

Report No. 1 r 147, 306th Bomb. Grp., 8th AF (H)

Month of SEPTEMBER, 1943. Prepared by Capt. Wiley W. Glass

DAY	EVENTS
1st	Captain Ray V. Lopper promoted to Major, effective 30/9/43.
3rd	Eighteen of our A/C, led by Capt. Wheeler took off to bomb air installations at Romilly-sur-Seine. Good P-47 cover to the IP resulted in weak fighter opposition. Bad weather obscured the target, but lead Navigator Mazanek and lead Bombarrier Lindsay had location of the airdrome fixed from IP, and our bombs were released over what a hole in the clouds revealed to be the main dispersal areas on the north side of the field. A.A. fire over Evreux was heavier than over Romilly. Our score for the day is 1-1-0.
6th	Twenty one A/C took off with Colonel Robinson in the lead ship, from this field, to lead the 102nd Combat Wing. One of our A/C aborted. Due to a complete undercast neither the primary, Roller Bearing Works at Stuttgart, nor the secondary could be seen so bombs were dropped on Achen, near Strasbourg, with poor results. 30 to 40 FW 190s were seen but failed to press attacks, concentrating mostly on stragglers. Flak was moderate but accurate, damaging 16 of our 20 A/C. Lt. Zimmerman, navigator, was seriously injured by flak. Due to failure of fuel supply Lts. Price and Bryant crash landed in England, Lt. Peterson of the 35th and crew bailed out 40 miles from the French coast and Lt. Andrews of the 423rd landed in Switzerland, where the entire crew were interned. Our score for the day was 0-0-0.
7th	Twelve of our A/C, led by Lt. Reese, took off and successfully bombed the primary, Brussels-Ovère A/C Repair Depot. E/A attacks were nil, probably due to our fighter cover described as "All over the sky". A.A. gun fire was meager and inaccurate, all of our A/C returned to base sustaining no battle damage. Two miles northwest of Flushing, flashes of letter "W" for Victory were seen. Our score for the day 3-0-0.
9th	Eighteen of our A/C led by Col. Robinson took off to bomb an anniversary target, Lille. One year ago this town in France was our first operational target in the E.T.O. The Primary today was Lille-Vandeville Airdrome. Fighter opposition was nil. All of our Group dropped an effective concentration on what was later thought to be a dummy airfield, about three miles from the real one. Although seven A/C were damaged by A.A. fire, all returned safely to base. No score on enemy fighters.
15th	Eighteen A/C took off led by Capt. Schofield, and seventeen effectively bombed the primary, Romilly-sur-Seine. Direct hits were scored on three buildings. Ten or fifteen E/A attacks were made from 5 to 7 o'clock but they all broke away from 60 to 100 yds. Another instance of FW 190's firing rockets was reported. A.A. fire was moderate and inaccurate. Our P-47 support was excellent on way in but not observed on way out. All of

Sheet No. 2 War Diary, 306th Bomb Group

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DAY	EVENTS
	our A/C returned to base, none suffering battle damage. No score on enemy fighters.
16th	<p>Mission to Nantes: Eighteen A/C led by Capt. Paris took off to bomb the U-boat supply camp in the Loire River. Our formation found the Primary obscured by a large cloud and chose the Gatteau Bougen Airfield as an alternate. Strike photographs show a good concentration of bombs on the north dispersal area. No E/A were encountered. A.A. fire was inaccurate as to direction and inflicted very little damage. All our A/C returned safely to base except one which crash-landed away due to mechanical failure; no score on enemy fighters.</p> <p>Lt. Washington, R.N., of the British Admiralty, spoke in the Post theatre on security and presented the movie, "Jig Saw."</p>
18th	Group Anniversary party held at "A" mess and suitably celebrated our first year's residence on this Station.
20th	Capt John A. Bairnsfather was promoted to Major as of this date.
23rd	<p>Eighteen of our A/C led by Capt. Paris took off and 16 of them effectively bombed the north bank of the river fork, dock area and west end of the island at Nantes. Only three E/A were seen, which were driven off by our P-47 escort. A.A. fire was moderate to intense and accurate, damaging eight of our A/C. All of our A/C returned to Base, except Lt. Klette of the 369th, on his 20th mission, who crash-landed in England, seriously injuring 2 members of his crew. No score on enemy fighters.</p> <p>Majors Harlan E. Reber, Robert W. Smith and Frank D. Yonaci, transferred to Hq. and Hq. Squadron, 1st Bomb Division.</p>
27th	Eighteen A/C took off led by Capt. Wheeler to experiment with a new bombing technique for A.A.P. in this theatre. An area bombing job was done on Eden through 10/10 cloud cover. Pathfinders were used and we dropped on flares with questionable results. There were no direct attacks on this Group although 20 to 30 E/A were seen in the distance. Our P-47 escort engaged in numerous dog-fights. This was the deepest penetration by P-47s to date. A.A. fire was moderate and fairly accurate. All our A/C returned to base. No score on enemy fighters.

DAY	EVENTS
5	We have been overseas a year today.
8	2nd Lt William M. Sage assigned to organization as Assistant Personnel Officer. Captain Ray V. Hopper promoted to Major.
15	Majors Laussi and Smith relieved from organization.
17	2nd Lt Joe Bowles assigned to organization as Gunnery Officer.
18	2nd Lt Baillie promoted to 1st Lt. Group Anniversary party at "A" Mess.
24	Captain Marlen E. Reber relieved from organization.
25	Captain Bairnsfather promoted to Major.
29	2nd Lt Edward T. Murtha assigned to Intelligence Section.

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