

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

July 1944

Fourth Week: 23 - 29

- 23 Major General Jones and his staff visited and inspected the group. The group has flown its 1,500th mission and its 14,000th sortie since 6 July 1943. The officers and enlisted men have been sending laundry out, and one of the natives returned this evening demanding anywhere from \$7 up for a barracks bag of laundry - for example, 6¢ for a handkerchief and 60¢ for coveralls. We paid her and also threw her out of our area.
- 24 Capt. Louis and Lt. Garber went to the 87th Wing. Took pictures of pilots in civilian clothes.
- 25 The enlisted men have set up an all-screened dining room - a considerable improvement on the old one. The group picked up 30 new pilots from the 19th Replacement. Capt. Gross, Group Special Service Officer, finished working on the group's citation and will deliver same to TAC.
- 26 Col. Kofahl and Lt. Col. Mullins addressed new pilots. Group Ordnance is having gun inspection.
- 27 The group is back in the saddle again; today we flew 6 missions and 71 sorties with our P-47's. Destroyed 3 Ju-52's, 3 W/V's, created road blocks, damaged RR bridges and buildings. One of the 526th Sq. pilots bailed out over the sea, was rescued by ASR and returned to outfit same day uninjured. He wants to resume flying tomorrow.
- 28 Lt. Col. Nevitt visited. Col. Bates flew with 526th as observer.
- 29 The 526th Sq. had another field day. They attacked an enemy airdrome in the Milan area, destroying 23 and damaging 10 enemy two-engine and single-engine aircraft. This is the type of missions that builds up the group morale. The pilots who participated in the mission were anxious to refuel their aircraft and go over the same target. Diana, the Red Cross girl, visited the line, passing out doughnuts and coffee.

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Porretta Airfield, Corsica

July 1944

Last two days of month, 30 - 31

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- 30 The group received a commendation from Col. Darcy on yesterday's missions.
A B-26 crashed on our field this afternoon. The aircraft is a total wreck, but the crew came out all safe. The resultant damage to the runway forced the group to call off its last two missions.
The group is stood down for several days while engineers lay matting on the field.
-
- 31 All who are able to take off during the group stand-down have been traveling through the towns of Corsica. The most scenic drive on the island is around Cape Corse and along the northwest coast. Some have taken the beautiful trans-island highway through the mountains to Ajaccio, the capital, for a look, among other things, at Napoleon's birthplace.
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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTY-SEVENTH FIGHTER WING
OFFICE OF THE WING COMMANDER
APO # 65C

17 JULY 1944

SUBJECT: COMMENDATIONS.

TO : C.O., 85TH FIGHTER GROUP.

1. IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I TRANSMIT TO ALL XII TAC UNITS BASED IN CORSICA, THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO WHICH THE COMMANDING GENERAL, XII TAC ADDS HIS "WELL DONE":--

A. FROM SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, WESTERN EUROPE TO AIR C-IN-C MEDITERRANEAN:

"RECENT OPERATIONS OF YOURS HAVE BEEN OF INESTIMABLE VALUE TO US HERE PD MY CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATEFUL APPRECIATIONS TO YOU AND ALL SERVING UNDER YOU PD GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES"

B. FROM COMMANDING GENERAL, N.A.T.A.F., TO ALL UNITS:

"ON ONE TWO JULY YOU WERE ORDERED TO COMMENCE OPERATION MALLORY MAJOR PD IN JUST OVER SEVEN TWO HOURS YOUR WINGS HAVE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED NO LESS THAN TWENTY TWO BRIDGES OVER THE PO RIVER PD I REGARD THIS FEAT AS BEING OUTSTANDING IN THE HISTORY OF AIR WAR FARE PD WILL YOU KINDLY ACCEPT AND CONVEY TO YOUR STAFFS CMA AIR CREWS AND GROUND PERSONNEL MY SINCERE APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION OF THEIR SKILL CMA EFFICIENCY AND ENTHUSIASM PD YOUR EFFORTS WILL HAVE FAR REACHING EFFECTS ON THE PROGRESS OF THIS CAMPAIGN IN THIS THEATER"

/S/ THOMAS C. DARCY,
THOMAS C. DARCY,
COLONEL, AIR CORPS,
COMMANDING.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM A COPY ISSUED BY AAF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

86th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP FLIES 14,000 SORTIES

Fifteen hundred combat missions and 14,000 sorties in just over a year's time is the record of the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group of which Colonel Harold E. Aefahl, of Fellows, California, is commanding officer.

Now engaged in cutting rail lines, destroying bridges and generally disrupting the German supply and communications system, the group, working in close support of Allied ground forces in northern Italy, has established an enviable record.

Flying its first mission on 6 July 1943, out of Korba, Tunisia, they were the first to go into combat with A-36 Invaders and it was largely due to their early efforts that the full tactical use of the plane was realized. First used in the softening up of Sicily before the invasion, they later supported the Seventh Army during the Sicilian campaign. Six days after the Salerno landing, the group was operating from a beachhead airdrome under fire and closely followed the fall of Naples by establishing a base near there.

In the now famous "Operation Strangle" in Italy from 11 May to 7 June, the group flew from 50 to 90 sorties daily directed at rail and road communications, and were particularly successful operating against German troop and supply concentrations during the enemy withdrawal northward. Trucks, buses and other means of transport the Germans were using to evacuate, suffered greatly under the fire of the group as well as did large numbers of horses being used to draw artillery pieces.

When Rome fell, the group required only six days to move forward and begin operations from a new base. On another occasion since, the group flight echelon arrived at a new base in the morning and that afternoon the first mission had been completed from that base.

During its 1,500 missions, 5,000 tons of bombs have been dropped and 3,000,000 rounds of 50-caliber ammunition fired.

A total of 2,572 enemy vehicles was destroyed and an additional 2,405 damaged, 1,714 damaged and 46 locomotives were completely knocked out and 35 damaged.

Shipping was not neglected, as two transports, three freighters, two destroyers and one light cruiser were probably sunk and another ten craft of various types damaged.

Although primarily used as fighter-bombers, the group nevertheless, accounted for 23 enemy aircraft shot down and 23 damaged.

Lieutenant Colonel James K. Thomas, of 11 Morwood Road, Charleston, West Virginia, attorney general of the state, on leave from his duties for the duration, is executive officer for the group.

Major Nicholas J. Masun, Jr., of 5915 Field Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

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a squadron commander, with more than 80 missions, holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Croix de Guerre and the Air Medal with Clusters, as does Major Graham Weigle, of Kensington, Maryland, another squadron commander with more than 90 missions.

Major Robert J. Mirsch, 4 Elgas Street, Buffalo, New York, group operations officer, is the only original pilot still with the group.

Entertainment in ITALY, CONT'D.

The following is a sharp and piercing analysis by War Correspondent John Laner, written for the New York Herald-Tribune, on the entertainment of troops in the Italian Theater.

"Professional entertainers — good ones, too — have come to Italy, to perform for American troops at the front lines and bases here, but there are flaws in the talent supply system — almost certainly originating at home — which have led to various degrees of fiasco in the cases of George Raft, Kay Francis, Eddie Foy, Adolphe Menjou and several other performers, most of them highly competent under the proper conditions.

Mostly, entertainment difficulties here can be traced to miscasting at home — miscasting physically as well as in terms of material. Eddie Foy, for instance, one of the deans of American vaudeville, is violently allergic to airplane travel. It is nearly impossible to meet bookings in this area except by plane. Foy missed a number of shows. Troops misunderstood the situation, which was created in the first place by a misunderstanding of conditions by the talent exporters in America.

Kay Francis, most noted for stately drama against lavish Hollywood backdrops, was sent here as a comedian with a string of quick gags she had to memorize on the plane coming over. She did not exactly roll them in the aisles. Adolphe Menjou, one of the shrewdest and most resourceful of dramatic performers, was sent as a monologist. His act was poorly received by the troops and had to be saved by the overnight enlistment of Miss Tony Mason, a local Red Cross worker who can sing.

As against this, Bob Hope, one of the smoothest and most gifted solo performers in the world, was equipped with lavish props and auxiliaries, including Frances Langford and Jack Pepper, practically a show in themselves. Menjou could have used them. Hope did not need them.

George Raft played three of fifteen scheduled appearances because of a cold the Army ended up by cancelling his engagement and substituting Harry Barris, a pianist and singer who once was Bing Crosby's partner in the Rhythm Boys. About the work and willingness of Barris and of June Clyde and Louise Albritton, who were originally booked to appear with Raft and were told by Raft not to appear unless he did, the local Army people and soldiers are enthusiastic.

Col. Meyer who heads Special Service in Italy, says that steady, competent performers, especially vaudevillians, are more successful and cooperative generally than stars. "Things are tough here," says the colonel. "Under those ballroom dresses those girls wear long GI underwear. They have to. We need real troupers here, and when we get them the boys appreciate their stuff more than any other kind of entertainment."

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HEADQUARTERS
86TH SERVICE GROUP
APO 220

15 July 1944

MEMORANDUM)
NO. 45-1)

INTELLIGENCE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Historical Program

1. In compliance with IBS Memo 125-2 and XI Bomber Command Memo 45-1, each squadron will appoint a Historical Officer, who will, in addition to his other duties, prepare and forward monthly, a historical report on the activities of his unit. The history will be forwarded to this Headquarters in triplicate not later than 1700 on the 2nd day of each month.
2. Among the subjects providing material for unit histories are changes in living conditions and morale, changes in key personnel, movement of a substantial part of the unit, actual functioning of the unit, its efficiency in accomplishment of its mission, problems faced and the methods used to solve them and individual exploit or achievement.
3. Statements in histories will be supported wherever possible by documentary exhibits such as orders, charts and photographs.
4. It is recommended that Historical Officers maintain a diary of events within their unit so as to facilitate the prompt preparation of a full report.
5. Reports will be concerned with fact rather than literary style. However they will be organized in such fashion as to render them readable and understandable. The following is quoted from XI Bomber Command Memo 45-1:

"Historics will be written in narrative style and will not consist of a mere checking of the sub-heading on some form. The recording of the activities of the units of this command will cover all noteworthy occurrences of historical interest and will constitute a properly substantial story of fact, quite apart from any outline of topical guide. However a high degree of organization is necessary to present the facts in a clear and unified manner. Common sense and the sense of what is historically important are the cardinal facts."
6. Reports will usually be classified SECRET, depending upon the nature of the material they contain. They will be forwarded with letter of Transmittal addressed to Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, 25, D.C. (Through Channels).

By order of Lieutenant Colonel STORRY:

WILLIAM E. DOYLE, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

William E. Boyle Jr.
WILLIAM E. BOYLE, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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AUG 44

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Hq. 86th Fighter Group AAF
Outline History -Aug. 1944

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
APO 650

G/PEV/jwg

AO 314.7

31 August 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

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

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

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

b. Changes in organization;

(1) Changes in designation, assignment, or attachment;

None.

(2) Subordinate units; None.

(3) Changes of commanding officers; 2 August Col. Earl E. Bates, Jr., O-21625, assumed command of the 86th Fighter Group AAF, vice Col. Harold E. Kofahl, O-361694, relieved.

(4) Changes of staff officers; None.

(5) Changes in T/O; None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted;

(1) Month of August 1944;

(a) At beginning; 25 officers, 2 warrant officers, 62 enlisted men, and 3 civilians assigned.

(b) Net increase; 1 officer, 1 enlisted man.

(c) Net decrease; None.

(d) At end; 26 officers, 2 warrant officers, 63 enlisted men, and 3 civilians assigned.

d. Stations;

(1) Poretta Airfield, Casamozza, Corsica.

(a) Date of arrival; 12 July 1944.

(b) Date of departure; Present station.

e. Movements; None.

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

f. Campaigns;

- (1) Name: Italy.
- (2) Duration; From 12 September 1943 (arrival of our advance echelon in Italy) - campaign still in progress.
- (3) Name; Southern France.
- (4) Duration; From 6 August to 28 August 1944 the Group ran missions over Southern France. These were our first targets in thirteen months of operations that were outside Italian territory (Sicily and Italy).

g. Operations;

- (1) Campaigns; Italy and Southern France.
- (2) Nature of operations; Main efforts were directed against enemy transportation and road and rail networks in Northern Italy and Southern France, with several escort missions into Southern France and bombing missions against coastal defenses in support of the Allied invasion.
- (3) Number of missions and sorties for period 1 August 1944 to 31 August 1944; 195 missions and 1,435 sorties for entire group.
- (4) Results of the most important missions; See squadron histories following.

h. Commanding officer in important missions; 9 missions flown by Commanding Officer during the month. On 28 August Col. Bates was flight leader on a 2-hour mission that put out two bridges on the Turin-Susa highway in spite of light and heavy flak near the target. On 24 August Col. Bates led our escort on a bomber mission that destroyed a vital bridge at Lunel, France.

i. Losses in action; None.

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action; None.

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

For the Commanding Officer;

Paul E. Versepnt
PAUL E. VERSEPNT,
Captain, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

Incl;

3 copies - War Diary

RESTRICTEDHEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE
A. P. O. 650

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GENERAL ORDERS)

27 August 1944.

NUMBER 14)

CITATION OF UNIT

Under the provisions of Circular 333, War Department, 1943, and Circular 89, North African Theater of Operations, 10 July 1944, the 86th Fighter Group is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy.

The 86th Fighter Group is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations on 25 May 1944. After the Allied armies had broken the enemy's seven-month stand before Cassino, Italy, and were threatening his flank from the Anzio Beachhead, powerful German forces attempted to reform on a line between Frascati and Tivoli, where they proposed to stop the Allied advance short of Rome. To disrupt this strategic maneuver, the 86th Fighter Group was ordered, on 25 May 1944, to maintain continuous armed reconnaissance of all roads leading from the front to the projected defense line. Although the majority of their fifty A-36's and P-40's had been flown over 400 combat hours on more than 200 combat missions and had been subjected, in almost a year's service, to the dust and heat of North Africa as well as to the terrific strain of vertical diving, the ground personnel, through indefatigable and resourceful effort, had every plane prepared for an all-out effort by daylight. Taking off at 0650 hours on 25 May, the first flight began a grueling battle with enemy transport, diving through intense accurate anti-aircraft fire to bomb traffic, effect road blocks and create confusion, repeatedly returning at minimum altitude to strafe the streams of enemy reconnaissance cars, personnel carriers, trucks, tanks, and horse-drawn artillery moving to the rear. When the final four-ship flight landed that night at 2020 hours, the Group had, in 12 missions and 86 sorties, destroyed 217 and damaged 245 enemy vehicles, inflicted an unknown number of casualties on hostile personnel, established many effective road blocks, silenced several gun positions, and interdicted the highways into the towns of Frosinone, Cori and Cascano. These crushing blows were not delivered without cost. Of the Group's fifty planes, hostile fire destroyed two and heavily damaged six others, one of which had to be salvaged. One pilot was reported missing in action. This dawn-to-dusk aerial hammering by the 86th Fighter Group, coordinated with the terrific assaults made upon adjoining areas by other units of the Mediterranean Tactical Air Force, so crippled the enemy's transport system and disorganized and decimated his ranks that he was forced to abandon his projected defense of Rome and hastily retreat northward to escape complete annihilation. In these operations, the pilots of the 86th Fighter Group, through their extraordinary heroism, determination and marked proficiency in combat have reflected highest credit upon their organization and upon the Military Service of the United States.

By command of Major General CANNON:

JOHN W. MCNAHAR,
Colonel, AC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

W. W. Dick
WILLIAM W. DICK,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

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

WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August 1944

First Week: 1 - 5

- 1 One of the Group Operations enlisted men, S/Sgt. George N. Munt, Jr., has received word that he is to go to the United States on rotation.
Lt. Garber, Assistant Group S-2, is visiting Naples.
- 2 Col. Earl E. Bates, Jr., assumed command of this group, relieving Col. Harold E. Kofahl.
The new Group Commander held a meeting for all Group staff officers.
- 3 Major Firsch, Group Operations Officer, and two representatives from Pratt and Whitney lectured to pilots.
Capt. Versepnt, Group S-2, lectured to pilots on flak and on awards and decorations.
Col. Kofahl, retiring Group Commander, left this morning for the States.
Capt. Fauskin, Group Adjutant, gave out ballot applications to officers and enlisted men.
Lt. Garber returned from Naples.
- 4 Runway is about finished, and we expect to resume operations tomorrow.
General Cannon visited the Group.
The Group started to send personnel to the rest camp again.
The enlisted men received their PX rations this evening.
- 5 The runway is finished, but we are stood down on account of weather.
The movie this evening was STING TIME.

- 1 -

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

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August 1944

Second Week: 6 - 12

- 6 Capt. Verseput and Capt. Louis to 87th Fighter Wing. By order of Col. Bates all personnel will have foxholes, an inspection being promised in the next few days. One officer and three enlisted men, known as the Audit Team, checked the classification of all officers and EM in the Group, beginning their three-day stay today.
- 7 A movie was held in the area this evening with the rather whimsical title, FOLLOW THE VOICE. On today's escort mission our planes encountered and engaged enemy aircraft, probably destroying one and damaging four.
- 8 The enlisted men of Group Headquarters held a dance in the old opera house at Bastia. The music was furnished by the Group's own orchestra, and refreshments and sandwiches were served. Thanks again to our Special Service.
- 9 Joe Louis and his troupe arrived today and will stage a boxing exhibition for the Group tomorrow. They had dinner with the enlisted men. Corp. Robert E. Oliver was transferred from the Group S-4 section to Group S-3, replacing S/Sgt. George N. Munt, Jr., who went to the States on rotation. The American Red Cross began a three-day tour of the island. A collection from our officers and enlisted men was presented to our departing Italian KP's, who were returned to Italy today. Some of the "Eye-ties" had been with us nearly a year, since our days at Sele on the Salerno beachhead.

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August 1944

Second Week (Continued); 6 - 12

- 10 Late this afternoon S/Sgt. Joe Louis, the world's heavyweight champion, and his staff gave a boxing exhibition in our area. About a thousand GI's were present to watch the show and afterward hear Joe crack a few well-chosen jokes over the "mike." However, the most entertaining feature was the opening preliminary between two of our native kid KP's. Col. Bates, Group Commander, was appointed Base Commander. Because of torrential rains our areas look like miniature lakes. In some of the tents the men's articles were floating about, and later the occupants were obliged to strike their fragile shelters and set up anew.
- 11 Group S-2 received flak charts, photos, and maps from 87th Wing, making distribution of the material to the three squadrons.
- 12 Officers of the Group held a dance in Bastia. Music was furnished by the "Invaders" orchestra. Lt. Garber, Lt. Townsend, and Sgt. Sobina drove out into the hills behind Borgo and went bird hunting. They returned with the report that they had fired at several birds, but could not find any on account of the thick underbrush and the lack of a dog.

Third Week; 13 - 19

- 13 The movie of the evening was SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARROVE. The film and the book, it is reported, have already earned the author more money than General MacArthur will receive from his official salary in the next five years.
- 14 This evening Capt. Verseput, Group Intelligence Officer, and Capt. Drier, 7th Army ALO, briefed the officers and enlisted men of Hq. on the imminent invasion of Southern France. Col. Bates and Major Kirsch spoke to the pilots.

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

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August 1944

Third Week (Continued): 13 - 19

- 15 The invasion of the southern coast of France began this morning. The Group's participation in the operation to date has come to 24 missions and 94 sorties. Our targets were chiefly coastal defense guns and transportation. We lost only three aircraft - two in the sea, reason unknown. One plane crashed and burned on the northern end of our runway. All pilots safe. Picture tonight was FOUR JILLS AND A JEEP.
- 16 Group S-4 section published rosters of the "A" and "B" parties for our next move.
- 17 After we have spent more than a month on this field, eating dust day in and day out, the engineers are finally doing something about it - oiling all the taxi-strips.
- 18 Just after noon a ferocious rainstorm broke, of a force unprecedented in our sixteen months overseas. The kitchen, officers' mess, the Special Service tent, and many other tents were blown down. Much thunder and lightning; the roads like Venetian canals. Who said "the mild Mediterranean climate"? As a consequence of the catastrophe, we had "C" rations for lunch, but by suppertime we were all set up again and resumed eating in our mess halls.
- 19 The fellow who operates our movie projector took off for rest camp, and now there will be no more shows until he returns. Major Kruck, Lt. Garber, and Sgt. Sobina spent their day off trying their luck at fishing in the mountain streams.

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

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August 1944

Fourth Week; 20 - 26

- 20 The picture, THE MORE THE MERRIER, was shown this evening, although many of us had seen it before during our long stay at Pomigliano A/B in Italy.
-
- 21 Major Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., who recently resigned as Senator from Massachusetts to enter the service, alighted from a plane at our base this afternoon and was driven into Bastia by S/Sgt. Elwell of Group Operations.
-
- 22 Col. Bates flew his 100th sortie today. The Group's B-25 took off this morning for Egypt, taking some of our pilots to rest camp for two weeks. Evening cinema was SUMMER STORM.
-
- 23 The liberation of Paris was good news in Corsica today. The French population at Bastia celebrated, and one could see the city decorated and draped with flags. French A/A fired several salvos and at night shot skyrockets. Our screen entertainment was a bit different this evening. The "double feature" comprised a WD picture named PICK-UP and an orientation film on WHY WE FIGHT.
-
- 24 Since the article on mustering out of GI's after the European victory appeared in THE STARS AND STRIPES, this has been the main topic of conversation throughout the day. The arguments have raged as to who should go home first - the married or single, the drafted or enlisted, men with overseas service or those remaining in the States, pre-Pearl Harbor men and "duration" men, etc.
-

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

August 1944

Fourth Week (Continued); 20 - 26

- 25 The news on our move has been all but forgotten; now we don't know when - or where - we'll go.
The Group's B-25 has returned from Egypt.
- 26 Capt. Fauskin, Group Adjutant, gave a lecture to the enlisted men in their mess hall this evening. He spoke on looting and military discipline, since cases of looting have been reported in Southern France.

Fifth Week; 27 - 31

- 27 General Darcy visited Group Operations and spoke with Lt. Col. Mullins, Deputy Group Commander.
- 28 Today we received word that the Advance Party will pack up and be ready to move August 30 at 1000 hours.
- 29 The move has been cancelled until further notice.
Evening entertainment was provided by a USO troupe.
- 30. The monthly physical inspection for enlisted men was held after supper.
This evening in the Special Service tent the second staff meeting was called for the organization of the new Group newspaper, which is proposed as a printed weekly.
- 31 Time for evening chow, first sitting, was advanced from 1800 hours to 1730 hours.
Pay day - several men achieved "old fogey" or longevity pay for the first time.

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

Hq. 86th Fighter Group AAF
Outline History - Sept 1944

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
APO 650

G/PSW/JWQ

AG 314.7

30 September 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, XII Fighter Command, APO 650,

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

a. Present designation: Headquarters 86th Fighter Group, XII Fighter Command.

b. Changes in organization:

(1) Changes in designation, assignment, or attachment:

(a) Changes in designation: None.

(b) Changes in assignment: Assgd to 27th Ftr Wing, with GO 39, Hq. XII TAC, 9 September 1944; rlvd assgd 87th Ftr Wing, and rlvd assgd XII TAC; assgd XII Ftr Command eff 15 September 1944; with GO 194, Hq. XII Air Force, dated 11 September 1944.

(c) Changes in attachment: None.

(2) Subordinate units: None.

(3) Changes of commanding officers: None.

(4) Changes of staff officers: Lt. Col. Gilbert T. Mullins, O-396299, rlvd as Deputy Gp CO, and departed org for return to the Zone of the Interior, 10 September 1944. Major George T. Lea, O-791125, apptd Deputy Gp CO, per vocal orders, 13 September 1944.

Capt. Percy C. Fauskin, O-557776, Gp Adjutant, and Capt. Paul E. Versept, O-562252, Gp Intelligence Officer, promoted to Major, per GO 240, Hq. XII Air Force, 17 September 1944.

(5) Changes in T/O: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of September 1944:

(a) At beginning: 26 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 63 enlisted men assigned.

(b) Net increase: None.

(c) Net decrease: None.

(d) At end: 26 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 53 enlisted men assigned.

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

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d. Stations;

- (1) Poretta Airfield, Casamozza, Corsica.
 - (a) Date of arrival; 12 July 1944 (advance echelon); 15 July 1944 (remainder of detachment).
 - (b) Date of departure; 12 September 1944 ("A" party); 17 September 1944 ("A Rear" party); 21 September 1944 ("B" party).
- (2) Grosseto Airfield, Grosseto, Italy.
 - (a) Date of arrival; 17 September 1944 ("A" party); 18 September 1944 ("A Rear" party); 23 September 1944 ("B" party).
 - (b) Date of departure; Present station.

e. Movements;

- (1) From Poretta Airfield, Corsica, to Grosseto Airfield, Italy.
 - (a) Purpose; Change of station.
 - (b) Dates; 12-17 September 1944 for "A" party; 17-18 September for "A Rear" party; 21-23 September 1944 for "B" party.
 - (c) By motor convoy to Bastia Staging Area; LST from Bastia, Corsica, to Piombino, Italy; by motor convoy from Piombino, Italy, to new station.
 - (d) Roads generally satisfactory and weather generally fair and dry.

f. Campaigns;

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

g. Operations;

- (1) Campaign; Italy.
- (2) Nature of operations; Armed recon and road and rail cutting missions, chiefly in the Po Valley.
- (3) Number of missions and sorties for period 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944; 199 missions and 1,365 sorties for entire Group.
- (4) Results of the most important missions; See Squadron histories following.

h. Commanding officer in important missions; Commanding officer flew two missions of two and a half hours each; neither mission very spectacular.

i. Losses in action; None

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action; None.

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

2. Inclosed is War Diary, Headquarters 96th Fighter Group AAF, for the period 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

Paul E. Verset
PAUL E. VERSET,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

Incl:
2 copies - War Diary

- 3 -

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

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WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF

- Group Headquarters -

Porretta Airfield, Corsica

September 1944

- 1 Dawn today marked five long years of war in Europe, and it looks as if the end cannot be far off.
- 2 Stand-down for maintenance.
Meeting was held in the Enlisted Men's mess hall to discuss the organization of an Enlisted Men's Club for Group HQ.

First Week: 3 - 9

- 3 Lt. Barber from sick back to duty.
This afternoon Lt. Col. Mullins, Deputy Group Commander, spoke to the Squadron and Group operations and intelligence officers at Group S-3 building.
- 4 Our second Labor Day overseas finds all the boys busy dispensing and manufacturing rumors on our next destination. Speculation ranges all the way from France and Italy to Russia and the CBI theater - or even the States.
Capt. Brier, ALO, left for France, but returned when his orders were cancelled.
A B-26 from 412th Bomb Squadron, Catania, landed on the field with one crew member killed and two others wounded.
- 5 Lt. Brinley, Asst. Group S-3, placed signs along the taxi-strips at the end of the runway saying, "Use side road. Do not drive on runway."
The technicolor picture, LADY IN THE DARK, was shown in the evening.
News reports state that Allied patrols have crossed the frontier of Germany in the Saar district.
Officers were elected for the newly organized Enlisted Men's Club of Group HQ, as follows: T/Sgt. Louis DiCello, President; S/Sgt. Austin J. Collins, Vice President; T/Sgt. Clayton A. Hagsdale, Secretary-treasurer; and T/Sgt. Joe Lovett, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee.
T/Sgt. Clayton A. Hagsdale appointed Sergeant Major of the 86th Fighter Group.

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

September 1944

First Week (Continued): 3 - 9

6 On a transition flight Lt. Joslin crashed his plane five miles southeast of Ghisonaccia, Corsica.
Stand-down on account of rain.

7 Another stand-down was called for today after two weather recces reported the Po Valley closed in.
As a result of a medical inspection, the enlisted men on the line spent most of the afternoon digging a new latrine.

8 Stand-down for the third straight day.
This is the anniversary of the surrender of Italy, an event that caused boundless excitement among us in Sicily a year ago, but also an event that did not altogether fulfill its promise.
In these twelve months the Allies have slowly hacked their way up "the Boot" from Salerno to Florence.
Lt. MacFarland, 527th Squadron, crashed into the sea.
Lt. Col. Charles F. Cassidy, Jr., former Deputy Group Commander, visited in the afternoon.

9 Capt. Brier, our AIO, left again on orders, and it remains to be seen if this is another "dry run" for him.
Capt. Fielding H. Atchley, 527th Squadron Intelligence Officer, told us all good-bye this afternoon, since he is leaving for the States to enter the Judge Advocate General's Training School.
Latest word on our long delayed move is that the "A" party should be ready to return to Italy in two or three days.
Evening movie was DOBIE AND DODD.

Second Week: 10 - 16

10 Lt. Col. Gilbert T. Mullins, Deputy Group Commander, visited Group S-2 and S-3 and brought news of his rotation to the States.
Our new LAC is Major Benedict, from the 57th Fighter Group.
Sgt. Fletcher, CO of a B-26 Group, visited.

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Poretta Airfield, Corsica

September 1944

Second Week (Continued); 10 - 16

- 11 PX after supper - eight beers instead of six made the EM happy.
- 12 Moving day at last, coming on short notice at breakfast time. The personnel of the "A" party, as well as the GI transportation, was drastically reduced. Nevertheless, the bulk of the equipment was loaded on for the "freight echelon" (they will not attempt to start operations); and the party set out for the Ile Rousse Staging Area on the northwest coast of the Island. No officers were sent from Group Operations or Intelligence - just one EM from each section, S/Sgt. Elwell of Operations and Sgt. Sobini of Intelligence.
- 13 Group S-1 exchanged our francs for lire today. In the evening not a few of the officers and men jeoped over to the movie area of the 321st Service Group on the banks of the nearby River Golo. The attraction was the hilarious cinematic fable about a dancing caterpillar, entitled COME UPON A TIME.
- 14 Late this afternoon the men from our "A" party came back from Ile Rousse with the news that they will load at Bastia tomorrow. They spent the night here.
- 15 Our "A" advance party finally pulled out in midafternoon, with Capt. Gross leading the convoy. The "A" rear party, consisting of the remainder of the original "A" party, is scheduled to leave tomorrow.
- 16 Again our moving party's departure was postponed - this time until tomorrow morning. "Hurry up and wait" in the best GI tradition.

Third Week; 17 - 23

- 17 The "A" rear party finally left about 0900 hours, but spent the whole day at the staging area south of Bastia. The last vehicle boarded the IST before midnight, but the ship did not leave Bastia harbor until the next dawn.

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

- Group Headquarters -

Grosseto Airfield, Italy

September 1944

Third Week (Continued): 17 - 23

- 18 "A" rear party, skirting the south shores of the islands of Elba and Pianosa, landed at Piombino, Italy, and reached Grosseto Airfield just after nightfall. "B" party had already arrived by plane.
- 19 Everyone is busy setting up tents in the dusty line area. Winds are terrific. The line is almost a mile and a half west of our tent bivouac, which is at the western edge of Grosseto.
- 20 "The rain came" - and mud, mud, mud everywhere. Operations and Intelligence, both Group and Squadrons, plus Group Engineering, Armament, and Ordnance, moved into comfortable, but leaky two-story red farmhouse. The Group Officers' Club, a splendid former hospital building in Grosseto, was formally inaugurated at suppertime by serving the first meal in the new consolidated officers' mess. Quarters, mess, club, and bar are under the same roof.
- 21 With deep sighs of relief, the enlisted men moved from their muddy field to a large factory on the drainage canal a mile northeast of town and nearly three miles from the field. The establishment consists of a series of long stone sheds with arched tile roofs. Orders transferring a number of officers became effective today. Capt. Alexander Louis and 1st Lt. Clayson S. Garber, Asst. Group Intelligence Officers, exchanged places with Capt. Frederic H. Henric, 526th Squadron Intelligence Officer, and 1st Lt. Charles F. Voller, Asst. 526th Squadron Intelligence Officer. Capt. William B. Colgan was assigned as 525th Squadron CO, while 2d Lt. Harold J. Ingley was transferred from the 526th to the 527th Sq.
- 22 The EM received their first PX ration since returning to Italy; beer quota raised to nine bottles per man. The "B" rear party didn't arrive, as expected. President Louis DiCello and his cohorts are hard at work readying the new Group Enlisted Men's Club, which is housed in a large greenstone building, evidently a former Fascist gymnasium. Two hot showers are now working for the GI's at the club.

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

- Group Headquarters -

Grosseto Airfield, Italy

September 1944

Third Week (Continued); 17 - 23

- 23 The EM had that rare delicacy, fried chicken, for lunch. The remaining showers were opened at the Group EM Club, not far from a couple of the late Duce's windy mottoes for his warrior-athletes. For ten days or more the men have been receiving virtually no mail. The APO must not like us any more. Our rear party, after more than the usual delay, arrived tonight.

Fourth Week; 24 - 30

- 24 Amid much wailing and gnashing of teeth, the men were aroused from slumber at 0400 hours to unload two priority M trucks.
- 25 Hourly bus service, with twelve round-trips per day, was begun between the EM area and Officers' Club, EM Club, and the line. First departure from EM area is at 0730 hours, last at 1830 hours; last departure from Group Operations building at 1900 hours. News was received of the promotion of the following E4 officers, effective September 17: Capt. Percy C. Fauskin, Group Adjutant, and Capt. Paul E. Verseppt, Group Intelligence Officer, were promoted to Major; 2d Lt. Robert F. Duncan, Group Public Relations Officer, was promoted to 1st Lt.
- 26 This evening was marked by the informal opening of the Group Enlisted Men's Club with a dance. The local signorine were there for the festivities, held in a large hall decorated with lanterns and assorted foliage suggesting a tropical atmosphere.
- 27 Hangover hangers noted after the party. The officers blime their "celebration" tonight.
- 28 The rest camp details (for Rome) have started again. Rain again and stand-down in the afternoon.
- 29 Stand-down all day, with high winds whipping the fields. Everyone is happy to be back on the continent, where laundry is cheap and plentiful - likewise native labor for AP carpentry what-have-you. 'Twas rather different in isolated Corsica.

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

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

- Group Headquarters -

Grosseto Airfield, Italy

September 1944

Fourth Week (Continued); 24 - 30

20 The monthly physical inspection for enlisted men was held at suppertime, but pay day was skipped for a few days. This evening the Group Enlisted Men's Club was at last formally opened with a big dance, attended by most of the officers and signorine from as far away as Orbetello. Everyone seemed to have a good time without getting too tipsy. Music was furnished by our own group orchestra, "the Invaders."

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GP-30-30-24
1 SEP 1944

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
APO 850 U. S. Army

9 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 12)

Award of Purple Heart 1

1 — AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following named Officers for wounds received as the result of enemy action.

HARRY L. CALDWELL, O-665172, Captain, 527th Fighter Squadron SE, 86th Fighter Group, Southern France, 17 August 1944.

JAMES F. McPHERSON, O-684020, First Lieutenant, 527th Fighter Squadron SE, 86th Fighter Group, Italy, 28 August 1944.

By order of Colonel BATES:

PERCY C. FAUSKIN
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

Percy C. Fauskin
PERCY C. FAUSKIN,
Captain, Air Corps.
Adjutant.

- DIST:
- 3-TAG, Dec & Awards Br, Munitions Bldg, Washington D.C.
 - 1-HA10USA, Personnel Div. AG Section
 - 2-ACAS, Intelligence, Washington, 25, D.C. (att Historical Div)
 - 2-XII AF, Awards & Decorations Section.
 - 2-XII TAC
 - 2-Ea Sq.
 - 2-Ea Officer.
 - 1-Group P.R.O.
 - 1-File

R E S T R I C T E D

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HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
Office Of The Group Surgeon
APO 650, U. S. Army

GENERAL

86TH MSG

SUBJECT: Medical Historical Data Report.

TO : The Surgeon, AAFSC/MTO, APO 528, U. S. Army.

1. Previous History:

This subject was thoroughly discussed in the preceding report covering the period up through 30 June 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 the 30 June 1944 report, the unit was stationed at Orbetello Airfield, Italy.

2. Administrative History:

a. 1) Date of activation--10 February 1942. 2) Original designation of unit--86th Bombardment Group (Light). 3) Place of organization--Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 4) Authority for organization--Letter AG 320.2 (1-5-42) MR-X-AAF, dated 13 January 1942, War Dept. 5) Original T/O and E for operation--T/O & E 1-112 for Sq.; T/O & E 1-147 for squadrons. Authority for T/O & E for Sq. and Squadrons the same as authority for origin. 6) Unit transfer during period--

Orbetello Airfield, Italy	to	Poretta Airfield, Corsica	15 July 1944
Poretta Airfield, Corsica	to	Grosseto Airfield, Italy	24 Sept. 1944

7) On 1 July 1942, the original T/O & E was revised. When the unit changed from "Light Bombardment Group" to "Fighter Bomber Group" on 11 Sept. 1943, the T/O & E changed to Sq. T/O & E 1-12, dated 1 July 1942, Squadrons T/O & E 1-27 dated 1 July 1942, per W.D. Letter AG 322 (8-6-43) OB-I-AFPG-M, dated 23 August 1943. On 31 March 1943 the T/O & E was revised. It was again revised on 29 December 1943. 8) T/O & E changes which may have been recommended by official communication--None.

b. Personnel Matters: 1) Unit quarterly strengths are as follows:

Quarter ending 30 September 1944: - 1002

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)

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

ROSTER OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL
as of 30 September 1944

Headquarters

Major	JESSE W. SHAW	- 0422956	- Will Rogers Field, Okla.	Group Surgeon
Capt.	HAROLD (IMI) KANTER	- 0369767	- Carlisle Barracks, Pa.	Dental Surgeon
S/Sgt.	Austin J. Collins	- 36316088	- Camp Grant, Ill.	Med. Adm. Clerk
Sgt.	George C. Landenbach	- 32216802	- Camp Lee, Va.	Flt. Sur. Asst.
Sgt.	Carmine N. Passano	- 32239660	- Camp Lee, Va.	Dental Tech.
Sgt.	Stanislaus J. Tauras	- 32216789	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.
Opl.	Eldon A. Morse	- 37427753	- Key Field, Miss.	Medical Tech.
Opl.	Leon J. Yoskowitz	- 32185787	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.

525th Squadron

Capt.	GEORGE R. CLINTON	- 0356775	- Geiger Field, Wash.	Squadron Surgeon
S/Sgt.	Albert S. DiMeglio	- 32217549	- Camp Lee, Va.	Section Leader
Opl.	Lloyd G. Gierke	- 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
Opl.	Walter Gronowsky	- 12058653	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.
Opl.	Alvin Vallett	- 37454647	- Key Field, Miss.	Ambulance Driver
Pvt.	Clifford E. Herman	- 33112867	- Camp Lee, Va.	Clerk
Pvt.	Raymond M. Jones	- 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. Hejnal	- 36166286	- Hunter Field, Ga.	Medical Tech.
Opl.	Edward Witt	- 37427713	- Key Field, Miss.	Surgical Tech.
Opl.	Joseph S. Peges	- 36166174	- Hunter Field, Ga.	Clerk
Pfc.	Edward Milanowski	- 35234032	- Camp Grant, Ill.	Ambulance Driver
Pfc.	Joseph Dolnovich	- 33038475	- Camp Lee, Va.	Surgical Tech.

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

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

	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Orbetello Field, Italy	20 June 1944	11 July 1944
Poretta Field, Corsica	15 July 1944	21 September 1944
Grosseto Field, Italy	24 Sept. 1944	

Campaign and battle awards: - "Unit Presidential Citation" per General Orders #144, Eq. Twelfth Air Force, 27 August 1944. Description of Citation is as follows:

The 86th Fighter Group is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations on 25 May 1944. After the Allied armies had broken the enemy's seven-month stand before Cassino, Italy and were threatening his flank from the Anzio Beachhead, powerful German forces attempted to reform on a line between Frascati and Tivoli; where they proposed to stop the allied advance short of Rome. To disrupt this strategic maneuver, the 86th Fighter Group was ordered, on 25 May 1944, to maintain continuous armed reconnaissance of all roads leading from the front to the projected defense line. Although the majority of their fleet A-36's and P-40's had been flown over 400 combat hours on more than 200 combat missions and had been subjected, in almost a year's service, to the dust and heat of North Africa as well as to the terrific strain of vertical diving, the ground personnel, through indefatigable and resourceful effort, had every plane prepared for an all-out effort by daylight. Taking off at 0650 hours on 25 May, the first flight began a gruelling battle with enemy transport, diving through intense accurate anti-aircraft fire to bomb traffic, effect road blocks and create confusion, repeatedly returning at minimum altitude to strafe the streams of enemy reconnaissance cars, personnel carriers, trucks, tanks, and horse-drawn artillery moving to the rear. When the final four-ship flight landed that night at 2020 hours, the Group had, in 12 missions and 86 sorties, destroyed 217 and damaged 245 enemy vehicles, inflicted an unknown number of casualties on hostile personnel, established many effecting road blocks, silenced several gun positions, and interdicted the highways into the towns of Frosinone, Cori and Cascano. These crushing blows were not delivered without cost. Of the Group's fifty planes, hostile fire destroyed two and heavily damaged six others, one of which had to be salvaged. One pilot was reported missing in action. This dawn-to-dusk aerial hammering by the 86th Fighter Group, coordinated with the terrific assaults made upon adjoining areas by other units of the Mediterranean Tactical Air Force, so crippled the enemy's transport system and disorganized and decimated his ranks that he was forced to abandon his projected defense of Rome and hastily retreat northward to escape complete annihilation. In these operations, the pilots of the 86th Fighter Group, through their extraordinary heroism, determination and marked proficiency in combat have reflected highest credit upon their organization and upon the Military Service of the United States.

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

No special inspections of the command have been made. We have had no organizations attached for medical service during this period.

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

e. Training data: Courses of training during the period included two courses of instructions, to medical personnel, on the method of giving a prophylactic treatment, on 21 July 1944 and again on 7 August 1944. A talk on malaria control and camp sanitation was given on 18 July 1944. Training films that were shown are as follows:

"Sex Hygiene", shown on 3 August 1944.

"The Fly", shown on 7 August 1944.

"Know For Sure", shown on 13 August 1944.

"Pickup", shown on 23 August 1944.

3. Environmental History:

a. Environmental Sanitation -- The command moved from Orbetello, Italy to Poretta Air Base, Corsica on 15 July 1944. All men lived in tents. Swamps in the neighborhood of the camp were sprayed by airplane by the local malaria control commission, which markedly reduced the number of malaria-bearing mosquitoes. Podies of rain water that collected in the camp area after heavy rains, were oiled.

b. Personal Hygiene -- Physical inspections held twice monthly revealed no venereal disease, scabies or fungus infections at the time of inspection.

Immunizations given during the period are as follows:

Triple Typhoid injections -- 31.

Typhus Fever injections -- 22.

Tetanus Toxoid injections -- 0.

Smallpox Vaccine Inoculations -- 4.

Personnel took atabrine regularly, applied mosquito repellent nightly, and slept under mosquito bars.

c. Undue Prevalence of Communicable Disease -- Because of strict sanitation measures including use of DDT solution, the dysentery rate has dropped steadily during the period. The venereal disease rate dropped also, since the camp was at some distance from metropolitan areas, and also because of talks on the subject and the showing of three training films on venereal disease.

d. New or Improved Administrative measures or appliances -- None.

e. Subjects not covered by other headings: On 24 Sept. 1944 the command was moved from Poretta Air Base, Corsica to Grosseto, Italy. The command is now housed entirely in buildings. Sanitation is maintained much more easily because quarters and kitchens are all in buildings. Because of the cooler weather almost all flies and mosquitoes have disappeared. Food has been "B" & "C" type ration and has improved in palatability. Evacuation of casualties has not been a problem at either base because of the nearness of army hospitals. Climate has been temperate throughout the period. The quantity and quality of medical supplies have been satisfactory.

f. Recommendations: None.

4. Operational History:

a. Medical activities have not varied from the past. A line ambulance service is furnished at all bases. Prophylactic stations are maintained at the camp. Squadron dispensaries and a group ward tent for quarters cases were manned at all times. Observation of pilots to keep them in proper condition and to dispose of them when they show indications for relief remained one of the medical department's chief concerns.

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

b. A professional narrative, including a resume of Essential Technical Medical Data reports for the period, must of necessity be a repetition of statements made elsewhere in this report. Our main problems in the field are concerned with that of disease prevention, as represented by: 1) The maintenance of proper sanitation. 2) Malaria control through education of personnel and supply of equipment and atabrine to prevent the appearance of malaria. 3) Venereal disease prevention by education by talks, training films and the maintenance of prophylactic stations, plus the administration of all immunization. Since no definitive therapy is given, no advances in or comments on surgery or medicine or psychiatry were possible. No suggestions for the bettering of the supply system were made during this period.

c. No new problems have arisen during the period concerning disease prevention or the evacuation of patients. Hospitals are always nearby to care for and major casualties. No new improvisations of a medical nature have been produced. The prevention of injuries in pilots is confined to instruction of personnel to fasten and lock all safety belts and harness, and to leave the canopy open on takeoffs and landings. A compilation of casualties from takeoff and landing accidents demonstrated that slight injury or none at all resulted in such accidents if these measures were observed (except, of course, in those accidents in which the plane was almost entirely disintegrated).

d. No new problems in aviation medicine occurred, nor were any marked changes of policy instituted. Toward the close of this period, a new policy was promulgated by higher headquarters in which the relief of pilots through administrative channels after the pilot has flown 100 sorties in this type of work was set forth.

The following is a summary of the Care of Flier Reports for the period:

	July	August	September
Strength of Flying Personnel:	126	150	142
Commissioned:	123	145	138
Flight Officers:	3	5	4
Enlisted Men:	0	0	0
A. Aircraft Accidents: No:	11	7	5
Fatally Injured:	2	1	1
Severely Injured:	0	0	0
Slightly Injured:	9	4	2
Uninjured:	0	2	2
B. Aircraft Casualties: No:	5	5	5
M.I.A.	0	1	0
M.I.A.	1	0	0
M.I.A.	4	4	5
C. Fliers on Sick Report or removed from Flying on account of:			
1. Disorders Due to Flying:			
<u>Disease:</u>			
Functional Nervous:			
No. occurring:	6	4	1
No. days lost:	97	53	30
<u>Others:</u>			
No. occurring:	0	2	0
No. days lost:	0	5	24

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

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

	July	August	September
Aircraft Accident, Injury:			
No. occurring:	9	3	7
No. days lost:	76	105	160
Casualties, W.I.A. P			
No. occurring:	1	0	0
No. days lost:	2	0	0
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:	23	10	17
No. days lost:	134	143	116
3. Flying Personnel on Rest Leave:			
No. occurring:	9	20	24
No. days lost:	26	91	307

D. Miscellaneous Remarks:	July	August	September
Total Individual Sorties:	718	1123	1639
Total Individual Op. Hrs: 1,333:40		2,671:40	3,538:30
Total Individual Non-Op.Hrs.1,436:85		375:05	253:15
Total Flying Per. Trans. Out:	5	9	8
Total Flying Per. assigned:	91	12	8
Total Flying Per. on D. S. to the Zone Of Interior:	0	0	1
Total Flying Per. on D.S. in the Zone Of Interior returning to organization:	5	0	0

e. Dental activities:

1. Dental assistant satisfactory. Laboratory Technicians at hospitals doing prosthetics seem to be 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 dental 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.

(6)

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sub: medical historical data report: 80th Ftr. Gp., AAF, APO 650, U. S. Army.

5. Statistical Historical Material:

a. Summary of Sick and Wounded Records:

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

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
All causes,	802.7	732.9	610.3
All diseases,	673.3	630.1	506.4
Injuries,	129.4	102.8	103.8
Battle Casualties,	0	0	0
Intestinal disease,	90.6	12.8	0
Veneral disease,	38.8	51.4	25.9
M.P. disease,	0	0	0
Common respiratory,	90.6	25.7	0
Malaria	25.2	38.5	51.9
Jaundice,	0	0	0
Other disease of unusual interest,	0	0	0

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

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Non-effective rate	13	8	13

(3) Patients Treated:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Total patient days for quarters patients	76	26	40
Total patient days for hospital patients	330	233	356
Number of out-patients	399	335	281
Number of out-patients treatments adm.	727	625	484

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

<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
2 - Monthly Physical	2 - Monthly Physical	2 - Monthly Physical
4 - 64, examinations		6 - 64, examinations

(5) Immunizations; number and type of each:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Triple Typhoid	31	0	0
Tetanus Toxoid	0	0	0
Typhus Fever	22	0	0
Smallpox Vaccine	4	0	0

(6) Admissions to Sick Report:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Number of admissions to quarters	30	11	8
Number of admissions to hospital	42	46	39

(7)

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

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

(7) Venereal Diseases:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Total number of days lost due to V. D.	0	6	0
Average number of days lost for each V. D. patient.	0	1	0
Prophylactics administered.	20	26	19

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):

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Number Available.	450	450	450
Average number occupied.	2.5	0.8	1.3

b. Dental Statistics:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
(1) Total No. admissions.	35	38	48
(2) Total No. sittings.	127	152	127
(3) Total No. Treatments.	165	228	201
A. Restorations:	106	109	92
1. Amalgams.	56	57	52
2. Oxyphosphate and Amalgam.	21	29	26
3. Silicates.	29	23	14
B. Gum Treatments.	20	7	10
C. Prophylaxis.	12	5	5
D. Calculus removed.	3	10	6
E. Extractions.	23	21	17
F. Both treatment.	10	7	3
G. Prosthetic Procedures. (Adjustments)	1	7	7

c. Laboratory Examinations:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Urethral.	6	7	9
Flood Counts.	0	5	3
Stool Cultures.	0	0	0
Kahn.	25	43	13
Urinalysis.	3	6	2
Spinal Taps.	0	1	2
Darkfields.	0	0	2
Malaria.	4	8	6

d. X-Ray Exposures:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Referred to and done by Hospital.	7	10	3

(8)

UNCLASSIFIED

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

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

a. Veterinary: No veterinary personnel in this command.

6. Evacuation: All evacuation of patients has been by ambulance, the number being 127. Only one exception in the above has occurred in which dental patients who were unable to procure dental prostheses in Corsica were flown to the Rome, Italy area where prostheses were obtained in the hospitals located there.

7. Medical Supply:

a. Not required of a tactical unit.

b. Organizational medical supply:

(1) Completeness of equipment upon arrival in theater --90%. Chest MD #60 was all that was lacking.

(2) Time required before adequate equipment on hand to operate satisfactorily--ready immediately.

(3) Time required before over 90% was reached--none.

(4) Time required before 100% completeness was reached--two weeks.

(5) Maintenance requirements have been very satisfactory, with the exceptions of ambulance replacement parts, especially springs. Normal expendable and rapidly consumed item replacements have been very satisfactory.

(6) Changes in medical equipment established by higher authority are as follows: On 1 July 1942, the original T/O & E was revised. When the unit changed from "Light Bombardment Group" to "Fighter Bomber Group" on 11 Sept 1943, the T/O & E changed to Hq., T/O & E, 1-12, dated 1 July 1942, Squadrons T/O & E, 1-27, dated 1 July 1942, per W.D. Letter AG 322 (8-6-43) OB-1-AFHPG-W, dated 23 August 1943. On 31 March 1943 the T/O & E was revised. It was again revised on 29 Dec 1943. Effects of this were to make available a wide range of equipment from which those items could be selected that fit the varying needs of individual organizations. For instance, the X-Ray equipment authorized would be unnecessary for organizations near hospital facilities, but would be a much needed part of the equipment for an isolated unit.

It has been suggested that a closed trailer with built in compartments for medical supplies and equipment would be of distinct advantage to such mobile units as are those of the air corps. These could be used as mobile unit dispensaries and the necessity for frequent packing and unpacking of equipment with the attendant breakage would be minimized.

c. Not required of a tactical unit.

8. Special: Under this heading, the most important advances have been made in the field of recreation.

Since moving to Grosseto, Italy, a building has been secured for a group enlisted mens club in which dances are held and a bar maintained. The group orchestra plays for the dances, and when it's services are not available, a local orchestra is hired for the occasion. Considerable success has attended this venture.

In addition, a group officers club has been established with writing tables, bar, piano, and card tables furnished. This, too, has been much appreciated by the officer personnel of the command.

Jesse W. Shaw

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

~~SECRET~~Hq. 86th Fighter Group AAF
Outline History - Oct 1944HEADQUARTERS 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
APO 650

AG 314.7

31 October 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 October 1944 to 31 October 1944:

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

b. Changes in organization:

(1) Changes in designation, assignment, or attachment:

(a) 19 October 1944. Changed from Headquarters 86th Fighter Group, XII Fighter Command to Headquarters 86th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command. G.O. 75, XXII TAC, Section 1, par. 1.

(b) Changes in assignment: None.

(c) Changes in attachment: None.

(2) Subordinate units: None.

(3) Changes of Commanding Officers: None.

(4) Changes of Staff Officers: Lt. Col. James K. Thomas, O-917908,

TD & BS rotation to U. S. A.

Capt. George H. Parber, Adjutant, 526th Sq. assigned to Group Headquarters as Group Statistical Officer and assistant Group Adjutant.

Capt. Joseph Rutten, Group Statistical Officer, transferred to 7th Repl. Depot.

Capt. Frederic H. Henroid, O-917801, assistant Group Intelligence Officer, assigned to 87th Fighter Wing.

Capt. David B. Thomas, O-434919, Group Armament Officer, transferred to XXII TAC.

2nd Lt. Charles C. Chinzi, O-585434, 526th Sq. Supply Officer, transferred to Group, assigned to duty as Group Armament Officer.

2nd Lt. Howard C. Wolf, O-1059108, assigned to Group Headquarters, as assistant Group Intelligence Officer.

W/O Walter Schultz, assistant Group C-4 officer, transferred to XXII TAC.

Major George T. Lee, Deputy Gp CO. promoted to Lt. Col.

(5) Changes in T/O: None.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted:

(1) Month of October 1944:

(a) At beginning: 26 officers, 2 warrant officers and 63 enlisted men assigned.

(b) Net Increase: None.

(c) Net Decrease: 1 officer, 1 warrant officer and 7 enlisted men.

(d) At end: 25 officers, 1 warrant officer and 56 enlisted men.

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d. Stations:

- (1) Grosseto Airfield Italy.
 - (a) Date of arrival: 17 September 1944.
 - (b) Date of Departure: Advance echelon, 23 October 1944
 - (c) Present station: Pisa Air Base, Pisa Italy.

e. Movements:

- (1) From Grosseto Airfield, Italy, to Pisa Airbase, Pisa Italy.
 - (a) Purpose: Change of station.
 - (b) Dates: 23 October for advance party;
6 November for B party.
 - (c) Movement was made by motor convoy and air transport.

f. Campaigns:

- (1) Name: Italy.
- (2) Duration: 15 August 1943 to date - campaign still in progress.

g. Operations:

- (1) Campaign: Italy.
- (2) Nature of operations: Armed recess, road blocks, rail cutting, troop concentration areas, supply lines, airdromes, communication lines and close support to our troops. These missions were chiefly executed in the Po Valley.
- (3) Number of missions and sorties for period 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944: 232 Missions and 1107, Sorties for entire Group.
- (4) Results of the most important missions: See Squadron histories following.

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

i. Losses in action: None

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None

2. Inclosed is War Diary, Headquarters 36th Fighter Group AAF, for the period 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

Paul E. Versepuit
PAUL E. VERSEPUIT,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2

Incl:

2 copies - War Diary

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WAR DIARY OF THE 86TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF

- Group Headquarters -

Grosseto Airfield, Italy

October 1944

- 1 Today begins the last quarter of the year, and if 1944 is to be 7-Year in Europe, as our big generals have promised, the Allies have just three more months for the job.
Evening movie, shown in one of the big stone sheds in the EM area, was LADIES OF WASHINGTON.
- 2 Serious disturbance reported at closing time in the new PW Club, resulting, among other complications, in the hospitalization of a local MP. Developments are awaited with ill-concealed interest.
Notice was given that all passes, even for days off, must be checked by the sergeant major and signed by the group adjutant at S-1.
Sgt. Bessdale, STOUR Sgt Major, from duty to hospital.
- 3 The news has spread that PWs has moved into town and is now requiring all vehicles to show a trip ticket.
Col. Pates says that we'll not have to have trip tickets between the areas and the line, but it may take some time to "educate" the local MP's.
After supper the enlistedmen had their peroidic sex morality lecture; both Major Shaw, the Group Surgeon, and Captain Fischer spoke.
- 4 Pay day for September held this afternoon.
EM-rations distributed tonight, with twelve bottles of beer per man still the rule.
The evening cinema turned out to be one of the better new Hollywood offerings, OLD ACQUAINTANCE, an acting duel between Bette Davis and Miriam Hopkins.
- 5 Stand-down called in mid-morning for the group, due to bad weather.
New hours for the bar at the EM Club are from 1500 hours to 2200 hours.
The CQ at Group Hq. now takes the Wq. men in the personnel carrier to the club at 1930 hours and picks them up at 2230 hours.
After supper the men remaining in quarters were treated to ice cream and cream puffs sent over from the Officers Club.
Capt. Benrold, returned from Florence.
- 6 Sgts. Brown, Browning and Sobina, left on a five day pass for Rome. We believe that those men broke the ice at Hq. for getting five day passes.
In the afternoon high 70 mile winds were the harbingers of torrential rains.
General Cannon, CG XII AF, visited en route to Siena.
Practice drills held for the citation ceremony tomorrow.
- 7 The citation ceremony scheduled for the afternoon was cancelled.
- 8 Rain and another stand-down.
- 9 The election of officers for the Group Enlisted men's club (to serve 6 months terms) was postponed because too few of the members attended the called meeting.
- 10 Evening movie was RIDING HIGH, shown in a new rain proof building in the PW factory complex.

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

- Group Headquarters -

Grosseto Airfield, Italy

October 1944

- 11 First mission to takeoff this morning was No. 2,000 for the Group. Mission 1,000 was flown on March 28, six and a half months ago. This interval compares with nearly ten months required for our first thousand missions. Sgts. Brown, Browning, and Sobina, returned from their strenuous Roman holiday.
- 12 Our second Columbus Day overseas. Hq. EM have been invited to use the neighboring 525th Sq. shower. This will save a trip to the club in town. The first semiannual election of officers was held tonight at the Group Enlisted Men's Club. About 127 members were present for the voting and discussion of club policy (out of a membership of 340). T/Sgt Louis DiCello of Group Ordnance was unanimously and without opposition re-elected President, while run-offs were required for the other two offices. Sgt Young of 525th Sq. and Sgt. Howard of 527th Sq. were chosen Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. Lt. Fine of Group Special Service was retained as club sponsor. The policy of barring guests on dance nights only, was also continued. Announcement was made of the opening of ping pong room and a writing room. Monthly membership meetings are planned, while soccer shows and even steak dinners are on the future agenda. Major Vereaput, left on a two day visit to Florence. Regular physical inspection held after supper at the group dispensary.
- 13 Capt. Henroid, from duty to rest camp. Immunization "Ceremonies" mostly typhus booster shots, took place today.
- 14 At a meeting at 1900 hours in Hq. EM mess hall, three directors were chosen to represent the Hq. members of the Group EM Club, to wit; Corp. Grimmer, Corporal Hill and S/Sgt. 781399.
- 15 Just after 1000 hours a gasoline fire broke out on the line, but was soon put out, cause unknown. Major Lee, Group Deputy Commander, today flew his 200th sortd.
- 16 S/Sgt. Qualls, of this section from duty to rest camp. Enlisted men of Hq. today received their new issue of OD clothing. The issue of clothing these days is much different from what some of us had experienced upon our first arrival into the service. The Group received a congratulatory message from V Army on today's missions.
- 17 Capt. Henroid, asst. Group Intelligence officer, transferred to 87th Wing. 2nd Lt. Wolf, assigned to Group Intelligence. Capt. Teach, and one enlistedman, from V Army AIO, assigned to Group Headquarters.
- 18 As of this date this Group is under the command of XIII Tactical Air Command.

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