

SECRET

1st Lt. John V. Jordan	3 September 44	Air Medal
1st Lt. John C. Jenkins	4 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. H. A. Porter, Jr.	11 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Harold P. Bannister	21 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Lee D. Hursey	3 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Croft Grantman, Jr.	9 August 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Marion L. Green	11 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. William F. Leahy	11 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Victor T. Kather, Jr.	15 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Thomas A. Lockes	18 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Donald F. Chamber	3 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. William M. Wilson	14 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. A. J. Kochowitz	23 September 44	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Glenn E. Marsh	11 September 44	Air Medal

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 1st Pz Bn, for the period 1 October 44 to 1 November 44.



For the Commanding Officer:

William H. Blachell
 WILLIAM H. BLACHELL,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Unit Historian.

Encl: War Diary.

Report No. 115 War Diary, 524th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy
(Station)

Dated October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM K. BLACKBELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

FAI

EVENTS

1 Four missions, a total of nineteen sorties, were flown today. Lt. Davis led a seven plane anti flak diversion attack on the town of Piacenza, Lt. Finlayson led a four plane armed recce, and the last two, which were both Rover Joe missions, were led by Lts. Anderson and Borello. Lt. Leahy was forced to land at Pisa to refuel, before coming back to Grosseto after the first mission.

The formation led by Lt. Borello achieved the best results of the day. After bombing the town of Borgo, twenty five plus railroad cars were strafed, at least five destroyed, and six or eight damaged.

Total results of damage on the other three missions consisted of ten 88mm guns destroyed or damaged by Lt. Baranek, a building completely demolished by a direct bomb hit, and three Fullman cars strafed.

2 No missions were flown today due to rainy weather.

An inspection of guns was held this morning, and as a result, quite a few of the enlisted men have found themselves restricted for the period of one week.

3 Four missions, twenty four sorties in all, were flown today. Capts. Oldham, Simmons, Purdum and Colgan were the leaders in that order.

Capt. Oldham did not return from the first mission. After strafing the Villafranca A/D, he called the flight, and said that his plane was damaged badly. Before he could get altitude, the engine stopped and his plane stalled and crashed. Lts. Mart and Karrels, who circled the spot, said that it was impossible for him to get out.

Both Capt. Oldham and Lt. Mart destroyed one grounded single engine aircraft each on Villafranca A/D on the first mission. Two motor trucks were destroyed and three damaged; two 20mm gun positions, a gasoline dump, and a supply dump were all strafed, and several buildings left in flames, on the other three missions.

4 Nineteen sorties were flown today, made up of three four plane missions led by Capts. Purdum and Simmons and Lt. Anderson, and one seven plane formation led by Capt. Colgan. The target for this latter mission was a cluster of buildings, and Lt. Baranek scored direct hits with his two bombs. The entire group of buildings was in flames when the flight left the area.

PX rations were sold in the dayroom this evening.

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S E C R E T

Report No. 116 War Diary, 505th Fighter Squadron, Grosseto Airfield, Italy
(Station)

Date: October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

PAR

EVENTS

5 Today's flying schedule had to be cancelled because of rainy weather. The beer ration, eleven bottles per man, was sold in the dayroom this afternoon and evening.

6 The mission schedule was cancelled early this morning, when rainy weather again made flying impossible. A standdown was ordered for the whole day.

7 A total of twenty seven sorties were flown today in six missions. Capt. Purdum led an eight plane formation, and Lt. Brown, Capt. Colgan, Lt. Borello, Lt. Anderson, and Capt. Simmons led four planes each. One motor truck was damaged, three gun positions were damaged by bombing and strafing, and a large number of buildings were fired or damaged at several different points.

2nd Lts. Glenn C. Moore, Bennie G. Flake and George J. Frey were promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 3 October 1944.

8 A steady rain during the entire day caused a standdown to be called shortly after noon.

9 Two missions were flown today totaling twelve sorties. Lt. Borello led an eight plane armed recce, and Lt. Anderson led one of four planes. Railroad tracks were bombed and gun positions were strafed.

Lt. Lochowitz' plane was hit and badly damaged by flak over the target. He was able to get back as far as Pisa, where he made an emergency landing. The plane crashed upon landing, and Lt. Lochowitz was critically injured. He is at present in the 64th General Hospital at Ieghorn.

10 Lt. Borello led an eight plane formation again today, and Lt. Anderson led one of three ships. A railroad bridge was bombed and a cluster of buildings was strafed.

11 Five missions, a total of twenty seven sorties were flown today. Leaders of the missions were Capts. Simmons and Purdum, and Lts. Brown, Borello and Anderson. Gun positions and groups of buildings were the targets designated by Rover Joe, and several buildings were destroyed and burned.

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S E C R E T

Report No. 117 War Diary, 425th BOMBING SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy
(Station)

Date of October, 1941. Prepared by WILLIAM BLACKBURN,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

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EVENTS

12 Thirty three sorties were flown today. They were divided into eight missions led by Capt. Simmons, Covington, and Purdum, who led two of them, and Lts. Borello, Davis, Brown and Anderson. They were all Rover Joe targets and the most successful one of the day, the four plane formation led by Lt. Brown, brought back a score of two engines and from fifteen to twenty cars destroyed and approximately a hundred cars damaged.

News was received in the squadron today of the death of Lt. A. J. Lochowitz, whose airplane crashed on an emergency landing at Pisa a few days ago.

13 Thirty one sorties was the total of the five missions flown today. Capts. Covington and Purdum, and Lts. Brown, Anderson and Borello were the leaders.

Lt. Anderson did not return from the mission he was leading. Just above Genoa, where a solid overcast was encountered, his airplane was seen to make a sharp left turn and go into a spiral downward. Lt. Anderson called Capt. Simmons, leader of white flight, and told him he was all mixed up. It is not known whether he bailed out or crashed, and subsequent calls brought no answer. Lt. Anderson was one of the veteran pilots of the squadron and has been a flight leader since shortly after joining the squadron. He had flown 83 sorties against the enemy.

Several groups of buildings were bombed and strafed, and gun positions at several different points. Exact results could not be determined.

A military funeral was held for the late 2nd Lt. A. J. Lochowitz this afternoon. The rifle squad was composed of eight enlisted men of the squadron with S/Sgt Hollis Vieau in charge.

14 Three missions led by Capts. Colgan and Simmons and Lt. Borello, were flown today, making a total of eleven sorties. On the first two missions, a bridge and a wooded area believed to be occupied by enemy troops, were bombed and strafed. The third mission, led by Capt. Colgan, was the most successful. Besides cutting railroad tracks in several places, the formation destroyed nine engines, ten railroad cars and two motor trucks, and damaged five railroad cars.

15 Two missions, a total of only seven sorties, were flown today. Weather made bombing difficult, but the three planes led by Capt. Covington, bombed through a hole in the clouds, with no results observed, and the other four

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 118 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy
(Station)

Month of October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

15 (cont'd) planes led by Lt. Brown, found a train of twenty cars, moving east toward Verona. All the cars were hospital cars and were not molested, but the tracks in front of the train were bombed and broken and the engine was heavily strafed and destroyed.

16 No missions were flown until afternoon. Pilots were briefed this morning on a special fire bomb mission on a hill a few hundred yards in front of our troops. Ran two missions of eight ships each on this target, first led by Capt. Colgan, and second led by Capt. Furdun. A report received from ground forces said first four missions run by this Group, including one of our missions, were executed "beautifully".

There is considerable talk about moving, and rumor has it we will move to Pisa before the end of the month.

17 No missions today with the exception of a weather recce by Lts. Davis and Finlayson. Stood down all afternoon.

18 One mission today, an eight plane formation led by Lt. Conner. A solid overcast was encountered around Bologna, and the bombs had to be dropped through the clouds. No results were observed.

1st Lt. Graydon S. Brown, a flight leader, learned today of his promotion to the rank of captain, effective 14 October 1944, and 2nd Lts. Clifford A. Karrels and John V. Conner were promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective the same date.

19 Twenty seven sorties was today's total. Leaders of the five missions were Lts. Brinley, Finlayson, Borello, Brown, and Capt. Simmons. All the missions were Armed recces or Rover Jobs and weather made observation of results very difficult. Fire bombs were carried on the last two missions and several fires were started. The formation led by Capt. Simmons was congratulated by Rover Joe and Army observers for their accurate bombing.

20 Five missions were flown today, four of which dropped fire bombs on their targets. Cpts. Covington and Simmons and Lts. Davis and Borello each led four plane formations, and Lt. Finlayson led one of five, totaling

Report No. 119 War Diary, 325th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy
(Station)

Month of October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

20 (cont'd) twenty one sorties for the day.

S/Sgt Gerald R. Krell left the squadron today to return to the States on rotation.

21 One four plane formation, led by Capt. Colgan was flown this morning, and rain forced a standdown for the remainder of the day. Three barges were destroyed by fire bombs, and two locomotives and five cars, loaded with supplies were destroyed, and twenty cars were damaged.

2nd Lt. Royce L. Brandon, Assistant Engineering Officer was promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 17 October 1944.

22 Rain caused a standdown for the entire day.

First Sergeant R. O. Tidwell left today to return to the States for a thirty day furlough.

Eight enlisted men were transferred to the 325th Fighter Control Squadron, and left this squadron today. They were S/Sgt James P. Allen, Sgts. Levesque, Neely, Weitzel, Hardin and Timmerman, Cpl. Weingartner and Pvt. Jarrett.

23 Three missions, a total of thirteen sorties, were flown today. Capt. Covington and Lt. Borello led four plane Rover Joe missions and Capt. Colgan led a five plane armed recce. The latter was a very successful mission, as nine engines, sixty four cars and nine motor trucks were destroyed, and four engines, more than thirty cars and twenty one motor trucks were damaged. The four planes led by Capt. Covington destroyed a locomotive, fifteen railroad cars and three trucks and damaged twenty cars, two locomotives and a motor truck.

"A" party left today for Pisa, where they will set up the line area, and get the squadron quarters ready for the remainder of the men. Everyone is anxious to learn whether we are to live in buildings or tents, and as is always the case, rumors have it both ways.

24 Six missions, comprising a total of twenty six sorties, were flown today. Capt. Simmons led the first, a formation of eight planes, dropping fire bombs on a fuel dump. Two large fires were started in the target area and a large building was hit and burned.

S E C R E T

Form 120 War Diary, 12th Fighter Squadron, Grosseto Airfield, Italy
(Station)

October 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. MASSELL
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DATE EVENTS

24 (cont'd) Capt. Brown led four planes on the most successful mission of the day, an armed recce in the Turin-Milan area. Seven steam locomotives, seventeen railroad cars, and one He-111 were destroyed.

Lts. Borello and Davis led formations dropping fire bombs and left several buildings in their respective target areas burning.

Direct bomb hits by Capt. Covington's formation destroyed one or two buildings, and the three planes led by Lt. Finlayson were forced to turn back after trying to get below extremely bad weather over their objectives.

2nd Lt. Carl F. Hernandez learned today of his promotion to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 20 October 1944.

Capt. James D. McMurray returned to the squadron today to resume his duties as Squadron Executive Officer. He has been in the hospital for more than a month.

25 One four plane mission was flown today, led by Capt. Colgan. Nine locomotives, one electric engine, and nine railroad cars were destroyed, and thirty eight railroad cars, two motor trucks and two switch engines were damaged.

A part of the remaining squadron personnel left Grosseto today, bound for Pisa, but encountered difficulties in the form of swollen rivers and washed out bridges, caused by the recent heavy rains. Some of the trucks had passed the bridge at Cecina before it gave way, and proceeded on to Pisa, but most of the trucks and men had to return to Grosseto and await further developments.

26 No missions were flown today because of continued rains. More of the squadron personnel left today, and after several detours, arrived at Pisa.

27 Rain again caused the cancellation of the flying schedule.

28 Lt. Davis led the only mission today, a four plane armed recce of the Turin - Alessandria area. Three steam locomotives and a highway bridge were destroyed and four railroad cars were damaged or destroyed.

29 No missions flown today. Only a few men are left at Grosseto and are awaiting the movement of the planes before moving the rest of the equipment.

S E C R E T

Form No. 121 War Diary, 48TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, Grosseto Airfield, Italy
(Station)

Date of October, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKBELL,
Captain, Air Corps, F-2.

EVENTS

30 One eight plane mission, led by Capt. Covington dropped fire bombs on a town, after encountering bad weather over the primary target. Six bombs were seen to explode in the town, but results could not be observed.

Promotions to the rank of 1st Lt. were received in the squadron today for 2nd Lts. Baranek, Dieber, Burkey, Jenkins, Jordan, Joslin, O'Rourke, Stewart and Wozniak. All were effective 21 October 1944.

31 Still flying from Grosseto Airfield, two missions led by Capts. Colgan and Simmons were flown today.

Bad weather was encountered by both formations, but a highway bridge was bombed and damaged by Capt. Simmons' formation, and results of the bombing by Capt. Colgan's formation could not be observed.

2nd Lt. John E. Brink was promoted to the rank of 1st Lt., effective 26 October 1944.

During the month of October, 361 sorties, totaling 688:30 operational hours were flown by the squadron.

S E C R E T

525th Fighter Sq.

Outline History November 44

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By Auth CO

525th Ftr Sq

5 Dec 44

Initials YCSHEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
APO 650G/NHB/rfd
5 December 44

AG 314.7

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

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

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

a. Present designation: 525th Ftr Sq, 86th Ftr Gp, XXII TAC.

b. Changes in organization.

(1) Changes in designation, assignment or attachment.

(a) Changes in designation: None

(b) Changes in assignment: None

(c) Changes in attachment: None

(2) Subordinate units: None

(3) Changes in Commanding Officers: None

(4) Changes in Staff Officers:

(a) Capt. James C. Covington, O-660552, aptd Sq
Operations Officer, 5 November 44, vice Capt. Lemuel W. Gurdum, III, O-797907,
returned to Zone of Interior, auth Sq. O. 30, dtd 31 October 1944.

(b) Capt. William H. Slackwell, O-564823, aptd Unit
Historian, auth Sq. O. 31, dtd 4 November 1944.

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(c) 1st Lt. John B. Harpster, O-677267, apt asc't Sq Operations Officer, auth Sq. G. 31, dtd 4 November 1944, vice Capt. Howard G. Decker, Jr., O-424659, returned to Zone of Interior.

(5) Change in T/O: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of November 1944.

(a) At beginning: 53 officers; 238 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase: 5 officers; 0 enlisted men.

(c) Net decrease: 0 officers; 1 enlisted men.

(d) At end : 58 officers; 237 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

(1) Pisa, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 23 October 1944 ("A" party);
28 October 1944 ("B" party).

(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; Southern France, 15 August 44 to 28 August 44; Italian, 18 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 strongpoints, using G/P 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 November 44:
72 missions and 392 sorties.

S E C R E T

