

12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing  
321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group  
History: May 1945



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

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

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

## 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group

### History: May 1945

The following is a compilation of the 321<sup>st</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 321<sup>st</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 321<sup>st</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 321<sup>st</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>	

## *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.)

## Tuesday, 1 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** During the night of 30 Apr/1 May A-20s and A-26s bomb targets of opportunity in N Italy; bad weather during the day cancels medium bomber operations; fighter-bombers destroy numerous motor and horse-drawn vehicles in NE Italy; US Fifth Army forces approach the Brenner Pass on the Austro-Italian border, while British Eighth Army elements make contact with Yugoslav troops of Marshal Tito near Monfalcone; the flight of the 5<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Photographic Group (Reconnaissance), operating from Pisa with F-5s returns to base at Peretola Airfield, Florence.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** This is the day the Russian Army hopes to take over all of Berlin. The report that Hitler died at his post in Berlin, has been issued by Admiral Doenitz, who also announced that he has assumed the leadership of German resistance. However, other facts seem to deny both reports and it is suspected that it is merely a ruse to obscure Hitler's whereabouts. The Germans in the rest of Europe are reported to be negotiating for peace terms, but Gen. Montgomery is holding to his original terms of unconditional surrender, and advised the enemy that continued resistance is sheer stupidity. The mission for today was stood down.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Training schedule maintained. Expectantly news of rumored peace.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"1 MARTEDI-TUESDAY*

*Stand-down on mission. Went out this afternoon. Flew my time for the month. Zieman was the pilot. There was 9 in the ship. Missions were cut down to 60 for a tour - effective immediately. T.S. I have 59 now. Turned in guns today. Scheduled to fly tomorrow AM at 2:45 - Heard from Mrs Hoobler & Ruby Miesenholder - wrote Carol Ann & Betty."*

*Zieman, Earl E., 1Lt, pilot*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Regular squadron duties are performed as the war draws to a close and we anticipate news of the end momentarily.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No mission. Rumors are flying thick and fast as to whether there will be any more missions from here. Both the officer's and enlisted men's clubs are well on their way to completion and from all indications they will both be very nice. S/Sgt Elmer P. Dressler duty to DS to U.S., Ltr. Hq., 12<sup>th</sup> AF. F/O William T. Atkins appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., AUS, Ltr., Hq., 12<sup>th</sup> AF effective 1 May 1945.

*Atkins, William T., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Dressler, Elmer P., S/Sgt, engineering*

## Tuesday, 1 May 1945 (continued)

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The mission was called off due to adverse weather conditions. Corporal Mayer left for the United States on Rotation.

*Mayer, Alfred M., Cpl, engineering*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

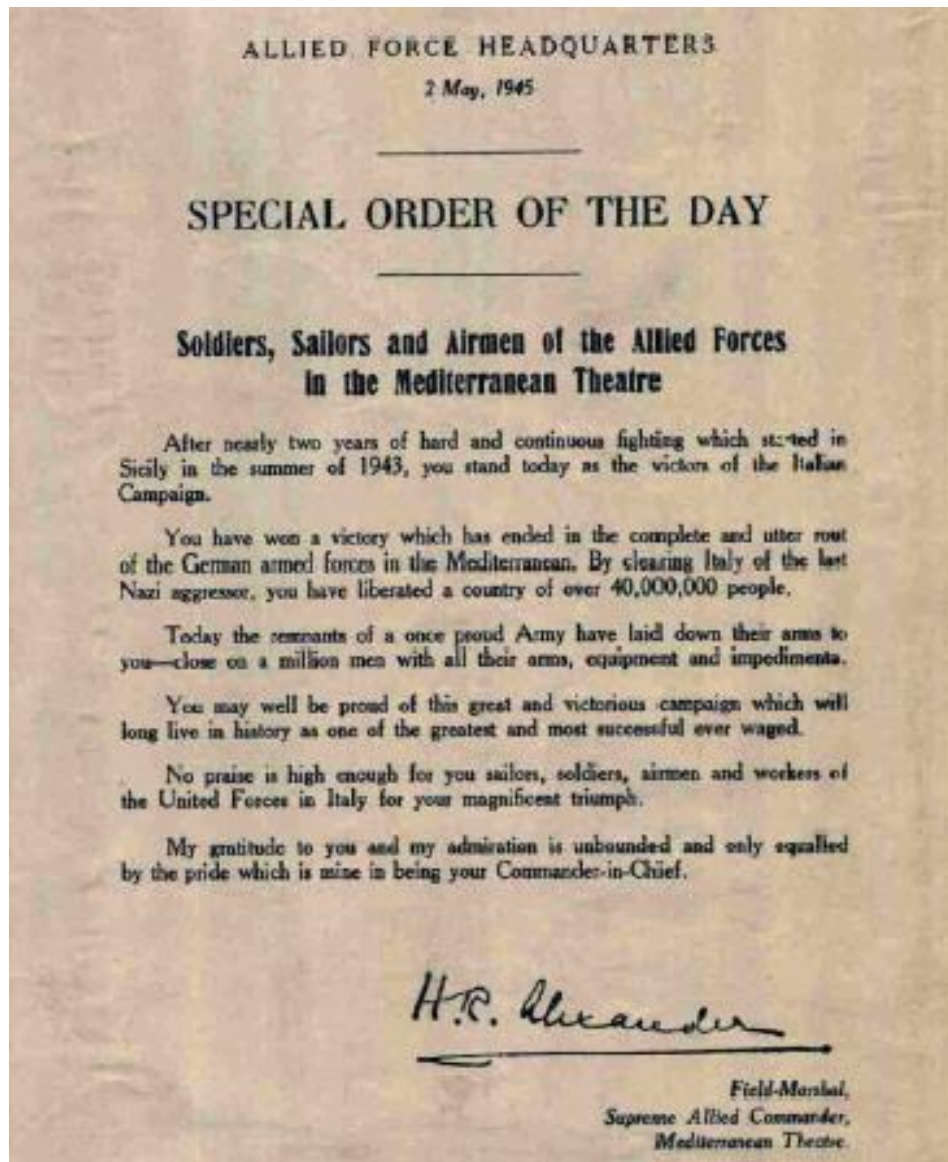
*"Sent \$300 to #8. Cloudy day. Nothing special happening. War is all over in Italy. Just doesn't seem real to know the Brenner Pass is undefended. Used the inside of my sleeping bag for the first time. Saw "Summer Storm" at camp theater. Fair. No more missions to be flown."*



**Wednesday, 2 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Bad weather continues; medium bombers are grounded while the XXII Tactical Air Command flies an uneventful armed reconnaissance in NE Italy.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The Germans have relinquished all claims to Berlin and mopping-up continues in all sectors, with isolated pockets of the once-proud enemy holding out. We had another stand-down today and it looks like the entire Wing has ceased combat operations. There is much scurrying around between here and the Wing headquarters and the required paper-work and packing away of group documents, is proceeding. All enlisted men have been ordered to turn in their carbines and pistols. Close checks are being made on all unauthorized flying-equipment and on clothing in excess of original issue.



**Wednesday, 2 May 1945 (continued)**

HEADQUARTERS  
57<sup>th</sup> BOMBARDMENT WING

APO 650, US Army,  
2 May 1945.

MEMORANDUM:

TO : All Units, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing.

1. The following message from King George has been received through Field Marshal Alexander: "To you and all those under your command, I send my heartfelt congratulations on the overwhelming victory by which you are bringing to so triumphant an end your long and arduous campaign in Italy".

2. Field Marshal Alexander made the following reply on behalf of the Allied personnel of the theater: "It is my humble duty to thank Your Majesty personally and on behalf of all those sailors, soldiers and airmen whom I have the honor to command, for your very gracious message, which is deeply appreciated".

3. A copy of this memorandum will be posted on all bulletin boards.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL KNAPP:

J. H. PATTERSON,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

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**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"2 MERCOLEDI-WEDNESDAY*

*Stand-down on Mission. Developed film this AM. Had a clothing check this morning also. Went to Jesi this afternoon - Schell and I together. I got some Bromide Paper & Chloride - It should help out a bit. Got Betty a Bracelet, Aunt B. some Doilies. No mail-wrote to Betty, sent the Bracelet & picture Berman took."*

*Berman, Charles S., Sgt, engineering, crew chief*

*Schell, Stewart I., Sgt, radio-gunner*

## Wednesday, 2 May 1945 (continued)

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:*

05/02/45: "Painfully, slowly, the war draws to a torturous end. Mussolini and Company are dead. This morning the German radio reports Hitler also dead. We flew what seems to be our last mission several days ago. Since then a mission has been scheduled every day, with a late briefing, the reason for which I think was mostly to keep the crews and men standing by just in case something came up. The Group is making preparations to move somewhere everyone hopes it will be home. Rumors abound, with new ones starting every day. Yesterday we turned in our rifles and today much of our excess equipment was picked up in a show down inspection. Our day off came yesterday and Rucker, Beasley, George and Farmer and I went into Ancona. Nothing unusual happened. It was May Day and the Labor party staged a demonstration at the war memorial monument which overlooks the sea. The setting was beautiful. We came home early and saw "Marriage is a Private Affair" with Lana Turner, at the group theater. I was induced to go, mostly by the fact that a card and crap game was raging in the barracks.

Tonight the radio made official mention of the fact I believe to have existed for several days. I refer to the unconditional surrender of German troops in Italy, effective today noon. The only thing that surprised me was that the surrender took place in the Royal Palace at Cisterna. I enjoy some satisfaction from the fact that our job is finished and is well done. For months we have hoisted bombs and sweat out missions hardly recognizing ours as a part in the war, but undoubtedly the story of Uncle Joe Cannon's 12th Air Force and its role of interdiction in preparation for the final 24 days of battle will be told again and again as a masterful example of the application of air power. "Operation Strangle" has been wonderfully successful. The BBC just finished its nightly program "War Report." Chester Wilmot interviewed German commentator, Gen. Kurt Dittman who stated for a fact the war can last but a few days longer. I have come almost to know BBC reporters; Godfrey Tolbert, Italy, Robert Doneta and Wilmot, Germany, Paul Winterton in Russia. I have often thought if I had grown up in a newspaper environment I would have been a reporter, sure."

*Beasley, Alvis A., Jr., Sgt, armament*

*Cavalenes, George P., S/Sgt, armament*

*Farmer, Alonzo (NMI), S/Sgt, armorer-gunner*

*Rucker, Elbert A., Sgt, armament*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Captains Hurley and Kimble return from temporary duty at 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force and a new Armament officer, Capt. Basore, arrives in the squadron.

*Basore, Capt, Armament Officer*

*Hurley, John R., Capt, pilot*

*Kimble, Arnold P., Capt, pilot*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No mission. Cpl. David J. Dubin duty to DS pending assignment to 414<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron. Sgt. Salvatore L. Locascio assigned and joined from Hq., 19<sup>th</sup> Repl. Bn., par 3, SO 75, Hq., 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb. Gp.

*Locascio, Salvatore L., Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Dubin, David J., Cpl, communications*

## Wednesday, 2 May 1945 (continued)

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Mission was again called off because of bad weather. It was announced this evening that all German armies in Italy had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:***

*"Although I constantly think of Mother's Day, I keep postponing my greetings. However I did send a gift. Bob Ederer and I took a stroll about the beach and British oil and fuel dump as well as their Marshalling Yards. Took photos. Watched Italian women rolling empty 50 gallon oil drums. Many were barefoot. The photos came out quite well. Sent a parcel to #19 of personal effects. I wonder if this parcel is re-censored, if it will get by. Enjoying "War & Peace."*

*Ederer, Robert J., S/Sgt, gunner*

## Thursday, 3 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** To assure that the enemy implements the surrender terms in Italy and to observe road activity, fighters fly reconnaissance missions over N Italy and SW Austria; medium bombers drop leaflets in several areas where enemy troops might be unaware of the surrender. The 121st Liaison Squadron, Twelfth AF (attached to Fifth Army), moves from Florence to Verona, Italy with L-4s and L-5s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The Germans holding out in Norway, are expected to capitulate any hour, but certain groups in Czechoslovakia are putting up resistance. Things have let up so suddenly here, that for the first time it seems to realization that the War is over, has struck home. Personnel discuss the extent of time they will spend in the Pacific, rather than the possibility of going there. It seems that everyone will willingly take on another six months' tour of the Pacific, if they could only spend about 30 or 45 days at home. Special Services has started to show daily matinees to break the monotony of the day and good attendances are being box-officed. All of a sudden, a deluge of ancient movies has descended upon us. If they were only Class A or B, it wouldn't be bad, but they dug out some lulus like *The Great Moment* and *Colt's Comrades*. The current sensation, Lauren Bacall, hit the screen and started a controversy as to whether she's terrific or "coma si o com coma sa".

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*  
"3 GIOVEDI-THURSDAY

*No mission, today as per usual. Not much going on. Worked out in the dark Room with Bromide paper. It turned out plenty good. Mixed Hypo and Developer today. Worked out there this afternoon and tonight also. Developed 19 rolls of film. 3 were mine. Printed quite a few too. Heard from Betty, Mom Hoobler, (2) Carol, Bernard & LeRoy, Presleniano - wrote Betty - 00:07AM"*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** More routine days as premature rumors of peace keep coming from various sources.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No mission. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert K. Murchland MIA to duty. Usual organizational duties.

*Murchland, Robert Keith, 1Lt, pilot*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No mission was scheduled. Up to this date, the Group has flown 897 missions. The Group has not yet been declared non-operational.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*  
"Cloudy day. Stayed in the sack and read until noon. All local T (*Training*) canceled due to gas shortage. Brought beaucoup laundry to Falconara so as to have all clean clothes on leaving for home."

**Friday, 4 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** The XXII Tactical Air Command continues flying visual reconnaissance during the night and day in N Italy; the US 85<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division reaches the Austrian border near San Candido and pushes on to the Brenner Pass at Vipiteno without opposition.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The weather has been nice and the Red Cross instituted the practice of serving coffee-and-doughnuts at 10:00 a.m., which serves as a late-breakfast for the fellows who don't get up for morning chow, and as a breather for those who can't hold out until noon chow. For awhile, we were "sweating out" another mission or two, but it seems that Wing has forgotten about us wanting to hit Number 900. The Germans are still putting up scattered resistance in Czechoslovakia, but that's too far out of range for our bombers.

HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 650, US Army,  
4 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Teletype.

TO : Commanding Officers, All Squadrons.

Teletype message received from 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, is quoted herewith for your information:

"G-18. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN FORWARDED BY MATAF AND IS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL PERSONNEL: 'I REJOICE IN THE MAGNIFICENTLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED OPERATION OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> GROUP OF ARMIES WHICH ARE RESULTING IN THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OR CAPTURE OF ALL ENEMY FORCES SOUTH OF THE ALPS. THAT YOU AND GENERAL MARK CLARK SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THESE TREMENDOUS AND DECISIVE RESULTS AGAINST A SUPERIOR NUMBER OF ENEMY DIVISIONS AFTER YOU HAVE MADE GREAT SACRIFICES OF WHOLE ARMIES FOR THE WESTERN FRONT, IS INDEED ANOTHER PROOF OF YOUR GENIUS FOR WAR AND OF INTIMATE BROTHERHOOD-IN-ARMS BETWEEN BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND IMPERIAL FORCES AND THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES. NEVER, I SUPPOSE, HAVE SO MANY NATIONS ADVANCED AND MANEUVERED IN ONE LINE VICTORIOUSLY. THE BRITISH, AMERICANS, NEW ZEALANDERS, SOUTH AFRICANS, BRITISH INDIANS, POLES, JEWS, BRAZILIANS AND STRONG FORCES OF LIBERATED ITALIANS HAVE MARCHED TOGETHER IN THAT HIGH



## Friday, 4 May 1945 (continued)

COMRADESHIP AND UNITY OF MEN FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND FOR THE DELIVERANCE OF MANKIND. THIS GREAT FINAL BATTLE IN ITALY, WILL LONG STAND OUT IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS EPISODES IN THIS WORLD WAR. PRAY GIVE MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL YOUR COMMANDERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF ALL SERVICES AND ABOVE ALL, TO THE VALIANT AND ARDENT TROOPS WHOM THEY HAVE LED WITH SO MUCH SKILL.”

KNAPP

BY ORDER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CASSIDY:

SAM GREGORY,  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

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**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lts. Santone, Weiner; Sgts. Johnson, Watts, Andrews, F.L. Smith, and Moorehead rotated to U.S., following completion of missions. Non-operational flights.

*Andrews, Lamar C., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Johnson, John E., S/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Moorehead, Lewis E., Sgt, gunner*

*Santone, Michael A., 1Lt, pilot*

*Smith, Francis L. "Smitty", S/Sgt, gunner*

*Watts, Joseph T., Jr., Sgt, gunner*

*Weiner, Irving B., 1Lt, bombardier*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"4 VENERDI-FRIDAY*

*No mission today - naturally Andrews & Johnson, Santone, Wiener, and some more went home. I worked on pictures again today - business starting to pick up. No mail - I wrote to Betty and Carol. I saw Staub today. Also paid Emery today as well."*

*Andrews, Lamar C., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Emery, Leslie E., S/Sgt, armament, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Johnson, John E., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Santone, Michael A., 1Lt, pilot*

*Staub, Edward C., S/Sgt, gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Weiner, Irving B., 1Lt, bombardier, navigator*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** More routine days as premature rumors of peace keep coming from various sources.





## Saturday, 5 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** XXII Tactical Air Command fighters continue reconnaissance flights over N Italy, SW Austria, and as far N as Munich, Germany; fighters destroy numerous aircraft at an airfield SE of Munich.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** No mission for today, per usual. Some 10 fellows from Group headquarters and about 40 from the four squadrons, were alerted for TD to the United States. There are quite a few Navy men around the post and that gives rise to a new batch of rumors. Some say they are here to take back the group, but the truth of the matter, is that they came in on merchant vessels at Ancona and someone must have put an "X" on our gate. It seems we're feeding them gratis and treating them royally, which is a contrast to the treatment the Navy gave us on the way over here. We'll see if it has any influence on our conditions when they carry us to the Pacific. The rest of the Italian army surrendered at 0800 today and it sure is a good feeling, although it comes as a bit of an anti-climax.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sgts. Haynes and Slodden rotated to U.S. after completion of tour.  
*Haynes, Irving L., Sgt, armorer-gunner*  
*Slodden, Henry M. "Kip", S/Sgt, gunner*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*  
*"5 SABATO-SATURDAY*

*No mission went out and cleaned my guns. Working pretty hard in the Photo Shop. I guess we're doing OK. Letters from Carol, Aunt B, Grandma B, Mrs Hoobler, Betty - I didn't write any."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** More routine days as premature rumors of peace keep coming from various sources.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert K. Murchland relieved of duty to DS pending asgmt. to 7<sup>th</sup> Repl. Depot for transshipment to U.S. combat rotation. Departed Ltr. Hq., 12<sup>th</sup> AF: Capt. Wendell E. Marchant, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frederick J. Hiller, S/Sgt James H. Williams. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Hiller, Frederick J., 1Lt, bombardier*  
*Marchant, Wendell E., Capt, pilot*  
*Murchland, Robert Keith, 1Lt, pilot*  
*Williams, James H., S/Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No mission was scheduled. Major Farwell, Captains Ivory and Leonard, Lieutenant Armstrong and Sergeants Martin, Shaw, Varga, Enderle and Moleski returned from a ten day furlough in Cairo, Egypt.

*Armstrong, Sherman T., Jr. 1Lt, bombardier*  
*Enderle, Melvin J., S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Farwell, Harold S., Maj, pilot, Commander*  
*Ivory, Daniel J., Jr., Capt, pilot*

**Saturday, 5 May 1945 (continued)**

*Leonard, Lee V., Capt, pilot*

*Martin, Lewis E. "Lew", T/Sgt, gunner*

*Moleski, Benny M. "Ben", S/Sgt, gunner*

*Shaw, David S., Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Varga, Frank K., T/Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Flew local T for 2:20 min. Shot four landings. Basked in sun all PM. Feeling pretty good, although was quite nervous while flying. Boys returned from Cairo."*

**Sunday, 6 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Brigadier General Robert S Israel, Jr takes command of the XXII Tactical Air Command. Fighters fly reconnaissance over the French and Italian Alps.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Again, there was no mission scheduled for today and it looks like we've wound up our combat-tour. The rest of the German Armies opposing the 21st Army Group, Monty's men, have thrown in the sponge and it's now a case of who can get off the sinking ship of the Nazi-state, the faster. Reports are already coming in of how certain big-wheels never did believe in Hitler and only went along because they had to. There will be thousands of similar stories. The personnel who were alerted, left this morning and that, in the Army, is really being on the beam and highly unusual. The farewell celebrations are beginning to wear on the ones left behind, as a "stirrup-cup" with each "rotator" is really a task.

HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 650, US Army,  
6 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Radio Message.

TO : Commanding Officers, All Squadrons.

The following radio message, received from MAAF, is quoted for your information:

“THE FOLLOWING SIGNAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE-EAST FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR AND IS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF ALL PERSONNEL:

“ON MY OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF AND THE REST OF THE COUNCIL, I SEND YOU AND ALL RANKS UNDER YOUR COMMAND, WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE MAGNIFICENT PART PLAYED BY THE RAF AND THE AIR FORCES OF THE DOMINIONS AND THE ALLIES, IN THE LONG AND ARDUOUS CAMPAIGNS IN ITALY CULMINATING IN THE TOTAL SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY FORCES IN THAT THEATRE. SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEIR COMRADES IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES, THEY FOUGHT HARD ON THE GROUND TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN MASTERY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SKY, AND THEN BY DISTURBING THE ENEMY'S COMMUNICATIONS AND BY DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE ALLIED ARMIES, THEY CONTRIBUTED DECISIVELY

**Sunday, 6 May 1945 (continued)**

TO THE RESOUNDING VICTORY NOW WON. OUR HEARTIEST THANKS  
TO YOU ALL, FOR THIS MASSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.”

ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR

BY ORDER OF COLONEL CASSIDY:

/s/Sam Gregory  
/t/ SAM GREGORY,  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 650, US Army,  
6 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Teletype Message.

TO : All Personnel, This Command.

The following teletype message received from 47<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, is quoted for your information:

“FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM GENERAL EAKER THROUGH GENERAL CANNON, IS PARAPHRASED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. ‘CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR AIR FORCES IN THEIR HOURS OF VICTORY. I WATCHED WITH KEENEST INTEREST, THEIR TREMENDOUS BLOW AGAINST THE GERMAN ARMIES IN ITALY AS THEY STAGGERED TO THE REAR, MOVING THE DESTRUCTION OF MORE THAN 8000 TANKS AND TRUCKS DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS. PLEASE TELL THE ALLIED AIR FORCES UNDER YOUR COMMAND, OF MY COMPLETE ADMIRATION FOR THE GREAT SKILL AND UNFALTERING COURAGE THEY DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THEIR LONG AND HARD CAMPAIGN. WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN THERE TO WITNESS YOUR LAST GREAT BATTLE’”.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL CASSIDY:

SAM GREGORY,  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

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## Sunday, 6 May 1945 (continued)

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"6 DOMENICA-SUNDAY*

*No mission - naturally - went out at 8 AM to clean up the ship, namely nose gun-pyrotechnic pistol - etc. worked out at shak with the pictures - Berman goes in the morning. His part 49.00 not bad for 3 days - wrote Betty - No mail."*

*Berman, Charles S., Sgt, engineering, crew chief*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:*

*05/06/45: "These are hectic days that indeed try men's souls. Everyone is racing around in a fury of anxiety about going home. Orders are coming in for men to go home. Some have left and 30 more go tomorrow. Wine and cognac flow like tears and always there is drunkenness and commotion. A poker game goes on 12 hours a day. Everyone is festive."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Promotions are announced for the following 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieuts: Bachman, Pouse and Wallace. Lieuts. Hensler and Maki and Sgt. Karuzas return from behind enemy lines, having been shot down on a combat mission. Sergeant Mabe, the First Sergeant of the 446<sup>th</sup>, along with EM Bamrick, Yantis, Dillon and Lamacchia get those homeward-bound papers.

*Bachman, William C., Jr., 1Lt, pilot*

*Bamrick, Thomas P., Sgt, engineering*

*Dillon, Martin A., Sgt, communications*

*Hensler, Donald O., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Karuzas, Alexander W., T/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Lamacchia, Peter T., Sgt, Supply*

*Mabe, John Ivan, T/Sgt, personnel, 1st Sgt*

*Maki, Allan A., 1Lt, pilot*

*Pouse, Alford H., Jr., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Wallace, Merwin William "Bill", 1Lt, pilot*

*Yantis, Billie (NMI), Sgt, armament*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** S/Sgt. Elmer P. Dressler left on permanent rotation. S/Sgt William Huizingh on DS at Group returned to duty and put on TDY to USA. S/Sgt Olney W. Morris, Sgt. William J. Hoffman, Cpl Merle L. Bunch, and Cpl. Cyril Gralke relieved of duty and put on TDY to USA. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Bunch, Merle L., Cpl, armament*

*Dressler, Elmer P., S/Sgt, engineering*

*Gralke, Cyril, Cpl, engineering, transportation*

*Hoffman, William J., Sgt, transportation*

*Huizingh, William (NMI), S/Sgt, communications* *Morris, Olney W., S/Sgt, armament*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No mission was scheduled. Preparations for a large-scale training program began, with which the Information and Education section is to play a big part. Lieutenants Meyers and Stromberg returned from the rest camp at Cannes, France, and Sergeant Sharp returned from the rest camp at Nice, France. Captain Bongiovanni and

## Sunday, 6 May 1945 (continued)

Sergeants Biernachi, Brandon, Wist, Kulczynski and VanOrden returned to the United States. Second Lieutenants Ashland, Bottom, Bruhn, Lyons, Stokes and Stow were promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants.

*Ashland, Arthur E. "Art", 1Lt, pilot*

*Bongiovanni, Michael (NMI), Capt, navigator*

*Brandon, James L., S/Sgt, communications*

*Kulczynski, Maryan S., Sgt, cook*

*Meyers, Kenneth F., 1Lt, pilot*

*Stokes, George M., 1Lt, pilot*

*Stromberg, Carl K., 1Lt, pilot*

*Wist, Charles G., Sgt, intelligence*

*Biernachi, Stanley (NMI), Sgt, operations*

*Bottom, James W., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Bruhn, Charles A., 1Lt, pilot*

*Lyons, John W., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Sharp, Russell L., Jr., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Stow, Charles E., 1Lt, pilot*

*VanOrden, Lester E., Sgt, engineering*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:  
"Regular run of the mill."*

**Monday, 7 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** P-47s fly reconnaissance over the Austrian Alps. HQ 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and the 65<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron move from Verona to Grosseto, Italy with P-47s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** No operations today and rumors are thicker than ever. Another large batch of specialists were alerted for redeployment, a vague term which has everyone guessing, and thinking. The German Armies in Austria have surrendered. The EM's Club is scheduled to open tonight and it seems to be one of those 'the mails must go through' affairs, as the colonel layed down the ultimatum that he wants to see it functioning. All that really was necessary to open it officially, was enough liquor; and that was pretty difficult to obtain.

HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 650, US Army,  
7 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Teletype.

TO : Commanding Officer, Each Squadron.

Teletype message quoted below, received from 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing has been paraphrased for your information:

“FOLLOWING PARAPHRASED MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL: ‘THE WORK OF THE AIR FORCES STRIKING FROM ITALY, HAS PLAYED AN INDISPENSABLE PART IN THE ATTACK ON GERMAN ESTABLISHMENTS IN AUSTRIA, IN HUNGARY, IN RUMANIA AND IN BULGARIA, AND IN MAINTENANCE OF JUGOSLAV PARTISANS. I SHALL BE OBLIGED IF YOU WILL ACCEPT FOR YOURSELF AND WILL CONVEY TO ALLIED AIRMEN UNDER YOUR COMMAND, AMERICANS, BRITISH, BRAZILIAN, POLISH, JUGOSLAVS, SOUTH AFRICANS, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIANS, RHODESIANS, AND ITALIANS MY CONGRATULATIONS NOT ONLY IN AIR DOMINATION OVER ENEMY ARMIES, BUT EVEN MORE IN DISRUPTION OF THEIR COMMUNICATIONS TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS BEFORE OUR DRIVE, WITH THE RESULT THAT THEY WERE CAUGHT AND DESTROYED. THUS, AIR POWER HAS MANIFESTED ITS WAR CAPACITY IN THESE TRIUMPHANT OPERATIONS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN TOTAL DESTRUCTION OR CAPTURE OF GERMAN AND ITALIAN ENEMY. I PAID A TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE AIR FORCES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WHEN I ANNOUNCED THE GLORIOUS TIDINGS, BUT I

**Monday, 7 May 1945 (continued)**

FEEL COMPELLED TO SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMAND.' GENERAL CHIDLAW ADDED TO THIS: 'THIS INSPIRING TRIBUTE FROM MISTER CHURCHILL, FILLS ME WITH UTMOST PRIDE IN YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS'"

BY ORDER OF COLONEL CASSIDY:

SAM GREGORY,  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 650, US Army,  
7 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Teletype.

TO : Commanding Officers, All Squadrons.

Teletype message quoted herewith, received from 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, has been paraphrased for your information:

“EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR AIR FORCES FOR THEIR MAGNIFICENT WORK IN THE CAMPAIGN WHICH CULMINATED ON THE SURRENDER OF GERMAN FORCES IN ITALY. THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM GEN. MARSHALL TO MAAF.”

BY ORDER OF COLONEL CASSIDY:

SAM GREGORY  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

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**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Ground personnel departed for U.S. They were Sgts. Campbell (1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.), Coffee, Beeler, Ehler, Roberts, Hayes, Mathewson, Berman, Pickens, Lestz, Stewart, Light, Meddaugh, Lien, Hastings, Hanna, Bell, Williams, Kuhlmann, Goodhart, Leitz, Carter, Cpls. Szwast, Macola, Matthews, Liebgot, Abrams, Galowtsky, Hall. Capt. Bruce Lowery went on TD to U.S. Non-operational flights. Sgt. John R. Apperson appointed acting first sergeant.

*Abrams, George W., Cpl, transportation*  
*Beeler, Howard N., S/Sgt, medical*

*Apperson, John Ross, Sgt, personnel*  
*Bell, Louis E. "Lew", Sgt, armament*



## Monday, 7 May 1945 (continued)

*Berman, Charles S., Sgt, engineering, crew chief*  
*Campbell, Matthew (NMI), S/Sgt, personnel, 1st Sgt*  
*Carter, Robert A. "Gus", Sgt, armament*      *Coffee, Leon (NMI), Sgt, engineering*  
*Ehler, Leon J. H., S/Sgt, communications*      *Galowsky, Anthony E., Cpl, ordnance*  
*Goodhart, Jacob C., Sgt, engineering*      *Hall, James C., Cpl, ordnance*  
*Hanna, Arthur M. "Art", Sgt, engineering*      *Hastings, Leon P., Sgt, engineering*  
*Hayes, William R., Jr., Sgt, engineering, crew chief*  
*Kuhlmann, Alvin W., Sgt, engineering*  
*Liebgot, Michael (NMI), Cpl, communications*      *Leitz, Thomas J., Sgt, engineering*  
*Lestz, Sidney "Lefty", T/Sgt, engineering, crew chief*  
*Lien, Arthur I., Sgt, engineering*      *Light, Ralph E., Jr., Sgt, engineering*  
*Lowery, Bruce, Capt, armament*      *Macola, Anthony P., Cpl, engineering*  
*Mathewson, Melvin H., T/Sgt, engineering*      *Matthews, Clifford K., Cpl, medical*  
*Meddaugh, Elijah B., Sgt, communications*      *Pickens, Harry K., Sgt, engineering*  
*Roberts, Alfred W., Jr., Sgt, transportation*      *Stewart, Eugene W., Sgt, transportation*  
*Szwast, Stanley J., Cpl, engineering*      *Williams, Norman K., Sgt, engineering*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"7 LUNEDI-MONDAY*

*No mission - worked in Dark Room as usual. War was announced finito - The bells rang - the flags in Jesi were all out - Smitty was there. They had all kinds of flowers around the place. Guard Duty 1st Shift"*

*Smith, Warren B. "Smitty", T/Sgt, gunner*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** More lucky men are headed for the states: Lt. Dwyer, Ems: Marshall, Dudley, Kelley, N., Kroggel, Weyrick, Olsen, E., Vandertuuk, Wilhelm, Cooke and Bishop are ground personnel leaving and Alberico and Leary are gone on combat rotation.

*Alberico, Camillo A., S/Sgt, gunner*      *Bishop, Jack G., Sgt, ordnance*  
*Cooke, Donald C., Sgt, personnel*      *Dudley, Jasper E, Cpl, ordnance*  
*Dwyer, Owen V., 1Lt, armament*      *Kelley, Norman S., Sgt, cook*  
*Kroggel, Robert W., Sgt, engineering*      *Leary, Edward M., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*  
*Marshall, John R., Sgt, Operations*      *Olsen, Edward L., Sgt, engineering*  
*Vandertuuk, Albert B., Sgt, engineering*      *Weyrick, Earl W., Sgt, armament*  
*Wilhelm, Walter J., Sgt, engineering*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The following EM and officers are relieved of duty and put on DS to 7<sup>th</sup> Repl. Depot for transshipment to US: Capt. John M. Hamilton, M/Sgt Woodrow H. Perry, T/Sgt Edmund D. Schwegmann, S/Sgt Clyde C. Hilliard, Sgt James E. Dowell, Cpl. John B. Sharp, Pfc. George J. Sarberg, and Pfc. Lloyd B. Altherr. The following 16 EM relieved of duty and put on SD pending assignment in grade to 7<sup>th</sup> Repl. Depot for transshipment: Sgt. James H. Whipple, S/Sgt. Eugene R. Nagy, Jr., Cpl. Louis G. Steves, Sgt. Thomas H. Smith, T/Sgt Robert E. Bruns, T/Sgt Harry C. Niemann, T/Sgt Joseph

## Monday, 7 May 1945 (continued)

Obrazik, T/Sgt Joseph J. Oler, T/Sgt Royal L. Pauschert, T/Sgt Roy G. Pearson, S/Sgt Glen S. Thomason, Sgt. Clyde C. Murphy, Jr., Fred J. Corbo. Usual Camp Duties.

*Altherr, Lloyd B., PFC, medical*                      *Bruns, Robert E., T/Sgt, engineering*  
*Corbo, Fred J., Sgt, transportation*              *Dowell, James E., Sgt, mess*  
*Hamilton, John M. "Doc", Capt, Medical Officer*  
*Hilliard, Clyde D., S/Sgt, photographer*  
*Murphy, Clyde Caldwell, Jr., Sgt, engineering*  
*Nagy, Eugene R., Jr., S/Sgt, engineering*      *Niemann, Harry C., T/Sgt, engineering*  
*Obrazik, Joseph (NMI), T/Sgt, engineering*      *Oler, Joseph J., T/Sgt, engineering*  
*Pauschert, Royal E., T/Sgt, engineering*      *Pearson, Roy G., T/Sgt, engineering*  
*Perry, Woodrow H., M/Sgt, armament*          *Sarberg, George J., PFC, medical*  
*Schwegmann, Edmund D., T/Sgt, communications*  
*Sharp, John B., Cpl, transportation*              *Smith, Thomas H., Sgt, engineering*  
*Steves, Louis G., Jr., Cpl, engineering*          *Thomason, Glenn S., S/Sgt, engineering*  
*Whipple, William E. Sgt, armament*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No mission was scheduled. V-E Day begins tonight at midnight and will last for 24 hours. Thirty-six bottles of American whiskey was donated to all Enlisted Men of this squadron in order to celebrate the event in the right manner. Captains Ivory, Kneisle and Leonard, Sergeants Enderle, Moleski, Konczak, Lane, Lison, Updyke, Coomes, Ludtke, Polcawich, Rice, Sampson, Will, Ziemba, Lewis, Larson, Pfeiffer, Reiser, Lanningham, and Mindnich and Corporals Wiles, Liona and Bradford and Private Nelson returned to the United States on Rotation.

*Bradford, Nealy (NMI), Cpl, ordnance*              *Coomes, Eldon W., Sgt, engineering*  
*Enderle, Melvin J., S/Sgt, gunner*                  *Ivory, Daniel J., Jr., Capt, pilot*  
*Kneisle, Herman M., Capt, communication*      *Konczak, Louis A., Sgt, medical*  
*Lane, Howard W., Sgt, transportation*          *Lanningham, Theodore R., S/Sgt, engineering*  
*Larson, Harold A., Sgt, tech supply*              *Leonard, Lee V., Capt, pilot*  
*Lewis, Charles H., Sgt, engineering*              *Liona, Casimir F., Cpl, transportation*  
*Lison, George C., Sgt, bomb system maintenance*  
*Luedtke, Claron William, T/Sgt, engineering*      *Mindnich, Walter S., Sgt, ordnance*  
*Moleski, Benny M. "Ben", S/Sgt, gunner*          *Nelson, John F., Pvt, duty soldier*  
*Pfeiffer, Robert C. "Bob", Sgt, engineering*      *Polcawich, John (NMI), Sgt, engineering*  
*Reiser, Albert (NMI), Sgt, engineering*          *Rice, Robert L., Sgt, engineering*  
*Sampson, Donald A., Sgt, engineering*          *Updyke, Ernest (NMI), Sgt, tech supply*  
*Wiles, Marvin R., Cpl, medical*                      *Will, Sanford Wellington, Sgt, engineering*  
*Ziemba, Joseph A., Sgt, ordnance*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Peace declared. Unconditional surrender. Everyone restricted to base. This is due to a possible disturbance in and about Ancona, Falconara, etc. Flares from pistols being shot all over the place. Cassidy made full Colonel."*

*Cassidy, Charles F., Jr., Col, pilot, 321<sup>st</sup> BG, Commander*

## Tuesday, 8 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Transports carry out evacuation and supply missions in S Europe. The 64<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadrons, 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, move from Villafranca di Verona to Grosseto, Italy with P-47s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The big news today, was the presentation of the cluster to our Unit Citation Badge. Every squadron had its personnel duded up in Class A's. Gen. Knapp came down from Wing, to make the presentation for the sinking of the Strasbourg, La Galissonniere and Aurora in Toulon Harbor on August 18, 1944. Today, was also V-E Day, and all personnel was confined to the compound. It seems unfair, but there undoubtedly would be a lot of 'hell-raising' once this exuberant gang got out among the local eye-ties. As soon as it got dark enough, the service group and the RAF fellows joined our bunch in setting off flares. It looked like a hometown Fourth of July celebration, but it certainly would have confused a pilot who relied on signal-recognition. One of the limey sentries expressed the sentiments of all, when he said, 'We 'elped the bluddy infantry win the bluddy War and now the blokes confine us while they goes out a' celebratin'.

*Knapp, Robert Duane, Brigadier General, pilot, 57th BW Commander*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**  
"8 MARTEDI-TUESDAY  
Worked in Darkroom"

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** This is the day – Victory in Europe. The event was quietly received by everyone, quite a different reaction than we had anticipated for such an important day. Eleven enlisted personnel are promoted. News reaches the squadron of the death in Rome of Staff Sgt. Walter Brady, a combat engineer.

*Brady, Walter (NMI), S/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert K. Murchland relieved of assignment. Radio announced that Prime Minister Churchill will announce V-D Day this afternoon – Everybody claiming the war is over. General Knapp presented unit citation for bombing of Toulon Harbor to 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group. Holiday declared and celebration was in order – Bar was opened in the afternoon and the evening was spent enjoying the flares that were fired in celebration of the end of the European War.

*Knapp, Robert Duane, Brigadier General, pilot, 57th BW Commander*  
*Murchland, Robert Keith, 1Lt, pilot*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** It was revealed today that we had flown our last mission. A Cluster of our Unit Citation for the Toulon mission was presented to the Group in a formation this morning by Brigadier General Knapp. Some of the soldiers simultaneously fired signal flares into the sky tonight (the overseas version of fireworks)

## Tuesday, 8 May 1945

and some excellent pictures of the results were made. Sergeant Sharp left for the United States.

*Knapp, Robert Duane, Brigadier General, pilot, 57th BW Commander*

*Sharp, Russell L., Jr., S/Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*“Still restricted to base. Doc Smith and his Mitchell-Airs played for one hour on base. Orchestra is composed of group musicians. Seems like the whole barracks is drunk. Ever since arrive at this base it's been impossible to retire before midnight.”*

*Smith, William C. "Doc", Capt, Flight Surgeon, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*

**Wednesday, 9 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** With combat operations in S Europe at an end, transport aircraft continue supply and evacuation missions. The 447<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (Medium), moves from Solenzara, Corsica to Falconara, Italy with B-25s. In late May 45, HQ 60<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group and 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadrons begin a movement from Pomigliano, Italy to Waller Field, Trinidad with C-47s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The camp is still under compound-restrictions until the morning-after effects wear off. There haven't been any reports of casualties in this locality. Heavy emphasis is being placed on the Instruction and Education Program, which is to go into effect shortly. We've all been polled as to our likes, education, army work, sports or recreation. Rumors are still rampant, but they seem to be on the down-grade. However; it's getting harder to pick up bets that this group will be home, that means the United States, before the end of summer. The point-system came into the limelight today, and the versions vary. Some of the S-1 'wheels' are slightly peeved at the news-release, but it's hard to remain secretive with hot poop like that on tap. It seems that every battle-participation star will be rated 5 points; every award and decoration, 5 points; every dependent, 5 points; and every month of service, 1 point, with 1 additional point for each month overseas.

HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 650, US Army,  
9 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Teletype Message.

TO : Commanding Officers, All Squadrons.

The following teletype message from 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, is quoted for your information:

“G-25 TODAY WE ARE CELEBRATING THE OFFICIAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN EUROPE. I EXTEND MY SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE 57TH WING FOR THE PART YOU HAVE PLAYED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEFEAT OF POWERFUL ENEMIES. ALL OF YOU HAVE WORKED IN HARMONY THAT HAS RESULTED IN THIS WING BECOMING OUTSTANDING IN MAINTENANCE, ACCURATE BOMBING AND LOW CASUALTY RATES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE YOUR EFFICIENCY UNTIL OUR REMAINING ENEMY, JAPAN, HAS BEEN DEFEATED.

KNAPP.

## Wednesday, 9 May 1945 (continued)

BY ORDER OF COLONEL CASSIDY:

SAM GREGORY  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

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**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*  
"9 MERCOLEDI-WEDNESDAY  
*Worked in Darkroom*"

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:*  
05/09/45: "The war is ended and over. The celebration passed and almost everyone recovered. As soon as rumors that the surrender terms were complete were supported by some authority, a strict security guard was slapped on and no GI was allowed to leave his base. Many were much displeased, but it was a necessary action. We had a formation inside the compound and the group was presented its second Unit Citation by Gen. Knapp. Afterward we spent the day in games, etc. There was considerable drinking and some disorderliness. Some of us erected a badminton court on the roof of the barracks and have had several snappy sessions. The card games at the foot of my bed became so annoying as to be intolerable and to avoid trouble I moved out on to the patio. Tonight Rucker joined me. The last few days have been very warm and pleasant. There was a first class five dollar display of signal flares and ack-ack which kept the sky alight most all night on the day war was declared 'finni.'"

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sgt. James Moncure returns from behind the lines, having been shot down on one of the last missions flown by the group.  
*Moncure, James D., Jr., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Guns stopped firing at 12:01 this AM. Pfc Downey left for 60<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital. The men are all waiting now for the announcement of the value of points for discharge. Two million men to be discharged on this system. Usual Organizational Duties.  
*Downey, Thomas, Pfc, transportation*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Today seemed comparatively mild after the wild celebrating we did last night and we are now "back to normal". Plans for a peace-time schedule were started by the Information and Education section. It was revealed that aside from having an inspection and parade Saturday mornings, we were to have Saturdays and Sundays off. Flight Officer Carr was promoted to Second Lieutenant.  
*Carr, Robert E., 2Lt, pilot*

## Wednesday, 9 May 1945 (continued)

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*“Visited Anna Maria at her home. Van and Don accompanied me. Very smart, fine apartment. Met her family and a few other acquaintances that stopped in. Very pleasant people. Afterwards we went to the Doctor's home and dined with the family. We tried drinking some of their civilian milk. What a terrible taste - like lozenges - smoke. Pulled morning wall guard - 7 to 11.”*

*Vandenberg, Edward V. “Van”, Sgt, gunner*

*Weeks, Donald E., Sgt, radio-gunner*



**Thursday, 10 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Planes continue to be transferred out to the service group and that must indicate something in the wind. A source of information, advises that it means the group only wants to have its basic amount of equipment specified in the T/E, when we get ready to leave. There is considerable S-2 activity, with all intelligence personnel burning, destroying and shipping all types of documents. Some of the documents go to a place in Savannah, Ga., with one of those complicated military addresses. The Red Cross has installed colored beach-umbrellas over their outdoor tables and gave the post a country-club effect. Ye olde Sun-Tans were issued today together with the familiar Mosquito Netting, so that dispelled a lot of rumors.

HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

APO 650, US Army,  
10 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Teletype Message.

TO : Commanding Officers, All Squadrons.

The following message from 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, is quoted for your information:

“G-26 THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM GENERAL CHIDLAW, IS PARAPHRASED FOR YOUR INFORMATION: ‘ON THE OCCASION OF THE ALLIED VICTORY OVER GERMANY, EXTEND TO ALL MEMBERS OF MY COMMAND MY SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE PART YOU HAVE PLAYED IN OUR SUCCESS. EACH OF YOU--THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY IN THE FIGHT AND TO THOSE WHOSE ROLE WAS AS A SUPPORTING ONE-- HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE VICTORY. YOUR ROLE, BEGINNING AS IT DID WITH INVASION OF NORTH AFRICA, WAS THE INITIAL ONE; IT HAS BEEN A SUSTAINED ONE, AND IT HAS NOW BECOME A VICTORIOUS ONE. THROUGH YOUR COMBINED EFFORTS MATAF WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE ULTIMATE AND OVERWHELMING DEFEAT ADMINISTERED TO THE ENEMY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF ALL OF YOU CONTINUE TO GIVE TO YOUR WORK THE SAME ZEALOUS ATTENTION IT HAS COMMANDED IN THE PAST, WE SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE DEFEAT OF OUR OTHER ENEMY IN THE PACIFIC. SHORTLY SOME OF YOU MAY AGAIN HAVE A DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE WAR;



**Thursday, 10 May 1945 (continued)**

CERTAINLY, ALL OF US WILL HAVE SOME PART, DIRECT OR  
INDIRECT, TO PLAY UNTIL PEACE HAS RETURNED TO THE WORLD.”

KNAPP

BY ORDER OF COLONEL CASSIDY:

SAM GREGORY  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

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**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*“10 GIOVEDI-THURSDAY*

*Pete said has more work in darkroom at current basis.”*

*Webb, Allen W. "Pete", Capt, pilot*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Flight Officer McNeal, R. is promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut.

*McNeal, Raymond L., 2Lt, bombardier*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Cpl Thomas J. Maloney a MIA returned to duty. T/Sgt Earl W. Dulaney relieved of duty and put on DS to 7<sup>th</sup> Repl. Depot pending transshipment to US on combat rotation. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Dulaney, Earl W., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Maloney, Thomas J., Cpl, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual routine schedule. Captain Lyons and Sergeants Shields, Varga, Ferrell and Morefield returned to the United States. Flight Officer Rutz was promoted to Second Lieutenant.

*Ferrell, Bruce M., Sgt, gunner*

*Lyons, John B., Capt, pilot*

*Morefield, James Carl, T/Sgt, gunner*

*Rutz, Victor H., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Shields, Robert L, T/Sgt, gunner*

*Varga, Frank K., T/Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*“Landed on my face resulting from a back flip. Sprained my right hand, neck and bruised my nose. Weather is excellent. Varga left for the states. The chow is very good. Chicken, steak, beef, etc. are constantly being served. Ice cream, cake, fruit, bread.”*

*Varga, Frank K., T/Sgt, gunner, bombardier*

## Friday, 11 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Further transfer of planes to the service group, were frozen. The topic of the day, is redeployment and how it affects us. The main source of information is the local Stars & Stripes, which unfortunately doesn't arrive on schedule and usually piles in with four or five days' issues at once. The Stars & Stripes did straighten us out on the point-system; it's 1 point for each month's service, 1 for each month overseas, 5 for each major award and 12 for each child under 18 years of age. The Officers' Club is putting in its finishing swipes and from indications, they will have a restful and subdued atmosphere, except when a party is being 'thrown'. Trucks now run nightly to Ancona, on a shuttle-service and they have proved popular. Falconara is too small of a town to play host to the entire group, and Ancona has a few good bars and at least two movie-houses where there is always some sort of entertainment.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"11 VENERDI-FRIDAY*

*Went out & finished a couple of rolls of film. Package from the Keils came today - No Mail."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sgt. Council T. Walker is back from the states. Lieuts. Codd and Burklund are made 1<sup>st</sup> Lieuts.

*Burklund, Donald K., 1Lt, pilot*

*Codd, Russell G., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Walker, Council T., M/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** T/Sgt Roy J. Dodds returned from cook and bakers school. Cpl Charles Davenport returned from USA to duty. PX today – six cans of beer. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Davenport, Charles (NMI), Cpl, armament*

*Dodds, Roy J., T/Sgt, Mess Sergeant*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sergeant Rayfield was transferred and assigned to Headquarters AAF/MTO.

*Rayfield, Bernard G., S/Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Been doing a lot of sunbathing and swimming in the Adriatic. Ate supper at the Occipinti's. Nothing special."*

## Saturday, 12 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Large-scale redeployment of Twelfth AF units officially begins (although the first large movement to the ZI has earlier taken place on 12 Jan 45, followed by redeployment of various units to all the theaters). On 12 May, the Twelfth has 198 units assigned and 8 attached; by the end of May, 17 assigned units will be redeployed from the theater, 43 assigned service units disbanded (and personnel used to form 21 new service units), 9 assigned units transferred to other HQ in the theater, and 1 attached unit released-leaving 150 assigned and 7 attached units intact. The 12<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Photographic Group (Reconnaissance) moves from Villafranca to Peretola Airfield, Florence, Italy with F-5s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The morning news contained the announcement, that 85 is the critical point in determining eligibility for discharge, so the question today is how many points you have. The rub in the entire thing, is that if the Army deems one necessary, his points don't mean a thing. We learned today that unit censorship has been eliminated and it is now permissible to tell the folks back home where you are. There will still be base censorship, but the relaxation of rules will enable a lot of suppressed desires to be expressed. Without too much to do and a bright sun to boot, a lot of the sun-worshippers have begun acquiring a healthy look. It's relaxing to the eyes to look across the compound and see a mixture of epidermis, brilliantly colored shorts and swimming trunks instead of the familiar shade of OD's. Saturday night, and outside of a trip to Ancona or Falconara, there isn't much doing.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lts. Krause, Palmer, and Cravey rotated to U.S. Sgts. Taylor, Otterness, and Stanley rotated to U.S. following tour of duty. T/Sgt. Warren B. Smith transferred to MATS.

*Cravey, Robert P., 2Lt, bombardier-navigator*

*Krause, Richard E. "Dick", 1Lt, bombardier*

*Otterness, William B., Sgt, gunner*

*Palmer, Richard W., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Smith, Warren B. "Smitty", T/Sgt, gunner*

*Stanley, Harold Gene "Gene", Sgt, gunner*

*Taylor, Marion R., T/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"12 SABATO-SATURDAY*

*Smitty left today for M.A.T.S. - in Naples - He will have a good deal. Taylor, Stanley, Otterness, went home today. I got a package from Leila today - No mail - I wrote Carol - LeRoy & Bernard, Leila, Grandma B, Betty 2."*

*Otterness, William B., Sgt, gunner*

*Smith, Warren B. "Smitty", T/Sgt, gunner*

*Stanley, Harold Gene "Gene", Sgt, gunner*

*Taylor, Marion R., T/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

## Saturday, 12 May 1945 (continued)

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:*

05/12/45: "On the 10th, we (Rucker, Beasley, myself and a boy from another squadron Ernie Fischinger of Memphis), obtained a jeep and went to San Marino, the oldest and smallest republic in the world. It was a pleasant drive all the way, but particularly so after leaving the Rimini because from there on the country was new. The evenness of the coast gave way to rolling hills, well cultivated with wheat, crimson clover and fruit trees. The bright patches of blossoming clover stood out beautifully as one looked across the wide plain behind us. San Marino was founded in 1643 and has maintained its identity as a republic ever since. It has an area of 32 square miles and a population of 16,000. In the heart of the tiny country is Mount Titano which rises 2500 feet above the Adriatic which can be plainly seen in the distance.

*Beasley, Alvis A., Jr., Sgt, armament      Fischinger, Ernest E., Cpl, engineering, 447<sup>th</sup> BS  
Rucker, Elbert A., Sgt, armament*

The principal city, San Marino is located on the northwest side of the mount, so near its summit that it is not possible to drive a jeep beyond the gates to the city. Along the crest of the stone ridge that juts out rudely over the valley below are three ancient castles. We were surprised to find the people so friendly. Our first encounter with them was when we were taking some pictures of a cemetery. Two young beautiful girls came walking down the road and very amicably agreed to let us photograph them with Fischinger standing with his arms around them. We walked over the town visiting and shopping for an hour or so and found a restaurant where we had a good meal at black market prices. Most interesting of our contacts were with a French woman who spoke English. She had lived in New York and was married there. When she returned to Europe on a honeymoon trip she and her husband were interned in San Marino. She was very beautiful. The other was an Italian family of apparently very ample means. They were refugees to San Marino from Foggia where they fled the Allied bombings. Probably they were Fascists, but they treated us very nice. The daughter, 18 years old, was very fresh and buoyant. She had a lack of affectation that was extremely charming, a quality quite common among European girls.

At about five o'clock we reluctantly left San Marino and drove to Cesenatico, a small town some 30 miles up the coast from Rimini, to visit some friends of Beasley's. It was evident our path was through a one-time battlefield. All along the way were remains of battle equipment. Quite frequently we saw a great German Tiger tank and smaller British or American tanks in the position where they had destroyed one another in final close range battle. In one place three burnt out British tanks and seven graves told the grim story of a rough situation. Along the coast were great guns in turrets, apparently captured intact."

*Beasley, Alvis A., Jr., Sgt, armament*

## Saturday, 12 May 1945 (continued)

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sgt. Moncure is promoted to Technical Sgt, then given his orders to return to the states. Lieut. Hensler and Sgt. Karuzas are leaving today for home, also.

*Hensler, Donald O., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Karuzas, Alexander W., T/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Moncure, James D., Jr., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Orderly Room valuating points for the Squadron. Most men have required 85 points for eligibility of discharge – Probably won't affect Air Corps. Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Second Lieutenant Campbell was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Sergeant Abiecunas and Corporal Marek left for the United States.

*Abiecunas, Joseph P. "Abby", S/Sgt, gunner*

*Campbell, John E., 1Lt, pilot*

*Marek, Matthew L., Cpl, armament*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**

*"Rations today (\$1.20). Sun bathing and swimming. Attended "The Great Moment." Fair."*

## Sunday, 13 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** The 16<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 64<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, ceases operating from Brindisi and returns to Rosignano Airfield, Italy with C-47s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The new chaplain, Capt. Martin, had a nice turnout at services today, and a goodly part of it was due to the nice impression he made with the men. He seems to have the natural knack of getting along with people. He sauntered into the Enlisted Men's mess-hall last night and walked over for his tray and sat down to enjoy his meal. It was done so unostentatiously and casually, that every GI in the place felt swell about it. The colonel suggested that everyone try to knock off on Sundays, so henceforth there will be no work on Sundays. Most of the fellows took off for Ancona, the symphony concert and a baseball game which we lost to the tune of 6-3. Volley-ball games seem to be the favorite evening pastime, with prearranged schedules between the squadrons and group personnel.

*Cassidy, Charles F., Jr., Col, pilot, Commander*                      *Martin, James A., Capt, chaplain*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison life – Mother's Day.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"13 DOMENICA-SUNDAY*

*I went in to Ancona tonight, and saw a Tchaikovsky Music Orchestra It was conducted by Lt. English from England - very good. We filled out the forms for our points. I had 70. Not so hot. Carney, Russo, Rosie, Semsker got orders to pack. Destination not known wrote the Keels. No mail."*

*English, Anthony, Lt (UK), Ancona Symphony Orchestra*

*Carney, Robert J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner, bombardier*    *Russo, Paul A., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*  
*Rosenberg, Philip O. "Rosie", Sgt, armament*                      *Semsker, Frank S., Sgt, gunner*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Regular duties are performed as maintenance is done on the line and personnel records are checked by Orderly Room clerks.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Today, the second Sunday in May, was Mother's Day. There was no change in the usual routine squadron schedule.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**

*"Orders came to go home. Leaving tomorrow morning. Van, Skip and I went swimming with Vincent (doctor's son) at Ancona. Very rocky coast. Afterwards we went to Anna Maria's and danced. Ate supper at the Occipinti's. Bid them all farewell. Had a marvelous time. Promised to write and extended invitation should they ever come to the US."*

*Vandenberg, Edward V. "Van", Sgt, gunner*

## Monday, 14 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The training program was launched today with a batch of films about news digests and one titled, Combat America, featuring Clark Gable. There is considerable S-2 and S-3 activity, as the former will be doing the bulk of the teaching and the latter, the bulk of the planning. Everyone in the group will come under one or more phases of the program and the majority of personnel are in favor of it, as the time-lag is becoming more noticeable. No amount of training, however, will make up for the feeling of wanting to be home and stocking up on the luxuries were we want to call ordinary things, at one time. Some more of the fellows with 72 months' overseas were placed on rotation, so that proves that it does exist. The EM celebrated the club opening, with a dance and the usual number of signorini and their families. The Italian plumber hired to do odd jobs around the post, came with his wife, three children and a few friends. He was all decked out in the Italy-Esquire version of what the well-dressed plumber should wear on festive occasions and gave us all a 'bang' when he escorted his guests through both the Officers' and our club, showing them off. You could practically hear him telling them in Italian, 'this is my place of business'. The dance went off with the usual number of crashers outweighing the paying-member, but there were no Brawls.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"14 LUNEDI-MONDAY*

No Entry

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Regular duties are performed as maintenance is done on the line and personnel records are checked by Orderly Room clerks.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Five men were assigned to the First Emergency Rescue Squadron. Two men assigned to 313 Signal Co. Cing. One draftsman assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Photo Group. Some practice formations plus the usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Captain Autrey and Sergeant Schaffer left for the United States. Corporals Gorman, Larsen and Marsh, and Private Petty were transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Emergency Rescue Squadron.

*Autrey, W. F. (i.o.), Capt, pilot*

*Larsen, Fred M., Cpl, gunner*

*Petty, Wade H., PFC, engineering*

*Gorman, Henry A., Cpl, engineering*

*Marsh, Harry L., Cpl, engineering*

*Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Bid adieus to all the squadron. Left Falconara 10:15AM. Arrived Naples 11:25. Sweated out the ride. Assigned to 290<sup>th</sup> Com. 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Sleeping in duplex building. Set up OK. Expect to be here about 10 days. Arms are sore from 3 shots I got yesterday. Weather warm and sunny."*



**Tuesday, 15 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Medics had a busy day dosing out ‘headache and upset stomach’ pills, which are two white ones and one black one every two hours. The mess-sergeant reported a small turnout for breakfast and evidently knew it beforehand, because all we had was French Toast ala Army-style and coffee. There is a big inspection this afternoon, by Gen. Chidlaw and some of his staff. A hot rumor has it that we will be leaving Italy in six weeks. The rumor will be checked upon arrival at the nearest point to New York, for verification. Headquarters personnel was restricted to the compound tonight, to make certain that everyone saw Combat America. The comment, as soon as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Gable appeared on the screen, was to the effect that it wouldn’t be long before he made 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. At the end of the picture, one wag intoned, ‘I told you so’. The picture was well made, but the Technicolor was hard on the eyes, giving a blurred and distorting effect. The picture ended at 10:30 pm., and we largely adjourned to the club for imbibing purposes.

*Chidlaw, Benjamin Wiley, General, Commanding General of the XXII Tactical Air*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*“15 MARTEDI-TUESDAY*

No Entry

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:**

*05/15/45: “Sunday last, Beasley and I went to Ancona to attend a symphony concert given by Lt. Anthony English and the Ancona Symphony Orchestra. The program consisted of Tchaikovsky’s music and I thoroughly enjoyed it. We were able to obtain a box for 85 lira each which placed us in an excellent spot. The audience consisted in the main of British men in uniform; Army, Navy or RAF which presented a splendidly colorful picture. Also there were members of our own forces, nurses, R. C. girls, Polish WACs and a fair number of Italian girls, mostly with soldier escort. The Palladium is a beautiful, large theater, but not very modern.*

*Beasley, Alvis A., Jr., Sgt, armament*

*At camp everything is reverting to the old training routine. Every day we have classes in the same work we have been doing for the past 2 1/2 years. As yet, however, things are not too bad. The latest rumor is that the personnel of our group, when it returns to the States, will be flown by way of Africa and South America. I should like that. Tomorrow, Beasley, Rucker, Tom Davies and I are leaving for Venice on pass. Last Sunday we had a Mother’s Day service at the 30 Fighter Group. I am left in charge of the Group here.”*



## Tuesday, 15 May 1945 (continued)

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Regular duties are performed as maintenance is done on the line and personnel records are checked by Orderly Room clerks.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Several men left on combat rotation. All men in Squadron attended the training film, "Combat America". Practice flying formation plus the Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Nothing other than the usual organizational duties occurred during the day.

## Wednesday, 16 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** The 121<sup>st</sup> Liaison Squadron, Twelfth AF (attached to Fifth Army), moves from Verona to Manerba, Italy with UC-78s, L-4s and L-5s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The thermometer gave good indications that it will be hot in this part of Italy this summer. The sun bounces right off the buff-colored buildings in the compound and there's no shade to speak of. The coolest places are inside the buildings and if this continues, we'll soon adopt the Italian custom of siestas. Due to the hot afternoon sun and the chilly evening air, there are a large number of head colds in the group. The training-film program continues unabated with four operators alternating on a day-long schedule. The nightly picture was "Mr. Winkle Goes to War". The fair-sized attendance it drew, was largely due to special services' billing the picture as "Mrs. Winkley". Everyone figured it was another of the "Mrs. Parkington" or "Mr. Skeffington" series. The Officers' Club had its grand opening last night and a carousing time was had by all. According to reports, there were some good-looking signorini there, and the truth of the matter is, the British officers rounded them up. Capt. Henry and Capt. Seawall, are on the rotation list. When those two leave, the group will part with two of its best-natured officers, especially Capt. H. , of "Steamboat Bill" fame. We went into khakis officially today and everybody looks "new".

*Henry, Forrest R. "Steamboat", Capt, intelligence, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG*  
*Seawall, Vergil L., Capt, ordnance, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** I & E Films shown. Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"16 MERCOLEDI-WEDNESDAY*

*Training Schedule - went to training film 2 hrs. Riggerbach got my camera - some Joe wants it for \$70.00. Davis' isn't any good at winding film. Went to Senigallia. Went to Red Cross Club. Not bad at all took a few pictures on beach James & I went. Came back with Nick went up with Maj Furey."*

*Furey, Frank M. "Mickey", Maj, pilot, Commander*  
*Lowrey, James S., T/Sgt, radio-gunner*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Eleven lucky individuals are heading homeward, all combat men: Capts. Carlson, Crisp and Fisher plus Ems Cornelius, Cabbage, Luitjens, Ross, Bates, Cammack, DeSorbo, Law.

*Bates, Ralph W., Sgt, gunner*  
*Carlson, Lowell A., Capt, pilot*  
*Crisp, Glenn S., Jr., Capt, pilot*  
*DeSorbo, John S., S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Law, John B., S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Ross, Harry K., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Cammack, Herbert R., Sgt, gunner*  
*Cornelius, Wilbur G., T/Sgt, gunner*  
*Cabbage, Robert, S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Fisher, Carl D., Capt, pilot*  
*Luitjens, Harvey J., S/Sgt, gunner*

## Wednesday, 16 May 1945

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Several more men left on combat rotation. Local transition plus the Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** There was no change in the usual squadron duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**

*“Being processed and orientated. We are the first unit in the 290<sup>th</sup> Com, 29<sup>th</sup> Bn. Approximately 50 of us are housed in a duplex house. Men from all walks of the Army are with us awaiting shipment to the states. Officers in charge as well as non-coms were front line troops. Our location was an intended World's Fair site for 1940. In fact it was almost completed by Mussolini. The outbreak of the war put the clamps on it.”*

## Thursday, 17 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** So far, the only group officer to show up this morning, is Maj. Goodell, who came in because of the training-film program. That indicates the officers' grand-opening was a success, so medics should have another peak day. Capt. Lind broke the stalemate by loping in at 0858 and now the others can enter safely. There is considerable activity at S-1 and they've borrowed all the help they could wangle from other sections. We had a live talent USO Show out at the base tonight. It was billed as "Show #495 Variety Review", and consisted of an emcee guitarist, a violinist with a good line, a magician and a shapely blonde who sang and just looked feminine. She had a good delivery and wowed the audience by taking down a would-be heckler, who happened to be a second lieutenant.

*Goodell, John C., Maj, bombardier, operations, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG*

*Lind, Ragnar G. "Jeffrey Lynn", Capt, intelligence, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Capts. Bowling, Poteete, Lts. Cox, Emler, Sgts. Chauncey, Cubley, and Krauk rotated to U.S. after completing their missions. Usual training.

*Bowling, Dan Parker, Capt, pilot*

*Chauncey, Martin E. "Marty", T/Sgt, gunner, bombardier*

*Cox, Harold L., 2Lt, pilot*

*Cubley, Harold B., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Emler, Richard S. "Dick", 2Lt, pilot*

*Krauk, Edward J., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Poteete, Max W., Capt, pilot*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"17 GIOVEDI-THURSDAY*

*Went to the movie this afternoon, training film was lousy - so Maj Goodell had them change the film to the regular show. Developed some film tonight. It was O.K. except for about two rolls. Wrote Betty, Morgan, Ruby Miesenholder, Mrs. Lake. Got mail for a change- They flew down to see why it hadn't come in. I got 5 from Betty-3 from Carol, 1-Carol Ann, 1 Leila, v-mail Phyllis, 1 Eldon Stambaugh."*

*Goodell, John C., Maj, bombardier, operations, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:**

*05/17/45: On the street in Bologna*

*"We are waiting breakfast at 08:00 at the Transient Mess. Yesterday, Beasley, Rucker and I left camp about 04:00 on our way to Venice. We caught several rides, the first one with an Italian who worked with the British in managing refugee camps. He carried us as far as Forli and there we joined a truckload of Polish soldiers who were returning to their Company from a hospital in Bari. All had been wounded and as we passed through the country they pointed out at which farm house they had been knocked out in the battle for Bologna little more than a month ago. Some of them spoke German which they learned while fighting with the German army against the Russians. Afterward they were sent to Italy and came through the lines to join the Polish Army there a year and a half ago. They were very anxious to be of service to us and arranged for a ride on*

## Thursday, 17 May 1945 (continued)

*to this city after we left them. We got here about 20:00 hours and began looking for a place to stay. It was impossible to find a hotel so we stayed at the MP station. I had a good rest, being very tired. Yesterday morning, a huge flight of RAF Liberators and Lancaster bombers came to our base to pick up some British POWs. I had an interesting talk with one of them and ended up buying a pistol he had brought out of Austria. He was taken prisoner in Greece in '41. Their treatment had not been bad."*

*Beasley, Alvis A., Jr., Sgt, armament*

*Rucker, Elbert A., Sgt, armament*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Major Smedley, Capt. Malone, Lts. McGann and McCloud plus EMs Tucker, McCommack, Travis, Schlott and Wimmer are Cairo-bound for a five-day trip.

*Malone, Robert C., Capt, personnel, Adjutant*

*McCloud, Ray L., 1Lt, pilot*

*McCommack, James H., Sgt, engineering*

*McGann, Edom K., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Schlott, Charles E., S/Sgt, intelligence*

*Smedley, Robert Redmond, Maj, pilot, Operations Officer*

*Travis, Edward J., Sgt, engineering*

*Tucker, Gerald Tennyson, M/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Wimmer, Warren H., S/Sgt, communications*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** PX today. Thirteen planes in local transition plus the Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual organizational duties were all that took place.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**

*"Finishing processing. Oswald Habeck (T/S) of the combat medics and I took off for Naples without a pass as until processing is completely finished, no passes are permitted. Walked about town. Ate at GI café. Met a lot of buddies from the 321<sup>st</sup> in town. Dropped in at Soldier's Park and watched the Armed Forces struggle with the senorinas. An Italian band blaring out American tunes tried to provide music. Admission is 25 lire - females gratis."*

*Habeck, Oswald "Ossie", T/Sgt, combat medic, US Army*

## Friday, 18 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The usual training-program and laying out of physical-training schedules, is the big thing today. From indications, it will be one hour of calisthenics a day. B-24s have been coming in the past few days and using our base as a fueling point in flying liberated ex-PWs down to Bari. C-47s have been shuttling in and out moving the 61<sup>st</sup> Station Hospital and gasoline-rations in alternating loads. The heat let up today and it's comfortable outdoors, once more.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sgts. Matter, Nuttall, Ott, Salch, and Sycylo rotated to States after completing tour. Usual training.

*Matter, Dean R., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Nuttal, John H., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Ott, James V., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Salch, Raymond F., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Sycylo, Theodore W., S/Sgt, gunner*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"18 VENERDI-FRIDAY*

*Went to beach for Dingy drill - Boy everyone turned out - We took one out and had a big time. They threw sea marker on the water and it got all over everything. Doe and I got a good sun burn at least I got pretty red. Most of the guys took off their suits and got browned pretty well got T-shirts & Dry. No mail."*

*Doe, Norman H., 1Lt, pilot*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:**

*05/18/45: Venice*

*"We left Bologna shortly after 08:00 yesterday, but had some difficulty catching a ride. I was not especially impressed with Bologna. Its leaning towers (they really do lean), massive architecture, arcades over all the sidewalks are the distinctive features. It suffered little from the war. Our ride (first) was with a British Capt. in a jeep. He proved a most interesting and instructive companion. The road was excellent. We passed through beautiful fields and orchards. The most impressive sight however, were the long rows of Lombardi Poplars that bordered the farms. We passed endless convoys of German prisoners driving without escort toward the enclosures. They appeared dejected and beaten and I saw hardly a smile among them. Most of the trucks carried women also, which our friend explained was customary for the Germans. We came through the "Argenta Gap" where there had been much fighting. It was the last stronghold of German resistance to the 8th Army. Mine fields were still marked off by white tape. Just outside of Ferrara, we crossed the Po on a pontoon bridge. Just upstream was a Bailey bridge, the first I had seen. At Padova we stopped at NAFI for something to eat. Padova is a very nice city with trackless trolley buses, beautiful buildings and shops that sell pretty good ice cream. The people there are anxious to have the Americans in place of the British. We reached Venice about 15:00 hours and the first thing we did was catch a gondola from Piazzale Roma to St. Marco Square. We were amazed at the elaborate design of the buildings. Really, Venice is a wonder of the*

## Friday, 18 May 1945 (continued)

*world. We had a very hard time finding a room, as the British have taken over everything. Our spirits were getting low when a soldier (Italian) and his girl asked me for a pack of cigarettes. Right away I perceived we might make a trade and he went right to work. Soon we had a place to sleep in a hotel restaurant café, on a mattress laid on the floor. We slept beautifully. The hotel is named Bella Venazia."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lieut Brock is reported killed in action over Yugoslavia on one of the last missions of the war in Italy.

*Brock, Thomas E., 2Lt, pilot*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Nine men left on combat rotation. Thirteen planes on local transition plus Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** First Lieutenant Brink was promoted to Captain and Second Lieutenants Beckman and Cameron were promoted to First Lieutenants. Sergeants Oliver, Scott and Griffen left on a 10 day furlough.

*Beckman, Harold Christoph, 1Lt, pilot*

*Brink, Richard E., Capt, bombardier*

*Cameron, Alexander G., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Griffen, Harry J., S/Sgt, intelligence*

*Oliver, Walter A., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Scott, Joseph M. "Scotty", Sgt, intelligence*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Drew PX rations and clothing issue. Abiecunas, Ray, Jim, Ossie and I visited Magnolia, a small town about a mile from camp. A little Italian boy took us to some home and we drank vino. A younger daughter (17) was most attractive in a ladylike manner. Natural and without make-up. Per usual most of the Neapolitan women are shack jobs. On returning to camp several females were outside the gate propositioning the boys (\$3). Abiecunas took her in the shrubs. It was a mean job but we put a flashlight on the two of them. Embarrassing moments. As a rule we retire around 10:30. Reveille is 6:30AM."*

*Abiecunas, Joseph P. "Abby", S/Sgt, gunner*

*Habeck, Oswald "Ossie", T/Sgt, combat medic, US Army*

*Ott, James V., S/Sgt, gunner, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Salch, Raymond F., T/Sgt, gunner, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*



## Saturday, 19 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** It being Saturday, and a half-day for civilians, most of the group began its week-end siesta at noontime. Old reliable S-2 is still fighting the War, however, and maintains a seven-day week schedule. Several of the men have hitched rides on the C-47s and visited Udine, which is the base-leg for the planes. They report it as a beautiful spot, so once more Uncle Sam is sponsoring tours for his overseas' soldiers. Visitors to Udine are cautioned against getting out of hand, but it seems that the Partisans walking around with tommy-guns and bandoliers of ammunition, have discourage and intentions.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"19 SABATO-SATURDAY*

*Went to Capri - Shutters pilot - We stopped at Rome to drop a guy off. Staub went too. Beasley & I stayed together at the Morgan Hotel Rm 131- The food isn't bad - and things and pretty peaceful & quiet. I met a few girls in the boat going over to Capri. They have a funny little trolley going up to the Square."*

*Beasley, Alvis A., Jr., Sgt, armament*

*Shutters, Paul E., 1Lt, pilot*

*Staub, Edward C., S/Sgt, gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:**

*05/19/45: Home again!*

*"We left the hotel in Venice quite early with the intention of coming home. I rather dreaded the long ride back to Falconara over country we had seen on our way up and so talked hard for trying to find a plane ride. We had seen planes flying over the city and suspected the location of an airport somewhere near. At the Hotel Luna (Officers' hotel) I was told by the clerk that the planes were landing at the civilian airdrome on Lido, a beach resort near Venice. I then converted the other boys to the idea of taking a gondola over there to see what could be done. We engaged a "barca" for 150 lira and it took about an hour to make the trip. On the Lido wharf we were confronted by a British MP and a huge "Off Limits" sign. He told us the only planes landing on Lido were L-4s etc., but consented to let me talk with an American Major who was standing by the rail a short distance away. The major said an Air Force rest camp was being established in a hotel down the way and probably we could find out what we wanted there. We soon learned that Lido is the finest and most beautiful spot in all the Venetian Isles. At the said hotel, I accosted a Captain who by an odd chance was from the 321st. We were in luck! He said a crew was leaving in a C-47 for Naples and he would get us on. More luck developed when the pilot said he was short on gas and would land at our base. We all piled on a motor launch and made for Piazzale Roma. I enjoyed the ride. We transferred to a jeep and drove to an airdrome about 30 miles north of Venice. This ride took us through the most beautiful country I have seen anywhere. Sycamores lined the*

## Saturday, 19 May 1945 (continued)

*broad highway and all along either side were marvelous mansions set deep in groves of black spruce and gardens. At the grass covered airdrome, where the only military planes were a squadron of Desert Airforce Spits, we met a plane load of Rank coming to the rest camp. From there we took off about eleven o'clock and shortly after twelve we were here. The previous day we spent sightseeing and shopping. We joined a British tour which took us to the Ducal Palace, the San Marco Cathedral, the Bell Tower, Bridge of Sighs, the dungeon where Lord Byron slept, the glass and lace factory. At the hotel I became engaged in a conversation in German with a Polish lady who was very sincere in her interest in the future of Poland. I became quite friendly with the people who stay at the hotel, and a very international group they were. I was not disappointed with Venice. It is all one expects and more. The nights and moon are perfect and never have I slept so wonderfully. Yes it is truly "sweet to dream in Venice." In the evening the crowds that gather at the square and the singing of the gondoliers is romantic."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Regular squadron duties.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Fifteen men leaving on combat rotation. Eight men promoted to Pfc on Squadron Order. Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Staff Sergeants Wilson, Law and Benchowski were promoted to Technical Sergeants; Sergeants Hart, Brock, Kubasiewicz, Mann, Ritter, LaPlant, Hurley, Kougher, Rennels and Sabo were promoted to Staff Sergeants; Corporal Zurek was promoted to Sergeant, and Privates First Class Griffith, Smith and Piurek were promoted to Corporals.

*Benchowski, John H., T/Sgt, engineering  
Griffith, Chester M., Cpl, ordnance  
Hurley, Daniel J. "Danny", S/Sgt, personnel  
Kubasiewicz, Stanley F., S/Sgt, engineering  
Law, Richard L., T/Sgt, engineering  
Piurek, Ned J., Cpl, ordnance  
Ritter, William C., S/Sgt, engineering  
Smith, Virgil D., Cpl, ordnance  
Zurek, Aloysius F., Sgt, ordnance*

*Brock, Wendell A., S/Sgt, engineering  
Hart, GERALD S., S/Sgt, ordnance  
Kougher, Bruce A., S/Sgt, engineering  
LaPlant, Madaris J., S/Sgt, ordnance  
Mann, S. D., S/Sgt, gunner, bombardier  
Rennels, George C., S/Sgt, engineering  
Sabo, Louis S., S/Sgt, engineering  
Wilson, Elrod C., T/Sgt, ordnance*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Spent all PM in the pool. Attended "National Barn Dance." Walked out. Went across the tracks with the boys for a drink and to have some clothes washed. Some of the boys disposed of some garments. Females still hanging around gate. Abiecunas did it again. Habeck a little sore from sunburn. Sleeping under mosquito netting - but no Atabrine. Weather is very warm."*

*Abiecunas, Joseph P. "Abby", S/Sgt, gunner  
Habeck, Oswald "Ossie", T/Sgt, combat medic, US Army*

## Sunday, 20 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** With everybody off today, it really feels like Sunday. Those who didn't attend services, couldn't excuse it by saying they didn't know the day of the week, as a large white sign with bold black letters, was posted on the bulletin-board. It simply stated, "TODAY IS SUNDAY", and was very effective. The beach off Falconara seems to be the popular place these days, with the temperature as high as it has been. There is always vehicular traffic going back and forth. Some of the fellows don't own swimming trunks, so GI-shorts are serving the purpose. They do not dry as rapidly and don't have the opacity of the commercial brands, but ----. There is no movie on the base tonight and the theatre in Falconara is showing a revival, so Ancona should get the play tonight.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lt. Skebey relieved Lt. Silnutzer as Squadron Bombing Officer.  
*Silnutzer, Joseph A., 2Lt, bombardier* *Skebey, Robert J., 1Lt, bombardier*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**  
"20 DOMENICA-SUNDAY  
*We didn't go to church – we planned to.*"

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:**  
05/23/45: "Today was started off by showing us "Two Down and One to Go," an air force film. I failed to see the point that made it so necessary for everyone to see it. We already know more about what is to be done in the Pacific and what will be required of us, than the film taught. Its purpose was somewhat undermined, it seemed to me, by the fact that the war in Europe lasted longer than was expected at the time the film was prepared. Today I received a package from Sally which among other things contained a copy of *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. It expressed a philosophy toward which I have definitely been inclined of late, namely one of great tolerance and freedom from form and ritual in Christian religion. Love of one's fellow man, rather than tithing, the word of wisdom, or anything of the lesser laws is the ultimate in Christianity, I intend to inspect this doctrine further. Perhaps the Church codes are justified by the fact that adherence to them leads the way to super things. Also in the package was a top and yo-yo which was intended for Paul on Corsica. I gave the top to the little boy of the lady who does my laundry. He was pleased beyond description. Several days ago I carried a spool of thread when I took my laundry and the lady was so happy about it she would not take any money for washing my clothes. They are a poor young couple who work hard on a farm the kind who are not responsible for Italy's part in the war."

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Ems Zabinski and Casey are transferred to the 60<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group.  
*Casey, Michael F., Sgt, supply* *Zabinski, Joseph J., Sgt, engineering*

## Sunday, 20 May 1945 (continued)

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Three motor pool men left to join troop carrier outfits. Lt VenJohn left for Rome to attend Army Education Staff School. Usual Organizational Duties.

*VenJohn, George G., 1Lt, intelligence*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Flight Officers Stanwood, Chakmakian, Campbell, Higby, Libby and Nolkemper were promoted to Second Lieutenants. Lieutenant Ashland was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Emergency Rescue Squadron.

*Ashland, Arthur E. "Art", 1Lt, pilot*

*Campbell, Knox L., 2Lt, pilot*

*Chakmakian, George E., 2Lt, pilot*

*Higby, Paul K., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Libby, Donald E., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Nolkemper, Harold J., 2Lt, pilot*

*Stanwood, Ralph E., 2Lt, pilot*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**

*"Today is Sunday. Passes are permitted. Coke rations. Commenced "Leaf in the Storm" by Lin Yutang. Warm, sunny day. Beaucoup men are coming in every day. Our company at present has about 350 men. Ossie and I went to town. Did a bit of drinking."*

*Habeck, Oswald "Ossie", T/Sgt, combat medic, US Army*

## Monday, 21 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Summer is definitely here, as they've started screening-in the enlisted men's mess hall, and the Officers' Beach Club at Senigallia. The enlisted men are running around with feverish looks, as another dance is being held at the club tonight. The dance was socially, a success; but financially, a flop. The take at the bar was meager and more liquor was dished out than in the past, so the question arises, how honest are the Italian bar-keepers. Several of the fellows have gotten annoyed at the insolent attitude shown by some of the local hired help, and it forebodes no good for the former-fascists. The signorini brought along their families as usual, except for three gals who came in with the motor-pool boys. They could have passed for the Italian version of Sadie Thompson, without any make-up.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"21 LUNEDI-MONDAY*

*Went to dance at the La Palma hotel. Wasn't bad, took a girl from the Army gift shop home with a Major & a Sergeant. Their little brother was along."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lieut Ramsay, assistant Operations Officer, is made a Captain.

*Ramsay, Lamar E., Capt, pilot*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Capt Muzinich promoted to Major. Several 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts promoted to First Lt. Col. Strenger left to inspect bomb damage in Italy and Germany. 10 planes in local formation. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Muzinich, Anthony L. "Tony", Maj, pilot*

*Strenger, Marshall C., Lt Col, pilot, Commander*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sergeant Taylor left to return to Headquarters 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group. Privates Griffin and Sweeney were transferred to the 60<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group. Lieutenant Wyman left for Rome to attend the Army Education Staff School. Lieutenants Bechtle, Schwartz, Schweitzer, Stromberg and Wuest, and Sergeants Sullivan, Fletcher, Hunter, Martin, Sevier, Turner, Vandenberg and Weese left for the United States.

*Bechtle, Robert M., 1Lt, pilot*

*Griffin William G., Sgt, engineering*

*Martin, Lewis E. "Lew", T/Sgt, gunner*

*Schweitzer, Robert E., 1Lt, pilot*

*Stromberg, Carl K., 1Lt, pilot*

*Sweeney, George W., Pvt, engineering*

*Turner, James H., T/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Vandenberg, Edward V. "Van", T/Sgt, gunner*

*Wyman, 1Lt, S-2, I & E Officer*

*Fletcher, William H., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Hunter, Dewey G., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Schwartz, Theodore (NMI), 1Lt, pilot*

*Sevier, Fred L., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Sullivan, Timothy V., Sgt, gunner*

*Taylor, Grover A., Sgt, medical*

*Weese, Charles F., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Wuest, Robert F., 1Lt, pilot*

**Monday, 21 May 1945 (continued)**

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*“Swam in pool all PM. Getting very tan. Ossie and I went to town. Visited the "Power Dive" and the PBS club on Via Roma. Met a couple of Ossie's old female friends. Had quite a time. As a rule we have been going to town on phony passes. Returned to camp next AM at 7:30.”*

*Habeck, Oswald “Ossie”, T/Sgt, combat medic, US Army*

**Tuesday, 22 May 1945**

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The training program is going along at about 75% effort, with the other 25% in the planning stage. The group is now seeing the film Two Down and One To Go. It's a nicely arranged picturization of how redeployment will affect us. There was a noticeable groan when Gen. Arnold spoke that piece about there being only a very small percentage of Air Forces' personnel who will be released. Higher headquarters has ordered full-emphasis on the public-relations program and has authorized advance releases on every soldier returning home from this theatre. Quite a reversal of previous security measures! They also want each airman returning to the States, to have a history of the part, his group, his wing and his air force took in the Italian campaigns. The Red Cross put on a club mobile-show, which was quite good. The unit is known as Ted Seidel's show and consisted of a glib-tongued emcee with an off-color style, and attractive Red Cross worker from Foggia, know as Pat Madison, and a group of Italian musicians who were generally good. All in all, it was the best rounded-out show put on out here, with refreshment after it was over.

*Madison, Pat, Red Cross*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** S/Sgt. Knapp notified of his promotion to Second Lieutenant. Much comment, the greater part adverse. Films and non-operational flights.

*Knapp, Robert Duane, Jr., 2Lt, gunner*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"22 MARTEDI-TUESDAY*

*Went down to beach - went out in a Kayak- It wasn't bad at all - Met Mary Louise - and took some pictures. Made a date for Tuesday night, met them at the La Palma Hotel and had dinner. I had Mayme La Monica from Connecticut. She is a civilian worker at Naples. We went wading - then to dance. She is pretty well built, but not much in the brain class."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Routine work as we wonder what will be our ultimate fate. Some articles of clothing are being turned in to Supply, so our Barracks bags will lighten from time to time.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Five men left on combat rotation. 23 EM promoted. 11 planes in local transition. Usual Organizational duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lieutenant Fleming was promoted to Captain. Second Lieutenants Boyd, Butler, Carroll, Dean, Herrin, Host, Miller, were promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants.

*Boyd, Wilford D., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Butler, Glenn D., 1Lt, pilot*

*Carroll, Robert L., 2Lt, pilot*

*Dean, James A., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Fleming, George B., Capt, pilot*

*Herrin, John C., 1Lt, pilot*

*Host, H. G., 1Lt, pilot*

*Miller, Allen R., 1Lt, pilot*



**Tuesday, 22 May 1945 (continued)**

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*“Emergency rotation commencing to be alerted. Swam in pool. Vandenberg, Turner, Martin and boys from 448<sup>th</sup> arrived today. New order that first three graders are duty free sounds OK. Attended a bull session across the tracks.”*

*Martin, Lewis E. "Lew", T/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Turner, James H., T/Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Vandenberg, Edward V. "Van", Sgt, gunner*



## Wednesday, 23 May 1945

*Buckley, Paul I., 1Lt, pilot*  
*Cammack, Elmore (NMI), 1Lt, pilot*  
*Gorden, Robert L., S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Meiborg, Walter F., S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Netzel, Carl F., T/Sgt, gunner*  
*Smith, Frederick H., 1Lt, pilot*

*Buechner, Helmut K., 1Lt, pilot*  
*Finnegan, Paul W., T/Sgt, gunner*  
*Keenan, Harry A., S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Maslyar, Michael M., S/Sgt, gunner*  
*Sims, James W., S/Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Private DelGuergio left the Ille Rousse, Corsica Rest Camp on Temporary Duty. Captain Wonnacott returned to the squadron after 30 days of Temporary Duty in the United States.

*DelGuergio, Jerry S., PFC, duty soldier*

*Wonnacott, Robert C., Capt, engineering*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*“More fellows being alerted. Ossie Habeck and Jim Gentre alerted. Going by ATC. Infantry boys a little nervous about flying. Attended "The Glass Key".”*

*Habeck, Oswald “Ossie”, T/Sgt, combat medic, US Army*

## Thursday, 24 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** The 7<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 62<sup>nd</sup> Troop Carrier Group, moves from Tarquinia to Rosignano, Italy with C-47s.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Uh-huh, it happened! Today's announcement stated that hereafter there will be a weekly inspection of personnel and barracks every Saturday morning, followed by a formal review. The bulletin mentioned that it was only being done to expedite our lives when we return to 'garrison-soldiering' in the States. The report is out that all ratings are frozen for enlisted men, and that has boosted morale about as much as the cancellation of a furlough to a soldier going overseas. I&E (Instruction and Education) seems to be the all-important thing and classes are now scheduled to start in a few days. Some stiff-backs were reported today, which is an indication that the calisthenics program is working. PX beer-rations were increased from 6 cans per week to 7, which isn't bad at all.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lts. Buckham, Sprankle, Sgts. Gum, Hunsberger, Bierly, Heckman, Edwards, Clayton rotated to U.S. after completion of tour.

*Bierly, Glenn E., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Buckham, John K., 1Lt, pilot*

*Clayton, Ross W., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Edwards, Jack M., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Gum, Paul V., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Heckman, Kenneth W., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Hunsberger, William R., Sgt, gunner*

*Sprankle, Floyd H., 2Lt, pilot*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"24 GIOVEDI-THURSDAY*

*Got up to go back - made the boat. Mayme was pretty indifferent on the boat - I left her - Got to the airport and waited for Curry. I went down to see Smitty; he wasn't feeling so hot. I gave him Bierly's camera to take over - I hope he got it alright. I got back and had a number of letters 2-Mrs. Lake, 1-Carol, 4-Betty, 1 v-mail Ruby M, 1 Mom Hoobler"*

*Bierly, Glenn E., S/Sgt, gunner*

*Curry, Hughie L., Sgt, engineer-gunner*

*Smith, Warren B. "Smitty", T/Sgt, gunner*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Seegmiller, Barnard H., Sgt, armament:**

*05/24/45: "This evening in a few short sentences it was revealed to us by Capt. Locke that our group has been placed in Category 2 which means we will be re-deployed to the Pacific by way of the States. Our spirits were boosted noticeably, though no one cheered the news. I think we expected it. I asked the question, "Would anyone be separated from the Group to remain in the States?" Locke did not know, but I rather expect some of the older men will be. I regard my chance of getting out as about 50-50. Today I led an I and E discussion on 'How Strong is Japan?'"*

## Thursday, 24 May 1945 (continued)

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** More lucky persons get stateside orders: Lt. Codd and Sgts. Lamm, Ransom and Flasher. The Cairo trip returns and a fine time is reported by all.

*Codd, Russell G., 1Lt, bombardier*

*Flasher, Henry F., Sgt, gunner*

*Lamm, Earl D., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Ransom, Gerald H., T/Sgt, gunner*

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The following rotated to US: 1<sup>st</sup> Lts R.D. Appenzeller, A.E. Autry, H.D. Radel, J.W. Yerger, T/Sgt. R.C. Stokes. 13 planes in practice formation. The officers and EM who have been sent to US on TDY were changed to permanent rotation. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Appenzeller, Richard D., 1Lt, pilot*

*Autry, Aaron E., 1Lt, pilot*

*Radel, Henry D., 2Lt, bombardier*

*Stokes, Robert C., T/Sgt, gunner*

*Yerger, John W., 1Lt, pilot*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No change other than that of the usual operational duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**  
“Hanging around reading, swimming and eating well. Food is OK.”

## Friday, 25 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** HQ 62<sup>nd</sup> Troop Carrier Group moves from Tarquinia to Rosignano Airfield, Italy.

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Weather continues to be nice and truck-transportation has been arranged to pick up all calisthenics' personnel who want to take a dip, afterwards. Gen. Knapp left for a trip to Paris, London and then the States, and will return here in about six weeks. That eliminated some of the speculation concerning the group, as we'll have to be on hand to welcome him back. We had a meeting on 'redeployment', which was explained to us by Lt. Col. Gaffney, group executive. It seems the Stars & Stripes is the best source of information, though, as they somehow manage to get a hold of news faster than it reaches us through channels.

*Gaffney, Charles H, Maj, 321<sup>st</sup> BG HQ Group Commander*

*Knapp, Robert Duane, Brigadier General, pilot, 57th BW Commander*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Officers' Club opened in squadron tonight. Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"25 VENERDI-FRIDAY*

*Went to Regular scheduled class. Nothing exciting - Saw the film of the Fighting Lady - a picture of an aircraft carrier. Betty wrote that the men at the office were calling her Cinderella and that she thought she would rather stay single & work for a couple of years yet. I wrote her and argued with her. I wrote Carol, Betty & Mrs Hoobler. Betty got her Teddy bear."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** May 25 to 31: The post-war program is under way and the I & E school begins. There is some calisthenics in the afternoon plus swimming, volleyball and track to fill the days.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 12 planes on practice formation. Two S/Sgts promoted to T/Sgt. Three Sgts promoted to S/Sgt. Three Cpls promoted to Sgt. Fifteen Pfcs and three Pvts promoted to Cpl. Sgt R.C. MacAuslan sent to US to attend Infantry OCS. Usual Organizational Duties.

*MacAuslan, Robert C., Sgt, gunner*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Corporals McCall, Reber, Swenson, Taylor, Tiger, Weiss and Yaw were promoted to Sergeants. Privates First Class Oddo, Oneth, Pankiewicz, Scombardi, Chappell, Dunn, Fisher, Grissom, Janus, Jungquist and McEver were promoted to Corporals.

*Chappell, William C., Cpl, armament*

*Fisher, Amos W., Cpl, transportation*

*Janus, Bill (NMI), Cpl, cook*

*McCall, Robert V., Sgt, personnel*

*Oddo, Anthony A., Cpl, engineering*

*Dunn, Vernon L, Cpl, engineering*

*Grissom, John E., Jr., Cpl, engineering*

*Jungquist, Walter L., Cpl, engineering*

*McEver, Thomas J., Cpl, duty soldier*

*Oneth, Albert L., Cpl, engineering*

**Friday, 25 May 1945 (continued)**

*Pankiewicz, Edward J., Cpl, engineering*      *Reber, Hugh W. L., Sgt, engineering*  
*Scombari, John (NMI), Cpl, transportation*      *Swenson, James R., Sgt, engineering*  
*Taylor, Allan J., Sgt, personnel*      *Tiger, George E., Sgt, cook*  
*Weiss, Arthur A., Sgt, bomb system maintenance*  
*Yaw, Philip C., Sgt, engineering*



## Saturday, 26 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** Brigadier General Charles T. Myers assumes command of the Twelfth AF. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadrons, 62<sup>nd</sup> Troop Carrier Group, move from Tarquinia to Rosignano Airfield, Italy with C-47s.

*Myers, Charles T. Brig Gen, 12th AF Commander*

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Saturday morning and our first formal inspection. After the inspection, we had a dental inspection and then, the Big Parade. The review was enlivened by the 446<sup>th</sup>'s 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., who gave the unique and difficult command of "Left, Right-Face". The men carried on, completely ignoring the command and executing the proper movement. We had ice-cream at 4:00 p.m., and while it did taper off supper-appetites, it still was relished. Our scheduled Saturday night dance was postponed because the Mitchellaires had 'a paying job' and they wanted to liquidate all existing band debts before we pull out of the theatre. So, we settled for Monday night booking.

*Mabe, John Ivan, T/Sgt, personnel, 1st Sgt*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Inspection conducted by Group Officers. Parade followed.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"26 SABATO-SATURDAY*

*Had a inspection by Colonel Young and his staff. I got by all right. Had the rest of the day off - after a Parade, I didn't go anywhere."*

*Young, Earl B., Lt Col, pilot, Deputy Commander, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** May 25 to 31: The post-war program is under way and the I & E school begins. There is some calisthenics in the afternoon plus swimming, volleyball and track to fill the days.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** The Group held a large formation and parade this morning. This will continue every Saturday morning, with Saturday afternoon and Sunday off. However, each section has to keep one man on duty for this period. Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** There was no change other than that of usual squadron duties.

## Sunday, 27 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** The “TODAY IS SUNDAY” sign is hanging on the bulletin-board this morning. It is a nice day and eight C-47s came in about 7:00 a.m. That gave some of the fellows an idea of flying up and back to Udine, for the day, but they were disappointed as the planes didn’t have a load and took off for their home-base after waiting around for three hours. It seems that someone goofed-off and the loads of gasoline they were supposed to haul, was taken away several days ago. Swimming in the Adriatic and a baseball game out at the service group, got the early morning attendance. “The White Cliffs of Dover”, is playing at Ancona and quite a few fellows went to see it and came back favorably impressed.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*“27 DOMENICA-SUNDAY*

*Developed some pictures - and printed them as well. Doe and Knauss helped me develop them. Beasley & I did a bit of printing. No No.2 paper. So they didn’t come out so hot. No Mail. I went in to Ancona with Beasley we saw White Cliffs of Dover not bad at all I guess. Ancona Stinks. Mitchell Wilson, Seigler and some more went to Cairo. Mitchell & Seigler are going to get me something.”*

*Beasley, Alvis A., Jr., Sgt, armament*

*Doe, Norman H., 1Lt, pilot*

*Knauss, Roger Reid “Reid”, 1Lt, pilot*

*Mitchell, Robert F., 1Lt, navigator*

*Seigler, William B., S/Sgt, radio-gunner*

*Wilson, Charles B. “Charlee”, 1Lt, pilot*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** May 25 to 31: The post-war program is under way and the I & E school begins. There is some calisthenics in the afternoon plus swimming, volleyball and track to fill the days.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Everyone has gone swimming or sight-seeing. Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual organizational duties were all that took place.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**

*“On alert C592-2. Pulled customs inspection. Illegally passing through my diary. Had lire exchanged for that dear old American currency. What a fine feel it has (\$50). Still carrying \$10 in Traveler's Cheques and \$5.00 bill when I left the states. Only permitted B-4 and musette bag. Boarded "James Barbour" Liberty Ship at Naples pier. Loaded 299 veterans from all branches of the Army. The ship is sailed by a Merchant Marine crew. (1 stacker). We are situated in the aft - upper hold. Our bunks are four deep and*

## Sunday, 27 May 1945 (continued)

*of the navy type. While awaiting assignment to the hold, K rations were passed out on deck. An Air corps Lt Colonel and Major are troop commanders. Both are good Joes. Marty Chauncey, Carl Daniels (447<sup>th</sup>) and Oliver King, finance clerk (448<sup>th</sup>) Make a foursome for pinochle. Fresh water is available three times a day for two-hour periods. Only salt water showers. Watched the sky and sea before retiring. Thinking how very wonderful it is going to feel to be with the family and see Shyrle. I wonder if I've changed. Retired 10:00PM."*

*Chauncey, Martin E. "Marty", T/Sgt, gunner, bombardier, 445<sup>th</sup> BS*

*Daniels, Carl (NMI), T/Sgt, engineer-gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*

*King, Oliver A., Sgt, personnel*

*Shyrle, Irving Schaffer's future wife*

## Monday, 28 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Pleasant weather again today, and a lecture on ‘readjustment’ by Captain Lind, who enlivened the discussion and gained the audience’s attention, with a sudden entrance and medicine-man spiel of the cure-all for ‘rotation blues’. Readjustments seem as limited for discussion, as redeployment, due to the lack of information on hand. The EM had their weekly dance tonight and the band was in fine fettle. Capt. Henry, wowed the audience with his capers and threw in an encore with a version of “Writing Love-Letters in the Sand”. The dance itself, was a social success, with a slight tapering-off of relatives and food-baskets.

*Henry, Forrest R. "Steamboat", Capt, intelligence, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG  
Lind, Ragnar G. "Jeffrey Lynn", Capt, intelligence, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG*

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:  
"28 LUNEDI-MONDAY*

*No mail except a package from Mrs Wendstern and one from Carol. I wrote Carol & Paul - and Betty. I told Betty I'd see her on my furlough probably. I wrote Carol I'd be seeing her in New York probably. She said she & Paul were meeting in N. Car. to be married. They will be in New York together."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** May 25 to 31: The post-war program is under way and the I & E school begins. There is some calisthenics in the afternoon plus swimming, volleyball and track to fill the days.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 13 planes on local transition. Col. Strenger returned from TDY Northern Italy and Germany. Lt. VenJohn returned from TDY in Rome. Cpl Charles Davenport placed on DS, Hq., 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb. Gp. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Davenport, Charles (NMI), Cpl, armament                      VenJohn, George G., 1Lt, intelligence*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Lieutenant Wyman returned from Rome, where he attended the Army Education Staff School. Sergeant Dittman left for Alexandria, Egypt. Sergeants Griffen, Oliver and Scott, and Private Walter returned from a ten day furlough in Rome.

*Dittman, Paul F., Jr., S/Sgt, gunner                      Griffen, Harry J., S/Sgt, intelligence  
Oliver, Walter A., T/Sgt, gunner                      Scott, Joseph M. "Scotty", Sgt, intelligence  
Walter, Robert I., PFC, supply                      Wyman, 1Lt, S-2, I & E Officer*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Awoke 8:00AM. Slept surprisingly well. Chow hours are 8-9, 12-1, 5-6. The ATS (Army Transport Service) provides its own kitchen and facilities for troops. Entirely separate from ship's crew. We are divided in groups. Each group works 1 day on rotation set up. Not bad at all. All this bunk about returning troops eating fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, milk, etc, is a lot of bunk. Same old chow. Chow lines are long and so is the washing*

## **Monday, 28 May 1945 (continued)**

*lines for mess kits. Despite it all, every last guy is tingling with the thought of going home. Played pinochle and hearts. Drew PX rations. Cigarettes, candy, peanuts, etc. Always have to sweat out a line. The gun crews are still alerted as submarines are still about. Our ship makes 12 knots and will probably take 18 days to port. Commenced "The Apostle" by Sholem Asch. Rained the better portion of the day. Hold very stuffy. Put \$40.00 in ship's safe. The enlisted men have the forward portion of the deck and the officers the aft. The crew has separate quarters. Their chow is excellent. Steaks, chops, etc. Retired 10:30PM. Feeling OK."*

## Tuesday, 29 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** A few hangovers marked the day. There was a smaller than usual turnout for calisthenics, as those interested in baseball were excused from drill. The base-theatre is showing "Kansas City Ditty" and the house empties just a shade slower than it fills. Most, leave at the first film-break, indicating good theatre manners. The mail situation has been poor for the entire Group headquarters. The I&E program got off to a start today and volley-ball was the main attraction of the evening.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** I & E training and usual garrison duties.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:**

*"29 MARTEDI-TUESDAY*

*Went to a film this morning. It was one of a series on survival. Went to Clauson accounting & bookkeeping - It will turn out to be really O.K."*

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** May 25 to 31: The post-war program is under way and the I & E school begins. There is some calisthenics in the afternoon plus swimming, volleyball and track to fill the days.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 12 planes on local formation. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald P. Twieg on TDY Hq., 12<sup>th</sup> AFSC, par. 1, SO 115, Hq., 57<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Wing. Usual Organizational Duties.

*Twieg, Donald P., 1Lt, pilot*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No change took place today.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS: War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:**

*"Awoke 8:15AM. Imagine eating hard boiled eggs for breakfast. C'est la guerre. Skipper came aboard via Italian craft. Got underway at 11:20AM. Goodbye to Naples and Italy and Europe. Calm sea. Slightly bumpy due to no load. We are supposed to be the first victory troops arriving via water. Clear, sunny PM. Retired 10:00PM."*

## Wednesday, 30 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Coffee and doughnuts at 10:00 a.m., was the only highlight of the day's social calendar. A half-holiday was ordered for this afternoon by the theatre commander, in honor of Memorial Day. Services were held at the military cemeteries and while many expressed the desire to pay their respects, no transportation was arranged, or was available. Olson and Johnson are in the movie "See My Lawyer" at the base-theatre, but it's another Class D picture as far as its appeal to GI's.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*  
"30 MERCOLEDI-WEDNESDAY

No Entry

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** May 25 to 31: The post-war program is under way and the I & E school begins. There is some calisthenics in the afternoon plus swimming, volleyball and track to fill the days.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 12 planes local transition. Cpl Buford T. Williams sent to US for redeployment. Usual Organizational Duties.  
*Williams, Buford T., Cpl, armament*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Sergeant Royce, Corporal Rushton and Private Gallagher left for the United States.  
*Gallagher, Leo (NMI), Pvt, engineering*                      *Royce, James R., T/Sgt, communications*  
*Rushton, Willie C., Cpl, engineering*

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*  
"Awoke 8:40AM. Missed most of breakfast. Played several games of chess with Harold Phares. Feeling a bit seasick. Changed from bow to amid-ship (burping). News of Japanese bombing of some US city by balloons. Passed southern tip of Sardinia. Clear, windy, cool. Decoration Day. Retired 10:00PM."  
*Phares, Harold (NMI), Jr., T/Sgt, radio-gunner, 447<sup>th</sup> BS*



## Thursday, 31 May 1945

**USAAF Chronology: MTO Tactical Operations (12<sup>th</sup> AF):** No Entry

**HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary:** Pay-call today at 1000 a.m. and all the April debts were either paid off or extended. To further enhance the importance of the day, rations were issued at 1:00 p.m., and it's still 7 cans of beer and 7 packages of cigarettes. There were no cokes in this week's rations, for some reason. Several of the original cadre went home today on permanent rotation and they might bump into some of the fellows who left on the last batch and still are hanging around Naples, waiting for shipping space. The I&E section arranged transportation to a concert by the Fano Symphony at Fano, Italy and from all reports, it was a very good program and nicely performed.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** Usual garrison duties and non-operational flights.

**445<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Lile, Keith B., S/Sgt, gunner:*

*"31 GIOVEDI-THURSDAY*

No Entry

**446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** May 25 to 31: The post-war program is under way and the I & E school begins. There is some calisthenics in the afternoon plus swimming, volleyball and track to fill the days.

**447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** 12 planes local formation. Usual Organizational Duties.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary:** No changes took place aside from usual squadron duties. Thus ended another month in the history of the squadron.

**448<sup>th</sup> BS:** *War Diary of: Schaffer, Irving J., T/Sgt, radio-gunner:*

*"Awoke 8:10AM. Sleeping fairly well. Ship jounces about due to empty holds. School of porpoises following boat. Two stacker passed us about 2 miles away going in opposite direction. Warm, sunny day. Food is fair. Crew painted port side of upper deck. Assemble canvas over upper forward hold - sort of a tent affair. Sun is too strong for some. Did a bit of calisthenics. Sunset at 9:30PM. Retired 11:00PM."*

## May 1945

### HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG War Diary: Additional Narrative for May 1945

HEADQUARTERS  
321<sup>st</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
APO 650

3 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records

TO : Commanding General, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, APO 650 US Army.  
Attention: Historian

1. Outline History of the 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group Headquarters for the period 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945, inclusive.

a Original Unit.

- (1) Original Designation: 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M).
- (2) Place of activation: Barksdale Field, Louisiana.
- (3) Date of activation: 26 June 1942.
- (4) Authority for Activation: War Department Letter.
- (5) Sources of Personnel: Transfer from other units, voluntary enlistments, selective service, National Guard.

b Changes in Organization.

- (1) Changes in designation: None.
- (2) Echelon or Units:
  - (a) Transferred: 20
  - (b) On DS or TD: None.
  - (c) Attached to other Headquarters for Operational Control: None.
- (3) Change of Commanding Officers: None.
- (4) Changes of Staff Officers: Captain George W. O'Neil Jr., appointed Personnel Equipment Officer. Paragraph 4 Special Order No. 78, 1 May 1945 Headquarters 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M).

c Strength: Commissioned and Enlisted.

(1) Month of May 1945.

- |                   |                    |                            |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Beginning     | : Enlisted Men: 74 | Officers: 35 (Inc. 1 W.O.) |
| (b) Net Increase: | Enlisted Men: 3    | Officers: 1                |
| (c) Net Decrease: | Enlisted Men: 16   | Officers: 4                |
| (d) At End        | : Enlisted Men: 61 | Officers: 32 (Inc. 1 W.O.) |

## May 1945 (continued)

d Stations or Units or Echelons.

(1) Name of Station: Falconara Airfield, Italy.

(a) Date of Arrival: 4 April 1945.

e Movements of Unit or Echelons.

(1) None.

f Campaigns.

(1) Names: Tunisian, Sicilian, Air Combat Balkans, Italian (Naples-Foggia), Italian (Rome-Arno), Southern France, Northern Apennines, Po Valley.

Note: Battle participation award for Air Combat-Balkans, 4 October 1943 to 8 January 1944, authorized by amendment to secret letter, Headquarters MTOUSA. AG 200.6/040 P-O, subject: Battle Participation Awards, dated 10 November 1944, as indicated in letter Headquarters MTOUSA, subject: Battle Participation Awards, dated 23 May 1945.

(2) Duration: 15 March 1943 - 8 May 1945 capitulation of Germany.

g Operations: None. The Group stood-by for possible missions until V-E Day, but no missions were flown this month.

h Command Officers on important missions: None.

i Losses in Action: None.

j Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action:

(1) The Group has been awarded its second unit citation by authority of General Orders Number 40, Headquarters Twelfth Air Force, dated 26 February 1943; confirmed in War Department General Orders Number 25, dated 7 April 1945, for sinking the battleship Strasbourg, the cruiser La Galissonniere, and a submarine in Toulon Harbor, France, on 18 August 1944. Official presentation made by General Robert D. Knapp on 8 May 1945.

k Number of photographs being submitted.

(1) Two photographs of presentation ceremony for Oak Leaf Cluster to Distinguished Unit Badge on 8 May 1945, at base in Falconara, Italy.

## May 1945 (continued)

2. Inclosed are War Diary, 321<sup>st</sup> Headquarters for the period 1 May 1945 through 31 May 1945; Copy of Unit Citation, General Orders Number 40, Headquarters Twelfth Air Force, dated 26 February 1945, and two (2) pictures of presentation ceremony for First Oak Leaf Cluster to Distinguished Unit Badge.

For the Commanding Officer:

RAGNAR G. LIND,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Group Historian.

Incl:

1. War Diary
2. Copy of Unit Citation
3. Photos of Presentation Ceremony
4. Supporting Documents



FALCONARA, ITALY - May 8, 1945. V-E Day was marked by a formal review inside the compound and presentation of the Group's second Presidential Unit Citation, for the Toulon Harbor attack of 18 August 1944. In picture above, Brig. Gen. Robert D. Knapp inspects the troops, accompanied by Group and Squadron staff officers. Below: Brig. Gen. Knapp, Col. Cassidy (Gp. CO.); Lt. Col. Gaffney (Gp. Exec. O.); and Lt. Col. Cameron (Gp. Opns. O.) on the reviewing stand.

May 1945 (continued)



R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE  
APO 650

GENERAL ORDERS ) 26 Feb 1945  
:  
NUMBER 40 ) CITATION OF UNIT

Under the provisions of Circular 333, War Department, 1943, and Circular 89, North African Theatre of Operations, 10 July 1944, the 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations on 18 August 1944.

On the third day of the invasion of Southern France, when aerial reconnaissance disclosed that the battleship Strasbourg, the cruiser La Galissonniere, a destroyer and a submarine had been moved to a new location in Toulon Harbor and placed in such a

## May 1945 (continued)

position as to constitute a serious threat to combined Allied operations in the Toulon area, the 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M) was ordered to attack and neutralize the fire power of these heavy naval units at all costs. Despite the fact that under normal circumstances only high-altitude heavy bombardment aircraft are assigned to attack such heavily defended targets, the urgency of the order to remove this formidable threat to ground forces made it imperative that Corsica-based medium altitude precision bombers be assigned to the task. On 18 August 1944, overcoming weather conditions which caused other medium groups to turn back without completing their missions scheduled for the same area, the 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group's thirty-six plane formation negotiated the long over-water route by dead-reckoning and accurately turned on the planned axis of attack from an imaginary initial point over the sea. Exhibiting utmost gallantry and determination in the face of extremely intense anti-aircraft fire from eighty-two known heavy guns, surrounding the harbor, which damaged twenty-seven bombers and wounded twelve personnel, the B25 crew men executed a precision bomb run at the vulnerable altitude of 13,000 feet. With the pilots courageously holding their aircraft on course through this terrific barrage, the bombardiers skillfully dropped a devastating pattern of bombs which sank the battleship, the cruiser, and the submarine; the destroyer having departed prior to the attack. With the threat of the warships' heavy guns removed, through an accomplishment unprecedented in a single attack by medium bombardment aircraft, Allied forces were able to plan and successfully execute operations in this area without interruption. The extraordinary heroism and proficiency demonstrated throughout the entire hazardous attack and the outstanding flying skill displayed on the return flight when thunderstorms and a low overcast forced the damaged bombers to land at scattered friendly fields, reflected highest credit upon the 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group and the Military Service of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CANNON:

OFFICIAL:

CHARLES T. MYERS  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff

WILLIAM W. DICK  
Colonel, ACD  
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

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- 10 - 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp
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  - 2 - ACAS, Intelligence, Washington, DC (ATTN: Hist Div)
  - 1 - MTOUSA, Pers Div, AG Sec; AG Files
-

## May 1945 (continued)

### 445<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Narrative for May 1945

HEADQUARTERS 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M)  
APO 650

1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records

TO : Commanding General, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing  
Attentions: Historian

1. Outline History of the 445<sup>th</sup> Squadron for the period May 1, 1945 to May 31, 1945.

a Original unit

- (1) 445<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M), 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force.
- (2) Barksdale Army Air Base, La., was place of activation
- (3) June 23, 1942 was date of activation
- (4) G.O. #145, Hq. 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Force, 23 June 1942 was authority for activation
- (5) National guard, selective service and regular army were sources of personnel

b Changes in organization

- (1) No changes in designation, no transfer, unit was not placed on DS or TS nor was it attached to other headquarters for operational control
- (2) There was no change of commanding officers.
- (3) There was no change of staff officers.
- (4) There was no new T/O

c Strength, commissioned and enlisted

- (1) Month of May 1945
  - (a) At beginning - 496
  - (b) Net increase -
  - (c) Net decrease - 101
  - (d) At end - 395

d Stations of units or echelons – Falconara Airfield, Italy – still present this base.

e Movements – there was no movement of the squadron during the month of May, 1945.

f Campaigns – hostilities ceased in Italy.

g No combat missions flown by squadron.

h Losses in action – none



## May 1945 (continued)

i Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action:

G.O. #102, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 11 May 1945:

Distinguished Flying Cross (Extraordinary achievement in aerial flight)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bernard J. McMahon Jr., pilot

G.O. #94, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 3 May 1945:

Distinguished Flying Cross

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul E. Shuttters, *pilot*

G.O. #93, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 2 May 1945:

1<sup>st</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert A. Davies, *pilot*

S/Sgt. James P., Cruise, *gunner*

2<sup>nd</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

S/Sgt. James P. Cruise, *gunner*

4<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rudolph G. Rice, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Ray E. Barrett, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Roger R. Knauss, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Manuel Garza, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rudolph J. Takacs, *pilot*

S/Sgt. John R. Hagains, *gunner*

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert E. Doris, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Richard A. Larson, *gunner*

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William G. Brown, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Andrew D. Peters, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Frank E. Barnett, *gunner*

5<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cecil A. Brown, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Paul V. Gum, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gerhard Henry Galny, Jr., *pilot*

S/Sgt. John R. Hagains, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert F. Mitchell, *navigator*

S/Sgt. Keith B. Lile, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul L. Young, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Jack R. Osborn, *gunner*

T/Sgt. Reginald J. McMahon, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Frank E. Barnett, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Max E. Baker, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Edward R. Heintz, Jr., *gunner*

S/Sgt. Jack M. Edwards, *gunner*

6<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Julian R. Coale, Jr., *pilot*

S/Sgt. Jack M. Edwards, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bernard J. McMahon, Jr., *pilot*

S/Sgt. Paul V. Gum, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert F. Mitchell, *navigator*

G.O. #103, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 12 May 1945:

1<sup>st</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

S/Sgt Paul J. Brezko, *gunner*

S/Sgt John A. Duryea, *gunner*

S/Sgt John G. Brunda, *gunner*

S/Sgt Alonzo Farmer, *gunner*

S/Sgt Donald Carlock, *gunner*

S/Sgt Edwin H. Hafferkamp, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Philip J. Hieronimus, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Frank A. Posillico, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Brendon Joseph Murphy, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Robert C. Stansberry, *gunner*

S/Sgt. John J. Naughton, Jr., *gunner*

S/Sgt. Cleofas M. Vargas, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Antonio Palermo, *gunner*



## May 1945 (continued)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

S/Sgt John G. Brunda, *gunner*  
S/Sgt Donald Carlock, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. John A. Duryea, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Alonzo Farmer, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Edwin H. Hafferkamp, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Philip J. Hieronimus, *gunner*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joe G. Badger, *pilot*  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard C. Rosenthal, *bombardier*  
F/O Frank M. Schnieringer, *bombardier*  
S/Sgt. Edwin B. Kimmel, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Morris M. Miller, *gunner*

### 4<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

S/Sgt. William F. Freidli, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Harry L. Kabrich, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Paul J. Koski, *gunner*

### 5<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

S/Sgt. Daniel P. Emberton, *gunner*

S/Sgt. John J. Naughton, Jr., *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Antonio Palermo, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Frank A. Posillico, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Robert C. Stansberry, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Cleofas M. Vargas, *gunner*

S/Sgt. John J. Naughton, Jr., *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Frank A. Posillico, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Robert C. Stansberry, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Cleofas M. Vargas, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Freddie Perich, *gunner*  
S/Sgt. Cleofas M. Vargas, *gunner*

G.O. #106, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 15 May 1945

### Air Medal (Meritorious achievement in aerial flight)

Sgt. Earl Crocker, *gunner*  
Sgt. Matthew J. Dolecki, *gunner*  
Sgt. Brady A. James, *gunner*

Sgt. Ray Kelley, *gunner*  
Sgt. Raymond VanSteenhouse, *gunner*  
Sgt. John A. Thomson, *gunner*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Victor J. Hancock, *pilot*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John F. Joyce, Jr., *navigator*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert E. Jordan, *pilot*

F/O Albert A. Grattopp, *pilot*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas M. Brown, *bombardier*  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Guilford Jones, Jr., *pilot*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert D. Henderson, *pilot*

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles W. Mutchler, *pilot*  
F/O Floyd A. Carlson, *pilot*  
S/Sgt. Robert L. Lorenz, *gunner*

### 4<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William H. Jackson, *bombardier*

G.O. #107, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 16 May 1945

### Silver Star (Gallantry in action)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James B. Fisher, Jr., *pilot*

### Bronze Star (Meritorious achievement)

T/Sgt. Arthur R. Lien, *engineering*

## May 1945 (continued)

G.O. #109, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 18 May 1945

Air Medal (Meritorious achievement in aerial flight)

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jack C. Valiquette, *bombardier*

Sgt. John R. Wells, *gunner*

F/O Robert F. Richardson, *navigator*

Sgt. Roy M. Wilmes, *gunner*

Sgt. John Graff, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William A. Hochheim, *pilot*

F/O Donald L. Fredenburg, *pilot*

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Wilmer E. Reid, *pilot*

2<sup>nd</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edgar A. Hume, Jr., *bombardier*

F/O Donald H. Marks, *bombardier*

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John R. Carlson, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Brendon Joseph Murphy, *gunner*

3<sup>rd</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Noel F. Dickens, *bombardier*

F/O Donald E. Crampton, *pilot*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul R. Riggenschach, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Philip J. Hieronimus, *gunner*

4<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Fred K. Amundson, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Jefferson M. Hickman, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frederick R. Stolberg, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Sanford L. Josephson, *gunner*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles R. Wilson, *pilot*

S/Sgt. James A. Stack, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Nicholas Alexaki, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Philip B. Teague, *gunner*

5<sup>th</sup> Cluster to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald M. Middleton, *pilot*

S/Sgt. Manuel Garza, *gunner*

T/Sgt. James S. Lowrey, *gunner*

S/Sgt. Robert D. Knapp, Jr., *gunner*

G.O. #113, Headquarters 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 26 May 1945

Distinguished Flying Cross (Extraordinary achievement in aerial flight)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Arthur L. Curry, *pilot*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James Kourafas, *pilot*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Norman H. Doe, *pilot*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald M. Middleton, *pilot*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William H. Jackson, *bombardier*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rex E. Reade, *pilot*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edward A. White, *pilot*

j No photographs submitted

2. Enclosed is War Diary, 445<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron for the period from May 1, 1945 to May 31, 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

Incl:  
War Diary.

JACK LOCKE,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.

## May 1945 (continued)

### 446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Narrative for May 1945

HEADQUARTERS 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M)  
APO 650

1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records

TO : Commanding General, 57<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, APO 650 U.S. Army

1. Outline History of the 446<sup>th</sup> Squadron for the period 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945:

a Original unit

- (1) 446<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sqdn (M), 321<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M), AAF
- (2) Organized 1 August 1942
- (3) Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, S.C.
- (4) Activated at Barksdale Field, La., 23 June 1942
- (5) Personnel obtained by transfer from other units, training schools and replacement centers

b Changes in organization

- (1) No change

c Strength, commissioned and enlisted

- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) 1 May 1945   | 112 Officers, 356 Enlisted Men |
| (2) Net Increase | None            None           |
| (3) Net Decrease | 10 Officers, 59 Enlisted Men   |
| (4) 30 May 1945  | 102 Officers, 297 Enlisted Men |

d Stations of units or echelons

- (1) None

e Movements of units or echelons.

- (1) None

f Campaigns

- (1) Po Valley
- (2) From 5 April 1945 to 8 May 1945
- (3) Campaigns not referred to before:
  - (a) Air Combat Balkans, from 4 October 1943 to 8 January 1944.
  - (b) Northern Apennines, from 10 September 1944 to 4 April 1945.

g Operations

- (1) With the cessation of hostilities in Europe, combat missions were discontinued and a training program inaugurated.
- (2) Ground school for combat personnel, aerial training, I & E classes, physical education and athletics made up the program.

## May 1945 (continued)

### h Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action:

#### (1) Distinguished Flying Cross Awarded to:

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert F. Panning, *pilot*, GO #92, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gail B. Berge, *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Andrew J. Corra, *bombardier*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Albert W. Dunn, *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William F. Fein, *bombardier*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Wendell L. French, *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Roland B. Jackson, *pilot*, GO #94, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Allan A. Maki, *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ray L. McCloud, *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John E. McCullough Jr., *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard W. O'Connor, *navigator*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David M. Sherline, *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cecil E. Welsh Jr., *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas A. Williams, *navigator*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Richard A. Atkins Jr., *pilot*, GO #113, XII Air Force  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Russell G. Codd, *bombardier*, GO #92, XII Air Force  
T/Sgt Harold W. Freeman, *gunner*, GO #92, XII Air Force  
T/Sgt Ernest J. Nigrelli, *gunner*, GO #113, XII Air Force

#### (2) Soldiers Medal Awarded to:

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Noel P. Holt Jr., *pilot*, GO #92, XII Air Force  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas A. Williams, *navigator*, GO #113, XII Air Force

#### (3) Air Medal Awarded to

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William S. Goff, *bombardier*, GO #106, XII Air Force  
F/O Allen E. Cloyd Jr., *bombardier*, GO #106, XII Air Force  
Sgt. Frederick N. Brenner, *gunner*, GO #109, XII Air Force  
Sgt. Norman G. Krebs, *gunner*, GO #109, XII Air Force  
Sgt. Robert M. Lattin, *armorers-gunner*, GO #109, XII Air Force  
Sgt. Raymond F. Taylor, *gunner*, GO #109, XII Air Force

Incls:

Incl. 1-War Diary

Incl. 2-I&E Schedule

Incl. 3-Flight and ground training for combat personnel

PAUL T. COOPER,  
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

## May 1945 (continued)

### 446<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Training Schedule for May 1945:

#### I & E Schedule

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>CLASS ROOM</u>
Basic Mathematics	All Squadrons	Lt. David Fox <i>Fox, David (NMI), 2Lt, bombardier, 446<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	446 <sup>th</sup> E.M. Day Room
Algebra	All Squadrons	Sgt. Rowley <i>Rowley, Verlin B., Sgt, intelligence, 447<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	447 <sup>th</sup> Officers Club
Bookkeeping	HQ, 445 <sup>th</sup> , 448 <sup>th</sup>	T/Sgt. Fogwell <i>Fogwell, Richard E., Jr., T/Sgt, armament, 448<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	448 <sup>th</sup> E.M. Mess
Bookkeeping	446 <sup>th</sup> and 447 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Gargiulo <i>Gargiulo, Vincent J. "Vince", 1Lt, bombardier</i>	447 <sup>th</sup> Officers Mess
Psychology	All Squadrons	Lt. Richard Fox <i>Fox, Richard F., 2Lt, supply, 446<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	Group Theater
Radio	HQ, 447 <sup>th</sup> , 448 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Plummer <i>Plummer, J. C., 1Lt, pilot, 448<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	448 <sup>th</sup> Nissen Hut
Radio	445 <sup>th</sup> and 446 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Meier <i>Meier, Donald J., 1Lt, communications, 446<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	446 <sup>th</sup> Officers Day Room
Electricity	All Squadrons	M/Sgt. Graf <i>Graf, Edward E. "Gene", M/Sgt, communications, 445<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	HQ. G.L.O. Room
Commercial Law	All Squadrons	Capt. Locke <i>Locke, Jacob "Jack", Capt, intelligence, 446<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	HQ. Class Room
English	All Squadrons	Lt. Dunn <i>Dunn, Albert W., 1Lt, pilot, 446<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	446 <sup>th</sup> E.M. Mess
Business Adm.	HQ., and 445 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Joyce <i>Joyce, John F., Jr., 1Lt, navigator, 445<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	445 <sup>th</sup> E.M. Mess
Business Adm.	447 <sup>th</sup> and 448 <sup>th</sup>	S/Sgt. McConnell <i>McConnell, William L., S/Sgt, gunner, 448<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	HQ. E.M. Mess
Business Adm.	446 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Brown, C. <i>Brown, Cecil A., 2Lt, pilot, 445<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	445 <sup>th</sup> Officers Mess
Blue Print Reading	HQ., 446 <sup>th</sup> , 448 <sup>th</sup>	Pvt. Gallagher <i>Gallagher, Leo (NMI), Pvt, engineering, 448<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	448 <sup>th</sup> Officers Club
Blue Print Reading	445 <sup>th</sup> and 447 <sup>th</sup>	Capt. Kelly <i>Kelly, John E., Capt, Communication Officer, 445<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	445 <sup>th</sup> E.M. Day Room
Agriculture	All Squadrons	Capt. Johnson <i>Johnson, Stanton W., Capt, Armament Officer, 445<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	445 <sup>th</sup> Officers Club
Music (Harmony)	All Squadrons	T/Sgt. Hodgen <i>Hodgen, Allen J. "Al", T/Sgt, personnel, HQ 321<sup>st</sup> BG</i>	HQ. E.M. Day Room
Physics	All Squadrons	Lt. Wood <i>Wood, George A., Jr., 2Lt, pilot, 447<sup>th</sup> BS</i>	447 <sup>th</sup> E.M. Mess

Classes will begin at 1030 hours, one hour periods, five days per week.

## May 1945 (continued)

### Ground School, Ground Training and Flight Training Schedule

Ground School and Ground Training was started 21 May 1945, for combat personnel. Five hours instruction per week was given in the following subjects:

Bombing Equipment	Personal Equipment
Dead Reckoning	First Aid
Map Reading	Emergency Procedures
Weather	Interrogation
Radio	Escape and Evasion
Armament	Combat Intelligence
Bomb loading and fusing	Military Courtesy
Pre-flights	Orientation

Aerial Training was as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Transition	8	1300
Formation	39	7335
Instrument	23	4355
Navigation	11	4615
Bombing	6 14 Practice runs	1110
- - - -	- - - -	- - - -

## May 1945 (continued)

### 447<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Narrative for May 1945

447<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
321<sup>ST</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
APO 65

1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing.  
Attention: Historian.

1. Outline History of the 447<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron for the period 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945.

a. 447<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (M), 321<sup>st</sup> bombardment Group (M).

- (1) 447<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (M), 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M), 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (M), 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force.
- (2) Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina.
- (3) 23 June 1942
- (4) G.O. 145, Hq. 11 AF, 23 June 1942
- (5) Transferred from other units and Selective Service.

b. Change in Organization.

- (1) No Change
- (2) Echelons or units.
  - (a) Transferred.
    - 16 officer and 44 enlisted men trfd to 7<sup>th</sup> Repl. Depot
    - 2 officers and 4 enlisted men trfd to USA
    - 5 enlisted men trfd to 414 NFS
    - 5 enlisted men trfd to 1<sup>st</sup> Emer. Res. Sqdn.
    - 2 enlisted men trfd to 313 Sig. Co.
    - 1 enlisted man trfd to 3<sup>rd</sup> Photo Gp.
    - 1 enlisted man trfd to 47<sup>th</sup> Bomb. Gp.
    - 1 enlisted man trfd to 60<sup>th</sup> Tp. Carr. Gp.
    - 2 enlisted men trfd to 64<sup>th</sup> Tp. Carr. Gp.
    - 1 enlisted man trfd to 2616 Rep. Unit.
  - (b) On DS or TD.
    - 1 officer to Hq. 12<sup>th</sup> AFSC on TD
    - 1 officer to Nor. Italy and Germany on TD
    - 1 officer to Rome on TD
    - 2 enlisted men to Ile Rousse Rest Camp, Corsica on TD
  - (c) No Change.
- (3) No change in commanding officers during the month
- (4) No change in staff officers during the month.
- (5) No Change.

## May 1945 (continued)

c. Strength, Commission and enlisted.

(1) Month of May 1945.

- (a) At Beginning. 107 Officers; 358 Enlisted Men
- (b) Net increase.
- (c) Net decrease. 21 Officers; 61 Enlisted Men
- (d) At end: 86 Officers; 297 Enlisted Men.

d. Stations of units or echelons.

(1) Falconara Air Field, Italy

- (a) 7 April 1945
- (b) Still at the same station.

e. Movement of units or echelons.

- (1) Did not move during month.

f. Campaigns.

- (1) Did not participate in any campaigns this month

g. Operations.

- (1) No combat operations this month.

h. No command officers in important missions during the month.

i. Losses in action during the month of May 1945.

- (1) No losses

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action during the month, and were presented the following awards:

On General Order No. 93, dated 2 May 1945, from 12<sup>th</sup> AF.

T/Sgt Charles W. Hardage, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

T/Sgt Bruce H. Huntley, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

T/Sgt James H. Newton, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

S/Sgt Camille J. Merlino, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Hugh H. Lankester, *bombardier*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Shelby D. Wallis, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

T/Sgt. Charles W. Hardage, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

T/Sgt Bruce H. Huntley, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

T/Sgt. James R. Newton, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

T/Sgt. Charles J. Price, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

T/Sgt. Emigdio Ruiz, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

S/Sgt Frank W. Hunsaker, Jr., *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

S/Sgt. Camille J. Merlino, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

S/Sgt. Dan Ochs, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal



## May 1945 (continued)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Norman I. Rose, *pilot*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John W. Yerger, *pilot*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
T/Sgt. Emigdio Ruiz, *gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt. Robert L. Gorden, *gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt. Frank W. Hunsaker, Jr., *gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

On General Order No. 94, dated 3 May 1945, from 12<sup>th</sup> AF.

Capt. Ernest G. Hutson, Jr., *pilot*, Distinguished Flying Cross  
Capt. Henry C. Satterwhite, *pilot*, Distinguished Flying Cross  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard D. Appenzeller, *pilot*, Distinguished Flying Cross  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Leonard P. Caflisch, *bombardier*, Distinguished Flying Cross  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Henry D. Radel, *bombardier*, Distinguished Flying Cross  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John W. Yerger, *pilot*, Distinguished Flying Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Erwin E.W. Heist, *bombardier*, Distinguished Flying Cross  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard G. Briggs, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John R. Highsmith, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard D. Appenzeller, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard G. Briggs, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Leonard P. Caflisch, *bombardier*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edmund R. Carlin, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul R. Peck, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Frank J. Blankemeyer, *bombardier*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt James W. Sims, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard D. Appenzeller, *pilot*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Leonard P. Caflisch, *bombardier*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul R. Peck, *pilot*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Henry D. Radel, *bombardier*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt. James W. Sims, *gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

On General Order No. 96, dated 5 May 1945, from 12<sup>th</sup> AF.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Norman R. Andersen, *pilot*, Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Russell R. Graze, *pilot*, Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William T. Lutz, *bombardier*, Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lewis C. Perry, *pilot*, Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George H. Sznarwokowski, *pilot*, Air Medal  
F/O Lester W. Dunaway, *pilot*, Air Medal  
S/Sgt Charles E. Wilvert, *gunner*, Air Medal  
S/Sgt Vincent J. Flora, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt Herman A. Heinlein, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt Robert D. Huggins, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt. Laverne L. Lero, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt John J. McCarthy, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt William E. Poe, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt Charles U. Quinn, Jr., *gunner*, Air Medal

## May 1945 (continued)

Sgt Emanuel L. Santora, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt Stephen G. Smith, Jr., *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt Bernard Steinhauser, *gunner*, Air Medal  
Sgt. Henry C. Zoltewicz, *gunner*, Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Russell R. Graze, *pilot*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George H. Sznarwokowski, *pilot*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Edgar M. West, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Capt. Henry C. Satterwhite, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George S. Fairchild, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John R. Highsmith, *pilot*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Burton E. Stroupe, *bombardier*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Albert Dolezal, *gunner*, 4<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard G. Briggs, *pilot*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Frank J. Blankemeyer, *bombardier*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
T/Sgt James R. Newton, *gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

On General Order No. 98, dated 7 May 1945, from 12<sup>th</sup> AF.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Herbert E. Barrett, *pilot*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rodney C. Bradshaw, *pilot*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Armond H. Bethke, Jr., *pilot*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Arthur F. Andersen, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Joel L. Cline, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Paul Cunningham, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Joe F. Householder, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Herbert E. Barrett, *pilot* 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rodney O. Bradshaw, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert O. Britt, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Armond H. Bethke, Jr., *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Carl B. Brown, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Arthur F., Andersen, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt. Raymond S. Cassidy, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Paul Cunningham, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Joel L. Cline, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt John A. Harvey, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Charles E. Hawthorne, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Edward H. Henkler, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt. Joe F. Householder, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Herbert E. Barrett, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Armond H. Bethke, Jr., *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Carroll G. Appleman, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Raymond S. Cassidy, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Joel L. Cline, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Paul Cunningham, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Bernard A. Flanagan, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

## May 1945 (continued)

S/Sgt John A. Harvey, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Charles L. Hawthorne, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Edward H. Henkler, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

On General Order No. 103, dated 12 May 1945, from 12<sup>th</sup> AF.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William V. Gough, *bombardier*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert C. Hixon, *bombardier*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George A. Wood, Jr., *pilot*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William T. Lutz, *bombardier*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tony Pobereyko, *bombardier*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Maynard G. Weppner, *bombardier*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Harry H. Judy, Jr., *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Frederick J. Krauss, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt George K. Lamb, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Thomas J. Lendino, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Donald Levy, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Ernest J. Longnecker, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Clarence C. MacMullen, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Frank L. Maples, Jr., *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Paul C. Mullis, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Brendon Joseph Murphy, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Robert E. Neely, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Marlin J. Plough, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jack D. Barfield, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Roy V. Bryson, Jr., *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank Calabrese, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Wallace I. Duty, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James L. Michael, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Melvin G. Steffan, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald P. Twieg, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Glen J. Cromley, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tony Pobereyko, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lewis W. Tougaw, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Maynard G. Weppner, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Thomas J. Lendino, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Donald Levy, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Ernest J. Longnecker, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Robert E. Loux, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Clarence C. MacMullen, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Frank L. Maples, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Daniel P. McMenamin, Jr., *engineer-gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Paul C. Mullis, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Robert E. Neely, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Luther A. Pennington, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

## May 1945 (continued)

S/Sgt Marlin J. Plough, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Robert P. Rinard, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jack D. Barfield, *bombardier*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Roy V. Bryson, Jr., *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Vernon L. Schmoke, *bombardier*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James J. Stephens, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Donald P. Twieg, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Carl B. Brown, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Homer L. Greene, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tony Pobereyko, *bombardier*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Maynard G. Weppner, *bombardier*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Dewey D. Jones, Jr., *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Leroy Jones, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Robert A. Jones, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Harry H. Judy, Jr., *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt George B. Lamb, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Thomas J. Lendino, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Robert B. Loux, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Clarence C. MacMullen, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Karl N. Mindlin, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Luther A. Pennington, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Robert P. Rinard, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
T/Sgt Philip L. Judkins, *gunner*, 6<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

On General Order No. 106, dated 16 May 1945, from 12<sup>th</sup> AF.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Floyd W. Prilliman, *navigator*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert L. Hoy, *pilot*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt John T. Smith, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Hazen A. Thomas, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Charles E. Wilvert, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt Richard L. Brockman, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt Joseph B. Flanagan, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt Robert C. MacAuslan, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt William T. Marion, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt John P. Ross, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt Charles D. Rowe, Jr., *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt Santora, *Emanuel L.*, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt Stephen G. Smith, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
Sgt Bernard Steinhauser, *gunner*, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas P. Elliott, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William V. Gough, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert C. Hixon, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Vernon E. Janssen, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Floyd W. Prilliman, *navigator*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal

## May 1945 (continued)

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George A. Wood, Jr., *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John I. Fowler, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George H. Sznarwokowski, *pilot*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
F/O Raymond L. McNeal, *bombardier*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
T/Sgt Freeman P. Tyler, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Emil C. Goethe, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Frederick J. Krauss, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt John T. Smith, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Harvey Stocker, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Hazen A. Thomas, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Charles E. Wilvert, *gunner*, 2<sup>nd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank Calabrese, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John V. Davies, *bombardier*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas P. Elliott, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert C. Hixon, *bombardier*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert C. King, Jr., *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James L. Michael, *bombardier*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George R. Morrison, *pilot*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
T/Sgt Freeman P. Tyler, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Edward C. Staub, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Harvey Stocker, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt Hazen A. Thomas, *gunner*, 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edmund R. Carlin, *pilot*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
T/Sgt Richard H. Perl, *engineer-gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
S/Sgt James H. Williams, *gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frederick J. Hiller, *bombardier*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal  
F/O Howard J. Corbin, *bombardier*, Air Medal  
Sgt John A. Olsen, *gunner*, Air Medal  
T/Sgt Earl W. Dulaney, *gunner*, 5<sup>th</sup> OLC to Air Medal

k. No Photographs were submitted for this month.

2. The enclosed is War Diary, 447<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, for the period 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945. No special accounts for the month. Squadron Statistics for the month are omitted due to cessation of activities against the enemy.

For the Commanding Officer:

2 Incls:

Incl 1 – War Diary

WILLIAM E. LEVINE,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Historian

## May 1945 (continued)

### 448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Additional Narrative for May 1945

HEADQUARTERS 448<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (M)  
APO 650, US ARMY

9 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records

TO : Commanding General, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force,  
A-2 Section, Attention: Historian

1. Outline History of the 448<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron for the period 1 May to 31 May 1945.

a Present Designation:

448<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 321<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (M), 57<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (M).

b Changes in organization

(1) No change.

(2) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) Captain Kneisle (*Herman M., communications*) left for U.S. on Rotation. **Lieutenant Plummer** appointed Acting Communications Officer. Captain Wonnacott (*Robert C., engineering*) returned to Squadron after 30 days T.D. in U.S.

(5) No Change.

c Strength, commissioned and enlisted

(1) Month of May 1945

(a) 111 Officers assigned, 354 Enlisted Men assigned, 6 attached.

(b) No increase.

(c) 10 Officers, 61 Enlisted Men decrease

(d) 101 Officers assigned, 296 Enlisted Men assigned, 3 attached

d Stations of units or echelons

(1) Falconara Air Field, Falconara, Italy.

(a) April 8, 1945

(b) None.

e Movements of unit or echelons.

(1) None

f Campaigns

(1) None



## May 1945 (continued)

g Operations

(1) None

h Command Officers in important missions:

(1) None

i Losses in action

(1) None

j Personnel Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Combat:

(See enclosure #2)

k Number of photographs being submitted.

(1) None.

2. Enclosed are Journal of Events, 448<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, for the period 1 May to 31 May 1945; Account of Personnel Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Combat for month of May 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

ALWIN H. SARGENT,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Squadron Historian.

Incl: 2

Incl 1 - Unit Journal of Events

Incl 3 - Account of Personnel Distinguishing Themselves

### 448<sup>th</sup> BS War Diary: Personnel Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action:

G.O. # 93, 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 2 May, '45, for Meritorious Achievement

Lt. Thompson, *Alexander Mackensie "Sandy", pilot*

	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	Air Medal
F/O Clark, <i>William C., pilot</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	Air Medal
Sgt Stracuzzi, <i>John L., gunner-bombardier</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	Air Medal
<b>Sgt Reed, W. J., gunner</b>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	Air Medal
Lt. Lyons, <i>John W., bombardier</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
<b>Lt. Coogan, J. M., bombardier</b>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
F/O Sharar, <i>John H., bombardier</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Martin, <i>Merle L., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Masbruch, <i>Arthur G., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
<b>Sgt Wall, S. G., radio-gunner</b>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
<b>Sgt Griffin, E. I., gunner, bombardier</b>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
<b>Lt. Host, H. G., pilot</b>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM

## May 1945 (continued)

F/O, Campbell, <i>Knox L., pilot</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM
F/O, Chakmakian, <i>George E., pilot</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Bartlett, <i>Thomas M., pilot</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
F/O Higby, <i>Paul K., bombardier</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
F/O Nolkemper, <i>Harold J., pilot</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Sullivan, <i>Timothy V., gunner</i>	Asti, Italy	15 Dec '44	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Carter, <i>Hugh A., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Fields, <i>James A., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Nelson, <i>William M., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Sullivan, <i>Timothy V., gunner</i>	Staz Di Ceraino, Italy	10 Mar '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Zimmerman, <i>Carl F., gunner</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Zakopcsan, <i>John S., pilot</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	5 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Sullivan, <i>Timothy V., gunner</i>	Chiari, Italy	24 Mar '45	5 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Head, <i>Guthrie H., gunner</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	5 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Sullivan, <i>Timothy V., gunner</i>	Longastrino, Italy	9 Apr 45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Sullivan, <i>Timothy V., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr 45	7 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM

### G.O. # 94, 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 3 May, '45, for Extraordinary Achievement

Lt. Stromberg, <i>Karl K., pilot</i>	Lavis, Italy	7 Feb '45	DFC
Lt. Wuest, <i>Robert F., pilot</i>	Lavis, Italy	27 Feb '45	DFC
Lt. Freund, <i>John F., bombardier</i>	Maribor, Yugoslavia	12 Apr '45	DFC
Sgt Sullivan, <i>Timothy V., gunner</i>	Argenta, Italy	11 Apr '45	DFC
Sgt Justice, <i>Conway J., Jr., gunner</i>	Lavis, Italy	27 Feb '45	DFC

### G.O. # 96, 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 5 May, '45, for Meritorious Achievement

Lt. Neilson, <i>J. H., bombardier</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Litwiller, <i>L. W., gunner, bombardier</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Woodling, <i>Charles R., radio-gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Cameron, <i>Alexander G., bombardier</i>	Longastrino, Italy	9 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Lang, <i>Robert H., bombardier</i>	Volargne, Italy	18 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Sutton, <i>Norman J., bombardier</i>	Volargne, Italy	18 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Harageones, <i>George J., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Parham, <i>Ralph E., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	5 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Dittman, <i>Paul F., Jr., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	5 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM

### G.O. # 102, 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 11 May, '45, for Extraordinary Achievement

Lt. Wilson, <i>James M., pilot</i>	Lavis, Italy	27 Feb '45	DFC
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### G.O. # 109, 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 19 May, '45, for Meritorious Achievement

Sgt Green, <i>R. C., engineer-gunner</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	Air Medal
Sgt Safko, <i>Edward A., gunner</i>	Longastrino, Italy	9 Apr '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Carroll, <i>Robert L., pilot</i>	San Martino, Ital	19 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM
F/O Libby, <i>Donald E., bombardier</i>	Argenta, Italy	11 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Hanley, <i>E. N., gunner, bombardier</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM



## May 1945 (continued)

Sgt Rainey, <i>L. L., engineer-gunner</i>	Salorno, Italy	20 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Safko, <i>Edward A., gunner</i>	Matrei, Austria	2 Apr '45	2 <sup>nd</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Sheppard, <i>John W., bombardier</i>	Longastrino, Italy	10 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Stokes, <i>George M., pilot</i>	Salorno, Italy	20 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
F/O, Campbell, <i>Knox L., pilot</i>	Argenta, Italy	11 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
F/O Chakmakian, <i>George E., pilot</i>	San Michele, Italy	22 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Ward, <i>Paul D., gunner</i>	Argenta, Italy	11 Apr '45	3 <sup>rd</sup> OLC to AM
Maj Burks, <i>Richard W., pilot</i>	Ala, Italy	24 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Armstrong, <i>Sherman T., Jr., bombardier</i>	Volargne, Italy	18 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Barile, <i>Sam (NMI), pilot</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Gardner, <i>Philip K., bombardier</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Meyers, <i>Kenneth F., pilot</i>	Steinach, Austria	17 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Spaur, <i>Melvin J., pilot</i>	Steinach, Austria	17 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Steely, <i>Ralph K., bombardier</i>	Volargne, Italy	18 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. Stout, <i>Charles S., bombardier</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Lt. West, <i>Robert F., pilot</i>	Steinach, Austria	17 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Murray, <i>Francis J., gunner</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Wolfe, <i>Bernard M., gunner</i>	Volargne, Italy	18 Apr '45	4 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Capt Autrey, <i>W.F. (i.o.), pilot</i>	San Michele, Italy	25 Apr '45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Shields, <i>Robert L., gunner</i>	San Nicolo, Italy	22 Apr '45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Varga, <i>Frank K., gunner</i>	Volargne, Italy	18 Apr '45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Enderle, <i>Melvin J., gunner</i>	Longastrino, Italy	9 Apr '45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Ferrell, <i>Bruce M., gunner</i>	Volargne, Italy	18 Apr '45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Moleski, <i>Benny M., gunner</i>	Argenta, Italy	11 Apr '45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM
Sgt Sharp, <i>Russell L., Jr., gunner</i>	Argenta, Italy	11 Apr '45	6 <sup>th</sup> OLC to AM

### G.O. # 113, 12<sup>th</sup> AF, 26 May, '45,

#### for Gallantry in Action

Lt. Smith, <i>Milford A., pilot</i>	Lavis, Italy	27 Feb '45	Silver Star
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#### for Extraordinary Achievement

Sgt. Varga, <i>Frank K., gunner</i>	Maribor, Yugoslavia	12 Apr '45	DFC
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#### for Meritorious Achievement

Sgt Qualls, <i>Thomas B., gunner</i>	Ossenigo, Italy	11 Mar '45	1 <sup>st</sup> OLC to AM
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