

CHAPTER XI UP AND DOWN THE BOMBING SCALE WITH NEW CREWS, AUGUST 1944

(A) Narrative History.

The month of August brought its first anniversary of the 461st Bombardment Group. The anniversary date was actually Friday, 11 August. On that day each squadron celebrated the occasion with a party for its enlisted men and another one for its officers. The Headquarters party for officers was held the evening of the 13th of August. This particular party was unique in that it was held on the “Liberaiders’ Flight Deck” or the terrace of the headquarters building. Among the guests were the 49th Wing Commander, Colonel William L. Lee; the 451st Group Commander, Colonel Robert E. Eaton; the 484th Group Commander, Colonel William B. Keese; and approximately twenty South African nurses of the British Army from Trani.

Combat crew members who had completed their missions began in August to leave the Group for return to the United States. As a preliminary to their departure they were assembled in the briefing room for a farewell from Colonel Glantzberg. Each officer and enlisted man was given a copy of the “First 50 Missions of the 461st Bomb Group (H), April 2 – June 26, 1944” as well as a copy signed by Colonel Glantzberg of the Group’s “Cheek Twitcher” certificate. This particular certificate was signed by 1st Lt. William B. Marshall, a bombardier who had completed his tour of duty.

One of the individuals returned to the United States was Captain David P. McQuillan, the Operations Officer of the 767th Squadron. He left the Group on the 11th day of August after exactly one year of service with the Group. His departure was both singular and ironic in that he was the last of the original command or executive pilots of the Group, and the only one of the original eleven command or executive pilots of the Group to complete a year of service in the same position in the Group. Captain William J. Franklin Jr., the original Operations Officer of the 766th Squadron, still remained with the Group but during part of his year of service with the Group he had been Assistant Squadron Operations Officer.

Captain George V. Leffler, the Group Bombardier, was grounded early in August following his mission to Budapest on 30 July. He became the first Group flying staff officer to complete a tour of duty in this theatre. He was replaced by 1st Lt. Jack H. King who had originally been the bombardier on Captain Strong’s crew and who was first designated as the Assistant Group Bombardier. Shortly after this both Leffler and King were promoted.

On 15 August the Group participated in its second “D” Day operation with the bombing mission to the landing beaches in Southern France.

The first bond raffle in the Group was conducted by Special Forces on 15 August. \$2320.00 dollars worth of bonds were sold.

On 23 August S/Sgt. Joe Louis visited the Group and addressed the officers and men who had assembled in the Group Theatre to greet him.

On 24 August Captain Joseph J. Mente, the Special Services Officer, began a daily broadcast at noon of current events.

The second party of the month of August for the Group officers was held on the 30th of the month. One of the features of this party was the awarding of the Silver Star to Colonel Glantzberg by Colonel Lee.

(B) Operations.

The Group flew a total of 20 combat missions during the month of August. Combat crew members logged a total of 4064 hours. Of the 586 planes that took off, 54 were early returns. The average number of aircraft on each mission was 29.3. Of the 1220 tons of bombs that were airborne, 1059 were dropped on targets.

Bombing accuracy during the month was most erratic. The scores ran all the way from that of 0 on mission No. 81 to that of 73.9 on mission No. 91. The Group ranked thirteenth in the Air Force for the month with an average score of 42.2 per cent.

Airplane losses during the month were comparatively light: one being lost to fighters, three to flak, and four to other causes. Enemy fighters were encountered on both August 22nd and 23rd on missions against targets in the Vienna area. Sixteen of these fighters were destroyed, six were probably destroyed, and one was damaged.

In early August, Colonel Glantzberg asked the Group Communications Officer, Major Wagener, for information and a recommendation on radio bombing which would permit all planes in the formation to drop their bombs on the lead plane by use of radio. Major Wagener requested Master Sergeant Wilford L. Irwin and Corporal George Kufta of the Communications Section of the 764th Squadron, and Sergeant Marshall Johnson of the 765th Communications Section to work with him on the project. The investigation of this committee carried the personnel to Corsica and to other places where experimentation had been conducted on radio bombing. Presently the 461st began experimenting on combat missions with this manner of bombing.

On 18 August on Mission No. 85 against the Aibunar Airdrome in Yugoslavia one flight in the formation dropped their bombs by radio with satisfactory results. Two days later the method was tried again, this time with two flights using the experiment. The results obtained by the first flight were satisfactory but bombs in the second flight were intermittently scattered all the way from the IP to the target. While Major Wagener and his committee were working to improve their techniques the Wing and the Air Force became interested in the experiment. Higher headquarters directed that plans, methods, and diagrams that had been devised in working this scheme should be sent to Headquarters of the Fifteenth Air Force for study. This ended the experiment by this Group on radio bombing at least temporarily and possibly permanently.

On the 24th of the month, 2nd Lt. Arthur E. Farnham Jr. and his skeleton crew washed out the “Kissed Off Kids” in a practice flight when compelled to crash land it in a field near the Base. 1st Lt. Ralph T. Seeman, to whom the plane had originally been assigned in the United States, had completed 50 missions in this plane previous to this accident. This was the first plane ever to be lost to this Group on a practice mission since the beginning of combat operations on 2 April 1944.

The experience level of combat crews of the Group during the month of August was the lowest in the history of the Group since it began combat operations. Of the seventy crews that were members of the Group at some time during the month, an average of fifty were available for combat. Seven of the eight crews lost to combat during the month were crews with only a few missions. Not more than one crew was lost on any one mission.

A total of forty-seven new complete crews were assigned to the Group during the month. Shortly after each shipment of new crews arrived at the Group all of them were called to the Group Briefing Room by Colonel Glantzberg. The Colonel’s senior staff officers and the squadron commanders were repeatedly required to attend these meetings. In his remarks to the new crew members, the Colonel stated that the purposes of the meeting were three in number: (1) To provide him with an opportunity to welcome personally each new officer and enlisted man to the Group; (2) To present his senior and command staffs to the new personnel; and (3) To outline the policies of the Group to new arrivals. Thus, during the month, a policy was definitely established and rigidly adhered to of welcoming every new crew to the Group and of bidding farewell to all old crew members leaving the Group.

New Crews

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 75, dated 2 August 1944, reads as follows: “The VOCO 23 July 44, assigning the fol combat crew personnel to squadrons as indicated is hereby confirmed and made a matter of record. Auth: VOGC 23 Jul 44.”

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. Sol Sklanski
2nd Lt. John L. Underwood
2nd Lt. John L. Turner, Jr.
2nd Lt. Edward A. Nahkunst
1st Lt. John G.L. Oliver
1st Lt. George H. Miller
2nd Lt. Hubert W. Souther
2nd Lt. Donald E. Tiffany
2nd Lt. Lloyd D. Emmert
2nd Lt. William M. Powell

765th Squadron

1st Lt. David E.A. Johnson

2nd Lt. Willard R. King
2nd Lt. Bernard J. Mohan
2nd Lt. John B. Moore, Jr.
2nd Lt. Robert T. Blake
2nd Lt. Leo F. Cooper
2nd Lt. Burnis E. Presho
1st Lt. Robert K. Baker
1st Lt. Robert T. Chalmers
2nd Lt. William N. Beatty
1st Lt. Frederick A. Gray, Jr.
2nd Lt. William J. Kelleher

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. John R. Wren, Jr.
2nd Lt. Albert W. Townsley
2nd Lt. Arthur H. Trier
2nd Lt. Girard L. Vanderhoeven
2nd Lt. Harold F. Ehrlich
2nd Lt. Arthur E. Farnham, Jr.
2nd Lt. David J. Thomas
1st Lt. Stockton B. Shaw
2nd Lt. Howard C. Wilson
2nd Lt. Thomas J. Sobieski
2nd Lt. Robert R. Friedersdorf
2nd Lt. Robert D. Falkner

767th Squadron

F/O Paul H. Millikin
2nd Lt. Thomas G. Moore
2nd Lt. Ralph K. Newton
2nd Lt. Floyd C. Stockton
2nd Lt. Edward K. George
2nd Lt. George R. Podwolsky
2nd Lt. Gordon W. Rosencrans
F/O Truman L. Horn, Jr.
1st Lt. Bertrand J. Arents
2nd Lt. Donald J. Herbert
1st Lt. Robert W. Hess
2nd Lt. Nicholas Rawchuck
2nd Lt. Harry L. Walsh

Paragraph 2 of Group Special Orders No. 75, dated 2 August 1944, reads as follows:
“The VOCCO 24 Jul 44, assigning the fol combat crew personnel to squadrons as indicated
is hereby confirmed and made a matter of record. Auth. VOCCG IV AF 24 Jul 44.

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. Edward A. Nahkunst and crew

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. Bernard J. Mohan and crew

2nd Lt. John B. Moore, Jr. and crew

Paragraph 3 of Group Special Orders No. 75, dated 2 August 1944, reads as follows:
“The VOCO 26 Jul 44, assigning the fol combat crew personnel to squadrons as indicated
is hereby confirmed and a matter of record. Auth: VOCG XV AF 26 Jul 44.”

764th Squadron

1st Lt. John G.L. Oliver and crew

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. Robert T. Blake and crew

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. Harold F. Ehrlich and crew

767th Squadron

2nd Lt. Edward K. George and crew

Paragraph 4 of Group Special Orders No. 75, dated 2 August 1944, reads as follows:
“The VOCO 27 Jul 44, assigning the fol combat crew personnel to squadrons as indicated
is hereby confirmed and made a matter of record. Auth: VOCG XV AF 27 Jul 44.”

764th Squadron

1st Lt. George H. Miller and crew

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. Leo F. Cooper and crew

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. Arthur E. Farnham, Jr., and crew

767th Squadron

2nd Lt. George R. Podwolsky and crew

2nd Lt. Gordon W. Rosencrans and crew

Paragraph 6 of Group Special Orders No. 5, dated 2 August 1944, reads as follows: "The VOCO 30 Jul 44, assigning the fol combat crew personnel to squadrons as indicated is hereby confirmed and made a matter of record. Auth: VOCI XV AF 30 Jul 44".

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. Hubert W. Souther and crew
2nd Lt. Donald E. Tiffany and crew

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. Bernis E. Presho and crew

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. David J. Thomas and crew

767th Squadron

F/O Truman L. Horn, Jr. and crew

Paragraph 3 of Group Special Orders No. 85, dated 19 August 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off, V/O, and EM, combat crew members, having been asgd this Op per VOCG XV AF, 18 Aug 44, are hereby assigned crew members and to squadrons as indicated".

765th Squadron

1st Lt. Robert K. Baker and crew
1st Lt. Robert T. Chalmers and crew
2nd Lt. William N. Beatty and crew

766th Squadron

1st Lt. Stockton B. Shaw and crew
2nd Lt. Howard C. Wilson and crew

767th Squadron

1st Lt. Bertrand J. Arents and crew

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 88, dated 22 August 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off, F/O, and EM having been asgd this orgn per competent authority (VOCG IV AF, 22 Aug 44) are further asgd to squadrons as indicated".

764th Squadron

2nd Lt. Lloyd D. Emmert and crew
2nd Lt. William M. Powell and crew

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. Thomas J. Sobieski and crew

767th Squadron

2nd Lt. Donald J. Herbert and crew

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 90, dated 24 August 1944, reads as follows: "The fel Off, F/O, and EM, having been asgd this orgn per competent authority (VOCG XV AF, 23 Aug 44) are further asgd to squadrons as indicated".

765th Squadron

1st Lt. Frederick a. Gray, Jr., and crew

767th Squadron

1st Lt. Robert W. Hess and crew
2nd Lt. Nicholas Rawchuck and crew
2nd Lt. Harry L. Walsh and crew

Paragraph 1 of Group Special Orders No. 94, dated 29 August 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off and EM having been asgd this orgn per competent authority (VOCG XV AF. 28 Aug 44) are further asd to squadrons as indicated, off 26 Aug 44".

765th Squadron

2nd Lt. William J. Kelleher and crew

766th Squadron

2nd Lt. Robert R. Friedersdorf and crew

Paragraph 2 of Group special Orders No. 94, dated 29 August 1944, reads as follows: "The fol Off and EM having been asgd this orgn per competent authority (VOCO XV AF, 29 Aug 44) are further asgd to the 766th Bomb Squadron:"

2nd Lt. Robert D. Falkner and crew

MISSIONS

Mission No. 74, 2 August 1944 – Avignon Railroad Bridge, France

As had been the case in certain previous months, superior bombing marked the first mission of a new month. Lt. Colonel Knapp led a four-flight formation against a railroad bridge across the Durance River south of Avignon. Lt. King became the first bombardier in this Group to really hit a bridge hard when 73.1 percent, almost all of the bombs of three flights cut the railroad bridge in two different places near the south end.

**Mission No. 75, 3 August 1944 – Zahnradfabrik Aircraft Factory,
Friedrichshfen, Germany**

The primary target for this mission was the Ober Raderach Chemical Works at Friedrichshfen, Germany. Because of nine-tenths cloud coverage in the target area, the Group was forced to bomb by the pathfinder method. Being unable to satisfactorily pick up the primary target on his instruments, Lt. Marangelo selected the first alternate target that was the Zahnradfabrik Aircraft Factory at Friedrichshafen. The target was hit but many of the bombs fell short into the water. 2nd Lt. Robert E. Schweisberger and his crew became the first of the many new flying personnel who failed to return from a mission during the month of August.

Mission 76, 6 August 1944 – Miramas Marshalling Yard, France

For this mission the strategy of the Fifteenth Air Force, which as the time was not being revealed to Group personnel, continued to anticipate the invasion of Southern France. The target was a large marshalling yard in the comparatively small town of Miramas, France. With excellent weather, no fighter opposition, and not much flak at the target, Major Goree and Lt. Cran turned in an excellent mission with a score of 52.7 percent. This was the first five-box formation flown during the month.

Mission No. 77, 7 August 1944 – Blechhammer South Oil Refinery, Germany

The mission for 7 August was the South Plant of the Synthetic Oil Refinery at Blechhammer, Germany. Although the weather was CAVU over the target, it was necessary to bomb by instruments because of the very effective smoke screen put up by the enemy. Photographs of the bomb strikes were taken but it is impossible to plot the coverage. No fighters were seen or encountered, but twelve of the nineteen bombers over the target were holed by flak. The plane piloted by 2nd Lt. Robert E. Sterrett was last seen in the target area with two engines feathered. He and his crew became the second new crew to be lost during the month.

Mission No. 78, 9 August 1944 – Almasfuzito Oil Refinery, Hungary

The veteran team of Lt. Colonel Knapp, Captain Strong, Lt. King, Lt. Coles, and Lt. Sullivan came through with their second superior mission of the young month when they scored 62 percent on the oil refinery at Almasfuzito, Hungary. Conditions for the attack were ideal – CAVU weather, no fighters, and not too much flak. Although Captain Strong and Lt. Sullivan did not know it at the time, this mission marked the completion of their tour of duty with the Fifteenth Air Force. This made the nineteenth mission that they and Lt. King had flown in the lead place of an Air Force, Wing, Group, or Second Section formation.

Mission No. 79, 10 August 1944 – Ploesti Xenia Oil Refinery, Roumania

Back again to the guns out in the fields at the old familiar target, the Xenia Oil Refinery, Ploesti. Back again to smoke screens, high towering black clouds from burning oil, and to pathfinder bombing. The results: no score; photographs which show nothing but smoke; and thirteen airplanes with holes in them. Crew members who had become accustomed to results like these at Blechhammer and at Ploesti frequently wondered how much or how little damage they were inflicting on these targets.

Mission No. 80, 12 August 1944 – Genoa Gun Positions, Italy

For weeks members of the Group who visited Rome had been returning with rumors of another invasion of the continent of Europe. When the Group was suddenly swung from its oil targets to fly a tactical mission against coastal gun positions south of Genoa, Italy, on the 12th of August, many believed that the time had come for a fulfillment of those rumors. The weather for this mission was ideal, there were no enemy fighters, and not a great deal of flak. The target, however, which was approached over land was most difficult to identify. Only 6.4 percent of the bombs were dropped on the target. The plane flown by F/O James H. Cain blew up over the target and several pieces from the destroyed plane were brought back to Base lodged in the wings and fuselages of other planes in the formation. It is believed that the plane suffered a direct hit on the fuse of a bomb.

Mission No. 81, 13 August 1944 – Genoa Gun Positions, Italy

Having failed to knock out its target on the 12th of the month, the Group tried again on the 13th with even poorer results. It seemed impossible for the Group to identify the assigned gun positions.

Mission No. 82, 14 August 1944 – Gun Positions near Frejus, France

When the Group was assigned its third consecutive tactical mission against coastal gun positions, speculation ran rampant as to when the invasion would start and as to whether it would be aimed at the Genoa area of Italy, or at the Marseilles area of France. Lt. Colonel Knapp, flying this mission with a new flight leader crew, turned in his third consecutive superior mission of the month when 64.5 percent of the bombs were dropped within a thousand feet of the assigned coastal gun positions on the beach near Frejus, France. Conditions for this mission were ideal. A few weeks after this mission, a member of this Group who visited the scene of this target returned from France with the information that where the coastal guns had once been located, there was nothing but the biggest crater he had ever seen.

Mission No. 83 - 15 August 1944 – Frejus Beach, France

During the afternoon of the 14th, the “hot information” on the big push came down through channels. “H” Hour of “D” Day was to be the break of dawn the morning of 15 August. The invasion was to be aimed at the southern coast of France. Missions of the Fifteenth Air Force in support of the invasion were four in number: (1) To cause maximum destruction to enemy coast and beach defenses within the assault area; (2) To isolate the battle field by the destruction of the remaining rail and road bridges across the

Rhone River up to its junction with the Iser River as well as those across the Iser and Durance Rivers; (3) To block defiles and rail lines running through the Alps from Iser River southward; and (4) to drop propaganda leaflets from the water's edge to approximately 30 miles inland.

The field order for the mission revealed that many of the Groups were to hit their targets at the break of dawn. This was the explanation of why the planes of the Groups in the 304th Wing had for weeks been disturbing the nightly sleep of the 461st Group with their constant night take-offs, formation flying and landings. Target time assigned to the 461st was 12:10 o'clock. The target was a section of the beach in front of the Town of Frejus and just to the left of a concentration of friendly troops that were scheduled to be ashore.

As soon as Colonel Glantzberg saw the field order and the annexes that accompanied it, he made his decisions rapidly. The Group would attack its target with five boxes staggered to the left. The Colonel would lead the first box and a squadron commander would lead one of each of the other four boxes. All Group and Squadron operations officers, navigators, and bombardiers would fly. Lt. Colonel Hawes, the Deputy Group Commander, would be the only flying officer of the Group and/or Squadron Staffs not to fly. Captain John Specht, probably the most outstanding original flight leader left in the Group, would be the lead pilot; Major Marian Pruitt, long believed to be without equal in the Fifteenth Air Force, would be the lead navigator; 1st Lt. Jack H. King, formerly the bombardier on Captain Strong's outstanding crew and currently the hottest bombardier in the Group as well as the acting Group Bombardier, would be the lead bombardier; 1st Lt. John W. Coles, a squadron navigator and a veteran of many missions on which he had done pilotage from the nose turret of the lead plane, would be the pilotage navigator; and 1st Lt. Leonard C. Gizelba, the prima-donna of the mickey operators, would fly in the lead pathfinder plane.

The decision of the Commanding Officer to permit all but one of his flying staff officers to participate in this mission was an outstanding example of the methods he continually used in making every deserving officer and man feel that he as an important personage in this Group. Special briefing was held in the afternoon that was attended by all flying staff officers as well as by the officers of all flight leader crews who were to participate in the mission.

Conditions for the missions would not have been better. In the complete absence of enemy fighters and flak, with CAVU weather, with all flights in formation, with many friendly vessels in the water near the target, and with many friendly troops on the ground near the target, the Group did an excellent job in spraying the assigned section of the landing beach with 100 pound general purpose bombs. On the top rack of each plane were two bombs with carried propaganda leaflets addressed to the enemy personnel. All crews returned to the base without incident.

**Mission No. 84, 17 August 1944 – Ploesti Romano Americana Oil Refinery,
Roumania**

With the invasion of Southern France from the Mediterranean now successfully under way, the Fifteenth Air Force swung back for targets to sources of German oil. The target assigned the 461st Group was the Romano Americana Oil Refinery at Ploesti, Roumania. This target was the largest and most important of all the vital oil installations at Ploesti. This was the target that the Group had failed to reach on 22 July when the formation was stopped short of its objective by flak.

This mission was the seventh to be flown by this Group to Ploesti. Although no one knew it at the time, this was destined to be the last mission to be flown by this Group against this first priority target which had long since been recognized by all United Nations as one of the most important and well defended target areas possessed by the enemy. On 30 August 1944 what was left of the famous Ploesti oil supply and industry was captured by the Russian Army.

Despite the fact that it took a lot of explaining on the part of some of the twelve pilots who were early returns from this mission, in many ways the mission was the most successful ever flown by this Group against a Ploesti target. The nineteen planes over the target dropped 45.6 percent of their 146 five hundred pound RDX bombs within 1000 feet of the briefed aiming point. Numerous hits were scored in the tank farm at the northwest corner of the refinery; one string of bombs fell across the center of the refinery with four direct hits on storage tanks in that area which resulted in large fires; and the distillation units, the boiler house, and some of the administration buildings were also hit.

No fighters were encountered. With CAVU weather at the target, the master anti-aircraft gunners who had been getting plenty of practice all summer were up to par with their effort. As a result, fourteen of the nineteen planes over the target were hit and the one flown by 2nd Lt. Thomas C. Moore failed to return from this mission.

Most of the twelve planes that returned early from the mission were those that had been flying in the rear positions of the various flights. When Lt. Colonel Hawes was compelled by mechanical failure to abandon the lead position in the formation, the lead was taken over by the Deputy Leader, Captain Ryder. This was the first mission that Captain Ryder had led. Due to his inexperience plus the fact that his plane was not accurately calibrated, he maintained too high an air speed en route to the target. As a result, the "tail-end Charlie" planes were unable to climb and maintain position in the formation.

Mission No. 85, 18 August 1944 – Alibunar Airdrome, Yugoslavia

The mission of 18 August was the first of four missions destined to be flown against German-held airdromes during the last half of August. The target was the airdrome at Alibunar, Yugoslavia. Most of the fragmentation bombs dropped on this mission covered a wide area across the north end of the airdrome, while others fell in the southwest area and continued northwest to the center of the landing ground. Nine enemy aircraft received direct hits and three others received near misses. A total of fifty-five enemy aircraft were counted from the photographs taken by this Group. With good weather and

neither enemy fighters nor anti-aircraft defenses, all planes in the Group formation returned safely to the Base without damage or casualties.

Mission No. 86, 20 August 1944- Szolnok Airdrome, Hungary

On the frag mission of 20 August against the airdrome at Szolnok, Hungary, Lt. Colonel Knapp turned in his fourth consecutive highly successful mission of the month as Group leader. The bomb pattern started at the center of the south disposal area and continued southeast across the target with an even pattern of strikes. Seven enemy aircraft received direct hits, and near misses were scored on three others. The weather was good except for haze; the flak was slight, inaccurate, and heavy; and there was no enemy fighter opposition. Only one plane was damaged. All returned safely from the mission.

Mission No. 87, 22 August 1944 – Lobau Underground Oil Storage, Vienna, Austria

Still hammering away at vital enemy installations. This time the target was the underground oil installations at the Lobau Refinery near Vienna, Austria. Flying second in the Wing formation, the Group dropped its thousand pound general-purpose bombs through the smoke from the fires started by the lead Group, the 451st. Because of this smoke, it was impossible to observe the full extent of the damage done by this Group. A close concentration of hits, however, fell through the center of the target and on underground storage facilities.

A long running fight was had with thirty-four enemy fighters, eleven of which were destroyed. Sixteen of the twenty-three bombers over the target were damaged by the exceptionally intense, accurate, and heavy flak which the enemy was able to aim under CAVU conditions. The plane piloted by 2nd Lt. Robert G. Swinchart, one of the more experienced pilots in the Group, suffered a bad fuel leak and was lost over Yugoslavia returning to the Base.

Mission No. 88, 23 August 1944– Markersdorf Airdrome, St. Polten, Austria

The third frag job of the month against enemy airdromes. The target was the Markersdorf Airdrome of St. Polten, Austria. The first string of frags started at the southwest corner of the airdrome and continued northeast to the service apron; the second string fell across the western half of the airdrome. Seven enemy aircraft on the airdrome were hit and there others received near misses. Forty-two enemy aircraft parked on the airdrome can be counted in the Group pictures.

Again enemy fighter opposition was encountered. Upward of seventy Me-109s and FW-190s were seen between Lake Balton and the target. As results of repeated attacks, five of these were destroyed, six probably destroyed, and one damaged. The cover provided this Group by the P-51s on this mission was exceptionally good. There was no flak at the target. The plane piloted by 2nd St. Gordon W. Rosencrans, Jr., was set on fire by the enemy fighters. More than half of the crew members were seen to bail out from the plane.

For the second time since the Group had been operating in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, a strange airplane joined the bomber formation on this mission. At 46° 25' North and 15° 52' East, a black B-17 with white vertical stabilizers and elevators joined the formation and flew a wing position for approximately thirty minutes. At the end of that time it fired upon the formation and then turned away when the fire was returned.

Mission No. 89, 24 August 1944 – Ferrara Railroad Bridge, Italy

For its 89th Mission, the Group returned to the target area of its first really great mission. Not since Good Friday, 7 April 1944, had the Group been back to Ferrara, Italy. The target for the mission of 24 August 1944 was a railroad bridge north of the City. The bridge was missed but considerable damage was done in the immediate target area. Some of the bombs fell in a small industrial area south of the bridge; others started large fires, probably in a powerhouse in an industrial area southwest of the bridge; and still others hit the south-elevated railroad bridge cutting the tracks in several places.

Ferrara flak lived up to its highly respected reputation. Nineteen of the twenty-five aircraft over the target were hit by flak, one man was injured, and 2nd Lt. John R. Wren was compelled to bail his crew out a few miles north of the bomb line at Rimini.

Mission No. 90, 26 August 1944, - Bucharest, Otopeni Airdrome, Roumania

By the 26th of August, Roumania had requested an armistice with Russia and Roumanian soldiers were fighting the Germans in the city of Bucharest. North of that city at the Otopeni Airdrome, the Germans were using the landing strips for two purposes: (1) as a place to set down large transports bringing in reinforcements; and (2) as a place from which to launch aerial attacks against the City of Bucharest. The mission of the 461st Bombardment Group for the day was that of post holing the two landing strips on the Otopeni Airdrome with 500-pound general-purpose bombs.

First reports of the results of this mission clearly indicated that Lt. Colonel Knapp had failed miserably in his effort to lead five consecutive exceptionally successful missions during the month of August. With CAVU weather and in the absence of both anti-aircraft and enemy fighter opposition only 4.6 percent of the bombs were dropped on the briefed aiming point. Photographs of the mission revealed that two enemy airplanes, one of which was a six-engine transport, were destroyed on the ground, but most of the bombs fell across barracks, the administration building, and the main highway leading from the airdrome to Ploesti. Only two airplanes were damaged on this mission but still another new crew was lost when 2nd Lt. Howard G. Wilson, who was flying one of the two damaged planes, was forced to bail his crew out over Yugoslavia when returning from the mission.

A few days after this mission, the City of Bucharest was completely cleared of German resistance by the Roumanians and the Russians. Shortly thereafter approximately 1100 United Nations Flying Officers and Men were released from Prisons in Bucharest and returned to Headquarters of the Fifteenth Air Force. Among these were

part or all of the personnel of four different crews lost by the 461st over Roumania. When these individuals returned to the Group, they enthusiastically reported that our Group had broken the backbone of German resistance in Bucharest on the 26th of August. The bombs from our planes had practically missed their target, but they had destroyed the headquarters, the transportation equipment, the heavy guns, and a great deal of the personnel and munitions concentrated by the enemy in the area covered by our bombs.

Mission No. 91, 27 August 1944, Venzone Viaduct, Italy

On the 27th of the month, Lt. Colonel Applegate, in leading a mission against the Venzone Viaduct, Italy, proved that Lt. Colonel Knapp's accomplishment loading a formation in really hitting a bridge at Avignon, France, on the first mission of the month was no fluke. The score on the Avignon Bridge had been 73.1 percent; the score on the Venzone Viaduct was 73.9 percent. Captain Murphy was the lead bombardier who rang the bell on the 27th.

Mission No. 92, 28 August 1944 – Szolnok/Szajol Railroad Bridge, Hungary

On the 28th of August, Colonel Glantzberg took his turn at leading the Group on an excellent mission against a railroad bridge. The target was the Szajol Railroad Bridge at Szolnok, Hungary. The Group bombardier, now Captain King, continued to demonstrate his ability to knock down bridges. The score on this mission was 55.1 percent.

Mission No. 93, 29 August 1944 – Szeged Marshalling Yard, Hungary

Group Operations Officer Donovan, leading the Group formation for the first time after his promotion to Major, finished off the twentieth and last mission for the month in an excellent manner when 49.5 percent of the bombs were dropped within the prescribed area on the marshalling yard at Szeged, Hungary. After the formation had begun its bomb run, a malfunction was discovered in the bombsight of the lead airplane. This required the Group to make a 360° circle during which the lead was taken over by the deputy lead airplane. Six of the planes in the formation did not circle the target but left the formation to bomb the first alternative target, the marshalling yard at Subotica, Yugoslavia.

MISSING IN ACTION

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Target</u>
2 nd Lt.	Robert E. Schweisberger	Bremen, Indiana	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
2 nd Lt.	Bernard J. Mohan	Seneca, Kans	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
2 nd Lt.	Robert R. Koester	Park Ridge, Ill	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
2 nd Lt.	R.M. Guy	Dallas, Tex.	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
Sgt.	Morris J. Frye	Auondale, N.C.	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
Sgt.	Leon R. Durning	Central Falls, R.I.	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
S. Sgt.	William C. Haag	Woodside, L.I., N.Y.	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
Sgt.	Charles A. Tidd	Almond, Ark.	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen

Cpl.	Rocco J. Furfare	Rochester, N.Y.	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
Cpl.	William W. Kuhn	Chicago, Ill.	8/3/44	Friedrichshafen
2 nd Lt.	Robert E. Sterrett	Independence, N.D.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
2 nd Lt.	Robert K. Thompson	Dayton, Ohio	8/7/44	Blechhammer
2 nd Lt.	Donald R. McGara	San Angelo, Tex.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
2 nd Lt.	Kenneth E. Barnhart, Jr.	San Diego, Cal.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
Sgt.	Robert B. Conrad	Schuyler, Neb.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
Sgt.	Howard W. Kavanaugh	Brooklyn, N.Y.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	Felix Cranchelli	Cambridge, Mass.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
S. Sgt.	Daniel Pogorzelski, Jr.	Buffalo, N.Y.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
Sgt.	Harold I. Reeve	Mer Rouge, La.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
Sgt.	William G. Lamb, Jr.	Paducah, Ky.	8/7/44	Blechhammer
2 nd Lt.	Thomas C. Moore	Detroit, Mich.	8/17/44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Morris G. Echnernacht	Boulder, Colo.	8/17/44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Howard R. Fox	Glenside, Pa.	8/17/44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Bernard H. Young	Chippewa Falls, Wis.	8/17/44	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Richard A. Mort	South Haven, Mich.	8/17/44	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Frederick C. Andrews	Big Flats, N.Y.	8/17/44	Ploesti
Sgt.	Warren G. Keffer	Craswell, Ore.	8/17/44	Ploesti
Sgt.	John E. Koester	St. Peters, Mo.	8/17/44	Ploesti
Sgt.	James G. McGuire	Cheektowaga, N.Y.	8/17/44	Ploesti
Sgt.	Charles J. Bonewell	Deer Creek, Okla.	8/17/44	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Robert G. Swinehart	Upper Sandusky, Ohio	8/22/44	Vienna
F/O	Richard F. Carter	Salt Lake City, Utah	8/22/44	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Dick L. Dorney	Arlington, Ohio	8/22/44	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Christos Kardulas	Cambridge, Mass.	8/22/44	Vienna
S. Sgt.	James P. Wilson	Morgantown, N.C.	8/22/44	Vienna
Sgt.	Theodore T. Marville	Gibbsboro, N.J.	8/22/44	Vienna
Sgt.	Frederick E. Davis	Danville, Kans.	8/22/44	Vienna
Sgt.	Albert R. Thompson	Highland Park, Ill.	8/22/44	Vienna
Sgt.	Cecil J. Grayson	Charlotte, N.C.	8/22/44	Vienna
Sgt.	William H. McGrady	Canton, Tenn.	8/22/44	Vienna
2 nd Lt.	Gordon W. Rosencrans, Jr.	Columbus, Ohio	8/23/44	Markersdorf
2 nd Lt.	Samuel H. Windham	Forreston, Tex.	8/23/44	Markersdorf
2 nd Lt.	Arthur C. Jaros, Jr.	Mt. Vernon, N.Y.	8/23/44	Markersdorf
2 nd Lt.	Victor H. Besser	Inglewood, Cal.	8/23/44	Markersdorf
Cpl.	Roy V. Houck	Napoleon, Ohio	8/23/44	Markersdorf
Cpl.	Jesse M. Whisenant	San Benito, Tex.	8/23/44	Markersdorf
Sgt.	Howard E. McCullough	Galesburg, Ill.	8/23/44	Markersdorf
Cpl.	Winfield D. Martin	Alburg, Vt.	8/23/44	Markersdorf
Cpl.	Harry L. Haynes	Stamford, Tex.	8/23/44	Markersdorf
Sgt.	John D. Anthony	Bessemer, Ala.	8/23/44	Markersdorf

2 nd Lt.	John R. Wren	McCredie, Mo.	8/24/44	Ferrara
2 nd Lt.	Donald C. Horstmann	Primgher, Ia.	8/24/44	Ferrara
2 nd Lt.	Francis J. Hasek	Carterat, N.J.	8/24/44	Ferrara
2 nd Lt.	Dwaine J. Gould	Canton, Ohio	8/24/44	Ferrara
Sgt.	Charlie T. Traylor	White Oak, S.C.	8/24/44	Ferrara
Cpl.	Richard D. Brice	Sulphur Springs, Tex.	8/24/44	Ferrara
S. Sgt.	Gerald W. Anderson	Minneapolis, Minn.	8/24/44	Ferrara
S. Sgt.	Howard H. Wager	Elmont, L.I., N.Y.	8/24/44	Ferrara
S. Sgt.	Thomas E. Jones, Jr.	Rock Hill, S.C.	8/24/44	Ferrara
Sgt.	Philip Ricca	San Leandre, Cal.	8/24/44	Ferrara
2 nd Lt.	Howard O. Wilson	Riverside, Cal.	8/26/44	Bucharest
2 nd Lt.	Frank S. Bird	Butler, Ala.	8/26/44	Bucharest
2 nd Lt.	Norman E. Knoke	Chicago, Ill.	8/26/44	Bucharest
2 nd Lt.	Earl L. Roylance, Jr.	San Francisco, Cal.	8/26/44	Bucharest
Sgt.	Thomas J. Reiland	Brooklyn, N.Y.	8/26/44	Bucharest
Cpl.	John F. Mersino	Canonsburg, Pa.	8/26/44	Bucharest
Cpl.	Armand E. Sergiacomi	Corona, N.Y.	8/26/44	Bucharest
Cpl.	Earl S. Riddle	Chesapeake, Ohio	8/26/44	Bucharest
Cpl.	Blake F. Piercy, Jr.	Morristown, Tenn.	8/26/44	Bucharest
Cpl.	Harvey J. Dominick	Grand Rapids, Mich.	8/26/44	Bucharest
Sgt.	David K. Mulliner	Nampa, Idaho	8/26/44	Bucharest

KILLED IN ACTION

F/O	James H. Cain	San Francisco, Cal.	8/12/44	Genoa
2 nd Lt.	Robert L. Hoffman	Detroit, Mich.	8/22/44	Genoa
2 nd Lt.	Eugene C. Starkey	Kansas City, Mo.	8/12/44	Genoa
2 nd Lt.	Calhoun J. Hall	Atlanta, Ga.	8/12/44	Genoa
S. Sgt.	Shannon N. Seiber	Harvey, Ill.	8/12/44	Genoa
S. Sgt.	Thomas J. Dinaro	Center Moriches, N.Y.	8/12/44	Genoa
S. Sgt.	Wilmer G. Poling	Tallmansville, W.Va.	8/12/44	Genoa
S. Sgt.	Richard M. Kehoe	Bethesda, Md.	8/12/44	Genoa
S. Sgt.	John P. Hansen	South Haven, Mich.	8/12/44	Genoa
S. Sgt.	Myron D. Laybourn	Tacoma, Wash.	8/12/44	Genoa

OFFICIALLY DECLARED DEAD

1 st Lt.	William J. Barnes	Englewood, N.J.	7/12/44	Nimes
1 st Lt.	Hilmer W. Larson	Hopkins, Minn.	7/12/44	Nimes
1 st Lt.	Edward H. Brennan	Cleveland, Ohio	7/12/44	Nimes
1 st Lt.	John H. Layton	Clifton, N.J.	7/12/44	Nimes
S. Sgt.	Lloyd Agee	Bakersfield, Cal.	7/12/44	Nimes
Sgt.	Daniel R. Hoch	Reading, Pa.	7/12/44	Nimes
S. Sgt.	Robert E. Anderson	Queens Village, L.I., N.Y.	7/12/44	Nimes
S. Sgt.	Henry H. Sievers	Rosemead, Cal.	7/12/44	Nimes
S. Sgt.	Jack G. Steles	Tulsa, Okla.	7/12/44	Nimes

Cpl. Benjamin Botha Pittsburgh, Pa. 7/12/44 Nimes

(C) Photo Section.

The enclosed photographs accompany this History for the month.

(D) Special Accounts.

a. Promotions

Officers

- 7 August 1944 - Frank B. Maxson, Personal Equipment Officer, from Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant
- 15 August 1944 - Joseph N. Donovan, Group Operations Officer, from Captain to Major.
- 21 August 1944 - Jack H. King, Assistant Group Bombardier, from First Lieutenant to Captain.

ENLISTED MEN

<u>MOS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
070	Leonard O. Cole, Jr.	3760672	Cpl to Sgt
405	David M. Godfrey	31326752	Pfc to Cpl
405	Arthur F. Blockhaus	13173481	Pfc to Cpl
667	Roy S. Niesen	36450515	Cpl to Sgt
502	Regis W. Wiegand	33290754	Sgt to S.Sgt

b. Missing in Action Reports.

(Returned to Duty)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Returned Date</u>
2 nd Lt.	Robert E. Jensen	12 July '44	Nimes	2 August '44
S. Sgt.	Frank J. Chappell	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
S. Sgt.	Norman L. Elzeer	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
1 st Lt.	Robert J. Hefling	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
T. Sgt.	Joseph P. Hoffman	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
S. Sgt.	Frank N. Kincaid	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
Sgt.	Frederick Lukas	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
S. Sgt.	John P. Martin	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Karl A. Pfister	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Howard R. Stillman	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
S. Sgt.	Raymond J. Weber	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44

2 nd Lt.	Robert L. Wellborn	11 June '44	Giurgiu	10 August '44
S. Sgt.	Cecil E. Adams	12 July '44	Nimes	11 August '44
S. Sgt.	James W. Kelly	12 July '44	Nimes	11 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Robert M. Sanders	12 July '44	Nimes	11 August '44
S. Sgt.	Robert J. Weisfeld	12 July '44	Nimes	11 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Frederick L. Dunn	12 July '44	Nimes	12 August '44
S. Sgt.	Lionel F. Espinola	12 July, 44	Nimes	12 August '44
S. Sgt.	Clarence E. Garrison	12 July '44	Nimes	12 August '44
S. Sgt.	Joe A. Martinez	12 July '44	Nimes	12 August '44
S. Sgt.	Thomas J. Moss, Jr.	12 July '44	Nimes	12 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Sheldon M. Rutter	12 July '44	Nimes	12 August '44
Sgt.	Gerald Rahl	12 July '44	Nimes	23 August '44
S. Sgt.	Donald E. Ellis	27 May '44	Salon	24 August '44
St. Sgt.	William B. Esterline	12 July '44	Nimes	23 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Paul A. Golden	27 May '44	Salon	24 August '44
1 st Lt.	Winston J. Lawrence	27 May '44	Salon	24 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Gerald J. Maroney	27 May '44	Salon	24 August '44
T. Sgt.	Harold C. Steele	27 May '44	Salon	24 August '44
S. Sgt.	Owen B. Streeper	27 May '44	Salon	24 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Clarence W. Bloxom	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	William H. Braun	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Rudolph C. Carr	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Peter J. DeRudder	15 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Sherwood Ehrenfeld	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	H.K. Hollingshead, Jr.	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
S. Sgt.	Eugene A. Mahuta	15 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Edwin L. McCrary	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
1 st Lt.	Orville S. Mooe	15 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Elias E. Moses	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
2 nd Lt.	Edward E. Myllmaki	15 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
1 st Lt.	William Paradise	22 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44
1 st Lt.	William L. Weems, Jr.	15 July '44	Ploesti	31 August '44

PRISONERS OF WAR

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>MIA Date</u>	<u>Target</u>
Sgt.	Homer D. Childs	2 April 1944	Bihac
Sgt.	Dale V. Fine	2 April 1944	Bihac
Sgt..	Edward G. Ulrich	2 April 1944	Bihac
T Sgt.	Irving G. Wallace	2 April 1944	Bihac
2 nd Lt.	Emil L. Whitney	2 April 1944	Bihac
Sgt.	Roy V. Allen	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
2 nd Lt.	Kenneth S. Boggs	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
Cpl.	Gerald A. Bombardier	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
2 nd Lt.	William R. Diggs	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
2 nd Lt.	Donald W. Hylton	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt

S. Sgt.	Walter E. Jazwa	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
Sgt.	Gust A. Karalis	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
S. Sgt.	Mike G. Kuhar	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
Sgt.	Lester W. Shea, Jr.	24 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
2 nd Lt.	Warren R. Mudge	27 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
S. Sgt.	Alvin L. Raines	27 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
Sgt.	Leon Zinner	27 May 1944	Wiener Neustadt
2 nd Lt.	Edwin Baumann	31 May 1944	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Arthur J. Bindrim	31 May 1944	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Bufort E. Culler	31 May 1944	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Jefferson L. Farrell	31 May 1944	Ploesti
2 nd Lt.	Everett C. Kamps	31 May 1944	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Harry P. Ranieri	31 May 1944	Ploesti
1 st Lt.	Edmund F. Stefenson	31 May 1944	Ploesti
S. Sgt.	Frank J. Schafer	12 July 1944	Nimes

c. Awards and Decorations

General Orders No. 2255, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 2 August 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Clyde A. Sevens, 0-735466, Captain, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 23 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Kansas City, Missouri.

George B. Cran, 0-690775, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Italy, 5 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Mancelona, Michigan.

Joseph J. Strumski, 0-688763, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Roumania, 23 June 1944. Residence at appointment: East Hartford, Connecticut.

Edgar M. Trenner, 0-807079, First Lieutanant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Yugoslavia, 5 April 1944. Residence at appointment: New York, N.Y.

Eugene P. Ford, 0-805804, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, France, 5 July 1944. Residence at appointment: New Derry, Pennsylvania.

Jack H. Wright, 0-810977, Second Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 24 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Medina, Tennessee.

Award of Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross

Philip R. Hawes, 0-21220, Lieutenant Colonel, Headquarters 461st Bombardment Group, Pilot, Austria, 8 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Nanuet, New York.

General Orders No. 2361, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 7 August 1944:

Award of the Silver Star, Missing in Action

“Mac L. Lucas, 0-1683555, Second Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Group. For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-24 type aircraft. On 26 June 1944, Lt. Lucas participated in a bombing mission against a vital enemy oil center in Austria. After completing a highly successful bombing run despite heavy enemy opposition from both aggressive enemy fighters and intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, Lt. Lucas observed a crippled bomber forced to stop from the protective formation and under persistent attacks from enemy fighters. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lt. Lucas left the comparative safety of his formation, and courageously flew to the aid of the plane in distress. Through his highly effective firepower and skillful maneuvering of his aircraft, the attacks from thirteen enemy fighters were successfully repulsed, enabling the bombers to return safely to base without further damage. By his outstanding courage, complete disregard for personal safety and devotion to duty, as evidenced, throughout his combat career, Lt. Lucas has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Crannell, California. Next of kin: Mrs. Kathryn Lucas, (Mother), Box 27, Crannell, California.”

Awards of the Silver Star

“Frederic E. Glantzberg, 0-17398, Colonel, Headquarters, 461 Bombardment Group. For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-24 type aircraft. On 15 July 1944, Colonel Glantzberg led a wing formation on a bombing mission against a vital enemy oil center in Roumania. Despite severe and adverse weather conditions, skillfully avoiding all areas of heavy enemy flak concentrations, Colonel Glantzberg brought the entire formation directly to the target. Approaching the objective that was observed to be completely obscured by cloud cover and smoke screens, intense and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Despite these hazards, displaying outstanding leadership and combat skill, utilizing a new type of instrument for pinpoint bombing procedure, Colonel Glantzberg brought his entire wing formation through the enemy defenses for a highly successful bombing run. Under his capable direction, the bombs from his ship and from those of the entire formation were concentrated in the immediate target area inflicting grave damage to vital installations, supplies and equipment. Turning from the target, he quickly rallied his wing, enabling the crippled bombers to remain well within the protective formation and brought his formation through for a safe landing at base without further damage. By his outstanding courage, tactical skill and devotion to duty as evidenced throughout over thirty-four (34) successful missions against the enemy, Colonel Glantzberg has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: San Antonio, Texas.”

Edward F. Veiluva, 0-682924, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, 461st Bombardment Group. For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-24 type aircraft. On 26 June 1944, Lt. Veiluva participated in a bombing mission against a vitally important enemy oil center in Austria. Despite intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, together with persistent and aggressive attacks from enemy fighters, Lt. Veiluva skillfully maneuvered his aircraft

through for a highly successful bombing run. Turning from the target, Lt. Veiluva observed a crippled bomber under attack by enemy fighters. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he immediately left the comparative safety of the protective formation and flew to the aid of the plane in distress. Through his added firepower, together with his skillful maneuvering of his aircraft, he successfully repulsed all subsequent fighter attacks, thus enabling the bombers to return to base without further damage. By his outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty as evidenced throughout over forty (34) successful missions against the enemy, Lt. Veiluva has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Sacramento, California.

General Orders No. 2446, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 9 August 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

John F. Wilson, 0-746497, first Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 30 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Double Springs, Alabama.

General Orders No. 75, Headquarters North African Theater of Operations, dated 17 August 1944:

Award of Legion of Merit

“By direction of the president, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45 as amended, the Legion of Merit was awarded by the Theater, Commander to the following named personnel for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services:

Delmas H. Cowley, 32823480, Sergeant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, for services during the month of May 1944. Entered service from Astoria, Long Island, New York.”

General Orders No. 2669, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 19 August 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

“For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy in the North African and Mediterranean theatres of operations. Throughout the extensive air offensive against the targets of vital strategic importance deep within hostile territory, the personnel listed below, through their aggressiveness, and courage, have consistently aided in the success of combat operations. Against heavy opposition from both aggressive and persistent fighter aircraft fire, with their planes frequently seriously damaged by enemy fire, they have battled their way through to their targets, defeating the enemy in the air and destroying his vital installations on the ground. Through severe and adverse weather conditions, over treacherous mountain terrain, they have continually surmounted overwhelming obstacles for successful completions of their assigned missions to attack and destroy the enemy. Through their outstanding leadership and personal example, completely disregarding their personal safety at times of great danger, though at times seriously wounded in the heroic performance of their duties, they have contributed to the

ultimate final defeat of the armed forces of the enemy. Their conspicuous and outstanding achievements in those many missions against the enemy have upheld the highest traditions of the Military Service, thereby reflecting great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.”

Harrison G. Word, 0-431946, Major, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, France, 5 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Alice, Texas.

Lynn L. Britton, 0-747200, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 16 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Springfield, Illinois.

Arthur D. Carter, 0-810822, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, France, 11 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Roanoke, Virginia.

John W. Coles, Jr., 0-678689, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, France, 2 August 1944. Residence at appointment: Houston, Texas.

Robert K. Dusenberry, 0-678704, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Austria, 30 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Provo, Utah.

Leonard C. Gizelba, 0-692390, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Amsterdam, New York.

Turner N. Holmes, 0-738394, First Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 26 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Chicago, Illinois.

Benjamin S. Murphy, 0-730809, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, Austria, 30 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Santiago, California.

Karl F. Huemrich, 13056837, Staff Sergeant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Gunner, France, 11 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Aspinwall, Pennsylvania.

General Orders No. 2696, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 20 August 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Leon F. Churchill, 0-0668704, First Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron Bombardier, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Phillipsburg, Kansas.

Richard J. Malott, 0-756806, First Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 9 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Cleveland, Ohio.

Douglas L. Robertson, 0-1683555, second Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Long Beach California.

Phillip Ricca, 39044893, Staff Sergeant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Ball Turret Gunner, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at enlistment: San Leandro, California.

Award of First Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze)

Jack H. Wright, 0-810977, First Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Modena, Tennessee.

General Orders No. 2716, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 21 August 1944:

Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross

“James B. Knapp, 0-21890, Lieutenant Colonel, 767th Bombardment Squadron, 767th Bombardment Squadron, 461 Bombardment Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as pilot of a B-24 type aircraft. On 2 August 1944, Lt. Colonel Knapp led his group on a bombing mission against a vital enemy railroad bridge in France. Despite intense, heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire encountered, displaying exceptional leadership and courage, Lt. Colonel Knapp brought his entire formation through the enemy defenses for a highly successful bombing run. Under his capable direction, the bombs from his ship and those of his entire formation were concentrated in the immediate target area, causing grave damage to this important link in the enemy’s lines of communications and transportation. Turning from the objective, despite continued enemy opposition together with severe and adverse weather encountered enroute, Lt. Colonel Knapp brought his entire formation through for a safe landing at base without loss. By his outstanding professional skill, leadership and intense devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout his brilliant combat career, Lt. Colonel Knapp has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Blandinsville, Illinois.”

General Orders No. 2747, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, 21 August 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Kelton G. Bush, 0-669856, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Germany, 9 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Albany, New York.

Norman H. Cogswell, 0-795279, First Lieutenant, 766th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, France, 11 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Fort Fairfield, Maine.

Ernest R. Henry, 0-693979, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 25 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Vonore, Tennessee.

Harry G. Huggard, 0-1683573, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 26 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

Samuel S. Minsberg, 0-755290, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 23 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Los Angeles, California.

George R. Nelson, 0-745736, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Italy, 7 April 1944. Residence at appointment: Chesterton, Indiana.

Aaron Trohman, 0-807080, First Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 5 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Brooklyn, New York.

Lyle L. Crume, 0-818627, Second Lieutenant, 767th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Oakalla, Texas

General Orders No. 2859, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 25 August 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Stanley C. Vorpe, 0-812015, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, France, 12 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Sidney, Ohio.

Vernon L. Wastman, 0-684918, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Austria, 16 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Tacoma, Washington.

Robert A. Weir, 0-684921, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Livingston, Montana.

James J. Montalto, 13113077, Staff Sergeant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Top Turret Gunner, Germany, 25 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Allentown, Pennsylvania.

General Orders No. 2881, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 26 August 1944:

Award of the Silver Star

“James B. Jones, 13119329, Staff Sergeant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, 461st Bombardment Group. For gallantry in action as ball turret gunner of a B-24 type aircraft. On 25 July 1944, Sgt. Jones participated in a bombing mission against strategic enemy installations in Germany. Over the target his formation encountered heavy enemy opposition from approximately 150 enemy fighters and intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, and, in the ensuing engagement, his turret was severely damaged by enemy fire and Sgt. Jones was seriously wounded. After receiving first aid, despite intense pain, shock and loss of blood, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Sgt. Jones courageously remained at his position. So successfully did he man his guns in the gallant defense of his aircraft that he destroyed one enemy fighter and, beating off all subsequent attacks, enabled his bomber to return safely to base without further damage. By his conspicuous courage, professional skill and devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout over thirty (30) successful missions against the enemy, St. Jones has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at enlistment: Ridgeway, Virginia.”

Award of the Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross

Frederic E. Glantzberg, 0-17398, Colonel, Headquarters 461st Bombardment Group, Pilot, Italy, 7 April 1944. Residence at appointment: San Antonio, Texas.

General Orders No. 2902, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 27 August 1944:

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross

Francis H. Hoermann, 0-433191, Captain, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 6 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Richmond, Massachusetts.

Jackson F. Childrey, 0-798349, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 31 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Richmond, Virginia.

James J. Colavito, 0-674731, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Bombardier, France, 5 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Harrison, New York.

James E. Geurtz, 0-695648, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, Roumania, 31 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Antigo, Wisconsin.

Thomas W. Moss, 0-799435, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Pilot, Roumania, 6 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Washington, District of Columbia

Frank C. O'Bannon, 0-810933, First Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Co-pilot, Germany, 16 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Kenneth W. Prien, 0-729657, First Lieutenant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Navigator, France, 5 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Lafayette, Indiana.

Howard R. Stillman, 0-811260, Second Lieutenant, 764th Bombardment Squadron, Co-pilot, Austria, 10 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

John D. Gore, 39149039, technical Sergeant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Photographer, Austria, 25 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Long Beach, California.

Eugene R. Hetzel, 16048108, Technical Sergeant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Assistant Engineer-Gunner, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Gerald J. Mayfield, 15322028, Technical Sergeant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Engineer-Gunner, Roumania, 22 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Masontown, West Virginia.

Troy S. Martin, 18216655, Staff Sergeant, 765th Bombardment Squadron, Engineer-Gunner, Roumania, 31 May 1944. Residence at enlistment: Dallas, Texas.

General Orders No. 2905, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 28 August 1944:

Award of the Silver Star

“James B. Knapp, 0-21890, Lieutenant Colonel, 767th Bombardment Squadron, 461st Bombardment Group. For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-24 type aircraft. On 9 August 1944, Lt. Colonel Knapp led a wing formation on a bombing mission against vital

strategic enemy installations in Hungry. Approaching the target, his aircraft was severely damaged by intense and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire. However, realizing the vital importance of his lead position, Lt. Colonel Knapp courageously continued on course. Despite continued heavy enemy fire, displaying outstanding leadership and airmanship, Lt. Colonel Knapp brought his entire wing formation through the enemy defenses for a highly successful bombing run. Under his superior direction, the bombs from his wing were concentrated in the immediate target area, inflicting grave damage to vital enemy supplies, equipment and installations. Enroute to base, he skillfully maneuvered his formation through severe and adverse weather conditions for a safe landing without further damage or loss. By his outstanding courage, professional skill and intense devotion to duty in the face of heavy enemy fire, as evidenced throughout his combat career, Lt. Colonel Knapp has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Entered the United States Military Academy from Blandinsville, Illinois.”

d. Personnel.

On the 16th day of the month, the Group Communications Section lost one of its best electricians when Technical Sergeant Gerald Martin was found to have been electrocuted in a small power plant near Group Headquarters in which he had been working alone.

e. Changes in Personnel.

Paragraph 6 of Group Special Orders No. 74, dated 1 August 1944, reads as follows: “Pursuant to Par 6, Special Orders 104, Hq 49th bomb Wg, dtd 19 Jul 44, 1st St. Raymond, Eugene E., 0854519, Hw. 461st Bomb Gp, is placed on DC with the 451st Bomb Gp (H).” Lt. Raymond spent the month working on radar equipment for the planes in the 451st Group.

Paragraph 2 of the 49th Bombardment Wing’s Special Orders No. 114, dated 10 August 1944, reads as follows: “Lt. Colonel Lawhon, Brooks A., 0-397652, Hq. and Sq. 49th Bomb Wing (H) is placed on DS with 461st Bomb Group (H).” After his arrival, Lt. Colonel Lawhon was made Group Operations Officer on the VOCO orders of the Commanding Officer and Captain Donovan became his Assistant.

On the 15th of August, Paragraph 2 of Group special Orders No. 2 reads as follows: “Captain Mitton, Walter G., 0-26947, is hereby reld fr asgd with Headquarters 461st Bombardment Group and is reasgd to the 766th Bombardment Squadron.” Captain Mitton, who for several months had been the Provost Marshal, the Police and Prison Officer, and Billeting Officer, became the executive Officer of the 766th Squadron, in place of Major Morris J. Drobeck who had been transferred to the 451st Bombardment Group.

	AUGUST					CUMULATIVE				
	764T H	765T H	766T H	767T H	GROU P	764TH	765TH	766TH	767TH	GROU P
SORTIES										
NO. AIRCRAFT AIRBORNE	149	147	144	146	586	779	788	764	804	3135
LESS NON-EFFECTIVE SORTIES	16	18	21	24	79	129	150	149	148	576
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES	133	129	123	122	507	650	638	615	656	2559
% AIRBORNE EFFECTIVE AVE. NO. ACFT. AIRBORNE PER MISSION	89%	88%	85%	84%	87%	83%	81%	80%	82%	82%
	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.3	29.3	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.6	33.7
EARLY RETURNS										
MECHANICAL FAILURES	7	9	11	12	39	64	58	72	69	263
PERSONNEL FAILURES	2	2	2	9	15	5	4	6	15	30
WEATHER	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	29	25	124
% AIRBORNE RETURNING EARLY	6	7	9	14	9	13	12	14	14	13
BOMB TONNAGE										
NO. AIRBORNE	311	305	300	304	1220	1698	1713	1669	1762	6842
DROPPED OVER TARGET	278	271	257	253	1059	1429	1416	1364	1439	5648
% AIRBORNE DROPPED O/T	89%	89%	86%	83%	87%	84%	83%	82%	82%	83%
VICTORIES										
DESTROYED	4	5	8	2	19	24	49	19	13	105
PROBABLES	0	0	3	2	5	8	13	8	9	38
DAMAGED	1	0	0	0	1	4	6	5	1	16
VICTORIES PER LOSS	4.0	5.0	2.7	0.7	2.4	2.0	4.9	1.3	1.0	2.2
VICTORIES PER 100 SORTIES	2.7	3.4	5.5	1.4	3.2	3.7	7.7	3.1	2.0	4.1
LOSSES										
TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT	1	0	1	1	3	6	4	6	5	21
TO ENEMY AIRCRAFT	0	0	0	1	1	6	4	6	5	21
OTHER COMBAT LOSSES	0	1	2	1	4	0	2	3	3	8
TOTAL	1	1	3	3	8	12	10	15	13	50
TO A/A PER 100 SORTIES	0.8	0	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8
TO E/A PER 100 SORTIES	0	0	0	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8
FLYING TIME										
COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	1060	1027	1002	974	4063	5372	5471	5232	5497	21572
NON-COMBAT HOURS FLOWN	256	213	127	164	760	860	911	664	752	3187
TOTAL	1317	1240	1129	1138	4823	6232	6382	5896	6249	24759
HRS. PER OPER. ACFT	111	115	112	105	111	621	633	579	572	599
HRS. PER OPER. CREW	101	95	94	95	96	421	428	435	463	430
COMBAT HRS. PER OPER. CREW	82	79	84	81	81	361	366	389	407	376
AIRCRAFT										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	13.5	14.0	14.0	14.1	55.6	14.1	14.4	13.7	14.1	56.3
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	11.9	10.8	10.1	10.8	43.6	11	10.1	10.2	10.9	42.2
% OPERATIONAL	88	77	72	77	78	78	70	74	77	75
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER ACFT. ASGD.	9.8	9.2	8.8	8.6	9.1	46	44.3	44.8	46.5	45.4
CREWS										
AVERAGE NO. ASSIGNED	18	19	16	14	67	18	19	17	16	70
AVERAGE NO. OPERATIONAL	13	13	12	12	50	14	14	13	13	54
% OPERATIONAL	72	68	75	86	75	78	74	76	81	77
NO. EFFECTIVE SORTIES PER CREW ASGD.	7.4	6.8	7.7	8.7	7.5	36.1	33.6	36	41	36.5

