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CONFIDENTIAL379th Bombardment Squadron (M)
310th Bombardment Group (M) AAFSD-BOMB-379-HI ^{mjk}

Aug. 1943

1 September 1943

SUBJECT: Squadron History for August.

TO : Headquarters, 310th Bombardment Group, (M) AAF, APO-520.

P.R.C.

During the month of August the 379th participated in all but one of the 14 missions flown by the group. With our successful mission over Milazzo Harbor on August 1st, we completed our last raid over Sicily in this campaign. The 379th had the distinction of leading this last Sicilian raid. Harbor installations, warehouses, railroad yards and an oil refinery were all battered as our last contribution to the Sicilian Campaign which came to a successful conclusion on the 17th of this month with the fall of Messina.

After this first raid, we devoted our attention entirely to the Italian Mainland, striking airdromes at Crotone, Bosco Lago and Grazzini; railroad marshalling yards at Rome Littorio, Salerno, Battipaglia, Benevento, and Civitavecchia; roads and bridges at Staletti, Angitola, and Marina di Catanzaro. Thus it can be seen that during this month our major effort was to cripple the Italian transportation was a prelude to an invasion of the country itself.

Of all these missions, one will always be remembered by our Squadron as its most disastrous raid. This was the raid on the Benevento Marshalling Yards on August 27th. On making their landfall at the Italian coast, the formation of 36 bombers was attacked by 40-50 German and Italian fighters which in a running fight for twenty minutes, shot down three of the bombers, all from the 379th. The gallantry displayed by the crew in one of these bombers, namely, Capt. Kenneth M. Johnson's crew, was indeed a credit to themselves and our Squadron. After receiving hits which set both engines of their plane afire, they continued on in a glide maintaining their gunfire on the persistent fighters, until they reached their target where they dropped their bombs before crashing. The sixteen men we lost on this raid were as follows:

Capt. Kenneth M. Johnson	T/Sgt. Paul E. Krueger
Capt. Donovan W. Rulien	S/Sgt. Albert F. Dallaire
1st Lt. Lamont L. Cates	S/Sgt. Jackson W. Park
1st Lt. Jesse L. Carpenter	S/Sgt. Henry H. Kuhn, Jr.
1st Lt. Samuel C. Schlitzkus	S/Sgt. Laddie T. Miller
2nd Lt. Ellis A. Ruppelt	S/Sgt. Nathan B. Snyder
2nd Lt. Remi T. DeLouche, Jr.	S/Sgt. James R. Grimm
2nd Lt. John H. Schmack	Sgt. Edward T. Joseph

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August 5th was a happy day for everyone down to the last man because we said goodbye to our King's Cross base and its oppressive heat and moved on up to our new base at Menzel-Timeme on the Cape Bon Peninsula. The new base was a

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pleasant surprise to all of us and most of us agreed that it was our nicest base up-to-date. Over looking the blue Mediterranean, we found the temperatures much more to our liking with the cool sea breezes quickly erasing our memories of the searing winds of King's Cross. We quickly found that the most heavily traveled road on the base was that one leading to the beach where the delightful bathing increased the enjoyment of many of the men's idle hours.

The old saying that "all good things come in bunches" often comes true as it did in this case. In addition to our pleasant surroundings we at last received an adequate supply of pyramidal tents and the majority of the men, who had been living in the cramped confinement of pup tents for nine long months, finally moved into homes where they could at least stand up and dress without using the technique of a contortionist.

During the week beginning August 15th our Squadron Commander Capt. Batten was away from us enjoying a well deserved rest at Iframe Rest Camp. In his absence Capt. Holstead took over the reins of the 379th and turned in a very creditable job. Upon his return, Capt. Batten directed suspicious glances at a very healthy tan acquired by Capt. Houk and Lt. Canale in his absence.

The 379th received a real honor on August 22nd when Sgt. Edward J. Anderson of our Squadron, who had been selected from the entire 47th Bombardment Wing, to broadcast his impressions of the first Rome raid in an interview at Algiers. The interview was broadcast over a nation wide hookup in the United States. In addition, Sgt. Anderson was the victim of a swarm of newspaper correspondents and photographers.

Another one of our men was honored on August 23rd when 1st Lt. Kenneth M. Schlasinger was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received while on a raid over enemy territory.

Our Group Special Officer Lt. Fisher, formerly of the 379th, did a very good job during the month and the men were treated to a number of good motion pictures at the 310th "Cinema". Best of all we had a real treat when we were visited by Bob Hope and Francis Langford who put on a most enjoyable show for us.

Changes in the Squadron personnel continued thruout the month and the new men welcomed into the 379th were, as follows:

2nd Lt. Arvid A Pamp	T/Sgt. Joseph Rabinowitz
2nd Lt. John T. Mohon	Sgt. Robert S. Ladd
2nd Lt. Earl J. Shaffer	Cpl. Patrick J. Neely
2nd Lt. William J. Kauric	Pvt. Robert L. Hudgens

Most of those leaving the Squadron were our "old timers" who had at long last completed their coveted 50th mission. These men whom we enviously bid adieu as they started for home were as follows:

1st Lt. Bertram J. Leask	T/Sgt. Henry H. Chase
1st Lt. Harry R. Logan, Jr.	T/Sgt. Harris M. Haskell
1st Lt. Kenneth M. Schlasinger	

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Others leaving the Squadron were 1st Lt. Charles W. Smith, another "old timer", and S/Sgt. Kenneth C. McLees.

Seven of the 379th Officers received well deserved promotions. Congratulations were extended by the entire Squadron to the following men:

Capt. LaVerne B. Johnson
Capt. Royal B. Allison
1st Lt. Robert R. Blades
1st Lt. Alvin F. Biggs
1st Lt. Donald C. Biggs
1st Lt. Douglas L. Fidler
1st Lt. Harold L. Rogers

So Ends Another Month!!!!

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