

## **CHAPTER VII FRESHMAN MISSIONS PLUS THE ROUGH ONES, APRIL 1944.**

### (A) Narrative History.

The history of the 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group for the month of April revolves very largely around the flying of combat missions. On days when there were no missions, both the combat crew personnel and the ground personnel improved their housekeeping facilities. The enlisted men's service club and the officers' clubs were further improved. Religious services were conducted for the Protestants in the Group by Chaplain Rasmussen, who also made arrangements for Jewish services. The 37<sup>th</sup> Service Group Chaplain, Captain Walter F. Junk, regularly conducted the Catholic services. Special Services Officers, Lt. Mente and Lt. Billhart, opened a Group theatre and scheduled a nightly showing of moving pictures. Visitors from other Bomb Groups, the 49<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, and the Air Force frequently came and went. Skies cleared, the mud slowly disappeared, and early spring came to Southern Italy.

Although most of this chapter dealing with the events which took place in April concerns the problems and the accomplishments of the combat crews, they were far from being the only officers and men in this organization who really went to work in earnest. The ground officers and men in every Section, both in Headquarters and each Squadron, met the challenge of blasting the enemy with many long hard conscientious hours of labor. After flying five combat missions in six days, the Group was stood down for maintenance on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. Under that date Colonel Glantzberg made the following entry in his diary: "How the ground crews keep going, I don't see. They are doing a wonderful job."

On April 4<sup>th</sup> Lt. Colonel William B. Keese, Commanding Officer of the 484<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, and some of the senior members of his staff visited the Base and had lunch in our Headquarters Officers' Mess. A few days later, on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April, Lt. Colonel Keese's Group arrived from Africa. Their planes were stationed on the east side of the field. When the new Group began flying combat missions on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, the problems were presented of having both Groups using one landing strip and one comparatively tight rendezvous area.

By April 4<sup>th</sup> the Group had secured a P-40 which was used by Colonel Glantzberg or Lt. Colonel Hawes in herding the planes into formation over the assembly area and in following the formation well out over the Adriatic or the Mediterranean.

Major General Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General of the Fifteenth Air Force, paid his first visit to the Group on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April and was present to greet Colonel Glantzberg and the crews upon their return from the Budapest mission. With Colonel Lee, Lt. Colonel Hawes, Lt. Colonel Grogan, and Major Scott, the General looked over the set-up at Group Headquarters and in some of the Squadron areas. He also inspected the field. Before leaving, he told Colonel Glantzberg that the 461<sup>st</sup> Group was the best new Group he had seen come to the Fifteenth Air Force.

From April 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, Colonel Glantzberg was a patient in the 61<sup>st</sup> Station Hospital at Foggia, where he underwent an operation. In the Colonel's absence, Lt. Col. Hawes assumed the duties of Commanding Officer. Upon returning from the hospital, Colonel Glantzberg flustered the members of his Staff into a new and even deeper admiration of him by insisting on leading the formation to Alessandria on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### (B) Operations.

During the month of April the Group flew a total of sixteen missions to targets, mostly marshalling yards, located in six different countries in Europe: Yugoslavia, Italy, Hungary, Roumania, Austria, and France. There were 508 sorties with 69 early returns, some of which were spares. Tonnage of bombs dropped on targets totaled 874 tons. Claims of enemy fighters were as follows: nine destroyed, four probably destroyed, and one damaged. Six planes and crews were lost to flak.

A chart entitled "Analysis of Operations", a copy of which constitutes part of this chapter, depicts the breakdown of the accomplishments of each Squadron. Another chart entitled "Mission Summary", a copy of which also constitutes part of this chapter, presents more of an overall picture of the Group's operations for the month of April.

### **MISSIONS**

#### **Mission No. 1, 1 April 1944 – Senigallia R.R. Bridge, Italy (Cancelled)**

The morning of 1 April 1944 crews were briefed for their first target. This target was a railroad bridge at Senigallia, Italy. Weather was bad when crews went to their planes. Flares from the tower delayed take-off. Mission finally stood down at 1100 o'clock much to the disappointment of the whole Group.

#### **Mission No. 1, 2 April 1944 – Bihac M/Y, Yugoslavia**

The first mission flown by the Group was that to the Bihac Marshalling Yard in Yugoslavia. This mission was led, of course, by Colonel Glantzberg. Flight Leader 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph N. Donovan was the lead pilot with Colonel Glantzberg flying as his co-pilot. Captain Marion M. Pruitt, Group Navigator, was the navigator on the lead plane with 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George V. Leffler, Group Bombardier, as the bombardier. The Deputy Group Commander, Lt. Colonel Philip R. Hawes; the Group Operations Officer, Major William Burke; and four Squadron Commanders, Major James B. Knapp, Major Robert E. Applegate, Captain James C. Dooley and Captain Edwin T. Goree flew the mission either leading a flight or as a Deputy Leader in the No. 2 position in "A" Flight of each Section. Two of the Squadron Operations Officers, Captain William J. Franklin and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William H. Tallant, also flew on this mission.

The weather was excellent; the bomb load consisted of fragmentation bombs. All members of the crews were intensely interested in watching their first bombs hit a target. As a result, two planes collided over the target and were lost. One of those planes was piloted by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William H. Zumsteg; the other one by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sidney S. Wilson.

Intops Summary No. 255, 2 April 1944. “35 B-24’s of the 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group off on freshman mission dropped 61.5 tons of 20 lb. Frags between 1131/1137 hours from 19,000/20,000 feet. Five A/C jettisoned 9.5 tons, while 1 A/C dropped 1.8 tons on Pianosa Island. Six additional A/C returned early. 4 E/A were seen in target area but there were no encounters and no claims. Two B-24’s were lost due to a collision at the rally point. Results reported by crew observations indicate 40 to 60% of bombs in target area with heavy smoke in south part of M/Y. Bomb strike photos available give incomplete coverage of bursts.”

### **Mission No. 2, 3 April 1944 – Drnis M/Y, Yugoslavia**

The next day the Group was back to Yugoslavia again on another of its freshman missions. This time the target was the marshalling yard at Drnis. Lt. Colonel Hawes was the formation leader while Colonel Glantzberg flew as a Second Section Leader. Flying in the lead plane with Lt. Colonel Hawes were the pilot, Flight Leader 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Floyd W. Woodard; Captain Pruitt; and Lt. Leffler. Again Major Burke, the four Squadron Commanders, and the two Squadron Operations Officers who had not flown the previous day: Captain William J. Bock and Captain David P. McQuillan also flew this mission. The air speed flown by the lead plane was too slow with the result that the formation was badly spread.

The day was hazy and Group leaders had difficulty in identifying the target against the tan background of early spring. The mission was not as successful as had been the first one, and the crew members began to realize that targets were not easy to identify and hit.

### **Mission No. 3, 5 April 1944 – Nis M/Y, Yugoslavia**

This mission was led by Major Robert E. Applegate, 765<sup>th</sup> Squadron Commander. Colonel Glantzberg flew the deputy lead position. The Deputy Group Commander, the Group Operations Officer, and all the Squadron Commanders also flew this mission.

To the haze that had been experienced on the second mission was added 8/10 undercast for this third mission. As a result of the haze, the undercast, and the tan background on the ground, the target was missed completely. For the first and only time during the month no pictures of the bombing were obtained.

The formation was the best thus far flown by the Group. Several mistakes, however, were made. The Group failed a 360° circle and let down to bomb below the overcast; it failed to get on the step before the bomb run; it failed to cover a cripple on the way home; and it also failed to get under the overcast for the return trip home across the Adriatic.

### **Mission No. 4, 6 April 1944 – Zagreb A/D, Yugoslavia**

The 764<sup>th</sup> Squadron Commander, Captain Edwin T. Goree, did an outstanding job in leading this mission. The lead pilot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James O. Bean, his bombardier; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Geaoge B. Cran; and the Squadron Navigator, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Earl M. DeWitt were the officers on the lead

plane. For the fourth day in succession the freshman mission took the Group to Yugoslavia.

The mission was another fragmentation mission; this time to the north end of the airdrome at Zagreb. Nine-tenths cloud coverage obscured the target and only fifteen of the thirty-one planes over the target dropped their bombs. This was the first mission on which the Group had fighter escort and was its first encounter with enemy fighters. The attack was made by six ME-109s and by nine FW-190s. One enemy plane was shot down. This fighter was claimed by S/Sgt. Melborn Dale Williamson the top turret gunner on a plane in the 765<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

The plane flown by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John K. Specht and Major Robert E. Applegate, which did not drop its bombs on the target, developed a fire in the bomb bay that led to an explosion when the bombs were jettisoned over the Adriatic returning from the target. Three members of the crew left the plane and were lost. They were: the bombardier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William S. Sullivan; the navigator, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harold E. Milne; and the nose turret gunner, Sgt. John J. Marszalkiewics. Near the Base the seven remaining members of the crew abandoned the plane and parachuted safely to earth. Crew members were rapidly learning that combat missions are dangerous. As a result of this mission all crew members developed a deep-seated and persistent dislike for fragmentation bombs.

The Commanding Officer, the Deputy Group Commander, the Group Operations Officer, and the four Squadron Commanders, and two of the Squadron Operations Officers all flew this mission.

#### **Mission No. 5, 7 April 1944 – Ferrara M/Y, Italy**

Freshman mission days were now behind. Instead of flying individual missions, the Group was assigned for the first time to fly Wing formation. This was the first of several missions to be flown with the Groups with the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing.

Beginning with this mission the Group began to curtail on the number of executive pilots flying every mission. As a result of the experiences gained in the former missions, Colonel Glantzberg ordered that an exceptionally competent bombardier or navigator should ride in the nose turret of the lead ship to assist in pilotage. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stiles, 766<sup>th</sup> Squadron Bombardier, flew this mission in that capacity.

Although the crews did not sense it when they were briefed for their fifth mission on Good Friday morning, their missions were getting tougher. Their target was the first one which the Group had been assigned in Italy, that of the South Marshalling Yard, Ferrara. Colonel Glantzberg, Lt. Donovan, Captain Pruitt, and Lt. Leffler, who had led the first mission, were back again in the lead. Again enemy aircraft were seen but not encountered. The pilots all did a superior job of formation flying on this mission. Over the target the Group experienced intense, aimed, and extremely accurate heavy flak for the first time. Despite this new shocking experience the crews did an outstanding job. Having seen enemy fighters for the second time, having been hit hard over the target by enemy anti-aircraft guns, and having really covered the target with a beautiful pattern of

bombing, the crew members began to believe they were veterans. There was no stopping this Group after confidence built in all personnel by the success of this mission.

Intops Summary No. 260, 7 April 1944. "33 B-24's of the 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group were dispatched. There were no early returns and all bombed primary dropping 66 tons of 500 lb GP bombs at 1310 hours from 21,000 feet. 5 S/E aircraft and 4 Ju-88s were seen in the distance 15 miles S.E. of target. Flak at the target was intense, accurate, heavy, aimed type. There were no losses. Photo reconnaissance photos show bombing exceedingly well concentrated on the target area, and in addition to hits which have totally blocked the yards and inflicted much damage on rolling stock, several damaging hits have been scored on industrial buildings, including the reported ball-bearing plant West of the yard. The main weight of the bombs fell on South end of the M/Y and the loco depot, damaging many of the approximately 200 cars present and at least two locos. Hits were scored on the immediate approach to the South end of the river railroad bridge which completely blocks the yard; on the sugar refinery, flour mill, goods shed West of the main line tracks; and two large buildings just to the East of the yard. Observation of other evidenced damage is hampered by the smoke from fires started in the area."

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED PHOTO  
RECONNAISSANCE WING.

SECRET  
10<sup>th</sup> April 1944

#### **INTERPRETATION REPORT No. D.B. 43. ITALY.**

683 Squadron Sortie P.177, dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 1944 mean time 1600 hours shows:

##### Ferrara M/Y.

Attacked by 33 B-24s on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1944.

Last report AI/219, dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 1944.

Through lines are open. The main weight of the attack has fallen on the Southern end of the M/Yd, and on industrial plant in the vicinity. Some clearance and repairs are noted to areas in the town previously damaged, and to the Transformer Station, to the South, and the Canepificio Minificio Milano Hemp Factory, northwest of the M/Yd.

- (1) Soc. E. Sercizio Molini Flour Mill smoldering at the time of photography and more than three quarters destroyed.
- (2) At least three hits on the Southern approach to the R/R bridge have cut through tracks to BOLOGNA and branch lines to Poggio Rusco, and Porto Maggiore, but two lines have been repaired and repairs still in progress on two others. Road bridge to the East almost severed.
- (3) Damage to three out-buildings of Canepificio Sinz Hemp Mill, one building one quarter destroyed, and two half destroyed by fire and H.E.
- (4) Further damage, or clearance to North side of main building of the C.S. Hemp Mill. (See also 3)
- (5) Additional damage to buildings in the Zuccherificio Bonora Sugar Refinery, which was already largely destroyed.

- (6) Several hits in M/Yd cutting tracks and wrecking rolling stock, but through lines have been opened, and a train is seen moving south at time of photography.
- (7) Direct hit cutting tracks into car shops.
- (8) Moderately large R/R buildings further damaged and partially demolished.
- (9) Heavy damage to main building of factory believed to be the Fratelli Zanzi Aero Engine Valve Factory. Three out of six large bays with curved roofs have been completely destroyed. Construction activity just E. of here.
- (10) Direct hit on main building of the I.M.I. Ball Bearing factory.
- (11) Unidentified 'L' shaped building half destroyed.
- (12) Clearance of previously damaged area in Canepificio Linificio Milano Hemp Factory. (Not on print distributed)
- (13) Industrial Siding probably cut and repaired.

Annotated Print Distributed: 4077

Prints: 4090-4092, 4076-4078

Comparative: P.94, 3110-3113, 4093-4098

### **COMMENDATION**

As a result of this highly successful mission, the following commendation was received in the form of a TWX message from Major General Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General of the Fifteenth Air Force:

“FROM: TWINING, CG 15AF

“TO: CO 461 BG

“FOR THE EXCELLENT BOMBING PATTERN ON ATTACK OF FERRARA, ITALY, MARSHALLING YARDS AS EVIDENCED BY STRIKE PHOTOS, I DESIRE TO SEND ‘WELL DONE’ TO THE 461 GROUP.”

### **Missions No. 6: 8, 9, 11 April 1944.**

On the 8th of April and again on the 9th, missions were briefed for the marshalling yard at Zagreb, Yugoslavia. Both missions were stood down. On 11 April 1944 still another mission was stood down. Target for that day was to have been the M/Y at Bologna, Italy.

### **Mission No. 6, 12 April 1944 – Zagreb M/Y, Yugoslavia**

After four days of inactivity, Mission No. 6 was flown on 12 April. The target was the marshalling yard at Zagreb. Despite a four-tenths undercast and much flak, the crews did an excellent job.

### **Mission No. 7, 13 April 1944 – Duna (Tokol) A/C Factory, Budapest, Hungary.**

For the seventh mission, which was against the Duna Tokol A/C Components Factory at Budapest, RDX bombs were used for the first time by this Group. Major Burke flew as Group leader for the first time. On this mission a total of 58 enemy aircraft were seen. Several encounters were experienced, three enemy planes were destroyed and three more claimed as probable. Twin-engine enemy airplanes fired rockets at the formation. Single engine enemy airplanes flew parallel with the Group at a safe distance and radioed headings, altitude, and air speed to their ground installations. Flak over the target was intense, accurate, and heavy. Two bombers were lost over the target. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles W. Bauman, flying the deputy lead position in "A" Flight of the second Section, had part of a wing shot off by flak. His plane fell into the plane in the number 4 position of the same flight, which was piloted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Paul S. Mowery. A third plane flown by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kay B. Steele, which had come off the target with the formation, failed to return to the Base. Colonel Glantzberg, who was flying as co-pilot in a plane in the second Section, led a small formation of planes in chasing attacking Ju-88s away from this damaged plane. He was unable, however, to stay with the plane because of an undercast. Fifteen planes were damaged over this target.

Again the Group turned in an excellent mission by dropping 45 per cent of its bombs within 1,000 feet of the briefed aiming point on a comparatively rectangular building well hidden in woods.

#### COMMENDATION

From General Twining on the following day came the following TWX through channels:

"FROM: TWINING CITE FAF ABLE 16

"TO: CO 461<sup>ST</sup> BOMB GROUP

"IT IS DESIRED THAT YOU EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL IN YESTERDAY'S COUNTER AIR FORCE OPERATIONS FOR DOING AN ESPECIALLY FINE JOB. THE 460, 461, AND 483 BOMB GROUPS DID ESPECIALLY GOOD BOMBING ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED. THE AGGRESSIVENESS OF THE FIGHTER UNITS AND THEIR EXCELLENT ESCORT WORK CONTRIBUTED IMMEASURABLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS OUTSTANDING OPERATION."

"PS: KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK."

THE 49<sup>TH</sup> WING ADDS ITS PROUD COMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL'S EVALUATION OF YOUR WORK.

The following TWX was also received after this mission:

“FROM: LEE CO 49<sup>TH</sup> BOMB WING

“TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, 451<sup>ST</sup> 461<sup>ST</sup> 484<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUPS  
APO 520

“THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. CITE FAF BAKER 13 – I AM HAPPY TO PASS ON THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL, EIGHT AIR FORCE. ‘THE EIGHT AIR FORCE JOINS ME IN CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT OPERATIONS. WE OF THE EIGHT FULLY APPRECIATE THE EFFECT OF THESE OPERATIONS TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING OUR JOINT MISSION.’”

**Mission No. 8, 14 April 1944 – Chitila M/Y at Bucharest, Roumania (Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 8, 15 April 1944 - Chitila M/Y at Bucharest, Roumania**

With Mission No. 8 the Group was off on its first mission to Roumania. Bad weather built up over Yugoslavia and there was nine-tenths cloud coverage in the target area. Bombs were dropped, but the results were unobserved. Twenty enemy aircraft were seen but there were no encounters.

**Mission No. 9, 16 April 1944 – Belgrade Zemun A/D, Yugoslavia**

The primary target for this mission was the Brasov Airdrome in Roumania. Bad weather experienced the day previous on the Bucharest Mission had moved westward and built up to over 20,000 feet. Nineteen of the thirty-four planes to take off lost the formation in the clouds over Yugoslavia and returned to the Base. Fourteen others individually worked their way to the top of cloud formations and reformed on Colonel Glantzberg who chose the last resort target, Belgrade Zemun A/D in Yugoslavia, as his target.

Fragmentation bombs were dropped with unobserved results through haze and six-tenths cloud coverage. Again twenty enemy aircraft were seen without any encounters. Half of the planes over the target were hit by flak and one was lost through flak over the target. On this plane, piloted by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Floyd W. Woodard, were the members of one of the four original “model crews”.

**Mission No. 10, 17 April 1944 – Belgrade Zemun A/D, Yugoslavia**

The primary target for this mission was the last resort target of yesterday. This time the target was completely obscured by clouds and no fragmentation bombs were dropped. This was Major Knapp’s first mission as Group leader.

**Mission No. 11, 20 April 1944 – Tagliamento Casarsa RR Bridge, Italy**

Reconnaissance photography having revealed that the enemy had partially repaired the damage this Group had done to the South Marshalling Yard at Ferrara, Italy on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Group was reassigned to hit another section of the same target. Because of bad weather over the primary target the Group went on to bomb the first alternative, the Tagliamento Casarsa Railroad Bridge at the head of the Adriatic in Italy. This was the first attempt of the Group to bomb a bridge. The cloud coverage was seven-tenths. Coming down the river and hitting the target at right angles, the Group scored several hits on both the railroad bridge and the highway bridge beyond it. Fifteen per cent of the bombs dropped were plotted within a 1,000 feet of the briefed aiming point. Thirteen enemy aircraft seen by the Group made no passes at the formation.

**Mission No. 12, 21 April 1944 – Chitila M/Y at Bucharest, Roumania**

Again the target was the Chitila M/Y, Bucharest, Roumania, and again the weather was bad. A solid undercast prevented bombing with the result that all bombs were jettisoned in the Adriatic. Forty enemy aircraft were seen, several were encountered, and one was shot down. A nose gunner, Sgt. W.G. Rollins, became the first casualty on a crew when his face was cut by shell casings from another plane.

**Mission No. 13, 23 April 1944 – Bad Voslau A/D, Austria**

When the crew members learned at briefing that they were to attack their first target in Vienna Area, they fully realized that they were now in the big time. Before our Group hit its target the 304<sup>th</sup> Wing had performed an outstanding job in practically demolishing the buildings at the Airdrome. Uncovering the three flights of each Section in approaching the target, the Group, led for the first time by Captain Dooley, completely sprayed the landing field with fragmentation bombs. The bombing pattern was one of perfection. The returning crews doubted if it would ever be necessary to return again to that target. Several encounters were had with twenty-three enemy fighters, two of which were claimed as probably destroyed. Fourteen planes over the target were hard hit by flak.

There were two casualties as a result of this mission: Bombardier, F/O R.B. Stewart, and a ball turret gunner, Sgt. P.N. Godino, both on 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. G. Fulks' crew. Each was hit in the foot by flak.

**COMMENDATION**

“FROM: OPERATIONS OFFICE 49<sup>TH</sup> BOMB WING

“TO: COMMANDING OFFICERS, 451<sup>ST</sup>, 461<sup>ST</sup>, 484<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUPS

“THE BOMBING OF BAD VOSLAU, 23 APRIL, BY THE 49<sup>TH</sup> WING WAS EXCELLENT. PLEASE PASS TO ALL PARTICIPATING MY COMMENDATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE. COL. LEE DESIRES TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.”

**Mission No. 14, 24 April 1944 – Chitila M/Y, Bucharest, Roumania**

For the third time during the month the Group went to Chitila Marshalling Yard at Bucharest, Roumania. This time the weather was CAVU with haze. The target was picked up by the lead plane, but unfortunately a bomb rack malfunction temporarily held up the bombs in the lead plane, which overshot the target. This was also true of most of the planes in the first attack unit who were dropping on the section leader. The second Section saved the day for the Group by getting 11 per cent of all the bombs dropped by the Group on the briefed aiming point. The flak was intense and heavy, but inaccurate. Of the twenty-five enemy fighters seen, several were encountered, one was destroyed, and one was damaged.

**Mission No. 15, 25 April 1944 – Nord A/D, Wiener Neustadt, Austria  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 15, 26 April 1944 – Wollerdorf A/D, Wiener Neustadt, Austria  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 15, 27 April 1944 – Wollerdorf A/D, Wiener Neustadt, Austria  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 15, 29 April 1944 – Submarine Pens, Toulon Harbor, France**

This mission took the Group on its first trip to France and to a target in the sixth country of Europe that the Group bombed during the month of April. This was the first mission on which the 451<sup>st</sup>, the 461<sup>st</sup> and the 484<sup>th</sup> flew as the Groups of the 49<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing. The mission provided another new experience for the Group in that the target had been previously obscured by a perfect smoke screen from smudge pots situated both on shore and on ships in the harbor. For the first time the Group used 1,000-pound bombs. Results were unobserved, but no bombs were believed to have hit the target. The Group Bombardier, Captain Leffler, who was the lead bombardier on the mission and who had already turned in five successful missions during the month, both laughed at and cursed the clever Kraut.

**Mission No. 16, 30 April 1944 – Alexandria M/Y, Italy**

For the last mission of the month the Group was back to Italy and to its marshalling yard targets. The target, a large one, was hard hit, but the bombs were scattered across a long area. Colonel Glantzberg was most unhappy when the pictures showed that only 17 per cent of the bombs had hit the aiming point of this easily identified target, especially since the weather was CAVU, and there were neither flak nor fighters to interfere with the bombing.

**MISSING IN ACTION**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Mission</u>
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			<u>Date</u>	<u>Target</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	William H. Zumsteg	Burlingame, Cal,	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	John C. Fuller Jr.	Lumberton, N.C.	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	George M. Felbar	Irvington, N.J.	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Joseph J. Repko	Freeland, Pa.	4/2/44	Bihac
M/Sgt.	Oscar R. Ives	Diagonal, Ia.	4/2/44	Bihac
S/Sgt.	Woodrow P. Clayton	Houston, Tex.	4/2/44	Bihac
S/Sgt.	Antonio P. Lerma	Laredo, Tex.	4/2/44	Bihac
S/Sgt.	Andrew J. Allocco	Rochester, N.Y.	4/2/44	Bihac
S/Sgt.	Alvin J. Kadlecek	Sugar Island, Tex.	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Sidney S. Wilson	Buffalo, N.Y.	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Emil L. Whitney	Kooskia, Idaho	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Harlan P. Ross	Maywood, N.J.	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Joseph W. Loftus Jr.	Burlington, Cal.	4/2/44	Bihac
T/Sgt.	Irving G. Wallace	Wyoming, N.Y.	4/2/44	Bihac
S/Sgt.	Gerald Goldstein	Brooklyn, N.Y.	4/2/44	Bihac
Sgt.	Edward G. Ulrich	Fort Lee, N.J.	4/2/44	Bihac
Sgt.	Dale V. Fine	Drumright, Okla.	4/2/44	Bihac
Sgt.	Homer D. Childs	Southington, Conn.	4/2/44	Bihac
Sgt.	Clifford A. McCoy	Campton, Mo.	4/2/44	Bihac
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Harold E. Milne	Barre, Vt.	4/6/44	Zagreb
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	William S. Sullivan	Los Angeles, Cal.	4/6/44	Zagreb
Sgt.	John J. Marszalkiewicz	Baltimore, Md.	4/6/44	Zagreb
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Kay B. Steale	Idaho Falls, Idaho	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Ralph M. McKinney	Aurora, Illinois	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Charles M. Smith Jr.	Idaho Falls, Idaho	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Jack R. Severns	Long Beach, Cal.	4/13/44	Budapest
Cpl.	Charles A. Humphress	Indianapolis, Ind.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	John F. Reynolds	Madison, Wis.	4/13/44	Budapest
Sgt.	Even G. Medellin	Hebbronville, Tex.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Richard G. Lyke	Edmonds, Wash.	4/13/44	Budapest
Sgt.	Stanley A. Kosierowski	Brooklyn, N.Y.	4/13/44	Budapest
Sgt.	Merle A. Troup	Washington, D.C.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Philip J. Caroselli	Jersey City, N.J.	4/13/44	Budapest
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Charles W. Bauman	Dallas, Tex.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	David N. Riker	Oblong, Tex.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Edward F. Zabriskie	Newark, N.J.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Frank E. Ritacco	Worcester, Mass.	4/13/44	Budapest
T/Sgt.	Alfred G. Brindle	Providence, R.I.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Leopoldo Velarde	Velarde, N.M.	4/13/44	Budapest
T/Sgt.	Michael Ventresca	Waterbury, Conn.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Edward C. Bross	Philadelphia, Pa.	4/13/44	Budapest

Sgt.	Edmund J. Brzezinski	Detroit, Mich.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Frank V. Stampick	Gillespie, Ill.	4/13/44	Budapest
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Luther A. Stotts	Highland Park, Mich.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Paul S. Mowery	Dillsbury, Pa.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	George Lemon Owens Jr.	Elizabeth City, N.J.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Robert B. Hovey	Chicago, Ill.	4/13/44	Budapest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	George E. Reed	Lowville, N.Y.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Joseph S. Zippilli	Camden, N.J.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Harry E. Dean	Morgantown, W. Va.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Clayton A. Childs Jr.	Binghamton, N.Y.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	John V. Moreno	Baltimore, Md.	4/13/44	Budapest
Sgt.	Myron T Yaw	Terre Haute, Ind.	4/13/44	Budapest
S/Sgt.	Earl D. Blalock	Blacksburg, S.C.	4/13/44	Budapest
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Raymond V. Gombossy	Youngstown, Ohio	4/13/44	Budapest
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Floyd W. Woodard	Phoenix, Ariz.	4/16/44	Belgrade
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Edward F. Greene	Landing, N.J.	4/16/44	Belgrade
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Ray J. Myers	Toluca, Ill.	4/16/44	Belgrade
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	James Love	Long Island, N.Y.	4/16/44	Belgrade
T/Sgt.	Wallace C. Kimball	Tuolumme, Cal.	4/16/44	Belgrade
S/Sgt.	John H. Gildart	North Amity, Me.	4/16/44	Belgrade
T/Sgt.	John F. Gibbons	Schnectady, N.Y.	4/16/44	Belgrade
S/Sgt.	Louis H. Spatz	Salina, Kansas	4/16/44	Belgrade
S/Sgt.	Buren H. Storts	Sallisaw, Okla.	4/16/44	Belgrade
S/Sgt.	Carl R. Stadalman Jr.	Lost Springs, Kans.	4/16/44	Belgrade
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Matia M. Torres Jr.	Albuquerque, N.M.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Leonard P. Cash	South Portland, Me.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Robert F. Thorne	Gulfport, Fla.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	John B. Lima	Beatrice, Cal.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
Sgt.	Hoyette S. Hudsea	Charlotte, N.C.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
Sgt.	Norbart L. Moreau	Moxe City, Wash.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
Sgt.	Leonard A. Graden	Two Harbors, Mich.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
S/Sgt.	Seth A. McKinney	Davenport, Ia.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
Sgt.	George I. McPeck	Syracuse, N.Y.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
S/Sgt.	Teddy Brown	Portland, Ore.	4/23/44	Bad Voslau
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Forrest D. Nixon Jr.	Auburn, Ala.	4/24/44	Bucharest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Robert N. Lindgren	Tulare, Cal.	4/24/44	Bucharest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Sammy A. West	Blanco, Tex.	4/24/44	Bucharest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Clarence D. Spangler	Richland, Pa.	4/24/44	Bucharest
S/Sgt.	John W. Wick	Buffalo, N.Y.	4/24/44	Bucharest
Sgt.	Leanard E. Slayton	Wellspoint, Tex.	4/24/44	Bucharest
Sgt.	Joseph C. Brlansky	Johnston, Pa.	4/24/44	Bucharest
S/Sgt.	Charles M. Martin Jr.	Yukon, W. Va.	4/24/44	Bucharest

Sgt.	John H. Householder	Canton, Ohio	4/24/44	Bucharest
Sgt.	Edward P. Ward	Bayonne, N.J.	4/24/44	Bucharest

(C) Photo Section

The enclosed photographs accompany this History for the month.

(D) Special Accounts

a. Awards and Decorations.

HEADQUARTERS  
461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 12

APO 520, c/o Postmaster  
New York, New York,  
15 April 1944.

9. Under the provisions of WD Circular 27 (1944) the following personnel, 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Grp, are awarded the American Defense Service Medal. The proper entry will be made in WD AGO Forms 66-1 and 24:

<u>HQ 461<sup>ST</sup> BOMB GP</u>			
LT COL EDWIN W. GROGAN	0274185	LT COL PHILIP R. HAWES	021220
MAJ R FOSTER SCOTT	0237137	MAJ WILLIAM (NMI) BURKE	0409947
MAJ CHARLES J. DEISHLEY	0393951	CAPT JOHN A. WAGENER	0434395
CAPT HENRY M. HUDSON	0483850	CAPT MARION M. PRUITT	0356129
CAPT WALTER G. MITTON	0269470	1 <sup>ST</sup> LT GEORGE V. LEFFLER	02043762
1 <sup>ST</sup> LT LOUIS C. PFISTER	0650154	2 <sup>ND</sup> LT CHARLES S. BILLHART	0573942
2 <sup>ND</sup> LT JAMES C. CLARK	0571272	CWO FRED C. MEDAU	W2123965
M SGT HEWITT (NMI) CALLENDER	6552830	T SGT RAY L. SEATON	16004535
T SGT ARMANDO B. DOMINGUEZ	19061716	S SGT LLOYD F. BELL	14047932
SGT BENJAMIN R. GREGORY	18044254	PVT CARL L. SHIPP	37015999

SQUADRON COMMANDERS

MAJ JAMES B. KNAPP	021890	CO, 767 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron
MAJ ROBERT E. APPLGATE	022933	CO, 765 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron
CAPT JAMES C. DOOLEY	0431130	CO, 766 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron
CAPT EDWIN T. GOREE	0724610	CO, 764 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron

By order of Colonel GLANTZBERG:

R. FOSTER SCOTT,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. FOSTER SCOTT  
R. FOSTER SCOTT  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS  
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
APO 520

GENERAL ORDERS

19 April 1944.

NUMBER 239

SECTION XII – AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

JOSEPH N. DONOVAN, 0-666158, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. On 7 April 1944, Lieutenant Donovan was the lead pilot of a group of B-24 type aircraft on a mission to bomb an enemy rail center in Italy. Because of his skill and judgment as a leader, Lieutenant Donovan was chosen to lead the group on this vitally important mission. The target was obscured by haze, making perception extremely difficult, and, an intense concentration of accurate heavy flak, which damaged several planes in the formation, was encountered on the bombing run. Despite the heavy opposition and grave danger, he concentrated on maintaining his course, enabling his bombardier to make a perfect bomb run on the target. Due to the excellent formation flown and the faultless bomb pattern obtained, grave damage was inflicted on enemy equipment, material, and installations. Lieutenant Donovan's rapid development of tactical ability, his consummate flying skill and superior leadership has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: San Luis Ptotsi, Mexico

GEORGE V. LEFFLER, 0-2043762, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, Headquarters, 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations as group bombardier of B-24 type aircraft. As lead bombardier during a high altitude daylight-bombing mission over an enemy rail center in Italy on 7 April 1944, Lieutenant Leffler found the target obscured by haze, making accurate bombing extremely difficult. Directing the coordination of the entire formation with superb craftsmanship and concentrating on his task, despite an intense barrage of heavy and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire, he made a perfect bombing run on the target, thus enabling the entire formation to drop their bombs with exceptionally successful results. Because of the precision and leadership so ably displayed by Lieutenant Leffler in his capacity of great responsibility as lead bombardier on this and other combat missions against the enemy, he has reflected great credit upon himself and the Air Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Madison, Wisconsin.

By order of Major General Twining:

R.K. Taylor,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ J.M. IVINS  
J.M. IVINS

Lieutenant Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS  
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
APO 520

GENERAL ORDERS

30 April 1944.

NUMBER 314

SECTION V – AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AND/OR  
OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular No. 26, Headquarters NATOUSA, 6 March 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross and/or Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross, in the categories as listed, is awarded the following named officers, Air Corps, United States Army, residence as indicated, with the following citation:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in Mediterranean Theatre of Operations as pilot, co-pilot, navigator and bombardier of a B-24 type aircraft. On 13 April 1944, while leading their group on a vitally important bombing mission against an enemy aircraft factory in Hungary, severe and intense enemy opposition was encountered in the target area that seriously damaged their plane, and rendered one (1) engine inoperative. Despite the fact that adverse weather conditions had partially obscured the objective and their aircraft was practically unairworthy, these crew members knowing the importance of their heavy responsibility, continued through to the target and led the group on a flawless bombing run which caused utter demolition of vital enemy installations, factories, and material. Continuing on from the target area through a veritable hail of enemy anti-aircraft fire during which their plane was further damaged, they led their group formation safely home without loss. By their exceptional professional skill, outstanding leadership and intense devotion to duty, these officers, through their cool efficiency in completing a successful and important mission against great odds, upheld the highest tradition of the Military Service, thereby reflecting great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

WILLIAM (NMI) BURKE, 0-409947, Major, Headquarters, 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.

MARION M. PRUITT, 0-356129, Captain, Headquarters, 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Greenville, Texas.

MARION C. MIXSON, 0-382635, first Lieutenant, Headquarters, 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Charleston, South Carolina

FIRST (1<sup>st</sup>) OAK LEAF CLUSTER (BRONZE) FOR THE DISTINGUISHED  
FLYING CROSS

GEORGE V. LEFFLER, 0-2043762, First Lieutenant, Headquarters, 461<sup>st</sup>  
Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Madison, Wisconsin.

By order of Major General Twining:

R.K. Taylor,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ J.M. IVINS  
J.M. IVINS  
Lieutenant Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

b. Promotions.

Promotions which became effective during the month of April were as follows:

- 27 April 1944 – Henry M. Hudson, Group Engineering Officer, from Captain to Major.
- 27 April 1944 – Jack L. Herzfeld, Group Dental Officer, from 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. to Captain.
- 27 April 1944 – George V. Leffler, Group Bombardier, from 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. to Captain.
- 27 April 1944 – Paul G. Rasmussen, Group Chaplain, from 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. to Captain.
- 27 April 1944 – Charles S. Billhart, Assistant Special Services Officer, from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup>  
Lt.
- 27 April 1944 – James C. Clark, Group Photo Officer, from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.
- 27 April 1944 – Edward F. Kiernan, Group Armament Officer, from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

c. Changes in Personnel.

April 3. A board consisting of eight officers was appointed for the purpose of interviewing and making recommendations on nominees for appointment and/or termination of appointments of non-commissioned officers of the Grades 1 and 2.<sup>(1)</sup>

April 6. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Abraham Levine, relieved from assignment with Headquarters and reassigned to the 764<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron.<sup>(2)</sup>

April 17. A Board consisting of the four Squadron Commanders was designated as the Group Awards and Decorations Board.<sup>(3)</sup>

A Flying Evaluation Board of six officers was designated.<sup>(4)</sup>

Chief Warrant Officer Fred C. Medau replaced 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Frank B. Maxson as Post Utilities Officer.<sup>(5)</sup>

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(1) [See Appendage No. 1, Chapter VII, Page 1, Par 1.](#)

(2) [See Appendage No. 2, Chapter VII, Page 2, Par 9.](#)

(3) [See Appendage No. 3, Chapter VII, Page 3, Par 3.](#)

(4) [See Appendage No. 3, Chapter VII, Page 3, Par 4.](#)

(5) [See Appendage No. 3, Chapter VII, Page 3, Par 5.](#)

April 19. Twelve replacement crews were assigned to the Group and further reassigned to the Squadrons of the Group.<sup>(6)</sup> The first pilots were as follows:

2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Robert E. Arbuthnot	(765 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Jack R. Baker	(764 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Edwin W. Boyer	(767 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Charles A. DeSpain	(766 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Merlon G. Morgan Sr.	(767 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Otto Muller	(767 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Rollen L. Phillips	(765 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Chester A. Ray Jr.	(766 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	James B. Robinson Jr.	(765 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Leroy G. Russell	(764 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
2 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Jack R. Wright	(766 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)
F/O	Samuel M. Zive	(766 <sup>th</sup> Squadron)

Captain Edwin T. Goree was added as a member of the Flying Evaluation Board.<sup>(7)</sup>

April 21. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alson E. Clark was appointed Group Ordnance Officer vice 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Steve J. Ozanich.<sup>(8)</sup>

d. Missing in Action Reports.

As a result of the thirteenth mission of the Group on 23 April 1944, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matias M. Torres Jr. and his crew were reported missing.<sup>(9)</sup> Late in the evening of the same day the information came down through channels that all of the crew members were safe on the Island of Vis and that only one of them had been injured. In a few days time nine members of the crew were back in their Squadron. It was then learned that the crew had bailed out over the Island of Vis and that the pilot had sustained a head injury when hitting the ground. As a result of this injury Lt. Torres was eventually returned to the United States.<sup>(10)</sup> The co-pilot of the crew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Leonard P. Cash became the first pilot and the crew was restored to combat flying status.

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<sup>(6)</sup> [See Appendage No. 4, Chapter VII, Page 4, Par 8.](#)

<sup>(7)</sup> [See Appendage No. 4, Chapter VII, Page 4, Par 5.](#)

<sup>(8)</sup> [See Appendage No. 5, Chapter VII, Page 5, Par 6.](#)

<sup>(9)</sup> Cf. Page 88.

<sup>(10)</sup> [See Appendage No. 6, Chapter VII, Page 6.](#)

**APPENDAGES**  
**Chapter VII, Page 1**

APPENDAGE No. 1

U.S. RESTRICTED Equals British RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 8

APO 520, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York,  
1 April 1944.

**EXTRACT**

1. A board consisting of the following officers is aptd to meet at the call of the president for the purpose of interviewing and making recommendations on nominees for appointment and/or termination of appointments of NCO's of grade 1 and 2. Auth: AR 615-5. Board aptd by Par 2 SO 53 (1943) this Hq is hereby terminated).

MAJ	MORRIS J. DROBECK	0305003	766 <sup>TH</sup> Bomb Sq (President)
CAPT	HARRISON G. WORD	0431916	461 <sup>st</sup> Hq
2 <sup>ND</sup> LT	BRUANT S. MONTGOMERY	0863750	764 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq
1 <sup>ST</sup> LT	MARION G. MIXSON	0382615	765 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq
CAPT	HERALD D. BENNETT	0376511	767 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq
CWO	FRED C. MEDAU	W2123965	461 <sup>st</sup> Hq
1 <sup>ST</sup> LT	WILLIAM H. TALLANT	025795	764 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq
2 <sup>ND</sup> LT	DESIRE L. BROUSSARD	0862521	766 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq

By order of Colonel GLANTZBERG:

R. FOSTER SCOTT,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. FOSTER SCOTT  
R. FOSTER SCOTT  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

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CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT  
Major, Air Corps.

**APPENDAGES**  
**Chapter VII, Page 2**

APPENDAGE No. 2

U.S. RESTRICTED Equals British RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 9

APO 520, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York,  
6 April 1944.

**EXTRACT**

9. 1<sup>st</sup> LT (1034) ABRAHAM (NMI) LEVINE, 0801110, is hereby reld fr asgd to Hq, 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp, and is reasgd to the 764<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.

By order of Colonel GLANTZBERG:

R. FOSTER SCOTT,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. FOSTER SCOTT  
R. FOSTER SCOTT  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

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CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT  
Major, Air Corps.

**APPENDAGES**  
**Chapter VII, Page 3**

APPENDAGE No. 3

U.S. RESTRICTED Equals British RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS

461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 13

APO 520, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York,  
17 April 1944.

**EXTRACT**

3. The following named officers are hereby designated as members of a Group Awards and Decorations Board:

MAJOR	JAMES B. KNAPP	0-21890	766 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (President)
MAJOR	ROBERT E. APPLGATE	0-22933	765 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq
CAPT	JAMES C. DOOLEY	0-431130	766 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq
CAPT	EDWIN T. GOREE	0-724610	764 <sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq

The purpose of this board will be to evaluate all organizational recommendations for awards and recommendations. The Board will meet informally at the call of the President, as often as is deemed necessary, to study and evaluate organizational recommendations and to make further recommendations to the Group Commander, for his formal decision, on the appropriate awards or decorations, if any, which the Board believes are justified.

Each Squadron Commander will appoint an investigating officer who will be assigned the duty of gathering all pertinent facts surrounding any particular meritorious act of a member of the squadron. These investigating officers will also be responsible for the actual preparation of the proposed recommendations for forwarding to higher headquarters, after final approval of the case has been made by the Group Commander.

This headquarters will be informed of the squadron investigating officer within 48 hours after issuance of this order.

4. A Flying Evaluation Board of this Group consisting of the following officers will meet at the call of the president for performance of duties set out in ltr XV AF file 334. Sub: Flying Evaluation Boards, dd 16 Mar 1944 (cerf). The board appointed per par 5, SO 46 (1943) this hq is dissolved this date.

LT COL	PHILIP R. HAWES	0-21220	President
MAJOR	JAMES B. KNAPP	0-21890	
MAJOR	ROBERT E. APPLGATE	0-22933	
CAPT	JAMES C. DOOLEY	0-431130	
MAJOR	CHARLES J. DEISHLEY	0-393951	

5. 2ND LT (7542) FRANK B. MAXSON, 0-862899, is reld as Post Utilities Officer and is hereby designated Group Personal Equipment Officer. Vice CWO FRED C.

MEDAU, W-2123965, reld this date. Auth XV AF MEMO 56-1 (5 Apr 1944). AFF Reg 55-7 (1943) and XV AF MEMO 56-1 will be complied with.

By order of Colonel GLANTZBERG:

R. FOSTER SCOTT,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. FOSTER SCOTT  
R. FOSTER SCOTT  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

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CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT  
Major, Air Corps.

**APPENDAGES**  
**Chapter VII, Page 4**

APPENDAGE No. 4

U.S. RESTRICTED Equals British RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS

461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 14

APO 520, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York,  
19 April 1944.

**EXTRACT**

5. Par 4 SO 13 (Flying Evaluation Board) this hq dd 17 Apr 44 is amended to include CAPT EDWIN T. GOREE, 0-724610, 764<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.

8. Having been assigned to this Gp pursuant to VO CG, XV AF, 11 April 44, and P. 11 SO #106, Hq, XV AF, 15 April 44, the fol named O and EM are asgd to sq as indicated eff 11 April 44:

<u>764<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 84</u>	<u>764<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 19</u>
2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) JACK R. BAKER 0665268	1 <sup>ST</sup> LT (1024) LEROY G. RUSSELL 026043
<u>765<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 38</u>	<u>765<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 39</u>
2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) ROLLEN L. PHILLIP 0677865	2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) ROBERT E. ARBUTHNOT 0690028
<u>765<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 21</u>	<u>766<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 58</u>
1 <sup>ST</sup> LT (1024) JAMES B ROBINSON JR 0452052	2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) CHESTER A RAY JR 0809872
<u>766<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 59</u>	<u>766<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 52</u>
F/O (1024) SAMUEL M. ZIVE T122242	2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) JACK H. WRIGHT 0810977
<u>766<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 57</u>	<u>767<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 79</u>
2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) CHARLES A DESPAIN 0753865	2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) EDWIN W. BOWYER 0544019
<u>767<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 78</u>	<u>767<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ – CREW NO. 77</u>
2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) MERLON G MORGAN SR 0809850	2 <sup>ND</sup> LT (1024) OTTO (NMI) MULLER 0738005

By order of Lieutenant Colonel HAWES:

R. FOSTER SCOTT,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. FOSTER SCOTT  
R. FOSTER SCOTT  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

U.S. RESTRICTED Equals British RESTRICTED

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT  
Major, Air Corps.

**APPENDAGES**  
**Chapter VII, Page 5**

APPENDAGE No. 5

U.S. RESTRICTED Equals British RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 15

APO 520, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York,  
19 April 1944.

**EXTRACT**

6. 1<sup>ST</sup> LT (4512) ALSON E. CLARK. 01549683, on DS this Gp fr 6631<sup>st</sup> O.A.S.C., pursuant to VO CG, XV AF, is atchd to Hq 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp is hereby aptd Gp Ordnance Officer, vice 1<sup>ST</sup> LT STEVE J OZANICH 01555116, 767<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq, reld. (Branch of Service: Ordnance).

By order of Lieutenant Colonel HAWES:

R. FOSTER SCOTT,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. FOSTER SCOTT  
R. FOSTER SCOTT  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

U.S. RESTRICTED Equals British RESTRICTED

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT  
Major, Air Corps.

**APPENDAGES**  
**Chapter VII, Page 6**

APPENDAGE No. 6

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
APO 520 US ARMY

SPECIAL ORDERS

24 May 1944

**EXTRACT**

To: All Concerned.

Pursuant to authority contained in Sec V, Paragraphs 1 and 4, WD Circular 127, dated 29 May 1943, the following named Officers and EM, orgns as indicated are placed on DS with AFF Redistribution Station No. 1, Atlantic City, New Jersey, WP via mil acft, govt mtr T, and/or rail to Personnel Center No. 6, PBS, for trans-shipment to the United States, where upon arrival, they will report to the CO, AFF Redistribution Station No. 1, Atlantic City, New Jersey for issuance of further orders. Upon completion of DS, Officers and EM will return via most expeditious available water transportation to permanent station, Personnel Center No. 7-A at DUKO. The following forms will be carried on their person by each individual: Form 77 (Officers' Pay Data Card) or Form 28 (Soldier's Individual Pay Record) and Form 31 (Immunization Register). Necessary rations in kind will be furnished. TDN, 91-66 P 432-02 A 0425-24.

461<sup>ST</sup> BOMB GROUP (HV)

1<sup>ST</sup> LT LATTIAS M. TORRES, JR., 0664088 AC

By order of Major General TWINING:

/s/ MARTIN GOLDMAN  
MARTIN GOLDMAN  
Captain, AGD,  
Asst. Adjutant. General.

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	APRIL				
	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROUP
<b>SORTIES</b>					
NO. AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE	143	140	138	149	570
LESS NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIES	33	34	30	33	130
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES	110	106	108	116	440
% AIRBORNE EFFECTIVE	77%	76%	78%	78%	77%
AVE. NO. ACFT. AIRBORNE PER MISSION	8.9	8.8	8.6	9.3	35.6
<b>EARLY RETURNS</b>					
MECHANICAL FAILURES	11	7	14	15	47
PERSONNEL FAILURES	0	0	0	0	0
WEATHER	14	14	9	10	47
% AIRBORNE RETURNING EARLY	17	15	17	17	16
<b>BOMB TONNAGE</b>					
NO. AIRBORNE	282	275	271	296	1124
DROPPED OVER TARGET	219	211	215	229	874
% AIRBORNE DROPPED O/T	78%	77%	79%	77%	78%
<b>VICTORIES</b>					
DESTROYED	1	8	0	0	9
PROBABLES	0	0	1	3	4
DAMAGED	1	0	0	0	1
VICTORIES PER LOSS	1.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
VICTORIES PER 100 SORTIES	0.9	7.5	0.0	0.0	2.0
<b>LOSSES</b>					
TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT	1	1	2	2	6
TO ENEMY AIRCRAFT	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER COMBAT LOSSES	0	0	1	1	2
TOTAL	1	1	3	3	8
TO A/A PER 100 SORTIES	0.9	0.9	1.8	1.7	1.4
TO E/A PER 100 SORTIES	0	0	0	0	0
<b>FLYING TIME</b>					
COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	886	904	867	921	3578
NON-COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	156	169	178	160	663
TOTAL	1042	1073	1045	1081	4241
HRS. PER OPER. ACFT	124	117	109	115	116
HRS. PER OPER. CREW	61	60	61	64	61
COMBAT HRS. PER OPER. CREW	52	50	51	54	52
<b>AIRCRAFT</b>					
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	13.5	13.1	12.3	12.0	50.9
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	8.4	9.2	9.6	9.4	36.6
% OPERATIONAL	62	70	78	78	72
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER ACFT. ASGD.	8.1	8.1	8.8	9.6	8.6
<b>CREWS</b>					
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	18	19	18	18	73
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	17	18	17	17	69
% OPERATIONAL	94	94	94	94	95
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER CREW ASGD.	6.1	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.0

**461<sup>ST</sup> BOMB GP (H) MISSION SUMMARY APRIL 1944**

MISS NO	DATE	TARGET	1 <sup>ST</sup> ATTACK UNIT LEADERS	2 <sup>ND</sup> ATTACK UNIT LEADERS	AC TO RNS	AC RTNS	AC SORT OT	TONS B D	% IN DROPTON	NO FRAGS	NO REPT	WEAT REPT	AA	E AC SEEN	AC CLAIMS	AC DMGD	AC RTN	AC LOST	MIA	CASUALTY	RATING	REMARKS
1	4-2-44	BELACAMY, YUGOSLAVIA	CAPT DOOLEY LT DONOVAN LT LEFFLER CAPT PRUITT	LT COL HAWES LT MEXON LT KADOW LT WILSON	41	6	35	35	NO	NO	NO	CAVU	0	0	0	0	33	2	20	0	GOOD	COLLAPSED OVER TOT
2	4-3-44	DRINS MY, YUGOSLAVIA	MAJ KNAPP LT WOODWARD LT FABERTY LT LEFFLER	COL GLANTZBERG LT MEXON LT WILSON	32	3	29	29	58	500 GP	NO	INTEN SE HAZE	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	FAIR	
3	4-5-44	NIS EAST MY, YUGOSLAVIA	MAJ APFLEGATE LT MURPHY LT DUSENBERRY	COL GLANTZBERG LT MEXON LT WILSON	36	2	34	34	67	500 GP	NO	CAVU WITH HAZE	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	VERY POOR	
4	4-6-44	ZAGREB AD, YUGOSLAVIA	CAPT GOREE LT BEAN LT WOODWARD LT DE WITT	LT SPANGLER CAPT GOREE LT STEPHENS LT WOODWARD LT WILSON	33	2	31	31	27	FRAGS	NO	9/10	0	35	1-0-0	0	29	1	3	0	UNGRS	15 GOREE ON TARGET
5	4-7-44	FERRARA SOUTHW, ITALY	COL GLANTZBERG LT LEFFLER CAPT PRUITT	LT MEXON LT WILSON	35	2	33	33	66	500 GP	NO	CAVU WITH HAZE	8	0	0	12	33	0	0	0	SUPERIOR	
6	4-12-44	ZAGREB MY, YUGOSLAVIA	MAJ KNAPP LT WOODWARD LT FABERTY LT COLES LT SULLIVAN	MAJ KNAPP LT WOODWARD LT FABERTY LT COLES LT MYERS	36	4	32	32	63	500 GP	NO	4/10	0	0	0	16	32	0	0	0	EXCELLE NT	
7	4-13-44	DUNA AC FCTY, HUNGARY	MAJ APFLEGATE LT MURPHY LT LEFFLER CAPT PRUITT	MAJ APFLEGATE LT MEXON LT MURPHY LT DUSENBERRY	38	2	36	36	72	500 RDX	45	4/10	1-A-H	58	3-3-0	15	33	3	32	0	EXCELLE NT	
8	4-15-44	BUCHAREST, CHITILA MY, ROMANIA	CAPT GOREE LT BEAM LT DE WITT LT CRAN	LT COL HAWES LT VEILVA LT DELAMETER LT RHODES	35	1	34	34	65	500 GP	UNO	9/10	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	POOR	
9	4-16-44	BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA	COL GLANTZBERG LT LEFFLER CAPT PRUITT	MAJ KNAPP LT WOODWARD LT FABERTY LT MILLER LT FRIESER	34	19	13	15	24	FRAGS	NO	CAVU WITH HAZE	20	0	0	8	14	1	10	0	FAIR	FORMATION BROKE UP IN WEATHER
10	4-17-44	BELGRADE, ZEMUN AD, YUGOSLAVIA	MAJ KNAPP LT WALTERS LT FABERTY LT COLES LT SMITH	LT STRONG LT EVANS LT KING LT SULLIVAN	36	2	0	34	0	FRAGS	NO	10/10	0	0	0	2	34	0	0	0	VERY POOR	ALL BOMBS B ADHATIC ON RETURN
11	4-20-44	TAGLIAMEN TO CASARSA RR BK, ITALY	MAJ APFLEGATE LT MEXON LT MURPHY LT DUSENBERRY LT WILSON	CAPT GOREE LT MEXON LT KADOW LT OWENS LT PREEN	39	3	36	36	875	500 GP	15	7/10	0	0	0	3	36	0	0	0	GOOD	FIRST ALT TARGET
12	4-21-44	BUCHAREST, CHITILA MY, ROMANIA	CAPT GOREE LT VEILVA LT KONS LT DE WITT LT RHODES	MAJ BURKE LT WALTERS LT STRANSKI LT LERIC LT SMITH	37	4	33	33	2	500 GP	UNO	10/10	0	40	1-0-0	0	33	0	0	1	VERY POOR	ALL BUT ONE AC LEFTIONED ON RETURN
13	4-23-44	BAD VOGLAU AD, AUSTRIA	CAPT DOOLEY LT DONOVAN LT STILES LT OWENS	CAPT BOCK LT SPECHT LT KADOW LT PREEN	30	8	30	30	504	FRAGS	NO	3/10	23	0-2-0	14	29	1	10	2	0	SUPERIOR	
14	4-24-44	BUCHAREST, CHITILA MY, ROMANIA	MAJ KNAPP LT STRONG LT FABERTY LT COLES LT SULLIVAN	CAPT GOREE LT VEILVA LT DELAMETER LT RHODES LT FOWLER	33	2	30	30	60	500 GP	11	CAVU WITH HAZE	25	1-0-1	0	30	1	10	0	0	FAIR	
15	4-25-44	LOULON SUB FRANSE	LT COL HAWES LT WOODWARD LT LEFFLER CAPT PRUITT	CAPT DICKINSON LT WOODWARD LT DAVIS LT GERMAN	38	3	35	35	70	1000 GP	NO	CAVU	12	0-0-2	6	35	0	0	0	0	VERY POOR	SMOKE SCREEN
16	4-30-44	ALESSANDRI A MY, ITALY	COL GLANTZBERG LT BEAM LT CRAN LT FABERTY LT ROTH	MAJ KNAPP LT STRONG LT KING LT DELAMETER LT RHODES LT SULLIVAN	37	6	31	31	60	500 GP	17	CAVU	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	FAIR	MANY HITS PATTERN