

**12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing  
310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group  
History: January 1944**



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

*"Lil Dutch"  
John T. Fitzgerald, OMSgt, 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: January 1944

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.)

## Saturday, 1 January 1944

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** ARMY AIR FORCES, MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (AAFMTTO): A complete reorganization of USAAF units in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) takes place: US Army Air Forces, North African Theater of Operations (USAAFNATO) is redesignated AAF Mediterranean Theater of Operations (AAFMTTO); XII Air Force Services Command becomes AAF Services Command Mediterranean Theater of Operations (AAFSCMTO); III Air Services Area Command (Special) becomes XII Air Force Services Command; II Air Services Area Command becomes XV Air Force Services Command; XII Air Force Engineer Command (Provisional) becomes AAF Engineer Command, Mediterranean Theater of Operations (Provisional); and XII Air Force Training Command is changed to XII Air Force Training and Replacement Command. The XII Bomber Command, Twelfth Air Force is reorganized as a medium bomber organization, 3 B-25 groups and the 3 B-26 groups of the 42d Bombardment Wing (Medium), under Brigadier General Robert D Knapp. HQ 33d Fighter Group transfers from Santa Maria to Cercola, Italy.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The New Year began with a cold wind from the north. Many of the boys stayed in bed well into the day sleeping off last night's celebration. Everyone is wondering when operations will begin, and what 1944 will bring.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** New Year's day the area was pounded by an almost steady torrent of rain, and a constant gale of wind. Naturally, the lighting system failed. During the night, several tents in the area blew down, Captain Abbott's among them. Having retired early, Lt. Horrocks was the only person in the tent, and was sound asleep. He describes the incident as follows: "I noticed my feet getting cold, but didn't pay any attention to it. Pretty soon they began to get wet, so I decided that something had to be done." There were no lights, and the Lt. didn't have a flashlight. He groped around, found his clothes, and just as he was walking out of the tent, the whole thing collapsed. Two seconds later, the sky let loose with a torrent of rain, and thoroughly soaked the whole mess. Lt. Horrocks and tent mates haven't a dry be or stitch of clothing among them. He spent the rest of the night in the Officers' Club.

*Abbott, Robert D., Capt, Adjutant*

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The weather at Mezzovia is fine. Midday found us in shirt sleeves. The outfit devoted the day to catching up on a little belated writing.

## Sunday, 2 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-25's bomb the Terni marshalling yard and iron works and nearby barracks; P-40's and Spitfires from the AAF, Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), South African Air Force (SAAF), and Royal Air Force (RAF) blast snowbound vehicles in the Avezzano-Popoli area, warehouses at San Benedetto de Marsi and gun positions and defended areas around Chieti; A-36's hit Civitavecchia harbor and marshalling yard to the S of town, the Anagni marshalling yard and nearby gun positions, and other targets of opportunity; B-26's bomb bridges at Riva Santo Stefano and Ventimiglia, the marshalling yard at Arma di Taggia, and bridge over the Var River. HQ 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) and its 488<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium) transfer from Foggia to Pompeii, Italy with B-25's.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: No Entry

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

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Mission Report #, 2 January 1944

Target: Sea Sweep

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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

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

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F



## Sunday, 2 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** A few puddles covered with thin ice were noticed this morning. Winter is here. However, the days are still mild. There was a movie this evening at the 347<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron.

**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 heavy rain. The lights in the area are still out, and will probably remain out until the Communications Section is able to inspect the wiring of each tent.

Three bars of candy were given with today's rations.

Sgt. Freddie H. Barnes is absent sick at the 57<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital.

Two officers and three enlisted men were attached for rations.

*Barnes, Freddie H., Sgt, carpenter*

**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:**  
*"Leave Capri for Naples."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Fuel concerns became our great worry. QM has no 80-octane and our drivers balked at using 100 octane cut with fuel oil.

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

## Monday, 3 January 1944

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Brigadier General Edward M Morris assumes command of the XII Fighter Command.

**In Yugoslavia,** B-25's bomb a troop concentration area at Prijedor, and hit Split and Sibenik.

**In Italy,** P-40's and A-36's bomb gun positions near Cassino, the Anagni railroad station, a village near Vicenza, the railway and trains between Ceccano and Segni, and the harbor at Civitavecchia; P-40's, with SAAF and RCAF Spitfires, hit 100+ vehicles in the Avezzano-Sulmona area; other P-40's, with AAF, RAF, SAAF, and RAAF fighters, hit targets in the Filetto-Tollo areas in support of ground troops.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 3 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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

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

P  
CP  
N  
B  
E  
R  
G  
F

## Monday, 3 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Breakfast was rather light this morning. Had oatmeal, coffee, crackers and jam. Many of the men took showers in the improvised shower-house just across the tracks from the living quarters.

**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 lights are still off. It's a little less stormy, but the weather is still bad.

Two sailors were guests for dinner tonight. The mess hall put on a pretty good show for them, too, with fresh steak.

Three officers and three enlisted men were attached for rations and quarters.

Training Program: Two lectures on P.W. in the Enlisted Men's Mess Hall by Captain Pemberton.

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

*"Poor Naples. Air Raid alarm tonight. Anti-Aircraft light up sky. People running & screaming."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Johnston obtained a small supply of 80 octane from a French dump, kept apparently for the bus service which is the island's chief transportation system.

*Johnston, Melvin R., S/Sgt, 1st Sgt*

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

## Tuesday, 4 January 1944

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

**In Yugoslavia**, B-25's bomb the Brodac town area and marshalling yard, and the town of Travnik. P-40's hit a bridge and trains and fly patrols over the battleline in Italy.

Transfers **in Italy**: HQ XII Bomber Command and HQ 57th Bombardment Wing from Bari and Foggia respectively to Trocchia. HQ 3<sup>rd</sup> Photographic Group (Reconnaissance) and 12<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron from San Severo to Pomigliano with F-4's and F-5's. 380<sup>th</sup> and 428<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), from Philippeville, Algeria to Ghisonaccia, Corsica with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 4 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

*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, 4 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Part of the ground echelon arrived by truck convoy from Ajaccio just after supper. Tents had already been set up for them, which was a great help. The mess hall heated a pot of coffee to warm the fellows after the hard trip across the mountains. Cots were hastily put up and the boys went to bed early.

**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 lights are working again --- for minutes at a time. M/Sgt Peterson promises that they will be functioning by tomorrow night.

Cpl. Nels R. Johnson, Treasurer of the Kuku Nut Grube, published the financial statement for the month of December. For the seventeen days which it was in operation, it netted \$1,125.00.

Cpl. George Yousaitis returned from the hospital.

Six officers and six enlisted men were attached for rations and quarters.

Training Program: One lecture by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harris, 428<sup>th</sup> Squadron on aircraft recognition. Eight training flights.

*Harris, Wayne A., 1Lt, intelligence, 428<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Johnson, Nels R. "Chow-hound", Cpl,*

*Peterson, Reynold J., M/Sgt, electrician*

*Yousaitis, George (NMI) Cpl,*

**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:** We are off for Ghisonaccia. It's a nine-hour trip across mountains, and a cold one at that. Everyone who visits Corsica should see to it that he makes the trip once, however. Hot coffee and huzzahs greeted us on our arrival. Everyone is glad to see us.

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

**Wednesday, 5 January 1944**

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

**In Italy**, A-36's hit gun positions N of Mignano and on the S slope of Monte Porchia. Weather cancels other operations. 489<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Foggia to Pompeii, Italy with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 5 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

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

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

## Wednesday, 5 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lieuts. Adams and Lorch, and Sgt. Gewirtz were busy the entire day setting up the Squadron S-2 equipment. Everything has to be in readiness when operations start.

*Adams, John E., Jr., 2Lt, intelligence*  
*Lorch, Henry H., 1Lt, intelligence*

*Gewirtz, Sidney (NMI), Sgt, intelligence*

**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 wind, hail and rain storm, which was quite severe, interfered with the lighting system again. It is becoming very annoying. Today was a very quiet day. Other than the storm, nothing of interest occurred.

Training Program: Two lectures on aircraft recognition by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harris.

*Harris, Wayne A., 1Lt, intelligence, 428<sup>th</sup> BS*

**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:**  
*"Visit Pompeii."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Betty Grable was the attraction at tonight's cinema. Coney Island was the title, but the boys attended in mass to see Betty Grable. Getting acquainted after a month away from the outfit. Temporarily, everyone is living in the old hotels and buildings, with few, if any, personnel in tents.

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

**Thursday, 6 January 1944**

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

**In Italy,** B-26's bomb Pontedera hitting the marshalling yard and Piaggio aircraft factory there, the Lucca marshalling yard, and the railway N of Follonica; P-40 and A-36 fighter-bombers attack gun positions in the Cervaro-Monte Trocchio area and near Aquino, the town of Cervaro, the railway at Civitavecchia, trains N and E of Rome, the Velletri train station, and the town of Fondi.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 6 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

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

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



## Thursday, 6 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Supply had a limited number of new shoes and the men fortunate enough to find their size on hand got a brand new pair. Another show this evening. This time it was “Coney Island”, with Betty Grable and the boys did enjoy it.

**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 building boom is in full progress in the Squadron Area. New tents are being erected which will be occupied by attached personnel who are expected to arrive shortly.

S/Sgt. A. (NMI) Kovalchick, Sgt. J.L. Mauthe and Pfc. A.F. Olson returned to duty from the hospital. S/Sgt. Kovalchick had been transferred to the 380<sup>th</sup> during his absence.

Nine officers and nine enlisted men were attached for rations and quarters.

Training Program: Two lectures on aircraft recognition by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Harris.

*Harris, Wayne A., 1Lt, intelligence, 428<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Kovalchick, Alexander (NMI) "Alex", S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Mauthe, Joseph L., Sgt,*

*Olson, Arthur F., PFC,*

**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:**  
*“Return to Philippeville. Very cold.”*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** It’s a beautiful day. The men took advantage of it. It marked our first day taking advantage of the hot baths--a mountain “Hot Springs” perhaps 15 miles from the base. What a pleasant change from the steam baths of Africa, particularly those at Ain M’Lila.

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

## Friday, 7 January 1944

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

**In Italy**, B-25's strike Perugia Airfield; A-20's hit defenses in close support of the US Fifth Army; B-26's hit the marshalling yards at Foligno and Arezzo and attack a bridge at Roccasecca; A-36's hit gun positions, trucks, and trains in the Cervaro-Aquino-Cassino area, bomb the Aquino station, and hit the Velletri railway yards; P-40's give close support in the Monte Maio, Monte La Chiaia, Monte Porchia, and Cedro Hill areas as the US Fifth Army drives toward the Rapido River. Air echelon of the 417<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, Twelfth Air Force, transfers from Tafaraoui to La Senia, Algeria with Beaufighters; ground echelon is at Ghisonaccia, Corsica.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Was a beautiful, warm, sunshiny day, and most of the gang was outside enjoying it. Some chopped wood, some took long walks, and others just stayed around the place. The orderly room is set up in the main building now.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Three officers and two enlisted men were attached for rations and quarters today.

Training Program: Lecture on Communications by Capt. Knight.

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Some of the men took stock of our position on the island and started to dig slit trenches. The squadron area had completed a trench system already. Just an added precaution. Setting up of the offices has already begun, or had, before we arrived. Things are still very disorganized, however, and the S-2 equipment is mostly unpacked.

## Saturday, 8 January 1944

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** B-25's bomb the harbor, warehouses, and railway at Metkovic, Yugoslavia.

**In Italy,** A-20's hit railway stations at Frosinone and in the Colleferro-Segni area; B-26's bomb marshalling yards at Grosseto and Lucca; P-40's support the US Fifth Army in the mountains E and SE of Cassino, and, with A-36's, hit railway targets S of Rome at Aquino, Frosinone, Palestrina and Castelforte; other P-40's hit Avezzano, and A-36's blast trains and vessels in the vicinity of Tarquinia.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The S-2 personnel started digging a slit-trench this morning. Several of the other boys took up the idea and started digging, too. Anything is liable to happen on this island. It always pays to be prepared.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Major Cometh and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph M. Baisch III, returned from Gambut. During their stay they managed to get in a trip which included Cairo and the Holy Land.

There was a 381<sup>st</sup> dance in Philippeville tonight. A bright moon and clear sky made it seem almost like a Saturday night at home. Music was supplied by the Group's recording apparatus and Special Service's supply of recordings. T/Sgt. Jorge Garcia, the Squadron's outstanding jitter-bug, didn't miss a dance, or a Mademoiselle. Sandwiches prepared by S/Sgt. Myron Munson, were served with punch. Transportation to and from was supplied by G.I. trucks.

S/Sgt. Wayne D. King returned from the hospital.

Pvt. Milton M. Carpenter was assigned to the Squadron and six officers and six enlisted men were attached for rations and quarters.

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

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

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

*Munson, Myron C., S/Sgt,*

*Carpenter, Milton M., Pvt,*

*King, Wayne D., S/Sgt,*

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

**Sunday, 9 January 1944**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Prime Minister Winston S Churchill and General Charles A De Gaulle meet at Marrakesh, French Morocco. They discuss cooperation of a French expeditionary force in invasion of Europe and the degree of authority of the French inside France after the invasion.

**In Italy,** B-25's attack the marshalling yard and docks at Ancona; P-40's hit tanks and trucks at Palena and S of Sulmona, and positions and vehicles near Cervaro; and A-36's hit positions in the same area. 414<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, 63<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, based at Elmas, Sardinia with Beaufighters, sends a detachment to operate from Ghisonaccia, Corsica.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 9 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

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

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

## Sunday, 9 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Had some mighty good toast this morning for breakfast. The cooks can put out when they have the stuff to give us. It was rumored that several of our planes may arrive soon, but no one really expects them. The landing field is still rather muddy and operations would be difficult at this time.

**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 warm sunny day, almost like spring. Very quiet, like Sundays are supposed to be.

Training Program: Eight 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:** No Entry

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

**Monday, 10 January 1944**

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

**In Italy**, B-25's hit San Benedetto de Marsi; P-40's, with RAF, SAAF, and RAAF airplanes, hit communications, gun positions, trucks, and tanks at numerous points in and NW of the battle area; other P-40's give close support to ground forces in the Chieti area; and A-36's hit trucks, tanks, trains, and other targets of opportunity N of Rome. Transfers: HQ 47th Bombardment Group (Light) from Vincenzo Airfield to Vesuvius Airfield, Italy. Air echelon of the 417<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, Twelfth Air Force (attached to RAF 337 Wing) from Tafaraoui to La Senia, Algeria with Beaufighters; ground echelon is at Ghisonaccia, Corsica.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 10 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

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

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

## Monday, 10 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** It happened! Six of our planes did arrive today. And they brought in a large amount of mail...the boys are happy again now that they have letters from home. Our squadron is slowly getting back to the original strength.

**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 following officers and enlisted men, who were transferred from this Squadron to the 428<sup>th</sup>, have been retransferred to the 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group: 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. G.G. Baker, E.P. Dusek, and P.J. Kreuzkamp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. W.H. Cruise, P. (NMI) Feinglass and W.G. Schutte; T/Sgt. J.T. Marshburn; S/Sgts. O.C. Bruhlman, W.B. Mayhew and H.E. Schmidt; Sgt. L.F. Precosky and Pfc. L.R. Huddleson.

S/Sgt. C.B. Sisco is absent sick at the 57<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital, while Sgt. Freddie Barnes returned to duty from that hospital.

Six officers and seven enlisted men were attached for rations and quarters.

Training Program: Eight training flights.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Barnes, Freddie H., Sgt, carpenter*

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

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

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

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

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

*Sisco, Charles B., S/Sgt*

**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:** Twelve B-25's arrived today, six of the 428<sup>th</sup> and six of the 380<sup>th</sup>. It's good to see our aircraft again. Somehow it tends to make one's presence less futile.

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

## Tuesday, 11 January 1944

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

**In Italy**, B-26's attack the iron and steel works at Piombino during the night of 10/11 Jan; during the day, B-25's bomb Falconara (hitting the railroad junction) and railroad yards at Fabriano; P-40's and A-36's blast defenses and gun positions in Cervaro-Monte Trocchio, a gun position N of Minturno, the towns of Sora and Isola del Liri, road traffic in the Macerata-Aquila-Popoli area, and railroad facilities at San Giorgio del Sannio. Transfers: HQ 87<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing to Nouvion, Algeria from the US. 84<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Light), 47<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Light), from Vincenzo Airfield to Vesuvius Airfield, Italy with A-20's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 11 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

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

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**Mission Report #, 11 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**



**Tuesday, 11 January 1944 (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**

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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:** Had another mail call this evening. It was brought back from Philippeville. And another treat was in store for us. A large supply of beer was obtained for us. Each man received three bottles, and it was gulped down in a hurry.

## Tuesday, 11 January 1944 (continued)

**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:** The good weather is still holding out. Although the days are warm and clear, the nights are quite crisp. The moon is so bright that one can read the bulletin board by its light.

Sgt. F.E. Fritz got back from the hospital just in time to make room for T/Sgt. A.M. Kemp.

Training Program: Eight Training Flights.

*Fritz, Frederick E., Sgt.*

*Kemp, Archie M., T/Sgt.*

**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)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** A gigantic mail call--plus a ration of six bottles of excellent Scotch beer at a nominal 90 francs made it a gala day. It was the best beer we've had since we left home.

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

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

## Wednesday, 12 January 1944

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Colonel Archibald Y Smith assumes command of the XII Air Force Training and Replacement Command.

**In Italy,** B-25's and B-26's bomb the Giulianova railway bridge and attack a dam and road bridge; A-20's hit San Donato; P-40's attack a vessel in the Krka River of Yugoslavia, hit enemy defensive positions at San Biagio Saracinesa, Sant' Elia Fiumerapido, Monte Trocchio, and Atina, and bomb Vallerotonda; A-36's attack the Avezzano railroad yards, a village near Atina, railroad facilities at Cisterna di Latina, and numerous trucks and train cars in the Rome area.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Operations are scheduled to begin any day. It shouldn't be too difficult with only six planes in the squadron. Shipping is to be the main objective from this base.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The following named officers and enlisted men have been assigned to the Squadron: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. J.A. Burton, R.F. Elmer, K.L. Gimson, R.I. Johnson, N. (NMI) Katsirubas, R.L. Kefer, L.A. Lewis, W.G. Lytle, R.J. McHugh, R.P. Moss, H.S. Ray, Jr., G.C. Schroeder, C.P. Shearer, J.R. Simpkins, and R.W. Whitehead; S/Sgts. J.P. Boder, Jr., L.C. Deese, J.J. Duffy, III, W.O. Edwards, C.M. Enright, J.B. Morris, A.N. Rumpf, and S.M. Wonski; Sgts. H.M. Crocker, M.C. Cutrona, W.E. Prall, M. (NMI) Pusen, A.E. Tamer, and J.E. Washington; and Pvt. L.M. Gilbert.

Six officers and eight enlisted men were attached for rations and quarters today.

S/Sgt. C.B. Sisco returned from the hospital.

Training Program: Eight training flights.

<i>Boder, John P., Jr., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	<i>Burton, Joseph A., 2Lt, navigator</i>
<i>Crocker, Harold M., Sgt, gunner</i>	<i>Cutrona, Michael C., Sgt, turret-gunner</i>
<i>Deese, Leon C., S/Sgt, turret-gunner</i>	<i>Duffy, John J., III, S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>
<i>Edwards, Wilbur O., S/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	<i>Elmer, Ralph F., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Enright, Claude M., T/Sgt, radio-gunner</i>	<i>Gilbert, Louis M., Pvt, gunner</i>
<i>Gimson, Keith L., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Johnson, Robert I., 2Lt, pilot</i>
<i>Katsirubas, Nicholas (NMI), 2Lt, bombardier</i>	
<i>Kefer, Robert L., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>Lewis, Leslie A., 2Lt, bombardier</i>
<i>Lytle, William G., 2Lt, pilot</i>	<i>McHugh, Richard J., 2Lt, bombardier</i>
<i>Morris, Joe B., S/Sgt, turret-gunner</i>	<i>Moss, Robert P., 2Lt, pilot</i>

**Wednesday, 12 January 1944 (continued)**

*Prall, Wilson Edgar, Sgt, armorer-gunner*    *Pusen, Michael (NMI), Sgt, gunner*  
*Ray, Henry S., Jr., 2Lt, pilot*                *Rumpf, Arthur N., S/Sgt, turret-gunner*  
*Schroeder, George C., 2Lt, pilot*            *Shearer, Clyde P., 2Lt, pilot*  
*Simpkins, John R., 2Lt, pilot*                *Tamer, Albert E., Sgt, turret-gunner*  
*Washington, John E., Sgt, gunner*         *Whitehead, Robert W., 2Lt, pilot*  
*Wonski, Stanley M., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Our squadrons were alerted but no sighting at which to strike presented itself. Though the recce Marauders had sighted many boats in the previous few days the seas were empty today. Our chief purpose is to stop coastwise shipping from Marseilles to Civitavecchia.

## Thursday, 13 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-25's and B-26's bomb Guidonia, Centocelle, and Ciampino airfields; A-20's strike the town of Atina. AAF, RAF, SAAF, and RAAF fighter-bombers hit shipping along the Dalmatian coast at Sibenik and in the Krka River of Yugoslavia. A-36's hit the town and railway yards at Isola del Liri, a factory at Colleferro, docks at Formia, railroad yards at Valmontone, and a railway station SE of Frosinone. P-40's hit Sant' Elia Fiumerapido, San Biagio, Saracinesa, and a rail and road junction near Villa Latina. 86<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Light), 47<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Light), transfer from Vincenzo Airfield to Vesuvius Airfield, Italy with A-20's.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: No Entry

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

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Mission Report # , 13 January 1944

Target: 3,000 ton M/V

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: No Entry

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

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

380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Our squadron was alerted for a mission today, but did not go out. Maybe tomorrow will be our day. Everyone is glad that operations have started once again. The boys feel that they are once more in the fight.

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: No one, including J.D. Thompson, has been able to dig up a half way decent rumor since we arrived here. That is, not until the last few days, as moving rumors have just broken out again. The most obvious move---provided we are to make one, would be to Corsica. However, there are some pretty astute rumor experts who favor India as a possible scene for future Squadron operations. England is the runner-up, although rumors regarding England are usually 90% wishful thinking. Lt. Horrocks, Group Rumor Officer, has declined to make any statements pending further observations.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James W. Burris left for Headquarters of the XII Air Force, where he will appear before a Medical Disposition Board, which will determine if the injuries which he received in the crash of Lt. Donovan's aircraft, will prevent him from flying in combat again.

## Thursday, 13 January 1944 (continued)

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. G.J. Grim was transferred to the 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (M).

Training Program: Eight training flights.

*Burris, James Warren, 2Lt, pilot*

*Donnovan, Gerald M., 1Lt, pilot*

*Grim, Gresham J., 2Lt, bombardier*

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

*Thompson, James D. "J.D.", Sgt, personnel*

**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:** The 428<sup>th</sup> flew her first mission today. It was a six plane sweep of the South coast of France. Cloud cover prevented an attack against a 3,000 ton M/V. No opposition was sighted.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :** *(428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 150)* January 13<sup>th</sup> marked our first operation in two and one-half months. Six aircraft went out on a sea sweep covering the West coast of France and the Italian Riviera. A 3000 ton M/V was sighted, but a low ceiling prevented an attack, so the beginning was quiet and uneventful. It was our squadron's 150<sup>th</sup> mission. Spitfires of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group served as escort.

### A/C No. 41-13061 "Lil Joe"

**P** *Evans, George N., Capt*  
**CP** *McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
**N** *Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
**B** *Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
**G** *Mayronne, Clyde A., Sgt*  
**TG** *Dewald, Roy E., S/Sgt*  
**F** *Epperson, Elmer H., Lt. Col,*  
*Commander (observer)*

### A/C No. 42-32492

**P** *Hogan, Jack F., F/O*  
**CP** *Edelman, Forrest J., F/O*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Kelly, Phillip J., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Porch, Dean O., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 41-13094 "Seasweep"

*Fleming, Thornton (NMI), 1Lt*  
*Sandstrom, John E., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Smirnoff, Andrew P., 2Lt,*  
*None*  
*Hook, Raymond K., S/Sgt*  
*Rankin, James V., S/Sgt*  
*Hooks, Fred F., Sgt,*  
*None*

### A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH"

*Bitter, Irwin S., Capt*  
*Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
*Renton, Walter C., Jr., 1Lt*  
*Boatler, Sidney K., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Standish, Beverly R., T/Sgt*  
*Sigafoos, James F., Jr., S/Sgt*  
*Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
*Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

**Thursday, 13 January 1944 (continued)**

	<b>A/C No. 42-64592</b>	<b>A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified</b>
<b>P</b>	<i>Edwards, William P., 2Lt</i>	<i>Waugh, Carter H., 1Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Sebor, George (NMI), 2Lt</i>	<i>Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Lanning, Fred H., 2Lt</i>	<i>Baraniuk, Jerry M., 2Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Jack, Robert C., Sgt</i>	<i>East, Charles D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Houseman, Charles M., Jr., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Agin, Clealon J., Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Moynihan, Donald M., Pvt</i>	<i>Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

## Friday, 14 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-25's strike the Pontecorvo bridge; A-20's offer close support to US Fifth Army forces in the Monte Trocchio area; P-40's blast Loreto tank repair shops; P-40's and A-36's hit defenses in the San Giuseppe, Sant' Elia Fiumerapido, and Monte Trocchio areas; A-36's also attack road and buildings E of Minturno, the town of Isoladel Liri, and the harbor at Anzio. Transfers in Italy: HQ 321st Bombardment Group (Medium) and 445<sup>th</sup>, 446<sup>th</sup>, 447<sup>th</sup> and 448<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium) from Amendola to Vincenzo Airfield with B-25's and 308<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 31<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group, from Pomigliano to Castel Volturno with P-51's.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: No Entry

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

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Mission Report #, 14 January 1944

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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Mission Report # , 14 January 1944

Target- Sea Search (380<sup>th</sup> BS)

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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



## Friday, 14 January 1944 (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

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

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Everyone excited today when our planes took off on the first mission of 1944. The pilots and crews returned from the sea search happy and hungry. All the boys were asking about the mission, wanting to know the results and what was seen. The 380<sup>th</sup> is in action again.

**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 # :**

Mission Report # 145

Date- Jan. 14, 1944

Target- Sea Search

Squadron airplanes- Six

After two months of inactivity our squadron opened its combat operational period again by taking off from our new base at Ghisonaccia in an effort to bomb enemy shipping along the French Coast near Agay. A 3,000 ton tanker and a smaller vessel as escort heading NE at 1532 hours were attacked. Due to the 7/10 cumulus development in the target area, the results were not observed by our crews as the break in the clouds, through which they bombed, closed up.

However, one of the Spitfire escorts dove below the clouds and reported that the tanker was on fire after the bombs had been dropped.

There was a moderate amount of inaccurate light flak along with some slight inaccurate heavy flak encountered from the target vessels.

All ships returned safely home at 1700 hours,

Photos were taken.

## Friday, 14 January 1944 (continued)

	<b>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified</b> (flight leader)		<b>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</b>
<b>P</b>	<i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>		<i>Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Drew, Edward A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>		<i>McBride, Daniel (NMI), 1Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Anderson, J.B., 2Lt</i>		<i>Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Cook, Keith L., Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>		<i>Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>		<i>Land, Wilson E., Sgt</i>
	<b>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</b>		<b>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</b>
<b>P</b>	<i>Folwell, Frank C., Capt</i>		<i>Schneider, William J., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>		<i>Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt</i>		<i>Rath, Walter J., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Ackerson, Newell, W., 1Lt</i>		<i>Alexander, U.G., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Barny, Arthur J., Jr., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>		<i>Crocker, David A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Adams, John E., Jr., 2Lt (observer)</i>		<i>None</i>
	<b>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</b>		<b>A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified</b>
<b>P</b>	<i>Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt</i>		<i>Persson, John G., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Fletcher, Ray Foley Bentley, 1Lt</i>		<i>Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt</i>		<i>Negle, Robert S., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Conway, Thomas F., 2Lt</i>		<i>O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Elves, Ken M., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Axelson, Edwin D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>McQuillen, Walter E., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Young, Charles C., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>Powers, John A., S/Sgt</i>

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Six officers and six enlisted men were attached to the Squadron for rations and quarters.

Training Program: Eight training flights.

**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)*

**Friday, 14 January 1944 (continued)**

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

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

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

## Saturday, 15 January 1944

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Lieutenant General Ira C Eaker, USAAF, assumes command of MAAF and Army Air Forces, MTO (AAFMTTO), replacing Air Chief Marshall Sir Arthur Tedder, RAF, and General Carl Spaatz, who along with Air Vice Marshall Sir Arthur Coningham, RAF, and numerous other American and British officers have departed for the UK. **In Italy**, B-25's attack the Foligno railway junction; B-26's bomb bridges at Orvieto. P-40's of the 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and RAF 239 Wing hit the San Valentino station in a joint attack; A-36's and other P-40's, in support of US Fifth Army forces, hit gun positions and strongpoints, especially at Picinisco and Atina; P-40's on armed reconnaissance hit the railroad W of Frosinone station and strafe the Ceccano station and railway cars.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 15 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report #, 15 January 1944**

Target: Radar Station at Giglio (428<sup>th</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

## Saturday, 15 January 1944 (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:** A nice warm, quiet day, with everyone taking it a bit easy. This was one of our “off” days with no mission scheduled.

**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:** Most of the tents in the area are using fuel oil, instead of wood, as it is easier to obtain. As seen from the top of the hill, the tents look like so many tea kettles on a large stove, each with its plume of smoke. Despite the advantages of burning oil, it has one serious draw-back. Soot is everywhere. Someone remarked that the area is beginning to look like Pittsburgh, which is true enough.

Training Program: Two Meteorology lectures by Major Cole, Group Weather Officer. Eight training flights.

*Cole, Frederick J., Maj, Group Weather Officer*

**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)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Our planes covered the Italian coast, and sighted no shipping. The bombs were dropped on the Radar Station at Giglio. Poor quality photos made damage interpretation difficult.

**Saturday, 15 January 1944 (continued)**

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :** *(428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 151)* On the 15<sup>th</sup> another six planes shadowed the coast of Italy above and below Elba. At the end of their run they deposited their load of 500 pounders on the radar station on Giglio. Near misses and possible hits could be observed on poor quality photos. The only enemy action observed was slight, inaccurate flak from the Southeast coast of Elba.

**A/C No. 41-13061 "Lil Joe"**

**P** *Evans, George N., Capt*  
**CP** *McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
**N** *Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
**B** *Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
**G** *Mayronne, Clyde A., Sgt*  
**TG** *Dewald, Roy E., S/Sgt*  
**F** *Epperson, Elmer H., Lt. Col,*  
*Commander (observer)*

**A/C No. 41-13094 "Seasweep"**

**P** *Fleming, Thornton (NMI), 1Lt*  
**CP** *Sandstrom, John E., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Smirnoff, Andrew P., 2Lt,*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Hook, Raymond K., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Rankin, James V., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Hooks, Fred F., Sgt,*  
**F** *Williamson, Felton J., Pvt*

**A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified**

**P** *Waugh, Carter H., 1Lt*  
**CP** *Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Baraniuk, Jerry M., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *East, Charles D., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Agin, Clealon J., Sgt*  
**TG** *Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

**A/C No. 42-32492**

*Hogan, Jack F., F/O*  
*Edelman, Forrest J., F/O*  
*None*  
*Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt*  
  
*Kelly, Phillip J., S/Sgt*  
*Porch, Dean O., S/Sgt*  
*Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
*None*

**A/C No. 42-64592**

*Edwards, William P., 2Lt*  
*Sebor, George (NMI), 2Lt*  
*Renton, Walter C., Jr., 1Lt*  
*Lanning, Fred H., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Jack, Robert C., Sgt*  
*Houseman, Charles M., Jr., S/Sgt*  
*Moynihan, Donald M., Pvt*  
*Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

**A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE"  
/ "ROYAL FLUSH"**

*Bitter, Irwin S., Capt*  
*Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Boatler, Sidney K., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Standish, Beverly R., T/Sgt*  
*Sigafoos, James F., Jr., S/Sgt*  
*Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
*Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

**Sunday, 16 January 1944**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF): In Italy,** B-25's bomb the marshalling yard and choke points at Terni; B-26's attack the marshalling yard and bridge at Orte; A-20's bomb the town of Atina; P-40's attack bridges in the San Giorgio del Sannio area and gun emplacements near Cassino; Sant' Angelo in Theodice and Picinisco; A-36's hit the railway junction at Cecina, road and railway S of Siena, and the town areas of Avezzano and Formia. Transfers in Italy: HQ 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and 85<sup>th</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadrons from Madna Airfield to Capodichino with P-40's; and 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, XII Air Support Command (attached to 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group), from Madna Airfield to Capodichino with P-40's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 16 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

## Sunday, 16 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Two more crews arrived from Philippeville, giving us eight planes and crews now. Had steak for supper, and it was very good. The boys do enjoy a good meal.

**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:** There have been no shows for the past five nights, due to the fact that the projector is broken. It has been sent to Algiers for repair, and is not expected back for at least another week.

Rain again.

Training Program: Eight 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:** No Entry.

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



## Monday, 17 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-25's attack marshalling yards at Terni, Chiaravalle, and Montemarciano; B-26's strike the Orte railway bridge and Viterbo marshalling yard; P-40's hit the Sibenik, Yugoslavia harbor, the bridge at San Giorgio del Sannio, gun positions at San Giuseppe and Formia and docks at Anzio; A-36's bomb Anzio, the Avezzano town area and road junction, and Tarquinia town and factory buildings. Transfers in Italy: 87<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 79<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, from Madna Airfield to Capodichino with P-40's; 92<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron, 81<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group, from Castelvetrano, Sicily to Capodichino with P-39's.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: No Entry

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

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Mission Report # , 17 January 1944

Target- Radar Station, Porquerolles Island. (380<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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Mission Report # , 17 January 1944

Target- 2 or 3 thousand ton M/V in Imperia Harbor. (428<sup>th</sup> BS)

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: No Entry

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

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

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

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

380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: The boys seem to like Corsica much better than Africa. No arabs around to pester them. Squadron went on another mission today. A mail call tonight.

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

Mission Report # 146

Date- Jan. 17, 1944

Target- Radar Station, Porquerolles Island

Squadron airplanes- Five

Five of our Mitchell B-25 bombers took off at 1340 hours today on a sea rover in search of enemy shipping along the southern French coast. The sea was clear of craft so the alternate target, Radar Station on Porquerolles Isle was bombed.

## Monday, 17 January 1944 (continued)

Crews reported that the bombing pattern fell short and the target was still visible as the flight turned for home.

There was no flak nor enemy aircraft encountered in target area.

All five of our bombers landed safely at 1630 hours.

Photos were taken.

<b>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified</b> (flight leader)		<b>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</b>	
<b>P</b>	<i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>		<i>Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Drew, Edward A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>		<i>McBride, Daniel (NMI), 1Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Anderson, J.B., 2Lt</i>		<i>Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Cook, Keith L., Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>		<i>Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>		<i>Land, Wilson E., Sgt</i>
<b>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</b>		<b>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</b>	
<b>P</b>	<i>Folwell, Frank C., Capt</i>		<i>Persson, John G., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>		<i>Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt</i>		<i>Negle, Robert S., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Ackerson, Newell, W., 1Lt</i>		<i>O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Axelson, Edwin D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>		<i>Young, Charles C., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Adams, John E., Jr., 2Lt (observer)</i>		<i>Powers, John A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</b>			
<b>P</b>	<i>Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt</i>		
<b>CP</b>	<i>Fletcher, Ray Foley Bentley, 1Lt</i>		
<b>N</b>	<i>Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt</i>		
<b>B</b>	<i>Conway, Thomas F., 2 Lt</i>		
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		
<b>R</b>	<i>Elves, Ken M., S/Sgt</i>		
<b>G</b>	<i>Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt</i>		
<b>TG</b>	<i>McQuillen, Walter E., S/Sgt</i>		

## Monday, 17 January 1944 (continued)

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Capts. Abbott, Abplanalp, Coddington and Knight; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Horrocks; M/Sgt. Clyde Arnold and S/Sgt. Steve Galida returned from Algiers this afternoon. They flew up last Thursday for a few days' vacation.

Sgt. Freddie Barnes is in the hospital again.

Pvt. Robert C. Elton was assigned to the Squadron today.

The following named enlisted men have been put on detached service with the 6699<sup>th</sup> Depot Guard Company Detachment in Philippeville, for the purpose of acting as M.P.'s for the town: Pfc's F.R. DeGeorgio, V.L. Dell and R.L. Neff; and Pvts. L.D. Billedeaux and M.M. Carpenter.

Eighty-two of the officers and eighty-nine of the enlisted men who have been attached to the Squadron for rations and quarters have finally been assigned to other Squadrons of the Group and are moving to their new areas. The tents which they occupied are being taken down, which makes the place look pretty bare.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Goyer is relieved from duty as Assistant Engineering Officer and Technical Supply Officer, and appointed Squadron Personal Equipment Officer.

*Abbott, Robert D., Capt, Adjutant*                      *Abplanalp, Walter J., Capt, Armament Officer*

*Arnold, Clyde L., M/Sgt, engineering, line chief, crew chief*

*Barnes, Freddie H., Sgt, carpenter*                      *Billedeaux, Lincoln D. "Count", Pvt, supply*

*Carpenter, Milton M., Pvt,*

*Coddington, Walter E. "Codd", Capt, pilot, Operations Officer*

*DeGeorgio, Frank R., Pvt,*

*Dell, Vernon L., PFC,*

*Elton, Robert C., Pvt,*

*Galida, Steve M., S/Sgt,*

*Goyer, Peter F., 1Lt, engineering*

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

*Knight, Thomas R., Capt, Signals Officer*      *Neff, Richard L., Sgt, gunner*

**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)*

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

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :** *(428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 152)* On the next trip out, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, six 428<sup>th</sup> aircraft destroyed a two to three thousand ton M/V in the harbor at Imperia. The bombing pattern was unusually accurate. The vessel had been damaged last year and was just about ready for use once again. A truly fine performance. Again there was no opposition.

**Monday, 17 January 1944 (continued)**

**A/C No. 41-13061 "Lil Joe"**

**P** *Evans, George N., Capt*  
**CP** *McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
**N** *Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
**B** *Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
**G** *Mayronne, Clyde A., Sgt*  
**TG** *Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
**F** *Epperson, Elmer H., Lt. Col,*  
*Commander (observer)*

**A/C No. probably 42-64592**

**P** *Everiss, William Raymond, 2Lt*  
**CP** *Company, Richard N., 2Lt*  
**N** *Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt*  
**B** *Kalis, William H., Jr., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Booth, Jack D., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Kelly, Andrew R., Cpl*  
**TG** *Sisson, John E., Sgt*  
**F** *Williamson, Felton J., Pvt*

**A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE"  
/ "ROYAL FLUSH"**

**P** *Bitter, Irwin S., Capt*  
**CP** *Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
**N** *Opeka, John (NMI), Jr., 1Lt*  
**B** *Boatler, Sidney K., 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Standish, Beverly R., T/Sgt*  
**G** *Sigafoos, James F., Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Lim, Wing Y., S/Sgt*  
**F** *Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

**A/C No. 41-13094 "Seasweep"**

*Fleming, Thornton (NMI), 1Lt*  
*Sandstrom, John E., 2Lt*  
*Ewalt, William F., 2Lt,*  
*Smirnoff, Andrew P., 2Lt,*  
*None*  
*Hook, Raymond K., S/Sgt*  
*Rankin, James V., S/Sgt*  
*Donaldson, William M., Sgt*  
*None*

**A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified**

*Waugh, Carter H., 1Lt*  
*Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt*  
*Lick, Edmund W., 2Lt*  
*Baraniuk, Jerry M., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*East, Charles D., S/Sgt*  
*Agin, Clealon J., Sgt*  
*Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt*  
*None*

**A/C No. probably 42-32492**

*Holley, Hazil L., F/O*  
*Konieczka, William F., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Burkett, William H., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
*Ramos, Smiles (NMI), Pvt*  
*Hooks, Fred F., Sgt*  
*None*

## Tuesday, 18 January 1944

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

**In Italy**, B-26's hit the harbor, tin mills, steel works, power house, and blast furnaces at Piombino, and bomb the Montalto di Castro railroad and bridge; B-25's hit the town and railway viaduct at Terni, and A-20's blast gun positions in the Minturno area; P-40's hit trains, wharves and vessels in the Ploca and Metkovic, Yugoslavia areas; A-36's and P-40's pound troops, trucks, and gun positions in the Minturno area and near Pontecorvo and Atina, hit a gasoline dump at Pignataro Interamna, a warehouse at Fontana Liri, a factory at Ceprano, the rail and road junction at Avezzano, and railway at Santa Marinella. Transfers in Italy: 81<sup>st</sup> and 434<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 12<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), from Foggia to Gaudo Airfield with B-25's; 307<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Group, from Pomigliano to Castel Volturno with P-51's; 344<sup>th</sup>, 345<sup>th</sup> and 415<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Heavy), 98<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy), from Manduria to Lecce with B-24's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report # , January 1944**

Target- M/V 2,000 tons at 43°24'N; 10°15'E. (380<sup>th</sup> BS - 147)

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

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**Mission Report # , 18 January 1944**

Target- M/V 2,000 tons at 43°24'N; 10°15'E. (380<sup>th</sup> BS - 148)

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

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**Mission Report # , 18 January 1944**

Target- 2000 ton M/V moving toward Marseilles off Nice. (428<sup>th</sup> BS - 153)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Tuesday, 18 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** We are having beautiful weather now. A better day than usual, for our boys went on two missions. Col. Hunter arrived today. The 347<sup>th</sup> entertained us with a good picture tonight. "The Fallen Sparrow", with John Garfield.

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

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

Mission Report # 147

Date- Jan. 18, 1944

Target- M/V 2,000 tons at 43°24'N; 10°15'E.

Squadron airplanes- Six

A sight was made by the British Reconnaissance Marauder in the late morning at 1235 hours. Six of our Mitchells took off to bomb the 2,000 ton M/V observed at 43°24'N; 10°15'E.

A perfect exhibition of bombing was turned in by our bombardiers as four strings of bombs were seen to quarter the vessel amidships. Last seen it was listing and definitely sinking.

Slight inaccurate heavy and light flak was experienced from two vessels just south of target vessel. Some slight inaccurate heavy flak was also reported coming from shore batteries at approximately 43°23'N; 10°27'E.

There were about twenty coasters and small craft also in target area between Castiglioncello and Cecina Marina. Target time was 1330 hours.

All six of our bombers landed at 1400 hours.

Photos were taken.

<b>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified</b> (flight leader)	<b>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</b>
<b>P</b> <i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>	<i>Derrick, William S., 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Drew, Edward A., 1Lt</i>	<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>
<b>N</b> <i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>	<i>Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Anderson, J.B., 2Lt</i>	<i>Ackerson, Newell, W., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>	<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>
<b>F</b> <i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</b>	<b>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</b>
<b>P</b> <i>Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt</i>	<i>Schneider, William J., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt</i>	<i>Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b> <i>McBride, Daniel (NMI), 1Lt</i>	<i>Rath, Walter J., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt</i>	<i>Alexander, U.G., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt</i>	<i>Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Cook, Keith L., Sgt</i>	<i>Barny, Arthur J., Jr., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC</i>	<i>Crocker, David A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b> <i>Land, Wilson E., Sgt</i>	<i>None</i>

## Tuesday, 18 January 1944 (continued)

### A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt*  
**CP** *Fletcher, Ray Foley Bentley, 1Lt*  
**N** *Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt*  
**B** *Conway, Thomas F., 2 Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Elves, Ken M., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *McQuillen, Walter E., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

*Persson, John G., Capt*  
*Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt*  
*Negle, Robert S., 2Lt*  
*O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Axelsson, Edwin D., S/Sgt*  
*Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt*  
*Young, Charles C., S/Sgt*  
*Powers, John A., S/Sgt*

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

Mission Report # 148

Date- Jan. 18, 1944

Target- M/V 2,000 tons at 43°24'N; 10°15'E.

Squadron airplanes- Six

Just ninety minutes after returning from the first shipping strike off Castiglioncello, our bombers again took off and returned to that same spot to knock out the remaining craft.

Three small craft, stationary and close together, were chosen as the target and attacked. Time 1620 hours. Our bombs fell to left, short, and over boats, but were close enough to capsize one of the boats, which appeared to be a landing craft. One of two remaining boats, a coaster, sustained damage from near misses.

No flak. No enemy fighters observed or encountered. Small groups of motor boats and torpedo boats were observed in the vicinity of the target.

At 1700 hours our bombers landed safely at the home base.

Photos were taken.

### A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)

**P** *Dent, James J., Jr., Maj*  
**CP** *Drew, Edward A., 1Lt*  
**N** *Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt*  
**B** *Anderson, J.B., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt*  
**G** *McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Smith, Rushing E., Cpl*  
**F** *Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)*

### A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

*Derrick, William S., 2Lt*  
*Richardson, Richard K., F/O*  
*Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt*  
*Ackerson, Newell, W., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt*  
*Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt*  
*Hunt, Joe H., PFC*  
*None*

**Tuesday, 18 January 1944 (continued)**

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

**P** *Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt*  
**CP** *Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt*  
**N** *McBride, Daniel (NMI), 1Lt*  
**B** *Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt*  
**G** *Cook, Keith L., Sgt*  
**TG** *Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC*  
**F** *Land, Wilson E., Sgt*

**A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified**

**P** *Persson, John G., Capt*  
**CP** *Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt*  
**N** *Negle, Robert S., 2Lt*  
**B** *O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Axelsson, Edwin D., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Young, Charles C., S/Sgt*  
**F** *Powers, John A., S/Sgt*

**A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified**

*Schneider, William J., Capt*  
*Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt*  
*Rath, Walter J., 2Lt*  
**Alexander, U.G., 1Lt**  
*None*  
*Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt*  
*Barny, Arthur J., Jr., S/Sgt*  
*Crocker, David A., S/Sgt*  
*None*

**A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified**

*Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt*  
*Fletcher, Ray Foley Bentley, 1Lt*  
*Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt*  
*Conway, Thomas F., 2 Lt*  
*None*  
*Elves, Ken M., S/Sgt*  
*Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt*  
*McQuillen, Walter E., S/Sgt*  
*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:** Everyone is enjoying the bit of good weather that we have been having lately. A few of the more warm blooded among us were observed taking sun baths.

Colonel Hunter is leaving for the base in Corsica. There is a persistent rumor that eight of our new crews will go on D.S. with the Squadrons which are already up there.

Major Campbell, Squadron Executive Officer has been appointed Provost Marshall of the town of Philippeville. This will be in addition to his other duties.

Cpl. M.L. Stern and Pfc. F.L. Herron will be M.P.'s in Philippeville.

The following enlisted men were assigned to the Squadron today: Cpl. S. (NMI) Filipowicz; Pfc's A.W. Stapleton and C.J. Sullivan and Pvt. F.H. Wagner.

Training Program: Eight training flights.

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

**Herron, Franklyn L., PFC,**

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

**Stapleton, Albert W., Jr., PFC,**

**Sullivan, Cyril J., PFC,**

**Filipowicz, Stanley (NMI), Cpl,**

**Stern, Marcus L. "Moe", Cpl,**

**Wagner, Frederick H., Jr., Pvt,**

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



## Tuesday, 18 January 1944 (continued)

**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)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Both squadrons participated in highly successful raids. At Imperia, at Castiglioncello boats were sunk. Colonel Hunter, who arrived today, had reason to be pleased. Briefing room and S-2 offices are pretty well set up now, and the arrangement promises to be excellent. Squadron facilities are also some of the best we have had. Percy Campbell, Sergeant Welder, has made a mess-kit washing device which beats everything this outfit has ever seen. It is a copy of one Major Epperson saw at Oudna. A large Italian tent serves as a mess hall, and the orderly room is situated in a room in what used to be the police station.

*Campbell, Percy H., Sgt, welder*

*Epperson, Elmer H., Lt Col, pilot, Commander*

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

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

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :** *(428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 153)* On the 18<sup>th</sup> the unit's six airplanes were alerted to a 2000 ton M/V moving toward Marseilles off Nice. The target this time appeared to go Scot-free. The formation safely weathered slight inaccurate heavy and intense, inaccurate light flak from the target and a single small escort vessel..

### *A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified*

**P** *Waugh, Carter H., 1Lt*  
**CP** *Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt*  
**N** *Lick, Edmund W., 2Lt*  
**B** *Baraniuk, Jerry M., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *East, Charles D., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Agin, Clealon J., Sgt*  
**TG** *Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### **A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH" (crash landed - total loss)**

*Bitter, Irwin S., Capt*  
*Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
*Opeka, John (NMI), Jr., 1Lt*  
*Boatler, Sidney K., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Standish, Beverly R., T/Sgt*  
*Sigafoos, James F., Jr., S/Sgt*  
*Lim, Wing Y., S/Sgt*  
*Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

**Tuesday, 18 January 1944 (continued)**

**A/C No. *probably* 41-13094  
"Seasweep"**

**P** *Holley, Hazil L., F/O*  
**CP** *Reetz, Walter R., 2Lt*  
**N** *Konieczka, William F., 1Lt*  
**B** *Leasure, Oliver B., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Ramos, Smiles (NMI), Pvt*  
**TG** *Hooks, Fred F., Sgt*  
**F** *None*

**A/C No. 42-32492**

**P** *Hogan, Jack F., F/O*  
**CP** *Edelman, Forrest J., F/O*  
**N** *Ewalt, William F., 2Lt,*  
**B** *Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt*  
**E**  
**R** *Kelly, Phillip J., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Porch, Dean O., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Hirt, Fred A., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

**A/C No. 41-13061 "Lil Joe"**

*Evans, George N., Capt*  
*McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
*Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
*Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
*Mayronne, Clyde A., Sgt*  
*Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
*None*

**A/C No. *probably* 42-64592**

*Everiss, William Raymond, 2Lt*  
*Company, Richard N., 2Lt*  
*Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt*  
*Kalis, William H., Jr., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Booth, Jack D., S/Sgt*  
*Kelly, Andrew R., Cpl*  
*Sisson, John E., Sgt*  
*Williamson, Felton J., Pvt*

## Wednesday, 19 January 1944

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

**In Italy**, B-25's bomb Rieti Airfield; B-26's hit the airfield at Viterbo; A-20's attack the marshalling yard at Colleferro; P-40's bomb and strafe 2 schooners at Makarska, Yugoslavia; A-36's hit guns, trucks, and trains N of Rome and fly 70+ sorties against rail, communications and troop positions in the US Fifth Army battle area as the Garigliano bridgehead expands; P-40's also hit defended positions in the battle area and near Scauri, Tremensuoli, and Alvito. Transfers in Italy: HQ 12<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium) and 82<sup>nd</sup> and 83<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Squadrons (Medium) from Foggia to Gaudo Airfield with B-25's; HQ 27<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group and 522<sup>nd</sup>, 523<sup>rd</sup> and 524<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Squadrons from Paestum to Pomigliano with A-36's; HQ 31<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group and 309<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron from Pomigliano to Castel Volturno with P-51's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report # , 19 January 1944**

Target- 10,000 ton M/V heading toward the French coast. (428<sup>th</sup> BS - 154)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

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

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Had pancakes for breakfast, and they were better than usual. Plenty of seconds, too. The only activity of the day was the gathering and chopping of wood.

**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:** Steak for dinner, and afterwards, a very large mail call.

Training Program: Sixteen training flights - formation flying and target runs, firing the 75 mm cannon at a small rock off shore.

**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:** No Entry.

## Wednesday, 19 January 1944 (continued)

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : (428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 154)** The next morning the sighting of a 10,000 ton M/V sent six of our B-25's scooting toward the French coast. On the bomb runs, at least four FW-190's, the first we had seen, attacked the first element. Captain Bitter and two members of his crew were wounded. S/Sgt John Sviantek, his gunner, suffered injuries that will probably cost him one eye. T/Sgt. Amirault, aerial photographer, suffered a scalp wound and bits of shell fragments imbedded in one of his legs. Captain Bitter had a sliver of steel run through his hand and another fragment inflicted a flesh wound in his back. S/Sgt Lungner, Radio Operator, received a hip wound. The aircraft was riddled, a total loss. The successful crash landing at the base by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. "Hub" Arnoult, the co-pilot, is a testimonial of his exceptional ability.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thornton Fleming's aircraft was also badly battered. S/Sgt Donaldson, his tail gunner, received a serious leg injury from a 20mm cannon burst. The vessel was missed, but some consolation might be derived from the destruction of the FW-190 that did the bulk of the damage by the guns of the tail gunner, S/Sgt Alexander Pudlo. Another probable was chalked up. The escort put away another FW of a separate flight of four. Moderate, heavy, inaccurate and accurate, plus intense light flak afforded further opposition in the target area. This fire came from the target, five escort vessels, and the surrounding islands.

### A/C No. 1 *aircraft unidentified*

**P** *Waugh, Carter H., 1Lt*  
**CP** *Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt*  
**N** *Lick, Edmund W., 2Lt*  
**B** *Baraniuk, Jerry M., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *East, Charles D., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Agin, Clealon J., Sgt*  
**TG** *Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. probably 42-64592

**P** *Sebor, George (NMI), 2Lt*  
**CP** *Everiss, William Raymond, 2Lt*  
**N** *Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt*  
**B** *Lanning, Fred H., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Jack, Robert C., Sgt*  
**G** *Houseman, Charles M., Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Hopkins, HQ 310BG (observer)*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 41-13074 "BALLS OF FIRE" / "ROYAL FLUSH" (crash landed - total loss)

*Bitter, Irwin S., Capt*  
*Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
*Opeka, John (NMI), Jr., 1Lt*  
*Boatler, Sidney K., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Lungner, Quentin L., S/Sgt*  
*Sviantek, John L., Sgt*  
*Sisson, John E., Sgt*  
*Amirault, Osborne J., Sgt*

### A/C No. 41-13061 "Lil Joe"

*Evans, George N., Capt*  
*McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
*Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
*Pound, William R., Jr., Capt, HQ 310BG*  
*None*  
*Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
*Mayronne, Clyde A., Sgt*  
*Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
*None*

**Wednesday, 19 January 1944 (continued)**

**A/C No. 41-13094 "Seasweep"**

**P** *Fleming, James L., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Sandstrom, John E., 2Lt*  
**N** *Ewalt, William T., 2Lt*  
**B** *Heitman, Oliver C., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Hook, Raymond K., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Rankin, James V., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Donaldson, William M., Sgt*  
**F** *None*

**A/C No. probably 42-32492**

*Holley, Hazil L., F/O*  
*Reetz, Walter R., 2Lt*  
*Konieczka, William F., 1Lt*  
*Burkett, William H., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
*Ramos, Smiles (NMI), Pvt*  
*Hooks, Fred F., Sgt*  
*Bean, Herman B., Cpl*

## Thursday, 20 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-26's bomb the Viterbo marshalling yard and attack a bridge at Pontecorvo; B-25's attack railroads in the Carsoli area; A-20's give close support to the US 5th Infantry Division in the Minturno area; British and US P-40's follow RAF light bombers in a raid on the Popoli station; A-36's pound a rail and road crossing at Viterbo and P-40's hit communications at Frosinone, Palestrina, and Carsoli, where a traffic block is created; A-36's and P-40's fly nearly 200 sorties in support of the US Fifth Army ground forces as the 36th Infantry Division begins an assault across the Rapido River in the Theodice area; and P-40's hit targets along the British Eighth Army front.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 20 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report # , 20 January 1944**

Target- M/V 3000 ton, in Piombino Harbor, Italy (380<sup>th</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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, 20 January 1944 (continued)

<b>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified</b> (flight leader)		<b>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</b>	
<b>P</b>	<i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>		<i>Derrick, William S., 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Drew, Edward A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>		<i>Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Anderson, J.B., 2Lt</i>		<i>Ackerson, Newell, W., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>		<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>		<i>Adams, John E., Jr., 2Lt (observer)</i>
<b>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</b>		<b>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</b>	
<b>P</b>	<i>Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt</i>		<i>Persson, John G., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt</i>		<i>Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>McBride, Daniel (NMI), 1Lt</i>		<i>Negle, Robert S., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt</i>		<i>O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt</i>		<i>Axelson, Edwin D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Cook, Keith L., Sgt</i>		<i>Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC</i>		<i>Young, Charles C., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Land, Wilson E., Sgt</i>		<i>Powers, John A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</b>		<b>A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified</b>	
<b>P</b>	<i>Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt</i>		<i>Schneider, William J., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Fletcher, Ray Foley Bentley, 1Lt</i>		<i>Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt</i>		<i>Rath, Walter J., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Conway, Thomas F., 2Lt</i>		<i>Alexander, U.G., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Elves, Ken M., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Barny, Arthur J., Jr., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>McQuillen, Walter E., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Markle, Elmer J., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Three fried eggs and bacon for breakfast, and toast with fresh butter. Try and beat that for starting the day off, in Africa or anywhere else. The eggs were the result of a coup made by S/Sgt. Fred Zeiss. No pun intended, as they don't have chicken coops hereabouts.

Training Program: Sixteen training flights - formation flying and target runs.  
*Zeiss, Fredrik W., S/Sgt, mail clerk*



## Thursday, 20 January 1944 (continued)

**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)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** A day of rest. The outfit busies itself by chopping a supply of wood for fuel. Casualties: three ax handles. Many of the officers could use a hitch on their uncle's farms.

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

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

## Friday, 21 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-26's hit railroad bridges N and S of Orvieto; B-25's bomb chokepoints around Rome and unsuccessfully attack the Pontecorvo bridge; A-20's attack communications at Atina; P-40's hit shipping at Povelje, Yugoslavia; other P-40's and A-36's attack strongpoints, trucks, a command post, a HQ building, and radar station in the battle area; P-40's also give close support to US Fifth Army troops which are hardpressed at both Garigliano and the Rapido River bridgeheads; and A-36's bomb Veletri, a concentration at Minturno, and the area S of Viterbo. "B" and "C" Flights of the 15<sup>th</sup> Combat Mapping Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Group, depart Colorado Springs, Colorado to join "A" Flight. The 15<sup>th</sup>, based at Bari, Italy with F-5's and B-25's, has been in the MTO since Dec 42. 381<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), transfers from Philippeville, Algeria to Ghisonaccia, Corsica with B-25's.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report # , 21 January 1944**

Target- Sea Search (380<sup>th</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

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

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** More new men arrived this afternoon. They are "G" crews in the 381<sup>st</sup> Sqdn, and are temporarily attached to us for rations. Our mess is feeding over 400 men. Had a show tonight. "Sleepy Lagoon" with Judy Canova.

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

Mission Report # 150

Date- Jan. 21, 1944

Target- Sea Search

Squadron airplanes- Six

A ten-thousand ton tanker was sighted by the British recce Marauder during the morning. At 1200 hours six of our B-25's took off to search for it along the French Coast east of Nice.

A 9/10 cumulus development at 2000 ft. along the coast prevented our bombers from attacking the alternate target, rail line at Bordighero, after the search for the taker was in vain. All bombs were returned and our ships landed safely at 1430 hours.

No photos were taken.

## Friday, 21 January 1944 (continued)

<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</i>
<b>P</b> <i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>	<i>Derrick, William S., 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Drew, Edward A., 1Lt</i>	<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>
<b>N</b> <i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>	<i>Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Anderson, J.B., 2Lt</i>	<i>Ackerson, Newell, W., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>	<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>
<b>F</b> <i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</i>
<b>P</b> <i>Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt</i>	<i>Schneider, William J., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt</i>	<i>Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b> <i>McBride, Daniel (NMI), 1Lt</i>	<i>Rath, Walter J., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt</i>	<i>Alexander, U.G., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt</i>	<i>Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Cook, Keith L., Sgt</i>	<i>Barny, Arthur J., Jr., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC</i>	<i>Markle, Elmer J., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b> <i>Land, Wilson E., Sgt</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified</i>
<b>P</b> <i>Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt</i>	<i>Persson, John G., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Fletcher, Ray Foley Bentley, 1Lt</i>	<i>Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b> <i>Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt</i>	<i>Negle, Robert S., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Conway, Thomas F., 2Lt</i>	<i>O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Elves, Ken M., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Axelson, Edwin D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Shields, Joseph E., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Young, Charles C., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b> <i>None</i>	<i>Powers, John A., S/Sgt</i>

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** This morning twelve planes with their full combat crews left for Corsica to commence operations. They were accompanied by sufficient ground personnel to keep the planes in the air. The total on D.S.: Twenty-eight officers and sixty-nine enlisted men. Although there had been some rumors that this might take place, the announcement came as a complete surprise to everyone. All personnel leaving brought their baggage to a point near the Orderly Room, where it was loaded into trucks and taken to the line. This was accomplished in a haze of very welcome excitement. Perhaps the rest of us will be moving up soon. Everyone hopes so, as a four month's vacation from combat is becoming monotonous.

## Friday, 21 January 1944 (continued)

News was received today of an Allied landing some 30 miles South of Rome. No details were available.

S/Sgt. Paul (NMI) Dees left for Algiers this morning en route to the U.S.A. In the same plane with him were Sgt. Jim Rockett and Cpl. Nels Johnson, who will spend a three day pass in Algiers.

The following named men were assigned to the Squadron today: Sgt. K.L. Myers, Cpl. L. E. Sublett, and Pfc. A.S. Sichelski.

Eight S/Sgts. Were promoted to T/Sgt.

Steak for dinner tonight. There was so much on hand that one of the cooks was sent into the mess hall to announce that meat was going to waste. Of course, there was a mad rush immediately, and it was all gone in a matter of minutes. For dessert there was cake with real frosting on it. It was made in town by a regular baker.

Another dance was given in town by the 381<sup>st</sup> tonight. Printed invitations had been distributed to all likely Mademoiselles in town, who showed up in great numbers dressed in their Sunday best. Music was supplied by a 7 piece French civilian orchestra. Sandwiches and punch were served throughout the evening. Major Cometh advised "Thumbtacking" the punch instead of spiking it. It is said that whoever thumbtacked it was very accomplished at that art, as the liquid refreshments were a howling success. The Prisoners were among the guests. All dressed up in their O.D. clothes, they were indistinguishable from regular G.I.'s. They had a very festive evening, and were not at all bashful about cutting in on the Americans if they spotted a Mademoiselle to their liking.

Training Program: Two aircraft identification lectures by Lt. Harris.

<i>Dees, Paul (NMI), S/Sgt, turret-gunner</i>	<i>Harris, Wayne A., 1Lt, intelligence, 428<sup>th</sup> BS</i>
<i>Johnson, Nels R. "Chow-hound", Cpl,</i>	<i>Rockett, James C., Sgt,</i>
<i>Sichelski, Andrew S., PFC, radio-gunner</i>	<i>Sublett, L. E. (i.o.), Cpl,</i>

**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:**  
*"Move to Corsica."*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The 381<sup>st</sup> arrived today with their "G"'s. Our mess hall is heavily overloaded. Half of the squadron's mess personnel are absent, and we are feeding the squadron, the group officers, and the 381<sup>st</sup> officers. That the food is good is a tribute to them, and to some kind of dumb luck, for the rations have been excellent with lots of fresh meat and butter.

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

## Saturday, 22 January 1944

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

**In Italy**, maximum support is given to Allied landings at Anzio, which are begun by the US Fifth Army's VI Corps at 0200; fighter-bombers, light and medium bombers direct efforts toward isolating the landing area by cutting roads, bridges, and railroads and obstructing towns in the surrounding region, at Valettri, Valmontone, Collesferro, Ceprano, and Fondi and hitting traffic and communications throughout the area; fighters maintain a patrol over shipping and beachhead and successfully intercept several enemy fighter-bomber missions directed against the landings.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 22 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report # , 22 January 1944**

Target- Porto Ferrario Harbor, Elba. Shipping (380<sup>th</sup> BS & 428<sup>th</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**



## Saturday, 22 January 1944 (continued)

<i>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)</i>	<i>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</i>
<b>P</b> <i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>	<i>Derrick, William S., 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Drew, Edward A., 1Lt</i>	<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>
<b>N</b> <i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>	<i>Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Anderson, J.B., 2Lt</i>	<i>Ackerson, Newell, W., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>	<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>
<b>F</b> <i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</i>
<b>P</b> <i>Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt</i>	<i>Persson, John G., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt</i>	<i>Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b> <i>McBride, Daniel (NMI), 1Lt</i>	<i>Negle, Robert S., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt</i>	<i>O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt</i>	<i>Axelson, Edwin D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Cook, Keith L., Sgt</i>	<i>Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC</i>	<i>Young, Charles C., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b> <i>Land, Wilson E., Sgt</i>	<i>Powers, John A., S/Sgt</i>
<i>A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified</i>	<i>A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified</i>
<b>P</b> <i>Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt</i>	<i>Schneider, William J., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Fletcher, Ray Foley Bentley, 1Lt</i>	<i>Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b> <i>Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt</i>	<i>Rath, Walter J., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>Conway, Thomas F., 2Lt</i>	<i>Alexander, U.G., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Elves, Ken M., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Barny, Arthur J., Jr., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Shields, Joseph E., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Campbell, Charles A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Major Cometh left for Corsica at noon today. In his plane were Capts. Abbott and Abplanalp; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mason, S/Sgts. Morningstar and Pummill; and Sgt. J.D. Thompson. They had taken off in the flight of planes that left yesterday, but were unable to retract the landing gear, and had to return. Rumor has it that S/Sgt. Morningstar fixed the landing gear by placing his barracks bag in the nacelle. Seems that the Sgt. had a really super date for the dance last night.

## Saturday, 22 January 1944 (continued)

Today's news did not include information on the landing near Rome other than that it is progressing.

Pfc. George W. Tolley is absent sick at the 57<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital.

The projector is in commission again, so there was a show tonight: "Jane Eyre", with Joan Fontaine and Orson Wells.

*Abbott, Robert D., Capt, Adjutant*

*Abplanalp, Walter J., Capt, Armament Officer*

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

*Mason, John Joseph, Jr., 1Lt, intelligence*

*Morningstar, Boyd D. "Moon", S/Sgt,*

*Pummill, Earl (NMI), S/Sgt, photographer*

*Thompson, James D. "J.D.", Sgt, personnel*

*Tolley, George W., PFC,*

**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)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The boys hit the "E" boat concentration at Porto Ferrario, helping to neutralize any threat to the impending landing at Nettuno. The bar is full almost every night. The novelty will probably wear off, but it is doing a land-office business, and it is necessary to go out and get more Eau De Vie every few days. Some of the boys think the stuff should be called "Eau De Mort", or else reserved for fuel for diesel engines -- it burns beautifully.

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :** *(428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 155)* The morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> brought news of the impending landing at Nettuno. The 310<sup>th</sup> mission on this day was to strike at the collection of "E" boats at Elba in Port Ferrario. This was a 12 plane effort combining the forces of both the 380<sup>th</sup> and 428<sup>th</sup>. From eight to twelve of the twenty to thirty "E" boats in the harbor were definitely destroyed and the unserviceability of many of the others was probable. Dock installations were hit, igniting several fires. Moderate inaccurate heavy and light flak dotted the sky in the target area but to no avail. The turn away left a pall of smoke in the harbor area. Another job well done.



**Saturday, 22 January 1944 (continued)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Sunday, 23 January 1944

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Colonel William S Gravelly takes command of XII Air Force Training and Replacement Command. B-26's bomb the area S of Avezzano while B-25's hit the town of Avezzano and road junction at Monte Cornacchia; A-20's bomb Vallecorsa with good results; A-36's attack Vallecorsa, road junctions at Fondi and in the Priverno area, the town of Ceccano, and railroad at Sezze; P-47's bomb the bridge at Skradin, Yugoslavia; RAF Desert Air Force (DAF) fighters strafe tanks and trucks on the British Eighth Army front, and XII Air Support Command fighters cover the US Fifth Army's Anzio beachhead during the day.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 23 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report #, 23 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report #, 23 January 1944**

Target- Sea Search (380<sup>th</sup> BS & 428<sup>th</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

**Sunday, 23 January 1944 (continued)**

*A/C No. 3 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 Sweep

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**

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

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

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

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

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Had a very large mail call this afternoon. Lots of letters and packages came to pep the boys up. And steak for supper. Fresh meat is getting to be the thing on our menu. Had our first air raid alert tonight. The planes were intercepted before reaching us, thank goodness.

## Sunday, 23 January 1944 (continued)

**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)*

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

Mission Report # 152

Date- Jan. 23, 1944

Target- Sea Search

Squadron airplanes- Five

No luck today. A twelve-ship formation, six bombers of the 380<sup>th</sup>, took off at 1355 hrs on a sea rover. The Italian coast was searched; Elba was given the once over, but no shipping was sighted. All bombs were brought back.

Fairly accurate slight heavy flak was encountered from southern coast of Elba. No E/A observed or encountered. A radar station on a high hilltop on Elba Isle at 42°46'N 10°07'E was sighted.

All our aircraft landed safely at 1635 hrs.

No photos were taken.

<b>A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)</b>		<b>A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified</b>	
<b>P</b>	<i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>		<i>Derrick, William S., 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Drew, Edward A., 1Lt</i>		<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>		<i>Lewis, Jack (NMI), 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Conway, Thomas F., 2Lt</i>		<i>Halsey, James L., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>		<i>Brinson, Lloyd D., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>		<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified</b>		<b>A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified</b>	
<b>P</b>	<i>Persson, John G., Capt</i>		<i>Schneider, William J., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt</i>		<i>Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Negle, Robert S., 2Lt</i>		<i>Rath, Walter J., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>O'Meara, Benedict James, 1Lt</i>		<i>Alexander, U.G., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Axelson, Edwin D., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Barny, Arthur J., Jr., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Young, Charles C., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Campbell, Charles A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Powers, John A., S/Sgt</i>		<i>None</i>

## Sunday, 23 January 1944 (continued)

### A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt*  
**CP** *Tozier, Everett Lane, 1Lt*  
**N** *Moore, Joseph (NMI), 2Lt*  
**B** *Shaffer, Earl J., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Robertson, Russell E., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Shields, Joseph E., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The landing near Rome, according to the BBC News Broadcast, has resulted in the establishment of a beach head. Patrols are reported to be plunging into enemy held territory with little or no opposition from the Germans. Nine German divisions totaling about 100,000 men will be trapped if the Allies can succeed in cutting their lines of communication---the three main roads leading southeast from Rome.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank P. Wells known to all as "Pop" and liked and kidded by everyone, and twelve enlisted men left by transport for Corsica.

Rations were distributed for the first time in two weeks. Double quantities of everything were obtainable. It is said that we will not get them again for another two weeks. The fourteen packages of cigarettes and two boxes of matches distributed this time forecast a shortage in the very near future.

It is being said that a German propaganda broadcast announced that reprisals will be made against B-25 units stationed in Corsica, because of their successes against enemy shipping and radar stations. It's nice to know that we are getting in their hair to an extent that we merit so much publicity!

Training Program: Training films.

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

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** French-based German bombers, bridgehead bound, caused an alert tonight. 52<sup>nd</sup> Spits and our night fighters had a field day. A raid alert sent us trechward in time to watch an enemy bomber explode as it crashed against a mountain perhaps 20 miles to the North. It lit up the sky like some gigantic flare. Roast beef for dinner.

## Sunday, 23 January 1944 (continued)

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

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :** *(428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 155)* On the 23<sup>rd</sup> another 12-plane effort led by Captain Evans participated in a sea search. One of our aircraft returned early. No target was sighted, and no bombs were dropped.

### *A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified*

**P** *Evans, George N., Capt*  
**CP** *McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
**N** *Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
**B** *Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
**G** *Hirt, Fred A., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### *A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified*

**P** *Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Roberts, Kenneth C., 2Lt*  
**N** *Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt*  
**B** *Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *East, Charles D., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Agin, Clealon J., Sgt*  
**TG** *Hooks, Fred F., Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### *A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified*

**P** *Whitehurst, Ray e., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Farley, Jean N., 2Lt*  
**N** *Ewalt, William F., 2Lt,*  
**B** *Kalis, William H., Jr., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Tow, Charles W., Jr., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### *A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified*

*Fleming, James L., 2Lt*  
*Sandstrom, John E., 2Lt*  
*Konieczka, William F., 1Lt*  
*Baraniuk, Jerry M., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Kelly, Phillip J., S/Sgt*  
*Ramos, Smiles (NMI), Pvt*  
*Donaldson, William M., Sgt*  
*None*

### *A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified*

*Edwards, William P., 2Lt*  
*Sebor, George (NMI), 2Lt*  
*Lick, Edmund W., 2Lt*  
*Lanning, Fred H., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Booth, Jack D., S/Sgt*  
*Schenk, James S., Sgt*  
*Moynihan, Donald M., Pvt*  
*None*

### *A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified*

*Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt*  
*Company, Richard N., 2Lt*  
*Opeka, John (NMI), Jr., 1Lt*  
*Boatler, Sidney K., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Versaw, Robert E., S/Sgt*  
*Kelly, Andrew R., Cpl*  
*Sisson, John E., Sgt*  
*Bean, Herman B., Cpl*

## Monday, 24 January 1944

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Weather cancels all medium and light bomber operations. In Italy, fighters maintain cover over the Anzio beachhead (Anzio and Nettuno are captured during the day) and encounter increased air attacks; 3 fighters are claimed destroyed in aerial combat, while 1 Allied fighter is lost. P-40 fighter-bombers hit road at Penne, while A-36's bomb Velletri and the road junction E of town, and hit other communications targets.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 253**

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**Mission Report # , 24 January 1944**

Target: Sea Search (381<sup>st</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 253**  
*(379<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Another one of those quiet, inactive days. However, it was nice and warm, and no one minded taking things easy.

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 253**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Captain Richard VanDivort, one of the Squadron's original pilots, was killed in a plane crash in the United States, according to a letter received by Major W.T. Alexander. He had been piloting aircraft from factory to distribution points.

B-25-G's of the 381<sup>st</sup> Squadron flew their first mission from Ghisonaccia, Corsica. On this mission, a sea sweep, no shipping was sighted.

The beach head south of Rome is being extended by our forces.

*Alexander, William T. "Alex", Maj, pilot, Operations Officer, HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG  
VanDivort, Richard (NMI), Capt, pilot*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 253**

### SEA SEARCH

Flight Leader: F/O J.L. Peplinski

Squadron Mission # 144

Flight 4 B-25-G's

Escort: 8 P-39's

Ghisonaccia, 24 January, 1944

Group Mission # 253

Take Off: 07:30

Target: xxx

## Monday, 24 January 1944 (continued)

Shells Fired: xxx  
Range: xxx  
Altitude: xxx

Down: 09:00  
Total Time: 1 Hr. 30 Min.  
Mileage: 190  
Sorties to Date: 1099

RESULTS: No shipping was sighted. The following area was searched:

42° 15' N - 10° 11' E  
42° 36' N - 10° 32' E  
42° 34' N - 10° 43' E  
42° 07' N - 10° 44' E

OBSERVATIONS: Flak: None. E a/c, none encountered, none observed.

WEATHER: En route and return: CAVU with 3/10 high cirrus at 25,000 ft. Sea fog along the Italian coast.

### A Flight

#### A/C No. 42-64580-G (3)

**P** *Schwindle, Adam C. "Gus", 2Lt*  
**CP** *Kefer, Robert L., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *None*  
**E** *Clement, Sam (NMI), S/Sgt*  
**R** *Keller, Richard S., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Parmelee, Walter J., Pvt*  
**TG** *Burt, Warwick C. S., T/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

#### A/C No. 42-65158-G "Battle Baby" (2)

**P** *Lemmer, John W., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Winegar, William E. A., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *None*  
**E** *Hodnett, Stephen E., S/Sgt*  
**R** *Gordon, Robert H., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Goldyn, Walter (NMI), Sgt*  
**TG** *Bazzett, Julius L., Pvt*  
**F** *None*

#### A/C No. 42-65159-G "Heavenly Body" (1) (flight leader)

*Peplinski, James L., F/O*  
*Elmer, Ralph F., 2Lt*  
*Joyce, Bryan A., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Wright, Joseph F., S/Sgt*  
*Williams, Almas C., S/Sgt*  
*Haberman, Marvin A., Sgt*  
*None*  
*None*

#### A/C No. 42-65093-G (4)

*Corbin, Robert (NMI), F/O*  
*Gimson, Kieth L., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*None*  
*Tamer, Albert E., Sgt*  
*Cobb, Bert Alvin, S/Sgt*  
*Krueger, Charles Oliver, Sgt*  
*Daniell, James T., Pvt*  
*None*



## Monday, 24 January 1944 (continued)

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Quiet day, but steak for supper was something about which to get excited.

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 253**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Tuesday, 25 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-25's bomb Valmontone; B-26's hit the Sezze marshalling yard, the Sezze-Bassiano road, Amelia, and Rieti marshalling yard; A-20's attack Terelle; A-36's hit Civita Castellana, Itri, Velletri, and railroad rolling stock in the area; P-40's hit Velletri and Belmonte in Sabina and strafe trucks E of Fondi; P-40's and P-47's hit shipping in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, and nearby road and rail traffic. British fighters of the RAF DAF hit bridge approaches at Popoli, near the British Eighth Army front. Detachment of the 416<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, Twelfth Air Force (attached to RAF No. 286 Wing) at Rerhaia, Algeria returns to base at Grottaglie, Italy with Beaufighters.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 25 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 254**

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**Mission Report # , 25 January 1944**

Target: Sea Search (381<sup>st</sup> BS)

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 255**

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**Mission Report # , 25 January 1944**

Target: Sea Search (381<sup>st</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

**Tuesday, 25 January 1944 (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**

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 254**  
*(379<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 255**  
*(379<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Received word this afternoon that we were to pack and be ready to move in a day or two! The rumor is “back to Africa”. What kind of outfit is this? A show tonight. Pat O’Brien in “The Iron Major”.

**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 # : 254**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 255**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Two B-25-G missions were flown from Ghisonaccia.

**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 # : 254**

**SEA SEARCH**

Flight Leader: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. R.A. McLaughlin

Squadron Mission # 145

Flight 4 B-25-G's

Escort: 8 P-39's

Ghisonaccia, 25 January, 1944

Group Mission # 254

Take Off: 07:30

Target: 08:15

## Tuesday, 25 January 1944 (continued)

Shells Fired: 12 x 75 mm.  
Range: 500 yds to 5,800 yds.  
Altitude: 100 ft. to 500 ft.

Down: 09:10  
Total Time: 1 Hr. 40 Min.  
Mileage: 289  
Sorties to Date: 1,107

**RESULTS:** One 50-60 foot landing barge, believed beached at 42° 14' N - 11° 43' E was attacked. Four hits were scored, and debris was observed to fly from the barges. They appeared to be unoccupied. They were badly damaged as the result of the attack.

**OBSERVATIONS:** Flak: None. E a/c, none encountered, none observed.

**WEATHER:** En route: High cirrus. 6/10 cumulus at 3,000 feet 15 miles off the Italian coast. Visibility 6-8 miles. Thin haze over water. At target: Overcast at 2,500 feet.

### B Flight

#### A/C No. 42-65159-G "Heavenly Body" (3)

**P** *Branum, William Henry, 2Lt*  
**CP** *Riederer, Floyd L., Jr., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *None*  
**E** *Ochs, Percy W., S/Sgt*  
**R** *Wright, Hobert O., Sgt*  
**G** *Phipps, Kermit E., Sgt*  
**TG** *Darling, Robert E., Cpl*  
**F** *None*

#### A/C No. 42-65152-G (2)

**P** *Clark, Isaac S., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Johnson, Robert I., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *None*  
**E** *Deese, Leon C., S/Sgt*  
**R** *Duffy, John J., III, S/Sgt*  
**G** *Prall, Wilson Edgar, Sgt*  
**TG** *Dzienkiewicz, Francis J., Cpl*  
**F** *None*

#### A/C No. 42-64654-G (1) (flight leader)

*McLaughlin, Robert A., 2Lt*  
*Killian, Robert Faherty, 2Lt*  
*Kienitz, Richard Carlton "Dick", 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Leist, Jacob F., S/Sgt*  
*Biebighauser, Roy A., S/Sgt*  
*Myers, Kenneth L., Sgt*  
*None*  
*None*

#### A/C No. 42-65171-G (4)

*Heller, Leonard C. "Len", 2Lt*  
*Vosburgh, Albert E., Jr., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*None*  
*Campbell, Herbert William, S/Sgt*  
*Heaney, James A., S/Sgt*  
*Underwood, George B. "Woody", Sgt*  
*Smith, Harold W. "Smitty", Sgt*  
*None*

## Tuesday, 25 January 1944 (continued)

### 381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 255

#### SEA SEARCH

Flight Leader: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. G.M. Prior  
Squadron Mission # 146  
Flight 4 B-25-G's  
Escort: 8 Spits  
Shells Fired: 21 x 75 mm.  
Range: 400 yds to 1,000 yds.  
Altitude: 100 ft. to 500 ft.

Ghisonaccia, 25 January, 1944  
Group Mission # 255  
Take Off: 11:00  
Target: 11:40  
Down: 12:45  
Total Time: 1 Hr. 45 Min.  
Mileage: 238  
Sorties to Date: 1,111

RESULTS: A 150 foot coastal vessel and a marine floating light were sighted at 43° 35' N - 10° 12' E and attacked. Two direct hits and three near misses were scored on the coastal vessel with a small explosion causing orange flames to appear on the bow. One direct hit and two near misses were seen on the marine light. The coastal vessel is believed to have been partly submerged at the stern and abandoned before the attack.

OBSERVATIONS: Flak: None. E a/c: none encountered, none observed.

WEATHER: En route: Complete overcast at 2,000 feet, with rain near the Italian coast. Visibility, 4-6 miles. At Target: 10/10 coverage at 3,000 feet. Visibility 6 miles.

### C Flight

#### A/C No. 42-65097-G (3)

**P** *Akst, Irving B., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Brett, James W., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *None*  
**E** *Williams, James P., Sgt*  
**R** *Berzon, Isadore H., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Gatlin, Jack L., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Youngman, Thomas F., Pvt*  
**F** *None*

#### A/C No. 42-32464-G "The Goon Bird" (1) (flight leader)

*Prior, Gordon M. "Gordie", 2Lt*  
*Ray, Henry S., Jr., 2Lt*  
*Burton, Joseph A., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Nithman, Charles E., Cpl*  
*Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt*  
*Mintus, Frank J., S/Sgt*  
*None*  
*None*

## Tuesday, 25 January 1944 (continued)

A/C No. 42-65092-G (2)		A/C No. 42-32488-G (4)	
<b>P</b>	<i>Durante, Angelo M. C., 2Lt</i>		<i>Eaton, Frank R., 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Capers, Jack H., 1Lt</i>		<i>Shearer, Clyde P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>Zittel, Howard L., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Burgess, Archie J., Sgt</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Sichelski, Andrew S., PFC</i>		<i>Edwards, Wilbur O., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Lazorshak, Paul (NMI), Pvt</i>		<i>Gilbert, Louis M., Pvt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Harris, Robert Milton, Pvt</i>		<i>Holubek, John W., Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner:*  
"Mission #27. Short mission to Leghorn. No target."

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Heaney, James A., S/Sgt, radio-gunner:*  
"No. 1 Jan. 25, 1944 - Crew: Heller, Vosburgh, Smith, Underwood, Campbell & Heaney. Seasweep around N. Italy shot up Barge near Leghorn. No Flak or fighters. 8 P-39's for escort. A.C. # 42-65171. Time: 1:40"  
*Campbell, Herbert William, S/Sgt, engineer-gunner*  
*Heller, Leonard C. "Len", 2Lt, pilot*  
*Smith, Harold W. "Smitty", Sgt, turret-gunner*  
*Underwood, George B. "Woody", Sgt, gunner*  
*Vosburgh, Albert E., Jr., 2Lt, pilot*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Underwood, George B. "Woody", Sgt, gunner:*  
# 1. Jan. 25, 1944 (42-65171).

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The word has come to pack up--already. Pack we did, but not without considerable cussing. The fear was that we would go to India, and it later turned out to be justified. All the telephone wires and light wires are coming down, and field office equipment packed. Some of the more cautious refuse to become excited, knowing our tendency to dry runs.

The morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> orders were received to pack lock, stock and barrel and to be prepared to leave for Africa the next day. The logic of the situation seemed to indicate a move to the far East. Spirits were low and with considerable reason. As we were just about packed the order was remanded and we were just as unhappy. However, the order did not arrive before the newly-arrived complement of B-25-G's of the 381<sup>st</sup> squadron had left for Africa.

**Tuesday, 25 January 1944 (continued)**

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 254**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 255**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**Wednesday, 26 January 1944**

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

**In Italy**, A-20's attack Cisterna di Latina, toward which the US Fifth Army's VI Corps is moving; A-36's and P-40's fly harassing attacks against roads and railroads, bombing at Belmonte in Sabina, Cisterna, Itri, Ceccano, Frosinone, Poggio Mirteto and at points around these towns; A-36's destroy a fuel dump and several trucks and artillery caissons in the Ceprano-Priverno area.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 26 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

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

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



## Wednesday, 26 January 1944 (continued)

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** This is it! After everything was packed and ready, word came to unpack and set up immediately for operations again. No wonder we are going crazy.

**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:** Major Cometh returned from Corsica to Philippeville with four ships and their combat crews. The rest of the personnel in Corsica will return to Africa in preparation for a move, the destination of which has not been announced. There is a great deal of speculation going on. The majority favor the rumor which says that India will be our future scene of operations. The minority are divided between England and Italy.

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

**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:** Dry run. Unpack. We're not going after all. We wonder if the higher officers know how things like this look to us down here. Yesterday's purple language was mild by comparison with today's outbursts. The packin' 428<sup>th</sup> was practically ready to go, --and now we have to do it all over again.

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

## Thursday, 27 January 1944

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

**In Italy**, B-25's attack roads at Velletri, the railway at Colleferro and marshalling yard at Orte; B-26's bomb bridges at Ceprano and marshalling yard at Terni; A-20's give close support to the US Fifth Army attack near Terelle; A-36's bomb railways and buildings at Poggio Mirteto, Ceccano, and Ciampino, hit rail and road traffic S of Rome, and, with P-40's, hit the town of Piedimonte; 70+ P-40's provide close support to Fifth Army forces in Cisterna di Latina and Atina, bombing gun positions; Allied fighters over the Anzio beachhead successfully meet increased enemy air effort, claiming 28 aircraft downed in aerial combat.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** A bit back to normal today. Seems as though we are to stay awhile longer. Had delicious doughnuts for supper. Were very good. The baker was at his best.

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Another day of spring weather. The hills around the base are beginning to get green, and on many of them white and yellow wild flowers are appearing.

Rumors are persistent and elaborate. Some of them even go so far as to predict that the Squadron will leave the 310<sup>th</sup> Group and form a cadre for a new Group. At any rate, something is about to pop. What it will be, nobody knows.

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

## Friday, 28 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-25's attack the Orte marshalling yard; B-26's hit bridges at Orvieto and Montalto di Castro; A-20's bomb Cisterna di Latina with good results; P-40's and P-47's bomb the Popoli road junction, and A-36's hit railroad, road, and gun positions in the Cassino-Vicenza-Velletri areas, the Colleferro marshalling yard, and Atina town area; P-40's hit Terelle, Belmonte in Sabina, and Cisterna; Allied fighters over the Anzio area claim 21 aircraft shot down. 416<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, 62<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, transfers from Grottaglie to Pomigliano, Italy with Beaufighters.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 28 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report #, 28 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report # , 28 January 1944**

Target- Sea Search (380<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report # , 28 January 1944**

Target- Shipping in Porto S. Stefano Harbor, Italy (380<sup>th</sup> BS)

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

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**Mission Report # , 28 January 1944**

Target- Six Landing Craft near San Stefano (428<sup>th</sup> BS - 156)

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

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**Mission Report # , 28 January 1944**

Target- "E" boats near San Stefano (428<sup>th</sup> BS - 157)

**Friday, 28 January 1944 (continued)**

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

*A/C No. 3 aircraft and crew unidentified    A/C No. 4 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 Sweep 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 # :**  
*(379<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

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

## Friday, 28 January 1944 (continued)

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

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

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Another one of those beautiful, warm, sunshiny days. Several of the E.M. and Capt. Carlson left for Ajaccio. They are to drive trucks back. Our rear echelon is expected soon. A good show tonight. "In Old New York".

*Carlson, Elmer Norman, Capt, personnel*

**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)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :**  
Mission Report # 153  
Target- Sea Search

Date- Jan. 28, 1944

Squadron airplanes- Six

Apparently "Jerry" is not quite cautious and prefers to move his supplies mainly by land route. Six of our Mitchells took off today on a sea rover along the French coast from Imperia to Toulon to attack any enemy shipping sighted. The entire coast was clear of any craft. Our bombers returned with their bombs at 1055 hrs.

No flak. No enemy aircraft observed or encountered.

Two towers, appearing to be Radar Station towers, were observed on the N end of Levant Isle. Approx coordinates: 43°02'N; 06°28'E.

All ships home safely at 1055 hrs.

No photos were taken.

	<b>A/C No. 1</b> <i>aircraft unidentified</i> (flight leader)	<b>A/C No. 2</b> <i>aircraft unidentified</i>
<b>P</b>	<i>Dent, James J., Jr., Maj</i>	<i>Rice, Carl E., Capt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Fawcett, Ronald (NMI), 2Lt</i>	<i>Richardson, Richard K., F/O</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>Conway, Thomas F., 2Lt</i>	<i>Halsey, James L., 1Lt</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Dinges, J.W., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Taylor, Frank E., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Smith, Rushing E., Cpl</i>	<i>Hunt, Joe H., PFC</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>Wilder, Rodney R. "Hoss", Lt Col, Commander (observer)</i>	<i>Adams, John E., Jr., 2Lt (observer)</i>

## Friday, 28 January 1944 (continued)

### A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Hament, Carrol (NMI), 2Lt*  
**CP** *Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt*  
**G** *Cook, Keith L., Sgt*  
**TG** *Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC*  
**F** *Land, Wilson E., Sgt*

### A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt*  
**CP** *Drew, Edward A., 1Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Shaffer, Earl J., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Robertson, Russell E., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Silvis, Harry Cleveland, S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

*Persson, John G., Capt*  
*Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt*  
*Rath, Walter J., 2Lt*  
*Mortimer, Paul A., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Axelson, Edwin D., S/Sgt*  
*Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt*  
*Weinstein, Robert S., S/Sgt*  
*Powers, John A., S/Sgt*

### A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

*Schneider, William J., Capt*  
*Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Alexander, U.G., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt*  
*Shields, Joseph E., S/Sgt*  
*Campbell, Charles A., S/Sgt*  
*None*

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

Mission Report # 154

Date- Jan. 28, 1944

Target- Shipping in Porto S. Stefano Harbor, Italy

Squadron airplanes- Six

After a quick but thorough briefing twelve of our Mitchells, six from the 380<sup>th</sup>, took off at 1415 hrs. to bomb shipping in Porto S. Stefano Harbor, Italy. The target was attacked at 1515 hrs. The central part of the harbor received the major amount of the damage inflicted. One string of bombs walked across the base of the quay and near misses were reported on a 300 ft. M/V anchored alongside of it.

No flak. No enemy aircraft.

All our ships landed safely at 1615 hrs.

Photos were taken.

### A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified (flight leader)

**P** *Dent, James J., Jr., Maj*  
**CP** *Fawcett, Ronald (NMI), 2Lt*  
**N** *Potter, Eliot H., 1Lt*  
**B** *Conway, Thomas F., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Taylor, Frank E., S/Sgt*  
**G** *McGimpsey, Paul D., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Smith, Rushing E., Cpl*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

*Richardson, Richard K., F/O*  
*Rice, Carl E., Capt*  
*None*  
*Halsey, James L., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Doty, Robert W., S/Sgt*  
*Barszcz, Stanley G., S/Sgt*  
*Hunt, Joe H., PFC*  
*None*

## Friday, 28 January 1944 (continued)

### A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Arentson, Robert M., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Harris, James M., Jr., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Heath, Lawrence S., II, 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Wells, Donald Walter, S/Sgt*  
**G** *Cook, Keith L., Sgt*  
**TG** *Huston, Rex (NMI), PFC*  
**F** *Land, Wilson E., Sgt*

### A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Bridges, Benjamin E., 1Lt*  
**CP** *Drew, Edward A., 1Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Shaffer, Earl J., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Robertson, Russell E., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Papp, Frank (NMI), Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Silvis, Harry Cleveland, S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

*Schneider, William J., Capt*  
*Ryan, Thomas P., 2Lt*  
*Rath, Walter J., 2Lt*  
*Alexander, U.G., 1Lt*  
*None*  
*Butori, Dino (NMI), S/Sgt*  
*Shields, Joseph E., S/Sgt*  
*Gardner, Clarence R., S/Sgt*  
*None*

### A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

*Tozier, Everett Lane, 1Lt*  
*Oechsle, Albert K., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Mortimer, Paul A., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Campbell, Charles A., S/Sgt*  
*Coleman, Roy L., S/Sgt*  
*Weinstein, Robert S., S/Sgt*  
*Powers, John A., S/Sgt*

**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:** Everyone was wrong. The whole Group is to move to Ghisonaccia, Corsica. Major Cometh left this morning with the flight of combat planes which he led back to Africa on Wednesday. Intelligence and Operations are packing up to leave, and the Kuku Nut Grube has closed its bar. It is predicted that the entire Squadron will be in Corsica within three weeks.

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

## Friday, 28 January 1944 (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # :** *(428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 156)* Established again by the 28<sup>th</sup>, the 428<sup>th</sup> sent six planes at a sighting of six landing craft headed North near San Stefano. That three were definitely sunk and a fourth badly damaged and probably did sink seems impossible. However, photograph evidence proves that just that was accomplished by 6 B-25's flying at from 8000 to 9600 ft on a moving convoy. Intense light flak from the targets was low.

### *A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified*

**P** *Evans, George N., Capt*  
**CP** *McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
**N** *Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
**B** *Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
**G** *Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
**TG** *Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### *A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified*

*Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
*Roberts, Kenneth C., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Leasure, Oliver B., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Booth, Jack D., S/Sgt*  
*Kelly, Andrew R., Cpl*  
*Lim, Wing Y, S/Sgt*  
*Bean, Herman B., Cpl*



## Friday, 28 January 1944 (continued)

### A/C No. 3 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Hogan, Jack F., F/O*  
**CP** *Reetz, Walter R., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Versaw, Robert E., Sgt*  
**G** *Ramos, Smiles (NMI), Pvt*  
**TG** *Hook, Fred F., Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Company, Richard N., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Snoddy, William G., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Lunger, Quentin L., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Houseman, Charles M., Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Moynihan, Donald M., Pvt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified

*Fleming, James L., 2Lt*  
*Sandstrom, John E., 2Lt*  
*Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt*  
*Lanning, Fred H., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Tow, Charles W., Jr., S/Sgt*  
*Sisson, John E., Sgt*  
*Donaldson, William M., Sgt*  
*None*

### A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified

*Whitehurst, Ray e., 2Lt*  
*Farley, Jean N., 2Lt*  
*Ewalt, William F., 2Lt*  
*Boatler, Sidney K., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*East, Charles D., S/Sgt*  
*Agin, Clealon J., Sgt*  
*Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt*  
*Williamson, Felton J., Pvt*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : (428<sup>th</sup> BS mission # 157)** In the afternoon the same six struck out on another sighting in almost the same area. These were "E" boats comparable to our PT's. To add insult to the morning's injury one of the 5 "E" boats in the convoy received direct hits from 9000 ft and another pair were damaged. Lt. Fred Lanning was the star performer of another star performance by our bombardiers. Never has the 428<sup>th</sup> even approached such accurate bombing.

### A/C No. 1 aircraft unidentified

**P** *Evans, George N., Capt*  
**CP** *McClellan, John B., 1Lt*  
**N** *Akerland, Gustav J., 1Lt*  
**B** *Fayard, Oliver E., Jr., 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Foderaro, Albert (NMI), T/Sgt*  
**G** *Sierlecki, Richard E., Sgt*  
**TG** *Risteau, John E., S/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

### A/C No. 2 aircraft unidentified

*Arnoult, Hubbard B. "Hub", Jr., 2Lt*  
*Roberts, Kenneth C., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Leasure, Oliver B., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Booth, Jack D., S/Sgt*  
*Kelly, Andrew R., Cpl*  
*Lim, Wing Y, S/Sgt*  
*Bean, Herman B., Cpl*

**Friday, 28 January 1944 (continued)**

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

**P** *Hogan, Jack F., F/O*  
**CP** *Reetz, Walter R., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Colleton, John Charles, 1Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Versaw, Robert E., Sgt*  
**G** *Ramos, Smiles (NMI), Pvt*  
**TG** *Hook, Fred F., Sgt*  
**F** *None*

**A/C No. 5 aircraft unidentified**

**P** *Fassett, Walter J., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Company, Richard N., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *Snoddy, William G., 2Lt*  
**E** *None*  
**R** *Lunger, Quentin L., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Houseman, Charles M., Jr., S/Sgt*  
**TG** *Moynihn, Donald M., Pvt*  
**F** *None*

**A/C No. 4 aircraft unidentified**

*Fleming, James L., 2Lt*  
*Sandstrom, John E., 2Lt*  
*Victor, Joseph G., 2Lt*  
*Lanning, Fred H., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Tow, Charles W., Jr., S/Sgt*  
*Sisson, John E., Sgt*  
*Donaldson, William M., Sgt*  
*None*

**A/C No. 6 aircraft unidentified**

*Whitehurst, Ray e., 2Lt*  
*Farley, Jean N., 2Lt*  
*Ewalt, William F., 2Lt*  
*Boatler, Sidney K., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*East, Charles D., S/Sgt*  
*Agin, Clealon J., Sgt*  
*Pudlo, Alexander A., S/Sgt*  
*Williamson, Felton J., Pvt*

**Saturday, 29 January 1944**

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

In Italy, B-25's bomb San Benedetto de Marsi marshalling yard; B-26's hit bridges N of Rome; P-47's bomb a munitions factory at Bussi sul Tirino; P-40's and A-36's, in support of US Fifth Army forces, bomb positions in the Anzio beachhead area and hit enemy forward road and rail communications; fighters on patrol over Anzio meet little air opposition.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

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

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**Mission Report #, 29 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 265**

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**Mission Report #, 29 January 1944**

Target: Sea Search (381<sup>st</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

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

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

## Saturday, 29 January 1944 (continued)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 265**  
*(379<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** A very exciting drama was enacted in the sky this afternoon. A B-26 was noticed careening madly overhead and suddenly several parachutes appeared. The B-26 then plummeted straight down with a deafening scream, and crashed into a nearby mountain. The crew of six had all jumped safely.

**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 # : 265**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** The Squadron's fifth B-25-G mission was flown from Ghisonaccia today.

Twenty new men have joined the Squadron. They have been overseas for one month, having come across with the first detachment of replacements for ground personnel of this theatre. Their names are as follows: M/Sgt. H.V. DuPuis; T/Sgt. J.J. Jacob; Cpls: A.M. DiBella, W.F. Demmler, V.L. Duncan, and R.V. Taylor; Pfc's: R.R. Beauregard and W.W. Sullivan; and Pvts: W.D. Bennett, C.E. Brady, C. (NMI) Bruner, F.E. Edwards, D.T. King, P. (NMI) Stanisauskas, H.D. Swan, J.O. Underwood, R.I. Villarreal, and J.R. Young.

*Beauregard, Roland R., PFC,  
Brady, Cread E., Pvt,  
Demmler, William F., Cpl,  
Duncan, Victor L., PFC,  
Edwards, F.E., Pvt,  
King, David T., Pvt, clerk  
Sullivan, Wallace W., PFC,  
Taylor, Robert V., Cpl,  
Villarreal, Ramon I., Pvt,*

*Bennett, William D., Pvt,  
Bruner, Charles (NMI), Pvt,  
DiBella, Andrew M., Cpl,  
DuPuis, Harley V., M/Sgt,  
Jacob, Joseph J., T/Sgt,  
Stanisauskas, Peter (NMI), Pvt,  
Swan, Homer D., Pvt,  
Underwood, James O., Pvt,  
Young, James R., Pvt,*

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

## Saturday, 29 January 1944 (continued)

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 265**

### SEA SEARCH

Flight Leader: F/O J.L. Peplinski  
Squadron Mission # 147  
Flight 4 B-25-G's  
Escort: 8 Spits  
Shells Fired: xxx  
Range: xxx  
Altitude: xxx

Ghisonaccia, 29 January, 1944  
Group Mission # 265  
Take Off: 10:37  
Target: xxx  
Down: 12:27  
Total Time: 1 Hr. 50 Min.  
Mileage: 335  
Sorties to Date: 1,115

RESULTS: No shipping sighted

OBSERVATIONS: Flak: None. E a/c: none encountered, none observed.

WEATHER: Over coast of Italy: 4/10 cumulus at 5,000 ft. Elsewhere: 1-5/10 cumulus at 1,000 feet, visibility 10 miles.

### A Flight

#### **A/C No. 42-64580-G (3)**

**P** *Schwindle, Adam C. "Gus", 1Lt*  
**CP** *Kefer, Robert L., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *None*  
**E** *Clement, Sam (NMI), S/Sgt*  
**R** *Keller, Richard S., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Parmelee, Walter J., Pvt*  
**TG** *Burt, Warwick C. S., T/Sgt*  
**F** *None*

#### **A/C No. 42-65158-G "Battle Baby" (2)**

**P** *Lemmer, John W., 2Lt*  
**CP** *Winegar, William E. A., 2Lt*  
**N** *None*  
**B** *None*  
**E** *Hodnett, Stephen E., S/Sgt*  
**R** *Gordon, Robert H., S/Sgt*  
**G** *Goldyn, Walter (NMI), Sgt*  
**TG** *Bazzett, Julius L., Pvt*  
**F** *None*

#### **A/C No. 42-65097-G (1) (flight leader)**

*Peplinski, James L., F/O*  
*Elmer, Ralph F., 2Lt*  
*Joyce, Bryan A., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*Wright, Joseph F., S/Sgt*  
*Williams, Almas C., S/Sgt*  
*Haberman, Marvin A., Sgt*  
*None*  
*None*

#### **A/C No. 42-65093-G (4)**

*Keith, Charles Frederick, F/O*  
*Gimson, Kieth L., 2Lt*  
*None*  
*None*  
*Maddox, Lemuel (NMI) "Lem", Sgt*  
*Cobb, Bert Alvin, S/Sgt*  
*Krueger, Charles Oliver, Sgt*  
*Daniell, James T., Pvt*  
*None*

## Saturday, 29 January 1944 (continued)

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt, radio-gunner:*  
“Flight “A” gets mission. B-26 goes down over field. 6 bail out.”

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Today we saw a B-26 crew bail out and have their plane crash in the hills to the west. Ghisonaccia has become an extremely important emergency landing base. B-26's in distress stop here often after raids on Italy. B-17's stop to refuel after flying to France. A-36's use it as an auxiliary advance base. It's a little Mitchell field.

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 265**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## Sunday, 30 January 1944

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

In Italy, B-25's hit road junctions at Valmontone and Genzano di Roma, and bomb the town of Monte Compatri; weather cancels all B-26 operations and several B-25 missions. A-20's hit the town of and road junction near Cori, and XII Air Support Command fighter-bombers hit Sora; US and RAF fighters hit barges and fishing boats off Zara and Trojica, Yugoslavia; fighters on patrol over Anzio meet no air opposition. 415<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron, 64<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, transfers from Montecorvino to Marcianise, Italy with Beaufighters. The detachment operating from Gaudo Airfield also transfers.

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: No Entry

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

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Mission Report #, 30 January 1944

Target: Sea Sweep

HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 266

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Mission Report #, 30 January 1944

Target: Sea Sweep

379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: No Entry

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

Target: Sea Sweep

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, 30 January 1944 (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

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 266  
*(379<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** PX rations were issued this afternoon for the first time in several weeks. Have to pay for them now. Our location is no longer considered in the combat zone. Had a small mail call. Another night of excitement. This time the gasoline dump went up in flames. It was a blazing inferno for hours. The whole town was lighted by the sky leaping flames.

**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 # : 266  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Lt. Baisch is running a shuttle service between Algeria and Corsica, flying the more important personnel and equipment to the new base. He has made two trips during the past two days, moving beaucoup impedimenta. This morning he took off in 454 *(32-32454 "Boomerang")* as usual, a B-25 stripped of its armor and guns with the first priority of Intelligence and Operations personnel and equipment. Loaded to the gills, 454 waddled down the runway, gained speed and took to the air. After circling Philippeville and the field, Lt. Baisch pointed 565's nose toward that portion of the wild blue yonder occupied by the skies of Sardinia. At an altitude of 1,500 feet and speed of 190 miles per hour, Lt. Baisch brought 454 within sight of Sardinia's rocky coast in practically no time at all. He continued northward, following Sardinia's western shore all the way to Porto Torres, which the Group bombed on 18 April 1943, and then cut through the straits of Bonifacio and up Corsica's Eastern coast until he reached Ghisonaccia.



## Sunday, 30 January 1944 (continued)

Nestled in a circular area between the sea and a rim of jagged snow capped hills, Ghisonaccia is a pleasant little village, whose crumbling stone and stucco buildings will house a goodly portion of the 310<sup>th</sup> Group during its stay in Corsica.

Although another "G" mission was flown by the Squadron today, the day's feature, by way of excitement, was the burning of the gasoline dump.

Shortly after dark, while people were still wondering what was causing the ruddy glow in the sky south of Ghisonaccia, the public address system's mush mouthed voice announced that the gas dump was on fire and cracked out an order for all personnel to help roll drums of 100 octane gasoline away from the flames. The fire had been started by a gasoline truck which had stopped to load in the center of a cleared area surrounded by neatly stacked drums. A hundred or more gas drums and two trucks were enveloped in the conflagration by the time the crowds arrived. Drums were bursting, and sending gallons of liquid flames spraying through the air. There was apprehension lest the drums arranged around the periphery of the dump which were getting hot would explode, but crews of officers and G.I.'s hustled in, and shortly had them rolled out of range of the flames. Gradually the fire spent its force. By 2200 hours it had died completely.

*Baisch, Joseph M., III, 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 Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 266**

### SEA SEARCH

Flight Leader: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. R.A. McLaughlin	Ghisonaccia, 30 January, 1944
Squadron Mission # 148	Group Mission # 266
Flight 4 B-25-G's	Take Off: 10:40
Escort: 8 Spits	Target: 11:33 to 11:45
Shells Fired: 14 x 75 mm.	Down: 12:40
Range: 66 yds to 8,000 yds.	Total Time: 2 Hr. 0 Min.
Altitude: 50 ft. to 700 ft.	Mileage: 365
	Sorties to Date: 1,119

RESULTS: 14 x 75 mm shells were fired at a partly submerged barge and a small schooner beached at 43° 18' N - 10° 28' E. No hits observed. 60 x 75 mm shells were fired at a 150-175 foot coastal vessel anchored in the harbor of Pianosa. 10 to 15 direct hits were observed from bow to stern. This vessel was also raked with machine gun fire. It was left listing and a small amount of black smoke was seen coming from its stern. Several shells hit in the town of Pianosa. One shell hit in the vicinity of a light flak gun in town, which ceased firing.

OBSERVATIONS: Flak: A few inaccurate bursts from one light gun in the northeast section of Pianosa. E a/c, none encountered, none observed.

## Sunday, 30 January 1944 (continued)

### B Flight

<b>A/C No. 42-65159-G “Heavenly Body”</b> (3)	<b>A/C No. 42-64654-G (1)</b> (flight leader)
<b>P</b> <i>Branum, William Henry, 2Lt</i>	<i>McLaughlin, Robert A., 1Lt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Riederer, Floyd L., Jr., 2Lt</i>	<i>Killian, Robert Faherty, 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b> <i>None</i>	<i>Kienitz, Richard Carlton “Dick”, 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>E</b> <i>Ochs, Percy W., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Leist, Jacob F., S/Sgt</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Wright, Hobert O., Sgt</i>	<i>Biebighauser, Roy A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Phipps, Kermit E., Sgt</i>	<i>Myers, Kenneth L., Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Darling, Robert E., Cpl</i>	<i>Mason, John Joseph, Jr., 1Lt (observer)</i>
<b>F</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>A/C No. 42-65152-G (2)</b>	<b>A/C No. 42-65171-G (4)</b>
<b>P</b> <i>Clark, Isaac S., 2Lt</i>	<i>Heller, Leonard C. “Len”, 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b> <i>Johnson, Robert I., 2Lt</i>	<i>Vosburgh, Albert E., Jr., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>B</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>E</b> <i>Deese, Leon C., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Campbell, Herbert William, S/Sgt</i>
<b>R</b> <i>Duffy, John J., III, S/Sgt</i>	<i>Heaney, James A., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b> <i>Prall, Wilson Edgar, Sgt</i>	<i>Underwood, George B. “Woody”, Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b> <i>Dzienkiewicz, Francis J., Cpl</i>	<i>Smith, Harold W. “Smitty”, Sgt</i>
<b>F</b> <i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Heaney, James A., S/Sgt, radio-gunner:*  
“No. 2 Jan. 30 - Same Crew. Sunk Barge south of Elba. Damaged coastal steamer in Pianosa and shot up harbor area which was burning when we left. Light flak. No fighters. 8 French Spits for escort. (AC 42-65171) Time: 2:00”

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Underwood, George B. “Woody”, Sgt, gunner:*  
# 2. Jan. 30, 1944 (42-65171).

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** A gas dump went up in smoke today along with one Biedermann and an English refueling unit. The driver of one of those vehicles was badly burned. It blazed for hours, barrels flying high into the air in unpredictable flight, while the base’s personnel worked feverishly to move adjoining caches in danger. Cheers to Captain Evans and Major Dent for the way they took the situation into hand.

*Dent, James J., Jr., Maj, pilot, Ops Officer, 380<sup>th</sup> BS*  
*Evans, George N., Capt, pilot, Ass’t Ops Officer*

**Sunday, 30 January 1944 (continued)**

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 266**  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**Monday, 31 January 1944**

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

**In Italy**, A-20's bomb Artena and road junction N of town; P-40's and A-36's, operating E of the Anzio battle area, hit a road junction at Sezze, the town of Fondi, and junction and town area at Priverno; P-47's bomb San Benedetto de Marsi; the XII Air Support Command flies 250+ sorties over the Anzio beachhead; air opposition is absent.

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary:** No Entry

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 267**

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**Mission Report #, 31 January 1944**

Target: Sea Sweep (379<sup>th</sup> BS)

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 268**

-----  
**Mission Report #, 31 January 1944**

Target: Sea Search (381<sup>st</sup> BS)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No Entry

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 267**

Target: Sea Sweep

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**

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

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

## Monday, 31 January 1944 (continued)

**379<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 268**  
*(379<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Had fresh eggs for breakfast, but only one to a man. Were flown here from Africa. "It" tasted delicious, too. Payday for the first time in two months. The boys were carrying big rolls this time. Too bad there's nothing to buy.

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 267**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**380<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 268**  
*(380<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary:** Major Campbell flew up today with Lt. Baisch and the payroll.  
*Baisch, Joseph M., III, 1Lt, pilot* *Campbell, Ivan R., Maj, Executive Officer*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 267**  
*(381<sup>st</sup> BS did not participate)*

**381<sup>st</sup> BS Mission Summary: (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 268**

### SHIPPING STRIKE

Flight Leader: Major Cometh  
Squadron Mission # 149  
Flight 8 B-25-G's  
Escort: 12 Spits  
Shells Fired: 121 x 75 mm.  
Range: 66 yds to 5,000 yds.  
Altitude: 50 ft. to 700 ft.

Ghisonaccia, 31 January, 1944  
Group Mission # 268  
Take Off: 10:39  
Target: 11:40 to 12:20  
Down: 12:10  
Total Time: 2 Hr. 31 Min.  
Mileage: 463  
Sorties to Date: 1,127

RESULTS: First Target: Three coasters estimated 100 ft. long were attacked at 44° 19' N - 9° 7' E. Five hits observed on two of the vessels, which left one burning and sinking and the other with its stern shot away and sinking. Second Target: One MV estimated 2,000 tons and two MV's estimated 1,000 tons each anchored at 44° 18' N - 9° 20' E. Five hits were observed on two of the vessels and both were reported sinking.

## Monday, 31 January 1944 (continued)

OBSERVATIONS: Flak: Light machine gun fire from first target; heavy machine gun fire and slight, light inaccurate flak from second target. Moderate, inaccurate heavy flak from position at 44° 22' N - 9° 15' E. E a/c: None encountered, none observed.

WEATHER: 10/10 COVERAGE AT 1,500 FT. OVER ENTIRE ROUTE. Visibility 6 to 8 miles.

### A Flight

	<b>A/C No. 42-64580-G (3)</b>	<b>A/C No. 42-64654-G (1)</b> (flight leader)
<b>P</b>	<i>Schwindle, Adam C. "Gus", 1Lt</i>	<i>Peplinski, James L., F/O</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Kefer, Robert L., 2Lt</i>	<i>Cometh, Lawrence (NMI), Maj</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>Joyce, Bryan A., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>Clement, Sam (NMI), S/Sgt</i>	<i>Wright, Joseph F., S/Sgt</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Keller, Richard S., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Williams, Almas C., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Parmelee, Walter J., Pvt</i>	<i>Haberman, Marvin A., Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Burt, Warwick C. S., T/Sgt</i>	<i>Collins, Vincent A., 1Lt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
	<b>A/C No. 42-65158-G "Battle Baby" (2)</b>	<b>A/C No. 42-65093-G (4)</b>
<b>P</b>	<i>Lemmer, John W., 2Lt</i>	<i>Keith, Charles Frederick, F/O</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Winegar, William E. A., 2Lt</i>	<i>Gimson, Kieth L., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>Hodnett, Stephen E., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Smith, Harold W. "Smitty", Sgt</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Gordon, Robert H., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Cobb, Bert Alvin, S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Goldyn, Walter (NMI), Sgt</i>	<i>Krueger, Charles Oliver, Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Bazzett, Julius L., Pvt</i>	<i>Daniell, James T., Pvt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

### B Flight

	<b>A/C No. 42-65097-G (3)</b>	<b>A/C No. 42-32464-G "The Goon Bird"</b> (1) (flight leader)
<b>P</b>	<i>Akst, Irving B., 2Lt</i>	<i>Prior, Gordon M. "Gordie", 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Brett, James W., 2Lt</i>	<i>Ray, Henry S., Jr., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>Burton, Joseph A., 2Lt</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>Williams, James P., Sgt</i>	<i>Nithman, Charles E., Cpl</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Berzon, Isadore H., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Colby, Edward R., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Gatlin, Jack L., S/Sgt</i>	<i>Mintus, Frank J., S/Sgt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Youngman, Thomas F., Pvt</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

**Monday, 31 January 1944 (continued)**

A/C No. 42-65092-G (2)		A/C No. 42-32488-G (4)	
<b>P</b>	<i>Durante, Angelo M. C., 2Lt</i>		<i>Eaton, Frank R., 2Lt</i>
<b>CP</b>	<i>Capers, Jack H., 1Lt</i>		<i>Shearer, Clyde P., 2Lt</i>
<b>N</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>
<b>E</b>	<i>Zittel, Howard L., S/Sgt</i>		<i>Burgess, Archie J., Sgt</i>
<b>R</b>	<i>Sichelski, Andrew S., PFC</i>		<i>Edwards, Wilbur O., S/Sgt</i>
<b>G</b>	<i>Lazorshak, Paul (NMI), Pvt</i>		<i>Gilbert, Louis M., Pvt</i>
<b>TG</b>	<i>Harris, Robert Milton, Pvt</i>		<i>Holubek, John W., Sgt</i>
<b>F</b>	<i>None</i>		<i>None</i>

**381<sup>st</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Underwood, George B. "Woody", Sgt, gunner:*  
" # 14. B-25-G Feb 22. Sea Sweep. Elba to San Stefano. Shot up Radar Station Talamone. 8 Spits. Light Flak (40 + 20mm)"

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

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 267  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

**428<sup>th</sup> BS Mission Summary:** (Ops Order ---/mission ---) Group Mission # : 268  
*(428<sup>th</sup> BS did not participate)*

## January 1944

**HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG War Diary: Additional Information for January 1944:** None

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**379<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for January 1944:** A small detachment of our squadron remained behind at the Philippeville Air Base, while the rest of our men were hard at work pulling missions against the enemy in the Middle East. The only actual work done at Philippeville was guard duty, and a few details for Group Headquarters.

Social activities consisted of two dances during the month, at which there were many pretty French girls from the town in attendance, and a French orchestra supplied the music with their own special version of American swing.

The weather was quite cold, but the men managed to remain cozy with warm fires in self-made stoves in the tents, burning fuel oil whenever available.

We received the usual line of BX rations, consisting of tobacco and candy and an added treat of peanuts and chocolate sent to us by our outfit in Gambut, Libya. Mail was plentiful with the expected uplift in morale.

The men were looking forward to rejoining our main unit and resuming work with our buddies. The meals were unusually good, with plenty of fresh meat obtainable, and our mess sergeant kept the boys contented with pork chops, steaks, and good old American hamburgers.

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### HISTORY

#### 379TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

SECTION II.....Operations for January, 1944.

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TARGET:</u>	<u>No. PLANES:</u>
Jan. 2	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 3	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 4	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 5	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 6	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 9	Sea Sweep	4



**January 1944 (continued)**

Jan. 10	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 11	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 11	Sea Sweep	3
Jan. 14	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 15	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 16	Sea Sweep	3
Jan. 20	Sea Sweep	3
Jan. 22	Sea Sweep	3
Jan. 23	Sea Sweep	3
Jan. 23	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 25	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 26	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 28	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 28	Sea Sweep	2
Jan. 29	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 30	Sea Sweep	4
Jan. 31	Sea Sweep	4

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Total sorties.....85  
Brought Forward...1214

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Grand Total.....1299

Total Squadron Missions for month...23  
Total Squadron Missions brought forward...193

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Grand Total.....216

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## January 1944 (continued)

### 380<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for January 1944:

5 February 1944

#### G H I S O N A C C I A

After two long months of inactivity, we heartily welcomed the combat crews on their arrival at Ghisonaccia Landing Ground. The sight of that formation of Mitchells brought joy to all our hearts. It wasn't long before our squadron started operations, for on the seventeenth of the month we started "the ball rolling" by taking off on a rover search along the north-western coast of Italy. We followed that mission up with numerous others hitting at shipping, radar stations, and harbors. We had good hunting, too, and as the end of the month loomed into view a noteworthy record was established.

Half of our ground echelon arrived at Ajaccio on lighters the early part of the month and then moved by truck convoy across the island to Ghisonaccia, reaching their destination the Fourth of January. Among the personnel to arrive were Capt. Seeton, Commanding, and Lieuts. Summerfield and Drew.

*Drew, Edward A., 1Lt, pilot*

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

*Summerfield, John (NMI), Capt, intelligence*

Before the month was over, at least twenty-five of our combat crew members finished fifty missions, completing their tour of combat duty.

The "G" crews, our newly assigned set of combat members are still training back at Phillipville at present, but it won't be long ere they, too, will join in the scrap.

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#### THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN (CONT'D) 1944 NOV

After a rather quiet New Year's here in Corsica, We had a very hectic month during the remainder of January. As the New Year opened, the small ground force acting as advance echelon here was sitting quietly through the cool rainy weather, and could not imagine the beginning of operations from this base for a month or more. We were soon to be fooled, for on January 10, our planes arrived from Africa, and the activity grew as plans for immediate operations were given out. More of the ground personnel having arrived with most of our equipment on January 4, we were set up and ready for operations when our first mission came through on January 13.

## January 1944 (continued)

Our first mission as a group from Corsica on January 13 was merely a sea search by the 428<sup>th</sup> Sqd., since we were anxious for action and no strike had come through, and we wanted to do a little hunting on our own. No good target was sighted, but we were not to be discouraged so easily. The following day (Jan. 14) our squadron went on the alert. We had better luck that day, having a strike off the southern coast of France. The luck didn't hold, however, for we had to bomb through a break in the overcast, and the exact results were never known.

With the first missions over, others came thick and fast, with the targets being shipping off the southern coast of France and along the coast of Italy, as well as radar stations on Giglio Island and Porquerolles Island. The first credit for definite sinkings of enemy boats came to both the 380<sup>th</sup> and 428<sup>th</sup> Squadrons on the same day, January 18, with each sinking a medium-size merchant vessel.

Mission followed mission, with our planes even going into the harbor at Piombino, Porto Ferraio, and Porto San Stefano after shipping, and even dock installations. The raid on Porto Ferraio, Elba, which was led by our squadron, was especially noted for the excellent bombing pattern, the number of small landing craft destroyed on the mission, and for the work of our crews put in in circling the target for over half an hour in order to find a good break in the clouds for a good bomb run.

A squadron of B-25-G's (381<sup>st</sup> Sqdn.) arrived on January 23 to help us in our work, and immediately took over the attacks on the lighter targets. On January 25, we received orders to pack for moving, and it was twenty-four hours later, on January 26, after most equipment was packed, that the orders were cancelled, and we continued operations.

As the month came to a close, operations was continuing as normal, and the number of men completing their fifty missions was growing rapidly.

## January 1944 (continued)

### 381<sup>st</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for January 1944:

#### SPECIAL OUTLINE SECTION --- JANUARY 1944

Throughout most of January, the Squadron continued its activities at Philippeville in a routine essentially indistinguishable from that following during November and December. Excess combat personnel having been trained, were transferred, and the remaining men flew daily training flights and attended seemingly endless lectures on aircraft recognition and on the operation of aircraft under combat conditions. Ground personnel relaxed and enjoyed the comparative inactivity associated with not being in operation. For all personnel, it meant the Kuku Nut Gruve and the Battle of Philippeville. The Kuku Nut Gruve continued its function of providing nightly entertainment, good fellowship and relaxation for which it is now justly famous. The Battle of Philippeville is a term which refers to encounters between members of the Squadron and French civilians. Having been in the vicinity long enough to have made many pleasant civilian contacts, the Squadron and Group returned their generous hospitality with dances given in town. One thing led to another, until the lively interchange of social intercourse assumed the proportions of a battle.

But all of this suddenly came to an end, for on 21 January 1944, Major Cometh led twelve of our new B-25-G's in a flight which landed at Ghisonaccia Station, Corsica, where the 380<sup>th</sup> and 428<sup>th</sup> Squadrons had been operating since 13 January 1944. These planes went into combat immediately, and by the end of the month had flown a total of six "G" missions, striking at Axis shipping over an arc extending along the Italian coast from Leghorn to Civitavecchia. Despite the joys of the Kuku Nut Gruve and the excitement attending the multitudinous encounters of the Battle of Philippeville, the resumption of combat operations came as a great relief to the entire organization. There is an overtone of excitement which pervades all departments when our aircraft go into battle regularly, for it gives each man a feeling of accomplishment --- a sense of being an intimate part of the force which will bring the war to a victorious conclusion.

During the latter part of the month, priority personnel were flown up in ship number 454 (42-32454 "*Boomerang*"), which is stripped of its turrets and used as a transport by the Squadron. This plane made as many as two trips daily. By the end of January, fully half of the Squadron's personnel were in Corsica. The rest will come later.

Ghisonaccia Station is situated half way up the east coast of Corsica, standing between the sea and a range of jagged hills which are now glistening with snow. "X" shaped, the tiny village is huddled about the intersection of a highway and a railroad which is three miles east of the town of Ghisonaccia. The majority of its buildings are thick walled stone dwellings, constructed along the lines of French provincial architecture. It exudes an atmosphere comparable to that which Hollywood into motion pictures depicting French villages of 1918.

## January 1944 (continued)

Formerly having been totally occupied by the British, most of these buildings were empty when the Squadrons arrived, and were immediately requisitioned for the use of the Group. Group Headquarters is situated in the former railroad station, while the 381<sup>st</sup> Squadron's departmental offices and Officer personnel are housed in a group of buildings formerly belonging to the Hotel de la Gare. Intelligence and Operations Offices are located in a wooden barrack built by the British. The field, situated less than a mile from the village, is shared by the Group with Squadrons of French Spitfires and American P-39's whose personnel occupy some of the village's buildings. It is a very comfortable set-up for winter, as well as being ideally situated for daily interference with Axis shipping, for the field is only 58 miles from the enemy held island of Elba, and 83 miles from the shores of Italy.

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*Note: Although the following account is contained in the January 1944 War Diary, a copy has also been inserted into the 23 Feb 43 section of the history.*

### F O R W A R D

On 23 February 1943, a Sea Sweep was flown from Berteaux, Algeria by six B-25-C's. Three of these aircraft failed to return.\* One of the missing aircraft, piloted by Capt. Leonard A. Eddy, carried the Squadron Commander, Major Ivan L. Ferguson as co-pilot, while Capt. Eddy's regular co-pilot, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank B. Hawkins, flew as observer. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicholas D. Katzenbach flew as navigator. Capt. Perry D. Pickett was bombardier and S/Sgt. Henry L. Schave and Sgt. Milo K. Taylor were turret-gunner and radio operator. In April they were all reported prisoners of war of the Italian Government except Major Ferguson and Sgt. Taylor. On 5 November 1943, Major Ferguson was reported to be in Germany. To date, no official word has been received regarding Sgt. Taylor, although he is believed to be in a German prison.

*Eddy, Leonard A., Capt, pilot*

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

*Hawkins, Frank B. "Pancho", 1Lt, pilot*

*Katzenbach, Nicholas D. "Katz", 1Lt, navigator*

*Pickett, Perry D., Capt, bombardier, navigator*

*Schave, Henry Lloyd, S/Sgt, turret-gunner*

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

On 31 December 1943, Lt. Hawkins, having escaped from Italy, visited the Squadron at Philippeville, Algeria while en route to the United States. The following account of Lt. Hawkins's adventures as a prisoner of war was reconstructed from notes made when Lt. Hawkins told his story to members of the Squadron. It is in many respects

## January 1944 (continued)

incomplete, for Lt. Hawkins was reluctant to reveal many important details, lest this information accidentally fall into the hands of the enemy, and destroy the chances of other soldiers who have escaped and are waiting to get through the battle line into Allied held territory.

\* Complete details of this mission can be found in the Squadron History's Mission Report # 33, 23 February 1943.

Capt. Eddy landed his B-25 smoothly on the water at 150 miles per hour after one engine had been set afire by flak. Everyone climbed out quickly and safely with the exception of Capt. Eddy, who ripped a gash in the flesh of his groin about five inches long and one and a half inches deep while being pushed through the pilot's escape hatch by Capt. Pickett. The upper turret plexiglass was broken in order to rescue Schave and Taylor from the radio compartment, and both life rafts were broken out and inflated. All of this took place within a space of seven minutes, after which the plane sank slowly --- settling into the water without a ripple and leaving only a strange quietness.

Everyone had gotten thoroughly wet getting into the life rafts. Once settled, they made Capt. Eddy as comfortable as possible and then tied both rafts together with the lashing rope found among the supplies packed in the rafts. Lt. Katzenbach, the navigator, with the aid of his compass and what maps he had salvaged, calculated that their best and only chance would be to head in a westerly direction, and try to reach Africa west of Cape Serrat where the Allied battle line met the coast. They found that the wind and the current were taking them west --- the direction in which they wanted to go. When necessary, they rowed. This was some help, but with only one set of oars, their progress was not rapid.

It had been about 1525 hours when they had gone down, and since there was not enough sun left to dry their clothes, they spent a miserable night. Next morning they dried out and were considerably more comfortable, although Capt. Eddy's wound was still painful in spite of first aid. Lt. Hawkins made a sail for one of the rafts out of his pajamas which he was wearing under his flying equipment. This resulted in a considerable increase in speed.

At 1630 on the second day, when they figured that they had traveled a distance of about fifty-seven miles, they heard the drone of plane motors. Looking up, they saw three sea planes, which they identified as Italian Cants which at that time were doing patrol work between Sicily and Bizerte, similar to our Air Sea Rescue Service. After several minutes two of these planes landed in the water nearby, while the third remained aloft as cover. Upon being picked up, the officers and men were divided between the two planes, three in one, four in the other. These arrangements were made by sign language,

## January 1944 (continued)

as none of the seven men understood Italian. The motors in both of these sea planes were of the temperamental variety, causing the crews great difficulty in starting them again. After some two hours of frenzied gestures and excited conversation, they managed to get the engines operating to a point where they were able to taxi the ships. They made the journey all the way to Cagliari on the surface of the water.

Capt. Eddy was sent to the hospital as soon as they landed, while the other six were handed over to interrogation authorities who questioned them immediately. This interrogation lasted for an hour, and next day they were questioned again for a similar period. They were treated with courtesy during these sessions; there was no violence. Among the multitude of questions were many seemingly foolish ones, interspersed with questions which were intended to cross them up. To most of them they answered simply that they did not know, or that they didn't remember. As a result of this lack of "cooperation", there were some threats, but none of them were carried out. The interrogators seemed to be intrigued with the idea that some of these Americans had volunteered for Army service, and expressed a complete and genuine inability to understand their motives. The food given them was quite good for the first four days, but after Cagliari was bombed by Allied aircraft, the Italians saved the better food for themselves, as the bombing seemed to have crippled their supply facilities.

During the next weeks they made several moves. First they were transported by rail to the north east tip of Sardinia, thence, after a few days to Italy by boat, landing at Lido di Roma. They were then loaded into lorries and driven to Poggio Mirteto, a small town about twenty miles north of Rome, where they were given comfortable quarters in an ancient monastery. Here they spent seventeen days, ostensibly in medical "Quarantine". Their stay at this place was relatively pleasant and they enjoyed a good rest. The food was of excellent quality, well prepared and plentiful. But actually, this place was just another interrogation center, alive with microphones and thronged with stooges. Major Ferguson was quartered with a high ranking RAF officer. Taking each other for stooges, their conversation consisted of little save "good morning" and "good night". On their last day at Poggio Mirteto each discovered that the other was genuine.

From here they were moved by rail, to Chieti, near Pescara. The officers and enlisted men were separated at this point and put into nearby camps. Processing, and "Sugar and honey" treatment were over, and they were now about to settle down to the regular prison camp routine. At Chieti, they found about forty American officers and a thousand British officers, mostly from the RAF.

Conditions at this new camp were anything but good. The previous hospitality had been in line with the Axis policy whereby they attempt to make a prisoner relax and feel at home --- and then catch him off guard with stooges --- or spy on his conversation with microphones for the purpose of securing military information. Water at Chieti was

## January 1944 (continued)

their greatest need, there being little enough to drink, let alone wash. Although there were good plumbing facilities --- beautiful showers, etc., they would often be forced to go for several weeks without even washing their hands. Although they were never actually mistreated, the Italians showed them the minimum of decency required by International Law. This is true most particularly in the matter of food. At its best, the diet furnished by the Italian Government to its own men is insufficient and unbalanced. Theoretically, while under supervision of the Italians, Allied prisoners were supposed to receive rations identical to those of the Italian soldier. Actually, the 200 gram loaf of round black bread supplied daily to Italian troops was reduced in the case of the prisoners, to 50 to 75 grams each per day. Together with bread, the staple item of diet was macaroni or spaghetti --- enough to grow monotonous, but not enough to relieve hunger. Once a week, for variety, there was rationed a minute portion of lemon powder, and two small glasses of wine. The few enlisted men who had the strength to volunteer for work were rewarded with an extra portion of bread.

Lt. Hawkins shares with all Allied Prisoners of War the conviction that "The International Red Cross is the greatest organization which has ever been on the face of this earth". With the eleven pound box of food which they supply to each man weekly, when conditions allow, they have managed to keep countless men alive who otherwise might have died from starvation. Supplementing the meager Italian G.I. diet, the Red Cross boxes got them safely through. These boxes contained practically everything necessary for a balanced diet: powdered milk; biscuits and cookies; chocolate; salt and pepper; corned beef or spam; dried fruits; sugar and forty cigarettes. With the assistance of friendly guards, the cigarettes and chocolate were sometimes traded on the civilian black market for fresh meat and other necessities. These packages are packed and donated by the Red Cross of many countries. The American Red Cross, according to Lt. Hawkins packs the best box. The Red Cross served another important function for the prisoners, for through their cooperation, each man was allowed to send two V-Mail type letters and one post card each week. In addition, they were allowed to receive any mail or packages sent to them. However, getting mail takes time. The first letters usually arrive in about five months, while packages from home are usually enroute for ten months to a year. Lt. Hawkins was fortunate in this matter. He received his first letters in less than three months.

The Italians in charge of the camp constantly tried to promote bad feeling between the British and Americans. These activities appeared to be chiefly for propaganda reasons, possibly for the purpose of obtaining counter-propaganda to be used in retaliation to the publicity given the fact that German and Italian prisoners had to be segregated after the Tunisian campaign. They attempted to bring about this bad feeling in very small and petty ways. For instance: by giving bed sheets to the Americans and not the English, and by denying privileges to one group which they gave to others. Both the British and Americans realized this and winked at their shallow and obvious efforts.



## January 1944 (continued)

While at Chieti, Lt. Hawkins served on the American Officers' Escape Committee. This committee was surreptitiously organized for the purpose of devising ways and means of escape. They made plans which resulted in several successful escapes, but more often their best laid plans proved to be too risky, and were abandoned. As the camp was very well guarded, they found themselves under almost constant observation. Then too, there were the ever-present stooges. Finally the committee decided to dig a tunnel under the wall which surrounded the camp. After a careful search for a suitably secluded spot, they selected an ideal location in the boiler room of the cook house. It was close to the wall, and if an efficient watch were set up, they would be able to work unobserved. For a starting point they use a stone step inside the cook house. They carefully loosened the mortar holding the tread until they were able to lift it off like a box top, and were thus able to crawl underneath the building. Finally they started their tunnel, but after several days of digging found that the building's foundation extended far underground, and that they would have to chip a hole through three feet of concrete in order to continue their tunnel. This required about five weeks of steady work, as they had to progress with extreme caution. Unfortunately, there was a sentry post outside the building directly over the tunnel. It therefore became necessary to devise some means to prevent the guard from hearing the concrete being chipped. With characteristic Yankee ingenuity, they found someone to chop wood in the yard close to the sentry, and while working inside, they timed their strokes with the stroke of the man chopping wood. Finally, after expending much effort and not a little anxiety, they got through the concrete and started on the tunnel proper. They took the dirt in inconspicuous quantities, and spread it out of doors with studied carelessness. They managed to take out a tremendous quantity of Italian soil in this manner, and had completed nearly half of the tunnel by 7 September 43.

But on 7 September 43 their work was interrupted by the Allied-Italian armistice. There was terrific excitement in the camp, for they expected to be released immediately, as were the prisoners in most camps. In practically all cases, the Italian Commandant informed the prisoners of the armistice, and released them with his blessing. However, at Chieti, the senior American officer, realizing that large numbers of escapees would be easy prey for German patrols, forbade them to escape under pain of courts martial, and posted American guards to keep them in. They had continued under this set-up for a week when a German paratrooper unit arrived and took the camp over. The American officers were then moved to a camp which was under German control.

At the new camp, they were greeted by 2,000 Americans of all ranks who had been recaptured by the Jerry patrols after being released by the Italians. Under the Germans, the prison set-up differed principally in that the discipline and surveillance was far more strict, and the food better and more plentiful. The Germans, for example, gave them all the bread they could eat, and though strict, were in general more decent than the Italians had been. On one point, however, the Italians had been decidedly more humane; the German guards would shoot a prisoner dead if he approached the barrier or

## January 1944 (continued)

walls surrounding the camp, or if he was suspected of trying to escape. The Italians would put the first shot over the head of a perspective escapee, giving him an opportunity to change his mind.

Lt. Hawkins and his companions continued to study escape possibilities, but abandoned all their plans as too dangerous since failure meant death. However, the general situation of the Italian campaign at this time began to play into their hands, for the Germans were commencing to retreat before the Allied advances in Southern Italy, and in the camp, preparations were being made to transfer all prisoners to Germany; in fact some had already left. When an Austrian guard with the Germans helped two American Officers to slip out of the camp. Lt. Hawkins, with Lt. Gardiner of the 98<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group redoubled their efforts to hit upon a likely plan. As more and more of the prisoners departed for Germany, the guard was relaxed and their chances seemed to grow progressively better. The two lieutenants finally decided to hide out in the very shallow attic of their barracks until the camp was completely abandoned. Taking what few rations they had, and a pint of water, they crawled thru a trap door into the attic. Finding that the rafters were too far apart to crawl over, and that the ceiling was too low for them to jump from rafter to rafter, they went back for bed boards, and used these to crawl back into the most obscure corner of the attic. They were absent from twice daily roll call on 2 October 43. They could hear the camp being searched for them, and knew that a general alarm had probably been sounded. A German officer examined the attic (without a flashlight), but not being able to negotiate the space between the rafters, considered his job complete after firing a few wild shots into the dark. Although this scared them plenty at the time, it convinced them that their hiding place had not been discovered.

Their stay in the attic was most uncomfortable. They were unable to walk around, for their positions were cramped, and they had exhausted their small supply of food and water more quickly than they had anticipated. Lack of water produced greater discomfort than hunger. Their only clothes were British enlisted men's uniforms and it was cold, particularly at night. They slept on the bed boards, one remaining awake to guard against snoring and to listen, while the other slept. After five days, they were on the point of giving up. They were suffering from hunger and thirst, their bodies were stiff from lack of movement and from the cold, and there was then little possibility of getting out of the building undetected. However, they decided to try to stick it out a bit longer, for they could detect from the lessening activity around the camp, that the job of moving the prisoners was nearly complete.

Finally, on the sixth day, a terrific explosion shook the building, and one end of it dissolved into a heap of rubble, leaving a gaping hole at the other end of their attic. This, they knew, was an excellent avenue of escape, but it also pointed to another danger: Suppose they decided to complete the destruction of the building? That evening --- 8 October 43 --- they made their escape. As soon as it was dark, they crept on their bed boards to the point where the building had been blown away, and dropped to the ground.

## January 1944 (continued)

They had been unable to judge the distance, but thought that it was something between 12 and 20 feet. They landed hard, each spraining an ankle, having fallen 30 feet. After lying still for a few moments, they stole through the skeleton guard unobserved, and were on their way.

The immediate problem was to find water. They had heard of two springs in the hills and set out to find them. Although their sprained ankles pained dreadfully, they were forced to continue onward. The next eight hours were spent in searching, during which they climbed a 4,000 foot hill, but found no water. Suddenly, in the very early dawn they were hailed by an Italian peasant who recognized their British uniforms and addressed them in English. The Italian was overjoyed upon finding that they were American officers. His father, he explained, had once lived in Brooklyn, and would be happy to assist Americans in every possible way. They walked with him for some time until he finally led them to the camouflaged entrance of a cave near his home. Upon entering, they found the Italian had other Allied guests: three British enlisted men. They were given water immediately, and after eating they went to sleep, thoroughly exhausted. They stayed in the cave for some time, resting and regaining their strength. Their ankles got stronger, and they began to feel more fit each day. When it grew cold in the mountains, the peasants started moving into the city, where it was warmest. Although their host was not going into the city, he decided that it might be a good idea if the escapees went into town with a friend of his. They accepted this chance eagerly, in the hope of making contact with the underground. After being provided with civilian clothes, they walked into town during the night.

Here they enjoyed themselves quite thoroughly, meeting friends of their host, and learning more about the war situation than they had been able to find out during their stay in prison. But this lasted only a week, as food was hard to get and there were too many Jerries. These Jerries, in civilian clothes, traveled everywhere hunting for escapees. Also, the German authorities frequently searched houses for food, animals and supplies, and they feared that they might be discovered during one of these searches, which were frequent, regular and systematic. These foraging Germans take whatever property they want, and shoot any civilian who shows the least objection to these thefts. The Italians are being bled white in retaliation of the armistice, and Fascist authorities are cooperating in every way with these German outrages. In their policy of always playing the winning side, the Fascists will undoubtedly double cross the Germans when the Allies arrive. The Fascist element, found chiefly in the cities, is thoroughly detested by most Italians, especially those living in the country. On the other hand, the Catholic Church is supporting the anti-fascists, giving them all the assistance possible, as well as sheltering Allied prisoners of war. Throughout occupied Italy, there are hundreds of Americans hiding in churches and being fed by civilians while waiting for an opportunity to escape. And this, despite the fact that the Germans offer an amount equal to two or three year's war time wages for each escapee turned in by a civilian.

## January 1944 (continued)

When Lt. Hawkins and Lt. Gardiner left the city, they were taken to another farm in the mountains, this time much closer to the Allied lines. After a week, they made preparations to move again, with the idea of trying to work back through the German lines into Allied territory. Their new host had explained that they were welcome, but that he would be unable to keep them after the snow came. Moreover, the Germans were being driven back, and were moving into the valleys below. From among the escapees who were hiding at the farm house, they selected a Corporal of the British Infantry to accompany them. This choice was made after some thought. An infantry man, they reasoned, would have a greater knowledge of ground maps, the use of the compass, and the art of taking cover than they, being air personnel. When the snow came a few days later, they were ready to leave. They traveled over rough country, avoiding what roads there were, even though the best of these were mere cow trails. Small as these trails were, Jerries might, conceivably, be encountered on them. Extreme caution being necessary, they climbed a 7,000 foot mountain, whose top was covered with a mist or fog which would permit them more liberty of action if used as a cover. Their ankles were still bothering them and despite the hospitality of the Italians, they were still weak from undernourishment. The trip was painful, for the mountains were rugged. They had no cleats on their shoes, and consequently did quite a bit of sliding around. Frequently the Corporal had to push them or pull them over the rough spots. Traveling in this slow but persistent manner, they succeeded in covering considerable distance.

Once again, when they were urgently in need of food, water and sleep, they met a Sheppard, and were taken to his home. He explained that they could not stay, as he was giving shelter to quite a few men. Nevertheless they received food and much valuable information from him and the British Corporal made copies of maps. So once more they set out, after giving the Sheppard his "chit". A chit is a statement certifying that an American soldier has received assistance. When the holders of these chits turn them over to Allied authorities, they receive a monetary reward.

During the ensuing few days they hid out in the daytime, and traveled during the night. The country became less rugged and they covered a distance of about fifty-five miles with comparative ease. At one time they were walking along a dry creek bed and came to a bridge which they would have to pass under, and observed that it was heavily mined. The Corporal approached it very carefully for examination, and declared it safe so they went on their way again. About half an hour later, they heard a terrific explosion and looked around to see pieces of the bridge hurling through the air in all directions. Almost all of the railroad bridges in Italy are thus mined, as the Germans expect to destroy them before withdrawing. They have already begun to blow up towns and villages, after thoroughly looting them. This senseless and vengeful destruction is not only taking place in areas which are about to fall into Allied hands, as would be the case in a scorched earth policy, but all over Italy.

## January 1944 (continued)

They continued onward again until one evening when they were approached by an Italian. He recognized them as Americans, and offered to get them through the lines. Though skeptical of his urban appearance, they were desperate, as they had no food and were again in need of water. Having no alternative but to take a chance, they listened to the Italian while he explained the situation. The nearest British positions, he stated, were only 18 kilometers away, but because of extensive German patrol work going on in this region, it would be necessary to travel by a round about route. After stumbling through eight hours of semi-darkness, they came to an unoccupied American jeep, casually parked in the wilderness. Knowing that Germans use American vehicles when they are available, all of them thought that their efforts to escape had been in vain --- that they were being led by this suspicious looking Italian back into a German camp, and were almost too tired to care. But a few seconds later, when they saw a sentry in British uniform, they knew that they were once more on Allied soil. They were so overcome that they rushed up and kissed the sentry, who, not knowing the circumstances, was kind of nasty about it. It was 03:30 hours, 16 December 1943.

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### T H E S T O O G E By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Wilbur H. Kuester

I'm the co-pilot, I sit on the right  
I'm not important, just part of the flight  
I never talk back lest I have regrets  
But I have to remember what the pilot forgets.

I make out the flight plan and study the weather  
Pull up the gear and stand by to feather  
Make out the forms and do the reporting  
And fly the old crate when the pilot's a' courting.

I take the readings, adjust the power  
Handle the flaps and call the tower  
Tell him where we are on the darkest night  
And do all the book work without any lights.

I call for my pilot and buy him cokes  
I always laugh at his corny jokes  
And once in a while when his landings are rusty  
I come through with, "Gawd, but it's gusty!"

All in all I'm a general stooge  
As I sit on the right with the man I call "Scrooge"  
I guess you think that is past understanding  
But maybe some day he will give me a landing.

## January 1944 (continued)

**428<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Information for January 1944:** December 8, 1943, the air echelon departed from Phillipville, Algeria, by C-47 transport, for Ghisonaccia, Corsica. The echelon was composed of sixty-three enlisted men and six officers commanded by Major Elmer H. Epperson, Squadron Commander.

*Epperson, Elmer H., Maj, pilot, Commander*

The first leg of the journey was completed the first day when we all landed at the airfield in Ajaccio, Corsica. A bivouac area was set up at the edge of the field and we settled down for a short stay awaiting transportation over the mountains. On December 9<sup>th</sup> the enlisted men were given passes to town. On their return to camp the biggest topic of conversation was the inflation. The franc had no value because of the scarcity of all items. One man was offered sixty dollars for a four-year-old pair of shoes he was wearing.

The following day two new Italian diesel busses picked up the entire group for a ride "deluxe" over the mountains. The pass between Ajaccio and Ghisonaccia was in pretty bad condition so a scheduled of one way traffic had been arranged. The trip will long be remembered by everyone for its scenic beauty. After the drab hills of Africa it was a refreshing sight to all to see large snow-capped mountains and green plains. We arrived at our new base around five o'clock in the afternoon. The British were in command of the base and had evacuated all civilians from the town. We were assigned buildings and soon were comfortably quartered. It was very fortunate for us because immediately upon our arrival it began to rain and did not let up for three weeks.

The first mishap as a result of the rainy season was the landslide on this side of the pass. All bridges to Bastia had been blown up so we were literally trapped. Quartermaster had an estimated six days ration kit but no one was very worried. Very soon the simple system was arranged of having the rations brought from Ajaccio to the landslide, carried on foot from one side to the other, and then transported to the warehouse.

Christmas was nearing rapidly and the prospects for a merry one were bleak. Major Epperson turned a long room over to the enlisted men to make into a bar and club. Two days later "Ye Old Slab Bar Inn" was completed which would rival many rustic night spots back home. Several men formed a voluntary Christmas committee and decorated the room with a tree, pine boughs and wreaths. The army remembered us and sent up by air all the essentials for an old-fashioned Christmas turkey dinner. Our rear echelon sent a special plane up to bring in an unbelievably large mail call which we had by the tree on Christmas eve. Punch and a light lunch were served that night and everyone agreed that we had as merry a Christmas as was possible away from home.

## January 1944 (continued)

We all pitched in to prepare the area for the entire squadron. So for the few weeks we had alone the time was taken up by pitching tents, hauling gravel and cleaning the area. On January 31, 1944, the first planes began to arrive and shortly after the whole flight echelon was with us again.

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The main preoccupation in the early days of January was keeping warm. Mid-day was pleasant--as pleasant as the rugged beauty about us, but eh nights threw another light on the situation. The second most time-consuming effort was the attempt to arrange for the trip to Ghisonaccia. Road blocks, snow storms, land slides,--each contributed to the delay. The road across the mountains was a makeshift proposition necessitated by the thorough demolitions program of the enemy as he retreated. One officer of the engineers offered the information that it would take three years to reconstruct the bridges, roads, and railroads the Germans had effectively sabotaged.

Ajaccio was a poor third as a time consuming medium. The necessity of an early return, transportation and fuel shortages, our lack of contacts in a new area, and the needs of blackout security resulted in a more or less unofficial curfew, which made it difficult to have a really good time. Ajaccio is commodity poor and money rich. As in Africa the youngsters requested bon-bons in the accepted Oran style as in 1942. New and a revelation was the frequency one saw these beseeching urchins clutching 50 or 100 franc notes readily offered in exchange.

Surprising was the robust vitality of the populace. By comparison with the African modes of cleanliness and health, here was a super race of hardy human beings. The attire showed the effects of 4 years of war and clothing rationing, but a truly remarkable proportion of the feminine populace were smartly dressed. If there was a shortage of silk hose it certainly wasn't apparent. The first glance at an occidental civilization poor as Corsica was purported to be was one of the exhilarating experiences of our overseas tour.

It was not until we had the opportunity to visit the bars, venture a meal in a restaurant that the situation presented itself in a clearer light. To say that prices were high would be a banal understatement. Quite unfortunately there were Americans who regarded the natives as profiteers. Still, how could we expect five-franc wine when the children cavorted about offering the Corsican equivalent of a \$2.00 bill. That our cigarettes, even Twenty Grands could bring better than \$10.00 a carton was equally significant. A Corsican offered one of our mechanics \$400. for his flying jacket. Now we can understand the apparent gusto with which our clothes were pilfered on board ship in spite of precautions.

## January 1944 (continued)

On the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 the convoy was under way, Ghisonaccia bound. That it took 9 hours to move something like 60 miles reflects the difficulties. The mountain passes were narrow, cold, and in places, slick with ice. We passed the vehicles of the RAF Regiment which had been on board the LST with us. They had been stranded for four days as a result of a snow storm. To those of us from the flatlands of the middle West, the snow-capped ridges of stubborn granite, the beautiful stand of pines, and the winding roads were deeply impressive. Then, as we gazed on the brooding beauty of the island, we could understand Napoleon's protestations of love for this comparatively barren island. It's easy to see why mountain peoples are self-reliant, patriotic, and strong. The environment is awe-inspiring. For this, the Corsicans are to be envied.

Ghisonaccia Gare--a town at a narrow gauge railway station which lies in the flatland bordering the hills near the East coast. The immediate environs were drab by comparison with the areas we had left in Corsica. Yet it proved to be the most snug and comfortable base we've had since we left England. The civilian populace had been evacuated to Ghisonaccia proper, another village four or five miles to the South.

For the time being we were all quartered in the buildings of the town. As a result, there was a close proximity between the various organizations that we hadn't had for a long time. The men on the line--as usual, had the toughest living conditions. The base's most glaring defect in our eyes was the great distance to any place of note--but that's nothing unusual for the 428<sup>th</sup>.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the "C", crews arrived from Phillipville bringing 40 officers and men. The 380<sup>th</sup> combat teams also arrived in similar force. It was apparent that operations were immediately beginning. That they could be was a pleasant surprise to us, for the transport and supply possibilities on the Island certainly didn't appear to be capable of supporting operational needs.

The base commander at the time was Group Captain Tuttle of the 328<sup>th</sup> Wing, of which he was also C.O. This RAF wing in turn was subordinated to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing at Bastia under the command of Brigadier General Graves. On the field a detachment of 14<sup>th</sup> Squadron Marauders (British) offered reconnaissance services, reporting ship sightings against which we might send attacks. Lt. Col. Harvey Hinman, the group Deputy Commander was our detachment commander.

*Graves, Davis D., BG, pilot, Commander, 63rd FW*

*Hinman, Harvey H., Lt. Col, pilot, Deputy Commander, HQ 310<sup>th</sup> BG*

*Tuttle, Group Captain, 328th Wing Commander, RAF*

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