

SO-Bomb-563-W  
Sep 44

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Director  
Reser  
Attn:  
Maxwell A. D. Alsbarna

X

Classification canceled (changed to *Unclass*)  
by authority of *CO 386 Bomb Sep*  
by *CP Oates* May date *15 Nov 45*

**RESTRICTED**

MICROFILMED

**SECRET**

SG-40113-553-N6

SEP 1944

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

**RESTRICTED**

19 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Commanding Officer, 386th Bombardment Group (M), APO #140, U.S. ARMY.

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

- a. Organization: Negative.
- b. Strength: 128 Officers and 421 Enlisted Men.
- c. Date of arrival at and of departure from each station occupied in ETO: Negative.
- d. Losses in action: None.
- e. Awards and decorations earned by officers and enlisted men of this organization during September are as follows:

	13th Cluster to A.M.	11th Cluster to A.M.	2nd SOLC to A.M.	9th Cluster to A.M.	8th Cluster to A.M.
No. Officers earned award:	1	4	3	3	1
No. E. M. earned award:	0	4	2	2	1

  

	7th Cluster to A.M.	6th Cluster to A.M.	1st SOLC to A.M.	4th Cluster to A.M.
No. Officers earned award:	0	1	1	9
No. E. M. earned award:	2	1	4	3

  

	3rd Cluster to A.M.	2nd Cluster to A.M.	1st Cluster to A.M.	Air Medal
No. Officers earned award:	8	4	5	10
No. E. M. earned award:	3	14	10	10

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 Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 2 E.M.
- 8th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 1 Officer and 0 E.M.
- 7th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 1 E.M.
- 1st SOLC to A.M. - 1 Officer and 0 E.M.
- 4th Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 0 Officers and 1 E.M.

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Ltr, 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 Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M. - 2 Officers and 2 Enlisted Men.  
1st Oak Leaf 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 BOMBARDMENT DIVISION General Orders as follows:

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

Air Medal - 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 Capt. Klimovich, Lytle, and Meyers, Leroy C., and Lts. Rutt, Sentner, Henry, Guistwite, Cummings and Dillon.

3 September 1944

Again today our planes bombarded 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 Lts. Douglass, Cummings, 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 Capt. Lytle and Adams and Lts. 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 lb. 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 Capt. Meyers, Leroy C., and Adams, and Lts. Dismukes, Douglass, Meyers, John H., Sentner and Dillon.

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

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 overseas 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 Burhanna 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, Swenson, Marquis and Fansler.

11 September 1944

With Major Ferris leading, the A-26 aircraft 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 Burhanna 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, Winklemen, Douglass, Cummings, Meyers, John H., Cleveland and Henry.

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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12 September 1944, (cont'd).

B-26 aircraft attacked Scheld fortifications, dropping 1000 lb. bombs with good to excellent results. The pilots were Lts Goodwin, Cleveland, Dillon, Winkleman, Douglass, Marquis, 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 Burhanna 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, Cpts Lytle and Meyers, Leroy C., and Lts Royer, Harris and Dillon.

16 September 1944

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 Ferris.

19 September 1944

Our B-26 aircraft bombed the Duren marshalling yards today. 250 lb. bombs were dropped with excellent results. Capt Fugit led the 2nd box. The pilots were Cpts 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 Duren marshalling yards. They dropped 500 lb. bombs with good to excellent results.

23 September 1944

Our B-26 aircraft went out today to bomb the Venlo marshalling yards; however, due to weather conditions, they could not drop their bombs. The pilots were Cpts Klimovich and Lytle, and Lts Henry, Pearre, Swenson, Meyers, John H., Marquis and Dillon.

29 September 1944

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

30 September 1944

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

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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 squadron was preparing for the move to France. On the 19th of September our Advance Echelon with Lt Fox in charge and ten enlisted men departed for France by motor convoy. And on 26 September our advance 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 aircraft 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. Lt Hodge and Lt 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: Lts 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 Lts 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 (lbs).
252	1000 G.P.
208	250 G.P.
217	100 G.P.

A-26 Aircraft

302	1000 G.P.
74	500 G.P.
143	250 G.P.

*Wallace P. Zoellner*  
WALLACE P. ZOELLNER,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
Executive Officer.