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\*SECRET\*

RESTRICTED

32 BOMB-645-111  
Jan 45 -  
Feb 45

\*

UNIT HISTORY

645TH BOMBARDMENT SQDN (L)

APG 140

UNITED STATES ARMY

\*\*\*\*\*

COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JAN. '45 TO 31 JAN. '45

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I. STRENGTH:

The number of personnel in the 645th Bombardment Squadron showed a slight decline for the month of January. The end of the month found a total of 316 Enlisted Men and 74 Officers in the Organization, a loss of 4 Enlisted Men and 4 Officers since the first of the year.

II. LOSSES IN ACTION:

This month was a costly one to the 645th Bombardment Squadron. Captain John V. Cyrus, O-747222 and his crew of 1st Lt. George W. Ep-person, O-750129, S/Sgt Robert A. Fowle, 35049974, and S/Sgt Charles D. Rushmore, 38463021, failed to return from a combat mission over Germany on 2 January 1945 and are still missing in action. The entire crew was composed of highly trained and capable men and their loss was felt not only by their many friends but also as an integral part of the Squadron's combat strength.

Our second serious loss of the month occurred on 26 January - 1945 when 1st Lt. Robert Bachstein, O-748887 and his gunners, S/Sgt John G.J. Gibbons, 13074586 and S/Sgt Joseph F. Soderer, 32739390 were killed when their plane crashed while returning from a scheduled mission over Germany. These men had been with the Squadron almost since its inception and were well liked as individuals and respected as an efficient fighting team.

III. AWARDS, DECORATIONS AND PROMOTIONS:

Air Medals were awarded to the following named Officers and En-listed Men:

1st Lt. Robert M. Mason, O-700641, G.O. #51, Hq 9 TCC, 11 July '44.  
2nd Lt. Robert H. Mitchell, O-749921, G.O. #180, Hq 9th BC,  
12 September 1944.

The Purple Heart was awarded to:

1st Lt. Walter E. Teasdale, Jr, O-205875, G.O. #2, 1st AF Clear-  
ing Station, 8 January 1945.  
Sgt John J. Levine, 39011904, G.O. #4, 1st AF Clearing Station,  
29 January 1945.

IV. 645TH IN THE WAR EFFORT:

The month of January found the 410th Group continuing its ham-  
mering blows at the enemy and, on all of these missions, the combat  
teams of the 645th played an important role. Weather conditions pre-  
vented visual bombing on most of the missions but Lt. Bates took ad-  
vantage of his two opportunities on the 16th and 25th to make an ex-  
cel-ent and a superior. Bombing ratings through the month of Jan-  
uary shows Lt. Bates tied for third place among all bombardiers in the  
Wing. Lt. Hobbs was in the first ten, followed closely by Lt. Shel-  
ton. Quite a record for one Squadron.



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V. STATION LIFE:

The month of January found the Squadron settling down to a more or less routine existence as far as station activities were concerned. The snow and deep mud forced everyone to keep making new paths and new methods of mud control in the living quarters. Amateur carpenters blossomed forth with new aids to comfortable living and everyone felt reasonably satisfied despite the almost continuous snow and rain.

Messing facilities for Officers were greatly improved by the addition of a wooden annex to the Enlisted Men's mess-hall. The preparation of the food improved to such an extent that many of the perpetual complainers were forced to divert their attacks to the mail situation.

The minds and energies of the entire Squadron were concentrated on only one object during this month - successful completion of all missions.

VI. TRAINING:

The highly skilled work required of all members of an efficient Air Force squadron demands that continuous training be accomplished. Newly assigned pilots must receive additional transition, formation and night flying. Bombardiers must receive incessant navigation, target identification and map reading as well as practice on the bomb-sight itself. Gunners must be thoroughly familiar with their weapons and be able to identify all planes which they might meet. Ground crews must be familiarized with the latest technical changes and repair methods. All of this adds up to one long, oftentimes tedious, training program, but the results of this training are directly reflected on the Squadron's combat efficiency.

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February

45th Bombardment Sq.  
with Bombardier

## I. SUMMARY:

The overall support of the ground units during the attack was excellent. The ground units were well coordinated and the attack was well planned. The ground units were well coordinated and the attack was well planned. The ground units were well coordinated and the attack was well planned.

## II. SUMMARY:

During the attack, the ground units were well coordinated and the attack was well planned. The ground units were well coordinated and the attack was well planned. The ground units were well coordinated and the attack was well planned.

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Below is the list of targets for February and the number of bombs dropped on each target:

- Feb. 2nd St. Louis (1/1), 3 planes, 1st bomb by Capt. Jones, Lt. Baker. Results: Destroyed (10/1000 ft.).
- Feb. 3rd Wabash (1st. Village), 3 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 4th Greenback (1st. Village) 7 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 5th Greenback (1/1) 10 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 6th Greenback (1/1), 6 planes, 1st bomb by Capt. Jones, Lt. Baker. Results: Destroyed.
- Feb. 11 Greenback (1/1) 10 planes, 1st bomb by Lt. Col. Jones, Capt. Baker. Results: Destroyed.
- Feb. 12 Greenback (1st. Village) Results: Destroyed.
- Feb. 13 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, 1st bomb by Lt. Col. Jones, Lt. Baker. Results: Destroyed.
- Feb. 14 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: Destroyed.
- Feb. 15 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 16 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 17 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 18 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 19 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 20 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 21 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 22 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 23 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 24 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 25 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 26 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 27 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 28 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 29 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.
- Feb. 30 Greenback (1st. Village) 6 planes, Results: 1st.

