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150-BOMB-446-H1
MAR-1945

446 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
MARCH 1945

P.R.C.

UNCLASSIFIED
Classification changed to
By auth. of DIRECTOR, RSI, AU1
13 JAN 1954 *Wmald R. Smith, Capt.*

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DESIGNATION SECRET

Historical Records

(M)

AIR FORCE: Twelfth Air Force

COMMAND: _____

SUB-COMMAND: 57th Bomb Wing

GROUP: 321st Bomb Gp.

UNIT: 446th Bomb Sq

Documents Transmitted: (Period Covered)

X OUTLINE HISTORY: March - 1945

X WAR DIARY: March 1945

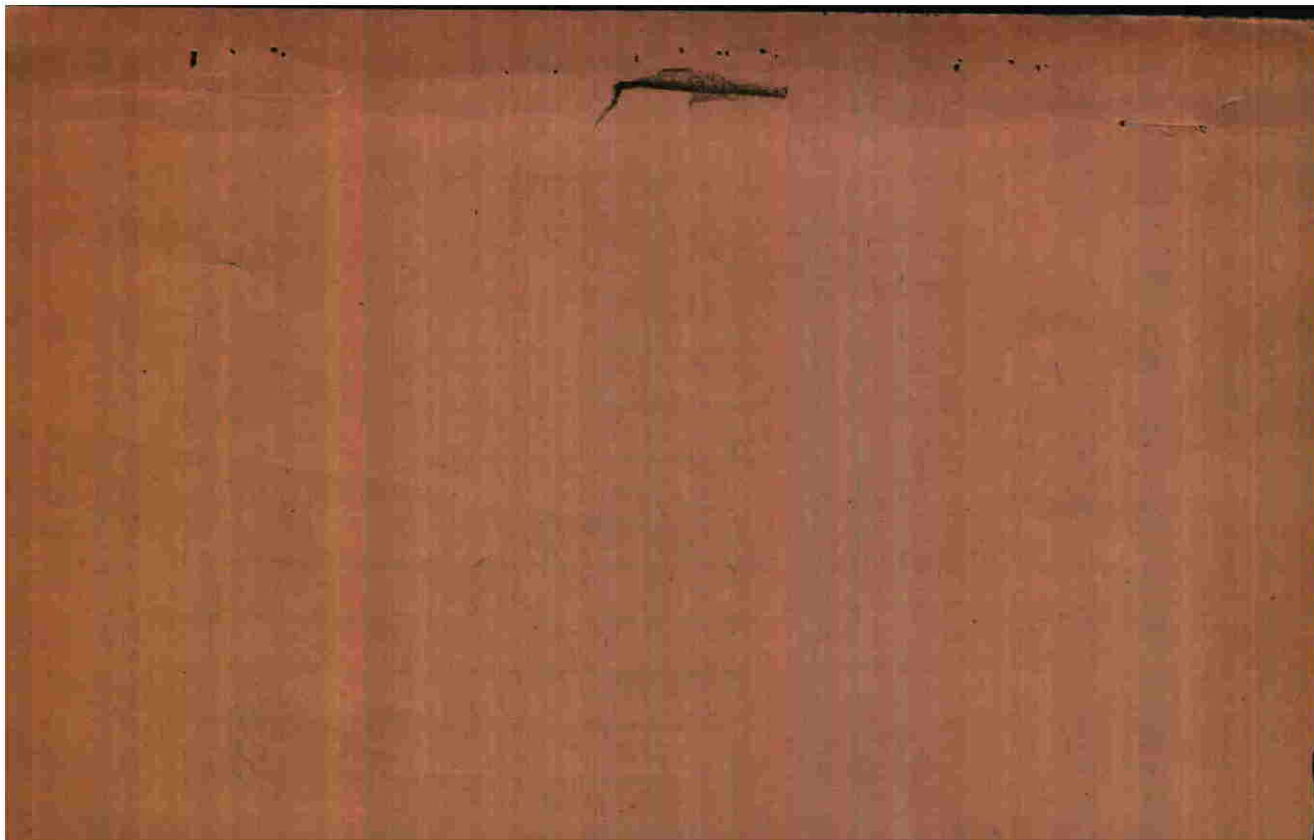
____ SPECIAL ACCOUNTS: _____

____ PHOTOGRAPHS: _____

1 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Mission Reports

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~~SECRET~~446th Bomb. Sq.

OUTLINE HISTORY Mar 1945

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By Auth COHEADQUARTERS 321st Bombardment Group (M)
APO 650446th SqApr 1945P.H.C. Initials1 April 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : Commanding General, 57th Wing, APO 650, U.S. Army

1. Outline History of the 446th Squadron for the period 1 March 1945
to 31 March 1945:a Original Unit.

- (1) 446th Bomb Sqdn (M), 321st Bomb Group (M), AAF.
- (2) Organized 1 August 1942
- (3) Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, S.C.
- (4) Activated at Barksdale Field, La., 23 June 1942
- (5) Personnel obtained by transfer from other units, training schools and replacement centers.

b Changes in Organization

- (1) No changes

c Strength, commissioned and enlisted.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) 1 March 1945 | 95 Officers, 349 Enlisted Men |
| (2) Net Increase | None |
| (3) Net Decrease | 10 Officers, 5 Enlisted Men |
| (4) 31 March 1945 | 85 Officers, 344 Enlisted Men |

d Stations of Units or echelons

- (1) None

e Movements of units or echelons

- (1) None

f Campaigns.

- (1) Rome-Arno
- (2) From 21 January 1944 to: Still in progress.

g Operations.

- (1) Rome-Arno Campaign
- (2) Bombing Missions in Support of the Allied Armies in Northern Italy. Attacks on Brenner Pass communications predominated.

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(4) Results of the most important missions:

- (a) Rovereto Rail Bridge, Italy, 8 March
- (b) Romano di Lombardia Rail Bridge, Italy, 18 March
- (c) San Ambrogio Rail Bridge, Italy, 20 March
 - 1 These objectives on vital enemy communication lines, were attacked with 100 per cent bombing accuracy.
- (d) Muhlberg Rail Bridge, Austria, 22-24-25 March
 - 1 In the longest operational flight from the Corsican base, the Squadron's bombers attacked this bridge with 100 per cent bombing accuracy.

II Commanding Officer in important engagements.

- (1) Lt. Colonel Paul T. Cooper

i Losses in action.

- (1) The following men are missing, having been shot down while attacking the Campo North Rail bridge, Italy, on 21 March.
 - (a) 2nd Lt. Herman E. Everhart
 - (b) F/O Charles R. Callaway
 - (c) 1st Lt. Jack G. Falk
 - (d) Sgt Elvin N. Scheetz
 - (e) S/Sgt Albert K. Wilkins
 - (f) S/Sgt Walter H. Springer

j Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.(1) Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to:

- (a) 1st Lt. Thomas A. Capalety, GO #66, XII Air Force
- (b) 1st Lt. Warren W. Chandler, GO #62, XII Air Force
- (c) Capt. Glenn S. Crisp Jr., GO #60, XII Air Force
- (d) 1st Lt. Joseph S. Di Norma, GO #62, XII Air Force
- (e) 1st Lt. Carl D. Fisher, GO #62, XII Air Force
- (f) 1st Lt. George L. Yarbrough, GO #53, XII Air Force

(2) Air Medal awarded to:

- (a) 1st Lt. Jack G. Falk, GO #49, XII Air Force
- (b) 2nd Lt. William C. Bachman Jr., GO #49, XII Air Force
- (c) 2nd Lt. Talmadge A. Buchanan Jr., GO #49, XII Air Force
- (d) 2nd Lt. Donald K. Burklund, GO #49, XII Air Force
- (e) 2nd Lt. William C. Cimino, GO #49, XII Air Force
- (f) 2nd Lt. Merwin W. Wallace, GO #49, XII Air Force
- (g) 2nd Lt. Ralph E. Wilcox, GO #49, XII Air Force
- (h) F/O Charles R. Callaway, GO #49, XII Air Force
- (i) 2nd Lt. Howard T. Moore, GO #41, XII Air Force
- (j) 2nd Lt. Alford H. Pouse Jr., GO #41, XII Air Force
- (k) 2nd Lt. Frederick A. Weihe Jr., GO #41, XII Air Force
- (l) 2nd Lt. Cecil E. Welsh Jr., GO #41, XII Air Force
- (m) F/O Thomas E. Brock, GO #41, XII Air Force
- (n) F/O Donald C. Hensler, GO #41, XII Air Force
- (o) 2nd Lt. Richard L. Rozar, GO #41, XII Air Force

- (p) James R. Andrews, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (q) Sgt Charles L. Bass, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (r) Sgt William H. Chase, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (s) Sgt John A. Griffin, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (t) Sgt James T. Hatcher, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (u) Sgt Joseph M. Jeczewski, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (v) Sgt Harold J. Kirwan, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (w) Sgt Emanuel Krider, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (x) Sgt Richard D. Pelusi, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (y) Sgt John J. Reda, GO #37, XII Air Force
- (z) Sgt Homer W. Swann, GO #37, XII Air Force

k War Diary enclosed.

Paul T Cooper
PAUL T. COOPER, *(initials)*
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

446TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF

SQUADRON MISSIONS FOR MARCH 1945

Squadron Mission No. 526
 TARGET: Weather Reconnaissance

Date: 2 March 1945
 446th Planes: 1

Capt. Hurley was the pilot. Mission accomplished. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 527
 TARGET: San Michele Main Br & Diversion, Italy
 Type of Bombs: Incend.

DATE: 3 March 1945
 446th Planes: 3

Major Farwell led the formation. Gun positions reported well hit. Flak was heavy, moderate, fairly accurate thirty seconds on run and break-away.

Squadron Mission No. 528
 TARGET: Ala Rail Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 4 March 1945
 446th Planes: 14

Capt. Myers led the formation. First flight hit railway about 200 yards N of bridge and in river bed just E and short of target. Second flight hit S approach and possibly bridge itself. Anti-flak ships report hits on S part of gun area. Flak was scant, inaccurate at anti-flak a/c, none at formation.

Squadron Mission No. 529
 TARGET: Ponte di Piave Div. Rail Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 4 March 1945
 446th Planes: 1

Lt. Rigler led the formation. All bombs in target area. Excellent concentration on SW overwater span. Bridge believed well hit. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 530
 TARGET: San Ambrogio Rail Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 6 March 1945
 446th Planes: 18

Capt. Smedley led the formation. Excellent patterns starting short but carrying well on to target with direct hits probable. Flak was heavy, scant to moderate, inaccurate. No fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 531
 TARGET: Longarone Rail Bridge, Mantua E. Rail Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 7 March 1945
 446th Planes: 9

Capt. Ingram led the formation. First flight bombed on second pass, first box of six hit road and rail bridge S of Longarone. Three a/c bombed primary but hit N and W of bridge, second flight of eight a/c did not bomb primary due to clouds and turbulence but hit alternate with excellent concentration. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 532
 TARGET: Bologna/Adriatic Area, Italy
 Type of Bombs: Propaganda Leaflets

DATE: 7 March 1945
 446th Planes: 6

Capt. Swanson led the formation. Mission accomplished. Flak was heavy, moderate, fairly accurate, three planes holed. No fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 533
 TARGET: Rovereto Rail Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb. and 100 lb. phosphorus

DATE: 8 March 1945
 446th Planes: 13

Lt. Col. Cassidy led the formation. All patterns formed close concentration, bridge hit. Six anti-flak a/c divided effort between AA positions with good results. Flak was heavy, scant and then moderate to intense, accurate. Nine planes holed, one man wounded.

Squadron Mission No. 534
 TARGET: San Michele Diversion Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 9 March 1945
 446th Planes: 12

Lt. Morton led the formation. The first flight was forced off the bomb run to avoid a 310th Group formation and attacked the alternate. The second flight hit the diversion at the S junction of the fill and also E of the fill with possible hits on fill itself. Scarecrow flak observed in Ora area. One ME-109 passed within 2000 yds of formation, circled and turned away.

Squadron Mission No. 535
 TARGET: Weather Reconnaissance
 Type of Bombs: - - -

DATE: 9 March 1945
 446th Planes: 1

Capt. Hurley was the pilot. Mission accomplished. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 536
 TARGET: Weather Reconnaissance

DATE: 10 March 1945
 446th Planes: 1

Capt. Hurley led the formation. Missions accomplished. Heavy flak observed, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 537
 TARGET: Peri Rail Fill, Pontetidone Rail Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 11 March 1945
 446th Planes: 17

Lt. Crisp and Capt. Ingram were the leaders. Main concentration at primary believed E of tracks. Nine a/c did not bomb primary due to short and turbulent run. Reported alternate, Pontetidone well hit on W end and approach. Flak was heavy, moderate to intense, accurate. Six planes holed, one man wounded. No fighters. Lt. Capalety returned early because of hydraulic leak.

Squadron Mission No. 538
 TARGET: Ala Rail Bridge, Italy
 Type of Bombs: 1000 lb. Incend. (446th)

DATE: 12 March 1945
 446th Planes: 3

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Lt. Norton led the formation. One close pattern on bridge; another started short but carried through. Reports gun position bracketed by WP. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 539

TARGET: S. Margherite N. Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 12 March 1945
446th Planes: 12

Capt. Ingram led the 446th. Bombs hit a little short of target and walked through the bridge to the river with possible hits on bridge. Flak was heavy, scant, inaccurate. No fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 540

TARGET: Vosinistro Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 13 March 1945
446th Planes: 3

Capt. Lyons led the formation. Fifteen a/c bombed primary bridge with excellent patterns, possibly also hitting road bridge just east of target. Three a/c attacked alternate scoring concentration on east approach. Flak was heavy, scant, inaccurate, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 541

TARGET: Vo Sinistro Rail Fill, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 13 March 1945
446th Planes: 13

Capt. Smedley led the formation. Primary well hit with excellent concentration by first flight. Second flight bombed alternate, due to not picking up primary in time. Flak was heavy, scant, inaccurate, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 542

TARGET: Vipiteno Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: Incend.

DATE: 14 March 1945
446th Planes: 3

Lt. Bowling led the formation. Clouds obscured target after bombs were released preventing observation. Bomb smoke was observed to cover target area. Last element over target unable to bomb. Anti-flak elements reported that all three gun positions were effectively hit. Flak was heavy, scant, inaccurate, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 543

TARGET: Mulldorf Rail Fill, Austria
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 15 March 1945
446th Planes: 9

Capt. Leonard led the formation. Bombs of first flight centered squarely on bridge with good concentration. Second flight hit N approach. Several reports of gap in bridge after attack. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 545

TARGET: Pontetidone Rail Bridge, Italy (alt)
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 17 March 1945
446th Planes: 18

Capt. Ingram led the formation. Alternate target attacked because of weather enroute to the primary. Patterns crossed bridge and the W approach with direct hits reported on bridge. No flak, no fighters.

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Squadron Mission No. 546

TARGET: Romano di Lombardia Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 18 March 1945
446th Planes: 18

Capt. Ingram led the formation. Finding primary weathered in, all ships made two passes at alternate, but due to cloud interference only three ships bombed. Believed hit short on E bank of river. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 547

TARGET: Ora Rail Diversion Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 19 March 1945
446th Planes: 18

Capt. Kimble led the formation. The anti-flak a/c had excellent coverage of the gun area. No flak fired at main formation which bombed across N approach to the bridge and the fill S of the bridge. Flak at anti-flak element was heavy, moderate, accurate. Two men wounded. No fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 548

TARGET: Le Cave Station Yards, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 20 March 1945
446th Planes: 9

Capt. Crisp led the formation. First flight laid pattern across center of M/Y while the second flight bombed across S. end. Flak was heavy, moderate, accurate to inaccurate. No fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 549

TARGET: Spilimbergo Ammo Dump, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb. (Shoran)

DATE: 20 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Capt. Rice led the formation. Three runs were made on target but fading signals on Bomb run prevented from dropping. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 550

TARGET: Campo S. Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000lb. M-47 W.P. and 1000 lb.

DATE: 21 March 1945
446th Planes: 3

Capt. Hurley was the leader. One anti-flak element was unable to bomb the 12 gun positions because of clouds. The other element over-shot the gun position hitting the mountain side. Flak was heavy, moderate to intense, fairly accurate. Two planes holed. No fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 551

TARGET: Campo N. Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 21 March 1945
446th Planes: 12

Major Smedley led the formation. Flash photos showed that bomb patterns cut N approach. Bridge probably not hit. Flak was heavy, moderate to intense, accurate. Nine ships holed, one lost. One man wounded.

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Squadron Mission No. 552

TARGET: Palmonova/Medeuzza Ammo Dump, Italy
Type of Bombs: 100 lb. G.P. (Shoran)

DATE: 22 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Lt. Kendall led the formation. Mission abortive due to failure to pick up signals; weather prevented visual bombing. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 553

TARGET: Muhlberg Rail Bridge, Austria
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 22 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Capt. Ingram led the formation. Flash photos show that well concentrated bomb patterns started short of bridge and extended across S end and approach. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 554

TARGET: Longarone Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 23 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Lt. Kendall led the formation. First flight dropped on first run hitting S approach. Second and third flights made second run covering the bridge with a good concentration. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 555

TARGET: Muhlberg Rail Bridge, Austria
Canneto Rail Bridge, Italy (Alt)
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 24 March 1945
446th Planes: 9

Capt. Morton led the formation. First flight after two unsuccessful runs on primary attacked alternate, first box of six releasing on second run, third element on first run. All bombs short. Second flight bombed primary, first box of six on second run, third element on first run. Patterns crossed the bridge. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 556 (Alt)

TARGET: Ora Main Rail Bridge, Chiari Rail Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 24 March 1945
446th Planes: 1

Capt. Collins led the formation. Alternate was attacked because of weather at primary. First flight hit short of SE approach. Second flight made a second run and put patterns across the E end of bridge. Direct hits on bridge were reported. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 557

TARGET: Ora Rail Diversion Bridge, Italy
Palazzolo Rail Bridge, Italy (Alt)
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 24 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Capt. Farwell (anti-flak) and Major Farwell were the leaders. Alternate bombed due to cloud cover at primary. Excellent concentration in target area. Flak was heavy, scant, fairly accurate on anti-flak a/c, none at main formation. One plane holed, no fighters.

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Squadron Mission No. 558

TARGET: Volargne Rail Fill, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb. (Shoran)

DATE: 25 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Lt. Fleming led the formation. First flight unable to synchroniz on signals did not bomb. Second flight trying visual pass also did not drop. Third flight dropped with special equipment on first run, bombs over and slightly left. Flak was heavy, moderate, accurate. No fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 559

TARGET: Muhlberg Rail Bridge, Austria
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 25 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Capt. Kimble led the formation. Second flight bombed on first run, pattern falling across N end of bridge. First flight bombed on second run hitting both approaches. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 560

TARGET: Bologna Area, Italy
Type of Bombs: Propoganda Leaflets

DATE: 29 March 1945
446th Planes: 9

Major Smedley led the formation. Mission accomplished. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 561

TARGET: Palazollo Rail Bridge, Italy (Alt)
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 30 March 1945
446th Planes: 18

Capt. Crisp led the formation. Two patterns over with bombs in factory area to NE and on dam to N. One pattern across E end of bridge and approach with probable direct hits. First six ships of first flight dropped on first run, third element first flight and entire second flight dropped on second run. No flak, no fighters.

Squadron Mission No. 562

TARGET: Legnago Rail Diversion Bridge, Italy
Type of Bombs: 1000 lb.

DATE: 31 March 1945
446th Planes: 6

Lt. Berge led the formation. Special equipment faded out near target and cloud build-up prevented Norden run on primary. Alternate bombed by lead six a/c with sight. Hits on E end and approach scored. No flak, no fighters.

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S E C R E TWAR DIARY FOR MARCH 1945

March 1.

Usual squadron duties are performed as no mission is flown.

March 2.

Our squadron flies a weather mission without incident.

March 3.

Routine work is carried out by all personnel as there is no mission flown.

March 4.

Two combat missions are flown, the second one having 14 planes.

March 5.

Regular squadron duties are carried out and we catch up on back work.

March 6.

A big mail call today and the morale of the squadron climbs. The mission is led by Capt. Smedley as we send 18 ships as our part of the combat flight.

March 7.

Capt. Ingram leads the mission as the weather continues to permit the group to pound the Brenner Pass line.

March 8.

Col. Cassidy, the group CO, flies the lead in today's mission as the squadron sends up 13 planes against communications lines along the Brenner route.

March 9.

More mail late in the afternoon. Another combat mission is flown.

March 10.

Our ship flies the weather reconnaissance flight as the group again goes in the heavily-defended Brenner area.

March 11.

Another batch of mail, this time mostly old mail of a month or more ago. Lt. Crisp and Capt. Ingram lead the mission.

March 12.

Capt. Ingram is again called upon to lead the B-25 's against targets in the Brenner area.

March 13.

Two missions are flown, Capt. Smedley leading one of them.

March 14.

A small batch of mail arrives as the squadron gets off another mission.

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March 15.

Today is the second anniversary of combat for the 321st Bomb Group, as we flew the first mission on March 15th, 1943, with Ain M'Lila as our base. In that time the group has compiled quite an impressive record, flying in support of six amphibious operations, credited with participation in five campaigns in the Mediterranean area, and 15,800 sorties. We have dropped 20,000 tons of bombs on all types of targets and have a long list of "first" to our credit. Ceremonies are held at our base on Corsica, Major Gen. John K. Cannon being the honor guest.

March 16.

The third year of combat for the group begins as the Battle of Brenner Pass continues.

March 17.

Saint Patrick's Day turns out to be one we'll long remember as the squadron orderly room, a wooden building, catches fire at around 2030 hours and burns to the ground in short order. Fortunately, no-one was hurt and the greater part of the records were saved. Operations had moved into the structure shortly before the fire and much of their paper work was damaged.

March 18.

Promotions are posted. Dobrow is made a Staff Sgt. with Sanders, J. M. Taylor and Knopp new Sergeants.

March 19.

Newest Captains in the squadron are Kimble and Crisp and 1st Lieutenants include Bogan, Everhart, Gahn, Fein, Long and O'Connor. An 18-plane mission is flown to Ora, Italy.

March 20.

Captain Smedley, the Operations officer, is promoted to Major. Capt. Ottem and Lt. Gallagher gets those precious orders to return to the states.

March 21.

Lieut. Everhart's ship is lost over Campo railroad bridge in northern Italy as the squadron sends out 15 planes. Other crewmen missing are Lt. Falk, Flight Officer Callaway, and Sgts. Scheetz, Springer and Wilkins.

March 22.

21 fortunate enlisted men are given promotions as a 12-plane mission is flown. New Technical Sgts are: Karuzas, Lamm, Kelly, Utz and Ross;; Staffs include Anderson, Benedict, Carl, Falls, Freck, Jakielek, McEun, Beck, Martin, Broderick, Englehaupt, Fitzgerald, Hoddridge and Moncure.

March 23.

Capt. Northrup of Armament heads for the good old states. Combat personnel heading for the U.S.A. are Lt. Perlman and Sgts. Haxby and Murch

March 24.

Routine squadron duties as the squadron prepares to move to Italy once again. Shipping boxes come out of hiding and we begin wondering how we'll get all our belongings in the luggage allowed.

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March 25.

A 12-plane mission is flown as more belated mail arrives for the squadron.

March 26.

Usual duties are performed and more preparations are made for the move.

March 27.

Another non-flying day and more packing is done by one and all.

March 28.

Sgt. Cornelius leaves the squadron for higher headquarters; he flew his missions as a radio gunner.

March 29.

The squadron serves as dispenser of the news for German troops as 9 ships are sent out on a nickelling mission to northern Italy.

March 30.

Lieuts. Sherline and Williams are made 1st lieutenants and the squadron contributes 18 planes to the mission.

March 31.

A six-plane mission to Legnago, Italy, is flown in the morning and Pay Call is held, so every one is happy.