

7P-576-41
PT 1044

RETURN TO RESEARCH STUDIES INSTITUTE U.S.A.F. HISTORICAL DIVISION ARCHIVE BRANCH

Group 4
 Downgraded at 3 year
 intervals; declassified
 after 12 years

REPRODUCTION

GP-316-41
SEP 1944

HEADQUARTERS
588TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
APO #14, U.S. ARMY
Unit history
Installation A

GP-316-41
SEP 1944

1. Organizational changes: Negative.
2. Strength: 48 officers and 55 enlisted men.
3. Date of arrival at and departure from each station in the APO: Advanced echelon departed Easton Lodge, Station 164, Essex, England, 25 September 1944, for Far Shore.
4. Losses in Action: Negative.

5. Awards and Decorations:

Lieutenant Colonel Harry G. Hankey,
Air Executive Officer,
11th Oak Leaf cluster to Air Medal

Fig 69C

Major Howard Burnhanna
Assistant Air Executive Officer
Air Medal

Captain Justin M. Bingham,
Group Navigator,
14th Oak Leaf cluster to Air Medal.

Captain Arthur L. Jacobs
Assistant S-2 Officer
2nd Oak Leaf cluster to Air Medal

1st Lieutenant Arvil B. Mullins
Training Officer
2nd Oak Leaf cluster to Air Medal

1st Lieutenant John H. Strand
Assistant Operations Officer
Air Medal.

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2- HEADQUARTERS, 355TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M), UNIT HISTORY....

Administrative changes for the month were as follows: 1st Lt. Joseph S. Riorda assigned and joined as of 2 Sept and assigned as Group Sec officer; Chaplain (Capt) Calhoun to temporary duty at Belmont Abbey, Hartford, from 4 to 9 Sept; 2nd Lt. Donald J. Medden on DS with the 1st Pathfinder Sq, relieved from assignment and assigned to 60th Station Complement Squadron as of 5 Sept; the entry in the August installment of Group History pertaining to Capt Leister being transferred to IX Bomber Command as of 30 August was in error. The morning report was corrected and the date of transfer is as of 7 Sept 44; Capt Smercers granted a 4-day leave effective 9 Sept and on leave he was married in Scotland with Capt McDevitt, of this group acting as best man; Capt Haire detailed to duty as Group Intelligence Officer as of 12 Sept; Capt Buchanan granted 5-day leave as of 12 Sept; Lt Mullins received a 7-day leave 11 Sept; Capt Lyons departed on TD to Bournemouth as of 14 Sept and returned 17 Sept; Major Saar was given 7-days leave as of 15 Sept; Lt. Col. Henkey placed on TD to Zone of Interior as of 16 Sept; 1st Lt. Lyons assigned to the 307 Sta Hosp, Co. 2, APO 614-A as of 18 Sept and on the same date Major Hill was relieved and assigned to the 8th AF HQ, Sta 594. Also on the same date Capt William F. Nash, Jr, joined from the 55th Bomb Sq. On 19 Sept., Lt. Col. Jewell C. Maxwell joined from the 344th Bomb Gp and was detailed Group Air Executive during the absence of Lt. Col. Henkey; 1st Lt. Strand was relieved and assigned to the 552nd Bomb Sq as of 19 Sept; 1st Lt. Mullins was relieved and assigned to the 554th Bomb Sq as of 20 Sept; Col. Kelly who was on TD in the Zone of the Interior was relieved from assignment and assigned to the IX Bomb Command as of 17 Sept. On 7 Sept, Capt. Anderson was relieved and assigned to the 81st Weather Squadron and Capt Miller was relieved from assignment and assigned to the 12 RCH as of 27 Sept; Capt. William L. Smith joined from the 56th Bomb Sq and was detailed as Group Bombarrier Officer (Principal duty.)

Promotions:

Capt Reife, group adjutant, promoted to major as of 1 Sept; Lt McDevitt, Group Statistic officer, promoted to Capt effective 1 Sept; 1st Lt Penzur was promoted to Capt (DS) as of 7 Sept.

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[REDACTED]

3. HEADQUARTERS, 556th Bombardment Group (M), 1st Air Division....

Preparations for Overseas Movement:

The usual [REDACTED] was carried out at the beginning of the month with the group receiving departure alert order as of 10 Sept.

On 12 Sept, Major Levin and Major Rubenstein (attached) with seven enlisted men departed on temporary duty to the Far Shore by motor convoy as part of the Reconnaissance Column.

On 14 Sept, a convoy of trucks belonging to the 2018th Truck Co., Av., departed for the Far Shore carrying files and material of this group. In this convoy were the classified operational material of 3-2 except for a skeleton operating supply, and 1st Lt. D. E. Lehmann and two enlisted men of the 556th Bomb Sq. Intelligence Section were detailed to accompany the truck as cotrier and guards for this classified material.

On 15 Sept, Capt Lippens and 11 enlisted men left on temporary duty to the Far Shore as the Advanced Column. Capt Lippens and 7 [REDACTED] went by air and the other 4 [REDACTED] traveled by motor convoy.

On 17 Sept, Major Dougherty, Capt Miller (Ord) and Chaplain (Capt) Romans with seven enlisted men left for the Far Shore by air.

Record of Operations for September is as follows:

1 Sept 1944

35 aircraft bombed target at Brest with good to excellent results. All returned safely.

3 Sept

36 aircraft bombed road bridge at Brest with fair to excellent results. All returned safely.

5 Sept

36 aircraft bombed target at Brest with fair to good results. All returned safely.

6 Sept

36 aircraft bombed target at Brest with excellent results. All returned safely.

3
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. HEADQUARTERS, 386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (A), 9TH AIR FORCE....

6 Sept (con't)

36 aircraft bombed target at Brest in afternoon with good results. All aircraft returned safely.

14 Aircraft (A-26's) bombed target at Brest with good results. All returned safely.

8 Sept 1944

Eight aircraft dropped leaflets on Brest, Calais and Ghent. All returned safely.

10 Sept

Thirty-six aircraft bombed target at Brest on Rays with good to excellent results. All returned safely.

14 aircraft (A-26's) bombed railroad bridge at Cus-tine with excellent results. All returned safely.

11 Sept 1944

36 aircraft bombed target at Metz with good to excellent results. All returned safely.

14 A-26's bombed target at Metz with good results. All returned safely.

12 A-26's bombed target at Leeuwarden with fair to excellent results. All returned safely.

12 Sept 1944

36 aircraft bombed fortifications at Schield with good to excellent results. All returned safely.

11 aircraft (A-26's) bombed fortifications at Schield with good to excellent results. All returned safely.

14 Sept 1944

36 aircraft bombed target at Brest with good results. All aircraft returned safely.

12 A-26's bombed target at Brest with good to excellent results. All returned safely.

16 Sept 1944

12 aircraft (A-26's) bombed Bergen Opzoom with good results. All returned safely.

[REDACTED]

5. HEADQUARTERS, 583TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), UNIT HISTORY.....

19 Sept 1944

15 A-26's bombed target at Duren with excellent results. A 11 returned safely.

35 aircraft bombed target at Duren with excellent results. 1 aircraft crash-landed at Great Saling with personnel uninjured. Other aircraft returned safely.

23 Sept 1944

35 aircraft took off to bomb target at Venloe, but did not drop bombs. Two aircraft crash-landed on strip on Far Shore with 1 crew member killed in landing. Both aircraft were from the 554th Squadron. Other aircraft returned safely.