

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 499. 83000 300th Bomb. Gr. (H)Month of January, 1943. Prepared by Capt. W. H. Glass

DAY	EVENTS
2	Col Frank W. Armstrong assigned to 300th Group as commanding officer.
3	Seventeen A/C, led by Maj. Lanford, took off at 1140 for the fifth raid on St. Nazaire, target, torpedo dump. Heavy, intense and accurate flak encountered over target. Smoke screen at target ineffective because of extremely high winds. Enemy fighters attacked after a successful bombing run and a continuous running flight followed to Belle Isle. Lt. Ferguson (368th) had his two inboard engines disabled over the target and he turned back to Creusie Point and France still under control. In another hostile attack northwest of Brest Lt. Cranner's (364th) A/C was shot down in ocean with probable loss of all aboard although four chutes left the ship. The group struggled slowly upwind and landed at St. Eval on the southwest coast where they remained until the 6th because of bad weather. Several A/A were claimed shot down on this raid. Upon one attempt to reach home some ships got lost in the muck and found themselves over Guernsey and the French coast where flak and enemy fighters were encountered. Lt. Brandon's (367th) ship went down presumably in the drink since no report of its landing was ever made.
4	Col. Charles E. Overacker relieved as C.C. of the 300th Group and assigned to 8th Air Force.
13	14 of 17 planes taking off, led by Maj. Wilson, attacked the Engineering and Locomotive works at Lille for the third time with fair results. B/A were drawn off by Spitfire support and only moderate flak was encountered. The tragedy of the day resulted from a collision between Capt. Johnson and Lt. Spaulding of the 369th in which both ships were lost.
11	Maj. Douglas Coleman relieved as Group Adjutant and appointed Ground executive officer of the 300th Group. Capt. Charles J. Day, Jr. appointed Group Adjutant.
14 - 10	A number of new pilots and crews assigned to the Group.
18	Maj. Putnam assigned to 300th Group as Operations Officer.
19	Maj. Wm. A. Lanford relieved of command of 365th Squadron and reassigned to 11th CGAC.
20	Capt. Mack Gray of 423rd Squadron appointed Squadron Commander of the 300th.

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- 21 Capt. J. B. Wright, Group S-2, promoted to Major.
- 23 Lt. Col. Delmar E. Wilson relieved as Group Executive Officer and assigned to 1st Combat Wing.

14 of 17 a/c taking off led by Maj. Wilson, 423rd, attacked the Military Post adjoining the submarine base at Lorient. This was our third attack on this target area. Intense but inaccurate flak was encountered over the target followed by running fight with e/a which did not press attacks home. Arsenals, barracks and machine shops were virtually woped out as a result of our bombing. All our a/c returned home, reporting several e/a destroyed.

- 27 First American raid on German soil, led by Col. Armstrong and Maj. Putnam at the head of our group. Fourteen a/c attacked the secondary target of Wilhelmshaven. Bombing with fair results, through breaks in clouds which covered the target. Both s/e and t/e fighters made ineffective attacks without casualties on either side. Moderate but accurate flak was encountered, over the target. All of our a/c returned home safely and found a crowd of beaming generals and inquisitive reporters ready to take them on.

Sheet No. 1 of Diary, Squadron, 396th Bomb Gp (H)

Month of January, 1943, Reported to Capt W. C. Von Norman

DAY	EVENTS
2	Colonel Overacker relieved from organization to Headquarters, Eighth Air Force. Colonel Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., assigned as Commanding Officer.
11	Major Coleman relieved from duties as Group Adjutant and appointed Group Executive Officer. Captain Charles G. Day, Jr. appointed as Group Adjutant.
18	Major Claude E. Putnam assigned to organization as Assistant Operations Officer.
23	Lt Col Delmar E. Wilson released from organization and assigned to 1st Combat Wing.
27	First All American bombing raid on Germany led by Colonel Armstrong and Major Putnam of this Group. Their ship was the first to fly over German territory.
29	Capt John E. Wright promoted to Major.
30	Colonel Armstrong awarded Air Medal.

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