

SECRET

DAY	EVENTS
1st	Lt. Gimster promoted to Captain effective 1st April.
10th	Twenty-one A/C led by Lt. Col. Rogan on his last mission of ETO tour took off and attacked Brussels/Dvare A/D. With the 306th leading the 40th CGW on the bomb run the bomb sight in the lead ship "blacked out" forcing this Group to do a 360° turn. On the second run, with the deputy leader taking over, the briefed aiming point was obscured by previous bombing and an unhit group of buildings in the southwest corner of the A/D was effectively bombed as confirmed by strike photographs. Fighter support was good. Meager and inaccurate flak was encountered at the target and no E/A were seen.
11th	Twenty-eight A/C took off on today's mission and twenty-five attacked the last resort. Capt. Stolz of the 367th led the 306th flying low Group, and Capt. Opdyke of the 369th led the high composite Group of the 40th CGW. Neither the primary or secondary were bombed due to 8/10ths cloud cover, and Stettin as a target of opportunity was chosen. Visual bombing resulted in good hits on dock area, naval and merchant shipping. Accurate AA fire was encountered at Dummer Lake, Hanover and Stettin. Nest of Hanover 20 S/E enemy fighters came in and beset the high Group severely damaging Capt. Opdyke's plane, and killing Lt. Singer, navigator, and Lt. Barnes, bombardier of Lt. Torr's ship. The second attack on this formation came north of Brunswick with about 40 E/A four abreast. Capt. Opdyke was forced out of formation and Lt. Ahlstrom of the 369th caught fire and blew up. All A/C of this Group received flak damage. Our score for the day was 1-1-2.
12th	Lt. Col. J.M. Rogan relieved from duty and started on way home. Major Maurice V. Salada assigned and assumed command. Major John Chalkent assigned to 423rd squadron.
15th	Monthly "B" Mess dance.
16th	Twenty-seven A/C took off and twenty-six attacked Oranienburg A/D near Berlin, assembly plant for HE 117's. The 306th flew low Group led by Capt. McMahen of the 368th. Other A/C flew with the composite Group. Flight to the target was without incident but over it contrails from previous A/C cut down visibility. It is felt our bombs were over the MPI however this was not confirmed by observation or strike photographs. No enemy fighters were encountered and flak was meager and inaccurate. Fighter support was generally good.

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19th	<p>Kassel - The target was the Fieseler Flugzeugbau component parts plant producing FW 190's. Twenty-nine of our A/C took off and twenty-six attacked the target with excellent results. Lt. Col. Lambert led the 305th and 40th Combat Wing while other ships were flown with the Composite Group. Trip to the target was uneventful and weather was good. AA defenses were moderate but extremely accurate, 19 of the 26 A/C sustaining flak damage. No E/A were seen.</p>
20th	<p>Mission to N.W. France - 36 A/C from the 306th Group supplied 12 A/C each to "A", "B", and "C" forces. Twenty-four A/C were credited as attacking the target. Bombs of "A" Group led by Capt. Petersen of the 369th were good as verified by photographs. Bombs of the leader of "B" Group did not release on time causing mostly "overs". "C" Group was unable to find the target and brought their bombs home. A heavy ground haze covered the target. No E/A were seen and slight inaccurate AA fire was encountered.</p>
22nd	<p>Hamm/Marshalling Yards - Thirty A/C led by Col. Robinson heading the 40th CGW attacked this important bottle neck with good results. No fighter opposition was encountered, support was good. AA fire was moderate but extremely accurate and most of our A/C received flak damage. To Major Cheney goes credit for a good job of navigation.</p> <p>Major Schmidt relieved from organization and transferred to 449th Sub Depot as commanding officer.</p>
24th	<p>Oberpfaffenhofen, A/C assembly and repair works - Twenty-five A/C took off and twenty-three of them were credited with attacking the target. The Group received one of its greatest losses on this mission. In four main vicious attacks by 150 E/A between 1250 and 1449 hours, ten of our A/C were knocked out of formation and failed to return. Lt. Stolz, 367th, leading the lead Group of the 41st CGW "B" was hit on several of these attacks and dropped his bombs early to lighten weight, and several other of our A/C dropped their bombs before reaching the primary. Friendly fighter cover was good except during two hour gap when they were drawn off by F/A. Lts. Stolz and Schwedock of the 367th and Lt. Ebert of the 423rd were later reported as having landed safely in Switzerland with their crews. Others failing to return were Lts. Coughlin and McDowell of the 368th, Lt. Peterson of the 367th, Lts. Tarr, James, Higgs and Ramsey of the 369th. Returning A/C brought in five wounded. Our score for the day was 8-1-10.</p> <p>Lt. Murtha relieved from assignment this organization and transferred to 368th squadron.</p>

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25th	Mission to Nancy/Essey, France - Twenty A/C took off led by Capt. Inard of the 368th Flying High Group of the 40th CEF and only 5 A/C were credited with attacking the target. Due to 9/10 ahead undercast at the target and because the lead Group passed underneath just when bombing might have been possible. Most of our A/C were compelled to return with their bombs. The escort was good, no E/A encountered. Flak was seen in the distance only.
26th	Mission to Brunswick - Eighteen A/C took off led by Lt. Col. Euckey on his last mission, heading the 40th CEF. Due to one engine cutting out on take off Lt. Schrofer's ship crashed killing all except the tail gunner, Sgt. Littlefield. Sixteen A/C were credited with attacking the target by PFF technique. Flak was moderate and fairly accurate. No E/A were seen. Capt. Husband promoted to Major effective 26, April.
27th	Hoball "A" mission. - Today sets a new precedent, two missions were completed by the 8th A.F. in a single day. Eighteen A/C took off and bombed the target in clear weather by Groups. Only about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the bombs fell directly on the target. No E/A or flak were encountered. Upon returning Lt. Baxter of the 369th could lower only one of his wheels and finally made a beautiful crash landing, cross wind. No members of the crew were injured and the A/C was repaired and ready for combat within 28 hours. Nancy/Essey A/D, "B" mission - Eighteen A/C led by Lt. Grending took off and bombed the target with good results. AA gun fire and fighter support was fair. No enemy A/C were seen.
28th	St. Averd A/D, France - Only six A/C from this Group were furnished to form the high Squadron of the lead Composite Group. Escort was out in strength and no E/A were seen. Bombing results were excellent. Moderate to intense AA fire both barrage and tracking were encountered at the target.
29th	Berlin - Seventeen A/C led by Lt. Col. Lambert heading the 40th CEF took off and 15 A/C bombed the target on PFF flares. No E/A attacked our Group and flak at the target was moderate to intense. Crews report they came over every AA gun in Germany on the way home. Lt. Lutz of the 358th received a direct hit near Magdeburg on the way out and blew up.

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Sheet No. 4 War Diary, _____ Sq. 306th Bomb Group (H)

Month of April, 1944. Prepared by Capt. W.E. Glass

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30th	<p>Lyons A/D, France - This mission was a 367th solo. Only seven A/C were furnished to fly low squadron of the high Composite Group of the 41st CBN, and led by Lt. Semerville. The weather was good throughout and bombing was excellent. The section of the target assigned to the Group was completely destroyed. No flak was observed but two attacks by E/A were driven off by escort. Our score for the day was 1-0-1-0.</p> <p>The Group completed its most active month with 14 missions and briefings held most every day.</p> <p>List of awards and decorations attached.</p>

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