

CONFIDENTIAL

Report No. 90 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of \_\_\_\_\_, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLANCHETT,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE EVENTS

12 Lt. Simmons led the only mission flown today. A tank parking area was well covered with bomb hits and thoroughly strafed.

The rear echelon of the squadron personnel spent the entire day in the staging area outside Civitavecchia.

13 The men and equipment in the rear echelon left the staging area and boarded an IST of the American Navy for the trip to Corsica. Everyone is enjoying the Navy food on the ship, and regretting for that reason, that the trip will be a short one.

14 Lt. Brown was the leader of a formation of eight planes today, but after going as far as Fisticia, the flight was forced to return because of unfavorable weather.

The rear echelon landed in Portocorchie, Corsica and made the trip to Foretta Airfield by motor convoy. The squadron area, except for the tents of the men just arriving, and line has been set up, and the location seems to be more isolated from towns and villages than was our bivouac area at Cristello in Italy.

The men arriving this evening found the weekly ration of beer, three bottles per man, awaiting them. Needless to say, it was a welcome surprise, and did more than a little to bolster morale, after the long ride in a convoy.

15 Railroad tracks were bombed by an eight plane formation led by Lt. Decker. Results of bombing could not be observed, and one motor track was destroyed and one damaged by strafing.

The remainder of the squadron equipment and men arrived this evening, and the rest of the pyramidal tents were set up in the area.

X rations were put on sale in the day room this evening.

16 More P-47's were flown over from Italy today, and thus, the last "Invader" squadron in the group has reluctantly given up the A-36's, still the popular favorite with both pilots and crew chiefs. A program of transition flying is scheduled for approximately the next two weeks.

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Sheet No. 91 War Diary, 527th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of July, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY EVENTS

16 (Cont'd). A movie "Her Primitive Man" was shown in the squadron area this evening.

17 Transition flying continues.

18 2nd Lt. John C. Jacoby, recently transferred into the squadron, was killed in a plane crash at Capodichino AFB near Naples, when the airplane he was flying, crashed while taking off. He, along with several other pilots, was there to ferry some of the squadron's new P-47's to this field.

A boxing program sponsored by the 87th Fighter Wing, was attended by several of the men of the squadron this evening. The squadron was represented on the card by 1st Lt. Gene Stevens, who boxed three exhibition rounds with a member of the 527th Squadron. The eight bouts were greatly enjoyed by the rather small crowd present, and more boxing shows are looked forward to in the future.

19 The movie "Uncertain Glory" was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening. Errol Flynn and Paul Lukas played leading roles, and it was generally considered one of the best movies we've had the pleasure of seeing, for quite some time.

20 Lts. Mathis and Oldham returned to the squadron today, after an extended furlough in the states. Lt. Horrigan who left with them, will return to the states again for reassignment, after getting as far as Naples on his way back to the squadron.

21 T/Sgt Austin McIver, a flight chief in the Engineering section, left the squadron today, and was assigned to the Personnel Center for return to the States, under the rotation plan.

The weekly ration of beer was put on sale in the day room this evening.

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Sheet No. 92 War Diary, 87th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of July, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, G-2.

DAY EVENTS

22 The finals of the track and field meet, as well as the boxing tournament, conducted by the 87th Fighter Wing were held this afternoon and evening, and the Squadron was well represented in both.

S/Sgt Jim Goff won first place in two events, the high jump and shot put, and as a result of his scoring the highest individual point total, was awarded a third silver cup as the Best All Around Athlete in the meet.

1fc Gene Stevens won the light heavyweight title in the boxing tournament, by scoring a two round knockout over his opponent in the final bout.

The boxing show was a very exciting one, with several close matches, and the team championship was won by the 56th Group team, which was represented by three winners in the five title fights.

The movie "Standing Room Only" was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening.

23 The new pilots of the squadron are keeping up the busy schedule of transition flying. Many of them already have a lot of hours in P-47's and by the time they start flying combat mission, should be completely at home in the new Thunderbolts.

24 Lt. Watson today learned of his promotion to Captain, effective 16 July. A movie "Show Business" starring Eddie Cantor, was shown in the Group Headquarters this evening.

25 The squadron mess hall, moved to the new location on the opposite side of the bivouac area, and the men are now using the new tables and benches in the screened enclosure. It is a vast improvement over the old location and music from a speaker installed in the mess hall is greatly enjoyed during mealtimes.

Lt. Fardum, Operations Officer, today learned of his promotion to the rank of Captain, effective 21 July.

26 The movie "Seven Days Ashore" was shown this evening in the open air 'theatre' behind Headquarters.

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Serial No. 93 War Diary, 821st FIGHTER SQUADRON, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of July, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, F-2.

DATE EVENTS

27 The first missions with F-47's were flown today. Capt. Purdum led the first formation of twelve planes, attacking a railroad bridge. Several hits were observed and the bridge is believed to be destroyed.

Lt. Decker led the second, bombing another railway bridge and tracks. Several hits were scored on tracks and factory buildings nearby.

28 Lt. Decker led the first of three missions today. A pontoon bridge was bombed and four motor trucks were destroyed by strafing.

Lt. Anderson led the second mission. A railroad bridge was bombed with good results. Factory buildings nearby were left in flames and considerable damage was done to the tracks leading to and away from the bridge.

Lt. Brown led the last mission which bombed the road northwest of Albenga. The road was cut in four places and buildings nearby were left in flames.

"It Happened Tomorrow", starring Dick Powell, Linda Darnell and Jack Cagney, was the movie shown this evening. It was enjoyed quite a lot by those who saw it.

29 Lt. Brown led the only mission today. A pontoon bridge was bombed and strafing accounted for five motor trucks destroyed and one damaged. An electric locomotive and ten cars were destroyed and twenty more damaged.

A squadron meeting was held this evening, at which time Capt. Blackwell explained the voting system to the enlisted men.

30 Lt. Borello led the only mission today. A highway bridge was knocked out and several more hits on the road damaged it considerably. Four gun pits were strafed and silenced, killing several personnel.

A stand down, for the purpose of covering the runway with steel matting, went into effect at 1500 hours this afternoon.

1st Lt. George F. Armond joined the squadron today and assumed his duties as Squadron Ordnance Officer.

X rations were sold in the day room this evening and later a movie, "And The Angels Sing" was shown in the Group Headquarters area.

At the end of the month of July the squadron has flown 4530 sorties and 7038:10 combat hours.

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100-15-150-112

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525th Fighter Sq

Outline History August 44

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
APO 650

G/WEB/hrd

AG 314.7

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command, APO 374.

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Squadron for the period  
1 August 1944 to 1 September 1944.

a. Present designation: 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter  
Group, XII TAC.

b. Changes in organization.

1. Changes in designation, assignment or attachment: None

2. Subordinate units: None

3. Changes in Commanding Officers: Capt. Lemuel W. Purdum, III,  
O-797910, assumed temporary command of this organization (VOCO) during absence  
of Major Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., (CO), on rest leave.

4. Changes of staff officers:

(a) Capt. Blackwell, William H., O-564823, aptd Legal  
Assistance Officer (add'l duty) 2 August 44.

(b) Capt. Simmons, Felix F., O-443866, aptd Officers  
Mess Officer (add'l duty) 2 August 44.

(c) 2nd Lt. Brandon, Royce L., O-867624, aptd Ass't  
Squadron Engineering Officer and Squadron Tech Supply Officer as of 1 August 44.

(d) 1st Lt. De Armond, George P., O-1554164, aptd  
Squadron Ordnance and Armament Officer, as of 1 August 44.

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

2.

(e) 1st Lt. Simmons, Harold D., O-570251, aptd  
Assistant Squadron Adjutant (add'l duty) 25 August 44.

5. Changes in T/O : None

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

1. Month of July 44.

(a) At beginning : 58 officers; 249 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase : 0 officers; 0 enlisted men.

(c) Net decrease : 0 officers; 18 enlisted men.

(d) At end : 58 officers; 231 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

1. Poretta Airfield, Corsica.

(a) Date of arrival: 12 July 44 (advance echelon);  
15 July 44 (remainder of squadron).

(b) Date of departure: Present station.

e. Movements: None

f. Campaigns.

1. Sicilian; Italian; Southern France.

2. Duration: Sicilian, 3 July 43 to 17 August 43; Italian,  
18 August 43 to date, still in progress; Southern France, 17 August 44 to  
date, still in progress.

g. Operations.

1. Campaigns: Italian and Southern France.

2. Nature of Operations: Bombing and strafing of enemy  
strongpoints, gun positions; bombing roads, railroads and bridges; executing  
armed reconnaissance missions attacking enemy communication lines; patrol  
and escort missions.

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

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

3.

3. Number of missions and sorties for period: 63 missions and 453 sorties during the month of August 1944.

4. Results of most important missions.

a. On 7 August 1944, Capt. L. W. Purdum, III, led an eight ship formation escorting 36 B-25's of the 310th Bomb Group in an attack upon an important railroad bridge in Southern France (S-964853). After the bombers came off the target and headed out to sea, a formation of twelve enemy aircraft was sighted, and eight of the enemy ships dove on the lead bomber formation. Capt. Purdum immediately turned into the attacking planes, firing several bursts at them, damaging one while Lt. Curtin probably destroyed one of the other enemy planes. As a result of their vigilance and quick action, no shots were fired at the bombers by the enemy fighters, who broke and fled.

b. On 9 August 1944, Maj. Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., Squadron Commander, was leader of a twelve ship formation to escort B-26 bombers to Bergamo-Seriate A/D, Italy, and to strafe anti-aircraft positions around the airdrome immediately prior to the bombing run. Covering the entire airfield area, Maj. Kasun directed his formation in strafing and silencing most all of the gun positions, making it safe for the bombers. After coming off, our fighters in further strafing attacks destroyed seven motor trucks, two armored halftracks, four boxcars, and damaged ten motor trucks. They received the thanks and commendation of the bombers for "a hell of a good show". Two of our aircraft were damaged by flak, neither serious.

c. On 16 August 1944, 1st Lt. Graydon S. Brown was leader of a six ship formation attacking enemy communications between Toulon and Avignon, France. Though haze and clouds impaired observation, and anti-aircraft fire was received, a total of twenty four motor trucks were destroyed and eight trucks and a command car damaged. One of our aircraft was damaged by flak, not serious.

5. Unit was subjected to enemy action: None except pilots on combat missions.

a. Major Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., was Squadron Commander during entire month of August 1944. Capt. L. W. Purdum, III, became Acting Squadron Commander on 21 August 1944, in absence of Maj. Kasun, on rest leave. Mission leaders are named in above accounts.

1. Losses in action.

Patrol mission over invasion beaches of Southern France on 22 August 1944.

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

4.

(a) Killed.

Higginson, Benjamin Albert, Jr., O-824626  
Providence, R. I.

2. Bombing mission on highway near Pistoia, Italy, on  
25 August 1944.

(a) Killed.

Cooper, Donovan J., O-754596  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves  
in action.

Name	Date of Act	Award
Maj. Nicholas J. Kasum, Jr.,	26 May 1944	DFC
1st Lt. Joe J. Angell	25 May 1944	DFC
Capt. Wendell Hook (nmi)	8 May 1944	3rd OLC
Capt. John B. Watson, Jr.,	24 April 1944	3rd OLC
1st Lt. Joe J. Angell	17 April 1944	3rd OLC
1st Lt. George R. Palmer	14 April 1944	3rd OLC
Capt. Wendell Hook (nmi)	6 March 1944	2nd OLC
Capt. John B. Watson, Jr.,	8 April 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Herschel H. Mattes	27 February 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Robert H. Nelson	17 April 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. George R. Palmer	27 February 1944	2nd OLC
Capt. Wendell Hook (nmi)	27 January 1944	1st OLC
Capt. Miles C. Wood, Jr.,	14 January 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Carl E. Correll	5 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Enoch S. Duncan	27 February 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. James E. Henderson	16 May 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. George R. Palmer	19 January 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Carl H. Pierson	2 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Edward H. Ryan	16 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Coleman H. Shaunty	25 October 1943	1st OLC
1st Lt. Walter G. Johnson	2 April 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Francis M. Veatch	25 May 1944	1st OLC
Capt. Lemuel W. Purdum, III	2 April 1944	Air Medal
Capt. Felix F. Simmons	22 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. Robert L. Anderson	20 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. David S. Baker	17 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. John E. Borallo	25 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. Carl E. Correll	4 April 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. James C. Finlayson	26 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. James E. Henderson	30 May 1944	Air Medal
1st Lt. Francis M. Veatch	6 April 1944	Air Medal

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

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5.

1st Lt. John E. Borello	20 May 1944	Purple Heart
1st Lt. Douglas H. Plowden	9 December 1943	Purple Heart
2nd Lt. Carl P. Hernandez	6 July 1944	Purple Heart

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 525th Fighter Squadron, for the period 1 August 44 to 1 September 44.

For the Squadron Commander:

Incl: War Diary (4 copies)

*William H. Blackwell*  
 WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
 Capt., Air Corps,  
 Intelligence Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

Report No. 94 War Diary, 50th Bombardment Group, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Date of Report: August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBURN

Captain, Air Corps, USA.

DATE

EVENTS

1 No missions were flown today. Four new pilots were assigned and joined the squadron today. They are 2nd Lts. Henry (nmi) Aegerter, Harold P. Bannister, Benjamin A. Higginson and William A. Wilson.

A movie, "Once Upon A Time", starring Cary Grant and Janet Blair, was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening.

2 The work of laying steel matting on the runway continues, and while it is a rest for the pilots, the mechanics are still busy with engine changes and inspections, getting their planes ready to resume normal operations.

Capt. John B. Watson and 1st Lt. James E. Henderson left today to go to the Personnel Center in Naples. They will return to the states for rest and reassignment.

2nd Lt. Royce L. Brandon joined the squadron today and will begin his duties as Assistant Engineering Officer.

3 No missions were flown today as work on the runway continues.

1st Lt. Miles S. Winder, a Medical Officer, was assigned and joined the squadron today.

The movie "A Chip Off the Old Block", was shown this evening.

4 The work on the runway was completed today, and the field will be opened for flying tomorrow morning.

5 2nd Lt. Harold D. Simmons, Squadron Supply and Transportation Officer, was today promoted to the rank of 1st Lt.

"In Our Time", with Ida Lupino and Paul Henreid, was the name of this evening's movie.

Major Kasun flew with some of the Group pilots on a practice flight late tonight.

6 Lt. Simmons led the first of three missions today. The ten plane formation bombed a highway, getting several hits and near misses, causing

CONFIDENTIAL

95 1st Army, 92nd FIGHTER DIVISION. Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Date of August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, G-2.

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EVENTS

6 (Cont'd) considerable damage.

The second mission was to escort B-26's, and was led by Capt. Purdum. There was no enemy contact.

Lt. Decker led twelve planes late this evening, bombing a railroad bridge. A large fire was started in a factory area near the bridge.

PX and beer rations were put on sale in the day room this evening. Having had no beer at all for the past four weeks, the accumulated ration of twelve cans was all sold today.

7 Capt. Purdum led an eight plane escort mission over targets in southern France early this morning. After leaving the target, eight Me-109's were encountered, four of them attacking the bomber formation. Capt. Purdum and Lt. Jordan fired on two of them and Lt. Curtin probably destroyed one, although it was not seen to crash.

Lt. Brown led the second mission, attacking rail yards in Albenga, Italy. Two fires were started, three cars destroyed, eight damaged, and several direct hits scored on the tracks.

The movie "Follow The Boys", with an all star cast, was shown this evening.

8 Capt. Purdum led the only mission flown today. Direct hits were scored on a causeway at Mantua, Italy, several on the north approach and more in the town.

A four plane transition flight was flown late tonite. While taking off, Lt. Anderson, blinded by the cloud of dust that covered the entire field, ran off the side of the runway and crashed. He escaped with slight injuries but the plane burned.

2nd Lt. Donovan J. Cooper, a pilot, was assigned and joined the squadron today.

9 Major Kasum led the only mission today. The assignment was to strafe an airfield near Bergamo, Italy immediately before a formation of B-26's bombed the field. Several gun positions were strafed and silenced and the members of the flight later received a commendation from the leader of the B-26 formation for "the best strafing job they'd ever seen".

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96 War Diary, 526th Bombardment Squadron, Foretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Date of August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, USAF.

JAC

EVENTS

9 (Cont'd) All the men were busy digging foxholes this afternoon and evening, in compliance with a directive issued by the Base Security Officer. A movie was planned for this evening but rain caused it to be postponed. A dance for enlisted men of the group was held in Bastia this evening. Music was furnished by the "Invaders", 86th Group orchestra, and several men from the squadron attended.

10 One mission was flown today, led by Lt. Oldham. The flight got as far as the coast of Italy, where heavy rains forced it to turn back.

The Joe Louis boxing troupe put on a show in the Group Headquarters area this evening. Other than Louis, the troupe included Jackie Wilson and Jimmy Edgar, both well known professional fighters.

11 Lt. Simmons led the first of two missions today, attacking a gun emplacement. No direct hits were reported, but the areas were thoroughly strafed and damaged considerably.

Capt. Purdum led a four plane escort mission this evening, flying cover for the 526th and 527th Squadrons. No enemy aircraft were contacted.

The movie "City Without Men" was shown this evening near Group Headquarters.

12 Two missions were flown today, both attacking gun positions along the coast of Italy. Lt. Brown led the first, and direct hits knocked out several gun pits which had been putting up very accurate flak at the formation.

Lt. Oldham led the second mission, and again direct hits and near misses were scored on gun pits on a hilltop near the coast.

PX rations were sold in the day room this evening.

13 A standdown was in effect all day today.

The men who had volunteered and were selected to go to the new B-29 outfits, left the squadron this morning. They were T/Sgt Al Krueger,

CONFIDENTIAL

97 1st Air Group, 4th Fighter Wing, 12th AF, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

13 August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, USA.

EVENTS

13 (Cont'd) S/Sgts Richard Dunham, William P. Heaton, Maynard C. Campbell, and Richard G. Gibbs, Sgts Albert Cohen, Jesse Barco, Sterling Crapsier and Walter Miller, and Cpls Pat Valverde, Richard J. Miller, Charles H. Reese, Daniel LeClaire and John S. Myher.

14 One mission was flown this morning. Led by Lt. Decker, radar installations on the coast were attacked by the twelve plane formation. Two stations were damaged by several strafing passes on the area.

A meeting of all squadron personnel was held this evening, at which Capt. Blackwell revealed the news of the impending invasion of the southern coast of France. Tomorrow will be a busy day for the squadron, the first mission being scheduled for 0530 hours.

15 Starting well before dawn this morning, six four plane missions were flown today, bombing and strafing targets in close support of the invasion forces. Ground haze over most of the target areas made both bombing and observation difficult but several gun positions were knocked out during the day.

1st Lt. Harry P. Mathis, Jr., left for a Personnel Center today. He will be sent back to the states for rest and reassignment.

A movie "Four Jills In A Jeep", was shown this evening.

16 Twenty-eight sorties were flown today, with targets in front of the invasion troops landing in southern France. The eight plane formation led by Lt. Finlayson left more than forty-five railroad cars damaged and smoking after strafing passes.

Lt. Borallo's eight plane formation destroyed a total of ten motor trucks and a motorcycle by strafing, and the eight planes led by Lt. Decker reported the damage by strafing of fifteen railroad cars and the destruction of a barge.

The most successful mission of the day was led by Lt. Brown. Twenty-four motor trucks were destroyed and eight motor trucks and a command car were damaged. Lt. Brown alone, accounted for twelve destroyed and three damaged, for the best individual performance of the day.

CONFIDENTIAL

98 War Diary, 526th NIGHTER SQUADRON, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of August, 1943. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, 1-2

DAY

EVENTS

17 Three missions were flown today. A rail line near Aubagne was cut by several direct hits, and one motor truck was destroyed, and four damaged. Lt. Davis led the formation.

Lt. Anderson led the second mission, bombing tracks again. A string of thirty railroad cars were bombed and strafed and all were definitely damaged. At another point, fifteen cars were strafed and damaged, and a motor truck and an armored car were destroyed.

Lt. Finlayson led the last eight plane formation. Seven motor vehicles, two single engine aircraft on a landing strip, and eight railroad cars were destroyed, and thirty two railroad cars and seven motor vehicles damaged, all by strafing passes after the bomb run.

Capt. Purdum and Lt. Mank also escorted a Catalina on an air-sea rescue this afternoon.

The movie, "Roger Touhy, Gangster", was shown this evening. It was the first one in quite some time with a story about something other than the war, and was enjoyed for no other reason than that.

18 Two missions were flown today. The first formation was made up of six pilots each from this and the 526th Squadron, escorting a B-25 formation which bombed a bridge near the town of Avignon in France.

Lt. Decker led eight planes attacking a railroad bridge, and although no hits were secured on the bridge, the approach to it was damaged considerably by direct hits.

This mission was forced to land at an airfield on the western side of the island, when a wind, rain, and hail storm made landing here impossible. The storm struck the bivouac area at noon, and at first seemed nothing more than a summer shower. The mess hall, where many of the men were, seemed like a safe place to sweat out the rain, until the wind started and blew the roof off. Keeping in a dry place was soon forgotten, as tents began falling like tumpkins, and before it was over, everyone was wading in water more than ankle deep. Needless to say, the rest of the afternoon was spent in moving and setting up tents and finding what personal belongings had floated away.

1st Lt. John S. Harpster, a former B-26 pilot with 56 missions to his credit, was assigned and joined the squadron today.

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

Form 99 War Diary, 525th BOMBING SQUADRON, Poretta Airfield, Corsica  
(Station)

Month of August, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, S-4.

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E V E N T S

19 One escort mission and two armed reces were flown today. Lt. Brown led the twelve plane formation which flew cover for eighteen B-25's to bomb a railroad viaduct in France.

The eight planes led by Lt. Oldham brought back a score of sixteen motor trucks destroyed and three damaged.

The last mission, with Lt. Finlayson leading, destroyed six motor trucks, damaged two, and damaged a locomotive and almost a hundred cars. Lt. Mart became lost from the formation and did not return. It is believed that his plane was hit by flak which was encountered over La Ciotat, France.

The movie, "Follow The Boys", with an all star cast was shown this evening.

1st Lt. Howard G. Decker, Jr., was promoted to Captain as of 15 August.

20 A gun position was knocked out by two bomb hits secured by a five plane formation led by Lt. Anderson on the first mission this morning.

Lt. Moyle led four planes on the second mission and the gun positions assigned to them was silenced by both bombing and strafing.

Lt. Oldham's four plane formation also attacked a gun position and one fire was started in the area. Lt. Oldham also strafed two PT boats in a harbor.

S/Sgt David E. Johnson, a crew chief, accidentally shot himself in the upper left leg this afternoon, while cleaning a .45 calibre pistol. The bone in his leg was shattered, and he was taken to the 35th Station Hospital this evening.

Lt. Mart, who was lost on a mission yesterday, returned to the squadron today. His plane was hit by flak, and he made a belly landing in the water, and was picked up by a destroyer of the U. S. Navy.

The last mission today was led by Lt. Decker. The eight plane formation attacked gun positions in an area in close proximity to the target for a formation of B-26's.

The movie "The More The Merrier", was shown in the Group Headquarters area this evening.

21 Two bombing missions were flown today. The first was led by Lt. Brown, and marshalling yards in Alessandria, Italy were damaged considerably.

100

100th Bombardment Squadron, Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August

EVENTS

21 (Cont'd) Three motor trucks and four horse carts were destroyed, and one additional motor truck was damaged by strafing.

The second mission was led by Lt. Simmons and although bad weather prevented the bombing of the primary target, a road bridge on the Centallo-Cuneo highway was bombed and damaged considerably.

A meeting of all enlisted men was held in the mess hall this evening for the purpose of organizing an enlisted men's club. M/Sgt James E. Knight deserves credit for the instigation of this movement, and he was promptly elected as temporary president. Other officers elected were M/Sgt Hoyt L. Smith, vice president, and S/Sgt Tom Malone, secretary-treasurer, as well as a committee of eight men.

1st Lt. Felix F. Simmons learned today of his promotion to the rank of Captain, effective 18 August 1944.

22 The day's flying activity consisted of three patrol missions, led by Col. Bates, Lt. Davis, and Lt. Oldhan. No enemy planes were seen. 2nd Lt. Benjamin A. Higginson, recently transferred into the squadron, was killed when landing from the first mission. His airplane crashed in the swamp near the north end of the field as he was making his final approach.

Major Kasun, Capt. Decker and Lt. Borello left today for a rest camp in Cairo. Capt. Purdum will assume temporary command of the squadron during Major Kasun's absence.

1st Lt. Dale L. Carstensen, Squadron Adjutant, was promoted to the rank of Captain, effective 17 August 1944.

The movie "Summer Storm", was shown this evening. It was a good story and a welcome relief from musicals and comedies, such as we've been seeing.

23 Gun positions were bombed and strafed by a formation led by Lt. Finlayson early this morning. The guns were not firing, but were heavily bombed and strafed.

Capt. Simmons led the second mission. Gun positions were again the target and were bombed and strafed with unobserved results.

Lt. Brown led eight planes on a road recce, cratering the road in several places. Two motor trucks and a hay cart were destroyed by strafing.

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Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August

WILLIAM H. SIMMONS

Captain, Air Corps, USAF

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EVENTS

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23 (Cont'd) The last was a four plane patrol, led by Lt. Anderson. Extremely bad weather was encountered and no enemy planes were seen.  
A film on world events was shown this evening.

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24 Lt. Brown led a four plane patrol mission this morning. Except for extremely bad weather, the mission was without incident.

The second mission, led by Lt. Davis, consisted of eight planes. Bad weather was again encountered. The formation bombed a road, and destroyed one motor truck by strafing.

Four pilots of this squadron flew an escort mission with the 526th Squadron late this evening.

The meeting of the members of the newly formed enlisted men's club which was scheduled for this evening, was postponed and will be held tomorrow evening instead.

The movie "Best Foot Forward", was shown this evening.

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25 Two missions were flown today. Lt. Finlayson led the first, a twelve plane formation bombing gun positions.

The second was a patholing mission of twelve planes, led by Capt. Simmons. An intense flak barrage over the target made observation impossible. Lt. Cooper did not return from this mission. His plane was hit by flak and the entire right wing was seen to fall off. The plane went into a spin and crashed, and as the canopy of his plane is known to have been closed, it is believed impossible for Lt. Cooper to have gotten out safely.

A meeting of the members of the enlisted men's club was held this evening. Lt. Dwyer accepted the position of officer sponsor to which he had previously been elected, and the constitution of the club, drawn up by Capt. Blackwell, was ratified by the members.

The squadron water truck and trailer were stolen this evening, and if it is not found within a short time, the shortage of water will cause quite a lot of inconvenience, especially for the mess hall.

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CONFIDENTIAL

103 100 Squadron, 47th Bomb Group, Poretta Airfield, Corsica

29 August, 1943. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BRADLEY  
Captain, Air Corps, USA

EVENTS

29 (Cont'd) A group of USO entertainers were here this evening, and a show was given in the Group Headquarters area.

30 Two missions were flown today. Capt. Covington led six planes on an escort mission, flying cover for twelve A-20's of the 47th Bomb Group. No enemy aircraft were seen.

Lt. Oldham led eight planes on a mission bombing the Montecatini - San Pietro highway. Just before bombing, two aircraft were sighted, and were then believed to be P-47's. They did not attack the formation, but were later identified as FW-190's.

A movie "The Falcon Out West", was shown this evening.

31 The first mission today was a twelve plane escort for a formation of eighteen B-25's, and was led by Capt. Covington.

Lt. Anderson led eight planes on a mission to bomb a highway and recce roads. Four motor vehicles were destroyed and six damaged. Four streetcars in Bologna were also strafed.

A meeting of members of the enlisted men's club was held in the mess hall this evening.

During the month of August the squadron flew a total of 453 sorties and 1092:45 combat hours.

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

525th Fighter Sq.

Outline History September 1944

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
APO 650

G/WHB/hrd  
5 October 1944

AG 314.7

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Fighter Command, APO 650.

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 September 44 to 1 October 44.

a. Present designation: 525th Fighter Squadron, 56th Fighter Group, XII Fighter Command.

b. Changes in organization.

1. Changes in designation, assignment, or attachment.

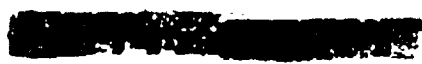
(a) Changes in designation: None

(b) Changes in assignment: Assgd to 87th Ftr Wing, auth GO 39, Hq. XII TAC, 9 September 44; rlvd assgd 87th Ftr Wing, and rlvd assgd XII TAC, assgd XII Ftr Command eff 15 September 44, auth GO 164, Hq. XII Air Force, dtd 11 September 44.

(c) Changes in attachment: None

2. Subordinate units: None

3. Changes in Commanding Officers: Capt. William B. Colgan, O-675993, aptd Squadron CO, vice Major Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., O-660066, eff 21 Sept 44, auth SO 161, Hq 86 Ftr Gp, dtd 21 Sept 44. Major Kasun from duty to DS 62nd Ftr Wing, eff 22 Sept 44, auth SO 258, Hq XII Ftr Command, dtd 22 September 44. Capt. Felix F. Simmons in temporary command of squadron 3 Sept 44 to 7 Sept 44, in absence of Major Kasun, VOCC.



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

2.

4. Changes of staff: none.

(a) Capt. James D. McMurray, O-561621, transferred to Detachment of Patients 35th Sta. Hosp., eff 23 Aug 44, auth SO 86, hg 35th Sta. Hosp., dtd 23 Aug 44.

5. Changes in T/O: None

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

1. Month of September 1944.

(a) At beginning: 57 officers; 231 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase; 0 officers; 15 enlisted men.

(c) Net decrease; 1 officer ; 0 enlisted men.

(d) At end ; 56 officers; 246 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

1. Poretta Airfield, Corsica.

(a) Date of arrival: 12 July 44 (advance echelon); 15 July 44, (remainder of squadron).

(b) Date of departure: 15 September 44 ("A" party); 21 September 44 ("B" party).

2. Grosseto, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 17 September 44 ("A" party); 23 September 44 ("B" party).

(b) Date of departure: Present station.

e. Movements.

1. From Poretta Airfield, Corsica to Grosseto, Italy.

(a) Purpose: Change of station.

(b) Dates; "A" party; Left Poretta for Ile Russe on 12 Sept 44, arrived 12 Sept 44; left Ile Russe for Poretta 15 Sept 44, arrived Poretta 15 Sept 44; loaded LST, Bastia, 16 Sept 44, arrived Piombino, Italy, 17 Sept 44; proceeded by motor convoy to Grosseto, arriving 17 Sept 44.

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

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

3.

"A" Rear: Left Foretta and loaded LST Bastia, 17 Sept 44; landed Piombino, Italy 18 Sept 44, proceeded by motor convoy to Grosseto, arriving 18 Sept 44.

"B" party: Left Foretta and loaded LST Bastia, 20 Sept 44; landed Piombino, Italy 23 Sept 44, proceeding on same date to Grosseto by motor convoy.

(c) All movements above noted were by motor convoy, except those from Bastia to Piombino, which latter were by American LST.

(d) Roads from Foretta, Corsica to Ille Russe were poor, all others good. Conveyances good, weather fair and dry.

f. Campaigns.

1. Sicilian; Italian; Southern France.
2. Duration: Sicilian, 3 July 43 to 17 Aug 43; Italian, 18 Aug 43 to date, still in progress; Southern France, 15 Aug 44 to date.

g. Operations.

1. Campaigns; Italian and Southern France.
2. Nature of Operations; Bombing and strafing attacks on enemy rails, roads, locomotives, rolling stock, stations and m/t predominated; also, attacks on bridges, ferries, pontoon bridges, gun positions, enemy strongpoints, escort and anti-flak diversion missions.
3. Number of missions and sorties for month of September 44; 67 missions and 459 sorties.
4. Results of the most important missions.

(a) Armed recce by eight P-47's on 3 September 44, led by Capt. Richard G. Oldham, covering area Genoa-Milan-Turin-Cuneo. Taking off in the early morning, this flight spotted a troop train moving at a fast clip near Carmanola, Italy. The train, consisting of steam locomotive and thirty cars was bombed, hit and stopped. As the troops poured from the cars, Capt. Oldham led a traffic pattern around it, making strafing passes until the whole train was destroyed. Continuing in the recce, another steam locomotive, some 20 railroad cars, and one motor truck were destroyed in Carmanola. All planes returned safely.

(b) Bombing and strafing mission 4 September 44 on a pontoon bridge across Po river near L-345993, of eight aircraft led by 1st Lt. James C. Finlayson. The target was important because Jerry was using these

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

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

4.

pontoon bridges across the Po to transport badly needed supplies to his line troops. The pontoon bridge was bombed and strafed and believed destroyed. On the return route, strafing attacks accounted for damage to 30 railroad cars at Cadelbosco, one motor truck flamer, and destruction of two electric locomotives and 30 cars. All planes returned safely.

(c) Bombing and strafing mission on 14 September 44, consisting of ten P-47's led by Capt. H. G. Decker, Jr. This mission, another of the many made on enemy communications in Northern Italy during September, destroyed a steam locomotive and four railroad cars by bombing and strafing. Further on, a 15 car train was attacked and left steaming, either destroyed or badly damaged. In addition, seven motor trucks were destroyed, ten were damaged and an enemy tank strafed. One of our aircraft was damaged by small arms fire, not seriously, and one crashed in an emergency landing just after takeoff.

(d) Armed recce over area Imperia - Turin - Alessandria, on 25 September 44, eight P-47's led by Capt. William B. Colgan, squadron commander. After bombing and creating two rail cuts on an important rail line, the flight continued a recce towards Turin. Spotting a moving locomotive pulling four cars, a strafing attack was made which destroyed the locomotive and damaged or destroyed the cars. A short distance farther, and another steam locomotive was strafed and destroyed. In addition, eight motor trucks were destroyed or damaged, and a third locomotive and 16 cars were damaged or destroyed. One of our aircraft was slightly damaged by flak.

(e) By far the most important mission of the month's work was an eight snip armed recce led by 1st Lt. Graydon S. Brown on 27 September 44. Taking off at 0600, and covering the Turin - Alessandria area, a total of five steam locomotives was destroyed by bombing and strafing, a large number of cars damaged, and two gun positions strafed. On the return home, a sixth locomotive was seen, but as all aircraft had expended their ammunition, no attack could be made on it. One of our aircraft was damaged by flak, not seriously.

5. Unit was subjected to enemy action: None except pilots on missions.

h. Commanding Officers in important missions.

1. Named above in mission accounts.

i. Losses in action: None

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

Name	Date of Act	Award
1st Lt. Joe J. Angell	4 June 1944	1st OLC to DFC
1st Lt. Graydon S. Brown	16 August 1944	DFC

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

5.

Capt. Richard D. Lister	7 March 1944	DFC
1st Lt. Joe J. Angell	24 May 1944	4th OLC
1st Lt. James C. Westall	25 May 1944	3rd OLC
1st Lt. Finley C. Brinley	24 April 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Robert J. Horrigan	18 March 1944	2nd OLC
Capt. Richard G. Oldham	20 March 1944	2nd OLC
Capt. Felix F. Simmons	1 June 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. James C. Westall	24 May 1944	2nd OLC
Capt. Miles C. Wood	6 March 1944	2nd OLC
1st Lt. Robert L. Anderson	29 June 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. John E. Borello	25 May 1944	1st OLC
1st Lt. Harry P. Mathis	6 March 1944	1st OLC
Capt. Richard G. Oldham	4 April 1944	1st OLC

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 525th Ftr Sq, for the period 1 September 44 to 1 October 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

Incl : War Diary

*William H. Blackwell*  
 WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
 Capt., Air Corps,  
 Intelligence Officer.

104 ... Poretta Airfield, Corsica

September ...

1 Two bombing missions and one escort were flown today, Capt. Simmons led a twelve plane mission escorting eighteen B-25's of the 340th Bomb Group. The mission was without incident.

Lt. Anderson led eight planes and bombed a group of warehouses. Four 20mm guns were strafed and silenced by Lt. Stewart.

Lt. Oldham led the last mission, and he along with Lt. Mauk, his wingman, bombed and strafed four motor trucks, destroying all of them. In addition, one armored car was destroyed and a truck damaged.

A movie, "The Uninvited" was shown this evening, with Ray Milland and Gail Russell playing leading roles. It was a mystery picture, and was enjoyed a great deal.

2 A standdown for today was announced late last night and only a few test hops and transitions were flown.

3 Three armed recces were flown today. The first eight plane formation, led by Lt. Finlayson had difficulty in bombing, when a strong wind was encountered over the target.

Lt. Oldham led the second, and it was a very successful mission. A steam locomotive and thirty cars were bombed with several possible hits. The train was carrying troops and as they scattered and took cover in the ditches alongside the tracks, they were heavily strafed. The train was thoroughly riddled by continued strafing passes and a large number of personnel was killed. Another steam locomotive and twenty cars were found in the station at Carmanola, and it too was completely destroyed by strafing.

Capt. Simmons led the third and last mission of the day. A group of several gun positions were heavily strafed and believed completely destroyed by Lts. Moyle and Conner.

Almost the entire bivouac area was aroused from sleep early this morning when at about 0100 hours, sharp lightning and heavy thunder awakened all but the very heavy sleepers. Fearing a repetition of the wind and hail storm which caused so much damage a short time ago, most of the men were up and busy with ropes stakes, making their tents more secure. The wind continued throughout the day, but profiting by the mistakes of the last time, all the tents weathered the gale and remained standing.

105 Squadron, 1st Bombardment Group, Poretta, Airfield, Corsica

September 1943. Reported by [Name]

3 (Cont'd) A movie "Song of the Open Road" was to be shown this evening, but after starting, and being unable to get sufficient power for the projector, it had to be postponed. It may be shown tomorrow evening.

4 Lt. Brown led the first of three eight plane missions flown today. Three trucks and a tank were destroyed and three trucks damaged. The second mission, led by Lt. Finlayson was the most successful of the day. Pontoon bridges in Northern Italy were bombed and more than fifty railroad cars were strafed, damaging more than thirty. Lts. Moore and Stewart strafed two locomotives, and thirty cars in broken strings, destroying all of them in seven passes. Several of the cars exploded and burned. Lt. Oldham led the last mission. Fifteen trucks were destroyed and ten trucks and five carts damaged by strafing.

5 Three armed reccees were flown today, all attacking targets in the Po Valley. Lt. Brown led the first eight plane formation, and eight motor trucks and one locomotive were destroyed and one truck damaged. Lt. Davis led the second mission, and when very little motor movement was seen, the road was cratered in three places, as a result of as many direct bomb hits. Capt. Simmons led the last mission of the day. An electric locomotive and twelve cars were destroyed, and fifty additional cars were strafed; five barges and four motor trucks were destroyed and three motor trucks were damaged, all by strafing.

A technicolor movie, "Lady In The Dark", with Ginger Rogers and Ray Milland, was shown this evening.

6 Continual showers caused the flying schedule to be cancelled, and the squadron was stood down for the entire day. Rumors continue to circulate throughout the squadron as to when the next move will be made, and where the Group will go. Bets can be had on anything from the outcome of the World Series to the length of the war in the Pacific. Morale seems to be comparatively low, mostly because all the men were eager to get into France soon after the invasion, but now, after being in Corsica

106 Foretta Airfield, Corsica

September 1944. Reported by

6 (Cont'd) so much longer than was expected, most of them would be glad to settle for almost any other place.

Some of the men began work on the Enlisted Men's Club this afternoon. It was decided to put up two large wall tents a short distance from the area, and get the club started, even though the Group may be here for only a short time. The afternoon was spent in getting the tents up and building tables and other furniture.

Major Kasun, Capt. Decker and Lt. Borello returned to the squadron today after several days rest in Cairo.

7 Rain again caused the flying schedule to be cancelled, and a standdown was ordered for the rest of the day.

The Enlisted Men's Club was officially opened tonite. Music was furnished by several members of the Group orchestra, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all the members.

A movie "Song of the Open Road", was shown this evening.

8 For the third straight day, rainy weather forced an all day standdown.

PX rations were sold in the day room, including eight candy bars, two Coca Colas and eight bottles of beer.

9 Two missions were flown today. Lt. Brown led an armed recce destroying eleven trucks and damaging one truck and twelve ox-carts.

Lt. Davis led the second mission. Railroad tracks were bombed and the formation then furnished area cover for a flight of B-26's.

The movie "Double Indemnity", starring Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck and Edward G. Robinson, was shown this evening. It was a very good story, and the superb acting made it one of the best that has been shown here in quite some time.

10 The first mission, led by Capt. Decker, landed at Cecina, Italy, for briefing by the 232nd Wing. The formation then took from there and bombed



103 Poretta Airfield, Corsica

September

13 The first mission today was an eight plane escort for a formation of eighteen B-25's. Lt. Finlayson was the leader and no enemy aircraft were seen.

Lt. Borello led a four plane armed recon early this afternoon. A road was bombed and five motor trucks and one large trailer were destroyed near the target area. Bad weather made further strafing sweeps impossible.

Capt. Simmons led a very successful mission late this evening. The target was rail movement on the Milan-Verona line. Two steam locomotives and at least ten cars were destroyed by bombing and strafing, and an electric train was strafed with unknown results. A motor truck was also damaged.

"A" Party is still at Ille Russe staging area, and there is no news of when the IST's may be loaded.

14 The first mission today was a very successful one. The ten plane formation was led by Capt. Decker and railroad tracks were the target. A locomotive and four cars were destroyed by bombing and strafing passes, and fifteen additional cars were thoroughly strafed. Seven motor vehicles were destroyed and ten damaged by strafing sweeps.

Capt. Covington led the second and last mission flown today. More than thirty pontoon bridges were heavily strafed and nine motor trucks were destroyed and three damaged.

A call from Port Headquarters disclosed that "A" Party was to return and load at Bastia. This news was greeted with some chagrin, mingled with relief that it was at least a change and something to do. The convoy returned and the personnel spent the night with the remainder of the squadron in the old area. The sight of mail was good.

15 Lt. Finlayson and Lt. Brown led armed recon today, of five and eight planes respectively. Extremely bad weather was encountered on the first mission, making bombing very difficult, but a large bus and three trucks were damaged by strafing.

On the second mission possible damage was caused to a road bridge by bombing, and one motorcycle and a car and motorcycle escort were destroyed by strafing.

"A" Party loaded on an IST at Bastia, beginning loading around 1700 or 1800 hours, and completing at 2200 hours.

1st Lt. Richard G. Oldham today learned of his promotion to the rank of Captain, effective 11 September 1944.



CONFIDENTIAL

Serial No. 110 Date 18 Sept 1944, Station Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Month of September, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. SIMMONS,  
Captain, Air Corps, USA.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

18 (Cont'd) Lt. Brown led eight planes on a mission to create rail cuts, and strafing passes accounted for four motor vehicles destroyed, and eight motor vehicles, two trolley cars, one tractor and trailer, and a motorcycle damaged.

The planes left Poretta Airfield early this afternoon, and the rest of the day was spent in getting the remaining equipment ready to be moved.

The men of "A" Party set up the line and operations on the new field. The line setup is all right, but Operations and Intelligence will doubtless have to be moved, being only a couple hundred feet from the runway, and directly behind the parked airplanes. The planes arrived here from Corsica this afternoon and operations will begin from Grosseto Airfield tomorrow.

"A" Party rear left the area this morning and proceeded to the staging area, from where they boarded an IST early this afternoon for the trip to Italy. They spent the remainder of the day on the boat in the harbor at Bastia.

19 Capt. Decker led the first of two missions today. A concentration of more than twenty railroad cars were bombed with good coverage. A ferry crossing the Po river loaded with troops, was heavily strafed by two aircraft. Six 20mm gun positions were strafed and silenced by Lt. Korfels.

Capt. Simmons led an eight plane formation which bombed railroad tracks between Reggio and Modena. Three breaks were secured in the tracks.

A bad wind and rain storm blew down several of the tents in the bivouac area at Grosseto Airfield. The men of "A" Party rear, after leaving Bastia this morning, arrived at Piombino this evening and proceeded to Grosseto by convoy.

20 More rain today. The bivouac area is in bad condition, and it was learned late tonight that the enlisted men will move from the tent area to buildings about 1.7 miles on the other side of Grosseto. Welcome news, for the present area is unfit to live in.

The men of "B" Party are still at Poretta Airfield in Corsica, where they are encountering the same kind of bad weather.

111 Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Date: September 21, 1944 Reported by: WILLIAM H. BACHMANN,  
Captain, Air Corps, USA.

21 No missions were flown today because of the condition of the field. The taxiways are all soft. Sunshine this afternoon may dry them out. The enlisted men moved from the tent area to buildings which is a great improvement. The service group has showers in town and a theatre.

The men of "B" Party moved to a staging area near Bastia today, preparatory to boarding an IST, for transporting the remainder of the men and equipment to Italy.

22 Lt. Borello led the first of three missions today. Tracks were broken in four places by the ten plane formation and strafing accounted for one tank and two motor trucks damaged, and a gun emplacement strafed with unknown results.

Capt. Decker led an eight plane formation, bombing an enemy CP. Two bombs were in the target area.

Lt. Anderson led the last mission, one of ten planes. A bridge was bombed and then the flights strafed several aircraft on an airfield at Vergiate. One He-111 was burned, another left smoking, and several more damaged.

"B" Party left the staging area near Bastia and boarded an IST this evening.

Capt. William B. Colgan, formerly of the 79th Fighter Group, joined the squadron today, and assumed command. Capt. Colgan has flown 140 missions with the 79th and he replaces Major Kasun, who has been transferred to the 62nd Fighter Wing, as Commanding Officer of the squadron.

23 Lt. Davis led an eight plane formation bombing a railroad and highway. One hit was scored on the tracks and two hits were secured on the highway. One motor truck was destroyed.

Lt. Finlayson led the second mission. A steam locomotive, four motor vehicles and a trailer were destroyed by strafing, and one motor truck was damaged.

Capt. Simmons led the last eight plane formation. Two hits were scored on a string of fifteen railroad cars and six railroad cars and a steam locomotive were destroyed by strafing.

Leaving Bastia early this morning, the men of "B" Party arrived and unloaded at Piombino this evening, and arrived at Grosseto at different hours of the night.

CONFIDENTIAL

112 Squadron, 12th Bombardment Group, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

14 September, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. HASKINELL,

Captain, Air Corps, USA.

CONFIDENTIAL

24 Capt. Decker led eight planes on a mission to bomb rail lines but bad weather prevented bombing the primary target, and a highway was bombed instead. The road was cratered at one point.

A four plane formation led by Lt. Borello bombed railroad tracks on the second mission, securing two breaks.

The last mission was led by Lt. Brown. The eight plane formation bombed the town of Loiano, securing good bomb hits, and strafing the town.

25 The first mission, one of nine planes was led by Capt. Purdum. A group of buildings was bombed with several hits, causing explosions and considerable damage.

Capt. Oldham led the second mission, a formation of eight planes. The town of Loiano was bombed with four sets of bombs falling in the town. No movements were seen.

Capt. Relyea led a three plane formation consisting of Lts. Marsh and Flake, attacking barracks near the town of Intra. The entire area was heavily strafed, and one fire started.

Capt. Colgan led the last mission today, an armed recon of eight planes. Two steam locomotives and four motor vehicles were destroyed, and one locomotive, twenty railroad cars and four motor vehicles were damaged.

A squadron meeting was held in the enlisted men's quarters this evening, at which time Capt. Carstensen introduced Capt. Colgan, the new Commanding Officer, who spoke briefly to the men.

1st Lt. Joe M. Clark, Squadron Engineering Officer, has been promoted to the rank of Captain, effective 17 September 1944.

Three pilots, 2nd Lts. William P. Curtin, Richard B. Moyle and Eugene R. Whyte, today learned of their promotions to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 14 September 1944.

26 Four missions were flown today. Lt. Finlayson led the first formation, one of eight planes, on an armed recon. Two locomotives and two box cars were destroyed, and one electric engine, ten box cars and two motor trucks were damaged.

Capt. Simmons led a four plane formation and bombed railroad tracks, securing two breaks. Three motor trucks and a Fiat were destroyed by strafing.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 113 113 Squadron, 525th Fighter Squadron, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
 (Station)  
 Date of September, 1944. Reported by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Captain, Air Corps, 1-2.

ORG: \_\_\_\_\_  
 INT: \_\_\_\_\_

26 (Cont'd) Capt. Decker led the next mission, one of four planes, and bombed a group of fifteen railroad cars. Four cars were probably destroyed and ten damaged.

A flight of two ships flown by Lts. Curtin and Mather bombed railroad tracks late this evening. Three of their four bombs were hits on the tracks and no enemy activity was seen.

The Group Enlisted Men's Club, which has been organized since the group's arrival at the present location, was informally opened this evening. A civilian orchestra furnished music for the evening, and the drinks were sold over the bar for the first time. The setup seems to be quite satisfactory as a whole, and the members are looking forward to the formal opening and dance which will be held the evening of the 30th. M/Sgt James E. Knight, who was president of the short-lived 525th Squadron Enlisted Men's Club, holds the position of Secretary-Treasurer in the Group Club.

The members of the squadron club, which incidentally was a huge success both financially and otherwise, before it was forced to be disbanded, will be refunded their initial membership fee, plus what dividends were accumulated during the club's few days of existence.

27 Five missions were flown today. Lt. Brown led the first formation of eight planes on an armed recce. An engine and eight cars were destroyed and seven cars damaged by bombing. Four engines, one with tender, three cars, and two gun positions were destroyed, and eighteen box cars were damaged, all by strafing.

Capt. Covington led eight planes on an armed recce, destroying six railroad cars, and damaging a locomotive and fourteen cars. This was all accomplished by bombing, and very bad weather made further strafing sweeps impossible.

Capt. Purdum led a four plane formation bombing and strafing the town of Piamaggio. Lt. Mather strafed a gun position near the town, and silenced it.

Lt. Borello led four planes, bombing a highway at Lerici. The road was cut in three places by bomb hits.

The last mission was led by Capt. Oldham. The formation dropped the bombs through a hole in the clouds, securing one possible hit on a small road near Pianoro.

CONFIDENTIAL

Station No. 114 War Office, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy  
(Station)

Month of September, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BRADSHAW,  
Captain, Air Corps, G-3.

EVENTS

28 Bad weather forced a standdown for the entire day.

29 For the second straight day, bad weather forced the cancellation of the mission schedule.

30 Lt. Noyle assumed leadership of the eight plane formation, on the first mission when Capt. Oldham had to turn back because of engine trouble. A Steam locomotive and twenty five cars were bombed. A direct hit destroyed the locomotive, and six more bombs were in the cars, damaging many of them. Capt. Decker led a four plane formation which glide bombed a steel railroad bridge through a very heavy overcast. There were no hits.

Capt. Furdum led eight planes on an anti-flak diversion mission, strafing the designated area near Piacenza.

The last mission was led by Capt. Colgen. The four planes bombed railroad tracks with near misses causing negligible damage.

During the month of September, 459 sorties and 1,027:25 combat hours were flown by the squadron.

SECRET

525th Fighter Sq.

Outline History October 44

SECRET

By Auth CG

525 Ftr Sq

5 Nov 44

Initials WHD

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
APO 650

G/WHB/hrd

5 November 44

AG 344.7

SUBJECT: Historical records.

TO: Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command, APO 650.

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Squadron for the period 1 October to 1 November 1944.

a. Present designation: 525 Ftr Sq, 55 Ftr Gp, XII TAC.

b. Changes in organization.

(1) Changes in designation, assignment or attachment.

(a) Changes in designation: None

(b) Changes in assignment: Changed fr assgd XII Ftr Command to assgd XII TAC, auth GC 75, Hq. XII TAC, eff 19 Oct 44.

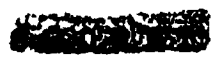
(c) Changes in attachment: None

(2) Subordinate units: None

(3) Changes in commanding officers: None

(4) Changes in staff officers:

(a) Capt. William H. Blackwell, G-564623, aptd Sq Counter-Intelligence Officer (addl duty), Sq. Order 28; aptd Unit Historian, Sq. Order 31; aptd Group Legal Assistance Officer, (addl duty); Group Judge Advocate (addl duty), Special Order 189; aptd Group Investigating Officer, Special Order 171.



SECRET

SECRET

2.

(b) Capt. Joe L. Clark, O-195632, Anti Squadron Ground Safety Officer (adml duty), 21. Order 20.

(c) 1st Lt. Royce L. Brandon, O-17724, Anti Squadron Ground Safety Officer, (adml duty), Vice Capt. Joe L. Clark, plvl.

(5) Changes in T/O: None

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of October 1944.

(a) At beginning: 2 officers; 217 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase: 0 officers; 0 enlisted men.

(c) Net decrease: 3 officers; 0 enlisted men.

(d) At end: 53 officers; 230 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

(1) Grosseto, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 17 September 44 ("A" party); 23 September 44, ("B" party).

(b) Date of departure: 23 October 44 ("A" party); 20 October 44 ("B" party).

(2) Pisa, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 23 October 44 ("A" party); 21 October 44 ("B" party).

(b) Date of departure: Present station.

e. Movements.

(1) From Grosseto, Italy to Pisa, Italy.

(a) Purpose: Change of station.

(b) Dates: "A" party departed Grosseto, arrived Pisa on 23 October 44; "B" party departed Grosseto, arrived Pisa 20 October 44.

(c) Movement by motor transport for non-flying personnel and all equipment; flying personnel by T-47 aircraft.

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(d) Status in Italy operation, except for missions which did not take place because of heavy rain, causing delays and some cancellations. Weather generally rainy.

f. Campaigns.

(1) Sicilian; Italian; Southern France.

(2) Duration: Sicilian, 3 July up to 17 August 43; Southern France, 15 August 43 to 25 August 43; Italian, 17 August 43 to date, still in progress.

g. Operations.

(1) Campaigns: Italian.

(2) Nature of operations: Bombing and strafing attacks on enemy rails, roads, locomotives, rolling stock, stations, motor transport; attacks on enemy positions, occupied areas and strong points, using H/H and fuel tank incendiary type bombs; strafing attacks on A/D's, escort and anti-flak diversion missions.

(3) Number of missions and sorties for month of October 43: 74 missions and 341 sorties.

(4) Results of the most important missions.

(a) On 3 October 43, Capt. Richard L. Oldham, a veteran of more than 90 sorties, led an eight plane P-47 strafing mission against Villafranca A/D, near Verona, Italy. It was reported that enemy A/C had taken off from this base to attack targets in the Florence area on the preceding day, and this mission was important because these A/C might be found on the airfield. Taking off at dawn, Capt. Oldham led a low level strafing attack destroying four parked aircraft on the field and shooting up several anti-aircraft gun positions. As he began his pass, his aircraft was hit by flak, and he crash landed a few miles south of the target, his plane burning.

(b) On 12 October 43, Lt. Robert L. Anderson led a four plane P-47 formation on a cover Joe (forward controller) mission. Instead of a close support target, cover Joe directed the flight leader to go to Modena and attack rail concentration there. Bombing and strafing accounted for fifteen railroad cars destroyed and fifteen damaged, and the flight continued with a rail recce, strafing and destroying four diesel type locomotives from L-4004 to L-4007. The importance of this devastating blow to enemy communications is apparent. All planes returned safely.

(c) On 14 October 43, Capt. William S. Colgan led a four plane P-47 formation in a very devastating attack upon enemy rail transport in the Turin - Asti area. Before executing a rail recce, they bombed

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b.

the important rail line at 0-5204, making two craters in the line. Then, on the rails in the Asti area, nine steam locomotives, ten railroad cars were destroyed, and five railroad cars were damaged. In addition, two motor trucks were destroyed. All four aircraft were damaged by flak, but all returned safely.

(d) On 23 October 44, on an afternoon when the regular flying schedule was called off because of bad weather, Capt. William H. Colgan led a volunteer mission of five P-47 aircraft on a locomotive hunting mission in the area of Vicenza, Italy. Though there was a solid cloud cover over all the target area at 2,000', with visibility of only 2 miles, this mission scored almost incredible results, destroying 9 locomotives, 10 railroad cars, and 2 motor trucks, and damaging 2 locomotives, 30 plus railroad cars, and 21 motor transport. This crippling blow to the enemy transport system was a big factor in the 24-squaron total of 40 locomotives destroyed during the month of October.

(e) On 24 October 44, Capt. Graydon S. Brown led a very successful four plane P-47 mission in an early morning attack run in the Turin-Bilan area. Though there were solid cloud layers at 1,000', 3,000' and 12,000', Capt. Brown led the flight through a hole, bombing and strafing a locomotive and 12 railroad cars, destroying the train. Further strafing attacks destroyed 6 additional steam locomotives, 1 twin engine enemy aircraft on the ground at an airdrome near Turin, and a number of railroad cars damaged. One aircraft was damaged by flak, but all returned safely.

(f) On 25 October 44, Capt. William H. Colgan again led a very successful four plane mission in an attack upon enemy rail transportation in the Vicenza area. Taking off at 0700 hours, the flight proceeded to recon the target area despite bad weather, strafing and destroying 9 locomotives and 8 railroad cars, and damaging the impressive total of 30 motor transport. All planes returned safely.

(5) Unit was subjected to enemy action: none except pilots on missions subjected to enemy AA fire.

8. Commanding officers in important missions.

(1) Names above in mission accounts.

1. Losses in action:

(1) Strafing mission on Villafranca A/D, near Verona, Italy, on 3 October 44, led by Capt. Richard G. Cluhan.

(c) Missing.

1. Capt. Richard G. Cluhan, O-66000  
Fairmont, Oklahoma.

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5.

(2) Armed reconnaissance - Bologna, Italy on - October 11, 1944, 1st Lt. John A. Borello.

(a) Killed

- 1. 2nd Lt. Aloysius W. Lochowitz, C-71447  
Madison, Wisconsin.  
(Lt. Lochowitz died 11 October 44, result of injuries received after he crash landed his flak damaged airplane near Pisa, Italy)

(3) Anti-flak straining, etc. - Bologna, on 13 October 44, led by 1st Lt. Robert L. Anderson.

(c) Missing:

- 1. 1st Lt. Robert L. Anderson, C-78878  
North Billerica, Mass.

3. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

Name	Date of Act	Award
Capt. Felix F. Simons	5 September 44	DPC
Capt. James C. Covington	9 August 44	DPC
Capt. Howard G. Decker, Jr.	17 September 44	DPC
Capt. Lemuel W. Burdum, III	25 May 44	DPC
1st Lt. Richard L. Davis	17 September 44	DPC
1st Lt. J. G. O'Neill	26 May 44	DPC
1st Lt. G. H. Pierson	1 June 44	DPC
Capt. Howard G. Decker, Jr.	10 September 44	3rd CLC
Capt. Felix F. Simons	6 June 44	3rd CLC
1st Lt. Robert C. Herrington	10 - 24 March 44	3rd CLC
1st Lt. Robert H. Nelson	4 June 44	3rd CLC
Capt. Howard G. Decker, Jr.	4 June 44	2nd CLC
Capt. Lemuel W. Burdum, III	30 June 44	2nd CLC
1st Lt. Robert L. Anderson	7 June 44	2nd CLC
1st Lt. John A. Borello	8 July 44	2nd CLC
Capt. James C. Covington	11 September 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. Gerald G. Flake	9 August 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore	9 August 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. G. C. Baranek	9 August 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. John V. Conner	3 September 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. James B. Joslin	9 August 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. Clifford A. Harris	9 September 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. Robert D. O'Rourke	12 August 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. William A. Wozniak	17 August 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. George J. Frey	11 September 44	Air Medal