

## Chapter XIII – WINTERIZATION, OCTOBER 1944

### (A) Narrative History

By order of the 49<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander, Colonel William L. Lee, woolens replaced khaki as the proper uniform on 1 October. Due to a shortage of woolen uniforms, however, many weeks passed before all of the enlisted men were issued the prescribed uniform.

In anticipation of winter, the minimum requirements for the winterization of tents had been sent down from Headquarters of the Fifteenth Air Force through channels. Among the stipulations of these minimum requirements were the following: (a) Each tent floor, 26 x 16 feet, shall be covered with brick, tile, lumber or gravel; (b) Each tent shall have side walls at least 1-1/2 feet high which are to be of tuff or lumber.

As the summer months passed, the ground personnel began to think of the forthcoming winter. Having lived on the Base in the cold snow, rain, wind and mud of the months of February, March and April of 1944, they had no intentions of facing the next winter unprepared. During the last half of the month of August, three fragmentation bomb missions were flown. Shortly thereafter, the “frag” boxes began to appear as flooring and sidewalls in the tents of men and officers in the ordnance, armament, engineering, and communications sections. Seeing this, the members of all other departments of the Group daily hoped for many more “frag” missions. But “frag” clusters had always been a bomb load seldom used by the group. Not a single “frag” mission was flown by the Group during the months of September and October.

All possible “dunnage” lumber had been secured during September and every available packing box had been used in the winterization program. But the supply of lumber was woefully inadequate. By the beginning of October, the members of the Group were collecting tile, clay brick, and tuff brick. Additional Italian laborers were employed, both privately and by the Group, to work as masons in building the walls of tents with tuff brick that was purchased by the Air Force.

Early in October the Group Commander, Colonel Hawes, announced that a weekly inspection of the tents would be made. The ground personnel, having learned much the hard way about field made stoves, improved upon their inventions of February 1944. The combat crew personnel, most of who had never lived in a tent in the wintertime, observed what the ground personnel were doing and began to bestir themselves. All were now committed to the prospect of spending the winter in far off non-sunny Italy and took steps to make themselves as comfortable as possible.

### (B) Operations

Bad flying weather limited the Group to fifteen missions and only thirteen Group sorties during the month of October. The rainy season had actually begun in mid-September but had not seriously interfered with the supply missions to France because the pilots, flying individually instead of in formation, could do instrument flying.

In October the rains repeatedly caused missions to be cancelled or stood down. On almost every mission that the Group flew, the pilots were forced to struggle up through low cumulus clouds and to fly between or through docks of clouds. Frequently they ran into solid banks of clouds, the tops of which extended upward beyond the maximum operational ceiling of a loaded B-24. On several occasions they faced angry thunderheads that towered to 30,000 feet or more above the stratus. Twice the Group was turned back short of a sortie, and three times the planes returned their bombs to Base or jettisoned them after being over a target which could not be identified.

Knowing that bad weather would hamper flying by large formations, the Air Force planned to strike at the enemy by using an increased number of small formations. Thus it came about that field orders were occasionally "Force Able" and "Force Baker" or "Red Force" and "Blue Force". It is probable that the mission planning sections of intelligence and operations and the battle preparations sections of ordnance, armament, and engineering never worked harder and seemingly accomplished less than during the month of October.

By October the field order almost always specified the use of RDX bombs instead of the general-purpose bombs that had previously been used a great deal. By October, too, the bombing altitudes had been increased. Instead of bombing from 20000, 21,000 and 22,000 feet, the Wing formation was bombing from 22,000, 23,000, and 24,000 feet. On 15 October the top group bombed from 25,000 feet, and on 26 October the top group bombed from 26,000. Flak at the ever-decreasing number of targets was becoming more concentrated but cloud formations were cutting down its efficiency.

As had been the case in each month following the assignment of Major Burke to be the Commanding Officer of Squadron 766 in mid-July, there was frequent necessity, or by accident, or as a result of careful planning, the Group had been committed to a policy of placing promising pilots in the Operations Section as part of their preparation for a command assignment.

A total of twenty-six new crews were received during the month of October. The pilots of these crews and their assigned squadrons are listed below:

764<sup>th</sup> Squadron

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Clair B. Alexander  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Roland H. Stevens  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles W. Saur  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ralph A. Weber  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John A. Young  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chester J. Lalewicz

765<sup>th</sup> Squadron

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Philip J. Crossman and Crew  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ernest C. Parsonson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gerald R. Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas B. Welton  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas K. West  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Russel G. Whalen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William V. Simons  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert M. Kelleher

766<sup>th</sup> Squadron

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William A. Guyton  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George F. Wiemann III  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jack N. Yetter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Nicholas Sidovar  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Mitchel F. Hall  
F/O William J. Miller  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Watkis R. Kassian

767<sup>th</sup> Squadron

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles F. Krahn and Crew  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Clyde L. Boyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert A. Galvan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Max M. Hailey  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert A Crinkley

**MISSIONS**

**Mission No. 108, 3 October 1944 – Steyr Daimler Puch Assembly Plant, Steyr, Austria (Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 108, 4 October 1944 – Munich West Marshalling Yard, Germany**

The first mission of the month of October was also part of the first “double header” mission ever to be flown by this Group. It was flown by “Force Able” and led by the Group commander, Lt. Colonel Hawes. It resulted in a superior bombing mission but was marked by disastrous losses over the target. The Group was the second of sixteen Groups of the Fifteenth Air Force over the West Marshalling Yard at Munich, Germany. Two of the twenty-eight airplanes taking off were early returns; the remaining twenty-six were over the target at 1155 hours at an altitude of 23,700 feet.

Despite the loss of seven planes out of the formation during the bomb run, the bombing was superior. Seventy percent of the bombs dropped were plotted within 1000 feet of the briefed aiming point. The bomb pattern started on the south edge of the central portion of the western half of the marshalling yard and continued across the center of the marshalling yard. Some hits were scored on through rail lines, or other bombs fell on the marshalling yard tracks and goods wagons while still others fell on the highway underpass through the center of the marshalling yard.

Sixteen of the nineteen planes that returned from the target were damaged by flak but there were no casualties. A total of seventy-two officers and enlisted men were missing in action in the seven planes lost to the intense, accurate, and heavy flak over the target. The losses over this target were the heaviest ever sustained by this Group from flak.

One of the officers missing in action was Major William H. Tallant, the Operations Officer of the 764<sup>th</sup> Squadron, whose promotion to Major was dated the same day of the mission. He was flying as co-pilot, with 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Douglas T. Herrin. The pilots of the other six planes lost over the target were: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert T. Chalmers; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Walter J. Chester; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert D. Falkner and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William M. Powell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John L. Turner; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William W. Waggoner.

#### **Mission No. 109, 4 October 1944 - Pinzano RR Bridge, Italy**

The second mission of the day of 4 October, which was flown by “Force Baker”, was also a superior mission. The target was the railroad bridge at Pinzano, Italy, across the Tagliamento River. The formation, which was led by Major Donovan, was made up of twenty planes that flew in an A-C-A type of formation. There were no early returns. Finding the target partially obscured by seven-tenths cloud coverage, Major Donovan dropped to an altitude of 17,000 feet and made five bomb runs on the target. On the fifth bomb run the 1000-pound RDX bombs were dropped in a very compact pattern. Because of the cloud coverage, the mission was not scored by the Air Force, but it was rated by the Group Commanding Officer as the second superior mission of the day. Two of the planes that became lost in repeated turns over the primary target finally abandoned the target and bombed one of the alternate targets, the railroad bridge at Latisana, Italy. Six others left the formation and bombed another alternate target, the railroad bridge at Casarsa, Italy. There were no losses and no damage on this mission.

#### **Mission No. 110, 5 October 1944 – Vosendorf Oil Refinery, Vienna, Austria (Cancelled)**

#### **Mission No. 110, 6 October 1944 – Komarom Marshalling Yard, Hungary (Cancelled)**

#### **Mission No. 110, 7 October 1944 – Szombathely Marshalling Yard, Hungary**

Mission No. 110, which was flown on 7 October, was part of another “double header” for the day. The primary target was the Winterhafen Oil Storage at Vienna, Austria. Due to bad weather in the assembly area, over the Adriatic, and over Yugoslavia, the formation, which originally had had out twenty-four planes, was reduced to seventeen planes by the time the Alps had been crossed. Due, also, to the bad weather the formation was one hour and fifteen minutes late in getting over the Alps. Having lost his fighter escort and having been unable to rendezvous with the other Groups in the Air Force, Lt. Colonel Lawhon, who was leading the formation, debated the wisdom of facing the Vienna fighters and flak alone with his comparatively small formation. He finally decided to attack a target of opportunity, the marshalling yard at Szombathely, Hungary. The mission was not scored by the Air Force, but the results were excellent. The photographs show that a close pattern of bombs fell across the center of the

marshalling yard with hits on the center choke point, the railroad station and overpass across the center choke point, the railroad station and overpass across the center chokepoint, the turn table, and the locomotive shop.

**Mission No. 111, 7 October 1944 – Komarom Marshalling Yard, Hungary**

Mission No. 111, which was flown by the “Blue Force” as part of the “double header” of 7 October, was led by Major Goree. The target was the marshalling yard at Komarom, Hungary. Of the seventeen planes which took off, eight became separated from the formation while attempting to climb through the solid deck of clouds, the tops of which were at 16,000 feet over Yugoslavia. With only nine planes in the formation over the target, Major Goree, Lt. Garrett, Lt. Herold and Lt. Littell, with Lt. MacDiarmid flying in place of Captain deWitt, almost equaled the record-setting bombing score for the Group that they had made at Smederovo Ferry slip in Yugoslavia on 3 September 1944. The score on the Komarom mission was 91 percent.

**Mission No. 112, 8 October 1944 – Vosendorf Oil Refinery, Vienna, Austria  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 112, 8 October 1944 - Blechhammer South Oil Refinery, Germany  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 112, 10 October 1944 - Castelfranco Veneto Railroad Junction,  
Italy**

On 10 October Major Word led a formation of twenty-eight planes against the Castelgranco Veneto Railroad Junction in Italy. After fighting their way up through a seven-tenths stratus layer that extended from 15,000 to 20,000 feet over the Adriatic, the planes arrived at the target to find it completely covered by a ten-tenths layer of stratus. No bombs were dropped on the target; some were jettisoned in the Adriatic and others were returned to the Base.

**Mission No. 113, 11 October 1944 – Vosendorf Oil Refinery, Vienna, Austria**

The target for Mission 113 on 11 October was the Vosendorf Oil Refinery, Vienna, Austria. Again bad weather was experienced over the Adriatic. In the Trieste area, there were showers and thunderheads that towered to 30,000 feet. Being unable to get through, around, or above the bank of clouds, Major Goree attempted to lead the formation in attacking the last resort target, the aircraft factory at Kranj, Yugoslavia. Flying above a ten-tenths deck of cumulus with tops at 12,000 feet and below a high deck of cirrus, the formation reached the target but dropped no bombs.

**Mission No. 114, 12 October 1944 – Stores Depot, Bologna, Italy**

Mission No. 114 on 12 October was a maximum effort against a stores depot at Balogna, Italy. Forty planes were airborne on this mission, and there were no early returns. Using 100-pound general-purpose bombs and taking full advantage of CAVU

weather at the target that was defended with but little flak, the large formation dropped their bombs with excellent results.

**Mission No. 115, 13 October 1944 – Vienna North Marshalling Yard, Austria**

The target for mission of 13 October was the North Marshalling Yard at Vienna, Austria. Finding the target obscured by an almost solid undercast, the thirty-four planes over the target dropped their bombs by the pathfinder method. The formation straggled back to Base through adverse weather conditions where it was learned that sixteen of them had been hit by flak. A few enemy airplanes were seen in the target area but none were encountered.

After the planes had gained 9,000 feet of altitude and had nearly completed their assembly, the planes flown by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Willard R. King and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Arthur E. Trier collided. The plane flown by Lt. King was knocked to the ground and Sergeant Van V. Smith, Jr. was the only survivor. Despite the fact that his plane had had an engine knocked off and had suffered severe damage to the empanage, Lt. Trier flew out over the Adriatic to jettison his bombs before returning to the Base. This marked the first time the 461st Group had ever lost an airplane in the take-off or assembly on a combat mission.

**Mission No. 116, 14 October 1944 – Bratislava Marshalling Yard and Bridge, Czechoslovakia**

As had been the case when Lt. Colonel Lawhon had last led the Group on 7 October, extremely adverse weather conditions again compelled him to abandon the primary target and bomb a target of opportunity. The primary target had been the Odertal Oil Refinery, in Germany; the target of opportunity was the marshalling yard at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. Despite seven-tenths cloud coverage at the target, 61 percent of the bombs were dropped within 1000 feet of the selected aiming point.

**Mission No. 117, 16 October 1944 – Herman Goering Benzol Plant, Linz, Austria**

Mission No. 117, which was led by Major Donovan on 16 October, was an attack on the Herman Goering Benzol Plant at Linz, Austria. This was the first time the Group had been back to Linz since its disastrous mission against the Herman Goering Tank Factory on 25 July 1944. Ten-tenths cloud coverage compelled the Group to bomb by the pathfinder method but was probably largely responsible for the fact that only four of the thirty-three planes over the target were hit by flak. One of these four planes, which was flown by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Roy F. Kuhlman, failed to return from this mission.

**Mission No. 118, 17 October 1944 – Vosendorf Oil Refinery, Vienna, Austria**

On its 118th mission on 17 October, bad weather continued to nullify the efforts of the Group in prosecuting the policy of the Fifteenth Air Force to constantly keep pressure on the enemy's vital targets. Because of a thick, solid layer of cirrus clouds over the primary target, which was the Vosendorf Oil Refinery at Vienna, Austria, the Group was compelled to abandon the target. Weather conditions also made impossible the bombing

of the alternate target in the Vienna area. No bombs were dropped on an enemy target on this mission.

**Mission No. 119, 18 October 1944 – Hatvan Marshalling Yard, Hungary  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 119, 20 October 1944 – Isotta Fraschini Works, Milan, Italy**

After having hammered away despite adverse weather conditions at targets in Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Germany for three weeks in October, the Group was assigned on 20 October to attack the lightly defended Isotta Fraschini Works at Milan, Italy. Weather conditions for this mission were extremely good, but the Group failed to completely take advantage of the light defenses and the good weather by dropping only 29 percent of its bombs within the prescribed area.

**Mission No. 120, 23 October 1944 – Locomotive works, Milan, Italy.  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 120, 23 October 1944 – Allach Bayerische Motoren Werke, Munich,  
Germany**

The mission of 23 October was another pathfinder assignment. The target was the Allach Bayerische Motoren Werke at Munich, Germany. Again there was a ten-tenths undercast and again only four planes were hit by the heavy flak that defended the Munich area.

**Mission No. 121, 28 October 1944 – Winterhafen Oil Storage, Regensburg,  
Germany (Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 121, 29 October 1944 – Winterhafen Oil Storage, Regensburg,  
Germany**

For Mission No. 121, on 29 October, the assigned target was again the Winterhafen Oil Storage at Regensburg, Germany. This was the first time a Regensburg target had ever been assigned to this Group. Near the head of the Adriatic the formation ran into an eight-tenths bank cirrus which extended upward from 22,000 to 26,000 feet, after failing to find a hole through the clouds, Major Donovan did a 180 degree turn and returned the incendiary bombs to the Base. No sortie credit was allowed by the Air Force for this mission.

**Mission No. 122, 30 October 1944 – Kralupy Oil refinery, Czechoslovakia  
(Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 122, 30 October 1944 - Herman Goering Benzol Plant, Linz,  
Austria (Cancelled)**

**Mission No. 122, 31 October 1944 – Podgorica Troop Concentrations,  
Yugoslavia**

On the last day of the month, Major Donovan again failed to get his formation through the weather between the Base and the target. After successfully getting above an eight-tenths stratus layer with tops at 10,000 feet and an eight-tenths alto stratus layer with tops at 12,500 feet, he ran into a nine-tenths stratus undercast with tops at 15,000 feet at the initial point. Above this stratus layer thunderheads towered up to 30,000 feet. The assigned target had been German troop concentrations at Podgorica, Yugoslavia. Again the bombs were returned to the Base and again no sortie credit was allowed.

### **STATISTICAL OPERATIONS SUMMARY**

Of the 451 planes that were airborne on combat missions during the month, only 246, or 54 percent of them, dropped their bombs on an enemy target. The weather forced a total of 121 early returns. Of the 844 tons of bombs that were airborne, only 370 were dropped on target.

In flying fifteen missions crews logged a total of 2703 combat hours. No enemy airplanes were encountered during the month. The Group's airplane losses were eight to flak and three to other causes.

New crews continued to arrive during the month. As a result the Group had an average of seventy-two crews assigned for October.

Again the Group stood fourth in the Air Force in bombing accuracy. The average score for the month as 63.4 percent. In May the Group had led the Air Force in bombing accuracy with a score of 34.2 percent.

An appendage entitled "Statistical Summary of Operations: constitutes part of the Group history for the month of October.

### **Letters of Commendation**

HEADQUARTERS  
XII AIR FORCE SERVICE COMMAND  
APO 650

25 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 451<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, (H), APO 520.  
Commanding Officer, 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, (H) APO 520.  
Commanding Officer, 484<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, (H) APO 520.

THRU: Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, APO 650.

1. "In order to successfully continue the destruction of fleeing Germans and enemy lines of communication and supply in Southern France, it was necessary to keep the Twelfth Air Force fighter bombers moving to the most forward fields as quickly as they



were captured. This solved two problems of transportation. First, the actual movement of the units into the advanced airfields; secondly, the stockage of the fields with necessary supply levels.

2. “The first problem was solved by fullest utilization of all vehicles. The second found its answer in air transport. The heavy bombers of the 451<sup>st</sup> and 484<sup>th</sup> bomb Group of the 49<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Fifteenth Air Force were diverted from their regular duties for the purpose of hauling necessary supplies of gasoline, bombs and ammunition from their Foggia, Italy bases to Bron Airfield, Lyon, France.

3. “Your groups did a magnificent job during the period 10 September to 22 September 1944. Carrying an average load of over five tons, you made 411 flights transporting a grand total of 2,119 tons of bombs, fin crates, ammunition, gasoline and oil for this command.

4. “The high degree of success attributed to the Twelfth Air Force in this campaign was materially implemented by the assistance rendered by your groups. I offer my congratulations and commendation on your fine work and express to all elements of your commands my sincere appreciation for their efforts.

Arthur Thomas  
Brigadier General, UDA  
Commanding

MISSING IN ACTION

| <u>Rank</u>         | <u>Name</u>        | <u>Home Town</u>       | <u>Date</u> | <u>Target</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Walter J. Chester  | Montgomery, Ala.       | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Frank J. Hager     | Madison, Wis.          | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Forrest E. Langley | Wilsonville, Neb.      | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Milton Barth       | Philadelphia, Pa.      | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | William L. Guthrie | Montgomery, Ala.       | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | Henry C. Winkler   | Allentown, Pa.         | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | Albert F. Bair     | Washington, D.C.       | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | Ore B. Fitch       | Langford, S.D.         | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | James F. Walsh     | Passaic, N.J.          | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert D. Falkner  | Fairview Village, Ohio | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Walter C. Reil     | Bethany, Conn.         | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | William B. Black   | Luray, Va.             | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Verner R. Beckman  | W. Charleroi, Pa.      | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | Robert N. Moritz   | Quincy, Ill.           | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | Theodore R. Webb   | Indianapolis, Ind.     | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | Floyd A. Bacon     | Lincoln, Kansas        | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | Robert E. Davis    | Atmore, Ala.           | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | Jay W. Lehman      | Elizabeth Town, Pa.    | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | Carl F. Montuori   | Rockville, Md.         | 4/10/44     | Munich        |

|                     |                           |                       |         |        |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | William M. Powell         | Elyria, Ohio          | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Lawton M. Jones, Jr.      | Bainbridge, Ga.       | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert E. Ware            | Stafford, Kans.       | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Joshua Loring, Jr.        | Natick, Mass.         | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Daniel T. Leatherman, Jr. | Frostburg, Md.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Pvt.                | James B. Feeney           | Somerville, Mass.     | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Frederick A. Mandly       | Hartford, Conn.       | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Frank Messa               | Providence, R.I.      | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | George A. Speliades       | Derby, Conn.          | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Regis P. Mannion          | Pittsburgh, Pa.       | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | John L. Turner, Jr.       | East Orange, N.J.     | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Barry B. Jones            | Jackson, Mich.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Victor V. Sundquist       | San Francisco, Cal.   | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | William M. Jackson        | Washington, D.C.      | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| T. Sgt.             | Donald B. Harrison        | Tarkio, Mo.           | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | John J. McDonough         | Jersey City, N.J.     | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| S. Sgt.             | William C. Foster         | Lebanon, Pa.          | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| T. Sgt.             | Anderson A. Funk          | Ozark, Ill.           | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Harold J. Bauer           | St. Marys, Pa.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Carl R. Schank            | Wheeling, W. Va.      | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Lyman W. Jacobsen         | Bar Harbor, Me.       | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | William E. Waggoner       | Little Rock, Ark.     | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Norman C. Schlarp         | Eagle River, Wis.     | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert R. Brina           | Brooklyn, N.Y.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Paul D. Shaffer, Jr.      | Johnstown, Pa.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| S. Sgt.             | Ralph D. Vinson           | Coolidge, Tex.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Frank C. Hawthorne        | Clairsville, Ohio     | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Armand R. Turgeon         | Dover, N.H.           | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | John A. Peebles           | Choteau, Mont.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Woodrow W. Smith          | Wayne, W. Va.         | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Edward J. Klepper         | Huntington Sta., N.Y. | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Robert T. Chalmers        | Rutland, Vt.          | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Donald J. Rhodes          | Berkeley, Mich.       | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Frank M. Dick             | Brookline, Mass.      | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Chester Rothberg          | Brooklyn, N.Y.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Larry E. Andersen         | Gresham, Ore          | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | David L. Krause           | Belmont, Mass.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Archie S. Russell         | Eddystone, Pa.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | John F. Mezera            | Two Rivers, Wis.      | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Odie C. Alexander, Jr.    | Purdon, Tex.          | 4/10/44 | Munich |
| Sgt.                | Patrick Kennedy           | Brooklyn, N.Y.        | 4/10/44 | Munich |

|                     |                     |                     |          |      |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Roy F. Kuhlman      | Lewisville, Minn.   | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Thomas H. Keeney    | Belton, Mo.         | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | John E. Butler      | Brooklyn, N.Y.      | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert L. Hays      | Kansas City, Mo.    | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| T. Sgt.             | Wiley R. Hawkins    | Washington, D.C.    | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| T. Sgt.             | Richard W. Reichard | Allentown, Pa.      | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| Pfc.                | Dale Van Gundy, Jr. | Lawrenceville, Ill. | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| Pfc.                | John a. Hovancik    | Bethlehem, Pa.      | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| S. Sgt.             | Joseph R. Horanzy   | New Britain, Conn.  | 16/10/44 | Linz |
| S. Sgt.             | Robert O. Vallee    | Berlin, N.H.        | 16/10/44 | Linz |

(C) Photo Section

The enclosed photographs accompany this History for the month.

(D) Special Accounts

a. Promotions

Officers

17 October 1944 - Richard L. Rider, Group Operations Officers, from Captain to Major.  
 23 October 1944 - Eugene B. Raymond, Group Radar Officer, from First Lieutenant to Captain.

Enlisted Men

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>Name</u>         | <u>ASN</u> | <u>Grade</u>    |
|------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 502        | Louis P. Francello  | 32852296   | Sgt. to S. Sgt. |
| 862        | Gerard V. Smith     | 32496747   | Sgt. to S. Sgt. |
| 060        | Walter E. Dixon     | 37324158   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 274        | Charles E. Dyne     | 37326291   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 405        | Charles G. Gartlan  | 32452575   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 055        | Quentin C. Lampkins | 38357702   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 805        | John P. O'Brien     | 39118868   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 405        | Albert C. Ross      | 33352931   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 405        | William A. Sabin    | 32579477   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 405        | Anthony E. Vlasich  | 36655620   | Cpl. to Sgt.    |
| 590        | Eino Bjorn          | 16023197   | Pfc. to Cpl.    |
| 590        | Frank L. Horvat     | 32817571   | Pfc. to Cpl.    |
| 055        | Russell L. Meadows  | 35657685   | Pfc. to Cpl.    |
| 060        | Lawton L. Pierce    | 37108481   | Pvt. to Pfc.    |

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.             | Robert F. Brusso      | 11/6/44         | Giurgiu       | 3 October '44        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Robert T. Chalmers    | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 11 October '44       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Chester Rothberg      | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 11 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Edgar M. Jacobus, Jr. | 3/7/44          | Bucharest     | 12 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | Bernard J. Merwald    | 3/7/44          | Bucharest     | 12 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | Odie C. Alexander,    | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | Lester E. Anderson    | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Frank M. Dick         | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | Patrick J. Kennedy    | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | David L. Krause       | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | John F. Mezera        | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Donald J. Rhodes      | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | Archie S. Russell     | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 13 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Harold D. Brown       | 3/7/44          | Bucharest     | 17 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Mac L. Lucas          | 3/7/44          | Bucharest     | 17 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Bernard Zeldin        | 3/7/44          | Bucharest     | 17 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Edward P. Boushell    | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| Pfc.                | Henry W. Boykin, Jr.  | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Raymond O. Bushing    | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Robert D. Crawford    | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | John A. Erdmann       | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| T. Sgt.             | Bernard C. Gessner    | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | E.G. Grimstead, Jr.   | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| T. Sgt.             | Sidney Leith          | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Raymond C. Lung, Jr.  | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Ralph E. Newton       | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Dwaine J. Vaughn      | 25/9/44         | Athens        | 20 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Verner R. Beckman     | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | William B. Black      | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert D. Falkner     | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Jay W. Lehman         | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Carl P. Montuori      | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |
| S. Sgt.             | Robert E. Moritz      | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Walter C. Reil        | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |
| Sgt.                | Theodore R. Webb      | 4/10/44         | Munich        | 25 October '44       |

(Prisoners of War)

| <u>Rank</u>         | <u>Name</u>        | <u>MIA Date</u> | <u>Target</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Anthony H. Catana  | 25 July 1944    | Linz          |
| Cpl.                | Robert A. Coonan   | 25 July 1944    | Linz          |
| S. Sgt.             | George Essser      | 25 July 1944    | Linz          |
| Sgt.                | Bobbie C. Ferguson | 25 July 1944    | Linz          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert H. Fisher   | 25 July 1944    | Linz          |

|                     |                       |                |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| S. Sgt.             | Andrew D. Franklin    | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| S. Sgt.             | Peter N. Godino       | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| Pvt.                | Zygmund H. Grzywinski | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| S. Sgt.             | Kermit C. Hrrison     | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Arthur L. Hewitt      | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| S. Sgt.             | Donald R. James       | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| F/O                 | Robert K. Jones       | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | John J. Kane          | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| S. Sgt.             | Kenneth K. Kendle     | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| Cpl.                | Kenneth Knauber       | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Paavo A. Koistinen    | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Abraham Levine        | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Warren O. Ludlum      | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| Cpl.                | Leroy S. McCulloch    | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| S. Sgt.             | David E. Proud        | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| Cpl.                | Cyril B. Rice         | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Walter J. Roeben      | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| Cpl.                | Earl S. Schaeffer     | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Clarence E. Stauffer  | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| S. Sgt.             | Bryan J. Wells, Jr.   | 25 July 1944   | Linz            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert R. Koester     | 3 August 1944  | Friedrichshafen |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Bernard J. Mohan      | 3 August 1944  | Friedrichshafen |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert Schweisberger  | 3 August 1944  | Friedrichshafen |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Donald R. McGara      | 7 August 1944  | Blechhammer     |
| S. Sgt.             | Harold I. Reeve       | 7 August 1944  | Blechhammer     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Robert G. Swinehart   | 22 August 1944 | Vienna          |

#### KILLED IN ACTION

| <u>Rank</u>         | <u>Name</u>        | <u>Home Town</u>     | <u>Date</u> | <u>Target</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Major               | William H. Tallant | Murrayville, Pa.     | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Douglas A. Herrin  | Sumrall, Miss.       | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Peter Konapaka     | Clifton, N.J.        | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | James D. Wagg      | Pleasant Beach, N.J. | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | John J. Juran      | East Hillsoil, Pa.   | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | Louis J. Kain      | Lansing, Mich.       | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | Morris D. Worman   | Elleanwood, Kans.    | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| S. Sgt.             | Robert C. Haserlat | Newport, N.H.        | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | William F. Balen   | San Francisco, CA    | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| Sgt.                | Harold J. McCracy  | Brevard, N.C.        | 4/10/44     | Munich        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Willard R. King    | Cleveland, Ohio      | 13/10/44    | Vienna        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Roach L. Admire    | Wichita Falls, Tex.  | 13/10/44    | Vienna        |
| F/O                 | Quentin D. Cook    | Battle Creek, Mich.  | 13/10/44    | Vienna        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Sheldon K. Harris  | Rock Island, Ill.    | 13/10/44    | Vienna        |
| S. Sgt.             | Bernard V. Bushler | Nekoosa, Wis.        | 13/10/44    | Vienna        |

|         |                     |                   |          |        |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Sgt.    | John H. Cornell     | Sebring, Fla.     | 13/10/44 | Vienna |
| Sgt.    | Paul M. Hager       | Statesville, N.C. | 13/10/44 | Vienna |
| Sgt.    | Herbert M. Smiley   | Danbury, Wis.     | 13/10/44 | Vienna |
| S. Sgt. | Zachariah T. Taylor | Elkhart, Ill.     | 13/10/44 | Vienna |

SUMMARY TO DATE OF HOSPITALIZED WOUNDED AND INJURED IN  
ACTION

| <u>Rank</u>         | <u>Name</u>            | <u>Date Hospitalized</u> | <u>Date Returned</u> | <u>Remarks</u>               |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| S. Sgt.             | Donald E. Holliday     | 2 April '44              | 11 April '44         |                              |
| M. Sgt.             | Oscar R. Ives          | 28 April '44             |                      | Returned to U.S.             |
| T. Sgt.             | Gordon W. Leque        | 5 May '44                | 24 May '44           |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Manuel Weber           | 5 May '44                |                      | Trfd to 26 <sup>th</sup> GH  |
| S. Sgt.             | Walker P. Hill, Jr.    | 10 May '44               |                      | Trfd to 26 <sup>th</sup> GH  |
| Sgt.                | Arthur D. Morgan       | 10 May '44               | 16 May '44           |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Spencer L. Newcomer    | 10 May '44               | 28 June '44          |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Lawrence R. Penoyer    | 10 May '44               | 1 June '44           |                              |
| Sgt.                | Kenneth A. Urban       | 10 May '44               |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| Sgt.                | Jack Hall              | 24 May '44               |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | William T. Kesity      | 24 May '44               | 15 July '44          |                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Robert E. Pursell      | 24 May '44               |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| Sgt.                | Van V. Smith, Jr.      | 24 May '44               | 6 June '44           |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Robert N. Suitts       | 24 May '44               | 6 June '44           |                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Samuel N. Norris       | 31 May '44               |                      | Trfd. To Hq 15 AF            |
| Sgt.                | Howard R. Kaems        | 7 June '44               |                      | Returned to U.S.             |
| S. Sgt.             | Fred L. Overton        | 7 June '44               |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| S. Sgt.             | Edmund A. Venella, Jr. | 11 June '44              |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| S. Sgt.             | Morris Krivitsky       | 23 June '44              | 26 June '44          |                              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | Chester A. Ray, Jr.    | 12 July '44              |                      | Returned to U.S.             |
| S. Sgt.             | Jack M. Carson         | 22 July '44              | 26 July '44          |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | George C. Daniels      | 22 July '44              | 25 July '44          |                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Jack T. Gunn           | 22 July '44              | 31 July '44          |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Frank G. Helit         | 22 July '44              |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| T. Sgt.             | Clarence H. Hoenicke   | 22 July '44              | 29 July '44          |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Karl F. Kuemmrlich     | 12 July '44              | 22 July '44          |                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Irving H. Kaufmann     | 22 July '44              | 31 July '44          |                              |
| Sgt.                | Warren J. Keiser       | 22 July '44              | 26 July '44          |                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. | Kenneth E. Perkins     | 7 July '44               |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| S. Sgt.             | Peter E. Ventura       | 22 July '44              | 1 August '44         |                              |
| Pfc.                | William F. Balen       | 25 July '44              | 9 August '44         |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Leroy C. Crutchfield   | 25 July '44              | 14 August '44        |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Linzy T. Davis         | 25 July '44              | 7 Sept. '44          |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | Ivan F. Estabrook      | 25 July '44              |                      | Trfd. To 26 <sup>th</sup> GH |
| S. Sgt.             | George R. Fraser       | 25 July '44              | 7 August '44         |                              |
| T. Sgt.             | John D. Gore           | 25 July '44              | 27 July '44          |                              |
| S. Sgt.             | James B. Jones         | 25 July '44              | 27 August '44        |                              |

|                     |                      |             |                |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| S. Sgt.             | George W. Smith, Jr. | 25 July '44 | 1 August '44   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. | John J. Smith        | 25 July '44 | 7 August '44   |
| T. Sgt.             | Herbert E. Yancy     | 25 July '44 | 11 August '44  |
| Sgt.                | Jack H. Liebhart     | 6 Sept. '44 | 10 October '44 |

c. Awards and Decorations

General Orders No. 3739, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 1 October 1944:

Awards of the Soldier's Medal

Arthur E. Farnham, Jr., 0-820979, Second Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron.  
Residence at appointment: Needham, Massachusetts.

Robert W. Eckman, 0-717763, Second Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron.  
Residence at appointment: Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas M. Connolly, Jr., 11128066, Sergeant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron.  
Residence at enlistment: South Boston, Massachusetts.

General Orders No. 3939, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 14 October 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Peter J. Derudder, 0-735286, First Lieutenant, 765<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron,  
Navigator, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Chicago, Illinois.

Joseph B. Hessor, 0-682863, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot,  
Germany, 19 July 1944. Residence at appointment: North Vernon, Indiana.

Glenn E. Stringer, 17060928, Technical Sergeant, 765<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron,  
Gunner, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Parsons, Kansas.

General Orders No. 3948, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 15 October 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Robert S. Hickox, 0-799079, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron,  
Navigator, Germany, 19 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Wakefield,  
Massachusetts.

David E. Johnson, 0-42710, First Lieutenant, 76<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot,  
Italy, 12 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Pasadena, California

George R. Fraser, 13081780, Technical Sergeant, 765<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron,  
Gunner, Austria, 25 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Washington, D.C.

General Orders No. 3949, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 15 October 1944:

Award of the Soldier's Medal

Leon R. Durning, 31292843, Sergeant, 765<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron. Residence at enlistment: Central Falls, Rhode Island.

General Orders No. 3950, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 15 October 1944:

Award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze)

Jack H. King, 0-685484, Captain, 767<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, France, 2 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Oskaloosa, Iowa.

General Orders No. 4009, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 17 October 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Robert E. Jensen, 0-761955, Second Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Co-pilot, France, 12 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Los Angeles, California.

General Orders No. 4094, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 22 October 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Edward J. Prendeville, 0-692433, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Roumania, 31 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Brooklyn, New York.

Ralph T. Seeman, 0-806140, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Yugoslavia, 7 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Kent, Washington.

Robert A. Wood, 0-685333, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Yugoslavia, 6 April 1944. Residence at appointment: Cincinnati, Ohio.

Robert E. Schweisberger, 0-819627, Second Lieutenant, 765<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 3 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Bremen, Indiana.

George J. Janis, 32623982, Technical Sergeant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Engineer, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Bronx, New York.

Award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze)

Turner M. Holmes, 0-738394, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Chicago, Illinois.

General Orders No. 4185, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 26 October 1944:

Awards of the Soldier's Medal

John A. Sullivan, 0-506518, Captain, 767<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron. Residence at appointment: Teaneck, New Jersey.



Albert E. Garrison, 33397418, Corporal, 767<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Residence at enlistment: Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

James D. Rogers, 15340180, Corporal, 767<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Residence at enlistment: Hamilton, Ohio.

General Orders No. 4191, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 27 October 1944:

Award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze)

Joseph N. Donovan, 0-666158, Major, 767<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 23 April 1944. Residence at appointment: San Luis, Potosi, Mexico.

General Orders No. 4189, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 26 October 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Robert F. Edwards, 0-795718, Captain, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 8 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Arlington, Virginia.

Culos M. Settle, 0-806149, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Theodore R. Ahlberg, 0-745851, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Italy, 17 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Portland, Oregon.

James English, 0-689143, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Czechoslovakia, 21 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Westfield, Pennsylvania.

General Orders No. 4271, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 30 October 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Stanley O. Hutchison, 0-761121, First Lieutenant, 766<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 4 October 1944. Residence at appointment: Harrisonville, Missouri.

Award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze)

John W. Coles, Jr., 0-678689, Captain, 767<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Hungary, 9 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Houston, Texas.

d. Changes in Personnel

Paragraph 2 of the Group's Special Orders No. 120, dated 3 October 1944, officially relieved the Deputy Group Commander, Lt. Colonel Brooks A. Lawhon, as Acting Group Operations Officer. Paragraph 3 of the same orders designated Captain Richard L. Rider, who had been the Assistant Group Operations Officer, to be the Group Operations Officer. Paragraph 4 of the same orders transferred Captain LeRoy G. Russell from the

764<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron to Group Headquarters and designated him Assistant Group Operations Officer. He was returned to the 764<sup>th</sup> almost immediately, however, to replace rated personnel lost in that squadron.

Additional changes in the Group's Operations Section were not long delayed. Within two weeks time two flying officers were assigned to the Group by the 49<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing. Authority: Group Special Orders No. 128, dated 14 October 1944, Paragraph 11 – "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC Par 1, SO 171, Hq 49<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wg, dtd 13 Oct 44, LT COL HARDY, OTHA B., JR., is further asgd to Hq 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp and is hereby designated Gp Opns O."; and Paragraph 12 – "Having been asgd to this Gp PAC Par 2, SO 171, Hq 49<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, dtd 13 Oct 44; CAPT PHILLIPS, CHARLES R., 0427655, is further asgd to Hq. 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp. And is hereby designated Asst Gp Opns O".

Paragraph 10 of the same Group Special Orders which designated Lt. Colonel Hardy to be Group Operations Officer again designated Captain Rider as the Assistant Group Operations Officer.

But the end was not yet. Paragraph 5 of the Group's Special Orders No. 135, dated 24 October 1944, transferred Lt. Colonel Hardy to the 765<sup>th</sup> Squadron and directed him to assume command of that squadron. Paragraph 6 of the same Special Orders redesignated Rider, now a Major, to be the Group Operations Officer.

With the transfer of Lt. Colonel Hardy to the 765<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Major Hoermann again became the Operations Officer of that Squadron with Captain Baker as his assistant.

Paragraph 9 of the Group's Special Orders No. 120, dated 3 October 1944, relieved First Lieutenant Eugene B. Raymond from detached service to the 451<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group and restored him to duty with this Group. After his return from the 451<sup>st</sup> Lt. Raymond began the installation of "carpet equipment" in the planes of this Group.

Having trained Captain Kenneth W. Prien as his successor as Group Navigator, Major Marion M. Pruitt left the Group on 13 October 1944 to return to the United States.

Paragraph 9 of the Group's Special Orders No. 128, dated 14 October 1944, officially designated Captain Prien as the Group Navigation Officer.

On 26 October Chief Warrant Officer Fred C. Medau was officially designated Secretary of the Headquarters Officers club by Paragraph 4 of the Group's Special Orders No. 136.

In times past this position, which was actually one of being chairman of the board, president, and secretary, had been filled by the vocal orders of the Commanding Officer or by an election conducted by the Headquarters Officers. Mr. Medau, however, asked for the appointment and was officially placed on orders. Displaying unusual energy and ability, he straightened out the business details of the club, set up a stove for the winter, purchased new furniture, and most attractively decorated the club.

On 24 October, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Theodore R. Ahlberg returned to the Group from the United States. He was the first of several officers to return to the Group who had been sent home in July on the Fifteenth Air Force's rotation policy for combat crew personnel. Before the end of October several other officers as follows also returned from rotation to the United States: Major James C. Dooley, Captain John D. Iconis, Captain Donald L. MacDougall, Captain Marion C. Nixon, First Lieutenant Leon F. Churchill, First Lieutenant Constant V. Platz, and First Lieutenant Roger F. White.

Major Dooley did not reassume his command of the 766<sup>th</sup> Squadron, but was transferred to the 451<sup>st</sup> Group where he became a squadron commander.

Paragraph 6 of the Group's Special Orders No. 138, dated 29 October 1944, relieved Captain Iconis as the Squadron Bombardier of the 764<sup>th</sup> Squadron and transferred him to Group Headquarters where he became the Assistant Group Bombardier.

The remainder of the officers who returned in October from the United States were reassigned to their original squadrons, but it was understood that they would presently be used in command and staff positions.

|                                       | OCTOBER |       |       |       |       | CUMULATIVE |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                       | 764TH   | 765TH | 766TH | 767TH | GROUP | 764TH      | 765TH | 766TH | 767TH | GROUP |
| <b>SORTIES</b>                        |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| NO. AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE                 | 104     | 113   | 115   | 119   | 451   | 969        | 986   | 963   | 1008  | 3926  |
| LESS NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIES            | 46      | 45    | 59    | 55    | 205   | 190        | 206   | 219   | 216   | 831   |
| NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES                 | 58      | 68    | 56    | 64    | 246   | 779        | 780   | 744   | 792   | 3095  |
| % AIRBORNE EFFECTIVE                  | 56%     | 60%   | 49%   | 54%   | 55%   | 80%        | 79%   | 77%   | 79%   | 79%   |
| AVE. NO. ACFT. AIRBORNE PER MISSION   | 8       | 8.7   | 8.8   | 9.2   | 34.7  | 7.9        | 8.1   | 7.9   | 8.3   | 32.2  |
| <b>EARLY RETURNS</b>                  |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| MECHANICAL FAILURES                   | 4       | 8     | 9     | 12    | 33    | 69         | 67    | 83    | 87    | 306   |
| PERSONNEL FAILURES                    | 0       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 5          | 5     | 7     | 15    | 32    |
| WEATHER                               | 26      | 29    | 36    | 30    | 121   | 63         | 66    | 65    | 55    | 249   |
| % AIRBORNE RETURNING EARLY            | 29      | 33    | 39    | 35    | 34    | 14         | 14    | 16    | 18    | 14    |
| <b>BOMB TONNAGE</b>                   |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| NO. AIRBORNE                          | 192     | 218   | 209   | 225   | 844   | 2002       | 2041  | 1987  | 2098  | 8128  |
| DROPPED OVER TARGET                   | 101     | 100   | 89    | 80    | 370   | 1605       | 1605  | 1534  | 1605  | 6349  |
| % AIRBORNE DROPPED O/T                | 53%     | 46%   | 43%   | 36%   | 44%   | 80%        | 79%   | 77%   | 77%   | 78%   |
| <b>VICTORIES</b>                      |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| DESTROYED                             | 0       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 24         | 49    | 19    | 13    | 105   |
| PROBABLES                             | 0       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 8          | 13    | 8     | 9     | 38    |
| DAMAGED                               | 0       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 4          | 6     | 5     | 1     | 16    |
| VICTORIES PER LOSS                    | 0.0     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 2.0        | 4.5   | 1.1   | 1.0   | 2.0   |
| VICTORIES PER 100 SORTIES             | 0.0     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 2.9        | 7.1   | 2.9   | 1.8   | 3.8   |
| <b>LOSSES</b>                         |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT                      | 4       | 2     | 2     | 0     | 8     | 10         | 6     | 8     | 5     | 29    |
| TO ENEMY AIRCRAFT                     | 0       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 6          | 4     | 6     | 5     | 21    |
| OTHER COMBAT LOSSES                   | 0       | 1     | 2     | 0     | 3     | 0          | 4     | 7     | 4     | 15    |
| TOTAL                                 | 4       | 3     | 4     | 0     | 11    | 16         | 14    | 21    | 14    | 65    |
| TO A/A PER 100 SORTIES                | 6.9     | 2.9   | 3.6   | 0     | 3.2   | 1.2        | 0.8   | 1.1   | 0.6   | 1.1   |
| TO E/A PER 100 SORTIES                | 0       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0.8        | 0.6   | 0.9   | 0.7   | 0.8   |
| <b>FLYING TIME</b>                    |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| COMBAT HOURS FLOWN                    | 634     | 681   | 677   | 711   | 2703  | 6631       | 6758  | 6515  | 6795  | 26699 |
| NON-COMBAT HOURS FLOWN                | 398     | 413   | 314   | 375   | 1500  | 1557       | 1559  | 1178  | 1415  | 5709  |
| TOTAL                                 | 1032    | 1094  | 991   | 1086  | 4203  | 8188       | 8317  | 7693  | 8210  | 32408 |
| HRS. PER OPER. ACFT                   | 77      | 87    | 73    | 83    | 80    | 73         | 77    | 70    | 73    | 77    |
| HRS. PER OPER. CREW                   | 65      | 78    | 66    | 68    | 69    | 54         | 54    | 55    | 58    | 59    |
| COMBAT HRS. PER OPER. CREW            | 40      | 49    | 45    | 44    | 44    | 44         | 44    | 46    | 48    | 45    |
| <b>AIRCRAFT</b>                       |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED                  | 16.0    | 15.2  | 15.2  | 16.2  | 62.6  | 14.9       | 14.6  | 13.9  | 14.4  | 57.8  |
| AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL               | 13.4    | 12.6  | 13.5  | 13.1  | 52.6  | 11.2       | 10.8  | 11    | 11.3  | 44.3  |
| % OPERATIONAL                         | 84      | 83    | 89    | 81    | 84    | 75         | 74    | 79    | 78    | 77    |
| NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER ACFT. ASGD. | 3.6     | 4.5   | 3.7   | 4     | 3.9   | 52         | 53    | 54    | 55    | 54    |
| <b>CREWS</b>                          |         |       |       |       |       |            |       |       |       |       |
| AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED                  | 18      | 18    | 17    | 19    | 72    | 17.9       | 18.8  | 17.3  | 17    | 71    |
| AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL               | 16      | 14    | 15    | 16    | 61    | 15.2       | 15.3  | 14.1  | 14.2  | 58.8  |
| % OPERATIONAL                         | 89      | 78    | 88    | 84    | 85    | 85         | 81    | 81    | 83    | 83    |
| NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER CREW ASGD.  | 3.2     | 3.8   | 3.3   | 3.4   | 3.4   | 43         | 41    | 43    | 47    | 44    |