

368th Squadron



Combat Diary

1942-45

306th Bomb Group

Squadron Diary

368th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

1942-45

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Key to Abbreviations

A/A or AA--Anti-Aircraft guns
A/C--Aircraft
A/D--Aerodrome
A/F--Airfield
CAVU--Ceiling and visibility
 unlimited
CBW--Combat Bomb Wing
E/A--Enemy aircraft
Gee-H--Bombing technique linked
IP--Initial point of bomb run
Mickey--H2X radar for bombing
 and navigation

Micro-H--Beam radar and H2X air-
 borne radar linked for bombing
MPI--Mean point of bomb impact
M/Y Railroad marshalling yard
Nickels--Propaganda leaflets
 dropped by bombers
PFF--Airborne radar
PRU--Photo reconnaissance unit
S/E--Single engined aircraft
T/E--Twin engined aircraft

EDITOR'S PREFACE

This is the last in a series of four volumes issued by the 306th Bomb Group Association to provide its membership with more detailed information about the activities of the four combat squadrons of the 306th Bombardment Group.

The four diaries were prepared between 1942 and 1945 by the several intelligence officers assigned to the squadrons. In this volume at least three men actually did the writing at various times, which accounts for the diversity in vocabulary and approach to the subject at hand. The editor is certain that much of the 1945 effort was done by someone who remains unidentified.

These diaries deal in large measure with the combat phase of squadron life, but may frequently include other aspects of events at Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England, the home of the 306th Bombardment Group from early September 1942 and continuing until late 1945, long after the end of hostilities in Europe.

Much of the material contained in these diaries furnished the essential data for the editor in his history of the 306th, First Over Germany.

Appended to the diaries are several lists that have been compiled in more recent years and represent an attempt to place men and aircraft in their proper slots in the organization. These lists have previously appeared in 306th Echoes, the Association's quarterly newspaper, but have been edited and enhanced since those printings.

As a rule, the editor has refrained from changing the original writing, but has added first names, and in some cases names of other crew members, to give a better overall picture of combat operations to those reading about it fifty years later. He has been given great assistance through having at hand much of the mission report records, enabling him to verify just which person was involved when men with identical last names participated during a given period.

More names have been added to this volume than any of its predecessors, this being due to the particular styles of one or two of the authors. We hope that our additions will enhance the reader's enjoyment.

The editor will be pleased if you will contact him with any additional data or corrected information after you have had an opportunity to peruse this volume. Such action enabled the editor to correct a name in a reprint of the 367th book. He is especially interested in receiving copies of 306th Group, Station 111 and Squadron special orders that were issued almost daily from the inception of the Group and until the end of May 1945.

The editor also wishes to extend his thanks and appreciation to various members of the Board of Directors of the Association who encouraged and supported this massive publishing effort, which has amounted to nearly 700 pages of material.

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August 1993

Squadron Diary
368th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
1942

1

MARCH
18-31

The Squadron was activated at Salt Lake City Air Base. Behind the forming of this new squadron lay great events. On December 8, 1941, the United States found itself swept into the war which had been closing around it for over two years. Following the incredible treachery of Japan, and almost before the smoke of Pearl Harbor had cleared, she grimly started forging new weapons to destroy the Axis. First among these new weapons was a new Air Force, already well underway as a defensive weapon and an aid to those countries which had been holding the line. Backbone of this force, the new "heavy artillery of the air," bombardment squadrons were formed as fast as possible to attack the heart of the Axis. Among these new squadrons was the 368th, destined to be developed and trained under pressure until it should be ready to take its part in the attack.

Lt. William A. Lanford was appointed commanding officer of the new unit. Its entire starting membership included three officers. Lts. William Friend, William E. O'Brien and Marlen Reber, and 11 enlisted men, among whom were Pfc Woodrow Gurr and Pvts. Ralph Anderson, Lavergne Germann, George F. Groeber, Herman Kappel, Irvin S. Karpman and Paul Nelson.

Three B-18s and one A-17 were assigned to the 306th Group, of which this squadron formed a part, and instrument flying started immediately. The A-17 was considered a remarkable plane by our squadron, Opinion was that it could just about fly, and that it had only one speed. It flew, climbed and landed, all at 110 mph.

27 Lts. James M. Ferguson, Robert A. Gearhart, Elbert Odle and Walter N. Smiley joined the squadron.

28 Lts. Richard G. Hodson, John M. Regan, Robert W. Seelos, Robert W. Smith and Louis M. Schulstad, Jr., arrived. Lts. William Friend, William E. O'Brien and Marlen Reber were ordered to transition school to learn about the intricacies of four-engined planes.

APRIL
1

Under pressure of the war, the squadron and its fellow squadrons of the 306th, the 367th, 369th and 34th, were moved to Wendover, Utah, 120 miles from Salt Lake City, which would be their home until they were ready to leave for action. Here conditions were "rugged". The former emergency landing field had just about been officially named as "air base", and only a handful of buildings were completed. There was neither heat nor electricity and there was occasionally snow on the ground. The enlisted men lived in tents, while the officers slept in the only barracks, as many as six to a room meant for two. The enlisted men's cook tent was such a shaky affair that it blew down three times in one day.

In the words of Sgt. Marshall E. Baker: "Pvt. John Doe, after a long and tiresome journey, the last part of which was across 'No

APRIL (con't) Man's Land' (The Great Salt Lake Desert), arrives at a railroad station at the west extremity of Utah, at perhaps 9 a.m. He glances curiously out of the window of the coach, and its not the rain that makes him wonder 'What in the hell have I done to deserve this?'. This is what is before his eyes: On the north side of the tracks the village of Wendover, or "Leftover" as it was later to be appropriately called by Bob Hope. Besides the R.R. station previously mentioned, there were a few scattered houses, a general 'Jot-Em-Down' store, a cafe, two filling stations, eight small trees and the famous State Line Hotel just across the line on the Nevada side, all under the shadow of the towering mountains in the background. Now Pvt. Doe, though half dazed, becomes brave enough to glance to the south. There is Wendover Field which is by far mostly field. There is a radio tower, two runways, two B-18s, four barracks to the east of which are many rows of beautiful tents. Pvt. Doe has just come from Keesler Field, Sheppard Field, Fort Logan or some other well established camp and what he now sees makes a most unpleasant contrast. As the GI trucks roll him merrily down to headquarters, and later those beautiful tents, he has a sort of lost feeling and thinks of what a lovely home he left behind."

At Wendover, instrument training was continued as fast as the limited number of planes would allow. The 368th devoted itself chiefly to the B-18 it had brought from Salt Lake, NO. 7505. A B-17 was brought over from Pendleton, Ore., to check out the higher ranking officers, Col. Charles Overacker and Col. Curtis LeMay being the only ones already experienced with it.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of Lt. William Lanford, the squadron was being rapidly organized. The pace was almost equal to the world's record of 368 MPH set by John Cobb on the nearby salt flats. New men were coming in fast and were being assigned as far as possible to work in which they were experienced and which they liked.

Lt. W. Curtis Melton arrived on April 1 and was made A flight commander; Lt. William Friend was operations officer; Lt. James M. Ferguson, supply; Lt. Louis M. Schulstad, personnel; Lt. Robert A. Gearhart, engineering; Lt. Elbert Odle, communications, and Lt. Walter Smiley pinch hit in both operations and engineering. All of these jobs were done in addition to flying.

6

A cadre of 54 enlisted men was assigned to the squadron. Sgt. Marshall E. Baker was made the first official squadron clerk. Sgt. Henry Cordery arrived and was made first sergeant, the squadron's first promotion. S/Sgt. James F. Tyler became the first line chief; Pfc Woodrow Gurr, first armament chief; Pvt. Stanley F. Guiou, first mess sergeant, and Pvt. Bernard Higgins, Jr., first engineering clerk.

The first six radio operators arrived from radio school: Pvts.

APRIL (con't) Waverly Ormond, Raymond K. Banks, Richard Hackworth, William H. Keskey, Robert F. Nelson and Mahlon Snover.

10 Lt. William Lanford, squadron commander, was promoted to captain. During this month the enlisted men pitched in to help finish the camp and field. Sgt. Henry Cordery found this involved plenty of leg work. Every morning he got the boys out and wrestled with the long names at roll call. Some 10 men were detailed every day to carry beacon lights up to the tops of the surrounding mountains. This was was tough work, involving use of block and tackle, and many were the pairs of GI shoes worn out on the rocks back of Wendover. Pvts. Thomas P. Piazza, Loren (Dan) Pleasant and Paine were among the regulars on this work. Cpl. Arthur U. Friedman and others set to work on wiring Tent City.

Lt. Walter Smiley wrecked his car coming back from Salt Lake and was in the hospital for a time. His car, however, he saved from the fate of those other wrecks which were to be seen standing in the lake abandoned and covered with salt.

Meanwhile, the enlisted men played the officers some games of baseball, the losers to buy the beer. Needless to say, the officers bought the beer.

Baseball rivalry started up with the 423rd squadron, and the 368th came out ahead on the games played. The crews pitched horse shoes while waiting turns at the planes, and there was some jack rabbit hunting in the mountains.

20 Sgt. John P. Sampson arrived and was made Tech Supply chief. Sgt. Jerome Stutz was made supply sergeant.

25 Lt. Edwin H. Reeder joined the squadron and became a flight commander until early July when he was transferred under special orders.

MAY Early this month new barracks were finished for the squadron, and the men hustled in out of the sun, and to some extent at least out of the sand. Equally welcome were a real mess hall, day room and orderly room. Sgt. John Reynolds presided over the orderly room as sergeant major, assisted by Sgt. Marshall E. Baker, squadron clerk, and Sgt. Warren H. Uctal, Cpl. Paul Kastner and Pfc Orlie Parker, Jr.

The mess hall was christened with a beer party, the first to be held on the squadron fund.

As the camp mushroomed out, the squadron also grew, men and officers being added daily to its roster from all the training schools throughout the nation. Armorers came from Lowry Field, radio operators from Scott, mechanics from Sheppard and gunners from Las Vega from all walks of life they came, now fully trained and with one

MAY (con't) purpose in mind, the forming of the 368th.

The squadron's first B-17E's were assigned, and together with the old B-18, transition progressed rapidly. Lts. James M. Ferguson and Walter N. Smiley were the first two pilots to check out as principal pilots.

Altitude bombing up to 20,000 feet, with squadron formation gunnery training, was soon begun. The B-17s were given a real pounding as no additional planes were acquired until the trip to Westover later in the summer.

- 15 Pvt. Lavergne Germann was discharged at his family's request in that he was under age (only 16).
- 21 Lt. Robert D. Stevens joined the squadron as engineering officer.
- 22 Pvt. Arthur Chapman joined the squadron.
- 28 Following the Japanese attack on the Aleutian Islands, the squadron and several crews were sent to Ephrata, Wash., on patrol duty. Several missions were performed before these crews returned to the squadron.

JUNE

- 1 Forty-two enlisted men were promoted: 16 to S/Sgt., 13 to Sgt., and 13 to Corporal.
- 2 2nd Lts. Charles G. Grimes, Victor H. Franco and James W. Knapp were assigned to the squadron as navigators.
- 10 Lt. Col. Curtis LeMay, who had been executive officer of the 306th, was assigned to the 305th Group as commanding officer. Col. Overacker's staff included LTC Douglas Coleman as S-1, Major Watts B. Humphrey as S-2, Major Delmar E. Wilson as S-3 and Capt. Charles W. Polansky as S-4.
- 15 New officers joined the squadron almost daily between the middle and the end of the month: 2nd Lts. Ray Artusy, Wallace Boring, Cannon, Richard F. Hanson, Omer Gonzales, John J. Hogan, Edward Miazza, Carl G. Jones, Edgar Hallman, Charles Ketchie, Joseph Kosakowski, VanDyke McKelvey, Robert T. Levy, Bennett, William W. Saunders, Frank C. Zasadil and Jesse L. Milburn.
- Capt. William Lanford, squadron commander, was promoted to major, thus achieving the full rank of squadron commander.
- Furloughs were given for the first time, and Pfc Joseph Trama was the first man to go. Except for combat crews, all who had qualified in their jobs were eligible, and about half of these took the chance to go home.

JUNE (con't)
28

1st Lt. William Raper and 2nd Lts. Foster G. Daniels and Edwin L. Sterling transferred into the squadron from service in Hawaii. Lt. Raper was made commander of B Flight upon the loss of Lt. Edwin H. Reeder.

306th Headquarters Squadron was broken up and 45 men were transferred to the 368th. During the month the squadron took on 94 new men.

During this month the squadron was brought to its full combat strength for the first time. With the arrival of 28 additional men and officers, they began to function as complete unit, ready for active service.

There were many promotions: T/Sgts. Bernard A. Fahey, Arnold G. Gunderson and James F. Tyler became the squadron's first master sergeants. Later in the month, by promotion, T/Sgts. William F. Cavaness, B. F. Crossland, Woodrow Gurr and George G. Owen came to the same grade. S/Sgts. Ocel Black, John P. Sampson and Paul R. Ward were promoted to T/Sgts.

JULY

3

Capt. Jeremiah F. O'Sullivan and Lt. Alfred W. Weld became 368th S-2 officer and assistant.

4

The day passed unobserved except for vast consumption of Coca-Cola in an attempt to wash down the desert dust.

6

1st Lt. W. Curtis Melton promoted to captain, AUS-AC. 1st Lt. Thurman Dawson joined the squadron as ordnance officer.

7

Sgt. Marshall E. Baker succeeds Sgt. John J. Reynolds as sergeant major, as Reynolds transferred to Officer Candidate School.

Fred Waring dedicated a new number to the 368th on his Sunday evening broadcast. To make sure our old rivals, the 423rd, would be listening too, a telegram was sent to Maj. Wilson advising him that the number was to be dedicated to the 423rd.

1st Lt. Phil G. Kraft, mess and camouflage officer, joined the squadron and Lt. Edgar Hallman became transportation and supply officer. Ten new combat officers arrived: 2nd Lts. Luther Bergen Robert Dresp, Robert R. Fryer, Fred Gillogly, Donald R. Greene, Maxwell Judas, Alex Kramerinko, Robert Miller, George W. Owens, J and Martin M. Strauss.

Thirty-two officers and men flew in from Westover Field, Mass., with eight new B-17Es. Now at full strength in planes and personnel, the squadron ran long practice missions to bomb desert targets in Alamogordo, Muroc and Alington. Desert target maps were drawn on which enemy defenses were faked. Six crews were sent off

JULY (con't) during the night with complete briefings, and were interrogated when they arrived back in the morning.

Rumors of the impending move flew around the camp in these last two weeks of the month.

27 1st Lt. Harold D. Munal, medical officer, heretofore attached to the squadron was verbally assigned and promoted to the grade of captain this date.

28 A review by Maj. Gen. Robert Olds, following the last practice mission, celebrated promotions of all gunners to the grade of sergeant and was our final event at Wendover. On the heels of the general's visit came final orders for packing up, and so the last days of the month were spent.

AUGUST Both the air and ground echelons left Wendover Field and were bound east for their separate staging areas. The crews flew first to Scott Field, Ill., where they endured the heat with a tremendous poker game. Next day they flew on to Westover Field, Mass., and settled down to plenty of work were alleviated by a first rate mess. There they joined the Atlantic submarine patrol, armed with depth charges, in daily missions at 50' to 500' and saw the vast amount of water but no subs. In the absence of ground crews, all hands pitched in at maintenance and proved to their own satisfaction that they could take care of the new B-17Fs which were replacing the E models.

Although only one flight was allowed off each night, a surprising number of crews managed to show up at the Roger Smith Hotel each evening for dancing. Everyone enjoyed the luxury of not having to drive 130 miles to Salt Lake City for their entertainment.

8 1st Lt. William S. Raper promoted to captain AUS(AC). Maj. William A. Lanford flew to Washington, D.C., and brought back an approved squadron insignia.

Meanwhile, the ground echelon had been packed into sleeping cars, two men to every lower, and fairly crawled eastward for four and one-half long days. Somehow, everyone remained good natured. The time passed playing poker, making sorties for beer, and wondering where they were going. No one was lost en route, except Lt. Edgar Hallman, who got off to telephone and missed the train. Catching the next express, Lt. Hallman was back with the 368th Special eight hours later, so we still have our supply officer.

The ground echelon found Richmond air base a very successful example of a dispersed field. Washington would have, no doubt, been gratified to know that it took a man's entire time to get from one building to another, with no time at all for drill.

16 The ground echelon arrived at Fort Dix, N.J. This vast Port of

AUGUST (con't) Embarkation had the duty of giving the men and equipment final touches before sailing.

30 The ground echelon again packed and entrained and within a few hours was being ferried across the black waters of the Hudson River to the huge Queen Elizabeth waiting at the pier. The next day, with 16,000 men packed into her cabins, the ship started her solitary run across The Pond, as many as 16 men to a cabin with close quarters, particularly when the bunks had to be slept in in shifts. The best spot was a life raft on deck where a fellow could dig himself in for a good snooze. All night "21" games between decks passed the time that wasn't spent in a chow line or watching the sea. There was nothing else to do except to sit it out and leave the Navy to carry the ball. The only sign of war was the rattle of 20mm machine guns every morning in a limbering up workout. There was the report one morning that the ship had swung around for a time during the night upon detecting sub dead ahead.

(Ed. Note: No copy exists for September 1942)

OCTOBER

Promotions: S/Sgts. George H. Allen, Jack A. Biely and Wilbur M. Hoffman and Sgt. Robert V. Bradley to T/Sgts; T/Sgts. Ocel Black and William M. Drumm, and S/Sgts. Orval V. Clark, Joseph A. A. Des Roches, James H. Edney, Herman A. Davis, Paul R. Mays, Robert J. Troutz and Gilbert E. Walker to M/Sgts.

9

LILLE: This was the day the squadron had been training for since March, the first attack on an enemy target. Briefing was before dawn, following a night in which ordnance and armament men sweated over bombs and guns, while the Group staff was working out the route and enemy defenses. Everyone was "eager", including Col. Charles B. Overacker, Group commander, who was to lead the formation, and who's only disappoint was that the Group was to be sandwiched in between other groups, since it was the newcomer. At 0830 all was set and seven of the squadron's crews, led by Maj. William Lanford, Capt. William S. Raper and John M. Regan, and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Robert W. Seelos, Walter N. Smiley and Robert W. Smith took off. Rendezvous was made at Felixstowe with the other groups at 0912, and all swept over France to a point beyond the target, and then ran over the great Fives-Lille locomotive works, already clouded with smoke when the 368th saw it, dropped their bombs and made for the coast.

Now, the first enemy planes to be seen by the squadron rose to the attack. Silver and yellow FW 190s poured 20mm cannon shells into our aircraft. A burst injured Sgt. Arthur Chapman's hand and shoulder in the waist position of Lt. Seelos' plane. But, Chapman stuck to his gun with his remaining hand, while Sgt. Stanley F. Stenkoski knocked down an attacking FW 190 in flames. Sgt. Edmund Becker froze his hands in Lt. Buddenbaum's ship, trying to recover his oxygen mask, while Pvt. Robert Liscavage probably accounted for another 190. Lt. Seelos and Capt. Regan both came home on three engines. Capt. Regan's plane, suffering other damage as well, trailed the formation under heavy fire, but also accounted for an enemy fighter. All our crews came home safely. On landing, Lt. Smiley's crew found twenty holes in the nose and tail of their plane.

10

From this date until the end of the month many raids were planned, and day after day the crews crawled out of bed for briefing before dawn. Each time, however, the familiar word "scrubbed" was passed around the field sometime later in the morning, and the "Battle of the Wash" was continued instead.

20

The final group of enlisted men, which had been sweating out the month in the camouflaged tents in the cow pasture, hustled into the newly-completed barracks to thaw out. The mess was on the up and up now; in fact, the combat crews found it just like Westover. Effective 15 October, S/Sgts. William E. Baker, James R. Curry, Charles F. Fehr, Donald B. Hepler, Sylvester Horstmann, William H. Keskey and Mahlon Snover were promoted to T/Sgts.

29

1st Lts. William Friend and John M. Regan were promoted to captains. 2nd Lts. Raymond Artusy, Wallace Boring, Fred Gillogly, Edgar Hall-

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OCTOBER (con't)

man, Joseph Kosakowski, Jesse Milburn and Jackson Routt were made 1st Lts.

NOVEMBER

4

Raid planned on Lille was scrubbed after briefing.

6

BREST - This raid, the squadron's second, put an end to a long four weeks of scrubbed missions, and was the start of an all out attack on submarine bases on the Western French coast, which was to last through November. Major William Lanford and Lt. Otto Buddenbaum again piloted their aircraft, accompanied by Lt. Marlen Reber and Lt. James M. Ferguson as pilots, and many crew members out on their first raid. All bombed the target through heavy overcast except Lt. Buddenbaum, who was forced to turn back because of the illness of a crew member.

FW 190s attacked and Sgt. William E. Baker, tail gunner in Lt. Seelos' a/c, got in six bursts at one coming in level astern, causing it to dive in flames. It was destroyed. Tail gunner Sgt. James W. Haywood, in Maj. Lanford's a/c, damaged another FW attacking from the same quarter, and tail gunner Sgt. James V. Loving damaged a second, assisted by other gunners in Lt. Ferguson's plane. All our five planes and crews returned safely, and giving enemy fighters a good drubbing.

8

LILLE - Five crews, with Major William Lanford flying with Col. William H. Cleveland, took off. A weak engine in Capt. William Raper's plane compelled him to return from the Channel as the ship couldn't keep up, and gun failure forced Lt. Walter N. Smiley to return also. Three a/c, including Lts. Smiley, Otto Buddenbaum and James M. Ferguson, bombed the primary at 22,000 feet along with ten other a/c of the 306th Group. Many bursts on target were seen. Our crews called it an "easy raid", largely due to superb Spitfire cover, and only the 369th, lagging to protect a crippled ship, suffered from FW 190 attacks. Richard Hackworth, radio operator, suffered frozen cheeks.

9

ST. NAZAIRE - Six squadron a/c took off and bombed the target at only 8000 feet, an experimental low-altitude mission. While the submarine base and a naval vessel at a wharf were well hit, it was in the face of severe flak, including fire from flak ships, as our planes dropped to low level over the water on their way out and home. A bullet or light flak hit Capt. William S. Raper's plane and struck Lt. Foster Daniels lightly. Our crews landed at Portreath, also including Capt. Robert W. Smith, Lt. James M. Ferguson, Lt. Walter N. Smiley, Maj. William Lanford and Lt. Marlen Reber.

14

LA PALlice: Finding overcast at the primary, three of our crews returned with the Group, and again bombed St. Nazaire. At least 14 submarines were seen in the inner harbor and crews felt sure

NOVEMBER (con't)

- they were hit. Maj. William Lanford, Capt. John M. Regan and Lt. Robert Seelos flew for the 368th.
- 15 Twenty-three men in the enlisted ranks were promoted.
- 17 ST. NAZAIRE - Our crews met strong fighter opposition and Capt. John M. Regan's landing gear and one engine were damaged. Maj. William Lanford, Lt. Marlen Reber, and Lt. Cecil Isbell, 369th, dropped back and covered him to the English Coast, where he made a difficult but successful landing at Membury. Again, the squadron had a crack at FW 190s, Lt. Robert W. Smith's crew accounting for one FW damaged, and Lt. Walter N. Smiley's crew another.
- 18 LA PALLICE: Flying through heavy clouds, the Group found itself over St. Nazaire on the way down, and the 368th suffered severely from flak. Lt. Charles Grimes, navigator, was killed, and Lt. John R. King, copilot, was wounded in the ship piloted by Lt. Robert W. Seelos, who bravely carried on with his ship damaged as well. Carrying the attack back to the enemy, his tail gunner, Sgt. Robert J. McKeage, destroyed one FW 190 and hit another, which then flew into its own flak and was destroyed. In Lt. James M. Ferguson's a/c, Lt. Robert Dresp, copilot, and Sgt. Rupert W. Arnold, were wounded, the former severely by flak, and again the pilot carried on, with Lt. George W. Frederick's help (bombardier) and skillfully brought the ship home.
- 20 A raid planned on Lorient was scrubbed.
- 22 Flying to Lorient, Lts. Walter N. Smiley and Lt. Robert W. Smith of the 368th found a solid overcast and returned with bombs.
- 23 ST. NAZAIRE - The two a/c from the 368th which started on this raid were forced to return early by faulty equipment.
- 24-30 Non-operational status due to severe reduction in aircraft fit to fly.
- 30 Thirty-two enlisted men were promoted.

DECEMBER

- During the month several members of the squadron were decorated. Maj. William Lanford, commanding officer, was awarded the Air Medal for outstanding leadership on the raid over St. Nazaire 9 November. Capt. John M. Regan was awarded the Air Medal for his courage and skill in bringing a crippled plane from St. Nazaire 17 November. 2nd Lt. Robert Drasp and S/Sgt. Rupert W. Arnold were awarded Purple Heart medals for wounds received over St. Nazaire 18 November.
- 7 Capt. William S. Raper, Lt. Frank E. Ross and Lt. Robert Fryer were sent off on Detached Service. They made three trips to Gibraltar, ferrying officers from generals on down to the scene of our North Africa invasion. On return, they startled fog-bound members of the squadron in England with reports of going swimming at Gibraltar.
- 12 ROUEN: In action again after the two-week layoff for repairs, seven of our crews took off for Romilly-sur-Seine, found a heavy overcast there and swung back to hunt for the secondary, the rail yards at Rouen. FW 190s and ME 109s both tried to throw the formation off, and in the running fight Lt. Luther Bergen was wounded by a .30 caliber bullet, and waist gunner Sgt. Joseph M. Spiro suffered light wounds in the back from a cannon shell exploding outside his a/c. Some fifty fighters attacked, chiefly working in pairs and peeling off one at a time. Sgt. Leland Kessler, top turret gunner in the Maj. William A. Lanford's ship, knocked down one fighter. Plugging on, the crews eventually found themselves over Rouen and some bombs were dropped over a target partly obscured by clouds. Nobody could see the results. Standing off the enemy fighters as far as mid-Channel, Maj. Lanford, Capt. John M. Regan, and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Marlen Reber and Robert W. Smith came home after what they described as a Cook's tour of France.
- 19 ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE - Again the crews headed for Romilly, and this time it lay in clear sight, 20,000 feet down. Bombs fell on hangars and grounded aircraft, but chiefly all over, judging from the pictures. The flak was heavy on this trip, but the fighters were worse. Silver FW 190s attacked in force over Rouen and Beauvais, while in the target area a group with leopard spots came up. A cannon shell burst in the nose of Lt. Robert W. Seelos' a/c, injuring Lt. John J. Hogan, navigator, in the shoulder and wrist. Lt. Charles Ketchie, bombardier, was knocked down by the concussion of the exploding shell which wounded Lt. Hogan. Sgt. John K. Crowther, a waist gunner, picked off an FW which was seen to crash on the ground. Sgt. Leith Lemmerhirt, tail gunner in Capt W. Curtis Melton's ship, which was hit in both wings, knocked down another FW, assisted by the waist gunner in "Rose O'Day". Lt. Otto Buddenbaum's #3 engine was hit, but the top turret gunner, Sgt. Robert Guthrie, made up for this by wiping out another FW. Everyone observed one enemy fighter which paralleled the course but always out of range, apparently as a guide to flak, which came uncomfortably close to Capt. Melton's plane every time the e/a dropped level with him.

DECEMBER (con't)

30 A raid planned for St. Nazaire turned back at the Channel because only nine ships were in shape to carry one. This was less than Orders called for.

31 Capt. W. Curtis Melton was sent to beam approach school to study blind landing.

Officers of the Squadron celebrated New Year's Eve by joining the rest of the Group in a dance at the B Mess. This party, if not as intimate as our own private one, was almost as exuberant. Aply entertaining was the newly-formed enlisted men's dance band, including our own Sgt. Warren Uttal, Sgt. Herman Davis, Sgt. Robert Mount and Pvt. Trulock.

JANUARY

- 1 Lts. James M. Ferguson, Robert W. Seelos, George W. Frederick, Robert F. Dresp and Charles G. Grimes (the latter posthumously) were awarded the Air Medal for meritorious service on the 18 Nov raid over LaPallice. Lt. Grimes was killed over the target.
- 2 1st Lt Thurman E. Dawson and T/Sgt. Paul R. Ward, ordnance, were transferred to the 39th service group at Thurleigh.
- 3 ST. NAZAIRE - The squadron opened the new year with the long haul to St. Nazaire. Streaking south over France to Nantes, the Group, including Maj. William A. Lanford, Capt. Robert W. Smith and William S. Raper, Lts. Marlen Reber, Otto Buddenbaum and James M. Ferguson and their crews, swung sharp right and bucked a gale of 115 mph on the run northwest to the target. Our Group, following others, saw a black cloud hanging over the target ahead of them--as heavy a barrage as they had ever seen--the well-known flak of St. Nazaire. This was a sad day for the squadron as this flak barrage disabled "Fergie's" two inboard engines over the target, and shortly afterward he left the formation and turned back toward Croisie Point and France, still under control, the first 368th crew to go down in enemy territory. Bombs were laid neatly on both sides of the sub basin and the planes headed out to sea. Flying at low level to handicap fighters which attacked right after St. Nazaire and again northwest of Brest, the crews struggled slowly upwind to St. Eval on the southwest coast of England. Our missing crew included:
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st Lt James M. Ferguson | T/Sgt. Richard G. Hackworth |
| 2nd Lt John B. Elliott | S/Sgt. Robert L. Kingen |
| 2nd Lt. Robert T. Levy | S/Sgt. Rupert W. Arnold |
| 2nd Lt. Donald R. Greene | T/Sgt. Charles A. Edinger |
| S/Sgt. Earl L. Kerbow | S/Sgt. James V. Loving |
- 3-6 ST. EVAL - For three days the clouds shut down close and for three days everybody chafed. The only compensations for being cut off from home base were the eggs which appeared at the St. Eval mess in the shape God gave them. On the 6th the weather was most contrary. The clouds lifted enough to allow a takeoff, and the formation headed for Thurleigh, only to find it so chick over the field that the landing was impossible. Swinging back toward St. Eval, the formation was separated by clouds and thrown off course by a mistaken report on the wind direction. Suddenly land appeared below. Lt. Otto Buddenbaum and his crew, who were flying at only 500 feet, "look, they're signalling to us," was someone's comment on flashes appearing on the ground. A moment later flak burst at the ships and the pilots swung into clouds just in time to escape what turned out to be heavily defended Guernsey. Meanwhile, other crews of the squadron found themselves also over the French Coast and guns were feverishly put into order as enemy fighters appeared. After a short scrap all hands got safely back to England, it having been almost as rough as the St. Nazaire mission had been.

JANUARY (con't)

- 13 LILLE - Maj. William A. Lanford and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Marlen Reber, Robert W. Seelos, Walter N. Smiley and crews took off for a third attack on the well known locomotive works. This was a smooth trip for our squadron as flak was only moderate, and enemy fighters were drawn off by RAF Spitfire support. Bombing results were hard to see in the haze. A tragic incident was the midair collision between two 369th ships, piloted by Lt. Jack Spaulding and Capt. James W. Johnston.
- 16 2nd Lt. Harold H. Barnes, copilot, joined the squadron.
- 18 Sgt. Herbert E. Dennis was assigned to the squadron.
- 19 Today Maj. William A. Lanford was relieved as commanding officer and transferred to 1st Wing. He has led our squadron from the beginning and brought it to the position of first squadron of the 306th Group in combat sorties and bombs dropped on enemy targets. We are all sorry to see him go.
Capt. Mack McKay, formerly of the 423rd squadron, is our new commanding officer.
- 22 Capt. Robert W. Smith, one of our veteran pilots, was transferred to the 423rd squadron.
- 23 LORIENT - Capt. Mack McKay led the squadron for the first time as commander. With him went Capt. John M. Regan and Capt. William S. Raper, Lts. Fred Gillogly, Marlen Reber and Otto Buddenbaum. In a new Allied deal, our crews pounded the military port adjoining the sub base by day, while the RAF went in the same night and hit it again. Despite intense flak, arsenals, barracks and machine shops were virtually wiped out. Fighters did not press attacks home, and all our Group came home safely.
- 25 T/Sgt. Lawrence W. Sliff was assigned to the squadron.
- 27 WILHELMSHAVEN - Invading German territory for the first time in our history, our Group, headed by Col. Frank A. Armstrong, our new commander, led the field in over the Frisian Islands, found a heavy overcast over the target, and swung northeast to Wilhelms-haven where a brace of naval docks could be seen through heavy clouds and smoke. Capt. Mack McKay and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum and Marlen Reber got away their bombs for the Jerries, who appeared to be entirely caught off base by our appearance. Flak knocked some holes in our ships and damaged Capt. McKay's controls. Fighters were few, and shy. All came back safely, including Capt. John M. Regan who was forced back early, and found a crowd of beaming generals and inquisitive reporters ready to take them on.
- 30 Pfc. Abraham Cogen, ball turret gunner, was transferred to the 423rd squadron.

FEBRUARY

- 1 S/Sgts. George H. Fairbanks and Arthur L. Johnston were promoted to T/Sgts.
- 3 EMDEN - Germany again! Our crews found a blanket of clouds blocking the way to Hamm and Osnabruck, and swung back over the Emden docks, getting all bombs away through both clouds and a smoke screen. During a good half hour of this icy, midwinter ride, FW 190s, JU 88s and ME 110s all milled around our group, but could not break through our defenses. Flak peppered almost all our planes, but all came home without serious damage. Capt. John M. Regan and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Fred Gillogly, Marlen Reber, Robert W. Seelos and Walter N. Smiley piloted our a/c.
- 12 Capt. W. Curtis Melton was transferred to 1st Wing, and Lt. Elbert Odle succeeded him as squadron operations officer.
- 16 Lt. Phil G. Kraft was transferred to the 39th service group, same station.
- ST. NAZAIRE - The "old favorite" came up today for the sixth time, and our crews gave the locks at the southwest entrance to the sub basin the best shellacking that had been given any target bombed by Americans in this theatre to date. Our own photos show the bombs walking straight across the target. However, the flak "post graduates" of St. Nazaire were on their guns the moment the bombs went down, and Capt. Mack McKay in the lead ship with LtCol Claude Putnam, as well as Capt. William E. Friend and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Robert W. Seelos and Walter N. Smiley right behind him all the way brought back souvenirs of the hot barrage that came up. Aside from this, the Nazi spread a smoke screen over the target and threw 30-odd of their best FWs into the air after the target. All our crews came back safely, with the satisfaction of having fulfilled the mission order to the letter.
- 19 The officers held their second squadron dance in the B Mess. Our own Post Orchestra again supplied the music, while Wrens as usual provided most of the feminine talent.
- 25 Bomber Command has produced a new treat for us, in the shape of an order calling for reveille at 0615 every morning, along with a squadron O. D.
- 26 WILHELMSHAVEN - Headed for Germany again, and Bremen in particular. Our crews ran into the unexpected thick weather over the land and swung back to bomb the Wilhelmshaven docks. Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Marlen Reber, Robert W. Seelos and crews went along, while Lt. Glenn Lally, co-pilot veteran of our previous raids, made his first trip as pilot. Flak came up in clouds, but not with such accuracy as at St. Nazaire. Single and twin engined fighters, though out in numbers, tended to stay at a respectful distance from our Group's tight and skillfully flown formation, and went after the

FEBRUARY (con't)

the B-24s. S/Sgt. Robert Liscavage of Lt. Buddenbaum's crew probably damaged an FW 190 that had the nerve to come closer.

The enlisted men put on their second squadron dance, largely assisted by Wrens from nearby nests. The post band again set the pace, and the Beer Flowed Freely.

27

BREST - Through an overcast so thick that scarcely any flak or fighters came up, our crews bombed the docks with uncertain results. Despite weather that made good bombing virtually impossible, however, our crews were much cheered to meet our own fighter escort at the time and place agreed. Capt. William E. Friend and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Marlen Reber, Robert W. Seelos and Walter N. Smiley and their crews made the trip.

This completed our 20th combat mission.

Everyone was thankful that this month was the warmest and driest February seen in England in 30 years.

MARCH

- 1 T/Sgt. Marshall E. Baker became master sergeant, and 34 other enlisted promotions included S/Sgts. James L. Sackett and James D. Stelzer to T/Sgts.
- 4 HAMM - In atrocious weather our Group set out for Hamm marshalling yards, and lost a ship in the unsuccessful attempt to reach the target. Enemy fighters came out of cloud cover over the island of Texel and succeeded in disabling our own squadron's Capt. William E. Friend's plane, flying "in the hole". His plane was seen going down under control with No. 3 engine on fire. Seven chutes were seen before the ship was lost to view. Missing members of the crew are:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Capt. William E. Friend, pilot | T/Sgt. William E. Cherry, en |
| 1st Lt. Aaron E. Cuddeback, cp | S/Sgt. Gilbert G. Shoemaker |
| 2nd Lt. George W. Frederick, bomb | Sgt. Stanley E. Gujou, gunne |
| 2nd Lt. George W. Owens, nav | S/Sgt. Ernest P. Garland, gu |
| T/Sgt. Mahlon E. Snover, radio | |
- 6 LORIENT - Our's was the lead squadron with Maj. J. W. Wilson piloting Capt. John M. Regan's ship and Lts. Otto Buddenbaum, Glenn Lally, Marlen Reber, Robert W. Seelos and Walter N. Smiley with their crews. Intense flak and plenty of FW 190s came up at the target. Lt. Joseph C. Wilkins, bombardier with Lt. Buddenbaum, set on FW on fire, and Sgt. Robert Liscavage saw it dive into the sea. Bombs were dropped between the power station and the RR bridge, with fair results. All our ships got their bombs away and landed safely at Exeter.
- 8 RENNES - Four of the squadron's crews shared in this raid, which was one of both gain and loss. The gain was excellent bombing of the marshalling yards there, and undisturbed by fighters or flak. The loss was Lt. Otto Buddenbaum and his crew. Hit by fighters near Dinan, eight men were seen to bale out. The missing are:
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lt. Otto Buddenbaum, pilot | S/Sgt. Sylvester Horstmann, radio |
| Lt. Warren P. Edris, copilot | S/Sgt. Robert S. Liscavage, bail |
| Lt. Joseph C. Wilkins, bomb. | S/Sgt. Eulis E. Smith, tail gunner |
| Lt. Robert E. Biggs, navigator | S/Sgt. Ernest T. Moriarty, waist |
| T/Sgt. Robert Guthrie, engineer | Sgt. Donald R. Huddle, waist |
- 12 ROUEN: All agreed that superb "Spit" cover made this raid a "piece of cake", a relief to our squadron, which had had two crews go down this month. Capt. John M. Regan and Lts. Fred Gillogly, Glenn Lally, Robert W. Seelos and Walter N. Smiley made this trip. Bombing again was right on the nail head. Two new crews joined this squadron today:
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Lt. William H. Scheil | 2nd Lt. Wesley D. Peterson |
| 2nd Lt. Reginald E. Wigham | 2nd Lt. John A. Brown, Jr. |
| 2nd Lt. John D. Teare | 2nd Lt. Avory L. Evan |
| 2nd Lt. Frank H. Harrison | 2nd Lt. Jack D. Schaeber |

- MARCH (con't)
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| T/Sgt. Douglas A. W. Griggs | T/Sgt. Benedetto J. Benigno |
| S/Sgt. Roy LaBlanche | S/Sgt. Charles R. Bell |
| S/Sgt. Archie M. Baker | S/Sgt. Roy K. Staiff |
| T/Sgt. Philip J. Zimmerman | T/Sgt. Fred N. Hampton |
| S/Sgt. William J. Phillips | S/Sgt. Edwin A. Truscott |
- 13 AMIENS - Hunting for the target on this raid was like homing in an English fog. Our own crews, including Maj. Mack McKay and Lts. Fred Gillogly, Glenn Lally, Robert W. Seelos and Walter N. Smiley, bombed a target of opportunity which appeared to be the RR junction at Poix.
- 18 VEGESACK - Today we hit the Jerries at home where it hurts most, and hit them hard. Flying as professionally as if they'd been doing it for years, our crews pulled off another 100% raid, all bombing the target and all returning safely to base. In a tight defensive formation, our crews piloted by Capt. John M. Regan, and Lts. Fred Gillogly, Theodore Jankowski, Robert A. Miller and Marlen Reber, wove through intense flak and threw off large numbers of enemy fighters which put on a desperate attack, coming in two and three at a time.
- Our Group was congratulated by General Ira Eaker and Gen. Newton Longfellow for its achievements in this raid, as well as the raids on Rouen and particularly Rennes, which was perhaps the best bombing of all to date. Furthermore, and most satisfying, the RAF, hitherto always skeptical of daylight raids, became enthusiastic, when they saw our photographs.
- 20 Lt. John E. Bennett appointed Group bomb and gunnery safety officer.
- 22 WILHELMSHAVEN - There was unusual excitement over today's target, since the dock off the Bauhofen, which was the aiming point, was believed to hold the Admiral Scheer. Our squadron led the Group and we pulled off another 100% raid, despite lots of flak, some 30 odd fighters which did everything, including dropping time bombs on us from above, and the usual smoke screen over the target. Most of the bombs, though landing west of the Bauhofen, did plenty of good among the naval installations. Maj. Mack McKay, 368th C.O., led, with Lts. Theodore Jankowski, Glenn Lally, Robert A. Miller, Marlen Reber and Walter N. Smiley.
- 28 ROUEN - The other squadrons bombed Rouen marshalling yards while we were off operations.
- Looking back over this month, we can be satisfied with the best month we have had in number of raids and in their effect on the enemy. The squadron has made a sacrifice in this effort, however, in losing both Capt. William E. Friend and Lt. Otto Buddenbaum and crews, and we hope to have good reports of them before long.

APRIL

4

PARIS - Today the boys had their first look at Paris. The first sight of the red string in the Nissen Hut leading across the map to this target produced as keen a reaction as the first raid into Germany. But, it was a gayer reaction than over the Wilhelmshaven raid. Maximum effort gave virtually all squadron crews a crack at the Renault Works, as well as a look at the Eiffel Tower. Capt. John M. Regan and Lts. Fred Gillogly, Theodore Jankowski, Glenn Lally, Robert A. Miller, Marlen Reber, Robert W. Seelos and Walter N. Smiley hit the Renault Works and had a good look at the city, the Seine and the Eiffel Tower. S/Sgt. Leith C. Lemmerhirt blew to pieces one FW 190 that attacked. All came back safely.

A new crew came in from the States to join the squadron. It included 1st Lt. Louis G. Cook, pilot; F/O Ben R. Hopkins, copilot; 2nd Lt. Maynard D. Dix, navigator; 2nd Lt. Herschel F. Ezell, bombardier; T/Sgt. Harris R. Whitten and Louis J. Hlavac; S/Sgt. Gerald D. Barnt, Leo L. Gallegos and Gerald Stroud, and Pvt. Hugh D. Hall.

5

ANTWERP - Our first crack at a Belgian target was a rough deal. The Nazis had obviously decided they must try to throw off our bombing run at any cost, following their complete failure to keep us off the target at Paris the day before. Swarms of fighters attacked the lead group from the nose, and the lead squadron of the lead group on this raid was the 368th. Lt. Robert W. Seelos, one of our originals, went down over the target. Capt. Robert Saitnik, Group navigator, was hit in our lead ship, flown by Major J. W. Wilson, with Capt. John M. Regan and his crew. (Ed. note: B/Gen Frank A. Armstrong, former 306th C.O., was also in the cockpit of this plane.) However, while our bombing was only partly successful, the Nazis were given a rough time themselves. T/Sgt. Edward H. Small of Lt. Robert A. Miller's crew, knocked down one FW 190 from the top turret. Lt. Jack D. Schaeber, bombardier, probably got another, and S/Sgt. Carl L. Pugh knocked pieces off another from the ball turret of Capt. Regan's a/c. Capt. Marlen Reber, Lts. Fred Gillogly, Theodore Jankowski, and Walter N. Smiley also made the trip. The missing crew is:

1st Lt. Robert W. Seelos, pilot	S/Sgt. William H. Keskey, ro
2nd Lt. Alexander Kramarinko, cp	S/Sgt. Roland Magee, g
2nd Lt. William W. Saunders, n	S/Sgt. William H. Baker, g
2nd Lt. James E. Murray, b	T/Sgt. Fred R. Hampton, g
T/Sgt. Stanley P. Stenkowski, e	S/Sgt. Raymond E. Walls, g

8

Maj. Mack McKay received orders transferring him back to new training duties in the U.S.A., and he left with the regrets and good wishes of the whole squadron.

Capt. John M. Regan, 368th veteran, was made the new squadron commanding officer.

APRIL (con't)

- 11 A new crew joined the squadron: 1st Lts. Donald E. Whipple and August Winters, 2nd Lts. William J. Dooley and James C. Shelley, T/Sgts. Roy T. Goodwin and Eugene A. Lanning, S/Sgts. William J. Tremper and Robert J. Kenney, and Pvt. William A. Lenovich.
- 12 Another new crew joined the squadron: 1st Lt. George E. Paris, 2nd Lts. James O. Cummings and Edward J. Seifried, T/Sgts. James K. Herman and George J. Schneider, S/Sgts Alvin C. Johnson, Alfred N Jenniges and Charles E. Wylie, and Pvt. Joseph J. Rislioresi.
- 16 LORIENT - The power station at Lorient, which had so far escaped serious damage, was again our target. Difficulties with the Wing formation, however, again stymied our best efforts. Enemy fighters were only half-hearted today, though, and all of our ships came back without difficulty. FW 190s tried out their new wrinkle again of dropping bombs on us from above while flak came up from below. Our bous were not impressed, however, as they all burst way wide. Capt. Walter N. Smiley and Lts. Robert R. Fryer, Fred Gillogly and Robert A. Miller made the trip.
- 17 BREMEN - Today we were given certainly the most vital target to date and the toughest, the Focke Wulfe plant itself. To hit this target, and hit it hard, as we unquestionably did, the 368th made its greatest sacrifice of the war. Sharing the lead with the 91st Group, our Group took the brunt of a desperate fighter attack and of severe flak. Of our six-plane formation, Lt. Maxwell Judas and his crew alone succeeded in getting back to base. Capt. Walter N. Smiley, and Lts. Fred Gillogly, Theodore Jankowski, Glenn Lally and Robert A. Miller were all forced down over Germany. Our formation was broken up just after the bombs went down, and "Judy" found himself alone, with only two engines operating, and incidentally, a main wing spar shot through, the top turret out and the bomb bay doors stuck down. Diving to the deck brought No.3 engine back to life, and the crew nursed their ship back to Thurleigh. Sgt. Leland Kessler was hit, though not seriously, by glass from the top turret. The missing crews are:
- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Capt. Walter N. Smiley | T/Sgt. Raymond C. Clifton |
| 2nd Lt. Avery L. Ewan | S/Sgt. Roderick C. Clark |
| 1st Lt. Wilbur N. Breunig | S/Sgt. William R. Payne |
| 1st Lt. Martin M. Strauss | S/Sgt. Lawrence J. Sliff |
| T/Sgt. Donald B. Hepler | S/Sgt. Roy E. Staiff |
| 1st Lt. Fred D. Gillogly | T/Sgt. Charles F. Fehr |
| 2nd Lt. Donald E. Whipple | S/Sgt. William Allan |
| 2nd Lt. John A. Brown, Jr. | S/Sgt. Archie M. Baker |
| 1st Lt. Charles G. Jones | S/Sgt. Henry E. Warren |
| T/Sgt. Lyle V. Edwards | Sgt. Daniel Dolinka |

APRIL (con't)

1st Lt. Theodore A. Jankowski	T/Sgt. Benedetto J. Benigno
1st Lt. William E. Scheil	S/Sgt. Charles R. Bell
2nd Lt. Reginald E. Wigham	S/Sgt. William G. Gelnett
S/Sgt. Thomas P. McDonnell	S/Sgt. Charles E. Wylie
T/Sgt. James B. Stelzer	S/Sgt. John E. Chinlund
1st Lt. Glenn J. Lally	T/Sgt. Eugene A. Lanning
F/O Ben R. Hopkins	S/Sgt. Leno Off
1st Lt. Frank E. Ross, Jr.	S/Sgt. Robert J. McKeage
T/Sgt. James R. Curry, Jr.	S/Sgt. Leo L. Gallegos, Jr.
T/Sgt. Jesse R. Downard	S/Sgt. Alvin C. Johnson
1st Lt. Robert A. Miller	T/Sgt. Joseph M. Spiro
2nd Lt. John D. Teare	S/Sgt. William J. Phillips
2nd Lt. Jack D. Schaeber	S/Sgt. Edwin A. Truscott
2nd Lt. James C. Shelley, Jr.	S/Sgt. Jesse E. Wade
T/Sgt. Edward H. Small	Sgt. Milton K. Williams

20 1st Lts. Edward J. Hennessy and Leo S. McIntire, 2nd Lts. Joseph M. Levy and Joseph P. Ryan, Jr.; T/Sgts. Billy Drennan and Glen R. Wiley, and S/Sgts. John F. Elek, Patrick J. Spellman, Robert G. Adams and Loras J. Connolly were transferred from the 369th Squadron.

21 New crews assigned to the squadron included:

1st Lt. Joseph H. Belsler	David A. Philpot, Jr.
2nd Lt. William D. Jones	Leonard Norman
2nd Lt. George M. Arnold	Marshall E. McDaniel
2nd Lt. James T. Harrison	William D. Barton
Eldo C. Spangenberg	
1st Lt. Floyd J. Field	
2nd Lt. Irwin EFird	
2nd Lt. Robert L. Clausen	
1st Lt. Harry L. Young	
1st Lt. Toy B. Husband	William J. Skahan
2nd Lt. Robert W. Shingler	Paul Mardis
2nd Lt. Andrew T. Bycott	Darvin E. Neff
2nd Lt. Eduardo M. Montoya	Philip W. D. Mantor
Francis J. Kilbride	Don T. McCann
1st Lt. Oleron Linn	James Milner
2nd Lt. Coyle R. Logue	George Holt
2nd Lt. Raymond L. Slater	Robert Long
2nd Lt. Stanley Silverstein	Joseph Miglioresi
1st Lt. Reginald L. Robinson	George Fisher
2nd Lt. William T. Dalessi	Richard J. Tronzo
2nd Lt. Carl W. Holmes	Donald C. Brower
2nd Lt. Beverly R. Lamb	Maynard B. Standley
John L. Robertson	

APRIL (con't) During the month S/Sgts. John K. Crowther, Jesse R. Downard, Joe P. Gabrish, Joseph R. Graziano, Leland Kessler, Edward H. Small and Joseph M. Spiro were promoted to T/Sgts. There were eight other promotions.

S/Sgt. Ernest T. Moriarty, waist gunner on Lt. Otto Buddenbaum's crew, rejoined the squadron only 23 days after being shot down last month, and thus became the 368th's first evadee.

MAY

1

ST. NAZAIRE - Another attack in which the 368th did not participate, was made by the Group on St. Nazaire. Our boys were glad to miss the rough return trip over Brest.

13

MEULTE - After nearly two weeks of scrubbing of missions aimed at Belgium and France, the aircraft factory at Meulte came in on the Field Order, and our crews made up for lost time by tearing the target to pieces. A small number of enemy fighters let go with a steady shower of aerial bombs, dropped from above and "skipped" in from the nose. While this made a big splash, one bomb "blowing" right in front of Major John M. Regan's a/c, it failed to stop our crews. All returned safely. With Maj. Regan on the right wing, were Lts. Toy B. Husband, Reginald L. Robinson, Edward J. Hennessy and Robert R. Fryer. The expedition was generally described as delightful, especially the RAF Spitfire cover.

15

WILHELMSHAVEN-HELIGOLAND - Again, a solid front blocked our attempts to attack the German mainland, but our crews picked up the one piece of Germany that was not cloud-covered, and gave the military establishment at Heligoland a pounding. Enemy 190s and 109s and twins attacked heavily, but our crews, though often separated from their formations and sometimes flying entirely alone, stopped every attack, made it very unhealthy, especially for twin engine fighters, and all came home, though with damage. Tail gunner S/Sgt. Donald T. McCann started the fireworks going in toward Germany by blowing to pieces a JU 88, which was foolish enough to come in on the tail of Lt. Toy B. Husband's plane. S/Sgt. William D. Barton, tail gunner in Lt. Joseph Belser's ship, probably destroyed an ME 109, and with T/Sgt. David A. Philpot, right waist, damaged a JU 88. S/Sgt. Roy LaBlanche, Lt. Robert R. Fryer's ball turret gunner; S/Sgt. Darwin E. Neff, engineer in Lt. Husband's a/c and Sgt. Loras J. Connolly, tail gunner in Lt. Edward J. Hennessy's plane, each damaged his own ME 110. Lt. Reginald L. Robinson dove to 400 feet near the target to escape a swarm of fighters. His tail gunner, S/Sgt. Maynard B. Standley, bailed out thinking they were through, but the crew threw equipment overboard and came home on two engines. One of their two active props fell off when they landed.

17

LORIENT - Lts. Robert R. Fryer, George Paris, Joseph Belser, L.

- MAY (con't) G. Cook, Toy Husband and Leo S. McIntire flew on a very satisfactory return trip to the sub pens, with hits on radial slips and no losses. Ball turret gunner, S/Sgt. Paul Mardis, destroyed an FW 190, which dove into the ground.
- 19 KIEL and FLENSBURG - A maximum effort was called for and resulted in our most successful double header during the time that the 94th Group's two squadrons have been flying from our station. Our crews hit Kiel for the first time with great effect, and no losses. A dramatic photograph shows B-24s below us outlined against clouds of smoke from bomb bursts along the docks. Capt. John M. Regan, squadron C.O., and Lts. Maxwell Judas, Leo S. McIntire, Robert R. Fryer, Toy B. Husband and George Paris made the trip.
- Meanwhile, the 94th was dropping its bombs neatly on the shipyard at Flensburg, and we took personal pride in their accuracy since it was our job to break them in for combat missions.
- 21 WILHELMSHAVEN - Again, we were given this most elusive target. This time the enemy threw a thick smoke screen over the target to play the part that cloud cover had on previous raids. At the cost of two of our crews, the squadron tried to bomb through the smoke, with at least some hits on the docks. Lt. Maxwell Judas, with veterans of many raids in his ship, went down over the target under heavy fighter attack. Lt. Floyd J. Fields and his crew were missing somewhere on the way home. The missing follow:
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Lt. Maxwell V. Judas | T/Sgt. Joseph R. Graziano |
| 2nd Lt. Frank R. Arrison | S/Sgt. Roy LaBlanche |
| 2nd Lt. James O. Cummings | S/Sgt. Elwood H. Brotzman |
| 1st Lt. Foster G. Daniels | S/Sgt. Gerald Stroud |
| T/Sgt. Leland J. Kessler | S/Sgt. John R. Geimer |
| 1st Lt. Floyd J. Fields | S/Sgt. Philip J. Zimmerman |
| 2nd Lt. Irwin R. Eford | S/Sgt. Morreice G. Moody |
| 2nd Lt. Robert L. Clausen | S/Sgt. August Retcofsky |
| 1st Lt. Harry L. Young | S/Sgt. Fortunato Gelfo |
| T/Sgt. Roy F. Goodwin | S/Sgt. Harry D. Cromer |
- 29 ST. NAZAIRE - The order was to break up the determined attempt by the enemy to finish his new side entrance to the sub basin. Part of this microscopic aiming point was solidly hit. Capt. Marlen Reber led the composite group with our squadron. The boys found some of St. Nazaire's teeth had been pulled, but there were enough experts left to man the guns. However, none of our squadron suffered either from flak or fighters, who left us largely alone. Lts. Edward J. Hennessy, George Paris, L. G. Cook and Joseph Belser went along. Lt. Alfred W. Weld, assistant S-2, also went along to see where the boys had been going all winter long, and found Capt. Reber and the squadron leading the composite group in a professional manner. Lt. Hennessy finished his 25th mission.

JUNE

- 2 T/Sgt. Everett P. White made "Master", and S/Sgt. Paul Kastner, squadron clerk, became T/Sgt.
- 5 From now on out it is Capt. Edward J. Hennessy instead of lieutenant, while 2nd Lt. Oleron Linn was promoted to 1st Lt. Capt. Hennessy, as a graduate of the Continental Flak and Fighter School, went off to Bovington to teach newcomers.
- 11 WILHELMSHAVEN - Briefed for Bremen, and a maximum effort. a solid front met our crews over Germany, and they turned in to unload with fair success around the well known Bauhoffen. Smoke screen again. Lt. Robert R. Fryer led our squadron of nine, followed by Lts. Oleron Linn, Reginald L. Robinson, George Paris, Toy B. Husband, Joseph Belser, David Wheeler, L. G. Cook and Leo McIntire. Fighters appeared in numbers but showed no taste for attack, and all our crews returned in good order. T/Sgt. John K. Crowther wound up his 25th, third member of the squadron to complete the tour.
- 13 BREMEN - Recollections of 17 April were in everyone's mind when this tough target was briefed. But it was more promising now because twice as many bombers can get into the air and hit two or more targets at once. And indeed, as it turned out, 4th Wing drew almost all of the fighters over to Kiel and our boys had only the flak-- which was enough--to contend with. Smoke screens covered Emden on the way in, the target itself, and Wilhelmshaven on the way out. Smoke and flak scattered our bombs, but they did some good on the docks, nevertheless. Maj. John M. Regan, and Lts. Joseph Belser, L. G. Cook, Robert R. Fryer, Toy B. Husband and Reginald L. Robinson made the run, picked up a good deal of flak, but all came back safely.
- 16 S/Sgt. Richard L. Bohland, Clifford C. Kemberling, August J. Krajcik and Leith L. Lemmerhirt were promoted to T/Sgts.
- 19 2nd Lts. Maynard Dix and Herschel Ezell were promoted to 1st Lts.
- 20 Capts. Wallace Boring and Joseph Kosakowski received the DFC for meritorious service. They each have 20 missions.
- 21 1st Lt. Jesse Milbourn hit the "jackpot"--and took off with no unnecessary delay to return to the U. S.
- 22 HULS - This was a perfect job all round, except for two of our crews who had to abort. Capt. Marlen Reber, and Lts. Joseph Belser, Toy B. Husband, Oleron Linn, Leo McIntire and Reginald L. Robinson watched the compact Huls plant-a vital source of Germany's artificial rubber-go up in flames and a great column of smoke. Fighters were pretty thick, and Lt. James T. Harrison and S/Sgt. William D. Barton each celebrated by wiping out an FW 190 from a/c 498, Lt. Belser pilot. S/Sgt. John C. Lotti got another

- JUNE (con't) from the tail of #793. T/Sgt. Richard L. Bohland celebrated his 25th, with this perfect raid.
2nd Lt. Robert L. Klawuhn, ordnance officer, joined the squadron. T/Sgt. August J. Krajcik, John K. Crowther and Bohland, all graduates of the Continental Flak and Fighter School went off en route home.
- 25 TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY - A trip over a solid cloud layer made for uncertain bombing but brought fighters up over Germany and netted our squadron one "kill" and one damaged FW 190. S/Sgt. Loras J. Connolly and T/Sgt. Francis Kilbride did the shooting. Lts. Joseph Belser, Toy B. Husband, Leo McIntire, George Paris and Reginald L. Robinson made the trip.
- 26 TRIQUEVILLE - Only four of our a/c, with Lts. George Paris, L. G. Cook, Toy B. Husband and Oleron Linn as pilots joined this raid, which on its face looked so easy. Nevertheless, it brought plenty of eager fighters out of the sun. S/Sgt. Fred H. Nabors probably destroyed one ME 109, which went down in flames. The fighter attack upset our bombing considerably.
- 28 ST. NAZAIRE - This target is almost as familiar as Picadilly now, but its teeth seem to have been pulled. Our crews went in for the second time in succession without loss. The race to hit the new lock before the Jerries covered it was a real success, three direct hits being scored. P-47s escorted handsomely to Ploermeil. Lts. George Paris, Joseph Belser, Oleron Linn, Leo McIntire and L. G. Cook and their crews went along.
- 29 VILLACOUBLAY - Capt. Marlen Reber, Lt. Luther Bergen and T/Sgt. Robert G. Adams celebrated a dry run over France by completing their 25th missions together. While they couldn't hit the target, which was concealed by cloud cover, they did on return hit the pool outside the interrogation room, dressed chiefly in Mae Wests, and found it plenty wet! Lts. Robert R. Fryer, George Paris, Joseph Belser, Reginald Robinson and L. G. Cook joined in on this spin over the clouds.

JULY

- 1 Capt. Marlen Reber went to 1st Wing, Capt. Joseph Kosakowski also got a Wing assignment, and Lt. Bergen to - probably - the States.
- 2 T/Sgt. Joe Gabrish was made master sergeant, while S/Sgt. Robert G. Adams and Patrick J. Spellman were promoted to T/Sgts., among 51 promotions of enlisted men.
- 4 NANTES - The 368th celebrated the Fourth by putting up virtually its entire strength to make a devastating attack on the Chateau Rougen airplane factory just south of Nantes on the River Loire. The factory was obliterated. Our gunners shared the celebration by knocking down the majority of E/A hit by the Group on this date. Lt. Robert R. Fryer led our low squadron, followed by Lts. George Paris, Oleron Linn, Reginald Robinson, Joseph Belser, L. G. Cook, Toy B. Husband and Leo McIntire. Lts. Maynard Dix and August Winters led off in the nose of our lead ship. In addition, Major John M. Regan and Capt. Wallace Boring rode with Lt. Roy A. Vinnedge, 369th, who was leading the Composite Group. Weather was clear enough to see the target completely covered by our bombs, and to see several enemy fighters dive into the ground or the sea. S/Sgt. Alfred R. Sorensen, top turret, and S/Sgt. Arthur N. Jenniges, tail gunner, each wiped out an FW 190 or an ME 109. T/Sgt. Eldo C. Spangenberg, top turret, probably got another, while S/Sgt. Lloyd A. Brandon, right waist, and S/Sgt. Donald E. Neff, top turret, each damaged an FW 190. Only complaint of the day was that the ice cream ran out too soon when our crews went to work on it after the raid.
- A new combat crew arrived, including 1st Lt. Charles Munger, 2nd Lts. Roy Ranck, Roger Barton and Leon Feldman, T/Sgts. Herbert W. Hawkes, Oscar Krigbaum, and S/Sgts. Edwin Borli, Lester B. Parks, John Brinkman and Jay L. Braman.
- 2nd Lt. William Katz, pilot, transferred from the 423rd squadron.
- 10 CAEN/CARPIQUET - Our squadron put up seven ships on a run into France over heavy clouds. The formation, among whom were Lts. L. G. Cook, George Paris, Joseph Belser, Wesley D. Peterson, Leo McIntire, Toy B. Husband and Oleron Linn, and their crews, saw conditions too thick in the direction of the primary at Paris and swung back at Evreux to bomb the air field of Carpiquet through a hole in the clouds. Bombs landing close packed in one of the main building group, a real feat of bombing in such conditions. There were no E/A. T/Sgt. Billy H. Drennan, radio, and T/Sgt. Patrick J. Spellman, right waist, ran off their 25th missions today.
- 14 VILLACOUBLAY - To celebrate the anniversary of the French Revolution, six of the squadron's crews flew low squadron in the Composite (High) Group. The target was the S.E. corner of the familiar, anvil-shaped field, specifically, the HE 111 and FW 190 sections of

- JULY (con't) the factory, and the bombs were laid precisely across those very buildings, completing the Mission Order to a "T". A quiet trip down, covered by welcome RAF Spits, turned into a roughhouse over the target. "All of our tail gunners were firing simultaneously" at the quantity of FW 190s which came in. S/Sgt. Paulis Mardis, ball turret gunner, probably destroyed one attacker, while Lt. Eduardo M. Montoya, bombardier, capitalized on one of those opportunities which don't come to a bombardier very often, and damaged another. All of our a/c, piloted by Lts. George Paris, Joseph Belser, Wesley D. Peterson, Oleron Linn, George Reese and Toy B. Husband, returned safely.
- 17 HANNOVER - Briefed for Hannover, seven of our crews took part in the Group's run into Holland, where solid clouds, followed by a "recall", waited for them. Bombing was impossible, but our squadron, leading the Group this day, knocked down two FW 190s out of the three E/A destroyed by the Group, and made the mission worthwhile. Lt. Stanley Silverstein, bombardier, and T/Sgt. Immanuel J. Enos, top turret, were credited with the enemy fighters, both of which dove into the sea off Holland. Lts. Robert R. Fryer, Joseph Belser, George Paris, Reginald L. Robinson, George Reese L. G. Cook and Oleron Linn and their crews received credit for the mission.
- 24 HEROYA, NORWAY - One of the outstanding raids in the Theatre was this long run—for the first time— into Norway. Our own Group, including this squadron's six crews, did a highly professional job of finding the great aluminium plant in the edge of a solid overcast, when the leading group (91st) at first missed it. Bombing was devastating at the target and so closely placed as to leave the adjoining town unharmed. In addition, 2nd Lt. Beverly R. Lamb, bombardier, and S/Sgt. John T. Brinkman, ball turret, destroyed an ME 109 and an FW 190, respectively, from the small force of enemy fighters. Lts. L. G. Cook, Leo McIntire, George Reese, Toy B. Husband, Oleron Linn and Reginald L. Robinson were the pilots this day.
- 26 HANNOVER - Seven of the squadron's crews, piloted by Lts. George Reese, Wesley D. Peterson, Toy B. Husband, L. G. Cook, Reginald L. Robinson, Joseph Belser and Leo McIntire made the deepest penetration of Germany to date, sweeping way up the North Sea and down across Germany between Emden and Wilhelmshaven to attack the Continental Gummiwerke, one end of which was well hit. Severe flak and some fighters met the crews, and three gunners were wounded: T/Sgt. Arthur J. Jenniges, T/Sgt. Eldo C. Spangenberg and T/Sgt. Oscar W. Krigbaum. All of our planes returned, however. FW 190s were knocked down by S/Sgt. Loras J. Connelly, tail gunner, S/Sgt. John F. Elek, ball turret, and S/Sgt. Paul Mardis, ball turret.
- 28 KASSEL - On the basis of the Hannover raid, the Group fought its way still further into the enemy camp, dropping a close concentration of bombs mere yards away from the target, and spreading nick

- JULY (con't) all over Germany. The squadron's lone representative was Lt. William J. Dooley and his crew who defied swarms of enemy fighters to dislodge them from the "hole" position in the lead squadron. No less than three fighters blew up at the hands of this crew. S/Sgt. Fred H. Nabors left waist, S/Sgt. John C. Lotti, tail gunner, and T/Sgt. Immanuel J. Enos, top turret, led the shooting, and were officially credited the "destroyeds" on this raid.
- 29 KIEL - Today, the 368th's turn to lead the Group, developed into the hottest fight since the first Bremen raid. Outstanding feature of the day, however, was the deadly accurate bombing achieved by the close teamwork of Capt. George Paris, celebrating his new rank today, Capt. Wallace Boring, lead navigator, and Lt. Stanley Silverstein, lead bombardier, and of the crews following piloted by Lts. George Reese, Toy B. Husband, L. G. Cook, Reginald L. Robinson and Leo McIntire. Bombs pounding through a smoke screen into the Kriegsmarine werke, one of Germany's key shipping targets, brought up a cloud of enemy fighters in retaliation. Our squadron came back intact however, with credit for three E/A destroyed at the hands of 2nd Lt. James T. Harrison, bombardier, 1st Lt. August Winters, bombardier, and S/Sgt. George F. Fisher, ball turret, that latter achieving the distinction of getting an ME 210. Two were damaged by S/Sgt. Jay L. Braman, left waist, and 2nd Lt. Leon Feldman, bombardier. A fine day for our bombardiers, with the target nailed down and two E/A credited as well.
- 30 1st L. Robert R. Fryer received his captaincy.
- So ended a lively month for the squadron in which eight missions were flown and no crews lost. All hands, combat and ground personnel together, really plugged.

AUGUST

- 1 Nine promotions of enlisted men included those of S/Sgts. Ralph R. Elbert, Edwin J. Borlik, Charles W. Bone, Clyde C. Edwards, and Sgt. Harris R. Whitten to T/Sgts.
- 4 1st Lts. George Reese and Charles Munger, 2nd Lts. Leon Feldman and Roger Barton, T/Sgts. Herbert W. Hawkes and Edwin J. Borlik, and S/Sgts. John T. Brinkman, Lester B. Parks and Jay L. Braman were members of the crew transferred to the 423rd Squadron.
- 7 1st Lt. Glennon A. Kreher, mess officer, was transferred to the squadron from the 367th.
- 11 A new crew joined the squadron: 2nd Lts. George Goris, William Nally, Frank E. Bullard and Harry Urman, T/Sgts. Walter P. Back and Jerry F. Horton, and S/Sgts. Leroy Haskell, Joseph A. Kelch, Alvar A. Nyman and Howard E. Jordan.

1st Lt. John Bennett, armament officer, received his captaincy, as of 24 July.
- 12 Our squadron dispatched one a/c on this raid, with Lt. Wesley D. Peterson and his crew participating. Unable to see the target on this first attack on the centre of the Ruhr in daylight, at GEL-SENKIRCHEN, the Group bombed a factory and rail junction at Recklinghausen. The run off course and out was through plenty of flak.

Today 1st Lt. L. G. Cook, one of our flight leaders, became a captain.
- 15 FLUSHING - A series of shorter raids into the Occupied Countries across the Channel started with this attack on Flushing. Brussels had been the target briefed, but heavy clouds turned the formation toward Flushing Airport instead. Bombing was difficult, but a few hits may have proved useful. The enemy threw up no fighters at all against our fine P-47 fighter cover, and flak was negligible. Lts. William Dooley, Toy B. Husband, Leo McIntire, Wesley D. Peterson, Joseph Belser, Reginald L. Robinson, and W. D. Jones and their crews were all pleased to have knocked off another mission.
- 16 LE BOURGET - The 368th, with Col. George L. Robinson, Group C.O., and Maj. John M. Regan in the lead ship, led the Group and the Combat Wing today in one of several attacks on airfields in France. Against slight flak and a few persistent fighters, our crews plastered the target well. Capt. Wallace Boring navigated and Lt. Stanley Silverstein did the bombing for lead ship. Capt. L. G. Cook and Lts. William Dooley, Toy B. Husband, W. D. Jones, Leo McIntire and Reginald L. Robinson and their crews chalked up another mission.
- 17 SCHWEINFURT - The great secret target finally came to light at the morning's briefing. (More accurately, it had been first briefed and then scrubbed, two days earlier). The most vital fac-

AUGUST (con't) tories in all Europe to Germany's war production, whose plans our navigators and bombardiers had been studying for days beforehand without knowing where they were, were now located at Schweinfurt, well down into Southern Germany. The 368th put eight crews into the air to lead the Composite Group. Lead pilot was Capt. Robert R. Fryer, on his 25th mission, held over just for this target.

With him were Lt. Maynard Dix to navigate and Lt. Herschel Ezell to bomb. Heavy fighting was the order of the day, going in and coming out, both, and of the Group's twenty-four claims eleven were ours. S/Sgt. George Monser, left waist, blocked two attacks on the lead ship by blowing up one FW 190 and setting another on fire. S/Sgt. Joseph J. Miglioresi, also a left waist gunner, blew up an FW 190 and damaged another. T/Sgts. David A. Philpot and Arthur Jenniges, S/Sgts. Howard E. Jordan, William J. Tremper and John Coulson, and Sgt. Edward F. Gramm each blasted an FW 190 to the point where the pilot bailed out. S/Sgt. Donald R. Neff, top turret, damaged another 190.

Despite these heavy encounters, all our crews got over the ball bearing factories, did considerable damage through a smoke screen to buildings in the area, and all came home safely after their longest raid yet made into Germany. Capts. L. G. Cook and George Paris, and Lts. Toy B. Husband, Joseph Belser, Reginald L. Robinson, William F. Dooley and Leo McIntire and their crews made the trip. Keen leadership and solid, tight formation flying stood out on this raid.

- 19 BRUSSELS - A second attempt to get to Brussels was blocked by overcast, and the Group, including Capts. George Paris and L. G. Cook, and Lts. Leo McIntire, William F. Dooley and Reginald L. Robinson of the 368th again swung north to bomb Flushing. Bombs hit along both sides of the now familiar canal. Feature of the day was the fine "umbrella" cover put on by RAF Spits.
- 20 Capt. Wallace Boring, veteran squadron navigator, was transferred to Wing headquarters. Capt. Joseph Kosakowski, squadron bombardier, was also transferred there, and 2nd Lts. John L. Voehringer and Donald E. Phillips joined the squadron.
- 24 VILLACOUBLAY - The Group led the Wing today, with our squadron flying high, on a return trip to the C factories south of Paris. A heavy overcast broke near the target and the Group led the Wing successfully over the west corner of the field, which was solidly hit by the two following groups. Capt. L. G. Cook and Lts. William F. Dooley, Wesley D. Peterson, Robert W. Shingler, Leo McIntire and Reginald L. Robinson and their crews found enough flak to damage every a/c, but no fighters bothered this Group.
- T/Sgt. Raymond Walls, who evaded capture from Belgium, started home to the U.S.A. today.
- 27 WATTON - The 368th led the Group on this effort to drop bombs in-

AUGUST (con't) to the mysterious "hole in the ground", 20 miles in back of Calais. Bombing into the sun was most difficult on this tiny target hidden in a woods (even from 15,000 feet) a target, moreover, well defended by flak. Capt. George Paris and Lts. Joseph Belser, Maynard Dix and Stanley Silverstein were in the lead ship. Lts. William H. Dooley, Leo McIntire, Wesley D. Peterson, Reginald L. Robinson and Robert W. Shingler piloted the other a/c.

31

ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE - Our crews wound up the month's campaign against airfields with an attempt to reach Romilly since last December. 10/10ths clouds blocked the way, however, and the ships followed the other groups back over the Amiens-Glisy airfield. On this mission without incident, they could not even drop their bombs due to the group ahead passing underneath us at the target. Capt. L. G. Cook led the low squadron, followed by Lts. William F. Dooley, Wesley D. Peterson, Reginald L. Robinson and W. D. Jones and their crews.

Capt. Robert D. Stevens, veteran squadron engineering officer, was transferred to the 39th Service Group. Lt. William Widlansky will fill the position in this squadron.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Its Capt. Toy B. Husband from today on out. Among 17 promotions of EM were those of S/Sgts. William B. Plasket, Jr., Harry Gorszyca and Donald W. Dougan to T/Sgts.
- 3 ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE - The second effort to reach Romilly airfield within four days succeeded, and bombs were dropped through clouds on the basis of a Gee fix, and calculations made on the run up when the aiming point was still visible. While this made for uncertain bombing, the raid in other respects was satisfactory, with no casualties in the squadron. Capt. George Paris' and Lt. W. D. Jones' ships were well peppered with flak, but enemy fighters were held off by our P-47s, except for a short period beyond their range near the target. T/Sgt. William L. Utley, top turret, got the chance to blow up an FW 190 which came in too close. Lts. George Goris, Wesley D. Peterson, William F. Dooley and W. D. Jones and their crews made up the rest of the formation.
- A new crew joined the squadron: 2nd Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, Joseph J. Zardin, Jr., Henry Zaborsky and Leonard P. Blatnica; T/Sgts. Travis P. Powell and Joseph J. Zarriello; S/Sgts. Douglas C. Wright, Francis A. Weitzel, James W. Carroll and Richard E. Litherland.
- 5 Lt. Edgar Hallman, adjutant, promoted to captain. Capt. Toy B. Husband transferred to Group as assistant operations officer.
- 6 STUTTGART - The squadron's turn to lead came up again on another haul to the limit of our range, in Southern Germany. Our crews made the run to the target area without serious fighter opposition, but found the factories covered with clouds, and swung immediately for home, bombing the small town of Achern before crossing the Rhine, en route. The toughest break for the squadron since 21 May was the loss of Lt. Wesley D. Peterson's crew north of Paris where they bailed out because of lack of gas. Our first loss in 26 missions was hard, particularly for such a reason, but everyone is hopeful that some of them will get away. Col. George L. Robinson and Capt. L. G. Cook were in the cockpit of the lead ship, with Lts. Maynard D. Dix and Stanley Silverstein again in the nose. Lt. James H. Harrison kept an eye on the formation from the tail position. Capt. George Paris and his crew landed away due to fuel shortage. Lt. W. D. Jones was forced to return at Amiens when one engine went out. Lts. George Goris and William Dooley made up the rest of the formation. The missing crew is:
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| 2nd Lt. Wesley D. Peterson | T/Sgt. William B. Utley |
| 2nd Lt. Edward L. Maslanka | Sgt. Frederick H. Huntzinger |
| 2nd Lt. Donald E. Phillips | S/Sgt. George S. Monser |
| 1st Lt. August Winters | Sgt. William E. Scott, Jr. |
| S/Sgt. William L. Plaskett | S/Sgt. Douglas G. Wright |
- 7 BRUSSELS - The airfield of Evere, coming up again as a target, turned out to be a "piece of cake", much appreciated by our four

SEPTEMBER (con't)

- crews who took part. Bombing was rather wide of the field, but fighter support was excellent, the P-47s hovering close and chasing off what FW 190s appeared. The men on the flak guns did very poorly, and indeed the only "Hot News" of the day was reported as "No flak on the bomb run!" Some Dutchmen in the woods near Flushing did very well in flashing the "V" for victory signal to our crews, who gave them the flash back. Lt. Joseph Belser led with Lts. William F. Dooley and Robert W. Shingler on his wings, and Lt. W. D. Jones in the second element.
- 8 2nd Lts. Andrew Bycott, Carl W. Holmes, Stanley Silverstein and Raymond L. Slater were promoted to 1st Lts.
- 9 LILLE - Today's raid was a far cry from the squadron's first-- exactly 11 months earlier at the same French town--for today our crews, again flying low squadron, saw little flak, saw E/A overpowered by our P-47s, saw other air fields smoking all along the route from simultaneous attacks of other Combat Wings, and saw still other airfields heavily plowed up by the month's attacks. It is striking to recall that eleven months ago we could mount but one attack, with a maximum of four groups. Today, our Group fell for a dummy target--probably for the first time--one located within about three miles of our intended target. The real one can be easily taken care of another day, so there's no great loss. Lts. Joseph Belser, Robert W. Shingler, Reginald L. Robinson, W. D. Jones and William F. Dooley flew, while Lt. William Katz made his first trip as a 368th pilot.
- 15 ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE - For this successful return attack on Romilly air field, the 368th supplied only one ship, flown by Lt. W. D. Jones and his crew. Three of the six hangars allotted were hit.
- 2nd Lts. George Arnold, George Goris, James T. Harrison, William Katz, W. D. Jones, Beverly Lamb, Coyle Logue, Roy Ranck, Joseph Ryan, Alfred E. Simmen and Wylie W. Swapp became 1st. Lts. F/O Saxe Mowers was promoted to 2nd Lt., and 1st Lt. Alfred W. Weld was promoted to captain.
- 16 NANTES - Center of attack for Bomber Command now shifted to the west side of France from the northeast, our own particular target being a submarine "mother ship" at dock in the Loire River off Nantes. Finding cloud and smoke screen over the river, our Group, in which Lts. William F. Dooley and W. D. Jones of the 368th flew, chose to drop on the Chateau Bougon arfield, which was in the clear. This attack was effective. Lt. Jones and his crew flew through the target and all the way back on three engines, finally landing in Southern England on only two engines.
- For the remainder of this week a series of briefings, mostly aimed at catching the same "mother ship" at Nantes, were run off, but our planes never flew outside of England.
- 23 NANTES - This time our Squadron, leading the Group, was able to do

SEPTEMBER (con't)

some real damage to the docks at the target, though the submarine "mother ship" at Nantes was again hidden by smoke. It was a long pull with 6000 pounds of bombs. Capt. George Paris led with Lts. Maynard Dix and Raymond Slater finding the target, and Lt. Eduardo Montoya putting our bombs down with professional accuracy. Lts. William F. Dooley and Oleron Linn went along, while both Lts. William Nally and Paul Paulsen took off on their first missions as first pilots. Lt. Paulsen had a tough break when his No. 2 engine gave out and he had to abort.

27

EMDEN - This raid was highly significant as being our first attempt to beat overcast and smoke screen by bombing "target unseen" on Pathfinder navigation. Bombing was scattered, as the Pathfinder's falres were first seen over the IP and no one was quite sure when to let go. The P-47s did their usual fine job. Lts. Roy Ranck and George Goris flew their first mission as first pilots. Lt. Joseph Belser led the squadron, which again flew low, followed by Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, Reginald L. Robinson and William Katz. Nickels were tossed out by one of our crews. All came home safely.

During the latter part of the month the promotions of 2nd Lts. Frank E. Bullard, Eduardo Montoya, William Nally, Harry Urman and John L. Voehringer to 1st Lts., all came through.

OCTOBER

- 1 1st Lt. Joseph Belser received the flight leader's rank of Captain, while 1st Lt. Maynard Dix, as squadron navigator, also became a captain. The promotion of S/Sgt. Jerome F. DuFour to T/Sgt. led the list of 25 promotions of enlisted men.
- 2 EMDEN - In a smooth PFF return trip to this target, six of our crews flew as high squadron, while our Group led the Combat Wing. The bombs disappeared in 10/10ths clouds. The enemy put up little opposition of any kind and all our a/c came back safely, including Lt. William F. Dooley, who was celebrating his 25th. Capt. Joseph Belser and Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, Reginald L. Robinson, Roy Ranck and William Nally also made the trip with their crews.
- 4 FRANKFURT - The 368th's turn to lead the entire First Bomb Division to the target came today, and our lead crew, Capt. George Paris as pilot, Col. Budd Peaslee of 40th Combat Wing as air commander, and Capt. Maynard Dix, Lt. Stanley Silverstein and Lt. Carl W. Holmes in the nose, led the force straight over the center of the VDM Propellor Works at Frankfurt. While our own bombs were a shade short, the path was marked out for the groups following to get on the target proper, and there is the extra satisfaction of hitting the very airplane parts that make it possible for the FW 190s and Messerschmitts to get into the air. P-47s gave protection where it was needed most, up to the target. After "bombs away" enemy singles and twins were thick for three-quarters of an hour.
- Three of the four Group claims of the day fell to the guns of our squadron. S/Sgt. Steven J. Krisko and Sgt. William J. Meade both knocked FW 190s down. Meanwhile, the gunners of Lt. Paul Paulsen's crew, which was forced to turn back because of a runaway prop just before the target, were throwing lead out as they dove for the cloud cover at 2,000 feet, and another FW 190 fell to T/Sgt. Travis F. Powell in the top turret. All of our crews came back safely. Lts Roy Ranck, William Nally, William Katz and George Goris and their crews also made the trip.
- 6 As of today, 1st Lts. Stanley Silverstein and William Widlansky are captains, and 2nd Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, Leonard Blatnica, Henry Zaborsky and Joseph Zardin are promoted to 1st Lts.
- 8 BREMEN - The enemy made a violent effort to stop our crews on this vital target, but the bombs went down square on the center of town just the same. Bombing was visual. T/E fighters threw rockets in large numbers, then desperately flew back and forth across the front of the Group in an attempt to throw the bombardiers off on the bombing run. The squadron flew low, with Lts. William Katz, Roy Ranck, Oleron Linn, William Nally, Joseph Gay and Paul F. Paulsen as pilots. Lt. John L. Voehringer, navigator in the nose of Lt. Linn's plane, was killed by a .30 cal bullet from an ME 109, which Lt. Joseph P. Ryan, bombardier on the same plane, succeeded in setting on fire.

- OCTOBER (con't) S/Sgt. Bernard J. Nitti was wounded, while Lt. Norman J. Sansom, flying with a 423rd crew on this mission, was MIA. Our gunners destroyed five enemy fighters: credited to Lt. Leonard F. Blatnica, T/Sgt. James K. Herman and T/Sgt. Travis F. Powell, while S/Sgt. Richard W. Litherland got two with his ball turret guns. Four probables were accounted for by S/Sgt. William D. Barton, S/Sgt. Othal Woodall and T/Sgt. Paul F. Hughes and a damaged to S/Sgt. Marshall E. McDaniel.
- 9 GDYNIA - An early and memorable briefing opened by Maj. Robert C. Willism, group operations officer, observing that if there were any doctors in the house they'd better stay to revive anyone who fainted when the screen was rolled up on the map. No one did faint, but everyone took a pretty deep breath! The three-pronged attack laid out for Gdynia, Marienburg and Anklam was far and away the most daring project yet undertaken by our crews in England. Half the German fleet lying supposedly out of range in a harbor in Poland was a challenge, and a tempting one, to our five crews, piloted by Lt. L. G. Cook, and Lts. Joseph Gay, Paul F. Paulsen, William Katz, and Roy C. Ranck.
- The long trip started with an unusually low and really breathtaking rendezvous directly over our field, as the 40th Combat Wing fell into formation with our own. While heavy smoke screens covered the target, our bombs dropped on estimated positions, did serious damage to the docks. Someone hit the big liner Stuttgart, which was next day observed in photographs being towed out of the harbor. Somewhere on the long trip back, Lt. Ranck and his crew were missing, a sad loss for the squadron. Missing were:
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| 1st Lt. Roy C. Ranck | S/Sgt. Harry A. Hall |
| 2nd Lt. Miles C. McCormack | Sgt. Henry J. Kozier |
| 2nd Lt. Carl A. Grosebeck | Sgt. Douglas R. Farris |
| 2nd Lt. William C. Hewitt | S/Sgt. Fred H. Nabors |
| T/Sgt. William J. Skahan | S/Sgt. William D. Barton |
- 10 COESFELD - Leading the group on this raid, which had Munster for the primary target, the squadron put six ships in the air. Capt. Joseph Belser was leading, with Lts. Alfred Simmen and Eduardo Montoya as lead navigator and bombardier, respectively. Lts. William Nally, J. Bruce McMahon, George Goris, Joseph Gay, J. P. Noack and their crews followed. Led by the 92nd Group, the crews dropped their bombs on a target of opportunity, the RR junction at Coesfeld, with good effect, and came home safely after a rather uneventful mission.
- 11 1st Lts. Carl W. Holmes and Beverly R. Lamb, having finished "The Grand Tour", started for home.
- 12 2nd Lts. Russell Lund and Daniel McCauley joined the squadron.
- 14 SCHWEINFURT - As luck would have it, the sharpest air battle of

- OCTOBER (con't) the war came during a week when it was the "Eager Beaver's" turn to be off operations. The other three squadrons shared in the great raid, whose repercussions on Germany's war industry will unquestionably be great. Without fighter support, they challenged the enemy at its most sensitive spot and got through to the target despite losses.
- 20 Briefed for Duren, in the Ruhr, the squadron flying in low position today, found a solid front inside the Dutch coast and turned back near Haamstedt without bombing, since our crews were carrying incendiaries which would have been comparatively useless on one of the neighboring airfields as a target of opportunity. Capt. L. G. Cook and Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, J. Bruce McMahon, Joseph Gay, Donald Wadley and William Katz and their crews made the trip without incident.
- 22 Joining the squadron were:
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2nd Lt. John M. Kelly | Sgt. William C. Vought |
| 2nd Lt. Charles M. Bayless | Sgt. William C. Christian |
| 2nd Lt. Ted Boswell, Jr. | Sgt. George E. Wallace |
| 2nd Lt. Michael Kalish | Sgt. Alfred E. Peetz |
| S/Sgt. Ernest C. Smartt, Jr. | Sgt. Carl E. Hudson |
- 23 S/Sgt. Sam A. Martak promoted to T/Sgt.
- 27 2nd Lt. Saxe W. Mowers promoted to 1st Lt.
- 1st Lt. Paul F. Paulsen and his entire crew left the squadron to join the Pathfinders, 482nd Bomb Group:
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Lt. Paul F. Paulsen | T/Sgt. Joseph J. Zarriello |
| 1st Lt. Joseph Zardin | S/Sgt. Richard Litherland |
| 1st Lt. Leonard Blatnica | S/Sgt. Francis A. Weitrel |
| 1st Lt. Henry Zaborsky | S/Sgt. James W. Carroll |
| T/Sgt. Travis Powell | Sgt. James E. Arden |

NOVEMBER

1

The following combat men joined the squadron, some being assigned to active crews almost immediately, and other placed temporarily on the reserve list:

2nd Lt. Leland C. Hendershot	Sgt. Joseph Alvarez
2nd Lt. Carl N. Grending	Sgt. Richard L. Kohler
2nd Lt. John A. Strauser	Sgt. Stuart M. Powell
2nd Lt. Ewing Shields III	Sgt. Albert A. Grienpenstroh
2nd Lt. Alfred W. Stillwell	Sgt. Eustasio C. Gonzales
	Sgt. Albert E. Tessier, Jr.
	Sgt. Joseph F. Dunton
	Sgt. Dewitt A. Rockwell, Jr.

As of today, 2nd Lts. Joseph Gay, Myron Dmochowski, Jack Samway, Ivan Glaze, J. Bruce McMahon and W. Dale Reed as 1st Lts.

Capt. Elbert G. Odle, operations officer, attains the (to the rest of us) dizzying rank of major.

3

WILHELMSHAVEN - The loss of two of our crews purely to accident made this a very tough day for the squadron. Somehow, out over the North Sea and headed for Germany, Lt. George Goris' plane, flying lead in our second element, collided with Lt. Donald Wadley's plane, which was in #3 position in our first element and both went down. The missing crews are:

1st Lt. George E. Goris, Jr.	T/Sgt. LeRoy E. Morton
2nd Lt. Kenneth R. Cabe	S/Sgt. LeRoy Haskell
1st Lt. Frank E. Bullard	S/Sgt. Joseph A. Kelch, Jr.
1st Lt. Harry Urman	S/Sgt. William J. Meade
T/Sgt. Walter P. Back	S/Sgt. Howard E. Jordan
1st Lt. Donald L. Wadley	S/Sgt. Randall Little
Flt Lt. Kazimier Kazimiorcruk	S/Sgt. LeRoy M. Stahlman
2nd Lt. Peter Marinos	S/Sgt. Kenneth M. Cameron
2nd Lt. Charles A. Ashman	S/Sgt. Merl E. Dixon
T/Sgt. Santiago M. Cano	Sgt. Michael A. Ravasio

In other respects the raid was an unusually good one. This was almost the first time that PFF bombing had been used over an overcast in daylight. Our other four crews, carrying on over enemy territory of which they could see nothing at all, had a curious feeling dropping their bombs through 10/10ths cloud on what gave no indication of being the target, or any target at all, for that matter, or even of being Germany! All the more gratifying, but still certainly no less mysterious was the PRU report received a couple of days later that submarine shops of the Marine Werft had been hit. The dense cloud appeared to puzzle the enemy's flak gunner beneath it almost as much as his fighters who came up through it. Flak was weak, and thirty-odd fighters which poked their noses up were quickly pounced on by our P-47s first, and next by P-38s, which wrapped themselves around our ships in most protective fashion. Capt. L. G. Cook and Lts. Joseph Gay, William Nally and J. Bruce McMahon brought their crews home safely.

NOVEMBER (con't)

- 4 The following combat personnel joined the squadron:
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2nd Lt. John Gassler | S/Sgt. Anthony S. Cieri |
| 2nd Lt. Carl R. Thompson | S/Sgt. Benjamin S. Mings |
| 2nd Lt. Daniel A. Logan, Jr. | Sgt. David E. Gollaher |
| 2nd Lt. William D. Hughes | Sgt. Roy W. Grothe |
| S/Sgt. David L. Mills | Sgt. Theodore V. Lenoski |
- 5 GELSENKIRCHEN - The squadron, led by "Cookie"! (Capt. L. G. Cook), took the group into the Ruhr flak and brought it all out again. Though our veterans thought Happy Valley had less guns than before, what they did throw up played merrily around the squadron, particularly Lt. William Nally's plane where a piece hit his #1 supercharger and knocked it into the #2 supercharger. Enemy fighters were again thrown off by our P-47s, which having seen the P-38s at Wilhelmshaven, endeavored to snuggle up close—if not quite as close—to our ships as the P-38s do. While the crews dropped on PFF, the target could be seen through the haze. "Cookie" assisted by copilot Coyle Logue, earned the gratitude of the Group by his fine evasive action over the target, turning sharply off and out of the flak. Lt. James T. Harrison and Lt. Alfred Simmen were in the lead team, and the other crews were led by Lts. Joseph Gay, William Katz, J. Bruce McMahon and William Nally.
- 8 Today six of our veterans took off for home, and they will be missed by the squadron: Capt. L. G. Cook, 1st Lts. Coyle Logue, Reginald L. Robinson and Alfred Simmen and T/Sgt. James K. Herman, while S/Sgt. Arthur Jenniges went to a training group to help teach new men.
- 12 Capt. Harold Munal, who has somehow kept the squadron on its feet since Wendover days, was transferred to Group and is now our Group Surgeon.
- 1st Lt. Sam S. McNeeley joined the squadron as assistant S-2, and 1st Lt. James E. McClung, a physician, was assigned to the squadron from Group.
- 13 BREMEN - Lts. William Nally, J. Bruce McMahon, William Katz and Floyd O. Scudder took off in today's weather which became so thick that all were recalled except for two a/c of another 306th squadron which hitched on to other groups and went to Bremen and Flensburg, respectively. Tragic side of the day was the crash in England of Lt. Scudder's plane in the turbulent weather. None of the crew, six of whom had only flown with us since 1 November, survived the crash: 1st Lt. Floyd Scudder, 2nd Lts. Leland G. Hendershot Ewing Shields III and John A. Strauser, T/Sgts. Sam P. Bearden and Harris R. Whitten; S/Sgts. Albert A. Griepenstroh and Charles R. Nicholson, and Sgts. Akbert E. Tessier, Jr., and Eustasio C. Gonzales.

NOVEMBER (con't)

- 14 2nd Lts. Stanley N. Buck and James B. Morrow, and Sgts. Gerard F. Brennan, Richard M. Bowman, Walter A. Townsend and Chester J. Predko, all combat men, joined the squadron.
- 16 KNABEN - Five o'clock briefing revealed a projected trip to Norway. Here was another target for precision bombing only, even more acutely so than Schweinfurt's ball bearings or the Huls rubber plant, and this target had the advantage of being almost undefended by the enemy. The only real hazard was the long North Sea haul, like a Pacific raid, and word that the Royal Navy would cover the course was good to hear. So our crews, piloted by Lts. William Katz, John Gassler, J. Bruce McMahon and William Nally, and making up an extra element behind the Group formation felt pretty good about it all. Finding the molybdenum mine, chief of four mines in the district which gave Germany practically her entire supply, was like spotting a small valley in country as wold as the "Lost World". So the Group made three 360s around the target to be sure of it, then dove the bombs home on the little buildings grouped around the head of the shaft. No fighters or flak to speak of disturbed the carefully executed proceedings of the day, and all our crews came home safely with a highly satisfactory job done and another raid earned.
- 18 S/Sgts. Edgerton D. Ewing, Ernest Smartt and George Monser, and Sgts. DeWitt Rockwell, Charles A. Nichols and William E. Scott, Jr., were promoted to T/Sgts.
- 20 1st Lt. Albert W. Greaves joined the squadron.
- 23 2nd Lt. Robert L. Klawuhn promoted to 1st Lt.
- 26 BREMEN - As this "favorite" target came up again, it looked as if Bremen was turning into this year's milkrun, as St. Nazaire had been last year. PFF planes led the bombing again, as is becoming their custom, while the Eager Beavers flew low squadron. Lt. J. Bruce McMahon and his crew led, with Lts. Francis Hoey, Joseph Gay, William Nally, Carl Grending, John Gassler and W. Dale Reed and their crews filling out the formation. Near Oldenburg, Lt. Hoey peeled off under control. No one could tell whether flak or fighters had damaged his ship, and everyone looked hopefully for him at base. Failing his return, there was at least the very good hope that all the crew had bailed out safely. Our crews found it something of a surprise to actually see enemy territory for a change, though of course the target was blacked out by a cloud. The missing crew was:
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2nd Lt. Francis J. Hoey | Sgt. Robert P. Randall |
| 2nd Lt. John B. Harr | Sgt. William H. Sanford |
| 2nd Lt. Stanley S. Silverman | Sgt. William J. Tremper |
| 2nd Lt. James B. Morrow | Sgt. Gerard F. Brennan |
| S/Sgt. Neil H. Brennan | Sgt. Walter A. Townsend |

NOVEMBER (con't)

During the month the following combat personnel joined the squadron

F/O James Ray Coleman
2nd Lt. Oscar B. Bourn
2nd Lt. Louis Rodriguez
2nd Lt. Donald W. Baltzer
S/Sgt. Rex L. Hayes

S/Sgt. Calvin G. Garrison
Sgt. Wallace Benningfield
Sgt. Oakland V. Bittikofer
Sgt. Fred T. Organ
Sgt. Albert J. Doine

2nd Lt. Philip J. Field
2nd Lt. Clarence J. Crowl
2nd Lt. Charles W. Leake
2nd Lt. Burton C. Gustafson
Sgt. James G. Brownell

Sgt. Roy N. Nupen
Sgt. Karl C. Madsen
Sgt. Hurl N. Millikin
Sgt. Sidney M. Salupsky
Sgt. Bennie L. Jefferies

2nd Lt. Albert F. Rehn
2nd Lt. John C. Wilson
2nd Lt. Donald R. Ross
S/Sgt. James A. Borchers
S/Sgt. Lewis A. Hudgins

S/Sgt. Paul R. Wenrich
Sgt. Ralph W. Milton
Sgt. James K. Adkins
Sgt. Cecil L. Hopkins

2nd Lt. Charles W. Smith
2nd Lt. Merle P. Brown
2nd Lt. Charles L. Stevenson
2nd Lt. Herman F. Allen
Sgt. Carl A. Heuser

Sgt. Victor R. Marcotte
Sgt. Thomas E. Stillson, Jr.
Sgt. Howard C. Granger
Sgt. Donald S. Courson
Sgt. R. B. Trumble

2nd Lt. Floyd H. Brunn
2nd Lt. Clinton D. Swan
2nd Lt. Martin J. McCarthy
F/O George W. Tapper
S/Sgt. Reese E. Phillips

Sgt. John H. Taylor
Sgt. Charles E. Bradley
Sgt. William D. Whitt
Sgt. Frederick R. Shadel
Sgt. Roy L. Wiklund

2nd Lt. Gilbert M. Roeder
2nd Lt. Frank I. Endres
2nd Lt. Mitchell K. Antoon
2nd Lt. Kenneth M. Farrar
S/Sgt. Emery G. Miller

S/Sgt. David R. Mills
Sgt. Harleth M. Haven
Sgt. Edward L. Robinson, Jr.
Sgt. Jesse T. Laningham
Sgt. Ralph A. Sanchez

2nd Lt. Raymond D. Tripp
2nd Lt. Ray C. McDaniel
2nd Lt. Franz E. Tingler
2nd Lt. James H. Laughlin, Jr.
S/Sgt. Eugene J. Nolan

S/Sgt. Raymond J. Manski
S/Sgt. Stanley O. Lesnieski
S/Sgt. Phillip A. Leo
Sgt. Charles L. Hum
Sgt. Eli Goldbarst

DECEMBER

1

LEVERKUSEN- Perhaps the most eventful part of today's PFF raid on this industrial town in the Ruhr was making rendezvous through as violent cumulus clouds as the squadron has flown in. Our former pilot, Capt. George Reese, now a member of the 423rd squadron, had his ship literally torn out of control in a cloud and was forced to bale out all hands. Lts. J. Bruce McMahon, Joseph Gay, John Gassler, W. Dale Reed, Carl Grending, Russell Lund and John M. Kelly flew high squadron, bombed over 10/10ths clouds and came back intact, except that Lt. Reed and his crew landed a rather battered plane out of gas at Framlingham.

1st Lt. Sam S. McNeeley promoted to captain as of 21 Oct.

5

LA ROCHELLE - A mission which promised to be interesting for our squadron, since it was leading not only the Group but the Combat Wing as well, was cut short, as our crews passed the well known town of Nantes, by a solid overcast ahead. So Maj. John M. Regan, 368th C.O., had to swing the whole outfit around and take it back over the long pull north to jettison bombs in mid-Channel. For all France was well covered with clouds, and none of the airfields which house GAF outfits could be found as alternative targets. However, Capt. George Paris, and Lts. Russell Lund, John M. Kelly, John Gassler, W. Dale Reed and J. Bruce McMahon and their crews were glad to have another mission under their belts.

A great event of the past four weeks has been the return to the squadron of five members of Lt. Wesley D. Peterson's crew, which went down in France 6 September. 1st Lt. Edward L. Maslanka, co-pilot, 1st Lt. August Winters, bombardier, T/Sgts. George Monser and William Scott, waist gunners, and tail gunner Sgt. Douglas Wright have shown up one by one, to everyone's great satisfaction. T/Sgt. William Utley, engineer, is expected at any time. Now "Home for Christmas" is the aim of all of them.

2nd Lts. Thomas Brady, Russell Lund and Daniel McCauley were promoted to 1st Lts.

11

EMDEN - Today was the Eager Beaver's turn to stay home, which they did reluctantly, as this was a familiar target and they had the chance to bomb visually for a change.

13

KIEL - The first trip to Kiel since July found the Eager Beavers in the low squadron, low group berth, and this time Lt. W. Dale Reed and his crew drew all the excitement. As the formation crossed the mouth of the Elbe River, the PFF ship had trouble, and the Wing elected to a 360° turn to let the Combat Wing behind take the lead. During this maneuver the Germans tossed up a piece of flak which caught 782's No. 4 engine and the ship immediately began to fall back. While the squadron and Lt. Gay, flying in the Composite Group, carried on to bomb through the solid overcast and return to base without further incident, Lt. Reed elected to follow and bomb alone, no mean venture over Germany's great naval base. Subse-

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quently, he and his crew crossed Denmark, losing altitude 'til a JU 88 engaged them in a rare duel which forced them to dive to cloud cover at 4,000 feet with one engine on fire. The enemy found them again, however, only to be out maneuvered and raked by the bombardier, Lt. Herman F. Allen, the top turret, Sgt. Carl Heuser, and the left waist gunner, Sgt. Donald Courson, as the 88 crossed 782's nose and down her left side. Having thus disposed of the JU 88 by setting both her engines on fire, our crew next took on a convoy single-handed at deck level, then finding no further opposition. the boys threw guns, ammunition and everything handy overboard to lighten the ship—and turned up coolly at base without a single injury.

Lts. J. Bruce McMahon, John Gassler, Russell Lund, John M. Kelly, and Joseph Gay also made the trip with their crews, while Lt. Albert Rehn had bad luck in breaking a propellor shaft and being forced back early.

2nd Lt. Guillermo A. Perez, copilot, joined the squadron.

15 2nd Lts. Charles Bayless, Ted Boswell, Michael Kalish and John M. Kelly made 1st Lts, while S/Sgts. Anthony Cieri, Rex L. Hayes, James G. Brownell, Paul Wenrich and David Mills, and Sgts. Carl Heuser, Joseph F. Dunten and Joseph Alvarez became T/Sgts.

20 BREMEN - Back on the milk-run, the squadron led the Group, with Lt. Col. William S. Raper and Capt. Joseph Belser flying in the lead a/c, and Lts. Jack Samway, Michael Kalish and Eduardo Montoya filling out the lead team. Lts. William Katz, James Ray Coleman, and Philip Field and their crews completed the mission, while an unusual amount of hard luck hit the squadron, forcing Lts. Joseph Gay, Russell Lund and Robert Gerald to turn back. 2/10ths clouds gave Lt. Montoya a chance to bomb visually, which he took good advantage of, straddling the river with our bombs, and contributing a good bit toward further disabling this target. Capt. George Paris transferred to Group operations. Capt. Stanley Silverstein became assistant operations officer and 1st Lt. Eduardo Montoya, squadron bombardier.

22 OSNABRUCK - The squadron contributed one crew, piloted by Lt. William Katz, to today's mission, which again bombed PFF. Aside from a brief and violent fighter attack, the day was uneventful.

24 "ANDY GUMP" - This special target, just across the Channel, found six crews of Eager Beavers making up the third elements of two of the other three squadrons, which squadrons had the job of finding this tiny target. Lts. J. Bruce McMahon, James Ray Coleman, Philip Fields, W. Dale Reed and Russell Lund made the shuttle trip with their crews, while Lt. Carl Grending turned back with engine trouble.

26 2nd Lts. Carl Grending and Albert Stillwell were promoted to 1st Lts.

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1st Lt. William Katz became captain, and 2nd Lts. John Gassler, William Hughes, Daniel Logan and Carl R. Thompson became 1st Lts.

30

LUDWIGSHAFEN - The I. G. Farbenindustrie gave the squadron a vast and promising target of chemical and oil works to destroy and our seven crews made the most of it. Next day a very gratifying confession was made by the enemy and neutral sources that the big "gas" town had been crippled. This was a tribute to our men, to the PFF navigators who took them in as lead Group and to the best friends a B-17 could have: a P-38 escort which outdid itself. Lts. W. Dale Reed, William Reeder, John Gassler, Joseph Gay, Charles W. Smith and Carl Grending and their crews made the trip over the clouds, while Lts. Robert Gerald and James Ray Coleman were turned back with engine troubles.

31

COGNAC - The Eager Beavers put on a highly professional show today, one of which the squadron can be proud. Briefed for an airfield west of Bordeaux, the Group, led by our squadron, followed the lead of the 305th Group, north of Bordeaux to a point where the 305th accidentally dropped its bombs. Here our lead crew, piloted by Capt. Joseph Belser, with Capt. Toy B. Husband as copilot and Lt. Jack Samway as navigator, requested and got permission to bomb Cognac airfield, an alternate target which they could see off to the left. They then led the Group and the 92nd Group to Cognac where Capt. Stanley Silverstein, observing the north part of the buildings to be hit already by some other group, and black smoke rolling out, planted our bombs across the southern dispersal area where they would do the most good. Then the Group fell into CBW formation again and returned home, untroubled by fighters, except one FW 190, which S/Sgt. Clinton E. Snyder picked off at 800 yards. This fighter was a certain destroyed. Lts. John Gassler, Russell Lund, Joseph Gay, James Ray Coleman, J. Bruce McMahon and Robert Gerald and their crews made the trip.

That night, being New Year's Eve, the squadron celebrated not only a good year but a fine raid on the final day at the Group party, and looks confidently forward to 1944.

JANUARY

3

S/Sgt. Calvin Garrison, and Sgts. Victor Marcotte and Roy N. Nupen were promoted to T/Sgts as of 1 January. Sgt. John C. Lotti was promoted to S/Sgt. as of 1 January.

4

KIEL - The Eager Beavers put up 10 a/c piloted by Capt. Joseph Belser and Lts. J. Bruce McMahon, W. Dale Reed, William Reeder, Carl N. Grending, Floyd Brunn, Charles Berry, Walter Keilt, Robert Eckles and Charles W. Smith for this mission. They flew in the Composite Group in which the 92nd Group supplied six A/C for the high squadron. Capt. Belser was the flight commander in the lead squadron. Other 368th ships filled in the lead and low squadrons, with one PFF accompanying the lead. The Composite acted as lead group for the 40th B CBW. Lts. Grending and Smith returned early with engine troubles. Bombing was PFF as 8/10ths clouds persisted up to the target. Directly over the target was clear, but did not permit visual bombing on approaching. Lt. Reeder's bombardier dropped his bombs on an AA position on the way out as bomb bay doors would not function over the target. No attacks were made by E/A and flak was moderate barrage and tracking, both very inaccurate. Crews relate except for the long haul, the mission was uneventful. All returned safely.

Capt. Joseph Belser, S/Sgts. Joseph G. Mynatt, Marshall E. McDaniel and Leonard Norman became members of the "25 Club" today. 1st Lt. William Nally was promoted to captain, effective 30 December. 1st Lt. Eduardo Montoya, having previously finished his tour, departed for home.

5

KIEL - The 368th supplied seven a/c piloted by Lts. W. Dale Reed, as low squadron leader, John Gassler, Thomas W. Symons III, Philip J. Field, William Reeder, Carl Grending and F/O James Ray Coleman of the 306th who flew high in the composite wing led by the 384th Group of the 41st CBW. Shortly after leaving target area all hell broke loose from about thirty E/A attacking this squadron. Most of the brunt was received by F/O Coleman's ship, which was having difficulty maintaining position and was straggling. Out of these running attacks, three E/A were destroyed; Sgt. Oakland V. Bittikofer, ball turret, both an FW 190 and an ME 109, and Sgt. Albert J. Doine tail gunner, an ME 210. Bombing results were good as strike photos verify. Even though better visual conditions prevailed than the day before, PFF techniques were used and flak also was less intense. Several ground rockets were observed. All a/c returned, with only minor damage.

T/Sgts. David A. Philpot, Jr., and Eldo C. Spangenberg finished their twenty-fifths today.

7

LUDWIGSHAFEN - Eight a/c piloted by Lts. John M. Kelly, lead ship, Gilbert Roeder, Charles W. Smith, Joseph Gay, Oleron Linn, Thomas W. Symons III, Philip J. Field and William Reeder, were dispatched to bomb the I. G. Farbenindustrie, manufacturers of important chemical and dyestuffs. The squadron flew high position of the 306th

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Group, which occupied low position in the 40th CBW formation. Lt. Thomas W. Symons III was dispatched as a spare, but becoming attached to the lead squadron of the 92nd Group continued on to target, releasing all bombs in the area. Cloud formations were 10/10ths over the target and bombs were dropped PFF. Practically no E/A were seen and no attacks were made on this squadron. Crews remarked that friendly escort of P-47s and P-38s was perfect. There were no gaps in escort, friendly fighters actually overlapping at meeting points. Flak was moderate to intense, continuously pointed and barrage; reported as the most accurate encountered on a PFF mission. This was probably due to ground fire being directed by two ME 109s circling the formation at a safe distance. Window was dropped, results unknown. Lt. Gilbert Roeder's a/c, #454, was seriously damaged when flak hit rudder and elevator control cables. All a/c landed safely.

2nd Lts. Herman F. Allen, Donald W. Baltzer, Oscar B. Bourn, Merle P. Brown, Clarence Crowl, Philip Field, Burton Gustafson, Edward Locke, Albert Rehn, Louis Rodriguez, Donald R. Ross, Charles W. Smith, Charles L. Stevenson and John C. Wilson promoted to 1st Lts, effective 2 January.

9 Capt. Joseph Belser departed to the 12th RCD and home. The Eager Beavers will feel the loss of able pilotage, but wish him rest and good luck. Major Edward Miazza promoted to major, effective 1 Jan.

10 2nd Lt. Stanley Buck promoted to 1st Lt., effective 5 January.

11 HALBERSTADT - This is one of those missions when "IT" happens. The ground personnel as well as crews on the mission will long remember the activities of this day. Some of all the hazards and risks possible occurred. The 368th flew lead in the 306th Group, which in turn led the 40th CBW. Nine a/c were dispatched. Our Col. George L. Robinson was the wing commander, and with him were: Lts. Charles W. Smith, W. Dale Reed, Merle P. Brown, Raymond L. Tripp and F/O James Ray Coleman. Lt. Carl N. Grending flew with the 306th Composite Group. Lt. Joseph Gay returned early due to failure of his No. 1 supercharger.

There was a solid overcast over the continent to the south of the route. Our formation flew along the edge of the overcast with good visibility to the north. It was clear at the IP and bombing was visual. Very little flak was encountered on the way in or out, and none over the target.

About one hour and ten minutes after leaving the target 30 to 35 FW 190s made desperate attacks on the 306th, which was now flying alone. E/A repeatedly attacked in waves of four. At the start of the attack there were 19 a/c in our formation. Seven and one-half minutes later only eleven were visible. The attacks were terrifying. However, two of the eight ships made it to England by evasive action and excellent piloting. The accompanying PFF a/c had its tail shot off in the first attack wave. Eight chutes came out. The

JANUARY (con't)

one a/c of this squadron, Lt. W. Dale Reed's, is missing. The fighter attacks continued intermittently for two hours. No friendly fighter escort was seen at all. This was probably due to the recall of some of the bomb divisions. Only one 368th a/c escaped damage. Five of the ships received serious damage, including Col. Robinson's. It was further observed that enemy-manned Allied a/c were along the route observing. Some were B-17s and others appeared to be RAF Spitfires. E/A dropped parachute bombs and ground rockets were seen along with bursting flak from nearby cities en route. After weathering the storm of attacks over the continent, the remaining ships learned on approaching England that the home field was socked in.

With darkness creeping up, time and fuel were all important. Landings were made at Hethel (2nd Division) by Lts. Smith and Grending. Col. Robinson, with Lt. Russell Lund as copilot, and Lts. Brunn, Tripp and F/O Coleman landed at RAF Foulsham. The Group S-2, Major John Bairnsfather and assistants, Capt. Wiley Glass, Beekman Pool, Sam S. McNeeley and Rudolph Skalak and Lt. W. Dixon Hogg on learning the whereabouts of our ships started at once for destinations and interrogations. After driving well into the night, part of the crews were reached, and the remainder the next day at Foulsham. Weather being unfavorable for takeoff, all ships were grounded and another night was spent with the RAF, who really extended themselves to make all comfortable and inebriated. But, our master of ceremonies, Capt. Maynard Dix assisted, quite ably by endmen Lts. Lund and Buck returned all courtesies by leading some of the most pertinent singing and gestures imaginable. All in all, it is believed that the most cordial relations were established between the Eager Beavers and the RAF. The next day the flights to home base were quick and uneventful.

Missing in action were:

1st Lt. W. Dale Reed, pilot	T/Sgt. Orian G. Owens, engineer
1st Lt. Thomas J. Brady, copilot	S/Sgt. Joseph G. O'Connell, bt
1st Lt. Ivan E. Glaze, navigator	S/Sgt. Albert C. Schaeffler, r
1st Lt. Myron J. Dmochowski, bomb	S/Sgt. John J. Gemborski, lw
S/Sgt. Charles A. Nichols, radio	S/Sgt. Warren W. Cole, tail

2nd Lt. Charles L. Stevenson, navigator for Lt. Smith, was KIA.

Capt. Stanley Silverstein finished his 25th today.

E/A score for the day:

	Destroyed	Probable	Damaged	No Claim
Sgt. Charles L. Hum, tg			X	
Sgt. Albert J. Doine, tg		X		
S/Sgt. Clinton E. Snyder, lw	X			
1st Lt. Donald W. Baltzer, B	X			
S/Sgt. Ralph N. Milton, bt			X	
Sgt. Cecil L. Hopkins, tg			X	
T/Sgt. Calvin G. Garrison, ro				X
1st Lt. Stanley N. Buck, tg		X		

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1st Lt. Louis Rodriguez, N				X
S/Sgt. Clinton E. Snyder, lw				X
Sgt. Raymond J. Kristoff, bt	X			
S/Sgt. Paul R. Ward, eng	X			
	4	2	5	1

- 13 SQUADRON PARTY - This mission required very little briefing and no operational plans. The Eager Beavers, having long ago perfected infallible navigational aids, including SOP on blind staggering from taxi stations to the set down, successfully gave their all to complete the run top-side-up. Highlights of the evening were the presentation of the floor show by MC, Herschel Ezell, and the candle-smoking of the ceiling by Col. George L. Robinson, celebrating the 100th combat mission completed by the 306th Group—11 January 1944 to Halberstadt, Germany. Minute details of the party are not available, but everyone appeared to escape serious damage except for a few pieces of furniture, which seemed to have disintegrated from unknown causes. It has since been proposed that no further squadron parties be given unless officers eating in A Mess would be willing to chance having meals served in the yard. "I don't get it!" The usual pep and morale instilling songs were rendered along with "Salomi" giving a little British coloring.
- 14 PAS DE CALAIS - Nine a/c of this squadron piloted by Lts. John M. Kelly, Thomas W. Symons III, John Gassler, Carl N. Grending, Joseph Gay, Philip Field, Russell Lund, Walter Keilt and William Reeder took off and bombed today's target. Targets in this area are known also as Crossbow and Noball, reported to be emplacements for the so-called Nazi rocket guns to be used in shelling England, particularly London, from across Channel. Returning crews describe this short haul as a "piece of cake" or "milk run". No enemy air opposition was encountered and no enemy AA fire was directed on squadron or group. Friendly support consisted of making a protected corridor. Today's target, No. 94, has been aptly described by Maj. John Bairnsfather, Group S-2, as the "Andy Gump", noting a striking resemblance in shape to the head of the famous cartoon character. Maj. John M. Regan, 368th C.O., pointed out the highlights of the mission and laid special emphasis on the bombing formation, which was done by squadrons, a departure from the usual procedure. The 368th made three runs over the MPI in order to get good bombing results. All reports indicate a successful mission without damage to a/c or crew members. 1st Lt. Herschel F. Ezell chalked up "25" today, also, T/Sgt. Robert L. Long.
- 20 Maj. John M. Regan, squadron commander, was promoted to Lt.Col. effective 16 January. It is well deserved in recognition of his able leadership and many congratulations were forthcoming, finally ending up with a "sweep" to Lucon and a voice hardly above a whisper. May the colonel's future be equally successful and enjoyable.

JANUARY (con't)

- 21 PAS DE CALAIS - The 306th was called upon to furnish two striking forces, A and B, composed of two squadrons of nine a/c each to bomb specified targets on the "rocket coast". The 368th supplied thirteen a/c, of which four were assigned to Force A and the remainder to B. Maj. Maurice Salada, 423rd operations officer, and Lt. Col. Robert C. Williams, Group operations officer, were leaders of A and B, respectively. Lts. Oleron Linn, Robert Ehrler, Floyd Brunn, John Gassler, Gilbert Roeder, Carl Grending, Charles W. Smith, Philip Field, Thomas W. Symons III, Walter Keilt and Russell Lund made the trip, which turned out to be a dry run. No bombs were dropped. Targets were identified, but due to cloud formations persisting around, target vision for a bomb run was not possible. Several runs which were made over the target in an effort to drop came to naught. So intent to find an opening, Maj. Salada made a second trip back to the target area after having come out in the Channel, and this is no area in which to joy ride. Lts. Linn, Brunn, Gassler and Smith were in this Force. After failing to get a satisfactory bomb run all a/c returned to base. Lt. Reeder failed to take off because of a starter malfunction. Lt. Raymond L. Tripp returned early before having joined the formation when he lost No. 2 engine with a burst piston head. Fighter support was perfect and flak only meager. No e/a opposition. No runs, no hits, no errors!
- S/Sgt. Lynn W. Northcott finished the long hard trail of 25 today. Lt. Lt. Richard L. Moore appointed squadron physical training officer.
- 23 1st Lt. Oleron S. Linn appointed D Flight commander. T/Sgt. Robert L. Long commissioned 2nd Lt. Good show and congratulations.
- 24 FRANKFURT (recalled) - The 368th supplied 13 a/c for today's mission and flew two squadrons in the 306th B Group. Capt. William Katz headed the lead squadron, including Lts. Philip Field, Albert Rehn, Carl Grending, Floyd Brunn, Walter Keilt and J. Bruce McMahon. The low squadron was composed of Lt. John M. Kelly, leading, and Lts. Robert Ehrler, Thomas W. Symons III, Gilbert Roeder, William Reeder and F/O James Ray Coleman. Lt. Brunn returned early with No. 4 engine out. Lt. McMahon returned after, first delayed at takeoff by changing a/c, and then missing group rendezvous and losing No. 4 engine. Considerable difficulty was experienced at assembly due to low clouds and an attempt to climb through the overcast in formation failed, so that wing formations really never did get together. Crews described this part of the mission as very rugged with planes everywhere. Weather closing in at bases caused the recall. The Group turned back at 51°30'N-02°30'E, at 1025 at 23000 feet.
- 25 Lt. Raymond L. Tripp and Lt. Ira L. Gordon promoted to 1st Lts, effective 20 January.
- 26 The highlight of the day was the return of T/Sgt. William L. Utley from an extended trip to Stuttgart, Germany, 6 Sep 43. He is the sixth member of Lt. Wesley D. Peterson's crew to come back the hard way. It's great to have him back.

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- 27 2nd Lts. Robert F. Proctor, Robert H. Ehrler, Howard Harmston, Robert G. Jobe, Walter Keilt, Thomas W. Symons III, Gilbert C. Tatman and John R. Wempe promoted to 1st Lts, as of 23 January.
- 28 2nd Lts. Mitchell Antoon, Floyd Brunn, Frank I. Endres, Kenneth M. Farrer, Charles Fontane, Martin McCarthy, William Reeder, Gilbert Roeder, Clinton Swan and Franz Ed Tingler promoted to 1st Lts, effective 20 January.
- 29 FRANKFURT - Continuing the increased tempo of activity, the squadron supplied 13 a/c for this mission, and flew as lead and low squadrons of low group, 40th B CBW. Capt. William Katz headed up the lead squadron, along with Lts. Russell Lund, Albert Rehn, John Gassler, Raymond L. Tripp, Robert Ehrler and Robert Gerald. Low squadron was led by Lt. John M. Kelly, followed by Lts. Charles W. Smith, Thomas W. Symons III, Philip Field, William Reeder and Floyd Brunn. Brunn returned early after having reached the vicinity of Liege when #4 supercharger failed. Bombs were released on PFF planes with good concentration, but strikes were unobtainable due to 10/10ths undercast. Flak varied from meagre to moderate and fairly accurate. The ship piloted by Lt. Gassler received severe damage to its vertical fin and rudder by .50 cal fire. Lt. Rehn's plane also received severe damage from flak which hit the right outer wing. Several others received slight damage from flak and empty shell cases. During the gap between escort just before bombs away, and again about 15 minutes after the target, enemy fighters attacked with rockets and machine gun fire. The squadron led the score today with four of the five destroyed, one probable and one damaged. Sgt. Albert J. Doine, Sgt. David Burger, Sgt. Oakland V. Bittikofer and S/Sgt. Benjamin B. Ferns were credited with e/a destroyed. Sgt. Julius C. Parrish had a probable, and Sgt. Bittikofer was also credited with a damaged.
- Capt. Maynard D. Dix chalked up his 25th, and the entire squadron regrets the loss of its No. 1 navigator and master of ceremonies, "Dixie".
- It's Purple Heart medals again for Sgts. Harvey E. Easterly, Jack E. Crumbley, Alphonse V. Lerl and Hurl N. Millikin, who were seriously wounded in action today.
- 30 BRUNSWICK - Ten a/c of the squadron took off for today's mission and flew as high group in the 40th B CBW. Lts. John M. Kelly, Charles W. Smith, Raymond L. Tripp, Carl N. Grending, William Reeder, Floyd Brunn and John Gassler flew as the high squadron. Bombing was done on PFF flares through 10/10ths clouds and was considerably hampered by one of the worst contrail conditions yet experienced. Visibility at target was so poor, a/c were not able to hold formations. Considerable "sweating out" took place. Flak was meagre and inaccurate. Fighter support was good and there was very little E/A activity. All a/c returned safely.

JANUARY (con't)

31

Although the squadron participated in nine missions, one of which was recalled, this month many briefings were held and scrubbed when adverse and severe weather conditions prohibited activity.

Missions were briefed on the following targets and scrubbed:

3 Jan	Leverkusen
15	Gotha
18	Frankfurt
19	Crossbow-NW France
20	Crossbow
26	Crossbow
	Frankfurt
31	Frankfurt
	Ludwigshafen

With the driving impetus of the new USSTAF under Generals Toohey Spaatz and James Doolittle, even greater action is anticipated during the coming months.

FEBRUARY

- 1 2nd Lts. Rene Fix, John W. James, Jr., and Alden Maynes promoted to 1st Lts. and S/Sgts. Lester F. Carter, Warren W. Cole, James R. Borchers, Jay L. Hurley, Richard L. Kohler, Paul R. Ward and Robert O. Woodruff to T/Sgts.
- 3 WILHELMSHAVEN - Eleven Eager Beaver crews made up the major part of the 306th's lead group today, forming the entire low squadron and the major part of the high squadron. Our crews found the mission routine, with bombing on PFF, no E/A and no damage to any of our planes. Results of the attack could not be seen through the undercast. Lts. Russell Lund, Floyd Brunn, Walter Keilt, Oleron Linn, Robert Ehrler, John Gassler, William Reeder, John M. Kelly, Raymond L. Tripp, Charles W. Smith and Thomas W. Symons III and their crews made the trip.
- 4 FRANKFURT - For another day to an old target the squadron put 10 planes in the air, with Capt. William Nally leading the Low Group, followed by Lts. Robert Ehrler, Oleron Linn, John Gassler, Floyd Brunn, Walter Keilt and William Reeder in the lead squadron, and Lt. Joseph Gay, Raymond L. Tripp and Thomas W. Symons III forming the second element of the high squadron. It was PFF again. Lots of flak in the sky but only two of our planes caught any, and that not serious. Unable to find the 40th CBW at rendezvous, Capt. Nally and his alert lead team made the most of any other combat wings they could pick up on the way and brought everyone home safely.
- 5 CHATEAUDUN - Today's effort was a completely satisfactory one. Not only could our seven crews bomb the target visually for a change, but they could also see their bombs blanket the buildings at the north corner of the airfield, our exact aiming point. Here was a direct answer to Goering's boys that had taken to bombing London again, for this was the very airfield on which many of them were based for their raids. Lt. Philip Field led our formation flying high squadron, followed by Lts. Charles W. Smith, Floyd Brunn, John Gassler, Thomas W. Symons III, William Reeder and Walter Keilt, and had no trouble with fighters. We did intercept some rather neatly laid flak at the target. Lt. Gassler's plane got the biggest share of it but no one was hurt.
- 6 T/Sgt. William Utley, our sixth man back from France from Lt. Wesley Peterson's crew, went home.
NANCY - The 368th led the low group in a wide sweep over France, in which malfunction of the PFF and heavy clouds made bombing impossible, and all came home without incident.
- 8 FRANKFURT - The squadron supplied a plane, but took no other part in another PFF attack on this target. Our plane, #406, was flown by a 369th crew.
- 10 S/Sgts. Emory G. Miller, Reese E. Phillips, Oscar V. Ellison, John W. Taylor, Stanley O. Lesnieski, Henry J. Larwig, David O. Mills

FEBRUARY (con't)

and George J. Allen were promoted to T/Sgts.

- 11 FRANKFURT - Again, the Group went over the same target, with the Beavers taking part this time. Lts. John M. Kelly, Albert Rehn, Raymond L. Tripp, Joseph Gay, Gilbert Roeder, Robert Ehrler and James Ray Coleman and their crews flew the route over overcast and bombed an unidentified town in the Ruhr when PFF failed to find the primary.
- 20 LEIPZIG - When the curtain rolled up on the briefing map early this morning our crews could see at a glance that an ambitious operation was in prospect. And it soon became clear that not only our primary, 80 odd miles south of Berlin, but also that the effort of the entire Bomber Command was aimed at leading aircraft factories all over Northern Germany.
- Here was the beginning of our great plan to drive German planes out of the sky. First to crush her factories--. Our own Eager Beavers had their splended share in the visual attack on the Erla ME 109 factory, and the satisfaction of causing a great, black cloud to rise out of the assembly plant. In fact, no more satisfactory target could be imagined for a bomber crew than an ME 109 factory. Aside from that, the Beavers led the Group on this day. Lts. J. Bruce McMahon and Russell Lund were in the lead plane's cockpit with Lts. Albert Stilwell and Daniel Logan in the nose to complete the lead team. Our other crews were piloted by Lts. Gilbert Roeder, Oleron Linn, John Gassler, Thomas W. Symons III, Walter Keilt and James Ray Coleman in the lead squadron. Lt. John M. Kelly led the high squadron, following by Lts. Floyd Brunn, Raymond L. Tripp and William Reeder.
- From Magdeburg to the target, our crews found a "channel" in the clouds through which they could see the ground and do dead reckoning navigation to the target. Over Leipzig they saw smoke from the RAF's work of the night before. All came home safely, assisted by the biggest fighter escort yet put up.
- 21 HOPSTEN (LIPPSTADT) - The day after the great attack on A/C factories, clouds prevented our crews getting to the primary, and an airfield at Hopsten was bombed instead. Lts. John Gassler, Gilbert Roeder, Carl R. Thompson, William Reeder, Robert Ehrler, Charles W. Smith and Robert Gerald made up the high squadron.
- 22 BERNBERG - The Beavers today had the biggest battle on their hands since Halberstadt. They made the most of it. The big airfield's hangars were decisively hit, and so were some E/A that tried to stop our crews. As if this wasn't enough, the battle home forced the formations up over severe flak in the Ruhr and Holland. In this struggle, Lt. Thomas W. Symons III was knocked out of the hole position, though no one is certain just how he and his crew made out after that. Capt. William Nally led the low Group, followed by Lts. Walter Keilt, Oleron Linn, William Reeder, Floyd Brunn and Symons.

Squadron Diary
368th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
1944

FEBRUARY (con't)

With Lt. John Gassler leading, Lts. Robert Ehrler, Raymond L. Tripp and Charles W. Smith flew in the high squadron. T/Sgt. Emory G. Miller and S/Sgts. Paul J. Pratt both destroyed ME 109s during the violent attack en route to the target. F/O George W. Tapper set fire to an FW 190 (probable) and S/Sgt. James D. Adkins, T/Sgt. Joseph F. Dunten, T/ Sgt. Anthony S Cieri, and Sgt. David W. Johns all damaged single engined fighters. Lt. Gilbert Roeder and crew had a particularly lively trip back home on the deck with two engines running and 70-odd flak holes in the ship. The missing crew was:

Lt. Thomas W. Symons III	T/Sgt. Robert L. Woodruff
1st Lt. John R. Wempe	S/Sgt. Julius G. Parrish
1st Lt. Robert C. Jobe	S/Sgt. Joseph P. Fiddes
1st Lt. Robert F. Proctor	S/Sgt. Hayden M. Collier
T/Sgt. Oscar W. Ellison	S/Sgt. Albert J. Doine

23 2nd Lt. Ray C. McDaniel promoted to 1st Lt., as of 13 February.

24 SCHWEINFURT - The campaign on a grand scale continues. Again the objective is one to put out crews "on the ball." For these Schweinfurt bearings are the ones that made the German war machine roll and that gets its fighters into the air. Great was the squadron's responsibility today, for our crews were assigned the job of leading the entire mission to this foremost of all enemy targets. Thirty-odd ME 109s hit head on, and relentlessly, after the Group had passed Linden, in an effort to crack the leadership. Though both high and low squadron leaders were knocked out, the Group kept on, with the Beavers leading, never deviating from the exact briefed course. In the combat, S/Sgt. Philip D. Vaught, ball turret in 363 set fire to an ME 109 which attacked close underneath. Yells of "you got him" came over the interphone from the tail gunner, who saw the E/A go down in flames. One of our old squadron pilots, Lt. Col. William S. Raper, flew our lead plane with Lt. Carl R. Grending, while Maj. James S. Cheney, group navigator, and our Lt. Daniel Logan, did the honors in the nose. Lts. John Gassler, Charles W. Smith, William Reeder and Raymond Tripp and their crews followed. The boys made a second run over Schweinfurt, of all places, so determined were they to hit the target, and picked up lots of flak in this maneuver. However, all came home safely.

25 AUGSBURG - The relentless seeking out of Hitler's pet air factories continues. This time it is his leading ME 410 plant, and again it is "way the hell down South" Germany. The attack is faultless. A huge cloud rises jet black against the snow covered airfield as the assembly plants were shattered. Today the 368th made a great sacrifice to do it, and it can be very proud of the results of the raid. Flying low squadron, our crews are set upon by ME 109s out of the sun, right after being dragged through the Saarbrucken flak. It is a clever move by enemy fighters. Lt. James Ray Coleman and his crew are knocked out of the No. 2 position, second element, high squadron. Lt. Joseph Gay and Lt. Charles Bayless are then forced out of the low.

FEBRUARY (con't)

Many chutes are reported out of all three a/c. Lts. Philip Field, Gilbert Roeder and Charles W. Smith were left to carry on with the Group. There was great relief when P-38s pulled up along side about 1330 hours. The missing crews are:

1st. Lt. Charles M. Bayless	T/Sgt. George W. Wallace
1st. Lt. Clarence J. Crowl	S/Sgt. William E. Vought
1st. Lt. Michael Kalish	S/Sgt. Carl E. Hudson
2nd Lt. James H. Laughlin	S/Sgt. Kenneth E. Willey
S/Sgt. Raymond J. Manski	S/Sgt. William C. Christian

F/O James Ray Coleman	T/Sgt. Rex L. Hayes
1st Lt. Oscar B. Bourn	S/Sgt. Philip D. Vaught
1st Lt. Louis Rodriguez	S/Sgt. James E. Buckley
S/Sgt. Clinton C. Snyder	S/Sgt. William Wiersma
T/Sgt. Calvin G. Garrison	S/Sgt. Fred T. Organ

1st Lt. Joseph M. Gay	T/Sgt. Paul F. Hughes
2nd Lt. Ira L. Gordon	S/Sgt. Louis Brofford
1st Lt. Daniel McCauley	S/Sgt. Stephen J. Krisko
1st Lt. Howard L. Harmston	S/Sgt. George E. Lilja
T/Sgt. Eric G. Danielson	S/Sgt. Bernard J. Nitti

26 1st Lt. J. Bruce McMahon promoted to captain, and 2nd Lts. Shelby L. Tanner and Dewey O. Jones, promoted to 1st Lts.

28 CROSSBOW - To wind up the month with a breather after the long hauls over Germany, the Eager Beavers sent seven crews across the Channael to hit a special target. Clouds prevented accurate bombing. Lt. John Gassler led the high squadron, followed by Lts. William Reeder, Robert Gerald, Oleron Linn, Albert Rehn, Floyd Brunn and Walter Keilt. All were pleased to cut another notch in their mission numbers.

Three of our members knocked off their 25th missions this month: Capt. William Katz picked the sweep over France 6 February for his last; Lt. Saxe Mowers chose one of the toughest of the month, to Bernburg, and S/Sgt. John C. Lotti finished on the "Crossbow".

Squadron Diary
368th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
1944

MARCH

22

FRANKFURT - Seven a/c piloted by Lts. John M. Kelly, Floyd Brunn, Charles W. Smith, William Reeder, Albert Rehn, Robert Gerald and Raymond L. Tripp were assigned to fly high squadron of the lead group, 40th CBW. Three returned early: Lts. Reeder, Smith and Gerald all had engine trouble. However, the remaining a/c continued to the target and bombed on PFF markings through 10/10ths clouds. Twenty minutes after bombs away a large column of black smoke was seen breaking through and rising above the overcast in the target area. Later reconnaissance showed strikes in the dock area east of the town, no fighter attacks were made by E/A and flak was very inaccurate, probably due to the use of Chaff.

1st Lt. Oleron Linn was promoted to captain, effective 23 Feb. S/Sgt. Benjamin B. Ferns promoted to T/Sgt. Sgts. Wallace Benningfield, Jessie T. Lanningham, Chester J. Predko, Ralph A. Sanchez, Eli Goldbarst, Stuart M. Powell and Edward L. Robinson, Jr., promoted to S/Sgts.

3

Berlin - When the curtain went up at briefing today exclamations and shouts went up for the time had finally arrived to bomb "Big B" in daylight. However, as before, weather prohibited the assault after the formation had reached the German coast northeast of Friedrichsburg, which is at the mouth of the Elbe River. Susceeding layers of very heavy contrails and cloud formations forced CBW to over 27,000 feet instead of the briefed 20,000 feet. The CBW leader elected to return to base with all bombs. Capt. William Nally and Lts. Carl Grending, Charles W. Smith, Raymond L. Tripp, Albert Rehn and Walter Keilt flew in the lead squadron, low group, 40th CBW. Lts. William Reeder, leading, and Floyd Brunn flew in the low squadron, high group, 40th CBW. Lts. Smith and Tripp returned early because of engine malfunctions. Shortly after turning back over the North Sea, Lt. Grending jettisoned his bombs when engine trouble and a runaway prop developed. There were no fighter attacks and only inaccurate flak was encountered at Heligoland.

4

BERLIN - Eight a/c of the squadron took off in another of several attempts to reach the German capital. The weather being somewhat the same as the day before prevented the completion of the mission. Heavy contrails, 10/10ths undercast to 8,000 feet and an overcast starting at 18,000 feet to 22,000 feet cause the turn back to home. Lt. Col. John M. Regan with Lts. Oleron Linn, Charles W. Smith, William Reeder, Walter Keilt, Albert Rehn and Floyd Brunn were leading the 40th CBW, lead squadron of the 106th Group. Lt. Gilbert Roeder flew in the High squadron. No bombs were dropped and no E/A opposition was encountered.

1st Lt. Robert Klawuhn was relieved from duty and transferred as a patient to the 1st General Hospital.

6

BERLIN - Eight of the squadron a/c took off in the third attempt to

MARCH (con't) reach the heart of the Nazi war machine, Berlin. Weather had prevented success on two previous occasions, but today neither flak, fighters nor the weather stopped the onslaught of the group which dropped its bombs on Berlin, squarely on the eastern side of the city in the Kopenick and Lichtenberg districts. Lts. Philip Field, leading, Albert Rehn, Gilbert Roeder, William Reeder, Robert Ehrler, Walter Keilt and Raymond L. Tripp were assigned to the high squadron, high group, 40th A CBW. Lt. Ehrler returned early from Cromer when #1 engine failed. Shortly after passing Dummer Lake on the way in Lt. Field's a/c was hit by flak, knocking out the #2 engine and about six feet of wing tip. Lt. Roeder took the lead squadron over the target. Lt. Charles W. Smith, flying with the low squadron over the target, had trouble and landed safely in Sweden with all crew members. Those interned:

1st Lt. Charles W. Smith	T/Sgt. Victor R. Marcotte
1st Lt. Merle P. Brown	S/Sgt. Thomas E. Stillson
1st Lt. Stanley Buck	S/Sgt. Donald S. Courson
1st Lt. Herman F. Allen	S/Sgt. R. B. Trumble
T/Sgt. Carl A. Heuser	Sgt. Joseph R. Paul

Ninety-odd E/A were seen, but only three or four made an attempt to attack, as friendly escort was described by crew members as "wonderful". Flak was spotty along the route with intense predicted concentrations at Berlin. Thusly, Berlin got its first visit from the Eager Beavers, who spent eight and one-half hours aloft.

8 BERLIN - Seven a/c of the 368th took off in the concerted effort to smash targets at Berlin and to make the second trip in three days' time. Lt. John M. Kelly leading, Lts. Gilbert Roeder, Walter Keilt, John Gassler, Raymond L. Tripp, Robert Ehrler and William Reeder flew low squadron of the Group. Lt. Reeder turned back at 52°37'N-04°37'E, with internal engine trouble. Lt. Kelly turned back at 52°30'N x 06°20'E with a leak in his oxygen system. However, he was able to bomb Meppen successfully en route home. As a whole, bombing was good and little opposition was encountered from fighters or flak

Joining the squadron today were 2nd Lts. John W. Curtis, William G. Mitchell, Jr., William L. Cullen and Paul A. Carsten; S/Sgt. Charles E. Lane; Sgts. Daniel V. Cookman, Joseph R. Trigani, George Y. Wortham and George R. Morley, and Pfc Francis J. O'Brien.

9 BERLIN - This is the third trip to Berlin in four days and the squadron assigned seven a/c, piloted by Lts. John Gassler, Walter Keilt, Robert Ehrler, Gilbert Roeder, Floyd Brunn, William Reeder and Raymond L. Tripp. The entire course on the continent was covered with 10/10ths clouds and bombing was by PFF. No enemy fighters were seen. AA fire at the target was withheld until the lead CBW had dropped its bombs, possibly so as not to reveal city's position. However, shortly afterwards a most intense barrage was thrown up behind our formation. Only slight damage was received by our squadron, with later reports showing that our bombing was good.

1st Lt. James E. McClung promoted to captain, effective 1 March.

MARCH (con't)

- 14 Capt. William Nally and 1st Lt. Robert Gerald left for the 12th RCD and home, after having completed their tours of duty.
- 15 2nd Lts. William M. Nash, Weldon B. Frantz, Peter G. Kenny and Charles F. Hill; S/Sgts. Richard L. Perkins and James K. Prout; Sgts. Rudolph W. Phillips and Wade E. McRary and Pvt. Eugene C. Engberg joined the squadron.
- 16 GESSERTSHAUSEN - Located six miles southwest of Augsburg, this town was bombed on PFF. 10/10ths cloud cover over the target made results impossible to determine. Capt. Oleron Linn and Lts. Richard B. Thompson, John Gassler, Robert Ehrler, William Reeder and Floyd Brunn flew lead squadron with the lead group, 40th A CBW, of which Lt. Col. John L. Lambert, 423rd C.O., was wing commander. Lts. Raymond L. Tripp and Albert Rehn, flying in low squadron of the low group, returned to base with the entire squadron when the leader lost formation in the climb through clouds over Poddington. However, they had gone 40 miles into enemy territory before turning back, after seeing it impossible to catch up with the formation, and it isn't exactly sane to go deep into Germany with only five a/c these days. Lt. Robert Ehrler returned early with #2 prop running away.
- 2nd Lt. Guillermo A. Perez promoted to 1st Lt., effective 8 March.
- 18 LECHFELD - Nine a/c took off to bomb the air field at Lechfeld. Lt. Col. John M. Regan, 368th C.O., was leading the 40th B CBW and Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the low group, along with Lts. John M. Kelly, Richard B. Thompson, William Reeder, Floyd Brunn, Robert Ehrler and Raymond L. Tripp. Lt. Albert Rehn filled in the hole of the low squadron. There were no attacks by E/A and AA fire at the target was slight but accurate tracking. A heavy haze over the continent, which thickened at altitude, caused the formation to fly and bomb below its briefed altitude. Bombing was very good as confirmed by strike photos. All a/c returned safely, although Lts. Tripp and Ehrler received serious flak damage.
- 19 Joining the squadron were 2nd Lts. Fred A. Puckett, Jr., and Lawrence F. Christofori; T/Sgt. John Hazy; S/Sgt. David L. Stoddard and Donald F. Frye, and Sgts. Frank A. Pfeifer, Charlie C. Williams, Jr., and Robert F. Emery.
- 20 FRANKFURT - Extremely heavy clouds and contrails made both assembly and navigation over the continent very difficult. Assembly was made on Poddington at 6,000 feet, above the briefed altitude to escape a cloud layer. Over France clouds reached 29,000 feet and extended into Germany. Formation being unable to climb, turned back near Luxembourg. Added to these difficulties, PFF and practically all navigational aids on Pathfinder a/c were found to be out of service. Seven a/c were supplied for the low squadron of the 306th Group, which was leading the 40th CBW. Lts. William Reeder, leading, John Coughlin,

- MARCH (con't) Carl R. Thompson, Raymond L. Tripp, Albert Rehn, Floyd Brunn and Walter Keilt started the mission. Lt. Tripp took off in a/c 363, but returned shortly after with one engine out. Changing to #776, he started again, and failing to find the formation in the clouds, returned to base. Lt. Brunn turned back when he was unable to locate the formation in heavy clouds. No E/A were seen and AA fire was moderately accurate tracking along the route, severely damaging a/c of Lts. Coughlin, Thompson and Keilt.
- 1st Lts. Philip Field, Guillermo Perez, Burton C. Gustafson and Charles W. Leake transferred to the 305th BG.
- 21 Capt. Oleron Linn and 1st Lt. John Gassler, having finished their combat tours, departed for home today.
- 22 BERLIN - Cloud cover of 9/10ths intensity, topped at about 15,000 ft., made impossible the visual bombing of the primary target, Oranienburg airdrome and A/C assembly plant, a few miles NW of Berlin. Bomb run was made on the secondary, Friedrichstrasse Station, north central Berlin. Bombing was PFF, and good. A fighter pilot who went below the clouds reported bursts all over the target area. The 306th flew as lead and low groups in the 40th CBW, which led the First Bomb Division right over the center of Berlin. This squadron sent along seven a/c, flying high the lead group, with Lts. John M. Kelly leading. John Coughlin, Albert Rehn, Carl R. Thompson, Walter Keilt, William D. Reeder, and Maj. John S. Chalfant. Again, the Luftwaffe failed to show up. However, both barrage and tracking AA fire was very intense in the target area and damaged 25 Group a/c, 14 seriously. Accurate tracking AA fire was encountered also at Dummer Lake, Vechta and Quakenbruck. Experienced crews report flak was the most intense yet encountered. Leaflets were dropped telling the Nazis of much news ordinarily denied them of the fifth trip by USAAF to Berlin. Lt. Coughlin returned alone when he couldn't keep his bomb bay doors closed. Just after bombs away Lt. Reeder's ship was hit by flak. The controls to the #4 engine were shot out and he lost it completely. No. 3 was damaged and had a runaway prop, which he controlled with the throttle, which by necessity, ran so slowly that no power was available. No. 2 engine also was hit and leaking oil. Only the No. 1 engine seemed to be carrying the load. Lt. Reeder went from the high to the low group in an attempt to hold on, but was unable to keep up with the formation.
- Alone and gradually losing altitude, Lt. Reeder started the long haul home with his badly crippled plane. After trimming his ship, the powerless right wing tipped upward about 30 degrees and this is the way he came home from Berlin. No E/A were encountered, but at Hannover he ran into flak which he avoided by making as violent evasive action as the plane would endure. Continually losing altitude, Lt. Reeder crossed the Zuider Zee on the deck and hedgehopped the strip of land to the North Sea. As he crossed Holland, near IJmuiden, flying at that crazy angle and about 100 ft. elevation, several Dutch

MARCH (con't)

people waved and cheered he and his crew to throw out every piece of equipment possible except guns and ammunition. So out came flak suits, etc., and in the excitement one member threw away his parachute while another threw out the emergency dinghy radio. Everyone wanted to make that old ship as light as possible, for it could hardly keep an airspeed of 115 to 120, and that's just a little slow to keep a "Fort" airborne with safety.

Earlier, in the vicinity of Hannover, Lt. Reeder told his crew the situation and asked whether they wanted to bail out, crash land, or try to make it home. No one felt he could tell as well as the pilot what ought to be done, so they left it up to him. He then elected to "Make England, or Bust". Distress signals were sent out and answers were received. Air-sea rescue was met in mid Channel. Fighter escort also arrived to check on them. Reeder's ship crossed the Channel at 300 feet, and they landed at the first airdrome they saw--Leeston.

As Reeder brought his a/c in to land the No. 4 engine was out, No. 3 windmilling, No. 2 smoking and only 20 lbs of oil pressure, and No. 1 was working hard. Lt. Reeder says to baby those engines and they will do a lot for you when you need it most. The hydraulic system was shot out and no brakes. In landing on a fighter field without something to slow them down, the a/c went off the end of the runway, knocking over a shed or two, and finally coming to stop with no one of the crew injured. They were a happy bunch of men.

1st Lt. William D. Reeder, pilot	S/Sgt. Michael J. Harbud, eng
1st Lt. Alden D. Maynes, copilot	S/Sgt. David Burger, ball
F/O Marcil W. Brage, navigator	S/Sgt. William R. Bastain, tg
1st Lt. Charles Fontane, bombardier	S/Sgt. Thomas A. Donlon, l w
T/Sgt. Robert W. Cole, radio	S/Sgt. Charles O. Wilson, rw

Lt. Reeder commended the actions and fortitude of every crew member during this trip and especially the fine job of navigation by F/O Brage, who kept them on course despite the wild, evasive tactics in avoiding flak. S/Sgt. Charles O. Wilson silenced a few deadly AA guns in Holland while flying at low level. The log showed the following altitudes: Berlin 25,000; Hannover 7,000; Zuider Zee 4,000; Dutch Coast 100, and English Channel 2-300 feet. Lt. Reeder is also thankful for the P-47 pilot, who had 12 crosses on the engine cowling, for the close escort west of Hannover. Needless to say the Fort was riddled by flak and had one six-inch hole in the fuselage at the top of the bomb bay. This shell must have come through while bomb bay doors were open over the target.

T/Sgt. Paul Wenrich wounded in action and sent to 49th Sta. Hospital.

23

HAMM - Seven a/c were dispatched to fly as lead squadron of the 306th Group, which flew high group of the 40th CBW composite. The primary target was the airfield and works at Gutersloh, but on arriving found complete overcast, so the T/O at Hamm was struck. Bombing was excellent with incendiaries falling in the center of town. Photos

- MARCH (con't) show that a previous group had dropped a cluster of HE bombs on the bottle neck of the Hamm marshalling yard, a bridge over the canal at the northern end of the yards. For a long time it was a standing joke among the RAF that whenever they took off they were going to bomb the M/Y at Hamm. In 1941 the RAF did attempt to hit the yards time and time again, without success. No matter whether it was luck or damn good bombing the yards did get a hell of a pasting and our incendiaries set the town on fire. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the group, and Lts. Albert Rehn, John M. Kelly, Carl R. Thompson, Floyd Brunn and Robert Ehrler supported. Lt. Ehrler turned back over Kimbolton with No. 4 engine out. No E/A and flak was moderate.
- S/Sgt. Vincent T. Mullen promoted to T/Sgt., 22 March. T/Sgts. Charles Bone, Ralph Elbert and Clyde C. Edwards promoted to M/Sgts., effective 22 March.
- 24 FRANKFURT - The primary was briefed as Schweinfurt, but due to weather conditions Frankfurt was bombed through 9/10ths clouds by PFF. No enemy fighters were seen and flak was very inaccurate, with practically no damage. Fighter escort was perfect. Bombing was good, and its carefully estimated strikes were made southwest of the center of Old Town. The Eager Beavers were "stood down".
- T/Sgt. Paul Wenrich, wounded in action, returned from the hospital. 1st Lt. Russell Lund promoted to captain, 19 March.
- 25 AIR-SEA RESCUE - NORTH SEA - The squadron was called to search for a dinghy at sea. This was a six-hour flight and seven a/c participated. Capt. Russell Lund, and Lts. William Reeder, Walter Keilt, Floyd Brunn, Raymond L. Tripp, Eobert Ehrler and Gilbert Roeder flew. Nothing was sighted and the formation returned to base.
- 26 NORTHWEST FRANCE - After an earlier mission had been scratched; the order came through to take the milk run across to the rocket coast this beautiful, balmy Sunday afternoon. Six a/c, piloted by Capt. Russell Lund, and Lts. Rene Fix, Albert Rehn, Raymond Tripp, Robert Ehrler and Floyd Brunn flew low squadron of the 306th Group. Bombing was by squadrons and no difficulty was experienced in locating the target. Bombing was good and weather clear, no clouds or contrails, and a slight haze. AA fire was the most accurate yet experienced. Of the 29 a/c of the Group dispatched 26 were hit, 17 severely. One man was killed and nine wounded, six of them severely. One crew was also lost. Those 1st Lt. men wounded were: 1st Lt. Ray G. McDaniel, T/Sgt. Stanley O. Lesniewski, F/O George W. Tapper, 1st Lt. Kenneth M. Jarvis and 1st Lt. Michael Antoon.
- 27 LA ROCHELLE - Seven a/c piloted by Lts. Raymond Tripp, John Curtis, Rene Fix, Walter Keilt, William Reeder, Robert Ehrler and Floyd Brunn flew the high squadron of the 306th to bomb the airfield, workshops and barracks at La Rochelle. Bombing was excellent with strike photos showing direct hits on every building except one. No

MARCH (con't) E/A were seen and our escort was perfect. One a/c is missing:

1st Lt. Rene C. Fix	Sgt. Eugene C. Engberg
2nd Lt. Weldon B. Frantz	Sgt. Rudolph W. Phillips
2nd Lt. Peter G. Kenny	Sgt. Frank A. Pfeifer
2nd Lt. Charles F. Hill	Sgt. Alvin E. Nauman
S/Sgt. David L. Stoddard	Sgt. Wade E. McRary

1st Lt. Carl R. Thompson and William T. Hughes, and S/Sgts. Benjamin Mings and Roy W. Grothe, having finished their tours, departed for home.

26 DIJON - One more airdrome and training field was wiped out today. Capt. Russell Lund led the 306th Group, along with Lts. Walter Keilt, John Coughlin, Gilbert Roeder, John Curtis, Floyd Brunn and Robert Ehrler. Both the 40th and 41st CBWs were briefed on this target, and the entire area was plastered. Our photos show one of the twin fuselage three-engine glider tugs on the field, with about 30 other a/c, all either damaged or destroyed. Weather was clear, with a slight haze. No AA fire at the target and moderate, scattered bursts along route. No E/A were seen.

1st Lt. Jack Samway promoted to captain, 23 March.

29 BRUNSWICK - The Eager Beavers were stood down for today's mission but the 306th dispatched 21 a/c. Enemy fighter attacks were terrific during a short gap in our fighter escort, just after the target. Three Group planes are missing. Weather was 8 to 10/10ths over the target and bombing results were unknown.

2nd Lt. Robert E. Schmielau, navigator, joined the squadron.

T/Sgts. Raymond E. Abernathy and Donald W. Dougan promoted to master sergeants. Sgt. Paul J. Pratt and Merrill Immerman promoted to S/Sgts.

31 LUDWIGSHAFEN - Lts. Carl Grending, leading, Robert Ehrler, John W. Curtis, Albert Rehn, John Coughlin, Walter Keilt and Raymond Tripp flew low squadron of the 306th Group. Weather conditions forced a recall shortly after takeoff. Considerable "sweating out" was experienced in getting the ships down through the clouds and landing at base. This ended the most active month of the Group, with sixteen missions for a new high.

One other noteworthy observation is that Capt. James F. McClung, squadron surgeon, made three "sweeps" to Luton without aborting or straggling. He must have taken one of his own transfusions.

APRIL

2

1st Lt. Kenneth M. Farrar transferred to 49th Station Hospital, from which he was subsequently returned to the U.S. for treatment of an eye wound.

4

2nd Lts. George T. DeVack, Harley C. Hutsell, Roy E. Buchanan, and Dennis Toth; S/Sgts. Robert W. Church and Haskele Arestio; and Sgts. Francis J. Benore, Walter S. Bailey, William R. Johnston and John P. Lighthouse reported for duty.

5

F/O Marcel W. Brage appointed 2nd Lt., effective 24 March.
2nd Lts. Warren S. Lutz, Thomas W. Johnson, Edward P. O'Neill and James L. Knox; S/Sgts. Joe D. Reed and Warren J. Adams, and Sgts. Aleck A. Lazek, Ray Y. Ward, Roy Y. Ward and Charles H. Lux reported for duty.

9

RAHMEL - The 306th Group, leading 40th CBW, turned back at 5333N-0040E and 0925 hours. The Group assembly was satisfactory, but due to overcast assembly was made at 2,500 feet instead of 4,000 feet. Rendezvous with other groups of CBW was never made due to instrument conditions prevailing most of the time from 2,000 to over 9,000 feet. Crews report that this was one of the worst cloud conditions ever experienced in attempting to assemble. Lt. Col. John M. Regan, 368th C.O., was air commander, leading the 40th, and this mission was his fourth attempt to finish the last trip of his brilliant and colorful tour of duty in the ETO. He had "sweated out" three previous briefings only to have them scrubbed before takeoff. After flying around in very thick "soup" until more than 20 minutes late on schedule, and being unable to get visual contact with high and low groups of the wing, Col. Regan ordered the mission abandoned. Just before doing this, he had contacted high group on VHF and was informed that it had only eight a/c in formation. Lts. Grending, leading, Clinton D. Swan, Albert Rehn, John W. Curtis, Gilbert Roeder, Robert Ehrler and William Reeder flew low squadron of lead group. All a/c returned safely.

10

BRUSSELS/EVERE A/D - Today Lt. Col. John M. Regan makes the fifth and successful attempt to finish his ETO tour of missions. As air commander, he lead the 40th CBW to an excellent bomb run on the Belgian A/D, which is used as an operational base for Jerry bombers. 21 a/c of the 306th flew as lead group. Seven Eager Beavers made up the low squadron with Lt. Carl N. Grending, leading, and John W. Curtis, Clinton D. Swan, Albert Rehn, Gilbert Roeder, Robert Ehrler and William Reeder. On the way in 8/10ths clouds were confronted until reaching Brussels, then 2/10ths clouds made possible visual bombing. On the bomb run the lead ship's bombsight went out. He ordered the deputy leader to take over, but had to make a 360° turn for a second run. This maneuver caused the group to be the last over the target, and on observing that the briefed aiming point was well hit and covered with smoke, a new aiming point was selected. Photographs confirm good hits. No E/A were encountered, flak was moderate, and all planes returned safely.

APRIL (con't) Capt. James E. McClung assigned to 15 days temporary duty at the 49th Station Hospital.

- 11 STETTIN - The squadron furnished seven a/c for this mission, originally intended to bomb Sorau (synthetic oil plants), but due to clouds building up over the target area visual bombing was not possible, even though two runs were made over the target area. The secondary was then elected and the formation proceeded over Frankfurt on Oder to the north where a cloud shelf directly off target, Politz, obscured visual bombing. Stettin being partially cloud covered, offered the next best opportunity and was bombed, getting good hits on the dock area, naval and merchant shipping. Lts. William Reeder, leading, Dewey O. Jones, Clinton D. Swan, Albert Rehn, Robert Ehrler, John Coughlin and Gilbert Roeder were assigned. Lt. Jones returned early when #4 engine went out. Lt. Rehn turned back about 15 miles NE of Hannover when #3 engine was knocked out by flak. Two P-47s escorted him most of the way to the Channel. Just east of Hannover terrific fighter attacks by about 40 E/A were made on the high group of the 40th CBW. During these attacks two 306th a/c were shot down out of the high group. No fighter damage was received by the 368th, though flak was particularly accurate and practically every a/c was hit. The 368th flew high squadron of the low group for the 40th.
- 12 SCHWEINFURT - The Eager Beavers led the 306th Group and supplied one spare. Lts. Carl N. Grending, leading, Walter Keilt, Dewey O. Jones, Albert Rehn, John Coughlin and Robert Ehrler formed the squadron, with Lt. Gilbert Roeder as a spare. The mission was abandoned two hours after takeoff when some of the worst cloud conditions experienced by the Group were encountered almost from takeoff. Clouds of 7/10ths started at 4,000 feet and extended to 30,000 feet, and on being churned with prop wash, and with heavy contrails these clouds caused extremely poor visibility and prevented rendezvous of formations. At 24,000 feet along the English coast all a/c turned back to base and spared the ball bearing plants for another day.
- 13 Once again, an attempt to penetrate the unusual cloud formations similar to those experienced on the preceding day failed. Seven a/c of the 368th were assigned to the lead squadron of the 306th, which was to fly high group, 40th CBW. Lts. Carl N. Grending, leading, and Walter Keilt, Dewey O. Jones, Albert Rehn, John Coughlin and Gilbert Roeder, with Robert Ehrler as spare, took off. Being unable to rendezvous all a/c returned to base an hour and a half after takeoff.
- Sgts. Daniel Cookman, Ralph A. Garner, Melvin T. Tucker, Thomas A. Flores, George R. Kerley, Joseph Trigani and George Y. Wortham promoted to S/Sgts, effective 12 Apr.
- Combat crews assigned were:
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2nd Lt. Elton C. Rabe | 2nd Lt. Donald H. Shawe |
| 2nd Lt. Joseph A. Bishop | 2nd Lt. John J. Polich |

- APRIL (con't) S/Sgt. Jerry Misterman
Sgt. Einar E. Ottoson
2nd Lt. Charles L. Trigg
2nd Lt. Philip A. Tomasella
S/Sgt. Frank R. Mercurio
Sgt. William L. Murdock
Sgt. Emmett H. Brunette
Sgt. Frederick J. Vischi
Sgt. Daniel J. Galvin
2nd Lt. George A. Weinel
2nd Lt. Richard D. Eldridge
S/Sgt. Joseph B. Novak
Sgt. George B. Foster
Sgt. Frank L. Arnold
- Lt. Col. John M. Regan, Squadron C.O., relieved from duty and started on way home.
- Maj. Maurice V. Salada assigned from 423rd Squadron and assumed command of 368th Squadron.
- Maj. John S. Chalfant assigned to 423rd Squadron.
- S/Sgts. Madison O. Beasley, Charles E. Lane, Michael J. Harbud, Orville Libby and Sgt. Francis J. O'Brien promoted to T/Sgts.
- 14 2nd Lt. John W. Curtis promoted to 1st Lt, effective 11 Feb.
- 17 1st Lts. Paul F. Paulsen and Leonard P. Blatnica; 2nd Lt. Carl A. Johnson; T/Sgts. Travis P. Powell and Joseph J. Zarriello; and S/Sgts. John E. Arden, Francis A. Weitzel, Richard E. Litherland and James W. Carroll joined the squadron.
- 1st Lts. John M. Kelly and Daniel A. Logan promoted to captain, effective 12 April. 2nd Lts. Frank J. Hall, Allan J. Johnson and John F. Coughlin promoted to 1st Lts., effective 12 April.
- 18 ORANIENBERG - Capt. J. Bruce McMahon leading, with Capt. Russell Lund, Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, Robert Ehrler, John C. Coughlin, John W. Curtis and Dewey O. Jones made up the lead squadron of the 306th Group, which flew in low position, 40th CBW. Five wings were assigned to take out the A/D north of Berlin, and as this wing was last on the target bombing was hindered by cloud cover over the target. Good visibility had persisted until reaching the target area. It is believed that contrails from previous wings caused this concentration. No E/A were encountered and flak was meager to moderate. Fighter support was generally good.
- 19 KASSEL - Eight a/c of the 368th included Lts. Carl N. Grending leading, John M. Kelly, Ray A. McDaniel, Raymond L. Tripp, Dewey O. Jones, and John F. Coughlin as lead squadron of the 306th Composite Group, and Lts. Gilbert Roeder and John W. Curtis as spares. No enemy fighters were encountered. Photographs show bombing to have been good. Moderate but extremely accurate flak was met in the target area and 19 of the 26 306th a/c were damaged. All returned safely, although Lt. McDaniel turned back early due to low manifold pressure.
- Capt. Edgar Hallman relieved and assigned to casual pool prior to taking control tower training.
- 1st. Lt. Richard L. Moore assumed duties as adjutant.

APRIL (con't)

20

N.W. FRANCE - The 306th put up 36 a/c, which were divided into three forces of 12 a/c each. The 368th flew as Force A, with Lt. Carl N. Grending leading, and Lts. Raymond L. Tripp, Gilbert Roeder, Paul F. Paulsen, George T. DeVack, Robert Ehrler; low squadron was led by Lt. William Reeder, with Lts. Ralph F. Clark, John W. Curtis, Floyd Brunn and John F. Coughlin. Bombing was very good as verified by strike photos. No E/A were seen, fighter support was ample, and flak caused damage only to Lt. Coughlin's a/c.

21

MERSEBERG (LEUNA) - Col. George L. Robinson, Group C.O., was leading the 40th CBW today, while Capt. John M. Kelly formed the low squadron, followed by Lts. Robert E. MacDowell, George T. DeVack, Robert Ehrler, Ray C. McDaniel and Paul F. Paulsen. Lt. John W. Curtis flew in the low squadron of the 306th Composite Group, and Lts. William Reeder and Clinton D. Swan flew as spares. Mission was abandoned two hours after takeoff due to weather conditions.

22

HAMM - Col. George L. Robinson led the 306th and the 40th CBW again today to the marshalling yards at Hamm. Capt. John M. Kelly led the low squadron with Lts. Warren Lutz, Robert E. MacDowell, Robert Ehrler, Gilbert Roeder and John W. Curtis. Lt. Curtis was hit by flak over the target, but managed his way back and landed at Manston. Lt. Paul F. Paulsen also flew with this squadron. Lt. John F. Coughlin flew as spare. Flak was moderate, but particularly accurate at the target. Photos show the target well hit with fires burning on both sides of the tracks and across the yards.

2nd Lt. William G. Mitchell, Jr., promoted to 1st Lt., as of 17 April. Reporting for duty were 2nd Lts. Frank L. Krzyston, Donald W. Murphy and Irving R. Norton; S/Sgts. Stanley B. Haas and Orville C. Huddle, and Sgts. Andrew J. Roe, David T. Reese, Florian L. Gesirich and James R. Johnson.

23

2nd Lts. Paul R. Carsten and George T. Gretton promoted to 1st Lts.

24

OBERPFAFFENHOFEN - Seven a/c took off and flew as high squadron, low group, 41st B CBW. Lt. Raymond L. Tripp led with Lts. Robert MacDowell, Warren Lutz, Paul F. Paulsen, Ray C. McDaniel and John F. Coughlin. Lt. Dewey O. Jones flew as spare. Fighter attacks were particularly heavy. At 1325 hours, north of Augsburg, crew members estimated as many as 150 ME 109s started attacking in waves of four to 10 A/C. At least 16 attacks, which spanned more than 40 minutes, were pressed home on the Group. Simultaneous pincers attacks by four A/C from 11 o'clock and four from 2 o'clock were made on the formation, especially on lead a/c. The group lost 10 a/c, two of which were Lts. Robert E. MacDowell and John F. Coughlin. Weather was clear at the target with fairly heavy haze coming out. Heavy contrails persisted at 21,000 feet. Bombs were dropped early as the Group leader, hit during violent fighter attacks, dropped bombs in an effort to stay in

APRIL (con't) position. Other, not realizing leader was in trouble, dropped also. 368th crews missing in action are:

1st Lt. John F. Coughlin P	T/Sgt. Madison O. Beasley, eng
1st Lt. Allan J. Johnson CP	S/Sgt. Thomas A. Flores, bt
1st Lt. Frank J. Hall N	Sgt. Ralph A. Garner wg
1st Lt. George T. Gretton B	Sgt. Charles D. Ladage wg
T/Sgt. Orville E. Libby ro	S/Sgt. Melvin T. Tucker cg
2nd Lt. Robert E. MacDowell P	S/Sgt. Donald J. Frye eng
2nd Lt. Fred A. Puckett, Jr CP	Sgt. William L. Murdock bt
2nd Lt. Robert E. Schmielau N	Sgt. Robert F. Emery rw
2nd Lt. Lawrence Christofori B	S/Sgt. Lawrence E. Wagoner lw
S/Sgt. James H. Prout ro	T/Sgt. John Hazy, cg

E/A destroyed: Charles L. Hum, Othal Woodall and Francis A. Weitzel. E/A damaged: John J. Zarriello, Eli Goldbarst and William J. Adams.

S/Sgt. Frank R. Mercurio, wounded in action.

Capt. Daniel A. Logan, Jr., departed for 12th RCD and home.

- 25 NANCY A/D - The 368th led the 306th Group, which flew high position in the 40th CBW. Capt. Russell Lund, leading, with Capt. John M. Kelly and Lts. John W. Curtis, William Reeder, Warren Lutz and George T. DeVack. Lt. Reeder returned over Podington due to low oil pressure on #3 engine. Due to adverse weather and interference from other groups at the target, no bombs were released. No E/A encountered and flak was observed at a distance.
- 26 BRUNSWICK - The 368th was stood down for this mission, but the 306th dispatch 18 a/c to bomb the target PFF. No E/A seen. 10/10ths clouds persisted from the Zuider Zee to the target and return. Moderate AA fire encountered along the route, with crews relating that flak "tracked our chaff" in the Dummer Lake area. Lt. Donald J. Schaefer, 367th, crashed on takeoff; nine dead, one seriously injured.
- 27 NORTHWEST FRANCE - A - Six a/c of the 368th formed the low squadron of the 306th. Lt. Walter Keilt led, with Lts. Charles Trigg, George DeVack, Paul F. Paulsen, Gilbert Roeder and Warren Lutz. Lts. William Reeder and Dewey O. Jones flew as spares and returned early. The mission was uneventful, with no flak or E/A. Bombing was fair, with 25% of bombs hitting the target MPI. Bombing was by groups and there was no division assembly. This mission was probably the greatest concentration of heavy bombers assembled over an area in the shortest span of time. Twenty-nine groups passed over the target area of Crossbows within 50 minutes, in addition to nine groups of friendly fighters.
- 27 NANCY-ESSEY A/D - B - A new precedent was established today with the accomplishment of two distinct missions. Lt. Carl N. Grending led the

- APRIL (con't) 306th, and Capt. John M. Kelly led the high squadron with Lts. Elton C. Rabe, Charles L. Trigg, William Reeder, Gilbert Roeder and Dewey O. Jones. Lt/ George T. DeVack flew as spare. No E/A were seen. Flak was moderate and very accurate. Escort was good, no gaps. Bombing was good, even though somewhat scattered. Heavy ground haze made it difficult to pick up the target at a distance.
- F/O. George W. Tapper appt. 2nd Lt., effective 20 April
- 28 AVORD A/D - Extensive damage was inflicted on the well equipped and important French A/D, which most recently is used as base for long range HE lills. The 368th was stood down, but the 306th sent out nine a/c, three of them spares.
- 29 BERLIN - The 306th led the 40th CBW, with Lt. Col. John L. Lambert, 423rd C.O., as air commander. The 368th formed the lead squadron, with Capt. John M. Kelly as deputy leader, flying the second PFF ship, and Lts. Elton C. Rabe, John W. Curtis, Warren Lutz and George T. DeVack. Lt. Charles L. Trigg flew as spare and returned early. No E/A attacked this group, although 30 to 35 E/A attacked the group behind ours. Fighter support was excellent, especially since the Wing was late and south of course on return. Moderate to intense AA fire was encountered at target, which was partly seen when clouds which broke up in scattered formations. Bombing was on PFF markers, but due to breaks in the clouds strikes were observed in the western part of the city. This is our sixth trip to Berlin.
- Lt. Warren Lutz received a direct flak hit near Magdeburg on the way out and blew up. No chutes were seen.
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| 2nd Lt. Warren S. Lutz P | S/Sgt. Warren J. Adams, eng |
| 2nd Lt. Thomas W. Johnson CP | Sgt. Roy Y. Ward bt |
| 2nd Lt. James L. Knox N | Sgt. Ray Y. Ward rw |
| 2nd Lt. Edward P. O'Neill B | Sgt. Alex Lazek lw |
| S/Sgt. Joseph D. Reed ro | Sgt. Charles H. Lux tg |
- 30 AIR SEA RESCUE - Lts. Raymond L. Tripp, Albert Rehn and Robert Ehrler, with six other 306th a/c, flew a rescue formation, with all results negative.

The Group completed 14 missions during April, even though none were made until the 10th. Briefings were held almost daily, but weather conditions did not permit execution. By far, this is the squadron's most active month since its combat arrival.

Arriving for combat were:

2nd Lt. Gwynn A. Boswell	2nd Lt. John J. Allen
2nd Lt. Theodore C. Cumberlandge	2nd Lt. Albert F. Burnett
S/Sgt. Donald F. Ruschmyer	S/Sgt. John J. Sullivan
Cpl. Bernell D Sharp	Sgt. Robert R. Copp, Jr.
Sgt. Orval L. Cook	Cpl. Emil W. Teska
2nd Lt. William H. Breslin	2nd Lt. Ernest A. Skrainar
2nd Lt. Maurice E. Christianson	2nd Lt. Richard S. Hodgson
S/Sgt. Kenneth Bardsley	S/Sgt. Gordon E. Wright
Cpl. Sherman D. Bennett	Sgt. Murray F. Yeats
Sgt. Paul A. Morabith	Cpl. Charles S. Hessen

April (con't) 1st Lt. Gilbert N. Roeder, having completed his tour of missions, was relieved and departed to the 12th RCD. A detailed account of one of his most interest missions is given:

22 FEBRUARY BERNBERG, GERMANY.- Just after crossing the enemy coast, No. 3 supercharger failed. However, with full power from only three engines available, Roeder maintained formation until a successful bomb run was made. After bombs away there was a gap in fighter escort. A formation of ME 109s, and later 30 FW 190s, dived in repeated attacks. Three direct attacks were made on Lt. Roeder's a/c, which he expertly maneuvered in evasive action.

Right after these attacks heavy flak was encountered, No. 1 engine was knocked out and No. 4, engine caught fire. Lt. Roeder put the fire out by going into a steep dive from 21,000 to 10,000 feet, with an indicated airspeed of 300 mph. Now out of formation, only No. 2 engine was functioning properly. An ME 109 watching the stricken ship alone, dived for the kill. Seeing this, Lt. Roeder dived for cover of sparse clouds and came out at 2,000 feet, continuing down to tree top level. The ME 109 still pressing the attack, lowered its wheels in order to get in a longer burst. As the Jerry closed in the top turret gunner shot the E/A down as the attacker could not gain altitude.

Lt. Roeder was kept busy dodging church steeples and tall buildings in evading flak on the rest of the way out. On leaving the enemy coast, all excess equipment was thrown out and he was able to gain 500 feet in altitude and 125 mph in IAS. On approaching the English Coast, No. 2 engine began to smoke excessively. Picking out the first airfield and approaching to land, Lt. Roeder was forced to circle again as there were obstructions on all runways. At this time the No. 2 engine burst into flames. Lt. Roeder picked the clearest approach and landed successfully on the one faltering No. 3 engine, and in doing so expertly missed a B-17 half parked on the runway because of a flat tire. The courage, skillfulness and technical skill displayed throughout these various encounters with the enemy deserve the highest praise.

Reporting for duty were 2nd Lts. William E. Reece, Jr., Frazier T. McDevett, Jr., Harry Wilson and Jack G. Marshall; S/Sgt Joseph A. Furello and Charlie J. Hardesty; and Sgts. Lester E. Martin, Hubert F. Champlin, Deral C. Stewart and Edmund J. Drost.

MAY

CALAIS AREA A - Seventeen a/c of the 306th, led by Capt. J. Bruce McMahon and crew of the 368th, took off for a target in the Calais area. Extreme difficulty was encountered in making formation due to clouds and darkness. No bombs were dropped as weather conditions over the continent obscured the target. Capt. McMahon ordered the mission abandoned.

REIMS B - On this second mission of the day, the 306th flew seven a/c of the Eager Beavers to form the low squadron, lead group of the 40th composite CBW. The squadron, led by Lt. William Reeder, consisted of Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, Ray C. McDaniel, Frank Krzyston, Elton C. Rabe, George DeVack and John W. Curtis. DeVack returned early with #2 engine out. Bombing was excellent with hits on the marshalling yards and along both sides. No E/A were seen. Flak, which came from an A/D north of the target, was moderate and very accurate, with five out of six a/c over the target damaged.

2 Capt. John M. Kelly relieved from duty and transferred to the 423rd Squadron as operations officer.

T/Sgt. LeeRoy Patterson promoted to 1st Sgt.

T/Sgt. James L. Sackett promoted to MSgt.

4 BERLIN - The 306th flew 18 a/c plus three spares as low group, 40th CBW. Seven a/c of the 368th were flown by Lts. William Reeder, leading the low squadron, Frank Krzyston, Raymond L. Tripp, Ray C. McDaniel, Frank I. Endres, Charles L. Trigg and Paul F. Paulsen. Paulsen returned early as spare. Clouds and haze, which had prevented the formation from leaving the English Coast at the briefed altitude, broke up the Wing formation and resulted in the recall of the mission near the Dutch-German border. Moderate and inaccurate flak at the Dutch coast. No E/A seen, and all bombs were returned.

5 1st Lt. Edward T. Murtha, S-2, transferred to Group.

2nd Lt. William E. Foose transferred to Group.

2nd Lt. Daniel J. Spence assigned from Group

6 2nd Lt. Stanley L. Lloyd promoted to 1st Lt.

2nd Lt. Claude R. Brown assigned to squadron from Station 112

7 BERLIN - The 306th flew 18 a/c as low group and six a/c as high squadron in 306th Composite Group, 40th CBW. The 368th flew six a/c as low squadron, led by Lt. Walter Keilt, and one as spare by Lt. Frank Krzyston. Lt. Charles Trigg turned back over Northampton with a broken oxygen line. Krzyston filled in. Weather was good at altitude, but bombing was PFF, with 10/10ths clouds over the target. Flak was moderate and inaccurate at the target. Apparently trying not to identify the target, only a few bursts were seen until bombs were away, at which time a barrage came up from a wide area. No E/A were seen.

1st Lt. Carl N. Grending promoted to Capt.

MAY (con't)

8

BERLIN - The 306th flew 32 a/c as low group, lead and low squadrons of the high group, 40th CBW. Eight a/c of the 368th took off. Capt. Carl N. Grending led the low group, and Lt. Walter Keilt, with Lts. Charles Trigg, Ray C. McDaniel, Raymond L. Tripp, Frank Krzyston and Frank I. Endres, led the high squadron. Lt. Elton Rabe went as spare and returned early. Lt. Keilt could not keep up with formation and jettisoned bombs NE of Hannover. Lt. Trigg lost an engine east of Hannover and returned alone. Weather was 10/10ths undercast with persistent contrails at altitude. Bombing was PFF. No E/A were seen and our support was excellent. Moderate, inaccurate barrage and tracking flak was met at the target. Practically no AA fire came up until bombs away. Although the 368th had no losses, the Group lost five a/c, three of them in a collision over Germany.

9

THIONVILLE A/F - 306th, with 18 a/c and three spares, led the 40th CBW. Maj. Maurice Salada, 368th C.O., was wing leader and supported by Lts. Paul F. Paulsen, Dewey O. Jones, Robert Ehrlar, George DeVack and Clinton Swan made up the lead squadron. Lt. John W. Curtis flew with the low squadron, while Lt. Ray C. McDaniel was spare, returning early. Bombing was excellent as verified by strike photos which showed a dense concentration directly on the MPI, hangars and workshop installations along the NE corner of the A/D. Not a single burst of flak was met at target or en route, but after leaving the Belgian Coast near Newport, the formation encountered meager but very accurate flak, damaging 11 a/c slightly and three severely. Some crews think the AA fire came from flak boats. No E/A were seen. Friendly support was numerous at all times. Weather was clear at altitude, with a ground haze. Our formation overshot the IP in order to stay clear of CBW ahead, then returned to briefed IP, making an excellent run.

Capt. James McClung, DS to RAF Sta. Tangmere for two weeks.

1st Lt. Paul R. Carsten and S/Sgt. James F. Perry, Jr., DS with the 15th Air Force for 30 days.

10

ROTENBURG and OLDENBURG - 306th flew 18 a/c, plus three spares, as high group, 1st B CBW and six a/c as high squadron, high group, 40th CBW. Due to clouds and contrails, considerable difficulty was experienced in group and wing formations. Over the North Sea a thick haze, several cloud layers up to an estimated 30,000 feet, and dense persistent contrails made formation flying difficult and dangerous. Recall message was received and turn back made near the Dutch Coast. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the group formation, and Lts. Charles Trigg and Elton C. Rabe flew as spares.

1st Lt. Leonard P. Blatnica was wounded in action.

11

SAARBRUCKEN - 306th flew 18 a/c as low group and six a/c as high squadron, 40th CBW composite. The 368th flew seven. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the low group. Lt. Walter Keilt, with Lts. Elton Rabe,

- MAY (con't) Charles Trigg, Ray C. McDaniel, Frank I. Endres and Paul F. Paulsen flew as the high squadron. Due to failure of the composite group to bomb the target, five of the 368th a/c jettisoned bombs because of gasoline shortage, the remaining a/c brought all back. No E/A were seen. Our escort was excellent to target, after which none were seen, probably due to formation being late and considerably south of course. Moderate but very accurate tracking AA fire was met at the target. Twenty-one out of 24 a/c were damaged, 17 severely. Bombing was considered poor, hindered by heavy ground haze.
- 12 MERSEBERG - 306th flew 18 a/c, plus two spares, as high group of 41st B CBW and six a/c as high squadron, high group, 40th CBW. The 368th flew six a/c as low squadron, high group, with Lt. Robert Ehrler leading, and Lts. Clinton Swan, John W. Curtis, Dewey O. Jones, Frank Endres and Elton Rabe, as spare. Lt. Swan turned back because of an oxygen leak. The target was the Leuna synthetic oil plant and bombing was excellent. No E/A, and our escort was complete, no gaps. AA fire was meagre and inaccurate. Weather was hazy, but otherwise clear in the target area.
- 13 STETTIN - 306th flew 16 a/c plus 2 PFF a/c as the lead group, and six a/c as high squadron, high composite group, 40th A CBW. The course was as briefed until about nine minutes before IP at Krzesinki. Due to a solid wall of clouds towering to 28,000 feet, the wing leader abandoned the primary and turned about to bomb Stettin. 8/10ths to 10/10ths clouds persisted over Germany. However, as the formation approached Stettin clouds thinned out and strike photos were taken, positively identifying the target and showing bomb bursts in the center of the city. No fighter attacks were made on our wing. Capt. Russell Lund flew as deputy wing leader. Lt. Floyd Brunn led the high squadron, lead group, with Lts. Gwynn A. Boswell, Frank Krzyston, John W. Curtis, Charles Trigg and George DeVack. Lt. Clinton Swan flew spare. Lt. Krzyston turned back over the North Sea with engine trouble. Lt. Henry E. Hanson, 367th, supplied the greatest action of the mission by ditching in the North Sea, about 20 miles off Cromer. After being damaged by flak over the target, #2 engine cut out west of Denmark. About 1½ hours from the English Coast #3 engine died. When about 60 miles off England, the remaining two engines began to give trouble. A short while later Lt. Hanson told the wing leader he would have to ditch and started sending out an SOS. One a/c of the formation and "Cycle Relay" came down and circled the dinghy until Air-Sea Rescue arrived, picking up all crew members safely. Only one dinghy was available as flak had perforated the other. Six men were in the dinghy and three men hung on the sides, changing places every few minutes as the water was extremely cold. They were in the water about one hour.
- 1st Lt. Donald Baltzer transferred to 12th RCD as his tour ended.
1st Lt. Mitchell Antoon was wounded in action.
- 16 S/Sgt. Francis A. Weitzel promoted to T/Sgt.

- MY (con't)
- 1st Lts. Paul F. Paulsen and Walter Keilt completed their tours and were assigned to Air Transport Group.
- 1st Lts. Charles Fontane and Shelby L. Tanner transferred to 12th RCD.
- 1st Lt. Raymond L. Tripp transferred to Plans section, USSTAF
- 1st Lt. Arthur B. Hammond; 2nd Lts. Ivan W. Oberhelman, Earl Hastings and Douglas L. MacMillan; S/Sgt. William C. Ellery and Sgts. Howard G. Anderson, John E. Argo, Stephen J. Femine, Joseph V. Beirne and Hoil O. Flood joined the squadron.
- 1st Lt. Joe D. Seed; 2nd Lts. Edward R. Patton, Olin M. Hoisington, Jr., and Edward A. Telkamp; S/Sgts. William F. Plantz and Raymond T. Lawrence, and Sgts. Robert C. Blake, Lamar Texter, Ted J. Teckman and John W. Wells assigned to squadron.
- 19 BERLIN - Eighteen a/c took off to fly as low group, 40th CBW. Rendezvous was made at 15,000 feet instead of 4,000 as briefed due to cloud interference. No E/A were seen. Bombing was by PFF, even though scattered cloud formations over the target permitted photos to be taken, and hits were made in the northwest section of the city. Capt. Russell Lund led the group, with Lts. Floyd Brunn, William Breslin, John W. Curtis, Elton C. Rabe and Charles Trigg. AA fire was intense, but low and inaccurate. S/Sgt. Roy L. Wiklund was wounded.
- 20 ORLY A/F - The 306th flew twelve a/c as lead and twelve as low groups, 40th CBW. From 20 to 30 miles inland over the continent, 9 to 10/10ths clouds with tops at 8,000 feet persisted. In the vicinity of the IP visibility increased to about six miles with fairly heavy ground haze. The MPI was picked up through an opening and bomb release was made with a 75 second run. A good concentration hit aiming points at the northwest side of the field on hangars and work shops. No E/A were seen. Only AA fire was at the target, where it was meager and low. Capt. Carl N. Grending led the low group. Lts. Albert Rehn, leading, and Gwynn Boswell, William Reece, Ray McDaniel, Frank Krzyston and Elton Rabe flew as low squadron, low group. Our fighter support was excellent.
- 21 Lt. Leonard P. Blatnica returned to duty, having recovered from his battle wound.
- 22 KEIL - 306th flew twelve a/c as low group and six a/c as lead and high elements of high composite group, 40th CBW. Wing leader aborted on reaching German coast and the deputy called for PFF bombing approximately eleven minutes from target. Four minutes later undercast broke leaving a clear channel to the target, but PFF continued. Bomb strikes were noted in the water about half way down the "Horn", and walked across the Naval arsenal, shipping and the Deutsche Werke. Five or six ME 109s were seen but no attacks were made on this formation. Escort was good all the way. Moderate AA fire was met at the target, and made a direct hit, bringing down two a/c of the lead

- MAY (con't) group. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the low group. Capt. Carl N. Grending led the lead element of high composite group. Lt. Robert Ehrler led the low squadron, low group, with Lts. William Reece, Elton Rabe, George DeVack, Frank Endres and Dewey Jones. 2nd Lts. Marcil Brage and George Tapper promoted to 1st Lts.
- 23 METZ AREA - 306th flew 12 a/c as low group and nine a/c as high group of 40th A CBW, which led the 1st Bomb Division. The primary target was Thionville, but 10/10ths cloud cover obscured the target and the ensuing maneuver. PFF bombing was made south of Metz. No results were seen, and no E/A were observed. Only four bursts of AA fire were seen on the entire route. Capt. Russell Lund led the high group with Lts. Albert Rehn and William Reece. Lt. Floyd Brunn led the low squadron of the high group with Lts. Dewey O. Jones, Clinton Swan, Ray C. McDaniel, Frank Krzyston and Alfred Hawley. Lt. Elton Rabe flew as spare.
- 24 BERLIN - 306th flew 22 a/c plus two PFF planes as lead and part of high groups of 40th CBW. No fighter attacks were made on the 40th, but the CBW in front was under heavy attack. Five or six B-17s were seen to be knocked down, two exploding. Escort was good, no gaps. The 368th flew four a/c, piloted by Lts. Frank Krzyston, Ray McDaniel, Elton Rabe and Charles Trigg in the lead squadron, lead Group. Lt. Robert Ehrler led the high squadron, high composite group, with Lts. Dewey O. Jones and William Reece making up the lead element. Thirty seconds after bombs away, flak hit Ehrler's elevators, either knocking them off or tearing them to shreds. Ehrler's plane went in a steep stall and after "standing on its tail" for a moment, slid off to the left and turned on its back, regained flying attitude momentarily, then went almost straight down in a flat spin. No one could see it below an estimated 18,000 feet, at which time all engines were still running. No fire, explosion or smoke was seen. One chute and possibly two are believed to have come from the plane while still visible above the clouds. Missing crew members are:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st Lt. Robert H. Ehrler P | T/Sgt. Paul J. Pratt, eng |
| 1st Lt. Alden D. Maynes, CP | S/Sgt. Gaetano C. Abbatiello bt |
| 1st Lt. John W. James, Jr., N | S/Sgt. Chester J. Predko, wg |
| 1st Lt. Burton C. Gustafson, B | S/Sgt. John C. Hay, Jr., tg |
| T/Sgt. Ben B. Ferns, Jr. ro | |
- Ground haze delayed takeoff 40 minutes. Visibility was bad on way in. Formation flew for a long distance in very thick haze. Fairly dense and persistent contrails. 10/10ths clouds on way in, clearing to 7/10ths in target area, 10/10ths coming out. Bombing was PFF. 2nd Lt. Daniel J. Spence transferred to 417th Signal Battalion.
- 25 THIONVILLE M/Y - 306th flew 12 a/c as low and 12 a/c as high groups of 40th CBW. Weather: slight haze and 1/10ths cloud cover in target area. Strike photos show heavy and compact concentration completely covering briefed MPI and approximately three-quarters of southwestern

- MAY (con't) half of marshalling yards choking off the south entrance and destroying two engine sheds and a large repair shop of this important rail link between Germany and Central Southern France. No enemy fighters were seen, escort complete, no gaps. No flak either, in or out. The 368th was "stood down" for the mission with the exception of Capt. Carl N. Grending, who led the low group, and Lt. Gwynn A. Boswell, who flew spare and returned early.
- 27 MANNHEIM M/Y - 306th flew 18 a/c as lead group, 40th CBW. 368th flew high squadron, led by Lt. Floyd Brunn, with Lts. Charles Trigg, Elton Rabe, Ray C. McDaniel, Gwynn Boswell and William Breslin. No E/A were seen. Our escort was first picked up late and then continued all the rest of the route. Intense, barrage AA fire was met at the target only. Weather was good and clear for visual bombing, although 5/10ths clouds lay just east of target area. Light contrails at 23,000 feet. Photos show M/Y well hit, and crews state smoke could be seen 100 miles away from the target area.
- FECAMP - 306th flew ten a/c, plus two PFF, as lead and low squadrons of the 40th CBW. Although the tactical target was identified visually, bombing was PFF, according to order. Photos show main concentration in water one and one half miles west of target, with a few bursts 300 yards inland in the same area. Photos also show target area pitted with craters from other bombing, apparently not today's. No 368th crews took part in this mission.
- 28 RUHLAND - The 306th flew 16 a/c plus two PFF as lead and 18 a/c as low groups of the 40th B CBW. Capt. Russell Lund led the Wing, with Lts. Albert Rehn, Wayne Erwin, Ray C. McDaniel, Dewey O. Jones, and William Breslin, making up the lead squadron. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the low group, and Lts. George T. DeVack, Charles Trigg and Elton Rabe formed the second element, low squadron, low group. Lt. Gwynn A. Boswell flew as spare. A malfunction of the bomb release caused half of the bombs of the Wing leader to fall out west of the target, believed to be in the vicinity of Ubigan. The majority of lead and high groups dropped at this point on Wing leader. The low group, rather than break up Wing formation, bombed a target of opportunity, the town of Elsterwerda. Results were unobserved due to cloud coverage. Capt. Lund led the Wing to the target to drop the remainder of his bombs. No E/A were seen. Escort was excellent, except for a gap of 15 minutes just before reaching Ruhland. No flak was met at target, but at Meissen moderate and very accurate fire hit the low group, damaging 13 of 17 a/c.
- 1st Lt. Frank I. Endres finished combat tour and left for 12th RCD.
- New crews joining the squadron included: 2nd Lts. Henry A. Dryar, Jr., Joseph C. Marlovits, Leo E. Richard and Robert N. Houser; S/Sgts. Gene M. Kelly and James C. Mitchell, and Sgts. Fred H. Pierston, Lyle A. Brown, James W. Inman and Lawrence F. Pesterfield.

- MAY (con't) 2nd Lts. Leland P. Deck and Otto C. Swan; F/O William D. Markle; S/Sgts. Seymour Shweky and Warren F. Wilson; Sgts. Duane B. Summers and Lynn H. Teelon, and Pvt. Clarence E. Gibbs.
- 29 COTTBUS - 306th flew 18 a/c plus two spares to bomb the important A/C assembly plant at Cottbus, southeast of Berlin. The weather over the continent was CAVU. The route took the formation straight toward Berlin via Hannover, turning southeast beyond Magdeburg to the I.P. and target, then skirting Berlin and out to the Baltic, east of Stettin and return over Denmark and the North Sea. During a gap in friendly fighter support, three swift passes were made by enemy fighters in the Meserity-Driesen area. No losses were sustained by this group. Moderate, tracking AA fire was met in the Dummer Lake area, Danish coast and Heligoland. None at the target. Strike photos show aiming point well hit. Capt. Carl N. Grending led the Group, and Lt. Ray C. McDaniel led the low squadron, along with Lts. William Breslin, Gwynn Boswell, Dewey O. Jones, William Reece and Elton Rabe. Reece turned back early when a supercharger ran away, and Jones turned back with engines overheating. Sgt. Orville T. Cook, waist gunner, credited with a probable; Sgt. Samuel J. Femino, ball turret, with a damaged, and Sgt. Daniel J. Galvin with a destroyed.
- 2nd Lts. Elton Rabe, Charles Trigg, Roy E. Buchanan and Dennis Toth to 1st Lts., effective 23 May 44.
- 31 LEIGE - 306th flew three groups of 12 a/c each, plus two spares, to form the 40th A CBW, which led the First Bomb Division. Col. George L. Robinson, Group C.O., was the air commander and had Capt. Russell Lund in the lead ship. Others from the 368th in the air on this mission were Lts. Albert Rehn, Ivan Oberhelman, Dewey O. Jones, Frank Krzyston and Gwynn Boswell in the lead squadron, lead group; Lts. Clinton Swan, William Reece and Charles Trigg, low squadron; Lt. William Breslin went as a spare; and Capt. J. Bruce McMahon and crew led the high group.
- Wing rendezvous was excellent. In an effort to dodge high cumulus clouds, the formation climbed to 20,000 feet and went north of course in the Ghent area, thence to target. Clouds prevented lead and low groups from bombing. After making a 360° turn over the target and failing to get satisfactory visibility for the bomb run, the Wing leader decided to search for a last resort target. As weather continued to prevent accurate bombing, the formation returned to base. Friendly escort was complete and no E/A were seen. Moderate, tracking AA fire was encountered, damaging 18 of our ships. Strike photos of the high group, Lt. Ted Boswell, lead bombardier, shows hits on the barracks in the Bierset area at NW end of A/D. Sgt. H. C. Jenkins, on special duty here for the 8th AF Photographic Section, and flying in a 423rd plane, was killed when hit by flak.

JUNE
2

ST. CECILY - The 306th flew 17 a/c plus one PFF as low group and 12 a/c in the composite high group, along with six a/c from the 92nd Group. Lt. George DeVack, leading, and Lts. Elton Rabe, Ivan Oberhelman, John W. Curtis, William Breslin and Charles Trigg flew in the low squadron. Lt. Breslin turned back over Podington with No. 2 engine out. No E/A were seen. Friendly escort was adequate. No AA fire was seen. Bombing was unobserved with a 10/10ths undercast. Capt. Russell Lund led the low group. Lts. Dewey O. Jones, Wayne H. Erwin and Frank Krzyston made up the second element of the high squadron, low group, 40th CBW. Lt. William Reece flew as a spare.

MASS-PALAESEAU M/Y - Twelve a/c of the 306th flew as low group and three a/c in the composite group of the 40th CBW. Lt. William Reece flew in low element of composite group and Lt. William Breslin flew as a spare. Bombing of low group shows hits on bridge with good results. The composite group bombed Conches, results unobserved. No flak was encountered at the target, but was rather heavy on way out north of Paris. No E/A were seen and fighter escort was excellent.

3

ST. CECILY - The 306th flew 17 a/c plus one PFF and two spares on a tactical target south of Boulogne. No 368th ships flew. Bombing was through 9 to 10/10ths cloud. No flak or E/A seen.

4

EQUIHEN - A tactical target southeast of Boulogne, on which the 306th flew eleven a/c, plus one PFF and two spares. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the group, with Lts. John W. Curtis, William Breslin, Dewey O. Jones, William Reece and Gwynn Boswell. Lt. Frank Krzyston was the spare. No flak or E/A were seen. Bombing was visual, with good results.

2nd Lts. Charles T. Niblack, Dellon E. Bumgardner, Robert L. Lewandowski and Robert C. Borgert; S/Sgts. Donald W. Urdahl and Melvin M. Brock, and Sgts. Wilbur M. Bowers, Edward J. Lockard, Robert J. Estermyer and Wilbur A. Barton joined the squadron.

5

Lts. Clinton D. Swan, Marcil Brage, Leonard P. Blatnica and Floyd Brunn departed for 12th RCD and home, tours completed.

6

NORMANDY INVASION - ARROMANCHES - The 306th flew 42 a/c on this first invasion mission, composed of two groups of 18 a/c each, and one lead squadron of the composite group, 40th CBW. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the low squadron of A Group, with Lts. Edward Patton, Ivan Oberhelman, John W. Curtis, Charles Trigg and William Reece. Capt. Carl N. Grending led the low squadron of B Group, with Lts. William Breslin, Frank Krzyston, Dewey O. Jones, Elton Rabe and Gwynn A. Boswell. Capt. Russell Lund led the composite group. Bombing was PFF over 10/10ths clouds, and pictures at bombs away show good, close patterns. No flak or E/A were seen. All a/c returned. Capt. Alfred W. Weld, S-2, removed his flak helmet for a sufficient period of time to observe one burst of flak in the vicinity of Caen and the picket fence effect of smoke bombs dropped along the coast line.

- JNE (con't) CAEN - The second D-Day mission included 12 a/c, led by Capt. Earl W. Kesling of the 423rd. Lt. Wayne H. Erwin was the only 368th pilot on this mission. All bombs were brought back due to 10/10ths undercast and no availability of PFF a/c with the formation. No E/A or flak were met.
- THURY-HARCOURT - Eleven a/c of the 306th flew on this third mission of the invasion day, plus one PFF, to form the high group, 306th B CBW. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led, with Lts. Elton Rabe, Charles Trigg and Ivan Oberhelman filling in other positions. Twenty-two a/c/ plus two PFF formed the lead and low groups of the 306th B CBW. Capt. Russell Lund led the low group, with Lt. John W. Curtis filling in after not making rendezvous with the lead group. Lts. Dewey O. Jones, Frank Krzyston and Gwynn Boswell flew high element, lead group, and Lts. William Reece and William Breslin flew in the low element. Considerable difficulty was experienced in making rendezvous because of 10/10th cloud cover over England. 5/10ths persisted until half way across the English Channel, where visibility was good. At the target a cloud patch prevented a visual run on the high group MPI. PFF was used. The lead and low bombed visually with good results, no flak or E/A were seen. P-38s, P-47s, P-51s and Typhoons were seen covering landing craft, and strafing good targets. Intense activity was noted along the beachheads and the sea approaches. All a/c returned safely.
- 7 1st Lt. Ray C. McDaniel departed for the 12th RCD.
- 2nd Lts. Dean C. Allen, Charles U. Rapp, Michael L. Vlahos and Charles J. Donahue and Sgts. Robert B. Newsbigle, Richard C. Huebotter, Harvey J. Purkey, Jr., James R. Carey, Eugene W. LeVeque and Clarence R. Reinartsen, Jr., joined the squadron.
- 8 RENNES - The 306th flew lead and low groups, composed of 18 a/c each plus four spares in the 40th A CBW. Lead group rendezvous was satisfactory, but the low was caught in clouds at control point A and failed to contact wing formation until out over the Channel. Major Maurice Salada, 368th C.O., led the wing formation and other 368th pilots were Lts. Albert Rehn, William Nash, Edward Patton, Charles Trigg, Gwynn Boswell and Frank Krzyston in the high squadron, lead group; Lts. Dewey O. Jones, Ivan Oberhelman, Elton Rabe, William Reece and William Breslin in the high squadron, low group. Bombing was wide of target for the low group. Lead made two runs over the target but could not bomb due to clouds. All bombs were returned as secondary could not be spotted far enough away from bomb line for the beachhead. Varying contrails and haze, 14/20,000 feet, throughout route. Ground fog over France generally 9 to 10/10ths, clearing to 4/10ths in the target area. No E/A were seen. Meager and inaccurate flak at the target. Lt. Boswell returned early with one engine out.
- Capt. Carl N. Grending relieved and transferred to 423rd squadron to be operations officer.
- 9 1st Lt. Martin J. McCarthy departed for 12th RCD.

JUNE (con't)

- 10 1st Lt. Ted Boswell, Jr. promoted to captain, effective 5 June.
2nd Lt. Frank Krzyston promoted to 1st Lt., 5 June.
- 11 ST. ANDREW de L'EURE and Illiers L'EVEQUE - The 306th flew the entire 40th B CBW, with 36 a/c and high group of 40th C CBW with 12 a/c. All 368th planes flew in the 40th C, with Capt. J. Bruce McMahon leading, and Lts. William G. Mitchell, Jr., William Reece, Charles Trigg, William Nash and William Breslin in the lead squadron; Lts. John W. Curtis, Edward Patton and Frank Krzyston, high element; Lts. Dewey O. Jones, Gwynn Boswell and Wayne H. Erwin, low element. High clouds over England forced rendezvous to 20,000 feet, and over the continent clouds were 10/10ths with tops at 19 to 20,000 feet. All bombs were returned as other formations were flying in clouds at a lower level over the target, and CBW leader was fearful of dropping on them. No flak or E/A were seen. Lt. Krzyston turned back early, being unable to find the formation in clouds.
- 1st Lt. Taylor L. Leedy transferred from 423rd Squadron and assigned to Cycle Relay.
- 2nd Lt. Hon T. Chee, navigator, joined the squadron.
- 12 LILLE/VENDEVILLE and CAMBRAI/EPINOY - Four groups of 12 a/c each, plus four spares, were flown by the 306th as the 40th B CBW and 40th C CBW's lead group. Capt. J. Bruce McMahon led the 368th high group in 40th B, with Lts. Leland Deck, William Reece, Elton Rabe, Edward Patton and Wayne H. Erwin in the lead squadron. Lts. Albert Rehn, Frank Krzyston and William Breslin flew in the high element, while Lts. John W. Curtis, William Mitchell and Ivan Oberhelman flew in the low. Very accurate, tracking and barrage flak was met at Antwerp and area to the southwest on approaching the target. Over the target the 368th met moderate and accurate AA fire, which hit every a/c, five severely. Weather was 8/10ths clouds over the coast on the way in, 1 to 2/10ths in the target area, and clear on route out. Bombing was good, while the 368th high group had to make three runs over the target due to clouds.
- 1st Lt. William Cullen, 2nd Lt. Robert Borgert and S/Sgts. Daniel Cookman and Warren F. Wilson were wounded in action.
- 14 BRETIGNY A/D and ETAMPES A/D - Maj. Maurice Salada, 368th C.O., led the 40th A CBW of three groups of 12 a/c each in an attack on Bretigny A/D. Flying in the lead group were Lts. Albert Rehn, Henry Dryar, Elton Rabe, William Breslin, William Nash, Charles Trigg, Wayne Erwin, Edward Patton, John W. Curtis, Harley C. Hutsell and Ivan Oberhelman. Flying in the 40th D CBW with 16 other 306th ships, Lts. Gwynn Boswell and William Reece bombed Etampes A/D. Bombing on both targets was excellent. Moderate, accurate AA fire was met from IP to target. On entering the French Coast clouds built up to 10/10ths to and beyond the IP, due mainly to persistent contrails. It was clear at the target and 4 to 7/10ths on the way out. No E/A were seen.

- JUNE (con't) Lt. Nash returned his bombs when racks would not release. Lt. Boswell returned safely with an ailing copilot.
- 2nd Lts. John J. Polich and Allan Johnson promoted to 1st Lts., 7 June.
- 2nd Lts. Joseph A. Bischof, Richard D. Eldridge and Rodger C. Lewis promoted to 1st Lts. 8 June.
- 2nd Lt. Harley Hutsell promoted to 1st Lt. 9 June.
- 15 NANTES - The 306th flew 54 a/c as the complete 40th A CBW of three Groups of 12 ships each and 18 a/c of the 40th D CBW, 12 a/c in the low group and six in the high composite group. Bombing was by groups and the MPIs were two railway bridges on the southern side of the city. Strike photos show good hits on both targets. The 368th flew as the low group, 40th D, with Capt. J. Bruce McMahon leading. Lts. William Reece, Edward Patton, Elton Rabe, Henry Dryar, Wayne Erwin, Charles Trigg, Leland Deck, William Breslin, William Nash, Ivan Oberhelman and Harley Hutsell made up the rest of the group. Lt. Hutsell returned early over Northampton with a runaway prop. Lt. Patton, due to an oxygen leak, turned back over the Channel. Lt. Oberhelman was over the target but returned his bombs when the bomb bay doors would not open. The 368th received a predicted concentration of AA fire, about 36 bursts at the target. Three a/c were slightly damaged. Weather was slight ground haze at the target, no clouds, 3 to 4/10ths over the Channel. No E/A seen.
- 2nd Lts. Walter H. Summer, Robert J. Socinik, Adrian E. O'Konski, and Parker Snead; S/Sgts. Roger F. Combs, Richard E. Dobbs; Sgts. Paul Brunetti, Robert M Horste, Roy C. Ficklin, Jr., and Pvt. George L. Barber joined the squadron.
- 16 1st Lt. John W. Sasser; 2nd Lts. Scott M. Owens, Charles H. Evans, Jr, and Robert E. Banta; S/Sgts. Eugene T. Carroll and Donald G. Smith, and Sgts. Raymond M. Wilson, David R. Revolti, Arthur C. Schultz and Virgil S. Mitchelson joined the squadron.
- 17 ORLEAN BRECY A/F - The 306th group flew lead and low groups of the 40th B CBW. The 368th flew 12 a/c of the lead group. There was much difficulty in assembly because the formation took off without knowing secondary control points and several ships came back when rendezvous was missed at first control point. There was no high group in the 40th B. Lts. William Nash, William Reece, William Breslin and Ivan Oberhelman brought their bombs back when they were unable to find the formation. PFF equipment went out over Paris and formation was unable to bomb the primary, but bombed a bridge at Noyen. Clouds obscured the hits. Meager to moderate, accurate tracking flak at the coast accounted for two a/c from the 367th Squadron. Lt. Charles Trigg had a malfunction of bombs racks and only dropped four bombs on the target. Others bombing from the 368th were: Lts. John W. Curtis, Henry Dryar, Gwynn Boswell, Harley Hutsell, Leland Deck, Edward Patton, Charles Niblack and crews.
- F/O William D. Markle appointed 2nd Lt, 8 June.

JUNE (con't)
18

HAMBURG - The 306th sent two groups of 18 a/c each to bomb Hamburg. One group flew high for the 40th A CBW and the other high group for the 40th B CBW. This squadron sent nine a/c, six as the high squadron and three as the lead element of the low squadron in 40th A. Lt. Charles Trigg led the high and Lt. William Nash led the low squadron. The 40th A proceeded to Hamburg on the briefed course and finding the target obscured by 5/10ths clouds dropped on PFF. Pictures show bombs on the southern and eastern end of big Lake Aussen Alster, with a heavy concentration in Old Town. The 40th B did not drop its bombs because the leader was unable to get his bombs away. AA was encountered only at the target, consisting of moderate tracking fire with no barrage at all. Six of our a/c received slight damage, but no one was injured. No E/A were seen, and our fighters have continuous support at all time over enemy territory. Other pilots flying for the 368th were: Lts. William H. Breslin, Leland P. Deck, Elton C. Rabe, Ivan W. Oberhelman, William Reece, Jr., Edward R. Patton and Charles T. Niblack.

19

NOBALL - The 306th flew lead, high and low groups of the 40th C CBW, with 18 a/c in each group. Lts. William Nash, William Breslin, William Reece, Henry Dryar and Harley Hutsell flew in the lead; Lts. John W. Curtis, Charles T. Niblack, Gwynn Boswell, Charles Trigg, William Mitchell and John J. Allen in the high group, and Lts. Elton Rabe, Wayne Erwin and Carl Johnson in the low group. 10/10ths cloud cover persisted over the continent and Channel, and prevented bombing. No E/A were seen, and only four to six bursts of AA fire was met. All a/c returned to base with bomb loads, except that "booby traps" were jettisoned in the Channel. The route carried the formation along briefed course and over the target, except the high group turned back at IP, observing that the entire area was cloud covered.

1st Lt. Albert Rehn promoted to captain, 13 June.

2nd Lts. Gwynn Boswell, William Breslin, Donald W. Murphy, William Reece, Donald H. Shaw, George Weinel promoted to 1st Lts, 13 June.

20

HAMBURG - 306th Group flew lead, low and high groups of 40th B CBW. Due to change in winds, formation reached German coast 10 minutes early and slightly south of course. The rest of the mission was flown as briefed. This squadron flew 13 a/c, six as high squadron, lead group; three as second element, high squadron, low group, and four in high squadron, high group. Lt. William Nash led the high squadron, lead group. Other pilots making the trip were: Lts. John J. Allen, Gwynn A. Boswell, William Breslin, Dean C. Allen, Harley Hutsell, William Reece, Henry Dryar, Charles Niblack, William Mitchell, Elton Rabe, Carl A. Johnson and Wayne Erwin. No fighter attacks were made on the formation, although one crew reported seeing two ME 110s shot down by P-51s and P-38s in the target area. Moderate to intense barrage flak was observed to the right on the bomb run. Intense, accurate tracking fire damaged lead and high groups severely. Photos show bombs hitting on M/Y directly east of target, as well as on the MPI. Photos also show a tremendous column of black smoke rising in the target area on our way out. Bombing was excellent. A large column

JUNE (con't) of white smoke was observed reaching to 20,000 feet at Hannover. Weather was 10/10ths over the North Sea, clearing to 5/10ths in the target area.

21 BERLIN - The 306th flew 36 a/c as the complete 40th A CBW. This squadron sent 15 a/c with Maj. Maurice Salada, our C.O., leading the CBW, and Capt. Albert Rehn flying deputy lead. Our planes made up the entire lead group with the exception of the 4, 5 and 6 positions in the high squadron, which were flown by the 367th.

We took the northern route to the target and came in to attack from the east of the city. A visual run was started but dense contrails forced a change to instruments. Pictures locate some hits east of Templehof A/D. Flak over Berlin was intense, and both barrage and tracking fire was encountered. Six of our a/c were damaged. Lt. Charles Niblack's plane was hit just after bombs away and had #2 and #4 engines knocked out. He feathered #2, but #4 could not be feathered and windmilled all the way back, causing him to lose altitude fast. He called for fighters, but was unable to get any help as so many others were calling at the same time. Over the Kiel Canal he was down to 10,000 feet and received a lot of flak. Fighters were observed taking off and Lt. Niblack hit the deck, coming in at about 600 feet. Ground soldiers were observed to be firing at the plane. Over the Channel everything not essential was jettisoned, and he was able to get above the undercast that extended up to about 3,000 feet, after getting #2 engine started again. He landed at Rackheath with all aboard safe. Over the target Capt. Rehn's a/c was hit, with two men wounded. Sgt. James K. Adkins, waist gunner, was hit in the head and seriously wounded. Sgt. Cecil L. Hopkins, tail gunner, received slight wounds.

Other pilots for the 368th were: Lts. William Breslin, Elton Rabe, Gwynn Boswell, Edward Patton, William Nash, Dean C. Allen, Charles Trigg, Harley Hutsell, Henry Dryar, William Reese, John J. Allen and Wayne Erwin.

22 GHENT - The 306th flew the 40th A CBW, plus 12 a/c in the 40th B CBW. The 368th was led by Maj. Elbert Odle, squadron operations officer, and flew 12 a/c in the low group in the 40th A. The target was the marshalling yard at Ghent, which was solidly hit with 368th bombs on the MPI. Large explosions were seen after the formation left. No E/A, and the only flak was a few bursts at the coast going in. Two of our a/c returned early: Lt. William Nash made rendezvous but was unable to keep up because of a lack of power. Lt. Wayne Erwin lost oil pressure in #4 engine, could not feather the prop, returned, and the #4 prop fell off on the runway while he was landing. Others flying for the 368th were: Lts. John W. Curtis, William Reece, Elton Rabe, Edward Patton, Ivan Oberhelman, Dean C. Allen, Carl A. Johnson, Charles Niblack and crews.

2nd Lts. Richard S. Hodgson, Jack C. Marshall and Irving Norton promoted to 1st Lts, 15 June.

24 BREMEN - The 306th flew lead and low groups of the 40th B CBW. Ren-

- JUNE (con't) dezvous and assembly were good, with the route following the briefed course. The 306th also flew high squadron, high group, 40th A CBW. This squadron flew the latter position with Lt. Elton Rabe leading, and Lts. Charles Niblack, Henry Dryar, William Breslin, William Mitchell and Wayne Erwin. Lts. Ivan Oberhelman and Leland P. Deck flew as spares, returning as briefed. No E/A were encountered, while our support was excellent. AA fire was moderate and inaccurate at the target, mainly a low barrage with some tracking. AA was also observed at Bremerhaven, Wesermunde and Neuwerk Island. Weather was practically 10/10ths at target and bombing was PFF. All a/c returned safely.
- T/Sgts. John Zarriello, Stuart M. Powell, Oakland V. Bittikofer, S/Sgts. James E. Arden and Richard Litherland left for 12th RCD.
- 25 JOIGNY - The 306th flew the 40th A CBW, plus 12 a/c as the high group, 40th C CBW. The 368th flew in the C with Maj. Elbert Odle, squadron operations officer, flying the lead ship, high group. The target was a RR bridge at Joigny. Photos show bombing on MPI for both A and C, but smoke obscuring bridge makes damage assessment impossible from strike photos. Meager and inaccurate AA fire from Romilly sur Seine was encountered. Weather was generally clear over the target, but our formation had to drop 1000 feet to get below clouds at altitude over France. Capt. Sam S. McNeeley, S-2, and Lt. Stanley Lloyd, armament, were riding in the lead ship. Lt. William Breslin returned early because of engine trouble and brought back bombs. Also flying for the 368th were Lts. John W. Curtis, Charles Niblack, William Reece, Leland P. Deck, Walter Sumner. Ivan Oberhelman, Charles Trigg, John Sasser, Donald Shawe and crews.
- Lts. Philip J. Field and Guillermo Perez returned to station after DS with 305th Group.
- 28 LAON/ATHIES A/D and DENAIN/PROUVY A/D - The 306th flew 36 a/c plus two spares to form the 40th A CBW. The lead group had bomb rack malfunction over the primary, but low and high groups bombed with good results. Lead group circled to the right and in coming back on the bomb run was blocked out by another formation. As the A/D appeared to be well hit, the group lead went to the secondary, Denain Prouvy, and bombed. The 368th flew 10 planes in the lead group. Lt. George A. DeVack flew the lead ship with Maj. Charles Flannagan, 369th, who was Wing air commander. Other pilots were Lts. Elton Rabe, Leland P. Deck, William Breslin, Henry Dryar, Dean C. Allen, William Reece and Walter Sumner. Lt. John Sasser flew as spare and returned as briefed. No E/A were seen and our support was excellent. Slight, accurate AA fire from Laon/Couvron, Laon/Athies and Laon/Chambray decoy damaged all a/c in the lead group, one in low and none in high. Lt. Deck came out alone and was hit three times over Dunkirk. Flak was observed as Antwerp, Brussels and Lille. Weather was broken to overcast at Brussels, clear at the target, broken on return, with persistent contrails at 16,000 feet and up over England.
- Sgt. Roy C. Ficklin, Jr., wounded in action.

- JUNE (con't)
29 LEIPZIG - Fifty a/c were dispatched by the 306th, plus two PFF flying lead, low and high group of the 40th A CBW. Maj. Maurice Salada, our C.O., was wing commander. The 368th flew 12 planes piloted by Lts. William Breslin, Henry Dryar, Ivan Oberhelman, Walter Sumner, John Sasser, William Keece, Edward Patton, Harley Hutsell, Wayne Erwin, Dean C. Allen, Leland Deck and Charles Niblack. Operations were abandoned over England when extremely dense and persistent contrails left by preceding wings hampered and prevented final assembly.
- 30 Capts. Russell Lund, J. Bruce McMahon and Jack Samway, and 1st Lts. Dewey O. Jones and George Tapper headed for the 12th RCD and home.

JULY
2

NOBALL - The Group flew a combat wing of lead and low groups, consisting of 12 a/c and one spare each. Maj. Elbert Odle led the lead group. Lts. John W. Curtis, Frazier McDevett, Ivan Oberhelman, Leland Deck and Charles Niblack flew lead squadron of the lead group, and Lts. William Reece, Edward Patton and Dean C. Allen flew low element of the lead group. Bombing was PFF over 10/10ths cloud, with results unobserved. No fighter opposition was encountered. Flak was from slight to moderate, inaccurate on low group at 5034N-0223E. All a/c returned.

5

Joining the squadron today were: 2nd Lts. Anthony J. Carlino and Bennett R. Schwartz; F/Os James T. McStay and Max J. Bruton; S/Sgts. Alexander W. Chominski and Earl E. Hall; Sgts. Keith J. Thompson and Everett L. Findley, and Cpls. Frank L. Watkins and John J. Fredericks, and Pfc. Ralph A. Cervello.

6

BEAUMETZ-LES-AIRE - The Group flew 12 a/c and one spare as E Force of 40th CBW on this Noball target. No 368th planes were assigned. Bombing was excellent, photos show strikes covering the MPI. No fighters, no AA. Weather excellent.

RELY - This second Noball target of the day included 12 planes and one spare from the 306th as B Force of the 40th CBW. They were unable to identify the target on the first run, and on a second run still could not pick it up. No bombs were dropped and all were returned except for 12 x 500 booby traps, which were jettisoned. No fighters, while flak was moderate and accurate at Bruay and again in the vicinity of Nuncq A/D. All planes returned. Maj. Elbert Odle led, with Lts. Elton Rabe, Walter Summer, Ivan Oberhelman, Carl A. Johnson, Edward Patton, Charles Trigg, Harley Hutsell and William Mitchell.

1st Lt. Philip J. Field was promoted to captain, 3 July.

2nd Lts. M. E. Christianson, Wayne Erwin, Frazier T. McDevett, Joseph Nieznanski, Ivan Oberhelman, Edward Patton, Ernest Skrainar and Philip Tomasella were promoted to 1st Lts., 3 July.

7

LEIPZIG - The 306th flew lead and low groups in the 40th CBW. Rendezvous and assembly were complicated by both rain and thick cloud above 6,000 feet, and assembly, in spite of poor visibility, was eventually made below this level. Each group consisted of 18 a/c and one spare. Maj. Maurice V. Salada led the formation, with Lt. George T. DeVack leading the low group. Lts. Charles Trigg, Walter Summer, John Sasser, William Breslin, William Mitchell and Harley Hutsell flew in the high squadron of the low group, and Lts. Dean C. Allen and Henry Dryar flew in the low squadron of the low. No fighter attacks, and the only AA gun fire was at Leipzig, where it was moderate to intense barrage, mostly inaccurate. Three planes suffered slight damage and five had severe damage. Smoke from previous bombing and haze made bombing difficult. Crews reported smoke from bombing all over the Leipzig area.

- JULY (con't)**
- 8** **CORBIE, near Amiens** - Our group was called on for E Force of 12 a/c and one spare, and F Force of 12 a/c and one spare. Lts. Charles Niblack, William Mitchell, Edward Patton, Charles Trigg, Carl A. Johnson and Donald Shawe flew in the low group of F. Lt. Dean C. Allen flew as spare in the lead group, and filled in the low element when one of the planes failed to make rendezvous. Our planes failed to bomb because of weather, which was 10/10ths undercast from IP to target and most of the way out. Almost all AA damage due to deviation from the route in a vain effort to locate a target of opportunity.
- 2nd Lts. Dean C. Allen, Claude R. Brown and Robert E. Stevenson were promoted to 1st Lts, 5 July.
- 2nd Lts. Robert L. Dodge, Robert E. Laden, Billy D. Wagoner and Sam J. Hatton; S/Sgt. Richard D. Hills reported for duty.
- 9** **RR BRIDGES in ANGERS AREA** - Leading the First Bomb Division, the 306th flew 12 a/c as lead and 12 as low group of 40th A CBW, as well as two spares. Lts. William Breslin, Ivan Oberhelman, Walter Sumner, William Reece, Frank Krzyston and Henry Dryar flew in the lead group. No E/A were encountered, and P-51s gave close support throughout the mission. AA fire was meagre and inaccurate, except for Lt. Oberhelman's ship. Pictures indicate direct hits on two bridges, one at Le Creusil and the other at Bauchemaine on the Maine River. Weather was clear over the targets.
- 11** **MUNICH** - The 306th flew 18 planes and one spare as high group in the 40th A CBW and 18 a/c and one spare as high group of the B CBW. Lts. William Nash, Dean C. Allen, John Sasser, Wayne Erwin, William Mitchell, Harley Hutsell, George Weinel, Donald Shawe and Edward Patton, as spare, flew in the 40th A high group. Lt. Hutsell aborted due to materiel failure. No damage from flak and all a/c returned. Good support by P-51s and P-47s. Bombing was PFF and both groups thought bombing was good, although pictures show 10/10ths clouds. Crews thought bombs landed near center and northeast of the city. Moderate flak at the target, but well below the formation, due to chaff.
- 12** **MUNICH** - Eighteen 306th a/c and one spare flew as the lead group, 40th CBW. Rendezvous and assembly were good. Lts. William Reece, Ivan Oberhelman, Edward Patton, Henry Dryar and John J. Allen flew from our squadron. Bombing was PFF with 10/10ths undercast. Crews feel bombs were well placed near the center of the city. Fighter support was good, with no opposition. AA fire was a wide, moderate barrage, and low due to chaff from the wings ahead of us. No damage to any of our planes.
- 1st Lt. Alfred Stillwell relieved from duty and departed for 12th RCD.
- 13** **MUNICH** - The 306th provided lead and low groups of the 40th B CBW. Each group consisted of 18 planes and one spare. Lts. John Sasser,

- JULY (con't) Walter Sumner, Edward Patton, Charles Niblack, Donald Shawe, George A. Weinel, and Wayne Erwin as spare, flew in the lead. No E/A observed. There was close support from our fighters. AA fire at target was a moderate to intense barrage, followed by tracking. It was much more severe than the two previous missions with 11 serious and seven minor damaged planes. Lt. Sasser was forced to land at Gransden Lodge at 1348 on the way back, without any injuries. His plane was severely damaged by flak and ran out of gas. No. 2 engine was vibrating excessively as prop controls were out, and the engine was losing oil. Both Miceys went out during the bomb run, but after the course had been set up. By this time the center of the city was visible, so lead bombardier made minor course corrections and set the rate visually. Pictures show lead group's bombs in the center of town, between the eastern end of the M/Y and Old Town. Weather was 10/10ths for practically the entire mission.
- 14 COMPLETING their tours and heading for home were: Capt. Philip J. Field and Lts. John W. Curtis, Joseph A. Bischof, Paul R. Carsten, Charles Trigg, Elton C. Rabe, John J. Polich and Mitchell Antoon.
- 16 MUNICH - Sixteen a/c as lead group of the 40th A CBW and 17 as the low group of the 40th A were furnished today by the 306th. Lt. George T. DeVack led the low, with Lts. Harley Hutsell, Donald Shawe, William Nash, Walter Sumner, George Weinel, Ivan Oberhelman, Leland P. Deck, Henry Dryar and John J. Allen in the same group. The low group followed the route as briefed until about five minutes before the IP. During the climb the low group lost the lead group in clouds and contrails. Having no PFF, the low group circled twice looking for a formation with PFF. Finding none, they proceeded to look for a target of opportunity. All dropped on the T.O., except Lts. DeVack and Shawe. Lt. Dryar lost the formation at the IP, joined a group with a K in the triangle and bombed with them. Pictures showed 10/10ths clouds. No E/A arrived, and AA fire at the target was moderate, mostly low and inaccurate, both tracking and barrage. Practically all damage received came from six guns at Tremonde. Eight a/c suffered severe damage. All of our planes returned, but one from the 369th was reported as missing.
- 17 HAM and JUSSY - Bridges were on the menu today, with the 306th flying the complete 40th B CBW and providing 12 a/c as the lead for the 40th D CBW. Lts. William Nash, William Breslin, George Weinel, Donald Shawe, William Reece, Dean C. Allen, Wayne Erwin, Edward Patton, Robert R. Denny, William Mitchell and Carl A. Johnson flew in the high group of B. The target this time was a bridge. Pictures show the lead group slightly over, while the low group put the center of its pattern on the bridge. Lt. Reece lost his #2 engine five minutes before the IP, bombed a target of opportunity and came home alone. Meager AA fire came from Clastres A/D, and was low and inaccurate. Weather was solid undercast at the enemy coast and CAVU at the target.

JULY (con't) New crews checked into the squadron today were: 2nd Lts. John F. Machosky, James L. Phillips, Robert R. Swartz and William N. Roberts, Jr.; S/Sgts. Lester R. Geisman, Edward R. Lanich and Andrew J. Dolovacky, and Sgts. George S. Dykeman, William D. Stanley and Willie H. Garber.

2nd Lts. Robert J. Chrisjohn, William Russo, Charles N. Levy and Ralph E. Bordner; Sgts. Louis R. Gilbert and Allen G. Sigafus, and Billy R. Fuller, Haig Gadarian, Aylett E. Jacobson and Glenn A. Korf.

18

PEENEMUNDE - Flying 18 a/c as the high group in the 40th A CBW, the 306th also put up 18 a/c as high group in the 40th B CBW. A good visual run was made. Pictures from our a/c show good bombing results. Weather was 10/10ths leaving England, decreasing to 7/10ths. There was a big opening over the target with good visibility. No E/A. Fighter support was generally present but not as continuously or as close at hand as in recent missions. AA gun fire was meager to moderate, inaccurate, scattered over the target area. One a/c was missing from this operation. Lt. George T. DeVack led the 40th A CBW high with Lts. William Nash, Henry Dryar, Ivan Oberhelman, Edward Patton, Leland Deck, Harley Hutsell, Dean C. Allen and John J. Allen. Lt. Robert R. Denny flew spare and returned as briefed.

19

AUGSBURG - 306th dispatched eleven a/c plus two PFF as lead group of the 40th CBW. Maj. Maurice V. Salada, our C.O., led the formation, with Lts. William Breslin, Wayne Erwin, Frazier T. McDevett and crews. No E/A attacks on our group. Between 12 and 20 S/E Luftwaffe planes were seen four minutes before the IP. These made a pass at the wing ahead. Bombing was visual, and finding the briefed MPI completely obscured the lead bombardier shifted aiming point to buildings on the NE corner of the airfield. Hits are believed good. No pictures are available. Weather was 10/10ths to approximately 50 minutes inside enemy territory, decreasing to 3-4/10ths over most of the route. The AA fire near this group was in the target area.

20

KOTHEN - Flying in the 40th B CBW, the 368th provided three planes in the high element, lead group, Lts. Harley Hutsell, Ivan Oberhelman and Leland Deck; three in the high element, high group, Lts. Charles Niblack, Henry Dryar and Dean C. Allen, and three in the high element, low group, Lts. William Nash and Edward Patton, and F/O James T. McStay. Lt. Walter Summer flew as spare in this group and returned as briefed. The weather was 10/10ths over the Channel and clouds and haze obscured the target. Each group bombed separately. Lead group was interfered with on the bomb run, and after being shoved into the Leipzig AA fire, bombed Rudolstadt. High group was over the primary, but leader's bombs would not release due to AA fire damage. Group later bombed a target of opportunity. Low group had a good bomb run on primary, at last moment clouds covered the target and low bombed a town at or very near the primary. No E/A were seen. Damage from flak was rather heavier than usual. AA fire was encountered at Frankfurt, Leipzig, Bitterfeld, Bernberg, Halle and Bonn. All 368th planes returned safely. but the Group lost two.

JULY (con't) S/Sgt. Lawrence Pesterfield, tail gunner on Lt. Dryar's ship, suffered a minor flak wound in the foot.

2nd Lts. Henry Dryar, Charles Niblack and Leland Deck promoted to 1st Lts, 16 July.

1st Lt. Richard Eldridge relieved and departed for 12th RCD.

21 EBELSBACH - Our Group flew the complete 40th C CBW. Lt. George A. DeVack led the high group, with Lts. William Breslin, Donald Shave, Ivan Oberhelman, Walter Sumner, John Sasser, Frazier McDevett, John J. Alle. Lt. Dean C. Allen was spare and turned back at 0850 as briefed. Lt. Robert Dodge, who was also in this group, turned back at 0937 hours, after feathering #3 engine due to a broken oil line. The continent was practically 10/10ths, except for the target area, which was clear of clouds but hazy. Bombing was visual. Photos do not show incendiary strikes. Crews report good results. No E/A were seen and friendly fighter protection was good. There was no AA fire at the target.

1st Lt. Taylor L. Leedy was transferred to the 369th Squadron.

Joining the squadron were 2nd Lts. William A. Ruffin and Edward E. Huelat, Jr.; F/Os Ira B. Holden, Jr., and John H. Norris; Sgt. Denis E. McCarthy and Cpls. Lawrence E. Edlund, Jesse H. Bennett, Frank H. Killinger, John Duda and Wayne H. Laubert.

22 BREMEN, HAMBURG, KIEL - The Group flew four a/c behind three PFF a/c in one formation to a control point south of Heligoland, there dividing to bomb three targets: Bremen, Hamburg and Kiel. Lt. William Reece and William Mitchell participated in this mission. No bombs were carried, each a/c dropping 10 x G-15s on respective targets. No E/A were seen and AA fire was slight, tracking, meager barrage, with accurate tracking at Kiel. Bremen and Hamburg both 10/10ths, and Kiel was free of clouds but hazy.

2nd Lts. D. C. Allen and William Nash were promoted to 1st Lts, 17 July.

Evadee Ivan Glaze was transferred to Mitchell Field, NY.

24

ST. LO - 306th flew 40th B Force of four groups, each made up of 12 a/c. Lt. Gwynn Boswell led Baker 3 group, with Lts. William Nash, Robert Dodge, Leland Deck, Henry Dryar, William Breslin, Robert R. Denny, Frazier McDevett, Charles Niblack, Donald Shave, Walter Sumner and F/O James T. McStay. P-38s provided area support throughout the mission. No AA fire. Weather was 9 to 10/10ths until just over the target area, when a clear gap enabled all but the first group to identify the target in time to bombs. No pictures available from Baker 3. Lead bombardier shifted MPI to crossroads at LaChapelle and states bombs hit as aimed. All a/c returned.

The Group also provided the six ship lead group of 40th C. Lt. Dean C. Allen flew with this group. The group on the right prevented proper swing for briefed MPI, lead bombardier then chose an aiming point a half mile to the east. Weather was clear at the target. Close, friendly support.

JULY (con't) friendly support.

1st Lt. William G. Mitchell, Jr., was transferred to the 369th Squadron.

25

ST. LO - Four groups of 12 a/c each were the contribution of the 306th as the 40th B CBW, and another six a/c were the lead squadron of the composite 40th C CBW. Lt. Gwynn Boswell led the B 3 Group with Lts. William Nash, Leland Deck, Ivan Oberhelman, Henry Dryar, William Breslin, Robert Denny, Frazier McDevett, John Sasser, Donald Shave, Walter Sumner and F/O James McStay. Lt. Dean C. Allen flew with the C 4 CBW. Bombing was done from about 12,000 feet. B-3 found the MPI obscured by smoke, which made positive identification difficult, so bombardier aimed beyond MPI. Pictures show strikes between St. Gilles and Canisy. C-4 Group pictures show hits starting at MPI. Good area support throughout. Weather was solid from 13,000 feet up.

26

1st Lt. William Reeder promoted to captain, 20 July. 1st Lt. Donald R. Ross promoted to captain, 24 July.

2nd Lts. Paul H. Anderson, Albert Burnett, Charles F. Donahue, Robert N. Houser, Robert Levandowski, Joseph Marlovits and Leo E. Richard promoted to 1st Lts., 24 July.

1st Lt. Ralph W. Schreiter, S-2, assigned to the 368th.

28

MERSEBURG - The 306th flew 34 a/c, plus two PFF, as the 40th A CBW. Assembly was satisfactory and route was flown as briefed. Lt. George T. DeVack led the 40th A low group with Lts. Charles T. Niblack, Dean C. Allen, Ivan Oberhelman, George Weinel, Wayne Erwin, Harley Hutsell, Edward Patton, Walter Sumner and crews. Lt. John J. Allen flew spare and turned back at 0757 hours. On the way back, Lt. Weinel, with two engines out, landed at Woodbridge. He was escorted from Germany to the enemy coast by P-51s. Primary was bombed at 0950 by PFF. Results were unobserved because of 10/10ths undercast, confirmed by photos. Friendly fighter support was excellent all the way. P-51s, in pairs, provided excellent support for stragglers. AA fire was low, inaccurate barrage firing into chaff on the bomb run, followed by meager, accurate tracking on the turn off target.

2nd Lt. Richard H. Claeys, pilot, assigned from Hdq. BADA, ASC, USSTAF.

Capt. Alfred Weld relieved and departed for 12th RCD.

30

2nd Lt. Fordie K. Lucas, radar navigator, assigned from Station 102.

31

The 306th flew 34 a/c plus two PFF as 40th A CBW. Route was flown as briefed. B/Gen. Howard Turner led the CBW. Lts. John Machosky, John J. Allen, M. E. Christianson, Harley Hutsell, Frazier McDevett, George Weinel and F/O James McStay flew in the lead group. Lt. Robert Dodge flew as a spare and filled in for Lt. Christianson at 1040 hours, when the latter turned back with a supercharger out.

JULY (con't) Bombing was PFF through a solid undercast, with results unobserved. Weather was 7 to 10/10ths over the whole route. P-51s gave close support, with no gaps. No AA fire except at target, which grew more intense as the group following came over, both tracking and barrage.

Capt. William Reeder, and Lts. William Breslin, Donald Shawe, Franz Ed Tingler, Philip Tomasella, William Reece, Carl A. Johnson and Rodger C. Lewis left for the 12th RCD.

AUGUST

2nd Lt. Robert J. Curran, navigator, assigned to squadron.

3

MERKWILLER - Maj. Maurice Salada, 368th C.O., was air commander for the 40th A CBW, which included 36 a/c and three spares from the 306th Group. Lts. William Nash, George Weinel and Edward Patton flew in lead. Lt. Frazier McDevett, John Machosky, M. E. Christianson flew in the low, and Lts. Charles Niblack, Robert Dodge and John J. Allen flew in the high. S/Sgt. Donald W. Urdahl, radio operator on Lt. Niblack's crew, was wounded by flak. No E/A activity, no a/c damage, and no AA fire at the target, but very accurate at Moutzen. Some bombs of the 40th A lead appeared to be off to the right. Low and high groups appear to be in smoke on the MPI.

1st Lt. John C. Wilson, who was DS to 40th CBW, was assigned and joined the squadron from 1st Bomb Division.

4

ANKLAM - Thirty-six a/c of the 306th flew the 40th C CBW. One, possibly two, black ME 109s made a distant and half-hearted pass at the low squadron, high group. No AA fire on this group throughout the mission. Our pictures show high explosives of the lead group on the MPI. Incendiaries of the high and low groups as briefed. Lt. George DeVack led the high group, with Lts. William Nash, Frazier McDevett, Wayne Erwin, George Weinel, Harley Hutsell, M. E. Christianson, Edward Patton and F/O James McStay. Lt. John Machosky flew as spare.

5

DOLLBERGEN - The 40th B CBW consisted of 36 a/c from the 306th, while another 12 were in the high group, 40th C CBW. High Group, 40th C followed the same route as 40th B throughout, except that after flying over the obscured primary, the high proceeded to bomb Stendal A/F, which was the assigned secondary. Strike photos of the 40th B show solid pattern on the briefed MPI, and the 40th C high was also "on" the Stendal A/F. Lt. Gwynn Boswell led the 40th B High with Lts. William Nash, Wayne Erwin, Leland Deck, Dean C. Allen, Walter Sumner, Henry Hutsell, Frank Krzyston, Edward Patton, Charles Niblack, Robert Dodge and Frazier McDevett. F/O James McStay flew as a spare and returned to base as briefed. Lts. Deck, Erwin, Hutsell and Allen, due to mechanical difficulties, left the formation to bomb targets of opportunity at Neuhof, Wesermunde, Oderburg and Prutzke, respectfully. No E/A attacks on either CBW. AA fire was moderate, fairly accurate, and there was none at Stendal A/F.

Lt. Walter Sumner was promoted to 1st Lt., 28 July.

7

MONTBARTIER and ST. LOUBES - The 306th flew 36 a/c as the 40th B CBW and six a/c as the 306th high composite group of the 40th C, plus one spare with the 92nd Group in 40th A. Maj. Maurice V. Salada, 368th C.O., led the 40th B with Lts. John Sasser, Charles Niblack, William Ruffin, Frazier McDevett, Robert Chrisjohn, Dean C. Allen, Leland Deck, M. E. Christianson and Henry Dryar flying in the lead group. Lt. Edward Patton flew with the 40th C high group, and Lt.

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6

BRANDENBURG A/F: The 306th flew 36 A/C as 40th B CBW and 12 A/C as high group of 40th C CBW. High Group, 40th C, followed same route as 40th B throughout except, that after flying over primary target, which was then obscured by smoke, high group proceeded to bomb Stendal A/F, the assigned secondary. Strike photos of 40th B CBW show solid pattern of bombs on briefed primary MPI, and also of 40th C High on Stendal A/F. Lt. Gwynn Boswell led the 40th B high with Lts. William Nash, Wayne Erwin, Leland Deck, Dean C. Allen, Walter Sumner, Harley Hutzell, Frank Krzyston, Jesse Patten, Charles Niblack, Robert Dodge and Frazier McDevett. F/O James McStay flew as a spare and returned as briefed. Lts. Deck, Erwin, Hutzell and Allen, due to mechanical difficulties, dropped their bombs on T/Os as Neuhof, Wesermunde, Oderburg and Prutzke, respectfully. No E/A attacks on either 40th B or high group of 40th C. A/A fire was moderate and fairly accurate. none at Stendal. All our A/C returned.

Lt. Sumner was promoted to 1st Lt, effective 28 July 1944.

16

BOHLEN: Thirty-five A/C bombed as 40th B CBW. No fighter opposition on this group. At about 1009 two to four B-17s in wing ahead were seen going down under enemy attack. From two minutes after IP to target for a period of five minutes, formation was under intense, accurate tracking flak. Out of 35 A/C over the target, two were hit and have not returned to base. Thirty-three returned, of which 31 are damaged, 18 severely. Target was by CBW in front and dense cloud of black smoke covered the briefed MPI. Lead bombardier shifted aiming point and pictures show strikes on new MPI. Major Maurice Salada led the formation. Lt. Gwynn Boswell led the High with Lts. Charles Niblack, John Machosky, Leland Deck, Frank Krzyston, Jesse Patten, Ivan Oberhelman, Henry Dryar, Robert Denny and William Ruffin. All our A/C returned.

1st Lt. Stanley N. Buck assigned and joined the squadron from HQ, U. S. Strategic Air Forces.

F/O James McStay was honorably discharged to accept appointment as a 2nd Lt, effective 10 Aug 1944.

- AUGUST (con't) Robert R. Denny flying as spare joined and bombed with the 92nd Group. 40th B bombing of oil storage at Montbartier was excellent. The crews came back with a feeling of having "drawn a blank". Pictures showed no fires as might be expected from a well hit oil target. 40th C pictures showed the target at St. Loubes well hit with a big column of smoke. There was only meager, inaccurate tracking AA fire upon crossing the French Coast.
- 8 CAEN - Flying as the 40th C CBW, the 306th flew 36 a/c, and had another 12 a/c with the 40th B CBW. Major Elbert Odle, our operations officer, led the 40th B High group with Lts. John Sasser, Harley Hutsell, John Machosky, Frank Krzyston, William Ruffin, Walter Sumner, M. E. Christianson, Robert Dodge, Robert Chrisjohn, Robert R. Denny, Henry Dryar and John J. Allen. Experienced crews report the AA fire was most accurate ever experienced, moderate to intense along the entire area from Vire to the target. Strike photos from lead and low show hits very close to briefed MPI. 40th B high did not bomb, arriving in the target area so close to the expiration of bombing time that they dared not drop. Lt. Dean C. Allen's plane was damaged beyond repair when hit by another a/c on landing. T/Sgt. Russell J. Schonekas, togglier, and Sgt. A. J. Mandeloro, photographer, were both wounded by flak.
- 1st Lts. Eugene Skrainar and Harry Wilson departed for the 12th RCD. Joining the squadron as new crews were: 2nd Lts. Leon A. Risk, George W. Purnell, Frank M. Seiford; F/O James W. Johnson; Sgt. William Carrasco, and Cpls. Max D. Houston, Sewell E. Brown, Romeo A. Basso, Jr., Richard Cooper and Joseph Hoffman.
- 2nd Lts. Clarence L. Halliday and Gene B. Howe; S/Sgts. Donald M. Hawkins and Charles H. Crane; Sgts. Robert M. McGillivray and Henry G. Trimmer, and Cpls. Clifford O. Rasmussen and Albert J. Stalder.
- 9 ULM - Thirty-six 306th a/c took part as the 40th A CBW. Lt. Gwynn Boswell led the low group with Lts. Charles Niblack, Wayne Erwin, Henry Dryar, John Machosky, Dean C. Allen, Leland Deck and Robert R. Denny. No E/A and no AA on this group. 40th A leader made two runs on the visual secondary, Ulm. Low group bombed on first bomb run and lead bombardier feels bombing was good. Clouds covered the target just as bombs went away so the pictures are negative. All planes returned.
- F/O John H. Norris was appointed 2nd Lt., 30 July.
- 10 1st Lt. George Weinel departed for 12th RCD.
- 11 2nd Lts. Charles U. Rapp, Parker Snead and Michael Vlahos were promoted to 1st Lts., 7 August.
- 12 CHAMONT AIR STRIP - The 306th flew 35 a/c as the 40th C CBW, and one plane flew and bombed with the 91st Group. The route was as briefed, with scattered clouds at different altitudes up to 14,000 feet, and assembly over England was hampered. No clouds, no E/A at the target.

- AUGUST (con't) The only AA fire was a few bursts high and to the rear as the formation turned off the target. Pictures show a pattern of bombs which blankets the air strip. Maj. Elbert Odle led the Wing formation, with Lts. John Sasser, William Nash, Walter Sumner, James Mc Stay, John J. Allen, Dean C. Allen, Ivan Oberhelman, John Machosky and Robert Chrisjohn. Lt. Henry Dryar flew as a spare and returned as briefed.
- 13
... ROADS IN ROUEN AREA - No E/A opposition was encountered by the 36 a/c from the 306th flying as 40th A CBW. Moderate, accurate tracking flak at Flers, and after turning east there. Bombing was good, with photos showing the low group on the MPI. Lead group on road from Evreux to Pacy sur Eure, and the high group on a road south of Montfort. Lt. Gwynn Boswell flew with Maj. Charles Flannagan, who led the Wing formation. Lts. Harley Hutsell, John Machosky, Wayne Erwin, Henry Dryar, Kenneth Eros, Edward Patton, Charles Niblack and Padraic B. Evans flew in the lead. Lt. Robert Chrisjohn was the spare and returned as briefed.
- Lt. M. E. Christianson departed for 12th RCD.
- 14 FLORENNES/JUZAINA A/D and CHIVRES A/D: The 306th flew 36 a/c plus three spares as the 40th C CBW. The primary was obscured and the formation turned to the secondary but found it also obscured, likewise the briefed last resort. The Wing finally came back on briefed course to the south of Luxembourg. Low and lead bombed Florennes/Juzaine A/D and the high bombed Chievres A/D. There was no E/A opposition, and AA fire was meager, low tracking at both targets. Low and lead group bombs hit the northwest dispersal area, while high group photos show strikes in the eastern dispersal area. Lts. Leland Deck, Dean C. Allen and John Machosky flew in the lead. Lts. Ivan Oberhelman, Walter Sumner and Padraic Evans flew in the low group. Lt. George A. DeVack led the high with Lts. Wayne Erwin, Frank Krzyston and Edward Patton.
- 15 FRANKFURT/ESCHBORN A/D - With 28 a/c, the 306th flew as the 40th B CBW. PFF equipment used as a navigational aid only worked satisfactorily. Fighter support was strong except for a short gap, permitting 20 S/E planes to attack the formation immediately behind. Tracking AA fire at the target was especially accurate on the lead group, six receiving serious damage. Final pictures of bombing show entire northern dispersal area covered by smoke and bursts. Lt. John Sasser led the low, with Lts. Charles Niblack, Dean C. Allen, Robert R. Denny and Walter Sumner. Lts. Edward Patton, William Nash, Ivan Oberhelman, John Machosky and William Ruffin failed to takeoff due to heavy fog which rolled in while the formation was taking off.
- 17 1st Lt. Theodore Cumberledge departed for the 12th RCD.
- 18 1st Lt. Joseph Nieznanski departed for the 12th RCD.
- 20 1st Lts. Richard L. Moore, adjutant, and Edward M. Seifried, pro-

AUGUST (con't) noted to captains, 15 August.

- 22 2nd Lt. Joseph W. Shepherd promoted to 1st Lt., 24 July. 1st Lts. Roy E. Buchanan and George T. DeVack promoted to captains, 19 and 18 August, respectively.
- 24 MERSEBERG and VORDEN A/D - Today the 306th flew 34 a/c plus two PFF as the 40th C CBW. Lts. Edward Patton, Kenneth Eros, Padraic Evans, Henry Dryar and F/O James McStay flew in the lead. Lt. Gwynn Boswell led the low. No E/A attacked, and the only accurate AA was encountered in the primary target area. The deputy lead took over after a smoke bomb went off inside the Group leader's aircraft over England. On the way in, the deputy leader's bomb bay doors would not open, it was necessary to use the pilot's emergency release. He picked the main Merseberg refinery plant instead of the briefed waterworks, with pictures showing hits slightly west. Lt. Boswell, due to an oxygen leak, left the formation and bombed Stade A/D.
- 25 PEENEMUNDE and PAROW - Thirty-four a/c and two PFF planes flew for the 306th as the 40th A CBW. All three groups were over the primary, although only the High group bombed it. The Lead group, due to smoke did not pick up the actual MPI until it was too late to bomb accurately. The Low group bombardier picked up the MPI, but bombs failed to release. Both lead and low groups dropped on the secondary, Parow. Lts. William Nash and Walter Sumner flew in the Lead group. Lts. Dean C. Allen, Kenneth Eros and F/O McStay flew in the Low group, and Lts. Robert Dodge, John Machosky and Padraic Evans flew in the High. Lt. Evans, returning alone on three engines from the target area, was escorted over enemy territory by first, four P-51s and later by four P-47s. Tracking AA gun fire was moderate and inaccurate on the Lead, accurate on the Low, and inaccurate on the High. Sgt. George S. Dykeman, ball turret gunner, was wounded in the arm. Lt. Edward Patton turned back at 0845 due to a mechanical failure.
- 26 GELSENKIRCHEN - With 36 planes as the 40th B CBW, the weather permitted only the High group to bomb. Pictures show the target, but smoke makes it difficult to place exact bomb pattern. Barrage and tracking AA fire was encountered for seven minutes in the target area. Our own 1st Lt. Dean C. Allen and his crew went down due to flak. Pilots William Ruffin and John A. Murphy reported that the plane took a direct flak hit in the left wing, blowing off the wing top, and skin peeling back to the #1 engine. The plane went into a dive and then fell apart. Three chutes were seen but no fire. This happened at 1234 hours. Members of the crew were
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lt. Dean C. Allen P | T/Sgt. Harvey J. Perkey, eng |
| Lt. Charles U. Rapp, CP | S/Sgt. Eugene W. LeVeque, bc |
| Lt. Charles H. Evans, Jr. N | S/Sgt. Richard C. Huebotter, w |
| Lt. Michael L. Vlahos, B | S/Sgt. James R. Carey, tg |
| T/Sgt. Robert B. Newsbigle, ro | |

AUGUST (con't) S/Sgts. Denis E. McCarthy and Sherman D. Bennett each received minor flak wounds.

27 WILHELMSHAVEN - Putting up 22 a/c plus two PFF ships, the 306th flew in the lead and low groups of 40th B CBW. The weather was such that the formation could not get through to the briefed primary due to a high front, and therefore bombed a target of opportunity, Wilhelmshaven. Fighter support was good despite the deviation from the briefed route. Results of bombing were unobserved because of 10/10ths undercast. Photos do not show strikes but do provide positive target identification. Maj. Maurice Salada, our C.O., led the formation, with Lt. Gwynn Boswell as his pilot. Lts. Padraic Evans, Wayne Erwin, Robert Chrisjohn and John Machosky flew in the lead. All our planes returned.

29 Maj. Robert H. Farwell assigned from the 8th AFRD.
2nd Lts. Robert R. Denny and Robert Dodge promoted to 1st Lts., 25 August.

30 KIEL - Thirty-four a/c plus two PFFs were our contribution to the 40th A CBW. There was no E/A opposition to this group, and moderate AA fire at the target was inaccurate. Bombing was PFF and all planes returned. Maj. Elbert Odle led the Wing formation. Lt. John Sasser led the high with Lts. Dellon Bumgardner, John J. Allen, John Machosky, Robert R. Denny, Charles Niblack, Padraic Evans, Walter Sumner and F/O James T. McStay. Sgt. Charles E. Koegel, engineer for Lt. Evans, received slight injuries while operating the top turret.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES were presented to 368th flyers during a July meeting:

1st Lt. William D. Reeder	1st Lt. William H. Breslin	T/Sgt. Warren M. Gentle
1st Lt. Joseph A. Bischof	1st Lt. Donald H. Shawe	T/Sgt. Robert B. Morrow
1st Lt. John J. Polich	1st Lt. Jack G. Marshall	T/Sgt. Francis J. O'Brien
1st Lt. Ernest A. Skrainar	1st Lt. Elton C. Rabe	T/Sgt. Joseph F. Dunten
1st Lt. Charles L. Trigg	1st Lt. William L. Cullen	T/Sgt. James R. Borchers
1st Lt. Paul H. Carsten	S/Sgt. William A. Davis	T/Sgt. Charles J. Hardesty
1st Lt. George C. Berner	S/Sgt. George R. Kerley	S/Sgt. George Y. Wortham
1st Lt. William E. Reece	S/Sgt. Emmett H. Brunotte	S/Sgt. Joseph R. Trigani
1st Lt. Mitchell K. Antoon	T/Sgt. Edgerton D. Ewing	S/Sgt. Einar E. Ottoson
1st Lt. Richard D. Eldridge	T/Sgt. James G. Brownell	S/Sgt. Wallace Benningfield
1st Lt. Philip A. Tomasella	T/Sgt. Jerry Misterman	S/Sgt. Ralph E. Milton
1st Lt. Rodger C. Lewis	T/Sgt. Charles E. Lane	S/Sgt. Chester J. Predko
1st Lt. John W. Curtis	T/Sgt. Joseph B. Novak	S/Sgt. Gaetano Abbatiello
1st Lt. Alden D. Maynes	T/Sgt. Edward R. Busch	S/Sgt. George B. Foster
1st Lt. John W. James, Jr.	T/Sgt. Lester F. Carter	S/Sgt. Joseph A. Purello
1st Lt. Robert H. Ehrler	T/Sgt. Roy N. Nupen	S/Sgt. Lawrence Pesterfield
1st Lt. Wm. G. Mitchell Jr	S/Sgt. Lewis A. Hudgins	S/Sgt. Hubert F. Champlin

PURPLE HEARTS

S/Sgt. James K. Adkins S/Sgt. Cecil L. Hopkins Sgt. Roy C. Ficklin

- SEPTEMBER
- 1st Lt. Charles T. Niblack promoted to captain, 29 August.
- 2nd Lts. Robert Borgert, Dellon Bumgardner and Adrian E. O'Kon-ski promoted to 1st Lts, 28 August.
- Assigned to the squadron were 2nd Lts. William T. McCaulie, Richard T. Gregg, Robert S. Tomlinson and Charles O. Holt, Jr.; Cpls. J. R. Winborn, Harry L. Kabrich, Raymond W. Roy, Lloyd G. Breeden, Stanley M. Mathes and Clement R. White, Jr.
- 2 1st Lt. Gwynn A. Boswell promoted to captain, 28 August.
- 3 LUDWIGSHAFEN - The 306th Group flew 33 a/c, plus three PFF, as the 40th B Group. There was no E/A opposition on this group, although several possible jet A/C were sighted. AA fire at the target was moderate tracking and accurate. Bombing was PFF and photos show a solid undercast. Lts. Walter Sumner, Robert R. Denny, Leon Risk, William Ruffin and Robert Chrisjohn flew in the lead squadron.
- 5 LUDWIGSHAFEN - Leading the First Bomb Division, the 306th flew 32 a/c, plus three PFF, as the 40th A Group. Of the three PFF, all Mickey sets gave either weak or intermittent returns. There was no E/A evident, except two crews reported seeing twin contrails of possible jet-propelled A/C. Fighter support before the target was spotty. AA fire was only over the target, and this group rode through with only four damaged a/c. Pictures of bombing show all bombs east of the Rhine river, with our low squadron on the built up warehouse area. Weather was 10/10ths most of the way, with holes. Lt. Robert R. Denny led the high flight lead with Lts. Leon Risk and John Machosky. Lt. Walter Sumner led the high flight with Lts. Clarence Halliday and Robert Chrisjohn. Lt. John Sasser led the high squadron; Lt. Padraic Evans led the high element, high squadron, with Lts. William Ruffin and Kenneth Eros.
- Major Maurice V. Salada, 368th Squadron commander, was promoted to Lt. Col., 2 September.
- Lt. Jack G. Marshall relieved and assigned to 8th AFRD.
- 6 1st Lt. Claude R. Brown transferred to Hdq., European division, ATC.
- 8 LUDWIGSHAFEN - The 306th flew 33 a/c and three PFF ships as the 40th A Group. Observed fighter support was fair. The only AA fire on this group was at the target where there was a moderate, low barrage before bomb drop, and tracking fire after bombs were gone. Our lead squadron made a PFF run and the low dropped on the lead. Our high squadron made a visual run. Lts. Clarence Halliday and Dellon Bumgardner returned early because of materiel failure. Lts. John J. Allen, Robert L. Edwards, Kenneth Eros, Robert R. Denny, Padraic Evans and Robert Chrisjohn flew in the low squadron.
- 10 STUTTGART - P-51s gave excellent support to our 34 a/c and two PFF planes which were designated the 40th B Group. AA fire was meager to moderate tracking, mostly low, at the target. Bombing was visual

SEPTEMBER (con't)

and pictures show direct hits on lead MPI with the pattern extending east across the M/Y. Lt. John Sasser led the high squadron, with Lts. John J. Allen, Robert L. Edwards, Dellon Bumgardner, Padraic Evans, John Machosky, Walter Sumner, Robert R. Denny and Robert Chrisjohn.

1st Lt. Irving Norton was promoted to captain, 6 September.

2nd Lt. James McStay was promoted to 1st Lt, 6 September. 2nd Lts. Padraic Evans and John Machosky were promoted to 1st Lts., 7 Sept.

11

EISENACH-LUTZKENDORF - The 306th flew 34 a/c, plus two PFF, as 40th B Group. Lead PFF was unable to pick up the target clearly at the beginning of the bomb run. Lead was turned over to deputy, and latter's scope failed to show town or target. After the turn off Merseberg, the Group leader took control again and bombed the visual secondary, Eisenach. The high also bombed Eisenach and the low bombed Lutzkendorf. Pictures show that Eisenach was hit well. No E/A attacks on this group, but 20 to 30 ME 109s and FW 190s reportedly attacked the Wing behind us. Friendly fighters gave us continuous support. AA fire at Lutzkendorf was meager and inaccurate, while that at Merseberg was accurate tracking, moderate to intense. Lt. Col. Maurice Salada, 368th C.O., led the group. Maj. Robert Farwell, Capt. Charles Niblack, and Lts. John Machosky, William Ruffin, Leon Risk, Walter Sumner, Robert L. Edwards, Robert Chrisjohn and Kenneth Eros flew in the lead squadron. We lost one a/c today, #836 B, flown by Lt. Machosky. Lt. Ruffin reports that Machosky's #3 engine was on fire, but not feathered and that the plane was dropping behind after the IP. It last was seen under control coming out of the target area. Members of the crew were:

2nd Lt. John F. Machosky P	S/Sgt. Edward R. Lanich, eng
2nd Lt. James L. Phillips CP	Sgt. Alphonse A. Micuta, bt
2nd Lt. Robert R. Swartz N	Sgt. William D. Stanley, wg
2nd Lt. William N. Roberts B	S/Sgt. Andrew J. Dolovacky, tg
S/Sgt. Lester R. Geisman ro	

1st Lts. Frank Krzyston, Frederic Shepard, Edward Patton, William Nash, Olin Hoisington, Harley Hutsell, Joe D. Seed, Dennis Toth, Paul H. Anderson, Robert E. Stevenson and Edward A. Telkamp were relieved and departed for the 12th RCD.

12

RUHLAND - The 306th flew 34 a/c and two PFF planes as the 40th A Group, a mission in which the Group lost nine a/c, seven to fighters and two to AA fire. These losses occurred 14 miles north and east of Berlin at approximately 1130 hours. Anti-aircraft accounted for our two losses, Maj. Robert W. Farwell, flying #690-W in the lead squadron, and Lt. John Sasser, #368-0, who was leading the high squadron. Lt. Robert H. Brown, 369th, said that Maj. Farwell's a/c was hit by flak north of Berlin, 5211Nx1340E at 1126 hours. There were nine chutes, one of which appeared not to open. Lt. Habert Underwood, 423rd, says that Lt. Sasser's plane went down at 1135 hours, NE of Berlin, #3 engine having been hit by flak. This a/c spiralled down

SEPTEMBER (con't)

to clouds, no fire, and five chutes were observed. Lt. William Macy, 423rd, said this a/c was hit by AA fire before fighters arrived and that #2 and #4 engines were out, under control, no chutes at 1127 hours. Members of Lt. Farwell's crew were:

Maj. Robert H. Farwell P	S/Sgt. Earl E. Hall, ro
2nd Lt. William D. Markle CP	S/Sgt. Warren F. Wilson, eng
2nd Lt. Warren F. Kryloff N	S/Sgt. Robert K. Winther bt
2nd Lt. Oliver A. Bonner, Jr. B	S/Sgt. Charles C. Williams, Jr. wg
	Sgt. Ernest E. Lindsey, tg

1st Lt. John W. Sasser P	Sgt. Virgil S. Mitchelson, eng
1st Lt. James T. McStay CP	T/Sgt. Eugene T. Carroll, ro
2nd Lt. Anthony J. Carlino N	S/Sgt. Arthur C. Shultz, bt
2nd Lt. Robert E. Banta B	S/Sgt. David R. Revolti, wg
	S/Sgt. Raymond M. Wilson, tg

In addition to Maj. Farwell, lead, and Lt. Sasser, leader of the high, Lts. Kenneth Eros and Habert Underwood flew in the lead; Lt. John J. Allen, Robert Chrisjohn and Leon Risk flew in the low, and Lts. Dellon Bumgardner and William Ruffin flew in the high.

Sgt. Joseph H. Hoffman, top turret gunner for Lt. Risk, was credited with one FW 190 destroyed. The 190 attacked from 10 o'clock high, and Hoffman opened fire at 800 yards. At 400 yards the E/A was starting to smoke, and then was on fire, and was seen to explode. Sgt. Frederick J. Vischi of Lt. Allen's crew was credited with one FW 190 damaged. Two 190s came from 6 o'clock low. Vischi opened fire on the first at 300 yards, and the E/A rolled over smoking, and went into a steep dive, smoking and on fire. After the attacks north of Berlin, five a/c of the high squadron joined with the remaining a/c of the low group. This new formation tacked onto two groups ahead and bombed the primary: the lead with two a/c from the high bombed at 1219.

1st Lts. Richard Hodgson, Ivan Oberhelman, Henry Dryar, Wayne Ervin, Albert Burnett and Leo E. Richard, and 2nd Lt. Clinton D. Swan departed for the 12th RCD.

2nd Lts. James E. Martin, Willis C. Holder and Jerome M. Wilf; and Cpls. Carl W. Kraus, Tillman L. Bare, Irving D. Fletcher, Robert E. Harrington, Jack A. Lawrenz and Leonard B. Davisson joined the 368th.

13

MERSEBERG - The 306th flew 11 a/c plus one PFF as high squadron, 40th A Group, and 11 a/c plus one PFF as high squadron 40th B Group. No fighter opposition was encountered, while continuous and very close support was provided by P-47s and P-51s. The only AA fire encountered was at the target where barrage and very accurate tracking fire damaged 16 of our a/c. 40th A bombing was excellent, dropped on oil tanks, and crews reported a large oil fire. Lts. John J. Allen, Kenneth Eros, Clarence Halliday, Walter Sumner, William Ruffin and William McCaulie flew in the 40th A High.

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- 14 Three new crews were assigned to the squadron on this date:
2nd Lts. Carl B. Hathaway, Harold N. Morris, Theodore E. Pollard and James A. Frederick, and Cpls. Meade S. Seaman, Jr., Edward F. Danaher, Eugene J. Feeney, Raymond H. Norheim, Jr., Marion Popivchak and Harry E. Sohn.
- 2nd Lts. Richard W. Jones, Donald M. Sandercock and Louis J. Krzemien; F/O Wendell F. Rodgers; Sgt. Coleman Schuver, and Cpls. Sebastian Karuss, Alfred R. Dearing, Robert J. Condrey, Jack L. Gooden and Yuen Hop.
- 2nd Lts. Joe D. Marsh, Donald C. Schertz and Joseph W. Long; F/O Milton Rosen; S/Sgt. Raymond J. Yoder; Cpls. Richard G. Atwood, Roland J. Bocian, Woodrow J. Decoteau, Patrick J. Hannum, Simpson J. McGilberry, Jr.
- 15 2nd Lt. Robert W. Schroeder, pilot, transferred from the 423rd.
- 17 VOLKEL - Flying 34 a/c as the 40th B. Group, the 306th bombed in six sections of six a/c each. There was good area support by P-51s and P-47s, with no E/A sighted. No flak except on the lead section, high group, which encountered meager by very accurate fire in the vicinity of Venlo. High section, low squadron, bombed Eindhoven A/D with hits walking up the NNE-SSW runway. Lts. Robert Dodge, Dellon Bumgardner, William Ruffin, Walter Sumner, Clarence Halliday, Padraic Evans, Robert Chrisjohn flew in the low squadron.
- 19 2nd Lts. Robert J. Scolnik and Billy D. Wagoner promoted to 1st Lts.. 14 September.
- UNNA - The 306th dispatched 24 a/c as the lead and low squadrons of the 40th A Group. Photos show excellent bombing visually by both lead and low squadrons. Meager, but accurate flak was reported immediately after bombs away. Major Elbert Odle led the group, while others flying for the 368th were Lts. Walter Sumner, Habert Underwood, Leon Risk and Robert R. Denny. Two planes returned early, four landed at home and 18 landed at Halesworth.
- 20 1st Lt. Robert N. Houser transferred to European division, ATC.
- Assigned to the squadron were: 1st Lt. Sam M. Stallard; 2nd Lt. Lowell L. Hobbs and Archie M. Neff; T/Sgt. Ishmael D. Cherry; S/Sgts. Grant G. Poppell, Earl J. McKenna, Edward H. Houser and Chaun Smith, and Sgt. Denzil L. Parker.
- 22 KASSEL - The 306th today flew 12 a/c as high squadron, 40th A Group and 12 a/c as high squadron, 40th B Group. We had excellent support and flak was low accurate barrage, then tracking at the target. 40th A leader made his own PFF run and 40th B High was interfered with on the bomb run by another group and dropped on B lead group. Pictures show practically solid cloud cover with no identifiable ground detail. Lt. Robert Dodge led the 40th A High and Lts. John Coyne, Leon Risk, Clarence Halliday and Robert L. Edwards flew with the A.

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2nd Lts. Robert Curran and Fordie Lucas promoted to 1st Lts.,
20 September.

25

FRANKFURT - The 306th dispatched 39 a/c, including three spares, and 36 a/c attacked the PFF secondary as the 40th B Group, while one of our spares flew with the 384th Group. There was no E/A opposition, and we had excellent support throughout the day. There was meager, low and inaccurate tracking flak after bombs away. Pictures show a 10/10ths undercast with no ground detail. Lts. Richard Claeys, Robert R. Denny, Clarence Halliday, William Ruffin, Habert Underwood, Robert Chrisjohn, John Coyne and Kenneth Eros flew in the high squadron.

Combat crewmen joining the squadron include 1st Lt. Edwin D. Woelner, Jr.; 2nd Lts. William Moroz, George S. Gowan, Seymour M. Feinstein and Joseph L. Blotner; Sgt. Gerald L. Beaupre; Cpls. Robert C. Corbin, Joe T. Dean, John H. Holzermer, Marcus M. Finley and Frank Pospiech.

2nd Lts. Richard W. Jones, Frank Krzemien, Donald Sandercock, F/O Wendell F. Rodgers and crew transferred to 367th Squadron.

2nd Lts. Carl Hathaway, Theodore Pollard, Harold N. Morris and James A. Frederick transferred to 367th Squadron.

2nd Lts. Joe D. Marsh, Donald C. Schertz, Joseph W. Long and F/O Milton Rosen and crew transferred to 423rd Squadron.

26

1st Lt. Reginald Thayer, Jr., joined from the 70th RD.

27

COLOGNE - Flying 36 a/c, the 306th was the 40th A Group. No E/A were seen and our support was excellent. Flak was moderate, low barrage before bombs away, gradually coming up to altitude. Bombing was by PFF for the lead and high squadrons, and photos show west of the edge of the city. Low squadron dropped on smoke bombs of the group ahead, and photos indicate excellent bombing near the center of the city. Pilot William McCaulie turned back at 0705 hours when #4 engine caught on fire. Capt. Charles Niblack took over lead of the lead squadron for the bomb run when the leader's Mickey went out. Also flying in the lead squadron were Lts. James E. Martin, William Ruffin, Richard Claeys, John Coyne, Walter Sumner and Kenneth Eros.

28

MAGDEBURG - The 306th flew 36 a/c as 40th B Group and six a/c as high and low flights of 40th C Group. There were no attacks on the 306th. At 1218 hours, 30 miles east of Kassel, a formation behind was attacked by FW 190s. They attacked from 6 o'clock high, and were painted with white cowlings, white tails and white stripes on their wings, like friendly fighters. There was excellent close support throughout the entire mission with the exception of a 10-minute gap. At that time another formation was under attack. At the target AA fire was meager to moderate, mostly low, inaccurate tracking. Photos show that bombs of all squadrons hit over, probably on the

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east side of the river. Pictures from the six a/c flying with the composite 40th C show severe damage just north of the center of town. Lt. Col. Maurice Salada, 368th C.O., led the group. Lts. Leon Risk, Habert Underwood and William McCaulie flew in the lead; Lts. Walter Sumner, Kenneth Eros, William Ruffin, Dellon Bumgardner, Richard Claeys and John Coyne flew in the 40th C composite group.

30

MUNSTER - Twenty-four a/c of the 306th flew as lead and low squadrons of 40th A Group. Friendly fighter support and no E/A made for an easy day for gunners. And there was no flak damage for the 306th. Lead and low squadrons bombed PFF secondary, and photos show sufficient ground detail to indicate that the bombing was very good. Capt. Charles T. Niblack flew in the lead squadron. Lt. Robert Dodge led the low squadron with Lts. Dellon Bumgardner, Kenneth Eros, John Coyne and Clarence Halliday.

Capt. Gwynn A. Boswell departed for the 70th RD.

THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WERE MADE AT AN AUGUST SQUADRON MEETING:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

1st Lt. Frazier T. McDevett, Jr.
1st Lt. George A. Weinel
1st Lt. Maurice E. Christianson
1st Lt. Joe D. Seed
1st Lt. Harley C. Hutsell
1st Lt. Wendell C. Leggett
1st Lt. Theodore C. Cumberledge
1st Lt. Joseph Nieznanski
1st Lt. Harry Wilson
1st Lt. Dennis Toth
1st Lt. Frank L. Krzyston
1st Lt. Edward R. Patton
1st Lt. Edward A. Telkamp
1st Lt. Gwynn A. Boswell
1st Lt. Claude R. Brown
1st Lt. Ivan W. Oberhelman

1st Lt. Leo E. Richard
T/Sgt. Gordon E. Wright
T/Sgt. Stanley B. Haas
T/Sgt. Orville C. Huddle
T/Sgt. Robert W. Church
S/Sgt. Charles S. Hesson
S/Sgt. Paul A. Morabith
S/Sgt. Sidney M. Salupsky
S/Sgt. Florian L. Gesirich
S/Sgt. Bennie L. Jefferies
S/Sgt. Karl C. Madsen
S/Sgt. Merrill B. Immerman
S/Sgt. Edmund J. Drost
S/Sgt. Robert C. Blake
S/Sgt. David T. Reese
S/Sgt. James K. Adkins

PURPLE HEART

S/Sgt. Donald V. Urdahl

BRONZE STAR

T/Sgt. William H. Jones

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2

KASSEL - Thirty-six a/c including three PFF flew for the 306th Group as the 40th A Group. The PFF a/c were flown as lead and deputy lead of lead squadron and lead of high squadron, which was led by Lt. Padraic Evans. His Mickey equipment went out at the IP, when the electrical system failed and, consequently, he dropped on the lead squadron's markers. Pictures from the high squadron show bomb strikes of the Group behind and about 1500 yards east and north of briefed MPI. The weather was 8/10ths at the target with a cloud over the PFF secondary. There was no fighter opposition, and friendly support was excellent throughout the mission with the exception of a short gap of about ten minutes after the target. AA fire was mainly meager, inaccurate, low barrage at the target, resulting in slight damage to only one a/c in the lead squadron. The 368th flew in the high squadron, and members were Lt. Evans, leading, and Lts. Clarence Halliday, Walter Sumner, William Ruffin, John Coyne, William McCaulie, Robert Chrisjohn, Richard Claeys and James E. Martin. Lt. Kenneth Eros flew spare and returned as briefed.

1st Lt. Howard L. Hall was assigned from Hdq., 8th AFCC.

3

NURNBERG - The 306th flew 24 a/c, including two PFF and two spares, as lead and low squadrons of the 40th A Group. Bombing was PFF through 9/10ths undercast. Both Mickey sets worked satisfactorily at the target. Photos show no hits but bomb plots from time of bombs away indicate strikes on or very near visual MPI. There was no E/A, and friendly fighter support was close all the time. At the target AA fire was low and inaccurate, practically all pounding into the chaff trail of groups ahead. The 368th flew in the low squadron, receiving no flak damage. Lts. William Ruffin, Kenneth Eros, Max J. Bruton, Robert R. Denny, Clarence Halliday and Robert Scolnik flew in the low.

1st Lt. Jerry E. Brian was assigned from 8th AFCC.

4

2nd Lt. John P. Walsh, engineering, joined from 1st Bomb Division.
1st Lts. Robert Lewandowski and Arthur Hammond left for 70th RD.

5

COLOGNE and KOBLENZ - The 306th flew eleven a/c plus one PFF as high squadron, 40th A Group. The route of 40th A was about as briefed, being over Cologne at 1136½ hours. 40th B high squadron followed the lead squadron about 12 miles north of course, it being over Cologne at 1142 hours, and without dropping finally ended up bombing Cologne at 1207. The high squadron was unable to keep in visual contact with lead squadron after the IP due to dense contrails. Temporary weakness of Mickey equipment during run on Cologne made bombing impossible. After turn off the target, PFF set resumed its full function and the squadron made a PFF run and dropped on Koblenz. There was no E/A opposition and P-51s gave close support all the way. 40th A high encountered moderate, inaccurate tracking flak at Gladbeck and Cologne, mostly all low due to chaff, and no a/c were damaged. 40th B high received accurate, tracking fire from about four guns at

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Koblenz, with minor damage to three a/c and one severe.

Lt. Robert Dodge led the low squadron. Others in the low were Lts. Max Bruton, Walter Summer, Kenneth Eros, Habert Underwood and Robert Scolnik. Lt. James E. Martin flew as spare and returned as briefed.

6

STRALSUND and STARGARD - Flying 33 a/c plus three PFF as 40th B Group, the 306th Group also had ten planes and two PFF as lead squadron 40th D Group. On approach to the IP, 40th B lead squadron commander received call from Buckeye Red that primary target was obscured by 7 to 9/10ths coverage. Therefore, 40th B turned and attacked Stralsund, the PFF last resort. 40th D, lead squadron, unable to pick up briefed MPI, visually as required, turned right to bomb Stargard. The bombing here was excellent, photos showing bombs solidly on the northeast dispersal area. There was no E/A around and about. Fighter support was close all the way in, but was lacking on the way out. Neither 40th B Group or 40th D lead squadron found any AA fire at their targets. 40th D lead had some moderate, low tracking fire at Stettin and meager, accurate tracking at Waabs. Damage, one slight and one severe. Major Elbert Odle was 40th B air commander and Lt. Padraic Evans was pilot of the lead a/c. Other 368th members of the lead squadron were: Capt. Charles T. Niblack, deputy lead, and Lts. Joseph Marlovits, Kenneth Eros, Richard Claeys, John Coyne, Dellon Bumgardner, Robert Scolnik, Max Bruton, James E. Martin and Clarence Hallday.

1st Lt. Charles W. Smith joined the squadron from UK base communications zone.

1st Lt. Adrian E. O'Konski departed for 70th RD.

F/O Ira B. Holden, Jr., promoted to 2nd Lt., 10 September.

7

RUHLAND - The route to the target was substantially as briefed for the 33 a/c and three PFF of the 306th designated 40th B Group. The lead and low squadrons attacked the primary, Ruhland, and both lead bombardiers used visual reference points because they could not see the aiming point due to haze and low clouds. The high squadron, unable to see either primary, secondary or last resort due to intense haze and cloud coverage, bombed a T/O at Roszla. There were no E/A evident. Three S/E jet-propelled planes were seen in the Leipzig area, but they made no attacks on our group. The flak at Ruhland was from meager to moderate, tracking and low, before bombs away and then gradually coming up to altitude. There was meager, accurate tracking flak from the outskirts of Osnabruck. Battle damage was five slight and four severe. Lts. Dellon Bumgardner, Joseph Marlovits and William McCaulie flew in the lead squadron; Lts. Robert Scolnik, James E. Martin and Max J. Bruton in the low, and Lts. Robert R. Denny, Richard Claeys and Habert Underwood in the high.

Also today, six a/c of the 306th took off on an Air-Sea Rescue mis-

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sion, three planes searching in Area C and three to search Area D. In Area C no observations in the actual search area were reported. However, radio operator of a/c #438-U, Lt. Risk's plane, picked up a message giving a bearing and the formation flew to 5320N-0305E, gee fix, where at 1050 hours an airborne lifeboat containing from seven to nine men was seen with a white sail. The Group leader sent an SOS giving the lifeboat position. Our planes circled the boat and at approximately 1232 hours two rescue launches arrived and took care of the men.

2nd Lt. Henry M. Campbell, pilot, reported from 70th RD.

8 F/O Russell C. Urich, bombardier, joined the squadron from 8th Fighter Command.

9 SCHWEINFURT - The 306th flew 33 a/c, three PFF and two spares as 40th C Group. Cloud cover at the target was 10/10ths, featuring a PFF bomb run, with the high and low squadrons dropping on the lead's markers. Photos confirm a solid undercast with no ground detail. The lead crew reports a satisfactory bomb run. There was barrage flak at the target, with some tracking, which was meager and low. Battle damage was two slight, two severe in the low squadron and one slight in the high. There was no E/A opposition and our support was good. Lt. Padraic Evans led the 40th C high squadron, with Lts. Joe D. Marsh, Robert Chrisjohn, Richard Claeys, William McCaulie, Robert Scolnik, John Coyne, James E. Martin and Max J. Bruton.

Capt. Charles T. Niblack and 1st Lts. Parker Snead and Dellon Bumgardner transferred to the 70th RD.

1st Lt. Merle P. Brown rejoined the squadron from the UK base communications zone.

12 1st Lt. Walter Sumner ended his tour and headed for the 70th RD.

14 COLOGNE - The 306th flew 33 a/c, three PFF and three spares as lead and low of the 40th C Group. Cloud cover at the target was 10/10ths and bombing was by PFF, the high and low squadrons dropping on the lead. Photos show solid cloud with no ground detail. The lead crew reports a satisfactory run. There was barrage fire at the target with some tracking which was meager and low. Battle damage was two slight, two severe in the low squadron and one slight in the high squadron. There were no E/A and our support was good. Lt. Padraic Evans led 40th C high, with Lts. Joe D. Marsh, Robert Chrisjohn, Richard Claeys, William McCaulie, Robert A. Scolnik, John Coyne, James E. Martin and Max Bruton.

15 COLOGNE - The 306th flew 22 a/c, two PFF and two spares as lead and low of the 40th B group. Bombing was visual by both squadrons. The leader of the lead squadron was hit by flak and knocked temporarily out of control as he was making a PFF run. The deputy, without PFF,

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took over and dropped on smoke bombs of previous groups over a visible, built-up area. Low squadron leader dropped on unhit built-up area. There was no fighter opposition and our support was excellent. However, three a/c failed to return today due to intense and accurate AA fire. All three a/c were from the lead squadron and included #087-F, piloted by Lt. William Moroz of the 368th. Evidently, he was hit by flak at the target. His #2 and #4 engines were out and feathered, and he asked permission to land in France. He was last seen under control. Members of this crew were:

2nd Lt. William Moroz, P	S/Sgt. Joe T. Dean, ro
2nd Lt. George S. Cowan CP	Sgt. Marcus M. Finley, bt
2nd Lt. Seymour M. Feinstein N	Sgt. Gerald L. Beaupre, wg
2nd Lt. Joseph L. Blotner B	Sgt. John M. Holzermer, tg
S/Sgt. Robert C. Corbin, eng	

Lts. Habert Underwood, Max Bruton and Robert Scolnik also flew in the lead squadron. Lts. Joseph Marlovits, Robert Chrisjohn, Clarence Halliday and Kenneth Eros flew in the low squadron.

- 17 COLOGNE - Thirty-three a/c, plus three PFF, formed the 40th A, composed all of 306th planes. Our route was substantially as briefed, and P-51s provided good support throughout the mission. AA fire today was moderate barrage and tracking for seven minutes. Battle damage was two slight in the lead and five severe in the low. All our a/c returned. Bombing was through 10/10ths undercast with PFF and photos providing no ground detail. Lt. Col. Maurice V. Salada, 368th C.O., was the air commander, with Lt. Robert Dodge as his co-pilot. Other flying in the lead were Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, Carl B. Hathaway, Clarence L. Halliday, Richard Claeys, Joseph Marlovits. Robert Scolnik, Habert Underwood and John Coyne.
- 18 Capt. Donald R. Ross was transferred to Hdq., 306th Bomb Group, to become group bombardier.
- 19 MANNHEIM - The 306th, leading the First Bomb Division, flew 24 a/c including two PFF as lead and low squadrons of the 40th A Group. The route was approximately as briefed, until 1407 hours in the vicinity of the Moselle River, where weather forced a 20 to 30-mile deviation to the south. Bombing was PFF and photographs provide sufficient ground detail at bombs away to indicate that they fell very close to the MPI. No E/A were observed. Fighter support today was only fair, with a 15-20 minute gap just after the target. AA fire was moderate to intense, accurate tracking, which damaged 23 of our 24 a/c over the target. All a/c returned. Col. James S. Sutton, 306th C.O., was the air commander. Maj. Thomas M. Hulings led the low squadron and Lt. Padraic Evans was the pilot in the Group lead ship. Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, Carl Hathaway, Clarence Halliday, William McCaulie, William Ruffin, Joseph Marlovits and Joe D. Marsh also flew in the low squadron.

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- 21 Maj. Elbert Odle, squadron operations officer, was transferred to the 70th RD today.
- 22 HANNOVER - The 306th flew 33 a/c plus three PFF as the 40th A Group. The route was as briefed, with no E/A opposition and excellent fighter support. AA fire was meager and scattered at the target. Many bursts were seen in the chaff trail, approximately 4000 feet below. No a/c were damaged. Bombing was unobserved, by PFF, through 1/10ths clouds. Lead and deputy Mickey operators believe bombs were on or near briefed MPI. Lts. Kenneth Eros, James E. Martin and Max Bruton flew in the lead. Lts. William Ruffin, Clarence Halliday and Carl Hathaway flew in the low. Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, Richard Claeys and Joe D. Marsh flew in the high.
- Capt. Irving Norton, squadron bombardier, was transferred to the 70th RD.
- 23 1st Lt. Robert J. Scolnik was transferred to the 70th RD.
- 25 HARBURG - The 40th C Group today was made up of 33 a/c and three PFF planes from the 306th. Friendly fighter support was uneven, with gaps just before and just after the target, with no E/A evident. There was moderate to intense barrage AA fire at the target, firing low into chaff, which was being blown to the left by cross wind, and we encountered meager to moderate, accurate tracking fire on the turn off the target. Bombing was done by PFF through 10/10ths cloud. Crews report dense, black smoke from previous bombings boiling up through the undercast, confirmed by photos which show no ground detail. Lt. Robert Dodge led the low squadron, with Lts. Robert R. Denny, Joseph Marlovits, Clarence Halliday, Max Bruton, Richard Claeys, James L. Martin, Charles W. Smith and John Coyne.
- 26 (see page 109) BIELEFELD - The 306th flew 11 a/c plus one PFF and one spare in the of the 40th A and 40th B Groups. Support by P-51s was continuous from the coast in and back out. No AA fire was encountered by either group. 40th A leader made his own PFF run on Bielefeld and believed the bombs dropped north of the center of town. 40th B High leader made his own PFF run when lead and low squadrons flew to the right off briefed course and bombed Gutersloh. Crews report that a hole in the clouds after bombing showed bursts in the eastern part of the city. Lts. Max Bruton, Joe D. Marsh, Carl Hathaway, James E. Martin and Harbert Underwood flew in the 40th A High squadron.
- The 306th also flew today 10 a/c plus two PFF as lead squadron of a screening force which threw out chaff as briefed while circling Munster at 21000 feet. There was no AA fire near this formation, or E/A. Friendly support was good. Lt. Padraic Evans was lead pilot, and Lts. John Coyne and Joseph Marlovits also flew in the lead.
- 30 MUNSTER - Haze, ice, persistent contrails and cirrus clouds "dogged" the 36 a/c plus three spares who flew today as the 40th B Group.

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Fighter support was good, although it was impossible to see it at all times due to weather. Bombing was by PFF with a 10/10ths under-cast. The lead squadron bombed what the Mickey operator believes was just south of Munster. High squadron made its own run just to the left of the lead and its bombs should be in the northern part of Munster. The low squadron was interfered with by another formation on the bomb run. Because of extreme bad visibility and dense, persistent contrails, the low lost visual contact with the lead squadron. As they had no PFF equipment they were unable to bomb and brought back their entire bomb loads to base. No planes suffered AA damage. Lt. Padraic Evans led the high squadron, and other members were Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, Habert Underwood, Clarence Halliday, Richard Claeys James E. Martin, William Ruffin, Max Bruton and John Coyne.

31

Capt. John H. Jordan, bombardier, who was attached on 23 October, was assigned to the squadron today.

Combat crew transferred from the 367th Squadron includes: 2nd Lts. Richard W. Jones, Donald H. Sandercock, Louis J. Krzemian and F/O Wendell F. Rogers, and Sgts. Coleman Schuver, Sebastian Krauss, Robert J. Condrey, Jack L. Gooden, Alfred R. Dearing and Yuen Hop.

Arriving from the 70th RD were 2nd Lts. Charles A. Crooks, John P. Mockus and Louis F. Thompson; Cpls. Burton H. Frazier, Albert J. Seaberg, John M. Bradley, Richard W. Miller and Joseph H. Mandula, and Pfc. Lloyd Cain.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

This month saw a change in squadron commanders. Maj. Thomas M. Hulings joined the squadron 12 October, and on 24 October became acting squadron commander. This was occasioned by the move of Lt. Col. Maurice Salada to 306th Group as acting air executive officer. Both "acting" appointments were confirmed as of 1 November.

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DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES (awarded during September)

Capt. George T. DeVack	T/Sgt. Emedio G. Scottoline
1st Lt. Paul H. Anderson	T/Sgt. Ignatius W. Kelly
1st Lt. Wayne H. Erwin	T/Sgt. Richard L. Perkins
1st Lt. Robert E. Stevenson	T/Sgt. Russell J. Schonekas
1st Lt. Charles T. Niblack	T/Sgt. Francis K. Benore
1st Lt. Joseph J. Leben	T/Sgt. William C. Ellery
1st Lt. Albert F. Burnett	T/Sgt. Donald F. Ruschmyer
1st Lt. Henry A. Dryar, Jr.	T/Sgt. Bernell D. Sharp
1st Lt. Robert L. Lewandowski	T/Sgt. Gene M. Kelly
1st Lt. Arthur B. Hammond	S/Sgt. Daniel V. Cookman
1st Lt. Dellon E. Bumgardner	S/Sgt. Paul Heller
1st Lt. John J. Allen	S/Sgt. James J. Johnson
1st Lt. Robert N. Houser	S/Sgt. Andrew J. Roe
1st Lt. Adrian E. O'Konski	S/Sgt. Deral O. Stewart
1st Lt. Walter H. Sumner	S/Sgt. Ted J. Teckman
2nd Lt. William M. Nash	S/Sgt. John W. Wells
2nd Lt. Joseph W. Shepherd	S/Sgt. Roy L. Wiklund
2nd Lt. Otto C. Swan	S/Sgt. Murray F. Yeats
	S/Sgt. Joseph V. Beirne
	S/Sgt. Orval L. Cook
	S/Sgt. Hoil O. Flood
	S/Sgt. Edward J. Lockard
	S/Sgt. Napoleon Pietrowski
	S/Sgt. Warren R. Pinney
	S/Sgt. Lynn H. Teelon
	S/Sgt. Emil W. Teska
	S/Sgt. Robert R. Copp, Jr.

PURPLE HEARTS

S/Sgt. Lester R. Geisman
Sgt. Glenn A. Korf
Sgt. George S. Dykeman
Sgt. Louis F. Brown

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Transferred from the 369th Squadron and the 423rd Squadron, respectively were:

2nd Lts. Carl B. Hathaway, Harold N. Norris, Theodore E. Pollard and James A. Frederick; Sgts. Meade O. Seaman, Jr., Marion Popivchak, Eugene J. Feeney, Harry E. Sohn, Edward G. Danaher and Raymond H. Norheim, Jr.

2nd Lts. Joe D. Marsh, Donald C. Schertz, Joseph W. Long and F/O Milton Rosen; S/Sgt. Raymond J. Yoder, and Cpls. Simpson J. McGilberry, Jr., Woodrow J. Decoteau, Roland J. Bocian, Richard G. Atwood and Patrick J. Hannum.

NOVEMBER

The month of November passed with the 306th flying 11 missions to Germany, in spite of the almost consistently bad weather. A year ago this month the group flew only five missions. At that time all targets were strategic, including attacks on submarine construction, which helped to win the Battle of the Atlantic. This November a difference in targets will be noted. In the first place, we had two missions in direct support of ground troops fighting the Battle of Germany. Another mission was an attack against a marshalling yard, which have a direct bearing on the ability of Germany to supply its front line troops in the West. Thus, in November we had three strategic missions. Other targets briefed were mostly oil supplies, which, if we can destroy them, will affect the enemy's ability to carry on the war. Needless to say, because of almost continuous overcast weather during the month, it was impossible to bomb visually. Bombing was done mostly by PFF and Gee-H, and consequently all of the briefed MPIs were not hit.

2

MERSEBURG - The 306th flew 10 a/c plus two PFF as lead squadron and 12 a/c as low squadron of the 40th B Group. The group made a PFF run on Merseburg, the secondary PFF target, after Buckeye Red had reported a cloud layer from 26,000 to 28,000 feet and 10/10ths low cloud at the target. The low squadron dropped on the lead and although the target was in the clear, no visual corrections were made. Several dogfights were seen by crews, but no E/A bothered our formations. Flak at the target was moderate to intense, resulting in battle damage of eight severe and three slight. The 368th flew in the low squadron with Lt. Robert Dodge leading, and Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, Max Bruton, Kenneth Eros, William McCaulie and Carl Hathaway. Lt. Eros dropped on a T/O because of oxygen system failure.

4

HARBURG - The 306th flew 33 a/c and three PFF as 40th A Group. On the approach to the target, Buckeye Blue reported 10/10ths clouds at the target and that the bombing would be PFF. All Mickey equipment worked satisfactorily and the lead squadron bombed through 10/10ths clouds. The low dropped on the lead, but the high made a separate PFF run, dropping one minute later at 1146. Photos show no ground detail whatsoever. Moderate to intense barrage, with some inaccurate tracking flak was encountered at the target. None of our a/c had any battle damage. Several crews reported smoke trails in the sky on the target area, which appeared like our smoke bombs. Several suggested they may be an attempt to mislead following formations and to get them to drop on the wrong smoke bombs. Members of the 368th flew in the lead squadron: Lt. Padraic Evans was the lead pilot with Lt. Col. John S. Chalfant as air commander. Lt. Robert R. Denny flew the deputy lead, and other were Lts. Joseph Marlovits, Charles W. Smith, Carl B. Hathaway, Joe D. Marsh, Habert Underwood, William McCaulie and John Coyne.

5

FRANKFURT - Thirty-six a/c, including two PFF, flew for the 306th as the 40th C Group. The bomb run was started with PFF, then a hole opened in the clouds, and with a slight visual correction bombs went

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away, low and high dropping on the lead. Photos show positive identification and indicate excellent results, probably close to the middle of the Old Town. After the turn off the target, the wing behind called on VHF and said, "You Charley Boys really knocked hell out of that target." Flak at the target was low and to the left for about four minutes, damaging one a/c severely and one slightly. We had no fighter attacks. Major Thomas W. Hulings flew as deputy lead and Lts. Charles W. Smith, Carl Hathaway and Joe D. Marsh flew in the high element, lead squadron. Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, William McCaulie and John Coyne flew in high element, low squadron, and Lts. William Ruffin, Joseph Marlovits and James E. Martin flew in high element, high squadron.

6 HAMBURG - Flying 34 a/c and two PFF, the 306th formed the 40th A Group. Buckeye Red reported 9/10ths cloud at the target, and bombing was PFF in wing formation with each squadron making visual corrections during the last few minutes of the run. Pictures show strikes in the main marshalling yard and one and one-half miles southeast of Binnen Alster. There were no E/A attacks on us. AA fire at the target was moderate, and it was tracking the lead squadron, which sustained five slight and two severe damaged a/c. Neither low nor high received any battle damage. Crews reported an unusual quantity of shipping between Cuxhaven and Brunsbuttel. Lt. Robert Dodge lead the low squadron, and with him were Lts. Leon Risk, Richard Claeys, Kenneth Eros, William Ruffin, William McCaulie, James E. Martin, Joe D. Marsh and Carl A. Hathaway.

8 MERSEBURG - Forty-eight 306th a/c were up today, 36 as the 40th B Group and 12 as a 40th C screening force. Thirteen of our B Group planes flew with 40th A because during the climb through clouds en route to the target, lead and high lost the low squadron. Lead and high made an attempt to find the low squadron by circling at 24000 feet just before reaching the Dutch coast. However, at 1000 hours the low reported it was eight miles into Holland. Lead and high failed to pick up any other formation, and then realizing that the entire bomber force was now far ahead, the leader turned back at 5240N-0410E. Thirteen of our a/c bombed with the 92nd Group. 40th A photos show no ground details. Maj. Thomas W. Hulings, 368th C.O., was the air commander. Lt. Leon Risk led the high with Lts. Edwin Woellner, Robert Chrisjohn, Charles W. Smith, James E. Martin, Kenneth Eros, William Ruffin, Max Bruton and Richard Claeys, who bombed with the low.

Lts. Clarence Halliday, Carl Hathaway and Joe D. Marsh flew with the screening force, which dropped 25,920 units of chaff, as briefed. While the 40th B met no E/A opposition, the screening force encountered a T/E aircraft, believed to be an ME 410, which attacked from 1130 high and broke left under the lead element, within 100 yards. It then turned and made a sweeping arc from 5 to 7 o'clock, firing from 600 yards as it swept behind. It returned for a third, but half-hearted attack, from 7 o'clock before it finally broke away. A possible ME 109 was also reported following the T/E on its second

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attack from 5 o'clock. 40th C the screening force, was without fighter support all the way into the target area and out again, until in the vicinity of the Zuider Zee.

- 9 METZ AREA - The 306th flew 33 a/c, plus two PFF and one Gee-H plane, as 40th C Group in support of ground troops against German gun positions in the Metz area. Bombing was by Gee-H through 8/10ths clouds and haze with no visual correction possible. The Gee-H operator feels that his equipment worked satisfactorily, although shadows from clouds obscured open spots in pictures and no strikes are visible. In order to ensure that no bombs would be dropped on friendly troops, SCS-51 was used, and also a line of friendly flak below our altitude was put up, which would indicate to our crews our front line troops. The SCS-51 worked well in most cases. The line of friendly flak, however, was not observed by most crews due to patches of cloud above flak altitude. Some crews report being able to see it through breaks in the clouds, especially on the way back from the target. All planes returned safely, none having met any opposition. Lt. Padraic B. Evans flew as lead pilot, with Lt. Robert R. Denny as deputy lead. Others were Lts. Edwin Woellner, Kenneth Eros, Max L. Bruton, John Coyne, Charles W. Smith, Richard Claeys and James E. Martin.
- 16 ESCHWEILER AREA - The 306th put up 39 a/c, with one Gee-H, three PFF and three spares, as the 40th B Group, again in support of the ground troops. As in the previous mission, the group was attacking enemy gun positions. The 306th also flew 12 a/c as the 40th D low squadron, also in support of ground forces.
- SCS-51 equipment was again used to point out to our planes the line behind which bombs must not be dropped. In addition, several other identification features were used: panels on the ground which we did not see, balloons which were also unobserved, and a line of friendly flak which was observed by all a/c east of the SCS-51 beam. Continental bunchers C-6 and C-10 were used with good results. All bombing results were unobserved and photos show no ground detail.
- 40th B received no AA fire, but observed it on formations behind us. 40th D received meager to moderate, accurate flak resulting in two a/c severely damaged and three slightly. No E/A were encountered. Due to bad weather on the return to base, 45 of our ships landed at other bases, but they all returned safely later. Maj. Thomas W. Hulings was air commander, and our other contributions to 40th B were: Lts. Charles W. Smith, John Coyne, Richard Claeys, Padraic Evans, Max Bruton, Carl Hathaway, James E. Martin, Robert Chrisjohn, William McCaulie and Clarence Halliday. Capt. Robert Matzke, Lts. Joe D. Marsh, Robert R. Denny and Joseph Marlovits flew in the 40th D low squadron.
- 21 MEPPEN and LEEUWARDEN A/D - Thirty-six a/c of the 306th, flying as 40th A Group, entered the Dutch Coast at 5232N-0426E, with Merseberg as the primary target. The group overran the first turn, then

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turned to 190° to avoid Dummer Lake, and then to 90°, to avoid flak observed at Minden. At this point Buckeye Red informed the leader that there were solid clouds between his position and the target which reached from 20000 to 31000 feet. The leader then turned back and started a run on Osnabruck. On the bomb run, flak knocked out two engines of the lead a/c and knocked down the deputy lead. The lead and low squadrons then bombed a bridge and railroad at Meppen. The high squadron also started a run on Meppen, but the leader's bombsight went out, so the deputy took over and made a run on Leeuwarden A/D.

The experience of this group indicates that the entry corridor at 5237N-0437E and between Osnabruck and Dummer Lake, have been blocked by flak. On the route, both in and out, this group found meager but accurate flak at the coast. The original flak in the Dummer Lake area was probably railroad flak between Osnabruck and Bremen. Today our a/c found flak from Minden to Osnabruck, which could mean that the mobile flak, formerly working toward Bremen, had been switched to the west-east line to Minden. This, thereby, blocked the Dummer Lake corridor used on recent operations.

The 306th also flew 12 a/c as 40th D Screening Force. The route was flown practically as briefed.

Col. James S. Sutton, 306th C.O., led the 40th A Group today. Lt. Padraic Evans led the low squadron, also with Lts. James E. Martin, Joe D. Marsh, Carl Hathaway, Robert Chrisjohn, Joseph Marlovits, Kenneth Eros, John Coyne and Edwin Woellner. Flying with the D screening force were Lts. Max Bruton, William McCaulie and Richard Claeys.

26

MISBURG - The 306th flew 26 a/c as 40th B and 12 a/c as high squadron of 40th C. Ten minutes before bombs away, Buckeye Red reported no clouds but that a smoke screen covered the target. The Mickey equipment of the lead failed, and the deputy took over, bombing by PFF. The low squadron dropped on the lead. The high squadron followed the lead into the target but made an independent 30-second visual run. There were no photos of lead or low bombing, and photos from the high squadron show unidentified bursts to the east of the target area. 40th C high dropped on the lead with a slight visual correction. Strike photos show hits in the target area.

Members of the 368th flying today were Lts. Leon Risk, high squadron leader, Edwin Woellner, Robert Chrisjohn, Clarence Halliday, William McCaulie, Kenneth Eros, William Ruffin, Max Bruton, Charles W. Smith, Richard Claeys, John Coyne and Capt. Robert Matzke. There were no attacks on our formation, although crews report violent dogfights in the distance, and several unidentified fighters were seen going down in flames. AA gun fire was moderate to intense at the target, with accurate, tracking flak on the turn off the target. Battle damage in the 40th B is 14 severe and six slight; in the 40th C high, two severe and one slight. All planes returned safely.

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29

MISBURG - Today the 306th went back to Misburg with 36 a/c as 40th B Group. Buckeye Red reported 10/10ths clouds over the target and the bombing was by PFF. All three squadrons dropped on the group leader, photographs showing no ground detail at all. Our fighters gave close and continuous cover. AA gun fire at the target was meager, inaccurate and low, and appeared to be tracking our chaff. We encountered meager, tracking fire quite close to the formation near the coast in and out. No battle damage was suffered. Lt. Robert R. Denny flew as deputy lead of 40th B Group, with Lts. William McCaulie, Kenneth Eros, John Coyne, James E. Martin, William Ruffin, Richard Claeys and Max Bruton.

30

GERA - The 306th Group flew 33 a/c and three PFF planes as 40th A Group. Finding the primary target, oil at Bohlen, obscured by an effective smoke screen and heavy ground haze, 21 a/c of the lead and low bombed a visual target of opportunity at Gera. Photos show hits in the center of Gera, on the north and south marshalling yards, and on the Heinrich Leo Air Compressor plant. Three a/c from the low separated by clouds, made a PFF run on a T/O at Friedburg with results unobserved. Ten a/c of the high, separated by interference from another formation on the primary, dropped by PFF on Ohrdruf with results unobserved. Both of the remaining two a/c of the high squadron, including Lt. William McCaulie, dropped on T/Os.

Major Thomas W. Hulings, 368th C.O., led the group, with others in the lead being Lts. Richard Claeys, Edwin Woellner and Charles W. Smith; Lts. William Ruffin, Clarence Halliday and Kenneth Eros flew in the low; and Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, Max Bruton and McCaulie in the high. Our fighter escort was excellent. AA fire was moderate to intense and tracking from Zeitz for about one and one-half minutes. One a/c from the group failed to return.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Major Edward T. Miazza, squadron executive officer, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. His citation read in part: "...for meritorious achievement as adjutant and executive officer of the 368th Bombardment Squadron during the period 26 May 1942 to the present. Throughout this extensive period of service, Major Miazza has displayed an outstanding devotion to duty. Shortly after his arrival in the ETO, Major Miazza (then a 2nd Lt.) was assigned as a member of a General Court Martial Board which handled all cases in the 8th Bomber Command at that time. He served on this board for a period of fifteen months before being relieved, and his exemplary service thereon set an inspirational criterion for his successor. Simultaneously, he acted as president of the Special Court Martial Board on this station, a position which he still holds. Although these secondary duties took up much of his time, Major Miazza was able to supervise the administration of the Squadron with undiminished energy, enthusiasm and exacting precision. His direct, determined and efficient supervision is continually reflected in the "Excellent" ratings accorded the

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368th Squadron by the First Bombardment Division inspector, as well as other inspectors."

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES

Those conferred during October were:

Maj. Elbert G. Odle	T/Sgt. Roger F. Combs
1st Lt. Leland P. Deck	T/Sgt. Melvin M. Brock
1st Lt. Parker Snead	T/Sgt. Richard E. Dobbs
1st Lt. Robert O. Borgert	T/Sgt. James C. Mitchell
1st Lt. Robert J. Scolnik	S/Sgt. Robert J. Estermyer
2nd Lt. Hon T. Chee	S/Sgt. James W. Inman

OFFICER PERSONNEL CHANGES

2nd Lt. Elijah B. Slocum, bombardier, assigned 1 November.

Capt. Robert G. Matzke, pilot joined the squadron from USSTAF 14 November.

1st Lt. Leland P. Deck was transferred to 40th CBW 27 November to take up duties as an assistant operations officer.

2nd Lt. Hon T. Chee finished his tour and went to 70th RD 10 November.

2nd Lts. Robert Chrisjohn, Leon Risk and Ralph Bordner were promoted to 1st Lts 4-5 November.

1st Lt. Robert Dodge was promoted to captain, 20 November.

THE C.O. MARRIES

Our congratulations to Major Thomas W. Hulings, C.O., on the occasion of his marriage to Capt. Katherine E. Young, WAC, at 1430 hours, 24 October 1944 in St. Saviour's church, London (Scottish). The Rev. Marchinson, uncle of the bride and pastor of the Church of Edinburgh, officiated. Their honeymoon was spent in London and Torquay. The lovely bride is originally from Provincetown, Mass.

Having joined the service in 1942, she is now commanding officer of the 8th Air Force WAC detachment at Pinetree. Maj. Hulings entered the service in 1941, and came to the ETO in mid-1942 with the 92nd Bomb Group, which operated from Bovington. His first mission was to Lille, 9 October 1942. In May 1943 he was transferred to Alconbury, and in September was reassigned to Podington, where he completed his first combat tour in October 1943. During the North African invasion Maj. Hulings was the pilot for General Spaatz. In addition to flying B-17s, he flew with the 8th AF Mosquito Reconnaissance unit.

DANCING AT THE B Mess

A very successful squadron officers' dance was held in B Mess 18 November. Col. James S. Sutton and his staff were guests for the evening. Music was provided by The Esquires and a number of girls were invited from Bletchley for those officers who did not have dates.

December
2

KOBLENZ - The 306th flew 38 a/c, including two PFF, three Gee-H and two spares as 40th A Group. Because of the oversight, which Buckeye reported was up to 28,000 feet at the target, causing the squadron to become separated, and because of the Gee-H equipment not working satisfactorily, the bombing was done under great difficulties. The Gee-H a/c in the lead and low squadrons did not function well, but in the high squadron worked well. The high squadron became separated from the other two squadrons in a cloud and the lead and low could not form on the high, in spite of the high leader making 360s. The high, therefore, bombed the primary alone by Gee-H. The lead bombed Koblenz by PFF and the low, whose Gee-H and PFF were out, brought their bombs back. No photos show any ground detail. There was meager, inaccurate flak from Koblenz, but there was no damage to this group. No AA fire was observed over the primary.

The 368th flew in the low squadron today, Lt. Leo Risk was the pilot for Maj. Earl W. Kesling, 367th C.O., who was the air commander. Other 368th pilots were Lt. Padraic Evans, leading, Robert Chrisjohn, Robert Laden, Kenneth Eros, Joe D. Marsh, Carl Hathaway, William Ruffin, John Coyne and Max Bruton. Lt. Eros, A/A # 466-Q, turned back about five minutes before Koblenz. He had two engines out and was icing up. He dropped his bombs south of Liege on the way out. Lt. Hathaway dropped on a T/O at 5020N-0700E because of engine failure.

1st. Lt. Charles F. Donahue transferred to 70th RCD.

3

2nd Lts. Murray Hepple, navigator, and William W. Wilson, pilot, assigned to the squadron.

5

BERLIN - The 306th Group flew 32 a/c plus four PFF as 40th B Group. The route was flown almost as briefed. We attempted to bomb the PFF secondary, which consisted of general engineering and armament works, located north of Berlin about five miles. Strike photos show hits in the woods and builtup area north northwest of the target. The low dropped on the lead, after the lead navigator salvaged on the lead bombardier's judgment of elapsed time. The bombardier had been hit in the eyes by flying glass while starting to make a visual correction on the PFF run. The weather was solid over the Continent, with large holes over the target. No E/A opposition, and P-51 support was excellent. AA fire at the target was moderate, accurate tracking on the lead and high, and inaccurate on the low. All 368th planes returned. Lt. Padraic Evans led the high squadron, and with him were Lts. Robert Laden, Kenneth Eros, Edwin Woellner, James E. Martin, William Ruffin, Richard Claeys and Carl Hathaway.

An unfortunate accident early, before takeoff, killed Lt. Joe D Marsh, pilot, when he was accidentally hit by a .50 caliber machine gun slug. The ball turret guns of his ship were being installed and tested in preparation for the mission. After cleaning the guns, and thinking

them empty, two shots were were accidentally fired, the bullets hitting a brick wall of a hut about 100 feet from the turret. Both bullets ricocheted, one of these hitting Lt. Marsh.

DECEMBER
6

MERSEBERG - The 306th put up 36 a/c, including four PFF, into the air today. Buckeye reported that the bombing would have to be by instruments. All PFF a/c worked satisfactorily and the bombing was through 10/10ths undercast, each squadron making its own run. Photos show no ground detail, and because of the malfunction of all four PFF cameras, the bomb strikes could not be plotted. There was no opposition and there was continuous P-51 support. AA fire in the target area was intense, but inaccurate, with most bursts in the chaff trail below the planes. From the AA viewpoint, this was the easiest of eight missions to Merseberg for the Group.

Capt. William Widlansky departed on indefinite TD at Hdq., 8AF.
Capt. Edward Seifried departed for the 70th RCD.

8

STUTT GART - As the 40th B Group, the 306th had 36 a/c up, including one Gee-H and three PFF. We were pushed gradually south of course and bombed Stuttgart. The lead began to make a Gee-H run, but 45 seconds before bombs away an oblique hole in the clouds revealed the target, and the run was completed visually. The low squadron made a separate PFF run and saw its bombs walk across the river into the PFF aiming point. The high squadron made a 40 second visual run, but hits were not observed. Our fighter escort was excellent. Barrage AA fire was ineffective on this group, but the lead has meager, accurate tracking fire, visually directed. The 368th put up the high elements of the three squadrons today. The pilots were Lts. Habert Underwood leading, Charles W. Smith, Richard Claeys, Charles Crooks, Robert Laden, John Coyne, James E. Martin, Clarence Halliday, Joseph Marlovits and Carl Hathaway.

10

2nd Lts. Carmon J. Nickols, Anthony V. Mura, Alban F. Varnado and Leslie F. Campbell; T/Sgt. Robert J. Circle, and Cpls. Lowell M. Goldman, Robert N. Gustafson, Homer C. Nyberg, and Gately J. Rogers joined the squadron.

Lt. Earl W. Hasting departed for the 70th RCD.

11

FRANKFURT - The 306th flew 36th a/c, including three PFF, as 40th A Group and 12 a/c, including one PFF, as 40th D High. The bombing was PFF, the low and high dropping on the lead in the 40th A and 40th D made a separate PFF run. All the photos show a complete overcast. The weather was 10/10ths with tops at 18000 at the target. We had no encounters with E/A, or any AA fire on our formations. The 368th the complete low squadron today, with Lt. Leon Risk leading. With him were Lts. Richard Claeys, Robert Laden, John Coyne, William Ruffin, Joseph Marlovits, Charles W. Smith and Charles Crooks.

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Max Bruton, James Martin, William McCaulie and Carl Hathaway.

12

MERSEBERG - The 306th Group flew 36 a/c today as the 40th B. Buckeye reported that the target was covered by 10/10ths cloud and that bombing would be by instruments. Our group was on the bomb run when another group crossed at 45° on a collision course. The leader turned 180° to the right, followed by the high squadron and made another run at the end of the First Bomb Division column. The low squadron, without any PFF a/c, joined C Force and dropped on their lead. Photos show 10/10ths cloud with no ground detail. The overlay plotted from PFF scope photos show bomb strikes for the lead of 40th B to be about five miles NNE of briefed MPI. There was no E/A opposition to this group. We suffered no damage from AA fire, there being only moderate, low barrage and meager, inaccurate tracking at the target. Lt. Leon Risk led the high squadron, having with him Lts. Joseph Marlovits, Robert Chrisjohn, John Coyne, James Martin, William McCaulie, William Ruffin, Charles Crooks, Richard Claeys and Robert Laden.

2nd Lt. Samuel Patton was promoted to 1st Lt., 8 December.

2nd Lts. Bruce Swango, William Davenport, Raymond LeKashman and Stanford Schoenberger; T/Sgt. William J. Schultz, and Cpls. Juan F. Martinez, Richard Pekofske, William T. Moss and William Smatlak joined the squadron.

14

2nd Lts. Benjamin L. Olsen, Paul H. Greer, Joseph M. Jaeger and Lyle R. Dorman, and Cpls. Frank W. Ramsey, Leon Foster, James W. Gerlach, Franklin J. Lehnert and Henry Reppy joined the squadron.

16

2nd Lts. Kenneth Eros, Charles N. Levy, Joe M. Pavin and William A. Ruffin were promoted to 1st Lts., 12 December.

2nd Lt. Max J. Bruton departed for the 70th RD.

17

1st Lt. Robert R. Denny promoted to captain, 14 December.

2nd Lts. John H. Norris, Orlo J. Trude and Billy D. Wagoner promoted to 1st Lts.

18

KAISERSLAUTERN - The 306th Group put up 39 a/c as the 40th A Group for this mission. Division message was received just after we reached the Belgian Coast ordering the group to bomb the primary only if visual. Twice Buckeye reported clouds up to 30000 feet at the primary. The lead bombed the secondary PFF target with the low dropping on the lead. The high squadron became separated from the lead by clouds on the bomb run and made an individual run. Strike photos show no ground detail. The bomb plot from PFF photos, with bombs away calculated from navigation time only, indicates bomb strikes about one and one-quarter miles NNW of briefed MPI. There was no E/A opposition and area fighter support was good. No AA fire was reported, and all our planes returned. Flying for the 368th were Lts.

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Robert Chrisjohn, John Coyne, Richard Claeys, Kenneth Eros, Clarence Halliday, William McCaulie, Richard W. Jones, Charles W. Smith, Edwin Woellner and Carl Hathaway.

Lts. Ira B. Holden and Billy D. Wagoner departed for the 70th RD.

24

NIDDA A/D - Twelve a/c, including two PFF, were the 306th planes leading the 40th D Group, and three others flew as high element of the 40th D High. Capt. Robert Matzke was the leader of the high element and Lt. Robert Laden later flew with the high element because of a late takeoff. The mission was to posthole the A/D and strike photos show that it was accomplished with excellent results. Bombing was visual, with no fighter opposition and no AA fire.

GIESSEN A/D - The 306th flew 36 a/c, including four PFF, as the 40th B Group. Bombing was visual with good results. Photos show that the field was well hit by the lead and high squadrons. The low squadron bombs are in a built up area to the SW of the field. No fighters, and only meager and accurate tracking AA fire at the target. Lt. Leon Risk led the low squadron, and with him were Lts. Habert Underwood, James Martin, John Coyne, William McCaulie, Robert Chrisjohn, Richard W. Jones, Richard Claeys, Clarence Halliday, Edwin Woellner and Carl Hathaway.

When our planes returned to England the weather was socked in and most of them were unable to land at our base. Forty-nine planes landed at other bases where the crews were treated exceptionally well. Having all of these extra men on Christmas Day presented a great feeding problem, but all crews reported wonderful Christmas dinners. All crews returned to base from one to three days later, by trucks and by planes.

Joining the squadron today were: Capt. James S. Law; 1st Lts. Paul V. Connelly and Quentin T. Conway and 2nd Lt. Kenneth A. Wait; T/Sgts. Floyd E. Sweet, Denison C. Lockhart, Jr., and Willie S. Fant, and Cpls. W. O. Timmons and Edsel H. Trammel.

1st Lt. Webster J. Beck; 2nd Lts. New W. McKinny, Alva J. McCalley and George R. Faulkner, and Cpls. Leon J. Opper, Lewis F. Warren, Samuel H. Eaton, Freddie E. Newell, Thomas R. Foley and Leon J. Opper.

1st Lt. Charles W. Smith departed for 70th RD.

27

1st Lts. Wyatt L. Gillaspie and Robert G. Wilson; 2nd Lts. Charles W. Witcomb and Fred N. Hales, and Cpls. Gregory H. Ringwald, Eli E. Nelson, Louis F. Dorenbush, Raymond O. Dinger and Francis C. Dusenberry joined the squadron.

1st Lt. Charles N. Levy left for the 70th RD.

28

SIEGBURG and KOBLENZ - Thirty-nine 306th planes flew as the 40th B Group. The lead and low squadrons made a PFF run on Koblenz, bombing

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1340½ hours. All pictures show 10/10ths cloud coverage, with no ground detail. The lead a/c of the high squadron aborted between the IP and the target, leaving the squadron with no PFF. The high then dropped on the smoke bombs of 40th A Group, believing them to be from the lead group, and bombed Siegburg. All our a/c returned safely, encountering no enemy action. Lt. Padraic Evans led the high squadron with Lts. Richard Claeys (who took over the lead after Evans aborted), John Coyne, Clarence Halliday, Robert Laden, William McCaulie, James Martin, Richard Jones and Carl Hathaway.

1st Lts. Lester A. Evans and Cyrus R. Rubenstein; 2nd Lts. Delbert L. McGinnis and James E. Shook; T/Sgt. Donald F. John; S/Sgt. Wallace M. Williams and Cpls. Anthony J. Conroy, William W. Litka and Harold H. Williams joined the squadron.

29

BINGEN - Flying 36 a/c, the 306th led the 40th A Group. Buckeye Blue reported visual conditions at the target, and we bombed the marshalling yards accordingly. The lead bombardier, Capt. Donald R. Ross, saw that the briefed aiming point had been solidly hit by preceding groups, and he shifted his aiming point to the center of the yards. The strike pictures show that the bombs probably cut the tracks in half, with the main weight of the pattern slightly short. The low squadron hit over due to a rack malfunction, which caused a late drop. Strike photos also show that the high hit in a compact pattern in a built up area.

There was no E/A opposition, but our escort was a bit spotty. There was very accurate, but meager tracking AA fire after bombs away, with bursts concentrated especially on the lead element, lead squadron. Meager, accurate tracking fire was reported from the front line area, both in and out.

We lost one plane today to AA fire. Lt Edwin D. Woellner, Jr., was observed after bombs away to peel off to the right with an engine smoking. He lost altitude in wide spirals until he disappeared into the low clouds. Some crews reported seeing three chutes, and one crew reported that P-51s were circling the a/c as it descended. On the crew were:

1st Lt. Edwin D. Woellner, Jr. P
2nd Lt. Carmon J. Nickols, CP
2nd Lt. Theodore E. Pollard, N
T/Sgt. Frank L. Arnold, nose g.

T/Sgt. Glenn A. Korf, ro
T/Sgt. Clarence E. Gibbs, eng
Sgt. Homer C. Nyberg, bt
Cpl. Franklin J. Lehnert, wg
S/Sgt. Yuen Hop, tg.

Capt. Robert R. Denny flew as deputy group lead, and also in the lead squadron were: Lts. William T. McCaulie, Richard H. Claeys, James E. Martin, Edwin D. Woellner, Richard W. Jones, Clarence L. Halliday and Habert E. Underwood. Col. James S. Sutton was the Group air commander.

Lts. Joseph Marlovits and Robert Chrisjohn departed for the 70th RD.

DECEMBER (con't)

- 30 MAINZ - The 306th flew 36 a/c, including four PFF, as the 40th C Group. The weather at the target was 10/10ths, and bombing was PFF, as ordered. There was no E/A in evidence, and our escort was thin and spotty until after the target, when it was good. AA fire at the target was meager and inaccurate, apparently firing into chaff. The 368th put up high elements in each squadron, and none of our a/c were damaged. The pilots included: Lts. Merle P. Brown, Benjamin Olsen, Carl Hathaway, John Coyne, Richard Claeys, Richard Jones, James Martin, Clarence Halliday and William McCaulie.
Maj. John Buie was assigned from Hdq., First Bomb Division.
- 31 Capt. William C. VanNorman transferred from Group to the 368th as an intelligence officer.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSSES

Awarded during November to:

1st Lt. Charles F. Donahue
1st Lt. Earl W. Hasting

1st Lt. Scott M. Owen
T/Sgt. Seymour Shweky

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

One of the biggest social events of the year took place when an Officers' New Year's Eve Dance was held at the Officers' B Mess. Thus, the old year was ushered out appropriately, with laughter, music and women. A long, hard year has passed, and we all are hoping to see that the new year, 1945, will see the victorious climax of the war with Germany. A wonderful time was had by all. Many couples danced to the wonderful music of The Esquires. Among those present were Col. Anthony Q. Mustoe, 40th Combat Wing C.O., and Col. James S. Sutton, 306th Bomb Group C.O.

JANUARY

1

LIMBURG and KASSEL - Beginning a new year, the 306th flew 36 a/c, including four PFF, as 40th B Group. The primary target was Magdeburg, but because it was covered by clouds, we did not drop our bombs there. After making the run on Magdeburg, the formation made a 360° turn to the left and passed over Magdeburg again. Finally a run was made on Kassel, dropping our bombs at 1319 hours. On this run the high started it PFF, but when equipment failed, abandoned the run and bombed Limburg M/Y at 1354 hours. There were no E/A attacks on this group, but north of Magdeburg two silver jet a/c, probably ME 262s, passed within 800 yards of four formation. Twelve to 15 P-51s were in pursuit. An ME 163 was also reported seen in the same area by the high squadron. AA fire at Kassel was accurate, moderate, tracking and barrage. Most of our chaff had already been used up in the runs over Magdeburg, where AA fire was inaccurate. Major Thomas M. Hulings led the group today, and Lt. Leon Risk led the low squadron. Our other pilots were Lts. John Coyne, Bruce L. Swango, Benjamin Olsen, Harold R. McGahan, James Martin, Richard Jones and Arthur J. Maenner.

2

KYLLBURG - The mission today was very successful, and is a good example of pinpoint bombing. The aiming point was a communications center in a tunnel at Kyllburg. Photos show that the pattern was squarely on the target. The high squadron made a second run and dropped on top of the lead squadron's bombs, while the low's bombs were slightly SE of the aiming point. The 306th flew 39 a/c, including three PFF, one Gee-H, one PFF Gee-H and three spares as 40th A Group. All returned safely. All PFF equipment worked satisfactorily although the bombing was visual. P-51s gave us fine area support. AA fire was meager, fairly accurate, tracking at scattered points in the target area for about five to 10 minutes, although no single concentration of more than four bursts was seen. Capt. Robert G. Matzke led the high squadron, and with him were Lts. Robert G. Schroeder, Richard Claeys, Kenneth Eros, Richard Jones, James Martin, Benjamin Olsen, Arthur Maenner and Merle P. Brown.

1st Lt. Joe M. Pavin left for the 70th RD.

3

HERMULHEIM - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including one PFF Gee-H, three PFF and three spares as the 40th B Group. Buckeye Blue reported that the entire area would be overcast and that all bombing would be by instruments. The lead dropped by Gee-H at 1053 hours and the high and low dropped on the lead. Photos show 10/10ths clouds with no ground detail. The plotted PFF scope photos show the bomb strikes about three miles north of the target. There was no AA fire or other enemy opposition on this group. A few bursts of AA fire were seen to the left on the turn off the target, and a barrage behind at the time when there were no a/c near the bursts. Maj. Thomas M. Hulings led the group, and other pilots were: Capt. Robert R. Denny and Lts. Robert Schroeder, Clarence Halliday, Bruce L. Swango, Benjamin Olsen, James Martin, Arthur Maenner and Harold McGahan. Lt. Richard Jones,

JANUARY (con't)

a spare, joined the 303rd Group and bombed St. Vith.

2nd Lt. Frank M. Seiford departed for the 70th RD.

5

NIEDERMENDIG - The 306th put up 39 a/c, including one PFF Gee-H three PFF and three spares as 40th A Group. Considerable difficulty was experienced in assembly over England due to dense, persistent contrails. Eight a/c flew and bombed with other groups, Lt. Arthur J. Maenner, the only one of these from the 368th, bombed with the 381st Group. Bombing was done by Gee-H over 10/10ths clouds. There was a rack malfunction in the lead a/c of the low group. The air commander, Lt. Col. Maurice V. Salada, 306th air executive, thinking only four a/c did not drop, felt a separate run was not justified and told them to bring their bombs back. Six a/c returned bombs from the low squadron, plus one from the high which could not release. The track obtained from plotted PFF scope photos show strikes about one mile NW of target, which was Niedermendig A/D. There was no E/A or AA fire on this group. Capt. Robert R. Denny flew as deputy group lead. The 368th flew three highs of the lead, low and high squadrons, including Lts. Bruce Swango, Carl Hathaway and Benjamin Olsen; William McCaulie, James Martin and Arthur Maenner, and Harold McGahan and Robert Schroeder.

Our executive officer, Maj. Edward Miazza, who came over to England with the 368th, has been transferred to the 423rd Squadron. His place has been taken by Maj. Willie Williams, Jr., from the 369th Squadron.

6

COLOGNE - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including one PFF Gee-H, three PFF and three spares as 40th A Group. Buckeye Blue reported 10/10ths at the target and said bombing would be by instruments. A Gee-H run was started on the primary, but 18 miles from the target the operator was unable to pick up the tracking blip, and the run was completed by PFF on the secondary. Photos show no ground detail, but plotted PFF photos show the main pattern to be just short of the M/Y, with some strikes undoubtedly in the yards. There was meager, tracking and barrage AA fire at the target for two minutes, and a few scattered bursts crossing the front lines on the way out. Lt. Habert Underwood led the low squadron, with Lts. Richard Claeys, Bruce Swango, Arthur Maenner, Robert Schroeder, Merle Brown, James Martin, Benjamin Olsen and William McCaulie. All returned safely.

2nd Lts. Clarence Halliday, Ervin F. Miller, Jr., Dean S. Townsend and Habert Underwood were promoted to 1st Lts., 2 January.

7

EUSKIRCHEN - The 306th had 39 a/c, including one Gee-H, four PFF and three spares in the air as the 40th B today. The target was a RR intersection near Euskirchen. Bombing was by Gee-H and PFF photos indicate that the pattern was about one mile NW of the aiming point. There was no E/A opposition, and P-51s provided excellent support throughout the mission. The weather was 10/10ths over the Channel and continent, with tops from 12000 to 17000 feet. Capt. Robert

JANUARY (con't)

Matzke led the high squadron, with Lts. Ned McKinny, Richard Claeys, Clarence Halliday, Robert Schroeder, Richard Hartshorn, Merle Brown, Harold McGahan and Capt. James S. Law. Lt. Benjamin Olsen, flying as a spare, joined and bombed with the 305th Group. 1st Lts. Padraic Evans and Kenneth Eros departed for the 70th RD.

- 8 SPEYER - Thirty-eight a/c from the 306th, including one Gee-H PFF, three PFF and three spares, formed the 40th A Group. The 306th leader discovered at rendezvous that his AFCE was out and that the Gee-H, on which the mission depended, was not working. Thirty minutes before the IP, Buckeye Red reported that the weather was 10/10ths in the target area, but he couldn't find the primary which was just south of Landau. Five minutes before the IP he called again and said he could see the ground through heavy haze, but wasn't sure he was over the target. The secondary was Landau, and on the bomb run the lead Mickey operator could not locate the Landau blip and bombed Speyer. The high and low squadrons felt they bombed the secondary, Landau, but pictures indicate all three squadrons bombed in the vicinity of Speyer. There was no E/A opposition. AA fire was moderate, accurate tracking from the Mannheim-Ludwigshafen area immediately after bombs away, and tracking the group around the turn off the target.

Capt. Law's a/c, #438, was hit severely by flak and, with two engines out, crashed landed at Manston. T/Sgt. Willie S. Fant, tail gunner, was killed in the crash. Capt. Law, 2nd Lt. Kenneth A. Wait, co-pilot, 1st Lt. Quentin Conway, bombardier, T/Sgt. Floyd E. Sweet, radio, and Sgt. W. O. Timmons, ball turret, were seriously injured. Rated as slightly injured were 1st Lt. Paul V. Connally, navigator, T/Sgt. Denison C. Lockhart, Jr., engineer and Sgt. Edsel H. Trammel, waist gunner.

Lt. Richard Claeys flew deputy lead for the group, and other 368th pilots were Lts. Clarence Halliday, Ned McKinny, Harold McGahan, John Coyne, Richard Jones, Arthur Maenner and Lester A. Evans.

- 9 2nd Lt. Robert Laden was promoted to 1st Lt., 3 January.
1st Lt. Isidore Dorushkin departed for the 70th RD.

- 10 GYMnich - The 306th flew 38 a/c, including four PFF, one Gee-H and two spares as 40th B Group. The route was flown approximately as briefed except between the IP and the target. Wide sweeping turns were made three times over Cologne because of other formations forcing our group off its Gee-H run. The AA gunfire was moderate to intense, accurate, tracking and visual in the Cologne area, and damage to 306th a/c was heavy. The deputy leader was knocked down, and the Group leader was hit and did not return to base until a few days later. On the bomb run the Gee-H went out and the lead took over and made a visual run. The only photos available are from the high squadron and show strikes completely obscuring the small town of Bleisheim, six miles SE of the primary. Members of the 368th were Lts.

JANUARY (con't)

Carl Hathaway, Lester Evans, William McCaulie, Richard Jones, Ned McKinny, Robert Schroeder, Merle Brown, Richard Hartshorn and Harold McGahan.

1st Lts. Ervin F. Miller, Jr., and Dean S. Townsend departed for the 70th RD.

12 1st Lts. John Coyne and Robert Laden left for the 70th RD.

13 F/O James W. Johnson, bombardier, has accepted appointment as a 2nd Lt., 8 January.

14 COLOGNE - Thirty-five a/c, including three PFF, represented the 306th in the 40th A Group. The aiming point today was the Hohenzollern RR bridge at Cologne. It was bombed visually and photos show lead bombs on the western approaches to the bridge, with near misses on the bridge itself. The low hit the small M/Y west of the bridge. The high had no photos, but crews stated at the time that their pattern straddled the bridge. Subsequent reconnaissance has revealed only one direct hit by the high squadron. There was moderate and accurate AA fire at the target, and meager, accurate fire over the front lines. Our fighter support was scarce. Col. James S. Sutton, designated as First Air Division leader on this mission, and pilot of Gee-H PFF a/c 369-K, could not take off because of engine failure. Lt. Leon Risk led the low squadron, with Lts. James Martin, Richard Jones, Clarence Halliday, Bruce Swango, Merle Brown, Richard Claeys, Benjamin Olsen, Arthur Maenner, William McCaulie, Ned McKinny and Lester Evans, all of whom returned safely.

2nd Lt. Robert G. Holscher was transferred to the 423rd Squadron.

1st Lt. Robert L. Edwards was transferred to the 70th RD.

15 FREIBURG - The primary today was a RR bridge supplying troops in the Colmar pocket. However, because of 10/10ths cloud conditions the bombing was done by PFF on the secondary, Freiburg. The 306th provided 36 a/c, including three PFF, as the 40th C Group. All Mickey equipment worked well. Strike photos show all the low ground hidden in clouds with only the tops of hills and mountains protruding. Fighter support was good, with no opposition. There were only 10 or 12 AA bursts before bombs away, causing no damage. Capt. Robert Matzke led the high squadron, with Lts. Arthur Maenner, Richard Claeys, Richard Jones, Charles Witcomb, Ned McKinny, William McCaulie, Merle Brown and Bruce Swango.

17 BIELEFELD - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including one Gee-H PFF, two PFF and three spares, as 40th B Group. The target today was a RR viaduct about two miles NE of town. The bombing was accomplished by Gee-H, through 10/10ths undercast, in group formation. The plot of the PFF scope photos reveals that strikes were made about two miles SE of the aiming point. Strike photos show no ground detail. Fighter support was good and especially close in the target area. Lt. Leon Risk

JANUARY (con't)

- flew the lead plane, with Lt. Col. Eugene LaVier, 423rd C.O., as air commander. Lts. Richard Claeys, William McCaulie, Arthur Maenner, Benjamin Olsen, Merle Brown, James Martin, Richard Jones, Charles Witcomb and Harold McGahan also flew for the 368th. Capt. Roy E. Buchanan departed for the 70th RD.
- 18 1st Lt. Clarence L. Halliday left for the 70th RD.
- 19 Capt. Robert R. Denny was off to the 70th RD.
- 20 RHEINE - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including four MH-PFF and three spares, as the 40th B Group. The primary today, either visual or Gee-H, was Sterkrade synthetic oil plant, but because of 10/10ths clouds the briefed secondary, Rheine, was bombed by PFF. It was intended to bomb the target by Micro-H, but because the beacon stayed in normal navigational code, undelayed instead of delayed, the operator decided that the bombs would fall nowhere near the target, and decided to bomb PFF. Each squadron made its own bombing run. There was no opposition. Lt. Ned McKinny, a/c #384-L, had to crash land on the continent about three miles SW of A-93. Number one engine went out before the IP. He went into the target and dropped his bombs, lagging behind the formation. After the target his #2 engine also went out. He tried to make a landing on the field but could not complete the circle and crashed. Lt. McKinny and Lt. J. Webster Beck, and Sgts. Leon Oppen and Freddie B. Newell were injured, with the remainder of the crew suffering bumps and bruises. Other 368th planes flying this day were Lts. Merle Brown, Benjamin Olsen, Bruce Swango, Richard Jones, Harold McGahan, William McCaulie, Charles Witcomb and Arthur Maenner.
- 21 ASCHAFFENBURG - The 306th flew 38 a/c, including three PFF, one Gee-H and two spares, as 40th A Group. The primary target was the marshalling yards at Aschaffenburg. A Gee-H run was ordered near the IP, but because the operator could not get any signals from the ground at that time, the leader tried to make a PFF run. However, he couldn't get his bomb bay doors open and the deputy took over to make the run. The low and high squadrons dropped on the lead. The high began its own PFF run, but interference from another group forced it to abandon the run and to drop on the lead. The weather was 10/10ths over most of the continent, except for breaks before the IP. Lt. Habert Underwood led the low squadron. Other 368th crews were those of Lts. William McCaulie, Benjamin Olsen, William D. Carder, Arthur Maenner, Harold McGahan, Richard Jones, Richard Hartshorn, Bruce Swango and Charles Witcomb.
- F/O Lawrence W. Burley, radar navigator, reported for duty.
- 23 1st Lt. Jerry E. Brian departed for 70th RD.
- 25 Capt. John Jordan and 2nd Lt. Berton D. Martin went to 70th RD.

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- 26 2nd Lts. Carl Hathaway, Frank Krzemian, William McCaulie, James Martin, William Risso, Robert Schroeder, Robert S. Tomlinson, John G. Weber and Jerome H. Wilf promoted to 1st Lts., 21 January.
- 27 2nd Lts. Charles O. Holt, Jr., and Arthur J. Maenner promoted to 1st Lts., 23 January.
- 28 COLOGNE - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including one Gee-H PFF, two PFF and two spares, as the 40th C Group. The bombing was done Gee-H in group formation. Strike photos show hits NW of the target. No E/A were seen. We encountered accurate, predicted flak at bombs away, damaging four a/c severely and seven slightly. Incendiary AA shells were also fired at us. The weather was almost a solid undercast on the way in, with clouds breaking at the target, but with poor visibility because of intense haze. Maj. Thomas M. Hulings led the group today, and Lt. Leon Risk led the high squadron. Others flying for the 368th were: Lts. James Martin, Charles Witcomb, Benjamin Olsen, Bruce Swango, Richard Hartshorn, Carl Hathaway, Harold McGahan, Lester Evans and William Carder. All returned safely.
- 1st Lts. Robert S. Tomlinson, William McCaulie and Robert Schroeder left for the 70th RD.
- 29 KOBLENZ - The 306th was designated the 40th B Group, with 36 a/c including one Gee-H PFF and two PFF. The deputy lead took over when the lead's electrical equipment went out south of course in France, causing the Gee-H set to become inoperative. Bombing was by PFF with results unobserved, as there was 10/10ths undercast. Friendly fighter support was excellent throughout the mission. Our squadron had Lt. Richard Claeys flying as deputy group lead, and Lts. Lester Evans, Bruce Swango, Charles Witcomb, Benjamin Olsen, Richard Jones, William Risso and Harold McGahan.
- 31 1st Lts. Arthur J. Maenner and Charles O. Holt, Jr., departed for the 70th RD.

DECEMBER AWARDS PRESENTED

Distinguished Flying Crosses

Capt. Robert R. Denny	S/Sgt. Lyle A. Brown
Capt. Edward Seifried	S/Sgt. George L. Barber
1st Lt. Robert J. Curran	S/Sgt. Paul Brunetti
1st Lt. Robert J. Chrisjohn	S/Sgt. Roy C. Ficklin
T/Sgt. Sherman D. Bennett	S/Sgt. John P. Lightheart
T/Sgt. Curtis N. Foster	S/Sgt. Lawrence F. Pesterfield
T/Sgt. Louis R. Gilbert	

PURPLE HEARTS

S/Sgt. Robert W. Peatross
S/Sgt. Haig Gadarian

BRONZE STARS

M/Sgt. George H. Allen
S/Sgt. Byron W. Pirtle

FEBRUARY

1

MANNHEIM - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including three Micro-H/PFF and three spares, as the 40th. Assembly was accomplished without incident and the route was substantially as briefed. Buckeye Red recommended an instrument run because of weather. This group encountered no fighter opposition and flak was meager, low, barrage type over the target. No other fire was observed. The high squadron was led by our Capt. Robert W. Cogswell, and flying with him were Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Richard Claeys and Lester Evans. Capt. Law, however, dropped his bombs with the 303rd Group.

3

BERLIN - Thirty-six a/c, including four PFF, was the 306th contribution to the 40th C; with an additional six a/c as the lead squadron of D screening force. D Force followed the briefed route, pulling ahead of the bomber stream north of Hannover at 1013 hours; started to discharge chaff at IP (5213N-1220E) at 1049 hours, and turning north as briefed. Chaff stopped at 1101 hours, 5243N-1101E. Buckeye was not heard from directly, but Able force relayed Buckeye report that target was visual with a few low clouds. PFF equipment worked satisfactorily. P-51s escorted our AC #802-F when it was forced to leave formation about 1130 hours and returned alone. Our a/c 474-V, Lt. James Martin, from 12000 feet observed a B-17 on the water at 5307N-0317E by Gee fix, 1403 hours, and reported coordinates to Air-Sea Rescue, which acknowledged message at 1415 hours. A rescue launch was observed approaching at 1424 hours and left the area at 1435 hours. Three P-51s, a B-24 and a B-17 were still circling. One parachute also was seen at the same time and place. Other Eager Beavers flying were Capt. James S. Law, Lts. Habert Underwood, Harold Altshuler, James Martin, Carl Hathaway, William Carder and Lester Evans. Bombing was visual. The combat wings following us commented on the excellence of our bombing, but, despite the fact that it was a visual target, the smoke as a result of the bombing, made photographic detail impossible. It is thought, nevertheless, that the damage was extremely severe.

4

AIR-SEA RESCUE - Six a/c of the 306th Group took off from 1241 to 1254 hours, on an Air-Sea Rescue mission. A/C 802-F, Lt. Harold McGahan, and 814-G, Lt. Richard Claeys, of the 368th, took part in this search, which included the area from Great Yarmouth to 5300N-0420E. Lt. Claeys reported seeing a canvas covered, cigar-shaped object 10-15 feet long at 1451 hours at 5249N-0249½E (Gee fix) carrying a blue and yellow flag on a 10 foot mast.

5

2nd Lt. Ivan P. Walsh promoted to 1st Lt.

6

FULDA - The 306th flew 36 a/c, including four PFF, as the 40th B Group. The 368th had 12 a/c in the high squadron, with Lt. Leon Risk flying as the lead. Assembly at briefed altitude was impossible due to heavy rain, snow flurries and low clouds; therefore, weather ship advised assembly at 12000 feet. Upon climbing to that level, the group found thick soup still prevailing and descended to 6000 feet, assembling on Mt. Farm buncher. Because of bad weather,

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the group bombed a target of opportunity PFF through 10/10ths clouds. Photos show no ground detail. PFF operator believes he hit the town of Giessen, but Gee fixes by four different navigators place strikes at Fulda. On return, low clouds and poor visibility forced group to break up, 22 a/c landing away from base, all of which have now returned.

- 9 LUTZKENDORF - Thirty-six a/c flew for the 306th as 40th A Group. Assembly was accomplished without incident and route was essentially the same. Buckeye Red at 1215 reported target 7/10ths with intense to moderate smoke screen, and advised a visual run, saying that he would confirm 10 minutes later. At 1225 Buckeye Red repeated advice to bomb visually. Eager Beavers flying in the lead ship were Capt. Robert Matzke, pilot; Lt. Keith L. Warner, navigator, and Lt. Reginald H. Thayer, bombardier. Maj. James McKinney, 369th C.O., flew as the air commander. Lead made a visual run on Lutzkendorf. Target was visible on approach, but at bombs away was obscured by a cloud and smoke. Low saw target from Naumburg, but could not get bomb bay doors open or salvo on emergency release. Made PFF run on what operator thought was Mulhausen, but which turned out to be Nordhausen. Bombardier, seeing that bombs were going to be over, held bombs and dropped on Menteroda. Pictures show direct hits on the town. High found primary obscured by cloud and smoke, and dropped on Eisleben. Pictures show strikes east of town. Other pilots flying for the 368th were Lts. Leon Risk, James Martin, Carl Hathaway, Harold Altshuler, Bruce Swango, Lester Evans, Benjamin Olsen and Charles Witcomb.

1st Lt. Robert J. Curran promoted to captain. 2nd Lt. Charles Witcomb promoted to 1st Lt.

- 10 DULMEN - The 306th Group flew 39 a/c, including four PFF, 4 Micro-H and three spares, as 40th C, leading the Able force. Assembly was accomplished without incident. The weather did not break as expected but suggested a run on the primary anyway. The lead a/c had poor returns for navigation. One beacon gave a weak return, but the operator finally received a beacon clearly enough to be able to make a good Micro-H run on the secondary, Dulmen, the primary remaining 10/10ths. As for fighter support, it appeared to be excellent up to the point where the group started to do 360° turns. The fighters left us, probably due to their concern over fuel supplies. AA fire was meager to moderate, and inaccurate. 368th planes in the air were Lts. Lester Evans, Richard Claeys, Bruce Swango, Charles Witcomb, William Carder and Richard Hartshorn.

- 14 DRESDEN - On this mission the 306th flew 39 a/c, including four PFF and three spares, as 40th C Group. Despite the fact that weather conditions did not interfere with our assembly, conditions were such over the target that it became necessary, for reasons of safety and efficient bombing, to pass over the target by squadrons, each making its own run. This mission was not accomplished without incident

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as enemy fighters became a primary concern. At 1233 hours, low squadron was flying alone between Dresden and Chemnitz, after having made a second run on the target. Lt. Harold McGahan's a/c was straggling when three FW 190s, in line abreast from five o'clock level, came in. As the tail gunner began firing at 600 yards, the FWs broke their formation, one flying high and two low. The high FW flew directly over McGahan's plane to attack 466-Q, flown by Lt. William Carder, severely damaging the aircraft. The other two FWs broke off to the right, one of them attacking 814-G, flown by Lt. Donald Sandercock, damaging the plane severely and wounding two crew members. The other closed to within 100 yards of the lead a/c, high element, 297-N, a 369th plane flown by Lt. Robert Wood. It was claimed by Wood's top turret gunner. Fortunately, the GAF planes had only one pass, as they were jumped by our P-51 escorts. Several crews reported this E/A was shot down. Sgt. Louis Brown was slightly wounded. Lt. Habert Underwood led the low squadron and also flying were Lts. Carl Hathaway, Harold Altshuler, Benjamin Olsen and Donald Sandercock.

16 DORTMUND - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including one Gee-H, three PFF and three spares, as the 40th B Group. The rendezvous was accomplished normally and the route followed as briefed. Fighter support was meager throughout the mission. AA was moderate tracking at the target for five minutes, off to the left and low by 200 feet. Two box barrages were observed ahead of the formation. Despite this, the bombing was excellent. The 306th lead is directly on the MPI, blanketing that part of the city not hit by the Able Force. Although the run started as Gee-H, on the primary, a visual run was made soon after the IP was passed. The excellent bombing results received the attention of the Baker leader, who desired to commend the Gee-H operator and the lead bombardiers on their skillful performance and team work. The weather outlook was rather depressing and it looked as though the group might have a pretty bad time of it; however, due to a lot of good luck, and a good deal of skill, things came our way the way we always want them—excellent bombing and slight damage, one step further toward the ultimate defeat of the Axis. S/Sgt. Leon R. Curry was slightly wounded. Lt. Leon Risk led the low squadron, and with him were Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Lester Evans, Harold Altshuler, Richard Hartshorn and Merle P. Brown.

19 BOCHUM - The 306th flew 39 a/c as the 40th C Group, and included in its array of planes one Gee-H PFF, three PFF and three spares. The assembly was accomplished without incident. Fighter support was rather meager on this mission, and coupled with meager and inaccurate AA, the mission was rather uneventful. Only the lead and low squadrons made a Gee-H run on Bochum; adverse weather prevented photo coverage. The leader says the bombs were dropped at practically the same point as the two preceding groups. The high squadron, being too far behind, was not able to drop on the leader and made a PFF run on the secondary, Munster, with a five-second visual assist. The high did get strike photos which indicate that the bombs fell across the canal at

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- the NW corner of the airfield, with possible damage to airfield installations and to tracks at the southern end of the M/Y, south of the briefed aiming point. Crew reports are that the chaff worked perfectly. Damage due to enemy action was negligible. Maj. Thomas M. Hulings, 368th C.O., led the group with Lt. Habert Underwood as the copilot. Capt. Leon Risk led the low, while other were Lts. Carl B. Hathaway, James Martin, Bruce L. Swango, Lester Evans, Benjamin Olsen, Harold Altshuler, Harold McGahan and Capt. James S. Law.
- 20 NURNBERG - The 306th flew 36 a/c, including four PFF, as 40th A, assembly being accomplished at 2000 feet higher than briefed altitude. The group became separated in the soup while climbing over the Channel. The squadrons being unable to reassemble, went on ahead to join other groups and to bomb with their respective units. Low squadron followed the 398th Group into the target area, making its own PFF run with no visual corrections and dropping at 1242 hours. Pictures show strikes close to the MPI. Lead bombardier had three to four-second correction for rate. Pictures show strikes in southern marshalling yard. A/c 914-B, Lt. Merle P. Brown, turned back at 5040N x 0420E, at 1150 hours, and brought back 14x250 and 4M17s. Other pilots were Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Harold McGahan, William Carder, Richard Hartshorn, Charles Witcomb, Lester Evans, Harold Altshuler.
- 21 NURNBERG - The 306th flew 36 a/c, including four PFF, as 40th B Group. Assembly was without incident, and the route was essentially as briefed. Although the target was reported as visual about 30 minutes before arrival, the weather closed in fast and we bombed PFF. Fighter support was excellent. The group reported flak as meager, and inaccurate for about three minutes after bombs away, low and to the right of the target. There was meager, intermittent, accurate tracking flak for 10 minutes in the Frankfurt area. Capt. Robert Matzke led the low, and with him were Lts. James Martin, Merle Brown, Harold Altshuler, Donald Sandercock, Lester Evans, Charles Witcomb, Harold McGahan and Ned McKinny.
- 22 WITSTOCK - On this, the Group's 300th mission, the 368th squadron composed the high squadron as the 306th led the First Air Division with 36 a/c, including four PFF as 40th A Group. At the IP, due to a misunderstanding, the high squadron led by Lt. Richard Claeys, turned off the target prematurely, thinking bombs away. They then made a run on another target, Ludwigslust, and accomplished the best bombing results of the day, in true 368th fashion. To Lt. Claeys and Lt. Sam Hatton, lead bombardier, go the honors of the day for a job well done. With the single exception of a pass made by two ME 262s from 12 o'clock to 6 o'clock, the mission was accomplished without incident. Paradoxically, the E/A were not seen to open fire. Fighter support was good. Mention is made here of the traffic problem encountered at 5323N x 1054E, 1256 hours at Felixstowe, because of B-24s assembling south of Lowestoft, causing confusion at Control Point 1. Observations made over Germany: an army camp, not on the map, at 5322N x 1053E; a possible camouflaged dump at Lubz, 5328N x 1200E; air-

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field at 5249N-0900E with 20-30 E/A on the ground being strafed by our fighters; approximately 40 S/E A/C on airfield at Lubz.

Lt. Leon Risk promoted to captain.

Lt. John M. Novak assigned to duties as gunnery officer.

23

PLAUE - On this day, the 306th flew 39 a/c, including four PFF and three spares, as 40th C Group. The assembly and route were accomplished as briefed, main attention being centered on fighter support and E/A opposition, the brunt of which was borne by the P-51 escort. Several Mustangs were seen to be engaged in dog fights on the deck, south of Stuttgart, at 1309 and 1317 hours. One S/E E/A was seen to go down as the result of action taken by the P-51s at approximately 4840N x 0944E, 1309 hours. The pilot was seen to bail out. There was no flak at the target, although flak was observed at Chemnitz, Merseburg, Leipzig and Erfurt. We had no damage. Weather was extremely bad at the target, causing the low and high squadrons to make separate runs, PFF bombing being mandatory. With regard to jet activity, three ME 163s were seen to take off from Neustadt A/D. Two or three were observed on an A/D at 4834N x 0902E, 10 or 12 a/c on Hall A/D and 30 S/E E/A on the ground at approximately 4910N x 0955E. 368th crews in the air were Capts. Leon Risk and Robert Matzke, and Lts. Wilfred J. Forsyth, Benjamin Olsen, Herbert Kohn, Richard Hartshorn, Lester Evans, Ned McKinny and Capt. James S. Law.

24

HAMBURG - Thirty 306th a/c, including four PFF, flew as the 40th B Group. At the target flak was moderate, low and inaccurate, for about three minutes after bombs away. Crews commented again on the effectiveness of chaff. After the turn off the target crews reported heavy, black smoke breaking through the clouds at about 11,000 feet. Nickels were also a part of today's delivery. One a/c at 22,000 feet reported two flashes, like mirror reflections, from the water at 5222N x 0351E, by Gee-H fix at 1105 hours. Clouds prevented further observation, and the information was phoned to First Air Division headquarters. Flying for the Eager Beavers were Lts. James Martin, Ned McKinny, Richard Hartshorn, Charles Witcomb, Richard Claeys, William D. Carder, Harold P. Altshuler, Harold N. Morris, George W. Purnell and Capt. James S. Law.

26

BERLIN - Flying thirty-nine a/c, including four PFF and three spare the 306th provided planes for the 40th B Group. Our group reached the Dutch coast 15 minutes late because it encountered winds entirely different from those that were briefed. At 1038 hours, the group started to make a 360° turn to the left, over the Zuider Zee, to avoid running into Able force, finishing turn at 1050 hours. Shortly before the IP Buckeye White reported cloud cover at 10/10th over Berlin and bombing was by PFF. The lead bombed at 1155 hours, high because of a malfunction in its Mickey equipment, dropped on the lead. The low made a separate run. The 306th leader, Capt. Edward W. Magee 367th, with nine trips over Berlin to his credit, says that t

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day was the easiest trip of the lot. Moderate, low and inaccurate barrage from 1153 to 1156 hours, and again from 1158 to 1200 hours. Rather a comfortable thought when we hark back to the days when the mere mention of Berlin was enough to create strong discomfort in the minds of those who were about to depart in the wee morning hours.

- 27 LEIPZIG - The 306th Group flew 36 a/c, including four PFF, as 40th A Group today. Buckeye Blue reported the weather as 10/10ths, and bombing was by instrument. The lead bombed Leipzig PFF at 1403 hours. High squadron, led by Capt. Robert Matzke, dropped on the smoke bombs of the lead, because of indistinct returns on its Mickey equipment. Low made a separate H2X run; and because of weather, no photos are available. As for enemy opposition, there was none. Our escort was close, although it thinned out on the way out, probably due to the fighters being busy with strafing. AA fire was encountered but all escaped damage. Moderate, low and inaccurate fire was seen to the right during the bomb run. On the turn off the target, several red bursts were reported behind the target. This was the third successive mission to tough targets--Hamburg, Berlin and Leipzig--in which this squadron took part, and had practically no damage. Eager Beavers on the day's mission were Lts. Lester Evans, William Carder, Bruce Swango, Ned McKinny, Herbert Cohn, Paul W. Smith, Charles Witcomb, Donald Sandercock and Harold N. Morris.
- 28 HAGEN - The 306th flew 36 a/c, including 3 PFF Gee-H, as 40th B Group. When the target was reached it was found to be 10/10ths strato-cumulus. Obviously, bombing was by instruments. The lead, with Lt. Habert Underwood out front, bombed the primary Gee-H at 1505½ hours. Other Eager Beavers included Richard Claeys, George Purnell, Benjamin Olsen, Herbert Cohn, Lester Evans, Bruce Swango, Wilfred J. Forsyth, Capt. Leon B. Dorich. Meager AA fire was seen behind the group at the primary.

EAGER BEAVER PARTY TIME

One of the Eager Beaver highlights this month was the squadron party at the Officers' B Mess. Music was by Larry Ames and his Esquires. Graced by the ladies of Bedford, the atmosphere and party spirit made for a delightful evening. Present among the guests was the Chief Eager Beaver, Maj. Thomas M. Hulings, and his charming wife, Capt. Katherine Hulings; the station C.O., Col. James S. Sutton; the air executive, Lt. Col. John Chalfant; the ground executive, Lt. Col. Charles Duy, and the group S-2, Major John Bairnsfather. Judging from the comments made by the Eager Beavers and their guests, the party was a success.

MARCH

The 306th Bombardment Group participated in 21 missions during the month of March, a marked increase over previous months. Ten of the missions were visual, ten were PFF and one was accomplished by Gee-H. Of the visual missions, results were excellent on three, good on four, fair to excellent on one, fair to good on one, and poor on one. The targets this month varied greatly, with railroad facilities, oil, airfields, sub pens, and power plants being among the targets.

1

NECKARSULM - The 306th flew 36 a/c, one PFF Gee-H, one Gee-H, and three PFF, as the 40th C Group. While en route, a message was received from Able leader stating that the primary was obscured, and that bombing would be by instrument with possible visual corrections. The lead squadron made a visual correction, but the target was obscured for the last 30 seconds. Low dropped in a pattern east of the aiming point and the high picked up the target visually for about two minutes before bombs went away and dropped visually. Photos showed the high smoke bombs headed for the MPI, then obscured by clouds. There was no fighter opposition and there was no flak, with the exception of a few bursts seen at the front lines, possibly at Freiburg. Taking part in this mission were Capt. Leon Dorich and James S. Law, and Lts. Charles Witcomb, Harold Altshuler, Herbert Cohn, George Purnell, Harold Morris, James H. Butler and Bruce L. Swango.

2

BOHLEN - The 306th put up 36 a/c, including four PFF, as 40th B. At 0950 hours, Scouting Force reported that the cloud conditions in the target area were fluctuating from 7/10ths to 10/10ths, with a hole moving slowly toward the target. It did not advise a visual run, but would report again in about 10 minutes. This was repeated at 1000 hours. The bombing by the lead and low was visual and excellent. The high squadron was unable to bomb because another group passing directly beneath them about the time of bombs away. High then bombed the M/Y at Penig with good results. Flak was moderate to intense and tracking. Lt. Richard Claeys led the low, and others were Capt. Leon Dorich, Donald Sandercock, Harold Altshuler, George Purnell, William Carder, Richard Hartshorn, Duane Clocksin, Gordon Dobbs.

4

ULM - Flying 36 a/c, including two PFF Gee-H, one Gee-H and two PFF, the 306th formed the 40th A Group. Assembly was over A-59 at 18000 feet, two thousand feet higher than originally planned, because of dense, persistent contrails left by previous formations. At 1000 hours, a B-24 formation appeared on a collision course out of the contrails, and went through the low squadron, causing it to lose visual contact with the lead and high squadrons, and thus to bomb separately by PFF. Weather was so bad, Buckeye White advised that the formation probably would not get to the target. However, the leader saw that the weather was improving so decided to go ahead. AA fire was encountered after crossing the front lines, going in at about 23000 feet. About four to eight bursts were seen in the vicinity of Freiburg at 1005 hours, for about one minute. Coming back

MARCH (con't) across the lines, AA fire was again observed at about 2000 feet below the formation, and were followed by about 20 bursts of accurate, tracking for about two minutes on the low squadron, damaging five of its a/c. The lead bombed the primary by Gee-H, and the high dropped on the lead. Low, becoming separated from the rest of the group, for reasons explained above, made an individual PFF run. PFF photos plotted indicate lead and high patterns just west of briefed Gee-H aiming point. Pilots taking part were Capt. Robert Matzke, leading the high, and Lts. Donald Sandercock, William Carder, Ned McKinny, Bruce Swango, Richard Hartshorn, Gordon Dobbs, Lester Evans and Harold Altshuler. Lt. Reginald Thayer, veteran combat bombardier with a 15th AF tour to his credit, flew as lead bombardier of the low.

Capt. Robert J. Curran was assigned to the 482nd Group.

7

DORTMUND - The 306th flew 39 a/c, including one Gee-H PFF, three PFF and three spares, as 40th B Group. Due to the failure of the lead Gee-H set, and with Mickey equipment not working well, the lead finally dropped on the #3 target, Giessen, by PFF. High squadron dropped on the lead. The low squadron made a separate run on Siegen. Moderate, inaccurate barrage of AA fire was observed, with no damage to this group. A/c 474-V, Lt. Herbert Cohn, flying spare, collided with a/c 807-P, Lt. Clifford Steiger of the 423rd, at 5207Nx0710E, at 1048 hours. As Steiger dropped back, his tail section ran into the #1 prop of Cohn's a/c, knocking off a prop. Lt. Cohn and crew came back to base safely. Unfortunately, the same was not the case for Lt. Steiger who crashed on the continent near A-70, the tail gunner being killed. Capt. Leon Risk led the group today with Lt. James E. Martin flying deputy lead. Other 368th crews were: Lts. James A. Burgess, George Purnell, Wilfred Forsyth, Charles Witcomb, Ned McKinny, James H. Butler, Herbert Cohn and Capt. James S. Law.

2nd Lt. James A. Frederick was promoted to 1st Lt., 5 February.

2nd Lt. Ira C. Fatheree, electronics officer, joined the squadron.

8

GELSENKIRCHEN - The 306th flew 39 a/c including one PFF Gee-H, one Gee-H, three PFF and three spares as 40th C Group. The target was found to be covered with 10/10ths cloud and bombing was done by Gee-H in group formation, all planes dropping on the lead. The mission was without incident, all planes returning safely without damage from the AA fire, meager to moderate, to the left of our formation. Maj. Thomas M. Hulings, 368th C.O., led the group, with Lts. Harold Morris, Ned McKinny, Harold Altshuler, Herbert Cohn, James Butler, Lester Evans and George Purnell.

10

DORTMUND - We put up 39 a/c as the 40th A Group, flying with two PFF Gee-H, two PFF and three spares. The briefed primary was Coesfeld, but because of a faulty electrical system in the lead a/c and poor reception of the Gee-H rate beacon, each squadron made a separate PFF run on Dortmund, the #4 target. The target was com-

- MARCH (con't) pletely covered by clouds, therefore the bomb strikes could not be plotted. Flak was moderate, low and inaccurate tracking in the target area--only one a/c in the lead was damaged, none in the high and low. Eager Beavers flying today were: Lt. Habert Underwood, leading the low squadron, and Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Richard Hartshorn, Benjamin Olsen, Gordon Dobbs, Herbert Cohn, Bruce Swango, George Purnell, Wilfred Forsyth and Easton Effland.
- 2nd Lts. William Carder, Richard Jones, Harold Morris, Benjamin Olsen, Donald Schertz, Alban Varnado were promoted to 1st Lts., 7 March.
- F/O Russell Urich was discharged to accept a commission as 2nd Lt., 8 March.
- 11 BREMEN - An uneventful mission was flown to Bremen today. The 306th put up 36 a/c, with four PFF, as the 40th A Group; the 368th provided 12 ships with Capt. Robert Matzke leading the high squadron. The three squadrons made individual PFF runs and dropped through 10/10ths clouds, and the plotted scope photos indicate strikes very close to the briefed aiming point. There was no battle damage from moderate, inaccurate barrage and tracking flak. Also flying were Capt James S. Law and Lts. Charles Witcomb, Richard Hartshorn, Benjamin Olsen, Lester Evans, Ned McKinny, Harold Altshuler, Easton Effland, Bruce Swango, Duane Clocksin and Gordon Dobbs.
- 1st Lt. Paul Connelly was transferred to the 303rd Group.
- 12 SWINEMUNDE - Another uneventful mission today, on dock and dock facilities, the bombing being through 10/10ths undercast with unobserved results. The 368th flew the lead today with the group putting up 36 a/c. PFF plots show our pattern very close to the briefed aiming point. Flak was meager to moderate, very low and so inaccurate that no a/c were damaged. Friendly fighter support was good, and as in yesterday's mission, no ME 262s or other E/A were encountered. Capt. Leon Dorich flew as copilot for the lead a/c and Lt. Richard Claeys was deputy lead. Other 368th men were Capt. James S. Law, and Lts. Benjamin Olsen, Ned McKinny, Lester Evans, Bruce Swango, James Butler, Duane Clocksin.
- 14 HILDESHEIM - We did some excellent bombing today, with all three squadrons blanketing the aiming point. It was difficult to pick up through the dense haze in the target area, but the lead bombardier was able to make a 90-second run. We put up the three highs, nine a/c, with a total of 36 in the group. Damage from AA fire was one slight, in the low squadron. Eager Beavers flying today were Lts. Harold Morris, James Burgess, Herbert Cohn, Richard Jones, Duane Clocksin, Gordon Dobbs, Donald Sandercock, Ned McKinny and James Butler.
- 2nd Lts. Rogert Haining, Murray Hepple and Bruce Swango were promoted to 1st Lts., 10 March.
- 15 ZOSSEN - The 368th put up the low squadron today with nine a/c, led

- MARCH (con't) by Lt. Richard Claeys. Capt. James S. Law and Lts. William Carder, Donald Sandercock, James Burgess, Wilfred Forsyth, Harold Morris, Lester Evans and James Butler flew in the lead section and the low flight. Dense haze obscured the briefed MPI and all squadrons missed the target, the low dropping in a small town west of Mellen Zee. P-51s gave continuous close support throughout the mission.
- 17 MOLBIS - The 368th flew high today, putting up nine a/c with Capt. Robert Matzke leading. Each squadron made a PFF run on the # 2 target, a large power plant was the aiming point. There is no indication of where the high bombs hit, but plotted PFF photos of the lead show strikes on the briefed MPI. Again, P-51s were with us all the way.
- 18 BERLIN - The 368th provided nine a/c today as the lead of the 40th C Group. Capt. Robert Dodge led the group, and with him were Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Richard Claeys, Benjamin Olsen, Harold Altshuler, Gordon Dobbs, Richard Jones, James Burgess and George Purnell. Three to 6/10ths low clouds and dense, persistent contrails necessitated bombing by instruments. We were able to put in a visual assist, however, 30 seconds before bombs away. The lead bombardier, Lt. John G. Weber, picked up the aiming point and made the necessary corrections. Strike photos show our pattern slightly north of the aiming point, which was a choke point in a M/Y. Several bomb hits were observed to be on the briefed MPI. AA fire was accurate today, this target being the great "checkout" town of the Reich. The flak was from moderate to intense, both barrage and tracking over Berlin, damaging four severely and eight slightly in the lead squadron. Thirty-three out of the group total of 36 a/c sustained battle damage. Fifteen to 20 E/A were seen in the target area, mostly ME 262s. One of them made a half-hearted pass at our group from 2000 yards behind and to the right, and fired about 10 bursts. A lone ME 109 also made a pass on our lead squadron but then broke away and attacked the high squadron. P-51s provided good close support and several times were seen in dog fights with E/A.
- F/O Milton Rosen was discharged to accept a commission as 2nd Lt., 17 March.
- 19 PLAUEN - We put up the three "highs" today. The primary target was oil at Molbis, but because of dense haze and contrails, each squadron making an individual PFF run. Several strikes were seen by lead and low squadrons, and photos show lead strikes just north of the visual aiming point. Our P-51 escort was in the area constantly. Only six scattered bursts of flak were fired on our group after the turn off the target. 368th pilots flying today were: Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Benjamin Olsen, Wilfred Forsyth, Herbert Cohn, Richard Jones, Gordon Dobbs, Duane Clocksin, James Burgess and James Butler. Maj. John H. Buie was assigned today to the 423rd Squadron as C.O.
- 21 RHEINE - The 368th put up nine a/c in the low squadron, 40th A Group.

- MARCH (con't) Lt. Richard Claeys led, with Lts. Richard Hartshorn, Wilfred Forsyth, George Purnell, Duane Clocksin, Easton Effland, Charles Witcomb, Harold Altshuler and Herbert Cohn. There was only a slight haze at the target and all three squadrons made individual visual runs. 1st Lt. John G. Weber, lead bombardier in the low squadron, dropped squarely on the aiming point, obscuring it. Every bomb fell within the briefed target area. All crews came back with the feeling that this was a highly successful mission; many fires were seen in Western Germany from other bombing.
- 22 DORSTEN - The 368th flew ten a/c as high squadron of the 40th B Group, led by Capt. Leon Dorich, and followed by Capt. James S. Lav and Lts. Ned McKinny, Lester Evans, Benjamin Olsen, Harold Altshuler, Charles Witcomb, Herbert Cohn, Duane Clocksin and James Butler. The weather was clear over the continent, but a ground haze made identification of the target difficult. The lead and low both bombed visually and we made a Gee-H run with a 15 second visual correction. Photos show our hits on the west end of Gelsenkirchen. We received all the flak damage today, encountering meager but accurate tracking for four minutes in the target area. This resulted in one severe and three slight. We also sighted a lone FW 190 in the target area, about 2000 yards away. He started to make a pass from 10 o'clock high but broke away at 1500 yards.
- 23 COESFELD - The 368th put up eight a/c in the lead squadron with Lt. Richard Claeys flying as deputy. Other 368th pilots were Lts. George Purnell, Benjamin Olsen, Wilfred Forsyth, James Butler, Richard Jones, James Burgess and Herbert Cohn. The aiming point was M/Y in Coesfeld. The weather was clear throughout the mission and all squadrons made individual visual runs. Our pattern fell slightly short of the briefed MPI. There was no E/A seen and flak damage was nonexistent within the entire group.
- 24 HESEPE - The 368th flew 12 a/c as the low squadron of the 40th D composite group. The weather was clear except for a light ground haze during the entire route and we attacked visually. Our aiming point was the airfield at Hesepe, but our pattern fell short to the southeast. There was no E/A opposition and there were only four inaccurate bursts of flak on the bomb run. Lt. Habert Underwood led the low squadron, leading Lts. Richard Hartshorn, James Burgess, Benjamin Olsen, Lester Evans, Ned McKinny, Richard Jones, Duane Clocksin, Harold Altshuler, Charles Witcomb, Wilfred Forsyth and James Butler.
- TWENTE - The 368th flew 13 a/c as high squadron of 40th A Group. The 368th flew three men, Lts. Willis C. Holder, Herbert Cohn and Easton Effland, as #s 4, 5 and 6 in the lead section. The target was the airfield and we bombed visually with excellent results. Strike photos show hits starting at the northern edge of the field and continuing through the briefed aiming point.
- 26 2nd Lt. Russell Urich departed for 70th RD.
2nd Lt. George W. Purnell promoted to 1st Lt., 23 March.

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- 27 Capt. Keith Warner and 1st Lt. William Carder departed for 70th RD.
- 28 BERLIN - Lt. Richard Claeys led the low squadron today, with Lts. Lester Evans, deputy, Harold Altshuler, Benjamin Olsen, James Butler, Wilfred Forsyth, Richard Jones, Richard Hartshorn and Ned McKinny. Our greatest enemy today was the weather which forced assembly 9000 feet above the briefed 14000 feet altitude. There was multilayered cloud, almost solid, and dense, persistent contrails up to 23000 feet. This also caused several a/c to be unable to find the formation, and our pilots, Lts. Butler and Hartshorn, joined and bombed with the 381st and 305th Groups, respectively. Lt. Jones bombed Detmold, a target of opportunity, alone. We had a near tragedy today, but luckily no one was hurt, when Lt. Forsyth crash landed in the water just off shore near Dungeness on the way home. Except for getting wet when they waded ashore, everyone was ok. Each squadron made a separate PFF run on the target and photos show no ground detail. There was no fighter opposition, and the "wonder of wonders" was, AA fire was meager to moderate, low and inaccurate.
- Joining the squadron today were 2nd Lts. Alfred D. Sykes, Colin L. Valentine and Thomas C. Grimes; F/O Ralph O. Sheppard, and Cpls. Donovan P. Hickey, Ronald H. Zachau, Wayne C. Pearson, Charles W. Lowell, Jr., and Walter S. Stoughton.
- 29 1st Lt. Guillermo Perez departed for 70th RD.
- 30 BREMEN - The 368th flew twelve a/c as the 40th B High. The target was a highway bridge and our bombing was visual and fair. The pattern started at the north end of the bridge, going into the built up area to the north. Fighter support was excellent. AA fire was moderate, accurate tracking, and we suffered one severe and nine slight battle damaged planes. Capt. Robert Matzke led the low, and flying with him were Capt. James S. Law, and Lts. Easton Effland, Lester Evans, Bruce Swango, James Butler, Richard Hartshorn, Ned McKinny, George Purnell, Richard Jones, Harold Altshuler and Herbert Cohn.
- 31 HALLE - The 368th flew ten a/c as the lead squadron of the 40th C Group. Assembly was confused due to the larger number of a/c forming in the same area and the large number of flares, which made identification of individual groups difficult. Over the target the weather was 10/10ths. Just short of the IP, before starting a PFF run on Halle, the lead was forced to make a 360 before starting its run. The Mickey equipment became faulty on the run, so the lead squadron made a left turn and took another IP for a second run. Photos show no strikes, but PFF photo plots positively identify the target on the second run as Bitterfeld instead of Halle. The high made a separate run and bombed Leipzig; the low made a second run and bombed Halle. The 368th suffered no battle damage. Lt. Richard Claeys led the group and Lt. Lester Evans flew as deputy lead. Other 368th crews were those of Lts. Easton Effland, Bruce Swango, Harold Altshuler, Duane Clocksin, George Purnell, Ned McKinny, Charles Witcomb and Herbert Cohn.

APRIL

The 306th Group participated in 17 missions during April, 15 bombing and two special leaflet operations in which the 368th did not participate. Favorable weather played a role in the highest percentage of visual bombing for many months and results were generally very satisfactory, ranging from good to excellent on 11 visual operations. Four of the missions were PFF with unobserved results. Targets varied for the month, with railway facilities, ordnance dumps, airfields and dock areas being among those attacked. On two occasions missions were flown again the German-occupied Royan area in France. These were tactical missions in support of ground forces attacking the pocket.

Due to the rapid advance of Allied ground forces engulfing the Reich, and the subsequent linkup with the Soviet Army, many targets were overrun and no bombing missions were flown by the 306th after 19 April. As in past months, friendly fighter support was excellent, and the Luftwaffe was conspicuous by its absence.

3

KIEL - The 368th flew 12 a/c as the high squadron of the 40th B composite group. Our planes were led by Lt. Richard Claeys, with Capt. James S. Law as deputy lead. Other 368th pilots and crews were: Lts. Lester Evans, Paul Greer, Duane Clocksin, Harold Altshuler, Charles Witcomb, Ned McKinny, James Butler, Bruce Swango, James Burgess and F/O Easton Effland. The weather was 10/10ths and the #2 target, Kiel, was attacked by PFF; no photos are available as our squadron did not have a camera. P-51s gave close support and no E/A were seen. Flak was meager, low and scattered at the target.

4

FASSBERG - Out of 36 a/c flying in the 40th C Group, the 368th put up nine a/c, with Capt. Leon Dorich leading the low squadron. After making two runs and finding 10/10ths cloud cover over the #1 target, the low squadron brought its bombs back, not being able to find a target of opportunity within the permitted bombing area. The lead squadron bombed on its first run, and the high squadron on its second run. There were no E/A attacks on our group, but VHF reports indicated E/A were in the area. Other Eager Beavers flying were Lts. Lester Evans, James Burgess, Paul Greer, James Butler, Richard Hartshorn, Charles Witcomb, Fred Hales and Duane Clocksin.

5

WEIDEN - The 368th flew nine a/c as high squadron of the 40th B Group. Although the weather at the target was 7 to 10/10ths, all squadrons made individual PFF runs without visual corrections. Weather conditions prevented Lts. Duane Clocksin, Paul Greer and F/O Easton Effland from making rendezvous. Lts. Clocksin and Greer bombed Ingolstadt with the 92nd Group, and F/O Effland flew and bombed with the 351st Group. All a/c returned safely and without damage. Lt. Gordon Dobbs led the high squadron, and with him were Lts. Lester Evans, Herbert Cohn, James Burgess, James Butler and Capt. James S. Law.

6

LEIPZIG - The 368th flew 10 a/c as lead of a total of 38 planes in the 40th B Group. The #2 target, Leipzig, was covered by 10/10ths

- APRIL (con't) cloud and was bombed PFF, each squadron making a separate run with no visual correction. P-51s gave us close support throughout the mission. There was meager to moderate, inaccurate, tracking flak well off to the left in the target area for three minutes before bombs away. Lt. Richard Claeys led the group, and other 368th pilots and crews were Lts. Bruce Swango, Fred Hales, Paul Greer, Delbert McGinnis, Ned McKinny, Herbert Cohn, Charles Witcomb and Capt. James S. Law.
- 7 WESENDORF - The 368th put up three ships as high element of the lead, low and high squadrons, comprising the 40th C Group. We bombed the #1 target visually with excellent results. The pattern covers all installations on the northern end of the airfield, centered on the briefed aiming point. A few bursts of light AA were observed well below the formation, at the target. Eager Beavers in the air today were Capt. James S. Law, Lts. Delbert McGinnis, Charles Witcomb, Richard Hartshorn, Herbert Cohn, James Burgess, James Butler and F/O Easton Effland.
- 8 STASSFURT-LEOPOLDSHALL - The 368th flew nine a/c as low squadron of the 40th A Group, and Maj. Thomas M. Hulings, our C.O., led the A Group. The lead squadron bombed with a visual correction, and the high squadron dropped on the lead. The low squadron started a PFF run but the bombardier took over visually when an opening in the clouds allowed identification of the M/Y. Strike photos show our pattern directly on the aiming point selected, namely, the intersection of the highway and the M/Y. Others flying today were Lts. Gordon Dobbs, leading, Lester Evans, Alfred Sykes, Richard Hartshorn, Duane Clocksin, Ned McKinny, Bruce Swango, James Burgess and Fred Hales.
- 10 ORANIENBURG - The 306th put up 36 a/c of which the 368th provided nine, as the 40th B High. The #1 target was attacked visually in clear weather with excellent results, our squadron blanketing the assigned target. P-51s furnished excellent support throughout the mission. We were forced into Wittenberge flak by another group for two minutes, suffering damage of three severe and two slight. Lt. Richard Claeys led the high and F/O Easton Effland flew deputy lead. Others were Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Lester Evans, Wilfred Forsyth, Duane Clocksin, Charles Witcomb, Delbert McGinnis and Herbert Cohn.
- 11 KRAIBURG - The 368th led the 40th C Group of 36 a/c, nine of them from the 368th. There was meager accurate tracking flak from Stuttgart on the way in, causing damage of four slight in our squadron. We attacked the #1 target in CAVU weather and photos show hits on the briefed aiming point, with the main weight of the pattern slight. NE. The low bombs fell directly on the assigned MPI, and the high bombs fell into the smoke of the lead and low. Capt. Robert Matzke led the group, with Lt. Bruce Swango as deputy lead. Other 368th pilots were Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Harold Altshuler, Fred Hales, Herbert Cohn, Richard Jones, James Butler and James Burgess.

- APRIL (con't)
- 13 NEUMUNSTER - The 368th put up nine a/c today as high elements of the lead, low and high squadrons. The 306th formed the 36-plane 40th A Group. We attacked Neumunster M/Y, #2 target in almost clear weather, each squadron making an individual run. Pictures show hits of the lead on or very near the briefed aiming point. Because of smoke in the target area, the high changed its aiming point and blanketed the north end of the M/Y. The low squadron also changed to the south end of the M/Y. Shortly after the target, B force called our leader and commented on the excellence of the 306th bombing. There was no E/A opposition, and no AA fire. Flying for our squadron were: Capt. James S. Law; Lts. Bruce L. Swango, Duane Clocksin, Richard Jones, Fred Hales, Alfred Sykes, James Burgess, Wilfred Forsyth and F/O Easton Effland.
- 14 ROYAN AREA - The 306th flew the 40th A Group with 36 a/c, nine in the low squadron being from the 368th, and with Lt. Gordon Dobbs leading. This mission was directed against the German pocket of resistance above Bordeaux, the targets being strong points and gun emplacements in the area. Our squadron misidentified its aiming point and synchronized on the wrong patch of woods, which was north of the briefed aiming point. The lead's pattern walked across its aiming point and the high pattern hit slightly short. We had no fighter escort today. Several crews report seeing a lone JU 88 between the IP and target. Capt. James S. Law, Lts. Richard Hartshorn, Herbert Cohn, Wilfred Forsyth, James Butler, Ned McKinny and James Bigham, and F/O Easton Effland flew for the 368th today.
- 15 ROYAN AREA - The 306th put up 39 a/c and attacked the Royan area again. The 368th flew 10 a/c with Lt. Richard Claeys leading the low squadron. The weather was clear over the target and each squadron made separate visual runs, attacking #2 targets in the area with good results. Other 368th pilots flying today were Capt. James S. Law and Lts. Alfred Sykes, James Butler, James Bigham, Duane Clocksin, Ned McKinny, Fred Hales and Harold Altshuler.
- 16 PLATTLING - The 306th flew 38 a/c and attacked the M/Y at Plattling, the #1 target. Pictures show that the bomb patterns of all three squadrons were so nearly on the same briefed aiming point that only a few hits can be seen outside the pattern. We flew in the lead today with Capt. Leon Dorich and Lts. Gordon Dobbs, Herbert Cohn, Richard Hartshorn, James Bigham, Charles Witcomb, Harold Altshuler and Alfred Sykes.
- 17 DRESDEN - The 306th put up 39 a/c as the 40th C Group attacking Dresden. The 368th flew three high elements of lead, low and high squadrons. There was considerable confusion in the area of the IP due to heavy haze, clouds and contrails, plus the fact that the Third Air Division was in the area at the same time. Other formations flew various courses which interfered with the bomb run of at least one of our squadrons. The lead made a visual run, the high made a PFF run with visual correction, and the low started a

- APRIL (con't) PFF run, but was forced to change course twice to avoid other formations, and then turned off to make a second run. In the confusion the deputy, thinking the leader's bombs had dropped released his own bombs, and seven a/c of the squadron dropped their bombs on his signal. Low leader then decided not to make the second run. The lead's bombs hit the aiming point. Photos indicate high hits in M/Y north of the river. There was no E/A opposition, although jets were reported in the area. AA gun fire at the target was moderate and tracking for about three minutes. Eager Beavers flying today were Lts. Richard Hartshorn, Richard M. Weiser, Jr., Herbert Cohn, James Burgess, Wilfred Forsyth, Charles Witcomb, Harold Altshuler, Delbert McGinnis and F/O Easton Effland.
- 18 ROSENHEIM - The 368th put up 10 a/c of the low squadron of 40th B Group today, led by Lt. James E. Martin. Bombing was done visually, each squadron making a separate run on the M/Y. Photos show lead and high on the MPI, and the low pattern overlapping the first two squadrons. P-51s provided good support throughout the mission. Two a/c in the low squadron were damaged severely when we encountered meager, inaccurate, tracking fire from the vicinity of Hattenberg. It had the appearance and characteristics of light flak. Our true altitude was only about 10000 feet because of the mountains over which we were flying at the time. Our men flying were Lts. Charles Witcomb, James Burgess, Delbert McGinnis, James S. Lett, Wilfred Forsyth, Fred Hales, Lawrence E. Marks, James Bigham and F/O Easton Effland.
- 19 FALKENBERG - The 368th flew ten a/c in the high squadron of the 40th A Group, with Lt. Richard Claeys leading. There were 38 a/c in the 306th Group. With about 1/10th cumulus in the target area each squadron made a separate visual run. Our squadron, the high dropped on the first run, hitting the aiming point squarely. Lead and low squadrons were forced off their bomb runs by other a/c and made additional runs, also hitting the aiming point. 368th pilots on the mission were Lts. Alfred Sykes, Richard Hartshorn, Ned McKinny, Duane Clocksin, James Bigham, James Burgess, Fred Hales, Richard Weiser and Lawrence Marks.

TOURS COMPLETED, DEPARTED

Cpts. George T. DeVack, James S. Law, Leon Risk and Lts. Harold Morris, Donald Sandercock, Bennett H. Schwartz, Roger W. Haining, Murray Hepple, Willis C. Holder, Merle P. Brown, Benjamin Olsen, Donald Schertz, John G. Weber, George Purnell, Lester Evans, Paul Greer, Cyrus B. Rubenstein, Richard W. Jones, Bruce L. Swango, Henry M. Campbell, William A. Wilson, Jr., Wyatt L. Gillaspie, and Gene B. Howe.

PROMOTIONS

1st Lts. to Captain - Reginald Thayer, Habert Underwood and Paul C. Wagner.

APRIL (con't) 2nd Lts to 1st Lts. - Leslie F. Campbell, Herbert Cohn, Lyle Dorman, Paul H. Greer, Richard Hartshorn, Gene B. Howe, Joseph Jaeger, Raymond LeKashman, Ned McKinny, James E. Shook, Harold Altshuler, James Burgess, James Butler, Gordon Dobbs, Fred Hales, Elmer E. Hunt, Robert I. McCutchan, Delbert McGinnis, Anthony Mura, George Faulkner, Alva McCalley, Stanford Schoenberger and Louis F. Thompson.

COMBAT CREWS ASSIGNED TO THE SQUADRON:

2nd Lts. James C. Bigham, George T. Watkins, Donald S. Kuesel;
Cpls. Dale L. Smith, Lawrence E. Thompson, Oliver J. Koniarski,
Henry L. Tackwell, Floyd A. Turner and Harry D. Wilmore.

2nd Lt. Richard K. Weiser, Jr., Gerald A. Wiley and Walter V. Latscha; Sgt. William C. McCrorie, Raymond R. Mundy and Edgar L. Ranck, Jr., and Cpls. Vincent M. DeCesare, Vincent L. Foster, Jr., and Lowell D. Daniels.

2nd Lts. Lawrence E. Marks, Fred E. Lowe, and Fred W. Rusch;
Sgts. Floyd D. Park, Jr., James K. Sheets, Jr., and John W. Miner,
and Cpls. Emil R. Fulan, James R. White, and William E. Morgan.

2nd Lts. John J. Gaydosh, Allan A. Lawson; F/O Charles H. Bremer;
Sgts. Herbert V. Spradlin and Lester H. Strong; Cpls. Joseph J. Marciano, John J. Broughan, Dillon J. McDermott and Harry G. Shingledecker.

2nd Lts. William L. Heiser, John E. Smith and James J. Dougherty;
and Cpls. Calvin P. Martin, Thomas Urspruch, Jr., Orbin N. Thompson, Robert E. Fullerton, Merle M. Karber and Paul B. Thomas.

2nd Lts. James S. Lett, Robert J. Runner and Henry G. Nebeker;
Cpls. Harry L. Meyer, Jr., Earl L. Norhous, Gerald T. Garrison,
Dale D. Poehlman and Fred W. Vandeventer, and Baldemar C. Rodriguez.

Commanding Officers

William F. Lanford, 18 Mar 42 to 19 Jan 43
Mack McKay, 20 Jan 43 to 8 Apr 43
John M. Regan, 9 Apr 43 to 13 Apr 44
Maurice Salada, 14 Apr 43 to 24 Oct 44
Thomas H. Hulings, 25 Oct 44 to unk

Executive Officers: Edward T. Miazza, Willie S. Williams, Jr.

Operations Officers: Walter N. Smiley, William E. Friend, Jr., William C. Melton, Jr., Elbert Odle, George T. DeVack, Robert G. Matzke

Engineering: Robert A. Gearhart, Robert S. Stevens, William Widlansky, John P. Walsh

Communications: Elbert Odle, Jesse L. Milburn, Robert Klawuhn, William Foose

Adjutants: Louis Schulstad, Edward T. Miazza, Edgar S. Hallman, Richard L. Moore, Albert Greaves, Robert L. Whitney

Navigators: Wallace D. Boring, Maynard D. Dix, Roy E. Buchanan, Keith L. Warner, Paul C. Wagner

Bombardiers: Robert T. Levy, Joseph E. Kosakowski, Stanley Silverstein, Eduardo Montoya, Donald R. Ross, Irving Norton, Ralph E. Bordner, Reginald H. Thayer, Jr.

Armament: Louis Schulstad, John E. Bennett

Ordnance: Thurman E. Dawson, Richard L. Moore, William Winship

Gunnery: William E. Foose, Edward J. Seifried

Intelligence: Robert W. Smith, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, Alfred W. Weld, William C. VanNorman, Ralph Schreiter

Supply: James Ferguson, Edgar W. Hallman, Robert L. Whitney

Medical: Harold D. Munal, James E. McClung

APPENDIX

<u>Name</u>	<u>P/CP</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Cadet Class</u>	<u>Death Date</u>
Alien, Dean C	P+	44-06-07	44-08-26	MIA/POW	43-J, Sumner, NM	80-05-04
Allen, John J	CP	44-04-29	44-10-00	Tour	43-F,, Stockton, CA	44-France
Altshuler, Harold P	P+	45-01-13	45-05-00	Tour	43-D, Albany, GA	
Arrison, Frank R Jr	CP	43-03-12	43-05-21	KIA	42-I, Minter, AL	43-05-21
Barnes, Harold E	CP	43-01-16	43-07-19	Tour(25)	RAF	84-03-31
Bayless, Charles M	CP-P	43-10-21	44-02-25	MIA/POW	42-D, Columbus, MS	85-03-18
Belser, Joseph E (**)	P+	43-04-23	44-01-04	Tour(25)	42-D, Columbus, MS	80-06-00
Bigham, James C	P+	45-04-02	46-06-00	(8) CJ	44-F, Marfa, TX	00-09-20
Bodenhamer, Robt A	CP	44-12-30	45-00-00	Tour	43-J, Enid, OK	Deceased
Boswell, Gwynn A	P+	44-04-29	44-09-30	Tour	43-G, Lubbock, TX	67-08-09
Bourn, Oscar B	CP	43-11-18	44-02-25	MIA/POW	43-G, Waco, TX	03-05-17
Brady, Thomas J	CP	43-09-15	44-01-11	POW/DOW	43-D, Blytheville, AR	44-01-11
Breslin, William E	P+	44-04-29	44-07-31	Tour	43-G, Albany, GA	
Brown, Merle P	CP-P	43-10-14	44-03-06	Internee	43-G, Altus, OK	
		44-10-09	45-04-00	Tour		
Brunn, Floyd	P+	43-11-21	44-06-05	Tour	43-D, Blytheville, AR	83-10-25
Bruton, Max J	CP-P	44-07-05	44-12-16	Tour	44-A, Stockton, CA	
Buchanan, Orville L	P	42-06-00	42-08-00		41-L, Stockton, CA	
Buddenbaum, Otto A	P+	42-06-01	43-03-08	KIA	42-B, Luke, AZ	43-03-08
Bumgarner, Dellon E	CP-P	44-06-04	44-10-09	Tour(34)	44-A, Stockton, CA	
Burgess, James A	P	45-01-10	45-06-00	(26)	44-C, Albany, GA	
Butler, James H	P+	45-02-03	46-02-12	(28)CJ	44-F, Douglas, AZ	
Cabe, Kenneth R	CP	43-10-00	43-11-03	KIA		43-11-03
Campbell, Henry E	P	44-10-06	45-04-19	Tour	44-F, Stuttgart, AR	65-12-06
Carder, William D	CP-P	44-04-29	45-03-27	Tour		Deceased
Chrisjohn, Robert J	P+	44-07-17	44-12-29	Tour(35)	44-A, Douglas, AZ	
Christianson, M.E	CP-P	44-04-29	44-08-13	Tour	43-H, Brooks, TX	99-06-30
Claeys, Richard W	P	44-07-27		Tour(71)	RCAF	46-08-19
Clocksins, Duane B	P+	45-02-16	45-04-00	(24)CJ	44-F, Douglas, AZ	
Cohn, Herbert B	P+	45-02-03	45-10-19	(31)CJ	44-B, Stewart, NY	
Coleman, James Ray	P+	43-11-18	44-02-25	MIA/POW	43-A, Williams, AZ	
Cook, Louis G	P+	43-04-04	43-11-08	Tour(25)	42-G, Moultrie, GA	95-12-14
Correll, Walter E	CP	44-08-21	45-07-13	(30)	42-K, Yuma, AZ	
Coughlin, John F	P+	44-02-26	44-04-24	KIA	43-G, Albany, GA	44-04-24
Cowan, George S	CP	44-10-01	44-10-15	(1)MIA/PW	44-D, Seymour, IN	
Coyne, John M	P+	44-04-29	45-01-00	Tour		Deceased
Crook, Charles A	P+	44-10-30	44-12-15	KIA	44-A, Luke, AZ	44-12-15
Crowl, Clarence J	CP	43-11-18	44-02-05	MIA/POW	43-G, Altus, OK	
Cuddeback, Aaron E	CP	42-12-08	43-03-04	KIA	42-C, Stockton, CA	43-03-04
Cummings, James O	CP	43-04-12	43-05-21	MIA/POW	42-K, Stockton, CA	
Curtis, John W	P+	44-03-04	44-07-14	Tour		
Curtis, Roger H	CP	45-02-10			44-F, Stockton, CA	99-00-00
Dahly, Ronald N	CP	43-04-04	43-04-05	To305BG (16) POW	42-K, Stockton, CA	
Dallessi, William F	CP	43-04-21	43-05-00	Trans	43-A, Colum' MS	
Davenport, Wm C	CP	44-12-11			44-F, Sebring, FL	
Deck, Leland P	P+	44-05-28	44-11-27	Tour		88-12-07
Denny, Robert R	P+	44-06-29	45-01-19	Tour	43-I, Albany, GA	00-10-24
DeVack, George T	P+	44-04-03	45-04-19	Tour(31)	43-F, Douglas, AZ	

Duties: 368th Ops Off

P+ - Pilot came with crew; CJ - Post-war Photo Mapping Project

Dobbs, Gordon L	P+	45-02-16			44-F, Pecos, TX	96-09-13
Dodge, Robert L	P+	44-07-08	45-05-00	(30)	43-K, Douglas, AZ	
Dooley, William J	CP-P	43-04-11	43-10-02	Tour(25)	42-I, Minter, AL	43-11-13
Dorich, Leon B	P	45-02-04	45-11-00	(19)CJ	42-B, Mather, CA	
Dresp, Robert F	CP	42-07-17	42-11-19	DOW	42-F, Lubbock, TX	42-11-19
Dryar, Henry A Jr	P+	44-05-28	44-09-12	Tour		85-10-21
Edris, Warren P	CP	42-12-30	43-03-08	(9)MIA/PW	42-D, Columbus, MS	
Edwards, Robert L	P+	44-04-21	45-01-14	Tour(35)	44-A, Stockton, CA	
Effland, Easton	CP-P	45-02-16			44-G, Roswell, NM	
Efird, Irwin R	CP	43-04-21	43-05-21	MIA/POW	43-A, Roswell, NM	01-07-18
Ehrler, Robert N	P+	43-12-01	44-05-24	(28)MIA/PW	43-D, George, IL	93-07-08
Elliott, John B	CP	42-07-17	43-01-03	MIA/POW	42-F, Lubbock, TX	71-03-09
Endres, Frank I	CP-P	43-11-27	44-05-28	Tour	43-G, Marfa, TX	65-07-27
Eros, Kenneth M	P+	44-07-27	45-01-07	Tour	44-A, Stockton, CA	
Erwin, Wayne H	P+	44-05-09	44-09-12	Tour	43-G, Albany, GA	
Evans, Lester A	P+	44-12-27	45-04-19	Tour		Deceased
Evans, Padraic B	P+	44-07-28	45-01-07	Tour	44-A, Stockton, CA	
Ewan, Avory L	CP	43-03-12	43-04-17	KIA	42-I, Minter, AL	43-04-17
Farwell, Robert H	P	44-08-28	44-09-12	(5)MIA/PW	41-D, Stockton, CA	
Ferguson, James M	P+	42-03-27	43-01-03	MIA/POW	42-B, Brooks, TX	
		Duties: 368th Supply Off				
Field, Floyd J	P+	43-04-21	43-05-21	KIA		43-05-21
Field, Philip J	P+	43-11-18	44-07-14	Tour	43-E, Marfa, TX	
Fix, Rene C	CP-P	43-12-01	44-03-27	(16)MIA/PW	43-F, Altus, OK	
Forsyth, Robert J Jr	CP	45-01-13				
Forsyth, Wilfred J	P+	45-02-10			44-F, Douglas, AZ	
Frantz, Weldon B	CP	44-03-15	44-03-27	(4)MIA/PW	43-I, Albany, GA	
Friend, William E	P+	42-07-12	43-03-04	KIA	42-B, Mather, CA	43-03-04
Fryer, Robert R	CP-P	42-07-12	43-04-17	Tour to	42-F, Lubbock, TX	
				384BG		
Gassler, John	P+	43-11-03	44-03-21	Tour	43-C, Columbus, MS	98-03-10
Gay, Joseph H Jr	P+	43-09-13	44-02-25	KIA	44-A, Columbus, MS	44-02-25
Gaydosh, John J	P+	45-04-09	46-05-07	(3) CJ	44-C, Columbus, MS	
Gerald, Robert S	CP	43-12-00	44-03-14	Tour(25)	42-I, Ellington, TX	
Gile, Franklyn D	P	43-05-00		(1)Trans	42-I, Roswell, NM	
Gillogly, Fred D	CP-P	42-07-17	43-04-17	MIA/POW	42-F, Lubbock, TX	98-12-22
Gordon, Ira L	CP	43-09-13	44-02-25	KIA	43-E, Lubbock, TX	44-02-25
Goris, George E Jr	P+	43-08-10	43-11-03	KIA	43-A, Columbus, MS	43-11-03
Greer, Paul H	CP-P	44-12-13	45-04-19	Tour(35)	44-F, Douglas, AZ	
Gregg, Richard T	CP	44-09-01	45-02-00	Tour(35)	44-C, Victoria, TX	
Hales, Fred W	CP	44-12-26		(33)CJ	44-H, Waco, TX	98-08-31
Halliday, Clarence L	P+	44-08-08	45-01-18	Tour(35)	43-J, Marfa, TX	86-06-00
Hanson, Richard F	P	42-06-00	42-08-00	Trans	42-E, Stockton, CA	
Harr, John B	CP	43-11-11	43-11-26	MIA/POW	43-E, Ellington, TX	
Hartshorn, Richard T	P+	44-11-28			43-K, Mission, TX	Deceased
Hasting, Earl W	CP	44-05-15	44-12-10	Tour	44-A, Seymour, IN	
Hathaway, Carl B	P+	44-09-02	45-04-00	Tour(35)	44-B, Stockton, CA	67-12-00
Hendershot, Leland C	P+	43-10-31	43-11-13	KIA		43-11-13
Hinckley, Harry D	CP	45-02-03				98-03-07
Hobson, Raymond H	P	42-06-00	42-08-00			
Hodson, Richard G	P	42-03-28	42-04-00			
Hoey, Francis J	P	43-11-11	43-11-26	MIA/POW	43-F, Blytheville, AR	
Hoisington, Olin H	CP	44-05-15	44-09-01	Tour	44-A, George, IL	
Holder, Willis C	CP-P	44-09-12	45-04-19	Tour	44-B, Stewart, NY	80-04-27
Hopkins, Ben R	CP	43-04-04	43-04-17	MIA/POW	42-K, Roswell, NM	

Howe, Gene B	CP	44-08-08	45-04-19	Tour	44-A, Valdosta, GA	
Huelat, Edward E Jr	CP	44-07-21	45-02-00	Tour		
Hulings, Thomas E	P	44-10-11	45-10-24	2Tours	42-B, Foster, TX	98-08-78
		Duties: 368th Cmdr		92BG		
Hunt, Elmer E.	CP-P	44-11-28	45-10-19	(28)	44-F, Frederick, OK	
Husband, Toy B	P+	43-04-21	44-07-14	Tour	42-I, Minter, AL	
Hutsell, Harley C	CP-P	44-04-03	44-09-11	Tour(34)	43-I, Douglas, AZ	
		-Duties: GP Ops Off				
Jankowski, TheodoreA	CP-P	42-06-00	43-04-17	MIA/POW	42-E, Williams, AZ	82-09-02
Johnson, Allan J	CP	44-02-26	44-04-24	KIA	43-I, Seymour, IN	44-04-24
Johnson, Carl A	CP-P	44-04-23	44-07-31	Tour		
Jones, Dewey O	CP-P	43-12-01	44-06-26	Tour	43-G, Waco, TX	99-10-01
Jones, Richard W	P+	44-09-22	45-04-13	Tour(35)	44-C, Valdosta, GA	
Jones, William D	CP-P	43-04-21	43-09-00	Tour(25)	42-K, Victorville, CA	96-05-08
Judas, Maxwell V	CP-P	42-07-07	43-05-21	MIA/POW	42-F, Lubbock, TX	96-09-00
Katz, William	P	43-07-05	44-02-06	Tour(25)	42-Dec	
Keilt, Walter H	P+	43-12-01	44-05-16	Tour(28ATC)	43-D, Ellington, TX	
Keiser, William L	P	45-04-09			44-I, Albany, GA	
Kelly, John M	P+	43-10-21	44-06-26	Tour	43-D, Albany, GA	86-07-28
King, John R	CP	42-06-00	42-11-19	Wounded	42-F, Williams, AZ	97-10-11
Kramarinko, Alex	CP	42-07-07	43-04-05	MIA/POW	42-F, Lubbock, TX	81-05-26
Krzyston, Frank L	P+	44-04-21	44-09-11	Tour	43-H, George, IL	
Laden, Robert E	CP-P	44-07-08	45-01-12	Tour(35)		
Lally, Glenn J	CP-P	42-06-00	43-04-17	MIA/POW	42-F, Williams, AL	98-11-14
Lanford, William A	P	42-03-01	43-01-19	(9)+17	39-A, Kelly, TEX	95-06-26
		Duties: 368th Cmdr		w15AF		
Law, James S	P+	44-12-23	45-04-14	Tour	43-A, Columbus, MS	75-12-25
Lawson, Allan A	CP	45-04-09			44-E, Pecos, TX	
Lett, James S	P+	45-04-09			44-I, Albany, GA	71-03-03
Linn, Oleron S	P+	43-04-21	44-03-21	Tour(25)	42-I, Minter, AL	
Logue, Coyle R	CP	43-04-21	43-11-08	Tour(25)	42-I, Minter, AL	
Lowe, Fred E	CP	45-04-04	46-06-26	(11)CJ	44-H, Chandler, AZ	
Lund, Russell S	P	43-10-12	44-06-26	Tour	43-D, Ellington, TX	79-00-00
Lutz, Warren C	P+	44-04-05	44-04-29	KIA		44-04-29
Machosky, John	P+	44-07-17	44-09-11	MIA/POW	43-J, Macon, GA	Deceased
Maenner, Arthur J	CP-P	44-07-28	45-01-31	Tour(35)	44-B, Valdosta, GA	90-07-30
Markle, William D	CP	44-05-28	44-09-12	KIA		44-09-12
Marks, Lawrence E	P+	45-04-04	47-00-00	(5)CJ	44-B, Valdosta, GA	
Marlovits, Joseph C	CP-P	44-05-28	44-12-29	Tour	43-K, Valdosta, GA	
Marsh, Joe D	P+	44-09-22	44-12-05	KonBase	44-C, Macon, GA	44-12-05
Martin, Berton D	CP	44-06-29	45-01-25	Tour(35)	43-K, George, IL	
Martin, James E	P+	44-09-12	45-04-00	45-04-00	44-B, Stewart, NY	
Maslanka, Edward L	CP	43-08-00	43-09-06	(1/)Evade	43-B, Pampa, TX	95-03-22
Matzke, Robert G	P	44-11-13		Tour	42-C, Stockton, CA	80-01-08
		Duties: 368th Ops Off				
Maynes, Alden D	CP	43-11-10	44-05-24	MIA/POW	43-E, Marfa, TX	
McCalley, Alva J	CP-P	44-12-23			44-D, Stuttgart, AR	90-11-18
McCaulie, William T	P+	44-09-01	45-01-28	Tour(35)	44-A, Marfa, TX	
McCormack, Miles C	P+	43-09-15	45-01-28	MIA/POW	43-C, George, IL	
McDaniel, Ray C	CP-P	43-11-27	44-06-07	Tour(30)	43-G, Lubbock, TX	99-03-10
McDevett, Frazier T	CP=P	44-04-30		Tour	43-K, Seymour, IN	65-08-06
McDowell, Robert C	P+	44-04-05	44-04-24	KIA		44-04-24
McGahan, Harold R	CP-P	44-07-28	45-02-00	Tour(35)	44-B, Luke, AZ	

McGinnis, Delbert L	CP-P	44-12-27	45-10-07	(25)CJ	44-E, Brooks, TX	
McIntire, Leo S	P+	43-03-12		Tour	42-F, Lubbock, TX	87-01-00
McKay, Mack	P+	42-04-15	43-04-08	(17) toUS	41-E, Brooks, TX	
		Duties: 368th Cmdr				
McKinny, Ned W	P+	44-12-23	45-05-22	Tour(35)	44-D, Marfa, TX	
McMahon, J Bruce	P+	43-07-02	44-06-26	Tour(38)	Douglas, AZ	
McStay, James T	P+	44-07-05	44-09-12	KIA	RAF	44-09-12
Meilton, William G Jr	P+	42-03-13	43-02-17	To 3Q5BG	41-A, Kelly, TX	
		Duties: GP Adj, 368 Ops Off				
Miller, Robert A.	CP-P	42-07-07	43-07-17	MIA/POW	42-F, Lubbock, TX	77-03-03
		Duties: A Flt Cmdr				
Mitchell, Wm C Jr	CP-P	44-03-18	44-07-00	Tour	43-J, Albany, GA	
Mockus, John P	CP	44-10-30	44-12-15	KIA	44-D, Pecos, TX	44-12-15
Moroz, William	P+	44-09-25	44-10-15	MIA/POW		76-05-00
Morris, Harold N	CP-P	44-09-22	45-04-19	Tour(35)	44-C, Frederick, OK	
Mowers, Saxe E	CP-P	43-05-25	44-04-24	Tour(25)	RAF	
Mura, Anthony V Jr	CP	44-12-10	45-04-16	Tour (33)	44-E, Pecos, TX	96-07-16
Murphy, Donald W	CP	44-04-21	44-08-02	Hospital	43-K, Stuttgart, AR	
Nally, William S	CP-P	43-04-11	44-03-14	Tour(25)	43-K, Roswell, NM	65-06-14
Nash, William M	P+	44-03-15	44-09-11	Tour	43-D, Seymour, IN	
Niblack, Charles T	P+	44-06-04	44-10-09	Tour(35)	43-I, Douglas, AZ	
Nickols, Carmon J	P+	44-12-09	44-12-29	KIA(1)	44-D, Pecos, TX	44-12-29
Oberhelman, Ivan W	P	44-05-15	44-09-12	Tour	43-K, Valdosta, GA	87-03-14
Odle, Eibert G	P	42-03-27	44-10-21	Tour(25)	42-B, Brooks, TX	81-03-14
		Duties: 368th Ops Off				
Olsen, Benjamin L	P+	44-12-13	45-04-03	Tour(35)	44-D, Stockton, CA	
Owen, Scott M	CP	44-06-16				
Patton, Edward R	P+	44-05-15	44-09-11	Tour(35)	43-J, Stuttgart, AR	96-12-18
Paulsen, Paul F	P+	43-09-03	44-05-16	Tour(30)	43-A, Blytheville, AR	
Perez, Guillermo A	CP	43-12-12	45-03-29	Tour	43-G, Marfa, TX	79-07-22
Peterson, Wesley D	CP	43-03-12	43-09-06	MIA/POW	42-J, Roswell, NM	
Phillips, James L	CP	44-07-17	44-09-11	MIA/POW	44-A, Valdosta, GA	
Puckett, Fred A Jr	P+	44-03-18	44-04-24	MIA/POW	43-J, Stockton, CA	94-06-01
Purnell, George W	CP-P	44-08-08	45-04-19	Tour(35)	44-B, Stockton, CA	
Rabe, Elton C	P+	44-04-13	44-07-14	Tour	43-H, Stockton, CA	
		Duties: E Flt Cmdr				
Ranck, Roy C Jr	CP-P	43-07-04	44-07-14	MIA/POW	43-D, Luke, AZ	
Raper, William S(*)	P+	42-06-23	44-10-30	CO 303BG	41-E, Brooks, TX	03-11-08
Rapp, Charles U Jr	CP	44-06-07	44-08-26	KIA	Ellington, TX	44-08-26
Reber, Marlen E	P+	42-03-18	43-06-29	Tour(25)	42-C, Stockton, CA	
Reece, Wm A Jr	P+	44-04-30	44-07-31	Tour		
Reed, Willard Dale	CP-P	43-07-00	44-01-11	POW (15)	43-D, Yuma, AZ	
Reeder, William D	P+	43-11-10	44-07-29	Tour	43-D, Blytheville, AR	
		Duties: B Flt Cmdr				
Regan, John M	P+	42-03-19	44-04-13	Tour(25)	42-C, Stockton, CA	
		Duties: Flt Cmdr, 368th Cmdr				
Rehn, Albert F	P+	43-11-19	44-06-26	Tour(30)	43-E, Roswell, NM	00-02-03
		Duties: Flt Cmdr				
Rethy, Joseph G	P+	44-12-01				
Risso, William L	CP-P	44-07-17	45-04-00	Tour(35)	44-B, Pecos, TX	
Risk, Leon A	P+	44-08-08	45-05-17	Tour(30)	44-A, LaJunta, CO	Deceased
		Duties: Flt Cmdr				

Robinson, Reginald L	P+	43-04-23	43-11-06	Tour(25)	42-H, Lake Charles, LA	02-11-20
Roeder, Gilbert H	P+	43-11-27	44-04-30	Tour	43-E, Stockton, CA	
Ruffin, William A	P+	44-07-21	45-01-00	Tour(35)	43-L, LaJunta, CO	
Runner, Robert J	CP	45-04-09			44-F, Douglas, AZ	
Saiada, Maurice V	P+	44-04-13	44-11-21	Tour(25)	41-F, Maxwell, AL	
Duties: 368th Cmdr, GP Dep Cmdr						
Sandercock, Donald M	CP-P	44-09-22	45-04-19	Tour(35)	44-C, Altus, OK	
Sasser, John W	P+	44-06-16	44-09-12	MIA/DOW	43-J, Marfa, TX	45-03-20
Scheil, William H	P+	43-03-12	43-04-17	MIA/POW(5)	42-F, Lubbock, TX	
Schertz, Donald C	CP	44-09-22	45-04-19	Tour(35)	44-C, Selma, AL	
Schoch, Robert A	P+	43-11-19	43-12-11	MIA/POW	43-E, Stockton, CA	
Schroeder, Robert W	CP-P	44-08-29	45-01-28	Tour(35)	44-B, Lubbock, TX	
Schulstad, Louis M	P	42-03-19	42-07-06	To 303BG	42-C, Stockton, CA	
Scolnik, Robert J	CP-P	44-06-15	44-10-23	Tour	44-A, George, IL	84-12-19
Scudder, Floyd G	P	43-10-05	43-11-13	KIA		43-11-13
Seelos, Robert W	P+	42-03-19	43-04-05	MIA/POW	42-C, Stockton, CA	
Shawe, Donald H	CP-P	44-04-13	44-07-31	Tour	43-J, Ft Sumner, NM	
Shepherd, Joseph W	CP	44-05-09	44-09-06	Tour	43-J, Stockton, CA	
Shingler, Robert W	CP-P	43-04-23	43-09-09	Tour(25)	43-A, Roswell, NM	
Smiley, Walter W	P+	42-03-26	43-04-17	KIA	42-B, Brooks, TX	43-04-17
Smith, Charles W	P+	43-12-11	44-03-06	Internee	43-E, Roswell, NM	
		44-10-06	44-12-24	(30)		
Smith, John E	CP	45-04-09			44-H, Pecos, TX	92-10-13
Smith, Paul W	CP	45-02-16	45-00-00	(19)CJ	44-G, El Paso, TX	
Smith, Robert W	P+	42-03-19	43-01-22	To 423rd	42-C, Stockton, CA	
Sterling, Edwin L	P	42-06-23	43-08-06		42-B, Luke, AZ	
Sumner, Walter H	P+	44-06-15	44-10-12	Tour	43-J, Douglas, AZ	83-00-00
Swan, Clinton D	CP-P	43-11-27	44-05-05	Tour	43-F, Waco, TX	
Swango, Bruce L	P+	44-12-11	45-04-13	Tour(35)	44-D, Stockton, CA	
Sykes, Alfred D	P+	45-03-27		(6)	44-G, Stuttgart, AR	
Symons, Thomas W III	P+	43-12-01	44-02-22	KIA	42-G, Columbus, MS	44-02-22
Teare, John D	P	43-03-12	43-04-17	POW(5)	42-F, Lubbock, TX	
Thompson, Carl R	CP-P	43-11-03	44-03-25	Tour(26)	43-E, Waco, TX	99-11-23
Trigg, Charles L	P+	44-04-13	44-07-13	Tour	43-H, Winfield, KS	
Tripp, Raymond D	P+	43-11-27	44-04-00	Tour	43-E, Albany, GA	77-05-27
Valentine, Colin L	CP	45-03-27	46-00-00	(6)	44-E, Dothan, AL	
Wadley, Donald L	P	43-10-00	43-11-03	KIA	43-A, Roswell, NM	43-11-03
Wait, Kenneth A	CP	44-12-23				
Watkins, George T	CP	45-04-02	45-12-22	(5)CJ	44-H, Marfa, TX	96-05-08
Weinel, George A	CP-P	44-04-13	44-08-10	Tour	43-K, Blytheville, AR	85-08-23
Weiser, Richard K Jr	P+	45-04-04	46-05-25	(6)CJ	44-C, Valdosta, GA	
Wempe, John R	CP	43-12-01	44-02-22	KIA	43-G, Ellington, TX	44-02-22
Whipple, Donald E	P+	43-04-11	43-04-17	MIA/POW	42-E, Stockton, CA	
Wiley, Gerald A	CP	45-04-04			44-F, Ellington, TX	
Wilson, William A Jr	CP	44-12-01	45-04-19	Tour	44-F, Stuttgart, AR	
Winton, Frank	P	42-06-00	42-08-00		42-I, Minter, AL	
Witcomb, Charles W	P+	44-12-26			43-I, Minter, AL	
Woeliner, Edwin D Jr	P+	44-09-25	44-12-29	MIA/POW	42-K, George, IL	
Woolbright, James G	CP	45-02-03			44-F, Stuttgart, AR	62-09-27
Zardin, Joseph F Jr	CP	43-09-03	43-10-27	To 482BG	43-D, Yuma, AZ	

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NAME	ARRIVAL	DPT	LOST?	OTHER
ARNOLD, GEORGE H	43-04-23	43-10-31	TOUR	
BECK, J WEBSTER	44-12-23			
BERGEN, LUTHER	42-07-07	43-07-01	TOUR	
BIGGS, WILTON D	42-12-08	43-03-08	MIA/POW	
BISCHOP, JOSEPH A	44-04-13	44-07-14	TOUR	
BLOOCH, WILLIS E	45-02-03			
BORING, WALLACE D	42-06-17	43-08-19	TOUR	SQ NAV
BRAGE, MARCIL W	43-11-00	44-06-05	TOUR	
BRENEY, CHARLES H	45-04-09			
BROWN, CLAUDE R	44-05-03	44-04-12	TOUR	
BUCHANAN, ROY E	44-04-03	45-01-17	TOUR	SQ NAV
BOCK, STANLEY N	43-12-14	44-03-06	INTERRED	
BULLARD, FRANK E	43-08-11	43-11-03	KIA	
BYCOTT, ANDREW T	43-04-23	43-09-00	TOUR	
CARLINO, ANTHONY J	44-07-03	44-09-12	MIA/POW	
CASINO, JOSEPH V	45-02-16			
CHEZ, RON T	44-06-10	44-11-10	TOUR	
CLAUSEN, ROBERT L	43-04-23	43-05-21	KIA	
CONNELLY, PAUL V	44-12-23	45-03-11	TO 303BG	
CULLEN, WILLIAM L	44-03-08	44-06-12	WIA	
CURBERLEDGE, THEODORE C	44-04-29	44-08-17	TOUR(33)	
CUNNINGHAM, JAMES O	43-04-12	43-05-21	MIA/POW	
CURRAN, ROBERT J	44-08-01	45-03-06	TOUR	TO 442BG
DECK, LELAND P	44-05-28	44-10-00	TOUR	
DEMBORSKI, JOSEPH J	45-00-00	45-05-19		
DIX, MAYNARD D	43-04-04	44-01-29	TOUR(25)	SQ NAV
DOBORSKI, JOSEPH T	45-02-16			
DOMAHE, CHARLES F	44-06-07	44-12-02	TOUR	
DOROSHYN, ISIDORE	44-08-29	45-01-09	TOUR	
DOUGHERTY, JAMES J	45-04-09			
EVANS, CHARLES H JR	44-06-16	44-08-26	K 44-08-28	
FARRER, KENNETH H	43-11-27	44-04-02	HOSP/US	
FEINSTEIN, SEYMOUR M	44-09-25	44-10-15	MIA/POW	
FRANCO, VICTOR H	42-06-02	42-09-07	43BG	
GILLASPIE, WYATT L	44-12-26	45-04-00		
GLAIS, IVAN E	43-00-00	44-01-11	EVADZ	
GONZALES, OMER	42-06-09	42-08-00	TRANS	
GREEN, DONALD R	42-06-00	43-01-03	KIA	
GRINES, CHARLES G	42-06-02	42-11-19	KIA	
GROSEBECK, CARL A	43-09-15	43-10-09	MIA/POW	
HAINING, ROGER W	44-11-28	45-04-00	TOUR	
HALL, FRANK J	44-02-26	44-04-24	INTERRED	
HARRORD, ARTHUR B	44-05-15	44-09-00	TOUR	
HEFFLE, MURRAY F	44-12-01	45-04-00	TOUR	
BOGAN, JOHN J	42-06-00	44-04-24	TOUR	
BOLDEN, IRA B JR	44-06-00	44-12-18	TOUR	
BOLNES, CARL W	43-04-23	43-10-11	TOUR	
BOUSER, ROBERT H	44-05-28	44-09-19	TOUR	
HUGHES, WILLIAM T	43-11-03	44-03-27	TOUR	
JAEGER, JOSEPH H	44-12-13			
JAMES, JOHN W JR	43-12-01	44-05-24	MIA/POW	

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NAME	ARRIVAL	DPT	LOST?	OTHER
JOBE, ROBERT G	43-12-01	44-02-22	KIA	
JOHNSON, CARL A	44-04-23	44-07-00	TOUR	
JONES, CARL G	42-06-19	43-04-17	MIA/POW	
KALISH, MICHAEL	43-10-21	44-02-25	MIA/POW	
KENNY, PETER G JR	44-03-15	44-03-27	MIA/POW	
KNAFF, JAMES W	42-06-00	42-08-00	TRANS	
KURSEL, DONALD C	45-04-02			
LATSCHA, WALTER V	45-04-04			
LE KASHMAN, RAYMOND L	44-12-11	45-04-00	TOUR	
LEAKE, CHARLES W	43-11-18	44-03-18	TO 305BG K CRASH 44-03-24	
LEWIS, CHARLES R	45-02-03			
LEVY, CHARLES W	44-07-17	44-12-27	TOUR	
LEWANDORSKI, ROBERT L	44-06-04	44-10-04	TOUR	
LEWIS, RODGER C	44-05-08	44-07-31	TOUR	
MAC KAY, NORMAN C	42-06-00	42-08-00	TRANS	
MARINOS, PETER	43-09-00	43-11-03	KIA	
MC CARTHY, MARTIN J	43-11-27	44-06-09	TOUR	
MC CAULEY, DANIEL	43-10-12	44-02-25	MIA/POW	
MEBEKER, HENRY G	45-04-09			
MIEZKANSKI, JOSEPH	44-04-25	44-04-18	TOUR	
O'ROSKI, ADRIAN E	44-06-15	44-10-06	TOUR	
O'NEILL, EDWARD P	44-04-05	44-04-29	KIA	
OWENS, GEORGE W JR	42-06-00	43-03-04	KIA	
PAVIN, JOE H	44-07-28	45-01-02	TOUR	
POLLARD, THEODORE E	44-09-22	44-12-29	MIA/POW	
RENAL, ALFRED J	45-01-13	46-03-06	CJ	
RODGERS, WENDELL F	44-09-22	45-01-21	TOUR	
RODRIGUEZ, LOUIS	43-11-18	44-02-25	EVADER	
ROSEN, HILTON	44-09-22	45-04-00	TOUR	
ROSS, FRANK E JR	42-06-00	43-04-17	MIA/POW	
ROBENSTEIN, CYRUS B	44-12-27	45-04-00	TOUR	
RUSCH, FRED W	45-04-04	46-07-00	(2)	
SARWAY, JACK R	43-09-13	44-06-26	TOUR(30)	
SCHMIDAU, ROBERT E	44-03-28	44-04-24	MIA/POW	
SELPORD, FRANK H	44-08-08	45-01-03	TOUR	
SHILLEY, JAMES C	43-04-11	43-04-17	MIA/POW	
SHEPPARD, RALPH O	45-03-27			
SHIELDS, EWING III	43-10-31	43-11-13	KIA	
SILVERMAN, STANLEY S	43-11-11	43-11-26	MIA/POW	
SIMON, ALFRED E	43-05-00	43-11-08	TOUR	
SKRAINAR, ERNEST A	44-04-29	44-08-08	TOUR	
SLATER, RAYMOND L	43-04-23	43-09-29	TOUR	
STEVENSON, CHARLES L	43-11-20	44-01-11	KIA	
STEVENSON, ROBERT E	44-05-09	44-09-06	TOUR	
STILLWELL, ALFRED W	43-10-31	44-07-12	TOUR	
STRAUSS, MARTIN H	42-06-00	43-04-17	KIA	
SWARTZ, ROBERT R	44-07-17	44-09-11	MIA/POW	
TANNYR, SHELBY L	43-12-01	44-05-16	TOUR	
TELKAMP, EDWARD A	44-05-15	44-09-06	TOUR	
THOMPSON, LOUIS F	44-10-30			

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TONASELLA, PHILIP A	44-04-13	44-07-31	TOUR	
TONLINSON, ROBERT S	44-09-01	45-01-28	TOUR	
TRUDE, ORLO J	44-07-28	45-02-00	TOUR	
VARNADO, ALBAN F	44-12-09			
VOERLINGER, JOHN L	43-08-20	43-10-08	KIA	
WAGNER, BILLY D	44-07-08	44-12-18	TOUR	
WARNER, KEITH L	44-08-21	45-03-27	TOUR	SQ NAV
WIGHAM, REGINALD E	43-03-12	43-04-17	MIA/POW	
WILSON, HARRY	44-04-30	44-08-08	TOUR	
WILSON, JOHN C	43-11-19	44-08-02	TOUR	
ZABORSKY, HENRY	43-09-03	43-10-17	TRANS	
ZALUSKY, ISAAC	45-02-10			

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NAME	ARRIVAL	DPT	LOST?	OTHER
ALLEN, HERMAN F	43-11-20	44-03-06	INTERRED	
ANDERSON, PAUL E	44-05-09	44-09-06	TOUR	
ANTOON, MITCHELL K	43-11-27	44-07-00	TOUR	
ASHMAN, CHARLES A		43-11-03	KIA	
BALTYER, DONALD W	43-11-18	44-04-00	TOUR	
BANTA, ROBERT E	44-06-16	44-09-12	KIA	
BINTUS, WALTER J	42-06-00	42-08-00		
BLATHICA, LEONARD P	43-09-03	44-04-23	TOUR	
BLOTHNER, JOSEPH L	44-09-25	44-10-15	MIA/POW	
BONNER, OLIVER A JR	44-07-28	44-09-12	MIA/POW	
BOROWER, RALPH E	44-07-17	45-02-20	TOUR (30)	SQ BOMB
BORGERT, ROBERT O	44-06-04			
BOSWELL, TED JR	43-10-21	44-06-26	TOUR	SQ BOMB
BRUNIG, WILBUR W	42-06-00	43-04-17	KIA	
BRIGGS, STANLEY O	45-02-03			
BROWN, JOHN A JR	43-03-12	43-04-17	MIA/POW	
BURNETT, ALBERT F	44-04-29	44-09-00	TOUR	
BURTIS, JOHN R	42-06-00	42-08-00	TRANS	
CAMPBELL, LESLIE F	44-12-09	45-04-00	TOUR	
CARGILL, WILLIAM D	42-07-01	42-08-00	TRANS	
CARSTEN, PAUL R	44-03-06	44-07-14	K-AUTO	
CHRISTOFIORI, LAWRENCE P	44-03-18	44-04-24	MIA/POW	
CLARK, WILFRED F	45-02-10			
CONWAY, QUENTIN T	44-12-23			
DANIELS, POSTER G	42-06-28	43-05-21	KIA	
DUDCZORSKI, HYRON J	43-09-13	44-01-11	MIA/POW	
DORRAN, LYLE R	44-12-13			
ELDRIDGE, RICHARD D	44-04-13	44-07-00	TOUR	
PAULKNER, GEORGE R	44-12-23	45-11-00	TOUR(34)/CJ	
FONTANE, CHARLES	43-11-00	44-05-00	TOUR	
FREDERICK, GEORGE W	42-06-19	43-03-04	KIA	
FREDERICK, JAMES A	44-09-22	45-05-19	TOUR	
FUTTERMAN, SIDNEY	44-02-26	44-03-24	BOSP	
GILLESPIE, CLARENCE	43-04-04			
GOEDE, WILLIAM W	42-06-00	42-08-00	TRANS	
GRETTON, GEORGE T	44-03-07	44-04-24	MIA/POW	
GRINDS, THOMAS C	45-03-27			
GUSTAFSON, BURTON C	43-11-00	44-05-24	MIA/POW	
HANSON, RICHARD F	42-06-00	42-08-00		
HARSTON, HOWARD L	43-12-01	44-02-25	MIA/POW	
HARRISON, JAMES T	43-04-23	43-09-00	TOUR	
HATTON, SAN J	44-07-08	45-02-00	TOUR	
HEWITT, WILLIAM C	43-06-00	43-10-09	MIA/POW	
HILLS, CHARLES F	44-03-15	44-03-27	MIA/POW	
HODGSON, RICHARD S	44-04-29	44-08-00	TOUR	
BOLT, JR., CHARLES O	44-09-01	45-01-31	TOUR	
JOHNSON, JAMES W	44-08-08	45-02-00	TOUR	
JORDAN, JOHN E	44-11-04	45-01-25	TOUR	
KETCHIE, CHARLES JR	42-06-19			
KNOX, JAMES L	44-04-05	44-04-29	KIA	
ROSAKOWSKI, JOSEPH E	42-06-19	43-07-01	TOUR	SQ BOMB

368TH BOMB SQUADRON BOMBARDIERS, 1942-45

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NAME	ARRIVAL	DPT	LOST?	OTHER
KRIEMIAN, LOUIS J	44-09-22	45-02-00	TOUR	
LAMB, BEVERLY R	43-04-23	43-10-11	TOUR	
LADGHEIN, JR., JAMES H	43-11-27	44-02-25	MIA/POW	
LEVY, ROBERT T	42-06-00	43-01-03	KIA	SQ BOMB
LOGAN, DANIEL A JR	43-11-03	44-04-00	TOUR	
LONG, JOSEPH W	44-09-22	45-04-00	TOUR	
MAC MILLAN, DOUGLAS L	44-05-15			
MARSHALL, JACK G	44-04-30	44-09-05	TOUR	
MC CUTCHAN, ROBERT I	45-02-16			
MC KELVEY, VANDYKE	42-06-19	42-12-12	WIA	
MC TAGUE, HARRY D	45-02-16			
MILLER, ERVIN P JR	44-08-21	45-01-10	TOUR	
MONTOLA, EDUARDO M	43-04-23	43-12-26	TOUR(25)	SQ BOMB
MORROW, JAMES B	43-11-14	43-11-26	MIA/POW	
MURRAY, JAMES E	43-04-04	43-04-05	KIA	
MORRIS, JOHN H	44-07-21	45-02-00	TOUR	
MORTON, IRVING R	44-04-21	44-10-10	TOUR	SQ BOMB
POLICH, JOHN J	44-04-13	44-07-14	TOUR	
PROCTOR, ROBERT F	43-12-01	44-02-22	MIA/POW	
RICHARD, LEO E	44-05-28	44-09-12	TOUR	
ROBERTS, WILLIAM M JR	44-07-17	44-09-11	MIA/POW	
ROSS, DONALD R	43-11-19	45-08-01	2 TOURS(41)/CJ	SQ BOMB, GP BOMB
SANSON, NORMAN J	43-04-23	43-10-08	MIA/POW	
SANDERS, WILLIAM W	42-06-19	43-04-05	MIA/POW(17)	
SCHOENBERGER, STANFORD L	44-12-11	45-05-19		
SCHWARTZ, BENNETT H	44-07-05	45-04-00	TOUR	
SEED, JOE D	44-05-15	44-09-06	TOUR	
SEYFRIED, EDWARD J	43-04-12	44-12-00	TOUR	
SHAEBER, JACK D	43-03-12	43-04-17	MIA/POW	
SBOOK, JAMES E	44-12-27	45-05-19		
SILVERSTEIN, STANLEY	43-04-23	43-12-20	TOUR(25)	SQ BOMB
SNEAD, PARKER	44-06-15	44-10-00	TOUR	
STRAUSER, JOHN A	43-10-31	43-11-13	IKJ/D	
SWAN, OTTO C	44-05-28	44-09-00	TOUR	
SWAPP, WYLIE W	43-06-00	43-10-00	TOUR(25)	
TAPPER, GEORGE W	43-11-27	44-06-26	TOUR	
TATHAN, GILBERT C	43-12-01			
TRAYER, REGINALD H JR	44-09-25	45-05-15	(79)15AF, 8AF	SQ BOMB
TINGLER, FRANK E	43-11-27	44-07-31	TOUR	
TOTH, DENNIS	44-04-03	44-09-06	TOUR	
TOWNSEND, DEAN S	44-07-28	45-01-10	TOUR	
TYLOFF, WARREN F	44-08-29	44-09-12	MIA/POW	
URICH, RUSSELL C JR	44-10-07	45-03-26	TOUR	
UREAN, HARRY	43-08-11	43-11-03	KIA	
VLAKOS, MICHAEL L	44-06-07	44-08-26	KIA	
WEBER, JOHN G	44-08-29	45-05-05	TOUR	
WILF, JEROME H	44-09-12	45-03-00	TOUR	
WILKINS, JOSEPH C	43-01-00	43-03-08	MIA/POW	
WILSON, ROBERT G	44-12-26	45-05-00	TOUR	
WINTERS, AUGUST	43-04-11	43-09-05	EVADDEE	
YOUNG, HARRY L	43-04-23	43-05-21	MIA/POW	
ZASADIL, FRANK E	42-06-23	42-08-00	TRANS	

RADAR NAVIGATORS, 368th BOMB SQUADRON, 1942-45

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ARRIVAL</u>	<u>DPT</u>	<u>LOST?</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
BRIAN, JERRY E	44-10-02	45-01-23	TOUR	
BURLEY, LAWRENCE W	45-01-21			
HALL, HOWARD L	44-10-01	45-02-00	TOUR	
LUCAS, FORDIE K	44-07-30	45-02-00	TOUR	
MC DANIEL, CLIFFORD C	45-03-00			

GROUND OFFICERS, 368th BOMB SQUADRON, 1942-45

name	duty	dates
Artusy, Raymond L	Intelligence	19 Jun 42-19 Jun 43
Coffin, Jimri L	Supply	Wendover
Cook, David A		-31 Oct 43
Fatheree, Ira J	Electronics	Jan 45-Jul 45
Fink, Paul K		-27 Apr 44
Ballman, Edgar S	Supply Off Adjutant	Jun 42-
Bobson, Raymond A	Armament	Wendover
Klawuhn, Robert L	Communications	
Kreber, Glennon A	B Hess	7 Aug 43-
Lindquist, Allyn A		-22 Oct 42
Lloyd, Stanley L	Armament & Ord.	Dec 43-
McClung, James E	Surgeon	
McNealey, Sam S	Intelligence	
Mazza, Edward T	Adjutant Executive	Jun 42- -5 Jan 45
Hilburn, Jesse L	Communications	Jun 42-21 Jun 43
Moore, Richard L	Plans & Training Adjutant Ordnance	21 Jan 44-19 Apr 44 19 Apr 44-
Bmal, H Deane	Flight Surgeon	15 Apr 42-12 Nov 43
Kovak, John H	Gunnery	22 Feb 45-
O'Sullivan Jeremiah F	Intelligence	14 Nov 42-29 Sep 43
Boutt, Jackson R Jr	Bombight Maint	20 Jun 42-
Schreiter, Ralph WF	Intelligence	25 Jul 44-
Spence, Daniel J Jr	Cryptographer	5 May 44-
Stevens, Robert D	Engineering	21 May 42-31 Aug 43
Walsh, John P	Engineering	3 Oct 44-
Whitney, Robert L	Adjutant	
Widlansky, William	Engineering	31 Aug 43-
Winship, William H	Ordnance	6 Jun 44-

MASTER SERGEANTS, 368th BOMB SQUADRON, 1942-45

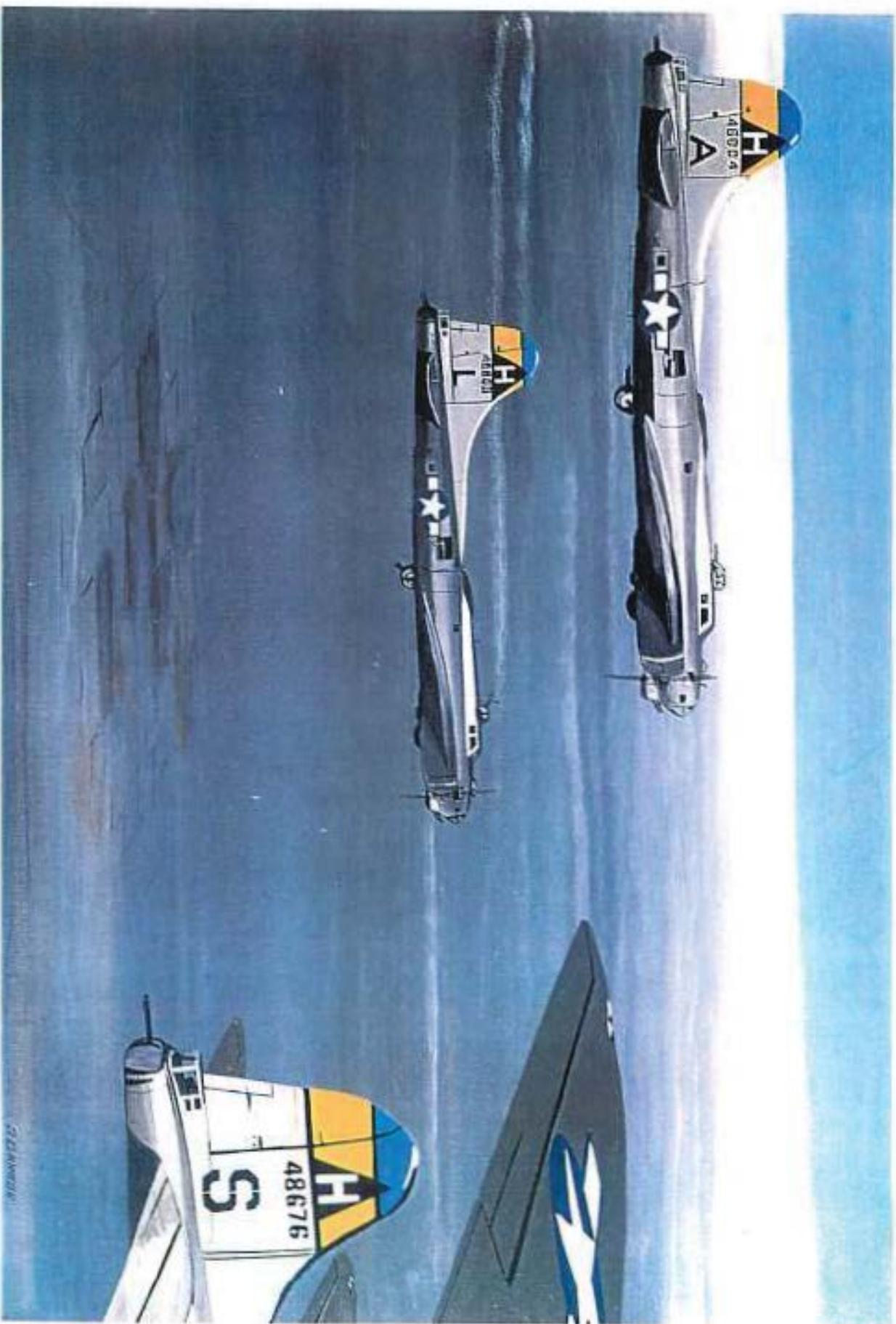
<u>NAME</u>	<u>DUTY</u>	<u>TO MSGT</u>	<u>ARR</u>	<u>DPT</u>
Allen, George H	Instrument Chief			
Aye, John S		Prior	43-12-15	
Baker, Marshall E *	1st Sgt		42-04-01	43-12-05
Black, Ocel R *	Crew Chief	42-06-00	42-04-00	
Bone, Charles W *	Crew Chief	44-03-22		
Bradley, Robert V *	Flight Chief	42-12-03	42-04-00	
Clark, Orval V	Crew Chief		42-04-00	
	Line Chief			
Cordery, Henry C *	1st Sgt, Tail Gunner	42-04-06	42-04-06	44-03-14(25)
Crossland, B F	Flight Chief		42-04-03	
Des Roches, Joseph A A	Crew Chief		42-04-00	
Dougan, Donald W	Crew Chief	44-03-29	43-04-03	
Drum, William H	Crew Chief		42-04-03	
Edney, James H (d)	Crew Chief		42-04-03	
Edwards, Clyde C	Crew Chief	44-03-22		
Elbert, Ralph R.	Crew Chief	42-06-00		44-03-23
Fabey, Bernard A (d)	Flight Chief		42-04-00	
Gabrish, Joe P *	Crew Chief		42-04-00	
Gurr, Woodrow C	Armament Chief	42-06-00	43-03-18	
Hays, Paul R (d)	Crew Chief	42-10-00		
Hullen, Vincent T (d)	Crew Chief	44-07-01	42-04-00	
Owen, George G *	Communications Chief	42-06-00	42-04-00	
Patterson, Lee R *	1st Sgt	44-05-01	42-04-03	
Sackett, James L	Armament Chief	44-05-01	42-04-00	
Sampson, John P	1st Sgt	43-01-01	42-04-20	
	Tech Supply Chief			
Troutz, Robert J (d)	Crew Chief	42-10-00	42-04-00	
	Line Chief			
Tyler, James F	Flight Chief		42-04-00	
	Line Chief			
Walker, Gilbert E		42-10-00	42-04-00	
White, Everett P	Base Material Chief	43-06-02	42-04-03	

B-17 AIRCRAFT, 368th BOMB SQUADRON, 1942-45

I	I*	LETTER	NAME	APR	MODEL	DPT	CREW_CHIEF	NACC
			COCAINE BILL		G			
			MR. SMITH		F			
006	42-40006	G	LIBERTY LADY	44-01-11	G	44-03-06 NIA BERLIN 870 SWEDEN (v.SMITH)		2735
028	43-39028	O		44-12-17	G			
031	43-39031	G		44-12-17	G	44-12-29 NIA BINGEN (v.WOLLNER)		11254
034	42-3034	R		43-03-12	F	43-04-17 BREMEN (v.JANKOWSKI)		
052	42-5052	Z	NIIPAN	43-05-01	F	43-09-25 TRANS TO 3018G		
087	44-6087	F		44-05-27	G	44-10-15 NIA COLOGNE (v.HOBOS)		9477
093	42-34093	V		44-02-28	G	44-09-12 CRASHED AT HANSTON (v.DONKIN)		
113	42-32113	G		44-03-12	G	44-05-24 NIA BERLIN (v.EHRLER)		4952
125	42-4125			42-12-00				
142	42-3142	I	BUTTERCUP	43-05-18	F	43-11-13 BLEWUP OVER ENGLAND (v.SCHODER)	JOE GARRISH	
145	42-30145	G		43-08-23	F	44-01-07 TRANS TO RAF		
148	42-38148	K	KAMU	44-04-09	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 3418G		
155	42-38155	J		44-02-25	G	45-03-29 TRANS TO AYC		
158	42-31150	J		43-12-12	G	44-07-27 TRANS TO 2 AD		
163	42-30163	D		43-05-23	F	43-09-06 NIA STUTTGART (v.PETERSON)		
180	42-5180	B	DPC	42-12-20	F	43-06-25 NIA HANNOVER (v.LOGAN)		
245	42-31245	K		43-12-14	G	44-02-25 NIA ADGEBOURG (v.COLEMAN)		2764
250	43-38250	N	DEBBIE	44-09-18	G	45-01-10 NIA GIBRICH (v.NATHANAY)		11761
251	42-5251				F			
323	42-97323	H	BEGIN THE BEGIN SEE GOOD IT	44-04-02	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 341 DG	WILLIAM SHANSON	
327	42-31327	O		43-12-12	G	43-12-31 CRASHED		
	42-97327	U		44-04-00	G	44-07-01		
362	44-4362	L		44-11-20	G PTF			
363	42-31363	G	VAPOR TRAIL	43-12-19	G	44-03-27 NIA LA ROCHELLE (v.FIT)		3479
368	42-97368	O	TAILWIND	44-06-06	G	44-09-12 NIA BUELAND (v.SASSER)	FRANCIS HULLINS	4834
384	43-38384	G		44-09-21	G	45-02-14 SALVAGE		
406	42-31406	O		44-01-21	G	44-02-22 NIA BREMEN (v.SYMONS)		2650
420	42-5420		NIIPAN		F			
428	42-5428	I		43-04-00	F	43-12-23 TRANS TO 918G		
429	43-38429	N	NICOTINE BELLY	44-09-15	G			
438	43-38438	U		44-10-00	G	45-01-08 SALVAGE		
454	42-31454	B	ST ANTHONY	43-12-30	G			
465	41-24465	H	ONTANA POWER	42-08-16	F	43-04-05 ANTWERP (v.SEZLOS)	OCEL BLACK	647
466	41-24466			42-08-16	F	43-04-11 TO SALVAGE	ORVAL COOK	
	44-6466	Q		44-09-18	G	45-03-28 SALVAGED		
467	41-24467		GRIN REAPER	42-08-16	F	43-04-17 BREMEN (v.LALLY)		811
474	42-31474	V	ELIZABETH	44-09-23	G	45-04-18		
487	41-24487	Q	EAGER BEAVER	42-08-16	F	43-11-05 RET. TO U.S.	JAMES EWEY	
493	41-24493			42-08-16	F	43-04-11 TO SALVAGE	RAYMOND ASBENATHY	
498	42-29498		DARK HORSE		F			
501	41-24501			42-08-16	F	43-01-03 FRANK (v.FERGUSON)	EAL DEIBERT	987
502	41-24502	V		42-08-16	F	43-07-28 CRASH S/OXFORD, TO RAFSC	JOSEPH HARTYIC	
507	41-24507	P	YANKEE RAIDER	42-08-16	F	43-04-11 TO SALVAGE; LATER TO 3448G	WATS/GARRISH	
512	42-102512	A	SEE HAS TO	44-05-05	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 3418G (DOWN 43-12-01)		
514	41-24514	K		42-08-16	F	43-03-08 FRANK (v.BODENBACH)	GILBERT WALKER	
516	41-24516		HELYING POT	42-08-16	F	42-09-01 DITCHED OFF IRELAND (v.WELTON)	HENRIAN A DAVIS	
520	42-3520	Y		43-09-16	G	43-12-07		
533	42-3533	H			G			

B-17 AIRCRAFT, 368th BOMB SQUADRON, 1942-45

I	I+	LETTER	NAME	ARR	MODEL	DPT	CREW_CHIEF	NACR
556	42-31556	D		44-01-04	G	44-04-29 NIA BERLIN (v. LOTT)		4240
560	41-24560			42-04-16	F		BENNY CAMPBELL	
575	43-37575	I	SICK TIRE SALLY	44-06-06	G	45-05-27 TRANS TO 398BG		
586	42-30586	A		43-04-04	F	44-04-24 OBERPFAFFENHOFEN (v. HAC DOWELL)		
619	42-102619	C	REPORT TO THE NATION	44-05-25	G	44-04-09 SALVAGED, LANDING COLLISION		
633	43-37633	I		44-10-06	G	44-12-15 COLLISION, SALVAGED		
643	42-29643			43-03-13	F	43-04-17 NIA BREZEN (v. MILLER)		
690	42-31690	W	BELLE OF THE BRUEL	44-03-06	G	44-09-12 NIA BOHLAND (v. FARRELL)		3984
	43-34690	H		44-11-06	G	45-01-01 NIA LINDBURG (v. STEWART)		11249
700	43-31700	U		44-01-29	G	44-03-27 SALVAGED		
707	42-30707	B		43-04-31	F	43-10-14 NIA SCHWIKHOFEN (v. BOLLESTROM)		
711	43-34711	D		44-10-17	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 341BG		
724	42-30724	E			F			
776	42-30776	F		43-09-21	F	43-11-03 NIA WILHELMSHAVERN (v. CORIS)		
	42-39776	F		43-11-06	G	44-04-24 NIA OBERPFAFFENHOFEN (v. COUGHLIN)		4285
782	42-30782	O		43-09-02	F	44-01-11 NIA HALBERSTADT (v. REED)		
786	42-29786	H		43-04-20	F	43-07-06 SALVAGE		
795	42-29795		VERNA H	43-04-20	F	43-09-25 TRANS TO 303BG		
796	42-97796	D	LADY ELAINE	44-06-05	G	44-09-19 SALVAGED		
802	43-34802	I	ROMDITORI BABY	44-10-31	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 341BG		
809	42-29809	T		43-04-20	F	43-09-03 TRANS TO 344BG		
814	44-6414	G	CHOO-1-SUTY	45-01-03	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 341BG		
823	42-29823	Y		43-04-19	F	43-09-26 TRANS TO 303BG		
827	42-39827			43-11-24	G	44-05-01		
832	42-29832	J			F	44-05-29 RETURNED TO U.S.		
	42-30832	J		43-09-18	F	43-11-26 NIA BREZEN (v. HOKY)		
836	42-37836	P	RAIN CHECK	43-12-30	G	44-09-11 NIA EISENACH (v. HACHOSKY)		8430
914	43-34914	B		45-02-10	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 341BG		
916	43-34916	F		45-02-04	G	45-05-00 TRANS TO 341BG		
928	44-6928	L		45-02-00	G			
937	42-29937	H		43-05-23	F	43-06-27 TRANS		
943	42-37943	L	WEARY BONES	43-12-12	G	44-09-17 TAXI ACCIDENT, SALVAGED		
946	42-102946	T			G			
	42-97946	T	HARD TO GET	44-06-14	G	44-04-26 NIA GELSENKIRCHEN (v. ALLEN)		8454
979	42-31979	U		44-02-22	G	44-02-25 NIA AUGSBURG (v. BAYLESS)		2767



306th Bombardment Group, 8th Airforce

Billy Garrison, artist