

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 306th Bomb. Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. Esper, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
3 April	<p><u>KIEL</u>: 306th as 40th "A" headed 1st Division with 36 A/C including 6 PFF led by Col. Sutton; also 12 A/C including 1 PFF as high squadron of 40 "B". The target was a submarine construction basin in the dock area at Kiel. Poor weather forced the assembly altitude 1,000 feet higher than was briefed, but no further trouble was encountered. Each squadron attacked the target under 10/10 clouds, on separate PFF runs. Enemy fighter opposition was nil. Meager low scattered bursts of A.A. fire at Kiel caused no damage.</p>
4 April	<p><u>FASSBERG</u>: 306th flew 36 A/C including 4 PFF as 40 "C" led by Lt. Hess. The target was an airfield located at Fassberg. Lead squadron dropped on first run, but the high made two runs before bombing. The low, after following high over target twice, brought bombs back. Pictures show lead and high on an ordnance depot in small town near the briefed target. 8/10 weather conditions prevented good visual sightings. No flak, no fighters.</p>
5 April	<p><u>WEIDEN</u>: 306th flew 36 A/C including 4 PFF as 40 "B" led by Capt. Matzke. 9/10 weather conditions forced the group to bomb by PFF methods on the small town of Weiden. No flak, no fighters. Six 306th A/C bombed with other groups because of difficulty in assembling.</p>
6 April	<p><u>LEIPZIG</u>: 306th flew 38 A/C including 4 PFF and 2 spares as 40 "B" led by Capt. Dorich. The target was the huge railway station in the center of Leipzig. 10/10 cloud coverage caused the group to attack by PFF and plotted scope photos indicate very good results. No E/A opposition. Meager to moderate flak was inaccurate from Leipzig.</p>
7 April	<p><u>WESENDORF</u>: Capt. Hubbell led the 306th as 40th "C" with 36 A/C including 4 PFF. The target was a group of installations on the Wesendorf airfield. Each squadron bombed visually, and pictures show briefed aiming point solidly hit. Results were described as excellent. Meager A.A. fire from various places along the route caused no damage to this group. No enemy fighters.</p>
8 April	<p><u>HALBERSTADT</u>: Major Hulings led the 306th as 40 "A" with 36 A/C including 4 PFF. Because Buckeye reported target #1 to be obscured by 10/10 clouds, the group proceeded to #2 priority, the marshalling yards at Halberstadt. 4-5/10 coverage made it necessary for the lead to start a PFF run. Shortly before bombs away, a visual correction was accomplished. High, with wickey equipment out, dropped off lead. Photos show both squadron patterns in the town. Low, on visual run, hit marshalling yards. No fighters, no flak.</p>
9 April	<p>Mission Scrubbed.</p>
10 April	<p><u>ORANIENBURG</u>: 306th flew 36 A/C including 4 Pff as 40 "B" led by Capt. Murphy. The target was a group of installations on the airfield at Oranienburg, a town north of Berlin. Excellent weather prevailed throughout the trip and allowed each squadron to make a visual run. Lead pattern blanketed briefed aiming point, and high followed suit. Low bombs fell into smoke of lead. Results were described as excellent. No fighter opposition. No A.A. fire was encountered at the target, but the formation was forced into Wittenberge flak by another group heading east. Meager fire was very accurate on the 306th causing the following damage: Lead, none; low, 4 severe, 2 slight, 1 down on continent; high, 3 severe, 2 slight. 369th A/C, pilot Lt. Babin, was hit by flak at Wittenberge. The tail compartment was blown off, and the plane was last seen heading west under control. Lt. Babin bailed his crew out east of Hannover, and all returned to Allied hands safely except Sgt. T.J. Rickerl, who was KIA.</p>

Sheet No. 2 War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

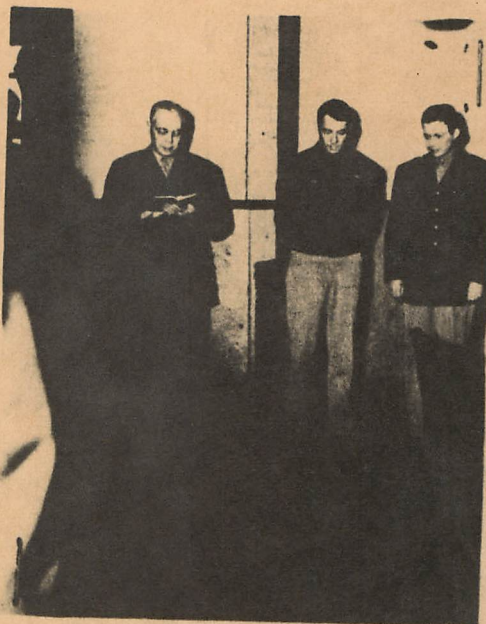
Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. Esper, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
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11 April KRAILBURG: Capt. Matzke led the 306th as 40 "C" with 36 A/C including 4 PFF. A high explosive factory located at Krailburg was the target for the day. All three squadron patterns fell into the assigned target area and results were very good.  
No flak, no fighters.

12 April Mission scrubbed.

President Roosevelt's death on the eve of Allied victory in Europe shocked the entire station this evening. Although operations continued in the usual efficient manner, most of the base personnel expressed deep sorrow at the passing of their leader. A brief ceremony was held at the Officer's "A" Mess noon meal 13 April. Pictured below are Capt. R. E. Simester, Post Protestant Chaplain, Col. J. S. Sutton, Commanding Officer, and Lt. Col. C. G. Day, Group Ground Executive, in a short prayer at the "A" Mess ceremony.

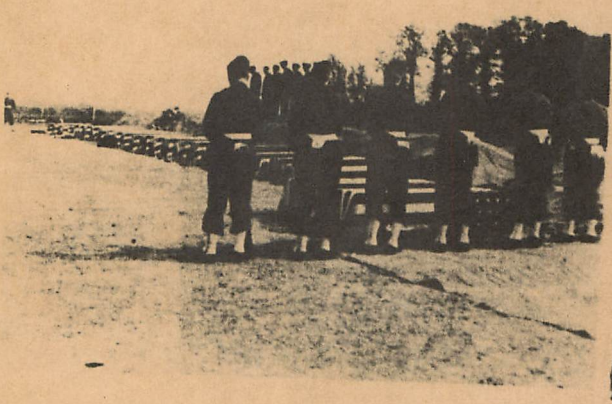


13 April NEUMUNSTER: Major Mesling led the 306th as 40 "A" with 36 A/C including 4 PFF. The #2 priority target, which the group attacked on Buckeye's suggestion, was a marshalling yard at Neumunster. Lead pattern fell into smoke of previous bombing. However high and low bombardiers changed their aiming points to unhit parts of the yards, and photos show strikes from both squadrons on the target.  
No flak, no fighters.

14 April ROYAN AREA: Lt. Clays led the 306th with 36 A/C including 4 PFF as 40 "C". The target was a group of gun positions near Royan on the mouth of the Gironne River leading to Bordeaux. Heavy bombers were being used to soften up the area before the invasion by the French. Lead and high patterns hit in the briefed area; however the low bombardier synchronized on the wrong patch of woods and his bombs fell to the north.  
No flak, no fighters.

Sheet No. 3 War Diary 306th Bomb. Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. J. E. Esper, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
14 April (cont.)	<p>One of the most unfortunate accidents in the history of the group occurred today when a 367th aircraft crashed on the Isle of Man on a non-operational flight to Langford Lodge, Ireland. Lt. Vieille, pilot of the ill-fated Fortress, was hampered by very poor visibility in the area and probably was unable to see the hill on the southern tip of the Island where the plane was found. Other members in the A/C, all of whom were in the 367th: Capt. G. S. Cupperly, Squadron Executive, Capt. Butterfield, Squadron Operations, Daily Sea, American Red Cross, Lt. Liersch, pilot, Lt. Parrish, pilot, P/O Le Compte, navigator, L/Cpl. Jones, Sgt. Smalczewski, Sgt. Gellion, Sgt. Staruck. There were no survivors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">?</p> 
15 April	<p>Picture shows a portion of the ceremony at Cambridge American Cemetery where bodies of victims in the crash were laid to rest.</p> <p><u>ROYAN AREA:</u> Maj. McKinney led the 306th as 40 "A" with 39 A/C including 4 PTF and 3 spares. The target, in the same area as the 14th, was a gun emolument at the mouth of the Garonne River northwest of Bordeaux. Visual conditions persisted but a change in ground winds caused smoke from previous bombing to obscure briefed 306th aiming point. This necessitated lead bombardier to change his sighting to the briefed target #2, another group of guns further down the beach. Lead pattern fell directly on the new selection. Low bombardier likewise changed his aiming point and his bombs hit a small deck area on the south bank. High squadron, because of interference from another group, dropped to south of low.</p> <p>No flak, no fighters.</p>

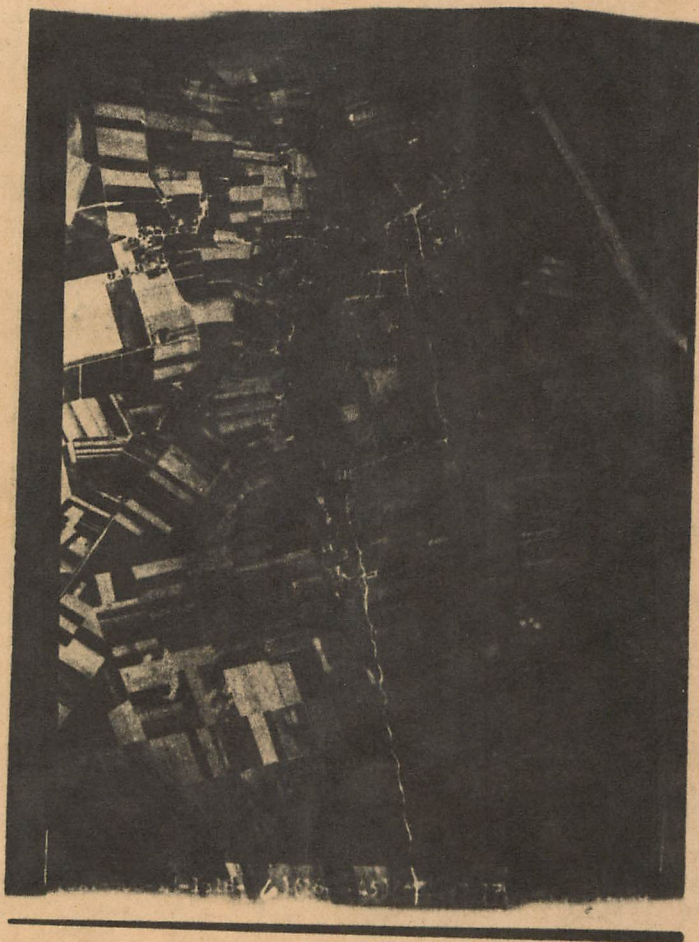
Sheet No. 4 War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. D. S. Wesper, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
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16 April

**PLATTING:** Maj. Kesling led the 306th "S" at the head of 1st Division with 38 A/C including 4 PFF and 2 spares. The target was a very active marshalling yard at Plattling in southern Germany. With excellent weather conditions prevailing, each squadron attacked visually. Pictures show the target completely covered by bursts from 306th bombs, this mission being one of the most successful in the group's colorful history. No A.A. fire was encountered. No enemy fighters were seen.



Jammed marshalling yard at Plattling is seen just before 306th bombs found their mark.

Sheet No. 4a War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of APRIL 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. D.A. Esper, Jr.

DAY

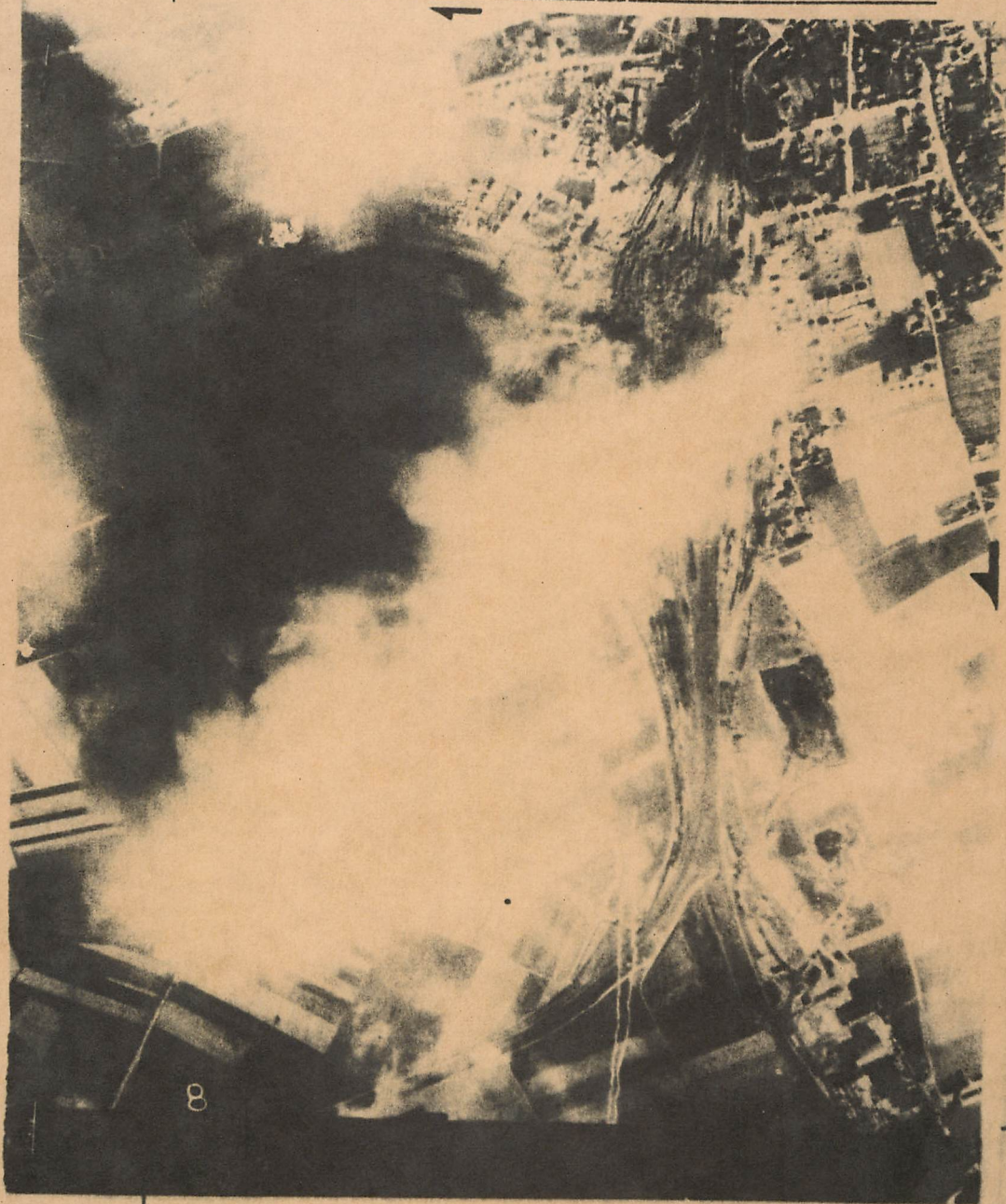
EVENTS



Tight concentration of 306th bombs covers Plattling marshalling yard.  
Remnants of the once active installation can be seen on the following page.

Sheet No. 4b War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. D.A. Esper, Jr.



Picture from 92nd Group, which followed 306th into target, shows extent of damage done.

Sheet No. 5 War Diary 306th Bomb Group (B) Sqdn.

Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. E. L. Esper, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
17 April	<p><u>DRESDEN</u>: 306th flew 39 A/C including 4 PTF and 3 spares as 40 "B" led by Capt. Hesse. The large marshalling yard in southern Dresden was the target for the day. Dense persistent contrails and haze in the target area caused the lead bombardier, 1st Lt. Oldenburg, much difficulty; however, he managed a visual sighting and pictures show lead bombs on the briefed aiming point. High bombed largely by PTF, and pattern fell to north. Because of poor visibility over Dresden, 5 A/C of the low sq. were unable to see the lead drop, brought bombs back. No F/A. Moderate tracking flak in the target area caused the following damage: Low, 1 slight; high, 2 slight, 1 severe.</p>
18 April	<p><u>ROSENHEIM</u>: Maj. Huie led the 306th as 40 "B" with 39 A/C including 4 PTF and 3 spares. A transformer and switching station on the marshalling yard at Rosenheim was the target. 9-5/10 coverage over the target allowed visual bomb runs by each squadron. 306th bombs completely obscured the briefed aiming point, and at least 2 explosions were reported by crews. Heavier inaccurate A.A. fire tracked the group from Hattenberg. Damage: low, 2 severe. No enemy fighters.</p>
19 April	<p><u>FALKENBERG</u>: Maj. Gulings led the 306th with 38 A/C including 4 PTF-Cee-H and 2 PTF as 40 "A". A marshalling yard in the small town of Falkenberg was the target for the day. Lead, on second run, and high bombs fell squarely on aiming point. Low bombardier, finding his sighting affected by previous 306th bombing, changed the aiming point to another section of the town's railway system. Pictures show the selected point well hit by the low after its third run. No enemy fighters. One A/C from the low received severe damage from Torgan during one of the squadron's turns over the target.</p>
21 April	Mission scrubbed.
23 April	Mission scrubbed.
26 April	Mission scrubbed.
28 April	<p>Special operations pertaining to the delivery of leaflet messages to both occupied and liberated areas on the continent were assigned to the 369th Squadron on this day. A briefed mission of this sort was scrubbed.</p>
29 April	<p>369th dispatched 8 A/C on a special leaflet mission to the following objectives: #1 - Mannheim, Weimar; #2 - Chemnitz, Leipzig, Magdeburg; #3 - La Roche le, La Pallice; #4 - Lorient, St. Nazaire; #5 - d'Oleron; #6 - Dunkirk, The Hague, Dordrecht; #7 - Amsterdam; #8 - Utrecht, Rotterdam. All A/C dropped their nickels and returned to base safely. No observations.</p>
30 April	<p>369th dispatched 7 A/C on special leaflet mission to the following objectives: #1 - La Pallice, La Rochelle; #2 - Lorient, St. Nazaire; #3 - d'Oleron; #4 - Tessel; #5 - The Hague, Dordrecht, Dunkirk; #6 - Utrecht, Rotterdam; #7 - recalled by 1st Air Division because of weather. All other A/C dropped their nickels and returned to base safely.</p>

Sheet No. 6 War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqn.

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. D. J. Espar, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
	<p>Promotions for the month of April:</p> <p>15 April - L. E. Carroll, 369 Squadron Bombardier, to Captain.</p> <p>25 April - E. W. Kesling, 367th Squadron Commanding Officer, to Lt. Col.</p> <p>20 April - J. N. Hess, 367th Flight Leader, to Captain.</p> <p>25 April - J. A. Reas, Group Bombardier, to Major.</p> <p>20 April - H. H. Thayer, 368th Squadron Bombardier, to Captain.</p> <p>20 April - H. E. Underwood, 368th Flight Leader, to Captain.</p> <p>22 April - P. C. Wagner, 368th Squadron Navigator, to Captain.</p> <p>26 April - W. P. Rezett, 369th Flight Leader, to Captain.</p>

Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ War Diary \_\_\_\_\_ 306th Bomb Group (H) 54th.

Month of \_\_\_\_\_ APRIL \_\_\_\_\_ 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. ESPER, Jr.

DAY

EVENTS

One of the least publicized units on the station because of security reasons is the radar shop. Duties of this organization are many, the most important being maintenance and modification of all H2X radar equipment. The department also keeps up a trainer for mickey operators. Officer in charge is 1st Lt.orton Schacher. Records showed that 306th maintenance led the Division in October, 1944.



Photo shows members of the 306th radar department. Shown standing in the back row (left to right): S/Sgt. Miller, Sgt. Hensen, Sgt. Hudson, Sgt. Rothstein, Sgt. Gillespie, and Cpl. Gaskill. Standing in middle row: Cpl. Kurtzer, Cpl. Tammare, Sgt. Sternberg, S/Sgt. Loody, T/Sgt. Snavelly (NCO in charge of shop), and sitting: Lt. Schacher. kneeling in front: Cpl. Hunsler, S/Sgt. Young, Cpl. Eche, S/Sgt. McKenney, and Cpl.atcher.

Morris E. Kurtzer  
Ernest Miller  
Charles R. Moody  
Donald W. Young

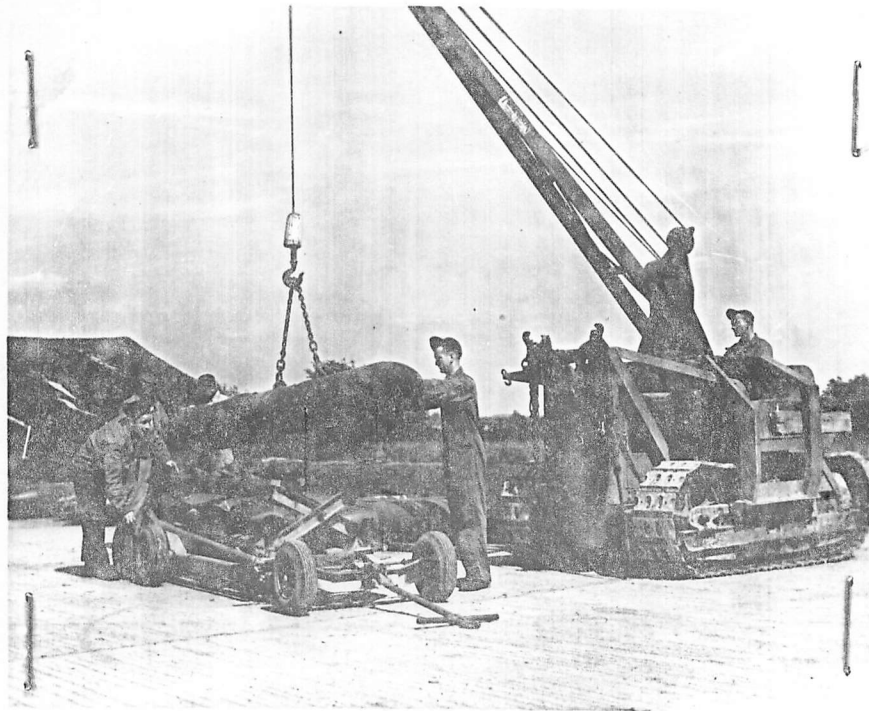
Harold A. McKenney  
Murray Rothstein  
Sidney Steinberg

Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ War Diary 306th Bomb. Group (H) Sqdn. \_\_\_\_\_

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. Esper, Jr.

DAY

EVENTS

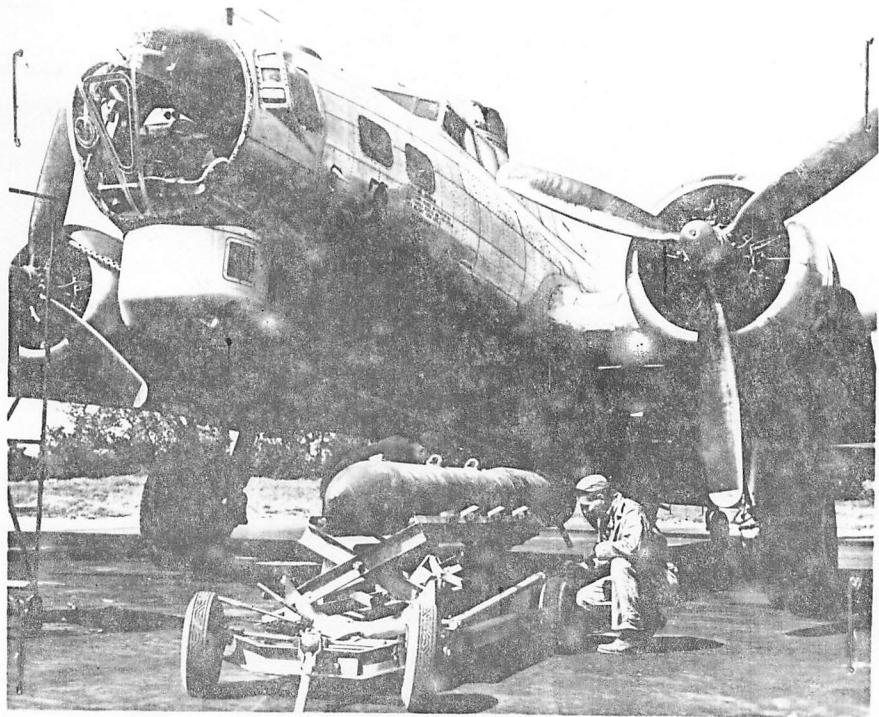


Shown above are ordnance men of the 306th Bomb Group loading one of the new rocket propelled, concrete-piercing bombs on to a torpedo lift. Operating the crane tractor is Sgt. Steven Slimack, New York City and fitting the 4,500 pound bomb on to the lift are (Foreground, Left and Center) Cpl. Rocco Chiara, Jersey City, N. J. and Cpl. Clyde Blackwell, Frankfort, Ky.

Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of April 1945. Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. ESPER, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
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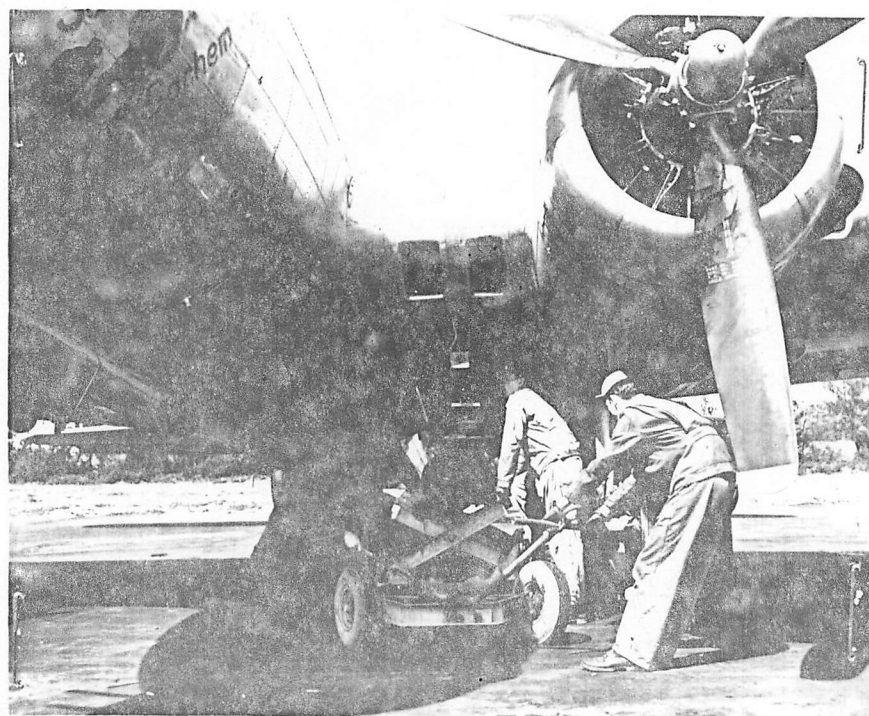


The rocket-propelled bomb is wheeled up to the Flying Fortress "Salvain" "Sachem" by (left to right) Cpl. Clyde Blackwell, Frankfort, Ky. and Sgt. John Chaperlo, St. Louis, Mo. These concrete piercing bombs were used by the 306th Bomb Group in a successful attack on U-boat installations near Vegesack on March 30, 1945.

Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of APRIL 1945. Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. ESPER, Jr.

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Instead of being put in the bomb-bay of the Flying Fortress, the rocket-propelled bombs are loaded on to racks under the wings of the bomber, two to each plane. Doing the loading are (left to right) Cpl. Clyde Blackwell, Frankfort, Ky., Sgt. Jack Lazar, Inlay City, Michigan, Sgt. John Chaperlo, St. Louis, Mo., and S/Sgt. Harold Kadovitz, Denver, Colo.

Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of APRIL 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. TSPER, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
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One of the least publicized units on the station because of security reasons is the radar shop. Duties of this organization are many, the most important being maintenance and modification of all H2X radar equipment. The department also keeps up a trainer for mickey operators. Officer in charge is 1st Lt. Morton Schacher. Records showed that 306th maintenance led the Division in October, 1944.



Photo shows members of the 306th radar department. Shown standing in the back row (left to right): S/Sgt. Miller, Sgt. Hensen, Sgt. Hudson, Sgt. Rothstein, Sgt. Gillespie, and Cpl. Gaskill, Standing in middle row: Cpl. Kurtzer, Cpl. Tammare, Sgt. Sternberg, S/Sgt. Moody, T/Sgt. Snavelly (NCO in charge of shop), and sitting: Lt. Schacher. Kneeling in front: Cpl. Runser, S/Sgt. Young, Cpl. Esche, S/Sgt. McKenney, and Cpl. Hatcher.

Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ War Diary 306th Bomb Group (H) Sqdn.

Month of APRIL, 1945. Prepared by 1st Lt. D. A. ESPER, Jr.

DAY	EVENTS
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Above photo shows Lt. Col. J. C. Chalfant, former Group Air Executive, who completed his tour of combat operations in March. Lt. Col. Chalfant has distinguished himself highly while serving with the 306th. Holder of the D.F.C. with 1 clusters, [REDACTED] and the Air Medal with several clusters, he had participated in the 8th Air Force's greatest attacks on the Reich. Lt. Col. Chalfant commands the highest respect of all personnel on the base because of his excellent personality.

DAY \_\_\_\_\_



AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, ENGLAND - Staff Sergeant Armand N. Chrapathy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Chrapathy, 6227 Chesnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., is the senior non-commissioned officer in charge of the Post Exchange at this veteran 306th Bombardment Group commanded by Colonel Hudson H. Upham, San Francisco, California.

In this capacity, Chrapathy is responsible for the ordering and issuance of such varied items as alarm clocks, cigarettes, toilet articles and candy to every member of this station. The Post Exchange also operates a barber shop, soda fountain and a gift mailing service which enables the men to send selected articles back to the States. The efficient and courteous service which Chrapathy and his staff have given their customers during the long months of the European War has been a strong morale factor on this base.

Now in his thirteenth month overseas with the pioneer Eighth Air Force, Chrapathy entered the Armed Forces in February, 1942. A graduate of Temple University, Chrapathy was in civilian life, employed by the Paramount Cleaners and Dyers, Philadelphia. His wife, Mrs. Yvonne Chrapathy lives in Bedford, England.

Article by William C. Van Norman, Captain, Air Corps, Public Relations Officer of the 306th Bomb Group (H).

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 367th Bomb Sqn. 306th Bomb Group (H)

Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. Wm Leatherman.

SECRET

DAY	EVENTS
3rd.	<p><u>KIEL, GERMANY</u> The 306th led the 1st Division with 36 A/C as the 40th "A" group to bomb Kiel, Germany. Our squadron sent 12 A/C as the high squadron, with Lt. Winslow leading. The target was completely overcast and all bombing was done by instruments. On the way in the Mickey operator in Lt Winslow's A/C found that his set would not give a proper return and the load was turned over to his deputy, Lt Heffman who made the bomb run. No E/A were seen. Our fighters picked us up over the North Sea and gave close support to the target and stayed with us until we started our let-down on the way back. Six mosquitoes were over the target ahead of us dropping chaff and the flak was low and inaccurate when we passed over the target. No A/C was damaged. Lt. Higgenbotham was forced to turn back before leaving England when an engine went out. All A/C returned safely to the base with no injuries. Other pilots for the 367th were: Lts. Wells, Gooch, Marks, Fatten, Wear, Mitchell, Scott, Bergener, and Capt. Kornegay.</p>
4th.	<p><u>FASSBURG, GERMANY</u> The 306th flew 36 A/C as the 40th "C" group to bomb the Fassburg A/D. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the lead squadron with Capt. Hess leading. The target was covered by 8 to 9/10 overcast and only the lead was able to drop. Lack of detail made identification very difficult but our bombs were positively identified as being on and near the munitions factory at Unterluss with good results. Clouds prevent identification of strikes at Fassburg but bombs away pictures seem to indicate hits on the A/D. No flak or fighters were encountered; however, one crew reported seeing a dogfight between P-51's and an E/A. Buckeye also reported jet A/C taking off from an A/D. P-51's gave us close support throughout the mission and we had no A/C returning early or in distress. Other pilots for the 367th were: Lts. Fatten, Hahn, Pinchback, L.J. Smith, Bergerner, Verdick, Scott, and Higgenbotham.</p>
5th.	<p><u>WEIDEN, GERMANY</u> The 306th flew 36 A/C as the 40th "B" group to attack Weiden, Germany. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the three high elements. Capt. Kornegay and Lts. McDonald and Hahn flew with the lead; Lts. Verdick, Higgenbotham, and Marks with the low, and Lts. Mitchell, Wells and Scott with the high. Lt. Hahn was unable to find the formation and joined the 2nd to bomb with them. Each squadron made a separate PFF run with unobserved results. There was no flak and only one E/A was seen. It was being chased by P-51's and did not attack the formation. Lt. Higgenbotham was forced to land at Friston to refuel before returning to the base. No A/C was damaged and no personnel injured.</p>
6th.	<p><u>LEIPZIG, GERMANY</u> The 306th flew 36 A/C as the 40th "B" group to bomb the M/Y at Leipzig PFF. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the low squadron with Lt. Kingsley leading. All bombing was done by instruments through 10/10 clouds with unobserved results. Meagre inaccurate tracking on the bomb run was well to the left of the formation and caused no damage. No E/A were seen throughout the mission. Lt. Higgenbotham was forced to land in France on the way out to refuel. No 367th personnel was injured on the mission. Other pilots for the Clay Pigeon Air Force were: Lts. Parrish, Hahn, Pinchback, L.J. Smith, Scott, Mitchell, and Marks.</p>
7th.	<p><u>WESENDORF, GERMANY</u> The 306th sent 36 A/C as the 40th "C" group to bomb the A/D at Wesendorf, Germany. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the high squadron with Lt. Winslow leading. The takeoff was accomplished in spite of fog and 8/10 low clouds. This broke to about 6/10 at the target and all three squadrons made separate runs. The high was forced to make additional runs due to previous bombing obscuring the aiming point and finally had to shift the MPI to an unhit hanger near the briefed aiming point. Photos show all the buildings on the field well hit and severe damage was done to the whole installation. Area support was given by our P-51's and only meagre flak that caused no damage was met. Lt. Pinchback was forced to return early</p>

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DAY

EVENTS

when his #2 engine failed. All other A/C accomplished the mission without mishap and returned safely to the base. Other pilots for the Clay Pigeon Air Force were: Lts. Marks, Parrish, Wear, L.J. Smith, Gooch, Verdick, and Bergener.

8th.

HALBERSTADT, GERMANY The 306th flew 36 A/C as the 40th "A" to bomb the M/Y at Halberstadt PFF with last minute visual corrections. The high was forced to drop on the lead as their PFF equipment was inoperative. Photos show strikes in the built up area. The low made a separate PFF run and photos show strikes on the road intersection near the M/Y. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead squadron with Lt. Vielle leading. Major Huling of the 368th flew with him as air commander. No E/A were seen and our fighters gave good support to the target. On the way back the leader was informed that one group of fighters would be unable to show up; however, adequate support was furnished by the one remaining group. There was no flak on the entire route. 10/10 clouds covered the base at takeoff and broke to CAVU for a while over Germany but increased to 4, to 5/10 in the target area. No difficulty was encountered on the mission and all A/C returned safely to the base. Other pilots for the 367th were: Lts. Hoffman, Scott, Pinchback, Wear, McDonald, ~~Capt.~~ Kornegay, Mahn, and Bergener.

10th.

GRANIENBURG, GERMANY The 306th sent 36 A/C as the 40th "B" group to bomb the A/D at Granienburg, Germany. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the three high elements of the three squadrons. An instrument takeoff was necessary as the base was covered by a 10/10 light fog. The A/C broke out at 2,000 feet and no further weather difficulties were encountered. The target was bombed visually with excellent results. All three squadrons hit the assigned aiming point squarely and our photos show the MPI completely covered by bursts. There was no flak at the target but the formation was forced too near Wittenberge where meagre accurate tracking damaged nine of our A/C; fortunately no one was injured. One A/C of the 367th had its tail shot away and the crew was forced to bail out. Most of them have since returned. No E/A were seen and our fighters gave excellent support after being vectored in by Nuthouse. All of our A/C returned safely to the base. Pilots for the 367th were: Capt. Kornegay, Lts. Gooch, L.J. Smith, Wells, Verdick, Shepard, Bergener, Wear, and Marks.

11th.

KRAIBURG, GERMANY The 306th flew 36 A/C as the 40th "C" group to bomb the ordnance depot at Kraiburg, Germany. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the low squadron. The bombing was visual and excellent. Each squadron made a separate run and placed their bombs squarely on the target aiming point causing violent explosions. No E/A were seen and there was no flak at the target. Four A/C in the lead were damaged by meagre accurate fire from Stuttgart. None of the Clay Pigeon planes suffered any damage and all of the groups A/C returned safely to the base. Pilots for the 367th were: Lts. Kingsley leading, Parrish, Bergener, Pinchback, Wear, Scott, Marks, McDonald and Capt. Kornegay.

13th.

NEUMUNSTER, GERMANY The 306th flew 36 A/C as 40th "A" to bomb the M/Y at Neumunster. The Clay Pigeon Air Force sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the high squadron lead by Capt. Kornegay. Our bombs completely blanket the target and the other squadrons are very close by. Smoke from other formations bombing prevented exact pin-pointing of all strikes. Neumunster was the secondary and the decision to hit it was made when Buckeye reported poor weather conditions at the primary, Bad Kleinen. No E/A or flak was met on this mission and fighter support was furnished by the 4th fighter group. All of our A/C returned safely to the base. Other pilots for the 367th were: Lts. Bergener, Parrish, Gooch, Wells, L.J. Smith, Verdick, G.L. Smith, and Scott.

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SECRET

DAY	EVENTS
14th.	<p><u>ROYAN AREA, FRANCE</u> The 306th sent 36 A/C as the 40th "C" group to bomb the German held area at the mouth of the Gironde Estuary <sup>Wading to the</sup> <del>the port serving</del> Bordeaux. <sup>near</sup> presence here has prevented the use of the port and has proven a hindrance to supplying of southern France. Our aiming points were centered on the gun positions here and the raid was seen to soften them up before the ground forces went in to take the area. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the lead squadron with Lt. Claeys of the 368th as air commander flying with Lt. Kingsley. The bombing was visual and our bombs walked directly across the briefed aiming point. There was no flak, or E/A seen and we were not briefed for fighter support. All of our A/C returned undamaged. Other pilots for the Clay Pigeon Air Force were: Lts. Hoffman, G.L. Smith, Finchback, Shepard, Bergener, Wear, Marks, and Wells.</p>
15th.	<p><u>ROYAN AREA, FRANCE</u> The 306th sent 39 A/C as the 40th "A" group to bomb gun installations at the mouth of the Gironde as a follow up of yesterday's mission. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the three plane high elements of each squadron. Lts. Verdick, Hahn, and L.J. Smith flew with the lead; Bergener, Pinchback, and Shepard with the high; and Wear, Wells, and G.L. Smith with the low. Each squadron made a separate run and hits were observed on gun positions. The sky was cloudless but a change of wind, smoke from previous bombing, and ground haze made target identification very difficult. No flak or E/A were encountered; however a few bursts were observed from Ile De Re. No damage was sustained. All of our A/C returned safely to the base.</p>
16th.	<p><u>PLATTLING, GERMANY</u> The 306th flew 38 A/C as the 40th "A" group to bomb the M/Y at Plattling, Germany. Major Keating our C.O., lead the group flying with the 368th. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the low squadron with Lt. Kingsley leading. Lt. Pinchback flew spare and filled in the low to fly the mission. The bombing was visual and excellent. The lead bombardier's reported that they were able to pick up the target miles away and our photos show all the bombs in a tight pattern on the M/Y which was filled with traffic at the time. No flak or E/A were seen and all of the planes completed the mission undamaged. Other pilots for the Clay Pigeon Air Force were: Lts. Hoffman, G.L. Smith, Cooch, Shepard, L.J. Smith, Mitchell, Wells, and Hahn.</p>
17th.	<p><u>DRESDEN, GERMANY</u> The 306th flew 39 A/C as the 40th "C" group to bomb the M/Y at Dresden. Our squadron, lead by Lt. Kingsley, sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the high squadron. Lt. Hahn, flying spare, filled with the squadron to fly the mission. The weather was good except in the target area where a 10/10 cirrostratus layer hung just above the bombing altitude. Haze and dense persistent contrails made air to air visibility poor. From the I.P. to the target our group was interfered with by other formations in the area and this made a successful bomb run very difficult. The lead was able to bomb visually and the high made a PFI run with a visual correction. The low was thrown off course by another group and due to a miss understanding seven A/C dropped at the wrong time; the remaining five brought their bombs back. No E/A were seen and moderate tracking flak for 2 minutes in the target area damaged two of our A/C. Sgt. J.E. Sperling, radio operator for Lt. Shepard was wounded but his recovery is assured. All the A/C returned to the base. Other pilots for the Clay Pigeon Air Force were: Lts. Hoffman, Pinchback, Cooch, L.J. Smith, Mitchell, Marks, and Scott.</p>
18th.	<p><u>ROSENHEIM, GERMANY</u> The 306th flew 39 A/C as the 40th "B" group to bomb the M/Y at Resenheim, Germany. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the lead flight and low element of the lead squadron. Lt. L.J. Smith flew the lead and Major Buie of the 423rd rode with him as air commander. Good weather prevailed throughout the mission and each squadron made a separate visual run and all three hit the LPI causing large explosions. There was no E/A seen and the</p>

Sheet No. 1 War Diary 367th Bomb Sqdn. 306th Bomb Group (H)

Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. Wm. Leatherman.

**SECRET**

DAY

EVENTS

19th.

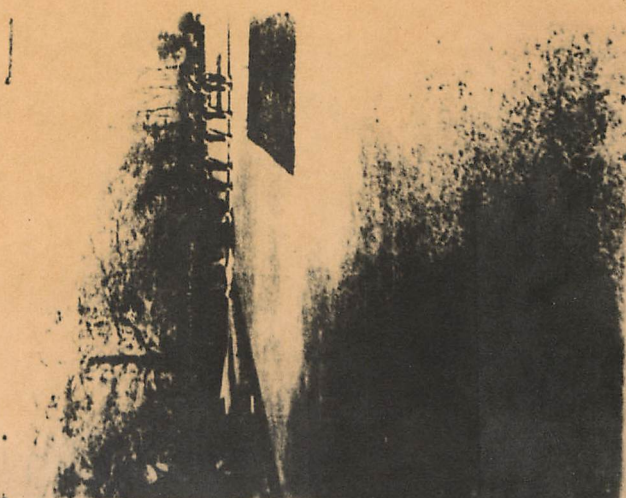
only flak encountered came from light guns in the mountains near Hattenberg. Two A/C in the low squadron were damaged. All of our planes completed the mission safely. Other pilots for the 367th were; Lts. Hoffman, G.L. Smith, Gooch, Pinchback, Marks, Mitchell, MacDonald, and Hahn. Lt. P.K. Shepard, flying spare filled in the hole and flew with the lead.

FALKENBERG, GERMANY The 306th flew 38 A/C as the 40th "A" group to bomb the M/Y at Falkenberg, Germany. Our squadron sent 9 A/C as the three high elements of the squadrons. We also flew one spare A/C that flew with the lead squadron to complete the mission. Lts. Mitchell, Smith, and Marks flew with the lead; Shepard, Wells, and Hahn with the high; and Verdick, Hills, and Gooch with the low. Lt. Schultz flew the spare A/C. The sky was almost clear and the bombardiers were able to set up their sights well in advance. The results were excellent. There was no flak at the target but when the low squadron passed over Torgau one of our A/C was hit by meager tracking flak and S/Sgt. R.V. Bradley, R.O. for Lt. Hills, was hit in the wrist. The A/C was severely damaged but returned to the base. No E/A were seen and P-51's gave close support throughout the mission.

The mission of the 19th was the 341st mission of this group and with it we finished our tour of operations against the German Third Reich. The last few weeks have seen the ground forces over run so much of Germany that the targets left were not really heavy bomber targets. Most of our missions for the month were essentially tactical and the area in which we could operate has steadily diminished until there was nothing left for us to bomb. The end of the war cannot be far distant.

On the 14th of the month Lt. Vielle took off on a practice mission for Ireland to take a number of men on pass there. On the way up the A/C ran into bad weather and crashed into the Isle of Man. Everyone was killed instantly. With him were: Capt. Butterfield our operations officer, Capt. Cubberly our squadron Ex. officer, and Miss Emille Rea. Miss Rea had been stationed with the A.R.C. in Bedford for quite a long while and was well known and liked by everyone on the base. Also in the A/C were Lts. Liersch, and Parrish; F/O Lecompte; and Sgts. Gallion, Smalczwski, Jones and Starbuck.

Below appears a photo of the guard of honor and the many friends at the funeral.



**SECRET**

Sheet No. 5 War Diary 367th Bomb Sqn. 306th Bomb Group (H)

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. W.A. Leatherman

SECRET

DAY

EVENTS

On April 12, 1945, the President of the United States of America, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT died and the impact of his death hit the nation as almost no other disaster could have; just as his first objective was about to be won, the defeat of Germany, he was denied the joy of seeing the day of celebration. Most of the usual mourning rites traditional with the army at such a time have been stayed in view of the war. All parties have been canceled for a period and the flag will be flown at half mast for a month.

Capt. D.F. Sheridan was transferred to the squadron on the 22nd as Ex. officer. Major Kesling was transferred to group as group operation officer and Major T.F. Witt came in as squadron C.O.

On the 22nd Capt. A.J. Bowley was transferred to the squadron as operations officer on the 25th.

The following promotions were made during April.

1st Lt. to Capt. - - - J.N. Hess.

2nd Lt. to 1st Lt. - - J.C. Wells, Melvin Brecher, R.A. Lomas, F.H. Ballish, J.W. Kilwell, M.N. Demaray, J.L. Patten,

F/O to 2nd Lt. - - - L.P. Farnito.

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DAY	EVENTS
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The 306th Group participated in a total of 17 missions during the month of April, of these, 15 were bombing missions, the other two being special leaflet operations in which the 368th did not take part. Favorable weather allowed the highest percentage of visual bombing for many months and results in general were very satisfactory, ranging from good to excellent on eleven visual operations. Four of the missions were PFF with unobserved results. Targets varied for the month, with railway facilities, ordnance dumps, airfields, and dock areas being among those attacked. On two occasions missions were flown against the German occupied Royan area in France. These were tactical missions in support of ground forces attacking the pocket. Due to the rapid advance of Allied ground forces engulfing the Reich, and the subsequent link-up with the Soviet Army, many targets were overrun and no bombing missions were flown by the group after 19 April. As in past months friendly fighter support was excellent, and the Luftwaffe was conspicuous by its absence.

A summary of each mission follows in chronological order:

- 3 April Kiel, Germany The 368th flew 12 A/C as the high squadron of 40 "B" composite group. The squadron was led by Lt. Claeys with Capt. Law as deputy lead. Other 368th men were Lt's Evans, Greer, Clocksin, Altshuler, Witcomb, McKinney, Butler, Swango, Burgess, and F/O Effland. The weather was 10/10ths and the #2 target Kiel was attacked by PFF; no photos were available as our squadron did not have a camera. P-51's gave close support and no enemy air opposition was encountered. Flak was meager, low and scattered at the target resulting in no damage.
- 4 April Fassberg, Germany Out of 36 A/C for the 40 "C" group the 368th put up 9 A/C with Capt. Dorich leading the low squadron. After making two runs and finding 10/10ths cloud cover over the #1 target, the low squadron brought its bombs back not being able to find a target of opportunity within the permitted area. The Lead squadron bombed on its first run, and the high squadron on its second run. There were no E/A attacks on our group but several crews heard other groups reporting E/A in the area over VHF. There was no flak on our group.  
Other Eager Beavers flying were Lts. Evans, Burgess, Greer, Butler, Hartshorn, Witcomb, Hales, and Clocksin.
- 5 April Weiden, Germany The 368th flew 9 A/C as High squadron of the 40 "B" group. Although the weather at the target was from 7 to 10/10ths all squadrons made individual PFF runs without visual corrections. Weather conditions prevented pilots Clocksin, Greer, and Effland from making rendezvous. Clocksin and Greer bombed Ingolstadt with the 92nd Group, and Effland flew and bombed with the 351st Group. There was no E/A opposition on this group and there was no A.A. gunfire. All A/C returned safely. Lt. Dobbs led the High squadron. Other 368th men were F/O Effland, and Lts. Evans, Greer, Clocksin, Cohn, Capt. Law, Burgess, and Butler.

DAY	SECRET	EVENTS
6 April		<p><u>Leipzig, Germany</u> The 368th flew 10 A/C as Lead of a total of 38 for the 40 "B" group. The #2 target, Leipzig, was covered by 10/10ths cloud and was bombed by PFF, each squadron making a separate PFF run with no visual correction. There were no fighter attacks on this group and P-51's gave us close support throughout the mission. There was meager to moderate, inaccurate, tracking flak well off to the left in the target area for 3 minutes before bombs away. Lt. Claeys led the group and other 368th men flying were Lts. Swango, Hales, Greer, McGinnis, McKinney, Capt. Law, Cohn, Witcomb. All A/C returned safely.</p>
7 April		<p><u>Wesendorf, Germany</u> The 368th put up 3 ships as high element of Lead, Low, and High squadrons comprising the 40 "C" group. We bombed the #1 target visually with excellent results. The pattern covers all installations on the northern edge of the field, centered on the briefed aiming point. There were no E/A attacks on this group. A few bursts of light A.A. fire were observed well below the formation at the target. All A/C returned safely without flak damage. Eager Beavers flying were Capt. Law, and Lts. Effland, McGinnis, Witcomb, Hartshorn, Cohn, Swango, Burgess, and Butler.</p>
8 April		<p><u>Stassfurt-Leopoldshall, Germany</u> The 368th put up 9 A/C as Low squadron of 40 "A" group and Major Hulings led the group. The Lead squadron bombed with a visual correction and high squadron dropped on the Lead. The low squadron started a PFF run but the bombardier took over visually when an opening in the clouds allowed identification of the L/Y. Strike photos show our pattern directly on the aiming point selected, namely, the intersection of the highway and the L/Y. There was no fighter opposition and no flak. All A/C returned safely. 368th men flying were Lt. Dobbs leading, and Lts. Evans, Lykes, Hartshorn, Clocksin, McKinney, Swango, Burgess, and Hale.</p>
10 April		<p><u>Oranienburg, Germany</u> The 306th flew 36 A/C of which the 368th squadron put up 9 as 40 "B" high. The #1 target was attacked visually in clear weather with excellent results, our squadron blanketing the assigned target. There was no fighter opposition and P-51's furnished excellent support throughout the mission. There was no A.A. fire at the target but we were forced into Wittenberge flak by another group for 2 minutes suffering damage of 3 severe and 2 slight. Lt. Claeys led the High and F/O Effland flew deputy lead. Other 368th men were Capt. Law and Lts. Evans, Forsyth, Clocksin, Witcomb, McGinnis, and Cohn. All A/C returned safely.</p>
11 April		<p><u>Kraiburg, Germany</u> The 368th led the 40 "C" group of 36 A/C, the squadron flying 9 ships. There was no enemy air opposition; and there was no A.A. fire at the target. There was meager accurate tracking fire from Stuttgart on the way in causing damage of 4, slight in our squadron. We attacked the #1 target in CAVU weather and photos show hits on the briefed aiming point with the main weight of the pattern slightly N&amp;E. The low bombs fell directly on assigned MPI, and the High bombs fell into the smoke of Lead and Low. All A/C returned safely. Capt. Matzke led the group, Lt. Swango flew deputy lead. Other Eager Beavers were Capt. Law, and Lts. Altshuler, Hales, Cohn, Jones, Butler, and Burgess.</p>

Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. R. W. Schreiter

DAY	SECRET EVENTS
13 April	<p><u>Neumunster, Germany</u> The 368th put up 9 A/C today as high elements of Lead, Low and High squadrons. The group put up 36 A/C as 40 "A". We attacked Neumunster M/Y #2 target in almost clear weather, each squadron making an individual run. Pictures show hits of the Lead on or very near briefed aiming point. Because of smoke in target area the High changed its aiming point and blanketed the north end of the M/Y. The low squadron also changed its aiming point to the south end of the M/Y. Shortly after the target "B" force called our leader and commented on the excellence of the 306th bombing. There was no E/A opposition on our group. Also, there was no A.A. fire on this group. 368th men flying were Lts. Swango, Clocksin, Jones, Hales, Sykes, Burgess, Forsyth, F/O Effland, and Capt. Law. All A/C returned safely.</p>
14 April	<p><u>Royan Area, France</u> The 306th flew 36 A/C as 40 "C", the 368th flying 9 A/C in low squadron with Lt. Dobbs leading. This mission was directed against the German pocket of resistance above Bordeaux, the targets being strong points and gun emplacements in that area. Our squadron misidentified its aiming point and synchronized on the wrong patch of woods which was north of the briefed aiming point. The lead's pattern walked across its aiming point and the high pattern hit slightly short. We had no fighter support today. There was no A.A. fire. Several crews report seeing a lone JU88 between the IP and the target. All A/C returned safely. Capt. Law, F/O Effland, and Lts. Hartshorn, Cohn, Forsyth, Butler, McKinney, and Bigham flew today.</p>
15 April	<p><u>Royan Area, France</u> The 306th put up 39 A/C and attacked the Royan Area again. The 368th flew 10 A/C with Lt. Glaeys leading the Low squadron. The weather was clear over the target and each squadron made separate visual runs attacking #2 targets in the area with good results. There was no fighter opposition; no support was ordered for this mission. All A/C returned safely. Other 368th men flying today were Capt. Law, and Lts. Sykes, Butler, Bigham, Clocksin, McKinney, Hales, and Altshuler.</p>
16 April	<p><u>Plattling, Germany</u> The 306th flew 38 A/C and attacked the M/Y at Plattling, the #1 target. Pictures show that the bomb patterns of all 3 squadrons were so nearly on the same briefed aiming point that only a few hits can be seen outside the pattern. There was no fighter opposition and no A.A. fire was encountered or observed by this group. We flew in the lead today. Sager Beavers flying were Capt. Dorich, and Lts. Dobbs, Cohn, Hartshorn, Bigham, Butler, Witcomb, Altshuler, and Lykes.</p>
17 April	<p><u>Dresden, Germany</u> The 306th put up 39 A/C as 40 "C" group attacking Dresden. The 368th flew the 3 high elements of Lead, Low, and High squadrons. The assembly was as briefed, but there was considerable confusion in the area of the IP due to heavy haze clouds, and contrails plus the fact that the 3rd Division was in the area at the same time; other formations flew various courses which interfered with the bomb run of at least one of our squadrons. The lead made a visual run, the High made PFF run with a visual correction. The Low started a PFF run but was forced to change course twice to avoid other formations and then turned off to make a second run. In the confusion the deputy thinking the Leader's bombs had dropped released his bombs and 7 A/C of the squadron dropped bombs on him. Low leader then decided not to make the second run. The Lead bombs hit the aiming point. Photos indicate</p>

DAY **SECRET** EVENTS

18 April High hits in M/Y north of the river. There was no air opposition although jets were reported in the area. A.A. gun fire at the target was moderate and tracking for about 3 minutes. Meager beavers flying today were Lts. Hartshorn, Weiser, F/O Effland, Cohn, Burgess, Forsyth, Witcomb, Altschuler, and McGinnis. All A/C returned safely.

Rosenheim, Germany The 368th put up 10 A/C of the low squadron of 40 "B" group today, led by Lt. Martin. Bombing was done visually, each squadron making a separate run on the M/Y. Photos show lead and High on MPI and the low pattern overlapping the first two squadrons. No fighter opposition was encountered and P-51's provided good support throughout the mission. 2 A/C in the low squadron were damaged severely when we encountered meager, inaccurate tracking fire from vicinity of Hattenberg. It had the appearance and characteristics of light flak. Our true altitude was only about 10000 feet because of the mountains over which we were flying at the time. All A/C returned safely. Other 368th men on the mission were Lts. Witcomb, Burgess, McGinnis, Lett, Forsyth, Hales, Marks, Bigham, and F/O Effland.

19 April Falkenberg, Germany The 368th flew 10 A/C in High squadron of 40 "A" group with Lt. Claeys leading. 306th group put up 38 A/C. With about 1/10th cumulus in the target area each squadron made a separate visual run. Our squadron, the high dropped on the first run hitting the aiming point squarely. Lead and Low squadrons were forced off their bomb runs by other A/C and made additional runs also hitting the aiming point. There was no fighter opposition and friendly fighters furnished close support. There was no A.A. fire at the target. All A/C returned safely. Pilots flying today were Lts. Sykes, Hartshorn, McKinney, Clocksin, Bigham, Burgess, Hales, Weiser, and Marks.

The following officers, with the exception of one, finished their tour of duty and departed for the States: Capt. G. DeVack (formerly operations officer), Capt. J. Law, Capt. L. Risk, Lts. Morris, Sandercock, Schwartz, Haining, Hepple, Holder, Brown, Olsen, Schertz, Weber, Purnell, Evans, Greer, Rubinstein, Jones, Swango, Campbell, Wilson, Gillaspie, and Howe. 2

The following Lts. were assigned and joined the squadron during the month of April, 1945: J. Bigham, G. Watkins, D. Kuesel, W. Beck, R. Weiser, G. Wiley, W. Latscha, L. Marks, F. Lowe, F. Rusch, J. Lett, R. Runner, H. Nebeker, H. Few, J. Deterding, C. Sowers, W. Keiser, J. Smith, J. Dougherty, W. Webster, and J. Heard.

The following received promotions from 1st Lt. to Captains: R. Thayer, H. Underwood, and P. Wagner.

The following men were promoted to 1st Lts.: L. Campbell, H. Cohn, L. Dorman, P. Greer, R. Hartshorn, G. Howe, J. Jaeger, R. LeKashman, N. McKinney, J. Shook, H. Altschuler, J. Burgess, J. Butler, G. Dobbs, F. Hales, E. Hunt, R. McCutchan, D. McGinnis, A. Mura, G. Faulkner, A. McColley, S. Schoenberger and L. Thompson.

Month of APRIL 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. H. L. F. Moore

DAY	EVENTS
	<p><u>INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>The squadron took part in 15 operational missions during the month, sending a total of 152 a/c on these missions. During the period 3 to 19 April, 17 missions were briefed and 15 were completed. During the period 20 to 28 April, no operational missions were flown although several were briefed. The squadron went on several practice flights. On the 29th the squadron began special leaflets missions carrying newspapers and special leaflets for Dutch, German soldiers, American and Allied prisoners of war. A mission on this type operation usually consists of one a/c going in alone at altitudes of 500 feet to 25,000 feet, depending on flak, winds, and other operational problems. Some of the missions have fighter support but a large majority have no support. Crews are receiving no credit for some of the longest missions, but there are no complaints because they feel that they are doing a worthwhile job, contributing to the war effort, and at the same time getting a chance to see at close range some of the destruction brought on German industry by their bombing. Squadron spirit of the "Fightin' Bitin'" is no doubt highest on the field. This is due partly to the high squadron spirit always displayed and partly because the squadron has a definite job to do while other squadrons are doing nothing, or flying "flub-dubs."</p>
3rd	<p><u>KIEL</u></p> <p>The 306th led the 1st Division with 36 a/c including 6 PFF as 40th "A"; also 12 a/c including 1 PFF as high squadron of 40th "B". Colonel Sutton, C.O. of the group flew lead with Captain Hubbell and a crew from the 369th. The entire lead squadron of 12 a/c was made up of 369th a/c and crews. The group attacked the dock area at Kiel with each squadron making separate PFF run. Strike photos show no ground detail but scope photos show bombs in the dock area just north of the briefed aiming point. A.A. gun fire was confined to a few low scattered bursts which did no damage. There was no fighter opposition. Pilots from the 369th were: Cpts. Hubbell and Kuenstler, Lts. Kearney, Snook, Chancey, Woods, Sandini, Lomar, Christenson, Hansen, Schieb, and Young.</p>
4th	<p><u>FASSBERG</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "C". The 369th flew 9 a/c as high flights of lead, high, and low squadrons. The A/F buildings at Fassberg were attacked visually through 8-9/10ths clouds. The lead squadron dropped on the first run while the high and low squadrons made two runs. The high dropped on the second run but the low, bombing last, found 10/10ths clouds and brought bombs back. Photos show dense smoke and fire in woods from lead bombing, but hits from the high squadron could not be identified. There was no flak on the group, and no E/A attacks. Lts. Lomar, Sandini, and F/O Christenson flew in the lead. Lts. Chancey, Babin, and Snook flew in the high; Lts. Lomar, Schieb, and Fisher flew in the low.</p>
5th	<p><u>WEIDEN</u></p> <p>The 306th group flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "B". The 306th flew 9 a/c in the low squadron with Lt. Smith flying low lead. Rendezvous was made difficult by 10/10ths multilayer clouds; and, Lts. Sandini and Collins, unable to find the formation, bombed Ingolstadt with the 92nd and 379th groups respectively. There were no E/A attacks on the group. There was no flak. Each squadron made a PFF run and dropped on Weiden. Capt. Kuenstler, Lts. Tinkham, Schieb, Hansen, Babin, and Snook flew with the low squadron.</p>

DAY	EVENTS
6th	<p><u>LEIPZIG</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 38 a/c including 4 PFF and 2 spares as 40th "B". The 369th flew 10 a/c in the high squadron with Lt. Ryder flying high lead. Leipzig M/Y was attacked through 10/10ths clouds by PFF. Plotted scope photos show strikes on M/Y and almost directly on the aiming point. There were no fighter attacks on the group. A.A. gun fire was meager and inaccurate. Lts. Powers, Carakostas, Young, J.E. Collins, Babin, Hansen, R.S. Collins, Erne, F/O Christenson and crews flew other 369th a/c.</p>
7th	<p><u>WESENDORF</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "C". Installations on the Wesendorf A/D were attacked visually with excellent results. The 369th flew lead a/c plus 8 additional a/c in the lead squadron. Photos show lead bombs squarely on the aiming point. A few bursts of flak were observed low at the target but there was no damage. There were no E/A attacks on the group although 2 or 3 Me262s were observed making a pass at formations ahead. Capt. Hubbell flew lead a/c and with him, Lts. Carakostas, Kearney, Lonar, Erne, Young, Powers, Sandini and F/O Christensen flew for the 369th. Lts. Carakostas and Erne completed tours with two gunners from each crew completing tours.</p>
8th	<p><u>HALBERSTADT</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "A". Bombing was on the #2 target, M/Y at Halberstadt. The lead made a PFF run with a visual assist with the high squadron dropping on the lead. The low started a PFF run but the bombardier took over visually when the M/Y could be identified. Photos show lead and high strikes in the southern part of town with low bombs on the intersection of the M/Y and highway. There was no fighter opposition and no flak. The 369th flew high flights of lead, low, and high squadrons. Lts. Young, Babin, Woods, Lomar, Snook, Powers, Tinkham, Sandini, and Capt. Kuenstler flew for the squadron. Ten men from the squadron were transferred to the infantry.</p>
9th	<p>The mission was scrubbed before take off.</p>
10th	<p><u>ORANIENBURG</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "B". Lt. Smith flew low lead and Lts. Tinkham, Babin, Fisher, Woods, Hansen, Schieb, Snook and Capt. Kuenstler flew other 369th a/c. The target was the Oranienburg A/D with aiming points on the runways. The target was attacked visually with excellent results. There was no E/A opposition and no flak at the target. The group was forced into Wittenberge flak by another group, and the 369th flying low squadron, received the major portion of flak on the group. Lt. Wood's a/c was hit by flak, lost two engines, and suffered reduced power on the third; however, the pilot was able to keep the plane under control and come back to base on two engines. The pilot received a slight hand injury from flak, and the co-pilot, Lt. McBernd had a large hole torn in his helmet but escaped unscratched. Lt. Woods received the Purple Heart and has been recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross.</p> <p>Lt. Babin's a/c received a direct hit in the tail section, probably killing the tail gunner who fell out, and tearing away most of the tail. There was no oxygen left and no rudder control. The a/c peeled itself out of formation and went into successive stalls. The crew reviewed bail-out and escape procedure and left the plane at about 20 miles northeast of Hannover at an altitude of approximately 3500 feet. Lt. Babin landed in a tree, climbed down, crawled into a ditch and hid. During the night he walked with difficulty because of an injured knee and hid during the day. The next night he walked again with artillery shells bursting so close that one knocked him down. At about 1500 hours on 12 April he stopped a passing jeep, identified himself, and was taken back to regimental headquarters.</p>

Month of APRIL 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. H. L. Moore

DAY	EVENTS
10th (contd.)	<p>Lt. McGuff, co-pilot, also landed in a tree and when he came down he hid himself from soldiers and civilians until dark and then started walking toward artillery fire. He was walking down a road near the lines when 5 Germans came from behind, halted him, took his gun, and hid him in the woods to await the arrival of American forces. When the Americans were close McGuff's gun was returned and he took 7 German prisoners, his captors, and turned them over to the ground forces.</p> <p>Sgt. Zamiska and Lt. Clementson landed very close together and while hiding were surprised and captured by a German soldier and some civilians. They were taken into town and to a hospital where Lt. Clementson's sprained ankles were treated. Sgts. Quinn and McMillup were picked up by the Germans and taken to the hospital where Lt. Clementson and Sgt. Zamiska were being held. On 12 April, about 60 Germans at the hospital surrendered to these men and were turned over the first American convoy moving through.</p> <p>Sgts. Ferguson and Deutsch were last reported in hospitals on the continent, but the extent of their injuries is not known.</p>
11th	<p><u>KRAIBURG</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF a/c as 40th "C". The 369th flew 9 a/c in the high squadron with Lt. Ryder flying lead and Lts. Powers, Tinkham, Young, Schieb, Hansen, Sandini, F/O Christensen and Capt. Kuenstler flying other 369th a/c. Bombing was visual on the Ordnance Depot with excellent results. Photos show high squadron bombs squarely on the briefed aiming point in the smoke of lead and low bombing. A violent explosion can be seen in the area of the bomb strikes. There was no E/A opposition. There was no flak at the target, but meager, accurate tracking from Stuttgart accounted for slight damage to 4 a/c in the group. There was no damage in the squadron.</p>
12th	<p>Briefed mission was scrubbed.</p>
13th	<p><u>NEUMUNSTER</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "A", nine of which were from the 369th. Capt. Hubbell flew lead a/c with Major Nesling, C... of the 367th. Lts. Kearney, Sandini, Collins, Hansen, Schieb, Powers, Capt. Kuenstler, F/O Christensen and crews flew other a/c in the lead squadron. There was no fighter opposition and no flak on the group. The #2 target, Neumunster 1/Y was attacked visually when buckeye reported conditions were poor at the primary. Hits from the lead were on, no very near, the briefed aiming point with most of the pattern obscured by previous bombing.</p>
14th	<p><u>ROYAN AREA, FRANCE</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "C" with the 369th flying 9 a/c as high flights of lead, low and high squadrons. Strong points in the Royan area pocket were attacked by heavies in support of ground troops. There were no E/A attacks and no support was sent out. There was no A.A. gun fire. Each squadron bombed visually. Photos show lead strikes across the aiming point, high slightly short, and the low bombs north of aiming point. Capt. Kuenstler, Lts. Woods, Fisher, Young, Schieb, Collins, Tinkham, Powers, and Sandini were pilots of 369th a/c.</p>

Chest No. 4 War History 369th Bombardment Sqdn. 306th Bomb. Group (H)

Month of APRIL 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. H. L. P. Moore

DAY	EVENTS
15th	<p><u>ROYAN AREA, FRANCE</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 39 a/c including 4 PFF and 3 spares as 40th "A". Strong points were attacked for the second day in succession in the Royan area. The group attacked #2 targets visually because the #1 target was smoke obscured from other bombings. Lt. Callahan led the low squadron and Lts. Tinkham, Woods, Young, Powers, Collins, Lomar, Snook, Schieb, Fisher, and crews flew other 369th a/c. There was no E/A opposition and no flak.</p>
16th	<p><u>PLATTLING</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 38 a/c including 4 PFF and 2 spares as 40th "A", leading 1st Division. There was no E/A opposition and no flak. Bombing was visual and excellent on the Plattling M/Y with each squadron making a separate run. Lead dropped squarely on the aiming point and both high and low dropped into the original bomb pattern. Lt. Smith led the high with Capt. Kuenstler, Lts. Grumbles, Fisher, Mikles, Woods, Young, Snook, and F/O Christensen flying other 369th a/c in the high squadron.</p>
17th	<p><u>DRESDEN</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 39 a/c including 4 PFF and 3 spares as 40th "C" with the 369th flying lead a/c plus 9 additional a/c in the lead squadron. Capt. Haase led and Lts. Kearney, Grumbles, Schieb, McDonald, Mikles, Hansen, Collins, Snook, and Sandini flew other a/c. Flak was moderate tracking in the target area but there was no damage in the lead squadron. Jets were reported in the area but none were seen. The lead made a visual run on the Dresden M/Y, the #1 target. Pictures show the strikes on the aiming point with many strikes obscured by smoke from previous bombing.</p>
18th	<p><u>ROSENHEIM</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 39 a/c including 4 PFF as 40th "B" to bomb the Rosenheim M/Y. Each squadron made a separate run and all bombed visually. No E/A opposition was encountered. Heavier, inaccurate A.A. fire was encountered in the vicinity of Hottenberg. One 369th a/c, "Steady Neddy", received severe flak damage. Lead bombs hit the M.P.I., high bombs were centered on the M.P.I., and the low pattern enveloped high and lead. Lts. Woods, McDonald and Sandini flew high flight in the lead; Capt. Kuenstler, Lts. Mikles, and Collins flew high flight of the high; Lts. Schieb, Fisher, and Grumbles flew high flight of the low.</p>
19th	<p><u>FALLENBERG</u></p> <p>The 306th flew 38 a/c including 4 PFF/Geel and 2 PFF as 40th "A". Lt. Callahan flew low lead and Capt. Kuenstler, Lt. Reed, Fisher, Powers, Woods, Schieb, McDonald, and Sandini flew other a/c in the low squadron. The low squadron made three separate runs on the target after being forced off the run on the first attempt and was finally forced to change the aiming point because of smoke. Photos show strikes on the choke point of another M/Y southwest of the briefed M.P.I.</p>
24th	<p>Flight Officers George C. Dickerson and R. W. Kurrasch were appointed Second Lieutenants.</p>
26th	<p>First Lieutenant Laurence E. Carroll, squadron bombardier was promoted to the rank of Captain.</p>
29th	<p>First Lieutenant Walter P. Rozett, assistant operations officer, was promoted to the rank of Captain.</p>

Sheet No. 5 War Diary 369th Bombardment Sqdn. 306th Bomb Group (H)

Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. H.L.P. Moore

DAY	EVENTS
29th	<p><u>SPECIAL OPERATIONS</u> The 369th squadron has been given the task of carrying out special leaflet missions for the group. These missions usually consist of a one a/c formation dropping newspapers or special leaflets.</p> <p>The first nickels mission was flown today. Major McKinney carried the SHAEF newspaper to Mannheim and to the Buchenwald concentration camp at Weimar. Lt. Young carried SHAEF newspapers to Chemnitz, Leipzig, and Magdeburg. German newspapers for troops were dropped as follows: Lt. Powers on LaRocheville and LaPallice; Lt. McDonald on Lorient and St. Nazaire; P/O Christensen on St. George d'Oleron, St. Pierre d'Oleron, LeChateau d'Oleron and Dolus. Colonel Upham, commanding officer of the group, dropped German newspapers at Dunkirk and Dutch newspapers at the Hague and Dordrecht. Dutch newspapers were dropped by Lt. Fisher on Amsterdam and by Lt. Snook on Utrecht and Rotterdam. There was no flak or A/A opposition.</p>
30th	<p>The 369th dispatched 7 a/c on a special leaflet operation. The a/c dispatched for German targets was scrubbed because of weather, but 6 a/c dropped leaflets in France and Holland as follows: Lt. Grumbles on LaRocheville and LaPallice; Capt. Auenstler on Lorient and St. Nazaire; Lt. Schieb on St. George d'Oleron, St. Pierre d'Oleron, LeChateau d'Oleron and Dolus; Lt. Reed on Zuiderland, Oosterend, Oudeschild, Burg, and Hoorn; Lt. Collins on Dunkirk, Dordrecht, and the Hague; Lt. Sandini on Amsterdam; Lt. Nikles on Rotterdam and Utrecht. Lt. Rozett was recalled because of weather. There was no flak nor enemy a/c opposition.</p>

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Sheet No. 1 War Diary 423rd. Bomb Sqdn. 306th Bomb Group (H)

Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
	<p>The 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H) participated in a total of fifteen operational missions, dropping 422 tons of bombs, during the month of April, 1945, one more mission than in April, 1944, eleven (11) more missions than in April, 1943; favorable weather during the first part of the month made visual bombing possible on eleven missions and brought to a temporary end at least the bombing of Nazi Military targets. The squadron flew their last mission on the 19th of the month.</p> <p>Targets included marshalling yards, ammunition dumps and airfields. The Luftwaffe remained grounded and no A/C were lost to enemy action. A/C #616 continued to pile up missions and now has a total of 118 missions. The Engineering Section is to be congratulated in that there were no abortions during the month.</p> <p>The excellent results of visual bombing helped to make possible the entrance of the Russians into the Reich Capitol, the historical joining of the American and Russian Armies at Torgau, Germany and the capture of Munich by the Allies.</p> <p>The world was suddenly shocked upon hearing of the Death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. His supreme efforts during the war and preparation for future world peace were well known throughout the world. Each individual must assume an added responsibility in order that the spirit he called up will continue to influence the peoples of the world to maintain peace.</p> <p>For the second month the 423rd led the other squadrons in the aircraft recognition contest. Top squadron winners were Lt. C.L. Steiger and S/Sgt. J.J. Lewis.</p> <p>Many men are participating in sport activities and S/Sgt. Herman Cothran and Sgt. Alvin B. Gannon are giving valuable aid to the baseball team. Others are participating in softball, volleyball, squash, tennis and handball.</p> <p>Officers continued to enjoy the dances at the Officer's Red Cross Club in Bedford and the E.M. attended the dances at the Aero Club on the post.</p>

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Sheet No. 2 War Diary 423rd Bomb Sq Sqdn. 306th Bomb Gp

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
1	No mission. T/5 John F. Goetz asgd from Hq. 70th Replacement Depot.
2	No mission today, the weather was dark and hazy.
3	<p><u>KIEL</u> - The 306th Group led the 1st Division with 36 a/c including 6 PFF as 40 "A". Twelve a/c including 1 PFF were put up by the 423rd squadron. Pilot H.W. Trease and his crew led the Low Squadron. On advise of Bloater, rendezvous was 1,000 feet higher than briefed. There was no E/A opposition, P-51's appearing in strength gave close support to the target and out. Meager, low scattered bursts of flak are encountered over Kiel without resultant damage to any of our a/c. Bombing was by PFF and each squadron made separate runs on the target. In addition to Lt. Trease and his crew, these pilots and their crews flew on this mission: F. Engstrom; C.N. Cannon; W.H. Hiney; R.S. Kimball; J.R. Clark; D.C. Cheney; W.H. Baker; J.D. Wilson; H.L. Wills; W.G. Schultz and H.C. Hostetter.</p> <p>2nd Lts. John J. Endicott, Kenyon C. Devaney, Lee B. Goff, Jr., Kenneth E. Jacobson, Paul N. Zahniser, F/C Edward F. Gherlin and Cpls. Robert L. Sibley, William J. Dixon, Robert E. Kirkaldie, Carlton W. Bondurant, Howard K. Wherman, John Tinklenberg, William G. Jung, Douglas A. Panchot, Carlos A. Gavito, Rex E. Hoy, Thomas J. Griffiths, Harold L. Demorest, asgd from Hq. 70th Replacement Depot.</p> <p>2nd Lt. Atherton was promoted to the grade of 1st Lt.</p>

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Sheet No. 4 War Diary 423rd Bomb Sq. Squin. 306th Bomb Gp.Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
4	<p><u>FASSBERG</u> - The 306th Group flew 36 a/c as 40 "C" against the A/D at Fassberg. Twelve of the 36 were from the 423rd Squadron. On the first run, clouds prevented the high and the low squadrons from bombing. The high made a 360 degree turn over the target, took a new IP at 5242N-1059E. Low squadron also made a second run but could not bomb and brought their bombs back. Bombing was from 12,500 feet. No fighter E/A opposition was met with and flak was most conspicuous by its absence. P-51's were picked up at approximately 5105N-0755E and gave close support to the target and to the North Sea on the withdrawal. 1st Lt. T.D. Hedley led the high squadron. Other pilots and their crews on this mission were: J.R. Clark; F. Engstrom; W.H. Hiney; R.S. Kimball; C.N. Cannon; F.B. Leigh; W.G. Schultz and H.C. Hostetter.</p> <p>S/Sgt. Duane J. Brunner trfd to 70th RD.</p>
5	<p><u>WEIDEN</u> - The 306th Group flew 36 a/c as 40 "B" on this mission. Nine a/c were from the 423rd. 1st Lt. L.E. Smith led the lead squadron. Because of difficulties encountered at rendezvous and because of rough weather conditions throughout this mission, a number of our a/c bombed with other Groups and hit other targets. The 306th target had been briefed as GRAFFENWOHR. Lead, low and high made individual PFF runs without visual correction and hit WEIDEN, 10 miles to the east and south. Photos show 9/10 cloud coverage and all three squadron's strikes on WEIDEN. Bombing was from 15,000 feet. There was no E/A opposition on the 306th nor was flak received. Pilots and their crews in the lead squadron in addition to Lt. Smith were: F. Engstrom; J.R. Clark; H.L. Wills; C.N. Cannon; W.G. Schultz; F.B. Leigh; B.B. Merrill and R.S. Kimball.</p> <p>2nd Lts. Robert W. Davenport, Claude L. Walsh, and F/O William H. Penprase and Cpls. Jacob L. Leroy, William G. Holzappel, Arthur P. Cappallett, Kenneth O. Kinzel, August D. Reed, Robert J. Nickelski, asgd. from Hq. 70th RD.</p>
6	<p><u>LEIPZIG</u> - The 306th Group flew 38 a/c as 40 "B" against the M/Y at Leipzig. The 423rd Squadron had 9 a/c on this mission. Bombing was from 25,000 feet. Each squadron made separate PFF runs with no visual correction. Plot of the scope pictures tend to show the strike to the left and slightly short of the briefed AP. There was no fighter attack on this Group. P-51's were picked up at 5005N-0757E and gave close support throughout the run into, over and from the target. Flak was meager to moderate, inaccurate and tracking. A few bursts were observed from Dunkirk on withdrawal when other Groups came close to the city. 423rd pilots and their crews on this mission were: W.H. Rich; H.L. Wills; R.S. Kimball; W.H. Baker; H.C. Hostetter; J.R. Clark; W.H. Hiney; W.G. Schultz and B.B. Merrill.</p> <p>2nd Lts. Chester A. Mallory, Othel L. Bnttrekin, Arthur A. Dorsey, and Sgts. Alfred F. Mis, Charles E. Bell, George G. Boegeloin, Olley G. Anderson, Bernard P. Ulman, Bruce J. Simpson, asgd. from 367th Bomb Squadron (H). S/Sgt. Loren B. Baker trfd 70th RD.</p>
7	<p><u>WESENDORF</u> - The 306th Group flew 36 a/c as 40 "C". The 423rd had 9 a/c on this mission. Bombing was accomplished from 15,000 feet. Excellent bombing results confirmed by strike photos were obtained. Low squadron shifted aiming point slightly to the south in order to hit undamaged parts</p>

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Sheet No. 5 War Diary 423rd Bomb Sq. Sqn. 306th Bomb Gp.Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
7 cont	<p>of the A/D between the runways and the installations. This intelligent decision was made by Engstrom's bombardier, 1st Lt. L.U. Jefferson. Lt. Engstrom and his crew led the low squadron. The Group was not molested by E/A and only a few bursts of light AA fire was observed well below the formation at the target. None of our a/c were damaged. Fighter support was good; area type in nature and was observed chasing 2 or 3 ME 262's out of the target area. In addition to Lt. Engstrom and his crew, these pilots and their crews were on this mission: W.H. Baker; H.C. Hostetter; H.L. Wills; C.N. Cannon; B.B. Merrill; F.B. Leigh; R.G. Haring and F.E. Jones.</p>
8	<p><u>HALBERSTADT</u> - The 306th Group flew 36 a/c as 40 "A". Nine of these a/c were 423rd ships. Lt. L.E. Smith led the high squadron. The scouting force reported 10/10 cloud coverage over the No. 1 target. Target No. 2 was also 10/10 but good possibilities for breaks existed so this target was attacked. Lead squadron approached on PFF but shortly before bombs away the bombardier got a chance for a visual correction. The high squadron with PFF out, dropped on Lead. Low also was able to make a visual correction. There was no enemy fighter opposition. P-51's were picked up at 0750E and gave good support on the route in and at the target. No flak was encountered on this mission. Weather at take off was 10/10, tops 2,000, continuing to about 0500E. It was CAVU over Germany becoming 4-5/10 over the target area; tops 6,000. The Group observed considerable activity in the M/Y at Nordhausen, Viernsburg and Halberstadt. In addition to Lt. L.E. Smith and crew, the following pilots and their crews from the 423rd were on this mission; J.K. Clark; W.H. Baker; W.H. Hiney; C.N. Cannon; F.E. Jones; W.M. Rich; C.M. Oakes Jr. and H.L. Wells.</p> <p>Cpls. John H. Herndon, John T. Fritt, Joe G. Ross, and PFC's Bernie C. Brush, Gerald E. Cummings, John Davidson, and Pvt. Robert W. Conklin, Frank E. Lancia, Earnest A. Lewis trfd to 12th Reinforcement Depot.</p>

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Sheet No. 7 War Diary 423rd Bomb Sq. Sqdn. 306th Bomb Gp.Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
9	Mission scrubbed.
	Sgt. Cornelius L. Love trfd Det. of Pnts 4204.
10	<p><u>ORANIENBURG</u> - 36 a/c was the 306th Group effort; 423rd flew 9 a/c on this mission. Flew as 40 "B" force; The Group was prevented using briefed IP by squadrons of another Group taking interval. The 306th continued to IP at 5314N-1200E. The target, Oranienburg was bombed visually. There was no fighter opposition. Our P-51's gave excellent support into the target area and out. Although there was no AA fire at the target the 306th was forced into briefed Wittenberge flak area by another Group heading east. The flak was meager but very accurate, tracking fire. Excellent results were obtained on the bombing. Photos show lead pattern directly on the aiming point. High squadron bombs also blanket assigned target. Special care had to be taken on this strike because of a PW camp very close to the target area. Confirmation was found that the camp was not damaged in any way. Capt. Murphy, 423rd Operations Officer, led the 306th. Other pilots and their crews on this mission were: B.B. Merrill; L.E. Smith; D.C. Cheney; C.E. Oakes Jr.; H.L. Wills; F.S. Jones; J.R. Clark; F.B. Leigh; and J.K. Snobble.</p> <p>S/Sgts. James L. Harner and Harry L. Kelson trfd 70th RD. 1st Lt. Raymond J. Dann, William R. Horgan, and 2nd Lts. Torleif Heloe and Sgts. Walter J. Kiefer, Eugene L. Kunz, Edward J. Klingenberg, Clemend R. Schmitt, Merton J. Christerson, Kenneth G. Roscoe asgd from Hq. 70th RD.</p>
11	<p><u>KRAIBURG</u> - The 306th flew 36 a/c as 40 "C". Of these a/c, 9 were from the 423rd squadron. Kraiburg was bombed visually; the aiming point was the ordnance depot. Excellent results were obtained on the bomb strike. Lead shows hits on the briefed MPI with the main weight of the pattern slightly NE. Low bombs were directly on the MPI. Because of smoke over the target, high bombardier synchronized on pin points near the area. Violent explosions seen on strike photos were possibly caused by bombs from the lead. No enemy fighter opposition was encountered on this "show". Flak over the target was nil but meager and accurate flak was experienced from the Stuttgart area which resulted in slight damage to 4 lead a/c. Take off was 7/10 coverage; base 4,000 feet. The target was clear. On return there was 9/10 middle cloud at 0500E; base 12,000, tops 15,000. It was hazy at base. Pilots and their crews on this mission were: H.L. Wills; C.L. Steiger; B.B. Merrill; W.H. Rich; J.K. Snobble; W.G. Schultz; J.R. Clark; F.B. Jones and C.N. Cannon.</p> <p>2nd Lts. Hiney, Heitman, McGough, Leigh, promoted to grade of 1st Lts. Cpl. John F. McCarthy and Pfc Frederick W. Wilson asgd from Hq. 306th Bomb Group.</p>
12	<p>No mission today.</p> <p>Capt. Lorn A. Wils and 1st Lt. David H. Gorrell trfd to 70th RD. T/Sgts. Eugene C. Hovey, Joseph R. Hathaway, S/Sgts. Edward C. Herold, Elmer L. Bishop, Joseph A. Coomer, Kenneth D. Morrison, Forest W. Yorgason trfd to 70th RD.</p>

Sheet No. 9 War Diary 423rd Bomb Sq. Sqdn. 306th Bomb Gp.Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
13	<p><u>NEUMUNSTER</u> - The 306th Group flew 36 a/c as 40 "A". The 423rd squadron flew 9 of these a/c on this mission. 1st Lt. T.B. Hedley and crew from the 423rd led the low squadron. Neumunster was target No. 2 and was attacked on advice of weather scouts. Hits from the lead were on or very near the briefed LPI. Smoke forced high bombardier to change his aiming point and high bombs completely blanket the area at the north end of the M/Y. Low bombardier changed his aiming point to the south end of the yards. Shortly after the target "B" Force called Able leader and commented on the excellence of the bombing. There was no enemy fighter opposition on the Group; nor was AA fire received over the target. Some flak was observed from Lubeck, Wittenberg, and Heligoland but did not bear on this Group. The weather was clear over England; it was 1-2/10 in target area with haze over England on return. In addition to Lt. Hedley the following pilots and their crews on this show were: W.H. Baker; C.E. Oakes Jr.; H.L. Willis; J.K. Snobble; R.G. Haring; F.B. Leigh; F.E. Jones and J.R. Clark.</p> <p>Cpts. Paul Horvay, Forest J. Stewart and 1st Lts. Dwight C. Fransley, Earle W. Schafer and S/Sgt. Robert K. Bentley trfd 70th RD. Cpl. William G. Neal trfd Det. of Pnts 4204. WOJG George J. Lemberger asgd fr HQ. 306th Bomb Gp. 2nd Lt. Joseph J. Kahn trfd 4th Station Complement Sq.</p>
14	<p><u>ROYAN</u> - 306th Group flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF as 40 "C". The 423rd had 9 a/c on this mission. The aiming points in the Royan area were strong points; gun emplacements. The French army was to drive in with the object of clearing out these pockets of German resistance after the bombers had blasted the gun positions. Each squadron dropped separately on their own runs over the target. Lead pattern started SW and walked across the briefed aiming point. High squadron made their run with the bombs hitting slightly short within the target area. Low bombardier misidentified aiming point and synchronized on the wrong patch of woods north of the aiming point. No fighter support was ordered on this mission. No enemy air attacks were made on the group nor was flak experience. Weather at take off was 2/10 coverage, tops 5,000 feet. Large patches of fog were encountered over the Loire River. It was clear before the IP and over the target with thin layer of stratus on route home. This mission to France marked the first time we had attacked French targets since Nov. 9, 1944. Lt. F. Ingstrom, 423rd pilot, and his crew led the high squadron. Other pilots and their crews were: J.R. Clark; D.C. Cheney; W.R. Hiney; R.G. Haring; C.L. Steiger; F.B. Leigh; C.E. Oakes Jr; and F.E. Jones.</p> <p>A period of silence from 1750 to 1800 was observed at the base in memory of President Roosevelt.</p> <p>Headquarters Detachment 306th Bomb Gp (h) attached to this organization.</p>
15	<p><u>ROYAN AREA</u> - The 306th Bomb Group flew 39 A/C including 4 PFF ships. Nine A/C were from the 423rd Squadron. Bombing was from 15,000' and was accomplished visually. Smoke from previous bombing obscured one assigned target and the lead was forced to bomb a target assigned to the 92nd Group. High failed to pick up the target on the first run; made a 180-degree turn and bombed target No. 17 which was another target briefed in this area. Photos showed lead pattern on the aiming point. Low's strike completely covered the briefed aiming point.</p> <p>There was no enemy fighter opposition and no flak over the target area although the high squadron reported four or five bursts from Ile de Re.</p> <p>Weather from base to mid-channel was 10/10ths coverage, 2,000' to 7,000' diminishing over France. Clear from Paris to target and return to Paris. 6-7-10ths low cloud coverage over England.</p>

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Sheet No. 10 War Diary 423rd Bomb Sq. Sqn. 306th Bomb Gp. (H)Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
15 (Contd)	<p>Crews returning from this mission report seeing French naval vessels laying off the coast and begin to shell the targets as we had just hit and which were well marked by smoke.</p> <p>Pilots and their crews making this mission were:  W. H. Baker, J. R. Clark, H. L. Willis, R. G. Haring, J. J. Endicott, C. L. Steiger, K. O. Devaney, C. E. Oakes, Jr., and F. B. Leigh.</p> <p>2nd Lt. Snobble promoted to grade of 1st Lt.</p>
16	<p><u>FLATTLING</u> - The 306th flew 38 A/C including 4 PFF and 2 spares as 40th "A". The 423rd Sq. flew 9 of these A/C.</p> <p>The aiming point at Plattling was the M/Y. Each squadron dropped visually with excellent results. Lead bombardier picked up the town at the IP and was synchronized on the aiming point for the last 5 minutes of the bomb run. Pictures show strikes covering the briefed aiming point. Both high and low patterns fell so closely into the smoke of previous lead bombing that only a few hits can be seen outside the original pattern. Baker force called and confirmed the excellence of 40th "A" bombing. Crew reports and pictures before bombing confirm that the M/Y at Plattling was full of traffic.</p> <p>The weather was clear from take-off to 0600E. From 0600E to 0700E 5/10ths low cumulus tops 7 - 9,000'. It was 2/10ths over the target.</p> <p>Fighter support on this mission was meager and late. No enemy fighters were encountered and no flak was thrown up at the Group.</p> <p>Pilots and their crews on this mission were: F.B. Leigh, J.J. Endicott, C.L. Stegger, C.E. Oakes, Jr., A.W. Dorsey, R.G. Haring, W.H. Hiney, K.O. Devaney and J. E. Clark.</p> <p>Capt. Donald E. Currier was transferred to the 369th Bomb Sq. (H).</p>
17	<p><u>DRESDEN</u> - The Group flew 39 A/C including 4 PFF and 3 spares as 40th "C". Ten of these A/C were from the 423rd Squadron.</p> <p>There was considerable confusion at the IP due to heavy haze, clouds and contrails plus the fact that the 3rd Division A/C were in the area at the time.</p> <p>Lead, on visual run, bombed the target and pictures show hits on the MPI. Dense, persistent contrails forced the high to start PFF runs. Just before bombs away, bombardier made visual correction. Pictures do not show the strike but bombs away indicate hits on the M/Y to the north of the river. Low encountered prop wash and discontinued the bomb run. Because of low visibility, the deputy, thinking the low leader had dropped, released his bombs. Seven A/C dropped with the deputy. Five remaining A/C brought their bombs back. Smoke prevented identification of the low strike.</p> <p>There was no E/A opposition on this Group. P-51s appeared in strength near Koblenz and gave good support to the target and out.</p> <p>At the target there was moderate tracking AA fire. Four of the 306th A/C received flak damage.</p> <p>First Lt. T.S. Headley and his crew lead the low squadron. Other pilots and their crews from the Grim Reapers were: D.C. Cheney, J.J. Endicott, W. H. Hiney, C.L. Steiger, K.O. Devaney, F.B. Leigh, R.G. Haring, J.R. Clark and A.W. Dorsey.</p>

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Sheet No. 11 War Diary 423rd Bomb Sq. Sqn. 306th Bomb Group(H)

Month of April 19 45 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
18	<p><u>ROSSENHEIM</u> - The 306th Group flew 39 A/C including 4 PFF as 40th "B". The 423rd flew 11 A/C in this force, which was lead by Major J.H. Buie, CO of the 423rd Sq.</p> <p>Each squadron made separate visual runs on the target. Photos show lead on the MPI with part of the pattern very slightly to the north. High squadron has pattern centered on the MPI. Low pattern overlaps first two squadrons. There were at least two explosions visible in the smoke. There were several hits on the bridge in the M/Y.</p> <p>No fighter opposition was encountered. P-51s gave good support throughout the mission. Meager, inaccurate tracking fire from the vicinity of Hattenberg had the appearance and characteristics of light flak. Two of our A/C received flak damage.</p> <p>The weather was clear at take-off, with 3-4/10ths cloud coverage, tops at 10,000' to the target.</p> <p>Pilots and their crews from the Grim Reapers on this mission were: L.E. Smith, F. Engstrom, C.E. Oakes, Jr., W.H. Baker, W.H. Hiney, W.H. Schultz, F.E. Jones, W.M. Rich, A.W. Dorsay, K.O. Devaney and R.C. Harding.</p> <p>Sgt. Charles V. Hempstead was assigned from Hq. 70th RD. Cpl. Frank W. Riley, PFC Harold Pritt, Pvt. Linzy W. Hicks, Settimo Montecalvo, Sgt. Alfred B. Pennington were transferred from the 12th Reinforcement Depot. Pvt. George J. Clemence was assigned from Hq. 70th RD. 2nd Lts. Gibson and Hostetter were promoted to 1st Lts.</p>
19	<p>The 306th Group flew 38 A/C as 40th "A" force. Two of the A/C were from the 423rd Sq.</p> <p>Each squadron made separate visual runs. Lead and low were forced off the bomb run by the 401st Group converging. High dropped on the first run with bombs centered squarely on the MPI. The lead, dropping on the second run, hit the assigned MPI, with the bulk of the pattern centered slightly to the west. Low squadron made three runs, found the briefed aiming point obscured by smoke and changed their aiming point. Strike photos show this point well hit.</p> <p>There was no enemy A/C opposition on this Group. P-51s were first picked up at 5203N - 0925E and gave close support throughout the route. They stayed in the target area while the lead made 2 runs and the low made 3 runs.</p> <p>There was no AA fire at the target. Low squadron made a 360-degree turn over Torgau where one A/C received severe damage from meager but fairly accurate tracking AA fire.</p> <p>Pilots D.C. Cheney and L.E. Smith and their crews took part on this mission. F/O Leroy and F/O Ross were promoted to the grade of 2nd Lt. Cpl. John J. McTiernan transferred to the 1951st QMC Trk. Co. Cpl. Robert H. Schmidt was assigned from Hq. 70th RD.</p>
20	<p>There was no mission today. Training flights were made in the afternoon.</p> <p>Authorization was granted by a letter from Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C., dated 20 April, 1945, for the use of the name "Grim Reapers" for the 423rd Squadron.</p>

SECRET

Sheet No. 13 War Diary 423rd Bombardment Sqdn. 306th Bomb Gp. (H)Month of April 1945 Prepared by 1st Lt. Joseph C. Brashares

DAY	EVENTS
21	No mission this date. Training flights were the order of the day.
22	Again no mission and rumor was running rife that the Squadron would make no more operational missions. This, however, was just the usual unofficial rumor. Sgt. Donahue was reduced to the grade of Corporal.
23	Mission was scrubbed. Capt. John B. Delapoer, 1st Lts. Charles N. Cannon, Robert L. Holscher were transferred to the 70th RD.
24	No mission today. 2nd Lts. Fred Engstrom was promoted to 1st Lt. T/Sgt. Joseph E. Watson, S/Sgt. Everett B. Brooks, were transferred to the 70th RD. Pvt. John Davidson was reassigned from the 12 Reinforcement Depot.
25	No mission. Cpl. Albert J. Silverio and Cpl. Kenneth Rains were assigned from Hq. 70th RD.
26	No mission today. 1st Lt. Leon E. Gough and Eric C. Heitman, were transferred from the 70th RD. Capt. Henry Dantsig, our Squadron surgeon, was transferred to the Dept. of Patients 4204.
27	No mission today.
28	No mission today. Practice missions were flown. Pvt. John T. Copelan was transferred from the 94th Air Depot.
29	No mission today.
30	The month closed without a mission being flown on the last day. Practice flights again were the order of the day.

SECRET

Sheet No. 2 War Diary \_\_\_\_\_ Sqdn. No., 306 Bomb GroupMonth of April 1945 Prepared by Captain William C. Van Norman

DAY	EVENTS
17	39 planes from this group participated on a mission to Dresden, Germany. All aircraft bombed successfully and returned safely to home base.
18	39 planes from this group participated on a bombing mission to Rosenheim, Germany. All aircraft bombed successfully and returned safely to home base.
19	38 planes from this group participated on a mission to Falkenburg, Germany. All aircraft bombed the target successfully and returned safely to home base.
22	<p>Lt. Col. Felix M. Hardisen, original pilot of the famed B-17 "Suzy Q" is assigned to this station as Deputy Group and Station Commander. Col Hardisen is the most highly decorated soldier on the station. Among his decorations are the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Stars, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals, Purple Hearts and all three Theatre ribbons.</p> <p>Capt Kenneth Sherman is appointed Assistant Group Operations Officer and Assistant Deputy of Operations.</p> <p>Major Earl W. Kesling is appointed as Deputy for Operations.</p> <p>Major Thomas F. Witt is relieved from this organization.</p>
24	Colonel Upham assumed temporary command of the 10th Combat Wing.
29	<p>Major Earl W. Kesling appointed to rank of Lieutenant Colonel.</p> <p>Captain Donald R. Ross, group bombardier, appointed to rank of Major.</p>

423rd

## Standing left to right:

1st Lt. Edgar R. Dagit, Ordnance  
 Capt. John A. Coulter, Jr., Gp. BSM Officer  
 Capt. Henderson N. Knight, Armament  
 1st Lt. W.W. Gunkel, Sq. Navigator  
 1st Lt. C.R. Denter, Sq. Bombardier  
 Capt. Henry Dantzig, Sq. Surgeon  
 Capt. J.A. Murphy, Sq. S-3  
 Capt. R.E. Phillips, Sq. Engineering  
 Capt. R.F. Morris, Adjutant  
 Maj. E.T. Mazza, Executive Officer  
 T/Sgt. F.L. Waugh, Photo Lab.

## Kneeling left to right:

S/Sgt. C.H. Hoover, Transportation chief  
 1st Lt. H.W. Trease, "C" Flt. Commander  
 1st Lt. Morton Schacter, Sq. Electronics  
 Capt. T.E. Marvis, Communications  
 1st Lt. L.E. Smith, "E" Flt. Commander  
 Maj. John H. Buie, Sq. Commander  
 Capt. B.H. Pool, Sq. S-2  
 1st Lt. T.D. Hadley, "A" Flt. Commander  
 1st Lt. E.F. Mann, Sq. Per. Equipment  
 1st Sgt. L.H. vanBeurzen

DAY

EVENTS

Month of April

1 - 45

Prepared by

1st Lt. Joseph C. Strickland

MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Captain Leon A. Risk	GO 311, 1st AD, 14 Apr/45.
Captain Wallace W. Wood	" " " " " "
1st Lt Andrew Stefano	GO 316, 1st AD, 15 Apr/45.
2nd Lt Carl B. Hathaway	" " " " " "
1st Lt Stanley G. Mull	GO 321, 1st AD, 16 Apr/45.
2nd Lt Robert E. Powers	" " " " " "
1st Lt Leo H. Reinhart	GO 327, 1st AD, 13 Apr/45.
1st Lt Kenneth H. Carnahan	GO 243, 1st AD, 22 Apr/45.
1st Lt Alban F. Varnado	GO 352, 1st AD, 26 Apr/45.
Captain Harlan L. Laughlin	GO 361, 1st AD, 28 Apr/45.
Captain William J. Haasa	GO 361, 1st AD, 28 Apr/45.

PURPLE HEART

2nd Lt Robert E. Woods	GO 323, 1st AD, 16 Apr/45.
S/Sgt George E. Johnson	" " " " " "
Sgt Phil H. Rueschoff	GO 323, 1st AD, 16 Apr/45.
Sgt Joseph T. Madrano	" " " " " "

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Captain Wendell L. Hall	GO 287, 1st AD, 6 Apr/45.
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