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19 Apr 1954 By: THE per ltr
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DATE 26 JAN 1960

SQ BOMB-379-HI
1-JUN-1944

JUNE 1944

379 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

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SQ-BOMB-379-H
June 44

HISTORY

of the

379th Bombardment Squadron (M), AAF.

for the Month of June, 1944.

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SECRET

Sheet No. 1 WAR DIARY 379th Sqdn. GHISONACCIA, CORSICA.

Month of June 1944 Prepared by ELLSWORTH C. KNIGHT, JR., Capt. 379th

DAY	EVENTS

1. 3 of our planes bombed the Tivoli road bridge and junction with excellent results. Later in the day 12 of our planes bombed the road bridge at Torrita with good results. There was no opposition from flak or fighters.

2. P. X. Rations were sold today. 3 crews filled in a spares to bomb a viaduct at Borgo San Lorenzo. The viaducts were destroyed. Several direct hits were observed on the center of the viaducts, approaches, and tracks.

3. A new group policy was initiated of one squadron furnishing all 18 crews and planes for participation in one mission. The squadron Commander, Lt. Colonel Manford J. Metzel, was flight commander on this day's mission to the Fossato railroad viaduct, and First Lieutenant Paul Stinson was the flight leader. Crews reported excellent concentrations of bomb hits on the viaduct itself and on both approaches. The road leading west was also observed to be hit. One of our old squadron members, Captain Kenneth M. Johnson, who went down over Benevento, Italy on August 27, 1943, returned to the squadron on this day after nine months of eluding the Germans after his escape from a prison camp in Italy. He gave an interesting account of his grim experiences and advised our combat crews what to do if they should ever be shot down in enemy territory.

4. None of our planes participated in the day's missions. In the evening, the "Goons" defeated the "Wheels" in a soft ball game in the 13th inning by a score of 9 to 3.

5. 18 of our planes hit the road bridge at Aquasparta. Excellent results were reported. Six of our planes also hit the roads at Soriano and effected road-blocks. We had chicken for dinner and supper, a rare treat.

6. 18 of our planes hit the highway bridge at Orte. Direct hits destroyed the span. In a soft ball game the "Goons" defeated the "Old Timers" by a score of 10 to 5.

7. 18 of our planes bombed the railroad bridge at Gricigliano. Lt. Colonel Metzel was flight commander and Capt. Royal B. Allison was flight leader. It is believed that the bridge was knocked out by several direct hits and damaging near misses. Lt. Eichorn and his crew were shot down by enemy flak.

8. No mission. Routine activity.

9. 18 of our planes did a good job of destroying the road bridge at Pesaro.

10. 18 of our planes bombed an alternate target at Calafuria. Crews reported that the road bridge received a good concentration of hits. Lt. Ernest J. Kulik and his crew were lost. Four chutes were observed, three of them on fire. Flak was moderate to intense, accurate and heavy. No enemy fighters attacked the formation.

11. No mission. Routine activity.

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Sheet No. 2 WAR DIARY 379th Sqdn. CUTSONACCIA, CORSICA.

Month of June 1944 Prepared by ELLSWORTH C. KNIGHT, JR. Capt. 379th.

DAY EVENTS

12. 16 of our planes destroyed the railroad bridge at Massa. One string was seen to walk across the target. There were direct hits and near misses on the bridge and on the north approach.

13. No mission for our squadron. Routine activity.

14. 18 of our ships bombed the railroad tunnel at Canneto, Italy. Crews reported a concentration of bombs in the target area with direct hits observed on the south tunnel mouth and the tunnel top. Possible hits were reported on the north entrance to the tunnel. The Red Cross service club opened a Snack Bar for the Enlisted Men. The squadron officers had a party and dance with a few nurses from a station hospital present.

15. None of our aircraft participated in the day's missions. P.X. rations were sold. Colonel Anthony G. Hunter, Group Commander, commended the ground personnel of the entire organization for their excellent work in maintaining our air planes during a hectic period of operations.

16. 11 of our planes bombed the railroad bridge at Vernio, Italy. Crews reported all bombs in the target area with concentrations on both approaches and possible direct hits on the bridge itself. Flak was moderate, inaccurate, heavy from the target area.

17. A new rest camp was established at Corte and 12 of our personnel left today to start the camp. No mission.

18. The mission to Elba was abortive due to bad weather conditions over the target. A violent rain and hail storm forced our planes to land at another field. We tried out our new gas masks in a gas chamber, and were given an idea of the effects of tear-gas when we were told to remove our masks for a few seconds before leaving the chamber. The Enlisted Men's Bar was opened in the evening.

19. No mission period. A Rainy day. The Red Cross Officer's Club was opened in the evening and many of our squadron officers attended.

20. No mission. Drilling was instituted for all personnel in the squadron in anticipation of a formal ceremony to present combat awards to our men in the near future.

21. No mission for our crews. P.X. rations were sold today.

22. 12 of our crews participated in the raid on the Vernio viaducts. Bombs were observed as starting on the railroad bridge and walking over to the east. Flak was intense, accurate, heavy from the target area. One crew member was killed on Lt. Howlett's ship. He was 2nd Lt. Ferrell L. Myers, bombardier on this plane. 2nd Lt. Bombeck returned to the base with his radio-gunner, T/Sgt. David Cohen, fatally injured by flak which entered his forehead. Several other men were wounded.

23. No mission. In the evening we had another session of drilling on our athletic field.

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Sheet No. 1 WAR DIARY 379th Squadron. CHIGNAGHIA, CORSICA.

Month of June 1944. Prepared by ELLSWORTH C. KNIGHT, JR., Capt. 379th

DAY	EVENTS

24. No mission. A new Enlisted Men's Day Room is being fixed up in an abandoned brick building across the road from our Squadron area.

25. No mission. Bad weather conditions in Italy continued to keep our planes grounded. Drilling sessions in the evening continued.

26. No. Mission. We had a brief alert in the evening around ten P.M. but the all clear sounded a few minutes later.

27. No. Mission. Routine activity.

28. No mission. Rifles were turned in to be exchanged for carbines.

29. 7 of our planes bombed a railroad bridge at Albenga, Italy. Crews reported all bombs in the target area. Direct hits were observed on the center of the bridge and both approaches. No flak or enemy fighters were encountered. In the evening draft beer was sold in the Enlisted Men's Club.

30. Our squadron personnel section moved to new quarters in a brick building across the road from the squadron area. This was pay-day with the usual uplifting morale. Beer was again sold in the Enlisted Men's Club. 12 of our planes went out to bomb the railroad bridge at Marradi, Italy. Crews reported a good concentration in the target area with most bombs hitting the northeast approach. Possible direct hits were also reported on the bridge itself.

So was concluded another month of intense aerial and ground activity in the vital battle for northern Italy.

Ellsworth C. Knight, Jr.

ELLSWORTH C. KNIGHT, JR.
Captain, Air Corps.
Squadron Intelligence Officer.

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379TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

HISTORY

Section 2.....Operations for June, 1944.....

DATE		TARGET	NO. PLANES.
June 1		Tivoli Rd. Bridge and Junc.	3
June 1		Road bridge at Torrita.	12
June 2		Viaducts at Borgo S. Lorenzo.	3
June 3		R.R. bridge at Fossato.	18
June 5		Rd. bridge at Aquasparta.	18
June 5		Road block at Soriano.	6
June 5		Nickeling Mission.	1
June 6		Nickeling Mission.	1
June 6		Hwy. bridge at Orte.	18
June 7		R.R. bridge at Grieigliano.	18
June 9		R.R. bridge at Pitigliano.	18
June 10		R.R. bridge north of Pietrasanta.	18
June 12		Grieigliano.	16
June 14		Tunnel at Canneto.	12
June 16		R.R. bridge at Vernio.	11
June 22	(2-missions)	R.R. bridge at Vernio.	12
June 29		R.R. bridge at Albenga.	7
June 30		R.R. bridge at Marradi.	12

Total Sorties.....204
Total brought forward.....1973
Grand Total.....2177

Total squadron missions for the month.....19
Total squadron missions brought forward.....296
Grand Total.....315

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379th Bombardment Squadron (H)

HISTORY

Section III.....
Personnel changes for June, 1944.

June 3. Beavers, James L. 1st Lt.
Jones, James E. 2nd Lt.
Nicholas, Jack (NMI). 2nd Lt.
D.S. Hq XII Air Forces to dy.

June 4. Gregory, George H. Sgt.
Promoted to gr of T/Sgt.
Haislip, Robert A Jr. 2nd Lt. Kolka, Arnold (NMI). S/Sgt.
Porter, Robert H. 2nd Lt. Bloon, Rubin (NMI). Sgt.
Gordon, James T. Jr. F/O. Arven, John (NMI). Sgt.
Asgd per Par 11, SO-64, Hq. 310th Bomb. Gp. (M). Dtd. 1 June 1944.
Mohon, John T. 1st Lt.
Trfd to Hq 321st Bomb. Gp. (M). per Par 4, SO-66, Hq 57 Bomb. Wing
Dtd 2 June 1944.
Robinson, Charles B. 1st Lt.
D.S. 47th Bomb. Gp. to dy.
Beavers, James L. 1st Lt.
Nicholas, Jack (NMI) 2nd Lt.
Trfd to personnel center #6, for trans-shipment to U.S. per Ltr.
orders, Hq 12 Air Force, dtd 1 June 1944.
Wetzel, Manford J. Major.
Apptd Lt. Colonel, per ltr Hq, 12 Air Force, dtd 30 May 1944.

June 5. Plummer, Thomas O. Capt.
Vasek, Paul F. Sgt.
D.S. Hq 12 Air Force to dy.

June 7. Everett, William M. Jr. 2nd Lt.
Aptd 1st Lt. per Par 15, SO-135, Hq MATOUSA, dtd 17 May 1944.
Jones, James E. 2nd Lt.
Dy to D.S., Hq. 12 Air Force.
Kulik, Ernest J. 1st Lt. Ross, Irving H. T/Sgt.
Davis, Richard W. 2nd Lt. Evans, Joseph W. S/Sgt.
Deane, Francis J. T/Sgt.
D.S. Cairo Egypt to dy.
Everett, William M. Jr. 1st Lt. May, Donald F. S/Sgt.
Margo, Frank R. 1st Lt. Thompson, Raymond F. S/Sgt.
Richorn, Benton F. 2nd Lt. Hachstetter, Wilmer H. Sgt.
Sawyer, Simon L. 2nd Lt.
Dy to MIA approx. 1655.

June 8. Conway, Thomas F. 1st Lt.
Aptd Captain, per ltr Hq. 12 A.F. dtd 3 June 1944.
Vasek, Paul F. Sgt.
Trsfd to personnel Center #6, for Trans-shipment to U.S.
per ltr orders Hq 12 A.F. dtd 1 June 1944.

June 10. Valkenburg, Elliott P. Sgt.
Asgd 6 June 1944, per SO-147, Hqs. 22 Repl Battalion, Personnel
Center #7-D, dtd 6 June 1944.

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HISTORY

Section III.....
Personnel changes for Month of June 1944 (cont'd).

June 10 (cont'd). Humphrey, Malcom R. 1st Lt.
Asgd as of 2 June 1944. Per Par 1, SO-65, Hq 310th Bomb. Gp. (M), dtd 8 June 1944.
Allen, Alexander B. 1st Lt. — Ross, Irving H. T/Sgt.
Kulik, Ernest J. 1st Lt. — Archambeau, Willard J. S/Sgt.
Damon, Robert (NMI), 2nd Lt. — Knobloch, Clarence I. Pvt.
Dy to MIA, approx. 1130.

June 12. Tarr, William H. Jr. WO.
Trsfd to 380th Bomb. Sq. (M). 310th Bomb. Gp. (M). per Par 4, SO-66, Hqs 310th Bomb. Gp. (M). dtd 11 June 1944.
Johnson, Richard W. 1st Lt. — Barnes, D'Mere F. S/Sgt.
Kirby, Bryant L. 2nd Lt. — Golden, Elmer L. T/Sgt.
Gleason, Willard S. 2nd Lt. — Peals, Bryant (NMI) S/Sgt.
Dretts, Marshall D. T/Sgt. — Williams, Homer R. S/Sgt.
DS El Aloutna, Tunisia, to Trsfd Brooks Field, Texas. Per ltr orders Hqs 12 A.F. dtd 28 May 1944.

June 13. Perryman, George E. 1st Lt.
DC 47th Bomb. Gp. to trsfd 85th Bomb. Sq. 47th Bomb. Gp. per Par 2 SO-51 Hqs 57th Bomb. Wing, dtd 16 May 1944.

June 14. Woods, Gaylon A. 1st Lt.
Cosgrove, Artimus L. M/Sgt.
Kidd, Leo H. S/Sgt.
Asgd 10 June 1944, per SO-151 Hqs, 22 Repl Battalion, Personnel Center #7-D, dtd 10 June 1944.

June 15. Jones, James E. 2nd Lt.
Shook, Joseph W. 2nd Lt.
Stinson, Paul (NMI) 2nd Lt.
Aptd 1st Lt. per So-156, Hqs NATOUSA, dtd 7 June 1944.
Cadwallader, John S. 2nd Lt.
Johnson, John A. 2nd Lt.
Whitcomb, Wayne D. 2nd Lt.
Aptd 1st Lt. per So-148, Hqs 12 A.F., dtd 11 June 1944.
Jones, James E. 1st Lt.
Dy to D.S. Naples, Italy.

June 16. Gasaway, Alfred (NMI), Sgt.
Reld from asgmt and trfd on rotation to Personnel Center #6, for trans-shipment to the U.S.
Coleman, Roy L. S/Sgt. — King, Harry E. S/Sgt.
Goodwin, William S. S/Sgt. — Templeton, Paul E. S/Sgt.
Montgomery, Willard A. S/Sgt. — Woodin, Roy A. S/Sgt.
Trfd to Personnel Center, #6, for Trans-shipment to U.S. per ltr orders, Hqs. 12 A.F. dtd 10 June 1944.

June 18. Davis, Albert D. Pvt.
Asgd as of 17 June 1944, per Par 1 SO-67, Hq 310th Bomb. Gp. (M), dtd 17 June 1944.

Andrews, Edwin H. 2nd Lt.
Aptd 1st Lt. per SO. 148, Hqs 12 A.F. dtd 11 June 1944.

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Section III.....

Personnel changes for June 1944. (cont'd).

June 20. Nogar, Eugene T. 1st Lt.
Trfd to Personnel Center #6, for trans-shipment to U.S. per 1rt orders, Hqs 12 A.F. dtd 15 June 1944.

June 22. Myers, Ferrell F. 2nd Lt.
Cohen, David (NMI). T/Sgt.
Dy to killed in action, approx. 1930.

June 23. Dorman, Reynold C. 2nd Lt.
Aptd 1st Lt. per Par 1, SO-155, Hq. 12 A.F. dtd 19 June 1944.
Zinberg, Arthur D. 2nd Lt.
Asgd as of 16 June 1944, per Par 2, SO-68, Hq, 310th Bomb. Gp. (M), dtd 20 June 1944.
Geike, Robert C. Pvt.
Asgd 13 June 1944, from Hq. 57th Bomb. Wing.
Allord, Harold J. Sgt.
Reld from asgmt and trfd on rotation to Personnel Center #6, for Trans-shipment to U.S.
Rabinowitz, Joseph (NMI), T/Sgt.
D.S. Hq 57th Bomb. Wing to Dy.

June 24. Wilson, Lee P. Jr. Cpl.
Ferraiuolo, Frederick C. Pvt.
Feinstein, William (NMI) Pvt.
Flowers, William H. Pvt.
Flynn, Daniel F. Pvt.
Gilbert, Willie B. Pvt.
Gillespie, Ralph H. Pvt.
Gilmour, John W. Pvt.
Gomez, Antonio L. Pvt.
Griffin, Albert E. Pvt.
Farrell, Edward J. Pvt.
Reld from atchd unasgd and asgd 22 June 1944, from Hq. 57 Bomb. Wing.
Helmsdorff, Stanley (NMI). 2nd Lt.
Mehler, James F. 2nd Lt.
McGaughran, Quentin (NMI). 2nd Lt.
Rinehart, Carl E. 2nd Lt.
Spackey, William G. 2nd Lt.
Aptd 1st Lts. per Par 1, SO-156, Hq 12 A.F. dtd 20 June 1944.

June 25. Jones, James E. 1st Lt.
D.S. Naples trfd to Hq AAFSC,AMTO per Par 1, SO-142, Hq 12 A.F. dtd 4 June 1944.

June 26. Hocknell, Albert F. Jr. 2nd Lt.
Asgd as of 24 June 1944, per Par 2, SO-70, Hq 310th Bomb. Gp. (M) dtd 25 June 1944.
Middleton, Julius W. S/Sgt.
Miller, Robert L. Jr. Sgt.
Trfd to Personnel Center #6, FBS, 20 June 1944.

June 27. Johnson, John A. 1st Lt.
Aptd actg 1034, 25 May 1944
Stinson, Paul (NMI), 1st Lt.
Aptd "A" Flt Commander, vice 1st Lt. Johnson, R.W. reld.
Cadwallader, John S. 1st Lt.
Aptd "B" Flt Commander, vice 1st Lt. McIntyre, J.Y. rld.
Zinberg, Arthur D. 2nd Lt.
Aptd asst 9300, 16 June 1944.

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HISTORY

Section III.....

Personnel changes for Month of June 1944. (Cont'd).

June 27. (cont'd).
Andrews, Edwin W. 1st Lt.
Aptd "C" Flt Commander, vice 1st Lt. Kulik, E.J. MIA.
Haskins, Eugene T. 2nd Lt.
Aptd "D" Flt Commander, vice 1st Lt. Stinson, P. Reld.
McKenna, Ellis J. 2nd Lt.
Aptd "E" Flt Commander, vice 1st Lt. Cobb, T.R. reld.
Humphrey, Malcom R. 1st Lt.
Aptd A113, 4 June 1944, vice 1st Lt. Mahon, trfd.
Woods, Gaylon A. 1st Lt.
Aptd asst 9301, 14 June 1944, vice 1st Lt. Meehan, trfd.
Humphrey, Malcom R. 1st Lt.
Aptd Malaria controll and Post Exchange Officer in addition to his other duties, vice 1st Lt. Mahon, trfd.
Stinson, Paul (NMI). 1st Lt.
Aptd asst 2161, 20 May 1944, in addition to his other duties.

June 28. Beane, Francis J. T/Sgt.
Dy to D.S. P.A.F. Station, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt.
Gray, Lloyd D. 2nd Lt. Satler, Alexander B. 2nd Lt.
Hacking, Laverne T. 2nd Lt. Haskins, Eugene T. 2nd Lt.
McKenna, Ellis J. 2nd Lt. Howlett, Daniel C. 2nd Lt.
Aptd 1st Lts. per Par 1, SO-160, Hq. 12 A.F. dtd 24 June 1944.

29 June. James, Robert L. S/Sgt.
Werner, Theodore, S/Sgt.
Promoted to gr of T/Sgt. 27 June 1944.
Brooks, George C. Sgt.
Wilkins, Edward C. Sgt.
Promoted to gr of S/Sgt. 27 June 1944.
Doeberl, Edwin J. Sgt.
Asgd as of 26 June 1944.
Wetzel, Manford J. Lt. Col.,
Dy to D.S. Naples.

June 30. Miney, Roy L. Pvt.
Asgd from Hqs 63rd Fighter Wing, 25 June 1944.
Houk, George R. Major.
Wacker, August (NMI). Sgt.
Catino, Anthony (NMI). Pvt.
Dy to D.S. Naples, Italy.

Number of officer at end of June 1944.....87 asgd and atchd.
Number of Enlisted Men at end of June 1944....370 asgd and atchd.

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379th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)

HISTORY

Section IV.....
Miscellaneous.

15 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Commendation to Ground Personnel.

TO : All Squadron Commanders, 310th Bombardment Group (M), AAF.

1. The following teletype message has just been received from the Commanding General, 57th Bombardment Wing:

"I congratulate your maintenance personnel on their excellent showing. Today's report of one zero zero percent combat aircraft operational indicates a very fine ground organization. KNAPP."

2. I am most gratified and extremely proud to pass on this commendation to each and every man in your maintenance sections. Only thru your whole-hearted cooperation and hard work was this outstanding achievement possible. It is indeed a source of pride to know that your efforts to keep the maximum possible number of aircraft ready for operations has been a vital factor in turning the stalemate on the Italian Front into a brilliantly successful campaign.

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

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