



|  |                |                      |
|--|----------------|----------------------|
| RETURN TO<br>RESEARCH STUDIES<br>INSTITUTE<br>U.S.A.F.<br>HISTORICAL DIVISION<br>ARCHIVES BR NCH | JUNE 1944<br>1 | S.M.T. ORN 37-1<br>E |
|--|----------------|----------------------|

P.R.C.

DECLASSIFIED  
BOD DIR 5200g

SCANNED BY ACD  
2005

XXXXXXXX

00073920

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

AUTH: CO, 316th T.C.Gp.

INIT:

DTD : 5 July 1944

37TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON, AAF  
 316TH TROOP CARRIER GROUP, AAF  
 OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

APO 133, c/o U.S. Army,  
 5 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO : Group Historian, 316th T.C. Group, AAF

## 1. Historical report for June --- 1944.

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Organization:      | No change                           |
| (b) Strength:          | 77 Officers<br>247 Enl. Men         |
| (c) Change in Station: | No change                           |
| (d) Losses in action:  | Capt. Joseph E. Rieger wounded over |
| (e) Awards:            | None<br>Normandy.                   |

## 2. Resume:

Eighteen combat crews participated in the initial invasion on "D-Day." One of the very first squadrons to cross the invasion coast; paratroops and parapacks were dropped at 01:57 hours on the 6th of June 1944. The mission was a complete success and all crews and planes returned safely. Several planes were damaged by flak and machine gun fire. The following morning, 7 June 1944, thirteen planes were used to drop parapacks, containing ammunition and rations for the troops landed the morning previous. Due to dense instrument weather, three planes had to return to the base but the other ten planes carried out their mission successfully. Five of these planes were damaged by machine gun fire and flak. There was one personal injury, the navigator on one plane, Captain Joseph M. Rieger was wounded in the left leg by enemy fire, and was taken to the hospital to have the bullet removed.

Thirteen glider mechanics and 22 glider pilots were transferred out of the squadron. The air crews continued their training schedule, covering instrument, formation and navigational flights, both day and night. On Thursday, 22 June, nine planes were used to deliver mail and ammunition, landing on French soil for the first time. On Friday, 23 June, 25 members of the combat crews, ten Officers and fifteen E.M. were ordered to return to the States on an extended leave for rest and recuperation. These men were overseas for 19 months and had from 800 overseas flying hours up to 1600 hours, with five campaigns behind them and had earned a well deserved rest.

-1-

~~SECRET~~

0073970

~~XXXXXXXX~~

UNIT HISTORY, 37TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON, 5 JULY '44, cont'd. -

Ten pilots were promoted from Second to First Lieutenant. The squadron adjutant, First Lieutenant Arnie A. Maki, was promoted to Captain and the Executive officer from Captain to Major.

Social activities were as follows: Weekly dances, trips to Stratford on Avon and to the race track continued as before. Movies on the post, three nights weekly and a nightly Liberty Run to Leicester was still in effect. The weather for the most part was cold and damp. Health and morale continued to be excellent. Write-ups on all combat personnel were being sent to home town newspapers.

For the Squadron Commander:

*William L. Cooney*  
WILLIAM L. COONEY,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

-2-

~~XXXXXX~~

XXXXXX

UNIT HISTORY, 37TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON, 5 JULY '44, cont'd. -

Sheet No. 3, War Diary. 37th T.C. Squadron. Cottesmore, Eng.  
 Month of June, 1944. Prepared by: 1st. Lt., Robert Roman, A.C.

| Day | EVENTS |
|-----|--------|
|-----|--------|

1. Three planes were used for cross country and three were radio checked in the morning. All afternoon and evening schedules called off on account of weather. Test No. A., B., & C. on aircraft identification was given to all combat officers by S - 2 personnel. Thirteen glider mechanics (E.M.) were transferred out of the squadron to the 53rd T.C. Wing.
2. Instrument flying in the morning, one plane test-hopped and two planes cross country and return. Nine planes were used for formation flying in the afternoon.
3. All personnel were restricted to camp as of 09:00 hours. Ten radio operators were checked in Rebecca training in the A.M. Another trip to Stratford on Avon. Six new glider pilots were checked out in horsa gliders in the afternoon.
4. One plane used for Radar flying, two planes cross country. 22 glider pilots were transferred out of the squadron.
5. Eighteen planes took off at 23:15 hours, loaded with paratroops and parapacks, which were to be dropped over France at 01:57 hours, 6 June 1944. Captain Shadwell, executive officer, read messages from Gen. Eisenhower and Brig. Gen. Clark to all remaining personnel.
6. All eighteen planes returned from their drop mission over France. Several planes were damaged by machine gun fire and flak, there were no personal injuries. All paratroops and parapacks were released over DZ and the entire mission was carried out successfully.
7. Thirteen planes were used to drop parapacks, containing amunitions and rations for the troops landed yesterday A.M. Three planes had to return to base due to bad weather, the other ten planes carried out their mission successfully. Five planes were damaged by machine gun fire and flak. The navigator on one plane received a bullet wound in his left leg. There were no other casualties.
9. Two planes were test-hopped and two were used to fly cross country and return. First Lieutenant Arnie A. Maki, adjutant, was promoted to Captain, effective date, 1 June 1944.
10. Pass restriction partly lifted, part of the combat crew members were permitted to go on the Liberty Run to Leicester. Three planes were transferred out of the squadron.

-3-

XXXXX

XXXX

UNIT HISTORY, 37TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON, 5 JULY '44, cont'd. -

Sheet No. 4, War Diary. 37th T.C. Squadron. Cottesmore, Eng.  
 Month of June, 1944. Prepared by: 1st. Lt., Robert Roman, A.C.

Day EVENTS

11. No scheduled flying this date. An amateur show was put on at the NAAFI by members of the 316th T.C. Group, with the 316th orchestra participating.
14. One plane cross country and return. All personnel were permitted to leave camp from 17:00 hours to 06:00 hours, 15 June 1944. Trucks left on the Liberty Run for Leicester at 18:00 hours and returned at 23:00 hours.
15. Two planes cross country and return. Trucks left for Leicester at 18:00 hours and returned at 23:00 hours.
19. Colonel Berger, Group Commanding Officer, presented the Air Medal to the following named glider pilots for their participation in the Sicilian invasion, in the initial stages: Second Lieutenant Louis A. Browning, F/O Samuel Fine and F/O Kenneth A. White.
22. Nine planes were used to deliver mail and ammunition, landing on French soil for the first time.
23. Nine planes returned from Normandy. There was glider tow in the morning and afternoon.
24. 25 members of the combat crews, ten officers and fifteen E.M. were ordered to return to the states on an extended leave for rest and recuperation. There was a glider tow formation flying in the morning. The following named officers were promoted to the rank shown, per S.O. 167 & 169, Hq. ETOUSA, dated 15 & 17 June 1944:

|         |                    |    |          |                        |
|---------|--------------------|----|----------|------------------------|
| F/O     | Browning, Louis A. | TO | 2nd Lt., | effective 12 June '44. |
| 2nd Lt. | Jenkins, Raymond   | TO | 1st Lt., | " "                    |
| " "     | Koon, Robert H.    | TO | " "      | " "                    |
| " "     | Barbour, Edmond F. | TO | " "      | " "                    |
| " "     | Davis, Dean O.     | TO | " "      | " "                    |
| " "     | Elliot, Wm. G.     | TO | " "      | " "                    |
| " "     | Prindible, Wm. M.  | TO | " "      | " "                    |
| " "     | Quinn, Robert T.   | TO | " "      | " "                    |
| " "     | Rice, Julian A.    | TO | " "      | " "                    |
| " "     | Troth, Riley W.    | TO | " "      | " "                    |

Captain Cooney, Intelligence officer, gave a lecture on Security, stressing conduct and things to be remembered especially on an extended leave.

-4-

XXXXXX