

HEADQUARTERS
464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 U S Army

9 July 1944

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL Records
TO : Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, Attention:
Historian (through channels)

1. Unit History of the 464th Bombardment Group (H) the period of 30 April 1944 to 31 May 1944.

a. The present designation of the units is 55th Bombardment Wing (H), Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, U S Army.

b. Changes in organization

- (1) No change
- (2) None
- (3) No change
- (4) Lt Col Charles F. McKenna III, 0-369282, became Deputy Group Commander Vice Lt Col Sylvan D Hand, 0-22807, missing in action.

c. Strength

As of 30 April	Officers 370	EM 1620
Net decrease	25	49
Strength as of 31 May 1944	345	1571

d. The Group changed station from Gioia Air Base, Italy to Pantanella Air Base, Italy. Departed from Gioia on 31 May 1944 and arrived Pantanella Air Base same day.

e. The Group had been operating out of Gioia Air Base from the latter part of April 1944 pending completion of the airfield at Pantanella. The unit started its move to Pantanella on 31 May 1944. Some personnel and equipment were moved by air. The majority of personnel, equipment and supplies were moved by motor truck: the entire movement took two (2) days, 31 May and 1 June 1944, and a mission was flown by the Group on 2 June 1944.

f. Campaigns

- (1) Italian Campaign from 30 April 1944 (the date of the Group's first mission) to the present time.

g. Operations

- (1) During the month of May, 1944, this Group flew 18 combat missions with a total of 619 sorties, and a total 1026 tons of bombs dropped on enemy objectives.

- (2) Attacks by this Group were made on various types of targets, 10 M/Y, 3 on troop concentrations and supplies, 4 on a/c factories and 1 on oil refineries, using 500lb GP and 250 lb GP bombs, on various targets. A total of 3 missions were cancelled.
- (2) The more important missions were as follows: 10 May 1944, a/c factory at Weiner Neustadt, one of the most important targets remaining in Europe where the enemy is engaged in the manufacture of ME-109s in the various factories which supply the major component part and final assembly. The destruction of which would be a serious blow to the GAF output of fighter a/c. The results of the attack on 10 May 1944 were good, with an excellent pattern of strikes on the target leaving the area well covered by fires and smoke.

24 May 1944, Wollersdorf A/D, Stores and Machine Shops. The bomb results were poor due to 8/10 cloud coverage at the target.

25 May 1944. mission to Givors M/Y in France

26 May 1944 mission to Lyon La Muche M/Y, France

27 May 1944 mission to Nimes M/Y in France

These three missions were to disrupt enemy lines of communication from France into Italy where badly needed supplies were being shipped by the enemy, and to destroy valuable and precious rolling stock. These three missions necessitated long overwater flights in the face of determined enemy opposition of flak and enemy fighters. Our losses in a/c and crew and damage to a/c were above normal. The bombing results on Givors M/Y were fair with direct hits in the center of the M/Y causing flames and smoke. While on the bomb run a group of B-17s crossed in front of this Group causing some confusion. The results of Lyon La Muche M/Y were poor by this Group. The results of Nimes M/Y were good even though the main pattern was approximately 600 feet north of the target, in repair shops and tracks West of the target.

29 May 1944, Amme-Luther-Seck a/c Components Factory at Atzgersdorf, 6 miles SSW of Vienna. This is in the general area of a/c factories at Weiner Neustadt. This factory builds parts for ME-109 and is engaged in repair and salvage work on the ME-109s. The destruction of this target would be another blow to the efforts of the GAF to put back into the air e/a previously damaged. This was a long mission and enemy opposition was heavy; both by flak and e/a. Severe losses were sustained by this Group in a/c and crew lost, both by flak and e/a. Bombing efforts of the Wing were classed excellent, the target being completely covered by smoke from preceding Groups. This Group unable to pinpoint the exact aiming point dropped their bombs at a point considered nearest the briefed aiming point and bombs fell into the smoke obscured area.

(4) On all missions flown enemy opposition was encountered in varying degrees of intensity and accuracy from SIR to IAH. Actual encounters with e/a were experienced on the following missions:

25 May 1944 Givors M/Y
27 May 1944. Nimes M/Y
29 May 1944 Amme -Luther-Seck A/C Fty-Atzgersdorf

Our gunners gave an excellent account of themselves on these encounters with a total score of thirteen (13) E/A destroyed, ten (10) probably destroyed and five (5) damaged.

Score sheet on each mission is as follows:

Givors M/Y - Destroyed - 25 May 1944

Type	Claimant	ASN	Sq	Crew	POS	Location
1. ME109-Sgt	Darrell E. Holland	20759707	777-TG			Marseille, Fr.
	S/Sgt George E. Adams	33409412	777-LW			Marseille, Fr.
2. ME109-S/Sgt	Oakley E. Casey	38291383	777-TG			Off Nice. Fr.
3. ME109-S/Sgt	Robert D. Nethercott	37503287	779-LW			Off Nice, Fr.
4. FW190-S/Sgt	Colfer N. Sinnott	32112347	776-TG			Off Nice, Fr.
5. FW190-S/Sgt	Herschel H. Hudgins	35652757	777-TG			Off Cannes, Fr.
	S/Sgt James C. Johnson	36562984	777-BG			Off Cannes, Fr.
6. ME109-S/Sgt	John E. Trawicki	36277116	778-TG			Off Nice, Fr.
7. ME109-S/Sgt	Humbert F. Cicciarelli	19129521	777-TG			43°40'N-07°00'E
	S/Sgt R.L. McMillan	14154813	777-BG			
8. ME109-S/Sgt	Thomas G. Gray	39550655	776-RO			Off Nice. Fr.
9. ME109-S/Sgt	Paul E. Gonzales	18186784	778-TG			43°00'N-06°03'E

Givors M/Y- Probably Destroyed

1. ME109-T/Sgt Joseph W. Suehs-33553850-778-RW-Off Nice, Fr.
2. ME109-Sgt John F. Taylor-37656073-776-TG-Off Nice, Fra.
Sgt Donald Tate-37552073-776-BG
3. ME109-T/Sgt Ernest E. Monthey-17127572-777-LW-Off Nice, Fr.
4. ME109-S/Sgt Stanley J. Taylor-11021751-777-RW-Off Nice, Fr.
5. ME109-S/Sgt Joseph W. Drda36434630-777-TG-Off Nice, Fr
6. ME109-S/Sgt Edward D. Moore-16175856-777-TG-43o46N'-06o20'E
S/Sgt I.R. Mitchell-17100440-777-BG
S/Sgt A.I. Gac-33574243-777-LW

Givors M/Y Damaged

1. ME109-Sgt John E. McGovern-37551913-778-TT-Off Nice, Fr.
2. ME109-S/Sgt L.O. Brooks-39234805-778-TG-Off Nice, Fr.

Nimes M/Y - Probably Destroyed - 27 May 1944

1. ME109-Sgt Earl B. Gilbiedt-39567960-778-TG-43°21'N-04°35'E

Nimes M/Y - Damaged

1. ME109-Sgt Frank P. Pase-35548583-776-BG-NE. of Nimes, Fr.
Sgt Gordon D. Partridge-39555764-776-TG-

2. ME109-S/Sgt J.W. Kent-18214355-778-TG-NE of Nimes. Fr.

Atzgersdorf - Destroyed - 29 May 1944

1. ME109-S/Sgt Robert C. Hardt-17032447-777-BG-Sisak Area-

2. ME109-T/Sgt Setmour Lippmann-32229223-777-TT-Sisak Area

3. ME109-S/Sgt David Schwartz-12180724-777-TG-Sisak area

4. ME109-S/Sgt Thomas R. Monacelli-19193382-777-TG-45°38'N-16°10'E

Atzgersdorf - Probably Destroyed

1. ME109-S/Sgt Alton Perington-365850883-779-TG-Lake at Weiner
Neustadt

2. ME109-S/Sgt George J. Allen-34599210-LW-Lake

3. FW190-S/Sgt Elton W. Ankney-39461148-776-TT-Over target

Atzgersdorf - Damaged

1. ME109-Sgt. Thomas R. Monacelli-19193382-776-TG-45°38'N-16°10'E

(5) Training

On days when no missions were scheduled some practice formation flying and practice bombing missions were flown. Classes were held for combat crews on the subjects of:

- (a) Navigation
- (b) Target identification
- (c) Formation flying
- (d) Aircraft recognition
- (e) Communications

(6) Supply and Equipment

No special problems were encountered during this period. A/C tires which had been previously difficult to obtain became easier, as well as engine parts. Plexiglass continues to be difficult to obtain.

(7) Maintenance

Maintenance presented no unusual problems. The ground crews doing an excellent job during this period of keeping a/c flying.

(8) Morale

Morale for the period covered was below the usual standard for this group. Primary reasons for this

deficiency were the inadequate facilities for shelter, mess, and recreation provided at our temporary base. Another contributing factor was heavy combat losses in the group. Due to movement of air and ground echelons and the lack of transportation and the necessity of maintaining and improving our permanent base at Pantanella, equipment, supplies and personnel were inadequate and resulted in lower morale within this group.

(9) Accidents- Two accidents occurred during this period:

1. On 7 May 1944, at 0845B hours, 25 miles east of Gioia Air Base, Italy, B-24 a/c No. 42-78128 crashed with ten (10) fatalities. Pilot climbed through solid overcast to join formation, became separated from his box and crashed into nearby hills thereafter. Probable cause of accident, pilot was unable to effect an immediate change from contact flight to instrument conditions in time to avoid crash.

Pilot	2nd Lt. Gibbs Charles R. Jr.	0-678995	Fatal
CoPilot	2nd Lt. Smith, Allen W.	0-699747	Fatal
Nav	2nd Lt. Henson, James E.	0-732823	Fatal
Bomb	2nd Lt Stillwell, Edward F.	0-744424	Fatal
Eng	T/Sgt Dombrowski, Walter (NMI)	31047675	Fatal
G	S/Sgt Thielen, Gerald F.	17059369	Fatal
RO	S/Sgt Wilson, Roy C.	18187444	Fatal
G	Sgt Stoddard, Ray E.	35634826	Fatal
G	S/Sgt Marchacos, Lewis H.	31254218	Fatal
G	S/Sgt Mills, Charles W.	31136900	Fatal

2. On 22 May 1944, at 1321B hours, at Gioia Air Base, Italy, a/c No. 42-78115, crashed on take off with total loss of a/c and no crew injuries. Caused by pilot calling for wheels up before a/c was definitely airborne. Combination of low airspeed and heavy load and possible prop wash plus improper technique in takeoff.

h. Commanding Officers in important operations

(1) 10 May 1944 a/c factory at Weiner Neustadt led by Major Clarence G. Poff, Commanding Officer of the 778th Bombardment Squadron (H) was attacked. Major Poff in spite of intense flak and with wounded men aboard and his a/c badly damaged, led the group over the target with good bombing results.

(2) 24 May 1944, Wollersdorf A/D, Stores and Machine Shops at Weiner Neustadt, led by Colonel Marshall Bonner, Group Commanding Officer. Due to 8/10 cloud coverage at the target results were not good. The formation was brought back without loss of either personnel or a/c.

(3) 25 May 1944, Givors M/Y, France, was led by Major E. Blehm, Commanding Officer of the 777th Bombardment Squadron (H). Fair bombing results were obtained. Heavy flak and fighter opposition on the return flight made this a very difficult mission, along with the long distance covered.

(4) 26 May 1944, Lyon-La-Mouche M/Y, France, led by Major Joseph J. Carter, Commanding Officer of the 777th Bombardment Squadron (H). This was a long mission.

(5) 29 May 1944, Ame-Luther Seck A/C Components Factory at Atzgersdorf, led by Colonel Marshall Bonner, Commanding Officer of the Group. Heavy flak and fighter opposition was met beginning at the IP and continuing over the target. Results were good. Fighter opposition continued to within fifty (50) miles of the Yugoslav Coast.

(6) 30 May 1944, Rohrback Components Factory, Neunkirchen, Austria. One composite Group was led by Major Clarence J. Poff, Commanding Officer of the 778th Bombardment Squadron (H). Bombing results were good.

i. Losses in action---Officers and men

(1) Losses for this period are listed below.

2 May 1944-Parma West M/Y and Harbor Mission

Lt Col	(1024)	Hand, Sylvan D.	0-22807 MIA	Deputy Gp Commander
1st Lt	(1034)	Chilmonczyk, Waclaw J.	0-732620 MIA	779th Sq.
2nd Lt	(1035)	Williams, Belton B.	0-744563 MIA	779th Sq.
T/Sgt	(748)	Aliseo, Tony A.	12050393 MIA	779th Sq.

Loss due to collision in air

10 May 1944-Weiner Neustadt- A/C No. 42-52468 779th Sq.

Capt	(1024)	Latimer, James T.	0-407301	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Hayes, Harry E.	0-807435	MIA
2nd Lt	(1035)	Bridges, John H. Jr.	0-062472	MIA
1st Lt	(1034)	Johnson, Frank (NMI)	0-732772	MIA
Cpl	(748)	Rogers, Bulan A.	38189000	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Lechovicz, Walter (NMI)	31312782	MIA
Cpl	(757)	Fields, John D.	13170488	MIA
Sgt	(612)	Gibson, Robert C.	36645342	MIA
Sgt	(612)	Flury, John N.	12120564	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Hardison, Rosbud	14137210	MIA

Loss due to Flak

10 May 1944-Weiner-Neustadt A/C No. 42-64441				778th Sq.
2nd Lt	(1024)	Wygol, Lawrence J.	0-737690	MIA
2nd Lt	1024)	Munson, Robert C.	0-806116	MIA
2nd Lt	(1036)	Brett, Eric L.	0-683109	MIA
F/O	(1035)	Meyers, William F.	T-1543	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Sharpnack, Walter J.	13060232	MIA
S/Sgt	(757)	Anderson, Kenneth L.	39118586	MIA
Sgt	(748)	Wells, Winfred J.	37231212	MIA
Sgt	(748)	Willcox, Puett L. Jr.	18098817	MIA
Sgt	(612)	Penrod, Donald E.	37514286	MIA
Cpl	(611)	Huron, Donald L.	16113286	MIA

Loss due to flak.

10 May 1944-Weiner-Neustadt-A/C No. 42-52463-				779th Sq.
S/Sgt	(748)	Balash, Cyril W.	15072884	Killed in action by E/A
25 May 1944-Givors M/Y, France-A/C No. 42-52463				779th Sq.
Capt	(1024)	Chesser, Robert L.	0-789135	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Garniss, Ddonal S.	0-807411	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Durisko, John A.	0-808968	MIA
2nd Lt	(1035)	Rankin, John K. Jr.	0-691652	MIA
2nd Lt	(1034)	Hindle, Earnest C.	0-698287	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Every, Medwin C.	06906656	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Tefelski, Frank (NMI)	32732603	MIA
T/Sgt	(757)	Brown, Edward C.	34139203	MIA
S/Sgt	(757)	Dodd, John J.	34051595	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Frankenberger, Robert D.	17126904	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Howarth, Lewis A. Jr.	36574243	MIA

Loss due to E/A and flak.

25 May Givors M/Y, France-A/C No.41-29412-				778th Sq.
Capt	(1024)	Hornbaker, Robert W.	0-662788	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Burkland, Raymond H.	0-807688	MIA
1st Lt	(1034)	Nilles, Richard B.	0-794730	MIA
1st Lt	(1035)	Gain, Carl A, Jr.	0-733553	MIA
T/Sgt	(748)	Karow, Alfred R.	36166520	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Reinecke, Lawrence E.	37240176	MIA
S/Sgt	(757)	Draney, Edwin J.	32439303	MIA
S/Sgt	612)	Harcher, William J.	32740979	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Baryenbruch, Roland G.	16133958	MIA
Sgt	(748)	Hoffman, Donald (NMI)	35672433	MIA

Loss due to flak.

25 May 1944-Givors M/Y, France-A/C No. 41-29382-				777th Sq.
Capt	(1024)	McCarty, Robert F.	0-727746	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Trotter, William O.	0-687216	MIA

F/O	(1034)	Lovelle, Harry R.	T-61299	MIA
2nd Lt	(1035)	Meyer, Leonard L.	0-684179	MIA
T/Sgt	(748)	Grissett, Robert T.	15102814	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Beck, John E.	39538187	MIA
T/Sgt	(757)	Genior, Robert A.	15324209	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Jones, Dale W.	17160358	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Hemlin, Paul J. Jr.	35516123	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Casey, Oakley E.	38291383	MIA

Loss due to E/A.

27 May 1944- Nimes M/Y- A/C No. 42-78092-				777th Sq.
2nd Lt	1024)	Parrish, Rodes S.	0-687756	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Baker, Ralph T.	0-750312	MIA
2nd Lt	(1034)	Staron, Frank J.	0-698630	MIA
2nd Lt	(1035)	Ward, Jesse D.	0-694985	MIA
T/Sgt	(748)	Bunnell, Paul M.	35414888	MIA
T/Sgt	(757)	Wise, Robert L.	15107423	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Alfano, Robert J.	393266939	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Bugaisky, Louis (NMI)	36718620	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Hudgins, Hershel E.	35652757	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Johnston, James C.	36562984	MIA

Loss due to flak.

27 May 1944-Nimes M/ y, France-A/C No. 41-29444				777th Sq.
2nd Lt	(1024)	Raphall, Lester R.	0-742213	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Sears, Kenneth C.	0-686495	MIA
2nd Lt	(1034)	Noel, Harold C.	0-811722	MIA
F/O	(1035)	Kinsky, John G.	T-122197	MIA
T/Sgt	(718)	Tapley, Wallace N.	18006089	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Buttolph, Merland E.	17070221	MIA
T/Sgt	(757)	Ranscher, Harry C.	33052738	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Gunn, Glenn A.	20836091	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Dove, Dayton (NMI)	39560588	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Rush, Earnest B. Jr.	18193460	MIA

Cause of loss unknown.

29 May 1944-Atzgersdorf A/C Fty-A/C No. 41-28969-				776th Sq.
1st Lt	(1024)	Hendricks, Raymond E.	0-725724	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Hergenrother, Phillip E.	0-6993315	MIA
2nd Lt	(1035)	McWeeney, Kenneth J.	0-745825	MIA
2nd Lt	(1034)	Williams, Harold I.	0-801543	MIA
T/Sgt	(748)	O'Rourke, John M.	12021099	MIA
T/Sgt	(757)	Samson, Roland J.	11044284	MIA
T/Sgt	(748)	Brothers, Arthur (NMI)	12066861	MIA
Sgt	(748)	Wiley, Thomas R.	33324432	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Fosmire, George A.	32200152	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Sinnott, Colfer N.	32112347	MIA

Loss due to E/A.

29 May 1944, Atzgersdorf A/C Fty-A/C No. 42-52540-				776th Sq.
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2nd Lt	(1024)	Jares, Robert C.	0-807451	MIA
F/O	(1024)	Simpkins, Ray (NMI)	T-122229	MIA
F/O	(1035)	Moore, Paul S.	T-123054	MIA
2nd Lt	(1034)	Jirardeau, William M. Jr.	0-757426	MIA RTD
S/Sgt	(748)	Ankey, Elton W.	39461148	MIA RTD
S/Sgt	(757)	Balliet, Robert M.	16156965	MIA
Sgt	(748)	Monacelli, Thomas R.	19193382	MIA RTD
Sgt	(611)	Moore, Kenneth G.	17074077	MIA
Pfc	(612)	Maer, Joseph J.	32804844	MIA
Sgt	(612)	Atkinson, Benard	18139063	MIA

Loss due to E/A.

29 May 1944-Atzgersdorf A/C. Fty-A/C No. 41-28748-				777th Sq.
1st LT	(1024)	Eaves, William T.	0-666256	
2nd Lt	(1024)	Sherman, Daniel W. Jr.	0-699746	
1st Lt	(1034)	Haverkos, Robert E.	0-732721	
2nd Lt	(1035)	Lambert, Lawrence J. Jr.	0-744383	MIA RTD
T/Sgt	(748)	Elder, James H.	7002777	
T/Sgt	(757)	Christel, William C.	16096119	
S/Sgt	(612)	Masterson, George. R.	36379395	
S/Sgt	(748)	Fangman, Sylvester A.	38109865	MIA RTD
S/Sgt	(612)	Petrone, James J.	31325304	
S/Sgt	(748)	McMillan, Robert L.	14154813	

Cause of loss unknown.

9 May 1944-Atzgersdorf A/C Fty-A/C No.42-78257				777th Sq.
2nd Lt	(1024)	Elrod, Erwin B.	0-795030	MIA
2nd Lt	(1024)	Hultquist, Glenn I.	0-697128	MIA
2nd Lt	(1034)	Baker, John C.	0-695851	MIA
2nd Lt	(1035)	Valente, Louis V.	0-755133	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Mezzateats, Frank (NMI)	12160010	MIA
T/Sgt	(757)	Close, James F.	34200369	MIA
S/Sgt	(748)	Freeman, Edwin. B.	33206482	MIA
S/Sgt	(612)	Styer, Martin R. Jr.	33377182	MIA
Sgt	(612)	Rakoozy, Thomas M.	12142992	MIA
Sgt	(612)	Rodgers, John E.	33507201	MIA

Cause of loss unknown.

j. Members who have distinguished themselves
There were no awards during this period.
Recommendations were made during this period
which will be covered when the actual awards have
been made.

k. Biograpjies

(1) Lt Charles F. McKenna lll, 0-369281, Deputy
Group Commander, was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Coast Artillery

Corps, Anti Aircraft, on 15 June 1938 upon graduation from Fordham University, where he has been active in ROTC,

Entered Aviation Cadet training 8 August 1939, graduating from Kelly Field, Texas, 12 May 1940. After serving as an instructor at Kelly Field and Supervisor of Primary Flying School at Fort Worth, Texas he went to Bombardier school, and completed B-24 transition. He was then assigned to the 2nd Air Force as Squadron Commander of the 781st Squadron, 465th Bombardment Group (H) at Army Air Base, McCook, Nebraska. He went overseas with this organization and was transferred to the 464th Bombardment Group (H) as Deputy Group Commander on 30 May 1944. Colonel McKenna's home is Pellham, New York.

(2) 1st Lt. John J. Eastwood was commissioned in the Corps of Chaplain on 16 March 1944. After completing Chaplains School at Harvard University was assigned to 2nd Air Force as Base Chaplain at Army Air Base, Herington, Kansas until 19 November 1943 when he joined the 464th Bombardment Group (H) as Group Chaplain. Chaplain Eastwood was formerly a minister of the United Presbyterian Church, and his hometown is Burchard, Nebraska.

2. Inclosed is the War Diary of this unit for the period 1 May 1944 to 31 May 1944 and supporting documents to this history.

For the Commanding Officer:

Signature visible on
Original.

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Maj, AC
Op Int 0

4 Inclosures

- Incl 1- Special Order
- Incl 2- Picture of Col. McKenna
- Incl 3- Picture of Lt. Eastwood
- Incl 4- War Diary

