

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

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, 82nd 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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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

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(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.

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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.

164

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

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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.

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

Date of Report August 1, 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)

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

283

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 Kasun 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".

