

S E C R E T

Hq <u>442nd Bomb Sqdn</u> 320th Bomb Group APO #650	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>442nd Bombardment</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Squadron</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">OUTLINE HISTORY <u>August, 1944.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">SECRET</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">BY AUTH: CO</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>442nd Bombardment</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Squadron</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>31 August</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1944</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>R. J. A.</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">INITIALS</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>31 August</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1944</td> </tr> </table>	<u>442nd Bombardment</u>	Squadron	OUTLINE HISTORY <u>August, 1944.</u>		SECRET		BY AUTH: CO		<u>442nd Bombardment</u>	Squadron	<u>31 August</u>	1944	<u>R. J. A.</u>	INITIALS	<u>31 August</u>	1944
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SUBJECT: historical Records

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 12TH AIR FORCE
 "THRU CHANNELS" - ATTENTION: HISTORIAN.

1. Outline History of the 442nd Bombardment Squadron
 for the period 1 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

a. Present Designation

442nd Bombardment Squadron; 320th Bomb Group (M)
 42nd Bomb Wing; 12th Air Force

b. Changes in Organization

(1) Changes in designation

None.

(2) Echelons or Units

(a) Transferred

None.

(b) On DS or TD

None.

(c) Attached to other Hqs for operation control

None.

(3) Change of Commanding Officers

None.

(4) Changes of staff officers (not applicable to
 Gp or Sq).

(5) Changes in T/O

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted

(1) Month August 1944

	Off	F/O	N/O	EM	TOTAL
a. At Beginning	98	1	0	353	452
b. Net Increase	0	0	0	0	0
c. Net Decrease	4	1	0	12	17
d. At End	94	0	0	341	435

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d. Stations of Units and Echelons

1. Name of Station - Decimomannu, Sardinia.

a. Date of Arrival - 1 November, 1943.

b. Date of Departure - Presently Here.

e. Movements of Unit or Echelons.

(1) From _____ to _____ None.

a. Purpose

b. Dates

c. Means of Transportation

d. Conditions of roads, conveyances and weather

f. Campaigns

(1) Name Italian and Southern France.

(2) Duration: From 1 August to 31 August 1944
Still in progress

g. Operations

(1) Campaign: Italian and Southern France

(2) Nature of operations

Bombing of Communications and Ground Support.

(3) Number of Missions and Sorties for period:

25 Missions; 232 Sorties.

(4) Results of the most important missions

3 Aug, 1944 Lesegno Road Bridge, Target destroyed.

9 Aug, 1944 Bergamo-Seriate A/D, Runway cratered and several
A/C destroyed.

15 Aug, 1944 "D Day" Beach Briedi Cavalaire, France, Beach covered
with hits.

h. Commanding Officers in important missions:

6 Aug - Tarascon RR Bridge; Lt Deatly. 20 Aug Toulon Gun Positions-
Lt Deatly. 27 Aug - Guns on Ile Ratenneau - Lt Rowan.

i. Losses in Action; Officers and Enlisted Men:

(1) Mission and Dates

a. Killed

None.

b. Wounded "D Day", Baie di Cavalaire, Lt R.A. Williams,
T/Sgt G.M. Harmon, S/Sgt J.C. Blum, Sgts Oscar J. Cramer, Sgt Martin P.
Butler, S/Sgt Donald D. Abernathy.

c. Missing

1st Lt Joseph R. Armstrong, 2nd Lt Donald Roper,
(returned to US), S/Sgt J.C. McCray, S/Sgt P. Hughes, Sgt Adrian V. Salet

d. Taken Prisoner and S/Sgt David Huston (returned).

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S E C R E T

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j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in Action

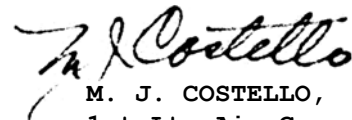
<u>NAME</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>REWARD</u>
1st Lt Melvin Hendrex	Various	Leadership	DFC
1st Lt Gordon F. Bottomley	Various	Leadership	DFC

k. Photographs being submitted:

None.

2. Inclosed are War Diary of the 442nd Bombardment Squadron
for the period 1 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:


M. J. COSTELLO,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Squadron Historian.

1 Incls
War Diary 3 copies.
Special Accounts (if any)
Supporting Documents(if any)
Photographs(if any)

S E C R E T

SHEET NO. 1

WAR DIARY

442nd Bomb Squadron

320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944.

Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

DAY	EVENTS
1.	<p>Strength of the 442nd Baombardment Squadron on the first day of August was, 99 Officers, 353 Enlisted Men for a total of 452 assigned Personnel. The first target of the month was the south rail bridge at Ovada. Eleven B-26's, of the 22 ship formation, were from the 442nd Squadron. An excellent concentration of bombs was dropped on the target.</p> <p>Two new crews were assigned to the Squadron on this first day of August. The members were Lts Giles, Childs, Smith, Roberts, Roper, and Sgts Sheehy, Meserole, Poshek, Nye, Fisher and Cpl Widau. Lts Hathaway, and Sgts Chapman, Salet, Marshall, Seiler and Corzine.</p> <p>Among the new arrivals this day were Sgt Huhtala, and Cpls A.N. King and Stripling, ground personnel.</p> <p>Capt Hakomaki was relieved from assignment with the Squadron and transferred to a US Hospital in North Africa.</p> <p>T/Sgt Lorren Howard returned to duty from a period of rest at Capri.</p>
2.	<p>The Squadron enjoyed a stand down today.</p> <p>Lt West was relieved from assignment and began the first leg of his journey to the US and home for rehabilitation.</p> <p>The one percent pan released two older members of the Squadron today when 12th AF orders arrived for Cpl Tim Kidney and Henry "Cap" Snell. Tim will be missed in the Refuel Unit and "Cap" left a vacancy in Engineering.</p> <p>While Sgts Gibson, Boyce, Cpl Yaksich and Pvt Brinker took off for a rest period at a camp site in the Sardinian mountains, S/Sgt Thomas Nix returned from Rome rest camp.</p>
3.	<p>Lesagno road bridge received several direct hits from the bombs of a 22 ship formation. Lt Wendling as pilot, and Lt Freestone as bombardier, were the lead team of the formation, in which 11 of our squadron planes participated.</p>

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SHEET NO. 2 WAR DIARY 442nd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

3 cont. Another combat man was released from assigned duty with the Squadron today when S/Sgt Lockwood received his orders to proceed to US and home for rehabilitation.

Pvts Cotton and Erickson, both mechanics were assigned to the Squadron today.

1st Lt Blen H. Freestone, Squadron Bombing Officer will be known as Captain Freestone in the future as his promotion orders arrived from Hq 12th AF.

Leaving for rest camp at Rome today were Lt Stough, S/Sgt Rodgers, and Elsworth, Cpl Ahl and Pvt Gardiner. Lt Ober returned from Algiers.

4. Flying the second mission of this date, a 12 ship formation, all from our Squadron, missed the Ventimiglia RR bridge which was the target for the day. Lt Harte was lead pilot with Lt Ward as lead bombardier.

S/Sgts Ellsworth, Manning, Hall, Moore and Buth were this day promoted to the grade of T/Sgt by 320th Hq orders.

While Lts Estes, Wells, Hensell and F/O Vanderburg took off for the rest camp at Algiers. Lts Teich and Zellerbach and S/Sgts Cooney and Hall returned from Capri.

5. Today's mission was cancelled.

Lts Klark and Burns returned from Capri rest camp.

Cpl Ouellette, Pvts Devine and Gulick joined the Squadron today and will work with the ground personnel.

6. With Lt Deatley as Flight Commander, the first mission of the day scored direct hits on the target, Tarascon railroad bridge. Of the 36 B-26's participating, 12 were from this squadron. Lt Bottomley flew as lead pilot with Lt Phillips as lead bombardier.

The second mission of this date again had the bridge at Tarascon. Six of our aircraft were included in the 27 ship formation which dropped an excellent concentration of bombs scoring direct hits.

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SHEET NO. 3

WAR DIARY

442nd Bomb Squadron

320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944.

Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

6. Those leaving for Rome rest camp today were Lts Baker and Vila and T/Sgts Manning and Buth, Sgt Breker and Pvt Brinker.

7. Today the Squadron had another stand down.

Capt Probasco, recently relieved of duties as CO was relieved of assignment and began a journey to the States and home. The enlisted men who left for the States today, having completed a tour of duty, were T/Sgts Bly, Ross, Colten, Harris Goldberg, J.G. Johnson, R.C. Johnson Milliman and Kane.

Sgt Shaughnesay who has been on DS with Wing also was relieved of assignment this date and transferred to the higher headquarters.

Promotions today included Carl Williams to T/Sgt, John Adkins to S/Sgt.

Lts Maund and Cohen today were relieved of their duties with this Squadron and were transferred to the 47th Fighter Group.

8. Due to weather, today's mission was cancelled.

Lts Estes, Wells, Hensell and F/O Vanderburg returned to duty from Algiers rest camp.

9. The dispersal area at the Bergamo-Seriate A/D was today's target. A 36 aircraft formation scored good results including a direct hit on a JU-88. The formation included 12 ships from this squadron.

Lt Castor, T/Sgt Fitzgerald and T/Sgt Turner today left for Replacement Depot #7 on the first leg of their trip to US and Home for rehabilitation.

10. Once again the mission was cancelled.

Lt Raterling was reassigned to the Squadron today following a period in the hospital as the result of a plane crash in Corsica while returning from a mission.

11. Lt Deatley led today's mission in a raid on Gun Positions on the Ile Du Levant. Lt Wendling flew the lead aircraft in the 27 plane formation with Lt

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SHEET NO. 4 WAR DIARY 442nd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)
1 August to 31 August, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

11. Freestone flying as lead Bombardier. 9 of our planes participated. The area was covered with an excellent pattern of bombs.

S/Sgts Schelter and Rupp, Pfcs Stidham and Atkin and Cpl Bonsignore were this day assigned to the Squadron. Stidham will be on SD to Group while Rupp will work in operations and Shelter as a clear in Engineering. The other men will take up duties in Armament.

12. Today, the squadron stood down.

Capt Wiegert and T/Sgt McWilliams were awarded a Bronze Star medal today for meritorious achievement in ground personnel work. Capt Wiegert's award came for efficiency and direction of top-notch line maintenance while T/Sgts McWilliams' award was for top-notch maintenance as a Crew Chief.

13. Toulon Gun Positions were the target for today's mission. They were missed. 27 B-26's took part including 9 from the 442nd.

After many rumors and much discussion on the subject, orders finally arrived today relieving 12 original members of the Squadron to be transferred into a B-29 Group. The men left today for replacement center number 7 and will be assigned from there. They included; T/Sgts Burns, Downham, Sanches, S/Sgts, Adkins, Colton, Moran and Nix, Sgts Bragg, Conners and Deane, Cpl Trascz and S/Sgt Carriveau. The men hope to go to the United States for a training period.

Cpl Abaranell was assigned to the Squadron and placed on DS to Group. He will work in S-2.

14. The gun positions at St Tropez were covered with an excellent pattern of bombs making today's mission a success. Again 9 of our aircraft were included in the 27 aircraft formation.

A new crew was assigned today. Lts McNamara, Ingham and Hood and Cpls Remick and Linville made up the members.

Lts Hensell and Estes were promoted to the grade of 1st Lt as of this date.

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SHEET NO. 5

WAR DIARY

442nd Bomb Squadron

320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944.

Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

15. Today, D-Day for the invasion of Southern France in which our planes played an important part. Flying in a 34 A/C formation, 11 of the 442nd Aircraft took part in the first mission of D-Day. The Beach at Baie de Cavalaire was the target and was covered with an excellent concentration of bombs.

Striking at the German Communications system, the third mission scored several direct hits on the Arles road bridge. The 32 aircraft formation included 7 from this squadron, with the lead Aircraft flown by Lt Harpster and Lt Olmstead as lead Bombardier.

Casting a dark cloud over the shining enthusiasm for the Invasion of Southern France, one of our planes crashed on the early morning take-off. All of the members of Lt McDougal's crew got out of the plane which immediately caught fire and later blew up with the exploding of the frag bombs. Lt Col Adams from A-2 flying as an observer, Lt R.A. Williams, T/Sgt Harmon, S/Sgt Blum, Sgt Cramer and Sgt Butler were all taken to the hospital with not too serious injuries. Lt McDougal was unharmed and remained on duty.

16. In support of the Invasion forces, 33 A/C struck at Gun Positions at St Mandrier, covering the area with a good bomb pattern. 13 B-26's from this Squadron participated.

17. France was again the destination of today's mission with Montpellier railroad bridge for a target. 27 aircraft dropped their bombs on the east approach, inflicting damage, but missed the main structure. 9 of our planes participated.

Lt Maggio was relieved from duties with the Squadron and will return to the States and home for rehabilitation. Pvt Moran, who has been working at S-2 was transferred to the 444th Bomb Sq this day.

18. An 18 ship formation flew in the second mission of this date in a raid on Toulon gun positions. The lead aircraft was piloted by Lt Deatley with Lt

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SHEET NO. 6

WAR DIARY

442nd Bomb Squadron

320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944.

Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

18 cont Hendrix flying as lead Bombardier. A good pattern of bombs covered the gun positions. 9 B-26's from the Squadron were included in the formation.

A new crew comprised of Lts Schane and Haun and S/Sgt Morrow were assigned today. Two other members of the crew will enter later.

Lts Zellerbach and Allen were this day notified of their promotion to the grade of 1st Lt.

Pvts Davidson and Morris were promoted to the grade of Pfc.

19. A road bridge at Embrun was today's target. Bombs of the 28 plane formation, including 9 442nd aircraft, cratered both approaches but missed the main structure.

Lt Harpster today bid farewell to his friends in the Squadron and took off for his new station where he will fly a P-47 fighter. The Lt was transferred by his own request.

Listed among the promotions this date were S/Sgts Cooney, Elias, Rodgers, Marsh, Fuller and Danko to T/Sgt; and Pvt Westbrook to Cpl.

Sgt Fitzpatrick who for some time has been in the hospital was transferred to the Detachment of Patients.

Lt Andersen, completing the crew assigned yesterday, entered the Squadron.

Lts Dodelin and Andersen were hospitalized late today when their plane crash landed on the runway following a transition flight.

Sgt Ortega was this day assigned to the Squadron as an Armorer Gunner.

Lts McDougal and Kaden, T/Sgts Marvick and Harrington, S/Sgt Marvick and Sgt Ruster took off for Rome rest camp.

20. Lt Deatley led today's formation which flew 3 missions over coastal defense Guns at Toulon. Several hits and near misses inflicted considerable damage in target area. Of 18 B-26's in the formation, 6 were 442nd planes.

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SHEET NO. 7 WAR DIARY 442nd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

20 cont Lts Bottomley, Armstrong and Deatley and S/Sgts Abernathy and Salveson were all injured in action on today's mission which encountered heavy flak. S/Sgt Abernathy however was the only member of the crew requiring hospitalization.

Capt Steinbach and Lts Metschan, McOmber and Stough left for Algiers rest camp.

Cpls Roush and Woodward, combat men entered the Squadron to take up duties.

21. Grizzana road bridge was the target for today's raid. The target was not bombed due to failure to identify the bridge. The 12 plane formation encountered moderate, accurate flak. This squadron supplied 6 B-26's for the mission.

The mission returned minus one of the planes which went down over Italy. According to those who observed all members of the crew bailed out in enemy territory and hope is expressed that they might escape. Those of the crew now MIA were Lt. Armstrong, flying his 64th and last mission, Lt Roper, S/Sgt McCray, T/Sgt Hughes, and S/Sgt Huston and Sgt Salet.

22. After several days of post invasion raids, the Squadron today enjoyed a well deserved stand down.

Lt Klark, T/Sgts Harlan and Harmon and Pfc Piscitello hopped off today for a sight seeing tour at the Rome rest camp.

23. With Lt Deatley as Flight Commander, Lt Harte as lead Pilot and Lt Olmstead as lead Bombardier, an 18 B-26 formation flew today's mission against a road block at Covigliano. The target was not identified. 9 of our A/C participated.

Today Lt Wendling returned from Foggia carrying orders that promote him to the grade of Captain, orders that relieve him from assignment and transfer him to a base in the States, and an award of the DFC, for extraordinary achievement in action.

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SHEET NO. 8 WAR DIARY 442nd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

23 cont Sgt Mike Ciniello, flying in a 444th was this day reported MIA when the ship went down in Italy.

24. Direct hits were scored on the rail bridge at Montpellier by the 27 aircraft formation which flew today's mission. 9 B-26's from this Squadron participated.

Those men of Lt Armstrong's crew reported missing in action were this day dropped from the rolls.

Capt Wendling today took off from Elmas and with his No 1 priority expects to eat dinner in New York on Friday night of this week. Lucky Captain!

25. Once again, the squadron enjoyed a stand down.

Promotions were the order of the day when Lts Metschan, Mooney, McOmber and Stern received orders elevating them to the grade of 1st Lt. S/Sgt Middleton became a T/Sgt, and Sgt Beattie, a S/Sgt.

26. Gun Positions on the Ile Ratonneau were the object of today's mission. A good pattern of bombs inflicted some damage. Included in the 27 plane formation were 9 from the 442nd.

Happiness reigned in camp when MIA Mike Ciniello returned to duty today. All but one member of his crew escaped a crash landing in Italy.

Bidding farewell to their friends in the Squadron, Capt Freestone Bombing Officer, and Lt Grabowski, Hodges and Taylor took off for Naples on the first flight of their trip to the States and home. All of the officers completed a tour of duty with better than 63 missions.

27. Another visit was paid to the Gun Positions on the Ile Ratonneau by a 27 plane formation. Several direct hits were scored. Lt Rowan was Flight Commander, Lt Deatley Pilot of the lead aircraft and Lt Hendrix lead Bombardier of the formation which included 9 planes from the 442nd.

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SHEET NO. 9 WAR DIARY 442nd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps.

27 cont T/Sgts Harrington and Jimmy Moore received their orders to proceed to the States and home for rehabilitation. They left this morning after the farewells.

 Lt Brennan, co-pilot today was assigned to the Squadron.

 Rest campers leaving today include Lts Teich, Spann, Rojnovsky and M.S. Rowan. They will rest in Algiers.

28. Target for today was a railroad bridge at Parma. The bridge received several direct hits from the 27 plane formation of which 9 planes were from our Sq.

 Promotions were in the spotlight again when S/Sgts Wasacz and Chamberlin made T/Sgt, Sgt Walker became a S/Sgt and Cpl H.W. Miller and Surabian and Pvt King to Sgt. Pfc's Purdy and McNeil and Pvts Demski & Burns were promoted to the grade of Cpl.

 Rome was the destination of Lt Walsh, T/Sgt Allen, S/Sgt Cohen and Sgt Beavers who took off for rest camp this morning.

29. Today was a squadron stand down.

 The DFC was awarded to Lts Ratering and Boyne by 12th AF order today, for meritorious achievement. Purple Hearts were awarded to Lt Armstrong, now MIA, Lt Bottomley and S/Sgts Salvesen and Abernathy. Lt Deatley was awarded the first cluster to the Purple Heart.

 Bringing a story that would be the envy of any author, Lt Roper today returned from MIA, the first to return from Lt Armstrong's crew. He stated that one other man of the crew from this Squadron had escaped as well as the photographer from the 444th and are now in Corsica.

30. Due to weather, today's mission was cancelled.

 Lts Pincomb, Harrell and Durham today were elevated to the grade of Captain by 12th AF orders.

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SHEET NO. 10 WAR DIARY 442nd Bomb Squadron 320th Bomb Group (M)

1 August to 31 August, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps

30 cont Sgt Larson was this day transferred to the Detachment of Patients. Others relieved of assignment were Cpl Muh, to Group Headquarters; Pvt Flanders and Pfc Rose, transferred to the 443rd. Those assigned were Sgt Rich, Cpl Erickson, S/Sgt Hardy, and S/Sgt Travagline. All will remain on DS.

The ball team left for Oran today to attempt to gain the AAFMTO softball crown. Those departing included Capts. Gibson and Duran, Lts Ayrey, Bottomley, Dickerson, Marasch, McDougal, Phillips, White, Williams, King, Garvey and Youenes and Sgt Worthington.

31. Finishing up the month of August, a 26 plane formation bombed Legnano rail bridge, damaging both ends and approaches to the bridge. 9 B-26's from the 442nd were included in this formation.

S/Sgt Huston returned from MIA today with a story similar to that of Lt Roper. He stated the remainder of the crew had been captured by the Germans. He was uninjured.

Rome Rest camp was invaded today by Lts Harte and Thorton, S/Sgt Krause, Sgt Ciniello and Cpls Kindstrom and Wall.