

161

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO USA

5 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, TWELFTH AIR FORCE.

THRU : COMMANDING GENERAL, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND.

1. I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU THE FIFTH ARMY'S APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION OF THE MAGNIFICENT AIR SUPPORT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF ROME AND THE DESTRUCTION OF SO MUCH OF THE ENEMY'S FORCES AND MATERIAL.

2. FROM MY POINT OF VIEW THIS HAS BEEN A DEMONSTRATION OF AIR SUPPORT TO THE GROUND FORCES APPROACHING PERFECTION. THE XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND AND ALL OTHER UNITS OF YOUR COMMAND WHICH HAVE ENGAGED IN THESE OPERATIONS HAVE AT ALL TIMES GIVEN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO EVERY CALL FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE RESULTS, WHICH HAVE CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY'S SUPPLY LINES AND TROOPS. THE SPLENDID AGGRESSIVE ACTION OF THE SUPPORTING AIR UNITS HAS ENABLED US TO SHOW THE ENEMY HOW IRRESISTIBLE THE AIR-GROUND COMBINATION CAN BECOME.

3. I SHALL BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONVEY MY PERSONAL THANKS AND THOSE OF THE FIFTH ARMY TO ALL ELEMENTS OF YOUR COMMAND WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS VICTORY.

/S/ MARK W. CLARK

MARK W. CLARK,
LIEUTENANT GENERAL USA
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:

Donald L Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

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HEADQUARTERS, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374, U.S. ARMY 5 JUNE 1944

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL TWELFTH AIR FORCE, APO 650, U.S. ARMY

1. THIS EXPRESSION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GROUND-AIR COOPERATION FROM THE GROUND FORCE POINT OF VIEW IS BUT ONE SIDE OF THE PICTURE. THE SPLENDID AND WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION OF THE FIFTH ARMY WITH AIR FORCE PROGRAMS IS, AND HAS BEEN, A MODEL OF PERFECTION AND COMPLETES THE PICTURE.

2. THE GROUND-AIR TEAM, IN A COORDINATED EFFORT, IS A BATTLE-WINNING AND CAMPAIGN-WINNING COMBINATION IN ALL LAND OPERATIONS.

/S/ GORDON P. SAVILLE
GORDON P. SAVILLE,
BRIGADIER GENERAL,
U.S. ARMY
COMMANDING

A TRUE COPY:

Donald L. Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

HEADQUARTERS
XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (ADV)
APO 374

GPS/JEM

11 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM BRIGADIER MAINWARING.
TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 86TH FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP, APO 650,
U.S. ARMY.

1. I WAS VERY MUCH PLEASSED TO GET A COPY OF THE VERY NICE LETTER YOU RECEIVED FROM BRIGADIER MAINWARING, HEADQUARTERS, AAI, CONCERNING YOUR SUPPLY DROPS.
2. THE WAY THESE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A GREAT AMOUNT OF VERY FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM ALL GROUND COMMANDERS FROM GENERAL ALEXANDER ON DOWN.
3. AS USUAL, THE 86TH DOES THE JOB. MY CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS ON A FINE PIECE OF WORK.

/S/ GORDON P. SAVILLE,
/T/ GORDON P. SAVILLE,
BRIGADIER GENERAL, USA,
COMMANDING.

A TRUE COPY:

Donald L. Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

164

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES
APO 650

19 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION.

TO : LIEUTENANT GENERAL IRA C. EAKER, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES.

1. I HAVE SEEN DURING MY VISIT IN THIS THEATER, ABUNDANT EVIDENCE OF THE MAGNIFICENT WORK OF THE FORCES UNDER YOUR COMMAND. DURING THIS SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GERMANS, THE TWELFTH AND FIFTEENTH AIR FORCES HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION OF OUTSTANDING SIGNIFICANCE AND HAVE EVOKED THE PRAISE AND PRIDE OF US ALL.

2. IN TALKING TO THE SENIOR GROUND COMMANDERS, THEY HAVE UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE MASTERFUL WORK DONE BY YOUR COMMAND. THIS IS MOST REASSURING.

3. PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMENDATION ON YOUR FINE WORK AND EXPRESS TO ALL ELEMENTS OF YOUR COMMAND MY SINCERE APPRECIATION OF THEIR EFFORTS.

/S/ H.H. ARNOLD,
/T/ H.H. ARNOLD,
GENERAL, U.S. ARMY.

A TRUE COPY:

Donald L Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

165

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, 64TH FIGHTER WING, CG 47TH BOMB GROUP, CO 27TH FTR BOMB GP. CO 86TH FIGHTER BOMB GP, CO 324TH FTR BOMB GP. CO 87TH WING.

FROM: COMMANDING GENERAL XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, SIGNED SAVILLE.

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM TWELFTH AIR FORCE SIGNED CANNON QUOTE AM MUCH GRATIFIED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING SIGNED ARNOLD THROUGH GENERAL EAKER WITH LATER DIRECTIVE THAT IT BE PASSED TO ALL RANKS FOR THEIR ADVISEMENT. PARAPHRASE BEGINS INFORM AIR PERSONNEL YOUR COMMAND OF OUR ADMIRATION OF YOUR AIR FORCES IN THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT THE SUCCESS IN ITALY OF THE ALLIES. THE AIR COMMANDS THROUGH CONTINUING AND DETERMINED EFFORT ISOLATED BY INTERCEPTING ENEMY LINES OF SUPPLIES THE BATTLE AREA THERE. THIS PERMITTED ALLIED GROUND UNITS TO ATTACK WHEN THE ENEMYS POSSIBILITY OF RESISTING WAS REDUCED SO GREATLY THAT ONLY THE ALTERNATIVE LEFT HIM WAS WITHDRAWAL IN THE FACE OF A VIGOROUS OFFENSIVE BY OUR TROOPS. GERMAN LINES OF SUPPLY WERE DEEMED SO MUCH DESTROYED BY 24 MARCH THAT HE COULD PROVIDE HIS TROOPS ONLY WITH AMMUNITION AND FOOD TO BARELY SUFFICE FOR HOLDING HIS GROUND ONLY WHEN NO HEAVY FIGHTING WAS IN PROGRESS. THROUGH CONSTANTLY INCREASING AIR ATTACKS, THIS ALL OUT PREPONDERANCE WAS SUSTAINED WHILE GROUND FORCES PREPARED FOR THEIR DRIVE THE TWELFTH AND FIFTEENTH AIR FORCES FLYING SOME 23000-SORTIES IN THE PERIOD 24 MARCH - 12 MAY, WHEN OUR OFFENSIVE OPENED. YOUR AIR ATTACK UPON ENEMY LINES OF SUPPLY AND ENEMY BATTLE AREA TARGETS REACHING AND EVEN HIGHER PITCH, WERE BOTH DIRECT AND INFLUENTIAL FACTORS PERMITTING THE GROUND FORCES SUCCESSFUL ADVANCES. NEW VISTA OF VICTORIES THROUGH THE OVERWHELMING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE ENEMY FORCES WERE OPENED THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION COMBINED WITH MUTUAL ENDEAVOR OF THE AIR AND GROUND FORCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE. WE EXTEND BOTH OUR THANKS AND COMMENDATION FOR THE MAGNIFICENT WORK AS COMBAT CREWS. MAINTENANCE, AND ADMINISTA-

TIVE ELEMENTS AND TO ALL PERSONNEL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEFEAT IN ITALY OF THE AXIS POWER END OF PARAPHRASE INSPIRED BY SUCH GENEROUS PRAISE I AM CONFIDENT OF CONTINUED SUCCESSES WHICH WILL CROWN YOUR EFFORST IN THE HARD WORK THAT STILL LIES AHEAD END QUOTE.

A TRUE COPY:

Donald L Whitney
DONALD L. WHITNEY
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

[Handwritten mark]

UPON RETURNING TO THE BASE AFTER A SHORT STAY IN THE 38TH EVAC. HOSPITAL FOLLOWING A RUNWAY ACCIDENT, LT. MILLER HAD THIS TO SAY, "THERE IS A LITTLE FELLOW AROUND HERE ALL THE PILOTS CALL "QUACK", AND WE HECKLE THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF HIM EVERY TIME WE GET A CHANCE, BUT I WANT THE FELLOWS TO KNOW THAT THE "LITTLE DOC" IS REALLY ON THE JOB. "WHERE HE CAME FROM, I DONT KNOW, BUT HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO REACH THE WRECKAGE WITH THE AMBULANCE, AND WHEN I SAW HIM I WAS COMPLETELY AT EASE AND JUST KNEW EVERY THING WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT." "FELLOWS, FROM NOW ON HE IS "THE DOCTOR" TO ME AND YOU LET ME HEAR YOU MAKE LIKE A DUCK WHEN HE IS AROUND."

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527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
OUTLINE HISTORY JULY 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON AAF
86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
APO 650, U.S. ARMY

AG 314.7

1 AUGUST 1944

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 374,
U.S. ARMY.

1. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD
1 JULY 1944 THROUGH 31 JULY 1944.

- A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, ATTACHED TO 87TH FIGHTER WING FOR OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY ONLY.
- B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:
 - (1) CHANGES IN DESIGNATION, ASSIGNMENT OR ATTACHMENT:
 - (A) CHANGES IN DESIGNATION: NONE.
 - (B) CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT: NONE.
 - (C) CHANGES IN ATTACHMENT:
 - 1. ATTACHED TO 87TH FIGHTER WING FOR OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY ONLY, 12 JULY 1944, VOCC XII TAC.
 - (2) SUBORDINATE UNITS: NONE.
 - (3) CHANGES IN COMMANDING OFFICERS: NONE.
 - (4) CHANGES OF STAFF OFFICERS:
 - (A) 1ST LT. CARL (NMI) JOHNSON, APPOINTED OPERATIONS OFFICER, 20 JULY 1944, VICE 1ST LT. WILLIAM M. MORAN, SQUADRON ORDER #33, 20 JULY 1944.
 - (5) CHANGES IN T/O: NONE.
- C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:
 - (1) MONTH OF JULY 1944:
 - (A) AT BEGINNING: 30 OFFICERS, 245 ENLISTED MEN.
 - (B) NET INCREASE: 28 OFFICERS.
 - (C) NET DECREASE: NONE.
 - (D) AT END: 58 OFFICERS, 245 ENLISTED MEN.
- D. STATIONS:
 - (1) ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY.
 - (A) DATE OF ARRIVAL: 20 JUNE 1944.
 - (B) DATE OF DEPARTURE: (PER VOCC 86TH FIGHTER GROUP)
 - 1. FORWARD ECHELON MOVED FROM ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY TO PORETTA AIRFIELD,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

CORSICA. DEPARTED ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, 7 JULY 1944. ENROUTE 7 JULY - 11 JULY 1944. ARRIVED PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA, 11 JULY 1944.

2. REMAINDER OF SQUADRON MOVED FROM ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, TO PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA. DEPARTED ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, 12 JULY 1944. ENROUTE 12 JULY - 15 JULY 1944. ARRIVED PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA, 15 JULY 1944.

(2) PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA.

- (A) DATE OF ARRIVAL: 15 JULY 1944.
(B) DATE OF DEPARTURE: PRESENT STATION.

E. MOVEMENTS:

(1) FROM ORBETELLO AIRFIELD, ITALY, TO PORETTA AIRFIELD, CORSICA.

- (A) PURPOSE: CHANGE OF STATION.
(B) DATES: 7 JULY 1944 TO 11 JULY 1944, AND 12 JULY 1944 TO 15 JULY 1944.
(C) MOVE ACCOMPLISHED BY MOTOR CONVOYS AND LST'S.
(D) CONDITION OF ROADS, CONVEYANCES AND WEATHER: ROADS IN FAIR CONDITION, WEATHER GOOD, CONVEYANCES GOOD.

F. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) SICILIAN: ITALIAN.
(2) DURATION: 3 JULY 1943 TO 17 AUGUST 1943 (SICILIAN); ITALIAN, 18 AUGUST 1943, TO DATE, STILL IN PROGRESS.

G. OPERATIONS:

- (1) CAMPAIGN: ITALIAN.
(2) NATURE OF OPERATIONS: CONTINUED MISSIONS AGAINST ENEMY RAIL COMMUNICATIONS, ROADS AND MOTOR TRANSPORTS.
(3) NUMBER OF MISSIONS AND SORTIES FOR PERIOD: 30 MISSIONS AND 322 SORTIES DURING MONTH OF JULY 1944.
(4) RESULTS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
(A) MISSION #1460, 3 JULY 1944. (8 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE RUINING THROUGH CREVALCORE, ITALY.
2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
3. RESULTS: DESTROYED 10 RAILWAY CARS IN CREVALCORE STATION BY DIRECT BOMB HITS, STARTED LARGE FIRES IN STATION, BROKE RAIL LINE IN 3 PLACES, DESTROYED 16 MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND DAMAGED 4 MOTOR TRANSPORTS. NO LOSSES.

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- (B) MISSION #1473, 14 JULY 1944. (12 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE BETWEEN CARPI AND SUZZARA, ITALY.
 2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
 3. RESULTS: GOT THROUGH TO TARGET AND ATTACKED, DESPITE VERY BAD WEATHER; ACCOMPLISHED 2 RAIL BREAKS, STRAFED AND DESTROYED 10 RAILWAY CARS, 4 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, AND SILENCED 3 GUN POSITIONS. NO LOSSES.
- (C) MISSION #1476, 15 JULY 1944. (12 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE BETWEEN MODENA AND SAN FELICE, ITALY.
 2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
 3. RESULTS: BROKE OR BLOCKED RAIL LINE IN 6 PLACES; MADE FOUR DIRECT HITS ON 60 CAR TRAIN LOADED WITH MOTOR TRANSPORTS, DESTROYING ESTIMATED 10 FLAT CARS AND 20 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, AND DAMAGING 10 PLUS BOXCARS; MADE THREE DIRECT HITS ON 100 CAR TRAIN DESTROYING AT LEAST 6 BOXCARS; DESTROYED BY STRAFING 2 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, A HALF TRACK, AND AN UNESTIMATED NUMBER OF BOXCARS. LOSSES - 1 PILOT AND PLANE MISSING.
- (D) MISSION #1500, 23 JULY 1944. (12 PLANES)
1. BOMBING MISSION - BREAK RAIL LINE BETWEEN TURIN AND ASTI, ITALY.
 2. PURPOSE: BREAK COMMUNICATION LINE AND DESTROY ROLLING STOCK.
 3. RESULTS: SQUADRON LEADER CHOSE AN ALTERNATE TARGET WITH CONCENTRATION OF BOXCARS AND TRAIN IN STATION. SQUADRON SCORED 10 OBSERVED HITS ON RAILS AND STATION BUILDINGS TEARING UP RAILS FOR 1/4 MILE; SCORED 2 DIRECT HITS ON 25 CAR TRAIN, DESTROYING 6 CARS; POSTHOLED HIGHWAY IN 4 PLACES; STRAFED AND DESTROYED A LOCOMOTIVE AND A MOTOR TRANSPORT, AND DAMAGED SEVERAL BOXCARS; STRAFED AND DESTROYED AN AMMUNITION WAREHOUSE WHICH EXPLODED VIOLENTLY.
- H. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
- (1) CAPT. JOHN R. DOLNY, COMMANDED SQUADRON 1 JULY 1944 TO 31 JULY 1944.
 - (2) SQUADRON LEADERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
 - (A) 1ST LT. FRANK E. MYRICK LED MISSION #1460, 3 JULY 1944, MISSION #1473, 14 JULY 1944, MISSION #1476, 15 JULY 1944.
 - (B) 1ST LT. NEWTON L. SAUNDERS LED MISSION #1500, 23 JULY 1944.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

- I. LOSSES IN ACTION:
 - (1) MISSING IN ACTION - DOUGLAS B. NEALE, T-1297, F/O, AIR CORPS, 15 JULY 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM AN ATTACK ON ENEMY RAIL LINES. WAS LAST SEEN AS HE ENTERED A 10/10 OVERCAST AT 15,000' NEAR MT. PISANINO, ITALY.
 - (2) MISSING IN ACTION - FRANK E. MYRICK, O-812120, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, 17 JULY 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM AN ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION ON ENEMY ROADS. WAS LAST SEEN WITH PLANE IN FLAMES AT AN ALTITUDE OF FIFTY FEET 4 MILES NORTHWEST OF PISA, ITALY.

- J. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:
 - (1) ITALIAN CAMPAIGN:
 - (A) OLIVER R. SCHULTZ, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, (MIA), O-202356, FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT ON 26 MAY 1944, (LT. SCHULTZ CONTINUED STRAFING TARGET, DISREGARDING HIS BURNING SHIP, AND HAD TO ABANDON HIS SHIP OVER ENEMY WATERS) WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR, PER GO #13, 24 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
 - (B) JOSEPH C. WOOLHOUSE, JR., CAPT. (THEN 1ST LT.), AIR CORPS, O-795678, FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION ON 26 MAY 1944 (LT. WOOLHOUSE LED A MISSION ON A VITAL ROAD BRIDGE NEAR AVEZZANO, ITALY. HE WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND HIS AIRPLANE HEAVILY DAMAGED BY FLAK. DESPITE PAIN AND SHOCK, LT. WOOLHOUSE CONTINUED AND BOMBED THE BRIDGE DESTROYING IT. HE STRAFED TWO MOTOR TRANSPORTS, THEN SKILLFULLY RETURNED HIS AIRCRAFT TO HIS BASE, CRASH LANDING IT) WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR PER GO #103, 24 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
 - (C) LYLE D. HOOD, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, O-2055986, FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL COMBAT ON 13 FEBRUARY 1944 (LT. HOOD LED A DIVE BOMBING MISSION WHICH KNOCKED OUT GUN POSITIONS ONLY 50 YARDS FROM WAITING ALLIED TROOPS, ENABLING THEM TO CAPTURE THE POSITIONS) WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS PER GO 88, 5 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
 - (D) FOR HEROISM DEMONSTRATED IN EXTRICATING A PILOT FROM A CRASHED AIRCRAFT ON 15 MAY 1944, THE FOLLOWING ENLISTED MEN WERE AWARDED THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL PER GO 88, 5 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE:

M/SGT. EUGENE T. BOONE, 17021367.

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M/SGT, HERBERT (NMI) JACOB, 6965329.
 T/SGT. WILLIAM F. BARENTINE, 17013483.
 T/SGT. JOHN R. HALL, 15966904.
 T/SGT. JIMMIE (NMI) KARRANT, 17019559.
 S/SGT. HAROLD D. HIGGS, 16051218.
 CPL. CARL L. CARTER, 16072423.

- (E) JOHN J. MADIGAN, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, O-202324, FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT ON 18 DECEMBER 1943, WAS AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL PER GO 91, 11 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.
- (F) WILLIAM M. MORAN, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, O-812117, FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT ON 15 APRIL 1944, WAS AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL PER GO 91, 11 JULY 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.

2. ENCLOSED ARE WAR DIARY, 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1944 TO 31 JULY 1944, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR MONTH OF JULY 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Donald L. Whitney
 DONALD L. WHITNEY,
 1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

INCL:
 DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S E C R E T

PAGE NO. 1. WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.

MONTH OF JULY 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 1. | LTS. MADIGAN, WOLFSON, AND CLIHOVIK, HAVING COMPLETED 85, 86 AND 87 MISSIONS RESPECTIVELY, LEFT FOR PERSONNEL CENTER NO. 6, AND THE STATES. GOOD PILOTS AND FLIGHT AND SQUADRON LEADERS, THEY COMPLETED VERY GOOD TOURS, ALL OF THEM BEING RECOMMENDED FOR DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, AS WELL AS AIR MEDAL AND TWO CLUSTERS. UNFORTUNATELY, LT. WOLFSON WAS ONLY ONE AWARDED AIR MEDAL BEFORE HE LEFT, AS ORDERS WEREN'T CUT YET ON OTHER MEDALS. 2ND LT. CAMPBELL ARRIVED TODAY AND ATTACHED TO SQUADRON. THE RED CROSS GIRLS SERVED DOUGHNUTS TO SQUADRON AT NOON SHOW TODAY. GOOD TRACK BREAKING MISSION THIS EVENING WITH 6 BREAKS IN TRACK REPORTED. PERSONNEL PACKING FOR WATER MOVEMENT TO CORSICA. |
| 2. | TRANSITION FLYING, OPERATIONAL STANDDOWN. NINE MORE NEW PILOTS ARRIVED TODAY--COMPLETE WITH CANTEENS, 45'S AND ENTHUSIASM AND WERE ATTACHED TO ORGANIZATION. AT A GROUP FORMATION TODAY, GEN. GORDON P. SAVILLE PRESENTED THE LEGION OF MERIT TO W/SGT. CLARENCE V. HENDERSON, COMMUNICATIONS SECTION CHIEF; FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PERFECTION OF AN INGENIOUS NOISE ELIMINATING DEVICE FOR RADIO USED IN COMBAT PLANES. SGT. RALPH F. DAVIS WAS PRESENTED THE SOLDIERS MEDAL (SEE 6 MAY DIARY ENTRY), AND LT. GLENN L. Mc DONNELL WAS PRESENTED AN AIR MEDAL. (JR. BIRDMAN'S BADGE). MOVIE TONIGHT. |
| 3. | 10 MORE NEW PILOTS MAKING 19 IN ALL ARRIVED TODAY, AND ALL WERE ASSIGNED ORGANIZATION. NEW PILOTS: 1ST LTS. ADLER, CHAMBERS AND HILL, 2ND LTS. CAMPBELL, FULTON, GATES, GOSLIN, JEFSON, JUNG, LEWIS, MAUCK, NELSON, PIERCE, ROSMAN, TAYLOR, TOLVE, WATSON, AND F/O'S CROWELL AND KAPNER. MOST OF NEW PILOTS HAVE HAD TRAINING IN P-47'S, AND RELIEVE THE ACUTE PILOT SHORTAGE. EXCELLENT BOMBING MISSION TONIGHT LED BY LTS. MYRICK AND MORAN. LTS. CALDWELL AND DAVIE, FLYING ELEMENT LEADERS AND WINGMAN DISCOVERED A TRUCK CONCENTRATION AND DESTROYED 16 TRUCKS, SEVERAL OF THEM GAS TRUCKS. LT. CALDWELL SAID DRIVER LEAPED FROM ONE GAS TRUCK, BUT WAS ENVELOPED BY FLAMES IMMEDIATELY. LT. NELSON, NEW PILOT ARRIVING ON 2ND JULY, CRASHED AT CAPODICHINO WHILE TAKING OFF IN ONE OF NEW P-47'S. HE'S IN HOSPITAL WITH MINOR INJURIES. B-25 MADE A TRIP TO NAPLES TODAY AND BROUGHT BACK SOME BEER FOR BARBECUE JULY 5TH. GUARDS PICKED UP SOME SUSPECTED "JERRIES" ON FIELD TONIGHT. MOVIE TONIGHT, "MADAME CURIE". |
| 4. | TRANSITION FLYING CONTINUED. NEW PILOTS RECEIVED ORIENTATION AND OPERATIONS LECTURES AND WERE BRIEFED ON ESCAPE PROCEDURE TODAY. LT. COL. CASSIDY, FORMER SQUADRON COMMANDER, NOW DEPUTY COMMANDER OF 321 BOMB. GP., (M), VISITED SQUADRON TODAY. |
| 5. | LT. NELSON RETURNED TO SQUADRON FROM HOSPITAL, MINUS TWO FRONT TEETH. PILOTS FERRY MORE P-47'S. LT. FULTON HAD A CRACKUP AT CAPODICHINO, AND IS IN THE 17TH GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH A BROKEN WRIST. FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, ALSO CELEBRATION OF END OF YEARS COMBAT TONIGHT. SUPPER INCLUDED BARBECUED BEEF, ROAST CHICKEN, ROAST CORN, COLESLAW, THE BEER, CAKE AND ICE CREAM. THE GROUP BAND PLAYED DURING THE DINNER HOUR, SOUNDED VERY GOOD. IT HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL YEAR...THE GROUP COMPLETING 1462 MISSIONS, AND 13,608 SORTIES, AN AVERAGE OF 3.99 MISSIONS PER DAY. |

S E C R E T