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Hq 86th Fighter Group AAF  
Outline History - Nov 1944

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF  
APO 650

AG 344.7

30 November 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XXII Tactical Air Command, APO 650

1. Outline History of Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF for the period 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944;

a. Present designation; Headquarters 86th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command.

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; None.

(2) Subordinates Units; None.

(3) Changes of Commanding Officers; None.

(4) Changes of Staff Officers; None.

(5) Changes in T/O; None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted;

(1) Month of November 1944;

(a) At beginning; 25 officers, 1 warrant officer and 56 enlisted men assigned.

(b) Net Increase; 1 officer and 4 enlisted men assigned.

(c) Net Decrease; None.

(d) At end; 26 officers, 1 warrant officer and 60 enlisted men.

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d. Stations;

(1) Pisa Airfield, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival; 23 October 1944. (A) party

(b) Date of departure; Present station.

(c) Present Station; Pisa Air Base, Pisa, Italy.

e. Movements; None.

f. Campaigns;

(1) Name; Sicilian, Italian, Southern France.

(2) Duration; 18 August 1943 to date - campaign still in progress.

g. Operations;

(1) Campaign; Italy.

(2) Nature of operations; Armed reces, road blocks, rail cutting, enemy occupied buildings, supply lines, aircromes, communication lines, escort, and anti-flak diversion missions. These missions were chiefly executed in the Po Valley.

(3) Number of missions and sorties for period 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944; 196 missions and 1158 Sorties for entire Group.

(4) Results for the most important missions; See squadron histories.

h. Commanding officer in important missions; Commanding officer flew five missions; none of the missions very spectacular.

i. Losses in action. None

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: (1) 1st Lt. Finley C. Brinley - O-796074 DFC

2. Inclosed is War Diary, Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF, for the period 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

Incl;  
2 copies - War Diary

*Paul E. Versepud*  
PAUL E. VERSEPUD,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Group S-2

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WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF

• Group Headquarters -

Pisa Airfield, Pisa Italy

November 1944

- 1 There were five missions flown today and both the A party at Pisa and B party at Grosseto operated from their respective bases. Our operations are connected by courier service between the two bases. Major Fauskin of S-1 section arrived today to setup operations. Major Versept flew to command, which is located at Florence.
- 2 Rain interrupted our operations for the day and a stand-down was called 10 o'clock. In the afternoon Col. Bates Group Commander, came down to the line and took charge of evacuating all operational aircraft to Tarquinia. Word was received that river Arno was overflowing its banks and that there would be possibilities of the field being flooded. The flooding of the Arno caused an added misery to the Italian town folk of Pisa. All transportation to and from Pisa was at a stand still. The high water mark in our bivouac area was six inches at the enlisted mens mess hall.
- 3 Today was another unoperational day, with the flood waters receding. The engineers blew up several levies in order to save the main bridge across the Arno river.
- 4 Another day of stand down. Our aircraft returned today from Tarquinia airfield. It was learned today that our B party at Grosseto was also in the flood. There, it seems that a dam broke above the city and caused the water to rise to fifteen feet in some spots. In the officers club the water rose to the second floor level.
- 5 This was the first good day of operations we have had since coming into this field. The group flew 73 sorties. The first movie shown tonight at our new theater was "Bill the Conquering Hero" this picture was enjoyed by all who attended.
- 6 Major operations today were on the Brenner Pass, which resulted with eleven missions and seventy-three sorties. In this locality our range can cover all of German held Italy.
- 7 All three squadrons are now operating from this base. The movie this evening was "Beautiful but Broken".
- 8 Stand-down for today, due to inclement weather.
- 9 Another day of no flying, still bad weather. "ella Logan" and her show were in Pisa, those that attended said that the show was pretty much the same as when first seen at Marigliano Italy.

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WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (Continued)

- Group Headquarters -

Pisa Airfield, Pisa Italy

November 1944

- 10 The group had another good day flying eleven missions. It seems that winter is finally setting in as in the early mornings it gets quite cold. A thirty-five piece band was scheduled to play at our theater this evening but never showed up. Many of the group personnel drove to Leghorn to see the "Parretts of Wimpole Street".
- 11 This section resumed having days off again. With the cold weather setting in most everyone is running around trying to requisition, borrow, chisel or steal a stove and some pipe. Stove pipe this year seems to be a problem it seems that hospitals and living quarters have priority. Maybe the office personnel aren't suppose to get cold.
- 12 Group officers mess and the enlisted mens mess are now using chinaware to eat from. Although we still have to furnish our own utensils it still reminds one of the good low days back in the states.
- 13 Group Hq. enlistedmen have a barber and a tailor in their bivouac area. The barber is one of the best they have had while here in Italy, and the tailor formerly operated a large shop in the city of Pisa, when war came to this part of the country, he specialized in manufacturing of uniforms and garments for German officers.
- 14 Stand-down for the group. Col. Covington from XXII Tactical Air Command and Col. Kimmel of 62nd Fighter Wing, visited operations and spoke with Col. Bates.
- 15 Another stand-down for the group, due to high winds.
- 16 Administrative inspectors from XXII T.A.C. are here inspecting the group and are chiefly stressing safeguarding military information.
- 17 Seven men of Hq. were promoted today, this is the first promotion of anyone in headquarters since May 1944. Men promoted today staged a party this evening at the mess hall. The party got in such a swing that you would think that everyone got promoted.
- 18 PW-7 mobile training unit arrived on this base for training of pilots, engineering and mechanics.

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WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (Continued)

- Group Headquarters -

Pisa Airfield, Pisa Italy

November 1944

- 19 Col. Bates Group Commander left this morning for rest camp at Capri.
- 20 General Darcy visited operations and intelligence.  
Stand-down was declared at noon today for training and maintenance.  
Major Versepout attended a lecture today on military censorship regulations at Leghorn.  
Enlistedmen of Hq. had rifle inspection this evening, following the inspection a lecture on small arms was conducted by T/Sgt. De Cello of Gp. Ordnance.
- 21 News has arrived today that personnel of this group may be sent home on thirty day rotation plan. This has been the chief discussion throughout all the sections. As to who was going first, why he should go instead of the other fellow, who has had more service overseas and questions similar.
- 22 Tonight was opening night for the new enlistedmens Club. All who were present had a good time. A dance was held and music was furnished by our own group band.
- 23 Today the group celebrated its second Thanksgiving overseas. The first was at Pomigliano.  
The group had a stand-down today due to abortive weather which in some respects turned out in our favor as both the officers and the enlistedmens mess halls put on a big dinner with plenty of turkey for all.  
In the evening some of the men celebrated a little at both the clubs.
- 24 Continued rains made flying impossible today. Stand-down was called.
- 25 Another inoperational day. Some of us are sure catching up on our sack time. Major Versepout drove to Florence.
- 26 Lt. Gen. Mc Narney landed on this field today.
- 27 Col. Bates returned from Capri.
- 28 Today with good flying weather the group scored 93 sorties and 21 missions. Wide distribution of Airfield Defense Plan to all units on this field.
- 29 Personnel of Hq. were presented with orders authorizing them wearing group citation ribbon.
- 30 Effective today an order was issued at this Hq. forbidding admission of civilians to the group theater.  
Italian soldiers which will be used as guards on this field, moved in today and are bivouaced on the opposite side of the field.

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HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF  
APO 650

AG 314.7

31 December 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XXII Tactical Air Command, A.P.O. 650.

1. Outline History of Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF for the period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944:

a. Present designation: Headquarters 86th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organization:

(1) Changes in designation, assignment, or attachment: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of December, 1944:

(a) At beginning: 26 officers, 1 warrant officer and 50 enlisted men assigned.

(b) Net increase: None.

(c) Net decrease: One officer.

(d) At end: 25 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 50 enlisted men assigned.

d. Stations:

(1) Pisa Airfield, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 23 October, 1944.

(b) Date of departure: Present station.

e. Movements: None.

f. Campaigns:

(1) Sicilian - 3 July 1943 to 12 August 1943.

(2) Southern France - 15 August 1944 to 26 August 1944.

(3) Italian

(a) Naples Voggia 4 October 1943 to 21 January 1944.

(b) Rome Arno 22 January 1944 - still in progress.

g. Operations:

(1) Campaign: Rome Arno.

(2) Nature of operations, Group flew 103 missions on Close Support targets, enemy strong points, occupied areas, troop concentrations. (Majority of Close Support missions directed by controller, "Rover Joe"). The balance of missions were on lines of communications, dumps, and opportunity targets, with the major effort on rail line interdiction. Total destruction for the month of December was impressive. (see monthly summary attached). Flew more missions and sorties than any previous month, exceeding even May 1944's "all out" effort.

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(3) Number of missions and sorties for period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944; 296 missions, and 1630 sorties for entire Group.  
(4) Results of most important missions; see Sq. histories.

h. Commanding officers in important missions:

(1) Colonel Earl E. Bates commanding 86th Fighter Group, 1 Dec. 1944 to 31 Dec. 1944.

(2) Sq. leaders in important missions -- See Sq. histories.

i. Losses in action: None from Group Headquarters.

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

(1) Kirsch Robert J. O-790566, Major, Hq. 86th Fighter Group was awarded the DFC for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-47 type aircraft. On 14 December 1944, Major Kirsch led a four plane flight of fighter-bombers in an attack upon enemy gun positions near Castel San Pietro, Italy. Displaying superior leadership and resourcefulness as he skillfully maneuvered through an almost solid overcast upon the approach to the target area, Major Kirsch's precision-directed run over the objective enabled his P-47's to register direct hits, causing a tremendous explosion and starting a number of fires. On more than eighty combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) Beltra Vincent F. O-429443, Capt., Hq. 86th Fighter Group was awarded the first Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal. Livergnano, Italy.

2. Inclosed is War Diary, Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF, for the period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Donald L. Whitney*  
DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Group Historian

Incl:  
2 copies - War Diary

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## WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF

- Group Headquarters -

Pisa Airfield, Italy

December

- 1 Flew 15 missions today, the majority in accordance with Operations Order #3, which assigns the 86th Group a specific area for interdiction of roads and railways. Accomplished twenty three railcuts and four road blocks, and destroyed a considerable amount of rolling stock. 1 JU 38 destroyed in air by 527th Squadron. 1635 Medium Maintenance unit moved on the Pisa Airbase today.
- 2 Again flew missions on Operation's Order #3, cutting rail lines, etc. Only one ship damaged by flak today against 7 damaged yesterday. An attractive sign erected at the entrance to the field, "Pisa Airfield, Base of the Invaders, Home of Rover Joe, The G's Friend." Many front line troops observing the striped tails on a P-47, remark "there's a Rover Joe plane." An article in a recent edition of Yank publicizes ground air support, and uses a striped tail P-47 in illustration of a Rover Joe Mission.
- 3 Standdown today due to inclement weather.
- 4 Group resumed flying close support (Rover Joe) missions today. Groups SO appointed Major Richard Taylor ass't group operation's officer; Major Percy C. Faulstin Group administrative inspector vice Lt. Col. Thomas; 1st Lt. W. Clifford Adler, 527th sq. appointed club officer for the officers club; 1st Lt. Gilbert C. Glmann, Ops Sq., appointed ass't Club Officer.
- 5 Weather forced standdown until noon. Flew two Rover Joe missions, and several rail cutting missions in the pm with no spectacular results. General Darcy, Deputy Commander XXII TAC, arrived at this base today and will stay overnight with the 86th Group. All officers and enlisted men attended an information and education series of films at the Group theatre-- Sex hygiene, orientation, and technical film on "Detonation" in aircraft.
- 6 Generals Baker, Cannon, Gridlaw, and Darcy visited the base today. Four successful missions this morning rec'd Po valley, but weather forced a standdown at noon. The Group completed 2500 missions today. Bulletin posted today stated that all personnel now having rooms in town will resume quarters at barracks, the high V.L. rate in the group precipitated the order.
- 7 Rain and low ceilings held operations to a minimum. A routine inspection was made today by Col. Bates of the enlisted men's quarters and APO. The Group theatre is showing "Dragon Seed" tonight.
- 8 Standdown all day today. The continued bad weather has allowed maintenance to get aircraft in good shape. Passes for civilian employees were distributed to various units on the field today by the base security officer.



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WAR DIARY OF THE 56th FIGHTER GROUP AAF

- Group Headquarters -

Pisa Airfield, Italy

December

- 
- 9 Again bad weather curtailed operations--ten missions flown. 23:30 bed check now effective every night. "Panama Wattie", USC show playing at the Air Corps Theatre drawing large crowds.
- 
- 10 15 missions today, the majority on close support targets with consistently good results. The 527th sq. destroyed a ME HQ in aerial combat today. General Arnold, Brigadier General Childlow and Percy and the Brazilian Air Minister visited the Pisa airbase today.
- 
- 11 Only two missions today, due to weather. Col. Bates held a meeting of all pilots, and gave a lecture on "Operational procedure on the field".
- 
- 12 Standdown due to bad weather.
- 
- 13 The Group flew seventeen missions today on front line targets and enemy communications. There was a change in the Intelligence organization of the Group. Both Group ass't intelligence officers transferred-- Lt. Wolf to the 526th Sq., and Lt. Voller to the 527th Sq.. Lt Duncan, Group PRO given additional duty as ass't Intelligence officer, and Captain Whitney was transferred from 527th Sq to Group as ass't Intelligence Officer. The weekly dance was held at the Officers club tonight.
- 
- 14 In spite of persistent overcast at 5/6000', several flights attacked the front line areas. Major Merson, led one, a particularly spectacular mission coming in under the overcast to a low-level bombing of a meselwefter position. Christmas packages are arriving by the sack full, a feeling of good will toward the mail clerks for a change.
- 
- 15 The major part of the day's effort was against front line targets. Weather prevented the last three missions from reaching their primary targets, so they effectively attacked rail lines.
- 
- 16 Weather again curtailed operations. Seven missions were flown, four of them on the town of Tossignano where an enemy counterattack had taken place. A message was received from ASC: "Ground reports on all missions Tossignano town -- All bombs target area, fires and excellent results." The Group flew its 2,500th mission today. The enlisted personnel were issued a new type bed-roll today.
- 
- 17 The customary overcast in Northern Italy once again curtailed today's schedule. Marshalling yards and rail lines were effectively attacked. The Congressional party circled the base in C-47's, then flew on to Florence.

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WAR DIARY OF THE 36TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF

- Group Headquarters -

Pisa Airfield, Italy

December

- 18 The Group flew seven missions this morning on rail lines, then the weather called a halt to the day's operations. Mrs. Clare Luce Booth, accompanied by General Darcy visited Pisa base and lunched with Col. Bates and the staff officers at the officer's mess.
- 19 A standdown was declared at 1100 hours due to weather. Four missions hit and the much pounded gun positions at P. Bianca.
- 20 Four excellent reconnaissance missions this afternoon netted 12 locomotives and twenty motor transports destroyed. Group enlisted men went through gas chamber to check masks. PX rations issued today - no beer. 6
- 21 Heavy overcast covered battle area. Two successful recces destroyed 12 locomotives and damaged 1 locomotive. USO show tonight at Group theater. The theater, newly christened "The Thunderbolt Theater" is shared with the 350th Fighter Group. Show at Enlisted Men's Club by local talent. Dance at Officers Club. Good attendance at Officers Club with advent of 105th Station hospital in Pisa area.
- 22 A full days effort on front line targets. Group has resumed issuing passes, so a few will be able to spend Christmas on pass.
- 23 Armed reconnaissance missions effective with large amount of rolling stock destroyed or damaged. ASC received following message from First Guards, "Your courageous attacks observed with gratitude and admiration by all ranks. Best air support we have ever had. Please convey our appreciation to pilots and condolence for losses suffered. "Many thanks".
- 24 Stand down due to weather. Two volunteer missions destroyed switch engine. Officers of group gave liquor rations for December to enlisted men. Liquor was available at enlisted men's bar between 1000 and 1700 today. Club closed tonight. Midnight mass (military) in Cathedral of Pisa tonight.
- 25 Christmas day - Business as usual 12 Armed reconnaissance missions. Last year we celebrated Christmas at Pomigliano, Italy. Then we were hoping to be celebrating Christmas at home this year, despite the Liri River stalemate. Morale is good considering the length of time overseas, and the natural desire to be at home over holidays. Excellent Christmas mail service and good rations has helped keep morale at high level. Dances at Enlisted Men's and Officers Club tonight.
- 26 Good operational day. News of Jerry break through in France sobering.

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## WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF

- Group Headquarters -

Pisa Airfield, Italy

December

- 
- 27 Attacks ranged from front lines to attacks on Brenner Pass. The group has had a number of rail interdiction missions on Brenner line through the month. The rail bridge across the Arno into Pisa is nearing completion - the work is being conducted by British Engineers and civilian labor.
- 
- 28 Major General Cannon visited Pisa base today. With exception of single escort all missions were close support targets adjacent to IV Corps sector. The Germans started a counter offensive in this sector, and as our troops are thinly deployed precautions are necessary. XVIII T.A.C. issued an order that all personnel carry arms to work, dance at EM Club - music by Italian orchestra.
- 
- 29 Again majority of effort on IV Corps sector. Seemed rather odd to see officers and enlisted men armed. Last time these precautionary measures taken was at Sele River after the invasion. Col. Bates showed combat film to pilots in War Room. Lt. Col. Dixon Ass't A-2, VIII Air Force, visited Group today will remain overnight.
- 
- 30 Tension relieved somewhat in IV Corps sector with troops being reinforced effort divided between close support and rail targets. Col. Bates and Maj. Verseput flew L-5 over front lines today. Observed a Rover Joe mission. It is planned to send all Intelligence officers over front lines to familiarize them with terrain, landmarks etc.
- 
- 31 At noon today a fire broke out in the officers club, causing a little excitement, seems that the wood work around the fire place caught on fire despite the fire a dance was held and many celebrated the coming of the New Year. A dance was likewise held at the EM club, with two orchestras playing for the affair, a good time was enjoyed by all as the curfew was lifted and no bed check for this date.
- Col. Bates presented medals, clusters and etc at the officers dance.
-

12AF-MED-13

HEADQUARTERS 66TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF  
Office Of The Group Surgeon  
APO 650, U.S. Army

SUBJECT: Medical Historical Data Report.

TO : The Surgeon, AAFSG/MTO, APO 526, U.S. Army.

## 1. Previous History:

This subject was thoroughly discussed in the preceding report covering the period up through 30 September 1944. In it was described the activation of the unit at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, on 10 February 1942. Most of the training in the final plane assigned the group (the A-36) was accomplished at Key Field, Mississippi between 6 August 1942 and 17 March 1943. The unit started overseas 29 April 1943, landing at Oran, North Africa. Active combat operations began 6 July 1943 from Korba Airfield, Tunisia. The unit moved to Sicily 21 July 1943 and later to Italy on 13 September 1943. At the end of the period of 30 Sept. 1944, the unit was stationed at Grosseto Airfield, Italy, having been moved from Orbetello, Italy to the island of Corsica 15 July 1944 and then back to Grosseto, Italy 24 September 1944.

Operations continued as usual at Grosseto, Italy until 25 October 1944, the command split, an advance echelon, preceding to Pisa Airbase, Italy, and the remainder of the command continuing in operations from Grosseto. During the first week of November floods occurred at both locations. At Grosseto, the water covered the first story of the officers barracks forcing them to evacuate all belongings to the second and third floors for about 24 hours. A few nearby civilians were rescued from drowning, and sheltered in the officers barracks, for which some of the men in the command received soldiers medals in recognition of their individual efforts. The enlisted men's area at Grosseto was not flooded. At Pisa, the enlisted men's area was partly flooded for a short time and the high water table in the ground made latrine construction quite a problem which was solved by digging shallow pits and moving the latrines frequently. With the receding of the floods, the ground water table has gone down to a depth of 6 or 8 feet. No undue amount of sickness occurred because of the rapid rise and fall of the flood level. The Rear echelon at Grosseto moved to Pisa Airbase 4 November 1944, where the entire command remained at the close of the 31 December 1944 period. All officers are living in one building, and all the enlisted men of the command are housed in a second building.

## 2. Administrative history:

a. Remains the same as last report with the exception of the transfer of the unit from Grosseto Airbase to Pisa Airbase.

Grosseto Airbase, Italy (Advanced Echelon) to Pisa Airbase, Italy 25 Oct 44  
Grosseto Airbase, Italy (Rear Echelon) to Pisa Airbase, Italy 4 Nov 44

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sub: medical historical data report: 86th Ftr. Gp. AAF, APO 650, U.S. Army

- b. Personnel Matters: 1) Unit quarterly strengths are as follows:  
Quarter ending 31 December 1944: - 1042
- 2) Losses of Medical Department Personnel during the Period: - None.
- 3) No civilian personnel employed during the period. 4) The general morale of the men has always been high. The men have had numerous Camp Shows and Movies at least 2 or 3 times per week. When weather and circumstances would permit, seasonal sports have been enjoyed. There are no outstanding promotion problems. At present the allotted rank is about 90% complete. 5) Special citations and awards during the period--None.

(S-E-C-R-E-T)

subji: medical historical data reports: 86th Ftr. Gp. AAF, APO 650, U. S. Army

ROSTER OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

as of 31 December 1944

Headquarters

Major	JESSE W. SHAW	- 0422956	- Will Rogers Field, Okla.	Group Surgeon
Capt.	HAROLD (NMI) KANTER	- 0369767	- Carlisle Barracks, Pa.	Dental Surgeon
T/Sgt.	Austin J. Collins	- 36316088	- Camp Grant, Ill.	Med. Adm. Clerk
Sgt.	George C. Lundenbach	- 32216802	- Camp Lee, Va.	Flt. Sur. Asst.
Sgt.	Carmino M. Pasano	- 32239660	- Camp Lee, Va.	Dental Tech.
Sgt.	Stanislaus J. Tauras	- 32216789	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.
Cpl.	Aldon A. Morse	- 37427753	- Key Field, Miss.	Medical Tech.
Cpl.	Leon J. Yashovics	- 32185787	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.

525th Squadron

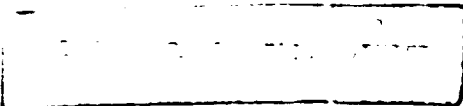
Capt.	GEORGE R. CLINTON	- 0356775	- Geiger Field, Wash.	Squadron Surgeon
S/Sgt.	Albert S. DiMaggio	- 32217549	- Camp Lee, Va.	Section Leader
Cpl.	Lloyd G. Cierke	- 36166343	- Hunter Field, Ga.	Medical Tech.
Pfc.	John Annunziata	- 36316369	- Camp Grant, Ill.	Clerk
Pfc.	Burdee Carter	- 18006596	- Fort Douglas, Utah	Surgical Tech.
Pfc.	Frank DiAntonio	- 35152080	- Camp Lee, Va.	Medical Tech.
Pfc.	George Flatman	- 36232546	- Hunter Field, Ga.	Ambulance Driver

526th Squadron

Capt.	FRANCIS C. MURPHY	- 0420513	- Will Rogers Field, Okla.	Squadron Surgeon
S/Sgt.	Clifford Young	- 18020976	- Fort Douglas, Utah	Section Leader
Cpl.	Walter Gronovsky	- 12058653	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.
Cpl.	Alvin Vallett	- 37454647	- Key Field, Miss.	Ambulance Driver
Pvt.	Clifford R. Herman	- 33112867	- Camp Lee, Va.	Clerk
Pvt.	Raymond M. Jongs	- 39900728	- Camp Barkley, Texas	Medical Tech.

527th Squadron

Capt.	THOMAS L. RIDER	- 0420061	- Fort Hancock, N.J.	Squadron Surgeon
S/Sgt.	Nicholas Pompili	- 32217658	- Camp Lee, Va.	Section Leader
Sgt.	James C. Hajnal	- 36166286	- Hunter Field, Ga.	Medical Tech.
Cpl.	Edward Witt	- 37427713	- Key Field, Miss.	Surgical Tech.
Cpl.	Joseph E. Fages	- 36166174	- Hunter Field, Ga.	Clerk
Pfc.	Edward Milanowski	- 35234032	- Camp Grant, Ill.	Ambulance Driver
Pfc.	Joseph Delmovich	- 33038475	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.



(S-E-C-R-E-T)

subj: medical historical data report: 86th Ftr. Gp. AAF, APO 650, U. S. Army

g. Temporary and permanent stations of unit, during the period, with arrival and departure dates:

	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Grossetto Airfield, Italy	24 Sept. 1944	25 Oct. 1944
Pisa, Airfield, Italy (Advanced Ea.)	25 Oct. 1944	4 Nov. 1944
Grossetto Airfield, Italy		
Pisa Airfield, Italy (Rear Echelon)	4 Nov. 1944	

Campaign and battle awards: - None.

a. Functional activities have not varied since the last report, nor have there been any marked policy changes.

Special inspections of the command during the period was held on Nov. 14 - 17, 1944. This inspection did not pertain to the Medical Department. We have had no organizations attached for medical service during this period.

b. Training data: This consisted of lectures on venereal disease control, and a talk on malaria control at the close of the season 1 November 1944 with the advice that those who had malaria in the past year continue to take atabrine throughout the winter. In addition, a training film "Know For Sure" was again shown the entire group 5 December 1944.

3. Environmental Sanitation:

a. The command moved from Grossetto, Italy to Pisa, Italy in two echelons, the first moved 25 October 1944 and the last echelon moved 4 November 1944. Both at Grossetto and at Pisa, all the officers in the group lived in one building, and all the enlisted men in another group of buildings. Water is hauled from army water points and distributed in lister bags, water trailers and water cans. Outdoor pit latrines and urinals have always been installed in the enlisted men's area. In the officers' quarters, 50 gallon cans of water were kept in the indoor latrines on each floor so that the toilets may be flushed with a nailful of water. Flies have almost disappeared with increasingly colder weather, as have the mosquitoes. Malarial control measures ceased on or about 15 November 1944.

b. Personal Hygiene: Physical inspections held twice monthly revealed no venereal disease, scabies or fungus infections at the time of inspection, although cases of each were encountered and treated during the period.

Immunizations given during the period are as follows:

- Triple Typhoid injections -- 355
- Typhus Fever injections -- 830
- Tetanus Toxoid injections -- 3
- Smallpox Vaccine Inoculations -- 305

(S-E-C-R-E-T)

subjt: medical historical data reports: 86th Ftr. Co. AAF, APO 650, U.S. Army

g. Undue Prevalence of Communicable Disease: The only great problem confronting the command was that of a rising venereal disease rate, contacts being made in nearby towns and many occurring while on rest leaves in Rome. All such leaves were cancelled for a portion of the period, a poster campaign in the group was started, talks on venereal disease given, and a training film on the subject shown to all the men. A two week working quarantine is planned to begin 2 Jan '45.

h. New or Improved Administrative measures or appliances: One of the mess sergeants constructed a steam table for keeping food hot while it was being served. A 50 gallon drum was cut in half lengthwise and then the ends soldered together to make a trough. The middle partition joined where the ends were fused together was removed. Then a sheet of metal was put over the top and holes cut in this sheet to fit the size and shape of the serving pans. The bottoms of pans rest in the water placed in the trough joined by the two halves of the 50 gallon drums. The water is heated by a stove heating unit, resting on a shelf of the frame supporting the metal trough. Food is thus kept warm for as long as desired as made necessary by the serving of early and regular "chow."

i. Subjects not covered by other headings: With the advent of cold weather, flies have decreased. This fact combined with living in buildings has made sanitation for the command a much easier problem. Food has been B & C type rations and meat is served at least once daily. Two turkey dinners were served, one on Thanksgiving Day and another Christmas. Evacuation of casualties has not been a problem at either base because of the nearness of army hospitals. Cold weather has caused an increase in the number of colds, especially since there has been considerable difficulty in heating the living quarters. The quality and quantity of medical supplies has been adequate.

j. Recommendations: None.

k. Operational History:

a. Medical activities have varied but little throughout the year. A line ambulance is maintained on the field to take care of crashes, and another ambulance is used as evacuation ambulance for the group to take all patients to the nearby hospitals. A prophylactic station is maintained in the enlisted men's area. Dispensaries are located in each squadron, and there is also one on the line. Since the group moved to Pisa, and because the living quarters are so far from the field that it would take too long for the doctor to travel from the living area to the field for an emergency, a rotating line O.D. of all the tactical group doctors ensures the presence of a doctor at the line dispensary 24 hours a day.

b. A professional narrative, including a resume of Essential Technical Medical Data reports for the period merely stresses the problems we have in the field as concerns preventive medicine, our chief concern being the rising venereal rate during this period. Reasons for the high incidence of venereal disease, the highest yet experienced overseas, are difficult to determine. Several factors may play a part: (1) The short period of treatment necessary, plus the fact that all loss of pay and time while in the hospital have been discontinued. (2) The move from Corsica where friendly women, changing little or nothing for sexual relations were hard to find, and then the contrast on moving back to Italy where such favors are readily obtained. (3) The length of overseas service with a possible decrease of inhibitions and morals.



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Control measures have included talks on venereal disease to the men by the squadron doctors, displays of V. D. posters, the showing of a training film on the subject. A working quarantine is contemplated in the next week or two. No advancements in medicine, surgery or psychiatry were made.

g. No new problems have arisen during the period concerning disease prevention or the evacuation of patients. The V. D. problem has already been discussed. Since the command moved to Pisa, all mess halls for officers and men have started serving meals on plates, and the plates are washed by Italian kitchen help and then put on drying racks built for this purpose. All kitchen help have had stool examinations and a Kahn test and regular physical inspections. In addition, following the current directives, all natives are being immunized for the same diseases as are members of the American Army. Because one squadron was having several cases of diarrhea, it abandoned the use of plates and returned to messkits but results are uncertain as yet, as to whether use of plates was the cause of the diarrhea. Rest camp facilities have been available only in Italy thus far but it is hoped that those in France may be opened to us.

d. Aviation Medicine research has brought up several lines of investigation and the results offered to tactical groups. The "g" suit was introduced to the group during this period and is used by some but not all of the pilots. It has proved especially valuable to those few pilots who tend to gray out or black out on pulling away from a dive bombing target. It has been found to be beneficial to a pilot who had an appendectomy, giving support to the abdomen. Shortly before the close of this quarter the air force sent an investigator around to test the blood of pilots before and after missions for toxic amounts of carbon monoxide, since it had been reported that some models of the P-47 had high amounts of the gas in the cockpit. However, no toxic levels were found in the group and we were advised simply to look for symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. In addition, the group is awaiting the arrival of a doctor from command to administer doses of radium to cases of aero-otitis media, and to those individuals with excessive lymphoid tissue in the nose and throat. The following is a summary of the Care Of Flier Reports for the period. A change in the form occurred during the period, which makes a clearer distinction between classification of casualties, and which laid down rules for time lost tabulation.

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
Strength of Flying Personnel:	127	123	158
Commissioned:	125	121	151
Flight Officers:	?	2	7
Enlisted Men:	0	0	0
Attached:	0	0	0
A. (1) Non-Tactical Aircraft Accidents: No.	2	2	0
Fatally Injured	0	0	0
Severely Injured	0	0	0
Slightly Injured	0	1	0
Uninjured	2	1	0
Missing	0	0	0
(2) Tactical Aircraft Accidents: No.	0	0	0
K. I. A.	0	0	0
W. I. A.	0	0	0
M. I. A.	0	0	0

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	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
<b>B. Aircraft Casualties:</b>			
KIA	1	1	1
M. I. A.	1	5	2
M. I. A.	4	7	6
<b>C. Pilots on Sick Report or removed from flying on account of:</b>			
1. Disorders Due to Flying:			
<u>Disease:</u>			
Functional Nervous:			
No. Occurring:	9	7	2
No. Days Lost:	75	58	57
<u>Others:</u>			
No. Occurring:	1	1	4
No. Days Lost:	4	14	11
Aircraft Accident, Injury:			
No. Occurring:	0	0	0
No. Days Lost:	47	19	0
Aircraft Accident, Casualty (K.I.A.):			
No. Occurring:	0	0	0
No. Days Lost:	0	0	0
Battle Casualties, K.I.A.			
No. Occurring:	1	3	2
No. Days Lost:	3	28	46
2. Disorders Not Due To Flying:			
<u>Disease:</u>			
Functional Nervous:			
No. Occurring:	0	0	0
No. Days Lost:	0	0	0
<u>Others:</u>			
No. Occurring:	14	20	32
No. Days Lost:	189	200	153
<u>Injury:</u>			
No. Occurring:	0	0	1
No. Days Lost:	0	0	5
3. Flying Personnel on Rest Leave:			
No. Occurring:	69	5	29
No. Days Lost:	252	24	192

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D. Miscellaneous Remarks:

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
Total Unit Sorties During The Week:	1140	960	1680
Total Individual Sorties During Week:	1140	960	1680
Total Individual Tactical Hrs. for Wk:	2160105	1622115	2759405
Total Individual Non-Tactical Hrs. Wk:	124445	276135	421445
Personnel Trans. or Permanently Grounded:	13	6	12
Personnel Assigned during the Week:	2	45	31

g. Dental Activities:

1. Dental assistant satisfactory. Laboratory Technicians at hospitals doing prosthetics are capable.
2. Dental pathologies during past three months show no radical changes.
3. Men arriving for overseas duty from the states show evidence of proper dental treatment accorded before Embarkation.
4. This organization at present has no class 1-D problems.
5. No incidence of facial-maxillary or jaw injuries from battle or non-battle causes.
6. Civilians employed by this organization are given any emergency treatment necessary.
7. Dental installations, equipment, and supplies satisfactory and easily accessible.
8. No other pertinent narrative information.

f. Veterinary Activities: Nothing to report, since no veterinary personnel are assigned to this unit.

5. Statistical Historical Material:

a. Summary of Sick and Wounded Records:

(1) Admission rates per 1000 per annum for the following:

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
All causes	789.0	764.7	885.7
All Diseases	737.3	751.7	823.6
Injuries	51.7	0.0	62.3
Battle Casualties	0.0	12.0	0.0
Intestinal disease	0.0	0.0	0.0
Veneral disease	51.7	194.4	112.0
N.S. Disease	0.0	0.0	0.0
Common respiratory	258.7	324.0	248.5
Malaria	25.8	12.9	12.4
Jaundice	12.9	0.0	0.0
Other diseases of unusual interest	0.0	0.0	0.0

(2) Non-effective rate per 1000 per annum for units:

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Non-effective rate.	23.3	17.5	27.3

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(3) Patients Treated:

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Total patient days for quarters patients	0	0	0
Total patient days for hospital patients	727	528	865
Number of out-patients	179	622	934
Number of out-patients treatments adu.,	342	908	1472

(4) Physical Examinations: number and type of each:

October	November	December
2-Monthly Physical	2-Monthly Physical	2-Monthly Physical
7-AGO Form#64 Exams	8-AGO Form#64 Exams	10-AGO Form#64 Exams
7-AGO Form#63 Exams	2-AGO Form#63 Exams	2-AGO Form#63 Exams

(5) Immunizations: number and type of each:

	October	November	December
Triple Typhoid	272	11	72
Tetanus Toxoid	0	0	3
Typhus Fever	492	245	93
Smallpox Vaccine	25	0	280

(6) Admissions to Sick Reports:

	October	November	December
Number of admissions to quarters	0	0	0
Number of admissions to Hospital	61	59	71

(7) Venereal Diseases:

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Total number of days lost due to V.D.	13	25	62
Average number of days lost for each V.D. patient.	1	1	3
Prophylactics administered.	10	37	50

There are no colored troops in this command so all figures pertain to white troops.

Because of the method of keeping records it is impossible to break down days lost, to each particular Venereal Disease.

(8) Patients Beds (Quarters):

	October	November	December
Number Available.	310	290	310
Average number occupied.	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Dental Statistical:

	October	November	December
(1) Total No. admissions.	37	41	54
(2) Total No. sittings.	136	117	239

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(3) Total No. Treatments.	October	November	December
	207	264	308
A. Restorations:			
1. Amalgams.	59	61	109
2. Oxyphosphate and Amalgam.	14	14	33
3. Silicates.	26	9	53
B. Gum Treatments.	14	52	23
C. Prophylaxis.	9	10	13
D. Calculus removed.	3	14	8
E. Extractions.	27	12	15
F. Tooth Treatment.	7	7	9
G. Prosthetic Procedures. (Adjustments)	0	0	0

G. Laboratory Examinations:	October	November	December
Urethral.	11	45	51
Blood Counts.	0	0	0
Stool Cultures.	6	58	24
Kahn.	38	107	84
Urinalysis.	7	14	19
Spinal Taps.	0	1	1
Darkfields.	2	0	2
Malaria.	1	1	2

d. X-Ray Exposures:	October	November	December
Referred to and done by Hospitals.	19	21	27

e. Veterinary: No veterinary personnel in this command.

6. Evacuation: All evacuation of patients has been by ambulance, the number being 191. No problems in this respect have been encountered because of the nearness of Army hospitals at all our bases.

7. Medical Supply:

a. Not required of a tactical unit.

b. Organizational medical supply: This has been covered thoroughly in previous reports. Medical maintenance requirements during the period have been met satisfactorily. There have been no changes of T/E during the period.

c. Not required of a tactical unit.

8. Special: The recreational facilities at Crocette were described in the previous report. Since the move to Fies, a building for the Enlisted Men's club has been secured and equipped. The Officer's club is located in the same building as their quarters and has been decorated very nicely. The group orchestra plays once a week for the officers and for the enlisted men. The group, in addition,

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has secured a Theater to show movies and put on USO shows. All of these endeavors have been of considerable influence to keep morale at a high level.

Summary of Major Developments in the Unit During 1944

Although the operations of the 86th Fighter Group have remained fairly uniform since the unit entered combat, there have been important changes during 1944 in the manner of carrying on the combat program, much of this being the result of things learned during the previous year. During the year there were many alterations including the transfer to a different type of aircraft flown, the modification in policies of the unit, and changes in personnel.

During 1944, three different types of fighter planes have been used: the A36, P40 and P47. In February 1944 one squadron began flying P40 fighters. In the month of June one squadron and later all the squadrons changed from A36 or P40 types to P47 type aircraft. As is always the case in such transition periods, the accident rate rose rapidly and then as the pilots came to know the plane, the rate dropped off sharply and has remained comparatively low. The pilot replacement system has improved in that new pilots arrive fresh from the States and not after 6 months in a replacement pool and so are, if anything, more eager. At the same time, these new pilots arrive already trained in the P47 fighter and no time is lost retraining them from P51, P39, etc. Since about July 1944, there has been a more uniform rate of new pilot replacements.

The policy of rotation of combat crews has been a matter of concern to all personnel including those in the squadrons as well as those men in higher commands. At the opening of the year, there existed a so called check point at 80 missions, at which time the flight surgeon checked the pilot over and determined whether the pilot could fly more missions. If the flight surgeon said yes, the commanding officer then decided if he wanted to keep the pilot or not. If he decided not to, the pilot was rotated to the Zone of Interior administratively. If the flight surgeon said the pilot was not physically or mentally fit to continue combat, he advised the commanding officer of his findings, and the pilot could be rotated home administratively or if the pilot needed additional treatment or attention, he could be rotated via the Medical Disposition Board. If the flight surgeon felt that a pilot had become unfit for combat before he reached the 80 mission mark, the pilot could be disposed of through the Medical Disposition Board. Since America had no previous recent experience at war, the men in command and the doctors in the squadrons had little or nothing on which to base standards of achievement. As the war has progressed, the average accomplishment which most men are able to reach and beyond which most men fail is gradually being determined. In most instances the amount of this accomplishment is higher than was originally thought possible, and so the combat crews are being sent home after they have flown many more missions than were required in the early part of the war. The flight surgeon still has the responsibility of recommending relief from further combat for those whom he considers no longer physically or mentally fit for combat flying. At the same time, the flight surgeon has come to take a "hands off" policy on all other types of cases, thereby making it necessary for the commanding officer, who is not satisfied with the work or ability of a pilot, to dispose of the pilot through administrative channels or by means of a Flying Evaluation Board.

During 1944, improvement in sanitation and malaria control measures throughout the group resulted in lower dysentery and malaria rates. This was attributable to several factors including: 1) experience of the previous year with poor sanitation and high dysentery rate 2) the starting of vigorous measures of control at the

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sub: medical historical data report: 86th Ptr. Gp., AAF, APO 650, U.S. Army.

very start of the fly and mosquito seasons. 3) The development and distribution to the group of DDT solution. Sanitary measures included: 1) Training of personnel by showing training films on malaria and fly control. 2) The building of portable screened in bases for kitchen tents, mess halls and latrines. 3) The proper location, construction and maintenance of latrines. 4) The insistence on all kitchens keeping the mess kit washing water boiling hot, and keeping a can of boiling clean water at the beginning of the mess line for the men to dip messkits into before being served. 5) The examination of all native as well as American food handlers, including a stool examination and Kahn blood test. 6) The spraying of the inside surface of tents and the painting of the screening with DDT solution. These are some of the major measures and do not include such things as the building of fly traps, the building of screened in bread boxes, the maintenance of cans of antiseptic solution to wash with at latrines and kitchens. Malaria control measures included group activities such as cleaning, ditching and oiling of nearby streams and bodies of water, and also the personal measures such as taking of an Atabrine tablet daily, sleeping under bednets, use of mosquito repellants.

A movement to bring the officers of all squadrons into closer relationship with the officers of the other squadrons and those of group headquarters has been in effect the last half of the year. The same has been done for the enlisted men. This has been brought about partly by housing the officers together and having a combined officers mess and club. Each squadron retains its own identity but in general the group would seem to be more closely united than previously.

Many other innovations of various magnitudes might be mentioned. In passing, the work of the medical experimental laboratories in the United States should be praised in the development of new wide angle rubber cushioned colored glasses, new oxygen masks, the "O" suit, radium therapy for ENT difficulties and many other safety factors, the results of which this group has benefitted from.

And last to be mentioned in this Summary of Major Developments is the "Unit Presidential Citation" per General Orders # 144, Mc. Twelfth Air Force, 27 August 1944. The description of the action is given in the quarterly Medical Historical Data report for the period from 1 July 1944 to 30 September 1944.

JESSE W. SAW,  
Major, Medical Corps,  
Group Surgeon.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF  
A.P.O. 650

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AG 314.7

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Historical records.

TO : Commanding General, XXII Tactical Air Command, A.P.O. 650.

1. Outline history of Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF for the period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945:

a. Present designation: Headquarters 86th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command.

b. Changes in organization:

(1) Changes in designation, assignment, or attachment: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of January, 1945

(a) At beginning: 25 officers, 1 warrant officer and 60 enlisted men assigned.

(b) Net increase: One officer.

(c) Net decrease: None

(d) At end: 26 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 60 enlisted men assigned.

d. Stations:

(1) Pisa Airfield, Italy.

(a) Date of arrival: 23 October, 1944.

(b) Date of departure: present station.

e. Movements: None.

f. Campaigns:

(1) Sicilian - 3 July 1943 to 18 August 1943.

(2) Southern France - 15 August 1944 to 26 August 1944.

(3) Italian

(a) Naples Foggia 4 October 1943 to 21 January 1944.

(b) Rome Arno 22 January 1944 - still in progress.

g. Operations:

(1) Campaign: Rome Arno.

(2) Nature of Operations, Group flew 12 missions on close support targets and enemy strong points. (Close Support missions directed by controller, "Rover Joe"). The balance of missions were on lines of communications, dumps, shipping in harbors, and opportunity targets. with the major effort on rail interdiction. Total destruction for the month of January was impressive. (See monthly summary attached). Adverse weather hampered operations for the month of January.

(3) Number of missions and sorties for period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945: 275 missions, and 1439 sorties for entire Group.

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(4) Results of most important missions; see Sq. histories.

h. Commanding officers in important missions:

(1) Colonel Earl E. Bates commanding 86th Fighter Group,  
1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945.

(2) Sq. leaders in important missions -- see Sq. histories.

i. Losses in action: None from Group Headquarters.

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

(2) Relyeavincent K. O-429443, Capt., Hq. 86th Fighter Group  
was awarded the second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

2. Inclosed is War Diary, Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF, for the  
period 1 January 1945 to 1 February 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Donald L. Whitney*  
DONALD L. WHITNEY,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Group Historian

Incl:

2 copies - War Diary

- 2 -

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