

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, [REDACTED] in. 306th Bombardment Group (H)Month of December, 1943. Prepared by Capt. Glass

DECLASSIFIED

DOD BR 5000.107 Sep 68

DAY

EVENTS

By: Dir, RSI - Ins:

JUN 18 1959

- 1-12-43 Twenty two A/C led by Capt. Kackstetter, participated in a P.F.F. mission against Leverkusen, Germany. The target was completely overcast, which resulted in bombs being dropped on what was thought to be the Secondary, Solingen, important for turning out A/C components and machine tools, with unobserved results. Capt. Reese of the 423rd got into such turbulence over England that he and his crew had to bail out, all except Ball Turret Gunner (S/Sgt. Kenneth B. Rood) who's chute did not open and he was killed. There was confusion and crowding at the target, and one of the ships in this group, Lt. Tooms of the 423rd, had bombs dropped through it by a B17 overhead. S/Sgt. Aubrey thinking the ship had "had it", bailed out. Flak encountered after bombs away, was moderate and accurate. Our score for E/A destroyed was 1-0-0.
- 3-12-43 Major Robert D. Williams promoted to Lt. Col. USAF 27-11-43.
- 5-12-43 Twenty two A/C led by Major Regen took off (one abortion) to bomb airfields and factories at La Rochelle, France. Due to bad weather and 10/10 clouds over the Continent and 21 A/C brought their bombs back after running the "flak gauntlet", near Rennes and Nantes. Sortie credit was given those who participated, which boosted morale.
- 11-12-43 Twenty-one A/C led by Maj. Riordan and Col. Robinson took off and 20 A/C accurately bombed Emden, Germany. A.A. fire was moderate but extremely accurate, accounting for the loss of Lt. Noack of the 369th, and crew. Lots of friendly P-51 support and no enemy fighters combined to make this a good trip.
- 13-12-43 led by Capt. Witt, 367th, Twenty-two A/C took off and 20 A/C bombed Kiel, Germany, on P.F.F. through 10/10 cloud cover. Excellent close cover by P-38s and P-51s was given and no enemy fighters attacked this Group. Lt. Brinkley of 367th and crew failed to return from this raid. Score: 0-0-1.
- 16-12-43 Twenty-one A/C led by Capt Lewis took off and 18 A/C bombed Bremen on P.F.F. flares through 10/10 cloud. Flak was accurate and intense but not on our Combat Wing. As the formation left the target smoke columns were seen to mushroom out thickly over the 10/10 cloud. There was practically no E/A opposition and our supporting cover was good. Vapor trails and cirrus at altitude made formation flying difficult on the approach to the target. Visibility at home base was very poor and six of our A/C landed away.
- 20-12-43 Twenty-one A/C took off, led by Col. Raper and Capt. Bolser, and 16 A/C attacked Bremen. Both barrage and tracking flak was intense. P-47s gave close support on way out. About 28 S/E and T/E were seen but no direct attacks. Bombing results were partly obscured by haze, vapor trails and a smoke screen, but strong fires were burning in the town area and severe damage is indicated. Lt. Myther and crew of the 367th failed to return to base. Lt. H. Bloom of the 369th also was missing.
- 22-12-43 Twenty-one A/C led by Capt. Schofield took off and dropped their bombs on P.F.F. through 10-10 cloud at Csnabrock. During a short break in our fighter escort, just after bombs away, the formation received a vicious & attack from about 15 Me109s, during which time Lt. Winters of the 367th and crew were knocked down. A.A. fire was meager and inaccurate. Solid overcast prevented observation of bombing results. Our score for the day was 6-1-1. Major John L. Lambert promoted to Lt. Col. as of 17/12/43.

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Sheet No. 2 War Diary, Sqdn. 306th Bombardment Group (H)Month of December, 1943. Prepared by Capt. Glass

DAY	EVENTS
24-12-43	Twenty-six A/C led by Col. Robinson took off and 25 A/C attacked at 20,000 feet what is believed to be implacements for some type of "rocket gun" in the Pas de Calais area. Excellent friendly fighter cover was given our formation and no direct attacks by either E/A or A.A. fire were encountered. Visibility was good and photographic confirmed excellent bombing on our two assigned targets designated as #94 and #51. All of our A/C returned to Base and the crews described the mission as "an Xmas present from the General."
27/12/43	Two of our A/C on a practice mission collided in mid-air, badly damaging both. One landed safely in a field without injury to crew members. Control cables on the other were so badly damaged that the pilot could not control the plane, and the crew had to bail out, all landing safely. The empty plane headed out toward the Channel and it was necessary to have two Spitfires shoot it down.
29/12/43	Major Ray V. Hopper, transferred to 8th Bomber Command.
30/12/43	The great I.G. Farbenindustrie at Ludwigshafen was bombed by 25 of our A/C today. Taking off were 28 A/C led by Major Salada. Two black and one white columns of smoke billowed up through the overcast. A.A. fire was meager and inaccurate, the fighter attacks limited to one weak pass at the whole Group. Four A/C of the Group failed to see bombs away and dropped in the Saarbrucken area, on advice from the P.F.F. All of our A/C returned to Base.
31/12/43	Briefed to bomb the airdrome at Bordeaux, as far as Berlin and back, this Group of 23 A/C, led by Capt. Belser, bombed the Secondary, Cognac Chateau Bernard, with excellent results. Meager A.A. and only a few enemy fighters were seen. All of A/C returned to Base. Score: 1-0-0. The New Year was lusterly ushered in with raised glasses and singing at the Group party, held in A and B messes. Many optimistic expressions were voiced that Hitler's Europe would be no more by the end of 1944.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS PRESENTED BY THE 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP DURING
THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1943:

3/12/43	GO 219 8 AF	1st Lt. Virgil H. Jeffries	Silver Star	423rd
13/12/43	GO 224 8 AF	1st Lt. Kenneth R. Bickett	Silver Star	423rd
13/12/43	GO 224 8 AF	Col. Edward J. Tracy	AM	AAF 8 DC
16/12/43	GO 226 8 AF	1st Lt. John K. Moon	OIC to AM	423rd
31/12/43	GO 235 8 AF	1st Lt. Lionel E. Drew Jr.	OIC to AM	423rd
2/12/43	GO 214 8 BC	S/Sgt. Arthur R. Adrian	OIC to DFC	423rd
3/12/43	GO 216 8 BC	1st Lt. Charles E. Munger	DFC	423rd
3/12/43	GO 216 8 BC	1st Lt. Ferdinand H. Gochen	DFC	367th
3/12/43	GO 216 8 BC	S/Sgt. Jay L. Braman	DFC	423rd
3/12/43	GO 216 8 BC	S/Sgt. Robert J. Kenney	DFC	368th
4/12/43	GO 216 8 BC	T/Sgt. John T. Ross	DFC	369th
7/12/43	GO 218 8 BC	S/Sgt. Duane J. Foster	DFC	367th
7/12/43	GO 218 8 BC	T/Sgt. Loren C. Cullar	DFC	367th
7/12/43	GO 218 8 BC	T/Sgt. Harvey L. Noyes Jr.	DFC	369th
7/12/43	GO 218 8 BC	T/Sgt. Gerald T. Webb	DFC	367th
10/12/43	GO 219 8 BC	Captain George E. Paris Jr.	DFC	368th
12/12/43	GO 222 8 BC	1st Lt. John B. Mazanek	DFC	369th
12/12/43	GO 222 8 BC	1st Lt. Leon (III) Baldwin	DFC	423rd
12/12/43	GO 222 8 BC	Captain George (III) Reese	DFC	423rd
12/12/43	GO 222 8 BC	T/Sgt. Victor B. Stevens	DFC	369th
16/12/43	GO 229 8 BC	1st Lt. L. B. Jones Jr.	DFC	369th
19/12/43	GO 230 8 BC	Colonel George L. Robinson	OIC to DFC	368th SP
24/12/43	GO 236 8 BC	1st Lt. Woodrow W. Thomas	OIC to DFC	367th
25/12/43	GO 237 8 BC	1st Lt. Eduardo M. Montoya	DFC	368th
25/12/43	GO 237 8 BC	Captain Frank H. Kackstetter	DFC	423rd
28/12/43	GO 241 8 BC	S/Sgt. James (III) Argentos	DFC	367th
28/12/43	GO 241 8 BC	T/Sgt. John E. Corcoran, Jr.	DFC	367th
28/12/43	GO 241 8 BC	T/Sgt. Arnold G. Coulter	DFC	367th
28/12/43	GO 241 8 BC	S/Sgt. John P. Bloom, Jr.	DFC	367th
28/12/43	GO 241 8 BC	S/Sgt. Daniel J. Antonelli	DFC	367th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	2nd Lt. Joseph A. Sparks	AM	367th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	1st Lt. Jack R. Samway	AM	368th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	2nd Lt. William J. Flynn	AM	369th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	S/Sgt. Albert C. Schaeffler	AM	368th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	Sgt. William R. L. Jones	AM	369th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	T/Sgt. Orlan G. Owens	AM	368th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	Sgt. James R. Copeman	AM	369th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	T/Sgt. John S. Buzard	AM	423rd
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	1st Lt. Ewald (III) Jensen	OIC to AM	367th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	1st Lt. Woodrow W. Thomas	OIC to AM	367th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	1st Lt. George M. Bellmap	OIC to AM	369th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	S/Sgt. Henry (III) Sall	OIC to AM	367th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	S/Sgt. Louis (III) Brofford	OIC to AM	368th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	S/Sgt. Harry E. Gorczyca	OIC to AM	368th
1/12/43	GO 28 1 BD	T/Sgt. Paul F. Hughes	OIC to AM	368th

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS PRESENTED BY THE 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1943:

1/12/43	GO 28	1 BD	S/Sgt. Clifford W. McGrane	OLC to AM	369th
1/12/43	GO 28	1 BD	S/Sgt. Joseph (PMT) Peto	OLC to AM	423rd
1/12/43	GO 28	1 BD	S/Sgt. Roy Y. Wilson	OLC to AM	367th
1/12/43	GO 28	1 BD	Sgt. Thurman H. Smith	OLC to AM	369th
1/12/43	GO 28	1 BD	S/Sgt. Howard C. Turner	OLC to AM	423rd
1/12/43	GO 28	1 BD	Sgt. Eugene D. Walters	OLC to AM	423rd
1/12/43	GO 28	1 BD	Sgt. Leon R. Coetz	OLC to AM	423rd
10/12/43	GO 32	1 BD	S/Sgt. Edgerton D. Ewing	OLC to AM	368th
10/12/43	GO 32	1 BD	T/Sgt. Herbert W. Hawkes	OLC to AM	368th
10/12/43	GO 32	1 BD	S/Sgt. George E. Laila	OLC to AM	368th
10/12/43	GO 32	1 BD	S/Sgt. Charles B. Nichols	OLC to AM	368th
10/12/43	GO 32	1 BD	S/Sgt. Archie W. Garrett	OLC to AM	423rd
10/12/43	GO 32	1 BD	S/Sgt. Warren F. Day	OLC to AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	Sgt. William L. Threalt Jr.	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Russell S. Lund	AM	368th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Alfred W. Stillwell	AM	368th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Roy W. Howard	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. James S. Odyke	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Frank R. Warner, Jr.	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Emily W. Cassuscky	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Michael Boryscff	AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Joseph (PMT) Elgin	AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Norwood L. Garrett	AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. J. P. Toombs Jr.	AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Albert G. Pylver Jr.	AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Paul W. Christiansen	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Raymond W. Gates	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Charles F. Harry	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	T/Sgt. Joseph (PMT) Vinciguerra	AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	1st Lt. Dudley H. Fay Jr.	OLC to AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	1st Lt. Arthur (PMT) Isaac	OLC to AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	1st Lt. Dallas L. Jacobs, Jr.	OLC to AM	367th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	1st Lt. Saco W. Meyers	OLC to AM	368th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Bennett E. Ball	OLC to AM	367th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	T/Sgt. Emil W. Kristoff	OLC to AM	367th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Lynn W. Northcott	OLC to AM	368th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Albert E. Sewald	OLC to AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Albert E. Sewald	OLC to AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	Sgt. Calvin T. Brand	AM	423rd
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Leon S. Musselwhite	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	1st Lt. Martin (PMT) Newstreet	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	1st Lt. Loy F. Peterson	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	2nd Lt. Richard (PMT) Kalish	AM	368th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	Sgt. James W. Bentley	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	Sgt. William A. Erickson Jr.	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Charles F. Hayes	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	Sgt. Thaddeus W. Hunter Jr.	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Eugene R. Moody	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	Sgt. Paul E. Morgan	AM	369th
12/12/43	GO 33	1 BD	S/Sgt. Albert Picarello	AM	369th

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS PRESENTED BY THE 366TH ENGINEERING GROUP DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1943:

14/12/43	GO 34	1 ED	Sgt. George B. Richardson	AM	368th
14/12/43	GO 34	1 ED	Sgt. George (MII) Harvat	AM	367th
14/12/43	GO 34	1 ED	Sgt. Norman (MII) Shore	AM	367th
14/12/43	GO 34	1 ED	S/Sgt. Robert E. Weber	AM	367th
14/12/43	GO 34	1 ED	T/Sgt. Dewitt A. Rockwell Jr.	AM	368th
14/12/43	GO 34	1 ED	S/Sgt. Clinton E. Snyder	AM	368th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	1st Lt. George (MII) Campbell	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	2nd Lt. John G. Bryan	AM	369th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	2nd Lt. Frank M. Sewis	AM	369th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	2nd Lt. Forrest E. Sweeney	AM	369th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	2nd Lt. Buford E. Branda	AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	T/Sgt. Warren C. Caldwell	AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. John P. Clarke	AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. James H. Coleman	AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. Arthur J. LaBarge	AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. Lawrence L. Yator	AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. Carl E. Hudson	AM	368th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. Anthony J. Waine	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. William W. Winans Jr.	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. Raymond F. Pienau	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. Clifford E. Shakespeare	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. Raymond A. York	AM	369th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. James W. Ferguson	AM	369th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. Charles W. Foley	AM	369th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. Richard S. Payne	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. John R. Petlewski	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	Sgt. Arnold D. Springer	AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. Floyd M. Shade	OIC to AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	S/Sgt. James S. Porter	OIC to AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	1st Lt. James E. Winter	OIC to AM	367th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	1st Lt. James B. McMahon	OIC to AM	368th
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	1st Lt. Henry J. Engel	OIC to AM	423rd
17/12/43	GO 36	1 ED	1st Lt. Richard B. Thompson	OIC to AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. John M. Kelly	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Daniel A. Logan Jr.	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Phillip D. Lanyon	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Albert A. Adams	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. George (MII) Bonic	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Robert J. Shurilla	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Harry M. Ranfro	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Thomas J. Bridgeman	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Thomas F. Cliney	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Allen T. Ballard	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. John (MII) Gassler	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. Ted (MII) Boswell Jr.	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	2nd Lt. William T. Hughes	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	S/Sgt. Virgil C. Chappie	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	S/Sgt. Alvin E. Dilts	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 ED	S/Sgt. Anthony S. Cieri	AM	368th

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS PRESENTED BY THE 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1943

24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Warren W. Cole	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Joseph F. Dunten	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. David E. Goldner	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Theodore V. Lenosi	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	Sgt. Frank M. Cargill	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Ralph G. Iandher	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Stanley W. Rust	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	Sgt. Richard K. Tully	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Floyd G. Younger	AM	367th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Paul G. Gaire	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. Jim A. Glenn	AM	423rd
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. David A. Mills	AM	368th
24/12/43	GO 39	1 BD	S/Sgt. George W. Wallace	AM	368th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. Robert L. Fallow	OIC to AM	369th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. Ian R. Elliot	OIC to AM	367th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. Robert S. Gerald	OIC to AM	368th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	Capt. Norman M. Haas	OIC to AM	369th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. David B. Dash	OIC to AM	369th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. Curtis I. Dunlap	OIC to AM	369th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. John L. Dougherty	OIC to AM	367th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. William S. Kirk	OIC to AM	367th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	2nd Lt. Willard D. Reed	OIC to AM	368th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	1st Lt. Thomas J. Brady	OIC to AM	368th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	S/Sgt. Carmel A. Melita	OIC to AM	369th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	S/Sgt. Grant R. Anderson	OIC to AM	367th
20/12/43	GO 38	1 BD	S/Sgt. Gerald D. Barnt	OIC to AM	368th
28/12/43	GO 40	1 BD	1st Lt. John P. Hoack	OIC to AM	369th
28/12/43	GO 40	1 BD	1st Lt. Robert B. Eckles	OIC to AM	423rd
28/12/43	GO 40	1 BD	1st Lt. John H. Lewis	OIC to AM	423rd



December 1943-306th BG Headquarters Squadron Diary

Note: this page is inserted by 306th BGHA in 2020 to help the researcher distinguish between the 306th BG War Diary and the diary kept by the 306th BG Headquarters Squadron.

DAY	EVENTS
2	Major Robert C. Williams promoted to Lt Colonel.
4	Major Toland relieved from organization.
6	Captain William C. Golladay assigned to organization as Group Communications Officer.
18	1st Lt John D. Threadgill assigned to organization as Group Equipment Officer.
19	Colonel George L. Robinson awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal.
29	Majoropper relieved from organization.
31	Big New Year's party at "A" Mess.

SECRET