

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

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recede of the railroad between Kushirchen and Golubne. Briefing was held
at 0730. Capt. Crisp was to lead the squadron. When they started to
taxi out, they were called and told to scrub it. The squadron was going
to work with Gooty instead, with a later take-off. In order to return
home earlier but weather would sock in, Group Ops called and asked them
to take-off as soon as possible. Some of the boys were outside the
because of the weather.

MISSION # 253.....Support..... ave to land at A-88.....

Capt. Houghton led the support mission on the 3rd. Briefing was
held at 0730. All the boys were given remarks. The 1st of the 1st
Division spent the night at the base. Gooty was still at Langkashne.
The 1st told the boys of two of our companies which were tracked at
Kerode. The pilots went to the pilot's room and breakfast, took off and
were over the rendezvous by 11:00. The ground controllers gave them the
down on Kerode to base because of enemy tanks and trucks which were
reported there. Gooty told the squadron that the bombing was excellent.
They also strafed the town. Flying their bases to the east, they
noticed small enemy tanks working in the vicinity of the gravel pits
and also the active factories on the west side of the mine between
Jolegin and Gorn.

The weather was good over the target area but when they were on
their way home, our base reported bad weather over the field. The
squadron was then rerouted to A-88 where they received vectors and
landing instructions. It also had to land at A-88 because of icing.
The squadron landed at the base in the late afternoon when the weather
conditions were a little better. Gort came through during the day about
Capt. Benson's transfer to the 40th Fighter Control Squadron. He had
been on DS at the time and now "George" was assigned to 1st Fighter Control.
He worked with Spunky as his assistant operations officer, then an element
and worked up to Purple Flight Leader. His merit and combat brought
him the Silver Star, awarded to him by Maj. Gen. Vandenberg. Capt.
Alfred E. Benson, "George" for short, was California's boy making good
with the Thunder Buns.

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The weather of the 31st had not weathered with a very low ceiling. The mission was called in for 1848. It was to be a ground controlled mission with Capt. Price leading the squadron. The target would be either Gulpich or Buschirchen, after which they were to sweep between Bruhl, Gornkirchen, Wupperfurth and Bruhl again. The squadron took-off and contacted sweepstakes who turned them over to Para 10. The 10 planes each carrying 2 x 500 lb. GP's, were vectored to and bombed Buschirchen, all hits being observed in the center of the town. The concentration of hits were excellent. After this, they flew an uneventful sweep and returned home.

While the boys were up on the mission, Lt. Col. Douglas visited the Squadron. He came into the S-2, S-3 room with a copy of an order which he started to read to those present. It dealt with some of the pilots to go home on a 30 day leave, including our Capt. Mahary and the col. The colonel told Bert, who was present at the announcement, that he should be ready the next morning. Bert couldn't say very much, no doubt due to his thoughts being far away. That evening, a supper was held in the pilots room with Lt. Col. Douglas, Maj. (AIG) Davis, Capt. Courtwright, Capt. Reinhold, and Lt. Steers representing group. "Paddy", the MC, got the guests to say a few words each. Lt. Campbell played the piano, giving us the different ways which "tea for two" would have been played during the days of the camp, Brown, boom music, the rag, Minstrel and Jazz era, and finally our modern boogie woogie. It was an excellent tracing as the rounds of applause indicated. Lt. "Doc" Sullivan, who claimed he was the sheriff for the night, gave us another one of his typical jokes then ran out.

.....Weather prevents operations.....

Bad weather came back again with rain most of the day. Lt. Glazier left for the target range in the morning to spend a few days there. In the afternoon, a lecture was held in the group theatre at 1848 by Lt. Col. Goward from 10 TAF. His topic was Radar and the use of radio missions which the group had already accomplished. All present were very much interested as he traced radar, the different tubes and what can be done with them as recordings are shown and read. The interest was manifested by the many questions asked on different points. The colonel ended up by telling about their career in the radar at 1848 which had been sent out. The lecture and discussion lasted about two hours and proved very enlightening. A release for the day came in the early afternoon.

The weather which remained pretty bad during the 31st. A very thin or a possible overcast existed, but later the ceiling was held at 1000 for a few minutes, which Gulpich or Buschirchen was the target. It was to be exactly the same as the previous mission, including the same sweep area. Maj. Courtwright briefed us on the ground situation, telling us of the areas presented by the possible bombing of the base south of Gulpich which could allow them to move about the base and cause considerable trouble to the 10 TAF. The Ranger Battalions and some other units were ordered to try to wage into the area and prevent them from doing so. The target was there or could be the enemy

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...mission...
...Paris...

...Close support...

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A ... (unclear) ...

The ... (unclear) ...

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... the last ... 1100 hours ...

... 11th St. ...

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