

Hq 444th Bomb Squadron
320th Bomb Group
APO # 650

444th Bomb Squad.
OUTLINE HISTORY, June 1944.
SECRET
BY AUTH C.O.
444th Bomb. Sq
30 June 1944

INITIALS
15 July 1944

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

1. Outline History of the 444th Bomb Squadron for the period 1 June 1944 to 30 June 1944.
 - a. Present Designation
444th Bombardment Squadron (M), 320th Bombardment Group (M), 42nd Wing (US), 12th Air Force.
 - b. Changes in Organization
 - (1) Changes in designation
 - (a) No change
 - (2) Echelons or Units
 - (a) Transferred
 1. No Change
 - (b) On DS or TD
 1. No Change
 - (c) Attached to other Hqs for operational control
 2. None
 - (3) Change of Commanding Officers
 - (a) Captain Hue E. Nunnallee succeeded Major Brewer as Squadron CO. per par. 3. S.O. 87, Headquarters 320th Bombardment Group (M), dated 6 June, 1944.
 - (4) Changes of Staff Officers (not applicable to Gp or Sq).
 - (a) Not applicable
 - (5) Changes in T/O
 - (a) No Change
 - c. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted
 - (1) Month of June 1944

	Off	F/O	W/O	EM	TOTAL
a. At Beginning	75	0	0	312	387
b. Net Increase	0	1	0	12	13
c. Net Decrease	1	0	0	0	1
d. At End	74	1	0	324	399
 - d. Stations of Units or Echelons
 1. Name of Station: Decimomannu, Sardinia
 - a. Date of Arrival: 1 November, 1943
 - b. Date of Departure No change in station.

S E C R E T

e. Movements of unit or echelons

- (1) From XXXXXXXXXX to XXXXXXXXXX.
 - a. Purpose XXXXXXXXXX
 - b. Dates XXXXXXXXXX.
 - c. Means of Transportation XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.
 - d. Conditions of roads, conveyances, and weather XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

f. Campaigns

- (1) Name: Italian
- (2) Duration; From XXXXXXXXXX to XXXXXXXXXX.
Still in progress.

g. Operations

- (1) Campaign: Italian
- (2) Nature of Operations: Pin point precision bombing of railroad & highway bridges.
- (3) Number of Missions and Sorties for period
444th Bomb Sq. flew 174 sorties and 25 missions.
- (4) Results of the most important missions
 - (a) The Bucine RR Viaduct, the Pesaro RR Bridge, the Cagli RR Bridge, the Narni Road Bridge, the Roccastrada North Road Bridge, and the Arezzo Road and RR Bridges were a few of our most important missions this month. These bridges are all key points in the enemy's communication system and their destruction, coming directly as a result of our bombing, has greatly impeded the movement of supplies and troops, either to the front, or, in their withdrawal to the rear.

h. Command Officers in important missions

Major Edwin H. Brewer.	Lt. Marion C. Birmingham
Capt. Hue E. Nunnallee.	Lt. Ralph L. Peters.
Capt. James R. Dilling.	Lt. Wm. N. Michaels.
Capt. Arthur H. Johnson.	Lt. Eugene G. Heller.

i. Losses in action: Officers and Men

- (1) Mission and dates
 - a. Killed: None.
 - b. Wounded: Lt. Webb, Lt. Rodgers, T/Sgt. Jenco, S/Sgt. Spears, S/Sgt. Garfield, S/Sgt. Filtrante, S/Sgt. Robert.
 - c. Missing: None.
 - d. Taken Prisoner: None.

j. Personnel who have distinguished themselves in action.

None.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Act</u>	<u>Award</u>
XXXX	XXXXX	XXX	XXXXX

k. PHOTOGRAPHS being submitted:

None.

S E C R E T

2. Inclosed are War Diary 444th Bomb. Squadron.
for the period 1 June 1944 to 30 June 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signature)
WILLIAM W. GEISKING,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't. S-2 Officer

1 Incls
1 War Diary
0 Special Accounts (if any)
0 Photographs (if any)

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF JUNE, 1944

1. The month of June is beginning where the month of May left off in that we had a two-mission day today. The first mission was to bomb Troop Concentrations at Risiano. Due to misidentification, Rocca S. Stefano was bombed instead of the primary target. Bombs landed South of the target, cutting the road. Moderate flak was encountered, but no E/A were around. Capt Matteson, with Lt Rogers as bombardier, led the second mission to bomb Troop Concentrations at Genazzano. Genazzano was just missed by the second squadron, but the lead squadron bombed Valmontone as a target of opportunity and did a mighty good job on it. Moderate to Intense flak was encountered.
 Pfc Suronen and Sgt McCaffrey returned from the hospital as S/Sgt McQuarril, and Sgts De Leo and White were sent.
2. Target today was our old friend Bucine Viaduct, and it was very well hit by an excellent concentration of bombs. No flak – no fighters.
 Pvt Earl K. King was assigned to and joined the squadron today.
 S/Sgt Staton added another stripe and is now known as T/Sgt Staton.
 Sgts Carney, Guiffre, Piggott, Clark and Dziedzic are now S/Sgts.
 Pfc Betenjany, Pvts Gleason and Drevas are wearing three stripes today.
 S/Sgt Myers returned from the hospital.
3. Lt Birmingham led the Group today on the mission to Bucine Viaduct. Lt White, his bombardier, dropped the first of a good pattern on the structure, scoring several direct hits.
 Lt Stearns returned from BTC where he was teaching the French to fly 26's.
 S/Sgts Robert, Montaruli and Sgt White returned from the hospital.
4. Something New: A three mission day with the first going to bomb the Castiglione Fiorentino RR Br. The bridge was missed but the North approaches were cut. No flak – no fighters.
 The second mission was to the Ficulle RR Br. With Lt Johnson leading, but they were unable to drop due to a complete overcast covering target.
 The third target was the Civita Castellana Road Br. Which was not hit. The bridge 500 yards south of it was hit instead with several probable hits being scored.
5. Today is the second day in succession that we have chalked up three missions. The three targets being the Road Br. South of Rieti, which was missed; the same bridge but this time covered with an excellent pattern; and the Road Br East of Terni which was not bombed due to weather and whose substitute was the Vetralla Road Junction.
 Lt Richards returned from BTC today.
6. Four of our ships took part in the bombing of the Narni Road Br. and aided in settling the question as to whether the bridge was up or down-it's down

6. Major Brewer was transferred to Headquarters preparatory to going home, and Capt Hue E. Nunnallee was assigned to and joined the squadron as our new Commanding Officer.
Sgt Rosenthal was promoted to S/Sgt and Cpl Goomeer was made Sergeant.
7. We batted 50% today, getting one bridge and not being able to drop on another. The first mission was to a Road Bridge N and E of Orbetello. This Bridge was well covered, and several direct hits were seen.
1st Lt Henry J. Smith was assigned to and joined the squadron. He is a pilot.
Capt Cecil (Doc) Conrad was transferred to Group Headquarters.
Pvt Weigl was transferred to the 17th Bomb Group. Sgt Sundeen went to the Hospital as S/Sgt McQuarril and Cpl Peck returned to duty.
8. The two missions today were the Cortona RR Br and the Terentola M/Y's. Both targets were obscured so both missions were ultimately the Cecina Road Bridge and the bridge was covered and suffered direct hits both times. No flak – no fighters.
9. We had two day missions and a night mission. The 444th led the first of the day missions and then Major Brewer with two of our ships led the night mission. Lt Peters with Lt Powers, his bombardier led the Group in bombing the Road Br North East of Montepescali was also well hit by the second day mission. The night mission to Perugia was fairly successful with most of the bombs falling among the buildings on the East side of town.
Pvts Roy H. Delbridge and John (NMI) Cutri were assigned to & joined Sq. T/Sgt Cocolo was sent to the hospital.
10. Targets for today were the Road Br South of Siena and the North Bucine Viaduct. Several possible direct hits were scored on the first target, but the second was covered by clouds and they were unable to drop.
11. We had our first non-operational day of the month today, so every one took off for the beach to get a little sun.
Capt Dilling and Sgt Sundeen returned from the hospital.
12. After the day of rest yesterday we had three missions today. The first to Poggibonsi was missed, the bombs falling short; the second, to the Road Br East of Perugia, was covered with an excellent pattern; and the third to the Road Bridge South and East of Perugia, led by Lts Johnson and Pocan was also well covered, with several direct hits seen.
Pfc Isaac E. Bell was assigned to and joined the squadron.
T/Sgt Fauchier returned from the hospital.
13. The first mission today was to bomb the two block ships in the Leghorn harbor and the target was covered by a good pattern causing huge explosions. The second mission to Bucine Viaduct was not quite so successful, missing the Viaduct, but cutting the approaches. Although no flak was encountered

13. at Bucine, five ships were damaged by the moderate flak at Leghorn.
14. Three missions today. One to the Cagli RR Bridge which was well hit, another to the Pesaro RR Br. Which was also hit and the third to bomb the block ships at Leghorn which was also very successful. This was a very good day. Lt Matteson with Lt De Losier as his bombardier led this last mission and did a mighty good job.
Lt DeLosier, Sgts Campbell and Lueke, Cpl Eversole and Pvt Houza went to the hospital.
1st Lt J. A. Turner, Jr. left for home.
15. We returned to our familiar territory today, bombing the RR brs at Arezzo and Bucine. Both targets were covered nicely and direct hits were scored on each.
1st Lt Matteson is now sporting “RR Tracks”
Pvts Rinden and Sheehan made Pfc.
2nd Lts McGugan, Schnieder, Nowak and Wilson replaced their gold bars with nice shiny silver ones.
16. Lts Johnson pilot, and Pocane bombardier, led the second mission to the Pisa RR Bridge and did such a fine job that it will be unnecessary to go back there for some time. The first mission was to the Viareggio RR Br and an equally nice bit of bombing was performed there.
2nd Lts Peters, Glaubitz, Sinn, Dickerson, Demetree, Bernardi, Baug, Weier and Turner were promoted to 1st Lt today.
S/Sgt Crapse, Jenco, Shingle and Cook added that fifth stripe.
Sgts Campbell, Yavorsky and Clarke made S/Sgt.
Pfc Weyenberg became Sgt Weyenberg.
Lts Hill and Bresette went on DS to the 12th AAF Training Command.
17. The target for the first mission was completely obscured and so they were forced to return with their bombs, but the second mission laid a nice concentration on the Castiglioncello RR Br. Scoring several directs.
2nd Lts James C. Wells, George G. Walker, Harry K/Waddell, Joseph E. Welborn and F/O Leiland C. Sherman were assigned and joined the squadron.
S/Sgts Weaver and Baxter were promoted to T/Sgt today.
Sgt Sundeen was promoted to S/Sgt.
18. For the second time this month they gave us a day off – After two and three missions a day for so long a time a day of rest is really quite welcome. The water was fine and the sun hot – nice day at the beach.
19. Lo and Behold: Another days sans mission, and naturally another banner day at the beach.
Capt David Q. Hammond was assigned to and joined the squadron today. He is an old Avon Park man and knew several of the men in the squadron.
20. It was bound to happen – it couldn't last. We had a mission to the Reccp RR Viaduct today with our ace pilot – bombardier team of Lts Johnson and Pocan leading the group, and they really did a fine job. We shouldn't

20. have to return to that target for some time.
Cpl Warren R. Yound, one of our original ground men, got his orders today and is now on his way home.
21. Target for today was the RR Viaduct at Ronco Scrivia, north of Genoa. The bombing was excellent, destroying at least two spans.
2nd Lt Viebrock returned from the hospital.
22. We had a stand-down today while the other three squadrons went on a mission to the Selva di Bocchetto South RR Viaduct. It is getting so that nearly every man in the squadron may be found at the beach whenever there is a day off, and today was no exception to the rule.
2nd Lts Bressette, Deacy, Driscoll and Jones were promoted to 1st Lt today and were passing out –ah-cigarettes freely.
Pvts Keinzle, Kilgore and Stovall were made Pfc.
Sgt Melvin N. Wilkie was assigned to and joined the squadron.
Lt Duram was transferred to the 442nd Bomb Squadron.
23. A Group stand-down today, so that makes it two in a row for us, and that isn't hard to take.
Pfc George W. Poole, George W. Bunn, Vincent T. Farell, Pvt Stewart A. Taylor and S/Sgt Edward J. Zoelle were assigned and joined the squadron.
24. No mission again today. Weather seems to be bad over Northern Italy.
Capt Andrews was sent to the hospital today.
Pfc George T. Bobier and Pvt Henry F. Jordan were assigned to and joined the squadron today.
25. Weather is still bad in Northern Italy so we stay on the ground and sun and swim at the Beach Club.
Pfc James E. Stewart assigned and joined the squadron.
Cpls Ridgeway and Silva are now wearing three stripes.
Pvts Denmark, Filipek, Hawkins and Probert were made Cpls.
1st Lt Olson, T/Sgt Johnson, S/Sgt Spears, Pfc Hite and Pvt Culman went to the hospital. T/Sgt Cocolo returned from the hospital.
26. This was one of those “niente” days. No flying nor activity at all.
27. Lt Olson, our Engineering Officer, got his “RR Tracks” today and is now to be addressed as Capt Olson.
Capt Rhoads was sent on DS to Group Headquarters.
Sgt Leroy E. Lindquist was assigned to and joined the squadron today.
Pvt Culman returned from the hospital.

28. This makes the seventh successive day without a mission. We started this month with such a bang too. "C'est la Guerre"
1st Lt "Main Line" Marshall finally decided to leave for the States today. He has had his orders for weeks now, but I guess he likes it here, because he didn't seem to want to leave. He succeeded in tearing himself away this morning though, and left in the wee, small hours.
Capt Conrad decided he didn't like it at Group Headquarters and came back to be our Squadron "Doc" again. Lt DeLosier returned from the hospital.
29. At long last we snapped out of our lethargy and went on a mission. The target was the Moneglia RR Viaduct, and it really did get a pasting. Several direct hits were scored and one end was completely knocked down.
1st Lts Marsch and Dickerson were transferred to the 442nd Bomb Squadron.
30. Mission cancelled today, so nearly everyone took off for the Beach Club where a good time was had by all.