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Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 306th Bomb Gp (H) Sqdn. Station 47000, APO 634
(station)

Month of March - June, 1942. Prepared by _____
(name, rank, unit.)

DAY	EVENTS
<u>Mar '42</u>	
1	306th Bomb Gp (H) activated at Wendover Field, Utah, sub-post of Salt Lake City Air Base. Five Squadrons also activated: Hq & Hq Sq, 367th Bomb Sq (H), 369th Bomb Sq (H), 369th Bomb Sq (H), 34th Reconnaissance Sq (H). Squadrons commanders appointed as follows: 367th Bomb Sq (H), Captain H. J. Holt, 368th Bomb Sq (H), 1st Lt W. A. Lanford, 369th Bomb Sq (H), 1st Lt R. A. Oliver, 34th Reconnaissance Sq (H), 1st Lt J. W. Wilson, Hq & Hq Sq, 1st Lt C. A. Polansky.
16	Group Commanding Officer and 7 officers arrived at Salt Lake City. Training started with 3 B-18's and 1 A-17. Pilots ordered to 4-Engine transition school, Albuquerque, New Mexico on Temporary duty.
22	51 Pilots assigned to Group. Group moved to Wendover despite limited housing facilities. Wendover Field designated as a separate Air Base, under Second Air Force OTU program.
<u>April</u>	
6	Cadre of 50 men reported from 34th Bomb Gp (H) at Pendleton Field, Oregon. From this date officers and enlisted men continued to come in in small groups of from 10 to 20 at a time.
25	First B-17E assigned to Group.
26	34th Reconnaissance Sq (H) redesignated 423rd Bombardment Sq (H).
<u>May</u>	
1	1st Lt B. I. Springfield appointed Commanding Officer of Hq & Hq Sq, vice 1st Lt C. A. Polansky relieved. Appointments to Group Staff announced as follows: Executive Officer, 1st Col C. E. LeMay, Adjutant S-1, Captain D. R. Coleman, Intelligence Officer S-2 Major Watts S. Humphrey, Operations Officer S-3, Major D. E. Wilson, Materiel Officer S-4, Captain C. A. Polansky.
2-5/3	Enlisted personnel continued to come in from Fort Logan, Colo, Chanute Field, Ill, Lowry Field, Colo, Pendleton Field, Ore, Davis-Monthan Field, Arizona, Sheppard Field, Texas and Yakima, Washington.
28	Japs attack Aleutians and 306th alerted. Combat crews ordered to Ephrata for patrol duty. Numerous off-shore patrols completed.
<u>June</u>	
10	1st Col LeMay relieved from assignment to Group and assigned to 305th Bomb Gp (H).
20	Squadron Commanding Officers: Captains: Holt, Lanford, Oliver and Wilson, and Group Adjutant, Captain Coleman promoted to Majors.

Sheet No. 2 War Diary, 306th Bomb Gp (H) Bqdn. Station #7000, APO 631
(station)

Month of June - July, 1942. Prepared by _____
(name, rank, unit.)

DAY	EVENTS
June '42	
28	16 combat crews reported from Hamilton Field, California. These crews came to 306th from 301st Bomb Gp and 303rd Bomb Gp via Hawaii.
29	8 combat crews left for destinations unknown.
July.	
1	New T/O dated July 1, 1942 went into effect and Hq & Hq Sq dissolved into the four squadrons and Group Staff, which were formed as of that date. 116 Ordnance men from 425th Ordnance Co (AVN) assigned to Group and reassigned to squadrons in accordance with T/O. Captain Springfield relieved as Commanding Officer of Hq & Hq Sq and appointed Operations Officer. Lt Col Wilson relieved as Operations Officer and appointed Executive Officer.
5	Wings established in Second Air Force. 306th Bomb Gp (H) assigned to the 17th Wing commanded by Colonel Peck.
7	Airplane accident occurred 10 miles Southeast of Wendover Field killing 1st Lt Birleffi, 2nd Lt VanderRie, 2nd Lt Reno, Pvt Swann, Pvt Enswiler, Pvt Gillies, Pvt Walsey. Crash occurred at about 2300 hours, July 7, 1942. Cause presumed to be vertigo caused by lack of visual horizon.
8	32 Officers and Enlisted Men left for Westover Field, Massachusetts to ferry B-17E airplanes to Wendover Field.
15	Captain Polansky relieved as Materiel Officer and assigned to Base. 1st Lt W. J. Schmidt appointed Materiel Officer. 6 B-17E airplanes arrived at Wendover Field from Westover Field, Massachusetts. 32 Officers and Enlisted Men arrived from Westover Field, Massachusetts with 8 B-17E airplanes.
16	6 more B-17E airplanes arrived at Wendover Field.
18	9 more B-17E airplanes arrived at Wendover Field.
20	1 combat crew left for Alamogordo, N. M. on bombing mission. Returned same date.
21	1 combat crew left for Alamogordo, N. M. on bombing mission. Returned same date. The Group now had about 40 B-17E airplanes.
20-25	4 bombing missions completed each with 24 airplanes, 6 per squadron, 1 to Alamogordo, N.M., 1 to Arlington, Washington, and 2 to Muroc, California.
21-28	Officers sent to Plini Flying School.
25	Major Cleveland reported and assigned to Group as Operations Officer, vice Captain R. I. Springfield relieved.
28	General Robert Olds, Commanding General, Second Air Force and Staff made inspection at Wendover Field and all gunners were promoted to Sergeants.

Sheet No. 3 c War Diary, 306th Bomb Gp (H) Sqdn. Station #700 O, APO 634
(station)

Month of August - September, 1942. Prepared by _____
(name, rank, unit.)

DAY	EVENTS
<u>Aug '42</u>	
1	Air Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) left Westover Field in P-17F airplanes for Westover Field, Massachusetts, less 13 complete combat crews, retained in Second Air Force.
1	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) left Westover Field for Richmond Army Air Base, Virginia.
2	368th and 369th squadrons, Air Echelon arrived at Westover Field, Massachusetts.
3	367th and 423rd squadrons, Air Echelon arrived at Westover Field, Massachusetts.
5	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) arrived at Richmond Army Air Base, Virginia.
13	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) left Richmond Army Air Base, Virginia for Fort Dix, New Jersey.
14	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey.
15	First of P-17F airplanes delivered to 306th Bomb Gp (H) Air Echelon at Westover Field, Massachusetts.
30	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) left Fort Dix, New Jersey for New York Port of Embarkation.
30	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) arrived at New York Port of Embarkation and boarded boat.
31	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) left New York Port of Embarkation on Queen Elizabeth bound for England.
<u>Sent '42</u>	
1	Air Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) left Westover Field, Mass for England via Gander Lake, Newfoundland and Prestwick, with 35 P-17F airplanes and complete combat crews.
5	Ground Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) arrived in Scotland.
5	P-17F airplane with crew of 9 and 1 passenger exploded 150 miles out of Gander Lake, while making ocean flight to England.
6	Ground Echelon of 306th Bomb Gp (H) arrived at Thurleigh, Bedford.
8	423rd and 367th squadrons of Air Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H) arrived at Thurleigh, Bedford.
11	369th squadron of Air Echelon arrived at Thurleigh, Bedford
12	P-17F airplane piloted by Captain W. C. Melton, Jr. forced landed in Irish Sea, due to failure of three engines on flight from Gander Lake. All personnel rescued, but airplane lost.
13	368th squadron of Air Echelon arrived at Thurleigh, Bedford, completing movement of Air Echelon, 306th Bomb Gp (H).

Sheet No. 4 War Diary, 306th Bomb Gp (H) Sqdn. Station #7000, APO 63A
(station)

Month of September, Oct, Nov, 1942. Prepared by _____
(name, rank, unit.)

DAY	EVENTS
Sept '42	
16	Lt Col D. E. Wilson relieved as Executive Officer and appointed Air Executive Officer. Major D. E. Coleman appointed Ground Executive Officer and Station Administrative Officer.
20	Intensive familiarization training to acquaint personnel with operational methods in European Theatre completed and 306th Bomb Gp (H) reported as ready to conduct operational flights.
Oct '42	
2	Airplane accident occurred on Practice Formation Bombing Mission over Spaulding, England killing 1st Lt William W. Ely; 1st Lt Edwin F. Patterson; 2nd Lt William H. Kuhlman; 2nd Lt Robert F. Cameron; T/Sgt Dudley E. Fuller; and Pvt Clinton M. Geller. Pvt Raymond E. McAskill and S/Sgt William E. Kellum, survived. Plane was completely demolished.
9	1st Mission completed on Lille, France. Captain John W. Olson and entire crew were killed when plane crashed. Crew consisted of Captain John W. Olson; 2nd Lt Joseph M. Gates; 2nd Lt William J. Gise; 2nd Lt Albert W. LaChasse; T/Sgt Erwin D. Wissenback; T/Sgt Thomas W. Dynan; S/Sgt Truman C. Wilder; S/Sgt Bert E. Kaylor; S/Sgt Bruce Nicholson. 2nd Lt James M. Stewart and crew crash landed at Dunston, Kent. Plane was badly damaged with three motors dead and plane losing altitude rapidly when a Spitfire piloted by F/Lt Andrews came alongside of Stewart's snip and flapped his wings as a signal to follow him, which Lt Stewart did. Upon arriving near the field, the Spitfire lowered his landing which was also done by Lt Stewart, and the Spitfire led the Fortress directly onto the landing field at Dunston, where Lt Stewart crash landed his snip safely. None of the crew were lost.
9	39th Service Group arrived at Thurleigh commanded by Lt Col Henry D. Johnson. This group consisted of 24 Officers and 131 Enlisted Men of Hq & Hq Sq, 39th Service Group; 7 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 210 Enlisted Men of the 352nd Service Sq; and 4 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 60 Enlisted Men of the 705th Ordnance Company.
20	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #41 same date)
20	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #42 same date)
21	2nd Mission completed on Lorient, France. No casualties on this mission.
26	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #44 same date)
28	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #45 same date)
29	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #46 same date)
30	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #47 same date)
31	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #48 same date)
Nov '42	
1	Mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #49 same date)

Sheet No. 5 War Diary, 306th Bomb Gp (H) Sqdn. Station #7000, APO 634
(station)

Month of November, 1942. Prepared by _____
(Name, rank, unit.)

DAY	EVENTS
Nov '42	
4	Mission cancelled by reason of substitute Mission. (Operations Orders #50 same date)
4	Mission substituted in place of above mission cancelled by reason of bad weather. (Operations Orders #51 same date)
4	Chief of Ordnance, General Campbell and his staff visited Thurleigh. This Group inspected bomb dumps, airplanes, briefing rooms, etc.
7	3rd Mission completed on Brest France. No casualties on this mission.
8	4th Mission completed on Lille, France. Captain Richard D. Adams and entire crew are missing in action. Crew consisted of Captain Richard D. Adams; 2nd Lt Carl W. Cook; 2nd Lt Julius C. Landrum; 2nd Lt John A. Latchford; S/Sgt Anthony J. Lacey; S/Sgt Peter Greymo; S/Sgt Jim T. McCloy; S/Sgt John S. Saunders; S/Sgt Ford L. Winchell; S/Sgt Frank M. Zeck.
9	5th Mission completed on St. Nazaire, France. Three planes with their crews are reported as missing in action. One crew from the 367th Bomb Sq (H), 306th Bomb Gp (H) consisted of 2nd Lt John A. Creamer, Jr.; 2nd Lt Joseph A. Creed, Jr.; 2nd Lt William W. Dickey; 2nd Lt James M. Stewart; S/Sgt Martin R. Barthe; Cpl Hugh L. Langan; T/Sgt Thomas E. McMillan; T/Sgt Charles J. Merriwether; S/Sgt George R. Rumph; S/Sgt Raymond C. Schroyer; S/Sgt Jack M. Wheeler. 2nd Lt Erickson, bombardier of another 367th plane was killed by flak while leaning over his bombsight. The two other crews that were reported as missing in action were members of the 423rd Bomb Sq (H), 306th Bomb Gp (H). These crews consisted of 1st Lt John R. Barnett; 1st Lt Loyal M. Felts, 2nd Lt Andrew L. Graham, Jr.; 2nd Lt Thomas D. Hall; 2nd Lt Forrest D. Hardin; 2nd Lt Robert J. Jones; 2nd Lt Lowell E. Kinney; 2nd Lt Norman R. Nelson; T/Sgt Richard L. Beers; Sgt George P. Bogumill; T/Sgt Francis M. Counselman; Pvt Walter Crawford; Sgt Doane Sage, Jr.; S/Sgt Jack W. Madison; T/Sgt Frederick Mannello; S/Sgt Bernard P. Papieka; T/Sgt John A. Westcott; S/Sgt Charles R. Wilson; Sgt Eldon J. Wright; Charles B. Vonderlieth, S/Sgt.
13	General Carl Spaatz and King George VI visited Thurleigh and were taken on a tour of the Station. The party visited various sites, including the perimeter track, mess halls, etc.



July 1942-306th BG Headquarters Squadron Diary

Note: this page is inserted by 306th BGHA in 2020 to help the researcher distinguish between the 306th BG War Diary and the diary kept by the 306th BG Headquarters Squadron.

Month of July, 1942 Prepared by Capt W. C. Van Norman**SECRET**

DAY

EVENTS

1

Pursuant to authority contained in Letter Hq, 2nd Air Force, Fort George Wright, Washington, file 320.2e, subj: "Organization of Headquarters, Group Bombardment and Squadrons, Bombardment, Heavy, dated 26 June 1942, and in order to comply with T/O 1-112, WD, 1 July, 1942, the following named Officers and Enlisted Men are relieved from assignment to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 306th Bombardment Group (H), Wendover Field, Utah, and are assigned to AAF Headquarters, Group, Bombardment, Heavy, and attached to the 423rd Bombardment Squadron (H), 306th Bombardment Group (H), for rations and administration effective 1 July, 1942. (The following named are the original personnel of Headquarters, 306th Bombardment Group (H))

Col Charles B. Overacker, 017007, Commanding Officer
 Maj Delmar E. Wilson, 021635, Executive Officer and Operations
 Maj Douglas R. Coleman, 0900425, Adjutant
 Maj Watts S. Humphrey, 0901252, S-2 Officer
 Capt Berkeley I. Springfield, 0388890, Asst S-3 and Oxygen Officer
 2nd Lt Herbert J. Avise, 0900352, Weather Officer
 1st Lt Roy V. Hopper, 0440684, Communications Officer
 Capt Charles A. Polansky, 0397798, S-4 Officer
 Capt Ralph C. Teall, 0348506, Medical
 Capt Wiley W. Glass, 0448461, S-2, Photo Officer
 1st Lt William M. Walters, 0446420, Statistical Officer
 1st Lt John L. Lambert, 0406470, Asst S-3 Officer
 1st Lt Henry J. Schmidt, 0449917, S-4
 1st Lt Roy M. MacLeod, 0402633, Chaplain
 1st Lt Rex Dale Stutznegger, 0346352, Dental
 1st Lt Rudolph Skalak, 0430902, S-2 and Photo
 1st Lt Claude F. McGrath, 0905199, Special Services.

Col John R. Bartlett, 33117989, Command Section
 Sgt Samuel J. Cobb, 34261410, S-1
 Cpl James M. Cleveland, 34261289, S-1
 Cpl Charles E. Saunders, 15089235, S-1
 Pfc Ramon R. Trevino, 18101954, S-1
 Pvt Charles J. Helmuth, 15099613, S-1
 Pvt Clayton Wildstein, 12040732, S-1
 Cpl Armand H. Chrapaty, 33145169, S-1
 Cpl Miles M. Koutich, 19074372, S-1
 Cpl Thomas W. Sliney, 31030590, S-1
 Pvt Richard K. Casey, 18101876, S-1
 Pvt George H. Lovelady, 35277101, S-1
 Pvt Vondal Wood, 34260689, S-1
 S/Sgt Richard F. Watson, 11016618, S-2
 Pfc James F. Donovan, 32250280, S-2
 Pvt Gordon D. Kilday, 16047006, S-2
 Pvt Albert D. McElyea, 38033890, S-2
 Pvt Paul E. Tressler, 35256892, S-2
 Sgt John W. Anderson, 18069509, S-2
 Pvt John R. Battle, 14064790, S-2
 Pvt Clarence Marcussen, 16022862, S-2
 Pvt Woodrow R. Randolph, 35255758, S-2
 T/Sgt Richard W. Lenley, 6949548, S-3
 Cpl William J. Knara, 16057845, S-3
 Pfc Gilbert B. Hahn, 15075174, S-3
 Cpl Robert C. Covey, 19068405, S-3
 Cpl John F. Leonard, 33145108, S-3
 Pvt James A. Wilcox, 17040517, S-3
 Pvt William N. Wilmarth, 16085192, S-3

SECRET

Month of July 1942 Prepared by Capt. W. C. Van Norman

SECRET

DAY

EVENT

1	M/Sgt Howard M. Miller, 8078904, S-4 S/Sgt Luther L. Dixon, Jr., 6996423, S-4 Cpl Francis J. Daly, 14059421, S-4 T/Sgt Oscar L. Keller, 6391849, S-4 S/Sgt Frances O. McGarvey, 11011030, S-4 Cpl Clayton J. Vidacovich, 14096026, S-4
4	Capt Ralph C. Teall, relieved from organization
8	Capt John D. Wright assigned to organization as Assistant S-2.
16	Capt Charles A. Polanski relieved from organization. 1st Lt Paul J. George assigned to organization as S-4.
25	Capt Springfield relieved from organization. Major William H. Cleveland assigned to organization with duties as Operations Officer.
29	Organization packs up ready for movement orders.
30	Lt McGrath relieved from organization.

SECRET



August 1942-306th BG Headquarters Squadron Diary

Note: this page is inserted by 306th BGHA in 2020 to help the researcher distinguish between the 306th BG War Diary and the diary kept by the 306th BG Headquarters Squadron.

Day	
1	The Air echelon commanded by Colonel Overacker with a skeleton ground contingent took off from Sandover Field, Utah with destination Westover, Massachusetts for 2nd phase training. En route they landed at Chanute Field, Illinois during the hottest day of the year. Ground echelon commanded by Lt Col Wilson entrained to Richmond, Va.
2	Air echelon landed at Westover, Massachusetts.
5	The ground echelon arrives at Army Air Base, Richmond Virginia moving directly into wooden barracks. Furloughs and passes granted to men living in near vicinity.
13	Ground echelon commanded by Lt Col Delmar E. Wilson entrains for Fort Dix, New Jersey, staging area.
14	The ground personnel of the air echelon entrained from Westover Field, Massachusetts for the Fort Dix New Jersey staging area. Both ground echelon and ground personnel of the air echelon arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Lt Col Delmar E. Wilson appointed commanding Officer of this detachment at Fort Dix.
14-30	All personnel given training in manual of arms, firing of the .03 rifle, gas training, etc. Chemically impregnated clothing issued to squadron.
30	10 officers and 34 enlisted men arrive at NIGHT, and board the Queen Elizabeth.
31	Queen Elizabeth casts off, sailing past Statue of Liberty, 1100 hours, destination unknown.

SECRET



September 1942-306th BG Headquarters Squadron Diary

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Chart No. 1. The Library. Special File 3000th Bomber Sq (H)

Month of September 1942. Inspector - Capt. H. C. Van Norman

DAY	SECRET
5	Queen Elizabeth arrives at Guraoh, Scotland at x 1930 hours following uneventful voyage.
6.	Organization disembarks and entrains for Thurleigh, Bedfordshire.
7	Organization arrives at Thurleigh 0300 hours and are immediately warned about air raid alerts and blackouts. Extra blankets and rifles issued to personnel and so to bed for our first night at Thurleigh.
8-15	Organization and re-organization of Headquarters and set-up of various departments.
15	A weather detachment, the 18th Weather Squadron, attached to Headquarters.
18	Various personnel of Headquarters sent to schools and higher headquarters for study of administrative procedure.

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