

## 379<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron

History for the month of September 1944

Section I...Outline of Month's Activities

Prepared by Sgt. Albert Sulman

The month of September marked two years overseas for the original air echelon boys, who arrived in England during the first part of September, 1942. There was a certain amount of elation and celebration, and the "youngsters" in the Squadron (only 20 months overseas) joined in the party.

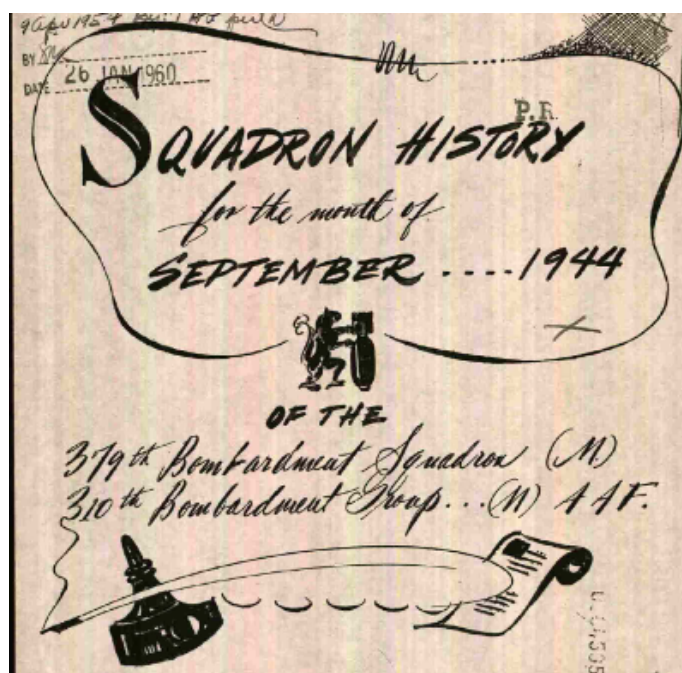
Many of our combat men completed their tour of duty in this Theatre and left for the States for a well-earned furlough.

Operations were primarily against the German's Gothic Line in northern Italy. Most of the missions were rough, since the enemy was determined to hold this line, and had concentrated the anti-aircraft defenses all along the line. However, our bombing record was high for the month, and the Allied breakthroughs were definitely aided by our successful attacks during the months.

Last month we were all under the impression that our stay in Corsica was about over, since we had been put on a 24-hour alert. But now the picture has changed, and we plan to settle down for a cold winter. Most of the personnel were at work, getting their living quarters in shape for the colder weather.

Recreational activities consisted of the usual movies, ball games, poker...men went to rest camps at Corte, Rome, and Capri.

And so the month of September ended. Another month of combat begins...weather conditions may restrict our activities somewhat, but our ardor will not be lessened. With Victory in sight, we intend to push our efforts to the utmost to bring about the end as soon as possible.



## Section II.... Squadron Diary

1 PX rations were sold today, to cover a period of two weeks with beer, “cokes” and plenty of cigarettes and candy. No mission for our Squadron on this day.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Daniel C. Howlett was transferred to Replacement Depot No. 7 for transshipment to the United States. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Gray Jr. was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

2 The hot spell continues, and the best way we know of to cool off is to lounge in a cold mountain stream after supper. We had a movie: “Presenting Lily Mars,” with everybody’s favorite Judy Garland. It was quite an entertaining film. Earlier in the evening, there was a hotly contested softball game on our ball field. It was between “The Goons” and the enlisted combat men’s team. The game ran into extra innings, and was finally called off because of darkness, with the score standing at 8 to 8. A heavy but brief rain during the night cooled off the atmosphere somewhat.



Six of our aircraft bombed the railroad bridge at K-690132, [*near Borghetto*] Italy with excellent results.

3 “The Goons” nosed out the enlisted combat men’s softball team in a return match: 2-0.

Six of our planes participated against the enemy bridges at Chivasso, Italy. Both Bridges were completely demolished by excellent concentration of hits.

4 All-out effort today, with 66 planes taking part in four missions. Results were good against enemy railroad bridges in Italy.

T/Sgt. Werner solved an old mystery for us today. On 75 combat missions, he has taken along a barracks bag filled with---well, that was the mystery. With cameras clicking, Sgt. Werner opened his bag in front of the Orderly Room and spread out its contents on the ground, revealing to a sizable audience G.I. shoes, khakis, flying jacket and other clothing and equipment! Sgt. Werner claimed that he always carried the stuff with him and changed his clothes in the plane, and could not understand the cause of so much “razzing.” Many of us suspected that Werner planned to throw the bag out with himself if he ever had to bail out over enemy territory! But he would never admit this.

...Today completed two years overseas for our original “Air Echelon” boys, who left the States for England 2 years ago on the Queen Mary. There were celebrations all over the Base.

5 All eyes were turned to the skies over the Base, as several of our bombers flew in perfect formation over the field in the morning, giving their occupants a last glimpse at their last overseas base. These men included a large number of combat boys who had completed their missions and were not on the first leg of their journey home. They included the following personnel from the 379<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron:

Walter Bombeck  
Raynold C Dorman  
Theodore L Foreman

Stanley G Helmsdorff  
Robert H Lloyd  
Robert C Miller

Charles G Stowe  
John C Bravo  
Lawrence A Fox  
Carl R Brooke  
John A Larson  
Herbert K Eickhoff

George E Rogers  
Ralph Adams  
Charles E Crider  
Everett B Sherwood

No mission for our Squadron today.

Dy [*Duty*] to DS [*Detached Service*] Africa; Lt Col. Manford J. Wetzel, Cpl. James B. Knapp, Cpl. George H. Minor.

6 No mission. Our Squadron softball team played the 381<sup>st</sup> and lost. Newly assigned personnel included: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert J. Clemmence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bruce R Bunting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas I Smith, Sgt. Joseph F Rosenhauer, Sgt. Daniel Feldman, Cpl. Frank Bor, Jr.

7 No mission. Usual field duties.

8 No mission. Bad weather conditions are holding up our operations. We lost our popular Squadron S-2 Officer; Capt. Ellsworth C Knight Jr. was transferred to the 7th Replacement Depot for transshipment to the U.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David M Cohen was appointed Squadron S-2 Officer.

Lt. Col. Wetzel, and Cpls. Knapp and Minor, DS Africa to duty.

9 Rough mission: 72 planes went out to bomb stores, personnel and gun positions in the very center of the German's Gothic Line. There was heavy accurate flak, and the 380<sup>th</sup> lost one plane, which burst into flames at the target. Lt. Bunting, a new bombardier in our Squadron, was killed by a piece of flak. Two other crew members were injured. Lt. Haneman did a beautiful job of coming in on one engine. Later in the evening, two B-26's crashed near the Base, with most of their crew members killed. It was a "rough" day over Italy, and no mistake about it!

Movie: "Fired Wife," an excellent comedy with snappy dialogue. The type of film we want to see more of.

Newly assigned personnel included: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Noah T Shirley, Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John H Rennels, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Saul Walsh, Cpl. Louis L. Oddenino, and Cpl. Lewis Gehopolas.

10 No mission. Beer was sold at the enlisted men's club and the Officers' club also. FLASH! "THE OLDTIMERS" BEAT THE COMBAT ENLISTED MEN, 9 to 0! Major Houk starred, and Sgt. O'Toole knocked out a double and brought in 3 runs. "The Oldtimers" had finally come through!

11 Personnel received immunization shots today.

S/Sgt. Emory P Estep was transferred to Hq & Hq Squadron, 57<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing. Lt. Jack K Brown returned from DS in the U.S. Major William C Hughes, Dy to DS, France.



Eighteen of our ships participated in the bombing mission of the Road & Railroad Bridge at Vigevano, Italy. Results were good.

12 “The Oldtimers” did it again. They beat “The Goons” by a score of 5 to 3. Capt. Conway and Lt. Keller played notable roles in the Victory.

The following men were assigned to the 379<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron:

Alfred I Lennox	Holland A Bocock
Leonard E Helms	Michael M Simone
A. W. Barleycorn	Theo V Thompson
Aaron B Boyd	Albert J Gardner
C. H. Duvall	Walter H Smith
Bernard B Barrett	Frederick W Cook
Worth M Beacham	Clayton Taub

Dy to DS, Catania, Sicily: Capt. Philip M Canale, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Truman R Coble, T/Sgt. James W. Cook, S/Sgt. Guido J. Testolin.

Mission to bomb the bridges at Vigevano, Italy again with good results.

13 Shoes were sent in for repair. Also laundry was sent out.

A Colonel from Washington gave a lecture on Insurance which was very informative.

Capt. Canale, Lt. Coble, and T/Sgt. Cook and S/Sgt. Testolin returned from DS Catania, Sicily. Major Hughes returned from France.

Twelve aircraft participated on the bombing mission against the Mt. Beni Gun area, Italy. A good concentration was observed in the target area.

14 “The Oldtimers” beat “The Goons” again in an exciting game. The score: 3 to 2.

Twelve ships bombed enemy troops and defenses at Rimini, Italy.

15 No mission. Two weeks’ PX rations were sold, including 9 bottles of beer! Newly assigned personnel included:

Daniel E Sachs	Geo. P. Parry, Jr
Leslie M Dyson	Jos. C Fisher, Jr
Geo. H. Simon	Ralph D Stephens
John E Jones	Clarence H Halland
Walter T Overby	John J Koren
Robert C Hayes	Thomas D Hastings
Norman L Lawrance	

16 Two “cokes” were issued to each man.

In a softball game in the afternoon, Lt. Reddick and Lt. Stinson crashed together. Casualties: Lt. Reddick had 12 stitches in his left cheek. Lt. Stinson lost two front teeth. The latter was quite “annoyed” to get injured in a friendly softball game, and go through 77 combat missions without a scratch!

12 Ships did a good job of bombing on the Budrio Storage Depot in Italy.

17 Clocks were moved back one hour, thus giving us an hour’s less daylight in the evening, but an hours’ more sleep this morning. There was a downpour in the evening, leaving the air cool and fresh.

The original 24-hour alert for a Group movement seems to be off for the time being.

Six aircraft dropped leaflets at La Spezia, Parma, and Modena, Italy. Three ships filled in as spares to bomb gun and troop concentrations at Rimini, Italy.

18 The Jewish personnel of the Squadron attended Services for Rosh Hashanna at Vizzevano [sp: *Vizzavona*], here on the island of Corsica.

Sgt. Hochstatter returned to the fold, after his escape through enemy lines in Italy. He had bailed out of his disabled plane last June. He was promoted to S/Sgt.

The day’s mission was to gun positions and troop concentrations at Rimini, Italy. Flak was heavy, intense and accurate, and one of our aircraft is listed as missing. The crew included: 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt Ralph H. Keller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Donald H. Green, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry F Hassmer Jr., S/Sgt. William E. Conner, S/Sgt. Lyle E. Zachry, Pvt Albert D. Davis.

19 A rainy day and no mission.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Eugene T. Haskins, Dy to DS, Flight Section Twelfth Air Force

20 The downpour continued and no mission.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James F Mechler and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph S. Rambo, Jr., and s/Sgt. Andrew J. Hover and S/Sgt. James W. McPherson were transferred to Replacement Center No. 7 for transshipment to the U.S.



*Figure 1: Robert Riddick*



*Figure 2: Troop Concentrations, Rimini September 18, 1944*

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John S. Cadwallader, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Truman R. Coble, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Walter J. Rath , 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul Stinson, were promoted to the ranks of Captain.

21 No mission. Squadron Supply moved to a brick building across the road from the Squadron area.

S/Sgt. Wilmer H. Hochstatter was transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot for transshipment to the U.S.

An unfortunate accident in the Officers' Mess sent most of the officers to the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital. It seems that the pancakes for breakfast were made from slaked lime, mistaken for flour. The toxic effect produced caused nausea, vomiting, the "G.I.'s" and fainting spells. Some of those affected said they "would rather go through five rough missions than to go thru that illness again!" At the hospital, fast treatment was administered and most of the men returned to the squadron the following day...Many of us wondered why no one noticed the lime-mixture in the pancakes. Someone said: "They tasted extra good to me and I even took a second helping!" Someone put a sign on the latrine door: "Limehouse Blues!"

*[NOTE: This incident was used by Joseph Heller in Catch-22 to hilarious effect.]*

22 A French mason fixed the roof on the Officers' mess which leaked during the recent rains. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Eugene T. Haskins, on DW with the XII AF, was transferred to Hq & Hq Sq, XXI AF.

Newly assigned personnel included: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Theodore J. Jarman, F/O Ralph R. Dedbaw, F/O John E. Carroll, Sgt. John R. Vollers, Jr., Sgt. Stanley R. Milewsky, Cpl. James F. Harris, Cpl. Joseph Antal, Pfc Allen Tustin.

Two Aircraft went on the mission to bomb the enemy bridge at Padua, Italy. There was a good concentration on the target area.

23 A new Award and Decoration Section was set up in the building which formerly housed the old briefing room. Personnel working here are supposed to devote their time to the production of recommendations for combat awards, and are to be separate from the regular S-2 section.

Eighteen ships went out to bomb the railroad bridge at Cameri, Italy, but bad weather conditions prevented attack, and all bombs were returned to the Base.

24 No mission. Our C.O., Lt. Col. Wetzel and other staff officers moved into a brick building for the winter quarters.

25 No mission. Just the usual field duties. It is getting colder these nights...

26 The Squadron S-2 sections moved into the same building with the Award and Decorations Section, and now we are one big happy family again, under one roof.

Pvt Casper Spiess was assigned to the Squadron.

Eighteen ships bombed the Cameri RR Bridge with good results...Flak was moderate, heavy but inaccurate.



S/Sgt. Marcus E. Boring, S/Sgt. Arnold Kolks, and S/Sgt. Bernard J. Mlsna were promoted to the grade of T/Sgt.

The following enlisted men were promoted to the grade of Sgt.: Cpl. Thomas D. Hastings, Cpl. Norman L. Lawrance, Cpl. Vincent F. Mattola, Cpl. Leroy A Comer, Cpl. Lee W. Kirkpatrick, Cpl. Frank Bor, Jr., Cpl. Lewis Gehopolas, Cpl. Lewis L Oddenino, Cpl. Raymond E. Forsyth, Cpl John T. Greenfield, Cpl. Michael R. Zamponi, Cpl. Lewis A. Holloway, Cpl. Arnold D. Stachowski, and Pvt Casper Spiess...

27 Men of the Jewish faith commemorated Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Services were held at Vizzevano [*sp: Vizzavona*]. No mission on this day.

28 Again no mission. Rainy weather is hampering operations.

Cpl. Melburn J. Dettweiler was promoted to the grade of S/Sgt...Sgt. William A Hill and Pfc George Prout were transferred in grade from Ordnance to Air Corps, and are now on combat...

T/Sgt. Joseph Rabinowitz and S/Sgt Melburn J. Dettweiler were transferred in grade to Sixth Army Group, and will serve Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers in France, in his private B-25.

29 No mission.. Winter clothing is being issued by Squadron Supply... PX rations were sold again today.

30 Payday. Beer flowed freely, and there occurred the usual poker and crap games. The movie in the evening was, appropriately enough: "Gambler's Choice."

Eighteen of our ships participated in the mission to bomb the railroad bridge at Galliate, Italy. Results were fairly good...

At the end of September, there were 108 officers assigned to the Squadron, and 365 enlisted men both assigned and attached...

So ended another month overseas, with its day-by-day events, both humorous and sad. We had a lot of fun in the midst of our work...it's a great army when the men can give their all to the War effort, and still rest and relax at regular intervals in the Base or in places like Rome...We would not want to be playing on any other team!



### Section III.....

#### Mission Rosters and Mission Reports

*[See the original diary for Rosters and Reports]*

### Section IV.....

#### Casualties

Sgt. Edwin J. Doeberl was wounded by flak on 9 September...

T/Sgt. Bernard J. Mlsna was wounded by flak on 30 September...

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bruce R. Bunting was killed in action on the mission of 9 September. The target was San Lucia, Italy



## Awards and Decorations

### Air Medal



#### 30 August 1944

Robert Damon  
Benton F Eichorn  
Simon B Sawyer  
John H Woody, Jr  
Donald F Ney  
Raymond F Thompson

#### 3 September

William H Poole  
Leroy A comer  
Vincent F Mattola  
John R McNally  
Bernard J Mlsna  
Harry C Waller  
Theodore R Werner  
Fred D Andrews  
Marvin F Creamer  
Francis L Kennedy  
Claiborne E Shackelford  
Laverne L Fulwidner

#### 10 September

Wilton D Boring  
Basil O Temple

#### 12 September 1944

Robert J Fitzsimmons  
William R Shelton, Jr  
Edward A McCafferty  
[illegible]  
Marcus E Boring  
Vitold D Gabys  
Robert C Geike  
Robert J. Lohrmann  
Charles A Mildrum  
Joe A Mitchell  
Albert W Wright  
William G Davidson  
Lloyd D Gray  
Stanley Helmsdorff  
Ralph R Keller  
Wayne D Whitcomb  
William A Bartolo  
Albert F Hocknell, Jr  
Philip P March  
Chester L Murphy  
William H Poole  
Finis G Schell  
Wilton D Soerens  
Basil O Temple  
Everett \_ Britton  
William E Conner  
[?] Finley, Jr  
Matthew J Greenfield  
Lawrance J LeBoeuf  
Francis B McGrath  
Roy L Mincy  
Everett J Waldron  
Lyle E Zachry  
LeRoy L Comer  
Vincent F [illegible]  
Ellis J McKann  
Joseph S Rambo, Jr  
Charles B Robinson  
Charles G Stowe

#### 27 September 1944

Vincent F Mattola  
George S Watts  
John L Dillon  
[illegible]  
Louis D Starr  
Walter S Stoker  
Edwin J Bolgurg  
Lee W Kirpatrick  
Wilson O Barnes  
Robert J Fitzsimmons  
Joseph F Longo, Jr  
Edward McCafferty  
Robert H Riddick  
William R Shelton, Jr  
Alexander [illegible]  
Marcus E Boring  
Vitold D Gabys  
Steve [illegible]  
Robert C Geike  
Dennis O Karraker  
Robert J Lohrmann  
Charles Mildrum  
Joe A Mitchell  
Joseph S Pruitt  
Albert W Wright  
William Bartolo  
Walter Bombeck, Jr  
William G Davidson  
Lloyd D Gray  
Stanley G Helmsdorff  
Albert F Hocknell, Jr  
Ralph H Keller  
Richard C King  
Philip P Aarcy  
Constatine Mitchell  
Charles Murphy  
Finis G Schell  
Basil O Temple, Jr  
Wayne D Whitcomb

Sylvester J Tomporowski  
Roger G Ritchey  
John C Bravo  
Samuel Dubester  
Eli Jaffe  
Paul R [illegible]  
John R McNally  
George C Rogers  
Roy [illegible]  
John \_ Larson  
Thomas \_ Smith  
Robert C Bieler  
Paul E Rova  
Alexander Satler  
Nelson N chshing  
James T Gordon  
Thomas Gray, Jr  
Robert \_ Haislip, Jr  
Vincent S [illegible]  
Theodore R Werner  
[illegible]  
Fred D Andrews  
Marvin F Creamer  
Charles E Crider  
John J Hennessy  
Arnold Koeks  
Michare J Reno  
William \_ Porter, Jr  
James F Mechler  
Carl R Brooke  
Everett B Sherwood  
Thomas F Conway  
William J Schneider

Theodore Foremen  
[illegible]  
Robert M Lloyd  
William H Poole  
Witon D [illegible]  
Lyman Murry  
Everett A Britton  
William E Conner  
[?] Finley, Jr  
Joseph G [illegible]  
John W Gorsuch  
Matthew J Green  
Lawrence J Le Boeuf  
Francis B McGrath  
Roy L Mincy  
Robert L Taylor  
Everett G Waldron  
Lyle E Zachry  
Leroy Comer  
Charles T Gilbo  
Laverne T Hacking  
Eugene T Haskins  
Robert H Porter  
Robert G Ritchey  
Frederick W Ritter , Jr  
Charles G Stowe  
Sylvester J Tomporowski  
[illegible]  
Bazil B [illegible]  
Eli Jaffe  
John R Mc[illegible], Jr  
Carl S [illegible]  
George Rogers  
Harry C Waller  
Herbert K Eickhoff  
Joseph B Glydon  
Andre J Hover  
Francis L Kennedy  
Claiborne Shackelford  
Frank J Szarban  
John S Cadwallader  
Robert Haislip, Jr  
Vincent S Haneman  
Robert C Miller, Jr  
Paul E Rova  
Alexander E Satler  
Nelson N Chshing  
James T Gordon, Jr  
Robert L James

Ralph [illegible]  
Fred D Andrews  
Marvin F Creamer  
Raymond J Davilla  
John J Hennessy  
Arnold Kolks  
Patrick F O'Toole  
William M Porter, Jr  
Everett B Sherwood  
William C Hughes  
Thomas [illegible]  
Everett L Tozier  
William J Schneider

#### Soldier's Medal



Joseph S Rambo, Jr

#### Distinguished Flying Cross



Francis H Harrison  
Robert C Miller  
Walter J Rath  
Alexander E Satler  
Stanley G Helmsdorff

#### Bronze Star



William Neubauer  
James G Watt  
Samuel D Hinkle  
William J Lemler  
Johnnie H Peters

Section VII....

Miscellaneous.

In the original document see the essay: "Dogs is Dogs!"

Soldiers mentioned in Public Relations stories printed in hometown newspapers:

Cpl. Michael J. Korak

T/Sgt. William B Krug

Capt. Paul Stinson

Capt. Thomas F. Conway



*Figure 3: Cpl. Michael J Korak*



*Figure 5: William Krug*



*Figure 4: Thomas F Conway*