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fixed tour was ended and replaced by a variable one subject to local conditions in the unit concerned.

Loss rates for the B-24 are shown higher, but no explanation is given. There was only one B-17 Bomb Wing in the 15th Air Force as compared to six B-24 Bomb Wings.

Army Air Force Battle Casualties In the Mediterranean 8 November 1942 to 31 December 1944

Killed 3,536

Wounded 3586

MIA & POW 14,223

Total Casualties from all causes. 21,345

KIA & POW figures are net and

account for men who have returned to Allied Territory. Combat Crews Killed, Wounded and Missing in Action per 1,000 Pilot Sorties Flown (Moving six months average through current month in percentage).

	B-17	B-24
Sept. 1943	4.675	17.535
Oct. 4.	7.52	17.204
Nov.6.	1.56	18.687
Dec. 1943	7.570	22.907
Jan. 1944	7.526	19.952
Feb.	11.326	20.200
Mar.	14.007	16.447
April	14.431	18.524
May	13.148	15.344
June	12.931	15.080
July	16.562	16.403
Aug	13.173	15.172
Sept.	12.112	14.190
Oct.	11.646	13.508
Nov.	11.560	13.634
Dec. 1944	11.721	14.221

old-style apartment house. The food is not bad and the French bread is wonderful. ALL THE NEWS Near Gioia de Colle on June 4, 1944: Cliff (Ball), the Texan, and I bought some good sweet cherries here yesterday. The price was the equivalent of 22 cents for the biggest pound I ever saw. The tiny old woman street vendor had no paper bags, so wrapped the fruit in an issue of the Chicago Tribune dated only five weeks before.

BRITISH STYLE On June 12, 1944, 12 of us went, by invitation, to a British tank corps camp west of Bari for a softball game and a little party. Most of the British soldiers were from South Africa. First, they hosted lunch at the British officers' club in Bari. Then, in borrowed shorts, we played seven innings on a diamond on the side of a hill. Afterwards, we had supper: Pea soup, salmon croquette, cold sausage, cold roast pork, and a cherry cream pudding. Also coffee, extremely hot, but, unfortunately, already creamed and sugared.

The End

More from Micro films

The Cerignola Story, and Torretta Tales

by Bruce W. Smith, 824 squadron

DOUBLE DUTY Our latrines are picturesque: They are oil barrels sunk halfway into the ground, with carved-for-comfort tops of wood. Their most picturesque characteristic is that they are set right out in the wheat fields and atop hills. This saves reading magazines, for there is so much landscape to see that reading material is unnecessary.

GUEST ARTIST Musical guest in Cerignola on July 3, 1944, was famed violinist Jascha Heifetz. The all-soldier audience was both quiet and responsive. When the Italian kids were raising holy hell rolling metal hoops on the brick street outside, Heifetz laughed the noise off by saying, "They're celebrating the Fourth of July a little early, whether they know it or not."

VARIETY SHOW Saw an excellent variety show at the Cerigonola Opera House on both August 24 and August 25, 1944. The headliners were two former stage and movie

stars, Bebe Daniels and Ben Lyon. She sang several songs ("When the Lights Go on Again," a British soldiers favorite, drew heavy applause) and wore three elegant long dresses.

PIECE OF CAKE Our September 2, 1944, mission was pleasant as combat missions can be, although, of course, it was long and cold - but then, it's always that way. The targets were the Smedrevo ferry slips on the Sava River in Yugoslavia, where the Germans were attempting to evacuate troops. The enemy opposition wasn't much at all, which was all right with us.

THEY WERE HERE From Istres le Tube in the Southern France county of Provence, September 24, 1944: The Germans lived in the very building we are sleeping in, not many weeks ago. Many of their pin-up pictures, newspapers from Germany, and pages torn from their notebooks are lying around. Our group took over a vacant

Mediterranean Theater Aircraft Losses for 1944

It appears from preliminary figures that the Strategic and Tactical Air Forces in the Mediterranean Theater lost some 1509 bombers and 698 fighters during 1944. Of the bombers the following tabulation is of interest:

Losses due to Enemy Aircraft:

Heavy bombers 572
Medium bombers 16

Anti Aircraft Fire:

Heavy Bomber 756
Medium bombers 165

Enemy anti aircraft accounted for 62% of all bombers lost to enemy action. Of the fighters, 60% were lost to anti aircraft.

The reverses on all fronts (1944), with the resultant smaller German area to be defended, released quantities of anti aircraft guns for relocation, thus the reason for the increased flak activity.