

CHAPTER XII CHANGES IN COMMAND, SEPTEMBER 1944

(A) Narrative History.

The month of September brought major changes in command to the Group. On mission No. 100, which was a supply mission to Lyon, France, on 12 September 1944, Colonel Glantzberg flew his fiftieth sortie and in so doing ended his tour of duty. Having previously expressed the desire to higher Headquarters to be relieved of his command upon the completion of his combat missions, he went to Headquarters of the fifteenth Air Force a few days after returning from France to learn what his next assignment would be. There he was told he would be returned to the United States for an assignment in Washington, D.C. On 22 September, after eleven months as Commanding Officer of the 461st Bombardment Group, he relinquished his command and left the Base. He was accompanied to the field by his squadron commanders and his senior staff officers who bade him farewell as he took off in a B-24 for Naples.⁽¹⁾

After seeing Colonel Glantzberg off, Lieutenant Colonel Philip R. Hawes, who had been the Deputy Group Commander since 3 November 1943, returned to his office and posted a notice assuming command of the Group. Even before this he had named Lieutenant Colonel Brooks A. Lawhon as his deputy.

Earlier in the month, Colonel Glantzberg has seen two of his four squadron commanders who had come overseas with the Group depart from the Group. On 15 September Lieutenant Colonel James B. Knapp was relieved as Squadron Commander of the 767th Squadron and transferred to the 451st Group where he immediately became the Group Commander.⁽²⁾ Four days later the Commanding Officer of the 765th Squadron, Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Applegate, was transferred to the 451st Group to become the Deputy Group Commander.⁽³⁾

Major Joseph N. Donovan, who had been serving either as Assistant Group Operations Officer or as the Group Operations Officer for a few months, was named to replace Lieutenant Colonel Knapp as the Commanding Officer of the 767th Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Applegate was replaced as Commanding Officer of the 765th Squadron by Major Francis J. Hoermann who had long been the Operations Officer in that Squadron. Captain Robert K. Baker took Major Hoermann's place as the 765th Squadron Operations Officer.

At the same time that Major Donovan was designated Squadron Commander to replace Lieutenant Colonel Knapp, Lieutenant Colonel Brooks A. Lawhon was relieved as Group Operations Officer and designated Deputy Group Commander and Acting Group Operations Officer as an additional duty. Captain Richard L. Rider, who had been the Group Air Inspector, was designated Assistant Group Operations Officer.

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

⁽²⁾ See Appendage No. 2, Chapter XII, Page 2.

⁽³⁾ See Appendage No. 3, Chapter XII, Page 3.

As the summer months passed, the going and coming of officers and men to and from the various rest camps and Rome had become a matter of routine. In much the same manner, the arrival of new combat crews and departure of original combat crew members had also become a routine by the end of September.

During part of the month of September, the Group's efforts were diverted from actual combat missions. For a period of thirteen days from the 10th to the 22nd inclusive, the Group was occupied in flying war material to France. This diversion afforded many combat crew members an opportunity to fly at comparatively low level over country over which they had been flown high altitude bombing missions and to repeatedly land at Lyon where they had formerly had one of their most successful combat missions. It also provided an opportunity for quite a few ground officers and men to get to France either for one or for several days.

The month of September marked six months of actual combat experience for this Group. Over this period of time the maintenance efficiency of the Engineering Section had gradually but steadily improved from 71 percent for the month of April, to 84 percent for the month of September. During the month of September an average number of 61 airplanes were assigned to the Group. Of these an average number of 51 were operational.

The engineering efficiency can well be expressed in terms of early returns. In April, the early returns had totalled 14 percent. In September, the percentage of early returns was 3.2. This was but .2 of 1 percent higher than the May figure of 3.0 percent, which was the low figure for the percentage of early returns for the six month period.

(B) Operations.

During the month of September only seven combat missions were flown, all of which were against targets in Italy and the Balkans. Not a single enemy aircraft was encountered and only one crew was lost.

With an average score of 57.9, the Group ranked fourth in the Air Force in bombing accuracy. The score of 92.2 percent obtained at Smederovo, Yugoslavia on 3 September 1944 aided the Group materially in getting back among the leaders in bombing accuracy.

When the crews learned that they were scheduled to fly supply missions to France, they began to wonder whether they were about to become cousins of the Air Transport Command. The purpose of these missions was actually that of quickly providing our tactical air units in France with gasoline, oil, bombs, and ammunition.

In anticipation of these missions, the original bomb bay racks were put back in the airplanes. The planes were loaded during the night and took off individually in the morning on the long flight to Lyon. At Lyon they landed at the Bron Airdrome. Because of the possibility of attack by enemy airplanes, each plane was ready to ward off any possible attacks with every officer and man at his station from landfall to landfall over France. After the planes landed, each crew helped in unloading their planes. As each plane was unloaded, it took off to return to the base.

A total of twelve new crews were received during the month of September.

Paragraph 15 of Group Special Orders No. 96, dated 2 September 1944, reads as follows: "The following named combat crew personnel, having been asgd to this orgn per competent authority (VOCG 15AF, 31 Aug 44), are further asgd to squadrons as indicated:"

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. Carl J. Schultz and crew

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. Walter J. Chester and crew

Paragraph 29 of Group Special Orders No. 96, dated 2 September 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off, F/O, and EM, having been asgd this orgn per competent auth, (VOCG 15THAF, 2 Sept. 44), are further asgd to the 767th Bomb Sq, eff 31 Aug 44:"

2nd Lt. Ernest R. Frazier and crew

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 97, dated 3 September 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off and EM, having been asgd this orgn per competent auth (VOCG 15AF, 2 Sept. 44), are further asgd to the 765th Bomb Sq. eff 2 Sep 44:"

2nd Lt. Robert J. Louches and crew

Paragraph 11 of Group Special Orders No. 103, dated 10 September 1944, reads as follows: "The fol off and EM, having been asgd this orgn per competent auth (VOCG 15 AF, 9 Sep 44) are further asgd to squadrons as indicated, eff 9 Sep 44:"

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. William J. Kursel and crew

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. Lawrence O. Woodruff and crew

766th Squadron

1st Lt. Lee P. Ward Jr. and crew

767th Squadron

1st Lt. John Trommershausser and crew

Paragraph 15 of Group Special Orders No. 107, dated 15 September 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off and EM, having been asgd this orgn per competent auth (VOCG AF, 15 Sep. 44), are further asgd to the 765th bomb Sq:"

F/O Robert T. Barnes and crew

Paragraph 8 of Group Special Orders No. 108, dated 16 September 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off, F/O, and EM, having been asgd this orgn per competent auth (VOCG 15 AF, 16 Sep 44), are further asgd to the 764th Bomb Sq:"

2nd Lt. Robert K. Bock and crew

Paragraph 12 of Group Special Orders No. 112, dated 22 September 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off and EM, having been asgd this orgn per competent auth (VOCG 15 AF, 22 Sep. 44), are further asgd to squadrons as indicated, eff 22 Stp 44:"

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. Francis X. Fink and crew

767th Squadron

Captain Warren Miller and crew

MISSIONS

Mission No. 94, 1 September 1944 – Ferrara Railroad Bridge, Italy

On the first mission of the new month the Group failed again to seriously damage or destroy the railroad bridge north of Ferrara, Italy. Seven of the planes became separated from the formation and bombed a bridge at Boari Pisani, Italy.

Mission No. 95, 2 September 1944 – Mitrovica Railroad Bridge, Yugoslavia

On Mission No. 95, veterans in the lead plane, Lieuenant Colonel Applegate, Captain Specht, Captain Murphy, Lieutenant Prien and Major Pruitt, came through with the mission that was scored at 57.3 percent against a railroad bridge at Mirovica, Yugoslavia. The photographs of the mission show a closely concentrated pattern of bombs on the west approach to the bridge with six direct hits on the tracks.

Mission No. 96, 3 September 1944 – Smederovo Ferry slip, Yugoslavia

Against the Smederovo Ferryslip in Yugoslavia on 3 September, Major Goree, Lieutenant Garrett, Lieutenant Herold, Captain DeWitt, and Lieutenant Littell led a formation that made the highest bombing score ever achieved by this Group. Under ideal conditions the bombs were dropped on and around the ferry slip in such a concentration that 92.2 percent were plotted within 1000 feet of the briefed aiming point.

COMMENDATION

“FROM: TWINING
“TO: CO 49TH WING

“A STUDY OF RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOS TAKEN AFTER THE ATTACKS BY THE FOUR NINE WING ON 3 SEPTEMBER ON THE SMEDEROVO FERRY DOCKS REVEALS THAT BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TERMINALS ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THE EXCELLENCE OF THE BOMB PATTERNS OF THESE TWO PINPOINT TARGETS BY THE 461 GROUP IS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE.”

Mission No. 97, 5 September 1944 – Sava East Railroad Bridge, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

The assigned target for this mission was the Sava East Railroad Bridge, Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Because of ten-tenths cloud coverage at both the primary and the one assigned alternate target, the planes were forced to return their bombs to base

Mission No. 98, 6 September 1944 – Sava East Railroad Bridge, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

On Mission No. 98, the Group returned to the Sava East Railroad Bridge at Belgrade, flying in the last positions in the Wing Formation. The target area was completely obscured by smoke from the bombs of the other Groups in the Wing when the 461st arrived at the target. The bombs began falling short of the target but most of them walked into the smoke with unobserved results.

Mission No. 99, 10 September 1944 – Lyon/Bron Airdrome, France

The first supply mission to France, which was Mission No. 99, was flown on September 10th. Colonel Glantzberg flew the first of the thirty-six planes to take off individually on this mission. As a result of this mission one plane was lost to the Group. The plane, which was piloted by First Lieutenant Robert K. Baker, developed a fire on the taxi strip at Lyon after the C-10 generator had been started. The flames spread rapidly through the plane compelling the crew to abandon it. Lieutenant Baker made his exit through the top hatch from where he jumped to the concrete taxi strip. The bones in both of his heels were broken in this accident.

The following supplies and material were delivered on this mission. 432 five-hundred-pound general purpose bombs; 57,600 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition; 648 empty fifty-gallon drums; and 25,000 gallons of 100 octane gasoline.

Mission No. 100, 12 September 1944 – Lyon/Bron, Airdrome, France

On 12 September eighteen planes delivered 26,670 gallons of 100-octane gasoline, 900 gallons of 120-grade oil, 324 empty fifty-five gallon drums, and 28,000 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition.

Mission No. 101, 13 September 1944 - Lyon/Bron Airdrome, France

On 13 September nineteen planes delivered 26,676 gallons of 100-octane gasoline, 1350 gallons of 120-grade oil, 297 empty fifty-five gallon drums, and 54,000 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition.

Mission No. 102, 15 September 1944 – Lyon/Bron Airdrome, France

On 15 September eighteen planes delivered 24,300 gallons of 100-octane gasoline, 1300 gallons of 120-grade oil, 298 empty fifty-five gallon drums, 30 five hundred general-purpose bombs, and 4,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition.

Mission No. 103, 16 September 1944 – Lyon/Bron Airdrome, France

On 16 September eighteen planes delivered 24,330 gallons of 100-octane gasoline, 1650 gallons of 120-grade oil, 324 empty fifty-five gallon drums, 30 five-hundred-pound general-purpose bombs, and 18,800 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition.

Mission No. 104, 17 September 1944 – Lyon/Bron Airdrome, France

On September 17th the load of eighteen planes was as follows: 21,366 gallons of 100 octane gasoline; 1450 gallons of 120 grade oil, 288 empty fifty-five gallon drums, 30 five-hundred-pound general purpose bombs; and 16,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. Due to adverse weather conditions at Lyon, all of the planes were forced to land with their loads at friendly fields and did not reach Lyon until the following day.

Mission No. 105 – 22 September 1944 – Lyon//Bron Airdrome, France

On 22 September the Group completed its ferrying missions to France. 22,848 gallons of 100-octane gasoline, 1550 gallons of 120-grade oil, 246 empty fifty-five gallon drums, 30 five-hundred-pound general-purpose bombs, and 14,000 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition were delivered

Mission No. 106 – 24 September 1944 – Athens, Eleusis Airdrome, Greece

By the 24th of the month the Group was back again to flying combat missions. Mission No. 106 was an attack on the Eleusis Airdrome at Athens, Greece, with 100-pound general-purpose bombs. The bomb pattern started on the west edge of the dispersal area and continued south along the east side of the airdrome. Six enemy airplanes were destroyed on the ground.

Mission No. 107, 25 September 1944 – Submarines in Athens Area, Greece

Lieutenant Colonel Lawhon led the last combat mission of the month that was flown 25 September in attacking submarines in the Athens area. The score of the mission was

24 percent. The only crew lost to combat during the month was lost on this mission. This plane that was piloted by Second Lieutenant Ralph E. Newton, left the formation before reaching the target but failed to return to base.

Letters of Commendation Received During the Month

From: Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, U.S. Army, dated 1 September 1944.

To: All Units this Command.

“The following is a paraphrase of a message received from Lieutenant General Barney M. Giles, Deputy Commanding General of the Army Air Force and Chief of Air Staff.

“The air support evidence in the invasion of Southern France is an unsurpassed example of the role to be played by the Air Forces in an operation. The fighting spirit and determined will to crush the enemy demonstrated by every individual regardless of rank or position, coupled with the brilliant leadership displayed, have won the admiration and gratitude of the entire nation. When ‘The Yanks Are Coming’, the issue is not in doubt. Please convey this message to all participating units.

“By command of Major General Twining.

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

From: Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, APO 520, U.S. Army, dated 18 September 1944.

To: All Units, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, U.S. Army.

“1. The commanding General, United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe, has requested that all personnel of the Fifteenth Air Force be commended for their part in the operations of this Command with similar operations by the Eighth Air Force, have been the most effective blow so far struck against German industry.

“2. It gives me much pleasure to pass on this tribute. I realize that our successes at Ploesti would not have been possible except for the skill and industry with which all of you, in both air and ground echelons, performed your assigned tasks. By your work you have made a major contribution to an early defeat of the German war machine.”

/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>Target</u>
1 st Lt.	Ralph E. Newton	Salt Lake City, Utah	25/9/44	Athens
2 nd Lt.	Dwaine J. Vaughn	Omaha, Nebraska	25/9/44	Athens
2 nd Lt.	John A. Erdmann	Elkhart, Indiana	25/9/44	Athens
2 nd Lt.	Edward G. Grimstead	Constantia, New York	25/9/44	Athens
T Sgt.	Sidney Leith	Chicago, Illinois	25/9/44	Athens
T Sgt.	Bernard C. Gessner	Buffalo, New York	25/9/44	Athens
S Sgt.	Robert D. Crawford	Colby, Kansas	25/9/44	Athens
S Sgt.	Edward P. Boushell	Charlestown, Mass.	25/9/44	Athens
S Sgt.	Raymond N. Bushing	Fort Wayne, Indiana	25/9/44	Athens
S Sgt.	Raymond C. Lung, Jr.	Canton, Ohio	25/9/44	Athens
Pfc.	Henry W. Boykin, Jr.	Ellisville, Miss.	25/9/44	Athens

(C) Photo Section

The enclosed photographs accompany this History for the month.

(D) Special Accounts.

a. Promotions

Officers

12 September 1944 - Kenneth W. Prien, Group Navigation Officer, from First Lieutenant to Captain.
 17 September 1944 - Alexander Robins, Group Radio Officer, from First Lieutenant to Captain.
 17 September 1944 - Donald L. Stanforth, Group Ordnance Officer, from First Lieutenant to Captain.

Enlisted Men

<u>MOS</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Grade</u>
590	Randall O. Slayton	35656294	Pvt. to Pfc
055	Quentin C. Lampkins	38357702	Pfc to Cpl
502	Robert F. Quick	15358710	Sgt. To S Sgt

b. Missing in Action Reports

(Returned to Duty)

<u>Name</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Returned Date</u>
Cpl. Richard R. Bryant	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Cpl Charles E. Humphrey	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
S Sgt. James M. Jordan	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Sgt. Paul F. Junge	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44

Cpl. Max Maness	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Sgt. Jack C. Morlodge	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
S Sgt. Douglas W. Morrell	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Cpl. Albert Ira Paul	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
S Sgt. Donnie E. Powers	15/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Sgt. William T. Schirner	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Cpl Charles F. Sooy.	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
T Sgt. Glenn E. Stringer	15/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
S Sgt. John E. Valla	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Cpl. Robert R. Vernon, Jr.	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
S Sgt. Arthur D. Weaver	15/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
Sgt. John W. Yageresz	22/7/44	Ploesti	1 September '44
S Sgt. Timothy J. Ryan	15/7/44	Ploesti	8 September '44
S Sgt. Harry C. Samuels	15/7/44	Ploesti	8 September '44
Pfc Lloyd E. Barnes	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
2 nd Lt. Byron D. Cocking	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
2 nd Lt. John Gavora, Jr.	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
1 st Lt. Robert L. Heald	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
S Sgt. Densal E. Laclef	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
S Sgt. Carl J. Linhares	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
T Sgt. Michael Myers	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
F/O Horace A. Walker	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
S Sgt. Robert A. Lizotte	11/6/44	Giurgiu	17 September '44
2 nd Lt. Norman E. Knoke	26/8/44	Bucharest	21 September '44
Cpl Blake F. Piercy	26/8/44	Bucharest	21 September '44
1 st Lt. Chester A. Ray, Jr.	12/7/44	Nimos	21 September '44
2 nd Lt. Howard O. Wilson	26/8/44	Bucharest	21 September '44
Cpl Harvey J. Dominick	26/8/44	Bucharest	25 September '44
Sgt. Thomas J. Reiland	26/8/44	Bucharest	25 September '44
Cpl. Earl C. Riddle	26/8/44	Bucharest	25 September '44
2 nd Lt. Earl L. Roylance, Jr.	26/8/44	Bucharest	25 September '44
Sgt. Leon R. Durning	3/8/44	Friedrichshafen	29 September '44
Sgt. Morris J. Frye	3/8/44	Friedrichshafen	29 September '44
Cpl Rocco J. Furfare	3/8/44	Friedrichshafen	29 September '44
S Sgt. William C. Haag	3/8/44	Friedrichshafen	29 September '44
Cpl William W. Kuhn	3/8/44	Friedrichshafen	29 September '44
Sgt. Charles A. Tidd	3/8/44	Friedrichshafen	29 September '44

Change of Status

Staff Sergeant Frank J. Schafer, listed as a Prisoner of War in the August edition of the Group History, was returned to the Group.

(Prisoners of War)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>Target</u>
S Sgt.	Edward E. Cussen	10 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt

S Sgt.	Benjamin H. Norrid	27 May 1944	Salon
T Sgt.	Albert F. Carlock	26 June 1944	Korneuburg
2 nd Lt.	Marvin Schonzeit	26 June 1944	Korneuburg
S Sgt.	Murray Schwartz	26 June 1944	Korneuburg
1 st Lt.	Francis B. Hoeltgen	12 July 1944	Nimes
S Sgt.	Andrew T. Smith	12 July 1944	Nimes
2 nd Lt.	Merrill T. Spring	12 July 1944	Nimes
S. Sgt.	Rudolph H. Wild	12 July 1944	Nimes

c. Awards and Decorations.

General Orders No. 3000, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 1 September 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Robert J. Hefling, 0-748979, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Sheboygan Falls, Wis.

Raymond T. Kahn, Jr., -355359, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 10 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Alameda Cal.

Otto Muller, 0-738005, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Richard E. Nostrand, 19175671, Technical sergeant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Engineer-Gunner, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Detroit, Michigan.

General Orders No. 3108, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 4 September 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross (Cluster*)

Robert E. Arbuthnot, 0-60028, Captain, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 25 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Salina, Kansas.

*John K. Specht, 0-745968, Captain, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 30 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Oxnard, California.

General Orders No. 3148, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 6 September 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

James H. Cain, 0-692756, Second Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 25 July 1944. Residence at appointment: San Francisco, California.

Jesse J. Luke, 18163034, Technical Sergeant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Engineer-Gunner, Germany, 25 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Yale, Oklahoma.

General Orders No. 3349, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 13 September 1944:

Awards of Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross

Marion M. Pruitt, 0356129, Major, Headquarters 461st Bombardment Group, Navigator, Roumania, 23 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Greenville, Texas

William L. Neiman, 0-810653, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, France, 6 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Bronx, New York.

General Orders No. 3351, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 14 September 1944.

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Jack R. Baker, 0-665268, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Cambria, Virginia.

General Orders No. 3549, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 22 September 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Arthur P. Marangelo, 0-692045, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Radar Navigator, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: New York, NY

Awards of Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross

Jospeh J. Strumski, 0-688763, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Roumania, 17 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Hartford, Connecticut.

General Orders No. 3570, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 23 September 1944:

Award of the Silver Star

“Philip R. Hawes, 0-21220, Lieutenant Colonel, Headquarters, 461st Bomb Gp. For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-24 type aircraft. On 18 July 1944, Colonel Hawes led a wing formation on a bombing mission against a highly important and heavily defended enemy aircraft factory in Germany. Despite severe and adverse weather conditions encountered enroute, through superior leadership, coordination and maintenance of strict flight discipline, he brought the entire formation directly to the target. In the face of intense, accurate and heavy anti-aircraft fire and continued adverse weather, displaying outstanding professional skill and courage under fire, he maneuvered his aircraft and wing through for a highly successful bombing run. Under his exceptional guidance the bombs from his entire formation were concentrated in the immediate target area, inflicting grave damage to vital enemy installations and supplies. Leaving the objective,

he quickly rallied his wing, bringing it through to base for a safe landing without further damage. By his conspicuous courage against heavy enemy fire, together with his outstanding leadership and combat proficiency, as evidenced throughout over thirty-five (35) successful missions against the enemy, Colonel Hawes has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Los Angeles, California.”

Award of the Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross

Benjamin S. Murphy, 0-703809, Captain, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Austria, 22 August 1944. Residence at appointment: San Diego, California.

General Orders No. 3606, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, date: 24 September 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Orville S. Moore, 0-682711, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Elkhart, Indiana.

William Z. Weems, Jr., 0-671716, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Houston, Texas.

General Orders No. 3674, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 27 September 1944:

Awards of Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross

Kenneth W. Prien, 0-729657, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Austria, 22 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Lafayette, Indiana.

General Orders No. 3729, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 30 September 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

William G. Garrett, 0-821256, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 17 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Ishpeming, Michigan.

Robert L. Heald, 0-799399, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Italy, 7 April 1944. Residence at appointment: South Orange, New Jersey.

Jaspar T. Jenkins, 0-818158, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 25 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Charlotte, North Carolina.

Robert G. Wester, 0-812701, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 25 July 1944. Residence at appointment: New Haven, NY.

Roy W. Wyllie, 0-810278, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 25 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Parlier, California

First Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze)

Robert E. Applegate, C-22933, Lieutenant Colonel, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 22 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Cincinnati, Ohio.

Earl M. De Witt, 0-733413, Captain, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Roumania, 17 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Sparta, Wisconsin.

Arthur J. Marangelo, 0-692045, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Radar-Navigator, Germany, 9 June 1944. Residence at appointment: New York, New York.

d. Changes in Personnel

On 9 September Captain Jack H. King, who had been the Group Bombardier for several weeks, was returned to the 767th Squadron to train a squadron bombardier. His place was taken by Captain Benjamin S. Murphy, the original 765th Squadron Bombardier, who, like Captain King, had long been a consistently superior lead bombardier.

On 10 September, Captain Sidney S. Spivack, Group Public Relations Officer and Assistant Group S-2, was placed on detached service to the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations for a temporary assignment in France. Authority Group Special Orders No. 103, Paragraph 9; dated 10 September 1944.

On the 11th of the month, Captain Earl M. DeWitt, the original navigator for the 764th Squadron, was transferred to Headquarters of the 49th Bombardment Wing to become Assistant Wing Navigator. Authority: Group Special Orders No. 104, Paragraph 2, dated 11 September 1944.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Group Special Orders No. 106 of 14 September 1944, relieved 1st Lt. Charles S. Billhart as Assistant Special Services Officer and designated him Group Public Relations Officer.

Flying with Colonel Glantzberg to France on 12 September when he finished his combat missions was Major Marion M. Pruitt who also ended his tour of duty with that mission. Major Pruitt did not return to the United States immediately but remained with the Group to train his successor, 1st Lt. Kenneth W. Prier.

On 21 September, the day before he assumed command of the Group, Lt. Colonel Hawes received his senior pilot rating.⁽⁴⁾

Lt. Colonel Hawes' first acts as Group Commander were those of designating 1st Lt. Hanley M. Norrins as Tactical Air Inspector as an additional duty; of transferring 1st

⁽⁴⁾ See Appendage No. 4, Chapter XII, Page 4.

Lt. John Trommershausser from the 767th Squadron to serve as Assistant Tactical Air Inspector and Assistant Group Operations Officer; and announced the designation of Lt. Colonel Brooks A. Lawhon as his Deputy Group commander. All this the Commander did the day he assumed command.

APPENDAGES
Chapter XII Page 1

APPENDAGE NO. 1

Headquarters
461st Bombardment Group (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS) APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY,
21 September 1944
NUMBER 111)

EXTRACT

12. PAC Ltr. Trav 0, G/HER/ res-5, Hq XVAF, Par 2, dtd 19 Sep 44, the fol named Off and EM, are reld fr asgd to Sqs as indicated and are trfd to Repl Depot No. 7, WP thereto via mil acft, govt mtr T, and/or rail, rptg upon arrival to CO thereat for further instructions. Necessary records will accompany each individual. EM asgd in gr. PCS, TCNT.TDN. 91-66 P 431-02 A 0-425-24.

Hq 461st Bomb Gp

COL (1092-5) Glantzberg, Frederic E. 017398

By order of Colonel Glanzberg:

/s/ RICHARD B. RUSSEY,
WOJG, USA,
ADJUTANT

OFFICIAL:

/s/ RICHARD G. RUSSEY,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.

Certified True Extract Copy:

/s/ LEIGH M. LOTT,
Major, Air Corps.

APPENDAGES
Chapter XII Page 2

APPENDAGE NO. 2

HEADQUARTERS
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 107)

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

E X T R A C T

1. PAC Par 2, SO 146, Hq. 49th Bomb Wg, dtd 14 Sep 44, LT. COL KNAPP, JAMES B., 021890, is reld fr asgd to the 767th Bomb Sq and is trfd to the 451st Bomb Op.

* * * * *

By Order of Colonel GLANTZBERG:

/s/ RICHARD B. RUSSEY
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ RICHARD B. RUSSEY,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.

Certified True Extract Copy:

/s/ LEIGH M. LOTT,
Major, Air Corps

APPENDAGES
Chapter XII Page 3

APPENDAGE NO. 3

HEADQUARTERS
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 110)

APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY,
19 September 1944

E X T R A C T

* * * * *

2. PAC Par. 3, SO 148, Sq. 49th Bomb Wg, dtd 16 Sep 44, LT COL APPLGATE, ROBERT E., 022933, is reld fr asgd to Hq 461st Bomb Gp (H) and is trfd to the 451 st Bomb Gp, WP via GMT RUAT to CO for dy. CO, 461st Bomb Op (H) will furn nec GMT. TDN

* * * * *

By order of Colonel GLANZBERG:

/s/ RICHARD B. RUSSEY,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ RICHARD B. RUSSEY,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.

Certified True Extract Copy:

/s/ LEIGH M. LOTT,
Major, Air Corps.

APPENDAGES
Chapter XII Page 4

APPENDAGE NO. 4

HEADQUARTERS
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

SPECIAL ORDERS)

APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY

21 September 1944

NUMBER 111)

E X T R A C T

* * * * *

11. PAC Par 8, SO 259, Hq 15 AF, dtd 15 Sep 44 and under the provisions of AR 95-60 and Par 3b, and 8a, (2) ©, AAF Reg 50-7, LT COL. HAWES, PHILIP R. 021220, AC, this Hq is rated Senior Pilot.

* * * * *

By order of Colonel GLANTZBERG:

/s/ RICHARD B. RUSSEY,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

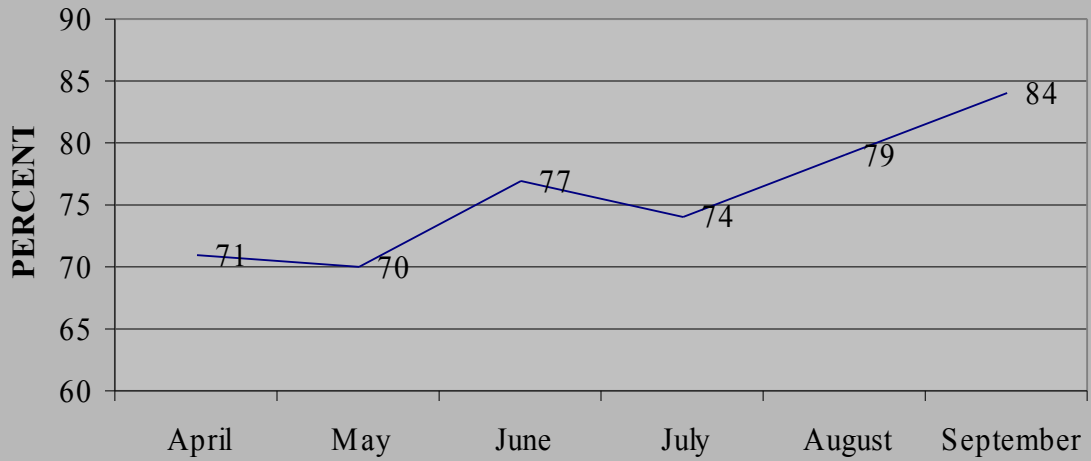
/s/ RICHARD B. RUSSEY,
WOJG, USA,
Adjutant.

Certified True Extract Copy:

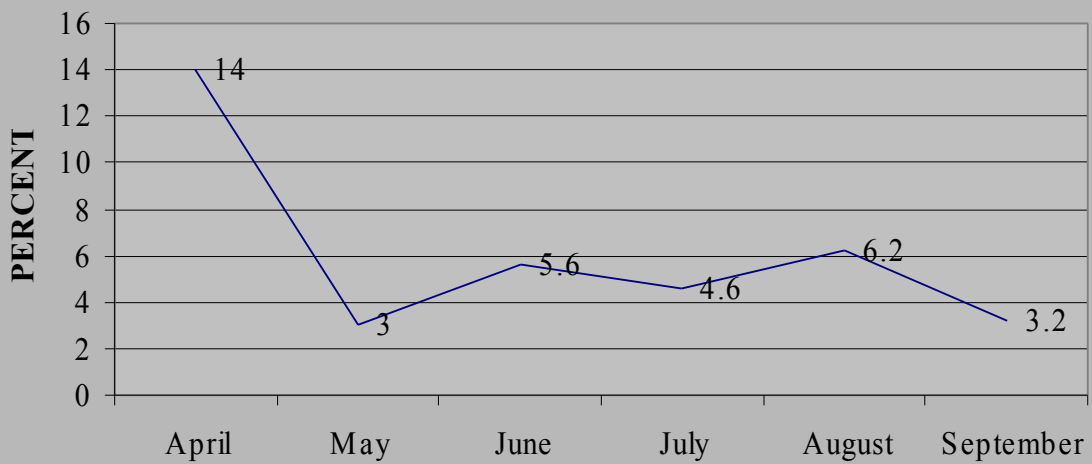
/s/ LEIGH M. LOTT,
Major, Air Corps

	SEPTEMBER					CUMULATIVE				
	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROUP	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROUP
SORTIES										
NO. AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE	86	85	84	85	340	863	873	848	889	3473
LESS NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIES	15	11	11	12	49	144	161	160	160	625
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES	71	74	73	73	291	719	712	688	729	2848
% AIRBORNE EFFECTIVE	83%	87%	87%	86%	86%	83%	82%	81%	82%	82%
AVE. NO. ACFT. AIRBORNE PER MISSION	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	24.3	8	8.1	7.9	8.2	32.2
EARLY RETURNS										
MECHANICAL FAILURES	1	1	2	6	10	65	59	74	75	273
PERSONNEL FAILURES	0	1	1	0	2	5	5	7	15	32
WEATHER	2	2	0	0	4	37	37	29	25	128
% AIRBORNE RETURNING EARLY	3.4	4.7	3.5	7	4.7	12.3	11.5	12.9	12.9	12.4
BOMB TONNAGE										
NO. AIRBORNE	114	111	109	111	445	1810	1824	1778	1873	7285
DROPPED OVER TARGET	75	89	81	87	332	1504	1505	1445	1526	5980
% AIRBORNE DROPPED O/T	66%	80%	74%	78%	75%	83%	83%	81%	81%	82%
VICTORIES										
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
LOSSES										
TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	6	5	21
TO ENEMY AIRCRAFT	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	6	5	21
OTHER COMBAT LOSSES	0	1	2	1	4	0	3	5	4	12
TOTAL	0	1	2	1	4	12	11	17	14	54
TO A/A PER 100 SORTIES	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8
TO E/A PER 100 SORTIES	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8
FLYING TIME										
COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	625	606	606	587	2424	5997	6077	5838	6084	23996
NON-COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	299	235	200	288	1022	1159	1146	864	1040	4209
TOTAL	924	841	806	875	3446	7156	7223	6702	7124	28205
HRS. PER OPER. ACFT	61	70	62	72	67	65	68	63	64	65
HRS. PER OPER. CREW	61	60	62	67	62	49	48	48	52	49
COMBAT HRS. PER OPER. CREW	39	42	46	45	40	41	40	42	44	42
AIRCRAFT										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	16.0	15.0	14.0	15.0	60.0	14.8	14.5	13.3	14.1	56.7
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	15	12	13	12	52	10.9	10.5	10.5	11	42.9
% OPERATIONAL	93	80	92	80	85	73	72	78	78	75
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER ACFT. ASGD.	4.4	4.9	5.9	4.9	4.8	48	49	51	51	50
CREWS										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	16	18	16	16	66	17	18	17	16	68
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	16	14	13	13	56	15	15	14	14	58
% OPERATIONAL	100	77	81	81	90	83	84	82	87	84
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER CREW ASGD.	4.4	4.1	5.1	4.5	4.4	41	40	41	46	42

**461st Bomb Group (H)
MONTHLY AVERAGE
PERCENT OF AIRCRAFT OPERATIONAL**

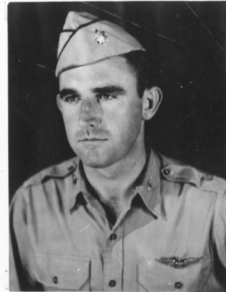


**MONTHLY PERCENT OF
AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE RETURNING EARLY
(EXCLUDING WEATHER)**





LT. COL. LAWHON
DEPUTY C.O. 461 BOMB GP. (H)



LT. COL. HAWES
C.O. 461 BOMB GP. (H)



MAJ. GOREE
C.O. 764TH.SQ.



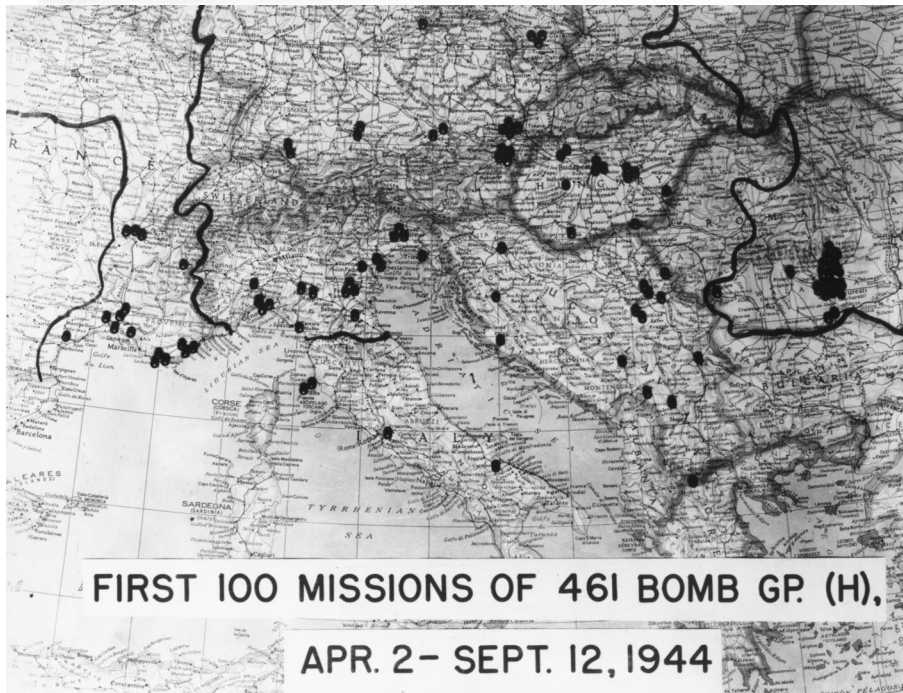
MAJ. HOERMANN
C.O. 765TH.SQ.



MAJ. WORD
C.O. 766TH.SQ.



MAJ. DONOVAN
C.O. 767TH.SQ.



FIRST 100 MISSIONS OF 461 BOMB GP. (H),

APR. 2 - SEPT. 12, 1944