

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE
AFC 650

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 11)

18 January 1945

SECTION I - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (MIA)

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Hq NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, who are missing in action, citation and next of kin as indicated:

JOHN V. CONNER, JR., O-706355, 1st Lt., 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 21 December 1944, while leading a four plane flight of fighter bombers in an attack upon enemy communication lines in the Po Valley, Italy, Lt. Conner encountered a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire from enemy gun positions near La Spezia. Immediately directing his flight in a vigorous bombing and strafing attack, Lt. Conner silenced three positions and inflicted casualties upon personnel. Continuing his reconnaissance at minimum altitude to escape an almost solid overcast, Lt. Conner sighted a large concentration of rail and motor transport. Determinedly pressing repeated strafing attacks against this objective, Lt. Conner and his comrades destroyed or damaged sixteen locomotives and six motor vehicles before exhaustion of ammunition forced them to break off and return to base. On more than sixty combat missions, his selfless devotion to duty and outstanding proficiency have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Mr. J. Verser Conner, (Father), 400 Mayfair Lane, Louisville, Ky.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. AYERS
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

William H. Blackwell
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEAD QUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE
APO 650

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 11)

18 January 1945

SECTION I - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (MIA)

Under the provisions of AF 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, Hq NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, who are missing in action, citation and next of kin as indicated:

GLENN E. MARSH, O-714489, 1st Lt., 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 20 November 1944, Lt. Marsh flew in a fighter bomber attack upon an enemy supply concentration near Bologna, Italy. Skillfully maneuvering through a heavy overcast upon the approach to the target, Lt. Marsh dived to minimum altitude and released his bombs with devastating effect upon this vital objective. After making several strafing passes against the area, inflicting further damage upon the enemy, Lt. Marsh joined his comrades in search of other targets. Encountering a heavy barrage of enemy ground fire, Lt. Marsh became separated from his flight and failed to return from this mission. His selfless devotion to duty and outstanding proficiency in combat have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Mrs. Ella G. Marsh, (Mother), 2744 Orchard Ave., Huntington, W. Va.

By command of Major General CANON:

CHARLES T. MYERS
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William H. Dick
/t/ WILLIAM H. DICK
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

William H. Blackwell
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TENTH AIR FORCE
AFC 650

GENERAL ORDERS)

18 January 1945

NUMBER 11)

SECTION IV - AWARDS OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of AG 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 89, HQ MATC USA, 10 July 1944, the Oak-Leaf Cluster (First Cluster) in lieu of the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

WILLIAM B. COLGAN, O-673993, Major, 525th Fighter Squadron, 85th Fighter Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 14 October 1944, when extremely adverse weather forced the cancellation of further scheduled tactical missions, Major Colgan volunteered to lead a four plane flight of fighter bombers on an armed reconnaissance mission over enemy communication lines in northern Italy. Displaying superior flying ability and determined leadership as he skillfully maneuvered through heavy cloud formations upon the approach to the target area, Major Colgan sighted a railroad line near Asti. Immediately diving to minimum altitude in attack, Major Colgan guided his P-47's on a perfect run over the objective, thereby enabling them to score direct hits cutting the line in two places. Continuing in attack in the face of accurate enemy ground fire which damaged the four fighters, Major Colgan strafed several railroad trains and a motor convoy in the area destroying or damaging nine locomotives, fifteen railroad cars, and two motor vehicles. In more than 165 combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Waycross, Ga.

By command of Major General CAYTON:

CHARLES T. MYERS
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William M. Dick
/t/ WILLIAM M. DICK
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

William H. Blackwell
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL
Captain, Air Corps.
Intelligence Officer

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE
AFO 650

GENERAL ORDERS)

5 January 1945

NUMBER 11)

SECTION V - AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of Act 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular 69, Hq MATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

WALTER M. BIEBER, O-815327, 1st Lt., 525th Fighter Squadron, 68th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 10 November 1944, Lt. Bieber led a four plane flight of fighter bombers in an attack upon an enemy airbase at Villafranca di Verona, Italy. Displaying great courage and superior leadership as he pressed a vigorous attack at minimum altitude in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Lt. Bieber enabled his P-47's to score direct hits and near misses, damaging two enemy aircraft. Continuing in attack in the face of accurate enemy ground fire which damaged his P-47 and four other planes in the formation, Lt. Bieber repeatedly strafed the airfield, destroying three Ju-89's, a Ju-87, and probably another Ju-89. On more than fifty-five combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Sunbury, Va.

By command of Major General CANNON:

CHARLES T. LYONS,
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ William W. Dick
/t/ WILLIAM W. DICK
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

William H. Blackwell
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 134 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

1 Two missions, led by Capt. Harpster and Lt. Conner, were flown today. The eight planes led by Lt. Conner accounted for one locomotive, one railroad car, two motor trucks with gas trailers, one Fiat and a motorcycle wagon destroyed and three locomotives, eleven railroad cars and nine switch engines damaged.

Several men of the squadron attended the Spaghetti Bowl game in Florence this afternoon. The game was played by teams representing the Twelfth Air Force and the Fifth Army. Ken who saw the game, won by the Fifth Army team by a score of 20 to 0, reported that there was real football atmosphere; the weather was brisk; there were bands, a drum majorette, and Mac queens.

Because of the large number of men being away, the New Year's Day turkey dinner was postponed until tomorrow.

2 Five missions were flown today, including a weather recon by Capt. Harpster and Lt. Botten. Leaders of the other four were Capt. Harpster and Lts. Koyle, Bieber, and Grantham. A total of nine motor trucks were destroyed and ten damaged, as well as several Fiats and other vehicles.

PX supplies were sold this evening.

It was learned this evening that the entire enlisted personnel of the Group will be restricted to the area and line for an indefinite time, because of the increase of VD cases in the Group. Many men were browned off at this restriction on the many for the acts of a few. The restriction does not prevent attending the movies or going to the enlisted men's club.

3 Eight plane missions were led by Lts. Curtin and Brink, Capt. Covington flew with Col. Lee and Capt. Relyea from Group on a three plane mission, and Lt. McClees flew with Col. Bates on a two plane bombing attack on rail lines. A total of thirteen motor trucks, two Fiats, a trailer, two switch engines and two box cars were destroyed by the two eight plane formations.

4 Five missions were flown today, led by Lts. Conner, Moore, Botten, Jenkins, and Capt. Covington. Lt. Conner's aircraft apparently received a direct flak hit and he made an attempt to belly land near the town of Bergamo. The plane cartwheeled and finally landed on its

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 135 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

4 (Cont'd) back, but did not explode or burn. Lt. Conner was not seen to get out of the plane, but there is a possibility that he was not killed.

5 Rain forced a standdown for the entire day.

6 Cloudy weather caused a standdown all morning, but two missions were led by Capt. Covington and Lt. Grantham this afternoon. The three ships led by Capt. Covington, escorted a Walrus picking up a pilot in the water, and the eight planes led by Lt. Grantham made a recce of the coast, strafing shipping and installations.

7 One mission, a coastal recce, was flown today, led by Capt. Covington. A tanker was bombed in Savona harbor with several near misses.

8 One four plane armed recce was led by Lt. Bieber this morning before rain forced a standdown for the rest of the day.

9 Four missions were flown today, led by Major Colgan, Capt. Covington, Lt. Botten and Lt. Curtin. Two were armed reces, and on the other two, an oil storage depot and the Brenner Rail Line were attacked with considerable damage to both targets.

Four pilots from this squadron flew a mission with the 526th Squadron, attacking the rail line between Cittadella and Vicenza.

10 Today's six missions were led by Col. Lee, Major Colgan and Lts. Moore, Jenkins, Brink and Grantham. Ten motor trucks were destroyed and eleven damaged by the nine planes led by Lt. Brink.

11 Lt. Brink led two eight plane formations, and Lts. Bieber and Frey led one each. On three of these missions, a motor truck and stores depot was attacked, and a total of ten trucks, one armored car, three locomotives, three railroad cars and two Flats were destroyed and a locomotive, four Flats and one motor truck were damaged.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 136 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON Pisa Airbase, Italy
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

12 Five missions were flown by the squadron and Lt. Moran flew with Col. Bates on a two plane bombing mission this afternoon. Lts. Botten Jenkins, Frey and Baranek led four planes each and Major Colgan led a formation of eight. Rail lines were attacked and a large number of cars, locomotives and motor vehicles were destroyed and damaged.

Capt. John S. Harpster, Assistant Operations Officer, left today for a replacement depot, from where he will return to the states for rest and reassignment. He has flown a total of 102 sorties over enemy territory, both as a P-47 pilot with this squadron, and prior to that as a B-26 pilot. He has been awarded the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

13 Rain caused a standdown for the entire day.

14 Bad weather and rain again forced the mission schedule to be cancelled.

15 Eight plane missions were led by Lts. Moyle and Bieber and Capt. Covington, and Major Colgan led a four plane formation. The one led by Lt. Bieber was an escort for B-25's, and the others were armed and attacking rail lines and motor transport.

PX rations were sold this evening, including six bottles of beer for each man.

The squadron basketball team, made up of both pilots and enlisted men, travelled to the 33rd General Hospital this evening, and received a 41 to 21 defeat.

16 Bad weather forced a standby until noon and a standdown for the remainder of the day.

17 Three eight plane missions were flown today, led by Lts. Moyle, Moore and Botten. The mission led by Lt. Moore was an area cover for a formation of B-25's, and the other two formations attacked rail lines.

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 139 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Pisa Airbase, Italy
(Station)

Month of January, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS.

27 Two missions, led by Lts. Jordan and Moyle were flown today, and Capt. Covington flew with Col. Bates on a two plane armed recce.

28 Four missions were led by Lts. Curtin, Bieber, Botten and Major Colgan. All were armed recces with the exception of Major Colgan's which was a two plane flight, with Capt. Covington flying the second plane. Incendiary bombs were carried and the target was shipping in Genoa harbor.

The first issue of the squadron newspaper, "The Eagle" was published today, and was distributed to all the men in the squadron area at noon. All the work on the paper was done by Capt. Blackwell, S/Sgt Anderson and Sgt Day. The first edition was greatly appreciated by the men of the squadron, and especially the cartoon, depicting high ranking enlisted men going home on thirty day furloughs because of 'troubles at home' while men of lower rank can't seem to find reasons good enough to get one. This first edition of the newspaper was beyond doubt a successful venture, and it is planned to publish it once every two weeks.

29 Six missions were flown today, including two armed recces of only two planes, led by Major Colgan and Lt. Curtin. Lts. Bieber and Baranek led four planes each, and Lts. Frey and Brink led formations of eight each.

F/O Robert S. Bell, failed to return from the last mission. His airplane was hit by flak at Brescia, and he bailed out near the city. He was seen to land safely and wave to the flight.

30 Six missions were flown again today, led by Major Colgan, Capt. Covington and Lts. Botten, who led two, Bieber and Grantham. Rail lines and motor movement was attacked in the western Po Valley.

31 Lts. Bieber and Jenkins led the only two missions flown today. Both were armed recces. 2nd Lt. Harold H. Locke did not return from the last mission. While strafing his plane hit high tension wires, bounced on the ground, and exploded. The plane burned and the pilot was not seen to get out.

During the month of January, 456 sorties, totaling 980:45 operational hours were flown by the squadron.

