



Sheet No. 56 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBING SQUADRON Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

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

DAY EVENTS

14 (Cont'd) Lt. Johnson's plane was hit over the target and he was forced to bail out. His parachute was seen to open and his descent was followed to 1,000 feet or less, and it is believed that he landed safely.

Lt. Brinley led the second mission of the day, made up of 4 planes each from the 525th and 526th Squadrons. The objective was to cut the railroad tracks near ORTE. Four direct hits were scored on the tracks and two hits on 15 to 20 oil cars, resulting in a large explosion and clouds of black smoke. 2 motor trucks were destroyed (1 flamer), and 5 damaged by strafing. A factory was also strafed.

The last mission was led by Lt. Wood. 3 direct hits were scored on the CAPRANICA railroad station and several more hits and near misses on the tracks at various points. The weather made bombing and observation difficult, and the damage to the railroad station was unobserved. 1 motor truck was destroyed north of FURBARA A/D.

Four pilots also flew a mission with the 527th Squadron today, but could not get in to the primary target because of bad weather, and dropped their bombs on FURBARA A/D instead.

Nine new pilots reported to the squadron today. They are 2nd Lts. Robert L. Anderson, David S. Baker, Russell J. Bell, John E. Borrello, Graydon S. Brown, Richard A. Davis, Howard G. Decker, Jr., James G. Finlayson and Felix F. Simmons.

The squadron baseball team, very appropriately nicknamed the "Travellers", and under the managership of Lt. Joe Clark, today won their first game of the season, from the 332nd Service Group team, on the latter's field by a score of 7 to 3. The opening battery for the Travellers was Johnny Wetzell and Louie McGraw. Wetzel pitched airtight baseball, allowing only one hit, during his four innings on the mound, and was relieved by Gene Gumbert in the fifth, who finished the game. Dick Gibbs replaced McGraw at this point and finished the game behind the plate. Gumbert handled the first base job before going to the mound, Surney Bielick was on second, Alex Papalass at short, and Ken Barnes at the hot corner. Terrebonne, Edwards, and Moose was the starting outfield. Roush and Shifley replaced Edwards and Moose in the fifth and finished the game at center and right. The squad is practicing daily and with more experience, should develop into an interesting and colorful team. The home diamond is almost completed, and several games have already been scheduled for the near future.







Sheet No. 59 War Diary, 526th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

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DAY	EVENTS
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20 (Cont'd) We had chocolate cake for supper this evening. A movie "The Kansan", with Richard Dix, was shown at the Marigliano Theatre. Capt. Leo D. Robinson left the squadron today to return to the States on rotation. S/Sgt Glen Cline also left for home. Both have been overseas for almost two years.

21 Lt. Ryan led the first of two missions flown today. The formation was assigned to bomb the railroad tracks in the vicinity of ATTIGLIANO. Several bomb hits were seen on the tracks, and other near misses which were close enough to damage the roadbed. The flight strafed on the way out, destroying one motor truck and damaging another on roads just north of Lake Vico. 20 or more railroad cars were strafed in MANZIANA station, and several cars left smoking.

Lt. Angell led the second formation, attacking the same target as the first mission, earlier in the day. The first two planes in the formation, Lt. Angell and Lt. Palmer, scored direct hits on the tracks, and the rest of the bombs were misses on the secondary railroad to MONTEFIASCONE. 10 bombs were returned to base.

22 Lt. Watson was the leader of an 8 plane formation to bomb railroad tracks at ORTE this morning, but the flight ran into rain and black clouds as they neared the Tiber River. The cloud cover also obscured the alternate targets, and all bombs were returned to base.

Capt. Blackwell and Lt. Duncan left for Rest Camp today, but Lt. "Tiger" Palmer made up for this absence at the 16th Evac by taking two of the nurses out in celebration of his 80th mission. A number of the officers in the squadron have been going to town to the Red Cross in the evening to eat ice cream and then await the singing of the pretty vocalist there. Her rendition of "Knock Me A Kiss" has set a number of the pilots on their heels.

The Travellers lost a loosely played slugging duel to the 526th Squadron team this afternoon by a score of 16 to 12. The game might have been called a parade of pitchers, as four pitchers took a turn on the hill for the home team during the seven innings of play. Wetzal started and was relieved by Smith in the third. Barnes came in in the fourth and lasted until the sixth, when Gumbert took over and finished. Gibbs and Edwards did the catching.

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Sheet No. 60 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

22 (Cont'd) Capt. John W. Hendrickson was today assigned to Group Headquarters, as Group Engineering Officer.

23 Railroad tracks in the area of ORVIETO was the target for both missions today. The first formation consisted of 8 planes and was led by Lt. Ryan. Two definite breaks in the tracks were secured as the result of direct hits, and near misses caused possible damage to a bridge.

Lt. Ryan led the second mission also, and secured only probable damage to the tracks. One hung bomb was salvoed, and a direct hit scored on a highway.

Word was passed around this evening that the "Canino" mission was to be run tomorrow, accompanied by a 0415 briefing. With 8 aircraft scheduled for the flight in this squadron, Lt. Mathis surmised that "both" pilots returning would be stood down for a couple of days.

24 The Canino Landing Ground made up the target for an early mission this morning. Lt. Dolny led the 3 plane formation. 10 to 15 revetment areas, some of which had planes or material in them, were thoroughly strafed. If they were planes, all were definitely damaged. 15 planes taxiing on the field were strafed and some possibly damaged. Lt. Brinley got his sights on a ME-109 circling the field with his wheels down, and got in a good burst at him. Lt. Watson, coming in close behind, got a good 10° deflection shot at the enemy plane, and fired a burst into his fuselage. The plane began smoking and burst into flames, after which the pilot bailed out and the plane crashed not far away.

Lt. Horrigan led today's second mission, an 8 plane formation to bomb railroad tracks. Lt. Purdum scored a direct hit at one point, causing a definite break in the track and several near misses at another point.

The mission was not the big success it was hoped to be, but probably much more damage was done by strafing than could be observed by the pilots. Using the new explosive bullets, most of the pilots fired over 1200 rounds. Lt. Watson is now the "ace" of the squadron, with one victory and one probable.



Sheet No. 61 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy

(Station)

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

25 Railroad tracks were again the target for both missions flown today. Lt. Hook led the first formation of 8 planes and bombed the tracks between NARNI and ORTE. Breaks in the tracks were secured at two different points, and near misses caused possible damage at a third. One motor truck was destroyed by strafing.

Lt. Brinley was the leader on the second mission. Three definite breaks were secured, with two probable direct hits at another point. All 8 aircraft thoroughly strafed 25 or more railroad cars at one place and 30 at another. Two flangers were observed in the first string and all cars seemed to have material in them. Trucks mounted on six flat cars were strafed and damaged at another point.

A big raid on Naples was made last night during the middle of an entertaining movie. The AA boys claimed 5 planes, but the spectators on the ground did not see it that way.

An improvement in the food has been noted the past week.

26 Rain and bad weather forced a standdown for the entire day.

One officer and 15 enlisted men of the Ordnance unit were today assigned to the squadron.

27 Rainy weather continues. No missions.

Lt. Shaunty was assigned to MATS and will leave for Algeria as soon as possible.

28 It wasn't until early this evening that we learned of our coming move from the comfortable apartments which we have occupied for the past several months, to Marcianise Airfield near Caserta. Our orders are to be ready to leave by noon tomorrow and everyone is busy packing personal equipment.

Today marks the 1st anniversary of the Group's departure from the States. The Group Officers are having a party and dance tonight, and the enlisted men are also planning a party.

Capt. Louis was assigned to Group Headquarters today.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sheet No. 62 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Pomigliano, Italy  
(Station)

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

EVENTS

30 All of the day was well taken up with the task of moving the squadron to our new location at Marcianise Airfield. This field is located about 3 miles out of Caserta, on the Naples-Caserta highway. It is fairly well laid out and our bivouac area is only about 200 yards from the line and dispersal area.

Early in the morning, men were up and about, packing their personal belongings, and getting ready to move. There were many late sleepers though, for on the night before, April 29th, the Group Officers threw a big party in their new Officers' Club. This, incidentally, was both opening and closing night for the Club. The occasion for the party was the first anniversary of the Group's having left the States.

A tent detail preceded the main body of the squadron to our new area, and set up a number of tents. Operations and Intelligence are in a small building near the line, one of the very few buildings on the field. The line sections are nearby, and most of the planes are only a couple hundred yards away.

Our bivouac area is devoid of trees but there are some nearby and along the roads. The mess was quickly set up and provided a good evening meal. Our Italian KP's and barber came along with the squadron. As you walk down through the tent area, you are liable to be accosted by one of Taffy's offspring, with a tug on your trousers leg or a little nip at your heels, for all of the six pups are owned by men in the outfit, and are full fledged "members" of the squadron.

During the month 359 sorties and 683:55 combat hours were flown by the squadron.

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DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

AD 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical records.

To: Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Force, APO SF, CA.

1. Outline history of the Squadron from its activation on 1 May 1944 to 1 June 1944:

a. Present assignment: 48th Fighter Squadron, 48th Fighter Bomber Group, XII TAC.

b. Changes in Organization:

(a) Capt. Clinton, George W., O-351775, assigned and joined the Squadron as Flight Surgeon 5 May 1944.

(b) Capt. Newkum, Bill J., O-310350, Squadron Executive Officer, departed 11 May 1944, to U. S. on rotation.

(c) 1st Lt. Love, Robert W., O-311275, departed the Squadron 11 May 1944, to U. S. on rotation.

(d) Capt. Mcurray, James W., O-561711, appointed Squadron Executive Officer and Squadron Loss Officer 12 May 1944.

(e) 1st Lt. Purdie, L. W., III, O-747901, appointed Assistant Squadron Operations Officer 31 May 1944, vice 1st Lt. W. C. Wood, Jr., USA, 25 May 1944.

(f) 2nd Lt. Angell, Joe W., O-1702926, appointed Flight Leader, 30 May 1944, vice 1st Lt. Robert J. Herrihan.

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(g) 1st Lt. Hook, Wendell (M.I.), 3-37170, appointed 1st Flight Leader 30 May 1944, vice 1st Lt. John S. Watson, relieved.

(h) 1st Lt. Watson, John S. Jr., 3-19573, appointed 1st Flight Leader, vice 1st Lt. Wendell Hook, relieved.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.

1. Month of May 1944.

- (a) At beginning: 39 officers; 233 enlisted men.
- (b) Net increase: 0 officers, 1 enlisted men.
- (c) Net decrease: 7 officers; 6 enlisted men.
- (d) At end: 32 officers; 233 enlisted men.

d. Stations.

(1) Marcianise Airfield, Italy, throughout month of May 1944.

e. Movements.

- (1) Nil.

f. Campaigns.

- (1) Italian.
- (2) Duration: Still in progress.

g. Operations.

- (1) Campaign: Italian.
- (2) Nature of Operations: Dive and low level bombing of railroad tracks, roads and road intersections, bombing and strafing enemy movements by rail and road, enemy positions and airfields.
- (3) 93 missions and 538 sorties for the month of May 1944.
- (4) Results of the most important missions:
  - (a) On 7 May 1944, Capt. Kasun led a 12 plane formation to posthole the highway from Terni to Narni. This was typical of the successful postholing missions run by this squadron, all of which were part of





3.

The plan to cut off enemy supply lines, destroy enemy communications, and observe a vulnerable stretch of road, and see that the road was not used for level wide bombing attacks. Three distinct crashes were heard on the road, and at least 11 bombs were dropped. After the three flights had returned, they strafed road cars and the houses and considerable success, destroying 7 motor vehicles, 1 jeep, 1 bus, 1 motorcycle, and 1 horse drawn vehicle.

(b) On 25 May 1944, this squadron conducted a mission to destroy road nets in the hill valley directly behind the main German front line. This mission would directly interfere with enemy supply and communications if successful, and would disrupt any attempt of withdrawal. In addition to the plane elements, and at ten minute intervals, the pilots of this squadron accomplished their mission with outstanding results. Lts. Wood and Brown dropped their bombs on the town of Calacorsa, while Lts. Farrell and Decker were bombing a road in front of the lead vehicle of an enemy convoy. The latter two pilots strafed the vehicles which were lining up, getting 3 m/t flamed, 1 m/t destroyed, and 4 m/t damaged. Lts. Estall and Anderson and Lts. Watson and Correll also bombed the town of Calacorsa, securing a large road block in the center of town. The total damage inflicted by all of these pilots while strafing after bombing was, 14 motor vehicles destroyed, 18 motor vehicles damaged, 1 jeep, 1 bus, 3 motorcycles and 1 horse drawn field piece damaged.

(c) On 25 May 1944, the enemy began a withdrawal from the Anzio beachhead battle area. The missions for that day originally called for road blocks in strategic towns, carrying out a reconnaissance of road nets after bombing. The squadron was originally scheduled with three missions, calling for road blocks in Frosinone and Velletri, but subject to a change of target when called over the radio by "Changer". Lt. Nelson led the first plane mission, with a primary target of Frosinone. Just before reaching the target, "Changer" called Nelson and told him to bomb m/t between Cori and Sazze. Lt. Nelson and the rest of the formation found their target, and despite a hail of anti-aircraft fire, which damaged Lt. Nelson's plane, bombed and strafed a large enemy convoy. Besides creating road blocks, the combined attack resulted in 21 m/t and 1 motorcycle destroyed, and 21 m/t damaged. The next mission was alerted immediately and took off at ten minute intervals, in two plane elements, with motor trucks as the primary target. Lts. Wood and Anderson created a very effective road block with their bombs, while Lts. Neil and Decker bombed the town of Ceccano. All of these flights strafed with excellent results. Lts. Henderson and Correll were contacted by "Changer" and found a bumper to bumper convoy stretching as far as they could see, near Cori, Italy. They bombed and strafed these vehicles with amazing results, leaving the valley alive with flaming vehicles. The entire mission destroyed 41 motor vehicles and damaged 36. When the mission returned, the following pilots volunteered to lead another mission, Lts. Angell, Simons, Pierson, Brown, Purdum, Borello, Dolny, and Finlayson. Their amazing bombing and strafing attack resulted in 50 motor vehicles, 1 command car, 1 jeep and a weapons carrier destroyed, and 27 motor vehicles damaged. Lt. Dolny was hit by flak and bailed out in friendly territory.





(ii) The last flight of the day, May 21, covered the same area, again off in the distance, the enemy's planes destroyed 11 motor vehicles and 1 jeep, and many other vehicles. The enemy's plane was hit by 2nd Lt. and he was forced to bail out north of Lake Alamo. The day had been a tremendous success, for we had destroyed many vehicles, with every pilot in our squadron participating.

a. Operations in the area of the lake, May 21, 1944.

(1) 1st Lt. [Name] was shot down and killed in the vicinity of the lake. The enemy's leader was shot down and killed.

b. Operations in the area of the lake, May 22, 1944.

(1) 1st Lt. [Name] was shot down and killed in the vicinity of the lake.

(c) Missing.

1. 1st Lt. David W. [Name], 2nd [Unit], [Location], Texas.

(2) 1st Lt. [Name] was shot down and killed in the vicinity of the lake.

(c) Missing.

1. 2nd Lt. [Name], 2nd [Unit], [Location], Texas.

(3) 1st Lt. [Name] was shot down and killed in the vicinity of the lake, May 23, 1944.

(c) Missing.

1. 1st Lt. [Name], 2nd [Unit], [Location], Florida.

(b) 1st Lt. [Name] was shot down and killed in the vicinity of the lake, May 24, 1944.

(a) Killed.

1. 1st Lt. Francis V. [Name], 2nd [Unit], [Location], Texas.

4. For the names of the pilots who have distinguished themselves in action.

- (1) Capt. Howard J. Anton 7th SFG (M)
- (2) Capt. Nicholas J. Kasun, Jr., 2nd SFG
- (3) Capt. Dean G. Schryer 2FC





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Chart No. 63 War Diary, 525th FIGHTER BOMBARDING SQ., Marcianise Airfield  
(Station)

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

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

1 Most of the day was spent in getting set up in our new location. The squadron area is beginning to take shape, and the line is set up. Meals are good, and everybody seems pleased with the place. If we can get some showers soon things will be much better.

M/Sgt. James E. Knight and Sgt. Everett R. Fisher returned to the squadron today, after having been to Africa on their way to the States to begin Air Crew training.

2 The training program continues, with the pilots flying formation flights and practice bombing missions.

Today, Capt. Brown and 1st Lt. Kaniss, of the 85th Infantry Division reported to the squadron and will be attached for three days. The plan is for pilots to visit ground forces and vice versa, so that each may better understand the functioning and problems of the other. Capt. Kasun explained the A-36 Invader to them, and Capt. Blackwell displayed all Intelligence maps and charts used and explained procedure followed in briefing and interrogating.

3 The last day of practice flying.

4 Lt. Angell led the first of two missions flown today. The assignment was to bomb the rail line between ORTE and ATTIGLIANO. The tracks were bombed from 700 feet, and four direct hits secured in three different places, and several scattered near misses. The ATTIGLIANO station was also strafed.

The second mission was led by Lt. Brinley with railroad tracks again the target. The formation glide bombed from 1,000 feet and four breaks were observed as the result of eight direct hits on the tracks. One direct hit and three near misses were scored on the mouth of a tunnel, causing a cavein and considerable damage.

Capt. Blackwell, Lt. Wood and Lt. Bell drove Capt. Brown and Lt. Kaniss back to their division today.

5 Lt. Dolny led the only mission flown today. Railroad tracks were bombed again, and seven direct hits were secured, causing breaks in





Sheet No. 64 War Diary. 526th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Marcianise Airfield  
(Station)

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

DAY

EVENTS

5 (Cont'd) the tracks at three different points. The formation glide bombed from 1,000 feet, and had much difficulty getting through the clouds and haze over the target.

The second mission was called back after taxiing out, due to bad weather.

Capt. George R. Clinton joined the squadron today, to take over his duties as Squadron Flight Surgeon.

6 Lt. Ryan led the first of two missions flown today. Four direct hits were scored on a rail line, causing definite breaks in the tracks at three different points. One motor truck was destroyed by strafing.

Lt. Brinley was the leader of the second eight plane formation, which glide bombed from around 800 feet. Visibility was poor due to a bad ground haze, and six near misses which did little or no damage to the tracks were reported.

Four pilots also flew on a mission with the 526th Squadron in the afternoon.

7 Three missions were flown today, the first of which was led by Capt. Kasum, with a takeoff at 0545 hours this morning. Nine direct hits were secured at three different points, as well as several probable hits. The flights strafed on the way out to the coast. Seven motor trucks were destroyed and six were reported as probably destroyed. One motorcycle and seven motor trucks were damaged.

Lt. Angell led the second mission and he and Lt. Decker scored direct hits on the highway and destroyed two houses nearby, cluttering the road. Lts. Purdum and Brown strafed a large motor concentration and damaged at least half of the twenty plus vehicles. One motor truck and one motorcycle were destroyed at CIVITA CASTELLANA and one motor truck and one with a trailer were damaged on the road from there to Rome.

The last mission was flown late this evening and the formation consisted of four pilots each from the 525th and 527th squadrons. Three direct hits were reported on roads, and one on a railroad. Sixteen oil tank cars were strafed by one aircraft, and one car was seen to burn. One motor truck was damaged by strafing.





Sheet No. 65 War Diary, 525th FIGHTING BOMBER SQDN, Marcianise Airfield  
(Station)

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

DAY EVENTS

7 (Cont'd) The Travelers got back to baseball again after a short layoff, and trounced the Air Base Security outfit by a score of 13 to 1, in a practice game this evening. This game saw the return of M/Sgt. James "Fuzzy" Knight to the squad, thus adding some much needed experience behind the plate. Gumbert, Wetzel and Lt. Joe Clark shared the pitching, and all three were a little rusty, due to their recent inactivity. The addition of Lt. Clark to the mound corps gives the squad its only lefthander and should help a lot when league play begins.

8 A twelve ship rhubarb was the first of two missions today. Lt. Dolny led the formation over roads from MONTEFIASCONE to TERNI and north of Rome to FURBARA. Four motor trucks and a bus were destroyed, as well as a machine gun position and two small vehicles. Three railroad cars, a pillbox and a gun position were strafed and damaged. A building on the edge of TARQUINIA A/D was also strafed.

Lt. Angell led another twelve ship postholing mission late this afternoon. No direct hits were secured on the road but dust indicated several near misses. A supply dump was strafed with unknown results, and another pile of boxes was strafed and left burning. One motor truck was destroyed, a flamer.

The twelve team Group softball league swung into action this evening, as three games were played on the three fields available. The only 525th team to see action in one of the openers was the Armament Section, and they came through with a victory. The squadron's other two teams, from the Engineering and Communications Sections, are set for their openers tomorrow evening.

S/Sgt. Charles A. Sampson, a crew chief and one of the oldest members of the squadron, left today for his new organization, the Fifth Bomb Wing, after having applied for a transfer some time ago.

9 Lt. Westall led twelve planes on a postholing mission this morning. One large crater was made in the road at one point and the formation strafed with the following results: one motor truck was destroyed, and another was strafed and damaged, killing several personnel. A dump area and a large area with motor trucks and supplies was strafed with unobserved results.



Sheet No. 66 War Diary, 800th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN, Marcianise Airfield

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

9 (Cont'd) Lt. Dolny led the second mission flown today. Two probable hits were observed on a junction at OTRICOLA, the remainder were misses. Five motor trucks were destroyed and eight motor trucks, two buses, and one motorcycle were damaged. Twenty plus railroad cars in STIMIGLIANO yards were strafed and one car burned. Ten tents were strafed on the way out to the coast.

The most exciting baseball game yet this season, was played on the Travelers' home diamond this evening with the 321st Service Squadron furnishing the opposition. The score was tied at 3 and 3 at the end of the ninth, when the game had to be called because of darkness. The visitors scored two runs on two hits in the first and added another in the second on three hits, at the expense of Hoyt Smith, who started on the mound for the Travelers. Wetzel pitched the fifth and sixth, and Barnes went the last three innings without allowing a hit. The Travellers scored a run in the second, when Barnes came home on a passed ball, added one in the third when Terrebonne came across on Knight's single, and then drew a string of zeroes until the last half of the ninth, when with two down, Barnes worked his way around to third and stole home with the tying run. Charley Moose was on third with the winning run, when Reese fanned, ending the rally and the game.

10 Only one mission was flown today, an eight plane formation led by Capt. Kasun. The rail line between ORTE station and NARNI was bombed, with seven direct hits scored on the tracks, causing at least three breaks. Four motor trucks and one Fiat were damaged by strafing, on the way out to the coast.

11 Lt. Angell led the only mission flown today. A very good concentration of hits was secured on the target, an intersection of two roads, with several direct hits, and enough near misses to cause considerable damage.

Capt. Phil J. Newkumet, Executive Officer, and who has been with the squadron since its formation, departed the squadron today to return to the States under the rotation plan. Respected and loved by all officers and enlisted men, his leaving saddens us, but we are glad he will get to go home.



Sheet No. 67 War Diary, 58th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Marcialise Airfield

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

11 (Cont'd) 1st Lt. Hubert W. Love, Ordnance Department, also left for the States with Capt. Newkumet. Cpl. John C. Frost, an assistant crew chief, was the third member of the party that is homeward bound.

The Travelers added another game to their win column this evening, as they defeated the 304th Railhead Company, by a score of 5 to 2. Lt. Joe Clark started on the hill for the Travelers and allowed three hits and one run during the four innings he pitched. Barnes went the last three, giving up four singles and another run. The Travelers scored one run in the first inning, and came through with three more in the second when Gumbert drove in Terrebonne and Edwards with a double, then scored on Knight's single. Knight came through again to end the scoring with a long home run in the fifth inning. This gives the team a record of five games won, two lost and one tied.

12 No missions were flown today.

Capt. James D. McMurray was made Squadron Executive Officer today.

13 An armed reconnaissance was flown, this morning, the first of three missions today, and the formation of eight planes was led by Capt. Kasun. No road movements were seen and two small bridges were bombed with no direct hits, but at least two hits on the roads in the vicinity.

Lt. Hook led twelve planes on a track busting mission early in the afternoon. At least two direct hits were scored on the tracks, and several hits and near misses on a highway. All flights strafed on the way out from the target, destroying one motor truck, and damaging four. One Fiat was damaged and a total of 66 railroad cars were strafed, at four different points.

Lt. Ryan led the third formation, which was airborne at 1900 hours this evening. A very bad ground haze obscured the target area but a good bomb pattern was secured on the two bridges bombed. One motor truck was damaged by strafing.





Sheet No. 68 War Diary, 526th FIGHTER BOMBER SQDN. Marcianise Airfield  
(Station)

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

DAY

REMARKS

14 An early mission was flown this morning with Lt. Dolny leading the formation. Thirteen bomb hits were observed in the town of ESPERIA, which appeared to be pretty badly torn up by previous bombing and shelling. Roads were covered on the way out, but only light scattered movements observed, and the flights did not strafe.

A tunnel mouth was the target for the second mission today. Ten hits were observed on the tracks at the mouth of the tunnel, but dust and smoke obscured results. A factory west of TERRACINA was strafed, on the way out over the coast.

The third mission today was an armed reconnaissance of eight planes led by Lt. Angell. Highway 6 was covered to a point just south of Rome, and finding no targets, the formation turned back and bombed an intersection and roads in the vicinity. Several near misses on the intersection caused some damage, and six hits on the roads caused breaks in at least three different places. One motor truck was destroyed and two damaged by strafing.

The Travelers got off to a good start in league play, as they defeated the Nine O' Hearts in their first league game, this afternoon by a score of 10 to 6. Jumping off to a two run lead in the first inning, the Travelers were never in danger. They broke the ice again in the sixth, when after successive singles by Papalas, Edwards, Knight and Barnes, Louie McGraw poled a three bagger into left center, and scored a moment later when Charley Reese beat out another infield hit. This brought the score to 7 to 3, and the Travelers were good for three more in the eighth, to close their scoring. Gumbert pitched the entire game, giving up ten safeties in all, and after being furnished with an early lead, was never in real danger. Edwards, Knight and Barnes each came through with a pair of hits, and one of Knight's was a double in the first inning, driving two runs across.

15 An armed reconnaissance was the first mission flown today, and was led by Lt. Purdum. The twelve plane formation covered roads north to VALMONTONE and back to ITRI. A road intersection in the latter town was bombed with direct hits scored on it and the buildings nearby. One large explosion was observed on the intersection with clouds of white smoke. Eight aircraft strafed in the dive.





Sheet No. 69 War Diary, 100th FIGHTER BOMBARDIER SQ., Marcianise Airfield

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

Capt., Air Corps, S-2.

15 (Cont'd) A concentration of motor trucks was reported northwest of ESPERIA, and this was the target for the second mission flown today. These were not found however, and the road between S. OLIVA and ESPERIA was bombed instead, with two breaks caused in the road, and one motor truck destroyed.

1st Lt. George R. "Tiger" Palmer, having flown 85 combat missions, left today for the Personnel Center. He will go home by boat.

The squadron received a great surprise today when 1st Lt. Robert L. Drew walked in. He has been missing since January 31, 1944, when he was forced to bail out in enemy territory near Fondi, Italy. For five and one half months he had lived in enemy territory, mostly in the hills, and the story of his experiences was tremendously interesting.

16 Three armed reconnaissance missions were flown today. Capt. Basum led the first, an eight plane formation, bombing a motor truck convoy. The motor trucks, about seven in number, pulled into a wooded area which was bombed, and it is believed that all these were destroyed or damaged. Hits were also scored on the road, and one additional motor truck was damaged by strafing on the way back.

The second mission of eight planes was led by Lt. Veatch, and an intersection was bombed with several direct hits causing a road block. One motor truck on the intersection was destroyed. Two motor trucks and a command car were damaged by strafing and one Fiat was destroyed.

The last armed reconnaissance consisted of twelve planes and was led by Lt. Dolny. The bombs were dropped on different points along the road, causing breaks in several places. An ammunition dump was hit and blown up. Two 20mm gun positions were strafed and silenced and one motor truck was destroyed and six damaged.

17 An early mission was flown this morning, an armed reconnaissance of twelve planes led by Lt. Purdum. A motor convoy of approximately 25 trucks was bombed and strafed by eight planes, and the other four planes bombed a road at another point. Five motor trucks were destroyed, seven damaged, and the road was broken in two places. Two direct



