

Previous waves of our invasion forces had occupied a strip of the beach on both sides of the area designated as our target. Due to the extreme navigational accuracy by the navigators and pinpoint bombing by the bombardiers we avoided endangering the lives of those who had already landed. In addition a fresh invasion was timed to hit the beach a few moments after our attack. Any error in the judgment of our crews would have wreaked havoc with our ground forces. We can readily claim that we were instrumental in forging a path in the invasion of southern France.

Of equally meritorious attention is the mission of South Blechammer Oil Refineries, Germany on the 7th of August. In spite of the fact that 16 aircraft were hit by flak in an area highly concentrated with guns, considerable damage was done and the flow of production of synthetic oil refineries was greatly impeded. Morale in the group shows steady improvement. As our facilities for all types of recreation continues to increase, more and more interest is shown towards competitive sports. Inter-squadron soft ball games, played on a regular schedule, draw many spectators. Volley ball rates top priority with army officers and enlisted men of group headquarters.

USO shows and visiting celebrities have done much towards helping us forget for a short while, discomforts and the loneliness of soldiers in a foreign land. The performances are witnessed in Cerignola and Foggia and transportation is provided to those who care to attend. At intervals the shows are scheduled here at the base and everyone has an opportunity to see them.

Rest camps are proving to be a much needed outlet for those who have been flying rigorous combat schedules and for the ground personnel as well. Many have been to Rome for a three day visit, and the Isle of Capri Villa Reggie Macuso, and the 49th Bomb Wing camps have all been utilized in an effort to give all personnel a brief respite from the grind of war. Group furnishes transportation to and from these places and almost everyone has had the chance to go.

Morale as the war in Europe nears its close, will loom larger in the mind of every commanding officer. Ideas are constantly being advanced and much thought is being given to this problem by the group in order that a broader and more complete program will be available when the need arises.

Missions For August (Missions No 60 through 79)

- 2 Avignon, France, Railroad Bridge
- 3 Fredrichshafen ,Zahnradfabrik Factory
- 6 Miramas, France, Marshaling yards
- 7 Blechammer, Germany Refinery
- 9 Almafuzito, Hungary, Oil refinery
- 10 Ploesti, Romania, Xenia Oil Refinery
- 12 Genoa, Area, Italy, Gun Positions
- 13 Genoa Area, Italy, Gun positions
- 14 St.. Tropez area, France, Beaches
- 15 Beach 264 A, France, Beaches
- 17 Ploesti, Romania, Refineries
- 18 Albunar, Yugoslavia, Airdrome
- 20 Szolnok/Rakeczfalva, Hungary, Airdrome
- 22 Vienna, Austria, Lobau Oil Storage
- 23 St. Polen, Austria, Railroad bridge
- 26 Otepeni, Romania, Airdrome

- 27 Borovnica, Yugoslavia, Railroad viaduct
- 28 Szolnok/Szajol, Hungary, Railroad bridge
- 29 Szeged, Hungary, Railroad bridge

Monthly Statistical Summary for August 1944

1. The figures assembled in this report were compiled in order to show the squadrons the excellent job the group is doing and the same time show a comparison between squadrons.

2. During the month of August we attacked enemy targets in Yugoslavia, Rumania, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and France. On D-Day our group attacked important enemy installations where the 7th Army landed and helping remove obstacles that might have proved serious, if air attack had not been carried out effectively. The group had 696 sorties airborne during the month. We had 642 effective sorties with 54 early returns.

3. The breakdown of early returns and aircraft failures during the month is broken down as follows:

Early returns

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
824 Sq.	11	9	12	12
825 Sq.	4	10	15	16
826 Sq.	6	13	15	16
<u>827 Sq.</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>
Gr. Totals	24	46	61	54

Aircraft Failures

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
824 Sq.	11	4	3	4
825 Sq.	5	3	0	0
826 Sq.	3	2	5	0
827 Sq.	4	5	1	4

4. The group had an average of 69.1% of its operational aircraft during August. The squadrons are broken down as follows:

824 Sq. 68.6%, 825 Sq. 74.8%, 826 Sq. 70.6%, 827 Sq. 62.4%

5. The group dropped a total of 1208.5 tons of bombs on enemy targets during the month.

6. In several encounters with enemy aircraft, we shot down 7, had 2 damaged and 4 probables to our credit. We lost 1 aircraft to flak and 9 others; 2 to flak, one for unknown reason, and 6 were salvaged for other reasons.

7. Training Summary for August

Sq	Form Hrs Flown	Practice Bombs Dropped	PFF Sorties Flown	Total Tng Sorties	Tot Tng. Sorties
824 Sq.	88:20	160	14	76	167:20
825 Sq.	102:10	144	9	63	180:50
826 Sq.	128:25	176	13	55	159:05
<u>827 Sq.</u>	<u>91:05</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>180:35</u>
	428	660	41	254	687:40