

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)Month of DECEMBER 1942. Prepared by CAPT. WILEY W. GLASS

DAY	EVENTS
1	<p>Past card received from Lt. Al LaChasse that he was a prisoner of war. This was the first word received from any man of the Group officially posted as "Missing in Action".</p>
7	<p>Major Oliver relieved from assignment as CO of the 369th Squadron and attached to Group Operations. Captain Terry of the 307th Squadron was assigned to the 309th as Squadron Commander.</p> <p>Capt. Raper, 1st. Lt. Hess and 2nd. Lt. Fryer of the 308th Squadron were sent on detached service to ferry a number of high ranking officers to the scene of our African invasion. They completed three trips before returning to their unit here.</p>
9	<p>Under authority of the Air Ministry and Commanding General ETO, it is directed to transfer RAF Station, Thurlough from Royal Air Force to the United States Army Air Force, said transfer to take effect at 1200 hours, this date.</p> <p>The Command of this Station, including responsibility for local Defense, is assigned to Col. C.B. Overacker, 306th Bombardment Group (H) by Order Commanding General, 1st. Bombardment Wing, U.S. Army Air Force.</p> <p>This is first instance of officially transferring an RAF Station to U.S. Army Air Forces.</p>
12	<p>Seventeen of our A/C took off for Romilly-sur-Seine. Six returned because of malfunctions. Heavy 10/10 clouds were encountered over the primary target and the formation of eleven A/C swung back to bomb the Secondary, the railroad yards at Rouen. Results of bombing could not be clearly seen because of overcast. About 50 E/A were encountered both to and from the target. In a running fight we destroyed 14 E/A and 5 probables. 2nd. Lt. Olds of the 367th, Lt. Bergen and Sgt. Spiro of the 308th, Sgts. Langley and Schulz of the 423rd were wounded. Crews participating in this mission were Capt. Ryan 367th, Maj. Lanford, Capt. Regan, Lts. Buddenbaum, Reber and Smith of the 308th and Capts. McKay, Brady, Lts. Warner, Check, Riordan of the 423rd.</p>
19	<p>Mission to airdrome at Romilly-sur-Seine, led by Lt. Col. Wilson. Nineteen A/C took off and 15 bombed primary with good visibility and results. Three of our A/C did not return. Lts. McKesson, McKee and Nygaard, all of the 367th, were shot down over and before reaching the target. Lt. Farr of the 369th was killed by flak. Some 50 to 70 E/A made three separate attacks, 1st on approach to Rouen, 2nd. near target and 3rd. on the way to Beauvais. E/A encountered were Ju 88's Me 109E's and F's, as well as FW 109's. Lt. Hogan, 368th, and Sgt.</p>

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Sheet No. 2 War Diary, 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)Month of DECEMBER 1942. Prepared by CAPT. WILEY W. GLASS

DAY	EVENTS
	(cont'd from Sheet No. 1)
	Lightbown of 369th were severely wounded, others slightly. Our score for the day, 12 E/A destroyed and 6 probably destroyed.
25	Routine schedule except a good Christmas dinner of turkey and trimmings served to all officers and enlisted men.
30	Raid planned for Lorient, turned back at the Channel because of abortions, leaving only 9 ships in formation, less than orders called for. Capt. Brady of the 423rd took off later than our Group formation and joined up with the 91st and bombed the target. On way back, this Group was met by fighters at tip-end of Brest Peninsula. In ensuing encounter, Capt. Brady's ship was set on fire and all Crew Members were seen to bail out. Germans were seen to shoot at descending parachutes and the 91st, coming to rescue, lost one plane of their own.
31	The officers held a New Year's Party at the "B" Mess, music by the newly formed Station Dance Band. An "alert" in the early part of the evening kept a damper on the party until an announcement around 2300 hours that the mission was "scrubbed". From this time on the tempo increased and the New Year was given a right royal welcome.
	(List of Awards and Decorations for this month attached)

AWARD OF MERITORIOUS DECORATION
DECEMBER 1-31, 1942

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1/12/42--G.O.#68	1st Lt. JACOB C. SHIVELY	PURPLE HEART	423rd
1/12/42--G.O.#68	S/Sgt. COLONE E. NEELEY	PURPLE HEART	423rd
1/12/42--G.O.#68	S/Sgt. WILLIAM E. WILLIAMS	AIR MEDAL	423rd
4/12/42--G.O.#70	Capt. ROBERT C. WILLIAMS	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS	423rd
4/12/42--G.O.#70	2nd Lt. ELETTE W. FORD	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS	423rd
4/12/42--G.O.#70	2nd Lt. WARREN GEORGE JR.	DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS	423rd
5/12/42--G.O.#71	Major JAMES W. WILSON	AIR MEDAL	423rd
5/12/42--G.O.#71	Major WILLIAM A. LANFORD	AIR MEDAL	368th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	1st Lt. ROBERT P. RIORNAN	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	1st Lt. HUGH J. TOLAND	PURPLE HEART	367th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	1st Lt. EDWARD P. MALISZELSKI	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	S/Sgt. BENJAMIN GARDON	PURPLE HEART	369th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	S/Sgt. LEONARD H. O'BRIEN	PURPLE HEART	367th
12/12/42--G.O.#11	Sgt. HAROLD F. LIGHTBOWN	PURPLE HEART	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	2nd Lt. ROBERT PAUL DRESP	PURPLE HEART	368th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. RUPERT W. ARNOLD	PURPLE HEART	368th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	2nd Lt. LEUAEL B. SMITH	AIR MEDAL	367th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	T/Sgt. ROBERT B. MULLAN	AIR MEDAL	367th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. JOE BOWLES	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. WILSON C. ELLIOT	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. REGINALD B. HARRIS	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. ALLAN F. MEAUX	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	Sgt. FARLEY D. SMALL	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	Sgt. HAROLD F. LIGHTBOWN	AIR MEDAL	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. JOE BOWLES	OAK LEAF CLUSTER	369th
15/12/42--G.O.#76	S/Sgt. REGINALD G. HARRIS	OAK LEAF CLUSTER	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	1st Lt. WILLIAM J. CASEY	AIR MEDAL	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	2nd Lt. WALTER C. LESKER	AIR MEDAL	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	2nd Lt. ALBERT G. SMITH	AIR MEDAL	369th
18/12/42--G.O.#77	2nd Lt. OLIVER E. TILLI	AIR MEDAL	369th
23/12/42--G.O.#78	Cpl. EUGENE B. THOMPSON JR.	SOLDIERS MEDAL	369th
23/12/42--G.O.#78	Capt. JOHN M. REGAN	AIR MEDAL	368th



December 1942-306th BG Headquarters Squadron Diary

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

DAY	EVENTS
5	Major Ralph L. Oliver assigned to organization as Assistant Operations.
7	Capt Reper on DS to Ferry high ranking officials to scene of African Invasion.
9	This station, commanded by Colonel Overacker, officially transferred from the Royal Air Force to the United States Army Air Force. This is the first instance of an official transfer of a station from RAF to USAAF.
19	Lt Col Cleveland relieved from organization. Major Oliver appointed Operations Officer.
25	Our first Christmas turkey dinner in the European T of Opns USA.

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