

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. Scneele, 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

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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.

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DAY

EVENTS

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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.

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2 The squadron basketball team won their second game in the 19th General Hospital Invitational Tournament, nosing out the 366th squadron of the 353rd 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.

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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.

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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.

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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/E, 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.

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DAY	EVENTS
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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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DAY

EVENTS

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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.

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~~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 SQUADRON Braunschardt A/F, Germany  
(Station)

Month of April, 1945. Prepared by WILLIAM L. 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**

289  
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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**SECRET**

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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., Waukegan, 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

