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SG-BOMB-646-H1
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SG-BOMB-646-H1
1 Nov 1944

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UNIT HISTORY

646TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)

APO 140

UNITED STATES ARMY

COVERING THE PERIOD 1 NOV. '44 TO 30 NOV. '44.

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I. ORGANIZATION:

Major Rolf D. Cape assumed command on 2 November 1944, vice Lieutenant Colonel Charles M. Parrett, KIA¹.

II. STRENGTH:

Two Pilots, 2 bombardier-navigators and 4 gunners joined the Group on 4 November 1944², and were assigned this Unit³. On 15 November 1944, 4 Pilots, 1 bombardier-navigator and 4 gunners joined the Group⁴, and were assigned this Unit⁵. The Unit strength consisted of 61 Officers and 318 Enlisted Men on 30 November 1944.

III. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

For exceptional aircraft maintenance, resulting in their planes completing fifty missions without an abortion due to mechanical failure, the following crew chiefs were awarded Bronze Star Medals; T/Sgt George Galloway, S/Sgt James A. McGaugh and S/Sgt Renel Paden⁶; T/Sgt Albert H. Sorenson and S/Sgt Bernard Weiman⁷; T/Sgt Robert R. Honeycutt and T/Sgt Louis Pellati⁸; M/Sgt Gilbert Aldridge, Armament Section Chief, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal⁸, for his modification of a bomb hoist, resulting in improved operating efficiency. As of the end of the month, air crew personnel since entering combat, had received a total of 1 DFC, 13 Purple Hearts, 115 Air Medals and 520 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

IV. PART IN THE WAR EFFORT:

During the period, the Squadron participated in 15 Missions against defended towns, ammunitions (dumps), ordnance depots, marshalling yards, bridges, supply warehouses and gun positions.

1. Par #6, SO #137, Hq 410th Bomb Gp (I),
2. Par #1, SO #296, Hq 70th Replacement Depot,
3. Par #1, SO #137, Hq 410th Bomb Gp (I),
4. Par #8, SO #45, Hq IX Bombardment Division,
5. Par #2, SO #141, Hq 410th Bomb Gp (I),
6. G.O.#188, Hq IX Bombardment Division,
7. G.O.#26, Hq IX Bombardment Division,
8. G.O.#35, Hq IX Bombardment Division.