

CHAPTER XVIII - THE 461ST AFTER EIGHTEEN MONTHS

(A) Narrative History

As has been repeatedly stated elsewhere in this History, the 461st Heavy Bombardment Group was ordered activated as of July 1, 1943. It actually was activated at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, 11 August 1943. In January of 1944, having completed its training, it moved overseas from the United States to the Mediterranean Theater of Operation and by the end of February of that year was established at the Army Air Base at Torretta, Italy.

By the end of February 1945, therefore, the Group was almost eighteen months old and had been overseas for a year. A complete list of staff personnel for the Group and each of the four Squadrons is herein listed for the eighteen months period from 11 August 1943 to 28 February 1945 inclusive.

GROUP STAFF

Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel	Willis G. Carter	12 Aug 43 to 25 Oct 43
Colonel	Frederic E. Glantzberg	25 Oct 43 to 22 Sept 44
Lt Col and Colonel	Philip R. Hawes	22 Sept 44 to 20 Dec 44
Lt Col and Colonel	Brooks A. Lawhon	20 Dec 44 to Date

Deputy Commanding Officer

Major	Robert E. Smith	11 Aug 43 to 3 Nov 43
Lt Colonel	Philip R. Hawes	3 Nov 43 to 22 Sept 44
Lt Colonel	Brooks A. Lawhon	22 Sept 44 to 20 Dec 44
Lt Colonel	Otha D. Hardy, Jr.	20 Dec 44 to Date

Executive Officer

Lt Colonel	Edwin W. Grogan	11 Aug 43 to Date
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S-1 - Personnel

Adjutant	Major	R. Foster Scott	11 Aug 43 to Date
Asst Adj	WOJG	Richard B. Russey	27 July 44 to Date
Pers Statn	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Louis C. Pfister	2 Sept 43 to Date

S-2 – Combat Intelligence

Combat Int O	Major	Leigh M. Lott	12 Aug 43 to Date
Asst C Int O	1 st Lt	Sydney S. Spivack	26 Oct 43 to 7 Mar 44

Asst C Int O	2 nd Lt	Philip J. Caropelli	7 Mar 44 to 13 April 44
Asst C Int O	Captain	James F. Albert	16 June 44 to 17 Jan 45
Asst C Int O	1 st Lt	Fred F. Hill	17 Feb 45 to 25 Feb 45
Photo Intpn O	2 nd Lt – Capt	James C. Clark	18 Aug 43 to Date
Asst PI O	2 nd Lt	Charles G. Alex	9 June 44 to Date
Photo Officer	2 nd Lt	Allison L. Hornbaker	13 Nov 43 to 3 Jan 44
Photo Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	James C. Clark	3 Jan 44 to Date
Public Rel O	1 st Lt and Capt	Sydney S. Spivack	7 Mar 44 to 10 Sept 44
Public Rel O	1 st Lt	Charles S. Billhart	14 Sept 44 to Date

S-3 - Operations

Opns Officer	Capt and Major	William Burke	11 Aug 43 to 16 July 44
Opns Officer	Major	Marrison G. Word	16 July 44 to 25 July 44
Opns Officer	Capt and Major	Joseph N. Donovan	25 July 44 to 10 Aug 44
Opns Officer	Lt Colonel	Brooks A. Lawhon	10 Aug 44 to 22 Sept 44
Opns Officer	Capt and Major	Richard L. Rider	22 Sept 44 to 14 Oct 44
Opns Officer	Lt Colonel	Otha B. Hardy, Jr.	14 Oct 44 to 24 Oct 44
Opns Officer	Major	Richard L. Rider	24 Oct 44 to Date
Asst Opns O	2 nd Lt	Noel L. Dahlander	11 Aug 43 to 1 Nov 43
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	William C. Bock	1 Nov 43 to 26 Nov 43
Asst Opns O	Capt and Major	Harrison G. Word	26 Nov 43 to 16 July 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Joseph N. Donovan	16 July 44 to 25 July 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	James B. Robinson	25 July 44 to 10 Aug 44
Asst Opns O	Major	Joseph N. Donovan	10 Aug 44 to 15 Sept 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Richard L. Rider	15 Sept 44 to 22 Sept 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	LeRoy G. Russell	3 Oct 44 to 14 Oct 44
Asst Opns O	Major	Richard L. Rider	14 Oct 44 to 24 Oct 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Charles R. Phillips	24 Oct 44 to 27 Nov 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Frank M. Poole	27 Nov 44 to 7 Dec 44
Asst Opns O	Capt and Major	Allyn E. Roberts	7 Dec 44 to Date
Bombdr O	1 st Lt and Major	George V. Leffler	11 Aug 43 to 14 Aug 44
Bombdr O	1 st Lt and Captain	Jack H. King	14 Aug 44 to 9 Sept 44
Bombdr O	Capt and Major	Benjamin S. Murphy	9 Sept 44 to Date
Nav Officer	Capt and Major	Marion N. Pruitt	11 Aug 44 to 13 Oct 44
Nav Officer	Captain	Kenneth W. Prien	13 Oct 44 to 13 Dec 44
Nav Officer	1 st Lt and Captain	Steve Toth, Jr.	13 Dec 44 to Date
Radar Nav O	1 st Lt	Leonard C. Gizelba	27 Oct 44 to 17 Nov 44
Radar Nav O	1 st Lt	Robert F. Phalen	26 Nov 44 to 8 Feb 45
Radar Nav O	1 st Lt	John N. Panagiotopoulos	8 Feb 45 to Date

Flt Contr O	1 st Lt	Hanley M. Norins	24 May 44 to 2 Dec 44
Gunnery O	S-T-M/Sgt, 2 nd Lt	William E. Shiffermiller	25 May 44 to 15 Dec 44
Gunnery O	Capt and Major	Allyn E. Roberts	15 Dec 44 to Date
Pers Equip O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Frank B. Maxson	17 April 44 to Date
Weather O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Stanhope E. Elmore	16 Aug 43 to Date

S-4 - Materiel

Engr Officer	Capt and Major	Henry M. Hudson	11 Aug 43 to Date
Supply Officer	Captain	Walter G. Mitton	10 Sept 44 to 2 Mar 44
Supply Officer	1 st Lt and Captain	Morton R. Zucker	2 Mar 44 to Date

Air Inspector Section

(Tactical) Air Inspector	Captain	Richard L. Rider	2 June 44 to 22 Sept 44
Air Inspector	1 st Lt	Hanley M. Norins	22 Sept 44 to 2 Nov 44
Air Inspector	1 st Lt and Captain	John Trommershausser	2 Nov 44 to Date
(Tactical) Air Inspector	WOJG and CWO	Fred C. Medau	27 Oct 43 to 17 Jan 45
(Administrative) Air Inspector	Captain	Charles J. Summers	18 Dec 44 to 26 Feb 45
Air Inspector	Major	John M. Joyce	26 Feb 44 to Date

Armament Section

Armament O	2 nd Lt – Capt	Edward F. Kiernan	9 Oct 44 to Date
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Chaplain

Chaplain	1 st Lt and Captain	Paul G. Rasmussen	10 Oct 43 to Date
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Communications Section

Coms Officer	Capt and Major	John A. Wagener	11 Aug 43 to Date
Asst Coms O	1 st Lt and Captain	Alexander Robins	5 June 44 to 17 Jan 45
Crypto Officer	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Fester C. Hume	1 Mar 44 to Date
Rafar Officer	1 st Lt and Captain	Eugene B. Raymond	16 July 44 to Date

Medical Section

Gp Flt Surgeon	Capt and Major	Charles J. Deishley	11 Aug 43 to Date
Gp Dent Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Jack L. Werzfold	27 Sept 43 to Date
Med Adm Insp	1 st Lt	Clement Benjamin	20 Dec 44 to Date

Ordnance and Transportation

Ord Officer	2 nd Lt	Steve J. Ozanich	25 Nov 43 to 21 April 44
Ord Officer	1 st Lt	Alson E. Clark	21 April 44 to 21 May 44
Ord Officer	1 st Lt and Capt	Donald L. Stanforth	21 May 44 to Date

Special Services

Spec Serv O	2 nd Lt	Charles S. Billhart	31 Oct 43 to 16 Dec 43
Spec Serv O	1 st Lt and Capt	Joseph J. Mente	16 Dec 43 to Date
Asst Sp Serv O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Charles S. Billhart	16 Dec 43 to 14 Sept 44

Statistical Section

Statl Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Thomas M. Couch	16 Aug 43 to Date
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American Red Cross Field Director

Mr. Norman I. Boggs	20 Oct 43 to 7 Dec 44
Mr. Henry L. Janeway	7 Dec 44 to Date

764TH SQUADRON STAFF

Commanding Officer

1 st Lt and Captain	Albert O. Witte	11 Aug 43 to 29 Feb 44
1 st Lt, Capt and Major	Edwin T. Goree	1 Mar 44 to 23 Nov 44
Captain and Major	Marion C. Mixson	23 Nov 44 to Date

Executive Officer

Capt and Major	John P. Joyce	11 Aug 43 to 26 Feb 45
Captain	Charles I. Summers	26 Feb 45 to Date

S-1 Personnel

Adjutant	2 nd Lt – Capt	William L. Wallauer	11 Aug 43 to Date
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S-2 Combat Intelligence

S-2	Captain	Howard O. Lund	11 Aug 43 to 26 Feb 45
S-2	1 st Lt	Fred F. Hill	26 Feb 45 to Date
Asst S-2	1 st Lt	Fred F. Hill	25 Oct 43 to 17 Jan 45

S-3 Operations

Opns Officer	1 st Lt	William M. Pitt	11 Aug 43 to 13 Dec 43
Opns Officer	1 st Lt	Edwin T. Goree	14 Dec 43 to 29 Feb 44
Opns Officer	1 st Lt – Major	William N. Tallant	1 Mar 44 to 4 Oct 44
Opns Officer	Captain	LeRoy G. Russell	4 Oct 44 to 2 Dec 44

Opns Officer	Captain	Edward F. Veiluva	2 Dec 44 to Date
Asst Opns O	2 nd Lt	Clyde A. Stevens	11 Aug 43 to 1 Nov 43
Asst Opns O	2 nd Lt	Noel L. Dahlander	1 Nov 43 to 18 Nov 43
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	Winston J. Lawrence	13 Dec 43 to 26 Feb 44
Asst Opns O	2 nd Lt – Capt	Mac A. Kollenborn	26 Feb 44 to 10 July 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	George H. Miller	10 July 44 to 28 Feb 45
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	Ernest C. Parsonson	28 Feb 45 to Date
Bombr O	1 st Lt	Benjamin S. Murphy	11 Aug 43 to 20 Sept 43
Bombr O	2 nd Lt – Capt	John D. Iconis	20 Sept 43 to 15 July 44
Bombr O	1 st Lt	Leo J. Strumski	15 July 44 to 14 Sept 44
Bombr O	1 st Lt	Robert A. Herold	14 Sept 44 to 10 Jan 45
Bombr O	1 st Lt	Robert L. Rosulek	10 Jan 45 to Date
Nav O	2 nd Lt – Capt	Earl E. DeWitt	11 Aug 43 to 14 Sept 44
Nav O	1 st Lt	Robert A. Macdiarmid	14 Sept 44 to 10 Jan 45
Nav O	1 st Lt	James J. Fredericks	10 Jan 45 to Date

S-4 Materiel

S-4	2 nd Lt – Capt	Bryant S. Montgomery	11 Aug 43 to Date
Asst S-4	2 nd Lt	Jack Pogue	7 Nov 43 to 18 Dec 43
Asst S-4	1 st Lt	Raymond C. Whitlock	25 Dec 43 to 27 Oct 44
Arm Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Roscoe W. Hundley	11 Aug 43 to Date
Coms Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Lee M. Busell	11 Aug 43 to Date
Med Officer	1 st Lt – Capt	Emil J. Koenig	11 Aug 43 to Date
Ordnance O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Blain L. Lesler	23 Oct 43 to Date
Pers Equip O	2 nd Lt	Jack A. Walker	9 Aug 44 to Date
Supply O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Nathan Mermelstein	14 Nov 43 to Date

765TH SQUADRON STAFF

Commanding Officer

1 st Lieutenant	John C. Sandall	11 Aug 43 to 1 Nov 43
Captain	Lester B. Briggs, Jr.	1 Nov 43 to 3 Nov 43
Major	Paul R. Yurkanis	3 Nov 43 to 23 Nov 43
1 st Lt – Captain	Willian J. Bock	23 Nov 43 to 8 Dec 43
Major – Lt Col	Robert E. Applegate	8 Dec 43 to 19 Sept 44
Captain – Major	Francis J. Hoermann	20 Sept 44 to 24 Oct 44
Lt Colonel	Otha B. Hardy, Jr.	24 Oct 44 to 22 Dec 44
Captain – Major	Robert M. Baker	22 Dec 44 to 21 Feb 45
Captain	James E. Thackston	22 Feb 45 to Date

Executive Officer

Captain – Major

Sidney Rainen

14 Aug 43 to Date

S-1 Personnel

Adjutant	2 nd Lt – Capt	Samuel D. Sinai	11 Aug 43 to 6 Dec 44
Adjutant	1 st Lt – Capt	Alfred B. Taylor, Jr.	9 Dec 44 to Date

S-2 Combat Intelligence

S-2	1 st Lt – Capt	William F. Foster	15 Aug 43 to 6 July 44
S-2	1 st Lt – Capt	Willie M. Platt	6 July 44 to Date
Asst S-2	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Willie M. Platt	25 Oct 43 to 6 July 44
Asst S-2	1 st Lt	Sanuel N. Norris	7 July 44 to 22 Oct 44
Asst S-2	1 st Lt	Donald J. Monie	23 Oct 44 to 11 Nov 44

S-3 Operations

Opns Officer	1 st Lt	Norman E. Smith	11 Aug 43 to 2 Nov 43
Opns Officer	Captain	Lester B. Briggs, Jr.	3 Nov 43 to 23 Nov 43
Opns Officer	1 st Lt	Norman E. Smith	23 Nov 43 to 13 Dec 43
Opns Officer	1 st Lt – Capt	William J. Bock	13 Dec 43 to 21 May 44
Opns Officer	Captain	Francis J. Hoermann	21 May 44 to 19 Sept 44
Opns Officer	Captain	Robert E. Arbuthnot	20 Sept 44 to 19 Oct 44
Opns Officer	Captain	Francis J. Hoermann	24 Oct 44 to 2 Nov 44
Opns Officer	Captain	Marion C. Mixson	2 Nov 44 to 12 Nov 44
Opns Officer	1 st Lt – Capt	Robert K. Baker	12 Nov 44 to 22 Dec 44
Opns Officer	1 st Lt – Capt	Leo F. Cooper	22 Dec 44 to 21 Feb 45
Opns Officer	2 nd Lt – 1 st Lt	Thomas B. Welton	24 Feb 45 to Date
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	Norman E. Smith	16 Dec 43 to 23 Dec 43
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	Robert Tallant	23 Dec 43 to 1 Mar 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Francis J. Hoermann	1 Mar 44 to 21 Mar 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	Marion C. Mixson	21 May 44 to 10 July 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	James D. Robinson	10 July 44 to 29 July 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Robert E. Arbuthnot	29 July 44 to 19 Sept 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	Frederick A. Gray	19 Sept 44 to 20 Oct 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	Robert K. Baker	24 Oct 44 to 12 Nov 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	Frederick A. Gray	12 Nov 44 to 22 Dec 44
Asst Opns O	2 nd Lt	Thomas B. Welton	22 Dec 44 to 8 Jan 45
Asst Opns O	Captain	James E. Thackston	8 Jan 44 to 21 Feb 45
Asst Opns O	2 nd Lt	Cornelius H. Brady	21 Feb 45 to Date
Bombdr O	2 nd Lt	John D. Iconis	11 Aug 43 to 20 Sept 43
Bombdr O	1 st Lt – Capt	Benjamin S. Murphy	20 Sept 43 to 8 Sept 44
Bombdr O	1 st Lt – Capt	Walter J. Malita	8 Sept 44 to 16 Nov 44
Bombdr O	1 st Lt	Arthur T. Johnson	16 Nov 44 to 16 Feb 45
Bombdr O	1 st Lt	Harold C. Debth	16 Feb 45 to Date
Nav O	2 nd Lt – Capt	Robert K. Dusenberry	11 Aug 43 to 6 Sept 44

Nav O	1 st Lt – Capt	Kenneth W. Prien	6 Sept 44 to 19 Sept 44
Nav O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Steve toth, Jr.	19 Sept 44 7 Nov 44
Nav O	1 st Lt	Paul A. Dietrick	7 Nov 44 to 15 Nov 44
Nav O	1 st Lt	Leon Netzer	15 Nov 44 to 14 Feb 45
Nav O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Joseph V. Kassler	14 Feb 45 to Date

S-4 Materiel

S-4	2 nd Lt	Frank B. Maxson	11 Aug 43 to 18 Dec 43
S-4	2 nd Lt – Capt	Jack Pogue	18 Dec 43 to 23 Jan 45
S-4	1 st Lt	Raymond C. Whitlock	23 Jan 45 to Date
Asst S-4	2 nd Lt	Alphonse A. Campo	6 Nov 43 to 25 Mar 44
Arm Officer	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Robert Dubal	12 Aug 43 to Date
Coms Officer	2 nd Lt	Shadie L. Case	11 Aug 43 to 8 Nov 43
Coms Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Troy D. Dendy	26 Nov 43 to Date
Medical O	1 st Lt – Capt	Daniel E. Nathan	12 Aug 43 to Date
Ord Officer	2 nd and 1 st Lt	John H. Lanigan	2 Nov 43 to Date
Pers Equip O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Alphonse A. Campo	25 Mar 44 to Date
Supply Officer	1 st Lt	Jack R. Cody	12 Nov 43 to 29 Mar 44
Supply Officer	1 st Lt – Capt	Samuel B. Sinai	30 Mar 44 to 16 Nov 44
Supply Officer	1 st Lt	Raymond C. Whitlock	16 Nov 44 to 6 Jan 45
Supply Officer	Major	Sidney Rainen	6 Jan 45 to 11 Jan 45
Supply Officer	2 nd Lt	John E. Pegg	11 Jan 45 to Date

766TH SQUADRON STAFF

Commanding Officer

Captain	William H. Darden	11 Aug 43 to 7 Dec 43
Captain and Major	James C. Dooley	13 Aug 43 to 17 July 44
Major	William Burke	17 July 44 to 25 July 44
Major	Harrison G. Word	25 July 44 to 2 Dec 44
Captain and Major	Charles R. Phillips	2 Dec 44 to Date

Executive Officer

Captain	Joseph J. Redden	11 Aug 43 to 19 Aug 43
Captain and Major	Morris J. Drobeck	11 Sept 43 to 16 Aug 44
Captain and Major	Walter G. Mitton	16 Aug 44 to Date

S-1 Personnel

Adjutant	2 nd Lt – Capt	Robert A. Preciado	11 Aug 43 to Date
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S-2 – Combat Intelligence

S-2	Captain	Loran S. Clark	20 Aug 43 to 24 Sept 43
S-2	Captain	Richard B. MacFarlane	7 Oct 43 to 4 Jan 45
S-2	1 st Lt – Capt	Roland J. Dixon	4 Jan 45 to Date
Asst S-2	2 nd Lt	Philip J. Caroselli	27 Oct 43 to 8 Mar 44
Asst S-2	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Roland J. Dixon	8 Mar 44 to 4 Jan 45

S-3 – Operations

Opns Officer	1 st Lt	William J. Franklin	11 Aug 43 to 13 Nov 43
Opns Officer	Captain	John M. Dickinson, Jr.	13 Nov 43 to 24 May 44
Opns Officer	Captain	William J. Franklin	24 May 44 to 26 Nov 44
Opns Officer	Captain	Allyn E. Roberts	26 Nov 44 to 8 Dec 44
Opns Officer	Captain	Donald L. MacDougall	8 Dec 44 to Date
Asst Opns O	2 nd Lt	Ray E. Leslie	11 Aug 43 to 13 Nov 43
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	William J. Franklin	13 Nov 43 to 24 May 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Joseph W. Donovan	24 May 44 to 17 July 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Charles A. DeSpain	17 July 44 to 8 Oct 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Allyn E. Roberts	8 Oct 44 to 26 Nov 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Gerard J. Vanderhoeven	26 Nov 44 to 10 Dec 44
Asst Opns O	Captain	Jack M. Yetter	10 Dec 44 to Date
Bombdr O	2 nd Lt – Capt	Richard M. Stiles	11 Aug 43 to 17 Nov 44
Bombdr O	1 st Lt – Capt	Leon F. Churchill	18 Nov 44 to Date
Nav O	1 st Lt	Abraham Levine	11 Aug 43 to 8 Mar 44
Nav O	1 st Lt	Raymond V. Gombossy	8 Mar 44 to 13 April 44
Nav O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Samuel F. Lowe, Jr.	26 April 44 to 25 July 44
Nav O	1 st Lt	Robert E. Hickox	25 July 44 to 16 Aug 44
Nav O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Eugene M. Brock	16 Aug 44 to Date

S-4 - Materiel

S-4	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Desire L. Broussard	11 Aug 43 to 24 Dec 43
S-4	1 st Lt – Capt	Rowland A. Boone	24 Dec 43 to Date
Asst S-4	2 nd Lt	Theodore F. Tulpan	6 Nov 43 to 27 Dec 43
Asst S-4	2 nd Lt	Desire L. Broussard	24 Dec 43 to 7 Mar 44

Arm Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Glenn N. Stenpel	11 Aug 43 to Date
Coms Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Claude Walker	11 Aug 43 to Date
Medical O	Captain	Alexander E. Sproul	20 Aug 43 to Date
Ordnance O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Benjamin B. Halpern	1 Nov 43 to Date
Pers Equip O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Desire L. Broussard	7 Mar 44 to 7 Sept 44
Pers Equip O	1 st Lt	Robert Nerburn	7 Sept 44 to 6 Oct 44
Pers Equip O	1 st Lt	Glenn N. Andrews	7 Oct 44 to Date
Supply Officer	2 nd Lt	Ray E. Leslie	1 Oct 44 to 2 Nov 44
Supply Officer	1 st Lt	Benjamin B. Halpern	2 Nov 44 to 11 Nov 44
Supply Officer	2 nd Lt	Robert J. Thomas, QHC	11 Nov 44 to 15 Nov 44
Supply Officer	1 st Lt	Richard E. Shannon	15 Nov 44 to Date

Asst Supply O 2nd Lt Robert Nerburn 30 Dec 43 to 27 Aug 44

767TH SQUADRON STAFF

Commanding Officer

Captain	Royce B. Glenn	11 Aug 43 to 3 Nov 43
Major and Lt Colonel	James N. Knapp	3 Nov 43 to 15 Sept 44
Major	Joseph M. Donovan	15 Sept 44 to 18 Dec 44
Captain and Major	Frank M. Poole	18 Dec 44 to Date

Executive Officer

Captain and Major	Herald D. Bennett	11 Aug 43 to Date
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S-1 – Personnel

Adjutant	2 nd Lt – Capt	Raymond L. Wilcovitz	11 Aug 43 to Date
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S-2 – Combat Intelligence

S-2	2 nd Lt – Capt	Harry J. Oglesby	20 Aug 43 to Date
Asst S-2	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Allen P. Haas	7 Nov 43 to Date
Asst S-2	2 nd Lt	Roland J. Dixon	3 Dec 43 to 8 Mar 44

S-3 - Operations

Opns Officer	Captain	David P. McQuillan	11 Aug 43 to 14 Aug 44
Opns Officer	1 st Lt – Capt	Ernest R. Henry	14 Aug 44 to 17 Feb 45
Opns Officer	Captain	Robert W. Hess	17 Feb 45 to Date
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	Noel L. Dahlander	18 Nov 43 to 2 July 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	Ernest R. Henry	27 July 44 to 14 Aug 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	Samuel S. Minsberg	2 July 44 to 5 Oct 44
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	Robert U. Roswurm	5 Oct 44 to 15 Jan 45
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt – Capt	Robert W. Hess	15 Jan 45 to 17 Feb 45
Asst Opns O	1 st Lt	Charles V. Lang, Jr.	17 Feb 45 to Date
Bombdr O	2 nd Lt – Capt	Patrick J. Faherty	11 Aug 43 to 27 July 44
Bombdr O	1 st Lt	Jack H. King	27 July 44 to 16 Aug 44
Bombdr O	Captain	Nuby M. Serijan	16 Aug 44 to 28 Aug 44
Bombdr O	1 st Lt	Paul W. Wagner, Jr.	28 Aug 44 to 11 Dec 44
Bombdr O	1 st Lt – Capt	Roger F. White	11 Dec 44 to Date
Nav O	2 nd Lt – Capt	John I. Coles, Jr.	11 Aug 43 to 9 Sept 44
Nav O	1 st Lt	Howard R. Sossamon	9 Sept 44 to 11 Dec 44
Nav O	1 st Lt – Capt	Constant V. Platz	11 Dec 44 to Date

S-4 – Materiel

S-4	2 nd Lt – Capt	Harry P. Sheafe	11 Aug 43 to Date
Asst S-4	2 nd Lt	Thomas C. Douglass	6 Nov 43 to 17 Sept 44
Arm Officer	CWO	Harold J. Seberle	11 Aug 43 to Date
Coms Officer	2 nd Lt – Capt	Alfred M. Huber	11 Aug 43 to Date
Medical O	1 st Lt – Capt	John A. Sullivan	20 Aug 43 to Date
Ordnance O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Steve J. Ozanich	17 Nov 43 to Date
Pers Equip O	2 nd and 1 st Lt	Thomas C. Douglass	17 Sept 44 to 21 Oct 44
Pers Equip O	WOJG	Jack H. Shephard	21 Oct 44 to Date
Supply Officer	1 st Lt	Morton R. Zucker	12 Sept 43 to 20 Mar 44
Supply Officer	1 st Lt	Carl M. Peter	20 Mar 44 to Date

Group Band. The month of February saw the 461st Bombardment Group Band coming into prominence. The inception of the band had been back at Hammer Field in the Fall of 1943 when musical instruments were purchased to be carried overseas with the Group. Among the original assortment of instruments were a bass fiddle, two saxophones, a drum set, four trumpets, a trombone, extra reeds, and other equipment, as well as a supply of music sheets. Once the Group was overseas, numerous difficulties arose in keeping it going, and when four members were lost in combat operations during one week, the band fell apart.

Soon after Lt. Colonel Lawhon assumed command of the Group, Special Services Officer, Captain Joseph J. Mente, approached him to request his support in the reorganization of a Group Band. Recognizing the boost to morale that a Band would give, the Commanding Officer directed Captain Mente to go ahead with his reorganization plans.

On 1 December 1944, 1st Lt. John J. Huber of the 765th Squadron located 2nd Lt. Bert R. Ryan, and between the two of them they built up the Band to its present status. Most of the musical arrangements used are made by Lt. Huber, and Lt Ryan serves as Band leader. The instruments now being used have come from several sources. Some, as has already been stated, were brought overseas with the Group; others were purchased here; and still others were purchased in the United States and forwarded to the Group by Captain Mente's wife.

The Band made several appearances in the Group theater, and on 12 February 1945 first played on the "Vapor Trails" program over the Foggia American Expeditionary Station. This program, presented by the Public Relations Section of the 49th Bombardment Wing, is a weekly feature on the radio.

An appearance at Bari brought the Band to the attention of the Fifteenth Air Force Special Services Officer who requested that it be permitted to accompany the musical show "Panama Hattie" during its tour of the Fifteenth Air Force circuit. Permission was granted by Colonel Lawhon, and on 14 February 1945 the Band began its tour with the show, then appearing in Foggia. Before the anticipated conclusion of the tour on 20

March 1945 the Band was scheduled for many appearances before Fifteenth Air Force organizations scattered from Foggia to Manduria.

In all, there are fourteen men in the organization. Some of the members are: Lt. Ryan, who plays the tenor saxophone and who as a civilian had his own band in Hollywood after having played with the orchestras of Gus Arnheim, Jack Teagarden, Ben Pollack, and Benny Goodman; Lt. Huber, who does the arranging and plays the guitar and who as a civilian arranged music for a ninety piece R.O.T.C. band and various college and local bands in South Carolina and Arkansas; Cpl. Walter C. Hulsey, who played with Victor Robinson's orchestra as well as with the 167th Infantry Band; T/Sgt. Curtis Morvec, vocalist and trombonist; and T/Sgt. Jack MacDonald, a career member of Nick Stuart's orchestra in Hollywood and Frank Gordon's orchestra in Sacramento.

Visit of the Generals. On 21 February the Group was visited by Lt. General Carl A. Spaatz, Commanding General of the United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe; Major General Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General of the Fifteenth Air Force; Brigadier General Charles F. Born, Deputy Commanding General of the Fifteenth Air Force; Brigadier General William L. Lee, Commanding General of the 49th Bombardment Wing; and one other unidentified General. Most of the time the Generals spent with the Group was spent in looking at and discussing radar equipment, practices, and facilities.

(B) Operations.

The month of February was marked by exceptionally good flying weather. Over that part of Europe bombed by the Fifteenth Air Force an unusual high began to develop on 11 February. By the following day this high extended from North Africa in a northeast direction to 50° north latitude and 20° east longitude. On the 16th, cells began to break down but it was not until the 18th that a cold front was able to penetrate. During this interval the Detachment of the 12th Weather Squadron assigned to the Group recorded the highest barometric pressure in its history, that of 29.69 inches. 1st Lt. Alliam Tomlinson, in charge of the Detachment, described this unusual weather as the highest and largest and longest high in the history of the local weather station.

Even after the phenomenal weather broke down, comparatively good weather continued throughout the month. As a result, the Group flew a total of nineteen combat missions.

Except for the fact that the bombing improved during the latter part of the month, no one was satisfied with the bombing done by the Group during the month. On the bombing which was done visually the Group turned in an average score of 27.3 per cent and ranked fourteenth in the Air Force. No enemy fighters were encountered during the month, but the number of airplanes hit by flak and the number of men wounded was high. Four crews were lost during the month.

One of the bright spots of the month was the operational efficiency of the Group. Of the 530 airplanes which were airborne on combat missions there were only 28 early returns and only six losses.

In January of 1945 the Fifteenth Air Force especially impressed upon the Wings and Groups the necessity of locating and training potential flight leader personnel and crews. In carrying out such a program, Colonel Lawhon originated the idea of setting up a Group Lead Crew Training Board. This Board was given the highest priority on aircraft available for training and on all synthetic training devices. From time to time each Squadron sent potential flight lead crews to the Board for training in leading Group formations and in both visual and pathfinder bombing. No team, or flight leader crew, can fly as a flight leader crew without the approval of the Board.

As set up, the Board is eventually to be made up of the following officers who have finished their combat tour of duty: four pilots, two navigators, two bombardiers, and one radar navigator. Captain Robert J. Luebke, Captain George H. Miller, Captain Arthur H. Trier, 1st Lt. Leon Netzer, and 1st Lt. James R. Sullivan were selected during the month of February.⁽¹⁾

NEW CREWS

A total of seven new crews were received during the month of February.

Paragraph 5 of Group Special Orders No. 21, dated 2 February 1945, reads as follows: "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC VO CG, 15AF, 31 Jan 45, the fol named combat personnel are further asgd to squadrons as indicated, eff 31 Jan 45":

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. Ted E. Longino and crew
2nd Lt. Ray M. Tetzlaff and crew

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. John H. Hayes and crew

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. Robert S. Hoskins and crew

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No 25, dated 8 February 1945, reads as follows: "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC VO CG, 15AF, 7 Feb 45, the fol named personnel are further asgd to the 767th Bomb Sq, eff 7 Feb 45":

2nd Lt. Dave S. Steinberg and crew

⁽¹⁾ See Appendage No. 1, Chapter XVIII, Page 1.

Paragraph 8 of Group Special Orders No 27, dated 11 February 1945, reads as follows: "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC VO CG 15AF, 7 Feb 45, the fol named personnel are further asgd to the 767th Bomb Sq, eff 7 Feb 45":

2nd Lt. Cleone C. Connor, Jr. and crew

Paragraph 2 of Group Special Orders No 28, dated 13 February 1945, reads as follows: "Having been asgd to this GP VO CG 15AF, 12 Feb 45, the fol named personnel are further asgd to the 767th Bomb Sq, eff 12 Feb 45":

2nd Lt. Keith B. Card and crew

MISSIONS

Mission No. 167, 1 February 1945 – Graz Marshalling Yard, Austria

The primary target for the first mission in February was the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery in Austria. The formation, led by Colonel Lawhon, abandoned the primary target because of bad weather and bombed the second alternate target, the marshalling yard at Graz, Austria, by pathfinder with unobserved results.

Mission No. 168, 2 February 1945 - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria (Cancelled)

Mission No. 168, 3 February 1945 - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria (Cancelled)

Mission No. 168, 4 February 1945 – Regensburg Winter Harbor Oil Storage, Germany (Cancelled)

Mission No. 168, 5 February 1945 – Straubing, Germany

Colonel Lawhon also led the second mission of the month. The primary target was the Regensburg Winter Harbor Oil Storage, Germany. Over the Alps the formation picked up a solid undercast and flew through four-tenths cirrus approaching the target area. The bombs were dropped by the pathfinder method. The fact that no flak was encountered where the bombs were dropped and also that there were plenty of flak beyond where the bombs were dropped raised the question as to what happened. Back on the ground, it was figured out from the navigators' logs that the formation had been approximately twenty miles east of course, had mistaken a town south of the Danube as the initial point, and actually had bombed the briefed initial point, Straubing, Germany, instead of Regensburg which lay straight ahead on course.

Mission No. 169, 6 February 1945 - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria (Cancelled)

Mission No. 169, 7 February 1945 – Vienna Florisdorf Oil Refinery, Austria

Mission No. 169 was part of a double-header pathfinder mission to the Florisdorf Oil Refinery at Vienna. Major Rider was the Group leader. Photographs show that two of the three boxes dropped approximately two miles north of the target on the East edge of the Vienna Strebersdorf Ordnance Depot. The third box continued down the Danube within range of all the heavy flak of East Vienna and bombed the Zwolfaxing Airdrome. No one can explain how all the planes ran down flak alley without a single one being hit.

In the assembly area the plane flown by 2nd Lt. Frank M. Brown stalled out and went into a spin. In pulling out of the spin with his heavy load, Lt. Brown lost one of the horizontal stabilizers. Despite this he returned the plane to Base and landed safely. Four of his crew members parachuted safely to the ground after the stabilizer had been lost.

Mission No. 170, 7 February 1945 - Vienna Florisdorf Oil Refinery, Austria

Captain Trommershauser led the second half of the double header of 7 February. Photographs show only limited coverage of strikes that fell two and one half miles southwest of the target in Vienna freight yards. This formation was hit hard by flak that holed six of the sixteen planes over the target and slightly wounded three men.

Mission No. 171, 8 February 1945 – Vienna Central Repair Shops, Austria

Major Phillips led Mission No. 171 on 8 February 1945. The target was the Central Repair Shops in Vienna. The Group was one of twenty in the Air Force hitting this target by pathfinder. Bomb strike photos show that the target area was completely cloud covered. Nine of the twenty-three planes over the target were hit by flak.

Commendation

From: Commanding General, 49th Bomb Wing.

To: Commanding Officer, 461st Bomb Group.

“The highly successful execution of the mission of 8 February under conditions which required a change of plans after the force was airborne is a tribute to capable and versatile leadership. Please express to your leaders and their navigators my pride and appreciation for their accomplishment.”

“It is with the greatest of pleasure that I pass Gen. Twining’s message on to you with my personal congratulations, such a demonstration is indicative of high morale and excellent leadership.”

LEE

Mission No. 172, 9 February 1945 - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria

After Plan Able and Plan Baker had been cancelled, Plan Charlie was finally flown on 9 February. The target was the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria. It was attacked

by instrument bombing by a three-plane element of pathfinder equipped planes. Again there was complete cloud coverage of the target. There was plenty of flak over the target but none of the planes were hit.

Mission No. 173, 10 February 1945 - Vienna Florisdorf Oil Refinery, Austria, and Verona Marshalling Yard, Italy. (Cancelled)

Mission No. 173, 11 February 1945 – Munich Main Marshalling Yard, Germany (Cancelled)

Mission No. 173, 12 February 1945 – Munich Main Marshalling Yard, Germany (Cancelled)

Mission No. 173, 13 February 1945 – Vienna Central Repair Shops, Austria, and Maribor Marshalling Yard, Yugoslavia

Mission No. 173 finally turned out to be another double-header mission each with a different target. A TWX that was received from the Air Force through channels, however, directed that in the future double-header missions should be counted as one mission.

The target of the Red Force was the Central Repair Shops at Vienna, Austria. Major Poole led the formation on this mission. The weather was CAVU in the target area but smoke obscured the target which was completely missed by visual bombing. Under ideal defense conditions the Vienna flak lived up to its vaunted reputation. Fifteen of the seventeen planes over the target were hit, one man was wounded, and one plane was lost. The lost plane was piloted by 2nd Lt. Francis X. Fink. It lost altitude rapidly coming off the target and when last seen was being covered by the P-51 escort.

Captain Veiluva led the Blue Force in attacking the marshalling yard at Maribor, Yugoslavia. Here, too, the weather was CAVU and here, too, the bombing was done visually. The mission was scored at 28.3 per cent. Eight of the eighteen planes over the target were hit by flak and two men were wounded.

Upon returning to the Base, 2nd Lt. Robert M. Kelliher, 765th Squadron, entered the left hand traffic pattern with his No. 2 engine feathered. While circling the field he lost No. 1 engine and with the left wing down slipped into a crash landing in which his navigator, 2nd Lt. Donald Williams, was fatally injured.

Mission No. 174, 14 February 1945 - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria

Another double-header mission, this time with the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery as the target for both Forces. Despite the scattered clouds and the partially effective smoke pots, the Red Force, led by Major Phillips, bombed visually. The aiming point was hit but only 7.1 per cent of the bombs were plotted within 1000 feet of the briefed aiming point. Only two planes were hit by moderate flak.

The Blue Force was led by the new Operations Officer of the 765th Squadron, Captain Thackston. This formation bombed by pathfinder. This formation escaped flak damage over the target.

Mission No. 175, 15 February 1945 – Vienna Penzinger Marshalling Yard, Austria

Again a double-header mission, Vienna, and ten-tenths cloud coverage. Again pathfinder bombing and unobserved results. Again good protection against the flak by cloud coverage.

Major Pool, who started out to lead the Red Force, was forced to abort. The lead was then taken over by the Deputy, Captain Cooper. Only one plane in the formation was hit by flak, but a man on that plane was wounded.

Major Mixson was the leader of Blue Force. No flak damage was sustained, but oxygen failure cost the life of Corporal John O. Moore.

Mission No. 176, 16 February 1945 – Rosenheim West Marshalling Yard, Germany

On 16 February the Group finally came through with a superior bombing mission when Major Baker led a large formation against the Rosenheim West Marshalling Yard in Germany. A concentrated pattern of bombs fell across the East half of the small marshalling yard with many hits on freight cars, through tracks, and the choke point. With CAVU weather and no flak the formation returned to Base without having sustained any damage.

Mission No. 177, 17 February 1945 – Trieste Shipyards, Italy

The primary target for Mission No. 177 was the Schwechat Oil Refinery near Vienna. Because of an ordered delay in take-off due to weather over the Alps, the formation finally got off at 1110 hours. Due to the delay, the target of last resort, the shipyards at Trieste, Italy, became the primary target. The formation was led by Captain Roberts. A great deal of damage was done to the target but the pattern was scattered with the result that the mission was scored at 24.1 per cent. A large war vessel that was in the harbor at the time of attack was hit. This ship was later identified as the Italian battleship Cavour and attacked by the Royal Air Force.

Mission No. 178, 18 February 1945 – St. Valentin Tank Works, Austria (No Credit)

On 18 February the Group took off to attack the Tank Works at St. Valentin, Austria. Over the Adriatic the formation ran into a solid bank of clouds with bases at 8,000 and tops at 30,000 feet. Turned back by these clouds, the planes returned their bombs to Base. No mission credit was allowed.

Mission No. 178, 19 February 1945 – Vienna South Station Area, Austria

With Mission No. 178 the Group missed another opportunity to register a satisfactory visual bombing score at Vienna. The target was the South Station. North of Judenburg, engine failure forced the formation leader, Major Poole, to leave the formation. After the bomb load had been dropped on a target of opportunity at Wolfsburg, Austria, the plane staggered back to Base on two engines. Captain Thackston, who had been flying the Deputy lead position, took over the formation lead. Bad weather split up the formation and only fourteen planes bombed the primary target for a discouraging score of 3 per cent. Three of the planes over Vienna were holed by flak and two men were injured. Nine airplanes that had lost the formation made a visual run on the dry docks at Fiume, Italy, but completely overshot the target.

Mission No. 179, 20 February 1945 – Fiume Shipyards, Italy

Thick cirrus at the head of the Adriatic with tops above 23,000 feet compelled the Group leader, Major Mixson, to abandon the Bolzano Marshalling Yard, Italy, as a primary target on 20 February 1945. The second alternate target, the shipyards at Fiume, Italy, was bombed visually for a score of 37.3 per cent. The main concentration of bombs fell in the built-up area near the docks with hits on the docks, warehouses, and harbor jetty. This mission resulted in three cases of frostbite, an unusual experience for the flying personnel of this Group.

Mission No. 180, 21 February 1945 - Vienna South Station Area, Austria

Another target in the concentrated Southeast Section of Vienna was missed by pathfinder methods on 21 February. The target was the South Station Area, but the bombs fell beyond the target near the bank of the Danube River. Intense haze interfered with correct target identification.

The formation got off to a bad bomb run when they overshot the initial point at Michelbach and ran into the Moosbierbaum flak area. The second section did not believe the first section had corrected far enough to the right on the bomb run and left the formation. The first section turned out to be correct on course but wrong on rate. The second section over-corrected and bombed the Wiener Neudorf Aircraft Engine Factory near Modling, Austria.

Seven of the planes in the first section were hard hit by flak and three of them failed to return to the Base. The three planes lost were flown by the Group leader, Major Robert N. Baker, 1st Lt. Clarence P. Marshall, and 2nd Lt. Joseph R. Hooper. All three of these planes headed for safe territory east of the Russian bomb line. One wounded man aboard another plane was returned to the Base.

Major Baker became the second Squadron Commander in the history of the Group to become missing in action.

The deputy lead position in the formation was flown by Major Poole. This was his fourth consecutive mission to Vienna.

Mission No. 181, 22 February 1945 – Kepton Marshalling Yard, Germany

Colonel Lawhon took off in the lead of a thirty-plane four box formation to attack the marshalling yard at Ingolstadt, Germany, on 22 February. Due to impassable weather he was compelled to abandon the primary target and search for a target of opportunity to be bombed visually. The target selected was the marshalling yard at Kempton, Germany. The choke point of the target was well hit but the mission was not scored by the Air Force because the target was a non-briefed one. Six airplanes were damaged on this mission and three men were wounded.

Commendation

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
A.P.O. 520

23 February 1945

Subject: Commendation

To: All Groups, Fifteenth Air Force.

1. The Commander in Chief, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, has sent the following cable to this headquarters, dated 22 February 1945:

“Today’s effort of the Fifteenth Air Force in launching more than eleven hundred aircraft on the tenth successive day of operations is unmistakable evidence of a superior organization in action. It demonstrates the excellence of command and staff and all echelons. Particularly does it reflect the superior maintenance in all organizations, to include the Service Command and the Service Groups, as well as the maintenance crews of all combat groups.

“I wish you would convey as widely as possible throughout your organization my personal admiration and commendation for the remarkable performance cited above. I feel that throughout succeeding years your continuous operations during the past ten days will set an historical factual record. It will live long as a model and an example to be pointed out with pride.”

2. I am happy to pass General Eaker’s message to all units of this command and to add my own sincere congratulations and commendations.

/s/ NATHAN F. TWINING
Major General, USA
Commanding

Mission No. 182, 23 February 1945 – Knittelfeld Marshalling Yard, Austria

On 23 February impassable weather over Germany prevented the Group, led by Captain Roberts, from reaching its primary target, the marshalling yard at Amstetten, Germany. The absence of flak at the first alternate target, the marshalling yard at Knittelfeld, Austria, made it possible for the Group to make three bomb runs over a four-tenths cloud covered target. On the third run the bombs dropped for a score of 49 per cent. The roundhouse and the through tracks were well covered.

Mission No. 183, 24 February 1945 – Bolzano Marshalling Yard, Italy (No Credit)

On 24 February a twenty-eight-plane formation took off to bomb the marshalling yard at Bolzano, Italy. Bad weather over the whole area north and west of Zara prevented the Group from finding any target which could be bombed visually. After five hours and 45 minutes of flying time, the planes returned their bombs to the Base and no mission credit was allowed.

Mission No. 183, 25 February 1945 – Linz South Main Marshalling Yard, Austria

Captain MacDougall led Mission No. 183 against the South Main Marshalling Yard at Linz, Austria. Smoke from effective smoke screens and from previous bombing necessitated pathfinder bombing despite CAVU weather. The results were unobserved.

Commendation

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: All Concerned

The Commanding General is gratified to pass the following message of commendation received from General H.H. Arnold, Commanding General, Army Air Forces, to all units of this command:

I HAVE NOTED WITH FEELINGS OF PRIDE AND SATISFACTION THE LARGE SCALE EFFORTS OF THE VETERAN FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE DURING THE PAST ELEVEN DAYS. OPERATIONS OF THIS CHARACTER, IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS TO DEAL THE BATTERED GERMANS CONTINUED DECISIVE BLOWS ARE IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON COMMANDERS AND PERSONNEL IN ALL ECHELONS. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE EXCELLENCE OF THE MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION THAT SUSTAINS YOUR CONTINUED HIGH RATE OF AIRCRAFT OPERATIONAL. PLEASE CONVEY MY COMMENDATION TO ALL COMMAND, STAFF, OPERATING AND SERVICE PERSONNEL.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL TWINING:

/s/ J.M. Ivins
Colonel, AGD

Adjutant General

Mission No. 184, 26 February 1945 – Trisanna Railroad Bridge, Italy (Cancelled)

Mission No. 184, 27 February 1945 – Augsburg Marshalling Yard, Germany

The target for 27 February was the seldom-assigned marshalling yard at Augsburg, Germany. The formation, led by Major Phillips, dropped 1000-pound bombs by the pathfinder method with poor results. The flak was extremely intense, accurate, and heavy. Thirteen of the twenty-six planes over the target were holed.

Mission No. 185, 28 February 1945 – Ora Marshalling Yard, Italy

The busy month of February ended with another double header mission. The target for both Forces was the marshalling yard at Ora, Italy. Major Roberts, still flushing from his promotion, completed his tour of combat duty by leading the Red Force on this mission. The bombs were dropped visually on this “hot” target for a score of 15.6 per cent. Nine of the sixteen planes over the target were hit by flak and one man was wounded.

Captain Trommershauser led the Blue Force which turned in a score of 28.1 per cent. Fortunately the flak was not accurate on this Force and only three planes were holed.

Commendation

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanind General
A.P.O. 520

28 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: All Groups, Fifteenth Air Force

1. Lieutenant General Joseph T. McNarney, CG MTOUSA, has cabled this headquarters as follows: “Pass please to all concerned my admiration and congratulations for the large scale and outstanding operations of the Fifteenth Air Force for the past fifteen consecutive days. This succession of decisive blows is a fine tribute to your excellent combat and maintenance personnel. Keep up the good work.”

2. In addition to General McNarney’s message, similar commendations from CG AAF/MTO and CG AAF have been previously passed to all units. The fine work of all personnel that has made these sustained operations possible is a source of much gratification to me.

/s/ N.F. TWINING
Major General, USA
Commanding

MISSING IN ACTION

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission Target</u>
2 nd Lt.	Francis X. Fink	Valley Stream, N.Y.	13/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	John P. Sherlock	Bronx, N.Y.	13/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Oliver M. Sullens, Jr.	Dartlesville, Okla.	13/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Keith F. Ace	Madison, Wis.	13/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Franklin R. Mann	Danielsville, Ga.	13/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	Emanuel N. Mougianis	Farrell, Ia.	13/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	Russell J. Battaglia	Geneseo, N.Y.	13/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Erwin R. Hennon	Bloomington, Ind.	13/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	Edward D. Schiffbauer	Akron, Ohio	13/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	Lloyd O. Spencer, Jr.	Valdez, Colo.	13/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	Michael Drena	Newington, Conn.	13/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Josiah R. Hooper	Milford, N.J.	21/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Charles A. MacDonald III	South Bend, Ind.	21/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Frederick C. Bennehoff	Graham, Tex.	21/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	W.R. Beach	Ponsa City, Okla.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Everett G. Taylor	Kingsley, Mich.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	James R. Wolff	West Allis, Wis.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Robert C. Schmitt	Fairtown, N.J.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	M.D. Emmons, Jr.	Dallas, Tex.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	James Delanzo	Den Avon, Pa.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	James R. Gee	Pontiac, Mich.	21/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Dewey E. McMillen	Detroit, Mich.	21/2/45	Vienna
1 st Lt.	Clarence P. Marshall	Pitsburg, Kans.	21/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Robert H. Hendrickson	Minneapolis, Minn.	21/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	James R. Hazel	Detroit, Mich.	21/2/45	Vienna
T Sgt.	George Christie	Pleasant, Pa.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Louis W. Nagy	Carteret, N.J.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Frank C. Solecki	Kansas City, Mo.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Philip R. Veilleux	Bangor, Me.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Kenneth R. Martin	Seattle, Wash.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Albert G. Hill	Fortson, Ga.	21/2/45	Vienna
1 st Lt.	Lawrence O. Woodruff	Seminole, Okla.	21/2/45	Vienna
Major	Robert K. Baker	Albany, N.Y.	21/2/45	Vienna
1 st Lt.	Andrew W. Polk, Jr.	Columbia, Miss.	21/2/45	Vienna

1 st Lt.	Glenn W. Burleson	Lubbock, Tex.	21/2/45	Vienna
1 st Lt.	Jack A. Brown	Rye, N.Y.	21/2/45	Vienna
1 st Lt.	Robert F. Phalen	Cortland, N.Y.	21/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	William J. Harvey	Columbus, Ga.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Donald S. Oakley	Stone Ridge, N.Y.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	John H. Angaroni, Jr.	Union City, N.J.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Kenneth R. Novak	Renton, Wash.	21/2/45	Vienna
Sgt.	Edward A. Leibe	Wallingford, Conn.	21/2/45	Vienna
S Sgt.	James E. Carter	Jacksonville, Fla.	21/2/45	Vienna

(C) Photo Section

The enclosed photographs accompany this History for the month.

(D) Special Accounts

a. Promotions

Officers

8 February 1945 - Steve Toth, Jr., Group Navigation Officer, from 1st Lt. to Captain
 24 February 1945 - Allyn E. Roberts, Assistant Group Operations Officer, from Captain to Major.

b. Missing in Action Reports

(Prisoners of War)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>Target</u>
Sgt.	Lyman M. Jacobsen	4 October 1944	Munich
2 nd Lt.	Thomas H. Keeney	16 October 1944	Linz
2 nd Lt.	Roy F. Kuhlman	16 October 1944	Linz
Pfc.	Dale Van Gundy, Jr.	16 October 1944	Linz
Cpl.	Thomas F. Byers	16 October 1944	Brux
S Sgt.	Arthur R. Dupree	16 October 1944	Brux
Cpl.	Paul T. Haggerty	16 October 1944	Brux
F/O	Kenneth E. Merry	16 October 1944	Brux
Cpl.	Thomas N. MacDonald III	16 October 1944	Brux
Cpl.	Melvin G. Tenhaken	16 October 1944	Brux
Cpl.	R.C. Wakefield	16 October 1944	Brux
Sgt.	Albert T. Arrotta	17 October 1944	Odertal
Cpl.	John P. Barks	17 October 1944	Odertal
Sgt.	Hugh T. Cash	17 October 1944	Odertal
Cpl.	Roger A. Koontz	17 October 1944	Odertal
Sgt.	Robert L. Horring	17 October 1944	Odertal

Cpl.	Homer Hymbaugh	17 October 1944	Odertal
2 nd Lt.	Francisco L. Vrooman, Jr.	17 October 1944	Odertal

(Officially Declared Dead)

<u>Rand</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission</u> <u>Target</u>
2 nd Lt.	John E. Dutler	Brooklyn, N.Y.	16/10/44	Linz
2 nd Lt.	Robert L. Hays	Kansas City, Mo.	16/10/44	Linz
Cpl.	Richard J. Gomez	Bayonne, N.J.	31/1/45	Moosbierbaum
Pfc.	William M. Gross	St. Paul, Minn.	31/1/45	Moosbierbaum
2 nd Lt.	Frank F. Hower	Bloomsburg, Pa.	31/1/45	Moosbierbaum
S Sgt.	Raymond A. Steelman	Sasakawa, Okla.	31/1/45	Moosbierbaum
2 nd Lt.	John O. Ungethuem	Plympton, Mass.	31/1/45	Moosbierbaum
2 nd Lt.	Edward K. Delana	Chicago, Ill.	31/1/45	Moosbierbaum

(Killed in Action)

<u>Rand</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission</u> <u>Target</u>
Sgt.	Marvin G. Besmehn	Minneapolis, Minn.	7/2/45	Vienna
Cpl.	John O. Moore	Avoca, Ind.	15/2/45	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Donald Williams	Youngstown, Ohio	13/2/45	Maribor

(Hospitalized Wounded and Injured in Action)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Hospitalized</u>	<u>Date Returned</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Cpl.	Joseph F. Kennelly	7 Feb 45		
T Sgt.	Oral C. Craig	13 Feb 45		
Sgt.	James J. Stack, Jr.	13 Feb 45		
Sgt.	Arthur M. Yarbrough	13 Feb 45		
2 nd Lt.	Joseph V. Kassler	21 Feb 45		
2 nd Lt.	Robert S. Staples	22 Feb 45		
Cpl.	Edward J. Lower	28 Feb 45		

c. Awards and Decorations

General Orders No. 463, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 1 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Robert J. Luebke, 0-664210, Captain, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 22 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

Miles E. Amos, 0-772129, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Italy, 4 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Orange, California.

Trumen L. Horn, Jr., 0-1540350, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 7 August, 1944. Residence at appointment: Fort Worth, Texas.

Jesse F. Moses, 0-716810, Second Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Yugoslavia, 7 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Blackfoot, Idaho.

General Orders No. 484, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 3 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Stanley Knox, 0-710594, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 20 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Dover, New Hampshire.

John W. McCaulley, Jr., 0-713507, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 11 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

General Orders No. 488, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 3 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Robert A. Herold, 0-708036, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Germany, 20 November 1944. "Missing in Action." Next of kin: Dr. Armin B. Herold, (Father), 3706 West 179th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Robert A. MacDiarmid, 0-722336, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Germany, 20 November 1944. "Missing in Action." Next of kin: Mr. James R. MacDiarmid, (Father), Simi, Ventura County, California.

Verlin E. Rhodes, 0-691803, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Roumania, 31 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Indianapolis, Indiana.

George J. Wilson, 0-2057830, Second Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Italy, 28 December 1944. Residence at appointment: Westfield, New Jersey.

General Orders No. 570, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 9 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Ross W. Young, 0-772912, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Austria, 7 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Roseville, Illinois.

General Orders No. 576, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 10 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Armand D. Bottiglia, 0-1295987, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Austria, 15 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Bernardsville, New Jersey.

John D. Devlin, 0-771670, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 25 December 1944. Residence at appointment: St. Paul, Minnesota.

William J. Kelleher, 0-823619, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 17 November 1944, Residence at appointment: Chicago, Illinois.

Russell C. Landry, 0-719208, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Austria, 1 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Tucson, Arizona.

Delmo H. Moudy, 0-1289776, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 13 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Foss, Oklahoma.

Leon Netzer, 0-723150, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Austria, 13 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Burnis E. Preshio, 0-700621, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 7 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Los Angeles, California.

James R. Sullivan, 0-666729, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Italy, 29 December 1944. Residence at appointment: Crosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

Leslie L. Summers, 0-701971, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Akron, Ohio.

John N. Panagiotopoulos, 0-1695496, Second Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator-Bombardier, Germany, 18 December 1944. Residence at appointment: Asbury, New Jersey.

Angelo Santoro, 0-673811, Second Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Yugoslavia, 7 November 1944. Residence at appointment: Boise, Idaho.

James B. Winstead, 0-707411, Second Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Greece, 24 September 1944. Residence at appointment: Baltimore, Maryland.

Donald C. Naish, 32668762, Staff Sergeant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Gunner, Austria, 25 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Gloversville, New York.

General Orders No. 629, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 12 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Francis W. Birrell, 0-709266, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Austria, 13 October 1944. Residence at appointment: West Orange, New Jersey.

General Orders No. 629, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 12 February 1945:

Award of the Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguish Flying Cross

Marion C. Mixson, 0-382615, Major, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 17 December 1944. Residence at appointment: Charleston, South Carolina.

General Orders No. 836, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 21 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Robert T. Blake, 0-705219, Second Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 7 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Kansas City, Missouri.

General Orders No. 892, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 23 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Donald L. MacDougall, 0-732037, Captain, Air Corps, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, France, 25 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Cranston, Rhode Island.

Walter L. Lynn. 31378476, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Engineer-Gunner, Germany, 12 December 1944. Residence at appointment: Essex, Connecticut.

General Orders No. 1030, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 28 February 1945:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Arthur T. Johnson, 0-752814, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Austria, 14 February 1945. Residence at appointment: Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Award of the Bronze Star

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Orgn</u>	<u>15AF G.O.</u>	<u>Date</u>
M Sgt.	Wilfred J. Avery	766 th Sq	555	8 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Joseph Hammer	766 th Sq	555	8 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Irving L. Hastings	766 th Sq	555	8 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Frank J. Kosac	766 th Sq	555	8 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Elmo Niccolai	766 th Sq	555	8 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Charles D. Ruble	766 th Sq	555	8 Feb 45

S Sgt.	Raymond H. Johnson	766 th Sq	571	9 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Robert E. Basiliere	765 th Sq	636	13 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Alan M. Bro	764 th Sq	636	13 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Richard C. Eley	764 th Sq	636	13 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Edwrad F. Goodhue	764 th Sq	636	13 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Joseph F. O’Leary	764 th Sq	636	13 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Charles P. Regan	765 th Sq	636	13 Feb 45
Major	Leigh M. Lott	Hq	728	17 Feb 45
M Sgt.	James D. Black	765 th Sq	933	26 Feb 45
M Sgt.	Russell W. Lown	765 th Sq	933	26 Feb 45

d. Changes in Personnel

During the month of February Colonel Lawhon spent a week at Cairo, Egypt, on travel orders. On 26 February he appeared on the “Vapor Trails” radio program as the principal speaker.

On February 8th, 1st Lt. John N. Panagiotopoulos was placed on detached service to Group Headquarters to become the Group Radar Navigator in place of 1st Lt. Robert F. Phalen. Authority: Group Special Orders No. 25, dated 8 February 1945--

Paragraph 4—“The fol named Off’s 765th Bomb Sq are hereby placed on DS to Hq 461st Bomb Gp for an indefinite period:1st Lt (1039) John N. Panagiotopoulos, 0-1695496,”

Paragraph 5—“1st Lt (1035) Robert F. Phalen, 0-706633, is hereby reld fr DS with Hq 461st Bomb Gp and is reld fr asgd to the 766th Bomb Sq and is reasgd to the 765th Bomb Sq.”

On 16 February 1945, Captain Jack Pogue, who had been Assistant Group Engineer since 23 January 1945, was placed on detached service to the Fifteenth Air Force. Authority: Paragraph 3 of Group Special Orders No. 30, dated 16 February 1945—“PAC Par 1, LO, Hq 15AF, GO/HER/ebg-3, dtd 13 Feb 45, CAPT (4823) JACK POGUE, 0-864795, Hq 461st Bomb Gp (H), is placed on TDY for a period of thirty (30) days and WP fr this sta by acft to Hq 15AF RUAT to Room 243 for further instruction. This is a temp chg of sta. Upon completion of TDY, Off will ret to proper sta by acft. Reimbursement for period of travel and/or TDY in this theater not auth. TCNT. TDN. 61-000 P 432-02 A 212/50705.”

On 23 February 1945 Captain Trommershausser received another Assistant Air Inspector. Authority: Paragraph 11 of Group Special Orders No. 34, dated 23 February 1945—“Having been asgd to this Gp PAC Par 2, SO 36, Hq 49th Bomb Wg, dated 20 Feb 45, CAPT (1092) WILSON R. BUIE, JR., 0-385650, is further asgd to Hq 461st Bomb Gp and is hereby designated Asst Air Inspector.”

On 25 February orders were cut interchanging Headquarters and Squadron officers as follows: 1st Lt. Fred F. Hill, Assistant Group S-2, was reassigned to the 764th Squadron. 1st Lt. Allen P. Haas was placed on detached service to Headquarters from the 767th Squadron to be Assistant Group S-2. Captain Charles L. Summers, Group Administrative Inspector, was assigned to the 764th Squadron to be the Squadron Executive Officer in place of Major John P. Joyce who was transferred to Headquarters as the Group Administrative Inspector. Authority: Group Special Orders No. 36, 25 February 1945--

Paragraph 3—"1st LT (9301) HILL, FRED F., 0-1036560, is hereby reld fr asgd to Hq 461st Bomb Gp (H) and is reasgd to the 764th Bomb Sq."

Paragraph 4—"1st LT (9301) HAAS, ALLEN P., o-581775, 767th Bomb Sq, is hereby placed on DS to Hq 461st Bomb Group (H)."

Paragraph 6—"CAPT (2120) SUMMERS, CHARLES L., 0-581436, is hereby reld fr asgd to the 764th Bomb Sq and is reasgd to the 765th Bomb Squadron."

Paragraph 7—"MAJOR (2120) JOYCE, JOHN P., 0-218965, is hereby reld fr asgd to the 764th Bomb Squadron and is reasgd to the 765th Bomb Squadron."

APPENDAGES
Chapter XVIII Page 1

APPENDAGE NO. 1

HEADQUARTERS
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY
NUMBER 23 6 February 1945.

EXTRACT

2. CAPT (1092) ROBERT J LUEBKE 0664210 767th Bomb Sq is Hereby placed on DS to Hq 461st Bomb Gp.

SPECIAL ORDERS APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY
NUMBER 26 10 February 1945.

EXTRACT

3. CAPT (1092) ARTHUR H TRIER 0700577 766th Bomb Sq is hereby placed on DS with Hq 461st Bomb Gp for an indefinite period.

SPECIAL ORDERS APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY
NUMBER 25 8 February 1945.

EXTRACT

4. The fol named off's 765th Bomb Sq are hereby placed on DS to Hq 461st Bomb Gp for an indefinite period:

1ST LT (1034) LEON NETZER 0723150 1ST LT (1039) JOHN N.
PANAGIOTOPOULOS 0-1695496

SPECIAL ORDERS APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY
NUMBER 37 27 February 1945.

EXTRACT

18. CAPT (1092) GEORGE H MILLER 0687335 764th Bomb Sq is hereby placed on DS to Hq 461st Bomb Gp.

By order of Colonel LAWHON:

R. FOSTER SCOTT
MAJOR, Air Corps
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

RICHARD B. RUSSEY
WOJG, USA
Assistant Adjutant

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPIES:

LEIGH M. LOTT
MAJOR, Air Corps.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>					<u>CUMULATIVE</u>				
	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROUP	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROUP
SORTIES										
NO. AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE	133	127	135	135	530	1353	1356	1335	1400	5444
LESS NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIES	10	6	10	16	42	253	271	280	288	1092
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES	123	121	125	119	488	1100	1085	1055	1112	4352
% AIRBORNE EFFECTIVE	92%	95%	93%	88%	92%	81%	80%	79%	79%	80%
AVE. NO. ACFT. AIRBORNE PER MISSION	7	6.6	7.1	7.1	27.8	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.6	30
EARLY RETURNS										
MECHANICAL FAILURES	4	4	3	9	20	91	96	111	111	409
PERSONNEL FAILURES	0	1	0	6	7	7	7	11	25	50
WEATHER	1	0	0	0	1	65	69	69	56	259
TOTAL	5	5	3	15	28	163	172	191	192	718
% AIRBORNE RETURNING EARLY	3.7	3.9	2.2	11.1	5.3	12	13	14	14	13
BOMB TONNAGE										
NO. AIRBORNE	232	222	233	237	924	2673	2688	2625	2762	10748
DROPPED OVER TARGET	208	212	210	206	836	2166	2191	2085	2189	8631
% AIRBORNE DROPPED O/T	90%	95%	90%	87%	90%	81%	82%	79%	79%	80%
VICTORIES										
DESTROYED	0	0	0	0	0	34	54	25	16	129
PROBABLES	0	0	0	0	0	8	16	8	12	44
DAMAGED	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	5	1	16
VICTORIES PER LOSS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.9	0.8	0.7	1.3
VICTORIES PER 100 SORTIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	2.4	1.4	3.0
LOSSES										
TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT	0	1	2	0	3	11	11	13	6	41
TO ENEMY AIRCRAFT	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	7	9	32
OTHER COMBAT LOSSES	1	2	0	0	3	3	9	10	8	30
TOTAL	1	3	2	0	6	21	29	30	23	103
TO A/A PER 100 SORTIES	0	1.8	1.6	0	0.6	1	1	1.2	0.5	0.9
TO E/A PER 100 SORTIES	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7
FLYING TIME										
COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	987	900	964	956	3807	9581	9275	9039	9456	37351
NON-COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	341	402	379	311	1433	2652	2725	2274	2349	10000
TOTAL	1328	1302	1343	1267	5240	12233	12000	11313	11805	47351
HRS. PER OPER. ACFT	117	140	127	109	122	105	112	105	105	106
HRS. PER OPER. CREW	52	51	54	49	52	70	67	67	69	68
COMBAT HRS. PER OPER. CREW	39	35	39	37	38	54	52	53	55	54
AIRCRAFT										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	13.1	13.5	14.3	14.0	54.9	14.4	14	13.4	12.7	54.5
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	10.4	8.9	10.3	10.8	40.4	11.3	10.4	10.5	10.8	43
% OPERATIONAL	79	66	72	77	74	79	75	78	78	78
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER ACFT. ASGD.	9.4	9	8.7	8.5	8.9	74	76	76	77	76
CREWS										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	26.8	28.6	27.4	27.2	110	20.2	21	19.8	19.4	80.4
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	24.7	25.6	24.7	26	101	17.6	17.8	16.9	17.1	69.4
% OPERATIONAL	94	90	90	96	92	87	84	85	88	86
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER CREW ASGD.	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.4	54	52	53	57	54

461 ST BOMB GP (H) MISSION SUMMARY FEBRUARY 1945																				
MISS NO	DATE	TARGET	I ^V ATTACK UNIT LEADERS	I ^V ATTACK UNIT DEPT LEADERS	AC HQ	BRLY ATMS	AC OT	AC SORT	BOMBS ON B TOT.	MIN 1000	WEATHER TOT.	AA SEEN	CLAIMS	AC DAMG	AC RTN	ACLOS	MIA	CASULTY	RATING	REMARKS
167	2-1-45	GRAZ, AUSTRIA	COL LAVHON CAPT TRIER LT CHURCHILL LT BRONK LT WILSON	CAPT VELLIVA LT YETTER LT GUSTARSON LT SUMMER LT FORRENTZ LT WILSON	36	2	28	24	31 500GP	PPF	10/10	AH	0	0	24	0	0	0	NO RATING	
168	2-6-45	STRAUBING, AUSTRIA	COL LAVHON LT PARSONSON LT GOODFRIEND LT TOTH LT REEDS LT PHALEN	MAJ MISSION LT SAUR LT ROSHULER LT KASE LT FREDERICKS LT LEVIN LT CARROLL	36	1	35	30	41 520 GP	PPF	10/10	NONE	0	0	30	0	0	0	NO RATING	
169	2-7-45	VIENNA FLORENDORE OIL REFINERY, AUSTRIA	CAPT THOMAS LT PARSONSON LT SULLIVAN LT KASSLER LT BOWEN	CAPT THACKSTON LT BRIDDERDORF LT STOCKLER LT MURRER LT LOVERIN LT CLAY LT VILBECK LT LOLL LT JOHNSON LT BEACH LT NEWSTED LT HOLMES	20	2	18	10	29 35 500 RDX	PPF	CAVU	IH	0	0	18	0	0	0	NO RATING	
170	2-7-45	VIENNA FLORENDORE OIL REFINERY, AUSTRIA	CAPT THOMAS LT PARSONSON LT SULLIVAN LT KASSLER LT BOWEN	CAPT VELLIVA LT YETTER LT GUSTARSON LT ROSHULER LT KASE LT FREDERICKS LT LEVIN	19	3	16	16	25 75 500 RDX	PPF	CAVU	IH	0	0	16	0	0	3	NO RATING	
171	2-8-45	VIENNA CENTRAL REPAIR SHOPS, AUSTRIA	MAJ PHILLIPS CAPT TRIER LT CHURCHILL LT MURER LT WILSON LT LAVEREN	CAPT THACKSTON LT BRIDDERDORF LT STOCKLER LT MURRER LT CARROLL	24	1	23	23	36 5 500 RDX	PPF	W/10	IH	0	0	23	0	0	0	NO RATING	
172	2-9-45	MOOSBERG AUSTRIA	CAPT HASSE LT ARENTE LT OLIVER LT SCOTT LT CARBY	LT BRIDDERDORF LT STOCKLER LT MURRER LT CARROLL	3	0	3	3	3 75 500 RDX	PPF	10/10	IH	0	0	3	0	0	0	NO RATING	
173	2-13-45	VIENNA CENTRAL REPAIR SHOPS, AUSTRIA	MAJ POOLE LT HERBERT LT WHITE LT SHAW LT WILSON LT HOLMES	CAPT MACDOUGALL LT SUMMERS LT DEETH LT POLK LT POLK LT WILSON LT WILSON	20	1	19	19	30 500 RDX	8%	CAVU	IH	0	15	19	0	11	3	VERY POOR	OAC BOMBED GRAZ
174	2-13-45	MARIBOR MTK, YUGOSLAVIA	CAPT VELLIVA LT PARSONSON LT GOODFRIEND LT REEDS LT WILSON LT HOLMES	CAPT COOPER LT SAUR LT SULLIVAN LT FREDERICKS LT KASE LT WILSON LT CARROLL	18	0	18	18	33 500 RDX	26.3%	2/10	MH	0	0	18	0	0	2	GOOD	
174	2-13-45	MOOSBERG AUSTRIA	MAJ PHILLIPS CAPT SHAW LT SCHWARTZ LT WILSON LT LAVEREN	CAPT MACDOUGALL LT VAHLBECK LT GUSTARSON LT BEACH LT DRIENZ LT CAREY LT WILSON	15	1	14	14	23 500 RDX	71%	2/10	MH	0	0	14	0	0	0	POOR	
174	2-14-45	MOOSBERG AUSTRIA	CAPT PARSONSON LT JOHNSON LT NETZER LT KASSLER	CAPT THACKSTON LT BRIDDERDORF LT STOCKLER LT MURRER LT CARROLL	14	1	13	13	23 500 RDX	NO SCORE	10/10	AH	0	0	13	0	0	0	NO RATING	
175	2-15-45	VIENNA PENZINGER MTK, AUSTRIA	MAJ POOLE LT HERBERT LT OLIVER LT PLATZ LT SHAW LT HOLMES	CAPT COOPER LT YETTER LT GUSTARSON LT ROSHULER LT KASE LT FREDERICKS LT LEVIN	18	2	16	16	23 500 RDX	PPF	10/10	AH	0	1	16	0	0	1	NO RATING	
175	2-15-45	VIENNA PENZINGER MTK, AUSTRIA	MAJ MISSION LT PARSONSON LT GOODFRIEND LT REEDS LT MARTIN LT KASSLER	LT TRALTA LT WELTON LT PARSONSON LT ROSHULER LT SCHILL LT STONE LT PHALEN	17	0	17	17	23 500 RDX	PPF	CAVU	NONE	0	0	17	0	0	3	NO RATING	

