

S E C R E T

Hq 442nd Bomb Squadron
 320th Bomb Group
 APO #650

442nd Bombardment Squadron
 OUTLINE HISTORY September, 1944
 SECRET
 BY AUTH: CO
442nd Bombardment Squadron
September 30 1944
RUB INITIALS
September 30 1944

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 September 1944 to 30 September 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).

NONE.

(5) Changes in T/O

NONE.

c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted

(1) Month September 1944

	Off	F/O	N/O	EM	TOTAL
a. At Beginning	95			341	436
b. Net Increase				9	9
c. Net Decrease	4				4
d. At End	91			350	441

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d. Stations of Units and Echelons

1. Name of Station - ~~Decimomannu, Sardinia~~. Alto Air Base, Corsica
- a. Date of Arrival - ~~1 November, 1943~~. 20 September, 1944
- b. Date of Departure - Presently Here.

e. Movements of Unit or Echelons.

- (1) From Decimomannu to Alto Air Base, Corsica.
 - a. Purpose Operational change of station.
 - b. Dates 12 September 1944 to 25 September, 1944
 - c. Means of Transportation LST, B-26s, overland transportation.
 - d. Conditions of roads, conveyances and weather
Favorable conditions were encountered.

f. Campaigns

- (1) Name Italian and Southern France.
- (2) Duration: From 1 September to 30 September 1944
Still in progress

g. Operations

- (1) Campaign: Italian & Southern France
- (2) Nature of operations
Bombing of Communications and Tactical Targets.
- (3) Number of Missions and Sorties for period:
14 Missions, 169 Sorties.
- (4) Results of the most important missions

Considerable damage was inflicted on enemy rail and road communications in North Italy. Defense Positions were heavily bombed, lending valuable support to Allied Ground troops in their offensive on the Gothic Line.

h. Commanding Officers in important missions:

Lt Claybough, Lt Bottomley, Lt Harte and Lt. Barraclough

i. Losses in Action; Officers and Enlisted Men:

(1) Mission and Dates

- a. Killed
None.
- b. Wounded
None.
- c. Missing
None.
- d. Taken Prisoner None.

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j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in Action

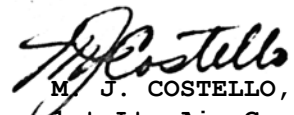
<u>NAME</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>REWARD</u>
Capt Arthur L. Pincomb	Lesegno, Italy	Meritorious Achievement while in combat flight	DFC

k. Photographs being submitted:

NONE.

2. Inclosed are War Diary of the 442nd Bombardment Squadron
for the period 1 September 1944 to 30 Sempتمبر 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:


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

1 Incls
War Diary
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 September to 30 September, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps.

DAY	EVENTS
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1. The Squadron began the month of September with 95 Officers and 341 Enlisted Men for a total of 436 assigned personnel. No mission was flown today due to adverse weather conditions. T/Sgt Conner was, today, notified of his promotion to the rank of M/Sgt. Other promotions included that of S/Sgt Homrighous to T/Sgt and Sgt Duncan to S/Sgt.
2. An abortive mission was flown today to Ronco Scrivia RR Bridge. An 18-ship formation, including 9 ships from this squadron, made 3 runs on the target but failed to drop their bombs due to failure to identify the target. Capt Shuh, former Squadron Operations Officer, was relieved from assignment to the Squadron today and transferred to Headquarters, A.A.F., Mediterranean Theater of Operations.
3. Weather forced cancellation of today's mission. An exchange of visitors to Rome took place today, with 4 enlisted men leaving for, and 2 officers and 3 enlisted men returning from, that city.
4. Three missions were flown today in a surprise visit to Pontecurone, Italy, bombing the railroad bridge nearby. The first mission, with 9 B-26's from this squadron numbered among the 18 ships participating, had Lt Claybaugh flying as lead Pilot and Lt Montez serving as lead bombardier. 3 of our airplanes participated in a 9 ship raid for the third mission of the day. The target was covered with an excellent concentration of bombs by each of the formations with several direct hits and numerous possible hits scored.

From this day on, Lt Deatley shall be addressed as Capt Deatley as a result of Orders received from 12th AF Hqs. Lt Bottomley and Lt Rowan were also promoted to the rank of Captain on the same order.

Lt Roper, recently returned from missing in action, received orders promot-

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SHEET NO. 2

WAR DIARY

442nd Bomb Squadron

320th Bomb Group (M)

1 September to 30 September, 1944. Prepared by JOHN G. GEMMILL, 1st Lt, Air Corps.

- 4 Cont ing him to 1st Lt and returning him to the good old USA as a result of his recent escapade. The Officers of the Squadron threw a party today in celebration of the end of two years overseas for some of their comrades. A drunken good time was had by all in spite of the definite lack of suitable female guests.
5. The first mission of this date was flown to Pavia where the RR Bridge SE of town was covered with an excellent concentration of bombs. 29 B-26's, including 12 from this Squadron, made up the formation. Lts Kaden, Ratering, Klark and Hensell left today on the first lap of their journey home.
6. Today was a momentous one for the Squadron, Group and Wing, for today a citation from General De Gaulle and the Provisional French Government was presented to the Wing. 100 members of this Squadron participated in a colorful presentation ceremony and review, held on the runway of Decimo Air Base. The citation included the award of the Croix De Guerre Avec Le Palme to the Wing and Group Commanders. Enlisted men today held their party in celebration of the completion of 2 years overseas for the "Old Timers" of the Squadron.
7. Weather caused cancellation of today's mission. Lt Roper and T/Sgt Houston departed today for the USA and home. Lt Olmstead was appointed Squadron Bombardier.
8. Old Man Weather again prevented a mission from taking off. T/Sgts Buth, Harlan and Middleton today departed for Naples on the first leg of the trip home, a successful tour of combat flying duty behind them.
9. The Squadron today enjoyed a stand down. Lt Thornton, with a happy smile, bid farewell to his comrades and left for the States. 3 enlisted men returned from Rome.
10. Firenzuola D'Arda RR Bridge suffered several direct hits from an 18-plane formation which flew a successful mission on that target today. Lt Claybaugh

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SHEET NO. 3

WAR DIARY

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10 Cont flew the lead ship and Lt Montez was lead bombardier. 9 of our ships took part in the raid.

F/O Vanderburg was sporting a new gold bar today and answering to the title of Lt as a result of orders received from the 12th AF. The 442nd ball team returned from Algiers with a story of 2 losses in 3 games of a Theatre Tournament and another of a wonderful time with plenty of wine, women and song.

11. A close support mission on Traversa Defense Positions was flown by a 28 plane formation. 10 B-26's from the Squadron took part in the successful raid. The Advance Echelon left today for Corsica to make ready our long rumored new base of operations.

12. In close support of our Ground Forces, 3 missions were flown on the Firenzuola Defense Positions. Lt Barraclough flew the lead aircraft in an 18 ship formation on the second mission. Lt Lyman was lead bombardier. A good bomb pattern fell short of the target area. 9 ships from the 442nd participated. 2 of our planes participated in the 9 ship formation which flew the third mission of the day. Possible direct hits on target area were scored.

10 Enlisted Men left for Corsica to assist in setting up the new base while T/Sgt Howard and S/Sgt Krause departed for the United States.

13. Again German Defense Positions in N. Italy were the target for the day, positions in the Mt. Oggioli area were covered with an excellent concentration of frag. bombs. 9 B-26's from the 442nd were included in the 18 ship formation. Lts R.A. Williams and Robertson left for home. Lt Carraher rejoined the Squadron as Operations Officer to replace Capt Rowan, transferred to Group as Asst. Group Operations Officer.

14. Mt Oggioli Defense Positions were covered with an excellent concentration of bombs from ships of two missions. Lt Harte was lead Pilot of the 19 ship

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SHEET NO. 4

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- 14 Cont formation on the first mission with Lt Olmstead as lead bombardier. Nine of our planes took part. The second mission, flown by a 19 ship formation, included 3 B-26's from this Squadron. Sgt J.J. Fitzpatrick rejoined the Squadron after a period spent in the hospital.
15. Defense Positions, this time SW of Rimini, Italy, were again the target for the day. A 49 ship formation flew over the target area but, due to cloud cover, returned their bombs. 14 A/C from the 442nd took part in this raid.
16. A 48 aircraft formation returned to the Rimini sector, bombing a defensive position NW of the town. The area was well covered with an excellent concentration of bombs. This Squadron furnished 12 planes for the raid. The first lift departed this afternoon for a ride on an LST to Corsica. They carried equipment and supplies to put the new base in operations. S/Sgt W.E. Moore left for the States, having completed his tour of duty.
17. 18 B-26's today dropped a good pattern of bombs and scored several direct hits on the Road and Rail bridge at Voghera, Italy. Lt Claybaugh flew the lead aircraft of the formation which included 9 planes from the Squadron. Lt Montez was lead bombardier. Moving of equipment by plane to Corsica continued.
18. Possible hits were scored on Sesta Calande Road and Rail Bridge by today's formation of 19 B-26's. 9 were from the 442nd Squadron. With the States as their destination, Lts Barnard and McKay and T/Sgts Chamberlin, Cooney, Ellsworth, Friend and Rodgers, and S/Sgts Malburne and Weiss bid farewell to their friends in the Squadron and left for Naples.
19. Weather forced cancellation of today's mission.
20. The Ground Echelon left Sardinia by LST for Corsica Today.
21. With the arrival of the Air Echelon, Alto Air Base, Corsica, became the home field of the 320th Bomb Gp from which operations will be carried on in future.

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SHEET NO. 5

WAR DIARY

442nd Bomb Squadron

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22. The first mission from our new base was flown today. Several direct hits were scored on the rail bridge at Cassano Di Adda. 18 B-26's including 9 from this Sq participated. The Squadron began functioning as a unit for the first time in its new quarters today.
23. Romano rail bridge was the target of the first mission for today. Lt Harte flew the lead ship of a 15 plane formation. All the planes were from our Squadron making it in reality a Squadron mission. Lt Olmstead was lead bombardier.
24. Weather prevented a mission today but noone was idle. There is a great deal of work to be done in getting our new base liveable and everyone is doing their bit. Hammers and saws can be heard all over the Squadron area. Tents are developed from mere tents into one storey homes by extending the sides and putting in a floor of salvaged material.
25. Weather again grounded all planes but the building continues at an accelerated pace mainly because of the weather.
26. Breil Road Bridge was today's target of an 18 ship formation. The target was missed. Capt Bottomley was lead pilot and Lt Olmstead was lead bombardier. 9 of our A/C took part. The Rear Echelon arrived today, completing the move here.
27. "Goin Home" was being sung by Cpl Kristof as he left for Naples enroute for US.
28. The weather continues bad so the work in the Squadron area continues strong.
29. Mission cancelled due to rain. Captain's bars appeared on the collar of Lts Claybaugh and Harte today when their orders arrived from 12th AF HQs. 2 officers and 2 enlisted men left for a rest (?) in Rome. Lt Dodelin, T/Sgts Hall and Marsch, and S/Sgt Knauer flew to Naples today, homeward bound.
30. Last target of the month was a Fuel Dump 1 mile W of Cremona. 17 ships flew on this mission including 8 of the 442nd planes. An excellent concentration of bombs was dropped in the area scoring several direct hits and inflicting considerable damage.