

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 306th BOMB GP (H) sqn, USAAF Station #111, APO 634
(station)Month of November, 1942. Prepared by Capt. W. W. Glass
(rank, name, unit.)

| DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Chief of Ordnance, Gen. Campbell, and his staff visited Thurleigh, this Group. Inspected bomb dumps, airplanes, briefing rooms, etc. |
| 7 | After a series of briefings and scrubbing of prospective missions because of unfavorable weather, the Group, led by Col. Overacker, took off to raid the docks at Brest. Twenty-one of our A/C were over the target where, because of 10/10ths cloud, they could not observe results of bombs dropped. Some of our A/C returned with their bombs. Three of our A/C returned early due to mechanical failures or illnesses of crews. Enemy fighters were up in force and of the many encounters our score was 3 E/A destroyed, 6 probably destroyed and 10 damaged. All our A/C returned safely. |
| 8 | Second Lille raid, our Group had 15 A/C over target. 6 A/C returned early because of mechanical failures. Most of bombs were dropped, many bursts seen on target. Only squadron in the Group having E/A encounters was the 369th, after making second run over target to drop remaining bombs. Being jumped by about 30 FW 190s, a thirty-minute continuous fight took place in which 9 E/A were destroyed, 12 probably destroyed, and 5 damaged. Capt. Adam's ship was shot out of the formation on turn for second run over target and was seen to go down out of control. Lt. Riordan's plane was so badly damaged that had not the remaining three A/C of the squadron slowed down to protect him, he might have been lost. |
| 9 | First raid on St. Nazaire, an experimental but costly low altitude mission led by Col. Overacker. The target was effectively bombed in the face of intense and accurate flak. The attack was well executed, our A/C approaching from the sea at zero altitude and rising to 7500 feet before releasing bombs. Three of our ships and crews were lost, including Lt. Stewart of the 367th, Lt. Barnett and Lt. Felts of the 423rd. 1st Lt. Erickson, bombardier of the 367th, was killed by flak over the target. Our remaining A/C and crews landed at Portreath. |
| 13 | 1st Lts. John Brady and Robert Williams of the 423rd promoted to the rank of Captain. General Spaatz and King George visited the station. The party toured various sites, perimeter track, mess halls, and the King talked to a number of the crews. |
| 14 | First raid on the submarine pens of La Pallice. Our Group had only 6 A/C participating. Upon reaching the target area a heavy overcast was encountered so a turn was made for the secondary, our old friend |

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Sheet No. 2 War Diary, 306th BOMB GP (H) Squad AF Station #111, APO 634
(station)

Month of November, 1942. Prepared by Capt. W. W. Glass
(rank, name, unit.)

| DAY | EVENTS |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14 (Cont'd) | St. Nazaire, which was bombed effectively at high altitude. Again intense and accurate flak was met, but no E/A. All our A/C returned home safely. |
| 17 | Third raid on St. Nazaire. Eleven of our A/C bombed the target at high altitude, two returned early because of mechanical failures. Intense and accurate flak was encountered over the target as well as strong fighter opposition. Capt. Regan's landing gear and one engine were damaged, his return to the English coast was covered by three of our A/C. He made a landing at Bernburg. Capt. Williams was hit and forced out of formation and jumped by a swarm of FW 190s, which riddled his ship, wounding several of the crew and starting a fire in the radio compartment. Lt. Casey, seeing his plight, broke formation and joined him for protective escort. With the assistance of other A/C, these two ships, bullet-riddled and in bad shape, finally made a safe landing at home base. Our score on the Hun was 2 E/A destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, and 3 damaged. |
| 18 | Second raid on La Pallice. Twelve A/C from this Group bombed the target. On the way in with 10/10ths overcast, the clouds suddenly parted over St. Nazaire, where intense heavy flak was encountered. A considerable amount of flak was encountered over the target, but not so intense or as accurate as St. Nazaire. Lt. Gaston and crew missing in action, hit by flak after bombing target. Could not feather No. 3 engine, turned in direction of Brest Peninsula. Lt. Grimes, navigator, was killed. Several members of crews were wounded by flak. Two E/A destroyed, one probably destroyed, and five damaged. |
| 22 | Abortive raid on submarine base at Lorient, due to 10/10ths cloud over the target. Several of our A/C reached the target, one returned early because of engine trouble. |
| 23 | Fourth St. Nazaire mission. Of the eight A/C starting, four returned early. Lt. Isbell and crew were shot down just before reaching their objective. After bombing the target the three remaining ships, Major Holt in Lt. McLesson's A/C, Lt. Turwell, and Lt. Casey were engaged by a large number of E/A in a twenty minute encounter in which 9 FW 190s were destroyed. Of the E/A destroyed, Lt. Casey's crew accounted for 7, the largest score yet for a single heavy bomber on a daylight mission. |

List of awards and decorations for the month attached.

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December 8, 1942.

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 22/11/42--G.O.#62 | Colonel CL BL OVERACKER | DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS | Hqs. |
| | <u>Missing in Action</u> | | |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | 2nd Lt. JAMES M. STEWART | AIR MEDAL | 367th |
| | 2nd Lt. NORMAN R. NELSON | AIR MEDAL | 423rd |
| | T/Sgt. FRANCIS W. COUNSELLAN | AIR MEDAL | 423rd |
| | <u>Injured in Hospital</u> | | |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | S/Sgt. HARRY M. MEYERS | PURPLE HEART & AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | S/Sgt. JOHN T. DeJOHN | PURPLE HEART & AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | 1st Lt. ROBERT P. RIORDAN | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | 2nd Lt. GEORGE J. SPELMAN | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | T/Sgt. ARIZONA T. HARRIS | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | T/Sgt. JOHN E. OWEN | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | T/Sgt. ANTHONY L. SANTORO | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | S/Sgt. WILLIAM E. BAKER | AIR MEDAL | 368th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | S/Sgt. RALEIGH W. HOLLOWAY | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | S/Sgt. JOHN P. MORRISON | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | S/Sgt. WILLIAM MUSICK | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 12/11/42--G.O.#55 | S/Sgt. CHARLES M. TAYLOR | AIR MEDAL | 369th |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | T/Sgt. GERALD T. KRUSZYNSKI | AIR MEDAL | 423rd |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | T/Sgt. WILLIAM L. NISBETT | AIR MEDAL | 423rd |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | S/Sgt. WILLIAM H. FORRESTER | AIR MEDAL | 367th |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | S/Sgt. ROY H. GIBSON | AIR MEDAL | 423rd |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | S/Sgt. JAMES H. HOBBS | AIR MEDAL | 423rd |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | S/Sgt. COLON E. NEELEY | AIR MEDAL | 423rd |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | S/Sgt. HELMUTH V. RODER | AIR MEDAL | 367th |
| 13/11/42--G.O.#57 | S/Sgt. WALTER L. WYNN | AIR MEDAL | 367th |
| 20/11/42--G.O.#57 | 2nd Lt. VAN DYKE McKELVEY | AIR MEDAL | 368th |



November 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.

SECRET

DAY

EVENTS

- | DAY | EVENTS |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | General Campbell, Chief of Ordnance and his staff escorted by Colonel Overacker visited and inspected the station. |
| 8 | Colonel Cleveland, and Captain Schmidt, flown fly on operational mission with Col Cleveland as Pilot, Capt Schmidt as Waist Gunner. |
| 10 | Capt Shuller promoted to Major. |
| 13 | His Majesty, King George VI and General Spaatz escorted by Colonel Overacker visited and inspected the station. |
| 7 | Colonel Overacker Leads mission to bomb docks at Brest, France. |
| 9 | Colonel Overacker leads low level bombing attack on sub pens at St. Nazaire. Three of our aircraft lost. |
| 22 | Colonel Overacker awarded Distinguished Flying Cross. |

SECRET