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13. Friday the thirteenth did not run true to its proverbial form. To the contrary, it proved to be a lucky day for the 50th. A swimming contest was held at the Group swimming pool in Gross Gerau. The participating organizations were the 370th Group and the 50th. We won all the events with the exception of fancy diving which was won by Lt. Edwards of the 370th. The star contestant of the day was 1st Sgt. Deloier of the 50th Squadron who won both the 50 and 100 yard free style events. The judges were Capt. Hyler, 527th Squadron Surgeon, Capt. Brink, 525th Squadron pilot and Lt. Sawyer of 525th Squadron Operations. Twenty-nine of the Group's planes are scheduled to be transferred in the near future. Last evening's movie gave us a combination of talent in both the theatrical and musical fields. The featured players included were, June Allyson, Jimmy Durante, Margarite O'Brien and Joseph Iturbi.
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14. An inspection and review were held this morning with Lt. Col. Robert J. Hirsch and Lt. John Sawyer presiding. One purple heart and eight bronze stars were awarded. General order came through awarding 1st Lt. Glenn C. Moore of 525th Squadron the Silver Star for gallantry on 12 April, for leading a formation on a fighter sweep in the vicinity of Paderborn Germany. Four planes of the 50th Squadron escorted a C-47 to Berlin. General opinion is that the plane was part of the president Truman's retinue and the U.S. General accompanied himself.
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15. Anyone driving along the highway from Gross Gerau to Darmstadt today literally rubbed their eyes to be certain they weren't seeing things. D.F.C. and German frauleins walking and in arm or lolling on the grass was a common sight. Reason??? The ban on fraternization has been lifted considerably, as of 7 am. and no time was wasted to take advantage of this announcement. What next? The "Unseen", with Joel McCrea, Paul Hagen and Herbert Marshall was the movie shown this evening.
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16. The first of the group of officers has left today to try out the new Officers' Rest Camp at Brussels, Belgium. A welcome treat today was the addition of good ole fresh spuds to both noon and evening chow, and to top it off, chocolate ice cream and the issue of P.M. editions. Not bad!!!
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17. Five of the Group's golf enthusiasts are busy getting in trim for this Thursday's XII TAC Elimination tournament. Those who qualify will have opportunity to participate in the 9th Air Force contest. The regular ground and pilot training program continues. Rumors about a move to another location very shortly, still persist.
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18. A great disappointment to the Enlisted Men was the news that their proposed rest camp in Southeastern Germany cannot be. Reason?? Site is now in French territory and permission will not be granted. However, word has it that a search for a new location is under way. Lt. Albert C. Altman has been relieved from duty as Ass't Group Operations Officer. His new duties will include that of Group Technical Inspector and Group Rubber Coordinator. Group Band left today for a playing tour of Brussels and Paris. Nine low point men were transferred from Group today. Signification?? No one seems to have the answer.

~~SECRET~~

19. Lt. Duncan, Cpl. Bennett and T/Sgt. Pausch, three of the five men that represented this group in the elimination golf tournament today, have qualified. They, with two others of the XII T.A.C., will comprise team to represent this Command in the coming tournament with the 6th Air Force. Rain prevented showing of tonight's scheduled movie.

20. The "Old Man" was so pleased today, after receiving a commendation from General Barcus, congratulating the group for having the lowest V. D. rating for June of any Group in the XII T.A.C., that he called informal meetings with every squadron and headquarters to advise them of his pleasure. Major Shaw, the Group Surgeon, and Chaplain Zink also addressed the men. Another dance has been arranged for the Enlisted Men for tomorrow evening.

21. Back in Sicily in '43, when the slogan was, "Thanksgiving in Rome, Christmas at home", we were on our way to see the Bob Hope Show. Enroute we were flagged and advised that the show was called off. Naturally, it was a great disappointment for all of us. Well, here we are in Germany, and have just been advised that Bob Hope and Company will arrive in Gross Gerau Tuesday afternoon to entertain us. But this time, "for sure"! We hope. Those Enlisted Men that didn't attend the dance this evening, could be found listening to Glenn Miller's Band in Frankfurt.

22. Regular standdown today, good thing, too, as last night a p-61 took off and pulled his wheels too soon. Result, a torn runway. Thirteen more men have been transferred out of the Group these last few days. Without notice, a thorough check of all vehicles, civilian and military, was begun today, in addition to the searching of every civilian home in this area. This will continue until Tuesday morning.

23. Night flying, under the new training program, is scheduled to commence tonight. Rumor has it that all low point men will be transferred from the Group, but as rumors go, probably so will this one. If weather permits, the Bob Hope Show will be shown in the 415th Night Fighter's area, otherwise at the Group Enlisted Men's Club.

24. Standdown this afternoon until after the Bob Hope Show. Inclement weather prevented the initiation of night flying yesterday. Applications are still coming in for the Army University Center, and the first group of men should leave for England within a week.

25. Bob Hope came through this time and really put on a great show, yesterday afternoon, ably assisted by Jerry Collona, Jack Pepper and three gorgeous girls. He played to a capacity crowd, some of the G.I.'s having driven from as far away as Heidelberg to see the show. The Ground Training Classes today included some more "Basic Training" lectures, namely Customs and Courtesies and the good old "Articles of War", and a good time was had by all. Night flying got off to a start last night.

S-S-C-R-E-T

26. S/Sgt. Sylvester "Jeep" Macri of Group Operations, while driving through Frankfurt, got a close glance at our "Commander in Chief", President Truman. A general meeting of the Enlisted Men Club was held this evening followed by the movie, "Circumstantial Evidence" with Lloyd Nolan. Lt. Duncan and two enlisted men left today to compete in the Ninth Air Force Golf Tournament today. Good Luck, men!

27. Our Group Executive Officer, Capt. Jack B. Gross and our Sergeant Major left today for a seven day sojourn in Switzerland. Some people have all the luck! The men who have been selected to attend the eight week course in England are scheduled to leave tomorrow. A new university will open in Biarritz, France in the near future, and from all indications, a good many of them will make application. Most of the men have shown a great deal of interest in the courses offered, but unfortunately all that apply will not be accepted because of a shortage of trained men.

28. An award ceremony was conducted today near the Group Operations tent. Bronze stars were presented by Col. Lee. At long last the authorization of our sixth battle star was received. A correction of the Group A.T.P. score was immediately submitted. This additional five points will place many of the men into the "65" and over category. The Group 1-26 returned from Bologna, Italy today with a good load of cognac for the Officers and Enlisted Men's Clubs. This will definitely provide incentive for a considerable number of high class "wings".

29. Today marks our "Twenty-Seventh" month of overseas duty. The men really must be getting "Civilian Conscious", judging by the numerous ties, cuff links, etc., that have been purchased in London and Paris - for personal use and definitely not souvenirs. Those who already have left for the States and discharge, are sort of "rubbing it in", by writing to various members of the Group and underscoring the "A.R." in the return address. "Eat your heart out, Dave!"

30. The lifting of the fraternization ban has not proven to be as bad as was expected. Generally speaking, the men are behaving very well. This reverts back to the old adage: "When you can't have a thing, you want it that much more". The pilot and ground training program is now in full swing and running smoothly.

S-S-C-R-E-T

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P R E F A C E

This installment of the 86th Fighter Group AAF (SE) History initiates a change of form; consolidating the diary as a section of the history. Heretofore the history has been written in letter form with War Diary included as an inclosure.

The first installment of Unit History and Diary covering period 10 February 1942 (date of activation of 86th Bomb Group (L) AAF) to 31 October 1943, was submitted to 12 Air Force on 15 November 1943. Subsequent installments through February 1945 were submitted to 12 Air Force. (86th Fighter Group AAF (SE) relieved of assignment XXVI TAC, 12 AF, 20 February 1945; assigned XII TAC, 1st TAF (Prov) 20 February, 1945). March and April installments were submitted to XII TAC, 1st TAF (Prov). On 20 May, 1945, 86th Fighter Group AAF (SE) relieved from assignment to 1st TAF (Prov) and assigned to 9th AF, per assignment of Units (No. 41) Hqs. USSAF, dated 16 May, 1945; May, June, and July installments submitted to XII TAC, 9th AF.

Unit Histories of 525, 526, and 527 Fighter Squadrons AAF (SE) are included with Unit History of Headquarters 86th Fighter Group AAF (SE), each with separate table of contents.

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~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 60TH FIGHTER BOMB AND
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer

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HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF (SS)

AUGUST 1945

UNIT HISTORY

I. ORGANIZATION AND CURRENT STATUS

1. Organization
 - a. The current T/O of this organization: 1-12 A.F. dated 28 December 1943. Total strength authorized: 30 officers, 70 enlisted men.
2. *Strength
 - a. For the period of this report: 29 officers, 77 enlisted men.
 - b. Gains and losses for August: gain: 22 enlisted men, losses: 2 officers.
 - c. The 86th Fighter Group operates a replacement depot. For the period covered by this report, 607 enlisted men have been assigned to this Headquarters and subsequently re-assigned to other organizations.

* Information compiled from the morning report, 14., 86th Fighter Group.
3. Stations
 - a. No change in station. Present station, 7-72, Braunschardt, Germany, 16 April, 1945.
4. Losses in Action: Negative.
5. Awards and Decorations: Negative.

II. NARRATIVE

Low morale zoomed, briefly, at news of the Japanese capitulation, then sank to a new low in proportion to soldierly impatience for a speedy return to the United States; was not lifted any by an impossible mail situation. USO shows, movies and dances, occupied a fair amount of the mens' time in the evening, enabling them to forget, temporarily, the point system. The office of Information and Education sent forty-five men to Army University Centers and two men to Technical School. Programs for training pilots and ground personnel are being carried out despite the increasing difficulty, due to an extensive turnover in personnel, of keeping progress charts and obtaining qualified persons for instruction. Several staff conferences were called during the month for solutions to pertinent problems. Frequent transfers, both in and out, left this Headquarters with twenty-nine officers and seventy-seven enlisted men at the end of the month.

INVADERS' INVENTORY NEWS

Weekly Publication of the Enlisted Men of Group Headquarters
86th Fighter-Bomber Group, USAF

No. 2 ITALY Saturday, October 16, 1943

THE STAFF

- S/Sgt. James W. Qualls.....Editor
- S/Sgt. George W. Hunt, Jr.....Assistant Editor and Business Manager
- Sgt. John M. Cook.....Staff Artist
- S/Sgt. Joseph P. Choek.....Mimeographer
- T/Sgt. Clayton A. Ragsdale.....Staff Member-at-large
- S/Sgt. William E. Lakin.....S-1
- S/Sgt. Raymond L. MacDonald.....S-2
- S/Sgt. Howard M. Elwell.....S-3
- S/Sgt. George E. Shuttleworth.....S-4
- Corp. Richard Bell.....Communications
- Corp. Carmine H. Fasano.....Medics
- Sgt. Donald E. Mills.....Mess
- Corp. Walter C. Grimmer, Chaplain's Asst.
- Capt. Paul E. Verseput....Officer Sponsor

BIRTHDAY OF THE WEEK

"Happy Birthday to You!"

Friday, October 22 - Corp. Michael William Ablondi, our Group "postmaster-general" (sometimes, "General" for short).

* * * Thumbnail Biographical Sketch * * *
By his buddy-buddy, T/Sgt. C. A. R.

Our inimitable Group mail orderly, Corp. Michael William Ablondi, was born October 22, 1905, in Framingham Center, Massachusetts, the son of parents who were both born here in Italy. Little Michael grew up in Framingham Center, being a complete nuisance to the townspeople and attending the public schools of Framingham.

Corp. Ablondi was able to outtalk the officials of Sears, Roebuck & Co. and at the time of his induction was manager of the furniture department of one of their large stores. Apparently his charming ways never registered upon the fairer sex, as he has remained single all these years.

Corp. Ablondi, who had previously out in two years with the Massachusetts National Guard, reported to the Reception Center, Fort Devens, Massachusetts, July 1, 1942. He passed his physical and returned home for a ten-day period to finish painting the town red.

Returning to Fort Devens for induction July 10, 1942, Corp. Ablondi was sent to Miami Beach for basic training, and he made pfc. by October 1. His second stripe came in two more months, and now Corp. Ablondi is "the ranking corporal of Headquarters."

Listen for the familiar chant (of the Lucky Strike auctioneer? No!) of Corp. Ablondi: "Nothen for 'quarters!"

EXCELSION

We can't help but feel that we have "arrived," because on the day after our first issue appeared we actually received a "letter to the editor" - and from a first sergeant, too.

Many thanks, Sgt. R. O. Tidwell of the 525th Squadron, for your interest and commendation and for your informed comments on our editorial, "In Tribute to Our Hq. Mess." Come back and eat with us again some time, won't you?

All of which prompts us to announce plans for the expansion of the 86th INVADERS' INVENTORY-NEWS to become the weekly newspaper for the entire Group. It may be possible for us to work this out with the three first sergeants and others in the squadrons in time for the third issue next week.

In any event we shall do our best, and in the meantime the whole staff and our Group Sergeant Major, Ralph H. Bell, would greatly appreciate the comments and suggestions of all those interested throughout the Group.

We share the belief and hope of the sergeant major that the INVADERS' INVENTORY-NEWS as a Group medium should be an excellent means to bring together all the men in the three squadrons and headquarters. Teamwork on the paper would be reflected, for the good of all, throughout the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group.

"Upward and onward" is the immutable Law of Growth, and even with this second issue we confidently look forward.

CARTOON

Our Own Detective Thriller
Being the Adventures of
Inspector Cheek, S.S.I. (Special Service Investigator)



THE \$64 QUESTION

What popular Headquarters first lieutenant, "sweating out" another bar, is already receiving mail addressed "Captain?"

