LT. STANLEY J. CAMPBELL JOINED 14 NOVEMBER 1943 HERE AT POMIGLIANO A/D. THE LOSS OF THREE MEN IN ONE DAY, FIVE THIS MONTH IS FELT KEENLY BY ENTIRE PERSONNEL. NERVES ARE TAUT, TEMPERS SHORT, JERRY IS BEING DAMNED AND DOUBLE DAMNED TONIGHT.

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PAGE NO. 3 . WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ. , 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.

MONTH FEBRUARY 1944. PERPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
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| 16 | A 12 SHIP MISSION ON RAILYARDS SOUTHERN EDGE OF ROME. LT. KUBLY RECEIVED ORDERS TODAY PROMCTING HIM TO CAPTAINCY. CAPT. DONALD R. KUBLY HAS COMPLETED 78 MISSIONS AS PILOT AND FLIGHT LEADER. CAPT. KUBLY JOINED ORGANIZATION 25 JUNE, 1943 AT TAFAROU, ALGERIA. LT. WOOLHOUSE, F/O SIMPSON, SGTS. KINZER, GERARD, AND WHITLEY TO REST CAMP ON ISLE OF CAPRI. ENLISTED MEN AND GROUND OFFICERS ARE GIVEN THREE DAY REST PERIOD, FLYING OFFICERS A WEEK. |
| 17 | A 12 SHIP MISSION THIS MORNING, THEN STAND DOWN BALANCE OF DAY. OFFICER PLAN PARTY TONIGHT AT THE ORANGE CLUB--ALLIED OFFICER'S CLUB IN NAPLES, AS STAND DOWN TOMORROW. |
| 18 | DINNER, DANCE, AND DRINKS AT ORANGE CLUB HELPED RELIEVE TAUT NERVES OF PAST WEEK, THOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF HEADACHES THIS MORNING. LT. WELCH ACCOMPANIED MAJCR HOME, GROUP OFFICER, ON EXPERIMENTAL FLIGHT NEAR CASERTA, ITALY. MAJOR HOME WAS KILLED IN CRASH. EIGHT REPLACEMENT PILOTS ARRIVED THIS EVENING AND WERE ASSIGNED ORGANIZATION: 2ND LTS. MC DERMOTT, MILLER, MITCHELL, MORAN, MULNIX, MYRICK, SCHULTZ AND WATERMAN. |
| 19 | STAND DOWN. NEW PILOTS HAVE HAD NO COMBAT EXPERIENCE, GROUND CHECKING PLANES TODAY. CAPT. TILLESON AND LT. SCHNEIDAU RETURNED TO DUTY AFTER 7 DAYS, UNABLE TO GET TO CAIRO THEY VISITED TUNIS, PALERMO, CATANIA. |
| 20 | TWO MISSIONS TODAY. ONE 6 SHIP MISSION ON TROOP CONCENTRATION, SAW LARGE EXPLOSION IN AREA. SGTS. GERARD, KINZER, AND WHITLEY RETURNED FROM CAPRI LOADED DOWN WITH PAINTINGS AND SOUVENIRS. SGTS STRANEY, BARRENTINE, AND ANDERSON TO CAPRI. |
| 21 | WEATHER HAMPERED MISSIONS TODAY, ONE BOMBED ALTERNATE TARGET, GUN POSITIONS ON GAETA POINT, THE SECOND HAD TO TURN BACK BEFORE REACHING ENEMY TERRITORY. NEW PILOTS BEING GIVEN CHALK TALKS, LECTURES ON TACTICS, ETC. ORDERS RECEIVED TODAY AWARDDING DFC'S TO PILOTS WHO HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THE STATES. THOSE RECEIVING DFC'S FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT IN AERIAL FLIGHT: |

CHARLES F. CASSIDY JR. - MAJOR
 IRBY T. PETSICK - CAPT.
 JOHN W. GEE - CAPT.
 WILLIAM E. WESTFALL - 1ST LT.
 WILLIAM F. YETTER - 1ST LT.
 GEORGE D. JONES - 1ST LT.
 ED H. HITSON - 1ST LT.
 SIDNEY G. SMITH - 1ST LT.

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| 22 | AN ATTEMPTED MISSION, WEATHER PREVENTED REACHING TARGET. ALL NEW PILOTS CHECKED OUT IN A-36'S NOW. THE 27TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP TRANSFERRED ALL THEIR PLANES TO THIS GROUP, MAKING US THE ONLY "INVADER" GROUP, THEY'RE USING P-40'S TEMPORARILY. 527 RECEIVED EIGHT OF THE 27TH'S SHIPS. F/O SIMPSON RETURNED FROM CAPRI TODAY, LT. TEEPLE FROM DUTY TO QUARTERS. CHICKEN FOR SUPPER. MOVIE TONIGHT, FRANK SINATRA--RECEPTION--"GI". |
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PAGE NO. 4 . WAR DIARY 527TH FTR. BOMBER SQ., 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP.

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

DAY	EVENTS
3	NO MISSIONS TODAY, NEW PILOTS CONTINUE TO GET IN TIME AND LEARN TECHNIQUE IN A-36'S.
4	CAPRI EXPRESS BRINGS BACK LT. WOOLHOUSE, SGTS. BARENTINE, ANDERSON, AND STRANEY, AND RETURNS WITH SGTS. DOWNS AND DOIRON. STARS AND STRIPES PUBLISHED A HISTORY OF A-36 GROUPS TODAY (SEE CLIPPING) WILL BE LOTS OF STARS AND STRIPES IN MAIL TOMORROW.
5	NO MISSIONS TODAY. COL. ROBBINS, OFDNANCE INSPECTOR, AND STAFF INSPECT MOTOR POOL AND VEHICLES.
6	RAIN - STAND DOWN. LT. DOTSON VISITED SQUADRON CAME OVER FROM AFRICA IN P-38. SQUADRON RECEIVED NEW T/O, MAKING MINOR CHANGES, SHIFTING RANK SLIGHTLY IN ENLISTED PERSONNEL, ADDING A CAPTAINCY (ENGINEERING OFFICER) TO SQUADRON. LTS. HOOD AND TEEPLE LEFT FOR CAPRI TODAY.
7	ONE 12 SHIP MISSION. WEATHER PREVENTED REACHING TARGET NORTH OF ROME, SO FLIGHT BOMBED HARBOR AT LADISPOLI (SEE CLIPPING). THREE NEW PILOTS, LTS. MC DERMOTT, MILLER, MORAN, FLEW FIRST COMBAT MISSION TODAY. RAIN...STAND DOWN THIS AFTERNOON.
8	BOMBED MARCIGLIANO A/D NORTH OF ROME, THREE MORE NEW PILOTS PARTICIPATING. LTS. DE LOACH AND THOMAS RETURNED TO DUTY AFTER AN 18 DAY LEAVE, A 4 DAY EXTENSION HAVING BEEN GRANTED. LUCKY IN CATCHING RIDES, DE LOACH AND THOMAS VISITED CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA, TELA VIV, AND JERUSALEM. SGTS. HENDEPSON, RICKERT AND VELLETRI LEFT FOR THREE DAYS AT CAPRI.
9	WOUND UP MONTH WITH CLOSE SUPPORT TARGET ON BEACHHEAD. COMPLETED 41 MISSIONS MONTH OF FEBRUARY, FIVE PILOTS MISSING IN ACTION, ONE WOUNDED.

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