

Sheet No. 34 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1944. Prepared by William H. Blackwell,  
Capt., AC, S-2

DAY

EVENTS

17 One mission was flown today, a bombing mission assigned to bomb the town of TARQUINIA and then fly cover for a flight of B-25's bombing in the same area. Led by Capt. Schuyler, the flight bombed the town and same was well covered with hits. After coming off the target and making a 360° circle a flight of B-25's were seen coming off a target further inland. No radio contact was made. This was Capt. Schuyler's 80th mission.

Capt. Dean H. Schuyler, of Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y., is the fourth pilot in the 525th Squadron to complete a combat tour of 80 missions. He has served as Flight Leader, Assistant Operations, and Operations Officer in the squadron. Having completed his tour, Capt. Schuyler will probably be returned to the United States for reassignment.

18 The first mission of the day was made up of pilots of both the 525th and 526th, and was led by Capt. Anton. The town of PIGNATARO was the target with several hits secured on buildings and roads in the town. One building exploded with clouds of yellow smoke. One large flash was observed, and believed to be a small gasoline dump just E. of the town.

The second mission was led by Maj. Gunnison, and was assigned to cover the road between AUSONIA and MINTURNO. Only 2 vehicles were seen however, and the entire flight bombed the road junction at M-765946. More than half the bombs landed on the road and 4 - 5 buildings along the road were blown up, all showing flashes of flame. This was the 80th sortie for 1st Lt. Swithin C. Shortlidge, thus completing his combat tour.

The last mission of the day was an armed reconnaissance led by Maj. Bland. 10 scattered motor trucks were observed on the S. MARTINO road which was the primary target, but none were concentrated enough for bombing. A road junction in the town of CEPRANO was bombed with the following results: 1 explosion with large fire and black smoke in the town; 1 direct hit on bridge in town; 1 staff car completely destroyed. 6 vessels, believed to be destroyers, were observed in the Gulf of Gaeta. 5 FW-190's were seen but no contact made.

Sheet No. 35 War Diary, 524th FIGHTING BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1944. Prepared by William H. Blackwell

Capt., AC, S-2

DAY

EVENTS

19 Lt. Kasun led the first mission today, which was assigned to bomb the LITTORIA railroad station. Hits were fairly well bunched in and around the station with one direct hit or very near miss on a nearby overpass. All buildings were strafed in the dives. 3 motor trucks and 1 staff car were destroyed by strafing.

The second mission of 12 ships was led by Lt. Dolny and the target was a convoy of 60 motor trucks, reported between the towns of ITRI and FONDI. The road was covered but no convoy seen, and the formation proceeded to the last resort target, the town of FONDI. Bomb hits were well bunched in the town, with two direct hits on an intersection, where a large explosion was seen, sending up flames and columns of smoke seen as far away as the coast. It was believed to have been a gasoline storage dump. 1 motor truck was strafed and destroyed on the road.

Lt. James L. Griswold departed the squadron today. He will go to the States for reassignment.

1st Lt. Hugh P. Davison, one of the few remaining pilots who came overseas with the squadron, also left today, and it is expected that he will be sent to the States for rest and reassignment.

20 One mission was flown today, a 12 ship formation, led by Lt. Kasun. The assignment was to bomb communications in the town of VITERBO, and to strafe shipping and coastal defenses on the way back. Several hits were seen on railroad tracks and the road intersection, causing considerable damage. A large explosion was seen with red flames and columns of black smoke rising as high as 3,000 feet. After dropping their bombs, the formation broke into three flights and strafed, with the following results: 6 motor trucks and 1 staff car destroyed; 3 motor trucks, 2 electric locomotives and 5 cars badly damaged. A Radar station at CIAMPINO S. A/D and a small power station were strafed and damaged. The town of FURBARA was strafed with unobserved results.

It has just been announced that Lt. Edward Fischer has been awarded the SILVER STAR for gallantry in action when he was wounded while on a mission from GELA, SICILY, on 1 August 1943. A 20mm shell exploded in the cockpit of his plane, but in spite of his serious wounds, he landed his ship safely at a neighboring airfield. Lt. Fischer returned to the States in October.

Pfc. Lee A. First left the squadron today, the first man to return under the rotation plan. Pfc. First was in the Armed Forces during World War I.



Sheet No. 37 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of January, 1944. Prepared by William H. Blackwell

Capt., AC, S-2.

DATE

EVENTS

24 The first mission, an armed reconnaissance of 4 ships, took off at 11:25 and after going as far as the Garigliano River, was forced to turn back due to adverse weather conditions. Capt. Richard J. Anton completed his 80th sortie on this mission.

The second mission of 8 ships, led by Lt. Weigle, was assigned to bomb a German Headquarters building southeast of the town of FRASCATI, and to cover roads from the town to the sea. 2 bomb hits were secured on the building with 8 near misses well bunched around the target. 2 motor trucks were strafed and destroyed and 5 more were damaged. 1 20mm gun emplacement was strafed and destroyed, and 4 additional gun emplacements were silenced.

Capt. Dean H. Schuyler, Jamaica, L. I., and 1st Lt. Swithin C. Shortlidge, of West Grove, Pa. left the squadron today for the United States, for rest and reassignment after having completed their combat tour.

25 The only mission of the day was an armed reconnaissance of 8 ships, led by Lt. Kasun. 6 direct hits were secured on an engine and 5 cars in CECCONA railroad yards, and 4 hits or near misses on a section of 3 cars on a siding. A large explosion with flames as high as 300 feet was observed in the 5 car section and was believed to have been a gasoline dump. The 3 car section was destroyed but no fire was seen. A large explosion, believed to have been an ammunition dump, was observed about 1/4 mile from the track. 1 jeep was also strafed and destroyed.

26 Only one mission was flown today, an 8 ship formation led by Lt. Dolny. The target was a highway bridge, and although no direct hits were observed on the bridge itself, 3 direct hits were seen on the highway north of it, as well as several near misses. Further observation was hindered due to dust and smoke over and around the target area.

27 Lt. Jackson led a mission of 8 ships, to bomb a road junction at CAPISTRELLLO, on the first mission today. 4 direct hits were secured on the road junction and 6 more on the road leading into the town. The towns of AVEZZANO and CELANO were strafed and three cars in the CELANO railroad station were also strafed, all with unobserved results.



Sheet No. 39 War Diary (85th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station))

Month of January 1944 Prepared by William H. Blackwell,  
Capt., AC, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

28 (Cont'd.) 1st Lt. Nicholas Kasun was today appointed Squadron Operations Officer, and 1st Lt. John R. Dolny, Assistant Operations Officer.

Saddening news was received that Lt. Mumm had been found by Fifth Army somewhere in the invasion beachhead. He had apparently been killed while trying to crash land his aircraft. He was buried by Fifth Army troops.

29 The first and only mission today was led by Lt. Weigle, to bomb communications in the town of FRASCATI. A road junction in the town was strafed and bombed with excellent coverage. 1 direct hit was seen on the intersection with others being well bunched nearby; causing considerable damage. A gun position was strafed and damaged, and 2 motor trucks were destroyed and 2 more damaged and possibly destroyed by strafing.

30 Only one mission was scheduled during the day. A 12 ship formation led by Lt. Jackson took off at 09:25, but after going as far as the PONZIANE ISLANDS, the flight circled S. FELICE CIRCEO and returned to base because of bad weather. This was Lt. Jackson's 80th mission.

31 Two flights, of 8 ships each, took off at 1600 hours this evening, both being armed reconnaissance missions. The formation led by Lt. Dolny bombed the town of FONDI. 1 direct hit was seen on a road in the town but further results are unknown. Lt. Drew bailed out over the town and his parachute was seen to open at about 300 feet and was also seen to collapse as he hit the ground. The cause of his bailing out is unknown. His plane spun in and did not burn.

Lt. Weigle led the remaining flight which bombed the town of PRIVERNO with good coverage. Explosions were observed in the town and two very near misses were seen near a road junction. A steam locomotive and 3 freight cars were strafed and damaged. This was Lt. Duvall's 80th mission.

At the end of this month, the Squadron has a total of 2553 sorties and 3941.10 combat hours.

1 MAR 1944

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525th Ftr. Bmr. Sq.

Outline History Feb 44

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525th Ftr. Bmr. Sq.

Initials

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON  
APO 374

AG 314.7

4 March 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

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

1. Outline History of the 525th Fighter Bomber Squadron for the period 1 February 1944 to 1 March 1944:

a. Present Designation: 525th Fighter Bomber Squadron, 66th Fighter Bomber Group, XII ASC.

b. Changes in organization.

(4) McMurray, James D., Capt., O-551611, appointed Squadron Adjutant 10 February 1944, vice Capt. Alexander Louis, O-556024, relieved. Louis, Alexander, Capt., O-556024, appointed Squadron Supply and Squadron Transportation Officer, vice 1st Lt. Joe M. Clark, O-856432, relieved.

Clark, Joe M., 1st Lt., O-856432, appointed Personal Equipment Officer (Prin duty) and Assistant Engineering Officer (Add'l duty). Brinley, Finley C., 2nd Lt., O-796074, assigned to this squadron 14 February 1944, pilot.

Anderson, Donald W., Capt., MC, O-423649, transferred to 310th Bomb Group as of 31 January 1944, departed 20 February 1944.

Purdum, III, Lemuel A., 1st Lt., O-797901, Veatch, Francis M., Jr., 1st Lt., O-445253, Vukovich, Milan (NMI), 2nd Lt., O-754700, assigned to this squadron 18 February 1944.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.

(1) Month of February, 1944.

(a) At beginning: 38 officers; 220 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase: 0 officers; 2 enlisted men.

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(c) Net decrease: Nil.

(d) At end: 38 officers and 222 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

(1) Pomigliano A/D, Pomigliano B/Arcore, Italy, during the entire month of February 1944.

e. Movements.

(1) Nil.

f. Campaigns.

(1) Sicilian; Italian.

(2) Duration: latter still in progress.

g. Operations.

(1) Italian Campaign.

(2) Bombing and strafing enemy positions, guns, harbors, roads, railroads, trains, tanks.

(3) 30 missions and 249 sorties for month of February.

(4) Results of most important missions.

3 Feb 44: On this day, 6 two ship rhuabards were flown, a total of 24 sorties, covering roads and railroads South of W/E. Following is account of the days operations:

The first two ship rhuabarb was flown by Maj. Bone and Lt. Horrihan. The road net from ITRI to PRIVERNO was covered with the following strafing results; 6 motor trucks, and 1 command car destroyed, and 5 motor trucks, 1 armored car, 1 command car and 1 jeep damaged.

Lts. Kasun and Oldham next covered the roads from ITRI to LITTONIA. 8 motor trucks were destroyed and 2 damaged. 1 Fiat was also destroyed.

The third mission was also composed of two ships flown by Lts. Neifla and Duncan. The roads from ITRI to PRIVERNO were covered and 8 motor trucks were destroyed, another believed destroyed and 2 damaged.

Lts. Dickison and O'Neil took their turn next and also secured good results. 1 command car was destroyed and 11 railroad cars were damaged. 3 20mm gun emplacements were also silenced and probably destroyed.



