

November 1943 - Diary of the 306th Bomb Group

- 2 Major William S. Raper promoted to Lt. Col.
- 3 25 A/C led by Col. Turner took off and bombed Wilhelmshaven on Pathfinder aircraft through 10/10 clouds. PRU photographs revealed extensive damage to shipbuilding facilities and other property in the main city. Enemy fighter opposition and flak was meager and this group received no attacks because of excellent cover provided by P-47s and P-38s. Lts. Goris and Wadley of the 368th squadron were lost due to a mid-air collision.
- 5 21 A/C led by Capt. Cook took off and 18 A/C bombed the important industrial city of Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr Valley with good results, in spite of haze and an excellent smoke screen. Many fighters were seen but none attacked us, a real tribute to our formation flying and good cover by P-47s and P-38s. Intense A.A. Gun Fire bath barrage and continuously pointed was encountered in the target area. All of our A/C returned to base.
- 12 Major John J. Manning relieved from duty and transferred from Hq. 306th Bombardment Group (H). Going home.
- 13 21 A/C led by Capt. Wheeler took off to bomb Bremen. Poor visibility prevented the proper join-up of formation. 2 A/C (Lt Scudder of 368th and Lt. Cosper of 367th) encountered extreme turbulence plus icing and crashed in England. All of Lt. Scudder's crew was killed. All except Lt. Cosper successfully bailed out of his. Before leaving the coast, the mission was recalled, but 2 A/C (Lt. Hilton 369th and Lt. Elliot 367th) unable to locate our formation after breaking through the overcast tacked on to the 95th Group and dropped their bombs on the group leader through 10/10 cloud.
- 15 Lt. General Sir Harold Anderson and staff visited our station, inspecting personnel and equipment. (Probably Alexander. Ed).
- 16 23 A/C led by Capt. Wheeler took off and 20 A/C bombed the molybdenum mining installations at Knaben, Norway. Bombing results were excellent, strike photos showed a good concentration in and around the target area. It is believed this chief source of Germany's vital steel hardening material will be closed down for a considerable length of time. Enemy defenses were practically nil and all of our A/C returned safely to base.
- 26 29 A/C led by Capt. Fuhrmeister took off and 28 A/C dropped their bombs over Bremen on Pathfinders. The target was largely obscured by clouds and an effective smoke screen, results were shown by strike photographs as fair. Enemy fighter opposition was strong with from 75 to 100 A/C attacking. Rocket attacks from T/E fighters were also reported. Flak was intense but low and inaccurate on this group. Lts. Hoey 368th and Lt. Jeffries 423rd failed to return to base.
- 30 Major Hugh Toland relieved and transferred to Hq. 1st Bomb Div .

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- 7 Major Raper promoted to Lt Colonel.
- 10 Captain Dalton H. Wright assigned to organization as Group Weather Officer
- 12 Major Manning relieved from organization and Captain Harold D. Munal, Jr., assigned as Group Flight Surgeon.
- 15 Lt. General Sir Harold Anderson visited and inspected station.
- 16 2nd Lt. Murtha promoted to 1st Lt.
- 18 2nd Lt. Raymond J. Bruder assigned to organization as Physical Training Officer.
- 22 Major Thurman E. Dawson assigned to organization as Group Ordnance Officer.
- 23 1st Lt. Robert F. Morris assigned to organization as Personnel Officer.