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Sheet No. 1 War Diary, Hqs. 306th 306th Bomb. Gr. (H)Month of January 1943 Prepared by Capt. W.H. Glass

DAY	EVENTS
2	Col Frank A. Armstrong assigned to 306th Group as Commanding Officer.
3	Seventeen A/C, led by Maj. Lanford, took off at 1140 for the fifth raid on St. Nazaire, target, torpedo dump. Heavy, intense and accurate flak encountered over target. Smoke screen at target ineffective because of extremely high winds. Enemy fighters attacked after a successful bombing run and a continuous running fight followed to Belle Isle. Lt. Ferguson (368th) had his two inboard engines disabled over the target and he turned back to Croisic Point and France still under control. In another hostile attack northwest of Brest Lt. Cramer's (369th) A/C was shot down in ocean with probable loss of all aboard although four chutes left the ship. The Group struggled slowly upwind and landed at St. Eval on the southwest coast where they remained until the 6th because of bad weather. Several E/A were claimed shot down on this raid. Upon one attempt to reach home some ships got lost in the muck and found themselves over Guernsey and the French coast where flak and enemy fighters were encountered. Lt. Brandon's (367th) ship went down presumably in the drink since no report of its landing was ever made.
4	Col. Charles B. Overacker relieved as C.O. of the 306th Group and assigned to 8th Air Force.
13	14 of 17 planes taking off, led by Maj. Wilson, attacked the Engineering and Locomotive works at Lille for the third time with fair results. E/A were drawn off by Spitfire support and only moderate flak was encountered. The tragedy of the day resulted from a collision between Capt. Johnson and Lt. Spaulding of the 369th in which both ships were lost.
11	Maj. Douglas Coleman relieved as Group Adjutant and appointed Ground executive officer of the 306th Group. Capt. Charles J. Duvy, Jr. appointed Group Adjutant.
14 - 16	A number of new pilots and crews assigned to the Group.
18	Maj. Putnam assigned to 306th Group as Operations Officer.
19	Maj. Wm. A. Lanford relieved of command of 368th Squadron and reassigned to 11th CGSC.
20	Capt. Mack Gray of 423rd Squadron appointed Squadron Commander of the 368th.

Sheet No. 2 War Diary, Hqs. 305th Bomb. Gr. (H)Month of January, 1943 Prepared by Capt. Wm. Glass**CONFIDENTIAL**

DAY	EVENTS
21	Capt. J.B. Wright, Group S-2, promoted to rank of Major.
23	Lt. Col. Delmar E. Wilson relieved as Group Executive Officer and assigned to 1st Combat Wing.
	14 of 17 A/C taking off led by Maj. Wilson of the 423rd attacked the Military Post adjoining the submarine base at Lorient. This was our third attack on this target area. Intense but inaccurate flak was encountered over the target followed by running fight with E/A which did not press attacks home. Arsenals, barracks and machine shops were virtually wiped out as a result of our bombing. All our A/C returned home reporting several E/A destroyed.
27	First American raid on German soil led by Col. Armstrong and Maj. Putnam at the head of our Group. Fourteen A/C attacked the secondary target of Wilhelmshaven. Bombing with fair results, through breaks in clouds which covered the target. Both S/E and 1/S fighters made ineffective attacks without casualties on either side. Moderate but accurate flak was encountered over the target. All of our A/C returned home safely and found a crowd of beaming generals and inquisitive reporters ready to take them on.
	(List of Awards and Decorations for this month attached.)

AWARD OF MERITORIOUS DECORATIONS

5/1/43--G.O.#1	2nd Lt. SHERWOOD OLDS	PURPLE HEART	367th
5/1/43--G.O.#1	S/Sgt. WILSON C. ELLIOT	PURPLE HEART	369th
5/1/43--G.O.#1	1st Lt. EUGENE J. POLLOCK	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/1/43--G.O.#1	S/Sgt. CHARLES M. COUNTS	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/1/43--G.O.#1	S/Sgt. RAYMOND J. HENN	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/1/43--G.O.#1	S/Sgt. LELAND J. KESSLER	AIR MEDAL	368th
5/1/43--G.O.#1	S/Sgt. EUGENE H. STEIN	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/1/43--G.O.#1	Sgt. DONALD J. BEVAN	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/1/43--G.O.#1	Sgt. CLIFFORD R. LANGLEY	AIR MEDAL	369th
5/1/43--G.O.#1	Sgt. THOMAS D. McMAHON	AIR MEDAL	369th
5/1/43--G.O.#1	Sgt. JOHN J. VALLORANI	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/1/43--G.O.#1	Sgt. RALEIGH W. HALLOWAY	OAK LEAF CLUSTER	369th
12/1/43--G.O.#11	S/Sgt. BENJAMIN GORDON	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/1/43--G.O.#11	Sgt. HAROLD F. LIGHTBROWN	AIR MEDAL	369th
12/1/43--G.O.#11	S/Sgt. LEONARD H. O'BRIEN	PURPLE HEART	367th
12/1/43--G.O.#11	1st Lt. ROBERT P. RIORDAN	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/1/43--G.O.#11	1st Lt. HUGH J. TOLAND	PURPLE HEART	367th
15/1/43--G.O.#12	2nd Lt. LUTHER BERGEN	PURPLE HEART	368th
15/1/43--G.O.#12	S/Sgt. JOE BOWLES	PURPLE HEART	369th
15/1/43--G.O.#12	2nd Lt. WALTER C. LEEKER	PURPLE HEART	369th
15/1/43--G.O.#12	1st Lt. EDWARD P. MALIZEWSKI	D. F. C.	369th
15/1/43--G.O.#12	1st Lt. ROBERT P. RICRAN	D. F. C.	369th
15/1/43--G.O.#12	2nd Lt. ALBERT G. SMITH	PURPLE HEART	369th
15/1/43--G.O.#12	1st Lt. JACK SPALDING	PURPLE HEART	369th
22/1/43--G.O.#10	Brig General FRANK A. ARMSTRONG	AIR MEDAL	HQS
22/1/43--G.O.#10	1st Lt. JAMES H. FERGUSON	AIR MEDAL	368th
22/1/43--G.O.#10	2nd Lt. GEORGE W. FREDRICK	AIR MEDAL	368th
22/1/43--G.O.#10	S/Sgt. ROY H. GIBSON	OAK LEAF CLUSTER	423rd
22/1/43--G.O.#10	2nd Lt. DONALD R. GREENE	AIR MEDAL	368th
22/1/43--G.O.#10	S/Sgt. HUBERT HOUSTON	PURPLE HEART	423rd
22/1/43--G.O.#10	T/Sgt. JOHN E. OWEN	OAK LEAF CLUSTER	369th
22/1/43--G.O.#10	1st Lt. ROBERT W. SEELOS	AIR MEDAL	368th

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January 1943-306th BG Headquarters Squadron Diary

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

DAY EXEMPT **SECRET**

- 2 Colonel Overacker relieved from organization to Headquarters, Eighth Air Force. Colonel Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., assigned as Commanding Officer.
- 11 Major Coleman relieved from duties as Group Adjutant and appointed Group Executive Officer. Captain Charles G. Day, Jr. appointed as Group Adjutant.
- 18 Major Claude E. Putnam assigned to organization as ~~Assistant Operations Officer.~~
- 23 Lt Col Delmar E. Wilson released from organization and assigned to 1st Combat Wing.
- 27 First All American bombing raid on Germany led by Colonel Armstrong and Major Putnam of this Group. Their ship was the first to fly over German territory.
- 29 Capt John B. Wfight promoted to Major.
- 30 Colonel Armstrong awarded Air Medal.

SECRET