

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.2

AIR FORCE: FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
 COMMAND: XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
 WING: 61TH FIGHTER WING
 GROUP: 358TH FIGHTER GROUP
 SQUADRON: 366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
 DATES INCLUDED: 1 JANUARY 45 TO 31 JANUARY 45.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Present designation.	Page 1	Outline History
Strength	Page 1	"
Present Station	Page 1	"
Operations	Page 1	"
Leaders of outstanding missions	Page 1	"
Losses in action	Page 2	"
Awards	Page 2	"
Awards, (cont'd)	Page 3	"
War Diary	Pages 1, 2, 3	War Diary
Mission Reports	Incls 1 to 19	Incl.

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.2

OUTLINE HISTORY, 366th Fighter Squadron, January 1945.

- a. Present designation: 358th Fighter group, 64th Fighter Wing.
- b. Changes in organization: Negative.
- c. Strength: 57 Officers, 247 Enlisted Men.
- d. Present Station: A-90, Toul, France since 11 Nov 44.
- e. Movements: Negative.
- f. Campaigns: Negative.
- g. Operations:

(1) Squadron flew 43 missions during the month of January. Missions were of various types with armed reconnaissance in close support of ground troops predominating.

(2) Number of missions, 43 . Number of sorties, 440 .

(3) Outstanding Missions.

(a) Mission of 9 Jan 45 against enemy aircraft.

1. Squadron was on an armed reconnaissance mission when "Elite" told them to run a reconnaissance around Selz where they were bounced by 20 plus Me 109's.

2. Squadron was flying at 9,000 feet when ten Me 109's with fixed tail wheels bounced them as another ten plus stayed up at 15,000 feet and circled. All bombs were jettisoned when bounced and in the ensuing combat 5 Me 109's were destroyed and the rest fled east into the overcast. Squadron suffered no losses or damages.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(b) Mission of 16 January 45 against town of Offendorf, enemy motor transport and troops.

1. Target of Offendorf was town containing concentration of enemy troops, around town was flak positions and enemy motor transportation.

2. Squadron dropped all their bombs on Offendorf, leaving the town in flames, then strafed vehicles, foxholes and flak positions. Wing commended the squadron on its exceptional job of bombing the town of Offendorf and on the performance of the day's mission as a whole.

h. Leaders of outstanding missions:

It Joe W. Teat was the leader of both missions.

- (4) Captain Thomas M. Hergert (AM, 1st, 2nd OLC).
 Captain Andrew J. Nemshick (AM, 1st, 2nd OLC).
 Captain Fred L. Hillis (2nd OLC).
 1st Lt Donald O. Scherer, (AM, 1st OLC).
 1st Lt Guy N. Veldboon, (AM, 1st OLC).
 1st Lt Roy L. Kilpatrick, (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th OLC).
 1st Lt James E. Morris, Jr. (9th, 10th OLC).
 1st Lt Hugh J. Smith, (9th, 10th, 11th OLC).
 1st Lt Joe W. Test, (9th OLC).
 1st Lt Robert H. Rice, (10th, 11th, 12th OLC).
 1st Lt David E. Keever, (11th, 12th OLC).
 1st Lt Craig C. McCall (12th OLC).
 1st Lt Ernest R. Given, Jr. (13th, 14th, OLC).
 1st Lt Charles H. Maehrlein (13th, 14th OLC).
 1st Lt Harold L. McClellan, (15th OLC).
 2nd Lt Scott R. Allard, (AM, 1st, 2nd, 3rd OLC).
 2nd Lt Domenic A. Coppolino, (AM).
 2nd Lt George M. Graber, (AM).
 2nd Lt James O. Hall, (1st OLC).
 2nd Lt Thomas P. Halloran (AM).
 2nd Lt Henry H. Jones, (AM, 1st OLC).
 2nd Lt Paul M. Hughes, (AM).
 2nd Lt Harold D. Wayham, (AM).
 2nd Lt John Weinnig, Jr. (1st OLC).
 2nd Lt Roy E. Ireland (3rd, 4th, 5th OLC).
 2nd Lt Robert A. Perry (3rd, 4th OLC).
 2nd Lt Raymond E. Smith, Jr. (3rd, 4th, 5th, OLC).
 2nd Lt Stanley J. Stepanek, Jr. (3rd, 4th OLC).
 2nd Lt Paul E. Williams, (3rd, 4th, 5th OLC).
 2nd Lt Richard T. Birnie, (4th, 5th OLC).
 2nd Lt Dofel J. Brunetti, (4th, 5th OLC).
 2nd Lt Thomas T. Kilfoyle, Jr. (4th, 5th, 6th, 7th OLC).
 2nd Lt Lyle M. Lovell, (4th, 5th OLC).
 2nd Lt Alvin D. Johnson, (5th, 6th, OLC).
 2nd Lt Frank C. Hannold (6th, 7th OLC).
 2nd Lt Robert M. Leety, (6th OLC).
 2nd Lt Wendell J. Roberson, (6th, 7th, 8th OLC).
 2nd Lt Stephen A. Manning, Jr. (7th, 8th, 9th OLC).
 2nd Lt Elmer R. Brown (9th, 10th OLC).

(a) Mission: Participation in missions flown by this squadron, Armed Reconnaissance, Fighter Sweeps, Patrols etc.

(b) Act: Having completed the required number of missions, sorties, the number of enemy aircraft destroyed.

(c) Award: Air Medal and Oak Leaf clusters to the Air Medal previously awarded. Awarded per Par 4, GO #1 Hq XII Tactical Air Command, 4 Jan 45.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

War Diary, 366th Fighter Squadron, 350th Fighter Group, A-90, Toul, France
January 1945.

- 1 Today is the squadrons second anniversary of activation. Just over one year of that time in operation, the first year of operation having been completed 19 Dec 44. Thirty enlisted men of the original fifty four on the initial roster are still members of the squadron. Of the first four officers assigned to the squadron Lt Col. Therriault, our first Commanding Officer, is now Deputy Group Commander and Lt Col. Bartnick, our first Adjutant, is now Group Executive Officer. The New Years Eve dance sponsored by the Red Cross was called off at the last moment. Lt Brunetti missing after todays mission.
- 2 Lt Raymond E. Smith, Jr. is missing in action after the second mission of the day. He was hit by flak in the vicinity of Grombach in enemy territory. Squadron Defense Officer, Lt Kiernan held a dry-run practice of this squadrons part in the Station defense plan.
- 3 Capt Pearlman, Lt Rathgeber and Lt Taylor take off on flight to England. Cessna C-78 piloted by Lt Taylor cracks up in landing. No one was injured and airplane not badly damaged. Left landing gear gave way and airplane was landed on belly.
- 4 All personnel are required to carry their weapons with them at all times. U S O Show "Keep 'Em Rolling" featuring Joe McKenna and cast is shown at Special Service Theater. Weather is cold with snow flurries.
- 5 Cpl Asaro was injured when the jeep he was driving skidded from the road and hit two trees. In attempting to avoid hitting a French truck on icy road he received a fracture of the right leg and laceration over the right eye.
- 6 Major Hackler our Commanding Officer is placed on D.S. to HQ XII Tactical Air Command. Capt Wilson, Operations Officer assumes command during his absence. It's snowing today, sky overcast and no mission scheduled.
- 7 Due to the snowfall of yesterday and last night the snow removal team as organized by Lt Bendt goes into action for the first time. Eighty men and pilots with two airplanes make up team. Men start shoveling at 0500 and pilots start blowing snow at 0600, our portion of runway is clear at 0745. The U S O Show "The Harlem Express" with Paul and his Rhythm Rockets and Nelson Bryant and his golden voice Trumpet, is given at the Special Service Theater tonight.
- 8 Runway covered with snow again this morning. Snow removal plan revised, planes start blowing snow at 0500 and removal team on runway at 0600. Runway clear at 0730. Results of Saturday's inspection published today. We rated an Excellent in the Administrative Site and Mess Hall, but got a Very Satisfactory in the living site.
- 9 Lt Test led the squadron on the second mission of the day in which five Me-109's were destroyed with no loss or damage of our own. The Red Cross Aero Club published schedule of dances, a dance is to be held for different units on the station each Saturday night.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
War Diary, 366th Fighter Squadron, 358th Ftr GP, January 1945, cont'd.

- 10 An enemy jet Aircraft was observed on the second mission of the day by Lt. Manning who led the squadron. No contact was made. The mail situation is quite a topic of conversation. No mail except Christmas packages, newspapers has been received since before Christmas with the exception of a few V-mail letters. fellows are getting anxious about their mail.
- 11 No missions were flown today, too much snow and generally bad weather. Word is received that Nancy is on limits and plans are made for a liberty run for men on their days off. Work completed on small Niessen hut which is to be used for washing pots, pans, mess kits etc. at mess hall.
- 12 Liberty run to Nancy begins. Truck leaves squadron area at 0830 goes to barracks in town and picks up fellows there leaving at 0930 for Nancy. Returns from Nancy at 1700 hrs each day. Movie tonight "Sweet and Low-down" with Linda Darnell and Benny Goodman.
- 13 Work is practically completed on the new power lines that are to furnish station with commercial power. At 1200 hours today power was turned on. As yet the wiring hasn't been completed in our area but we hope to have it done soon. Two missions were flown today.
- 14 Squadron flew four missions in spite of the fact that operating in adverse weather conditions is very difficult. On Saturday's inspection we rated an Excellent for the Living Site, Mess Hall and Tech Site.
- 15 Major Hackler our Commanding Officer returns to the U. S. for thirty day leave. Major Samuel L. Hitchcock is assigned from Group Headquarters and assumes command. We received three new airplanes to replace recent losses. Airplanes were assigned to Crew chiefs S/Sgts Miller, Blackwell and Grebing.
- 16 Cpl Zaleski leaves squadron for return to U. S. under VHS rotation plan. The first group Discussion Meeting for enlisted men is held in the Base Theater. Capt B. L. Rush, Group AIC spoke on the topic "The Western Front". Men are enthusiastic about meeting and express desire to attend them more often. Wing commended squadron on the excellent results of the first mission of today.
- 17 Miss Anne Little of the Aero Club resumed her French class at the Aero Club. Miss Little is an excellent French teacher and several members of the squadron attend her French classes. It's snowing and very cold again today. No mission flown.
- 18 Another G. I. show tonight. "High Voltage", cast of 23 and a 12 piece band. New seats have been installed in theater and more stoves have been added. Theater is much improved and warm.
- 19 High winds last night collapsed the Merton Hanger at the line. Lt Kilfoyle is missing from today's first mission. The last time he was seen he was strafing a vehicle which exploded as he passed over it.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

War Diary, 366th Ftr Sq, 358th Ftr Gr, January 1945.

- 20 Information received today states that Nancy is off limits to members of this organization so today is the last day of our liberty run until it is again placed on limits. No missions were flown today.
- 21 Capt Graft, Executive Officer, called a Non-Com's meeting today. Non-Com's meetings are held pretty often and it helps a lot to bring the problems, pet-peeves etc. of the men out in the open and discuss them freely. Much good has come from these meetings and they are held frequently.
- 22 We had a nice mail call tonight. Lots of letters finally came in and everyone is quite a bit happier over the mail situation.
- 23 It continues very cold and there's plenty of snow but all are rather comfortable as tents are very effectively winterized and although we don't get much coal the supply of wood is adequate. Captain Wilson is promoted to Major and Lt Gilbert is promoted to 1st Lieutenant. One mission was flown today.
- 24 The NCO Club held a general meeting for the election of officers. Due to the small percentage of attendance because of the cold and deep snow it was decided to hold the election at a later date. S/Sgt Hobza was reduced to grade of Private for accidentally discharging a weapon. He was also fined \$25.00.
- 25 Weather still cloudy and skies overcast so we are unable to get a mission off today. Several members of the squadron are regularly enjoying the hospitality of homes in Goul. Of course there is a girl friend in the deal, but several fellows are lauding the hospitality of some of the folks they have met.
- 26 Everybody is very enthusiastic about the progress the Russians are making in their new drive. Practically all the news is good and the fellows are beginning to think there may be a possibility of this war ending sometime after all. A big help in keeping up with the news is the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune which some of the fellows have subscribed to and issues are coming in regularly now.
- 27 Personnel living in the barracks in town are instructed to move back to the area before the end of the month. Vacant tents are being winterized and fixed up for the movement.
- 28 We started taking sulfadiazine tablets today as a preventative for upper respiratory diseases. Officers have been designated to dispense the tablets and see that pill is swallowed with half canteen cup of water.
- 29 Our radio stopped playing today. Communications personnel checked the tubes and found that the full wave rectifier tube was burned out. It surely is quiet around the area with no music and news on the Tannoy.
- 30 One of our KVA's burned out, leaving us temporarily without electricity. However at about 1200 hours today we began using the commercial power.
- 31 Everyone has moved out of the barracks and all are now in the area. Lt Wayham was killed when he tried to bring his airplane back after it had been hard hit by flak. He crashed a few miles from the Station.

SECRET

Missions No. 353 thru 361
1 January 1945

Air Operations Order Nos.
17, 20, 22, 25 XII TAC
Close Support

	<u>A1</u>	<u>A2</u>
White	Lt. Maehrlein Lt. Weinnig Lt. Allard Lt. Malloran	Lt. Given Lt. Williams Lt. Graber
Red	Captain Mergert Lt. Coppolino Lt. Manning Lt. Stepanek	Lt. Scherer Lt. Wilke Lt. R.E. Smith Lt. Merrick
Yellow	Captain Hillis F/O Horst Lt. Brunetti Lt. Hall	Lt. Brown Lt. Jones Captain Mergert Lt. Birnie
	<u>A3</u>	<u>A4</u>
White	Major Hackler Lt. Hughes Lt. Keever Lt. Roberson	Colonel Hipton Lt. Stepanek Lt. Manning Lt. Birnie
Red	Lt. McClellan Lt. Wayman Captain Henshick Lt. Lovell	Lt. West F/O Horst Captain Hillis Lt. Hall
Yellow	Lt. Gilbert Lt. Weinnig Lt. Allard Lt. Malloran	Lt. Harnold F/O Bayus Lt. Williams Lt. Graber
Blue		Lt. Scherer Lt. Merrick

Lt. Maehrlein led the first mission that took-off at 0822, over the briefed area from 0900 to 0920, and landed at 0935. Each aircraft carried two 500 pound GP and one frag bomb. While en route to the target a dog fight was observed northeast of Hamburg. All bombs were immediately jettisoned and the squadron joined the fight. Captain Hillis destroyed one Me 109 F and damaged two. Lt. Hall damaged another Me 109 F. Lt. Brunetti is missing and is reported to have bailed out north of LaGuenau in enemy territory. The weather was CAVU.

Squadron History, 1 January 1945 (Cont'd)

Lt. Given led the second mission today which took-off at 1055 being over the briefed area from 1125 to 1225 and landed at 1245. They gave close support to our ground forces. Many vehicles were seen between Pirmasens and Landau going east and west. They carried GP's, frags, and WP bombs. Baggage told the squadron to contact Elite at Eguenau and Elite directed them to Landau to look for motor vehicles but they could not find them. A tank heading west at R-0866 was bombed and damaged by a near miss. Two more tanks heading west were then bombed at R-0667 but all bombs missed. The road and rails were cut due to the bombing at R-0866 too. At Q-9866 a tank was damaged by strafing and a vehicle destroyed by a direct hit by the bombs. There was six direct hits on the road and they made five plus strafing passes destroying 10 vehicles and damaging 10. One tank was destroyed at R-0567 by bombing. It seemed to buckle when the bombs hit extremely close to it. The flak was heavy and moderate over Neustadt. The weather was CAVU with a slight haze.

Major Hackler led the third mission today which took-off at 1340 being over the briefed area from 1415 to 1455 and landed at 1515 hours. The flak encountered was heavy and light over Bitche. A convoy was seen moving south at Q-695485 of 10 to 12 vehicles. Atkin told the squadron not to strafe it but the convoy shot at our squadron. There were no panels or stars on the vehicles. Atkin then turned the squadron to Atkin "B" at Bitche. Atkin "B" told squadron to bomb the crossroads at Q-763504 which was marked with red and white smoke and twenty hits were observed in the target and 4 near misses. At Q-773558 two trucks complete with six to seven personnel were destroyed by strafing. They blew up and must have been ammunition trucks. Three long trucks in a woods at Q-775553 was damaged by strafing. Two trucks heading southwest were destroyed by strafing at Q-811594.

Colonel Tipton led the last mission today which took-off at 1550 being over the briefed area from 1615 to 1655 and landed at 1730 hours. They carried 500 pound GP's 8-11 second delay bombs. Baggage sent them to Q-7650 where there was reported to have been fifty vehicles but they could not be found. There was a great deal of vehicles seen on the roads heading north. Two flak positions and one vehicle was destroyed at Q-9854 and six vehicles were damaged. At Q-910505 one flak position and one vehicle was damaged by strafing. Five vehicles and one flak position was damaged by bombs at Q-8558.

CLAIMS FOR 1 JANUARY 1945

	<u>DEST</u>	<u>DAM</u>
Planes in air (Me 109F)	1	3
Tanks	1	2
Road cut	2	
Rail cut	1	
Vehicles	16	25
Flak positions	1	2

SECRET

Missions No. 361 thru 364
2 January 1944

Air Operations Order No.
15, 18 & 21 XIII TAC
Close Support & Armed Recce

White	Lt. Maehrlein Lt. Wilke Lt. Allard Lt. Halloran	Lt. Given Lt. Wayham Lt. Williams Lt. Lovell	Lt. H.J. Smith Lt. Hughes Lt. Roberson Lt. Hall
Red	Lt. Brown Lt. Stepanek Lt. Birnie Capt. Hillis	Lt. Scherer Lt. Weinnig Lt. R.E. Smith Lt. Hamrick	Capt. Nemshick F/O Bayus Lt. Graber Lt. Wilke
Yellow	Lt. Test F/O Horst	Capt. McClellan Lt. Jones Capt. Hergert Lt. Manning	Lt. Allard Lt. Halloran

The first mission led by Lt. Maehrlein took-off at 0755, over the briefed area from 0830 to 0930, and landed at 0950. Light week flak was encountered. Rail activity and a few fires were observed. A bivouac area and tracks in the snow were observed at Q-8560. The total bomb load dropped on the enemy was twenty 500 pound GP's and 10 frag bombs resulting in the destruction of three locomotives, four rail cars, cutting two rails and the damaging of four locomotives, 47 rail cars, two marshalling yards and one building. The area involved was from base to Pirmasens, Kaiserlautern, Bad Kreuznach, Alzey, Enkenbach, Neustadt and back to base.

Lt. Given led the second mission that took-off at 1058, over the briefed area from 1130 to 1230, and landed at 1058. Intense light and moderate light flak were encountered. Seventeen black Me 109-E's were seen directly over Bitchie at 1200 hours at 11,000 feet. Seven of our aircraft jettisoned their bombs but were unable to overtake the enemy planes. Baggage turned squadron over to Elite, Elite to Horsefly but the designated target could not be found. Rail activity and road traffic were observed. Four GP's and two frag bombs cut tracks in two places. Six GP's and three frags destroyed three flat cars and three tanks upon them. Strafing resulted in the damaging of 37 box cars, eleven motor transport, one tank, and one supply depot. Lt. R.E. Smith was hit by flak near Grombach. The weather was CAVU.

SECRET

SECRET

Squadron History, cont'd., 2 January 1944.

Lt. H.J. Smith led the first mission that carried twenty 500 pound GP and ten frag bombs. The take-off was at 1415, over briefed area from 1450 to 1550, and landed at 1615. Light weak flak was encountered. The squadron contacted Atkin Fox who directed squadron to bomb entrenchments at Q-3471. The target was marked with white smoke. All bombs were dropped on this target and only three bombs did not land in the target area. Two strafing passes were also made in this area. There was a slight haze with visibility unlimited.

CLAIMS

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>P/D</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Locomotives	3		4
RR Cars	9		67
Rails cut	4		
M/Y			2
Buildings			2
Motor transport	2		5
Tanks	3		1
Supply Dump			1

SECRET

Missions No. 365 & 366
4 January 1945

Air Operations Order Nos. 17 & 18.
XII TAC
Armed Recce and Close Support

#1

White Lt. Rice
Lt. Stepanek
Lt. Brown
Lt. Kilpatrick

Red Lt. Test
Lt. Hughes
Capt. Hillis
Lt. Hall

Yellow Capt. Hemshick
Lt. Wayham
Lt. Lovell
Lt. Williams

#2

Capt. Hergert
Lt. Wilke
Lt. Scherer
Lt. Hamrick

Lt. Manning
Lt. Coppolino
Lt. Sirnie
Lt. Jones

Capt. McSlellan
F/O Horst
Lt. Roberson
Lt. Graber

Lt. Rice led the first mission today which took-off at 1035 being over the briefed area from 1102 to 1200 and landed at 1220 hours. The squadron contacted Atkin. Atkin Jr. told the squadron to bomb Zweibrücken through the overcast. Twenty-four 500 lb. GP's and eleven frags were dropped but no results were observed due to the heavy overcast. The squadron then went on a weather recce to Offenburg for "Atkin". One burst of heavy and light weak flak was encountered over Homburg.

Captain Hergert led the second and last mission today which took-off at 1335 being over the briefed area from 1403 to 1505 and landed at 1525 hours. All our vehicles were marked plainly by cerise panels at Q-840421. At Q-855422, they observed seven plus enemy armored vehicles after the bombs were dropped also 3 medium fires that looked like houses on fire. They bombed and strafed the troops at Q-855422 with tanks and M/T's in the woods. It was very good coverage. Baggage gave wrong steer to one of the flights but Elite broke in and vectored them correctly at 1400. Our troops were slow in marking the target with white smoke. The enemy put white smoke southeast of target near our troops. They contacted Elite and was turned over to Horsefly who took them to target at Q-850430. They dropped twenty 500 lb GP's and ten frags and strafed the enemy troops, tanks and vehicles in the valley and woods along secondary roads. A good bombing pattern was observed and they covered the area by strafing. No results were observed at 1445 hours. They observed occasional medium explosions from strafing at Q-855422. The flak was light and heavy at Saargemines (Q-515570) and moderate and heavy at Q-560600.

No Claims.

Missions Nos. 567 & 568
5 January 1945

Air Operations Order Nos. 16 & 19.
XII TAC
Close Support and Armed Recon

#1

White Lt. Given
F/C Bayus
Lt. Hammold
Lt. Williams

Red Lt. Gilbert
Lt. Weinmig
Lt. Allard
Lt. Halloran

Yellow Lt. Manning
Lt. Coppolino
Lt. Birnie
Lt. Jones

#2

Lt. Smith, F
Lt. Hughes
Lt. Roberson
Lt. Hall

Lt. Wayham
Lt. Ireland
Lt. Lovell

Capt. Hergert
Lt. Wilke
Lt. Scherer
Lt. Stepanek

Lt. Given led the first mission today which took-off at 0950 being over the target area from 1020 to 1200 and landed at 1220 hours. They contacted Elite, Morsefly, Atkin. Atkin Charlie gave them the target. The target was marked fairly well by red smoke. They dropped sixteen 500's and eight frags at Q-6458 and two 500's and 1 frag on a flak position at Q-8557 but observed no results. They observed scattered vehicles along highways heading southwest but there was no concentration of them. A train was seen standing on tracks pointing east with forty plus boxcars two miles east of Zweibrücken. A marshalling yards at Q-6879 had 300 plus boxcars in it. Several fox holes were observed along roads at Q-8078. There was extreme flak fire from whole target area and especially inside the German border and around large towns. It was intense, heavy and light at Q-6465 and intense light at Q-6458. Two 500's and 1 frag was jettisoned unarmed at Q-0005 at 1145 hours and four 500's and two frags at Q-4817. There was a 10/10ths cloud cover tops being 4,000 feet and bottoms 1,000 feet. CAVU along Rhine valley to Saargemines.

Lt. H. J. Smith led the last mission today which took-off at 1321 being over the briefed area from 1355 to 1437 and landed at 1530 hours. The squadron contacted Elite west of Haguenau and they were assigned to attack barracks and camp site 2 miles North-east of Bitche. All the bombs were dropped there and 6 buildings were destroyed (Q-8052). They carried twenty-two 500's and eleven frag bombs. A small amount of vehicles were seen going north at and in the vicinity of Q-8949. The flak was intense, heavy at Bitche and intense and light over the target.

CLAIMS:

DestroyedDamaged

Buildings

6

0

~~SECRET~~

Mission No. 369
8 January 1945

Air Operations Order No. 18
XII TAC
Close Support and Armed Recce

White	Capt. Hergert Lt. Allard Lt. Halloran
Red	Capt. Nemshick F/O Bayus Lt. Williams

Captain Hergert led today's mission which took-off at 0927 being over the target area from 1000 to 1030 and landed at 1047 hours. Our squadron was carrying twelve 500's and six frag bombs. They jettisoned all their bombs unarmed at R-2015 when they were bounced by 13 FW 190's. The FW's started the bounce at 8,000 feet and forced our squadron to jettison our bombs at 10,000 feet. The FW's then left the area heading north at 1,000 feet and we chased them from the area five miles but could not catch up with them. On the FW's fuselage was a broad red stripe with yellow stripes on either side of it in the same position as our old D-Day stripes. Elite tried to vector us to a bridge at R-1310 but we got jumped before that.

CLAIMS: Nil.

~~SECRET~~

Missions No. 370 & 371
9 January 1945

Air Operations Order Nos. 18 & 16.
XII TAC
Close Support

#1

Capt. Hergert
Lt. Weinnig
Lt. Allard
Lt. Halloran

White

Capt. Hemshick
F/O Bayus
Lt. Ireland
Lt. Williams

Red

#2

Lt. Test
Capt. Hillis
Lt. Scherer

Lt. Kilpatrick
Lt. Jones
Lt. Birnie
Lt. Stepanek

Captain Hergert led the first mission today which took-off at 1310 being over the briefed area from 1335 to 1430 and landed at 1515 hours. They contacted "Elite" but he did not have a target but told them to run a recce Northeast of Bitche. They attacked a marshalling yard at R-8854 with 75 boxcars and gondolas in it. The squadron was carrying sixteen 500's and seven WP's and they dropped them all in the yard. Two hits were scored on a building and it was destroyed. Four bombs missed the yard and ten hit in the yard destroying twenty (20) railroad cars. The marshalling yard was damaged. The flak encountered was light and moderate, heavy and weak at R-8854. The roads South of Landau evidently have been frequently used recently for they were cleared of snow. The airdrome at Gernersheim appeared to be unused.

Lt. Test led the last mission today which took-off at 1435 being in the briefed area from 1440 to 1545 and landed at 1615. They contacted "Elite" who in turn told them to run a recce around Selz. At R-1118 our squadron was bounced by ten Me 109's with fixed tail wheels. Our squadron was at 9,000 feet and the e/a was at 15,000 feet. Another ten plus 109's stayed up at 15,000 feet and circled. The attack coordinated with the flak. Prior to the bouncing, heavy flak broke up the formation and then the e/a attacked us. All the bombs were jettisoned when bounced. The e/a had white spinners with two to three black stripes and the bottom of the fuselage was light blue. Our boys destroyed five of the 109's and the rest of the 109's fled east into the overcast. The dogfight took place from 9,000 to 1,000 feet. The flak was heavy, light and light, weak at R-1511.

CLAIMS FOR 9 JANUARY 1945DESTROYEDDAMAGED

Planes in the Air (Me 109's)
Railroad cars
Buildings
Marshalling Yard

5
20
1
0

0
0
0
1

Missions No. 372 & 373
10 January 1945

Air Operations Orders No.
17. 80. III 213
Close Support & Armed Recce

Lt. West
F/O Horst
Lt. Hall
Lt. Hughes

White

Lt. Manning
Lt. Coppolino
Lt. Kilpatrick
Lt. Jones

Capt. Nemshick
Lt. Weyham
Lt. Lovell
Lt. Graber

Red

Capt. Willis
Lt. Malloran
Lt. Scherer
Lt. Weinnig

Lt. Gilbert
Lt. Wilke
Capt. Bergert
Lt. Allard

Yellow

Lt. Ireland
F/O Ayus
Lt. Stepanek
Lt. Williams

The squadron led by Lt. West took-off for the first mission at 1005, over briefed area from 1030 to 1115, and landed at 1139. All aircraft carried two 500 pound GP bombs, eight aircraft also carried one WP bomb, and four aircraft also carried one frag bomb each. Intense light and heavy flak was encountered at W-0746; moderate heavy near Freiburg; and weak heavy at W-1047. At W-0746 over fifty (50) tanks were observed parked and dispersed throughout the woods in groups of ten (10) with their noses pointed southwest. "Baggage" vectored the squadron to the targets where all bombs except one WP which failed to release were dropped with unobserved results. Good hits in the area were seen. Over ten enemy aircraft were seen at W-3586 at about 3,000 feet at 1120 heading West. When the squadron gave chase, they turned North and went into the clouds. There was a very thin and patchy ground fog around the area. A broken layer of strata-cumulus was at 3,000 feet. Visibility above the clouds was CAVU, below 3 miles.

The second mission led by Lt. Manning took-off at 1307, over briefed area from 1350 to 1450, and landed at 1520. Each aircraft carried two 500 pound GP and one frag bombs. Moderate light and weak heavy flak were encountered at W-020505. An armed recce was conducted over a railroad on the east bank of the Rhine from Lauterberg to Emmendingen. Pontoon bridges were observed as well as three large trucks moving East into Riegel. Three bridges were bombed and strafed with one of them cut in the middle. An enemy jet aircraft

Squadron History, 10 January 1945 (cont'd.)

was observed in the area of Bischweiler. It circled and appeared to be in contact with eight other enemy aircraft circling at 15,000 feet. When our aircraft turned into them, they turned going due East and no attack was made. The weather was CAVT over the Rhine Valley. Over the armed reece area there was a 10/10 cloud cover, bottom 5,500 feet and tops 8,500 feet with a few breaks.

SLATSDESTRUCTION

bridge

1

Missions No. 374 & 375
15 January 1945

Air Operations Orders No. 21 & 23
XII TAC
Armed Recce

#1

#2

White Capt. Kergert
Lt. Wilke
Lt. Scherer
Lt. Halloran

Lt. Manning
F/C Bayus
Lt. Lovell
Lt. Graber

Red Lt. Birnie
Lt. Coppolino
Lt. Stepanek
Lt. Jones

Lt. Gilbert
Lt. Weinnig
Lt. Allard
F/C Horst

Yellow Lt. Keever
Lt. Hughes
Capt. Hillis
Lt. Hall

Lt. Kilpatrick
Lt. Wayham
Lt. Ireland
Lt. Williams

Blue

Lt. Keever
Lt. Hughes
Capt. Hillis
Lt. Halloran

The first mission was led by Captain Kergert which took-off at 1025 being over the target area from 1100 to 1150 and landed at 1215 hours. This was a twelve (12) ship armed recce in the area from Kaiserlautern to Karlsruhe. The primary purpose of the mission was rail cutting. The flak over Neustadt was moderate heavy and light intense. Targets were not at all difficult for the Bookworm boys to find, for there were many tunnels on the rail line from Kaiserlautern to Neustadt. All bombs were dropped on this mission. Sixteen (16) GP's and two frags were dropped on a tunnel at R-183910 sealing both ends and eight (8) GP's were dropped on another tunnel at R-183917 sealing the north end. The next target they found was a train carrying eight armored vehicles. Ten frags were dropped at R-318845 destroying the locomotive and damaging eight (8) tanks. Lt. Stepanek got the locomotive with a direct hit and the rest of the squadron let loose with the rest of their bombs and their "fifties". Two hundred (200) plus cars were observed in the marshalling yard at Neustadt also forty to fifty boxcars scattered along the railroad line running south out of Neustadt. At R-298785 ten flat cars loaded with equipment with tarps over the cars parked was observed with no locomotive. Prevailing motor transportation was seen going southeast at R-0365.

~~SECRET~~

Squadron History, 13 January 1945 (Cont'd)

The second mission was led by Lt. Manning which took-off at 1337 being over the briefed area from 1410 to 1520 and landed at 1545 hours. This was another recon running to Kaiserlautern and Fishback with a railroad bridge as the primary target. By the time the squadron got into the target area there was a 9/10 to 10/10ths cloud cover. Lt. Manning went under the stuff to look for the bridge which was at R-1792. He found the bridge and came back up with a canopy covered with oil due to a flak hit. He turned the squadron over to Lt. Gilbert and headed home. Lt. Gilbert took Red flight down under the overcast, but the clouds were on the hill tops, making bombing practically impossible. Disregarding this handicap Lt. Gilbert's flight dropped six of their 1,000 pound S.A.P. bombs on the bridge, but did not destroy it but cut the rails north of the bridge. He then instructed the rest of the squadron to cut the rails where they could be seen in the cloud breaks. Most of the results were unobserved because of the overcast. Two bombs (1,000#) were dropped on the marshalling yards at Q-9769; two jettisoned at R-1792; three on the marshalling yard at Frankenstein (R-175934); three on northern end of a tunnel at R-177930 cutting one rail; four on a bridge at R-199900 missing the bridge but cutting the highway; eight on the northern end of a tunnel at R-183213, and four on tracks at R-177933. On the way home Yellow flight found some motor traffic headed northeast into Homburg. They strafed it and damaged one staff car at Q-6676; damaged one truck at Q-6475, and damaged one personnel carrier with ten personnel in it at Q-6473. Rocket type flak at 12,000 feet was observed at Q-6668 leaving a streak of black smoke. Light moderate flak was encountered over Frankenstein and light weak at Fishback. There was forty to fifty boxcars in the marshalling yard at Homburg and fifteen gondolas and twenty-five boxcars stationary between Neustadt and R-1893. Six trucks heading northeast were observed at Q-6473.

CLAIMS FOR 13 JANUARY 1945

Tunnel openings
Locomotives
Armored vehicles
Rails cut
Motor vehicles

DESTROYED

DAMAGED

SEALED

1

2

8

5

3

Missions No. 375 thru 379
24 January 1945

Air Operations Plans No.
14, 20, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100
United States of America Support

11
Lt. West White
P/O Horst
Lt. Wilfoyle
Lt. Hall

11
Lt. Manning
Lt. Japling
Lt. Stepanch
Lt. Jones

12
Lt. Ireland Red
Lt. Kraber
Lt. Williams
Lt. Jayman

12
Lt. Weaver
P/O Horst
P/O Willis
Lt. Jones

13
Capt. Bergert Yellow
Lt. Wilke
Lt. Scherer
Lt. Weinig

13
Lt. Gilbert
P/O Jones
Lt. Lovell
Lt. Halloran

14
Capt. Bergert White
Lt. Weinig
Lt. Scherer
Lt. Wilke

14
Lt. Ireland
Lt. Manning
Lt. Williams
Lt. Hall

15
Lt. Wilpatrick Red
Lt. Wilke
Lt. Minnie
Lt. Kraber

16
Lt. West Yellow
Lt. Wilfoyle

The first mission led by Lt. West took off at 0804, over the briefed area from 0830 to 0830, and landed at 1003. Flying a route to Garguene, Laguenau, Edenkoben to Firmasens, each aircraft carried two 500 pound GP and one frag bombs each. Intense light and weak heavy flak were encountered over enemy territory. A great deal of road traffic traveling in all directions was observed in the area around 4-8065. Two GP's and one frag were dropped on two motor transport heading west at 4-8962 damaging one of them. At 4-8173 twelve GP's and six frags destroyed three cars damaged two, cut the tracks in two places and hit the marshalling yard. At 4-8065 the squadron strafed and dropped eight GP's and four frag's on eight plus motor transports destroying one and damaging four. The weather was hazy but open over the target area from

Squadron History, Cont'd., 14 January 1945.

Idenkoben to Pirmasens, visibility six miles. The weather was clear north of Pirmasens but it was 10/10 south of Pirmasens, tops of 8,000 feet with the bottom unknown.

Lt. Manning led the second mission. Start to take off at 1114, over the briefed area from 1140 to 1300, and landed at 1300. Each aircraft carried two 1,000 pound bombs. Intense light and very heavy flak was encountered at Idtche especially south of the town in the woods. Intense light flak was encountered north and east of Wissembourg. "All I" was contacted but since they did not have a special target to attack, the squadron attacked the primary target. The white smoke was late and very poor in marking the target. All the bombs were dropped on the gun positions which the squadron also strafed. Several barracks, a supply dump, and a motor transport (which was damaged) were destroyed. A good bomb pattern was laid on the strafe positions with unobserved results. Lt. Lovell had a belly-landing at 4-574893.

The ten aircraft in the third mission which carried the 1,000 pound bombs each were led by Captain Morgan. The route was to Kaiserlautern, Neustadt, Idenkoben, Landau, and Wissembourg. Light intense and heavy moderate flak was encountered. One hundred rail cars were observed in the Pomburg marshalling yard. Twenty bombs were dropped on a bridge at R-173920. Five direct hits were scored in the fill and one under the bridge. One hit on the bridge made a hole in the center. The bridge was left about 30 degrees out of line. Four boxcars were strafed and damaged at the northern end of a tunnel at R-177932. The southern end of the tunnel north of the bridge was badly beat up. There was haze with visibility 15 miles.

The fourth mission was a group mission of 12 aircraft of which one flight led by Lt. Ireland was from this squadron. Since this mission was a fighter sweep, no bombs were carried. The route was from base to Speyer, Trusel, Karlsruhe, Strasbourg and back to base. Heavy weak flak was encountered at Speyer, Rastatt, and Kehl. There was haze to 6,000 feet, visibility 10 miles.

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>B/D</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Motor transport	1	0	3
Rail cars	3	0	6
Marshalling yard	0	0	1
Bridge	0	0	1

~~SECRET~~

Mission No. 530
15 January 1945

Air Operations Order No. 15
III TAC
Armed Recon

White	Lt. Given	Red	Lt. Hilbert	Yellow	Lt. Manning
	F/O Bayus		Lt. Gehring		Lt. Juppelme
	Lt. Williams		Lt. Linnold		Lt. Kilpatrick
	Lt. Graber		Lt. Alloran		Lt. Stepanek

Lt. Given led today's mission which took-off at 1350 being over the briefed area from 1350 to 1515 and landed at 1540 hours. This was another armed recon from base to ditche, Reusspeyer, Neustadt, Schifferstadt, Speyer, Weidenbach and back to the base. They Squadron carried two each 1,000 pound GP's and dropped them all on the target. Eight bombs were dropped on the south end of a tunnel at R-210387 cutting one rail and destroying a house along side of the tunnel. Eight were dropped on the north end of a tunnel at R-203695 cutting two rails. The last eight were dropped on another tunnel, on the north end, at R-202997 cutting one rail. Two cars damaged at R-4736 by strafing. The flat at ditche was heavy weak; heavy intense at Weidenbach and light intense at the same point; light intense at R-2483, and heavy weak at R-4275. One hundred cars were observed between Schifferstadt at R-4787 and Speyer on the tracks. Fifty cars were on tracks between Neustadt and Schifferstadt. The Neustadt marshalling yard had 175 cars in it. Four carriage balloons at 5,000' were seen over Germersheim. Five trucks headed west at R-1984 and one truck going southeast at R-4777 were also observed by our boys. A horse corral was seen in a woods at R-4388 and was believed to have horses in the corral.

CLAIMS FOR 15 JANUARY 1945

	<u>DESE</u>	<u>DAI</u>
Buildings	1	0
Railroad cars	0	2
Rails cut	4	0

~~SECRET~~

Missions No. 381 thru 384
16 January 1945

Air Operations Order Nos. 24, 26,
19 & 81 XII TAC
Armed Recce, Close Support &
Fighter Sweep

	<u>#1</u>	<u>#2</u>	<u>#3</u>
White	Lt. Test F/C Horst Lt. Kilfoyle Lt. Hughes	Lt. Rice Lt. Coppolino Lt. Birnie Lt. Jones	Capt. Mergert Lt. Wilke Lt. Scherer Lt. Allard
Red	Lt. Ireland Lt. Wayham Lt. Williams Lt. Graber	Lt. Heever Lt. Hall Lt. Kilfoyle Lt. Malloran	Lt. Manning Lt. Wayham Lt. Kilpatrick Lt. Graber
Yellow	Lt. Gilbert Lt. Wilke Lt. Scherer Lt. Allard	Lt. Lannold F/C Bayus Lt. Stepanek Lt. Weinnig	Lt. West Lt. Hughes Lt. Williams F/C Horst

	<u>#4</u>
White	Lt. Given F/C Bayus Lt. Ireland Lt. Hall
Red	Lt. Gilbert Lt. Weinnig Lt. Lannold Lt. Malloran
Yellow	Lt. Birnie Lt. Coppolino Lt. Stepanek Lt. Jones

Lt. Test led the first mission today which took-off at 0835 being over the target area from 0900 to 1000 and landed at 1025 hours. They went to Offendorf at R-1313 and dropped all their bombs in the town leaving the town in flames. There were 3 large fires and six small fires observed. The squadron then contacted "Elite" who told them to strafe vehicles around R-1810. They strafed at that point destroying 2 vehicles. At R-1315 they destroyed two more vehicles and strafed foxholes in the area. The flak encountered was intense light and heavy at R-1312 and intense light and moderate heavy at R-2016. Wing commended the 386th squadron on its exceptional job of bombing the town of Offendorf and on the performance of the day's missions as a whole. Four flak positions were not camouflaged at R-1816. All the trucks had white tarpaulins for camouflage. From the base to Landau it was CAVU, restricted by haze in patches. From Landau Northeast the cloud cover was 7/10ths and very thin at 2,000 feet.

Out on a recce with a supply depot at Zweibrucken as a primary target the squadron went on its second mission led by Lt. Rice. They took off at 1140 being over the briefed area from 1200 to 1300 and landed at 1331. They carried twenty-four 500's and ten frags. The bombs were dropped at Q-7472 on the supply depot. Two 500's and one frag in a woods on the north side of the depot and twenty-two 500's and 9 frags on the buildings destroying 50% and damaging 25%. We claimed eight destroyed and four damaged. With snow on their tops, 75 boxcars were observed in the marshalling yard at Q-9075. At Q-8171, ten large stacks of railroad ties were seen along the tracks, which looked like a supply depot from the air.

SECRET

Squadron History, 16 January 1945 (Cont'd)

In the Zweibrucken area the flak was intense heavy; around Pirmasens moderate heavy and weak light at Q-7472.

Leading the third mission for the 388th was Captain Hervert. It was the now familiar job of cutting rails and sealing tunnels. They carried 24 (1,000 pound) bombs. Taking off at 1438 and being over the briefed area from 1516 to 1530, they landed at 1610. They dropped their bombs on the north end of a tunnel at Q-2090 effectively closing it. Approximately fourteen of them were dropped in or near the tunnel and the tracks were cut in two places. Two F-109's were observed heading northeast at Q-8070 but contact was not made. The e/a were at 500 feet at 1540 hours. CAVU restricted by slight haze up to 3,000'. The visibility in haze was ten miles. Flak encountered at Zweibrucken was weak heavy; weak heavy at Pirmasens and intense heavy at Neustadt.

Lt. Given led the fourth and last mission today on a fighter sweep which took-off at 1646 being over the briefed area from 1700 to 1800 and returned at 1820. Not a single plane was seen in the target area or anywhere from base to target area and back. Our artillery were shelling at R-2040 but they could not observe a thing. From the Rhine valley east there was a heavy haze and a 3/10ths cover. The visibility was two miles and above 3,000' CAVU.

CHARTS FOR 16 JANUARY 1945DESEDAI

Tunnel sealed

1

Tracks cut

2

Buildings

3

4

17/1

4

Missions No. 536 thru 537
19 January 1945

Air Operations Order No.
18, 19, & 21 III 113
Close Support

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>
White	Lt. West T/C Hurst Lt. Milfoyle Lt. Hughes	Lt. Rice Lt. Mizie Lt. Jones	Lt. Given Lt. Stepanek Lt. Milp. Brick Lt. Brown
Red	Lt. Ireland Lt. Kaplan Lt. Williams Lt. Traber	Lt. Keever Lt. Keimig Capt. Willis Lt. Hall	
Yellow	Capt. Leugert Lt. Wilke Lt. Scherer Lt. Millard	Lt. Gilbert T/C Mayus Lt. Hamola Lt. Malloren	

Taking off at 1155 the first mission led by Lt. West was over the briefed area from 1520 to 1530, and landed at 1545 after dropping 22,000 pounds of bombs and effectively strafing enemy targets. Light flak was encountered over enemy territory that was intense, weak, and moderate. Fifty boxcars were seen in the Achem marshalling yards. "Elite" was contacted and told Squadron to bomb the town of Herlisheim where one strafing pass was made and all bombs dropped with about 25 hits in the town. The Squadron strafed at other points with the following results: 2 horse-drawn vehicles destroyed, two damaged; one motor transport damaged. While Lt. Milfoyle was strafing an enemy vehicle, it exploded as he passed over it. He has not been heard from since that time. There was 8/10 cloud cover, base 3 - 4,000 feet, tops 8,000 feet. Visibility below this level was from 2 to 5 miles, above excellent.

Lt. Rice led the second mission that took-off at 1300, over briefed area from 1528 thru 1605. Each aircraft one WP bomb as well as two 1,000 pound bombs. Extremely intense light flak was encountered on both sides of the Rhine at R-1410. Over 55 vehicles were observed heading West at this point. Germersheim was burning. Twenty GP's and 9 WP's were dropped on personnel and material concentration at R-1410 and one strafing pass was made. At least 20 enemy vehicles are believed to have been destroyed on both banks of the Rhine and numerous others damaged; and personnel killed and wounded. Five barges were destroyed on the west bank of the Rhine. When the squadron left this area, four fires were burning. About 5 sheds were strafed and destroyed. Visibility was 5 miles.

Education History, 1919-1923 (cont'd)

Mission No. 583
20 January 1945

Air Operations Order No. 13
III SAC
Dive Bombing

White	Capt. Bergert	Red	Lt. Brown	Yellow	Lt. Weaver
	Lt. Hennrich		Lt. Cappoline		T/O Horst
	Lt. Scherer		Lt. Birnie		Capt. Hillis
	Lt. Allard		Lt. Stepanski		Lt. Hughes

Taking off at 0815 today's mission led by Captain Bergert was over the briefed area from 0850 to 0935 and landed at 1305 after dropping 24,000 pounds of GP bombs and twelve WP's. The flak encountered on this mission over enemy territory was weak light, intense light, and weak heavy. The squadron orbited the target area for 15 minutes but were unable to locate it due to weather conditions. At V-8514 they saw 6 to 8 landing piers 30 feet long and spaced 50 feet apart, extending from both banks of the river. About eight barges were moored on either side of river with snow on them. These were seen at 0930 hours from 500 feet. At V-8513, eight 1,000 pounders and four WP's were dropped destroying one pier and two barges which were anchored at the pier and on the East bank of the river. Two GP's and one WP were dropped on buildings at V-7585 but observed no claims. A large 2 story warehouse was destroyed by direct hits at V-7315 with two GP's and one WP. They attempted to bomb a road-bridge at V-7227 with two GP's and one WP but missed. At V-7523 they dropped two GP's and one WP on some buildings and missed also. Next, at V-7611, they bombed a hexagonal shaped building which looked like a fort. One of the East walls was blown down due to the bombing. At V-9027 they bombed a steel road bridge but got no hits. All the bombs were dropped. The following was either destroyed or damaged by strafing: V-7523, destroyed three horse-drawn artillery pieces and damaged one flak position; V-7227, two vehicles destroyed and two horse-drawn, and at V-8514 damaged two barges.

<u>CLAIMS</u>	<u>DEST</u>	<u>DAI</u>
Buildings	1	1
Barges	2	2
Piers	1	0
H/D Artillery	3	2
Flak Position	0	1
WP's	2	0

Missions No. 389 thru 392
22 January 1945

Air Operations Order Nos. 15, 80,
21 & 23 XII MAC
Armed Recce and Close Support

White	^{#1} Lt. Given Lt. Graber Lt. Gilbert Lt. Wilke	White	^{#3} Lt. Best E/O Forest Lt. Hall Lt. Hughes	White	^{#4} Lt. Rice Lt. Wilke Lt. Weimig
Red	Lt. Jones Lt. Malloran	Red	E/O Lorus Lt. Brown Lt. Coppoline		Capt. Willis Lt. Malloran Lt. Scherer Lt. Allard
White	^{#2} Lt. Scherer Lt. Weimig Lt. Williams	Yellow	Capt. Leppert Lt. Warrick Lt. Linnard Lt. Allard		Lt. Ireland Lt. Rayhan Lt. Williams Lt. Graber
		Blue			Lt. Manning Lt. Stepanek Lt. Whittrick Lt. Minie

Lt. Given led the first mission today that took-off at 0840 being over the target area from 0910 to 1010 and landed at 1045 hours. They carried twelve 1,000 pounders and six WP's. Two GP's and one HE was returned to base by abort. Four of the GP's did not explode and six GP's and five WP's were dropped at R-3855 on railroad tracks but they did not observe any results. They observed six passenger cars and one locomotive headed north with the cars empty at R-3339 and a bridge at R-3325 which had been bombed and what remained of the center section looked like pontoons had been used. At R-2083 the squadron strafed a T/P which was heading east. Fifteen to twenty personnel got out of the vehicle and they were strafed and killed. They destroyed one staff car and one gas truck by strafing at R-0066. Thirty-five boxcars, one shed, and five oil cars in the shed were strafed at R-3183 damaging the shed and the five oil cars in it. No flak was encountered on this mission.

Lt. Scherer led the second mission that took-off at 1042 being over the briefed area from 1110 to 1210 and landed at 1240 hours. They went to dive bomb supply buildings at R-453689 but could not bomb them because of the overcast. The flak was heavy and light moderate at R-2345 and heavy moderate at Wassenbourg. Ten trucks were seen on a road between Wassenbourg and Lauterberg headed in both directions. Forty trucks were in a woods Northwest of Lauterberg. Thirty were on a road at R-2435 headed South. Six GP's (1,000 pounders) were dropped on the town of Wassenbourg of which two failed to explode, two in town and two missed. Six trucks were damaged by strafing at R-2645 by six strafing passes. One truck strafed and damaged at R-2543 headed East. One other truck strafed and destroyed at R-2537 which was heading North. A half truck was strafed and damaged at R-2137, headed North.

Squadron History, 22 January 1945 (Cont'd)

Lt. Post led the third mission today which took-off at 1250 being over the briefed area from 1300 to 1400 and landed at 1420 hours. They carried 1,000 pounders and W's. They contacted "Jaguar II" but he had no target. "Elite" was contacted after the bombs were dropped but they could not help him then. At 1-6252 a 1/2 convoy of approximately 10 plus trucks heading southeast and north were observed. There was moderate 1/2 traffic on all of the roads in that area, heading north and southeast which was seen from 9,000 feet at 1350 hours. The 1/2's did not display panels but did have white star. No activity was noted at the marshalling yard at Neustadt or Landau. Two GP's and two WP's were not dropped on the target. The two WP's were jettisoned safe at 1-3512 (seen to land safe), and the two GP's were returned to the base. Eight GP's and two WP's were dropped on the northwest side of the supply depot at R-3639. All bombs were on the target getting a good pattern and good hits but they did not observe any results of the bombing. Twelve GP's and six WP's were then dropped on the southwest side of the depot but did not observe any results. A vehicle was strafed at R-3052 heading southwest damaging it. Flak encountered on this mission was very light and moderate heavy at R-3141 and moderate heavy at R-3529.

Lt. Rice led the last mission today which took-off at 1600 being over the briefed area from 1625 to 1715 and landed at 1745 hours. "Elite Baker" sent the squadron to bomb a woods containing fifty tanks at R-1112. All bombs were dropped in the woods with excellent concentration leaving twelve to fifteen fires burning and one secondary explosion observed. The flak was light and intense over the woods and heavy intense at R-1215. Three light flak guns were strafed and damaged at R-1312. They were carrying 1,000 pounders and W's.

ITEMS FOR 22 JANUARY 1945	DEPLETED	DAMAGED
Vehicles	3	9
Sheds	0	1
Oil Cans	0	5
Personnel Killed	15 to 20	
Light Flak Guns	0	3

Mission No. 393
23 January 1946

Air Operations Order No. 20
XII MAC
Armed Recce & Close Support

White Capt. Mergert
Lt. Wehring
Lt. Hancock
Lt. Malloran

Red Lt. Brown
Lt. Joppeling
Lt. Stepanek
Lt. Jones

Yellow Lt. Keever
P/O Horst
Lt. Hall
Lt. Hughes

Capt. Mergert led today's only mission which took-off at 0855, being over the briefed area from 0930 to 1025 and landed at 1045 hours. They carried twelve W's and twenty-four 1,000 pounders. They contacted "Atkin" and he told the squadron to recce area eight miles Southeast of Bitche to ten miles Northeast of Bitche. Eight W's and four W's were dropped at Q-8444 on 1/2 heading Northwest and then they strafed and destroyed five vehicles. Thirty vehicles were seen in the area heading Northwest. Two G's and one W was dropped at Q-9648 on four to five 1/2 heading West then strafed and destroyed all of them. Twelve W's and six W's were then dropped on the supply dump at R-834394 damaging it. The tug and a barge which was headed North at R-8478 was damaged by strafing. Immobilized, twenty-five railroad cars were strafed and damaged at R-4573. P/O Horst bailed out at Q-6918 and is O.K. Lt. Jones last seen at Q-8342, bailed over R/1 that he was alright. Two GP's and one WP bomb were jettisoned safe at Q-7836. A B-24 was observed on the ground at Q-9237 and a train heading East at Neustadt marshalling yard. The yard was virtually empty. The flak encountered over enemy territory was mostly light intense and heavy weak.

CLAIMS:

1 tug and barge
Railroad cars
Supply Dump
W/T's

DESTROYED

10

DAMAGED

1
25
1

Mission No. 594
24 January 1945

Air Operations Order No. 15
XII SAC
Armed Recon & Close Support

White Lt. Given
Lt. Payham
Lt. Williams
Lt. Graber

Red Lt. Gilbert
Lt. Scherer
Lt. Hennrich

Yellow Lt. Birnie
Lt. Dayus
Lt. Kilpatrick
Lt. Stapanek

Our squadron, led by Lt. Given on an armed recon and close support mission, took-off at 1343. The planes were over the target area from 1410 until 1510. Weak heavy flak was encountered at 11-5455 and the planes ran into some moderate light flak at 11-5737. Marshalling yards in Mannheim were observed to be about 3/4 full of boxcars--some had snow on them. At 11-5697, 10 T-1's were observed heading SW. The squadron called "White" but they could not get into the area for a target due to the weather. Bridges in the Mannheim area and one RR bridge in the vicinity of 11-4441 are still intact. At 11-5532, fifty heavy cars were observed in a yard -- also one train and eight passenger cars. At 11-4444, five or six barges were seen anchored on the West side of the Rhine. At 11-4835, 2 500 pounders were dropped and one frag with the result that two barges were bombed--one destroyed and one damaged. At 11-5444, two 500 pounders and one frag were dropped on an R/R heading south. The road was cut but no claim was observed on the R/R. At 11-5249, two 500 pounders and one frag were dropped on three small buildings and two gun positions--all were destroyed. At 11-5558, eight 500 pounders and three frags were dropped on a train going north with eight passenger cars. The train stopped in a marshalling yard and although there was no claim on the train, four box-cars were destroyed in the marshalling yard and three buildings were damaged. At 11-4545, four 500 pounders and three frags were dropped on a pontoon bridge. Two hits were observed on the bridge at the east bank and the bridge was damaged. At 11-2737, eight 500 pounders and two frags were dropped on a marshalling yard which contained twenty box-cars. No claims were observed, but one railroad building was destroyed. There was a cloud cover of 10/10ths from the base to Mannheim with a base of 1,500 ft. and tops of 5,000 ft. North of Mannheim in the Rhine Valley only, broken cover of 7/10ths with a base of 3,000 ft. and tops of 5,000 ft. Visibility above the overcast was unlimited and below was from 3 to 5 miles. The squadron landed at 1545.

STATES:
Barges
Buildings
Gun positions
Roads cut -- 1

DESTROYED
1
4
2

DAMAGED
1
3

Mission No. 395
26 January 1945

Air Operations Order No. 16
XII SAC
Aimed Recce and Close Support

White	Lt. Test	Red	Lt. Williams	Yellow	Capt. Herbert
	Lt. Wilke		F/C Mayus		Lt. Malloran
	Lt. Hall		Lt. Graber		Lt. Allard
	Lt. Hughes		Lt. Weyman		Lt. Lamrick

Lt. Test led today's only mission which took-off at 1255, being over the briefed area from 1320 to 1440 and landed at 1455 hours. They were carrying twenty-four (500# GP's) and eleven (500# Incendiary) bombs and dropped them all in target areas. The called "Barrage" and he said to go to "White" area, then "Barrage" called and turned the squadron over to Baby for Egg-basket. Baby had their work with Blunder for a few minutes but then "Blunder" turned us back to "Baby". They believed to have dropped eight GP's and four Incendiary bombs at R-8020 but they did not observe any results due to poor visibility. At R-2632 they dropped sixteen GP's and seven Incendiary bombs observing nothing again due to the bad weather. There was no flak encountered on this mission or enemy aircraft seen. The weather from base to Saarburg was very hazy, with visibility three to four miles and in the Rhine Valley 10/10ths clover, base unknown, tops 15,000', visibility in overcast $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Claims: Nil.

Missions No. 396 thru 398
29 January 1945

Air Operations Order Nos.
15, 16 & 17 XII T-3
Armed Recce

	<u>#1</u>	<u>#2</u>	<u>#3</u>
White	Lt. Rice Lt. Coppolino Lt. Brown Lt. Stepanek	Capt. Hergert Lt. Parker Lt. Allard Lt. Halloran	Lt. Given Lt. Powers Lt. Ireland Lt. Williams
Red	Capt. Willis Lt. Weinnig Lt. Hall Lt. Hughes	Lt. Kilpatrick Lt. Wilke Lt. Birnie Lt. Veldboon	Capt. Willis Lt. Hughes Lt. Hall Lt. Graber
Yellow	Lt. Ireland Lt. Wayham Lt. Williams Lt. Graber	Lt. Test Lt. Hannold Lt. Scherer Lt. Hamrick	Lt. Brown Lt. Coppolino Lt. Stepanek Lt. Weinnig

The squadron, led by Lt. Rice, took-off at 0900 for the first mission of the day, over briefed area from 0835 to 0955, and landed at 1010. Light intense and light moderate flak were encountered over the Karlsruhe-Pirmasens area. 12,000 pounds of general purpose bombs and 12 frag bombs were dropped which resulted in the destruction of 3 motor transport, damage to 12 other motor transport and one flak position, and the cutting of one track. Lt. Wayham's aircraft was badly damaged by flak. When he almost reached the base, he said over the R/T, "I'm bailing out." He was seen to jettison his canopy as his aircraft glided towards the ground and explode. No chute was seen.

The second mission, led by Captain Hergert, took-off at 1205, over briefed area from 1240 to 1340, and landed at 1400. Heavy and light weak flak were encountered over Speyer, heavy weak over Karlsruhe and heavy weak over Germersheim. 18,000 pounds of general purpose bombs were dropped which resulted in the destruction of two motor transport, one horse drawn vehicle, and the damaging of five motor transport, two bridges and three barges. There was 10/10 cloud cover north of Speyer.

Lt. Given led the third mission that took-off at 1530, over briefed area from 1600 to 1715, and landed at 1730. The route followed was to Wissembourg-Karlsruhe-Landau-Speyer-Mannheim-Worms-Herppenheim-Heidelberg to base. Heavy weak and light weak flak were encountered. 18,000 pounds of general purpose bombs were dropped which resulted in the destruction of two motor transport, four buildings, and the damaging of six motor transport, three

locomotives, seven railroad cars and two marshalling yards. There was 10/10 cloud cover, base 3500 feet, to 5,000 feet. The visibility beneath was 2-3 miles, above unlimited.

<u>CLATES</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>P/D</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Motor transport	12		23
Locomotives			5
Railroad cars	4		7
Marshalling yard			2
Barges			3
Flak position			1
Tracks cut	1		

Mission No. 599
30 January 1945

Air Operations Order No. 17
XII MAC
Rail Cutting around Reece

White Lt. Smith, L.S.
Lt. Parker
Lt. West
Lt. Hughes

Yellow Capt. Mergert
Lt. Hamrick
Lt. Allard
Lt. Malloran

Red Lt. Kilpatrick
Lt. Veldboon
Lt. Mirnie
Lt. Stepanek

The squadron took off at 0814, led by Lt. Smith, on a rail cutting and around Reece. The squadron contacted Baggage and he said that the weather was very bad in the target area, so the squadron returned to the base bringing their bombs back with them. There was a cloud cover of 10/10 with a base of 4,500 ft. and tops unknown. Visibility was one mile. There was a heavy ground fog with haze -- it looked worse to the East. The squadron landed at 0910.

~~SECRET~~i. Losses in action:

- (1) Killed. Lt. Harold D. Wayham, 0705649 29 Jan 45.
- (2) Wounded. Flt C John H. Horst, T125296 23 Jan 45.
- (3) Missing. 2nd Lt Dofel J. Brunetti, 0770162 1 Jan 45.
2nd Lt Raymond E. Smith Jr. 0710194 2 Jan 45.
1st Lt Thomas T. Kilfoyle Jr. 0766557 19 Jan 45.
1st Lt Henry H. Jones, 0807571 23 Jan 45.
- (4) Taken Prisoner. None definitely known.

j. Awards received during period.

- (1) 1st Lt Robert H. Rice, 0813023.

- (a) Mission. Dive Bombing mission of 2 Dec 44.

- (b) Act. Lt Rice was leading his flight on 2 Dec 44 when he encountered 15 enemy aircraft, Me 109's near Strasbourg. He jettisoned his bombs and broke into the enemy although outnumbered four to one. In the ensuing combat Lt Rice personally destroyed two Me-109's and damaged one.

- (c) Award. Distinguished Flying Cross.

- (2) 1st Lt Hugh J. Smith, 0696717.

- (a) Mission. Dive Bombing and Armed Reconnaissance, 12 Dec 44.

- (b) Act. Lt Smith led squadron on armed reconnaissance of the Hagenau-Landau area. Bombs were dropped on a supply depot destroying two supply buildings and cut rails in two places. Twenty railroad cars loaded with motor transport were strafed, three locomotives and six flak guns damaged. An attack was made on a marshalling yard which blew up an ammunition train in which seventy five cars were destroyed. Cars were seen exploding throughout the yard and intense white smoke and flames could be seen for 30 miles.

- (c) Distinguished Flying Cross.

- (3) M/Sgt Dwight E. Abbott, 37086176.
M/Sgt Lester A. Ross, 6912287.
T/Sgt Marvin W. Lempke, 36050555.
T/Sgt Robert E. Pickard, 34160234.

- (a) Mission. Negative.

- (b) Act. For meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 20 December 1943 to 15 December 1944.

- (c) Award. Bronze Star Medal.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

AIR FORCE: FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
 COMMAND: XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
 WING: 64TH FIGHTER WING
 GROUP: 358TH FIGHTER GROUP
 SQUADRON: 366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
 DATES INCLUDED: 1 FEBRUARY 45 TO 28 JANUARY 45.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Present designation.	Page 1 outline history
Strength.	Page 1
Present station.	Page 1
Campaigns.	Page 1
Operations.	Page 1
Leaders of outstanding	
Missions.	Page 2
Losses in Action.	Page 2
Awards.	Page 2,3,4.
War diary	Pages 1,2,3. War diary
Outstanding Mission Reports	Incls 1 & 2.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

OUTLINE HISTORY, 366th Fighter Squadron, February 1945.

- a. Present designation: 358th Fighter Group, 64th Fighter Wing.
- b. Changes in organization: Negative.
- c. Strength: 55 officers, 248 enlisted men.
- d. Present Station: A-90, Toul, France since 11 Nov 44.
- e. Movements: Negative.
- f. Campaigns: Participated in the Battle of Germany.
- g. Operations:

(1) Armed reconnaissance, patrol, escort and dive-bombing close cooperation missions were flown during February. Dive-bombing close cooperation missions predominated.

(2) Number of missions, 56. Number of sorties, 640.

(3) Outstanding Missions.

(a) Mission of 8 February 45 against enemy aircraft, railways and a bridge.

1. Target was approximately thirty Me-109's and two Me-262's, jet propelled aircraft, a bridge at Haunstein and rail yards.

2. The bridge at Haunstein was severely damaged by ten direct bomb hits, a large shed destroyed and four rails cut. Twelve tons of bombs were dropped in target area. En route back to base squadron engaged in combat approximately thirty Me-109's and two Me-262's at Offenbourg. Enemy aircraft were painted light blue with black spinners and carrying belly tanks which they dropped when engaged. Lt Scherer destroyed two, one went down in flames and the other blew up in mid-air. Capt Hergert destroyed one Me-109, it was seen to hit the ground and explode. Lt Gilbert scored many hits on one Me-109 the engine caught fire and pilot bailed out. Major Wilson sent a 109 down flaming making a bag of five enemy aircraft destroyed against no losses of our own.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(b) Mission of 14 February 45 against enemy rail equipment and marshalling yards.

1. Target was enemy locomotives, box cars, railroads and marshalling yards all vitally necessary to the enemy in moving men, supplies and equipment to points of opposition to our ground forces.

2. The Hochspeyer marshalling yard was bombed and strafed damaging two locomotives, three rail cars and yard. Marshalling yard near Warrnheim was

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

bombed, one locomotive and fifteen cars destroyed, thirty cars and the marshalling yard damaged. At Grunstadt one locomotive was destroyed, two others, ten cars and a nearby factory were damaged. A twenty car train was bombed south of Worms, three rail cars and three light flak guns were destroyed and one rail cut. Two bombs were dropped on a train south of Heppenheim destroying the locomotive and one coach, ten cars were damaged and one rail cut. East of Worms a train was strafed destroying a locomotive and ten motor transport, probably destroying eight flat cars and damaging twelve box cars. A strafing attack on marshalling yard south west of Worms damaged thirty boxcars. Other strafing attacks in this area resulted in the destruction of two staff cars, two trucks, and one motorcycle.

3. photographic evidence not available.

h. Leaders of outstanding missions.

- (a) Captain Thomas M. Hergert, mission of 8 Feb 45.
- (b) 1st Lt Joe W. Test, mission of 14 February 45.

i. Losses in action.

- (1) Killed. None known.
- (2) Wounded. Negative.
- (3) Missing. 1st Lt. Stanley J. Stepanek, Jr. 2 Feb 45.
1st Lt. Scott R. Allard 15 Feb 45.

j. Awards received during period.

- (1) 1st Lt. Harold G. Stalnaker, 0702856. (MIA)
 - (a) Mission. Armed reconnaissance mission of 21 Nov 44.
 - (b) Act. 1st Lt Stalnaker led the squadron on armed reconnaissance east of Rhine River 21 Nov 44. In a bombing and strafing attack on Freiburg Marshalling yards the tracks were cut in five places, two locomotives and twenty box cars were destroyed. Continuing the mission two locomotives, thirty five cars fourteen trucks, two ammo carriers and numerous personnel were destroyed and great damage done by bombing and strafing.
 - (c) Award. Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (2) Captain (Then 1st Lt) William D. Rathgeber, 0360804.
 - (a) Mission. Negative.
 - (b) Act. For meritorious service in direct support of combat operations against the enemy from 20 October to 20 November 1944.
 - (c) Award. Bronze Star Medal

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(3) M/Sgt Virgil E. Chenoweth
S/Sgt Joseph H. Havlik
S/Sgt Fred A. Kelly
S/Sgt Albert Kochevar
Sgt Richard H. Henninger
Sgt David M. Lee
Sgt Herbert R. White

(a) Mission. Negative.

(b) Act. For meritorious service in direct support of combat operations against the enemy from 20 December 1943 to 31 December 1944.

(c) Award. Bronze Star Medal.

(4) Major James F. Hackler, Jr. (19th OLC)
Captain Thomas M. Hergert (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th OLC)
Captain Fred L. Hillis (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th OLC)
Captain Andrew J. Nemshick (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th OLC)
Captain Harold L. McGlellan (16th OLC)
1st Lt George H. Veldboon, (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th OLC)
1st Lt Scott R. Allard (4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th OLC) MIA
1st Lt Roy L. Kilpatrick, Jr. (6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th OLC)
1st Lt Robert M. Leety (7th OLC)
1st Lt Frank G. Hannold (8th, 9th, 10th, 11th OLC)
1st Lt Wendell J. Roberson (9th, 10th, 11th OLC)
1st Lt Stephen A. Manning, Jr. (10th, 11th, 12th, 13th OLC)
1st Lt Joe W. Test (10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th OLC)
1st Lt Elmer R. Brown, 11th, 12th OLC)
1st Lt James E. Morris, Jr. (11th, 12th OLC)
1st Lt Hugh J. Smith (12th, 13th, 14th OLC)
1st Lt David E. Kever (13th, 14th OLC)
1st Lt Ernest R. Given, Jr. (15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th OLC)
1st Lt Charles H. Maehrlein (15th, 16th OLC)
1st Lt Donald O. Scherer (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th OLC)
1st Lt Raymond E. Smith, Jr. (6th OLC) MIA
1st Lt Alvin D. Johnson (7th OLC) MIA
1st Lt Thomas T. Kilfoyle, Jr. (8th OLC)
1st Lt Robert H. Rice (13th, 14th, 15th OLC)
2nd Lt Domenic A. Coppolino (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th OLC)
2nd Lt George M. Graber (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th OLC)
2nd Lt Paul M. Hughes (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th OLC)
2nd Lt Thomas P. Halloran, (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th OLC)
2nd Lt Harold D. Wayham (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th OLC) KIA
2nd Lt James O. Hall (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th OLC)
2nd Lt James T. Hemrick (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th OLC)
2nd Lt Henry H. Jones (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th OLC) MIA
2nd Lt John Weinnig, Jr. (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th OLC)
2nd Lt Stanley J. Stepanek, Jr. (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th OLC)
2nd Lt Richard T. Birnie (6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th OLC)
2nd Lt Allan Gilbert (6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th OLC)
2nd Lt Roy E. Ireland (6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th OLC)
2nd Lt Lyle M. Lovell (6th, 7th, 8th OLC)
2nd Lt Paul E. Williams (6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th OLC)
2nd Lt Neil W. Currie (AM)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

2nd Lt Donald E. Parker (AM, 1st OLC)
2nd Lt Thomas L. Powers (AM)
2nd Lt Vernon O. Wilke (AM, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th OLC)
Flt O Albert Bayus (AM, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th OLC)
Flt O John H. Horst (AM, 1st, 2nd, 3rd OLC)

(a) Mission. Participation in missions flown by this squadron, Armed Reconnaissance, Fighter Sweeps, Patrols, close cooperation etc.

(b) Act; Having completed the required number of missions, sorties or destroyed enemy aircraft.

(c) Award: Air Medal and Oak Leaf clusters to the Air Medal previously awarded. The above were awarded per General Orders #5, 6 Jan 45, #7, 16 Jan 45, #8 22 Jan 45, #11, 5 Feb 45, #16, 13 Feb 45, #25 18 Feb 45, Headquarters XII Tactical Air Command.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

War Diary, 366th Fighter Squadron, 358th Fighter Group, A-90, Toul, France.
February 1945.

- 1 The first EM to go to Paris under recently authorized quota leaves today. Sgt Steiner's name was picked by making a chance pencil/ON a roster. Now that passes to Paris have begun everyone is hoping to get a chance to see (Gay Paree). The election of officers in NCO Club resulted in three members of the Squadron being elected as president, vice present and a member of the Board of Governors.
- 2 The liberty run to Nancy was resumed today now that Nancy is again "On Limits" to members of this Group. Lt Stanley J. Stepanek is missing in action after today's first mission.
- 3 S/Sgts Dempsey and Leache leave on 2 day pass to Paris. A drawing was held to determine the order in which men will get future passes. Each man's name was written on a small piece of paper and drawn from a box. Names were listed in the order drawn.
- 4 General Barcus visited the Station and presented medals to members of the Squadron. Medals were DFC's, Air Medals and Bronze Star Medals. Due to inclement weather the presentation was held in the Special Service Theater. Forty squadron members attend the presentation. General Barcus made a short speech in which he commended the Group very highly.
5. Five EM, Opl Zabka, Pfc Box, Pvts Jezak, Davis and Koscielski were transferred from the squadron to the 12th Replacement Depot for Infantry Reinforcement training.
- 6 Squadron basketball team chalked up another win by beating the 367th Squadron Officers by score of 34 to 29. Our standing is now 4 wins and no losses, tied for first place with 365th Fighter Squadron Officers.
- 7 1st Lt William D. Rathgeber, Squadron Adjutant, promoted to Captain. New walks are being laid in living area. Steel I beams obtained from nearby bombed-out barracks make excellent side rails. The rails are being filled with rock and covered with shale. A definite improvement over the old hastily built brick walks.
- 8 Squadron claimed the destruction of five enemy aircraft on second mission of the day. Lt Scherer claimed two, Capt Hergert, Lt Gilbert and Major Wilson claimed one each.
- 9 Our P. X. opened this week and to the very great surprise of all we were able to purchase 2 bottles of American beer. It was the first American beer we had seen in the 17 months we have been overseas. We won basketball game with 462nd Service Squadron by score of 22 to 18. Our standing is now 7 wins and no losses, in undisputed first place.
- 10 The squadron enjoyed a dance at the Red Cross Aero Club for the squadron and attached units. Mademoiselles from Toul and vicinity were invited as dancing partners. Music was furnished by the 50th General Hospital dance orchestra. The old favorite of the Red Cross, ~~SECRET~~ doughnuts, were served as refreshments.

~~SECRET~~

- 11 Since the snow melted and the ground thawed some of our roads are in rather bad condition. The outside road paralleling the runway has been closed to all vehicles except vehicles used in making road repairs and jeeps. Engineers are rebuilding taxi strips and hardstands on line. We won basketball game with 1243rd Q. M. Co. 47 to 18.
- 12 Three new pilots, Flight officers Schowe, Walker and Woody join squadron today. Basketball team won over 365th Squadron 45 to 37. Our standing is still first place with 9 games won and no losses.
- 13 Major Wilson, operations officer is transferred to 367th Fighter Squadron as Commanding officer. Capt Littlejohn is transferred to Group Headquarters.
- 14 Lt Test led squadron on a highly successful mission against enemy railways and rail equipment. Four locomotives were destroyed and others and much equipment was either destroyed or damaged.
- 15 Four new pilots joined squadron, Lts Poscavage, Nicklas, McLaren and Pierce. Lt Allard missing in action. The movie "Fallen Sparrow" shows at Special Service Theater.
- 16 The Special Service Theater featured a "Musical Hour" of Classical recordings (Shumanns Concerts in A-Minor featuring Myra Hess at the piano - Walter Goehr conducting).
- 17 Two squadron BM are members of the group dance orchestra under the direction of Captain Taylor of the 365th squadron. According to latest reports the orchestra is progressing fine and should be ready to play for our dances in the very near future.
- 18 The 366th is still on top in the standings of the Basketball teams with 10 games won and no losses. Movie "This the Life" at Special Service Theater.
- 19 Another pilot, Lt Hannold, is transferred to the Zone of Interior. The Station Commander, Colonel Tipton, has reserved the hours of 1230 to 1330 each Sunday as personal conference hour to afford all military personnel an opportunity to submit constructive suggestions and complaints to military matters. No appointment or permission is necessary to attend the personal conference.
- 20 A stage show "Musical Hi-Lites" featuring Jane Copeland, Norman Ceson and Fabian given at the Special Service Theater. Movie follows stage show.
- 21 Lt Keever, on DS to Wing is transferred to Wing. Captain Less, Intelligence Officer, is assigned to 63rd Fighter Wing for duty with A-2 section 1st TAF (prov). Three pilots, Lts Currie, Parker and Powers assigned.
- 22 1st Lt Haddock, T/Sgt Cooke, S/Sgt Cipriani, Kelly, F. A., Sgt Taylor, Cpl Stine and Pfc Ferraiolo get 7 day furloughs to the United Kingdom. A furlough roster based on the length of time since last furlough has been made.
- 23 Starting tonight there will be two showings of movies instead of one on

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

24. The 340th Air Service Squadron eliminated us from the 1st Tactical Air Force Championship playoff by winning 21 to 16 in game played at Nancy. Sgt Graves was removed from the game at the start of the second half and we scored only 2 more points after leading in the first half by score of 14 to 9.
25. Captain Carlton is assigned from Group Headquarters to replace Captain Less in the Intelligence department. Capt Less was transferred recently. Two pilots 1st Lts Pender and Durham were assigned today. Results of Saturday's inspection published in the daily bulletin today reveal that we rated an Excellent in the living site, tech site and administrative site, Very Satisfactory in the mess hall.
26. The Group Information-Education office has set up a War Room where up to the minute news, maps, bulletins etc. are available to all personnel. College and University materials are also available for anyone desiring to further their education by studying in spare time.
27. Q. M. Supply moved into a new Niessen hut built of wire mesh and matting. Originally Q.M. was housed in a tent but storage space in the tent was not adequate.
28. A great improvement in the weather during the latter part of February resulted in much improvement being made in the general appearance of the living and line areas. The living area has been raked and cleaned, tents have undergone a thorough house cleaning and the line has been cleaned and straightened up. New gravel walks are being built in the operations area.

~~SECRET~~

566TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
APC 874 U.S. Army

8 February 1945

SQUADRON HISTORY

On the second mission of the day, the squadron, led by Captain THOMAS W. MORGENTHAU of Savanna, Illinois, performed one of its most successful operational missions. Aside from the destruction of five He-109 F's and G's (the Luftwaffe's best), a bridge at Lamstein near the Swiss border was severely damaged by ten direct bomb hits; a large shed destroyed, and four rails cut. Twelve tons of bombs were dropped in the target area.

While en route back to the base around 1245 hours, approximately thirty He-109's and two He-262 jets were sighted about 30 miles east of Offenburg. The enemy aircraft were painted light blue with black spinners and all of them were carrying belly tanks which they jettisoned before the ensuing combat. The enemy aircraft followed our squadron to Offenburg where the squadron broke into them at 11,000 feet.

Lt. DONALD C. BURMAN of Sidney, Ohio claims two He-109 F's destroyed. After scoring many hits on the enemy plane at 8,000 feet, he last saw his first victim completely covered in flames and heading towards the ground in an uncontrollable flat spin. Closing in from 100 to 15 yards on his second claim, the enemy aircraft blew up in his face. The flame and concussion threw his aircraft a couple hundred feet in the air as if it were a toy.

Captain MORGENTHAU claims one He-109 F destroyed. His strikes on the enemy aircraft from a range of 150-200 yards resulted in an explosion which caused the right flap to fall off and the wheels start down as the 109 went into a steep dive burning briskly. It hit the ground and exploded.

Lt. ALLAN GILBERT of Burbank, California claims an He-109 F destroyed. The enemy pilot bailed out after his engine caught on fire from Lt. Gilbert's strikes and the aircraft made two tight spins going almost straight down.

Major ROBERT L. WILSON of Hurricane, West Virginia destroyed an He-109 F. After scoring many strikes on the enemy aircraft, it was last seen going straight down emitting heavy grey smoke.

Squadron History, 3 February 1943, cont'd.

It was evident from the enemy pilots' skill in aerobatics and from the late types of aircraft they were flying, that this encounter was against some of Goering's finest. The favorable score of five enemy aircraft destroyed with no loss to our squadron was the final tally from this aerial combat.

30322 FIVE 30322
AFG 374 U.S. Army

14 February 1948

SPOTLIGHT REPORT

On the first mission of the day in excellent flying weather, Lt. J. H. Hill of Henry, Arkansas, led the squadron on one of its most devastating river-bomber missions. 2.8 tons of bombs were dropped on targets of enemy rail equipment which were also strafed along with motor transports with favorable results.

Nearly 500 pound bombs were dropped on the Colapeyer marshalling yard where ten cars and two locomotives were observed moving west. Two hits were scored in the yard and the squadron strafed; the result of which were two locomotives, three rail cars, and one marshalling yard damaged.

One locomotive and fifty cars leading west were observed in marshalling yard near Karlsruhe. Eleven bombs were dropped; six landed in the yards destroying a locomotive and thirteen cars, and damaging thirty cars and the marshalling yard.

At Wunstadt, three locomotives (one with steam up heading south) were observed. One bomb was dropped destroying one locomotive, damaging two others and ten cars, as well as causing damage to a nearby factory.

A twenty car train heading south was sighted south of Worms. Four bombs were dropped, two of which made direct hits, destroying three rail cars, three light flat guns, and cutting one rail.

A train composed of one locomotive and eleven coaches heading south was spotted south of Neppenheim. Two bombs were dropped on this target destroying one locomotive, one coach, damaging ten cars, and cutting one rail.

East of Worms, another train whose flat cars were loaded with motor transport was observed heading south. Five bombs were dropped, but no direct hits were scored. Then, the squadron strafed, destroying one locomotive, ten motor transport, probably destroying eight flat cars, and damaging twelve boxcars. The motor transports were left in flames on the flat cars.

Strafing a marshalling yard southwest of Worms damaged thirty boxcars. Other strafing attacks in this area resulted in the des-

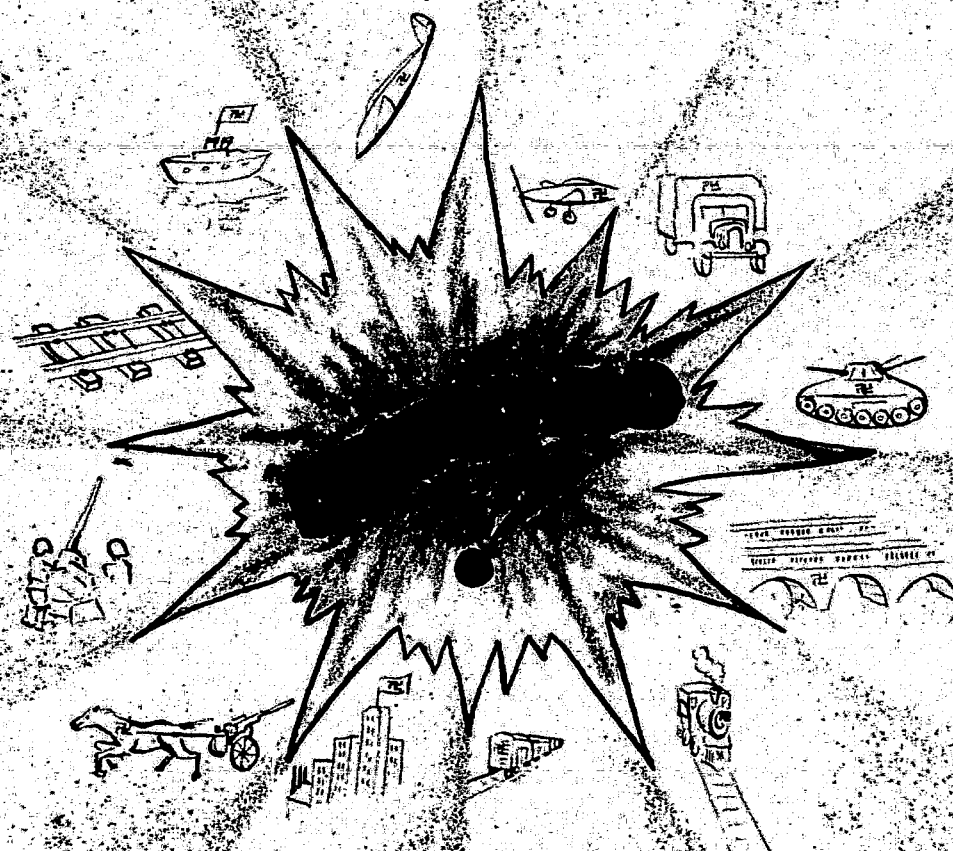
Squadron Master, 30th A., 14 February 1948

traction of two staff cars, two trucks, and one motorcycle.

Light intense and light rain which was encountered at several points on the route to Hissle - Kaiserlautern - Worms - Mannheim to base.

<u>ITEMS DESTROYED:</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>F/D</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Locomotives	1		13
Rail Cars	19	6	37
Carbaling Wares			3
Buildings			1
Flak Guns	1		
Rails Out	3		
Motor Transports	19		
Horse-Drawn Vehicles	2		

366 *Fighter Squadron* **HISTORY**



MARCH

1945

AIR FORCE: FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISORIAL)
 COMMAND: XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
 WING: 64TH FIGHTER WING
 GROUP: 358TH FIGHTER GROUP
 SQUADRON: 366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
 DATES INCLUDED: 1 MARCH 1945 TO 30 MARCH 1945.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Present Designation	Page 1	Outline History
Strength	Page 1	"
Present Station	Page 1	"
Movements	Page 1	"
Campaigns	Page 1	"
Operations	Page 1 - 2 - 3	"
Leaders of Outstanding Missions	Page 3	"
Losses in Action	Page 3	"
Awards	Page 3 - 4 - 5	"
War Diary	Inclosed 3 Pages	
Outstanding Mission Reports	Inclosed	

OUTLINE HISTORY, 366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, MARCH 1945.

Present designation: 358th Fighter Group, 64th Fighter Wing.

b. Changes in Organization: Negative.

c. Strength: Officers 58 Enlisted Men 241.

d. Present Station: Toul, France since 15 Nov 1944.

e. Movements: Negative.

f. Campaigns: Participated in the battle of Germany.

g. Operations: Missions flown during the month of March were of various types; patrol, dive-bombing, armed reconnaissance, escort.

(1) Major effort was directed to close cooperation with ground forces and enemy rail and motor transportation. Enemy positions and installations were attacked by bombing, strafing, bombing with incendiaries, Napalm and fragmentation bombs. Activity greatly increased over the previous month.

(2) Number of missions, 103. Number of Sorties, 972.

(3) Outstanding Missions.

(a) Mission of 16 March against enemy rail roads, rail equipment, roads and motorized equipment.

(b) Targets attacked were directly in the path of our advancing ground forces.

(c) Squadron dropped five tons of G. P. bombs on three trains northeast of Hamburg. 18 direct hits were observed, 3 locomotives and 12 rail cars were destroyed and rails were out in five places. East of Attweiler, twenty half-tracks were bombed and strafed, destroying four and damaging four plus cutting the road in two places.

(b) Mission of 19 March against enemy motor vehicles and enemy troops.

1. Target was enemy elements directly opposing our ground forces.

2. Southeast of Kaiserlautern squadron bombed and strafed motor vehicles destroying twelve and damaging five. One rail cut was made. Along a road Northeast of Landau 200 German troops, stationary in formation, were caught off guard and strafed before they had time to seek cover. At least 150 were killed and others injured.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(c) Mission of 20 March against enemy motor transportation.

1. Target of motor vehicles were vital equipment to the enemy in withdrawing ahead of our ground advances.

2. 350 motor vehicles observed west of Bad Durkheim were attacked with bombs and strafing. An estimated 81 vehicles were destroyed and 49 damaged. An undetermined number of personnel were killed and wounded. Many vehicles were left in flames and much confusion was observed.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(d) Mission of 20 March against enemy motor transportation.

1. Vehicles are high priority targets necessary to the enemy in effecting an orderly withdrawal of men and materials before our advancing ground troops.

2. 25 motor vehicles parked, facing east, on the road between Frankenstein and Bad Durkheim were attacked with 21 260# fragmentation bombs destroying ten vehicles and damaging fifteen. Continuing on course 20 other vehicles were attacked by bombing and strafing destroying 8 vehicles and damaging 10. Further north 20 more vehicles were strafed 5 being destroyed and 3 damaged. A staff car was also later discovered and destroyed by strafing.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(e) Mission of 20 March against enemy motor and horse-drawn vehicles and artillery.

1. Point of opposition to our ground forces.

2. Squadron dropped 24 260# fragmentation bombs on 75 motor vehicles and 100 horse-drawn vehicles and artillery. Many strafing passes were made. Thirty eight horse drawn vehicles were destroyed and thirty two damaged. Twenty one motor vehicles were destroyed and twenty three damaged. The enemy waved white flags and ground controller requested attack to cease as ground forces were moving in to capture the remainder of enemy personnel and equipment.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(f) Mission of 20 March against enemy motor transportation.

1. Target was vital motorized equipment.

2. Southwest of Edenkoben a great number of enemy vehicles were found on all roads in the area, parked, facing East. Squadron attacked dropping fifty five 260# fragmentation bombs and making numerous strafing passes. Thirty six vehicles were destroyed and thirty five damaged.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(g) Mission of 24 March against enemy rail equipment.

1. Mission primarily directed to the destruction of important rail and rolling stock and destruction of enemy transportation system.

2. East of Helmsheim two 500# G. P. bombs were dropped on a train destroying the locomotive. Gun position on flat car was strafed and destroyed. Proceeding to Helmsstadt eight bombs were dropped on marshalling yards destroy-

ing ten railroad cars and damaging eight. A building at the edge of the yard was also destroyed. Two tank cars were strafed and left smoking. West of Mosbach six 500# bombs were dropped on a train destroying the locomotive and four railroad cars and damaging six cars. Another locomotive locomotive and six cars were damaged at Mosbach. North of Heilbronn a locomotive was bombed and destroyed and a factory near the south end of the yards was destroyed. A locomotive pulling ten cars was destroyed and three cars damaged. Many rails in the yards were cut. Another train heading East was strafed and damaged and south of Pforzheim another locomotive was strafed and damaged. Total claims for this very successful mission were 5 locomotives destroyed, three damaged. 14 railroad cars destroyed, thirty one damaged. 1 Flak gun destroyed and 2 buildings destroyed.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

h. Leaders of outstanding missions.

- (a) Captain Thomas M. Hergert, mission of 16 March.
- (b) Captain Thomas M. Hergert, mission of 19 March.
- (c) 1st Lt Allan Gilbert, mission of 20 March.
- (d) 1st Lt Donald O. Scherer, mission of 20 March.
- (e) Captain Andrew J. Nemshick, mission of 20 March.
- (f) Major Samuel L. Hitchcock, mission of 20 March.
- (g) 1st Lt. Joe W. Test, mission of 24 March.

i. Losses in Action:

- (1) Killed. 1st Lt Edmund Poseavage, O-555139, 11 March 45.
1st Lt Charles A. Pender, O-812132, 16 March 45.
- (2) Wounded. None.
- (3) Missing. 2nd Lt. James T. Hamrick, O-826417, 2 March 45.
2nd Lt. Thomas L. Powers, O-832883, 11 March 45.
2nd Lt. John F. Wright, O-766822, 13 March 45.
1st Lt. Robert M. Leety, O-704689, 15 March 45.

j. Awards received during period.

- (1) 1st Lt. David E. Keever, O-821723.

(a) Mission. Armed Reconnaissance mission of 1 December 1944.

(b) Act. Lt Keever led a flight on an armed reconnaissance along the Rhine River in the Strasbourg area. Sighting a train, he bombed and strafed it, destroying the locomotive and damaging nearly 20 boxcars. Lt Keever then rejoined his flight and directed it to a marshalling yard, strafing as his comrades bombed. Reassembling his flight, he led it in several low altitude strafing passes and silenced a number of anti-aircraft guns, damaged additional railroad cars, and caused a great number of enemy casualties. He then led his flight in two additional trains at different points, strafing and damaging both locomotives and some 25 cars. In these attacks, Lt Keever and his flight were subjected to intense and accurate, anti-aircraft fire from about 30 flak guns. He concluded with a strafing attack upon these positions, resulting in

the silencing of 5 guns. While reforming his flight, he observed a large enemy artillery piece in a nearby field, which he, strafed destroying the personnel.

(c) Award. Distinguished Flying Cross.

(2) Sgt Herbert R. White, 19142315.

(a) Mission. Negative.

(b) Act. For meritorious service in direct support of combat operations from 20 December 1943 to 5 February 1945.

(c) Award. Bronze star medal.

- (3) Captain Andrew J. Nemshick (7th, 8th, 9th, 10th OLC)
 Captain Thomas R. Hergert (10th, 11th, 12th, 13th OLC)
 Captain Harold L. McGlellan (17th, 18th, 19th OLC)
 Captain Fred L. Willis (10th, 11th OLC)
 1st Lt. George H. Veldboon (7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th OLC)
 1st Lt Robert M. Leety (8th, 9th, 10th OLC) MIA
 1st Lt Donald C. Scherer (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th OLC)
 1st Lt Roy L. Kilpatrick (11th, 12th OLC)
 1st Lt Allan Gilbert (12th, 13th, 14th OLC)
 1st Lt Roy E. Ireland (12th, 13th, 14th, 15th OLC)
 1st Lt Paul E. Williams (13th, 14th OLC)
 1st Lt Richard G. Pirnie (14th OLC)
 1st Lt Hugh J. Smith (15th, 16th OLC)
 1st Lt Robert H. Rice (16th, 17th OLC)
 1st Lt Joe W. Test (16th, 17th OLC)
 1st Lt Ernest R. Given, Jr. (20, 21st OLC)
 1st Lt Edmund Poscavage (A.M., 1st OLC) MIA
 1st Lt Stephen A. Manning, Jr. (14th OLC)
 2nd Lt Ira E. Davis (A.M., 1st, 2nd OLC)
 2nd Lt Neil W. Currie (1st, 2nd, 3rd OLC)
 2nd Lt Thomas I. Powers (1st, 2nd, 3rd OLC) MIA
 2nd Lt Donald E. Parker (2nd, 3rd, 4th OLC)
 2nd Lt Domenic A. Coppolino (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th OLC)
 2nd Lt James T. Hamrick (6th, 7th, 8th OLC)
 2nd Lt Thomas P. Halloran (7th, 8th OLC)
 2nd Lt Vernon C. Wilke (7th, 8th, 9th OLC)
 2nd Lt John Weinnig, Jr. (8th, 9th, 10th OLC)
 2nd Lt Donald D. McLaren (A.M., 1st OLC)
 2nd Lt Nicklas, William H. (A.M., 1st OLC)
 2nd Lt Don C. Pierce, Jr. (A.M., 1st OLC)
 2nd Lt George M. Graber (8th, 9th OLC)
 2nd Lt James O. Hall (8th, OLC)
 2nd Lt Paul M. Hughes (8th OLC)
 Flt O Robert R. Walker (A.M., 1st, 2nd OLC)
 Flt O Claude I. Woody (A.M., 1st OLC)
 Flt O Louis C. Schowe (A.M.)

(a) Mission. Participation in missions flown by this Squadron, fighter sweeps, armed reconnaissance, patrols, close cooperation, etc.

(b) Act. Having completed the required number of missions, sorties or destroyed enemy aircraft.

(c) Award. Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters to Air Medals previously awarded. The above were awarded per General Orders #30, 20 Feb 45, #32 22 Feb 45, #35 1 Mar 45, #38 1 Mar 45, #43 3 Mar 45, #47 7 Mar 45, #53 10 Mar 45 Hq XII Tactical Air Command.

War Diary, 366th Fighter Squadron, 358th Fighter Group, A-90, Toul, France,
March 1945.

- 1 General orders No. 22, Headquarters XII Tactical Air Command received today awarding Battle honors to the 353th Fighter Group. Everyone is pleased to receive the citation and looking forward to receiving the distinguished unit badge. The award came as a climax to a lot of hard work and effort on the part of each individual in a little more than a year of combat operation against the enemy.
- 2 Lt Henrick missing in action after first mission. His aircraft was seen to explode in mid-air ten miles southeast of Pirmasens, Germany. Red Cross announced that a dance for this squadron is scheduled for the 10th.
- 3 Following receipt of memorandum from the XII Tactical Air Command concerning violations of discipline and dress meeting was held to inform personnel of standards of discipline and dress required.
- 4 Four pilots joined squadron today, Captain Edwards, 1st Lt Funderburke and Caraway and 2nd Lt Wright. Special Services announced the opening of the "CINEMA PATH" at 12 rue du general Gengault in Toul. Movies will be shown Mondays through Fridays only.
- 5 The P. A. System formerly operated from the orderly room is moved to the Operations trailer a more central location.
- 6 Lt Col punning the AGC gave a very interesting speech on the progress of the war and the part this group is playing in the air power being hurled against Germany and the effect it is having in breaking their resistance.
- 7 Announcement is made by Special Service of the forming of a badminton and volleyball league. The GI show "Yankee Jubilee" with an all star cast of 23 played at the Special Service theater. The music and acts, in fact the entire show, was the best we have been privileged to see in all our eighteen months in the ETO.
- 8 The VII Air Force Fighter combat films showing attacks on rocket propelled and jet propelled aircraft is shown along with the picture "Barbary Coast Gent" featuring Wallace Beery is shown at the Special Service theater.
- 9 Lts Rice, Smith, H. J. and Given are transferred to the zone of interior after having completed combat tours. Three new flight commanders are appointed.
- 10 The NCO Club holds ping pong games two nights each week giving cash prizes to winners. One game each night is a "winner take all" game, each player puts fifty francs in the pot and the winner gets it all. It has become very popular with the members and practically each night sees a larger number of players.
- 11 Lts Poscavage and Powers missing after dive-bombing mission, both pilots have only been with the squadron a short time.

- 12 Two weeks rations available for purchase at P. I. The road running past the communal site, closed for repairs after the thaw, opened to general traffic. The speed limit on the station has been posted at 15 M.P.H.
- 13 Seven officers, all pilots assigned from Group Headquarters, its Camp, Build, Caser ia, Bush, Delorey, Engelmann and Dwyer. Four missions were flown today, Lt Wright missing after first mission.
- 14 Our wandering boys, the officer and seven enlisted men who left on furlough to England the 22nd of February came back this morning. Furloughs have been temporarily cancelled due to transportation difficulties, Paris passes are still in effect.
- 15 Eight dive-bombing missions were flown today, Lt Robert M. Peety missing. The movie "Rationing" with Wallace Peery shown at Chateau Theater.
- 16 Squadron dispatched 80 airplanes on 10 missions. Lt Pender was killed when his airplane spun in and crashed while attempting to reach the field and land. The accident happened about two miles from the field and in the crash and subsequent explosion in the semi darkness was easily visible from the base.
- 16 The first meeting of the Enlisted Men's Council was held in the Information-Education Office. M/Sgt Ross was elected president of the council. 1st Sgt Spaulding and M/Sgt Ross represent the squadron in the council which was formed for the purpose of assisting in the planning and execution of programs and activities popular with the enlisted personnel of the station. Meetings of the council will be open to all personnel and anyone having suggestions or recommendations may present them to the council. Meetings are to be held every Monday at 1430 hours.
- 17 It is being rumored that we will be moving soon. Possibly the assumption is based on the fact that practically everything is in good shape, we have a nice mess hall set-up, 3.M. in a new messen gut, gravel walks with steel I beam edges, the grass is growing nice and green and the weather warm. It usually happens that when everything is in fine shape for a long stay we move.
- 18 Cpls Gilliam and Bowden, Pfc's Jaynes and Palmisano and Private Oddie are transferred to the 16th Reinforcement Depot for Infantry Training. We trade intelligence officers with the 367th Squadron, Lt Ursang is transferred to the 367th and Lt Palaia is transferred to us.
- 19 Tennis courts are now open for use between the hours of 0800 and 2000 hours daily. We won over the 324th Fighter group in the VII TAC single elimination basketball tournament played in Nancy, by score of 44 to 15.
- 20 A softball team has been organized with S/Sgt Quinn as manager. We have a field layed out in the area between the living site and the line. Several practice games have been played.
- 21 Our vehicles are in the process of being overhauled and repainted, several have already been completed and look and drive much better than they did during the winter with mud and snow when repair work was very limited.

- 22 Six pilots, 2nd Lt. Cappolino, Hall, Galloran, Hughes, Weimig and Wilke promoted to 1st Lt. Baseball team organized, 1st Sgt. Glie named as manager.
- 23 Four enlisted men joined organization. Since sending men to Infantry we have a shortage in several departments.
- 24 Col Tipton held a meeting of all First three graders in the group at the theater this afternoon. He expressed the importance and necessity of a high degree of discipline now in order that there would be no great let-down following the cessation of hostilities in this theater. He also commended the men on their efforts in the past and indicated what would be required in the near future.
- 25 Major Hackler, former commanding officer on D 5 to XII Tactical Air Command transferred to XII Tactical Air Command for duty in A-3 Section.
- 26 Three limited assignment enlisted men joined. All were former infantrymen. Col Tipton restricted the group to the limits of the station because the number of delinquency reports received the last week was considered excessive.
- 27 Results of Saturdays inspection gave us a Superior rating for the Mess Hall, Administrative Site and Tech Site, very Satisfactory in the living site.
- 28 The enlisted mens council is organizing a camera club. All interested personnel are requested to meet with the Chairman and Recorder of the council to get things underway.
- 29 The French stage show "PARIS CALLING" formerly scheduled to be held in the Pathe Theater in Toul was called off at last moment due to transportation difficulties.
- 30 Good Friday services are held for protestants and Catholics. Colonel Tipton held a meeting of this Squadron and Group Headquarters personnel. We were informed that we would soon be moving into Germany. Capt Stone gave us a briefing on mines and booby traps, Capt Habergave a security lecture, Lt Martin talked about the non-fraternization policy. For the first time, we are about to enter an enemy country, but looking forward to it nevertheless.

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APO 374, U. S. Army,
16 March 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

Flying an armed reconnaissance mission, led by Captain THOMAS M. HERGERT of Savanna, Illinois, the squadron destroyed 3 locomotives, 12 rail cars, and 4 half-tracks; 6 half-tracks were damaged, 5 rail cuts and 2 road cuts were made.

Five tons of general purpose bombs were dropped on 3 trains heading East, northwest of Homburg. Although the visibility was poor, at least 18 direct hits were observed, destroying 3 locomotives, 12 rail cars, and causing 5 rail cuts.

In the woods east of Ottweiler, over 20 half-tracks headed north-east were seen. The squadron strafed and dropped one ton of bombs, destroying 4 half-tracks, damaging 4, and making 2 road cuts. Before heading for home, the squadron leader contacted the ground controller and told him about the half-tracks, so that other airborne units could be vectored to attack the target, as our squadron had dropped all of its bombs.

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
19 March 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

Eight aircraft carrying a total of 56 260 pound fragmentation bombs destroyed 12 motor vehicles, damaged 5 motor vehicles, cut one rail, and killed at least 150 enemy troops.

Led by Captain THOMAS M. HERGERT of Savanna, Illinois, the squadron flew to Sarreunion where the ground controller directed them to check motor vehicle movement east of Homburg. Upon arriving in that area, the only motor movement that was seen were ambulances going both East and West.

The squadron continued on its course in search of legitimate targets which were found southeast of Kaiserlautern. The flights dropped their bombs and strafed, resulting in the destruction of 12 motor vehicles and damage to 5 motor vehicles. One rail was cut.

Along a road northeast of Landau, 200 German troops stationary in close formation were seen. The first burst of fire from our aircraft caught the enemy off guard in their original formation, dispersing for cover after the leading element opened fire on them. Several strafing passes were made along the road, straddling ditches, and the nearby woods, killing at least 150 men.

Captain HERGERT reformed the flights and returned to base.

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
20 March 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

The day's fourth mission was led by Lt. DONALD O. SCHERER of Sidney, Ohio. Upon reaching Saarunion, the section was directed to look for motor vehicles on the road between Frankenstein and Bad Durkheim. Twenty-five vehicles were seen first, parked facing East. Twenty-one 260 pound fragmentation bombs were dropped scoring many direct hits and strafing passes were made. Ten vehicles were destroyed and fifteen damaged. Continuing on their course, twenty other parked vehicles facing East were seen, upon which twenty-six 260 pound fragmentation bombs were dropped scoring 7 direct hits and strafing passes were made. Eight vehicles were destroyed and ten damaged. About six miles further North, 20 enemy vehicles were strafed, destroying 5 and damaging 3. Before returning to the base, a staff car was strafed and destroyed.

~~SECRET~~

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APO 374, U. S. Army,
20 March 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

On a mission reminiscent to the veteran pilots of the squadron of those flown during the historical breakthrough at St. Lo, the squadron, led by Lt. ALLAN GILBERT of Burbank, California, attacked over 350 motor vehicles west of Bad Durkheim with excellent results.

The ground controller at Saarunion vectored the squadron to the target. Captain ANDREW J. NEMSHICK of Hazelton, Pennsylvania and Lt. STEPHEN A. MANNING of Marlboro, Massachusetts, leading Red and Yellow flights respectively, led their flights into the attack with the squadron leader. Almost 4½ tons of bombs were dropped on the enemy vehicles, scoring 27 direct hits and several near misses; after which several strafing passes were made. It is estimated that 81 vehicles were destroyed, 49 vehicles damaged, and an undetermined number of enemy personnel killed and wounded. This attack caused great havoc and confusion in the area with many vehicles left in flames.

Before returning to the base, another formation of American aircraft were observed making very effective attacks on motor vehicles just west of Bad Durkheim where an effective roadblock was created.

It was estimated that over 600 enemy vehicles of all types were retreating eastward, scattered out on all roads between Frankenstein and Bad Durkheim.

~~SECRET~~

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
20 March 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

The Squadron, led by Captain ANDREW J. NEMSHICK of Hazelton, Pennsylvania, flew to Saarunion, but no contact could be made with the ground controller. However, while en route to Pirmasens, the ground controller called and gave instructions to attack motor and horse drawn vehicles on a road northeast of Pirmasens.

When the section arrived at its destination, another outfit was observed attacking the target with good hits among the vehicles. After this attack was completed, the squadron dropped twenty-four 260 pound fragmentation bombs on about 75 motor vehicles and 100 horse drawn vehicles including artillery. Many strafing passes were made. Thirty-eight horse drawn vehicles were destroyed, 32 horse drawn vehicles were damaged, 21 motor transports were destroyed and 23 motor transports were damaged.

As the squadron was leaving the area, another squadron was vectored to attack the same target. However, they heard over the R/T that the enemy were waving white flags and then the ground controller said to cease attack as the ground forces were moving in to capture the remainder of enemy personnel and equipment.

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

AFM 374, U. S. ARMY,
20 March 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

On an air cooperation and armed reconnaissance mission, the squadron, led by Major SAMUEL L. HITCHCOCK, flew the fifth mission of the day on a route to Saarunion, Landau, southwest of Edenkoben, and returned to the base.

The ground controller at Saarunion gave the squadron a target of motor vehicles southwest of Edenkoben. When the squadron arrived at that point, a great number of enemy vehicles were found on all roads in the area, parked facing East. Fifty-five 260 pound fragmentation bombs were dropped on over 100 vehicles, and numerous strafing passes were made. Thirty-six vehicles were destroyed and thirty-five damaged.

~~SECRET~~

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
24 March 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

Railroad targets bore the brunt of the squadron's attacks on the first mission of the day. Led by Lt. JOE W. TEST of Gentry, Arkansas, the squadron flew to the Karlsruhe area and East to Helmshelm, where two 500 pound general purpose bombs were dropped on a train heading North. Two direct hits on the locomotive destroyed it, and one gun position on a flat-car was strafed and destroyed. Proceeding to Helmstadt marshalling yard, eight bombs were dropped, seven of which landed in the yards. Five direct hits among the cars and strafing destroyed ten railroad cars and damaged eight. One building on the edge of the yard was destroyed. Two tank cars just North of the yard were strafed and left smoking. West of Mosbach, six 500 pound bombs were dropped on a train, destroying the locomotive with three direct hits, four railroad cars destroyed by three near misses, and six cars were strafed and damaged. Another locomotive was destroyed and ten railway cars damaged by bombs and strafing at Moslach. Continuing on course, two trains were observed in a marshalling yard north of Heilbronn. The bombs dropped destroyed a locomotive with two direct hits, and also, a factory near the south end of the yards was destroyed. A locomotive pulling ten passenger cars was strafed and destroyed; three of its cars were damaged. The bombs cut many rails in the yards. Still another train, heading East, was strafed damaging the locomotive and one of its cars. Before returning to the base, the squadron strafed and damaged a locomotive south of Pfzörheim.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Locomotives	5	3
Railroad cars	14	31
Flak guns	1	0
Buildings	2	0

~~SECRET~~

AIR FORCE: FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
 COMMAND: XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
 WING: 64TH FIGHTER WING
 GROUP: 358TH FIGHTER GROUP
 SQUADRON: 366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
 DATES INCLUDED: 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Present Designation	Page 1	Outline History
Strength	" 1	"
Present Station	" 1	"
Movements	" 1	"
Campaigns	" 1	"
Operations	" 1-2-3-4	"
Leaders of Outstanding Missions	" 4	"
Losses in Action	" 4	"
Awards	" 4	"
War Diary	Inclosed 3 pages	

OUTLINE HISTORY, 366th Fighter Squadron, April 1945

- a. Present designation: 358th Fighter Group, 64th Fighter Wing.
- b. Changes in Organization: Negative.
- c. Strength: 56 Officers, 248 Enlisted Men.
- d. Present Station: Y-79, Sandhofen, Germany since 9 April 1945.
- e. Movements: Squadron moved from A-90 Toul, France to Y-79 Sandhofen, Germany. Advanced echelon arrived Y-79 on 4 April, subsequent movement of personnel and equipment were made by air and motor transportation. Entire move completed on the 9th.
- f. Campaigns: Part in Battle of Germany.
- g. Operations: During the month of April, dive-bombing, glide-bombing, and low-level strafing attack missions were flown in support of the VI Corps and XV Corps of the Seventh Army. The squadron executed numerous missions of armed recce, mainly against the railroad traffic and railroad facilities but occasionally, enemy airfields, motor transport and supply dumps were assigned as targets and effectively attacked. The mission flown in close support to the ground forces consisted of divebombing, glidebombing, and strafing gun emplacements, troop concentrations, fortified towns and other obstacles directly ahead of the ground forces in the area of Kitzingen, Rothenburg, Crailsheim, and Ellwangen. The missions of armed reconnaissance against rail targets covered a wide area east of the Rhine, north to Bamberg, east to Munich, and south to the Swiss Alps.

(2) Number of missions: 81. Number of sorties: 862.

(3) Outstanding missions:

(a) Fifth mission 4 April attacking Pineapple targets on recce route.

1. Attacking enemy road and rail supply lanes which were supplying the German armies.

2. Five vehicles south of Bamberg strafed, 4 destroyed and one damaged. Eight 500 pound bombs dropped on over 60 camouflaged vehicles south of Bayreuth destroying 30 vehicles and 9 buildings. Following these bombing attacks, the squadron strafed and damaged 19 M/T; 4 locomotives and 6 railroad cars were strafed and damaged and one boxcar destroyed.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(b) Fourth mission during 5 April attacked

Pineapple targets while flying armed recon.

1. Attacking enemy rail and road supply lanes supplying German armies.

2. Bombing and strafing attacks in area just east of Lohr destroyed 19 M/T, 10 railroad cars, one locomotive, and four buildings; and damaged 29 M/T, 10 railroad cars, 3 locomotives, 5 half-tracks, 2 tanks, one building, and one switch-engine.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(c) The fifth mission 5 April attacked Ansbach airfield.

1. To destroy enemy aircraft that have been harassing our front line troops.

2. Flying through light moderate flak, the squadron glidebombed the airfield and made about 25 to 30 individual strafing passes, destroying 11 enemy aircraft, two railroad cars and damaged 5 enemy aircraft.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(d) The third mission 8 April was directed against Ingolstadt airfield.

1. To destroy enemy aircraft of the dwindling Luftwaffe.

2. Eight aircraft strafed flak positions while 8 aircraft strafed enemy aircraft on the ground in a well coordinated attack. Various types of aircraft were on the field. These attacks destroyed 4 barracks, 1 fuel storage point and 21 enemy aircraft, and damaged 4 flak positions, 2 railroad cars and 14 enemy aircraft.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(e) The second mission 10 April was directed against Munich autobahn airstrip.

1. To destroy enemy aircraft harassing our advancing ground troops.

2. Strafing attacks caused numerous secondary explosions destroying 5 enemy aircraft, 16 M/T, and damaged 2 M/T, 1 flak position, and 4 enemy aircraft. Intense light flak was encountered.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(f) Fourth mission 10 April was directed against Ingolstadt airfield.

1. To divebomb and destroy enemy aircraft of the dwindling Luftwaffe.

2. 46 X 260 pound fragmentation bombs dropped on the airdrome with the largest concentration of hits in the southern wooded dispersal area. Some bombs fell on the north edge of the field on a fuel storage point and parked aircraft. Each aircraft made about 4 strafing passes, mainly on the southern and southeastern dispersal areas. Thirteen enemy aircraft, one gun position, and one M/T were destroyed.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(g) The second mission 12 April was directed against M/T and H/D vehicles on roads between Bamberg and Bayreuth.

1. To destroy enemy supply lines.

2. Forty-seven 260 pound fragmentation bombs were dropped on scattered targets in this area and the squadron strafed resulting in the destruction of 13 M/T, 1 locomotive, 1 railroad car, 1 building, and damage to 10 M/T, 13 locomotives, 2 railroad cars, and one horse-drawn artillery piece.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(h) The second mission 24 April was directed against M/T traffic southeast of Kaufbeuren.

1. High priority target of enemy aircraft was observed on an airfield near Kaufbeuren while flying en route to vectored target.

2. Bombing, strafing, and rocket attacks resulted in the destruction of 17 enemy aircraft, 3 M/T, and damage to 5 enemy aircraft and 1 hangar.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

(i) The first mission 30 April was directed against Pineapple target south of Munich.

1. To destroy the retreating ground forces of the German Army.

2. Bombing, strafing, and rocket attacks destroyed 54 M/T and damaged 29. On an airfield near Holzkirchen, Yellow flight made a total of 25 individual strafing passes destroying 8 enemy aircraft and damaging 6.

SECRET

h. Leaders of outstanding missions:

1. g-3-a. 1st Lt. James O. Hall.
- g-3-b. 1st Lt. Roy E. Ireland.
- g-3-c. 1st Lt. George H. Veldboon.
- g-3-d. 1st Lt. Donald O. Scherer.
- g-3-e. 1st Lt. Allan Gilbert.
- g-3-f. 1st Lt. George H. Veldboon.
- g-3-g. Colonel James B. Tipton.
- g-3-h. Major Samuel L. Hitchcock.
- g-3-i. 1st Lt. Roy E. Ireland.

i. Losses in action:

1. Killed: Nil.
2. Wounded: 1st Lt. Lyle M. Lovell, O-710136, 11 April 1945.
3. Missing: 2nd Lt. John W. Kelly, O-834252, 26 April 1945.
4. Taken prisoner: 1st Lt. Lyle M. Lovell, O-710136, 11 April 1945.
1st Lt. Herbert A. Durham, O-509812, 11 April 1945.
Both pilots were repatriated.

j. Awards received during period:

1. John (NMJ) Paczak, 36325189.
 - a. Mission: Nil.
 - b. Airplane completing more than 300 consecutive missions without a mechanical abort.
 - c. First Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star awarded per section 2, GO # 63, XII TAC, 9 April 1945.

~~SECRET~~

WAR DIARY, 366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, APRIL 1945.

- 1 Many members of the squadron attended morning and afternoon Easter Services held in Red Cross Building and Merton Hangar. S/Sgt Bernatonis was painfully injured when a frag bomb he was handling accidentally fell on his foot. Six 8 plane armed recce missions were flown.
- 2 A meeting for the organization of a Camera Club was held in the N. C. O. Club. The club is sponsored by the Enlisted Mens Council and organized as a post war activity.
- 3 Preparations are being made for moving into Germany. Operations will continue from Toul during the move.
- 4 Twelve enlisted men and two officers leave by motor for new base. A survey of buildings revealed that very few are suitable for use and it is decided that personnel will live in tents, sites are chosen.
- 5 Advance echelon moves by motor convoy and begin setting up living area and line. The chosen site of living area is a pine grove, no arrangement of tents is made and tents are pitched in spaces between the trees. The line is hardstand in front of bombed-out hangars.
- 6 Other personnel and equipment arrive by air. Engineers are filling bomb craters on the line. Operations, Intelligence, Engineering and Armament set up offices in a slightly damaged building near the line.
- 7 More men and equipment continues to arrive by air and motor transport. Everyone is amazed at the condition of buildings and installations. All hangars have been demolished by bombing, nothing is left but piles of wreckage and debris. Roads have to be cleared of rubbish. Personnel are warned against exploring and souvenir hunting because of much unexploded ammunition and duds lying around.
- 8 Airplanes arrive and operation from new field begins. It was especially interesting to those who traveled by motor convoy to see the shot-up, burned-out and bombed vehicles along the roads in the vicinity of Saargumines and in the area between Saargumines and Ludwigshaven. Our squadron had several "field days" in that area and it was interesting to see some of the results of some of our missions.
- 9 Personnel who stayed behind until the airplanes left arrived today, completing the move. Squadron is for the first time stationed in enemy territory necessitating a more adequate guard and more rigid adherence to security regulations. All personnel are confined to the limits of the station except for official business trips.
- 10 Special Service Theater opens. The Theater, Red Cross Club and N.C.O. Club are all conveniently located in a building near the squadron living sites.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 11 1st Lt Lovell and Durham missing in action. Lt Durham was last seen bailing out in the vicinity of Weiderstettin, Germany.
- 12 Lt Merritt and Cpl Magnes leave to investigate areas where pilots were reported missing in an effort to determine the status of the missing pilots.
- 13 Lt Powers formerly reported missing in action was found to have been killed when his airplane crashed in the vicinity of Saargemund, Germany. Two missions were flown today.
- 14 No flying today; pilots released. Mechanics have "maintenance day". Men have practically completed flooring tents with lumber obtained from bombed buildings. A hospital ward tent is put up in living area for use as a Day Room. A crap table and ping pong table are in the process of being built and a supply of chairs has been obtained.
- 15 Almost every night since arriving on this base a German airplane dubbed "Red Check Charlie", has visited this area. He was over again tonight and received a warm reception, everything on the base opened up and drove him away. The Special Service Theater presented the movie "Wilson". 1st Lt Test promoted to Captain and 2nd Lt Parker promoted to 1st Lt.
- 16 The Enlisted Men's Council held a meeting for the purpose of selecting a Staff to Edit and publish a Group Newspaper. Squadron flew four dive-bombing missions.
- 17 Lt Leety formerly reported missing in action has been found to have been killed. Softball games have been resumed in the Group Softball League. Newly constructed volleyball and badminton courts are now ready for use.
- 18 Captain Hergert, Operations Officer is assigned to the 365th Squadron to be Squadron Commander. Captain Jones joins the 366th and becomes Operations Officer. We traded Medical officers with the 367th Squadron, Captain Pearlman left us and we got Captain Benjamin. Lts Coppelino and Wilke get leaves to the 1st TAF rest home in Annecy, France.
- 19 Two Bowling Alleys in the Theater building are now available for use. It is the first time since leaving the states that bowling fans have had the opportunity to engage in their favorite past time.
- 20 Special Service announced a track and field meet to be held in the near future. Entries are requested to participate in the High Jump, Pole Vault, Broad Jump, Shot Put, Discus and Javelin Throw, 100 yard Dash, 220 yard Relay, 60 yard Sprint and 15 Man Tug of War team. Baseball league starts today.
- 21 An outdoor theater has been completed in the special Service Area. The French Variety Show with a cast of 20 was presented. The first Edition of "Orange Tales", the recently organized Group Newspaper was distributed today.
- 22 Three Crew Chiefs, S/Sgts Groves, Olson and Paczak have records of more than 300 missions being flown in airplanes they maintained without a return for mechanical failure.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

- 23 Our Ground officer personnel seems to be changing rather frequently, Major Guthrie is assigned to us as Executive Officer and Captain Craft is assigned to the 365th squadron.
- 24 Seventeen enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and on the ground in the only mission flown today.
- 25 Information volunteered by a German civil mechanic who used to be employed on this base reveals that this was one of the best airfields in the Reich.
- 26 Lt Durham returned to the squadron after being missing in action since the 11th. He bailed out in enemy territory and was taken prisoner, interrogated and placed in a prisoner of War Camp where he remained until he was liberated by our advancing ground forces. He waived the right to go back to the States in order to continue flying combat.
- 27 Another French Variety Show is presented at the Special Service Theater.
- 28 Ten enlisted men and an officer leave for three days rest in Toul and Nancy. The Group maintains a building in Toul to accommodate members of the Group.
- 29 Five enlisted men of the squadron are flown to Paris on three day pass.
- 30 In todays first mission squadron destroyed 54 motor transports and 8 aircraft damaged 29 motor transports and 6 aircraft in Munich and Dillingen areas. The second mission returned to the base because of bad weather.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

SECRET

366 Ftr. Sq.



Colonel Tipton awarding
Lt Allan Gilbert the D.F.C.
on 10 March 1945.

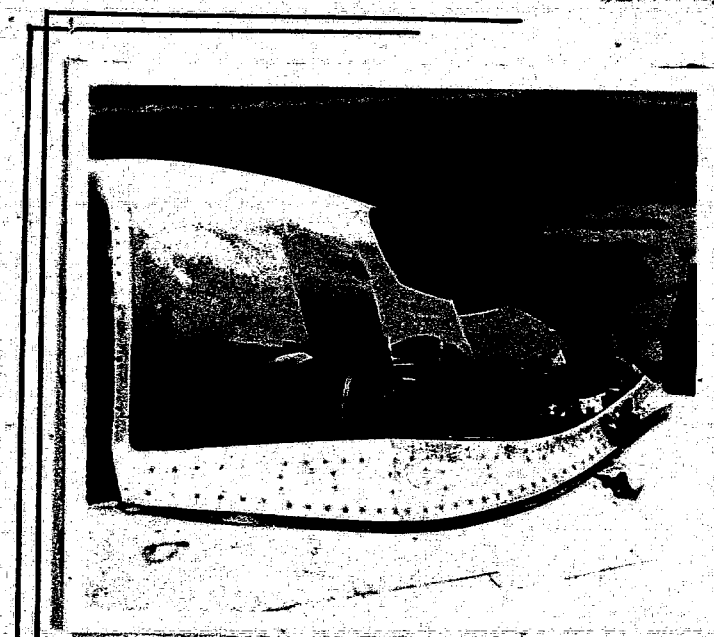


Colonel Tipton awarding
Lt. Stephen A. Manning
the D.F.C. on 10 March '45

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

366th Flt Sq



Aircraft flown by Lt John Winnig, Jr.
hit by cannon fire from enemy aircraft on
30 April 1945.



~~SECRET~~

366

SQUADRON
HISTORYAPRIL
1945

EA (MI)
EA (GROUP)
MIF
THRU - ARMY BUNKERS
Lump
P-51 COTS
BUNKERS
GUN EMPLOYMENT
GUN CUTS
GUN COTS
GUN ATTACHES
GUN COTS
GUN COTS

5
27
328
4
26
80
0
0
1
16
7
530
32

0
0
16
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
0

0
64
196
111
29
155
1
7
0
0
0
165
15

566TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

AFC 374, U. S. Army,
30 April 1945

SQUADRON HISTORY

The squadron, led by Lt. ROY E. IRELAND of Wadena, Minnesota, destroyed a great number of enemy motor vehicles southeast of Munich, and Yellow flight, led by Lt. DONALD C. SCHEER of Sidney, Ohio, effectively attacked an enemy airfield near Polzkirchen destroying many aircraft.

The enemy vehicles were spotted on scattered areas on various roads southeast of Munich and leading away from the city. Shooting rockets, dropping twenty-four fragmentation cluster bombs, and strafing, the squadron destroyed fifty-four vehicles, damaged twenty-nine others and killed numerous personnel of the enemy. While en-route to base, Yellow flight observed an airfield near Polzkirchen with all types of enemy aircraft dispersed along the airfield and in the surrounding woods. This flight made a total of twenty-five individual strafing passes with the guns of one aircraft burning out, limiting it to one strafing pass. Bursting into flame two Ju-52's, three Ju-86's, one FW-190, and two unidentified aircraft were destroyed, and one Ju-52, two FW-190's, and two He-109's were damaged.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Motor vehicles	54	29
Enemy Aircraft	8	6

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

AFC 374, U. S. Army,
24 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

The squadron, led by Major SAMUEL L. HITCHCOCK of Muskogee, Oklahoma, received instructions from the ground controller to attack enemy motor traffic around a section southeast of Kaufbeuren. Although this target could not be found, an enemy airdrome with many aircraft dispersed upon it, was discovered on the southern outskirts of Kaufbeuren. Bombing, strafing, and rocket attacks resulted in the destruction of three He-109's, seven He-111's, one Do-217, three Ju-88's, one He-410, one Ju-131, and three motor vehicles, and damage to three He-111's, two Ju-88's, and one of the hangars. Twelve 500 pound general purpose bombs were dropped on the enemy aircraft.

Total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Aircraft	17	5
Motor transport	3	0
Hangars	0	1

~~SECRET~~

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

AFC 374, U. S. Army,
12 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

The squadron, led by Colonel JAMES B. TIPTON of Blytheville, Arkansas, was requested to recce the roads between Bamberg and Sayreuth. On the targets found in this area forty-seven fragmentation bombs were dropped and a great many strafing passes were made. These attacks destroyed thirteen motor vehicles, one locomotive, one railroad car, and one building and damaged ten motor vehicles, thirteen locomotives, three railroad cars, two buildings, and one horse-drawn artillery piece. Several piles of boxes were observed along the roads. These boxes were strafed and their unknown contents were damaged.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Motor transports	13	10
Locomotives	1	13
Railroad cars	1	3
Buildings	1	2
Horse-drawn artillery		1

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
10 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

With many German airfields deep in the Reichland now in range of Allied fighter-bombers, the Ingolstadt Airfield became one of the targets during this day's work. On the fourth mission, the squadron led by Lt. GEORGE H. VELDEBOON of Los Angeles, California, dropped forty-six fragmentation bombs on the airfield and the squadron made four strafing passes on the dispersed enemy aircraft. Many fires and explosions resulted from these persistent attacks, destroying four Ju-188's, five Ju-88's, one Fw-190, two Me-109's, and one He-111 and damaging two Ju-188's, one Ju-88, two Fw-190's, two Me-109's, three He-111's, and one unidentified aircraft. In addition to these claims, four gun positions were attacked and one motor vehicle was destroyed.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Aircraft (on the ground)	13	11
Motor vehicle	1	

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
10 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

The Munich autobahn airstrip in the vicinity of Sauerlach was the target of this strafing mission, the second mission of the day. The Germans were using this super automobile highway as an airstrip as well as a highway. Flying through thick concentrations of light flak, the squadron, led by Lt. ALLAN GILBERT of Burbank, California, strafed the dispersed enemy aircraft and motor vehicles in this vicinity. As a result of this attack, at least three Fw-190's, one Me-109, and one unidentified aircraft were destroyed; one Fw-190, one He-111, and two unidentified aircraft were damaged. In addition to these aircraft claims, sixteen motor vehicles were destroyed, two motor vehicles and one flak position were damaged.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Motor transports	16	2
Flak position		1
Aircraft (on ground)	5	4

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APO 374, U. S. Army,
8 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

The third mission for the day was a strafing attack on the Ingolstadt airfield led by Lt. DONALD O. SCHERER, of Sidney, Ohio; brought fruitful results. Over 100 aircraft were observed dispersed in the woods and around the extreme edges of the field. In a well coordinated attack, eight of our aircraft strafed the flak positions, while the other eight attacked the dispersed enemy aircraft. After about four strafing passes per aircraft were made, at least fifteen enemy planes were observed to be in flames, while explosions followed attacks on others. Four Hs-129's, nine Ju-88's, three Me-109's, one He-111, one Fw-190, and three Me-410's were destroyed; three Me-109's, one He-111, four Fw-190's, two Me-110's, and four unidentified aircraft were damaged. In addition to the aircraft claims, four barracks buildings and one fuel storage point were destroyed; one locomotive, two railroad cars and four flak positions were damaged. During the strafing attack, an Me-262 circling the airfield at 10,000 feet, finally made a pass at one of our aircraft but was chased away.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Barracks	4	
Fuel storage point	1	
Locomotive		1
Railroad cars		2
Aircraft (on ground)	21	14

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
5 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

While leading a section of eight aircraft on an armed reconnaissance mission, the fifth mission of the day, Lt. GEORGE H. VELDBOON of Los Angeles, California, spotted over thirty Ju-88's on the Ansbach airdrome. These enemy aircraft were dispersed in groups of six's and eight's near wooded areas and fairly well camouflaged. A glide-bombing attack and about thirty-five to forty individual strafing passes were made in spite of the light flak being thrown up. Fires billowed from the burning planes all over the field. Eleven aircraft were destroyed, five aircraft damaged, and two box-cars were destroyed.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Aircraft (on ground)	11	5
Railroad cars	2	

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

AFPO 374, U. S. Army,
5 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

A section of eight aircraft on the fourth mission of the day, led by Lt. ROY E. IRELAND of Wadena, Minnesota, and each carrying two 500 pound general purpose bombs, were vectored to recce the area east of Lohr. In the ensuing attacks, four buildings were destroyed and one damaged by bombs. As a result of numerous other strafing passes and bomb runs, nineteen motor vehicles, 10 railroad cars and one locomotive (direct hit) were destroyed; and twenty-nine motor vehicles, sixty railroad cars, three locomotives, five half-tracks, two tanks and one switch engine were damaged. Dispersed enemy vehicles in transit were observed in a general movement East and West between Bamberg and Bayreuth. After these attacks, the squadron returned to the base.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Motor transports	19	29
Railroad cars	10	60
Locomotives	1	3
Half-tracks		5
Tanks		2
Buildings	4	1
Switch-engine		1

366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

APC 374, U. S. Army,
4 April 1945.

SQUADRON HISTORY

Leading a squadron of sixteen aircraft on the fifth mission of the day, Lt. JAMES O. HALL of Leadville, Pennsylvania, found many ground targets to attack. One flight strafed five motor vehicles south of Bamberg, destroying four and damaging one. Over sixty camouflaged motor vehicles were found south of Bayreuth, upon which eight 500 pound bombs were dropped, destroying thirty of the vehicles and nine buildings. In addition, thirteen of these vehicles were strafed and damaged. Four vehicles were destroyed and six damaged as a result of other strafing attacks in the same vicinity. Fifteen boxcars and fifteen flat cars, which some of the aforementioned motor vehicles were upon, were strafed and the last box car, which was camouflaged, exploded. Four locomotives and six passenger cars were strafed and damaged before the squadron set course for home.

The total claims for this mission are as follows:

	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
Buildings	9	
Locomotives		5
Railroad cars	1	
Motor transports	39	21

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

41-386-142
May 45

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

SHAW-WALKER

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

MICROFILMED

75742-167-C

RESTRICTED

366 Fighter Squadron HISTORY

May
1945

Missions 672
Sorties 7646
Bomb Ton
on Target 2229

TOTAL CLAIMS

DEC. 20, 1943 To May 8, 1945

	Destroyed	Probable	Damaged
EIA Air	34	6	15
EIA Ground	90	0	70
M/T	1177	21	675
Arm'd Vehicles & Tanks	67	10	156
Locos	147	2	181
R.R. Cars	1503	27	2386
Bridges	23	0	15
Gun Positions	149	31	84
Dumps	19	0	3
Factories & Buildings	874	10	339
Vessels & Barges	30	19	38
House Driven Equipment	69	19	53
Road Cuts	28	0	0
R.R. Cuts	260	0	0
Hangers	63	0	0

RESTRICTED

SECRET

566TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Intelligence Officer

AFC 374, U. S. Army,
12 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Group Historian, 358th Fighter Group, AFC 374, U.S. Army

1. In accordance with Ltr. Hq., XII TAC, dated 4 December 1944, attached hereto is the history of 566th Fighter Squadron for the month of May 1945.

For the Squadron Commander

Milton A. Carlton

MILTON A. CARLTON,
Captain, Air Corps,
Squadron Historian.

3 Incls:
Incl 1 - Outline Hist, 566th
Fitr Sq, May 1945.
Incl 2 - War Diary, 566th
Fitr Sq, May 1945.
Incl 3 - Photographs.

DECLASSIFIED
DD DIR 5200.2

RESTRICTED

AIR FORCE:	FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROVISIONAL)
COLLARD:	ALL TACTICAL AIR COLLARD
WING:	64TH FIGHTER WING
GROUP:	558TH FIGHTER GROUP
SQUADRON:	366TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
DATES INCLUDED:	1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Present Designation	Page 1	Outline History
Strength	" 1	"
Present Station	" 1	"
Movements	" 1	"
Campaigns	" 1	"
Operations	" 1	"
Leaders of Outstanding Missions	" 1	"
Losses in Action	" 2	"
Awards	" 2-3-4-5-6	"
War Diary	Inclosed 3 pages	
Photographs	Inclosed 3 pages	

RESTRICTED

353.152

UNITED STATES, 353rd Fighter Squadron, May, 1945.

- a. Present designation: 353rd Fighter Group, 34th Fighter Wing.
- b. Changes in Organization: Negative.
- c. Strength: 61 Officers, 243 Unlisted Men.
- d. Present Station: Y-79, Sandhofen, Germany since 4 April 1945.
- e. Movements: Negative.
- f. Campaigns: Participated in Battle of Central Germany.
- g. Operations:

(1) At the beginning of the month German air and ground resistance had almost entirely collapsed on the Seventh Army - First Tactical Air Force (Prov) Front. The demoralized enemy was surrendering in large numbers and it was apparent the end was very near. Nevertheless, the squadron continued to fly out on armed reconnaissance and patrol missions, though on only one occasion, described later, could profitable targets be found. Finally, the last mission was flown May 8th, the last day of the war in Europe. This was an uneventful patrol of the Munich-Salzburg area and was led by Major Samuel L. Mitchell. Thus, for this squadron, in a quiet and routine manner, the curtain was rung down on combat operations in Europe, and ended a period of valiant and victorious struggle against the Germans.

(2) Number of missions: 7. Number of sorties: 88.

(3) Outstanding missions:

(a) Second mission 3 May 1945 was directed against enemy motor vehicles in the Donauworth-Munich area.

1. Attacking enemy road transportation and communication lanes which were supplying the German armies.

2. At a point about 28 miles southeast of Munich, 25 - 30 men on horseback were observed heading East. They were strafed and many were killed. A few miles from this point, a number of motor vehicles, horse-drawn vehicles, trucks and artillery pieces were observed. Numerous strafing passes resulted in the destruction of 61 motor vehicles, 7 horse-drawn vehicles, 1 staff car, and damaged 20 motor vehicles and 1 artillery piece.

3. Photographic evidence not available.

h. Leaders of outstanding missions:

- 1. g-5-a, 1st Lt. Paul E. Williams.

RESTRICTED

i. Losses in action:

- (1) Killed: Negative.
- (2) Wounded: Negative.
- (3) Missing: Negative.
- (4) Taken prisoner: Negative.

j. Awards received during month:

- (1) 1st Lt. Donald C. Scherer, O-732374

(a) Mission: Attack enemy airfield.

(b) Act: On 8 April 1945, Lt. Scherer led the squadron on a mission to attack the Ingolstadt airfield. Lt. Scherer strafed enemy aircraft at extremely low altitude, thereby drawing a great volume of enemy antiaircraft fire. At the risk of his life, he made six additional attacks, regardless of the powerful antiaircraft defenses and enemy aircraft flying in the area, and destroyed four and damaged three enemy aircraft. The total claims for the mission were 21 enemy planes destroyed, 14 enemy planes damaged, 4 barracks buildings destroyed, 1 fuel storage point destroyed, 1 locomotive and two railroad cars damaged and 4 flak positions damaged.

(c) Award: Silver Star.

- (2) 1st Lt. Allan Gilbert, O-803967.

(a) Mission: Divebomb ammunition and supply depot 25 February 1945.

(b) Act: On 25 February 1945, Lt. Gilbert led the squadron on a mission to bomb an ammunition and supply depot near Romburg, Germany. Despite poor visibility, Lt. Gilbert located the target and dove through intense anti-aircraft fire to drop his bombs in the center of the target causing large explosions and numerous fires. He assembled the squadron and continued bombing and strafing other targets, destroying eight rail cars, damaging eight locomotives, and over thirty-three rail cars, making numerous rail cuts, and the destroying of several buildings and other supply installations.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

- (3) 1st Lt. Stephen A. Manning, Jr., O-312223.

(a) Leading outstanding armed reconnaissance mission.

(b) Act: On 25 December 1944, Lt. Manning led a flight on an armed reconnaissance over the Saarbrücken-Weisbrücken-Kaiserlautern area. He led the flight in bombing the Kaiserlautern marshalling yard,

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

destroying a locomotive and fifteen cars and damaging ten houses. Later he carried twenty bombs in one place and a locomotive and twenty-five cars in another causing destruction and damage to vital enemy equipment.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(4) 1st Lt. Roy A. Ireland, Jr., O-710113.

(a) Mission: Leading outstanding armed reconnaissance mission.

(b) Act: 1st Lt. Ireland particularly distinguished himself on 5 March 1945, while leading his flight on an armed reconnaissance of the Karlsruhe-paper tract. By his daring example in pressing bombing and strafing attacks to extremely low altitudes in the face of strong enemy fire, several locomotives, railroad cars, motor transport and personnel were destroyed or disabled.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(5) 1st Lt. Roy L. Milpatrick, O-733553.

(a) Mission: Air Cooperation.

(b) Act: On 10 March 1945, 1st Lt. Milpatrick led a flight on an air cooperation mission southeast of Saarbrücken. 1st Lt. Milpatrick flew to the target, a division headquarters, known to have anti-aircraft defenses. His decision to go fell in the middle of the cluster of buildings causing flame and smoke. Other pilots of his flight followed his example in bombing and effectively destroyed the target.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(6) 1st Lt. Donald C. Scherer, O-731374.

(a) Mission: Divebombing.

(b) Act: 1st Lt. Scherer particularly distinguished himself on 8 February 1945 on a divebombing mission against railroad bridges and in the destruction of two Me-109's. His aggressiveness and determination to press home the attack in spite of overwhelming odds are in the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(7) 1st Lt. Paul E. Williams, O-713537.

(a) Mission: Armed Reconnaissance.

(b) Act: On 1 March 1945, 1st Lt. Williams led his flight on an armed reconnaissance mission in the Darmstadt-Heilbronn area. Flying in poor weather conditions, 1st Lt. Williams observed activity in a railway marshalling yard at Hugenber. Disregarding enemy anti-aircraft fire,

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

he led his flight and released bombs on a group of loaded cars resulting in a large explosion and fires.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(8) Major Samuel L. Hitchcock, O-417630.

(a) Mission: Attack enemy airfield.

(b) Act: On 24 April 1945, Major Hitchcock led his squadron in a destructive attack upon an enemy airfield. After bombing a disposal area, he led his squadron on four strafing passes in spite of the heavy concentrations of anti-aircraft fire. Seventeen enemy aircraft were destroyed and five others damaged.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(9) Captain Fred L. Willis, O-866175.

(a) Mission: Attack enemy airfield.

(b) Act: On 10 April 1945, Captain Willis led a flight on a mission to attack the Ingolstadt airfield in Southern Germany. Intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered when the area was reached. Observing over 100 enemy aircraft of various types dispersed on the field, Captain Willis strafed a Ju-188, setting it on fire. In the following attack, he strafed another Ju-188 causing it to explode. In repeated attacks, Captain Willis personally destroyed two Ju-188's and damaged one, destroyed a He-111 and damaged a Me-109.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(10) 1st Lt. George E. Veldboon, O-553420.

(a) Mission: Attack enemy airfield.

(b) Act: On 10 April 1945, Lt. Veldboon led his squadron on a mission to attack the Ingolstadt airfield in Southern Germany. Despite intense anti-aircraft fire in the area, Lt. Veldboon led bombing and strafing attacks against dispersed enemy aircraft and personally destroyed one Ju-188, one Me-109 and one Ju-88. The formation that Lt. Veldboon was leading accounted for thirteen enemy aircraft destroyed, fourteen damaged, one gun position destroyed and three damaged.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(11) 1st Lt. Domenic A. Coppolino, O-829649.

(a) Mission: Armed Reconnaissance.

(b) Act: Lt. Coppolino particularly distinguished himself on 11 April 1945, while leading his flight on an armed reconnaissance of the Ulm-Dillingen area. Throughout the mission, Lt. Coppolino led

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

bombing and strafing attacks until he was deep in enemy territory, low on gas and out of ammunition. The flight under the leadership of Lt. Coppolino, accounted for the destruction of three locomotives, eight railroad cars, three buildings and one motor transport, and the damaging of two locomotives, sixteen motor transports, eleven railroad cars, and two marshalling yards.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(12) 1st Lt. James C. Hall, O-826416.

(a) Mission: Armed Reconnaissance.

(b) Act: On 4 April 1945, Lt. Hall led a squadron formation on an armed reconnaissance of the Bamberg-Murnberg area. Lt. Hall observed sixty plus motor transport and attacked by bombing and strafing. Thirty-two vehicles were destroyed and nine buildings destroyed and nineteen motor transports were damaged; numerous boxcars were also destroyed and damaged.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(13) 1st Lt. Paul E. Hughes, O-821498.

(a) Mission: Armed Reconnaissance.

(b) Act: On 24 March 1945, Lt. Hughes led a flight on an armed reconnaissance in the Heilbronn-Bruschal area. Observing activity in the marshalling yards at Mosbach, Lt. Hughes led his flight in attack and destroyed numerous loaded boxcars, causing fires in the area and great damage to equipment and the marshalling yards.

(c) Award: Distinguished Flying Cross.

(14) Major Thomas M. Hergert (16th OLC)
Captain Fred L. Ellis (13th OLC)
Captain Maynard (M) Edwards (1st OLC)
1st Lt. Richard G. Birnie (16th OLC)
1st Lt. Robert E. Caraway (2nd, 3rd OLC)
1st Lt. Domenic A. Coppolino (11th OLC)
1st Lt. Thomas C. Funderburke, Jr. (2nd OLC)
1st Lt. Allan (M) Gilbert (17th OLC)
1st Lt. George M. Graber (11th OLC)
1st Lt. James C. Hall (11th OLC)
1st Lt. Charles A. Pender (AM)
1st Lt. Robert L. Leaty (11th OLC)
1st Lt. Herbert A. Durham (2nd OLC)
1st Lt. Thomas P. Halloran (10th, 11th OLC)
1st Lt. Paul E. Hughes (11th, 12th OLC)
1st Lt. Roy E. Ireland (16th OLC)
1st Lt. Roy L. Kilpatrick (14th OLC)
1st Lt. Lyle N. Lovell (10th OLC)
1st Lt. Hugh V. Martin (AM, 1st OLC)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1st Lt. Donald E. Parker (7th, 8th CLC)
1st Lt. Donald C. Scherer (14th CLC)
1st Lt. George H. Veldboon (13th, 14th CLC)
1st Lt. John (III) Weinnig, Jr. (11th, 12th CLC)
1st Lt. Vernon C. Wilke (12th, 13th CLC)
1st Lt. Paul E. Williams (17th CLC)
2nd Lt. Percy T. Bush (1st CLC)
2nd Lt. Roland D. Camp (2nd, 3rd CLC)
2nd Lt. Philip L. Caseria (1st, 2nd CLC)
2nd Lt. Neil W. Currie (6th, 7th CLC)
2nd Lt. Ira E. Davis (5th, 6th CLC)
2nd Lt. John A. DeLorey (1st, 2nd CLC)
2nd Lt. William M. Dwyer (1st, 2nd CLC)
2nd Lt. William G. Engelmann (2nd, 3rd CLC)
2nd Lt. Donald E. Gervens (4th, 1st CLC)
2nd Lt. Fenton W. Guild (2nd CLC)
2nd Lt. Thomas L. Powers (5th CLC)
2nd Lt. Arthur A. Lanning (4th)
2nd Lt. Donald D. McLaren (4th, 5th CLC)
2nd Lt. William E. Micklas (4th, 5th CLC)
2nd Lt. Don C. Pierce (3rd, 4th CLC)
Flt C Louis C. Schowe (4th, 5th CLC)
Flt C Robert R. Walker (4th, 5th CLC)
Flt C Claude L. Woody (4th, 5th CLC)

(a) Mission: Participation in missions flown by this squadron, Armed Reconnaissance, Fighter Sweeps, Patrols, Close Co-operation, etc.

(b) Act: For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations.

(c) Award: Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal previously awarded. The above were awarded per General Orders #61, 31 March 1945, #74, 14 May 1945, and #78, 18 May 1945, Hqs. XII Tactical Air Command.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

MEMO DATED, 360th FIB, 121 1945.

- 1 Inspection results were announced and it was clear to every member of this organization that drastic steps will have to be taken to raise that "satisfactory" rating that we received in our living area. We played the 462nd Service Squadron in baseball and it was an exciting game, even though we were beaten by one point.
- 2 Lieutenants Allan Gilbert, Roy L. Kilpatrick, Jr., and Stephen A. Manning, Jr. left the squadron -- homeward bound! Our squadron took-off at 0800, led by Major Jones, on an armed reconnaissance mission over Donauehrbach. However, because of poor weather, they were forced to return to the base with all their bombs.
Taking off again at 1045, our squadron led by Lt. Delaney, flew on an armed reconnaissance mission over Donauehrbach and Munich. No targets were available, so the planes returned to the base.
- 3 Our squadron took-off at 1025, led by Major Hitchcock, on an armed reconnaissance mission over Ulm, Memmingen, and Kaufbeuren. The squadron could not contact controllers, so they were forced to return with all bombs.
Taking off again at 1342, our squadron led by Lt. Williams, flew on an armed reconnaissance mission over Donauehrbach and Munich. During the course of this mission, 61 I/I's were destroyed and 20 damaged, 7 horse-drawn vehicles were destroyed, 1 staff car was destroyed and 1 artillery piece was damaged.
- 4 Today was Bargain Day, as we received word that the P.I. would be open this afternoon and all rushed over to stock up on supplies. This was the first chance many of us had to throw our money around and see just how much "purchasing power" these German marks have.
- 5 A stage show, entitled "Conrad Capers", was presented this evening by a group of G.I.'s and was enjoyed by all.
- 6 As a result of yesterday's inspection, we have gone one step higher in the rating for our living area -- a "Very Satisfactory" and our administration site received a "Superior".
Our squadron took-off at 1315, led by Major Jones, on an area cover and patrol mission over Furstenfeldbruck, Salzburg, and Memmingen. The mission was uneventful.
- 7 The movie for tonight was "Objective Burma".
- 8 Our squadron took-off at 0755, led by Captain Ellis, on a patrol mission over Munich and Salzburg. The mission was uneventful.
Taking off again at 1510, our squadron led by Major Hitchcock flew a patrol mission of the Munich-Salzburg area--uneventful.

-1- RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 9 V-E Day with no celebration -- unless you'd call drilling celebrating. The lights are shining from tents as blackout restrictions were lifted yesterday. We played MR&R this evening in baseball and the game resulted in a tie.
- 10 We drilled again this afternoon.
- 11 Private Joseph F. Burns left for home today, much to the envy of all of us.
- 12 Plans are being made by the Information - Education Office for activities which include: (1) A station school, (2) A practical training program, (3) A program of tours, and (4) A hobbies program.
- 13 We finally received a "Superior" rating in our living site area -- now we are wondering how long we'll be able to keep it. The movie for tonight was "Anged Victory". A Camera Club has been formed and is located under our mess hall. We continued our daily afternoon drill.
- 14 The officers moved into barracks just outside the gate.
- 16 The film "Two Down and One To Go" explaining the Army's plan for redeployment of forces to the United States and the Pacific Theater was shown to us this evening. Tonight our squadron played the 867th Chemical Co. in softball.
- 17 The glad tidings of the day were that drill has ceased for the time being. The Colonel was very pleased with the showing we made.
- 18 An all G.I. show, "San Francisco" was produced on the stage by the 22nd Depot Repair Squadron this evening.
- 19 Captain West left the squadron to return to the States.
- 20 The first three graders have moved into the barracks vacated by the officers. The Officers' Club is now open.
- 21 We dropped down to a rating of "Excellent" in our living site inspection. Swimming runs are leaving twice a week for Heidelberg. There is an indoor pool in Heidelberg and many of us are glad to take advantage of this opportunity to cool off, exercise, and get off the base.
- 22 The movie for tonight was "Eadie Was A Lady" with Ann Miller.
- 23 1st Lieutenant Donald G. Scherer was promoted to the rank of captain.
- 24 The 50th Fighter Group moved onto this field and we are now sharing it with them.
- 27 We kept our rating of "Excellent" in the living site and received a "Superior" in the Tech Site and Mess Hall inspection.

RESTRICTED

- 28 We have been having swimming runs to an outside pool on the other side of Frankenthal. This is a beautiful pool complete with diving tower, slide, floats and a canoe with added attractions supplied by the German civilians.
- 29 Captain William Jones was promoted to the rank of major. 2nd Lieutenants Roland D. Camp, Ira E. Davis, Fenton W. Guild, William E. Wicklas, Donald D. McLaren, and Don C. Pierce, Jr. were promoted to the grade of 1st Lieutenant.
- 30 The squadron was cited for gallantry and extraordinary heroism in armed conflict with the enemy for the period of 19 and 20 March 1945; awarded First Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Unit Citation.



Lt. Gilbert points to flak hole in his map made by German flak on mission while map was in his hand.



close up of flak hole in Lt. Gilbert's map.

RESTRICTED

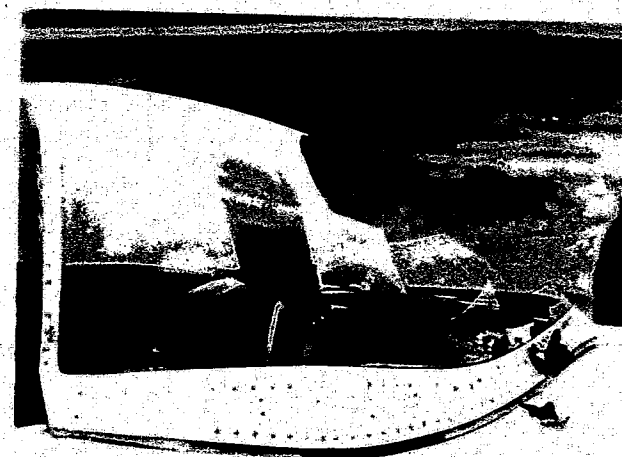


Capt. Joe Test and the men of 'A' flight.

RESTRICTED



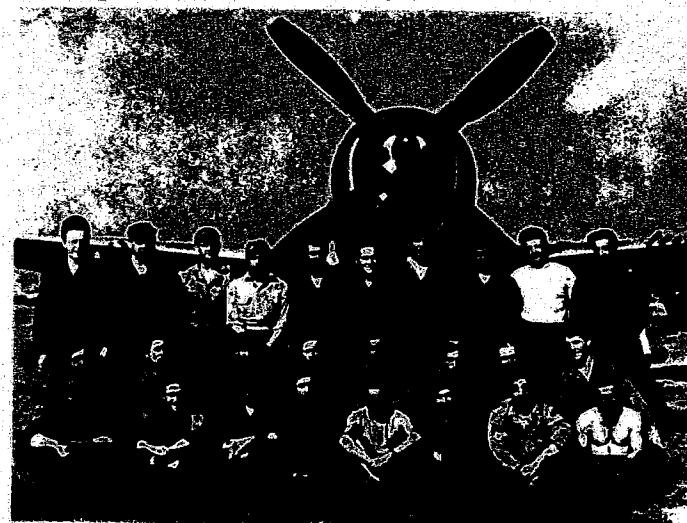
↑
Part of damage from
30 mm cannon shell
which exploded inside
Lt. Weinnig's plane on
a mission near Munich.



↑
Some more damage to
Lt. Weinnig's plane from
30 mm. Cannon shell.
Close, what?

RESTRICTED

→
The men of "C"
flight.



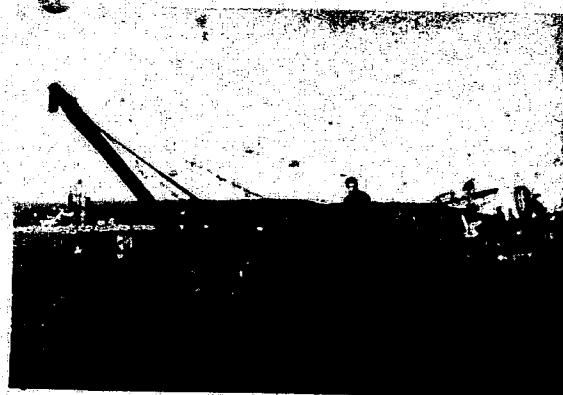
RESTRICTED



Major Gen. Webster, C.G. 1st TAF, Brig. Gen. Barcus, C.G. 12th Tac. and Col. Tipton in front of pilot's shack at Toul, France.



Another picture of Gen. Webster, Barcus, Col Tipton and pilots, in front of operations.



Tlst. Di Foggia on cleat track, down on the line.



One of the aircraft dispersal areas at Mannheim Sandhotten with destroyed German hangar in background.

RESTRICTED