

Month of October, 1943. Prepared by Captain W. F. Glass

CONFIDENTIAL

DAY	EVENTS
	Captain Stanko, 369th Bomb Squad, promoted to Major as of 27/9/43.
2	Eighteen A/C led by Capt. Kackstetter and Col. Robinson took off and bombed EMER with 10/10 cloud and P.F.P. Results were good according to P.R.U. reports. No fighter opposition and only meager inaccurate flak were encountered. Our score for the day was 0 - 0 - 0.
4	Eighteen A/C led by Capt. Paris took off on this raid to Frankfurt. Fourteen A/C were over the target and bombed the propeller works in clear weather. Our Group hit short however, following Group "blacked their bombs across the target". With excellent cover by P 47's and Spitfires, no enemy fighters attacked until our formation was left unescorted; then for forty minutes, high Squadron bore the brunt of attacks from both T/E and S/E fighters. Our score for the day was 5 - 0 - 3.
7	Cpts. Dexter and Toland promoted to Major.
8	Twenty A/C led by Capt. Litt to bomb the primary, A/C factory at EMER . The target was obscured by smoke screen and results of previous bombing so our Group bombed the center of the city with excellent results. Flak was intense and accurate resulting in every ship in our Group receiving some damage. At least 150 fighters, mostly T/E jobs, made persistent and daring attacks, many rocket attacks were made by T/E - A/C. Lt. Rodman of the 423rd and Lts. Koodma and Ledgerwood of the 367th are missing in action. Our score for the day was 15 - 5 - 10.
9	Twenty ^{two} A/C led by Capt. Kackstetter and later by Capt. Reese of the 423 took off and twenty bombed the Naval, industrial and port facilities of Gdynia. Bombing results were good despite a heavy smoke screen. Direct hits were scored on the trans-atlantic liner Stuttgart and a large amount of shipping and port facilities were severely damaged. This was the deepest penetration by Fortresses in the European Theatre, being almost 200 miles east of Berlin. A.A. fire was meager and enemy fighter opposition moderate. Lt. Hank of the 369th and crew are missing in action. Our score for the day was 2 - 1 - 4.
10	Nineteen A/C led by Capt. Helser took off to bomb MUKSTER. Eighteen of our A/C followed the lead of 92nd Group and bombed the marshalling yards, textile plants and town of Coesfeld. A.A. fire was meager and no attacks from E/W. Our score for the day was 0 - 0 - 0.
11	Captain Manning promoted to Major.

Sheet No. 2 War Diary. 369TH Sqn. 306TH BOMB GROUP

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12	In a letter to Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, STOUKA Commander, Prime Minister Winston Churchill requested that the thanks of the British War Cabinet be conveyed to Lt. Gen. Ira C. Baker, Eighth Air Force Chief, and the men of his Command.
14	<p>MISSION TO SCHWEINFURT.</p> <p>Our Group dispatched eighteen A/C led by Capt. Schofield. On this mission, three returned early, five completed the mission, fifteen bombed the target and ten A/C failed to return. No trouble was encountered until after the P 47 Escort left, then all hell broke loose. Between the Rhine and the target the formations were attacked by 300 E/A. Rocket guns mounted under the wings of E/A fired into our tight defensive formations causing high rate of casualties. Crews described the scene as similar to a parachute invasion, there were so many crews bailing out. Flak was spasmodic but accurate. It is estimated that 75% of Schweinfurt's ball-bearing industry, producing at least 50% of total output available to Germany, was destroyed. Pilots with their crews reported missing in action were Jackson, McCallum and Cole of the 423rd, Butler, Bisson and White of the 367th, Peters, Lockyear, Bettinger and Holstrom of the 369th. Our score for the day was 4 - 1 - 6.</p>
15	1st Lt. Simester assigned as Group (P) Chaplain.
20	Twelve A/C led by Major Buckley took off to bomb DUREN, GERMANY. Three A/C returned early. Towering Cumulus 10/10 clouds ahead of formation beyond the French Coast caused the Group to turn back without bombing, especially as the load was incendiaries, which could not be sprayed indiscriminately over occupied territory.
21	"The U.S. Eighth Air Force has earned for itself during the past weeks a reputation that the Royal Air Force will never forget" said Britain's Air Marshall Sir Charles Portal. "The Schweinfurt raid", Portal said "may well go down in history as one of the decisive air actions of this war, and it may prove to have saved countless lives by depriving the enemy of a great part of his means of resistance".
23	<p>Article appeared "in YANK" describing Lt. Klette's spectacular one engine landing at home base.</p> <p>List of Awards, Decorations and Commendations attached.</p>

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10 Downing Street
Whitehall.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER TO GENERAL DIVERS:

I shall be obliged if you will convey to General Eaker and his Co. and the thanks of the British War Cabinet for the magnificent achievements of the 8th Air Force in the Battle of Germany in recent days culminating in their remarkable successes of last week.

In broad daylight the crews of your bombers have fought their way through the strongest defence which the enemy could bring against them and have ranged over the length and breadth of Germany, striking with deadly accuracy many of the most important hostile industrial installations and ports.

Your bombers and the fighters which support them in these fierce engagements have inflicted serious losses on the German Air Force, and by forcing the enemy to weaken other fronts have contributed notably to the successes of the Allied arms everywhere.

The War Cabinet extend their congratulations also to the ground crews of the 8th Air Force without whose technical skill and faithful labor these feats of arms would not be possible.

I am confident that with the ever-growing power of the 8th Air Force, striking alternate blows with the Royal Air Force Bomber Command, we shall together inexorably beat the life out of the industrial Germany and thus hasten the day of final victory.

Initials - W.C.

INCOMING MESSAGE
HEAD QUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE

IN REPLY SITE: A 105

DATED: 11 OCTOBER 1943

FROM: AIR MINISTRY WHITEHALL

TO: AMW

Personal for General Eaker from C A S

I should be grateful if you would pass to your squadrons an expression of my deep admiration for their splendid achievements over Germany during the last few days.

I know I am speaking for the whole of The Royal Air Force in offering you our heartiest congratulations and expressing our full confidence in ever-growing success for your command in the future.

PORTAL

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13 October 1943.

FROM: Commandations

TO : Commanding General, VIII Bomber Command,
" " VIII Fighter Command,
" " VIII Air Support Command.

1. Inclosed herewith are copies of commendations received from the Prime Minister; Air Chief Marshal Portal, Chief of Air Staff, RAF; from the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; General Marshal; and from the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, General Arnold. In my opinion, every officer and man of the Eighth Air Force who participated in the great air offensive which has been waged during the past ten (10) days should be fully advised of these estimates which the highest Government and Military leaders place on their work. If it is administratively possible, I think that every participating combat crew member should receive a letter from his Commander stating that he participated in these great air battles and that, therefore, he is entitled to a personal copy of these commendations.

2. Last Sunday, October 10th, after seeing the pictures of the effort of the preceding Saturday and particularly the destructive effects on the German fighter factories at Anklam and Marienburg, I sent a cable to General Arnold, from which the following is a quotation:

"Marienburg undoubtedly destroyed. It will be a better example of pinpoint bombing, better concentration even than Regensburg. It looks like a perfect job. Believe you will find October 9th a day to remember in the air war. The Prime Minister is sending message to crews."

Subsequent examination of photographs supports this estimate.

3. Convey to all your officers and men my unbounded admiration for the courage and boldness with which they pushed their attacks into enemy territory and the accuracy and skill with which they disposed of their targets. They have, by their effort, won the respect and admiration of the Air leaders of Britain and that great band of fighting men, the Royal Air Force. They have outfought a tough, experienced and battle-trying enemy. Their success has altered the course of the war and hastened its favorable conclusion.

/s/ IRA C. BAKER
Lieut. General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

4 Incls.

1st Ind.

(3)

HEADQUARTERS VIII BOMBER COMMAND, APO 634, 13 October 1943.

TO: Combat Personnel of the VIII Bomber Command.

1. It is my privilege to be the instrument of bringing directly to you as individuals the comments and commendations from these distinguished sources.

2. Such expressions of appreciation of your efforts are extremely gratifying.

/s/ F. L. Anderson
F. L. ANDERSON
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

Aircraft Losses
(Combat Missions Only)

	367TH			368TH			369TH			423RD			TOTAL		
	No.	Over No.		No.	Over No.		No.	Over No.		No.	Over No.		No.	Over No.	
	Tgt.	Lost	%	Tgt.	Lost	%	Tgt.	Lost	%	Tgt.	Lost	%	Tgt.	Lost	%
Total - 31-10-43	308	29	9 2/5	349	15	5 13/20	316	12	3 4/5	340	13	5 3/10	1313	72	5 1/2
3-11-43	7	0	0	7	2	28 4/7	6	0	0	5	0	0	25	2	8
5-11-43	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	20	0	0
13-11-43	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
16-11-43	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	20	0	0
26-11-43	5	0	0	7	2	14 2/7	8	0	0	8	1	0	28	2	
Total - November	25	0	0	23	3	13	27	0	0	18	1	5 1/2	93	4	4 1/5
TOTAL - 30-11-43	333	29	8 7/10	372	16	4 3/10	343	12	3 1/2	358	19	5 3/10	1406	76	5 2/5

NOTE: 2 A/C which crashed over England on 13 November not included above

Summary of Operations for November
(By Percentage)

	<u>367TH</u>	<u>368TH</u>	<u>369TH</u>	<u>423RD</u>	<u>TOT</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Number of Sorties	26.88	24.73	29.03	19.36	100
Tonnage of Bombs Dropped	25.71	23.81	29.93	20.55	100
Flying Time (Operational)	27.07	23.69	29.73	19.46	100
Flying Time (Non-operational)	23.47	22.01	28.03	26.44	100
Abortions	28.57	28.57	14.29	28.53	100