

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 CAPISTRELLO, 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

[REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED  
FORM 52009

525th Ftr. Bmr. Sq.

Outline History Feb 44

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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.

CLASSIFIED  
FORM 52009

[REDACTED]

(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 rhuabarb 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.





Lts. Wood and Myer flew the 1st mission and covered roads from 7500 to 8500 and 9000-10000. 3 motor trucks, 1 command car and 1 jeep were destroyed and 5 motor trucks and a command car damaged. Lt. Myer was forced to bail out over enemy territory on this mission. It is believed that his plane was hit by heavy machine gun fire. His log for this cruise began at about 1,500 feet and followed a route to 200 feet, and it is believed that he landed safely.

1/18 Infall and Lt. Vatter flew the 2nd mission and covered roads from 10000 to 11000. They covered the roads from 10000 to 11000 and destroyed a score of motor trucks destroyed and 2 command cars.

From the standpoint of enemy equipment destroyed on this date, the activity for the day brought very good results. 20 motor trucks and 3 command cars were destroyed and 17 motor trucks, 11 command cars, 1 jeep and 1 armored car were damaged. 1 jeep and 1 jeep automobile were also destroyed and another jeep damaged.

17 Feb 44: A 12 ship mission, led by 1st Lt. [redacted], bombed the famous monastery at CASTLE this date. Our pilots were firing 75mm, received for the interim until our aircraft could be obtained. The monastery was the target for heavy and medium bombers on the previous day. It appeared to be in ruins, and at least a direct bomb hit was secured, with several very near misses on either side. All aircraft strafed the target in the fire, and small arms and machine gun fire was encountered over the target.

27 Feb 44: Lt. Dolny led the only mission to bomb the LTTTUA airbase near [redacted]. Wood bomb coverage was secured all along the hangar area, and one large hangar at the southeast side of the field exploded, due to a direct bomb hit. Huge flames and large columns of smoke resulted, and it is believed to have been a gasoline storage dump. Two aircraft, one P-52 and one P-47 on the field, both possibly serviceable, were destroyed by bomb hits. The motor truck was destroyed and two motor trucks and one large truck and trailer were damaged.

- h. Commanding Officers in important missions.
  - (1) See accounts of missions above, wherein leaders are named.

i. Losses in action.

- (1) Two ships combat mission over road net 10000 - 11000 -

PRIVACY.

(c) Missing.

- 1. Lambert de Myer, 1st Lt., CW-2923  
5909, Elliott St.,  
Dallas, Texas.





in action:

1. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves

- (1) William H. Devoll, 1st Lt., O-662898, 5th AIG, Farmville, Va.
- (2) Swinton L. Shortridge, 1st Lt., O-649233, 5th AIG, West Grove, Pennsylvania.
- (3) Robert L. Drew, 2nd Lt., O-72580, 4th AF, Evans, Kentucky.
- (4) John H. Dolny, 1st Lt., O-72779, 4th AF, Minneapolis, Minn.
- (5) James H. Jaines, 2nd Lt., O-671521, 4th AF, Athens, Texas.
- (6) Richard H. King, 2nd Lt., O-737135, 4th AF, Minneapolis, Minn.
- (7) Herschel H. Lattus, 2nd Lt., O-796000, 4th AF, Pittsburg, Pa.
- (8) Edward H. Ryan, 2nd Lt., O-799200, 4th AF, Pittsburg, Pa.
- (9) Joe J. McGill, F. O., T-60799, 4th AF, Ravenna, Ohio.
- (10) Bertil H. Liljeborg, 2nd Lt., O-633747, 4th AIG, Chicago, Ill.

(2) Inclosed in our diary, 325th Ptr. Hqr. Sq., for the period 1 February 1944 to 1 March 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

*M. J. Mackell*  
 MAJ. T. J. MACKELL,  
 Capt., Air Corps,  
 Intelligence Officer.

Incl: our Diary





Sheet No. 40 War Diary. 50th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy

Month of February, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

1 No missions today due to bad weather.

2 Maj. Home and Lt. Palmer flew a weather mission and road reconnaissance at 8:25 and destroyed 5 motor trucks and 1 motorcycle. No other traffic was seen.

The second mission consisted of 12 ships and was led by Lt. Kasun to bomb the town of FABRICA di ROMA, and to cover the AVEZZANO-SORA roads. A road junction was bombed and one direct hit was observed, all other bombs having 1-24 hour delay fuses. 2 motor trucks on the intersection were destroyed by bombing and strafing. One other motor truck was destroyed and another damaged.

The third mission was led by Lt. DeIny and the target was a concentration of troops and motor trucks, but due to bad weather, the entire flight was forced to return to the base.

3 The first of six 2 ship rhubarbs was flown by Maj. Home and Lt. Horrigan. 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 LITTORIA. 3 motor trucks were destroyed and 2 damaged. 1 Fiat was also destroyed.

The third mission was also composed of 2 ships flown by Lts. Weigle and Duncan. The roads from ITRI to PRIVERNO were covered and 8 motor trucks were destroyed, another believed destroyed and 2 more 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. Three 20mm gun emplacements were also silenced and probably destroyed.

Lts. Wood and Guyer flew the fifth mission and covered roads from ITRI to POSTENA and VALMONTONE to PRIVERNO. 3 motor trucks, 1 command car and 1 jeep were destroyed and 5 motor trucks and a command car damaged. Lt. Guyer was forced to bail out over enemy territory on this mission. It is believed that his plane was hit by heavy machine gun fire. Lt. Wood saw his chute open at about 1,000 feet and followed it down to 200 feet, and it is believed that he landed safely.



Sheet No. 41 War Diary, Fifth FIGHTER BOMBING SQUAD, Pomigliano, Italy

Month of February, 1944, prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL

Capt., Air Corps, S-2

3 (Cont'd) F/O Angell and Lt. Mattes flew the sixth and last mission of the day. They covered the roads from CEPRANO to ITRI and brought back a score of 1 motor truck destroyed and 7 damaged.

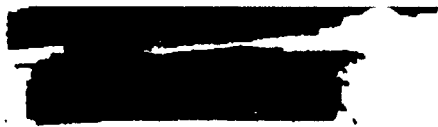
From the standpoint of enemy equipment destroyed and damaged, the activity for the day brought very good results. 26 motor trucks and 3 command cars were destroyed and 17 motor trucks, 11 railroad cars, 1 command car and 1 armored car were damaged. 1 jeep and 1 Fiat automobile were also destroyed and another jeep damaged.

5 The first mission today, consisted of 8 ships and was led by Lt. Dolny. 1 instantaneous bomb went off on an intersection in the town of VELLETRI and 12 more were scattered over the town. The flight strafed roads on the way back and 3 motor trucks were destroyed, one carrying personnel. 6 additional motor trucks, 1 jeep, 1 motorcycle and 1 sedan were also damaged. 1 sedan was also destroyed. A battery of 4 guns was strafed, and 1 gun probably destroyed.

A 12 ship mission was flown this afternoon, led by Lt. Kasun. The target was a road near CISTERNA di LITTORIA and complete results were unobserved, due to the fact that most of the bombs were equipped with delayed action fuses. A locomotive and 7 cars were strafed and a motorcycle in the town was strafed and destroyed.

6 One mission, 12 aircraft, was flown today. It was led by Lt. Dolny, and the target was the communication system at SAN STEFANO, a long way up the Italian coast. Bombs were dropped on roads and four on 3 power barges in the harbor. Hits were observed on the road and near misses on the barges. Two radio towers were strafed.

7 Only one mission was flown today, one of 8 ships, led by Lt. Weigle. A string of about 40 railroad cars was the target and considerable damage was done by both strafing and bombing. Red flight glide bombed and White flight dive bombed the target and several direct hits were secured in the middle of the string of cars. A large red flash was seen when the first bomb hit. One hit was seen on a building in the south end of the yards, and the remainder were on or near the cars. 2 motor trucks and 1 large truck and trailer were destroyed and 6 motor trucks were damaged by additional strafing.



Sheet No. 42 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN., Pomigliano, Italy

Month of February, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL

Capt., Air Corps, S-2

7 (Cont'd) It was learned today that this squadron would receive P-40's and our A-36's would be divided between the remaining two squadrons of this group, and the 111th Rcn Sqdn. The P-40's formerly belonged to the 33rd Fighter Group. There was much gloom around the squadron when this news came out, both among pilots and maintenance personnel. Its. Horrigan and Nelson are the only pilots with P-40 experience. They, along with a detachment of ground crew men from the 33rd Group will assist in getting the squadron ready to operate with the P-40's.

8 - 15 Period taken up with getting P-40's into good condition and checking out all pilots.

14 Finley C. Brinley assigned to the squadron. Lt. Brinley was formerly in the 526th Squadron, and had flown 38 sorties there, before being transferred to the 525th.

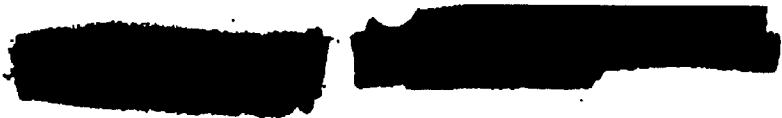
16 The town of FONDI was the target for the first mission, and the 12 ship formation was led by Lt. Kasun. 10 bomb hits were observed in the town itself; and 1 hit on a building just south of town. 10 aircraft strafed in the dive and very little flak was received from a hill just north of town. Columns of gray smoke as high as 3,000 feet were seen as the flight was returning, past Gaeta Point.

Lt. Doiny led the second mission, also of 12 ships, which bombed the town of ROCCA SECCA. 2 or 3 direct hits were seen in the town and 2 or 3 more in CASTRELLO, a town on the ridge overlooking ROCCA SECCA, and about a half mile away. The rest of the bombs were dropped on roads on either side of the town. One small explosion, followed by smoke and flames was seen in ROCCA SECCA and was believed to have been a building which exploded after a direct bomb hit. Further results were unobserved.

The last mission today was led by Lt. Kasun and was assigned to bomb the town of PONTECORVO, but after going as far as SPERLONGA, rain and complete cloud coverage over the target area, forced the flight to return to the base with their bombs.

Cpts. Blackwell and Louis left today with Capt. W. R. Cutler on a B-25 for a trip to Africa.





Sheet No. 43 War Diary, 58th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2

17 One 12 ship mission was flown today and it was led by Lt. Weigle. The formation was airborne at 1620 and the target was the monastery, north of CASSINO, which had been bombed by heavy and medium bombers on the previous day. The monastery was found in ruins, and at least 6 direct bomb hits were secured, as well as several near misses on either side. All aircraft strafed in the dive. Small arms fire and machine gun fire was encountered over the target, but was inaccurate and no damage resulted.

18 Lt. Dolny led a 10 ship bombing mission on the town of PIEDMONTE, which was the only mission of the day. 3 direct hits were secured in the town itself, and 4 more were observed in a supply dump area south and west of the town. 2 more direct hits were seen on roads in it or nearby. Smoke from bomb hits was observed but the town appeared to be in ruins.

1st Lts. Lemuel W. Purdum III, and Francis M. Veatch, Jr., and 2nd Lt. Milan Vukovich were assigned to the squadron today, having come from the States as replacement pilots.

19 Lt. Kasun led the only mission today, an armed reconnaissance of 12 ships. 10 direct hits and 2 near misses were secured on a factory and one small explosion resulted. The factory appeared to be in ruins and dust and smoke from bomb hits obscured other results.

20 The first assignment today was to attack troop and tank concentrations. Lt. Weigle led the 12 ship formation and the alternate target, a wooded area, was bombed with good coverage. All 12 ships strafed in the dive and all bombs were dropped within the target area, causing two small fires and black smoke. Further results were unobserved.

Lt. Dolny led the second mission of the day. The 12 ship formation attacked the town of FONDI and one small explosion was observed. Smoke and dust from a previous attack obscured results, but all bombs were in the town and no misses were seen. One aircraft strafed a bridge and possibly destroyed a motor truck which was on it at the time.



Sheet No. 44 War Diary (Ninth FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of February 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Capt., Air Corps, S-2

DAY

EVENTS

20 (Cont'd) It was with a great deal of regret that we part with Capt. D. W. Anderson, flight surgeon, who has been transferred to the 310th Bomb Group, stationed in Corsica. Capt. Anderson has been Squadron Surgeon since long before leaving the States, and his capable and kindly attitude in taking care of the health of the men and officers of the squadron has endeared him to the hearts of all. As a token of their esteem, the enlisted men made up a pool and presented him with a sum of money with which to purchase a gift from them. We are at present without a squadron surgeon.

21 No missions today due to rain and bad weather. Capts. Blackwell and Louis returned from Africa today, reporting snow and cold weather there, which hastened their return to "Sunny Italy".

22 - 23 No missions due to rain and bad weather.

24 Only one mission was flown today. Lt. Weigle led the 11 ship formation and the target was gun positions. No actual gun positions were seen however, and several good hits were observed, all on other objectives in the area. 2 direct hits were scored on 8 vehicles, believed to have been 6 motor trucks and 2 tanks. 3 direct hits were seen in the ravine to the northwest of the target and a fire with yellow smoke was started at one point.

25 One mission was scheduled for the day and Capt. Kasun was the leader of the 12 ship formation. The flight got only as far as Gaeta Point however, before they were forced to turn back due to inclement weather.

Lt. Kasun, Squadron Operations Officer, and Lt. Lister, the last remaining pilot of the original group assigned to the squadron, received notice of their promotions to Captain today.

26 No missions scheduled.

Sheet No. 45 War Diary, 80th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of February, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL

Capt., Air Corps, S-2

DAY

EVENTS

27 Lt. Dolny led the only mission today, to bomb the LITTORIA airdrome near ROME. Good bomb coverage was secured all along the hangar area, and one large hangar at the southeast side of the field exploded, due to a direct bomb hit. Huge flames and large columns of smoke resulted, and it is believed to have been a gasoline storage dump. Two aircraft, one JU-52 and one SM-82 on the field, both possibly serviceable, were destroyed by bomb hits. One motor truck was destroyed and two motor trucks and one large truck and trailer were damaged.

28 Capt. Kasun led another 12 ship formation to bomb LITTORIA airdrome, the same target as on the previous day. Good coverage was secured on the hangars, and several hits on nearby railroad yards, with several bombs falling on 10 to 15 tank cars. Two hits were observed on a 4 or 6 engined transport on the west end of the field, which was destroyed by strafing. One 3 engined transport at the south end of the field was strafed and destroyed. The formation strafed on the way to the coast with the following results: 2 motor trucks destroyed and 2 motor trucks and 12 railroad cars in a station were damaged. Buildings and trenches along the coast were also strafed and damaged.

29 Lt. Dolny led the only mission today. The assignment was to bomb and strafe a concentration of attacking enemy infantry. All aircraft dropped their bombs in the concentration area and strafed in the dive. Smoke and dust in the target area made it impossible to determine full results, other than to observe bomb explosions. Considerable anti-aircraft fire was encountered and one ship returned with slight damage to one wing.

At the end of the month of February the squadron has flown 2802 sorties against the enemy and 4253:40 combat hours.

(Ma-446) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

525th Ftr. Bmr. Sq.

Outline History March 44

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sq  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

FORM 52009

HEADQUARTERS, 525TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON  
APO 650

AG 314.7

G/VHB/hrd  
3 April 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

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

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

a. Present Designation: 525th Fighter Bomber Squadron, 86th Fighter Bomber Group, XII ASC.

b. Changes in organization.

(3) Maj. Bland, Edwin A. Jr., O-432034, (Squadron Commander) reld fr 525th Sq, assgd Hqs. 86th Ftr Bmr Gp, 12 March 44, departed 13 March 44.

Capt. Kasun, Nicholas J., Jr., O-660066, assumed command 12 March 44.

(4) Capt. Weigle, Graham (NMI), appointed Squadron Operations Officer (Prin duty) 13 March 44.

Capt. Louis, Alexander (NMI), O-566024, appointed Personal Equipment Officer (Prin duty) and Assistant Operations Officer (addl duty) 20 March 44.

2nd Lt. Simmons, Harold D., O-570251, appointed Squadron Supply and Transportation Officer (Prin duty) vice Capt. Alexander Louis reld, effective 20 March 44.

1st Lt. Clark, Joe M., O-856432, reld Personal Equipment Officer (Prin duty) and aptd Assistant Engineering Officer (Prin duty) effective 20 March 44.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.

23 March 44. Capt. Robinson, Leo D., O-422713, Squadron Surgeon, assgd

(5) Organization reorganized under T/O - 1 - 27 dtd 22 Dec 43, as amended by change 1, dtd 26 Feb 44 and ltr W. D. 28 Feb 44, file AG 332 (21 Feb 44).

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.

(1) Month of March.

- (a) At beginning: 38 officers; 222 enlisted men.
- (b) Net increase: 0 officers; 0 enlisted men.
- (c) Net decrease: 0 officers; 3 enlisted men.
- (d) At end : 38 officers; 219 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

(1) Pomigliano A/D, Pomigliano D'Arco, Italy, for the entire month of March 44.

e. Movements.

(1) Nil.

f. Campaigns.

(1) Sicilian; Italian.

(2) Duration: Sicilian; From 3 July 1943 to 17 August 1943. Italian; Still in progress.

g. Operations.

(1) Campaign: Italian.

(2) Nature of Operations: Ground support, bombing and strafing railroads, stations, bridges, motor convoys, enemy positions, dropping food and supplies to Allied troops on hills N. of Cassino.

(3) 34 missions and 336 sorties for the month of March 44.

(4) Results of the most important missions.

[REDACTED]

3.

(a) Bombing and strafing mission on 2 March 1944, against S/P guns, tanks, M/T and troops in wooded area G-049292, near Cisterna di Littoria. This concentration was important because it indicated an attack was forming on our beachhead positions. Probability of success was good, if the target area could be located, and direct help could be rendered our ground forces. Though visibility was poor, Capt. Kasun, leading the formation, of twelve A-36 Invaders, located the target area, and it was then heavily bombed and strafed. On the way out, the entire formation split up and strafed enemy communications, including 2 M/T, a jeep, a sedan, a tank, 2 men on a bicycle, and 50 railroad cars.

(b) Armed reconnaissance Tiburtino/Rome RR yards to Poggio Mertelo by twelve A-36 Invaders on 3 March 1944, mission led by Maj. E. A. Bland, J. Important strategically because it directly affected the ability of the enemy to supply his troops, this was but one of many missions run against the railroad network during the month. A train of 30 - 40 cars was sighted near Monterotondo station, and in the resulting dive bombing attack received several direct hits. One direct hit on the middle of the train produced a large explosion. Hits were also seen on the tracks. On the way to the coast, 2 M/T were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 3 damaged, all by strafing. In addition, 40 tents and a radio station were strafed.

(c) - Armed reconnaissance over roads and railroads in Rome, Italy area, by twelve A-36 Invaders on 6 March 1944. A continuation of the attacks on enemy communications, this mission proved very destructive to the enemy. Led by Capt. Kasun, the formation dive bombed a train of 14 - 15 cars at Capranica, Italy, obtaining good hits and destroying many of the cars and damaging the tracks. Again, the toll of enemy vehicles caught by strafing was large, including a steam locomotive and 14 cars, 1 M/T destroyed, 8 M/T damaged, a Fiat destroyed, 2 M/T drawing field pieces destroyed, 6 horse drawn pieces destroyed, and a supply building strafed.

(d) Bombing mission on enemy ground positions slightly southwest of Cassino, Italy, by eight A-36 Invaders on 15 March 1944. This mission, led by Lt. Ryan, was one of the many flown against Cassino and immediate area during a day when more than 3000 sorties were flown by the MAAF. Briefed to hit "Chicago", the ground radio control changed the target to a point 1000 yards south of the key hill "Los Angeles". The bombs were dropped on the target, and before the flight had landed back at base, sources at the front revealed that the attack was successful and that all bombs had fallen in the target area.

(e) Bombing mission against a railroad bridge near Civita Castellana, Italy, by twelve A-36 Invaders on 30 March 1944. This mission was another of the air attacks aimed at disrupting and destroying the enemy's supply system. Probability of success was fair, though with 500 lb. bombs, direct hits are necessary in order to damage a bridge. A 3000' over-cast required glide bombing, and a direct hit with many very near misses were observed. On the way out, the formation split in two ship elements and did

[REDACTED]

4.

[REDACTED]

extensive strafing, destroying 11 E/T, a large bus, 2 weapons carriers and 2 Fiats, and damaging 21 E/T, 1 Fiat and 1 armored car.

(f) Between 18 March and 24 March, A-36 Invaders of this squadron were called on for a novel type of mission, that of dropping food and supplies to beleaguered New Zealand and Indian troops on two hill tops Northwest of Cassino. Nine separate missions, totaling 92 sorties, were flown, and ground forces reported unusual success in recovering the food and supplies dropped, one source stating that 95% of the containers dropped were recovered. Because the avenues of approach to the positions held by these troops were constantly exposed to enemy fire, it was impossible to supply them over land. It was necessary that our pilots fly these missions at very low level, and they were exposed to fire from the German held positions of Monastery Hill and the Castle. Colored smoke was used by our troops to indicate their positions, but this was not always effective, because of drift and other factors, including Jerry's habit of attempting to put up the same type of smoke elsewhere than on the target. Despite the fact that the troops had to be withdrawn later, our food dropping missions were a novel and successful experiment.

h. Commanding Officers in important missions.

(1) See accounts of missions above.

i. Losses in action:

(1) Armed reconnaissance over roads and railroads North of Rome, Italy, on 6 March 44.

(a) Killed.

(1) 1st Lt. Herschel H. Mattes, O-796000,  
5659 Kelvin St.,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action.

(1) Justin C. Gunnison, Major, O-412960, San Anselmo, Cal.

(a) Strafing mission, area Capua, Italy, 22 Sept. 43.

(b) Strafed enemy armored columns, camouflaged airfield, and ammunition dump, latter of which blew up damaging his plane so that he was forced to bail out after flying his aircraft out to sea.

(c) Distinguished Flying Cross.

[REDACTED]



5.

(2) Harold G. watts, Captain, O-661813, Canyon, Texas.

(a) Strafing mission near Rome, Italy, 11 Nov. 43.

(b) Led flight in attacking communication lines, probably destroying 1 locomotive, damaging two other locomotives and more than 40 railroad cars, a German jeep and a gun emplacement.

(c) Distinguished Flying Cross.

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 525th Ftr. Bmr. Sq., for the period 1 March 44 to 1 April 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

*William H. Blackwell*  
WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

Incl : War Diary





Sheet No. 42 War Diary, 507th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of March, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Capt., Air Corps, S-2,

DAY EVENTS

4 No missions were flown today.

5 Capt. Hensley, a company commander in the 3rd Infantry Division, U. S. Army, was a visitor in the squadron last night, guest of Capt. Blackwell. He has been twice wounded in the beachhead battles.

Lt. Ryan led the only mission of the day, a 12 ship railroad reconnaissance, with the ROME/LITTORIA railroad yards as the primary target. Bad weather north of the beachhead, forced the flight to turn back and bomb the alternate target, which was four 88mm gun positions. Six bomb hits were scored in the area of the gun positions and 14 more were dropped on roads and buildings, where very intense small arms fire was encountered. Nine aircraft strafed the areas bombed, and one aircraft strafed buildings on GAETA POINT.

6 One mission was flown today, an armed reconnaissance over roads and railroads north of ROME, and the 12 ship formation was led by Capt. Kasun. A line of railroad cars, 14 or 15 in number, were bombed and strafed, with at least 17 hits or near misses on the target. The majority of the cars were destroyed. The flight did not continue the route because of a lowering overcast, but strafed on the way out to the coast with considerable additional damage done. 6 or 7 railroad cars were strafed and damaged at BRACCIANO, and at another point, 12 horse drawn vehicles, which first appeared like tanks out of a bivouac area, and from which machine gun fire was encountered, were strafed by three aircraft. They were believed to be field pieces, and at least half were destroyed and the others badly damaged. One Fiat and one motor truck were strafed and destroyed, and 10 motor trucks, including one towing 2 field pieces, and one command car, were damaged, all at scattered points. One large building west of the primary target was strafed, causing a small explosion. Lt. Mattes, while diving on a truck from an altitude of from 1500' to 2000', was apparently hit by machine gun or small arms fire. His plane went straight in, exploded and burned.

Sheet No. 43 War Diary, 515th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of March, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

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

6 (Cont'd.) Capt. Anderson is still visiting with the squadron. Lt. Col. Yancey Tarrant is also visiting the squadron for a few days. 2nd Lts. Mathis, Oldham, O'Neil and Pierson received notice of their promotions to 1st Lt., effective 25 February 1944.

7 Two missions were flown today, one of 4 planes and one of 8. Lt. Dolny led the 4 planes on an armed reconnaissance over roads from CIVITAVECCHIA to ROME. The flight came in over CIVITAVECCHIA and strafed and destroyed an engine and tender in the POLO railroad station. In addition, one motor truck and one motorcycle and driver were destroyed.

The 8 ship formation was led by Capt. Lister with enemy aircraft on the LITTORIA A/D as the target. Two JU-52's, one unserviceable, and one operational, were destroyed by bomb hits. Also damaged by bomb hits were 2 transport planes and 5 single engine aircraft. Strafing produced further results. 4 motor trucks were damaged west of ROME, and one motor truck, and a machine gun nest were destroyed near the coast west of ROME. A bivouac area was also strafed.

Wick Fowler, News Correspondent from Dallas, Texas, was on the line interviewing men from Texas. He is an old friend of Capt. Alexander Louis.

8 Major Bland led 12 ships on the only mission flown today. Two direct hits were scored on the tracks on either side of a railway bridge. 16 more bombs were dropped on the area with several near misses on the bridge and tracks. The tracks were well torn up on both sides of the bridge by the direct hits. 3 aircraft strafed on the way out with further results. An electric locomotive and 8 or 10 box and tank cars were strafed and several cars damaged. A small railroad station north of the target was strafed and damaged, and a motor truck was also damaged.

A talk on "Flak" by Lt. Col. Dixon was slated for 1830 hours at the Marigliano Theatre, but there was some confusion about the time, and pilots of this squadron did not attend.

Two new pilots came in today, 2nd Lts. James E. Henderson and Carl E. Correll. 1st Lt. Graham Weigle and 2nd Lt. Edward H. Ryan received notice of their promotions to Captain and 1st Lt., respectively.

Capt. Anderson returned to Corsica today.



Sheet No. 44 War Diary: 50th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of March, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL.

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

9 Capt. Kasun led 12 planes on today's only mission. The target was the railroad station at CAPRANICA, and good coverage was obtained on the station and yards, with direct hits on a junction very near the target. A direct hit on a supply dump blew it up completely, and additional strafing accounted for 7 motor trucks badly damaged.

2nd Lts. Dickison, Horrigan, Nelson, Palmer and Watson received notice of their promotions to 1st Lt., effective 20 February 1944.

10 Lt. Dolny led a 12 ship formation on a mission to bomb the railroad station and yards at ZAGAROLO. Good coverage was secured in the railroad yards. One building was blown up and one direct hit was observed on a road next to the target. Hazy weather obscured further results. Two aircraft strafed another railroad station, but no cars were in the yards, and the extent of damage is unknown.

11 The railroad station and yards at ZAGAROLO was again the target for the only mission flown today. Capt. Kasun led the 12 ships and very good bomb coverage was obtained. One explosion, with smoke and flames, was observed in the buildings, and several additional hits were scored on the tracks.

This morning hot biscuits were served for breakfast, the first since coming overseas, so it can be easily imagined how much they were enjoyed.

12 No missions were flown today.

13 It was announced today that Major Edwin A Bland, Jr., our Commanding Officer, has been transferred back to Group Headquarters as Group Operations Officer. Major Bland will be succeeded by Capt. Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., who has been Squadron Operations Officer and Capt. Graham Weigle will step into the post left vacant by Capt. Kasun.



Sheet No. 45 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of March, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

14 Only one mission was flown today. Lt. Dolny led the 12 plane formation on an attack on a railroad station. All the bombs were dropped within the target area, and one small fire was started. At least six bombs fell on the tracks, but due to considerable smoke over the entire target area, further results were unobserved. One motor truck was strafed and damaged on the way out from the target.

15 Two missions were flown today, both on targets in the CASSINO area. Capt. Kasum led the first, a formation of 8 ships, and bombed a railway station. Clouds of black smoke and dust made visibility over CASSINO very difficult. Three bombs were seen to explode in the target area but further observation was impossible.

Lt. Ryan led the second formation consisting of 8 planes, and the target was the same as on the previous mission. All bombs were dropped in the designated area, but as on the earlier mission, smoke and dust obscured observation.

16 One mission, of 12 ships, was flown today, led by Lt. Dolny. Two medium guns were the target. Good bomb hits were obtained in the target area, and the area was heavily strafed. Results were unobserved, due to smoke and dust, which obscured the entire area.

The movie "China" was shown at the Marigliano Theatre.

17 Lt. Ryan led 12 planes on the only mission flown today. The target was a railroad underpass at the town of NARNI, and the bomb hits were well bunched on and around the target, with several direct hits on the tracks on either side of the span over the railroad. Two bomb hits were believed secured on the bridge itself. 1 motor truck was also damaged by strafing.

Sheet No. 46 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of March, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

18 A steel railroad bridge was the target for the first mission of the day, one of 12 planes, led by Lt. Horrigan. 2 direct hits were scored in the middle of the bridge itself, 1 direct hit fell on the south end of the bridge and 2 very near misses were also reported. The rest of the bombs were well bunched around the bridge, and six aircraft caused additional damage by strafing the target. No flak was encountered.

A food dropping mission was also flown in the afternoon. 20 containers of food were dropped in the designated triangular area. Lt. Dolny led the mission.

Lts. Palmer and Vukovich also flew on another food dropping mission, with the 526th Squadron, in the afternoon.

19 No missions flown today.

M/Sgt James Knight, Sgt Charles Bennett, and Sgt Everett Fisher left today for North Africa, from where they will leave for the States to begin Aviation Cadet training.

20 The first mission today was to drop food in the "Chicago" area. Lt. Dickison led the 12 plane formation. All the parachute packages were dropped in or near the target area, except two which fell in a bivouac area south of CASSINO.

Capt. Kasun led the only combat mission today, one of 12 planes with the railroad station and tracks at FROSINONE, as the target. The area was well covered with 16 bombs dropping on the station and yards, and 2 direct hits were scored on 3 motor trucks, destroying one, probably destroying another, and badly damaging the third. Another direct hit was secured on a road. The station and yards were also strafed.

Another food dropping mission was flown at 1330 hours, with Lt. Wood leading. All the packages were dropped in the designated area, except two which hung and fell off past the target, bursting upon impact.

2nd Lt. Harold D. Simmons joined the squadron today.

Mt. Vesuvius came to life again, the largest eruption since 1926. Flames and clouds of smoke could be seen from the squadron area for the past two nights.

The weekly ration of Coca-Colas was put on sale in the dayroom.



Sheet No. 48 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy.  
(Station)

Month of March, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,  
Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY EVENTS

27 Capt. Kasun led the only mission flown today, a 12 plane formation which bombed the railroad station and factory in SETTE BAGNI. The target was dive bombed, with a good concentration of bomb hits obtained on the south area of buildings. No direct hits were seen on the railroad tracks and dust and smoke obscured the target after bombing. 11 aircraft strafed in the dive.  
F/O Joe J. Angell was today appointed 2nd Lt.

28 Capt. Kasun led a 4 plane formation on an escort mission at 0915 hours this morning, as cover for the 526th Squadron, which bombed the MONTALTO di CASTRO railroad bridge.  
At 0925 hours, an 8 plane formation led by Lt. Dickison flew an escort mission, as cover for the 527th Squadron. Four enemy aircraft, believed to have been ME-109's were encountered over ARCE and CASTEL di TORA, but they did not attack the formation. This was the 1,000th mission flown by the Group since combat operations were started.

29 One mission was flown today, a 12 plane formation led by Lt. Wood. Shipping at SAN STEFANO was the target, and buildings and boats in the harbor were sprinkled with hits and near misses. Two hits or very near misses were scored on a "KT" boat and it was also heavily strafed.

30 Capt. Kasun led the first mission today. The 12 plane formation bombed a highway bridge with good results. 1 direct hit was scored on the south approach to the bridge, destroying a house at that point, and several bombs went under the bridge, undoubtedly damaging it, although it wasn't destroyed. The strafing of roadnets produced the following results: 11 motor trucks, 2 weapon carriers, 2 Fiats, and a large bus were destroyed, and 21 motor trucks, 1 Fiat and an armored car were damaged. Approximately 15 personnel were killed on 1 motor truck alone, and further results were unobserved.  
Another 12 plane formation led by Lt. Dolny, took off at 1400 hours, but due to poor visibility and rain, all bombs were returned to base.

Sheet No. 49 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

Month of March, 1944. Prepared by WILLIAM H. BLACKWELL,

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

31 Lt. Wood was the leader of a formation of 12 planes which took off at 0820 hours this morning, but bad weather forced them to return to the base with their bombs.

All of this month, we have been housed in the same apartment buildings that we moved into upon coming here last November.

The winter months have not been uncomfortable; we have had plenty of clothing and bed clothes; many apartments have stoves in them; the lights and running water have truly been luxuries after a summer and fall of living in the open with only the barest necessities. Hot showers have been available most of the time, furnished by the Service Group.

The enlisted men have a well furnished day room, and the officers have their mess and clubrooms. Movies have been presented at the Marigliano Theatre fairly regularly, once or twice a week or more, and often, there are operas in Naples, to which some of the squadron go. Naples being close by, men on one day pass are able to visit the city.

Morale is high, though there is a great deal of speculation regarding our next move, as we have been here longer than at any one place since leaving the United States.

At the end of March, the squadron has a total of 3138 sorties and 4713:30 combat hours.



SECRET

40-71

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

Headquarters, 257th Fighter Group  
30

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical records.

TO : Commanding General, 257th Fighter Group, 30.

1. Outline history of the 257th Fighter Group during the period of 1 April 1944 to 30 April 1944:

a. Present location: 257th Fighter Group, 257th Fighter Bomber Group, 257th Fighter Group.

b. Changes in organization:

1. (a) Capt. [Name], [ID No.], [Rank], [Position], departed the squadron 20 April 1944, [reason] returned to the [unit] [relation].

(b) Capt. [Name], [ID No.], [Rank], [Position], assigned to 257th Fighter Group as [Position].

(c) Capt. [Name], [ID No.], [Rank], [Position], assigned to 257th Group as [Position].

(d) Capt. [Name], [ID No.], [Rank], [Position], assigned to 257th Group as [Position].

c. Strength, [unit] [relation].

1. Pent. of April 1944.

(a) At beginning: 39 officers; 219 enlisted men.

(b) Net increase: 0 officers; 18 enlisted men.

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

[REDACTED]

