

379th Bombardment Squadron

History for the month of April 1944

Section I...War Diary

1 12 of our planes went out to bomb Leghorn, Italy. Results were good. A softball game was played between the officers and the Enlisted Men's team of the Armament Section, "The Outcasts." The Officers won.

2 No mission for our crews. The softball league teams continued to play their evening games and it is planned to make it a daily affair.

3 Out planes went out to bomb a R.R. Bridge at Montaldo di Castro, Italy, but bad weather conditions compelled the planes to return early with their bombs.

4 We were given shots at the Squadron Dispensary today. Supply issued two bronze stars to all personnel who participated in the Tunisian and Sicilian Campaigns. Authority to wear these on our Africa Campaign Ribbon came out on a G.O. [*General Order*] from Headquarters of the 12th Air Force. No mission today. ENSA presented a stage show of British entertainers and the performance was enjoyed by all. [*ENSA: Entertainments National Service Association. Roughly, the British equivalent of the USO.*]



African Campaign Ribbon

5 No mission. Routine activity.

6 Mission to bridges at Cecina, with 12 of our A/C [*Air Craft*] participating. Bridges were missed.

7 The Jewish personnel in the Squadron left on a two-day pass to Bastia to observe the Passover Festival. Mission to Certaldo M/Y [*Marshaling Yards*] and R.R. bridge. Results were good, with several direct hits reported. 12 of our planes went on this mission.

8 A third bronze battle star was issued to us for participation in the Italian Campaign. No mission.

9 No mission. On this Easter Sunday the small French Churches were filled with both American and French soldiers and civilians.

10 12 planes went out to bomb a R.R. bridge at Poggibonsi. Some hits were reported on the bridge and many near misses.

11 None of our planes participated in today's mission. A softball game was played between the "Goons," and Enlisted men's team, and the "Old Timers," an officer's team. The score was 8 to 5 in favor of the Enlisted Men's team.

12 11 of our planes bombed bridges at Cecina. Results were good. The E.M. Bar was opened in the evening and the attendance was good.

13 No mission. Routine activity.

14 Mission to Leghorn, Italy. 12 of our planes blasted the R.R. yards in an excellent job of bombing.

15 12 of our planes hit M/Y's at Leghorn. Results were excellent. We had fried eggs for breakfast and fried chicken for dinner, a memorable event!!!!

16 10 men left for rest camp on three day passes, located in a village up in the mountains.

17 No mission. Routine activity.

18 No mission. The Squadron Officers had a party and dance, and many nurses, Red Cross girls and French Damsels attended to make the evening's activities enjoyable.

19 Mission to a petrol dump in Italy, but 10/10 cloud coverage made visibility impossible in the target area, and all bombs were brought back to the base. The 321st Bomb Group is operating temporarily from our base until their own, several miles away is ready for use.

20 2 of our planes filled in as spares to bomb a petrol dump in Italy north of Lake Trasimeno. The target was left in flames.

21 No mission. P.X. rations were sold today. Our league softball team played the 428th Squadron and won 4 to 2.

22 Mission to R.R. bridges at Chiusi. 12 of our planes participated, but neither one of the bridges were hit. Our blankets were washed by a G.I. laundry, after many months of use without cleaning facilities being available.

23 Several of our personnel left for the rest camp on the Isle of Capri. Mission to R.R. bridge, N.W. of Orvieto. 11 of our planes participated. The North approach to the bridge was hit. Our league softball team played the 381st Squadron and was defeated 9 to 8. Lt. [Richard H] Ratzburg pitched an excellent game, with ten men struck out.

24 Mission to R.R. bridge at Orvieto. 3 of our crews participated. Near misses but no direct hits were reported on the bridge. R.R. lines were cut in several places.

25 12 of our planes bombed a R.R. bridge at Ficulle. No direct hits were reported.



Baseball game

26 No mission. Usual Squadron activity.

27 No mission. Rainy day.

28 12 of our planes bombed San Stefano, with fair results. Later in the day, six of our planes attempted to destroy a R.R. bridge at Ficulle, but no direct hits were scored. We received our weekly rations today. Fried chicken for dinner made it a perfect day.

29 One of our planes bombed the R.R. bridge at Ficulle. The bridge received many direct hits and was destroyed.

30 11 of our planes hit a R.R. bridge just north of Ficulle. Today was pay day and the usual "Games of Chance" were in progress!!!!

So ended another month of intense combat activity. Targets in Italy bore the brunt of inspired attacks by our combat crews.

Ellsworth C. Knight, Jr

Section II.....Operations

Total sorties	154
Brought forward	1545
Grand total	1699

Total Squadron missions for the month:	17
Brought forward	252
Grand total	269

Section III....Personnel Changes

[Only names are listed here. See original Diary for detail.]

April 2:

Fletcher, Ray F

April 4:

Perryman, George R
Robinson, Chas. B

April 5:

Holmes, John P
Rinehart, Carl E
Winslow, Robert C
Testolin, Gido J
Persson, John G
Butori, Dino
Coleman, Roy L
Benoff, Martin
Baker, Wallace J
Bogue, Terrence G
Fox, Lawrence A
Ross, Irving H
Archambeau, Willard J
Beals, Bryant
Meno, Michael J
Nogar, Eugene T
Cook, James W
Beane, Francis J
Adams, Ralph
O'Meara, Benedict J
Barnes, D;Merc F
Beane, Francis J
Bravo, John C
Golden, Elmer L
Barnes, D'Merc F
McDougal, James R
Seaton, Robert E

April 6:

Baldi, Benjamin
Schneider, William J
Tozier, Everett L
Young, Charles C
Tedesco, Angell H
Rath, Walter J
Baker, Wallace J

April 8:

Cohen, David M

April 10:

Stemboroski, Stephen

April 12:

Canale, Philip M
Oleson, Willard S
Shcw, John A
Bravo, John C
Meno, Michael J
Goodwin, William S
Cook James W
Beane, Francis J
Schnieder, William J
Tozier, Everett L
Young, Chas.
Neubauer, William H
Ratzburg, Richard H
Woody, John H
Golden, Elmer L
Fulwilder, Laverne L
Walden, Richard L
Winslow, Robert C
Rath, Walter J
Baker, Wallace J

April 14:

Holmes, John P Jr
Rinehart, Carl E
Adams, Ralph
Nogar, Eugene T
Testolin, Guido J

April 15:

Fletcher, Ray F

April 18:

Canale, Philip M Jr
Oleson, Willard S
Shaw, John H
Bravo, John C
Meno, Michael J
Goodwin, William S
Grant, William K Jr
Jones, James E
Bogue, Terrence C
Crabill, Dwight B
Larson, John A
Atwood, Samuel H
Vezey, Kenneth D
Neubauer, william H
Ratzburg, Richard H
Woody, John H Jr
Golden, Elmer L
Fulwilder, Laverne L
Walden, Richard L
Rasimas, Bert
Strahlem, George W
Purdy, Lester W
Reed, Vance B
Templeton, Paul E
Vasek, Paul P

April 19:

Davis, Marvin G

April 20:

Vacura, Anton F
Carlisle, Herbert E
Bombeck, Walter Jr
Lloyd, Robert H
Foreman, Theodore L

April 21:

Reeves, George D

April 23:

Grant, William K Jr
Jones, James E
Bogue, Terrence C
Crabill, Dwight B
Larson, John H
Cadwallder, John S
Hinkle Samuel D
Golley, Carlos W
Middleton, Julius W
Irwin, Richard
Rasimas, Bert
Strahlem, George W
Purdy, Lester W
Reed, Vance B
Templeton, Paul E
Coble, Truman R
Schuyler, Peter P
Kunschel, Leonard R
McLean, John
Mechler, James F

April 24:

Wettlaufer, Addison Q

April 25:

Davis, Marvin G

April 28:

Beavers, James L
Shook, Joseph W
Crider, Charles E
Anderson, Wilbur L
Dillehay, Powell
Harrold, William V
Dabel, Ernest W
Andrews, Edwin W
Rogers, George E
Wilkins, Edwin C
Minor, George H
Davis, Davis, Edward S
Wells, Herbert L

April 29:

Robert, Andrew B
Cadwallader, John S
Hinkle, Samuel D
Holley, Carlos W
Middleton, Julius W
Persson, John G
O'Meara, Benedict J
Coble, Truman R
Schuyler, Peter P
Kuschel, Leonard R
McLean, John
Schnieder, William J

April 30:

Scott, James W
Dittweiller, Melburn J
Zonas, Elik
Zapotoczny, Stanely A
Jagiello, Matthew P

Number of Officers
Number Enlisted Men

69
330

310th - CORSIKA



KNEELING: Stolte, Lemler, Peters, Neubauer, Sprinkle, Watt, Reed
STANDING: Johnson, Bennick, Swenson, Atwood, Russo, Moeller, Furman