

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

(L) AIR MEDALS AND/OR OAK LEAF CLUSTERS WERE AWARDED ON ORDERS INDICATED TO THE FOLLOWING PILOTS FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT:

GO #123, 7 AUGUST 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.

HARRY L. CALLWELL, O-605172, CAPT. - 1ST OLC.
NEWTON L. SAUNDERS, O-651709, 1ST LT. - 1ST OLC.
GEORGE W. WALLACE, O-665245, CAPT. - 1ST OLC.

GO #148, 30 AUGUST 1944, HQ 12TH AIR FORCE.

WILLIAM DAVIE, JR. O-697313, 1ST LT. - 1ST AND 2ND OLC.
JOHN R. DOLNY, O-672579, CAPT. - 2ND OLC.
CARL JOHNSON, C-798140, CAPT. - 2ND OLC.

GO #42, 12 SEPTEMBER 1944, HQ XII TAC.

WILLIAM DAVIE, JR., O-697313, 1ST LT. - 3RD OLC.

GO #44, 21 SEPTEMBER 1944, HQ XII TAC.

PAUL E. CROWELL, T-62268, F/O - AIR MEDAL.
GLYNN E. TAYLOR, O-766772, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL.
ALGEO M. TOLVE, O-818318, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL.

2. ENCLOSED ARE WAR DIARY, 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON FOR PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 1944 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1944, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

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

INCL:
DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

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

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

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 1. | PAYDAY YESTERDAY AND THE USUAL CROP OF "UMBRIAGOS IN THE SQUADRON THIS MORNING. STARTED THE MONTH WITH THREE MISSIONS, 25 SORTIES. SOME OF THE NEW PILOTS GETTING A CHANCE TO LEAD FLIGHTS, WITH LTS. WHITING, GATES, AND CHAMBERS LEADING MISSIONS TODAY. NEWS FROM WESTERN FRONT GOOD WITH AMERICAN TROOPS 25 MILES FROM GERMAN BORDER, VERDUN AND OTHER TOWNS OF WORLD WAR #1 FAME FALL TO ALLIES. "THE UNINVITED", THRILLER DILLER TONIGHT, NO ONE MUCH FRIGHTENED AS MOON SHONE SO BRIGHTLY ON SCREEN THAT HALF THE PICTURE WAS INDISTINGUISHABLE. |
| 2. | OPERATIONAL STANDDOWN TODAY. CREWS GET PLANES BACK INTO CONDITION. CONSIDERABLE FLAK DAMAGE TO REPAIR, AS JERRY AS YET HASN'T RUN OUT OF FLAK GUNS OR AMMUNITION. THE MOSQUITOES USUALLY TROUBLE-SOME AT DUSK AND SUNUP ARE ON ALL DAY PATROL NOW. |
| 3. | THREE MISSIONS TODAY, NOTHING UNUSUAL. CAPT. DOLNY, LT. SAUNDERS AND LT. CORN LEFT TODAY FOR CAIRO AND TELA VIV ON REST LEAVE. CAPT. JOHNSON ASSUMED COMMAND OF SQUADRON. MOVIE TONIGHT CANCELLED WHEN PROJECTOR BROKE DOWN. THE WOES OF A GI MOVIE OPERATOR ARE MANY--ONLY ONE PROJECTOR, AILING POWER PLANT, THE ELEMENTS WREAK HAVOC ON HIS SCREEN, ETC. |
| 4. | THREE MISSIONS AGAIN TODAY, CONCENTRATED ON PO RIVER CROSSING TARGETS, HIT PONTOON BRIDGES AND BARGES. LT. CHAMBERS HIT TREE TODAY IN LOW LEVEL STRAFING, BUT BROUGHT BACK PLANE ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. |
| 5. | THREE MISSIONS TODAY, AGAIN CONCENTRATING ON BARGES AND PONTOONS. LT. MC PHERSON, "THE MUDCAT", VISITED SQUADRON TODAY BUT HAS TO GO BACK TO HOSPITAL FOR FURTHER TREATMENT. PARACHUTES DEPT. AND KITCHEN RECEIVED NEW TENTS TODAY TO REPLACE LEAKY ONES. AT LEAST THE CHOW AND PARACHUTES WILL KEEP DRY. WITH LT. SAUNDERS AND CAPT. DOLNY GONE, CAPT. JOHNSON HAS BEEN KEPT INCREASINGLY BUSY WITH BOTH OPERATIONS AND COMMANDING OFFICER'S JOBS. EACH DAY A NEW BATCH OF RUMORS IS RUN OFF ON POSSIBLE MOVES TO FRANCE, ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, CHINA, AND INDIA. |
| 6. | A SLOW DRIZZLING RAIN FELL TODAY HERALDING THE APPROACH OF THE RAINY SEASON AND COOL WEATHER. STANDDOWN CALLED AT NOON. CAPT. MORAN AND LT. MILLER RETURNED FROM 14 DAY LEAVES IN TELA VIV. THE A-20'S WITH WHOM WE SHARE THE FIELD (47TH BOMB GP (L)) TOOK OFF FOR A NEW BASE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE BUT RETURNED DUE TO WEATHER. 2ND LTS. RAMSEY AND ROBINSON FINALLY ASSIGNED TO SQUADRON, HAVING JOINED 27 AUGUST. |
| 7. | RAIN. WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE, STANDDOWN IN THE AFTERNOON. WEATHER REMINISCENT OF POMIGLIANO, THOUGH THE RAINY SEASON SHOULDN'T START "IN EARNEST" UNTIL THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH. LT. |

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PAGE NO. 2. WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.

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

DAY	EVENTS
7.	(CONT'D) WOLFSON, FORMER PILOT OF ORGANIZATION (SEE 1 JULY ENTRY) RECEIVED D.F.C. TODAY.
8.	NO MISSIONS. LT. MAC FARLAND HAD TO DITCH HIS PLANE TODAY WHILE ON TEST HOP. HE WAS PICKED UP BY AIR SEA RESCUE. HE RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES AND IS AT THE 15TH FIELD HOSPITAL. CAPT. ATCHLEY, SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, RECEIVED A LONG AWAITED APPOINTMENT TO JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT AND DONNED THE PEAK, SWORD AND WREATH. HE HAS TRAVEL ORDERS AND WILL LEAVE FOR THE STATES AS SOON AS HE CAN PACK. GROUP BAND PLAYED AT OFFICER'S CLUB TONIGHT. CAPT. ELLIS AND 6 ENLISTED MEN WENT TO ROME TODAY IN 8-25 TO BECOME "ROME ROVERS" FOR THREE DAYS (REST CAMP).
9.	THREE MISSIONS TODAY. TWO OF THEM FLEW TO CECINA, ITALY TO BE BRIEFED ON CLOSE SUPPORT TARGETS BY RAF WING THERE. NOTICE CAME TODAY THAT LT. DAVID A. WATERMAN, "SANDY" MIA SINCE 9 MAY 1944, IS A PRISONER OF WAR AS IS COL. EDWIN A. BLAND, FORMERLY GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER. ORDERS ARRIVED TODAY AWARDING THE PURPLE HEART TO CAPT. CALDWELL AND LT. MC PHERSON AS RESULT OF INJURIES DUE TO ENEMY ACTION.
10.	TWO MISSIONS ON RAIL LINES, DESTROYED A LOCOMOTIVE AND 10 BOXCARS. A THIRD MISSION WAS SCRUBBED BECAUSE OF WEATHER. ENLISTED MEN'S AREA LOOKS RATHER BARE BECAUSE A NUMBER OF TENTS WERE TAKEN TO AJACCIO FOR SALVAGE. CAPT. ATCHLEY LEFT THE SQUADRON FOR THE STATES AND JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL SCHOOL. CAPT. ATCHLEY WAS APPOINTED SQUADRON INTELLIGENCE OFFICER DECEMBER 1942, AND HAS SERVED WELL IN THAT CAPACITY TO DATE. LT. WHITNEY WAS APPOINTED INTELLIGENCE OFFICER VICE CAPT. ATCHLEY, RELIEVED.
11.	THREE MISSIONS TODAY WITH LT. SCHIRO LEADING A GOOD ONE ACCOMPLISHING A ROAD BLOCK AND DESTROYING A 100' TRAWLER. NEWS OF THE DAY WAS THE ORDER TO PREPARE FOR A MOVE TO GROSSETTO MAIN, ITALY. ORDERS ARRIVED AWARDING THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL TO LEONARD P. HICKS, CREW CHIEF, FOR HEROISM (SEE ENTRY 10 AUGUST 1944) AND DFC'S TO CAPT. DOLNY, SQUADRON COMMANDER, AND LT. MITCHELL WHO LEFT ORGANIZATION 28 JULY 1944. LTS. MILLER AND REICHERT WENT TO HEAD-QUARTERS 12TH AIR FORCE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE EVALUATION BOARD. P.X. RATIONS TODAY WITH A GOODLY SUPPLY OF BEER, COKES, AND CANDY. ENLISTED MEN WORKING ON BAR. MOVIE TONIGHT "TWO GIRLS AND A SAILOR".
12.	FOUR MISSIONS TODAY, THREE ARMED RECCES AND A FLAK DELOUSING MISSION. THE FLAK DELOUSING MISSIONS ARE RATHER ROUGH AND ARE NOT AT ALL RELISHED BY PILOTS. TWO PILOTS DITCHED PLANES TODAY. LT. GOSLIN WAS HIT IN OIL LINE BY FLAK AND MADE IT ALMOST ALL OF THE WAY BACK TO THE ISLAND, HIS SHIP LEAKING TWO QUARTS OF OIL PER MINUTE. HE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB DITCHING AND WAS PICKED UP BY AIR SEA RESCUE. F/O KAPNER DITCHED AGAIN, THE SECOND TIME, HE HAD TROUBLE ON TAKEOFF. HE WAS PICKED UP BY CATALINA. BOTH PILOTS TOOK THE EXPERIENCE VERY COOLY. LT. GOSLIN'S ONLY REGRET

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PAGE NO. 3 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 85TH FIGHTER GROUP.

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

DAY	EVENTS
12.	(CONT'D) WAS NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE CLOCK OUT OF SHIP BEFORE IT SUNK, SAYS NEXT TIME HE DITCHES A PLANE HE'LL TAKE SCREWDRIIVER ALONG. CPL. SPENIL AND PVT. WHEAT OF TRANSPORTATION LEFT FOR FRANCE TODAY TO GET THE GROUP COMMANDER'S SLEEPING TRAILER. THE ADVANCED ECHELON 4 OFFICERS AND 70 ENLISTED MEN WENT TO STAGING AREA AT ILLE ROUSSE, CORSICA TODAY, LEAVING AT 1500 HOURS.
13.	THREE MISSIONS TODAY. DESTROYED 2 BRIDGES, BOXCARS, AND MT AND CAUSED A ROAD BLOCK. SQUADRON HAS BEEN WORKING LATE HOURS. DUE TO WEATHER TAKEOFF TIME OFTEN HAS TO BE MOVED UP MAKING THE WHOLE SCHEDULE LATE. TODAY ALL MISSIONS WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY 1500, AND THE LINE CONSIDERED IT A "HALF DAY" OFF. LT. DAVIE WENT TO HQ. 12TH AIR FORCE TO APPEAR BEFORE EVALUATION BOARD. BIG NEWS IN NORTHERN FRANCE--AMERICAN'S REPORTED TO BE IN GERMANY PROPER. SOUTH PACIFIC NEWS REPORTS INDICATE 52 JAP SHIPS SUNK BY AMERICAN PLANES. MOVIE PROJECTOR WENT WITH THE ADVANCE PARTY, SO THE REMAINDER OF THE SQUADRON JOURNEYED TO THE SERVICE SQUADRON AREA FOR MOVIE TONIGHT.
14.	TWO MISSIONS TODAY--ROUTINE. A LITTLE EXCITEMENT TODAY WHEN LT. LEFKOW CRACKED UP ON THE RUNWAY AS HE LANDED. HIS RIGHT LANDING GEAR COLLAPSED, HE ESCAPED WITHOUT INJURY. THE ADVANCE ECHELON RETURNED FROM ILLE ROUSSE--NO BOAT. AFTER THEIR DRY RUN THERE, THEY'LL SWEAT OUT A BOAT IN BASTIA.
15.	TWO MISSIONS TODAY, NOTHING UNUSUAL. M/SGT REGAN, COMMUNICATIONS CHIEF, ACTING 1ST SGT. AS SGT. PARKER LEFT WITH "A" PARTY. "A" PARTY LOADED ON TO BOATS (LST'S) IN BASTIA HARBOR TONIGHT. ORDERS CAME TODAY PROMOTING 2ND LT. JUNG TO 1ST LT.
16.	THREE MISSIONS TODAY, ONE FLAK DELOUSING AND THE OTHER TWO ON RAILS TARGETS. TWO OF PILOTS BROUGHT HOME FLAK DAMAGED SHIPS. SQUADRON WORKING SHORT HANDED WITH ONE PARTY ENROUTE TO GROSSETTO AND "B" PARTY PREPARING TO LEAVE--THIS MOVE TO TAKE PLACE IN THREE SECTIONS... "A" PARTY HAS GONE, "B" PARTY WILL LEAVE TOMORROW, "C" PARTY WILL BRING REMAINING EQUIPMENT AND COME BY LST LATER. LTS. REICHERT AND MILLER RECEIVED ORDERS TO RETURN TO STATES. LT. REICHERT COMPLETED 73 MISSIONS, JOINED THE SQUADRON 13 MARCH 1944. "BABY" MILLER COMPLETED 80 MISSIONS AND JOINED SQUADRON 18 FEB. 1944. BOTH PILOTS JOINED SQUADRON AT POMIGLIANO AND WERE STAND-BYS IN THE HARD SLUGGING ON CASSINO AND THE PUSH ON ROME.
17.	THREE MISSIONS TODAY, THE FIRST EXCELLENT, LED BY CAPT. WALLACE. IT ACCOMPLISHED MAXIMUM DAMAGE DESTROYING FOUR LOCOMOTIVES, A STRING OF BOXCARS, SOME MT AND MESSED UP MARSHALLING YARDS AT VENTIMIGLIA. FROM PARACHUTE TENT TO BRIEFING ROOM THE EXCITED CHATTER INDICATED AN EXCELLENT JOB. "B" PARTY LOADED ONTO LST'S TONIGHT. TIME MOVED BACK AN HOUR TODAY, BUT AS CHOW WAS SERVED AT 0500 HOURS TO ACCOMODATE "B" PARTY, THE BENEFIT OF EXTRA HOURS

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PAGE NO. 4 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 85TH FIGHTER GROUP.

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

- | DAY | EVENTS |
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| 17. | (CONT'D) SLEEP WAS NOT ENJOYED. CAPT. RIDER WENT ALONG TO TELA VIV TO PICK UP THE REST LEAVE PILOTS. |
| 18. | TWO MISSIONS THIS MORNING. CAPT. JOHNSON DID SOME SPECTACULAR LOW LEVEL BOMBING TOSSING A PAIR OF BOMBS IN TUNNEL MOUTH ON THE COASTAL LINE. THE FLIGHT ECHELON, THE PILOTS AND 15 CREW CHIEFS LEFT FOR GROSSETTO VIA P-47 AND C-47 RESPECTIVELY. "B" PARTY ARRIVED TONIGHT DISEMBARKING AT PIOMBINO. "C" PARTY STILL IN CORSICA CLEANING UP AND PACKING FOR MOVE. ONLY 1 P-47 LEFT ON FIELD AT PORETTA. PLANES PARKED ON DIRT STRIP HERE IN GROSSETTO, AS THERE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT HARD STANDS. OFFICERS QUARTERED IN BUILDING JUST VACATED BY ARMY HOSPITAL. ENLISTED MEN BIVOUACED IN CLEARING ABOUT 1/2 MILE FROM THE FIELD. |
| 19. | SQUADRON HAD TWO MISSIONS TODAY, ONE ON A COMMAND POST AND THE SECOND AN ARMED RECONNAISSANCE. THE LINE AREA IS ALL SET UP AND THE BIVOUAC AREA FAIRLY WELL ESTABLISHED. CAPT. DOLNY, LT. SAUNDERS AND LT. CORN RETURNED FROM TELA VIV TODAY WITH HIGH PRAISE FOR THE REST CAMP FACILITIES IN TELA VIV, THE MODERN CITY, AND ENTERTAINMENT OFFERED. THEY ARRIVED AT PORETTA AND CAUGHT THE B-25 TO GROSSETTO. |
| 20. | STANDDOWN - RAINED MOST OF DAY. BIVOUAC AREA MUDDY AND ALMOST UNTENABLE - CO LOOKING FOR BUILDING FOR ENLISTED MEN'S QUARTERS. |
| 21. | "C" PARTY DEPARTED, WITH NO REGRETS, FROM PORETTA AIRFIELD TO THE STAGING AREA OUTSIDE OF BASTIA. BAD WEATHER - GROSSETTO. MEN MOVED FROM TENTS INTO ARTILLERY-ARSENAL BUILDINGS ABOUT 4 MILES FROM FIELD. THE BUILDINGS ARE LONG BARNLIKE WITH CONCRETE FLOORS, MAKE VERY LIVABLE BARRACKS. COL. BATES HAS SECURED A LARGE BUILDING IN TOWN FOR ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB. |
| 22. | FLYING RESUMED TODAY - FLEW THREE MISSIONS. "C" PARTY IS STILL IN THE STAGING AREA, BUT WORD CAME TO THEM TONIGHT THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE EARLY TOMORROW MORNING. THE MESS HALL DREW RATIONS IN THE STAGING AREA, BUT WAS UNABLE TO COOK THE CHICKEN DUE TO THE FACT THE SQUADRON WAS ALERTED FOR AN ALMOST HOURLY MOVE. |
| 23. | LT. LEFKOW MISSING IN ACTION TODAY, BUT HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BAILED OUT QUITE NEAR OUR OWN LINES. A VERY BUSY DAY WITH FOUR MISSIONS. "C" PARTY LEFT CORSICA ABOARD LST #283 SANS A FEW VEHICLES WHICH WERE "RANKED OFF" THE BOAT AND WILL HAVE TO REMAIN FOR A FEW DAYS. LT. HAROLD J. INGLEY, THE PILOT OF "STREAMER CHUTE" FAME (SEE 22 AUGUST 1944 ENTRY) JOINED THE ORGANIZATION, AND WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. |
| 24. | "C" PARTY ARRIVED IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING AFTER A TRIP TO LEGHORN FIRST AND THENCE TO PIOMBINO, THE SQUADRON IS OPERATING TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE LEAVING CORSICA. CAPT. TILLESON, HEADING THE TRUCK DETAIL, MADE TWO TRIPS TO PIOMBINO EARLY THIS MORNING TO CLEAN UP ALL THE EQUIPMENT THAT WAS LEFT ON THE DOCKS. 3 MISSIONS TODAY, BUT THEY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF WEATHER. PROMOTIONS CAME THROUGH TODAY FOR PILOTS. |

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1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---|
| 24. | (CONT'D) THOSE THAT RECEIVED SILVER BARS WERE LTS. TAYLOR, LEWIS, PIERCE, ROSMAN AND TOLVE. LTS. MILLER AND REICHERT WERE TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL CENTER #7 FOR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. |
| 25. | TWO MISSIONS TODAY, ONE CLEAR TO ITALIAN-SWISS BORDER ON LAKE MAGGIORE. THE PILOTS TOOK OFF AFTER BRIEFING, YODELING AND JOKING ABOUT SPENDING THE BALLANCE OF THE "DURATION" IN SOME NICE SWISS HOTEL. 2ND LT. FULTON, IN HOSPITAL AS RESULT OF INJURIES SUFFERED (SEE 5 JULY ENTRY) WHEN HE CRASHED ON TAKEOFF, WAS TRANSFERRED TO DETACHMENT OF PATIENTS, 16 STATION HOSPITAL. 1ST LT. JOHN T. BOONE, WAS ASSIGNED ORGANIZATION AFTER JOINING ORGANIZATION 21 SEPTEMBER. LT. BOONE TRANSFERRED TO THIS ORGANIZATION FROM THE 79 FIGHTER GROUP AND HAD 108 MISSIONS. SQUADRON AREA CONTINUES TO TAKE SHAPE AS ENLISTED MEN ARE MAKING TABLES, CHAIRS, CLOTHES TREES, WASH STANDS, ETC. OUT OF AVAILABLE MATERIAL AT THE ARSENAL. THE OFFICERS STARTED EATING AT A GROUP OFFICER'S MESS ON 21 SEPTEMBER. CAPT. GROSS HAS SECURED SOME RANGES AND IMPROVISED OTHERS, BORROWED EQUIPMENT FROM SQUADRONS, HIRED ITALIAN LABOR, AND SET UP A VERY EFFICIENT MESS. FIRST TIME ALL OF THE OFFICERS HAVE MESSED TOGETHER SINCE THE ORGANIZATION LEFT THE STATES AND THEY'RE ENJOYING IT. |
| 26. | FIVE MISSIONS TODAY WITH RAIL TARGETS PREDOMINATING. THE DAYS TOTAL INCLUDED - DESTROYED: 1 LOCOMOTIVE, 19 BOXCARS, 3 OIL CARS, 1 TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT; DAMAGED: 25 BOXCARS, A 150' BOAT, 2 TUGS, 2 MOTOR TRANSPORTS. THE ENEMY IS FALLING BACK STEADILY ON THE GOTHIC LINE. NEWS FROM THE WESTERN FRONT HAS A SOMBER NOTE WITH ALLIED AIRBORNE ARMY TRAPPED IN HOLLAND. ORDERS CAME THROUGH TODAY AWARDED SILVER STAR TO LT. MC PHERSON (SEE 23 JULY ENTRY) AND DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO LT. SAUNDERS. (SEE SEPTEMBER HISTORY FOR CITATION). CPL. SPENIL AND PVT WHEAT RETURNED FROM FRANCE TODAY WITH THE GROUP COMMANDERS SLEEPING TRAILER AND GLOWING TALES OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA AND ATTRACTIVE FRENCH GIRLS. LT. YORK AND 13 ENLISTED MEN LEFT ON THE DOCKS AT BASTIA, JOINED THE SQUADRON TODAY, BRINGING THE BALANCE OF THE SQUADRON VEHICLES, RELIEVING THE RATHER ACUTE SHORTAGE OF TRANSPORTATION. THREE OFFICERS AND FOUR ENLISTED MEN LEFT FOR ROME TODAY TO ATTEND JEWISH SERVICES FOR YOM KIPPUR IN THAT CITY. GROUP ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB RAPIDLY TAKING SHAPE AS ENLISTED MEN RUSH AROUND GETTING READY FOR A BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OPENING. |
| 27. | TWO MISSIONS TODAY WITH ONE MISSION HITTING A TROOP CONCENTRATION, PILOTS REPORTING EXCELLENT COVERAGE OF TARGET AREA. LT. DAVIE, ANOTHER STANDBY OF THE DAYS BELOW ROME, WAS TRANSFERRED TO 62ND FIGHTER WING, PROBABLY ON A NON COMBAT FLYING BASIS. LT. DAVIE HAD COMPLETED 61 COMBAT MISSIONS, WILL BE RECOMMENDED FOR DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS FOR EXCELLENT WORK DONE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE BREAK THROUGH TO ROME |

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PAGE NO. 6 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.

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

DAY	EVENTS
	28. ONLY ONE MISSION TODAY, DUE TO BAD WEATHER. THE FLIGHT CRATERED A RAILWAY TRACK, SECONDARY ROAD, AND BLOCKED A TUNNEL. THE GOTHIC LINE APPEARS BREACHED IN 5TH ARMY SECTOR, BUT JERRY CONTINUES TO COUNTERATTACK FIERCELY AND PROGRESS IS SLOW. MAIL SITUATION CONTINUES BAD, WITH BUT A FEW V-MAILS TRICKLING THROUGH, PERHAPS THE CHRISTMAS MAIL HAS SIDE TRACKED REGULAR DELIVERY.
	29. STANDDOWN THIS MORNING, THOUGH THE PILOTS WERE BRIEFED AT 0530 HOURS... MORE RAIN. LT. CORN RECEIVED ORDERS TODAY AWARDING HIM THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS. GI MOVIE IN TOWN TONIGHT. AS TOWN IS FAIRLY CLOSE TO BARRACKS AREA, THERE IS USUALLY A BIG CROWD TO MOVIES, BOTH GI AND ITALIAN.
	30. TWO TRACK BREAKING MISSIONS ACCOMPLISHING 17 DIRECT HITS ON RAIL LINE. IT HAS BEEN A PROFITABLE MONTH. THE SQUADRON FLEW 63 MISSIONS, 450 SORTIES; LOST ONE PILOT, MIA; LOST 3 P-47'S; EXPENDED 183,882 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION; DROPPED 844 X 500 BOMBS. COMMENDATION RECEIVED TODAY FROM GENERAL CHIDLAW, ENDORSED BY COL. BATES, EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS ON OPERATIONS FROM 1ST TO 28 SEPTEMBER. (SEE ATTACHED COPY).

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

S E C R E T

527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
OUTLINE HISTORY
OCTOBER 1944

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

SECRET

1 NOVEMBER 1944

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL RECORDS.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, XXII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO 650,
U.S. ARMY.

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

A. PRESENT DESIGNATION: 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH
FIGHTER GROUP, XXII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND.

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:

(1) CHANGES IN DESIGNATION, ASSIGNMENT OF ATTACHMENT:

(A) CHANGES IN DESIGNATION: NONE.

(B) CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT: RELIEVED OF ASSIGN-
MENT TO XII FIGHTER COMMAND AND REASSIGNED
TO THE XXII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, PER
SECTION 1, PAR. 2, GO #75, HQ. XXII T.A.C.,
DATED 20 OCTOBER 1944.

(C) CHANGES IN ATTACHMENT: NONE.

(2) SUBORDINATE UNITS: NONE.

(3) CHANGES IN COMMANDING OFFICERS: NONE.

(4) CHANGES IN STAFF OFFICERS: NONE.

(5) CHANGES IN T/O: NONE.

C. STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED AND ENLISTED:

(1) MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944:

(A) AT BEGINNING: 53 OFFICERS, 244 ENLISTED MEN.

(B) NET INCREASE: NONE.

(C) NET DECREASE: 2 ENLISTED MEN.

(D) AT END: 53 OFFICERS, 242 ENLISTED MEN.

D. STATIONS:

(1) GROSSETTO AIRFIELD, ITALY.

(A) DATE OF ARRIVAL: 23 SEPTEMBER 1944.

(B) DATE OF DEPARTURE: (PER VOCO 86TH FIGHTER
GROUP)

1. 3 OFFICERS, 73 ENLISTED MEN MOVED FROM
GROSSETTO AIRFIELD, ITALY, TO PISA AIR-
FIELD, ITALY. DEPARTED 24 OCTOBER 1944,
ARRIVED 25 OCTOBER 1944.

~~RESTRICTED~~ SECRET

1 2 4 7

S E C R E T

2. REMAINDER OF PERSONNEL DS TO GROSSETTO AIRFIELD.

- (2) PISA AIRFIELD, ITALY.
 - (A) DATE OF ARRIVAL: 25 OCTOBER 1944.
 - (B) DATE OF DEPARTURE: PRESENT STATION.

E. MOVEMENTS:

- (1) FROM GROSSETTO AIRFIELD TO PISA AIRFIELD, ITALY.
 - (A) PURPOSE: CHANGE OF STATION.
 - (B) DATES: 24 OCTOBER 1944 TO 25 OCTOBER 1944.
 - (C) MOVE ACCOMPLISHED BY MOTOR CONVOYS.
 - (D) CONDITIONS OF ROADS, CONVEYANCES AND WEATHER: ROADS IN FAIR CONDITION, CONVEYANCES GOOD, WEATHER RAINY.

F. CAMPAIGNS:

- (1) SICILIAN: 3 JULY 1943 TO 17 AUGUST 1943.
- (2) ITALIAN: 18 AUGUST 1943 TO DATE, STILL IN PROGRESS.
- (3) SOUTHERN FRANCE: 15 AUGUST 1944 TO 26 AUGUST 1944. (26 AUGUST 1944 DATE OF LAST MISSION FLOWN BY 86TH GROUP IN FRANCE)

G. OPERATIONS:

- (1) CAMPAIGN: ITALIAN.
- (2) NATURE OF OPERATIONS: CONTINUED FLYING MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF CAMPAIGN, FLYING 53 DIRECT SUPPORT MISSIONS ON TANK AND TROOP CONCENTRATIONS, GUN POSITIONS, STRONG POINTS, MOTOR TRANSPORT CONCENTRATIONS, FUEL AND AMMUNITION DUMPS; 1 ANTI-FLAK MISSION; 1 BOMBING MISSION ON COASTAL GUNS; 12 BOMBING MISSIONS ON RAILROAD TARGETS; 10 ROAD RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS, AND 3 WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS.
- (3) NUMBER OF MISSIONS AND SORTIES FOR PERIOD: 80 MISSIONS AND 392 SORTIES DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944.
- (4) RESULTS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
 - (A) MISSION #1939, 1 OCTOBER 1944.
 - 1. CLOSE SUPPORT MISSION - NORTH OF BOMB SAFE LINE.
 - 2. ATTACK TROOP CONCENTRATION.
 - 3. ALL BOMBS IN AREA STARTING OIL FIRE. AREA THOROUGHLY STRAFED DESPITE INTENSE SMALL ARMS FIRE. SOUTH AFRICAN GROUND FORCES SENT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON MISSION. NO LOSSES.
 - (B) MISSION #1948, 3 OCTOBER 1944.
 - 1. CLOSE SUPPORT MISSION - NORTH OF BOMB SAFE LINE WITH NEW TYPE FUEL TANKS, INCENDIARY.
 - 2. PURPOSE: TO ATTACK AND DESTROY AN ENEMY COMMAND POST AND CONCENTRATION OF HOWITZERS IN THE PATH OF THE 5TH ARMY'S ADVANCE.
 - 3. RESULTS: AREA WELL COVERED BY FIRE TANKS WITH FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS COVERING ENTIRE AREA. EXCELLENT COVERAGE. 12 DIRECT HITS TARGET AREA. 1 PLANE AND PILOT LOST.

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- (C) MISSION #2045, 13 OCTOBER 1944.
1. CLOSE SUPPORT MISSION - NORTH OF BOMB SAFE LINE.
 2. ATTACK GUN EMPLACEMENTS AND ENEMY OCCUPIED BUILDINGS, HOLDING UP 5TH ARMY'S ADVANCE.
 3. 2 HITS ON BUILDING - BUILDING LEFT BURNING. 3 HITS IN IMMEDIATE TARGET AREA. FLIGHT RETURNED AND MADE 3 STRAFING PASSES DESPITE INTENSE FLAK. CONTROLLER COMMENDED FLIGHT. ALL AIRCRAFT (4) IN THE FLIGHT WERE DAMAGED BY FLAK.

- (D) MISSION #2125, 23 OCTOBER 1944.
1. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION - NORTHERN ITALY.
 2. TO ATTACK TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY - PREFERABLY TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATION TARGETS.
 3. DAMAGED 150' RAILROAD BRIDGE, DESTROYED 3 LOCOMOTIVES, 3 TANK CARS, 2 BOXCARS, 2 MOTOR TRANSPORTS, 2 LARGE STORAGE TANKS AND STACKED BARRELS. NO LOSSES.

H. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:

- (1) CAPT. JOHN R. DOLNY COMMANDED SQUADRON 1 OCTOBER TO 15 OCTOBER 1944. REASSUMED COMMAND 25 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER 1944.
- (2) CAPT. CARL JOHNSON COMMANDED SQUADRON 15 OCTOBER TO 25 OCTOBER 1944.
- (3) SQUADRON LEADERS IN IMPORTANT MISSIONS:
 - (A) 1ST LT. CARL D. CORN LED MISSION #1939, 1 OCTOBER 1944.
 - (B) 1ST LT. JOHN T. BOONE LED MISSION #1948, 3 OCTOBER 1944.
 - (C) 1ST LT. GEORGE E. HILL LED MISSION # 2045, 13 OCTOBER 1944.
 - (D) 1ST LT. JAMES E. SCHIRO LED MISSION #2125, 23 OCTOBER 1944.

I. LOSSES IN ACTION:

- (1) MISSING IN ACTION: JOHN T. BOONE, O-814640, CAPT., (THEN 1ST LT.), AIR CORPS, 3 OCTOBER 1944. FAILED TO RETURN FROM A BOMBING MISSION ON A COMMAND POST. HIS SHIP WAS HIT BY FLAK OVER TARGET AND WAS SEEN TO CRASH AND BURN 2 MILES SOUTHWEST OF LIANO, ITALY.

J. FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN ACTION:

- (1) HARRY L. CALDWELL, O-665172, CAPT., AIR CORPS, FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT. ON 9 AUGUST 1944, CAPT. CALDWELL LED A 12 PLANE ATTACK UPON A MARSHALLING YARD IN NORTHERN ITALY. LEADING HIS FLIGHT THROUGH A HEAVY OVERCAST HE NAVIGATED TO THE TARGET ACCURATELY AND LED HIS FLIGHT TO SCORE MANY DIRECT HITS DESTROYING 30 RAIL CARS, CUTTING THE LINES AND SETTING FIRE TO WAREHOUSES. CONTINUING AT LOW LEVEL, CAPT. CALDWELL

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- LED HIS FLIGHT ON TO STRAFE MANY FREIGHT CARS CAUSING HUGE DAMAGE. FOR THESE AND OTHER ACTIONS, CAPT. CALDWELL WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS PER GO #173, HQ. TWELFTH AIR FORCE, DATED 19 SEPTEMBER 1944.
- (2) FRANK E. MYRICK, O-812120, 1ST LT. (MIA), AIR CORPS. FOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT. ON 14 JULY 1944, LT. MYRICK LED AN ATTACK ON ENEMY RAIL LINES. OBSERVING AN ENEMY TRAIN LOADED WITH MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND SUPPLIES, HE ATTACKED DESPITE HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. HIS BOMBS SCORED DIRECT HITS ON THE FLATCARS, AND THE BALANCE OF THE FLIGHT FOLLOWED HIM DESTROYING ALL THE MOTOR TRANSPORTS AND THE MAJORITY OF THE OTHER RAILWAY CARS. HE THEN LOCATED A RAILWAY TRAIN OF 100 PLUS CARS AND LED HIS FLIGHT IN STRAFING THEM, LEAVING MORE THAN 30 AFIRE. HE ALSO ATTACKED A THIRD TRAIN, DESTROYING 4 MORE CARS AND 4 MOTOR TRANSPORTS. FOR THESE AND OTHER ACTIONS, LT. MYRICK WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS PER GO #45, HQ XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1944.
- (3) ARTHUR G. HARWOOD, 19062554, SGT., AIR CORPS. FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY HEROISM. WHEN A SERIOUS ACCIDENT OCCURRED THE NIGHT OF 8 AUGUST 1944. AN AIRPLANE CRASHED AND SKIDDED INTO AN AIRCRAFT DISPERSAL AREA COMING TO REST LESS THAN ONE FOOT FROM ANOTHER AIRCRAFT AND BURST INTO FLAMES. SGT. HARWOOD ASSISTED IN STARTING THE PARKED AIRCRAFT AND MOVING IT TO SAFETY. FOR THIS ACTION, THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL WAS AWARDED PER GO #50, HQ XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, DATED 1 OCTOBER 1944.
- (4) AIR MEDALS AND/OR OAK LEAF CLUSTERS WERE AWARDED ON ORDERS INDICATED TO THE FOLLOWING PILOTS FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT:

GO #45, HQ XII T.A.C., DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1944.

EDMUND A. JUNG, O-704682, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL
 JOHN W. MAC FARLAND, O-561585, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL,
 JAMES E. SCHIFO, O-815398, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL.

GO #50, HQ XII T.A.C., DATED 1 OCTOBER 1944.

HARRY L. CALDWELL, O-665172, CAPT. - 2ND OLC.
 BOYD B. CHAMBERS, O-25883, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL.
 CARL L. CORN, O-697256, 1ST LT. - 2ND OLC.
 JOHN R. DOLNY, O-672579, CAPT. - 3RD & 4TH OLC.
 GEORGE E. HILL, O-451878, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL

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LELAND P. LEWIS, O-812735, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL.
 FRANK E. MYRICK, O-812120, 1ST LT. - 2ND OLC.
 JOHN W. REICHEFT, O-759081, 1ST LT. - 2ND OLC.
 NEWTON L. SAUNDERS, O-681709, CAPT. - 2ND OLC.
 GEORGE W. WALLACE, O-665245, CAPT. - 2ND OLC.
 JAMES R. WHITING, O-686521, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL.

GO #198, HQ. TWELFTH AIR FORCE, DATED 17 OCT. 1944.

JAMES H. ELLIS, CAPT. O-660554. - AIR MEDAL
 GEORGE W. DUNGAN, O-817000, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL
 FREDERICK D. GATES, O-707682, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL.
 CECIL E. HAYES, O-705581, 1ST LT. - AIR MEDAL
 OLUF W. JEFSON, O-704680, 2ND LT. - AIR MEDAL.
 JOHN R. MC GEHEE, O-824379, 2ND LT. - AIR MEDAL.

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

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

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

INCL:
 DIARY AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

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SECRETPAGE NO. 1. WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944. PREPARED BY: DONALD L. WHITNEY,
1ST LT., AIR CORPS,
527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON.

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|--|
| 1 | 1ST DAY OF THE MONTH WITH TWO MISSIONS BEING BRIEFED BEFORE 0600 O'CLOCK. 7 MISSIONS TODAY IN ALL ENDING AT 1800 HOURS. SQUADRON ACCUMULATED 34 SORTIES, COL. BATES FLYING ON TWO OF THE MISSIONS. NO PAYDAY TODAY, PAYROLL IN LATE DUE TO MOVE. FEW HEADACHES THIS MORNING AFTER LAST NIGHTS GRAND OPENING OF THE ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB. THE OPENING WAS A GALA AFFAIR COMPLETE WITH ORCHESTRA, DRINKS, AND DANCING...THE SUPPLY OF SIGNORIGNAS WAS LIMITED, BUT THOSE WHO CAME APPEARED TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. |
| 2 | RAN A WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE THIS MORNING AND WERE STOOD DOWN AT NOON. CAPT. JESSE R. CORE, III, JOINED SQUADRON TODAY. CAPT. CORE HAS COMPLETED 86 COMBAT MISSIONS. HE ORIGINALLY FLEW OFF THE AIR-CRAFT CARRIER "RANGER" AND PARTICIPATED IN THE TUNISIAN, PANTELLERIAN, SICILIAN, AND ITALIAN CAMPAIGNS. 2ND LT. MAUCK RECEIVED ORDERS TODAY PROMOTING HIM TO 1ST LT. A MOVIE SET UP IN THE ENLISTED MEN'S AREA MAKING IT ONCE AGAIN POSSIBLE TO GO TO THE MOVIES WITHOUT LEAVING THE BASE. THE ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB GAINED CONSIDERABLE POPULARITY AS THE SECOND DANCE BROUGHT FORTH A NUMBER OF THE TOWN'S "BELLA SIGNORIGNAS". RECEIVED A COMMENDATION TODAY ON LT. CORN'S MISSION OF 1715 HOURS YESTERDAY (SEE ATTACHED COPY). |
| 3 | THREE MISSIONS TODAY. USED NEW FUEL TANK, INCENDIARY - 110 GAL. WING TANKS FILLED WITH GASOLINE AND A GELATINOUS SUBSTANCE AND FUSED WITH SMALL GRENADES WHICH IGNITE ON IMPACT. THE PILOTS REPORT A DAZZLING DISPLAY WITH FLAMES AND SMOKE COVERING A LARGE AREA, THOUGH THEIR FIRST REACTION IS NOT TOO ENTHUSIASTIC...THEY HAVE TO BE CARRIED TOO LOW ON "HOT" TARGETS, AND THEY TUMBLE END OVER END AND ARE RATHER DIFFICULT TO AIM. LT. JOHN T. BOONE MISSING IN ACTION TODAY. NEW TO THE SQUADRON, BUT HAVING 100 PLUS MISSIONS, LT. BOONE HAD ALREADY EXHIBITED EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP. HE WASN'T SEEN TO BAIL OUT, BUT CHANCES ARE FAIR THAT HE DID SO, AS HIS PLANE WASN'T UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SEVERAL MINUTES. LT. BOONE JOINED SQUADRON FROM THE 79TH FIGHTER GROUP 21 SEPT., (SEE 25 SEPT, 1944 ENTRY) |
| 4 | CLASSIC BREAKFAST THIS MORNING OF BACON AND FRESH EGGS. CHOW HAS BEEN GOOD, WITH MORE FRESH MEAT AND FRESH EGGS THAN RATIONED IN CORSICA. FOUR MISSIONS TODAY WITH THE SECOND ANOTHER FUEL TANK INCENDIARY JOB, WITH ORDNANCE AND CHEMICAL WARFARE OFFICERS FROM COMMAND PRESENT FOR BRIEFING AND INTERROGATION. LTS. PIERCE, TAYLOR, AND FOUR E.M. LEFT FOR ROME TODAY ON REST LEAVE. PAYDAY PRECEDED BY A GUN INSPECTION. CARD GAMES TONIGHT--A STAGE SHOW IN TOWN, AND A BETTE DAVIS MOVIE ON THE "POST" TONIGHT--THOSE REMAINING IN BARRACKS LISTENED TO THE FIRST GAME OF THE WORLDS SERIES, WITH THE BROWNS WINNING 2 TO 1. FACILITIES FOR ENTERTAINMENT ARE THE BEST SINCE THE TRIP OVERSEAS A YEAR AGO LAST APRIL. |
| 5 | WE WERE TO HAVE A DAWN TAKEOFF, BUT WEATHER PREVENTED. STANDDOWN WAS CALLED AT NOON, AND THE PILOTS WENT BACK TO THEIR QUARTERS FOR A BIT OF "SACK TIME". ORDERS ARRIVED TODAY AWARDDING DFC TO CAPT. CALDWELL, WHO LEFT ORGANIZATION FOR ZONE OF INTERIOR 9 SEPT, 1944. |

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PAGE NO. 2 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.

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

DAY EVENTS

- 6 ANOTHER BAD DAY WITH RAIN ALL MORNING AND A HURRICANE PREDICTED IN THE AFTERNOON. LINE PERSONNEL RUSHED DOWN TO STAKE DOWN THE PLANES. THE HURRICANE DIDN'T MATERIALIZE, BUT THE WIND WAS PRETTY STRONG. ORDERS CAME THROUGH YESTERDAY AWARDING THE DFC TO LT. FRANK E. MYRICK (MIA), AND AIR MEDALS TO LTS. JUNG, MAC FARLAND, AND SCHIRO. THE NUMBER OF MEN TO HAVE AWARDS PRESENTED TO IS STEADILY GROWING. GENERAL CHIDLAW IS TO BE HERE TOMORROW FOR PRESENTATION OF MEDALS. LT. CHARLES E. MULNIX (SLIM), WHO WAS REPORTED MIA AFTER ATTACK UPON CONINO LANDING GROUNDS ON 24 APRIL 1944, WAS REPORTED TO BE A PRISONER OF WAR. DREW RATIONS TODAY WITH PERSONNEL DRAWING 12 BOTTLES OF BEER, A GOOD AMOUNT OF CANDY, TOILET ARTICLES, ETC. THE RATIONS HAVE EVEN INCLUDED CRACKERS AND PRETZELS TO GO WITH THE BEER. THE RATIONS HAVE STEADILY IMPROVED SINCE OUR FIRST RATION OF HARD CANDY IN "C" RATIONS RECEIVED IN AFRICA.

- 7 AFTER THE WET WEATHER OF THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS, TODAY DAWNED BRIGHT. 7 MISSIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE DAY, WITH THE FIRST ONE TAKING OFF AT 0715 HOURS. THE DAY FINALLY WOUND UP ONE OF THE BIGGEST WE HAVE HAD SINCE RETURNING TO ITALY. THE SQUADRON FLEW 6 MISSIONS, 3 ROVER JOES AMONG THEM. RECEIVED TWO AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON, A COUPLE OF P-47D-28. THE PRESENTATION OF AWARDS SCHEDULED FOR THIS MORNING, AND THEN THIS AFTERNOON WAS FINALLY CALLED OFF-- NIENTE GENERALE! CAPT. JOHNSON, LT. SOLVE AND 3 E.M. WENT TO ROME FOR REST LEAVE AND CAPT. VORIS, LTS. SCHNEIDAU AND GATES LEFT FOR ROME ON 5 DAY LEAVE. THIS EVENING WAS THE REGULAR SATURDAY NIGHT "GITTOGETHER" OF THE EM'S CLUB, AND A DANCE WAS THE ATTRACTION OF THE EVENING, WITH THE CLUB MEMBERS BRINGING MORE AND MORE SIGNORIGNAS, WITH MORE AND MORE CHAPERONES TO WATCH OVER THEM. AFTER THREATENING TO RAIN ALL DAY, IT FINALLY DID ABOUT THE TIME THE DANCE BROKE UP (10 PM) AND CLUB MEMBERS WENT HOME "SOUSED".

- 8 THE DAY WAS TO BE ANOTHER "HOT" ONE, BUT THE WEATHER LOOKED THREATENING, AND CONSEQUENTLY, A "STANDBY" WAS CALLED TILL NOON. FINALLY AT NOON, A COMPLETE STANDDOWN WAS CALLED, AND THE PERSONNEL WENT BACK TO THE "SACKS". ORDERS WERE RECEIVED TODAY AWARDING THE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL TO 10 MEN. (SEE ATTACHED COPY) RAIN CONTINUED ALL DAY. MOVIE TONIGHT IN GROSSETTO. CHAPLAIN FISHER HAS SET UP HIS CHAPEL IN ONE OF THE BUILDINGS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BASE AND A BULLETIN BOARD WITH A "TODAY IS SUNDAY" SIGN EMBLAZONED ON IT, WHEN SUNDAY COMES AROUND.

- 9 THE DAY STARTED AND ENDED WITH WEATHER, BUT THE SQUADRON MANAGED TO SQUEEZE IN TWO "HOVER JOES" IN, ALTHOUGH THE LAST MISSION WAS SNAFUED BY WEATHER. THERE WAS A STANDDOWN IN THE MORNING AND THEN THE MISSIONS IN THE P.M. PILOTS ARE TRYING OUT THE NEW "LIL ABNERESQUE" EQUIPMENT "DE-RUMBILIZING" (ANTI-GRAVITY INSULATION). THE LINE CONTINUES TO SHIFT TO DRYER PLACES AS THE MUD MAKES SITES OF PLANES UNTENABLE. THE ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB WAS TO HAVE A GENERAL

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PAGE NO. 3 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.

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

- | DAY | EVENTS |
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| 9 | (CONT'D) ELECTION OF OFFICERS, BUT WET WEATHER COUPLED WITH NO TRANSPORTATION LED TO THE CALLING OFF OF SAME. LT. MC GEHEE, AND P/O ELLIS WENT TO ROME TODAY ON REST LEAVE. 1ST SGT. JAMES E. PARKER (HOOLEY), WENT TO THE 105TH STATION HOSPITAL TO RECEIVE TREATMENT. IN HIS ABSCENCE, T/SGT FRANK GREENSHIELDS, OF THE ARMAMENT SECTION WILL BE ACTING FIRST SERGEANT. |
| 10 | THE DAY STARTED WITH BAD WEATHER AGAIN, AND THE SQUADRON HAD A STANDDOWN TILL NOON. MAJOR KIRSCH, CAPT. RELYEA FLEW A WEATHER RECCO, AND THE WEATHER WAS FOUND TO BE OK FOR FLYING, ALTHOUGH A LITTLE CLOUDY. IN THE P.M. SQUADRON FLEW THREE ROVER JOE MISSIONS WITH "ROVER JOE" COMMENDING A MISSION LT. SAUNDERS LED. A NEW MOVIE THEATER HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE SQUADRON BIVOUAC AREA IN BLDG. #5. PERSONNEL MESSING AFTER 1830 HOURS CAN HAVE THEIR CHOW AND SEE A MOVIE AT THE SAME TIME. HAD ICE CREAM FOR SUPPER LAST NIGHT, TREAT ENJOYED BY ALL. SQUADRON FLEW MISSION #1999, AND AS WE ARE FIRST UP IN THE MORNING, WILL PROBABLY HAVE MISSION #2000. LT. DAVIE TRANSFERRED TO 62ND FIGHTER WING, RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON ON A COMBAT BASIS. |
| 11 | DAY STARTED WITH THE WEATHER CLOUDY AND THREATENING, HOWEVER, THE FIRST MISSION WENT OFF AND CHECKED WEATHER AND THE TARGET AREA WAS CLEAR. LTS. CORN, HALE, MALONEY AND LEVENTHAL FLEW ON THE FIRST MISSION--THE 2000TH FOR THE GROUP. SQUADRON FLEW 7 MISSIONS COLLECTING 32 SQUADRON SORTIES AND 1 GROUP SORTIE. EXTREMELY BUSY DAY WITH A FLIGHT WAITING TO TAKE OFF, BE BRIEFED OR INTERROGATED ALL DAY LONG. MOSTLY CLOSE SUPPORT MISSIONS (ROVER JOE) WITH AN 8 SHIP MISSION ON A STORAGE DUMP. INCREASED 3 DAY PASS PRIVILEGES ARE WELCOMED BY THE ENLISTED MEN, WHO HAVE HAD TO SWEAT OUT THEIR TURN FOR A THREE DAY PASS. 2 MEN WILL BE SENT TO REST CAMP FOR A PERIOD OF 2 DAYS AT CANNES, FRANCE. IN ADDITION, THE REGULAR 3 DAY REST CAMP PASS WILL BE ISSUED, AND A FEW FORTUNATE ONES WILL BE GIVEN 3 DAY PASSES. A LOT OF COLDS ARE PERSISTING AROUND THE BARRACKS, AND QUITE A FEW MEN ARE REPORTING ON SICK CALL WITH FEVER AND THE "SNIFFLES". |
| 12 | COLUMBUS DAY. ANOTHER BIG "BUSINESS" DAY WITH THE SQUADRON FLYING 6 MISSIONS--ALL CLOSE SUPPORT. THE SQUADRON COLLECTED 32 SORTIES, AND THE PERSONNEL ON THE FIELD RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE WORK. ON THE LAST MISSION (8 SHIPS) THE FLIGHT RAN LOW ON GAS, AND SET DOWN AT SIENNA. LT. CHAMBERS HAD ENOUGH GAS AND RETURNED TO BASE. "BUZZ JOBS" CONTINUALLY AROUND THE DROME, WITH PILOTS FLYING SO LOW, OPS BUILDING THREATENS TO THROW A FEW STONES AT THE BUZZING PLANES. ELECTION LAST NIGHT AT EM'S CLUB. AMONG THOSE ELECTED, T/SGT. DI CELLO, PRES., GROUP, S/SGT YOUNG, VICE PRES., 526TH, AND SGT. SID HOWARD, CHARGE OF FINANCES. BAND GETTING A LOT OF TIME IN AND AROUND GROSSETTO PLAYING VARIOUS NIGHTS. THE ITALIAN BAND AT THE EM'S CLUB FILLING IN THREE NIGHTS A WEEK. A SEA AND LAND GOING TORTOISE NAMED "MOITILE" JOINED THE LONG LISTS OF |

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PAGE NO. 4 . WAR DIARY 527TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 86TH FIGHTER GROUP.

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

DAY EVENTS

12 (CONT'D) SQUADRON PETS. "MOITIE" COMPLETELY RESPLENDENT WITH RED AND WHITE STRIPING, AND A P-47 PAINTED ON HER TOPSIDE. HER SEX HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED. S. PACIFIC NEWS GOOD WITH CARRIER FORCE BATTLE NEAR FORMOSA SCORING 122 JAP PLANES DOWNED IN COMBAT 97 DESTROYED ON GROUND.

13 FRIDAY. NO ONE SWEATING OF COURSE, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW. THE DAY ENDED WITH NO ONE LOST OR HURT AS FAR AS MISSIONS WENT. WE FLEW 7 MISSIONS AGAIN THIS DAY AND COLLECTED 31 SORTIES. LT. MC PHERSON, "THE MUDCAT", WENT TO COMMAND IN FLORENCE TO RECEIVE AWARDS TODAY. CAME BACK WITH A LARGE AMOUNT OF "FRUIT SALAD" THE SILVER STAR, THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, THE PURPLE HEART, AND THE AIR MEDAL WITH 9 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, PLUS AMERICAN THEATER RIBBON, PRE PEARL HARBOR ETC., THEREBY BECOMING THE SQUADRON'S MOST DECORATED PILOT REPLACING THAT TITLE HELD BY CAPT. JOSEPH C. WOOLHOUSE, WHO HELD THE SILVER STAR, THE D.F.C., AND THE AIR MEDAL WITH THREE CLUSTERS. CAPT. VORIS, LTS. SCHNEIDAU, GATES, GOSLIN RETURNED FROM REST CAMP, AND LTS. HOLT AND MC KENDRICK WENT ON SAME. LT. DAVIE LEFT FOR NAPLES ON A 10 DAY LEAVE. LIBERATORS AND FORTERESSES ATTACKED JERRY SUPPLY DUMPS ETC, OUTSIDE OF BOLOGNA.

14 A VERY SLOW DAY TODAY WITH THE SQUADRON FLYING ONLY 2 MISSIONS. THIS WILL GIVE HARD PRESSED CREWS A CHANCE TO RECUPERATE AND GET A FEW OF THE DAMAGED PLANES REPAIRED. THE AMOUNT OF TIME EACH PLANE HAS BEEN FLYING MAKES 100 HOUR INSPECTIONS ROLL AROUND WITH AMAZING REGULARITY. MAIL AND NEWSPAPERS TODAY. THE MAIL SITUATION HAS BEEN ALLEVIATED SOME BY MAIL COMING IN EACH DAY. A FEW CHRISTMAS PACKAGES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE EACH DAY AND PERSONNEL ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE USUAL "DO NOT OPEN TILL XMAS" LABELS. RESHUFFLING OF FLIGHT LEADERS TODAY, A FLIGHT: CAPT. MORAN; B FLIGHT: CAPT. WALLACE; C FLIGHT: LT. CORN; D FLIGHT: LT. CHAMBERS. ASSISTANT FLIGHT LEADERS: LTS SCHIRO, WHITING, TAYLOR, AND PIERCE OF A, B, C, AND D FLIGHTS RESPECTIVELY, SQUADRON ORDER #42, 14 OCTOBER 1944. DANCE AT ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB TONIGHT.

15 AWARD ORDERS CAME TODAY AWARDING THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL MEDALS: SGT. ARTHUR G. HARWOOD, SOLDIER'S MEDAL; 2ND OLC FOR LT. MYRICK; AIR MEDAL, LTS. CHAMBERS, HILL, LEWIS, WHITING; 2ND OLC TO AIR MEDAL, CAPT. WALLACE; ALSO CAPT. SAUNDERS, LTS. REICHERT AND CORN; 3RD AND 4TH OLC TO AIR MEDAL TO CAPT. DOLNY, PER GO 50, HQ XII TAC, 1 OCTOBER 1944. A FAIRLY QUIET DAY TODAY, WITH THE SQUADRON LOGGING ONLY 12 SORTIES. THE WEATHER IN THIS SECTION WAS GOOD, BUT THE WEATHER ABOVE THE BOMBLINE WAS SUCH THAT OPERATIONS HAD TO BE CANCELLED AROUND NOON TIME. CAPT. DOLNY AND LT. GATES WENT TO THE AIR SUPPORT CONTROL STATION AT THE FRONT LINES TO BECOME THE CHARACTER "ROVER JOE" FOR A PERIOD OF 8 DAYS. ONE MISSION, 8 SHIP, IN THE A.M. WITH CAPT. WALLACE LEADING, WAS ABORTIVE. IT WAS AN ANTI-FLAK DIVERSION. THE BAND WENT TO ROME FOR 4 DAYS TO PLAY A NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS. 3 SQUADRON ENLISTED MEN WERE ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVES FOR THE GROUP ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB, THEY ARE SGT. HOFFMAN, CPLS RICH SIGLER,

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