

534th Bomb Squadron War Diary

1943: Precombat - Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

1944: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

1945: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr

Precombat to July 1943

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks



Transcribed by Scott Burris, grandson of 534th navigator Charles Edward Brumback. The war diary is presented as it is found on the microfilm. Care was taken to be as accurate as possible. However, the quality of the microfilm, and the original material makes an accurate transcription difficult in some places. Issues have been noted where needed.

January to July, 1943

The 534th Bombardment Squadron, activated January 3, 1943, from the 18th Bombardment Squadron, 34th Bombardment Group (H), AAB, Blythe, California. Captain Donald. A. Appert resumes duties as the Squadron commander. The strength at that time was ten (10) officers and fifty-five (55) Enlisted Men.

The Squadron left AAB, Blythe, California, 1400, January 3, 1943 and arrived at AAB, Pyote, Texas at 0800 January 7, 1943, to train for overseas duty.

Feb. 2, 1943 – Captain Donald A. Appert, (pilot), was relieved from assigned duty as Squadron Commander. Captain David E. Kunkel, Jr., was assigned and assumed command of the Squadron. The strength at the time of Captain Kunkel, jr., taking over the squadron was twenty-nine (29) officers and two-hundred and sixty-eight (268) Enlisted Men.

March 31, 1943 – The strength of the squadron was forty-seven (47) Officers and one (1) Flight Officer and three-hundred and seven-teen (317) Enlisted Men.

April 4, 1943 – After braving the dust storms of Texas, for three (3) months, the squadron with all of its equipment, the Combat Crews with their training completed, moved from AAB, Pyote, Texas, to AAB, Pueblo, Colorado, arriving there at 0700 April the 6th and took up the usual garrison duties.

May 7, 1943 – The Air Echelon with thirty-eighth (38) Officers and fifty-nine (59) Enlisted Men, left for Salina, Kansas. They left with 10 ships. Captain Kunkel left with the Air Echelon and Lt. James E. O'Brien assumed command of the ground forces.

May 10, 1943 – After this squadron worked hard and got all of its boxes packed for shipment overseas, and all men having her personal effects in order, left AAB, Pueblo, Colorado, at 0730 and arrived at Camp Kilmer, N.J, 1900 May the 12th and took up the usual garrison duties.

May 13, 1943 – to May the 17th – The squadron had a complete clothing check and the squadron was processed for overseas duty.

May 26, 1943 – Left Camp Kilmer, N.J. at 1015 and arrived at New York, N.Y. port of embarkation at 1245. Boarded the Queen Elizabeth at 1330. Left port of Embarkation May the 27th at 1400, with 270 Enlisted Men, 11 Officers and 1 Warrant Officer jg.

June 2, 1943 – Disembarded at Firth of Clyde near Greenock, Scotland at 0600.

June 3, 1943 – Arrived at Station 167 at 1300 and took up garrison duties as usual.

June 8, 1943 – The first (1st) Combat Crews came back to the Squadron after a successful trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

June 25, 1943 – S/Sgt Tieman, Ivan J. ASN 35354642, was killed in action over Hamburg, Germany. S/Sgt. Podrosky, John W., ASN 33165417, was seriously wounded in action over Hamburg, Germany.

July 4, 1943 – Twenty (20) Officers and Twenty-eight (28) Enlisted Men participated in a sortie over Le Maine, France.

July 10, 1943 – Eight (8) Officers and twelve (12) Enlisted Men, participated in a sortie over Villa Coublay, France.

July 14, 1943 – Twenty-five (25) Officers and thirty-six Enlisted Men participated in a sortie over Amiens-Glisy, France.

July 17, 1943 – Eighteen officers (18) and twenty-nine (29) Enlisted Men participated in a sortie over Geringhausen, Germany.

July 18, 1943 – Strength of the organization stood at fifty-one (51) officers, and WO.jg and 329 Enlisted Men.

Mission to Kassel, Germany planned and scrubbed before briefing. The target was to be the Fieseler Assembly Works.

24. Six of the squadron's fortresses took part in the group's raid on the aluminum plant at Herya, Norway. There were no fighter attacks and little flak as the squadron dropped its bombs on the target. Results of the bombing were described as good. No battle casualties. All a/c returned to base safe. Crews that participated are as follows:

A/C 42-3227

Forkner, Hamden L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Hyatt, Robert E. 2nd Lt., Navigator
Shattuck, Chester E., Sgt., Radio Op.
Sobolewski, Edward F., S/Sgt. Right Tur
Chew, Lin F., Sgt., Tail Gunner

Kelly, Joseph A., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Moore, Keith D., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Shipe, Paul F., S/Sgt. Top Turret
Horton, Harry H., Sgt. Left Waist
Stease, Ralph E., S/Sgt., Ball Turret

A/C 42-3221

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, Robert, 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, Lloyd G., S/Sgt., Radio Op
Maidson, Clarence D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Phelan, John C., Sgt., Left Waist

Rutan, Donald J., 2nd Lt. C-Pilot
De Bolt, Darrel C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, Canute M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schmalzer, John J. Sgt. Right Waist
Marques, Wm. J. S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-5845

Simpson, Weldon L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Mee, William H., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Edwards, Robert I., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Beech, Frank M., Sgt., Ball Turret
Gregory, Paul R., Sgt., Right Waist

Agler, Eldon H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Roraback, Douglas C. 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Warwick, Russell L., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Bassinger, Robin L., Sgt., Left Waist
Lyons, Joseph, S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-3118

Peebles, Henry, 1st Lt., Pilot
Haverkamp, Clifford M. 2nd Lt., Navig.
Sowell, Walter F., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Egliski, Paul J., S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Bingenheimer, Ralph F. S/Sgt., R. Waist

A/C 42-29954

Wrobklicka, Wm., 1st Lt., Pilot
McKay, Norman, Capt., Navigator
Smith, Fred M. S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Jonson, Edwin M. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Bartholomae, Russell W., Sgt., R. Waist

A/C 42-29958

Tucker, Alan F., 1st Lt., Pilot
Harris, David E., 2nd Lt., Navigator
Savage, Wm. C., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Bonsall, Grover S., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Crawbuck, John, Sgt., Left Waist

Rogers, Jack. W., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot

Stracotenko, John M., 2nd Lt. Bomb.
Allen Earl R., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Hill, James R. S/Sgt., Left Waist
St. Michael, Wilfred, S/Sgt., Tail gun.

Neely, Claude E., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Schneider, Lester W., 2nd Lt. Bomb.
Labushevicz, Joseph G., S/Sgt., Top Tur.
Kratzer, John L., S/Sgt., Left Waist
Cecil, Walter R., Sgt., Tail Gunner

Wright, Neil H., 2nd., C-Pilot

Rylands, Richard K., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Klingenger, Jas. R., S/Sgt., Top Tur
Raglin, Chas. H., S/Sgt., Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A., Sgt., Tail Gunner

25. Four of this squadrons Fortresses were airborne at 1300 and on their way to bomb the Aero-engine Works of Flockner Flugmotorenbau in Hamburg, Germany. The group formation crossed the English Coast at Cromer and the enemy coast at Cuxhaven. Approximately 20-30 E/A, mostly Me 109's and FW 190's were seen. Attacks were not intense as E/A failed to press home the attack. AA fire was reported to be meager. Continuously pointed fire was also reported leading into the area of the target. There were no battle casualties and all A/C returned safe to base. Following are the crews that took part:

A/C 42-30245

Peebles, Henry, 1st Lt., Pilot
Haverkamp, Clifford M. 2nd Lt., Navig.
Sowell, Walter F., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Egliski, Paul J., S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Bingenheimer, Ralph F. S/Sgt., R. Waist
This plane turned back as a spare

Rogers, Jack. W., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot

Strocotenko, John M., 2nd Lt. Bomb.
Allen Earl R., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Hill, James R. S/Sgt., Left Waist
St. Michael, Wilfred, S/Sgt., Tail gun.

A/C 42-3227

Shackley, Geo. G., Capt., Pilot
Hyatt, R. E., 2nd Lt., Navigator
Shattuck, C. E., Sgt., Radio
Stease, R. E., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Horton, H. H., S/Sgt., Right Waist

Forkner, H. L., 1st Lt., C-Pilot
Vincent, Edwin L. 1st Lt., Bomb.
Shipe, P. E., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Sobolewski, E. F., S/Sgt., L. Waist
Kelly, J. A., 2nd Lt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-5845

Fricks, Robert O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Lyons, Raymond P., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Logan, Aytchmonde R., S/Sgt, RO
Vance, WM. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Winkle, John C., Sgt., Right Waist

Downey, Martin H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Moore, Keith D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Phillips, Guy F., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Vaughn, Dallas W., Sgt., Left Waist
Calhoun, Robert B., S/Sgt., Tail gunner

A/C 42-30004

Ohl, Charles, 1st Lt., Pilot
McKay, Norman C., Capt., Navigator
Sikorski, Mike, S/Sgt., RO

Hagarty, D.D., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot

Heinz, George W., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Tanney, Joseph N., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Whitford, Gilbert, S/Sgt., L. Waist

Schneider, D. H., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sword, Dean F., S/Sgt., Right Waist

Scott, Thomas, S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

26. Capt. David E. Kunkel, Jr., our Squadron CO was appointed Major.

Six of our planes participated in a raid on the Blohm & Voss Shipyards of Hamburg, Germany. Bombing results were unobserved due to heavy smoke screen over the target. Estimated enemy fighter opposition appeared to be 30 E/A, mainly Me-109's and a few FW-190's. Flak was meager and inaccurate, however, fire became most accurate and heavy over the target. All A/C returned to base safe. 2nd Lt. D.C. Roraback was wounded slightly on this mission. Air crews that participate area;

Aircraft number not recorded

Peeples, Henry, 1st Lt., Pilot
Haverkamp, Clifford M. 2nd Lt., Navig.
Elatin, Sam, T/Sgt., RO
Egliski, Paul J., S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Bingenheimer, Ralph F. S/Sgt., R. Waist

Rogers, Jack. W., 2nd Lt., CP
Strocotenko, John M., 2nd Lt. Bomb.
Allen Earl R., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Hill, James R. S/Sgt., Left Waist
St. Michael, Wilfred, S/Sgt., Tail gun.

A/C 42-5845

King, R. M., 1st Lt., Pilot
McGlynn, E. S., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Unger, M. W., S/Sgt., RO
Pollard, Albert A., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Dwyer, R. S., S/Sgt. L. Waist

Muchway, E. L., 2nd Lt., CP
Petrillo, F. A., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Floura, C. L., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Mann, J. D., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Lyons, J. R., S/Sgt., Tail Gun

A/C 42-3221

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, Robert, 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, Lloyd G., S/Sgt., Radio Op
Maidson, Clarence D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Phelan, John C., Sgt., Left Waist

Hytinen, Harold, 2nd Lt., CP
De Bolt, Darrel C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, Canute M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schnalzer, John J. Sgt. Right Waist
Marques, Wm. J. S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-29954

Wrobklicka, Wm., 1st Lt., Pilot
McKay, Norman, Capt., Navigator
Smith, Fred M. S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Jonson, Edwin M. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Bartholomae, Russell W., Sgt., R. Waist

Neely, Claude E., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Morre, Keith D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Labushevicz, Joseph G., S/Sgt., Top Tur.
Kratzer, John L., S/Sgt., Left Waist
Cecil, Walter R., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-30245

Simpson, Weldon L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Mee, William H., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Edwards, Robert I., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Beech, Frank M., Sgt., Ball Turret
Gregory, Paul R., Sgt., Right Waist

Agler, Eldon H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Roraback, Douglas E. 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Warwick, Russell L., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Bassinger, Robin L., Sgt., Left Waist
Horton, Harry, Sgt., Tail Gun

28. The target for today was the Hensonel Motor Works at Altenbauna, (Nr. Kassel) Germany. Six of our A/C were airborne at 0745 and proceeded to the enemy target. Ships did not drop bombs as the formation failed to read the target. There was no fighter opposition and all A/C reached the base safe. AA fire was meager and fairly accurate. Listed below are crews that participated:

A/C 42-30028—Lt. Neil H. Wright's ship aborted due to malfunction of fuel pump on engine no. 4.

A/C 42-30004

King, R. M., 1st Lt., Pilot
McGlynn, E. S., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Unger, M. W., S/Sgt., RO
Pollard, Albert A., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Dwyer, R. S., S/Sgt. L. Waist

Hytinen, H. R., 2nd Lt., CP
Petrillo, F. A., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Floura, C. L., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Mann, J. D., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Lyons, J. R., S/Sgt., Tail Gun

A/C 42-29958

Tucker, Alan F., 1st Lt., Pilot
Harris, David E., 2nd Lt., Navigator
Savage, Wm. C., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Bonsall, Grover S., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Crawback, John, Sgt., Left Waist

Muchway, Earl, 2nd Lt., CP
Rylands, Richard K., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Klingenger, Jas. R., S/Sgt., Top Tur
Raglin, Chas. H., S/Sgt., Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 3118-N

Fricks, Robert O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Lyons, Raymond P., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Logan, Aytchmonde R., S/Sgt, RO
Vance, WM. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Winkle, John C., Sgt., Right Waist

Downey, Martin H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Moore, Keith D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Phillips, Guy F., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Vaughn, Dallas W., Sgt., Left Waist
Calhoun, Robert B., S/Sgt., Tail gunner

A/C 3221-E

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, Robert, 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, Lloyd G., S/Sgt., Radio Op
Maidson, Clarence D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Phelan, John C., Sgt., Left Waist

Rutan, D. J., 2nd Lt., CP
De Bolt, Darrel C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, Canute M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schmalzer, John J. Sgt. Right Waist
Marques, Wm. J. S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 3227-G

Forkner, Hamden L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Hyatt, Robert E. 2nd Lt., Navigator
Shattuck, Chester E., Sgt., Radio Op.
Stease, Ralph E., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sobolewski, Edward F., S/Sgt. Right Tur

Kelly, Joseph A., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Heinz, Geo. W., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Shipe, Paul F., S/Sgt. Top Turret
Horton, Harry H., Sgt. Left Waist
Chew, Lin F., Sgt., Tail Gunner

29. This mission sent six of our "Forts" with Major D. E. Kunkel leading, deep over enemy territory to bomb the Naval Dock Yards of Kiel, Germany. E/A encountered were reported to number between 75 and 100. The 534th was credited with one (1) probably destroyed and four (4) damaged. Credit for the "probable" goes to Sgt. J. N. Tanney. Lt. Heinz, Lt. Rylands, Sgt. Crawback, and Sgt. Tom Scott were credited with one (1) E/A damaged apiece. S/Sgt. Klingenger and Sgt. Grover Bonsall were wounded in action over the target. A/C 3221, piloted by Lt. Dexter Lishon, crash landed three miles from Thetford, England. With 3 engines out Lt. Lishon sat his plane down with crew members uninjured. All other planes returned to the base safe. Following list of crews took part in the mission:

A/C 3227-G

Kunkle, D. E., Maj., Pilot
Mee, W., 2nd Lt, Nav.
Shattuck, C. E., Sgt., Radio
Stease, R. E. S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Horton, H. H., Sgt. L. Waist

Forkner, H. L., 1st Lt. CP
Vincent, E. L, 1st., Bomb.
Shipe, P. F., S/Sgt., Top Tur.
Soboloski, E. F., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Kelly, J. A., 2nd Lt., T. Gunner

A/C 3221-D

Wrobklicka, W., 1st Lt., Pilot

Briggs, A. F., Capt. CP
Schneider, D. H., 2nd Lt., Bomb.

McKay, N. C., Capt., Navigator
Smith, F. M. S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Jonson, E. M. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Kratzer, J. L., S/Sgt., Left Waist

A/C 3118-N

Fricks, R. O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Lyons, R. P., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Logan, A. R., S/Sgt, RO
Vance, W. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Phelan, J. C. Sgt., L. Waist

A/C 30004-B

Ohl, C. O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Hyatt, R., 2nd Lt., Navigator
Sikorski, Mike, S/Sgt., Radio
Schneider, D. H., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Whitford, G. D., S/Sgt., L. Waist

A/C 29958-J

Tucker, A. F., 1st Lt., Pilot
Burwell, R. W., 2nd Lt., Nav
Savage, W. C., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Bonsall, G. S., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Crawbuck, J., Sgt., Left Waist

A/C 5845-A

Wright, N. H., 2nd Lt., Pilot
Haverkamp, C N., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Sowell, W. F., S/Sgt., Radio
Egliski, P. J., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Hill, J. R., S/Sgt., L. Waist

Labushevicz, J., S/Sgt., Top Tur.
Bartholomae, R. W., Sgt., R. Waist
Neely, C. E., 2nd Lt., T. Gunner

Downey, M. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Moore, K. D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Phillips, G. F., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Winkle, J. C., Sgt., Right Waist
Calhoun, R. B., S/Sgt., Tail gunner

Hagarty, D. D., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Heinz, G. W., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Tanney, N. N., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Sword, D. F., S/Sgt., Right Waist
Scott, T. G., S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

Hytinen, H., 2nd Lt., CP
Rylands, R. E., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Klingenberger, J. K., S/Sgt., Top Tur
Raglin, Chas. H., S/Sgt., Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A., Sgt., Tail Gunner

Rogers, J. W., 2nd Lt., CP
Stractoenko, J. M., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Allen, E. R., T/Sgt., Top Tur.
Bingenheimer, R. F., S/Sgt., R. W.
St. Michael, W., S/Sgt., Tail Gun.

30. 2nd Lts, Lyons, Mee, and Petrillo appointed 1st Lts as of 23 July. For the 3rd day and for 4 out of 5 days the squadron again put up 6 planes to attack enemy installations. This time it was the Fieseler Flagezeugbau Aircraft Components Works at Kassel, Germany. All A/C successfully bombed the primary target, each dropping 10x500 GP bombs. Enemy fighter opposition was strong. An estimate of f150 E/A encountered by the entire group from target to the Dutch coast on the return trip. Claims for the day were: one destroyed by S/Sgt. Don Schneider, one probably destroyed by S/Sgt. C. J. Beasley and one damaged by T/Sgt. C. M. Johnson. There were no battle casualties as all ships returned safe to base. Following crews participated:

A/C 42-3845

Forkner, H. L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Hyatt, R. E. 2nd Lt., Navigator
Shattuck, C. E., Sgt., Radio Op.
Stease, R. E., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sobolewski, E. F., S/Sgt. Right Tur

Kelly, J. A., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Rylands, R., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Shipe, P. F., S/Sgt. Top Turret
Horton, H. H., Sgt. Left Waist
Chew, L. F., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 3118-N

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, R., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, L. G., S/Sgt., Radio Op

Rutan, D. J., 2nd Lt., CP
De Bolt, D. C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, C. M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schnalzer, J. J. Sgt. Right Waist

Maidson, C. D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Phelan, J. C., Sgt., Left Waist

Aircraft not listed

Fricks, R. O., 1st Lt., Pilot

Lyons, R. P., 2nd Lt., Nav.

Logan, A. R., S/Sgt, RO

Vance, W. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret

Winkle, J. C., Sgt., Right Waist

A/C 30145

Simpson, W. L., 1st Lt., Pilot

Mee, William H., 2nd Lt. Navigator

Edwards, R. I., S/Sgt., Radio Op.

Beech, F. M., Sgt., Ball Turret

Gregory, P. R., S/Sgt., Right Waist

A/C 42-30028

Wright, N. H., 2nd Lt., Pilot

Haverkamp, C N., 2nd Lt., Nav.

Sowell, W. F., S/Sgt., Radio

Egliski, P. J., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.

Hill, J. R., S/Sgt., L. Waist

A/C 42-30004

Ohl, C. O., 1st Lt., Pilot

Waldman, R. J. 2nd Lt., Navigator

Sikorski, Mike, S/Sgt., Radio

Schneider, D. H., S/Sgt., Ball Turret

Whitford, G. D., S/Sgt., L. Waist

Marques, W. J. S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

Downey, M. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot

Moore, K. D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.

Phillips, G. F., S/Sgt., Top Turret

Vaughn, D. W., Sgt., Right Waist

Calhoun, R. B., S/Sgt., Tail gunner

Agler, E. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot

Vincent, E. M., 1st Lt., Bomb.

Warwick, R. L., T/Sgt., Top Turret

Bassinger, R. L., S/Sgt., Left Waist

Beasley, C. J., S/Sgt., Tail Gun

Rogers, J. W., 2nd Lt., CP

Stractoenko, J. M., 2nd Lt., Bomb.

Allen, E. R., T/Sgt., Top Tur.

Bingenheimer, R. F., S/Sgt., R. W.

St. Michael, W., S/Sgt., Tail Gun.

Hagarty, D. D., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot

Heinz, G. W., 2nd Lt., Bomb.

Tanney, N. N., S/Sgt., Top Turret

Sword, D. F., S/Sgt., Right Waist

Scott, T. G., S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

31. Captain G. C. Shackley was relieved from assignment as squadron operations officers to replace Capt. Arthur Briggs as assistant group operations officer.

Strength for the squadron at end of month stands at 329 EM, 51 officers, one w/o.

August 1943

534th Bomb Sq.

381st Bomb Group (H)

WAR DIARY

Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

August 1943

3. The first scheduled effort of this month was scrubbed. Mission was to be to the airfield in Villacoubley, France.

4. Mission scrubbed.

12. The squadron put three "Forts" in the air to make their first one of the month. This time the "Boys" went to Gelsekirchen, Germany. Between 25 to 40 E/A were encountered. All e/a observed were Me 109 and FW 190's. Attacks were not vicious. Most of the planes, after firing a few bursts, turned off while still out of range. This mission cost us our first crew and ship as Lt. Wroblicka's ship is listed as missing in action. A good bomb run was started but smoke and hazy conditions hid the target. Results are not definitely established, but it is reported that concentrations of bombs fell in the marshalling yards and stations.

A/C 42-30004

Ohl, C. O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Stralser, Harold L., 2nd Lt., Navigator
Sikorski, Mike, S/Sgt., Radio
Schneider, D. H., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Schnelsler, John J., Sgt., R. Waist

Hagarty, D. D., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Heinz, G. W., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Allen, Earl R., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Sword, D. F., S/Sgt., Left Waist
Scott, T. G., S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-5397

King, R. M., 1st Lt., Pilot
Spivey, L. L., 1st Lt., Nav.
Moore, T. R., T/Sgt., RO
Buran, W. J., S/Sgt., Top Tur
Jones, W. G., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Lt. King flew in the lead ship of the group with Major Ingenhutt, 535th's C.O.

Ingenhutt, W. W., Maj., CP
Nicholson, V. W., 2nd Lt., Bomb
Perkins, L. L., T/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Everett, H. L., S/Sgt., Left W.
Malone, E. F., 2nd Lt., Tail Gun

Missing in Action--A/C 42-29954

Wroblicka, W., 1st Lt., Pilot
Harris, David E., 2nd Lt., Nav
Smith, F. M. S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Jonson, E. M. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Phelan, John, Sgt., Left Waist

Neely, C. E., 2nd Lt., CP
Schneider, D. H., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Labushevicz, J., S/Sgt., Top Tur.
Kratzer, John L., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Cecil, Walter H., S/Sgt., T.
Gunner

13. Mission scrubbed—was to have been raid on Schweinfurt, Germany vital ball bearing works.

15. Six of our planes took off at 1700 to bomb Germany installations in Brussels, Belgium. Due to heavy cloud cover all A/C returned to base with their bombs. A/C 004 turned back at Ridgewell at 1800 due to No. 4 engine running away.

Crews credited with mission:

A/C 42-30028

Wright, N. H., 2nd Lt., Pilot
Haverkamp, C N., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Sowell, W. F., S/Sgt., Radio
Egliski, P. J., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Hill, J. R., S/Sgt., L. Waist

Rogers, J. W., 2nd Lt., CP
Petrillo, Francis A., 1st Lt., Bomb.
Allen, E. R., T/Sgt., Top Tur.
Bingenheimer, R. F., S/Sgt., R. W.
St. Michael, W., S/Sgt., Tail Gun.

A/C 42-30245

Simpson, W. L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Mee, William H., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Edwards, R. I., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Beech, F. M., Sgt., Ball Turret
Gregory, P. R., S/Sgt., Right Waist

Agler, E. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Roraback, Douglas C., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Warwick, R. L., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Bassinger, R. L., S/Sgt., Left Waist
Beasley, C. J., S/Sgt., Tail Gun

A/C 42-5845

Tucker, A. F., 1st Lt., Pilot

Hytinen, H., 2nd Lt., CP
Rylands, R. E., 2nd Lt., Bomb.

McGlynn, Edward S., 2nd Lt., Nav
Savage, W. C., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Pollard, Albert A., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Crawbuck, J., Sgt., Left Waist

Klingenberger, J. K., S/Sgt., Top Tur
Raglin, Chas. H., S/Sgt., Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-3227

Forkner, H. L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Hyatt, R. E. 2nd Lt., Navigator
Shattuck, C. E., Sgt., Radio Op.
Stease, R. E., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sobolewski, E. F., S/Sgt. Right Waist

Kelly, J. A., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Vincent, Edwin, 1st Lt., Bomb.
Shipe, P. F., S/Sgt. Top Turret
Horton, H. H., Sgt. Left Waist
Chew, L. F., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-3001 (probably 42-30012)

Fricks, R. O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Lyons, R. P., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Logan, A. R., S/Sgt, RO
Vance, W. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Winkle, J. C., Sgt., Right Waist

Downey, M. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Moore, K. D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Phillips, G. F., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Vaughn, D. W., Sgt., Right Waist
Calhoun, R. B., S/Sgt., Tail gunner

16. For the second day in a row the 534th put six ships in the air. Trip today was to LeBourget Field Repair Depot, Paris, France. Results of bombing were excellent as hits were observed on Mean Point of Impact. Only 12 to 15 E/A were observed and only 3 or 4 attacks were pressed home. Mission went well as all A/C reached base safe. Crews that took part:

A/C 42-3227

Forkner, H. L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Hyatt, R. E. 2nd Lt., Navigator
Shattuck, C. E., Sgt., Radio Op.
Stease, R. E., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sobolewski, E. F., S/Sgt. Right Waist

Kelly, J. A., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Vincent, Edwin, 1st Lt., Bomb.
Shipe, P. F., S/Sgt. Top Turret
Horton, H. H., Sgt. Left Waist
Chew, L. F., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 845

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, R., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, L. G., S/Sgt., Radio Op
Maidson, C. D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
West, James E. Sgt., Left Waist

Rutan, D. J., 2nd Lt., CP
De Bolt, D. C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, C. M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schnalzer, J. J. Sgt. Right Waist
Marques, W. J. S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 220

Tucker, A. F., 1st Lt., Pilot
McKay, N. C., Capt., Nav
Savage, W. C., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Beech, F. M., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Crawbuck, J., Sgt., Left Waist

Hytinen, H., 2nd Lt., CP
Rylands, R. E., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Klingenberger, J. K., S/Sgt., Top Tur
Raglin, Chas. H., S/Sgt., Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-30028

Wright, N. H., 2nd Lt., Pilot
Haverkamp, C N., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Sowell, W. F., S/Sgt., Radio
Egliski, P. J., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Hill, J. R., S/Sgt., L. Waist

Rogers, J. W., 2nd Lt., CP
Stracotenko, John M., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Allen, E. R., T/Sgt., Top Tur.
Bingenheimer, R. F., S/Sgt., R. W.
St. Michael, W., S/Sgt., Tail Gun.

A/C 42-30012

Fricks, R. O., 1st Lt., Pilot

Downey, M. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Moore, K. D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.

Lyons, R. P., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Logan, A. R., S/Sgt, RO
Vance, W. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Winkle, J. C., Sgt., Right Waist

Phillips, G. F., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Vaughn, D. W., Sgt., Right Waist
Calhoun, R. B., S/Sgt., Tail gunner

A/C 978

King, R. M., 1st Lt., Pilot
McGlynn, E. S., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Unger, M. W., S/Sgt., RO
Pollard, Albert A., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Dwyer, R. S., S/Sgt. L. Waist

Schockley, George G., Capt., CP
Petrillo, F. A., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Floura, C. L., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Mann, J. D., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Lyons, J. R., S/Sgt., Tail Gun

17. After being planned and scrubbed twice, the mission to Schweinfurt, Germany was revived today. Take off time scheduled to be at 630 was changed several times before 7 of our A/C were airborne at 1210. Between 240 and 300 E/A were encountered. Attacks were exceptionally determined and savage. Attacks lasted for 2 and ½ hours. Due to the duration of the mission over enemy territory, it is probably that a number of E/A re-fueled and returned to the attack. Majority of E/A were Me 109's and FW 190's. Bombing results were very good. In all probability the ball bearing works were wiped out. This operation cost the 534th 4 crews and A/C. Lts Simpson, Wright, King, Forkner, and their respective crews are missing in action. Crews that participated:

No A/C listed

Ohl, C. O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Stralser, Harold L., 2nd Lt., Navigator
Sikorski, Mike, S/Sgt., Radio
Schneider, D. H., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sword, D. F., S/Sgt., Left Waist

Hagarty, D. D., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Heinz, G. W., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Tanney, Joseph N., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Whitford, Gilbert D., Sgt., R. Waist
Scott, T. G., S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

No A/C listed

Tucker, A. F., 1st Lt., Pilot
McKay, N. C., Capt., Nav
Savage, W. C., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Vance, Wm. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Crawbuck, J., Sgt., Left Waist

Hytinen, H., 2nd Lt., CP
Rylands, R. E., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Klingenberger, J. K., S/Sgt., Top Tur
Raglin, Chas. H., S/Sgt., Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A., Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-5845

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, R., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, L. G., S/Sgt., Radio Op
Maidson, C. D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
West, James E. Sgt., Left Waist

Rutan, D. J., 2nd Lt., CP
De Bolt, D. C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, C. M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schnalzer, J. J. Sgt. Right Waist
Marques, W. J. S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

Missing in Action:

Wright, N. H., 2nd Lt., Pilot
Haverkamp, C N., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Sowell, W. F., S/Sgt., Radio
Egliski, P. J., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Hill, J. R., S/Sgt., L. Waist

Rogers, J. W., 2nd Lt., CP
Stracotenko, John M., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Allen, E. R., T/Sgt., Top Tur.
Bingenheimer, R. F., S/Sgt., R. W.
St. Michael, W., S/Sgt., Tail Gun.

A/C 42-3227

Forkner, H. L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Hyatt, R. E. 2nd Lt., Navigator
Shattuck, C. E., Sgt., Radio Op.

Kelly, J. A., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Vincent, Edwin, 1st Lt., Bomb.
Shipe, P. F., S/Sgt. Top Turret
Horton, H. H., Sgt. Left Waist

Stease, R. E., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sobolewski, E. F., S/Sgt. Right Waist

Chew, L. F., Sgt., Tail Gunner

No A/C listed

Simpson, W. L., 1st Lt., Pilot
Mee, William H., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Edwards, R. I., S/Sgt., Radio Op.
Beech, F. M., Sgt., Ball Turret
Gregory, P. R., S/Sgt., Right Waist

Agler, E. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Roraback, Douglas C., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Warwick, R. L., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Bassinger, R. L., S/Sgt., Left Waist
Beasley, C. J., S/Sgt., Tail Gun

A/C 42-29978

King, R. M., 1st Lt., Pilot
McGlynn, E. S., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Unger, M. W., S/Sgt., RO
Pollard, Albert A., S/Sgt., Ball Tur.
Dwyer, R. S., S/Sgt. L. Waist

Peeples, H. C., 2nd Lt., CP
Petrillo, F. A., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Floura, C. L., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Mann, J. D., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Lyons, J. R., S/Sgt., Tail Gun

E/A claims confirmed by wing are as follows:

EVENTS

	Destroyed	Probably Destroyed	Damaged
T/Sgt. C. M. Johnson	0	0	1
S/Sgt. R. B. Calhoun	1	0	0
S/Sgt. C. D. Madison	1	0	0
S/Sgt. C. D. Madison	0	0	1
S/Sgt. W. J. Marques	1	0	0
S/Sgt. W. J. Marques	1	0	0
S/Sgt. L. C. Riddle	1	0	1

19. One A/C of this squadron took part in the raid on Gilse-Rijen, Airfield in Holland. The number of E/A encountered by the entire group was estimated to be 15-20. Mostly FW 190's and Me 109's. The target is believed to have been well bombed as five or six large fires were seen burning at the target. Crew that participated.

A/C 42-30034

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, R., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, L. G., S/Sgt., Radio Op
Maidson, C. D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Feller, Michael S., Sgt., Left Waist

Rutan, D. J., 2nd Lt., CP
De Bolt, D. C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, C. M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schmalzer, J. J. Sgt. Right Waist
Marques, W. J. S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

20. One new crew was assigned to this squadron for duty.

Niederriter, Richard J., 2nd Lt., P
Careari, Richard A., 2nd Lt., Nav
Lease, Harry, T/Sgt., Top Tur
Beckman, Ivan D., S/Sgt., Ball Tur
Spillman, Poyner H., S/Sgt., L. Waist

Rowan, Delphus Jr., 2nd Lt. CP
Darst, Leaster A., 2nd Lt., Bomb
Soucy, Herman J., S/Sgt., Radio
Schnitzler, Andrew, Sgt. R. Waist
Evans, Richard W., Sgt., Tail gun

Mission to Villacoublay, France – Airfield was scrubbed.

24. With Major D. E. Kunkel flying the lead ship in a composite group, 3 of our squadron aircraft took off at 1430 to make a raid on the Villacoublay Repair Shops, Paris, France. Bombing results were good. Bombs were seen to fall on hangers, workshops and on airfield. Only 4 E/A were seen and these stayed in sight for only two or three minutes. Comments of crews indicated complete satisfaction with the fighter cover. Crews that took part:

A/C 42-30012

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot
Gluck, R., 2nd Lt. Navigator
Riddle, L. G., S/Sgt., Radio Op
Maidson, C. D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Stuart, Geo. A., Sgt., Left Waist

Kunkel, D. E. Jr., Major, CP
De Bolt, D. C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Johnson, C. M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Schnalzer, J. J. Sgt. Right Waist
Rutan, D. J., 2nd Lt., Tail Gunner

A/C 23118

Hagarty, Daniel D., 2nd Lt. P
MacKay, Norman, Capt., Nav
Savage, WM. S., S/Sgt., Radio
Wandenstowski, Vincent M, Sgt, Ball Tur
Bartholomme, Russel W, S/Sgt, L. Waist

Hytinen, Harold, 2nd Lt., CP
Rylands, Richard D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Klingenberger, Jas. R., S/Sgt, Top Tur
Crawbuck, John, Sgt, R. Waist
Vina, Daniel A, Sgt, Tail gun

A/C 5845

Fricks, R. O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Lyons, R. P., 2nd Lt., Nav.
Vaughn, Dallas, W., S/Sgt., RO
Vance, W. F., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
West, James E., Sgt., Right Waist

Downey, M. H., 2nd Lt., C-Pilot
Hoppenstein, Moses J., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Phillips, G. F., S/Sgt., Top Turret
Winkle, J. C., Sgt., Left Waist
Calhoun, R. B., S/Sgt., Tail gunner

New crew assigned for duty:

Loftin, James F., 2nd Lt, P	Cornall, Chester K., 2nd Lt, CP
Beckerman, Hyman, 2nd Lt, nav	Czarny, Stanley J., 2nd Lt, Bomb
Kwoka, Leon J., T/Sgt, Top Tur	Silverberg, Charles, T/Sgt, Radio
Cyrek, Eugene E., S/Sgt, Ball Tur	Huhn, Allen O., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Nader, Joseph C., T/Sgt, L. Waist	Alford, Allen T., S/Sgt, T. Gunner

26. Mission to Brussels, Belgium the target being the Brussels, Evere Airfield was scrubbed.

27. Two of the squadron fortresses participated on the raid to Watten, France. 15 to 20 E/A were encountered, though they did not press the attacks home. Bombing results were not observed due to poor visibility. Crews participating:

A/C 42-23832

Ohl, C. O., 1st Lt., Pilot
Stralser, Harold L., 2nd Lt., Navigator
Sikorski, Mike, S/Sgt., Radio
Schneider, D. H., S/Sgt., Ball Turret
Sword, D. F., S/Sgt., Left Waist

Muchway, E., 2nd Lt, CP
Heinz, G. W., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Tanney, Joseph N., T/Sgt., Top Turret
Whitford, Gilbert D., Sgt., R. Waist
Scott, T. G., S/Sgt., Tail Gunner

A/C 42-3078

Niederriter, Richard J., 2nd Lt., P
Carocari, Richard A., 2nd Lt., Nav
Lease, Harry, T/Sgt., Top Tur
Spillman, Poyner H., S/Sgt., L. Waist
No ball turret listed

Rowan, Delphus E. Jr., 2nd Lt. CP
Darst, Leaster A., 2nd Lt., Bomb
Soucy, Herman J., S/Sgt., Radio
Schnitzler, Andrew, Sgt. R. Waist
Evans, Richard W., Sgt., Tail gun

30. Mission to Cambrai-Niergies (Airfield), France was scrubbed due to heavy cloud cover. All A/C were recalled after take-off.

31. Four A/C of this squadron were airborne at 1451 to bomb the airport at Romilly, France. Due to heavy cloud cover over the target [, the target] was not observed. However, the last resort target, Amiens Glisy was successfully bombed. Bombing results were reported as "excellent." 12 E/A were observed from a distance. None were eager for combat. Missions went well as all A/C returned safe to base. Crews that participated are as follows:

A/C 42-3118

Hagarty, Daniel D., 2nd Lt. P	Hytinen, Harold, 2nd Lt., CP
MacKay, Norman, Capt., Nav	Rylands, Richard D., 2nd Lt., Bomb.
Savage, WM. S., S/Sgt., Radio	Klingenberger, Jas. R., S/Sgt, Top Tur
Harkness, Harold, S/Sgt, Ball Tur	Crawbuck, John, Sgt, R. Waist
Vina, Daniel A, Sgt, L. Waist	No tail gunner listed?

A/C 42-3012

Niederriter, Richard J., 2nd Lt., P	Rowan, Delphus E. Jr., 2nd Lt. CP
Carocari, Richard A., 2nd Lt., Nav	Darst, Leaster A., 2nd Lt., Bomb
Soucy, Herman J., S/Sgt., Radio	Lease, Harry, T/Sgt., Top Tur
Backman, I. D., S/Sgt, Ball Tur	Spillman, Poyner H., S/Sgt., R. Waist
Schnitzler, Andrew, Sgt., L. Waist	Evans, Richard W., Sgt., Tail gun

A/C 42-5846

Loftin, James F., 2nd Lt, P	Cornall, Chester K., 2nd Lt, CP
Beckerman, Hyman, 2nd Lt, nav	Czarny, Stanley J., 2nd Lt, Bomb
Silverberg, Charles, T/Sgt, Radio	Kwoka, Leon J., T/Sgt, Top Tur
Cyrek, Eugene E., S/Sgt, Ball Tur	Nader, Joseph C., T/Sgt, L. Waist
Huhn, Allen O., S/Sgt., R. Waist	Alford, Allen T., S/Sgt, T. Gunner

A/C 999

Lishon, Dexter, 1st Lt., Pilot	Rutan, D. J., 2nd Lt., CP
Gluck, R., 2nd Lt. Navigator	De Bolt, D. C., 2nd Lt., Bombardier
Riddle, L. G., S/Sgt., Radio Op	Johnson, C. M., T/Sgt, Top turret
Maidson, C. D. S/Sgt., Ball Turret	Schnalzer, J. J. Sgt. Right Waist
Stuart, Geo. A., Sgt., Left Waist	Marques, William J., S/Sgt, Tail Gunner

A/C 845

Lishon, Dexter	1st Lt. Pilot
Rutan, Donald J.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Gluck, Robert	2nd Lt. Navigator
Debolt, Darrell C.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Riddle, Lloyd G.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Johnson, C. M.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Madison, Clarence D.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Schnalzer, John J.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Stuart, George A.	Sgt. Left Waist
Marquez, William J.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C 123

1st Lt. Pilot

Fricks, Robert O.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Downey, Martin H.	1st Lt. Navigator
Lyons, Raymond P.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Moore, Keith D.	S/Sgt. Radio Operator
Vaughn, Dallas W.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Phillips, Guy F.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Vance, William F.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Winkle, John C.	Sgt. Left Waist
West, James E.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner
Calhoun, Robert B.	

A/C 078	
Niederriter, R. J.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Rowan, D. E.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Carocari, D. E.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Darst, L. A.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Soucy, H. J.	S/Sgt. Radio Operator
Lease, H. Y.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Spillman, P. H.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Feller, M. S.	Sgt. Right Waist
Backman, I. D.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Evans, R. W.	Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C 118	
Hagarty, Daniel D.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Hytinen, Harold R.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
MacKay, Norman C.	Capt. Navigator
Rylands, Richard E.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Heintz, Warren G.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Klingenberger, James R.	S/Sgt. Top Turret
Wandetowski, Vincent M.	Sgt. Ball Turret
Crawbuck, John J.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Bartholomae, Russel W.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C 958	
Loftin, J. L.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Cornell, C. E.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Beckerman, H.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Czarny, S. J.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Silverberg, C. G.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Kwoke, L. J.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Cyrek, E.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Nader, J. C.	T/Sgt. Right Waist
Huhn, A. O.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Alford, A. T.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C 832	
Ohl, Charles O.	1st Lt. Pilot
Muchway, Earl.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Stralser, Harold L.	2nd Lt. Navigator
	2nd Lt. Bombardier

Heinz, George.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Sikorksi, Mike	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Tanney, Joseph N.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Schneider, Donald H.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Sword, Dean F.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Whitford, Gilbert D.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner
Scott, Thomas G.		

4. Mission to Romilly Sur Seine, France, scrubbed. Target was to be the Air Park and Aerodrome.

6. Six of our Fortresses, with Major Kunkel leading the Group, were airborne at 0600. This time they were off to bomb the Robert Bosch Works in Stuttgart, Germany. Manufactured there are absolutely essential parts for German aircraft. About 33 E/A were seen on this mission. Very few attacks were made on this group. No claims were made. Following is a list of crews participating:

A/C 832		
Hagarty, Daniel D.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Hytinen, Harold R.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
MacKay, Norman C.	Capt.	Navigator
Rylands, Richard E.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Savage, William C.	T/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Klingenberger, James R.	S/Sgt.	Top Turret
Wandetowski, Vincent M.	Sgt.	Ball Turret
Crawbuck, John J.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Raglin, Charles	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 118		
Ohl, Charles O.	1st Lt.	Pilot
Muchway, Earl.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Stralser, Harold L.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Heinz, George.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Sikorksi, Mike	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Tanney, Joseph N.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Schneider, Donald H.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Sword, Dean F.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Whitford, Gilbert D.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Scott, Thomas G.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 078		
Niederriter, R. J.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Rowan, D. E.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Carocari, D. E.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Darst, L. A.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Soucy, H. J.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Lease, H. Y.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Machman, Ivan	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Spillman, P. H.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Schnitzler, A. C.	Sgt.	Right Waist
Evans, R. W.	Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 958	2nd Lt. Pilot
Loftin, J. L.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Cornell, C. E.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Beckerman, H.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Czarny, S. J.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Silverberg, C. G.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Kwoke, L. J.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Cyrek, E.	T/Sgt. Right Waist
Nader, J. C.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Huhn, A. O.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner
Alford, A. T.	

7. Five aircraft of this squadron took off at 0545 to pay a visit to German a/c repair works of Brussels/Evere, Belgium.

Bombing results were very good. Photos show that there were direct hits on MPI. There were direct hits on many shops and hangers. 10 to 12 e/a were seen by the formation but no attacks were made. No claims made. Following crews participated:

A/C 29832	2nd Lt. Pilot
Loftin, J. L.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Cornell, C. E.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Beckerman, H.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Czarny, S. J.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Silverberg, C. G.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Kwoke, L. J.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Cyrek, E.	T/Sgt. Right Waist
Nader, J. C.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Huhn, A. O.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner
Alford, A. T.	

A/C 30012	1st Lt. Pilot
Fricks, Robert O.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Downey, Martin H.	1st Lt. Navigator
Lyons, Raymond P.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Moore, Keith D.	S/Sgt. Radio Operator
Vaughn, Dallas W.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Phillips, Guy F.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Vance, William F.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Winkle, John C.	Sgt. Left Waist
West, James E.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner
Calhoun, Robert B.	

A/C 3078	2nd Lt. Pilot
Niederriter, R. J.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Rowan, D. E.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Carocari, D. E.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Darst, L. A.	S/Sgt. Radio Operator
Soucy, H. J.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Lease, H. Y.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Bachman, Ivan	Sgt. Right Waist
Spillman, P. H.	S/Sgt. Left Waist

Schnitzler, A. C..	Sgt.	Tail Gunner
Evans, R. W.		
A/C 761-E8		
Ohl, Charles O.	1st Lt.	Pilot
Muchway, Earl.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Stralser, Harold L.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Heinz, George.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Sikorksi, Mike	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Tanney, Joseph N.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Schneider, Donald H.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Sword, Dean F.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Whitford, Gilbert D.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Scott, Thomas G.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 3118-C		
Hagarty, Daniel D.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Hytinen, Harold R.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
MacKay, Norman C.	Capt.	Navigator
Rylands, Richard E.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Savage, William C.	T/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Klingenberger, James R.	S/Sgt.	Top Turret
Bullions, Charles S.	Sgt.	Ball Turret
Crawbuck, John J.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Bartholomae, Russell W.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Vina, Daniel A.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

9. Four of the squadron's a/c took part in a raid on the Airfield at Lille/Nord, France. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Mission went well and all a/c bombed and returned safe to base. The following crews took part:

A/C not noted		
Loftin, J. L.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Cornell, C. E.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Beckerman, H.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Czarny, S. J.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Silverberg, C. G.	T/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Kwoke, L. J.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Cyrek, E.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Nader, J. C.	T/Sgt.	Right Waist
Huhn, A. O.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Alford, A. T.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C not noted		
Hagarty, Daniel D.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Hytinen, Harold R.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
MacKay, Norman C.	Capt.	Navigator
Rylands, Richard E.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Savage, William C.	T/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Hinkle, J. C.	S/Sgt.	Top Turret
Well Morris?	Sgt.	Ball Turret
Crawbuck, John J.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
	S/Sgt.	Right Waist

Raglin, C. H.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner
Vina, Daniel A.		
A/C 012		
Fricks, Robert O.	1st Lt.	Pilot
Downey, Martin H.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Lyons, Raymond P.	1st Lt.	Navigator
Moore, Keith D.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Vaughn, Dallas W.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Phillips, Guy F.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Vance, William F.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
		Right. Waist??
West, James E.	Sgt.	Left Waist
Calhoun, Robert B.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 078		
Niederriter, R. J.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Rowan, D. E.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Carocari, D. E.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Darst, L. A.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Soucy, H. J.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Lease, H. Y.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Bachman, Ivan	S/Sgt.	Right Turret
Spillman, P. H.	Sgt.	Left Waist
Schnitzler, A. C.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
		Tail Gunner??

The second mission of the day was planned and scrubbed before the take-off. The target was to have been the S. A. Andre Citroen Aero Engine Works on the Seine River S. of Paris.

10. What was to have been the group's second raid on enemy occupied Norway was scrubbed before take-off. The primary target was to have been the U-Boat center at Bergen.

15. In the effort to wipe out enemy airfields in France, today's mission sent our ships to the Airfield and Air Part at Romilly Sur Seine, France. (Important reserve aircraft base.) Six of our aircraft were airborne at 1615 and were on their way to the target. Enemy aircraft activity was almost at a standstill only 7 to 8 e/a were observed; these made a few passes at the low group and then headed for home. AA fire encountered was in general meager. The target area was well bracketed and bombing results were considered good. Following crews participated:

A/C 42-30012		
Fricks, Robert O.	1st Lt.	Pilot
Downey, Martin H.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Lyons, Raymond P.	1st Lt.	Navigator
Nicholson, Raymond W.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Vaughn, Dallas W.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Phillips, Guy F.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Vance, William F.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Winkle, John C.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist??
West, James E.	Sgt.	Left Waist
Calhoun, Robert B.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 23009		
Ohl, Charles O.	1st Lt.	Pilot
	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot

Muchway, Earl.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Stralser, Harold L.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Heinz, George.	S/Sgt. Radio Operator
Sikorksi, Mike	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Tanney, Joseph N.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Schneider, Donald H.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Sword, Dean F.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Whitford, Gilbert D.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner
Scott, Thomas G.	

A/C 958	
Schomburg, Wayne G.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Harlin, Covey E.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
O'Sullivan, George D.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Kemper, Robert M.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Soucy, Herman J.	S/Sgt. Radio Operator
Hinkle, Joe C.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Tichy, Robert G.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Weaver, Robert G.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Roy, Roger, J.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Tappero, George J.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C 751	
Rutan, D. J.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Howcroft, J. H.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Waldman, R. J.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Rokosa, P. V.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Kaufman, J. W.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Hartnett, G. W.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Morrison, N. G.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Bartholomew, R. W.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Seward, P. O.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Jones, C. M.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C 118	
Yorba, Bernardo M.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Childers, G. L.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Dall, Martin M.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Robertson, W. G.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Gracey, Edgar H.	Sgt. Radio Operator
Gorgone, William	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Boylan, Robert	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Carter, Charles L.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Dunn, James W.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Johnson, Johnie L.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C 832	
Lishon, Dexter	1st Lt. Pilot
Doerfler, Joseph	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Carocari, Richard A.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Darst, Lester A.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
	T/Sgt. Radio Operator

Riddle, Lloyd G.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Johnson, C. M.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Madison, Clarence D.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Schnalzer, John J.	Sgt.	Right Waist
Stuart, George A.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner
Marquez, William J.		

16. Target for today was the port area of Nantes, France. With Major Kunkel leading the group of 20 a/c, six of our Forts took off at 1218. 35 to 40 FS 190's and Me 109's began unsuccessful attacks to break up the formation. The group was unable to see the primary target due to smoke screens and heavy clouds. However, an A/D south of the target was bombed after seeing the bombs of another group hit at this target. Crews that participated:

A/C 633		
Rutan, D. J.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Howcroft, J. H.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Waldman, R. J.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Rokosa, P. V.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Kaufman, J. W.	T/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Hartnett, G. W.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Morrison, N. G.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Bartholomew, R. W.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Seward, P. O.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Jones, C. M.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 078		
Niederriter, R. J.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Rowan, D. E.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Carocari, D. E.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Darst, L. A.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Soucy, H. J.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Lease, H. Y.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Bachman, Ivan	S/Sgt.	Right Turret
Spillman, P. H.	Sgt.	Left Waist
Schnitzler, A. C.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Evans, R. W.	Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 958		
Loftin, J. L.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Cornell, C. E.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Beckerman, H.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Czarny, S. J.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Silverberg, C. G.	T/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Kwoke, L. J.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Cyrek, E.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Nader, J. C.	T/Sgt.	Right Waist
Huhn, A. O.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Alford, A. T.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C K 42-30012	1st Lt.	Pilot
Fricks, Robert O.	Major	Co-pilot
Kunkel, D. E.	1st Lt.	Navigator

Lyons, Raymond P.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Moore, K. D.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Vaughn, Dallas W.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Phillips, Guy F.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Vance, William F.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Winkle, John C.	Sgt.	Left Waist
West, James E.	2nd Lt.	Tail Gunner
Downey, Martin H.		

A/C 751		
Schomburg, Wayne G.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Harlin, Covey E.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
O'Sullivan, George D.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Kemper, Robert M.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Soucy, Herman J.	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Hinkle, Joe C.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Tichy, Robert G.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Weaver, Robert G.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Roy, Roger, J.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Tappero, George J.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

A/C 029		
Ohl, Charles O.	1st Lt.	Pilot
Shackley, C. G.	Capt.	Co-pilot
Stralser, Harold L.	1st Lt.	Navigator
Heinz, George.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Sikorksi, Mike	S/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Tanney, Joseph N.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Schneider, Donald H.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Sword, Dean F.	S/Sgt.	Right Waist
Whitford, Gilbert D.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist
Scott, Thomas G.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

17. Today's raid is planned against Germany's leading airscrew Factories which are located at Frankfurt. Planes did not take off as mission was scrubbed.

18. The target of Nantes, France (Port area) was to be attacked. Mission was scrubbed before take-off.

Today's target is scheduled to be the Junkers Aircraft Assembly and Repair Works at Reims/Champagne, France. Mission is scrubbed before take-off.

23. Today's mission is planned against the Depot ship Kertosenoin the river Loire (nr. Nantes, France.) Six of this sqdns A/C took off from the base at 0430. Heading over the English coast they missed the rendezvous formation and were forced to turn back. Landing at this base was made at 0718.

Information for another bomb loading for a second trip to Nantes, France, was received. This failed to materialize.

24. Target for today's mission is the Airscrew, Aircraft Component and Non-ferrous metal works in Frankfurt, Germany. Mission was scrubbed before take-off.

26. Six of our a/c took off to bomb the aircraft assembly plant at Meulan Les Mureau, France. Due to unfavorable weather our a/c, along with 14 others of this group, did not bomb. Lts Fricks and Rutan returned to this base after going to mid-channel as their a/c were listed as spares. Crews that received credit for a combat mission were:

A/C not listed	
Niederriter, R. J.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Rowan, D. E.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Carocari, D. E.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Darst, L. A.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
West, James E.	Sgt. Radio Operator
Lease, H. Y.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Bachman, Ivan	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Spillman, P. H.	Sgt. Right Waist
Schnitzler, A. C..	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Evans, R. W.	Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C not noted	
Hagarty, Daniel D.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Kesley, Howard N.	F/O Co-pilot
MacKay, Norman C.	Capt. Navigator
Rylands, Richard E.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Savage, William C.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Klingenberger, James R.	S/Sgt. Top Turret
Bensall, Grover S.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Crawbuck, John J.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Raglin, C. H.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Vina, Daniel A.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C not listed	
Yorba, Bernardo M.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Childers, G. L.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Dall, Martin M.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Robertson, W. G.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Gracey, Edgar H.	Sgt. Radio Operator
Gorgone, William	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Harkness, Harold	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Carter, Charles L.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
Dunn, James W.	S/Sgt. Right Waist
Johnson, Johnie L.	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

A/C not listed	
Loftin, J. L.	2nd Lt. Pilot
Cornell, C. E.	2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Beckerman, H.	2nd Lt. Navigator
Czarny, S. J.	2nd Lt. Bombardier
Silverberg, C. G.	T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Kwoke, L. J.	T/Sgt. Top Turret
Cyrek, E.	S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Nader, J. C.	T/Sgt. Right Waist
Huhn, A. O.	S/Sgt. Left Waist
	S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

Alford, A. T.

27. Six of our "Forts" were airborne at 0700 and on their way to the Port area at Emden, Germany. This port has grown quite a bit recently because of the damage inflicted at other ports of Germany. Among these are Wilhelmshaven, Bremen and Hamburg. Results of bombing were unobserved. James Klingenberger, T/Sgt and S/Sgt John C. Winkle were credited for the destruction of 1 each enemy aircraft. S/Sgts Tichy, Vina, Bonsell and Crawbuck were given credit for damaging an e/a apiece. With 2 engines out and much flak damage to his ship, Lt Hagerty put her down in Great Ashfield (AAF Base). Two crew members were injured prior to landing. Following crews participated: A/C 754 – Capt Charles Ohl and crew, A/C 012 – Capt Robert C. Fricks and crew, A/C 078 – Lt D.J. Rutan and crew, and Lt Hagarty with his crew rounded out the six Aircrews that took part.

28. Word was received that the German pocket battleship Lutzow was moving out of her hiding place. Mission was planned to seek and bomb this craft. However it was scrubbed due to poor weather.

29. Mission planned for the second bombing of Emden, Germany this week. Scrubbed prior to briefing.

30. Awards for the month for outstanding achievement during combat operations were many. Leading the list was Major D.E. Kunkel Jr., Squadron C.O. who led his Squadron through 16 missions without loss of a single aircraft. The following list of Officers and Enlisted Men received citations as listed:

Major D. E. Kunkel Jr	Silver Star
2nd Lt. Harold M. Becker	Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Hyman Beckerman	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Richard A. Carocari	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Chester E. Cornell	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Stanley J. Czarney	Air Medal
2nd Lt. Darst, Lester A.	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Lt. Darrel C. Debolt	Purple Heart and Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Lt. Martin Downey	Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart
Capt. Robert O. Fricks	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Capt. Norman C. Mackay	Purple Heart and Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Earl L. Muchway	Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Niederriter, Richard	Air Medal
Capt. Charles O. Ohl	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
2nd Lt. Phillip V. Rokosa	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
2nd Lt. D. E. Rowan Jr.	Air Medal
Donald J. Rutan	Oak Leaf Cluster
2nd Lt. Richard E. Rylands	Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart
1st Lt. Robert (NMI) Gluck	Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart
1st Lt. Daniel Hagarty	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
1st Lt. George W. Heinz	Oak Leaf Cluster and DFC
2nd Lt. John H. Howcroft	Air Medal
1st Lt. Harold Hytinen	Oak Leaf Cluster
Capt. Dexter Lishon	Oak Leaf Cluster
1st Lt. James L. Loftin	Air Medal
1st Lt. Raymond P. Lyons	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
1st Lt. Harold L. Stralser	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
S/Sgt. Allan T. Alford	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Ivan D. Backman	Air Medal
S/Sgt. James E Baker	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster

S/Sgt. Russel Bartholomae	Oak Leaf Cluster
S/Sgt. Grover S. Bonsell	Oak Leaf Cluster
S/Sgt. Robert Calhoun	DFC and Oak Leaf Cluster
S/Sgt. John Crawbuck	2 Oak Leaf Clusters and Purple Heart
S/Sgt. Eugene Cyrek	Air Medal
S/Sgt. James W. Dunn	Purple Heart
Sgt. Richard Evans	Air Medal
T/Sgt. Carl Hartnett	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Allen O. Huhn	Air Medal
T/Sgt. Canute M. Johnson	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
S/Sgt. Clarence M. Jones	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters
T/Sgt. Jack W. Kaufman	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters
T/Sgt. James Klingenberg	3 Oak Leaf Clusters
T/Sgt. Leon J. Kwoka	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Clarence Madison	2 Oak Leaf Clusters and DFC
S/Sgt. William Marques	3 Oak Leaf Clusters and DFC
S/Sgt. Richard G. Morrison	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster
T/Sgt. Joseph C. Nader	Air Medal
T/Sgt. Guy F. Phillips	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
S/Sgt. Charles Raglin	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster
T/Sgt. Lloyd Riddle	3 Oak Leaf Clusters
T/Sgt. William C. Savage	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
S/Sgt. John Schnalzer	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster
S/Sgt. Donald Schneider	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Sgt. A. M. Schnitzler	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Thomas G. Scott	Oak Leaf Cluster
S/Sgt. Paul V. Seward	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Mike Sikorski	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
T/Sgt. Charles Silverberg	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Soucy, Herman	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Poyner, Spillman	Air Medal
Sgt. George A. Stuart	Air Medal
S/Sgt. Dean F. Sword	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
T/Sgt. Joseph N. Tanney	2 Oak Leaf Clusters and DFC
S/Sgt. William Vance	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
S/Sgt. Daniel Vinann (unreadable)	2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Oak Leaf to P. Heart
S/Sgt. Dalias Vaughn	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Sgt. James E. West	Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Gilbert D. Whitford	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
S/Sgt. John C. Winkle	2 Oak Leaf Clusters

Old bars gave way to new this month as 1st Lts. Ohl, Lishon, Fricks and Stull were promoted to Captain. Those that changed the "Gold" for the "Silver" bars were Lts. Nunamaker, Stralser, Debolt, Gluck, Heinz, Rytinen, Loftin, Hagerty, Delchamps, Hanks, and Slaughter.

Standing strength of the Squadron at the months end is 54 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 1 Flight Officer and 342 Enlisted Men.

October 1943

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

October 1943

2. With Major David E. Kunkel, Squadron Commander, leading the Group's 19 Aircraft, six of the 534th's Fortresses were dispatched and took off from this base at 1315 to attack the Port areas of Emden, Germany. This target is important in view of the fact that it is the terminus of the inland waterways of the Reich. It is also a vital naval and ship building center. The target was attacked successfully with little opposition. All aircraft dropped their bombs but the crews were unable to report observations as there was a 10/10 cloud coverage. The pilots, with their crews, that took part are: Major D. E. Kunkel Jr. – flying lead ship with Capt. Robert Fricks, Lt. J. Loftin, Lt. W.G. Schomburg, Lt. Yorbe, and Lt. D. J. Rutan.

A second mission for today is planned against the Aircraft Component Works, makers of FW 190 parts, at Kassel, Germany. This mission was scrubbed prior to briefing.

4. Capt. C. Ohl, Capt. D. Lishon, Lt. Yorba, Lt. R. J. Niederriter, Lt. J. L. Loftin, and Lt. D. J. Rutan, with their respective crews, took off from this base at 0830 to attack the City of Frankfurt, Germany. Our crews reported bombing as “good” to “fair” – with smoke and fire seen coming from the heart of the city. AA Fire was reported as moderate to intense. Enemy fighter opposition was reported as very strong. The fighters encountered were chiefly FW 190's and Me 109's. The crews saw plenty of action and managed to get in some good shots. Officially credited with one each enemy aircraft destroyed are: 1st Lt. Harold Stralser – Bombardier and Sgts. Nick Rossi, and Daniel A. Vine – Gunners. Credited with one each enemy aircraft damaged are T/Sgt. Joseph C. Nader and S/Sgt. Robert R. Boylan.

5. Promoted this date from 2nd Lt To 1st Lt are Lts Donald J. Rutan and Richard J. Niederriter.

7. Target for today is the submarine and warship building yard in the center of Bremen, Germany (Port Area). Aircraft did not take off and this raid was scrubbed before crews were briefed.

8. Heading the 534th's contingent of Forts to the submarine and ship building yards of Bremen, Germany was Capt. Dexter Lishon. Others that took part were the crews of pilots Miller and Niederriter, who also piloted their ship over the target. Bombing results were reported as unobserved, though all aircraft dropped their bombs within the target. The boys told of the stiff fighter opposition encountered along the way and the heavy flak thrown up at the formations. Bombardier Stanely J. Czerney, 2nd Lt was officially credited with the destruction of one enemy aircraft on this raid. This mission proved costly to us as we suffered the loss of A/C 722 with Captain Dexter Lishon and crew. Cause, time and place of this loss is unknown. Those listed as missing in action are:

Lishon, Dexter	Capt	Pilot
Long, C. H.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Gluck, Robert	1st Lt.	Navigator
Rokose, P. V.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Riddle, Lloyd G.	T/Sgt.	Radio Operator
Johnson, C. M.	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Madison, Clarence D.	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Schnalzer, John J.	S/Sgt.	Left Waist

Stuart, George A. Sgt. Right Waist
Marquez, William J. S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

9. Six of our Fortresses took off at 0803 to participate in the longest raid yet. This time it was Anklem, Germany. Today's target is the important Arado Aircraft Components factory located just off the center of the town. Bombing results were reported as good. Crews stated that they had a good bomb run and observed the mean point of impact to be saturated with bursts. AA Fire was moderate on way in, becoming intense over the target. Again the Germans threw up everything they had in fighters. Our crews stuck by their guns and accounted for 5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 2 probably destroyed and 3 as damaged. Those receiving credit for destruction of e/a are: S/Sgt. Clyde C. Draa, S/Sgt. G. J. Tappero, S/Sgt. A. C. Schnitzler, T/Sgt. CW. Hartnett, and T/Sgt. Poyner H. Spillman. S/Sgt. Robert Tichy and Sgt. Jone E. West got the "probables" and 2nd Lt. Robert M. Kempler, T/Sgt. Mel T. Wilson and S/Sgt. Robert Tichy received credit for one each "damaged." For the second day in a row we suffered the loss of an A/C and a crew. A/C J—958 with Lt J.L. Loftin and crew are reported missing in action. Cause, time and place of loss are still unknown. The pilots, with their crews that participated on this mission are: Lt. D.J. Rutan, Lt. Miller, Lt. Yorba, Lt. Schomburg, and Lt. Niederriter. Listed below is crew missing in action:

Loftin, J. L. 2nd Lt. Pilot
Cornell, C. E. 2nd Lt. Co-pilot
Beckerman, H. 2nd Lt. Navigator
Czarny, S. J. 2nd Lt. Bombardier
Silverberg, C. G. T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Kwoke, L. J. T/Sgt. Top Turret
Cyrek, E. S/Sgt. Ball Turret
Nader, J. C. T/Sgt. Right Waist
Huhn, A. O. S/Sgt. Left Waist
Alford, A. T. S/Sgt. Tail Gunner

10. Combat Crewman assigned for duty with Squadron this date are:

John J. Silvernale 2nd Lt. Pilot
William G. Walker 2nd Lt. Co-Pilot
Milton J. Haas 2nd Lt. Navigator
Happy Hendryx 2nd Lt. Bombardier

Today's mission is planned against the important center for Rail and waterway communications, Munster, Germany. Col W. Dunlop led the Group, flying with Capt. R. Fricks and crew.

Our Squadron put up 5 A/C of the Group's total of 8. Those Aircraft that crossed the target reported bombing results as "good". Weather was clear over the target areas and bombardiers had no difficulty in picking up the aiming point. Following pilots and their crews participated: Capt. Robert Fricks, Major D.E. Kunkel, Jr. with Lt. Niederriter, and Lt. Schomburg. Lts. Yorba and Miller were listed as abortives.

11. Today's target is to be the Port area of Emden, Germany. Again it's the important naval and ship building center that is to be hit. However, the mission is scrubbed before briefing.

13. The same mission to Emden, Germany is briefed to the crews. Forming high squadron of the group's 18 A/C the 534th put up six Forts for this raid. However, all aircraft were recalled and it goes down in the books as an abortive mission. Cause: 9/10 overcast and an estimated 1500 yds visibility.

14. Total destruction of Schweinfurt was the order at today's briefing. Lying in the center of the town are the Kugel-Fisher Ball Bearing works. In these works are manufactured more than 2/3 of all Europe's output of ball bearings. Five Fortresses of the Squadron were airborne at 1035 and on their way to the all important target. Only four made crossing of the target as Lt. Miller of A/C 832 landed at Bradwell Bay, England. The crew was reported as safe. However all ships did not return to this base safe. Lt. Yorba – A/C 903 was reported going down on fire after crossing the target and 1/3 of the way back. Six chutes were seen to open. Those that returned reported that bombing results were fair. The Fortresses were under almost constant attack by enemy fighters for more than two hours. Planes of all types were in the air against them. Flak too was very thick. Gunners made claims of 2 e/a destroyed and three damaged. Receiving credit for the e/a destroyed are S/Sgt. Charles R. Raglin and S/Sgt. Dean F. Sword. Credit for those "damaged" goes to 2nd Lt. George D. O'Sullivan who got two. The other "damaged" belongs to S/Sgt. Leroy C. Weaver. Pilots and their crews that took off: Capt. C. Ohl, Lt. Niederriter, Lt. Schomburg, Lt. Miller (abortive) and Lt. Yorba (MIA).

Those missing in action:

Yorba, Bernardo M.	2nd Lt.	Pilot
Childers, G. L.	2nd Lt.	Co-pilot
Dall, Martin M.	2nd Lt.	Navigator
Robertson, W. G.	2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Gracey, Edgar H.	Sgt.	Radio Operator
Gorgone, William	T/Sgt.	Top Turret
Harkness, Harold	S/Sgt.	Ball Turret
Feller, M. F.	Sgt.	Right Waist
Huitt, K. O.	Sgt.	Left Waist
Johnson, Johnie L.	S/Sgt.	Tail Gunner

17. Today's target is to be the railway and manufacturing center of Duren, Germany. No specific factory or an MPI was designated. All that was required was to plaster the town well. Mission is scrubbed prior to briefing.

18. Duren, Germany is again named as the target. Due to adverse weather conditions this mission was again scrubbed.

20. For the third time in four days the same mission is planned. The 534th furnished one A/C, flown by Lt. Miller, of the Group total of 8. These 8 A/C flew as high squadron of the 306th Group. Crews of these aircraft were briefed at point of take-off and not by this Group's S-2. Fighter opposition was meager as only 5 – 10 enemy aircraft were reported. Fortresses did not bomb due to weather conditions. All bombs returned to base.

21. After pounding targets in Germany for all of this months operations, a target in France was named. Target is to be the Gnome and Rhone Foundry and Stamping plant on the River Seine. At this plant are manufactured special castings and stampings required in the production of Aero-engines. It is vital in maintaining the German Air Force on the Western Front. Five A/C of this squadron flew high squadron in the Group of 18 ships. Pilots and the crews are: Major D. E. Kunkel, Jr. – flying with Capt. C. Ohl, Lt. Hagarty, Niederriter, Lt. Schomburg and Lt. Miller. Take off was 0540 and the group was forming over the field when they were recalled. All A/C landed safe at 0646. Recorded as an abortive mission.

Combat Crewman assigned this date for duty:

Carr, Donald B.	T/Sgt.	AEG
Wolf, Melvin A.	T/Sgt.	ROG
Neves, Earnest?	S/Sgt.	AROG
Cassiday, Raymond	S/Sgt	AAEG

Gartland, Edward J. S/Sgt AG

Georgen, Robert E. S/Sgt AAG

22. Entire Combat Crew assigned this squadron for duty:

Hofkin, Elliott F. 2nd Lt. Pilot

Cronin, William R. 2nd Lt. Copilot

King, Leslie M. 2nd Lt. Navigator

Maurstad, Richard I. 2nd Lt. Bombardier

McDonald, Paul R. S/Sgt. AEG

Hagen, Wesley M. S/Sgt ROG

Thompson, Eldon W. S/Sgt AAEG

Sarver, Edward K. Sgt. AG

Riedinger, Lawerance D. Sgt. AROG

Guttadauro, Joseph A. Sgt. AAEG

23-29. Ground school, test flights, and practice missions took up most of the time as adverse weather conditions hampered operations over enemy occupied Europe by Flying Fortresses. Heavy fogs were common and the field was closed out on several occasions.

30. The target is designated and 5 crews of this squadron were briefed for the first time since the 21st of the month. This time they were out to hit the transportation center of the Ruhr Valley, Gelsinkirchen, Germany. As soon as the Aircraft took off and began forming over the field they were recalled.

31. A number of Officers and Enlisted Combat Crewman completed enough sorties, shot down enemy aircraft and accomplished other deeds of valor that merit awards. However, none of the various medals, oak leaf clusters, etc. were presented this month.

Strength of personnel for the squadron stands at 49 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 1 Flight Officer and 352 Enlisted Men.

November 1943

534th Bomb Sq.

381st Bomb Group (H)

WAR DIARY

Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

November 1943

1. Usual Garrison duties.

2. Usual Garrison duties.

3. Six aircraft of this Squadron, flying high squadron in the Group, took off at 0920 and followed the route as briefed to their target of Wilhemshaven, Germany (Port Area). Approximately 15 to 20 E/A were reported but no attacks were made on the Squadron or the Groups total of 27 ships. Crews attributed lack of enemy attacks to the excellent fighter cover provided by the P-38's. At the target area Anti-Aircraft fire was meager to moderate. Bombs were released over the target but no observations were made due to a heavy cloud cover. All A/C returned safe to base and landing made at 1527. Pilots with respective crews that participated on this mission are: Capt. Charles Ohl, Lt. Don J. Rutan, Lt. W. Schomburg, Lt. Daniel Hagerty, Lt. Richard Neiderriter, and Lt. Silvernale.

4. The 534th was to fly low squadron in the group on today's mission which was to carry them to the heart of the Ruhr, Gelsinkirchen, Germany. Target is to be the Central Station Marshalling Yards and the Schalker Verin Iron and Steel Works. This operation was scrubbed prior to take off.

5. Again flying low squadron in the Group – six of our Flying Forts participated on an operation to Gelsinkirchen, Germany. Riding through intense flak, the heaviest our airman have ever seen, all A/C made a bomb run and dropped their load on the target which was the important railway center and the Schalker Verin iron and steel works. Many hits were observed in and around the target area. A few enemy fighters filtered through the tight fighter escort provided by P-40's. However, one "jerry" failed and S/Sgt. Grover S. Bonsell of Lt. Hagarty's crew received credit for an enemy aircraft destroyed. 1st Lt. George W. Heinz, bombardier from Capt. C. Ohl's aircraft, was the first airman of this station to complete his operational tour of duty as today marked his 25th bomber mission over enemy occupied territory. In the same ship that Lt. Heinz finished up, Capt. C. Ohl, the pilot, was seriously wounded. 1st Lt. Martin Downey, the copilot sustained wrist and nose wounds. Pilots and crews that took part on this mission are as follows: Capt. Charles Ohl, Lt. Don J. Rutan, Lt. W. Schomburg, Lt. Daniel Hagarty, Lt. Richard Niederriter, and Lt. Silvernale. All of the squadrons aircraft made it back to the base at 1525 having take off at 1000 hours.

6. The Squadron was scheduled to lead the Group on an operation to Emden, Germany. Major D. E. Kunkel, Jr., squadron C.O. was to lead the formation to the center of Emden. However, the mission was scrubbed at the last minute.

7. Six of our Forts returned to the Ruhr valley today to bomb the railways of Wesel, Germany. The groups 20 A/C were under command of Major D.E. Kunkel, Jr., as our Squadron lead the formation over the target. Major Kunkel flew in the lead ship with Capt. Robert O. Fricks. Other pilots, their crews and A/C that took part were Lts. Hofkin, Niederriter, Rutan, Hagarty and Silvernale. This operation was described as successful by those that participated. All A/C bombed but observations were not made, due to heavy cloud cover. AA Fire was weak, fighter attacks were nil and in general the mission went well. Formation was off at 0820 and all made safe landings at 1305 hours. This flight marked the completion of Combat duty for 1st Lt. Raymond P. Lyons, navigator of Capt. Robert Frick's crew. T/Sgt. William F. Vance, ball turret operator of the same ship also made his 25th today. These two airmen ran the sqdn's total of those completing their tour to three.

8. Nuess, Germany is the designated target for today. Centered in the city are the Marshalling yards and the Bauer & Schaurte Bolt Factories. Scrubbed before briefing.

9-10. With the coming of new crews to our squadron, Operations officers, training officers, etc., are kept busy processing the new men. Many of these new crews are to be assigned to us for duty while others are to be attached for training and then assigned to others squadrons or groups. Those assigned are as follows:

2nd Lt. Larson, Austin G.

2nd Lt. Kuhl, John J.

2nd Lt. Wilson Francis B.

2nd Lt. Hampton, Edward L. Jr.

2nd Lt. Neff, Horace R.

2nd Lt. Lambert, Edward R.

2nd Lt. Regan George T.

2nd Lt. Glaizier, Jack C.

S/Sgt. Nix, Edwin A.
Pvt. Tainor, Michael J.
Sgt. Copeland, Milton B.
Sgt. Dwyer, Jack E.
Sgt. Owens, Harry E.
Sgt. Macko, George

S/Sgt. Hotter Carl H.
S/Sgt. Bortnial, Peter
Sgt. Leiske, Clarence
Sgt. Puckett, Joseph H.
Sgt. Howard, Ashel D.
Sgt. Norton, Chester J.

2nd Lt. Mickow, Laurence H.
2nd Lt. Hopkins, James M.
2nd Lt. Wendell, Roy E.
2nd Lt. Maguire, Hugh E.
S/Sgt. Pierson, Glendon B.
S/Sgt. Chandler, Julien R.
S/Sgt. Ayers, George
S/Sgt. Nersinger, Raymond
Sgt. Fabianski, Joseph E.
Sgt. Williams, Alex NMI

2nd Lt. Petroski, Robert F.
2nd Lt. Williams, Galon E.
2nd Lt. Buchanan, William E.
2nd Lt. Mikulik, John NMI
S/Sgt. Gibson, Lee B.
Sgt. Farina, James G.
Sgt. Rourke, Robert M.
Sgt. Dirnam, Robert P.
Sgt. Glancey, Robert J.
Sgt. Henry, James E.

2nd Lt. Wilson Adron D.
2nd Lt. Donald, Donald J.
2nd Lt. Connolly, Joseph F.
2nd Lt. Ullom, Harry F.
Sgt. Emabach? (hard to read), John F.
Sgt. Nisbet, Richard H.
Sgt. Geraghty, Robert J.
Susaek, xxlater H.
Sgt. Homer, Arthur Jr.
Sgt. Greco, Anthony E.

2nd Lt. Canelake, Leo NMI
F/O Johnson, Harry B.
2nd Lt. Bosoton, Harry B.
2nd Lt. Cisek, Max M.
S/Sgt. Fluery, Clifford G.
S/Sgt. Hernandez, Tony T.
S/Sgt. Avrett, John V.
Sgt. Brown, Robert W.
Sgt. Phillips, Thomas W.
Sgt. Belgrasch, Francis N.

10. Mission was planned to Bremen, Germany. This failed to materialize. Mission is scrubbed.

11. Flying Forts of this Squadron took off to bomb the railway yards and canals of Wesel, Germany. Weather over the enemy coast was unfavorable and all A/C returned to base with bomb loads. Pilots and crews that attempted this mission were: Lt. D.J. Rutan, Lt. Neiderriter, Miller, Lt. Hagarty, Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Hofkin. This is listed as an abortive mission.

13. The 534th was scheduled to fly high squadron in the Group. Six of our A/C were up to attack the submarine and ship building yards on the river Weser in Bremen, Germany. Due to unfavorable weather conditions all A/C returned to base with all bombs. A/C flew to approximately 53 – 30' N, 01 –10'E, where the turn back was made.

14. Flying high Squadron in the 381st Group this squadron participated on the Group's second raid to Norway. Target was the Molybdenum mine of Norway's little town of Knaben. 6 A/C took off and upon reaching the target area had to make two bomb runs before "bombs away". Results of bombing were reported as unobserved. AA Fire was mild and a enemy air opposition was very weak as only two enemy aircraft were reported. Finishing up their tour of operations on this one were 1st Lt. Martin Downey, S/Sgt. Tanney, S/Sgt. Schnieder, S/Sgt. Whitford, S/Sgt. Dean F. Sword and S/Sgt. Scott. Capt O. Ohl was allowed his 25th when records revealed that on a previous raid, that was recorded as abortive, was counted as a mission since his A/C had penetrated enemy territory. Pilots with their respective crews that took part on this raid are: Capt. Robert O. Fricks, Lt. Niederriter, Lt. Hofkin, Lt. Rutan, Lt. Silvernale and Lt. Schomburg.

15. Stand downs were frequent orders due to unfavorable operational weather.

20. There was a formation of all available personnel for the purpose of presenting the Good Conduct medal to those deserving. Major Kunkel made the presentations.

23. The target is designated and the Forts were due to bomb the City of Bremen, Germany. However mission as called off.

24. The same target is ordered for today. This too was scrubbed.

26. After being scrubbed twice in a row, the mission to Bremen, Germany was finally pulled. Six of our A/C flew high squadron of the composite group that flew with the 1st Combat Bomb Wing, the other A/C with Capt. Robert O. Fricks and crew flew in the lead squadron of the Group. All A/C except Lt. Hytinen's 845 bombed the target area successfully. Results of bombing were unobserved as crews reported heavy cloud coverage and haze. AA Fire over the target was reported as intense but meager on the way in and out. Little or no fighter opposition was experienced as fighter support was described as "excellent". Flying their 25th mission were Capt. Robert O. Fricks and S/Sgt. Daniel A. Vina. Crew Captains that took part are: Capt. Robert Fricks, Lt. D. Hagarty, Lt. Silvernale, Lt. W. Schomburg, Lt. H. Hytinen, and Lt R. Niederriter.

29. Six of our Forts were again to go to Bremen, Germany. Flying the low squadron of the Group our ships were airborne at 1045 hours. However all A/C turned back due to abandonment of mission by Division Air Commander. Target was not reached and all A/C returned all bombs to base landing at 1540. Lt. D Hagarty was squadron leader with Lts. Silvernale, Hytinen, Schomburg, Niederriter and Miller participating on the raid.

30. With Major Kunkel leading the Squadron, which led the composite Group, 6 of our A/C took off at 0745 to Solingen, Germany. There they were to bomb the Aero-Engine casting works of Rudolf Rautenback. Halfway across the channel A/C turned back due to poor flying conditions. In the attempt were: Major D.E. Kunkel and Lt. A Tucker, Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Schomburg, Lt. Niederriter and Lt. Miller.

Many of the Combat crewmen were presented with awards for outstanding achievement during their tour of duty. This month's list is as follows:

Carocari, Richard A.	2nd Lt. Oak Leaf Cluster – Air Medal
Darst, Lester A.	2nd Lt. Air Medal – 2 Oak Leaf Clusts
De Wolt, Darrell C.	1st Lt. Oak Leaf Cluster
Doerfler, Joseph NMI	2nd Lt. Air Medal
Fricks, Robert C.	Capt. Oak Leaf Cluster

Haas, Milton J.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal
Hagarty, Daniel A.	1st Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Harlin, Covey E.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal
Hendryx, Happy	2nd Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Howcroft, John Hl	2nd Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Hytinen, Harold R.	1st Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Kempker, Robert M.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal
Klein, Edward A.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal
Kunkel, David E. Jr.	Major	Oak Leaf
McCarthy, David A.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal
Miller, Robert E.	1st Lt.	Air Medal
Muchway, Earl L.	2nd Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Niederriter, Richard J.	1st Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
O'Sullivan, George D.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal
Rowan, Delphus E. Jr.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal – Oak Leaf Cluster
Rutan, Donald J.	1st Lt.	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Rylands, Richard E.	1st Lt.	Oak Leaf Clusters
Schomburg, Wayne G.	1st Lt.	Air Medal
Silvernale, John A.	2nd Lt.	Air Medal
Stralser, Harold L	1st Lt.	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Waldman, Ralph	2nd Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Backman, Ivan D.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal – 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Bartholomae, Russel N.	Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Bonsall, Grover S.	S/Sgt	Oak Leaf Cluster
Crawbuck, John NMI	S/Sgt	Oak Leaf Cluster
Defenbaugh, Ross N.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal
Draa, Clyde C.	S/Sgt.	Oak Leaf cluster
Evans, Richard W.	S/Sgt	Air Medal – 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Ferms, Joseph G.	T/Sgt.	Air Medal
Gartland, Edward J.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal
Hartnett, Carl W.	T/Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Kaufman, Jack W.	T/Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Kosdan, Nathan NMI	S/Sgt	Air Medal
Lease, Harry NMI	T/Sgt.	Air Medal – Oak Leaf Cluster

Lemos, George A.	T/Sgt	Air Medal
Morrison, Ernest NMI	S/Sgt	Air Medal
Neves, Ernest	S/Sgt.	Air Medal
Phillips, Guy F.	T/Sgt	Oak Leaf
Raglin, Charles H.	T/Sgt	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Roy, Roger J.	Sgt.	Air Medal
Savage, William G.	T/Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Schnitzler, Andrew C.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal – Oak Leaf Cluster
Seward, Paul V.	S/Sgt.	Oak Leaf
Sikorski, Mike NMI	T/Sgt	Oak Leaf Cluster
Soucy, Herman J.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal – Oak Leaf Clusters
Spillman, Poyner	T/Sgt	Air Medal
Tichy, Robert G.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal
Vance, William F.	T/Sgt	Oak Leaf
Vaughn, Dallas W.	T/Sgt.	Oak Leaf
Vina, Daniel A.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal
Weaver, Leroy C.	S/Sgt	Air Medal
West, James E.	S/Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Wilson, Melvin F.	T/Sgt.	Air Medal
Winkle, John C.	S/Sgt.	2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Ohl, Charles	Capt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Schneider, Donald H.	S/Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Scott, Thomas G.	S/Sgt.	2 Oak Leafs – DFC
Sword, Dean F.	S/Sgt	Oak Leaf Cluster
Tanney, Joseph N.	T/Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Whitford, Gilbert D.	S/Sgt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Downey, Martin H.	1st Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Lyons, Raymond P.	1st Lt.	Oak Leaf Cluster
Hinkle, Joe C.	T/Sgt.	Air Medal
Tappero, George J.	S/Sgt.	Air Medal

At the months end total number of personnel stands at 77 Officers and 389 Enlisted men. During the month 1st Lt. James E. O'Brien was promoted to Capt and Flight Officer Howard N. Kealey was commissioned a 2nd Lt.

December 1943

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

December 1943

1. Getting off to a fast start for the month of December the 534th furnished six aircraft on the first raid of the month to bomb the chemical works of I. G. Farbenindustrie, situated on the banks of the Rhine, in Leverkusen, Germany. Produced here are a wide range of products, particularly poison gases. Since the factories employ over 20, 000 of the cities 50,000 inhabitants, Leverkusen is solely dependant on the factories operation. Flying in and loading the Composite Group of the 1st Combat Bomb Wing was Major D.E. Kunkel, Jr., Sqdn C.O. Using the "A" flying team as his crew Major Kunkel took off but was forced to return, due to mechanical difficulties, while the Group was forming over the field. Taking off in another "Fort" he caught and led the formations over the target. A/C and crews that made a successful run on the target are Lts. Silvernale, Schomburg, Hytinen and Major Kunkel with Lt. Tucker as his copilot. Bombs were released over the target area but none of the crews were able to observe hits as target was well hidden by cloud cover. Fighters were numerous and S/Sgt. James E. Baker is credited with knocking out a Nazi A/C. Flank was intense, as Lt. Hytinen will testify. Heavily damaged and running out of fuel he had to crash land in a field near Allhallows, England. The pilot, copilot and the bombardier were reported as injured. Forced to abort on this raid, for the first time in over 20 missions, was Lt. Niederriter and his crew. Lt. Miller was also listed as an abortive. All other ships landed safe at base at 1411 having taken off at 0807.

2-4. Usual garrison duties.

5. After 3 days of non-operational weather the skies cleared long enough for A/C of this squadron to be airborne and on their way to the target. Today's objective is the C.A.M. ball bearing works located at Bois Columbes near Paris. By knocking this plant out a serious blow could be dealt the G.A.F., since this factory is supplying German military requirements. Flying high squadron in the Group's formation, the Forts hunted the target. A solid overcast prevailed and following the practice of not dropping explosives on enemy occupied territory unless the objective is pin-pointed all bombs were returned to base. Today's operation netted the youngest pilot ever to fly as a first pilot with this squadron his 25th bomber mission. 1st Lt. Donald J. Rutan buzzed the field as his tour of duty in this theatre was ended. Before being checked out as a first pilot he flew co-pilot to Capt. Dexter Lishon, now MIA, and participated on most of the squadron's toughest missions. To date he has received the DFC, three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal.

Combat Crewman of this squadron transferred in grade and assigned to the 532nd this date:

2nd Lt. Howcroft – CP
2nd Lt. Ralph Waldman – N
T/Sgt. Carl W. Hartnett
S/Sgt. Richard G. Morrison – BTG
S/Sgt. James K. Baker
T/Sgt. Jack W. Kaufman
S/Sgt. Paul V. Seward
S/Sgt. Clyde C. Draa

6. Capt. Robert O. Fricks of the 534th, who completed his tour of duty, is appointed Station Training Officer.

7. Following listed Officers and Enlisted men are assigned to this squadron for Combat duty:

2nd Lt. Robert H. Rogers 2nd Lt. Robert W. Mohnaeky
 2nd Lt. Frances McGrath 2nd Lt. William Yake
 S/Sgt. Russel K. Meyer S/Sgt. Dale (NMI) Gentach
 S/Sgt. John Moses S/Sgt. Elmer F. Hagen
 Sgt. Sheldon Oberstein S/Sgt Peter Schenek
 2nd Lt. Edgar J. Mills 2nd Lt. Joe (NMI) Flood
 2nd Lt. Harold E. Taylor 2nd Lt. James A. Light
 Sgt. Elbert Casey Sgt. Robert Berg
 Sgt. Phillip Poch Sgt. Russel Meyer
 Sgt. Cecil L. Jernigan, Jr. Sgt. Joseph W. Grugen

11. Emden, Germany's nearest port open to Allied bombings was the main objective on this raid. Six Fortresses of this sqdn took off to bomb the North Bank of the Ems (difficult to read) estuary – terminal port of the Ems – Jade and Dortmund Ems Canal. Flying low squadron of the Group's formation the Forts found clearly visible the German port and dropped their loads. A smoke screen was evident and results were difficult to determine. No combats were reported although around 80 E/A were reported seen. These seemed to be getting ready to attack and did attack stragglers from other formations. Pilots and crews that took part on this one are Lts. Hagarty, Mickow, Petroski, Silvernale, Canelake, and Wilson. 1st Lt. Daniel D. Hagarty of A/C 0732 (The Green Hornet) finished up his tour of operations as a bomber pilot today. After buzzing the control tower three times in a row he landed his ship and proclaimed he was ready to start escorting the boys over in a '47. He has previous fighter experience as he served with the RCAF in Canada. Already assigned to a prominent fighter Group in this theater he will receive training in the P-47 before he goes on to combat status again. Lt. Hagarty holds the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters. He will receive his DFC shortly.

13. Bremen, Germany's second largest port was designated as the target for today's mission. Main objective was the Dechimag Submarine and Warship Yards. Major D.E. Kunkel, Jr., Sqdn C.O., lead the 381st's formation over the target again. Flying in the lead squadron with Major Kunkel were Pilots Niederriter, Kuhl, Silvernale, Caneflake and Larson. There was little or no fighter opposition though flak was present and intense as ever. Official reports on bombing were "Unobserved". All A/C landed safe at this station having taken off at 0905 hours. In general the mission went well.

14. Today an expectation became reality as combat crews filed to the briefing room and were briefed on their target. Berlin, Germany was designated for the first time since this organization has become operational. With everything in readiness and out to the respective ship the crews were recalled as the mission was scrubbed. They were re-briefed on the often bombed city of Bremen. However, this too was scrubbed.

16. Taking off at 0845 hours, six of our ships piloted by Lts. Schomburg, Petroski, Silvernale, Niederriter, and Michow were to go to Bremen, Germany. Flying high squadron, with Lt. Schomburg as squadron leader, all of our A/C bombed the target. Results again being reported as unobserved. E/A opposition was weak and AA fire was meager except at the target where intense fire was encountered. Mission was termed a success.

20. This trip to Bremen our squadron furnished 8 A/C. Flying high squadron in the 381st's contingent, our A/C bombed successfully the designated target. Fighters were numerous as Sgt. C. Lieske receives credit for a Nazi fighter destroyed. Sgt. J.E. Dwyer is credited with an E/A damaged. Flak was intense as ever and an effective smoke/screen was used. Lt. Michow returned early with all bombs aboard. Today's trip to Bremen proved costly as A/C 845 with Lt. Canelake and crew are missing in action. Lt. Niederriter reported that he observed this ship to leave the formation about 50 miles off the English

coast on the route back. The A/C was apparently in trouble but not other reports have been received. Those participating on the raid are as follows: Lt. Petroski, and Lt. Canelake. Lt. John Kuhl did a magnificent job in bringing his Fort "Whotdat" [42-37754] to a landing when his right landing gear refused to be lowered. He circled the field for over a half an hour while crewmen tried to lower the damaged gear. Failing, he decided to let 'er in on the belly. "He couldn't have done a better [job] with both wheels", were comments of all that witnessed the landing. Listed are members of A/C 845 – Missing in Action.

Canelake Lt
J. J. Boston F/O
H.B. Johnson 2nd Lt.
M.M. Cisek 2nd Lt.
T. Hernandez 2nd Lt.
P.R. McDonald S/Sgt
T.W. Phillips S/Sgt.
R.W. Brown Sgt
F.N. Belgrasch Sgt

22. Leading the 381st's contingent on the raid to Osnabruck, Germany were 5 A/C of this squadron. Main objectives were the marshalling yards and the railway stations. Due to heavy cloud cover the results of the bombing were unobserved. Fighter opposition was strong but AA fire seemed inaccurate and moderate. All A/C returned to base safe as mission was described as a success. Forts piloted by Lts. Kuhl, Wilson, Miller, Larson, and Mickow participated. Combat crews listed below were assigned this date for duty.

2nd Lt. Fitzsimmons
2nd Lt. Charles Crabtree
S/Sgt. Ernest G. Kernodle
Sgt. Charles J. Moog
Sgt. Winton K. Hill
F/O John R. Beauford
2nd Lt. Everett V. Dickey
Sgt. Kyle B. Wheatley
Sgt. Kenneth L. Miller
Sgt. Edward L. Serpa

24. Aimed at Ski Sites and constructional works, believed to be rocket emplacements, in the Pas de Calais and Cherbourg, France area, bombs were hurled by this squadron's ships early today. Taking off at 1100 our 3 ships flew with the 535th in a nine A/C formation. Bombs were dropped and combat crews were of the belief that their target was hit. None of the ships experienced fighter opposition as reports of excellent fighter support came in. AA fire was intense and ships returned with slight flak damage. Forts piloted by Lt. Myers, Mickow, and Petroski.

With the Xmas spirit in the air, Officers and Enlisted personnel joined in a squadron party held this afternoon in the Day Room. Beer flowed freely and snacks of crackers, cheese, and hot dogs were consumed in great numbers. As usual a grand time was had by all present.

25. Xmas Day – Non Operational. Preparations for the Xmas dinner have been going on in all mess halls. Xmas music coming over on the tannoy system while all personnel enjoyed a hearty Xmas meal and commented, "the best since arriving here".

28. Order to load A/C of this squadron and others of Group to bomb the Airfield of St. Jean D' Angley in France. However mission is scrubbed.

Combat crews listed below assigned this date for duty.

2nd Lt. Michael L. Bushabaum
2nd Lt. William F. Hotaling
S/Sgt. Robert E. Kettlety
S/Sgt. Thaddeus J. Tarczyhski
Sgt. Walter McFadden
2nd Lt. William H. Henessey
2nd Lt. James F. Mullane
S/Sgt. Edward A. Stahlke
S/Sgt. Frank G. Trexler
Sgt. Lewis F. Sparrow

Capt. Harold L. Stralser	DFC
Lt. Lester A. Darst	DFS and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Lt. Richard J. Niederriter	DFC and Oak Leaf Cluster
S/Sgt Ivan D. Beckman	DFC and Oak Leaf Cluster
S/Sgt Richard W. Evans	DFC and Oak Leaf Cluster
T/Sgt. Willam Savage	DFC and Oak Leaf Cluster
T/Sgt. Poyner Spillman	DFC and Oak Leaf Cluster
Sgt. Arthur Homer	Purple Heart
Sgt. Russel W. Bartholomae	Oak Leaf Cluster
T/Sgt. Dallas W. Vaughn	DFC
S/Sgt. Robert B. Calhoun	DFC
1st Lt. Daniel D. Hagarty	DFC
1st Lt. Donald J. Rutan	DFC
T/Sgt. Mike (NMI) Sikorski	DFC
T/Sgt. Williams F. Vance	DFC

Wilson, A.D. 2nd Lt Pilot
Connoly, J. F. 2nd Lt. Navigator
McDonald, D.J. 2nd Lt. Copilot
Ullom, M.M. 2nd Lt. Bombardier

Kucher, F. S/Sgt. Radio Operator
Enbach, J. E. Sgt. Top Turret
Geraghty, R.J. Sgt. Ball Turret
Sussek, W.T. Sgt. Right Waist
Hawkins, G. E. S/Sgt. Left Waist
Greco, A.E. Sgt. Tail Gunner

This operation marked the 25th bomber mission for T/Sgt. Harry Lease. To date Lease holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leafs and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

8. Mission is planned to attack the City of Brunswick, (Braunschweig) Germany. Produced in this city are bomber component parts and a number of other aircraft components. This operation was scrubbed as weather was reported not suitable for flying.

9. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

10. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

11. With Capt. A. F. Briggs and Lt. Tucker flying in the lead ship and leading the Group, six of our Forts took off at 0800 for an attack on the Ago aircraft assembly factory in Oseheraleban, Germany. Crewmen reported bombing as good. Much smoke and flame was seen to arise from the target area after bombs had hit. As usual the Germans threw everything at the formations. Many fighter attacks were experienced and our gunners received credit for destroying three and damaging one Nazi aircraft. 1st Lt. Kempker, Sgt. Elbert R. Casey and S/Sgt. Robert G. Tichy received credit for the damaged. Crew captains that took their aircraft to the target area: Capt. Briggs flying lead ship with Lt. Tucker, Lt. Haushelter, Lt. Rogers, Lt. Schomburg, Lt. Henry and Lt. Larson. We suffered the second loss of a crew and ship this month when Lt. Larson and crew failed to return from this operation. Cause for loss is yet undetermined. Listed below are those reported MIA.

Larson, Austin 2nd Lt. Pilot
Wilson, Francis E. 2nd Lt Copilot
Neff, Horace R. 2nd Lt. Navigator
Regan, George T. 2nd Lt. Bombardier
Trainer, Michael J. S/Sgt. Top Turret
Nix, Edwin A. Sgt. Ball Turret
Copeland, Milton B. Radio Operator
Crawbuck, John S/Sgt Waist Gunner
Defenbaugh, Ross N. Sgt. Waist Gunner
Williams, Alex S. Sgt. Tail Gunner

12. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

13. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

14. Today's target is designated and then scrubbed. The target was to have been the military installation in the Pas de Calais area – Crosiette, France.

15. Again set to hit aircraft component plants and aero – engine works the Forts stayed on the field as the operation was scrubbed. Targets are located in Gotha, Germany.

What had been rumored for days turned to a fact today as Major D.E. Kunkel, Squadron Commander, was transferred to Group Hqs. As Group Operations Officer. Capt. Arthur F. Briggs our Operations Officer was named successor to Major Kunkel.

Upon his transfer to Group, Major Kunkel was promoted to Lt. Colonel. 1st Lt. Wayne G. Schomburg succeeded Capt. A. Briggs as Squadron Operations Officer.

16. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

17. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

18. Frankfurt, Germany is named "target for today". It is the vital industrial, commercial and financial center of S/W Germany. This operation was scrubbed.

19. Constructional targets in France are named for this operation. Scrubbed as bad weather sets in.

20. The same target as yesterday was ordered. This too was scrubbed. Two new combat crews were assigned for duty with this organization. Listed are Officers and Enlisted men of these crews:

(Microfilm difficult to read here)

2nd Lt. William L. Mineo
2nd Lt. Lawrence B. Wallerstein
2nd Lt. Theodor F. Noga
2nd Lt. Conners C. Myers
2nd Lt. Paul F. Mclean, Jr.
2nd Lt. Robert C. Hecker
2nd Lt. Joseph R. Scott
2nd Lt. Ashley L. Emory
F/O Robert Harding
Sgt. Warren G. Taylor
Sgt. Geston C. Mandeville
S/Sgt. Frederick W. Perkins, Jr.
Sgt. John L. Ryan
Sgt. Harold Hirseh, Jr.
S/Sgt. Bretram D. Williams
S/Sgt. Joseph A. Beerer
Sgt. Ralph C. West
Sgt. William D. Ingram
Sgt. Bruce M. Taber
Sgt. Juluia M. Micek

21. For the third time in as many days this target is designated for attack. At 1030 this morning combat crews were brief to bomb military installations of St. Adrian, France. Capt. Arthur F. Briggs, Squadron Commander, lead "B" Group over the target. Flying in the lead ship with Capt. Briggs was Lt. A. F. Tucker and the squadron's "A" team. Others that participated are: Lt. Schomburg, Lt. Henry, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Mickow, Lt. Kuhl and Lt. Rogers. All crews made as many bomb runs as were necessary for good bombing. 10 Fortresses dropped bombs on the target with excellent results. Though some flak encountered there was no enemy air opposition and no combat claims were made by the gunners. Finishing their tour of

operations on this one were 1st Lt. Dolphus Rowan, T/Sgt. Guy F. Phillips and S/Sgt. Herman J. Soucy. All three men held the same awards – these being the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC.

22. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

23. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

24. Six of our aircraft were to go on an operational mission to Frankfurt, Germany. Soon after crossing the enemy coast they received word to abandon the mission and return to base. All A/C landed safe at this base and all bombs were returned. Crews that took off to participate are: Lt. Schomburg, Lt. Henry, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Mickow, Lt. Rogers and their respective crews.

25. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

26. Due to weather an operation which would carry our Forts to Frankfurt was scrubbed.

27. The constructional works located south of Belleville En Caux are to be attacked. Word received that the operation was scrubbed.

28. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

29. Six Forts took off at 0730 to attack the industrial and commercial centers of Frankfurt, Germany. Of the six ships that took off only two bombed and returned to base. Lt. Henry and Lt. Haushalter were forced to abort due to mechanical difficulty. A/C and crews of Lt. Mohnacky and Mickow are missing in action. Causes of these losses are undetermined. Anti-Aircraft fire was heavy and many fighter attacks were encountered along the target and back. Listed are those missing in action:

(Microfilm hard to read here)

Mohnacky R. 2nd Lt.	Pilot
Flood, Joe 2nd Lt.	Copilot
Yaka, William J. 2nd Lt	Navigator
Light, James A. 2nd Lt.	Bombardier
Hagen, Elmer E. S/Sgt	Radio Operator
Gentsch, Dale S/Sgt	Top Turret
Crugan, Joseph Sgt.	Ball Turret
Perg, R. J. Sgt	Waist Gunner
Meyer, Russel A. Sgt	Waist Gunner
Schenck, Peter S/Sgt	Tail Gunner

Mickow, L. H. 1st Lt.	Pilot
Hennessey, W. H. 2nd Lt	Copilot
Wendell, R. R. 2nd Lt.	Navigator
Maquire, H. 2nd Lt	Bombardier
Chandler, J. R. S/Sgt	Top Turret

Pierson, G.D. S/Sgt	Ball Turret
Ayers, G. S/Sgt	Waist Gunner
Dwyer, J. E. S/Sgt	Waist Gunner
Nersigner, R. G. Sgt.	Waist Gunner
Fabianski, J. E. Sgt.	Tail Gunner

30. Six planes participated on an operation over enemy territory today. Penetrating deep into Germany our A/C went to Brunswick to attack the Bomber components works located there. All ships bombed with results being unobserved. Many fighters attack and our gunners received credit for destroying three Nazi planes and damaging two. T/Sgt Donald B. Carr, Sgt. Walter McFadden and Sgt. Roger Roy received credit for the E/A destroyed. 2nd Lt. Mike W. Buchabaum and S/Sgt. F. Cassidy were credited with the damaged. Lt. Silvernale was squadron leader on this raid. Other A/C were piloted by Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Harlin, Lt. Rogers and Lt. Haushalter.

31. It's to be Frankfurt again. This time it's scrubbed due to unfavorable weather.

Promotion of Officers ranged from 2nd Lt. To 1st Lt. Those promoted are: Lt. McCurthy, Lt. Petroski, Lt. O'Sullivan, Lt. Bass and Lt. Mickow. T/Sgt. William F. Vance, former gunner, was commissioned a 2nd Lt.

As the month closes the standing strength of the organization is: (difficult to read) 345 Enlisted men and 78 Officers.

February 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

February 1944

1. Squadron Commander, Capt. Arthur F. Briggs was to lead the Group on the first combat mission of the month. Target was designated as Frankfurt, Germany – with the center of the old city on the River Main as the MPI. Located in Frankfurt are some of the Reich's most important war industries. However, this mission was scrubbed due to adverse weather conditions.

2. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

3. Squadron Commander, Capt. Arthur F. Briggs led the Group and was combat wing commander for today's operation against Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Flying in the lead ship with Lt. A F. tucker, as his pilot, he took the Group's contingent of bombers over the target and back. Seven aircraft, beside the lead ship, of this squadron took part. Pilots and their crews that participated were Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Muchway, Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Miller, Lt. Harlin, Lt. Henry and Lt. Dorrington. All aircraft dropped their lethal load on the PFF ship and were unable to report bombing results as there was a thick haze and a solid over and undercast. Other conditions in the target area included light flak and a few enemy fighters. There was an abundance of fighter escort and the gunners didn't get a shot at "Jerry". There were no claims and no casualties.

4. Flying Forts from this squadron returned to Frankfurt, Germany today. Though the target was obscured they dropped their explosives and returned safe to base. Little enemy opposition was encountered in form of fighters; however, flak was intense

and accurate. Squadron leader Miller led Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Harlin, Lt. Dickey and Lt. Kuhl there and back. Taking off but forced to abort were Lt. Muchway and Lt. Henry. No claims by gunners and no casualties suffered.

5. Eight aircraft of this organization were dispatched, along with others of the Group, to attack the St. Avord airfield in France. This 'home' of Nazi fighters and bombers was blasted to bits at the bombers will as visibility over the target was unlimited. There were few fighters to oppose and flak was very weak. Lts. Miller, Haushalter, Dorrington, Muchway, Rogers, Henry, Harlin and Dickey reported that the mission was a complete success.

6. Target for today was designated as the Nancy/Essey airfield in France. Six ships of the squadron took off and flew to the target area without a single fighter attack and meager flak. Unable to see the target because of could cover all A/C returned their bombs to base – following a strict rule of not bombing installations in France if the target cannot be pin-pointed. Leading the squadron there and back were Lts. Tucker and Schomburg. Those that flew are as follows: Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Henry, Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Rogers and Lt. Dickey.

7-8. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

9. Lt. Wayne G. Schomburg, Sqdn. Operations Officers with Lt. A.F. Tucker were to lead the 381st to Leipzig, Germany. This squadron was to furnish 12 A/C and crews. Those slated to go were Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Henry, Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Sellers, Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Miller, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Harlin, Lt. Muchway and Lt. Rogers. Located in Leipzig are important units of the Me 109 industry. This mission was scrubbed due to unfavorable weather.

10. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

11. Nine ships were put up by this organization for today's operation which carried them to Ludwigshafen, Germany. Frankfurt was the briefed target but the formations deviated from course and Ludwigshafen was bombed instead. All A/C bombed with results being unobserved. Flak was intense and fighters were out in force. No claims by gunners and no casualties sustained as all ships returned safe to base. Pilots with their crews that participated are as follows: Lt. Harlin, Lt. Dickey, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Schomburg, Lt. Sellers, Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Kuhl and Lt. Henry.

12. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

13. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. Captain Arthur F. Briggs, Squadron commander promoted to rank of Major. Capt. Robert O. Fricks transferred to Hq. 381st as Station Training Officer.

14. Mission is scrubbed soon after target was designated. To have been construction works of Lottingam/Les Grande Bois, France.

1st Lts. Miller and Gilchrist promoted to rank of Captain.

15. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

16. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. 2nd Lt. Harlin promoted to 1st Lt. 1st Lt. A.F. Tucker promoted to Captain.

17. Mission called to bomb the constructional works and military installations of Freval, France. Mission is scrubbed.

18. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

19. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

20. Today's target is to be the fighter components works of the city of Leipzig, Germany. Same type targets in Oschersleben to be attacked by another force of bombers. A/C of this squadron are to go to both targets. Ten "Forts" were airborne and attacked their briefed target with excellent results. All ships bombed the target with excellent results. All ships bombed the

target with the exception of Lt. Dorrington who was forced to abort. There was heavy flak and fighter opposition along the entire route. Sgt. Cecil L. Jernigan received credit for an E/A damaged in a running battle over the target area.

Today marked the 25th bomber mission and completion of tour of operational duty of two combat crewmen. Both Capt. A.F. Tucker and T/Sgt. Chas E. Raglin did the last one. Both hold the same awards. Those being: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, and the DFC.

21. Brief to bomb the airfield Gutersloh, Germany – 10 of our ships took off and ran into adverse weather conditions. A target of opportunity was selected and bombed without observing results due to the solid undercast that prevailed. Pilots that took their crews and A/C to the target of opportunity are as listed: Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Sellers, Lt. Meyers, Lt. Rogers, Lt. Haushalter, Lt. Hytinen and Lt. Dorrington. Enemy fighter opposition was encountered and S/Sgt. Harry Lee Destroyed a Nazi fighter plane. Flak was intense and accurate. Finish his 24th mission over enemy territory was S/Sgt. Grover S. Bonsall who to date holds the Purple Heart, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, and the DFC.

22. Unfavorable weather forced a number of our bombers to return to base today. Their target was to have been the aircraft components works of Oschersleben, Germany. Those that were able to tack onto a formation did successfully unload on a target of opportunity. This target being Bunde, Germany. Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Sharp, Lt. Rogers bombed. Lt. Miller, Lt. Henry, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Harlin, Lt. Haushlater, Lt. Sellers returned early. Bombing results were unobserved due to undercast and haze.

23. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

24. Going to a target that our Forts had visited twice before and giving it the third going over since we became operations – 8 of our “Forts” bombed the ball bearing works in Schweinfurt today. Though flak and fighters were ever present and no serious damaged was inflicted to our A/C or crews. Strike photographs bear out the story of returning crewmen that reported the target as being destroyed. Lts. Miller, Dickey, Henry, Dorrington, Sellers, Haushalter, Harlin and Rogers bombed successfully. S/Sgt. James E. West and T/Sgt. Robert G. Tichy finished their combat operations today as both had 24 bomber missions prior to today. West holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC. Tichy holds the Air Medal, 4 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

25. Taking off for a long haul that carried our bombers to near the Alps our bombers hit the Messerschmitt factory at Augsburg, Germany. Leading the main formation put up by the 381st was 1st Lt. John A. Silvernale of this squadron. Bombing results were very good. Enemy activity was not very strong against the formations. Flak and fighters were encountered; however, all ships returned safe to base and there were no casualties or claims.

Four complete combat crews were assigned to this organization for duty this date. Crews listed:

Freese, Ralph E.	1st Lt.
Pendergist, Roh H.	2nd Lt.
Melenda, Edward	2nd Lt
Aikenhead, John E.	2nd Lt.
Kaupilla, T.K.	Sgt.
Burns, James R.	S/Sgt.
Pariman, Samuel C.	S/Sgt
Riesdorph, Hugh T.	S/Sgt
Williamson, Andrew J.	Sgt.

Rayburn, Robert W. 2nd Lt.
Gardon, Carl A. 2nd Lt.
Morse, Loern C. 2nd Lt.
Simons, Ralph G. 2nd Lt.
Purser, Wiliam R. S/Sgt.
Peterson, Donald G. S/Sgt.
Main, Deforest E. Sgt.
Osborne, Lloyd E. Sgt.
Gerber, Gerald (NMI) Sgt.
Creevy, Edward J. Sgt.

Williams, John W. 2nd Lt.
Lear, Paul D. 2nd Lt.
Platt, Forrest C. 2nd Lt.
Tamplin, Parke H. 2nd Lt.
Hemepel, Karl (NMI) S/Sgt.
Gledhill, Williams D. S/Sgt.
Gannon, Robert A. Sgt.
McKinley, Harold J. Sgt.
Fields, Warron F. Sgt.

Ackerman, Charles E. 2nd Lt.
Jones, Troy H. 2nd Lt.
Blackfield, Irving W. F/O
Carl, Walter A. 2nd Lt.
Robinson, Amos G. S/Sgt.
Hart, Edward H. T/Sgt.
Feldman, Irving (NMI) Sgt.
Panke, William A. Sgt.
Palimisano, William P. Sgt.
Rodriguez, Ernesto G. Sgt.

26. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

27. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

28. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

29. Mission called to bomb Jeyer Airfield just 9 and ½ miles west Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Mission is scrubbed.

Total enlisted and officer personnel strength at end of month stands at 390 EM and 72 Officers.

March 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

March 1944

1. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

2. Major A.F. Briggs, squadron command, and 2nd Lt. Silvernale led the Group and the 1st Combat Wing to the Alfred Teves piston ring factory in Frankfurt, Germany today. All A/C unloaded their bombs in the target area with bombing results being unobserved as cloud cover prevailed. Intense and accurate Anti-Aircraft fire was encountered at the target. Enemy aircraft did not attack our formations and none came close enough for identification. Listed are pilots who took their ship and crew to the target and safe back to base: Major Briggs, flying with Lt. Silvernale, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Miller, Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Henry and Lt. Muchway.

3. Today's target was designated and briefed as the ball bearing works of Erkner, Germany—just 16 miles East of Berlin. Due to unfavorable weather conditions a target of opportunity was bombed. Oldenburg, Germany was the selected target. Owing to a cloud cover 11 A/C bombed on PFF. Flak was moderate to intense at the target area. Few E/A were observed and there were no claims. This mission proved costly to this organization as Lt. R.H. Rogers and crew are missing in action. No reports as yet on reason this A/C went down. Leading the squadron today was Lt. Miller. Others participating were Lts. Kuhl, Henry, Muchway, Hytinen and Rogers. Listed is crew MIA:

Rogers, R.H. 2nd Lt.
Mills, Edgar J. 2nd Lt.
McGrath, F.R. 2nd Lt.
Taylor, H.E. 2nd Lt.
Moses, John S/Sgt.
Meyer, R.E. S/Sgt.
Casey, Elbert S/Sgt.
Jernigan, Cecil Sgt.
Poch, Phillips L. S/Sgt.
Taylor, W.G. Sgt.

4. Today's target was re-named as Erkner ball bearing works. Again bad weather kept the formations from penetrating deep in to bomb the primary and a target of opportunity was attacked. This time it was Dusseldorf, located in the Ruhr Valley. 10/10ths could cover prevented observations by returning crewmen. Meager inaccurate fire encountered on the way to the target, while intense accurate AA fire was reported from the target area on the formation. No e/a encountered and no claims for today's raid. Lt. Muchway led the squadron which consisted of pilots Henry, Haushalter, Dickey and Sellers. Lt. Miller of this organization led the low sqdn of the Composite Grp.

5. **Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.**

6. Briefed target on this day was Erkner, Germany – ball bearing works located East of Berlin. However the six “forts” of this quadron bombed, along with others of the group, the Berlin area. Though, briefed for this target many times it was the first that our ships loosed bombs on the Reich's capitol city. There was intense and accurate flak at the target area and many single and twin engined enemy aircraft to oppose the formations. Claims for Nazi fighters destroyed were put in by S/Sgt. E.W. Thompson and S/Sgt. J.H. Puckett. Both received credit for one each enemy aircraft damaged. Flying in the high squadron in the composite group and led by Lt. R.H. Miller were Lt. Henry, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Hytinen and Lt. Haushalter who is at present listed MIA. Lt Haushalter (A/C B – 1553) was seen just before the I.P., south of Berlin, with a fire in the cockpit. His ship is reported to have peeled off the formation and leave, seemingly under control, and have three chutes go out. Listed are crew members of A/C B – 1553:

Haushalter, E.E. 1st Lt.

Hensley, H.M. 2nd Lt.

Schuit, R.r. 2nd Lt.

Herrick, J.E. 2nd Lt.

Nisber, R.H. S/Sgt.

Lee, H.E. S/Sgt.

Creevey, E. Sgt.

Langston, E.V. Sgt.

Alfaro, R. S/Sgt.

Jones, E.P. Sgt.

Winding up their tour of Operations on today's mission were 1st Lts. Milton J. Haas and Robert M. Kempker. To date Lt. Haas holds the Air Medal, Purple Heart, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC. Lt. Kempker holds the Air Medal, 4 Oak Leafs and the DFC.

7. The ball bearing works of Erkner, Germany were designated as target for today. This mission was scrubbed prior to take-off. Another Field Order in designating Gutersloh A/F and A/D of Germany as the primary. This too is scrubbed.

8. After five briefings and attempts to bomb the works at Erkner, today's mission proved to be a success. Six ships bombed the target with little opposition. There were no enemy fighters and flak was moderate. Bomb results were good as shown by strike photos. Crew reports stated excellent conditions at target area. No enemy aircraft claims and no losses suffered.

The accidental death of Cpl. Michael J. **Babines** occurred, in line of duty, today. Interment in the American cemetery in Cambridge with full military honors.

9. The aircraft bomber assembly plant of E. Heinkel in Oranienburg, Germany is designated as the primary target. Assembled here are He 177's. This target is located just north of Berlin. Target area was bombed with results being unobserved due to cloud cover. There was intense anti-aircraft fire but no fighter opposition. There were no claims and no

losses. Those participating are listed below: Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Freese, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Muchway, Lt. Williams, Lt. Dickey, Lt. Myers and Lt. Miller. 1st Lt. Edward A. Klein completed his 25th bomber mission over enemy occupied territory this date. He holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC. S/Sgt. Asa R. Burch and T/Sgt. George M. Lemos also completed their tour of duty. Both men hold the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC.

10. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

11. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

12. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

2nd Lt. C.C. Myers appointed 1st Lt. 1st Lt. Nunamaker, Sq. Ordnance Officer, transferred to 1775th Ord. As Commanding Officer.

13. Wizernes, France – constructional works located 2 and ¾ miles South West of St. Omer is briefed as today's target. Mission is scrubbed before take-off.

14. Same target as yesterday briefed. This too is scrubbed.

15. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

16. Nine aircraft of this squadron attacked the A/F at Lechfeld (Nr. Augsburg, Germany). Bombs were dropped in the Augsburg area on PFF aircraft since this area was covered by heavy cloud. Flak at target was meager. E/A did not attack our formations. Those participating on this raid: Lt. Muchway, Lt. Freese, Lt. Dickey, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Rayburn, Lt. Williams, Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Myers, and Lt. Ackerman. Finishing his tour of Operations on this one was S/Sgt. John E. West. To date West holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

17. Two targets briefed for today. These being the Fighter A/C assembly plants at Augsburg, Germany and the Aero engine works in Frankfurt. Mission is scrubbed.

Two new combat crews were assigned this squadron for duty this date. Listed below are crews assigned:

Bond, Leslie A 2nd Lt.

Mason, Wilber M. 2nd Lt.

Brumback, Charles E. 2nd Lt.

Hilton, Gerald O. 2nd Lt.

Clyman, Neal Sgt.

Jones, Wm E. Sgt.

Caserta, Anthony Sgt.

Derrington, A.O. Sgt.

Ordndorff, Marl W. Sgt.

Batchelder, Robert Sgt.

Nesse, Robert W. 2nd Lt.

Gatewood, Robert 2nd Lt.

Bach, Leo S. 2nd Lt.

Sternberg, Marvin J. Sgt.
Sexton, Frank I. Sgt.
Blanch, Bernard J. Sgt.
Hollenback, B.A. Sgt.
Nelson, Alvin L. Sgt.
Puryear, Roy A. Sgt.

18. Mission is called to bomb the Aero Engine and aircraft components parts made in Frankfurt, Germany. This Field Order cancelled. Another order in designating target as the A/C assembly plant hangers in Oberoaffenofen (Nr. Munich, Germany). Leading 1st Combat Wing on this raid was Lt. Miller and Lt. Schomburg. Others flying were Lt. Williams, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Hytinen, Lt. Meyers, Lt. Rayburn, Lt. Dorrington, and Lt. Ackerman. Crews returning reported bombing results as excellent. There was light e/a opposition and light flak. No claims or losses suffered. Mission termed a success. Squadron Leader Robert Miller finished his tour of operational duty today. Lt. Miller holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

19. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

20. Briefed target was Frankfurt, Germany. Due to cloud cover the industrial area of Mannheim was bombed instead of designated target. Bombing results were unobserved. There were no claims and no casualties suffered. Pilots that flew: Lt. Henry, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Myers, Lt. Rayburn, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Williams, Lt. Ackerman and Lt. Schomburg with Lt. Hytinen. Major A.F. Briggs with Lt. Silvernale led the CBW formation there and back.

21. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

22. Lt. Hytinen led the Squadron to the Berlin area today. The briefed target was Oranienburg, Germany. Bombing results were observed through a break in the clouds as good. Strikes were seen in the built up area of Berlin. No enemy fighters were encountered but intense accurate flak was thrown up at the formation all along the route. There were no losses, claims, or casualties. Others flying today were Lts. Freese, Dorrington, Rayburn, Myers, Kuhl, and Ackerman. Lt. Hytinen wound up his operational tour of duty today. He holds the Air medal, Purple Heart, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC.

23. Werl Airfield and Air Park was to be attacked by "Forts" of this organization today. However, a target of opportunity was attacked. This target being the industrial center of Ahlen, Germany. Bombs were observed to burst on a selected MPI in the center of the factory area. No E/A attacks on our formation. Lt. Dorrington led the squadron which was composed of Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Freese, Lt. Henry, Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Rayburn, and Lt. Myers.

Today's operation marked the end of 2nd Lt. Elliott F. Hofkin's tour of duty. Lt. Kofkin holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

24. With Lt. Dorrington leading the Composite Group and five other A/C rounding out the formation, they bombed the industrial areas of Frankfurt. Scheduled to bomb Schweinfurt, 10/10ths cloud cover prevented them from doing so. Bombing results were unobserved due to heavy undercast. No E/A attacked formation and flak was moderate. Others flying with Lt. Dorrington leading are Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Breese, Lt. Henry, Lt. Rayburn, Lt. Myers.

Three ground crewmen of this squadron left for the United States under sealed orders. These being M/Sgt. Percy E. Casey – Line Chief, M/Sgt. Rudy A. Herdin - Armament Chief and Sgt. Theodore E. Cason – Air Mechanic. All men had at least 3 years service.

25. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

26. The large synthetic oil plant located at Bohlen, Germany is to be the primary target for today. This mission is scrubbed.

During the day another Order is received designating the constructional works of Marquise/Minoyesoues, France as the target. Bombing results were reported as excellent since visibility was good. No e/a encountered or observed. No losses suffered. There was little flak and the mission was describe as "near perfect". Crews: Lt. Muchway leading the squadron composed of Lts. Kuhl, Freese, Dorrington, Maurstad and Williams. 1st Lt. David A. McCarthy completed his tour of Operations this date. He holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC.

27. St. Jean D'Angely Airfield was attacked with excellent results. Leading the high group were Lts. Schomburg and Silvernale. Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Freese, Lt. Williams, Lt. Dorrington and Lt. Rayburn, Lt. Myers and Lt. Henry were others that took part. Results of bombing were reported with bursts square on the MPI. No E/A or anti-aircraft fire encountered by this group. 1st Lt. Happy NMI Hendryx completed his tour of Operations today. He holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC.

28. Reims/Chapagne A/F, France was attacked today. Bombing results were again reported as excellent, crews having seen bursts on the target. Flak at target was moderate. No e/a opposed. Listed are crew captains that took their a/c and crews to target and then safe to base: Lt. Williams, Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Henry, Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Freese, and Lt. Myers.

29. Lt. Dorrington, Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Hesse, Lt. Myers and Lt. Freese took a full load of bombs on their ships to bomb the A/C and A/C factory at Brunswick (Waggum), Germany today. Bombing was unobserved. Meager anti-aircraft fire encountered and E/A opposition was fairly strong. There were no claims.

30. Oberpaffenhofen, Germany and Ludwigshafen, Germany are designated as targets for today. Mission is scrubbed.

31. An accident over the field today took the lives of Capt. Ph.H. Stull – Sq. Engineering Officer, Lt. Schomburg – Sq. Operations Officer, T/Sgt. Charles Carter – Combat Crewman, T/Sgt. Norman F. Wilson – Combat Crewman, T/Sgt. Donald Carr – Combat Crewman and Pfc. McLean – Ground Crew. Interment was held in the American cemetery in Cambridge. A large number of Officers and Enlisted men attended the services.

Total strength at the end of Month – 363 Enlisted Men, 68 Officers.

April 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

April 1944

1. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

2. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

3. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

4. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. 1st Lt. Schomburg (deceased) appointed to Captain. 2nd Lts. Ackerman, King, Williams and Rayburn appointed to 1st Lieutenants.

5. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

6. Mission called to attack the aircraft assembly plants of Oberpfaffenhoffen, Germany. Mission is scrubbed.

7. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

8. The Airfield of Oldenburg, Germany was attacked by six A/C of this Squadron early today. Leading the 381st Group and Combat Wing were Lts. Muchway and Kesley. Lts. Freese, Williams, Dorrington, Myers and Bond rounded out the formation. There was no E/A to oppose and the flak encountered was meager. All ships made good runs on the target and hits were observed. There were no claims and no casualties. On returning to base Lt. Leslie A. Bond had difficulty in letting down landing gear of his A/C. After circling the field and not succeeding in letting down the gear another ship went up and passed tools to Lt. Bond's ship. The ball turret was jettisoned and Bond made a successful crash landing. All A/C returned safe to base.

Three Combat Crews were assigned to this organization this date:

Martyniak, John A. 2nd Lt.

Kellum, Richard L. 2nd Lt.

Stewart, Ray L. 2nd Lt.

Stewart, Paul E. S/Sgt

Jones, Allan M. Sgt.

Fahey, Albert W., Jr. Sgt.

Coffey, Wayne M. Sgt.

Wardencki, John A. 2nd Lt.

Daytin, Charles R. 2nd Lt.

Morrison, William W. 2nd Lt.

Backelin, Warren H. S/Sgt.

Miller, Robert E. Sgt.

Anderson, Chas. (NMI) Sgt.

Elliott, George S. Sgt.

Telzerow, Harold R. Sgt.

Fedak, Nicholas (NMI) 2nd Lt.

Lawless, Joseph W. F/O

Haniff, Eloy, W. 2nd Lt.

Harvey, Robert H. 2nd Lt.

Trautmann, Ernest J. S/Sgt.

Salzsieder, Herbert S. Sgt.

Wilson, Joseph S. Sgt.

Lehman, Harold M. Sgt.

King, Byron E. Sgt.

9. Squadron Commander, Major Biggs and Lt. Kesley leading the 381st and 1st Combat Wing today. Flying in other positions are Lts. Freese, Williams, Muchway, Dorrington, Rayburn, Ackerman, Myers, and Kuhl. Due to unfavorable weather conditions the entire Wing was forced to turn back in sight of the enemy coast. All A/C landed safe at this station. No bombs dropped. No fighters nor flak encountered. Today's target was to have been the port area of Gdynia, Poland. Secondary and last resort targets were to have been the area of Danzig. Lt. Freese did not return with formation as he tacked on to another and continued to bomb the A/D at Marienburg with good results.

10. Mission called to Brussels, Belgium and Woendrecht A/F Holland. Our Squadron composed of Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Rayburn, Lt. Myers, Lt. Kuhl, Lt. Muchway, Lt. Williams, Lt. Bond and led by Major Briggs and Kesley. The secondary and primary were both attacked by parts of the squadron. A number of hits were reported in the target area but the pattern was very scattered and a large number of hits short of the target. There was no enemy opposition. No claims and no casualties. Lt. E. L. Muchway finished his tour of operations today. He holds the DFC, Air Medal and 3 Oak Leafs.

11. Today's squadron was to go to the Cottbus, Germany. Lt. Dorrington was leading the squadron which was composed of Lts. Freese, Lt. Myers, Lt. Henry, Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Rayburn, Lt. Henry (duplicate apparently), Lt. Williams, Lt. Kuhl and Lt. Hesse. Bombing results were reported as good to fair. Crews reported that the bomb pattern was pretty well strung out but that the MPI was hit as well as a number of other buildings. Enemy air opposition was stiff. Flak was heavy. Today's raid cost the squadron the loss of a crew. A/C N 1497 from this squadron as seen to feather #2 engine in the vicinity of Hannover. Subsequently #3 started smoking badly and this was also feathered. Forced to drop back of formation at this point but was still in sight at target area. At 51 52'N – 13 00 eight chutes were reported to come out of this ship. When last seen the ship was still under control. Listed crew, now MIA:

(only a partial crew listed for some reason)

Hesse, R.W. 2nd Lt.

Gatewood, R. 2nd Lt.

Noga, T.F. 2nd Lt.

Bach, L.S. 2nd Lt.

Hollenbeck, B.A. Sgt.

Blanchm, B.T. S/Sgt

Puryear, R.A. Sgt.

2nd Lt. William J. Walker wound up his operational tour today. Lt. Walker holds the DFC, the Air Medal, and 3 Oak Leafs.

Assigned this date for duty with this organization are the following combat crews:

Crossgrove, Raph D. 1st Lt.

Seals, Donald I. 2nd Lt.

Snodgrass, Milan C. 2nd Lt.

Eager, Chas. H. 2nd Lt.

Wallis, Rodman, W. S/Sgt.

Jensen, Fred D. Sgt.

Schillinger, Walter A. Sgt.

Mitchell, Bernard J. Sgt.

Peak, Samuel L. 1st Lt.
Romasco, Victor 2nd Lt.
Chandler, James H. F/O
Simmons, Murk F. S/Sgt.
Frank, A. Jr. S/Sgt
Scharff, Robert E. Sgt.
Oberlin, Richard D. Sgt.
Rockey, Max L. Sgt.

Craft, Maynard V. 2nd Lt.
Sornberger, Archie W. 2nd Lt.
Soltwedal, Edward B. 2nd Lt.
Mosely, William C. 2nd Lt.
Cornell, Kenneth H. S/Sgt.
Schaub, Donald P. S/Sgt.
Farley, Maurice J. Sgt.
Rush, Jacob R. Sgt.
O'Neal, John S. T/Sgt

12. Usual garrison duties. Non Operational.

13. Lts. Williams, Myers, Kuhl, Ackerman, Rayburn and Henry took off early today to bomb the ball bearing works at Schweinfurt, Germany. Bombs were away over the center of the target and many crews ported hits. Some crews were unable to observe results because of smoke from previous bombs on target. Enemy a/c did not oppose. Intense and accurate flak was encountered. There was some battle damage to ships. There were no casualties and no claims. 1st Lt. George D. O'Sullivan and S/Sgt. Edward J. Gartland finished up today. Both men hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.

14. Usual garrison duties. Non Operational. 2nd Lt. Alpheus Hodge was assigned to this squadron for duty as Intelligence Officer this date.

15. Usual garrison duties. Non Operational.

16. Usual garrison duties. Non Operational.

17. Mission planned to attack the Airfield at Laon/Couvron. This mission is scrubbed prior to take off.

18. Seven A/C of this squadron were airborne early today to make an attack on Oranienburg, Germany. Located here are the Heinkel Bomber aircraft components works. Bombing results were described as excellent. There was little or no activity on the part of enemy fighters. Flak was also moderate. German defenses were weak considering the proximity of the target to Berlin. The formation was led by Lt. Cronin. Lts. Rayburn, Williams, Henry, Bond, Ackerman, and Kuhl made up the

squadron. Doing his last mission today was 2nd Lt. John F. Mink. Lt. Mink holds the DFC, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

19. Target for today is the German Air Force A/D and Air Park located at Eschwege, Germany. Led by Lt. Freese – Lt. Dorrington the formation went on to bomb the target successfully. Crews reported bombing results as excellent. Those flying were Lts. Ackerman, Rayburn, Kuhl, Henry, Bond and Penderist. Little or no flak was encountered. However, fighter opposition was strong. Two ships of this squadron were lost to vicious fighter attacks. Lt. Rayburn and crew (A/C 8004-Q) was seen to catch afire and to explode soon after in the target area. Six chutes reported out. A B-17, believed to be Lt. Leslie A. Bond and crew was seen to go down on fire in the target area. This ship leveled off at 10,000 ft. and six chutes were reported out of this A/C also. Lts. Martyniak, Hampton, and Hagen were wounded on this raid. S/Sgt. Palmisano also wounded. Crews MIA listed:

Rayburn R.W. 1st Lt.
Craft, M.V. 2nd Lt.
Morse, L.S. 2nd Lt.
Simons, R.G. 2nd Lt.
Peterson, D.C. S/Sgt.
Purser, W.R. S/Sgt.
Bristow, J.L. S/Sgt.
Main, D.E. S/Sgt.
Gerber, G. S/Sgt.

Bond, Leslie A. 2nd Lt.
Mason, W.M. 2nd Lt.
Brumback, C.E. 2nd Lt.
Hilton, G.Q. 2nd Lt.
Jones, W.R. S/Sgt.
Clyman, N.V. S/Sgt.
Caserta, A.J. S/Sgt.
Darrington, A.C. Sgt.
Batchelder, R.K. Sgt.

1st Lt. John J. Kuhl, T/Sgt. Carl H. Hotter and S/Sgt. Asal Howard finished their tour of operations today. All these men hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Assigned this date for duty are the following Combat Crewmen:

White, William K. 2nd Lt.
Hollman, Raymond C. 2nd Lt.
Neumeister, Chas. R. 2nd Lt.
Jacobs, John A. S/Sgt.

Harris, Paul E. S/Sgt.

VanWieren, Nicholas Sgt.

Jorgensen, Harold J. Sgt.

Fudge, Bill T. Sgt.

20. Le Plouy Ferme and Croisette, France are designated as targets for this squadron. Lts. Cronin, Wardencki, Jones, Henry, Pendergist and Ackerman participated. Accurate flak was encountered but no opposition from fighters. All bombs were returned to base as target was obscured.

T/Sgt. Raymond F. Cassidy and T/Sgt. Peter Bortniak completed their tour this date. Both men hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Assigned for duty with the organization are following crewmen:

Murray, R.J. 2nd Lt.

Lewis, Emerson E. 2nd Lt.

Johnson, Warren R. 2nd Lt.

Hanrahan, John W. 2nd Lt.

Pope, Emmet N. 2nd Lt.

Seymour, William T/Sgt.

Reed, Gentry T. Sgt.

Braun, Amos W. Sgt.

Gego, Frank (NMI) Sgt.

21. Mission called to Merseburg, Germany. Primary target is to be the synthetic oil works there. This mission scrubbed. Another order in to attack the RR Marshalling yards at Hamm, Germany. This too is scrubbed.

22. Railway marshalling yards of Hamm, Germany are attacked by this organization. Excellent bombing results reported by crewmen. Falk was meager and there were few fighters up to meet the formation. No claims or casualties.

1st Lt. Fred (NMI) Beardsworth finished his operational tour this date. He holds the Air Medal and three Oak Leafs. Also the DFC.

Crew listed below assigned this squadron for duty:

Whitehead, Samuel H. 2nd Lt.

Fine, Lester E. 2nd Lt.

Saleeby, Albert A. 2nd Lt.

Teien, Robert H. 2nd Lt.

Lukasik, John J. Sgt.

Odian, Edward Y. Sgt.

Hanson, Leonard M., Jr. Sgt.

Pearlin, Paul N. Sgt.

2nd Lts. Buchanan and Reif are appointed to 1st Lt. Lt. Hagen appointed to 1st Lt. 2nd Lts. Glazier, Beadsworth and Jasiak promoted to 1st Lt. Also.

23. Mission planned to Merseburg, Germany. Scrubbed before take-off.

24. 8 Fords of this squadron attacked the G.A.F. equipment depot of Erding, Germany. All A/C took off and were target bound at 0845. Flying low squadron of the group and led by Lt. Cronin were Lt. Williams, Lt. Jones, Lt. Henry, Lt. Pendergist, Lt. Wardencki, Lt. Myers and Lt. Freeman. Bombing results were reported as excellent. E/A did not attack this formation. Flak was very light. No claims, no casualties and no losses.

25. Missions to Metz/Freacaty airfield. This field used as a fighter base and training field and air park for the G.A.F. There was no E/A opposition and meager flak. Bombing results reported as excellent. Leading the squadron, group and the 1st Combat Wing was Lt. Freese with Lt. Dorrington as copilot. Also flying to round out the formation were: Lt. Pendergist, Lt. Jones, Lt. Freeman, Lt. Peak, and Lt. Myers. No losses. No claims.

Finishing on this mission to Metz was 2nd Lt. Robert W. Crisler. Lt. Crisler holds the DFC, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

26. Flying in the lead squadron, which led the 1st Combat Bomb Wing, was Lt. Freese and Lt. Freeman. Lt. Jones, Lt. Gardon, and Lt. Myers made up the rest of the squadron. Mission was to Brunswick, Germany. Due to 10/10ths overcast the target was unobserved. No results of bombing reported. There was no fighter opposition and flak was inaccurate.

27. Mission called to attack the Airfield at St. Avord, France. This base has been in use as a long range bomber base. Since it was last bombed it was converted to a pathfinder group's station. Bombing results were reported as excellent. Flying the high squadron and led by Lt. Cronin were Lt. Pendergist, Lt. Peak, Lt. Wardencki, Lt. Williams, Lt. Crossgrove and Lt. Gardon.

Finishing his tour today was S/Sgt. Chester J. Norton. Norton is the holder of the DFC, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

28. 4 A/C of this squadron were scheduled to attack military installations on the coast of France. However, cloud cover over the targets prevented bombing. All A/C returned all bombs to base.

S/Sgt. Robert M. Rourke completed his tour this date. He holds the DFC, the Air Medal, and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

29. Mission is called and target is designated as Berlin. Led by Lt. Cronin – Lt. Wardencki, Lt. Pendergist, Lt. Williams, Lt. Gardon, Lt. Crossgrove, Lt. Peak and Lt. Myers attacked the industrial centers of the Reich's capitol. Several crews reported that they were able to observe bombs dropping on their target. Others reported that a cloud cover existed. Flak in the target was intense although fighters were not out in great numbers. No claims and no losses.

Three combat crewmen completed their tour of operations on today's raid. These being 1st Lt. Richard I. Maurstad, S/Sgt. John Podrosky, and S/Sgt. Clarence (NMI) Lieske. All men hold the DFC, Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters. Podrosky and Maurstad also hold the Purple Heart.

30. Four crews of this squadron took part on a raid to the A/C park and the A/F at Lyon/Bryon. Crews reported bombing results as excellent. E/A did not attack this group. No flak was encountered. No losses or claims.

2nd Lts. Kesley and Mikulik appointed 1st Lt. Lt. Hampton also appointed 1st Lt.

At months end the squadron's strength stands at 80 Officers and 398 EM.

May 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

May 1944

1. Mission called to attack the Railroad Marshalling yards of Troyes, France. There was no flak and no enemy fighters. Target was successfully attacked as crewmen reported results as excellent. Lt. Cronin was leading the lead squadron the composite Group. Rounding out the formation were Lt. Wardencki, Lt. Jones, Lt. Williams, Lt. Peak, Lt. Crossgrove, Lt. Myers and Lt. Ackerman. Lt. Calon W. Williams completed his 30th mission today. He holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.
2. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. F/O Freeman appointed to 2nd Lt.
3. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
4. 6 crews were briefed to bomb the capitol of Germany today. Our A/C were airborne at 0615 and were leading the 381st "B" group. Due to unfavorable weather the formations were forced to turn back at Lowestoft (English Coast) on way out. Lts. Freese and Dorrington were squadron leaders. Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Jones, Lt. Gardon, Lt. Freeman and Lt. Wardencki participated.
5. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
6. The constructional works of La Glacerie, France are today's objective. 10 A/C of this organization took off at 0530 hours and proceeded to the target area without incident. Target was not picked up on the bomb run and no bombs were released. All bombs returned to base. There was no fighter opposition and only moderate flak fire was encountered over the target area. Lt. Freese and Lt. Dorrington were leading the squadron and the 381st "A" Group. Also taking part were Lts. Ackerman, Pendergist, Freeman, Wardencki, Gardon, Jones Whitehead, Crossgrove and Peak. 1st Lt. Jack C. Glazier, bombardier, completed his tour of duty this date. Lt. Glazier holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.
7. The center of the industrial area of Berlin was attacked by 5 A/C today. Cloud cover prevented crews from observing bomb hits. There were no fighters and flak encountered was moderate to intense. Listed are those that participated: Lt. Pendergist, Lt. Myers, Lt. Jones, Lt. Crossgrove and Lt. Peak. 2nd Lt. Edward R. Lambert, navigator, completed his 30th raid today. Lambert holds the Air Medal, Purple Heart, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC.
8. Mission to attack the railway marshalling yards of Luxembourg is called. This mission is scrubbed before briefing and another Field Order is sent in. The mission [is] to be Berlin again. The squadron was flying low squadron of the Group with Lt. Jones in the lead. There were no fighters encountered. Flak fire was intense over the target area. Lts. Gardon, Wardencki, Ackerman, Pendergist, and White took off at 0545 for the flight. There were no claims, no losses and no casualties. 2nd Lt. Crisler appointed to 1st Lt.
9. The A/D of St. Dizier is designated as today's target. The weather was clear and bombs were dropped "square" on the target. The results were reported as excellent. Meager and accurate flak was reported with no reports of enemy fighters. Lt.

Cronin led the squadron, which was low of the 381st "A" Group. Lt Myers, Lt. Peak, Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Murray, and Lt. Crossgrove piloted the other A/C. 1st Lt. Robert W. Reif completed his tour of duty this date. He holds the Air Medal, Purple Heart, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

10. Mission of May 10th was recalled due to weather by the 1st Bomb Division when the formation was just six minutes off the Dutch Coast. A/C landed safe this base at approximately 1000 hours. We were lead squadron of the Group, which led the CBW. The squadron Operations Officer, Lt. H.N. Kesley, was flying in the lead ship with Lt. Col. D.K. Kunkel, Jr., Group Operations Officer. Others flying A/C were Lts. Freese, White, Peak, Dorrington, Crossgrove, Gardon and Murray. Rotenburg, Germany, 42 miles SW of Hamburg, was to be the target.

11. With Lt. Col. Kunkel, Gp. Operations Officer, and Lt. Kelsey leading the sqdn and group which was leading the CBW, 8 A/C were to bomb military objectives in Sarreguimes, France. However a target of opportunity was selected and bombed. Results were reported as fair to good. Flak encountered was meager to moderate. Enemy fighters attacked but were driven off after inflicting minor damaged to A/C. There were no losses, no claims, and no casualties. S/Sgt. Carroll B. Mount pulled his last raid today as he completed his 30th in this theater. To date he holds the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

Assigned for duty with this organization are the following listed Officers and Enlisted men.

2nd Lt. Albert J. Harding
F/O James W. Gonzales
2nd Lt. Robert A. Douglass
S/Sgt. Ernest H. Gutten
2nd Lt. Robert P. Burrel
Cpl. Palmer Van Horn
Sgt. Harry (NMI) Applebaum
S/Sgt. Earnest W. Conaster
Sgt. Jerry D. ? arstine
Sgt. Grover L. Scoggins.

12. Six ships of this Squadron attacked the Synthetic Oil Plants of Lutzkendorf, Germany with good results. Crews reported bombs hitting main buildings and storage tanks. In the target area meager to moderate accurate flak was encountered. The weather was good but fighters made no appearance. The 534th was High in the Group was led by Lt. Williams. Lt. Peak, Lt. Myers, Lt. Ackerman, Lt. White, Lt. Murray piloted A/C over the target and safe to base. No claims, no losses and no casualties.

13. Led by Lt. Freese and Lt. Dorrington, Lts. Wardencki, Whitehead, Williams, Martyniak, Crossgrove, Lt. White and Lt. Pendergist were to attack the Synthetic Oil Plants of Politz, Germany. However, A/C failed to reach the primary and a target of opportunity was selected. Bombing results on this T.O. were reported as poor. Stralsund is believed to have been the Target of Opportunity. E/A reaction for the squadron was Nil. Meager, inaccurate flak was encountered. There were no losses, no claims, and no casualties. 1st Lt. Ronald B. Dorrington, and T/Sgt. Robert P. Cowan completed their tour of duty this date. Both hold the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC. 2nd Lts. Wallerstein and Gardon appointed to 1st Lt.

Assigned this date for duty are following listed Officers and Enlisted Combat Crew personnel:

2nd Lt. John M. Houston
2nd Lt. John K. Lundberg
2nd Lt. William J. Scroggs
2nd Lt. Gerald J. Sullivan
S/Sgt. Donald B. Murray
Sgt. William M. Cusick

Sgt. Kenneth L. Spatz
S/Sgt. R. Castello
Sgt. Donald M. Herrin

2nd Lt. William F. Skoglund
2nd Lt. Edwin M. Switzer
2nd Lt. Harry A. Smith
2nd Lt. James T. Kline
T/Sgt. Louis (NMI) Muro, Jr.
Sgt. William E. Ireland
Sgt. Rex L. Scott
S/Sgt. Lileon P. Card, Jr.
Sgt. Lloyd S. Jackson
Sgt. Samuel T. Weatherly

14. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

15. Mission called to attack the German fighter and bomber base at Orly, France. Mission scrubbed.

16. Mission to Orly A/F again called. Mission scrubbed.

17. Target designated as the A/D at Rotenburg, Germany. Mission scrubbed.

18. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

19. Berlin, Germany named as today's target. Leading the squadron was Lt. Cronin. Squadron was also leading the low group of the CBW. Over the target area A/C intense accurate flak while E/A reaction for the formations was nil. Both visual and PFF methods of bombing were used and crews reported the results as good. Making up the rest of the squadron's formation were Lts. Jones, Wardencki, Myers, Williams, Peak, Whitehead, Pendergist, Murray, and White. There were no losses, no claims and no casualties.

20. Though A/C from other squadrons of the Group flew an operational mission this squadron was not ordered to furnish any A/C for today. 2nd Lts. Wardencki and Mineo appointed to 1st Lieutenant.

21. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

22. Shipyards and naval base of Kiel, Germany designated as target for today. 7 A/C took off and were led to the target by Major Briggs, Squadron commander. Crews reported bombing results as good. Moderate to intense inaccurate flak encountered at the target area. There were no fighters to oppose the formations. Others flying this mission are listed as follows: Lt. Kesley, Lt. Williams, Lt. Murray, Lt. Wardencki, Lt. Crossgrove, and Lt. Peak.

23. Crews were briefed to attack Woippy Aero engine works. This target is located near Metz, France. Primary was not attacked and a target of opportunity was selected and bombed with excellent results. Homburg, Germany was the selected T.O. Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Gardon, Lt. Martyniak, Lt. Peak, Lt. Harding and Lt. Myers were pilots that participated. 2nd Lt. Williams L Mineo, 1st Lt. Connors C. Myers, 1st Lt. John (NMI) Mikulik, and S/Sgt. Gaston C. Mandeville completed their tour of duty today. All men hold the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leafs and the DFC.

24. Friedrichstrasse station in Berlin is designated as today's target. 10 A/C of this Squadron were dispatched and attacked the primary with good results. Enemy fighter opposition was stiff. Flak was heavy and the barrage type. Enemy fighter aircraft were aggressive and numerous passes were made at our formation. One E/A was claimed as destroyed and another claimed as a probable. Flying in the lead squadron, which was leading the Group and the Combat Wing were Lts. Cronin, Jones Wallerstein, Williams, Ackerman, Martyniak, Peak and Harding. Lt. Gardon and Lt. Wardencki with their respective

crews are listed as MIA when they failed to return from this raid. Both A/C were hit by fighters in the target area and were observed to burst into flames. These A/C are believed to have collided after suffering sustained fighter attacks. No chutes seen out of either plane. S/Sgt. John L. Ryan and S/Sgt. Lloyd completed their tour of duty this date. Both men hold the Air Medal, e Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC. Listed are crewmen that are MIA:

Wardencki, J.A. 1st Lt.
Dayton, C.R. 2nd Lt.
Morrison, W.W. 2nd Lt.
Miller, R.R. T/Sgt.
Backelin, W.H. T/Sgt.
Anderson, C. S/Sgt.
Elliott, G. S. S/Sgt.
Blackfield, W.I. 2nd Lt.

Gardon, C.A. 1st Lt.
Sorneberger, A.W. 2nd Lt.
Soltwedal, E.R. 2nd Lt.
Moseley, W.C. 2nd Lt.
Schaub, D.P. S/Sgt.
Cornell, K.H. T/Sgt.
Shaw, A.F. S/Sgt.
Rush, JR. S/Sgt.
O'Neal, J.S. T/Sgt.

25. Operational Mission to Nancy/Essey A/F in France. 7 A/C attacked the A/F with bombing results being reported as excellent. Numerous explosions and columns of smoke were observed soon after target was hit. Flak and enemy fighters were Nil for our formation. Those participating on this raid are as follows: Lt. Williams, Lt. White, Lt. Wallerstein, Lt. Ackerman, Lt. Hopkins, Lt. Harding and Lt. Murray. 1st Lt. Lawrence B. Wallerstein, pilot, completed his tour of duty. S/Sgt. Fredrick W. Perkins finished his this date also. Both hold the DFC, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal.

Assigned for duty with the organization this date are the following listed Combat Crewmen:

2nd Lt. Joseph H. Gallagher, pilot
2nd Lt. Michael Lambardi
Sgt. Louis W. Goc
Sgt. John H. Coombs
Sgt. Everett R. Millard
2nd Lt. Arthur S. Palmer, Jr.
F/O Raymond P. Kotkiewicz
Sgt. August J. Caminara
Sgt. Stanley J. Landowski

26. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

27. Seven A/C of this squadron were furnished to the 94th CBW to fly and operational mission to Ludwigshafen, Germany. The railroad marshalling yards of this city were given as the target. Lts. Kesly, White Martyniak, Williams, Hopkins and Murray attacked the primary with good results. Strike photographs show a good pattern of bombs around the M.P.I. Smoke and explosions make it impossible to determine if the M.P.I. was squarely hit. E/A reaction for the formation was Nil. Flak was intense, inaccurate and of the barrage type. S/Sgt. Kyle B. Wheatley and S/Sgt. Winton K. Hill completed their tour this date. Both men hold the DFC, 3 Oak Leafs and the Air Medal. 2nd Lt. Pendergist, pilot, appointed to 1st Lt. Major A.F. Briggs, Squadron Commander, on 8 day leave beginning today. Lt. H.N. Kesley, squadron operations officer, assumes command.

Assigned to the squadron for duty this date are the following:

2nd Lt. Paven J. Williams
2nd Lt. James G. Manion
S/Sgt. Joe F. Hendrickson
Sgt. Russel W. Newman
Sgt. Robert W. Witt
2nd Lt. John M. Collum
2nd Lt. Ernest D. Kyser
S/Sgt. Heinz W. Huthamann
S/Sgt. Robert W. Irvin
Sgt. John S. Patoki

28. Mission called to attack the Aero Engine works of Dassau, Germany. Our aircraft failed to reach the primary and attacked tarts of opportunity along the route. Our squadron, flying in the lead Group, attacked the airfield at Brandia/Polenz, Germany with excellent results. Photos show two of three hangers received direct hits. There was no E/A opposition and flak was only meager and tracking along the route. Making up the squadron were Lts. Ackerman, Murray, Peak, White, Whitehead, and Martyniak.

29. Railroad shops of Poser, Poland named as the target for today. Low squadron of the group was our position, which was led by Lt. Peak. Rounding out the formation were Lts. Harding, Martyniak, Whitehead, and White. Crews reported that their target was well hit. A number E/A attacked the formation but were driven off. There were no claims or casualties. S/Sgt. Edward L. Serpa and S/Sgt. Warren F. Fields completed their tour of duty this date. Both men hold the DFC, Air Medal and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters.

30. Led by Lt. Ackerman, Lts. Skoglund, Murray, Pendergist, Houston, Whitehead, Crossgrove and Lt. Harding attacked the aero engine works of Dessau, Germany. Our squadron was in low position of the lead group of the CBW. Reports stated that results of bombing were good. Flak was experienced at the target area and enemy fighters attacked the formations. 1 E/A was claimed as damaged by S/Sgt. J.S. Wilson. 2nd Lt Freeman appointed to 1st Lt.

31. Scheduled to bomb the railroad center of Mulhouse, France our ships failed to attack the primary target due to poor weather. Targets of opportunity were selected and bombed with results reported as poor. Targets believed to have been in the area of Florennes, Belgium. Participating on this flight were Lt. Freeman, Squadron leader, Lt. Jones, Lt. Skoglund, Lt. White, Whitehead, Martyniak, Houston, and Lt. Murray.

Squadron strength at end of month stands at 397 Enlisted Men and 70 Officers.

June 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

June 1944

1. Mission called to attack Synthetic Oil factories in Hamburg, German. Mission scrubbed before take-off.
2. Seven aircraft of this squadron took-off early this morning to participate on a raid in the area of Bolougne, France. This target was of tactical value since the primary objective of the force was to destroy the gun emplacements there. No enemy aircraft encountered, no flak, no claims and no casualties sustained by our crewmen. Bombing results were unobserved due to 10/10ths undercast. Lt. H.N. Kesley, squadron operations officer, led the formation, which consisted of A/C piloted by Lt. Crossgrove, Lt. Whitehead, Williams, Skoglund, Lt. Houston, and Lt. Murray.

Three of our crews participated on the second mission of the day. This too was a tactical target, being the railway fly-over at Palaisenu/Massy, near Paris, France. Results of bombing were reported as good, though not on the MPI. Hits were observed in the marshalling yard near the choke point. There were no enemy fighter attacks and only meager, inaccurate flak at the target was encountered. No claims and no losses.

2nd Lt. Paul F. Mclean, 1st Lt. Forest C. Piatt and 1st Lt. John W. Williams completed their tour of duty this date. All three hold the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

3. Six A/C of this squadron were dispatched to attack gun emplacements located in Hardelet, just a few miles south of Bolougne, France. Due to heavy cloud cover the results of today's bombing were unobserved. Lt. Ackerman led the squadron, composed of Lts. Crossgrove, Skoglund, Peak, Whitehead and Lt. Houston.

Assigned this date for combat duty are the following named Officers and Enlisted Men:

Kelly, C.H. 2nd Lt.
Disbrow, R.C. 2nd Lt.
Champ, F.A. F/O
Wliczek, S.J. S/Sgt.
Brooks, H.C. S/Sgt.
Brasher, C.F. S/Sgt.
Workman, R.J. Sgt.
Campbell, A.M. Sgt.
Graham, D.C. Sgt.

4. Our squadron did not participate on an operational mission this date, although other A/C of the Group attacked gun installations in the area of Bolougne, France.

Major A.F. Briggs returned to duty from leave this date. Lt. H.N. Kesley relieved of duty as CO. Major Briggs assumes command.

5. Lt. Jones led the squadron, composed of nine a/c, on today's raid to Tailleville, France. Coast defense installations were to be bombed. All A/C bombed with results being good. There was no flak and no enemy fighters were seen. Lts. Jones, Murray, Harding, Ackerman, Houston, Skoglund, Pendergist, White, Hopkins and Martyniak participated.

1st Lt. Edward (NMI) Molenda and S/Sgt. Robert A. Gannon completed their tour of duty this date. Both hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.

6. Field Order is in ordering five aircraft of this squadron, along with others of the Group, to hammer coastal defenses at Ver Sur Mer. This was the first bombing of the day, timed to proceed, Allied landings all along the invasion coast. Taking off and under the command of Major A.F. Brigs, squadron commander, pilots Skoglund, Murray, Harding, Peak, Hopkins and Whitehead made their way to their objectives and dropped their bombs. Events were completely hidden from crewmen by a solid undercast. Enemy fighter reaction was nil and none reported flak. There were no claims and no losses.

Taking off only a few hours after the first formations – bombers of our squadron were to attack a vital highway bridge leading into the city of Caen. However, crewmen found the target covered by heavy cloud and had to return their bombs back to base. Participating were Lts. Houston, White, and Jones. To fighters and flak was again nil.

Third mission of day was called. The railway bridge and highway choke points of Villers Boeage were to be attacked. Mission scrubbed due to adverse weather conditions over the target area.

1st Lt Paul D. Lear and S/Sgt. Harold (NMI) Hirsch completed their tour of duty this date. Both hold the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

7. Cracking down on the airfields that might be used by the Luftwaffe against our invasion forces, 9 Flying Forts of this squadron took part in an attack on the German airfield at Kerlin/Bastard, France. Runways and main buildings were reported as being well hit. There was no enemy fighter opposition and flak was only meager. However, flak damage to engines on Lt. Martyniaks aircraft forced him to ditch several miles from Guerny Island just off Cherbourg Peninsula. It was reported that the entire crew was picked up and returned to England with only minor injuries to some of the crewmen. All other A/C returned safe to base. Group leader was Lt. H.N. Kesley, squadron operations officer, who led our squadron, composed of Lts. Peak, Crossgrove, Hopkins, Skoglund and Whitehead to the target and back.

T/Sgt. Carl (NMI) Hempel and T/Sgt. William B. Gledhill completed their operational tour this date. Both hold the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

8. Returning to the task of destroying tactical targets, our bombers were to hit the steel railway bridge over the Loire river, located 6 miles E. of Tours, France. Returning crews reported that they had excellent results. Again enemy fighters made no appearance and no flak encountered along the route. Meager flak was experienced at the target. Nine Forts participated, with Lts. Jones and Petroski leading the formation composed of Lts. Whitehead, Peak, Crossgrove, Houston, White, Pendergist, Skoglund and Hopkins. All of our a/c returned safely to base.

S/Sgt. Raymond Castellane and T/Sgt. Hugh F. Riesdorp completed their tour of duty this date. Both hold the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC. T/Sgt. Riesdorp is at present on leave in the States but will return to the squadron for another tour of duty.

Tonight was to have been the night of squadron's party. However, it was cancelled due to unexpected operations.

T/Sgt. Robert J. Glancey completed his tour of duty this date. Glancey holds the DFC, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

Assigned for combat duty this date is the following listed crew:

P 2nd Lt. Massaker, Robert D.

CP 2nd Lt. Penrod, Richard F.

N 2nd Lt. Martin, Elliott, E.

B 2nd Lt. Brandt, Richard E.

TT S/Sgt. Mullenex, George N. Jr.

RO S/Sgt. Jewsbury, Paul C.

BT Sgt. Olauson, Donald B.

WG Sgt. De Maria, Joseph A.

TG Sgt. Smith, Frank G.

2nd Lt. W. Hart, squadron gunner officer appointed 1st Lt. Lt. Hart on detached service to Laredo, Texas.

9. Non Operational. Usual Garrison duties.

From our star reporter comes this conversation – overheard in the Orderly Room:

Major Briggs [534th Sqdn C.O.] – “Where’s Lt. Delchamps? [Sqdn Engineering Ofc]”

Capt. O’Brien – “A.W.O.L”

Major Briggs – “What do you mean?”

Capt. O’Brien – “After Women or Liquor”.

10. Six of our bombers participated, this morning in the attack on the coastal town of Harelot, south of Bolougne, France. A solid cloud undercast prevented observation of bombing results. There was no flak at the target and there were no enemy fighters sighted. All a/c returned safe to base. Under Lt. Kesley’s command the following listed Officers piloted their aircraft and crews to the target and back: Lts. Houston, White, Gallagher, Crossgrove and Ackerman.

1st Lt. John E. Aikenhead and 1st Lt. Chas E. Ackerman completed their tour this date. Lt. Ackerman is now on leave in the States but will return to this organization for another tour of duty. Lt. Aikenhead and Lt. Ackerman both hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.

11. Though other squadrons of the group went out to attack the A/F at Beaumont le Roger, our unit did not participate.

Listed below are Officers and Enlisted men of a combat crew assigned for duty:

P 2nd Lt. Inscho, Robert L.

CP 2nd Lt. Beauvais, Robert L.

N 2nd Lt. Burget, John R.

B 2nd Lt. Frank, Leonard A.

E S/Sgt. Growse, Trexel O.

R S/Sgt. Cheetham, Andrew P.

WG Sgt. Goldsborough, James E.

WG Sgt. Cone, Alvin C.

TG Sgt. Gray, Donald W.

12. Squadron Commander, Major A.F. Briggs and Operations Officer, Lt. Kesley led the 534th’s formation and the lead group of the 1st “A” CBW to blast the airfield at Lille/Nord, France. This target was reported as being well hit. There was no fighter interception and no flak aimed directly at our formation. However, meager flak was reported observed from a distance.

Those participating on today’s mission are Lt. Skoglund, Lt. Whitehead, Lt. Holman, Lt. Crossgrove, Lt. Gallagher, Lt. Peak, Lt. Harding and Lt. Williams.

2nd mission of the day called. Target designated as the railway marshalling yards of Juviay, (Nr. Paris) Kranoe. This mission scrubbed before take-off.

13. The Oil refineries of the Deutche Gasolin Co. located in Emmerich, Germany named as today's target. Mission scrubbed.

Listed in combat crew assigned for duty with this organization:

P 2nd Lt. Kaurin, Robert H.

CP 2nd Lt. Ford, George A.

N 2nd Lt. Younkin, Charles R.

B 2nd Lt. McHurney, Melvin C.

TT S/Sgt. Muir, Malcon W.

RO S/Sgt. Cosandier, Paul G.

BT Sgt. Winters, Amada C.

WG Sgt. Giddens, Herbert F.

TG Sgt. Sathers, John H.

14. Lts. Gallagher, Pendergist, Whitehead, Murray, Crossgrove, Houston, and Williams participated on a successful operational mission to Melun/Villaroahe A/F in France today. Returning crewmen reporting that the target was well hit. There were many bomb bursts in the hangers and dispersal area. Flak was meager to moderate, while there was an absence of enemy fighter opposition. All A/C returned to base.

15. Under command of Lt. Col. Kunkel, Gp Operations Officer, and Lt. Petroski our A/C attacked the airfield the airfield at Bordeaux/Merignae, France. All A/C made a bomb run; bombed with good results without interception by enemy fighters. Flak was intense in the target area and a number of bombers returned with battle damage. Lts. Gallagher, Soale, White, Houston, Harding, Murray, Williams, Pendergist, Whitehead, Skoglund, Crossgrove and Kelly participated. Lt. Kelly is listed as MIA. It is reported that flak fire knocked Lt. Kelly's ship out.

Missing in Action:

P 2nd Lt. Kelly, C.H.

CP 2nd Lt. Disbrow, R.C.

N Champ, F.A. F/O

TOG S/Sgt. Wilezek, S.J.

RO S/Sgt. Brooks, H.C.

TT S/Sgt. Brasher, C.F.

BT Sgt. Workman, R.J.

WG Sgt. Campbell, A.M.

TG Sgt. Graham, D.S.

T/Sgt. James R. Burns, Jr. and S/Sgt. Lawrence D. Riedinger completed their tour of duty on this operation. Both hold the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC. T/Sgt. Burns will return to do another tour after taking 30 days leave in the States.

16. A single span bridge at Flixecourt/Conde Four, France is designated as the day's target. Mission scrubbed.

17. Mission called to attack synthetic oil plants located in Brux, Czechoslovakia, Mission scrubbed.

Assigned this date for duty are the following named Officers and Enlisted Men:

P 1st Lt. Murphy, Bennie E.

CP 2nd Lt. Reagh, John A.

N 2nd Lt. Smidt, Wellis, E.

B 2nd Lt. Shell, Francis J.

TT S/Sgt. Standford, Fred E.

RO S/Sgt. Davis, Johnny P.

BT Cpl. Hansen, Robert L.

WG Sgt. Hernandez, Daniel D.

TG Cpl. Howard, Kenneth R.

P 2nd Lt. Moore, William H.

CP 2nd Lt. Morgan, Harold E.

N 2nd Lt. Wilker, Harold D.

B 2nd Lt. Lendman, Edward T.

TT S/Sgt. Oherke, Alvin

RO S/Sgt. Van Buskirk, George A.

BT Sgt. Wilson, Reelyy K.

WG Sgt. Vernazen, Herbert R.

TG Sgt. Westwood, Gordon L.

18. Oil refineries located in Hamburg were objectives of the squadron's Forts this date. Led by Lt. Petroski and Jones – Lts. Whitehead, Peak, Martyniak, Murray, Harding, Pendergist, Williams, Soale, Houston and Gallagher bombed the prescribed targets. However, weather conditions prevented accurate observations of bombing results. There were no enemy fighters. Flak was unusually heavy and accurate. All eleven ships returned to base without casualty. There was some flak damage to several of the a/c.

T/Sgt. Carl Mongrue, S/Sgt John Vieira and 1st Lt. Troy H. Jones completed their tour of operations this date. After spending 30 days in the States, Lt. Jones will return to do another tour. All three men hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.

19. Targets are again to be synthetic oil works. Destination of bombers is to be Hamburg. Mission is scrubbed.

Second operation of the day ordered. The target is named as the A/F of Bordeaux/Merginae as the primary. Under command of Lt. H.N. Kesley and Lt. Col. Hall, as CBW leader, 14 of the 534th Forts, which led the lead group of the 1st "A" Combat Wing, attacked their target in clear weather. Results were reported as excellent. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy and accurate, while not a single enemy fighter was seen throughout the entire flight. Those taking part were Lts. Soale, Gallagher, Pendergist, Harding, Skoglund, Whitehead, Carroll, Peak, Williams, Houston, Crossgrove, Kesley with Lt. Col. Hall and Lt. Massaker.

Another target is designated. This time the primary is to be the constructional works located in the Pes de Calais area of France. These works are possibly sites used for launching pilotless planes. This mission is scrubbed.

T/Sgt. Amos G. Roberson, T/Sgt. Edward M. Hart, S/Sgt. Ernesto G. Rodriguez, S/Sgt. Erlene (NMI) Feldman and S/Sgt. Kenneth L. Miller completed their tour of duty this date. All men hold the Air Medal, with three clusters and the DFC. Sgts. Roberson, Hart, Rodriguez, and Feldman will return to the organization for another tour of duty. At present they are on leave to the States.

20. Back to the job of bombing synthetic oil refineries, 10 of our bombers smashed their objectives despite their targets strong AA defenses. The targets were along the dock-fronts of Hamburg, Germany. E/A opposition was nil. There were no claims nor losses. Lts. Massaker, Harding, Peak, Murray, Pendergist, Houston, Williams, Crossgrove and Gallagher participated on this successful operation.

1st Lt. Park Tamplin completed his tour of operations today. He holds the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the DFC.

21. Berlin, today was dealt the first daylight attack since the invasion began. With Lt. Pendergist leading, 10 of our bombers attacked their assigned MPI's with results being reported as good. Moderate to intense accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered at the target. Enemy fighter attacks were many and very determined. A number of combats took place and the gunners of this squadron were awarded combat claims as follows:

T/Sgt. W. L. Wheeler 1 damaged
T/Sgt. R.W. Wallis 1 destroyed
Sgt. Don B. Clauson 1 damaged
Sgt. Joseph DeMaria 1 damaged
S/Sgt. Geo Mullenex 1 damaged
S/Sgt. W.M. Coffey 1 destroyed
T/Sgt. Lewis Muro 1 damaged
S/Sgt. D. Longley 1 damaged
S/Sgt. W.M. Cusic 1 damaged
Sgt. F.G. Smith 1 damaged
S/Sgt. E.W. Conatser 1 damaged
Sgt. A.J. Cerminara 1 damaged

Crews completing this mission are Lt. Harding, Flint, Williams, Skoglund, Houston, Martyniak, Crossgrove, Gallagher and Lt. Massaker. Today's road cost us the lead ship – Lt. Pendergist and crew. This A/C was last seen in the target area with #3 engine on fire and trailing edge of wing and ailerons afire. A/C went down under control, did a 180 degree turn and then men began bailing out. Nine chutes were reported to come out. Other reports varied. Listed MIA:

1st Lt. Roy H. Pendergist
F/O Joseph W. Lawless
2nd Lt. Robert H. Harvey
2nd Lt. Eloy W. Heniff
T/Sgt. Salzsieder, Herbert S.
S/Sgt. Malcom M. Muir

S/Sgt Joseph S. Wilson
S/Sgt. Harold M. Lehman
S/Sgt. Byron E. King

22. Lts. Gallagher, Romasco, Houston, Harding, Massaker, Skoglund, Williams, White Murray and Lt. Peak took part in a raid on switch and power stations in Abbeville, France. Crewmen reported results as excellent. No enemy fighter sighted and flak was meager. Flak fire destroyed one of our A/C on this raid. Lt. Peaks ship was last seen in the target area and had been hit by a direct burst of AA fire. Lt. Peak pulled up above the formation and then started down to the left. His ship blew up, breaking in half at the ball turret. No chutes seen. Listed MIA:

1st Lt. Samuel L. Peak
1st Lt. Robert F. Petroski
2nd Lt. Allen (NMI) Osterberg
S/Sgt. Frank A. Welke
S/Sgt. Murl F. Simmons
S/Sgt. Robert F. Scharff
S/Sgt. Richard F. Scharff
S/Sgt. Richard D. Oberlin
S/Sgt. Rockey, Max L.

(The listing of two Scharff's is evidentially an error. Bits and Pieces lists S/Sgt Frank E. Welke instead of Richard F. Sharff).

23. Flying in the high squadron's slot in the group formation and under command of Lt. Whitehead, 6 A/C took off at 1045 hours this morning to attack ski sites in the Pas de Calais region. This site located at Bachmont, France is possibly used for launching pilotless A/C. The target was bombed by PFF method, therefore no observations on the bombing. Enemy fighter opposition was – Nil and flak fire was moderate. The pilots that participated are: Lt. Gallagher, Lt. Murray, Lt. Massaker, Lt. Houston, Lt. Whitehead and Lt. Williams.

24. Today's target is designated as the Railway Bridge over the Loire river, W. of Tours, France. Under command of Lt. Romasco, who was our squadron leader and led the high group in the 1st CBW, 9 A/C bombed visually with good results. Lt. Romasco led the formation through heavy flak and attacked the primary. Soon after "bombs away" his a/c was observed to receive a direct burst of flak in the radio room. He kept his ship under control until part of his crew bailed. The a/c then went into a spin, burning and was seen to hit the ground and explode. Around six chutes were seen to come out. Listed as MIA are:

Romasco, V.R. 2nd Lt.
Kellum, R.L. 2nd Lt.
Stwealt, R.L. 2nd Lt.
Chandler, J.H. F/O
Cosandier, P.G. S/Sgt.
Giddens, R.F. Sgt.
Scoggins, G. Sgt
Owens, H.E. S/Sgt.
Waldow, E.L. S/Sgt.

2nd Lt. Eager appointed to 1st Lt this date.

25. 8 A/C of this squadron took part in an operation to the A/F at Toulouse, France. Results were reported as poor. A number of crews reported results as fair. E/A reaction against the formation was nil. At the target area, meager, inaccurate

continuous following fire was experienced. Pilots with crews on this raid listed: Lt. Murray, Lt. Houston, Lt. Hollman, Lt. Williams, Lt. Inscho, Lt. Kaurin, Lt. Harding and Lt. White.

26. Mission called to attack the aero-engine works located in Muncheam, Germany. Mission is scrubbed.

27. Major Briggs, squadron commander, called a meeting of all ground Officers, at five o'clock this date.

Following named officers and enlisted men were assigned this date for combat duty:

Evans, H.A. 2nd Lt.

Parkison, E.E. 2nd Lt.

Clark, A.H. 2nd Lt.

Relke, R.E. 2nd Lt.

Foster, E. F. S/Sgt.

Malsberger, J.E. S/Sgt

Anderson, E.R. Sgt.

Brier, L.J. Sgt.

Imberg?, A.T. Sgt.

McCann, G.C. Sgt.

T/Sgt. Blackstock and T/Sgt. Martin Charbo of Tech Supply and Squadron Supply transferred in grade to the 86th Service Group for duty. These men are going to the States for assignment to said organization.

28. Lt. Moore, Lt. Skoglund, Lt. Kaurin, Lt. Inscho, Lt. Gallagher, Lt. Whitehead, Lt. Hollman, under command of Major A.F. Briggs and Lt. Kesley attacked a single span bridge at Fismes, France. This target was missed. Hits were observed about 200 ft. to the left of the bridge. No flak was encountered at the target and was very light along route in and out. No enemy fighters encountered.

29. Leipzig, Germany was to be today's target. 10 ships of the squadron took off and made their way to assembly point. However, bad weather hampered assembly and the mission was abandoned. Lt. Inscho managed to tack onto a CBW that went in to the target and he followed to bomb the primary without observing results. Lt Inscho and crew receive credit for a mission.

30. Allach, near Munchen Germany, designated as the day's target. Scrubbed.

Assigned for duty with this organization is the following listed Combat crew:

P Bjorness, W.K. 2nd Lt.

CP Rama, John 2nd Lt.

N Painter, D.D. 2nd Lt.

B Stypuls, T.P. 2nd Lt.

TT Starr, I.F. S/Sgt.

BO Iund, W.R. S/Sgt.

BT Chochreh, C.J. Sgt.

WG Kelly, M.J. Sgt.

WG Dvorak, F.L. Sgt.

TG McCraw, B.M Sgt.

As the month ends – rumors are spreading that this organization will be transferred to the States. Apparently this is only wishful thinking as the squadron and group are still operational.

Total Officers and Enlisted personnel strength stands at 429 EM's and 89 Officers.

July 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

July 1944

1. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
2. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
3. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
4. First mission of the month called to attack the Tours La/Riche bridge which spans the Loire River. The target was not attacked due to 10/10 clouds. All of our aircraft returned to base safe with full bomb load. Enemy opposition was weak as only moderate inaccurate flak was encountered and there was an absence of enemy fighter planes. Lts. Harding, Fine, Whitehead, Crossgrove, Inscho and Moore piloted their a/c to the target and back. There were no losses, casualties or claims. Lt. Milan C. Snodgrass and S/Sgt. Fred D. Jensen completed their tour of operations this date. Both hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.
5. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
6. Crews were briefed on targets located in Bremen, Germany. This mission scrubbed and another is ordered. 9 A/C took off in near perfect weather to bomb the constructional works of Rely, France. A complete absence of enemy opposition allowed our formations to make a good run on the target. Crews reported bombing as excellent. Some flak was observed but none was directed at or contingent. All of our bombers returned safe to base. Those participating are listed as follows: Lt. Whitehead, Lt. Houston, Lt. Crossgrove, Lt. G. Moore, Lt. Inscho, Lt. Harding, Lt. Kaurin, Lt. Murray and Lt. Fine.

Assigned for duty with this organization this date are the following named combat crewmen:

2nd Lt. W.J. Black
2nd Lt. Douglas E. Holt
2nd Lt. C. Stein
2nd Lt. Floyd W. Kirby
S/Sgt. George W. Redbird
S/Sgt. Gordon A. Fortney
Sgt. Kenneth R. Clark
Sgt. Wayne C. Leeth

7. The air armaments factories of Leipzig, Germany were objectives of our Forts on today's mission. Our formations encountered intense AA fire but went on to bomb the primary target with good results. Hits were reported on the assigned aiming point. 9 of our aircraft bombed and returned safe to base. Under command of Lt. Whitehead, who led the low squadron in the lead group, the following pilots took part: Lt. Williams, Lt. Murphey, Lt. Murray, Lt. Moore, Lt. Gallagher. Flying in the high squadron in the high group and led by Lt. Crossgrove were Lts. Fine, Kaurin and Houston. Tour of operations was completed T/Sgt. Rodman W. Wallace this date. He holds the DFC, Air Medal and three clusters to the Air Medal.

8. Constructional works located in Rely, France again designated as the target. Over the target weather was described as 8 to 10/10ths therefore our aircraft did not bomb. Dense and persistent contrails also hampered visibility. Those participating: Lts. Crossgrove, Murphy, Evans, Whitehead, Harding and Skoglund.

2nd Lt. James M. Hopkins, T/Sgt. William L. Wheeler and S/Sgt. Walter A. Schillinger completed their tour of operations this date. All three hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal.

9. 6 crews were briefed this morning to attack targets located in Coubronne, France. Targets were to have been the flying bomb sites located in this area. Owing to poor visibility a target of opportunity was selected and bombed. This target being the airfield at St. Omer. Strike photos show bombs bursting on the runways and western portions of the field. Results were described by crewmen as good. There was meager, inaccurate, tracking flak from St. Omer but enemy aircraft failed to show. Lts. Crossgrove, Murphy, Evans, Whitehead, Skoglund and Harding participated. 1st Lt. Ralph C. Crossgrove and S/Sgt. Bernard J. Mitchell completed their tour this date. Lt. Crossgrove holds the DFC, the Air Medal and three clusters to the Air Medal. S/Sgt. Mitchell holds the same awards.

10. Mission is called naming the bridge crossing the River Canche near Etaples, France as the target. Mission is scrubbed.

11. 7 A/C of this squadron attacked the railway center of Munich, Germany today. Under command of Lt. White, who led the low squadron of the group, our A/C attacked the primary with results be unobserved. PFF methods were used to bomb due to cloud coverage over the target area. Those participating are as follows: Lt. White, Lt. Moore, Lt. Inscho, Lt. Hollman, Lt. Bjorness, Lt. Kaurin and Lt. Skoglund. Intense, inaccurate barrage and tracking type fire was experienced at the target. Again the Luftwaffe failed to appear. There were no casualties or claims.

12. The factories of Bayerische-Motorenwerke A.G., located in Allach (Nr. Munich), were designated as target for today. Again PFF methods were employed and the target area was unobserved at time of bombs away. Enemy fighter opposition was nil and flak was reported as moderate to intense, inaccurate and barrage and tracking type. Under command of Lt. White – Lts. Williams, Gallagher, Skoglund, Inscho and Hollman completed this mission. Our squadron was flying in the high box in the lead group of the 1st "A" Combat Wing. All aircraft returned safe to base. No casualties, no losses and no claims on today's operation.

While other aircraft in the squadron were on the operation to Allach, several crews were brief to attack constructional targets at Fresnoy, France. This mission was scrubbed.

13. The Aero-engine works of Munchen are designated as today's target. Though conditions over the target were hazy a visual sighting was made and crews reported bombs falling in the built up area. Flak was moderate to intense, while fighter opposition was nil. Under command of Lt. H.N. Kesley, squadron operations officers, the following named pilots completed this operation: Lt. Inscho, Lt. Martyniak, Lt. Hollman, Lt. Skoglund, Lt. Evans, Lt. Murphy, Lt. Williams and Lt. Bjorness. The squadron lost eight combat crewmen and an aircraft just after take-off for this mission. Lt Houston's a/c developed mechanical difficulty and crashed just off the field. All men were killed with the exception of the pilot, who was thrown clear. Listed are those KIA:

Scruggs, W.M. 2nd Lt.
Sullivan, W.M. 2nd Lt.
Walmsley, J.A. 2nd Lt.
Murray, D.B. S/Sgt.
Benward, R.A. S/Sgt.
Spatz, K.L. S/Sgt.
Cusick, W.M. S/Sgt.
Jackson, L.S. S/Sgt.

14. The synthetic oil plants located in Merseburg (Leuna) are given as target for today. The mission is scrubbed.

The following name officers were promoted from 2nd to 1st Lts.

John W. Hanrahan
W.R. Johnson
Donald I. Soale
A.J. Harding
Raymond C. Hollman
Chas R. Neumeister
A.A. Saleeby
William F. Skoglund
R.W. Switzer
R.E. Teien

1st Lt. L.W. King appointed to Captain.

15. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

Assigned for duty with this organization this date are the following listed combat crewmen:

2nd Lt. John W. Williamson 2nd Lt. Robert W. Giese
2nd Lt. Albert L. Gruner 2nd Lt. W.D. Hall
2nd Lt. Phillip M. Hospers 2nd Lt. Robert D. Smith
2nd Lt. William P. Dorgeloh 2nd Lt. John P. Fedak
Sgt. Harry Molloy Sgt. Clarence A. Page
Sgt. Ray M. Harpool Sgt. Donald W. Herrin
Sgt. John (NMI) Audia Sgt. Edward A. Esker
Sgt. Rufus R. Frazier Sgt. Richard C. Sherrouse
Sgt. Mike (NMI) Kramer Sgt. Virgil M. Mastelloto

16. The Aero-engine works of Allach were assigned targets for our a/c today. 9 A/C took off at 0430 hours and were led by Lt. White who was leading the high squadron of the high group in the 1st "A" CBW. 10/10ths cloud cover at the target area prevented a visual sighting and bombs were released on what is believed to be Augsburg by using PFF. Results could not be observed. Moderate flak was encountered and only one enemy aircraft was sighted. There were no losses, no casualties or claims made. Lts. White, Moore, Harding, Skoglund, Williams, Gallagher, Kaurin, Bjorness and Inscho completed the mission.

17. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

18. Under command of Capt. Freese and Lt. Martyniak, who led the squadron and the 1st "B" CBW – Lts. Murphy, Moore, Murray, Hollman, Inscho and Evans attacked the experimental station for flying bombs and rockets at Pennemunde, located in northeastern Germany. The target was attacked visually with reports of excellent bombing coming from the crews. E/A reaction was nil and only moderate, inaccurate flak was encountered from the target. All of our bombers returned to base without serious damage or casualty. 2nd Lt. Robert A. Douglas appointed 1st Lt. this date.

19. The airfield located at Lechfeld, Germany was designated as the target for today's raid. Weak enemy opposition enabled our a/c to make a good run and bomb the primary visually. Results were reported as excellent. Meager to moderate, inaccurate flak was encountered and there was an absence of fighter opposition. Lts. Harding, Kaurin, Evans, Hollman, Gallagher, Moore, Murray, White, Murphy and Inscho participated on today's operation. 1st Lt. W.K. White, pilot, completed his tour of operations this date. Lt. White holds the DFC, Air Medal and three clusters to the Air Medal.

20. Under command of Major A.F. Briggs, Squadron Commander, and Lt. Kesley, Squadron Operations Officer, who led to 1st "C" Combat Wing – Lts. Gallagher, Bjorness, Harding, Williams, Murray, Evans, Black and Capt. Freese with Lt. Hollman attacked the aero-engine factories of Dassau, Germany with excellent results. There was little enemy fighter opposition while intense, tracking and accurate anti-aircraft fire was experienced at the target. All aircraft returned safe to base with only minor battle damage; this damage was sustained by only several ships. Today's mission concluded the tour of duty for four of our combat crewmen. Listed are those that completed their tour and awards held by each:

Assigned this date for duty with this organization were three combat crews. These crews are listed:

2nd Lt. Joe F. Slavic

2nd Lt. Oscar Helm

2nd Lt. Carl (NMI) Hansen

2nd Lt. Richard R. Knight

Sgt. Maynard W. Voss

Sgt. Andrew Karki

Sgt. Joseph (NMI) Covert

Sgt. Harold F. Silstrat

Sgt. Merl Bothum

2nd Lt. Kenneth L. Sentner

2nd Lt. Wilbur L. Unsworth

2nd Lt. William T. Brayton

2nd Lt. William L. Hudson

Sgt. Edwin H. Bomar

Sgt. Herman N. Parish

Sgt. Garth C. Norris

Sgt. Orville L. Pyle

Sgt. Richard Ramsdell

2nd Lt. John C. Wilcock

2nd Lt. Stanley E. Hutchinson

2nd Lt. Charles R. Marsh

2nd Lt. Norbert L. Lucas

Sgt. Alfred E. Prinz

Sgt. Robert F. Friel

Sgt. Chas. R. Evans

Sgt. John A. Ramsey

Sgt. Richard A. Fall

21. The ball bearing factories located in Schweinfurt, Germany were attacked by aircraft of this squadron on today's mission with excellent results. Crews reported bombs right on the target. E/A reaction for aircraft of this squadron were nil. Intense, accurate, tracking and barrage type fire was experienced at the target. There were no claims, no casualties or losses sustained. Led by Lts. Martyniak and Murray – Lts. Murphy, Kaurin, Black, Gallagher and Evans successfully completed the mission.

22. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

23. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

24. 13 A/C of this squadron were ordered to attack, with others of the group, concentrations of enemy troops and equipment in the area south of St. Lo. Under command of Capt. Freese and Lt. Martyniak all of our aircraft bombed their assigned target with excellent results. There was no enemy fighter opposition and only light flak was encountered. These flak positions were silenced by artillery fire from our ground forces in and around St. Lo. Those participating are as follows: Capt. Freese with Lt. Martyniak, Lt. Hading, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Murphy, Lt. Evans, Lt. Skoglund, Lt. Black, Lt. Williams, Lt. Murray, Lt. Gallagher, Lt. Bjorness, Lt. Inscho and Lt. Moore.

1st Lt. F. Slaughter appointed Captain this date.

25. Today's mission had our bombers after the same targets as yesterday. Results were again reported as excellent and crews were of the opinion that this trip did the job thoroughly. Meager, inaccurate flak was experienced and enemy fighters failed to appear. Again led by Capt. Freese and Lt. Martyniak these crews completed the mission successfully: Lt. Kaurin, Lt. Skoglund, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Inscho, Lt. Evans, Lt. Black, Lt. Bjorness, Lt. Williams, Lt. Murray, Lt. Gallagher, Lt. Murphy and Lt. Moore. 1st Lts. R.J. Murray and John W. Hanrahan completed their tour of duty this date. Both hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.

26. The Diesel and Aero engine factories of Daimler-Benz A.G. were assigned as primary targets for today's mission. Field Order cancels mission. These factories are located in Berlin, Germany.

27. Munchen, Germany given as the day's target. This mission is scrubbed. We were to furnish ten aircraft for this operation.

2nd Lts. Fine, Fedak, Gallagher, Hamilton, Inscho, Kaurin, Kline, Lombardi, Williams, Russell, Moore were appointed 1st Lts this date.

28. Synthetic Oil plants and ammonia and nitrogen works located in Merseburg, Germany were attacked by A/C of our squadron today. The bombers centered their explosives on the target by using PFF equipment. Our formations encountered inaccurate, moderate to intense flak and no fighters. 6 crews, led by Lt. Soale, took part. Lt. Soale, Lt. Lewis, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Moore, Lt. Evans, Lt. Murphy and Lt. Black piloted aircraft to the target and back.

29. 9 A/C today attacked same targets as yesterday. Crews stated that they again bombed by PFF and were off the belief that their bombs hit the target area. While there was an absence of enemy fighter opposition – flak was intense and accurate. Lt. Martyniak and Lt. Whitehead led the low group of the 1st A combat wing with Lts. Fine, Skoglund, Inscho, Penrod, Soale, Bjorness and Gallagher composing the squadron and part of another element.

S/Sgt. Eldon E. Lucken Completed his tour of duty on today's mission. Sgt. Lucken holds the DFC, the Air Medal and three clusters to the Air Medal.

30. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

31. Lts. Douglas and Whitehead led 8 a/c of this squadron to targets in Allach, Germany. The primary was bombed visually but crews did not observed results because of smoke and cloud. Fighter reaction was nil for our aircraft. Flak was accurate, intense and of the tracking type. There were no losses or casualties.

S/Sgt. Frank (NMI) Rego and S/Sgt. Amos W. Braun completed their last mission on this trip. Both hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.

At the close of the month the Squadron's strength stands at: 455 Enlisted Men and 107 Officers.

August 1944

534th Bomb Sq.

381st Bomb Group (H)

WAR DIARY

Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

August 1944

1. Led by Major Briggs and Lt. Kesley aircraft of this squadron attacked the Melun/Villaroche airfield that is located 5 miles north of Melun, France. The primary was attacked successfully as crews reported their bombs bursting right on the runways. Moderate flak was encountered from the initial point to the target. No opposition en route either by flak or fighter aircraft. The 8 pilots that took their crew and aircraft to the target and back were Major Briggs with Lt. Kesley, Lt. Williams, Lt. Skoglund, Lt. Moore, Lt. Murphy, Lt Bjorness, Lt. Gallagher and Lt. Douglas with Lt. Whitehead. T/Sgt. Gentry T. Reed completed his tour of duty on this mission. To date he holds the DFC, three Oak Leaf clusters and the Air Medal. All men that did not get paid as of the last day of the previous month were paid today.

2. The largest synthetic oil plant in France, situated at harness, is to be attacked by Forts of our squadron. Mission is cancelled. The Squadron Orderly Room received information on the Victory War Bond Drive for the VIII Air Force today. The squadron goal has been set as \$22,000.00 in face value bonds. The drive will run from 29 July to September 2nd. Each bond holder will receive a stub and have the opportunity to win one of the three prizes offered by the VIII Air Force.

3. The Nord Railway marshalling yards of Mulhouse, France were attacked by nine of our aircraft this date. Crews reported bombing results as unobserved due to cloud cover. Anti-aircraft fire was moderate and accurate. Participating on this raid were Lts. Soale, Sentner, Slavik, Penrod, Evans, Gallagher, Black, Harding and Wilcock. At the target Lt. Wilcock's ship was observed to be hit by flak and lose and engine. Over the North Sea, on the return route, Lt. Wilcock radioed that his ship was in bad condition and that he was going to "bail" the crew. A/C not observed at this point. Lt. Wilcock was reported dead when picked up by Air-Sea Rescue patrols. The rest of the crew is still missing. Listed are members of this crew:

2nd Lt. Wilcock, John C. (KIA)

2nd Lt. Hutchinson, Stanley, E.

2nd Lt. Marsh, Charles

2nd Lt. Norbert I. Lucas

Sgt. Prinz, Alfred E.

Sgt. Friel, Robert F.

Sgt. Evans, Charles E.

Sgt. Ramsey, John A.
Sgt. Fall, Richard J.

4. Bombing visually in clear weather we hit the experimental station in Peenemunde, Germany today. Under command of Capt. Freese and Lt. Kaurin the entire formation bombed the primary with excellent results. Lts. Moore, Soale, Slavik, Evans, Gallagher, Penrod, Black and Murphy took part. AA fire in the target area was moderate but accurate. Other A/C of the group sustained battle damage but ours remained unscathed. There were no combats reported.

5. Flying in the High Group of the 1st "C" Combat wing and led by Capt. Freese with Lt. Whitehead our aircraft were dispatched and bombed the underground oil storage tanks located in Nienburg, Germany. The target was reported as being well hit. There were some AA fire at the enemy coast en route but none reported from the target area. Lts. Harding, Williams, Inscho, Bjorness, Evans, Giese and Sentner participated.

Assigned this date for duty with the squadron are the following listed Combat Crews:

2nd Lt. Fulton, Omar P.	2nd Lt. Scholze, Robert P.
2nd Lt. Conly, Robert X.	F/O Gregoire, Gordon G.
2nd Lt. Harrington, Robert V.	2nd Lt. Foster, James R.
Sgt. Martin, Roger A.	2nd Lt. McGilvray, James M.
Sgt. Hill, Charles W.	Sgt. Freestone, Marion M.
Sgt. VonGoeben, Carl J. Jr.	Sgt. Pettus, Robert E.
Sgt. Berry E. Franklin	Sgt. Pomeranke, Glen C.
Sgt. Jefferson, Theodore L.	Sgt. Bonham, Dorin A.
Sgt. Grubbs, James C.	Sgt. Kay, Gail H. Jr.

6. The Air Armaments factories at Brandenburg, Germany was attacked this date by 9 aircraft. The primary was attacked visually and with good results. A moderate barrage of flak was encountered today along the route and the target area. There were no enemy fighter attacks though a number of dog fights were witnessed between our fighters and those of the enemy. Under the command of Major Briggs, squadron commander, and Lt. Whitehead the following participated: Capt. Freese with Lt. Kaurin, Lt. Giese, Lt. Soale, Lt. Murphy, Lt. Moore, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Williams, and Lt. Sentner. Lt. Emerson E. Lewis, S/Sgt. Sheldon L. Oberstein and S/Sgt. Bill T. Fudge completed their tour on this mission. All hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three clusters to the Air Medal.

7. The Fuel depots located at St. Florentin and Bourron-Marlotte were attacked by 9 aircraft of this organization today. On both targets the results were reported as good. There was no AA fire from either target though a little flak was encountered at crossings of the coast. Lts. Sentner, Giese, Evans, Williams, Williamson, Moore, Inscho and Harding took part. Lt. Albert J. Harding Jr. and T/Sgt. Emmett N. Pope completed a tour of duty on this date. Both hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal.

8. A tactical target, in direct support of the ground troops in France, is given as the day's mission. Bombing is to be done in the area of Cauvicourt - about ten miles south/east of Caen. Returning crews reported hitting their assigned MIP's. All a/c bombed from an unusually low altitude. Altitudes this mission ranged from 12 to 14,000 feet. Intense AA fire that was very accurate was attributed to this factor. One officer and three enlisted men completed their tour of operations on today's mission. 1st Lt. Samuel H. Whitehead, S/Sgt. Edward Y. Odian, T/Sgt. Ernest B. Gatten and S/Sgt. Palmer Van Horn are those completing a tour of duty. All hold the DFC, the Air Medal and the three clusters to the Air medal.

9. Crews were briefed to attack targets in Munchen, Germany. Due to bad weather our aircraft did not reach the briefed primary. A target of opportunity was selected and bombed. This target was the railway marshalling yards of Saarbrucken, Germany. Results were reported as excellent. Moderate flak was experienced at the target while there was an absence of fighter opposition. There were no losses or casualties sustained. Today's formation was led by Lt. Soale, and Lt. Douglas with Lts. Gallagher, Evans, Murphy, Moore and Slavik participating. 1st Lt. Albert A. Saleeby and S/Sgt. Paul N. Pearlin completed their tour of duty on this mission. Both hold the Air Medal with three clusters and the DFC.

10. **Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.**

11. Tactical targets on Brest Peninsula attacked by Aircraft of this squadron today. Crews reported their bombs were right on their assigned objectives. 6 crews participated – a/c were piloted by Lts. Penrod, Sentner, Williams, Bjorness, Murphy and Slavik. There was little enemy opposition. T/Sgt. Ernest Conatser, S/Sgt. Jerry D. Herstine and S/Sgt. Harry (NMI) Applebaum completed their tour of duty today. All three men hold the DFC, three oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal and the Air Medal. The squadron supply Officer and supply sergeant attended a meeting at the station S-4 office in order that they [could] decide what the unit needs in case it had to move on a 48 hour notice.

12. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. 1st Lt. Delchamps was relieved from duty and assignment as squadron engineering officer and assigned to the 91st Bomb Group.

13. Tactical targets in the area of Rouen, France were attacked. Crews reported that their target had been hit. There was no enemy air opposition and flak was only meager. Formation was led by Capt. Freese and Lt. Kaurin. Other participating were Lts. Skoglund, Sentner, Black, Fine, Giese, Williamson, Moore, Inscho. James W. Gonzales – F/O completed his tour of duty on this mission. 1st Lt. George Steidle assigned and joined from Hq. 1st Bomb Division as squadron engineering officer.

14. The airdrome at Metz/ Frescaty, France was attacked by aircraft of this squadron today. Results were reported as excellent. There was no E/A opposition and flak was nil. Leading the low group of the 1st A Combat Wing were Lts. Douglas and Kaurin. Also participating were Lts. Bjorness, Skoglund, Williamson, Black, Fine, Moore, Wilkenson and Sentner.

15. Today the squadron bombed the airfield located at Ostheim (nr. Cologne) with excellent results being reported by returning crewmen. Under command of Lt. Col. Hall, Deputy Group Commander, and Lt. Kesley the following piloted their crew and aircraft to the target: Lt. Soale with Capt. Freese, Lt. Giese, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Black, Lt. Williamson, Lt. Murphey, Lt. Wilkenson and Lt. Inscho. Moderate to intense and accurate flak was experienced at the target area while there was an absence of enemy fighter activity.

1st Lt. Howard N. Kesley, Sqdn Operations Officer, appointed Captain this date. 2nd Lts. Penrod and Smith appointed to 1st Lt. Major Briggs, Squadron Commander, to 12th RCD for transfer to the States. Major Briggs has completed 31 operations over enemy occupied territory and will return to the Squadron after a period of rest. Captain Douglas L. Winter of the 532nd Squadron assumes command in the absence of Major Briggs. T/Sgt. Paul E. Harris completed his tour of duty this date. 1st Lt. Donald I. Soale completed his also. Both hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three clusters to the Air Medal.

16. An airfield located at Halle, Germany was the squadrons target for today. Partly covered by cloud the airfield was attacked by PFF and visual sightings. There were no fighter attacks and moderate flak was encountered en route and to the target. Lt. Fine, Lt. Slavik, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Inscho, Lt. Black, Lt. Giese, Lt. Wilkenson, Lt. Murphy, Lt. Moore and Lt. Williamson participated on this raid.

17. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

18. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

19. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. Usual Saturday morning inspections of huts and sites.

20. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. There is a mobile unit at the Station Hospital taking blood which is urgently needed by hospitals throughout England. A number of the men have donated a pint of blood. Major Arthur F. Briggs, Squadron Commander, now on leave to the States appointed to Lt. Col. 1st Lt. Ross G. Banks, Squadron Intelligence Officer, appointed to Captain.

21. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. Commitments are being taken for purchases of War Bonds for the current drive. Bonds may be purchased and later for during the Months of Sept., Oct., and November.

22. **Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.**

23. Russelheim, Germany named as the target for the day. Mission scrubbed.

24. The land armaments factory in Weimar, Germany was attacked today by 8 aircraft of this squadron. Bombing results were reported as excellent. Crews reported a meager and moderate amount of flak from the Initial Point to the target. There was no fighter opposition and no ground opposition en route. Participating were Lts. Kaurin with Douglas, Williamson, Skoglund, Evans, Sentner, Wilkenson, Fulton and Giese. Lt. William F. Skoglund completed his tour of duty today. He holds the DFC, the Air medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal. Assigned for duty this date is the following listed combat crew:

2nd Lt. Thorndike, Allen K.

2nd Lt. Harding, Edward W.

2nd Lt. Patton, Donald B.

2nd Lt. Neukom, John J.

Sgt. Mancino, Joseph C.

Sgt. Winter Robert W.

Sgt. Christenson, Marion H.

Sgt. Husser, James B.

Sgt. Schaaf, Raymond F.

25. The airfield at Neubrandenburg, Germany was attacked by 7 of our ships today. Bombing results were reported as excellent. No fighter opposition and only meager flak was encountered. Under command of Captains Winter and Kesley – the following attacked the target and completed the mission successfully: Lt. Cronin with Lt. Martyniak, Lt. Murphy, Lt. Bjorness, Lt. Fine, Lt. Smith, Lt. Black, Lt. Williams. 1st Lts Edwin M. Switzer, and Robert P. Burrell completed their tour today. S/Sgt. John J. Kukasik completed his tour also. All men hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

26. One of the three largest Synthetic Oil plants in Germany was attacked today by our aircraft. This target was situated in the heart of the Ruhr Valley. Crews reported that the bombing results on Gelsinkirchen were unobserved. They stated that flak was very accurate and intense. Again there was an absence of enemy fighter activity. Lt. Cronin and Martyniak were squadron lead. Other pilots that participated are: Lt. Slavik, Lt. Evans, Lt. Wilkenson, Lt. Gallagher, Lt. Fine, Lt. Fulton, Lt. Bjorness and Lt. Smith. Those comp letting their tour of duty were 1st Lt. Lester E. Fine, 1st Lt. Robert E. Teira, Sgt. Michael Lombardi, S/Sgt. Rex L. Scott. All men hold the DFC, the Air Medal and three clusters to the Air Medal. Usual Saturday morning inspection of huts and sites.

27. Lts. Murphey, Williamson, Penrod, Scholze, Bjorness, Gallagher, Sentner, Slavik, Evans and Wilkenson were to participate on an operational mission to Berlin. However bad weather hampered the formation's penetration deep into Germany. The lead s hip selected a target of opportunity and bombed with results being reported as good. This target was the Dock area of Emden. Flak was moderate while there was no fighter opposition. All A/C bombed and all returned safe to base.

28. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

29. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

30. 9 A/C of this squadron attacked the Kiel Naval Armaments works of Kiel, Germany. This target was bombed by PFF means and results were reported as unobserved. Flak was moderate and there was no fighter opposition. Lt. Douglas and Martyniak led the squadron composed of Lts. Williams, Black, Murphy, Gallagher, Fulton, Penrod, Wilkenson, and Scholze.

31. Non Operational. Pay day for all enlisted men. A special War Bond table was set up with Capt. O'Brien, 1st Sgt. Hartley and S/Sgt. Reitz paying the men and selling bonds or taking commitments for them. An early count showed that the Squadron had exceeded it's set quota. At the months end – strength for the squadron stands at: 449 enlisted men and 112 officers.

September 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

September 1944

1. Nine ships of the squadron were dispatched to attack the chemical works located in Ludwieshafen, Germany today. After reaching a point over France, on the route in, all aircraft were recalled by the Division leader because of unfavorable weather. This did not count as a combat mission. The following listed combat crew members were assigned and joined the organization this day:

2nd Lt William H. Boyce	2nd Lt. Howard J. Boden
2nd Lt. Charles C. Hicks, Jr.	2nd Lt. Jerome ? Wright
2nd Lt. William E. Clausen	2nd Lt. Charles N. Hotze
2nd Lt. Herbert F. Clyne	2nd Lt. Maurice (NMI) Wingeroth
Sgt. Lloyd C. Sell	Sgt. Henry J. Lanni
Sgt. Patrick D. Holloway	Sgt. James Hiatt
Sgt. William (NMI) Lipp	Sgt. Fredrick Hoffman
Sgt. Jeremiah B. Hogan	Sgt. Charles J. Kelly
Sgt. William J. Horn	Sgt. Everett A. Dood? (hard to read)

All men not paid upon end of last month were paid today. The War Bond drive continued.

2. Non Operational. Eighth Air Force War Bond Drive came to a close today. Purchases by personnel of this squadron exceeded the set goal of 22,000 dollars.

3. The synthetic oil refineries located in Ludwigshafen were attacked by 9 a/c of this squadron early today. Returning crewmen were unable to observed results due to 10/10ths cloud cover. Moderate and accurate anti-aircraft fire was experienced at the target area while there was a total absence of enemy fighter opposition. Under command of Captains

Winter and Kesley – the following participated: Lt. Slavik, Lt Penrod, Lt. Fulton Lt. Black, Lt. Williams, Lt. Giese, Lt. Wilkerson and Lt. Cronin with Lt. Martyniak. Lt. Fulton and crew failed to return from this operation. It is reported that Fulton's aircraft had two engines out and an attempt in crash landing near the vicinity of Reims, France was to be made?

(FATE of MIA crew??)

4. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

5. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

6. Mission called to attack installation in Genshagen, near Berlin, today. Mission is cancelled and another in designating Bremen's dock yards as the target. This too is scrubbed.

7. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. The following crew is attached to this squadron for operations:

2nd Lt. Thomas Schilling

2nd Lt. Miles F. Baldwin

S/Sgt. William D. Brown

S/Sgt. Jack W. Cullan

Sgt. Jack C. House

Sgt. Paul N. Schmidt

Sgt. John L Patrick

8. 10 of our aircraft were dispatched and attacked targets in Ludwigshafen early today. Results were again reported as unobserved due to cloud coverage of the target area. All a/c bombed in the vicinity of the assigned target. AA fire was moderate to intense and again no enemy fighter interference. Participating were Lt. Giese, Lt. Slavik, Lt. Williamson, Lt. Palmer, Lt. Sentner, Lt. Bjorness, Lt. Wilkenson, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Black and Lt. Moore.

9. 11 crews were brief this morning to attack targets in Baden-Baden Germany, however this was cancelled and the crews took off for an operation to the city of Mannheim. Results of bombing were unobserved. There was no e/a opposition and AA fire was reported as moderate, continuous following and of the barrage type. Under command of Lts. Cronin and Martyniak the following pilots took their crew and aircraft to the target and safe to base: Lts. Scholze, Penrod, Bjorness, Giese, Williamson, Wilkenson, Moore, Slavik, Black and Sentner. Usual Saturday morning inspection held. Living sites and quarters found in good condition.

10. Under command of Lts. Douglas and Kaurin – Lts. Williams, Inscho, Sentner, Wilkenson and Scholze completed an operation to Gaggenau, Germany this date. Bombing results were reported as excellent. Fighter attacks were nil while flak was meager and fairly accurate at the target.

11. Led by Capt. Kesley and Capt. Winter – Lts. Moore, Martyniak and Cronin, Murphy, Thorndike, Black, Giese, Williams and Palmer participated on a mission which carried them to the oil storage depots at Merseberg, Germany. Returning crews reported bomb bursts in the target area. There was no enemy fighter opposition while flak was moderate and fairly accurate. All A/C bombed successfully.

1st Lt. Murphy appointed to rank of Captain this date. Following listed officers appointed to 1st Lt: Burget, Beauvais, McBurney, Palmer and Schmidt.

The squadron orderly room received a letter from the War Department, Headquarters AAF, Washington D.C. approving the squadron's insignia. Description is as follows: Over and through a lemon yellow disc, border tri-parted red, white and blue, a pre historic bat, in flight, red and white, with wings black, trimmed yellow, snorting steam from the nostrils, and grasping a small aerial bomb in each foot.

12. Lts. Penrod, Slavik, Scholze, Moore, Williams, Thorndike, Blank, Murphey, Williamson, and Palmer participated on an operation to Brux, Czechoslovakia. A/C bombed with results being reported as unobserved. There was no fighter opposition and flak was moderate and tracking at target area. All bombers returned safe to base.

2nd Lts. Collum, Landman, Shell Younkim appointed to 1st Lt.

13. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties performed.

14. The mission scheduled today for Genshagen, Germany was cancelled.

15. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

16. Mission called to Endhoven, Holland. Mission cancelled. The regular Saturday morning inspection was made.

17. Today 10 a/c of the squadron attacked a concentration of enemy tanks and gun emplacements located in Kindhoven, Holland. This attack was made in support of airborne and ground troops in this sector. All ships bombed their assigned targets successfully and reported good results. There was no AA fire or fighter opposition. Under command of Lts. Douglas and Kaurin – the following listed pilots took part: Lt. Black, Lt. Palmer, Lt. Penrod, Lt. Wilkenson, Lt. Reagh, Lt. Boyce, Lt. Slavik, Lt. Thorndike and Lt. Murphy with Capt. Bordner.

18. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

19. Nine a/c of this squadron flew on an operation mission to the railway marshalling yards of Hamm, Germany. No results of bombing observed due to cloud cover. There was no fighter opposition and AA fire was reported as moderate, tracking and very accurate from the target area. Led by Capt. Cronin and Lt. Martyniak the following participated: Lts. Moore, Williamson, Murphy, Bowden, Sentner, Thorndike, Scholze and Wilkenson.

2nd Lts. Hodge, Hamory and Sentner appointed to rank of 1st Lt. this date.

20. Mission is planned to attack installations in Kassel, Germany but is scrubbed.

21. The industrial center of Main, Germany was attacked by aircraft of this unit today. Again results were unobserved. In the target area AA fire encountered was meager to moderate. Lts. Slavik, Douglas, Scholze, Thorndike, Parkinson, Bowden, Williamson and Evans attacked the primary under the command of Capt. Winter and Capt. Kesley.

1st Lts. Ackerman, Carl, and Jones returned to duty this date after spending some time in the States. These men have completed one tour of duty and will begin their second.

22. Lts. Slavik, Murphy, Sentner, Wilkenson, Williamson, Scholze, Thorndike, Bjorness, Boyce, Bowden participated on an operation in Kassel. Bombing was done totally by PFF methods. Results were not observed. Crews reported meager, inaccurate and continuous following fire from the target area on the last of the formation.

23. **Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.** The usual Saturday morning inspection was held.

24. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. Regular monthly party was held at the Officer's club today. Party was well attended and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

25. Marshalling yards of Frankfurt were hit by aircraft of this unit today. Bombing was done by PFF due to weather conditions. Capt. Kesley and Lt. Kaurin led the Squadron composed of Lts. Schilling, Slavik, Evans, Thorndike, Parkison, Wilkenson, Bowden, Williamson, and Scholze. All a/c bombed and returned safe to base. There was no e/a opposition while flak fire was meager. There were no casualties sustained.

26. Nine a/c of this squadron participated on an operation to Osnabruck, Germany early today. Target was successfully attacked as photos show and excellent coverage on the designated areas. There was no a/c opposition and flak was

meager to moderate at the target. Those that took part are as follows: Capt. Kalsley with Lt. Jones, Lts. Moore, Murphy, Williamson, Schilling, Sentner, Boyce, Wilkenson, and Bjorness. All A/C bombed and returned safe to base. There were no casualties sustained.

(Microfilm difficult to read here)

27. Today Capt. Winter, squadron commander, and Capt. Kesley led our formation on objectives situated in Cologne, Germany. Formation was composed of Lts. Bjorness, Reagh, Evans, Williamson, Parkison, Boyce, Thorndike, Murphy and Sentner. Results of bombing were reported as unobserved due to clouds. There was an absence of fighter opposition and AA fire was generally meager and moderate.

The following combat crews were assigned to this organization for operations:

(Microfilm hard to read)

2nd Lt. John E. Rice, Jr	1st Lt. Charles Houk (also written Houck, which is correct is unknown at present)
2nd Lt. Edward L. Stow	2nd Lt. ?? Mayes III
2nd Lt. Charles G. Hanotal	2nd Lt. George Ransom
2nd Lt. George Kaluger	2nd Lt. Dominick Devarti
Sgt. Virgil Higgins	Sgt. Al. R. Edwards
Sgt. Roy C. McIntyre	Sgt. R.M. Johnson
Sgt. Lloyd D. Aman	Sgt. John Heam??
Sgt. Marion H. Tachirhart	Sgt. Leo (NMI) Roberts
Sgt. Frank J. Guilfoyle	Sgt. George H. Johnson

28. Lts. Bowden, Murphy, Scholze, Long, Parkinson, Bjorness, Williamson, Evans, Moore, Thorndike and Sentner attacked target in Magdeburg, Germany. Bombing accomplished by PFF methods. There was no fighter opposition while flak was meager and fairly accurate at the target. No results on bombing were observed.

29. Non Operational. Usual squadron duties performed.

30. Non Operational. Paid today were the enlisted men of the organization. 2nd Lts. Wike, Reagh, Frank, and Clark were appointed to 1st Lts.

The following combat crew was assigned for operations:

2nd Lt. Dudley K. Brummett
2nd Lt. Boyd C. Fox, Jr.
2nd Lt. Alfred (NMI) Fox
2nd Lt. William G. Garker
Sgt. Charles D. Duggen
Sgt. Leonard A. Carmichael
Sgt. John F. Watson
Sgt. Thomas J. Lyons
Sgt. Frank N. Horsch, Jr.

The strength of the squadron stands at 417 enlisted men and 101 Officers.

October 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

October 1944

1. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. All enlisted personnel not paid on last day of last month paid this date.
2. Under command of the Operations Officer, Captain Kesley, 9 of the squadron's Forts hit at Ordnance depots situated in Kassel, Germany. An absence of fighter opposition allowed our aircraft to make a good run and bomb by means of instruments. Crews did not observe results of bombing due to cloud cover. Moderate, fairly accurate flak was encountered at the target. Rounding out the squadron were pilots Wilkenson, Slavik, Williamson, Murphy, Bowden, Parkison, Black and Moore. One of our ships sustained major flak damage while another received minor damage. All returned safe to base.
3. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
4. The goods yards and station located in Cologne were to be attacked today. Mission scrubbed.
5. The railway station and goods yard of Cologne, Germany were attacked by 9 a/c of this squadron today. Due to cloud cover over the target the leader chose to bomb by instruments. Crews did not observe results of bombing. Reports on AA fire were of moderate to intense, accurate continuous following type fire. Again there was no enemy fighter opposition. Leading the formation composed of Lts. More, Williamson, Schilling, Murphy, Boyce, Slavik, Thorndike and Bowden, were Lts. Jones and Ackerman. All aircraft bombed and returned safe to base.
6. Nine of crews were briefed to attack the synthetic oil plant located in Politz, Germany. However, due to weather over the primary target, a last resort was chosen and bombed visually with good results. This target was identified as Stralsund. Capt. Kesley, with Group Commander Col. Leber, led the formations to target and back to base. Composing the squadron were Capt. Kesley, with Col. Leber, Capt. Cronin with Lt. Evans, and Lts. Black, Sentner, Williamson, Scholze, Parkison, Boyce and Thorndike.
7. Briefed to bomb synthetic oil installations in Brux, Czechoslovakia, our crews bombed the assigned secondary target, Zwickau, Germany due to unfavorable weather over the primary. A good bomb pattern was observed. Crews reported an absence of enemy fighters and flak from the target. Accurate fire was encountered south of Osnabruck, with meager fire encountered at various points en route. All a/c returned to base safe. Those participating are listed as follows: Lts. Evans, Black, Williamson, Slavik, Thorndike, Bjorness, Scholze, Parkison, Sentner, Bowden and Boyce.
8. Mission called to attack oil plants in Brux. Mission scrubbed.
9. 12 a/c of this organization took part in an operation against ball bearing factories located in Schweinfurt, Germany. Target was bombed by PFF. 10/10ths cloud prevented observations by crew members. PFF operator reported satisfactory sighting and bombs released on time. Meager and moderate fire was reported encountered in vicinity of target. There was an absence of enemy fighter opposition. Pilots and crews participating were as follows: Kaurin with Ford, Masterson with Jones, Thronton, Clark, Moore, Bjorness, Evans, Black, Parkison, Schilling, Wilkenson, and Scholze.

10. The mission scheduled for Bremen, Germany was cancelled.
11. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
12. The mission was scheduled to carry our A/C to Cologne, Germany today was scrubbed. 2nd Lieutenants Ford, Scholze and Welk appointed to 1st Lieutenants.
13. Cologne, Germany again scheduled for an attack by aircraft of our squadron. Scrubbed before briefing.
14. Railway yards and station of Cologne were hit by 9 aircraft of the squadron today. Crews reported that they were unable to observe results due to cloud cover. There was no enemy fighter interception and flak encountered was intense and accurate. Lt. Ackerman and Jones led the formation composed of Lts. Bjorness, Moore, Evans, Wilkenson, Scholze, Parkison, Bowden and Black. There was a regular Saturday morning inspection today. General condition of sites found satisfactory.
15. Target for today was Cologne, Germany. This time the marshalling yards in the southwest edge of the city are to be hit. Crews bombed by PFF methods and reported inability to observe results due to undercast. Led by Squadron Commander Winter and Capt. Sordner – Lts. Moore, Evans, Houk, Wilkenson, Parkison Giese and Boyce took off at 0630 hours for the mission. Lt. Boyce was forced to abort due to mechanical difficult of his aircraft. Flak was moderate to meager in the target area and no enemy fighters attacking the formation. Lt. Giese and Lt. Parkison's aircraft sustained major battle damage and Lt. Bjorness's minor. All ships returned safe to base.
16. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
17. Cologne bombed again by 10 crews of our squadron. PFF means again and results unobserved. Moderate, inaccurate barrage and continuous following fire reported from target area. A number of crews reported jet-propelled a/c observed but had no encounters. Lts. Sentner, Houk, Gaw, Parkison, Brummett, Giese, Bjorness, Schilling, Bowden and Rice participated in this one. Lt. Rice (A/C 1550) is reported MIA. Last heard from over the VHF that he had one engine feathered and a runaway prop. Stated that he would attempt a landing at Brussels. Last reported seen at altitude of 8 to 10,000 feet near 5030N-0510E on a heading of 282 degrees and losing altitude. A/C seemed fairly well under control and no chutes reported out. Capt. Edward W. Stone assigned to this organization.

(need to add details of MIA here)
18. Mission to Kassel, Germany briefed. Scrubbed before take-off.
19. Under command of Capt. Cronin and Lt. Kaurin – Lts. Sentner, Houk, Giese, Black, Evans, Schilling and Boyce participated on an operation over Mannheim, Germany this date. Crews were brief to attack oil storage depots at Ludwigshafen. Bombing was done by PFF and it was determined that Mannheim was their target. No results observed. There were no enemy fighter attacks and only moderate AA fire was encountered.
20. Non Operational. Usual camp details.
21. Non Operational. The regular Saturday morning inspection was held. Condition of sites, barracks and area found to be satisfactory.
22. Non Operational. Usual camp details.
23. Non Operational. Usual camp details.
24. Mission called to attack targets in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Mission is scrubbed. Gas mask check for personnel of the squadron.

25. Bombs were dropped on dock installations in Hamburg, Germany today by PFF methods and results reported as poor. The 534th was low squadron in the group and led by Lts. Ackerman and Jones. Others participating were: Lts. Evans, Black, Bjorness, Brummett, Slavik, Schilling and Gaw.

The following combat crew personnel were assigned to the organization today:

2nd Lt. John G. Replinger
2nd Lt. Eldon N. Davis
F/O Croyle, Chas. E.
Sgt. A.N. Zichterman
Sgt. Elroy (NMI) Penner
Sgt. Joseph T. Batche
Sgt. Walter G. Kind
Sgt. Albert L. Soule
Sgt. James W. Howard

26. Under command of Squadron Commander Winter and Capt. Bordner out A/C were airborne at 1020 to attack the railway junctions of Munster, Ger. Primary was not attacked and crews reported that they had bombed Bielfeld with results unobserved. There were no fighter attacks and meager inaccurate flak encountered at Bielfeld. Lts. Bjorness, Schilling, Black, Thorndike, Parkison, Wilkenson, Scholze and Boyce took part. The lead ship with Capt. Winter and Capt. Bordner was forced to abort, before target, due to mechanical difficulty.

27. Briefing held for mission to Mannheim, Germany.

28. Transportation center of Munster Germany given as the day's target. Returning crews reported hitting in the assigned target area but could not give accurate observations due to hazy conditions. Moderate but very accurate flak was encountered. No enemy fighters. Lts. Brummett, Schilling, Rice, Parkison, Slavik, Bjorness, Williamson, Bowden, Thorndike, Gaw, and Black took part.

29. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

30. Nine crews of this squadron today attacked the railway center of Hamm, Germany. Target was bombed by PFF and again results were not observed. No fighter attacks experienced and flak was meager and of the barrage type. Capt. Cronin and Lt. Kaurin led the formation, which was made up of Lts. Scholze, Black, Evans, Williams on, Wilkenson, Slavik, Thorndike, and Sentner.

31. Non Operational. Usual camp details.

At months end the strength of the squadron stands at 95 Officers and 414 Enlisted Men.

November 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

1. Non Operational. Usual camp details. All enlisted men not paid on last day of last month paid this date.
2. Non Operational. Usual camp details.
3. Crews brief on oil refineries located south of Hamburg, Germany. Scrubbed prior to take-off. Lt. Col. Briggs, Squadron Commander, arrived this station today to re-assume command. He had three months leave to the United States. Capt. D.L. Winter of the 532nd squadron, acting CO in Col. Brigg's absence, relieved from command. The following listed combat crewmen were assigned to this organization for duty:

2nd Lt. John J. Zorki
F/O O.T. Miller
2nd Lt. Robert J. Torvestad
S/Sgt. H.S. Anton
S/Sgt. L. O. Grigsby
Sgt. Raymond Legaspi
Sgt. G.E. Sweetnam
Sgt. R.W. Chisler
Sgt. R.W. Thulien

4. Led by Lt. Douglas and Lt. Kaurin, who led the low squadron of the Group, 8 a/c attacked the oil refineries of Hamburg/Harburg, Germany. Owing to cloud coverage bombing was accomplished by P.F.F. Enemy air opposition was reported as nil. Flak was moderate, inaccurate, some tracking, mostly barrage type fire. Pilots that participated: Lts. Douglas and Kaurin, Lts. Black, Brummett, Evans, Houk, Boyce, Parkison, Schilling and Bowden. 2nd Lieutenants Fedak, Hospers, Martin, Scott, Stypula and Thorndike appointed to 1st Lieutenant. Lt. Col. Briggs, Squadron Commander, relieved from command and assigned to the 381st Headquarters where he will serve as Group Operations Officer. Capt. D.L. Winter was assigned to the unit from the 532nd squadron and assumes command of the squadron. The usual Saturday morning inspection was held this date. Living quarters and site areas found to be in good condition.

5. Squadron Commander D.L. Winter and Capt. Bordner led the Group and squadron on an operation against the railway marshalling yards of Frankfurt. 8/10ths cloud coverage in the vicinity of target area forced crews to bomb by instruments. Results were not observed. Meager to moderate barrage and continuously pointed AA fire was encountered en route. Fairly accurate fire encountered in the target area. Participating were Lts. Thorndike, Giese, Evans, Ford, Williamson, Scholze, Schilling, Brummett – all attacked the primary and returned safe to base.

6. 10 a/c of this squadron were dispatched against oil refineries in Hamburg, Germany. Aircraft bombed the assigned primary and hits were observed in the target area. There was an absence of enemy opposition in the air while flak was moderate to intense and extremely accurate in the target area. Lts. Parkison, Rice, Boyce, Giese, Schilling, Williamson and Brummett took part. Our ship flew in both the high and low squadrons of the formation. This mission cost the squadron Lt. Brummett's crew and aircraft. Brummett's aircraft was reported with oil coming from one engine and the left wing tip smoking. Over VHF – Brummett state that he was going back toward the enemy coast as there was hole in one of his gas tanks. When last seen his a/c was still under control. Present status of crew - Missing in Action. Listed are members of lost crew:

2nd Lt. D.K. Brummett
2nd Lt. B.C. Fox Jr.
2nd Lt. A. Fox
2nd Lt. W.G. Barker
Sgt. C.D. Duggen
Sgt. L.A. Carmichael

Sgt. J.F. Watson
Sgt. T.J. Lyons
Sgt. F.N. Horsch, Jr.

7. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

8. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

9. Direct support to ground troops in and around Metz was given by our a/c on today's mission. Gun emplacements and forts holding strategic positions were attacked with the results being unobserved. All bombing was accomplished by G-H methods. AA fire was meager; fire being inaccurate over the target. None encountered elsewhere. No enemy fighters encountered or sighted. Lts. Jones and Ackerman, flying in the lead ship, led the high squadron which was composed of Lts. Williamson, Thorndike, Thornton, Slavik, Bowden, Gaw, Scholze, Schilling and Rice.

10. Target for today: Cologne, Germany. Capt. Cronin and Lt. Kaurin, flying the lead position together, led the low squadron of "A" Group to the target and back. Bombing was again on G-H with no results being reported by returning crewmen. Completing today's mission were: Lts. Schilling, Scholze, Slavik, Sentner, Thorndike, Bowden, Williamson and Rice. No fighters encountered. AA fire was moderate, fairly accurate and continuous following. All a/c returned safe to base with exception of Lt. Schilling who landed in Belgium.

11. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. Saturday morning inspection of sites and living quarters. Conditions found satisfactory.

12. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

13. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. 1st Lt. John E. Dineen of 532nd squadron was assigned to this unit. Lt. Dineen is still service in the capacity of Station Courts and Boards Officer.

14. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. 1st Lieutenants Jones and Ackerman appointed to Captain.

15. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

16. Today's target, in support of ground forces, was bombed visually with excellent results by 8 of our a/c. The squadron and group formation was led by Captains Winter and Bordner. Eschweiler, Germany, 8 miles E. of Achem, was the target. Located in this area were many strong points and enemy defenses. Photos show bomb bursts extending from the assigned MPI to the east. No flak encountered en route and only meager, black, inaccurate, tracking flak came up after bombs away. No enemy air opposition encountered. Those taking part are as listed: Captain Winter and Herdner, Lts. Kaurin, Boyce, Ford, Sentner, Giese and Replinger. Three complete combat crews were assigned to the unit today. Combat men assigned are as follows:

2nd Lt. B.L. Bradley

2nd Lt. W. White

2nd Lt. J.L. Paynich

Sgt. H.A. Morris

Sgt. R.R. Rhoat

Sgt. P.H. Dork

Sgt. W.R. Palmer

Sgt. J. Stefanski

Sgt. J.D. Mills, Jr.

2nd Lt. J.R. Lynch, Jr.

2nd Lt. W.E. Lund

2nd Lt. J.Y. Vanarsdall, Jr.
Sgt. John H. Bissner
Sgt. L.A. Phillips
Sgt. J.N. Jackson
Sgt. L.B. Field
Sgt. L. A. Rabol
Sgt. R.E. Cobb

2nd Lt. R.W. Marelius
2nd Lt. A.E. Peterson
2nd Lt. Martin Matyas
Sgt. C.C. Hoffman
Sgt. G.H. Sundquist
Sgt. H.R. Hahn
Sgt. J.J. Kwart
Sgt. S.R. Tait
Sgt. ?.S. Ledwen

17. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

18. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. Saturday morning inspection held.

19. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

20. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

21. Synthetic oil plants at Merseburg were attacked by our a/c today. Bombing was accomplished by P.F.F. methods. Incendiaries carried by our ships were dropped on Friedburg, a target of opportunity. Intense flak was encountered at Merseburg with none coming from Friedburg. Pilots participating are listed as follows: Holt, Zorski, Wilkenson, Williamson, Boyce, Replinger, Rice, Sentner, Heuk, and Gaw. Squadron commander Capt. D.L. Winter appointed to Major.

22. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. Lt. Douglas, Operations Officer, appointed to Captain.

23. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

24. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

25. Under command of Captain Cronin and Jones – Lts. Williamson, Wilkenson, Slavik, Schilling, Parkison, Sentner, Giese, and Gaw bombed the synthetic oil works located in Merseburg, Germany. Bombing done by P.F.F. with no results being observed. Intense, accurate, tracking a barrage type fire was encountered in the target area. There was no enemy fighter opposition. All a/c bombed and returned safe to base. The usual Saturday morning inspection was held today. Living quarters and sites found in good condition.

26. The railway viaduct at Altenbeken, Germany was attacked by 9 a/c of this organization today. Bombing was accomplished by G-H equipment and results were reported as unobserved. There was no AA fire encountered or observed at target but en route to the target – meager, inaccurate, tracking fire was encountered at Zwolls, Holland. Approximately 50 to 60 enemy fighters were sighted as they passed under the formation to attack a group of bombers behind us. No attacks reported on our squadron. Capt. Douglas and Lt. Kaurin led the squadron which was composed of Lts. Scholze, Williamson, Slavik, Gaw, Wilkenson, Sentner, Replinger and Giese.

27. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

28. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

29. Today our aircraft bombed the oil refineries located at Misburg, Germany. Bombing was done by instruments. Crews reported that they were unable to observe results. Enemy fighters were not encountered and AA fire was meager and inaccurate. Capt. Bordner and Col. Leber, Group C.O., led the formation composed of pilots – Scholze, Boyce, Slavik, Williamson, Wilkenson, Sentner, Giese and Bowden.

30. The oil works located in Zeitz were attacked by 10 of the squadron's "Forts" on today's operation. Returning crews reported hits in the populated areas of the city and large fire burning in the area of the oil plants. There were no attacks by enemy fighters and intense, accurate, tracking AA fire was encountered. Participants: Lt. Scholze, Lt. Boyce, Lt. Wilkenson, Lt. Replinger, Lt. Gaw, Lt. Giese, Lt. Rice, Lt. Williamson, Lt. Bowden and Lt. Lynch.

Captain Douglas was relieved from duty as operations officer this date. Capt. Bordner is named to take the position. Capt. Douglas has completed a tour and will return to the states.

The months end finds the total number of enlisted men at 409 and Officers at 91.

December 1944

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)
WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

December 1944

1. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. All Enlisted personnel not paid on last day of previous month were paid today.

One combat crew assigned to this organization this date for duty.

2nd Lt. Paul Pucylowski
F/O Harry M. Yarnes
2nd Lt. John E. Kelleher
F/O Marvin Chotin
Sgt. Clarence Way
S/Sgt. Joseph J. Noxon
Sgt. Witchell, Stuart R.
Sgt. Earl R. Green
Sgt. Robert M. Landes

2. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. Saturday morning inspection of living quarters and site held.

3. The mission scheduled for today was scrubbed. Our aircraft were to strike at railway marshalling yards at Bebra, Germany.

4. Marshalling yards at Soest, Germany were bombed by 9 a/c of the squadron today. Bombing was by Gee-H equipment, with results being unobserved due to 10/10ths clouds over the target. There was no flak and no enemy aircraft encountered on this raid. Capt. Jones and Lt. Gew led our formation which was composed of Lts. Thorndike, Sentner, Zorski, Bowden, Scholze, Lynch, Bradley and Slavik.

Eight Second Lieutenants were appointed 1st Lts this date. Listed are those receiving promotions:

William T. Brayton
William P. Dorgeloh
Carl Hansen
Oscar F. Holms
Richard R. Knight
John R. Mitchell
Robert D. Smith
William H. Wood, Jr.

5. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

6. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

2nd Lts. Charles J. Weeks and Albert L. Gruner were appointed to 1st Lieutenants this date.

7. Railroad junction at Munster, Germany to be attacked today. Mission is scrubbed.

8. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

9. Railroad marshalling yards at Stuttgart, Germany were attacked by 8 of our aircraft today. Due to 5-6/10ths clouds over the target, bombing was done by P.F.F. with visual assist. Results were reported as unobserved. No enemy fighter aircraft were sighted and flak was reported by crewmen as being moderate, accurate, tracking. This fire was encountered in the area of the target. The formation was led by Captain Jones and Lt. Gew. Pilots participating were: Lts. Thorndike, Unsworth, Slavik, Schilling, Lynch, Sentner and Marelius. Our squadron was low in the Group formation.

10. Our aircraft were scheduled to attack the Ordnance Depot at Mainz, Germany. Mission scrubbed.

11. The railroad and road bridge, over the Rhine, connecting Mannheim and Ludwigshafen was briefed as primary target for today. Under command of Captains Bordner and Cronin, who lead the Group, the target was attacked by Gee-H with results being unobserved due to 10/10ths cumulus clouds encountered in target area. Flak was moderate to intense, accurate, trucking with some predicted concentration fire in the target area. There was an absence of enemy fighter activity. Participating on this raid were Lts. Holm, Thorndike, Houk, Wilkenson, Bradley, Sentner, Unsworth and Marelius.

12. Today bombing was done through 10/10ths clouds at Merseburg, where the largest source of synthetic oil in Germany is located. Bombing was accomplished on P.F.F. with no observations reported. No enemy aircraft encountered and flak was reported as moderate and inaccurate in the target area. Our aircraft flew in both the lead and low squadrons. Completing the mission were Lts. Sentner, Rice, Schilling, Thorndike, Holm, Unsworth, Scholze, Wilkenson, Marelius and Replinger.

13. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

14. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

15. Again bombing on P.F.F. due to bad weather over the target our a/c hit at the railway marshalling yards located in Kassel, Germany. Bombing results were unobserved. There was an absence of both AA fire and enemy air opposition. Lts. Holm, Boyce, Slavik, Lynch, Wilkenson, Sentner, Zorski and Pucylouski took part. They were led by Lts. Kaurin and Houk, who led the high squadron of the group formation.

16. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. Satisfactory condition of living quarters and site observed in today's inspection.

17. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

18. Captain Ackerman and Lt. Houk led the squadron on the attack against marshalling yards at Cologne. Bombing was by P.F.F. with no results being reported. There were no fighters and ground defenses fired inaccurately on the formation. Lts. Boyce, Holm, Slavik, Pucylouski, Sentner, Zorski, Wilkenson and Schilling attacked successfully.

19. Installations at Schwerte, Germany were to be bombed. Mission is cancelled.

20. Marshalling yards at Cologne are again designated s the target. Mission is scrubbed.

21. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

22. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

Two combat crews were assigned to the organization for duty. Listed are crew members:

2nd Lt. Richard R. Rice
F/O Edwin A. Hutcheson, Jr.
2nd Lt. Clyde S. Butler
Cpl. Carl E. Green
T/Sgt. Watie H. Fizzley
Cpl. David C. Anderson
Cpl. Martin H. Glynn
Cpl. Leo W. Krautmann
Cpl. McLellan P. Rosenkarns

2nd Lt. John P. Samo
F/O Robert A. Hunt
2nd Lt. Fredrick H. White
2nd Lt. Audie M. Christopher, Jr.
Cpl. Gene A. Minnick
Cpl. Godfrey C. Loper
Cpl. Walter F. Bauman
S/Sgt. Gordon H. Dangremond
Cpl. Raymond E. Forsyth

23. Non Operational. Usual garrison details. Regular Saturday morning inspection of the squadron areas and living quarters was held.

24. Leading the Group and the 1st Air Division, which led the entire 8th Air Force, were Capt. Bordner, Sq. Operations Officer and Colonel Leber, Group C.O. Two landing stripe, directly behind the battle line in Germany, were attacked visually. These enemy air strips were located at Ettinghausen and Kirch Gons and were being used by the German air force for fighters that were in action against our ground forces in that sector. Bomb strikes show the assigned MPI's covered with an excellent pattern. No enemy aircraft were up to attack and flak encountered was generally meager, inaccurate, except at St. Vith and Stavelot. Route in and out a fairly accurate fire was encountered. Our squadron formation was made up of Lts. Boyce, Unsworth, Sentner, Wilkenson, Thorndike, Marelius, Schilling, Lynch, Scholze, Pucylouski, and Zorski. Mission was highly successful.

One combat crew assigned this date for duty with the organization. Listed are crew members:

2nd Lt. Robert G. Elliott
F/O Lawrence E. Williams
F/O Joseph R. DeFasio
2nd Lt. Paul R. Sundquist
Cpl. Robert F. Summers

Sgt. Donald E. Spitz
Cpl. Richard W. Vesey
T/Sgt. John D. VonSchlegell
Cpl. Richard J. Holloway

25. Mission to Waxweiler, Germany for today is scrubbed. Xmas day meal was excellent – turkey and all trimmings. Free beer was served at the base pub, the station theater and at the Waaf Site. T/Sgts and M/Sgts were invited to the Officers club. Christmas Carols over Tannoy system most of the day. This is our second Christmas at this station.

26. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

Walter A. Carl, Jr. and Robert Kaurin, both 1st Lieutenants were appointed Captains this date. Captain Carl is the Squadron navigator while Captain Kaurin has been flying as squadron leader.

Second Lieutenants Edward E. Harding, William L. Hudson, James R. Foster, John J. Neukom, James McGilvray and Donald b. Patton were appointed 1st Lieutenants this date.

27. Non Operational. Usual garrison details.

28. The target for today is singled out as the railway bridge at Remsgen, Germany, 18 miles SW of Bonn on the River Rhine. Bombing was visual but results were reported as unobserved. No E/A encountered and flak was light. Pilots participating were: Lts. Sentner, Unsworth, Wilkenson, Boyce, Bowden, Replinger, Bradley, Marleius and Lynch.

29. Mission scheduled for today was Guhland, Germany. Mission cancelled.

30. Ordnance depot of Mainz, Germany was bombed by 10 aircraft of the squadron today. P.F.F. methods again used and results not observed. A meager amount of flak was encountered to the rear of the formation just after bombs away time. Enemy fighters still absent. Led by Capt. Jones and Lt. Gaw – Lts. Wilkenson, Pucylouski, Whornton, Scholze, Unsworth, Rice, Thorndike, Bradley and Holm completed the mission. Saturday morning inspection held. Pay call for enlisted personnel of the organization.

31. Captains Bordner and Cronin led Lts. Schelling, Houk, Scholze, Unsworth, Rice, Replinger, Lynch, Marelius on a raid to the communications center of Prum, Germany. The target was attacked by Gee-H with results being unobserved. There were no fighters and no flak on the formation. Some meager fire was reported seen in the distance.

An accident on the field today resulted in the serious injury of 2nd Lt. E.F. Weynand, copilot, and a slight injury to Capt. T.H. Jones, assistant squadron operations officer. Capt. Jones was checking Lt. Waynand out as “first” pilot when the accident occurred. Lt. Waynand was at the controls and coming in for a landing. A “hard” landing was made and the aircraft’s landing gear collapsed. Lt. Weyland suffered serious injury [see medical diary for complete details] to both legs, while Capt. Jones had several fingers crushed. Other crew members escaped without harm.

At the month’s end there are 98 Officers and 424 Enlisted men in the organization.

January 1945

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)

WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

January 1945

1. 10 of our aircraft attacked targets located in Kassel and Khoblenz today. Crews were briefed to hit the synthetic oil works of Magdeburg, Germany. Due to adverse weather conditions the Group was separated from the main bomber stream and attacked the targets of opportunity. PFF technique was used with results being unobserved. There were no enemy fighter attacks and flak was intense and was the barrage and tracking type. Lts. Replinger, Schilling, Bowden, Thorndike, Unsworth, Rice Boyce, Marelius, Pucylouski and Zorski participated on this mission.
2. Captain Kaurin and Lt. Houk led the high squadron of the group formation on the days raid on railway marshalling yards of Cerolstein, Germany. Crewmen reported results of bombing as excellent. Wet prints show a very good pattern of bombs centered around the MPI. There were no enemy fighters sighted. Meager, fairly accurate, continuous following fire was directed on the formation from the target. Scattered meager fire came from the western front lines and was fairly accurate on formation. Led by Capt. Kaurin and Lt. Houk were Lts. Bowden, Bradley, Scholze, Zorski, Pucylouski, Thorndike, Unsworth and Marelius.
3. The railway marshalling yards located at Cologne were attacked this date by 9 of our aircraft. The mission was successfully completed by Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Houk, Lt. Schilling, Lt. Bowden, Lt. Thorndike, Lt. Marelius, Lt. Zorski, Lt. Boyce, Lt. Bradley and Lt. Lynch. Captain Ackerman and Lt. Houk led the formation. PFF bombing technique was used and results were unobserved. Again there was no enemy fighter opposition. Flak was meager, inaccurate at the target.
4. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
5. Target assigned to the Group today was an Army request target. The railhead located at Heimback, Germany was the objective. Bombing was accomplished by Gee-H with results being unobserved due to 9 to 10/10ths cloud cover. Flak was nil at the target. Some fire was drawn after bombs away. The Group's force was led by Captains Bordner and Cronin of this squadron. Formation was composed of Lts. Scholze, Marelius, Thorndike, Zorski, Schilling, Boyce, Bradley and Lynch.
6. Designated as target for today was the South Cologne Railway Bridge located south of the city of Cologne. Bombing was accomplished by Gee-H with results being reported as unobserved. There were no enemy fighter attacks and meager to moderate, inaccurate fire was encountered in target area. Lts. Thorndike, Schilling, Bowden, Boyce, Bradley, Marelius, Scholze, Zorski, Lynch, Pucylouski participated on the mission. Our aircraft flew in all squadrons of the Group's formation.
7. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
8. An Army request target – the tail bridge located over the stream at Alzey, Germany – was hit today by aircraft of this squadron. Bombing was by Gee-H. Flak was meager and inaccurate from the target area. Home inaccurate fire was encountered in the areas of Saarbrucken and Kaiserslautern. There was no enemy fighter opposition. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Gaw led the formation composed of Lts. Marelius, Boyce, Thorndike, Lynch, Bradley, Replinger, Pucylouski and Zorski to the target and back to base.

Three combat crews were assigned to the organization for duty this date. Listed are the crews assigned:

1st Lt. Francis E. Stultz
2nd Lt. John C. Cortz
F/O William H. Ward
Sgt. Joseph A Berube
Sgt. Lyman L. Blackwell
Sgt. Robert F. Lang

Sgt. William M. Lewis
Sgt. Jack. V. Yeamans
Sgt. John C. Brandon

2nd Lt. Dean F. Anderson
2nd Lt. Grover C. Graves
2nd Lt. Gilbert E. Jones
Sgt. Raymond E. Maes
Sgt. George H. Smith
Sgt. Daniel J. McCartney Jr.
Sgt. William Trestik
Sgt. Richard D. Bland
Sgt. Marcel P. Boisevert

2nd Lt. Sydney A. Klunge
2nd Lt. Jerome Bauer
F/O Grant E. Recksieck
Sgt. Norwood E. McLamb
Sgt. Carl H. Schwamb
Sgt. John J. Devlin
Sgt. Lloyd R. Rountree
Sgt. Cloud J. Drewyore
Sgt. Ernest R. Murray

9. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

10. Ostheim Airfield, near Cologne, Germany was attacked by our aircraft today. All aircraft bombed successfully with good results. Wet prints show strikes in target area. Flak was meager to moderate and fairly accurate. No fighters encountered. Lt. Gaw and Lt. Houk led the squadron's formation to their target and safe to base. Lts. Schilling, Marelius, Thorndike, Zorski, Boyce, Lynch and Elliott made up the squadron.

11. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

12. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

13. The railway bridge over the Rhine River at Germersheim was today's objective. Bombing was Gee-H with results unobserved. Squadron Commander Winter and Capt. Bordner led the squadron, which was lead in the Group's formation, to their target. Moderate, accurate, tracking fire was encountered from the Rhine River to the target. No fighters sighted. Lts. Replinger, Rice, Schilling, Boyce, Pucylouski, Zorski, Bowden, Lynch and Elliott completed the mission.

1st Lt. Melvin McBurney, Squadron Bombardier, was appointed Captain this date.

14. The highway bridge crossing the River Rhine at Rodenkirchen, Germany was attacked by 9 a/c of this organization. This bridge lies just south of the City of Cologne and is used to a great extent for German troop movements to the Western front. Our force attacked with good results. Wet prints show a concentrated pattern covering the bridge. There was meager, accurate, continuously pointed fire directed at the formation from the battle lines. Fighters were totally absent, Lts. Replinger, Rice, Schilling, Boyce, Pucylouski, Zorski, Bowden, Lynch and Elliott completed the mission successfully.

15. Deisgnated for an attack by the squadron's aircraft was the Aircraft Assembly plant and airfield located 5 miles southeast of the City of Regensburg. Mission scrubbed.

Following listed combat crew members were assigned to the squadron for duty:

2nd Lt. Robert W. Fitlinn
F/O James L. Harsham
F/O David H. Lesky
2nd Lt. Nicolao G. Piteo
Sgt. Oscar L. Kocher
Sgt. William H. Burd
Sgt. Michael F. Grailey
Sgt. James M. McLain
Sgt. Charles E. Thomas

16. Mission briefed to combat crews this date for an attack against the synthetic oil works of Lutzkendorf, Germany. Crews also briefed on another plan to Berlin. Both plans scrubbed.

17. The railway workshops located in Paderborn, Germany were attacked on this mission by 8 crews of the 534th. Bombing was accomplished by PFF, results unobserved. There were no fighters and no flak encountered or observed at the target. Lts. Pucylouski, Lynch, Marelius, Scholze, Zorski, Bowen, Elliott and Rice participated. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Gaw led the squadron's formation on this raid.

18. Installations in Marnheim, Germany scheduled to be bombed. Mission scrubbed.

19. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

20. Road and rail bridge located at Mannheim and spanning the river Rhine was attacked this date. Bombing by PFF, with results being unobserved. There were no enemy fighters and flak was meager to moderate, inaccurate and tracking. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Houk led the squadron composed of Lts. Schilling, Bradley, Scholze, Marelius, Bowden, Lynch and Elliott.

21. Tank factories and assembly plants were hit by aircraft of this organization on this mission. Bombing was done at Aschaffenburg by Gee-H. Results were not observed. Nil for fighters observed or encountered. There was no flak at target. Some enemy AA fire was drawn along route. Group formation was led by 534th. Flying in lead ship with Squadron Commander Winter was Col. H. Leber, Group Commander. Participating were Lts. Bradley, Schilling, Replinger, Lynch, Rice, Bowden, Zorski and Elliott.

22. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

23. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

24. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

25. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

26. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

27. Intended target for today was Bremen. Bad weather did not allow aircraft to take off.

28. Lts. Boyce, Schilling, Stultz, Bowden, Pucylouski, Lynch, Marelius, Zorski, Klunge and Bradley were dispatched to attack military installations in Cologne, Germany. Due to unfavorable weather over the target – a target of opportunity was selected and bombed with good results. Gutersloh was the selected T.O. No fighters attacked the formation and flak was moderate, accurate and tracking.

Capt. Chas. Bordner, Squadron Operations Officer, appointed to Major.

29. Under command of Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Gaw – Lts. Zorski, Schilling, Replinger, Anderson, Pucylouski, Boyce, Stultz and Klunge took part in the attack on Niederlahenstien, Germany. Bombing was accomplished by Gee-H results were

unobserved. AA fire was meager, inaccurate and of the barrage type. No fighters seen. Mission completed successfully by all aircraft taking off.

30. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

31. Two plans for today's mission briefed to combat crews. Missions were to Berlin and Misburg, Germany. Both scrubbed.

Following listed combat crews assigned to organization for duty:

F/O John W. Regan

F/O Robert K. Farmer

F/O Morten P. Winter

2nd Lt. Theodore P. Harper

Cpl. Lester C. Smith

Cpl. John E. Arthur

Cpl. Samuel C. Simmons

Cpl. Joseph L. Roberts

Cpl. Galvin G. Clement

2nd Lt. Fred J. Fink

2nd Lt. Frank C. Hanson

F/O Bobby R. Simmons

F/O Gerald Myers

Sgt. William Szigetti

Sgt. Joachim Timmerman

Cpl. Bert Heinse

Cpl. Junior D. Way

Cpl. David A. Wallace

At month's end – there are 426 enlisted men and 101 officers in the unit.

February 1945

534th Bomb Sq.

381st Bomb Group (H)

WAR DIARY

Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

February 1945

1. Under command of Squadron Commander, Major D.L. Winter, eight of our aircraft were dispatched to attack the railway marshalling yards located at Mannheim, Germany. Target was attacked by all aircraft on Gee-H equipment. Due to cloud coverage results were unobserved. AA fire was reported as moderate on the squadron. There were no enemy fighters encountered. Flying in the lead ship with Major Winter was Lt. Houk. Participating on the mission were Lts. Stultz, Replinger, Pucylouski, Elliott, Bowden, Anderson and Lt. Klunge.

2. Field Order in setting forth two plans for the day's mission. Plan "A" – target Berlin and Plan "B" – target Dresden, Germany. Very bad weather caused cancellation of both plans.

3. Nine of our aircraft, making up the high squadron in the Group formation, attacked the central areas of Berlin today. Transport centers and government buildings were specific targets assigned. According to photos, results were excellent. No enemy fighters opposed and flak was moderate and accurate in the target area. Leading were Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Gaw, with Lts. Lynch, Boyce, Schilling, Williamson, Replinger, Bradley, Stultz and Pucylouski rounding out the formation. He was last sighted at about 1125 hours at 5245N-1330E and believed downed by anti-aircraft fire. Listed are members of the crew:

Pucylouski, Paul C. 2nd Lt. Pilot
Yarnes, Harry M. F/O Copilot
Kelleher, John E. 2nd Lt. Navigator
Zichterman, A.H. S/Sgt. Bombardier
Noxon, Joseph J. T/Sgt. Radio Operator
Way, Clarence R. T/Sgt. Top Turret
Mitchell, Stuart R. Sgt. Ball Turret
Green, Earl R. S/Sgt. Waist Gunner
Landas, Robert M. Sgt. Tail Gunner

Lt. Ralph F. Gaw appointed to Captain this date. 2nd Lieutenants William E. Clausen, George Ransom, John E. Rice, Jr., John G. Replinger and Maurice Fingerroth appointed to 1st Lt.

Usual Saturday morning inspection held this morning. Site and quarters found in good condition.

4. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

5. Munchen, Germany designated as the day's target. Mission is scrubbed.

6. Two plans again sent in. Plan "A" scheduled our aircraft for an attack on the synthetic oil works at Lutzkendorf, while plan "B" was to attack Berlin. Crews were briefed on Lutzkendorf. This target was not attacked. A target of opportunity, Ohrdruf, Germany, was bombed with good results on center of railways. There were no enemy fighters and no AA fire in target area. Some flak was encountered at Minden on the route in. Our aircraft made up the low squadron of the Group's formation. Led by Captain Ackerman and Lt. Houk – Lts. Stultz, Bradley, Replinger, Elliott, Lynch, Bowden, Samo and Lt. Klunge successfully completed the mission.

7. Crews were brief to attack the coking plants at Osterfield, Germany. Our aircraft were target bound when severe weather was encountered. Mission was re-called and all aircraft dispatched returned safe to base.

8. Assigned target for today was the highway bridge over the River Rhine at Wesel. Mission was scrubbed.

9. Flying low squadron in the Group's formation, eight of our aircraft led by Capt. Cronin and Lt. Houk attacked the railway viaduct at Arnsberg, Germany. Bombing was by Gee-H technique; therefore results were unobserved. There was an absence of enemy fighter opposition. No flak encountered in the target area and only meager, fairly accurate fire was encountered along the route out. Participating were: Capt. Cronin and Lt. Houk, Lt. Elliott, Lt. Stultz, Lt. Marelius, Lt. Rice, Lt. Samo, Lt. Boyce, Lt. Anderson and Lt. Fithian.

10. A mission scheduled to carry our aircraft to Kassel was scrubbed. Inspection of quarters and site made by 1st Sgt and Executive officer.

11. Second mission in as many days scrubbed. Primary target was to have been the railway yard of Munster, Germany.

12. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

13. Two plans on today's mission were received. Plan "A" – Kassel and plan "B" primary on Dresden. After briefing the mission was cancelled.

2nd Lieutenant Douglas G. Fontan appointed to 1st Lieutenant.

The following combat crew personnel were assigned to the squadron for duty:

2nd Lt. Hanford Hall
2nd Lt. Archie M. Williams
2nd Lt. Robert W. Young
Sgt. Ray H. Fariss
Cpl. Richard R. Pasco
Cpl. George H. Stover
Cpl. William E. Dobson
Cpl. Sandord Paul
Cpl. Paul D. Szechy

2nd Lt. Robert C. hall
2nd Lt. Howard W. Montfort
F/O Alfred S. Williams, Jr.
Sgt. Robert E. Briggs
Cpl. Donald G. Grapevine
Cpl. Edward W. Leeds
Cpl. Chrles E. Adams
Cpl. Peter L. Jones
Pvt. Emmett J. Tolleson
2nd Lt. Harvey E. Adelmeyer
F/O Glenn H. Dowler
2nd Lt. John N. Frampton
Cpl. Richard L. Daily
Cpl. Edward J. Dybiez
Cpl. Gerald R. Wagner
Cpl. Robert W. Dunn
Cpl. Edward P. Hauser

14. After eight of our crews were briefed on two plans, one to Kassel and the other to Dresden, they went to a target of opportunity. Through a break in the cloud coverage the synthetic oil plant located at Brux, Czechoslovakia was sighted and bombed with excellent results. No fighter opposition encountered. At Brux, moderate to intense, very accurate black and white tracking flak was encountered. Pilots that took part are: Lt. Stultz, Lt. Bowden, Lt. Elliott, Lt. Bradley, Lt. Rice, Lt. Fithian, Lt. Anderson and Lt. Lynch with their respective crews.

On return from this mission members of Lt. Anderson's crew were forced to abandon the aircraft due to flak damaged sustained over the target. All men bailed approximately over the tattle lines. Thus far five men have returned to base. Listed are those MIA:

Sgt. Daniel T. McCartney
Sgt. William Trestik
Sgt. Richard D. Bland
Sgt. Marce P. Boisvert

15. Though the Group participated on a mission today – the 534th was "stood down". None of our crews or aircraft took part.

16. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Replinger led the formation composed of Lts. Rice, Marelius, Lynch, Elliott, Bowden, White and Fithian on the attack on the marshalling yards at Langendreer, Germany. Photos show good results on the choke point. There were no fighters to oppose the formations run on the target. Very accurate, tracking fire, moderate to intense was encountered from the Initial Point to the Target.
17. Primary target for today was the marshalling yard at Mannheim, Germany. This mission was scrubbed.
18. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
19. Synthetic oil plants located in Dortmund were bombed by Gee-H methods today. Results were not observed. Captains Ackerman and Gaw led the low squadron of the group which was made up of Lts. Rice, Elliott, Marelius, Stultz, Klunge, Davis and Lt. White. Flak was moderate and there was no opposition from enemy fighters.
20. Under command of Major Chas. Bordner, Squadron Operations Officer, and Lt. Houk, nine of our aircraft were dispatched to bomb the railway workshops located at Nurnberg, Germany. Bombing was accomplished by P.F.F. with no reports of results being observed. Meager, inaccurate flak was encountered by the formation at the target and over the battle lines. Pilots taking part were: Rice, Marelius, Klunge, White, Elliott, Stow, Davis, Bradley and Major Bordner with Lt. Houk.
21. Nurnberg was again bombed by aircraft of this squadron. P.F.F. technique employed again. Results were unobserved. Flak was meager and generally inaccurate and scattered. Lts. Rice, Fithian, Klunge, Stultz, Davis, White, Bradley, Stow, Samo and Fink took part.

The following listed combat crew members were assigned to the organization for duty this date:

2nd Lt. Lawrence E. Maschhoff

2nd Lt. Eugene C. Glenz

F/O James H. McLean

2nd Lt. Ralph T. Johnson

Cpl. Herman B. Maddox

Cpl. Hayden W. Thomas

Cpl. Robert K. Barnes

Cpl. Jack R. Pence

Cpl. Francisco L. Pegueros

2nd Lt. James M. Hawkins

F/O Norman b. Scherman

F/O Lucius P. Hudson

F/O Norman E. Melvin

Cpl. Harold Dahlinger

Cpl. Thomas Springer

Cpl. Franklin J. McElwell

Cpl. William R. Selvin

Cpl. James P. Young

2nd Lt. Gene S. Sarli appointed to 1st Lieutenant this date.

22. Our assigned target was the vital rail points at Gardelegen, Germany. However a target of opportunity was selected and bombed visually. Photos show excellent results. Selected target was the tail point at Kobbeltitz, Germany. There was no flak and there was no enemy fighter opposition. Lts. Zorski, Samo, Rice, Fink, Davis, Bradley, Fithian, Stow and R. Rice attacked selected target successfully.

23. The primary target for this date was railway junction at Hof, Germany. A target of opportunity – Meningen – was bombed with results being reported as good. There was no e/a opposition and meager, inaccurate flak from Erfurt. Some fire directed formation from the Rhine sector. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Replinger led the formation that was composed of Lts. Zorski, Marelus, Stow, Stultz, Fithian, Fink, Samo and Davis.

24. Eight of our ships, in low squadron position of Group formation, took off to attack the submarine yards at Hamburg, Germany. P.F.F. technique used. "Mickey" operator reports a good run on the target. There was no fighter opposition and meager, inaccurate flak encountered in the area of Stade. Meager barrage fire in target area.

In preparing aircraft for today's mission. Sgt. Thomas S. Downey was accidentally killed. Sgt. Downey was an assistant crew chief and has been with the organization since activation.

25. To day's target was the railway marshalling yard of Munchen. Bombing was accomplished successfully by visual sightings. Wet prints show excellent results – with a good pattern shown in marshalling yards. Meager to moderate, inaccurate, tacking flak encountered along the route and moderate accurate flak at the target. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Replinger led the formation which was made up of Lts. Samo, Elliot, Stultz, Klunge, R. Rice, Fithian, Zorski and Lt. Fink.

26. Led by Squadron Commander, D.L. Winter and Lt. Houk – Lts. Samo and R. Rice, Stultz, White, Fink, Bradley, Kunge, and Lt. Fithian bombed the cit of Berlin. Cloud coverage prevented any observation. Bombing was accomplished by instruments. No enemy a/c attacked this squadron. However e/a were observed in the target area. Flak was meager to moderate, inaccurate and of the barrage type. No damaged sustained by our aircraft. The 534th led the group formation.

27. Leading the Group formation for the second time n as many days the 534th dispatched 9 a/c to attack ball bearing factories in Leipzig, Germany. Leading the formation was Major Chas. Bordner who was assisted by Lt. Houk. Participating were: Lt. Samo, Lt. R. Rice, Lt. Stultz, Lt. Stow, Lt. White, Lt. Elliott, Lt. Fink and Lt. Hull. Bombing was through 9/10ths clouds and by P.F.F. means. No results observed. Flak was meager, moderate, inaccurate in the target area. No damage to aircraft.

28. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties. Pay call for enlisted men of the organization.

The squadron's strength at months end stands at 424 Enlisted Men and 109 Officers.

March 1945

534th Bomb Sq.

381st Bomb Group (H)

WAR DIARY

Submitted by Lt Ross G. Hanks

March 1945

1. The railway marshalling yards at Neckarsulm, Germany were hit by aircraft of this squadron on today's operation against the enemy. Formation was led by Cap t. Gaw and Lt. Marelus. Lts. Fithian, Davis, Stultz, Adelmeyer, Fink, Rice Hall and Hull made up the squadron. Bomb was by Gee-H with results unobserved Meager, inaccurate flak was encountered. No fighters situated or encountered.

F/O David T. Miller was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on this date.

2. The briefed target for today's mission was the large synthetic oil plant located in the area of Leipzig at Bohlen, Germany. Due to 8 to 10/10ths cloud coverage over target, a second target was selected and attacked. This second target was the RR marshalling yard at Chemnitz. H2X technique used in bombing and again results were not observed. There was no flak at target and no fighter opposition. Pilots taking part are as follows: Lt. rice, Lt. Lynch, Lt. Klunge, Lt. Bradley, Lt. Fithian, Lt. Hull, Lt. Zorski, Lt. hall, Lt. Fink and Lt. Adelmeyer.

3. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

4. Our primary target for today was the tank and military transport factory located at Ulm, Germany. Same target was designated as the Gee-H target, in case of unfavorable weather. 10/10ths cover over target permitted our bombers to bomb only by Gee-H. Results were not observed. Some flak was encountered along route in to target area. No fighters opposed formation. 534th was high squadron in the Group formation. Leading were Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Replinger – with Lts. Bradley, Fithian, Klunge, Rice, Hull, Hall, Zorski, Davis, Stow and Fink taking part.

5. Oil refineries were the assigned targets for today's operation. These refineries, located at Ruhland, Germany were not attacked. High and low squadrons of the Group formation attacked a second target, which was Plauen and the lead squadron hit at Chmenitz. Both targets were attacked with instruments. Results not observed. Only flak encountered was moderate, accurate and tracking. This fire was drawn from Brux. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Replinger led the High Squadron with Lts. Hall, Stultz, Adelmeyer, White, Rice, Hull, Klunge and Samo rounding out the formation.

1st Lt. Charles F. Houk appointed to Captain on this date. 2nd Lts. Arnold Anderson and Robert W. Marelius appointed to 1st Lieutenants.

6. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

7. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

8. The assigned target, Huls, Germany was bombed today by Gee-H methods by 10 of our aircraft. Results again were not observed due to 10/10ths coverage. Flak in target area was meager, inaccurate and of the barrage type. There was no enemy fighter opposition. Participating were Lts. White, Elliott, Fink, Anderson, Rice, Stow, Adelmeyer and Hall. Capt. Gaw and Lt. Marelius led the formation to the target and safe to base.

9. Today's mission carried our aircraft to the locomotive and repair shops located at Kassel, Germany. Bombing was done visually – with results being good. Photographs show a good pattern of bombs within the garget area. There were no enemy fighters and flak was moderate, and fairly accurate at the target. Captain Houk and Lt. hall led the squadron, which was lead squadron in the Group formation. Participating on this operation were Lts. White, Stultz, Stow, Anderson, Hull, Adelmeyer and Lt. Peterson.

10. A railway center for supplies to enemy troops of the Western Front was assigned as the primary target for today. This railway center was Sinsen, near Recklinghausen, Germany. 10/10ths cloud prevented visual bomb runs – therefore target was attacked on Gee-H. Meager, generally accurate flak was encountered at the target. There was no fighter opposition. With Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Elliott leading the low squadron in the Group today, Lts. Stultz, Klunge, Rice, Peterson, Stow, Hall, Hawkins, Maschoff and their respective crews took part.

11. Under command of Major Bordner and Captain Houk, 9 aircraft of this organization attacked submarine and ship building installations in Bremen. As bombing was accomplished by H2X there were no observations. Flak was meager to moderate, mostly of the barrage type. German fighters were no encountered. The 534th with Major Bordner leading, led the Group on this mission. Participating were Lts. Stow, Stultz, Rice, Peterson, hall, Fink, Maschoff, Hawkins and their respective crew.

12. Lts. Samo, White, Lynch, Bradley, Zorski, Fithian, Anderson, Maschoff, Rice and Hawkins were on an operation to Dillenburg, Germany. This railway center situated in the Ruhr, was attacked by Gee-H. No observations reported on results of bombing. At target there was an absence of flak. Enemy fighters were not encountered.

13. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

14. Target attacked on this day was the railway bridge located at Vlotho, Germany. Bombing was accomplished visually. Returning crewmen reported excellent results. There was no enemy fighter opposition and again no flak encountered at target area. Lt. Marelius and Lt. Replinger flew lead ship of the high squadron in the Group formation. Pilots taking part are as listed: Lt. White, Lt. Adelmeyer, Lt. Stultz, Lt. Fink, Lt. Peterson, Lt. Lynch, Lt. Hawkins and Lt. Stow. All returned safe to base.

15. Our mission today was to bomb the marshalling yard located at Orainenburg, near Berlin. Clear weather over Germany allowed our aircraft to make visual runs on the primary. Results reported as fair to good. Smoke and haze made accurate assessment difficult. There were no e/a attacks on our Group, but several dog-fights were observed in the distance. AA fire was moderate, fairly accurate and tracking at the target. En route – meager, inaccurate fire was encountered. Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Elliott were squadron leaders and squadron was low in the Group's formation. Participating were Lts. Rice, Stultz, Adelmeyer, Anderson, Bradley, Stow, Fink and Lt. Zorski.

16. Synthetic oil plants located at Bohlen, Germany were scheduled to be attacked today. Mission was scrubbed.

17. The synthetic oil plant at Bohlen was the briefed target for this date and was bombed successfully by H2X methods. 10/10ths cloud cover prevented observation of results. No enemy aircraft were encountered and the only flak was encountered at Bohlen. This fire was moderate to intense and inaccurate. The Group was led by the 534th – with Major Bordner and Capt Gaw flying lead a/c. Taking part were Lts. Rice, Stultz, Davis, Stow, Lynch, Adelmeyer and Lt. Fink. All aircraft completed mission without mishap.

18. Target briefed combat crews for this mission was Berlin, Germany. Lts. Lynch, Stow, Rice, Zorski, Fithian, Peterson, Samo, Hull, Anderson and Hawkins with the respective crews attack this target successfully. Bombing was by PFF equipment with results not observed. No enemy aircraft were sighted or encountered. Flak was moderate to intense and very accurate over the target. All aircraft bombed and returned.

19. Our primary target for this date was the flak installation, which defends the oil plants at Bohlen, Germany. The briefed second target was Plauen in which are situated chemical and explosive factories. The number 2 target was attacked with PFF equipment through 10/10ths cloud cover. Results were not observed. AA fire was not encountered and enemy fighters did not put in an appearance. In lead ship were Capt. Ackerman and Lt. Elliot. Lt. Klunge, Lt. Stultz, Lt. Peterson, Lt. Stow, Lt. Bradley, Lt. Maschoff, Lt. Davis and Lts. White, Raker and Smith took part. Lts. Backer and Smith were piloting a 534th aircraft, but they were from another organization.

20. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

21. The German Air Force jet-propelled aircraft airfield at Rheine/Salzbergen was attacked by our bombers on today's operation. Aircraft bombed the primary target with good to excellent results. There were no enemy fighters to oppose and there was no flak at the target. Lt. Replinger and Lt. Marelius led the formation. Participating were Lts. Klunge, Hall, Davis, Adelmeyer, Bradley, Pink, Hull and Lt. White.

22. Led by Captain Ackerman and Lt. Marelius our aircraft today bombed the military camps located at Dorsten/Falkdhausen. Visibility was good and bombing was visual with very good results. No enemy aircraft were encountered, while flak was reported as moderate and increasing to intense at bombs away time. Pilots taking part: Lt. Hall, Lt. Peterson, Lt. Anderson, Lt. Lynch, Lt. Klunge, Lt. Pink and Lt. Davis.

23. The marshalling yard at Coesfeld, Germany was the briefed primary target for our squadron on today's mission. Bombing was done visually. Crewmen report that there was a good concentration of bombs right on the target. AA fire and flak were nil. Capt. Cronin of Group Operations and Capt Houk flew our lead aircraft and they led pilots: Maschoff, Adelmeyer, Hall, Hawkins, Davis, Lynch, Anderson and Peterson with their respective crew to the target and safe to base.

24. Two missions were made by the squadron today. The first was to the Furstenau/Vechtel landing ground. Crews reported that they attacked the target visually and observed hits on the target. No enemy fighters were encountered. Flak was meager to moderate but very accurate and encountered on the bomb run. Participating were Zorski, Klunge, Hawkins, Samo, Anderson, Fithian, Lynch, Adelmeyer, Hull and Maschoff. The second mission of the day carried our crews to the airfield at Twente/Enschede, Holland. There were no fighters to oppose and flak at target was meager, accurate and tracking. Only three of aircraft took part in the Group's formation over the target. These were piloted by Lts. Rice, Davis and Peterson. Both targets were bombed in support of airborne troops making a crossing of the Rhine River in the area of our targets. By bombing successfully the enemy was unable to oppose the landing with air power.

25. Mission was planned to attack oil plants to Zeitz on this date. Mission was cancelled.

26. No. 1 target was briefed as Zeitz, Germany – with the oil plant there as the objective. Crews were also briefed on a no. 2 target which was Plauen, Germany. The primary was bombed with bombs falling unobserved due to bad weather. No fighters were encountered but moderate to intense and accurate fire was encountered. 534th was low squadron in the Group formation and were led by Lts. Replinger and Elliott. Lts. Anderson, Stultz, Hawkins, Adelmeyer, Lynch, Fithian, Davis, Maschoff participated.

27. Marshalling yards at Fulda, Germany were scheduled to be attacked on today's operation. Mission was cancelled.

28. Berlin, Germany was attacked by 11 of our aircraft on today's mission. Target was bombed by H2X with results being unobserved. There were no enemy fighters to oppose and flak was meager to moderate. Lts. Replinger and Elliott led our formation, which was composed of Lts. Stultz, Fithian, David, Lynch, Hull, Fink, Zorksi and Wulf. Lts. Bowler and Ripe participated also.

29. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

30. Captain Ackerman and Lt. Elliott led Lts. Hull, Hall, Fithian, Fink, Rice, Anderson, Williams and Zorski in an attack on the submarine pens at Bremen. The target was attacked visually and results were excellent. No fighter opposition and flak encountered at the target was accurate and tracking. All aircraft bombed and returned safe to base.

31. With Captain Ackerman and Lt. Elliott again leading our formation against the railways at Halle, Germany were bombarded by our aircraft. Bombing was done by H2X. No results observed. Flak was meager to moderate and inaccurate. There were no enemy fighters to oppose.

Strength of the organization for the month stands at: 105 Officers and 438 Enlisted Men.

April 1945

534th Bomb Sq.
381st Bomb Group (H)

WAR DIARY
Submitted by Lt. Ross G. Hanks

April 1945

1. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
2. Combat crews of the squadron were briefed for mission to the airfield at Skrydstrup, Denmark. Aircraft were just off the coast when weather scouting force called in and reported 10/10ths clouds over targets. Mission was abandoned. Taking part were pilots – Rice, Hawkins, Fithian, Hall, Anderson, Fink, Hacker and Lt. Hall.
3. Today our aircraft were to bomb installations at Kaltenkirchen and Beldering. Mission was scrubbed.
4. Squadron was led today by Capt. R.F. Gaw on a mission to Hoya Landing field located at Hoya, Germany. Target was bombed visually through openings in 8/10ths clouds. Meager flak was encountered in the target area. No enemy fighter aircraft were encountered by our formation. Pilots and respective crews participating on this raid are as follows: Lt. Aron, Lt. Prescott, Lt. Wheeler, Lt. Adelmeyer, Lt. Williams, Lt. Hull, Lt. Hawkins, Lt. White, Lt. Maschoff, Lt. Rice and Lt. Hall.
5. An ordnance plant located at Grefenwhor, Germany was attacked by 11 aircraft of this organization. Formation was led to target and back by Capt. C. Houk. Bombing was accomplished by H2X methods and results reported as unobserved. Reports on flak and enemy fighters encountered were nil. Flying in the formation led by Capt. Houk were Lts. White, Maschoff, Stultz, Williams, C. Williams, Oldsman, Samo, Fink, Hull and Lt. Hawkins.
6. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.
7. Target for today was the landing ground located at Kholenbissen. From this field German jet aircraft had been very active against us. Bombing was visual with reports coming back as good. A number of jet aircraft were sighted but none made attacks on our unit. Flak encountered was inaccurate. Participating were Lts. White, Bradley, Adelmeyer, Fink, Hull, Zorski, O'Connel, Samo, Anderson, and Lt. Schrank.
8. Briefed target for today was the underground oil storage depot at Derben, Germany. Due to unfavorable weather over the primary – the #2 target was attacked by H2X means. This #2 target was the R/W works located at Stendal, Germany. Flak was meager to moderate and fairly accurate in the target area. No fighters were sighted. Participating on this mission were the following listed pilots and their respective crews: Lts. Bradley, Zorski, Samo, Maschoff, Adelmeyer, Anderson, Fithian, O'Connel, Hawkins, Hull, Ashby and Lt. Oldsman. On this mission the squadron lost A/C 175-M with Lt. Adelmeyer's crew. This a/c was last sighted at 5123N-1002E at an altitude of 4,000 ft. Aircraft was on fire and went into dive in an attempt to put fire out. The right wing badly burned and aircraft was finally observed to start into spin and explode. 2 chutes were seen to come out and open in the woods below. Listed are crew members:

H.E. Adelmeyer
J.N. Frampton
N.E. Melvin
Edward J. Dybiez
James H. Hayden
R.L. Daily
Robert E. Cobb
Edward P. Houser

9. The landing ground at Oberphaffenhofen, Germany was to be our target for this date. The primary was bombed visually and crews reported excellent results. No enemy fighter aircraft were encountered and the only fire was encountered at

Munchen which was just out of range. Participating were Lts. Meschoff, Hull, Stultz, Samo, Anderson, Elliott, Davis and Lt Hawkins.

10. Target for today was the Ordnance works at Oranienburg, Germany. This target was attacked visually by the squadron's aircraft with results being reported as good to excellent. No enemy aircraft were reported. Falk was meager and low for our formation. Taking part were pilots – Ashby, Aron, Bradley, Williams, Maschoff, Fithian, White, Samo, Stow and Lt. Stultz.

11. Under the command of Capt. R.F. Gaw and Lt. Rice our squadron was dispatched to attack oil storage depot located at Freiam, Germany. With visibility unlimited the target was bombed successfully. Return crews reported that they had excellent results. AA fire was moderate and inaccurate and no enemy fighters encountered. Rounding out the squadron's formation were pilots – Fink, Williams, Bradley, Soma, Maschoff, Hawkins, Fithian, Hendricks, Stultz, and Lt. Rice with Capt. Gaw leading the formation.

12. Target scheduled for our aircraft today was the important rail junction at Dayerouth, Germany. This mission was scrubbed.

13. Aircraft of the squadron today attacked the railway center of Neumunster, Germany. Target was hit visually with results being reported as excellent. No e/a attacks were reported and flak being reported by crews as meager and inaccurate. Pilots completed this mission were: Lts. Lee, Hall, Klunge, Peterson, Lynch, O'Connell, Fink, Williams, and Lt. Zorski. Captains Ackerman and Houk led the squadron to their target and back to base.

14. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

15. Led by Capt. Ackerman, 9 aircraft of the squadron were dispatched to attack a strong point at Soulea-Sur-Mer, France. This point was held by the Germans at the mouth of the Gironde River that flows to the city of Bordeaux. Our aircraft bombed visually with results being excellent. Soon after bombing this objective, French troops were to move in and take possession. Participating on this mission were Lts. Hall, Davis Williams, Rice, Samo, O'Connell, Peterson, Fink, and Lt. Hawkins.

16. Railway bridge over the River Denube at Regensburg, Germany was our assigned target for today. This target was attacked visually but photos show that bombs fell short of their mark. However, the approaches to the bridge were well hit. Flak was meager and moderate. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Participating were Lts. Zorski, Torvestad, O'Connell, Samo, Maschoff, Pink, Hull, Hawkins and Lt. Fithian.

17. Led by Major Bordner and Capt. Gaw, 9 of our aircraft today took part in the raid on Dresden, Germany. Major Bordner was flying in the lead aircraft of the group formation. 534th was lead squadron, which was composed of the following pilots and their respective crews: Lts. Hawkins, Maschoff, Torvestad, Fithian, Jones, Hull, Stultz, Williams and Lt. O'Connell. We bombed the primary visually with results being reported as poor. No E/A were encountered and AA fire was meager and inaccurate in the target area. All aircraft and crews returned safe to this base.

18. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

19. 10 Aircraft of this squadron were dispatched to attack the railroad bridge located at Elsterwerda, Germany. Some of our aircraft attacked the primary, while others were forced, by unfavorable weather to bomb the marshalling yards at Falkenberg, Germany. Results at both targets were described as good. Flak was meager and inaccurate. Taking part on this mission were Lts. Hawkins, Elliot, Cotea?, Stultz, Anderson, O'Connell, Torvestad, Williams, Klunge and Majors Taylor and Wallick.

20. The important railway marshalling yards located at Brandenburg, Germany were attacked by 10 aircraft of our organization this date. Under command of Major Bordner and Capt. Ackerman – Lts. Samo, Elliott, Marelius, Stultz, Anderson, O'Connell, Klunge, Hawkins, Hull, Anderson and Majors Taylor and Wallick took part. Our target was bombed

visually with results being reported as excellent. No e/a were encountered and AA fire was meager and reported as fairly accurate.

21. Through 10/10ths cloud coverage, 10 of our aircraft bombed the marshalling yards at Munich. Bombing was accomplished by H2X technique. Anti-Aircraft fire was meager and inaccurate in the target area. Participating were Lts. Torvestad, Holland, O'Connell, Hawkins, Klunge, Anderson, Williams, Hull and Lt. Maschoff.

22. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

23. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

On a flight to Scotland, an aircraft of this squadron crashed into high ground on the Isle of Man. Aircraft was piloted by Capt. Chas. E. Ackerman, who was about to finish his second tour of duty. A number of ground personnel on leave were aboard the plane. 11 men of this organization and 20 men from other units were killed in this incident. Listed are those killed.

Capt. Chas E. Ackerman

F/O E. Hutchason

1st Lt. John P. Fedak

1st Lt. Martin Matyas

1st Lt. Wayne Hart

T/Sgt. Nesley N. Hagen

T/Sgt. D.H. Lindon

Sgt. Michael J. Kakos

Sgt. I.R. Hargraves

Cpl. E. Ammerman

Cpl. Leslie N. Maxwell

Interment was at the Cambridge National Cemetary.

24. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

25. Seven aircraft of the squadron today participated on a mission to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Cloud cover prevented visual observation of the target and all aircraft returned their bombs to base. Participating were Lts. Anderson, Torvestad, Stultz, Rice, Hawkins, Holland and Lt. Williams.

26. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

27. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

28. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

29. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

30. Non Operational. Usual garrison duties.

At the month's end the strength of the squadron stands at: 107 Officers and 437 Enlisted Men.

=== End of 534th Squadron War Diary ===