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CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO

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*See Army*  
*19 Apr 1954 By TAG per [signature]*

BY

*THK*  
DATE 26 JAN 1960

*SEP 1943*

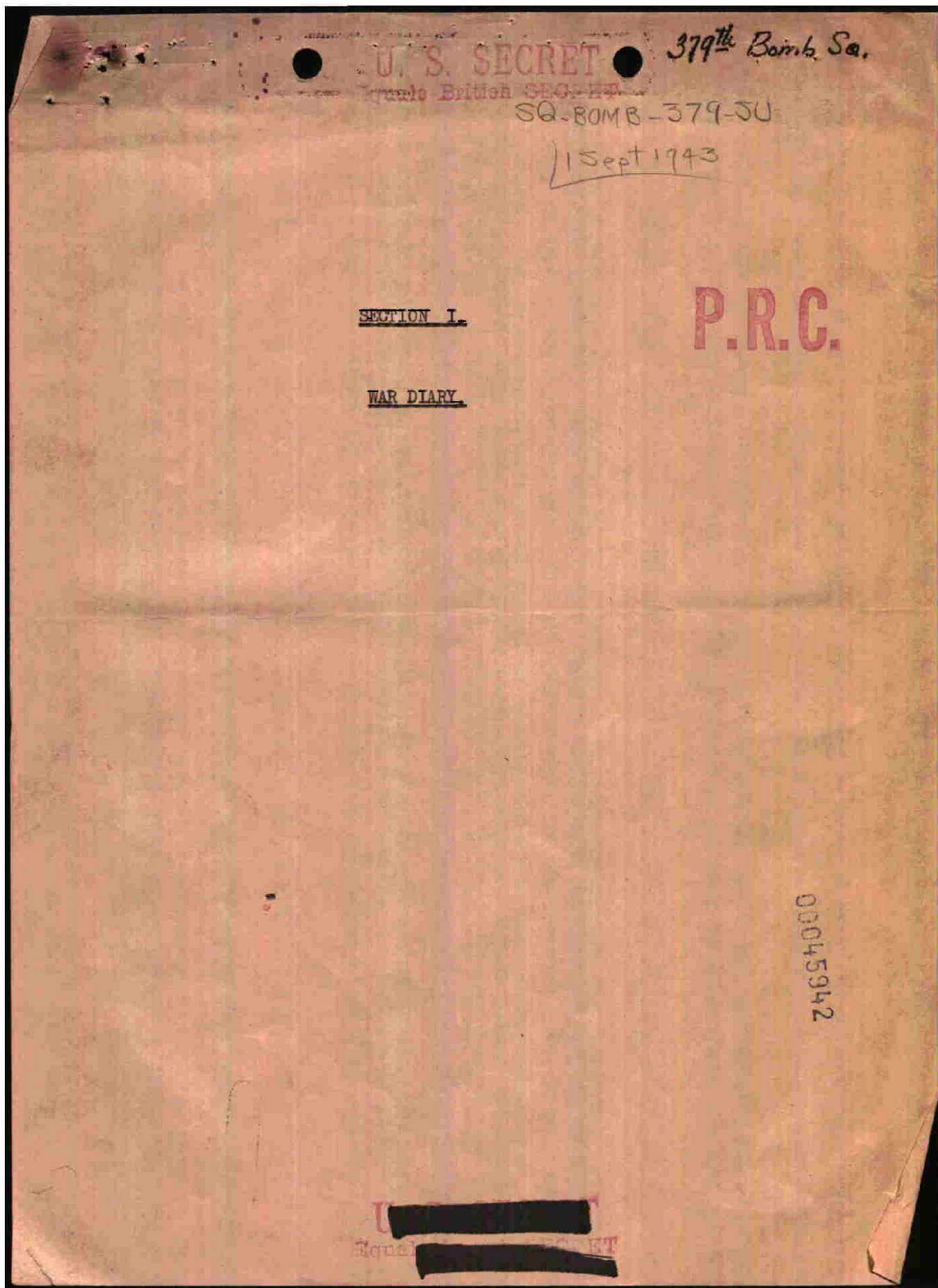
379 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

**P.R.C.**

150-BOMB-379-441  
15 SEP 1943

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U. S. SECRET

Sheet No. 1 War Diary. 379th Sqdn. Messel Temine, Cape Bon  
(Station)  
Month of Sept. 1943. Prepared by Ellsworth C. Knight Jr., 1st Lt., 379th

- | DAY | EVENTS   |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Routine activity.  |
| 2   | Routine activity.  |
| 3   | Had a fire in the mess at supper tonight when a gasoline range exploded. Very little damage done due to the heroic action of Sgt. Wayne H. Romine who single handedly dragged the flaming unit out in the open. He is being recommended for a <u>Soldiers Medal</u> .  |
| 4   | Routine activity.  |
| 5   | Members of the air echelon celebrated one year overseas today. Parties were the order of the day for these men. Seventeen of our planes participated in a mission over Grazzanise A/D, Italy today. Bad weather made it necessary to bomb the Satellite #1 instead. Slight flak was encountered. 15-20 enemy fighters were seen but only one attacked. Reports indicate the target was fairly well hit in spite of the poor visibility.  |
| 6   | Eighteen of our planes went on a mission today and did an excellent job of bombing on Capua A/D in Italy. Dispersed aircraft, hangars, shops, and the landing area were all hard hit. A few enemy fighters were seen near the target but they failed to attack our bombers. The flak was slight to moderate but fairly accurate.   |
| 7   | Routine activity.  |
| 8   | Twelve of our planes went out today to bomb three bridges at Trebisacce, Italy. Reports of the crews indicated that two and possibly all three of the bridges were hit. No flak or enemy fighters were encountered.  |
| 9   | Seventeen of our planes participated in a mission to the Potenza Marshalling Yards in Italy. A good job was done and it is believed that the yards and adjoining installations were severely damaged. Although no flak was experienced over the target itself, a good bit of it was encountered on the way in and out from the target. No fighters were encountered today.   |
| 10  | We are continuing to keep very busy. There was another mission today, this time over the Castelnuovo road junction, Italy-twelve of our planes saw action. A good job was done on the target and the roads leading into the junction were all cut. Although the flak was nil today, 10-12 ME 109's jumped the formation and came out on the short end for the formation claimed five of them destroyed as against no losses for us.  |
| 11  | Routine activity.  |
| 12  | Twelve of our planes went back over Castelnuovo road junction today and repeated their good work done the day before yesterday. Indications are that Jerry will have to make some detours in his retreat. No enemy fighters were seen but the men did report a slight amount of flak encountered on the way into the target.   |
| 13  | Our men are really piling up the missions this month. Eleven of our planes were out again today, this time to bomb a road junction at Torres Annunziata in Italy. Again the target was hard hit and very probably made unserviceable. Our crews tell us that this was an easy one with no enemy fighters and only a few scattered bursts of flak.  |
| 14  | Reports are that the 5th Army is in a tight spot and we were called on to do our part in relieving them on two missions today. The first, in which seventeen of our planes participated was outstanding. Battipaglia was the target and the job done by our planes was outstanding. Our men tell us it was one of the finest bombings they have ever seen and all unanimously agree the town was annihilated. In addition they saw quite a show, dive bombers attacking our vessels, landing barges landing troops under fire, and artillery duels. 10-12 ME 109's attacked our formation but no |



**U. S. SECRET**

Sheet No. 2 War Diary. 379th Sqdn. Menzel, Lemme, Gape Bon  
 Month of Sept. 1943. Prepared by Elsworth C. Knight, Jr., 1st Lt., 379th

**DATE****EVENTS**

- 14 damage was done. Flak varied from slight to moderate. In the afternoon seven of our planes went out again to bomb a reported motor convoy and gun position near this morning's target. Failing to locate these targets they successfully bombed roads and railroads in the vicinity. Only slight flak was encountered and although a few enemy fighters were sighted, they apparently weren't in the mood for a fight as no attacks were made. Celebrating one of our busiest days in experience, we opened our own officers club tonight and celebrated with some real American whiskey supplied by our C.O., Major Batten. The club is quite a success and should give us some place to enjoy ourselves in the evenings.
- 15 Col. Hunter commended all the men on the good job done at Battipaglia yesterday. It was no more than they deserved. However, with the ground situation somewhat relieved but still serious, we were back at work again today sending twelve of our planes over the road junction at Torres Annunziata. Luck was with us and in addition to plastering the target we also included an enemy motor convoy which was unfortunate enough to be passing through at the time. No fighters and slight flak were encountered.
- 16 Back on the job again today. This time fifteen of our planes participated in a raid on road and railroad bridges at Triflisco, Italy. Strings of bombs were seen to hit both bridges but dust obscured observation as to whether or not any direct hits were scored. The approaches were also well covered. Crews reported a rough trip with no fighters but "beaucoup" flak.
- 17 Our combat crews got a well deserved rest today. Nothing else out of the ordinary to report.
- 18 Back at work again today, twelve of our planes participated in a mission to Ciampino A/D, Italy. This time we caught from 30-40 enemy fighters on the A/D and these as well as the field itself and adjoining shops, hangars, and barracks were all covered by the bomb pattern. Heavy intense accurate flak plus attacks by several fighters gave the men an exciting time for awhile but all of our squadron's planes returned safely. Tonight we relaxed at a French Girlie show arranged by our group Special Service Officer, Lt. Fisher. The show was very enjoyable and seemed to be appreciated by all the men.
- 19 Routine activity.----- 20 Another French show tonight only activity for the day.
- 21 We had pork chops for supper tonight, our first since we left the states over one year ago. This event even overshadowed our mission for the day, a raid over the Caseriaz road and railroad bridges in which 12 of our planes took part. Again our planes did a commendable job, stringing their bombs across both bridges and the approaches as well. Moderate flak was encountered and although it was reported as accurate, all the planes returned safely.
- 22 We welcomed our new C.O., Major M.J. Wetzel today who is replacing Major Batten who has now completed his fiftieth mission and is slated for a little rest back in the states. Some sort of new record was set when we had fresh meat for the 3rd consecutive day at supper. Another mission was sent out in which twelve of our planes again took part. This time the target was a bridge and road at Grottaminarda. Crews couldn't agree on the success of the mission, some claiming the bridge hit and others contradicting them. Flak on this trip was only slight.
- 23 After going all through their briefing and preparing to take-off today's mission was cancelled. Morale was given an uplift when PX rations consisting of cigarettes, cigars, gum, soap, and candy were issued. Major Batten left very unceremoniously today with the good wishes of all the squadron.



U. S. SECRET

Sheet No. 3 War Diary. Equals British 379th B.T. Sqdn. Menzel Tendine, Cape Bon  
 Month of Sept., 1943. Prepared by Ellsworth W. Knight Jr., 1st Lt., 379th

DATE

EVENTS

- 24 Only one of our planes participated in a mission over Grottaminarda highway bridge today. Reports indicated the objective was hit with no interference from flak or fighters. The Squadron ground officers had a group photo taken today at the request of the Public Relations Officer. We all had a glimpse of what our ground forces go through at a showing of the movie "Desert Victory," the official picture of the 8th Army's operations in North Africa.
- 25 Eleven of our planes participated in a raid on the Mignano road defile in Italy today. For the first time in our history, our planes carried four instead of the usual three 1000 pound bombs. Results were only fair with only a few hits scored on the road.  
~~No flak or fighters were encountered.~~
- 26 Best part of the day was spent under an alert for a mission which never materialized. Our executive officer, Capt. Houk, and several combat crew members returned after ~~spending a week at rest camp.~~
- 27 Threatening weather cancelled today's mission and most of the personnel were busy ditching tents and staking down side flaps, heretofore unused at this base. Armament ~~officer, Lt. Devlin lectured the enlisted men on the care of small arms.~~
- 28 Today brought us a rainstorm and the first real rain we've had since last May. In spite of being forewarned some men still weren't prepared and wet clothes and bedding were their reward. Lt. Devlin repeated his lecture on small arms to our officers. After spirited voting, the Squadron Insignia designed by Corporal Jess Weinstein carried off all honors and was adopted. ~~We are now looking for a motto.~~
- 29 Back in operation again today despite a muddy field. Ten of our planes participated in a mission to bomb bridge approaches near Castelvenere, Italy. In spite of moderate accurate flak, the bombing was successful with many hits reported on the objective.
- 30 Pay day today with the usual uplift of morale. Rumors are flying thick and fast because this time we were paid in American gold seal money. We ended up this busy month with our 18th mission in which twelve of our planes took part. A road and railroad bridge was on the receiving end this time and the consensus of opinion was that it received direct hits. Fighters were seen but no attacks were encountered. Flak was the biggest headache, being very accurate even though only of moderate intensit

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SECTION II.

OPERATIONS

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**HISTORY**

**379TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON**

**SECTION II...Operations for September 1943.**

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TARGET:</u>	<u>No. PLANES:</u>
Sept. 5	Grazzanise A/D, Italy	17
Sept. 6	Capua L/G, Italy	18
Sept. 8	Trebisacce RR & Rd Bridges, Italy	12
Sept. 9	Potenza M/Yds, Italy	17
Sept. 10	Road Junction at Castelmiova, Italy	12
Sept. 12	Road Junction at Castelmiova, Italy	12
Sept. 13	Road Junction at Torres Annunziata, Italy	11
Sept. 14	Battipaglia, Italy	17
Sept. 14	M/T Convoy & gun emplace., Italy	7
Sept. 15	Road Junction at Torres Annunziata, Italy	12
Sept. 16	Triflisco Rd & RR Bridges, Italy	15
Sept. 18	Ciampino A/D, Italy	12
Sept. 21	Caseriaz Rd & RR Bridges, Italy	12
Sept. 22	Grottaminarda Bridges, Italy	12
Sept. 24	RJ & Bridge at Maddoloni, Italy	1
Sept. 25	Mignano Road Defile, Italy	11
Sept. 29	Amorosi Rd Bridge, Italy	10
Sept. 30	Castelvenere Rd & RR Bridge, Italy	<u>12</u>

Total sorties..... 220

Brought Forward... 751

Grand Total.....971

Total Squadron Missions for month..18

Total Squadron Missions brought forw. 125

Grand total....143

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SECTION III.

PERSONNEL CHANGES.

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HISTORY

379th Bombardment Squadron

SECTION III. PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER 1943.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHANGES</u>
4 Sept. 1943	1st Lt. Edward G. Betts - Asgd. & Jd. 1st Lt. John C. Kerr - " " " 1st Lt. John B. McClellan - " " " 2nd Lt. Meade L. Morris - " " " 2nd Lt. Ray B. Lobdell - " " " 2nd Lt. Lawrence S. Heath - " " " F/O. Clair J. Clark - " " "
8 Sept. 1943	Pfc. Charles R. Thompson - Trfd. to 82nd F.Gp
9 Sept. 1943	Cpl. James R. McDougal - Asgd. & Jd.
10 Sept. 1943	Pvt. Fred E. Allen - Trfd. to 310th Gp. HQ.
12 Sept. 1943	1st Lt. Edwin R. Yarndley & 18 EM. - Trfd. to 6634 Ord. Service Co.
15 Sept. 1943	2nd Lt. William L. Tipton -Asgd. & Jd. 2nd Lt. Robert A. Knodle - " " " 2nd Lt. Robert S. Negle - " " " S/Sgt. John E. Durham - " " " S/Sgt. Richard L. Maddox - " " " Sgt. Charles R. Miller - " " "
17 Sept. 1943	2nd Lt. Henry L. Mastroianni - " " "
18 Sept. 1943	Pvt. Eugene N. Hoekstra - " " "
19 Sept. 1943	T/Sgt's W.W. Pettibon & Thomas Valentic-Trfd-POD.
23 Sept. 1943	Major Earl E. Batten -Trfd to HQ. 47th Wing. Major Manford J. Wetzel - Asgd. & Jd. -
24 Sept. 1943	M/Sgt. Jack Riley - " " " M/Sgt. Maurice Guichard - Trfd. to 310th Gp. HQ. 1st Lt. Jack D. Lindh -Trfd. HQ. 12th AF. 1st Lt. Leo Lesonik - " " " "
26 Sept. 1943	S/Sgt. Rudy Sekermestrovich -Trfd. to POD.
28 Sept. 1943	2nd Lt. Jack K. Brown -Asgd. & Jd. from 381st Sq.

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DATECHANGES

28 Sept. 1943

Capt. James R. Holstead - Trfd. to POD  
 Capt. LaVerne B. Johnson - " " "  
 1st Lt. Donald C. Biggs - " " "  
 1st Lt. Willard E. Wilvert - " " "  
 T/Sgt. William H. Etheridge - " " "  
 T/Sgt. Isaac Rousso - " " "  
 S/Sgt. Herman E. Keller - " " "

PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS:DATE

1 Sept. 1943

1st Lt. Donald C. Biggs - Aptd. Sq. Bomb. &  
 Camouflage Off.  
 1st Lt. William C. Hughes - Aptd. Ass't. Oper. Off.

10 Sept. 1943

TO BE TECHNICAL SERGEANT:

Botko, Andrew S.  
 Brooks, Vernon H.  
 Cook, James W.  
 Scott, James W.

TO BE STAFF SERGEANT:

Axelsson, Edwin D.  
 Barber, Frederick A.  
 Crocker, David A.  
 Davis, Edward S.  
 Magnus, Milton M Jr.  
 Mapes, John J.  
 Pannone, Raymond R.  
 Schwartzman, Alexander  
 Shields, Joseph E.

TO BE SERGEANT:

Awve, Robert J.  
 Boggs, Charlie H.  
 Kellner, Joseph A.  
 McMillan, Mitchell D.  
 Murray, Bernard R.  
 Salinger, Louis C.  
 Sanda, Edward  
 Tynan, Arthur N.  
 Ventura, Antonio M.  
 Fitzgerald, Daniel J.  
 Henrich, James G.  
 Hudgens, Robert L.

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PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS: (CONTINUED)

DATE.

10 Sept. 1943

TO BE CORPORAL:

Bauers, John R.  
 Bello, Saul  
 Bigelow, Lyle R.  
 Dina, Anthony J.  
 Coleman, Francis J.  
 Gross, Adolph A.  
 Wells, Herbert L.

14 Sept. 1943

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS:

Paulsen, Herbert M.  
 Carroll, Robert L.  
 Binder, Philip

17 Sept. 1943

TO BE TECHNICAL SERGEANT:

Pettibon, Woodrow W.  
 Vrabel, Joseph P.  
 Sundstrom, Walter I.

TO BE SERGEANT:

Payne, Leonard T.  
 Thomas, Patrick

TO BE CORPORAL:

Harvey, Arch G.

21 Sept. 1943

1st Lt. William C. Hughes - Aptd. Sq. Oper.  
 Off.

27 Sept. 1943

F/O. Clair J. Clark - Aptd. 2nd Lt.

28 Sept. 1943

2nd Lt. Meade L. Morris - Aptd. Ass't.  
 Sq. Oper. Off.  
 (Gunnery)

2nd Lt. George H. Beers - Aptd. Ass't Sq. Oper.  
 Off. (Bombing &  
 Camouflage)

2nd Lt. Thomas F. Conway - Aptd. Ass't. Sq. Oper.  
 Off. (Bomb & Camoufl)

1st Lt. Hohn C. Kerr - Aptd. Ass't. Sq. Training  
 Off.

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SECTION IV.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS.

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HISTORY  
379th Bombardment Squadron

## SECTION IV. - AWARDS AND DECORATIONS FOR SEPT. 1943.

GENERAL ORDER NO. #4-HQ. 12th Bomb. Comd. DATE. 2 September 1943

AWARD OF AIR MEDAL:

THOMAS J. HALLAHAN - 2nd Lt.  
 HARRY L. MCARDIE - S/Sgt.  
 DMERE F. BARNES -Sgt.  
 STANISLAUS CIACH -Sgt.  
 JOSEPH H. KELLNER -Sgt.  
 DANIEL J. FITZGERALD-Sgt.

AWARD OF FIRST (1st) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE AIR MEDAL:

ALBERT K. OECHSLE -2nd Lt.  
 ROY L. COLEMAN -S/Sgt.  
 JAMES R. GRIMM -S/Sgt.  
 EDWIN D. AXELSON -S/Sgt.

AWARD OF SECOND (2nd) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE AIR MEDAL:

JESSE L. CARPENTER -1st Lt.  
 WILLIAM J. SCHNEIDER-1st Lt.  
 JOSEPH J. BRADY -2nd Lt.  
 BENJAMIN E. BRIDGES -2nd Lt.  
 BENEDICT J. O'MEARA -2nd Lt.  
 WALTER J. RATH -2nd Lt.  
 FIELDING F. WEST -2nd Lt.  
 ARTHUR J. BARNY -S/Sgt.  
 DINO BUTORI -S/Sgt.  
 BRICE C. DAVIS -S/Sgt.  
 KEN M. ELVES -S/Sgt.  
 WALTER F. FITT -S/Sgt.  
 ELMER J. MARKLE -S/Sgt.  
 JOSEPH E. SHIELDS -S/Sgt.

AWARD OF THIRD (3rd) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE AIR MEDAL:

ROBERT R. BLADES -2nd Lt.  
 CARL F. EWAN, JR. -2nd Lt.  
 RICHARD E. FORD -2nd Lt.  
 HOHN H. SCHNACK -2nd Lt.  
 GERALD T. LATHROP -F/O.  
 HENRY H. KUHN -S/Sgt.  
 LADDIE T. MILLER -S/Sgt.  
 JACKSON W. PARK -S/Sgt.  
 HARVEY W. PENNELL -S/Sgt.  
 GEORGE E. RENARD -S/Sgt.

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AWARD OF (3rd) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR AIR MEDAL- (CONTINUED) :

JACK RUND - S/Sgt.  
 HAROLD J. ALLORD - Sgt.

AWARD OF (4th) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR AIR MEDAL :

RICHARD J. CORTHELL - S/Sgt.  
 PHILIP L. POSEY - S/Sgt.

AWARD OF (5th) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR AIR MEDAL:

ELLIS A. RUPPELT - 2nd Lt.  
 DAVID A. CROCKER - S/Sgt.

AWARD OF (6th) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR AIR MEDAL:

ROBERT V. LILJEGREN - 1st Lt.  
 DONALD C. BIGGS - 2nd Lt.  
 CARL L. YAGER - T/Sgt.  
 JACK D. BOYD - S/Sgt.  
 GERALD E. GULETTE - S/Sgt.  
 JOSEPH P. VRABEL - S/Sgt.

AWARD OF (7th) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR AIR MEDAL:

HERMAN E. KELLER - S/Sgt.  
 WALTER I. SUNDSTROM - T/Sgt.

AWARD OF (8th) OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR AIR MEDAL:

BERTRAM J. LEASK - 1st Lt.  
 HARRY R. LOGAN JR. - 1st Lt.  
 KENNETH M. SCHLASINGER - 1st Lt.  
 HENRY H. CHASE - T/Sgt.  
 RUDY SEKERMESTROFICH - S/Sgt.

GENERAL ORDER NO. #52. NASAF.

DATE. 11 September 1943

AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS:

ROBERT M. BRUNNER - T/Sgt.  
 WOODROW W. PETTIBON - T/Sgt.  
 RICHARD E. TERPLE - S/Sgt.  
 JOHN S. KOVAR - Cpl. (POSTHUMOUSLY)  
 HOWARD J. ROSS - 1st Lt.



GENERAL ORDER NO. #16- 310th Gp. HQ.

DATE. 29 September 1943

AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART:

WILLIAM C. HUGHES - 1st Lt.