

CHAPTER XVI - SECOND UNIT CITATION AND CHANGE OF COMMAND - DECEMBER 1944

(A) Narrative History

War Department Unit Citation. On 3 December, Brigadier General Charles F. Born, Deputy Commander of the Fifteenth Air Force, presented the 461st Bombardment Group with its second War Department Unit Citation. Due to the fact that this was the second Unit Citation to be received by the Group within a period of one month, the ceremonies may have lacked a little of the color which had marked the first presentation on 6 November 1944. Those who witnessed the ceremonies, however, felt that the participants gave fully as good an account of themselves as had been done for the first citation.

After General Born had returned to his Headquarters he wrote the following letter that was endorsed to the Group by Colonel William L. Lee, Commanding Officer of the 49th Bombardment Wing:

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General

5 December 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.
THROUGH: Commanding General, 49th Bombardment Wing
TO: Commanding Officer, 461st Bombardment Group

1. I viewed with a great deal of pride your citation ceremonies on 3 December 1944.
2. You, your officers, and men are to be commended for this excellent showing. In the stress of combat it is easy to forget other essentials that are necessary in our military life. The ceremonies presented by your Group showed that high degree of training, discipline, loyalty, and efficiency that is so necessary for successful combat. You and every member of your command may rightfully be proud of the magnificent achievements of your organization. By your leadership you have reflected great credit upon yourself and the armed forces.
3. This commendation will become part of your official record and will be attached to your next efficiency report.

/s/ Charles F. Born
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Commander

HEADQUARTERS 49th BOMBARDMENT WING (H)

7 December 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 461st Bomb Group (H)

It gives me great pleasure to pass this commendation on to you with my congratulations and complete concurrence.

/s/ William L. Lee
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

The unit citation, which was awarded for a pathfinder attack on the Creditul-Minier Oil Refinery at Ploesti, Roumania on 15 July 1944, was approved by the Fifteenth Air Force on 26 October 1944 and by the Headquarters Army Air Forces of the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations on 22 November 1944.

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE

GENERAL ORDERS

26 October 1944.

NUMBER 4187

SECTION I – CITATION OF UNIT

Under the provisions of Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, and Circular No. 89, Headquarters NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the following unit is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy:

461st BOMBARDMENT GROUP. For outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. Notified to prepare for a bombing mission against the Creditul-Minier Oil Refinery at Ploesti, Roumania, the Group underwent extensive training to enable it to overcome the enemy's newest defensive weapon, an effective chemical smoke screen. Special Pathfinder crews trained rigorously for several weeks perfecting a new technique in non-visual, synchronous bombing, fully realizing that a successful accomplishment of this mission would reduce by 1,500,000 tons refinery capacity of the oil production and stores available to the Axis forces. Prior to the mission, ground crews worked tirelessly and determinedly to insure that their aircraft were in perfect mechanical condition for the operation. On 15 July 1944, thirty-nine (39) B-24 type aircraft were airborne and after assuming the lead of the wing formation encountered severe and adverse weather conditions, making it necessary for them to split up into flights and individual ships to get through. After successfully penetrating the first cloud coverage and reassembling, they again encountered adverse weather, and only through the superior skill of the navigators was the target reached. Approaching the objective, it was observed

to be completely obscured by the effective smoke from previous bomber raids or adjacent refineries. Undaunted by these seemingly overwhelming handicaps, together with the heavy barrage of intense anti-aircraft fire over the target, displaying outstanding courage and determination, the gallant crews fought their way through the heavy enemy defenses. With full realization of the importance of the target and their responsibility in leading the entire formation unerringly to the objective, the Pathfinder operator and lead bombardier skillfully coordinated their instruments and dropped their bombs on the obscured target, enabling the formation to lay down a perfect pattern of hits which completely smothered the target area. Immediately after the bombs were released, a break in the clouds enabled a perfect view of the objective and the pattern of bomb strikes. There were one hundred and twenty-five (125) hits visible on the refinery, eighteen (18) in the tank car storage and approximately twenty-one (21) on the choke point of the adjacent marshalling yard. So intense was the flak over the target, that one ship was lost, another severely damaged and fifteen (15) slightly damaged with losses held to a minimum through skillful evasive action taken. By the conspicuous courage, professional skill and devotion to duty of the ground personnel, the 461st bombardment Group has reflected great credit upon itself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

By command of Major General TWINING:

Change of Command. In leading the Wing and Group formation in an attack on the Linz, Austria, Main Marshalling Yard on 15 December, Colonel Hawes completed his tour of duty. During the days immediately following this mission, he visited the Headquarters of both the 49th Wing and the Fifteenth Air Force in completing matters pertaining to his command and in preparation for his return to the United States. The evening of 20 December, accompanied in a command car by Major Joseph M. Donovan who had completed his tour of duty on 11 December, he left for Naples in anticipation of his return to the United States. During his assignment with the 461st Group, he had served as Deputy Group Commander from 3 November 1943 to 22 September 1944, and as Group Commander from 22 September 1944 to the day of his departure.

Upon the departure of Colonel Hawes, command of the Group was assumed by Lt. Colonel Brooks A. Lawhon who previously had been Colonel Hawes' Deputy Commander. Lt. Colonel Otha B. Hardy, 764th Squadron Commander, was named the Deputy Group Commander. Captain Robert K. Baker, the Operations Officer of the 765th Squadron, became the Commanding Officer of that Squadron with 1st Lt. Leo F. Cooper as his Operations Officer.

Major Joseph N. Donovan was replaced as the 767th Squadron Commander by Captain Frank M. Poole.

Inspections. On 10 November Major L. Liddon, Technical Inspector from the Fifteenth Air Force Air Inspector's Office, and his Assistant, Captain J. E. Worley, inspected the engineering and armament sections of the Group. The conclusion of their report of the inspections – "Overall rating for Group – Satisfactory".

From 27 November through 2 December, an inspection team consisting of four officers and four enlisted men from Headquarters, Mediterranean Theatre of Operations,

United States Army, inspected the service records of the Group. This team was headed by Lt. Colonel W.S. Von Bermuth who had as his first assistant Lt. Colonel Barnett C. Wolin. The report of this inspection, which included officer set-up, supervision, and condition of service records, ranged all the way from "Unrated" to "Excellent".

During the period from 14 to 17 December inclusive, the annual General Inspection was conducted. The inspection team was made up of four officers and four enlisted men with Lt. Colonel Ellis E. Eno as acting Inspector General. Lt. Colonel Eno's report reads as follows:

HEADQUARTERS
49th BOMBARDMENT WING (H)
Office of the Air Inspector

19 December 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Annual General Inspection, 461st Bomb Group (H).

TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, (Thru Commanding Officer, 461st Bomb Group (H), and Commanding General, 49th Bomb Wing (H)).

I. AUTHORITY AND COMMAND INSPECTED

1. Under the provisions of Par. 3a, AR 20-10, 3 Sept. 1943, and pursuant to VO CG, Fifteenth Air Force, the annual general inspection (non-continuing type) of 461st Bomb Group (H) was made by Lieut. Colonel Ellis E. Eno, AC, (Acting Inspector General), assisted by personnel of the Air Inspector's section of the 49th Bomb Wing, during the period of 14-17 December 1944. The units inspected, together with the general rating given each, are shown in Enclosure No. 1. This group has been commanded by Colonel Philip R. Hawes, 0-21220, AC, since 22 September 1944. Previous commander was Colonel Frederic E. Glantzberg, AC.

II. ORGANIZATION

3. The Group and four Squadrons were activated 29 May 1943 per G.O. 78, Headquarters, Second Air Force, 19 May 1943. The Group operated under T/O and E1-112 and 1-117.

III. IRREGULARITIES, DEFICIENCIES AND COMMENTS

4. Personnel, buildings and grounds, messes, warehousing, transportation, discipline, security, records, funds and all other matters covered by this inspection were found to be in a satisfactory condition or better.

5. Considerable ingenuity is evidenced by the improvised steam tables installed in the messes. These improvisations are excellent additions to the messes.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The general overall rating is: Satisfactory.

7. Recommendations where appropriate, appear in each action-letter I.G.D. (Editor: Not included here.)

/s/ ELLIS E. ENO
Lieut. Colonel, AC
Acting Inspector General

List of Units inspected during annual General Inspection, 461st Bomb Group (H).

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Rating</u>
461 st BombGroup (H), Headquarters	Satisfactory
764 th Bomb Squadron (H)	Excellent
765 th Bomb Squadron (H)	Satisfactory
766 th Bomb Squadron (H)	Satisfactory
767 th Bomb Squadron (H)	Satisfactory

On 21 December 1st Lt. Robert W. Ellis and one enlisted man conducted the 49th Wing Medical Administrative Inspection in the Group. His report mentioned no specific items for attention by the Group, but did contain specific recommendations for the squadrons.

The final inspection for the month of December was made on the 22nd by Major L.D. Yard and his assistants from the Communications Section of the Fifteenth Air Force. A complete inspection was made of all of the Group's communications and radar installations. Final rating: "All phases – very satisfactory".

Meeting Conducted by General William L. Lee. Following the submission, of the report of the Annual General Inspection of the Group by the Acting Inspector General, the 49th Wing Commander, Brigdier General William L. Lee, conducted a meeting with selected personnel of the Group in the Group briefing room on 21 December 1944. The personnel present consisted of headquarters officers and squadron commanders, executive officers and adjutants. The general purpose of the meeting seemed to be that of providing the General with an opportunity to discuss with the staff members of the Group some of the current problems of the Wing and of the Air Force.

Subjects mentioned by the General included: Need for aggressive action in combating the increased venereal rate; the necessity for reducing the number of delinquents; methods for solving the complicated problem of transportation; the method of distributing, and the need for accurate accounting of combat whiskey; the shortage of airplanes in the Air Force, and the desirability of building pride in an organization.

Following the General's remarks, his Chief of Staff, Lt. Colonel Ellis E. Eno, discussed several items of army procedure that pertained primarily to the Adjutant's Office. After Lt. Colonel Eno had finished his remarks, the Wing Assistant Adjutant, Major Frank E. Marek, discussed the mechanics and the proper techniques for making recommendations for decorations and awards.

Christmas. So far as the day itself was concerned, Christmas Day was little different from previous holidays such as Election Day, Armistice Day, and Thanksgiving Day had previously proven to be. Fundamentally, it was just another day of war. But nonetheless it was Christmas.

A few days before Christmas, arrangements were made to send a small delegation of officers and men of the Roman Catholic faith to Rome where they attended midnight Christmas Mass celebrated by the Pope. On Sunday, 24 December, Chaplain Rasmussen conducted a total of seven different services. On Christmas night the officers and men enjoyed their turkey in highly decorated mess halls. Perhaps the biggest boon to apparently every member of the command at Christmastime was the large number of overseas Christmas packages that began to arrive in late November and were received in a continuous stream throughout the first three weeks of December.

Health. In December both hepatitis and diphtheria threatened the efficiency of the Group. The following account of this threat has been written by the Group Surgeon, Major Charles J. Deishley.

“Hepatitis – There were four cases from early in August until the latter part of November. Between November 1st and December 13th our Group had twenty-three cases (fourteen in the 766th and nine in the 765th). Of the men affected in the 765th, it is unusual that it seems to confine itself to the ground officers. At one time all but one line officer in that squadron were in the hospital. There were thirteen cases in November and ten cases in December. At the present time there are no new cases developing.

“Diphtheria – Only one squadron was involved in this disease. This was the 765th Squadron. During the period of 26 November to 2 December, eight definite cases were admitted to the hospital, and three persons diagnosed as carriers were admitted. There were several other suspects admitted, but diagnosis was not confirmed. Very strict precautions were exercised as soon as the first case appeared, which may have been the reason a severe epidemic did not occur. Fifteenth Air Force heard of our cases and sent two surgeons to assist us in Schick-testing the entire squadron. Ten days after the original Schick test those men who were positive were given another Schick test. The results have been forwarded to Air Force and may prove valuable in case some other outfit has diphtheria.”

(B) Operations.

Seventeen combat missions were flown during the month of December. Seven of these missions were against the enemy's bit synthetic oil refineries in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Germany; eight were against marshalling yards and two were against railroad viaducts. The complete list of targets attacked was probably the roughest for any month since July.

The losses during the month attested to the roughness of the targets. Personnel losses totaled three killed, nine wounded, and 125 missing in action. Of the 324 planes that flew effective sorties, 63 were damaged by flak and fighters, and 19 others were lost.

In the only encounter during the month with enemy fighters our crews claimed 24 destroyed and five probably destroyed.

New crews continued to arrive and the number of airplanes available continued to decline. For the month the Group had an average of 104.2 crews and an average of only 46.5 airplanes assigned.

To increase the possibility of a Group and Wing assembly above the undercasts that frequently attended take-offs, three additional assembly areas were assigned to the Group. One was along the western shoreline of the Adriatic south of the "spur"; and the third was along the coast of Yugoslavia, east of the Island of Vis.

A cargo plane returning from Naples was lost near the Field shortly after dark the evening of 23 December while attempting to land below bad weather and a very low ceiling. Ten of the fifteen officers and men aboard the plane were killed. Among the survivors were the pilot, Captain Gerald L. Vanderhoeven, and the copilot, 1st Lt. Theodore R. Ahlberg, both of whom were seriously injured when thrown clear of the wreckage through the top of the plane. Both had been outstanding flight leaders in the 766th Squadron. Captain Vanderhoeven had completed his tour of duty and was awaiting orders to return to the United States. Lt. Ahlberg, who had returned several weeks previous to the accident from rotation to the United States, had but a few missions left to complete his tour of duty.

Two enlisted men from the Group survived the crash. They were S. Sgt. Saul Kaplowitz and S. Sgt. Gerald S. Huizenga. The fifth survivor was an enlisted man from the 484th Group.

Those fatally injured were: 1st Lt. Paul M. Kuric, a flight leader navigator from the 766th Squadron who had returned to the Group from rotation to the United States and who was serving as the navigator on this mission; T. Sgt. William Tychostup; S. Sgt. Robert E. Moritz; S. Sgt. Raymond G. Hunt, Jr.; Cpl. James C. Wilson and George G. Oder, and four pilots from the 14th Fighter Group.

Correction

In certain previous chapters reference has been made under the Operations Section to combat hours. In each case this reference applied to airplane combat hours and not, as stated, to combat hours for crew members.

NEW CREWS

A total of twenty-two new crews were received during the month of December. They were led by:

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 159, dated 3 December 1944, reads as follows: "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC VCOG 15 AF, 2 Dec 44, the fol named personnel are further asgd to orgns as indicated, eff 2 Dec 44".

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. Frank M. Brown, Jr.
2nd Lt. Jessie C. Carlisle
2nd Lt. Chester W. Crumbo
2nd Lt. Paul P. Viliesis

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. John W. Anderson, Jr.
2nd Lt. Lloyd R. Heinz
2nd Lt. Dewey E. McMillen
2nd Lt. Stanley P. Porch
2nd Lt. Dominick Traetta
2nd Lt. Vahl A. Vladyka

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. John H. Boyd
2nd Lt. Andrew Curtis, Jr.
2nd Lt. Josiah R. Hooper
2nd Lt. Robert R. McKee

767th Squadron

2nd Lt. Donald Cameron
2nd Lt. Walter M. Clarke
2nd Lt. Edward K. Delana
2nd Lt. Robert C. Hansen
1st Lt. Charles V. Lang, Jr.
2nd Lt. William E. Vogel
2nd Lt. Thomas R. Wiley
2nd Lt. Donald L. Yauger

MISSIONS

**Mission No. 142, 2 December 1944, Blechhammer South Synthetic Oil Refinery,
Germany**

Major Donovan led a six-flight formation on 2 December in attacking the South Plant of the synthetic oil refinery at Blechhammer, Germany, by pathfinder method. A very effective smoke screen with the smudge pots located considerable distance from the target seemed to have baffled the navigators, the bombardiers, and the mickey operators in the lead and deputy lead planes. Upon returning to Base they expressed undivided confidence that they had hit the target, but photographs of the mission revealed that the target was missed by approximately seven miles. Of the twenty-six planes over the target, two were severely damaged by flak and thirteen others were hit. One man was wounded on this mission.

Mission No. 143, 3 December 1944 – Ali Pasin Most Marshalling Yard at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia (Cancelled)

Mission No. 143, 3 December 1944 – Innsbruck Main Marshalling Yard, Austria

Two missions were briefed the morning of 3 December. A four-box formation assigned to bomb the Ali Pasin Most M/Y at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, was stood down, but the two-pathfinder individual plane mission to Innsbruck Main Marshalling Yard, Austria, was flown. Both planes bombed the target by pathfinder methods above a tenth undercast with unobserved results. Flak at the target was negligible. The plane flown by 2nd Lt. Robert R. Friedersdorf returned to the Base without incident, but the one flown by 1st Lt. Bertrand J. Arents developed serious engine trouble on the return route and was compelled to land at Rimini. All but three of the crew members hitch-hiked back to the Base. Nineteen days elapsed before Lt. Arents returned to the Base with the plane.

Mission No. 144, 6 December 1944 – Maribor South Marshalling Yard, Yugoslavia

Bad weather seriously hindered the mission of 6 December when Captain Mixson led a six-flight formation against the South Marshalling Yard at Maribor, Yugoslavia. Some of the planes in the formation became lost when attempting to get above a stratus layer based at 15,000 feet. Some of these stray planes bombed individually and others bombed with different Groups in the Air Force. The formation that was able to stay with Captain Mixson found poor visibility and nine-tenths cloud coverage at the target. Pathfinder methods were used for navigational purposes and for the target approach, but the bombing was done visually with unobserved results. Nine planes were hit by flak over the target.

Mission No. 145, 7 December 1944 – Innsbruck Main Station, Austria

Mission No. 145 was a two-plane pathfinder mission against the Innsbruck Main Station, Austria, the night of 6-7 December 1944. 2nd Lt. Robert J. Louches and his crew were forced to return early when their number four engine caught on fire. The plane piloted by 1st Lt. Robert A. Galvan hit the primary target. Radio conversation that was overheard on this mission revealed that enemy night fighters were attacking bombers of the Fifteenth Air Force on this mission.

Mission No. 146, 8 December 1944 – Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria

Mission No. 146 was another two-plane pathfinder mission against the oil refinery at Moosbierbaum, Austria. It was flown the night of 7-8 December. The plane was flown by 1st Lt. Hubert W. Souther and could not get to its briefed altitude because of icing conditions. When it finally reached the initial point the visibility was so good that lights in the target area could be seen in the distance. With inadequate cloud protection, the crew abandoned the target, jettisoned their bombs in the Adriatic, and returned to the Base.

The second plane, piloted by 2nd Lt. Robert R. Friedersdorf, encountered five enemy fighters after making landfall at the head of the Adriatic. Three of the unidentified fighters stood off the wings of the bomber at a safe distance while two others attacked, making their passes low, one from each side. The bomber crew jettisoned their bombs, fought off the attack, found cloud cover, and returned to Base.

**Mission No. 147, 11 December 1944 – Vienna Maitzlendorf Goods Station,
Austria**

Pressing to complete his tour of duty, Colonel Hawes led a formation of thirty planes in attacking the Vienna Maitzlendorf Goods Station on 11 December 1944. With only two-tenths cloud coverage at the target the enemy flak, which was intense, accurate and heavy, was probably the worst ever experienced by this Group at Vienna. Fourteen of the twenty-four planes over the target were hit.

Several Groups in the Fifteenth Air Force had already hit targets in the South Vienna Area before this Group arrived at the target. Despite good horizontal visibility the Group was compelled to bomb by pathfinder methods due to the smoke screen, the fires; and the haze in the target area. The bomb pattern was a concentrated one but unfortunately most of the bombs fell just short of the target in an industrial area.

1st Lt. Jay M. Garner had his hydraulics shot out and his cables jammed on this mission. He circled the field for nearly two hours using up his gasoline and waiting for his crew to find some way of letting down and locking the landing gear. Finally, when nearly out of gas, he bailed out all but two others members of his crew and successfully crash-landed the plane in the darkness on the non-serviceable East runway. The copilot, Lt. Roger Nixon, and the engineer, Cpl. Charles Barnes, rode the plan down with him. None of the three were injured and much of the plane was salvaged.

Major Joseph N. Donovan, the 767th Squadron Commander, led the second section on this mission and became the third squadron commander in the history of the Group to complete a tour of duty.

**Mission No. 148, 12 December 1944 – Blechhammer South Synthetic Oil
Refinery, Germany**

For Mission No. 148 another feature was added to the ever-changing tactics employed by the Fifteenth Air Force in its endless effort to keep pressure on German oil and rolling stock despite adverse weather conditions. Six pathfinder planes were assigned to hit the Blechhammer South Oil Refinery during daylight hours. Instead of flying individual missions with short intervals between each plane over the target, the planes for this mission were scheduled to fly and attack the target in three flights of two planes each.

Of the six planes scheduled for the mission, only five got off. Two were early returns due to mechanical failures. Each of the three remaining planes bombed a different target.

While one of the planes was enroute to the target it was discovered that the radar set was not working accurately. Because of this, the town of Gattendorf, near Vienna, was picked as a target of opportunity and bombed by a combination of visual and pathfinder methods with unobserved results. A second plane developed gasoline leaks enroute to the target and so was compelled to bomb the second alternate target, the Privoz Oil Refinery at Moravska Ostrava, Czechoslovakia. One plant hit the primary target with unobserved results.

Flying between two decks of clouds, 2nd Lt. Robert T. Barnes and his crew were jumped by the enemy fighters north of Lake Balaton on their return from the Privoz Oil Refinery. A formation of four Me-109s was led out of the clouds by an unidentified plane that might possibly have been a radar plane. In the encounter that took place before Lt. Barnes could reach the protection of the clouds below him, two of his gunners were wounded and one enemy airplane was probably destroyed.

The plane that went to the primary target was compelled to land at Vis to refuel on the return route. (Despite the fact that this is the first mention in this History of one of our planes having landed at Vis, there is nothing unusual in this incident. On the 13th mission of the 461st Group on 23 April 1944, 1st Lt. Matias M. Torres, Jr. had bailed his crew out over the Island of Vis.⁽¹⁾ Following that incident one or more planes in a Group formation which were running low on gasoline frequently stopped at the friendly Island of Vis to refuel.)

**Mission No. 149, 13 December 1944 – Brux Synthetic Oil Plant, Czechoslovakia
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 149, 13 December 1944 – Linz Main Marshalling Yard, Austria
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 149, 14 December 1944 – Brux Synthetic Oil Plant, Czechoslovakia
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 149, 14 December 1944 – Linz Main Marshalling Yard, Austria
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 149, 15 December 1944 – Rolling Stock at Linz Main Marshalling
Yard, Austria**

On 15 December the Group Commander, Colonel Hawes, completed his tour of duty in leading the Group and Wing formation in an attack on the Main Marshalling Yard at Linz, Austria. After take-off the rendezvous was made above a ten-tenths layer of clouds with tops at 6000 feet. Horizontal visibility at the target was unlimited, but the solid undercast necessitated instrument bombing with unobserved results. Over the target the Group experienced moderate, inaccurate, and heavy flak, but not a single plane that returned to the Base was hit. The plane flown by 2nd Lt. Clarence P. Marshall left the formation before the initial point and failed to return to the Base.

⁽¹⁾ Cf Chapter VII, Page 93.

It seemed a most fitting conclusion to Colonel Hawes' tour of duty that he took twenty-nine airplanes over the exceptionally well-defended target area of Linz without having a plane hit by flak. As a Group, Wing and Air Force leader, he had repeatedly demonstrated his ability during his tour of duty to come off rough targets having suffered a minimum amount of damage. When not leading the Air Force, he had habitually made it his practice to maneuver his formation in such a manner as to sit tight above the tail of a Group or Wing formation immediately ahead of him over the target.

**Mission No. 150, 16 December 1944 – Brux Synthetic Oil Refinery,
Czechoslovakia**

On 16 December Major Rider led a large formation against a far distant and heavily defended target, the synthetic oil refinery at Brux, Czechoslovakia. The formation flew between two decks of clouds over the Adriatic, but experienced fairly good weather over the Alps. Over the target the tops of the solid undercast were up to 20,000 feet. Taking advantage of the high solid undercast, Major Rider was able to almost completely avoid the intense flak. The plane flown by 1st Lt. Lee P Ward, Jr., which failed to return from the mission, was the only plane over the target to be hit.

Mission No. 151, 17 December 1944 – Odertal Oil Refinery, Germany

Captain Mixson took off on 17 December with thirty-one airplanes to attack the synthetic oil refinery at Odertal, Germany. There were five early returns. Only fifteen of the twenty-six remaining airplanes reached the target. The bombs were dropped through a solid undercast with unobserved results.

To minimize drag and thus conserve gasoline for the long mission, the gunners had been briefed to stand by to lower the ball turrets but not to actually lower them until the IP, Zuckmantel, was reached. Near Muglitz, just south of the initial point, the Group was attacked by upward of fifty Me-109s and FW-190s.

The attack lasted approximately fifteen minutes during which the enemy used both rockets and 20 mm cannon. Passes were made mostly in pairs from 5:00 to 7:00 o'clock low with breakaways also low. The bombers that returned to the Base claimed twenty-four of the attacking fighters destroyed and five probably destroyed. Despite the fact that the ball turrets had the advantage of computing sights and the most favorable position against low attacks, they fired the fewest number of rounds and claimed the fewest enemy airplanes of any position on the bombers. Of a total of 12,620 rounds of ammunition expended, the ball turrets expended but 1365 rounds.

As a result of the fighter attack, nine planes in the formation were shot down and a tenth one was lost to ditching while in the traffic pattern near the Island of Vis. In all, ten planes were lost, five others were damaged, three individuals were killed, two were wounded, and ninety-three were missing in action.

On the way home from the mission, while north of Vienna, Captain Mixson was checking the number of planes left in his formation over the radio when a German voice,

apparently using our radio frequency, broke in with the proper call signal to ask, "Where is the rest of your formation?" , laughed, and signed off.

Killed in ditching were 1st Lt. Eugene P. Ford, 1st Lt. Russell C. Landry, and T. Sgt. Charles E. Priest. The wounded were Sgt. Archie S. Russell and Sgt. Walter L. Franks. Missing in action were the crews of the following pilots: 1st Lt. Robert A. Galvan; 1st Lt. Charles v. Lang, Jr.; 2nd Lt. Frederick B. Capalbo; 2nd Lt. Philip J. Crossman; 2nd Lt. Max M. Hailey; 2nd Lt. Nicholas Sidovar; and 2nd Lt. Gerald R. Smith, Smith; 2nd Lt. Kenneth B. Smith; and 2nd Lt. Thomas J. West.

Mission No. 152, 18 December 1944 – Blechhammer North Synthetic Oil Refinery, Germany

Mission No. 152 was a three-flight formation led by Lt. Colonel Lawhon against the North Oil Refinery at Blechhammer, Germany. Due to practically solid cloud coverage the bombing, as usual, was done by the pathfinder method. The bomb strike pictures, however, show three small breaks in the clouds over the target. A long and detailed study of these pictures that was instigated by Colonel Hawes revealed beyond any doubt that the target was exceptionally well hit by the fifteen planes in the formation. Again a crew was lost on this mission when the plane piloted by 2nd Lt. Edward K. George dropped behind the formation after coming off the target.

Commendation

From: 49th Bomb Wing

To: 451st, 461st, 484th Bomb Groups. Attention: S-3 Officers

"Recent photographs coverage has proved that our relentless attacks have dealt crippling blows to the Hun and his most vulnerable spot -- his sources of oil. Definite information verifying the effectiveness of the tremendous effort the combat and service units of this Air Force have been called upon to exert compensated in measure for the sacrifices entailed. I realize that in ordering deep penetrations into enemy territory with unfavorable weather adding to the hazards of combat, I have required the personnel of this commend to exert a supreme effort. It is heartening to know that such an effort has been crowned with success. The devastated refinery of Blechhammer North bears witness to the valor, the outstanding flying proficiency and professional skill of our combat crews and to the determination of their combat leaders. I commend the fighter pilots and their leaders on the brilliant performance of their escort assignments. I congratulate the service units and the maintenance personnel of the tactical units on their excellent response to the arduous demands made upon them. We know that our campaign is progressing favorably and that our successful attacks on the enemy in the recent months will hasten his complete and utter defeat."

(Signed) TWINING

Mission No. 153, 19 December 1944 – Blechhammer South Oil Refinery, Germany

Another three-flight formation to Blechhammer, this time with the South Refinery as the target. Of the eighteen airplanes off, two were early returns and six lost the formation in snowstorms. These six planes, all in one flight, bombed Sternberg, Germany, as a target of opportunity. The ten planes over the target dropped their bombs through a solid undercast with unobserved results. Six of the ten planes over the primary target were hit by flak but there were no losses.

Mission No. 154, 20 December 1944 – Villach Marshalling Yard, Austria

On 20 December a two-flight formation led by Lt. Colonel Hardy took off with the synthetic oil refinery at Brux, Czechoslovakia, as the primary target. The weather over Yugoslavia was so bad that it was impossible to keep even a two-flight formation together. As a result, one flight bombed Villach, Austria, and the other one bombed Linz, Austria, with the 484th Group. The results were unobserved. When the planes returned to the Base, the ceiling was 200 feet, but there were no landing accidents.

**Mission No. 155, 22 December 1944 – Brux Synthetic Oil Refinery,
Czechoslovakia (Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 155, 23 December 1944 – Verona Locomotive Repair Depot, Italy
(Cancelled)**

Mission No. 155, 24 December 1944 – Lechfeld Airdrome, Germany (Cancelled)

Mission No. 155, 25 December 1944 – Wels Marshalling Yard, Austria

At 2200 hours on Christmas Eve the officers and men in the transportation, armament and ordnance sections were ordered to the line in a cold, driving rain to change the bomb load from frag clusters to 500 pound RDX bombs. These frag bombs had been left in the planes in anticipation of the possibility of flying the mission of 24 December that had been stood down.

At 0744 hours on Christmas morning twenty-six airplanes took off to bomb the synthetic oil refinery at Brux, Czechoslovakia. The planes were off in the rain that was accompanied by a visibility of two miles and a ceiling of less than 500 feet. This was the poorest weather in which this Group had ever taken off for a combat mission. The planes broke through the ten-tenths cumulus at 1500 feet and proceeded to the coast of Yugoslavia individually for assembly and rendezvous. From the rendezvous area northward the weather steadily improved with the result that by the time the Alps were reached, it was CAVU with haze.

Having been late in taking off and also having been late at the rendezvous, the Group did not have enough daylight hours left in which to complete a mission against the primary target. As a result, the Group bombed the third alternate target, the marshalling yard at Wels, Austria. The bombing was done visually but unfortunately the target was missed.

It was long after dark that evening before the bad weather over the Base moved out to sea. Each of the pilots in the five planes that were early returns had difficulty landing because of the low hanging cumulus clouds. Only one plane that was over a target returned to the Base at the completion of the mission. The pilot of this plane circled the field three times to get underneath a 200-foot ceiling.

Most of the planes landed at Bari and at Gioia with a few at scattered fields in the Foggia area. During the afternoon of 25 December, a warning order for a mission on the following day was received by the Group. This warning order was later cancelled when it was learned by the Air Force that the Group would not have enough planes with which to fly a mission on 26 December.

During the day of the 26th, the planes came straggling back to the Base. Having missed their target despite the good weather, having been away from the Base for Christmas, and having slept in their clothes in a vain effort to keep warm, the crews were a dejected lot.

Mission No. 156, 27 December 1944 – Venzone Viaduct, Italy

On 27 December Captain Roberts led a five-flight formation to North Italy where the Venzone Viaduct was bombed visually. The planes, carrying 1000-pound bombs, bombed by flights. The main pattern of bombs fell on the west side of the viaduct where direct hits and near misses were scored. The scattered patterns of the various boxes clearly demonstrated that practice bombing was sorely needed.

Mission No. 157, 28 December 1944 – Venzone Viaduct, Italy

On the following day the Group and the Wing were back again in good weather to the Venzone Viaduct with 1000 pound bombs. Again the formation, led this time by Captain Phillips, bombed by boxes. The best pattern started in the river west of the target and continued directly across the target. The bombing, on the whole, was much better than it had been on the previous day.

Photo reconnaissance on 28 December, after both attacks by the 49th Wing, revealed that complete interdiction was achieved as a result of these two missions. The structure, 2760 feet in length, 16 feet in width, and 32 feet in height, was completely cut in two different places.

Commendation

From: CO, 49th Bomb Wing, Command Section.

To: CO, 461st Bomb Gp.

“The following message from General Twining is quoted for your information, ‘My congratulations to the 49 Wing for superior bridge busting job at Venzone on the 27 and 28 of December. Please pass to all Groups participating Well Done’”.

(Signed) LEE

**Mission No. 158, 29 December 1944 – Rosenheim Marshalling Yard, Germany
and Castelfranco Veneto Railroad Junction, Italy**

The last mission of the month, flown on 29 December, was led by Lt. Colonel Hardy. The primary target was the Passau Marshalling Yard in Germany. As had been the case earlier in December, Lt. Colonel Hardy drew an especially bad weather assignment. Scattered cirrus, which extended up to 22,000 feet over the Adriatic, split the twenty-eight planes into two formations.

Two flights, above a solid undercast, bombed the marshalling yard at Rosenheim, Germany, with unobserved results. The other two flights visually bombed the locomotive depot at Castelfranco Veneto where the weather was clear. The photographs of the bombing of Castelfranco show a close concentrated pattern with hits on the large repair shop, the center of the marshalling yard, the west choke point, an industrial plant southeast of the locomotive depot, and the highway overpass.

On returning to the Base, three of the four flights found a hole south of the spur at Lake Lesina through which to let down for a return to the base. The fourth flight, however, failed to find a hole and was compelled to land at Iesi and Falconara where they remained until late afternoon of 31 December.

Captain Murphy, the Group Bombardier, completed his tour of duty on this mission. With the exception of eighteen officers who returned to the Group on rotation to the United States, Captain Murphy was the last individual among the flying officers of the original Group and Squadron staffs and combat crew members to complete a tour of duty. He was aboard one of the planes that landed at Iesi. When he returned to the Base he learned of his promotion to Major.

Commendation

Subject: TWX A 00504

To: All concerned

“The following message received from General Twining is quoted for your information cite XVAF A230. ‘The results of the bombing by the 461st Bomb Group against the alternate target, the locomotive depot at Castelfranco, were most excellent. My highest commendations to the crews who turned in this splendid performance.’”

MISSING IN ACTION

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission Target</u>
1 st Lt.	Clarence P. Marshall	Pittsburg, Kans.	15/12/44	Linz
1 st Lt.	Calvin E. Jarnagin	Colorado City, Tex	15/12/44	Linz

2 nd Lt.	Leroy M. Nayes	Fingal, N.D.	15/12/44	Linz
1 st Lt.	Frank M. Dick	Brookline, Mass.	15/12/44	Linz
S. Sgt.	Calvin S. Steinberg	Brooklyn, N.Y.	15/12/44	Linz
S. Sgt.	Gordon L. Commander	Argyle, Florida	15/12/44	Linz
S. Sgt.	Joseph M. DeRosa	Oak Park, Ill.	15/12/44	Linz
Sgt.	Albert G. Hill	Fortson, Georgia	15/12/44	Linz
S. Sgt.	Gus A. Sundquist	McKeesport, Pa.	15/12/44	Linz
S. Sgt.	Jan E. Wroclawski	Bronx, N.Y.	15/12/44	Linz
Cpl.	James J. Martino	Cranston, R.I.	15/12/44	Linz
1 st Lt.	Lee P. Ward, Jr.	Houston, Tex.	16/12/44	BruX
2 nd Lt.	Thomas M. Merkouris	Jersey City, N.J.	16/12/44	BruX
F/O	Kenneth E. Merry	Emporia, Kans.	16/12/44	BruX
2 nd Lt.	Charles E. Mundy	Tucson, Ariz	16/12/44	BruX
Cpl.	Thomas H. MacDonald	Madison, Maine	16/12/44	BruX
Cpl.	Paul T. Haggerty	Fall River, Mass.	16/12/44	BruX
Cpl.	Thomas F. Byers	Saxonburg, Pa.	16/12/44	BruX
Cpl.	Melvin G. TenHaken	Oostburg, Wis.	16/12/44	BruX
T. Sgt.	Jesse H. Palmer	Kansas City, Kans.	16/12/44	BruX
Cpl.	R.C. Wakefield	Double Springs, Ala.	16/12/44	BruX
T Sgt.	Harry W. Dunham	Upper Lisle, N.Y.	16/12/44	BruX
2 nd Lt.	Max M. Hailey	Walnut Grove, Mo.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	James G. Hendrix	Winston-Salem, Mo.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Harber P. Sugg, Jr.	Ada, Okla.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Ivy L. Killian	St. Louis, Mo.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Harry D. Spencer	Fruitland, Idaho	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Julius G. Fajkus	Bloomington, Tex.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Palmer D. Arrowood	Langley, Kentucky	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Albert T. Arrotta	Chelsea, Mass.	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	Jacob Herman, III	Holyoke, Mass.	17/12/44	Odertal
T. Sgt.	Lawrence F. Dixon, Jr.	Pisgan Forest, N.C.	17/12/44	Odertal
1 st Lt.	Robert A. Galvan	San Antonio, Tex.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Eldred H. Helton	Timberland, N.C.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Edward A. Hussler	Morris, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Frederick C. Smyth	Victoria, Tex.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Albert G. Jones	Los Angeles, Calif.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Arthur C. Piccoli	Philadelphia, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Thomas S. Lyons	Brentwood, Tenn.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Thomas E. Stevenson	Philadelphia, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Roy B. Wilhite	Des Moines, Ia.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Purvis L. Stacks	Arlington, Va.	17/12/44	Odertal
1 st Lt.	Charles V. Lang, Jr.	Carrollton, Ala.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Oliver Maggard, Jr.	Larchmont, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
1 st Lt.	Arthur W. Kohlman	Cincinnati, Ohio	17/12/44	Odertal

2 nd Lt.	Howard E. Munson	San Diego, Calif.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Guy V. Bosso	East Rochester, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Wilfred A. Engelke	Houston, Tex	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Harold P. Norton	Randolph, Vt.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Hjalmer O. Johansson	New York, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	James M. Rutter	Roseburg, Ore.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Lon N. Reed, Jr.	Maryville, Tenn.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Charles R. Clay	Vista, Calif.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Kenneth B. Smith	Indianapolis, Inc.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Chester H. Rudel	Fessenden, N.D.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Frank V. Hokr	Cicero, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Harry D. Edmiston	Denver, Colo.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Charles F. Foss	Machias, Maine	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Homer E. Hymbaugh	Delavan, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Roland W. Morin	West Warwick, R.I.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Robert T. Trumpy	Pulaski, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	Urbain H. Granger	Kankakee, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Edwin A. Burkhardt	Hunlock Creek, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Eugene P. Ford	New Derry, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Vincent O. Ecklund	Milwalukee, Ore.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Val P. Miller	Duncan, Okla.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Russell C. Landry	Tucson, Ariz.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Casimir P. Walenga	Grand Rapids, Mich.	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	Edward F. Steelandt	Moline, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	John F. Toney	Muskogee, Okla.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	James R. Hazel	Detroit, Mich.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Wallace H. McLemore	Vidalia, Ga.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Charles E. Priest	Hazelton, Kans.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Frederick B. Capalbo	Greenwich, Conn.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	William C. Rundbaken	West Hartford, Conn.	17/12/44	Odertal
F/O	Gordon C. Behling	Johnson Creek, Wis.	17/12/44	Odertal
1 st Lt.	Jeff L. Hamilton, Jr.	Marchison, Tex.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Edgar A. Squires	Hampton Bays, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	John A. Villars	Chicago, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Richard McGuire	Waterbury, Conn.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Frederick W. Hughes	St. Louis, Mo.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Roger A. Koontz	Crafton, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Accursio A. Graffee	Brooklyn, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Donald H. Robinsoln	Albia, Ia.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Gerald N. Smith	Grand Rapids, Mich.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Francisco W. Vrooman, Jr.	Little Rock, Ark.	17/12/44	Odertal
F/O	Milton A. Klarsfeld	Albany, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Arthur N. Carlson	Portland, Ore.	17/12/44	Odertal

Sgt.	John R. Modrovsky	New York, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	David D. Brewer	Arkadelphia, Ark.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Abraham P. Abramson	Bronx, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	Edwin L. Howard	Columbus, Ohio	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Clifton J. Stewart	Mattapan, Mass.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Morris R. Goldman	Chicago, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Philip J. Crossman	Lima, Ohio	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Earl W. Kreps	Pittsburgh, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	William L. McBain, Jr.	Montgomery, Ala.	17/12/44	Odertal
F/O	Hugh Hanley	Jersey City, N.J.	17/12/44	Odertal
1 st Lt.	Jack R. Cody	Albuquerque, N.M.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Leonard G. Geier	Bronx, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	Valden A. Barnson	Gusher, Utah	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	William C. White	Brooklyn, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Lawrence M. Widsmore	Hastings on the Hudson, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	John A. Gainio, Jr.	Brooklyn, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Bernard C. Freeman	Vinita, Okla.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Thomas M. West	Volin, S.D.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Edmund A. Masold, Jr.	South Gate, Calif.	17/12/44	Odertal
2Lt.	Thomas W. Qualman	Saginaw, Mich.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Thomas N. Moosges	Chicago, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	Thomas E. Delberg	Mount Pulaski, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Roy L. Doe	Duluth, Minn.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	Frank C. Yesia, Jr.	Cicero, Ill.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Trefry A. Ross	Martinez, Calif.	17/12/44	Odertal
S. Sgt.	Joseph G. Nergo	Ashley, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Frederick M. Guhl	Sagamore, Pa.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Nicholas Sidovar	Alpha, N.J.	17/12/44	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Malcolm S. Hawkins	Concan, Tex.	17/12/44	Odertal
		Brooklyn, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
		1		
		Nevada City, Calif.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Russell M. Nicolaiser	Duluth, Minn.	17/12/44	Odertal
		Niagara Falls, N.Y.	17/12/44	Odertal
		Baltimore, Md.	17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Hugh I. Cash	Franklinton, N.C.	17/12/44	Odertal
Cpl.	John Barks		17/12/44	Odertal
Sgt.	Robert L. Moring	Houston, Tex.	17/12/44	Odertal
1 st Lt.	Edward K. George	Jacksonville, Fla.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
2 nd Lt.	Donn W. DeMarco	San Diego, Calif.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
2 nd Lt.	Neil F. McCulley	Brazoria, Tex.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
2 nd Lt.	Jesse F. Moses	Blackfoot, Idaho	18/12/44	Blechhammer

S. St.	Alexey J. Kosten	Berkeley, Calif.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	Arthur R. Dupree	Mansfield, Mass.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	John F. Tribby	Coraopolis, Pa.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	George D. Leeth	Hamilton, Tex.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
T. Sgt.	William H. Wiest	Springfield, Ill.	18/12/44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	John C. Kilgore	Superior, Wis.	18/12/44	Blechhammer

(C) Photo Section

The enclosed photographs accompany this History for the month.

(D) Special Accounts

a. Promotions

Officers

7 December 1944 - Edward F. Kiernan, Group Armament Officer, from First Lieutenant to Captain.

25 December 1944 - John A. Trommershausser, Group Air Inspector, from First Lieutenant to Captain.

27 December 1944 - Benjamin S. Murphy, Group Bombardier, from Captain to Major

Enlisted Men

<u>MOS</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Grade</u>
405	Leonard C. Delaney	31295202	Pvt to Pfc
658	William R. Haupt	37132882	S. Sgt. to T. Sgt.

b. Missing in Action Reports

(Returned to Duty)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Returned Date</u>
T. Sgt.	Thomas M. Connolly, Jr.	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
2 nd Lt.	Robert W. Eckman	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
1 st Lt.	Arthur E. Farnham, Jr.	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
S. Sgt.	Franz F. Holscher	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
S. Sgt.	Carol J. Sanderson	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
S. Sgt.	Henry J. Shay	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
2 nd Lt.	Marvin Stoloff	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
Sgt.	Roscoe E. Teal	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44
2 nd Lt.	Eugene E. Thomas	19/11/44	Vienna	27 December '44

(Prisoners of War)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>Target</u>
S. Sgt.	John M. Gildart	16 April '44	Belgrade
S. Sgt.	Felix Granchelli	7 August '44	Blechhammer
Sgt.	William G. Lamb, Jr.	7 August '44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	Daniel J. Pogorzelski	7 August '44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	Frederick C. Andrews	17 August '44	Ploesti
Sgt.	Carlos J. Bonewell	17 August '44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Norris G. Echternacht	17 August '44	Ploesti
Sgt.	John E. Koester	17 August '44	Ploesti
Sgt.	James G. McGuire	17 August '44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Thomas C. Moore	17 August '44	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Richard A. Mort	17 August '44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Bernard H. Young	17 August '44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Richard F. Carter	22 August '44	Vienna
Sgt.	William H. McGrady	22 August '44	Vienna
Cpl.	Roy V. Houck	23 August '44	Markersdorf
Cpl.	Winfield D. Martin	23 August '44	Markersdorf
1 st Lt.	Frank S. Bird	26 August '44	Bucharest
Cpl.	David M. Hulliner	26 August '44	Bucharest
2 nd Lt.	Robert R. Brina	4 October '44	Munich
T. Sgt.	Anderson A. Fink	4 October '44	Munich
T. Sgt.	Donald B. Harrison	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	Frank G. Hawthorne	4 October '44	Munich
2 nd Lt.	William M. Jackson	4 October '44	Munich
2 nd Lt.	Barry B. Jones	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	Edward J. Klepper	4 October '44	Munich
2 nd Lt.	Joshua Loring, Jr.	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	Frederick A. Mandly	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	John J. McDonough	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	Frank Messa	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	John A. Peebles	4 October '44	Munich
2 nd Lt.	William M. Powell	4 October '44	Munich
2 nd Lt.	Paul D. Shaffer, Jr.	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	Woodrow W. Smith	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	George A. Speliades	4 October '44	Munich
2 nd Lt..	Victor V. Sundquist	4 October '44	Munich
Sgt.	Armand R. Turgeon	4 October '44	Munich
1 st Lt.	John L. Turner, Jr.	4 October '44	Munich
S. Sgt.	Ralph D. Vinson	4 October '44	Munich
1 st Lt.	William E. Waggoner	4 October '44	Munich
S. Sgt.	James D. Walsh	4 October '44	Munich
2 nd Lt.	Robert E. Ware	4 October '44	Munich

(Officially Declared Dead)

Mission

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Target</u>
2 nd Lt.	George M. Felber	Irvington, N.J.	2/4/44	Bihac
2 nd Lt.	John C. Fuller, Jr.	Lumberton, N.J.	2/4/44	Bihac
2 nd Lt.	Joseph J Repko	Freeland, Pa.	2/4/44	Bihac
S. Sgt.	Woodrow P. Clayton	Houston, Tex.	2/4/44	Bihac
2 nd Lt.	Easton W. Duval, Jr.	Austin, Tex.	31/5/44	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	James H. Williams	Kingsland, Ark.	31/5/44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Frank E. Harlan	St.Louis, Mo.	3/7/44	Bucharest
2 nd Lt.	Carter M. Armstrong	Pittsburgh, Pa.	22/7/44	Ploesti

(Hospitalized Wounded and Injured in Action)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Hospitalized</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Sgt.	Rufus A. Breland	20 November '44	2 December '44	
S. Sgt.	Harry E Groves	20 November '44	19 December '44	
F/O	John M. Zimmerlee, Jr.	20 November '44	4 December '44	
S. Sgt.	Leo G. Cook, Jr.	11 December '44	17 December '44	
2 nd Lt.	John P. Keilman	11 December '44		
Sgt.	Robert G. Hale	12 December '44		
Sgt.	Walter L. Lynn	12 December '44	17 December '44	
1 st Lt.	Vincent D. Ecklund	17 December '44		
S. Sgt.	James R. Hazel	17 December '44		
S. Sgt.	Wallace H. McLemore	17 December '44		
1 st Lt.	Val R. Miller	17 December '44		
Sgt.	Archie S. Russell	17 December '44		
S. Sgt.	Edward F. Steelandt	17 December '44	23 December '44	
S. Sgt.	John F. Toney	17 December '44		
S. Sgt.	Casimir P. Valenga	17 December '44		
F.O	Bernard Pulk, Jr.	29 December '44		

c. Awards and Decorations

General Orders No. 4805, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 1 December 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Ausbon E. Aldredge, 0-803770, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Hungary, 2 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Robert W. Cessna, 0-822930, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 5 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Lansing, Michigan.

George D. Dickie, Jr., 0-709311, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at appointment: White Plains, New York.

Walter J. Malita. 0-685081, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Italy, 20 October 1944. Residence at appointment: New Bedford, Massachusetts.

General Orders No. 4827, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 2 December 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Howard R. Sossamon, 0-723234, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Germany, 14 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Ozark, Arkansas.

General Orders No. 4878, Headquarters Fifteenth Air force, dated 5 December 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Brooks A. Lawhon, 0-397652, Lieutenant Colonel, Headquarters, 461st Bombardment Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as pilot of a B-24 type aircraft. On 20 November 1944, Col. Lawhon led a Group formation on a bombing mission against a vital enemy oil refinery in Germany. Despite severe and adverse weather conditions encountered enroute that threatened to preclude a successful completion of the mission, he skillfully brought the formation directly to the target. Under continued adverse weather conditions together with a dense smoke screen over the objective, necessitating the use of instruments, and intense, accurate and heavy antiaircraft fire encountered, displaying outstanding professional skill and courage Colonel Lawhon brought the entire Group through for a highly successful attack on the target. Under his superior leadership, the bombs from his entire formation were concentrated on the target, inflicting grave damage to vital installations and supplies. Leaving the objective, he quickly rallied his Group, bringing it through to base for a safe landing without further damage. By his outstanding airmanship, leadership and devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout over twenty-four (24) successful missions against the enemy, Lt. Colonel Lawhon has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Tacoma, Washington.

General Orders No. 4873, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 5 December 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Allyn E. Roberts, 0-664247, Captain, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 23 October 1944. Residence at appointment: New Orleans, Louisiana.

Robert U. Roswurm, 0-705436, Captain, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 23 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Kansas City, Missouri.

Robert M. Sayre, 0-745945, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at appointment: East Liverpool, Ohio.

General Orders No. 4828, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 2 December 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations. Showing a high order of courage, leadership and professional skill, those gallant air crew members have distinguished themselves throughout many long and hazardous combat missions against the enemy despite severe and adverse weather conditions and enemy opposition by large numbers of fighter aircraft and intense, accurate and heavy anti-aircraft fire. Displaying great combat spirit and aggressiveness, these men have met, engaged and defeated the enemy regardless of the odds and in spite of the fact that at times their planes were so severely damaged that only by extraordinary skill and fortitude were they able to fight their way through to the objective and aid in the grave damage inflicted upon the enemy. By their heroism, skill and airmanship, as shown throughout their combat career, together with their intense devotion to duty during this period of intense combat operations against the enemy, these men have upheld the highest traditions of the Military Service, thereby reflecting great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Richard L. Rider, 0-357973, Major, Headquarters, 461st Bombardment Group, Pilot, Germany, 22 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Hollywood, Florida.

George A. Burton, 0-682789, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 3 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Milwaukee, Oregon.

Leo F. Cooper, 0-700601, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 10 August 1944. Resident at appointment: Joplin, Missouri.

Paul M. Wagner, Jr., 0-708969, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron,

Bombardier, Yugoslavia, 6 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Woburn, Massachusetts.

General Orders No. 4897, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 7 December 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Clyde M. Gourley, Jr., 0-716862, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Austria, 23 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Willisca, Iowa.

General Orders No. 4926, Headquarters, Fifteenth Air Force, dated 9 December 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Charles T. Lomax III, 0-771460, first Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Italy, 6 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Audubon, New Jersey.

General Orders No. 4931, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 9 December 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Floyd F. Burnette, 0-693744, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 7 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Canton, North Carolina.

General Orders No. 4953, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 11 December 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Arthur H. Trier, 0-700577, First Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 13 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Columbia City, Indiana.

Vincent W. Veno, 0-814598, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Copilot, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Watertown, Massachusetts.

General Orders No. 4968, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 12 December 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Charles J. Haggerty, 0-706852, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Italy, 4 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Long Island City, New York.

General Orders No. 5001, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 15 December 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

James H. Spencer, 0-820913, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Italy, 12 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Indianola, Mississippi.

General Orders No. 5115, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 23 December 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Albert W. Townsley, 0-699480, First Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 22 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Congress Park, Illinois.

Jack M. Gershberg, 0-723056, Second Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Germany, 23 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Brooklyn, New York.

d. Changes in Personnel

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 161, dated 7 December 1944, relieved Captain Frank M. Poole as Assistant Group Operations Officer and transferred him to the 767th Squadron where he became the Commanding Officer later in the month upon the departure of Major Joseph N. Donovan.

Captain Allyn E. Roberts replaced Captain Poole. See paragraph 2, Group Special Orders No. 161 of 7 December 1944.

Paragraph 5 of Group Special Orders No. 162, dated 9 December 1944, reads as follows: "PAC Travel O, Hq AAF, NTOUSA, APO 650, file 300.4, (NWP/ga), dtd 6 Dec 44, 2nd LT ELIENBEUM, FRANK H., 0-869219, 12th Weather Sq, is reld fr atchd to Hq 461st Bomb Gp and is placed on DS to Mercianise, Italy."

Paragraph 2 of Group Special Orders No. 166, dated 15 December 1944, reads as follows: "PAC Ltr O, Hq 15AF, G/HER/ebg-1, dtd 13 Dec 44, 2nd LT WILLIAM E. SMIFFERMILLER, 0-1998959, Hq 461st Bomb Gp, is hereby placed on DS to AAF Flexible Gunnery School in Zone of Interior for an indefinite period, eff 13 Dec 44. Travel by mil or commercial acft is authorized. Reimbursement for periods of travel and/or TDY within this theater is not authorized. TDN. TPA. TCMT. 91-66 P 432-02 A 0425-24."

On 15 December, paragraph 4 of Group Special Orders No. 166 designated 1st Lt. Steve Toth Jr. as Group Navigator. On that same date orders were cut on the former Group Navigator, Captain Kenneth W. Prien, returning him to the United States.⁽²⁾

On 16 December another colored security detachment was assigned to the Base to provide guard for the airplanes. This detachment, under command of Captain Caney J. Brooks, was Company B of the 910th Air Base Security Battalion.

Also during the month of December a Detachment of U S Army Engineers pitched a camp on the Base for purposes of improving the field. This Detachment was Company F, 2nd Battalion of the 21st Engineers. They were commanded by Captain Earl W. Ek.

Paragraph 3, Group Special Orders No. 168, dated 18 December, placed 2nd Lt. Neal Clay Jr., on detached service to Group Headquarters from the 764th Squadron. Eventually Lt. Clay was designated as Assistant Group Training Officer to Captain Roberts.

Paragraph 10 of Group Special Orders No. 168, dated 18 December, reads as follows: "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC Par 1, SO 230, Hq 49th Bomb Wg, dtd 17 December 44, CAPT (2110) SUMMER, CHARLES L., 0-564436, is further asgd to Hq 461st Bomb Gp and is hereby aptd Group Administrative Inspector (Principal Duty)." From the time the Group was organized until the arrival of Captain Summers the work of Group Administrative Inspector had always been done by the Group Executive Officer, Lt. Colonel Edwin W. Grogan, as an additional duty.

⁽²⁾ See Appendage No. 1, Chapter XV, Page 1.

Paragraph 9 of Group Special Orders No. 169, dated 20 December 1944, reads as follows: "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC Par 6, SO 339, Hq 22nd Repl Bn, APO 49, dtd 19 Dec 44, 1ST LT (2120) BENJAMIN, CLEMENT, 0-1543050, is further asgd to Hq 461st Bomb Gp, eff this date." Lt. Benjamin became the first Medical Administrative Inspector the Group had even had.

The transfer of Colonel Hawes.⁽³⁾

The transfer of Major Donovan.

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 170, dated 22 December 1944, reads as follows: "LT COL HARDY, OTHA B>, JR., 0-22524, is hereby reld fr asgd to the 765th Bomb Sq and is reasgd to the Hq 461st Bomb Gp, and is further designated Deputy Gp Commander."

Paragraph 7 of Group Special Orders No. 170, dated 22 December 1944, reads as follows: "CAPT BAKER, ROBERT K., 0-726551, is hereby designated Commanding Officer, 765th Bomb Squadron."

On 27 December, paragraph 5, Special Orders No. 173, placed Captain John D. Iconis, the Assistant Group Bombardier, on detached service to the 764th Squadron where it was thought he could get more bombing practice.

e. "Liberaiders in Italy".

During the month of December the Special Services Section of the Group published a 48-page illustrated booklet for the Group entitled "Liberaiders in Italy". This was largely the work of the Special Services Officers, Captain Joseph J. Mente, and his Chief Clerk, Sergeant Donald R. Paine. There were widely distributed throughout the Group at the cost of 100 lira per copy and were made available for overseas mailing by having the manuscript passed by the Base Censor before printing. A copy of this booklet is included as part of the Group History.

f. Messages and Commendations

From: Headquarters 49th Bomb Wing, 26 December 1944.

To: All Concerned.

"The following teletype is quoted for your information, XVAF A 226. Herewith Christmas message from Spaatz: 'I extend my hearty wish for a joyous Christmas to every man in your command, both those flying the planes and those helping them in the air, and express to them my firm belief in their continuous effective use of air power in the year to come so ably displayed in the year 1944.'"

(Signed) LEE

⁽³⁾ See Appendage No. 2, Chapter XV, Page 2.

From: Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, 24 December 1944.

To: All Concerned

“The following personal command message received from General Twining quoted for your information:

“I am repeating message received from the Chief of Staff, United States Army, General George C. Marshall. Please see that it has complete distribution to all personnel.”

“We will, no doubt, have to wait until the end of the war to appreciate the full effect of the strategic bombing of Germany but from what we already learned, there is no question that it has played a major part in making possible the successes that our ground armies have gained during the past six months. My congratulations to you and all the members of the Fifteenth Air Force for the vital part they have played and for the high standard of efficiency they have displayed.”

APPENDAGES
Chapter XV, Page 1

APPENDAGE No. 1

HEADQUARTERS
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS
NUMBER 166

APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY
15 December 1944

EXTRACT

3. PAC Ltr O, Hq 15AF, G/EHR/ebg-2, dtd 13 Dec 44, the fol named personnel are reld fr asgd to orgns as indicated, are asgd to 7th Repl Depot, WP thereto via mil acft, govt mtr T, and/or rail, RUAT to CO for further instructions. Nec records will accompany each individual. EM asgd in gr. PCS. TCNT. TDN. 91-66 P 431-02 A 0425. 24. Baggage will be shipped in accordance with ltr, AG 524 (18 Aug 44) OB-S-SPNOT-M, WD, 29 Aug 44, sub: "Processing of Baggage from Overseas", and NATOUSA Cir 121, cs. Per diem for periods of travel and/or TDY within this theater is not authorized.

Hq 461st Bomb Gp

CAPT (1034) KENNETH W. PRIEN, 0-729657

By order of Colonel HAWES:

R. FOSTER SCOTT
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

RICHARD B. RUSSEY
WOJG, USA,
Assistant Adjutant.

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT
Major, Air Corps.

APPENDAGES
Chapter XV, Page 2

APPENDAGE No. 2

HEADQUARTERS
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS
NUMBER 170

APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY
22 December 1944

EXTRACT

3. PAC Ltr O, Hq 15AF, GO/EHR/ljc-3, dtd 20 Dec 44, Col Hawes, Philip R., 0-21220, is reld fr asgd to Hq 461st Bomb Gp and is trfd to the 7th Repl Depot, WP thereto via mil acft, and/or GMT. Necessary records will accompany Off. PCS. TCNT. TDN. 61-000 P 431-02 A 212/50425. Per diem for periods of travel and/or TDY within this theater is not authorized.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel LAWHON:

R. FOSTER SCOTT
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

RICHARD B. RUSSEY
WOJG, USA,
Assistant Adjutant.

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT
Major, Air Corps.

APPENDAGES
Chapter XV, Page 3

APPENDAGE No. 3

HEADQUARTERS
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS
NUMBER 169

APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY
20 December 1944

EXTRACT

10. PAC Ltr O, Hq 15AF, GO/EHR/res-1, dtd 18 Dec 44, the fol named personnel are reld fr asgd to orgns as indicated, are asgd to the 7th Repl Depot, WP thereto via mil acft, govt mtr T, and/or rail, rptg upon arrival to CO thereat for further instructions. Necessary records will accompany each individual. EM asgd in gr. PCS. TNT TDN. 91-66 P 431-02 A 0425-24. Baggage will be shipped in accordance with letter, AG 524 (18 Aug 44) OP-S-SPMOT-M, AD, 29 Aug 44, Sub: "Processing of Baggage from Overseas", and NATOUSA Circular No. 121, cs. Per diem for periods of travel and/or TDY within this theater is not authorized.

767th Bomb Sq

Major (1092) Joseph N. Donovan, 0-666158

By order of Colonel HAWES:

R. FOSTER SCOTT
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

RICHARD B. RUSSEY
WOJG, USA,
Assistant Adjutant.

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

LEIGH M. LOTT
Major, Air Corps.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	DECEMBER					CUMULATIVE				
	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROUP	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROUP
SORTIES										
NO. AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE	92	87	88	104	371	1170	1180	1150	1218	4718
LESS NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIES	13	21	15	11	60	223	253	258	251	985
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES	79	66	73	93	311	947	927	892	967	3733
% AIRBORNE EFFECTIVE	86%	76%	83%	89%	84%	81%	79%	78%	79%	79%
AVE. NO. ACFT. AIRBORNE PER MISSION	5.4	5.1	5.2	6.1	21.8	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.7	29.9
EARLY RETURNS										
MECHANICAL FAILURES	6	9	10	3	28	83	88	106	99	376
PERSONNEL FAILURES	0	0	1	0	1	6	5	10	17	38
WEATHER	1	3	3	0	7	64	69	68	55	256
% AIRBORNE RETURNING EARLY	7.6	13.8	15.9	2.9	9.7	13	14	16	14	14
BOMB TONNAGE										
NO. AIRBORNE	165.8	156.9	158.3	169.6	650.6	2351	2380	2302	2441	9474
DROPPED OVER TARGET	125.3	109.5	122	117.1	473.9	1862	1845	1765	1850	7322
% AIRBORNE DROPPED O/T	76%	70%	77%	69%	73%	79%	78%	77%	76%	77%
VICTORIES										
DESTROYED	10	5	6	3	24	34	54	25	16	129
PROBABLES	0	2	0	3	5	8	16	8	12	44
DAMAGED	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	5	1	16
VICTORIES PER LOSS	10.0	0.6	1.2	0.6	1.3	1.8	2.2	0.9	0.8	1.4
VICTORIES PER 100 SORTIES	12.7	7.6	8.2	3.2	7.7	3.6	5.8	2.8	1.7	3.5
LOSSES										
TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT	0	2	2	0	4	11	9	10	6	36
TO ENEMY AIRCRAFT	1	5	1	4	11	7	9	7	9	32
OTHER COMBAT LOSSES	0	1	2	1	4	1	6	10	6	23
TOTAL	1	8	5	5	19	19	24	27	21	91
TO A/A PER 100 SORTIES	0	3	2.7	0	1.3	1.2	1	1.1	0.6	1
TO E/A PER 100 SORTIES	1.3	7.6	1.4	4.3	3.5	0.7	1	0.8	0.9	0.9
FLYING TIME										
COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	678	632	605	704	2619	8020	8052	7733	8176	31981
NON-COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	314	263	257	193	1027	2070	2096	1661	1854	7681
TOTAL	992	895	862	897	3646	10090	10148	9394	10030	39662
HRS. PER OPER. ACFT	96	112	94	114	103	901	966	886	920	918
HRS. PER OPER. CREW	40	39	40	38	39	623	630	618	647	1628
COMBAT HRS. PER OPER. CREW	28	27	28	30	29	495	500	509	527	507
AIRCRAFT										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	12.8	11.3	11.9	10.5	46.5	14.7	14.2	13.5	13.9	56.3
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	10.3	8	9.2	7.9	35.4	11.2	10.5	10.6	10.9	43.2
% OPERATIONAL	80	71	77	75	76	76	74	79	78	77
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER ACFT. ASGD.	6.1	5.8	6.1	8.9	6.7	64	65	66	70	66
CREWS										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	27.3	25.9	25.3	25.7	104.2	18.9	19.5	18.3	18	74.7
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	24.6	23	21.4	23.5	92.5	16.2	16.1	15.2	15.5	63.1
% OPERATIONAL	90	89	85	91	89	86	83	83	86	84
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER CREW ASGD.	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.6	3.0	50	48	49	54	50

