

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 306 Bomb Op. (H) Sqdn. ThurloughMonth March 1943 Prepared by Capt. . . . Glass

DAY	EVENTS
4/3/43	Twenty one planes took off for Hain, Germany. Encountering bad weather, the formation turned for land at the Isle Texel at which point Capt. Friend and crew went down under control. 7 Chutes were seen to come out of his A/C. All remaining planes returned home with their bombs. Score for the day, one A/C destroyed.
5/3/43	Capt. John L. Ryan, by WCC appointed Squadron Commander of the <u>367th. Squadron.</u>
6/3/43	Twenty one of our A/C headed by Maj. Wilson, took off on the mission to Orient, with the River Station as their target. Heavy intense and accurate flak was encountered over the target where all bombs were dropped with excellent results. Lt. Tunnell, of the 367th. was hit by flak just before the target, two chutes were seen to come from his plane which went down under control. Capt Ryan, of the same Squadron, was hit by flak shortly after leaving the target. His ship went down under control and seven or eight Chutes were seen from this A/C. The remaining ships of our formation had a fifteen minute running fight with one of the Crack Squadrons of P. 130's before returning to Exeter and Chivenor. Lt. Warner, of the 423rd., was wounded in face and neck when a 20 mm shell exploded in nose of his plane. Our score for the day was 6-2-1.
7/3/43	Published orders relieved Maj. Holt from duty and assignment with the 367th. and Capt. William S. Raper was appointed Squadron Commander as of <u>4/3/43.</u>
8/3/43	Eighteen of our A/C took off to bomb the Marshalling Yards at Rennes, France. Flak and fighter opposition was light and our bombing excellent. Two of our A/C aborted and Lt. Huddenbaum was shot down near Dinard with eight seen to bail out of his ship. General Longfellow remarked of our days work, "Probably the most devastating raid of its kind in the war". Our score for the day was 3-0-1.
9/3/43	Sgt. Maj. Samuel J. Cobb commissioned 2nd. Lt. and assigned to Group Headquarters.
12/3/43	Nineteen of our A/C took off for the primary, Marshalling Yards at Rouen, France, our second mission here, with Maj. Terry leading the Group. The weather and fighter support was good and bombing results excellent. Only a few enemy A/C made half-hearted attacks and flak was light. All of our A/C returned safely. No losses and no losses.

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Sheet No. 2 War Diary, 306 Bomb Sq. (H) Gen. ThurlighMonth of March 1943 Prepared by Capt. W. C. Glass

DAY	EVENTS
13/3/43	Twenty of our A/C took off to bomb the primary target, Marshalling Yards at Antwerp. Because of poor visibility and vapor trails from the lead group, we missed a target of opportunity, the Railroad Junction at Antwerp. Only a few B/A seen, and all of our A/C returned safely. No attacks, no claims.
16/3/43	Lt. Paul J. Bailie assigned to Group Headquarters as Statistical Officer and Acting Assistant Adjutant.
17/3/43	2nd. Lt. Samuel J. Cobb relieved from assignment as Statistical Officer and acting Assistant Adjutant.
18/3/43	Twenty of our A/C, lead by Maj. Wilson, set off to take the Submarine building shops at Vegesack, Germany. Heavy flak and fighter opposition was encountered over the target and Heligoland. Definite evidence was seen of the B/A dropping the bombs toward our formation. Many twin engine B/A were seen, which followed our formation nearly to the English Coast without pressing home their attacks. All of our A/C returned to base. Score 7-0-0. Results of this mission have been commended and applauded by the Prime Minister of the U.K., Marshall of the RAF, the Secretary of State for Air of the U.K., the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Forces, the Chief of Air Staff, RAF and the Commander-in-Chief, RAF Bomber Command. Maj. Gen. Ira C. Baker wrote; "To my mind the Vegesack raid is the climax; it concludes the experiment. There should no longer be the slightest vestige of doubt that our heavy bombers, with their trained crews, can overcome any enemy opposition and destroy their targets".
19/3/43	Lt. Gen. Frank L. Andrews, commanding General of HQ, accompanied by Generals Baker, Longfellow and Hansell made his first visit of inspection to this station.
21/3/43	Group dance was held in the "B" Mess. Festivities continued into the wee small hours of the morning.
22/3/43	Nineteen of our A/C, led by Maj. McKay, took off for the third raid on Wilhelmshaven. The pin point was the dock at which the German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer was tied up. In spite of 7/10 clouds, heavy flak and persistent attacks by B/E and T/S fighters, the dock area was bombed with fair results. Further evidence of the bombs being dropped from above by the enemy was observed. All of our ships returned. Sgt. Powell, waist gunner on Lt. Johnson's plane of the 423rd was wounded and his teammate, Sgt. Henn, was killed by a 20mm shell on his twentieth mission. Our score for the day was 2-1-0.

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Sheet No. 3 War Diary, 306 Bomb Group (B). TRULSIGHMonth of March 1943. Prepared by Capt. W.W. Glass

DAY

EVENING

25/3/43

Capt. John L. Lambert was promoted to Major.

28/3/43

Twenty of our A/C took off on their third raid to Rouen marshalling yards. Heavy cloud formations were encountered enroute, but luckily a hole was found right over the target and excellent bombing resulted. Comparatively little flak and fighter opposition was encountered. A good escort was provided by "Spits". Lt. Tillery of the 423rd was wounded in the chest from a 20mm. All of our A/C returned to base. Score for the day was 1-1-0.

31/3/43

Mission to Rotterdam. Nineteen of our A/C took off to bomb the shipyards at Scheidam. One aborted. Because of 10/10ths cloud all ships turned back at the Dutch Coast and brought their bombs home. Some A/C were encountered on the diversion. Good fighter support was reported. Our score was 0-1-0.

This month has been most satisfactory, both from the standpoint of number of raids and bombing accuracy. Several congratulatory messages of praise were received from higher Headquarters concerning this month's results.

A list of Awards and Decorations for the month is attached.

DAY	
3	Major Coleman promoted to Lt Colonel. Lts Gausi and Salitnik awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal.
9	M/Sgt Samuel J. Cobb, appointed 2nd Lt and assigned to 1st Bombardment Division.
13	Major Oliver awarded Air Medal.
17	2nd Lt Paul J. Baillie assigned to organization as Personnel Officer.
19	Lt General Frank M. Andrews, Commanding General, European Theater of Operations accompanied by Generals Baker, Longfellow and Hansell visited and inspected station. Major Oliver relieved from assignment as Operations Officer and Major J. W. Wilson appointed in his place.
26	Lt Col Putnam awarded the Silver Star.
29	Capt Day promoted to Major.
30	Capt John A. Bairnsfather assigned to organization as Assistant S-2.
31	Lt Col Putnam awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal.

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