

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

### History for the month of October 1944

#### Section I...Outline of Month's Activities

Prepared by Sgt. Albert Sulman

Operations were somewhat restricted during the month of October, due to weather conditions. However, the missions in which we did participate were, on the whole, successful. The Gothic Line was cracked in many places by our ground forces, with our bombers blasting a path.

Many combat awards came out on General Orders for our deserving combat personnel. Several men completed their tour of duty and were awaiting orders to return to the States.

We had the usual movies a few nights a week, including a few good musical shows. Men were sent to Rest Camps in Corte, Cairo, Rome and Capri.

We continued to "winterize" our tents, with floors, tar-paper, and wood stoves. The nights are getting chilly...

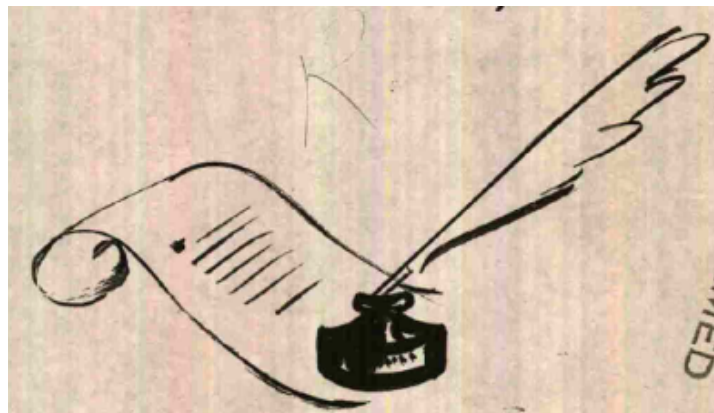
We received our first Presidential Citation which made us all very happy and proud. We are now wearing a blue ribbon in a gold frame over our right breast pocket.



Meals were good, with a variety of fresh and dehydrated foods. Our bakers did themselves proud with pie and cake on the menu often. The Mess Hall was moved into a brick building.

Interest was very high in the World War News; we realized that what happened in France, Belgium, Holland, the Balkans, the Philippines was of vital importance to us all, because the increased tempo of our Victories on all the Fronts meant that we would be seeing the Statue of Liberty that much sooner! So we go on with our work...mechanic, armorer, cook and clerk, and combat personnel.

Together with the War News, topics of conversation included rotation, furloughs, demobilization and the presidential election next month.



## Section II.....

### Squadron Diary Day-by-Day

1 This first day in October was a sunny day, and we wondered if we had changed to our O.D.'s too soon. [*O.D. - Olive Drab Uniform*] Seven aircraft participated in the mission to bomb the railroad bridge at Borgo Forte, Italy. Crews reported Excellent results. Six of our planes took part in the second mission of the day, to Lonate Pozzolo. There was no flak.

2 No mission today. In the afternoon, we were entertained by a USO stage unit. There were 5 gals, including the usual accordion player, and a talented black-haired femme who played the classics and swing equally well on the violin.

3 At the movies, a double feature: "Sing Out the Blues," and "Shine On Harvest Moon," the latter being an entertaining film on the career of Nora Bayes. Pfc James V. Casconi was assigned to our squadron for combat duty. Three new First Lieutenants: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John M Fore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William H. Poole, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Alex Skalaban. Twelve aircraft participated in the mission to bomb the road bridge at Lonate Pozzolo, Italy. Flak was scant, moderate, heavy and inaccurate. No fighters.

4 World Series bets are running high. The boys from St. Louis are having a little trouble picking the winner. Pfc Morris J. Williamson was assigned to our squadron, for combat duty. Eighteen planes went on the bombing mission to Villafranca D'Asti railroad bridge. Two runs were made on the target, and it was observed that the northwest approach and end of the bridge were hit. No flak, no fighters.



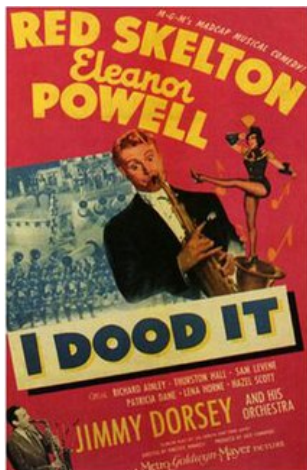
5 Movie: "Action in Arabia." In the parlance of Walter Winchell, it was a "stinkeroo!" No mission, with the usual squadron activities.

6 Plenty of rain today, and there was no mission.. Lt. Zinberg, of the S-2 section, is conducting aircraft recognition classes in the Briefing room. In the evening, we saw a series of films on Sex & Venereal Diseases. It gave the boys something to think about. S/Sgt Johnny B. Leonard and Cpl. Alfred D. Davis, clerk and cook respectively, were assigned to our squadron.



We welcomed our new Group Commander: Colonel Peter H. Remington.

- 7 Again no mission.. The weather is really “non-operational.” Movie: “I Dood It,” a silly story, complete with Nazi saboteurs. But the musical numbers were good entertainment. Pfc Gerald V. Ellis, duty to DS [Detached Service] in Naples, Italy. Gerald will study about certain type of line-work in a Signal Corps school.



- 8 No mission. Fried chicken for dinner, with fresh boiled potatoes. Usual field duties.

- 9 No mission. There was a gun inspection during the day. Fresh eggs for breakfast, which makes our monthly donations to the Mess Fund quite worthwhile! Laundry was turned in to Supply, to be washed by the NORBS Quartermaster Laundry [NORBS- Northern Base Section]. The Cardinals won the World Series, and the boys paid off to the lucky betters. The mess hall is moving into a brick building for winter quarters.

- 10 No mission, with a standown for the day. The Corsicans are grateful for our presence for at least one reason: our mess hall “slop barrels” furnish plenty of food for their hogs! They come from all directions at meal time, with their pails or donkey-carts. Immunization shots were given at the Squadron Dispensary. Movie: “Chip Off the Old Block,” another one of those Donald O’Connor-Peggy Ryan Combinations.



Figure 1: Colonel Peter Remington



Figure 2: Corsican Farmer in Ghisonaccia





11 S/Sgt. James S. Knight was placed on temporary duty with 42<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Wing. At last, a mission. Eighteen of our aircraft participated on the bombing raid against the bridge at Villafranca, Italy. Flak was heavy but inaccurate.

12 Movie: A Mickey Rooney film, called “Blonde Trouble.” Not up to his best comedies in the past. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alexander E. Satler was placed on temporary duty with MAAF. [MAAF – *Mediterranean Allied Air Forces*]. Eighteen of our planes bombed the Bologna Bivouac & Stores Area. There was an excellent concentration on the assigned area. Large explosions and fires were seen.

13 P.X. rations were sold today. The usual line of beer, candy, toilet articles and tobacco. Twelve of our aircraft went again to bomb the bivouac and stores area at Bologna. Most crews reported that weather prevented attack.

14 Standown; no mission. The movie was “Roger Touhy, Gangster.” Sort of reminiscent of the popular gangster films of a decade ago. Pfc George Prout and Pvt. Arthur J. Holmes were promoted to the grade of Corporal. S/Sgt Russell A Rogers was assigned to the squadron as clerk.



Figure 3: Movie Projection Booth at Ghisonaccia



15 Every morning around 10:00, the boys are able to relax with a refreshing cup of coffee with cookies at the Red Cross Service Club. This is one of the many small things the Red Cross girls are doing for us that we greatly appreciate. Twelve aircraft bombed the road bridge at Ionate Pozzolo, Italy



Figure 4: Red Cross Service Club

16 No mission. Usual squadron activities.

17 Capt Thomas O. Plummer, our Squadron Flight Surgeon, gave a lecture on Sex Precautions and Preventions. As usual, his serio-humorous warnings were well-appreciated. He never has any trouble getting his point over to the boys. Lt. Ritchey read the Articles of War. Movie: "Navy Way," a very bad film, which made us all damn glad we are in the Air Corps. The series of G.I. shorts were good though. No mission.

18 The enlisted men's bar was open in the evening. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Satler returned from TD [*Detached Duty*] at MAAF. Fifteen planes participated in the mission to bomb the Lonate Pozzolo road bridge. No Bombs were dropped due to weather conditions.

19 Day of the Big Wind! Tents collapsed, and it was a struggle to walk without losing our footing. Stove pipes cracked all over the place. Sgt. Frank H. Flint and Pvt. John B Husted were transferred to Det of Pnts., 40<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital. Pvt. Fred E. Allen was transferred to the 380<sup>th</sup> B.S. Twelve planes hit the Lonate Pozzolo road bridge again.



20 The 310<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group received a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary gallantry and achievement in the memorable bombing raid on the Benevento Marshaling Yards, Italy, in August

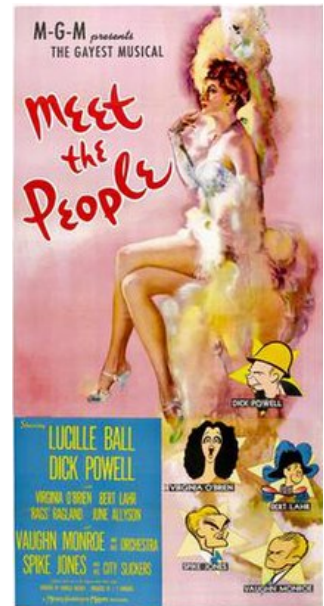
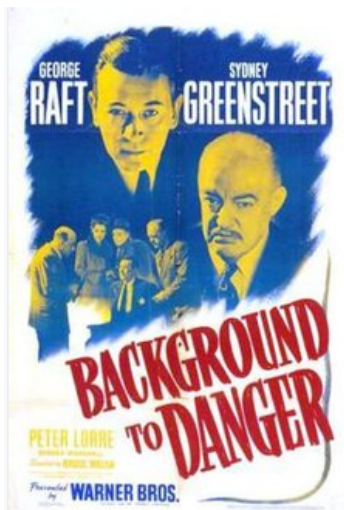
27, 1943. We may now wear a blue ribbon in a gold frame above the right pocket of our blouses. Major George R. Houk, our Executive Officer, has made plans for company streets, and already Officers and Enlisted Men are starting to build their wooden frames for their “homes.” Twelve of our aircraft participated in the mission against the San Pietro Railroad bridge, Italy. Direct hits were scored on the structure.

21 The mission was canceled due to weather conditions. Movie: A very entertaining musical film with Lucille Ball, called “Meet the People”

22 Bad weather over Italy, so no mission. Usual squadron activities.

23 No mission. Lt. Zinberg gave another in his series of lectures on aircraft recognition. Blessed Event: “Peewee” gave birth to four pups.

24 No mission. Movie: “Background to Danger,” not too good.



25 No mission. A terrific rainstorm during the day. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert J. Clemence and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George H. Simon were appointed First Lieutenants.



26 No mission.. The inclement weather continues. Movie: “This is the Life,” another Donald O’Conner musical comedy.

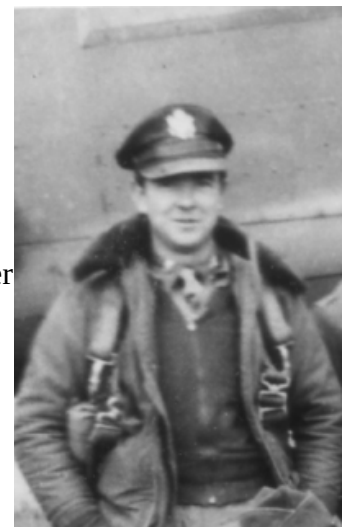


Figure 5: Lt. George H. Simon



27 P.X. rations were sold today. Finally a break in the weather, with still no mission going out. The men were busy on the framework for their new abodes in the planned company streets. Sgt. Anthony Cupoli was assigned to the squadron.

28 A big Mail-call at last! “Beaucoup” letters came in, with a noticeable uplift in morale. Now the boys can settle down to plenty of letter writing, which will be somewhat of a headache for the Censoring Officers! S/Sgt. James S. Knight returned from TD with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Wing. It was a clear day, but no mission was scheduled, and the men continued to work on the wooden frames for their tents.

29 No mission. The nights are getting colder now, and snow is forming on the mountains in the distance.

30 No Mission. The Red Cross Service Club is decorated with pumpkins and lanterns for Halloween. Pfc Thomas B. Banner was assigned to the Squadron. The following men were assigned for combat duty: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gorden M. Jacobs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Herman P. Greenman, F/O Wilbur A. Johnstone, Jr., T/Sgt. William E. Shafer, Cpl. Marvin R. Wedel, and Cpl. Frank M. Faff. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard W. Davis returned from the U.S. after spending an extended furlough of 112 days.

31 No mission. Payday. Card games and dice, of course! The following men returned from furloughs in the U.S.: T/Sgt. Peter P. Schuyler, T/Sgt. Francis T. Unsworth, S/Sgt. Joseph M. Evans, S/Sgt. Leonard R. Kuschel, and S/Sgt. Robert O'Bannon. Before the evening's movie, Capt. Gilliam, A.L.O Officer [A.L.O. - *Air Liaison Officer*], attached to Group Headquarters, gave a very interesting and clarifying lecture on the Italian situation and the importance of the campaign over there. The movie was “Follow the Boys,” the story of soldiers in greasepaint; stage, screen and radio stars who entertain the troops in the States and overseas.....

At the end of October, we had 108 Officers, assigned & attached, and 363 Enlisted Men.



Section III.....

Mission Rosters and Mission Reports

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

Section IV.....

Casualties

No casualties during the month of October 1944.



## Awards and Decorations

### Air Medal



#### 9 October 1944

Manford J Wetzel  
Victor J Florence  
John L Dillon, III  
Wilson O Barnes  
Walter S Stoker  
Robert J Fitzsimmons  
Joseph F Longo, Jr  
Edward McCafferty  
Robert H Reddick  
William R Shelton, Jr  
Alexander McStea  
Marcus E Boring  
Vitold D Gabys  
Robert C HeiKe  
Dennis O Karraker  
Charles A Mildrum  
Joe A Mitchell  
Albert Wright  
William Bitolo  
William G Davidson  
Lloyd D Gray  
Francis H Harrison  
Stanley G Gelmsdorff  
Albert F Hocknell, Jr  
Ralph H Keller  
Richard C King  
Philip P Marcy  
Chester L Murphy  
Finis G Schell  
Earl A Leger  
Robert M Lloyd  
William H Poole  
Wilton D Soerens  
Lyman A Murray  
Everett A Britton  
Ira T Finley, Jr  
John W Gorsuch  
Matthew J Green  
Lawrence J. Le Boeuf

#### 12 October 1944

Donald H Green  
Albert D Davis  
William E Conner  
Lyle E Zachry  
Stanley E Naszeyzniec  
George S Watts  
Terrance C Bogue  
Victor J Florence  
Lee W Kirkpatrick  
John L Dillon, III  
Walter S Stoker  
Steve Gaich  
Paul Stinson  
Wilson O Barnes  
Robert J Fitzsimmons  
Joseph F Longo, Jr  
Edward A McCafferty  
Ellis J McKanna  
Joseph S Rambo, Jr  
Robert H Reddick  
William R Shelton, Jr  
Basil O Temple, Jr  
Wayne D Whitcomb  
Alexander McStea  
Marcus Boring  
Vitold D Gabys  
Robert C Glike  
Joseph Gianforte  
Dennis O Karraker  
Francis B McGrath  
Charles Mildrum  
Joe A Mitchell  
Albert W Wright  
William Bartolo  
William G Davidson  
Lloyd D Gray  
Stanley G Helmsdorff  
Albert F Hocknell, Jr  
Richard C King

#### 21 October 1944

William E Conner  
Alex [illegible]  
Olouis D Starr  
Gorge S Watts  
Terance C Bogue  
John L Dillon, III  
Walter S Stoker  
Steve Gaich  
Leroy Comer  
Vincent F [illegible]  
Paul Stinson  
Wilson O [illegible]  
Robert J Fitzsimmons  
Joseph F Longo, Jr  
Edward McCafferty  
Robert Reddick  
Finis G Schell  
William R Shelton, Jr  
Basil O Temple, Jr  
Alexander McStea  
Marcus E Boring  
Vitold D Gabys  
Robert C Geike  
Dennis O Karraker  
Charles Wildrum  
Joe Mitchell  
Albert W Wright  
[illegible] Bartolo  
William G Davidson  
Lloyd D Gray  
Albert F Hocknell, Jr  
Ralph Keller  
Richard c King  
Philip P Marcy  
Sylvester J Tomporowski  
[illegible]  
Robert Lloyd  
William H Poole  
Wilton Soerens

Roy L Mincy  
Robert L Taylor  
Everett G Waldron  
Charles T Gilbo  
La Verle T Hacking  
Quentin G Hand  
Eugene T Haskins  
Robert H Porter  
Roger G Ritchey  
Frederick W Ritter, Jr  
Basil B Graham  
Eli Jaffe  
Carl C Reisig, Jr  
Harry C Waller  
Herbert K Eickhoff  
Joseph B Glydon  
Andrew H Hover  
Francis L Kennedy  
Claiborne E Shackelford  
Frank J Szarban  
John S Cadwallader  
Robert Haislip, Jr  
Paul Roba  
Alexander Satler  
Nelson N Cushing  
James T Gordon, Jr  
Robert L James  
Ralph Adams  
Fred D Andrews  
Marvin J Creamer  
Raymond J Davidson  
John J Hennessy  
Arnold Kolks  
Patrick F O'Toole  
William M Porter, Jr

Philip P March  
Sylvester J Tomporowski  
Earl Leger  
Robert M Lloyd  
William H Poole  
Wilton D Soerens  
John R McNally  
Lyman Murray  
Theodore R Werner  
Everett Britton  
Ira T Finley, Jr  
John Gorsuch  
Matthew J Green  
Laverne J LaBoeuf  
Roy L Mincy  
Bernard J Mlsna  
Robert L Taylor  
Everett Cwaldron  
Charles T Gilbo  
Laverle T Hacking  
Quentin G Rand  
Vincent S Hanelen  
Eugene T Haskins  
Robert H Porter  
Roger G Ritchey  
Frederick W Ritter, Jr  
Anzie B Graham  
Eli Jaffe  
Carl C Raisig, Jr  
Harry C Waller  
Herbert K Eickhoff  
Joseph B Glydon  
Andrew J Hover  
Francis L Kennedy  
Frank J Szarban  
Robert Haislip, Jr  
Paul E Rova  
Neslon Ncushing  
James T Gordon, Jr  
Robert L James  
Ralph Adams  
Fred D Andrews  
Marvin F Creamer  
Raymond J Davilla  
John J Hennessy  
Arnold Kolks  
Patrick F O'Toole  
William M Porter, Jr  
William C Hughes

Lymon Murray  
Everett Britton  
Ira T Finley, Jr  
John Gorsuch  
Matthew J Green  
Lawrence J LeBoeuf  
Roy Mincy  
[illegible]  
Robert L Taylor  
Everett C Waldron  
Robert H Porter  
[illegible]  
Paul Rova  
James T Gordon, Jr  
Fred D Andrews  
Marvin F [illegible]  
Arnold Koeks

## **22 October 1944**

Harry [illegible], Jr  
Albert D Davis  
William E Conner  
Lyle Zachary  
Donald Green  
Walter E Harrington  
Joseph L [illegible]  
Eugene M [illegible]  
Frank Sullivan, Jr  
James B Teter  
[illegible]  
Floyd V Welch  
Boyce G [illegible]  
Joseph F [illegible]  
Arnold D Stachowski  
Frank Bor, Jr  
John M Ford  
Charles D Long  
Paul Sizemore  
Frank C Uerling  
Thomas Van [ill]  
Richard Wagner  
Wilbur W West  
Rupert R Harknell  
Raymond E Forsyth  
John T Greenfield  
Lewis Holloway  
Michael R Zamponi

Thomas F Conway  
William J Schneider  
Bernard J Mlsna

*[See original General Orders for  
award of clusters]*

**17 October**

Lyle E Zachry

**23 October 1944 General Orders**

Bruce R Bunting [*Posthumous*]

Glen Rhodes

Daniel Felding

Donald Simpson

*[See original General Orders for award of clusters]*

**29 October 1944 General Orders**

*[See original General Orders for award of clusters]*

Soldier's Medal



Charles D Long

Distinguished Flying Cross



William C Hughes

Vincent S Hanlan, Jr

Ellis J McKinna

Laverne T Hacking

Joseph F Longo, Jr

Frederick W Ritter, Jr

Charles B Robinson

Sylvester J Tomporowski

Charles T Gilbo

Lloyd D Gray

Quentin C Rand

Richard C King

Roger G Ritchey

Paul E Rova

James T Gordon, Jr

Silver Star



Francis H Harrison

Bronze Star



Volney B Ferguson

Paul D White

Vernon H Borrks

Robert Tischler

[illegible] Winslow

Ellsworth C Knight, Jr

Paul S Reinson

James W Scott



## Section VII... Miscellaneous

During the month of October 1944, many Public Relations stories were released for publication in home-town newspapers.

The following personnel were mentioned in this section:

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Paul D. White

Major George R. Houk

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sylvester J. Tomporowski

Cpl. "Mike" J. Korak