

SECRET

g. Operations:

- (1) Campaign: German. Ended 9 May 1945.
- (2) Nature of operations: Combat missions by flights of P-47 type aircraft, on dive-bombing, strafing and escort, particularly in attacking enemy communications, and principally of dive-bombing and strafing type.
- (3) Number of missions and sorties for period: (1 May to 10 May 1945).
 - (a) Missions: 10.
 - (b) Sorties: 96.
- (4) Results of important missions:
 - (a) No important missions flown.

h. Commanding Officer and important missions:

- (1) Commanding Officer: Captain CLYDE H. BAILES, (Acting).
- (2) Important missions: None to report.

i. Losses in action. None.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves.

WALTER C. TAYLOR, JR., Capt.	SILVER STAR
BUSHNELL W. WELCH, Capt.	FIRST CLC TC DFC
JAMES C. KUNL, Capt.	DFC
JOHN H. KUPPERS, 1st Lt.	DFC
JOHN W. LEPRY, 1st Lt.	DFC
WALLACE A. HEFFNER, Capt.	FIRST CLC TC DFC
JAMES R. GLOCKLER, 1st Lt.	DFC
ALFRED E. REHARD, 1st Lt.	DFC
ALVIN W. JONES, 1st Lt.	DFC
JOHN W. LOVETT, JR.	DFC
BERRIGER A. ANDERSON, 2nd Lt.	DFC
THOMAS J. HUSS, Flight Officer	DFC
ROBERT L. GOFF, S/Sgt.	Bronze Star
JACK (M1) HART, S/Sgt.	Bronze Star

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, APC 374, New York, N. Y., for period 1 May 1945 to 1 June 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

- 4 Incls: 1. War Diary.
- 2. General Order # 112, First TAF
- 3. General Order # 61, XII TAC.
- 4. General Order # 70, XII TAC.

Howard C. Wolf
 HOWARD C. WOLF,
 1st Lt., Air Corps,
 Unit Historian

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 374, US Army
31 March 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 61)

E X T R A C T

SECTION III - AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER TO DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (DLA)

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the First Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officer, now missing in action, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and next of kin as indicated:

BUSHNELL N. WELCH, O-759135, Captain, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 9 March 1945, Captain WELCH led a flight of P-47's in an attack on enemy railroads north of Achern, Germany. He skillfully maneuvered below low overcast and bombed a 35-car train, destroying fifteen cars loaded with heavy guns and damaged the others carrying motor vehicles and equipment. In the face of intense accurate anti-aircraft fire, he made repeated strafing attacks on another equipment loaded train, setting two cars afire before his aircraft was crippled by a shell fragment. Displaying resolute courage, he flew his aircraft to friendly territory before bailing out. The outstanding professional skill and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: James E. Welch (Father), 12 Pine Ridge Road, Wellesley Hills, Mass.

SECTION IV - AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JAMES C. KUHL, O-661226, Captain, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp., For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 23 December 1944, Captain KUHL flew in a formation attacking enemy rail and motor transport targets in the Central Po Valley, Italy. Displaying exceptional flying skill in adverse weather conditions, he participated in a series of low level strafing attacks which resulted in destruction or damage of three steam locomotives, forty-three railroad cars, a railroad wrecker, and one motor transport. Captain KUHL's resolute courage in the face of enemy fire, his outstanding proficiency, and his steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

R E S T R I C T E D

GO # 61, Hq XII TAO, 31 Mar 45, cont'd.....

JOHN H. KUPPERS, O-823093, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 10 January 1945, Lt. KUPPERS led a flight in a formation attacking an enemy oil depot at Milan, Italy. Undaunted by adverse weather, he skillfully maintained his flight in formation and diving in precision attack bombed the target with devastating effect. Reforming his flight, he led it in strafing targets of opportunity, destroying or damaging two steam locomotives, one motor transport, and thirty-four railroad cars, six of which burned and three of which exploded with terrific impact blowing out the railroad bed for a length of forty feet. His outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Lakeland, Fla.

JOHN W. LEFRY, O-822208, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 19 March 1945, Lt. LEFRY flew as element leader in a formation of P-47's attacking railroad rolling stock northeast of Pforzheim, Germany. Undaunted by intense anti-aircraft fire, he skillfully bombed a locomotive, scoring direct hits, and returning in the face of enemy fire made repeated strafing passes on other targets of opportunity. He accounted, with his flight, for the destruction or damage of eleven locomotives, three motor transports, and sixteen railroad cars. His outstanding professional skill and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Apponaug, R. I.

SECTION V -- AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 500-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prox), the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

WALLACE A. WOFFTIEZER, O-704347, Captain, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 9 March 1945, Captain WOFFTIEZER led a formation of P-47 type aircraft in an attack upon a train loaded with heavy guns, motor transports and other equipment, near Achern, Germany. Despite low overcasts and in the face of intense accurate anti-aircraft fire, he executed a run on the objective enabling his flight to cover the train with bomb hits, destroying fifteen flat cars and blowing out 150 feet of the rail line. In strafing attacks he started fires among the vehicles and equipment on the remaining cars and silenced five light guns in the target area. His outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Coatsburg, Wis.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BARCUS:

R E S T R I C T E D

CO # 61, Hq, XII TAC, 31 Mar 45 (Cont'd).....

GEORGE L. HART, JR.,
Colonel, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

FRANCIS T. EGAN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
AFC 374

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 112)

11 May 1945

E X T R A C T

I. AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, the following named officers are awarded the SILVER STAR:

WALTER C. TAYLOR, JR., O-821561, Captain, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 18 March 1945, Captain TAYLOR led a nine-plane formation of fighter-bombers in an attack upon enemy motor transports and tanks near Homburg, Germany, while friendly ground troops assaulted positions in the Siegfried Line. Although exposed to great danger from antiaircraft fire, he led his formation beneath a low cloud cover to bomb with devastating effect four concentrations of vehicles. Then in the face of continuing enemy fire he returned to make ten strafing passes, breaking off only after he had exhausted his supply of ammunition. This bombing and strafing attack left forty-six motor vehicles and two tanks a mass of twisted and burning wreckage and greatly aided American ground troops in overcoming the enemy in the Siegfried Line. Captain TAYLOR's gallant courage and intrepid leadership are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Newark, N. J.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEBSTER:

C. E. CRUMHINE,
Col., Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

T. J. BEOGAN,
Col., AGD,
Adjutant General.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't S-2 Officer.

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 70)

AGO 374, US ARMY
8 May 1945

E X T R A C T

SECTION I - AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JAMES R. GLOCKNER, O-774117, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 31 March 1945, leading a flight of P-47 type aircraft, Lt. GLOCKNER destroyed a large convoy of enemy transport withdrawing from the battle area near Bad Mergentheim, Germany. Undaunted by the enemy fighters in the area, he courageously led his flight in bombing and strafing equipment packed vehicles, destroying a tank which fired at his formation and returning to make numerous low-level strafing attacks. His ammunition exhausted, he returned to base, leaving behind more than sixty enemy motor transports burning or severely damaged. The outstanding courage and professional skill displayed by Lt. GLOCKNER reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Turlock, Calif.

ALFRED E. IRELAND, JR., O-774168, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 4 April 1945, Lt. IRELAND led a formation of P-47 fighter-bombers attacking defended railroad trains loaded with motor vehicles near Orsilsheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding leadership and great courage as he pressed his attack at low-level, he made repeated strafing passes on these trains, silencing the gunners and destroying or damaging the locomotives and the vehicles. He strafed targets of opportunity in the area, until his ammunition almost completely exhausted, he broke off the attacks and returned to base, having accounted with his flight for destruction or damage of eighty-two motor vehicles, two locomotives, fifty-one railroad cars, and three horse-drawn vehicles, besides causing untold casualties among enemy personnel. Lt. IRELAND's gallant leadership and professional skill reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Long Beach, Calif.

LAWRENCE W. JONES, O-487458, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 24 March 1945, Lt. JONES flew on a fighter-bomber mission attacking enemy rail, highway and river traffic south of Mannheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding flying ability, he dive bombed and wrecked a twelve car railroad train, strafed and destroyed four motor

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
AFC 374

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 112)

11 May 1945

E X T R A C T

I. AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, the following named officers are awarded the SILVER STAR:

WALTER C. TAYLOR, JR., O-821561, Captain, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 18 March 1945, Captain TAYLOR led a nine-plane formation of fighter-bombers in an attack upon enemy motor transports and tanks near Homburg, Germany, while friendly ground troops assaulted positions in the Siegfried Line. Although exposed to great danger from antiaircraft fire, he led his formation beneath a low cloud cover to bomb with devastating effect four concentrations of vehicles. Then in the face of continuing enemy fire he returned to make ten strafing passes, breaking off only after he had exhausted his supply of ammunition. This bombing and strafing attack left forty-six motor vehicles and two tanks a mass of twisted and burning wreckage and greatly aided American ground troops in overcoming the enemy in the Siegfried Line. Captain TAYLOR's gallant courage and intrepid leadership are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Newark, N. J.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEBSTER:

C. E. CRUMRINE,
Col., Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

T. J. BROGAN,
Col., AGD,
Adjutant General.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't S-2 Officer.

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

GENERAL ORDERS)
) 1
NUMBER 70)

APO 374, 1st ARMY
8 May 1945

E X T R A C T

SECTION I - AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and in accordance with authority delegated by First Tactical Air Force (Prov), the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, citation and residence as indicated:

JAMES R. GLOECKLER, O-774117, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 31 March 1945, leading a flight of P-47 type aircraft, Lt. GLOECKLER destroyed a large convoy of enemy transport withdrawing from the battle area near Bad Mergentheim, Germany. Undaunted by the enemy fighters in the area, he courageously led his flight in bombing and strafing equipment packed vehicles, destroying a tank which fired at his formation and returning to make numerous low-level strafing attacks. His ammunition exhausted, he returned to base, leaving behind more than sixty enemy motor transports burning or severely damaged. The outstanding courage and professional skill displayed by Lt. GLOECKLER reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Turlock, Calif.

ALFRED E. IRELAND, JR., O-774168, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 4 April 1945, Lt. IRELAND led a formation of P-47 fighter-bombers attacking defended railroad trains loaded with motor vehicles near Oralsheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding leadership and great courage as he pressed his attack at low-level, he made repeated strafing passes on these trains, silencing the gunners and destroying or damaging the locomotives and the vehicles. He strafed targets of opportunity in the area, until his ammunition almost completely exhausted, he broke off the attacks and returned to base, having accounted with his flight for destruction or damage of eighty-two motor vehicles, two locomotives, fifty-one railroad cars, and three horse-drawn vehicles, besides causing untold casualties among enemy personnel. Lt. IRELAND's gallant leadership and professional skill reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Long Beach, Calif.

ALVIN W. JONES, O-487458, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 24 March 1945, Lt. JONES flew on a fighter-bomber mission attacking enemy rail, highway and river traffic south of Mannheim, Germany. Displaying outstanding flying ability, he dive bombed and wrecked a twelve car railroad train, strafed and destroyed four motor

R E S T R I C T E D

GO # 70, Hq., XII TAC, 8 May 45 (Cont'd)

transports, and then pressed a vigorous strafing attack against a concentration of motor launches in the Rhine River. Three direct hits by enemy anti-aircraft set fire to his plane, damaged the horizontal stabilizer and elevator, knocked out his air speed indicator and hydraulic system. By sheer courage, exposing himself to the danger of gasoline explosion, he remained in his crippled aircraft and skillfully piloted it back for a perfect crash landing at his base. Lt. JONES' resolute courage and exceptional skill reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Portland, Ore.

JOHN W. LOWITT, JR., O-720886, First Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations. On 5 April 1945, Lt. LOWITT was a flight leader of a P-47 mission to bomb and strafe enemy railroad trains between Orailsheim and Ansbach, Germany. Displaying great courage and determined leadership as he maneuvered through intense anti-aircraft fire to strike at the enemy, he personally accounted for five locomotives and twenty-five railroad cars out of thirteen locomotives and fifty-five cars destroyed or damaged by his formation. Lt. LOWITT's outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Detroit, Mich.

PERCIVAL A. AMERSON, O-777974, Second Lieutenant, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 9 April 1945, Lt. AMERSON, flew as element leader in an attack upon three enemy gun positions obstructing the path of friendly ground troops near Niederstetten, Germany. He skillfully dive-bombed his objective, then circled above to provide cover for other members of the formation. Sighting four Me-109's on the deck, he pressed a vigorous attack against two of the enemy fighters until they exploded in flame and crashed. The outstanding professional skill and aggressiveness displayed by Lt. AMERSON reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. San Francisco, Calif.

THOMAS J. HUSS, T-126696, Flight Officer, 526th Ftr. Sq., 86th Ftr. Gp. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations. On 20 April 1945, Flight Officer HUSS distinguished himself through superior leadership and resolute courage leading a formation of P-47 fighter-bombers in an attack upon a heavily defended airdrome at Ingolstadt, Germany. Undaunted by intense accurate anti-aircraft fire, he skillfully led his flight in bombing and repeatedly strafing the airdrome, destroying or damaging twenty-six enemy aircraft and demolishing two ammunition dumps which exploded with terrific impact sending smoke and debris up to 10,000 feet. The outstanding courage and professional skill displayed by Flight Officer HUSS reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Des Moines, Iowa.

BY ORDER AND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BARCUS:

R E S T R I C T E D

GP # 70. Eq. XII TAC, 8 May 45 (Cont'd)

GEORGE L. BENT, JR.,
Colonel, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

W. N. RENDE,
Major, A. S. C.,
Adjutant General

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

Howard C. Wolf
HOWARD C. WOLF,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Unit Historian.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 154. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APC 374, N. Y.

Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

- 1 The big event of the day was Command assigning the Group a special mission. Thirty-six planes from the Group were to go to the Munich area, pick up some enemy fighters and escort them back to the field, where the enemy planes would land. Some arrangements had been made with the enemy but bad weather prevented the show from taking place. All the pilots were excited and rumors ran high as to whether or not this was the end of the war.
- 2 Stand-down for maintenance. The Stars and Stripes and the German radio reports Hitler dead. That is indeed good news, if true. The German Army in Italy surrendered today.
- 3 A telegram from Hap Arnold arrived today. The contents of it made fresh rumors fly and speculation ran high. According to the telegram experienced units will return to the States for training. The question seems to be, are we an experienced unit or less experienced than some others in the Theater? Two years overseas for most of the enlisted men should qualify it as an experienced Group.
- 4 Rain and cloudy skies kept the Squadron grounded for the day. Hoffiezer and Lepry, two pilots who have finished their tour of duty, left today for Nancy, France, where they will wait for their papers to come through. The War news continues good and as each day goes by the missions get longer. No bombs are carried now and finding a target is a complicated job.
- 5 Stand-down for maintenance. Rumor has it that the outfit will soon be leaving for Stuttgart. The unconditional surrender of Northern Germany and Holland was welcome news. It seems, from all accounts, that this War has just about had it.
- 6 According to the radio the announcement that V-E Day is here can be expected at any hour. Churchill will announce it from London and at the same time it will be announced in Russia and Washington. Rumors still persist in floating around and whether we will go home or where we will go remains a high point of speculation. Two missions flown today and no bombing or strafing targets could be found. The advance echelon is supposed to leave for Stuttgart 8 May.
- 7 The schedule has been tapered off the last few days and today we only have three missions. The news looks better and better and a telegram was received by Group today stating that the Germans had surrendered unconditionally and that it would go into effect at 0001 hours, 9 May. It looks as though the long awaited day is in sight and the question now arises as to what will become of the Group. Will we go back to the States or to CBI or are we occupation Army, three good questions for which we would like to know the answers.
- 8 Today is V-E Day. Churchill will announce to the world at three PM that the war in Europe is over. From all indications the day will be well celebrated by all and some of the officers already have a good start for tonight.
- 9 This morning a memorial service will be held for all the pilots who are missing in action or have been killed in action. A Six-plane formation will fly over

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 155. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gr., APO 374, I. I.

Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

the Services and will fly in such a formation that it will appear as though one of the planes is missing. Everyone will attend and the Group Commander will speak. Everyone is still wondering where we are going and whether or not we will move to Stuttgart. Some of the boys who went down there on the advanced scrounging party are still down there and are wondering whether to come back here or stay down there. From all reports there are barracks for enlisted men and officers down there. Our Commanding Officer, Major Taylor, has been transferred to Group and at present Captain Hailes is our Acting Commanding Officer. Captain Wood while flying a small German trainer hit an aerial on the field and crashed injuring the crew chief quite seriously and shaking himself up quite badly besides knocking out several teeth and fracturing a rib. Mike Brown, the crew chief, was sent back to the States via C-54.

- 10 Celebrations in the enlisted men's area are a nightly occurrence and continue well into the wee hours of the morning. Shortly after arriving at this base someone discovered a large brewery close to Worms that seemed to have an unlimited stock of wine and champagne and for several days the fellows kept hauling it in until nearly everyone had at least one case. White wine and champagne seemed to be the favorite but a large quantity of red champagne and wine could also be found. Regardless of color it produced the desired effect complete with hangovers. Poker and drinking are the only diversions for the men stationed in Germany and they are both entered into whole heartedly. The area resembles a cooperative farm in many respects. Some of the fellows have a couple of pigs, others chickens and geese and the savory odor of roast fowl and barbecued meat fill the air every evening. The Squadron was stood down for the day. The present plan calls for one squadron a day standing by and two stood down. The pilots are already starting to bitch about so little flying. The enlisted men receive a paper today and they are to put down whether they want to go to GBI or go to CBI. Not much of a choice, however most of them would rather go to CBI than stick around Germany.
- 11 A forty-eight plane mission was flown by the Group today in preparation for an Air Show over Paris in the near future. After they landed the runway was closed and flying suspended for the day. Still no definite report as to where we'll move and when.
- 12 The Squadron received about fifteen new pilots today. These pilots were C-47 pilots who came overseas and then when the crossing of the Rhine was made were thrown into gliders and C-47's. Now they are assigned to fighters and will start transition flying as soon as possible.
- 13 The main topic of the day seems to be points. All the enlisted men are running around trying to figure out how many points they have and how soon they can get out of the Army. There seems to be a little confusion as to how many battle stars we have and some of the men who are just on the border line are sweating out at least one more star.
- 14 The new pilots are getting indoctrination now and cockpit time in the P-47. They are anxious to start flying and to try their hand at something a

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 156. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

little bit better than the old C-47 they are used to flying. The point system is still the most discussed subject of the day and all the enlisted men are trying to convince themselves they are not essential. At the present time it seems that the desire of most of the men is to get out of the Army.

- 15 Routine training again today. Rumors still persist that we are going to move but where or when no one seems to know. However we all are hoping for the best.
- 16 The new pilots checked out today. All of them did pretty well and they all got a big thrill out of the P-47. They all claim that at least they have a plane that doesn't fly like a truck.
- 17 One of the pilots on a routine flight flew a little low today and came back with part of a tree in the plane. The plane was a complete wreck and the pilot may be in serious trouble for flying too low.
- 18 Routine training with very few of the veteran pilots flying more than is required to draw their flying pay. After a hard month or two when the big push was on a vacation seems to be in order. A number of bicycles have made their appearance in the Squadron and cycling and photography take up most of the leisure time. The open-air theater presents a show every other night and while a number of them are of ancient vintage the size of the crowd seems to increase every night. Some training films have been shown and among them the old V.D. picture, seen by everyone when they were inducted and dozens of times since much to everyone's disgust. A group of thirty men from the Squadron were sent to Innsbruck on detached service to guard some captured technical equipment. Two enlisted men a week are allowed to go to England and from all reports they have a wonderful time. Those who have been to both Paris and London say that London is much the best. Other rest camps in France are quite popular with both officers and enlisted men. Morale of the men is as high as it has ever been since coming overseas as all of them have hopes of getting to the States soon.
- 23 Unit censorship of mail has finally stopped. We are allowed to tell where we are and the details of the trip across the pond. In fact nearly anything can be mentioned except information regarding our war with Japan. This was greeted with enthusiasm by both officers and enlisted men, the men because they can now say anything they wish and the officers because they are relieved of the job of censoring mail.
- 24 Training continues as usual. The recent change of battle stars for Germany has caused much speculation and the men have started to refigure their points, trying to squeeze another five or ten out of what they read in the Stars and Stripes.
- 25 The picture "Two Down and One to Go" will be shown today and attendance is compulsory. This picture deals with redeployment and discharge of troops

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 157. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.
 Month of May 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Sq.

WAR DIARY

and should be of interest to all concerned.

- 26 Twelve of our pilots put on an air show over Stuttgart. Usual training and usual rumors prevailed. Captain HAILLES left for a five day rest leave at Nancy. The men are still counting up their points and wondering when they are going home.
- 27 Bad weather prevented the usual training program. Most of the pilots made a bee-line for the Club and late last night the sounds of revelry resounded throughout the town. Chow doesn't seem quite up to par lately but the mail seems to be coming through pretty good. Still no official word as to what we are going to do and we are all sweating it out.
- 28 A presentation was held today and some of the pilots received back awards due them. Lt. FRSYTHE was killed today when his plane crashed and exploded on a practice bombing run. Captain Louis is hard at work organizing a Group newspaper.
- 29 Lt. FRSYTHE will be buried this morning. No one seems to know what caused the plane to crash but the general explanation is that the plane did a high speed stall and snapped. Rumors still persist and the latest one is that by 2 June we will have our orders to go home. That I'll have to see.
- 30 Memorial Day services will be held on the field this morning with the 415th Night Fighters and the 319 Service Group participating. Word was received from the 525th Sq. that Lt. Huff's grave had been found in Italy. Lt. Huff's plane was hit by flak while flying a mission in Northern Italy and he did not have enough altitude to bail out. There are still several other pilots we lost in Italy of which we have received no word. In the very near future the Squadron will send some officers to Italy in search of information about the missing pilots.
- 31 Payday today but it means very little to us as there is nothing on which to spend money. The Group received twelve new airplanes today from the 50th Group and we are supposed to get more. This caused a new outbreak of rumors as to why they gave the planes to us and what the 50th Group is going to do. Captain Hailles returned from rest leave in Nancy and from all reports really had himself a time. Lt. Leader promoted to Captain.

S E C R E T

RESTRICTED



SQ - FI - 526 - 41
JUNE 1945

HEADQUARTERS, 526TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
86TH FIGHTER GROUP, APO 374, N. Y.

AG 314.7

30 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

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

1. Outline History of the 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, for the period 1 June to 1 July 1945.

a. Present designation: 526th Fighter Squadron, SE., 86th Fighter Group, SE.

b. Changes in organization:

- (1) Changes in designation: None.
- (2) Disposition of echelons and subordinate units: None.
- (3) Changes in Commanding Officers: Special Order # 84, Hq. 86th Gp. 12 June 1945. Captain CLYDE H. HAILES, O-820407, from Acting Sq. Commander to Sq. Commander.
- (4) Changes in Staff Officers: Sq. O. # 14, 9 June 1945. Capt. DOUGLAS W. LEADER, O-829102, is in addition to his other duties appointed Operations Officer (Prim duty) vice Capt. GEORGE E. WOOD. O-820385, relieved.

Sq. O. # 16, 21 June 1945. First Lt. HOWARD C. WOLF, O-1059108, is in addition to his other duties appointed Intelligence Officer (Prim duty) vice Captain ALEXANDER (NMI) LOUIS, O-566024, transferred.

Sq. O. # 89, 86th Gp., 8 June 1945. First Lt. EUGENE W. KROLL, O-561451, is in addition to his other duties appointed Assistant Intelligence Officer (Prim duty) vice 1st Lt. HOWARD C. WOLF, O-1059108, relieved.

Sq. O. # 111, XII TAC, 15 June 1945. Captain PHILLIP COX, O-407311, is in addition to his other duties appointed Flight Surgeon (Prim duty) vice FRANCIS C. MURPHY, O-420513 transferred.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted men:

(1) Month of June 1945.

- (a) At beginning: 67 officers; 242 E.M. assigned.
- (b) Net increase: 13 officers; None.
- (c) Net decrease: None ; 12 E.M.
- (d) At end : 80 officers; 230 E.M. assigned.

d. Stations: Strip Y-72. Braunscherdt, Germany.

e. Movements: None.



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- f. Campaigns: Sicilian - 7 July -- 18 August 1943.
 Naples Foggia - 18 August 1943 -- 21 January 1944.
 Southern France - 15 August 1944 -- 26 September 1944.
 Rome Arno - 22 January 1944 -- 21 February 1945.
 German 23 February 1945 -- 9 May 1945.

g. Operations:

(1) Nature of operations: Operations consisted entirely of training flights of P-47 type aircraft in local area.

h. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves:

DEAN L. KENNEDY, 1st Lt.	BRONZE STAR
EDWARD D. JETTE, 1st Lt.	BRONZE STAR
JOHN J. SULLIVAN, S/Sgt.	BRONZE STAR
WENDELL E. PETERSON, Sgt.	BRONZE STAR
AUSTIN J. FOX, S/Sgt.	BRONZE STAR
GILBERT W. KNECHT, 1st/Sgt.	BRONZE STAR

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 526th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, APO 374, New York, N. Y., for period 1 June 1945 to 1 July 1945.

For the Commanding Officers

Howard C. Wolf
 HOWARD O. WOLF,
 1st Lt., Air Corps,
 Unit Historian.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 158. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 1 A dance will be held at the Officers' Club tonight. Fifteen nurses have been invited and if things turn out as planned it will be a weakly affair. A dance is a pretty hard affair to put on in Germany due to the lack of females. However most of the officers manage to find themselves a woman somewhere and somehow turn up with a good supply of whiskey.
- 2 The dance last night turned out to be quite an affair or at least a noisy one. All night long the yells of the participants could be heard throughout the streets. Good whiskey went on sale at 2100 hours and by 2200 hours it was all gone and after that came the substitutes. Today is the day, which according to rumor, our orders to prepare for movement to the States should come out. Everyone is sweating it out but so far it is just a rumor.
- 3 Latest development seems to be that the 86th Group will be a "Repple Depple". However no one seems to know the official score yet but we will probably find out in due time. Most of the boys and especially those with high points are really sweating it out.
- 4 Today marks the start of our physical training program. Classes will be held from 1300 hours to 1500 hours and from 1530 hours to 1730 hours. There will be four teams and all types of sports, swimming, baseball, track, volley ball, etc., will be indulged in. Most of the men would probably rather indulge in this type of exercise than in drill but if no cooperation is shown for the present plan it will be necessary to resort to the old Army custom of drilling. Lt. Brown has been assigned to some school where he will learn something about the Me-262. After completing this course he will fly one of them to England.
- 5 Opl. Cervini was seriously hurt today when a torch he was working on exploded. From all reports he has a broken leg, possible internal injuries and loss of sight in one and probably both eyes is probable. The PT program got off to a bang-up start yesterday and most of the fellows are of the opinion that they would rather have the present program than one consisting of drill.
- 6 One year ago the Allies landed in France. Today a holiday is being observed throughout the European Theater. Most of the pilots are recovering from a party of the night before. Our Group Commander was promoted to Colonel and the drinks were all on him. From the appearance of most of the officers this morning, it must have been a costly affair.
- 7 Stand-down today. Most of the men can be seen carrying cameras around and whenever a formation is held appearances would indicate that a camera is part of a class A uniform.
- 8 Captain Wood, better known as "Whiskey" leaves today for Paris on his first leg of the journey to the States. Sgts. Peterson and Sullivan have been awarded the Bronze Star. Still no indication of what the outfit will do and lately rumors have slowed down.
- 9 Captain Brown of the 525th Sq. was killed last night. A guard shot him when

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 159. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gr., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

when he failed to halt. Our weekly newspaper "Sortie" comes out today and most of the men are looking forward to their copy. Routine flying again today with PT classes in the afternoon.

- 10 Rumors today as usual. The men who are down at Innsbruck will soon be returning as trucks to pick them up are scheduled to leave tomorrow. All types of planes, both American and British, flew over Frankfurt today putting on an air show. We have now had pancakes about eight days straight. All the chickens in Germany must have gone on strike.
- 11 Classes under the I & E program start today. The class in photography had a good attendance and most of those who attended were well satisfied. Stand-down for the day, cold weather and rain. The physical training program seems to be popular. Most of the fellows enjoy the softball, football and swimming and outside of the creaking and cracking of old bones, the program makes good progress.
- 12 Heavy rain all day kept flying and physical training at a minimum. Trucks were sent to pick up the men who are at Innsbruck. Captain Hailes assumed command of the Squadron after serving as acting Squadron Commander for some time.
- 13 Flying for the first time in several days. Some of the officers are seeking students for a class in business law. Most of the classes being held are well attended.
- 14 Stand-down for the day. Captain Murphy, our flight surgeon, is leaving us to go to the 358th. "Doc" has always done a good job and he will be sorely missed.
- 15 Good flying weather and the usual training prevailed. The new pilots are shaping up fast and before long should finish up their training. The ground was still too wet from recent rains to hold physical training. Captain Louis, Intelligence Officer, is going to Command for fifteen days on temporary duty. The Squadron officers will hold a dance tonight at the officers' club and thirty or more nurses are expected.
- 16 A dance will be held at the enlisted men's club and from all indications it should be a big success. Several truck loads of girls are brought in from neighboring DP camps and while they are not very adept at the American way of dancing they seem to be willing to learn. The dance at the officers' club was well attended and the liquor held out till about one o'clock in the morning. Captain Murphy left today and from all reports the group he joined is slated for shipment back to the States. Usual routine flying.
- 17 The whole Command was stood down today and no flying. The dance at the enlisted men's club was a huge success with beaucoup of women present. Lts. Ezell and Fenner left today for Cannes, France. Sgt. Peterson who just returned from England reports the UK a good place to spend a leave.
- 18 Routine flying in the morning and physical training in the afternoon. A big

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 160. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

swimming party is planned for the Fourth of July and from all indications it should be quite an affair. The rumors of our fate seem to have slowed down considerably and now everyone seems to think we'll be occupational.

19 Two of the pilots found Lt. Kuppers' plane and grave today. Lt. Kuppers was lost when the Squadron was operating from France. Usual routine flying with the new pilots looking better every day. Orders come out today clamping down on officers driving vehicles.

20 Captain "Doc" Cox our new Flight Surgeon, replacing Captain Murphy who was transferred, is well set up now and is already getting well known by the men. The library which was established in a trailer near Group Hq. is a big success and many of the men are making use of it. The outdoor theater continues to attract a large crowd.

21 Stand-down for the day. Captain Hailes and Leader went for a short trip to Nancy, France, in the UC-64. No late rumors seem to be floating around and that is really strange. Most of the men seem to think we'll be here anywhere from three to six months and perhaps longer. However we are still all hoping that we'll be back in the States before too long.

22 A big storm last night with plenty of rain stopped all chances for PT today. However no one seems especially moved about it. A hot rumor just made the rounds and according to it the outfit will be Army of Occupation for the next six months. However, so far it is still in the rumor stage. Major Taylor, our former CO, paid us a visit last night. He is stationed at Oslo, Norway, and from all accounts has a pretty fair job.

23 Usual routine flying and physical training. Work on the day room in the enlisted men's area seems to be at a standstill. Plenty of lumber but a shortage of manpower somewhere. Chow remains about the same, very poor, with pancakes four mornings out of five. Grumblings on that score continue to grow as with the intensive training program plus compulsory athletics the men are expending more physical effort than during our heaviest operational period of the war. The cut in rations leaves everyone hungry after each meal and requests for packages from home have increased considerably.

24 Stand-down for the day. Most of the educational classes seem to be getting along fairly well with photography proving the most popular. Rest leaves have been increased with men going to Paris, Cannes and the UK. According to official reports we are slated for an Occupational Air Force for the present at least.

25 The softball team of our Squadron played the 527th Sq. and drubbed them to the tune of 11 to 3. The hardball team lost their game. Usual flying and physical training. Word was received that we would soon be receiving more leaves to rest camps.

26 The "on the job" training classes are getting along very well. Efforts are being made to have Group discussions on topics of interest to the enlisted

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 161. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of June 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

men. Lt. Kroll, our new Intelligence Officer, has been made advisor to the Group newspaper.

- 27 Heavy rains prevented any flying or physical training. The EM's Club had a USO stage show last night. All the players were French but they gave a pretty fair show. Some of the men are starting to show a great interest in attending college while overseas. The radio and the Stars and Stripes announce that the 9th Air Force will go to the Pacific. This announcement, as expected, started another flock of rumors.
- 28 A new training program will start next Monday. Pilots will be required to fly 150 hours in the next six months. Besides this they will all be required to attend ground school. Ground personnel will attend school which will be made up of basic subjects such as close order drill, military courtesy, etc. As usual the complaints have already started.
- 29 A Group discussion will be held in the open air theater this morning. Educational opportunities is the topic and all the men will be encouraged to ask questions. Another gloomy day and it looks as though it will rain. On Thursdays, our stand-down day, many of the men are touring the surrounding country and report many interesting sights.
- 30 Pay-day today. The day room is nearly completed now and work is being rushed to finish it up as over the week end a large crowd will gather there to indulge in the various games of chance with hopes of at least doubling their pay. The new training program goes into effect next week and most of the men are wondering how they are going to find time to do all the things planned for them. If everything is carried out as planned there won't be time for anything but work and more flying will be accomplished than during our heaviest operational period of the war.

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HEAD QUARTERS 326TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
326TH FIGHTER GROUP, 120 57th St. N. Y.

OS 314.7

31 July 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Tactical Air Command, 120 57th St. N. Y.

1. Outline History of the 326th Fighter Squadron, 326th Fighter Group, for the period 1 July to 1 August 1945.

a. Present designation: 326th Fighter Squadron, XII, 326th Fighter Group, XII.

b. Changes in organization:

- (1) Changes in designation: None.
- (2) Disposition of echelons and subordinate units: None.
- (3) Changes in Commanding Officers: None.
- (4) Changes in Staff Officers: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted men:

(1) Month of July 1945.

- (a) At beginning: 30 officers; 230 E.M. assigned.
- (b) Net increase: None ; None.
- (c) Net decrease: 30 officers; 5 E.M.
- (d) At end : 50 officers; 225 E.M. assigned.

d. Stations: Strip Y-72. Braunschweig, Germany.

e. Movements: None.

f. Campaigns: Sicilian - 7 July -- 13 August 1945.
 Naples Foggia - 13 August 1945 -- 21 January 1946.
 Rome Arno - 22 January 1946 -- 11 February 1946.
 Southern France - 15 August 1945 -- 26 September 1945.
 North of the Apennines - 5 September 1945 -- 4 April 1946.
 German - 2, February 1945 -- 9 May 1945.

g. Operations:

(1) Nature of operations: Operations consisted entirely of training flights of P-47 type aircraft in local area.

h. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves:

ROY W. BROOK Jr., 1st Lt. DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

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THEODORE E. DELIC, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(Encl.) PAUL J. DOMESTADIER, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
JOHN W. BIEHL, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
ROBERT L. FIELDS, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
JAMES B. HUNT, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
PAUL (KEN) MOODY, 1st Lt.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
JOHN C. WEBER, 1st Lt.	1st OAC to DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

2. Inclosed is War Diary, 36th Fighter Squadron, 36th Fighter Group, APO 974, New York, N. Y., for period July 1943 to August 1943.

For Commanding Officers:

Howard C Wolf
 HOWARD C. WOLF,
 1st Lt., Air Corps,
 Unit Historian.

- 2 Incls: 1. War Diary
 2. Extract GO No. 101 D-12

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Sheet No. 162. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of July 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 1 The start of another month overseas and all the men still asking the same question, "When do we go home?" The new training program starts tomorrow, complete with physical training, lectures, etc, all which goes to remind the men of their basic training days. The Squadron will fly two days and stand down one; Sundays off and regular inspections on Saturday mornings. Captain Setencich, Lt. Weiner and Lt. Kliment are going home and are supposed to leave sometime tomorrow.
- 2 The first day of the new training program with rain in the morning discouraging all attempts at physical training. Under the new program all men will be required to attend and any missed lectures or classes will be made up. The photography class seems to be the most popular and the best attended.
- 3 Today is a cold, dreary day. The big 4th of July swimming meet is scheduled for tomorrow but if the weather stays like it is, it will be called off. Plans have been made for a big day. Swimming, boxing, softball and plenty of nurses have been invited. If the weather permits it should be a day to remember but from the looks of the sky most of it will be called off.
- 4 The swimming meet and all the other activities were called off. A dance was held at the Officers' Club and a wild time was had by all. The day room has been completed and many of the men spend their spare time there.
- 5 Everyone got over the July 4th celebration in good shape. Last night the Officers and Enlisted Men had a big time at their respective clubs where there were women, music, and dancing as well as something to tickle the throat. While flying this PM, one of our pilots, Lt. Kanoff, discovered that a P-47 had made a forced landing at Grailsheim. This was reported immediately to Group Operations.
- 6 The Squadron had classes today. Lt. Kroll gave an orientation lecture on the Pacific situation. An interesting chemical warfare lecture was given by Lt. Bird. He stated that because of their desire to die for their Emperor, the Japs in all probability will use gas when we invade their main islands. It is more likely, under present circumstances, that we will use gas against Japan first. We have everything to gain by such a move and would hardly be censured for it by the world because there is evidence that the Japs have used it against our Ally, China. Furthermore, we have never signed any agreement with anyone not to use gas. Lt. Wolf, Intelligence Officer, left for Paris where he will attend I & E school for seven days.
- 7 Inclement weather prevented the scheduled close order drill and area inspection. Some flying in the afternoon as the weather broke about noon.
- 8 Sunday is the official day off under the new program. The first clear day for some time and the area was practically deserted. A GI stage show was held at the E.M.'s Club.

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Sheet No. 163. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of July 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 9 Stand-down for the Squadron. Twenty-one of our old combat pilots were ordered to be ready to leave tomorrow for the States. The new pilots will continue the present training program.
- 10 Good flying weather with heavy operational activity. The pilots being transferred to the States were all clamoring for planes in which to get their required flying time in. According to the present plans they will leave tomorrow. Current rumors have us moving near Nurnburg between the first and the fifteenth of August but so far nothing official. It seems the Group has been turned into an MP outfit as we are posting guards on posts formerly taken care of by MP's. Belgian soldiers were posted on these posts for one day and must have proved unsatisfactory.
- 11 Heavy rains throughout the night and continuing into the day have brought operations to a standstill. A meeting at the EI's club for the purpose of electing officers resulted in a complete change with John Pierson of Hq. as President and Richard Kesnar of the 526th Squadron as Vice President. Great things are promised.
- 12 Ground school, no flying. Lt. Kroll delivered a short resume of the situation in the Pacific followed by a history of the Nazi Party. Chow has improved and for the last several days it has been comparable to that which we had during combat. This has brought the grumbling about the chow situation back to normal with the U.S. political situation enjoying first place in the nightly bull sessions.
- 13 A bright clear day with flying as scheduled under the present training set-up. Rumors have sprung up concerning our moving into winter quarters and also that a large quota of men will leave for the U. S. on the point system. No authority for either one so, like many rumors of the past, these will eventually die out. S/Sgt. Bugosh and S/Sgt. Day left for the U. K. to attend school.
- 14 The Group passed in review before Group Officers. Bronze Star medals were presented to T/Sgt. Fred Wilson, S/Sgt. Jack Hart and S/Sgt. Goff. We have been authorized a cluster to our Presidential Citation which will be formally presented in the near future. Four planes were detailed to escort a C-54 carrying representatives to the Big Three conference to Berlin.
- 15 Sunday, a beautiful day. The headlines in the paper stated that the non-fraternization policy has been relaxed. Good news to most of the fellows who immediately left in search of fraulians. Morale of the men improved considerably with this news. Lt. Huss is accused of buzzing the field at Berlin, dropping his belly tank in a congested area, and several other breaches of regulations. It is believed he will be court-martialed.
- 16 Inclement weather curtailed flying and PT was postponed. Payroll was

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Sheet No. 10. War Diary. 48th Fighter Sq., 10th Fighter Gr., 20 AF, N. Y.
 Month of July 1945. Prepared by H. S. G. C. 1st Lt., 48th Fighter Squadron.

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signed and as usual, many expressed hope it would be the last one they signed overseas.

- 17 Stand-down in the a.m. due to rain. Flying this afternoon, but no P.O. Rumor has it that the advance echelon will have to leave the 21 July, destination unknown but it seems to be an established fact that we'll winterize or around (Germany).
- 18 The educational program for attendance at Army Universities gets underway today. Many of the men have shown a great deal of interest in this program. Lt. Kroll left for England today.
- 19 The usual flying and training program. Many of the men have signed up for attendance at Army Universities. Heavy rain last night, rained out the outdoor movie. Anyway from what we saw of the picture, it was a real pain-in-the-neck. The men are wondering if the people in the States really go for such movies and where in the hell they get such ideas for these movies. Today was one of the hottest days we have had since coming to Germany. The nearest rumor seems to be that we are no longer Army of Occupation but are now going to be broken up. Of course that is strictly rumor.
- 20 A meeting will be held for the enlisted men at 1100 hours this morning. The topic will be V.D. Since the lifting of the non-drug policy, there seems to be an increase in the number of cases. Normal flying and training duties. The show presented "The Man Who Goes Home", was fair. Applications are still coming in for the Army University Center and everyone seems determined to get in on the education program.
- 21 The usual inspection and Saturday morning parade. A formation of 36 planes will put on a show for the men sometime this morning. Cecil Cook is included with the FK rotations and is welcomed by all the men. Rumors still persist in flying around that we have been placed in a different category but so far it is strictly rumor. Lt. Elliott, our transportation officer, has been transferred. Glenn Miller's band is playing at Frankfurt and many of the men have gone there to see them.
- 22 Another Sunday of no work and no flying. Last night a P.O. took off and pulled his wheels up too soon. The result was a torn up runway and no flying for tomorrow. A thorough check-up of all civilians and all vehicles is now in progress. You can't drive to Post without being stopped and asked for your trip ticket and your life's history.
- 23 Special services will bring Bob Hope and his show to Trossen tomorrow. The work will cease at noon until the finish of the show. It will be held at the 41st Night Fighter's area and in case of rain in the 35th Group Enlisted Men's Club. Rumor has it that all of the low point men will leave the group. High men are being sent to the 40th Night Fighter Group.
- 24 Stand-down this afternoon to allow the men to take in the Bob Hope show. Hope

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REPORT

Sheet No. 10. Air Wkly. 36th Fighter Sq., 36th Fighter Sq., 20 /74, H. 2.
Month of July 1945. Prepared by Lt. Col. G. C. C. 1st Lt., Above named Squadron.

REPORT

was supposed to play for the boys in Sicily but failed to show up. We were all hoping he comes through today. Applications for attendance at the Army University Centers have gone in and now all the applicants have to be in sight and scout it out. Sgt. Utoff, our operations clerk, has been making frequent (7) missions to terminal lately seems to have slowed down the to an alling pace.

- 25 A P-38 pilot just called the tower and informed us that one of the group's planes has just crashed near Y-70. As only the 92nd S. and ours is flying today he must have been from one of those squadrons. It is believed to be Lt. Allen of the 92nd, but no confirmation has been received. The last hope show was a huge success. He arrived about 1715 hours and, with the rest of his crew, really entertained the boys. There was a large crowd there and many cameras were in evidence. Night flying in the Group started last night.
- 26 Services will be held for Lt. Allen this morning. He was killed yesterday when his plane crashed and exploded. The late run of action pictures seem to be of a doubtful nature. "Bronco Rampin" played at the field last night. From all reports it had a distinct odor about it and it wasn't good. Lt. Anderson returned from England yesterday. The paper announced the 36th Group is strictly occupational. The 36th Group Ball Team was beaten last night by the 27th Group to the tune of 10 - 0. The team really must of been out of form as they received only two hits.
- 27 A squadron meeting was held in the day room this morning and Captain [Name] gave a talk on discipline. Several of the men who applied for Army University Centers have been accepted and will leave for England in a couple of days. Lt. [Name], [Name], [Name] and [Name] will go. The course is eight weeks in length and a wonderful opportunity to catch up on some back studies.
- 28 A formation was held this morning and Colonel Lee presented Bronze Stars to some enlisted men and one officer. This afternoon and tomorrow are days of rest and most of the men will be taking off for parts unknown. The eight men selected to go to England to school will leave tomorrow. Night work in England and getting paid while they learn. Not bad, not bad at all.
- 29 Stand-down for the day. The men who have been selected to attend Army Universities left this afternoon at about 1700 hours. The picture "Knox's a Family" played in theatre in town. Lt. Groll, who just returned from England, is hard at work on orientation talks. Many of the low point men are leaving the group and being replaced by high point men.
- 30 A new university will open in Biarritz, France and from all indications a good many will be applying for it. Most of the men have shown a great deal of interest in attending schools but due to the shortage of trained men some who apply might not be able to go, although so far no one who was accepted

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 Sheet No. 12. War Diary. 50th Fighter Sq., 30th Fighter Gr., APO SF, H. K.
 Month of July 1944. Prepared by DONALD G. OLIV, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

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Failed to go. Yesterday was the twenty-seventh month overseas for the Group.

31 The weather took one of its usual sudden changes and this morning turned out cold. Pay day today and tonight will see the usual run of dice and cards. The 50th Squadron was grounded yesterday for bundling and this morning Colonel Lee, in a meeting at the Group Theatre, made it quite plain that the next man who messes things up, has had it. Captain Haines held a meeting of the officers last night and told them about the same thing. Too many unnecessary accidents forced the clag down.

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**526TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AF (SE)
86TH FIGHTER GROUP AF (SE)**

TABLES OF CONTENTS

- I ----- Organization and Current Status
- II ----- Narrative
- III ----- Diary
- IV ----- Combat Operations
- V ----- Non-Combat Operations
- VI ----- Training
- VII ----- Statistics
- VIII ----- Staff Activity and Conferences
- IX ----- Press Releases and Photographs
- X ----- Appendix

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526TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AAF (S3)
86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (S3)

August 1945

UNIT HISTORY

I. ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

1. Organization

a. The current T/O of this organization: 1-12 A.C. dated 28 December 1943. Total strength authorized: 57 Officers, 247 enlisted men.

2. *Strength

a. For the period of this report: 53 Officers, 275 enlisted men.
b. Gains and losses for August: Gain: 3 Officers, 50 enlisted men, Losses: None.

* Information compiled from the morning report, 526th Fighter Squadron.

3. Stations

a. No change in station. Present station Y-72, Braunschardt, Germany, 18 April 1945.

4. Losses in Action: Negative.

5. Awards and Decorations:

- a. Purple Heart - 1st Lt., HERBERT W. STREET, O-663788 - For wounds received due to enemy action on 22 January 1944.
- b. Purple Heart - 2nd Lt., ALLEN M. HANSEN, O-799561 - For wounds received due to enemy action on 8 February 1944.
- c. Purple Heart - 2nd Lt., GERALD E. WALSH, O-675894 - For wounds received due to enemy action on 22 January 1944.
- d. Bronze Star - T/Sgt., HOMER L. HENSLEY, 15066928 - In recognition of meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy between the 1 May 1944 to 8 May 1945.
- e. Bronze Star - M/Sgt., JAMES T. SHROUT, 13043546 - In recognition of meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy between the 6 July 1943 to 8 May 1945.

II. NARRATIVE

Spectacular activity and good news from the Pacific, an ample amount of fraternization, a large number of movies, a few stage shows and a good circus, plus I&3-sponsored activities were sharply out-weighted by rainy weather, boring inactivity (outside of training missions) which marks the routine task of occupying a foreign land, and a feeling on the part of some erstwhile civilians that things were getting a bit "chicken". Nothing except rumors regarding going home, however, proved to be the low blow. The result was obvious steady decline in the Squadron's morale during the month, which almost reached the breaking point by the twenty-fifth day, but was

followed by a big boost on the twenty-sixth when the Group Commanding Officer announced that the high-point men were leaving almost immediately. New men joined the Squadron and some high-point men departed, which changed the strength on the morning report from 225 enlisted men and 50 officers at the beginning of the month to 275 enlisted men and 53 officers on the last day.

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 167. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of August 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 1 ~~Air~~ Force Day today. General Arnold has proclaimed it a national holiday. The Group will fly a forty-eight plane mission in conjunction with other groups. Tonight at five o'clock a retreat parade will be held. Applications continue to come in for attendance at an Army University Center and so far the officers seem to have displayed the most interest. A training film entitled "Why We're Here" was shown to the officers and men last night and it would have been much better to call it "Why They're There" as it was all about the CEI.
- 2 Lt. Kroll talked on the Pacific situation and Lt. Wolf gave a talk on aircraft identification. A retreat parade was held last night and according to the latest rumor we will move soon. The theater presented "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" which was a fair picture. The new jeep assigned from one of the Armored Divisions is quite the thing, complete with air horns, leather seats and just about everything but hot and cold running water. Yesterday noon the men had cherry pie and ice cream which wasn't hard to take.
- 3 The current talk among the Operations clerks is the "spinning in" of one of their clerks. It seems someone swung a fist and his face was in the way of it. Anyway it will take a few days to bring his face back to normal. "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" was presented at the theater in town last night. A USO show will be presented at the Enlisted Men's Club tonight, five men and two girls, and most of the men are planning to attend.
- 4 Saturday morning inspection held by Captain Hilles. After the inspection there was the usual mad scramble to get out of here for the week end. With Saturday afternoon and Sunday off most of the fellows find plenty to do, especially now that the non-fraternization policy is off.
- 5 Stand-down for the day. Most of the men took life easy and caught up on sack time or reading. The Day Room is in pretty fair shape now and a good many of the men are taking advantage of it to write letters, read or the usual card games. Ten applications were submitted for attendance at Army Universities. Captain Calamai transferred to Command and Lt. Chinzi will assume his duties as Engineering Officer.
- 6 Usual flying duties and training. A radar evasion mission was flown this afternoon and the planes are supposed to strafe the gun positions. The last couple of nights the theater in town has presented "That's The Spirit" with Jack Oakie and it was strictly a class "B" picture. Captain Louis, our former Intelligence Officer, was here to visit us and at the present time is stationed at Darmstadt.
- 7 The theater in town last night presented "Patrick the Great" with Donald O'Connor. A new battle star was awarded to the Group yesterday bringing the total number to seven. No new rumors seem to be making the rounds but the old ones still persist. The exact date when we will move is not yet known but it is believed to be about the first of the month. Sgt. Peterson now

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 168. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.
 Month of August 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- has 104 hard earned points and as far as he's concerned, is sitting pretty. Night flying scheduled for tonight but the weather doesn't look to good.
- 8 Ground school today and from the looks of the weather there wouldn't be much flying anyway. A dance at the officer's Club is scheduled for sometime this week but the women question is still somewhat in doubt. Lt. Kroll talked this morning on the Pacific Situation. The new atomic bomb seems to be the immediate topic of discussion and we are wondering what effect it will have on Japan.
- 9 The big news of the day was the Russian declaration of war on Japan.. This immediately brought forth a flood of rumors among the enlisted men to the effect that we are going to a new base in Russia. Rain all day caused a stand-down. The atomic bomb was also a lively topic of discussion and bets are being made as to how long Japan can last. Anywhere from two to six months is the guess.
- 10 Another day of rain and it seems to be raining harder today. The field is a sea of muc and the road leading into it contains miniature lakes which makes on hesitate to put a jeep through. Rumors of moving have sprung up again and now some say we will move the fifteenth. A new technical school has opened in England and there seems to be quite a bit of interest displayed. Some of the new pilots from Troop Carrier were awarded an air medal for the part they played in the airborne crossing of the Rhine.
- 11 The rain finally ceased last night but from the looks of the ground the usual Saturday morning parade and inspection will not be held. It will take a couple of days of good warm weather to dry up the tents and ground. The biggest news of the day was the offer of Japan to surrender. Of course nothing has been said from the White House but we're all hoping that V-J day is finally here. The Enlisted Men's Club presented a stage show last night. It was pretty good and the boys got a good hand for trying.
- 12 Stand-down for the day. All the men are anxiously awaiting the news that Japan will accept the surrender terms. Everyone is sweating it out. A good number of the men who would have applied for Army schools have changed their minds now that the end of the war with Japan is insight. Lts. Paddison, Genz, O'Rourke and Anderson and Sgts. Bohlend, Sharkey, and Hung have been scheduled to attend the school at Biarritz, France.
- 13 Still no news of the surrender but we are still hoping. It should come sometime today. Lt. Elliott, our former Transportation Officer, was up to visit us today. Some fast talking got him out of the trip to the Pacific. Bad weather grounded all flying in the afternoon.
- 14 Overcast skies and threatening rain cancelled flying in the morning. The radio announces unofficially that the Japanese have accepted the terms of the Potsdam Agreement. If this is true there should be a wild time around here. The theater presented Allan Ladd in "Sally O'Rourke" and it was a

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

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 Month of August 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

pretty good show.

- 15 The radio this morning broadcast the news that we have all been waiting to hear. Japan has accepted the terms offered her. All that's needed now is the signature of the Japs and V-J Day will be proclaimed. Back in the States the people are going wild. Over here the news was taken quietly with everyone wondering how soon he gets home. Japan folded a lot sooner than most of us expected and caught some of us by surprise. It seems hard to believe that after all these war torn years peace is at last in sight. Holidays have been proclaimed in the States for Thursday and Friday. It's wonderful news, and now, "when do we go home?"
- 16 Stand-down on flying today. The bar opened at 1800 hours yesterday and all drinks were on the house. The bar filled up rapidly and before long no one was feeling any pain. Now the rumors that we will go home and be replaced by some other fighter squadron. From all accounts high point men will be leaving soon.
- 17 Today is a holiday throughout the ITO in celebration of V-J Day. A USO show will be presented in the M Club. Captain Whitney who just returned from England says the British are celebrating V-J Day in great style. The enlisted men left for school this morning but due to a mix-up somewhere along the line, the four officers of the squadron missed the plane.
- 18 The usual Saturday morning parade and inspection was cancelled due to the fact that the ground is still muddy from recent rains. Rumors are still persisted that the whole group will be sent home shortly. However, as far it's strictly rumor. The group is supposed to move around the first of September. A USO show was presented in the M's Club last night. It was a Dutch show and turned out to be a lot better than expected.
- 19 Heavy rain all day kept the travels of the enlisted men to a minimum. It has been raining now for over a week and the roads and the camp area have so much water around them that they seem to be miniature lakes. The nightly bull-session now are all about the same old story, when do we go home.
- 20 Still raining and from the looks of the sky it will rain all day. The pilots haven't flown in sometime now but they don't seem to mind too much. Everyone is sweating out going home now that the war with Japan has ended. The statement that some 75 pointers might go home next month, opened a new topic of discussion.
- 21 For the first time in about a week the rain has stopped. The usual flying started again and training went on as per scheduled. The latest rumor has it that within the next 18 days over 300 high point men will leave the group. We still hear rumors that the whole group might go home but so far it is still rumor. An order from the 64th Wing states that ties will be worn at all times. It seems as though the war has really ended.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 170. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.
 Month of August 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

- 22 Ground school and for a change it's not raining. The show last night presented "Something For The Boys". Chow seems to be as good as usual although there seems to be a scarcity of fresh eggs. All the men with 100 points seem to think they'll be leaving in a few days.
- 23 Rain again this morning. Lt. Kroll held a class in the day room on orientation and censorship. The last topic seems rather out of date as with the ending of the war, censorship has relaxed considerably. The usual rumors are still flying around and the strangest one seems to be that we will go home.
- 24 Today is the day that the big inspection takes place. For over a week now large scale preparation have been taking place. Everything seems to be in pretty good shape and now all we have to do is sweat it out. A new order issued yesterday prohibits any officer from driving. It also prohibits flying jackets being worn anywhere, but on the flight line. A show entitled "Pillar to Post" was held in the dayroom yesterday afternoon. Last night the theater in town presented "God Is My Co-Pilot". There were so many technical errors in the picture that it was good for quite a few laughs.
- 25 The usual Saturday morning parade and inspection was cancelled due to inclement weather. Some of the fellows hope to take cross-country flights this weekend but the weather doesn't look too good. The big inspection came off yesterday and from all indications it came off pretty good. We are still all sweating out whether we will go home or stay and so far it's all strictly rumor.
- 26 Colonel Lee called a meeting of officers and men this morning. It seems that the morale of the outfit has fallen off. Col. Lee raised it considerably when he told the men that the high pointers would be leaving soon. It seems the whole group was supposed to go home but at the last minute the orders were cancelled. Now most of the old men will be leaving soon. In a few days the outfit will be so changed we won't know it.
- 27 Usual flying. Some of the men who have around 100 points have been alerted off and on all day today and yesterday. Most of the men believe they will be home before snow flies. The morale seems to have gone up considerably since the men found out they would be leaving soon. The theatre in town presented "Boyce Scandal".
- 28 The show in town presented Danny Kaye in "Wonder Man". It was a pretty good show and very recent. None of the men have left the group yet but around Friday some of the ground officers are expected to leave. Captains Benear and Babcock had a chance to return to the States but they turned their chances down. This flying must do something to them.
- 29 Stand-down in the morning to allow C-47's to land. Thirty-five planes are supposed to land and pick up men going home. Thirteen men left from the Squadron this morning on the first leg of their journey to the States. Most of the men are hesitant about taking leaves or passes now as most of them

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Sheet No. 171. War Diary. 526th Fighter Sq., 86th Fighter Gp., APO 374, N. Y.

Month of August 1945. Prepared by HOWARD C. WOLF, 1st Lt., above named Squadron.

WAR DIARY

expect to leave shortly.

- 30 According to latest rumor, all the men with 100 points will be going home as casuals while those with 85 and above will be going to other groups and then back to the States. Latest official report is that pilots with over 75 points will soon be going home. However so far nothing has been said about ground officers and that puts yours truly square behind the eight ball.
- 31 Pay day today. A few more men will leave today. A circus has been playing at Darmstadt the last couple of days and quite a few of the men have taken the opportunity to see it. Sgt. Peterson our intelligence clerk will soon be going home. "Pete" has been ready to leave for a month now and he claims he's all packed. Eight men left today.

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526TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AAF (SE)
86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (SE)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS.
- II. NARRATIVE.
- III. DIARY.
- IV. COMBAT OPERATIONS.
- V. NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS.
- VI. TRAINING.
- VII. STATISTICS.
- VIII. STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCES.
- IX. PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS.
- X. APPENDIX .

V

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526TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AAC (SE)
86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAC (SE)

September 1945

UNIT HISTORY

1. ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

- 1. Organization
 - a. The current T/O of this organization 1-12 A. C. dated 28 December 1945 with change 1 dated 26 February 1944 and change 2 dated 23 November 1944. Total strength authorized: 39 officers, 245 enlisted men.
- 2. *Strength
 - a. For the period of this report: 32 officers, 142 enlisted men.
 - b. Gains and losses for September. Lost 14 officers, 133 enlisted men.
- *Information compiled from the morning report; 526th Fighter Squadron.
- 3. Stations
 - a. Change in Station.
Departed Y-72 Braunschardt 25 September 1945, arrived at present station, R-25 at Schweinfurt 25 September 1945.
- 4. Losses in Action. None.
- 5. Awards and Decorations. None.

11 NARRATIVE

September was the month when many dreams came true. The fellows were on their way back to the good old USA and Home Steet Home, at last. New men were coming in, a handful at a time, because the show must go on. The highly elated state of the men leaving was in sharp contrast to that of the new men coming in, who were in many cases removed from shipping lists at ports of embarkation at the last minute, while others were shipped here after long overseas service in England. The other highlight of the month was the move from Gross Gerau to Schweinfurt--an event that left it's mark on every activity connected with our squadron.

111 DIARY

- 1. A parade was held this morning and Col. Lee presented Bronze Stars to those who were awarded them. A good many of our crew chiefs are slated to leave soon which means that flying in this group will be curtailed a great deal. The only flying in this group will be for the pilots to get their flying time in.

S-E-C-R-E-T

DIARY

- 2. The usual Sunday duties. A good many of the high pointers are scheduled to leave tomorrow. There will be a minimum of flying now as most of our crew chiefs have been transferred out. Spt. Peterson, our hard working intelligence clerk, leaves for the States tomorrow.

- 3. Today is Labor Day and there will be no flying. Around 30 C-47's are supposed to land at the field today and pick up high point men going home. Capt. Leader, our operations officer leaves today. In a short while the 86th Fighter Group will be the 86th Fighter Group by name only. All of the old men have gone and the rest will be leaving shortly.

- 4. The radio announcing the lowering of the critical score to 80 came like a shot in the arm to some of the men who have been hovering on the border line. A good many of the men will be leaving soon and at present a shortage of crew chiefs held flying to a minimum. C-47's have been going and coming all day carrying off the lucky men on their first lap of the journey to the Promised Land.

- 5. Maj. McGoldrick leaves this morning for the States. There was a party at the officer's club last night and by 9:00 o'clock none of us were feeling any pain. There is a rumor that 100 point men will be leaving soon but so far it is strictly a rumor.

- 6. Probably the biggest departure of men will leave today. All of the men with 90 points and above will leave the group today on the first lap of the journey to the States. The squadron received about two truck loads of men yesterday. No flying today as there aren't any crew chiefs to service the planes. From the looks of things it will be about two weeks before things will be straightened out.

- 7. Well most of the old men have gone now. About two or three truckloads of men left yesterday making a severe shortage of personnel in all departments. Most of the men left are sweating out the next move. According to the radio all 70 pointers will be home for Christmas. No flying today and there probably won't be until a lot of new men are assigned to the group.

- 8. About 100 more will leave the group this morning. At the present time all departments have been hit and there doesn't seem to be enough men to do any of the work. The morale of the men is not too good as some of them have been pulled out of assembly areas and sent here. Rumor is that the group will burst up or go home. Your guess is as good as mine.

S-E-C-R-E-T

DIARY

9. The big event of the day was a 24 plane group mission to Copenhagen, Denmark. In spite of overcast skies and threatening rain, the mission took off as scheduled and about 100 miles away from here ran into good weather. The mission lasted about 5 hours and most of the pilots were glad to get their feet on the old ground again.
-
10. Some of the men from other squadrons have started drifting back from the army schools they were attending. Most of them are high point men and will in a very short time, be leaving for the States. Eling and Mc Fadden, two of our enlisted men, will leave today to attend an electrical school in England.
-
11. Heavy ground fog covered the field all morning and prevented any flying. Still no reports as to whether we will move or stay here or what. Rumors seem to have slowed down considerably lately. Most of the old men have transferred and most of the new men have a good deal of time overseas but very few points.
-
12. Flying has been at a minimum. The latest is that we will receive some new crew chiefs. A USO show will be presented tonight. Most of the men have nearly two years overseas and yet don't have many points.
-
13. Applications have opened up for attendance at army university centers and the officers so far have displayed the most interest in it. Most of the men are more interested in going home. A USO show was presented at the EM club last night and was really excellent.
-
14. An order today gave the men in the squadron the extra eight points for VE-VJ day. The men with 70 points or more are expected to leave in the next couple of days.
-
15. The usual Saturday morning parade was canceled due to rain. A big mission of 36 planes is supposed to fly to Brussels today but at the present time the weather doesn't look too promising.
-
16. No flying today. Usual Sunday activity. Some of the men going on pass. The new men who came in won't be here long if they have over 70 points.
-
17. Most of the flying activity today was devoted to "cub" flying. Rumor has it that most of the officers with over 85 points will be leaving soon. Officers with 75 points have been restricted from taking leaves or passes; and from all we hear, they will be leaving soon.
-

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

DIARY

- 18. The men with over 70 points will leave today to join the 324th Group and from there go to the States. Routine flying today. The move of the squadron is scheduled to take place sometime next week.

- 19. We are scheduled to move tomorrow. The set up is fine and buildings for all and a good bar.

- 20. 527th Squadron leaves today for R-25 as advance party. The rest of the group will leave in ten days. The men with over 85 points are still sweating out the list which was sent to Command a few days ago and all are hoping to leave soon.

- 21. The way things are set up the 525th Squadron will leave Monday for R-25 and our squadron will leave sometime later. Capt. Lewis, our executive officer, leaves tomorrow for the States. Lt. Prather will take over the duties of executive and adjutant.

- 22. Probably the biggest change in officer personnel took place yesterday when Colonel Lee and most of the group officers plus the squadron commanders and all pilots with 85 points were alerted to leave the group. We have a new Commander, a major, who is a West Point graduate. Rumor has it that the ground officers still in the group with 85 points will leave soon.

- 23. Our squadron is busy today packing up to move to Schweinfurt our new base. Our new squadron CO, Capt. Warden, is back from Schweinfurt and reports our new station will be a good set up once everything settles down, the place being overcrowded at present. Three ground officers, Lt. Wolf, Lt. Chinzi, and Lt. Schuster left today to go back to the USA.

- 24. Maj. Buckner has taken over the Group and Col. Lee has gone. The squadron is scheduled to leave today or tomorrow.

- 25. The fellows in our squadron are still packing. Some are sweating out transportation to our new location and others are already on their way.

- 26. Everybody is up and on the ball today in spite of the fact that there was some drinking and beaucoup fraternizing as a farewell gesture to Gross Gerau. We are industriously loading trucks and on our way to Schweinfurt.

S-E-C-R-E-T

27. Here we are at Schweinfurt. It looks like a good set up. Right now we aren't too crowded. The officers have two to a room. The enlisted men have good quarters, at least they are much better than living quarters at the old place and living in tents as before. The boys in operations and intelligence have already set up operations and intelligence office-- most of the credit belonging to Pfc. Johnson.

28. Things are well under way in line of administration here at Schweinfurt and it looks like a pretty fair set up. Most of the men thought that the movie "Carolina Blues" was fair and quite a few men went in spite of the rain and thick mud.

29. To our great joy and benefit, regulations limiting the transfer of funds out of the ETO of a soldier's unencumbered pay plus 10 per cent will be lifted during October to permit troops to send home all funds derived from official sources according to an announcement by USFET and on November 1st, a new system of currency control will be established. Also many of us were glad to learn that "Axis Sally" was convicted by an Italian Military Tribunal and was sentenced to four years and five months imprisonment. The Stars and Stripes today showed a picture of Hirohito as he visited Gen. MacArthur at the latter's headquarters Thursday, which caused quite a few comments from our men. Never before has a Japanese emperor called on a conquering commander.

IV COMBAT OPERATIONS. None.

V NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS. Training.

VI TRAINING. See Group History for summary of training for month of September.

VII STATISTICS. None.

VIII STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCES.
 Three staff meetings were held relative to problems involved by the move from Braunschardt to Schweinfurt.

IX PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS. None.

X. APPENDIX. None

Eugene W. Kroll
 EUGENE W. KROLL,
 1st. Lt., Air Corps,
 Unit Historian.

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526TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AAC (SE)
86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAC (SE)

October 1945

UNIT HISTORY

1. ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

1. Organization

a. The current A/O of this organization is 1-27 A. C. dated 22 Dec. 1943, with change 1 dated 26 Feb. 1944, and change 2 dated 2 Dec. 1944.
Total strength authorized: 39 officers, 245 enlisted men.

2. *Strength

a. For the period of this report: 31 officers, 130 enlisted men.
b. Gains and losses for October. Lost 1 officer, and 12 enlisted men.

* Information compiled from the morning report; 526th Fighter Squadron.

3. Station

a. No change of station.

4. Losses in Action None.

5. Awards and Decorations

a. Bronze Star Medal to: for service from:
Carlos M. McAbee, O-561565 1st. Lt. A.C. (6 July 1943 to 9 May 1945)
Freidrich(nmi)Keller, 17015727 M/Sgt. A.C. (6 July 1943 to 9 May 1945)
Marko L. Knesevich, 33168457, Sgt. A.C. (6 July 1943 to 9 May 1945)
Per. G.O. #155, Section 2, dated 14 Sept. 1945, in recognition of meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy between the dates indicated.

b. 1st. Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal to:
Gerald E. Walsh, O-675894 2nd. Lt. A.C., in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy.
Per. G.O. #151, Section 4, dated 1 Sept. 1945.

II. NARRATIVE

With the loss of a number of transport ships this month, and the intervention of our own Navy, this has been a month of changing emotions. Disappointment and encouragement were both encountered. As it stands now, we're to lose all men with 60 and more points.

More important to those who must stay is the dissolving of the 526th Fighter Squadron. It has been a great asset to the group, and good to its members. The combat record of the squadron is the envy of many outfits. It's easy to say that all of us are sorry to have to leave.

III. DIARY

1. Several men from this squadron were selected to report to an M.F. detachment today. The selection was made according to point scores and M.O.S. The E.M. club will open tonight for all the regular club members. Major Buchner held a meeting for all officers tonight, and formally introduced himself.

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DIARY

2. Everyone was present at roll call yesterday, so there was none taken today. The P.X. is still closed, and most everyone is griping about it. Right now there isn't much else to gripe about. Latest rumor has it that all men with 70 or more points will leave soon.

3. The only flying lately is "Cub" flying. The engineering section is too busy to do maintenance for regular flying. All of the 70 pointers are anxiously awaiting orders. Lt. Kroll with his 75 points is still waiting also.

4. Last month's Unit History is well under way and will be ready to hand in by tomorrow. Lt. Hicks has taken over duties as intelligence officer. He is to replace Lt. Kroll.

5. The diary is ready for Lt. Kroll's O.P. The 70 point men are still "sweating it out". Starting this Saturday all enlisted men and officers must get an hour of close order drill every Saturday afternoon.

6. It is rumored that some replacements are on their way. If it's true, the 70 pointers can breathe a little easier.

7. Pilots are getting their flying time in and that is all, so far. If it weren't for the "Cubs", some probably wouldn't even get their time in. Quite a few men and officers are going on leave to Switzerland and England. Those with 60 or more points are not eligible to go. The first exchange opens tomorrow morning.

8. The replacements are finally coming in. Our hoxes are building up in proportion to the number of replacements. Maybe one of these days all of us can go home.

9. Beginning tomorrow the enlisted men's mess will be supplied with full eating utensils. The day of mess kits is gone, at least till we start home.

10. The Engineering Dept. enlisted men moved to a new building today. That means that everyone can move out of the attic now. In another day we ought to be all settled down. The Orderly Room is being repaired too. There hasn't been any mail for the last week.

11. Due to the liberty run from Base Headquarters to Bad Kissingen every night, the Red Cross is losing some of it's regular customers. I imagine the free liquor might have something to do with it.

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DIARY

- 12. Major Puckner, the new C. O. will inspect the E. M. barracks and all administration offices tomorrow. Everyone are busy as bees getting things in order for the inspection.

- 13. The inspection today was fair, all except a few details in the barracks. It seems like the administration offices were pretty good. At any rate, Major Puckner was pleased with things in general.

- 14. Lately we lost some more of our high point men. It is hoped that in the near future all men with scores above 60 will be in route to the Promised Land. Soon there won't be many left.

- 15. One of the most common crimes today is the hot water situation, as there is not an adequate supply of hot water each day. All men have just about settled in their respective quarters and have left the attic and cellar. Cpl. Johnson of squadron operations has gone to the hospital. It is hoped that he will make a speedy return.

- 16. Morale is very high and high point men are still shipping out. Tonight there will be a weekly staff meeting for all staff officers. The meeting will be held at the officer's mess at 1900 hours.

- 17. The USO show "Happy Go Lucky" was a very good show. More men were there than were seats to accommodate them. Morale has dropped some due to the loss of the two great ocean liners, the Queen Elizabeth and the Aquatonia.

- 18. We now have train service from Bad F. to Schweinfurt. Every night we have our liberty runs into town. According to the latest rumor, we will need passes in the towns. It is rumored that the 60 point men may be home for Christmas after all. Elle Logan will play in our theatre tonight.

- 19. According to the latest rumor, one of the squadrons will break up. Which one we don't know. From what we hear it may be us.

- 20. The transfer of men home has been speeded up since more ships were added to the fleet since the loss of England's two great transports. At first it was a great blow to our shipping of men home and held us up for about a month.

- 21. Rumors are strong that it will be us, our squadron that will break up, and if it happens the first sgt. and the C.O. will be the only two to remain.

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22. Schweinfurt Air Base rolled to victory of the season in an 18-6 win over the 79th Bomb Group at Fitzingen yesterday afternoon. Schweinfurt will meet the 36th Fighter Group Sunday at Schweinfurt Stadium.

23. Quite a few men plan to go to England on leave and last group that went to Switzerland has returned. They had an excellent time.

24. S/Sgt. Contie, the operations clerk has left the 526th Squadron and will work in Base Operations. Sgt. Contie will leave for England on leave tomorrow.

25. The day has come, we are breaking up. Beginning today according to rumor the 526 has broken up and all paper work will be switched over.

26. Lt. Peterson is still on leave in England. All 60 pointers may leave on the 1st of November or remain here on TD or DS.

IV COMBAT OPERATIONS. None.

V NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS. Training.

VI TRAINING. See Group History for summary of training for month October.

VII STATISTICS. None.

VIII STAFF ACTIVITY AND CONFERENCES.

Four staff meetings were held this month. Topics were safety, military courtesy, leaves and rest camps, and base conditions.

IX PRESS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS. None.

X. APPENDIX. None.

Eugene W. Kroll
EUGENE W. KROLL,
1st. Lt. Air Corps,
Unit Historian.