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Oct 1944	RETURN TO RESEARCH STUDIES INSTITUTE U.S.A.F. HISTORICAL DIVISION ARCHIVE X-004
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Classification canceled (changed to *Unclass*)  
by *CC Bates* *May* date *15 Nov 45*  
*CO 386 Bomb Sq*

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553RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF  
386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF  
APO #140, U.S. ARMY

A-4

19 November 1944

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Commanding Officer, 386th Bombardment Group (M), APO #140, U.S. Army.

In compliance with letter 314.7, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, subject: "Instructions for the Guidance of Historical Sections of Commands" dated 4 January 1944, the following information is submitted covering the history of the 553rd Bombardment Squadron for the month of October 1944:

- a. Organization: Negative.
- b. Strength: 93 Officers and 362 Enlisted Men.
- c. Date of arrival at and of departure from each station occupied in ETO: Departed AAF Station #164, Dunmow, Essex, England, 0900 hours, 1 October 1944; arrived AAF Station #A-60, Beaumont-sur-Oise, France, 1100 hours, 1 October 1944.
- d. Losses in action: 1 Enlisted Man, (see mission of 7 October 1944).
- e. Awards and decorations earned by officers and enlisted men of this organization during October 1944 are as follows:

	12th Cluster to A.M.	11th Cluster to A.M.	2nd SOLC to A.M.	8th Cluster to A.M.	1st SOLC to A.M.
No. Officers earned award:	1	2	2	0	3
No. E. M. earned award:	1	1	3	1	1

  

	4th Cluster to A.M.	3rd Cluster to A.M.	2nd Cluster to A.M.	1st Cluster to A.M.	Air Medal
No. Officers earned award:	1	1	3	2	5
No. E. M. earned award:	2	5	2	1	3

- f. Awards and decorations received by officers and enlisted men of this organization per Hq. Ninth Air Force General Order #242, dated 12 Oct 1944:

Distinguished Flying Cross - 2 Officers and 0 E. M.  
1st Oak Leaf to DFC - 2 Officers and 0 E. M.

- g. Awards and decorations received by officers and enlisted men of this organization per Hq IX Bomber Division General Orders as follows:

Awards per General Order #12, dated 9 Oct 1944:

12th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 1 Officer and 0 E. M.  
11th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 3 Officers and 1 E. M.  
2nd SOLC to A.M. - 4 Officers and 3 E. M.  
9th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 3 Officers and 3 E.M.

**MICROFILMED**

as part of the  
GP-386-Hi (Bomb)



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Ltr, subj: "Unit History", dtd 19 Nov 44, 553rd Bomb Sq, (cont'd).

Awards per General Order #12, dated 9 Oct 1944, (cont'd).

8th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 1 Officer and 1 E. M.  
7th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 1 Officer and 4 E.M.  
6th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 1 Officer and 1 E. M.  
1st SOLC to A.M. - 0 Officers and 4 E.M.  
4th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 6 Officers and 3 E. M.  
3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 7 Officers and 7 E. M.  
2nd Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 7 Officers and 5 E. M.  
1st Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 5 Officers and 7 E. M.  
Air Medal - 10 Officers and 6 E. M.

h. Important events which occurred throughout the month of October 1944 in this squadron are summarized as follows:

6 October 1944

Today our planes bombed the Duren Barracks area, dropping 1000 lb. bombs with excellent results. Heavy flak was encountered at the target. The pilots were Major Hoover, and Lts Winkleman, Quigley, Royer, Henry, Douglass, Fansler, Hickman and Dismukes.

7 October 1944

Henglo marshalling yards was the objective for today. 250 lb. G.P. bombs were dropped with excellent results. Flak was from light inaccurate to intense accurate. Technical Sergeant Ferri, flying as Radio-Gunner on Captain Robert T. Harris' crew was seriously injured when hit by flak. The pilots were Cpts Brockhouse and Harris and Lts Rutt, Dillon, Pearre, Sentner, Archbold and Bledsoe. Captain Meyers flew one of our planes on this mission.

8 October 1944

With Captain Fugit leading, our planes attacked the Badmunster Railway Bridge, dropping 1000 lb. G.P. bombs with excellent results. The pilots were Capt Fugit and Lts Henry, Fansler, Hickman, Dismukes, Winkleman, Douglass, Royer and Quigley.

12 October 1944

The Aldenhoven Highway Intersection was attacked and bombed with excellent results. 250 lb. G.P. bombs were used. Accurate flak was encountered at the target area. The pilots were Capt Brockhouse and Lts Dillon, Rutt, Meyers, J.H., Pearre, Sentner, Bledsoe, Archbold and Cleveland.

13 October 1944

With Major Hoover leading a box, our planes bombed the Dillingen Railroad Bridge. Results were unobserved due to clouds. 1000 lb. bombs were dropped. Flak was from moderate to intense and accurate in target area. The pilots were Major Hoover leading a box, Capt Marquis leading a flight and Lts Douglass, Harris, R. T., Winkleman, Christianson, Quigley, Fansler and Hickman.

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Ltr, subj: "Unit History", dtd 19 Nov 44, 553rd Bomb Sq. (cont'd)

14 October 1944

Venlo Railroad Bridge was the objective to bomb for today, but due to clouds obscuring the target, our planes were unable to drop their bombs. All planes returned without dropping their bombs. No enemy opposition was encountered. The pilots were Capts Fugit and Brockhouse and Lts Henry, Bledsoe, Rutt, Archbold, Meyers, J.H., Pearre and Royer.

#### Miscellaneous

Prevailing inclement weather after the first part of the month kept our aircraft grounded the greater part of the time. Missions carried out during the month were directed at enemy communications and personnel in support of our ground troops. During this month, our move to France was completed. The Rear Echelon consisting of 74 officers and 203 enlisted men departed from AAF Station #164, England on 1 October 1944 and arrived at AAF Station #A-60, France the same day. Travel was by B-26 and C-47 type aircraft. This left the rear Vehicle Echelon which departed from AAF Station #164, 2 October 1944, and arrived on 8 October 1944 at AAF Station #A-60. It was composed of 1 officer, Lt Ludwig, (in charge), and 32 enlisted men. Upon the arrival of the Rear Vehicle Echelon, our squadron was intact and it's new location was at AAF Station #A-60, France. However, before departing from England, the following officers and crews were transferred to the Zone of the Interior: Capt Adams, Capt Haber, Capt Klimovich and Capt Lytle. Also, the A-26 personnel and aircraft were transferred to the 416th Bombardment Group (L). They had completed six (6) bombardment missions with this squadron. T/Sgt Frank L. Ferri died on 10 October 1944 as a result of injuries sustained on 8 October 1944. (See mission of 8 October 1944). Capt Louis T. Little was transferred to the Zone of the Interior. He had served as Squadron Executive Officer and had been with the squadron since it's activation in 1942. The following officers were transferred to the Zone of the Interior: Capt Giles, Lt Fansler, Lt Ludwig, R.J., and Lt Hinchee.

Bombs dropped by our planes during October 1944 are as follows:

<u>No. Dropped</u>	<u>Weight of Bombs (lbs)</u>
96	1000 G.P.
304	250 G.P.

*Wallace P. Zellner*  
WALLACE P. ZELLNER,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Executive Officer.

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