

**12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing  
310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group  
History: November 1943**



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*For my dad,  
Colonel John "Jack" Fitzgerald, U. S. Army (retired)*

*"Lil Butch"  
John T. Fitzgerald, SMSgt, U. S. Air Force (retired)*

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# 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing

## 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group

### History: November 1943

The following is a compilation of the 310<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group's Headquarters and individual Squadron War Diaries. They have been transcribed word for word, from the Squadron Histories provided by the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), Maxwell Air Force Base Alabama. At the end of each Squadron's daily entry, the individuals cited in the entry are identified by *full name, rank and duty*, in alphabetical order. The day's entry begins with the Tactical Operations Statement, from the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) Chronology, for the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO). The history also includes mission reports, mission crew rosters, Missing Air Crew Reports (MACR), personal mission logs, journals, and diaries made available by various sources.

### *Invitation*

*Anyone who has documentation pertaining to the 310<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group or its members, and would like to have it included in this history, is welcome to participate. Copies of: photos (official or personal); orders (promotion, decoration, travel, etc.); Mission Reports; Missing Air Crew Reports; personal diaries, logs, journals, etc; other documentation; or information that will help identify hi-lited individuals will be greatly appreciated, as one of my goals is to correctly identify every man and plane assigned to the 310<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group.*

*My only interest in this project is to honor those who served by perpetuating their story, and making it available for future generations, particularly the families and friends of our Great Heroes. If you are interested in helping, or if I may be of assistance in finding information about your 310<sup>th</sup> BG Hero, please contact me at: [Lil-Butch@nc.rr.com](mailto:Lil-Butch@nc.rr.com)*

### *Special Thanks to Very Special Folks*

*Agostino Alberti: Professor - historian (Soncino, Italy)*

*Michele Becchi: aviation history - archaeologist (Reggio Emilia, Italy)*

*Jack Brellenthin, great nephew of: Harold Ray Brellenthin, 2Lt, pilot, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Cecile Burandt, daughter of: Charles Lawson "Chuck" Burandt, Capt, pilot, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Sally Brown, daughter of: Barnard H. Seegmiller, Sgt, armament, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Dave Charville, grandson of: Leighton Daniel "Danny" Charville, 1Lt, pilot, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Barbara Connolly, daughter of: Edward Charles "Salvo" Ennis, T/Sgt, radar-radio-gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*

*1Lt Robert S. Crouse: pilot, 379BS*

*Ralph "Monguse" Gimenez: Software Architect, IL2-FB Skinner*

*Bob Haney, son of: Vincent M. Haney, M/Sgt, flight engineer, 341<sup>st</sup> BG*

*Ed Haney, cousin of: Gale Monroe Dickson, Capt, pilot, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*

## *Special Thanks to Very Special Folks (continued)*

*Jim Hawkins, son of: Frank B. "Pancho" Hawkins, 2Lt, pilot, 381<sup>st</sup> BS*  
*John Hughes, son of: John Jerome "Jack" Hughes, 1Lt, bombardier, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Patti Johnson: genealogist, proofer, and family friend of: James Raymond Orechia, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Don Kaiser, son of: Quentin C. Kaiser, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 489<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*John Lanza, nephew of: William A. Lanza, Sgt, gunner, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Stephanie Lile, daughter of: Keith B. Lile, S/Sgt, gunner, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Lt Joseph A. Malec: bombardier, 448<sup>th</sup> BS and friend of: Vernon Curtis Dossey, Capt, pilot, 448<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Vince Mango, son of: Vincent A. "Vince" Mango, S/Sgt, aerial gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*John J. McCarthy: Sgt, engineer-gunner, bombardier, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Lorraine McRae, daughter of: James Arrington McRae, 1Lt, bombardier, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*T/Sgt Rocco F. "Rocky" Milano & daughter Peggy Chatham: Crew Chief of Peg O' My Heart, Lil Butch, and Haulin' Ass, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Bob Ritger, nephew of: Frederic Charles Ritger, 1Lt, pilot, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Irving J. Schaffer: T/Sgt, radio-gunner, photographer, 448<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Lt Frederick H. Smith: pilot, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Marsha Gurnee Suszan, daughter of: Clarence E. "Shine" Gurnee, S/Sgt, gunner, 448<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Dominique Taddei: author, U.S.S. Corsica (Corsica)*  
*S/Sgt George B. Underwood: gunner, 381<sup>st</sup> BS*  
*David Waldrip, nephew of: Robert Laseter Waldrip, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Vinny J. White, son of: Joseph P. White, T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 381<sup>st</sup> BS*  
*S/Sgt, Harry (NMI) Yoa: engineer-gunner, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*

## *Crew lists*

<i>Aircraft information - serial #, name, etc</i>	<i>Sometimes used</i>
<b>P</b> <i>Pilot</i>	<b>Bomb/Nav</b> <i>Bombardier-Navigator</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Co-pilot</i>	<b>BN</b> <i>Bombardier-Navigator</i>
<b>N</b> <i>Navigator</i>	<b>EG</b> <i>Engineer-gunner</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Bombardier</i>	<b>RG</b> <i>Radio-gunner</i>
<b>E</b> <i>Engineer-gunner</i>	<b>TG</b> <i>Turret gunner</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Radio-gunner</i>	<b>AG</b> <i>Aerial gunner</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Gunner</i>	<b>PH</b> <i>Photographer</i>
<b>F</b> <i>Photographer</i>	<b>AP</b> <i>Aerial photographer</i>
<b>CL</b> <i>Cannon Loader (on B-25G)</i>	<b>CC</b> <i>Crew Chief</i>
<b>O</b> <i>Observer</i>	

*Note: for 381<sup>st</sup> BS: The letter in ( ) following the A/C No. represents the position # of the aircraft in the formation. For example: A/C No. 41-13052 (P) - the P is position 16.*

**A-1 B-2 C-3 D-4 E-5 F-6 G-7 H-8 I-9 J-10 K-11 L-12**  
**M-13 N-14 O-15 P-16 Q-17 R-18 S-19 T-20 U-21 V-21 W-23 X-24**  
**Y-25 Z-26**

## *Acronyms & Abbreviations*

<b>A/C:</b> Aircraft	<b>M/G:</b> Machine Gun
<b>A/D:</b> Aerodrome	<b>MIA:</b> Missing In Action
<b>AE:</b> Aerial Engineer	<b>M/T:</b> Motor Transport (Truck)
<b>A/F:</b> Air Field, also Anti-Flak	<b>MTB:</b> Motor Torpedo Boat
<b>AA or AAA:</b> Anti-Aircraft (Artillery)	<b>M/V:</b> Military Vessel, Maritime Vessel
<b>abs:</b> absent	<b>M/Y:</b> Marshalling Yards
<b>AGL:</b> Above Ground Level	<b>MC:</b> Maintenance Crew
<b>ALO:</b> Allied Liaison Officer	<b>NARA:</b> National Archives and Records Administration
<b>ALW:</b> Alive and Well	<b>NASAF:</b> Northwest African Strategic Air Force
<b>AMGOT:</b> Allied Military Government for Occupied Territories	<b>NATC -</b> Northwest African Training Command
<b>A.R.C.:</b> American Red Cross	<b>NATOUSA:</b> North Atlantic Theater of Operations USA
<b>ASC:</b> Air Support Command	<b>Nav:</b> Navigator
<b>ASN:</b> Army Serial Number (personnel)	<b>N.B.S.:</b> National Bureau of Standards
<b>Assg:</b> Assigned	<b>NC:</b> Nurse Corps.
<b>ASV:</b> Anti-Surface Vessel (radar)	<b>NCO:</b> Non-Commissioned Officer
<b>ATA:</b> Actual Time of Arrival	<b>Nickels:</b> propaganda Leaflets
<b>ATC:</b> Air Transportation Command	<b>(NMI):</b> No Middle Initial
<b>ATS:</b> Air Transport Service - also Army Telegraph Service	<b>NOK:</b> Next Of Kin
<b>Azon:</b> Azimuth only (guided bomb)	<b>NRO:</b> National Reconnaissance Office
<b>BC:</b> Bomber Command	<b>OAF:</b> Occupation Air Forces
<b>BIC:</b> Bruised in Crash	<b>OD:</b> Officer of the day, also Olive Drab
<b>Bmb:</b> Bombardier	<b>OLC:</b> Oak Leaf Cluster
<b>Bn:</b> Battalion	<b>OTU:</b> Operational Training Unit
<b>B.R.L.:</b> Ballistic Research Laboratory	<b>PAX:</b> Passengers
<b>BSM:</b> Bomb System Maintenance	<b>PDI:</b> Pilot Direction Indicator
<b>CA:</b> Heavy Cruiser	<b>POE:</b> Point of Embarkation
<b>CAVU:</b> Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited	<b>POW:</b> Prisoner of War (also PW)
<b>C.B.I.:</b> China-Burma-India Theater	<b>PRO-Kit:</b> Individual Chemical Prophylactic packet
<b>C/D:</b> Coastal Defense	<b>PW:</b> Prisoner of War (also POW)
<b>CE:</b> Circular Error	<b>PWB:</b> Psychological Warfare Branch
<b>CEP:</b> Circular Error Probable	<b>PX:</b> Post Exchange
<b>Chaff</b> (US term): Radar countermeasure: tiny strips of aluminum, metalized glass fiber, or plastic. See <b>Window</b>	<b>QBB:</b> Base of cloud
<b>CL:</b> Cannon Loader	<b>QDM:</b> Course to steer
<b>CO:</b> Commanding Officer	<b>QM:</b> Quarter Master
<b>CG:</b> Commanding General	<b>R/B:</b> Road Bridge
<b>CP:</b> Command Post	<b>RC:</b> Red Cross

**CQ:** Charge of Quarters  
**C/S:** Call Sign  
**CWS:** Chemical Warfare Service  
**D/H:** Direct Hit  
**DD:** Destroyer  
**DED:** Declared Dead - no body or remains found  
**Demo:** Demolition  
**DL:** Dead List  
**DNB:** Died Non-Battle / Died Not-Battle  
**DOW:** Died Of Wounds.  
**DOWRIA:** Died of Wounds Received in Action  
**DS:** Detached Service  
**E/A:** Enemy Aircraft  
**E/F:** Enemy Fighter  
**EM or E/M:** Enlisted Men  
**ETA:** Estimated Time of Arrival  
**ETIR:** Estimated Time In Route  
**EUS:** Evacuated to the United States  
**E/V:** Enemy Vessel  
**F Boat:** Flying Boat  
**F/L:** Formation Leader - also Flight Leader  
**FO or F/O:** Flying Officer  
**FOD:** Finding Of Death  
**Frag:** Fragmentation  
**F.S.:** Flight Section  
**GLO:** Ground Liaison Officer (UK)  
**GO:** General Order  
**GP:** General Purpose/Gun Position  
**GTC:** General Time Convention (railroad)  
**HE:** High Explosive  
**IAS:** Indicated Air Speed  
**I & E:** Information & Education  
**I.F.F.:** Identification, Friend or Foe  
**(i. o.):** Initials Only (initial is the name)  
**IP:** Initial Point  
**KNB:** Killed Not Battle  
  
**KIA:** Killed In Action  
**L/A:** Landing Area  
**LC:** Landing Craft  
**L/G:** Landing Ground  
**Lox:** Liquid Oxygen  
**L/S:** Landing Strip  
  
**R/J:** Road Junction  
**R/Y:** Railroad Yards  
**Repl:** Replacement  
**RMC:** Returned to Military Control  
**RON:** Remain OverNight  
**RR/B:** Railroad Bridge  
  
**RR/J:** Railroad Junction  
**RR:** Railroad  
**RTD:** Returned To Duty  
**R/V:** Rendezvous  
**S-1:** Administration  
  
**S-2:** Intelligence  
**S-3:** Operations  
**S-4:** Supply  
**SAP:** Semi-Armor Piercing  
**SD:** Special Duty  
**S/E:** Single Engine (plane)  
**S.E.:** Special Equipment (Shoran)  
**S/F:** Siebel Ferry  
**sk:** sick  
**S/M:** Submarine  
**SO:** Special Order  
**SOI:** Standard Operating Instructions?  
**S/P:** Sea Plane  
**Sq:** Squadron  
**Sqdn:** Squadron  
**SWA:** Seriously Wounded in Action  
**T/A:** Target Area  
**T/C:** Troop Concentration  
**T/E:** Twin Engine (plane)  
**TAC:** Theater Allied Command  
**TBF:** Tactical Bomber Force  
**TD:** Temporary Duty  
**TDY:** Temporary Duty  
**TLC:** Tactical Landing Craft  
**TO:** Take-Off (time), also Technical Order, and Transportation Officer  
**T/O:** Table of Organization  
**TOT:** Time Over Target/Time On Target  
**Trfd:** Transferred  
**TWX:** Teletypewriter Message  
**u/i:** Unidentified, also unit of issue  
**UNRRA:** United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

**L/V:** Large Vehicle  
**LST:** Landing Ship Tank

**Ltr:** Letter  
**LWA:** Lightly Wounded in Action  
**MACR:** Missing Air Crew Report  
**MATS:** Military Air Transport Service

**Very Pistol or Verey Pistol:** Flare gun  
**VOCO:** Verbal Order of the Commanding Officer  
**WC:** Water closet  
**W.O.:** Warrant Officer  
**WIA:** Wounded In Action  
**Window** (British term): Radar countermeasure: tiny strips of aluminum, metalized glass fiber, or plastic. See **Chaff**  
**WP:** White Phosphorus (bombs)  
**WT, W/T:** Watch Tower  
**XC:** Cross Country  
**ZI:** Zone of Interior (U.S.A.)

## Monday, 1 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force):** The Fifteenth Air Force is activated, with HQ at Tunis, Tunisia and Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle as Commanding General. The following Twelfth Air Force units are transferred to the new Fifteenth Air Force: B-25 Units (Groups transferred to Twelfth Air Force on 3 Nov 43):

- 47<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (Medium) at Hammamet, Tunisia
- 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) [379<sup>th</sup>, 380<sup>th</sup>, 381<sup>st</sup> and 428<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium)] at Menzel Temime, Tunisia
- 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) [445<sup>th</sup>, 446<sup>th</sup>, 447<sup>th</sup> and 448<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium)] at Grottaglie, Italy

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** With the activation of the Fifteenth AF on this date, the units of the XII Bomber Command transfer to the new air force. Northwest African Tactical Bomber Force (NATBF) aircraft bomb shipping in harbors of Ancona, Italy and Split, Yugoslavia, hit a tunnel mouth near Antrodoco, Italy, and attack scattered gun positions and motor transport on both the US Fifth and British Eighth Army fronts. The XII Air Support Command hits numerous bridges and junctions and the town of Pontecorvo, Italy. The Royal Air Force (RAF) Desert Air Force (DAF) hits inland roads and vehicles in advance of the battleline, shipping at Split, Yugoslavia and the town of Carpinone, Italy. During Nov, the 15<sup>th</sup> Photographic Squadron (Heavy), 3<sup>rd</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance and Mapping Group, transfers from La Marsa, Tunisia to Grottaglie, Italy with B-17, B-25 and F-5.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** At 20:30 tonight the 379<sup>th</sup> and 428<sup>th</sup> Squadrons received orders to begin moving via C-47 from the nearby fighter field. Personnel will leave later.

Two Privates were promoted to PFC.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Pay day. Paid in American Overseas currency again. 379<sup>th</sup> was ordered packed and ready to shove off by morning.

## Tuesday, 2 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force):** B-17's and B-24's bomb the aircraft factory and surrounding industrial complex at Wiener-Neustadt, Austria; the bombers claim 50+ attacking fighters destroyed. In Italy, B-25's bomb the Ancona marshalling yard; B-26's bomb the harbor at Civitavecchia and miss a railroad bridge near Amelia; P-38's escort the heavy bombers and the B-26's. The 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), based at Menzel Temime, Tunisia begins operating from Ed Adem, Libya with B-25's.

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):**

**In Italy,** NATBF light and medium bombers hit gun positions and an ammunition dump on the British Eighth Army front, railroad facilities at Aquila, and the coast road at Terracina; at night, light bombers hit Penna Point and Zara, Yugoslavia; XII Air Support Command and RAF DAF fighters and fighter-bombers attack gun positions and ammunition dumps along the British Eighth Army front, hit gun positions S of Isernia, bomb Fondi, and attack several bridges and junctions in advance of the US Fifth Army front; numerous trucks and a train also are strafed. HQ 12<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 434<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium) transfer from Gerbini, Sicily to Foggia, Italy with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Captain Pemberton returned from D.S. at Hammamet. He describes a very pleasant stay: "Everyone lived in villas a few hundred yards from the beach --- refrigerators, running water, radios and excellent meals gave the atmosphere associated with rest camps. The gardens and orchards were well kept up and provided the 'makings' for many a pleasant appetizer."

*Pemberton, Robert (NMI) "Bob", Capt, intelligence*

The advanced echelon which went to Italy finally arrived back at Menzel Temime. They left Italy on 29 October, and have been at Oudna.

Rumors are now solidifying into tangible facts. The Squadrons, it seems, are to operate separately. The 379<sup>th</sup> is going to a base near Tobruk. The rest of the Squadrons, with Headquarters, will be stationed temporarily at Philippeville Airport before being assigned operational bases. All of the Squadrons will operate under the Coastal Command. Phillipville will remain the headquarters of the Group.



## Tuesday, 2 November 1943 (continued)

The breakers were very high today. Even in the area, they could be heard crashing against the beach.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Everything in preparation for moving. Today marks one year's overseas service for the ground echelon.

## Wednesday, 3 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force):** The 2 B-25 groups [310<sup>th</sup> and 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium)] of the Fifteenth Air Force are transferred back to the Twelfth Air Force.

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Fifteenth Air Force P-38's escort B-25's on a raid against Araxos Airfield, Greece. The target is well covered and several parked airplanes are destroyed.

**In Italy,** the NATBF hits a dump at Cupello, the railway station at Cesano, a road junction at Alfedena, the town areas of Ceprano and Palmoli, and numerous vehicles; XII Air Support Command and RAF DAF fighters and fighter-bombers attack gun positions at Cupello, landing grounds near Pescara and Ancona, the airfield at Cisterna di Latina, the Ceccano railroad yards, the town of Pozzilli, roads in the Venafro-Cassino area, and several bridges and junctions. Many of the day's missions are flown in direct support of the British Eighth Army's advance. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 12<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Gerbini, Sicily to Foggia, Italy with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** A notice appeared on the bulletin board, advising that we are to be prepared for a move which will be made shortly. It will be a motor convoy trip, and will take two days.

Captain Campbell was appointed Squadron Administrative Inspector, and Captain VanZytveld was appointed Squadron Technical Inspector.

*Campbell, Ivan R., Capt, Executive Officer*

*VanZytveld, Roger F., Capt, Engineering Officer*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Latest flashes have us moving to Philippeville for probably coastal patrol duty.

## Thursday, 4 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Brigadier General Donald A Davison takes command of the XII Air Force Engineer Command (Provisional), following the command's assignment to the Twelfth Air Force on 1 Nov.

**In Italy,** XII Air Support Command and RAF fighters and fighter-bombers hit trucks and trains in the Sora-Avezzano area, the airfields of Furbara and Tarquinia, and small vessels off Pescara, Italy and Solta, Yugoslavia. The 522<sup>nd</sup> and 524<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Squadrons, 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group, transfer from Capaccio to Paestum and Guado Airfield, Italy respectively with A-36's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** News was received today from Oudna of an airplane accident in which 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James A. Kurtz and F/O Charles (NMI) Hudson, Jr. were killed. They were on a routine training flight, and had been flying formation over Tunis at 2000 feet with a pair of B-17's, in the left wing position. They pulled out of the formation and were flying straight and level when their B-25 suddenly went into a dive and then began to spin. The plane crashed and burned about 5 miles NW of Oudna A/D #2. No one else was in the plane. They were buried at Tunis in the late afternoon.

**A/C No. 41-30002** (crashed)

<b>P</b>	<i>Kurtz, James A., 2Lt - DNB</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Hudson, Charles (NMI), Jr., F/O - DNB</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No news but plenty of rain.

## Friday, 5 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** XII Air Support Command B-25's, escorted by Fifteenth Air Force P-38's, hit the Berat-Kucove Airfield in Albania. In Italy, the NATBF bombs roads E of Atina and N of Rome, and hits vehicles moving S from Pescara; XII Air Support Command and RAF DAF fighters and fighter-bombers attack motor transport N of Vasto, bridges and roads W of Isernia, Cassino, and Atena Lucana, the town of Castrocielo, and vessels off Split, Yugoslavia. HQ 17<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) transfers from Djedeida, Tunisia to Sardinia. HQ 350<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group transfers from Rerhaiak Algeria to Sardinia. The 81<sup>st</sup> and 83<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 12<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfer from Gerbini, Sicily to Foggia, Italy with B-25's. The 415<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, XII Air Support Command, transfers from Cassibile to Cantania, Sicily with Beaufighters. The 523<sup>rd</sup> Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group, transfers from Capaccio to Gauda Airfield, Italy with A-36's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

*Note: G crews & planes transferred from 321<sup>st</sup> to 310<sup>th</sup> BG, per SO-130, dated 5 Nov 43.*

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** A letter addressed to his organization from the XII Bomber Command states that Major Ivan L. Ferguson, the 381<sup>st</sup>'s second Commanding Officer, is a Prisoner of War held by the German Government. With him are Captain Fred M. Atkinson, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William C. Jackson, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Gerald J. Greenberg and John R. Hartley.

*Atkinson, Fred M., Capt, pilot*

*Greenberg, Gerald J., 2Lt, pilot*

*Jackson, William C., 1Lt, pilot*

*Ferguson, Ivan Leonard, Maj, pilot, Commander*

*Hartley, John R., 2Lt, pilot*

A notice on the bulletin board says that there will be a formation under arms at 7:45 tomorrow. It further advises that comfortable shoes and sox should be worn.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No news.

## Saturday, 6 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, XII Air Support Command fighter-bombers strike gun positions, bridges, and roads around Mignano, vehicles N of Cassino, and a train N of Aquino airfield. Other Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) fighters attack numerous road and rail transport targets through-out Italy N of the battleline and in Yugoslavia.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** It rained throughout the night, leaving the ground quite muddy. Although the sun was shining this morning, the scheduled formation was called off.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ray M. Flake and F/O Howard C. Stagner were transferred to the nearest AAF Base Port of Debarkation for the U.S.A.

*Flake, Ray M., 1Lt, pilot*

*Stagner, Howard C., F/O, pilot*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):*

*"Farrell & Leist pull in from El Aden saying outfit busted up and gone back to Italy. Lt. Black shot down, Ed Ramsburg with him."*

*Black, Gordon J., 2Lt, pilot, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Farrell, John J., Pvt, gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Leist, Jacob F., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Ramsburg, Edwin E., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner, 446<sup>th</sup> BS*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Started a serve-self system in the mess line today. T/Sgt Colley, S/Sgt Ripple and Herring left for the States.

*Colley, Francis E., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Herring, William S., S/Sgt, bombardier-gunner*

*Ripple, William E. "Rip", S/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

## Sunday, 7 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** NATBF bombers hit gun position along the British Eighth and US Fifth Army fronts, shipping at Ancona, Italy harbor, and the town of Ulcinj, Yugoslavia; Durazzo, Albania is bombed at night. XII Air Support Command and other fighters of the NATAF hit the harbor and shipping at Split and a train near Metkovic, Yugoslavia, and attack bridges, road junctions, town area, and trucks in the Mignano-Cassino and Pontecorvo, Italy areas. The 10<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 60<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, transfer from Gela to Gerbini, Sicily with C-47's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** A very unpleasant day. It rained almost all day long, and the wind blew constantly.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Not a bad day. 17 bags of mail with Christmas packages came in. The biggest mail call yet. Captain Hill was promoted to Major and Lt. Haines promoted to Captain. Sgt. Paletti was put on DS to Tobruk.

*Haines, Wilson R., Capt, Executive Officer*

*Hill, Lawrence G., Jr., Maj, pilot, Operations Officer*

*Paletti, Aldo R., Sgt,*

## **Monday, 8 November 1943**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Weather cancels all XII Air Support Command missions except fighter patrols.

**In Italy,** NATBF bombers and RAF DAF fighters fly only 6 missions, hitting gun positions along the battleline, vehicles W of the Sangro River, and trains at Civitanova and Pescara.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** More wind and rain.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** It looked like weather might be nice for a change, but the rains came.

## Tuesday, 9 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

**In Italy**, the NATBF bombs Formia and Itri as a diversion to the naval bombardment of Formia and Gaeta. XII Air Support Command fighter-bombers attack roads and bridges in the Mignano-Ceprano area while other NATAF fighter-bombers hit shipping in the harbor at Split, Yugoslavia and rail targets in the Rome-La Spezia area and vessels, radio stations, and gun emplacements off the coast of Albania. The 12<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 60<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, transfers from Gela to Gerbini, Sicily with C-47's. The squadron has been operating from Comiso since 22 Oct. The 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Menzel Temime, Tunisia to Philippeville, Algeria with B-25's. The squadron is operating from El Adem, Libya.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The wind and rain continue. There is nothing to do but remain in one's tent and catch up on "sack time."

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** More rain and colder nights.



## Wednesday, 10 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** NATBF bombers hit shipping at Split, Yugoslavia and Durazzo, Albania.

**In Italy,** XII Air Support Command and RAF fighter-bombers hit Rocca and nearby gun positions, and trains and troops S of Rome; fighters strafe trucks and trains in the Rome-La Spezia and the Piombino-Leghorn areas. HQ 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 380<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium) transfer from Menzel Temime, Tunisia to Philippeville, Algeria with B-25's. A detachment of the 380th is operating from Oudna, Tunisia.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Nothing to report save continued wet, chilly, windy and thoroughly uncomfortable weather.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lt. Alexander and Ferrand left by jeep for Philippeville, our next base.

*Alexander, Homer P., 1Lt*

*Ferrand, Raymond H., Jr., 1Lt, Asst Armament Officer*

## Thursday, 11 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, US and RAF light bombers and fighter-bombers, in support of the US Fifth and British Eighth Armies, hit troop and gun concentrations and communications in the Rocca and Palena areas; other NATAF aircraft bomb the town of Rocca, Bussi sul Tirino explosive works near Popoli, and docks at Civitavecchia, and strafe strongpoints at Roccaraso and Atessa; fighters hit motor transport in the coastal area between the Sangro and Pescara Rivers. The 414<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, 63<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, transfers from Rerhaia, Algeria to Elmas, Sardinia with Beaufighters.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: None

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

-----  
Mission Report # , 11 November 1943

Target: Sea Search

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: None

379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

Target: Sea Search

Number of Planes: 2

A/C No. 1 *aircraft and crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: None

380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Thursday, 11 November 1943 (continued)

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** A beautiful sunny day; warm and free of clouds and wind.

For lunch we had corn on the cob. The Italian Prisoner K.P.'s think it very strange that we eat corn in this manner, for in Italy corn on the cob is reserved entirely for chickens and pigs.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS: War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):**  
*"Leave Cairo for El Adem." (Sgt Colby & crew transferred to the 310<sup>th</sup> BG)*  
*Prior, Gordon M. "Gordie", 2Lt, pilot*  
*Block, Harry C., 2Lt, pilot*  
*Nithman, Charles E., Cpl, engineer-gunner*  
*Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*  
*Rowley, Lester T., Sgt, gunner*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No news. Boys are wondering whether the Armistice will come as suddenly this time as last.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Friday, 12 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

**In Italy**, NATBF light bombers hit guns, troops, and railway facilities near Palena, the town of Atina, and the road at Acquafondata. Medium bombers hit the Berat/Kucove airfield and an oil refinery in Albania after failing to locate targets near Athens, Greece. In Italy during the night of 12/13 Nov, light bombers attack the Arezzo marshalling yard and Perugia airfield; fighter-bombers of the XII Air Support Command and RAF DAF continue to provide close support to the US Fifth and British Eighth Armies, blasting gun positions and motor transport, and also attacking targets (aircraft, guns, rail yards, bridge, and trains) around Bracciano Lake, Orbetello, Rieti, Sant' Elia Fiumerapido, Opuzen, Ancona, and Iesi.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

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**Mission Report # , 12 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 3

**A/C No. 1** *aircraft and crew unidentified*    **A/C No. 2** *aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**A/C No. 3** *aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

## Friday, 12 November 1943 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Three Enlisted Men, S/Sgt. Barbera and Cpls. Foster and Zander arrived back at Menzel Temime from Hamment, where they have been on D.S.

*Barbera, Gaspare D., S/Sgt*

*Foster, Amaziah Albert "Al", Cpl*

*Zander, Charles M., Cpl*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):*

*"Mission #15. German Merchant ships escorted by seaplanes. Hits scored - Nice Battle."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Our mail has been stopped and re-routed to Philippeville.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Saturday, 13 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, NATBF light bombers hit Palena and Atina and later bomb Civitavecchia harbor and a road W of Terracina; XII Air Support Command fighter-bombers, along with RAF DAF airplanes, bomb Giulianova harbor and shipping, roads leading to the battle zone, and landing grounds of Aquino, Frosinone, and Marcigliana; fighters hit train and trucks in the Pescara-Rieti area.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: None

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

---

Mission Report # , 13 November 1943

Target: Sea Search

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: None

379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

Target: Sea Search

Number of Planes: 2

A/C No. 1 *aircraft and crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

Target: Sea Search

Number of Planes: 2

A/C No. 1 *aircraft and crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

## Saturday, 13 November 1943 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** An otherwise cheerless day was brightened by French toast for breakfast, with real butter and undiluted syrup. An unimpeachable observer reports that Cpl. Nels Johnson went through the line seven times.

*Johnson, Nels R. "Chowhound", Cpl,*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):*

*"Mission #16. Isle of Leros - Attacked by 8 ME-109's & 1 FW-190. Beaufort shot down. 1 Me-109 shot down. Turret gun jams, but Charlie & I get it fixed. Hell of a battle. 20 mm shell hits right aileron. Also hit in left wing. Nearly ran out of ammo."*

*Nithman, Charles E., Cpl, engineer-gunner*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Rain called off a ball game with 381<sup>st</sup>. Goolsby, Gatzkiewicz and Schroeder returned from DS to 47<sup>th</sup> Wing where they were working on B-25G's

*Gatzkiewicz, Boniface (NMI), Sgt, engineering*

*Goolsby, William J., Sgt, engineering*

*Schroeder, Frank P., Sgt, engineering*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Sunday, 14 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** NATBF B-25's, escorted by Fifteenth Air Force P-38's, bomb the Sofia, Bulgaria marshalling yard; the P-38's claim 5 enemy aircraft destroyed. In Italy, XII Air Support Command operations are curtailed by weather, and only battle area patrols are flown; RAF DAF fighter-bombers hit trains on the E coast of Italy near Avezzano, along the Dalmatian coast SE of Metkovic, Yugoslavia, and at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia; fighters strafe the airfields at Furbara and Tarquinia, Italy. The 428<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), ceases operating from Oudna and returns to its base at Menzel Temime, Tunisia with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

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**Mission Report # , 14 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The only sad note of the month was struck on November 14<sup>th</sup> when one of our planes crashed, while flying locally, killing all of its crew who were as follows:

*A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified*

**P** *Minard, John C., 2Lt - DNB*  
**CP** *Bennett, George E., 2Lt - DNB*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Pyse, Walter (NMI), 2Lt - DNB*  
**E** *Leeds, Floyd C., S/Sgt - DNB*  
**R** *Foster, William N., S/Sgt - DNB*  
**G** *Mead, Joseph D., Sgt - DNB*  
**F** *None*

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 4

*A/C No. 1 aircraft and crew unidentified A/C No. 2 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P**  
**CP**  
**N**  
**B**  
**E**  
**R**  
**G**  
**F**



## Sunday, 14 November 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 *aircraft and crew unidentified* A/C No. 4 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The Squadron played baseball with the 428<sup>th</sup> this afternoon. Score: 2 to 1, in favor of the 428<sup>th</sup>. Considerable cash now beautifies the coffers of our rival Squadron.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):*  
*"Mission #17. No target. Spotted Two JU-88 off Leros."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Bill Harris, in an attempt to pour gas into a fire while heating water to wash with was burned and rushed to the 54<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in Tunis. He suffered 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns. We beat the 381<sup>st</sup> in a tight ball game 2-1. \$218 was riding on the game.

*Harris, William R. "Ozark" Cpl.*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**Monday, 15 November 1943**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** XII Air Support Command B-25's bomb Kalamaki airfield in Greece, and its fighters patrol the battle area. Other NATAF fighters hit road traffic S of Ancona, Italy.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

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**Mission Report # , 15 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 3

*A/C No. 1 aircraft and crew unidentified    A/C No. 2 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

*A/C No. 3 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Monday, 15 November 1943 (continued)

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** A warm sun shone down upon our baseball diamond this morning. An unfortunately small audience observed Lt. Horrocks doing some very clever outfield work in an intra-squadron game.

*Horrocks, Donald D., 1Lt, intelligence*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS: War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):**

*"Mission #18. Sight 2 Nazi vessels hit one. Attacked by 2 JU-88's & 2 seaplanes. Flak - Turret gun jams again - Defective ammo."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Word reached us from Oudna that Lt. Keys drifted in. He had gone down with Brennan on October 3/43. Lt. Brennan rode the ship down and was the only casualty, the others having parachuted to safety. An Italian Priest found the wreckage and had the body buried. Various Italian families harbored the crew members till the American forces caught up with them. Lt. Berent suffered a broken leg.

*Berent, Raymond E., 2Lt, pilot*

*Brennan, Samuel James, Jr., 1Lt, pilot*

*Keys, Paul R., 2Lt, bombardier*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Tuesday, 16 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** B-25's bomb the airfields at Sibenik, Yugoslavia and Eleusis, Greece; the latter mission is escorted by Fifteenth Air Force P-38's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Thirty-four of the G.I. trucks which are to transport us to our new station arrived around noon today. The afternoon was occupied by loading them with Squadron equipment. The Orderly Room Tent, and the Personnel Tent and Supply Tent were carefully folded and quickly disappeared into waiting trucks. "B" baggage was likewise loaded, as were all articles of kitchen equipment which will not be needed for tomorrow's breakfast. The area assumed the appearance of a ghost camp, with only a few living quarter tents still standing.

S/Sgt. Leonard Tate had an unfortunate experience. Some Arabs stole into the area and removed all of his personal baggage from the truck on which it had been packed.  
*Tate, Leonard L., S/Sgt*

Almost everyone retired at a reasonably early hour, as we are to be called at 5 A.M.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 381<sup>st</sup> pulled out leaving us the only squadron on the base.

## Wednesday, 17 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** B-25's bomb the airfield at Kalamaki, Greece. In Italy, fighters hit trucks N of Ancona at Macerata. The 87<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, transfers from Salsola to Madna Airfield, Italy with P-40's. The 381<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), ceases operating from Oudna, Tunisia and returns to its base at Menzel Temime, Tunisia with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** At 09:30 the entire organization, packed into G.I. trucks, rumbled slowly out of the area, across the field and out through the town of Menzel Temime toward Tunis. At the same time, groups of Arabs moved into the area to glean what they could from what little rubbish we had left. They had been lurking in the shadows during our pre-dawn breakfast, and watched from a distance as we struck our tents and packed them into the trucks. The trip in itself was uneventful. A stop was made on the outskirts of Tunis and cold "C" Rations were distributed for lunch. Further on, after we had skirted the fringe of Tunis, we passed a long convoy of French troops traveling in American lend lease vehicles, which included all the familiar varieties plus several amphibious jeeps. For hours we rode through peaceful rolling countryside, which was startlingly splashed with the first vivid colors of Autumn. There was little evidence anywhere that just a few months ago this area formed one of the most hard fought battlefields of the Tunisian Campaign.

At 16:30 the convoy arrived at Souk el Arba and turned into a large flat field where a field kitchen had been set up by an advanced detail. The sun sank quickly behind a rim of jagged hills, and by the time chow --- chili, spinach and coffee -- had been consumed, it was totally dark. A few small fires flickered here and there among the trucks, making grotesque shadows as the personnel busied themselves preparing to sleep in the open. A few men went into town to sample the local wine and returned about midnight.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Orderly Room and Organization equipment loaded on trucks.

## Thursday, 18 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Medium and light bombers of the XII Air Support Command and RAF attack the airfield at Larissa, Greece, a billeting area at Rivisondoli, Italy and road, railway and town area W of San Vito Chietino and at Lanciano, Italy. In Yugoslavia, fighter-bombers hit a ship in the Krka River, trains at Knin marshalling yard and between Knin and Kosovo, the landing ground at Sinj, harbor and vessels at Sibenik, and defended points and gun positions along the battleline in Italy. HQ 33<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group transfers from Paestum to Santa Maria, Italy. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Group, based at La Marsa, Tunisia with F-5's, begins operating from Foggia, Italy. The 345<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 350<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, transfers from Rerhaia, Algeria to Sardinia with P-39's. The 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 350<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, transfers from Djidjelli to Rerhaia, Algeria with P-39's. The 381<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Menzel Temime, Tunisia to Philippeville, Algeria with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

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**Mission Report # , 18 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 3

**A/C No. 1** *aircraft and crew unidentified*    **A/C No. 2** *aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

## Thursday, 18 November 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** After a quick breakfast in the cold black dawn, we were on our way again by 06:30. Other than getting into a traffic jam while going through Bone, there were no highlights for this portion of our journey. Having traveled a total of 335 miles, the convoy came to a stop on the side of a hill near Philippeville Airport at 15:30. As we piled out of the trucks Major Cometh greeted us, and directed that we put up our tents immediately. He had arrived here yesterday with the detachment which had been at Oudna. Almost immediately our future tent area --- a sloping hillside among rolling knolls -- was the scene of great activity. One by one pyramidal tents rose in long neat rows, until the area was complete. After each tent had been ditched against rain, everyone made for the chow line. After dinner, the camp became very quiet, the only sound coming from tired and snoring men.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):*  
*"Mission #19. Around Naxos. Shoot at Caique. Chased by enemy planes off Crete. Fail to come within range."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Eight-truck convoy with equipment and 13 men left for Philippeville.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Friday, 19 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, XII Air Support Command A-36's and P-40's bomb a bridge E of Cassino and the bridge and village of Pontecorvo, and, along with RAF DAF fighter-bombers, hit strongpoints around the village of Barrea while supporting ground forces. Fighters (mostly RAF DAF) also strafe trucks and trains around Rieti, Italy and Metkovic, Yugoslavia. HQ 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and its 85<sup>th</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadrons transfer from Foggia to Madna Airfield, Italy with P-40's. HQ 86<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group and its 525<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Squadron transfer from Serretella Airfield to Pomigliano, Italy with A-36's. HQ 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 486<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium) transfer from San Pancrazio to Foggia, Italy with B-25's. The 380<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), based at Philippeville, Algeria, ceases operating from Oudna, Tunisia with B-25's and returns to base. The 428<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Menzel Temime, Tunisia to Philippeville, Algeria with B-25's.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: None

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

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Mission Report # , 19 November 1943

Target: Sea Search

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: None

379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

Target: Sea Search

Number of Planes: 3

A/C No. 1 *aircraft and crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F



## Friday, 19 November 1943 (continued)

A/C No. 3 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) **Group Mission # :**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** More work was done on the tents this morning. Another row of tents was put up between the living quarters and the mess area. They will be occupied by the Orderly Room, Operations, Intelligence, the Dispensary and Supply.

The Arabs who live in the hills around here are reported to be quite rugged. Men have been known to stroll into the hills and not return. They are ambushed and stripped of their clothing. An order has been issued that no one will travel in the hills unarmed.

Captain Campbell attained the rank of Major today.  
*Campbell, Ivan R., Maj, Executive Officer*

S/Sgt. Zeiss has been busy all day preparing for the most stupendous mail call of his career --- 90 sacks of letters and Christmas packages. This represents about a week's accumulation, as no mail was received for a while prior to moving.

*Zeiss, Fredrik W., S/Sgt, mail clerk*

The air field is about a mile NW from here. The headquarters offices have been established in what was once the Philippeville Airport Administration Building. Their entire set-up is definitely swank. A large circular room with windows from floor to ceiling gives all the office personnel an impressive view of the field. Several smaller rooms are occupied by Colonel Hunter, Group S-2, Group Operations and the Message Center.

*Hunter, Anthony G., Col, pilot, 310th BG Commander*

## Friday, 19 November 1943 (continued)

The following officers were promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. Boston, Dusek, Samson, Baisch, and Colleton.

*Baisch, Joseph M., III, 1Lt, pilot*

*Boston, Joseph W., Jr., 1Lt, pilot*

*Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt, bombardier*

*Dusek, Ernest P., 1Lt, pilot*

*Samson, George D., 1Lt, pilot*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS: War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):**  
*"Mission #20. Dodecanese Isl. No target."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Trucks arrived at Philippeville and found personnel from Oudna including planes. One truck smashed on the road due to faulty brakes. No one was hurt.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Saturday, 20 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, XII Air Support Command and RAF DAF fighters carry out uneventful armed reconnaissance; the NATBF hits the Porto Civitanova railway junction, Pedaso, Giulianova, and Loreto. HQ 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 445<sup>th</sup> and 448<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium) transfer from Grottaglie to Amendola, Italy with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The area is beginning to look more settled. All tents are up, and most of the personnel is engaged in building furniture and stoves. All sorts of odds and ends are being utilized, resulting in a display of inventive genius which is impressive. Stoves are quite necessary for comfort, as it becomes very cold when the sun is not out.

The Personnel Department of all Squadrons will work together at Group Headquarters. S/Sgt. Jorge E. Garcia and Sgts. R.K. Hulen and J.D. Thompson have been attached to Group Headquarters for rations, but will continue to live in the area.

*Garcia, Jorge E., S/Sgt, personnel*

*Hulen, Robert K., Jr., Sgt, personnel*

*Thompson, James D., Sgt, personnel*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Day spent in getting things organized at new base. Messing with 379<sup>th</sup> till the rest of the Squadron gets together.

## Sunday, 21 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, NATBF B-25's bomb gun emplacements at Gaeta; US and RAF fighter-bombers of the RAF DAF hit strong points in the Santa Maria Imbaro and Poggiofiorito areas; fighters carry out patrols and reconnaissance along the battleline along the Corigliano and Sangro Rivers.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James W. Burris is visiting the Base. He has been released from the British Hospital at Philippeville, and will go to an American Hospital at Constantine when he concludes his visit.

*Burris, James W., 2Lt, pilot*

Information has been received through Headquarters that T/Sgt. Frank R. LaPorte and S/Sgt. Milo K. Taylor, who have been missing in action, have been returned to military control as of 24 October 43.

*LaPorte, Frank R., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Taylor, Milo K., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

New combat Personnel: 2Lts. L.C. Heller and A.C. Schwindle; S/Sgts. S. Clement and R.S. Keller; Sgts. W.J. Parmelee and J.F. Senec, Jr.

*Clement, Sam (NMI), S/Sgt, engineer-gunner, turret-gunner, cannon loader*

*Heller, Leonard C. "Len", 2Lt, pilot*

*Keller, Richard S., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Parmelee, Walter J., Sgt, gunner*

*Schwindle, Adam C. "Gus", 2Lt, pilot*

*Senec, Joseph F., Jr., Sgt, gunner*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The new camp is located on the side of a hill. Runway located at foot of the hill. Philippeville 2 ½ miles away. Scenery in this part of the country is much better than at Menzel. It is green here, and there are hills and trees, without much cactus.

## Monday, 22 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

**In Italy**, 100+ XII Air Support Command P-40's, B-25's, and RAF Baltimores, attack strongpoints in the Lanciano-Fossacesia area, concentrating on gun positions; P-40's also hit roads and railways at Fabriano, the towns of Vitucuso and Vallerotonda, and as far N as Urbino; A-36's hit chemical works, harbor and railroad yards at Civitavecchia and bomb the village of San Vittore del Lazio. The 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, XII Air Support Command, transfers from Foggia to Madna, Italy with P-40's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Construction of the kitchen is under way. Sgt. Czajka is supervising the mixing and spreading of concrete for the floor. It will cover an area 20 by 40 feet. Additional buildings which will house the officers mess and enlisted men's day room and mess are being planned.

*Czajka, Joseph A., Sgt, cook, Mess Sgt*

Ground School Lectures: "Familiarization with the 75 M.M. Cannon", for Pilots, Co-Pilots, Bombardiers and Navigators, and "Inspection, Maintenance and Operation of 75 M.M. Cannon", for the Armament Section.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**381<sup>st</sup> BS: War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):**

*"Head for Italy. Stop at Bengasi. Foggy weather. 321<sup>st</sup> has moved to Foggia. Mail and clothes gone on. Sleep under plane."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Stoves being put into tents and gravel hauled for walks. The tents are not being dispersed this time, but are set up into company streets. There is apparently very little danger of enemy raiders.

## Tuesday, 23 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Weather limits operations to fighter patrols of the battle area.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

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**Mission Report # , 23 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 3

**A/C No. 1** *aircraft and crew unidentified*    **A/C No. 2** *aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**A/C No. 3** *aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

*(380<sup>th</sup> did not participate)*

## Tuesday, 23 November 1943 (continued)

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The tent area was given its first inspection this morning by Captain Abbott and Lt. Wells.

*Abbott, Robert D., Capt, Adjutant*

*Wells, Frank P. "Pop", 1Lt, Supply Officer*

It rained from time to time throughout the day; not enough to get anyone wet --- just enough to make the ground thoroughly pasty.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS: War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):**

*"Unable to take off because of weather. Go to Grottaglia. Get rum and brandy. Have party with Keith's crew - call tower. Almost do not make it on take off as rpm drops on one engine. Get clothes and 2 sacks of mail. Fly back to Grottaglia. Sleep under plane."*

*Keith, Charles Frederick, F/O, pilot*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Laid streets in the Squadron. S/Sgt. Schletz, who had gone down with Captain Aldridge in April drifted into camp having escaped from an Italian prison camp.

*Aldridge, Richard A. "Dick", Capt, pilot*

*Schletz, Howard G., S/Sgt, turret-gunner*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Wednesday, 24 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, NATBF bombers, along with RAF DAF fighter-bombers, in close support of the British Eighth Army, hit gun positions and defended points in the Fossacesia area; XII Air Support Command A-36's, in support of the US Fifth Army, hit roads NW of battleline, and bomb the harbor at Civitavecchia.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** It was a big day for Corporal Crolley Weatherd. When he awakened this morning, his shoes had disappeared --- his one and only pair. Outside tracks of naked feet marched away from his tent, through the fence and on out into the vineyard. Circumstantial evidence strongly implicated neighboring Arabs. That didn't get Crolley's shoes back, however, so after lunch Capt. Abbott and Crolley organized a posse composed of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant and a handful of new officers and enlisted men. Thorough inspection of several Arab residences in the vicinity proved fruitless, and Crolley sat down to contemplate the future in a pair of borrowed shoes.

But this was only the beginning of Crolley's adventures with Arabs. Shortly after dark, he walked into the supply tent. Stabbing through the darkness in search of the light switch, the beam of Cpl. Weatherd's flashlight struck two human forms; one clothed in G.I. fatigues, the other in rags. They were engaged in rolling barracks bags out of the supply tent. He didn't have to look twice to know that they were Arabs. Shouting to Pfc. William Nelson to bring a gun and quick, Weatherd kept the cringing natives fixed in the beam. Pfc. Nelson arrived swiftly with a clipless tommy gun, which was regarded with terror by the two thieves.

In the orderly room, they were taken over by S/Sgt. Zeiss, who proceeded to scare the devil out of them with a shotgun. They had an uncomfortable few minutes before Capt. Abbot waded through the fast assembling mob of G.I.'s, and prepared to take Crolley's prisoners to town. A smile denoting deep satisfaction wreathed Crolley's face as he pushed his prisoners into a carryall, in which he, Capt. Abbot and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant took the Arab's to the Gendarmes in Philippeville.

*Nelson, William F., PFC, supply*

*Sorrough, James E., S/Sgt, 1st Sgt, personnel clerk*

*Weatherd, Crolley Earl, Cpl, supply, fire rescue*

*Zeiss, Fredrik W., S/Sgt, mail clerk*



## Wednesday, 24 November 1943 (continued)

A shipment of new combat crew personnel arrived today; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. I.B. Akst, W.H. Barnum, G.T. Black, J.W. Brett, I.S. Clark, W.A. Callery, G.J. Grim, J.J. Innis, R.R. Kienitz, R.F. Killian, S.J. Larkin, J.W. Lemmer, R.W. Letsinger, F.L., Riederer, W. Uhl, Jr., A. Vlahon, A.E. Vosburgh, Jr., and D.S. Whitcomb; S/Sgts. I.H. Berzon, H.W. Campbell, P.C. Cardimino, J.L. Gatlin, R.H. Gordon, J.A. Heaney, S.E. Hodnett, C.A. Hollar, M.M. Levine, P.W. Ochs and H.O. Wright; Sgts. A.J. Burgess, R.L. Gifford, W. Goldyn, K.E. Phipps, M.J. Rennie, G.B. Underwood and J.P. Williams.

<i>Akst, Irving B., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Barnum, William H., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Berzon, Isadore H., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	<i>Black, Glenn T., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Brett, James W., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Burgess, Archie J., Sgt, engineer-gunner</i>
<i>Callery, William F., 2Lt, navigator</i>	
<i>Campbell, Herbert William, S/Sgt, engineer-gunner</i>	
<i>Cardimino, Peter C., S/Sgt, turret-gunner</i>	<i>Clark, Isaac S., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Gatlin, Jack L., S/Sgt, gunner</i>	<i>Gifford, Richard L., Sgt, gunner</i>
<i>Goldyn, Walter (NMI), Sgt, gunner</i>	<i>Gordon, Robert H., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
<i>Grim, Gresham J., 2Lt, bombardier</i>	<i>Heaney, James A., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
<i>Hodnett, Stephen E., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner</i>	<i>Hollar, Cecil A., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
<i>Innis, John J., 2Lt, pilot</i>	
<i>Kienitz, Richard Carlton "Dick", Capt, navigator</i>	
<i>Killian, Robert Faherty, 1Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Larkin, Storey J., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Lemmer, John W., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Letsinger, Ralph W., 2Lt,</i>
<i>Levine, Meyer M., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	<i>Ochs, Percy W., S/Sgt, turret-gunner</i>
<i>Phipps, Kermit E., Sgt, gunner</i>	<i>Rennie, Melvin S., Sgt, gunner</i>
<i>Riederer, Floyd L., Jr., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Uhl, Walter (NMI), Jr., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Underwood, George B. "Woody", S/Sgt, gunner</i>	
<i>Vlahon, Arthur (NMI), 2Lt, bombardier</i>	<i>Vosburgh, Albert E., Jr., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Whitcomb, Donald A., 2Lt,</i>	<i>Williams, James P., Sgt, engineer-gunner</i>
<i>Wright, Hobert O., Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Rear echelon arrived from Temime after stopping overnight at Souk El Arba. A cement floor is being laid in an old machinery building made of iron for the mess hall. It promises to be the best we have had.

## Thursday, 25 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

**In Italy**, light and medium bombers of the XII Air Support Command, along with Allied airplanes, bomb gun positions and defended points in the Lanciano-Fossacesia area; medium bombers also hit Sarajevo and Travnik, Yugoslavia and Ancona, Italy; US and RAF fighters attack vehicles, gun positions, and strongpoints in the Casoli-Castelfrentano-Lanciano-Fossacesia area. The 447<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Grottaglie to Amendola, Italy with B-25's. The 488<sup>th</sup> and 489<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfer from San Pancrazio to Foggia, Italy with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Thanksgiving Day.

The food was wonderful --- and there was plenty for even the most ambitious chow-hounds. Dinner hour was set for High Noon. At 10:30 the line began to form, and when the K.P.'s began to serve, the entire enlisted strength of the organization formed a line which twisted through and around the tents for a distance of at least 500 feet. It was all over very quickly; the volume of food being eaten having little relation to the time expended in consuming it. Four Canadian Soldiers were the guests of T/Sgt. Beverly R. Standish. The Sergeant had been in Phillipville this morning, and became interested in his guests in the course of promoting the Good Neighbor Policy.

*Standish, Beverly R., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

The menu:

Fruit Cocktail  
Fresh Vegetable Salad with French Dressing  
Roast Turkey with Dressing  
Mashed Sweet Potatoes with Raisins  
Giblet Gravy                      Cranberry Sauce  
Bread with Fresh Butter  
Tangerines                      Hard Candy  
Coffee

## Thursday, 25 November 1943 (continued)

A football game was played by a few athletic minded G.I.'s, but by far the great majority had to sleep their dinner off.

Editor's Note: For Supper, Vienna Sausage.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):*  
"Take off for Libya. Land at El Adem in time for Thanksgiving dinner."

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Turkey served for Thanksgiving. Half the personnel messed with 379<sup>th</sup>. Rear echelon ate in the area. Preparations being made to send planes to Corsica for High Altitude Sea Sweeps.

## Friday, 26 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

In Italy, B-25's and A-20's along with RAF light bombers, attack the marshalling yard and harbor at Ancona, defended positions near Fossacesia, Lanciano, and Castelfrentano; US and RAF fighter-bombers hit these same positions and also attack troop concentration near Palombaro and N of Casoli. The detachment of the 12<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Photographic Group (Reconnaissance), at Ajaccio/Campo del Oro, Corsica with F-4's and F-5's, returns to it's base at La Marsa, Tunisia. The 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group(Medium), based at Philippeville, Libya ceases operating from El Adem, Libya and starts operating from Gambit, Libya with B-25's. The 487<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from San Pancrazio to Foggia, Italy with B-25's.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: None

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

-----  
Mission Report # , 26 November 1943

Target: Sea Search

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: None

379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :

Target: Sea Search

Number of Planes: 3

A/C No. 1 *aircraft and crew unidentified* A/C No. 2 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

A/C No. 3 *aircraft and crew unidentified*

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

## Friday, 26 November 1943 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** A dull day --- nothing of interest occurred.

Sgt. Czajka has finished the cement floor for the kitchen. Sgt. Barnes has taken over and is supervising a detail which is erecting a framework over which a tarpaulin will be spread to form the roof and sides of the building.

*Barnes, Freddie H., Sgt.*

*Czajka, Joseph A., Sgt, cook, Mess Sgt*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph M. Baisch, III, was appointed Assistant Squadron Operations Officer relieving Capt. George N. Evans.

*Baisch, Joseph M., III, 1Lt, pilot*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jack H. Capers joined the Squadron today. He formerly flew with the 97<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (B-17's), but was transferred to medium bombers because high altitude flying bothered his sinus. He has 22 missions.

*Capers, Jack H., 1Lt, pilot*

Training Schedule: 4 Training Flights.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Enlisted men moved into new mess hall, now that cement is dry. Red alert about 9:30 P.M.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Saturday, 27 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

**In Italy**, during the day and night, Twelfth Air Force fighters, light and medium bombers and aircraft of the associated RAF units of the NATAF attack enemy positions, gun emplacements, roads, vehicles, railroad facilities, and targets of opportunity in the Lanciano-Fossacesia-Castelfrentano-Casoli area. B-25's also bomb Porto Civitanova, Italy and Sibenik, Yugoslavia. The 5<sup>th</sup> Photographic Squadron (Light), Twelfth Air Force, transfers from La Marsa, Tunisia to Pomigliano, Italy with F-5's. The 5th has been operating from Pomigliano since 14 Oct. The 446<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Grottaglie to Amendola, Italy with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

-----  
**Mission Report # , 27 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 3

**A/C No. 1** *aircraft and crew unidentified*    **A/C No. 2** *aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**A/C No. 3** *aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

## Saturday, 27 November 1943 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** A steady drizzle of rain fell throughout the day.

17 Officers and 12 Enlisted Men were transferred to the 428<sup>th</sup> Squadron today. These men comprise almost the total of our remaining combat teams, exclusive of the new men who have just joined the Squadron. They will complete their 50 missions with the 428<sup>th</sup>. They are: Capt. I.S. Bitter and G.N. Evans; 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. G.G. Baker, J.C. Colleton, E.P. Dusek, O.E. Fayard, Jr., P.J. Kreuzkamp, J. Opeka, Jr. and W.C. Renton, Jr.; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. H.B. Arnoult, Jr., W.H. Cruise, W.F. Ewalt, P. Feinglass, O.C. Heitman, O.B. Leasure, W.G. Schutte and J.G. Victor; T/Sgts. A. Foderaro, J.T. Marshburn and B.R. Standish; S/Sgts. O.C. Bruhlman, R.E. Dewald, W.B. Mayhew, C.A. Mayronne, H.E. Schmidt and J.F. Sigafos; Sgt. L.F. Precosky; Pfc. Z.R. Hinton and L.R.L. Huddleson.

*Arnoult, Hubbard B., Jr., 2Lt, pilot*

*Baker, Gordon G., 1Lt, pilot*

*Bitter, Irwin S., Capt, pilot*

*Bruhlman, Otto C., S/Sgt, turret-gunner*

*Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt, bombardier*

*Cruise, William H., 2Lt, pilot*

*Dewald, Roy E., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Dusek, Ernest P., 1Lt, pilot*

*Evans, George N., Capt, pilot*

*Ewalt, William F., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Feinglass, Philip (NMI), 2Lt, bombardier*

*Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Hinton, Zane R., PFC, turret-gunner*

*Heitman, Oliver C., 2Lt, navigator*

*Kreuzkamp, Paul J., 1Lt, pilot*

*Huddleson, LeeRoy L., PFC, turret-gunner*

*Marshburn, James T., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Leasure, Oliver B., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Mayronne, Clyde A., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Mayhew, Wesley B., Jr., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Precosky, Louis F., Sgt, turret-gunner*

*Opeka, John (NMI), Jr., 1Lt, pilot*

*Schmidt, Harold E., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Renton, Walter C., Jr., 1Lt, navigator*

*Standish, Beverly R., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Schutte, Warren G., 2Lt, navigator, bombardier*

*Sigafos, James F., Jr., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt, navigator*

Our new crews will be trained in the Squadron for operating B-25G's.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Allied convoy was attacked off the coast near Philippeville. One ship was sunk by a radio-controlled bomb. Survivors were brought into Philippeville, where some of the squadron members had a chance to talk to them.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Sunday, 28 November 1943

### USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):

**In Yugoslavia**, B-25's bomb warehouses, docks, marshalling yards, barracks, shipping, and other targets at Sibenik, Zara, and Dubrovnik; RAF DAF fighters strafe trains between Dubrovnik and Metkovic.

**In Italy**, Twelfth Air Force fighters hit vehicles and troops in the battle area; Allied fighter-bombers bomb and strafe buildings, trucks, and roads in the Lanciano-Fossacesia-Casoli areas.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The weather is warmer both at night and during the day than when we first arrived.

Sgt. W.H. Smith joined the organization today.

*Smith, William H., Sgt, gunner*

Training Schedule: 7 training Flights. Ground School Lectures: "Tactics", by Major Cometh; and "Naval Identification", by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. D.D. Horrocks; these lectures were for all combat crews.

*Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Maj, pilot, Commander*

*Horrocks, Donald D., 1Lt, intelligence*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** All quiet. Movies are being held almost every night in the hangar on the field.



## Monday, 29 November 1943

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** B-25's bomb Sarajevo, Yugoslavia and road and rail bridges at Giulianova, Italy. US, South African Air Force (SAAF), and RAF light bombers hit enemy strongpoints at San Vito Chietino and the Castelfrentano-Lanciano-Fossacesia areas; Allied fighter-bombers bomb enemy forward positions around Fossacesia and Lanciano of Italy. The 37<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 316<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, transfers from El Aouina, Tunisia to Borizzo, Sicily with C-47's. The 415<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, XII Air Support Command, based at Catania, Sicily with Beaufighters, sends a detachment to Montecorvino, Italy.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

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**Mission Report # , 29 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 2

*A/C No. 1 aircraft and crew unidentified    A/C No. 2 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 2

*A/C No. 1 aircraft and crew unidentified    A/C No. 2 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

## Monday, 29 November 1943 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual Squadron activities.

Five Combat Officers and four Enlisted Men were attached to the organization today. They are: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. A.M. Durante, L.C. Heller, W.H. Kuester, A.C. Schwindle and R.C. Wahl; S/Sgts. P. Lazorshak, A.J. MacDougall and G. Pinsonault; Sgt. L.T. Rowley.

*Durante, Angelo M. C., 2Lt, pilot*

*Heller, Leonard C. "Len", 2Lt, pilot*

*Kuester, Wilbur H., 2Lt, pilot*

*Lazorshak, Paul (NMI), S/Sgt, gunner, radio-gunner*

*MacDougall, Alan J., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner, cannon loader*

*Pinsonault, Gus (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt, radio-gunner, cannon loader*

*Rowley, Lester T., Sgt, gunner*

*Schwindle, Adam C. "Gus", 2Lt, pilot*

*Wahl, Roy C., 2Lt, bombardier, navigator*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner (G crew):*  
*"Mission #21. No target - coast off Greece west side of Greece."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual squadron duties.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**Tuesday, 30 November 1943**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):**

**In Italy**, A-20's, operating in conjunction with light bombers of the SAAF and RAF attack ground installations and defended areas around Lanciano, Fossacesia, Orsogna, Castelfrentano, and Guardiagrele; fighter-bombers, [US, RAAF, SAAF and RAF] hit pre-arranged targets in the battle area, and by hitting targets of opportunity on roads between Lanciano to Mozzagrogna aid in defeating a counterattack against the US 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on Monte Pantano. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Group, transfers from La Marsa, Tunisia to Foggia, Italy with F-5's. The squadron has been operating from Foggia since 18 Nov.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** None

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

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**Mission Report # , 30 November 1943**

**Target:** Sea Search

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**

**Target:** Sea Search

**Number of Planes:** 7

*A/C No. 1 aircraft and crew unidentified    A/C No. 2 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

*A/C No. 3 aircraft and crew unidentified    A/C No. 4 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**Tuesday, 30 November 1943 (continued)**

*A/C No. 5 aircraft and crew unidentified    A/C No. 6 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

*A/C No. 7 aircraft and crew unidentified*

**P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F**

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** None

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Training Schedule: 5 Training Flights.

More new combat personnel: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. B.H. Adams, E. Dorman, F.R. Eaton, D.G. Foote, J.W. Gilluly, J.G. Kresge and R. A. McLaughlin; S/Sgts. R.A. Biebighauser, M.D. Drotts, A. Kovalchick, J.F. Leist, J.P. McNulty, T.A. Zoll and H.L. Zittel; Pvt. J.J. Farrell.

<i>Adams, Benjamin H., Jr., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Biebighauser, Roy A., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
<i>Dorman, Edgar (NMI) "Bud", 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Drotts, Marshall D., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
<i>Eaton, Frank R., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Farrell, John J., Pvt, bombardier-gunner</i>
<i>Foote, Douglas G., 2Lt, pilot, navigator</i>	<i>Gilluly, John W., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Kovalchick, Alexander (NMI) "Alex", S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	
<i>Kresge, James G., 2Lt, navigator</i>	
<i>Leist, Jacob F., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner, cannon loader</i>	
<i>McLaughlin, Robert A., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>McNulty, Joseph P., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
<i>Zittel, Howard L., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner, cannon loader</i>	
<i>Zoll, Thaddeus A., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner, cannon loader</i>	

**Tuesday, 30 November 1943** (continued)

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual squadron duties.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## November 1943

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: Additional Information for November 1943:** None

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for November 1943:** On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 379<sup>th</sup> sent a detachment of approximately 90 men to Libya, to begin operations in the Aegean Sea with our new type aircraft, the B-25G. Sixteen transport planes were used to carry the detachment and its equipment on this date. On arrival some of the planes landed at El Adem and the rest landed at Gambut, 50 miles further east. However, impossible field conditions due to weather at Gambut made it necessary to bring the entire detachment together at El Adem the next day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the men moving over by truck.

Setting up camp presented numerous problems. Hearty cooperation was given us by the British forces on the base who loaned considerable tents and other equipment to us. Pitching the tents was one of the toughest jobs as it was impossible to drive stakes deeper than six inches. The entire terrain seemed to be solid rock covered with a thin layer of soil seldom thicker than 5 or 6 inches. This also made it necessary to dig the latrines with a pneumatic drill cheerfully loaned by our British friends.

Under the able command of our Group Commander, Col. Hunter and our Group Operations Officer, Lt. Col. Bower, and with the exceptional cooperation of the British and our own forces in Cairo and Deversoir, we were quickly well established and ready for operations.

*Bower, William M., Lt Col, pilot, Operations Officer, HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG*  
*Hunter, Anthony G., Col, pilot, 310th BG Commander*

Although the location was one of the most desolate and barren yet encountered by us, the morale of the men was definitely very high for probably several reasons. Foremost among these was food. After a steady diet of C rations, corned beef, and sausages for months and months, here in Libya we began to get fresh meats and vegetables, frequently and regularly. In fact, our Thanksgiving dinner on November 25<sup>th</sup> offered us just about everything we used to have at home, from turkey to pumpkin pie. The entertainment furnished by motion pictures practically every night was another factor. This flow of pictures was abruptly halted on November 20<sup>th</sup> when the tent containing our projector and films, accidentally caught on fire and burned down. However the projector and films were quickly replaced by our friends at USAFIME headquarters in Cairo.

Being rationed on water here was a new experience for us. The supply was very limited and what little we did get had to be driven from Bardia, 80 miles away. On the short ration of ½ gallon per day per man, men could not decide whether to wash in it or drink it. However, one taste of the stuff usually convinced them to use it for washing. A liberal

## November 1943 (continued)

ration of fruit juices from the Quartermaster at nearby Tobruk went a long way toward solving the drinking problem.

The only sad note of the month was struck on November 14<sup>th</sup> when one of our planes crashed, while flying locally, killing all of its crew who were as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John C Minard, *pilot*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George E. Bennett, *pilot*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Walter Pyse, *bombardier*  
S/Sgt. Floyd C. Leeds, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. William N. Foster, *radio-gunner*  
Sgt. Joseph D. Mead, *gunner*

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, 40 more 379<sup>th</sup> men including our Squadron CO, Major Wetzel came down from Phillipville in five B-25's as it had been decided that the 379<sup>th</sup> should entirely take over the operations in Libya under the command of our own Squadron CO. Their stay at El Adem was very abbreviated for the next day, November 26<sup>th</sup>, the entire detachment moved by truck and plane to Gambut to operate from this new base. The five B-25C's and D's which had just come down from Phillipville came in very handy to help move and they ran a shuttle service between Gambut and El Adem practically most of the day.

*Wetzel, Manford J., Maj, pilot, Commander*

This time we had all of the equipment we needed and the ground was found to be more receptive to tent stakes, so getting set up here was only a matter of hours. After the hard surface runways at El Adem, the dirt field at Gambut caused much grumbling among the men. However, the big advantage of Gambut was that the 235<sup>th</sup> RAF Wing, under which we operated, was right on field with us.

During the month of November we ran a total of 14 missions to various parts of the Aegean Sea in search of enemy shipping. Three of these missions succeeded in locating targets. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 3 of our planes attacked a convoy of one 4000 ton M/V, one 2000 ton M/V and 5 E boats. Both M/V's and several of the E boats were set on fire as a result of cannon hits scored by our planes in their attack. Again on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 of our planes succeeded in locating a target. This time two small destroyers were sighted and attacked. A direct hit in the boiler room of one of the destroyers caused it to explode and burst into flame. Two hits were also scored on the second destroyer causing some damage. Our last successful mission of the month was on November 18<sup>th</sup> when 3 of our planes sank a 140 ft. Caique.

ELLSWORTH C. KNIGHT, JR.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps  
Squadron Intelligence Officer.

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## November 1943 (continued)

A small detachment of the 379<sup>th</sup> Squadron was left behind at the Air Base, at PHILLIPVILLE, in Algeria. Activities consisted of movies almost every night in our hangar, passes to town, and getting the tents fixed up for the expected cold weather. The men made home-made stoves out of barrels, with attached oil-lines. The meals were very good, with fresh meat more easily obtained due to proximity to a port.

PX rations were plentiful, with the usual line of cigarettes and pipe tobacco, candy and toilet articles. Men were shuttled back and forth between this Base and our detachment in the Middle East. The mail came in more regularly than usual, with Xmas parcels arriving prematurely.

In general, the morale of the men was high, and we were all ready for any orders that might come through to put us back to work at our original jobs for which we had been trained.

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### HISTORY

#### 379TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

##### SECTION II...Operations for November, 1943.

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TARGET:</u>	<u>No. PLANES:</u>
Nov. 11	Sea Search	2
Nov. 12	“ “	3
Nov. 13	“ “	2
Nov. 13	“ “	2
Nov. 14	“ “	4
Nov. 15	“ “	3
Nov. 18	“ “	3
Nov. 19	“ “	3
Nov. 23	“ “	3
Nov. 26	“ “	3
Nov. 27	“ “	3
Nov. 29	“ “	2
Nov. 29	“ “	2
Nov. 30	“ “	7

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Total sorties.....39  
Brought Forward.....1076

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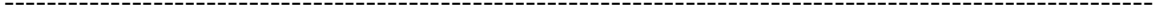
Grand Total.....1115



**November 1943 (continued)**

Total Squadron Missions for month...14  
Total Squadron Missions brought forward...154

Grand Total.....168



## November 1943 (continued)

### 380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for November 1943:

#### “ SO THIS IS PHILLIPVILLE ”

After many weeks of rumors about moving, the advance echelon got on their way from Menzel Termime via truck convoy on Wednesday Nov. 10, 1943 with Capt. Lambert J. Eichner Jr. Commanding, for our new home near Phillipville.

*Eichner, Lambert John, Jr., Capt, Executive Officer*

This move was a welcome one after living in a sea of mud and water for several weeks. With a great deal of difficulty tearing down tents and packing equipment in a down pour of rain we finally got on our way.

T/Sgt. James Maddox, our mess Sergeant, and a couple of cooks went on ahead and set up a portable kitchen at Souk el Arba where the convoy was to stop over night. After riding in the rain and cold all day we finally reached our destination and a good hot meal was a welcome to us all. Some pitched tents to sleep in for the night while others slept on the floor of the trucks. After a nights much needed sleep, we arose at day break and after a good breakfast we got on our way again.

*Maddox, James W., T/Sgt, Mess Sgt*

About three o'clock that afternoon we arrived at Phillipville Airdrome, which was to be our new home, and is located about two miles from the city.

Our new home did not look so good to us when we arrived because again we found our tent homes were to be set up again in a lake of mud and water, and were told that it had been raining day and night for the past week. We all worked together and got our homes shaped up the best that we could, and made our minds up to make the best of everything.

Two days later brought our rear echelon with Capt. Elmer Carlson in command, and found things pretty much in order, the boys working hard on their tent homes, and every one in general trying to speed up their part of the jobs that were to be done.

*Carlson, Elmer Norman, 1Lt, Personnel Officer*

The next day our fighting 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant James Warman got busy with some constructive ideas that he had on his mind. In no time we saw trucks coming in our Squadron entrance loaded with steel mats and gravel, which was to be laid on the roads in the area, so that it would be more easily to get in and out, and which further improved conditions. The next morning Sgt. Warman was up bright and early again, going out on

## November 1943 (continued)

another hunting expedition, and not for rabbits. At night fall we saw Sgt. Warman coming in the drive, his trucks loaded with three Nissen huts, "Quite a good bag for the day," we remarked to him. The next morning construction started on the huts, and it was decided that one would be used for an Officer's mess, Enlisted Mens' mess, and a kitchen.

*Warman, James A., T/Sgt, 1st Sgt*

As time went on every one began to feel more at home, mail started to come in better than ever before, movies were being shown at the hangar most every night, and our food showed a big sign of improvement due to more and better rations. Speaking of food, one meal that will linger in all of our minds was our Thanksgiving dinner, turkey with all the trimmings, which made everyone happy and everyone said a swell Thanksgiving for being in Africa.

Everyone is enjoying the little that the city of Phillipville has to offer, but all admit the Turkish baths, and shower baths are very much enjoyed by all, also the fact that one can have their laundry and cleaning taken care of.

We all have missed two of our Officers who have been in the hospital for several weeks, Capt. A.M. Richardson, and Capt. Ross Seeton, and look forward to their speedy recovery and their return soon again to the 380<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron.

*Richardson, Ambrose M., 1Lt*

*Seeton, Ross V., Jr., Capt, Armament Officer*

## November 1943 (continued)

### 381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for November 1943:

#### OPERATIONAL SECTION --- NOVEMBER 1943

Combat operations ceased on 31 October, with the mission to Civitavecchia, Italy. No missions were flown during November, either from the base at Oudna or from Philippeville.

On 22 November 1943, a training program was inaugurated to train new combat crews in the use of B-25-G aircraft. This program consists of orientation lectures and training flights.

#### SPECIAL OUTLINE SECTION --- NOVEMBER 1943

The numerous changes which had been anticipated for some time came about in November. The 310<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and its Squadrons were transferred from the command of the 47<sup>th</sup> Wing, and are now operating under the XII Fighter Command, XII Air Force. This new set-up includes a change in the type of aircraft which the Group will operate. B-25-G's will replace B-25-C's. The main difference between these two B-25's is the increased fire power --- a 75 MM cannon in the nose which is loaded from the navigator's compartment. At the same time, the Group moved from Tunisia to Philippeville Airport, on the outskirts of Philippeville, Algeria.

Here the 381<sup>st</sup> Squadron is giving tactical training to newly arrived B-25-G crews. The old B-25-C combat men were transferred out of the Squadron, so that they can complete their missions and return home. Some of these men went to the 321<sup>st</sup> and 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb Groups and to the 68<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Group, while others were transferred to the 428<sup>th</sup> Squadron of the 310<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group which will shortly operate out of Corsica. The 380<sup>th</sup> and 428<sup>th</sup> Squadrons will, for the time being, continue to operate B-25-C's. During November, 67 replacement combat officers and men joined the Squadron and commenced training.

The 379<sup>th</sup> Squadron has been operating B-25-G's from a base near Tobruk since the first week in November. In October, 12 B-25-G's and their crews arrived at the Headquarters of the 47<sup>th</sup> Wing, having come over the Southern Route as replacements for the 310<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. As Wing was then in the process of moving to Italy, 310<sup>th</sup> personnel was transferred on D.S. to Hammamet in order to get these ships ready for combat and instruct their crews. Under command of Major W. T. Alexander, (Headquarters), the following named officers, with enlisted men from each Squadron, comprised the personnel transferred for this purpose: Captain Pemberton and Lts. Boston

## November 1943 (continued)

and Sheets, (381<sup>st</sup>): Captain Richardson and Lt. Rice (380<sup>th</sup>); and Lt. Brown (379<sup>th</sup>). By the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, their training completed, these crews left to join the 379<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

*Alexander, William T. "Alex", Maj, pilot, Group Asst Ops Officer, HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG*

*Boston, Joseph W., Jr., 2Lt, pilot, 381<sup>st</sup> BS*

*Brown, Jack K., 2Lt, pilot, 379<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Pemberton, Robert (NMI) "Bob", Capt, intelligence, 381<sup>st</sup> BS*

*Rice, Carl E., 2Lt, pilot, 380<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Richardson, Ambrose M., Capt, intelligence, 380<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Sheets, Richard L., 2Lt, pilot, 381<sup>st</sup> BS*

The 381<sup>st</sup> Squadron's move from Oudna and Menzel Termime to Philippeville was accomplished by motor convoy. The chief activity of the ground personnel during the remainder of the month was the preparation of the new Squadron Area for occupancy; construction of a kitchen, mess halls for officers and enlisted men, etc. The new combat crews embarked immediately upon their training program which will indoctrinate them with the operational procedures to be employed in the new ships --- formation flying and handling of the 75 MM Cannon; naval recognition and a study of fighter tactics currently being employed by the enemy.

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### HEADQUARTERS 47TH WING

A.P.O. 520

2 November 1943.

SUBJECT: Letters of Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, APO 520  
" " , 310<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (M), APO 520  
" " , 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M), APO 520

1. The following message is forwarded for your information and compliance:

CABLE FROM GENERAL SPAATZ IS PARAPHRASED AND FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE: THROUGHOUT OUR OPERATIONS TO DATE THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF GROUND PERSONNEL HAS BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR SUCCESS X BELIEVE THAT IT MUST BE CONSTANT ENDEAVOR OF ALL HIGHER COMMANDERS INCLUDING GROUP COMMANDERS TO FULLY EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK X OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE MADE SUBJECT OF LETTER OF COMMENDATION BY SQUADRON AND GROUP COMMANDERS X NEWLY ARRIVED REPLACEMENT COMBAT CREWS MUST BE INDOCTRINATED WITH IMPORTANCE OF WORK OF THEIR GROUND CREWS X THE PRESTIGE OF

November 1943 (continued)

OUR GROUND CREWS MUST BE ENHANCED IN ORDER THAT  
THEY FULLY REALIZE IMPORTANCE BY ALL OF US TO  
THEIR CONSTANT DEVOTION TO DUTY X I FEEL THAT THIS  
IS A MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR ALL COMMANDERS  
CONCERNED X REQUEST DISSEMINATION CONTENTS HEREIN  
TO UNITS.

DOOLITTLE

By command of Brigadier General RIDENOUR:

/s/ Charles R. Burton  
/t/ CHARLES R. BURTON  
Captain, Air Corps  
Assistant Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
APO 520 U S ARMY

18 November, 1943

AG 201.22

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M).  
THRU: Commanding General, 47<sup>th</sup> Wing.

1. The 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M) has been in this Command since December 2, 1942. During that period, the Group has flown one hundred eighty-six (186) missions totaling four thousand two-hundred fifteen (4215) sorties and has successfully dropped five thousand two hundred forty-four (5244) tons of bombs on a wide variety of land and naval targets. Forty-five (45) of the Group's aircraft were lost in combat as against one-hundred thirty-eight (138) enemy planes destroyed, probably destroyed or damaged.

2. This record is one of which the organization can well be proud and reflects great credit both upon the Group Commander and upon the individual work of each officer and man. Furthermore, the record is all the more creditable in view of operating conditions which frequently presented almost insuperable difficulties.

## November 1943 (continued)

3. With the transfer of the 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group from this Command, I desire to express to each officer and man my appreciation for the contribution he has made toward the splendid record achieved and to wish the Group continued success in its new assignment.

/s/ J. H. Doolittle  
/t/ J. H. DOOLITTLE  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

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AG 201.22

1<sup>st</sup> Ind.

A: CHR/vtc.

HEADQUARTERS, 47TH WING, APO 520, US ARMY, 24 November 1943.

TO: Commanding Officer, 310th Bomb Group (M), APO 520.

1. It is with the greatest of pleasure that I forward this letter of commendation for dissemination to all members of your Command.

2. The pride I have in the accomplishments of your Group is tremendous. Their tasks performed under difficult conditions, were achieved only by the superb team work and whole-hearted cooperation of every member of your Group, and I wish to express to all concerned my heartiest congratulations and sincere appreciation of their achieving the highest degree of combat effectiveness reflected in the above record.

3. I deeply regret that the exigencies of the service have necessitated your transfer to another Command and hope, to some day have the pleasure of working with your unit once more.

/s/ C. H. Ridenour  
/t/ C. H. RIDENOUR  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

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## November 1943 (continued)

AG 201.22

2<sup>nd</sup> Ind.

AGH/wp

OFFICE OF THE GROUP COMMANDER, 310TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M),  
AAF, APO #520, December 6, 1943

TO: All Personnel of the 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (M).

1. It is with the deepest pride that I pass on this commendation to you. Such accomplishments were only made possible by the fullest cooperation and an outstanding devotion to duty on the part of each member of this Command.

2. Knowing you as I do and the fact that your service will be even more outstanding, I feel certain that we can look to the future with confidence in our ability to do our part in insuring final victory.

/s/ ANTHONY G. HUNTER  
/t/ ANTHONY G. HUNTER  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding

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### DOGS

Personnel of the 381<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron is composed almost entirely of Animal Lovers. Thus far, during our stay on foreign soil, we have had innumerable canine companions. Eight to ten dogs of varied types may be seen clustered around the mess hall during any meal; not infrequently these dogs range in size from very petite puppies to huge mongrel monstrosities. Nor have dogs been our only pets. One fellow even went so far as to acquire a large white rabbit; however the stay of his pet in the Squadron was short. We were rather low on rations at the time, and the rabbit's food content appealed to someone more than his value as a companion. The same is true of a large white goose, owned briefly by Sgt. "Alabam" Crowder. A Kangaroo rat made a momentary appearance as a pet. "Eleanor", a hen owned by Lt. Victor met death at the hands of her master --- and atoned on the frying pan for early morning cackling.

*Crowder, Ernest L. "Alabam", Sgt*

*Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt, navigator*

The finest little pet of the lot has been "Midge", a small black and white dog with long hair and an uncertain parentage. He was discovered and purchased by Sgt. Albert Reed. This transaction occurred in a small town in French Morocco named Mediouna, hence, by some miracle of derivation, the name Midge. Midge made the five day trip from Morocco to Berteaux via 40 and 8 car, well insulated against the cold cruel world in a large winter flying boot. During adolescence he developed a great dislike for Arabs, and became very clever in the art of chasing peddlers away. When about 9 months old,



## November 1943 (continued)

he crossed swords with a propeller which almost ended his Army career. It was during an early morning preflight that he walked past a plane and couldn't resist sniffing at the whirling prop. He recovered from that ordeal with a well developed phobia for all noise, after a few week's nursing of a broken nose. Midge finally passed away in August of 1943 of some strange dog malady, and was mourned by all.

*Reed, Albert D., Sgt*

Another dog was procured in a pet shop at Constantine. This was a small ball of fluff called Vino. Upon arrival at Berteaux, he was introduced to the aforementioned rabbit, and in his usual friendly fashion proceeded to get acquainted. Vino's approach was misinterpreted by the rabbit, who whirled around and used his huge hind feet to kick Vino about six feet into the air. Vino immediately developed a tremendous respect for the rabbit. After that it was not uncommon to see Vino come tearing around the corner of a tent with the rabbit in hot pursuit. Vino belongs to the truck drivers, and resides at the motor pool. Last September one of the drivers brought home a small brown kitten. Vino and the kitten are participating in a rather extraordinary domestic life, eating from the same pan and sleeping on the same pillow.

Skippy was an infant canine whose build tended towards the "Hook and Ladder" type. He was an American dog of dachshund descent, who flew across with Lt. Greenberg. Being fond of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, he visited the orderly room each day about noon for a ration of Lifesavers, which the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant kicked the entire mob out of the orderly room, and Skip never again brought visitors around. Skippy is the only 381<sup>st</sup> dog to be Missing in Action, having gone down on 5 April with Lt. Jackson's crew. He was not, unfortunately, reported a prisoner of war of the Germans along with his Pilot and Co-Pilot.

*Greenberg, Gerald J., 2Lt, pilot*

*Jackson, William C., 1Lt, pilot*

*Sorrough, James E., S/Sgt, 1st Sgt, personnel clerk*

Runt was another American dog. A full blooded fox terrier, he arrived all bundled up in a little red woolen sweater, complete with Sergeant stripes and an Air Corps shoulder patch. F/O Harold A Houghtaling brought him across the southern route. A really beautiful example of his breed, Runt was a very popular dog with the men, but he seemed to have a superiority complex regarding his contemporaries, and would not associate with them. When F/O Houghtaling failed to return after a mission on 3 July 43, Runt was inconsolable. Though friendly and polite to everyone, he never adopted another master. He remained in the Squadron until last month, going AWOL just before we left Menzel Temime. Perhaps he succeeded in finding someone to whom he could give his affection.

*Houghtaling, Harold A., F/O, pilot*

## November 1943 (continued)

Smokey was a snappy little back female with short sleek fur. She was ardently pursued by all of the male dogs, but with typical feminine ingenuity always managed to retain both her virtue and popularity. She is now stationed in Italy with the 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, having transferred with S/Sgt. R.P. Hannon.

*Hannon, Robert P., S/Sgt, gunner*

Beaufort was perhaps the dumbest dumb animal ever to join the Army. Lazy to a point of total inertia, he is reported to have yelped in agony when bitten by fleas rather than lift a paw to scratch them. His coat hung loosely on his massive frame and when he walked, which was seldom, or ran, which was almost never, it would ripple like a flag in the wind. Other than his size, Beaufort's only claim to fame was his complete lack of beauty and canine personality. When he disappeared, he left unmourned. The only question asked was, "Where did he find enough energy to run away?"

Our only Arab pup was an atrocity named Job. He belonged to Captain Knight. His most prominent feature was a treacherous nature which would crop up at odd and unexpected times. His motto was that the best defense lies in the attack --- and he was always on the defensive. After his first airplane ride, which was from King's Cross to Menzel Temime, he quietly faded out of the picture. There were strong suspicions that he met with foul play from someone whom he had bitten. Previous to the dog's disappearance, Captain Knight wrote his wife and described his pet to her. At the present time all of Captain Knight's Christmas packages are devoted almost entirely to dog biscuits, sweaters, collars, leashes and flea powder.

*Knight, Thomas R., Capt, Signals Officer*

Fluffy came to us with our first B-25-G. She is a small Italian dog, with a lot of Spitz blood flowing through her tiny veins. She has a violent temper, and has started terrific quarrels among other dogs over morsels of food. At the present time she is rather a sooty gray, as it is too cold to give her a bath. Her admirers - 100% of the personnel hope that she will remain with the Squadron for a long and healthy life, as she is a very likable little mutt.

These dogs --- Midge, Vino, Skippy, Runt, Smokey, Beaufort, Job and Fluffy have been the outstanding dogs of the Squadron. There have been many more. Some came uninvited and vanished after a day or two; Midge remained as long as he lived; Smokey was transferred; Skippy is missing in action. Their personalities are often astoundingly complex; their antics hilariously amusing. Their companionship and quiet devotion have always made the Squadron a happier place in which to live, for they have all been to all of us that which dogs have been to men throughout the ages --- each and every one of them have proved the proverb that "A man's best friend is his dog."

## November 1943 (continued)

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for November 1943:** For the first time since November, 1942, the outfit was placed on noncombat status. The rest was well deserved, such as it was, and full of speculation reminiscent of September, 1942. On the third, the 379<sup>th</sup> pulled out bag and baggage for Tobruk equipped with a new compliment of crews and a new airplane, the B-25G. Its five B-25C crews were transferred to the 380<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> our planes and their crews left Oudna for the field at Philippeville. More food for rumors--but at least their scope was somewhat whittled. The stay at Philippeville was a pleasant one. We were bivouacked on a hill behind the village of Valle, perhaps four kilometers from the comforts of the "big" town. At any rate it was the closest we've been to any municipality of size since we left Columbia.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> part of our forgotten lot pulled stakes at Menzel Temime and left for Philippeville followed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> by the remainder of the rear echelon. It seemed that we had left behind the last of a set of particularly lonely and barren operational fields. At least that was our hope.

Our arrival clarified just a bit the path of the immediate future. The 381<sup>st</sup> sent her "C" crews to us in preparation for a new compliment of "G" airplanes and crews. The 428<sup>th</sup> and 380<sup>th</sup> were alerted for a move to Corsica where they were to fulfill anti-shipping missions in the Coastal Command--more precisely, North African Coastal Air Force. The 310<sup>th</sup> became an integral part of its Fighter Command--a purely offensive arm in what is ordinarily thought of as a defensive force. Thus the month ended.