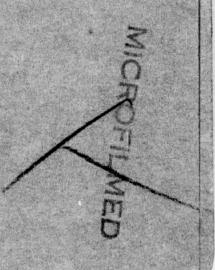
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RESTRICTED



SEUMET

553RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF 386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF AFO #140, U.S. ARMY



RESTRICTED

19 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Commending Officer, 366th Bomberdment Group (M), APO #140, U.S. ARLY.

In compliance with letter 314.7, Headquarters Ninth Air Force, subject: "Instructions for the Guidence of Historical Sections of Commends" dated 4 January 1944, the following information is submitted overing the history of the 553rd Bomberdment Squadron for the month of September 1944:

e. Organization: Negative.

b. Strength: 128 Officers and 421 Emlisted Men.

c. Date of arrival at and of departure from each station occupied in ETO: Negative.

d. Iosses in ection: None.

e. Awards and decorations earned by officers and enlisted men of this organization during September are as follows:

	h Cluster	11th Ci	luster M.	2nd to	SOLC A.M.	9th to	Cluster A.M.	8th to	Cluster A.M.
No. Officers									1
earned award:	1	4		3	3		3		•
No. E. M.									
earned award:	0	4		2	2		2		1
7th	Cluster	6th	Cluste	r	lst	SOLC	4th	Clus	ter
	A.M.	to	A.M.		to	A.M.	to	A.M.	
No. Officers									
earned award:	0		1			1		9	
No. E. M.									
earned award:	2		1			4		3	
3rd	Cluster	2nd	Cluste	r	lst	Clust	er Ai	r Me	dal
	A.M.	to	A.M.		to	A.M.			
No. Officers .									
earned award:	8		4			5	1	.0	
No. E. M.									
earned award:	3		14		1	0	La Line	10	
cerner avera.	-								

f. Awards and decorations received by officers and enlisted men of this organization per Hq IX Bomber Command General Orders as follows:

Awards per General Order #175. dated 7 September 1944:

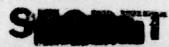
9th Oak Leef Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 2 E.M.

8th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 1 Officer and O E.M.

7th Cek Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 1 E.M.

1st SOLC to A.M. - 1 Officer and 0 E.M.

4th Cak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 0 Officers and 1 E. RESTRICTED



Itr, subj: "Unit History" dtd 19 Oct 44, 553rd Bomb Sq. (cont'd).

Awards per General Order #175, dated 7 September 1944. (cont'd).

3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 1 Enlisted Man. 2nd Oek Leef Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 2 Enlisted Men. 1st Oak Leef Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 1 Enlisted Man. Air Medal - 3 Officers and 8 Enlisted Men.

Purple Hearts Awarded per General Order #170, dated 1 September 1944:

Purple Hearts - 5 Officers and 1 Enlisted Man.

g. Awards and decorations received by officers and enlisted men of this organization per Headquarters IX BONBARDNENT DIVISION General Orders as follows:

Awards per General Order #3, dated 27 September 1944:

Air Medel - 3 Officers and 5 Enlisted Men.

h. Important events which occurred throughout the month of September 1944 in this Squadron are summarized as follows:

1 September 1944

Attacking by flights, our planes again bombed strong points at Brest. 1000 lb. bombs were dropped with good to excellent results. The pilots were Capts. Klimovich, Lytle, and Meyers, Leroy C., and Lts. Rutt, Sentner, Henry, Guistwite, Cummings and Dillon.

3 September 1944

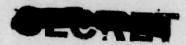
Again today our planes bomberded bridges at Brest in support of mopping up this German strong-point. 1000 lb. bombs were dropped with good to excellent results. There was no enemy opposition. The pilots were Major Hoover, leading the 2nd box, and Its. Douglass, Curmings, Fansler, Meyers, John H., Dismukes, Sentner, Marquis and Dillon.

5 September 1944

Continuing the pounding of enemy strong-points at Brest, our planes, bombing by flights, dropped 1000 lb. bombs with fair to excellent results, encountering no enemy opposition. The pilots were Capts. Lytle and Adems and Its. Sentner, Dillon, Meyers, John H., Swenson, Cummings, Rutt and Dismukes.

6 September 1944

The mounting attacks on strong-points at Brest continue. Our planes dropped 1000 1b. bombs on these strong-points where the enemy are still holding on. The results were excellent, and again there was no enemy opposition. The pilots were Capts. Meyers, Leroy C., and Adams, and Its. Dismukes, Douglass, Meyers, John H., Sentner and Dillon.



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6 September 1944

Lts. Winklemen and Cummings also piloted two of our planes in this morning's mission.

Again this afternoon our planes were dispatched to strong-points at Brest, but due to adverse weather conditions they all returned without dropping their bombs. The pilots were Capts. Klimovich, Lytle and Fugit, and Lts. Henry, Goodwin, Marquis, Winklemen, Swenson and Fansler.

Having completed their oversees training, the new A-26 planes went out on their first operational mission against the enemy this date. Thirteen aircraft were dispatched and thirteen aircraft attacked enemy strong-points at Brest. There was no enemy opposition. 1000 lb. bombs were dropped with fair to good results.

9 September 1944

A leaflet mission was dispatched, dropping leaflets on the following enemy installations: Brest, Dunkirk, Calais, Hulst, Flushing Knocke and Eciloo. Results were satisfactory.

10 September 1944

A-26 aircraft continue their operations against the enemy by dropping 1000 lb. bombs on the bridge at Nancy. Results were fair to excellent. Major Burhanne led this A-26 mission.

Foret-de-Haye was the objective for the B-26 mission today. Capt Fugit led the formation of 35 attacking aircraft, with good to excellent results, dropping 100 lb. bombs. The pilots, including Capt Fugit, were Capt Klimovich, Lts. Sentner, Goodwin, Henry, Swesnon, Marquis and Fansler.

11 September 1944

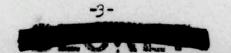
With Major Ferris leading, the A-26 sircraft attacked Metz, dropping 1000 lb. bombs with good results. This was the third operational mission for the A-26's/

Again this afternoon, the A-26's were out, bombing Leeuwarden. Good to excellent results were obtained. Major Burhanne led this formation of 12 aircraft which dropped 250 lb. bombs.

Metz fortifications were bombed by our B-26's today. 1000 lb. bombs were dropped with fair to excellent results. The pilots were Major Hoover, Capt. Lytle, and Lts Dismukes, Winkleman, Douglass, Cummings, Meyers, John H., Cleveland and Menry.

12 September 1944

Fortifications at Scheld were bombed by our A-26 aircraft. 1000 lb. bombs were dropped with good to excellent results.



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Ptr, subj: "Unit History" dtd 19 Oct 44, 553rd Bomb Sq. (cont'd).

12 September 1944, (cont'd).

B-26 sircraft attacked Scheld fortifications, dropping 1000 lb. bombs with good to excellent results. The pilots were Lts Goodwin, Cleveland, Dillon, Winkleman, Douglass, Merquis, Sentner, Swenson and Ruse.

14 September 1944

Strong points at Brest were bombed by our A-26 aircraft today. 1000 lb. bombs were dropped with good to excellent results on these enemy positions. Major Burhanne led this formation of 11 aircraft.

B-26 aircraft went for strong points at Brest but due to adverse weather conditions, they failed to drop their bombs. The pilots were Major Hoover, Capts Lytle and Meyers, Leroy C., and Its Royer, Harris and Dillon.

16 September 19/4

Excellent results were obtained by our A-26 aircraft as they dropped 1000 lb. bombs on the Bergen-op-Zoom Dike. This mission was led by Major Perris.

19 September 1944

Our B-26 eircraft bombed the Duren mershalling yards today. 250 lb. bombs were dropped with excellent results. Capt Fugit led the 2nd box. The pilots were Capts Fugit and Lytle, and Lts Goodwin, Cummings, Winkleman, Harris, Robert T., Rutt, Douglass and Fansler.

Our A-26 aircraft attacked this same target today, the Duran marshalling yards. They dropped 500 lb. bombs with good to excellent results.

23 September 1944

Our B-26 sircreft went out today to bomb the Venlo marshalling yards; however, due to weather conditions, they could not drop their bombs. The pilots were Capts Ilimovich and Lytle, and Its Henry, Pearre, Swenson, Mayers, John H., Marquis and Dillon.

29 September 1944

With Major Hoover leading the formation, our B-26 sircraft dropping 271 lb. bombs on Weberheim Dragon Teeth with fair to excellent results. The pilots were Major Hoover, Cept Adams and Lts Winkleman, Rutt, Sentner, Cleveland, Dismukes, Curmings and Douglass.

30 September 1944

Thirty-six B-26 eircraft were out to bomb the Arnhem Road Bridge. 14 eircraft dropped their bombs with fair to excellent results. 22 eircraft did not bomb due to bad weather. The pilots were Capt Fugit and Lts Quigley. Meyers, John H., Goodwin, Cleveland, Dismukes, Dillon, Herris, R.T., and Winkleman.



Ltr. subj: "Unit History" dtd 19 Oct 44. 553rd Bomb Sq. (cont'd).

Miscellaneous

Most of the bombings during the month of September were in support of ground troops. During this month our squedron was preparing for the move to Frence. On the 19th of September our Advance Echelon with It Fox in charge and ten enlisted men departed for France by motor convoy. And on 26 September our edvance echelon with Capt Dugger in charge and Capt Keating and thirty-six enlisted men departed for France by motor convoy. On 27 September, eleven officers and ninety-four enlisted men departed by C-47 type sircraft for France. Capt Little was in charge. On 28 September our B-26 aircraft shuttled to France and back carrying twelve officers and 15 enlisted men to France. Four loads of equipment were taken by C-47 to France. It Hodge and It Richardson and their crews were transferred to the Zone of the Interior. Capt Haber and crew came back from DS to the Zone of the Interior. The following named pilots with crews were assigned to this squadron during the month of September: Its Herbinson, Osborn, Sumlin, Williams, and Capts Coleman and Brockhouse. Lts Keil, Christianson, Bledsoe and Archbold also joined the organization with their crews during the month of September. Three A-26 crews were assigned on 12 September 1944. The pilots were Its Sutton, Heinke and Turner.

Lt Ruslander was fatally injured on 11 September 1944 when he was hit by the propeller of a B-26 aircraft. He died on 13 September at Bangour Hospital.

Bombs dropped by our planes during September are as follows:

B-26 Aircraft

No. Dropped	Weight of Bombs (1bs).
252 208 217	1000 G.P. 250 G.P. 100 G.P.
A-26 Aircreft	
302 74 143	1000 G.P. 500 G.P. 250 G.P.
	Wallace P. HOELINER, Cept., Air Corps, Executive Officer.