

May 6, 1943--Capt. Schoenfeldt led mission to Egadi Islands on anti-
shipping strike. Two hits were seen and one boat exploding. No enemy
aircraft encountered.

May 8, 1943--Capt. Schoenfeldt led a 12 ship formation on a bomber escort
mission to Noretino Island and returned to base via Sousse. No enemy
aircraft were encountered.

May 9, 1943--Twenty ships escorted bombers to Palermo dock area and city.
On leaving target formation was intercepted by seven Me-109's and Macchi
202's. Captain Ross attacked one enemy aircraft and after four short bursts
e/a was seen to burst into flames. Other e/a took evasive action by half-
rolling toward the dock. All planes returned safely.

May 10, 1943--Twelve P-38's accompanied B-17's to Bo Rizzo Airdrome, Sicily.
Six Me-109's and one Me-210 were sighted, but e/a did not attack. A fuel
dump was hit as immense fire and smoke were seen. All planes returned safely.

May 11, 1943--Escort bombers to Marsala where several hits were scored on
the target. Three e/a were sighted, but no engagement took place.

May 13, 1943--Escort bombers to Cagliari where target appeared to be
enveloped in smoke. Maj. Tinker had short engagement with one e/a without
effecting any damage.

May 14, 1943--Twelve planes escorted B-25's to Olbia Harbor on an anti-
shipping mission. From 11,000 ft. no direct hits were seen. 6 unidentified
S/E e/a were seen toward the sun though did not attack.

May 16, 1943--Escort bombers to Marsala. At about 15 minutes from target
area 15 Me-109's and Fw-109's intercepted the two four ship flights. Capt.
Schoenfeldt was credited with one Me-109 and Lt. McCord with two Me-109's.
Major Tinker was last seen diving on some e/a about six thousand feet below.
Lts. Barber and Teare both landed at Bizerte as both had one engine shot
out.

May 19, 1943--Col. Keith led a formation of 12 ships on a bomber escort
mission to Milo Airdrome. Six e/a were sighted but no engagement took place.
All planes returned safely except one that crash landed at base due to
mechanical failure.

May 21, 1943--Captain Muldoon led our squadron on bomber escort to Castel-
vetrano. The target appeared to be well blanketed and bombing appeared to
be accurate. Capt. Muldoon damaged a Fw-190 and Capt. Ross damaged an Me-109.
All planes and pilots returned safely to their base.

May 22, 1943--Bomber escort mission to Bo Rizzo Airdrome. Sighted 5 Me-109's
one of which was close enough to distinguish as colored black with white
wing tips. No e/a were engaged.

May 24, 1943--Lt. Hanes led a four ship formation on our first dive-bombing
mission to bomb a RR tunnel 10 miles north of Macomer. Three SM-79's were
sighted and attacked. After a short engagement all e/a were seen to burst
into flame and crash into the ground. All our planes returned safely.

May 24, 1943--Capt. Ross led an 8 ship formation on an anti-shipping dive-bombing mission. Capt. Ross scored one direct hit causing large explosion and fire. Other hits were made on small craft in the near area.

May 25, 1943--Dive-bomb escort to Milo Airport. Lts. McCord and Smith shot up two gun positions at south edge of airdrome. Flight also shot up 2 trucks and a large transformer station on road S/W of target area. All aircraft returned safely.

May 25, 1943--Capt. Ross led dive-bombing mission to Calasetta where three direct hits were scored on target. A lighthouse and power station were strafed setting same on fire.

May 26, 1943--Twelve ships made a very successful dive-bombing mission on the Tirso dams scoring three direct hits. Targets of opportunity were strafed on the return trip including three gun positions, one large building and several trucks. Lt. Sanders was last seen bailing out of his ship in vicinity of Marbolia. One plane landed at Rome, 2 landed at base damaged by flak.

May 28, 1943--Bomber escort mission to No Rizzo airdrome. Lts. McCord and Weatherford attacked and destroyed 2 Me-109's. Lt. Simmons last seen diving on Me-109 and has failed to return.

May 30, 1943--Col. Keith led a 12 ship flight on a dive-bombing mission to the Chilivani RR yards. All bombs were seen to hit target. Lt. Lindstrom was forced down at sea but was rescued. All remaining ships returned safely.

May 31, 1943--A twelve ship dive-bombing mission to gun positions on Pantelleria. Bombs were seen to hit target area. No e/a encountered.

June 1, 1943--Lt. Hayes led a twelve ship flight on a dive-bombing mission to bridges E. of Castellamare, Sicily. The bombs hit the target successfully. One ship crash landed at Rome.

June 2, 1943--Twenty seven ship bomber escort to Milo airdrome. Mission forced to return due to fog.

June 3, 1943--Dive-bombing mission to reported shipping. No ships were seen. Bombs jettisoned into sea and flight returned.

June 4, 1943--Dive-bombing mission to gun positions on Pantelleria. Three direct hits were scored others hit near targets. All 13 ships returned safely to base.

June 5, 1943--Lt. Hayes led a 14 ship flight on dive-bombing mission on gun emplacements on Pantelleria. Bombs appeared to hit in target area, but dust and smoke prevented observing results. Three bombs would not release over target and were jettisoned at sea.

June 6, 1943--Twelve ships on dive-bombing mission to Pantelleria led by Capt. Ross. No direct hits were seen due to dust and smoke over target area. Two ships returned damaged due to flak.

June 7, 1943--Seventeen ships participated in dive-bombing mission to Pantelleria. 8 ships bombed target while others acted as cover. No e/a seen. All planes returned safely.

June 8, 1943--Ten ships participated in a dive-bombing raid on Pantelleria. Three hits were scored very near targets.

June 9, 1943--Lt. Hanes led a 15 ship flight on a dive bombing mission again on Pantelleria. Target was so clouded by dust of previous bombings that accurate bombing was impossible.

June 10, 1943--Two missions were flown. Both were dive-bombing missions to Pantelleria and bombs were seen to hit target. All returned safely.

June 11, 1943--Again two dive-bombing missions were flown to Pantelleria. On the first nine direct hits were scored but bombs were not dropped on the second because the Island had surrendered by this time.

June 12, 1943--Capt. Ross led an 11 ship flight on bomber escort to Bocadifalco A/D. Mission went according to plan and all returned to base.

June 15, 1943--Twenty four ships participated in bomber escort to Trapani-Milo A/D. Lt. Hanes damaged two Me-109's and Capt. Anderson and Lt. Browne were seen to collide in the air over Favignana and Stagnone Islands. Both pilots failed to return.

June 18, 1943--Twelve planes went on a dive-bombing mission with an additional twelve of our planes as escort. Heavy flak was encountered over the target, Milo A/D but all returned to base.

June 20, 1943--Twelve P-38's escorted B-26's to Milo A/D. The formation was intercepted by eight Me-109's and FW-190's but none of our aircraft were lost.

June 24, 1943--Capt. Ross led a twelve ship flight on bomber escort to Alghero A/D. Smoke pots were used by the enemy to try to obscure the target. All of our ships returned to base.

June 28, 1943--Capt. McCord led a twelve ship flight on bomber escort to Milis A/D. Lt. Miller shot down two Me-109's, Lt. Stidham destroyed another and Lt. Kennedy damaged another. All returned to base.

June 29, 1943--Capt. Ross and Lt. Miller went on bomber escort for one B-25 to Pantelleria and returned.

June 30, 1943--Twelve ships went on bomber escort to Bocadifalco A/D. They ran into heavy flak but all returned safely.

July 3, 1943--Six ships escorted B-17's to Monserrato A/D. Mission went according to plan and all returned to base.

July 5, 1943--Capt. McCord led a twelve ship flight on bomber escort to Gerbini Satellites. All returned safely.

July 8, 1943--Capt. Ross led a 24 ship flight on bomber escort to Gerbini No. 6. Mission went according to plan and all returned safely.

July 9, 1943--Twelve ships went on a dive-bombing mission to targets of opportunity in Sicily. All returned safely to base.

July 9, 1943--Twelve ships escorted bombers to Caltanissetta, Sicily. Two Me-109's chased one of our planes out as far as Pantelleria. Approximately 18 ships (destroyer size, unidentified) were observed in the harbor at Nicata. All our planes returned safely.

July 9, 1943--Capt. Ross led a 12 ship flight to dive-bomb the Noto Radar station. One direct hit was scored on Radar station. Buildings, locomotives, and gun emplacements were strafed on the return trip. Lt. Kennedy, attempting to land at dusk, crashed and burned near the base.

July 10, 1943--Twelve ships bombed targets of opportunity in Sicily. Two direct hits were observed on concentration of guns at Licata. Two Me-109's were sighted but no engagement took place.

July 10, 1943--Twelve planes dive-bombed targets of opportunity in Sicily. A 25/30 truck convoy was dive-bombed and strafed. Also one train was left burning and buildings at the railroad station.

July 11, 1943--Capt. Ross led a twelve ship formation to dive-bomb targets of opportunity in Sicily. A convoy of approximately 50 trucks was sighted. Convoy was bombed and strafed destroying approximately 20 to 25 vehicles. All planes returned safely.

July 11, 1943--Movements in Sicily were dive-bombed by 12 ships. A convoy of 20 trucks was completely destroyed. One radio station was strafed and two AA guns were strafed and put out of action. All planes returned safely.

July 11, 1943--12 planes went on a dive-bombing mission to Sicily. Much flak was directed at formation at Avola where formation was disrupted. Seven planes lost the remainder of the formation and returned to base. The remaining planes were attacked by 3 Me-109's out of the sun. Lt. Hanes turned into the first e/a and destroyed it while Lt. Barber destroyed the second. The third e/a was shot down by a Spitfire who came in to engage the last e/a.

July 12, 1943--Capt. Ross led a 12 ship formation to dive-bomb targets of opportunity in Sicily. A convoy of approximately 40 trucks was sighted and dive-bombed destroying several of them. The formation was intercepted by 5 Me-109's and Macchi 202's. Victories were scored by Lt. Weatherford, Lt. Saum and Lt. Africa. Lt. Hermann was last seen crashing into the sea.

July 12, 1943--Twelve planes dive-bombed railroad station at Licaro Friddi. Four Me-109's attacked the formation and damaged Lt. Winans plane. Two of the e/a were damaged by Lts. Robertson and Yarberry. Lt. Winan was last seen heading for Malta.

July 13, 1943--Two P-38's escorted two place P-38 to Malta, picked up Lt. Winans and returned to base.

July 13, 1943--Twelve planes dive-bombed convoy in Sicily. Six pieces appeared to be destroyed while several others were damaged. Lt. Stidham's plane was seen to get hit by flak. As plane was diving down an object appeared to come from the cockpit though no chute was seen.

July 13, 1943--12 planes dive-bombed and strafed RR yards at Fiumefreddo. Direct hits were seen on 5 sets of tracks. Approximately 50 cars in station were strafed. 5 Me-109's and 3 Ma-202's intercepted the formation. F/O Hohman and Lt. Baker both scored victories. Lt. Lister failed to return.

July 14, 1943-- Major Keith led a 23 ship flight on B-26 escort to Messina. Mission went as planned and all returned to base.

July 15, 1943--Lt. Miller led a three ship flight on an Air-Sea Rescue mission over Med. Sea. No sighting made and all returned to base.

July 16, 1943--Capt. McCord led a 12 ship flight on B-26 escort to Vibo Valentia A/D. Sighted enemy motor convoy and target area was barely visible due to dust of previous raids.

July 17, 1943--Ten ships went on B-26 escort to Naples. Two e/a were seen but did not attack. All returned to base.

July 18, 1943--Capt. Ross led a 6 ship flight on Air-Sea Rescue mission. The 48th Sq. shot down 9 Ju-52's. One of our planes returned to base with one engine shot out by e/a.

July 19, 1943--Twenty-four ships flew on bomber escort to Ciampino A/D. Nine e/a were seen but did not attack. All ships returned to base.

July 20, 1943--Major Keith led a 12 ship flight on B-26 escort to Vibo Valentia A/D. Bombs did not hit target very well and 3 unidentified a/c were seen. All returned.

July 22, 1943--Capt. McCord led a 12 ship flight on B-26 escort to Salerno. Bombs widely missed target. All returned.

July 23, 1943--12 ships went on B-26 escort to Aquino A/D. Bombs appeared to well blanket target. Seven e/a were seen burning on field.

July 24, 1943--12 ships flew on B-26 escort to Paola RR. All bombs appeared to hit buildings along side RR. All returned.

July 29, 1943--Lt. Hanes led an 11 ship flight on B-26 escort to Aquino A/D. Two Me-109's were intercepted over target but took evasive action. Unable to observe bombing due to weather. All returned.

July 31, 1943--13 ships went to Adrano on B-26 escort. Target was not able to be seen due to smoke and dust of previous bombings. In the A.M. Col. Keith and Capt. McCord together with 4 P-38's of the 1st Fighter Group, made r/v with a C-47 and continued escort as planned.

48TH FIGHTER SQUADRON (TE) ARMY AIR FORCES
14TH FIGHTER GROUP (TE) AAF
APO 520, U. S. ARMY

2 Oct. 1943

SQUADRON ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1943

During the month of September the 48th Fighter Squadron flew 36 combat missions of which 433 sorties were flown, totaling 1608:45 Operational Combat Hours. The enemy aircraft destroyed by this Squadron consisted of 2 FW-190's, 3 Me-109's, and 1 Ma-202 probable. In addition to these 14 JU-88's, 5 FW-190's, 1 Me-109, 3 Me-110's, 1 DO-217 and one training plane were destroyed or damaged on the ground on September 18, 1943, at Foggia A/D #2 during a strafing mission by this Squadron.

On the 6th of September the Air Echelon moved to Sicily where 29 of the 36 combat missions were flown. The missions consisted of patrolling the Bay of Naples area and dive-bombing targets in the vicinity of Naples. While in Sicily this Squadron lost one plane and one pilot injured which is the only loss this Squadron suffered during the month. On the 18th of September, the Air Echelon returned to its home base in Africa where three missions were flown during the remainder of the month.

George F. Wroten
Captain, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

48TH FIGHTER SQUADRON (TE) ARMY AIR FORCES
14TH FIGHTER GROUP (TE) AAF
APO 520, U. S. ARMY

The following is a record of the squadron history for the month of November, 1943

- Nov. 1. Eighteen planes and pilots left for Foggia, Italy today on DS.
2. A sixteen ship flight led by Major Baggott escorted B-17's to Weiner Neustadt, Austria. Our planes met with no engagement or flak.
3. Twelve planes and pilots returned from Italy. No mission was flown.
4. The squadron is in quite a state of disarray as the movement to higher ground is now in progress. The remaining pilot returned from Italy today and also nine enlisted personnel from Sardinia.
5. The move is now completed and much activity is seen as the camp is being set up. No missions were flown today.
6. Major Baggott led a four ship flight on a dive-bombing mission So. of Baschi, Italy. A bridge was their objective, but no direct hits were observed.
7. Two officers and sixteen enlisted men returned from Italy. No missions were flown.
8. Lt. Barber led a flight of ten planes on an escort mission to Turin, Italy. Due to shortage of fuel our planes were forced to turn back before reaching target.
9. A twelve plane mission led by Lt. Saum made r/v with B-17's and proceeded towards target as far as Lake Garda where they were forced to turn back due to shortage of fuel. No e/a or flak sighted.
10. Twelve planes went on bomber escort mission to Bolzano, Italy, but were forced to turn back some 20 miles SW of Giglio due to bad weather. All planes returned safely to base.
11. Many hands were busily engaged today rushing completion of our club. There remains a great deal to do but with so much enthusiasm as is being shown it should not take too long to finish. The weather is cloudy and not too warm. There were no flights today.
12. No missions were flown today. Weather is still cloudy and quite chilly.
13. Lt. Zirkle was assigned to the 15th AF Weather Rec. Sq. today. No missions were flown today. Tonight is the grand opening of the enlisted men's club and a good time is planned by all.
14. The grand opening of the club was a great success. The atmosphere was one of conviviality without the boisterousness that usually accompanies soldier's parties. The officers club also opened last night.

15. (unreadable)
Lts. Saum and Stone also bid us adieu. No missions flown today.
16. Lt. Ashmead led a twelve plane flight on bomber escort to Salon, France. The target area appeared to be well blanketed with bombs and much smoke and dust could be seen rising from the target. All our planes returned safely.
17. Eight new pilots joined the squadron today. They are: Lts. Richard D. Dalrymple, William T. Church, Merle C. Vanvleet, John M. Vilos, Harold R. Thysell, Melvin T. Waldrop, Chester D. Erwin Jr., and F/O Clarence J. Jones. Lts. Hannah and Sebring and Sgt. Conners and Cpl. Florian returned from an extended visit in Alexandria.
18. Training flights were the word of the day. Sgt. Ferrarre departed today to take a gunners position in one of the nearby bomb groups.
19. Mission took off this morning but due to adverse weather conditions was called back after being in the air for about thirty minutes.
20. No missions were flown today. Training flights are being flown by the new pilots under the direction of Lts. Rice, Barber and Wright.
21. Lt. Petty said his parting words today as he completed his fifty missions and is returning to the U.S. No mission was flown today although training flights were still in force.
22. Our planes flew a bomber escort mission today but were unable to pierce a front encountered in the vicinity of Cape Caccia. The target had been Toulon, France. They were not credited with a mission. T/Sgt Segrest left today to return to the U.S.
23. Today our planes went on a practice dive-bombing mission and aerial gunnery. No combat missions were flown.
24. Lt. Kord led a twelve plane flight on his 50th mission to Toulon, France. The weather was about 9/10th clouds over the target area so observations were practically nil. All our planes returned safely. Tonight is the big Thanksgiving eve dance at Hamman-Lif put on by the 48th enlisted men.
25. Today is Thanksgiving and much to be thankful for comparing it with a year ago. A complete turkey dinner was served today and the appreciation of the men was expressed by a hearty applause given the cooks for the fine job they had done. The officers had the grand opening of their club tonight and a gay time was had by all. One training flight was flown today.
26. Lt. Hannah led a twelve ship formation on a bomber escort mission to the Rimini M/Y, Italy. Due to adverse weather conditions bombers were not contacted until arriving in the vicinity of the target. Six bombers appeared to make direct hits on the M/Y. Our planes landed at Agrigento, Sicily, and a few returned the following day with the remaining planes returning on the 28th. Capt. Bainer and Lt. Lindstrom departed today for the U.S.

Nov. 27. No missions were flown today. Training flights were at a minimum as few planes were available.

28. Training flights with practice aerial gunnery were held today. Sgt. Freed and Sgt. Maynard made the necessary arrangements for a squadron dance this evening in Tunis.

29. Six enlisted men and Capt. White left for Bizerte today as advance echelon to execute the move to Bizerte. No mission was flown today.

30. A bomber escort mission led by Lt. Rice took off this morning but due to adverse weather conditions was called back. Today was payday but no poker games were in force as all were busy preparing for the move. Practice flights were flown in the afternoon.

1. The mission to Italy was successful. In a short engagement Lt. Ashmead and Weidinger destroyed one P-40 and one Spitfire. The first ground echelon left for Bizerte on their way to Italy today.
2. Briefing was held this evening but mission was called off before the planes could take off. The sea at Bizerte remained unспокойно and saw a movie through the courtesy of the Navy Special Services there.
3. Routine training missions today. 2nd Lt. Starbuck crash landed approximately 1 mile north-west of field and was taken to the hospital. The ground echelon still remains at Bizerte.
4. Routine training missions again today. The ground echelon boarded ship, one section on an LST together with transportation and the other section on an ECL.
5. Second ground section of three M4 and two vehicles left for Bizerte. The first echelon is one day out at sea.
6. Lt. Ashmead led a fourteen plane VIP mission. Two planes remained at Malta with mechanical troubles. The first ground echelon landed at Naples and quartered in a former Italian university.
7. At the African base routine duties were carried out. In Italy half of the first echelon left for Foggia #7, the remaining half taking a short afternoon excursion into Naples on pass.
8. From Naples the second half of the first echelon left for Foggia #7, arriving just a short while after sunset. In Africa there were no missions.
9. Major Wilson rejoined the squadron as executive officer. The new camp in Italy begins to take form though we are working with a dearth of materials.
10. The fourth ground echelon left for Italy today. Eighteen pilots and planes took off for Italy.

48TH FIGHTER SQUADRON (TE) ARMY AIR FORCES
14TH FIGHTER GROUP (TE) AAF
APO 520, U. S. ARMY

3 January 1944

The following is a record of the squadron for the month of December, 1943

- Dec. 1 Lt. Rice led a 12 plane mission to Turin, Italy, escorting bombers. Bombs appeared to blanket target well. 3 Me-109's were encountered but they took evasive action when turned into, Lt. Shannon crash landed at 1st Fighter field and was slightly bruised. Lt. White landed in a field in So. Sardinia.
2. Lt. Ashmead led the flight to Marseilles, France where our mission of nine planes encountered 15 FW-190's. In a short engagement Lts. Ashmead and Meidinger destroyed one Focke Wulf apiece. The first ground echelon left for Bizerte on their way to Italy today.
3. Briefing was held this morning but mission was called off before the planes could take off. The men at Bizerte remained encamped and saw a movie through the courtesy of the Navy Special Service there.
4. Routine training missions today. 2nd Lt. Starbuck crash landed approximately 1 mile north-east of field and was taken to the hospital. The ground echelon still remains at Bizerte.
5. Routine traing missions again today. The ground echelon boarded ship, one section on an LST together with transportation and the other section on an LCI.
6. Second ground section of three EM and two vehicles left for Bizerte. The first echelon is one day out at sea.
7. Lt. Ashmead led a fourteen plane VIP mission. Two planes remained at Malta with mechanical trouble. The first ground echelon landed at Naples and quartered in a former Italian university.
8. At the African base routine duties were carried out. In Italy half of the first echelon left for Foggia #7, the remaining half taking a short afternoon excursion into Naples, on pass.
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10. Major Wilson rejoined the squadron as executive officer. The new camp in Italy begins to take form though we are working with a dearth of materials.
11. The fourth ground echelon left for Italy today. Eighteen pilots and pñanes took off for Italy.

26. Due to bad weather all flying was prevented, duties normal.

- Dec. 12 The Air Echelon of 43 EM and 6 officers took off from Saint Marie du Zit, Tunisia and landed at Foggia, Italy. Weather had occasioned a lot of mud and the planes came close to trouble after slipping and skidding precariously on the short uncompleted runway.
13. All activities were concerned with setting up camp, putting in stoves, floors and securing tents against the rainy spell to come. In Africa there were only routine camp duties for the few left there.
14. Second ground echelon of 3 EM and 2 vehicles arrived from Africa. Lt. Winans led a 13 plane mission to Athens, Greece, escorting B-17's. There were no engagements with enemy fighters.
15. Capt. Richards led a 12 plane mission escorting bombers to Padua M/Y where bombs appeared to be well concentrated on target. All planes returned safely.
16. Lt. Barber led an 11 plane mission escorting B-17's to Innsbruck M/Y. All planes returned safely.
17. No missions flown today and camp duties carried out without incident.
18. Another day has passed and nothing of interest has occurred.
19. Lt. Rice completed his 50th mission today leading a 13 plane flight of P-38's on escort duty to bombers on a raid to Augsburg, Germany. Successful mission was hampered by a solid overcast and prevented r/v with the bombers.
20. A 14 plane mission which Lt. Winans led, making his 50th mission, proceeded to Eleusus A/D Athens, Greece, escorting B-17's. E/a were seen but another squadron engaged them as they were in their proximity. One bomber was seen to spiral down on fire after completing the bomb run. All our planes returned safely.
21. An A.S.R. mission of 6 planes patrolled an area off Corfu but were unable to make any observations due to weather over coast. Lt. Barber completed his 50th mission.
22. No mission and routine camp duties were without any unusual occurrence.
23. Some training flights were flown but no mission.
24. Christmas Eve came in rainy. The Chaplain held services and some of the congregation sang carols around the area later. Little activity today.
25. Today the ground is muddy and the sky murky. A turkey dinner was served but it did not compare with Thanksgivings. Mail began to arrive in quantity today. Capt. Richards led an 11 plane mission to Bolzano, Italy, on bomber escort. Approximately 20 miles south of Udine two layers of overcast was encountered making further escort of the bombers difficult. It appeared as if the bombers were making a bomb run on Udine.
26. Due to bad weather all flying was prevented. Duties normal.

- Dec. 27. No missions today. 4th Ground echelon joined the squadron this afternoon.
28. Major Baggott led a 12 plane mission to Rimini, Italy, on bomber escort. Bombs were seen to hit all over town. All planes returned safely.
29. Capt. Richards led a 12 plane flight on bomber escort. Due to weather bombers dropped bombs on town believed to be Faenza, Italy. some hits observed in open fields. All planes returned safely.
30. Major Baggott leading a 10 plane flight to Verona, Italy, ran into a scrap. Encountering 30 e/a a heavy engagement ensued. Lt. Cowie attacked one FW-190 at 24,000 ft. and saw it catch fire. Later its destruction was confirmed by Major Baggott who was hit by enemy fire and came home on one engine. Lts. Erwin and Hannah were last seen in the Padua area and have not been heard from. It is believed that Lt. Erwin's one engine was streaming gas or glyeol from a hit received.
31. All is quiet on this last day of 1943. There were no missions save those flown by some personnel late in the evening to bring in the New Year.

Transcribed by T. Collins

