

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN CHRONOLOGY

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27 June 1939: Congress passed the Civilian Pilot Training Act. (Robert J. Jakeman, *The Divided Skies*.)

25 September 1939: The Civil Aeronautics Administration acknowledged Tuskegee Institute's application to be a civilian pilot training institution. The application was approved after Tuskegee obtained permission to use the nearby Montgomery Airport. (Robert J. Jakeman, *The Divided Skies*)

Late February 1940: The Civil Aeronautics Authority approved Tuskegee's Kennedy Field for Civilian Pilot Training, after improvements to the field, eliminating Tuskegee Institute's need to use the Montgomery Airport. (Robert J. Jakeman, *The Divided Skies*)

25 March 1940: George A. Wiggs arrived in Tuskegee to administer the standard written examination required of all Civilian Pilot Training students. Every student who took the examination passed, surpassing the passing rate of other schools in the South. (Robert J. Jakeman, *The Divided Skies*.)

16 September 1940: Congress passed a Selective Service Act which required all the armed services to enlist "Negroes". On the same day, the War Department announced that the Civil Aeronautics Authority, in cooperation with the U.S. Army, would start the development of "colored personnel" for the aviation service. (Public Law 783, 16 September 1940; War Department Press Release, 16 September 1940; 99th Fighter Squadron summary history in the lineage and honors folder of the 99th Flying Training Squadron at the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), Maxwell AFB, AL)

16 January 1941: The War Department announced plans to create a "Negro pursuit squadron" whose pilots would be trained at Tuskegee, Alabama.

19 March 1941: The 99th Pursuit Squadron was constituted. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

22 March 1941: The 99th Pursuit Squadron was activated at Chanute Field, Illinois, under the command of Captain Harold R. Maddux, a white officer, but composed of African-American enlisted men. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

Late March 1941: Ms. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, visited Kennedy Field in the Tuskegee area and was taken up in an aircraft piloted by

Chief C. Alfred Anderson, Tuskegee Institute's chief instructor pilot. Ms. Roosevelt was a Rosenwald Fund trustee who helped secure financing for the construction of Moton Field at Tuskegee.

7 June 1941: The War Department approved a contract that established a primary flying school at Tuskegee Institute.

19 July 1941: The first class of aviation cadets (42-C) entered Preflight Training at Tuskegee Institute. It included Captain Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., who served as Commandant of Cadets. Twelve cadets served with him under Captain Noel F. Parrish, a white officer, and 2d Lieutenant Harold C. Magoon, another white officer, who served as the adjutant.

6 August 1941: The Air Corps Advanced Flying School at Tuskegee was activated. It was later redesignated as the Tuskegee Advanced Flying School; the Army Air Forces Advanced Flying School; and the Army Air Forces Pilot School (Basic-Advanced). (organization record card)

21 August 1941: The first class of aviation cadets entered the first phase of military flight training (Primary) administered by Tuskegee Institute, under contract with the War Department, at Kennedy Field near Tuskegee, because Moton Field was not yet completed.

5 November 1941: The 99th Pursuit Squadron moved from Chanute Field, Illinois, to Maxwell Field, Alabama. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

8 November 1941: The first class of aviation cadets entered the second phase of military flight training (Basic) at Tuskegee Army Air Field, under military instructors. Only 7 of the 13 original cadets remained.

10 November 1941: The 99th Pursuit Squadron moved from Maxwell Field to Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. On the same day, 2d Lieutenant Clyde H. Bynum, a white officer, became its new commander. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

6 December 1941: Captain Alonzo S. Ward became the third commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron. Like the first two commanders of the unit, he was white. (99 Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943).

7 December 1941: The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, bringing the United States into World War II. The need for combat pilots skyrocketed.

27 December 1941: The 100th Pursuit Squadron was constituted. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

11 January 1942: Five of the aviation cadets at Tuskegee entered advanced flying training with P-40s. They soon deployed to Eglin Field, Florida, for gunnery practice.

19 February 1942: The 100th Pursuit Squadron was activated at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. It was the second African-American Army Air Forces unit ever to be activated. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

7 March 1942: The first class of African-American pilots at Tuskegee Army Air Field completed advanced pilot training. There were only five who completed the training: Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr and 2d Lieutenants Mac Ross; Lemuel R. Custis; Charles H. DeBow, Jr.; and George S. Roberts. Davis was assigned to the base, and the other four became the first African-American flying officers in the 99th Pursuit Squadron. Captain Davis was the first black American to hold a regular commission in the nation's air arm, having transferred on graduation from the infantry to the Army Air Corps. (Jakeman, *The Divided Skies; 99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943*)

21 March 1942: The 96th Maintenance Group (Reduced) (Colored) was activated at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. At the same time, the 366th and 367th Materiel Squadrons were activated under the 96th Maintenance Group. (Organization record cards at Air Force Historical Research Agency)

14 April 1942: A Factory Training School associated with the Curtiss Wright Service School, Williamsville Branch, was activated in Buffalo, New York. It would later train African-American P-40 airplane mechanics. (organization record card)

29 April 1942: The second class of African-American pilots graduated from flying training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

15 May 1942: The 99th Pursuit Squadron was redesignated as the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 100th Pursuit Squadron was redesignated as the 100th Fighter Squadron. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

30 May 1942: The third class of African-American pilots graduated from flying training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

1 June 1942: 1st Lt. George S. Roberts assumed command of the 99th Fighter Squadron. He was the first African-American to command the squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943).

3 July 1942: The fourth class of African-American pilots graduated from flying training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

4 July 1942: The 332d Fighter Group was constituted (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). The 301st and 302d Fighter Squadrons were also constituted that day, for eventual assignment to the group. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*)

25 July 1942: The 96th Maintenance Group was redesignated as the 96th Service Group (Colored) at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (Organization record card)

25 July 1942: The 96th Maintenance Group was redesignated as the 96th Service Group. At the same time, the 366th and 367th Materiel Squadrons were redesignated as the 366th and 367th Service Squadrons at Tuskegee. (Organization Record cards at AFHRA)

5 August 1942: The fifth class of African-American pilots graduated from flying training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943) Enough African-American pilots had completed training to bring the 99th Fighter Squadron to its full strength of 33 pilots.

19 August 1942: The 99th Fighter Squadron was attached to the III Fighter Command (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

22 August 1942: Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. became commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron, replacing Lieutenant George S. Roberts in that position. Colonel Davis was the second black commander of the unit. (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history; 99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

6 September 1942: The sixth class of African-American pilots graduated from flying training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

12 September 1942: Lt. Faythe A. McGinnis crashed on a routine flight and became the first casualty of the 99th Fighter Squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

15 September 1942: The 1000th Signal Company, the 1051st Quartermaster Service Group Aviation Company, the 1765th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company, Aviation, and the 1901st and 1902d Quartermaster Truck Company (Aviation) were all activated at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (Organization record cards of each organization)

September 1942: After further gunnery training at Eglin and Dale Mabry Fields in Florida, the 99th Fighter Squadron returned to Tuskegee and was declared ready for combat. However, its planned deployment to defend Liberia was indefinitely delayed because of the diminished enemy threat to that country.

7 October 1942: Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson visited the 99th Fighter Squadron at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

9 October 1942: The seventh class of African-American pilots graduated from flying training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

13 October 1942: The 332d Fighter Group was activated at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama, and the pre-existing 100th Fighter Squadron was assigned to it. The 301st

and 302d Fighter Squadrons were also activated for the first time at Tuskegee, and assigned to the 332d Fighter Group. This group was the first African-American group in the Army Air Forces. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). Eventually, all four of the African-American squadrons in the Army Air Forces were assigned to the 332d Fighter Group. On the same date, 13 October 1942, the 332d Fighter Control Squadron (Colored) was activated at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (organization record card)

19 October 1942: Lt. Col. Sam W. Westbrook, Jr., became commander of the 332d Fighter Group. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*) He was a white officer.

10 November 1942: The eighth class of African-American pilots graduated from flying training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

12 November 1942: 1st Lt. Charles W. Walker became the first black officer assigned to the 332d Fighter Group. He was a chaplain. (332d Fighter Group History, Oct 1942-1947)

17 November 1942: Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. addressed the assembled 99th Fighter Squadron (99 Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

23 November 1942: The 99th Fighter Squadron paraded for the first time (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

22 December 1942-13 January 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron deployed at Dale Mabry Field in Tallahassee, Florida, for maneuvers. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

15 January 1943: The emblem of the 332d Fighter Group as approved. On a blue shield with a gold band across the middle, a black panther breathing fire. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*)

26 January 1943: The 366th and 367th Service Squadrons and the 43d Medical Support Platoon, Aviation were all assigned to the 96th Service Group at Tuskegee. (Organization record card of the 96 Air Service Group)

30 January 1943: Lt. Richard A. Davis crashed, becoming the second casualty of the 99th Fighter Squadron (99th Fighter Squadron, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

9 Feb 1943: Six 99th Fighter Squadron pilots engaged in a mock dogfight with six other pilots, for practice. (99 Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

15 March 1943: The 332nd Fighter Control Squadron (Colored) was disbanded at Tuskegee Army Air Field. (organization record card)

24 March 1943: Lt. Earl E. King became the third casualty of the 99th Fighter Squadron (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

26 March 1943: The 332d Fighter Group and its 100th, 301st, and 302d Fighter Squadrons departed Tuskegee Army Air Base for another field. (332d Fighter Group History, Oct 1942-1947)

29 March 1943: The 332d Fighter Group completed its move from Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama to Selfridge Field in Michigan (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*).

2 April 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron departed Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama, for movement overseas for combat operations. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

4 April 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron arrived at Camp Shanks, New York, in preparation for deployment overseas for combat. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943). On the same day, the 96th Service Group completed its move to Selfridge Field, Michigan, in order to serve with the 332d Fighter Group. (Lineage and honors history of the 96th Logistics Group).

12 April 1943: The 332d Fighter Group moved from Selfridge Field to Oscoda, Michigan (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*).

16 April 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron sailed aboard the steamship *Mariposa* from New York harbor, bound eastward across the Atlantic Ocean for Africa. It arrived later at Casablanca, French Morocco. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

24 April 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron arrived at Casablanca, French Morocco, its first overseas base, and began serving the Twelfth Air Force. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

25 April 1943: The 320th College Training Detachment (Aircrew) was activated at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. (organization record card)

29 April 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Oued N'ja, French Morocco. There it engaged in maneuvers and prepared for combat. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

5 May 1943: Lieutenants James T. Wiley and Graham Smith were the first two P-40 pilots of the 99th Fighter Squadron to land in North Africa, at Oued N'ja in French Morocco. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

9 May 1943: Personnel of the 99th Fighter Squadron took part in a parade in Fez, North Africa to celebrate the liberation of Tunisia. Captain Hayden C. Johnson led the squadron contingent in the ceremony. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943)

13 May 1943: The 477th Bombardment Group (Medium) was constituted, along with the 616th, 617th, 618th, and 619th Bombardment Squadrons. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). Meanwhile, enemy forces in Tunisia surrendered, leaving all North Africa in Allied control.

16 May 1943: Col. Robert R. Selway, Jr., became commander of the 332d Fighter Group back in the United States. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). Like his predecessor, he was a white officer.

19 May 1943: Lieutenant General Carl Spaatz, commander of the Twelfth Air Force, inspected the flying field of the 99th Fighter Squadron at Oued N'ja. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943)

28 May 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron was assigned to the XII Air Support (later, XII Tactical Air) Command. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

29 May 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron was attached to the 33d Fighter Group. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

1 June 1943: The 477th Bombardment Group (Medium) was activated at MacDill Field, Florida, with the 616th, 617th, 618th, and 619th Bombardment Squadrons. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). Never fully manned, they were inactivated in August and not activated again until 1944. They would later become the first bomber units of the Tuskegee Airmen, but at first they were not manned by African-American pilots.

2 June 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew its first combat mission, flying P-40 aircraft on patrol over the Mediterranean Sea while attached to the 33d Fighter Group. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943)

2-9 June 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew an average of two missions daily for the 99th Fighter Squadron during the campaign against Pantelleria Island, which ended on 11 June. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943)

7 June 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Fardjouna, Tunisia, from which base it took part with other units in air raids on the island of Pantelleria. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

9 June 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron encountered enemy aircraft for the first time during a mission on which it escorted 12 A-20s over Pantelleria Island. Four of the P-40s of the squadron intercepted four Me-109 German fighters and the enemy fled. P-40s of another squadron escorted the A-20s home. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943)

10 June 1943: The 96th Service Group moved from Selfridge Field to Oscoda Field, Michigan, to which the 332d Fighter Group had moved in April. (96th Service Group organization record card)

11 June 1943: The surrender of enemy forces on Pantelleria paved the way for the Allied invasion of Sicily. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

15 June 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew four missions in one day, to cover Allied shipping. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943)

18 June 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron encountered enemy aircraft for the second time, and 1st Lieutenant Lee Rayford's P-40 was hit several times. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-Oct 1943)

c. 29 June 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron was attached to the 324th Fighter Group and began flying escort missions between Tunisia and Sicily. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

June 1943: During this month, King George V of the British Empire visited Grombalia Airfield in north Africa and reviewed approximately 50 enlisted men of the 99th Fighter Squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943). The 789th Technical School Squadron at Lincoln, Nebraska, graduated its first class of African-American fighter mechanics. (newspaper article and program from Craig Huntly)

2 July 1943: While escorting B-25 medium bombers on a raid on Castelvetro in southwestern Sicily, Italy, 1st Lt. Charles B. Hall of the 99th Fighter Squadron earned the first Tuskegee Airmen aerial victory credit by shooting down an FW-190 enemy aircraft. Lt. W. I. Lawson also claimed probable destruction of another FW-190 and damaged an Me-109. On the same day, 1st Lt Sherman H. White and 2d Lt James L. McCullin were the first Tuskegee Airmen lost in combat. Although both went missing, one is believed to have landed on enemy-held Sicily. That afternoon, General Dwight D. Eisenhower also visited the 99th Fighter Squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943; XII ASC General Order 32 dated 7 Sep 1943; article by Joseph Caver, Jerome Ennels, and Wesley Newton)

June-July 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron earned the first of its three World War II Distinguished Unit Citations for missions over Sicily. The unit provided air support for Allied landing operations and for Allied offensives on the island. The 324th Fighter Group, to which the 99th Fighter Squadron was attached, also earned the award. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

6 July 1943: Air Vice Marshal Sir Arthur Conningham of the Royal Air Force, who commanded the North African Tactical Air Force, visited the 99th Fighter Squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

8 July 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron escorted medium bombers to Milo, Sicily. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

9 July 1943: The 332d Fighter Group moved from Oscoda, Michigan, back to Selfridge Field, Michigan, but the 96th Service Group, which maintained the airplanes, remained at Oscoda (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; 96th Service Group organization record card).

10 July 1943: During the invasion of Sicily, the 99th Fighter Squadron covered the landing of Allied troops at Licata. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar-Oct 1943)

11 July 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron drove off 12 German FW-190 fighters attempting to attack Allied naval vessels in the Mediterranean Sea. 1st Lt. George R. Bolling was hit by antiaircraft artillery coming from some of the vessels and bailed out. He later returned to the squadron after being rescued by boat. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

19 July 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron was attached again to the 33d Fighter Group. It provided cover for Allied shipping in the Mediterranean Sea and air support for the Seventh Army. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

21 July 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew 13 missions in one day. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

23 July 1943: The first three replacement pilots arrived for the 99th Fighter Squadron. They included Lieutenants Howard L. Baugh, Edward L. Toppins, and Morgan (first name not given). (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

26 July 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew 12 missions in one day. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

27 July 1943: Major General Edwin J. House, commander of the XII Air Support Command of the Twelfth Air Force, visited the 99th Fighter Squadron (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

28 July 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved from Tunisia in North Africa to Licata, Sicily, Italy. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). On the same day, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. and 1st Lieutenant Herbert Carter flew to Tunis to meet with Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

11 August 1943: Lieutenant Paul G. Mitchell was killed when his airplane crashed in mid-air with another airplane in his formation. He was the third 99th Fighter Squadron pilot lost in combat. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

15 August 1943: Brigadier General John K. Cannon, commander of Northwest African Training Command, visited the 99th Fighter Squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

17 August 1943: The Sicilian campaign ended. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

24 August 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron received six replacement pilots from the United States. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

25 August 1943: The 477th Bombardment Group (Medium) and the 616th, 617th, 618th, and 619th Bombardment Squadrons were inactivated, but the group was activated again in January 1944 (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*).

2 September 1943: Major George S. Roberts replaced Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin O. Davis as commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron as Davis began a return trip to the United States, where he would assume command of the 332d Fighter Group. Major Roberts had been the first black commander of the unit before Colonel Davis. He had been serving as the squadron's Operations Officer. (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history; 99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

4 September 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Termini, Sicily. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

11 September 1943: Advance elements of the 99th Fighter Squadron landed on a beach at Battapaglia in Italy, under enemy fire. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

13 September 1943: the first class of liaison pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Air Field. They would eventually be assigned to U.S. Army ground organizations, but fly liaison airplanes in their support.

16 September 1943: Major General Edwin J. House, commander of the XII Air Support Command, sent a letter to Brigadier General John K. Cannon regarding the "Combat Efficiency of the 99th Fighter Squadron". The letter criticized the black squadron as performing poorly in combat, and quoted a commander in the theater acquainted with the squadron's activities. (AFHRA call number 141.281-22; IRIS number 0011444)

17 September 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Barcellona, Sicily. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). On the same day, 1st Lt. Sidney P. Brooks crashed, and died the next day, for the four pilot lost in combat. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

September 1943: During this month, German forces bombarded and strafed the base of the 99th Fighter Squadron for five consecutive days and nights, but there were no squadron casualties. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

23 September 1943: 99th Fighter Squadron airplanes landed on the Italian mainland for the first time, but the main base remained at Barcellona, Sicily. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Mar 1941-17 Oct 1943)

8 October 1943: Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who had served as commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron in combat in North Africa and Italy, became the first black commander of the 332d Fighter Group, replacing Col. Robert R. Selway, Jr. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). Both Selway and Davis were graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. (332d Fighter Group History, Oct 1942-1947)

16 Oct 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron was attached to the 79th Fighter Group. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*) Meanwhile, in the United States, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. defended the record of the squadron, noting the shortage of replacement pilots, and helped convince the War Department not to take the squadron out of combat.

17 October 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Foggia, Italy. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). From that base it provided close air support for Allied ground troops and attacked surface targets such as ammunition dumps and enemy shipping.

1 November 1943: Fifty P-38s landed at Sal Solo Field in Italy, where mechanics of the 99th Fighter Squadron serviced them. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

5 November 1943: Lieutenants William A. Campbell, Span Watson, and Herbert V. Clark of the 99th Fighter Squadron departed for the United States after having served their combat time overseas. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

7 November 1943: Major General John K. Cannon, now commander of the XII Air Support Command, visited the 79th Fighter Group and presented Air Medals to members of the 99th Fighter Squadron who were attached to the group. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

22 November 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Madna, Italy. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

29 November 1943: After several days of not flying missions, the 99th Fighter Squadron flew five this day. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944).

30-31 November 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron took part with the 79th Fighter Group in attacks on ground targets in support of Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery's crossing of the Sangro River in Italy.

5 December 1943: The first class of twin-engine pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Air Field. They would eventually fly B-25 bombers with the 477th Bombardment Group.

22 December 1943: The 332d Fighter Group departed Selfridge Field, Michigan, for movement overseas (332d Fighter Group lineage and honors history and Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). Meanwhile, in Italy, Lt. James Wiley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania became the first 99th Fighter Squadron pilot to complete 50 sorties. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

December 1943: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew many missions while attached to the 79th Fighter Group to provide close air cover for ground troops of the British Eighth Army in Italy. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

January 1944: 332d Fighter Group personnel voyaged across the Atlantic Ocean from Hampton Roads, Virginia, many aboard the USS *William Few*. The ship passed through the strait of Gibraltar on the way to Italy. (332d Fighter Group History, Oct 1942-1947)

2 January 1944: 1 Lt. John H. Morgan of the 99th Fighter Squadron died while serving overseas. (American Battle Monuments Commission)

3 January 1944: The 96th Service Group departed Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation, Virginia, for overseas duty. It sailed on ship 6122 (U.S.S. *Josiah Bartlett*) for the Mediterranean Sea. (Lineage and honors history of the 96th Logistics Group, organization record cards of the organization, and information supplied by Craig Huntly)

15 January 1944: The 477th Bombardment Group, Medium, was activated again at Selfridge Field, Michigan, along with the 616th Bombardment Squadron. The group was equipped with B-25 medium bombers. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*) Meanwhile, back in Italy, 2d Lt. William E. Griffin of the 99th Fighter Squadron was seen to go down during a dive bombing mission to the town of S. Valentino and was listed as missing in action. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

16 January 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved from Madna to Capodichino Airdrome near Naples, Italy. From there it began flying coastal patrol missions south of Rome. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

21 January 1944: Colonel Robert R. Selway Jr, a white officer who had commanded the 332d Fighter Group from 16 May to 8 Oct 1943, became commander of the 477th Bombardment Group.

27 January 1944: Captain Clarence C. Jamison, while leading a formation of 16 fighters of the 99th Fighter Squadron, spotted 15 FW-190s dive-bombing shipping off St. Peter's Beach near Anzio. During the ensuing engagement, 10 members of the 99th shot down a total of 10 enemy airplanes. The victors included 2d Lt Clarence W. Allen (.5 credits), 1st Lt Willie Ashley Jr. (1 credit), 2d Lt. Charles P. Bailey (1 credit), 1 Lt. Howard Baugh (1.5 credits), Capt Lemuel R. Custis (1 credit), 1st Lt. Robert W. Deiz (1 credit), 2d Lt. Wilson V. Eagleson (1 credit), 1st Lt. Leon C. Roberts (1 credit), 2d Lt. Lewis C. Smith (1 credit), 1st Lt Edward L. Toppins (1 credit). All of the downed enemy airplanes were FW-190s. (Twelfth Air Force General Orders 66, 81, and 122, dated 24 May 1944, 22 Jun 1944, and 7 Aug 1944, respectively; 99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944). Lieutenant Smuel F. Bruce was killed in aerial combat with enemy FW-190s. He bailed out but his chute did not fill. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

28 January 1944: Following up the previous day's aerial victories, 2 members of the 99th Fighter Squadron shot down a total of 3 enemy airplanes that threatened American ground forces at Anzio. The victors were Capt. Charles B. Hall, who had been the first Tuskegee Airmen to shoot down an enemy airplane, and Lt. Robert W. Deiz. In two days, 27-28 January 1944, the Tuskegee Airmen shot down a total of 13 enemy airplanes over Anzio, Italy. (Twelfth Air Force General Orders 64 and 122, dated 22 May 1944 and 7 Aug 1944, respectively; 99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944). On the same day, the 96th Service Group arrived in North Africa. (Organization record card)

29 January-3 February 1944: the 332d Fighter Group debarked from boats at Taranto, Italy. During the same week, the 96th Air Service Group debarked at Bari, Italy. (332d Fighter Group history, Oct 1942-1947)

January 1944: The 79th Fighter Group included several pilots of the 99th Fighter Squadron among its own squadrons on certain missions. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Nov 1943-Jan 1944)

2 February 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron dive-bombed a key bridge in the Anzio area to prevent escape of the enemy. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

3 February 1944: The 332d Fighter Group's 100th Fighter Squadron arrived at Montecorvino, Italy, the group's first overseas base of operations (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*).

5 February 1944: The 332d Fighter Group's 100th Fighter Squadron began flying P-39s in Italy, but not yet on combat missions. (332d Fighter Group History, Oct 1942-1947; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). The group flew with the 62d Fighter Wing. At the same time, Lt. Elwood T. Driver, flying a P-40 for the 99th Fighter Squadron (not yet assigned to the 332d Fighter Group), shot down 1 FW-190. (Twelfth Air Force General Order 66 dated 24 May 1944)

7 February 1944: 3 Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th Fighter Squadron, flying P-40s, shot down 3 FW-190s. The victors included 1st Lt Clinton B. Mills and 2d Lts Wilson V. Eagleson and Leonard M. Jackson. All of the downed enemy airplanes were FW-190s. (Twelfth Air Force General Orders 66 and 122, dated 24 May 1944 and 7 Aug 1944, respectively). On that same day, the 302d Fighter Squadron arrived at Montecorvino, where the 100th Fighter Squadron was already stationed. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; 332d Fighter Group history, Mar-Apr 1944)

8 February 1944: The 301st Fighter Squadron arrived at Montecorvino, Italy, where the 100th and 302d Fighter Squadrons were already stationed. All three of the 332d Fighter Group's squadrons were then stationed at the same base. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). Meanwhile, on the same date, P-40s of the 99th Fighter Squadron escorted a transport aircraft carrying Lieutenant General Mark Clark, commander of the Fifth Army, on a flight in Italy. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

10 February 1944: The 96 Air Service Group arrived at Montecorvino to serve there with the 332d Fighter Group. (lineage and honors history of the 96th Logistics Group)

15 February 1944: The 332d Fighter Group's 301st Fighter Squadron entered combat for the first time. Within days, all three of the group's squadrons, including the 100th and 302d Fighter Squadron, had also flown combat missions. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

21 February 1944: The 100th Fighter Squadron moved to Capodichino, Italy, but the other three squadrons of the 332d Fighter Group remained with group headquarters at Montecorvino. The squadrons would not all be located at the same base again until mid-April. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*) Meanwhile, the 99th Fighter Squadron, not yet assigned to the 332d Fighter Group, flew four patrol missions that day. 2nd Lt. Alwayne M. Dunlap of the 99th was killed in an aircraft crash after overshooting his landing field. 2d Lt. Pearlee E. Saunders was wounded the same day after crash landing his P-40, and Lt. Herbert Carter's airplane was hit by flak. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944; American Battle Monuments Commission)

23 or 24 February 1944: 2d Lieutenant Harry J. Daniels of the 332d Fighter Group's 301st Fighter Squadron was reported missing after flying into bad weather. He was the first 332d Fighter Group pilot reported to have been killed overseas. (Craig Huntly; Missing Air Crew Report [not numbered] dated 24 Feb 1944)

29 February 1944: 2d Lt. George T. McCrumby of the 99th Fighter Squadron went missing in action after reporting engine trouble, and his body was later found. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944; American Battle Monuments Commission)

February 1944: During this month, the 99th Fighter Squadron flew 55 missions, mostly dive-bombing, but also patrol, while attached to the 79th Fighter Group of the Twelfth Air Force. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

6 March 1944: The 302d Fighter Squadron moved from Montecorvino to Capodichino, Italy, where the 100th Fighter Squadron had already moved, but the 332d Fighter Group headquarters, and the 301st Fighter Squadron, remained at Montecorvino. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; 332d Fighter Group history, Mar-Apr 1944)

9 March 1944: Lt. Wayne Vincent Liggins of the 301st Fighter Squadron was killed while on a training mission. His engine failed. (332d Fighter Group summary history, Oct 1942-1947). Meanwhile, in the 99th Fighter Squadron, not yet assigned to the 332d Fighter Group, 2d Lt. John Hamilton was wounded in the leg by flak during a dive-bombing mission in the Anzio area. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

13 Mar 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew 3 missions. The first of these dive-bombed two heavy gun positions with 1000-pound bombs, with five hits recorded. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

15 March 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew two dive-bombing missions on targets in the Cassino area of Italy. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

16-17 March 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron temporarily acquired three P-47 fighter aircraft and began transition training with them, but continued to fly P-40 aircraft in combat. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

18 March 1944: 2d Lt. Clemenceau McAdoo Givings of the 100th Fighter Squadron was killed on a routine flying mission when his plane crashed into the sea. (332d Fighter Group summary history, Oct 1942-1947; American Battle Monuments Commission) Meanwhile, the 99th Fighter Squadron, in another part of Italy, witnessed the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

22 March 1944: Mount Vesuvius erupted near Naples, Italy, spreading ash over the 332d Fighter Group at Montecorvino. (332d Fighter Group History, Oct 1942-1947)

30 March 1944: The Statistical Control Division, Office of Management Control, issued a report on “Operations of the 99th Fighter Squadron Compared with Other P-40 Aircraft Squadrons in the MTO (Mediterranean Theater of Operations), 3 July 1943-31 January 1944.” The report noted that the black 99th Fighter Squadron had performed as well as other squadrons with which it served, implying that the letter of General House dated 16 September 1943, which had called the squadron inferior, had been wrong. (AFHRA call number 134.65-496; IRIS number 112858)

31 March 1944: 2d Lt. Norvel Stoudmire was killed while flying on a harbor patrol mission. His aircraft caught on fire and he was not able to bail out safely. (332d Fighter Group summary history, Oct 1942-1947)

March 1944: During the month of March 1944, the 99th Fighter Squadron flew 39 missions, mostly dive-bombing enemy targets. (99th Fighter Squadron, Feb-Apr 1944)

1 April 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron was attached again to the 324th Fighter Group after having been attached for months to the 79th Fighter Group. Some of the squadron members complained about the move, since they had grown to like their association with the 79th Fighter Group. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

2 April 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Cercola, Italy. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). It had been one year since the squadron departed Tuskegee. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

4 April 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew its first mission from Cercola, while attached to the 324th Fighter Group, also stationed there. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

10 April 1944: The 115th Army Air Forces Base Unit was organized at Selfridge Field, Michigan, home of the 477th Bombardment Group. (115th AAF Base Unit organization record card)

13 April 1944: Captain Erwin B. Lawrence, Jr. replaced Major George B. Roberts as commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron. Major Roberts was planning to return to the United States for rest and recuperation, but would eventually command the squadron again, for a third time. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944; 99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history)

15 April 1944: The 332d Fighter Group and the 301st Fighter Squadron moved from Montecorvino, Italy, to Capodichino, Italy, to which the 100th and 302d Fighter Squadrons had already moved. For the first time since early February 1944, when the 332d Fighter Group and its three squadrons were all stationed at Montecorvino, the units were all collocated. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). On the same day, back in the United States, the 617th Bombardment Squadron was activated again and assigned to the 477th Bombardment Group, Medium. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

19 April 1944: Major George S. Roberts, Captain Lemuel R Custis, and Captain Herbert Carter bade farewell to the enlisted personnel of the 99th Fighter Squadron as they prepared to return to the United States. Major Roberts and Captain Custis had been with the squadron since its beginning. Other squadron personnel departing were Captains Charles B. Hall, who had scored the squadron's first aerial victory, and James T. Wiley; Lieutenants Willie Ashley and Willie Fuller. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944). 2d Lieutenant Beryl Wyatt of the 100th Fighter Squadron died from injuries suffered in an aircraft crash. (332d Fighter Group history, Mar-Apr 1944)

20 April 1944: Lieutenant General Ira C. Eaker, Commanding General, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, visited the 332d Fighter Group in Italy. On the same day, Lieutenant Ray B. Ware, the 332d Fighter Group public relations officer, announced that the group would soon be converting from P-39 to P-47 aircraft and move to the east coast of Italy, presumably for bomber escort duty. (332d Fighter Group history, Mar-Apr 1944; 332d Fighter Group War Diary, April 1944) Later that day, General Eaker, accompanied by Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of the 332d Fighter Group, visited the 99th Fighter Squadron. The 99th Fighter Squadron, which Colonel Davis had commanded earlier, would eventually be assigned to the 332d Fighter Group for the bomber escort duty. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

24 April 1944: 2d Lieutenant Edgar L. Jones was killed in an aircraft crash on takeoff for a strafing mission. That night, thirty to forty German JU-88 airplanes raided the 332d Fighter Group area, wounding one enlisted man, Staff Sergeant Alvin H. Kent, who earned the Purple Heart. (332d Fighter Group history, Mar-Apr 1944; 332d Fighter Group War Diary, April 1944)

25 April 1944: The 332d Fighter Group received its first six P-47 airplanes, two of which were assigned to each of the group's fighter squadrons, the 100th, 301st, and 302d. P-47s eventually replaced all of the P-39 fighters the group had flown. (332d Fighter Group history, Mar-Apr 1944)

30 April 1944: The 320th College Training Detachment (Aircrew) was disbanded at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. (organization record card)

April 1944: During the month of April, the 99th Fighter Squadron flew 32 missions, mostly dive-bombing enemy targets. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Feb-Apr 1944)

1 May 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron in Italy was assigned to the 332d Fighter Group but remained attached to the 324th Fighter Group for combat operations. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). On the same day, back at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, the 2143d AAF Base Unit was activated. (organization record card)

5 May 1944: Lt. James R. Polkinghorne, Jr. of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported lost with his P-39 near Teragina, Italy. The cause was unknown (Missing Air Crew Report 4518).

6 May 1944: An advance party of the 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Pignataro Airfield in Italy. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944). Back in the United States, the 477th Bombardment Group, Medium, moved from Selfridge Field, Michigan, to Godman Field, Kentucky. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). The 115th Army Air Forces Base Unit moved from Selfridge Field, Michigan, to Godman Field, Kentucky, along with the 477th Bombardment Group with which it served. (115 AAF Base Unit organization record card).

10 May 1944: The main body of the 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Pignataro, Italy. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

12-14 May 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron earned its second Distinguished Unit Citation for missions over Cassino, Italy, an honor it shared with the 324th Fighter Group to which it was attached. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

15 May 1944: Back in the United States, the 618th Bombardment Squadron was activated again and assigned to the 477th Bombardment Group, Medium. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

22 May 1944: The 332d Fighter Group transferred from the Twelfth Air Force to the Fifteenth Air Force (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). At the same time, the 96th Air Service Group was assigned from the Twelfth to the Fifteenth Air Force (organization record card of the group). 2 Lt. Henry Pollard Jr. of the 302d Fighter Squadron died while serving overseas. (American Battle Monuments Commission)

24 May 1944: 1st Lt. John H. Prowell of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported lost with his P-39 over the Mediterranean Sea, with possible engine failure (Missing Air Crew Report 13687).

27 May 1944: Back in the United States, the 619th Bombardment Squadron was activated again and assigned to the 477th Bombardment Group, Medium. The group now had all of its original squadrons active again under it, this time at Godman Field, Kentucky. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). Meanwhile, in Italy, the 99th Fighter Squadron reported losing a pilot, 2d Lt. James B. Brown, and his P-40 near Prossinone. The cause was not known (Missing Air Crew Report 5372).

28 May 1944: The 332d Fighter Group moved from Capodichino, Italy, to Ramitelli Airfield, Italy, where it would remain for the rest of the war in Europe (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; 332d Fighter Group lineage and honors history).

29 May 1944: The 96th Air Service Group was assigned to the XV Air Force Service Command of the Fifteenth Air Force.

2 June 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron celebrated the first anniversary of its first combat mission. That same day it flew its 500th combat mission, led by squadron commander Capt. Erwin B. Lawrence. (99th Fighter Squadron history, June 1944). Meanwhile, MSGt. William M. Harris, line chief, of the 302d Fighter Squadron of the 332d Fighter Group, was killed during an aircraft take-off. 2d Lt. Elmer Taylor, a pilot also of the 302d Fighter Squadron, was killed in a crash during a training mission. (332d Fighter Group history for June 1944).

5 June 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron was detached from the 324th Fighter Group. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944). The 96th Air Service Group arrived at

Foggia, Italy, very near Ramitelli, to provide services for the 332d Fighter Group. Serving under the 96th Air Service Group were the 366th Service Squadron at Ramitelli and the 367th Service Squadron, at first at Foggia and later at Vasto and Falconara. (Organization record cards of the organizations)

6 June 1944: Lt. Leonard M. Jackson crash-landed on no-man's land between enemy and Allied lines. He returned the next day with two captured Germans. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944)

7 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew its first mission with the Fifteenth Air Force. The mission was a fighter sweep of the Ferrara-Bologna area. 2d Lt. Carroll N. Langston, Jr. of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported lost with his P-47 near San Benedetti, Italy. The cause was probable engine failure. On the same mission, Captain Lee Rayford was wounded by flak. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 1; Missing Air Crew Report 5639; 332d Fighter Group summary history, Oct 1942-1947) Meanwhile, the 99th Fighter Squadron, not yet flying with the 332d Fighter Group, flew four 4-ship strafing missions to destroy 24 motor vehicles, damage 47 others, and destroy one self-propelled gun, with no friendly aircraft lost. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944)

8 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew its first heavy bomber escort mission, protecting B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing on a mission to Pola, Italy (332d Fighter Group mission report number 2). Meanwhile, 1st Lt. Lewis C. Smith failed out of his plane and went missing after being hit by flak on a dive-bombing mission with the 99th Fighter Squadron, which had not yet joined the 332d Fighter Group for bomber escort. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944)

9 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s and B-17s of the 5th, 47th, 49th, 55th, and 304th Bombardment Wings on a raid to Munich, Germany, the group's first mission over Germany (332d Fighter Group mission report number 3). Four Tuskegee Airmen shot down a total of five enemy Me-109 airplanes that day. The victors included 2d Lt. Frederick D. Funderburg, who shot down 2 Me-109s, and 1st Lts Charles M. Bussy, Melvin T. Jackson, and Wendell O. Pruitt, who each shot down one Me-109 (Fifteenth Air Force general order number 1473, issued on 30 June 1944; 332d Fighter Group history for June 1944). For this mission, group commander Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr. earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for so skillfully handling his squadrons that "only a few bombers were lost" (Fifteenth Air Force general order number 2972, issued on 31 August 1944). Enemy airplanes actually shot down only two B-24s of the escorted wing's 459th Bombardment Group during the time the 332d Fighter Group was escorting them (Missing Air Crew Reports 6317 and 6179). This was the first time 332d Fighter Group-escorted bombers fell to enemy airplanes. The losses were very understandable, given the fact that the number of bombers far exceeded the number of escort fighters to cover them. The group reported 2d Lt. Cornelius G. Rogers of the 301st Fighter Group lost with his P-47D to an unknown cause near Pals, Italy (Missing Air Crew Report 5758).

11 June 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Ciampino, Italy. That same day it was attached to the 86th Fighter Group but remained assigned to the 332d Fighter Group

(99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history; 99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). On the same day, the 332d Fighter Group, from which the 99th Fighter Squadron was then detached, escorted B-17 and B-24 bombers of the 5th and 55th Bombardment Wings to the Smedervo area (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history; 332d Fighter Group mission report number 4).

13 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 and B-24 bombers of the 5th and 49th Bombardment Wings to the Munich area (332d Fighter Group mission report number 5). Enemy fighters shot down one of the B-24s over northern Italy (Missing Air Crew Report 6097).

14 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 and B-24 bombers on a mission to the Budapest area of Hungary (332d Fighter Group narrative mission report number 6). 2d Lt. Roger D. Brown of the 100th Fighter Squadron was reported missing, along with his P-47 airplane, southeast of Ramitelli Air Base, Italy. He experienced engine trouble on a training flight that day (Missing Air Crew Report 6922). Meanwhile, over in the 99th Fighter Squadron, Lt. C. W. Allen went missing on a dive-bombing mission. He returned two days later after evading the enemy for two days. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944)

15 June 1944: the 99th Fighter Squadron flew six dive-bombing missions. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944)

16 June 1944: For the second day in a row, the 99th Fighter Squadron flew six dive-bombing missions. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944). Meanwhile, the 332d Fighter Group escorted Fifteenth Air Force heavy bombers to the Bratislava area of Slovakia (332d Fighter Group mission report number 7).

17 June 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Orbetello, Italy (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*).

23 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted Fifteenth Air Force heavy bombers to the Bucharest-Giurgiu area of Rumania (332d Fighter Group mission report number 9, number out of sequence with the date).

24 June 1944: P-47 fighters of the 332d Fighter Group strafed Airasca-Pinerole landing ground. Captain Robert B. Tresville, Jr., 2d Lieutenant Samuel Jefferson, and 2d Lieutenant Charles B. Johnson, all of the 100th Fighter Squadron, were reported missing, one near the northern coast of Italy, and another off Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea. Captain Tresville was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. (332d Fighter Group history for June 1944; 332d Fighter Group mission report number 8, and Missing Air Crew Reports numbered 6078 and 6079. The Missing Air Crew Reports erroneously note 22 June 1944, but no 332d Fighter Group mission was flown that day). On the same day, the emblem of the 99th Fighter Squadron, still detached from the 332d

Fighter Group, was approved. It consisted of a gold winged diving panther on a blue disk, with a background of 9 stars, 4 above and 5 below the panther (99th Fighter Squadron emblem folder).

25 June 1944: Eight P-47 pilots of the 332d Fighter Group strafed an enemy warship in the Adriatic Sea and reported it sunk near Pirano (332d Fighter Group mission report number 11).

26 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew a bomber escort mission to the Lake Balaton area of Hungary (332d Fighter Group mission report number 12). Capt. Andrew Maples, Jr. and 1st Lt. Maurice V. Esters, both of the 301st Fighter Squadron, suffered engine failure or mechanical trouble, and bailed out of their P-47D airplanes (Missing Air Crew Reports 7061 and 7062).

27 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing and B-24 bombers of the 47th Bombardment Wing to the Budapest area of Hungary and reported no losses (332d Fighter Group mission report number 13).

28 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to the Ferdinand area. Lt. Edward Laird of the 100th Fighter Squadron crashed and was killed on takeoff (332d Fighter Group mission report number 14). 2d Lt. Othel Dickson of the 301st Fighter Squadron was also killed in a crash that same day while on a transition mission. (332d Fighter Group history for June 1944). On the same date, the 99th Fighter Squadron received orders to move to Ramitelli Air Field, Italy, where the 332d Fighter Group was already based. (99th Fighter Squadron history, June 1944)

29 June 1944: 2d Lt. Floyd A. Thompson of the 99th Fighter Squadron was hit by flak and bailed out of his plane. He landed near Spescia, Italy. The 99th Fighter Squadron began transferring the best of its P-40 aircraft to the 324th Fighter Group, in anticipation of its move to Ramitelli. (99th Fighter Squadron history, Jun 1944)

30 June 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted heavy bombers of the Fifteenth air Force to the Vienna area (332d Fighter Group mission report number 15). Five of the bombers were shot down by enemy aircraft, but probably after the 332d Fighter Group's escort duty had finished (Missing Air Crew Reports 6335, 6394, 6395, and 6396). On the same date, the 99th Fighter Squadron transferred most of its remaining P-40 fighter aircraft and prepared to move to Ramitelli Air Field, home of the 332d Fighter Group, to which it was assigned. (99th Fighter Squadron history, June 1944)

4 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew its first mission in the P-51 Mustang aircraft, which replaced the P-47s the group had been flying. (332d Fighter Group History, July 1944). The group was assigned to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing and B-17s of the 47th Bombardment Wing, but the rendezvous failed (332d Fighter Group mission report number 16).

5 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted Fifteenth Air Force heavy bombers on their way to an enemy target (332d Fighter Group mission report number 17).

6 July 1944: The first elements of the 99th Fighter Squadron arrived at Ramitelli Airfield, Italy, where the 332d Fighter Group and its other three squadrons were already based. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; 332d Fighter Group History, July 1944; War Diary of 99th Fighter Squadron). Although the 99th Fighter Squadron had been assigned to the 332d Fighter Group since 1 May, it had flown combat missions while attached to other fighter groups stationed in other parts of Italy (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history; 332d Fighter Group history for July 1944). Other squadrons of the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 47th Bombardment Wing to Latisana and Tagilamento-Casarsa (332d Fighter Group mission report number 18).

7 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted heavy bombers of the Fifteenth Air Force on a raid to Vienna, Austria (332d Fighter Group mission report number 19).

8 July 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron received its first P-51 Mustang aircraft, which was far superior to the P-40s it had flown in the past (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history; 332d Fighter Group History, July 1944; 99th Fighter Squadron War Diary). Other squadrons of the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Muchendorf Airdrome. Enemy fighters were reported to have attacked the escorted bombers. The 332d Fighter Group mission report number 20 for that day noted “2 B-24s destroyed over target area. 1 B-24 seen to disintegrate, 2 chutes seen to open from 2nd B-24.” These bomber losses are not confirmed by Missing Air Crew Reports.

9 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew its first mission to Ploesti, escorting B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing on a raid on important petroleum refining facilities (332d Fighter Group mission report number 21).

10 July 1944: Captain Mac Ross of the 99th Fighter Squadron was killed in a crash while on a routine transition flight during the squadron’s conversion from P-40 to P-51 aircraft. (332d Fighter Group history for July 1944)

11 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew its first mission over occupied France, escorting B-24 bombers of the 47th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Toulon (332d Fighter Group narrative mission report number 22). Meanwhile, Captain Leon C. Roberts of the 99th Fighter Squadron was killed in a crash on a transition flight as his squadron was converting from P-40 to P-51 aircraft. (332d Fighter Group history for July 1944)

12 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted the B-24s of the 49th Bomb Wing to raid the marshalling yards at Nimes in southern France and downed four enemy airplanes (332d Fighter Group mission report number 23; 332d Fighter Group history for July 1944). 1st Lt. Harold E. Sawyer shot down one FW-190 (the first 332d Fighter Group victory in the P-51 Mustang), while 1 Lt. Joseph Elsberry shot down three of them, earning

a Distinguished Flying Cross for the achievement (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders numbered 2032 and 2466, dated 23 Jul and Aug 1944 respectively). Enemy airplanes shot down 3 of the escorted B-24s (Missing Air Crew Reports 6894, 6895, and 7034; 461 Bombardment Group mission report for 12 July 1944; Fifteenth Air Force mission folder for 12 July 1944).

13 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted two B-17 groups of the 5th Bombardment Wing to bomb the Pinzano railroad bridge and the Vinzone viaduct in northern Italy (332d Fighter Group mission report number 24).

15 July 1944: The 99th Fighter Squadron flew its first combat mission for the Fifteenth Air Force, and its first combat mission with the other squadrons of the 332d Fighter Group. (332d Fighter Group History, July 1944; 99th Fighter Squadron War Diary). This was the second group mission to Ploesti. The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 55th Bombardment Group, and encountered enemy aircraft, but reported no losses that day (332d Fighter Group mission report number 25).

16 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group conducted a fighter sweep in the Vienna area of Austria (332d Fighter Group mission report number 26). Two Tuskegee Airmen shot down 2 enemy airplanes. The victors included 1st Lt Alfonza W. Davis and 2d Lt. William W. Green, Jr. (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 2029 and 2030, both issued on 23 July 1944).

17 July 1944: 3 members of the 302d Fighter Squadron each shot down 1 Me-109 during a mission to escort B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to Avignon, France (332d Fighter Group mission report number 27). The victors included 1st Lts Luther H. Smith, Jr., Laurence D. Wilkins and 2d Lt Robert H. Smith. All of the downed airplanes were ME-109s (Fifteenth Air Force General Order 2350 dated 6 Aug 1944).

18 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bomb Wing on a raid against an airfield at Memmingen, Germany (332d Fighter Group mission report number 28). Nine Tuskegee Airmen shot down 12 enemy airplanes on this mission. 2d Lt. Clarence Lester shot down 3 Me-109s, and 1st Lt Jack D. Holsclaw shot down 2. Other victors that day included Capt Edward L. Toppins, 1st Lt Charles P. Bailey and Weldon K. Groves, and 2d Lts Lee A. Archer, Walter J. A. Palmer, Roger Romine, and Hugh S. Warner (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 2202, 2350, and 2484, issued on 31 Jul 1944, 6 Aug 1944, and 11 Aug 1944, respectively; 332d Fighter Group history for July 1944). Three of the 332d Fighter Group P-51C pilots, including 2d Lt. Gene C. Browne and 2d Lt. Wellington G. Irving of the 301st Fighter Squadron, were shot down by enemy aircraft near the target area (Missing Air Crew Reports 6973 and 7027 and 332d Fighter Group history for July 1944). Lieutenant Browne became a prisoner of war in Germany, but Lieutenant Irving was killed. P-51 pilot Lt. Oscar Hutton of the 100th Fighter Squadron was also reported lost that day (332d Fighter Group narrative mission report 28). Unfortunately, many of the escorted B-17s were also shot down by enemy aircraft around the same time and place as the fighter losses (Missing Air Crew Reports 6856, 6953-6954, 6975-6981, 7097-7099, 7153, 7310; Fifteenth Air Force mission folder for 18 July 1944).

19 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 49th Bombardment Wing to Munich/Schleiszheim Airdrome (332d Fighter Group mission report number 29).

20 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted bombers to the Friedrichshafen area of Germany (332d Fighter Group mission report number 30). Four Tuskegee Airmen shot down four Me-109s. The victors included Capt Joseph D. Elsberry, Armour G. McDaniel, and Edward L. Toppins, and 1st Lt Langdon E. Johnson. Elsberry became the first Tuskegee Airmen to earn four aerial victory credits (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 2202, 2284, and 2484, dated 31 Jul 1944, 3 Aug 1944, and 11 Aug 1944, respectively). Unfortunately, two of the escorted B-24s were shot down by enemy aircraft (Missing Air Crew Reports 6914 and 6919). The same day, 20 July 1944, the 332d Fighter Group flew two air-sea rescue missions over the Adriatic Sea (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 31 and 32).

21 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing home after they had bombed the Brux synthetic oil refinery. The group reported losing one pilot on the mission, Lt. William F. Williams of the 301st Fighter Squadron (332d Fighter Group mission report number 33 and 332d Fighter Group history for July 1944).

22 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 55th Bomb Wing to and from Ploesti, Rumania (332d Fighter Group mission report number 34). 1st Lt. James A. Walker of the 302d Fighter Squadron was reported lost with his P-51C over the Kraljevo area of Yugoslavia, probably as a result of enemy antiaircraft artillery fire (Missing Air Crew Report 6852).

24 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 47th Bombardment Group on a raid to Genoa harbor in northwestern Italy (332d Fighter Group mission report number 35).

25 July 1944: Lt. Harold Sawyer of the 301st Fighter Squadron shot down 1 Me-109 German fighter during a mission to escort B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing to Linz, Austria (332d Fighter Group mission report number 36; Fifteenth Air Force General Order 2284 dated 3 Aug 1944). On the same mission, the 301st Fighter Squadron reported two of its pilots missing in action, Lieutenants Starling B. Penn and Lt. Alfred Q. Carrol. (332d Fighter Group history for July 1944)

25 July 1944: 387 Service Group (later 387 Air Service Group) was activated at Daniel Field, Georgia, which ultimately became the “housekeeping” group to support the 477th Bombardment Group. It was composed of primarily black personnel, but the first commander, who served until 21 June 1945, was a white officer named Lt. Col. David H. Thomas. The 590th Air Materiel Squadron and the 602d Air Engineering Squadron were eventually assigned to the group. (387th Air Service Group organization record card and 387th Air Service Group history for the period 25 July-31 December 1944)

26 July 1944: Four Tuskegee Airmen each shot down 1 Me-109 during a mission to escort B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing to Markendorf Airdrome (332d Fighter Group mission report number 37). The victors included Capt Edward L. Toppins, 1st Lts Freddie E. Hutchins and Leonard M. Jackson, and 2d Lt. Roger Romine (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 2350 and 2482, dated 6 Aug 1944 and 11 Aug 1944, respectively). Toppins earned his fourth aerial victory credit that day. Unfortunately, 2d Lt. Charles S. Jackson, Jr. of the 100th Fighter Squadron was reported lost that day with his P-51B after experiencing engine trouble 25 miles northwest of Zagreb, Yugoslavia. He bailed out and later returned safely (Missing Air Crew Report 7007). The 332d Fighter Group mission report for that day also noted “1 B-24 spiraling out of formation after attack by enemy aircraft,” but there is no corresponding Missing Air Crew Report for the bomber.

27 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing raiding an arms factory in the Budapest area of Hungary (332d Fighter Group mission report number 38). North of Lake Balaton they encountered enemy aircraft and six Tuskegee Airmen shot down a total of 8 enemy airplanes. 1st Lt Edward C. Gleed and 2d Lt. Alfred M. Gorham each shot down 2 FW-190s. Other victors, who each shot down one Me-109, included Capt Claude B. Govan, 1st Lts Leonard M. Jackson and Felix J. Kirkpatrick, and 2d Lt. Richard W. Hall (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 2284, 2350, 2484, and 2485, dated 3 Aug 1944, 6 Aug 1944, 11 Aug 1944, and 11 Aug 1944, respectively). 2d Lt. Emory L. Robbins, Jr. of the 302d Fighter Squadron was reported missing that day with his P-51C in the area of the air combat (Missing Air Crew Report 7151).

28 July 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 55th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Ploesti, Rumania. Three B-24s were seen to go down in flames (332d Fighter Group mission report number 39). The bomber losses are not confirmed by corresponding Missing Air Crew Reports.

30 July 1944: 2d Lt. Carl Johnson shot down an enemy airplane during a mission to escort B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing to Budapest, Hungary (332d Fighter Group mission report number 40; Fifteenth Air Force General Order 2485 dated 11 Aug 1944).

July 1944: During the month of July 1944, members of the 332d Fighter Group and its squadrons shot down 39 enemy aircraft, more than in any other month of the war.

August 1944: SSgt. Joe Louis, heavyweight boxing champion of the world, visited the 332d Fighter Group and other groups in Italy, although he did not belong to them. (332d Fighter Group history, August 1944)

2 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to bomb Le Pousin Oil Storage and Portes Le Valences, France. The 332d Fighter Group mission report for that day (number 42) noted that “Formation of bombers was

spread out over area of approximately 50 miles...It was impossible to cover all groups or afford desired protection from E/A (enemy aircraft).”

3 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group again escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing, this time to raid Ober Raderach Chemical Works in Germany. Although four Me-109s were seen in the Udine area on the way, the group reported no encounters and no attacks on the bombers (332d Fighter Group mission report number 43).

6 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 55th Bombardment Wing to the Avignon area of southern France (332d Fighter Group mission report number 44). One B-24 was shot down by enemy antiaircraft artillery fire.

6 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew a second mission on 6 August, this time to escort a single B-25 over Yugoslavia (332d Fighter Group mission report number 45).

7 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing and B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to raid enemy oil refineries at Blechhammer. One Me-109 dove through the bombers during the raid. Bombers were shot down that day, but after the 332d Fighter Group had finished escorting them (332d Fighter Group mission report number 46 and Missing Air Crew Reports for 7 August 1944).

9 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bomb Wing on a mission to Gyor, Hungary (332d Fighter Group mission report number 47). 2d Lt. Alphonso Simmons of the 100th Fighter Squadron was reported missing with his P-51C about 10 miles south of Banja Luka, Yugoslavia (Missing Air Crew Report 7327). He probably either crash landed or bailed out.

10 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing against the Campina Stevea Romana Oil Refineries (332d Fighter Group mission report number 48).

12 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group attacked radar stations in southern France on a strafing mission in preparation for the Allied invasion of southern France (scheduled for 15 August) (332d Fighter Group mission report number 49). 1st Lt. Langdon E. Johnson of the 100th Fighter Squadron was seen crashing into the Mediterranean Sea with his P-51C that day after being hit by flak, in the area 10 miles southeast of Marseilles, France (Missing Air Crew Report 7469 and 332d Fighter Group history for August 1944). Other 332d Fighter Group P-51 pilots reported shot down that day included Lieutenants Alexander Jefferson, Robert Daniels, Jr., Richard Macon, and Joseph Gordon. (332d Fighter Group history for August 1944; Don Dodd and Amy Bartlett-Dodd, *Deep South Aviation*, p. 98). Lieutenants Jefferson, Daniels, and Macon all became prisoners of war in Germany (Alexander Jefferson, *Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free*). Lt. Gordon did not survive. (American Battle Monuments Commission)

13 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing on a mission to destroy railroad bridges in the vicinity of Avignon in southern France (332d Fighter Group mission report number 50).

14 August 1944: 2d Lt. George M. Rhodes Jr. of the 100th Fighter Squadron shot down 1 FW-190 enemy fighter during a strafing and fighter sweep mission in the Toulon area (Fifteenth Air Force General Order 2831 dated 25 Aug 1944). Lt. Robert O'Neil was last seen in a spin over the Toulon area, and Lt. Allen was reported to have bailed out safely over the island of Elba. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 51 and 332d Fighter Group history for August 1944).

15 August 1944: The Allies invaded German-occupied southern France, and the 332d Fighter Group escorted the 55th Bombardment Wing to hit targets in southern France (332d Fighter Group mission report number 52). Two Me-109 enemy airplanes were seen, but they did not appear to attack the bomber formation and were too distant for interception. One 332d Fighter Group pilot, Lt. Wilson V. Eagleson, was reported missing.

16 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 55th Bomb Wing on a mission to bomb the Ober Raderach Chemical Works in Germany (332d Fighter Group mission report number 53). P-51C pilot 1st Lt. Herbert V. Clark of the 99th Fighter Squadron was shot down by enemy antiaircraft artillery over Italy that day (Missing Air Crew Report 7691 and 332d Fighter Group history for August 1944).

17 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 heavy bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Ploesti's oil refineries in Rumania (332d Fighter Group mission report number 54). Nine bombers were shot down, according to Missing Air Crew Reports for that day, but the reason given was enemy antiaircraft artillery fire.

18 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group returned to Ploesti a second day in a row, this time to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing. No losses were reported. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 55).

19 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group completed its eighth mission escorting bombers to Ploesti, Rumania, and its third in a row to that target. That was its last mission to that target during the war. This time the group escorted B-24 bombers of the 47th Bombardment Wing. Lt. Thomas was reported to have crash landed on Pianosa Island, but was reported safe. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 56 and 332d Fighter Group history for August 1944).

20 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 heavy bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing to raid the Oswiecim Oil Refinery. The mission encountered some sixteen Me-109 and FW-190 enemy fighter airplanes, but did not report any attack on the bombers. (332d Fighter Group narrative mission report number 57).

22 August 1944: the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the Korneuburg Oil Refineries in Vienna, Austria (332d Fighter Group mission report number 58). They encountered enemy Me-109 fighters over Lake Balaton in Hungary. According to Missing Air Crew Reports for that day, two bombers were lost on the mission, one to enemy anti-aircraft artillery, and one to an unknown cause. The 332d Fighter Group flew a second mission on this day, this time to provide escort cover for six C-47s over Yugoslavia (332d Fighter Group mission report number 59). On the same day, the 96th Air Service Group moved from Foggia to Iesi (Jesi), Italy. (Lineage and honors history of the 96th Logistics Group)

23 August 1944: Flight Officer William L. Hill of the 302d Fighter Squadron shot down 1 Me-109 during a mission to escort B-24 bombers of the 55th Bombardment Wing to Markersdorf Airdrome, Germany (332d Fighter Group mission report number 60; Fifteenth Air Force General Order 3538 dated 21 Sep 1944). Fourteen enemy Me-109 fighters were encountered in the target area. The mission report also noted "1 B-24 seen to go down in flames in T/A (target area)." There was no corresponding Missing Air Crew Report.

24 August 1944: Three Tuskegee Airmen each shot down an enemy aircraft during a mission to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to Pardubice Airdrome, Czechoslovakia (332d Fighter Group mission report number 61). The victors included 1st Lts Charles E. McGee and William H. Thomas, who each shot down a FW-190, and 1st Lt. John F. Briggs, who shot down an Me-109 (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 3153, 3174, and 449, dated 6 Sep 1944, 7 Sep 1944, and 31 Jan 1945, respectively). Enemy aircraft shot down one of the escorted B-17 bombers after flak had crippled it and forced it to drop out of the formation (Missing Air Crew Report 7971).

25 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing on a raid against Brno Airdrome. Four enemy Me-109 aircraft were seen on the mission, but there was no apparent aerial combat. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 62).

26 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group provided close escort to B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to Banasea Airdrome. 2d Lt. Henry A. Wise is reported to have bailed out of his P-51 during the mission, and to have landed safely near Krujino, Yugoslavia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 63; 332d Fighter Group history for August 1944).

27 August 1944: While returning from a mission to escort B-24s of the 304th and 55th Bombardment Wings to Blechhammer, Germany, units of the 332d Fighter Group attacked airfields in Czechoslovakia, destroying 22 enemy aircraft on the ground (332d Fighter Group mission report number 64).

28 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing against Miskolc Min marshalling yards. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 65).

29 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bomb Wing to Bohumin, Privoser, and Morvaska Main (332d Fighter Group mission report number 66). On the mission, 2d Lt. Emile G. Clifton, Jr. of the 99th Fighter Squadron bailed out of his P-51B after losing coolant while flying over the area of Zgon, Yugoslavia (332d Fighter Group mission report 66; Missing Air Crew Report 8101; 332d Fighter Group history for July 1944).

30 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group strafed Grosswardein Airdrome in Rumania and claimed to have destroyed 83 enemy aircraft on the ground (332d Fighter Group mission report number 67). 2d Lt. Charles T. Williams of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported lost with his P-51 over Yugoslavia during the mission (Missing Air Crew Report 8332). He became a prisoner of war.

31 August 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the second wave of 5th Bombardment Wing bombers to and over Popesti Airdrome (332d Fighter Group mission report number 68). On a second mission that day, fighters of the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the second wave to Popesti Airdrome (332d Fighter Group mission report number 69). The same day the 366th and 367th Service Squadrons at Ramitelli and Vasta were redesignated as the 366th and 367th Air Service Squadrons. They were still assigned to the 96th Air Service Group, headquartered in Foggia. (Organization record cards of the three organizations)

1 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to Popesti for a second day (332d Fighter Group mission report number 70). On the same day, Major George S. Roberts replaced Captain Erwin B. Lawrence, Jr., as commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron. Major Roberts had commanded the squadron twice previously, and had been the first black commander of the squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history)

2 September 1944: the 332d Fighter Group conducted a strafing mission to Stalac, Cuprija, and Osipaonica Road in Yugoslavia (332d Fighter Group mission report number 71).

3 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to Szolnok and Szeged, Hungary (332d Fighter Group mission report number 72). On the same day, Brigadier General Yantis H. Taylor replaced Brigadier General Dean C. Strother as commander of the 306th Fighter Wing, under which had served the seven fighter squadrons (6 white and 1 black) of the XV Fighter Command of the Fifteenth Air Force. At the same time, the Fifteenth Air Force organized a provisional 305th Fighter Wing, which assumed management of the three P-38 groups, while the 306th Fighter Wing retained direct control of the four P-51 fighter groups, including the 332d. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Organization record card of 305 Fighter Wing (P))

4 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing again, this time to Tagliamento Casarsa and Latisana, Italy (332d Fighter Group mission report number 73).

5 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to Budapest, Hungary, and back (332d Fighter Group mission report number 74).

6 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing for a second day in a row, but this time to the Oradea Main marshalling yards in Rumania (332d Fighter Group mission report number 75).

7 September 1944: the 67th AAF Base Unit was organized at Tuskegee (Tuskegee Weather Detachment). (organization record card)

8 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group claimed to have destroyed 36 enemy airplanes on the ground at two airfields during a strafing mission to Yugoslavia. P-51 pilot Lt. James A. Calhoun crashed and was killed in the target area. (332d Fighter Group narrative mission report 76; Missing Air Crew Report 8261; American Battle Monuments Commission).

10 September 1944: Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, commander of the Mediterranean Allied Air Force; Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, commander of the Fifteenth Air Force; Brig. Gen. Dean C. Strother, commander of the XV Fighter Command; and Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., Inspector General's Department, attended an impressive awards ceremony for members of the 332d Fighter Group at Ramitelli Airfield in Italy. At that ceremony, General Davis presented the Distinguished Flying Cross to his son, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of the group, for an escort mission he led on 9 June 1944. (332d Fighter Group history, Oct 1942-1947; 332d Fighter Group history, September 1944)

12 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing on a mission to an unspecified target. The group mission report states "10 Me 109s attacked rear of bomber formation from below...1 B-17 was left burning. 6 chutes seen to open" (332d Fighter Group mission report number 77). The 301st and 463d Bombardment Groups of the 5th Bombardment Wing each reported a bomber lost (Fifteenth Air Force daily mission folder for 12 September 1944). Missing Air Crew Reports do not confirm these bombers were lost to enemy aircraft. Members of the 332d Fighter Group claimed to have damaged 4 enemy aircraft during the mission.

13 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 and B-17 bombers of the 304th and 5th Bombardment Wings to Blechhammer North Oil Refinery. The mission report notes "Two B-24s hit by flak seen to explode and crash. No chutes seen." Lt. Wilbur Long and his P-51 were reported missing near Szombathely (332d Fighter Group mission report number 78; Missing Air Crew Report 8626). Lt. Long became a prisoner of war in Germany (Jefferson, *Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free*).

17 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to raid the Rakos marshalling yards of north Budapest, Hungary. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 79).

18 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to raid the Shell Oil Refinery and railroad bridges in Budapest, Hungary. The group reported seeing a B-24 hit by flak in the target area, and 7 men parachuting from it. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 80).

20 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing again, this time to attack the Makacky Airdrome in Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 81).

21 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing to raid the Debrecen Marshalling Yards in Hungary. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 82).

22 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bomb Wing to hit the Allach BMW Engine Works in Munich, Germany (332d Fighter Group mission report number 83). Flight Officer Leonard R. Willette of the 99th Fighter Squadron and his P-51 were reported lost near Lake Chien, Germany, on the mission (Missing Air Crew Report 8947).

23 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to bomb the Brux synthetic oil plant. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 84).

24 September 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing as they raided enemy targets in Athens, Greece (332d Fighter Group mission report number 85).

4 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group took part in three missions, two to escort C-47 transport aircraft to Sofia, Bulgaria and Bucharest, Rumania, and one to strafe targets in Tatoi, Kalamaki, and Eleusis, Greece. In Greece, the group reported destroying 9 enemy aircraft on the ground. Captains Erwin B. Lawrence and Kenneth I. Williams, both of the 99th Fighter Squadron, were reported lost or missing in the Athens area on the mission to Greece. (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 86, 87, and 88; Missing Air Crew Reports 8981 and 8982).

6 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group strafed enemy airdromes in Tatoi, Kalamaki, Eleusis, and Megara Airdromes in Greece, similar to the mission two days earlier (332d Fighter Group mission report number 89). Four 332d Fighter Group pilots were reported missing on this mission, including 1st Lt. Freddie E. Hutchins of the 302d Fighter Squadron, who was seen to crash about 3 miles west of Megara after the explosion of an ammunition dump; 1st Lt. Carroll S. Woods of the 100th Fighter Squadron, whose P-51 was seen flaming in the area of Kalamaki Airdrome; and 2d Lt. Joe A. Lewis of the 301st

Fighter Squadron, who was seen to crash near Athens after being hit by anti-aircraft artillery fire. The other pilot might have been Andrew D. Marshall. (Missing Air Crew reports 8980, 8983, and 9035).

7 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group returned to escorting bombers, this time protecting B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing on a raid against the Lobau Oil Refineries at Vienna, Austria. Lieutenant Robert Wiggins, 2d Lt. Roosevelt Stiger of the 302d Fighter Squadron and Flight Officer Carl J. Woods of the 100th Fighter Squadron were reported lost on this mission. Stiger and Woods were last seen over the Adriatic Sea. (Missing Air Crew Reports 9029 and 9034). One B-17 was reported hit at 30,000 feet, but there is no corresponding Missing Air Crew Report. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 90).

11 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group strafed railroad and river traffic along the Danube River from Budapest to Bratislava, and reported destroying 17 enemy airplanes on the ground. Lt. Rhodes was reported to have crash landed at Ramitelli. The airplane was destroyed, but the pilot survived. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 91).

12 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group strafed railroad traffic from Budapest to Bratislava for a second day in a row. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 92). Six members of the 332d Fighter Group's 302d Fighter Squadron shot down a total of 9 enemy airplanes. 1 Lt. Lee Archer shot down 3 Me-109s, bringing his total aerial victories score to 4. Capt Wendell O. Pruitt shot down 2 enemy airplanes that day, including an He-111 and an Me-109. Other victors included Capt Milton R. Brooks, 1st Lts William W. Green, Jr, Roger Romine, and Luther H. Smith, Jr. (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 4287 and 4604, dated 1 Nov 1944 and 21 Nov 1944, respectively). Enemy anti-aircraft artillery shot down 1st Lt. Walter L. McCreary of the 100th Fighter Squadron that day about 25 miles southeast of Lake Balaton, Hungary, at approximately 2 p.m. (Missing Air Crew Report 9084).

13 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group resumed bomber escort duty, protecting B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Blechhammer South Oil Refinery. On the mission the group reported having destroyed 7 enemy airplanes on the ground. Enemy anti-aircraft artillery fire shot down three of the 332d Fighter Group pilots, all of whom belonged to the 302d Fighter Squadron. They were 1st Lieutenants Walter D. Westmoreland, William W. Green, Jr., and Luther A. Smith, Jr. Westmoreland was seen to crash in Hungary, and Smith was seen to parachute over Yugoslavia. Lieutenant Smith was injured trying to abandon his burning P-51, and was captured. Green disappeared over Yugoslavia. (Missing Air Crew Reports 9085, 9086, and 9087). One B-24 was also seen to crash, probably also as result of flak. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 93).

14 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 49th Bombardment Wing on a raid against the Odertal Oil Refineries in Germany. Flight Officer Rual W. Bell of the 100th Fighter Squadron was seen to parachute out of his P-51C after engine trouble

over Yugoslavia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 94 and Missing Air Crew Report number 9140).

16 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to bomb the Brux oil refineries. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 95).

17 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group conducted two missions, one to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to the Blechhammer South Oil Refinery, and one to escort a single B-17 of the same wing to Bucharest, Rumania. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 96 and 97).

20 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group conducted two missions, one to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to raid the Brux Oil Refineries (target cover and withdrawal) and one air-sea rescue escort to Rimini to protect a Catalina search and rescue aircraft. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 98 and 99). Captain Alfonza W. Davis assumed command of the 99th Fighter Squadron that same day. (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history)

21 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew its 100th mission for the Fifteenth Air Force. It escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Gyor, Hungary. On the same day, the 332d Fighter Group flew its 101st mission, this one a search of the Venezia area. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 100 and 101)

23 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to Regensburg and back. 1st Lieutenants Robert C. Chandler and Shelby F. Westbrook, both of the 99th Fighter Squadron, were reported missing with their P-51Cs in the vicinity of Passau, Germany at noon. Chandler survived a crash that day. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 102; Missing Air Crew Report numbers 9447 and 9448).

29 October 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew four missions. One escorted B-24 bombers of the 49th Bombardment Wing to and from Regensburg. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 103). Two members of the 332d Fighter Group, Captain Alfonza W. Davis of the 99th Fighter Squadron in a P-51D, and 2d Lieutenant Fred L. Brewer, Jr. of the 100th Fighter Squadron in a P-51C, were reported missing that day, Davis over the Gulf of Trieste and Brewer over Germany. (Missing Air Crew Report numbers 9586 and 9600). Two other 29 October 1944 mission reports each noted that the group escorted a P-38 for reconnaissance of the Munich area (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 104 and 105). Finally, a fourth mission report for the day noted that the 332d Fighter Group escorted two B-25s on a mission to Bredgrad and Glina, Yugoslavia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 106). On the same day, Major William A. Campbell assumed command of the 99th Fighter Squadron. (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history)

1 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group reported flying three missions, one to escort 2 B-25s to Yugoslavia (duplicate of mission 106?), one to escort B-24 bombers of the

304th Bombardment Wing to Vienna, Austria, and back, and one to escort one C-47 transport aircraft to Yugoslavia. (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 107, 108, and 109).

2 November 1944: The 302d Fighter Squadron emblem was approved. On a disk, it depicted a winged running red devil with a machine gun, over a cloud. (Unit emblem folder)

3 November 1944: Major George S. Roberts became commander of the 332d Fighter Group, temporarily replacing Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who returned to command the group on 24 December (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*).

4 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing to Regensburg, Germany. On the same day, the 332d Fighter Group also flew two reconnaissance escort missions, each to escort a lone P-38, one over the Linz area of Austria (then part of Germany) and one over the Munich area of Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 110, 111 and 112)

5 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions again in one day. One escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and from Florisdorf, Austria (Germany), and two others each to escort a single P-38 reconnaissance aircraft over the Munich area. (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 113, 114, and 115).

6 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and from Mossbierbaum oil refinery in the Vienna area of Austria (Germany). Captain William J. Faulkner, Jr. of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported missing over Austria on that mission, possibly because of mechanical failure of his P-51C. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 116 and Missing Air Crew Report number 9681)

7 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group provided target cover for B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing raiding the Trento and Bolzano areas of northern Italy. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 117)

11 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and over the Brux oil refineries. At least one of the group pilots reported seeing a jet-propelled aircraft in the distance. Lt. Payne crash landed at Lesina. The airplane was destroyed, but he survived, while 2d. Lt. Elton H. Nightingale of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported missing over Italy with his P-51B. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 118 and Missing Air Crew Report number 9697)

16 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to and from Munich West marshalling yards. During the mission, the group encountered several Me-109 enemy fighters that attempted to shoot down the bombers. Captain Luke J. Weathers of the 302d Fighter Squadron shot down 2 of the enemy fighters. The 52d Fighter Group also escorted the 304th Bombardment Wing that

day. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 119 and Fifteenth Air Force General Order 4990 dated 13 Dec 1944).

17 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing back to Brux synthetic oil refinery. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 120)

18 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted heavy bombers raiding the Vicenza-Villafranca area of northern Italy. Lt. Peoples was reported missing. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 121)

19 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group conducted a strafing mission against enemy railway, highway, and river traffic targets in the Gyor-Vienna-Esztergom area of Austria. 1st Lieutenant Roger B. Gaiter of the 99th Fighter Squadron was seen to bail out of his P-51 after it was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire (flak). 1st Lieutenant Quitman Walker, also of the 99th Fighter Squadron, was also reported missing after also being hit by flak. Both were lost near Lake Balaton, Hungary. For this mission, Fifteenth Air Force commander Major General Nathan F. Twining commended the 332d Fighter Group. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 122; Missing Air Crew Report numbers 9932 and 9933)

20 November 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and from Blechhammer South oil refinery. The group also escorted B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing to the same target. 1st Lieutenant Maceo A. Harris, Jr. of the 100th Fighter Squadron was reported missing after his P-51C lost coolant over Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 123 and Missing Air Crew Report number 9951).

22 November 1944: 332d Fighter Group fighters escorted two B-25 medium bombers to and from Pedgrad, Yugoslavia. (332nd Fighter Group mission report number 124)

25 November 1944: The 100th Fighter Squadron emblem was approved. It depicted, on a disk, a winged panther on a globe. (Unit emblem folder)

26 November 1944: 332d Fighter Group P-51s escorted one reconnaissance P-38 aircraft to and from Grodenwoh and Nurnberg, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 125)

2 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 49th and 55th Bombardment Wings on a raid to Blechhammer oil refinery (South). Lt. Cornelius P. Gould, Jr. of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported to have bailed safely out of his P-51B after experiencing engine trouble over Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 126 and Missing Air Crew Report number 10045)

3 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 49th Bombardment Wing to and from the Udine Pass area of northern Italy. Lt. Marion R. Rodgers was reported to have crash-landed safely at Ramitelli Air Base, home base of the 332d. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 127)

9 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to Brux, Germany. They encountered some German Me-262 jet aircraft. Lt. Rich and Lt. Brown were reported missing. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 128)

11 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing to and from the Moosbierbaum oil refinery of Austria (Germany), and one to escort a reconnaissance aircraft to Praha, Czechoslovakia. On the Moosbierbaum mission, one B-24 was seen to explode in the Vienna area. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 129 and 130)

15 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing to and from Innsbruck, Austria (Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report number 131)

16 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and from Brux, Germany, and one to escort a single B-25 to Mrkoplj, Yugoslavia. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 132 and 133)

17 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing and B-24s of the 49th and 304th Bombardment Wings on withdrawal from a raid on Olomouc (Olmütz), Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 134)

18 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-24 Liberators of the 49th Bombardment Wing to and from oil refineries at Blechhammer, and one to escort a P-38 on a reconnaissance mission to Innsbruck, Austria (Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 135 and 136)

19 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group again flew two missions, one to escort B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing to and from Blechhammer South oil refinery, and one to escort a P-38 on a reconnaissance mission to Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 137 and 138).

20 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-17 Flying Fortresses of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and from an oil refinery at Brux, and one to escort a single P-38 on a reconnaissance mission to Prague, Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 139 and 140)

22 December 1944: After a day without a mission, the 332d Fighter Group escorted one P-38 on a reconnaissance mission to and from Ingolstadt, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 141)

23 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group again escorted a single P-38 on a reconnaissance mission, this time to Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia. Captain Lawrence E. Dickson of the 100th Fighter Squadron was reported to have bailed out of his P-51D over Italy because of engine trouble. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 142 and Missing Air Crew Report number 10734)

24 December 1944: Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., resumed command of the 332d Fighter Group, replacing Major George S. Roberts, who had commanded the group since 3 November (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*).

25 December 1944: After a day without a mission, the 332d Fighter Group escorted Fifteenth Air Force Bombers (number and wing not specified) during a raid on the Brux oil refinery, Germany. Although no enemy aircraft were encountered, Me-109 German fighters were seen chasing B-26 medium bombers in the distance. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 143)

26 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing and B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing on withdrawal from the Odertal and Blechhammer oil refineries of Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 144)

27 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s Flying Fortresses of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and from oil refineries in the Vienna area of Austria (Germany at the time). During the mission, a B-17 was seen to explode in the Linz area. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 145)

28 December 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to and from the Kolin and Pardubice oil refineries in Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 146)

29 December 1944: For the second day in a row, the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing, this time to and from targets in Muhldorf and Lanshut, Germany. At noon, 1st Lt. Frederick D. Funderburg, Jr. and 2d Lt. Andrew D. Marshall, both of the 301st Fighter Squadron, were reported missing with their P-51Cs over the Munich area of Germany. Lieutenants Robert J. Friend and Lewis Craig were reported to have bailed out of their P-51s. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 147, Missing Air Crew Report numbers 10931 and 10932, and Lynn M. Homan and Thomas Reilly, *Black Knights*)

3 January 1945: 332d Fighter Group pilot strength was noted as 121, with overall personnel numbering 1250. After four days without missions, the 332d Fighter Group provided reconnaissance escort for a P-38 to the Munich and Linz areas of Germany and Austria. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 148)

5 January 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted one Mosquito aircraft on a reconnaissance mission to the Munich area of Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 149)

8 January 1945: After two days without missions, the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 Liberators of the 47th Bombardment Wing to and from the marshalling yards of Linz, Austria (Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report number 150)

11 January 1945: The 387th Air Service Group moved from Daniel Field, Georgia, to Godman Field, Kentucky, where it was welcomed by Colonel Robert R. Selway, Jr., commander of Godman Field. (387th Air Service Group history for January 1945). According to the group history, "Recreational facilities at Godman were adequate to satisfy most of the men" under Colonel Selway. Selway was also commander of the 477th Bombardment Group. (387th Air Service Group history, February-April 1945).

15 January 1945: After six days without missions, the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to and from a raid on targets in Vienna, Austria (Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report number 151)

18 January 1945: After two days without a mission, the 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, each to escort a single P-38 for reconnaissance photographs over Germany. One went to Stuttgart and the other went to Munich. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 152 and 153)

19 January 1945: Six P-51s of the 332d Fighter Group escorted a single P-38 to Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia for reconnaissance photographs. The P-38 suffered engine failure and the pilot had to bail out. One of the six escorts landed at a field other than Ramitelli. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 154)

20 January 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one that escorted B-17 Flying Fortresses of the 5th Bombardment Wing to oil storage targets at Regensburg, Germany, and one that escorted a single P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission to and from Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia. On the latter mission, the escort formation ran into a snowstorm and became separated. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 155 and 156). On the same day, the 96th Service Group was officially redesignated as the 96th Air Service Group. (Organization Record Card)

21 January 1945: the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing for a second day in a row, but this time to and from Vienna Lobau Distillation Unit and Schwechat Oil Refinery. Two German fighter jet Me-262s were seen following the bomber formation. According to Missing Air Crew Reports, 3 of the bombers were lost, two because of mechanical difficulty, and one to an unknown cause. Two of the 332d Fighter Group P-51 pilots, both from the 100th Fighter Squadron, were also reported lost, both because of engine trouble. Flight Officer Samuel J. Foreman was reported missing over northern Yugoslavia at 1100 hours, and 2d Lt. Albert L. Young was reported missing at 1205 near Vienna, Austria. A Lt. Smith was hit by enemy anti-aircraft artillery at Wiener Neustadt. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 157; Missing Air Crew Report numbers 11387, 11539, 11540, 11541, 11542)

31 January 1945: After nine days without missions, because of bad winter weather that obscured targets, the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 47th and 55th Bombardment Wings to and from the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery in the Vienna area of Austria (then Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report number 158).

1 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two different missions that day, one to escort B-24s of the 49th Bombardment Wing and one to escort B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing, but both wings with their escorts raided the same target: Moobierbaum Oil Refinery in the Vienna area of Austria (then Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 159 and 160)

3 February 1945: P-51 fighter pilots of the 332d Fighter Group escorted a single P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Munich area of southern Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 161)

5 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 Liberators of the 47th Bombardment Wing to and from the marshalling yards and main railroad station at Salzburg, Austria (then Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report number 162)

6 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group conducted a fighter sweep over Yugoslavia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 163)

7 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two different missions that day, one to escort B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing and one to escort B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing, but both wings raided the same target: Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery in the Vienna area of Austria (then Germany). The two missions were similar to those on February 1). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 164 and 165)

8 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions on the same day. On one of the missions, P-51 fighters escorted a single P-38 aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Stuttgart, Germany. On a second mission, 332d Fighter Group pilots conducted a fighter sweep over Yugoslavia. On the third mission of the day, the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 55th Bombardment Wing to and from Vienna South depots in Austria (then Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 166, 167, and 168)

11 February 1945: 2d Lt. Thomas C. Street of the 99th Fighter Squadron died while serving overseas. (American Battle Monuments Commission)

12 February 1945: P-51 fighter pilots of the 332d Fighter Group escorted a single P-38 airplane on a photographic reconnaissance mission to and from Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 169)

13 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions. On one mission, the group escorted a P-38 aircraft on a reconnaissance mission over Munich in southern Germany. On the second mission, the group escorted B-24 Liberators of the 49th

Bombardment Wing to and from Vienna Central railroad repair shops in Austria (then Germany). On its third mission that day, the 332d Fighter Group escorted bombers over Zagreb, Maribor, and Graz. A pilot reported seeing an unidentified jet-propelled enemy aircraft in the distance. One of the 332d Fighter Group pilots also reported hearing a radio transmission from a bomber noting a jet-propelled aircraft had made a pass at the bombers. (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 170, 171, and 172).

14 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-17 Flying Fortresses of the 5th Bombardment Wing, and one to escort B-24 Liberators of the 55th Bombardment Wing, but both wings attacked the same targets: oil refineries in Vienna, Lobau, and Schwechat. On both missions, the 332d Fighter Group provided penetration, target cover, and withdrawal escort for the bombers. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 173 and 174).

15 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions to escort two different sections of the B-24s of the 49th Bombardment Wing (Red Force and Blue Force) to and from the Penzinger marshalling yards in Vienna, Austria (then Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 175 and 176).

16 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions. The group escorted a Mosquito aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich and a P-38 aircraft on another photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich. On the third mission P-51 pilots of the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-17 Flying Fortresses of the 5th Bombardment Wing to and from the airdrome at Lechfeld, Germany. On this mission, 2d Lt. John M. Chavis of the 99th Fighter Squadron was reported lost with his P-51C at 1020 hours over Italy. On this mission, 332d Fighter Group pilots reported seeing three bombers explode in the air, including two B-17s near Bolzano, Italy, and a B-24 (not assigned to the 332d Fighter Group for escort that day) near Innsbruck, Austria (then Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 177, 178, and 179)

17 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions in one day, again. The group escorted a P-38 on a reconnaissance mission to Nurnberg, Germany. The group also escorted a Mosquito aircraft on another reconnaissance mission, this one to Munich, Germany. A pilot reported seeing jet aircraft in the distance on this mission. On its third mission of the day, the group strafed railroad targets between Linz and Vienna, Austria (then Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 180, 181, and 182)

18 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-24 bombers of the 47th Bombardment Wing to and from the Wels marshalling yards in the Linz area of Austria (then Germany), and one to escort a single P-38 aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission in the Linz area. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 183 and 184)

19 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 Liberator bombers of the 49th Bombardment Wing to and from the Vienna area of Austria (then Germany). A

Spitfire with British markings was seen firing on the formation. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 185)

20 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort a single P-38 aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Nurnberg, Germany, and another to escort B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing to and from Vipitento and Brenner marshalling yards. The second mission report for the day noted that the “fighters had to leave bombers because of shortage of gas”. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 186 and 187)

21 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 Liberators of the 304th Bombardment Wing on a raid to Vienna’s central marshalling yards. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 188)

22 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions. The group escorted B-17 Flying Fortresses of the 5th Bombardment Wing to provide target cover during raids on marshalling yards in southeastern Germany. The other two missions escorted P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions, one to Prague, Czechoslovakia and Linz, Austria (then Germany), and one to Stuttgart, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 189, 190, and 191)

23 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 Liberator bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to Gmund West marshalling yards in Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 192)

24 February 1945: P-51 fighter pilots of the 332d Fighter Group escorted a Mosquito aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Munich area of southern Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 193)

25 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to strafe railroad traffic in southern Germany and Austria (then part of Germany), and one to escort a single P-38 aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Munich area. Three of the 332d Fighter Group P-51C pilots were reported missing that day. 1st Lt. Alfred M. Gorham of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported lost at 1145 hours east of Munich after experiencing mechanical failure. 2d Lt. Wendell W. Hockaday of the 99th Fighter Squadron was reported missing at 1225 over Uttendorf, Austria after suffering damage during a strafing attack. 2d Lt. George J. Iles, also of the 99th Fighter Squadron, was reported missing at 1245 hours over Augsburg, Germany after being hit by antiaircraft artillery fire. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 194 and 195 and Missing Air Crew Report numbers 12664, 12665, and 12670)

26 February 1945: P-51 fighters of the 332d Fighter Group escorted a Mosquito aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich in southern Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 196)

27 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 49th Bombardment Wing to and from the Augsburg marshalling yards in Germany. No enemy aircraft were encountered, but at least one pilot saw what he believed to be a German Me-163 in the distance. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 197)

28 February 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions, two of them to escort P-38 airplanes on two separate photographic missions over Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia, and one to escort B-17 Flying Fortresses of the 5th Bombardment Wing over Verona in northern Italy. The third mission of the day was the 200th mission of the 332d Fighter Group for the Fifteenth Air Force. Of those 200 missions, 138 had been to escort bombers. (332d Fighter Group mission reports numbered 198, 199, and 200)

1 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew four missions. One escorted a P-38 airplane on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia, and two escorted P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions over Stuttgart, Germany. The fourth mission escorted B-24 Liberator bombers of the 55th Bombardment Wing to and from the Moobierbaum oil refineries in the Vienna area of Austria (then part of Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 201, 202, 203, and 204)

2 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort a single P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Praha (Prague), Czechoslovakia, and the other to escort B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the marshalling yards of Linz, Austria (then part of Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 205 and 206)

2-7 March 1945: The squadrons (616th, 617th, 618th, and 619th) of the 477th Bombardment Group moved to Freeman Field, Indiana.

3 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group conducted a strafing mission against railroad targets between Maribor, Bruck, and Weiner-Neustadt. First Lieutenants Robert L. Martin and Alphonso Simmons, both P-51D pilots of the 100th Fighter Squadron, were reported missing on that mission after having been hit by anti-aircraft artillery fire at 1410 hours over Graz Airdrome, Austria. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 207 and Missing Air Crew Report Numbers 12827 and 12828)

4 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-24s of the 49th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the marshalling yards of Graz. On that mission, one B-24 was seen going down, with six crew members parachuting out of the bomber. On the other mission, P-51 fighter pilots of the 332d Fighter Group escorted a Mosquito type aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich in southern Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 208 and 209)

5 March 1945: The 477th Bombardment Group moved from Godman Field, Kentucky, to Freeman Field, Indiana, a larger base which had recently been vacated as a twin-engine pilot training station. (477th Bombardment Group history for period 16 Jan-15 April 1945).

6 March 1945: 332d Fighter Group pilots escorted a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Klagenfurt and Linz areas of Austria (Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission report number 210) On the same day, the 302d Fighter Squadron was inactivated, leaving the 332d Fighter Group with three fighter squadrons, the 99th, 100th, and 301st. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). From then until the end of the war, the 332d Fighter Group had the same number of fighter squadrons as the other six fighter groups of the Fifteenth Air Force.

7 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group again escorted a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission, this time over Munich, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 211)

7 March 1945: The 387th Air Service Group moved from Godman Field, Kentucky, to Freeman Field, Indiana, to which the 477th Bombardment Group, which the 387th Air Service Group supported, had already moved two days earlier. (387th Air Service Group history for the period February-April 1945).

9 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions in one day. Two of them escorted P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions, one to Linz, Austria (then part of Germany) and one to the Munich area of Germany. The third mission that day escorted B-17 Flying Fortress bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the marshalling yards at Bruck, Austria. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 212, 213, and 214).

10 March 1945: An article by Roi Ottley entitled “Dark Angels of Doom” was published in *Liberty* Magazine. It suggested that members of the 332d Fighter Group had never lost a bomber in more than 100 missions, despite the fact some of the group’s escorted bombers were shot down by enemy aircraft the previous summer.

12 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group, after not flying missions for two days, flew three missions, as it had on 9 March. Two escorted P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions, one to the Linz area of Austria (then part of Germany) and one to Munich, Germany. The third mission escorted B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the Floridsdorf oil refinery in the Vienna area of Austria. During the mission, pilots reported having heard on the radio that an aircraft was being jumped by enemy aircraft. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 215, 216, and 217).

13 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group again flew three missions. Two escorted P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions, one to Stuttgart, Germany, and the other to Nurnberg, Germany. The third mission escorted B-17 Flying Fortress bombers to, over, and from the marshalling yards at Regensburg, Germany. On two of the missions, enemy FW-190 fighter airplanes were seen. On the bomber escort mission, the bombers were early and the fighters were late to the rendezvous point. (332d Fighter Group mission reports 218, 219, and 220)

14 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew four missions. One strafed targets on the railroad line connecting Bruck, Leoben, and Steyr. One escorted B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Group to, over, and from a railroad bridge and marshalling yards at Varazdin, Yugoslavia. The other two missions escorted P-38 airplanes on photographic reconnaissance missions over Munich. On one of those missions, at least one pilot reported seeing a German Me-262 jet in the distance. 1st Lt. Harold H. Brown of the 99th Fighter Squadron was reported lost with his P-51C at 1115 hours east of Bruck, Austria after being damaged during a strafing attack. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 221, 222, 223, and 224; Missing Air Crew Report number 12996)

15 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to provide target cover for Fifteenth Air Force B-24s on raids in the area from Flotsam to Geisha, Yugoslavia, and one to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to Zittau, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 225 and 226)

16 March 1945: Lt. William S. Price III of the 301st Fighter Squadron shot down an Me-109 during a strafing mission against railroad targets. (Fifteenth Air Force General Order 1734 from 1945, and 332d Fighter Group mission report number 227). This was the first day in four months that members of the 332d Fighter Group shot down enemy aircraft, reflecting the diminished enemy aircraft opposition during the winter. One 332d Fighter Group P-51B pilot, 1st Lt. Jimmie D. Wheeler of the 99th Fighter Squadron, was lost with his P-51B at 1320 hours over Muhldorf, Germany, after he struck a tree on the strafing mission. There were three other missions that day. Two escorted Mosquito type aircraft on photographic reconnaissance missions, one over Munich, Germany, and the other over Prague, Czechoslovakia. The fourth mission escorted Fifteenth Air Force B-24s over and from Monfalcone Harbor, Italy. (332d Fighter Group mission reports 228, 229, and 230 and Missing Air Crew Report number 13060)

17 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions to escort P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions, one to Prague, Czechoslovakia, and the other to Linz, Austria (then part of Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission reports 231 and 232)

19 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions, two to escort Mosquito type aircraft on photographic missions, one to the Linz and Munich areas of Austria and Germany, and the other to Linz. The third mission escorted B-24 Liberator bombers of the 55th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the marshalling yards at Muhldorf. At least one of the pilots reported seeing an enemy jet-propelled aircraft over the Brenner Pass between Italy and Austria. (332d Fighter Group mission reports 233, 234, and 235).

20 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions. One escorted a Mosquito type aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Linz, Austria and Munich, Germany, one to escort a C-47 transport type aircraft over Sanki Most, Yugoslavia, and one to escort B-24 bombers in the second wave of 304th Bombardment Wing bombers to Kralupy oil refinery in Czechoslovakia. On the bomber escort mission, Flight Officer Newman C. Golden of the 99th Fighter Squadron was reported missing after

bailing out of his mechanically troubled P-51B aircraft at 1132 hours over Wels, Austria. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 236, 237, and 238 and Missing Air Crew Report number 13126)

21 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew four missions. One escorted B-24 bombers of the 47th Bombardment Wing to an airdrome at Neuberg, Germany. The other three missions escorted P-38 aircraft on photographic reconnaissance missions over Linz, Austria; Munich, Germany; Nurnberg, Germany; and Prague, Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 239, 240, 241, and 242)

22 March 1945: P-51 fighters of the 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort one P-38 airplane on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Ruhland, Germany. On that mission, one of the P-51s was damaged by enemy anti-aircraft artillery fire. The other 332d Fighter Group mission that day escorted two waves of B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the Kralupy oil refinery in Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 243 and 244)

23 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted two waves of B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the Ruhland oil refinery, Germany. 2d Lt. Lincoln T. Hudson of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported missing with his P-51C at 1310 hours northeast of Vienna, Austria after suffering engine trouble. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 245 and Missing Air Crew Report number 13256)

24 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group took part in the longest World War II raid of the Fifteenth Air Force. Along with other fighter groups of the Fifteenth Air Force, it escorted B-17 bombers of the 5th Bomb Wing on a mission to Berlin, the German capital. On the way the Tuskegee Airmen encountered German jet Me-262 fighters and shot down three of them (332d Fighter Group mission report number 246). The three victors were 1st Lt. Roscoe Brown, 1st Lt. Earl R. Lane, and 2d Lt. Charles V. Brantley, all of whom belonged to the 100th Fighter Squadron (Fifteenth Air Force General Order 2293 dated 12 Apr 1945). For this mission, the 332d Fighter Group earned its only Distinguished Unit Citation of World War II (332d Fighter Group lineage and honors history; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*). The group's 99th Fighter Squadron earned its third Distinguished Unit Citation for this mission (99th Fighter Squadron lineage and honors history). Five members of the 31st Fighter Group's 308th Fighter Squadron also each shot down a German jet that day. Missing Air Crew Reports indicate five 332d Fighter Group P-51 fighters as missing that day. The pilots included Captain Armour G. McDaniel and Flight Officers James T. Mitchell, Jr. and Leon W. Spears of the 301st Fighter Squadron and 2d Lieutenants Ronald Reeves and Robert C. Robinson of the 100th Fighter Squadron. McDaniel was shot down by enemy aircraft, and Spears might have been, as well, south of Berlin, at about 1215 hours. Reeves and Robinson ran out of fuel over the Udine area of northern Italy at about 1400 hours, and Mitchell probably experienced mechanical failure south of Chemnitz, Germany, at 1315 hours. (Missing Air Crew Reports 13266, 13267, 13268, 13269, and 13270). Enemy fighters also shot down 3 of the escorted bombers (Missing Air Crew Reports 13274, 13278, and 13375, and mission reports of the 2d, 463d, and 483d Bombardment Groups for 24 March 1945). A combination of enemy anti-aircraft

artillery (flak) and enemy aircraft shot down two additional escorted bombers. (Missing Air Crew Reports 13374 and 13271) On that same day, the *Chicago Defender* newspaper published an article stating that the 332d Fighter Group had flown its 200th mission without losing any bombers, despite the fact that group-escorted bombers had been shot down by enemy airplanes the previous summer. A bomber under the escort of the 332d Fighter Group had not been shot down by enemy aircraft since at least September 1944, a period of more than six months.

25 March 1945: Despite the very long mission of the previous day, the 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Linz, Austria, and one to escort B-24 Liberator bombers of the 49th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the Prague/Nbely Airdrome in Czechoslovakia. One witness saw what appeared to be a Russian aircraft attacking the P-51s. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 247 and 248)

26 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group again flew two missions, one to escort a Mosquito type aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich, Germany, and one to escort B-17 Flying Fortress bombers to, over, and from the Wiener Neustadt marshalling yards. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 249 and 250).

29 March 1945: 2nd Lt. Roland M. Moody of the 301st Fighter Squadron died while serving overseas. (American Battle Monuments Commission)

30 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group sent P-51s to escort a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 251)

31 March 1945: The 332d Fighter Group conducted a fighter sweep and strafing mission against railroad and other targets in the Munich area of southern Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 252) During the mission, twelve members of the group shot down a total of 13 enemy airplanes, including FW-190s and Me-109s. The victors included 1st Lt Robert W. Williams, who shot down 2 FW-190s, and Maj William A. Campbell, 1st Lts Roscoe C. Brown, Earl R. Lane, and Daniel L. Rich, 2d Lts Raul W. Bell, Thomas P. Brasswell, John W. Davis, James L. Hall, Hugh J. White, and Bertram W. Wilson, Jr, and Flight Officer John H. Lyle, who each shot down one enemy aircraft. (Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 2292 and 2293 from 1945) Three 332d Fighter Group P-51D pilots were reported missing that day, including 2d Lt. Arnett W. Starks, Jr and 1st Lt. Clarence N. Driver of the 100th Fighter Squadron, and 2d Lt. Frank N. Wright of the 99th Fighter Squadron. Driver went missing at 1315 hours over northern Italy probably because of low fuel. Wright went into a spin while in pursuit of the enemy at 1420 hours over Landshut, Germany. Starks was hit by enemy antiaircraft artillery at 1430 hours over Voklammerkt, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 252 and Missing Air Crew Report numbers 13211, 13212, and 13216)

March 1945: During that month, members of the 332d Fighter Group and its squadrons shot down a total of 17 enemy airplanes.

1 April 1945: Seven members of the 332d Fighter Group's 301st Fighter Squadron shot down a total of 12 enemy airplanes during a mission to escort B-24s of the 47th Bombardment Wing to raid the St. Polten marshalling yard and conduct a fighter sweep of Linz, Austria. The victors included 1st Lt Harry T. Stewart, who shot down 3 FW-190s, 1st Lt. Charles L. White, who shot down 2 Me-109s, 2d Lt Carl E. Carey, who shot down 2 FW-190s, 2d Lt John E. Edwards, who shot down 2 Me-109s, 2d Lts Walter P. Manning and Harold M. Morris, who each shot down one FW-190, and Flight Officer James H. Fisher, who shot down another FW-190. Two of the 332d Fighter Group P-51 pilots were reported missing: 2d Lt. Walter P. Manning and Flight Officer William P. Armstrong, both of the 301st Fighter Squadron, at 1400 over Wels, Austria, after encountering enemy aircraft. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 253 and Fifteenth Air Force General Order 2294 of 1945; Missing Air Crew Report numbers 13376 and 13377). On the same day, the 332d Fighter Group sent a set of P-51s on a second mission, to escort a single P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Prague, Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 254)

2 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions. Two escorted P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions, one to the San Severo area of Italy and one to the Munich area of southern Germany. On the Munich mission, they encountered an Me-262 German jet fighter, which attacked the small formation. On the third mission that day, the 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 Liberator bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing over the Krems marshalling yards in Austria (then part of Germany). (332d Fighter Group mission reports 255, 256, and 257)

5 April 1945: Back in the United States, 61 black officers of the squadrons of the 477th Bombardment Group at Freeman Field were arrested for entering an officers' club that had been closed to them. On the same day, 332d Fighter Group P-51 fighters escorted a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Linz, Austria, while other group fighters, on another mission, escorted B-17s Flying Fortress bombers of the 5th Bombardment Wing on a raid against a major enemy airfield at Udine, Italy. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 258 and 259)

5 April 1945: The 115th Army Air Forces Base Unit, which supported the 477th Bombardment Group, moved from Godman Field, Kentucky, to Freeman Field, Indiana, where the 387th Air Service Group was already located. (115 AAF Base Unit organization record card)

6 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-24 Liberators of the 304th and 47th Bombardment Wings to, over, and from the Verona ordnance depot and marshalling yards in northern Italy, and the other to escort a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Prague, Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 260 and 261) On the same day, the 96th Air Service Group, which had provided ground services for the 332d Fighter Group in Italy, was disestablished.

6 April 1945: Freeman Field was made a Control Base, and base functions changed. The 387th Air Service Group was made responsible only for the supply and maintenance of

the 477th Bombardment Group, and its squadrons were moved to another part of the base, which lowered group morale. (387th Air Service Group history for the period February-April 1945)

7 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group again flew two missions. One escorted six groups of 5th Bombardment Wing B-17s raiding the Vipiteno, Camp Di Trens, and Bressanone railroad bridges in northern Italy. One of the group P-51 fighter pilots was initially reported missing, but he later returned. On the second mission that day, 332d Fighter Group P-51s escorted a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 262 and 263) 2 Lt. Ferrier H. White of the 100th Fighter Squadron died while serving overseas. (American Battle Monuments Commission)

8 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions. One escorted a Mosquito-type aircraft on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Linz and Munich areas of Austria and southern Germany. Another escorted a P-38 on a similar photographic reconnaissance mission over Prague, Yugoslavia. The third mission escorted B-17 Flying Fortresses of three groups of the 5th Bombardment Wing on a raid against the Campdazzo railroad bridge in northern Italy. On that mission, one of the B-17s was seen to crash into the Adriatic Sea. The mission report noted that “Bombers were strung out making them difficult to cover.” (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 264, 265, and 266)

9 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group again flew three missions in one day. The first escorted a P-38 airplane on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Linz and Nurnberg areas of Austria and Germany. On that mission an enemy Me-262 was seen. On the second mission, group P-51 fighters escorted another P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Linz and Prague areas of Austria and Czechoslovakia. On the third 332d Fighter Group mission of the day, Tuskegee-trained pilots escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing and B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to and from the vicinity of Bologna in northern Italy. On that mission, a B-17 was seen spinning down, with three crewmen parachuting out of it. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 267, 268, and 269)

10 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions. One of them escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing and B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing on a raid to Bologna, Italy. The other escorted a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Munich area of southern Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 270 and 271)

10 April 1945: The 115th Army Air Forces Base Unit was discontinued, but the 387th Air Service Group remained to take up its functions, supporting the 477th Bombardment Group at Godman Field, Kentucky. (115 AAF Base Unit organization record card).

11 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions again. One escorted B-24 Liberators of the 304th Bombardment Group to the Ponte Gardena railroad bridge in

northern Italy. The mission report noted that the bombers were strung out, making them difficult to cover. The second mission of the day escorted a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Munich, Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 272 and 273)

12 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew four missions in one day. Two of them escorted photographic reconnaissance aircraft, one over Linz, Austria (then part of Germany) and one over Munich, Germany. The other two missions escorted B-24 Liberator bombers, one for the 47th Bombardment Wing on a raid against the Casarsa Diversion railroad bridge of northern Italy, and one for the 49th Bombardment Wing against the St. Veit railroad bridge. On the last mission, two of the escorting P-51s collided. One pilot was reported lost, and the other one was reported as missing. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 274, 275, 276, and 277). 2d Lt. Samuel G. Leftenant of the 99th Fighter Squadron was reported missing with his P-51C at 1508 hours north of Klagenfurth after the mid-air collision. (Missing Air Crew Report number 13984).

14 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions. One escorted a photographic reconnaissance aircraft over Munich in southern Germany. The other escorted four British Halifax bombers of the 148th Squadron (Royal Air Force) to, over, and from Voschia. The British bombers dropped supplies to friendly personnel on the ground. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 278 and 279)

15 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions. The first escorted a single P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over Bolzano and Prague, Czechoslovakia. The second escorted B-24 bombers of the 304th Bombardment Wing ("Blue Force" section) to, over, and from an ammunition factory and storage facility at Ghedi. The third mission strafed railroad targets in the areas of Munich, Salzburg, Linz, Pilzen, and Regensburg in Germany and Austria (then part of Germany). On this last mission, Lt. Jimmy Lanham of the 301st Fighter Squadron shot down an Me-109 in the Munich area. One of the 332d Fighter Group pilots was reported lost, one was reported missing, and two were reported to have landed at friendly fields. There are missing air crew reports on Flight Officers Morris E. Gant and Thurston L. Gaines, both of the 99th Fighter Squadron, who flew P-51Cs. Gaines went missing at 1430 hours about 40 miles from Muhldorf, Germany after being hit by enemy antiaircraft artillery fire, and Gant was reported missing at 1600 hours about 12 miles east of Pescara, Italy after running low on fuel. For his leadership of this outstanding railroad strafing mission, in which the 332d Fighter Group destroyed or damaged 35 locomotives, 8 oil cars, 44 other units of rolling stock, 4 barges, 4 motor transports on a flat car, and one aircraft in the air, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis earned the only Silver Star awarded to any member of the 332d Fighter Group. (Fifteenth Air Force General Order 3496 dated 31 May 1945; 332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 280, 281, and 282; Missing Air Crew Report numbers 13798 and 13813; and Fifteenth Air Force General Order 3484 issued in 1945)

16 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew five missions in one day. The first escorted three C-47 transports that went to northern Yugoslavia. Three of the missions escorted P-38s on photographic reconnaissance missions to the Munich and Linz areas of

southern Germany and Austria. The other mission escorted B-24 Liberators of the 49th and 55th Bombardment Wings to the Bologna area of northern Italy. The latter mission report noted that the bombers were “strung out and difficult to cover.” (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 283, 284, 285, 286, and 287)

17 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Linz area of Austria and the Munich area of southern Germany. The other escorted B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing and B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing over and from Bologna, Italy. The report noted that the B-24s were split up by enemy antiaircraft artillery fire (flak) in the target area, and fighter coverage was quite difficult. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 288 and 289)

18 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group again flew two missions. One escorted a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Brno area. The other escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing (although originally assigned to escort B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing) over and from Bologna, Italy. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 290 and 291)

19 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions, one to escort B-24 Liberator bombers to, over, and from the Puchheim railroad yards and Wels, and one to escort a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Munich area of southern Germany. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 292 and 293)

20 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group again flew two missions, one to escort B-24s of the 49th and 55th Bombardment Wings raiding railroad bridges in northern Italy, and one to escort a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission over the Praha and Brno areas of Czechoslovakia. On the first mission, one of the P-51 pilots was at first reported missing, but he eventually returned. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 294 and 295)

21 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions in one day. It flew a fighter sweep south of a line running from Augsburg to Munich to Regensburg. Another mission escorted B-24 Liberators of the 49th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from the Attang and Puchheim marshalling yards. The third mission escorted two British bombers, one Halifax and one Lancaster, on a supply-dropping mission over Yugoslavia. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 296, 297, and 298). Flight Officer Leland H. Pennington of the 301st Fighter Squadron was reported missing with his P-51B at 1050 hours 15 miles west of Zara off the coast of Yugoslavia. (Missing Air Crew Report number 14022).

22 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group was assigned to escort a photographic reconnaissance aircraft over Brno, Czechoslovakia. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 299) On the same day, the group conducted an armed reconnaissance mission over northern Italy. This was the 300th mission the 332d Fighter Group flew for the Fifteenth Air Force. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 300)

23 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew three missions, one to escort a P-38 on a reconnaissance mission over the Prague area of Czechoslovakia, one to escort another P-38 on another reconnaissance mission over the Linz and Brno areas, and one to escort B-24 Liberators of the 55th and 304th Bombardment Wings to and over the Padua and Cavarzere areas of Italy. On the latter mission one of the 332d Fighter Group P-51 fighters was hit by enemy anti-aircraft artillery, but the pilot bailed out safely. He was 1st Lt. Hugh J. White of the 99th Fighter Squadron, who was reported missing at 1150 hours over Stanghella, Italy. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 301, 302, and 303; Missing Air Crew Report number 14035)

24 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24 bombers of the 47th and 49th Bombardment Wings to, over, and from enemy targets in northern Italy. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 304)

25 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew four missions, including one armed reconnaissance mission over the Verona area of northern Italy. Two other missions escorted Mosquito-type aircraft on reconnaissance missions, one over the Munich area of southern Germany and one over the Linz area of Austria (then part of Germany). The fourth mission escorted a P-38 on a reconnaissance mission over the Salzburg area of Austria. (332d Fighter Group mission report numbers 305, 306, 307, and 308)

26 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew two missions. One escorted a P-38 on a reconnaissance mission over Linz, Prague, and Amstettin in central Europe. On that mission, the group encountered German Me-109 fighters. 2d Lieutenant Thomas W. Jefferson shot down two of the enemy airplanes, and 1st Lieutenant Jimmy Lanham and 2d Lieutenant Richard A. Simons each shot down one. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 309 and Fifteenth Air Force General Orders 2990 and 3362 from 1945). These were the last aerial victories of the Tuskegee Airmen during the war. The 332d Fighter Group had shot down a total of 94 enemy aircraft during World War II. The 99th Fighter Squadron had shot down a total of 18 enemy airplanes before joining the 332d Fighter Group. Together, African-American pilots shot down a total of 112 enemy airplanes during World War II. The other mission that day was the 332d Fighter Group's final bomber escort for the Fifteenth Air Force, protecting B-24s of the 47th and 55th Bombardment Wings on raids over the Casarsa and Malcontenta ammunition storage dumps. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 310).

26-27 April 1945: In the United States, the 477th Bombardment Group and its four squadrons (616th, 617th, 618th, and 619th) moved from Freeman Field, Indiana, where there had been a racial incident, back to Godman Field, Kentucky, where the group had been based before 5 March. ((477th Bombardment Group history for the period 16 April-15 July 1945).

28 April 1945: The 387th Air Service Group moved back from Freeman Field, Indiana, to Godman Field, Kentucky, where it had been stationed before 7 March. (387th Air Service Group history for the period February-April 1945).

30 April 1945: The 332d Fighter Group flew its 311th and final mission for the Fifteenth Air Force, and its last World War II mission, providing escort for a reconnaissance aircraft to Bolzano, Italy. (332d Fighter Group mission report number 311). Since the 332d Fighter Group was assigned to the Fifteenth Air Force, which managed U.S. strategic bombing in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, the group had flown 179 bomber escort missions, 172 of them to protect heavy bombers such as B-17s or B-24s.

April 1945: During that month members of the 332d Fighter Group and its squadrons shot down a total of 17 enemy airplanes.

c. 4 May 1945: The 332d Fighter Group moved from Ramitelli Airfield, Italy, to Cattolica, Italy (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; 332d Fighter Group lineage and honors history).

c. 5 May 1945: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Cattolica, Italy. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*)

29 May 1945: Maj. William A. Campbell was awarded the first oak leaf cluster to his Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), becoming the first black pilot to earn two DFCs. (332d Fighter Group History, Oct 1942-1947)

1 June 1945: The 67th AAF Base Unit (Tuskegee Weather Detachment) was discontinued. (organization record card)

8 June 1945: Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of the 332d Fighter Group, was presented with the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

9 June 1945: Major George S. Roberts resumed command of the 332d Fighter Group. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*)

21 June 1945: Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. assumed command of the 477th Bombardment Group, replacing Colonel Robert R. Selway, Jr.. At the same time, Colonel Davis also became temporary commander of the 387th Air Service Group, which supported the 477th Bombardment Group at Godman Field. Davis replaced Lt. Col. David H. Thomas, a white officer who had been in command of the 387th Air Service Group since July 1944. (387th Air Service Group history for period April-July 1945; 387th Air Service Group Special Order 51 dated 23 June 1945).

22 June 1945: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Godman Field, Kentucky, and was reassigned from the 332d Fighter Group to the 477th Group, which was redesignated from a Bombardment Group to a Composite Group, since it would have both bombers and fighters. At the same time, the 616th and the 619th Bombardment Squadrons of the group were inactivated, but the 617th and 618th Bombardment Squadrons remained. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*)

26 June 1945: Major Elmer D. Jones, Jr. assumed command of the 387th Air Service Group, relieving Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who remained commander of the 477th Bombardment Group. (387th Air Service Group history for the period April 1945-July 1945; 387th Air Service Group General Order 11 dated 26 June 1945).

29 June 1945: The emblem of the 301st Fighter Squadron was approved. It consisted of a disk depicting a cat on a flying machine gun. (Unit emblem folder)

c. 18 July 1945: The 332d Fighter Group moved from Cattolica, Italy, to Lucera, Italy. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; 332d Fighter Group lineage and honors history)

September 1945: The 332d Fighter Group departed Lucera, Italy, for movement to the United States of America. (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; 332d Fighter Group lineage and honors history)

8 October 1945: The 618th Bombardment Squadron was inactivated. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*).

17 October 1945: The 332d Fighter Group arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*).

19 October 1945: The 332d Fighter Group was inactivated, along with the 100th Fighter Squadron and the 301st Fighter Squadron (Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*). The 302d Fighter Squadron had already been inactivated in March. That left only the 99th Fighter Squadron active.

17 November 1945: A War Department board of general officers headed by Lieutenant General Alvan C. Gillem, Jr. submitted a report, "Policy for Utilization of Negro Manpower in the Post-War Army." It recommended that "Negro units" (implying continued segregation) should include personnel that were not more than 9 percent of the total of US Army personnel. (AFHRA call number 170.2111-1; IRIS number 00128007)

13 March 1946: The 99th Fighter Squadron moved to Lockbourne Army Air Base, Ohio, along with the 477th Composite Group to which it was assigned. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*)

14 April 1946: The Army Air Forces Pilot School (Basic-Advanced) at Tuskegee Army Air Field was discontinued, along with the 2143d AAF Base Unit there. (organization record cards for both organizations)

28 June 1946: The last class of pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Air Field.

1 July 1947: The 99th Fighter Squadron was assigned again to the 332d Fighter Group, which was activated again that day, at Lockbourne, Ohio. The 100th and 301st Fighter Squadrons were also activated there that day, and assigned to the 332d Fighter Group. They were equipped with P-47 aircraft. On the same day, the 617th Bombardment Squadron and the 477th Composite Group, to which it was assigned, were inactivated. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*)

28 July 1947: The 332d Fighter Wing was established.

15 August 1947: The 332d Fighter Wing was activated under the command of Major Edward C. Glead at Lockbourne Army Air Base. The 332d Fighter Group was assigned to the wing.

26 July 1948: President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, officially ending segregation in the United States armed forces.

8 October 1948: The 387th Air Service Group was inactivated and disbanded at Godman Field, Kentucky. (387th Air Service Group organization record card.)

2-11 May 1949: At the 1949 USAF Gunnery Meet in Las Vegas, Nevada, the 332d Fighter Group team won top honors in the conventional aircraft division. Among the victors were Capt. Alva N. Temple, Lt. James H. Harvey, Jr., and Lt. Harry T. Stewart, Jr. (332d Fighter Group history, May 1949)

1 July 1949: The 332d Fighter Group and its three fighter squadrons, the 99th, 100th, and 301st, were inactivated. (Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*) Members of those organizations were reassigned to other organizations that became racially integrated.

Sources: 99th Fighter Squadron histories; 332d Fighter Group histories; 332d Fighter Group daily narrative mission reports; Maurer, *Combat Squadrons of the Air Force, World War II*; Maurer, *Air Force Combat Units of World War II*; Twelfth Air Force General Orders (for aerial victory credits); Fifteenth Air Force General Orders (for aerial victory credits); Fifteenth Air Force daily mission folders; Missing Air Crew Reports of the Army Air Forces, World War II (for airplane losses).

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