

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

History for the month of December 1944

Section I...Outline of Month's Activities

Prepared by Sgt. Albert Sulman

In spite of adverse weather conditions, we participated in 20 combat missions against enemy communications in Italy.

The Holiday Season of Christmas and New Years was celebrated in the accustomed manner...a flood of gift packages from our families and friends at home came in.

Recreation was found in the form of movies in our outdoor "Theater"...contests of pinochle, ping-pong and cribbage...rest camp trips to Corte, Cairo, Capri and Rome.

Under the new Educational program, Orientation lectures were given every Wednesday evening, with guest speakers leading a discussion on topics of current interest.

The progress of the War in Western Europe was of primary interest to us all, especially in the face of the enemy's fierce counter attacks. But our Faith in an Allied Victory has never been shaken. Realizing that the Campaign is not yet over, we are sticking to our assigned tasks and looking forward to The Day when more than two years in a combat zone will bear fruit.

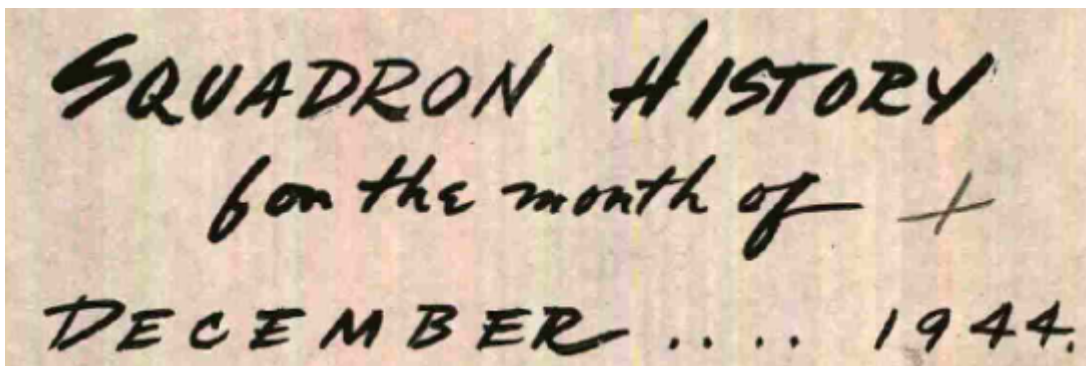
Combat men returned to the States after completing their tour of duty...new crews came in to add their efforts to the glorious record established by the 379<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron...

So ended another month and another year of combat activity....1945 begins. This is the year of Victory we have been waiting for patiently!

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SQUADRON HISTORY  
for the month of +  
DECEMBER . . . . 1944.

## Section II.....

### Squadron Diary Day-by-Day

- 1 None of our planes participated in the day's mission. Usual Squadron activities.
- 2 Twelve of our aircraft participated on the mission to bomb the Ala Railroad Bridge, Italy. Flak was scant to moderate, heavy, inaccurate. Fire bombs and frags were also used to knock out enemy gun positions. Bets ran high on the outcome of the Army-Navy game. Movie: A good Wallace Beery flicker about a gold-mining town in the 1880's. Today marks two years of combat operations for the Group, and we are still going strong!
- 3 Today's mission was abortive due to weather conditions over the Faenza front. We had fried chicken and ice cream for dinner.
- 4 T/Sgt. Terrence C. Bogue and T/Sgt. Eli Jaffe were assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S. The following Officers and Enlisted Men were also relieved from assignment to the Squadron and were assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S.:  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles B. Robinson, S/Sgt. Marvin F. Creamer, S/Sgt. Vitold D. Gabys, S/Sgt. Fred D. Andrews, S/Sgt. Dennis O. Karraker, S/Sgt. Thomas M. Smith.

Twelve planes hit the enemy defense area at Faenza, Italy.

- 5 A formation was held to present combat medals.  
No mission.
- 6 No mission. Xmas packages are starting to arrive.
- 7 T/5 Philip R. Jackson was promoted to the grade of Cpl. More Xmas packages are arriving. Immunization shots were given at the Squadron Dispensary.
- 8 No mission. One plane was sent out on weather recce [*reconnaissance*].
- 9 No mission. P.X. rations were sold. The 381<sup>st</sup> beat our basketball team, 26 to 20. Movie: A cowboy picture, "Tall in the Saddle."
- 10 Chicken for dinner. The foundation was started for our new Enlisted Men's mess hall. Mission to bomb the San Ambrogio tunnel and fill, Italy.
- 11 Laundry was turned in today. Steak for supper. No mission, with just the usual field duties.
- 12 No mission. Movie: "Hail the Conquering Hero," an Eddie Bracken comedy.



13 No mission. We were entertained by a U.S.O. stage show, with three guys and 3 gals putting on a good show. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Daniel E. Sachs and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Frank E. Sullivan, Jr. were appointed to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John E. Jones was also appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas I. Smith was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.



Figure 1: U.S.O. Show at Gisconaccia



14 Twelve aircraft participated in the mission to bomb the Tortona ammunition dump, Italy. The Bridge at Parma was also hit by several of our planes. Chicken for dinner, and steak for supper. The Intelligence Section received a commendation from the Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Wetzel, for a job well done, which made each man in the S-2 section very proud indeed!

Pvt. Joe Johnson was a proud poppa today...he received word that his wife have birth to a baby girl.

15 Eighteen ships went on the mission to bomb the Cremona Ammunition Dump, Italy. A word of praise is in line for the men who worked on the construction of the new Enlisted Men's mess hall...they included T/Sgt. Edward S. Davis, S/Sgt. Robert J. Awve, S/Sgt. Arnold V. Fort, and Cpl. Wilbur A. Anderson.

16 No mission. Movie: "Sensations of 1945," with W.C. Fields and Eleanor Powell.

17 No mission. A new type of green "zoot-suit" field jacket and sweaters were issued to enlisted personnel by Squadron Supply. Several members of the Squadron were authorized to wear "air crew member" aviation badges. Major Rupert A Nock, Group Intelligence Officer, formerly of the 379<sup>th</sup> Squadron, left on a well-earned furlough to the States.

T/Sgt. Francis J. Beane was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot for transhipment to the U.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert M. Lloyd and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Quentin McGaughan were also assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot for



transshipment to the U.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edwin R. Yarndley, of the Ordnance section, left for the U.S. on temporary duty.



18 No mission. Sgt. Luther J. Burgess and Pfc Jean P. Patterson returned to duty after a 10-day furlough spent in the Mediterranean area.

19 A rainy day, and no mission. Several transports arrived with new combat crews. Fried chicken for dinner. New sleeping bags were issued by Supply. Lt. Zinberg of the S-2 section gave another lecture on aircraft recognition. Movie: "The Hairy Ape," with good acting by William Bendix.

20 No mission. New combat crew members attended a Security Lecture in the Briefing Room. The boys are contributing candy to the Red Cross unit here, to be distributed to the French children in Ghisonaccia for Xmas. A series of cribbage, pinochle, and ping-pong contests are to be started to "pass the long nights away."

21 No mission. A rainy day.

22 Eighteen aircraft participated in the mission to bomb the Pordenone Railroad Bridge, Italy. P.X. rations were sold today.

23 No mission. A bitter cold day. More Xmas packages came in. Movie: A Comedy with Olsen and Johnson, but the cold weather kept many away, snug in their tents by a warm stove.

24 No mission. The Officers Club has been renovated and a new War Room is being set up by the S-2 officers. Nine bottles of beer were issued to each Enlisted Man free, thru the generosity of the Officers in our Squadron. We all agreed it was a grand Xmas present. Parties were held in the Officer's Club and the Enlisted Men's Bar. Midnight mass was held in the Briefing Room, which had been redecorated for the occasion.







*Figure 2: Officers Club, decorated for Christmas*



*Figure 3: War Room*

25 Christmas Day. No mission. The men just took it easy, recuperating from last night's indulgences! Turkey for dinner.

26 Sgt. Robert J. Awve, Sgt. Kenneth Baker, Sgt. Marvin G. Davis, Sgt. Martin J. Lawless were promoted to the grade of S/Sgt...

Cpl. Wilbur L. Anderson, Cpl. Edward J. Barndt, Cpl. Arch C. Harvey, Jr., were promoted to the grade of Sgt....Pfc Alfred H. Armstrong, Pfc Joseph Y. Bennett, Pfc Gerald V. Ellis, Pfc Raymond J. Morris, Pfc Edd H. Rhodes, Pvt. Boyce A. Brannon, Pvt. Arden E. Falk, and Pvt. Melvin R. Zimmerman were promoted to the grade of Cpl...These were the first promotions among ground personnel in a LONG TIME!

Eighteen aircraft participated in the mission to bomb the Bologna ammunition dump, Italy.

Beaucoup hangovers from Xmas cheer! More packages came in.

27 Fresh eggs for breakfast. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Noah T. Shirley, Jr. was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George P. Parry, Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Van Arnham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Richard W. Wagner, were promoted to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt...

Eighteen aircraft bombed the Bologna ammunition dump, Italy.

28 Fourteen ships bombed enemy troop concentrations at Aulla, Italy.

29 Cpl. Paul A. Basso, Cpl. William H.M. Carr, James V. Casconi, Cpl. Frank M. Faff, Cpl. James D. Nelsen, Cpl. George Prout, Cpl. Robert E. Stewart, and Cpl. Marvin R. Wedel were promoted to the grade of sergeant...

Sgt. Philip M. Allen, Sgt. John E. Argo, Sgt. Harold F. Arnwine, Sgt. Wilbur A. Barton, Sgt. Frank Bor, Jr., Sgt. Edward J. Doeberl, Sgt. Daniel Feldman, Sgt. Raymond E. Forsyth, Sgt. Lewis Gehopolas, Sgt. John T. Greenfield, Sgt. James F. Harris, Sgt. Thomas D. Hastings, Sgt. Robert C. Hayes, Sgt. Clarence H. Helland, Sgt. William A. Hill, Sgt. John J. Koren, Sgt. Norman L. Lawrance, Sgt. Allen E. Merrill, Sgt. Stanley R. Milewsky, Sgt. Louis L. Oddenio, Sgt. Joseph F Rosenhauer, Sgt. Casper Spiess, Jr., Sgt. John R. Vollers, Jr., were promoted to the rank of S/Sgt....

Fifteen of our aircraft took part in the mission to bomb the Lavis rail viaduct, Italy.



*Figure 4: Robert C Hayes*

30 Six aircraft participated in the mission to bomb the Dolce Rail Fill in Italy. Flak was moderate, heavy, and accurate, and several ships were hit.

31 New Years Eve, and a dance was given in Corte for the boys of the motor pool and their guest. It was a great success. To celebrate the end of a year of Victories for the Allies, the men spent a joyous evening in visiting from tent to tent and sharing whatever beverages could be obtained for this occasion...On the whole, celebrating was orderly...

Six aircraft participated in the mission the Canale D'Isonzo rail bridge, and six other planes hit the Bologna Ammunition dump.

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On the last day of December 1944, the 379<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron had 105 Officers assigned, and 365 Enlisted Men assigned...

Section III.....

Mission Rosters and Mission Reports

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

Section IV.....

Casualties

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John E. Calbom received slight wounds in the arm and hands from enemy flak during the mission of December 30, 1944, while participating in a bombing attack against the enemy at Dolce Rail Fill, Italy.



*Figure 5: Lt. John E Calbom*

## Awards and Decorations

### Air Medal



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

Arthur J. Holmes

### 6 December 1944 General Orders

Herman P. Greenman  
Ralph D. Stephens  
Ralph R. Gedbaw  
Allen E. Merrill  
Frank M. Faff  
Marvin R. Wedel  
Morris J. Williamson  
Noah T. Shirley, Jr.  
James V. Casconi

### 23 December 1944

James R Green

### Soldier's Medal



[None]

### Distinguished Flying Cross



Robert A Haislip, Jr.  
Earl A Leger  
William R. Shelton, Jr.  
Basil O. Temple, Jr. (MIA)  
Samuel C. Schlitzkus (MIA)  
Robert J Fitzsimmons  
William K Grant, Jr  
Edward McCafferty



Alexander McStea  
Robert H Porter  
Wayne D Whitcomb  
Thomas Gray, Jr  
William Shafer

#### Silver Star



Laverlie T Hacking (MIA)  
Constantine Mitchel (MIA)  
Finis G Schell

#### Bronze Star



Walter B Moeller  
Powell Dillehay  
John R. Swenson  
Andrew S Botko  
Edward S Davis  
Carl S Plant  
Raymond R. Stolter  
George H Gregory  
Norvin H Harris  
Clyne J Johnson  
Orville W Blosser  
Vance B Reed  
Angell H Tedesco

#### Purple Heart



[None]

## Good Conduct Medal



Potensky, John A  
Comer, LeRoy A  
Florence, Victor J  
Harrell, Rupert R  
Holloway, Lewis A  
Kirkpatrick, Lee W  
LeBoeuf, Lawrence J  
Mattola, Vincent F  
Mincy, Roy L  
Naszeyzniec, Stanley E  
Overby, Walter T  
Specht, Harold  
Stachowski, Arnold D  
Zamponi, Michael R  
Bor, Frank, Jr  
Best, William J  
Doeberl, Edward J  
Feldman, Daniel  
Fling, Frank H  
Forsyth, Raymond E  
Gehopolas, Lewis  
Greenfield, John T  
Harris, James F  
Hayes, Robert C  
Helland, Clarence H  
Koren, John J  
Lawrance, Norman L  
Lennox, Alfred I

Merrill, Allen E  
Rosenhauer, Joseph F  
Simpson, Donald A  
Barleycorn, Arthur W  
Dolle, Roy L  
Helms, Leonard E  
Banner, Thomas B  
Boyd, Aaron B  
Duvall, C.H.  
Smith, Walter H  
Zielinski, Joseph M  
Glazer, Leon E  
Huggins, Charles A  
Rysavy, Laddie  
Taub, Clayton  
Oddenio, Louis L  
Seabolt, Eugene W  
Vollers, John R, Jr  
Bocock, Holland A  
Harvey, Arch C., Jr  
Thompson, Theo V  
Barrett, Bernard B  
Cook, Frederick W  
Pardue, Harvey H  
Williamson, Morris J  
Cserer, Victor S  
Heisner, Walter J  
Husted, John B  
Stevenson, George M