

~~SECRET~~

ME-109, three FW-190s, two rail cars, six gun positions, one building and one motor truck destroyed and one twin engine aircraft, one ME-109, one FW-190, five rail cars and three motor trucks damaged. None of our aircraft was damaged.

(g) Bombing and strafing mission of nine aircraft led by 1st Lt. Glenn J. Moore on 29 April 1945. Observing an estimated twenty aircraft on an airfield near Bad Aibling, Lt. Moore directed white flight, led by 1st Lt. Carl C. Suranek, to attack these aircraft while he led his flight in attacks upon buildings and motor transport in the area. Total claims for this mission were two single engine fighters, one ME-262, one JU-88, two twin engine aircraft, seventeen motor trucks and one machine gun position destroyed and four twin engine aircraft, three single engine fighters, one ME-262, one building, eighteen motor trucks, one tractor and six trailers damaged.

h. Leaders of outstanding missions: Named in mission accounts above.

i. Losses in action:

(2) wounded.

(a) F/O James W. Hohman, T-127220, was slightly wounded in action on a bombing mission near Stuttgart, Germany on 19 April 1945, when he was forced to bail out of his damaged aircraft.

(3) Missing.

(a) F/O John A. Sennele, T-63472, is missing in action since 20 April 1945 while on a bombing and strafing mission near Munich, Germany.

j. Awards received during the month of April 45.

GO #60, XII TAC, dtd 31 Mar 45:

Henry (NMI) Aegerter, Jr., 0711645, 1st Lt., Monewoc, Wis.	3rd OLC
John F. Botten, 0820209, 1st Lt., Cleveland, Ohio	4th OLC
John E. Brink, 0820212, 1st Lt., Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.	4th OLC
George J. Frey, 0820251, 1st Lt., Garden City, N. Y.	4th OLC
Marion L. Breen, 0706586, 1st Lt., Lone Tree, Iowa	3rd OLC
John M. Senneff, 0721540, 1st Lt., Moline, Illinois	1st OLC
Walter K. Ives, Jr., 02059306, 1st Lt., Mt. Hope, Kansas	AM
Eugene H. Whyte, 0759140, 1st Lt., St. Paul, Minn.	4th OLC
Doyle J. Worley, 0770068, 1st Lt., Iola, Kansas	AM

~~SECRET~~

5

2. Enclosed is War Diary, 525 Ftr Sq, for the period 1 April to 1 May 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

William H. Blackwell
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL
Captain, Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

Incl: War Diary (4)

~~SECRET~~

Sheet No. 154 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Tantonville A/F, France

(Station)

Month of April, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

1 The usual Sunday night dance was held at the enlisted men's club tonight, and otherwise this Easter Day was the same as any other.

2 The squadron basketball team won their second game in the 19th General Hospital Invitational Tournament, nosing out the 366th squadron of the 353th Fighter Group in a low scoring game by the score of 18 to 14. The 525 led at halftime by 8 to 7, and the score changed hands several times throughout the game. The semi-finals will be played tomorrow night, with the 525th meeting the 526th at seven o'clock, and the winner playing the representative from the lower bracket at eight.

1st Lt. Richard B. Loyle was transferred to group headquarters today, to assume his new duties as assistant air inspector.

3 The 525th cagers lost to the 526th in the semi-finals of the tournament this evening by a score of 25 to 16. The 525 led at the first quarter 6 to 2 but faltered in the second period and never regained the lead. The 526th went on to win the final game and the championship. Thus the basketball season has come to an end for another year. The record for the season, including the games played in the XXII TAC tournament in Florence and in the tournament here, was fifteen games won and ten lost. Those who were members of the team throughout the season were Lts. Mart, Leahy, Baranek, Dwyer and Jenkins, S/Sgts. Goff, Anderson and Barnes, and Sgt Day. Lt. Ives and F/O Madison joined the squad for the games in the tournament in Nancy, having just joined the squadron before leaving Italy.

1st Lt. George J. Frey was today transferred to group headquarters as assistant operations officer.

4 Plans are under way for the start of baseball practice and a diamond is being made ready for use as long as we are stationed at this field. S/Sgt Burney Bielick is in charge of arrangements for getting the team started.

5 The first baseball practice was held this afternoon, and although the weather was a bit disagreeable, more than ten men attended and worked out for a short while.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

Sheet No. 155 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Tantonville A/F, France
(Station)

Month of April, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
Captain, 41r Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

5 (cont'd) Information and Education forms were distributed to men of the squadron today for the survey which is being conducted in order to determine the courses in which the most men are interested.

Captain Dale L. Carstensen, squadron adjutant, was today appointed executive officer, replacing Major McClurray, who recently left the squadron to return to the states.

6 Three new pilots, 2nd Lts. Richard C. Hupp, Jr., and Thomas C. Marsters, and F/C John A. Scheele were assigned to the squadron today.

7 On the mission led by Lt. Aegerter two formations of ME-109's were encountered and in the ensuing battle, Lts. Green and Aegerter each shot down ME's and Lt. Green scored strikes on another, causing unknown damage to it. The enemy planes broke formation and pulled up into the clouds soon after they were contacted.

8 Rumors are circulating about the squadron concerning our next move which will be into Germany.

9 A squadron meeting was held in the mess hall this evening, and Capt. Carstensen spoke briefly to the men on several subjects, one of them being our coming move into Germany.

10 Rumors of "werewolves" and the reports of other such harassing activities in occupied Germany are drifting back to the squadron from other outfits already there, but the men seem anxious to see for themselves what Germany is really like. Non-fraternization will limit the 'extra curricular' operations of many, and that seems to cause more worry than the danger, if any, from hostile civilians.

11 A squadron meeting was held this evening at which time Captain Blackwell gave a talk on security measures in reference to our move to Germany, and Captain Dickson, Liaison Officer from the Seventh Army attached to the group, outlined the current situation on the western front.

Sheet No. 156 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Tantonville A/F, France
(Station)

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

DAY	EVENTS
-----	--------

12 Preparations for moving were started today. The entire day was spent in packing equipment and "A" party is scheduled to leave for the trip to Braunschardt Airfield near Darmstadt, Germany early tomorrow morning.

13 "A" party left here this morning by motor convoy. Many of the tents in the area are already down, and the remaining personnel are sleeping in the mess hall, dayroom and orderly room. Because of bad weather, a standdown was in effect all day.

14 Most of the tents in the area have been taken down, and the officers of the squadron are now eating with the enlisted men here in the area. The personnel at the new field began the work of setting up installations on the squadron and line areas. The bivouac area is alongside the edge of the field in a pine forest.

15 Work on the new squadron area is progressing. The showers are being erected very near the area and a number of small tables, set out among the trees near the kitchen, are used for eating. The men of the squadron have policed up various types of vehicles from the surrounding territory, including a large bus, small rail engine, and several partially assembled gliders.

16 Four missions were flown today from Tantonville despite the transfer of the planes to the new base, Braunschardt A/F. The first two returned to the base at Tantonville, and the last two landed at the new field upon the completion of their mission. The men still in France made preparations for an early departure from there tomorrow morning.

17 "B" party left Tantonville and made the trip to Germany today, the various vehicles arriving at their destination at various times this evening. The squadron bivouac area is set back among tall pine trees, and will be a cool place if we are here in hot weather. All men are living in tents, with the exception of a few more enterprising ones who have policed up some wallboard and the like, and have built shacks among the trees.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 157 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt A/F, Germany
(Station)

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

DAY

EVENTS

17 (cont'd) The officers have three buildings in the town of Gross Gerau as living quarters. German civilians who lived in these houses were required to move by A/C. The houses are duplex apartments. In one live the commanding officer, operations officers and B flight. The ground officers live in another; A, C and D flights occupy others. Officers are at present eating at the squadron mess, but a group officers' mess will be opened in a small hotel in Gross Gerau.

18 The field here is pretty dusty with dirt taxi strips and roads, but the bivouac area is far enough away in a spot that is sheltered from dust and winds, and is a very convenient distance from the line area. No enlisted men's club has been set up as yet.

19 Movies will be shown in the area behind squadron intelligence and operations, starting in the near future, and plans are under way for a softball league as soon as weather permits. These are the only means of recreation yet provided for the men.

20 Five missions were flown today and unusually successful strafing results were reported by the returning pilots. An airfield was attacked and several JU-88's, ME-109's and other enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground by both bombing and strafing. Leaders of the missions were Lts. Bieber, Brink, Potten, Moore and Captain Brown. Total strafing and bombing results of enemy aircraft and motor trucks were 28 motor trucks, 11 unidentified twin engine aircraft, 3 FW-190's, 3 JU-88's, 1 ME109 and 1 ME-210 destroyed and 73 motor trucks, 11 JU-88's, 1 ME-109 and 1 FW-190 damaged.

21 From what one can see, the German people didn't lack for any of the necessities of life, as was the case in all of the other countries through which we have passed. The people are all well fed, well clothed, and do not appear openly hostile. Some would apparently be friendly were they given the chance, others regard the Americans with hatred in their eyes, while the great majority seem indifferent, or at least try to appear that way.

~~S. E. C. R. E. T~~Sheet No. 158 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt A/F, Germany

(Station)

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

DAY

EVENTS

22 No missions were flown today as it is the squadron's regular day for a standdown.

23 The movie, "Winged Victory" was shown this evening, and although another war picture, was generally conceded to be better than the usual run.

1st Lts. Dotten, Curtin and Grantham received notice of their promotion to captains today.

24 Several men have been hunting in the forests around the bivouac area, one or two deer being shot. There is now a ruling out against hunting any wild game around here.

25 The squadron baseball team, making their first start of the season, dropped a close 2 to 1 decision to the 415th Night Fighters this evening. Leading 1 to 0 going into the last half of the seventh, a walk, and three hits clinched the game for the Night Fighters. Whitey Bytnar went all the way on the mound for the 525th but tired in the sixth and seventh, which cost him the decision.

The movie "Here Come The Waves" with Bing Crosby and Betty Hutton, was shown this evening.

26 The 525th baseballers broke into the win column this evening, gaining a 7 to 5 win over the 526th. Lt. Bob Mart allowed only two hits during the five innings he pitched and got credit for the win. Barnes relieved him and pitched the last two of the seven inning game. First sacker "George" Gumbert got four for four, including two doubles and three runs driven in for batting honors for the game.

Chocolate chip ice cream was served for lunch today.

27 Plans are being made for the celebration of the group's second anniversary overseas which will be observed on 29 April. A building that was formerly a pickle factory is to be used for the enlisted men's club, a store of whiskey has been procured and several pigs "liberated" for a barbecue.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 159 War Diary, 505th FIGHTING BOMBARDMENT Squadron Braunschardt A/F, Germany
(Station)

Month of April, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM I. BLACKWELL,
Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

28 The squadron was stood down for the entire day.

29 F/C John A. Scheele, while on a strafing mission of an air drome near Bad Aibling, Germany, received a direct flak hit in his aircraft and crashed. It is believed that he was killed immediately. This was his fifteenth combat mission since joining the squadron earlier this month.

The celebration of the end of the second year overseas was held this evening in the pickle factory in Gross Gerau which has been taken over for use as an enlisted men's club.

30 Two new pilots, 2nd Lts. Howard W. Shelden and Ernest A. Zappile, joined the squadron today.

1st Lt. John E. Dwyer, for the past fifteen months, assistant Intelligence officer of the squadron, changed jobs, succeeding Captain Carstensen as squadron adjutant. There is now no assistant squadron intelligence officer.

During the month of April 765 sorties, totaling 1836:15 operational hours were flown by the squadron. This has been one of the busiest, if not the busiest, month in the entire combat history of the squadron. Many pilots have flown 25 or more missions during the month, often flying two per day. Results have been amazing: the damage and destruction inflicted upon the enemy has been almost incalculable. 202,000 pounds of demolition bombs were dropped on enemy held targets as well as 516 frag bombs and 64 fuel tank incendiaries, and 551,745 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition were expended. 237 motor transport were destroyed and 393 damaged; 37 locomotives were destroyed and 56 damaged; 95 rail cars were destroyed and 250 damaged; two enemy aircraft were destroyed in aerial combat and one damaged; and a total of 59 aircraft were destroyed and 72 damaged on the ground. Only one pilot was lost during the month.

RESTRICTED

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1 JUN 1945

525 Fighter Sq

Outline History May 45

1 June 1945

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

G/WHB/ard
1 June 45

SUBJECT : Historical records.

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

1. Outline history, 525 Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, for the period 1 May to 1 June 1945.

a. Present designation: 525 Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, XII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organization.

(1) Changes in designation, assignment or attachment: None

(2) ~~Subordinate~~ units: None

(3) Changes in command: None

(4) Changes in staff officers:

(a) 1st Lt. Gustave (NMI) Levenson, O-905057, assgd to this organization, SO 85, par 5, Hq XII TAC, aptd Assistant Intelligence Officer,

(b) Capt. James C. Covington, O-660552, rald fr asgmt and trfd to Hq, 86th Ftr Gp, SO 74, par 2, Hq, 86th Ftr Gp.

(c) Capt. Graydon C. Brown, O-697252, aptd Sq Opns Off, VOCO.

(d) 1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore, O-704713, apted Ass't Opns Off, VOCO.

(5) Changes in T/C: None

c. Strength: 64 officers; 236 enlisted men.

d. Present station: Braunschardt A/F, Germany since 16 Apr 45.

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- e. Movements: None
- f. Campaign: German
- g. Operations.
 - (1) Nature of operations: Patrol missions.
 - (2) Number of missions and sorties: 9 missions, 76 sorties.
 - (3) Outstanding missions: Patrol, all without incident.
- i. Losses in action: None
- j. Awards received during the month of May 45.

GO #62, XII TAC, dtd 31 Mar 45.

William B. Colgan, O-673993, Major, Waycross, Ga.	3rd OLC to DFC
John V. Jordan, O-704538, 1st Lt., Rensselaer, Ind.	DFC
Victor T. Mather, O-714491, 1st Lt., Millard, Miss.	DFC
William P. Leahy, O-714451, 1st Lt., Canton, Ohio	DFC
George P. De Armond, O-1554164, 1st Lt., Bakersfield, Cal.	Bronze Star
Robert F. Duglay, 35326097, S/Sgt, Mentone, Ind.	Bronze Star
Herbert M. Rumpfelt, 34095567, S/Sgt, Blacksburg, S.C.	Bronze Star

GO #68, XII TAC, dtd 1 May 45.

Frank J. Peters, T-2963, F/O, Phoenix, Ariz.	AM
William W. Jacoby, T-127221, F/O, Kansas City, Mo.	AM
Henry (NMI) Aegerter, Sr., O-711845, 1st Lt., Waukesha, Wis.	4th, 5th OLC
Paul C. Allen, Jr., O-721934, 2nd Lt., Sacramento, Cal.	1st OLC
Ray W. Anderson, O-721937, 1st Lt., Minneapolis, Minn.	1st, 2nd OLC
Harold F. Bannister, O-711909, 1st Lt., Los Angeles, Cal.	3rd OLC
Carl C. Baranek, O-705067, 1st Lt., Carrollville, Wis.	5th, 6th OLC
Walter M. Bieber, O-818327, Capt., Sunbury, Pa.	5th, 6th OLC
John P. Botten, O-820209, Capt., Cleveland, Ohio	5th OLC
Earl H. Bradford, O-2057538, 1st Lt., Bozeman, Mont.	AM, 1st OLC
John E. Brink, O-820212, Capt., Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.	5th, 6th OLC
Graydon S. Brown, O-697252, Capt., Seneca Falls, N.Y.	6th, 7th OLC
Lee D. Burkey, O-820456, 1st Lt., La Belle, Pa.	5th OLC
William B. Colgan, O-673993, Major, Waycross, Ga.	10th, 11th OLC
William P. Curtin, O-816062, Capt., Syracuse, N.Y.	4th OLC
John W. Delanty, O-2059185, 1st Lt., Youngstown, Ohio	AM
Bennie G. Flake, O-766463, 1st Lt., Wildersville, Tenn.	5th OLC
George J. Frey, O-820254, 1st Lt., Garden City, N.Y.	5th OLC
Croft (NMI) Grantham, Jr., O-816636, Capt., Red Bank, N.J.	6th OLC
Marion L. Green, O-706586, 1st Lt., Lone Tree, Iowa	4th, 5th OLC
Ralph F. Grossman, O-697024, 1st Lt., Indianapolis, Ind.	2nd, 3rd OLC
Willard (NMI) Heidinger, O-429036, Capt., Fairfield, Ill.	AM, 1st OLC
James W. Hohman, O-2016698, 2nd Lt., St. Cloud, Minn.	1st OLC

S E C R E T

Mallis V. Hurlbutt, O-721419, 1st Lt., Chicago, Ill.	2nd O4C
Walter A. Ives, Jr., O-2059306, 1st Lt., Mt. Hope, Kansas	1st, 2nd OLC
John C. Jenkins, O-766540, 1st Lt., Kansas City, Mo.	5th OLC
John V. Jordan, O-704538, 1st Lt., Rensselaer, Ind.	5th OLC
Rodger P. Madison, T-128988, F/O, Louisville, Ky.	AM, 1st OLC
Richard C. Mapp, Jr., O-830500, 1st Lt., Norfolk, Va.	AM
Rafael A. Marino, O-721465, 1st Lt., New Orleans, La.	2nd, 3rd OLC
Thomas C. Marsters, O-714953, 2nd Lt., Danville, Ill.	AM
Robert (NMI) Mart, O-714488, 1st Lt., Columbus, Ohio	2nd, 3rd OLC
Francis X. Mauk, O-714493, 1st Lt., Woodbury, N.J.	4th OLC
Vernon E. Maxey, O-468897, 2nd Lt., Choctaw, Okla.	AM
Donald F. McEmber, O-714475, 1st Lt., Ludington, Mich.	4th OLC
Diamond P. Mitchell, O-763293, 1st Lt., Jacksonville, Fla.	1st, 2nd, 3rd OLC
Glenn C. Moore, O-704713, 1st Lt., Pryor, Okla.	6th OLC
Richard B. Moyle, O-689803, Capt., Oakland, Cal.	5th OLC
Robert D. O'Rourke, O-815752, 1st Lt., Colorado Springs, Colo.	3rd OLC
Ralph A. Pries, O-2057018, 1st Lt., Los Angeles, Cal.	1st, 2nd OLC
David M. Risdon, O-770416, 1st Lt., Oakland, Cal.	AM, 1st OLC
John A. Schnee, T-63472, F/O, Milwaukee, Wis.	AM
John M. Senneff, O-721540, 1st Lt., Moline, Ill.	2nd, 3rd OLC
Donald L. Westfall, O-720730, 1st Lt., Flint, Mich.	2nd, 3rd OLC
Kenneth H. White, O-720976, 1st Lt., Eugene, Ore.	1st, 2nd OLC
Eugene A. Whyte, O-759440, 1st Lt., St. Paul, Minn.	5th OLC
William R. Wilson, O-711891, 1st Lt., Taft, Cal.	4th, 5th OLC
Doyle D. Wrcley, O-770068, 1st Lt., Iola, Kansas	1st, 2nd OLC
William A. Wozniak, O-820387, 1st Lt., Michigan City, Ind.	4th, 5th OLC

GO #70, XII TAC, dtd 6 May 45.

Harold F. Bannister, O-711909, 1st Lt., Los Angeles, Cal.	DFC
Lee D. Burkey, O-820433, 1st Lt., La Belle, Pa.	DFC
Bennie G. Flake, O-766493, 1st Lt., Wildersville, Tenn.	DFC
Marion L. Green, O-706586, 1st Lt., Lone Tree, Iowa	DFC
John C. Jenkins, O-766540, 1st Lt., Kansas City, Mo.	DFC
Donald F. McEmber, O-714475, 1st Lt., Ludington, Mich.	DFC
William R. Wilson, O-711891, 1st Lt., Taft, Cal.	DFC
William A. Wozniak, O-820387, 1st Lt., Michigan City, Ind.	DFC

GO #80, XII TAC, dtd 19 May 45.

Henry (NMI) Aegerter, Jr., O-711845, 1st Lt., Monewoc, Wis.	6th OLC
Paul C. Allen, Jr., O-721934, 1st Lt., Sacramento, Cal.	2nd, 3rd OLC
Ray A. Anderson, O-721937, 1st Lt., Minneapolis, Minn.	3rd OLC
Harold F. Bannister, O-711909, 1st Lt., Los Angeles, Cal.	4th OLC
Earl C. Baranek, O-705067, 1st Lt., Carrollville, Wis.	4th, 7th OLC
Walter M. Bieber, O-818327, 1st Lt., Sunbury, Pa.	7th OLC
John P. Botten, O-820209, Capt., Cleveland, Ohio	6th, 7th OLC
Earl H. Bradford, O-2057538, 1st Lt., Bozeman, Mont.	2nd OLC
John E. Brink, O-820212, Capt., Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.	7th OLC

S E C R E T .

4

Lee D. Burkey, O-820456, 1st Lt., La Belle, Pa.	6th OLC
William B. Colgan, O-673993, Major, Waycross, Ga.	12th OLC
James C. Covington, O-660552, Capt., Charlotte, N.C.	6th OLC
William P. Curtin, O-816062, Capt., Syracuse, N.Y.	5th OLC
John W. Delanty, O-2059185, 1st Lt., Youngstown, Ohio	1st, 2nd OLC
James C. Finlayson, O-692672, 1st Lt., Syracuse, N.Y.	5th, 6th OLC
Croft (NMI) Grantam, Jr., O-816636, Capt., Red Bank, N.J.	7th OLC
Ralph F. Grossman, O-697024, 1st Lt., Indianapolis, Ind.	4th OLC
Willard (NMI) Heidinger, O-429036, Capt., Fairfield, Ill.	2nd OLC
James W. Honman, O-2016698, 2nd Lt., St. Cloud, Minn.	2nd OLC
Walter K. Ives, Jr., O-2059306, 1st Lt., Mt. Hope, Kansas	3rd OLC
Rodger P. Madison, T-128988, F/O, Louisville, Ky.	2nd OLC
Richard C. Mapp, Jr., O-830500, 2nd Lt., Norfolk, Va.	1st OLC
Rafael K. Marino, O-721465, 1st Lt., New Orleans, La.	4th OLC
Thomas C. Marsters, O-714953, 2nd Lt., Danville, Ill.	1st OLC
Robert (NMI) Mart, O-714488, 1st Lt., Columbus, Ohio	4th OLC
Francis A. Mauk, O-714493, 1st Lt., Woodbury, N.J.	5th OLC
Vernon K. Maxey, O-468897, 2nd Lt., Choctaw, Okla.	1st OLC
Thomas A. McClees, O-714468, 1st Lt., Elm City, N.C.	4th, 5th OLC
Donald F. McEmber, O-714475, 1st Lt., Ludington, Mich.	5th OLC
Diamond P. Mitchell, O-763293, 1st Lt., Jacksonville, Fla.	4th OLC
Glenn C. Moore, O-704713, 1st Lt., Pryor, Okla.	7th OLC
Ralph A. Pries, O-2057018, 1st Lt., Los Angeles, Cal.	3rd OLC
David M. Wisdom, O-770416, 1st Lt., Oakland, Cal.	2nd, 3rd OLC
John M. Senneff, O-721540, 1st Lt., Moline, Ill.	4th OLC
Howard W. Sheldon, O-862253, 2nd Lt., Florala, Ala.	AM
Donald L. Westfall, O-720738, 1st Lt., Flint, Mich.	4th OLC
Kenneth H. White, O-720978, 1st Lt., Eugene, Ore.	3rd, 4th OLC
Doyle D. Worley, O-770068, 1st Lt., Iola, Kansas	3rd OLC
Ernest A. Zappile, O-834334, 2nd Lt., New York City, N.Y.	AM

GO #112, FIRST TAF, dtd 11 May 45.

John E. Brink, O-820212, Capt., Grosse Pointe Park, Mich. Silver Star

2. Inclosed is war Diary, 525 Ftr Sq, for the period 1 May to 1 June 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

William H. Blackwell
 WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Unit Historian.

Incl: war Diary (4)

SECRET

Sheet No. 160 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt A/F, Germany.

(Station)

Month of May, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM L. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

1. An administrative and technical inspection was made by an inspector from First TAF today.

2 The mission schedule has been greatly reduced and most missions are now for the purpose of patrolling.

3 A letter from General Arnold, explaining the probable procedure for redeployment of Air Force personnel in the ETO was on the squadron bulletin board today and gave rise to much discussion and speculation as to how we would fit into the plan. General Arnold says that the "old" units will go home, and probably not go anywhere else; the "medium" units will be occupational air forces; and the "young" or newest ones will have first priority to go home for thirty day furloughs, orientation, and departure for the Pacific. Since the 525th has 25 months overseas, having come through Africa, Sicily, Italy, Corsica, and France, we believe we fall in the "old" class. The general state of morale seems to have been bolstered, feeling that they have been let in on some "straight stuff" and many look forward to an early homecoming.

4 The squadron's regular standdown day, and showers all day long. Rumors of a move to Stuttgart are making the rounds of the squadron.

Lts. Green, Jordan and Whyte left today for Nancy, France from where they will return to the states when their orders come through. They are going home upon completion of a tour of duty.

5 Continued rain all day long forced whatever flying there might have been to be cancelled.

6 It was learned today that the "A" Party of the squadron is to leave here for movement to our new field at Stuttgart on 8 May, two days from now. Reports are that the setup there will be the best we've ever had, with stone buildings to live in and all the conveniences of real barracks.

SECRET

Sheet No. 161 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt, A/F, Germany.

(Station)

Month of May, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

7 After some of the men and equipment had already left for Stuttgart, word was received this afternoon that the move has been postponed indefinitely. Rumors are in abundance, but nothing official is known. News of the official V-E Day, tomorrow was received with unusual calm, and not much excitement. Some celebrating was done but not as much as was expected. Actually the official news came as a sort of anti-climax. The way things were going, we knew it was just about all over even a couple days ago.

8 With an advance echelon of personnel and equipment already at Stuttgart, everyone is speculating as to what the next official news will be.

9 Lt. Wozniak departed today, on his way to Nancy, France from where he will proceed to the states, having completed his tour of duty.

A special service was held this morning, commemorating V-E Day. A new flag pole was set up at Group Operations, and the Stars and Stripes run up. The formation was held on the field in front of Operations, and the rites were conducted by Chaplain Fischer.

10 Captain Blackwell, Lt. Baranek and Captain Cotton went to Nastaut today by jeep, below Karlsruhe and located the crashed aircraft of F/O Jacoby. He crashed there on 18 March 1945, and it was not known what happened to him. His grave was found beside the wreckage of his plane. Reports were that a French or Polish worker had buried him. Nothing doing today except one practice formation flight with twelve aircraft.

Thirteen pilots were assigned and joined the squadron today for the purpose of transition and training flying. They were Capt. Wilbur H. Buchanan, 2nd Lt. Fred I. Fansler, Jr., Harold K. Dunn, Kenneth D. Fisher, Ferral A. Goodroe, Lon C. Gunnoe, Jr., Theodore A. Gunderson, Richard A. Griffith, Orville A. Hanna, and Flight Officers Jacob Kratt, Jr., Walter E. Lynch, James N. McBrayer and Wayne A. Famuliner.

11 Still no news of the expected move to Stuttgart. The movie schedule has been stepped up and now we have movies in the open air theater nearly every night.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 162 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON. Braunschardt A/F, Germany
(Station)

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

DAY

EVENTS

12 Captains Brown and Blackwell and Lts. Moore and Brink left for Munich to look for F/O Scheele who crashed at Bad Aibling A/D.

13 Beautiful warm spring weather today, which is certainly appreciated after some of the rainy chilly days we've had during the past few weeks.

14 Cpl. Irving Abrahams, with more than thirty months overseas, left today for the 70th replacement Depot, from where he will return to the states.

15 A guard detail of almost fifty men are leaving to go to Innsbruck and the area of the Brenner Pass. They are to be gone indefinitely and were instructed to take their leather winter clothing with them. Rest leaves to England, Paris and other spots in France are now being granted on an increased scale, and the area begins to take on a deserted atmosphere.

16 Beginning training program for the fifteen new pilots assigned to the squadron. They will have 60 hours of flying in the P-47 and will then be ready to begin combat operations.

A USO show tonight in the woods back of operations; three men and two women. Hit of the show was a deadpan comedian who received three encores and announced each of them as he came back on "For my second encores" etc., This was the first USO show to visit the 86th since Pisa.

17 Still sitting here with no idea as to future disposition of the unit. Movie tonight "The Animal Kingdom", with Ann Sheridan and Jack Carson.

18 All enlisted men are being given a physical profile examination, reputedly for the purpose of determining which men are physically fit for service in the Pacific theater. Rumors abound of course, but not anything definite yet.

Sheet No. 164 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt A/F, Germany
(Station)

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

DAY

EVENTS

25 (C't'd) 1st Lts. James C. Finlayson and John E. Brink were promoted to the rank of captain today.

26 Capt. Joe M. Clark, M/Sgt James E. Knight, T/Sgt Louie McGraw, S/Sgt Palmer I. Berge and Cpl. Eugene Clave, all of whom had been home on furloughs returned to the squadron today. They had been dropped from the rolls, as it was thought that they would not have to leave the states again.

27 The sudden inactivity after so many long months of combat operations is going rather hard on all personnel. There's nowhere to go, very little to do, and the non-fraternization rule forbids any association with the German people who seem eager enough to fraternize. This problem will grow larger as time goes on, for the people grow bolder and more open in their attempts to cultivate the Americans' friendship every day.

28 A formal presentation of awards was made today with Colonel Schlatter from XII TAC presenting awards to the various pilots.

29 Plans are being made for a dance at the enlisted men's club this coming Saturday night with Polish girls from a nearby DP Camp as guests.

Plans are also underway for a group newspaper, the first issue of which will be published next Saturday.

30 Memorial Day Services, at which attendance was compulsory for enlisted men, were held this morning, with Father Murphy, new Group Chaplain presiding.

Capt. Graydon S. Brown, was appointed operations officer today and 1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore was appointed assistant operations officer.

31 The end of May finds us sitting here wondering what's going to happen next. There's little to write in the diary, because there's so little doing: chow, a little work, a few passes, a lot of sacktime,

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 165 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON Braunschardt A/F, Germany
(Station)

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

DAY

EVENTS

31 (Cont'd)

a few good movies, a lot of sorry ones. There will be more to do when the I & E and the physical training courses are started, and that's to be soon, we hear.

The squadron flew 76 combat sorties, totaling 216:25 operational hours during the month of May.

RESTRICTED

525 Fighter Sq

Outline History

By
525 Ftr Sq
1 July 1945

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

G/WHB/hrd

1 July 45

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374.

1. Outline History, 525 Fighter Squadron, 86 Fighter Group,
for the period 1 June to 1 July 1945.

a. Present designation: 525 Fighter Squadron, 86 Fighter
Group, XII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organisation.

(1) Changes in designation, assignment or attachment: None

(2) Subordinate units: None

(3) Changes in command: None

(4) Changes in staff officers:

(a) 1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore, O-704713, aptd Sq Opns
Off auth SO 12, par 1, dtd 9 June 45.

(b) Capt. John P. Dotten, O-820209, aptd Ass't Sq
Opns Off auth SO 12, par 2, dtd 9 June 45.

(5) Changes in T/O: None

c. Strength: 79 officers; 230 enlisted men.

d. Present station: Braunschardt A/F, Germany since 16 Apr 45.

e. Movements: None

f. Campaigns: None

g. Operations: None

h. Leaders of outstanding missions: None

S E C R E T

i. Losses in action: None

J. Awards received during the month of June 45.

GO #85, XII TAC, dtd 19 May 45.

William H. Blackwell, 0564823, Captain, Florence, S.C.	Bronze Star
Andrew T. Hajnik, 33163260, T/Sgt, Johnstown, Pa.	Bronze Star
Charles W. Polson, 18085423, M/Sgt, Bartlesville, Okla.	Bronze Star
John D'Alessio, 12039164, S/Sgt, Long Island, N.Y.	Bronze Star
Harold H. Housum, 12019597, S/Sgt, Altoona, Pa.	Bronze Star

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 525 Ftr Sq, for the period 1 June to 1 July 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

William H. Blackwell
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL
Captain, Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

Incl: War Diary (4)

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 167 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt A/F, Germany

(Station)

Month of June, 1945. Prepared by LIBBY L. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

10 The movie "Saratoga Trunk", starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman, was shown this evening.

11 A list of promotions was released today. Charles W. Polson, Jr., Richard P. Weckwerth, Marvin W. Bauer and Louis E. Bendi were promoted to master sergeants; Jess V. Wright and Orville Hamilton were raised to technical sergeants; Everett E. Fisher, Armon L. Perry, William H. McClain, Alfred G. Gatton, Stephen V. Harris and Walter Early were made staff sergeants; Richard A. Klein, Henry A. Bytnar, Edward B. Gregg, Albert Boznick, Edwin L. McKee, Gust P. Maimonis, Adolph J. Seeger, Albert F. Halberstadt and Norman G. Myers are the new three stripers; and William C. Ross, Albert T. Roush, Francis J. Hurley, John C. Jennings, Donald L. Boyer, Sherrill Roark, William H. Garrity and Joseph V. Wilkin got their second stripes.

12 Three more new pilots, 2nd Lts. Glen Batten, Donald H. Capellas, and F/O Stanley P. Baliukas were assigned to the squadron today.

13 The weather remains cold and disagreeable, preventing even the softball and baseball games which would otherwise help the low state of morale, which is inevitable in surroundings and conditions such as those encountered here.

14 The food situation gets worse as the days go by. Our 'fresh meat' whenever we're fortunate(?) enough to get it, consists of mutton usually, and most of the men are subsisting on peanut butter, bread and coffee.

15 Personnel of the squadron are still attending schools in England and all are returning with glowing accounts of their adventures there, while hardly mentioning the schools they attended.

16 A movie, "Meet Me In St. Louis", with Judy Garland, was shown in the group movie area this evening.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 168 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschweig A/F, Germany
(Station)

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

DAY

EVENTS

17 Rumors of a move during the next few weeks are circulating among the men. Hopes for better living conditions for the hard winter ahead are foremost in everyone's mind.

18 The movie "Gaslight" with Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer was shown in the group movie area this evening.
PX rations were distributed this afternoon.

19 With a few days of good weather again, a few of the men of the squadron have found a tennis court in Darmstadt and have been getting a few afternoons of extra PT.

20 Capt. John P. Botten was appointed assistant operations officer today, replacing 1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore, who is now squadron operations officer.

The baseball team beat the 321st Service Squadron by a score of 4 to 3 this evening in another league game. This was the tenth straight win, and the twelfth in fifteen games. Barnes was the winning pitcher.
Ice cream was served in the area this evening.

21 A stage show by a troupe of USO entertainers was presented this evening in the group movie area, and was greatly enjoyed by the large crowd in attendance.

22 A new directive declaring clerks and typists "essential" came out this evening, and caused quite a lot of discussion.

The movie, "Christmas in Connecticut" with Barbara Stanwyck and Dennis Morgan was shown this evening.

23 A B-26 was assigned to the squadron today and T/Sgt Julius Jessel has been assigned as crew chief. S/Sgt Paul Mulcahy will be assistant crew chief and S/Sgt R. E. Anderson radio operator.

Lt. Bob Mart, southpaw moundman of the squadron baseball team, pitched a perfect game this evening as he blanked the 718 RR Bn team

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 169 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt A/F, German,

(Station)

Month of June, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM L. BLACKWELL,

Captain, Air Corps, G-2.

DAY

EVENTS

23 (cont'd) by a score of 7 to 0, allowing no hits, and pitching to only twenty one batters in the seven inning game.

24 Eleven new pilots joined the squadron today. They are 1st Lts. Bernard R. Albright, Herman T. Borza, Alexander J. Crawford, William L. Billar, James F. Curtin, Elbert A. Morrow, Joseph C. Crispino and Russell S. Keen; 2nd Lts. Harold J. Quensler and John R. Frank; and Flight Officer Joe M. Kennedy.

25 Another baseball game was entered in the win column this evening as the Travelers notched a 9 to 3 win over the 526th. This was the thirteenth straight and Whitey Bytnar was again the winning pitcher.

The movie "Practically Yours" with Claudette Colbert and Fred MacMurray, was shown this evening.

26 The Travlrs chalked up their fourteenth straight this evening as they downed the 524th Squadron of the 27th Group by an 8 to 4 score. Johnny Wetzel, making his second appearance of the season, gave up four hits in going the distance for the home team.

27 A movie "And Now Tomorrow", was shown this evening, starring Loretta Young and Alan Ladd.

28 With a new training and athletic program scheduled to start on July 2nd, a new softball league has been formed, with two teams from the squadron entered. One team is made up of officers, and one of enlisted men.

29 Even rumors are getting scarce around the squadron and about the only topics for discussion are what is on the menu for the next meal and what is playing at the movie, whenever there is one.

30 The usual Saturday night dance was held at the enlisted men's club this evening. With practically nothing else to break the monotony, larger crowds are attending these dances every week.

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R | SQ - F1 - 525 - 141
1 JULY 1945 -

RESTRICTED

525th Fighter Sq 1 AUG 1945

Outline History July 45

[REDACTED]
1 August 1945

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

G/WHE/rfd
1 August 1945

SUBJECT : Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374.

1. Outline History, 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, for the period 1 July to 1 August 1945.

a. Present designation: 525th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, XII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organization.

(1) Changes in designation, assignment or attachment: None

(2) Subordinate units: None

(3) Changes in command: None

(4) Changes in staff officers:

(a) Capt. John P. Botten, O-820209, aptd Sq Opns Off, VOCC.

(b) Capt. Willard (NMI) Heidinger, O-429036, aptd Ass't Opns Off, VOCC.

(5) Changes in T/O: None

c. Strength: 52 officers; 217 enlisted men.

d. Present station: Braunschardt A/F, Germany since 16 Apr 45.

e. Movements: None

f. Campaign: None

g. Operations: IX Air Force Training Program.

h. Leaders of outstanding missions: None

S E C R E T

i. Losses in action: None.

j. Awards received during the month of July 45.

GO #121, Hq. IX Air Force, dtd 1 July 1945.

Ray W. Anderson, O-721937, 1st Lt., Minneapolis, Minn.	DFC
Ralph F. Grossman, O-697024, 1st Lt., Indianapolis, Ind.	DFC
Robert (NMI) Mart, O-7111488, 1st Lt., Columbus, Ohio.	DFC
Francis X. Mauk, O-7111493, 1st Lt., Woodbury, N. J.	DFC
Thomas A. McClees, O-714408, 1st Lt., Elm City, N. C.	DFC
Diamond P. Mitchell, O-763293, 1st Lt., Jacksonville, Fla.	DFC
John M. Senneif, O-721540, 1st Lt., Moline, Ill.	DFC
Donald L. Westfall, O-720738, 1st Lt., Flint, Mich.	DFC
Kenneth H. White, O-720978, 1st Lt., Eugene, Ore.	DFC
John P. Botten, O-820209, Captain, Cleveland, Ohio.	1st OLC to DFC
Croft (NMI) Grantham Jr., O-816636, Captain, Red Bank, N.J.	2nd OLC to DFC

GO #130, Hq. IX Air Force, dtd 9 July 1945.

Carl C. Baranek, O-705067, 1st Lt., Carrollville, Wis.	1st OLC to DFC
John E. Brink, O-820212, Captain, Cross Pointe Park, Mich.	1st OLC to DFC
Glenn C. Moore, O-704713, 1st Lt., Fryor, Okla.	1st OLC to DFC

See attached copy of Unit Citation.

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 525 Ftr Sq, for the period 1 July to 1 August 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

William H. Blackwell
 WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Unit Historian.

Incl: War Diary

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, U. S. Army
27 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....)

BATTLE HONORS - Citation of Units.....Section 1

1 - BATTLE HONORS.-- Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, AGO, 1943, the following named units of the Ninth Air Force are cited for extraordinary heroism in armed conflict with the enemy. The Citations read as follows:

"The 86th Fighter Group. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 20 April 1945. During the early weeks of April 1945, it became increasingly evident that the enemy was hastily withdrawing his ground and air forces from northern Germany. In a tremendous effort to disorganize the enemy's withdrawal and prevent his establishing his forces in the Munich area, the 86th Fighter Group launched nine missions for a total of 93 sorties against hostile convoys and airfields installations. Despite the fact that additional artillery had been installed to protect the greatly augmented numbers of aircraft dispersed on the airfield at Laupheim, Ulm, Ingolstadt, and Munich, the airmen attacked the airdrome with unmitigated fury, accounting for the destruction of a total of 46 hostile fighters and damaging of 45. The additional missions, 5, launched by the 86th Fighter Group on this date were directed against troops concentrations and convoys of men and equipment proceeding hastily southward. Despite determined resistance from gun positions and small arms, a total of 70 motor trucks and buildings reported as troop concentrations were destroyed, and 111 trucks and 34 railroad cars were damaged. In striking this dual thrust at the military might of the Nazi war machine, the airmen of the 86th Fighter Group materially weakened the ability of the enemy to continue resisting the advance of the Allied ground forces. By the unstinted courage and determination of their attacks against the enemy on this occasion, the pilots of the 86th Fighter Group reflect the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEYLAND:

ROBERT M. LEE
Brig Gen., USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

F. H. MONAHAN
Lt. Col., AGD
Adjutant General

A true copy:

William H. Blackwell
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL
Capt., Air Corps,

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 170 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON Braunschardt A/F, Germany
(Station)

Month of July, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL

1st Lt. Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

1 No physical training today and most of the men are awaiting the coming week with much skepticism. A new six month training program makes its debut tomorrow, with drilling first on the list. All 85 point men who theoretically are eligible for discharge, hail the new program with great enthusiasm.

2 The first day of drilling turned out to be a great "success". It rained all day and everyone stayed in the sack.

3 Capt. Bieber and Lts. McEmber and Jenkins left today, to return to the States after completing their tour of duty. It has been a cold dreary day and most of the men have been putting up some kind of a stove to take the chill off and dry out their tent.

4 The first day of clear weather for a week and the holiday was celebrated with wine, women and song at both clubs. Only a few minor casualties resulted and everyone who participated enjoyed the holiday festivities.

5 Most of the day was spent recovering from yesterday's parties. The Travelers made it fifteen straight as they shellacked the 415th Nite Fighters by a seven to three count. Whitey Bytnar was the winning pitcher. The movie "National Velvet" was shown this evening.

6 It rained most of the day and drilling was called off.

7 Still raining today. Drilling and P.T. called off and everyone enjoyed a fine chicken dinner with ice cream for dessert.

8 As Sunday is our day off most of the men have left the area and gone to some city where Red Cross clubs are established. A G.I. stage show entertained the Group at the EM club this evening.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 174 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschardt A/s, Germany
(Station)

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

DAY	EVENTS
27	Stand down today with the physical training program as the only activity.
28	Drill and review this morning. Col. Lee presented the Bronze Star Medal to Lt. Dearmond, L/Sgt Smith, T/Sgt Hajnik, S/Dgt Luglay and S/Sgt Housum. A negro band furnished the music for the enlisted men's club this evening and everyone seemed to enjoy the dance.
29	Everyone welcomes Sunday. It has been a beautiful day and the frauleins were out in great numbers. The woods behind the squadron area looked like Riverside Park on Sunday afternoon. Eight men left for England today to attend the Army University Center at Shrivenham.
30	Several men left for rest camp today. It was learned that a new rest camp for the Group only will soon be opened in Austria. Orders were received awarding eligible personnel a battle star for the north Apennines campaign. This star will give many men another five points.
31	Pay day today. The squadron was stood down all day. A good movie "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" was shown this evening. Tomorrow is to be a busy day for the squadron when we will take part in the Air Show celebrating the Air Force holiday.

31 AUG 1945

~~RESTRICTED~~

525TH FIGHTER SQUADRON (US)
36TH FIGHTER GROUP (US)

August 1945

UNIT HISTORY

I. OPERATIONAL AND STATISTICAL DATA

1. Organization
 - a. The current T/O of this organization: 1-12 A.O. dated 26 December 1943. Total strength authorized: 57 officers, 247 enlisted men.
2. *Strength
 - a. For the period of this report: 55 officers, 262 enlisted men.
 - b. Gains and losses for August: Gain: 3 officers, 45 enlisted men, Losses: None.
 - c. Information compiled from the preceding report, 525th Fighter Squadron.
3. Stations
 - a. No change in station. Present station: Y-72, Krausschardt, Germany, 18 April 1945.
4. Losses in Action: Negative.
5. Awards and Decorations:
 - a. Bronze Star Medal - T/Sgt. Elbert M. Shifley, 16019942 - for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 March 1945 to 22 March 1945.
 - b. Bronze Star Medal - S/Sgt. Sidney L. Smith, 6288566 - for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 15 August 1944 to 1 May 1945.

II. NARRATIVE

At the beginning of August, morale of the organization was generally low, due to several factors. The monotony and routine of an occupational outfit; the fact that nearly all of the old personnel were high point men who were apparently forgotten; the rainy weather here in the Rhineland; all contributed to a general lowering of morale which was greatly lifted when the rapidly developing news from the Jap war began to come through. Many, elated at the news, felt sure that the time of going home would be very soon, now. On 26 August, Colonel Lee, at a Group meeting, spoke of his efforts to get the Group home as a unit, which could not be done, but assured the men that movements would begin immediately to send all high point men home. This proved to be true, for during the following week many high point men and several officers departed the organization. There are many new faces as the replacements come in, but the squadron continues to function smoothly. The training programs for pilots; I & E studies; physical training programs; movies; and relaxed policy regarding fraternization afford means of spending time.

~~RESTRICTED~~

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S E C R E T

Sheet No. 175 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschweig A/A, Germany
(Station)

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

DAY	EVENTS
1	All of the Pole P-51s left for home to-day. Sgt. Palomaris didn't wait long for new help. This evening he came driving into the area with a truck load of Czech P-51s. Besides P-51s, he found a tailor and barber.
2	Fried chicken for dinner to-day. The movie "Something for the Boys", was canceled when the projector, now more than three years old and a veteran of the Sicilian, Italian, French and German campaigns, went that way.
3	Everyone enjoyed the fine steak supper and then went to the B.M. club to see a U.S.C. show "Fossil Hole Follies". Cokes were on sale in the squadron area this evening, even seconds were sold as long as they lasted.
4	No drill today; an area and quarters inspection instead.
6	The news of the atomic bomb filled the Stars and Stripes today, and brought a new ray of hope among the men of the squadron, who are sweating out waiting out of Germany.
10	News of the reported Jap surrender offer - much speculation about changes in occupation and redeployment plans.
12	Sunday, and a warm fair day. Very cool for mid-August. Today, of course, the Krauts were out in strength, strolling along the roads and streets.
13	Several training flights today. Cool and cloudy in the morning. Still sweating out the end of the Jap war. Radio reports last night said a reply could be expected in 15 hours. All day here passed and still no news. There is considerable speculation in the squadron on the effect the end of the war will ave on this group. We have more overseas service than three-fourths of the Fighter Groups in the ETO and yet we are designated occupational. Possibly the end of the war will change this classification.

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SECRET

Sheet No. 176 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER SQUADRON, Braunschweig A/F, Germany
(Station)

Month of August, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL

Captain, Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

14 Raining most of the day; no flying. More and more new enlisted men transferred into the squadron; most are high point men. Movie behind operations rained out in middle of show. No official news of Japan's action on the surrender statement.

15 Today brought the official news that Japan had accepted the surrender terms. There have been no big celebrations, but it is obvious that every one is highly elated over the news. Now all the "old" group personnel are sweating out a change in the unit's classification, so that we would no longer be occupational. The weather continues bad, with intermittent rains. There was a movie in the open air theater tonight.

16 Another cause for rumors and speculation when V-mails were handed out advising correspondents not to send Christmas parcels because the writer would be home by end of December. V.S.O. show at enlisted mens club.

24 Main event of today was the semi-annual inspection by Col. JACKSON of the 64th Fighter Wing.

26 A meeting of all group personnel was called this morning by Col. LEE, who brought the good news that beginning in a few days, all men with 85 points or more will be transferred to other outfits, and on their way home. There was some disappointment, though, in learning that the group would not go home.

29 A new quota for return to the States was received to-day and all men with 103 points or more were alerted for departure in a few days. Celebrations lasted well into the morning.

END

SECRET

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IV. COMBAT OPERATIONS - NEGATIVE

V. NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS - NEGATIVE

VI. TRAINING

a. See Group history for summary of Training for month of August.

VII. STATISTICS - NEGATIVE

VIII. STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCE

a. There were no staff meeting or conferences during the month of August.

IX. PERSONNEL RELEASURES AND PHOTOGRAPHS - NEGATIVE

X. APPENDIX - NEGATIVE

William H. Blackwell

**

RESTRICTED

Post No. 179 War DIARY, 525th Fighter Squadron, Schweinfurt A/F Germany

Month of September, 1945. Prepared by EARL H. BRADFORD

Lieutenant, AIR CORP S-2

DAY

EVENTS

22 Packing and crating for the move no unusual occurrences.

23 The pilots flew the planes up to the new base today arriving just in time for lunch. the Squadron ground units are almost moved but are only staying in temporary quarters as a new barracks is scheduled.

24 Most of the day was spent cleaning barracks today. A very good setup seems to be in order if all goes well.

25 Everyone has been busy cleaning up, straightening out and setting in order the new barrack orderly room and area assigned to the Squadron.

26 Normal all day with no unusual occurrences.

27 Four Officers left today for the Zone of Interior nothing other than that occurred.

28 Seventeen Enlisted men and four officers were assigned and joined the Squadron today.

29 No Saturday Inspection today and not much of anything was done today.

30 Due to finance moving and not quite set up yet we will not be paid today.

III. DIARY

IV. COMBAT OPERATIONS - NEGATIVE

V. NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS - NEGATIVE

VI. TRAINING

a. See Group History for summary of Training for month of September.

VII. STATISTICS - NEGATIVE

VIII. STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCES

a. There were no staff meetings or conferences during the month of September.

IX. PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS - NEGATIVE

X. APPENDIX - NEGATIVE

Earl H. Bradford

EARL H. BRADFORD
Lieutenant (1st), A.S.
Unit Historian.

RESTRICTED

**525th Fighter Squadron
86th FIGHTER GROUP AAF (SE)**

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